

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation



ANNUAL REPORT

2016



**CELEBRATING
30 YEARS!**

Message from CHAIRPERSON & DIRECTOR

Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

2016 has once again been a year of positive growth and development for ECO-UNESCO and we're delighted to present this Annual Report outlining our successes over the past 12 months. During 2016 we were delighted to celebrate 30 years of environmental education and environmental youth work. In that time ECO-UNESCO has remained committed to its remit of conserving the environment and empowering young people through environmental activity, education and the protection of the natural environment.

Through our work we engaged with non-formal and formal education bringing a specialist environmental youth work approach and we continued to focus on youth development and youth action. Youth empowerment remains central to our work, and our Youth for Sustainable Development programme provided young people with the knowledge and skills they need to become peer educators and advocates for sustainable development. Our flagship programme, the Young Environmentalist Awards, continued to grow with over 250 groups engaged and over 650 young people represented in the Final hosted in the Mansion House in May 2016.

We continued to upskill and train people of all ages in community gardening, sustainable development, environmental education and more. Our green employability programmes gave participants the opportunity to engage in a specialist training and development programme to lead onto further education and employment. We were delighted to continue our partnership with Accenture through their Skills to Succeed programme focusing on the delivery of a Green Skills youth employability programme.



During 2016 we also strengthened our international links in particular with UNESCO through the Global Action Programme in Education for Sustainable Development. We also engaged with other international and European programmes including the Conference of Youth and Youth and the Environment Europe.

We would like to acknowledge all of the people who are involved with ECO-UNESCO; our members, our young people, our board, staff, interns and volunteers who continue to support and deliver our programmes.

We hope you enjoy reading through the highlights of our work in 2016 and learning about the positive effect that our programmes are having on young people, their peers and communities both around the country and beyond. Into the future we will continue to offer high quality, non-formal, specialist environmental youth programmes in a fun and safe environment, and will continue to innovate and use our resources in the most effective and efficient ways possible. We look forward to 2017, to continuing this innovative work and making a real difference in the lives of many young people.

Jamie Cudden
Chairperson
ECO-UNESCO

Elaine Nevin
National Director
ECO-UNESCO

Contents

2	Message from Chairperson & Director
4	Highlights of the Year
5	About ECO-UNESCO
8	The Year in Quotes
9	Environmental Youth Programmes
10	Young Environmentalist Awards
11	ECO-Clubs and Affiliated Groups
12	Youth for Sustainable Development
14	Learning2Change Our World
15	Youth Events & Workshops
16	ECO-Choices
17	Education and Training
18	Youth Employment Programme
19	Communications & Representation
21	UNESCO & International Work
22	Collaborative Work
23	Funding & Governance





333
young people
gained QQI
qualifications

575+ events, activities
and workshops
held in Ireland &
Northern Ireland



4,000+
Young people
participated in
the Young
Environmental
Awards



HIGHLIGHTS of the year

5,200+

followers on
social media

Making a
positive
change to
10,700+
young people



interviews and
mentions in
national and
regional media



1,480+
young people
trained as
peer
educators

300+
ECO-Clubs
& affiliated
groups



About ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation that works to empower young people and conserve the environment. ECO-UNESCO is affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).

ECO-UNESCO'S AIMS ARE TO:

- Raise awareness, understanding and knowledge of the environment among young people.
- Promote the protection and conservation of the environment.
- Promote the personal development of young people through practical environmental projects and activities.
- Promote the ideals of UNESCO.

About ECO-UNESCO

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

ECO-UNESCO works with young people, educators and youth leaders on environmental projects across Ireland, helping to protect and conserve the environment. Each year our programmes, workshops, events and training programmes inspire environmental action at a local level among young people, their peer groups, communities and beyond.

ECO-UNESCO'S KEY ACTIVITIES 2016

ECO-UNESCO's programmes continue to empower and support young people to take action to protect and conserve the environment. Key highlights of our programmes in 2016 include:

ECO-YOUTH

- ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards.
- Youth for Sustainable Development and Peer Education Programme.
- Environmental youth events, activities and workshops across Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- ECO-UNESCO Clubs Programme
- ECO-Youth Choices (drug prevention programme).
- Attendance at Conference of Youth 12 in Morocco.
- ECO-Explorer Holiday Camps for Kids.
- Green Trails of Dublin City Centre.



EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Through our innovative peer education programmes and youth-led events, ECO-UNESCO continuously strives to better achieve our mission of using environmental education as a means of empowering young people and supporting positive personal development.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Delivered Green Youth Employment programmes.
- Information and support provided to educators, youth leaders and young people.
- Discovery Primary Science and Maths accredited organisation.
- Training including QQI accredited courses delivered to a wide audience.
- Key Partner on the UNESCO Global Action Programme for Education for Sustainable Development.
- Key partner on University Educators for Sustainable Development international project.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Development of environmental education resources.
- ECO-Sustainability Award for organisations.
- Representation and advocacy for environmental education and education for sustainable development.
- Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of ECO-UNESCO.



LINK TO UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is a Key Strategic Partner of the UNESCO Global Action Programme in Education for Sustainable Development. ECO-UNESCO is affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA). Founded in 1981, WFUCA is responsible for informing, coordinating and mobilising its members with UNESCO's support and cooperation. ECO-UNESCO is the WFUCA affiliate in Ireland and supports and coordinates an all-island network of ECO-UNESCO environmental youth clubs.

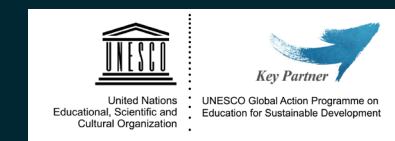
Board Members: Liz Carroll, Marie Collins, Jamie Cudden; Karen Furlong; Ann Marie Kilshaw; Tom McGovern; Chris Nolan; Daniel Dockery; Niall Jennings.

National Director: Elaine Nevin

Staff: Niall Barrett; Roberta Bellini; David Brooks; Anthony Burrowes; Jenna Cains; Colin Carey; Evanna Craig; Niamh Hand; Grace Harrison; Ji Hyun Kim; Dunchadh Kinane; Clare Mander; Triona Reid; Cintia Marques Silva; Sandra Strugar; Sarah Walsh; Lisa Wilson.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ECO-UNESCO would like to thank all those who contributed to the development of the organisation especially all of our dedicated members and funders as well as our hardworking staff, interns and volunteers. During the year, 67 people completed our Internship, volunteer, and work placement programmes.



The Year in QUOTES

“It has given me more theory behind gardening which I hope to apply to growing my own food eventually.”
Green Steps Participant

“It is greatly encouraging to know that we have, in this country, so many young citizens who strive to develop new visions for a shared future.. I congratulate all those taking part in the final Showcase and Awards Ceremony, and I thank you for your commitment to the crafting of a shared world that is democratic, enriching and respectful of our fragile planet.”

President Michael D. Higgins,
ECO-UNESCO Patron

“Thanks for all the help and the great resources and ideas, I have no doubt we will be using them in the future.”

L2C teacher

“I learned about the environment and what effects we have on it. I can see what kind of things I have to do to protect it.”

YSD Participant

“I enjoyed working as a team because we all got to share our opinions on the environmental issue we chose and discuss our ideas on how to approach it. It was very interesting and enjoyable.”

YEA Participant

“After the YEA, I am more conscious in my actions and more aware of what I am doing.”

YEA 2016 Participant

“The Young Environmentalist Awards is the most enjoyable competition to enter and the atmosphere is so good. From start to finish there is always someone there to help and guide participants at every stage. It is planned very well at every stage which makes it possible to keep working on your project.. I will most definitely be entering again and want to keep in touch with ECO-UNESCO.”

YEA 2016 Participant

“I will use the skills in the future and I will also give others advice on my knowledge.”

ECO-Clubs Participant

“I feel in particular the group work during this course has helped me to be a better team player.”

Green Steps Participant

“Great teaching methods and learned a lot!”

ECO-Choices participant

“ECO-UNESCO has made me aware of what's going on in the world and the issues surrounding global warming and climate change. It helped me gain confidence and gave me facilitating skills. I enjoy meeting and talking to new people.”

YSD Participant

Environmental Youth Programmes

ECO-UNESCO raised awareness on a broad range of environmental issues through our range of Youth programmes in schools, youth organisations, community groups, and local authorities.

The programmes, which include the Young Environmentalist Awards, Youth for Sustainable Development, ECO-Clubs, Learning2Change Our World, ECO-Choices, and Environmental events and workshops, provide an opportunity for young people to learn about the environment, develop sensitivity towards nature, and empower them to carry out action projects which benefit the young person, their peers and the community.

