

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Association (WFUCA)



9 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland

+353 (0)1 662 5491 info@ecounesco.ie www.ecounesco.ie



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In 2019, ECO-UNESCO was recognised as one of the first Sustainable Development Goal Champions 2019- 2021 by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.



ECO-UNESCO endeavour to work towards the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in every aspect of its work.

As SDG Champions our primary purpose is to raise public awareness of the SDG's, and secondarily, to illustrate practical ways in which organisations and individuals can contribute to achieving the SDGs, using our practices as an example.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON & DIRECTOR



Niall Jennings
Chairperson
ECO-UNESCO



Elaine Nevin
National Director
ECO-UNESCO

Dear Friends of ECO-UNESCO,

We are delighted to present this Annual Report outlining our work in 2019.

During the year, we have remained committed to our core work of protecting the environment and empowering young people through environmental actions, education and youth programmes.

Through our wide range of initiatives, we engaged with more than 11,000 participants bringing our specialist environmental youth and education approach as we continued to inspire young people to protect our environment.

2019 was the 20th anniversary of our flagship programme, the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA), which continued to go from strength to strength. This year saw over 320 groups of young people engaged across Ireland, tackling issues such as climate action, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution. Over 700 young people attended the Annual Young Environmentalist Awards final hosted in the Convention Centre, Dublin in May 2019.

Our Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme provided young people with the knowledge and skills they needed to become peer educators and advocates for sustainable development. We continued to align our work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and in 2019 became one of Ireland's first SDG Champions.

Through our ECO-Choices programme, we continued to enhance young people's health and well-being through environmental education activities and to provide opportunities for young people to engage directly with their politicians and key decision-makers.

We upskilled and trained young people through a range of accredited and non-accredited training courses. Our green employability programmes gave participants the opportunity to engage in specialist training and development programmes to help them progress onto further education and employment. Our partnership with Accenture focused on the delivery of a Green Skills youth employability programme through the Accenture Skills to Succeed programme.

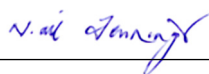
We attended the ECOSOC Conference in the United Nations Headquarters in New York, further strengthening our international links and continued our work with UNESCO through the Global Action Programme (GAP) in Education for Sustainable Development. We were delighted to attend the World Conference on ESD in July 2019 with representatives from all across the world.

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

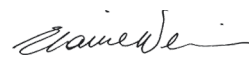
We hope you enjoy reading through the highlights of our work in 2019 and learning about the positive impact that we have on young people, their peers, communities both around the country and beyond, and the natural environment.

In the future we will continue to offer our high-quality 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 2020 and to continuing this innovative work that makes a real difference in the lives of many young people.



Niall Jennings
Chairperson
ECO-UNESCO



Elaine Nevin
National Director
ECO-UNESCO

CONTENTS

2019 in a Nutshell

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| The Year in Numbers | 07 |
| 2019 Highlights | 08 |
| About ECO-UNESCO | 10 |
| The Year in Quotes | 12 |

Award Programme

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Young Environmentalist Awards | 14 |
|-------------------------------------|----|

Youth Programmes 10-18

| | |
|---|----|
| Youth for Sustainable Development | 16 |
| Environmental Youth Summit | 18 |
| Learning 2 Change Our World | 20 |
| Youth Events & Workshops | 22 |
| ECO-Choices | 24 |

Training & Upskilling Programmes 18-25

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Education & Training | 27 |
| Youth Employment Programme | 28 |

How We Operate

| | |
|--|----|
| Communications | 31 |
| Representation & Advocacy in 2019..... | 32 |
| UNESCO & International Work | 33 |
| Collaborative Work | 34 |
| Funding | 36 |
| Governance | 37 |



2019

IN A NUTSHELL

Young people from
**ECO-UNESCO's Youth for
Sustainable Development
Programme** enjoy an outdoor
workshop in June 2019

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

83

Workshops delivered

10,000+

Young people worked
with

1,868

Young people
took part in our
workshops

4,000+

Young people
engaged with the YEAs

12,100

Followers across
social media

322

Projects registered in
YEA 2019

20th

Anniversary of the Young
Environmentalists Awards

219

Young people engaged
in the YSD Programme



MAY

20th anniversary
YEA Showcase &
Awards
Ceremony in the
Convention Centre,
Dublin

MARCH

Young
Environmentalists
Awards
Semi-final
ECO-Dens



JUNE

Summer Camps with
29 participants taking
part in
outdoor activities



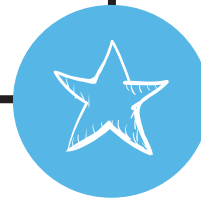
FEBRUARY

Youth Summit #No-
TimeToWaste
3 Day Transnational
Meeting



APRIL

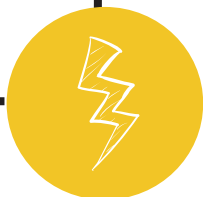
4 YSD participants
attended to the
Economic and Social
Council (ECOSOC)
Youth Forum at the
United Nations HQ in
New York City



