



ECO-UNESCO ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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



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ECO-UNESCO is a trading name of the Irish Environmental Conservation Organisation For Youth - Unesco Clubs CLG.
Registered Irish Charity no. 20015145 - CHY Number 7225 - Companies Registration Office Number 106860

In 2019 ECO-UNESCO was recognised as one of the first Sustainable Development Goals Champions by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. This role was extended again in 2020.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ECO-UNESCO endeavour to work towards the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in every aspect of our work. As SDG Champions our primary purpose is to raise public awareness of the SDG's, and secondarily illustrate practical ways in which organisations and individuals can contribute to achieving the SDGs, using our practices as an example.

MESSAGE FROM

CHAIRPERSON & DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of ECO-UNESCO,

We are pleased to present this Annual Report outlining our work in 2020.

We recognise with the emergence of COVID-19, this was a challenging year - but throughout we remained committed to our core work of environmental protection and youth empowerment through environmental action, education and youth programmes.

With the support of our funders, we worked to adapt our programmes to the challenges of the pandemic, re-imagining how we delivered to ensure we could meet the needs of the young people we work with.

We continued to engage thousands of young people, inspiring them to protect our environment using our specialist environmental youth and education approach, in a fun and safe environment. We were reminded how important it is to young people's mental health and well-being to protect and conserve the natural environment.

For our Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA 2020), we engaged over 490 groups of young people across Ireland, tackling issues such as climate action, biodiversity loss and pollution. Our annual YEA Awards Ceremony took place online with over 1,100 people viewing the final awards.

Alongside YEA 2020, we ran our first ever ECO-Week, with over 300 young people engaged in a full week of eco-activities and workshops. For our green employability programme, we ran a range of online green careers activities during ECO-Week with support from Accenture. We ran a series of ECO-Weeks with support from Rethink Ireland, encouraging young people to take on eco-challenges and actions. In addition, we hosted ECO@Home, our online initiative helping to support young people during the pandemic.

In 2020, we continued to deliver our Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme which provided young people with the knowledge and skills they need to become peer educators and advocates for sustainable development. From March onwards, we rapidly developed an online platform for the programme with young people from across Ireland attending weekly sessions.

We continued to deliver our ECO-Choices programme and to enhance young people's health and well-being through environmental education activities, responding to the needs of young people and establishing online support groups.

We provided opportunities for young people to engage directly with politicians and key governmental decision-makers by organising meetings with Ministers and policymakers. We upskilled and trained young people through a range of accredited and non-accredited training courses.

In 2020 we started a new project, the Youth Climate Justice challenge, with support from the DCEDIY and we were delighted to partner up with 5 other youth organisations providing training, workshops, and supporting local action projects. We carried out our Youth Climate Justice Survey with over a thousand young people aged 15 - 25 years old, finding out about their concerns and encouraging solutions to climate change.

We continued our work with UNESCO through its ESDfor2030 international programme attending its` ESD workshops online.

We would like to acknowledge the collective effort of all the people who are involved with ECO-UNESCO - our funders, 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 the highlights of our work in 2020 and learn about the positive impact that we have on young people, their peers and their communities both around the country and beyond.

In the future, we will continue to innovate and use our resources in the most effective and efficient ways possible. We will expand our reach, impacting more young people through our high-quality environmental youth programmes.

We look forward to 2021 and to continuing our work to make a real difference in the lives of so many young people.



Niall Jennings
Chairperson
ECO-UNESCO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niall Jennings'.



Elaine Nevin
National Director
ECO-UNESCO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Nevin'.

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2020

IN A NUTSHELL



YEA Idea Fest Dublin.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



YEA Participants 2020

25,000

PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH YEA ACTION
PROJECTS

+11,000

PARTICIPANTS

+2,000

YOUNG PEOPLE
THAT TOOK PART IN OUR
WORKSHOPS

492

PROJECTS
REGISTERED IN
YEA 2020

277

YOUNG ENGAGED
IN THE YOUTH FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

IDEA FEST

More than 60 young people met to share their Young Environmentalist Awards projects with politicians, professionals, and experts.



