

ECO-UNESCO

Ireland's Leading Environmental Education Youth Organisation



FINALIST BOOKLET 2025

ABOUT ECO-UNESCO

Who We Are

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's leading environmental education youth organisation that works to conserve the environment and empower young people. We run a wide range of programmes and services to inspire, educate and empower young people to take positive environmental action.

Youth Programmes

Young Environmentalist Awards: An all-Ireland environmental programme that recognises and rewards young people who take action to improve the environment and raise environmental awareness. Over 70,000 have participated in YEA over the course of the last 26 years.

Youth for Sustainable Development: A programme promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through a Peer Education approach in a non-formal education sector.

ECO-Choices Programme: This programme focuses on the positive aspects of a community and the environment. It supports the building of young people's capacities to make positive life choices.

Training Programmes

ECO-UNESCO is an accredited **QQI Training Centre**. We offer both accredited and non-accredited training courses in the areas of sustainable development, environmental education, and youth and community development.

Environmental Workshops & Summer Camps

Environmental Workshops & Summer Camps offer a wide range of Learning2Change environmental workshops for schools, youth groups and organisations. The workshops include Fashion Focus, Climate Action, and Food for Future. Our Green Teen and ECO-Explorers Summer Camps take place in Dublin and offer fun, hands-on learning experiences through outdoor adventures, nature exploration, and creative activities.

ECO-UNESCO is a Sustainable Development Goals Ambassador. 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** for more information or
call us on (+353) 01 662 5491.

Scan the QR code to find out more!

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WELCOME ADDRESS

I'm delighted to welcome you all to the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) 2025.

Since its beginning in 1999, the programme has grown from a small initiative with just five award categories to a national programme with eleven, each reflecting a vital aspect of environmental action and stewardship. What started as a vision to recognise young people's commitment to protecting the planet has now empowered over 70,000 young environmentalists across Ireland who are changemakers and leaders in their communities.

This year, through the 334 project entries, we have seen an incredible range of projects carried out by young people all over the island; this is ongoing proof that our young environmentalists are continuing a proud tradition of creativity, commitment and community impact. You are the heart of this programme. Your energy and passion inspire all of us and show the true power of youth-led action.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors, funders, judges and supporters who have been instrumental in making this year's Young Environmentalist Awards a resounding success. Your ongoing commitment fuels the growth and impact of the programme, and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.



I would like to especially thank the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, Patron of ECO UNESCO, for his unwavering support of our organisation throughout the years. A particular thank you also to our special guests, in particular Lord Mayor of Dublin Emma Blain and Minister Alan Dillon who is the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications with special responsibility for Circular Economy for their kind messages here today, as we come together to applaud the remarkable work of our Young Environmentalists.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We can't wait to see what you'll do next.

Warm regards,

Elaine Nevin
National Director
ECO-UNESCO

BACKGROUND OF YEA

Established in 1999, the Young Environmentalist Awards is a long-standing programme that recognises and rewards the efforts of young people engaging in environmental action. Its core principles revolve around thinking globally and acting locally, as well as learning through experience. Since its inception, the Young Environmentalist Awards has engaged and empowered 70,000 young people, extended its reach to 32 counties across Ireland, nurtured 6,000 youth-led environmental action projects, and proudly celebrated young peoples' achievements with over 600 awards. The programme continues to inspire and support the next generation of environmental leaders.



ROADMAP TO YEA 2025

1

September 2024

The Young Environmentalist Awards 2025 officially launches, with registrations open to all young people aged 10-18.

2

September 2024

ECO-Week takes place during SDG Week, with 4,000 young people participating in our 20 online sustainability sessions.



3

September 2024 - February 2025

YEA groups got a chance to avail of key supports like the "6-Steps-to-Success" manual and online course, monthly mentor support sessions, and online YEA group check-ins.

4

October 2024 - February 2025

Action took place! A total of 334 registered groups created youth-led action projects to address environmental issues of their choice within their schools, youth groups and communities. YEA groups did amazing work in carrying out their environmental actions, completing their submission forms and creating short videos to showcase their work.

February 2025

Submission deadline for completion of environmental action projects!

5

6

March 2025

ECO-Den semi-finals were held across Ireland in each of the four provinces over 7 days, where groups pitched their projects to ECO-Den judging panels. 630 young people from 147 groups made it to the semi-finals, from 78 organisations.

13th & 28th March
Online

27th March
Lough Neagh Discovery
Centre, Armagh

25th March
Galmont Hotel & Spa,
Galway

11th & 12th March
Airfield Estate, Dublin

19th & 20th March
Old Cork Waterworks
Experience, Cork

May 2025

Shortlisted finalist projects are invited to the Young Environmentalist Awards Final Showcase and Awards Ceremony in the Convention Centre Dublin.

7



THE IMPACT OF YEA 2025



453,655
INDIRECTLY
IMPACTED*



75,037
DIRECTLY
IMPACTED*



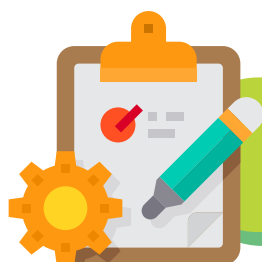
28
COUNTIES
REPRESENTED



5,291
YOUNG PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED



28
AWARDS



334
REGISTERED
PROJECTS

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 - 10:30

GROUP ARRIVAL AND SET UP

10:30 - 13:30

FINALIST SHOWCASE

With official opening by Lord Mayor of Dublin Emma Blain

Showcase Space

Check out the incredible work of our YEA finalists, as they display their work

Main Hall

Take a break from the Showcase to expand your knowledge at one of our talks



11:30-11:50 There's Power in Your Voice with Mohammad Naeem

Mohammad Naeem is a youth activist from County Mayo and a former United Nations Youth Delegate for Ireland — the youngest ever selected globally. He'll share his journey of speaking up for climate action, justice and youth rights on both local and global stages.



12:00-12:20 Art for Earth with Lisa Fingleton

Art does more than "just" hang on walls! Lisa Fingleton, an artist, filmmaker, writer and grower, has spent over 20 years connecting creativity with food, farming and environmental action. Hear Lisa as she shows us how creativity can inspire collective action and invite us all to reimagine more sustainable ways of living.



12:30-12:50 Ireland's Environmental Snapshot with the EPA

How's Ireland's environment really doing? What's happening with our air, climate, nature, waste and water, and what exactly do we need to improve? Dr. Brian Donlon from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) takes us on a fast-paced dive into the latest insights, big challenges and key recommendations for the road ahead.

Exhibitor Zone

Meet environmental and youth organisations and explore some interactive stands and activities

Swap 'n' Bop

Trade some pre-loved clothes for new clothes in our Swap Shop by Change Clothes and practice some DJ skills at the same time!

Mentor Hub

Grab a coffee and relax with other mentors



12:00 - 12:30 Teach 'n' Meet Activity with ECO-UNESCO

This 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. The session will focus on supporting 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.

Quiet Space

This space is available to anyone who may be in need of a moment of peace and quiet during the day

13:30 - 14:00

LUNCH BREAK

With a Karaoke Session in the Main Hall!

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

14:00 -15:45

AWARDS CEREMONY

MC: Clara Murray

- 14:00 Opening Welcome from Elaine Nevin, National Director at ECO-UNESCO
- 14:05 Special Address
- 14:10 **Overall Super Junior**
- 14:15 **Category Awards**
Biodiversity, Climate Change, Transport, ECO-Community Development, Water, ECO-Health & Wellbeing
- 14:40 Dance with Don King
- 14:45 **Category Awards**
Energy, Food, ECO-Art & Design, Waste, ECO-Entrepreneurship
- 15:05 **Additional Awards**
Further Growth, Local to Global, YEA Mentor of the Year, People's Choice, and Highly Commended
- 15:20 **Overall Junior & Senior Winners**
- 15:45 Award Ceremony Finish

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.

MEET TODAY'S JUDGES

Our Judging Panel will be circulating around the finalist showcase from 10:30 - 13:00 to meet the young environmentalists and view the amazing environmental action projects created as part of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2025.

We are sincerely grateful to our judging panel for generously giving their time and for their invaluable support of the programme.

Finalist judging panel of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2025:

Aisling Kirwan, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Alexey Janes, Ulster Wildlife Trust