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

JULY

Attended the UNESCO
Forum on ESD and
Global Citizenship
GAP Key Partner
Meeting

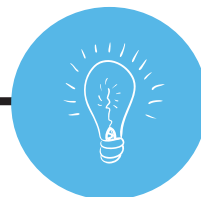


AUGUST

The Green Works event,
hearing personal
career stories from
individuals who built
careers in
environmental or
sustainable fields

SEPTEMBER

ECO-UNESCO was
recognised as one of
the first Sustainable
Development Goal
Champions by the
Department of
Communications,
Climate Action and
Environment.



NOVEMBER

ECO-UNESCO
celebrated the very
first IDEA FEST in Tralee,
Kerry. The event pro-
vided an opportunity
for 63 young people to
showcase their action
projects.

ABOUT ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's leading environmental education and youth organisation that works to empower young people and conserve the environment. ECO-UNESCO is a key partner of UNESCO's Global Action Programme on ESD and is a QQI accredited training centre.

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 inspire environmental action at a local level among young people, their peer groups, communities and beyond.

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

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

ECO-UNESCO'S KEY ACTIVITIES 2019

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 2019 include:

ECO-YOUTH

- Youth for Sustainable Development and Peer Education Programme
- Environmental youth events, activities and workshops
- ECO-UNESCO Clubs Programme
- ECO-Youth Choices
- Youth Summit - #NoTimeToWaste

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

- Green Youth Employment programmes
- Information and support provided to educators, youth leaders and young people
- Training including QQI accredited courses delivered to a wide audience
- Key Partner of the UNESCO Global Action Programme in Education for Sustainable Development

AWARDS

- ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Development of environmental education resources
- ECO-Sustainability Award for organisations
- Representation and advocacy for environmental education and education for sustainable development

Participants at ECO-UNESCO's
Green Works Event 2019



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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

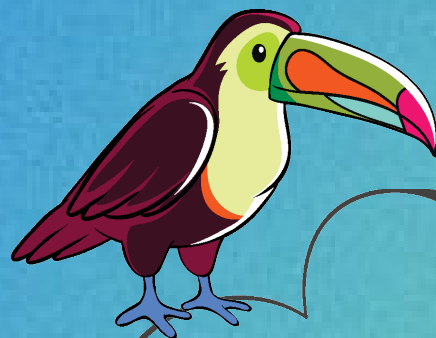
ECO-UNESCO would like to thank all those who contributed to the development of the organisation especially all of our dedicated participants and funders as well as our hardworking staff, interns and volunteers.

BOARD MEMBERS: Niall Jennings, Marie Collins, David Kelly, Christina Nolan, Daniel Dockery, Orla McGreal and Vivienne Kelly.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR: Elaine Nevin

STAFF MEMBERS: Aisling Mahon, Aisling Hill, Breon Timmons, Caitlin Wilson, Clare Sheppard, Doireann Dunbar, Dunchadh Kinane, Eimear Manning, Gary Whelan, Kieran Allen, Laura Kate Howells, Mary Fleming, Samantha Andrades, Susie Spratt and Vince Harney.

THE YEAR IN QUOTES

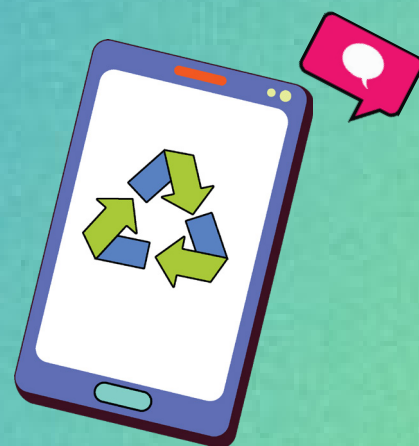


"I learnt that we are affecting our future [...] our actions have consequences"

-Learning 2 Change Our World Participant

"My favourite part of the Youth Summit is meeting new people around my age from across Europe with a similar mindset of "change for the better".

-Ron, No Time To Waste Youth Summit Participant (Ireland)



"I really enjoyed the workshop.
I feel like I will use the knowledge and skills because now I know the causes and damage of my behaviour"

-Environmental Workshop Participant



"Thank you for a wonderful day, the students had a great experience and are looking forward to continuing their project and coming back next year."

-YEA Mentor



I had a lot of fun taking part in all the activities with my friends and I look forward to meeting them every week"

-YSD Drogheda Participant



"I would like to send my best wishes to all those participating in the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Ceremony. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of these important awards which have, for two decades, inspired and encouraged many young citizens to play their important role in protecting our planet"

-President Michael D. Higgins



"Very interactive and such an exciting and educational course."

