

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation



ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalists Awards 2021



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Welcome to ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2021

Welcome to the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2021.

I would like to congratulate you on becoming a Young Environmentalist Awards finalist and to acknowledge the work of all of our Young Environmentalists.

The Young Environmentalist Awards are all about encouraging and supporting youth led environmental action and about recognising and rewarding those actions and efforts.

This year ECO-UNESCO is celebrating 22 years of our Young Environmentalist Awards programme. Over the years we have worked with tens of thousands of young people who have made a direct and positive impact on improving our environment and on making our world more sustainable.

This year we had over 200 projects registrations from young people in youth groups and schools all across Ireland. I know it has been a challenging year but it hasn't hampered the enthusiasm and energy of our young environmentalists who continued to do fantastic projects throughout the year.

The projects have been so varied with many of working to improve biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprints, tackle climate change, reduce plastic pollution and waste and many more. All of the projects had a focus on protecting our natural environment and on making our world more sustainable with many of you tackling global issues and linking to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

I recently attended the UNESCO World Conference on ESD hosted virtually from Berlin. There were a few key messages coming from the conference; firstly the urgent need for action for sustainability and for environmental protection; secondly the need for a transformation in education and the inclusion of environmental education as a core component in our education system; and thirdly the key role of young people both as change agents and as advisors.

I had the pleasure of meeting with our young environmentalists during our ECO-Dens semi-finals and I was so inspired by the work, the creativity, the ideas, the energy and the passion which shone through. Our young people are making such an important contribution to environmental protection and are having such a positive impact on communities.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the YEA Mentors - the leaders and teachers who support young people to carry out YEA project work.

Each year the YEA judges do such fantastic work in judging our projects and I'd like to thank the judges for all your diligent work in judging this years projects.

I want to especially thank the ECO-UNESCO team who each year work tirelessly to make the Young Environmentalist Awards such a success. In particular thanks to Samantha Andrades, Erica Meslin and Breon Timmons (include other staff names also) and all the team of staff, interns and volunteers.

The YEA programme is supported by the Department of the Environment, Communications and Climate Action, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and I'd like to thank them for their continued support and all of our sponsors who support the Young Environmentalist Awards programme. We really appreciate the ongoing support which helps us to develop and grow the impact of the Young Environmentalist Awards.

And finally I want to thank all of our Young Environmentalist for all your passion, enthusiasm and creativity during the past year.

Well done to all and congratulations on your achievements!



Elaine Nevin
National Director
ECO-UNESCO

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Nevin', written in a cursive style.

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#YEA21: Celebrating 22 years



50,000+

young people involved
since 1999



+5,000

young people engaged
in #YEA2021



200+

projects registered
for #YEA21



67

finalist groups



64,792

people voted in the People's
Choice Awards



18

Mentors nominated
as Mentor of the Year



+1,600

people tuned the
Young Environmentalist
Broadcast Ceremony 2020

#ECOWEEK2021

ECO WEEK 2021 was a week-long initiative that included a series of online events focused on environmental topics as Fast Fashion, Marine life, Biodiversity, Young people's actions, Plastic and much more. These events took place as online webinars, talks, workshops, challenges, and televised events. Additionally, on Wednesday 26th May we announced the winners of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2021.

Eco-week aimed to:

- Announce and celebrate the YEA Final Awards
- Encourage thought, debate, and action around the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Inspire, educate, and inform young people about study and career opportunities in sustainable development
- The week included 8 events including workshops, live talks, pre-recorded presentations, competitions, challenges, and the YEA Awards Broadcast.

The initiative was aimed at all YEA participants and all young people in Ireland between ages 10-18.

600
ATTENDEES

8
CORE EVENTS

24th- 28th May

ECO-WEEK 2021

A series of sustainability sessions, showcases and celebrations!



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>11:30am - 1:00pm:</p> <p>IN-SCHOOL BIODIVERSITY (ON LAND)</p> <p>This workshop teaches students about the importance of biodiversity.</p>	<p>11:30am - 1:00pm:</p> <p>IN-SCHOOL BIODIVERSITY (IN WATER)</p> <p>In this workshop, we will explore the wonders of life beneath the waves with marine expert, Eimear Manning.</p>	<p>2:00 - 3:00pm:</p> <p>THE YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS CEREMONY</p> <p>Welcome to the BIG show, the Young Environmentalist Awards and Showcase featuring special guests Michael D. Higgins and Mary Robinson! Come with us while we highlight some of our top environmentalist action projects from YEA 2021.</p> 	<p>11:30am - 12:30pm:</p> <p>SUSTAINABILITY CAREER-TALK</p> <p>Daniel Kelly, the Corporate Social Responsibility Manager with LIDL will discuss how he got started with a career in sustainability.</p>	<p>11:30am - 1:00pm:</p> <p>IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOP FAST FASHION FOCUS</p> <p>This workshop explores clothing consumption and how it contributes to both environmental and social issues. We assess our own contribution to the issue and create a fashion-forward strategy to combat textile waste.</p>
<p>6:00 - 6:45pm</p> <p>HOW TO SAVE THE PLANET AND MAKE PLANT-BASED ICE-CREAM FUDGE BARS</p> <p>We will discuss the benefits of eating more plants, how to prevent food waste, easy eco-swaps, and how to make delicious plant-based ice-cream fudge bars.</p>	<p>5:00 - 7:00pm</p> <p>YOUTH SUMMIT SHOWCASE</p> <p>Strap yourself in for a night of fun, frolics, and fabulous climate action. Join the Youth Summiteers from Ireland, Scotland, and Catalonia as they tell us what action they've been taking for the climate. We will be joined by the wonderful Go dance for change.</p>		<p>5:00 - 6:45pm</p> <p>VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE! PLASTIC EXHIBITION AND ZINE WORKSHOP</p> <p>Online tour of Science Gallery Dublin's PLASTIC. Join us to explore the exhibition and the zine-making session after the tour.</p>	



YEA FINALISTS PROJECTS 2021

Biodiversity - SDG #15

Biodiversity projects look at researching and protecting different types of plants, animals or eco-systems.



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Loreto Secondary School Fermoy	2021-093 - You, Me and the Trees	10
Dublin	Meanscoil Iognaid Ris	2021-061 - Castle Habitat	10
Dublin	Meánscoil Iognáid Rís	2021-068 - Book in, Bug out	10
Dublin	Eco-Unesco	2021-190 - Planet Bee Ireland	10
Galway	St Jarlath's College	2021-055 - Tree Huggers	11
Galway	St Jarlath's College	2021-056 - Forces of Nature	11
Kerry	Castleisland Community College	2021-166 - Climate Crew	11
Mayo	Balla No Name Club	2021-050 - Oak Tree Project	11
Westmeath	Mists Community School	2021-152 - Bird Feeder Infection Problem	12
Wicklow	Loreto Bray Secondary School	2021-023 - The Birds and the Bees	12
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School Bray	2021-026 - Seedling Swap	12
Wicklow	Coláiste Chraobh Abhann	2021-177 - Pollinator Garden	12

Climate Change - SDG #13

Climate Change projects connect local activity with the broader effects of climate change. They identify and promote behaviour changes that will contribute to mitigating climate change.



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Loreto Secondary School Fermoy	2021-096 - The Future of fashion	13
Cork	St. Aloysius College Carrigtwohill	2021-100 - Polar Express	13
Cork	St. Aloysius College Carrigtwohill	2021-101 - Sea Saviours	13
Cork	St. Brogan's College	2021-153 - How Covid-19 Has Had An Impact On...	13
Cork	Coláiste na Toirbhirte	2021-158 - Does Carbon Concentration affect...	14
Cork	Millstreet Community School	2021-165 - Save our planet and our money...	14
Donegal	Abbey Vocational School	2021-192 - Carbon Footprint:Eradicating the stigma	14
Dublin	Fingal Community College	2021-108 - Can stopping beef production reverse...	14
Dublin	St. Andrews College	2021-122 - Are goats the answer to our cow problem?	14
Kerry	Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí	2021-107 - Feabhsaigh Fast Fashion	15
Kerry	St Brendan's College, Killarney	2021-161 - Sustainable Sem- Sensory Garden	15
Roscommon	Coláiste Chiaráin	2021-034 - Clear Traffic Cleans Air	15
Roscommon	Colaiste Chiarain	2021-037 - Eat Less Meat	15

ECO-Art & Design - SDG #4

ECO-Art & Design projects demonstrate creative ways to inform people about nature or environmental problems and promote positive action.



