



**An Roinn Oideachais**  
Department of Education

Welcome to the seventh issue of the Department of Education's newsletter on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

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Welcome to the May 2022 issue and 7th publication of the Department of Education newsletter on **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**. We would like to thank all of those who have contributed, we hope that you enjoy it, and find inspiration, ideas and useful links and resources to help you to play your part in sustainable development.

If you would like to share what you are doing in the area of sustainable development, let us know by email at [ESD@education.gov.ie](mailto:ESD@education.gov.ie) and you could win €500 for ESD in your school/college if we publish your story.

The Department will be issuing posters of the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** to all schools in September 2022 – we hope your school will display the poster in a prominent place in the school.

## **Content**

1. **ESD to 2030 – Update**
2. **ECO-Explorers Summer Camp (4 x 1 free tickets)**
3. **LCETB School Orienteering Event on May Day**
4. **Free Summer Course for Primary Teachers**
5. **SEAI – Summer Course for Primary Teachers**
6. **National Tree Week at Coláiste Chiaráin**
7. **Outdoor Learning at South Lee Educate Together NS**
8. **Sustainability at Lucan Community College – Update**
9. **Did You Know?**
10. **WorldWise Global Schools Programme**
11. **CareersPortal: Go Green Course Options**
12. **Junk Kouture – Irish Final**
13. **Europe Day 2022**
14. **SDG Implementation – Update**
15. **Circular Economy News**
16. **CEDEFOP Report – Skills for the Green Transition**
17. **OECD – International Women’s Day 2022**
18. **YSI – Gen Z Index 2022**
19. **Atlantic Technological University – a Climate Action University**
20. **SEAI – “Finding your Climate Superpower” - Event Update**
21. **National Bike Week 14 – 22 May**
22. **NYCI Future Generations – Youth Climate Justice Project**
23. **Trinity College – TY Unit – Climate Smart**
24. **JCT – STE(A)M in Action in School**
25. **Global Action Plan – Erasmus+ Project**
26. **Research Grants for Projects in Health and Climate**
27. **Dublin Gazette – Making Dublin Greener – Primary Competition**
28. **IDEA Annual Conference 2022**
29. **Irish Schools Sustainability Network – Climate and Nature Summit**
30. **“The Student Voice on Digital and Green” Conference**

31. **Art Competition on the SDGs**
32. **Goi Peace Foundation - 2022 International Essay Competition**



### **1. ESD to 2030: Ireland's New National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

Ireland's new strategy on Educational for Sustainable Development will shortly be published.

**ESD to 2030** is the Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development developed in consultation with key stakeholders and co-sponsored by the Department of Education, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

**ESD to 2030** aims to: Align public policy with ESD; Transform learning environments; Increase educator capacity for ESD; Empower and mobilise youth and; Engage with local communities.

It builds on the successes of the first National Strategy for ESD (2014-2020) and aims to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7, as well as being a key enabler for the achievement of all other SDGs. The strategy provides a framework to steer and support the contribution that the education sector is making and will continue to work towards a sustainable future over the next 9 years. It is accompanied by a 4.5 year implementation plan 2022-2026, with an interim review planned in 2026 to evaluate progress and identify any additional required actions to 2030.

The strategy embodies a lifelong learning approach, spanning the continuum from early years to third level education and research, and extending beyond to engage with local communities, youth groups and enterprise.

Further details are available on [our website](#)

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## **2. ECO-Explorers Summer Camp**

The exciting **ECO-Explorers Summer Camp** for Children is an environmental camp with a difference, providing a safe environment for exploration and discovery of the fascinating natural treasures of Dublin City Centre. Children will explore and learn about nature, make new friends, and take home fun eco ideas.

- Go on outdoor adventures
- Discover a whole new side to trees, insects, and animals!

- Play interactive games
- Join a bug safari
- Get inventive at our Creative Recycling Arts & Crafts Zone

**Who?** Children aged 10-12 years old

**Where?** ECO-UNESCO Youth space and wildlife hotspots throughout Dublin city centre

**When?**

- Monday 11 – Friday 15 July from 10:00-15:00
- Monday 18 – Friday 22 July from 10:00-15:00
- Monday 25 – Friday 29 July from 10:00-15:00

**How much?** €130 per week with family rates available.

**Book Today!** Registration form can be accessed [here](#)

The Department is sponsoring 4 x 1 free tickets – 4 names will be drawn from the registration list.

Limerick & Clare ETB supporting *May Day for Sustainability 2022*

**LEAVE NO TRACE**



### 3. LCETB School Orienteering Event for May Day for Sustainability

On Monday 9 May, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board organised an orienteering event to celebrate the **ETBI May Day for Sustainability** with an emphasis on sustainable Development Goal number 15 - Life on Land.

In the early morning, over 500 students from post-primary schools throughout Limerick and Clare headed for Curraghchase Forest Park in Co. Limerick, a fantastic amenity which covers 313 hectares of mixed woodlands, park land and lakes which together provide a rich habitat for a diverse range of animals and plants.

Three separate orienteering courses were set out, with students competing in pairs across their allocated course, setting off over two-minute intervals throughout the day. While the emphasis was on participation and successful completion of the course, medals were awarded to the first three pairs who completed each of the three courses. Additional medals and some fun SDG prizes, provided by Education and Training Boards Ireland Take 1 Programme, were also shared with participating schools.

Conscious of living the spirit of SDG 15 – Life on Land the organisers promoted the message of leave no trace, ensuring participants minimised their impact on their environment by encouraging a ‘pack it in and pack it out’ ethos, reminding all students to leave no litter.

This event was co-ordinated by Gina O’Connor from the LCETB Education Team and supported by Joanna McInerney (Burren Outdoor Education Centre), and Keith Bickford (Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre).