Anthony Mills, Rethink

Aoife Cannon, SEAI

Celene Dunne, City of Dublin Youth Service Board

Collette Ryan, Uisce Éireann

Dean Eaton, Dublin City Council

Gerard Griffin, Youthreach

John Jude Murphy, Enniscorthy Community Alliance

Justin Byrne, Irish Environmental Network

Kathryn Moore, University of Galway

Leona De Khors., Department of Education

Lorna Byrne, UCD Energy Institute and NexSys

Marushka DoCosta, Enrich

Mary Cunningham, NYCI

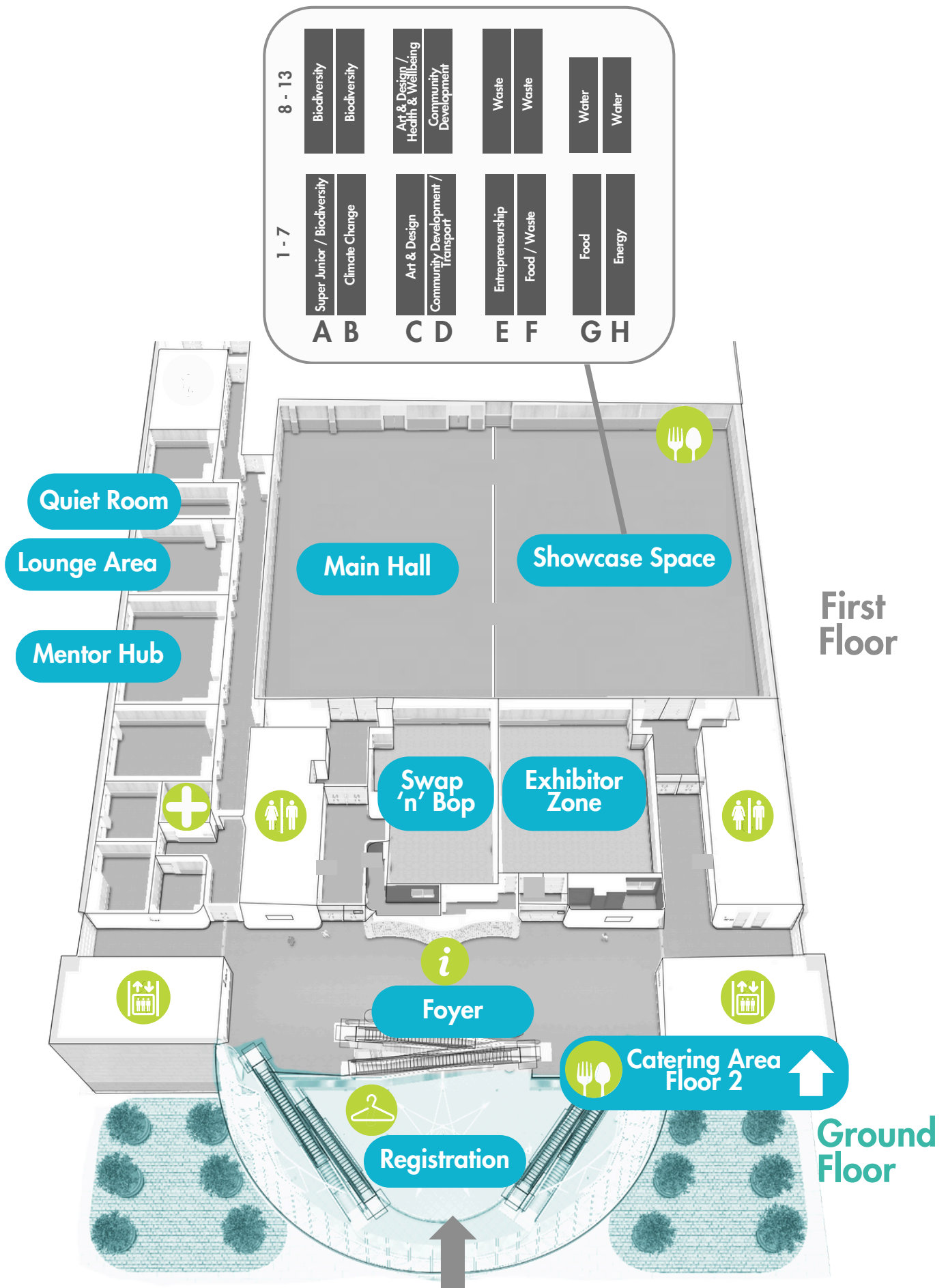
Niamh Hatchel, EPA

Noreen Foster, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Sarah Keating, RDS

Shreya Chaturvedi, Community Foundation Ireland

GETTING AROUND



FINALIST PROJECT INDEX

Super Junior

Project Name	Organisation	Age category	County	Display
What can Athlone learn? Ardnagrath's Green Team returns!	Ard Na gCraith N S	Super Junior	Co Westmeath	A1
Light Fantastic	Ballindaggin N S	Super Junior	Co Wexford	A2
Bealach Beo Bhearna	Sn Seamus Naofa	Super Junior	Co Galway	A3
Exploring Sustainable Energy Production through Water and Wind Power	NA	Super Junior	Co Dublin	A4

Biodiversity

PSN Garden Gang!	Pobalscoil Neasáin	Senior	Co Dublin	A5
Project Re-pollinate	Our Lady Of Mercy College	Junior	Co Dublin	A6
Garden Guardians: A Pollinator Quest	St John the Baptist's College	Junior	Co Armagh	A7
The Impact Invasive species have on Biodiversity in Co.Kildare	St Wolstan's Community School	Junior	Co Kildare	NA
Where have all the butterflies gone?	Millstreet Community School	Senior	Co Cork	A8
Rockbrook 50 x 50 Tree Planting Campaign	Rockbrook Park School	Junior	Co Dublin	A9
Guardians of the Garden	Meanscoil Iognáid Rís	Senior	Co Dublin	A10
SOS (SAVE OUR SALMON)	Pobalscoil Inbhear Sceine	Senior	Co Kerry	A11
Unsustainable Pair Trawling and its Devastating Impact on Kenmare Bay	Pobalscoil Inbhear Sceine	Senior	Co Kerry	A12
Investigating Flora & Fauna in the Burren	Coláiste Muire	Senior	Co Clare	NA
Home for Nature	Mount Anville Secondary School	Senior	Co Dublin	B8
Biodiversity flower garden	Loreto College	Senior	Co Westmeath	B9
An investigation into the distribution & effects of Mycobacterium vaccae	St Wolstan's Community School	Junior	Co Kildare	NA
Putting the buzz back into Millstreet	Millstreet Community School	Junior	Co Cork	B10
Attitudes towards Birds of Prey and Hen Harrier Conservation	St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom	Senior	Co Cork	B11
How do Different Fertilizers Effect the Soil Microbiome	Castlecomer Community School	Junior	Co Kilkenny	B12
Which Wood You Rather? Chemically treated wood vs biodiversity	St. Leo's College	Junior	Co Carlow	B13

Climate Change

Gambling with the climate	Eureka Secondary School	Senior	Co Meath	B1
Project Pollution	Coláiste Chiaráin	Senior	Co Roscommon	B2
Puff! Raising Awareness of Inhaler Impacts & Exploring Greener Alternatives	Kinsale Community School	Junior	Co Cork	B3
Celbridge Youth Environmental Action Group	Salesian College	Junior	Co Kildare	B4
CarbonCut- An Intelligent Way To Reduce Your Carbon Footprint	Coláiste Mhuire	Senior	Co Galway	B5
Green Means Go	Dundalk Grammar School	Senior	Co Louth	B6
CAWECO	Seamount College	Junior	Co Galway	B7

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ECO-Art & Design

Project Name	Organisation	Age category	County	Display
Eco Paper Pioneers	Kinsale Community School	Senior	Co Cork	C1
Re-Loved	Loreto College	Senior	Co Westmeath	C2
To explore how Junk Kouture is sustainable to the environment.	Millstreet Community School	Senior	Co Cork	C3
Young Talamh Artists	Youthreach Dungarvan	Senior	Co Waterford	C4
Willow Weavers - Weaving a Greener Future	Kinsale Community School	Senior	Co Cork	C5
Eco sense	Kinsale Community School	Senior	Co Cork	C6
Our Inclusive Multi-sensory Wild wall Learning Garden	Ratoath College	Senior	Co Meath	C7
Fast Fashion Fixers	Meanscoil Iognáid Rís	Senior	Co Dublin	C8
Globe of Action	Meanscoil Iognáid Rís	Senior	Co Dublin	C9
Green knights of the castle	Meanscoil Iognáid Rís	Senior	Co Dublin	C10

ECO-Health & Wellbeing

EcoSensory Adventures	Colaiste Treasa	Senior	Co Cork	C11
Effects of fast fashion on us as people	Millstreet Community School	Senior	Co Cork	C12
No Environment No Well-being	Ursuline Secondary School	Senior	Co Tipperary	C13

Transport

Traffic Jam	Smart Docklands	Senior	Co Dublin	D1
Active Travel Campaign	Ardscoil na Mara, Tramore	Senior	Co Waterford	D2
Sustainable Travel	Coláiste na Mí	Senior	Co Meath	D3
Can electrolysis be used to power a more sustainably charged car?	Firhouse Educate Together Secondary School	Senior	Co Dublin	NA

ECO-Community Development

COP Castlegregory	Mean Scoil Nua An Leith Triuigh	Senior	Co Kerry	D4
Sustainability	Youthreach Kilkenny	Senior	Co Kilkenny	D5
Bin Your Vape	Include Youth Service Clones YWICM	Senior	Co Monaghan	D6
Outdoors with the fairies	Include Youth Service Clones YWICM	Junior	Co Monaghan	D7
This is our plea, go plastic free!	St Joseph's Secondary School	Senior	Co Clare	D8
Polluting Under Pressure	Glanmire Community College	Senior	Co Cork	D9
Eolach ar Éanacha	Coláiste Naomh Eoin	Junior	Co Galway	D10
COP for Kids	Kinsale Community School	Senior	Co Cork	D11
City Greens	Scoil Pól	Senior	Co Limerick	D12

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ECO-Entrepreneurship

Project Name	Organisation	Age category	County	Display
iGrow	Marian College	Senior	Co Dublin	E1
Wild Ireland Card Game + Digital Link	Coláiste Ióasef	Senior	Co Limerick	E2
Grass Sheets	Tullamore College	Senior	Co Offaly	E3
Rejuvenate	Tullamore College	Senior	Co Offaly	E4
Proseeding Cards	Meanscoil Iognáid Rís	Junior	Co Dublin	E5
Re-Light	Eureka Secondary School	Senior	Co Meath	E6
Floral Fragrances	Kinsale Community School	Junior	Co Cork	E7

Waste

Bin there done that	Ardscoil na Mara, Tramore	Senior	Co Waterford	NA
Renew IT: Building a Future for Tanzania	Kinsale Community School	Senior	Co Cork	E8
EcoGuardians	Loreto College	Senior	Co Westmeath	E9
Green Cycle	Patrician Academy	Senior	Co Cork	E10
Marine Litter Project	Errigal College	Senior	Co Donegal	E11
Litter Lifeguarding	Glanmire Community College	Senior	Co Cork	E12
Waste not, Want not	Newbridge College	Senior	Co Kildare	E13
Power Down, Recycle Up!	Glanmire Community College	Senior	Co Cork	F3
Bruscar Luachmhar	Coláiste Naomh Eoin	Junior	Co Galway	F4
Cli-Mates	Scoil Mhuire Secondary School	Junior	Co Donegal	F5
Using Spectrometry to Detect, Identify and Reduce Pollution	Presentation Secondary School	Senior	Co Kerry	F6
The Impact and Remediation of crumb Rubber on the Environment	Gaelcholáiste Mhuire	Senior	Co Cork	F7
Deposit, Debate, Decide: The Public's Take On The Deposit Return Scheme	Kinsale Community School	Senior	Co Cork	F8
Waste Warriors	Oatlands College	Junior	Co Dublin	NA
Utilizing & repurposing household waste into mushroom based materials	Ardscoil Uí Urmoltaigh	Senior	Co Cork	F9
What a Waste!	Greystones Community College	Senior	Co Wicklow	F10
Lets Talk Trash!	Scoil Mhuire	Junior	Co Roscommon	F11
Castle Clean Up Crew	Meanscoil IognáidRís	Senior	Co Dublin	F12

Food

Microplastics on the Menu: Food in Markets versus Supermarkets	St. Mary's High School	Senior	Co Cork	F1
We've got Worms!	Coláiste Ióasef	Senior	Co Limerick	F2
Plant to plate	Pobalscoil Inbhear Sceine	Senior	Co Kerry	G1
Young Cultivators	Bailieborough Community School	Junior	Co Cavan	G2
Leftover Legends	F.C.J. Secondary School	Senior	Co Wexford	G3
The Living Wall	Kinsale Community School	Senior	Co Cork	G4
Food Waste Leaves A Bad Taste	Rockbrook Park School	Junior	Co Dublin	G5
Food Consumption in our School	Our Lady Of Mercy College	Senior	Co Dublin	G6
Harvest Heroes	Mount Anville Secondary School	Senior	Co Dublin	G7

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Water

Project Name	Organisation	Age category	County	Display
The Bubble Wall MCS	Mountmellick Community School	Senior	Co Laois	G8
Ocean Devotion	Mercy Secondary School	Junior	Co Kerry	G9
Wipe up Tralee Bay	Presentation Secondary School Tralee	Senior	Co Kerry	G10
There is plastic in my fish	Mary Immaculate Secondary School	Senior	Co Clare	G11
Bin there done that	Meanscoil Iognáid Rís	Senior	Co Dublin	H8
Rainwater Solutions	Rockbrook Park School	Senior	Co Dublin	H9
The Water Journey	Oatlands College	Junior	Co Dublin	NA
Effects of a sewage treatment plant on the biodiversity of Mulroy Bay	Loreto Community School	Senior	Co Donegal	H10
Smart Water Monitor	Loreto Convent	Senior	Co Donegal	H11

