



**An Roinn Oideachais**  
**Department of Education**

Welcome to the third edition of  
the Department of Education's  
newsletter on Education for  
Sustainable Development (ESD)  
where we will keep you up to date  
with the latest ESD news.

Más mian leat an nuachtlitir a léamh i nGaeilge, scrollaigh síos thar an ábhar atá i mBéarla.

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### **A new National Strategy on ESD to 2030 – Have your Say**

The Minister for Education Norma Foley TD and the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD, launched a public consultation on a National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to 2030 on 22nd April – Earth Day.

The consultation will remain open until 30 June 2021.

You will find details on how you can participate here: [Public Consultation ESD to 2030](#)

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### **Why we Need Environmental Education**

#### **Sofia Keogh – a 5th year student from Dublin**

Schools should be doing more to educate people on climate issues, what climate justice means and empowering them to make environmentally friendly decisions so that we can build a more sustainable future.

If you had asked me two years ago, if I wanted to learn more about climate justice, I would

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have honestly said no. Today, I am a Youth Climate Justice Ambassador for ECO-UNESCO.

This wasn't because I didn't have an interest in climate justice, I just didn't know what it meant. There aren't enough discussions around climate issues or actions being taken to tackle it, not because it isn't a pressing issue, but because we are not fully aware of the effects it is currently having on our planet nor do we feel we have the skills to make a difference. People feel that they are too small to make a difference, they have no idea what change they can make.

If young people were more educated on the importance of climate justice and the issues in hand, we would be one giant step closer to tackling climate change. Young people need to be more educated, particularly in schools and be made aware of the climate issues we are facing. Young people are the future and we must be equipped with the skills to challenge these issues.

In a recent survey by ECO-UNESCO, over 1,000 people aged 15-24 were asked about the main barriers in taking climate action. It was found that 58% of young people feel they need more local opportunities to get involved in climate action, 52% feel they need to gain more skills and 52% feel they need more information on climate change and taking climate action.

98% of respondents had concerns for climate change with over 77% being very concerned, it's a huge challenge for this generation. For me, eco-anxiety has become a huge part of my life, even making small changes like brushing my teeth with a bamboo toothbrush and avoiding buying water bottles from the shop has made a difference. I would rather go thirsty than buy single-use bottles from a shop, I want to feel like I've made a difference, as do many young people in Ireland. We need to give them the skills and resources to make real change.

Young people want to be more educated and want to learn the skills to make a difference. If we don't address these needs, how will we ever make a positive environmental change? Schools need to increase their education on climate change and climate justice, I think schools can definitely do more. I think we can always do more.

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## ESD in Action

### by Lecarrow Community School

In Lecarrow Community National School we are lucky to be surrounded by wonderful nature. We have fabulous views of the Lough Ree from our school, we are walking distance from Lecarrow Harbour, and are a short cycle distance from Rindúin Castle and St. John's Wood. We have a large outdoor space and children learn through the environment every day. We have been teaching about the importance of taking care of the local environment and making sure we are living as sustainably as possible. We recently went on a nature walk to the canal as a whole school and picked litter all the way and back. [. https://twitter.com/lecarrowcns/status/1377192361269268482?s=20](https://twitter.com/lecarrowcns/status/1377192361269268482?s=20)

We have started to look at sustainability in food and have sowed vegetables which we will harvest and use in healthy food lunch options in the coming months. <https://www.facebook.com/LecarrowCNS/posts/508167773927404>

The senior room has been reusing old wooden boards and has made two raised beds in the school where we plan to have a full vegetable garden and enjoy the fruits (pardon the pun) of our labour. <https://twitter.com/lecarrowcns/status/1385248147774058501?s=20>

Fostering a positive attitude to reusing items is encouraged from a young age. Our Junior Classes have brought toys and other resources to school which they no longer play with, but which have provided hours of joy in the classroom and yard. We have also recently established a partnership with Crisp Pack Project Roscommon to increase the number of crisp packets being recycled. Any bags which are unsuitable for use in their survival packs, we send for recycling through our Terracycle drop off location. <https://www.facebook.com/LecarrowCNS/posts/508167773927404>

Exploring the production of clothing not only brought about discussions of sustainable and unsustainable practices within the clothing industry, but led to discussions on the issues of human rights, a topic we also explore in relation to the Rights of the Child. <https://www.facebook.com/LecarrowCNS/posts/143007980443387>

Finally, building strong partnerships within the community, locally and globally, has led to guest speakers on topics ranging from tree planting and animal welfare, to learning about

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and showing respect towards celebrations and traditions across the globe.

