

**ECO-UNESCO**

Ireland's Leading Environmental Youth Organisation



ECO-UNESCO's

# Young Environmentalist Awards

**2022**

Finalist booklet

[www.yea.ie](http://www.yea.ie)

# Welcome to ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2022

Welcome to the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2022.

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 recognising and rewarding those actions and efforts.

This year ECO-UNESCO is celebrating 23 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 250 project registrations from enthusiastic and energetic young people in youth groups and schools from all across Ireland.

The young environmentalists projects have been so varied with many working to tackle climate change, reduce our carbon footprint, improve biodiversity, reduce plastic pollution and waste and many more. All of the projects have 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 had the pleasure of meeting with so many of 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 in their local areas, with their peers and in their 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 of staff, interns and volunteers who each year work tirelessly to make the Young Environmentalist Awards such a success.

The Young Environmentalist Awards programme is supported by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, 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 awards.

And finally I want to thank all of our Young Environmentalists 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Nevin', written in a cursive style.

# Contents

Welcome Message .....	02
YEA Impact .....	04
What Young People Say .....	05

## Finalist Project Summaries

Biodiversity .....	12
Climate Change .....	18
ECO-Art & Design .....	20
ECO-Community Development .....	23
ECO-Health & Well-being .....	24
ECO-Innovation .....	27
Food .....	28
Waste .....	29
Water .....	34
Super Junior .....	37

## About Us

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards Funders & Sponsors .....	40
Acknowledgements.....	41
Our Work.....	42

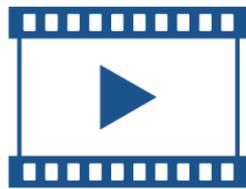
# YEA Impact



**+70,242**  
strongly impacted



**+5,000**  
online votes cast in  
People's  
Choice Award



**+1,000**  
Final Showcase  
Views



**+4,000**  
Participants  
Registered



**130**  
Projects selected  
for the Semi-  
Finals



**25**  
Awards  
Given



**26**  
Counties with  
Projects

# What Young People Say

**“We are having a lot of fun while also doing a lot of good for the biodiversity of our urban school campus and surrounding grounds”.**

Project “Buggingham Palace”; Wesley College, Dublin

**“We loved working together on this project and are so grateful for this opportunity we were given and can’t wait to continue our work”.**

Project “Bug Sorrows”; Loreto Secondary School, Bray



**“The entire experience was amazing!! Not only did we achieve what we set out to do we also had so much fun along the way”.**

Project “Biodiversity”; Dungarvan Youthreach, Waterford



**We enjoyed doing our project and recommend anyone between the age of 10 to 18 to do the YEAs. We think our classmates also enjoyed the activities that we did with our teacher’s help. All in all, we think we made a big impact.**

Project “Sollution Pollution”; Independent group, Dublin

**“Our world is crumbling, piece by piece, with this project, we can make a difference”.**

Project “Sequestering Carbon”; Sandford Park School, Cork





ECO-UNESCO's



**Young  
Environmentalist  
Awards**

# YEA Finalist projects

## Biodiversity - SDG #15

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

15 LIFE ON LAND



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name		Page #
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-198 - Bringing Birds Back		12
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-203 - Kinsale Community School...		12
Cork	Bandon Grammar School	2022-120 - Evergreens		12
Cork	St Marys Secondary School	2022-209 - Beeing the change you want...		13
Cork	Ursuline Secondary School	2022-078 - The Natural World And What We Can Do...		13
Cork	Patrician Academy	2022-180 - Bee Brilliant, Boost Biodiversity!		13
Dublin	Rockbrook Park School	2022-248 - A place to nest		13
Dublin	Rockbrook Park School	2022-201 - Building for Biodiversity		14
Dublin	Wesley College Dublin	2022-190 - Buggingham Palace		14
Dublin	Drimnagh Castle Secondary School	2022-167 - BUG BUDS		14
Dublin	Drimnagh Castle Secondary School	2022-170 - Batitat		14
Dublin	Meanscoil Iognaid Ris	2022-163 - The Nature room		14
Dublin	St. Michael's Holy Faith	2022-052 - Composting Climate Action		15
Dublin	Skerries Community College	2022-197 - ReWildiNG		15
Dublin	St. Mary's Holy Faith Secondary School	2022-004 - Green footprints		15
Galway	St. Jarlath's College	2022-129 - Tree Amigos		15
Kerry	St. Brigid's Secondary School	2022-034 - The Beauty and the Butterfly		16
Kilkenny	Colaiste Mhuire Post Primary School	2022-225 - Irish Wild Life Club		16
Sligo	Nature Inspires	2022-156 - Dark Sky matters		16
Sligo	Mercy College	2022-094 - Mercy Goes Wild		16
Waterford	Dungarvan Youthreach	2022-003 - Biodiversity		17
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School	2022-035 - Bug Burrows		17

## 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.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name		Page #
Cork	St. Mary's Secondary School	2022-063 - Swap and shop		18
Cork	Coláiste an Toirbhirte	2022-236 - An investigation into 'Why...		18
Dublin	Sandford Park School	2022-074 - Sequestering Carbon		18
Galway	St. Jarlath's College	2022-131 - Get Outta That Car!!		18
Offaly	Tullamore College	2022-231 - Plastic Free School Initiative		19
Tyrone	St. Catherine's College	2022-002 - Cooling the Callan		19
Westmeath	Moate Community School	2022-158 - MCS Act for Climate Change		19
Wexford	FCJ Secondary School	2022-200 - Radon - The silent but...		20
Wicklow	St. Mary's College	2022-222 - Carbon Captures : Is Seaweed...		20

## 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



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	St. Peter's Passage West	2022-257 - Sea of Change	20
Cork	Bandon Grammar School	2022-142 - Resculpting The World	21
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-044 - Full Circle Fashion	21
Kerry	St. Brigid's Secondary School	2022-021 - Washed Ashore	21
Kerry	St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School	2022-016 - Save the Bees	🏆 21
Kildare	Confey Community College	2022-146 - Tunami	22
Meath	Eureka Secondary School	2022-008 - Shorely Jewelry	22
Meath	Eureka Secondary School	2022-213 - Bio Bling	22
Meath	Ashbourne Community School	2022-238 - The "cycle" of life	22
Monaghan	Clones Youth Club - Youth Work Ireland	2022-154 - Recycling and Restoring Our...	🏆 23
Sligo	Jesus and Mary Secondary School	2022-148 - Can Junk buy a Tree Trunk?	23

## 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 #
Waterford	Meánscoil San Níoclás	2022-239 - Ár dTuras Inbhuanaithe	🏆 23
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-250 - Fresh herbs, fresh start	24
Kerry	St. Brendan's College	2022-206 - Bee's for the St Brendan's College	24

## 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 #
Cork	Davis College	2022-138 - A Sustainable Life with my...	🏆 24
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-029 - Greener Masks, Cleaner Climate	25
Cork	Millstreet Community School	2022-141 - How big is Ireland's PFAS...	25
Dublin	Central Remedial Clinic	2022-221 - Wellness Garden	🏆 25
Kerry	Mercy Mounthawk	2022-058 - I am what I am	25
Sligo	St. Attracta's CS	2022-104 - School Garden	26
Tipperary	Fridays For Future	2022-218 - Our Air - An Analysis Into Which...	26
Waterford	Irish Schools Sustainability Network	2022-192 - Plaineád a Phlandáil (Plan...	🏆 26
Westmeath	St. Finian's College	2022-227 - A Quantitative Analysis of...	26

## 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	Christ King Secondary School	2022-247 - S-Eco	27
Donegal	St. Columba's College	2022-096 - 2 Weeks to Change the World	27
Dublin	Alexandra College	2022-256 - Removing Oil From Water	27
Longford	Lanesboro Community College	2022-152 - Brown to Green:Planning for...	27

## Food - SDG #2

Food projects explore ways to achieve food security and improved nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture and local products.

2 ZERO HUNGER



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-047 - Kinsale Cookbook	28
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-204 - Eat Green	28
Cork	Bandon Grammar School	2022-121 - Do plant-based diets really...	28
Dublin	Sandford Park School	2022-056 - Sustainable, preserved, protected:...	29
Kerry	St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School	2022-020 - Where is our Food Sourced in...	29

## Waste - SDG #12

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

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-132 - Reduce the plastic, that would...	29
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-042 - Why art thou wasteful?	30
Cork	Kinsale Community School	2022-199 - Polluting Plastics	30
Cork	Bandon Grammar School	2022-122 - Fast Fashion Assassins	30
Cork	Colaiste Na Toirbhríte	2022-230 - Wear and Share	31
Dublin	Wesley College Dublin	2022-193 - Reduce, Reuse, Resell	31
Dublin	Mount Sackville Secondary School	2022-117 - Sustainability Starts At School	31
Dublin	Mercy College Coolock	2022-095 - Waste and Litter	31
Dublin	Threadless	2022-013 - Threadless	32
Kerry	St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School	2022-019 - Lesser Litter	32
Kerry	Killorglin Community College	2022-119 - CAPture	32
Meath	Eureka Secondary School	2022-171 - Love your Lunchbox	33
Meath	Eureka Secondary School	2022-012 - Never Refuse to Reuse	33
Monaghan	Beech Hill College	2022-065 - Triple Thread	33
Westmeath	Our Lady's Bower	2022-210 - Fashion Busters	33
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School	2022-037 - Swap clothes don't shop clothes	34
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School	2022-036 - Compost Comrades	34

## Water/Marine Life - SDG #14

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

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Page #
Cork	Bandon Grammar School	2022-135 - pHilta	34
Cork	Schull Community College	2022-249 - Schull Ocean Plastic Clean-Up	35
Donegal	Abbey Vocational School	2022-053 - Commotion in the Ocean	35
Dublin	Oatlands College	2022-191 - Bad Beach Clean	🏆 35
Dublin	Eco Unesco Youth Climate Justice Group	2022-207 - Save Our Seas	🏆 36
Galway	Colaiste an Chreagain	2022-223 - The Bench to a Better Future	36
Galway	Merlin College	2022-194 - Water Wizzards	36
Kerry	St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School	2022-022 - Save The Waves	37
Longford	Mercy Secondary School	2022-143 - Mercy Water Warriors	🏆 37

## 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	Timoleague NS	2022-046 - Our Local Water Quality	37
Cork	Timoleague NS	2022-018 - Wildlife Pond	38
Dublin	Not Applicable	2022-228 - Solution pollution	🏆 38
Mayo	Foroige Hub	2022-100 - Foroige Connect Castlebar.	38
Sligo	Nature Inspires	2022-185 - Who is my neighbor? Wild animals...	39
Sligo	St. Michael's National School	2022-196 - Where does the Salmon come...	🏆 39





**THANK YOU  
FOR BEING A  
CHANGE-MAKER!  
#YEA2022**

# 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



Olivia Hurley, Roisin Kelly, James Kinahan, Muireann O'Donovan, Jason Doyle O'Donovan, Hannah Kemp, Kate Harrington, Sean Hurley, Sarah Hayes, Philip Hurley, Anna Hurley, Juanita Kennedy, Abigail Hayes, Anna Hurley, Adam Kysilka, Seoidin Hogan, Max O'Riordan, Benedek Boch.

### Bringing Birds Back

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2021-093. Junior.**



As part of our project, we want to take action and raise awareness around the need to conserve our bird species in Ireland. We decided to do our project on this topic because we feel that especially this time of year, during the winter months (roughly November-March) the birds really need you to put out food in your garden. We made bird feeders out of waste material for example, plastic bottles, sanitising bottles and milk cartons. We made the bird feeders as a group and hung them around the school grounds and in our gardens at home. We raised awareness so far through social media by creating an Instagram account and creating TikTok videos. We also display weekly notices on the Digital Noticeboard in the school with facts and statistics about different Irish bird species. Additionally, we invited in a guest speaker from a bird watch Ireland to educate the school community around the importance of protecting birds in Ireland. We made a Microsoft Forms survey to raise awareness and to find out what people already know about different bird species and the species that are on the red list. We feel our project has had a very positive impact as students are seeing our bird feeders and facts on a daily basis which enhances their knowledge on the topic which is key as knowledge is empowering.



Lauren Hubert, Lioba Kappner, Sophie Peare, Niamh Barry, Rachel Bogue, Aoife Hurley, Orlaith Allen, Janis Gomez, Sinead Hickey, Carmen Yunta De La Fuente.

### Kinsale Community School Orchard

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-203. Senior.**

Our group of Transition Year students started with a common interest in sustainability and the climate crisis. There was a school Teams message sent out about joining a sustainability team, and all the people who wanted to join the team are in our Young Environmentalist Award group. We did the Eco-Unesco Youth for Sustainable Development Programme on Wednesday mornings and discussed topics such as biodiversity loss, key species, and the climate crisis. Each morning before the workshop we did warm-up games and activities to help build the team. The team has a range of skills including: art and creativity, organisational skills, video making, team skills, written communication skills. All the students have research skills; Sophie, Lauren and Rachel were the Team Leaders with good organisational skills, helping fill in the submission form as well as sourcing materials; Orlaith, Sinead and Lioba displayed excellent artistic, specifically map drawing skills assisted by Carmen and Janis who had skills in site measurement; Sophie has technology and video making and editing skills; Niamh and Aoife have excellent research skills; and Rachel has artistic, specifically photography skills.



Miya, Lauren, Alanna.

### Evergreens

**Bandon Grammar School, Cork. 2022-120. Senior.**

Our project is focused on raising awareness on deforestation around our community and school as well as our social media followers by being the change we hope to see. We got in contact with a local hospital to ask if we could plant trees for them. We knew this would contribute to the environment physically as well as mentally as we knew a lot of the patients were elderly and after talking to the director of nursing, we knew they would appreciate the added view. We also got in contact with Nikki Keeling, a climate activist from the Green Economy Foundation to help make this happen. We met with her to organise what types of trees would be best to plant and then shared this knowledge with our social media followers by telling them which trees would be best to plant in their own gardens.



**Being the change you want to see**

**St. Mary's Secondary School, Cork. 2022-209. Senior.**

Our main goal in our project is to encourage biodiversity in our school and to help wildlife to settle in our environment. Since there's a shortage of bees in the area, we would love it if the population of bees increased in our school environment. To take action, we have set up a bake sale in our school, encouraging students from all year groups to participate by bringing in baked goods and selling them in the TY area at lunch time. With it, our mentor was able to purchase flowers from our local garden center for us as a class to get planting. So we took off with shovels, gardening gloves and old clothes and we all got involved with planting our flowers and keeping in mind that what we were doing is very much relevant to helping the bee population increase. We believe that our project has had a very positive impact on our school community as everyone seems to enjoy walking past the flower bed and it's something eye-catching to look at. This impacted us greatly as we have already achieved one of our biggest goals and that was to raise awareness about biodiversity and to show how by doing something so simple in the short term, is truly powerful in the long term.