Energy

Switch off Fortnight- The Sequel	Ballyclare High School	Senior	Co Antrim	H1
Energy efficiency in schools	Coláiste Chiaráin	Senior	Co Roscommon	H2
MVHR unit in a "cold attic" – how efficient is it really?	Presentation College	Junior	Co Galway	H3
Food to Fuel	Kinsale Community School	Senior	Co Cork	H4
Comparing Early Adopters vs Late Adopters of EVs	Loreto College	Senior	Co Westmeath	H5
Harnessing Donegals Coastal Wealth	St Columbas Comprehensive School	Senior	Co Donegal	H6
A system to test and develop low cost eco-friendly energy storage materials	Athlone Community College	Junior	Co Westmeath	H7



FINALIST PROJECT SUMMARIES



20250017 - What can Athlone learn? Ardnagrath's Green Team returns! A1 Ard Na gCraith N S

We focused on littering in Athlone town and met with local councillors to discuss litter blackspots and the number of public waste bins. We researched how other cities manage waste and, inspired by the Re-turn Scheme, we designed and built a prototype bin that can recognize and separate recyclable and non-recyclable waste using a sensor. Our interest in environmental issues grew, and we worked together to create the bin using engineering, creativity, and problem-solving skills. We also made sure our voices were heard through petitions, presentations, and connecting with the local council, showing that we can make a difference.



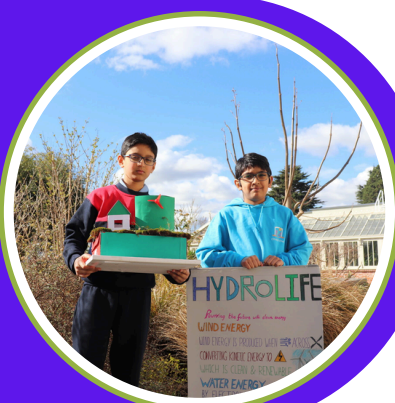
20250038 - Light Fantastic A2 Ballindaggin NS

We learned that every school in Ireland will get solar panels, which made us curious about how they work. We did experiments on solar panels and electric circuits, creating models to understand them better. The more we learned, the more we realised how important renewable energy is. We want to spread this message to our community, the whole country, and beyond. Our team motto is "Solar power saves the polar ice caps," and it inspired us to act. We feel empowered by knowing that renewable energy can make a real difference in protecting our planet's future.



20250157 - Bealach Beo Bhearna A3 Sn Seamus Naofa

Our aim was to highlight the need for a dedicated cycle path connecting Scoil Shéamais Naofa, Bearna to Galway city centre, enhancing safety and accessibility for students, residents, and commuters. Rang a Sé showed great enthusiasm and commitment to completing this project, hoping to leave a positive legacy for future generations. We researched, made posters, visited businesses, conducted surveys, and built a small-scale 3D model of the cycleway using math skills for scale. We completed the project as Gaeilge, promoting the Irish language throughout Bearna village. Engaging with the local community was a positive experience, and we are proud of our teamwork.



20250240- Exploring Sustainable Energy Production through Water and A4 Wind Power NA

This project focuses on harnessing wind energy and water electrolysis to produce clean, sustainable energy. It demonstrates how wind turbines generate electricity, which powers electrolysis to produce hydrogen a versatile, eco-friendly fuel. This closed-loop system highlights renewable energy's potential to meet demand without harming the environment. Key Issues Addressed: Climate Change: Reduces reliance on fossil fuels, lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Energy Sustainability: Explores renewable, consistent energy sources to combat resource depletion. Planned Actions: Prototype Development: Build a small wind turbine to generate electricity. Connect it to an electrolysis setup to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. Demonstrate hydrogen storage and potential fuel use. Research & Documentation Awareness: We shared our project video via YouTube and WhatsApp, raising awareness about renewable energy.



BIODIVERSITY

Projects look at researching and protecting types of plants, animals, and or ecosystems



20250040 - PSN Garden Gang! Pobalscoil Neasáin

A5

At PSN Garden Gang, we have chosen to create a zen garden and pond, that will act as a space for students who need time to relax and unwind, and Pobalscoil Neasáin's own pocket of biodiversity, creating a glimpse into all the aspects of our local ecosystem. Throughout this project, we will build and maintain a pond, which we hope will then become a self-sustaining ecosystem consisting of many different plants and animals. After that, we will start work on a wildflower garden nearby, which should draw in bees and other pollinator animals that thrive in areas like this.



20250060 - Project Re-pollinate Our Lady of Mercy College

A6

Our project is called "Project Re-Pollinate." Our ultimate goal is to spread awareness on the topic of pollinators, and we share advice on how you can do your part to save the pollinator population. From sharing friendly tips to showing how to build your own DIY insect home! We strive to share all this on our website. We gave a hands-on workshop to our classmates on how to build DIY bee homes using reused tin cans and paper bags, making them sustainable. We also talked about simple ways people can help, like planting native flowers or creating safe spaces for insects.



20250062 - Garden Guardians: A Pollinator Quest St John the Baptist's College

A7

Our biodiversity project aimed to educate students about the importance of protecting our environment. We kicked off with an engaging assembly, followed by creative workshops where students designed a biodiversity game. Hands-on activities like gardening, helped us connect with nature. We raised awareness through social media, community events, and Eco Days for local primary schools. The impact was significant: students became passionate ambassadors for biodiversity, inspiring their families and friends to take action. We are making a positive difference in our community, and encouraged a love for nature and commitment to preserving it!



20250073 - The Impact Invasive species have on Biodiversity in Co. Kildare St Wolstan's Community School

We are investigating the impact invasive plants have on biodiversity in Kildare. We want to find out if invasive plants affect the growth of native plants by competing for space, light, nutrients. We carried out ecological surveys in different locations in Kildare to analyse the frequency of the invasive/native plants in each area. Through presenting our project to our peers, we hope to raise awareness of the National Biodiversity Data Centre's website and the importance of choosing native species to plant in gardens.



20250081 - Where have all the butterflies gone?

A8

Millstreet Community School

The aim of our project is to investigate the decline of butterflies in the North Cork area. We also aim to spread awareness on the effect Climate Change plays on butterflies. To raise awareness, we spoke to all year groups from first to fifth year and contacted our local Community Council as well as our local Tidy Towns Committee. We have also performed a survey on our school grounds to test how butterfly friendly they are. Our project targets Sustainable Development Goals numbers 13 and 15.



20250177 - Rockbrook 50 x 50 Tree Planting Campaign

A9

Rockbrook Park School

Rockbrook Park School's eco club 1st years group, plan to plant 50 trees on the premise of the school and 50 trees in student's back gardens. So far, we have made an Instagram, YouTube, a website, and a Go fund me. We have talked to a horticulturalist about what trees to plant and where to plant them, we have put up posters around the school. We have sent an email to the parents and students of Rockbrook to tell them what we are doing (with a google form attached to see if their interested).



20250179 - Guardians of the Garden

A10

Meanscoil Iognáid Rís

Guardians of the Garden aim to battle and raise awareness about biodiversity loss. We are restoring our unkempt school garden and transforming it into a sensory area. This can be used as a place to reflect and learn outdoors in good weather. We work with many organisations such as Thorntons, the Green Party and D12 Men's Shed. We gave talks to 1st Years before bringing them to a practical workshop co-hosted by guest speakers from ECO-UNESCO. Another guest speaker we contacted was local Green Party Representative Ray Cunningham.



20250201 - SOS (SAVE OUR SALMON)

A11

Pobalscoil Inbhear Sceine

Our project is based on the unsustainability of commercial fishing in local rivers; the salmon population has consistently declined over recent years. This is causing a decline of salmon sighted in our local river, the Roughty along with other local rivers. To combat this issue we are hosting a workshop featuring important members of angling clubs, business owners in the locality primarily within tourism, people with a vested interest in the issue and members of government to promote awareness and change in our local rivers, with the end goal being to achieve the complete ban of commercial netting along with other conservation methods in rivers within Ireland.



20250203 - Unsustainable Pair Trawling and its Devastating Impact on Kenmare Bay Pobalscoil Inbhear Sceine

Our project on unsustainable pair trawling in Kenmare Bay is a continuation of last year's award-winning project. The goal of this project is to further raise awareness on the issue and ultimately try to put an end to the unsustainable pair trawling in Kenmare Bay. Since last year, awareness has risen of this environmental issue as there have been multiple videos made to spread awareness but unsustainable pair trawling continues in Kenmare Bay. We have also created a documentary on this environmental crisis. SAVE OUR BAY.



20250206 - Investigating Flora & Fauna in the Burren Coláiste Muire

Our project aims to increase biodiversity in the Burren and raise awareness about its decline. We began by surveying students about the Flora and Fauna of the Burren, revealing that most were unaware of its destruction. To address this, we educated ourselves and presented to our Green Schools Committee, generating interest and involvement. We created posters with key information and displayed them in our school and local community. A visit to the Burren inspired solutions. We launched a petition for increased informative signage, which we are submitting to Clare County Council. To engage younger generations, we held a poster competition. This project heightened our awareness and deepened our appreciation for the Burren's biodiversity, encouraging action to protect it.



20250210 - Home for Nature Mount Anville Secondary School

B8

Project "Home for Nature" aims to provide suitable home for local birds. We chose to protect birds because avian species are declining massively worldwide. Our project involves with designing a suitable home for avian species to promote SDG 15 biodiversity. We also made prolific accounts on Instagram, TikTok, and Rednote sharing birdhouse making records and fun fact about avian species to raise awareness. Aside from spreading our information online, we also prepare presentations and speech to directly impact and broaden people's understanding about birds. Respect All Creatures, Big and Small!



20250221 - Biodiversity flower garden Loreto College

B9

We designed a flower bed on our school grounds to promote and create awareness about the importance of biodiversity. Our flower bed will have signs clearly stating the reason and importance of each flower used. Our aim is to make our school community more aware of the importance of biodiversity. We will be bringing first year classes down to help plant the flowers and teach them off the importance. We will also be promoting our flower garden on school social media accounts. We hope this will help people to become more cautious because even the little things will help.



20250242 - An investigation into the distribution & effects of *Mycobacterium vaccae* **St Wolstan's Community School**

Our project investigates *Mycobacterium vaccae*, a soil bacteria known to reduce anxiety by stimulating serotonin release in the brain while also strengthening the immune system. We aimed to determine in which soils it is most abundant and how it impacts mental well-being. With increasing urbanisation and housing development, people are moving away from nature, leading to higher stress and anxiety levels. We believe this research is crucial in highlighting the connection between nature and mental health. By raising awareness of the importance of green spaces, we hope to encourage communities to preserve and create more natural areas in towns. This not only benefits mental well-being but also supports the environment and biodiversity.