#### **4. Multimedia Projects on Climate and Sustainability – Free Summer Course**

Primary teachers with an interest in ESD will be very interested in a new online summer course from PDST Technology in Education. **Multimedia Projects on Climate and Sustainability** will be available from 4 - 21 July, with another course also on offer from 2 – 18 August.

The focus of the course is on using digital technology to teach about climate action and sustainability in the classroom and is packed with practical examples of implementation in Irish schools. Drawing on high quality resources from Scoilnet's hub for ESD, it provides inspiration and ideas to bring these topics to life. The course is approved for EPV days.

A full course description and enrolment information is available at the links below. Note that enrolment opened on 10 May and 12 May for the July and August courses respectively, and will close when all places are taken.

Check place availability and self-enrol via the following links:

[July course](#)

[August course](#)

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## **5. SEAI Climate Science Champions - Teacher Summer Course**

The Teacher Summer CPD Course 'Climate Science Champions' with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Discover Primary Science and Maths (DPSM), and the European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO), will return this year and take place at Airfield Estate, Dublin 14.

The course will run from 4 - 8 July. The course will help teachers to teach children about climate change in a hands-on and practical way through inquiry-based learning. It will look at the science behind climate change and the role of space exploration in understanding the planet and its processes. Participants will learn how to teach about this important topic in a positive and solutions focused way.

The course also looks at the links between climate change and wellbeing by connecting children with the natural world and involving them in making simple positive changes in school and at home. The course has links to Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE) with integration of other curriculum areas such as numeracy and literacy.

Teachers attending this course qualify for 3 EPV days.

For more information about the summer course, see [Summer Course 22LC 07 013 - Climate Science Champions -Primary - Welcome to Blackrock Education Centre, Ireland \(blackrockec.ie\)](#)



## **6. National Tree Week in Coláiste Chiaráin**

This year's National Tree Week was quite the event in Coláiste Chiaráin with staff and students planting 2,000 native Irish trees throughout the 22-acre campus.

Planning for this ambitious project began approximately one year ago and came to fruition this year for National Tree Week.

As part of the school building project an area of the school site has been set aside to create a biodiversity park. Over the past two months the school has been fortunate with the local support that facilitated the sponsorship and installation of approximately 400 metres of a walkway throughout this area, making it safe and accessible for staff and students. This part of the project was made possible with the sponsorship and support of Ger Lynch of Tallybrook Engineering, Richard O'Donoghue TD, and Lynch's Quarries. Coupled with this local support the school has also been fortunate in working at a national level with the Irish Tree Council, Coillte, and Crann. This support provided approximately 2000 native hardwood trees which have been planted in the biodiversity park and throughout the expansive school campus. The species planted included Beech, Oak, Birch, Silver Birch, Alder, Whitethorn, Rowan, Holly, and Sycamore. This project will support teaching and learning alongside wellbeing while also contributing to the promotion

of biodiversity and offsetting the carbon footprint of the new school.

Commenting on this project, Principal Mr. Gerard O’Sullivan stated:

*“What a wonderful and eventful National Tree Week 2022 that we have just had. It was so rewarding to work with staff and students throughout the week planting our biodiversity area, which will become a tapestry of native woodland for staff and students to enjoy for decades to come. In the context of the global challenges, we face for both climate and biodiversity, I am so proud that our school is playing its part and has managed to complete this ambitious project that will create a biodiverse rich native habitat for many years to come. We are so grateful for the support of all who have made this possible. What a wonderful amenity for our school community to enjoy for many years to come.*

*It was a real treat to have Éanna Ní Lamhna, ecologist, broadcaster, and President of the Tree Council of Ireland with us to plant some trees and officially launch the project during National Tree Week.”*

**Coláiste Chiaráin win a €500 voucher from the Department of Education for sharing their story on the work they are doing in their school on ESD.**

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## **7. Outdoor Learning at South Lee Educate Together National School**

Brian Dunphy, a teacher at South Lee Educate Together National School, a

developing school in Cork City talks through the school's Outdoor Learning programme which is used for a multitude of purposes, one of which is to underpin and develop the ESD curriculum within the school:

*“When we talk about Outdoor Learning at South Lee Educate Together, what we mean is our children being given regular opportunities to experience and learn outside the traditional classroom context. What that means in practice is a daily programme of lessons grounded in the theme of native Irish animals that are conducted outside of the classroom within the CSN campus grounds.*

*There is an extensive body of educational and health research that demonstrates that learning outside benefits children's academic performance, social competencies, self-confidence and physical and mental wellbeing.*

*Our programme seeks to build on our children's innate sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world around them to deliver the Irish primary curriculum as set out by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). Subjects such as Primary Language (writing and speech), Science, Maths, Geography, Drama, Visual Arts, Physical Education are delivered in a cross-curricular, holistic (and most importantly for the children!) fun way.*

*Through the programme, we aim to develop the children's understanding of the natural world and hence create an emotional connection with nature that will remain with the children for their lives. Research shows that building positive early life experiences with nature creates adults that are invested and committed to ecological preservation and protection.*

*Most importantly, our children have told us that they love learning outside!*

*Tadhg, Senior Infants: “It makes me really, really, really, really, really, really happy!”*

*Cora, 1<sup>st</sup> Class: “I feel free when I'm outside and love learning about nature.”*

*Hugh, 1<sup>st</sup> Class: “The birds are singing and that makes me calm. And we get to roll*

*down the hill!"*

Click here to view the [video](#) which demonstrates the programme at South Lee Educate Together in action!

**South Lee Educate Together National School win a €500 voucher from the Department of Education for sharing their story about the work they are doing in their school on ESD.**



### **8. Sustainability at Lucan Community College - Update**

Lucan Community College and their work on sustainable fashion were featured in Issue 5 of the ESD Newsletter and received a €500 voucher for ESD at their school.

