



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

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

Welcome to the September 2022 issue and 8th 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 will find inspiration, ideas and useful links and resources to help you to play your part in sustainable development.

Posters for Schools

The Department will be issuing two copies of a poster of the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** to all schools in September, and a flyer with information on Ireland's new **National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development *ESD to 2030*** and how to access resources for schools.

We hope that you read the flyer, share the information with students and colleagues, and parents alike, and that you will display both the posters and flyer in a prominent place in

your school.

If you require additional copies of either the poster or flyer, please email ESD@education.gov.ie.

ESD in Cavan and Carlow – Calling all Educational Institutions!

Do you attend or work for or collaborate with an educational establishment or institution in **County Cavan or Carlow** that is taking action for sustainable development? Would you like to win funding for ESD work for your institution/ project?

If you would like to share what you are doing in the area of sustainable development, in the ESD Newsletter get in touch at ESD@education.gov.ie, and you will receive €500 if we publish your piece!

Contents

1. **ESD to 2030 – strategy update**
2. **ESD to 2030**
 - DoE Funding Call
 - Research funding
 - Forum 2022
3. **SDGs - update**
 - National SDG Week 20 – 26 September
 - SDG National Implementation Plan
 - UN SDG Report 2022
 - Art Competition
4. **MyEU50 - competition for schools and third level**
5. **ISSU – introduction to the Sustainability Officer**
6. **Take 1 – continuation of programme**
7. **ESD at Scoil Naomh Bríd, Donegal**
8. **ESD at St. Brendan’s Community College, Offaly**
9. **European Year of Youth 2022 – opportunities**
10. **ECO-UNESCO – Summer Camp update -
Young Environmentalist Awards 2023**
11. **Muinin Catalyst Sustainable STEAM - future-ready teaching**

and learning for resilience

- 12. Did You Know?**
 - 13. Updates at the UN**
 - High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs 2022**
 - Addressing conspiracy theories - what should teachers know?**
 - 14. ESD in Early Years - update**
 - 15. JCT – STE(A)M at Junior Cycle**
 - 16. Scoilnet – resource-sharing portal**
 - 17. CSO – Report on SDG 13 – Climate Action**
 - 18. Green-Schools and Global Citizenship Education**
 - 19. EPA report on 2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
 - 20. Ireland’s Nominee for the UNECE ESD Steering Group Youth Platform**
 - 21. Climate and Nature Summit – Primary and Post-Primary Schools**
 - 22. Climate Education Summer University**
 - 23. Irish Aid - European Congress on Global Education**
 - 24. The World Heritage Education Programme -
International Storyboard Competition 2022**
 - 25. Wool in Schools – new programme**
 - 26. New Research – CBAs to integrate ESD and Outdoor Learning**
 - 27. SEAI – Tender Notice – School Energy Workshops**
 - 28. Picker Pals – programme for schools**
 - 29. Dublin Climate Action Week 12 – 17 Sept.**
 - 30. International Day of Awareness for Food Loss and Food Waste – 29 Sept.**
 - 31. Making Dublin Greener - Competition for Post-Primary Schools**
-



1. ESD to 2030 - Strategy Update

Our second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development – *ESD to 2030*, has been published, and is available at: [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Ireland \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

Under this strategy, we will strive to:

- Align policy
- Transform Learning Environments
- Increase Educator Capacity
- Empower and mobilise Young People
- Facilitate Local level Action

The Implementation of *ESD to 2030* will be co-sponsored by the three Government Departments with a remit for Education, from Early Years to Schools to Further and Higher Education.

We would like to thank all of our ESD stakeholders who made submissions, responded to surveys as part of the public consultation process, attended the ESD Forums, and contributed to and informed the development of *ESD to 2030*.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



2. ESD to 2030

Department of Education - Call for Funding

The Department of Education is now inviting applications for funding for projects that will support the implementation of *ESD to 2030* in primary and post-primary schools.