-ECO-CHOICES Participant



YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST

AWARDS

4,000+

Young people
participated in YEA 2019
projects

322

Projects
registered for the YEAs

34

Groups that
received the 6 Steps to
Success Training
Workshops

FUNDERS & SPONSORS

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2019 was supported by Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Environmental Protection Agency, Irish Aid, Coillte, Trócaire, Concern Worldwide and Enrich. The ECO-Dens were supported by 8 local councils in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In 2019 ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a prestigious final showcase and awards ceremony held at the Convention Centre Dublin. This celebratory event included a dedicated exhibition space, workshops and a series of inspirational activities. This popular programme has continued to grow, empowering young people to become better citizens, build awareness of environmental issues and promoting simple lifestyle changes to safeguard the environment. A new online submission process was successfully introduced and 322 groups from primary, secondary schools and youth/community groups entered their innovative, passionate, and inspiring projects to improve their environment and raise awareness about local and global environmental issues. More groups than ever were selected to go through to the semi-finals (124) and the finals (101). Of the 322 registrations, 38 were from the non-formal youth sector.

6 STEPS TO SUCCESS TRAINING

ECO-UNESCO delivered 34 free '6 Steps to Success' training to young people, teachers, and youth leaders. The training is designed to help young people become equipped to carry out their very own environmental action project and to provide support and advice in developing action projects and in project management. In 2019 training was delivered to over 600 young people nationally. For the first time, the workshop was made available for mentors to download and deliver themselves.

This year also saw the launch of a new and updated YEA Programme Manual. This new publication has a modern feel and gives participants a clear guide to putting together an Environmental Action Project. The new manual also clearly demonstrates how the programme aligns to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, granting participants an insight into how their local actions are tackling global issues.

ECO-DENS

The ECO-Dens are regional 'Dragon's Den' style judging events where YEA groups are given the opportunity to pitch their project to a panel of expert regional judges. The ECO-Dens were a great success with 124 groups attending from all around the country. They took place in March – April 2019 at key regional hubs within each province in Ireland: Ulster (Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Armagh); Connaught (The Institute for Life course and Society of NUI Galway, Galway); Munster (University College Cork, Cork); and Leinster (European Commission Representation in Ireland, Dublin). The ECO-Dens also received support from 8 different local authorities.

For the first time, 2 judging panels were run simultaneously in both Cork and Galway allowing for more groups to attend. In Dublin the number of days was expanded from 3 to 4.

SHOWCASE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The YEA 20th Anniversary Showcase and Awards Ceremony was held in the prestigious environs of the Convention Centre Dublin was a high-profile, youth-focused event with numerous events and activities on offer.

During the Showcase, finalist groups exhibited their ideas, which ranged from creating interactive storytelling for primary schools using a combination of Irish folklore and the environment to developing plant fertilizer made from discarded ash. An expert panel of judges visited each group and discussed their projects.

Exhibitions included stands hosted by new and established corporate sponsors such as Accenture, Coillte and the EPA along with interactive and educational stands hosted by ECO-UNESCO staff, NGOs and others. During the morning, several events also took place alongside the main project displays. These included an International Youth Summit, a Teach Meet, a Guest Presentation & Reception, 4 talks in the main auditorium and a large-scale photo-call/youth action. These gave the young participants, judges and visitors alike a rich and varied experience on the day.

In attendance were hundreds of young people, teachers, youth leaders and members of the public as well as high profile guests including Minister of Communications, Climate Action & Environment for Children and Youth Affairs, Richard Bruton, Eamon Ryan, T.D., leader of the Green Party, Sam Loni, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and many more.

President Michael D. Higgins was unable to attend but sent a special letter to the young people. Video messages were sent by Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and Jeffrey Sachs, senior UN advisor.

The Awards Ceremony itself was an action-packed event during which 3 Overall Awards, 16 Category Awards, and 8 Special Awards were presented to celebrate young people's achievements in their environmental endeavours.

Learn more at www.yea.ie

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

10-18

219

young people engaged on a weekly basis

133

young people engaged outside of Dublin across Ireland

43

participants received training in QQI Level 5

ECO-UNESCO's **Youth for Sustainable Development Programme** participants taking part in a Biosphere workshop in Bull Island, Dublin.

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. The weekly meet ups drew both new recruits and participants in their second and third year of engagement. The YSD programme continued to operate in Dublin and had continued success with its regional groups in Drogheda, Bray, Navan, Carlow, Westport and Newbridge.

'YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE' PROGRAMME

The Youth for the Future Programme took place between October 2018 and January 2019 and from October 2019 to January 2020, and consisted of 12 x 2-hour workshops on Wednesday evenings. This programme acts as the initial training phase for the YSD programme by introducing participants to Peer Education for Sustainable Development, and aims to build participants communications, teamwork, and project planning skills. Several different methods were employed to engage the young people in a fun and educational environment, including role play activities, film nights, and outdoor excursions. Events external to the weekly meet ups led to increased engagement and empowerment.

