



ECO-UNESCO ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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



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

MESSAGE FROM

CHAIRPERSON & DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of ECO-UNESCO,

We are very pleased to present this Annual Report outlining our work in 2021.

During 2021, we remained committed to our core work of environmental protection and youth empowerment through environmental action, education and youth programmes and continued to re-imagine how we delivered our programmes to ensure we could meet the needs of the young people we work with.

Throughout the year, we continued to engage thousands of young people, inspiring them to protect our environment using our specialist environmental youth and education approach, in a fun and safe way.

For our Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA 2021), we engaged over 200 groups of young people across Ireland, tackling issues such as climate action, biodiversity loss and pollution. Our annual Young Environmentalist Awards Ceremony took place online with over 1,700 people viewing the final awards and special guests President Michael D. Higgins and Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson.

During 2021, our series of ECO-Weeks supported by Rethink Ireland, reached over 4,000 young people. These ECO-Weeks included online eco-activities and workshops encouraging young people to take action locally.

Throughout the year, we continued to deliver our Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme which provided young people with the knowledge and skills they need to become peer educators and advocates for sustainable development. We continued to run a national programme online with young people from across Ireland attending weekly sessions.

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

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

In 2021, for the second year, we ran the Youth Climate Justice challenge with support from the DCEDIY. We were delighted to partner up with 4 other youth organisations providing training, workshops and supporting local action projects. We carried out our Youth Climate Justice Survey with over a thousand young people aged 15 – 25 years old, finding out about their concerns in relation to climate change.

We continued our work with UNESCO through its ESDfor2030 international programme attending its ESD workshops online and World Conference on ESD.

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

We hope you enjoy reading the highlights of our work in 2021 and learn about the positive impact that we have on young people, their peers and their communities both around the country and beyond.

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

We look forward to 2022 and to continuing our work to make a real difference in the lives of so many young people.



Niall Jennings
Chairperson
ECO-UNESCO

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



Elaine Nevin
National Director
ECO-UNESCO

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

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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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

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2021

IN A NUTSHELL



YEA 2021 participants

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



Young Environmentalist Awards participant

39,738

PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH YEA ACTION
PROJECTS

+15,000

PARTICIPANTS

+2,800

YOUNG PEOPLE
THAT TOOK PART IN OUR
WORKSHOPS

+200

PROJECTS
REGISTERED IN
YEA 2021

+200

ENGAGED
IN THE YOUTH FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH CLIMATE VOICES

FEBRUARY

YOUTH CLIMATE VOICES

Minister Roderic O'Gorman launched the Youth Climate Voices Survey Report.

ECO-UNESCO in collaboration with SpunOut.ie, conducted an online survey with young people. The purpose of the survey was to highlight how young people in Ireland felt about climate change and climate justice issues.

THE HEAT IS ON!

MARCH

YOUTH SUMMIT – THE HEAT IS ON!

ECO-UNESCO launched the Environmental Youth Summit – The Heat is On. Young people from Catalonia, Ireland and Scotland joined the Summit.

ECO-UNESCO'S ECO WEEKS

A series of short, snappy, sustainability sessions

APRIL

ECO-WEEK CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

ECO-UNESCO celebrated ECO-Week and Earth Day with a week of environmental workshops, talks and activities for young people.

MAY

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS & ECO-WEEK

The Young Environmentalist Awards Ceremony took place online as part of our ECO-Week celebration. President, Michael D. Higgins and former President of Ireland Mary Robinson joined us as guests of honour.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS



JULY

ECO-WEEK – INSTAGRAM TAKEOVER

ECO-UNESCO celebrated its 4th ECO-Week, focusing on young people's environmental solutions. YEA participants took over ECO-UNESCO's Instagram account to share their environmental projects.



SEPTEMBER

YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE CHALLENGE

ECO-UNESCO ran the Youth Climate Justice Challenge in partnership with 4 youth organisations.



OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT – COP26

Following the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26) ECO-UNESCO ran the Youth Climate Summit. Hosting a series of activities and events and taking action through our pledge initiative.



DECEMBER

EARTH GALA – ECO-WEEK

This ECO-Week marked the end of the Climate Justice Programme, the 5-day series with Policymakers and Climate Justice participants.