Further details and the application form are available here: [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Ireland \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

The closing date for receipt of applications is midnight on Friday 14 October 2022.

ESD to 2030 - Research Funding - Teaching and Learning Enhancement Funding in Higher Education

On 30 June, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD announced a €6.4m funding allocation to drive teaching and learning innovation and enhancement across the higher education sector.

SATLE – the Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement Funding in Higher Education – is administered by the [National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education](http://www.nfeah.ie) in partnership with the [Higher Education Authority](http://www.heai.ie).

Announcing the funding, Minister Harris said: “I am delighted to announce this funding allocation in support of enhanced teaching and learning, in particular as this is an immediate response to *ESD to 2030*, the Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, which I launched earlier this week. The funding is targeted to support a number of innovations under the five pillars of the new strategy to promote and support the embedding of ESD and inclusive and sustainable principles and practices in our higher education system.”

The funding will focus on innovations in Education for Sustainable Development, digital transformation and academic integrity. It will also embed opportunities for collaboration and peer learning on ESD, with a particular focus on transformative pedagogies,

interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches. It also supports the development of Open Courses (see <https://opencourses.ie>) on ESD/SDGs for the professional development of educators in higher education.

Institutions will showcase key insights/resources/good practice and impact of their initiatives through national conferences and events and outputs will be publicly accessible through the [National Resource Hub](#).

More information on this can be found at <https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/>

ESD to 2030 – 2022 Forum – Save the Date

The annual **National Forum on Education for Sustainable Development** will take place in Dublin Castle on 2 December 2022. This will be Ireland's seventh National Forum on ESD, and will highlight the launch of and focus on the areas outlined in ESD to 2030.

Further details will soon be available at: www.gov.ie/esd

You can read about past fora at: [gov.ie - Education for Sustainable Development \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Education for Sustainable Development (www.gov.ie))



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3. SDGs – Update

Ireland's First SDG Week 20th – 26th September

Ireland's first **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week** will take place this year from 20 – 26 September, and will form part of the wider **European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW)**.

The SDGs belong to everyone and SDG week is open to all; individuals, groups, schools and colleges, businesses, and institutions.

To take part, you can organise an event – however big or small – or highlight an activity or project that promotes sustainable development, and join the annual week of action for the SDGs.

Share your idea on the ESDW website: www.esdw.eu

SDG National Implementation Plan

The **Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan** is due to be published shortly. See <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7cde9f-the-sustainable-development-goals-national-implementation-plan-2018/>

The National Implementation Plan has been informed by a detailed consultation process and stakeholder engagement. Our ESD to 2030 strategy feeds into the SDG National Implementation Plan and acknowledges ESD as a key enabler for achievement of the plan. Implementation of the National Implementation Plan is overseen by an inter-departmental Senior Officials Group and Working Group, under the lead of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

The annual report reviews progress of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. Using the latest available data and estimates, **The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022** provides the global community with a reality check on the devastating impacts of multiple crises affecting people's lives and livelihoods. It details the reversal of years of progress in the eradication of poverty and hunger, improvements in health and education, the provision of basic services, and much more. The report also highlights areas that need urgent actions in order to rescue the SDGs, and deliver meaningful

progress for people and the planet by 2030. The report is prepared by UN DESA in collaboration with more than 50 international and regional organisations. The report is available in *English, French & Spanish, Chinese and Russian*: See:

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>

SDGs – Junior Art Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the [Sustainable Development Goals Junior Art Competition](#) who have now all been contacted. The competition was held to design the cover of Ireland's new National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals. A selection of the art submitted will be included in the new National Implementation Plan.

Overall winners of the age categories included:

Age 8 – 11 Noah Gallaher

Age 12 – 15 Kristine O' Riordan

Age 16 – 18 Shelagh-Jessica Gilbourne



4. MyEU50 – Competition for Schools

MyEU50: The Ireland EU50 Youth Competition is now open!

My European Union, My Ireland, My EU50!

