

# ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Leading Environmental Education Youth Organisation



## 2023

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





# Welcome to the Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony 2023

I'm delighted to welcome you here today to our very special celebration to acknowledge the fantastic work of all of our Young Environmentalists.

The Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) are all about encouraging and supporting youth-led environmental action and about recognising and rewarding those actions and efforts. This year ECO-UNESCO is celebrating 24 years of our Young Environmentalist Awards programme; over the years, the YEA has grown. We have worked with tens of thousands of young people from all across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland who have made a direct and positive impact on improving our environment and on making our world more sustainable through their action projects each year.

This year we're back hosting our Showcase and Awards ceremony and are proudly exhibiting 100 of the finalist projects which have come from over 270 registered entries from thousands of young people all across Ireland. Each of today's finalists came to a regional ECO-Den, a Dragons' Den style semi-finals where they pitched their projects to a panel of judges in order to secure their spot at this year's Showcase and Awards Ceremony.

Through YEA action projects, young people are finding solutions to environmental problems. The projects have been so varied with many working to improve biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprints, tackle climate change, reduce plastic pollution and waste and many more. All the projects had a focus on protecting our natural environment and on making our world more sustainable, with many of you tackling global issues at a local level and linking to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

I had the pleasure of meeting with our young environmentalists during our ECO-Dens semi-finals and I was so inspired by the work, the creativity, the ideas, the innovation, the energy and the passion which shone through in your approach to protecting the environment and promoting environmental awareness amongst your peers, schools, youth groups, and the wider community. I would like to commend the hard work, time and effort put into the projects by all the groups involved and would also like to commend your YEA Mentors, the leaders and teachers who supported you in your work.

I would like to thank everybody who has supported the Young Environmentalist Awards throughout the year. I would like to thank our sponsors and funders; we really appreciate the ongoing support which helps us to develop and grow the impact of the YEA. I want to thank our YEA judges for all your diligent work in judging this year's projects. We greatly appreciate your time, interest and commitment and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

I would like to thank President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, Patron of ECO-UNESCO, for his ongoing support of ECO-UNESCO and our Young Environmentalist Awards. I would like to thank our special guests and especially the Lord Mayor of Dublin for her address here today.

I want to especially thank the ECO-UNESCO team who have worked tirelessly to make this year's Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Ceremony such a special occasion, and the Board for their continued support.

Thank you for making the Young Environmentalist Awards such a success and we hope you have a wonderful day!



**Elaine Nevin**  
National Director  
ECO-UNESCO

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

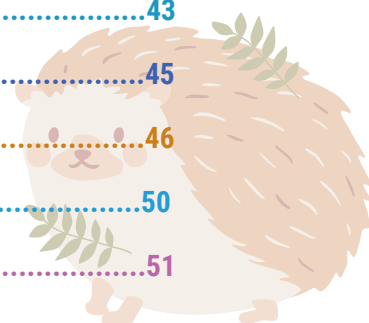
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# Today's Schedule



10:00

Doors Open

10:00 - 12:30

## Finalist Showcase

- Project Exhibition
- Learning Zone
- Exhibitor Zone
- Teach n' Meet

12:30-13:50

Lunch

14:00-16:00

Awards Ceremony

14:07

Welcome from Lord  
Mayor of Dublin  
Cllr. Caroline Conroy

16:10

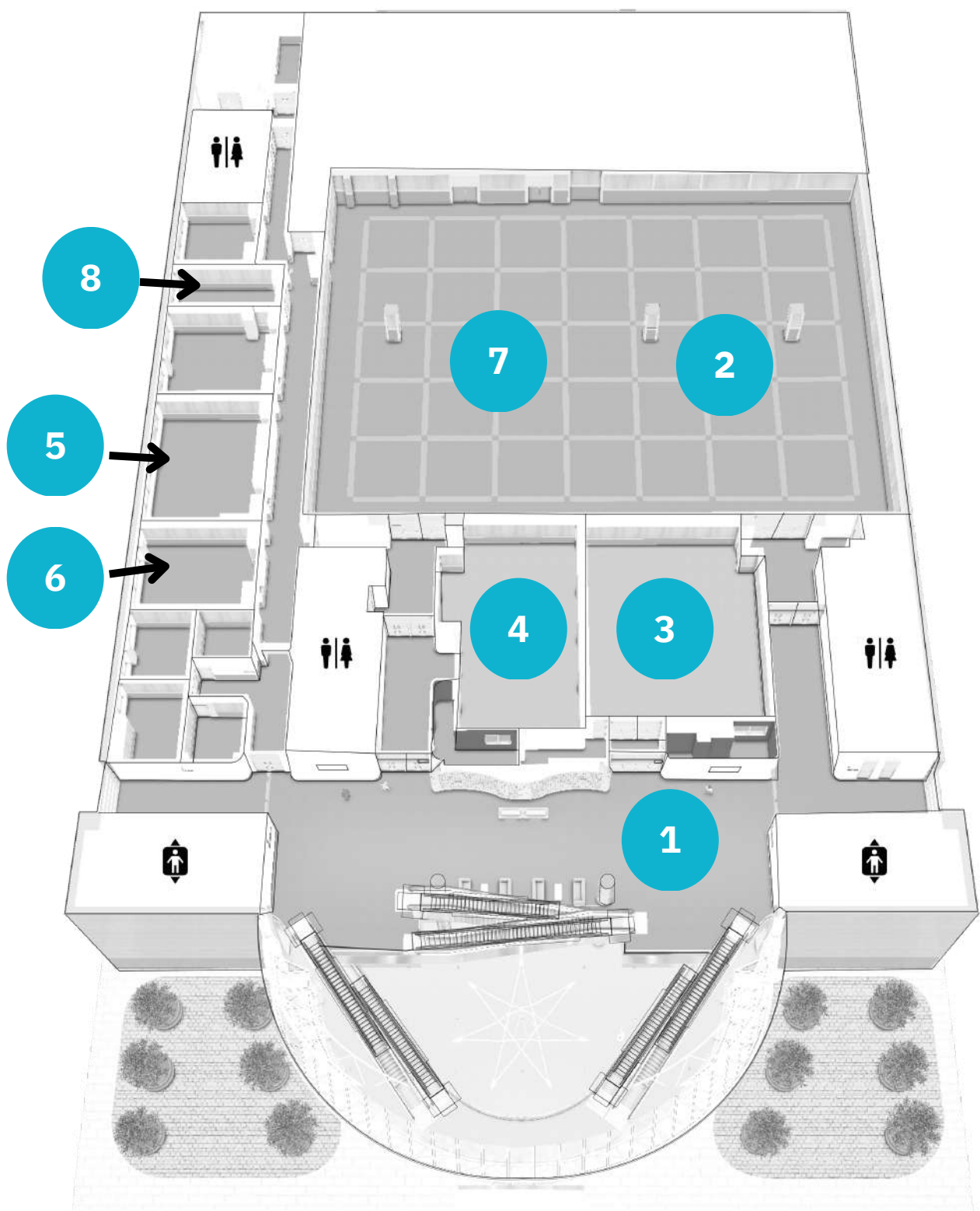
Closing Speech



# Getting Around



## Level 1



# Getting Around

**1 = Level 1 Foyer:** here you will find reception desks, water stations, and access to the lifts and escalators. Bathrooms can be found in the areas labelled on the map, just off the main level 1 foyer.

**2 = Finalist Showcase:** here you will find the finalist exhibition space of the Young Environmentalist Awards. Please **see page 7** for a detailed map of where to find each finalist project.

**3 = Exhibitor Zone:** here you will find an interactive zone where many environmental and youth organisations are exhibiting such as Enrich, IKEA, SEAI, Understory, ECO-UNESCO and more. Pop along to find out more about these amazing organisations! **See page 18** for more details.

**4 = Catering Zone:** here you will find a cafe zone where you can purchase a range of snacks, sandwiches, teas, coffee, and other refreshments throughout the showcase. Please bring your own keep-cups if you plan on purchasing teas or coffees. As an environmental event focused on encouraging sustainable options, our food range will host delicious plant-based options in our catering.

**5 = Learning Zone:** here you will find our environmental workshop space where we have three exciting guest speakers delivering workshops at 10:10, 10:45 and 11:20. **See page 16** for more information on speaker schedule and talk summaries.

**6 = Teacher Lounge:** here you will find the "Teach n' Meet" session running from 11:00 - 12:00. This interactive networking session is open to all YEA mentors, past and present, along with any teacher or youth worker who is interested in supporting young environmentalists in their school, youth group or community. Learn more on **page 22**.

**7 = Awards Ceremony:** here you will find the awards ceremony taking place from 14:00 - 16:00. Find out more about the agenda for the awards ceremony on **page 54**. Please be mindful of reserved seats at the front.

**8 = Quiet Room:** The quiet room will be available for the duration of the event to anyone who may be in need of a moment of peace and quiet at any stage throughout the day or feeling overwhelmed from the high energy of the event.

**NOTE:** Please note this event is being photographed and filmed. If you do not wish to appear in any footage of the event please alert a member of staff.

# Finalist Showcase Area

## Display zones

**A1 - A6**  
Biodiversity

**A7 - A12**

Biodiversity / ECO- Innovation

**C1 - C6**

ECO-Innovation

**C7 - C12**

Food

**E1 - E6**

Food / Local 2 Global SDG

**E7 - E12**

ECO-Health & Wellbeing / Marine

**G1 - G6**

Water / Marine

**G7 - G12**

Super Junior

**B1 - B6**

Biodiversity

**B7 - B12**

Climate Change / ECO-Art & Design

**D1 - D6**

Transport / ECO-Art & Design

**D7 - D12**

ECO-Community Development

**F1 - F6**

ECO-Community Development / Energy

**F7 - F12**

Waste

**H1 - H6**

Waste

**H7 - H12**

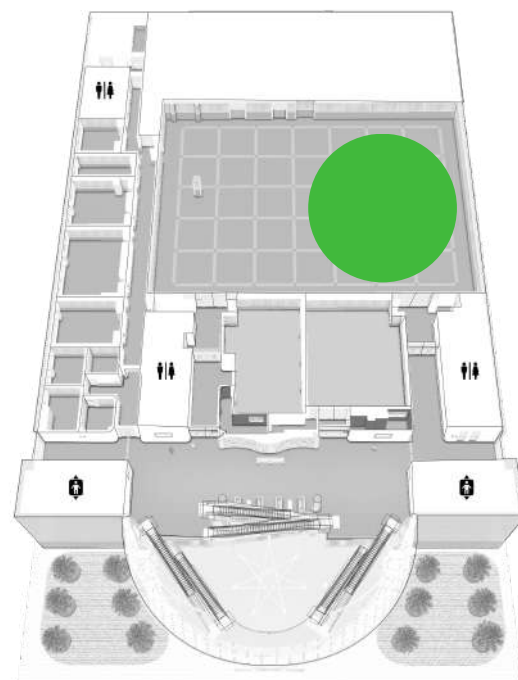
Waste / Further Growth



**DOOR**



Time	Details
10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doors open to the public</li> </ul>
12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doors close for lunch break</li> </ul>





# Finalist Project Index

## Biodiversity - SDG #15

County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Display #
Dublin	St Pauls C.B.S	Brunner's Biodiverse Universe	A1
Cork	St. Brogans Collage	Is Soil Biology the Secret to Efficient Agriculture?	A2
Cork	Coláiste Éamann Rís	Increasing Native Biodiversity	A3
Dublin	Ballinteer Community School	BCS Biodiversity	A5
Dublin	Drimnagh Castle Secondary School	Drimnaghs Dream Garden (DDG)	A6
Cork	Kinsale Community School,	Boosting Biodiversity	A4
Dublin	Drimnagh Castle Secondary School	Nature's Finest	A7
Cork	Kinsale Community School	TY Waste Watchers	B3
Dublin	St. Joseph's Secondary School	An Investigation Into the Public's Perceptions and Fears of Avian Influenza	B4
Wicklow	Loreto Secondary School Bray	Flower Power	A8
Waterford	Ardscoil na Mara	Nature Engagement	A9
Dublin	Rockbrook Park School	Invasive Investigators	B5
Wexford	FCJ Bunclody	Spikey Situations	A10
Cork	St. Brogan's College Bandon	MiyaWaki Forest Bandon	B6
Cork	Millstreet Community School	How Dung Beetles Can Benefit Soil Health and Enhance Biodiversity	A11
Dublin	Youth for Sustainable Development	Biodiversity SOS - Save Our (eco)Systems	B1
Louth	Youth for Sustainable Development	Eco Hub	B2
Waterford	Méanscoil San Nioclás	Ar nGairdín Machnamh	n/a
Cork	Colaiste an Chroi Naofa Carrig na bhFear	Save the Bees	n/a
Dublin	Pobalscoil Neasain	Nature Nurture	n/a

## Climate Change - SDG #13

Waterford	Waterford Comhairle na nOg	Comhairless Native Tree Trail	B7
Kerry	St Brigid's Killarney	Planet A podcast	B8
Longford	Lanesboro Community College	Global Thinking to Local Interventions	B9
Tipperary	Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule, Thurles	Change by Trees	B10
Louth	Dundalk Grammar School	DGS Young Environmentalists	B11

## ECO-Community and Development - SDG #11

Dublin	Marino College	Let's Clear The Air	D12
Dublin	Drimnagh Castle Secondary School	Eco-Sports	D10
Dublin	Cabinteely Community School	From Local to Global	D7
Waterford	Ardscoil Na Mara	Social Change	D8
Kerry	Meán scoil Nua an leith triúigh	Eco Empire	D9
Louth	Youth for Sustainable Development	Let's Get Rocky	F5
Dublin	Skerries Community College	Sustainable Eco Action in Schools (SEAS)	D11
Dublin	Rockbrook Park School	A Matter of Life and Death	F4
Kerry	Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk	Mounthawk Student Climate Conference 2022	F6

## ECO-ART and Design - SDG #12

Kerry	Mhean scoil Nua and Leith Truigh	Petal Works	D4
Kerry	St Bridgid's Secondary School Killarney	Friends of The Forest	D3
Dublin	Drimnagh Castle Secondary School	The Green Ronin	B12
Kildare	Meánscoil Iognáid Rís	Carving A Better Future	D5
Meath	Eureka Secondary School	Flowerpuff Girls	n/a
Tipperary	Neenagh college	Washed Away	D6

## ECO-Health and Wellbeing - SDG #3

County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Display #
Kerry	St. Brendan's College Killarney	Biodiversity On Our Doorstep	E7
Down	Knockevin Special School	The Enchantment Project	E8
Meath	Ratoath College	Lead the Scene and Keep it Green	E9
Dublin	Rockbrook Park School	An Edible Outdoor Classroom	E10

## ECO-Innovation - SDG #9

Cork	St. Brogans College	NeuroMemory - Is this the Future of Sustainable Storage	A12
Wicklow	St Mary's College Arklow	Lightning Speed Plant Growth(kachow)	C1
Cork	Christ King Girls' secondary school	Cow Nutrition, Bye Emission	C4
Dublin	Loreto College, St. Stephens Green	The Einstein of Enzymes A Battle Against Plastic Pollution	C3
Dublin	St Mary's College	In Rock Dust You Can Trust	C2
Dublin	Rockbrook Park School	Rockbrook Biodiversity Festival	C5
Tyrone	St. Ciaran's College	Smart Line	C6

## Energy SDG #7

Westmeath	Colaiste Chiarain Athlone	Angry Birds Energy	F1
Cork	Kinsale Community School	Light Savers	F2
Cork	Colaiste an Chroí Naofa	Energy Savers	n/a
Dublin	Drimnagh Castle Secondary School	Gleaming Green	F3

## Food - SDG #2

Cork	Colaiste Treasa	"Grubs Up"	E3
Cork	Terence MacSwiney Community College	The Food Fund	E2
Dublin	Youth for Sustainable Development	S.A.F.E	E1
Galway	Presentation College Tuam	Working For Our Crust	C12
Kerry	St. Brigids Secondary School	Giving Food A Second Life	C11
Dublin	Cabinteely Community School	Sustainable Shopping	C10
Kerry	St. Brigid's secondary school Killarney	Bare Root!	n/a
Kerry	St.Brigids Presentation Secondary School	No Time to Waste	C9
Cork	Colaiste an chroí Naofa	Clean It!	C8
Galway	St. Jarlath's College	The Food Brigade	C7
Dublin	Ballinteer Community School	Less Fertiliser More Growth	E4

## Further Growth

Multiple	Ardscoil na Mara, Presentation Wexford, Rockbrook Park School, Clerihan National School, Gaelscoil an Choillín (ISSN)	Plant A Planet	H9
Dublin	Newpark School	Plastic Outta the Park	H8
Cork	Schull Community College	Upcycling and Reusing Marine Plastic Waste	H7

## Local to Global

Multiple	Irish Schools Sustainability Network	5 Minutes of Sustainability	E6
Dublin	Youth for Sustainable Development	Sustainable Students	E5

## Marine Life - SDG #14

County	School/Organisation	Project number & name	Display #
Kerry	Meán Scoil Nua an Leith Triúigh	MSLT Habitat Heroes	G5
Galway	St. Jarlath's College	No Plastic Would Be Fantastic	E11
Cork	Cólaiste an Chroí Naofa	Water Footprint	n/a
Dublin	Mount Anville Secondary School	Marine Team	G6
Cork	Kinsale Community School	Consuming Fish: The Carbon Footprint Of Trawling	E12

## Transport - SDG # 11

Wexford	Meánscoil Gharman	Iompar gan Breosla Iontaise	D2
Galway	St. Jarlaths	Get Out of the Car and Walk Afar	D1
Dublin	Oatlands College	Sustainable Streets	n/a

## Waste - SDG #12

Meath	Eureka Secondary School	4 Change	n/a
Donegal	Loreto Convent Letterkenny	Loretos Little Litter Pickers	H11
Louth	Youth for Sustainable Development	Visible Disposal	H12
Westmeath	Coláiste Chiaráin, Athlone	Construction Pollution	H3
Kerry	St. Brigid's Presentation	It's Not Just A Paper Cup-It's Your Future	H4
Cork	Ursulines Secondary School	Waste Watch	H10
Laois	Mountmellick Community School	Mother Nature's Minions	H6
Louth	Dundalk Grammer school	Environmental Expert-ees	H5
Dublin	Mercy College	Global Litter and Waste	H1
Kildare	Newbridge College	NBCompost	F7
Cork	Kinsale Community School	Not So frank and Honest	F12
Kildare	St Wolstan's Community School Celbridge	Woolly's Waste Not Want Not	F11
Tyrone	St Ciaran's College Ballygawley	A 'Rubbish' Investigation	F10
Laois	Portlaoise College	The Daily Grind	F9
Cork	Kinsale Community School	Investigation of Correct Recycling Habits...	F8
Dublin	Institute of Education	Planet Earth - Manufactured with Plastic	H2

## Water - SDG #14

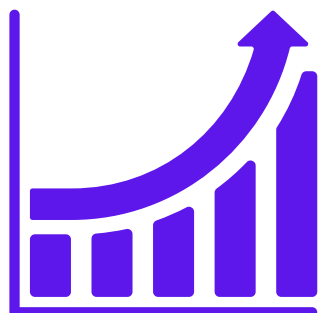
Cork	Millstreet Community School	How The Chemicals In Hair Dye Effect The Environment	G4
Cork	Glanmire Community College	Waining Water Standards	G3
Dublin	Drimnagh Castle Secondary School	The Pond Resurrection	G2
Wicklow	Marino Community Special School	East Wicklow Rivers	G1

## Super Junior

Wexford	St Colman's N.S. Ballinaggin, Enniscorthy	Butterfly Mosaic	G7
Dublin	Holmpatrick NS	Saving Skerries Underwater Life	G8
Dublin	Ronanstown youth service	Fairy Garden	G9
Mayo	Foroige Connect, Castlebar	Wood Wide Web Waste Warriors	G10
Down	St. Clare's Abbey	St. Francis' Garden	G11



# YEA 2023 Impact



**+45,575**

Strongly Impacted



**27**

Counties Represented



**+5,800**

Young People  
Participated



**24**

Awards



**279**

Registered Projects



**+9,000**

Online Votes Cast

# THE ROAD TO THE YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS 2023

## 5th September 2022

The Young Environmentalist Awards 2023 officially launches, with registrations open to all young people aged 10-18.