MARCH

ECO@HOME

ECO-UNESCO launched its new initiative ECO@Home to encourage young people to continue their eco-actions at home.

**I'm a Young
Environmentalist**



APRIL

I'M A YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST

ECO-UNESCO launched "I'm a Young Environmentalist" campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to give young people encouragement in taking environmental action.



MAY

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS & FIRST ECO-WEEK

The Finals of the 2020 Young Environmentalist Awards were streamed online as part of our first-ever ECO-Week celebration.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



JUNE

SUMMER CAMPS

ECO-UNESCO ran online Summer Camps for young people between 14-17 years old.



AUGUST

EDUCATOR'S WEEK & NEW RESOURCE LAUNCH

Educator's week was a series of short workshops and events for Teachers, Youth Workers, and Mentors, and included the launch of the new YSD Programme Manual.



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE CHALLENGE & ECO-WEEK

ECO-UNESCO ran the Youth Climate Justice Challenge in partnership with 5 youth organisations. The challenge culminated in a celebration of youth action during our 2nd ECO-Week.



DECEMBER

ERASMUS+ STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

ECO-UNESCO led a consortium of 6 Youth Organisations from across Europe in successfully entering into a Strategic Partnership programme with Erasmus+.

ABOUT ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation that works to empower young people and conserve the environment.

ECO-UNESCO is 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 programmes 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 our mission of using environmental education as a means of empowering young people and supporting positive personal development.

ECO-UNESCO'S KEY ACTIVITIES 2020

ECO-YOUTH

- Youth for Sustainable Development and Peer Education Programme
- Environmental youth events, activities and workshops
- ECO-UNESCO Clubs Programme
- ECO-Youth Choices
- Youth Climate Justice
- Environmental Youth Summit - The Heat is On!

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 on the UNESCO Global Action Programme for Education for Sustainable Development

AWARDS

- ECO-UNESCO's 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.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Global Action Programme on
Education for Sustainable Development

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 with 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 all-island networks 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 members 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, Breon Timmons, Caitlin Wilson, Clare Sheppard, Doireann Dunbar, Dunchadh Kinane, Eimear Manning, Kieran Allen, Laura-Kate Howells, Samantha Andrades, Susie Spratt, and Vince Harney.

THE YEAR IN QUOTES

“

I recently engaged in a Zoom meeting with ECO-UNESCO, a group of young people focused on environmental issues. Their capacity to engage with me and to advocate was incredibly important and impressive. Their engagement with me prompted me to ensure this significant budget allocation, which is more than they asked for.

Minister Roderic O’Gorman

”

“

“I will try to eat more seaweed and seafood from lower trophic levels because I know how it benefits the environment, reduces overfishing, and can help me develop a more sustainable lifestyle”

- Food Smart Participant.

”

“

I have come a long way from a 16-year-old not being able to speak in class to now running the Friday for Future group in my area and representing Ireland at a UN forum.

-YAN participant.

”

“

I really enjoyed the training, the videos were great and would get the point across to young people, feeling very motivated.

- Youth worker.

”



— “ —

Youth for Sustainable development is the perfect programme for young people who want to get involved in environment/climate action or just learn about these topics. You do not need to have any prior knowledge or experience as everyone learns along the way together. That is one great thing about this programme, everyone learns from each other. The facilitators are great and really friendly which makes the programme all the more enjoyable. Along the way, you make lots of new friends from different parts of the country and the programme can open up lots of different opportunities for you. I would highly recommend this programme, as it has opened so much different opportunities for me.

— YSD participant

— ” —

“

Since joining ECO-UNESCO I have learned so much about working with young people and have been continuously inspired by the young people and their passion, especially at the recent Youth Summit. I am mentoring two groups working on action projects at the moment and their commitment to raising awareness and finding solutions is so inspiring. It is amazing to be able to empower and support these young people.