Anisa Babatunde, Abbie Blake, Bethany Browne, Tara Brennan, Saoirse Cahill, Sally Cooper, Celine Degortes, Sarah Lysaght, Emma Noonan, Jesuella Tchounda, Jiahui Zhao, Ria O'Connor, Shauna Roche, Gemma Browne, Fiona Kelleher, Emma O'Connor, Ciara McCormack, Ella O'Callaghan, Michelle Elue, Molly O'Callaghan, Tara Norton, Roisin O'Sullivan, Zelda Hickey, Grace O'Connell, Muska Mohammed.



**The Natural World And What We Can Do To Protect It.**

**Ursuline Secondary School Blackrock, Cork. 2022-078. Senior.**

Our project "The Natural World And What You Can Do To Protect It" aims to improve the ecological world around school and local community, to raise awareness of the environment and to teach our peers how to care for it. We have built a Bug hotel on the school roundabout to care for the insects surrounding us. Our Transition Years are taking part in a horticulture module in which they have been building nest boxes, which were placed around the school, and planting bulbs, provided by gascie, along with many other plants. We in the YEA group have written and composed a song detailing the issues the environment is facing and encouraging people to help and to be the change. We have also created a presentation to give to the junior classes to educate them on climate change. We hope to have educated our school population on their actions affect the environment and on what they can do to help.

Aaliyah Ekwubylem, Abby Ryan, Ava Gordon, Ava Nangha & Mary Jane O'Connor O'Leary.

**Bee Brilliant, Boost Biodiversity!**

**Patrician Academy, Cork. 2022-180. Senior.**



**Goal:** The main goal of our project is to raise awareness about biodiversity, what it is and why it is important. By raising awareness of the topic of biodiversity we might make an impact by encouraging others to exercise more environmentally-friendly actions more often.

**Actions:** We think that biodiversity is paramount to most aspects of our lives. From food, shelter and medicine, to pollination, seed dispersal and climate regulation. Biodiversity is invaluable for wildlife as well as humans, so we planned to find out more about biodiversity in this project through online research, speaking to experts in the field and by taking a trip to the world class eco-village in Cloughjordan, Tipperary. We then used the knowledge we obtained to create a garden in our school grounds to raise awareness, and organised a dedicated "biodiversity week" involving different speakers and activities such as quizzes and competitions to again raise awareness and promote biodiversity in the local area of Mallow.

Dylan Matthews, Rian O'Reilly, Oisín Noonan, Eoin O'Mahony, James Good, Ben Cremin, Conan O'Sullivan, Regan Kuoovi, Danny Hickey, Ed Mohoroe, Sobin Bovichan, Adam Lillis, Chrispin Benard, Jack O'Hanlon, Ronan Lankford, Jake O'Connell.

**Impact:** The project has far-reaching impacts on the school community and locality. Our direct action of constructing a biodiverse garden has not only created a space exemplifying biodiversity but has allowed for an enduring presence of this project for many generations to come. The presence of this garden will institute a broader change to our school community's attitude towards biodiversity. No longer will biodiversity be a simple chapter in a textbook, but indeed a feature of school life. Extending our impact outside of the school community, our numerous publications to the general public will promulgate our cause and agitate for broader change.

**A place to nest**

**Rockbrook Park School, Dublin. 2022-248. Junior.**



First of all, our goal was to give birds a home to live as wild habitats are on the decline. We also wanted to raise environmental awareness so that people are aware of actions they can take to help slow biodiversity loss.

To achieve our goals we made 13 bird boxes for birds who have no homes and we also made lots of posters using digital art and by hand. The posters allowed us to spread the word not only to people in our school but children from other schools as well.

Noah, Kevin, Evan, Darragh, Marcel, Luke, Codie, Alan Alex Foley, Alex Frazer, Alex Barber, Sean Flynn, Sean Elmore, Michal, Adrian, Luis, George, Oisín, Jamie.

The impact we left after this project are: the birds have homes now, we've taken part in environmental awareness in our own way and finally, our class has now learnt how to build bird boxes safely, using recycled materials.



Aaron Walsh, Tom Duffin, Sean Quigley, Calum Tighe, Eoghan Nolan, Tyrone Okeoguale, Kachi Ukwuani, Rafferty Cros.

### Building for Biodiversity

**Rockbrook Park School, Dublin. 2022-201. Senior.**

We TY students are building a wildlife pond to develop biodiversity and wildlife in our school as this helps the local environment and vast eco system we have on our grounds.

We have raised awareness about biodiversity in the school by opening our wildlife room that the other TY group had worked on prior. Other things such as art projects have gone towards this as well. We collected rocks for the outside of the pond, cleared compost, dug the pond itself and added the necessary things such as pond liner. Other classes were also involved so it was a good team effort.

Our prospected impact would be more wildlife being attracted in and around the pond developing its own ecosystem. It helped us work on things like communication and even in some cases leadership.



Maria Plesa, Andreea Ghita, Philipa McGlynn, Lila Harrison, Juliette Carroll-Breen, Anna Sandel, Fionn McGlynn, Lucy Clarke.

### Buggingham Palace

**Wesley College, Dublin. 2022-190. Junior.**

Our project is aimed at providing animals a safe environment to live, in an effort to conserve biodiversity around our campus. For this project, we have chosen the 15th Sustainable Development Goal - Life on Land. We have begun building bug habitats everywhere, beside these bug palaces, we are planting native plant species to increase pollination. Our bug palaces are made using environmentally friendly materials such as; old rocks recycled from previous projects in Wesley College, re-used pipes cut into sections and filled with hay, deadwood with holes drilled, bricks with small holes to create space for solitary bees, old rotten sticks, and natural sheep wool. We are raising awareness for issues surrounding biodiversity with speakers and themed assemblies, posters, surveys, and social media posts on the College Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts. We are also organised a treasure hunt quiz for the preps and first years around the farm and grounds in an effort for the students to learn and understand more about what it is we are doing. This is a very exciting project we have undertaken and we are having a lot of fun while also doing a lot of good for the biodiversity of our urban school campus and surrounding grounds.



Cillian Mernagh, Jake Kelly, David Kavanagh, Josh Canning.

### BUG BUDS

**Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Dublin. 2022-167. Senior.**

Our YEA 2021 project is aimed towards protecting the environment and saving the eco systems. Global warming is destroying many ecosystems across the globe and we noticed this and wanted to do something about it. We aim to build a miniature ecosystem that will include mini bug hotels. We noticed that many Irish species that are endangered are on their way to become extinct. 45 species in Ireland are considered threatened. Examples of these species are, different types of butterflies, water beetles, dragonflies, damselflies and molluscs. Our project is part of Biodiversity in the Environmental Aspects. We aim to make a mini ecosystem to help endangered species to have a safe habitat to live and reproduce.



Daniel Halpin, Jamie Hickey, Seamus McAvinue.

### Castle Cafe

**Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Dublin. 2022-170. Senior.**

Are Y.E.A project is the Castle Cafe, the Castle Cafe is about Turning a dark grey area in a school into a bright colorful area for teachers and students to enjoy and relax on their lunch break. We wanted to make the Castle Cafe because after having a survey from students from 4th to 6th year most students said they would like somewhere in the school grounds where they could come and eat lunch and not be standing out in the local area or sitting around the local shop. We think the Castle Cafe could be a great addition to are school as it can be used not only as a eating area but a place to catch a breathe from the everyday school life . It could also be used for outdoor lessons during the summer periods instead of sitting in a warm classroom.



Jake Doyle, Freddie Hynes, Ben Rossiter, Sean Rochford, Jamie Gannon.

### The Nature room

**Meanscoil Iognaid Ris, Dublin. 2022-163. Senior.**

The goals We hoped to get a message across to people to look out for smaller birds and feed them when they can and to care for them as much as they can and maybe even we could encourage them to make birdhouses or really anything to help out little birds in terms of goals in our school we hoped to increase biodiversity for birds in our school so we could see and hear a lot more of them

Actions We have so far made 2 birdhouses and made a start on another, we have also so far covered the 150 trees in soil so they can develop and mature for when we properly plant them in a few weeks' time we made videos, slideshows, took pictures, made posters and a lot of plans about how and where we will be doing the project. We also presented our project on slideshows to people along with making Tik Tok's with thousands of views, Instagram posts and a Twitter.



Radia O'Gorman, Katie Power, Kasie Murtagh.

### Composting Climate Action

**St. Michael's Holy Faith, Finglas. 2022-052. Senior.**

Our goal for this project is to learn, and then eventually teach, a sustainable way of making compost. By teaching people how to create compost from scratch, we could potentially reduce the carbon emissions in Ireland that traditional compost creates.

We taught our horticulture class about this action project, and the steps you need to take to make your own compost. We inspired our class to go home and create their own compost at home.

I think this project has a good impact on our community as it has taught us all that we could make compost at home and that it could take time but the effect it has can last a long time. It made us get blisters on our hands and was very stressful to do all the typing. We did a good thing by making our own compost but then spent ages on a computer wasting electricity.



Ellen Farrell and Seán Byrne

### ReWildiNG (Replenish Wildflowers' Native Growth)

**Skerries Community College, Dublin. 2022-197. Junior.**



We want to help protect native wildflowers and the wildlife that depends on them. We aim to encourage others to let native wildflowers grow through reduced mowing and raise awareness about the biodiversity crisis. We also want the Noxious Weeds Act 1936 changed, as it currently does not permit some native wildflowers (common ragwort, field thistle, spear thistle, broad-leaved dock and curled dock) on any land in Ireland, however, certain wildlife depends on them.

Seán made an Instagram account to raise awareness. We held an official launch of the native wildflower areas in our school, which TD Joe O'Brien and the editor of the local newspaper attended. We wrote an article for our local newspaper. We put up posters around our school. We made a video about letting native wildflowers grow, and also translated it into Irish. Ellen gave a persuasive speech to our class about letting native wildflowers grow. We carried out a survey in our school on wildflowers and biodiversity.

We contacted politicians about the Noxious Weeds Act. We contacted local primary schools, a local park and a music institute in our community, asking them to have a native wildflower area with reduced mowing on their land.



Angeline Duffy, Alysia Carroll, Chloe Buckley, Molly flood, Ava Donovan, Amber Byrne, Emma Byrne, Shauna Johnston, Clíodhna Murphy, Amy Ward, Emma Nolan, Jessica Fox, Mia Jervis, Ava Mc Donnell, Abbie Costello, Stevie Keating, Erin Scallan, Julia Canelias, Africa Lopez, Ava Maguire, Abby Ormsby, Amy Donoghue, Chloe Halpin, Kayleigh Kelly, Laycie McDermott, Casey Howe.

### Green footprints

**St. Mary's Holy Faith Secondary School, Killester. 2022-004. Senior.**

Follow us as we walk in the 'GREEN FOOTPRINTS' of those from Killester's past. Over 100 years ago Killester Garden Village was designed with a green walkway around the edge of the estate. Most of this is now lost except for part of the hedgerow surrounding our school. We wanted to bring this 'tired' hedgerow back to life, attract more wildlife and to preserve part of our natural heritage.

We researched a hedgerow habitat and the native planting needed to enrich its biodiversity. We sourced and planted trees, hedging, shrubs, flowers to enhance our hedgerow and our newly created wild garden. A wild pond was added to attract insects and amphibians. We created an organic garden with fruit trees, berry/currant bushes and sowed vegetables. We linked with the local Killester Community Garden project to extend the hedgerow corridor to an adjoining part of the original greenway.

We have a new understanding of the importance of biodiverse habitats and the positive or negative impact we can have on them. We believe strongly in the importance of native planting to the area and now realize the importance of hedgerows which are sadly increasingly disappearing in Ireland. We want to spread our message.



Max O'Connell, Sean Flanagan, Aaron Looney, Cian Ryan, Edgaras Girdzius, Miguel Esteban, Darragh Flanagan, Eoin Morris, Luis Blazquez Ortiz.

### Tree Amigos

**St. Jarlath's College, Galway. 2022-129. Senior.**

Throughout our project our main goal was to increase biodiversity in our community. A group from last year's ty students focused on the same area and we wanted to build on their project to improve our local environment. To do this we planted 50 trees on our schools' walks with the help of green belt who supplied us with the trees. We also raised awareness for the problem by giving a presentation to first years on the topic of biodiversity and making online articles and a social media account to spread awareness on our project. We hope people will follow in our footsteps and help improve the biodiversity in our area.



Ava O'Mahony, Juliet Cooper, Sarah Pigott.

### The Beauty and the Butterfly

**St. Brigid's Secondary School, Kerry. 2022-034. Senior.**

Our project, The Beauty and the Butterfly, is about trying to slow and help stop the rapid decline of the butterfly population. It is up to us to save these key pollinators! Butterflies are important in our ecosystem as areas filled with butterflies benefit with pollination and natural pest control. Butterflies are also an important part of the food chain, providing food for birds, bats and other animals. Our goals are to teach, inform and raise awareness in our school community about the importance of butterflies and how we can protect them. The actions we completed to fulfil our goals, were setting up an Instagram to teach the wider community about Butterflies. Furthermore, we presented a PowerPoint to 1st years in our school and made a notice board in our canteen so that school staff and all students can learn about butterflies while passing by. The 1st years also got to raise their own butterflies in their classroom, in a habitat that we provided. Our project had a huge impact on both us and our school community as we are currently planning to build a butterfly garden on the school grounds and each year, members of the Green-Schools class will look after it, using all the information and facts they have learned from us!



Mary Cussen, Mary Birch.

### Irish Wild Life Club

**Colaiste Mhuire Post Primary School, Johnstown. 2022-225. Junior.**



Wildlife club is more than just a group of people who gather on a Thursday afternoon to chat about animals. It is a place where the students of Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown, meet to socialise with their classmates and to gain an understanding of the importance of the of the wildlife around us.

Each week I host this club where many first years attend. I begin by presenting a PowerPoint on one of Irelands amazing animals. The PowerPoint usually explains how to identify the animal, its diet, breeding, habitat, threats, and conservation status. It also includes a few fun facts. Afterwards the students ask me questions on the presented animal. They always engage fully. Finally, before it's over I ask them to choose an animal for me to present the following week.

The aim of this project is to educate students on the indigenous animals around them. This club teaches students to appreciate and respect our native wildlife.



Lucas Calvey, Cillian McCarrick, David Rethorn.

### Dark Sky matters

**Nature Inspires, Sligo. 2022-156. Senior.**

Our team decided to take on the task of spreading awareness on the ever-growing problem of light pollution, and its effects on the environment.

We noticed that light pollution was not getting the attention it deserved and was being shadowed by more serious topics such as climate change and over population, even though it drastically affects the biodiversity of our area.

We wanted to spread awareness on the subject and show people that they can make small changes 'with the flick of a switch' that will have substantial benefits to our local environment. An introduction to stargazing hike was organised by us and we were accompanied by two prominent members of Mayo dark sky, Georgia Mac Millan and Ged Dowling. They led our group of 12 up the Ox Mountains pointing out stars, constellations and clusters of stars telling us many facts. On the top we could see down into the valley and were witnessing some light pollution of the settlements below.

The hike left a great impact on us and we put the word out through social media and a mentioning in our local paper. We also prepared a powerful letter to our county Councilors. There might be enough interest in our area to create a dark sky community in South Sligo to raise awareness about this topic.