## September - November 2022

"6-Steps-to-Success" action project workshops provided to registered YEA groups to help create a team together, research an environmental issue, pick a topic, develop and carry out an action plan and raise awareness in their school, youth group or community.

## November 2022

ECO-Week of the Young Environmentalist Awards takes place during Science week, with 4,494 young people taking part in our 12 sustainability workshops based around the 12 YEA categories.

## November 2022 - February 2023

Action took place! 279 registered groups created their youth-led action project to help improve an environmental issue of their choice in their school, youth group, or community. Groups did amazing work in completing their environmental actions, their submission form and creating their short video detailing their environmental project.

## 28th February 2023

Submission deadline for completion of environmental action projects!

## March - April 2023:

ECO-Den semi-finals took place across Ireland in each of the four provinces over 10 days.

## May 26th 2023:

Shortlisted finalist projects invited to the Young Environmentalist Awards finalist showcase and awards ceremony in the Convention Centre, Dublin.

# REGIONAL SEMI-FINAL ECO-DENS YEA 2023

**21st & 22nd of March**  
**University College**  
**Dublin**



## 10 Days Of Eco-Dens

We held regional ECO-Den semi-finals across Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster and two days of online ECO-DENS.

**24th March**  
**Technological**  
**University Dublin, Tallaght**



## 800 Young People

Over 800 young people engaged in the YEA semi-final ECO-DENS, from over 70 different schools and youth groups.

**27th, 28th & 29th March**  
**Corks Old Waterworks**  
**Experience**



## 126 Semi-Finalists

From 279 total project registrations, 126 projects were shortlisted for the ECO-DEN semi-finals of YEA 2023.



ECO-UNESCO would like to thank the venues who have supported and hosted the ECO-Den semi-finals of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2023:

- UCD in the Community
- Technological University Dublin, Tallaght
- Lifetime Labs Old Cork Waterworks Experience, Cork
- University College Galway
- Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Co. Armagh.



# REGIONAL SEMI-FINAL ECO-DENS YEA 2023



**18th April**  
**University of Galway**

**19th April**  
**ONLINE ECO-Den**

**21st of April**  
**Lough Neagh Discovery  
Centre, Co. Armagh**

**26th April**  
**ONLINE ECO-Den**

ECO-UNESCO would also like to sincerely thank all who joined our environmental judging panels for our regional ECO-Den semi-finals of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2023:

Aileen Moon, EPA  
Aine Keogh, Grant Thornton  
Alan Henry, Climate Cycle SOS  
Alanna Kirwan, Galway Atlantaquaria Aquarium  
Aoife McGrane, Department of Education  
Aoife Mitchell, Department of Education  
Barbara Owen, Ecclesiastical Insurance Office  
Brenda Gallagher, University of Galway (UCG)  
Brendan Kirwan, Kerry Biosphere  
Claire Canning, Irish Aid  
Delon Earle, Univeristy of Galway (UCG)  
Irene Ní Shúilleabháin, University College Cork (UCC)

Lorcán Scott, Heritage Council  
Paul Walsh, United Nations Sustainable  
Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)  
Martyn Allan, IKEA  
Robert Mooney, Department of Environment  
Rosie McDonagh, Community Foundation for  
Ireland  
Dr. Ruth Hally, University College Cork (UCC)  
Sylvia Gavigan, Technological University Dublin  
(TUD)

We would also like to thank Galway County Council, Mayo County Council, Greener Clare and Healthy Clare who supported our ECO-Den semi-finals.



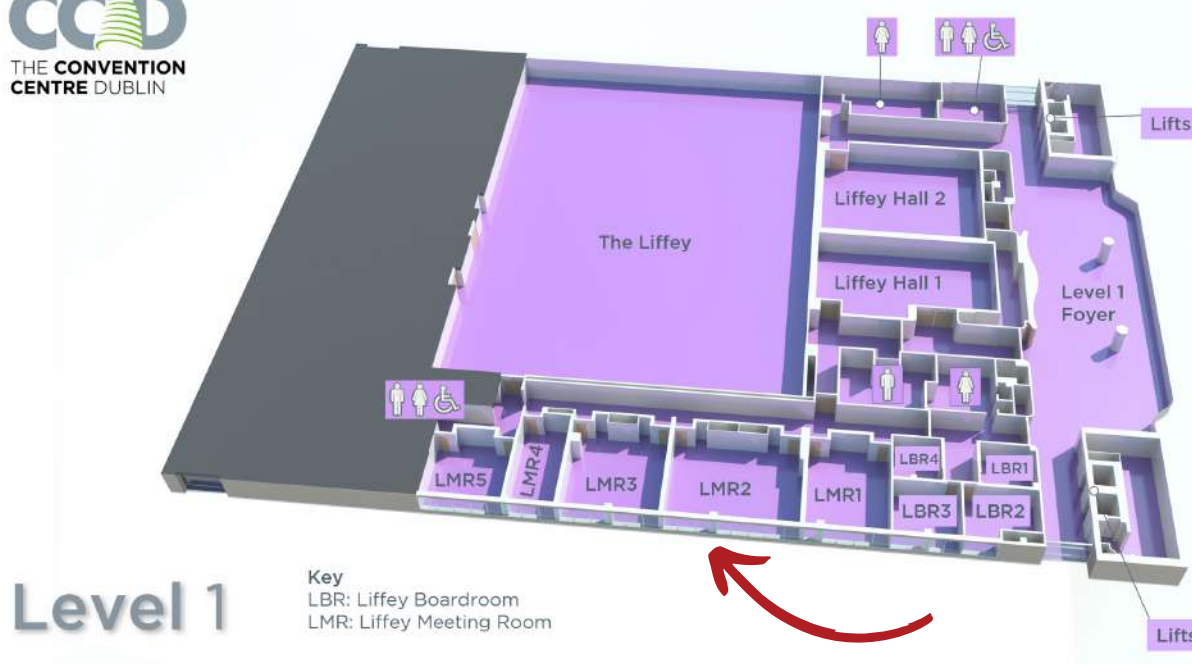
# Learning Zone

## Introducing our Learning Zone at the Young Environmentalist Awards 2023!

Take a break from the exhibition to expand your knowledge at one of our on-site workshop sessions.

We have three exciting guest speakers who will each deliver a short and sweet sustainability session on a different topic across a wide range of environmental areas: from ocean conversation, to circular and sustainable fashion, to finding joy and comedy in the environmental movement.

Each talk will range from 15-20 minutes with an opportunity for questions and engagement from the audience at the end. **Find our Learning Zone in Liffey Meeting Room 2 (LMR2).**



Time	Speakers	Topic
10:10 - 10:30	Colm O'Regan	Comedy and Climate Action
10:45 - 11:10	Flossie Donnelly	Marine Conservation and Our Oceans
11:20 - 11:45	Mary Flemming	Sustainable Fashion for People and Our Planet

# Learning Zone - Meet The Speakers



## **Colm O'Regan: 10:10 - 10:30**

Colm O'Regan is a best-selling and critically acclaimed broadcaster, author, comedian, and now self-confessed Climate Worrier. He is the author of seven best-selling books including the Irish Mammy trilogy, Bolloxology and the two Ann Devine novels – the latest of which is the novel Ann Devine Handle with Care ('A heart-warming Irish tale provides a much-needed lift in spirits' Sunday Times 'very funny' Irish Times) and Climate Worrier (A winning combination of drily hilarious and thought-provoking, often all at once.' - SUNDAY INDEPENDENT).

As a stand-up comedian, he has performed all over the world. Colm has written and presented the multi-award winning RTE 1 Radio comedy show Colm O'Regan Wants A Word since 2016. In recent years he has started his own podcast ; The Function Room about maths and numbers. Colm writes a weekly column about 'everything and anything' for the Irish Examiner.



## **Flossie Donnelly: 10:45 - 11:10**

Flossie Donnelly is a 15-year-old Climate Activist and Marine Environmentalist. She has actively cleaned the beaches since she was 8 years old and is the Patron of the charity 'Flossie and The Beach Cleaners' – Flossie is passionate about marine life and the damage climate change is having on our seas and oceans. Flossie is always positive, never negative.

Flossie Donnelly regularly engages in climate strikes either outside her school or the Dáil and organizes beach cleanups in Dún Laoghaire and Sandycove, along her local South Dublin coastline. She will be speaking about how incredible the ocean is in Ireland, what is harming the sea, why she started beach cleaning, and showing us some items that have been collected over the last few years on beaches all around Ireland.



## **Mary Fleming: Change Clothes Crumlin: 11:20 - 11:45**

Mary Fleming is the founder of Change Clothes Crumlin, a community-based clothing reuse hub in the Crumlin area of Dublin. Change Clothes Crumlin is building a creative, social community of clothes swappers, borrowers, upcyclers, menders, and like-minded people in the Crumlin area. Everyone is welcome to take part in our events. Their goal is to build common threads of sharing between people in the Dublin 12 community, re-learn useful mending skills now lost to a generation (but hopefully not for long), generate affordable sustainable clothing solutions, and finally, to reduce the amount of clothing going to landfill. During her talk, Mary will talk about the impact of fashion on our environment and the easy steps we can take to make sure we're doing better for both people and planet.



# Exhibitor Zone

## Introducing our Exhibitor Zone at the Young Environmentalist Awards 2023!

Come visit our exhibitor zone to meet other environmental and youth organisations and explore some interactive stands and activities.

The exhibitor zone will be open to the public from **10:00 - 12:30** in **Liffey Hall 2**:



Exhibitors	Zone
Enrich	SDG 14 - Life on Land
IKEA	SDG 9 - Industry & Innovation
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	SDG 7 - Renewable Energy
ECO-UNESCO and Understory - Biodiversity Bonanza	Biodiversity Zone
Youth Action for Nature and Well-Being (YAFNW)	SDG 3 - Good Health & Wellbeing
ECO-UNESCO Information Stand	SDG 17 - Partnership for the Goals

# Exhibitor Zone - Stand Information



## Enrich

Enrich is an award-winning compost manufacturer and is the largest producer of peat-free products in Ireland. We have built extensive knowledge on the design and management of compost plants, and in the use of compost in building sustainable soils. Our solutions are an example of circular economy in action.

Our vision is to play our part in building a truly circular and zero waste economy, to recover valuable resources, and produce valuable products. Our mission is to develop and commercialise material management strategies that combine high quality recycling, environmental protection, soil fertility and resource conservation. We strive to develop solutions that work in harmony with nature, are sustainable and cost effective.

At Enrich, we are passionate about biodiversity. We have brought along samples of our peat-free organic compost today and would encourage everyone to come and visit us and take home a sunflower growing kit. Sunflowers are one of the most recognisable and best-loved flowers. Sunflowers are not a true native species but are a beneficial plant in gardens and our ecosystem. Bees are attracted to sunflowers for their nectar, and they provide seeds for wild birds such as Bullfinch, Coal Tit, Greenfinch and the House Sparrow.



## IKEA

What started as a tiny mail order company in rural Sweden has now become a global home furnishing brand that brings affordability, design and comfort to people all over the world. We may have come a long way since our humble beginnings, but our vision remains the same: to create a better everyday life for the many people.

One of our core beliefs is that everyone can live more sustainably at home, we know that more and more people are interested in reducing the impact they have on the planet, but that many don't really know how to do it. To make this easier we focus on a few key things: energy, air, water and waste. By 2030, our goal is to inspire more than 1 billion people to live a better everyday life within the limits of the planet.

IKEA Ireland Ltd. is proud to be part of the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards. We hope to see you at our stand where we can show the small steps we are taking to achieve our goals!

# Exhibitor Zone - Stand Information

## Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is Ireland's national energy authority driving Ireland's sustainable energy transformation for the benefit of society. SEAI works with Government, homeowners, businesses, schools, and communities to achieve increased energy efficiency and to decarbonise our economy.



SEAI Education and Youth Programme is supporting Irish young people and their educators to engage in sustainable energy, climate matters and contribute to our common efforts towards a more sustainable future.

We aim to be leaders in sustainable energy and climate change education for young people in Ireland. SEAI will support and encourage the youth voice in the on-going climate conversation at national, local and community level. To find out more about the SEAI Education and Youth Programme visit [Schools](#) | [Community Energy](#) | [SEAI](#).

The Energy in Education Programme offers a suite of supports for schools who want to improve their energy use practices and reduce school operating costs. This programme is run in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills and provides training workshops with extensive resources for teachers and their students. Visit <http://www.energyineducation.ie> for more information.

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## Biodiversity Bonanza

Biodiversity can be a difficult term to grasp! The ECO-UNESCO Biodiversity Bonanza stand will allow you to explore biodiversity through auditory, visual, and tactile learning. Some of the topics covered include biodiversity in our everyday lives, local to global ecosystem services, the significance of diversity in food systems, and the future of biodiversity. The interactive workshop part of the Biodiversity Bonanza will give participants a greater understanding of the rich biological diversity that surrounds them and create a more in-depth comprehension of ecosystem services on a local and global level.



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) linked include; SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being, SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 14 Life Below Water, SDG 15 Life on Land. This stand is kindly sponsored by the Irish Environmental Network and delivered to you in collaboration with Understory.

# Exhibitor Zone - Stand Information



## Youth Action for Nature and Well-Being (YAFNW)

Youth Action for Nature and Well-Being is an ECO-UNESCO programme, kindly sponsored by Erasmus+.

ECO-UNESCO asked young people about the climate crisis, heard what they had to say, and from this designed an innovative project called Youth Action for Nature and Well-Being. Six organisations worked together, meeting and exchanging culture and practise. The project is youth-led and used systems-thinking to collaborate, with nature connection and well-being as their topics. Together they designed international youth events, in Ireland, Latvia, Slovakia, Catalonia and Scotland; turning ideas and activities into a toolkit. The programme is currently at the stage of creating five outputs; a Toolkit, Case Study, a Pedagogy Design Guide, an E-learning course and an Evaluation Tool, which will be shared at an event at Airfield on the 11th August 2023.

Interested? Please pop along to our stand to find out more!!!



## ECO-UNESCO Information Stand

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's leading environmental education and youth organisation! We are an all-island organisation affiliated with the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations and to UNESCO as a key partner of its Global Action programme on Education for Sustainable Development.

We run multiple programmes for young people on a broad range of environmental issues through schools, youth organisations, community groups or local authorities. These programmes include: Youth for Sustainable Development, ECO-Choices Health & wellbeing programme, Education of Sustainable Development Workshops, ECO-Clubs for young people and Green Teen Summer Camps during the summer.

We also run numerous training programmes both for young people and trainers within non-formal and formal education.

We have a wide range of expert educational resources focusing on environmental education for young people, to support teachers, youth leaders and other educators to apply environmental education into their work. Get involved today in one of our programmes.

Come and visit our information stand to find out more!!!