CELEBRATING OUR ENVIRONMENT ECO-UNESCO made use of key environmental dates to raise awareness and celebrate what is being done to protect our environment. In 2016, we celebrated:

- **WORLD WATER DAY** – 26 young people celebrated with an event at Europe House, which was facilitated by the Youth for Sustainable Development group.
- **EARTH DAY** – celebrated in Donahies Community School by delivering 3 workshops on the importance of water. 33 young people on the YSD programme also did a workshop on the importance of trees.
- **BIODIVERSITY WEEK** – marked by Green Trails of Dublin with 20 participants, and ran a teen camp to 10 young people. We also had an interactive educational **Biodiversity Zone** at the YEA Final.
- **SCIENCE WEEK** – celebrated with 74 children from Educate Together Mullingar, Mercy College Coolock and All Saints National School, Mullingar.
- **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER** – Ozone Education Resource developed and published on website.

Over 4,000 participated in the Young Environmentalist Awards

334 ECO-Clubs in 30 counties

1,480+ young peer educators

1,056 people participated in Learning2Change

1,500+ young people have participated in over 170 workshops

Young Environmentalist Awards

The Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) programme continued to grow, empowering young people to become better citizens, build awareness of environmental issues and promote simple lifestyle changes to improve the environment.

OVERVIEW

39,000+
Young people involved since 1999

4,000+
Young people participated

267
Projects registered

41
6 Steps to Success Training workshops delivered to 1000+ young people

3,950+
Votes in People's Choice Awards

6
Regional ECO-Dens

80
groups attended the Showcase and Awards Ceremony

700+
attended the Showcase and Final Awards Ceremony

In 2016, 267 groups from primary and secondary schools and youth/community groups entered their innovative and inspiring projects to improve their environment and raise awareness about local and global environmental issues. YEA 2016 projects registered were spread across the country in Connaught (x21), Ulster (x28), Munster (x65), Leinster (x149). Almost one fifth of entrants were new to the programme, and there was strong participation from the non-formal youth sector.

6 STEPS TO SUCCESS TRAINING

ECO-UNESCO offered onsite free '6 Steps to Success' training to young people,

teachers, and youth leaders. The training is designed to help young people become well-equipped to carry out their very own environmental action project and to provide support and advice in developing project ideas, exploring what is involved in project management.

ECO-DENS

The ECO-Dens are regional 'Dragon's Den' style judging events where YEA groups are given the opportunity of pitching their project to a panel of expert regional judges. The ECO-Dens were a great success with 86 groups attending one of the 6 regional ECO-Dens. They took place in March and April 2016 at key regional

hubs within each province in Ireland: Ulster (Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Armagh); Connaught (The Institute for Lifecourse and Society of NUI Galway, Galway); Munster (University College Cork, Cork); and Leinster (European Commission Representation in Ireland, Dublin).

SHOWCASE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The YEA Showcase and Ceremony was held on 18th



Overall Junior Winners with Melody Boateng, UNESCO

May in the Round Room of the Mansion House, Dublin. It was the largest YEA Showcase and Awards Ceremony to date with 80 quality finalist projects on display.

This was a high profile youth focused event with high profile guests including Deputy Leader of the Green Party Catherine Martin TD, Lord Mayor of Dublin Criona Ni Dhalaigh, UNESCO Representative Melody Boateng, and Michel Dugon as Master of Ceremonies.

During the Showcase, the finalist groups exhibited their brilliant ideas and an expert panel of judges visited each group and discussed their project. Young people gained confidence and various skills such as communication skills, planning and project management skills. At the Awards Ceremony, 2 Overall Awards, 23 Category Awards, and 14 Special Awards were presented to

celebrate young people's achievements in their environmental endeavours.

EXHIBITION

Following the YEA Showcase and Ceremony, the finalist projects were exhibited in European Commission Representation in Ireland throughout August 2016, allowing members of the public to view the projects.

FUNDERS & SPONSORS

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2016 was supported by Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Environmental Protection Agency, Dublin City Council, Alupro Ireland, Concern Worldwide, and Enrich. The ECO-Dens were supported by 14 local councils in Ireland and Northern Ireland.



One of the YEA winning groups proposed to link the Leap Card with the Dublinbikes scheme instead of a credit card, in order to make the bike share scheme more accessible to young people, in an effort to tackle climate change. In September 2016 they celebrated the announcement by the Irish government that people can now use the Leap Card to access Dublinbikes!



Overall Senior Winners with Melody Boateng, UNESCO and Catherine Martin, Deputy of Green Party

ECO Clubs and Affiliated Groups

ECO-UNESCO Clubs are groups of young people who are in an existing club who undertake environmental activities, or come together to form an ECO-Club and affiliate to ECO-UNESCO. There are 334 ECO-UNESCO affiliated clubs and groups on the island of Ireland who have taken action to support their local environment. In 2016 26 new Clubs were established.

