

ECO-UNESCO News

Issue 3 / September 2010



ECO-Explorers at The Greenhouse!

ECO-UNESCO launched Dublin city centre's first environmental summer camp 'ECO-Explorers' this year. The camp was a resounding hit with all the children who took part.

Using ECO-UNESCO's new environmental hub The Greenhouse as a base, children explored nature in the heart of the city through outdoor adventures, interactive games, hands-on activities and much more. Taking a city centre safari and treasure trail, building a bug hotel, starting a sunflower race and even

launching an ECO-Rocket were some of the activities kids taking part enjoyed whilst learning about their environment and nature and having lots of fun!

Missed out this time round? Make sure to book your child in to ECO-UNESCO's Halloween ECO-Explorers Camp (October 27th, 28th & 29th) or Easter ECO-Explorers Camp (April 26th – 29th).

Contact: t: **01 662 5491** e: youth@ecounesco.ie
w: www.ecounesco.ie

Dear readers,

Welcome to the third edition of ECO-UNESCO News. This edition is packed with news of our past activities, information on up and coming events and ways that you can get involved in our organisation.

At the start of 2010 we made a big move to our new headquarters in a newly established centre for sustainability in Ireland called 'The Greenhouse', set up by ECO-UNESCO in conjunction with Cultivate. The Greenhouse is open to the public and provides information on environmental issues along with lots of great activities, events and workshops.

During the past year our youth programmes have continued to flourish. Our annual Young Environmentalists Awards Showcase and Awards ceremony took place in the Mansion House with over 600 young people exhibiting their environmental action projects; our 'Youth for Sustainable Development' programme is establishing a special award for youth and community organisations and our first 'ECO-Explorers' Summer Camp for children was a resounding success. This year is the UN International Year of Biodiversity. As part of the celebration of this we will be running a **'National Youth ECO-Forum; World Wild Web; Young people exploring Biodiversity'** which takes place on the 24th November.

ECO-UNESCO is a FETAC accredited centre and as such runs a variety of FETAC courses each year. Our flagship training course: **Introduction to Sustainable Development** is growing in popularity with attendance records at an all time high, and participants coming from the community and voluntary sectors, youth organisations, business and the public sector.

Each year we are involved in a number of international engagements. This year I was delighted to have been invited to attend the White House St. Patricks Day Reception on March 17th where I had the opportunity to meet with President Barack Obama. This was a wonderful occasion and an acknowledgement of ECO-UNESCO's important work in environmental protection and youth empowerment in Ireland.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter which provides a taste of our work. If you would like to find out more or to get involved in any way please log onto our website to see the many opportunities there are to be part of ECO-UNESCO.

Until next time,

Elaine Nevin, National Director, ECO-UNESCO



Visit us at The Greenhouse!



Visit ECO-UNESCO's headquarters in Dublin City Centre for information and exhibitions on environmental, sustainability and related issues, to purchase ECO-UNESCO resources or to take part in our events, trainings, workshops and programmes.

ECO-UNESCO, The Greenhouse, 17 St Andrew Street, Dublin 2

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2010 Ireland's biggest celebration of young people taking ECO-Action!

See inside for more on how to get involved.



About ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).

Our programmes and services include:

- Environmental Youth Programmes
- Young Environmentalist Awards Programme
- Education & Training Programmes
- Education Resources
- Consultancy services

Support our work!

ECO-UNESCO is a non-profit organisation and relies on your support to build and develop our environmental awareness programmes for Ireland's young people. We urge people to become members of the organisation and support our work. Our annual membership fee is €50 for group membership and only €20 for individuals – for that you receive discounts on trainings and our large range of education resources as well as the knowledge that you are helping to protect our natural environment by empowering Ireland's young people.

For more information on membership please log on to www.ecounesco.ie.

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards

Ireland's biggest celebration of young people taking ECO-Action!

The environmental actions of young people from all over Ireland were recognised and rewarded at the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Showcase and Awards Ceremony 2010, which took place on Wednesday, 12th May in the Mansion House, Dublin.

2010 Winners

The Overall Junior Young Environmentalist Awards 2010 went to **Friends' School**, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, for their project Spring into Action. Minister of State, Ciaran Cuffe, presented the Overall Senior Young Environmentalist Awards 2010 prize to the young people from **Youthreach**, The Glen, Cork city, for their innovative community project *Our Community Garden*.

There were 150 projects received and over 1,500 young people participating in the programme in 2010, while many groups also received highly commended awards from the expert judging-panel on the day.