ABOUT ECO-UNESCO

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

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

ECO-UNESCO works with young people, educators and youth leaders on environmental projects across Ireland, helping to protect and conserve the environment. Each year our programmes, workshops, events and training programmes inspire environmental action at a local level among young people, their peer groups, communities and beyond.

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

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

ECO-UNESCO'S KEY ACTIVITIES 2021

ECO-YOUTH

- Youth for Sustainable Development and Peer Education Programme
- Environmental youth events, activities and workshops
- ECO-UNESCO Clubs Programme
- ECO-Youth Choices
- Youth Climate Justice
- Attended COP26 in Glasgow
- Environmental Youth Summit – The Heat is On!

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

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

AWARDS

- ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards

OTHER ACTIVITIES

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



LINK TO UNESCO

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

Founded in 1981, WFUCA is responsible for informing, coordinating and mobilising its members with UNESCO's support and cooperation.

ECO-UNESCO is the WFUCA affiliate in Ireland and supports and coordinates all-island networks of ECO-UNESCO environmental youth clubs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

BOARD MEMBERS: Niall Jennings, David Kelly, Christina Nolan, Daniel Dockery, Orla McGreal, Vivienne Kelly and Mary Gallagher Cook.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR: Elaine Nevin

STAFF MEMBERS: Alex Marinelli, Alex Konieczka, Breon Timmons, Doireann Dunbar, Dunchadh Kinane, Erica Meslin, Jess Jones, Kieran Allen, Oisín Gill, Samantha Andrades, Reesha Kurichiyel, Roisin Fitzgerald and Vince Harney.

THE YEAR IN QUOTES



“The Young Environmentalist Awards does so much to encourage, inspire, educate, empower and support young people to act so that they may play their part in our greatest societal challenge, that of climate change.”

– President Michael D. Higgins

“I attended one of the Educator's Training ECO-UNESCO ran with an Education Centre and I found the course very informative, inspiring and accessible.”

– School Teacher

“I had such a lovely time at the Eco Den this morning. So great to see the amazing work being done by young people and their teachers even in such challenging times. Well done to all of the ECO-UNESCO team for encouraging them and for delivering such a smooth event today.”

**– Anne Payne,
Department of Foreign Affairs**

“The workshop was very helpful for understanding the climate crisis – and how urgent it is – and what you can do to take climate action.”

– Workshop participant



"You are never too young to lead and you are never too old to learn."

**– Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson
at the YEA 2021 Ceremony**

"This has been a very positive experience for them (young people) and it has shown them that by putting in the time and hard work that there is a greater chance for success. This experience will stick with them for a long time to come and the skills and competencies that they will take away from the experience will benefit them in their future."

– YEA Mentor, Clement Quinn

"It was very informative and enjoyable and I'm glad that I'm doing something to help the climate because I care about it so much."

– Climate Justice Participant

"I found the Sustainable Development workshop was a very useful and worthwhile workshop as students were able to explore both social and environmental sustainability while also assessing their own habits."

**– Teacher from Learning2Change
Our World workshop**

"I enjoyed doing the Climate Justice Programme so much. It really empowered me to take action. I learnt a lot of very useful skills and I will always remember the Climate Justice Programme, because it taught me so much. It has given me more confidence."

– Ellen, Youth Climate Justice participant

AWARDS PROGRAMME

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10-18

39,738 IMPACTED IN 2021

201

registered YEA
projects

76

projects were
selected as
semi-finalists

35

judges present
at ECO-Dens
semi-finals



YEA Participants 2021

FUNDERS & SPONSORS

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2021 was supported by the Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications, the Environmental Protection Agency, and private sponsorship. Funding was also provided by Local Authorities.

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS

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



YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS (YEA)

In 2021, ECO-UNESCO received 201 registered project submissions from groups of young people across Ireland. 76 projects attended ECO-Dens with 35 judges present at ECO-Dens. This programme has a high impact from an environmental and a youth development perspective with Local Action Projects undertaken in a range of areas including Biodiversity, Waste, Climate Change, ECO Community Development, Eco-Health & Well-being, among others. Biodiversity (23%), Waste (23%), ECO-Community Development (12%), and Climate Change (12%) were the categories of most interest to young people in 2021 receiving the highest percentage of project entries.