Youth for Sustainable Development

The Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme provides opportunities for young people to engage in quality development education/education for sustainable development activities, and strengthen their capacity to take action on global justice issues by empowering them to act as youth leaders and peer development educators.

YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERS FOR CHANGE

In 2016, 103 young people from all across Dublin have engaged with the Youth for Sustainable Development Global Youth Leaders for Change Programme which ran on a weekly basis.

Young people were trained as peer educators during a 12 week structured programme and progressed to carry out local action projects which were submitted to the Young Environmentalist Awards.

In addition, the young people were involved in many activities throughout 2016 outside of the weekly workshops.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

- Climate Change Challenge:**
 A number of YSD participants engaged in a youth led Climate Change Challenge in partnership with Trocaire and a number of different youth groups across the country. They attended two weekend residencies in Avoca Manor, Co. Wicklow and Cloughjordan Eco-Village, Co. Tipperary.
 Throughout these training weekends, young people learned about effective campaigning and activism skills. From these training weekends, the young people established the 'have you #GotTheBottle' campaign which aimed to highlight the environmental impact of single use plastic bottles and encourage people to use re-usable water bottles.
- One World Week:**
 The YSD participants attended NYCI and Concern Worldwide's Youth Summit in November 2016. They also ran a film screening event to 50 people that showcased a number of short films developed by YSD participants on the topic of human displacement from climate change.
- Conference of Youth 12:**
 The young people organised a series of fundraising activities to attend the COY12 in Marrakesh, Morocco, as representatives of ECO-UNESCO. Six youth delegates, accompanied by 2 ECO-UNESCO staff and 1 member of the Youth Advisory Network, attended the conference. The 6 young people delivered a workshop at the conference on Ireland's contribution to climate change and also ran a sustainable fashion show to highlight the environmental impact of the global fashion industry. When they returned to Ireland they continued to deliver their message to their schools through a number of follow up workshops.

INTERNAL EVENTS

- World Water Day:**
 Young people developed and facilitated a peer lead workshop on the theme of world water day at European House in March 2016.
- YEA 2016:**
 8 of the Finalist projects were from the YSD groups, 5 of which picked up an Award including the Leap 2 the Future project.
- Mock Cop 22:**
 YSD participants took part in a Mock COP22 simulation activity to gain a greater understanding of the COP processes before heading to Marrakesh. In this activity, a number of different young people played the roles of international delegates in an attempt to reach a global consensus on climate change and follow up on the commitments made in 2015 Paris Conference.
- YSD programme expanding**
 In 2016, the YSD regionalisation process was busy building new partnerships across the country. The process of regionalisation includes the establishment and support of a regional YSD programme to take place outside of the Dublin area. ECO-UNESCO are currently developing partnerships in Louth/Meath, Donegal, Galway and Kilkenny.
- QQI Accredited Training**
 A total of 22 participants have been trained as Peer Educators through QQI Level 5 accredited training throughout the 2016-2017 period. Those who have been trained in 2016 have begun their year of action and will continue to act as peer mentors for the remainder of time as participants of the YSD programme.



Learning2Change Our World

The Learning2Change Our World Programme works with post primary schools throughout Ireland to encourage principals, teachers and young people to engage with the Whole School Approach to Development Education/ Education for Sustainable Development (DE/ESD); through teacher training; curriculum work; active learning and action project work.

In workshops delivered throughout 2016, teachers and young people explored DE/ESD focusing on themes of sustainable development, local and global connections, and strengthening peer to peer learning techniques. Following the Learning2Change programme, teachers and young people went on to develop possible ways to integrate DE/ESD into their schools and to take action in a meaningful way including raising awareness in their broader communities.

Of the schools engaged with the Learning2Change programme in 2016, 10 schools registered a total of 28 Action Projects for the Young Environmentalist Awards 2016.

AN INSIGHT INTO ACTIVITIES

Young people from St Louis Community School ran an impressive project called, 'Stop Food Waste, Reduce Food Miles.' They calculated the food miles of the foods wasted in their school canteen, and ran workshops throughout the school to educate their peers on making better choices and began an initiative to grow their own vegetables at school.

Their efforts reduced food waste in the school by 50%.

OVERVIEW



20+
Schools engaged



60
Class workshops



93
Teachers trained



976
Students engaged



14
Counties

"I have a better understanding of how DE relates to my subject and what key skills to develop to help generate awareness and discussions in relation to sustainability and the environment".
A trained Teacher



Youth Events & Workshops

ECO-UNESCO's wide range of workshops and programmes for young people continued to be delivered across Ireland throughout 2016.