Teacher Gráinne McKeever shares the progress that they have since made:

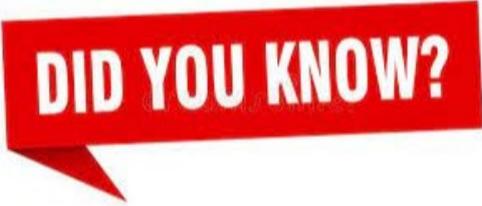
*"Thanks to the €500 gift voucher given to us by your wonderful newsletter initiative we were able to buy a heavy duty Singer sewing machine, three industrial clothes rails, get professional signs made, and buy lots of hangers. We have started up a little cottage industry in our school where by we have teamed up with the three local charity shops in Lucan to sell clothes in our school on their behalf.*

*While we hold these pop-up shops, other students across the school learn about fast fashion and sustainable shopping. It has been a great success.*

*We have now applied for a Social Entrepreneurs Ireland funding award to see if we could potentially roll this project out for TY students across Ireland.*

*It is with thanks to you for your initial support that we have been able to develop in this way.”*

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## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **9. Did You Know?**

- A typical Irish person consumes 150 litres of fresh water each day in daily activities from showering and bathing to food preparation and washing clothes.
  - A full bathtub requires about 300 litres of water, while taking a five-minute shower uses approximately 60 litres.
  - Approximately 11,500 litres of water are needed to produce 1 pound of meat but only 95 litres of water are needed to produce 1 pound of wheat.
  - Using a bucket of water to clean your car instead of the hose or car wash saves about 300L of water every time.
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## **10. WorldWide Global Schools Programme**

WWGS is the national programme for post-primary Global Citizenship Education (GCE).

WWGS is a one stop-shop for teacher training, grant funding, resources and curriculum based-guidance for post-primary schools to engage in quality Global Citizenship Education. WWGS Education Officers based regionally to support schools in their designated areas.

### **Training and Events**

Supports are offered both in-person and online. Each year WWGS offers an exciting series of interactive and participatory CPD for teachers, students and school leaders from September to April. Click [here](#) to find out more about WWGS upcoming training and events and to access recordings and further information on recent training on various themes such as Degrowth, Racial Justice and LGBTQI+.

### **Global Passport Award for Schools**

Schools can apply for the Global Passport Award. This is an EU recognised quality mark, which offers schools a framework to integrate Global Citizenship Education into their teaching and learning. It is a self-assessed and externally-audited accreditation and is open to all post-primary schools in Ireland. Click [here](#) to apply for the global passport award in 2023.

### **Grant Funding**

Each year schools can apply for a grant for the school to engage in Global Citizenship Education activities. See [here](#) for more information.

Visit the WWGS website for more information or get in touch:

Website: <https://www.worldwiseschools.ie/>

Contact: <https://www.worldwiseschools.ie/contact/>

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### **11. CareersPortal: Go 'Green' with Course Options for 2022**

There are a Wide variety of courses now available for the environmentally conscious student.

Last November's COP26 Summit has once again shone a light on the serious problems surrounding our environment and the world we live in. Global warming and climate change are two of the most pressing issues facing society and significant changes need to be made. More and more of our younger population are becoming concerned about these issues and this environmentally conscious generation are looking to take action to help enforce their values and create meaningful change.

What is important to us, our [Value System](#), is a fundamental part of who we are. Our values can help guide how we live our life and can influence a large number of things we do and don't do. For example, our mode of travel, how we heat and run our houses, what we wear, what we eat, the products we buy or don't buy and much more.

It stands to reason then, that choosing a career or course that fits in with our value system can be very important. For example, a young person who is passionate

about the environment may well have difficulty working in a career that has a large carbon footprint because it goes against their values. For the environmentally conscious students who are thinking of the next step in their educational journey, there are many options in both Further & Higher education that will allow them to uphold their values while studying a degree that matches their interests.

There are many opportunities to study a 'Green' course in sectors as diverse as [Geography & Ecology](#), [Engineering](#) or [Construction](#), [Agriculture or Forestry](#), the [Ocean and Wildlife](#). Here we take a look at a number of interesting green course options that are currently available in Further and Higher Education Institutions around the country.

Check out the CareersPortal site at <https://careersportal.ie/> and the [CourseFinder](#) to view many more courses and also the [Career Sectors](#) to learn more about the courses and careers across the 33 Career Sectors.

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The logo for 'Junk Kouture' is written in a bold, black, hand-drawn, brush-stroke style. The word 'JUNK' is on the top line and 'KOUTURE' is on the bottom line, with the letters overlapping and having a rough, textured appearance.

POWERED BY **RTE**

## **12. Junk Kouture – Irish Final**

The first live final of Junk Kouture since 2020, held on Thursday 5 May at the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, saw Ireland's up-and-coming eco-conscious creators and fashion designers showcase sixty haute-couture designs made from 100% recycled materials created and modelled by talented post-primary students.

Nine creations by young designers aged 13 -18 years from around the country were chosen by the Junk Kouture judges Louis Walsh, Roz Purcell, Soulé and Stephen McLaughlin to represent Ireland at the first ever Junk Kouture World Final in Abu Dhabi later this year. One more design will be chosen from the Dublin City finalists who didn't make it into the top nine as there is still a RTÉ Wildcard spot still up for grabs; the tenth design to represent Ireland at the World Final will then be announced live on RTÉ 2FM's Tracy Clifford Show in June.

Tune in to watch the broadcast of the Junk Kouture Powered by RTÉ Dublin City Final Highlights show on RTÉ2 and RTÉ Player on Thursday 19 May at 7pm, and then head to [rte.ie/junkkouture](http://rte.ie/junkkouture) to discover which five designs have been chosen by the Junk Kouture Powered by RTÉ judges to compete for the coveted RTÉ Wildcard place at the World Final. A public vote will open immediately after the broadcast on 19 May for the audience at home to determine their favourite.