20250283 - Putting the buzz back into Millstreet **Millstreet Community School**

B10

This year, we embarked on a fascinating journey into the world of honeybees by acquiring our very own hive of honeybees! Having become captivated by the topic of bees and the criticality of Ireland's under-threat wild bee pollinators to our society, we decided to take action to raise awareness and identify actions in our locality. We conducted surveys, made local presentations, and started local field surveys identifying areas for action. Our biggest achievement from our efforts is a commitment from our local school to provide 100 square meters for pollinator conservation, making it a "Pollinator Friendly" school in 2025.



20250293 - Attitudes towards Birds of Prey and Hen Harrier Conservation **St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom**

B11

Half of the world's raptor population is in decline, signalling the broader crisis in biodiversity. The hen harrier is facing population threats in Ballyvourney, as there is only estimated two breeding pairs remaining in the wild. Our project assesses public awareness on hen harrier/birds of prey conservation in Ireland. As well as the effectiveness of the current protection schemes in place in Ballyvourney for hen harriers. We also recommend different implementations that could be put in place for landowners, farmers and members of the public to increase conservation efforts and awareness for birds of prey.



20250317 - How do Different Fertilizers Effect the Soil Microbiome **Castlecomer Community School**

B12

Our project is about the link between the soil microbiome and plant growth. The soil microbiome is one of the most important parts in the soil formation because it breaks down organic matter, purifies water. We grew cress as our plant to measure the plant growth for. We created sterile agar plates to identify all the microbes living in the soil using a microbiology guide that we found. We found a correlation between the variety of microbes and plant growth. These results have massive impacts as it shows that having a wider variety of microbes in your soil is good.



20250318 - Which Wood You Rather? Chemically treated wood vs biodiversity

B13

St. Leo's College

Our project addresses the concealed effects chemically treated wood have on biodiversity and nature. Wood is treated with toxic preservatives to prevent it from rotting, therefore prolonging its lifespan. However, these treatments can have devastating impacts on our natural world when exposed to water, soil, and botanical forms. To confirm our suspicions, we investigated three woods in detail: tanalised wood, manually treated wood, and natural wood as a control. We proceeded to construct three experiments that each focused on a different aspect of our natural world. Although we concluded that treated woods have lasting impacts on biodiversity, we hope that raising awareness will help reduce the usage of these damaging materials.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Projects focus on tackling the causes and impacts of climate change through actions that reduce emissions and promote sustainability



20250006 - Gambling with the climate Eureka Secondary School

B1

For our project, we created an engaging board game to teach people about climate change. Players answer questions about the planet to advance in the game, learning about climate change's causes, impacts, and how to help prevent it. Building on from a previous YEA project, we developed three versions: a junior version for primary school children (including an Irish translation), and a secondary school version aimed at helping teens studying geography for the Junior Cert. Inspired by the idea of making climate change education more interactive, we wanted to create a fun and engaging way for children to learn about climate change and sustainability.



20250048 - Project Pollution Coláiste Chiaráin

B2

Pollution is one of the most pressing challenges our planet faces today. Our project aims to bring awareness to pollution and educate people about the importance of taking care of the environment. We took action by creating an environment quiz on booklet which contains important questions on pollution. We wanted to test people's knowledge on pollution, so we did the quiz with a few people in our class. The results proved that a lot of people lack information about pollution. Our project sought to bring change in how we and other individuals view and interact with the environment.



20250168 - Puff! Raising Awareness of Inhaler Impacts & Exploring Greener Alternatives Kinsale Community School

B3

This project explores the environmental impact of different asthma inhalers, focusing on whether GPs and asthma patients are aware that metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) are much worse for the environment than alternatives. MDIs account for 3.5% of the NHS's total greenhouse gas emissions due to the harmful propellant they use. We are unaware of this figure for the HSE but think it may be similar. We were shocked that this percentage is so high. The goal is to raise awareness about the environmental consequences of MDIs and introduce dry powder inhalers (DPIs) as an eco-friendlier option. DPIs do not use propellants and have a significantly smaller carbon footprint. We aim to see if individuals would consider switching to these greener inhalers after learning about them.



20250274 - Celbridge Youth Environmental Action Group Salesian College

B4

We are a local group in Celbridge who are doing many things to combat climate change locally, one such goal and the one that we are using as our project is to analyse our local businesses and give out stickers for their windows if they are Climate friendly. This will have a great impact on the town's carbon footprint and awareness. As we are both making businesses greener while also attracting customers to them and not to those who do not meet our criteria. We know that local actions can have a global impact!



20250289 - CarbonCut- An Intelligent Way To Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Coláiste Mhuire

B5

CarbonCut harnesses technology to tackle one of the greatest challenges of our time—climate change. Our social experiment aimed to understand public attitudes toward the crisis, leading to CarbonCut's mission: educating users and inspiring action. At its core, CarbonCut provides concise, actionable tips, proving that small efforts create meaningful change. The app's impact has been remarkable—many users became more motivated to reduce their carbon footprint. Every participant became more aware of their environmental choices after using the app. CarbonCut continues to grow, with an overwhelming majority of users willing to keep using it. This project has given us a powerful platform to spread climate awareness, and we're excited to improve and expand our efforts.

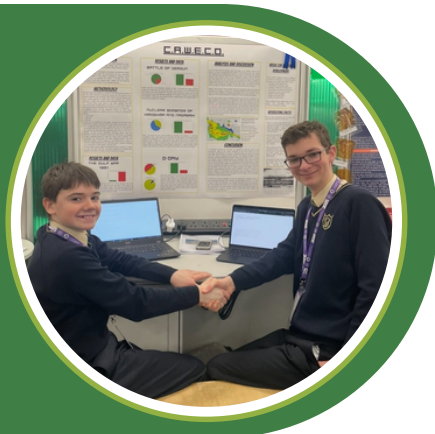


20250297 - Green Means Go

Dundalk Grammar School

B6

Our Project is a front of package traffic light labelling system that measures the food miles of products and scores it on a scale of green (low food miles) to red (high food miles). We saw how consumers lacked environmental information and were lost in a sea of claims. As part of our project, we have carried out primary and secondary research and reached out to several organisations who were able to aid us on this project. From this we saw that our system was a viable way for consumers to make their diets more sustainable with minimal lifestyle changes.



20250329 - CAWECO

Seamount College

B7

Our project aims to highlight the environmental impact of war and calculate its devastating effects using a computer program. We created C.A.W.E.C.O., a calculator coded in Python, to assess this impact. Motivated by constant news coverage of conflicts, we realized that the environmental damage in regions like Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan is rarely discussed. We hope to raise awareness of the environmental cost of war. Our project relates to the 16th SDG (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by investigating how conflicts harm the environment. It also connects to the 6th SDG (Clean Water and Sanitation) as war-related contaminants pollute groundwater, the 13th SDG (Climate Action) due to carbon emissions, and the 14th and 15th SDGs (Life Below Water and Life on Land) by exploring the effects on ecosystems.



20250044 - Eco Paper Pioneers Kinsale Community School

C1

EcoPaper Pioneers aims to reduce paper waste and lower our school's carbon footprint. To raise awareness, we made posters, launched social media pages, and surveyed teachers on weekly paper usage and interest in sustainable alternatives. We led workshops with different year groups and primary students, teaching them to make reusable paper in a fun, hands-on way. Using wastepaper from photocopying rooms, we tore it, soaked it in hot water to create pulp, then used frames to form and dry new sheets. After consulting a bookbinder, we chose to bind the sheets with ribbon into booklets. This project has empowered students and teachers to make greener choices, deepened our commitment to sustainability, and inspired lasting environmental action across our school community.



20250057 - Re-Loved Loreto College

C2

The Re-Loved project aimed to promote recycling and reusing old clothes by turning them into toys for children. We chose to make animals that are rare or endangered to highlight the impact of climate change and global warming on wildlife. We were talking about clearing out our wardrobes before Christmas when we realised how often we throw away clothes. Researching the issue showed us how harmful clothing production is to the environment. Our topic connects to global warming and pollution, and we linked it to SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities – through our focus on reusing and reducing waste.



20250067 - To explore how Junk Kouture is sustainable to the environment Millstreet Community School

C3

Our Junk Kouture design is inspired by water pollution, aiming to raise awareness about plastic waste in oceans and on beaches. The world produces 350 million tonnes of plastic waste each year, but the real issue is how it's managed and where it ends up. We've all seen shocking images of plastic washing up on coastlines. But how much actually reaches the ocean? Around 0.5% of global plastic waste. According to the OECD's Global Plastic Outlook (2022): 82 million tonnes of plastic waste are mismanaged or littered yearly. 19 million tonnes leak into the environment—13 million on land, 6 million into rivers/coastlines. 1.7 million tonnes reach the ocean—1.4 million from rivers, 0.3 million from coastlines.

By showcasing this issue through fashion, we hope to inspire change.



20250102 - Young Talamh Artists Youthreach Dungarvan

C4

This year, we aimed to create art with zero environmental impact in our school. As part of our Leaving Cert Applied, we produced Land Art using natural, found objects. After documenting our work with cameras and drones, we let the sea and elements wash it away, returning nature to a blank canvas. We believe temporary art is important—it keeps creativity fresh while protecting nature. To inspire the next generation, we introduced Land Art and Temporary Art, which dates to the 1960s, to local schools. Our project began with a beach clean, where we were shocked by the waste we found. Partnering with Clean Coasts Ireland and Coast Watch Ireland, we analysed, recorded, and surveyed 4 km of beach in Co. Waterford, highlighting litter's devastating impact on marine life.



20250123 - Willow Weavers - Weaving a Greener Future Kinsale Community School

C5

Our project focuses on using willow, a sustainable material, to create beautiful art. We organised a workshop with a local willow artist to learn how to make wreaths and a willow dome. For Christmas, we designed and sold willow wreaths at our school fair, raising over €400 for homelessness charities. We also held a staff workshop and organized TY willow workshops. In spring, we plan to build a willow dome at school, creating a diverse ecosystem for plants, fungi, and insects while serving as a green sculpture for students and staff. Additionally, at our COP primary school day, we'll host workshops where students create mini willow pledge trees for climate change, bringing them back to their classrooms as a lasting symbol.



20250131 - Eco sense Kinsale Community School

C6

This project is promoting the use of sustainable fashion, our project focuses on the use of harmful chemicals that are used in the process of dying clothing. Our project involves dying clothes and fabric with natural materials instead of chemicals that cause harm to our environment. We will use natural ingredients that will give out the best colour result. Vegetables such as beetroot will give out a pink colour and plants such as nettles will give out a more green or brown colour. We have done workshops with the First years to help their understanding of climate change grow and too spread awareness about our project.



