

2026

ECO-DENS INFO PACK



ECO-DENS 2026

ECO-Dens are 'Dragon's Den' style judging events for Young Environmentalist Awards semi-finalists, held in regional hubs across Ireland and online. They give shortlisted groups the opportunity to present their projects, receive feedback and enhance skills such as public speaking and confidence.

In 2026, we'll be holding ECO-Dens in Dublin, Cork, Armagh, Galway, and Limerick - as well as online!

Online ECO-Dens

Thurs 12th & 26th March
Microsoft Teams

Armagh ECO-Dens

Mon 23rd March
Lough Neagh Discovery Centre



Galway ECO-Dens

Tue 24th March
The Galmont Hotel



Dublin ECO-Dens

Tue 10th & Wed 11th March
Airfield Estate



Limerick ECO-Dens

Wed 25th March
The Hunt Museum



Cork ECO-Dens

Wed 18th & Thurs 19th March
Old Cork Waterworks Experience



BEFORE THE DAY

Step 1: Booking Your Time Slot

Shortlisted projects receive an email invitation with a link to book a **1-hour slot** at their preferred location and time, on a **first-come, first-served basis**. The 1-hour timeslot includes time for group registration, a session with a prep coach, and the pitch to the judging panel. For any scheduling issues, feel free to contact us for assistance.

Step 2: Preparing Your Pitch!

Presenting can be nerve wracking, but fear not! Remember, you and your team are the experts of your project and the judges are on your side. Aim for your pitch to be around 5 minutes (7 minutes max). You can use visual aids such as a poster or PowerPoint presentation, but they aren't necessary. Your pitch will be followed up with some questions from the judges.

Here are some of our tips:



Perfecting Your Pitch Through Practice

Put some time aside to rehearse your presentation. What do you want the judges to know? Who will say what? Practice with your teacher, friends, parents, or anyone who'll listen and have them critique your pitch.



Remember the YEA 6-Steps Framework

Using this [framework](#) can help bring structure to your pitch. Make sure to focus on the action and awareness aspects of your project!



Infuse Personality

Judges are keen to learn about you and your team. Make engaging introductions and inject a bit of personality into your presentation.

Important

- All groups must be accompanied by a mentor.
- Max 6 young people per group may attend ECO-Dens, due to venue capacity.
- Project mentors are kindly asked to remain outside the judging room unless there is a specific need for their presence.

ON THE DAY

What to Bring

1. Yourself and your group for pitching!
2. Any props you like to help with your pitch e.g. photos, storyboards, PowerPoint presentation, and physical prototypes or models. If bringing a presentation, save it to a USB and bring it along.

What to Expect

Checking-In & Getting Settled

On arrival, follow the signage to our registration desk. If you encounter any delays or have trouble finding your way, don't hesitate to give us a call on 083 198 5261. After check-in, your group can get settled in and relax in the waiting room.



Pre-Pitch Preparation

Next it's time for your group's practice session! One of the ECO-UNESCO team will run through the pitch with the group to get them warmed up and ready for judging time.

Judging Time

Finally, it's time for judging. Groups will go into the judging room with the panel of judges and pitch for around 5 minutes, followed by some questions. Then, it's all done! Time to check out at the registration desk and let us know how you found the day.

Food and Drink

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide food and drink. However, there will be a cafe either at, or near each venue. We will inform you of this prior to the day. Feel free to bring your own refreshments.

Planning Your Journey

Please ensure to arrange travel arrangements in advance and try to use active transport, public transport, or car sharing where possible and if this is available to you.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & SPONSORS



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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



An Roinn Aeráide,
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil
Department of Climate,
Energy and the Environment



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



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Number: 20015145 Revenue Number: CHY 7225 Company Number: 106860