OVERVIEW



10x Anti-Litter Creative Recycling workshops to 256 young people



8x Biodiversity & Basic Gardening workshops to 67 young people



2x ECO-Action workshop to 52 young people



4x ECO-Watchers workshops to 56 young people



13x Fashion Focus workshops to 337 young people



4x Media and Sustainability workshops to 71 young people



50x primary school children in workshops at the Airfield Primary Education Day



6x ECO-UNESCO workshops part of Development Education Initiative for 104 participants



73 young people took part in Ecology and Sustainable Agriculture workshops



8x Field Ecology workshops in Herbert Park, St. Anne's Park, and Stardust Park, to 153 young people



4 Climate Change workshops to 80 students from two schools in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown

A number of our workshops delivered in 2016, many in conjunction with Local Authorities under Local Agenda 21, Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grants, including:

ECO-WORKSHOPS

ECO-UNESCO's flagship series of ECO workshops for young people are a firm favourite across the country with schools and youth groups alike. The series includes ECO-Watchers, ECO-Discovery and ECO-Action series as well as stand-alone workshops on topics such as Waste, Water, Energy, Climate Change and Biodiversity. Workshops can be tailored to the specific needs of different groups, for different ages, contexts and time available.

ECO-EXPLORERS CHILDREN'S & TEEN CAMPS

In 2016 we ran Easter and Summer camps in Merrion Square and Herbert Park, respectively for 42 young people. 10 young people took part in our Biodiversity Week Teen Camp. For the month of July 2016, we designed and delivered the Phoenix Park Summer Camp on behalf of the OPW. A total of 170 children attended over the four week period.

EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT, STRASBOURG

A number of young people represented ECO-UNESCO at the European Youth Event in Strasbourg from 19th - 21st of May. The event had over 7,500 participants, 30 of these participants were supported to attend through the National Youth Council of Ireland. The event was based around the Sustainable Development Goals and Integration/Diversity. The event was also attended by members of the European Parliament which provided the opportunity for young people to meet with them and discuss these topics in an inclusive way.

Eco-Choices

The ECO-Choices programme is an innovative health and well-being programme that utilises environmental education, education for sustainable development and peer education methods as a resource for positive personal development in at-risk young people to prevent the misuse of drugs. In 2016, 109 young people participated in the programme through 115 workshops, trainings & events delivered by the ECO-Choices team.

ECO-YOUTH CHOICES FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

The participating groups in 2016 were primarily from Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Stoneybatter Youth Service, and Stanhope Street Secondary School in Dublin.

Part of the programme involves carrying out local action projects. Young people from Drimnagh Castle Secondary School delivered interactive workshops to first year students in their school on a number of environmental issues, setting a great example of active citizenship to these younger students.

Young people from Stanhope Street Secondary School carried out research on the River Liffey and its wildlife and decided to make an animated film raising awareness of some environmental problems affecting the river. Young people

from Stoneybatter Youth Service produced a film on littering, which they showed at a public event attended by decision makers and members of the public.

ACCREDITED TRAINING

37 young people took part in accredited QQI Level 3 training in Eco-Community Development.