20250140 - Our Inclusive Multi-sensory wild wall Learning Garden Ratoath College

C7

Our Multi-sensory Wild Wall Garden is an interactive outdoor classroom designed to provide an inclusive space for whole-school education on sustainable development. It offers teachers endless opportunities to educate students about the environment, sustainability, and the impact of human actions on the planet. By incorporating these concepts into classrooms, we can foster a generation of environmentally conscious students ready to tackle today's pressing challenges. Our inclusive learning retreat will also engage students in our autism unit, immersing them in a calming, sensory-rich outdoor space. Integrating natural elements with artistic and musical features, it stimulates the five senses, fostering sensory exploration, self-expression, and mindfulness. The garden promotes sustainability by encouraging recycling, reusing, and reimagining waste, fostering a deep connection with nature while emphasizing the importance of resource conservation.



20250181 - Fast Fashion Fixers Meanscoil Iognáid Rís

C8

Our project that we chose was based on Fast Fashion, we will be making an art piece demonstrating what you can find in countries such as Chile and Ghana. Landfills pile up in these poorer countries which are then burned by the owners of the landfills. This causes pollution in the surrounding areas and can cause danger to life on land and sea. We hope to raise awareness of this problem using art. We raised awareness by sending out emails to students, we presented projects to the 1st years in our school and raised awareness on our Instagram.



20250200 - Globe of Action Meanscoil Iognáid Rís

C9

We are Globe of Action, a team focused on SDGs 12, 13, 15, and 17, raising awareness about climate change and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals. Our mission is to inspire real change within our school, especially among 1st Years, as we believe they need to understand the dangers of climate change early. Our goals include reducing litter in our community and raising awareness about pollution. We've held multiple clean-ups in our local castle moat and city centre, with support from SDCC. We've also created interactive posters and given presentations in school to highlight the impact of littering and pollution.



20250296 - Green knights of the castle Meanscoil Iognáid Rís

C10

Our project's main goal is to create art pieces out of recyclable materials to promote the SDGs. Our main art revolves around a suit of armour representing SDG 13, (Climate Action). We are also creating skits using the suit as the main protagonist as he fights against personified caricatures of the problems that the SDGs are trying to overcome, (for example, Global Warming Man). Some of our other art projects include an ornamental spear for the suit, a shield featuring SDGs 10-13, a flag banner featuring our logo, a scroll and a map of Europe based on SDGs.



ECO-HEALTH & WELLBEING

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



20250043 - EcoSensory Adventures Coláiste Treasa

C11

This project focuses on upcycling old materials while supporting children with autism and sensory needs. Many people unknowingly dispose of items incorrectly, harming the environment. We encourage upcycling by creating sensory boards and toys from unused household items, helping students regulate in safe school spaces. To raise awareness, we designed posters requesting reusable materials and educating students on reducing landfill waste. We also created a fun pack and PowerPoint for local primary schools and crèches, encouraging them to make Eco Sensory toys and learn about climate action. We've visited schools to run workshops, where children bring unused items from home to create sensory toys. This not only reduces waste but also benefits students with sensory needs in those schools.



20250080 - Effects of fast fashion on us as people Millstreet Community School

C12

Our project discusses the main effects fast fashion has on us as people. In our project, we discuss the impacts it has on not just the garment workers but also us as consumers. We speak about the consequences of fast fashion and how they affect everyone whether through social or environmental impacts. We aim to promote sustainable fashion in our local area and spread knowledge on fast fashion's negative effects. We know that most people tend to buy things without thinking about how they're produced or how the workers' making them are treated. We hope to make people think twice before purchasing clothes or accessories that contribute to fast fashion.



20250292 - No Environment No Well-being Ursuline Secondary School

C13

"No Environment, No Well-being", will recruit 90 TY students from Ursuline Secondary School Tipperary. All participants will receive information on biodiversity, the climate crisis, and attend a climate education workshop. The intervention group will also engage in riparian planting. The primary outcome is the change in eco-anxiety, measured using the Hogg eco-anxiety scale and the Climate Capability Scale, from baseline to follow-up. Participants will complete the questionnaire at both stages and focus groups will provide qualitative insights. As TY students ourselves, we aim to foster a comfortable environment for open discussions about eco-anxiety and climate action.

TRANSPORT

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



20250053 - Traffic Jam Smart Docklands

D1

First developed in Trinity College, Traffic Jam was created to promote active travel and to improve safety in Dublin. It's normal to feel unsafe on the streets; especially during a dark quiet night. This stops people from using active transport but also encourages them to use a private vehicle. Created with sustainable materials, Traffic Jam stops this by creating a calm atmosphere with music and light, welcoming people onto the once daunting streets; and by using planter boxes we aim to improve greenery in urban areas. We want to transform the streets into a place to be.



20250064 - Active Travel Campaign Ardscoil na Mara

D2

The Active Travel Campaign aims to drop the number of cars entering the school premises. Our target is to reduce carbon emissions by cutting down traffic on school grounds. The campaign also encourages a healthy lifestyle by having students walk or cycle to school. Run by students of Ardscoil Na Mara, we're passionate about reducing car use and lowering emissions. Our project is small and local, but if successful, we hope other schools and communities will follow. Already, Waterford City Council has visited us and hopes to promote our idea potentially investing in cycle paths and greenways to make Tramore more sustainable.



20250266 - Sustainable Travel Coláiste na Mí

D3

Our project focused on promoting sustainable transportation to reduce emissions, air pollution, and traffic congestion. We explored how cycling, walking, public transport, and carpooling can help create a cleaner, greener future. As part of our initiative, we delivered workshops to primary schools, participated in the #SheCycles campaign to encourage more girls to cycle, and organised a school-wide cycle event. Through social media, posters, and conversations with local officials, we sparked awareness and action for sustainable travel. Our goal was to inspire real change and show how simple choices can lead to a cleaner, greener future for everyone.



20250291 - Can electrolysis be used to power a more sustainably charged car?

Firhouse Educate Together Secondary School

We investigated if electrolysis could be used to power a car and therefore make transportation in our environment more sustainable. Our projects aim was to find a solution to sustainably power cars which are currently a major issue around the world today as they release a significant amount of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. We researched cars, their effect on our environment and how renewable energy is just not reliable or accessible enough to solve this global problem. We turned to the process of electrolysis to collect hydrogen to use to power a car with the assistance of fuel cells.

ECO-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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



20250014 - COP Castlegregory Mean Scoil Nua An Leith Triuigh

D4

At COP Castlegregory, we take real action to protect biodiversity and local landscapes. Our student-led environmental group consists of four teams—Rex's Recycling, Every Petal Counts, Masonry Masters, and West Kerry Coasts—each addressing a specific environmental challenge. From reducing waste to preserving coastal habitats, we've worked hard to make a difference. We've written books to educate young minds, planted flowers for pollinators, built stone walls to maintain traditional landscapes, and even designed a flag to symbolise coastal protection. This journey has transformed both our environment and our community. We've engaged with schools, businesses, and residents, inspiring collective action. Through teamwork, creativity, and determination, COP Castlegregory proves that small changes lead to lasting environmental success!



20250023 - Sustainability Youthreach Kilkenny

D5

The project was aimed towards making our school (Youthreach Kilkenny) an eco-friendlier and more environmental place to benefit us and the planet. We focused on promoting recycling through colourful, informative posters and hosted a clothing drive to reuse old clothes. We also launched a fundraising initiative using plastic bottles through the deposit return scheme to fund a school party. Outside, we planted a flower bed to support biodiversity. Improving sustainability can greatly impact local cities by reducing pollution and promoting cleaner, greener streets. These small actions contribute to long-term Climate Action, supporting biodiversity and creating more Sustainable Cities and Communities.



20250025 - Bin Your Vape Include Youth Service Clones YWICM

D6

A youth-led environmental initiative reached a major milestone with the launch of a Disposable Vape Recycling Bin in Clones. Spearheaded by Clones Youth Club and Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan, the project tackles the rising issue of vape waste. Understanding the environmental impact of discarded vapes, the group installed a recycling bin and designed awareness posters. Their dedication led them to Brussels, where they met Maria Walsh MEP and EU Commissioner Michael McGrath to discuss solutions. At the official launch, local councillor Pat Treanor, Monaghan County Council, and Larcy College students showed support. The public bin now encourages responsible disposal, with hopes that this initiative inspires other towns to take action on environmental challenges.



20250078 - Outdoors with the fairies Include Youth Service Clones YWICM Young Women's Group

D7

This project came about after we reasoned that many newcomers to our community lives in small spaces and rooms with little to no outdoor space. We wanted to create a nice space for them to bring their children and young people and somewhere that felt magical whilst out in nature. We worked with a local artist to create ceramic fairy doors to erect in an overgrown walkway in our community close to the new canal and marina. This project will hopefully allow the newcomers to our community to feel welcome in our outdoor spaces and allow them to build connections with members of the local community. We want everyone to get "outdoors with the fairies".



20250119 - This is our plea, go plastic free!

D8

St Joseph's Secondary School

This project aims to promote a plastic-free community within our school and the surrounding town by reducing single-use plastics. We've focused on cutting down non-biodegradable packaging in lunchboxes and encouraging sustainable bottles for incoming 1st Years. We've also reached out to local and national politicians to address plastic use in government-funded school lunch schemes. This year, the introduction of the Environmental Science and Social module for TY students sparked a strong sense of responsibility. As a small rural school in East Clare, we're proud that every student has contributed to making our school more sustainable and environmentally conscious.

20250125 - Polluting Under Pressure

D9

Glanmire Community College

In this project we explore how peer pressure increases littering done by teenagers. Our aims consist of decreasing littering amongst teenagers, helping spread awareness, and to have a positive impact on our community. We are conducting surveys, social experiments, making posters, and hosting competitions in the school based on decreasing litter around the school. During the social experiments we are examining how people react to peer pressure when it comes to littering. The impact we are hoping to have on the community will decrease littering in the school. In conclusion we will study the effects of peer pressure regarding littering.

20250213 - Eolach ar Éanacha

D10

Coláiste Naomh Eoin

Tá sé mar fheidhm ag an tógra seo taifead, foghlaim agus eolas a roinnt maidir leis na h-éin a chónaíonn nó a thugann cuairt ar Inis Meáin, ceann de thrí Oileáin Árann i gcuan na Gaillimhe atá ina cheantar speisialta caomhnaithe. Tá bith-éagasúlacht ar leith ó thaobh fásrach agus éanacha ar an oileán. Tá roinnt tógraí pobail ag teacht chun cinn faoi láthair chun éin nach bhfuil ag neadú ar an oileán faoi láthair, ar nós an traonach, a mhealladh ar ais chuig an gceantar. Úsáideann an tógra seo teicneolaíocht chun pictiúir agus fuaimeanna na n-éin a thaifead & iad ansin a bheith le roinnt leis an bpobal tríd na meáin shóisialta, fógraí pobail & físeáin. Baineadh úsáid as aipeanna chun éin a chloistear a aimsiú & bhí feachtas áitiúil ar bun. Leis an eolas ar fad a bailíodh agus a cuireadh ar fáil sa phobal, tá muid ag oibriú i dtreo comharthaí pobail a chrochadh san oileán chun an pobal agus cuairteoirí araon a choinneáil eolach ar éanacha.