- **19** YSD participants went on the Climate Strikes on 15th March
- **13** YSD participants attended the Dublin City Council for Climate Action Conference on 17th February
- **4** YSD participants attended UN ECO-SOC Forum in New York from 5th April to 9th April
- **3** YSD participants attended and made speeches at the Sustainable Food Conference in Croke Park on 11th April
- **16** young people attended a scavenger hunt for World Earth Day
- **12** young people attended a shark talk to celebrate World Water Day
- **3** participants attended the Our Ocean Wealth Conference in Cork on the 9th June
- **4** participants attended the NYCI National show case on the 19th June
- **4** participants attended the Dublin Bay Biosphere Youth Committee Meeting on the 1st October
- **13** participants attended the Youth Engagement on Climate Action talks on the 19th November
- **24** participants went on a 3-day excursion to Lough Dan where they learnt about the local biodiversity, how to make bird and batt boxes and undertook fast fashion workshops.
- **2** participants attended NYCI's One World Week event. One spoke to RTE1's Morning Ireland about the event and another was on a panel discussing youth involvement in Climate Action

YSD at YEA 2019

The Young Environmentalist Awards showcase took place in May 2019 with a range of YSD projects from Dublin, focusing on different topics: including Water Waste, Eco Art and Design, Eco Health and Wellbeing and Climate Change.

Our YSD Regional groups in Bray and Drogheda submitted projects to the YEA2019 showcase and both won awards in their categories. Drogheda's project, "Battle for the Boyne" including a river testing and clean up of the Boyne River. Bray Bikes designed and mapped out a plan for a bike scheme in Bray. This led to meetings with the Dublin City Council/National Transport Authority.

QQI ACCREDITED TRAINING

A total of 43 participants received training in QQI Level 5 Peer Education during 2019

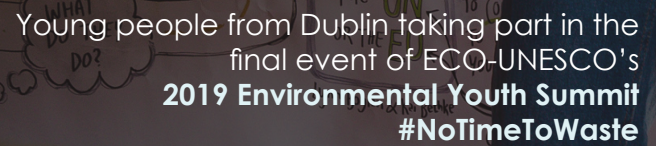
YSD PROGRAMME EXPANSION

Over the course of 2019 YSD continued to expand and engaged with groups in Drogheda, Bray, Carlow, Navan, Newbridge and Westport.

ECO-UNESCO's **Youth for Sustainable Development Programme** is supported by **Irish Aid**.



2019



ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH SUMMIT

ECO-UNESCO's Youth Summit is a 'Structured-Dialogue' initiative that comprises of a series of events, trainings and action projects for Irish and European young people.

The aim of this project is to equip young people with the knowledge they need to recognise and harness their power to influence the achievement of the SDGs. Through the programme, young people gain the confidence to voice their opinions to decision-makers on how Ireland (and their respective countries of origin) can respond to present and future challenges.

YOUTH SUMMIT 2019 'NO TIME TO WASTE'

The Environmental Youth Summit project, #NoTimetoWaste ran throughout the year with over 70 participants. Funded by Erasmus+ and Leargas with the aim to empower young people by providing them with an opportunity to have their voices heard and to link in with key policy makers. Young people attended from Norway, Spain, Greece and Ireland and explored the environmental issues associated with waste. This project focused on 3 Sustainable Development Goals - 9, 11 and 12.

The main event of the project was the 3 Day International Youth Summit held in February 2019, where they had the opportunity to engage directly with local policy makers, MPs, and MEPs and other key decision makers. These face-to-face meetings were conducted through a structured dialogue process.

Throughout the project the young participants were facilitated to take action themselves and to raise awareness in their local communities, thus gaining confidence in their own agency as active citizens. They had the opportunity to present their projects to both their peers and experts at the summit, and many of them also secured a place to present their projects at our annual Young Environmentalist Awards.

Guests speakers and experts who attended were: Professor Patrick Paul Walsh (UCD); Lynn Ruane (Member of the Seanad); Colin O'Byrne (Education Officer at the Rediscovery Centre); Eamon Ryan (leader of the Green Party); Sabrina Dekker (UCD); Grace O Sullivan (MEP); Caitriona Rogerson (IEN); Ciaran Cuffe (MEP); Les Carberry (DCCAE); Duncan Stewart (Irish architect and host of RTE's 'Eco Eye'); Paul Manning & Trisha Ramlugan (Veolia water and energy waste).

As a result of having participated in the National Youth ECO Summit, the young participants were more aware of the procedures of policy change. They gained insight into how to influence decision-makers, as well as being more confident speaking about their environmental, social, and political interests to those in expert/governmental positions. The young people were empowered to take action with the use of action projects, where the experts gave one-on-one feedback discussions with the young people on how they could make the most impact with their projects.