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Dublin	Mercy College Coolock	2021-077 - Oceanique	16
Meath	Youthreach Navan	2021-181 - Anti-Discrimination Mural	16

ECO-Community Development - SDG #11

ECO-Community Development projects develop practical solutions to local environmental issues and involve local communities in developing a more sustainable society.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Davis College	2021-044 - Rebel Green	16
Cork	Millstreet Community School	2021-147 - Are Irish people slow learners when it...	16
Dublin	Blackrock College	2021-191 - AAA	17
Mayo	Foroige Connect	2021-194 - Derry Lough biodiversity	17
Westmeath	Moate Community School	2021-148 - Sensory Garden	17
Wicklow	Loreto Bray Secondary School	2021-024 - Vegetable Garden in Aid of Refugees	17

ECO-Health & Wellbeing - SDG #3

Projects in this category explore the link between our health (physical and emotional wellbeing) and the environment we live in; from the water we drink, to the air we breathe, to the food we grow and eat.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Dublin	Meanscoil Iognaid ris	2021-063 - The Sound of Silence	18
Monaghan	Beech Hill College	2021-115 - Bio-Senses	18
Wicklow	Loreto Bray Secondary School	2021-025 - Hakuna Matata	18

ECO-Innovation - SDG #9

ECO-Innovation projects research, develop and often create products, technologies or services that contribute to sustainable development.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Coláiste na Toirbhirte	2021-058 - Save the Planet not the Penneys	18
Cork	St. Brogan's College	2021-176 - Hemp for a Sustainable Future	19
Dublin	Pobalscoil Neasáin	2021-167 - Let's Talk About It	19
Dublin	Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan	2021-172 - Vertical Farming For a Better Ireland	19
Monaghan	Beech Hill College	2021-111 - Plastic Greenhouse Fun	19
Westmeath	Moate Community School	2021-157 - Stop spoiling milk, start seeing changes	20

Energy - SDG #7

Energy projects look at how energy use impacts the environment. These projects drive change in the way we can reduce this impact.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Millstreet Community School	2021-162 - Did you ever think how much a 'thumbs up' costs ?	20
Galway	Dominican College, Taylor's Hill	2021-178 - Green Energy in Galway	20

Waste - SDG #12

Disposing of waste has huge environmental impacts. Waste projects explore our consumption and production patterns, and how to reduce waste.



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Loreto Secondary School	2021-094 - WAVEing litter goodbye	21
Cork	St Brogan's College	2021-154 - W.A.S.T.E.	21
Cork	Patrician Academy	2021-156 - Wake Up to Academy's Waste...	21
Cork	St. Peter's Community School	2021-168 - Our Environment – Your Litter...	22
Donegal	St. Columba's College Stranorlar	2021-138 - TBC - Fast Fashion	22
Donegal	Scoil Mhuire Buncrana	2021-150 - Trace - a - bill	22
Dublin	Mount Carmel Secondary School	2021-059 - Fast Fashion V Sustainable Fashion	22
Dublin	ECO-UNESCO	2021-049 - The Plastic Yeeters	23
Galway	Galway Educate Together Secondary School	2021-072 - Going Single Use Plastic Free in Galway ETSS	23
Kerry	Mercy Mounthawk	2021-119 - Covid 9-Team	23
Limerick	Colaiste Nano Nagle	2021-123 - Plastic Seas	23
Tipperary	St. Annes	2021-105 - Take back your Tights	24
Westmeath	Athlone Community College	2021-197 - What are We Recycling?...	24

Water - SDG #14

Water projects look at water-related issues such as impacts of pollution in oceans or rivers, water scarcity or water waste.



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School Bray	2021-027 - The Rainwater Rescuers	24
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School Bray	2021-028 - Hydration Stations	24

Super Junior

The Super Junior projects explore a wide range of environmental issues. They take actions that protect and improve their local environment and raise awareness in their local community.

County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Rochestown Educate Together National School	2021-052 - Guardians of the Garden	25
Dublin	Scoil Mhuire, Sandymount	2021-187 - Biodiversity - What Birds Can Teach us...	25
Dublin	Dublin City Farm & Ecology Centre	2021-004 - St. Anne's City Farm	25
Galway	St. Patrick's Primary School	2021-200 - Connecting Nature with Wellbeing	25
Galway	Cloghans Hill NS	2021-134 - Play Your Part	26
Galway	English National School	2021-011 - How Trees Support our Wellbeing	26
Meath	Dunboyne Senior Primary School	2021-173 - Dunboyne Clean Air	26

Finalist Project Summaries

Biodiversity - SDG #15

Biodiversity projects look at researching and protecting different types of plants, animals or eco-systems.

15 LIFE ON LAND



Sophie Baragry & Aoibhe Carey

You, Me and the Trees

Loreto Secondary School Fermoy, Cork. 2021-093. Senior

Our aim is to spread awareness in our school and local community about deforestation. We plan to do this by firstly educating ourselves, secondly educating the people around us and finally carrying out a movement. We plan on planting a number of trees in our school and community, and then raising enough money to donate to an organization who will plant more trees around the world. We want to plant as many trees as possible, and help the people around us understand how important trees are and how we can't take them for granted.



Adam Power, Joel Saiju, Sanfred Samuel, Moses Alabi, and Nathan Woods.

Castle Habitat

Meanscoil Iognáid Rís, Dublin. 2021-061. Senior.

We chose this project because there was a stream of water from the moat because the moat had more water than it started flooding into that location

We decided to dig a pond and extract water from the moat and put the water in the pond, and also build a habitat around the pond. Doing this we will make a beautiful place that the students and teachers could come and relax.

In this life that we live in now with Covid 19, this will be a very nice place students and teachers could come out for a mask break.



Conor Molloy, Joel Mathew, Alex Lupu, Carl Meehan, and Ryan Joseph.

Book in, Bug out

Meánscoil Iognáid Rís, Dublin. 2021-068. Senior.

It's a 2-part project that we plan to make a pathway to the pond at the back of our school. We plan to plant flowers and make it Eco-friendly so that insects and other small animals may be attracted to it. We also started production on a bug hotel that we placed near the flowers. We made the bug hotel from leftover pallets. They were already infested with a few insects so they were ideal for making a bug hotel. With the path leading into the pond, the bug hotel is located at the side as a detour. Our main goal is to make a safe and Eco-friendly place for bugs and all plants. With a pathway, a pond and a bug hotel, we feel like our school would be an amazing place for all most or if not all insects. The partakers in this project were Ryan, Carl, Alex, Ryan and Joel. We all have an interest in biodiversity and this project will be a stepping stone for our learning and would help develop our liking to this particular topic.



Molly Mullally and Mohammad Naeem.

Planet Bee Ireland

Eco-Unesco, Dublin. 2021-190. Senior.

Planet Bee Ireland is a non-profit organisation based mainly on Instagram. We provide simple information, DIY's and news updates from the world of biodiversity and bees. We are contacting local councillors, politicians and our schools so as to receive grants to plant trees and wildflower patches in our localities. We hope this campaign will have a domino effect on other schools and communities!



JJ Sheridan, Luis Lavelle, Luke Davin, Conor Heneghan, Aaron Fahy, Finn O'Neill, and Keelan Wilson.

Tree Huggers

St Jarlath's College, Galway. 2021-055. Senior.

The aim of our project is to protect the habitats of animals on our school grounds. As of early 2020, the school was constructing a new building to cater for the growing population of the school. As a result of this, we saw our green space disappear and our nature garden destroyed. We wanted to preserve this green space. We decided that planting native Irish trees and providing food to wildlife would allow biodiversity to thrive and increase biodiversity on our school grounds. We came up with many ideas to make our garden as pretty and full of wildlife as possible in an affordable manner. This led to the awareness about the decline in biodiversity and how it was going to impact us. We thought this idea would educate the entire school community about the importance and value of biodiversity.



Aaron Redmond, Josh McKiernan, Noah Waugh Bacchus, Cian Garrett, Fionn McDonald, Daniel Kelly Mannion, Gerard Boyle and Janosch Brauer.

Forces of Nature

St Jarlath's College, Galway. 2021-056. Senior.

Our project aim is about improving biodiversity in our school and building homes for animals such as bird houses in our school. We came up with this idea as one day we were on a Wellbeing walk around the school grounds and we observed that there was a lack of biodiversity. So we decided to improve biodiversity on our school grounds by creating bird houses. The actions that we took included picking out recycled materials that were eco-friendly and building bird houses. We hope to improve biodiversity by generating more wildlife in our school.



Grainne Spillane, Ciara O'Sullivan, Olga O'Sullivan, Ellie Lenihan, Chelsey Hayes, Michael Moynihan, Micheal O'Shea, Konrad Kloskowski, Rachel Reynolds and Katie O'Connor.

Climate Crew

Castleisland Community College, Kerry. 2021-166. Senior.

We aim to increase the biodiversity in the town by working with an ecologist from the Community Foundation Ireland by mapping out areas with the most potential to improve biodiversity. We will create a game and a series of lesson plans to increase knowledge of Climate Change. We are also destroying biodiversity through our plastic waste as ocean life ingest or get tangled in the plastic so we want to make our school plastic free. We will work with Tidy Towns to create a fairy trail along the local river walk.



Moses & Bano Mitrovic.

Derry Lough Biodiversity

Foroige Connect, Mayo. 2021-194. Senior.

The purpose of this project is to create awareness about the importance of biodiversity and to protect biodiversity around our communities lake as it has been neglected over the last few years. Derry Lough is a local amenity that is filled with and surrounded by an abundance of natural habitats and ecosystems. Through this project we hope to highlight the importance of preserving this ecosystem and create awareness of its importance. We have completed a number of surveys and recorded a range of species of fish, bird life, trees, plants, insects and animals around the lake. We have also consulted with Irish fisheries about stocking the lake and about getting signs made up informing fishermen about fishing quotas as there is regularly overfishing. We have engaged in clean ups, built bee hives, a bug hotel, bird and bat boxes, planted wildflower seeds to increase and enhance a range of habitats so that the biodiversity can thrive. The lake can also experience incidents of dumping so we completed a Leave no trace workshop to develop our awareness on how we can inform lake user to reduce this occurrence.



