

ECO-UNESCO news

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation



Director's Message

Dear friends of ECO-UNESCO,

In 2019 we have seen more and more young people raise their concerns about our environmental pressures and demanding action and change. Young people are taking to the streets voicing their concern about climate change and about environmental issues. ECO-UNESCO recognises this concern and we have been supporting you to get involved and take action; we have continued to provide our youth-centred, engaging and inspiring programmes and activities giving you an opportunity to discuss, debate and find solutions to environmental issues.

If you want to do something locally, we have a number of programmes that you can get involved in. Each year thousands of young people across Ireland take part in our Young Environmentalist Awards programme by doing a local environmental action project – this provides an excellent framework for you to channel your passion and energy into solution-focused actions. This year we celebrated our 20th anniversary of this very successful programme with our biggest Showcase to date with over 1500 young people highlighted their environmental actions in the Convention Centre Dublin.

Until next time,

Elaine Nevin.

Channel your passion into environmental action!

How do the awards work?

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

Find out more at www.yea.ie.

Are you between 10 and 18 years old?

Do you want to help protect the environment?

Do you want to carry out an environmental project?

If yes to all, we want to hear from you!



**Registrations
are now open!**
www.yea.ie



GET INVOLVED!

Registrations for YEA 2022 are open!

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

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

2022 the European Year of Youth

The 2022 European Year of Youth will focus on young people and re-establishing them as active and engaged citizens, following the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Increased efforts will be made to include youth priorities in relevant EU policy areas and to engage young people at every level of the EU's decision-making process.

ECO-UNESCO will host a number of events and programmes throughout the year in line with the objectives of the European Year of Youth that will bridge the gap between young people in Ireland and key decision-makers at both local and national levels as well as continue to empower young people to take climate action through the programmes and services to young people, groups, youth leaders and teachers. At the moment, our services, in line with public health guidance, will continue to be offered online; outlined below are some of the ways you can get involved with us.

Join ECO-Choices Programme



Are you interested in learning about environmental issues and the importance of ECO health and well-being? Join our online 8-week programme!

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

Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD)

Do you want a future that is more environmental & socially just?

Are you between 15-17 years old?

Why not join our Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) programme?

- Workshops focusing on the environment and sustainable development
- Gain key skills, debating, critical analysis, teamwork
- Develop long-lasting friendships
- Guest speakers, case studies & lots of activities
- Sign off on your GAISCE community award

Join YSD groups: www.ecunesco.ie
Contact: kieran.allen@ecunesco.ie

More ECO-WEEKS coming soon...

After the ECO-WEEK success in 2020 & 2021, we will be running more series of ECO-WEEKS in 2022. Dates will be announced soon.



Key dates 2022

- **January 2022:** Education Day
- **February 2022:** YEA submissions close
- **March 2022:** Youth Action for Nature & Well-being programme starting - Erasmus+
- **April 2022:** Earth Day ECO-Week
- **May 2022:** ECO-WEEK & Awards Ceremony
- **June/July 2022:** Green Teens Summer Camps
- **August 2022:**
- **September 2022:**
- **November 2022:**
- **December 2022:**



Environmental Workshops

Kickstart the new year by enrolling your class into one of our educational, fun, and interactive environmental workshops.

All of our environmental workshops are tailored to be specifically suitable for post-primary school students, with a wide range of topics to choose from including biodiversity and ecology, climate action, waste management, plastic, fast fashion, and climate justice.

Each workshop is now available online through flexible delivery methods to suit your busy timetables.

For more information or to book your workshop slot, contact Róisín at roisin.fitzgerald@ecunesco.ie

Youth Action for Nature & Well-being

The Youth Action for Nature and Well-being is a strategic partnership between 6 European organisations, led by ECO-UNESCO that aims to innovate new ways of working with young people that combine transformative learning, action competence and nature-based strategies for positive mental health. We will work to empower young people by equipping them with the skills to restore their environment and engage with society as active citizens to influence their future.

We will be running 4 international pilots in Ireland, Spain, Latvia, and Slovakia.

Registrations will be open in February 2022.

In the meantime if you want to have more information you can contact Richard at richard.hennery@ecunesco.ie

So much happened in ECO-UNESCO in 2021 and throughout the year we continued to engage, educate, inspire and empower young people to take action around environmental issues.

We want to share with you and celebrate all we accomplished last year.

ECO-UNESCO's YOUTH PROGRAMMES 2021

YSD 6-week programme

In 2021 YSD ran weekly groups in Drogheda, Dublin, and our YSD National group which consists of people from different regions of the country.

During the Summer we ran Summer Camps in Dublin, with Boomerang Drogheda, Croabh Rua Dundalk, and with Youth Reach Bandon.