The purpose of this project is to record, learn about, and share information regarding the birds that live on or visit Inis Meáin, one of the three Aran Islands in Galway Bay, which is a designated special conservation area. The island has a unique biodiversity in terms of both plant life and bird species. Several community initiatives are currently emerging to encourage birds that are not presently nesting on the island, such as the corncrake, to return to the area. This project uses technology to record pictures and sounds of the birds, which are then shared with the public through social media, community announcements, and videos. Apps have been used to identify birds by their calls, and a local campaign was launched. With all the information gathered and made available to the community, we are working towards installing public signs on the island to keep both residents and visitors informed about the local bird species.



20250247 - COP for Kids Kinsale Community School

D11

Our project aims to raise environmental awareness among primary school children and inspire action against climate change. Sixth-class students from our 9 feeder primary schools will attend a 'COP' event at our school. Through interactive presentations, workshops, and climate-themed games e.g. The Recycling Race and Climate Jenga, they will learn about the causes and impacts of climate change and discover ways to take action. Participants will leave with new knowledge to share with their schools and families. To promote the event, we have created Instagram and TikTok accounts and will reach out to local newspapers and our school newsletter for coverage.



20250290 - City Greens Scoil Pól

D12

"City Greens" is transforming urban living by bringing sustainable farming to cities! Our innovative project uses hydroponic and aquaponic systems to help people living in cities grow fresh, healthy food in small spaces. By building affordable, DIY systems from recycled materials, we have proved that urban farming can be both effective and eco-friendly. Our project tackles food accessibility, environmental impact, and community health, all while showing that anyone - no matter how little space they have - can experience the joy of growing their own food. With successful experiments in hydroponics and aquaponics, "City Greens" is paving the way for a greener, healthier future!



ECO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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



20250004 - iGrow

E1

Marian College

iGrow is an AI-driven mobile-application designed to help Gen-Z and Millennials grow healthy indoor plants effortlessly. It addresses the challenges of plant care, including watering, sunlight exposure, and soil nutrition, by leveraging AI-powered image classification. Users simply take a photo of a plant leaf, and the app provides a health score based on key parameters. Additional features include IoT-based irrigation-system, articles on growing common vegetables and plant species detection. Our mission is to promote indoor air purification, and sustainable plant care. iGrow has been recognized by prestigious institutes such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology App-Inventor Foundation, Meta, Raspberry-Pi UK, and Trinity College Waltons-Club.



20250036 - Grass Sheets

E2

Tullamore College

Our project Grass Sheets investigates whether grass can be used as a viable alternative to regular wood-based paper. Our project's main objective is to create paper using a sustainable alternative while reducing carbon emissions and conserving materials used in regular printer paper making. Every day during the summer when cutting our lawn, we noticed lots of grass going to waste. It was just being left to waste by being dumped in ditches. To raise awareness about our project, we presented our project to younger years, promoting it on social media and by showcasing it at events and other competitions.



20250098 - Rejuvenate

E3

Tullamore College

Rejuvenate is a female-owned business that creates sustainable tote bags and scrunchies by repurposing discarded clothing from the fast fashion industry. Our name reflects our mission to give new life to old garments and reduce clothing waste in landfills. We believe that with the right options and encouragement, people will choose to shop sustainably. Through this project, we explored the benefits of upcycling and shared what we learned with both young people and the wider community. We're proud to have achieved our goals and to raise awareness about the environmental impact of overconsumption in the fashion world.



20250109 - Floral Fragrances

E4

Kinsale Community School

Our project focuses on sustainably producing eco-friendly perfume while limiting waste. We aim to raise awareness about the harmful chemicals in many commercial perfumes and create a safer alternative that's kind to both the environment and all skin types. Living in Kinsale, a coastal town, we see firsthand how single-use plastic bottles pollute our waters and harm marine life. To combat this, we reused old perfume bottles and grew our own flowers to avoid plastic packaging. Our minimal ingredient list includes only natural essentials. This project supports SDG 9 & 12 and also ties into goals for health, climate action, and life below water.



20250165 - Wild Ireland Card Game + Digital Link Coláiste Ióasef

E5

Our project was focused on creating an educational card game to teach people about Native Irish animals in a fun and interactive way. Each card featured facts about different animals, with QR codes that linked to websites for more information. This allowed players to quickly access extra details and learn more about the animals' habitats, diets and conservation status. The game made learning easy and enjoyable while encouraging people to explore Irish wildlife further. We tested the cards and improved them based on feedback. The final cards were displayed in the school corridor to help students and teachers learn about local wildlife in an engaging way.



20250178 - Proseeding Cards Meanscoil Iognáid Rís

E6

Our YEA project is all about recyclable seeded greeting cards—once you're done with them, just tear them up, plant them, and watch them grow! We figured most cards end up shoved in a drawer or binned, so why not make something that gives back to the planet? We're making the cards from scrap paper, blending it into pulp, mixing in seeds, and drying it into sheets. It's a simple, eco-friendly idea that turns a birthday or holiday card into a lasting memory. Just plant it, water it, and let it grow—because a card shouldn't just be for one day!



20250263 - Re-Light Eureka Secondary School

E7

Our project RE-LIGHT is all about recycling with purpose. We collect old, burned-out candle holders and give them a second life by refilling them with new wax, creating fresh, eco-friendly candles. Our goal is to reduce even the smallest amounts of waste and show how simple items can be reused instead of thrown away. We shared our journey on Instagram through videos and photos to raise awareness about recycling. We also spoke with friends and classmates, encouraging them to think twice before discarding reusable items. RE-LIGHT is both a sustainable initiative and a creative, environmentally conscious business idea.



20250063 - Bin there done that Ardscoil na Mara

In our project we are concentrating on recycling in our school Ardscoil Na Mara. The amount of waste in Ireland is a huge problem. Ireland is topping the charts on waste in many areas in Europe. We thought that starting from our school would start build awareness among students and staff about this problem. The issue in the classrooms is that we have only had 1 bin for all different types of waste. What we are doing now is introducing different bins to try separate the different types of waste. We are attempting to spread awareness about this new system of waste separation in the classrooms.



20250069 - Renew IT: Building a Future for Tanzania Kinsale Community School

E8

Renew IT focused on combating E-waste by repairing and refurbishing unused school laptops that were set to be destroyed. Instead, we repaired them ourselves, loaded them with open-source software and fixed 22 laptops in total that were then sent off to our partner school in Kenya along with network equipment to create a computer lab for this new school. We also created guides for general maintenance and upkeep of these computers along with spare hardware for simple repairs. These computers offer a opportunity to engage meaningfully with online content and helps to bridge the digital divide.



20250089 - EcoGuardians Loreto College

E9

Eco Guardians is a group project whose goal is to spread awareness about littering and help keep the environment clean. We patrol our local areas and inform people about proper waste disposal. We act as guardians for our planet, as we are all passionate about our Earth's tidiness. To reach more people, we set up physical posters with barcodes linking to a website that shows the consequences of littering. We've also spoken directly to community members we've seen littering, educating them on the dangers. To expand our message, we created TikTok and Instagram accounts to share impactful content and raise awareness.



20250096 - Green Cycle Patrician College

E10

Green Cycle adopts a circular economy approach by repurposing local waste products in creating a sustainable growing medium for propagated plants. We used school and classroom displays, social media posts and created our own website to inform and consequently involve other classes and school groups in our project. We collaborated on foraging grass cuttings, clearing the local streets of leaves, collecting paper waste from school, recycling plastic lunch materials as well as organising a collection of garden plant pots from parents and the wider school community. This aimed to show how to enrich soil without peat compost or petrochemical transportation.



20250097 - Marine Litter Project Errigal College

E11

Bottle Back is an inspiring campaign led by us, a group of Transition Year students from Errigal College, Letterkenny, aiming to tackle plastic waste by encouraging our community to "take it to the bins." Our goals include raising awareness about SDGs 6, 11, 13, and 14, reducing single-use plastics, and increasing reusable bottle use in our school by 20% by the end of 2024/25. We've promoted our message through social media, local newspaper articles, and school assemblies. We also created an original "Bottle Back" song and music video, which has over 5,000 views online. Recognised as Green Schools Marine Ambassadors for 2024/25, we're set to share our campaign internationally in Greece during an Erasmus trip.



20250101 - Litter Lifeguarding Glanmire Community College

E12

Our project aim is about educating the younger pupils in our school how to properly dispose their waste and to become a greener community, in a fun and engaging way. Firstly, we have made a survey asking the first years in our school about how they dispose their waste. We then created a slideshow based off the information we gathered from the survey and presented it to the younger pupils of the school. Our slideshow consists of questions about what you put in your bins and a fun online quiz to back up the knowledge they learned throughout the duration of the class. We then created a relay race 'Rubbish Relay'. This game consists of running to put rubbish into the correct bin.



20250130 - Waste not, Want not Newbridge College

E13

For our project, "Waste Not, Want Not," we researched ways to reduce waste in school, focusing on the Deposit Return Scheme (Re-turn) bottles and cans. We have observed that students are still disposing of bottles in recycling bins, as they were prior to the scheme's introduction in February 2024. Since restaurants (including school canteens) are exempt from Re-Turn, students were literally throwing money away, rather than waiting to bring their cans to a Return Vending Machine. By connecting with our school community by survey and political figures by email, we wanted to see if there was a way to implement a scheme into schools, where the Re-Turn empties would be collected and used to support causes in the locality.



20250136 - Power Down, Recycle Up! Glanmire Community College

F3

For our project we aim spread awareness about the issue. Electronic waste / E-waste is becoming an issue because of how often electronics are used in the modern world. by 1. Holding a poster competition to spread awareness. This will get students involved and interested in learning about electronic waste (e-waste). 2. We created badges that have been passed out between staff and students, 3. We are holding an Eco Expo day where staff and students can bring in old small electronics and batteries to be collected while also learning more about electronic waste and its effects on our planet.



20250212 - Bruscar Luachmhar Coláiste Naomh Eoin

F4

An aidhm a bhí leis an tógra seo ná aird a tharraingt ar an easpa do sheirbhís athfhillleadh buidéil/cannaí (bottle/ cans return scheme service) ar Inis Meáin. Is oileán é Inis Meáin atá scoite amach ó mórthír & a bhfuil níos mó costas nó tairbhe ag baint leis na buidéal nó cannaí a thabhairt ar ais faoin scéim seo. Le linn ár dtógra rinne muid imscrúdú ar an seirbhís seo & d'eagraigh muid feachtas atá fós ar siúl i láthair na h-uaire chun measín den chineál seo a bheith ar fáil do phobail an oileáin. Rinne muid taighde ar an gcaillteannas airgead atá i gceist leis don phobal & conas ar féidir linn cabhrú leo inár bhfeachtas. Tríd idirbheartaíocht leis na coistí áitiúla & eagraíochtaí stát, tá muid glórach i gcónaí inár gcás, agus cé nach bhfuil meaisín faighte againn go dtí seo, tá dóchas againn go mbeidh seirbhís de shaghas éigin ar fáil do na h-oileánaigh amach anseo.