Ava McGahon, Cillian Joyce, Darragh Joyce, Nathan Kenny, Micheala Forde, Hannah Hughes, Adam Tolan, Noah Corbett, Desmond McAtter, Matthew Lyons, Rochelle Conroy, Nicole Hughes, Nadine Heneghan.

Oak Tree Project

Balla No Name Club, Mayo. 2021-050. Senior.

In 2019 schools all over Ireland travelled to Dublin to protest over climate change. Our club decided that climate action was more beneficial so we planned to create and establish our own carbon footprint on our local community. 5 working groups within the club were set up and each group had full responsibility for their subject. [1] water wastage and fossil fuels, [2] wear it twice. Mostly girls fashion, how it impacts on global temperatures. [3] Media group. how do we get our message out into the community. [4] Recycle and reuse group, this group will deal and discuss the use of plastic. food wastage. people education on recycling. [5] tree planting group. it was proposed that 150 oak trees be planted in the near by town park, in addition to the tree planting a bio diversity garden with wild flowers will create a habitat for bees and other insects, bug hotel. bird boxes and bat boxes are proposed. despite the corona virus the project is ongoing. the fruits of our labour will hopefully be appreciated by our children and grandchildren.



Labhaoise Foley, Kaytlin Flynn and Emer Killian.

Bird Feeder Infection Problem

Mists Community School, Westmeath. 2021-152. Senior.

Our project aims to raise awareness of the levels of bacteria growing on garden feeders. The bacteria growing at these feeders infect birds and can cause serious illness and death. We would like to create a prototype feeder that would inhibit bacterial growth at the feeders. We would also provide a cleaning guide that would outline the suitable substances and methods to properly disinfect the feeder. We would like to raise awareness using social media but also by creating posters for the older community who might not have access to all social media platforms.



Tara O'Grady, Gabrielle Brack, Ellen O'Doherty, Hannah O'Toole, Ellen Walsh and Mollie Merryweather.

The Birds and the Bees

Loreto Bray Secondary School, Wicklow. 2021-023. Senior.

We have decided to do our project on the topic of biodiversity and boosting the wildlife around our school. We want to create birdhouses to place around our school to increase the biodiversity as we are aware that there is a large amount of birds within our area. We would love to put bird feed in these also too maintain the wildlife. We are aware bird habitats declining in our area. We are also planting flowers to increase the pollination as we know bees are in danger. We will be also handing out literature around the school as we feel Bray as a town needs to be informed about bees in danger and how bird habitats are declining. We know our project will help the bee community amongst Bray to grow and will make Loreto more colourful and lively.

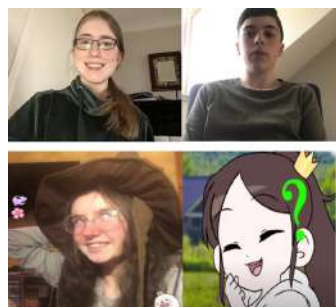


Katrina Smyth, Erica Brierton, and Aoife Blount.

Seedling Swap

Loreto Secondary School, Wicklow. 2021-026. Senior.

For our ECO-UNESCO project, we decided to set up a seed library in our school community. We plan to collect/buy seeds to start off the library and provide information on when and how to grow them. Students will then be encouraged to bring their own seeds into school to swap with the ones in the library. There will be an inbox for people to deposit their seeds and an outbox for seeds that are ready to be collected. This helps us to follow Covid-19 guidelines as the seeds will be quarantined for three days in the inbox before being transferred to the outbox. During that time we will write information sheets for the new seeds. Our aim is to boost biodiversity within our community.



Matt Gammell, Sophie Hamilton, Madeleine Scott and Olivia Ninard.

Pollinator Garden

Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, Wicklow. 2021-177. Senior.

Our project is based on raising awareness around the importance of Pollination Areas in our community. We aim to promote to use of pollinator areas in the community through the school's social media, local media groups, and by raising awareness in our school community through a kahoots quiz, PowerPoint, and information placed around the school for Green Week. We are working with the local Tidy Towns committee to find an area in the village to plant a pollinator garden and have also found an area in our school to plant.

Climate Change - SDG #13

Climate Change projects connect local activity with the broader effects of climate change. They identify and promote behaviour changes that will contribute to mitigating climate change.



Róisín Leamy, Lucia Barry, and Cliona Barry.

The Future of fashion

Loreto Secondary School Fermoy, Cork. 2021-096. Senior.

The main idea of our project is too into fast fashion further and see how badly it affects the environment. We want to see which companies are being more environmentally friendly and which are not. We want to educate others around us and spread awareness about fast fashion and how harmful it can be. We also want people to become aware of what brands are environmentally friendly and which ones they should be supporting. We are planning on doing a presentation about fast fashion and sustainable Fashion for the junior cycle students of our school. We are also planning a recyclable and second hand clothes Fashion Show and hopefully carry out a charity shop Like a clothes swap In our school where student will bring in clothes they don't want and swap it for something they prefer. We are also Planning on getting a past pupil to cork and speak to the student about fast fashion.



Sadhana Balamourougan, Thelma Ibeh, Nicola Paczek, Ria O'Sullivan, Jade O'Neill, and Alexandra O'Donovan.

Polar Express

St. Aloysius College Carrigtwohill, Cork. 2021-100. Junior.

We are tackling the issue of melting ice caps and the resulting loss of habitat for polar bears. Our aims are to raise money for solar panels for our school, to raise awareness amongst our community and to motivate the local authorities to introduce more sustainable policies.

We plan to raise money through sponsored walks, school fundraisers and by researching and applying for grants. We plan to raise awareness through posters, a social media campaign and by organising talks. We also plan to research the issues of climate change and ice caps melting and to present our findings to local authorities. We will also make suggestions to the authorities for more sustainable policies.



Megan Byrne, Ella Fitzgerald, Clara Leahy, Julia Pszczolkowska, Hannah Dennehy and Annemaria Ronan.

Sea Saviours

St. Aloysius College Carrigtwohill Cork 2021-101 Junior

Our project is tackling the issue of plastic pollution in our oceans and the threat it poses to sealife.

Our aims are to raise money to sponsor a sea turtle, to raise awareness within our communities, and to encourage local authorities to introduce waste initiatives in our communities.

We plan to make bracelets/ badges from excess materials from local suppliers and sell them in our community in order to raise money for the sponsorship of a sea turtle. We also plan to collect single use plastics in our school and use them to create outdoor furniture. We also plan to invite Repak to our school to raise awareness about proper recycling practices. We will conduct a survey of students and teachers to collect information about their plastic use. We will also conduct community clean ups in our locality. Finally, we will present our research and findings to local authorities and encourage them to introduce new waste initiatives such as recycling bins in the town.

We will raise awareness through posters, talks and a social media campaign.



Doireann Walsh, Caoimhe Ryan and Tadhg Óg O'Donovan.

How Covid-19 Has Had An Impact On Global Warming

St. Brogan's College, Cork. 2021-153. Junior.

The 2019 Coronavirus Disease or, as it is now called, COVID-19, is a severe acute respiratory syndrome caused by SARS coronavirus 2 (Renzo et al., 2020). In order to contain the spread of the COVID-19, at the beginning of March 2020, the Government decided for more stringent containment measures, lockdown. In our project, we wish to examine the impact of Covid-19 on a worldwide problem, global warming. This past year, from March-July we have experienced major changes in our daily lives and have had to adapt to different routines, the 'new normal'. However, while there has been a lot of negativity we could not help but notice the 50% decrease in the pollution rates in China. The International Energy Agency has also predicted that the world will use 6% less this year which is all resulting from a change in routines and daily lives. We, therefore, want to increase the awareness of this positive aspect of Covid19. To achieve this aim we will complete a survey which we will analyse and draw up a conclusion based on our findings and other scientists.



Katie Hannon and Aisling O'Connor.

Does Carbon Concentration affect the Stomatal Density of Leaves

Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Cork. 2021-158. Senior.

Our project aims to examine whether carbon concentration effects the stomata count of leaves.

To get a statistically significant result we will collect 100 leaves from local woodlands and 100 leaves from local towns of west Cork. The leaves will be collected from their locations on the same day so weather and temperature will be kept constant. Another constant factor is the height we collect our samples from - all of which will be hederia helix leaves. Once the leaves have been collected; they will be stored in a freezer to ensure no changes occur before testing. We will examine each of the leaves by using a microscope from our school and materials required include: microscope slides, forceps, clear nail polish, pen and a camera to capture images of the stomata. We will record the leaves stomatal density on multiple graphs and then statistically analyze the stomatal density of rural leaves versus urban leaves. We will carry out a 'T Test' to determine whether there is significant difference between each sample. We will use the digital format of excel to carry out our 'T Test', this is an accurate mechanism. Our planning provides sufficient time to complete the aforementioned experiment fairly.



