

ECO-UNESCO news

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation



Director's Message

Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

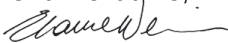
Although 2020 has been a challenging year due to the pandemic, we have had a jam-packed year with new collaborations, online programmes and the development of our ECO@Home initiative. From March 2020 we have moved our work online, delivering our range of programmes and services to young people through weekly meet-ups, workshops and online events. We have also continued to support young people throughout the year with one to one sessions.

Our first ever ECO-Week took place in May 2020, which was a week-long programme of workshops, talks and trainings. We ran a second ECO-Week in August for educators and are planning more ECO-Weeks in 2021. Our Young Environmentalist Awards were held online with winners being announced via an online live-streamed awards ceremony, with special guests Mary Robinson.

This year we are running our first Youth Climate Justice challenge programme in collaboration with the No Name Club, SpunOut, Girls Brigade, Irish Girl Guides and Young Irish Filmmakers and looking forward to carrying out our first climate justice survey with young people across Ireland to hear young peoples opinions about climate change and climate justice.

As we move from 2020 to 2021, we will continue to protect our environment and support young people. If you want to get involved with us please check out www.ecounesco.ie to find out more about all the ways we can help and support you throughout the year.

Until next time,


Elaine Nevin

Channel your passion into environmental action!

How do the awards work?

1. Interested groups register online.
2. Registered groups can avail of the '6 Steps to Success' training programme.
3. Groups submit their ECO-Action projects.
4. Internal judging panels assess all registered projects and create a shortlist.
5. Shortlisted groups are invited to pitch their projects to a panel of expert regional judges at ECO-DENS.
6. Finalists showcase their project at YEA Gala Showcase and Awards Ceremony.

Who can enter?

Find out more at www.yea.ie.

ARE YOU BETWEEN 10 AND 18 YEARS OLD?

DO YOU WANT TO HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

DO YOU WANT TO CARRYING OUT AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT?

IF YES TO ALL, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Registration
is open now!
www.yea.ie



GET INVOLVED!

Registrations for YEA 2021 are open!

Make it count! Did you know you can count your project hours towards the Gaisce Award?

A YEA project also makes an excellent CSPE project or Transition Year initiative. For more information and to register your project online, visit www.yea.ie.

2021 a new beginning

We are continuing to offer our programmes and services to young people, groups, youth leaders and teachers. At the moment, our services, in line with public health guidance, will continue to be offered online; outlined below are some of the ways you can get involved with us.

Environmental Youth Summit The Heat is on!



The Environmental Youth Summit "The Heat is On!" is a one-year project co-funded by Erasmus+ to bring together young people from Spain, Scotland, and Ireland to learn from each other and experts and influence environmental policy.

Participants take part in workshops, structured dialogue with policymakers, nature excursions, and cultural exchange. We have partnered with Resilience Earth in Spain, Wester Ross Biosphere in Scotland, and Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere in Scotland.

When?

1st session: January 25th, 26th, February 3rd and 4th

2nd session: March 2021

3rd session: May/June

Who can take part?

Young people aged 13 – 18 living in Ireland.

For more information go to www.ecunesco.ie.



Climate Justice Survey 2020

ECO-UNESCO's Climate Justice Survey 2020 was created to assess how young people of Ireland feel about climate justice issues, and to learn what their pathways of knowledge are on this topic.

This survey was conducted online through a collaboration of ECO-UNESCO and SpunOut.ie from October 6th 2020 to October 18th 2020. This survey was part of a larger project called 'The Youth Climate Justice Challenge.'

Key findings:

38%

of the respondents rank changes in government policies as the most important factor

89%

of young people are using less plastic to reduce their carbon footprint

48%

of young survey-takers ranked big businesses as their primary concern

Want to know what young people say?

In February 2021 we will be hosting an event to launch the Climate Justice Survey results and report.

Join us! For more information go to www.ecunesco.ie.



Key dates 2021

- **January 2021:** Environmental Youth Summit
- **February 2021:** Launching Climate Justice Survey
- **March 2021:** YEA Registrations closes
- **April 2021:** YEA ECO-Dens semi-finals
- **May 2021:** ECO-WEEK & Awards Ceremony
- **June/July 2021:** Green Teens Summer Camps
- **August 2021:** Educators' Week
- **September 2021:** Youth Workers Training
- **November/December 2021:** YEA IDEA Fest

Join ECO-Choices Programme



Are you interested in learning about environmental issues and the importance of ECO health and well-being?

Join our online 8-week programme!

For more information or registration contact Doireann at doireann.dunbar@ecunesco.ie

More ECO-WEEKS coming soon...

After the ECO-WEEK success ECO-UNESCO received the Award for a Sustainable Ireland- Innovation Fund from Rethink Ireland and we will be running three more series of ECO-WEEKS.

Dates will be announced soon.

COMING
SOON

What people said about ECO-WEEK:

"My attendance at this ECO-Week session had a huge effect on me. It made me more aware of my capability of actually making a difference in world and how can I get everyone on board."

2020 was a year like no other and we are so proud of how young people had the courage in weathering that storm, and the generosity they showed for their communities. Thanks for keeping expanding your knowledge of environmental issues, and generally being your wonderful selves during this time.

ECO-UNESCO's YOUTH PROGRAMMES 2020

12-week programme graduation

Over 270 graduated of ECO-UNESCO's 12-week Youth for Sustainable Development Programme Dublin.

Green Teens Summer Camps

We ran two online series of the Green Teens Summer Camps. Young people from Kerry, Cork, Sligo, Wicklow and Italy joined us

I'm a Young Environmentalist

Participants from the YSD programme wrote opinion articles about why they consider themselves environmentalists. young opinions were covered by the Irish Examiner.