The aim of this project was to highlight the lack of a bottle and can return scheme on Inis Meáin. As an isolated island, returning bottles and cans under the scheme is more costly than beneficial. During our project, we investigated this service and organized an ongoing campaign to secure a reverse vending machine for the island community. We researched the financial loss this issue causes and explored ways to assist through our campaign. Through negotiations with local committees and state organisations, we continue to advocate for our cause. While we have not yet secured a machine, we remain hopeful that a suitable service will be available for islanders in the future.



20250258 - Cli-Mates Scoil Mhuire Secondary School

F5

The Cli-Mates identified the issue around problems associated with batteries going to landfill and the untold damage that can be done in the future. Therefore, after research the Cli-Mates became aware of WEEE Ireland and decided to do a school / community wide campaign to collect used batteries. We at present have over 6,000 batteries that have come from staff, students and feeder schools. It is our hope by the end of the academic year, with continued awareness campaigns that we will hand over 10,000 batteries to be recycled efficiently and avoid being sent to landfill.



20250294 - Using Spectrometry to Detect, Identify and Reduce Pollution Presentation Secondary School

F6

We explored spectrometry applications in detecting pollutants like microplastics and heavy metals in North Kerry's environment. Using atomic absorption and Raman spectroscopy, we aimed to create a database of microscopic pollution and highlight the need for government action on pollution. We compared heavy metal and microplastic levels in rural, coastal, and urban areas, using microwave digestion to trace pollution sources. Our findings helped outline necessary actions to combat environmental contamination. To raise awareness, we surveyed students, presented at the BTYSE, and educated primary schools on pollution. We also contacted local TDs and ministers, urging action on the issues identified. Our project seeks to drive change and promote environmental responsibility.



20250295 - The Impact and Remediation of crumb Rubber on the Environment

F7

Gaelcholáiste Mhuire

Due to Ireland's climate, more all-weather pitches are being built, many of which use astroturf made from recycled car tyres. These tyres can contain harmful chemicals. Our aim is to investigate the prevalence of astroturf pollution and raise awareness of the issue through surveys, sample collection, and suggesting improvements to reduce negative environmental effects. Our topic connects local and global issues, as this problem is growing rapidly and is often overlooked due to limited research. Over 220 acres of open space in Dublin alone have been replaced with artificial pitches since 2000, affecting grasslands and protected species. These pitches are now common worldwide, yet most players and clubs are unaware of the potential environmental and health consequences.



20250302 - Deposit, Debate, Decide: The Public's Take On The Deposit Return Scheme

F8

Kinsale Community School

Our Project investigates the relatively new Deposit Return Schemes (DRS's) popularity among Irish citizens and trying to help make a more renowned and effective return method for people of all ages and abilities. The popularity of the DRS has increased drastically over the past few months. From 2 million units returned in February 2024 to 112 million units returned in August. We want to find out whether the DRS has changed the people of Ireland's behaviour and attitude in relation to environmental topics such as recycling as well as try to improve it and make Reverse Vending Machines simple and accessible for everyone.



20250311 - Waste Warriors

Oatlands College

Our project aims to help students understand the impact of improper waste disposal on the environment. When we don't put the right items in the correct bins, it can lead to pollution, harm wildlife, and contribute to climate change. To raise awareness about this issue, we have taken several initiatives. We have linked in with our Green Schools Committee to help redesign informative posters to display around the school, spoken on the school loudspeaker to reach as many students as possible, and even included our message in the school newsletter. By involving parents and staff by petitions and raising awareness, we hope they will encourage their children to practice proper waste disposal at home as well, creating a lasting positive impact on both our school and community.



20250320 - Utilizing & repurposing household waste into mushroom based materials

F9

Árdscoil Uí Urmoltaigh

Our project focuses on creating sustainable, eco-friendly materials from household food waste using mycelium, the root structure of mushrooms. We aimed to develop innovative packaging alternatives to combat plastic pollution and reduce landfill waste. Through multiple experiments with items like plates and mugs, we eventually created a durable, reusable mug prototype made from mushroom-based material. This project highlights the potential of waste repurposing to promote environmental sustainability and inspire broader community action.



20250325 - What a Waste!

Greystones Community School

F10

'What a Waste!' aims to raise awareness while at the same time reducing waste. Sometimes when it comes to binning our waste, we can become colour blind. Why is this? Our project supports students to share their ideas about ways to improve how we get rid of our waste. We created a website, designed lessons for 1st and 2nd Years, held assemblies, and hosted a fundraising day to raise awareness about how this issue has an impact at a school, local, national, and global level. Our project is connected to local issues in Greystones, like improper waste disposal and overflowing bins. On a global level, we learned about how excess waste is sent to developing countries, especially after China stopped processing European waste. Our project aligns with SDG 13.



20250326 - Lets Talk Trash!

Scoil Mhuire

F11

The project is an investigation into the knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding waste management in our local area. Our goal is to change people's behavior by enhancing their understanding of waste management. We have implemented this by placing informative pictures and labels on each bin to clarify what should be disposed of in them. Additionally, we raised awareness through the display of signs that further explain what goes into each bin. As a result of these efforts, we have had a positive impact on our school community. Their behavior towards waste disposal has improved, and this change is evident in the statistics we have gathered on the matter.



20250331 - Castle Clean Up Crew

Meanscoil Iognáid Rís

F12

Our project focuses on raising awareness about climate change and littering in our community. We aimed to influence Junior students by presenting a Google Slides presentation. We gathered litter pickers, bags, and gloves through a request to Dublin City Council, who kindly provided the materials. We plan to organize a clean-up at Merrion Square and on our school campus, where Junior students will participate in picking up litter. Our goal is to create a cleaner, more sustainable environment for students while educating them on the impact of littering. We've already conducted city clean-ups and plan to clean the River Dodder. Our target is to collect 12 full bags of waste in three weeks, contributing to a cleaner local area.



20250070 - Food Consumption in our School

F1

Our Lady Of Mercy College

Our project, Food Consumption in Our School, aims to raise awareness about food waste within our learning environment. Inspired by a team member's younger sister, who noticed how much food was wasted after lunch, we decided to tackle an issue that personally affects us and our school. We began by observing food waste habits and brainstorming practical solutions. To spread our message, we used creative posters and catchy slogans to engage students. This local issue has a broader environmental impact, influencing both recycling and composting. Our goal is to reduce waste and create a more sustainable culture around food at school.



20250091 - The Living Wall

F2

Kinsale Community School

We planted a variety of plants, fruits and vegetables in the school greenhouse. We have put up a Living Wall in our school which the plants are attached to, in hanging baskets. The Living Wall is a 'Community Fridge' meaning that everything that is grown is offered to students and staff on Harvest Days. We made food out of the produce from the living wall like pickled onions with Home Economic classes. We use social media. We have done multiple workshops with children and teenagers as part of our project. We have made a tutorial booklet on how to make a living wall for homes, businesses and schools.



20250092 - Plant to plate

G1

Pobalscoil Inbhear Sceine

We created a seasonal recipe book called Plant to Plate, filled with recipes, sustainability tips, and details about our school's eco-initiatives. The goal is to connect our school garden to the kitchen, helping students learn how to use local produce they may not recognise. We also planted apple trees in our orchard to offer healthy, zero-carbon snacks. Our project promotes growing your own food, reducing waste, and embracing seasonal eating. It supports SDGs 1, 2, and 3 addressing poverty, hunger, and well-being through sustainable food practices. We aim to make local vegetables appealing while raising awareness about the issue of food waste.



20250117 - We've got Worms!

G2

Coláiste Ióasef

"We've Got Worms" aims to reduce the amount food waste going to landfill, cutting greenhouse gases and using the castings to reduce soil degradation. Through social media posts, videos, workshops and promotion, we raised awareness about the benefits of vermiculture. At school, we launched campaigns to involve everyone in the project and our teacher presented our efforts at the LearningPlanet Festival. This pilot project has inspired our school community and if successful we plan to expand it by training other schools to build their own worm composters. Our project has the potential to change the way waste is dealt with in schools.



20250144 - Harvest Heroes Mount Anville Secondary School

G3

We are harvest heroes, and our project this year is on food waste. Food waste is a huge contributor to climate change, producing 8-10% of greenhouse gas emissions globally. Can you imagine? With all other contributors to greenhouse gas such as cars, planes, factories, deforestation and agriculture, food waste makes up 10% of the overall greenhouse gas emissions! This was such a shocking fact as everybody is responsible for contributing to food waste yet almost nobody knows the seriousness of what food waste does to the environment. Our project aims to educate our school community and more about food waste and to convert our school food waste into something more useful and sustainable.



20250161 - Young Cultivators Bailieborough Community School

G4

Our project is aimed at raising awareness of the damage caused by food imports. We aim to create a plot at our school where we would produce vegetables and herbs for the home economics rooms and to be consumed by the students too. We will use a little-known method known as lasagne gardening which results have shown that is a very effective, labour-saving method of gardening. We used posters around our school to raise awareness highlighting the importance of locally produced food for the health of us and our planet. We hope to inspire others to consider growing some of their own food using simple methods. We will grow a wide variety of crops including garlic, salads, potatoes and herbs.



20250209 - Food Waste Leaves A Bad Taste Rockbrook Park School

G5

Our team's project consists of reducing food waste and food packaging and that is not biodegradable. According to the research we have done 30% of food is wasted in Ireland and 40% around the world. So, we decided to make our project on this. Our actions have consisted of emailing our food provider asking them about the materials that they use for their food packaging, created a 1-minute video about the problem with food waste in our school. We plan to make a survey asking people about the food waste they make (if any), then we will analyse them and based on that we will create and post posters around our school. We will also make a presentation to raise awareness.



20250225 - Leftover Legends F.C.J. Secondary School

G6

We chose a food drive as we believe instead of throwing away our never used foods, they deserve to be used to make a change to other people's lives, not everyone has the privileges of a meal everyday so we believe our food donations will make a change to many people's lives. To collect the food, we left a trolley at the front of the school, and we advertised this project with posters around our school and social media posts on our school's Instagram and Facebook. We collected non-perishable and canned foods. We then donated this food to our local homeless shelter.



20250327 - Microplastics on the Menu: Food in Markets versus Supermarkets St. Mary's High School

G7

Our project is titled 'Microplastics on the Menu: Food in Markets versus Supermarkets'. This project aims to explore the differences between buying food, specifically fruit and vegetables, in markets in comparison to supermarkets. Specifically, we decided to focus on the differences in reference to the quantity of microplastics in both. We did this using spectroscopy, an analytical technique. This required a spectrometer. A spectrometer uses lights to detect any abnormal particles found in a sample, changing the spectra of the light changes the vibrancy and it is more likely to identify abnormalities.