Sarah Morris Murray, Cara Brophy and Katie Linehan.

Save our planet and our money one giant sequoia at a time

Millstreet Community School Cork 2021-165 Senior

We wanted to find out can Californian giant redwoods help Ireland bring down there carbon emissions which is why we think these redwoods are the answer. we found out that one single giant redwood can swallow the carbon dioxide from 108 cars.



Anna Mitchell and Erin Ryder.

Carbon Footprint: Eradicating the stigma

Abbey Vocational School Donegal 2021-192 Senior

Our project focuses on the importance of educating our nation on the detrimental impacts that our collective carbon footprint has on the environment. We want to eradicate the stigma and change people's mindset altogether as without education on these matters change is not possible.



Patrycja Sykula and Abby Hanan Moran.

Can stopping beef production reverse or reduce climate change

Fingal Community College, Dublin. 2021-108. Senior.

Our project is about beef production which leads to climate change. We researched what meat production is and how it effects our climate. We explain our personal point of view on being vegetarian and talk about different opinions too. We plan to show our school and others our presentation to raise awareness about how every little thing we do effects our climate and our future!

Are goats the answer to our cow problem?

St. Andrews College, Dublin. 2021-122. Junior.

Sir David Attenborough suggested, "the solutions we need to combat climate change are already available to us, it's just a matter of putting them into practice." The issue of cows producing methane is well documented but science has no clear solution to it. We believe that goats could be an answer. In this project, we look at both cows and goats and compare their environmental impact (their land use, manure, food, milk supply, natural health benefits).

There's one issue with goats, human perception. Due to a lack of exposure to goats, some people are prejudiced against them and have a closed mentality about changing. But we predict that this is all physiological and through this project, we aim to raise awareness about the huge problem caused by cows and how goats can help change this. Through our school community and social media, we have a platform that we can use to create this awareness. We want to show people that it's not about making huge changes but small, effective ones. We believe that mother nature has given us answers when it comes to fighting climate change and, in this project, we aim to prove it.



Amelia Flangan & Zara Griffin.



Zoë Ní Chearúill, Sorcha Ní Dhonechú, & Mairead De Staic.

Feabhsaigh Fast Fashion

Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí, Kerry. 2021-107. Senior.

Our team felt it was important to focus our project on an environmental issue that influences young people in Ireland but also applies to the wider global community. We completed some research on the circular economy, specifically Ireland's new initiative to promote sustainability called Circuléire and collectively decided that fast fashion was an issue that needed to be highlighted. The majority of clothing brands worn by young people are closely linked to the fast fashion industry, so we are currently completing a school-wide survey in order to acquire data as to the knowledge and opinions of young people when it comes to fast fashion.

Sna seachtainí amach romhainn beimid ag tabhairt faoi roinnt agallaimh, ceann acu a bheidh le gnó inbhuanaithe Éireannach. Beimid ag fiosrú an difríocht sa phraghas idir brandaí mearfhaisín agus brandaí inbhuanaithe. Bí cinnte súil a choimeád ar ár gcúntas Instagram @ecounescogcc! Tá súil againn árd a tharraingt ar an dtopaic thábhachtach seo tríd alt a fhoilsiú sa nuachtán agus labhairt ar an stáisiún raidió áitiúil. Má oibríonn chách le chéile is féidir linn mairfhaisean a fheabhsú. Mar a dheirtear, ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine!



Oscar McCarthy and Sam Bolger.

Sustainable Sem- Sensory Community Garden

St Brendan's College, Kerry. 2021-161. Senior.

Following on from last years project of 'Sustainable Sem' we decided to develop a Sensory School Community Garden on the grounds of the school.

From September to December of 2020 Transition Year Students with help from 3rd and 5th years constructed a Polytunnel, designed pathways that could be accessed by all students including with additional needs, researched suitable plants to be grown in the polytunnel and also outside. Students used recycled materials from the school to help create this area. Our main goal for this area is to allow all students the chance to learn about the biodiversity in their own area. To learn the importance of having a space that all students can have access to. Finally to allow students to link local produced in-season fruit and vegetables to the improved of our environments sustainability.

We plan to raise awareness of our Garden through our social media outlets & also the hope if COVID-19 allows to allow students to go and sell their produce in Local Farmers Markets. It is also hope that we could invite other schools who have students with Additional needs to benefit from our garden.



Tomás Tumulty, Fionn Lyons, Olly Hynes, Evan Mannion, Ross Moore Keane and Cody Moran.

Clear Traffic Cleans Air

Coláiste Chiaráin, Roscommon. 2021-034. Senior.

We just recently moved into our new school and there is a lot of traffic congestion. This is a problem for student safety and for the environment.

We plan to promote walking and cycling to school. We plan to promote car pooling. We plan to make contact with local authorities for solutions to this problem. Make student and staff aware of the carbon footprint their car is leaving. We will also promote taking the bus.

Eat Less Meat

Colaiste Chiarain, Roscommon. 2021-037. Senior.

Our project is based on trying to eat less meat. The problem with eating a lot of meat is that we need to have a lot of animals on the earth to have a source of meat, and cows produce a lot of methane and CO2 which is bad for the atmosphere.



Lluis Sarries, Diego Gomez, Laura Valero and Pablo Rodriguez.

ECO-Art & Design - SDG #4

ECO-Art & Design projects demonstrate creative ways to inform people about nature or environmental problems and promote positive action.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Hannah Gail Alagano, Kate Chandler, Jessica Okogo and Beibhinn Stone.

Oceanique

Mercy College Coolock, Dublin. 2021-077. Senior.

The aim of our project is to try to get our local supermarkets to decrease the amount of plastic they use in their stores. We encourage them to do this by sending emails on how they one more eco-friendly and the reasons why they should follow our recommendations. We not only focus on the downside of them managing their business com an ecological perspective but also congratulate them on their current changes.



Georgia Cowley, Vickey Reaney, Singra Saudergaite, Daniel O'Leary de Jong, Becky Coyle, James O'Rourke, Patrick Clusker, Ahmad Al Mostafa, Katie Duke, Lauren Englishby, Omar Jaffar, Eoin Quinn, Sean Connaghan, Mamhoud Alkredo, Stephen Collins, Lauren Doyle, Nick Henry, Eross Stonkus, Nakita Tobin, Ali Al Shbib, Adel Sido, Raul Moldovan, Dylan Duke, John Stokes, Shane Stokes, Megan Murray, and Lee Sherlock.

Anti-Discrimination Mural

Youthreach Navan, Meath. 2021-181. Senior.

"Our Youthreach is made up of a lot of different backgrounds, cultures, ethnic minorities and LGBT+ students and stopping discrimination is very Important to us as many of group experience discrimination on a daily basis" Student 2021. All students were involved in designing a large mural at the back of our building. Use a variety methodologies e.g.- role-play, group work, pair-work, running debates, learning centres, word searches, sentence completion exercises, surveys, interviews, quizzes, video, etc. students explore the theme of discrimination before designing their mural. They then voted on which images to use from all the art work completed. They reflected on the completed work and learning experience and posted photos of all stages of the work on Social media. Our wall really brightens up or community and sends a strong visual message of equality and respect for all as a result of the mural we have been invited to do an art piece for the Kells TypeTrail 2021, now celebrating its 11th year, is an annual festival celebrating typography and lettering as a modern art form. Each year one word is translated into a variety of languages reflecting the diversity of the community in Kells, this years theme is the word Identity. We feel we have a wider effect on the whole community as our group are from diverse groups within our community and are spreading the word of no discrimination and respect for all.

ECO-Community Development - SDG #11

ECO-Community Development projects develop practical solutions to local environmental issues and involve local communities in developing a more sustainable society.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Domas Kalesnykas, Leah Dully, Leah Wallace, Nadia Fasuji, Noah Cahill, Saoirse Onyemekeihia, Mabel Facos Ogbemudia, Bolywatife Lawal, Davis Oskwarek, Ava Howell.

Rebel Green

Davis College, Cork. 2021-044. Senior.

We know times are difficult and Rebel Green, some members of last year's young Reducers have come together to support local produce, local ethically made products and local groups that are making a change in our community. We are hoping to do an online project, set up a website and use social media and local papers to help support local. We also want to show our school community the benefits of shopping locally and season and the cost of transporting products from abroad and the impact on the environment.



Emma Lehane, Ola Pepkowksa, and Esfir Connolly.

Are Irish people slow learners when it comes to fast fashion?

Millstreet Community School, Cork. 2021-147. Senior.

Before beginning this project, we knew Fast Fashion (FF) was a problem in our society. We aimed to raise awareness on the effects of FF in our school and the importance of climate change as it will affect our generation. We wanted to draw attention to the number of deaths among workers in factories in South East Asia because of poor working conditions, poverty and health issues caused by chemicals used in clothes making. We also aimed to highlight the effects FF has on the environment and the permanent damage already done. By raising awareness and educating Irish people, we hope that they will take action about FF and that people will be informed; becoming a sustainable and helpful country regarding FF. We created a survey and shared it on our social media. We asked how often the participants buy clothes, if they know where their clothes came from, what shopping brands they purchase most products from, what they do with their old clothes and other factors that influence them before purchasing. Based on the responses, we can raise awareness about the effects consumers involved in FF have on the environment, factory workers' lives internationally and their own lives.