The final 10 Irish designs will be up against 50 other designs - 10 from each of Junk Kouture's other city finals in five new territories: London, Paris, Milan, New York and Abu Dhabi. At the World Final, there will be six individual City Designer Awards for each location plus the first ever Junk Kouture World Designer of the Year! Other prizes include the Glamour Award, Wearable Art Award, Innovation Award and a Performance Award.

Junk Kouture is powered by RTÉ. The Creative Ireland Programme continues to support Junk Kouture across several areas developing its online education resources to ensure that students and educators alike can avail of educational material around Junk Kouture's three areas of focus: creativity, sustainability and entrepreneurship. Programmes driven by the support of Creative Ireland will help educators encourage young people to become micro-influencers for change through creativity and circularity.

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### **13. Europe Day 2022**

Europe Day is held each year on 9 May and celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historic 'Schuman declaration' that set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union. Europe Day is a day on which EU institutions organise various events that allow citizens to see how decisions impacting their day-to-day lives are made. It connects the local and the European, presents cultural solutions to European challenges, making our continent more inclusive, more democratic, more culturally aware, and a better place to live. Europe can and must be a Europe of peace and social and economic justice.

This year an [eZine](#) which outlined some of the activities and ideas for celebrating Europe Day was created by the Department of Education in conjunction and its associate bodies. The eZine was circulated to all primary and post primary schools and is published on the Gov.ie (see hyperlink above) website.

Further information on Europe Day 2022 can be found on the dedicated [European Union website](#).



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

### **14. DECC Update – NIP for the SDGs and National Stakeholder Forum**

**Launch of second round of consultation on the draft National Implementation**

## Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals and re-launch of the National Stakeholder Forum

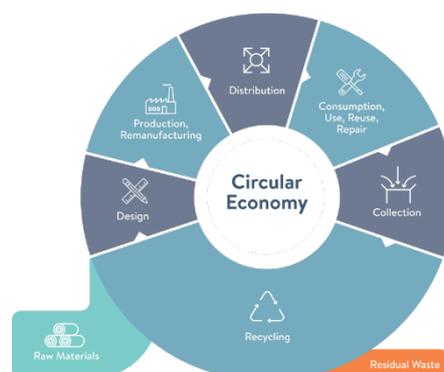
The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications will be shortly launching the second round of consultation on the draft of Ireland's second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The draft Implementation Plan aims to build on the structures and mechanisms developed as part of Ireland's [first National Implementation Plan](#) and to develop and integrate additional approaches in areas identified through review and consultation as requiring additional action.

An initial consultation process was held last summer and reached over 5,000 individuals. The feedback provided as part of the 2021 SDG consultation process was used to directly inform the priorities and actions developed as part of this new draft Implementation Plan.

A second round of consultation will be launched this month and will run for a four-week period. This will facilitate a final round of feedback on the draft Plan and form the basis for discussion at the relaunch of the SDG National Stakeholder Forum.

Details on the consultation and National Stakeholder Forum will be made available shortly and will be published on [www.Gov.ie/SDGs](http://www.Gov.ie/SDGs)



## **15. Circular Economy News**

The Irish Government has published its landmark Circular Economy Bill, which is now making its way through the Oireachtas. As it currently stands, the bill will provide a statutory basis for the government's circular economy strategy and the EPA's circular economy programme, establish a Circular Economy Fund, and introduce bans or levies on single-use cups, containers and packaging. Importantly, it will also support the introduction of targets for reused and repaired products, one of the first of its kind in the EU, as well as setting the basis for sectoral targets around consumption and the use of re-usable products and materials.

Minister Ryan opened the first National Climate Stakeholder Forum this month, focussing on accelerating our national climate action priorities in a fair and effective way. This first forum focussed on key breakout sessions including offshore renewables, retrofitting, sustainable mobility and engagement, communications, and climate literacy.

The Irish Government has set its ambitions on reducing food waste by 50% by 2030 in the country with the National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap. The DECC drafted this roadmap for public consultation which closed on Monday, 28 March, and fruitful conversation around the topic ensued. The Rediscovery Centre hosted its 'Circular Economy Conversations: Fighting Food Waste Workshop' on 15 March to help stakeholders formulate submissions for the public consultation. Participants engaged in breakout room discussions around the topic and heard from experts from the EPA, the DECC, and those from the food industry discuss the importance of food waste prevention.

Held in Croke Park at the start of March, the Irish Waste Management Association and Chartered Institute of Waste Management Conference highlighted the need for Irish resource sovereignty in light of soaring inflation and a realignment of European resource priorities. In a conference that was dominated by the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, the event highlighted the necessity of a circular economy. As Philip

Nugent stated, "Never has there been a greater need for better resource efficiency. We must accelerate the transition to a circular economy now."

A new research pilot scheme entitled 'Donate, Don't Waste' for the collection of unwanted clothes and home textiles was launched this month in Charleville, Cork. The project is being delivered by Community Resources Network Ireland (CRNI) and is funded by the EPA under the Green Enterprise programme. Charleville is one of three locations for the new scheme which will gauge the attitudes and behaviours around unwanted clothing and home textiles, share information on where, when and what to donate, and make donations easier through drop points and door-to-door collections.