- Volunteer.

”



AWARDS PROGRAMME

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10-18

25,000 IMPACTED IN 2020

492

registered YEA
projects

63

young people
showcase projects
in ECO-Ideas
Fest

152

projects were
selected as
semi-finalists

+600

attendees
during
ECO-WEEK



ECO-UNESCO's
**Young
Environmentalist
Awards**

YEA Participants 2020.

FUNDERS & SPONSORS

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2020 was supported by the Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications, the Environmental Protection Agency, and private sponsorship. Funding was also provided by Local Authorities.

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS

ECO-UNESCO continued to recognise and reward the work of young people in environmental protection and conservation through our Awards schemes. These included:



YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS (YEA)

In 2020, ECO-UNESCO received 492 registered projects from groups of young people across Ireland. 152 projects were selected as semi-finalists and were in turn brought forward to the finals as Covid-19 forced the cancellation of the semi-final events. This programme has a high impact from an environmental and a youth development perspective with Local Action Projects undertaken in a range of areas including Biodiversity, Waste, Climate Change, ECO-Community Development, ECO-Health & Well-being, among others. Waste (20.4%), Climate Change (16.7%), and Biodiversity (8%) were the most popular categories in 2020 with many projects focusing on issues of plastic waste and the effects of climate change on biodiversity. ECO-Community Development projects grew along with ECO-Health and Well-being category. The total number of people impacted by YEA projects in this cycle was over 25,000 (as reported by project participants).

6 STEPS TO SUCCESS TRAINING

We ran support, training, and advice service with 34 x 6 Steps to Success trainings and workshops delivered across Ireland. We hosted an 'ECO-Ideas Fest' in Dublin in January as a pilot initiative with 63 young people from 7 groups to showcase their action projects providing an opportunity for young people to get advice from 12 community leaders from the local community with experience in the environment to develop their projects further and exchange ideas. 2 YEA Webinars for Teachers were run in conjunction with Education Support Centres Ireland (ESCI).

ECO-DENS

Our ECO-Den semi-finals, scheduled for late March, unfortunately, had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

SHOWCASE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

We hosted our annual Young Environmentalist Awards Ceremony during our first ECO-Week, consisting of 24 events and 602 attendees. The YEA live stream showcasing the winners was viewed by 1,196 people at the time of the broadcast. On the day, there were 3 Overall Awards, 16 Category Awards, and 8 Special Awards presented to recognise and reward action projects. Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson delivered a special address to the participants.

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10-18

823

participants
reached by
environmental
workshops

475

young people
took part in
ECO-Choices
programme

440

young people
impacted by the
Learning2Change
Our World
Programme

277

young people
impacted by the
YSD Programme

YEA participants at the YEA Idea Fest in Dublin.

YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (YSD)

The programme provided young people with the opportunity to engage in education for sustainable development (ESD) activities, empowering them to act as youth leaders and peer educators. In 2020, we impacted 277 young people directly in this structured peer education programme who then carried out local environmental action projects with their peers and communities. We continued to deliver the programme to locations including Dublin, Drogheda, Carlow, Bray, Navan, and Newbridge in collaboration with local youth services and provided training to over volunteers and youth leaders. Due to Covid-19, we adapted the programme for delivery online nationally, with young people attending from across Ireland weekly. We provided online opportunities for young people to participate in activities including World Water Day and Earth Day. Covid-19 restrictions limited several of our events, however, we substituted these with online workshops with public figures including Grace O'Sullivan, MEP, Minister Eamon Ryan & Minister Roderic O'Gorman. ECO-UNESCO continued to receive funding for this programme from Irish Aid's Development Education Scheme. Participants who have completed one round of the programme were re-engaged in our Youth Action Network, hosting several of our events and asking questions of Ministers.

YSD AT YEA 2020

23 YSD projects from Dublin, Carlow, and Donegal featured in The Young Environmentalist Awards showcase in May 2020 focusing on Waste, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

QQI ACCREDITED TRAINING

A total of 13 participants received training in QQI Level 5 Peer Education during 2020.