Erasmus+



LEARNING 2 CHANGE OUR WORLD

Learning 2 Change Our World promotes Education for Sustainable Development in Secondary schools. The programme contributes to the implementation of the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development. This strategy aims to ensure that education contributes to sustainable development by equipping learners with the relevant knowledge, disposition, skills and values to motivate and empower them throughout their lives to become informed citizens who take action for a more sustainable future.

This is implemented through a range of Environmental workshops and Student Council Trainings.

The Environmental Workshop component is built around five environmental workshops on the themes of; Bio-Diversity, Plastic Pollution, The Fast Fashion industry, Waste, Project management (undertaking an action project)

Each workshop was two hours long, was adapted to suit the needs of the student's curriculum learning and comprised three key elements - exploring the problem, discovering the solutions, and taking part in a practical, hands-on workshop.

The Student Council trainings are part of ECO-UNESCOs whole-school approach with regards to environmental education. This series of trainings enables the students involved in their school's Student Council to become more comfortable with one another; more confident in expressing their opinions and ideas; and teaches them how to efficiently and actively make a difference within their school.

Monitoring and Evaluation for this programme is carried out using WorldWise Global School's SAT system. All of the students who filled in the evaluation forms reported an increase in their knowledge of Sustainable Development, the major issues that are going on in the world and their inter-connectedness along with causes and consequences.



The Learning 2 Change Our World Programme is supported by World Wise Global Schools.





YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Young people from Our Lady's Bower Secondary School, Westmeath, taking part in ECO-UNESCO's Learning 2 Change Our World programme.

YOUTH EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

ECO-UNESCO's wide range of workshops and programmes for young people continued to be delivered across Ireland throughout 2019. A number of workshops were delivered in conjunction with Local Authorities under Local Agenda 21, and Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness grants.

In 2019 ECO-UNESCO was engaged in a range of events and activities:

- Regional participants Attended **2 Idea Fest events**, YEA 2019 events (Awards Ceremony and ECO Dens)
- Regional groups ran in **Navan** (2 groups), **Drogheda** (2 groups), **Bray** (2 groups), **Newbridge**, and **Westport**
- 4 participants attended and made speeches at the **Children's Rally for Climate Change** on 19th January
- 19 YSD participants went on the **Climate Strikes** on 15th March
- 13 YSD participants attended the **Dublin City Council for Climate Action Conference** on 17th February
- 4 YSD participants attended **UN ECO-SOC Forum in New York** from 5th April to 9th April
- 3 YSD participants attended and made speeches at the **Sustainable Food Conference** in Croke Park on 11th April
- 16 participants attended **National Biodiversity Day** in Pine Forest on the 4th May
- 16 young people attended a scavenger hunt for **World Earth Day**
- 12 young people **interviewed the general public about water waste**
- 12 young people attended a shark talk to celebrate **World Water day**
- Young people from **3 different schools spoke to their assemblies about sustainability** to celebrate World Water Day
- 5 participants attended the **Sustainable Living Fair**, 2 participants made speeches at the event on the 11th May
- 3 participants attended the **Our Ocean Wealth Conference** in Cork on the 9th June
- 4 participants attended the **NYCI National showcase** on the 19th June
- 3 participants attended **Picnic the Green** on 28th July
- 4 participants attended the **Dublin Bay Biosphere Youth Committee Meeting** on the 1st October
- 13 participants attended the **Youth Engagement on Climate Action** talks on the 19th November
- 24 participants went on a **3-day excursion to Lough Dan** where they learnt about the local biodiversity, how to make bird and bat boxes and undertook fast fashion workshops.
- 2 participants attended **NYCI's One World Week event. One spoke to RTE1's Morning Ireland** about the event and another was on a panel discussing youth involvement in Climate Action
- 2 x 5-day summer camps were run with **29 participants summer camp** young people with outdoor activities.

GREEN TEEN SUMMER CAMPS

The Green Teen Summer Camp is for young people aged between 12-16. The programme focuses on developing knowledge, skills, attitudes and values in young people related to sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2019 we ran 2 x 5-day summer camps with 29 participants. Some of the activities were day trips focused on the natural environment and discovering green areas around the city, along with classroom workshops and creative activities on biodiversity.

WORKSHOPS

83 workshops were delivered to 1,868 young people and their teachers/leaders in 17 Local Authority areas. Workshops included: ECO-Action; Youth Media & Sustainable Development; Climate Action; Exploring Biodiversity; 6-Steps to Success; Food Waste & Home Economics; Fast Fashion; ECO-Watchers; Zero Waste; and Creative Recycling. 1,868 young people learned about a variety of environmental issues and how to plan and carry out their own environmental action projects. They had the opportunity to express their own thoughts on environmental issues and were made aware of policy related to specific environmental issues and how to tackle those issues as individuals and as a school/youth group.