20250030 - The Bubble Wall MCS Mountmellick Community School

G8

Our Young Environmentalist Award project tackles river pollution with an innovative, wind-powered bubble wall solution. This eco-friendly system creates a curtain of air bubbles across our local rivers, preventing waste from flowing downstream while allowing native fish and wildlife to pass freely. The bubbles, powered by renewable wind energy, guide floating debris to a collection point without disrupting natural ecosystems. Designed for minimal environmental impact, the project fosters sustainable waterway protection and raises awareness about plastic pollution.



20250071 - Ocean Devotion Mercy Secondary School

G9

The Mounthawk Masterminds' project, Ocean Devotion, tackles the growing issue of ocean microplastic pollution. We designed and built a 3D-printed, remote-controlled catamaran capable of removing both large surface plastics and microplastics. Using a dual-action system, the boat collects debris with a net and filters microplastics through an innovative ferrofluid-based system. The group has conducted beach cleanups, tested the boat at Tralee Bay Wetlands, developed an educational game on microplastics, and organized competitions with local schools to raise awareness. By combining innovation and community engagement, the team aims to inspire action and protect marine ecosystems.



20250132 - Wipe up Tralee Bay Presentation Secondary School

G10

Our project focuses on the damage caused by the incorrect disposal of wet wipes in Tralee Bay. These wipes harm wildlife and biodiversity, so we are addressing the issue at its source by promoting sustainable alternatives within our community. By encouraging eco-friendly options, we aim to reduce household waste and lower costs while significantly decreasing the number of wet wipes washing up on Tralee's shores. Tralee Bay, a Special Protection Area (SPA), is home to endangered skates, rays, and migrating birds, making its preservation crucial. Through this project, we are not only helping to protect our bay but also educating ourselves and others about the importance of safeguarding local waterways and marine habitats.



20250139 - There is plastic in my fish Mary Immaculate Secondary School

G11

Plastic pollution in our oceans is a growing crisis. We've seen its effects firsthand through Young Scientist projects in our school, including one by team member Áine Kelly. Our project aims to educate students and adults on the impact of plastic waste in our seas and how they can help create a more sustainable future. We are developing an educational program for 5th and 6th class students in local primary schools, as well as Junior classes in our school. Additionally, we are creating a large fish-shaped structure filled with plastic collected from local shores. A smaller version will be brought to schools, serving as a visual reminder of the importance of ocean conservation.

20250176 - Bin there done that Meanscoil Iognáid Rís

H8

Bin there done that is a water saving project with the main goal being saving water from being wasted in huge puddles on school grounds we accomplished this by re using old bins donated to us by Thorton's by connecting them to the drains where we saw the most rainfall using black pipe that we bought and installed ourselves and with the water collected by the bins we watered our school garden successfully saving and re using water that would've stayed in blocked drains and in puddles by instead putting it to work in our garden watering plants.

20250205 - Rainwater Solutions Rockbrook Park School

H9

Our project, Hydro-Harvest, addresses and promotes water conservation. To do so, we recycled rainwater to sustainably irrigate a polytunnel and used the project's success to inspire people to act against water waste. Key Objectives: Water Conservation: Reduce freshwater consumption, Sustainability: Promote eco-friendly practices, Education: Illustrate the importance of water & innovation. Actions Undertaken: Designed & installed automated watering system making use of existing gutters, Monitored & optimised water usage to ensure minimal waste, and Held series of various events around our school. Impacts: Educated compellingly & comprehensively on the water crisis, and People considered their water usage & how to reduce it.

20250259 - The Water Journey Oatlands College

For our project, we focused on the essential resource: water. We explored questions like, "Where does water go after entering the drain?" and "How is wastewater treated?" This led us to examine the impact of wastewater on people and the environment. Wastewater leakage affects both local and global communities. Locally, untreated wastewater harms ecosystems, pollutes rivers, and affects health. Globally, wastewater pollution and water waste are major challenges, especially in areas with limited access to clean water. Our project connects to SDGs, particularly Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation) and Goal 14 (life below water), as addressing leakage protects ecosystems and health.

20250304 - Effects of a sewage treatment plant on the biodiversity of Mulroy Bay Loreto Community School

H10

We raised awareness of the delicate balance in Mulroy Bay and how improving biodiversity benefits all its inhabitants. Water quality affects both humans and macroinvertebrates, so we used bio-indicators in our long-term study of the Burnside River. We successfully launched and utilised various platforms to promote our vision for Mulroy Bay. To spread awareness, we spoke on local radio, published newspaper articles, and engaged people through our BTYSE stall, educating them on the importance of clean water. We also plan to visit primary schools to share our knowledge. Our project created a domino effect in the wider community. Mulroy Bay is vital for tourism, shellfish industries, and wildlife conservation, making its protection essential for all who depend on it.



20250307 - Smart Water Monitor Loreto Convent

H11

Our "Smart Water Monitor" project aims to improve water management by tackling issues like water contamination, leaks, and wasteful consumption. We developed a sensor-based system that monitors Total Trihalomethanes (THMs), turbidity, pH, oxygen levels, chlorine, and temperature. Key features include leak detection, remote shutdown, and a mobile app providing real-time data and alerts. To raise awareness, we will conduct school workshops, surveys, and demonstrations to educate people about water quality and conservation. Our initiative empowers users to monitor their water usage, prevent property damage, and promote public health. By encouraging responsible consumption, we are fostering a safer and more sustainable future while helping communities take proactive steps in managing their water resources.



ENERGY

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



20250045 - Switch off Fortnight - The Sequel Ballyclare High School

H1

This year BHS have been working hard to make a difference. Our projects aim has been to Switch Off lights, we made personalised posters for every subject with a catchy pun to place above light switches to entice the pupils to turn off the lights. We also held an assembly where a member of the Eco Club came forward to spread the word to pupils and teachers. The posters were not up for only two weeks they are still up and making an impact as both pupils and staff walk past them and are reminded every day to try and save electricity.



20250046 - Energy efficiency in schools Coláiste Chiaráin

H2

Our project aimed to promote energy conservation by creating engaging stickers that remind students and staff to turn off computers after use. We researched the impact of electronic devices on energy consumption and calculated potential savings from shutting down unused computers. Students collaborated in design workshops to create eye-catching, informative stickers featuring slogans such as "Power Down for a Greener Tomorrow!" and images of unplugged devices. After distributing the stickers across classrooms and computer labs, we observed increased awareness about energy conservation. This initiative not only helps reduce our school's carbon footprint but also fosters a culture of sustainability among students.



20250079 - MVHR unit in a "cold attic" – how efficient is it really? Presentation College

H3

We got the idea to test our Blauberg MVHR unit after moving into my new house. Many new-build and retrofit homes are installing these units, claiming over 90% efficiency and significant savings on heating bills. However, installation costs range from 5000 to 8000 Euro. We will use the Blauberg app to record intake, extract, supply, and exhaust air temperatures morning and evening for 2-3 months. Using this data, we'll calculate the efficiency and compare it to Blauberg's reported figures, referencing the Passivhaus Institute Heat Exchanger Efficiency Test. We've gathered information from various sources, including the user manual.



20250122 - Food to Fuel Kinsale Community School

H4

Our project is looking at how we can create a renewable energy in a sustainable way around our school using the MyGug. We are educating fellow students in 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year about the benefits of this energy source. The MyGug is a digester that uses the natural process of anaerobic digestion to convert your food waste into a usable biogas and a liquid bio-fertiliser. We researched the benefits of this source of energy source around our school. We tracked the food used in the MyGug and what food source was the most beneficial for energy production. We kept track of our results and helped inform fellow students and teachers about how the use of the MyGug is beneficial to our school.



20250277 - Comparing Early Adopters vs Late Adopters of EVs **Loreto College**

H5

We would like to dispel the myths associated with electric vehicles' by raising awareness of their value and range. We will research the price range and price of fuelling a diesel, petrol and EV. We put these facts on an easy-to-read document and sent it to our mentor who put it on the teacher google classroom. In this way we raised the awareness of 90 adults. We also plan to make a survey for the student of our year so we can see what their opinion on electric vehicles and has many of their families got electric vehicles.



20250309 - Harnessing Donegal's Coastal Wealth **St Columbas Comprehensive School**

H6

We are using Donegal seaweed to convert it into biodiesel through the transesterification method. This process involves extracting oils from seaweed and converting them into biodiesel by reacting them with an alcohol, we used methanol, in the presence of a catalyst. The goal is to create a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to fossil fuels. Donegal's seaweed, abundant along the coast, has high potential for biodiesel production due to its rich oil content. This project will contribute to green energy innovation, reduce waste, and promote environmental sustainability, while highlighting the untapped resources of the Donegal coastline.



20250333 - A system to test and develop low cost eco-friendly energy storage materials **Athlone Community College**

H7

Our project involved developing low-cost heat storage items in a bid to conserve energy and increase sustainability. We researched extensively and applied the use of a Raspberry Pi 3 to make the process of testing automated. The project was displayed at other competitions and within school, increasing awareness of the possibility of applying heat storage over electric batteries. The achievement of the project not only highlighted its environmental benefit but also inspired people in general to evolve critical thinking in terms of energy solutions with a sense of innovation as a requirement in addressing global problems.

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to the YEA Team and our incredible ECO-Dens 2025 host venues: Airfield Estate, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, The Galmont Hotel & Spa, and the Old Cork Waterworks Experience. Special thanks also to The Convention Centre Dublin for hosting our Showcase and Awards Ceremony.

A sincere thank you to our dedicated panel of judges for this year's ECO-Dens. We appreciate the time, insight, and passion you brought to supporting youth-led environmental action:

Áine O'Loughlen, Sligo County Council
Alessandro Petronilli, BiOrbic
Alexey Janes, Ulster Wildlife Trust
Ali Sultan Khan, BiOrbic
Ana Del Hierro, BiOrbic
Andrea Lazenby Simpson, Business in the Community
Aoife McGrane, Department of Education
Aoife Cannon, SEAI
Bodhayan Biswas, BiOrbic
Caitlin Breen, Airfield
Caitlin Quinn, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Ciara McAuliffe, Irish Girl Guides
Davnet McEllin, Galway and Roscommon ETB
Dean Eaton, Dublin City Council/CARO
Denis Dineen, SEAI
Denise Mustapha, Dublin City Council/CARO
Eddie Bradley, SEAI
Gerard Griffin, YouthReach
Joel Franklin, SEAI
Karen Foley, Clare County Council
Kathryn Moore, University of Galway
Keletso Malepe, Goodbody Clearstream
Kevin Dooney, Department of Environment
Lee Carroll, SEAI
Maeve O'Reilly, SEAI
Mark Molloy, County Galway County Council
Marushka da Costa, Enrich
Mary Holland, SEAI
Noreen Foster, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Sadhbh Ní Hógáin, SEAI
Stephen Rhatigan, SEAI
Susan Richardson, SEAI

NOTES

NOTES

ECO-UNESCO'S YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS FUNDERS & SPONSORS

ECO-UNESCO would like to thank each of our funders and sponsors of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2025.



Rialtas na hÉireann
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The Scheme to Support National Organisations is funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Rural and Community Development



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



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



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





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20015145 Revenue Number: CHY 7225 Company Number: 106860