YSD PROGRAMME EXPANSION

YSD regional programme moved to online groups nationwide which increased the regional spread with new 58 participants.

ECO-CHOICES HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Youth for Sustainable Development participants at Merrion Square.

ECO-CHOICES HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PROGRAMME

The programme ran with 475 young people in Dublin City. This programme uses environmental education methodologies and outdoor experiential recreational and educational activities to promote healthier lifestyle choices among young people from marginalised backgrounds. Covid-19 forced all engagements online, which presented challenges to engaging marginalised groups suffering from a lack of access to digital communication channels. However, these were successfully addressed, and the programme continued to meet its targets. ECO UNESCO successfully transitioned to the new UBU funding scheme for this programme from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

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.

We ran 2 foundations ECO-Choices peer education programmes. These were delivered to 11 young people from Stoneybatter Youth Service and to 15 young people from Stanhope Street.

Due to an increased demand for 1-1 welfare checks with participants, an ECO-Choices support programme was developed and introduced in 2020 called "Spill the Tea". These non-formal sessions provided space for young people to talk about any issues or difficulties they are experiencing with support from their peers and ECO-UNESCO staff. This programme was carried out with 9 young people.

ACCREDITED TRAINING

39 young people participated in the ECO Choices programme as part of their SPHE course. This included participating in a QQI accredited Community Development programme.

YOUTH WORKER TRAINING

In 2020, we engaged 10 youth workers in training centres.

YOUTH EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



Young people at the YEA Idea Fest, Dublin.

ENVIRONMENTAL & EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

1,233

young people
attended to online
workshops

823

participants
reached by
environmental
workshops

In 2020 we continued to deliver a range of environmental education workshops on an ad hoc basis as well as part of the Local Authority Community Environment Action Fund and Anti-Litter Fund, reaching 823 participants. The Covid-19 school closures created some difficulty in delivering workshops in the first half of the year, but once schools returned in September, delivery increased once again through online channels.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

We developed our online workshops to be delivered in pre-recorded formats with 54 workshops being delivered in this format, reaching 1,233 attendees.

Workshops included:



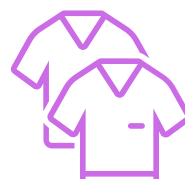
**CLIMATE
ACTION**



BIODIVERSITY



**6 STEPS TO
SUCCESS**



**FAST
FASHION**



WASTE

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.

13 summer camp sessions were run online due to COVID-19 restrictions with 23 participants from Sligo, Cork, Galway, Dublin, Wicklow, and Kerry.

LEARNING2CHANGE OUR WORLD



YEA Idea Fest participants at Fatima Centre in Dublin.

LEARNING2CHANGE OUR WORLD PROGRAMME



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
- Key dispositions and skills
- Values In order to motivate and empower them throughout their lives to become informed citizens who take action for a more sustainable future.
- Student Council Training
- Teacher Training
- Environmental workshops

In 2020 we continued to run the Learning2Change Our World programme and worked with 10 schools with 45 workshops delivered to embed a whole-school approach to ESD. This included delivery of in-school workshops, student council training, and teacher training for 14 teachers and 440 young people. Learning2Change was supported by Irish Aid through the WorldWise Global Schools programme.

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





YOUTH

CLIMATE

JUSTICE

CHALLENGE



THE YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE CHALLENGE PROGRAMME

22,780

people
reached

1,043

survey
respondents

88

young people
took part in the
challenge

11

action
projects

In June 2020 we led a consortium project of 6 youth organisations including SpunOut, Irish Girl Guides, No Name Clubs, Girls Brigade, and the Young Irish Filmmakers. The Youth Climate Justice Challenge programme was awarded funding by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth under their Youth Climate Justice Fund.

The programme ran successfully and engaged 88 young people taking part in 11 action projects, with an indirect reach of 22,780. Additionally, a national survey of young people's opinions on Climate Justice was run, with 1,043 respondents, highlighting the high level of concern around climate change among young people.