To commemorate 50 years of EU membership in Ireland, the Government of Ireland in partnership with European Movement Ireland want to celebrate with young people across the nation, to see their creativity and new ideas about Ireland and Europe. 'MyEU50: The Ireland EU50 Youth Competition' will run throughout the 2022/2023 academic term, over all three levels of education in Ireland; primary, post-primary and third level. For primary and post-primary level, we have €2,000 up for grabs for the winning entry per level! So join us and let's get creative about Ireland and Europe!

Closing Date for receipt of entries is 28th October 2022.

Find out more and register your interest now to receive resources - <https://www.europeanmovement.ie/myeu50/>



5. ISSU – Introduction to the Sustainability Officer

“My name is Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin and I am the Sustainability Officer of the Irish Second-Level Students’ Union (ISSU) for the 2022/23 Coiste Gnó term.

Just a bit of background on me, I am 17 years old and from County Monaghan but I’m now living in Dublin. I am a Youth Activist working predominantly in the areas of sustainability and climate justice. I was recently elected as the Sustainability Officer and I will be in this position until July 2023!

My main focus this year regarding sustainability in our union, is the issue of transport. I believe that there is so many small changes that we can make together that will have a massive output for communities, young people and students alike. At the same time, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) will also be a priority of mine over the next year. I sit on the Department of Education Advisory Committee on Education for Sustainable Development, and I will mobilise both rural and urban students to help me work on projects surrounding this vital topic. Rural students in particular, one of which I am, are my driving force for change, and ensuring that sustainability is accessible to us is my largest priority going forward not only in my work as an ISSU officer, but also as Youth Activist!”

If you would like to contact Jamie regarding anything to do with sustainability issues, please do so at sustainability@issu.ie



6. Take 1 – Continuation of Programme

We are delighted to announce that the *Take 1 Programme* will continue to grow and will extend for another year from 2022/23, housed in its new home at Tipperary Education and Training Board and supported by the Department of Education.

The last number of years have seen the *Take 1 Programme* go from strength to strength with Principals and Deputy Principals from 16 ETBs participating in training during the early part of 2022. Schools continued to showcase and engage in sharing their Education for Sustainable Development activities and May Day for Sustainability 2022, which took place on May 10th once again trended on Twitter using the hashtags **#etb_sdgs** and **#etbmday2022**

Plans for the coming academic year include continuing to engage with the Principals and Deputy Principals in the ETB sector and supporting the showcase events – Take 1 Week 2022 (November 21st – 25th) and May Day for Sustainability 2023 (May 9th). Programme coordinator Valerie Lewis also plans to commence a pilot programme of training for post primary schools outside of the ETB schools, as well as developing an introductory programme of training for Boards of Management and Parents Councils.

Keep up to date/follow on twitter @Take1_Programme

Contact: Valerie Lewis vlewis@tipperaryetb.ie



7. ESD at Scoil Naomh Bríd in Donegal

“Here at Scoil Naomh Bríd in Muff, Co. Donegal we have long been devoted to inculcating a love of sustainability in our pupils. We have been on the Green School journey since 2003, and are currently on our 6th Green Flag application.

In 2020, we won the Friends of the Earth Solar Schools competition, and planning permission is currently being sought for the installation of 6kW of solar panels on our school roof. Each class in the school completed amazing different projects on wind energy. COVID-19 scuppered our plans for a science fair in our community hall, so instead we had to move our science show online and share all our work on our school Facebook page. We are eagerly awaiting the installation of our solar panels and cannot wait to measure the saving we make in electricity.

We have been participating in the SuperValu Save the Bees campaign, and have filled our poster and enjoyed learning all about the bees, and about different ways to help support them in our school yard. In order to increase biodiversity in our grounds, we are in year one of our plan which involves the upcycling of two Belfast sinks into ponds - introducing a home for water species into our garden for the first time.