#### **Events:**

- 18 May: EU LIFE Programme info days
- 25 May: Irish Climate Summit
- 28 - 29 May: Workshop - Rediscovering Wool at Common Knowledge
- SPRING: 2-Minute Beach Clean Kit
- SPRING: National Spring Clean 2022
- TBD: World Circular Economy Forum – Africa

#### **Upcoming Policies and Research:**

- Sustainable Products Initiative Closing April 5th
- Review of Waste Framework Directive
- RReuse publish their position on the next framework directive
- [The full list of EPA research funding](#)

#### **Funding & Awards:**

- [Short Story Contest](#)
- [Civic Dollars](#)
- [Irish Charity Shops Association Awards](#): Deadline 10 April

#### **Jobs:**

- FoodCloud: [Various open positions](#)

- Oxfam: [Various open positions](#)
- Irish Charity Shop Association: [Various retail positions](#)
- CRNI: [Various open positions](#)
- Irish Local Development Network: [Various open positions](#)
- Pobal: [Various open positions](#)
- East Belfast Mission: [Various open positions](#)
- Revolve: [Media Relations Officer](#)
- ReStore, Drogheda: [Donation Collection Driver/Volunteer Supervisor](#)

### Learning:

- E-Learning Course: Circular Economy in [Building Projects](#)
- E-Learning: [WasteAwar](#)
- Post-Graduate Degree Opportunities from [GMIT in construction](#)



**CEDEFOP**

European Centre for the Development  
of Vocational Training

## **16. CEDEFOP – Employment Opportunities and the Green Transition**

The transition to a green – and more digital – economy and society will soon upend the job market and create new skill needs across sectors and occupations. Europe will therefore need to invest in upskilling and reskilling its workforce.

In this context, vocational education and training (VET) will play an eminent role. Apprenticeship, being closely tied to the labour market, can swiftly adapt, alleviating short-term bottlenecks and ensuring long-term worker employability.

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) has now published the briefing note *An Ally in the Green Transition* on how vocational education training can provide the skills required to drive the green transition, related employment opportunities, and apprenticeships. See:

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/9166>.



## **17. OECD – International Women’s Day**

International Women's Day on 8 March 2022 focused on the vital link between gender and climate change.

New data increasingly show that the negative impacts of global warming and environmental degradation especially affect women and girls.

At the same time, data also shows that women and girls are more aware of environmental issues, more likely to be environmentally motivated, and represent key actors in accelerating action and bringing about real change.

Explore how women's participation in decision-making leads to better environmental outcomes and stronger policies:

### **How are women and climate change connected?**

Environmental degradation affects women more than men - but how? The OECD's Ingrid Barnsley explores how women's behaviours differ and what this means for policy.

[Listen now](#)

### **Did you know?**

Women in parliament reached 31.6% in 2021.

### **Women in Politics**

The share of women in the national lower or single houses of parliament (or equivalent) in OECD countries stood at 31.6% at the end of 2021. While it has increased from 20.1% in 2002, it falls short of equal representation in national legislatures.

How this figure has evolved over time also [differs markedly by country](#). In Japan, the share of women parliamentarians has remained low, rising only slightly between 2002 and 2021 from 7.3% to 9.9%; in Sweden, it has remained high, but also rising slightly from 45.0% to 47.0%; Mexico, on the other hand, has seen sharp increase, from 16.0% to 48.2%.

[Women in government](#) follows a similar (but not identical) pattern. In Sweden, 52.4% of government ministers in 2005 were women, compared to 57.1% in 2021; in France, they were 17.6% and 50.0%, respectively. Across the OECD as a whole, it now stands at 34.0%.

### **What's the link between tax and the gender pay gap?**

Women earn lower hourly wages than men, but how governments design tax policies can widen the pay gap further. Breaking the bias in tax can promote gender equality.

[Watch the video](#)



### **18. Young Social Innovators Gen Z Index 2022**

The second report of the YSI / Amárach Gen Z Index 2022 has just been released and focuses on young people's attitudes to climate change and the environment. The report shares findings from a recent survey of 1,090 Generation Z respondents living in Ireland and reveals the impact of climate change concerns on Gen Z's mental health.

#### **A Generation Disillusioned**

Climate change is the #1 future concern for 78% of young people and the vast

majority (88%) are not confident that we are doing enough today to tackle the issue.

Nearly 9 in 10 young people believe the government is not doing enough to address the climate crisis and 4 in 5 believe that companies are also not doing enough.

Over half of young people believe that Ireland won't hit its key climate goals within the next 20 years.

### **Ready to Respond (mostly)**

Gen Zs are already or willing to take many actions to help mitigate climate change and protect the environment. Recycling, reducing food waste, limiting the purchase of plastic wrapped food, using public transport and buying second hand clothes are the most commonly reported ways in which Gen Z are willing to act.

While Gen Z is very cognisant of the sacrifices and behaviour change required to improve our environmental outlook, there are some sacrifices that might be a step too far for them such as limiting overseas travel, eating less meat and showering less often to reduce water consumption

[View press release](#)

[Read Report](#)



### **19. Launch of the Atlantic Technological University**

Reimagining the Atlantic Technological University as a Climate Action University for the West and North-West Region.

The Atlantic Technological University (ATU) was officially launched on 1 April 2022.

The amalgamation of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Sligo and Letterkenny Institute of Technology provides a unique opportunity to reimagine the role of higher education in the context of sustainability, climate action and the circular economy both locally and globally. To signify the importance of sustainability as a key strategic aim of the new university, the ATU hosted a 'Transitioning towards a Climate Action University' launch event on 6 April 2022, where opportunities related to teaching, learning, campus operations and community engagement were explored.

ATU is committed to becoming a leader in education for sustainability, community climate action, and transdisciplinary research and innovation for the circular economy. The Galway-Mayo Centre for Sustainability was launched in September 2021, with the aim of embedding sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as core guiding principles across all university activities with a particular focus on curriculum, campus management and operations, community engagement, collaborative research, and culture as key strategic pillars. This approach aims to nurture and build on the significant grassroots activities underway across all campuses. For example, in October 2021, the ATU Sligo campus officially launched their sustainability strategy, which committed to including sustainability in all decision-making across the university. The following three exciting projects are currently underway in ATU:

- The ATU is leading the development of a National Digital Badge on 'Introducing Education for Sustainability' in collaboration with DCU, UCC and TU Dublin. This project is funded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and is due to commence in October 2022.
- The ATU is developing a cross-disciplinary Special Purpose Award in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprising four 'stackable' self-paced modules on Partnership, People, Planet and Prosperity that students can take in addition to their primary course of study. This initiative is part of the Higher Ed 4.0 project, which is funded under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI).

