

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Leading Environmental Education Youth Organisation



ECO-UNESCO'S Young Environmentalist Awards

SKILLS & CURRICULUM LINKS GUIDE



OVERVIEW

Introduction

The youth-led Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) offers young people an opportunity to deepen their understanding of environmental issues and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while achieving other educational goals. This resource connects the YEA programme to both learning outcomes in the non-formal and formal education sector, illustrating how the programme can be seamlessly integrated into various learning spaces and curriculum strands.

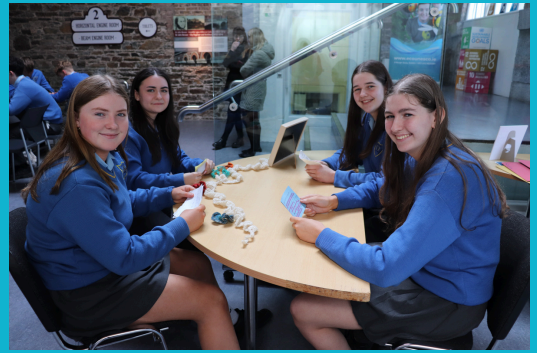
Broadly, YEA aims to:

- Encourage young people to actively engage with environmental issues.
- Promote awareness and action towards sustainability, empowering young people to contribute positively to their community and the environment.
- Nurture leadership, teamwork, and project management skills.
- Allow young people to become advocates for environmental issues.
- Be inclusive to all young people between the ages of 10 to 18.

Navigating This Resource






This resource is broken down into several sections.

- **Non-Formal Education:** Linking YEA to broad learning outcomes in the non-formal education sector, for example in youth, or community groups.
- **Formal Education:** Linking YEA to curriculum strands, in both Northern and the Republic of Ireland. This is further broken down into...
 - **Primary**
 - **Post-Primary: Junior Cycle / Key Stage 3**
 - **Post-Primary: Senior Cycle / Key Stage 4 & 5**



NON-FORMAL EDUCATION






The YEA programme fits seamlessly into non-formal education settings like youth groups, community organisations, and after-school programmes. Check out how this programme matches up with key learning outcomes, taken from the NYCI Core Principles of Youth Work.

Learning Outcome	How it Relates to YEA
<p>Building Self-Esteem & Self-Confidence</p> 	<p>Participating in YEA can boost self-esteem and confidence by empowering young people to lead impactful projects. Participants can gain a sense of achievement by turning their ideas into action! Raising awareness in their communities and presenting at ECO-Dens and the Showcase hones their public speaking and advocacy skills, giving them a sense of pride and accomplishment.</p>
<p>Managing Personal & Social Relationships</p> 	<p>Teamwork is at the heart of YEA. Working together on environmental projects helps young people develop important personal and social skills. While going through the stages of developing a project, they learn how to collaborate, negotiate, and resolve conflicts, which builds their ability to form strong, effective relationships.</p>
<p>Providing Learning Opportunities</p> 	<p>YEA offers rich learning opportunities in the world of sustainability and the environment. Participants focus on specific issues they care about, diving deep into their self-directed project. This hands-on approach enhances their knowledge and skills, promoting critical thinking and problem-solving while developing a strong understanding of sustainability.</p>
<p>Giving Young People a Voice in Decision-Making</p> 	<p>The programme empowers young people to have a say in the issues that shape their future. By actively involving them in environmental projects, YEA ensures their voices are heard and their ideas are valued. This can bring fresh perspectives to the table and new solutions, that can drive change.</p>
<p>Enhancing Young People's Role as Active Citizens</p> 	<p>By giving young people a platform to engage in meaningful environmental projects, the programme can be a platform to develop a strong sense of civic responsibility and active citizenship. The programme supports young people to take initiative, influence their communities, and advocate for positive change.</p>

FORMAL EDUCATION

PRIMARY CURRICULUM LINKS





YEA integrates with primary school subjects, turning environmental learning into a dynamic and engaging experience across the curriculum. Note: wording reflects curricula in the Republic of and Northern Ireland.