In addition, the Young Environmentalist Awards had significant reach in 2021, with groups reporting that their projects strongly impacted over 39,000 people through a range of initiatives including activities in their local communities, schools assemblies, workshops etc. They indirectly impacted over 110,000 others through social media, speeches and other activities and reached over 2,200,000 others through media including radio, newspapers.

6 STEPS TO SUCCESS TRAINING

We ran 6 Steps to Success training support, advice services and workshops, delivered across Ireland and hosted a series of trainings in conjunction with the Education Support Centres Ireland (ESCI).

SHOWCASE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

We hosted our annual Young Environmentalist Awards Ceremony online with over 1,700 views. On the day, there were 20 Winning groups with 3 Overall Awards presented. President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins was the guest of honour for the online Awards Ceremony with a special opening address. Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson delivered a special closing address to participants.

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10 – 18

4,513

young people
impacted by 3
ECO-Week series

2,841

participants
reached by
environmental
workshops

200+

young people
impacted by the
YSD Programme

95

young people
took part in
ECO-Choices
programme



Youth for Sustainable Development group

YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (YSD)

The Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme provided young people with the opportunity to engage in quality global citizenship education and education for sustainable development (ESD) activities, empowering them to act as youth leaders and peer educators. In 2021, we worked with over 200 people who impacted their peers and communities through the structured peer education programme, local environmental action project work, Youth Action network, youth trainings, events, workshops and International Days including World Water Day and Earth Day.

We delivered the programme nationwide through our online YSD programme which improved accessibility and reached those in more rural parts of the country. We continued to deliver the programme in locations including Dublin, Drogheda, Bray, Navan and Newbridge in collaboration with local youth services and provided training to volunteers and youth leaders. We worked with Youthreach centres from across Ireland and continued to receive funding from Irish Aid's Development Education Scheme. We delivered the programme nationwide through our online YSD programme which improved the accessibility and reached those in more rural parts of the country. We continued to receive funding for this programme from Irish Aid's Development Education Scheme.

QQI ACCREDITED TRAINING

In 2021, 31 people engaged in accredited training courses.

YSD PROGRAMME EXPANSION

New groups were engaged in Dundalk, Bandon and Kinsale, as well as running multiple online national groups and Dublin groups.

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

ECO-CHOICES HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Youth for Sustainable Development participants – outdoor trip.

ECO-CHOICES HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PROGRAMME

The ECO-Choices Health and Well-Being programme engaged over 95 young people in Dublin City in 2021. This programme uses environmental education methodologies and outdoor experiential recreational and educational activities to promote healthier lifestyle choices among young people from marginalised backgrounds. In 2021, most of the engagements took place online with outdoor activities and camps taking place from July 2021 onwards. ECO-UNESCO continued to roll out the new UBU funding scheme for this programme from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

ECO-YOUTH CHOICES PROGRAMME

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

Due to an increased demand for 1-1 welfare checks with participants since last year, the ECO-Choices support programme called "Spill the Tea" and "Sandy Freds" continued in 2021. These non-formal sessions provided space for young people to talk about any issues or difficulties they are experiencing with support from their peers and ECO-UNESCO staff. These programmes were carried out with 14 young people.

ACCREDITED TRAINING

61 young people participated in the ECO Choices QQI Accredited Community Development programme.

YOUTH WORKER TRAINING

In 2021, we engaged 12 youth workers in training centres.

YOUTH EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



Young people from ECO-UNESCO's YSD groups

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS & LEARNING2CHANGE OUR WORLD PROGRAMME



In 2021 we continued to deliver a range of workshops which included our Learning2Change programme and ad-hoc workshops reaching over 2,841 participants. The Covid-19 school closures continued to create some difficulty in delivering workshops face-to-face throughout the year, however, there was good demand through online channels.

Supported by WorldWise Global Schools, Learning2Change included delivery of in-school workshops, student council trainings and teacher trainings for teachers and young people. Learning2Change was supported by Irish Aid through the WorldWise Global Schools programme.