Annie Buick, Roisin Eglinton, Lynn Barlow, Jane Bradley, Brooke Byrne, Katie Cox, Maeve Donlon, Alanna Dunleavy, Ella Gallagher, Briona Gawley, Aine Harte, Tara Kerins, Michaela McDonagh, Alisha McGarry, Grace McMorrow, Zara Naqvi, Ailbhe O'Rourke, Anna Rainey, Aimee Smyth, Lauren Somers.

### Mercy Goes Wild

**Mercy College, Sligo. 2022-094. Senior.**

Everyone needs to be more sustainable. As a school, we value the importance of this. By growing our own vegetables and produce we are able to cut down on waste, packaging and food miles associated with food. We identified with the SDG card 15 'Life on Land' and believe that relying on our natural resources (our land) we can all move a step closer to embracing a sustainable way of life.

As we live in the North West of Ireland, water is an integral part of our way of life. We focused on SDG cards 6 'Clean Water and Sanitation' and 14 'Life Below Water'. We identified areas in which these needed to be improved upon.



Tiffany, Anna, Ellen, Kevin, John, Dale, Aaron, Mark, Danny, Ryan, Sean, Grace, Kloe, Chloe, Jason.

## Biodiversity

### Dungarvan Youthreach, Waterford. 2022-003. Senior.



Create a bio-diversity garden and inspire others to follow suit. To have an impact on the survival of bees. To influence young people and encourage them to join in.

Here in Dungarvan Youthreach we are on a mission to promote biodiversity in our area and to save the bees. Our school is situated in the sunny south east, looking over Dungarvan bay. We decided to build a Healing Garden where people where people can take a moment to reflect on life which is massively important, especially in these difficult times. We have all lost loved ones over the years and we want this garden to be a spot in the community where people can connect with nature, heal and grow. Our Healing Garden will come to life in the spring when the tulips and daffodils pop up. The large area of native wild flowers in the middle came from native seeds that we handpicked in late September 2021. There is a scented path that leads you through the garden, lined with lavender that will flourish all summer long. The area around our school is grass enjoyed by the migrating Brent Geese.

Educate people of all ages on the importance of bees in our lives. Colouring competition to all local primary schools with buzzing bee facts and tips to help save the bees. Write ups in paper to encourage others to join in our urban wildflower garden trend. Set up a Facebook and Instagram page to help spread the word.

We worked closely with Waterford County Council to reuse and recycle materials in our garden like mulch from old shredded trees. Dungarvan Tidy Towns sponsored us most of our plants and we received lots of awareness online with over 3,400 views, likes and shares. We met with a local horticulturist called Magda who advised us on hardy plants we would need for our seaside, healing garden. We posted a spread in our local papers who have a combined weekly sale of 12,000 prints with readership four times this: possibly 40,000+ views. We run a Facebook page in Youthreach with weekly updates and these posts have reached over 12,000 people. We used old felled trees as our benches and bug hotels to encourage biodiversity. We included some choice Irish words in our garden to provoke thought in our visitors, there words are: Grá/Love, Sonas/Happiness, Pobal/Community, Suaimhneas/peace.

Our goals are to give the community a garden to reflect in through every walk of life.

The entire experience was amazing!! Not only did we achieve what we set out to do we also had so much fun along the way. Designing and creating this garden was a wonderful experience, we enjoyed getting our hands dirty and creating something together. We worked really well as a team and got to know each other's strengths. The project has a high visual impact where we built it. To the left-hand side there is a graveyard and we made sure to keep our planting low and our garden respectful. The plan we came up with has no chemicals, all native species and is low maintenance.

We started off a year ago not knowing the first thing about gardening. A simple idea snowballed into a beautiful garden that makes people smile on the darkest of days. Our colouring competition was a massive hit with hundreds of entries from children all over Waterford. We got sponsored by our local Tidy Towns and plan on giving a huge gardening pack to the winning school so they can also create a bee friendly area in their school. We will also post out native wild flower seeds to all the schools that took the time to enter, we really appreciate it.

## Bug Borrows

### Loreto Secondary School, Bray. 2022-035. Senior.



Roisin Mulligan, Jasmine Galligan, Molly Byrne, Tori Lee O'Toole, Amy Harding, Emily Moran.

Bug Borrows is a team working towards improving the biodiversity in our school, Loreto Bray. We are a group of hardworking students who decided to start improving our environment by just stepping outside the classroom.

We decided that we wanted to help biodiversity in our school because we saw a serious need for improvement in the local area and thought where better a place to start than in our own school. We did this by raising awareness of the issues and how we planned to fix them, making a realistic timeline for all the things we felt needed to be done and prioritised and executed them carefully as a group. We did many things to help but our main actions were planting trees and building a bug hotel for our school.

We participated in planting over 500 trees on our school campus and we cannot wait for in the years to come to see how these grow and develop life.

We built and installed a bug hotel near the trees to increase the potential for biodiversity outside our school. We planted flowers around it for decoration and for the bees when the spring and summer months come around.

Our project and involvement with other community projects will have a much larger impact then we had ever expected when we started. The trees we helped plant will grow and live for the next 50-100 years and our bug hotel will be a good place for students in the future to go and learn about insects and the incredible life living in the future.

We loved working together on this project and are so grateful for this opportunity we were given and can't wait to continue our work.

## 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.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



TYD class.

### Swap and shop

**St. Mary's secondary school, Mallow. 2022-063. Senior.**

Eighty five percent of our clothes end up in landfill or burned each year. In Ireland alone, we send 63,000 tonnes of textiles to landfills each year. The fast fashion industry is responsible for high carbon emissions, water pollution and large amounts of landfill waste. We decided that it is finally time to end this constant cycle of exploitation and live in a more sustainable way. Our goal has been to discourage students from participating in fast fashion and encourage people within our community to live and dress themselves in a more continuous and environmentally friendly way. Through this project we wanted to unpopulise the fast fashion industry and encourage recycling clothes. Our project involved a survey to estimate the interest in our campaign. We received a lot of support from the students of St Mary's who contributed to this project greatly. Girls of various age groups of our school donated clothes and received tickets which gave them the choice to exchange them for different clothes. This results in clothes being reused and recycled instead of thrown into landfill. This decreases the need for new clothes.



Margaret Scanlon, Aimee McWeeney.

### An Investigation into 'Why Feeding Seaweed to Friesian Cows in Order to Reduce Methane Emissions may not be Implemented by Irish farmers'

**Coláiste an Toirbhirte, Cork. 2022-236. Senior.**

Research has shown that feeding seaweed to cows can reduce their methane emissions by up to 82%. Yet, Irish farmers are reluctant to implement this practice into their farming methods. This investigation will review and analyse the logistics of switching to seaweed as a source of animal feed. We will investigate the practicality and cost of implementing this method by researching where seaweed could be sourced from and also the environmental impact production would have. Like many Irish people, we have all come from farming backgrounds and we are extremely interested in the agricultural industry. Irish farmers during the past decade have had to cope with increases in E.U directives and restrictions. Agriculture is highly exposed to climate change, as farming activities directly depend on climatic conditions. Feeding seaweed to cows is a viable long-term solution. This project is important to us, as we sense the frustration felt by the farmers in our locality. They are trying to comply with E.U regulations in response to the damage that has already been done by climate change. This new method of adding seaweed to cows' diets, if undertaken by farmers, could result in a significant reduction in methane emissions and protect our planet for being further harmed.



Anouk Noir, Grace Walsh-Dowd.

### Sequestering Carbon

**Sandford Park School, Cork. 2022-074. Junior.**

For our project we needed to figure out the number of trees needed to counteract the school's carbon footprint. The first goal was to fully outline our project so that it would be easy to pitch to our school's deputy head. Then, our goal was to persuade him to agree to our project and, to have access to all of the necessary data. Furthermore, we arranged gatherings with the school's bus driver and groundsman. Our next goal was to make sense of this data. We turned the data we found into yearly information for the purpose of writing our sustainability report. Writing our sustainability report was one of our biggest goals. Our final goal was to evaluate out how much money the tree would cost the school, and to find a way to acquire this money. We were successful in acquiring our information. We used a website that provided us with help when calculating our carbon footprint. Once found the school's carbon footprint, we then began to consider which types of trees, as well as their price. We have not completed this portion of our project, because it will take plenty of meetings with staff members. Although, our plan is in motion, and by the summer of 2023, we will have planted the trees. Our world is crumbling, piece by piece, with this project, we can make a difference.



Shoab Ahmed, Conor O'Brien, Jonathan Newman, Cillian Ferry, Cian Farragher, Aaron Lawless, Paddy Keane, Gabriel Sebastien Jangcan, Michéal Burke.

### Get Outta That Car!!

**St. Jarlath's College, Galway. 2022-131. Senior.**

This year, our school is on its 4th Green Flag for Travel. We decided for our project to help our Green Schools goals by trying to reduce traffic within our town and to reduce carbon emissions at the same time. We also hope to promote better and more sustainable methods of travel, especially to school, such as walking or cycling. We conducted a large-scale survey in our school and a Walkability Study to ensure areas are pedestrian-friendly, such as crossing lanes and footpaths. In our local community, we have been able to significantly reduce traffic by getting into contact with the other secondary schools and promoting our campaigns to their students. The impact this project had on us was significantly large as we are more aware of we can do and we could be doing better. We also had an awareness week competition to encourage students to walk or cycle to school.



### Plastic Free School Initiative

**Tullamore College, Offaly. 2022-231. Senior.**

Our project is called 'Making TC single-use plastic free'. It aims to reduce the amount single-use plastic consumption and waste in our school community. We got this idea when we noticed the amount of single-use plastic in our waste after a bin survey. In order to achieve this, we decided to tackle the most common types of waste we found in our bins, disposable face masks, plastic cutlery and fizzy drink bottles. In order to reduce our waste disposal, we liaised with school management to implement biodegradable cutlery in our canteen. We raised awareness through presentations and peer education to highlight the negative environmental impacts of disposable face masks and water bottles. We encouraged students to use reusable face coverings through workshops and make the most of our newly installed water fountains. Through our efforts, the school community has begun to make more environmentally friendly and sustainable choices in the products we use, and how we dispose of them!

Adina Lavin, Anna Wyer, Cameron Baniassadi, Colin McEvoy, Eimear Evans, Elodie Le Bourhis, Emma Dunne, Eric Grime, Finn Shiels, Joan Tynan, Joshua Dalton Foy, Kacper Muttkke, Millie Daly, Molly Doyle, Oisín Delaney, Rachel Swords, Rebecca Mulpeter, Robyn Joyce, Róisín McMahon, Sarah Byrne, Shauna Rigney, Siobhan Drumm, Siún O'Brien, Xavier Kossowski.



### Cooling the Callan

**St. Catherine's College, Armagh (NI). 2022-002 Senior.**



In the past, the land beside rivers and streams in Ireland used to have more woodland but this has changed over the years. Shading from these trees help reduce water temperatures and with the threat of climate change and rising water temperatures, this shading is needed more than ever. Unfortunately, trees have been removed along the Callan and we felt this was a major issue. We think it is so important to find ways of keeping rivers cool to slow down the effects of climate change. Our aim is to plant trees with meaning! Using trees to create shade for The Callan River and provide a good start to keeping rivers cool.

Niamh Cullen, Rebecca Rafferty, Clíodhna McKeever, Aoife McGrady, Ava Powell, Aideen Daly, Clodagh Gallagher, Meabh O'Neill, Scarlett Hughes, Olivia Brady, Holly Horner, Gia Sebi, Erin Stevens, Catherine Nugent, Aalia Donnelly, Blaithin Mohan, Catherine Gallagher, Sarah Smith, Niamh Jordan, Erin McGuigan, Medb McCone, Lauren Mackle.

Our main action was tree planting. We organised a delivery of native saplings from the Woodland Trust and also had trees donated from Eco Club member Catherine. We then made sure we selected an appropriate area to plant the saplings. Close enough to the banks of the Callan but also making sure any planting is sustainable so trees will be protected in the years to come.

To raise awareness, we created our own project logo. Inspired by our own school motto "Cor Unum" (One Heart), this logo was created by Rebecca and incorporates the Callan River, Callan Bridge, trees and the Heart. This logo was used in all our correspondence for our project. We also delivered an assembly to all year groups in our school and created a newsletter to be sent home to all parents on the school app. We also contacted one of our local politicians, Mr Justin McNulty (SDLP) who agreed to attend the tree planting and to raise further awareness of our project at Government Buildings, Stormont. Lastly, we contacted local press so our project could reach a wider audience and have a greater impact in the local area.



### MCS Act for Climate Change

**Moate Community School, Westmeath. 2022-158. Senior.**

Our project involves taking actions for biodiversity and climate change in our school and local community. These actions include improving biodiversity by planting bee friendly plants in our school and amenity park, establishing insect/bug hotels in our locality. We plan to create awareness of how our actions to improve biodiversity can improve our environment and have a positive effect on Climate Change. We want to create and maintain habitats in our community which support and increase numbers of pollinating insects such as butterflies, bees, moths and birds. We will continue to maintain the Sensory Garden in Dún na Sí Amenity Park growing native plants which will offer food for pollinators and add colour and life in our locality. We want to offer a bug motel and refurbish a currently wasted area of the school, making it attractive so it will grab people's attention and hopefully make them a start to think about biodiversity and possibly inspire them.

Darragh Nally, Conor Duffy, Hannah Doolan, Eliza Jane Sheerin, Joan Belmonte, Flynn Rooke, Matthew Hamm, Eoin Murphy, Sarah Treacy, Mark Scally, Rachel Higgins, Cormac Bradley, Conor Fox, James Hughes, Aaron Murphy, Seán Donnelly, Shaun Kerrigan, Paula Meseguer, Sofia Segui, John Peredo, James O'Brien, Lee Turley, David Loddick, Amanda Collins, Aisling Murphy, James Hughes, Riain Caulwell, Conor Moran.



### Radon - The silent but dangerous gas

**FCJ Secondary School, Bunclody. 2022-200. Senior.**

Radon is a dangerous gas found in many homes in Ireland. It causes approximately 300 cases of lung cancer a year, however from our research 32% of our town and 70% of our school did not know what it was. We are working to change this. To do that we made a website, put up posters, used parish newsletters, made school announcements and more. We taught members of our community all about radon and the affect it can have on your health, and we encouraged many homes and businesses to test for radon using radon monitors from our local library. Our motto is 'We must become the change we wish to see in the world'. We work hard to embody this motto.

Isabel Whitty, Elaine Breen, Joe Browne, Abbie Rossiter O'Brien, Sara Williamson, Niamh Donohoe, Caitlin Doyle, Zara Kennedy, Niamh Murphy, Alison Kennedy Murphy, Mairead Mahon, Clodagh Byrne, Jill Reed, Emma Murphy, Niamh Healy, Cait Nolan, Grace Lowry.



Ciara Kelly and Lauren Raftery.

### Is Seaweed a Silent Superhero in the Battle against Climate Change?



**St. Mary's College, Arklow. 2022-222. Senior.**

Our project investigated compensating national carbon emissions by aquaculture bioremediation. "Imagine we could take as much CO2 out of the atmosphere as Ireland produces".

We are two 16-year-old girls from a fishing town on the East Coast of Ireland who both come from fishing families with four generations of marine involvement. Our project aims to highlight 3 principal areas: How to possibly decrease carbon emissions, improve the lack of marine biodiversity and the local issue of the loss of our fishing economy.