Subject	Strand	How it Relates to YEA
Science (ROI) The World Around Us (NI) 	Living Things (ROI) Interdependence (NI)	Participants can choose to do a project on biodiversity and, through this, explore plants, animals, and their environments, deepening their appreciation for nature and understanding our interconnectedness.
	Environmental Awareness & Care (ROI)	Through YEA, young people dive into an environmental topic of their choice, boosting their awareness and gaining practical skills to care for and address environmental issues in their communities.
Geography (ROI) The World Around Us (NI) 	Human Environments (ROI)	The programme allows students to explore how human actions shape their surroundings. It deepens understanding of how communities interact with their environments, developing a sense of responsibility and appreciation for their local areas.
	Natural Environments (ROI) Place (NI)	Young people can critically examine the relationship between human behaviours and our natural environment, and how we impact it.
	Environmental Awareness & Care (ROI) Change Over Time (NI)	Creating a project serves as a basis for growing environmental awareness on a topic, considering how we can make change happen, and practice environmental stewardship.
SPHE (ROI) PDMU (NI) 	Myself & the Wider World (ROI) Mutual Understanding in the Local & Wider Community (NI)	YEA encourages responsible citizenship and behaviours, and active participation in community/global based environmental projects.
	Personal Understanding & Health (NI)	With the ECO-Health and Wellbeing Category, participants can learn to recognise and understand the link between a healthy environment and personal wellbeing.
The Arts 	Applicable to All Strands	Participants can express their understanding and feelings about environmental themes, through different mediums such as art, drama or music.
Language 	Competence & Confidence in Using Language (ROI) Social Use of Language (NI)	The programme helps develop skills in writing, communication with ones team, family and other people in the community, and presenting information about environmental topics.

FORMAL EDUCATION

POST-PRIMARY CURRICULUM LINKS: JUNIOR CYCLE / KEY STAGE 3

YEA also integrates with post-primary subjects, offering flexibility to adapt the programme to various strands across the curriculum. Note: Wording reflects curricula from the Republic of and Northern Ireland.





Subject	Strand	How it Relates to YEA
Business (ROI) & Employability (NI) 	Enterprise (ROI) Enterprise & Entrepreneurship (NI)	YEA develops entrepreneurial skills through the ECO-Entrepreneurship category. This involves identifying opportunities, creating sustainable enterprises, and understanding the role of entrepreneurship in driving positive change.
	Our Economy (ROI) Work in the Local & Global Economy (NI)	The programme can provide practical insights into economic concepts by exploring the relationship between economic activities and sustainability.
The Arts 	Applicable to All Strands	Participants can express their understanding and feelings about environmental themes, through different mediums such as art, drama or music.
Geography 	Exploring the Physical World (ROI)	YEA can help students investigate their relationship with the physical world through hands-on environmental projects.
	Exploring How We Interact with the Physical World (ROI) Developing Pupils as Contributors to the Economy & Environment (NI)	Through YEA, young people learn how their environmental projects impact the economy and promote sustainability, while also exploring how human activities influence and adapt to their surroundings and societal changes.
	Exploring People, Place & Change (ROI) Developing pupils as Contributors to Society (NI)	Students gain insights into how environmental challenges shape communities and landscapes, developing awareness and action.
Home Economics 	Food, Health & Culinary Skills (ROI) Healthy Eating (NI)	Supports young people's exploration of where our food comes from, what makes a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, and how we can support ourselves and others in making informed decisions around our diets.
	Responsible Family Living (ROI) Home & Family Life (NI)	Encourages exploration of sustainable practices that can be implemented within households. This includes reducing energy consumption, minimising waste, and using sustainable materials.




Subject	Strand	How it Relates to YEA
Science 	Nature of Science (ROI)	Through researching and tackling real-world issues, students develop critical thinking, apply scientific methods, and enhance their understanding of how science impacts both local and global communities.
	Biological World (ROI) Organisms & Health (NI)	YEA projects often involve studying ecosystems and biodiversity, helping young people understand biological processes and health impacts through hands-on environmental work.
	Physical World (ROI) Forces & Energy (NI)	Projects like renewable energy solutions and energy-efficient designs offer practical applications of concepts in physics.
	Chemical World (ROI) Chemical & Material Behaviour (NI)	Participants of YEA could investigate the chemical impacts of pollutants or develop projects around sustainable materials, linking their work to understanding chemical processes and material properties.
	Earth & Space (ROI) Earth & the Universe (NI)	Projects may involve studying local ecosystems and climate patterns, helping students understand Earth's processes and their impacts on the environment, while promoting a deeper connection to our planet's health and sustainability.
SPHE (ROI) & Personal Development (NI) 	Making Healthy Choices (ROI) Personal Health (NI)	YEA helps students link the environment to personal health. By working on projects like reducing plastic waste or promoting clean energy, students see how their choices impact both the environment and their physical and mental well-being, developing healthier lifestyles and greater environmental awareness.
CSPE (ROI) & Local & Global Citizenship (NI) 	Global Citizenship (ROI) Human Rights & Social Responsibility (NI) Equality & Social Justice (NI)	The programme fosters global citizenship and social responsibility by empowering students to tackle environmental issues locally. Their projects address global challenges, promote human rights, and advance social justice, equipping them to drive positive change in their communities.