Ad hoc workshops included: Climate Justice and Action; Exploring Biodiversity; YEA 6-Steps to Success, Waste and Fast Fashion, which we also delivered in conjunction with the Climate and Nature summit.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

We developed our online workshops to be delivered in pre-recorded formats with 63 workshops being delivered in this format, reaching 1,224 attendees. Workshops included:



**CLIMATE
ACTION**



BIODIVERSITY



**6 STEPS TO
SUCCESS**



**FAST
FASHION**



WASTE

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





YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE CHALLENGE



THE YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE CHALLENGE PROGRAMME

600,000

people
reached

1,262

survey
respondents

117

young people
took part in the
challenge

200

young people
attended the
Youth Climate
Summit

In 2021 we led a consortium project of 5 youth organisations for the second year of the Youth Climate Justice Challenge, including Irish Girl Guides, No Name Clubs, the Young Irish Filmmakers and Gaisce. This was the second year of the programme which was awarded funding by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth under their Youth Climate Justice Fund.

The programme ran successfully through a range of capacity-building workshops, trainings and events and engaged over 117 young people's action projects, 11 youth workers with over 200 people attending the Youth Climate Summit and the Climate Justice ECO-Week; the project had an indirect reach of over 600,000 through social media, press releases, partners and collaborators.

Additionally, we were engaged in COP26 and sent a youth representative to the international summit. A second national survey of young people's opinions on Climate Justice was run, with 1200 respondents was also completed.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT

YOUTH SUMMIT – THE HEAT IS ON!

We ran our international Youth Summit programme in 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions on international travel, the delivery of the Youth Summit took place online in 2021. The project funded through Erasmus+, ran between January and May 2021 and saw over 98 young people from Ireland, Spain and Scotland meet online with a series of five separate events taking place with groups engaging online with each other and with policy makers from Ireland, Scotland and Spain. In addition groups carried out action projects in their local areas.

Events included:

- Introduction to Biodiversity and Action Projects (Jan 25th & 26th).
- Introduction to Structured Dialogue & Advanced Action Project Prep (Feb 3rd & Feb 4th).
- Environmental Youth Summit Part 1 – Catch-up Evening & Film Screening of the documentary '2040' (March 9th).
- Environmental Youth Summit Part 2 – Upskilling & Preparing to speak to policymakers (March 15th & 16th).
- Environmental Youth Summit Part 3 – Action Project work & speaking with policymakers (March 22nd & 23rd).
- Day of Public Action (April 22nd).
- Final Summit Dissemination & Showcase Ceremony (May 25th).



GREEN TEEN SUMMER CAMP

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

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

ECO-WEEKS

In 2021 we continued the delivery of the ECO-Week series. A week of online activities and workshops focused on environmental solutions.

Throughout the year we ran 4 ECO-Weeks with over 4,513 young people attending from across Ireland to showcase young peoples action in climate justice, and engage and educate young people on climate change, climate justice



ECO-WEEK APRIL 2021 CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

A series of short, snappy, and sustainability sessions.
From 19th to 23rd April 2021.



ECO-WEEK MAY 2021 CELEBRATING YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS

A series of sustainability sessions, showcases, and celebrations.
From 24th to the 28th May 2021.



ECO-WEEK JULY 2021 CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLE'S ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

ECO-Week Instagram challenge. Young environmentalists delivered a daily dose of information and inspiration focused on environmental solutions.
From 19th to the 22nd July 2021.



ECO-WEEK EARTH GALA 2021

The Earth Gala was a 5-day series with Ireland's Experts, Politicians and Climate Justice participants and their wonderful projects. 6th-10th December 2021.

ECO-Weeks initiative was part of the Innovation Fund by Rethink Ireland, the Department of Rural and Community Development from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

TRAINING & UPSKILLING PROGRAMMES

CAPACITY BUILDING



TRAINING PROGRAMME

250

youth leaders and
educators trained

115

young people
received
QQI training

During 2021 ECO-UNESCO delivered a range of training programmes aimed at upskilling young people. These included accredited and non-accredited training.