ECO-UNESCO's

**Young  
Environmentalist  
Awards**

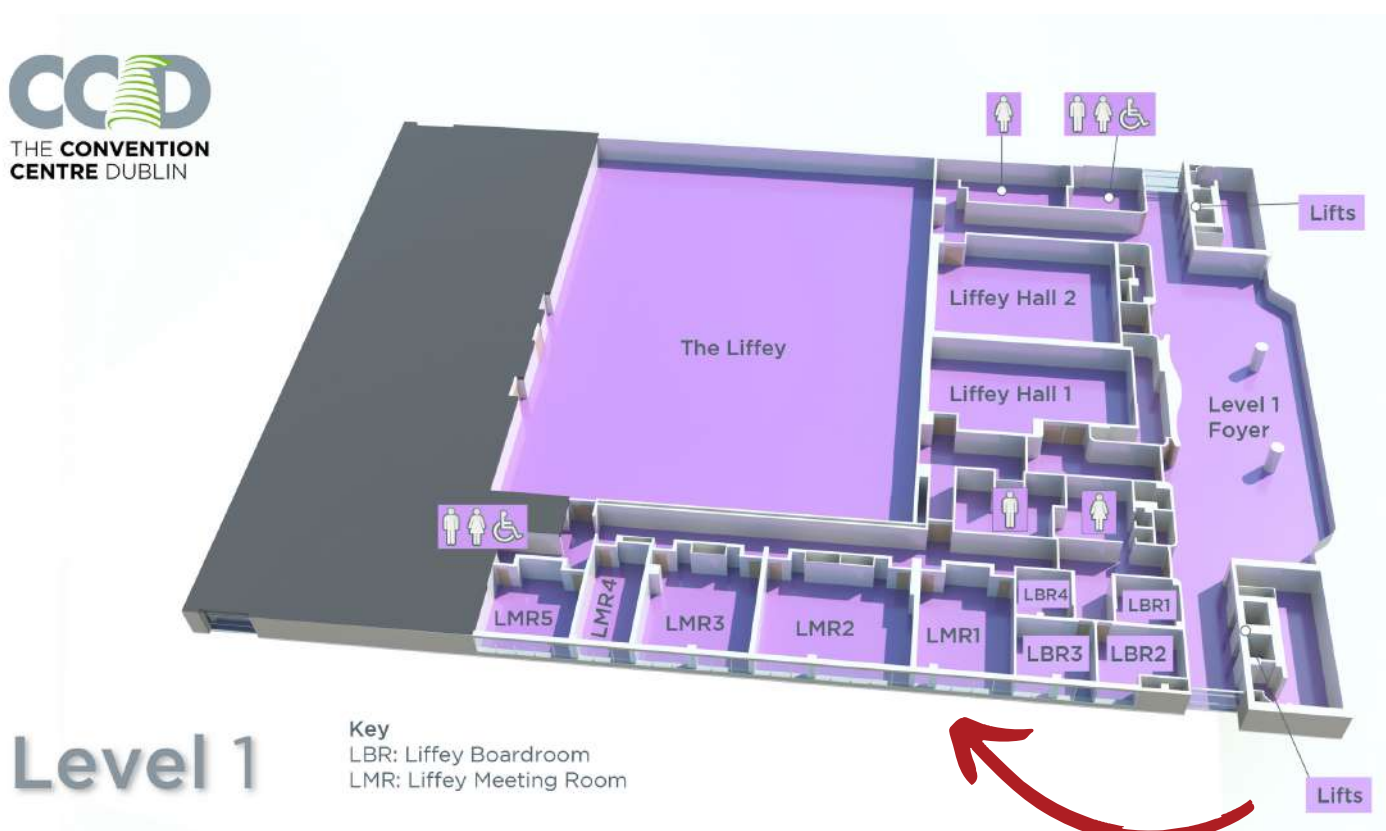


# Teach N' Meet

The "Teach n' Meet" session is open to all YEA mentors, past and present, along with any teacher or youth worker who is interested in supporting young environmentalists in their school, youth group or community.

This session will focus on networking with others interested in Education for Sustainable Development and engaging in interactive conversations to discuss how best to support youth-led environmental action in the classroom and youth spaces.

Grab a coffee, come along, meet other environmentalists and share your story of supporting youth-led environmental action.



Time	Venue
11:00 - 12:00	Liffey Meeting Room 1

# Finalist Project Summaries

## Biodiversity - SDG #15

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



Daniel Aguilar, Murphy Olanrewaju Alade, Bailey Boylan-Grimes, Seán Burke, Mark Conka, Eamon Craig, Tadhg Edgar, Alex Ennis Smithers, Luke Fagan, Ayuub Falag, Patrick Flynn, James Foley, William Gajkowski, Kyle Glynn, Hilaal Haybe, Rhys Horan, Bradley McCreery, Cameron Moran, Aaron Nolan, David O'Keeffe, Callum O'Shea, Dylan Swan, Calum Walker, Cole Ward, Zhen Yuan Xiang.

### Brunner's Biodiverse Universe St Pauls C.B.S, Dublin 2023-010

Our school is in a built-up urban area with very little biodiversity, because of this our hope for this project was to restore some level of biodiversity into the area. We had researched the important role bees play in the pollination of plants and decided by addressing the issue of the declining bee population we would consequentially promote biodiversity on a larger scale into the surrounding areas. We researched existing obstacles to biodiversity and why the bee's population was declining. We decided to pot plants around the school with plants which were known to attract pollinators. We then thought that placing some of these pots near the school's bug motel would be beneficial. We also found evidence that certain colours, such as purple and blue, attract bees more than others. We painted the planters with these colours, planted these plants and sowed some seeds which will germinate during spring. As bee's hibernate until March and many of our plants will begin germination around this time. We believe this will have a large-scale compounded impact.



Matthew Bedell, Abigail Conroy O'Neill, Séadhna De Paor Ní Fhaoláin, Naoise Mac Murchadha, Benjamin McCabe, Caitlín Ní Fhaoláin, Alannah Ní Laocha, Ánna Lisa Ní Loinsigh, Sadhbh Ní An Óige, Éile Ní Craith, Luíscne Ní Craith, Siúbhán Ní Craith, Tomás Ó Crotaigh, Padraig Ó Duibhir, Liam Ó Loinsigh, Alex Ó Ruairc, Dubhalta Mac Murchadha.

### Ár nGairdín Machnaimh Méanscoil San Nioclás, Waterford 2023-012

Our vision with this project was to connect with other students to show the importance of plant seeds to young people, the environment and the planet, and to open their eyes and their minds to the need to value plants, to care for our open communal spaces and to benefit conservation, ecological health and people's wellbeing. We created a community courtyard garden in an unused space within our school environment. This project created an opportunity to connect youth with nature, with each other and with the environment while also becoming a place where students can create and deliver events and activities. Therefore, we aim that our reflection garden can be a place that students can go and sit within community seating or individual spaces to be social, contemplate, or just take a break from the busy sensory overload that is life in the modern world. The garden was designed by the young people in our school, using sustainable material, recycled plastic material and lots of colourful and grassy plants to attract insects, birds and other creatures.



Lucy Teape, Caoimhe Foley.

### Is Soil Biology The Secret To Efficient Agriculture? St. Brogans Collage, Cork 2023-053

We aim to find a solution to the overuse of artificial fertilizers. These fertilizers damage our natural environment, and we want to find a workable solution which would be kind to our soils but simultaneously be effective to increase soil biology and soil health. We are trying to promote sustainable, organic and effective fertilizers, and to find an efficient way of enhancing soil biology for better quality and more economically produced food. The current common fertilizers are harmful and unsustainable. They use up valuable natural resources such as phosphorus which is predicted to run out during our lifetime the next 50-80 years. This means we must act now and influence the new generation of upcoming farmers. We cannot continue with the use of inorganic fertilizers. Small things like this help reduce farming emissions and make the industry greener. We tested three organic amendments with one control plot, compost extract, compost and indigenous micro-organisms (IMO's). We tested all four of these plots 14 days later and our results showed that these sustainable fertilizers were beneficial in increasing the bacterial, fungal and actinobacterial biomasses of the soil.



Isobel Hyde, Ava Falvey, Chloe Brady.

### Save The Bees

#### Colaiste an Chroi Naofa Carrig na bhFear, Cork 2023-044

The goals of our project have been to raise awareness on the importance of bees and to research the variety of bees in Ireland and efforts being made to conserve them. We raised awareness about this issue by doing poster campaigns, planting native flowers, making bee hotels and we also made insect hotels. We placed the bee and insect hotels around our community to make it a safer place for bees to live. We spoke to first years about this topic hoping that this can raise more awareness in the community in order to make a change.



Aylin Kasap, Cosimo De Matteis, Antonio Garcia-Cervigon Moreno, Jason Murphy, James O'Brien, Nathan Purdon, Rhys Forde, Hayden Hayes, Ronan O'Sullivan, Caleb Sheehan, Beatriz Amieiro De Castro, Shaina Andales, Reece Bridgeman, Isabella Ciarra Palomino, Davin Condon, Dylan Cregan, Jordan Myers, Craig O'Donovan, Grainne O'Donovan, Scott Russell, Fionn Sheehan, Trevor Birmingham.

### Increasing Nature Biodiversity

#### Coláiste Éamann Rís, Cork 2023-059

The goals of our project have been to reintroduce native Irish woodland trees into our local area and as a consequence increase the level of biodiversity in an urban setting. We planted hedgerows and native Irish trees along the school boundary as well as at our local community garden and park. We successfully increased the volume of native Irish woodland trees and consequentially the volume of biodiversity that coexists with the native Irish woodland trees.



Lenny Garbutt, Finn Cosgrove, Julian Puscas, Cillian Fox, Dora Kruslin, Ben Loneragan, Josh Reilly, Nathan Robb, Julia Pimenta Galiza de Freitas, James Noonan, Maria Clara Ramos Lorenzoni, Dylan Saunders.

### Nature Nurture

#### Pobalscoil Neasain, Dublin 2023-079

With our project, we wanted to enhance the biodiversity and wildlife in our school area. We realised the vital importance of biodiversity and we wanted to make sure that our school is doing all it can to protect and enhance the biodiversity in our community. We aimed to create a "mini-forest" area at the back of our school, by using the trees that have already been planted and nurturing them, by planting more native species and creating a natural walk-way through the area. The aim was to highlight the importance of biodiversity by having a living space that the school can see and can appreciate. We also aimed to highlight and link the SDG's by creating an SDG wall in the school. Our project has positively and directly impacted the biodiversity in our school and has raised awareness of the importance of wildlife and wild spaces in the community.



Sean Finnegan, Louise Lordan, Daithi Broderick, Fionn Lichtsinn Doyle, Genevieve Howe Prior, Grace Meaney, Jessica Bronikowska, Orlaith Kiely, Roise O'Donovan, Rosita Hogan, Sinead Hynes.

### Boosting Biodiversity

#### Kinsale Community School, Cork 2023-118

To boost Biodiversity, we aimed to rewild amazing areas both within and beyond the school, plant a 130-tree native hedgerow and a winsome wildflower patch, in effectively a month and another. This involved a lot of worthwhile work, including planning, researching, purchasing plants and rewilding each area by preparing the ground and planting trees and flowers. Accruing awareness is nearly as important as action, as awareness will allow for potential replication elsewhere. So, we raised awareness through creating signs and posters around the school (some visible to bypassing pedestrians and motorists), school newsletter and social media. Our project will positively impact the environment. The wildflowers will bloom this summer providing food for bees and other pollinating insects, the hedgerow should reach maturity in 5 years, offering food and shelter for pollinators, birds and other fauna.





Lachlan Thomson, Caitlin Farrell, Veronica Shiels, Andrew Moore.

### BCS Biodiversity

#### Ballinteer Community School, Dublin 2023-100

Our project has the comprehensive goal of aiding the environment, and in our local community, through encouraging the growth and development of biodiversity. We aim to make our school and the area surrounding our school flourish with wildlife and plant life. We took action to accomplish this aim in a variety of engaging, unified efforts and activities. Each year group in our school was brought out to spread various flower seeds around the grassy areas of our school, which encouraged awareness among the student body about our biodiversity aims. Bird feeders were placed in the trees around the school, attracting many types of birds that would usually go unseen. Bug hotels were placed among the grass, beside trees and bushes, to aid our aim of increasing wildlife. The impacts of our project were immediately obvious. Less than a week after the bird feeders were put up, they were emptied from finches, robins, blue tits and other birds coming to snack on them. The birds would crowd in the areas close to the feeders and could be heard frequently singing.



Charlie Quinn, Adam Chand, Nathan Dowling, Callum Lee, Dylan Fitzpatrick.

### DDG (Drimnagh's Dream Garden)

#### Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Dublin 2023-102

In our project we have investigated many things to better our garden. One of our main themes is permaculture which refers to how we can link everything in our garden together. We then made out a map of what we would put into the garden to feed into each other like composters, rain barrels, birdhouses and bug hotels, the other groups made, to also help with the biodiversity. We also contacted An Taisce about a nationwide project they were carrying out regarding collecting rainwater. We found out about collecting rainwater for sustainable irrigation and rain gardens that limit the risk of flooding. Once completing our research, we started working on improving our garden.



Lucas Connolly, Rian o Reilly, Adam Browne, Collins Dixon, Ephraim Daan.

### Nature's Finest

#### Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Dublin 2023-119

We are Nature's Finest. Our project is focused on how we can take tangible used material such as plastic, milk cartons, cardboard and tin and producing something productive from these recyclable items. We have looked at end results such as bird houses, bug hotels, caterpillar habitats, butterfly habitats. We aimed to make all of these out of used materials putting them to good use while promoting biodiversity. We started a campaign in our school to raise awareness of recycling with our junior cert students and a competition to see what class can collect the most and what class can create the best from what they collect. As a group we also planned to make posters with instructions on how to construct these items created by recycled material. Nature's Finest can really help with the waste of materials in our local area.



Emelia O'Grady, Ella Cummins, Isabelle Usher, Ciara Tucker, Aibhe Waldron Hughes.

### Flower Power

#### Loreto Secondary School Bray, Wicklow 2023-133

Our project is trying to help our local area in a fun and creative way. We decided to create seed bombs. Our aim was to improve the life of insects in our community by providing them with new flowers and pollen. To see if there was a need for our idea, we took a walk around our school and saw that certain areas didn't have a lot of flowers and needed some added colour, this is how we decided on our seed bombs. To raise awareness for our project we created an Instagram account to post updates about what we were doing and this way we could show our school community our idea. Our project has had a great impact on our school community as it attracted more bees to our area which is necessary in today's climate, and it also brightened up our school.



Aoife Milner, Jamie Dundon, Niamh Purcell, Joe Riley, Leon Murphy, Rory Casey, Mairéad Tobin, Ciara O'Riordan, Hayden English, Tom Browne, Jack Costello, Eimear Pigott, Freya O'Sullivan and Ruby Kelly.

## Nature Engagement

### Ardscoil na Mara, Waterford 2023-150

Our interpretation of nature engagement has involved a very hands-on approach from the entire school. We have a greenhouse on the school grounds. Here, we took 1st-6th year classes for a session every six weeks. The sessions included breaking and de-nailing pallets, reconstructing them for other purposes and sowing seeds. We also gave interactive presentations about biodiversity, biodiversity loss, how climate change began, individual actions and natural rainforests in Ireland. Group sizes depended on how many activities were running that day. A typical group would have been 5 or 6 students per TY mentor. As TY mentors, we were trained beforehand and knew what to do inside out before demonstrating it. We offered participants and teachers tea or coffee to make the experience a bit more homely! At the end of the session, we did a quick debriefing with the group. Our aim was to make the experience as enjoyable and relaxed for the students and teachers as possible.



Leah Murphy, Anahi Saji, Ailbhe Flynn, Ava Collins, Mary Byrne, Mathew Capone, Matthew McGowan, Josh Rothwell, Conor Gowler, Simona Noreikaite, Seán Deegan, Deirdre Ní Bhroin, Libby Cullen.

## Spikey Situations

### FCJ Bunclody, Wexford 2023-212

With this project we hope to raise awareness nationally of the decrease in the population of hedgehogs in Ireland and to educate our community on how to care for hedgehogs when we see them during the day or if they have been injured or sick and how we can be mindful of them in our daily lives to encourage them to repopulate. We completed a scrapbook, constructed a hedgehog house and we gave out our information leaflet about hedgehogs and our findings to our community.



Rebecca O'Sullivan, Holly Saunders, Caoimhe O'Mahony, Aoife Casey, Blaithin Dennehy, Danielle O'Riordan.

## How Dung Beetles Can Benefit Soil Health And Enhance Biodiversity

### Millstreet Community School, Cork 2023-260

We were amazed at the advantages this small creature could have on a farm but also in shock at how low the population of the dung beetles is. The advantages of this wonderful creature include: reducing the amount of methane and nitrous oxide released from the dung pat, improving plant root development, forage production and the soils water infiltration capacity and creating a nutrient-rich organic matter, commonly known as humus which is consumed by soil microbes, fungi and bacteria. They also return nitrogen and minerals from the dung pat back into the soil. As we all should know, better soil will lead to a better environment. Soil provides a host of crucial services for both people and the planet. Soil puts food on our plates, purifies our water, protects us against flooding and combats drought. It's also key to tackling climate change as it captures and stores vast amount of carbon. Healthy soils are essential for healthy plant growth, human nutrition and water infiltration.



Pete Savage, Abisola Makun, Lily Kate Carley.

### Eco Hub

#### Youth for Sustainable Development Programme, Louth 2023-263

The goal of our project is to increase biodiversity levels in our county with the help of the Louth tidy towns committee. We acted by helping the Louth tidy towns committee secure plots of land they can plant their mini orchards on, raising awareness around the project and summarising information detailing how to look after the mini orchards and all other relevant information surrounding their installation. Our project has raised awareness around biodiversity as well as this it will make the areas that have taken part more visually appealing and nicer places to be in. This project has also had a great impact on us as a group as it has made us more aware of how serious this issue is.



Aaron O'Toole, Sean Dempsey, Niall de Barra, Dylan Hennebray, Conor Crowley, Ronan Sheehan, Adam Harte, Ross Langford, Odhran Smith, Rory Deegan, Rory Wilson, Rowan O'Donohue.

### TY Waste Watchers

#### Kinsale Community School, Cork 2023-121

Our project is to teach everyone in this generation the benefits of putting waste and recyclable objects into the right bins. A big problem with people is the lack of knowledge around the difference between waste products and recycling products. Our goal for this project is to make children, adults and the elderly aware of what to put in recycling bins and what to put into waste bins. We have been using a variety of different ways to educate the younger generations such as sending out surveys to fill out to each and every year in the school, making sure every classroom has both recycling and waste bins, putting up posters around the school and educating first year classes on this topic using presentations to simplify anything complicated. This has resulted in a much cleaner school, and a much more environmentally aware student community.



Siomha Clarke, Heather Small, Keila Cagney, Sarah Conroy, Jennifer Grimes.