FORMAL EDUCATION

POST-PRIMARY CURRICULUM LINKS: SENIOR CYCLE / KEY STAGE 4 & 5

YEA also integrates with post-primary subjects, offering flexibility to adapt the programme to various strands across the curriculum. Note: Wording reflects curricula from Republic of and Northern Ireland. For Northern Ireland GCSEs, GCEs and ELQs have been combined.

Subject	Strand	How it Relates to YEA
Business (ROI), Employability (NI) & Business Studies (NI) 	Enterprise (ROI) Planning My Business (NI) Making My Business Work (NI)	YEA connects with enterprise education by helping students identify opportunities, plan, and manage environmental projects. They gain practical skills in marketing and business operations while tackling real-world environmental issues.
	Environment (ROI)	Can encourage students to integrate community development and social responsibility into their business planning, developing a broader perspective on the impact of enterprise.
The Arts 	Applicable to All Strands	Participants can express their understanding and feelings about environmental themes, through different mediums such as art, design, drama or music.
Geography 	Patterns & Processes in the Physical Environment (ROI) Physical Geography (NI) Understanding Our Natural World (NI)	YEA complements regional and human geography by addressing how economic, social, and environmental processes intersect in various contexts. Through environmental projects, students can explore issues such as resource management, population dynamics, and development challenges, offering real-world applications to these geographical concepts.
	Regional Geography (ROI) Human Geography (NI) Processes & Issues in Human Geography (NI)	The programme can also complement regional and human geography by addressing how economic, social, and environmental processes intersect.
Politics & Society (ROI) & Local & Global Citizenship (NI) 	Active Citizenship (ROI)	YEA projects help young people engage directly with their communities, promoting active citizenship by tackling local environmental challenges and promoting sustainable practices.
	Human Rights & Responsibilities (ROI) My Rights & Being Responsible (NI)	Encourages students to link human rights and environmental action, aligning their projects with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address issues of justice and global responsibility.

Subject	Strand	How it Relates to YEA
Science 	Biology (ROI & NI) Plants & Ecology (NI)	YEA projects often involve studying ecosystems and biodiversity, helping young people understand biological processes and health impacts through hands-on environmental work.
	Chemistry (ROI & NI) Chemical Products & Working Safely (NI) Materials & Recycling (NI)	Students participating in YEA could investigate the chemical impacts of pollutants or develop projects around sustainable materials, linking their work to understanding chemical processes and material properties.
	Physics (ROI & NI) Electricity & Renewable Energy (NI) Light & Sound (NI)	Projects like renewable energy solutions and energy-efficient designs offer practical applications of concepts in physics.
Personal Development (NI) 	Developing My Self-Management Skills (NI)	Through YEA, students can build self-management skills by leading projects and setting goals. They can also learn about incorporating nature-based solutions to enhance their mental and physical well-being.
Home Economics (ROI / NI) & Nutrition & Food Science (NI) 	Food Studies (ROI) Healthy Eating (NI) Food & Nutrition (NI) Diet, Lifestyle & Health (NI)	Through YEA projects, students can explore sustainable food practices and innovative solutions to food and nutrition challenges. This helps develop an understanding of how their dietary choices affect both personal health and environmental sustainability.
	Home Design & Management (ROI) Independent Living (NI) Food Sustainability & Security (NI)	Young people may also focus on creating environmentally-friendly home designs, implementing effective recycling strategies, and addressing sustainable food practices, all of which contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle.



9 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel: +353 (01) 662 5491 Email: info@ecounesco.ie Web: www.ecounesco.ie



[@ecounesco](https://www.instagram.com/ecounesco)



[@ecounesco](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ecounesco)



[/ecounescoireland](https://www.facebook.com/ecounescoireland)