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Let us know what your school or education centre are doing for sustainable development. You will be in with a chance of featuring in the next issue of the ESD Newsletter and winning €500 towards continuing your sustainable development work.

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### **WorldWide Global Schools – School Grants**

The WWGS Grant Call 2021/2022 is now open. WWGS has school grants of €600 (starter schools) and up to €1,000 (established schools) for activities related to Global Citizenship Education/ESD. Grants are also available for eligible NGO/School Networks (flyer attached).

#### **Deadline**

Apply online by May 14 for funding for 2021/2022.

#### **Available support:**

WWGS is available to support schools over the phone/email to discuss the application with them, please contact their education officers Laura, Aoife, Sinéad or Lizzy. You will find all of their contact details and the counties that they support in the grant guidelines which are [here](#) (see page 11 for counties and assigned education officer).

#### **Where do I get an application from?**

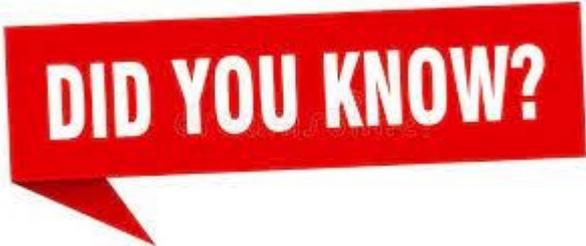
Please register [here](#) and WWGS will set up an online account for you that will have a 2021/2022 application on there.

#### **Find out more:**

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Please see WWGS [website](#).

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Sending 65 emails is roughly equivalent to driving 1km in a car. In a year, an average person in the developed world adds 136kg of CO<sub>2</sub> to their carbon footprint from the emails they send and receive. Globally, the world's email usage generates as much CO<sub>2</sub> as having an extra seven million cars on the roads.

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### **OECD article – Green at fifteen – what schools can do to support the climate**

This recent article from the OECD talks about how young people care about climate change but don't feel a sense of empowerment and agency to make a real difference. It suggests that schools can help students develop a stronger sense of agency.

<https://oecdedutoday.com/green-at-fifteen-schools-support-climate/>

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Green-Schools would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of the school community over the past year. It has extended its application deadline for schools due to renew their Green Flag until the end of June and produced guidance documents for each theme, along with a guide to holding your Green Flag visit online - these are all available on [www.greenschoolsireland.org](http://www.greenschoolsireland.org).

If you're unsure about anything or would like some advice, please get in touch with Green-Schools and a representative can talk you through the process. Green-Schools know how challenging this year has been and they have changed their criteria for the flag this year to reflect that – the organisation would love to reward your efforts with a Green Flag for a positive end to a tough year!

Green-Schools are currently conducting a survey on Climate Action and Awareness among secondary school students in Ireland. The [Climate Action Teacher Secondary School Resource](#) was developed in 2018 to assist teachers with educating and empowering the next generation to tackle climate change and transition to a low carbon future. As part of this resource pack, [a post-climate action survey](#) was carried out by 763 secondary students around Ireland and results found that 92% of students think climate change is happening and 90% of students assume that human activities are having an impact on climate change. The report also found that most students are already undertaking simple everyday actions to reduce their carbon footprint, 80% said they save energy by switching off lights and electronics after use and 68% said they avoid single use plastic bottles and take-away cups.

Following the success of the secondary school climate action resource, a primary school

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climate action resource pack has been developed and includes the '[We Want Our Park Back](#)' storybook and accompanying [Climate Action Resource for Junior Primary Students](#).

The virtual face to face Green-Schools summer course "Green-Schools and the Global Goals" is running online again this year from 5 – 9 July from 9.30am to 2.30pm daily. Following increased interest from coordinators to learn more on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the course focuses each day on a Green-Schools theme and an overarching Global Goal. The aim is to emphasise the links between their work on the Green-Schools programme and the Global Goals. The course is €50 and gives teachers 3 approved EPV days. Places are limited, please email Joanne [jscott@eeu.antaisce.org](mailto:jscott@eeu.antaisce.org) with any questions.

The online course for primary teachers "Climate Change, Science & Action" will run from 5 July to August 20 this year. Now in its third year, the course focuses on providing participants with climate change and climate science knowledge, how it links with STEM, ESD and the Green-Schools programme as well as the tools to discuss solutions and climate action with primary students. Completion of this 20-hour continuous professional development (CPD) course costs €30 and gives teachers 3 approved EPV days. Please email Gráinne at [summercourse@eeu.antaisce.org](mailto:summercourse@eeu.antaisce.org) if you have any questions. Places for both courses can be booked at <https://greenschoolsireland.org/event/summercourses2021>

Green-Schools Global Citizenship team has developed a [Global Goals Book Club](#) to promote reading to engage participation in Education for Sustainable Development through the United Nations SDGs. Each month, one Global Goal is selected and a book that will help students learn about that Goal. There are activities for each book and participants are encouraged to link that goal to the work they are doing for the Green-Schools programme. Green-Schools has also launched "[Outdoor Learning in the School Setting](#)". This booklet highlights the importance of the outdoors and fresh air in all aspects of our lives. The outdoor learning resource has all of the information needed to consider taking your class outside to learn.

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**Trócaire / Poetry Ireland - Annual Poetry Competition**

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Trócaire's annual poetry competition, in association with Poetry Ireland, uses the arts to raise awareness about the leading global justice issues of our time. The annual competition opens for entries in spring each year. The competition is open to published poets, unpublished poets, spoken word poets and students.

This year the competition examined the theme 'Standing Her Ground', inspired by the stories of extraordinary women battling to hold their families together. The winner of the post-primary senior category was Liam Hannigan, a sixth year student at Coláiste Ailigh, Letterkenny, County Donegal, with his poem "Home Comforts":

### **Home Comforts by Liam Hannigan**

Four children toss and turn in Aleppo.  
Their mother's warmth flows out in waves  
on the single shared mattress,  
trying to cocoon the littluns.  
She tries but cannot keep  
the cold and darkness away.  
The cold bites and the shivering stars  
push through the open roof.  
The wallpaper peels from the walls  
like it's trying to leave  
this place of death and destruction.  
Most people have left the city already.  
The mother looks to the stars.  
She's brought back to her living room.  
Her husband was still there,  
before the bombs began.  
Warmth would spread throughout the room  
from the big fireplace as it crackled and spat.  
The wallpaper was flat then and clung happily  
to the strong and stable walls.  
A shiver brings her back to the present.  
She must bring the strength and stability now.  
The walls are crumbling and falling in chunks.  
She starts making breakfast.

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# Irish Aid

**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs**

The Department of Foreign Affairs, through the Irish Aid programme, is providing lessons and workshops for post-primary and primary schools at its virtual Irish Aid Centre. These workshops and lessons provide students with an insight into the work of Irish Aid, the Government's overseas development programme, and how this work contributes to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The post-primary workshops and follow-on activities, available [here](#), provide students with an insight into the work of Irish Aid, with a focus on its Zambia programme. Live virtual post-primary workshops can be booked at [irishaidcentre@dfa.ie](mailto:irishaidcentre@dfa.ie).

If you are a primary school teacher, have you considered getting your students to enter the 2021 Our World Irish Aid Awards for primary schools? Further details including ideas for lessons linked to the awards and pre-recorded workshops can be found [here](#). The final award ceremony will take place in June.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is currently developing a new Global Citizenship and Development Education Strategic Plan for 2021- 2024. Public consultations were held in March and April, and written submissions have also been received. The new strategy will be finalised mid-year. Please keep an eye on the Irish Aid [website](#) for updates.

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**Irish Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (European Commission) co-fund Collaborative Research Fellowships for a Responsive and Innovative Europe (CAROLINE)**

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The CAROLINE programme provides research funding on a competitive basis for individual experienced (usually postdoctoral) researchers from any discipline to conduct original research relevant to the themes of the UN 2030 Agenda for shared economic prosperity, social development, and environmental protection. A key feature of the programme is collaboration between the academic sector, non-governmental organisations, and international organisations. The scope of organisations for inter-sectoral collaboration in terms of their mission is intentionally broad and speaks to one or more of the SDGs, and the range of research topics is equally broad. Fellows are based in an Irish higher education institution, with one-two placements in NGOs/IOs built into their research programme. These prestigious two-year fellowships develop awardees' international research profile and career development while contributing to the UN Agenda.

The Irish Research Council has funded 19 projects in 2017, 20 projects in 2018, and 10 projects in 2019 under this scheme. Examples of research topics include: online sexual harassment and exploitation of teenagers, the management of microplastics and pollution, and the history of cinema-going in 1950s Ireland. The broad nature of the UN SDGs allows for the inclusion of both STEM and AHSS researchers, which makes CAROLINE a truly multidisciplinary and inclusive platform.

CAROLINE fellows, who had the opportunity to meet and network in the context of programme events, have consistently engaged with communities and a wealth of stakeholders. For instance, Dr Andrea Ciribuco (NUI Galway) and Dr Wine Tesseur (DCU) jointly organised the online festival 'Languages for an inclusive world', whose aim was to 'create a space where NGOs, researchers, language specialists, students and activists can come together and talk about the role of languages in building tomorrow's world' (<https://sites.google.com/view/translation-as-empowerment/events>). Further information about CAROLINE-funded projects can be found at <https://research.ie/funding/caroline3/>.

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### Tipperary ETB “May Day” for Sustainability

At the end of February 2021, the principals and deputy principals in Tipperary Education and Training Board (ETB), received a presentation on embedding the Sustainable Development Goals in teaching and learning in their schools. This training workshop provided background information on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), how the Goals align to the core values of ETB schools, and demonstrated opportunities for embedding learning about the SDGs through existing learning outcomes in the Junior Cycle curriculum. The training was provided by Valerie Lewis, ETBI *Take 1 Programme* co-ordinator.

Following the Tipperary ETB workshop, the schools decided to participate in a single day event ‘*May Day for Sustainability*’, on May 11, which will see the eleven post-primary schools showcase a variety of activities, demonstrating their commitment to learning about the Sustainable Development Goals. On this day, each school will engage in actions which highlight where they are on their sustainable education journey, posting updates on their social media platforms using the hashtag **#etb\_sdgs**.

Comprehensive support materials have been provided by the *Take 1 Programme*, including teaching resources, social media posters, and ideas for activities on the day. Preparations for ‘*May Day for Sustainability*’ include the creation of an SDG notice board within the school, quizzes, subject group planning and progressing school policy.

These eleven schools will continue to be supported by the *Take 1 Programme* and facilitated to participate in further SDG engagement during *Take 1 Week* in November

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2021. *Take 1 Week* encourages teachers to Teach 1 Lesson, about 1 SDG, to 1 Class over 1 Week and is promoted as a whole school commitment to education for sustainable development.

**Further information contact:** Valerie Lewis (*Take 1 Programme Coordinator*)

[valerie.lewis@etbi.ie](mailto:valerie.lewis@etbi.ie) 086 8155671

[www.take1programme.com](http://www.take1programme.com)



### **RewriteClimate by Cool Planet Experience shines a light on climate change opportunities.**

RewriteClimate, an inspiring interactive online programme, is now available to Irish schools. It clearly explains why climate change is happening, but emphasises the solutions to climate change and the opportunities for students within the climate space. With options for 6 or 12 lessons and offline activities, it is particularly suitable for transition year students.

*Blended learning* – combining video, animation and quizzes, it is an interactive, optimistic and fun experience! The Programme includes complementary offline activities, for example: an up-cycling fashion project, or an investigative journalism assignment. Career opportunities are highlighted through inspirational contributions from young people whose work is part of the climate solution.

RewriteClimate examines the fundamentals of climate change and the many different everyday touchpoints in our lives, from energy and transport to food and fashion. Online lessons take approximately one hour, students go at their own pace and can participate on any device. The Programme qualifies for the Gaisce Award under Community Involvement and Personal Skill.

### **Reviews**

"RewriteClimate is delivered in an interactive way that is really appealing to students. The

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videos, stories and quizzes hold students' attention". Roisín Breslin, Enfield Community College

"I found the site really interactive and helpful, covering topics relating to sustainable development. A super aid for transition year, accessible to all." Simon Moore, St Andrew's College

"I think it was really brilliant and the videos and different activities made it much more engaging" TY student Colaiste Íosagáin

Visit [www.rewrite.ie](http://www.rewrite.ie) to find out more. Sign up before 4 June to avail of early bird discounts for September.

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## EU Green Trip Campaign

As part of the EU Green Trip campaign, the European Commission has developed a new toolkit that brings green topics into the classroom. It helps post-primary school teachers discuss sustainability issues with their students and encourages young Europeans to protect our planet by offering:

- classroom activities,
- background environmental facts,
- inspiring project examples and
- "green actions" that students can take in their daily lives.

The toolkit can be accessed in [English](#) or [Irish](#).

The Commission is also offering webinars on how to organise "green" classroom sessions on the basis of the toolkit. Teachers can register for these webinars [here](#).

Further information about the Green Trip, can be found on the [campaign website](#).

## 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.

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