1,868

Young people
took part in our
Workshops

83

Workshops
delivered
to young people

17

Local authorities
supported our workshops

19

YSD participants
went on the
Climate Strikes

70+

People engaged
in the National Youth
ECO Summit

29

Young people took part in the
Green Teen
Summer Camps

Young people from Dublin taking part in the
Teen Summer Camps 2019

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. In 2019, the ECO-Choices programme directly engaged 256 young people, while indirectly engaging a further 346 young people through the ECO-Health and Well-being category in our Young Environmentalist Awards, which brings the total reach to 602 young people.

ECO-YOUTH CHOICES FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

The ECO-Youth Choices Foundation programme is centered around young people in an after school setting which aims to promote healthier lifestyle choices among at risk young people through personal/life skills development, environmental methodologies and outdoor environmental activities.

The participating groups in 2019 were primarily from Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Stoneybatter Youth Service, Stanhope Street Secondary School and an introductory session in Ringsend/Irishtown Youth Service. The Eco-Choices programme empowers young people through active citizenship and encourages participants to take action on local community and/or environmental issues.

Participants from Drimnagh Castle facilitated workshops to first year students in their school on topics related to active citizenship and local issues in their community. They also entered a number of projects into the Young Environmentalist Awards!

Ringsend/Irishtown Youth Service were also encouraged to take action and organised a beach clean in their local area! They have plans to continue this action by petitioning for more bins in their area to discourage littering.

ACCREDITED TRAINING

39 young people took part in QQI Level 3 training on Eco-Community Development in an out of school setting.

YOUTH WORKER TRAINING

In 2019, 9 youth workers received training on ESD methods, from 5 different organisations.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

A central aspect of the Eco-Choices programme is Outdoor Education. This involves outdoor learning in areas accessible via public transport from Dublin City. Through physical exercise, hikes and games we give young people and opportunity to connect with nature in a fun, interactive environment to encourage the proven mental and physical health benefits. In 2019, a total of 23 activities, with a total of 276 participants, took part in our outdoor education programmes which included a week of outdoor activities with Stoneybatter Youth Service, two weeks of Teen Camps, a 3-day residential in Lough Dan, beach clean-ups, and many more activities!

Eco-Choices is supported by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, under the YPFSF. The funding is distributed by City of Dublin Youth Service Board (CDYSB).



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

39

Young people
received
QQI Training

23

Outdoor
education days held

256

Young people
involved in
the programme

Young people from Drimnagh Castle Secondary School
on a hike as part of the **ECO-Choices Programme**

TRAINING & UPSKILLING

PROGRAMMES



Young people from YSD programme with their
QQI Level 3 & 5 Certificates

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.

ACCREDITED TRAINING IN 2019



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.

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. In 2019 the ECO-Sustainability Award has been re-designed to align with the Sustainable Development Goals.

GREEN YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME

345

Young people received employability training

28

Young people received QQI accredited training

80

Young people engaged in a career planning event

ECO-UNESCO's Green Youth Employability programmes upskill young people aged 16-25 years and equips them with the skills and techniques which open doors to employment and economic opportunity in the green sector from economically or socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

To tackle youth unemployment, ECO-UNESCO, through its youth employment programme has used its specialised expertise in the Environment, Youth, Community Development, Sustainable Development and green economy sectors to provide a practical and realistic stepping stone to employment in the diverse parts of the green sector and 'greening' the economy in general.

In 2019, ECO-UNESCO's experience of employability programmes combined with its specialist expertise was utilised to equip young people with the skills to get a job in the green economy as well as giving participants transferable skills that they can adapt to any work place. The programme catered for a range young people from diverse backgrounds and skill-sets, it was tailored to provide a broad base of generic and specific competencies to assist participant's progress in their chosen field.

ECO-UNESCO worked with 345 young people through its Youth Employability Programmes.

The 2019 programme consisted of 5 key work areas:

- The delivery of QQI accredited training to young people not in further education or training.
- The integration of employment training into ECO-UNESCO's other youth programmes.
- Integrating the Skills Summary programme (in conjunction with NYCI and Accenture), an employment focussed tool to help participants address their skills relevant to potential careers.
- Hosting the Green Works event, offering attendees the opportunity to hear from people who have made carers in the green economy, as well as speakers from 3rd level and further education centres about relevant courses, as well as a look at the skill needs of the future workforce.
- A CV & Interview Skills clinic, where participants received guidance on how to prepare a CV, and a mock face to face interview with an experienced recruiter.
- The delivery of selected content from Accenture's Skills 2 Succeed only employability training platform.