QQI TRAINING

In 2021, 115 received training including QQI accredited training in ECO-Community Development

EDUCATOR'S TRAINING

Over 250 youth leaders and educators were trained through our programmes in collaboration with the Education Centres Network, the Climate and Nature Summit and the Intergenerational Climate Justice Conference and other partners. Additionally, support materials were developed and provided, including YEA support materials, YSD Programme Manual, Climate Justice materials, e-magazines and more. We re-designed and updated a range of our education resource packs including Embracing Diversity, What on Earth is Sustainable Development, the ECO-Community Garden and Energy Watchers.

We engaged with the Climate and Nature Summit and ISSU and delivered a teacher training webinar, a panel discussion and a pre-recorded workshop

YOUTH ACTION FOR NATURE & WELL-BEING

In 2021 ECO-UNESCO launched the Youth Action for Nature & Well-being. This programme is a partnership focused on innovation and the exploration of brand new youth-led solutions to environmental issues facing young people across the European continent. Together with young people and with 6 European partners we will be working to create new ways of working with young people that combine 3 main areas:

- Transformative learning
- Action competence
- Nature-based strategies for positive mental health.

COLLABORATIVE WORK

Collaboration with like-minded organisations is a key strategic goal of ECO-UNESCO. To that end, in 2021 we undertook the following collaborative work.

- We led a consortium with 4 new partners under the Climate Justice programme.
- We collaborated with 4 organisations across Europe for our Youth Climate Summit.
- We began our Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership with 5 additional partners across Europe and held our first online meeting.
- We continued to grow our collaboration with the network of Education Centres and delivered a range of webinars.
- We developed a strategic collaboration with the EPA.
- Our ECO-Week programme series engaged collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders.
- We continued our engagement with Local Authorities and Youthreach Centres.
- We continued to engage with the Dublin Bay Biosphere.
- Our work continued to promote the ideals of UNESCO.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Irish
Environmental
Network



GAISCE
THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD



BITHSFÉIR
Chuan Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin Bay
BIOSPHERE



YIFM
Young Irish Film Makers





YEA Participant

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPRESENTATION

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

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



NEWSLETTERS & E-MAGAZINES

ECO-UNESCO has kept our members, programme users, schools, funders, volunteers, clubs, among other external stakeholders up to date with key events and activities through our Annual Newsletter 2020-2021, disseminated in the annual email campaign to over 1,000 schools, Youth Organisations, ETBs, and at all external events. We also produce a monthly E-Magazine for our supporters.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2021, ECO-UNESCO continued to develop its range of resources and publications. Some of the published highlights from 2021 include:

- YEA 2021 Finalist booklet
- ECO-UNESCO Annual Newsletter 2020 – 2021
- Redevelopment of 4 environmental resources; Energy Watchers; What on Earth is Sustainable Development, Creating an ECO-Community Garden; Embracing Diversity
- Youth Climate Voices Survey Report 2021
- Wide range of informational and marketing material to promote our programmes and educational resources for key environmental days.

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2021

Our Digital Development accelerated once again in 2021 with our youth and capacity building programmes delivered online due to Covid 19 pandemic.