The programme culminated in a week-long ECO-Week celebration of young peoples' voices in bringing about change, where the 11 action projects presented their ideas and success stories to a panel of experts who offered advice and support on how they might continue their work.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT

YOUTH SUMMIT - THE HEAT IS ON!

Erasmus+, through Leargas, continued to fund our international Youth Summit programme. Due to Covid-19 restrictions on international travel, the delivery of the Youth Summit scheduled for 2020 was deferred until 2021 and commenced in January. The project will now see groups from Ireland, Spain, and Scotland engage online with each other and policymakers, in addition to carrying out an action project in their local areas.



RETHINK IRELAND AWARD ECO-WEEKS

In 2020 ECO-UNESCO was awarded funding through Rethink Ireland's Innovate Together Fund, to continue the delivery of our successful ECO-Week programme, following a successful pilot in May which had an attendance of 602.

The first of 4 funded weeks was held in November in support of our Youth Climate Justice programme and saw 364 attendees across all events. An additional 3 weeks will be held in 2021.

**RETHINK
IRELAND** Our
Social
Innovation
Fund

TRAINING & UPSKILLING PROGRAMMES

CAPACITY BUILDING

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18-25



Young people at the YEA Idea Fest in Dublin.

TRAINING PROGRAMME



During 2020 ECO-UNESCO delivered a range of training programmes aimed at upskilling young people. These included accredited and non-accredited training.

QQI TRAINING

In 2020, 85 young people received QQI training. Training included QQI level 5 in Peer Education, (24 participants) and ECO Community Development (61 participants).

EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING

During 2020, 394 young people were engaged through a variety of employability training including employability and careers workshop, online training, and online mock interviews; 51 young people received online employability training through Accenture's Skills 2 Succeed platform, increasing their understanding and awareness of employment practices, behaviour, and norms and 125 people took part in a series of employability focussed workshops.

NATURE IN THE PARK

We ran a webinar for teachers in conjunction with Dublin City Council on the Nature in the Park education resource, aimed at primary-aged children, encouraging the use of local parks for learning opportunities.

EDUCATOR'S TRAINING

A total of 224 youth leaders and educators were trained through our Educators Week, YSD/ECO-Choices training, Climate Justice Training and Education Centre sessions. Additionally, support materials were developed and provided, including YEA support materials, YSD Programme Manual, Climate Justice materials, e-magazines, and more.

HOW WE OPERATE



ECO-UNESCO Staff at Merrion Square.

COLLABORATIVE WORK

Collaboration with like-minded organisations is a key strategic goal of ECO-UNESCO. To that end, in 2020 we undertook the following collaborative work.

- In 2020 we led a consortium with 5 new partners under the Climate Justice programme.
- We developed a new collaboration with the network of Education Centres and delivered a range of webinars to support educators in embedding ESD and environmental education into their classrooms.
- We collaborated with **Dublin City Council on Nature in the Park** resource webinar and continued our strong collaboration with secondary schools.
- We successfully concluded our multi-year partnership with IEN's DEAR (Development Education and Awareness Raising) Project which included collaboration with Social Justice Ireland and World Vision.
- We entered into discussions with the **ECHOES project** based on the Isle of Man.
- We re-engaged with the **EPA** around new collaborative opportunities.
- Our ECO-Week programme engaged 21 collaborations including **Friends of the Earth, UCD, IEN, USI, Gaisce, the Happy Pear, Accenture, and the Green Party.**
- We engaged in an **Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership** application with 5 additional partners across Europe.
- We collaborated with **Trinity College Dublin on the Foodsmart project**, an Irish Research Council-funded programme to promote sustainable food sourcing.
- We continued our engagement with **Local Authorities, Education Training Boards, and Youthreach Centres.**
- We continued to engage with the **Dublin Bay Biosphere** and the Isle of Man Biosphere in 2020.
- We attended the virtual launch of **UNESCO's ESD 2030 programme**, attended a range of online UNESCO ESD Workshops and continued to engage with ESDfor2030 programme.



DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2020

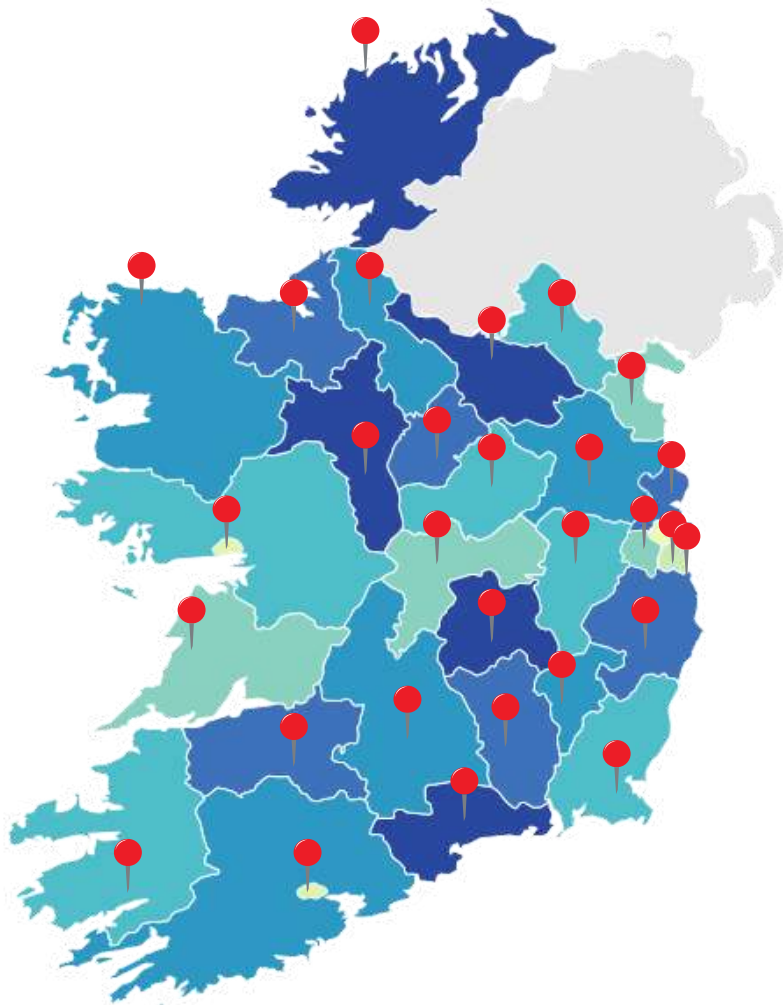
- Our Digital Development accelerated in 2020. We pivoted our youth and capacity-building programmes to online delivery with the organisation delivering and hosting ongoing meetings, workshops, and sessions.
- We redeveloped our workshops for online delivery, creating versions for live online delivery and pre-recorded delivery.
- We redeveloped our Level 5 Peer Education and Level 4 ECO-Community Development QQI accredited courses for delivery online.
- We created new digital programmes including ECO-Week where we provided a week-long series of environmental workshops, seminars, and talks.
- We created ECO@Home an online information hub on our website for young people to engage in environmental activity at home during Covid restrictions. Educator's week (a week of activities for those working with young people) was developed and delivered online.
- Finally, our e-learning system was developed, with the initial content being finalised.