We have bats and birds living on our school ground and are installing extra bird feeding stations and hope to make a home for bats outside too. We have several native Irish tree species planted onsite, and plan to increase that in the coming years.

We plan to reinstate our gorgeous willow dome, and plant a willow tunnel to accompany it. We know that willow is a top source of food for small birds and we want to encourage them to visit our grounds, at the minute we have very large jackdaws who come for any crumbs in our yard, and our bird surveys showed little presence of small birds. It is in our plan to increase this.

We have had a polytunnel in operation since 2016, where all 200 of our children get to plant their own seed or seedling, watch it grow and then harvest their plants. It is so exciting and something we are really proud of.

Our Green Schools Committee and Student Council are very aware of the UN SDGs and have worked on:

1. No Poverty: where we participate in the Shoebox Campaign, Goal Jersey Day, Pieta House fundraising and this year, fundraising for Ukraine.

3. Good Health: We are an active school, having won Donegal Sports School of the Year and Donegal Sports Teacher of the Year in 2019. This year, one of our teachers also won Ulster GAA Coach of the Year – we are so proud. Active Schools Week is one of our favourite weeks of the year. The new Cross-Border Greenway which goes from our village into Derry City and beyond was opened by us today! 6th class cycled their bikes along the path and every other child in the school walked along the beautiful tree-lined lane – a nature walk, and health promotion all at the same time.

4. Quality Education goes without saying, we are very committed to positive learning experiences and outcomes for our children and adults in our schools

6. Clean Water & Sanitation: Our Student Council have begun lobbying our local County Council for the installation of a water fountain in our village. Watch this space.

7. Renewable Energy: Our Solar Panel project will bring renewable energy into our school and we are so excited. One of our teachers has an electric car which is fun to see in our

carpark.

12. Responsible Consumption: Our Green Schools team monitor our waste production and make very good efforts to help reduce it. Our children use reusable water bottles and take water from home, which has reduced plastic waste a lot. We encourage our children to be fair and aware.

13. Climate Action: Our Green Schools team are always working on climate action and awareness.

14. Life Below Water: Just today, our 5th class participated in a project on the sea with a local Heritage in Schools facilitator. They took a trip to the seaside today to identify different types of seaweed.

15. Life on Land: We are most proud of our local forest 'Lis na Gra' near our school and plan to work with our local Biodiversity group to plant wildflowers along our new greenway
We believe that moving forward sustainably is the only way”.

A very well done to all at Scoil Naomh Bríd – a €500 one for all voucher is on its way to you to support you in continuing your excellent work on ESD!



8. ESD at St. Brendan's Community College in Offaly

Killaun Bog is just to the east of Birr on the Kinnitty Road. Thirty years ago, St Brendan's Community School acquired a corner of the bog and a walkway was installed. For three decades this has provided access for numerous visitors, students and researchers.

In 2020, the school identified that this walkway needed to be replaced, and funding from the Heritage Council Community has assisted in the creation of a super new boardwalk from Irish Recycled Products in Birr Town. To compliment this, John Feehan has brought together a wonderful publication ('When the Nightjar Returns') about the evolution of this bog, how it has been used over the centuries and what it might become in the future. John Feehan has been involved with Killaun from the outset and is assisting in creating an educational program which will be delivered to Transition Year students in September. This program aims to encourage students to engage with education for sustainable development, as part of a lifelong learning process.

This program will be delivered through studying the bio-diversity and eco-system of the Killaun Bog Reserve and through structured classroom-based education with a view to global sustainability. This developed module will include partnership with local primary schools and education boards employing creative and active teaching methodologies encouraging peer tutoring amongst students.

A very well done to all at St. Brendan's College – a €500 one for all voucher is on its way to you to support you in continuing your excellent work on ESD!



9. European Year of Youth 2022 – Opportunities

Aim of the Year

The **European Year of Youth** is putting the spotlight on young people, bringing many exciting opportunities for young people and those who work with them across a variety of sectors.