### Biodiversity S.O.S - Save Our (Eco)Systems

#### Youth for Sustainable Development Programme, Dublin 2023-262

Our project is inspired by an investigation we undertook in our agricultural science class. We researched the causes of pollution in the river Santry in our local area of Raheny, and it opened our eyes to an issue that was right on our doorstep. Initially our project started with boosting biodiversity within our school by planting wildflowers but has evolved into boosting biodiversity in our local community as we discovered that planting waterway native plants along rivers can prevent pollutants from entering the water. Our project's aims are to raise awareness on plastic pollution, increase education on the topic as many do not realise our local river is polluted, help prevent more pollution and preserve our local river and its ecosystem. We have raised awareness by making and putting up posters around our school and community, giving talks to classes and our peers and have taken action by meeting with Dublin City Council and Raheny Tidy Towns to discuss steps to boost biodiversity with ideas such as creating a biodiversity corridor trail to connect our school, Raheny Village and the River Santry.





Lileth Carrick, Martha Feely.

## An Investigation Into the Public's Perceptions and Fears of Avian Influenza St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rush, Dublin 2023-125

The main objective of our project was to raise awareness around the H5N1 virus, dangerous for both wild and domestic poultry, and the current outbreak affecting many countries across the globe, including Ireland. We also wanted to ensure the public knew who to contact if they found and injured or sick bird and put pressure on the Department of Agriculture to remove bird carcasses that were suspected of dying from avian flu to prevent it from spreading. To do this we created a survey and after analysing the data we gave presentations to school students, spoke at assembly and over the school intercom. We entered the BT Young Science competition and won first place in the Junior Biological and Ecological Sciences category.

The project had a wide and far-reaching impact, particularly on some members of the Department of Agriculture as well as the Birdwatch Ireland seabirds officer and some local ecologists and conservationists. We hope that the project had a lasting impact on the Rush and neighbouring town community and that people are more confident in what to do and who to contact if they find a sick or injured bird.



Filip Kalarus, Sh ne Keating, Steven Jijo, Mikhail Serbaev, Thomas McNabb, Daniel Kenny, Killian Tierney, Dylan O'Sullivan, Timothy Lau, Matei Tcaci.

## Invasive Investigators

### Rockbrook Park School, Dublin 2023-204

There are lots of threats facing biodiversity and one of them is the spread of invasive species. Our school is lucky to have lots of wildlife but also a problem with non-native plant species, the most common of which are rhododendron and cherry laurel. In this project we researched and learnt about rhododendron, identified and recorded the invasive plants on our grounds, removed young saplings and raised awareness about the problem. We hope that the school will continue our fight against rhododendron and remove the larger trees that were too big for us to tackle.



Aidan Davison, Eoghan Galgey, Conor Nash, Jack le Blanc, Mark Slattery, Millie Slyne, Emma Lucey, Caoimhe O'Connor, Ryan O'Neill.

## Miyawaki Forest Bandon

### St. Brogan's College Bandon, Cork 2023-243

Our project aim was to increase the biodiversity offering of our school site. Our school is expanding to accommodate additional students and much of our outdoor space is being lost to permanent and temporary school buildings. A dozen trees were removed to make way for new buildings, our sports field was reduced in size and our glasshouse was demolished, all in the name of progress! Our campus is a seemingly green campus, however, we discovered that much of the greenery is on the other side of the fence. We surveyed the site to see what habitats exist currently and put in place measures to increase the area of habitat for nature. We planted native trees to begin the formation of a Miyawaki forest. The forest is currently growing well and showing signs of insects and small mammals.



# Climate Change - SDG #13

Projects which identify and promote behaviour changes that will contribute to mitigating climate change.



Roisin Browne, Mollie Mernagh, Ewea Oshiegwemoh, Tia Weldon, Saoirse Firth, Kinga Klos.

## Comhairle Native Tree Trail

### Waterford Comhairle na nOg, Waterford 2023-022

During the pandemic in 2020 Waterford Comhairle na nOg worked online on the topic of Climate Action. The group developed an app Communitree that allows young people to complete tasks at home which grew their virtual tree. These are simple tasks they can do at home and change regularly. This resulted in real trees being planted by the young people. In 2021 the group planted trees in Carraiganore in the SETU grounds. During the following year this grew to the 'Neighbourwood' project in Cherrymount with the Waterford County and City Council, Lions Club and local volunteers involved in planting 2500 trees in one day. To date 3500 have been planted and the project will grow year on year. In July 2022 the group presented a call to action the Council to commit to a Native Irish Tree Trail project for the next 5 years. The impact on the biodiversity of the area is fantastic. The trees have grown and will continue to grow. The group will have two maintenance days on the sites and further sites are being sought for the project to grow again this year.



Saoirse O'Sullivan, Leah McMahon, Nessa Galvin.

## Planet A Podcast

### St Brigid's Killarney, Kerry 2023-071

For our project we decided to do a podcast to create awareness and educate young people in our area about climate change and global warming. To start, we sent out a form to the pupils from St. Brigid's to ask them what they knew and what they didn't know about climate change. We hope to plan our podcast around what the pupils of St. Brigid's don't know so that we can educate them further and help them realise how easy it is to tackle this problem. We want our listeners to take action, even by doing the smallest things to help towards reviving our environment. The smallest change to old habits can make a difference. Here, on Planet A Podcast we believe that knowledge is power, and so, we wanted to share our knowledge and the knowledge of our guest speakers with our audience in a way that is relevant and engaging to the young people of today's society.

## Global Thinking to Local Action: Imagining Ways of cutting Carbon Emissions

### Lanesboro Community College, Longford 2023-090

Our project begins with a discussion and debate around the UN Global Goals and asking the following question: What can we do to cut carbon emissions?. Then we looked at our own school and community and saw ways in which we can take positive action to challenge behaviours that are leading to the current 6% increase in carbon emission globally. Our project raised awareness, changed behaviours and brought about changes in our school community. Together we can make the changes that need to happen!



Grace Neilan Donlon, Molly Naughton McGlynn, Chriswin Regit, Jack Naughton McGlynn, Sean O Halloran, Samantha Galdika, Jasmine Gibbons, James Mimmagh, Oisin McDermott, Pablo Amaros, Luke Howe, Kevin Donlon, Michael Farrell, Darragh Creedon, Luke Byrne, Luke Cullen, Lucy Malone.



Chris Behan, Shannon Byrne, Seán Coady, Dylan Corbett, Caitlin Grant, Taylor Hanly, Eoin Horan, Mikaela Mullally, Jessica O'Gorman, Jamie Phelan, Dean Pollard, Lucy Power, Lukas Rekowski, Roisín Tyrrell.

## Change by Trees

### Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule, Thurles, Tipperary 2023-005

Our project is based on the planting of trees in an area of our school to help our environment. Our goals for this project have been to work together as a team, help our school's environment, spread the word about deforestation and climate change and raise money to buy trees. We first discussed how we could help our climate and decided that planting trees in our school would have been a great way to contribute! We formed our teams and got to work. We held a bake sale in our school to raise money so we could afford to buy trees. 350 students attended the bake sale and many of our teachers came as well! We raised 353 euro. The trees cost altogether 192 euro. We gave the remaining 161 euro to our green schools committee so that they would continue their great efforts at making Scoil Ruáin more environmentally friendly. We bought the trees and got to work with the planting of them. We then invited the local primary school to come and see our trees.



Cillian Hamill, Grace Cassidy, Naomi Prasad.

## DGS Young Environmentalists

### Dundalk Grammar School, Louth 2023-139

We are the DGS Young Environmentalists and our project is about making our school a more sustainable environment and making our community aware of climate change. We started off very excited about this project and now we are even more hyped and enthusiastic about our project. We have visited a local recycle centre and have looked up trusted Irish websites to educate ourselves. Then we put together all the information and proudly presented ourselves at a stall, both at our school open day and our local shopping centre. We believe that what we have done will motivate people to recycle and take care of our planet more. There might be a plan B if plan A doesn't work but there is no planet B if we don't take care of our one and only planet Earth.

## ECO-Community and Development - SDG #11

Projects which develop practical solutions to local environmental issues and involve local communities.



Helena, Daniel, Saoirse, Monica, and Alec.

## Let's Clear The Air

### Marino College, Dublin 2023-241

We are surrounded by cars and construction, it's noisy, it's smelly and it's the last thing we want to see in the morning! Our school is located on a very busy commuter road, and road works have been going on forever. This is an issue that's affecting our education, our health and our lives! We would like to know how much traffic passes our school each day. We are going to analyse the traffic outside the school and see what kind of vehicles are using the road. We would like to identify specific problems and run campaigns to fix them. We want to clean the air, to do this we want to spread information about traffic pollution, encourage people to walk, cycle or use public transport, and contact local officials to persuade them to redesign the area in a way that takes environmental issues into account.



Conor Doyle, Kian Melia, Patrick Wheatley.

## Eco-Sports

### Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Dublin 2023,116

Our Project is based on environmental awareness and the connection between sports and the fundamentals of protecting our surrounding environment. We plan to make our local clubs (such as Lourdes Celtic FC, St Johns Bosco, Crumlin GAA and St James Gaels) more aware of recycling and protecting the environment through posters, discussions, PowerPoints and the media. Sports clubs working with our school can act uniformly and tips and ideas can evolve from the classroom to the playing fields. We talked to our local clubs and hung posters up outside their clubhouse. We also presented to the First Year Classes in our school about our research about how sports and the environment link in with each other.





Paula Bibiloni Tortella, Eva Buhigas, Hugo Garcia Dela Fluente, Alba Jimenez Rodriguez, Thomas Keating O'Brien, Dylan Kelly, Ian Kinsella, Matthew Kinsella, Javier LLavona Martin, Iria Lu Meitin, Annabel McNamara, Eloy Mudarra Acosta, Guillermo Perez Orts, Alejandro Prieto Lopez, Alice Ricci, Tomeu Salom Garau, Dylan James San Juan, Nadia Zuba, David Ignatescu, Kate Fletcher, Illia Huziev, Sitthisak Sangtopo, Toribio Aldrich, Pablo Romero.

## From Local to Global

### Cabinteely Community School, Dublin 2023-037

Our project focuses on the issue of waste segregation. Despite high levels of information available on the web and in magazines, disposing of waste correctly remains a challenge in a busy daily routine. In order to find out how this challenge is experienced in our small community and at home we have sent out an anonymous survey to staff, parents, and students. Our aim is to draw from the survey results to create posters that could help develop automatic waste segregation habits. We aim at informing our small community about the importance of separating waste according to sustainable practices, indicating the effects of poor recycling habits on the environment, human health and animals.



Freya O'Sullivan, Eimear Pigott, Hayden English, Tom Browne, Narin Riley, Niamh Purcell, Ciara O'Riordan, Mairead Tobin, Ruby Kelly, Aoife Milner, Jamie Dundon, Rory Casey, Leon Murphy, Jack Costello.

## Social Change

### Ardscoil Na Mara, Waterford 2023-151

Our project was designed to target the apathy and acceptance towards climate change in our school. Our goal is to educate younger students and encourage them to fight against climate change. We are trying to develop a model that successfully changes this culture of apathy within a school. Some people are really worried about the climate and biodiversity crisis and have anxiety. This project helps to foster a community approach to addressing these crises as it gets us working together collectively. This will help to foster wellbeing as we get to socialise and feel more empowered and inspired when we know what actions we can take. The students involved in our project are members of the Environmental Leadership Development Program. Each of the TYs in the program took on a first or a second year class to mentor. We have been encouraging our classes to take action by doing activities and lessons with them.



Claire Dowling, Eabha Lyne, Orla O'Connor.

## Eco Empire

### Meán scoil Nua an leith triúigh, Kerry 2023-088

With our project we aim at creating an outdoor classroom to foster a love for our natural habitats. The classroom aims to offer students and teachers the opportunity to engage with a living classroom. We planted over 3,000 Irish native trees and raised money to construct a polytunnel. This will provide a holistic educational experience where students can engage with the local flora and fauna, investigate soil science, enjoy garden art and learn to re-connect with nature and its surroundings. Our project also raised awareness about the importance of biodiversity and conservation environment not only in our school but for our local area too. We cannot expect young people to appreciate nature or indeed take on the climate and environmental problems if they do not have a connection to nature.



Sophie, Shauna, James.

## Let's Get Rocky

### Youth for Sustainable Development Programme, Louth 2023-258

The goal of our project, "Let's Get Rocky," is to increase public awareness of the Bettystown/Mornington beach's difficulties with coastal erosion. In order to convince the county council to support the installation of coastal protection on this beach, we plan to lobby them and explain to them why we need them in our area and how this will impact the community. We researched the issue, created a petition, and collected signatures from residents who concur with our need for gabions to be built on the beach. We can confidently state that our effort has benefited both the community and ourselves by bringing attention to the issue at hand and educating them on how it will affect them.



Andrea Balan, Seán Byrne, Ellen Farrell, Lucy Farrell, Jessica Lumsden, Ciara Zomer.

## Sustainable Eco Action in Schools (SEAS)

### Skerries Community College, Dublin 2023-137

Our project is focused on increasing all aspects of sustainability in schools. We aim to convince schools to use eco-friendly supplies, for example: recycled paper or eco-friendly and cruelty-free hand sanitiser. We want schools, if they haven't already, to get recycling and compost bins. Another thing we want is for schools to reduce their electricity usage and use renewable energy. We took many actions including having a meeting with the principal of our school. We successfully asked him to get compost and recycle bins. We asked him to reduce energy use by turning all the lights and appliances off in the classrooms. This will be done for one class, which lasts 40 minutes, on the day before Earth Hour. One of the ways we raised awareness was by getting an announcement made over our schools' intercom. We also made guides to help schools become more eco-friendly and an Instagram account to raise awareness about our project.



Julo Aderinto, Cillian Conlon, Turlough Duffy, Taha Farag El Matoni, Lawrence Fafowora, Cian Farrell, Cillian Farren, Stefan Fingleton, Luke Gildea, Stephen Grainger, Jonathan Jacob, Alex Joy, Christopher Kenny, Robert Kowalczyk, Richie Kuzhippillil, Aaron Lalor, JJ McLoughlin, Peter Mullen Montaner, Cristian Negru, Sean O'Grady, Louis Marie Chevallier Vilas Boas, Karthik Sreekanth, Briain Walsh, Aran Nation, Stephen Rabin.

## A Matter Of Life And Death

### Rockbrook Park School, Dublin 2023-207

We are taking up an eco-community project that means a lot to our school. Cruagh graveyard is an historic place of solemn harmony and one where people come for recall memories of their loved ones. It is an important part of our culture and heritage. During covid the graveyard became overgrown with grass and 'weeds'. When authorities finally came to manage it, they blanket sprayed it with glyphosate killing everything. This left locals, many of which are senior citizens, in dismay. We have taken it upon ourselves to help some local volunteers to manage the graveyard by hand to bring back the greenery and beauty and prevent future chemicals being used. We are working with local environmentalists to manage some areas of the cemetery specifically for pollinators. We hope this project will have a positive impact on our community and on biodiversity; many citizens have recognised our hard work and are deeply appreciative. We ourselves feel more connected to our community.



Judith Waugh, Hugh Emerson, Maeve Trant, Rory O'Flaherty, Ethan Gilroy, Kai Seino, Cian Miller, Yasmin Odugbesan, Andrei Turcan, Jamie Samonte, Brendan Maunsell, Justin O'Connor, Lewis Hughes, Dan McElligott, Caoilainn Culloo, Jeri-Maeve Samonte, Jolin Weng, Aoife Hammed, Aisling Hammed, Joel Oguiliri, Molly Sheehy, Ashley Baxter, Grainne Leahy, Isabella Teahon, Gabia Dackauskyte, Cathal Fitzgerald.

## Mounthawk Student Climate Conference 2022

### Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk, Kerry 2023-276

The aim of our project was to hold a climate conference in school to discuss the environment on the topics of global food systems, fast fashion, energy, transport and water, and to produce action ideas and resolutions. The conference aimed to hear the voice of students from across the school. Students on the Environment Committee self-selected one of the five topics and undertook research on it, which would form the basis of the discussion with the wider student body on the day. Each of the five groups came up with resolutions and action projects which have informed the work that the Student Council Environment Committee is doing this year and going forward into 2024. The week after the conference students presented their resolutions and Action Ideas to Sean Kelly MEP who visited the school especially to be briefed on the conference. The action ideas have resulted in the school obtaining a bicycle shelter for the school. The school has also received initial grant funding of 45,000 euro through the safe routes to school programme to make cycling and walking to school safer. We are also in the process of widening the Climate Conference to the other schools in Tralee.



## ECO-ART and Design - SDG #4

Projects which demonstrate creative ways to inform people about the environment and promote positive action.



Rori Cremin, Calum Whelan.

### Petal Works

#### Mhean scoil Nua and Leith Truigh, Kerry 2023-087

In our project we have focused on today's use of synthetic pigments vs the future of pigments made from waste. The use of heavy metals in paints is harmful for us and our environment. We use over 40 colours of high to mild toxic ingredients, our pigments are synthetic and all environmentally unfriendly produced. Going back to nature and its supply of beautiful natural colours is our future. This project aims to research and use natural products to make paint pigments for use in the art classroom and beyond.



Anna Dunlea, Sarah O'Connor.

### Friends of the Forest

#### St Bridgid's Secondary School Killarney, Kerry 2023-104

We are Anna and Sarah. Two friends, passionate about plants and their 'magical' properties. We strive to encourage others to use plants in their everyday lives. We are both passionate plant lovers and we love to make things from plants and write about it. Our project aims to introduce others to simple uses for plants, to improve wellbeing, to raise awareness about edible plants that are growing wild in your garden or community and how to forage for them sustainably. To put our project into action we collated a booklet that contains recipes, remedies and more fun uses for local plants. We then introduced plants mentioned in our book to our school garden, giving access to people in our school community to these wonderful plants and an ability to tease out the ideas in our book. We shared our knowledge with our school mates and teachers and published the booklet on our school app. Our school is located beside the Killarney National Park, we identified the areas close to our school where wild garlic grows plentifully and we plan to do some cooking with it in April in the school and share with the students and staff.



Bruce Left, Kevin Choong, Ronan Lyons, Tovviam Gunoor, Karl Sanchez.