Robert McNabb, Matthew O'Donnell, Conor Slattery, Colm Fagan, Frazer McGinn, Fionn Graham, Darragh O'Neill, Edward Wilson, Zach Egan-Ruane, Philip Duffy, and Alex Parsons.

AAA

Blackrock College, Dublin. 2021-191. Senior.

The Blackrock College Green School Committee is a student led organisation for those interested and passionate about developing a more equitable, environmentally conscious school campus. The basis of all our actions as a committee are carried out with our triple A approach in mind – “Action, Appreciation and Awareness”. As a group, we realised early on that in order to best pursue and build an eco-community at school, we needed to approach the barriers preventing environmental action that students face from multiple angles. Our primary focus settled on improving accessibility and visibility of active travel to and from school, as well as hosting an engaging, whole school ‘Environmental Awareness Week’ that was designed to tackle misconceptions and inform students of the reality of the climate crisis in a multi-faceted manner. Throughout the course of our project, we recognised the importance of positioning our efforts on a larger platform. As such, we petitioned our school administration, contacted local county councils, met with engineers and interviewed past students with deep roots in environmental awareness and action. The work of an environmentalist is never finished, but we are committed to producing an eco-community for all of our fellow students.



Moses & Bano Mitrovic.

Derry Lough Biodiversity

Foroige Connect, Mayo. 2021-194. Senior.

The purpose of this project is to create awareness about the importance of biodiversity and to protect biodiversity around our communities lake as it has been neglected over the last few years. Derry Lough is a local amenity that is filled with and surrounded by an abundance of natural habitats and ecosystems. Through this project we hope to highlight the importance of preserving this ecosystem and create awareness of its importance. We have completed a number of surveys and recorded a range of species of fish, bird life, trees, plants, insects and animals around the lake. We have also consulted with Irish fisheries about stocking the lake and about getting signs made up informing fishermen about fishing quotas as there is regularly overfishing. We have engaged in clean ups, built bee hives, a bug hotel, bird and bat boxes, planted wildflower seeds to increase and enhance a range of habitats so that the biodiversity can thrive. The lake can also experience incidents of dumping so we completed a Leave no trace workshop to develop our awareness on how we can inform lake user to reduce this occurrence.



Sarah Hogg, Niamh Corcoran, Sarah Browne, Clodagh Simpson, Abbie Muldoon, John Brady, David O'Reilly, Saoirse McGuinness, Caitlin Finneran, and Fionn Lyons.

Sensory Garden

Moate Community School, Westmeath. 2021-148. Senior.

The Sensory Garden is a project in Dún na Sí in Moate. It is a collection of different art pieces and plants which stimulate all five senses. Members of the Community and transition year students from the local secondary school, Moate Community School, have been working on this project for a number of years.



Michelle Liu, Emma Blackbyrne, Jodie Reddin and Sienna Guilfoyle.

Vegetable Garden in Aid of Refugees

Loreto Bray Secondary School, Wicklow. 2021-024. Senior.

We would like to improve the biodiversity in our school by creating a vegetable garden in aid of the direct provision centre near our school community. We would also like to promote community involvement by involving the refugees in the direct provision centre. The direct provision centre is the Esplanade Hotel in Bray. It is being used to accommodate asylum seekers and is still operating as a hotel. There is a total of 115 people in emergency accommodation and 20 of them are children.

ECO-Health & Wellbeing - SDG #3

Projects in this category explore the link between our health (physical and emotional wellbeing) and the environment we live in; from the water we drink, to the air we breathe, to the food we grow and eat.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Ross Manning, Roshan Jagan, and Jack Noonan.

The Sound of Silence

Meanscoil Iognaid ris, Dublin. 2021-063. Senior.

Our group made a sensory garden in an unused part of our school for our fellow students with learning difficulties. We put tyres painted like a catapillar with plants in the holes. We also made a bench out of pallets. We uprooted all of the weeds and trimmed the bushes. We put up fences to cut off the areas that are off limits. We cut out a circle and painted a catapillar face on it. We done it because there is not a space in our school for people with learning difficulties to relax and stop the panic attacks they have.

Bio-Senses



Cian Andrews, Ally McCarron, David O'Reilly, Luca Romano, and Ciaran Fay.

Bio-Senses

Beech Hill College, Monaghan. 2021-115. Senior.

Our sensory garden raises awareness for those with autism, depression, ADHD and other issues. We plan to raise awareness for these issues by placing posters around the school, having information on the different issues widely available in our school widely available. We will invite a leader from Middletown autism centre to speak with classes to highlight the importance of our biodiversity sensory garden for students. The idea is the garden will include ways to test your senses that can be very stimulating for people with autism (touch, smell, hear, motary, hearing and sight) and will also be a great addition to our school for students well-being and connection with or biodiversity and environment. This will stimulate interest in gardening and develop interest from other departments in our school such as horticulture and home economics and our new ASD unit.



Emma Fegan, Rachel Egan, and Holly Hennessy.

Hakuna Matata

Loreto Bray Secondary School, Wicklow. 2021-025. Senior.

Our goal is to boost the eco-systems around our area to attract more wildlife and to pro-create facilities to allow people to observe and care for the environment around us as people forget about the wonderful wildlife under our noses!

ECO-Innovation - SDG #9

ECO-Innovation projects research, develop and often create products, technologies or services that contribute to sustainable development.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Aoibhinn Goggin, Fay O'Donovan, Clodagh Hanrahan, Ciara O Driscoll, and Sinéad McCarthy.

Save the Planet not the Penneys

Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Cork. 2021-058. Senior.

The main idea of our project is to educate consumers about amounts of CO2 produced by a product (E.G. the amount of carbon dioxide produced in the production in and transportation of rice.) We wish to educate consumers about the environmental impact of the items they are purchasing by making a simple change to increase their awareness about how much CO2 they are consuming and how they can reduce this. Our idea is to encourage companies and supermarkets to include information regarding the amount of CO2 emissions in their products so that consumers can make an educated purchase and choose the product with the least emissions produced. Our intention is to create a grading system or something similar showing how high or low CO2 emissions produced by a product, much like nutritional labels on food packaging. Labels would have grading system categorizing the scale of emissions they produce. We hope to present our idea to local TDs in hopes of the introduction of a tax, similar to the recent sugar tax, on products which have been categorized as the worst grade. Action such as this we would hope would encourage companies to reduce the amount of CO2 they produce.



Cian Walsh and Caoimhe Walsh.

Hemp for a Sustainable Future

St. Brogan's College, Cork. 2021-176. Senior.

Our project aims to deliver action on and raise awareness surrounding the potential social, economic and environmental benefits of growing hemp and how the crop can promote sustainable farming in Ireland. We believe that farmers are being put under extreme pressure to deliver climate action and are being given no viable alternatives to their current farming methods. We are passionate about the environment, so we have always been interested in investigating ways that we can mitigate climate change, whilst supporting our economy and local jobs. We are advocating for the development of industrial hemp processing facilities, to give a sustainable alternative land use to farmers, while also providing much needed employment in rural Ireland. Our project began in 2019 and has seen engagement from television, newspapers and the wider media helping us to raise awareness about our project whilst we took action through conducting surveys, hosting hemp information meetings, social media engagement, promoting our website and engaging with public representatives. We are continuing to take action, through growing our own hemp crop and conducting further research surrounding hemp. We hope that Ireland will be able to satisfy its Climate Action and Rural Development plans through the creation of Ireland's Hempire!



Pia Pereira, Vivien Ruby, Archita Sharma, and Kezia Doupamby-Matoka.

Let's Talk About It

Pobalscoil Neasáin, Dublin. 2021-167. Senior.

"Let's Talk About It" is a new podcast series that we are producing which aims to highlight environmental issues that are important to us. We want to talk about issues that have an impact on our daily lives and an impact on the planet. In each episode, we aim to interview a specialist with a view to talking about the environmental impact that a certain product can have or that an our actions can have. We aim to promote good Health and Well-being as we want to talk about and promote sustainable and friendly alternatives to the products that we consume and the actions that we take. We are planning on highlighting our project by publishing it online onto Podcast websites and by sharing each episode we make with our school peers and teachers online. We are going to create a new instagram page where people can find out about each episode when they go online.



Jess Joy and Niamh McManus.

Vertical Farming For a Better Ireland

Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan. Dublin 2021-172. Senior.

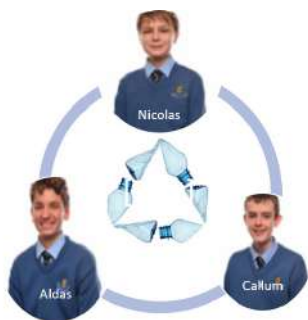
Vertical farming is a modern farming method where crops are grown by stacking them in a building over many floors. Vertical farming has the advantage that variables such as temperature, light intensity, humidity, and quantity of water and nutrients can all be controlled. We conducted an experiment for BT Young Scientist to directly compare vertical farming to conventional arable farming in Ireland, and we realized that vertically farmed crops were on average, taller, had a larger dry mass, had a larger number of leaves, and had bigger leaves. Vertical farming tackles a variety of environmental issues, such as less water usage, reducing food miles, allowing Irish soils to replenish, and allowing Irish biodiversity to recreate their habitats in Irish soils. Vertical farming is efficient because it uses on average 90% less water than conventional arable farming, and has been shown to yield up to twenty times more leafy green vegetables than agriculture fields. Our aim is to bring vertical farming to Ireland and spread awareness on what it is. We want to take action by informing Irish citizens on what vertical farming is using the internet and social media. We will also take action by getting in contact with local TD's and gaining their support.