REGIONAL GROWTH

REGIONAL WORK

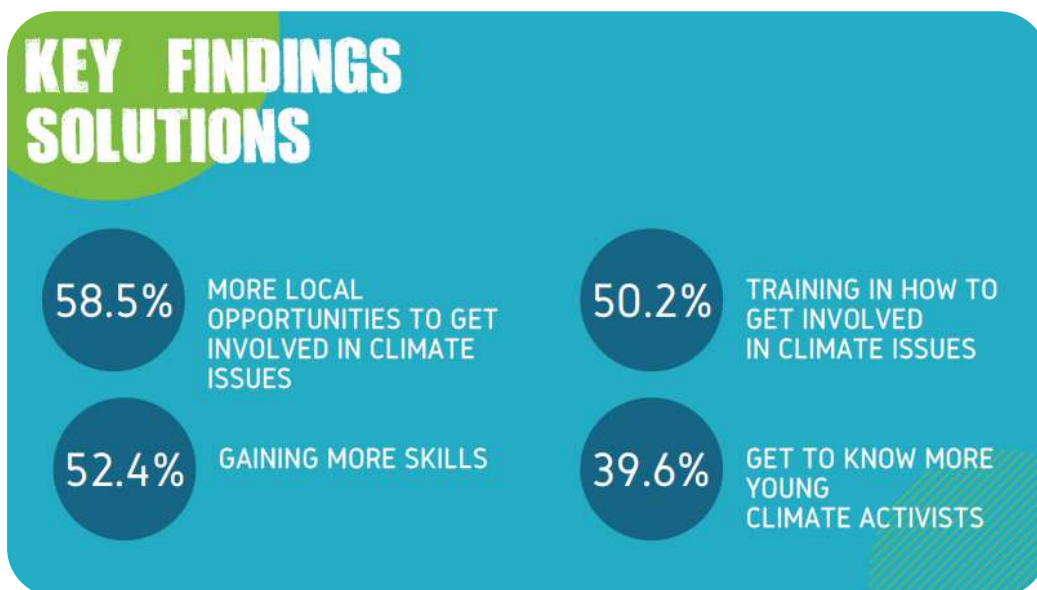
- ECO-UNESCO continued to run its programme across Ireland through our YSD groups, our YEA project groups, workshops and training in collaboration with Local Authorities.
- We offered new online national programmes and rolled out workshops and events attended by young people from across the country.
- We successfully partnered with Green Offaly to run a LEADER funded Youth Employment programme in Offaly in 2021.
- Our Youth Climate Justice programme worked with young people from across Ireland.
- We continued to liaise with UNESCO which launched its ESD for 2030 programme with a virtual launch. We attended UNESCO's workshops throughout the year.



PROMOTING INNOVATION

2020 INNOVATIONS

- We secured funding for a new Strategic partnership opportunity with a focus on transformational learning (a core aspect of the ESDfor2030 framework) and carried out a National Youth Survey on Climate Change & Climate Justice carried out with 1,043 young people.
- We launched the 'I am a Young Environmentalist' campaign piloted in 2020. This campaign will be scaled in 2021.



REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

ECO-UNESCO continued to advocate for youth engagement in environmental issues and the importance of education as a tool for achieving sustainability.

1. During 2020 ECO-UNESCO provided a range of opportunities for young people through various events including meetings with Ministers and the Youth Climate Justice programme.
2. We were involved in NYCI's Youth Work Changes Lives campaign to lobby for increased funding in the youth sector and were part of an NYCI delegation that met with the Minister. In addition, we also organised a meeting with Minister.
3. We sat on the IDEA Irish Aid Development Education review task force and met with Irish Aid as part of the youth sector task force and on the IDEA working group on Impact Assessment.
4. During 2020 ECO-UNESCO remained active in the Department of Education and Skills Advisory Group for Education for Sustainable Development, Coalition 2030 a coalition of civil society organisations promoting the SDGs; the National Youth Council of Ireland and IDEA.

In 2020 we concluded our 3-year partnership with IEN on the successful DEAR funded project on promoting and building awareness of the SDGs in Ireland. This included the production of an SDG video as part of an SDG Youth Week of Action, SDG Learning Zones at our Young Environmentalist Awards, and the regional growth of the Youth for Sustainable Development programme.

In 2020 we continued our multi-annual engagement with Irish Aid. We developed a strategic collaboration with the EPA and secured new resources through the Youth Climate Justice grant scheme, Capital Grants, Innovate Together, and Léargas Strategic Partnership.