### The Green Ronin

#### Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Dublin 2023-113

For our project we decided to create suits of armour out of recycled materials so that we could raise awareness about the SDGs with the designs of the armour and we could show people that you don't need fancy materials or lots of skill to create interesting and fun pieces of art. We also wished to send a message about sustainability, as people these days need to learn that they cannot throw their rubbish onto the streets, they need to reduce, reuse and recycle. Our project ties in with many different SDGs, the main ones are SDG 12: responsible consumption and production; SDG 13: climate action; SDG 14: life below water; and SDG 15: life on land. The main action we took was building the armour. We also went to first years and hosted a design competition so that they could submit armour designs for us to make.



Alen Sony, Jack Smyth, Brayon Jith David, Alan Jobin.

### Carving a Better Future

#### Meánscoil Iognáid Rís, Kildare 2023-123

Our project aims to inform and educate our school community about the significance of the Sustainable Development Goals in an engaging, creative, and artistic manner. To promote understanding of the importance of the SDGs, we've displayed simple and effective carved wooden posters containing the SDGs across the school. In addition to raising awareness through these simple and effective signs, we have delivered presentations to junior students in our school community. The presentations have emphasized the importance of the SDGs and taught students how they can make a difference in our world. For the first-year pupils in our school, we organized an SDGs art competition. In order to convey the relevance of the SDGs, students had to draw alternative SDGs symbols. The competition promoted awareness of the SDGs in a creative and intriguing way. In the first-year corridor, we also painted a mural depicting the SDGs. The mural was created in an ideal location and has been successful in attracting the attention of our school community. All forms of artwork have complemented our project's core theme of 'ECO-Art & Design', and have added to the originality, creativity and lively nature of our project.



Sorcha McBride, Caragh Reilly Brady, Lauren Rountree, Evie Oates, Sophie Rogan, Muireann Monaghan, Cate Stephens.

### Flowerpuff Girls

#### Eureka Secondary School, Meath 2023-213

Our project is an image constructed of newspaper flowers that represents the Powerpuff Girls. Our project aims to highlight the impact of paper waste and pollution in our environment, particularly the impact of buying daily and/or weekly newspaper. We all have members of our families that purchase and read the newspaper on a regular basis, and so we thought it would be an innovative idea to repurpose these newspapers and construct something interesting out of them. We gathered all the newspapers we had in our houses, cut them into flower shapes and stuck them together. We then used an old cardboard box for the poster and painted it black. We created three beams from the flowers which we will paint pink, green, and blue to represent each powerpuff girl. We told our horticulture class about newspaper waste and pollution and got them to think about how many newspapers their household buys in a week, and the damage it is causing. Our project will have an impact on our school community as well as our local communities. They will have some knowledge about what our project is about and what our aims are. We hope that our project will impact those to decrease the number of newspapers they buy and especially how they choose to dispose of them.



Emma Dymek, Molly Gillick.

### Washed Away

#### Nenagh college, Tipperary 2023-255

Our project is based on ocean pollution. It consists of a mural of an earth floating in water that is being cleaned by a man but when you look at the bottom half that is submerged in water you can see how all the sea life is hiding from the rubbish coming out of the bottom. This image shows that even though we clean the land it doesn't mean that the rubbish is gone forever most of it gets thrown in the ocean. We also created a PowerPoint presentation that got played on the school tv monitor in the hallway and picked up rubbish around the school for a few days. We then gathered it all up and placed it in the canteen to show everyone how much rubbish is regularly thrown on the ground. Our project has had a huge impact on our school, we made sure everyone saw the presentation and the murals we made so that they could learn more about ocean pollution and how to prevent it.

# ECO-Health and Wellbeing - SDG #3

Projects which explore the link between our health (physical and emotional wellbeing) and the environment we live in.



Glen Bowler, Daragh Brosnan, Luke Courtney, Brian Cronin, Roan Daly, Padraig Doherty, Joshua Dunne, Pau Ferras Masana, Bryan Hanafin, Senan Kennedy, Craig Leggate, Pierce Leslie, Jamie Moynihan, Oran O'Neill, Daniel O'Rahilly, Dathi O'Shea, Jason O'Sullivan, Mieszko Pokrzywa, Diarmuid Quirke, Nojus Singh.

## Biodiversity On Our Doorstep

### St. Brendan's College, Kerry 2023-084

Our school is situated across the road from Killarney National Park, and we want more people to recognise its importance and to appreciate the range of biodiversity within the Park. In class from September to December, we discussed various environmental issues such as waste, climate change, biodiversity as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. During the cold spell in December, we discussed how the weather affects birds and other animals, so we decided to put what we learned into action and made bird feeders from recycled materials. Following this we decided to enter the category 'Eco-Health and Wellbeing'. We wanted to explore the link between our physical and mental wellbeing while also being aware of the environment we live in, including the flora and fauna all around us, the air we breathe and the water we drink.



Aaron Lenzi, Grace Bewick, Ciara McElroy, Sean Rooney, Ciara Burns, James Keown, Keelan Bell, Tyrone Craig, Nathan Shields, Jason McTeer, Ryan O'Connor, Daniel Cunningham, Ethan Salmon, Dylan Shaw, Adam Robinson, Maria Small.

## The Enchantment Project

### Knockevin Special School, Down 2023-080

After our Senior School pupils moved into a new site at an old disused Primary School, the students decided to take action to improve the grounds. We had a vision for creating a vegetable garden and flower beds to give us the opportunity to garden and also to make our grounds suitable for pollinators. Different teachers from our school are beekeepers, so we knew how important this was! Gardening is a relaxing activity and we hoped to support our wellbeing by being outside, being active, learning about healthy foods and seeing how they grow. Some of us find it difficult to try new foods but we thought we might have a taste if we grew our own! We bought raised beds, including ones that were wheelchair accessible. We looked after the beds and school grounds and created a team of litter pickers as well.



Kate Hayes, Saoirse Brown, Leo Brazil, Matthew Keane, Ross Fitzpatrick.

## Lead The Scene and Keep it Green

### Ratoath College, Meath 2023-093

SDG number 3 'Good Health and Well-being' is one of the 17 sustainable development goals, established by the United Nations in 2015. The official wording is 'To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages'. Here in Ratoath College, we like to 'Think Globally, but Act Locally' and this slogan is an integral part of everything we do in our school. Over the next fifteen years, we as students will not only directly experience the outcome of SDGs and plans but will also be the key driver for their successful implementation. For this reason, it is vital that we build a platform for discussion and create the conditions for active engagement. We believe that by acting sustainably here in our school and keeping it litter free, we can have a huge positive effect on our overall health and wellbeing.



George Cannon, Oleg Krassovski, James Duffy, Chengze Du, Chengtai Du, Noah Gibbons, Kyle Gallagher, Seán Hynes, Jaime Alonso, Eoin Anglim, Evan Eldo, Vasile Stasenco, Adria Byrne, Briain O'Meara, Christopher O'Brien.

## An Edible Outdoor Classroom

### Rockbrook Park School, Dublin 2023-185

In this project we had a main goal which was to make an outdoor edible classroom, a place where you can 'Learn & Grow'. In order to do this, we created a path and two more raised beds (to join three that were constructed last year). We plan to plant a hedge made out of edible berry bushes and create a seating areas and blackboard. We have made a path and the wire fence that the hedge will grow up. We did this by digging the path by hand and then filling it in with wood chip made from an old tree that fell on our grounds. We recycled materials where we could and are receiving advice from a parent who is a horticulturist on the planting. When this project is finished it will give our school a lovely outdoor classroom.



## ECO-Innovation - SDG #9

Projects which research, develop and create products or services that contribute to sustainable development.



Clodagh O'Sullivan, Leah Lordan, Tomás Markey.

### Neuro-Memory: Is this the Future of Sustainable Storage?

**St. Brogans College, Cork 2023-029**

Our project aims to increase awareness of the inefficiencies of traditional data storage by providing a biological alternative using neurons. We were inspired when we heard a fact about how the human brain can store up to a petabyte of information, while being so much more compact and energy efficient than any computer system. We began to research if there was a way to apply this concept to neural cell cultures. Our methods involved comparing the baseline neural activity of neurons to their activity during stimulation. We noted that their activity was increased by 255% compared to pre-stimulation. Our main finding proved that we could control the electrical activity of neurons. In the future, a binary translator would pick up and translate these patterns to be stored by a computer. The second part of our method aimed to increase awareness, we did this in our school and community by using leaflets, posters and presentations, as well as on our social media. This project had a strong impact on us and our school community, as we learned a lot about how unsustainable energy consumption, and we all now strive to be more sustainable.



Emma Seckington, Isabel Ramirez, Fifi Bentley.

### Lightning Speed Plant Growth

**St Mary's College Arklow, Wicklow 2023-221**

The aim of our project is to contribute to the reduction of the amount of artificial fertilizers used in commercial growing to slow the effects of climate change. Through our project we found that electricity increases the rate of growth in plants, because when we weighed and dried the seedlings and compared the two groups, the ones with the Van de Graaff generator were heavier which means they held more nitrogen. This proves our hypothesis correct because lightning or static electricity helps plants grow because it fixes nitrogen. Our project has successfully demonstrated that a lightning device in a contained growing environment may improve their crop yields and that companies could decrease the amount of artificial fertilizer it may use over the course of a growing season for certain crops. Our hope is that if we introduce commercial growers to this idea and they would need a device that produces static electricity they would opt for using a wind turbine and a solar cell to power it, so not only is it better for the environment and renewable it will save money and energy.



Clíodhna O'Malley, Róisín O'Neill, Caoimhe Buckley.

### Cow Nutrition, Bye Emission

**Christ King Girls' secondary school, Cork 2023-069**

With this project we aim to raise awareness about a seaweed feed supplement that reduces cows' methane emissions. We were shocked when we found out that in the last two centuries methane emissions have more than doubled and are 25% more potent than CO2 emissions. So we decided to do something about it. We presented our project for 8 minutes in front of a panel of judges and other secondary school students in UCC appetite for knowledge and won second place. We emailed numerous politicians, such as Charlie McConalogue, and got responses from many. We conducted interviews with dairy farmers and received valuable information we couldn't find online. We sent out a survey to the public and gathered over 250 responses. We presented our project. While doing this we, as a group, realised the huge impact that our project could have on the community and the environment. We think this seaweed feed initiative is one of the paths to slowing the effects of climate change and to creating overall, a more environmentally friendly planet for everyone.





Aoiife Lynn, Honor Lynch, and Juliette Kelleher.

## The Einstein of Enzymes: A Battle Against Plastic Pollution

**Loreto College, St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2023-231**

Our project focused on trying to come up with a way to speed up the degradation process of bioplastics in a home compost. We aimed to make an enzymatic spray that could be used to make bioplastics that previously could not be composted, home compostable. We carried out 3 main experiments testing various enzymes and polymers and had very promising results. While carrying out our research we discovered the problem of plastic disposal misinformation. We decided to raise awareness on how bioplastics and conventional plastics should be disposed of and the huge problem of misinformation. We have created an instagram account ([@einstein.of.enzymes](https://www.instagram.com/@einstein.of.enzymes)) to spread information to the wider community and have contacted several organisations and people to inform more people about this serious problem.



Abaigh Mableson, Naia O'Callaghan Royo, Roisin Vigors.

## In Rock Dust You Can Trust

**St Mary's College, Wicklow 2023-277**

Our project aims to investigate if crushed Basalt can absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere into the rock bed, a process known as carbon sequestration. We conducted an investigation in our school planter that had been equally divided into four plots that each have cyclamen flowers planted. Our first space was the control and the other three held a mixture of soil combined with 10%, 20%, and 30% rock dust. Over the course of six weeks, we measured the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the soil, the percentage of moisture in the soil, the soils pH, the soils temperature, and the soils potassium, phosphorous and nitrogen levels. We used this information to then compare the various levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in each allocated space, during various stages, and to see which percentage of rock is the most successful in absorbing the CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.



Sean Monaghan, Sean Elmore.

## Rockbrook Biodiversity Festival

**Rockbrook Park School, Dublin 2023-206**

The Rockbrook biodiversity festival will be a series of events that we will run throughout the course of about a week with different talks hosted by many guest speakers on a multitude of different topics. Last year we ran this event and given its big success we decided to rerun it again this year in an even bigger format with numerous improvements. For example, last year we had speakers such as Collie Ennis and Rose Breslin who both gave very good and interesting talks to anyone who had booked tickets. We plan to use these events to teach people about biodiversity and how to protect our environment while getting our school's name out there and enjoying the lovely May weather.



Liam Donnelly, Shane McElvogue, Jack McNelis.

## Smart Line

**St. Ciaran's College, Tyrone 2023-271**

I was tasked with bringing in the washing from the clothesline as it began to rain. I thought there must be an easier way to do deal with this task – it rains a lot in Ireland! This then got us thinking – how can we make this task easier? Could we move the washing line automatically? Could we put a cover on the washing line? After some sketching and some thought, we decided a cover for a washing line would be best as it could fit any washing line. We did some research in the form of a survey. We paid a visit to 'Lineman,' a local manufacturer of clotheslines. Michael provided some valuable feedback; he said there definitely is a market for a product like this and advised us to think carefully about the material we use for the cover. We began manufacturing a small prototype of our product. A small washing line with a retractable cover. This was controlled by a genie microcontroller circuit. A moisture sensor detects when precipitation begins, which activates the motor to pull the cover over the clothesline. When the precipitation has stopped, the motor will pull the cover off the washing line.

## Energy - SDG #7

Projects which look at how to reduce the environmental impacts of our energy use.



Aidan, Sean, Michael, Roger, Rafael.

### Angry Birds ENERGY

#### Colaiste Chiarain Athlone, Westmeath 2023-023

We talked about ways you can save energy in school and at home. We also discussed substitutes for power like instead of turning on the lights maybe use a candle. What we're trying to do is highlight the fact that there are many alternatives to using energy such as using stairs instead of the elevator. This can also save a lot of money in the home which makes it more appealing to regular people and not just targeting at big companies.



Rosie Hogan, Kiely Lehane, Yvonne O Mahony, Caitlin Kelly, Leah O Mahony, Shauna Mc Carthy, Lauren Saddler, Rebecca Beecher, Ali Brennan.

### Light Savers

#### Kinsale Community School, Cork 2023-040

Electrical waste is a huge problem in today's world. As the rising energy and electrical prices constantly on the rise, it's more and more essential to save energy rather than waste it. Our project aims to spread awareness in our school about the waste of electricity. We have noticed that many lights and projectors are left on even when the classrooms are not in use. We have spread awareness by firstly sending a form to our teachers asking if they turn off their lights when exiting the classroom. Secondly, we organized a no power day where projectors, computers and lights will be turned off. Then we compared the electricity bill from a normal day to the no power day. This shows us how much we can save in a small period of time. We raised awareness through a poster campaign around our school, putting tips on our digital notice board on how to save electricity and presenting to first years. This project has definitely inspired us to make sure we turn off all lights when we leave a room, and we hope it inspires you to make a small change in your lives for the greater good of our planet.



Evan Quain, Evan Lowry, Darragh Ó Bric, Gary Kennedy.

### Energy Savers!

#### Colaíste an Chroí Naofa, Cork 2023-043

The goal of our project is to raise awareness within our school community on how to conserve energy more effectively in a daily basis. In order to achieve our goals, we implemented a Christmas lights awareness campaign, to show first year's students how to use Christmas lights in a more sustainable way. We posted energy saving tips on our School social media and we created a poster campaign.



Alexandru Iudin, Dylan Fleming, Piotr Skrzypinski, Ariel Henriquez, Cillian Murray Cluskey.

### Gleaming Green

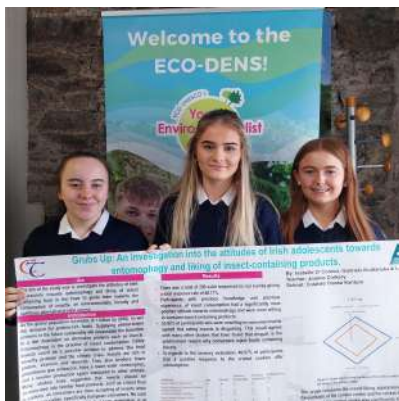
#### Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Dublin 2023-120

With our project we aimed to conduct a study on our school and outline the benefits and difficulties which might arise as a result of acquiring such equipment atop our school roof. We lead out a research task force to find the optimal position of solar panels and roughly how much energy we can generate. We made posters informing the school about our ambitions and presented younger classes with useful information and the benefits of solar panels. We ran a twitter campaign encouraging the school to preserve energy and conducted a survey to understand our school demographic. Furthermore, we reached out to a local green party politician and requested he helps us carry out our project. We recorded our findings on a google slides presentation which helped us keep track of our progress.



## Food - SDG #2

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



Isabelle O'Connor, Lisa Murphy and Gabriela Kudlanska.

### Grubs Up: An Investigation Into the Attitudes of Irish Adolescents Towards Insect Consumption and Liking of Insect Containing Products. Colaiste Treasa, Cork 2023-278

Agricultural production worldwide must increase by 70% to feed the global population expected to reach 9.1 billion by 2050. In Ireland the agricultural sector was directly responsible for 37.5% of National Greenhouse Gas emissions in 2021. Ireland has the highest methane emissions per capita of all EU member states, due to beef production. Insects produce less than 0.1% of the greenhouse gases that cows produce. Farming insects requires less water than producing beef, have a smaller production space and have a high feed conversion efficiency. Our project aims to guide adolescents towards the consumption of environmentally friendly and nutritious alternative protein sources such as insects. We formulated a questionnaire which was distributed to students and received 289 responses. We asked a student group to taste two cookies; a control cookie and one containing cricket flour. They were then asked to evaluate the cookies. 50% of participants had a positive reaction to the cricket cookies. We discovered that students were likely to consume insects, reducing the consumption of animal meat. We also spoke to farmers in our local area about the sustainable production of insects.



Dylan Peelo, Shane Dwyer, Corey McCarthy, Shane O'Reilly, Kalvein Lowther.