Plastic Greenhouse Fun

Beech Hill College Monaghan 2021-111 Senior

The main idea for our project was to make a green- house made out of plastic. The reason we wanted to do this type of a project is because of the huge impact has on the environment and that we could show that we can recycle plastic for an effective use which all our school community will benefit from. It took us a while to come up with a proper idea until we were inspired to make a plastic Green – HOUSE by other students from our school.

Our main actions is to hold a single use plastic free day which will highlight the impact of plastic on the environment and how we can possibly change our lifestyles to not use single use plastic. We will educate our school community through providing talks and information booklet which can be accessed online. We will collect plastic bottles from our school and local community and contact our local plastics recycling company 'Shabra Plastics'. We will build the green house and manufacture that bottles to make the walls. We will take data records of how effective the greenhouse will be.



Callum Foy, Aldas Laurinavicius, and Nikolas Proshchanka.



Laura Conlon, Joyce Conway, and Áine Maxwell.

Stop spoiling milk, start seeing changes

Moate Community School, Westmeath. 2021-157. Senior.

Our project aims to design and make a milk carton that will slow the deterioration of milk, use visual cues to remind the consumer to return the milk back to the fridge and supply a simple method to determine whether milk has gone off. We decided to investigate this because in our households' milk was regularly thrown out due to spoilage. Milk wastage is a huge problem because the dairy industries' have a massive impact on greenhouse gas emissions with 3.4% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions coming from the dairy industry. Also 1 in 6 pints of milk is wasted globally. Our main goals are to raise awareness in our communities about the problems of milk wastage. To do this we will supply resource packs to local primary schools to teach children about milk wastage these packs could include videos of recipes that use spoiled milk and for a science experiment get the kids to make a red cabbage pH indicator and test the pH of milk with it, like the one we have in our milk carton. We will supply our carton to members of the community to trial and see how effective it is at reducing milk wastage. We also intend on making videos educating people on milk wastage and its carbon footprint and eutrophication. Milk in rivers and asking our local community to complete surveys to help the development of the carton.

Energy - SDG #7

Energy projects look at how energy use impacts the environment. These projects drive change in the way we can reduce this impact.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Amy Hickey, Katie Morley and Molly Morley.

Did you ever think how much a 'thumbs up' costs ?

Millstreet Community School, Cork. 2021-162. Senior.

We are looking at the effects our online interactions have on the environment. From research, we discovered that one of the main causes are, data centres that store every tiny bit of information we share online. In this project we will look at just how much of an impact these interactions are having on the environment as well as analysing if relocating these data centres to rural areas could significantly reduce

and eventually eliminate their emissions. From a survey we did, analysing a feedback question, we discovered that people are oblivious to the fact that every thumbs up they press 'send' on emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Therefore, we began an awareness campaign within our school community to inform people that their tweets, snaps, chats and hours spent streaming Netflix are reducing the positive effect of using electric cars and putting solar panels on the roofs of their homes! The main message of this campaign is for everyone to make an effort to reduce / cut out their unnecessary social media interactions. Just as we have been trained to reduce, reuse and recycle, we hope to make people aware of the need to reduce their social media output.



Alima Agboola and Faria Sultana.

Green Energy in Galway

Dominican College, Taylor's Hill, Galway. 2021-178. Junior.

The main idea for our project is to promote the usage of green energy in travel and in household use. We plan on tackling the issue of high carbon emissions in Ireland. We are carrying this out by firstly collecting information on why people are not using the more sustainable alternatives and our aims are to propose ideas to the city council on how to develop services and infrastructures needed to help the people of Galway to choose greener energy.

Waste - SDG #12

Disposing of waste has huge environmental impacts. Waste projects explore our consumption and production patterns, and how to reduce waste.



Sarah O'Connor, Lisa Harrington, Niamh O'Mahony, Roisin Cahill, Amy McCormick, Lynn McConville, Anna Grey, and Kelly Hoare.

WAVEing litter goodbye

Loreto Secondary School, Cork. 2021-094. Senior.

Our project is called "WAVEing litter goodbye". We are going to focus on waste material built up around our shore lines and seeing what consequences polluted seas have on our planet. We plan to have clean-ups on four of our local beaches which are Redbarn(Youghal), Garryvoe, Garrtstown(Kinsale) and Inchdoney(Clonakilty). With the waste material we collect we plan to create art pieces to showcase in our school. We're going to run an awareness campaign to promote and educate first and second years in our school on sea pollution, single use plastic and how to reduce the amount of single use plastic. Along with this, we plan to make awareness posters and display them around our school and local community, Fermoy. We hope to reduce the amount of rubbish on our shores while also educating people on sea pollution and making a positive impact on our planet.



Clodagh O Sullivan, Meabh O Mahony, and Caoimhe Foley.

W.A.S.T.E. (Worthless Activities that Steal Time and Energy)

St Brogan's College, Cork. 2021-154. Junior.

Our project aims to increase awareness of the current waste crisis and improve waste disposal practise in our school. We got the idea when we noticed a lack of compost and recycling bins in public areas, such as streets and our school. We also noticed that many people were confused about how they should dispose of their waste. To achieve our aims, we held three Awareness Days, during which we held four main methods: 1) a quiz with First Years, 2) a reusable cup campaign 3) weighing the bins 4) a Microsoft Forms survey.

(1) We quizzed 75 first years with 8 varied materials to see if they could put them in the correct bin. (2) We held a 2-week reusable cup campaign to observe how many students used reusable cups before and during the Awareness Week. (3) We weighed the bins every day during lunch during the weeks before and throughout the Awareness campaign. We placed new compost bins around the school and relabelled them. (4) We handed out a Microsoft forms survey to all Junior Cycle students to test their knowledge of disposing waste. After this, our study showed that the students' knowledge of waste disposal significantly increased.



Kieran Duggan, Harry Bull, Darragh Nolan, Aristjon Mirashi, Patrick O'Grady and Robbie O'Brien.

Wake Up to Academy's Waste

Patrician Academy, Cork. 2021-156. Senior.

Our main goal is to create awareness of the different types of waste, what and how much waste we are creating in our school and how we can work together to reduce and recycle this waste. In order to achieve our goal we are organising an awareness week in our school called 'Wake up to Academy's Waste'. This week will include the following activities: A PowerPoint presentation we created to educate the students on the different types of waste, how it is disposed of and how Ireland is working to reduce and recycle waste will be shown to all students. We are conducting a survey of waste in our school: the different types of waste and ways we can recycle it. This will inform our lunch box policy and whole school waste policy which we hope to publish on the school web page and in our school diaries. We hope this will help inform policies for our new school build too. Earlier in the year we entered the "Upcycle Challenge 20" and made bins out of old blue containers and have created 6 separate bins for the different rubbish. We will launch these bins during our awareness week. An art and poetry competition based on waste will run for our 1st and 2nd year students to further raise awareness. We have received a Green Schools grant of €200 towards our waste project and we hope to use this on a trip we have booked to visit the Eco Village in Cloughjordan to find out about how they tackle waste and learn from their different approaches. Tricia Beecher from Green Schools is giving students a talk on waste reduction. The chairperson of the Mallow Tidy Towns committee is giving a talk to the students about what we can do in our local area to reduce and recycle litter. A litter pick will also take place.



Ethel D'Alton Bateman, and Éadaoin Farrell.

Our Environment – Your Litter: Encouraging Commuters to take Care with their Rubbish

St. Peter's Community School, Cork. 2021-168. Junior.

Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork is a Strategic Employment Area with many industries. More than 8,000 factory employees drive here to work every day, many taking backroads to avoid traffic. On their way to work, some people throw their rubbish out of their car windows. Sometimes black bags of domestic waste are dumped into or over the roadside ditches. When they burst on impact it makes the area disgusting and smelly. All this waste is affecting the surrounding environment, the people living here and wildlife. Ringaskiddy is in Cork Harbour so often the waste finds its way to the sea.

This must stop. We are going to litterpick the worst affected roads, getting a feel for what the most frequently found items are. We will make a short video to include pictures of the littered roadsides, clips of us picking up the rubbish, an image of all the (bagged!) collected waste in one location with a message from us to daily commuters. We will ask the factories to share our video with their employees. We hope to reach those commuting in and out of Ringaskiddy and make them aware of how our home is so affected by roadside littering.



Patrick Patton, Oran Lafferty, Caoimhe Burke, Cora Burns, Hannah Murray, Adrienne Gallen, Ella McMullin, Michael Meenan, Maria Donnellen Aine Sweeney, and Sinead Deasley.

TBC - Fast Fashion

St. Columba's College Stranorlar, Donegal. 2021-138. Senior.