Youth Climate Justice Challenge

A consortium of 5 youth organisations, led by ECO-UNESCO ran the second Youth Climate Justice Challenge, with partners Gaisce The President Award, The No Name Club, Irish Girls Guides & Young Irish Film Makers. The Youth Climate Justice Programme received 14 environmental projects from across Ireland.

Climate Justice Survey

ECO-UNESCO in collaboration with SpunOut.ie, conducted an online survey with young people. The purpose of the survey was to highlight how young people of Ireland feel about climate change and climate justice issues. You can read the full Youth Climate Action Survey Results www.ecounesco.ie

88%

of young people are either involved or want to get involved with climate actions

60%

of young people feel anxious about climate change

52%

of respondents want opportunities to be involved in climate action projects

You can read the full Youth Climate Action Survey results visiting www.ecounesco.ie

ECO-Weeks

In 2021 we celebrated 4 ECO-Weeks focused on:

- Celebrating Earth Day
- The Young Environmentalist Awards
- Environmental Solutions with young people via Instagram
- Earth Gala, Climate Justice

The ECO-Weeks is a week-long initiative that includes a series of environmental events for young people. These events took place as online webinars, talks, workshops, and challenges.

ECO-UNESCO's CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES 2021

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership

Midway through 2021, we commenced an Erasmus+ funded project called "Youth Action for Nature and Wellbeing", a 26-month long programme to examine and understand the role nature plays in physical and mental wellbeing, combined with the production of resources, case studies, and e-learning content that practitioners can use to embed the natural environment in their teaching practices. We are proud to be working with partner organisations in the UK, Spain, Latvia, and Slovakia on this project.

Environmental Workshops

In 2021, our workshop programme was very popular and we expanded our range of online live and pre-recorded workshops which included fast fashion, climate action, YEA 6 Steps among others. Our workshops are available to schools and youth groups and include fun activities and games appropriately designed for each age group.

Book your workshop! bookings@ecounesco.ie

e-Learning and Online Education

In 2021 we expanded our e-learning capability to include self-directed courses using a platform called LearnDash. This will allow learners to access course material on key environmental issues such as Climate Justice and learn at their own pace.

Additional content will be added throughout 2022.

ECO-Choices - Health & Wellbeing

Throughout 2021, the ECO-Choices programme continued to engage young people in Dublin.

Early in the year, we had participants complete a QQI Level 3 in Community Participation.

We currently have 4 more groups participating in our QQI Community Participation course and can't wait to see the projects they have been working on in the new year!

ECO-Choices also ran weekly groups with 'The Sandy Freds' and 'Spill the Tea'. These youth groups offered support to our young people and provided a space for them to talk about any difficulties they may be having - all while creating a virtual youth space to catch up with friends.

As well as our weekly online sessions, we also enjoyed meeting with our participants for outdoor education days!

Educational resources are available in our online shop!

Visit: www.ecounesco.ie





Young Environmentalists Take Action through the Young Environmentalist Awards 2021

On the 26th of May 2021, ECO-UNESCO celebrated the Young Environmentalist Awards 2021.

The awards ceremony was hosted online and was part of the ECO-WEEK initiative, a week-long event that included a series of online events focused on environmental topics as Fast Fashion, Marine life, Biodiversity, Plastic, and much more.

The YEA online ceremony took place in a Live transmission through ECO-UNESCO's YouTube channel. The awards ceremony was opened by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and the former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson. The awards were hosted by the TV Presenter Clara Murray.

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

GET INVOLVED WITH ECO-UNESCO!

Environmental Workshops

All of our environmental workshops are tailored to be specifically suitable for post-primary school students, with a wide range of topics to choose from including biodiversity and ecology, climate action, waste management, plastic, fast fashion, and climate justice.

Each workshop will not only equip your student with the knowledge and skills to increase their confidence in understanding the specific environmental topic, but we also aim to motivate them to take their own positive action and empower them to become involved in environmental solutions.

Workshops are available online through flexible delivery methods to suit your busy timetables.

Book a workshop today! bookings@ecounesco.ie

Youth for Sustainable Development

Interested in the environment & social justice?

Are you between 15-17 years old?

Why not join our online 8 week Youth for Sustainable Development programme?

We meet once a week for 8 weeks to explore key climate justice issues. You can join us no matter where you live!

For more information ysd@ecounesco.ie

Support us conserve the environment, and empowering young people.



Just for €7, you can support our work, you're supporting us to help young people and our planet.

DONATE TO ECO-UNESCO!
www.ecounesco.ie



Corporate Partnerships

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

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