Be Food Smart

ECO-UNESCO & FoodSmart Dublin created a series of workshops for young people focused on sustainable eating.

Climate Justice Survey

ECO-UNESCO & SpunOut launched the Climate Justice Survey 2020 to assess how young people of Ireland feel about climate justice issues, and to learn what their pathways of knowledge are on this topic.

Youth Climate Justice Challenge

A consortium of six youth organisations, led by ECO-UNESCO launched the Youth Climate Justice Challenge, with partners SpunOut, Girls Brigades Ireland, The No Name Club, Irish Girls Guides & Young Irish Film Makers. The Youth Climate Justice Challenge is aimed at encouraging and empowering young people to take on local action projects on Climate Justice

Youth Climate Justice ECO-WEEK

ECO-UNESCO invited young people from across Ireland to join us for a series of free online events that explored the topic of CLIMATE JUSTICE. All our events and activities were designed to give young people the knowledge and the skills they needed to feel empowered to stand up, be heard, and create change. To conclude the week, young people were invited to our Climate Justice Showcase event to hear what other young people in Ireland have been doing to take action in their local community.

5000

people involved
with
ECO-UNESCO

+270

young people
involved in YSD
programme

+490

YEA projects
registered
in 2020

ECO-UNESCO's CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES 2020

Nature@Home

ECO-UNESCO and Accenture launched the Next Generation Programme for young people between 10-14 years old. These interactive workshops were focused on teaching the younger generation about ecology in their back gardens or nearby areas.

Environmental Workshops



During 2020 we continue delivering fun, informative and interactive environmental workshops for participants ages 10-18.

800

young people reached through
workshops to young people and
youth leaders

Book your workshop! bookings@ecounesco.ie

Educators' Week & New resource launch - YSD Manual 2020

The Educators' Week was a week of short online events for Teachers, Mentors and Educators focused on the topics of Sustainable Development Education. These talks and workshops were designed to support their work with young people and introduce them to some new resources, methodologies, and support systems. Additionally, Minister Eamon Ryan launched our much anticipated NEW resource – Youth for Sustainable Development Manual 2020 as part of this programme.

ECO@Home Initiative

"ECO@Home" initiative aims to encourage young people to continue their environmental action projects from the comfort and safety of their homes and to encourage youth groups to keep in touch over the online channels.



Due to Covid19 and national lockdown ECO-UNESCO would like young people to invest their spare time into taking Eco-Action, that's why "ECO@Home" was created for. By working on projects and taking the time out of their day to go out and be among nature, it can be great for the environment but also the mental health of young people.

You can check our most recent updates www.ecounesco.ie



**In 2020 we redeveloped
our website and
we refreshed our logo!**

**Go and check it out:
www.ecounesco.ie**





Irish Young Environmentalists celebrated the 22nd anniversary of the Young Environmentalist Awards

Young Environmentalist and ECO-UNESCO celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA). In 2020 we hosted a very different ceremony through online platforms and our first ECO-WEEK focused on food, fashion, fitness and future that provided young people with inspirational talks, workshops and activities that were online and accessible to everyone from the comfort of their house.

The YEA online ceremony took place on May 21st in a Live transmission through ECO-UNESCO's YouTube channel. The awards ceremony was opened by the former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson and hosted by the talented DJ Tara Steward.

The YEA programme run by ECO-UNESCO has provided over **50,000 young people**, aged 10-18, an opportunity to take action and raise awareness in their own community on sustainability and environmental issues that matter the most to them, since it began in 1999.

YEA IDEA FEST

The YEA IDEA Fest is a one-day event where Young Environmentalist Awards registered project groups meet with experts in the environment, social enterprise, community building or project management with a view to improving the quality of their environmental action projects.

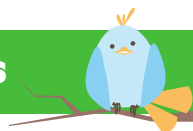
Two events were held as part of the pilot scheme, one in Kerry in November 2019 and one in Dublin in January 2020. Both events were highly successful in terms of attendance from participants and special guests as well as in terms of positive feedback.

ECO-UNESCO's first ECO-WEEK Fashion, Fitness, Food & Future

The ECO-WEEK is a week-long initiative that includes a different series of online events for young people between ages 10-18. Webinars, podcasts, on-line content, pre-recorded talks, workshops, competitions, challenges and televised events were some of the activities we had in the first ECO-WEEK. The week was focused on activities related to fashion, fitness, food and future.

GET INVOLVED WITH ECO-UNESCO!

Environmental Workshops



Our workshops are available to schools and youth groups and include fun activities and games appropriately designed for each age group.

We have a range of affordable options on offer, covering the following topics: Climate change, fast fashion, get drastic about plastic, exploring ecology, the battle for biodiversity and much more.

Book a workshop today! bookings@ecounesco.ie

Youth for Sustainable Development

Interested in the environment & social justice?

Are you between 15-17 years old?

Why not join our online 6 week Youth for Sustainable Development programme?

We meet once a week for 6 weeks to explore key climate justice issues. You can join us no matter where you live!

For more information ysd@ecounesco.ie

ECO-UNESCO Membership

Become an ECO-UNESCO member and be part of an exclusive community of change-makers!

Join now here > <https://bit.ly/3cwYQc9>

**DONATE TO
ECO-UNESCO!**
www.ecounesco.ie



Corporate Partnerships

Would you or your company like to support the development of young people and their actions to protect the environment?

Please get in touch to find out how you can get involved or donate through our website.