- ATU are collaborating with UCC, Maynooth University and multiple industry partners on the Sustainable Futures project, which is focused on climate action, environmental sustainability, and achieving net zero in industry and enterprise. The project is also funded under the Human Capital Initiative, see link <https://www.ucc.ie/en/sustainable-futures/>  
In addition, ATU has transitioned their Level 9 10-credit module on ‘Education for Sustainability’ into an online format to facilitate ongoing continuing professional development in this area for all staff.



## **20. SEAI Schools ‘Finding your Climate Superpower’ Event**

SEAI’s ‘Finding your Climate Superpower’ event at the Irish Science Teachers Association Annual Conference on 8 April focused on leading and inspiring for change in schools

Dr. Tara Shine keynote speaker highlighted the importance of education in fostering future sustainability leaders:

*“Education is crucial to promoting climate action. Learning is key to finding solutions and creating a more sustainable world. If you care about something and use whatever platform you have to show that you care, in your case as teachers of students, that is your superpower. Educators are invaluable in motivating students and can give them knowledge about the climate crisis so they can make choices and take climate action. This knowledge trickles not just to the young people in the classroom but to their homes and family networks.”*

Speakers at the event all reiterated that education is crucial to promoting climate action. Learning is key to finding solutions and creating a more sustainable world. Educators are invaluable in motivating students and can give them the knowledge

about the climate crisis so they can make choices and take climate action. This knowledge impacts not just on the young people in the classroom but also on their homes and family networks.

Margie McCarthy, Director of Research and Policy Insight at the SEAI who hosted the event said:

*“We have a range of supports available to help teachers bring climate action into the classroom in an inquiry based, immersive and curriculum aligned way. The transition to climate-neutrality will require changes across our society, with schools included within the target of 51% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 in the Governments Climate Action Plan 2021. SEAI is playing a key role in supporting schools to deliver on this. We have a range of supports for energy use in schools, and how to champion improvements there. Delivering on this national climate ambition is the responsibility of everyone in society.”*

Education is a key element of the Government Climate Action Plan 2021. Improving climate literacy will enhance our capacity to make the necessary changes we will have to make in our daily lives. It will enable us to engage with climate action at a local level and to participate at national level in the co-design of policy. This can best be achieved through the promotion of evidence-based communications and through the national education system.

SEAI’s Education and Youth Programme supports schools across Ireland. Find out more at [www.seai.ie/schools](http://www.seai.ie/schools)



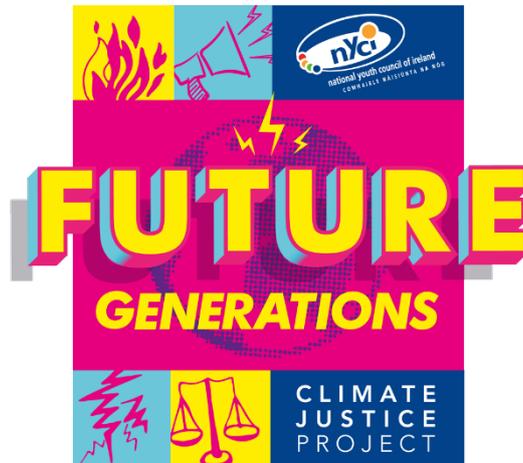
## **21. National Bike Week**

Bike Week is a celebration and promotion of the benefits of cycling. This year, Bike Week kicked off on Saturday May 14th and end on Sunday May 22nd. Whether you cycle alone or as part of a group, Bike Week has a great range of events. For details of what will be happening in your county click on your county tile on the bike week [website](#).

For information about cycle safety, please visit the [Road Safety Authority](#) website.

For more information on Bike Week, see the Green-Schools website:

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/events/list/>



## **22. NYC Future Generations - Youth Climate Justice Project**

The '[Future Generations - Youth Climate Justice Project](#)' has now published a new educational resource and launched Ireland's first ever **Climate Justice Charter**.

### **Resource:**

This publication is for young people, youth and community workers, and those who

would like to actively engage young people in policymaking platforms. The resource titled 'How to Create Change at the Local Level' and explores Meaningful Youth Participation; how young people can get involved locally through the political system in Ireland; Do-It-Ourselves activism; and more. Download a free copy [HERE](#).

### **Charter:**

We need to urgently transition to a greener, low carbon society if we are to beat climate change. Upholding climate justice principles in our response to climate change is the only way to make sure this transition leaves no one behind.

The **Climate Justice Charter** is a tool that supports youth organisations to contribute to the systemic change needed, through easy-to-follow principles and on-going support from NYCI. The NYCI are asking organisations across Ireland to sign up to the charter and embed it in an organisation-wide approach, from young people to the Board of Directors!

If your organisation would be interested in downloading the charter and becoming a signatory, visit [www.youth.ie/climatejusticecharter](http://www.youth.ie/climatejusticecharter) to learn more.

Any questions about the resource or the charter can be sent to [eimear@nyci.ie](mailto:eimear@nyci.ie)



### **23. Climate Smart - New Transition Unit for Climate Adaptation**

The Climate Smart project, run by Trinity College Dublin's department of geography,

has developed a new transition year unit to educate young people about climate adaptation in Ireland.

The unit consists of six interactive workshops which will teach pupils about:

- The science of climate change, and the policies developed to combat it
- The recent history and future of flooding in Ireland
- Sensing, monitoring, and predicting floods
- Visualising floods and flood-related damage
- Building – from grey infrastructure to nature-based solutions – to help us adapt
- How we can adapt as a society.