### The Food Fund Terence MacSwiney Community College, Cork 2023-273

We set up a Social Enterprise to Reduce food waste in local schools. We are a DEIS school (Delivering Equality in Schools) and receive free hot meals every day. We noticed lots of leftover food. We thought donating the food to Penny Dinners, a local charity, would reduce food waste in our school and help feed those who accessed Penny Dinners. We also wanted to raise awareness of social issues in our community. We collected, sorted, and counted the food in our canteen and a driver from Penny Dinners collected it from us. We contacted three local primary schools and offered to take their leftover meals also. We then developed a prototype for a mobile App to record our progress and be used by other schools around Ireland. This App tracks donations and will be sponsored by local business and grants. By providing food to those in need we are helping with food poverty. Our food pots are especially useful to those who are living on the street. This also reduces food waste going to landfill. We have also reduced school lunch costs as we monitor how much food we use.



Juliette Allen, Aisling Espey.

### S.A.F.E ECO-UNESCO Youth for Sustainable Development, Dublin 2023-265

Our project is called S.A.F.E, which stands for Seasonal, Accessible, Food Sustainability and the Environment. These are the core values that we considered throughout our project. We aimed to raise awareness around sustainable food consumption and to promote small changes that can be made in our daily lives. We also wanted to make sure that all three pillars of sustainable development are considered. We created a comprehensive booklet to make the information available to people with varying ranges of knowledge so that it is accessible and actionable for all. This booklet was the basis for a presentation that we made to a group of local Girl Guides to teach young people about seasonal produce. Our project has made us more conscious of the impact that what we eat can have and we have used our own advice and research to make changes in our consumption of food.





Maya Bacci, Heather Higgins, Lauren Duffy, Ciara Hynes, Amy O Grady, Grace Kavanagh, Grainne Burke, Ciara Murray, Sarah Jane Moran, Ella Cahill, Teigan Alexander.

## Working for Our Crusts

### Presentation College Tuam, Galway 2023-110

Our project is about raising awareness on food sustainability and food waste in our school and community. We composed a song about food sustainability and recorded it professionally. Our song was played on the school intercom, uploaded to our school website and will be played at our annual fashion show that will be attended by members of the wider community. The theme of this year's fashion show is 'Green is the new black' in line with raising awareness about sustainability. We have also had a poster campaign and made TikTok's for our school accounts to raise awareness. Students were strongly encouraged to use food waste packaging when creating their Junk Kouture projects and groups used milk cartons, cans, dome lids from smoothies, empty crisp packets, bottle caps, tinfoil trays, plastic bottles to name a few. These Junk Kouture outfits have made the headlines in the local paper, the Tuam Herald and online articles by galwaybeo.ie to spread the message to an even wider audience than we could have imagined.



Sorcha Beazley, Evie Fahy, Meabh Doolan.

## Giving Food a Second Life

### St. Brigid's Secondary School, Kerry 2023-103

Our project is collecting food waste in our school and turning it into compost using a home composter. The main goal of our project is to reduce food waste in our school. We also want to bring awareness to the amount of food being wasted each year in our school. Our end goal is to both plant with and donate our compost. We began our project in November when our composter arrived, by collecting and putting our school's food waste in it. We have been doing this 2-3 times a week since. We attended an event, Reuse Republic, where we talked to Michael Holding from Compost Ireland and learned how to speed up the composting process. We also put posters around our school and set up an Instagram account to educate students on food waste. Our project influenced students into thinking about what happens to their food waste. It helped them understand the importance of putting food in the right bin.



Azuara David, Butler Luke, Eroles Llimos Fiona, Fernandez Leger Marisol, Garcia Dela Fluente Hugo, Johnston Harvey, Kavanagh Kynan, King Riley, Kinsella Matthew, Lopez Marcus Nathaniel, Lu Meitin Iria, Marco Santa Federico, McCann Ciaran, Merriman Senan, Mooney Farrell Jasmin, Murphy Shields Kayla, O'Halloran Tadhg, Prietro Lopez Alejandro, Redmond Taylor, Oriera Cassillas Diego, Rodriguez Eduardo, Sangtopo Sitthisak, Sokolova Maria, Stock Wilhelm.

## Sustainable Shopping

### Cabinteely Community School, Dublin 2023-076

Our small project originated from the idea that shopping sustainably is impossible unless we as consumers make a conscious effort to identify sustainable steps which we can take to help our environment and promote our own health. We aim to inform our community about the current use of plastic packaging in Ireland, particularly in grocery shops, and our current recycling trends. We generated media content on sustainable shopping tips that help reduce waste and safeguard our environment and wildlife. We have investigated the preferences of our students and their parents regarding second-hand school jackets as this is a change that could reduce waste. To achieve the above goals, we have created posters, PowerPoints, a survey, and a social media campaign to promote change in dealing with this issue. Our work has certainly brought us closer to this issue and made us see the importance of working together and being active and participatory.



Meabh Dineen, Saoirse Clifford, Kate Horgan.

## Bare Root

### St. Brigid's secondary school Killarney, Kerry 2023-075

We are a TY group who came up with the idea of our project "Bare Root" to promote locally grown vegetables. We are growing our own vegetables, such as onions, in our local area and will spread awareness around the school community about buying local instead of buying products which come from foreign countries. Our aim in this project is to promote growing your own veg instead of importing it from different countries which negatively affects climate change. It also shows other students and people around the area that they can grow their own veg and act against buying imported goods. We have gone out, gotten supplies to grow our vegetables and planted them. We have put the window box in an area where the vegetables will get just enough sunlight and rain for the veg to grow.



Aoileann Ní Dhubháin, Emily Brosnan, Orianne McGillicuddy, Sarah Cooper.

## No Time to Waste

### St.Brigids Presentation Secondary School Killarney, Kerry 2023-073

Our project is 'No Time to Waste', we are transition years dedicated to reducing food waste in our area. We aim to lessen the amount of food being wasted by sharing this food with others. This also contributes to the second sustainable goal of zero hunger, because we are providing students with lunch. The actions we have taken include teaming up with a local supermarket to receive any leftover food they may have that would have gone to waste otherwise. We then collected this food. Depending on the food we received we made soup and served bread and sweet treats. We hosted several waste free lunches. Our project also involves educating people on how food waste effects the environment and how people can reduce food waste in their everyday lives. We talked on Radio Kerry about our project, therefore spreading awareness on this issue to older generations. We also made and presented a Kahoot to first years to educate younger generations on food waste. We created food waste related competitions and even received sponsored prizes from local businesses such as 'Going Green Killarney' and 'The Black Sheep' coffee shop.



Nikki Hosford, Chloe Crowley, Ines Guilleenn.

## Clean It

### Colaiste an chroi Naofa, Cork 2023-041

We are "Clean It". Our project is on food waste and farming sustainability. We hope to show you how YOU can improve on not wasting food and being more aware of what food to put in which bin. Over the past few weeks, we have made different posters on food waste and farming sustainability. We are going to expand your knowledge on food waste and farming sustainability as well as ourselves. We need to look after our planet and that starts by being sustainable. The impact our project will have is that people will be more aware on food waste and how to not waste food and how farming can be sustainable.



Jake O'Connor, Rory Mullan, Shane Buckley, Nils Oses, Ethan Nestor.

## The Food Brigade

### St. Jarlath's College, Galway 2023-039

The aim of our project is to try to keep food waste in our school to a minimum. We also want people to realize how much food we waste, and the effects food waste has on our school. Since the beginning of the year, we have been working on creating and building our very own vegetable garden. The garden at the end of this project looks very well and is a big part of the actions we took for this project. We also set up an action day in our school to raise awareness. This is where we presented our project to students to teach them what we have learned and acted upon during the course of the project. The project had an impact on us all because we now realize how much food waste is discarded daily.



Cristiana Nae, Mia Li, Sebastian Moreno, Alexandra Balaceanu, Gabriela Kostus.

## Less Fertiliser More Growth

### Ballinteer Community School, Dublin 2023-101

As Young Environmentalists, it is impossible to overlook the harm of fertilisers. They are harmful to the nutritional values of our food sources which is disadvantageous to us as humans but is also harmful to the environment. Our project aims to find ways to organically grow and harvest plants. We want to see if creating a healthy environment for the development of plants will result in better products than those in plants grown with fertilisers. We put soil in 9 plant pots (3 rows of 3). In the first row, we added fungi to the soil. In the second row, we left it as plain soil. And in the third row, we added chemical fertilisers. We put 5 onion seeds in each pot and covered them with a metal mesh to prevent damage from birds. We took pictures of the pots every week. The project and its results have made us more aware that almost everything in agriculture is being forced to grow mechanically to boost the income of food manufacturers and the economy.



## Further Growth

Students who participated in the YEA in recent years who continued to work on and develop their projects.



Leon Murphy, Billy Farrell, Eshan Jiby, George Cannon, Sean Hynes, Mara Sheridan, Ella Colgan, Moya O'Donnell, Toni O'Sullivan, Tommy Nally, Alannah Burke, Daniel McGarry, Moya Kilmartin.

### Plant A Planet

**Ardscoil na Mara, Presentation Wexford, Rockbrook Park School, Clerihan National School, Gaelscoil an Choillín, 2023-203**

Climate Change is an alarming issue in 21st century society. Large-scale systemic change is required to tackle such an issue. However, this should not undermine the importance of individual action. The "Plant a Planet" campaign embraces this idea, encouraging regular, everyday people to take measures against climate change whilst simultaneously promoting food security. The "Plant a Planet" campaign makes taking action simple and fun. We encourage families from our schools to plant native trees and fruit trees in their own gardens through marketing and promotion campaigns. Alternatively, if families don't have a garden of their own, communal green areas can be used. So far, the "Plant a Planet" campaign has seen huge success and will continue to do so over the course of the academic year. In Ardscoil na Mara alone we have handed out nearly 400 trees! As for ourselves, we have been able to develop our communication skills, leadership skills, expand our networks and grow our knowledge on climate change!



Molly Sweeney, Abbie Bolger, Erin Barr, Hannah Oak, Rebecca McSweeney.

### Plastic Outta the Park

**Newpark School, Dublin 2023-155**

Our project is about bringing back the plastic out of the park committee and making Newpark a single-use plastic free school again whilst educating the entire school community including teachers about how bad plastic is for the environment. We also want to educate people in the local community about climate change and what they can do to help.



Jude Al-Hassan, Jack Cullinane, Jessie Crockett, Niamh Toolen, Tara Wolfe, Claudia Artunedo-Fernandez, Josh Humphrys, Tadhg O'Treasaigh, Joe Melvin Caird, Rowan Lawlor, Sylvie Parker, Lara Goener, Sofia Salminen, Constantin Schumann, Megan Brown, Eveanna Goulding.

### Upcycling and Reusing Marine Plastic Waste

**Schull Community College, Cork 2023-021**

We continued work done by oceans plastics group 2022, by making marine education the goal for both primary and secondary school students, with awareness a key aspect through social media, St. Patrick's day parade and print media. Our actions include: analysis of marine waste on different beaches and to see if there are differences in the waste and register all information on CleanSwell app; upcycle a kayak, surfboard and sail; develop learning resources, aimed at primary and junior certificate students on marine literacy and pollution; write articles for print media and upload photos and information on social media; link with Blue Atlantic Schools programme with European countries to discuss marine pollution; and take part in the Cork city St. Patrick's day parade. In 4 or 5 local primary schools, students will be given presentations, links to social media, and an information day on marine pollution. In the community, we are cleaning our local beaches and will continue with National Spring Clean, while making the information available to local primary schools. Through the European data collection, we'll supply up to date data about marine studies. Through blue Atlantic schools, we'll examine the impact of marine pollution.



## Local to Global

Projects which highlight a link between their action project and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Taidhg Trocme, Kyle Dowley, Niamh Purcell, Elise de Sousa, Halle Coffey, Amélie Bonner, Conor Whelan, Karthik Sreekanth, Jamie Dundon, Mairéad Tobin, Ciara O'Riordan, Ruby Kelly, Sarah Moody Minto, Turlough Duffy, Richie Kuzhippillil, Sarah Assinder, Ciarán Hearne, Bill Foley, Kyle Dowley, Zach O'Keeffe, Lee Carroll, Dylan Thomas, Darragh Cooney, Darragh Walsh.

### 5 Minutes of Sustainability Video Series

#### Irish Schools Sustainability Network, 2023-165

We are running an action-focused awareness campaign about climate and biodiversity issues to educate students and teachers and empower action, filling a gap in existing curriculum and communicating in a way that is accessible and relatable for our peer audience. We started by filming videos about environmental issues and about actionable solutions. Videos are posted monthly on the Irish Schools Sustainability Network's channels. To have real impact we must work to encourage schools to watch the videos and act. To achieve this, we are running a 3-stage promotion campaign. We personally emailed every secondary principal in Ireland, asking them to commit to playing videos as a whole-school action. Next, we plan a social media campaign and are developing stories for newspaper and radio outlets in our local communities. Since beginning we have reached nearly 9,000 students and we will maintain momentum to engage more people. We also want to understand the real impact the videos have had by evaluating what actions have been taken. This is an eye-opening and challenging learning experience – we have increased our understanding about issues, developed filming, editing and writing skills and gained new knowledge about the challenges of running an impactful campaign.



Hannah Murphy, Sinead Leech, Maeve Duggan, Keri Russell, Lana, Marcella, Lara.

### Sustainable Students

#### Youth for Sustainable Development Programme, Dublin 2023-272

For our project, we decided to come up with a peer mentoring programme. Our goal was to plan several lessons that we could teach to first years in each of our schools over the course of a few weeks. We wanted to educate them on a multitude of topics, including the Sustainable Development Goals, how they can help the environment and be more sustainable, and how to be more aware of the impact their actions have on our environment. This project was very important to all of us, as we were in agreement that lack of knowledge is a massive contributing factor when it comes to damaging our environment.

## Marine Life - SDG #14

Projects which look at activities which are impacting ocean health and our marine environment.



Kyra Henderson Sixsmith, Imogene Murphy, Carla Qualter, Patrick Harrington Stack, Zoe Keane Costello, Emily Heasman.

### MSLT Habitat Heroes

#### Meán Scoil Nua an Leith Triúigh, Kerry 2023-086

Our project centres around a beach clean at a local beach near our school. We also did research on the waste found in our oceans and on our beaches and took to social media to spread awareness about these issues. We also created a documentary to further spread awareness and document our journey of discovery and within this documentary we conducted interviews with experts. We put up posters around our school to educate our peers and encourage them to join us on our mission. We also created a children's book and plan to sell it to schools and parents. We also plan to adapt the book into Irish for Irish-speaking schools.



Fionn Cunningham, Matthew Shaughnessy, Brian O' Malley, Matthew Shally and Alexander Stanislawski.

## No Plastic Would Be Fantastic

### St. Jarlath's College, Galway 2023-038

We placed bins across the school so anyone could recycle their plastic bottles. This helped stop the littering of plastic bottles around the school and if any were littered there was a bin near enough to the location. We also made posters to showcase our project and detail about where the bins were. We hosted an action day to show to each of the students in first year our project, our team, and what we did. We also spoke to our principal about what each of the teachers should do with plastic bottles. One of our members spoke on the intercom to the school. We had a major impact on everybody in our school, and hopefully the impact will be long lasting.



Eabha Sheehan and May Murray.

## Water Footprint

### Cólaiste an Chroí Naofa, Cork 2023-046

The topic of this project is raising awareness on our water footprint. We both have strong interest in the water footprint and knew straight away what topic we were going to choose. The aim of our project is to spread awareness and to inform people about water footprint and what they can do to resolve it. We did this by creating posters to put up in the halls in school so when students are going to class or on their lunch, they can read them. The posters informed them about what water footprint and hidden water footprint is and how they can help resolve it. Our project taught us that when brushing our teeth we need to turn off the tap and to have a short shower instead of a bath in order to reduce future water shortage.



Ava Sturdy, Eleanor Mooney, Emilia Kinsella, Medhbh Twamley, Ciara Carney, Florence Vickery, Emme Lee, Vivian Feng.

## Marine Team

### Mount Anville Secondary School, Dublin 2023-036

Our project aimed to reduce the amount of litter that is on our local beach. This litter negatively impacts marine life and the aesthetics of the beach. The project involved organising a meet up on the beach removing litter and preventing pollution. Our team worked together to remove plastic, cigarettes and many other types of waste from the beach. We then disposed of this waste in the correct way. We also educated people about marine life to raise awareness. We did this by getting people to complete a survey on how marine life was endangered and what they could do to help. Our project had many positive impacts on the environment and the community. By removing litter from the beach and surrounding areas, the project will help to prevent harm to marine life and reduce the risk of pollution. The project will also raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and encourage community members to take action to protect the beach.



Elma Pallone, Martha O'Sullivan.

## Consuming Fish: The Carbon Footprint of Trawling

### Kinsale Community School, Cork 2023-274

We wanted to find out the carbon footprint of one kilogram of Hake purchased at our local fish shop in Kinsale. Our aim is bringing awareness to people purchasing fish about how much Co2 had been released throughout all the stages of catching the fish until it reached the local fish shop. We have investigated the amount of fuel used during trawling, the amount of Co2 released during the transport, packing and preparing processes, keeping the fish fresh, maintenance of the vessel and its gear, its advertising, and the amount of blue carbon that is released from marine sediments into the atmosphere by trawlers. We talked with people from B.I.M and the S.F.P.A, such as Keiran Calnan, and Dominic Rihan. We also emailed Darcy Bradly, a Californian scientist. By adding each step of processing the fish we found that for 1Kg of Hake purchased at the fish-shop, about 2.6 of Co2-eqKg is produced. In comparison, 1Kg of beef produces 99.4 Co2-eq Kg.

# Transport - SDG # 11

Projects which look at the impacts of the transportation we use, more sustainable means of transport, etc.



Cáit Copeland, Jack Harrington, Pádraig Mac an Chuiligh, JJ Mac Craith, Ryan Mac Sandair, Stephany Ni Bhriain, Kelly Ni Dhubhlaoich, Isabel Ni Fhaoláin, Moira Ni Ghréachain, Eibhlín Ni Mhóráin, Jessica Ni Reighill, Alisha Ni Thoibín, Aimee Nic Réamoinn, Eve Nic Sheoin, Stacey Nic Shiacais, Ruairi Ó Broin, Gary Ó Cuirc, Seán Ó hAonghusa, Corran Ó Murchú, Shay Ó Murchú, Aodh Ó Néill, Will Ó Súilleabháin, Jonathan Ó Torpaigh.