During 2020, we continued to work towards our Strategic Plan running from 2018 to 2021. In light of our work as one of Ireland's first SDG Champions, our position was extended into 2021 by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment



COMMUNICATIONS AND REPRESENTATION

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

ECO-UNESCO events received substantial coverage in both regional and national media, including print, TV, and radio. ECO-UNESCO's work was promoted through magazines, e-newsletters, external websites, and event guides throughout the year, with a focus on the environmental, youth, and education sectors. We put a lot of work into growing our social media following, and got the following results:

+46,900

visits to
ECO-UNESCO's
website

+800

new followers
on
social media

+170K

people reached
on
social media

NEWSLETTERS & E-MAGAZINES

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 email campaign to over 1,000 schools, Youth Organisations, ETBs, and at all external events. We also produce a monthly E-Magazine for our supporters.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2020, ECO-UNESCO continued to develop its range of resources and publications. Some of the published highlights from 2020 include:

- YEA 2020 Finalist booklet
- ECO-UNESCO Annual Newsletter 2019-2020
- YSD Programme Manual - Launched by Minister Eamon Ryan in August 2020.
- A wide range of informational and marketing material to promote our programmes and educational resources for key environmental days.



LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT

The following local authorities supported our Young Environmentalist Awards ECO-Dens in 2020:

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

Youth for Sustainable Development Participant.

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 2020 ECO-UNESCO'S MAIN CORE FUNDING CAME FROM

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth (previously the Department of Children and Youth Affairs)

- Youth Service Grant
- Targeted Youth Funding Service and subsequently UBU Scheme
- Youth Climate Justice Fund
- Youth Capital Grant Funds

Department of Rural and Community Development

- The Special Scheme for National Organisations (administered by POBAL)

The Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications (previously the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment)

- Young Environmentalist Awards Sponsorship

The Department of Foreign Affairs

- Irish Aid Development Education Grant

The Irish Environmental Network

- Core Funding Grant

ECO-UNESCO RECEIVED FUNDING FROM

- The Environmental Protection Agency
- Local Authorities nationwide under the Environmental Partnership Fund and Anti-Litter fund
- Erasmus+ (administered by Leargas)
- DEAR

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

- Worldwide Global Schools (on behalf of Irish Aid)
- Accenture
- Trocaire
- Concern
- Rethink Ireland (through the Innovate Together Fund)

Our Audited Accounts for 2020 are available to download from our website www.ecounesco.ie

GOVERNANCE

ECO-UNESCO is governed by a voluntary board of Directors made up of members. In 2020 there was a 45/55 male female 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.

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS IN 2020 INCLUDE:

Niall Jennings (Chairperson) - [100% attendance - 8 attended - 8 eligible]
Orla McGreal (Treasurer) - [100% attendance - 8 attended - 8 eligible]
Daniel Dockery (Secretary) - [100% attendance - 8 attended - 8 eligible]
Christina Nolan - [87.50% attendance - 7 attended - 8 eligible]
Marie Collins - [100% attendance - 8 attended - 8 eligible] Resigned 12 December 2020
David Kelly - [100% attendance - 8 attended - 8 eligible]
Vivienne Kelly - [75% attendance - 6 attended - 8 eligible]

In 2020 there were 8 Board meetings held. Additionally, the Board has 1 Sub-Committee, Audit, Risk & Finance which met 7 times in 2020. The AGM took place in December 2020.

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 Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, works in compliance with the Charities Regulator's Governance Code, complies with the Quality Assurance standards from QQI and works within the National Quality Standards Framework for Youth Work.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

ECO-UNESCO is working towards completing the delivery of our Strategic Plan 2018-2021. We will commence the development of a new strategic plan in 2021.

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[@ecounesco](https://www.instagram.com/ecounesco)



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



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

ECO-UNESCO is supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth with support from the National Lottery Fund.



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

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



ECO-UNESCO is a trading name of the Irish Environmental Conservation Organisation For Youth - Unesco Clubs CLG.
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