The Green Skills Programme is Supported by Accenture



Young people in the **ECO-UNESCO's Green Works Event** in Dublin



HOW WE

OPERATE

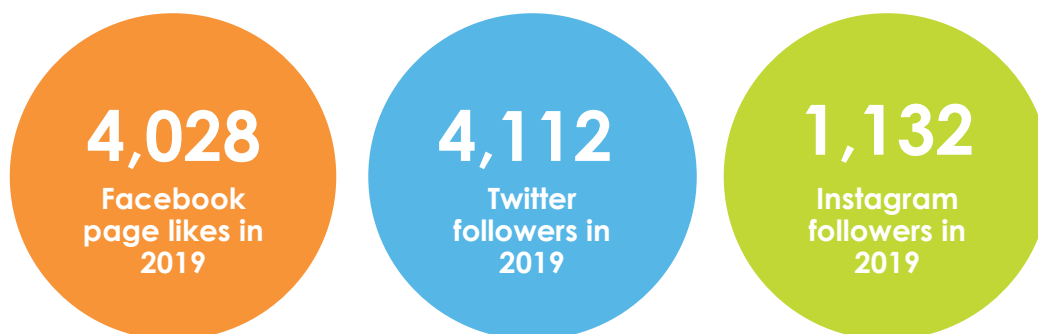


ECO-UNESCO's National Director Elaine Nevin pictured alongside with.....at the launch of "Nature in the Park "

COMMUNICATIONS & REPRESENTATION

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

ECO-UNESCO programmes and 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. We put a lot of work into growing our social media following, and got the following results:



NEWSLETTER AND E-MAGAZINE

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 2019-2020, disseminated in the annual direct mail campaign to over 1,500 secondary schools, libraries, ETBs, and at all external events. We also produce a monthly E-Magazine for our supporters.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2019, ECO-UNESCO continued to develop its range of resources and publications. Some of the published highlights from 2019 include:

- YEA 2019 Finalist booklet
- Nature in the Park resource (in conjunction with Dublin City Council)
- ECO-UNESCO Annual Newsletter 2019-20
- YSD Programme Manual
- A wide range of informational and marketing material to promote our programmes and educational resources for key environmental days

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY



**The Advisory Group
for the National
Strategy on Education
for Sustainable
Development**



**Coalition 2030 -
a coalition of civil
society organisations
promoting the
SDG's**



**The Advisory
Committee
of the Environmental
Protection
Agency**



**The National Youth
Council of Ireland**



**Chair of the National
Dialogue on Climate
Action Advisory Group**



**Youth and the
Environment Europe**



**Key partner of
UNESCO under the
Global Action
Programme on ESD
and continued to be
represented
internationally at Key
Partner meetings**



UNESCO Global Action Programme on
Education for Sustainable Development

ECO-UNESCO MADE SUBMISSIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- The NCCA as part of their Senior Cycle reform.
- To Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council on the Draft Climate Action Plan
- To the Dublin Bay Biosphere on Education and Communication in the Biosphere

UNESCO & INTERNATIONAL WORK

UNESCO GAP INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON ESD

During 2019, UNESCO hosted the Global Forum for Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education in July 2019. ECO-UNESCO attended the Forum which also acted as the international meeting of the GAP (Global Action Programme) Key Partners who met to review the GAP and to discuss the post-GAP plans for Education for 2030.

EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK, BRUSSELS

In April 2019 three participants of the ECO-UNESCO Youth for Sustainable Development programme were taken to the European Youth Week in Brussels. Together we ran activities and information sessions on the UN Sustainable Development Goals with visitors to the conference. This was done through games and informal discussions. We also ran a photo booth where conference attendees dressed up as their favourite Sustainable Development Goal. In addition, the young people had an opportunity to speak about their environmental action projects and to attend talks at the conference on a range of issues affecting young people in Europe.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) YOUTH FORUM AT THE UNITED NATIONS HQ IN NEW YORK CITY

In April 2019, four Youth for Sustainable Development participants had the opportunity to attend the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum at the United Nations HQ in New York. This was an incredible experience for our participants to meet with youth leaders from around the world to share their vision and contribute to the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and other high-level events, including the Climate Summit.

Prior to attending the forum, Minister Katherine Zappone launched the 'UN Sustainable Development Goals Through the Lens of a Child' report, which our participants presented at the ECOSOC forum. Our participants also had the opportunity to present this report to Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland's Representative to the UN), as well as share their experience as Young Environmentalists.

"I am delighted that an Irish Youth Delegation will present the findings of this report to the UN Youth Forum in New York next month, and I wish them well with their presentation and I am heartened that Youth voices are now a formal part of UN meetings. Following this example, Ireland needs to consider how to incorporate youth voices, as part of whole of society partnerships, in our institutions."

- Minister Katherine Zappone at the launch of the report



COLLABORATIVE WORK

Throughout 2019, ECO-UNESCO continued to develop links and partnerships with agencies, organisations and businesses to provide environmental education, youth programmes and teacher & 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 2019 includes:

- ECO-UNESCO continued to collaborate with the Irish Environmental Network, Social Justice Ireland and World Vision in the roll out of 'Making Ireland Sustainable for All' a successful European wide DEAR funded project to promote and build awareness of the SDG's in Ireland. In particular ECO-UNESCO is working to promote awareness of and action for the SDG's in young people, through our Young Environmentalist Awards and Youth for Sustainable Development programmes.
- ECO-UNESCO continued to collaborate with a range of institutions through our programmes including Local Authorities, Secondary Schools, Youthreach Centres, Youth Groups and Education and Training Board Youth officers.