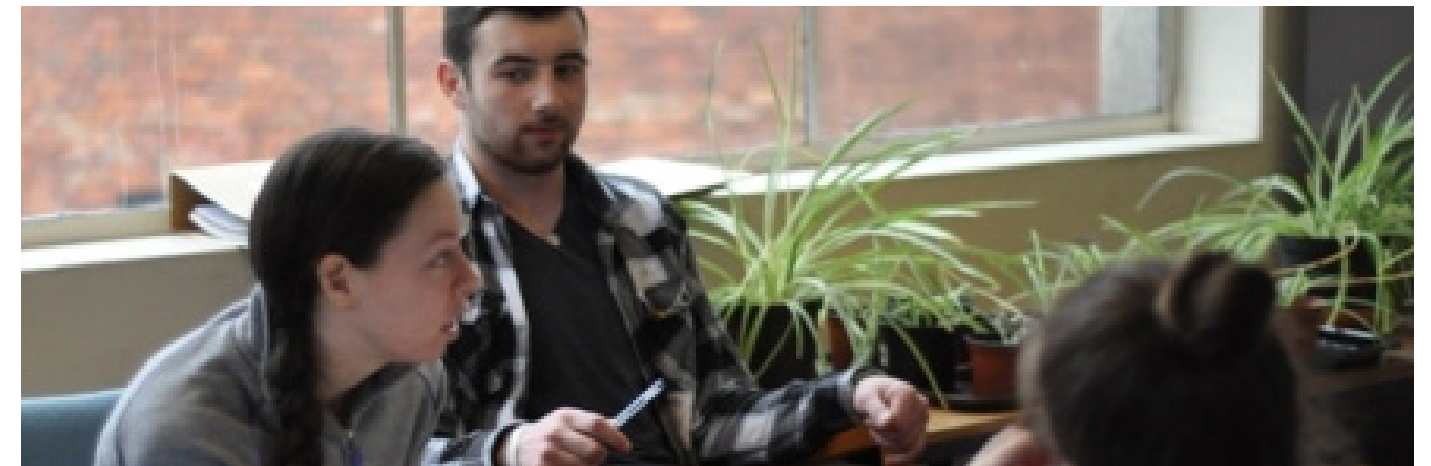
OUTDOOR EDUCATION

A central aspect of the ECO-Choices programme involves outdoor learning in natural areas accessible from Dublin City, due to the proven mental and physical health benefits. We incorporate physical exercise, through hikes and games, and also give the young people an opportunity to connect with nature through activities that allow them to experience wild places in new ways. In 2016, trips included going to Barnaslingan, Djouce Mountain and Howth and Bray heads.



Stoneybatter Youth Services debating about the fate of the local area

Education & Training



ECO-UNESCO is a QQI Accredited Training provider, running a range of courses as part of our Youth Employment, Youth for Sustainable Development and ECO-Choices programmes. We run our accredited courses in house and also on a consultancy basis for other training providers. This year as well as our in house programmes we have delivered courses to Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Kilmore Youth Reach, and RASP (Laneview Learning Centre).



ACCREDITED TRAINING

In 2016, 106 people completed QQI training in:

- Community Development Level 3
- Work Experience Level 5:
- Growing Vegetables Level 3
- Peer Education Level 5

Programme to 55 young people from SWAN Youth Service, East Wall Youth Centre, South West Inner City Network, Northside Partnership and Clay Youth Project

ECO-SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The ECO-Sustainability Award aims to encourage youth and community organisations to become more sustainable by providing organisations with training, ongoing support and a practical toolkit based on the Sustainable Development Goals and Comhar's Principles of Sustainable Development.

In 2016 Rehab Care Bray received the silver ECO-Sustainability Award, along with the gold award achieved under the themes of Social Equity and Respect for Cultural Heritage and Diversity.

A number of new community organisations registered to the programme. Training days were held in Sunbeam House, Bray and to carry out an initial assessment of the organisations environmental performance.

NON-ACCREDITED TRAINING

We also run non-accredited training on a range of environmental and sustainable development topics, particularly aimed at teachers and youth leaders.

In 2016 we delivered:

- **Environmental Education** – Trends & Developments and Curriculum links to 32 participants
- **Leadership and Strategic Sustainable Development** to 12 participants
- **Sustainability and Energy** for 30 young people at Ballsbridge College of Further Education
- **Ecology and Sustainable Agriculture** to 20 Czech and Italian students at SWAN Training Institute
- **Green Connections: Healthy Living**



Green Youth Employability Programme

In 2016 ECO-UNESCO continued to build on the success of its previous Green Youth Employment programmes by running a variety of both short and medium length youth employability programmes including the 8 week Green Options programme (funded by the DCYA), the 14 week Green Skills programme (funded by Accenture) and the Green Steps programme (Funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund). In November 2016 the programme was piloted in Galway, which was the first course to run outside Dublin.

IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY

In 2016, 116 unemployed people, primarily from socially and economically disadvantaged areas attended a variety of modules including: Sustainable Development (QQI Level 5); and Work Experience (QQI Level 5), Outdoor Vegetable and Crop Production (QQI Level 4) and Eco Community Development (QQI Level 3). At the end of these modules participants gained skills in critical thinking, team work and increased their knowledge and understanding of current global issues and sustainability. Furthermore, they have grown in confidence and have raised self-esteem. For many the programme has proved key in their own personal development and guiding them towards the next step in their career. 55% of participants who completed

the Green Skills programme have now progressed onto employment, training or education. Success in the Green Option programme was similar with 40% of participants across Dublin and Galway securing paid employment, joining government supported employment programmes, returning to school or commencing further training. The first of our Green Steps programmes shared equal success with 25% of young people who commenced the programme securing paid employment or returned to education and training with external institutions. 20% of participants from the Green Steps programme have also returned to complete further employability programmes with ECO UNESCO and are continuing to build their confidence and skills and are working towards paid employment.