To reduce carbon on an ecological front, you'd expect planting more trees would be the best solution but, did you know seaweed can absorb 5 times more carbon than your average tree!

Currently, seaweed sequesters over 200 million tonnes of CO2 every year globally- as much as New York State's annual emissions! Imagine what we could do if we appointed more ocean space to seaweed farming.

Through creating an underwater 3-D garden, an in-lab experiment to observe seaweed's ability to absorb carbon, many interviews with people from all different aquaculture backgrounds and a local survey, we want to spread awareness about how effective seaweed farming is and how big a role it could play in reducing the effects of climate change on society and the planet.

## 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



Róisín Manning, Thomas Coughlan, Millie Griffin Lynch.

### Sea of Change

**St. Peter's Passage West, Cork. 2022-257. Junior.**

Our aim is to raise awareness of the effects littering has on Marine Life. We want people to think twice about littering especially in coastal areas.

We have collected litter from our classmates and staff in our school to create a Whale's tail sculpture. We also have picked litter from our local area. We want it to symbolise how waste and marine life are connected. Our art piece has QR codes where people who see our piece can scan and access information about marine life and litter.

Visually, the piece draws attention to the link between littering and damage to Marine life. By scanning the QR codes, people are then informed about effects littering has on marine life. Powerful images are shown of Whales that have died due to plastic ingestion.



Eve Cave, Sarah Shannon, Ella Murphy, Aoife O Sullivan.

### Resculpting The World

**Bandon Grammar School, Cork. 2022-142. Senior.**

Our project examines the issue of waste and pollution in our world. We aimed to educate those in our school and town about the environmental impacts what and how we consume has on our world. We made posters and info graphs that really showed the stark figures and facts of the waste epidemic. We put these posters up in our school and around our local town of Bandon. As well as this we showed the Form 1 students' part 4 of the Netflix documentary 'Broken', The Recycling Sham. After having watched it, we gave them a survey to see how much they had learned. The results were very interesting and over half of them said they had learnt a lot. In doing this project, we all learnt so much about the impact our waste has on the rest of the world. We were horrified to learn how the recycling industry really works and we all felt it was really important to share this with others. We are in the process of making a sculpture of the globe out of recycled materials that will be displayed in our school to raise awareness of plastic pollution.

We hope that our project has taught those in our school and town more about the issue of waste and inspired others to think twice about what they are recycling!



*Full Circle Fashion*

Ashling Webb, Grace Plunkett, Marta Llompарт, Molly Riese Collins.

### Full Circle Fashion

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-044. Senior.**

Our project is called Full Circle Fashion and was created by four Transition Year students, Ashling, Grace, Marta, and Molly, who all are passionate about the environment. We feel the name we chose encompasses our idea, which is the sustainable life cycle of clothing specifically through recycling or buying second hand. Our project's aim is to educate people on the massive impact the fast fashion industry has on our environment. The fast fashion industry is a rapidly growing industry and is known for its mass production of clothes in a way that exploits people and our environment during the process. We took action to fight this issue by setting up a swap shop in our school, inviting a guest speaker to speak in our school, giving our own fast fashion talk to first years, informing people though the use of an Instagram page, and more! Our aim is to make people switch to more sustainable options while clothes shopping such as buying second hand, donating old clothes, not buying things you will only wear once, being consumer conscious and doing research on the brands you are buying from. We created awareness through a number of ways, the most important of them being a swap shop which we set up in our school for 120 first year students.



Jasmine Howard, Aoibhinn Claffey, Chloe Cullinan, Ava Downing.

### Washed Ashore

**St. Brigid's Secondary School, Kerry. 2022-021. Senior.**

Our project is a mural of a whale in the ocean with litter as the rest of its body, it represents our oceans and how pollution is a big problem still even after all the warnings we were given. It shows how it affects our oceans and seas by killing wildlife in the waters, and makes it uninhabitable for fish. Our project goal is to spread awareness of marine pollution to make people think twice when they litter.

We took action by putting up a large, eye-catching mural in our school. There are marine pollution facts around the mural, as a way to make people realize how pollution affects our oceans and seas. Our mural is very simple, so it's easy to understand what it's about. Also, during tutor time in our school, a powerpoint we made got played to every class in the school, it had many facts about marine pollution as well as a video to raise awareness about the problems marine pollution causes.

Our project had a big impact in our school, because every single person in the school has been able to look at our project as well as our powerpoint. People were able to learn more about marine pollution in a short and quick amount of time by our powerpoint and our mural.



Eabha Rudden, Saoirse O'Brien, Eimear O'Sullivan, Helen O'Connor, Sarah Piggott, Grace Smith, Anna Moynihan, Lucy Spellman, Laura O'Shea, Aishah Litu, Abbie Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Rachel Wallace, Molly O'Donoghue, Ava O'Mahony, Lauren O'Mahony, Abbie Catherine O'Sullivan, Jane Sexton.

### Save the Bees

**St. Bridget's Presentation Secondary School, Kerry. 2022-016. Senior.**



Our project concerns the decline in the bee population and the effects that can have on our environment. Our school is located across the road from Killarney national park and that is where we got inspiration for our project. Killarney is known for its picturesque beauty and idyllic landscape but none of this would be possible without our pollinator friends the bees.

Our project aimed to investigate this global issue and the impacts that it can have on our local area. We also wanted to raise awareness of the seriousness of this issue within our school community while also developing art skills as a group and working collaboratively. The actions we took were very much art based. These included a poster campaign and the creation of a collaborative artwork for permanent display in our school. The posters were visual and informative and helped the students and staff members alike to gain a greater understanding of this issue. Our final group artwork was colourful and grabbed the views attention. The piece illustrates why the bees are important and depicts ways in which we can help them. This artwork acts as a daily reminder that we need to protect the bees.



Eoghan O'Callaghan, Anna Campbell, Ben McCormack, Mahzala Shah, Leah Fitzpatrick.

### Tunami

**Confey Community College, Kildare. 2022-146. Senior.**

We decided to create a mural using plastic bottle caps that we gathered from student and staff at our school. Our goal was to raise awareness towards the pollution of the earth's oceans mainly from plastic. We hope that when students see the mural they will be reminded of how plastic pollution affects the world around us. We chose to focus on fish for the design of the mural since our school crest heavily features the animal and we felt that raising awareness for water pollution is massively important in recent years.

We collected our materials from our classmates and teachers to make sure that everyone was involved. We arranged bins in the Canteen and in the staff room to collect the bottle caps. We also held a competition between our first years to see which class could provide the most bottle caps to get them in the spirit. We spoke on the announcements daily and also designed posters to go around the school.

Seeing how many recycled bottle caps were actually needed to create this project was a surprise because it showed how much plastic waste our school products. We hoped by creating this project people would become more aware of the amount of single plastic that they use.



Aoibheann Matthews, Tyra McGivney, Aoife Pottinger, Ava Gerard.

### Shorely Jewellery

**Eureka Secondary School, Meath. 2022-008. Senior.**

For our project, we created our business, Shorely Jewellery. We used jewellery hardware and recycled materials such as plastic bottles, sea glass and metal bottle caps to tackle the issue of waste on Irish beaches and in Irish waters. For our project, we went to the beach and collected sea shells, sea glass, plastic bottles and any other materials we could find. We created an Instagram page and told our classmates and year group about our project. I think our project really showed people a new way of how to repurpose waste and turn it into something creative while tackling the issue of litter. For us, it really challenged us to use our creative skills in a sustainable way and even brought out some of our entrepreneurial skills.



Rosemary Murphy, Amber Smith, Eimear Cremin.

### Bio Bling

**Eureka Secondary School, Meath. 2022-213. Senior.**

For our project, Bio Bling, we are making eco-friendly jewellery out of shells and other sustainable materials we have at home. This idea came about as we all enjoy wearing jewellery and we wanted to come up with a way we can wear sustainable eco-friendly jewellery that will not harm the environment. By making jewellery such as bracelets, necklaces, rings, brooches and more out of home materials and shells which are all eco-friendly, we are reducing the amount of waste that goes into the environment and we are helping our planet become slightly more sustainable. We hope that our project raises awareness for others to be more mindful of the products they are buying. Our jewellery range includes rings, bracelets, necklace, brooches, hair clips and cufflinks. We have made products for both men and women as we wanted to promote sustainability to people of every age and gender in our community and the greater community.



Orlaith Ferry, Sarah Moore, Ella O'Connor, Fadekemi Kehinde Owoade, Aoife Rooney, Amy Spratt, Laura McNally.

### The "Cycle" of Life

**Ashbourne Community School, Meath. 2022-238. Senior.**

We are a team of seven TY girls who have been working hard on empowering teenage girls to reclaim their bikes and rediscover the joy of cycling. Throughout Ireland only one out of every 250 teenage girls' cycle to school, despite all the progress with cycle paths in our towns. Here in ACS, we are no different. This team are determined to reverse this trend and early indicators show a marked success rate.

We began our journey by becoming #andshecycle ambassadors where we believed, we could make a positive contribution. We have taken on the issue from many angles, including, running bike maintenance courses, cycle training for road safety, acquiring helmet storage in school, giving presentations to junior classes, doing surveys, and raising awareness about the problem.

Our current focus is all about our statement piece, a "Cycle of life" sculpture. This is a tree created from old bike parts which were being thrown out by bike shops. After weeks of hard work cleaning bike parts, we got creative. We are proud of our sculpture which will be displayed in school as a reminder to never lose the freedom to cycle for fun. In the short term we will continue to promote cycling for girls by taking this sculpture on tour along with our message to all students "Be yourselves, not who you think others want you to be."



Sean Boyle, Sean Clerkin, Joshua Brandon, James O'Neill, Matthew McCaughey.

### Recycling and Restoring Our Heritage Town



**Clones Youth Club - Youth Work Ireland, Monaghan. 2022-154. Junior.**

Using recyclable materials gathered from litter picks and from our youth centre, the group created art pieces of historical sites in our local heritage town, Clones Co. Monaghan. Over a number of weeks, the group gathered up everything from plastic bottles, cardboard, glass bottles and even old shoes and a football. The materials were used to create replicas of the famous 'Round Town' and 'Celtic Cross' that both still stand proud in the centre of the town. The group not only cleaned up areas of the town but also gained a greater understanding into the history of their town and developed a sense of pride in living in the area. Along the way, they also increased their knowledge of the damage plastics and other materials have on the environment when they aren't disposed of properly.



Oisín Arthur, Liam Carroll, Kelly Conway, Aine Donegan, Bartoz Fleischer, Aodhan Forde, Aine Murray, Jenna Reape, Sandra Strozik, Joseph Gaughan, Summer Gorey, Daniel Hayes, Chloe Irwin, Barry Kilcullen, Matthew Langan, Conor McAloon, Steven Rolston, Darragh Stenson, Julia Ulichnowska.

### Can Junk buy a Tree Trunk?

**Jesus and Mary Secondary School, Sligo. 2022-148. Senior.**

Our actions involved researching the statistics of waste from these industries, learning about beneficial projects elsewhere and innovating ourselves by recycling, upcycling and re-purposing waste fabrics and materials. We produced products from recycled materials through a process of design, assessment, improvement and adaptation ie masks, bags, pictures.

We raised awareness through a well edited survey that challenged the behaviour and attitudes of all in our school community. We went into first and second year classes and explained our findings. We displayed our results on a school noticeboard, with recommendations and included information on our school newsletter. Planting a tree from our proceeds connected our project to our local community by highlighting the inspiration behind funding this action.

The impact of the project was to spark discussions on possible ways ourselves and the wider community can change our behaviour and actions to produce less waste. The use of recycled masks is a possible solution to a massive source of waste.

## 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



Aisling Ní Droma, Ruadhán De Faoite, Niamh Ní Dhuibhir, Kacie Aisling Ní Earáin, Fódhla Ní Fhearghaíle, Méabh Nic Aoidh, Ailbhe Ní Chadhla, Keelan Ansbro, Cian Ó Faoláin, Jasmine Ní Dhrócháin, Mia Komicá.

### Ár dTuras Inbhuanaithe



**Meánscoil San Nioclás, Waterford. 2022-239. Junior.**

For this project students from An Choiste OSD agus Glasach (Global Citizenship and Green Committee) at Meánscoil San Nioclás set the students of First and Second Year the challenge to research Irish companies that are practicing sustainable practices in their GCE classes. Once the research was completed students with assistance from the OSD (GCE) coordinator approached these companies by email to ask if they would be interested in being part of a Covid Friendly sustainable project (Eco-Fair) within our school community.

We got 15 companies on board that advocate for sustainability and responsible consumption and production and each company sent free products for us to trial and review. Students from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year came to our Eco Morning which we held in the Art Room. Our teacher documented the event through social media, tagging the companies that were working with us. Each of the companies that got involved sent us short videos to play for those who came to our eco-fair. We used compostable bags at the end of the fair to make goody bags for all who attended and over 100 students and some teachers took home sustainable products, sports equipment and foodstuffs to try. Students then reviewed the products, created art works and creative writing and articles for an online magazine publication in English and Irish.

Our school is a small rural DEIS school, in the Waterford Gaeltacht. 62 First and Second students contributed overall to our project alongside 4 teachers which due to Covid Regulations class groups could not work in person together, we all had to liaise online with the assistance of our OSD/ GCE Teacher.

The goal of the project was to create a magazine highlighting sustainable practices and awareness of responsible consumption and production. Some of the companies were looking at approaches in Solidarity with Global South - We then worked on an online platform Madmagz and created a magazine to create awareness of Sustainable practices, and choosing products and companies which promote good ethical standards for all workers in the supply chain.



Emily Haden and Edel Ryle.

**Fresh herbs, fresh start**

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-250. Senior.**

Our project is focused on planting herbs for our school canteen. Our goal is to make the dinners fresher, healthier and more importantly, better for the environment. How we went about this was we made the plant boxes out of old recyclable VCR tapes. We then asked the chefs in the canteen what herbs they used, and they were the following: Parsley, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage and Coriander. We thought planting herbs would be better for the environment because there would be no packaging, no transport in getting the herbs to site and no waste as canteen staff can pick what they need. There is so much food waste happening in the world, and we want to raise awareness about this. To raise awareness, we planted them with our class and taught them how to grow their own vegetables. We also made an Instagram account and made posters to put up on the school notice board. We hope our project will continue to make an impact on the school, our community and the environment. It also impacted Emily and I as we have become more aware of food waste and eating healthier and now, we choose foods that are produced locally.



**Bee's for the St Brendan's College**

**St. Brendan's College, Kerry. 2022-206. Junior.**

We are the UNESCOs "Bee's for St Brendan's" Environmentalist Project Team. We are focused on promoting Bee Awareness, and sustaining the bee population in our area. Our team are mad about bees and we hope you are too! The bee population across Ireland is declining year on year. Over half of Ireland's bee species have declined substantially since 1980. 30% of the Irish bee species are threatened with extinction and six species are critically endangered. This is a huge problem for us humans as we need bees for not just honey, but for all the foods we eat. They are pollinators, who transfer pollen from flower to flower which fertilises the plant and helps it grow. Think of all the lovely fruit and veg we rely on them for. We as a group have raised awareness in our own school by teaching younger classes about how important pollinators are and the role they play in our lives. We also constructed beehives from recycled pallets to harbour bees in the Spring and Summer months on our school campus. A subset of our team created wild flower bombs which were sold at our Christmas market.