When they've completed the workshops, pupils will be ready to test their knowledge by playing the iAdapt Game, an interactive map-based game which can be played on computers, tablets, and even phones. The game puts you in charge of a flood-threatened Dublin in the year 2045: you must use what you've learned during the workshops to effectively plan, consult on, and implement Dublin's flood defences, striking a balance between keeping people safe, and keeping voters happy.

Each workshop is broken down into short videos which can be watched as a class or by individual pupils, followed by multiple-choice quizzes to test participants' knowledge. A full suite of accompanying materials will be available to you in order to tailor your teaching: watch the videos and use them as the basis of in-class discussion, or allow students to complete the workshops as self-directed learning while you monitor their progress on the climate smart platform.

Click here to see a teaser trailer of the gameplay:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXZtgCKDQWY>

Climate Smart and its iAdapt game are the culmination of several years of research and co-design activities by a team of researchers in Trinity College Dublin, and its expansion this year has been funded by a Science Foundation Ireland Discover grant.

Demand for this new module is expected to be high. If you are interested in testing it from September 2022, please contact [shugel@tcd.ie](mailto:shugel@tcd.ie) or [daviesa@tcd.ie](mailto:daviesa@tcd.ie)

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#### **24. JCT - STE(A)M in Action in School**

On 28 April, schools from across the country gathered in Ballinasloe to reflect on, share and celebrate the learning which took place in schools as they participated in the Junior Cycle for Teacher's initiative, **STE(A)M in Action in School**.

Through this initiative, teachers from different subject areas in each of the participating schools collaborated to support students to make connections across subjects.

Students were then supported to use this learning to take action on a societal issue which was of concern to them, thereby connecting classroom learning to the real world. Issues explored through engagement with the Junior Cycle subject specifications included biodiversity, energy production, energy usage, food supply, climate action, fast fashion and water.

These issues provided a context for teachers and students to engage with learning outcomes across a wide range of Junior Cycle subjects. These included Science, Mathematics, Home Economics, Geography, Visual Art, Applied Technology, Engineering, Technical Graphics, Business Studies, English, Physical Education and Media Studies. This resulted in the integration of Education for Sustainable development (ESD) into the Junior Cycle curriculum.

The young people showed a deep understanding of the societal issues and demonstrated that they had developed skills and values which saw them take actions aimed at a more sustainable future.

While each school sent a small representative group to the event, over 1500 students and 60 teachers across 17 schools participated in the initiative this year.

See: <https://www.jct.ie/steAm/steAm>



## **25. Global Action Plan – Launch of New Erasmus+ Project**

Global Action Plan (GAP) Ireland are pleased to announce the launch of 'Just Action: Teachers and students towards a sustainable transition', an Erasmus+ project. Just Action will build primary and post-primary teachers' capacity to use global citizenship education (GCE) to support their students in action for climate justice. Between 2022 and 2024, this project will develop educational resources, teacher CPD, and an online portal. The project will also build connections between teachers and schools in partner countries of Italy, Norway, and Spain.

Research conducted as part of the application process indicated that teachers in Ireland see the value of GCE to fostering resilient, creative student who are motivated to take action on climate justice. At the same time, teachers feel under-supported to use GCE and appropriate methodologies and are keen to increase their skills. Just Action aims to bridge this gap, adopting a design-thinking approach

to developing resources and teacher training to ensure our outputs are effective, useful, and accessible.

As part of this process, the Just Action team will consult widely with stakeholders throughout 2022 as GAP develop project outputs, and will also work closely with selected teachers to pilot the training and resources. These teachers will pilot project resources in their classrooms from September 2022, and join GAP for a pilot training session in Norway in early 2023.

If you would like to give initial input into GAP's project results, and/or would like to be considered as a pilot teacher, or if you would like more information about the project, you can get in touch on here: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#).

More information will be available on the Global Action Plan [website](#) shortly.



**An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,  
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta**  
Department of Further and Higher Education,  
Research, Innovation and Science

## **26. Research Grants for Projects in Health and Climate**

On 10 May Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, has announced 76 grants valued at €53.7 million to support frontiers research across ten Higher Education Institutions through Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

The research supported will investigate areas such as childhood ADHD, future coastal sea levels, new generation batteries, antiviral drugs to treat Covid-19 infections, safety critical software, the link between obesity and cancer and the futureproofing of crops to withstand flooding.

In line with SFI's gender strategy, the programme seeks to provide opportunities to address gender imbalance and to provide support for investigators returning to research after a period of leave. 42% of the research grants supported will be led by female researchers and 32% by emerging investigators early in their research careers

The programme is run in collaboration with Geological Survey Ireland and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) who are co-funding a number of the grants.

The full list of awards and projects supported [can be found here](#).

The SFI Frontiers for the Future programme comprise two funding streams:

- Projects: 58 high-risk, high-reward research projects will receive approx. €32.3m to facilitate highly innovative and novel approaches to research.
- Awards: 18 larger scale innovative, collaborative excellent research programmes that have the potential to deliver economic and societal impact will receive approx. €21.4m in funding.

The SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme supports the development of world class research capability and human capital in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that demonstrably support and underpin enterprise competitiveness and societal development in Ireland.

Working across ten Higher Education Institutes, 216 research positions will be funded including 93 Postdoctoral scientists, 105 PhD students and 18 Research Assistants/others across a variety of different areas.

46 industrial collaborators are engaging in the research programmes.

The research will be undertaken in the following Higher Education Institutions: RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, University College Dublin, Maynooth University, Trinity College Dublin, University of Limerick, National University of

Ireland, Galway, University College Cork, Technological University Dublin, Tyndall National Institute and Dublin City University.