The concept of disposable fast fashion - the price that is paid for same - clothing as part of our identity - running a poverty week in school - making a video / drama to highlight areas of injustice.



Keelan Collins, Niamh Corry, Caoimhe, Craig Clayton Cumberland, Sean Daly, Tiarnán Devlin, Breanne Doherty, Darragh Doherty-Devlin, Lauren Donaghy, Aaron Friel, Amy Gubbins, Emily Hawkins, Janvy Jerin, Elle Johnston-Harkin, Liam Jordan, Niamh Keogh, Jakub Kiljan, Anna Polina Mallon, Niamh McBrearty, Laura McCallan, Shannen McDermott, Stephen McGee, Cole Sheridan, and Ellie Sweeney.

Trace - a - bill

Scoil Mhuire Buncrana, Donegal. 2021-150. Senior.

Shops and consumers taking responsibility for ensuring items are properly disposed of and don't end up as beach litter.



Elle Fay, Mia Morely, Kaylie Smithers, Cruz Brophy, Hannah Flynn Hart, Emily Hand, Daisylee Duff, and Kyra Swan.

Fast Fashion V Sustainable Fashion

Mount Carmel Secondary School, Dublin. 2021-059. Junior.

Our project looks at the difference between fast fashion and sustainable fashion. Our aim is to educate teenagers about the impacts of fast fashion and encourage them to become more conscious consumers.



Caoimhe McGrath, María Gato, and Arshdeep Singh.

The Plastic Yeeters

ECO-UNESCO Dublin, 2021-049. Senior.

The aim of our project is to get supermarkets to reduce their plastic usage in their shops. We are doing this by contacting them by email and telling them our opinions of what they should do next in order to decrease their plastic. We are also informing them the dangers that plastic has on our environment. We ask them what they are doing to reduce the amount of plastic they are producing. We have also created a petition to inform others about how harmful plastic is to the seas and oceans, in particular. We will then bring this petition forth to the supermarkets which we have contacted.

Our next plan is to gather all the responded emails and tell our supporters what different supermarkets plan to do.



Eireann Greene, Amber Cunningham Moorât, Lucy Keenan, Luisa Aguiar Lage, Eva Kelleher, Elisha McManus, Alex Petersons, Muireann White, and Jay Nee.

Going Single Use Plastic Free in Galway ETSS

Galway Educate Together Secondary School, Galway. 2021-072. Junior.

We are a new school, in our second year. We are working hard to be as green and sustainable as possible and want to embed this in our culture now so that as our school grows this philosophy will grow with us. We are an Educate Together school and this area is very much a part of our ethos. We wish to formalise our approach to single use plastics by doing an awareness campaign and developing a policy in our school.



Aoife Bourke, Lasha Bekauri, Shane Cotter, Damien Cronin, Aoife Moynihan, Keelin O'Mahony, Marian Rogojina, and Jane Sheehy.

Covid 9-Team

Mercy Mounthawk, Kerry. 2021-119. Senior.

We want to look at the impact of Covid on our environment, particularly waste. We want to raise awareness about the benefits of reusable masks over disposable masks and intend to do a workshop with first-years to show them how to make their own masks. We also want to raise awareness around packaging associated with the pandemic e.g. packed lunches, take away containers, online shopping etc.

We hope to help people make more environmentally friendly choices by informing them of better options.



Haleema Nasir, Wajeeha Shazadi, Maha Shazadi, Aine Carr, Ajirah Hanifi, Aqilah Taufik, Faiza Mahammedi, Fatima Bibi, Iman Mahammedi, Iqra Mubarak, Mahnoor Amjad, Ebrar Bakhet, Kristina Vitina, Natasha Bowen, Paige Magill, and Mariam Sanjrani.

Plastic Seas

Colaiste Nano Nagle, Limerick. 2021-123. Senior.

We are investigating litter in our oceans. We are conducting research after school on this topic. We are sending a survey to all students in our school on this topic and we hope to become plastic free this year. Also we are making a movie over 3 days in our school. We will learn all about film making, storyboarding, shooting the film and editing the film.



Méabh O'Brien, Róisín Carew, and Siobhan Heffernan.

Take back your Tights

St. Annes Tipperary 2021-105 Junior

Tights are made from nylon, which is a type of plastic, and not biodegradable. Tights cannot be recycled in Ireland at present. We want to raise awareness of this and encourage retailers who sell tights to take back used tights and be responsible for recycling them. We plan to raise awareness by reusing tights in creative ways to gain attention, then start a petition to encourage retailers to take back out tights.



Méabh O'Brien, Róisín Carew, and Siobhan Heffernan.

What are We Recycling? - Investigating the recycling knowledge of young people and developing an application to educate and raise awareness on proper recycling practices.

Athlone Community College, Westmeath. 2021-197. Senior.

Tights are made from nylon, which is a type of plastic, and not biodegradable. Tights cannot be recycled in Ireland at present. We want to raise awareness of this and encourage retailers who sell tights to take back used tights and be responsible for recycling them. We plan to raise awareness by reusing tights in creative ways to gain attention, then start a petition to encourage retailers to take back out tights.

Water - SDG #14

Water projects look at water-related issues such as impacts of pollution in oceans or rivers, water scarcity or water waste.



Alessia Bostiog, Ava Hagan, Éabha McEvoy, Lily Gaskin and Sarah Staunton.

The Rainwater Rescuers

Loreto Secondary School Bray, Wicklow. 2021-027. Senior.

For our project we want to save and reduce our water consumption at school. To do this we would like to find ways to and research how to collect rainwater and use it in our school for watering plants, washing art supplies and flushing toilets. We wish to raise awareness of our water usage in our school and our local community. We will find out water usage statistics and share them with our school and local communities. In this way we can draw attention to how much water we use and waste. We aim to raise awareness through social media (Instagram-rainwater.rescuers), poster campaigns and quizzes. We also hope to raise money to purchase a water butt for our horticulture garden located in the centre of our school.

In conclusion, we wish to make our school as sustainable as possible regarding our water usage. Hopefully we can inspire our school and local communities to be mindful about the quantities of water that they use. The majority of our ideas were inspired by the more frequent water shortages (hosepipe ban, etc) that Ireland has experienced in recent years.



Lucy Hillen, Alicia Shortt, Ella Dunne, Kate Hayes, Aoife Lau and Aoife O' Grady.

Hydration Stations

Loreto Secondary School Bray, Wicklow. 2021-028. Senior.

A large issue we have noticed in our locality of Bray is the consumption and waste of single-use plastic water bottles. A solution our ECO-UNESCO team has come up with to tackle this problem is to introduce public water fountains around our town. These fountains will allow people to fill their own bottles and reduce the amount of bottles wasted. We will raise awareness in our school community around the detrimental affects single use plastics have on our environment and the importance of reusable bottles. We have selected the two busiest areas in our town to install these fountains.

Super Junior

The Super Junior projects explore a wide range of environmental issues. They take actions that protect and improve their local environment and raise awareness in their local community.



Guardians of the Garden

Rochestown Educate Together National School, Cork. 2021-052. Super Junior.

We are going to show how easy it is to help our environment by growing a wide range of flowers that can help attract butterflies, bees and caterpillars all around our community. We will also investigate growing our own food to become more self sustainable. We hope to make a class blog to share our journey with the rest of the school and community. It would be great to inspire others in the community to follow in our footsteps.

Irina Bamarde, Amelia Brzozowska, Henry Collier, Efe Erkol, Thomas Forrai, Bianca Gaina, Niamh Garcia Planas, Jorge Gonzalez-Ramirez, Joshua Heffernan, Adrian Kin Hei Ho, Calum Kenneally, Clara Kriwan, Ella Laybourn, Caleb Livingstone, JesseGrace Livingstone, Stefan Morariu, Miguel Morillo Calderón, Siofra Murphy, Sam Jona Nolte, Sam O'Callaghan, Riain O'Connor, Róise O'Driscoll, Daire Louis O'Sullivan, Charlie Quinn, Lucy Reid, Gráinne Roseno, Emanuel Stan, Amy Talaat-Abdalla, and Sebastian Vadera.



Emilia Bennis and Anna Bennis.

Biodiversity - What Birds Can Teach us about Bravery

Scoil Mhuire, Sandymount, Dublin. 2021-187. Super Junior.

How we became Young Environmentalists by using our time to observe nature to gain wisdom from the natural world around us.

We realised that humans can learn a lot from animals when it comes to life skills - especially during the global pandemic - and by telling their story we learned about ourselves, our environment and our planet.

When something is common - do we sometimes forget how remarkable it is?



Willow Agnew, Theo Agnew, Bonnie Broderick, Blake Broderick, Ella Spitzer, Lynn Spitzer, Malin Koker and Jana Lena Koker.

St. Anne's City Farm

Dublin City Farm & Ecology Centre, Dublin. 2021-004. Super Junior.

St. Anne's City farm is a community farm in Dublin run by volunteers, at the core of the farm we have a youth team who help run the farm. Promoting sustainability, animal welfare, organic growing, biodiversity, composting, etc. The youth team fund raise all year to keep the farm open to the public. This summer they ran tours to raise money for animal feed. They range in ages from 5 to 18. The team leaders being only 17yrs old.