Plastic Fantastic Greenhouse

Highlights included the **Senior Energy Category** Winners from Galway with 'Re-Juice

your Journey' a cycling awareness campaign which included cycle powered smoothie-makers, and a 'Bling your bike day!' The 'Plastic Fantastic Greenhouse' made entirely of recycled plastic bottles by a group of young people from Bray was also a hit.

Not just for schools - the awards that are open to all

Whilst many similar awards programmes target young people in formal education, and transition year in particular, the hallmark of the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards has always been its accessibility. The programme is aimed at any group of young people who come together to take ECO-Action, making it perfect for youth groups and also facilitating young people to self organise and take action.



REGISTER NOW!

Remember only Registered Projects can avail of our support, so register as soon as you have a project idea!



To register or find out more about ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards contact E: yea@ecounesco.ie T: 01 662 54 91 or visit www.ecounesco.ie

Who should take part

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards programme is open to any group of young people in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland under 18 years of age.

How to get involved!

If you are carrying out an environmental project register now on www.ecounesco.ie

Support

ECO-UNESCO PROVIDES:

- a **hotline**
- a **Toolkit**
- **Free training** and information sessions for registered projects

Contact ECO-UNESCO today:

E: yea@ecounesco.ie T: 01 662 54 91

ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2011 Timeline:

November 26th 2010
project registration deadline

February 25th 2011
project submission deadline

March & April 2011
Judging - including regional ECO-Dens!

May 11th 2011
ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase & Awards Ceremony 2011

Youthreach, The Glen, Co. Cork

Overall Winners: ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2010

Project Title: Our Community Garden

Category: Senior Community Development

The group were named Overall Winners at the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2010 in recognition of their outstanding environmental action project, which involved transforming an overgrown wasteland into a beautifully landscaped garden and highly productive raised beds of vegetables. With limited resources, the group reached out to their

community working with another local group that facilitates a horticulture course with at-risk young people and the homeless.



Form an ECO-UNESCO Club!

We are looking for young people and youth leaders interested in forming an ECO-UNESCO Club in your school, youth group or local area and joining the national network of ECO-UNESCO Clubs.

ECO-UNESCO was delighted to announce a new partnership with Toyota this year.

As the first step in the new partnership, Toyota will be supporting the ECO-UNESCO Clubs programme through a number of initiatives including the ECO-UNESCO Clubs Development fund.



Take advantage of the ECO-UNESCO Clubs development fund!

The 2010 ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards saw the introduction of the Toyota ECO-UNESCO Club of the Year Award, presented to the ECO-UNESCO Peer Education Club for "The Greenhouse Gig" an awareness raising extravaganza of music and recycled fashion hosted at The Greenhouse (ECO-UNESCO's headquarters on St Andrew Street). This prize gives clubs access to a development fund to assist them with further environmental action projects.

Setting up an ECO-UNESCO Club is easy. **Find out how your group can become an ECO-UNESCO Club (FREE): Contact ECO-UNESCO: E: clubs@ecounesco.ie T: 01 662 54 91**

ECO-UNESCO goes International



ECO-UNESCO National Director, Elaine Nevin with the newly appointed Cultural Ambassador Gabriel Byrne and at the White House reception on 17th March, 2010.

ECO-UNESCO at the White House

On March 17th 2010, ECO-UNESCO's National Director, Elaine Nevin was invited to attend the St. Patrick's Day Reception in the White House, as a guest of President Barack Obama. The invitation was recognition of ECO-UNESCO's Director and her success in leading ECO-UNESCO's work in the area of youth development, environmental protection and community engagement since 2002. Attending the 250 guest reception were political representatives, dignitaries, representatives from the world of sport, the arts and community organisations in Ireland.

Japan's Peace Boat



Since 2005, ECO-UNESCO has been working with Peaceboat, a Japanese organisation working to build peace and sustainability awareness around the world. In June 2010, Elaine Nevin boarded Peaceboat in Helsinki to give lectures and workshops on environmental issues and our responses in Northern Europe.

Also docking in Dublin, Peaceboat participants visited ECO-UNESCO's new headquarters in The Greenhouse, where we provided a variety of engaging, interactive and thought-provoking workshops on environmental issues in Ireland.

The Greenhouse Gig!



ECO-UNESCO Peer Educator Ailbhe Kelly talks about her experience with the Peer Education Programme for Sustainable Development & taking part in the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards:

"We had many interesting sessions that spanned a wide variety of activities and skills. Some of these sessions included a lesson in samba drumming, an Action Project training and discussions on the role Sustainable Development plays in our lives today. Throughout the 12 week course we learnt a lot and participated in an environmental trip to Phoenix park, an Urban Safari and a Climate Change Wave demonstration!"

"We hand-made all the outfits out of recycled materials - everything from old school socks to bottle caps!"