Cathal Coffey, Daniel Coffey, Luke Costello, Connie Coughlan, Brian Doody, Jimmy Patrick Kelleher, Mikolaj Kumor, Michael Lynch, Fintan Martin, Ryan McCarthy, Daire O'Brien, Aaron O'Connor, Cillian O'Connor, Caden O'Donoghue, John O'Grady, Shay O'Meara, Luke O'Neill, Conor O'Shea, Dara O'Shea, Keelan O'Shea, TJ O'Sullivan, Oliwier Pilch, Nattagun Ryan, Kacper Slowkiewicz, Emmet Spillane, Cormac Walsh, Stephen Wickham.

**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.



**A Sustainable Life with my Canine Friend**

**Davis College, Cork. 2022-138. Junior.**



We are a group of first and second years that came together to promote a more environmentally friendly world for us and our dogs. We entered under the title Health and Well-being to help create a healthier more sustainable life for man's best friend.

Purity Ajayi, Oluwafemi Akinlade Samson, Julia Chojnacka, Benedict Cooke, Emma Cronin, Cindy Facos Ogbemudia, Caraiosa Foley, Kinga Kalman, Lily O'Connell, Aoibhinn O'Donoghue Cronin, Eseosa Osagborue Osayawe, Rous Rajzova, Hollie Willis, Aine O'Rourke.

We choose the topic due to the huge increase of dogs being rehomed after lockdown and of course, because of our love for dogs.

We tested eco-friendly dog shampoos. Our dogs tried natural dog treats and wore bandanas and snoods from small Irish businesses. We made our own calendar with advice on being a sustainable dog owner. We created our own animal welfare week in our school and supported a petition against puppy farming.

We worked with our local Tidy Towns to encourage others to pick up after their dogs. We raised awareness with articles, social media, posters, our video and challenges.

Our whole school and local community got involved with our project. We also worked with Dogs Trust Ireland, My Canine Companion, Pauline's Rescue, Eco Mutt, Coco and Juno, Zelda and Harley and Happy Tails. There are so many different aspects to our project and we are delighted to have connected with so many and to have gotten people thinking of not only leading a sustainable life for themselves, but also for their furry friend.



Samantha Barrett and Danielle Lyons.

### Greener Masks, Cleaner Climate

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-029. Senior.**

Our project is based around Covid 19, and the masks people wear. Its focus though is on how much waste, and pollution is around these masks, specifically the non-reusable masks. We have done research and found that non-reusable masks can't be recycled. We have also noticed that a lot of pupils, teachers and even we ourselves wear non-reusable masks quite often, purely because they are lighter and a lot easier to breathe in, rather than the reusable masks which for the most part are made with thicker materials.

Non-reusable masks contribute to air pollution when they are being made, are worn once, maybe twice or three times (depending on the person) and then are thrown out and turn to waste in dumps, this then can contribute to ocean pollution along with the other rubbish in the dumps, not to mention the masks that you see just flung on the ground because people are finished with them, and they can't be reused. Our aim is to find a much lighter material than the ones used for most reusable masks, so you kill two birds with one stone, in the sense that they replace the non-reusable masks so it decreases waste in dumps as they are not being thrown away because you can reuse them and as a result reduces pollution in the ocean a little bit. We presented our project and the effects of disposable masks to first years.



Maeve Byrne, Cathy Buckley, Madison Gallahue Murphy.

### How big is Ireland's PFAS problem and what are the solutions

**Millstreet Community School, Cork. 2022-141. Senior.**

PFAS is a manmade chemical that doesn't break down. It is harmful to human and animal health. It is used in the production of lots of products e.g., waterproof cosmetics, waterproof clothing, frying pans and pizza boxes. We surveyed people to see how many products in their house contained PFAS. We did this to raise awareness because most people don't know what PFAS is and how harmful it is. We also raised awareness through our twitter account and by speaking to people in our local area. We organised a litter pick in coordination with Coastal Clean in Garrett town beach and we brought our TY class to help with the litter pick. We set up a stand in the mall of our school to inform other students in our school about the PFAS problem. We spoke to primary school children from multiple schools in our local area. We also reached out to multiple big companies to ask them to stop using PFAS in their clothing. Our aim for our project was to make people more aware of PFAS and how it affects humans and animals.



Connie, Aoife, Maria, David, Laura, Johanna, Ryan, Loton, Michael, Jason, Brandon, Michael, Loton, Philip, Kate, Jason, Carol, Maire, Ellen, Emmet.

### Wellness Garden

**Central Remedial Clinic, Dublin. 2022-221. Senior.**



We, staff and young adults, in the Central Remedial Clinic, identified a need to support our mental health and wellbeing as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We recognised the positive impact that being present in nature brought to us. We decided to create a wellness sanctuary in our own garden.

We began by clearing out weeds and preparing the ground. We made a planting plan to allow for as much seasonal colour as possible and created a space for herbs. The intention was to enhance all of the senses in a positive and holistic manner. We had the assistance of a community artist to create a colourful mural and repurposed many old household and garden objects to add some interest.

The project has had a noticeable positive impact on both the adult participants and the staff alike. The adults use it as a space to retreat to when feeling overwhelmed. The space is used for meditation, an educational outdoor area, an opportunity to connect and learn about the cycles of nature and for fun, of course. Staff have enjoyed using the space as an opportunity for teambuilding and connection. The Wellness Garden is now used as a space by other teams and programmes within our organisation.



Mohamad Abdulla, Stephen Barrett, Ella Brosnan, Katie Buckley, Josephine Carey, Keelan Coffey, Niamh Culloty, Richard Doyle, Ava Duggan, Evelyn Fox, Rachel Griffin, Aoife Hassett, Ellie Holmes, Rhys Maher, Kate McGarrell, Bianca Mendez, Saoirse Moriarty, Laura Murphy, Aoife O Connell, Lucy O Donnell, Cillian O Mahony, Daragh O Shea, Dani O Sullivan, Caelainn Richardson, Carla Stack.

### I am what I am

**Mercy Mounthawk, Kerry. 2022-058. Senior.**

The aim of our project was to encourage people to be kinder to ourselves, each other, and the environment. We wanted people to embrace their individuality through positive thoughts and actions. One of the actions was around accepting your individual fashion preferences, regardless of your size, shape or the latest trends. We held a Swap Shop where people could donate clothes that would otherwise end up in landfill and leave the event with another item of clothing that was new to them. We were promoting 'Sustainable Style' instead of 'Fast Fashion'.



Ciara Walsh, Michaela Casey, Ben Clavin, Aoife Cooke, Rebecca Staunton, Dillon McGuinness, Malik Oluokun, Tommy Ross, Conor Marren, and Michaela Casey.

### School Garden

#### St. Attracta's CS, Tubbercurry. 2022-104. Senior.

The aims of our project are to create an area outside at the back of the school that will become a green space that will be suitable for biodiversity through our rewilding efforts. We hope that our efforts will make a difference to our school environment and will eventually be something that future generations will be able to enjoy.

We took action by exploring the area and doing a ground survey, cleaned it of litter, attracted birds, planted native trees and shrubs and promote our actions to the other students and staff at school.

We want to continue to promote our project to the community, the county and other areas hoping they might be inspired to follow our actions.



Heather Doyle and Louis Ryan.

### Our Air - An Analysis into Which Subgroups Within the Population of Ireland Are More Susceptible to Health Conditions as a Result of Poor Air Quality.

#### Fridays For Future, Tipperary. 2022-218. Senior.

The aim of our project is to test the pH, carbon dioxide, humidity and temperature of disparate settings while comparing them! We also aimed to spread cosmic awareness on the topic of air pollution and climate change in our communities. We underwent an abundance of actions to spread awareness and to play our part in building a healthier world! We commenced with a 500-person survey with our friends, family and peers in our school communities to establish their perceptions on poor air quality! We both gave a lesson to our base classes on air pollution and climate change, Louis simultaneously gave a lesson to a first-year class as part of the 'Cairdeas' programme. We also got in contact with a local politician and interviewed him on what the government is doing to sustain air levels, coupled with the surveying of two doctors to perceive the health impacts of air quality, and many more! We benefited distinctly from our project and developed innumerable skills like communication and research! We feel that we had a significant impact on our community, for example, we wrote an article for the 'Tipperary Star' newspaper to spread awareness to thousands of readers weekly on air quality!



Matthew Murrery, Aisling Milner, Niamh Purcell, Tess Hartley, Keira Herterich, Daniel Brennan, Sophia Treacy, Kathik Sreekanth, Sidhanta Gupta, Kyle Dowley, Zack O'Keefe, Taidhg Trocmé, Amélie Bonner, Fiona O'Donnell.

### Plaineád a Phlandáil (Plant a Planet)

#### Irish Schools Sustainability Network, Waterford. 2022-192. Senior.



Our project was a joint tree planting campaign with four schools across Ireland for collective action. Our aim was to get 10% of people in all of our schools to plant a tree in their own garden to foster action and climate and nature conversations. We wanted students to get active in their own homes as well as in school. We wanted to teach everyone in our school how to plant a tree, what native trees are good to plant and why trees are so important. We communicated this message by delivering lessons in wellbeing classes, raising awareness through a school wide information campaign which involved posters, tannoy announcements, parent surveys and emails, a climate and nature conversations series on Waterford Local Radio, having a 'car to car' campaign with parents who were waiting to collect their children. We got local businesses on board and worked with our local community group. Our collective action has resulted in an awareness raising campaign that has reached 1809 staff and students in our schools. To date 827 trees have been ordered or planted and this number will increase. We have reached 10% and we are beginning to change the culture in our schools.



Donagh Carey and Sarah Higgins.

### A Quantitative Analysis of Students' Exposure to PM 2.5 Particles on Various Modes of Transit to School

#### St. Finian's College, Mullingar. 2022-227. Junior.

The aim of our project was to determine how much PM 2.5 students are exposed to and inhale on each mode of transit (walk, cycle, bus and car) used on the school commute and to then try to decrease the amount of PM 2.5 emitted.

We circulated a study within our school to find out the main modes of transport used by students and to determine their awareness of air pollution. From this we found that only 9.2 % of students had ever heard of PM 2.5 particles. We made a PowerPoint about our project and its main findings. We presented it to numerous classes in our school to raise awareness. We have also contacted the County Council, Department of Transport, Health and Education with our findings and some recommendations, in order to try decrease the emissions of PM 2.5.

The County Council have been in contact with us and are looking at the options of erecting suitable signage at bus stops and hope to be in contact with the school management shortly.

## 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



Peri-Elkie Tiendioh, Ria Rose.

### S-Eco

**Christ King Secondary School, Cork. 2022-247. Senior.**

Our project is an app called S-Eco. Teenagers are becoming more aware of the damages of fast fashion and non-ethically sourced goods. S-Eco is a custom app which provides users with information on the sources of the goods they buy and their impact on our environment. All you need to do is simply scan the product you are planning on buying. It will then show you how environmentally friendly it is and the more sustainable it is the more points you earn. When you reach a certain number of points you will get a discount or a voucher from the app.

In order to visualise a suitable app that would appeal to teens interest and align with our project goals we carried out a survey. We also designed a suitable wireframe for our app with comes with a variety of features. This app has also encouraged all those in the business community to promote sustainable goods. We have learned a lot about the impact of different good in our daily life and hope to keep people enlightening about the effects of their carbon footprint through STEM.



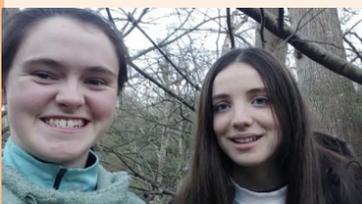
Corey Mc Closkey, Aine O'Dwyer, Owen Harran, Kelly Maxwell, Shiona Mc Menamin, Theresa Mc Menamin, Cormac Morris, Ayla setidad.

### 2 Weeks to Change the World

**St. Columba's College, Stranorlar 2022-096. Senior.**



The Goal of our project was to change people's way of thinking towards the clothes they wear. More specifically there way of thinking towards how many items of clothing they own and how the clothes were made. We also wanted to get them thinking about how to wash their clothes more environmentally friendly and to think about purchasing clothes through more environmentally friendly options like shopping second hand. We did this by creating a challenge for students to take part in were we set out a list of challenges for the students to take part in aimed at our goals. We were able to get the word out about our challenge to a lot of people in our school. We believe that this challenge changed our outlook on the clothes we wear.



Anabel O'Hora and Sarah Kelly.

### Removing Oil From Water

**Alexandra College, Dublin. 2022-256. Senior.**

Within our project, we experimented with the removal of oil from water. We realised the significant negative impact of oil spills in our environment and wanted to take action to solve this environmental crisis. We hoped that we could find a more sustainable and environmentally preservative way to remove oil from our oceans and seas.

We found that dry moss (6g of hand collected Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus) proved the most effective in removing oil from water. After completing three reliable tests with this moss, we found that from 10ml of oil in water 9.4 mls of oil on average were removed, proving extremely effective.

We began to raise awareness around the topic at our school fair. We are highlighting the effectiveness of natural moss oil removal with our local garden centres. To continue this, we plan on creating collection points for unwanted dry moss and possibly seeing if it may be useful at a small industrial level. We have connections within ECO-UNESCO, Comhairle Na n'Og and a local garden centre, to name a few, whom we hope to work with.



Matthew Heneghan, Katie Murray, Sam Murphy, Eabha O'Sullivan, Louise O'Reilly, Bryan Mullooly, Conor Ryan, Kian McCardle, Conor Lyons, Edgars Veinbergs, Gabriel Klava, Brandon Mc Cann, Eabha Vesey, Lucy Lane, Molly Morgan, Aishling O'Dowd, Amy O'Donoghue, Jack McGloin.

### Brown to green; Planning for a sustainable future for our bogs

**Lanesboro Community College, Longford. 2022-152. Senior.**

Over the last two years our town of Lanesborough has been getting to grips with the loss of the power station and Bord na Mona. With this massive change comes challenges but it also brings many opportunities to our community. The aim of our project is to find sustainable ways to develop our community and bogs into a new town which would be able to provide a future to our generation and generations to come. One of the opportunity's that arise from Bord na Mona pulling out of our community is now the bogs and their resources are now able to be accessed freely again.

## Food - SDG #2

Food projects explore ways to achieve food security and improved nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture and local products.

2 ZERO HUNGER



Rebecca Beecher, Billy Collins, Ellie Coughlan, Danielle Crowley, Eoghan Deasy, Luke Farley, Adam Harte, Ronan Hawkins, Caoimhe Horgan, Isabelle Hurley, Cian Kiely, Orlaith Kiely, Sean Landers, Damien Magee, Amy Murphy, Clara Ni Fhicheallaigh, Annie O'Brien, Aron O'Connell, Gabrielle O'Sullivan, Brian Plunkett, Joe Sheehan.