We collaborated with youth organisations from Spain, Greece & Norway on the No Time to Waste Youth Summit.

TRINITY COLLEGE

ECO-UNESCO entered into a partnership with Trinity College to undertake the FoodSmart Dublin project, funded by the Irish Research Council.

COALITION 2030

ECO-UNESCO continued to be an active member of Coalition 2030, a coalition of civil society organisations working to promote the SDG's in Ireland. ECO-UNESCO was a member of the Steering committee.

STOP CLIMATE CHAOS

ECO-UNESCO was a member of Stop Climate Chaos which brings together organisations in civil society promoting the need for climate action.

GAISCE

We remained an official challenge partner of Gaisce, the President's Award.

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.

Young people on a hike as part of the
ECO-Choices Programme



LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT

The following local authorities supported our Young Environmentalist Award ECO-Dens in 2019:

- Mayo County Council
- Monaghan County Council
- Roscommon County Council
- Sligo County Council
- Wexford County Council
- Clare County Council
- Dublin City Council
- Galway County Council
- Kildare County Council

FUNDING

ECO-UNESCO is funded by a variety of national and European Government and 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 2019 ECO-UNESCO'S MAIN CORE FUNDING CAME FROM:

Department of Children and Youth Affairs – Youth Service Grant

Irish Environmental Network Core Funding

Department of Rural and Community Development under Special Scheme for National Organisations

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Department of Foreign Affairs - Irish Aid Development Education Grant

Department of Children & Youth Affairs – TYFS (via City of Dublin Youth Service Board)

ECO-UNESCO RECEIVED FUNDING FROM:

The Environmental Protection Agency

Local Authorities nationwide under the Environmental Partnership Fund and Anti-Litter fund

Erasmus+

DEAR

ECO-UNESCO RECEIVED A RANGE OF FUNDING RELATED TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS INCLUDING:

Worldwise Global Schools from Irish Aid

Accenture

Marks and Spencer

Trocaire

Concern

Our Audited Accounts for 2019 are available to download from our website www.ecounesco.ie

GOVERNANCE

ECO-UNESCO is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. In 2019 there was a 45/55 gender split amongst Board Members, with a diversity of appropriate skills in place, ensuring that the board can meet its aims in oversight and policy development.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS IN 2019 WERE:

Niall Jennings (Chairperson) - [100% attendance - 5 attended - 5 eligible]

Jamie Cudden (Chair - resigned June 2019) - [33% attendance - 1 attended - 3 eligible]

Marie Collins (Treasurer) - [80% attendance - 4 attended - 5 eligible]

Christina Nolan (Chair - HR Committee) - [60% attendance - 3 attended - 5 eligible]

Daniel Dockery (Secretary) - [80% attendance - 4 attended - 5 eligible]

Orla McGreal [80% attendance - 4 attended - 5 eligible]

David Kelly [75% attendance - 3 attended - 4 eligible]

Vivienne Kelly [100% attendance - 3 attended - 3 eligible]

Padraig Ryan (Resigned November 2019) - [50% attendance - 2 attended - 4 eligible]

In 2019 there were 5 Board meetings held. Additionally, the Board had 3 Sub-Committees - Audit, Risk & Finance, HR & Remuneration and Building. The AGM took place in June 2019.

Appropriate financial policies and procedures are in place, complying with statutory requirements and ECO-UNESCO's audited accounts are available on our website.

GOVERNANCE CODES

ECO-UNESCO is a signatory of the Dochas code of images and messages; is signed up to the Governance Code; began work to map our compliance standards to the new Charities Regulator's Code; complies with Quality Assurance from the Quality and Qualifications Ireland and works within the National Quality Standards Framework for Youth Work.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH WORK (NQSF)

ECO-UNESCO works to the National Quality Standards for Youth Work and has completed a 3-year cycle and maintains a continuous improvement plan, liaising with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs Standards Officers.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

ECO-UNESCO is working towards the delivery of our Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

9 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland

T: +353 (0)1 662 5491 E: info@ecounesco.ie W: www.ecounesco.ie

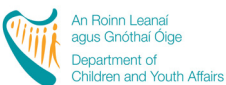
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Department of Rural and Community Development.
Scheme to Support National Organisations 2019-2022



ECO-UNESCO is supported by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs with support from the National Lottery Fund.



ECO-UNESCO is part-funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment through the Irish Environmental Network



ECO-UNESCO is a registered Irish Charity no. 20015145
CHY Number 7225
Companies Registration Office Number 106860