Communications & Representation

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

ECO-UNESCO events received substantial coverage in both regional and national media, including print, TV and radio. ECO-UNESCO's work was promoted through magazines, e-newsletters, external websites and event guides throughout the year, with a focus on the environmental, youth and education sectors. With our growing social media following, we used new tools and platforms to engage our audiences including joining Instagram, and securing a Google Adwords grant.



NEWSLETTER AND E-BULLETIN

ECO-UNESCO has kept our Members, programme users, schools, funders, volunteers, Clubs, among other external stakeholders up to date with key events and activities through our Annual Newsletter 2016-17, disseminated in the annual direct mail campaign to over 1,200 secondary schools, libraries, ETBs, and at all external events. We also produce a monthly E-bulletin to our Supporters.

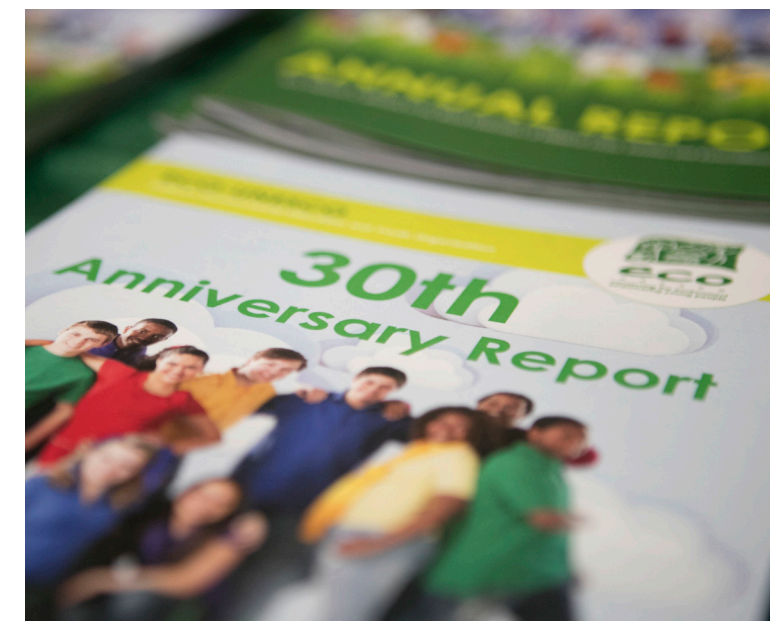
PUBLICATIONS

In 2016, ECO-UNESCO continued to develop its range of resources and publications. Some of the published highlights from 2016 include:

- YEA 2016 Finalist booklet.
- ECO-UNESCO newsletter 2016-17.
- Resource booklet on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- Produced a wide range of informational and marketing material to promote our programmes and educational resources for key environmental days.

CELEBRATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY

2016 marked 30 years of conserving the environment and empowering young people. Over 80 supporters and members of the public celebrated the event at the Wood Quay Venue on 14th December. The evening reflected ECO-UNESCO's achievements over the past 30 years, highlighting young people who'd turned their passion and skills to protecting the Irish environment. RTE presenters, Clara Murray and Ande Gray interviewed special guests, included young people and some original founding members.



REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

In 2016, ECO-UNESCO continued its engagement with a range of national and international bodies. ECO-UNESCO was represented on a number of committees and boards including;

- Environmental Protection Agency Advisory Committee;
- National Advisory Committee on ESD (Department of Education and Skills);
- National Quality Standards Training Task Group (Department of Children and Youth Affairs);
- National Youth Council of Ireland; and NYCI Special Organisation Network (Chair of Network);
- National Youth Development Education
- Irish Environmental Network
- Irish Development Education Association (IDEA) task groups;
- UBUNTU Network Members (Steering committee);
- SWAN Board;
- Stop Climate Chaos Coalition Membership.



UNESCO & International Work

UNESCO GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMME

ECO-UNESCO is a Key Partner of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) in Education for Sustainable Development. ECO-UNESCO continued to support the achievement of the GAP Key Priority 4 – Empowering and Mobilising young people. The GAP is identified as a key mechanism for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2016, ECO-UNESCO attended the annual GAP meeting in UNESCO HQ in Paris where we met with GAP Key Partners from around the world. UNESCO also selected ECO-UNESCO Clubs Ireland to host the European Regional Pilot of the Key flagship Youth Leadership in ESD training. We also continued to build links with UNESCO. UNESCO Representative Melody Boateng attended the YEA in May 2016, and we continued to promote our links on our website and newsletter, amongst other communications platforms.

NORTHERN IRELAND

ECO-UNESCO is committed to working with young people across the island of Ireland.