### Kinsale Cookbook / Local Food is Miles Better

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-047. Junior.**



For our YEA project, we created a cookbook of recipes using produce sourced in the Kinsale area. Kinsale is often referred to as 'The Gourmet Capital of Ireland', due to the success of groups such as 'The Good Food Circle'. We realised how fortunate we were to have access, to high-quality food in close proximity. Some of us knew local farmers and fishermen, but after conducting a survey, admitted that we did not buy as much local produce as possible. One of the reasons for this was that we were not aware of where different sources of food could be bought.

We researched the topic of food miles, and learned how some foods are transported hundreds of miles before reaching the consumer, increasing fossil fuels, greenhouse gasses and air pollution. These foods are often sprayed with chemical pesticides and preservatives to keep them fresh for long periods of time. To combat this environmental issue, we compiled a list of local producers and suppliers of fresh produce. We realised that by purchasing from these people, we were reducing food miles and therefore, our carbon footprint. By creating this cookbook with delicious recipes and making people aware of where ingredients can be bought locally, we are raising awareness and tackling this issue with the help of our community.



Heather Fahey, Charlotte Brown, Iseabeal O Toole, Janis Gomez Navarro.

### Eat Green

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-204. Senior.**

The Eat Green project was instigated by a group of Kinsale Community School students who were frustrated with the amount of non-Irish products for sale in the supermarkets. Instead of having the option of a single Irish grown apple, there were numerous apples from countries such as Spain and Poland. As the group looked further into local supermarket produce, they found much of it came from foreign countries. This was a major cause for concern. The amount of energy wastage seemed ludicrous in a global climate crisis. The Eat Green project ran a course of seminars to educate fellow students about food miles. Informative posters were placed all around the Kinsale Community School and in the town that brought attention to the carbon footprint of imported products. The Eat Green project also put together a raffle and the proceeds were donated to an Irish charity called Seed Savers who spread environmental awareness. Additionally, The Eat Green project planted vegetables for the school greenhouse and for our homes. We did workshops with first years on how to grow your own vegetables and gave them the opportunity to plant their own vegetables.

After researching and launching the Eat Green project, its members felt a strong sense of responsibility to continue educating as many people as possible about the hidden impact of food miles. The Eat Green project members are now conscientious shoppers and hope that they have had a positive impact on the community and hope to continue to have a positive impact on others.



Bláthnaid Cheetham, Róisín Sexton, Nardos Kingston, Milo O'Donnovan Forsey.

### Do plant-based diets really reduce carbon emissions?

**Bandon Grammar School, Cork. 2022-121. Senior.**



Our project is about highlighting a healthy plant-based diet and the benefits it has on you and the environment. As a matter of fact, if you and everyone else were to become vegan right now each person would be reducing carbon emissions by 60 percent each. For our action we put up posters around the school and began to develop a social media account on Instagram, which has gotten stunning feedback and interactions so far! We also took a survey with students about their attitudes towards plant-based diets, what they know about them and their impact on the environment. We asked the question "Would you yourself try a plant-based diet or go vegan". The results were very useful in terms of research for our project. This project and investigation have had a massive impact on our school's attitude and opinions toward plant-based diets, a few students have even begun talking about promoting more plant-based options in our school cafeteria. In terms of us as a group we have completely shifted our views towards the preservation of the environment and how it all comes down to us. It also helped our work ethic and researching skills.



Clodagh Cassidy, Nancy Lalor, Aoife Duggan.

### Sustainable, preserved, protected: palm oil for the future

**Sandford Park School, Dublin. 2022-056. Junior.**

The issue that my group decided to investigate is the destructive production of palm oil. Palm oil production is massively influential to our environments and natural resources, covering over 27 million hectares of land today. The land of these palm oil plantations destroys habitats of native species, forces native people out of their homes in natural areas, and contributes to climate change through the loss of forestry and contribution to deforestation.

By doing this project, we hoped to spread awareness about palm oil production, the current awareness around it and the negative effects of the production. We also hoped to motivate people to reduce their palm oil consumption. This would benefit the environment and our natural world, today, and for many future generations.

Our action project is comprised of three different segments. We investigated awareness in our school and improved this awareness by putting up informational flyers around our school. We sent out two surveys information to us on the knowledge of the destructive palm oil production methods, and later showed us how our flyers improved the knowledge of the students in our school.



Ali O'Donoghue, Eilís Mullane.

### Where is our Food Sourced in Ireland?

**St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School, Killarney. 2022-020. Senior.**



Our project aims to investigate the origin of certain foods for sale in Irish supermarkets and to determine consumer awareness with regards to where our foods come from and what possible impact this may have on climate change, our environment and whether we will be able to meet our sustainability goals sufficiently.

We visited local supermarkets to gain an understanding of how food packaging and labelling. We prepared a variety of surveys as part of our research to support our project findings. We made contact with the Killarney Hotel Sustainability Group to raise awareness in our community. We visited Killarney's Urban Farm which is Ireland's first hospitality hydroponic urban farm. We introduced Vertical Farming into our school and homes to demonstrate how easy and enjoyable it is. Our project has opened our eyes to where our food is REALLY sourced in Ireland. An Irish flag on a product does NOT mean it is an Irish product. We have raised awareness about Vertical Farming in our school to grow herbs, microgreens and plants which would be useful to our canteen staff and teachers. We believe the following words from Barack Obama explain the impact this project had on us: "WE ARE THE FIRST GENERATION TO FEEL THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND WE ARE THE LAST GENERATION WHO CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT".

## Waste - SDG #12

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



Rachel Byrne, Hannah Collins, Charlie Condon, Hadera Corkery, Carthach Cronin, Brendan Cunny, Lucy Cunningham, Mark Dinneen, Caoimhe Dinneen, Marta Fernandez Cardenal, Benjamin Fitzgerald, Nathan Fitzgerald, Jack Kelleher, Junfeng Lin, Stephen Linehan, Liam Mason, Luke McCarthy, Tom McCloskey, Mia Murphy, Roisin Owens, Laura Quinn, Kevin Sheehan, Breiffni Skinner, Scott Vaughan.

### Reduce the plastic, that would be fantastic

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-132. Junior.**



We set up our project with the aim to reduce single use plastic consumption around our school. A goal of ours was to educate our school community on the dangers of single use plastic. As 1st year students we noticed the vast amount of single use plastic bottles being used by students and teachers around our school community. Contactless water refilling stations had been newly installed for the academic year 2021/2022 and we saw an opening for school bottles to be produced to go hand in hand with these water refilling stations. As a class we educated ourselves further about the dangers of single use plastic by bringing a local organisation "Plastic Free Kinsale" into the class. As a class we raised awareness in a number of ways. We designed posters and hung them up around the school. We designed a quiz on Microsoft forms which we sent out to students around the school. The quiz included statistics which shocked many students. We cleaned up our local school orchard and removed all plastic waste. There was an article written for our school website about our actions. We implemented school bottles and will begin selling them in March 2022.



Ellen Crowley, Grace Monaghan, Lucy McCarthy.

### Why art thou wasteful?

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-042. Senior.**

Last year in school, the Green Schools Committee created an initiative to go paperless, and over the course of the year we saved 6½ trees. This prompted us to tackle the book waste problem in our school, with books bought by Junior Cert 2021 students, who were planning on disposing of their ‘Romeo and Juliet’ plays and other Junior Cert texts after one year of use, while current second year students would be purchasing brand new copies in the coming weeks. As you can see, this was unnecessary waste and it could easily be avoided. Therefore, for our project we are collecting copies of various Junior Cert texts from current Transition Year students and selling them for a reduced price to current second year students. The money is returned to the TY student. This reduces paper waste in our school and is also an easy way for TY students to make money. We are currently raising awareness of our project and how to reduce waste by hanging posters in school and sending virtual posters via Microsoft Teams.



Oisín Joyce and Maya Birkner.

### Polluting Plastics

**Kinsale Community School, Cork. 2022-199. Junior.**

We have recently noticed the amount of plastic waste in our homes and school community therefore, we were inspired to raise awareness about the negative impact single-use plastics have on our environment. Our school have recently installed water fountains therefore, it is the perfect time to encourage students to use less plastic, for example plastic water bottles in their daily lives. We will raise awareness by creating an Instagram account. Our aim is to raise awareness about harmful plastics in our oceans, landfills and even on our streets. We made a survey and a PowerPoint presentation for first year groups in our school to educate them and hopefully encourage them to reduce plastic waste. We plan on presenting this presentation to at least 100 students. We have done pre-questionnaire/survey to find out what students already know about single-use plastics before we presented to the first year students. We also did a survey afterwards. We analysed this data to see the impact we have on them and whether their knowledge improved or not. We also, plan on creating posters for around the school community to try to encourage students to reduce their use of plastic on a daily basis. We did a Kahoot with students at the end of our presentation and raffled off reusable water bottles to encourage them to use reusable rather than plastic bottles in their daily lives. We also organised a representative from the local community initiative, Plastic Free Kinsale to come in to talk to our school community about how harmful plastic is to our planet. By doing this we hope to help fix previous mistakes and right all the wrong done to our planet. This project has changed our behaviour, we both now refuse single use plastic bottles and use reusable bottles all the time. We have also influenced many members of our family and friends because we question their choices when shopping.

### Fast Fashion Assassins

**Bandon Grammar School, Cork. 2022-122. Senior.**



Jess Hurley Ward, Ruby Moore, Katie Kenneally, Isaac Sutton, Cian De Burca, Ella Lamb.

Our main goal is to raise awareness on the impact fast fashion has on the environment and on the conditions for workers in the factories. We aim to educate others in our community regarding the major issues surrounding fast fashion; such as over-consumption, hazardous conditions in factories, child labour and clothing waste.

In December of 2021 we organised a clothes swap which it is a more ethical way of purchasing clothing. It was an extremely successful day in which we raised an ample amount of money to donate to underpaid workers in the fast fashion industry in Bangladesh. We are also currently in the process of organising a raffle to raise more money that we intend to donate.

We were able to educate people and encourage them to buy clothing from more ethical brands and how every person can contribute to fast fashion without even realising. We have donated the left-over clothes from the clothes swap to a local charity organisation, this will help people in our community who cannot afford to shop in high end fashion.



Molly O'Callaghan, Caoimhe Lehane, Kate Canning, Eimear Mcsweeney, Jenna Deane, Erica Mahony, Niamh Quinn, Lucy McCarthy, Maria Hayes, Nicole Trunwit, Eabha Murphy, Aisling Kelly, Sarah Cuskelly.

**Wear and Share**

**Colaiste Na Toirbhrite, Cork. 2022-230. Senior.**

Our project focuses on fast fashion and the effect it has on the environment. We aim to create awareness and to educate our community on the impact it has and ways to prevent it. We aim to set up a clothes dump where we recycle peoples unwanted clothes for them to resell, where a large percent of the profits are redirected into slow fashion charities and other climate change charities. We also hope to encourage others to shop sustainably by educating them on sustainable clothing brands.

So far, we have set up our Instagram to allow our project reach a wider audience. We have made contact with Irish influencers in the hopes that they can support our project by donating clothes or speaking about it on their platforms. We have assigned dates and collections for our clothes recycling project and we are constantly coming up with new ideas and fundraisers to help the planet.

The overall impact we hope our project has is educating our own generation and other generations about how they can help the environment. People need to understand that every single person counts and every item of clothing they wear once, is just another item in an overflowing landfill.

**Reduce, Reuse, Resell**

**Wesley College Dublin, Dublin. 2022-193. Junior.**



Bel Collins, Ellie Byrne, Imogen Stanely, Alice Gardiner, Charlotte White, Katy Duffy, Meg Fitzsimons, Ava White.

Our project is aimed at combatting Fast Fashion in our school community. Our efforts included educating the students of our school about the advantages and disadvantages of Fast Fashion and encouraging everyone to buy second-hand clothes. We held a second-hand clothes sale at the end of January. We collected both students' and teachers' pre-loved clothes and sold them in our sale. Our aim was to take 20% of the profit for a charitable organisation, however, everyone that donated clothes chose to give the proceeds to our chosen Irish charitable organisation, Voice Ireland. Back in November, we had a bake sale in our school to fundraise for our clothes sale and after the clothes sale, all the money which we raised was donated. We have been working with the Irish Fashion Company Borrow Boutique who have agreed to speak to our school about why they set up their business and how borrowing is better than buying! Raising awareness is central in our project and along with speaking in assemblies, we set up an Instagram campaign and put-up posters all around the school. This is a very exciting project we have undertaken and we are having a lot of fun while also doing a lot of good! We feel we can really make a difference, one hoodie at a time!

**Sustainability Starts At School**

**Mount Sackville Secondary School, Dublin. 2022-117. Junior.**



Elizabeth Gunnell, Elizabeth Quinn, Ruby Jones, Niamh Peace, Rose Brennan, Lucy Anne Kelly, Siobhan Quinn, Sky Synnott.

'Sustainability Starts at School' is aimed to highlight, to younger students, how waste affects the environment. We hope to influence younger people so that they can carry down their knowledge and initiative to future generations, and help make the world a better place for them too.

So far, we have held a competition for all 1st Years in our school. We held a spot-check of lunchboxes and water-bottles among the 5 classes, in which they knew of the spot-check but not when it would take place. The class with the highest percentage of sustainable lunchboxes and water-bottles won Christmas candy-canes in early December. We also showcased a video made by the Green Schools Committee to classes from 1st to 4th Year, to portray how they can get rid of their waste sustainably around our school.

Currently, we are working on things in our school such as a library display on animal conservation related to waste, a recycling bin decorating competition for 2nd Years and ideas for school activities for Earth Day 2022. These initiatives all tie in with our three important days we hope to raise awareness for, World Wildlife Day, Global Recycling Day and Earth Day.

**Waste and Litter**

**Mercy College Coolock, Dublin. 2022-095. Junior.**



Saoirse Gorman, Ashlee McEntee, Hannah Alagano, Beibhinn Stone.

We want to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change, encourage people to be more selfless in order to start helping the environment and educate everyone in our school community about the importance of nature around us, as well as how to be kinder to our plane. We hope to organise these actions to support our goals litter and Waste Awareness campaign, planting & composting re-using materials and upcycling items (Leaf mould cage and rag wreaths), set up a newsletter, set up a wormery maintain community links - Sr Kathleen and Tidy Towns etc, keep in touch with external agencies such as Eco unesco/Bin IT/ Globe Air Quality/ Repak/etc.

We learned that co-operation is a very important skill and essential for our project to work. Communication was vital to all tasks being evenly assigned and completed. We learned to recognise individual skills and creativity in our class. We all enjoyed participating in this project as a team. It is a chance as a team to represent our school proudly. Another important thing we learned was as a team everyone achieves more.



Stephen Kennedy and Ronan Kelliher Gaillot.

### Threadless

#### Threadless, Dublin, 2022-013. Senior.

Having researched the impact of the clothes industry on the environment, we wanted to find a way to extend the lifecycle of clothes and create awareness around the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the textile industry.

Threadless was set up as a social enterprise to reduce the amount of good clothes going to landfill, make designer clothes accessible to everyone, generate a much-needed revenue source for worthy causes, we sourced second-hand clothes from fellow students, friends and shops..