## Iompar gan Breosla Iontaise / Transport without Fossil Fuel Meánscoil Gharman. Wexford 2023-097

We started out with the thought of how to transport things around our own areas without using any non-renewable fuel. We are very concerned about the terrible impact pollution is having on climate change and our future. We thought about all the goods and other things that move around our areas, such as students, shopping, fast food, rubbish and furniture. It was clear to us that most of these things would use a non-renewable fuel engine to move around, such as cars, vans or lorries. Then we thought about different ways to transport things around without using any fossil fuel. The solution we came up with is to use bikes or e-bikes and to think about the number of things we can carry on a bike or e-bike. We contacted our local politicians (councillors, TD and FPR/MEP) and we were pleased with the answers that came back. Now we want to develop a special bike trailer to transport goods and other things around our own area in Co. Wexford.



Alex Murphy, Lee Collins, Cian Rafferty, Ruairi Gorley, Jonas Wagner.

## Get Out The Car and Walk Afar St Jarlaths, Galway 2023-154

The main goal of our project is to reduce Co2 emissions and traffic congestion in our town. We want to do this by making our town a safer place for people to walk or cycle to work. We decided to meet with local minister Sean Canney to show him our idea of making our town a one-way system and introducing a cycle lane. He liked our idea and introduced us to Paul Connolly who is a county council engineer. He suggested us to submit our idea to our local area plan for our town. We held a very successful action day in our school where we showed 1st years our project and thought them more about carbon emissions. Our project will have a major positive impact on our town as it will help young people get out and cycle and walk to work while also reducing emissions. Our project also had an impact on our group as we learned a lot about carbon emissions and what we can do to reduce them. We hope our project helps clean our towns air and makes it a much safer environment for people to travel to school and work.



Ahmed Benrab, Matthew Daly, Oscar Daly, Matthew Farrell, Lui Finnegan, Eriks Greca, Aymen Guebaili, Tigran Hovhan, Nikhil Joshy, Aiden Kiran Jr., Sam Lambertini, Ieuan Lawson, Tom Moloney, Ryan Mooney, Davin Peet, Ani Ravichandran, Rayne Sadang, Dwayne San, Aarush Srivasta, Ciaran Stephenson Wong, Daniel Untalan, Daniel Vincent and Nathan Wynne.

## Sustainable Streets

### Oatlands College, Dublin 2023-236

The goal of our project is to encourage more students in our school to use more sustainable means of transport. We want to calculate what certain year groups carbon emissions are before the project, based on their methods of travel to and from school and we hope to lower this through an awareness campaign. We also want to look at creating change through our way of political participation – lobbying and contacting local councillors and politicians to ask for more funding for better footpaths and cycle lanes near our school to encourage more students and staff to use these transport methods.



# Waste - SDG #12

Waste projects explore our consumption and production patterns, and how to reduce waste.



Sophia Karlson, Matilde Celora, Ronja Gundermann.

## 4 Change

### Eureka Secondary School, Meath 2023-240

The aim of our project is to raise awareness on the waste generated for the production of jewellery materials making and waste of materials in general. We started from our daily life, and we saw how everything we wear is not environmentally friendly, starting from our jewellery. With this new project we hope to send out a message that it is never too late for changing our habits. We just take control of our actions, and we can all contribute to a more sustainable way of consumption.



Conor Matthews and Cormac Byrne.

## VD – Visible Disposal

### Youth for Sustainable Development Programme, Louth 2023-245

In this project we'll be organising community clean-ups, assisted by our school, the green schools committee in our school and volunteers from our TY year. We will also be advocating for more bins in Drogheda and for the bins to be more visible with brighter colours and such. We will create a petition to send via an official Louth County council email. In order to attract their attention to our petition for more bins. Our community clean-ups will be targeted to the surrounding areas in our town and those areas that we have identified as in need of a clean-up.



Libby Breen, Phoebe Carson, Rachael McDaid, Ava O'Connor, Layla Ramsey, and Ellis Mc Ginty.

## Loreto Little Litter Pickers

### Loreto Convent Letterkenny, Donegal 2023-050

Our goal is to create a cleaner environment for our community, raise awareness about waste and pollution, and connect with others. Throughout our project, we have taken part in multiple school clean ups, delivered presentations to first years regarding our project, and spoken directly with Tidy Towns. They provided our litter pickers. We also organised a trip to Letterkenny town with our neighbouring secondary school St Eunan's and have done clean-ups in our town with our own TY classes, spoke to superiors in our school and made change by lessening the plastic waste coming from the canteen. We have raised awareness about our project and our mission in numerous different ways such as we put posters up around our school, we have spoken on the intercom to our school about it, and directly talked to our first-year students about it. We have also launched social media pages that are active and are getting a lot of attention.



Aaron, Patrick, Matthew, Lochlann, Cody and Nathan.

## Construction Pollution

### Coláiste Chiaráin, Athlone, Westmeath 2023-024

Our Project is called Construction Pollution, our group is focusing on construction pollution and pollution waste and how it is affecting the surrounding population. Our aims are to spread awareness of pollution that construction makes, and the negative effects of construction pollution. Construction pollution is in fact, a huge issue around the world even in the areas where we live. In the past, poor planning and bad urban designs resulted in large amounts of urban sprawl development on the outskirts of cities and large towns. These newly developed areas were not often adequately serviced in terms of infrastructure and public transport, which often led to long commuting distances, usually by a private car.



Beth Lucey and Ciara O'Sullivan.

## It's Not Just a Paper Cup—It's Your Future

### St. Brigid's Presentation, Kerry 2023-074

Our project aims to reduce the use of paper cups in our school and in the wider community. The first initiative we set in motion was to ban the use of paper cups in the study area. Each day nearly 100 paper cups were being thrown away only in the study area. We identified this as a huge problem and emailed our principal about our concerns and the school consequently stopped providing paper cups. This helps with encouraging people to bring reusable cups with you when you leave the house. Another action we took was organising an eco-friendly coffee trip to the Black Sheep, where if you brought in a reusable cup, you received a free drink. Our school also purchased 80 vouchers from the Black Sheep which can only be redeemed using a reusable cup. 70 of these were given to the staff in our school and the other 10 were raffled among students.



Ellie Boland, Nicole McSweeney, Heather Leahy, Sofia Miscoi, Leah Hennessy, Isabelle McLellan, and Sadhbh Hepi.

## Waste Watch

### Ursulines Secondary School, Cork 2023-147

We noticed that waste in our school was a massive problem as recycling practices were not being implemented correctly. Our goals for the year were to stop students using single use plastic in our school as majority of plastic ends up in seas and then its consumed by sea life and then it gets into the food we eat. We want to get as many people as possible aware about the damages of recycling incorrectly does to the environment and to reduce fast fashion in our school. We acted by upcycling the bins with bright colours to make them stand out regarding what can be disposed into them. As a team we organised a swap shop to reduce fast fashion and introduce recycling into people's everyday lives. We built a water harvester at the front of the school which catches rainwater from the gutters. This water is then used for horticulture and gardening. Overall, we have made a great impact in the school so far educating the students about sustainable development. These practices are still ongoing to ensure our school stays environmentally friendly.



Wilda Gill, Friederike Beck, Orlaith Curley, Jessica Gill, Claudia Cano, Arwen Kavanagh, Aislinn Kavanagh, Sophie Lyons, Niamh Melaniphy, Desiree Obaro, Amelia Reinhardt, Eva Sorensen, and Emilia Traczyk.

## Mother Nature's Minions

### Mountmellick Community School, Laois 2023-140

Our project's main focus was on the theme of recycling as we aim for the school to be a cleaner, safer, and a place where everyone tries their best to be environmentally-friendly. We raised awareness by buying new recycling bins for the school and distributing them around the school into each classroom and beside printers and offices. We labelled them so they are easy to distinguish between the waste bins and we encouraged students and staff to use them by announcing this over the intercom and via the posters affixed in classrooms. Secondary focuses of our project included reducing plastic waste around the school and fixing our indoor garden. Our project impacted the school positively as we noticed that most of the recycling bins are full each week and people are actually using them.



Holly, Lucy, Sarah, Kaylin, Liam, and Elanor.

## Environmental Expert-ees

### Dundalk Grammer school, Louth 2023-138

We want to raise awareness about fast fashion and the negative impacts it has on the environment, people and society. We collected clothes from our school community. We sold them at a trade fair, and we are planning to give the money to the red cross. We made leaflets and handed them out during the trade fairs we did and around the school. We collected lots of clothes that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill.





Samia Abdelaziz, Lauren Kearney, Lily McHale, Levi Sheehy, Angelina Zheng, Danielle Whelan Collins, Ella rose Cathcart, Emma Deasy, Zoe Larkin, Beth Courtney, Ksenya Ponamarijova, Emma Cole, Denisa Ceangua, Laura Furlong, Saoirse Gorman, and Rebecca Kearney .

## Global Litter and Waste

### Mercy College, Coolock, Dublin 2023-061

We looked around the school and the local area and decided that we would try to create awareness about how to better manage litter and waste. We carried out a litter and waste audit and tried to think of ways we could use some of the waste collected in other ways. We decided to run an awareness campaign and gave presentations at assemblies, to remind students of the importance of recycling. We played environmental bingo, completed wordsearches and crosswords. As a result of doing this project we created a better awareness around the issue of waste management. We are using some of the plastics collected to create a display piece. We are also making a scarecrow for our polytunnel from recycled plastic and old clothes. We are using leaves collected in the school grounds to make compost and collecting food from the staff canteen to feed the worms. We contacted local businesses and got a donation of new recycling bins. We contacted WEE to collect used electronics from our school.



Isabel Connolly, Clodagh Lannon, Aoife Mackay, Freya Nolan.

## NBCompost

### Newbridge College, Kildare 2023-214

Waste is a very big problem in our world. 51 billion pieces are littered every single day. Most of you have already lived your lives and destroyed our planet in the processes. But we are all 14 years old. This once beautiful world is ours. Past generations are not bothered by the untold damage that has impacted our world. It's up to us to solve this worldwide problem so our children and grandchildren don't have to face the damage we caused. Our plan is to make a small step towards a new, sustainable world. We have introduced compost bins into our school in hope to change our school's environment for the better. Our hope is to inspire other schools across the country to follow in our footsteps. If you granted us the opportunity of winning, we could change schools across the nation's look on composting their waste and making our world a better place.



Skye Sheedy, Ellie Sheedy, Aoife Moloney.

## Not So Frank and Honest

### Kinsale Community School, Cork 2023-237

One of our goals is to assist consumers in identifying products that benefit the environment while also alerting industries about their product flaws. We hope to reduce the amount of pollution caused by biodegradable products and assist these companies in improving their product quality for the future. We tested a range of products that claim to be biodegradable to see if they would degrade in all conditions by digging a hole and burying them for 2-3 months. We sent emails to the industries letting them know about how their product is harming the environment. We presented our results to first year classes and people in RDS building in Dublin. We also made a TikTok account spreading awareness about these products in order to let consumers know about the damage done by the products. We informed the industries who sold these products and hope they improve the quality of these.



Jennifer Conlon, Ciosa Kelly, Katie Langan, Katie O'Connor, Rachel Fleming, Jessica Raj, Aisling O'Farrell, Saoirse Doody, Aine Clancy, Sophie Stevens, Noemie Jesudian.

## Woolly's Waste Not Want Not

### St Wolstan's Community School Celbridge, Kildare 2023-056

In St. Wolstan's Community School, we have realised that our society has a massive problem with the overproduction of waste. Therefore, when we decided to enter the Young Environmentalist Awards, we designed our project to raise awareness within our school community in relation to how waste affects the environment and how we can all reduce our production of waste. We sought to do this by organising an event in which we as a school swapped our unwanted clothes for those that other people did not want anymore. This aimed to reduce the waste we produce within our community and promote a culture of swapping and sustainability. We also attempted to educate ourselves by inviting a guest speaker from Voice Ireland to talk to us about waste. We hope that our school will begin a new tradition to hold a "Swap Don't Shop" event every year, thus impacting our school community positively.





Éabha Trainor, Caitlin Shields.

### A "Rubbish" Investigation

#### St Ciaran's College Ballygawley, Tyrone 2023-114

Our project is based on a study of what happens to all the waste from our households that is placed into the recycling bin. Not everything can be fully recycled, so we wanted to find out exactly where the non-recyclable materials end up. Is it burned, re-purposed or just simply buried in a landfill site? Our aim is to find out if the councils are doing what they are claiming to do. We have contacted local refuse collectors and operatives in the recycling industry to find out initial information around waste statistics. We have also got in contact with most of the councils in Northern Ireland and have received multiple interesting responses with useful information and convenient websites. We conducted some surveys within our school community and have found out that most pupils we surveyed are not even sure what items you should and should not place into the recycling bin! We feel there is still not enough awareness or understanding of what the recycling bin is supposed to receive.



Bobby Quinn, Robyn Neylon-Phipps, Joshua Doyle, Joseph Lambert, Alex Toman.

### The Daily Grind

#### Portlaoise College, Laois 2023-058

Our project is called "The Daily Grind". We decided to reduce the amount of waste in our school and wider community by focusing on one commodity: coffee. There are lots of coffee drinkers in our school and the school canteen wondered if we could reuse the coffee grounds in some way to save the amount of waste going to landfill. We researched and learned that coffee grounds can be put to good use in gardens, reducing their impact on the environment and providing benefits to plants. Reusing coffee grounds in the garden is a simple and effective way to reduce methane emissions and promote sustainability. We decided to reuse these 'waste' coffee grounds and turn them into compost to use in our school greenhouse. Through our awareness campaign we have encouraged others to do the same. We hope to see coffee shops becoming more sustainable in how they manage their waste and hope that our school community continue with this practice.



Martha O'Sullivan, Jessica O'Keeffe and Edel Ryle.

### Investigation of Correct Recycling Habits, on People's Difficulties and Compliance With the Recycling Guidelines Among the General Public

#### Kinsale Community School, Cork 2023-275

The aim of our project is to show the importance of recycling correctly. People frequently mix up or are unsure of what items are recyclable. According to Forge Hill Recycling Centre, recycled items should be rinsed and dried before going into the recycling bin. Unfortunately, not everyone is aware of this or follows this guideline. Consequently, 5% of recycling cannot be recycled. We surveyed over 500 people. We wanted to get survey responses from all age groups so that we could compare results from different age groups. Then we visited two primary schools to get survey responses and to speak to them about the importance of recycling and sent out surveys to students and parents in our school. After analysing our results, we wanted to educate the population to ensure that everyone was aware of the impact contamination has on recycling waste and to teach them how to recycle correctly.



Sumyuktha Yuvaraj, Sharvi Alle, Sravya Rapolu, Zainab Rahim, Sanjana Joshi, Rose Devaney, Puteri Clarissa Brien, Kauthar Ahmad Fitri, Mohana Kuruguntla.

### Planet Earth – Manufactured With Plastic

#### Institute of Education, Dublin 2023-149

When we first started this project, we wanted to use different methods to raise awareness and bring about a change in our community. We want more people in our community to know about plastic pollution and the damage it has on our environment. Our main goal was to educate people on this issue and its causes and effects. Our project was a unique look into plastic pollution, at its impacts on the world and its biodiversity, and it aimed to educate through various means, such as: workshops, articles in our school's weekly newsletter, getting a contact at UNICEF to share our social media info and a stunning painting that reflects how this issue affects life on land and water. We used social media and talked to some of our neighbours about this issue so that we can all live more sustainable lives.

## Water - SDG #6

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



Avril Manning, Leah O Riordan, Aileen Morris Murray, Clodagh McCarron, Claragh Cashman, and Kate O'Brien.

### How the Chemicals in Hair Dye Affect the Environment Millstreet Community School, Cork 2023-198

Our group aims to make people aware about how numerous chemicals in hair dye contaminate water sources after being washed out of the hair. We have sent out a survey to students in our school as well as teachers to find out how aware they are about what they are applying onto their hair. We decided to do a toxicity test. To see what effect hair dye has on marine life. We shared our findings with others by uploading our results on Twitter and Instagram to target as wide an audience as possible. We plan on uploading our findings as well as videos of our tests to make people visually aware of how the dye can affect our environment. We have made the student population aware of the harmful effects dye can have on marine life as well as polluting our waterways. We have also made them aware of more environmentally friendly options that are available to them.



Ciara Worley, Adam Hayes, Toby Tangney, and Aisling O'Sullivan.

### Ireland's Waning Water Standards Glanmire Community College, Cork 2023 - 129

In our project we spread awareness through social medias such as TikTok and Instagram, and made a website about preserving Ireland's rivers. During school hours we went into classes to give a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation educates students about river pollution in Ireland, but also outlines what they can do as individuals to help, such as using environmentally friendly cleaning products, doing a river clean-up and consuming organic foods. Our school is also trying to use more environmentally friendly cleaners instead of bleach. We also conducted a river clean-up. We put up posters in classrooms about what people can do to help with water pollution and the link to our website. We then started a society in our school called the GCC Clean River Society, where we can start a tradition of annually testing the Glashaboy and build up a database over many years.



Kacper Malecki, Youssef Hussin, Ciaran Murray, Daniel Fleming, and Calum Colgan.

### The Pond Resurrection Drimnagh Castle Secondary School, Dublin 2023-112

Our YEA project focuses on restorative practices – restoring our school pond that was created as a previous YEA project. It is a great way to improve our school's biodiversity and to add to our school's beauty and general aesthetic. Our actions include creating a new, calming and reflective area for students with sensory issues as well as giving a home to life including a variety of bugs and insects and amphibious animals. We spread awareness about our project and its advantages by creating posters and hanging them up around the school. We gave a presentation to first and second years so that they could get a better understanding of the project. By raising awareness, we hope others will follow our example and act.



Nathan, Cillian, Christopher, Guy, James, and Thomas.