"A very big task we undertook was planning our Action Project. We decided to hold an Eco-Gig and fashion show in the Greenhouse, ECO-UNESCO's Headquarters, which would promote issues of sustainable development to our peers. We hand-made all the outfits out of recycled materials from old school socks to bottle caps! We also had bands playing at the gig along with the themed fashion show. The night was a huge success and we were asked to perform our show again for the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards in the Mansion House. We then won the ECO-Art and Design category in the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards."



After completing the twelve week workshop series, completing their action projects and facilitation practice sessions the group are now qualified peer educators ready to begin their year of action and outreach to young people, including facilitating group activities and events for the new participants who will enter the Youth for Sustainable Development programme in October 2010.

GET INVOLVED!

Become a Peer Educator

Are you aged 15-18 years and living in Dublin? Would you like to join the Youth for Sustainable Development peer education programme in October 2010 or March 2011? Contact ysd@ecounesco.ie to find out how to join.

Take part in the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2011

To register or find out more about ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards contact E: yea@ecounesco.ie T: 01 662 54 91 or visit www.ecounesco.ie

Youth events & activities



Glendalough Conservation Hike

ECO-UNESCO's Summer Youth Activities saw a group of young people taking part in a Conservation Hike in Glendalough National Park. The group learned about the conservation issues in the area as they spent the day walking through the national park. They saw many plants and animals on the hike and were even lucky enough to spot a peregrine falcon flying above them! Many thanks to the staff at Glendalough Education Centre for their guided tour.

Are you aged 12 to 18? Want to get involved? We have loads of opportunities for young people to take part in youth events, the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards, join ECO-UNESCO Clubs and much more. Best of all... it's all FREE! So contact youth@ecounesco.ie telling us how you'd like to get involved.

Ramsar World Wetlands Day

On 2nd February 2010 ECO-UNESCO brought a group of young people to Bull Island to raise awareness of the value of wetlands and their importance in mitigating the effects of climate change. The group learned about the importance of the wetlands at Bull Island to the many species that live and visit there. They also learned about the threats to the wetlands at Bull Island, which is a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve and a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Education & Training



Trends & Developments

In July 2010, ECO-UNESCO delivered a tailor-made training to the Education Team of Glenveagh National Park, Donegal. As well as examining trends and developments in Environmental Education and links with the curriculum, this training looks at inspiring ways to engage young people in environmental issues. Held in the beautiful surrounds of Glenveagh National Park, the training was well received.

"Thanks again for such a great day - it was hugely helpful and a real insight for all of us."

Clare Bromley - Glenveagh National Park, Education Co-ordinator

ECO-UNESCO provides bespoke training services to the private and public sector, formal and non-formal education sector as well as organisations in the environmental, youth, community and voluntary sectors.

Contact ECO-UNESCO's Education and Training Team on 01 662 5491 to find out more about tailored ECO-UNESCO trainings delivered on demand.

FETAC accredited centre

ECO-UNESCO is a leading FETAC accredited training organisation with experience of delivering a broad range of training courses and providing a specialist approach to environmental education, youth work, Education for Sustainable Development and drugs prevention training.

Our flagship training course:

ECO-UNESCO's Introduction to Sustainable Development was designed and developed by ECO-UNESCO in 2005 and was the first of its kind in Ireland. Since it was first accredited, ECO-UNESCO have become widely acknowledged as expert trainers in sustainability in Ireland.

ECO-UNESCO runs a wide variety of training programmes at The Greenhouse, including short courses and accredited trainings. See overleaf for a calendar of trainings coming up this autumn and winter.

For further information on ECO-UNESCO's training programmes, or to register for a training, log onto www.ecounesco.ie or contact training@ecounesco.ie.

Peer Educators in Action!

From March to May 2010 another group of young people from all over Dublin completed twelve weeks of workshops, outdoor activities and events - the introductory training to join ECO-UNESCO's Youth for Sustainable Development Peer Education programme. This group now joined over 25 young people in training to become ECO-UNESCO's Peer Educators for Sustainable Development.

In June, 29 young people graduated from the peer education training programme having completed the workshop series, a community action project and facilitation practice sessions. In August 2010 the new peer educators undertook five days of intensive training on their new rights and responsibilities as peer educators, project planning, team building and media training. The Peer Educator group is now preparing to carry out a year of action as peer educators inspiring other young people to take action for sustainable development.



Save the date

There's always something exciting going on at ECO-UNESCO. See which trainings and events below interest you and contact info@ecounesco.ie for more info.

For the most up-to-date information, visit www.ecounesco.ie

September: 2011 ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards registration opens!