Dara McGauran, Matei Ghita, Samuel Fregene, Daniel Sabgodele, Oisín Murphy and Ben Fegan.

Connecting Nature with Wellbeing

St. Patrick's Primary School, Galway. 2021-200. Super Junior.

Our environment plays a huge role in our mental health. The healing power of nature really is limitless when it comes to feeling better about ourselves. Unfortunately, like many city centre schools, we did not think we would have the space for a garden. However, with the help of pupils, parents and staff we converted a small concrete patch into a colourful growing area built with recycled pallets, tyres and organic materials. Essentially, the children have created an outdoor classroom where they can all spend time to learn, laugh, grow and relax together.

Although many of our pupils do not have gardens at home, they brought their plants and enthusiasm home with them during the lockdowns and shared their gardening and environmental work together on Google Classroom, while enjoying all the benefits of outdoor learning. This project has given the children an awareness of the interconnectedness of the world around them and it could be said they have sown seeds to a more mindful way of caring for the environment.



Nathan Fitzgerald and Ewan Fitzgerald.

Play Your Part

Cloghans Hill NS, Galway. 2021-134. Super Junior.

Play Your Part is a project to raise awareness about saving energy in the home. We believe that every little helps and small changes at home means big changes for our planet. Our interactive model house is suitable for all ages which allows us to get our message across to everybody in a fun and interesting way. We used our knowledge of coding and electronics to design a computer programme that links to a fun model house. Most of the materials required for this project are recycled or upcycled items we had at home so as to keep our carbon footprint low.



Nathan Fitzgerald and Ewan Fitzgerald.

How Trees Support our Wellbeing

English National School, Galway. 2021-011. Super Junior.

Two years ago we planted our own forest at our school with our parents for future generations to play and learn under. Now, these trees need to be cared for so that they can continue to nurture us. We plan to investigate and learn more about how we can best look after them and the soil around them. Through caring for these trees, we can also learn more about caring for ourselves and one another's wellbeing in a year when everybody's wellbeing is so important. We will highlight how individual wellbeing ripples out to enhance community wellbeing and further, societal wellbeing. "We're all in this together". We will plant a few more trees this year.



STEM group.

Dunboyne Clean Air

Dunboyne Senior Primary School, Meath. 2021-173. Super Junior.

We place a high priority on the promotion of health and well-being throughout our whole school community. Our school, along with hundreds of schools across Europe, has since 2019 participated in the GLOBE Air Quality Campaign. We are delighted to be participating in this citizen science project for a fourth time! Through this project we have the following objectives: to promote awareness about local and wider air pollution and to explore the links between climate change and unsustainable forms of transport. We examined how our actions in our school and community will help to achieve some of these goals. As with our ongoing work on pollinators, we are partnering on this project with neighbouring schools and various community and sporting organisations. We are also partnering on this project with a broader network of national and international organisations to ensure the message has a wider impact: GLOBE and GLOBE IVSS, Eco-Unesco, Irish Aid, the Tephra Bag Experiment with Trinity College and University College Dublin, Climate Detectives European Space Agency programme, Climate Ambassadors programme, European Environmental Agency's CleanAir@school project and ongoing work with our twinning school: Reggio Parco school in Turin, Italy.

We installed three nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes in three suitable locations around our school including: near a main busy road, at a drop off parking point and in a sheltered area away from cars and traffic. These tubes were in place for between 2 and 4 weeks and they were then taken down, sealed and sent to a certified lab for analysis with the results of average nitrogen dioxide levels coming back to us via the GLOBE programme. We also began to measure traffic levels outside our school in November and December 2020.

We want to educate our school and wider community about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and how our actions can help to achieve some of these goals. During this academic year our school has adopted a whole school approach to raising awareness about the importance of clean air for a healthy lifestyle. All classes in the school participated in creative projects such as poster design, creative multimedia, art and poetry writing relating to the theme of #DunboyneCleanAir. We continue to create opportunities to engage with the wider community and our new posters for this campaign will be installed at numerous locations around our community including at the playground, library, credit union, scouts den, soccer club, running club, local businesses, at a local GP surgery and more. We have had very positive feedback from the local and wider community to our previous poster campaign which also received commendation at an international level through the GLOBE International Virtual Science Symposium in April 2020 and the GLOBE European Regional Meeting in October 2020.

We are participating in citizen science projects to complement our project: the Tephra (volcanic ash) experiment led by Trinity College as a potential solution to climate change by exploring if plants can speed up CO₂ uptake from the atmosphere with the help of volcanic ash. We have also been invited to participate in a collaborative citizen science project looking at lichens and their sensitivity to air pollution. As part of a community wide initiative led by Tidy Towns we are introducing green infrastructure as an air pollution mitigation measure by planting cotoneaster in our school. We are excited that an opportunity has recently arisen to expand upon the theme of global citizenship within our project which has been selected to be featured in the very first issue of Global Goal Getters, an online children's magazine from Irish Aid. Our school will be represented at a CleanAir@school EEA showcase event in Spring 2021 alongside our twinning school; Parco Reggio School in Turin and the EPA.



Tier 1 Funders & Sponsors



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ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards is part-funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE). ECO-UNESCO is also part-funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment through the Irish Environmental Network.



ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards is part-funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland and plays key roles in environmental regulation, provision of knowledge and advocacy for the environment.



**An Roinn Leanaí
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ECO-UNESCO is part-funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs which focuses on harmonising policy issues that affect children in areas such as early childhood care and education, youth justice, child welfare and protection, children and young people's participation, research on children and young people, youth work and cross-cutting initiatives for children.

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ECO-UNESCO Board:

Niall Jennings, Marie Collins, Chris Nolan, Danny Dockery, Orla McGreal, David Kelly.

ECO-UNESCO Staff:

Elaine Nevin, Breon Timmons, Susie Spratt, Dunchadh Kinane, Kieran Allen, Doireann Dunbar, Samantha Andrades, Eimear Manning, Caitlin Wilson, Clare Sheppard, Jessica Jones, Vince Harney

ECO-UNESCO Volunteers:

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ECO-Den Expert Judging Panel:

Alexey Janes – Ulster Wildlife Trust, Anne Payne – Department of Foreign Affairs, Aoife McGrane – Department of Education and Skills
Aoife O'Connor – An Post, Cara Keane – Kerry Climate Action Network, Carmel Brennan – SSE Airtricity, Carmel O'Connor – Talk About Youth Project, Christine Chambers – Ulster Wildlife Trust, Crona Hodges – Echoes Project, Darcy Loneran – ECO-UNESCO, Davnet McEllin – Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, Dean Eaton – Dublin Bay Biosphere, Denise Cahill – Cork Healthy Cities, Dunchadh Kinane – ECO-UNESCO, Elaine Nevin – ECO-UNESCO, Finbarr Power – An Post, Francisca Rockey – Black Geographers, Ian McGrigor – Kerry Earth Education Project, John McGeady – Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles, Justina Corcoran – Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
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Ceremony Award Presenters and MC speakers:

Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland and Clara Murray (YEA Host and TV Presenter)



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About ECO-UNESCO

Founded in 1986, ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation which works to protect the environment by engaging, educating and empowering young people. ECO-UNESCO has a broad range of environmental education and youth programmes and services for young people in a range of settings including youth groups, schools, community groups and as independent ECO-UNESCO groups.

Our aims are to:

- Raise awareness, understanding and knowledge of the natural environment among young people.
- Engage, inspire and empower young people by facilitating their personal development and wellbeing through practical environmental projects, activities and skills development.
- Promote the protection and conservation of the environment by empowering young people to lead in action oriented environmental projects and activities and by promoting positive and environmental behaviour.
- Advocate for environmental education, education for sustainable development, the natural environment and youth development.
- Promote the ideals of UNESCO and working with like-minded organisations in Europe and globally.

ECO-UNESCO's Work

Environmental Youth Programmes

ECO-UNESCO develops and runs programmes for young people on a broad range of environmental issues through schools, youth organisations, community groups or local authorities. The programmes include environmental events and activities, environmental workshops, ECO-UNESCO Clubs, ECO-Youth Choices and Youth for Sustainable Development. ECO-UNESCO also produces environmental education resources including publications and posters suitable for young people, youth leaders, primary and secondary school teachers, youth groups, community groups and individuals.

Find out more at www.ecounesco.ie.

Training Programmes

ECO-UNESCO develops and runs training programmes for young people and trainers within non-formal and formal education, providing a specialist approach to working with young people. The programmes include one-day training courses, and a range of QQI Accredited Courses including Introduction to Sustainable Development (L5), ECO-Community Development (L3), Peer Education (L5), Outdoor Vegetable Crop Production (L3), Growing Vegetables (L4) and Ecology and the Environment (L6). ECO-UNESCO also runs a Green Youth Employability programme.

Find out more at www.ecounesco.ie.

Awards

ECO-UNESCO recognises and rewards the work of young people in environmental protection and conservation through a range of Awards programmes including our Young Environmentalist Awards. **Find out more at www.yea.ie.**

Link to UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is a Key Strategic Partner of UNESCO for the implementation of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

ECO-UNESCO is affiliated with the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).



ECO-UNESCO's

Young Environmentalists Awards



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