### East Wicklow Rivers Challenges Marino Community Special School, Wicklow 2023-082

The three larger rivers of Co. Wicklow are all facing challenges in the 21st Century. Wicklow is undergoing population growth and many of the east coast towns are part of the Dublin Commuter belt. The Avoca River is the largest river in the County, and it suffers from the impacts of the run-off of the old mine workings in the Avoca area. The River Dargle flows through the largest town in Wicklow, Bray. This river has been altered through flood defense works, and it is a known target for poachers. The Vartry River is reduced to a very slight flow during the summer months due to water extraction demands at Roundwood Reservoirs. In our project we learned about these rivers and built a model to present the information that we learned to other students in our school.



## Super Junior

These projects explore a wide range of issues and take actions that protect and improve their local environment.



Nellie, Katie, Niomie, Lily.

### Butterfly Mosaic

**St Colman's N.S. Ballinaggin, Enniscorthy, Wexford 2023-145**

We decided to focus our project on Irish butterflies. We were surprised to find that 18% of native Irish butterflies are under threat of extinction. This motivated us to draw attention to the importance of butterfly habitats. Art is one of the tools we used to achieve with our butterfly mosaic. We organised a litter picking event, we drew attention on butterflies and their habitats, ran an event, created a book, created a quiz, made monsters with the younger classes using recycled materials and we made a butterfly mosaic to raise awareness on the issue of loss of butterflies' habitat and consequent decline of their population.



Kornel Pongraz, Lucas Farrell, Cillian Dempsey, Rian Moore, Stanislaw Repeka, Emma Gombosi, Réka Egyed, Edith Kelly, Rebecca Campion, Bonnie DeBarra, Ella Arbeit, Molly Roche, Sophie Greal, Erin O'Connor, Katya Tsiupa, Mia Chapman Rock, Tom Jackson, Tom Denny, Max Denny, Luke Grant, Yarik Shelhachov, James Davis, Ed Lynch.

### Saving Skerries Underwater Life

**Holmpatrick NS, Dublin 2023-099**

We chose marine sealife because it is a big issue in our local community. We noticed that there was a lot of rubbish on our beaches, so we wanted to tackle this issue as a lot of us are involved in activities that are based in the sea or in the nearby harbour. We started a class blog to update people about the issue and we organised a first clean-up and then decided on a rotation scheme for future clean-ups of the beach. We spread awareness to younger students in our school and we participated in the school open-day. We also created our "Save our Seas (SOS)" mural in our school.



Ella, Ben, Catherine, Hayden, Daragh, Holly.

### Fairy Garden

**Ronanstown youth service, Dublin 2023-166**

We thought that it would have been a good idea to use the nice space in the back garden of the youth service during the summer period, so we decided to make a fairy garden. The part we decorated for the fairy garden was full of rubbish, so we had to clear it out and then we reused old materials from the art room and the shed like old timber and made fairy doors. We also planted tulip bulbs and snow drops. In order to encourage bugs, bees and insects into the garden we threw some "bee bomb" seeds. The plants are starting to rise and they are really nice to look at.



Deivydas Pocas, Andrew Ardeleanu, Tristan Ardeleanu.

### World Wide Web Waste Warriors

**Foroige Connect, Castlebar, Mayo 2023-070**

We started by doing a project on educating others about the Wood Wide Web. The Wood wide web are the threads of Mycelium that link all trees in which they communicate, share resources, protect and attack each other. Through doing this project we realised that mycelium breaks down and reuses waste materials. We then researched how mycelium could be used to break down household waste. After our research we realised that coffee grounds are a great food for Mycelium and the end product are mushrooms. We then found simplified ways that people can create coffee grounds mushrooms making kits.



Lexi, Daire, Oliver, Adomas, Lottie, Laoimh, Grace.

### St. Francis Garden

**St. Clare's Abbey, Down 2023-089**

We chose the issue of biodiversity because we know how important it is and we want to push it in our local area. Our aim is to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity and the risks posed to food and water supplies related to biodiversity loss. We planted trees, bulbs and flowers and built bird houses into our school garden. We engaged the whole school in the creation of our garden and were able to give back to wildlife a place to live and enjoy.



# Meet Today's Judges

Our Judging panel will be circulating around the finalist showcase from 10:00 - 12:30 to meet the young environmentalists and view the amazing environmental action projects created as part of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2023.

We would like to thank the judging panel for their time and their support of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2023.

## Finalist judging panel of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2023:

Name	Organisation
Aileen Moon	EPA
Aine Sweetman	Ulster Wildlife
Aoife McGrane	Department of Education
Brian Kennedy	Clearstream Solutions
David Lane	Ecclesiastical
Cheryl Beckett	IKEA
Deirdre Horgan	UBUNTU Network
Gerard Griffin	Youthreach Ireland
Clare Lynn	Enrich
Lorraine Bull	Dublin City Council
Malena Thren	University College Galway
Mark Molloy	Galway County Council
Michael Noonan	TUD Tallaght
Rebecca Flanagan	TUD Tallaght
Rob Mooney	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
Rosie McDonagh	Community Foundation for Ireland

# Awards Ceremony Agenda

**MC:** Clara Murray

**Entertainment:** *The Key-rons*: A Dublin based musical-improvising comedy duo who make up songs on the spot using audience suggestions. Expect singalongs, belly laughs and a big chorus to finish!

Time	Details
<b>14:00 - 14:15</b> <b>Weclome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Opening Address</li> <li>• Clara Murray   MC</li> <li>• Elaine Nevin   National Director of ECO-UNESCO</li> <li>• Keynote speech from the Lord Mayor, Cllr Conroy</li> </ul>
<b>14:15 - 14:35</b> <b>Category Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECO-Health &amp; Wellbeing Category</li> <li>• Food Category</li> <li>• Waste Category</li> <li>• ECO-Innovation Category</li> </ul>
<b>14:35 - 14:40</b> <b>Entertainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Musical duo:</b> The Key-rons</li> </ul>
<b>14:40 - 15:00</b> <b>Category Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Category</li> <li>• Climate Change Category</li> <li>• ECO-Art &amp; Design Category</li> <li>• ECO-Community Development Category</li> </ul>
<b>15:00 - 15:05</b> <b>Guest Speaker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special guest speaker to be announced on the day</li> </ul>

# Awards Ceremony Agenda

Time	Details
<b>15:05 - 15:20</b> <b>Category Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Category</li> <li>• Water Category</li> <li>• Marine Life Category</li> <li>• Transport Category</li> </ul>
<b>15:20 - 15:25</b> <b>Entertainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Musical duo:</b> The Key-rons</li> </ul>
<b>15:25 - 15:55</b> <b>Additional Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Growth Award</li> <li>• Local to Global Award</li> <li>• YEA Mentor of the Year Award</li> <li>• People's Choice Award</li> <li>• Most Sustainable Project Award</li> <li>• Special Awards</li> </ul>
<b>15:55 - 16:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Musical duo:</b> The Key-rons</li> </ul>
<b>16:00 - 16:10</b> <b>Overall Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall Super Junior Award</li> <li>• Overall Junior Award</li> <li>• Overall Senior Award</li> </ul>
<b>16:10</b> <b>Finish</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing speech</li> </ul>



# Everyday is Earth Day

Join us in taking action for a greener, cleaner, healthier and more sustainable environment for people and planet.

## What is Earth Day?

On 22nd of April 1970, Earth Day was founded as a day of education about environmental issues. Ever since then, Earth Day has been celebrated every year on April 22 as an international event which aims to raise public awareness of the importance of protecting the environment and highlighting actions needed to protect and respect our planet and its many important ecosystems.

Every year on Earth Day, around 1 billion people from more than 190 countries join demonstrations, projects and initiatives in efforts to help protect the planet.



This photo, taken on 24th of December 1968 by Bill Anders from the Apollo spacecraft is called "Earthrise". This became one of the most famous photos of planet Earth. For many, it was the first time that they had witnessed the Earth from space. This photo helped many to realise just how precious and delicate our planet is and the importance of taking action to protect it.

*"On that gigantic, glistening marble, mottled with blue-white swirls, lies everyone."*

## Everyday is Earth Day!

Our planet is currently under strain with rising emissions, pollution, waste, overconsumption of resources and lack of sustainable policies. We, as a global society, have also become disconnected from our environment and many have forgotten how important a healthy environment is for us all - everything from our food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe and the materials we use all depend on a healthy planet and environment.

Now, more than ever, it is so important that we all work together to raise awareness about environmental issues, promote sustainable development, take environmental action in our everyday lives to protect our planet, and use our voice to call for more sustainable policies. Amazing things are happening everyday for environmental action and there is an important role for everyone in the environmental movement. We need everyone involved to protect the home we all share - planet Earth. Not just on April 22nd, but every day of the year.

## Donate To ECO-UNESCO Today!

Your donation, no matter how big or small, will help us educate and empower young people to take positive environmental action today. Thank you!

Scan the QR code to donate today!



# Everyday is Earth Day

Follow our twelve eco-actions so you can join in our #EarthDay2EarthDay campaign. See our handy calendar below for more information.

## May: No-Mow-May



Help preserve habitats and protect biodiversity. Try reduce or stop lawn mowing for the month of May. Leaving a section of our garden untouched makes a huge difference in protecting native wildlife.

## June: Take 10 in Nature



Take time to connect with nature by sitting or meditating outside – no phone, no distractions.

## No New July



Reduce consumption, try to reuse, repair, upcycle or swap items with friends, avoiding buying if not necessary.

## August Action



Get active and choose public transport, walking and cycling.

## Plastic Free September



Talk with your supermarket manager to also reduce their reliance on single-use plastics for food wrapping.

## Our Ocean October



Take simple actions that will protect our oceans such as reducing use of harmful bleach and make DIY toilet cleaners and household cleaners.

## No New November



No new pieces of clothing in November – try swapping and repairing!  
#NoNewNovember

## DIY December



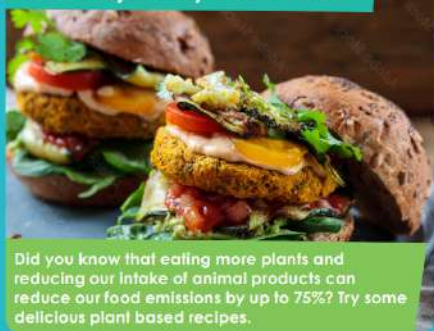
Make your own festive decoration by re-using, and upcycling, make your own wreathes with fallen branches.

## January Appliances



Make sure appliances are not left on standby and save energy. Try cool clothes washes and turning down thermostat by 1 degree

## February Friday's Meat Free



Did you know that eating more plants and reducing our intake of animal products can reduce our food emissions by up to 75%? Try some delicious plant based recipes.

## March through March



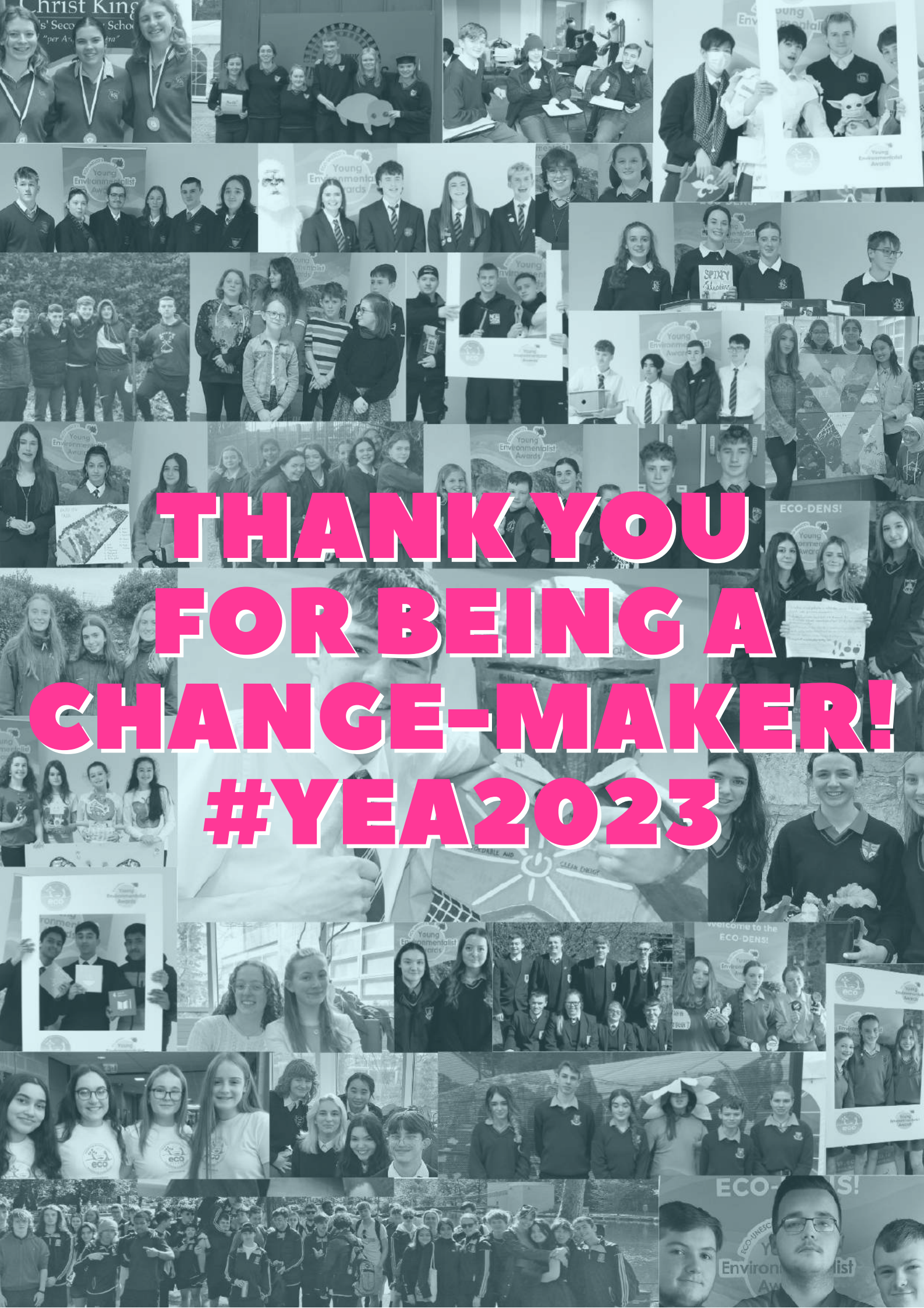
Talk with and inspire others about the environmental actions you have taken as part of #EarthDay2EarthDay Challenge. Take action or attend a march in March, eg. World Planting Day, World Water Day.

## April Reuse the Rain



Leave out buckets or drums to collect rainwater and use it to water plants, wash cars.





**THANK YOU  
FOR BEING A  
CHANGE-MAKER!  
#YEA2023**



# ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards Funders & Sponsors.



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



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



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland



**The Scheme to Support National Organisations is  
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**Environmental Protection Agency**  
*An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil*



**The Young Environmentalist Awards is also supported by:**



**Irish  
Environmental  
Network**



“At ECO-UNESCO, we build awareness of our natural environment, develop young people’s confidence, knowledge and skills in this area, and empower them to take positive environmental action.”

— Elaine Nevin, National Director



# About ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's leading environmental education and youth organisation and works to conserve the environment and empower young people. We run a wide range of programmes and services, including:

## Environmental Youth Programmes

ECO-UNESCO Clubs, ECO-Choices, Youth for Sustainable Development Programme.

ECO-UNESCO's **ECO-Choices** Programme is a programme that focuses on the positive aspects of a community and the environment.

ECO-UNESCO's **Youth for Sustainable Development** programme promotes Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through a Peer Education approach in a non-formal education sector.



## ECO-WEEK's

A series of free, online events centred around raising awareness around environmental issues and how to take action, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Training Programmes

We offer Schools workshops, which include Fast Fashion and Climate Justice as well as ECO-Academy, QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) Accredited courses and TY programmes.

## Educational Resources

Our resources focus on environmental education and youth work and are aimed at young people, leaders, and teachers., including resource and activity packs.

## Green Youth Employability Programme

For those who have left school we run Upskilling and Training programmes including our youth employability initiatives which comprise QQI accredited training, work experience, ongoing employment supports and mentoring.



# Summer Camps for Kids and Teens!

## ECO Explorer Summer Camp

The exciting ECO-Explorers Summer Camp for Children is an environmental camp with a difference, providing a safe environment for exploration and discovery of the fascinating natural treasures of Dublin City Centre.

- Go on outdoor adventures
- Discover a whole new side to trees, insects and animals!
- Play interactive games
- Join a bug safari
- Get inventive at our Creative Recycling Arts & Crafts Zone and turn something old into something new!

**Who?** Children aged 10-12 years old.

**What?** All activities allow children to explore key environmental issues in a fun, creative and informative way .

**Where?** ECO-UNESCO, Burgh Quay and wildlife hotspots throughout Dublin city centre.

**When?** Monday 3rd – Friday 7th July  
10:00-15:00.

## Teen Summer Camps

The action-packed Green Teen Camp has been designed to support personal development through physical activity, nature learning and engaging in environmental thinking.

- Go on day trips and guided tours
- Discover biodiversity within the green areas of the city
- Take part in interactive workshops
- Play games and fun activities

**Who?** Teens aged 13-16 years old

**What?** All activities allow teens to explore key environmental issues in a fun, creative and informative way

**Where?** ECO-UNESCO, Burgh Quay, Dublin 2 and various locations in Co. Dublin.

**When?** Monday 26th – Friday 30th June @  
10:00-15:00

Monday 10th – Friday 14th July, 10:00-15:00

**Contact [sarah.austin@ecounesco.ie](mailto:sarah.austin@ecounesco.ie) to find out more**



# Sustainable Development Goals

ECO-UNESCO is a Sustainable Development Goals Champion. We work across the island of Ireland and with partners in Europe and internationally. We are affiliated with the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).



Why not become involved with  
ECO-UNESCO today?

Visit **[ecounesco.ie](http://ecounesco.ie)** for more information or call us on  
(+353) 01 662 5491.

**Scan the QR code below to find out more**





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20015145 Revenue Number: CHY 7225 Company Number: 106860