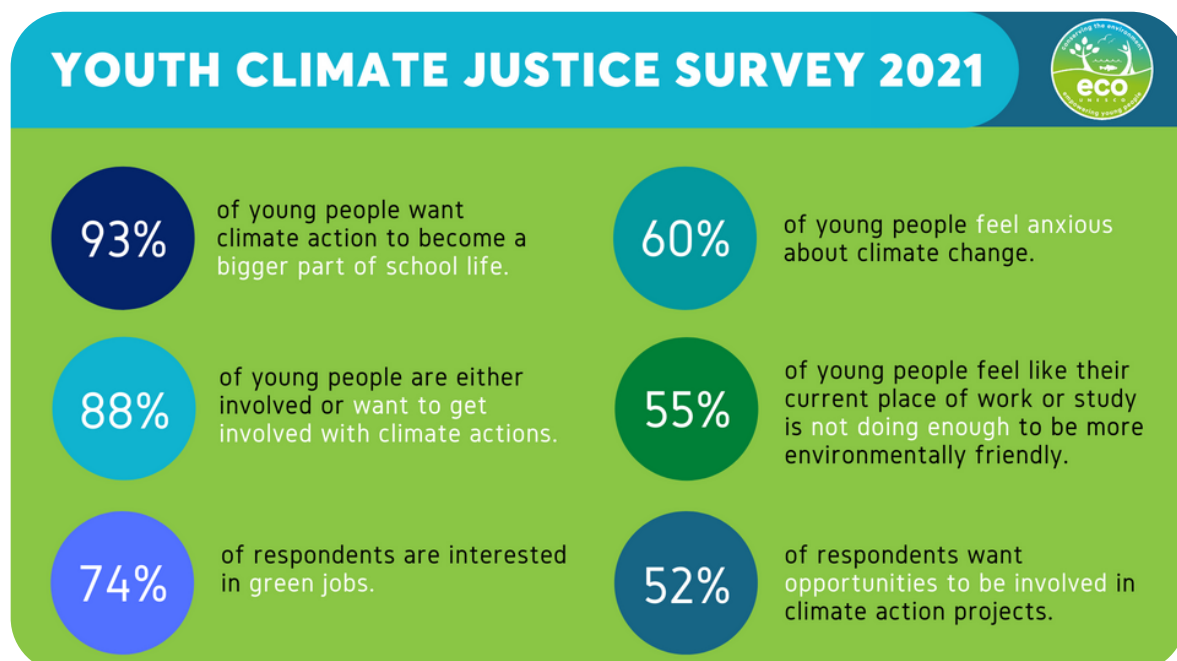
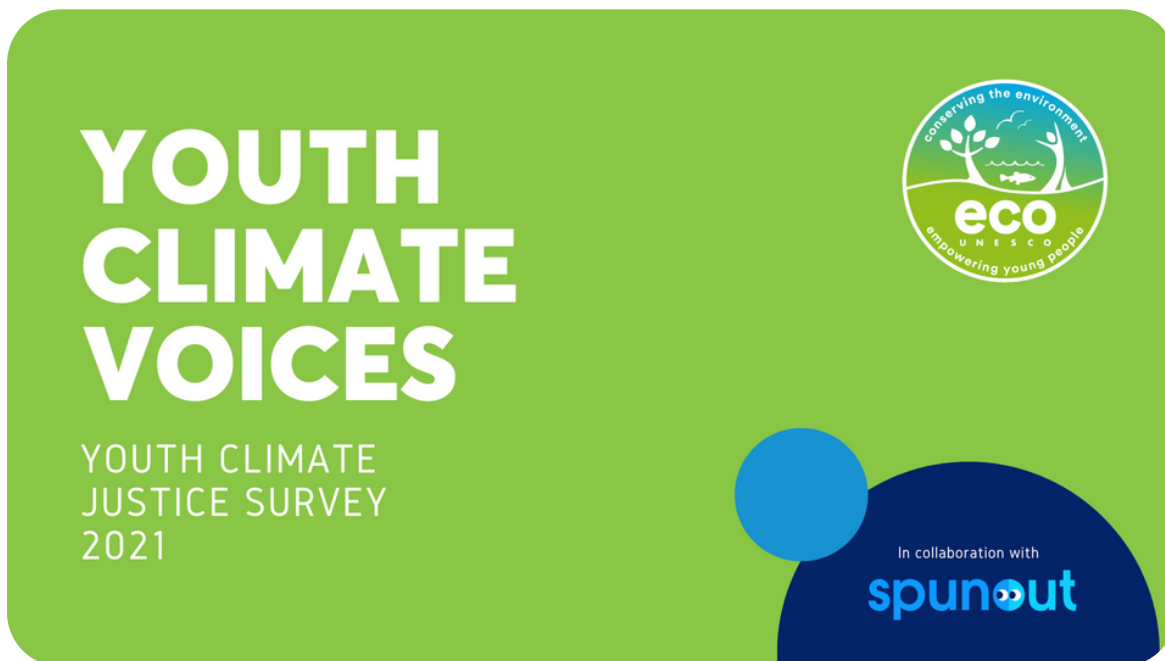
- We developed our ECO-Academy, our online e-learning platform, developing courses on the YEA 6 Steps to Success framework. We developed a new online TY Course on Sustainable Development and plan to develop and provide a full suite of courses.
- We delivered a full suite of workshops for online delivery, creating both live and pre-recorded workshops on topics of fast fashion, waste, and biodiversity.



