



SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Our global biodiversity is in decline. Through our work, we build awareness of the importance of the natural environment, build an understanding of our ecosystems and of the interconnectedness of people and planet, and encourage and educate and empower young people to take action.

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

ECO-UNESCO recognises the key role education plays, in all its forms (non-formal, formal, and informal), in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. We believe education plays a key role in building the knowledge and skills required for sustainability and helps people to explore values and attitudes.



CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS, AND MARINE RESOURCES

We recognise the importance of our oceans and of maintaining a healthy environment. Through our work, we build awareness of the importance of the natural environment and encourage young people to protect our oceans by taking positive actions.

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Climate change is one of our greatest challenges. Through our work, we channel the passion and energy of young people into environmental protection offering a solutions-focused approach allowing young people to explore global issues and to take action locally.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



**NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS CHAMPIONS
2019/20**





What are the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals?

In September 2015, 193 countries met in New York and signed the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda has become the guide to the world's social, economic, and environmental actions to achieve a sustainable future by 2030.

The framework consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs). Each of these goals has a number of targets associated with it (169 in total). Indicators identify the data that will be used to measure progress towards these targets and to determine if it has been achieved successfully by 2030.

The global progress is monitored by the UN. Individual countries must provide voluntary national reviews including stakeholder involvement. In Ireland, the overall responsibility for implementing the UN SDGs lies with the Department of Communications, Climate Action, and Environment (DCCAE).

Inclusion is at the core of the UN SDGs, and as a result, governments, the corporate sector, and citizens are called upon to make the SDG agenda a reality.

 www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

SDG Champions Programme

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Champions Programme is an initiative established by the SDG Unit in the Department of Communication, Climate Action, and Environment. The Minister and the Department believe that the SDG Champions Programme has the potential to achieve nationwide prominence and raise public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The purpose of the SDG Champions Programme is primarily to raise public awareness of the SDGs, and secondarily to illustrate practical ways in which organisations and individuals can contribute to achieving the SDGs, using Champion organisations' practices as examples.

Each Champion organisation is focusing primarily on a select number of SDGs each. As individual Champions will promote specific SDGs, each of the twelve campaigns will be distinct in terms of the goals they are championing.

However, all twelve campaigns will be built around the core message that the Sustainable Development Goals are for everyone in society and that everyone can make a contribution, large or small, to their success.



ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's leading environmental education and youth organisation affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres, and Associations and a key partner of UNESCO's Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. Established in 1986, ECO-UNESCO has over 30 years' experience working to empower young people to protect our environment. We channel the passion and energy of young people into positive environmental action; we educate, inspire, and empower them to act. We promote the SDGs through our range of programmes aligning our work to the goals – we encourage and support young people to carry out local environmental action projects and reward and recognise them for their work through our Young Environmentalist Awards; we build capacity and leadership skills in young people through our Youth for Sustainable Development programme, we build

environmental knowledge and skills through our Learning2Change secondary schools programme, and work to build capacity in young people for opportunities in the green economy through our green youth employment programmes. We build the capacity of those working with young people and promote health and well-being in young people through our ECO-Choices programme. ECO-UNESCO advocates for the key role of education and youth engagement in achieving sustainability.

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