We held two Threadless Markets at Airfield Farmers Market in 2020 and 2021 during COVID 19 and then moved to selling online through an established online market place for second hand clothes called Vestiaire Collective.

We raised awareness at our market stall, on social media and Threadless was discussed in different classes at school throughout 2021.

People were shocked when they learned that the GHG emissions from the clothes industry were greater than the international aviation and transport sectors combined and that 120m trees are cut down each year to make clothes.

We, our fellow students and the people that interacted with us at our market stalls have become more conscious consumers and we have also generated over €1,000 for Barnardos, Tribe, Pieta and Jigsaw.



Aoife O'Donoghue, Molly O'Donoghue, Jessica Flynn, Emma Horan, Saoirse O'Brien.

### Lesser Litter

#### St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School, Kerry. 2022-019. Senior.



Our project is called lesser litter. The aim of our project is to promote litter picking in our community. We will do this by informing our school and members of the public in our community about the harm of waste and what we can do to help this global problem. We use our schools' green schools Instagram account to inform people about what we do and also facts about litter in our area.

We started off our project by increasing the activity on our schools' green schools Instagram page. We started off by updating the profile page. We changed our profile picture to a personalized logo for the green schools in our school. We also started posting weekly. Finally, we teamed up with an environmentally friendly coffee shack near our school for a competition. They kindly gifted us a voucher worth 8 coffees for a lucky person who won the competition. We had surprising number of 191 entries. We gained 250 followers from the competition.

Lately we began presenting a PowerPoint to first years informing them about litter in killarney. We then took them litter picking. They really enjoyed it and it also cleaned up our area.



Molly Gabbett, Aine Brennan, Michael O' Shea, Ryan McCormack, Thomas McIntyre.

### CAPture

#### Killorglin Community College, Kerry. 2022-119. Senior.

Our project 'CAPture' focuses on reducing single use plastics in our school as well as raising awareness around the issue of how we use and dispose of single use plastics. We are hoping that this project will act as a visual prompt to help student's make more environmentally friendly decisions around waste and also help make an informed choice of using an alternative to plastic.

This project became a whole-school initiative, whereby all class groups got involved collecting bottle caps. This was linked into our school Wellbeing project whereby points were awarded to class groups who collected the most.

This project has created huge awareness in our school and local community. It has been advertised on our social media pages which has really contributed to the success of our collection. With the caps we wanted to design a visual art piece that could have pride of place in our school. Collecting such a small item of plastic in this type of way has shown the volume of plastic that exists in our everyday living.

We have also been working with a social enterprise project called 'Reframe' in UCC. They have been using the bottles we have collected in their recycling workshop on campus, to make micro-transport products out of recycled plastic. For example, scooters and skateboards.

A local business has also contacted us after seeing our project advertised on social media. They have asked for our school to commission a second mural to display at their premises, which is located on a beach 10 minutes from our school. This has been a hugely positive, beneficial project to be involved in and has definitely increased awareness around plastic waste in our school and the wider community.



Arwyn Farrell and Lara Keogh.

### Love your Lunchbox

**Eureka Secondary School, Meath. 2022-171. Senior.**

Our project, 'Love your Lunchbox', aims to promote the 'Leave no Trace' policy in schools around the country. We wanted to help the environment by promoting recycling and bringing home your waste instead of leaving it behind. We want to help in our school by teaching the year groups about how their waste affects the environment and how they can help. We want to encourage people our age to be more environmentally conscious and we think this is the best way to start. By teaching them about how damaging their unnecessary waste can be, we hope that they will start to bring home any waste they may generate. We put up posters around our school to tell our peers about the waste they create with lunch in the hopes that it would encourage them to use a lunchbox.



Aoife Muldoon, Ella McEllin.

### Never Refuse to Reuse

**Eureka Secondary School, Meath. 2022-012. Senior.**

Our project 'Never Refuse to Reuse' is about promoting biodiversity and recycling. We want to help stop the impact that single-use plastic water bottles have on the environment. 80% of plastic water bottles end up in landfills, this is not good enough. We want to stop our school's contribution to this cycle. Firstly, we will collect the plastic water bottles used in the school by putting a bin specifically for bottles in our canteen. Then we will turn the water bottles into plant holders and grow seeds in the bottles. Finally, we will stick these water bottles to a surface to create a 'plant wall'. We also want to research how water bottles end up in landfills, what happens to them there, and what impact does this have on the environment. Once we have conducted our research, we will make posters and put them up around the school to raise awareness and promote our project. We want our project to create change, we want to encourage people to recycle in their own homes. Our project is more than planting seeds in water bottles, we want to inspire people to upcycle their waste and give it a new lease on life.



Halle Cunningham, Kayla Mc Kenna, Cónall Sheerin.

### Triple Thread

**Beech Hill College, Monaghan. 2022-065. Senior.**

Triple Threads goal is to spread information and raise awareness on the growing affect textile waste is having on our environment. By showing our peers the harms of fast fashion and disposing of second hand and used clothes simply because they are "old", is doing more damage than good. We set up a swap shop in our school for students to trade in their old and used clothes for a chance to get something new, and at the same time, stopping them from adding more textile waste going to the landfill. We put up a few posters all around the school grounds as well as making announcements every day. It also featured on our school app. Our school embraced the project and learned to become more textile friendly. As for ourselves, whilst we learned, we had fun creating this project, building, and painting the shop.



Jessica Behan, Ruth Brien, Ellen Burns, Lauren Claffey, Cara Dillon, Marie Flatley, Sofia Fontana, Jessica Gica, Ritcha Jagadesh Lee, Lydia Mulvihill, Tara Rodriguez, Tabassum Zaraf.

### Fashion Busters

**Our Lady's Bower, Westmeath. 2022-210. Senior.**

Fast Fashion is the term used to describe clothing companies that produce garments at lightning speed. Pros are that the goods can be bought cheaply and the buyer feels temporarily satisfied. However, we feel that the cons far outweigh the pros.

Fast fashion impacts the environment in many ways eg producing huge amounts of waste material, polluting water, damaging health.

The industry is no stranger to human rights violations and according to International Labour Organization 170 million children are engaged in child labour in the textiles industry where they are not paid even the minimum wage and work in inhumane conditions. Workers must support themselves so they have no choice but to work.

With our goal of educating members of our communities in mind, here is the actions we took. First, we researched the issue widely and informed ourselves about the worldwide situation regarding Fast Fashion. With this understanding, we then prepared a presentation and gave a talk to the first-year classes. We engaged with all the charity shop in Athlone and developed strong relationships with them. We also organized a clothing swap shop for the first years and have more planned. We made an Instagram account in order to promote the charity shops and encourage young people to avail of them. We have plans for a fashion show and to promote the issue throughout the whole school.



Clodagh O'Keeffe, Jenny O'Brien, Eve Blunden.

### Swap clothes don't shop clothes

**Loreto Secondary School Bray, Wicklow. 2022-037. Senior.**

Our project is a clothes swap, where people in our school have the option of giving their old clothes a new home. The aims for our project are to raise awareness about fast fashion throughout our school community and to encourage people to be more responsible consumers when buying their clothes. We are encouraging people in our school to swap their clothes with their peers instead of throwing them out where they will most likely go to landfill. The actions we took to achieve these goals included holding a clothes swap in our school library during lunch time, where people could swap their unwanted clothes with others instead of succumbing to fast fashion, we also raised awareness about fast fashion by putting up posters in our school informing people about what simple measures they can do to fight fast fashion. We also have an Instagram page @clotheswaplb where we raised awareness and spread the word surrounding fast fashion and our clothes swap. Our project had a huge impact on the school, many finding it influential, educational and empowering. We received massive amounts of unwanted clothes from students and teachers and hundreds of people in the school community took part in our clothes swap. We received great feedback and were asked to have more clothes swaps in our school in the future.



Eibhlin Ginty and Amy Cunningham.

### Compost Comrades

**Loreto Secondary School Bray, Wicklow. 2022-036. Senior.**

Our ECO-UNESCO project's main focus is on composting in our local community, specifically, our school - Loreto Bray! We saw just how overlooked composting and its benefits seem to be in our area, and more broadly, in our society, and we really felt the need to make that change and reduce the environmental impact of food waste.

Our primary actions taken to progress the project were to raise some funds through an environmentally and compost- themed quiz for the whole of Transition Year! We also worked with some of the teachers and local County Council associates who were able to help us in taking the next step to gather brown composting bins for common areas in the school. As well as this, we were informed us of what type of composting process we could do which would complement the school the best, and also discussed the materials we would require to build the food waste pile/ fill it up to create compost!

We are so excited to see the end result of our compost and project and feel very enlightened about local environmental issues as well as immensely privileged to have the means to work towards a greener future. We strive to guarantee that our project provides enough facilities and educative resources to empower our fellow students and teachers to reduce their environmental impact and to open their eyes to a world of composting, environmental and sustainable adaptation!

## Water - SDG #14

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



Ellie Dukelow, Ellie Darby, Shauna Keane, Melissa Shorten, Patrick McGillicuddy, Matthew Hoban, Cash Healy, Joe Clover, Rino Di Rollo.

### pHilta

**Bandon Grammar School, Cork. 2022-135. Junior.**

Have you ever thrown plastic out without thinking, like the wrapper of your chocolate bar, or your bottle of Lucozade? Our goal is to educate others within our school on the dangers of plastic pollution, and demonstrate the problem with a beautifully constructed filtration system. To do this, we set up a fantastic informative Instagram page, and created vibrant posters to raise awareness. These have been read throughout the school, and have been surprisingly effective in ingraining habits into the heads of our peers. We hope to see people using less single-use plastic and disposing of it more sustainably so that it doesn't end up polluting our water. This project has been incredibly effective in educating others on the larger consequences of a wrapper tossed in the rubbish bin, and has brought our group closer together as we learned valuable life skills on research, teamwork, advertising, and much, much more.



Sarah Ryan, Jane Seegers, Coey Scannell, Alanna Kingston, Vianne O'Brien, Matthew Duffy, Esmee O'Brien, Lille Kingston, Marcus Adams, Samantha Ross.

### Schull Ocean Plastic Clean-Up

**Schull Community College, Cork. 2022-249. Senior.**

We are exploring and learning about our local coastline area around and nearby our school and upcycling and end of use fiberglass Sailing dingy that would otherwise go into landfill into a seating area for our school.

During our project we research and collect plastic waste and access the amounts of plastic large and small that wasting onto beaches into the harbour area. We also plan to do some on water collecting using the sailing schools rescue boats to see what micro plastics are in the waters of Roaring water bay.

We got together as a team in late 2021 and were only able to get out the beaches in January 2022, we are working hard to complete the project by the end of our school year in May.

So far, we have been out the beaches every week since mid-January and only meet on Mondays from 12 noon to 3,45pm we have the support of the schools sailing centre and our aim is use all material needed from our schools' resources.

The project is supported by our mentor Rory Jackson who founded the Oceans Plastic Project CLG and is working with us to complete and finish it.



Scott Browne, Luke Darnell, Aimee Gillespie, Shane Harvey, Susanna Martin, Amy McGroary, Kayleigh Boyle, Abbie Bustard, Ava Kennedy, Maeve McCauley, Hannah McCaughan, Emma Sweeney, Ciara Cannon, Aisling Kee, Mary Corcoran, Colm McDermott, Molly McGroary, Meabh McNamara, Shannon Meehan, Tori Murchan.

### Commotion in the Ocean

**Abbey Vocational School, Donegal. 2022-053. Senior.**

The goal of our project is to bring about awareness on how people can reduce their carbon footprint and in particular, reduce the amount of pollution that is entering into our seas and oceans damaging marine life. Inspired by David Attenborough, "The ocean's power of regeneration is remarkable - if we just offer it the chance". We have this choice and together we can make this change.

Our main actions undertaken include the setting up of our turtle bin at Donegal Pier, our regular beach clean ups on Rossnowlough Beach and the creation of resource packs to be shared with local primary schools in preparation for World Oceans Day 2022. These lessons will make younger children more aware of the issue so that they too can help us combat the problem.

So far, our project has had a very positive impact both locally and nationally. We have helped to reduce litter entering our local pier, prevented plastic and other forms of rubbish from entering the ocean at Rossnowlough beach and we've also fundraised for Seal Rescue Ireland to support their rehabilitation of seals around the coasts of Ireland.



Maytham, Ali B, Colin, Kenneth, Séamus, Isaac, Freeman, Callum, Ali E, Ronan, Jamie, Alfie, Ryan, James, Simon, Nate, Prince, Sebastian, Raul, Luke, Sheryar, Ishaan, Baily, Wassim.

### Bad Beach Clean

**Oatlands College, Donegal. 2022-191. Junior.**



The Bad Beach Clean is a project planned and organised by Oatlands College students to help raise awareness about the damage and destruction caused by plastic pollution. We aim to clean up our local coastal area and bring out the beauty that it once had. We think pictures are very powerful - so we will show our school pictures of the tones of rubbish that we collect and pass on our knowledge through workshops and presentations. In an effort to prevent as much litter building up we will then get our student body to sign our petitions for our local politicians to campaign for more bins in the area. Rather than dump loads of the waste we collect we will create a sculpture for our school as a reminder to do our part.



Anna Halvey and Seán Halvey.

### Save Our Seas

**Eco Unesco Youth Climate Justice Group, Dublin. 2022-207. Junior.**



We focused on an issue that is often overlooked: coral bleaching and the impact of marine pollution. Our aim was to promote a culture that actively protects the environment and thrives on sustainability, and motivate others to take action on climate change. We sought to generate dialogue, educate and raise awareness and highlight what individuals can do to help.

Following extensive primary and secondary research, we created a website containing informative resources, including documents and videos, explaining key issues and outlining what individuals can do to help the environment. We also promoted an ocean saving browser. To disseminate our research, we hung posters and distributed the website link in our locality and on social media.

We engaged with local organisations, councils and politicians and are working collaboratively to implement further initiatives through national legislation and local policy, including running sponsored advertising on social media and in public spaces.

The project has achieved its main purpose to generate a dialogue about these issues on a local level. For example, the student body is more involved and supportive in relation to climate action. The next step is gathering more team-members, raising awareness and implementing change on a national level!



### The Bench to a Better Future

**Colaiste an Chreagain, Galway. 2022-223. Senior.**

We designed and constructed a bench\wellbeing area that is aesthetically pleasing as well as kind to the environment, we educated as many people as possible on the negative effects of deforestation and the small steps they can take to help.

This dual purpose bench serves to harmonise our school community as well as inform them of the effects of their consumer choices on the environment. It provides a place of mutual respect and open-mindedness where student's can hang out at lunchtime and possibly discuss choices they can make for a better future.

Mikey Corcoran, Padraig Corcoran, Ciara Curley, Cian Duggan, Cathal Farrell, Anthony Feeney, Joseph Finnegan, Aaron Geraghty, Roisin Maher, Raymond Murray, Brian Noone, Daire Poucher, Zara T.Barrett,

### Water Wizzards

**Merlin College, Galway. 2022-194. Senior.**



Emily Carr, Caoimhe O'Brien, Chloe Gray, Lauren Crean.