PROMOTING INNOVATION

2021 INNOVATIONS

- We began a new strategic partnership with a focus on transformational learning (a core aspect of the ESDfor2030 framework) and carried out our second National Youth survey on Climate Change & Climate Justice carried out with 1200 young people.
- We continued to run the 'I am a young environmentalist' campaign in 2021.



REGIONAL GROWTH

REGIONAL WORK

- ECO-UNESCO continued to run its programme across Ireland through our YSD groups, our YEA project groups, workshops, and trainings in collaboration with Local Authorities.
- We continued to offer our national programmes and rolled out workshops and events attended by young people across the country.
- The International Youth Summit expanded our reach to countries in Europe; for our ECO Weeks, we had international attendees from around the world.
- We continued to liaise with UNESCO which held its ESD for 2030 conference in May 2021 with a virtual event. We attended UNESCO's workshops throughout the year.



REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

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

During 2021 ECO-UNESCO remained active in the Department of Education and Skills Advisory Group Education for Sustainable Development Coalition 2030, a coalition of civil society organisations promoting the SDG's; the National Youth Council of Ireland and IDEA.

We made submissions to the Department of Education National Strategy on ESD Consultation, the Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Consultation and the Department of Environments Climate Action Plan submission and the National Implementation Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals Consultation.



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



HOW WE OPERATE



ECO-UNESCO's National Director

FUNDING

We continued strong relationships with funders including Irish Aid through Year 2 of our multi annual funding for the YSD programme; CDYSB through UBU; DCEDIY with ongoing support for the YSGS and UBU, and additional support through Capital grant and Youth Climate Justice funding. We secured increased funds from DCCAE in 2021 and funds from Department of Education and Skills. The strategic collaboration with EPA continued.

IN 2021 ECO-UNESCO'S MAIN CORE FUNDING CAME FROM

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

- Youth Service Grant
- Youth Climate Justice Fund
- Youth Capital Grant Funds

City of Dublin Youth Service Board

- Targeted Youth Funding Scheme and subsequently UBU Scheme
- Youth Capital Grant Fund
- Targeted Youth Employability Initiative

Department of Rural and Community Development

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

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

- Young Environmentalist Awards Support

The Department of Foreign Affairs

- Irish Aid Development Education Grant

The Irish Environmental Network

- Core Funding Grant

ECO-UNESCO ALSO RECEIVED FUNDING FROM

- The Environmental Protection Agency
- Local Authorities nationwide; Dublin City Council, Monaghan County Council, Clare County Council, Sligo County Council, and Limerick County Council.
- Erasmus+ (administered by Leargás)

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

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

Our Audited Accounts for 2021 are available to download from our website www.ecounesco.ie

GOVERNANCE

ECO-UNESCO is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors made up of members. In 2021 there was a 50/50 male female gender split amongst Board Members, with a diversity of appropriate skills in place, ensuring that the board can meet its aims in oversight and policy development.

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS IN 2021 INCLUDE:

Niall Jennings (Chairperson)

Orla McGreal (Treasurer until AGM November 2021)

Vivienne Kelly (Treasurer appointed at AGM November 2021)

Daniel Dockery (Secretary)

Christina Nolan

David Kelly (Resigned AGM November 2021)

Mary Gallagher Cooke (Appointed AGM November 2021)

In 2021 there were 8 Board meetings held. Additionally, the Board has 2 Sub-Committees an Audit, Risk & Finance and a Covid-19 Sub Committee which met in 2021. The AGM took place in November 2021. Appropriate financial policies and procedures are in place, complying with statutory requirements and ECO-UNESCO's audited accounts are available on our website.

GOVERNANCE CODES

ECO-UNESCO is compliant with the Charities Regulator's Governance Code and reported compliance in 2021. The organisation complies with the Quality Assurance standards from QQI and works within the National Quality Standards Framework for Youth Work and is a signatory to the Dochas code of images.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

During 2021, we continued to work in line with our Strategic Plan running from 2018 to 2021. A new Strategic planning process for 2022 onwards began in 2021.

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



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

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



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

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



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

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