For more details, see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/29e56-minister-harris-announces-537-million-in-research-grants-for-projects-on-health-and-climate/>

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# DublinGazette



## **27. Dublin Gazette - Making Dublin Greener**

Dublin Gazette's Making Dublin Greener ceremony which awarded the winners of the inaugural primary schools sustainable project competition, was held in Airfield Estate, a working house and farm in the Dundrum area, on 12 May, and was attended by a number of school principals, teachers and schoolchildren as well as various businesses and sponsors.

Making Dublin Greener was open to all primary schools in the Dublin area.

The winning schools were:

- Scoile Mhuire CBS, Marino
- St Kilian's Deutsche School, Clonskeagh.
- Taney Parish Primary School, Dundrum.

The Dublin Gazette is committed to providing a platform for local communities across the city and county and is particularly enthusiastic in giving coverage to

lesser heard voices. With the need for climate intervention growing increasingly urgent, the Gazette wants to give Dubliners the opportunity to share their sustainable solutions for our collective home, and has big ideas for the future of Making Dublin Greener, and intend for it to be an annual event for schools, colleges and communities.

For the inaugural competition, the decision was made to involve the people who will be most affected by our environmental decisions; school-aged children.

For more information see: <https://dublingazette.com/news/digital-gazette/dublin-gazette-digital-edition-march-3-2022/>



### **28. IDEA Annual Conference 2022**

The Irish Development Education Association's Annual Conference 2022, on The Future of Global Citizenship: Educating for a Changing World, will take place 21-22 June.

This will be an opportunity to explore what the future of Development Education/Global Citizenship Education could be, including the role for Development Educators in the coming years, the changes we need to make to respond to what's coming down the line, and the skills that will be required.

Panellists will speak on issues such as Development Education in the broader educational context, power relations and racism, the climate emergency, and difficult conversations, as well as a range of workshops exploring related issues on a practical level. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss the issues

raised and reflect on what they mean for them as educators.

Find more information about the conference at [www.ideaonline.ie](http://www.ideaonline.ie)

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### **29. Irish Schools Sustainability Network - Climate and Nature Summit**

This year's summit, which will take place in November 2022, is an opportunity for schools to create a space, during COP27, to have climate and nature conversations.

As the climate and ecological emergency is a fast changing landscape, the summit provides an opportunity for teachers and students to get up to speed. It is also a chance for students to discuss topics they might not learn about in school, for example, the psychology of the climate crisis and the role of the media in building a culture of climate and ecological action.

The first Climate and Nature Summit was held during COP26 in Nov 2021 with over 2500 schools participating, and over 3000 teachers in attendance. The ISSN will be working on the upcoming summit over the summer months, and would welcome anyone who would like to assist in making the summit a success. The ISSN are also working on a 5-minute sustainability initiative which will be piloted over the next academic year. It focuses on creating 5-minute videos about the climate and ecological actions we can take as individuals and as a collective.

If you would like to get involved, please email: [patrickkirwan@ardscoilnamara.ie](mailto:patrickkirwan@ardscoilnamara.ie)

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### **30. Student Conference on Digital and Green at Dublin West Education Centre**

8 June will see a momentous face-to-face and virtual conference held at Dublin West Education Centre Ireland as they present their first ever, student-powered conference titled 'The Student Voice on Digital and Green'.

The Conference is run for and by primary school students, and will give a voice to their young minds as they talk on topics such as minecraft, food waste, VR/AR and robotics, roller coasters and engineering, hydroponics and sustainability, nature-based solutions, digital, open spaces and gardens, filmmaking and green screens, art and design, wellbeing and mindfulness, and many more.

Global experts will be interviewed by the students throughout the day and invited to share 2-3 minutes of their personal insights, vision, and action in the sphere of Digital and Green, and STREAMS Education

<https://www.biomebioyou.eu/streams.html>

Register at: <https://dwec-ie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0uduiprTwrE9W-bMAr9w5La3e0VZIYsKAN> to receive a confirmation email with full details of the conference.

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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## 31. Art Competition on the SDGs

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications would like to invite young people, of all abilities, aged 18 and under, to take part in our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) art competition.

Find out more here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/21fb7-sustainable-development-goals-junior-art-competition/>



## 32. Goi Peace Foundation – 2022 International Essay Contest

This annual essay contest has been organised by the **Goi Peace Foundation** since the year 2000 in an effort to harness the energy, creativity and initiative of the world's youth in promoting a culture of peace and sustainable development. It also aims to inspire society to learn from the young minds and to think about how each of us can make a difference in the world.

The theme for this year's competition is "**My Values**". Our values determine how we think and act, and they shape the society we live in. What are the values that you hold dear? How can you best live your life in line with those values, and in doing so, what kind of society do you hope to create?

The International Essay Contest for Young People is an activity within the framework of UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030).

A first prize of \$840 (€790) will be awarded to the winning entry in this year's competition.

The web link for the 2022 International Essay Contest is: <https://www.goipeace.or.jp/en/work/essay-contest>.

The closing date for entries is 15 June at 23.59.

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## Data Protection

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the ESD newsletter. Please feel free to share and circulate it amongst your colleagues, friends and family.

You can subscribe to future editions of the Department of Education's ESD Newsletter by clicking [here](#) or by emailing [newsletters@education.gov.ie](mailto:newsletters@education.gov.ie).

Your e-mail address will be held securely by the Department and will only be used for the purpose of issuing the ESD newsletter.

If you would like to suggest ideas or make a contribution to forthcoming editions of the newsletter, please email [esd@education.ie](mailto:esd@education.ie).

Approximate dates for the publication of the quarterly ezine for the remainder of 2022 are as below; reminders for contributions are issued to subscribers a fortnight in advance:

Second week of September 2022

Second week of December 2022