We wanted to raise awareness of the water system in our school and set up our own water harvesting system. We also wanted to raise awareness of water conservation and help our school move from using single use plastic bottles to reusable bottles.

While we have an excellent water system in our school, a mains water supply and rainwater harvesting system, we were concerned with the amount of water we were also wasting due to testing the water on a weekly basis. When we have such a good water system in our school, we wanted to support this system by reusing the water we previously wasted and reuse it to water our school polytunnel. As a result, we decided to set up our own water harvesting system. We also felt that students and staff in our school should be more aware of the importance of water conservation and also learn more about our school's water system and where the water comes from that we use in our school on a daily basis. Finally, we wanted our school to move from using single



Helen O Connor, Jessica Fuller, Meabh O Sullivan Darcey.

### Save The Waves

**St. Brigid’s Presentation Secondary School, Kerry. 2022-022. Senior.**

Our project, Save The Waves, is based off of our passion for the environment and our desire to create awareness for marine issues. We have really enjoyed every step of this project and have put a lot of time and effort into the end result; therefore, we believe that we deserve to be eco-UNESCO finalists.

The primary goal of STW is to create awareness amongst young people about the threats to marine biodiversity in a fun and creative way.

We created a detailed PowerPoint presentation and presented to first year science classes within our school and also visited many primary schools in our area. The presentation is educational, fun and creative with the addition of interactive games such as bingo and quizzes.

Our project will definitely have a lasting impact. Already, hundreds of young people have learned about the importance of marine biodiversity and what we can do to help it. I know for a fact that some of the figures we found were so shocking they will stay with me for a long time to come. These young people will go on to make more responsible decisions in their life which will impact marine health. Every little helps!



Aisling Lane, Kiera Dunican, Alannah Hannon.

### Mercy Water Warriors

**Mercy Secondary School Ballymahon, Longford. 2022-143. Senior.**



Our project aims to reduce water consumption in our school, spread awareness about water conservation in our school community and improve the quality of our water supply. We raised awareness through surveys, posters, presentations, competitions, demonstrations, creating videos, quizzes and notice boards. We monitored our school’s water usage and observed a huge decrease this year - 11,000 litres per week! Our appeal to the school community was heard! We wrote to government ministers about “flushable” wipes, a big problem for our environment. Every leak is now reported and acted on immediately. We organised a ‘Walk for Water’ for our fellow TYs, where we walked a marathon in a week, to remind us how lucky we are to have piped water. A water charity will benefit from our ‘Lá Glas’ dress up fundraiser in March. We have organised a variety of engaging activities for World Water Day on 22nd March. We want our message of water conservation and preservation to spread across our community, so we want to improve our local waterways, especially the great resource that is the Royal Canal. We plan to continue water conservation at school and in the community into the future.

## 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.



Mike Joe Foley, Paul Deasy, Pat Dinneen, Emma Jackson Hegarty, Juliet Harte, Marcel Wozniak, Szymon Zarzyka, Brooklyn O’Donovan Sykes, Rhys Locke, Jamie Harrington, Megan Madden, Joa Angel, Niamh Doyle, Molly Twomey, Faye deFoubert, Ryan Hennessy, Ellen Foley, Amy Wall Kennedy, Andrew Nyhan, Nikola Wozniak, Zuzanna Kulas, Róisín Deasy.

### Our Local Water Quality

**Timoleague NS, Cork. 2022-046. Super Junior.**

Timoleague is a popular tourist destinations in West Cork. Irish Water have recently invested €10 million project to stop untreated wastewater being discharged directly into the Argideen River. The practice of discharging untreated wastewater is no longer acceptable and Irish Water has rectified this problem in conjunction with Cork County Council by constructing a new wastewater treatment plant to ensure that wastewater discharging to Argideen River meets appropriate discharge standards. The new Wastewater Treatment Plant brings many benefits to Timoleague in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all. Irish Water and Glan Agua (contractors) involved the school while the works were taking place. We then considered what the water quality is now like after this investment. We decided to take water samples from 11 different locations around Timoleague - testing them at various times - at high tide, low tide, before and after stormy weather etc. We use testing kits to determine quality. We invited a member of Teagasc to go through the results with us. We are currently analysing the results and presenting the results to the school and local community via our weekly newsletter, social media channels and website.



### Wildlife Pond

#### Timoleague NS, Cork. 2022-018. Super Junior.

Timoleague is a popular tourist destinations in West Cork. Irish Water have recently invested €10 million project to stop untreated wastewater being discharged directly into the Argideen River. The practice of discharging untreated wastewater is no longer acceptable and Irish Water has rectified this problem in conjunction with Cork County Council by constructing a new wastewater treatment plant to ensure that wastewater discharging to Argideen River meets appropriate discharge standards. The new Wastewater Treatment Plant brings many benefits to Timoleague in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all. Irish Water and Glan Agua (contractors) involved the school while the works were taking place. We then considered what the water quality is now like after this investment. We decided to take water samples from 11 different locations around Timoleague - testing them at various times - at high tide, low tide, before and after stormy weather etc. We use testing kits to determine quality. We invited a member of Teagasc to go through the results with us. We are currently analysing the results and presenting the results to the school and local community via our weekly newsletter, social media channels and website.

Áine Walsh, Aoibheann Ryan, Aoife O'Driscoll, Cathal O'Sullivan, Cillian Harte, Cliona Harte, Eoin Wilcox, Fiona Walsh, Hettie Hough, Jack Stirling, James Henchion, John Michael Foley, Julie Cunningham, Lily Bean, Luke Griffin, Marianne Keohane, Matthew Kelly, Rachel Prochniak, Reuben Hunter, Sadhbh Coomey, Seodhna Walsh, Shane Murphy, Wiktorja Zielinska.



### Solution pollution

#### Not Applicable, Dublin. 2022-228. Super Junior.



As part of our project, we wanted to look at waste and at possible ways of producing less of it. At the start of our project, we wanted to do a beach clean-up and a swap-shop in school. We ended up doing a survey, a temporary swap-shop, grew lettuce and made videos (for our class to watch in school). The swap-shop was a great way for our class to pass on toys, books and stationery to other people. It had the double effect of these items not ending up in the bin and also people getting nice items without new things having to be manufactured. It was great fun as well. Growing your own produce means less transport and less packaging, and we showed our class how this can be done.

Lucas Farrell, Stanislaw Repeka.

We also did a park clean-up (by ourselves out of school). We enjoyed doing our project and recommend anyone between the age of 10 to 18 to do the YEAs. We think our classmates also enjoyed the activities that we did with our teacher's help. All in all, we think we made a big impact.



### Foreoige Connect Castlebar

#### Foreoige Hub, Castlebar. 2022-100. Super Junior.

The project is created with the objective of creating awareness around the importance of Biodiversity and how native Irish honeybees play an important part in this. We did this by to educating the group through presentation's, youtube video's, interactive games to learn about bee communication, and by bringing REAL bee's in to meet the group.

Jamie Maughan, Owen McDonagh, Winnie Christina McDonagh, Bernie McDonagh, Jordan Giles, Brianna Halligan, Luke Doran, Ryan Doran, Mounir Soufan, Ritaj Soufan, Nathan Masterson.

The group build a wooden observation hive and a interactive education hub which can both be brought around to schools and projects where young people and students can learn about the importance of bee's and biodiversity and also get to interact with REAL bees in their classroom's. The group used STEAM with their hive by installing LED lights to better illuminate the colony. They also hand painted it in attractive colours to imitate the local flowers. They then used coding and a makey makey electronic kits to activate the interactive educational hub which they recorded their voices as educational guides.

The project had a wide community impact being displayed in a number of schools and project to educate students and adults of all ages. The group also put a video together outlining the project which was uploaded to youtube and watched by many. The project published in local news outlets and platforms where it reached a large readership.



Mairead White, Michaela Mc Carrick, Riyad Munir, Izzy King, Terrence Calvey.

### Who is my neighbour? Wild animals around me and how to respect and support them

**Nature Inspires, Sligo. 2022-185. Super Junior.**

Our project has a very important topic: WILDLIFE – which we often can't see and LITTER – being very visible especially along road sides. We want to make clear, that all litter can injure or even kill wildlife.

We wanted to find out who lives in our 'neighbourhood' and we discovered so many signs of wildlife. There were eggshells of a grey heron, feathers of a pheasant, poo of red deer, shredded spruce cones all eaten by red squirrels and on camera we could see a jay, a pine marten and a fox. We even did a river survey to find out who lives in our river. We did a litter pick while we were out.

We contacted Leave-No-Trace in Westport and they were very helpful. Their posters and information about how long do certain litter take to decompose was very interesting. Broken glass bottles will stay forever and can seriously injure wildlife and humans too. We decided to paint posters and offer these to the Tubbercurry Forest trail committee. Some Leave-No-Trace information explains to people to be considerate about wildlife and farm animals, other walkers, not to light a fire, pick up litter and dog poo while enjoying our walk.

Our project leaves an impact not just on us and our families, but also with all the people reading the post on social media, in the newspaper and when going for a walk at the forest trail, they will hopefully think twice.

We think the motto of Leave-No-Trace is very good:

LOVE THIS PLACE – LEAVE NO TRACE. and platforms where it reached a large readership.



Connor, Anna, Ryan, Alfie, Silinn, Ella, Senan, T J, Fintan, Thomas, Cian, Nuadha, Katie, Clodagh, Isla, Ryley, Oran, Mairead, Michaela, Jane, Neasa, Kate, Lucy, Aaron, Jack, Danielle.

### Where does the Salmon come from - a wholesome reflection on our local river Moy?



**Nature Inspires, Sligo. 2022-196. Super Junior.**

Cloonacool is the home of the famous River Moy. It runs by our school within a short distance and origins in the Ox Mountains. With this project we wanted to raise awareness within our families, friends, local sport clubs and community that pollution and litter can make a river 'sick'.

Our action was a river survey and this was very interesting for us. We learned what plants and trees are growing along the bank of the Moy. We also learned what animals live along and in the Moy. The story of the salmon is especially fascinating. Once laid into the riverbed, some eggs will hatch and the tiny fish will try to make its way out of the river into the sea.

We also did some poems and art work to let everyone know what the river means to each one of us. The project helped us to care about the river Moy, but also all the smaller rivers leading into the Moy. We want the whole community to know that we care. An article will be put into our local paper that more people learn about this special river.

Some of us plan to travel by canoe on the Moy from Cloonacool to Ballina when we grow up. This will help us to understand how rivers connect us to other places and the big wide ocean.



## Tier 1 Funders & Sponsors



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

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



Environmental Protection Agency  
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

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, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

ECO-UNESCO is part-funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth 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.

## Tier 2 Funders & Sponsors



## ECO-Den Supporters



Dublin City Council  
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath



Comhairle Contae an Chláir  
Clare County Council



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**



**SLIGO**  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Monaghan County Council

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

## Other Supporters



**Irish Aid**

Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**Irish  
Environmental  
Network**



**pobal**

government supporting communities



# Acknowledgements

ECO-UNESCO would like to thank all the participants, teachers, YEA mentors and youth leaders who took part in this year's Young Environmentalist Awards. We would also like to thank our staff, volunteers and those involved in promoting and supporting our work over the last year including:

## ECO-UNESCO Board:

Niall Jennings, Vivienne Kelly, Chris Nolan, Danny Dockery, Mary Gallagher-Cooke, Rhona O'Donnell.

## ECO-UNESCO Staff:

Elaine Nevin, Julie Jones, Dunchadh Kinane, Kieran Allen, Doireann Dunbar, Vince Harney, Alex Konieczka, Richard Hennerly, Aishling Miller, Ciara Muldoon, Roisín Fitzgerald, Ellen Gearon, Sarah Austin, Hugo Dorat, Kayleigh Harris, Anita Nwalo, Alex Marinelli and all our former members.

## ECO-UNESCO Volunteers:

ECO-UNESCO Youth for Sustainable Development Programme participants, and all of our volunteers who have helped throughout the year.

## ECO-Den Expert Judging Panel:

Aine Ferris - Scouting Ireland, Aishling McGrath - WWGS, Amanda Shields - Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Ann Marie Keane - Laois Offaly Education Training Board, Anne Payne - Global Programmes and Development Education Unit- Dept of Global Affairs, Aoife McGrane - Department of Education and Skills, Aoife Nic Lughadha - Feachtas, Aoife O'Connor - An Post, Bernadette O'Connor - CARO- Dublin, Brian Gavin - Foroige, Brian Healy - CDETB, Ciara Muldoon - ECO-UNESCO, Claire Fitzgerald - Accenture, Claire Sinnot - LIDL, Dara Wyer - Kildare County, Davnet McEllin - Galway Roscommon ETB, Dean Eaton - Dublin Bay Biosphere, Deirdre Ní Cheallaigh - Rediscovery Centre, Denise Kiernan - Trocaire, Dervla McAuley - EPA, Dymphna Daly - Cork ETB, Eadaoin McGovern - Navan ETB, Fiona Smiddy - Green Outlook, Hannah Gilmartin - DECC, Jennifer Fulton - Ulster Wildlife, Jim Callery - Wicklow County Council, Jimmy D'Arcy - GAA, John McGeady - Justice Officer-Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles, John O'Sullivan - Kilkenny Education Centre, John Williams - NoName Club, Justina Corcoran - DECC, Jyoti Upadhyay - Echoes Project, Liadh Dalton - ECO-UNESCO, Lisa Gallagher - Worldwide Global School, Loretta Ni Churraighin - Feachtas, Mahnoor Kamran - Young Activist, Marina Lambrakis - Foroige, Mary Walsh - Cork City Council (EAO), Meghan McGinley - An Post, Oilean Strich - ECO-UNESCO, Paul Manning - Veolia, Rachel Larney - An Post, Reesha Kurichiyiel - ECO-UNESCO, Roisin Fitzgerald - ECO-UNESCO, Sabrina Dekker - Dublin City Council, Salim Kajani - ISSU, Sam Fahy - DCU, Sarah Miller - Rediscovery Centre, Stephen Bourke - Foroige, Susie Sprat - GAISCE, Valerie Lewis - Education Training Boards, Victor Coleman - Veolia.

## Ceremony Award Presenters and MC speakers:

Eamon Ryan - Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport, Julie Sayto, Chief of the UNESCO International Coordination of Associated Schools Network and Clara Murray, YEA Host and TV Presenter.



Proud to be a Sustainable Development Goals Champion

# 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 likeminded 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](http://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](http://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](http://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).

# Register for ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2023!



## Young Environmentalist Awards 2023 Timeline

Sept 2022	Registrations Opens
18th Nov 2022	Registrations Closes
19th Feb 2023	Project Submission Closes
Mar - Apr 2023	Semi-Finals (ECO-Den)
May 2023	Showcase & Awards Ceremony

[www.yea.ie](http://www.yea.ie)

9 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland

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

 /ecounescoireland

 @ecounesco

 @ecounesco

ECO-UNESCO is a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland Charity Regulatory Authority Number: 20015145

Revenue Number: CHY 7225 Company Number: 106860



ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2022 is supported by:

Tier 1 Funders & Sponsors:



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



An Roinn Leanai, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth



Tier 2 Funders & Sponsors:

