



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Welcome to the first 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.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is key to implementation of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Department of Education published the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in 2014 and since then considerable work has been done integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) themes and principles into:

- the curriculum
- initial teacher education and continuing professional development
- the assessment and inspection processes

An 2018 interim review of the ESD Strategy details the work done to date and the work still to be done.

Click [here](#) to view the strategy and [here](#) to read the interim review



The current ESD Strategy comes to an end in 2020 and the Department plans to develop a new strategy to 2030. As part of this process, a public consultation will be held in 2021 to get your views on what should be included in a new strategy. Further information will be provided in future editions of the ESD Newsletter and on the [Department's website](#).



ESD Forum

The Department hosts an annual ESD Forum in November where stakeholders come together to share ideas and to hear news on ESD. The 2020 Forum has been deferred because of COVID-19.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the ESD Forum.

ESD Resources

scoilnet

Did you know that Scoilnet has an ESD portal where you can access a wide range of ESD resources?

Click [here](#) to access ESD Resources on Scoilnet.

Students – Get Involved

The Irish Second-Level Students' Union is the national representative body for second-level students in Ireland. They are your union. They represent you, your voice, and your work to ensure the student voice is at the fore of decision-making. They have been actively working on issues such as climate action, equality, and education since 2008 and more recently, the Leaving Certificate.

They work on a wide range of issues and always have projects open for students to engage with. To learn more about their sustainability work, visit their website issu.ie or message sustainability@issu.ie. If you're a student who's driven and passionate about any issue, and want to make a positive change for young people, get involved.

Click [here](#) to get involved.



Get Up And Goals



Since 2017, GET UP AND GOALS! has been raising awareness about the SDGs and the benefit of using the SDG framework as a way of delivering on learning outcomes in new curriculum specifications. The project works with a network of schools, providing professional development for teachers, developing and piloting curriculum linked materials, and funding inspiring student actions on SDG-related issues like the climate emergency, migration, gender and international inequalities.

Click [here](#) to access curriculum linked resources.

Click [here](#) to sign up for the GET UP AND GOALS newsletter.

ETBI Take 1 Programme



The Take 1 programme was developed by Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) from a desire to support senior leaders, teachers, and students in ETB schools and to embed the Sustainable Development Goals in teaching and learning.

The TAKE 1 programme aims to make the data about the 17 goals available and understandable. The resources for the TAKE 1 programme show how to engage with the goals in a formal setting for all Junior Cycle subjects, and then turn that engagement into action.

During TAKE 1 Week in December 2019, each teacher was asked to teach about 1 SDG to 1 Class group over the course of 1 Week.

The TAKE 1 programme has received endorsement from the Centre for Schools Leadership (CSL) as providing Leadership Learning.

To find out more about the Take 1 programme contact valerie.lewis@etbi.ie

Green Schools



Green Schools has been working with students and teachers all over Ireland for

With over 93% of schools now participating, their challenge is to continue to support teachers and young people in this climate crisis. No matter what stage you're at in your Green Schools programme, there is so much you can do to encourage positive action.

Click [here](#) to find out more about Green Schools.

All of their teacher-training seminars are currently online. They are issuing guidelines for all themes on how schools can still take climate action safely during these times as part of their Green Schools Stay at Home project.

Click [here](#) to find out more about Green Schools Stay At Home project.

They will also be launching applications for their Climate Ambassador programme and welcome all teachers and secondary school students to apply.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the Green Schools Climate Ambassador programme.

Eco-UNESCO Ireland



Enter ECO-UNESCO's [Young Environmentalist Awards](#) 2021! – It's free to enter.

The Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) is an environmental awards programme which recognises and rewards the work of young people (10-18) who carry out local environmental action projects. The YEA is a positive and engaging way for young people to learn new skills and protect the environment. ECO-UNESCO has a wide range of supports and resources available including a YEA 6-Steps Programme manual, training and workshops. Submissions are due by 26 February 2021.

Groups should register their interest in carrying out a project here

Contact susie.spratt@Ecounesco.ie for more information.

ECO-UNESCO has a range of **Environmental Workshops** which are available to schools and youth groups and include fun activities and games appropriately designed for each age group.

Available workshops include:

- Climate Action
- Fashion Focus
- Waste Warriors
- The Battle for Biodiversity
- Get Drastic about Plastic
- Exploring Ecology
- Student Council Training
- 6 Steps to Success
- 6 Week TY Sustainable Development

Find out more about ECO UNESCO Environmental workshops [here](#).

ECO-UNESCO is carrying out a **Youth Climate Justice Challenge** with 5 other youth organisations. Their goal is to engage, educate and empower young people to take action on climate justice. They will raise awareness of Climate Justice through their own Action Projects and ECO challenges and through dialogue with their community leaders and local policymakers.

Find out more about ECO UNESCO Youth Climate Justice Challenge [here](#).

Irish Aid

The Department of Foreign Affairs, through the Irish Aid programme, provides funding to primary, post-primary and third level global citizenship education projects across Ireland. Irish Aid supports a range of curriculum and teacher professional development resources.

Find out more about development education [here](#).

Find out more about the Irish Aid Centre resources and online workshops [here](#).

Worldwise Global Schools



WWGS is the national programme for Global Citizenship Education. It is a one-stop-shop for training, funding, resources and guidance for post-primary schools to engage in quality global citizenship education.

Their supports will be online until further notice. They are offering an exciting series of interactive and participatory CPD for teachers from September to April.

Click [here](#) to find out more about WWGS upcoming training for teachers.

The Global Passport Award 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.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Their TeachSDGs organisation contributes to the 2030 Agenda by connecting with global educators dedicated to responding to a call to action within education to meet the SDGs, pointing to open and accessible resources, lessons plans, and global projects directly aligned to the SDGs

Click [here](#) to find UN SDG resources.

SDG 4 – Quality Education Report

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) recently published a report on Ireland's indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education.

You can read the report [here](#).

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