In 2016 ECO-UNESCO worked closely with environmental and youth organisations to deliver workshops and trainings as well as shared strategies for providing environmental education in Northern Ireland.

In YEA 2016, over 140 young people from three counties in Northern Ireland participated in the programme and 13 Adult Leaders were trained.

The Ulster ECO-Den was supported by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, and Mid Ulster District Council.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ECO-UNESCO was a key partner in the UE4SD project, which was seeking to provide support to build competencies in third level educators to incorporate knowledge and skills associated with sustainable development into third level institutions and into their disciplines. The three year project came to an end in June 2016 and was closed at a final meeting in Gibraltar with the launch of a unique professional training resource.



UE4SD Group photo

Collaborative Work

Throughout 2016, ECO-UNESCO continued to develop links and partnerships with agencies, organisations and businesses to provide environmental education, youth programmes and teacher and leader trainings in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

ECO-UNESCO actively engaged on an ongoing basis with young people, youth leaders, educators, external organisations and other key target groups. This engagement included collaborative work, focus groups and surveys to ensure that all ECO-UNESCO programmes remained responsive to the needs of young people in particular, as well as the general environmental, educational and youth sectors.

A sample of our collaborative work from 2016 includes:

- Collaborative work with institutions including Local Authorities, National Libraries and secondary schools throughout the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, Youthreach Centres, Youth Groups and Youth officers.
- ECO-UNESCO continued to have a presence with young people in schools throughout Ireland in a non-formal capacity through extracurricular activities and project work such as the YEA, DPSM, environmental workshops, and ECO-UNESCO Clubs.

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL IRELAND

ECO-UNESCO is represented on the National Youth Council of Ireland Board and chairs their Specialist Organisation Network.

YOUTHREACH

ECO-UNESCO further developed its links with Youthreach in 2016 in order to

provide training to early school leavers. Participation in the YEA by Youthreach Centres also increased in 2016.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

ECO-UNESCO works with Local Authorities nationwide through funding from the Environmental Partnership Fund. The fund allows ECO-UNESCO to work with communities, fulfilling important aspects of the Local Agenda 21 remit. ECO-UNESCO builds the capacity of young people, teachers and leaders to address environmental issues. In addition, through the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards a number of Local Authorities supported the regional ECO-Dens through sponsorship, venue sponsorship as well as representation on the judging panels.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH WORK (NQSF) QUALITY STANDARDS

ECO-UNESCO is implementing the National Quality Standards for Youth Organisations and has completed a 3 year cycle. In 2016 it began a second 3 year cycle and completed an organisational review and the development of a Continuous improvement plan and liaises with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs Standards Officers.

Funding & Governance

ECO-UNESCO is funded by a variety of national and European agencies contributing to both the overall development of the organisation and project specific work. ECO-UNESCO also receives funding from corporate sources, consultancy and membership and programme fees.

In 2016 ECO-UNESCO's main core funding came from:



ECO-UNESCO received funding from:

- DCYA administered through City of Dublin Youth Service Board
- Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade – Irish Aid
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Local Authorities nationwide under the Environmental Partnership Fund and Anti-Litter fund
- Erasmus+
- Environmental Protection Agency

ECO-UNESCO received a range of funding related to specific projects including:

- Dormant Accounts Fund / Pobal
- Worldwide Global Schools from Irish Aid
- Phoenix Park Summer Programme: Office of Public Works
- Accenture

Our Audited Accounts for 2016 are available to download from our website www.ecounesco.ie

GOVERNANCE

ECO-UNESCO is governed by a voluntary board of Directors made up of members. A good gender balance and diversity of appropriate skills is in place, ensuring that the board can meet its aims in oversight and policy development.

List of Board Members in 2016 include:

- Liz Carroll
- Marie Collins
- Jamie Cudden
- Karen Furlong
- Ann Marie Kilshaw
- Tom McGovern
- Chris Nolan
- Daniel Dockery
- Niall Jennings

In 2016 there were 5 Board meetings held, along with 2 meetings of the Audit, Risk and Finance sub-committee and 3 meetings of the HR sub-committee. The AGM took place in November 2016.

Appropriate financial policies and procedures are in place, complying with statutory requirements and ECO-UNESCO's audited accounts are available on our website. The organisation is on the journey towards compliance with the Governance Code and is a signatory of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages.

Governance Codes

ECO-UNESCO is a signatory of the Dochas code of images and messages; is signed up to the Governance Code; complies with Quality Assurance from the Quality and Qualifications Ireland and reports to the Charities Regulatory Authority.



ECO-UNESCO

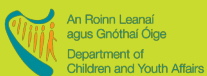
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