8 September: Young Environmentalist Awards information session

15 September: Young Environmentalist Awards information session

22 September: ECO-Action for a Car-Free Day

22 September: ECO-UNESCO Youth for Sustainable Development Conference 2010 *YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE: Learning to Change our World*

28 September: Sustain It! Becoming a sustainable organisation (one-day training)

7 Oct – 23 Dec: Introduction to Sustainable Development (FETAC Level 5) 10-week evening course

28 September: Young Environmentalist Awards information session

19 October: Drug Prevention Training for Trainers: Introducing Environmental Education as a resource (one-day training)

26 October: Peer Education & Sustainability (one-day training)

27, 28 & 29 October: Halloween ECO-Camp for Kids

28 October: Leadership and Strategic Sustainable Development (one-day training)

29 & 30 Oct 26 & 27 Nov: Introduction to Sustainable Development (FETAC Level 5) – intensive course

9 November: ECO-Community Garden Training (one-day training)

16 November: Introduction to Environmental Education: Trends & Developments (one-day training)

24 November: National Youth ECO-Forum 2010: World Wild Web young people exploring Biodiversity

4 December: ECO-Watchers: Energy, Waste & Climate Change Education for leaders and teachers (one-day training)

7 December: Leadership and Strategic Sustainable Development (one-day training)

Visit the Greenhouse

New from September!

- **Family Days** bring the kids along and pick up simple games & ideas that make learning about our environment fun!
- **Children's Workshops** fun interactive workshops, creative recycling, ECO-Rockets and more...
- **ECO-UNESCO Youth Club** aged 12 -18? Come along, hang out and meet other young people to discuss and take action on the burning environmental issues of the day
See www.ecounesco.ie for more

Our Experience at ECO-UNESCO!



Hey! We're Lauren & Aoife, and we're from St. Louis High School and this is a letter on the week we have spent with ECO-UNESCO. The week that we have been working with all the members of ECO-UNESCO has been great fun & experience! When we arrived on Monday 23rd of November, we were informed that there was a big event coming up that Wednesday called 'National Youth ECO-Forum 2009: What's so hot about Climate Change 2? Countdown to Copenhagen'. This event took place in Croke Park and was a total success. The day started off with a speech from the Minister of the Environment John Gormley, and then he answered some students from different schools' questions. He gave some ideas of how to stop the things that cause climate change. After the Minister's speech, we took part in workshops. There were 5 different workshops; The Science, The Media, The Policies, The Education and The Cost of Climate Change. We took part in The Cost of Climate Change workshop. We found this very interesting as we learnt more from what other students knew. Near the end of the day, Ireland's Top Experts came in to talk to us about how they deal with the Environment

where they work. We also had questions prepared for them and they answered and talked to us about it. One hour before the day ended, we all met back up and talked about our recommendations from each workshop. We met lots of new people from all over Ireland. We would like to give a huge thanks to everyone in ECO-UNESCO for making us feel welcome and making the week as fun & interesting as it was.

Lauren Dwyer & Aoife Henkes,
St. Louis High School, Rathmines.
(TY work experience & National Youth ECO-Forum participants)

Are you aged 12 to 18? Want to get involved? We have loads of opportunities for young people to gain work experience, join ECO-UNESCO Clubs, take part in youth events, the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards and much more. Best of all... it's all FREE!
So contact youth@ecounesco.ie telling us how you'd like to get involved. We'd love to hear from you.

ECO-UNESCO's National Youth ECO-Forum 2010: World Wild Web

Last year's National Youth ECO-Forum caught the public imagination as it gave young people the chance to speak directly with environmental experts and policy-makers.

This year, on November 24, young people aged 15 - 18 will explore the city's biodiversity hotspots and built heritage on an Urban Safari of Dublin, taking in practical workshops along the way. They will then take part in a Speed Networking session with experts in the fields of science, education, policy and media, and get the chance to make their voices heard on the issue of Biodiversity.

GET INVOLVED! For more information contact youth@ecounesco.ie



Hot off the press!

ECO-UNESCO publishes a variety of educational resources. Check out Energy Watchers our newest publication for teachers and leaders, packed with fun ready to go activities suitable for all ages. Also, inspired by the ever popular ECO-UNESCO ECO-Watchers trainings series, the ECO-Watchers Toolkit provides photocopiable and cut-out material making interactive hands-on games and activities easy.

Many more publications are available to purchase including some favourites: *What on*

earth is Sustainable Development?; Trees in Our World; Protecting Your Local Environment and the Four Seasons Pack.

Also available is a wide range of posters and multi-media CD-ROMs with interactive environmental material for children and young people.

ORDER YOUR RESOURCES NOW! For a full list of resources or to order material contact communications@ecounesco.ie or check out resources on our website www.ecounesco.ie