The Year pursues the following four objectives:

- Renewing the positive perspectives for young people, with a particular focus on the negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic had on them, while highlighting how the

green and digital transitions and other Union policies offer opportunities for young people and for the society at large;

- Supporting young people, including through youth work, especially young people with fewer opportunities, from disadvantaged and diverse backgrounds or belonging to vulnerable and marginalised groups, to acquire relevant knowledge and competences and thus become active and engaged citizens, inspired by a European sense of belonging;
- Supporting young people to acquire a better understanding of, and actively promoting the various opportunities available to them, be it from the EU, national, regional or local level, to support their personal, social, economic and professional development;
- Mainstreaming youth policy across all relevant Union policy fields in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019 –2027 to encourage that a youth perspective is brought into policy-making at all levels

Opportunities

A range of European Year of Youth activities and initiatives will be organised at national, local and European level throughout the year. Young people and those who work with young people across all settings are encouraged to get involved by organising or participating in activities and promoting the various opportunities available. Details of events happening in Ireland can be found on the [EU Youth Portal](#) as well as on [Léargas website](#), Ireland's National Coordinator for the year.

European Year of Youth Micro Grant Scheme

To celebrate European Year of Youth 2022, Léargas have opened the European Year of Youth Micro Grants Scheme to fund activities and events that support, celebrate, engage and listen to young people and that promote youth opportunities at a local, national and European level, in line with the objectives of the European Year of Youth.

Who can apply?

A youth organisation, school, club or other organised group or entity will need to be the named applicant for a grant. We welcome ideas from informal groups of young people or individuals working with young people; however, the financial responsibility and reporting obligation must remain within an organised group or entity.

What can be funded?

Any activity taking place within the Republic of Ireland before 31 December 2022 that support young people's engagement with any of the priorities listed below. This could be a conference, consultation, workshop, a music event, an art exhibition, a photo competition, a mini festival, thematic meetings, a combination of events and online campaigns, information session, and so on.

- Supporting young people from Ukraine. Projects that look at aiding integration. Projects or events that examine topics with young people such as democracy, solidarity or preventing disinformation.
- Supporting young people, especially young people with fewer opportunities, to acquire a better understanding of opportunities available to them
- Actively promoting the various opportunities available to young people at local, regional and European level
- Supporting young people's personal, social, economic and professional development including through Youth Work
- Celebrating young people and renewing the positive perspectives for young people, with a particular focus on the negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic had on them
- Highlighting how the green and digital transitions and other Union policies offer opportunities for young people and for society at large
- Ensuring a youth perspective is brought into policy-making at all levels.
-

How much funding is available to applicants?

The grant you receive depends on the scale of your idea. You will indicate in your application the estimated cost of your project. There are three bands:

1. Small: €500-€1,500.
2. Medium: €1,501-€3,000
3. Large: €3,001-€5,000

Deadlines for applications

- 15 September 2022

- 15 October 2022

Visit the [Léargas website](#) for more information on how to apply.



10. ECO UNESCO – Summer Camp update - Young Environmentalist Awards 2023

ECO-UNESCO Summer Camps

During the summer, ECO-UNESCO hosted a number of summer camps for children and teenagers. The ECO-Explorers (10-12) and Green Teen (13-16) camps were a great success with young people coming together to learn about the environment and the natural world around us through fun, interactive, inclusive, and engaging activities.

They visited locations around Dublin, such as St. Stephen's Green, The National Botanic Gardens, Howth and Dalkey Hill which they learnt about the environment in nature. We were delighted the Department of Education supported the camps.

Young Environmentalist Awards

ECO-UNESCO is delighted to call on young people between the ages of 10 and 18 to take part in the **Young Environmentalist Awards 2023**. This is our all-Ireland environmental awards programme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment. The YEA programme is a fun and exciting way

to empower young people to work together to build awareness of environmental issues in the community and promote local actions and lifestyle changes to the environment.

The YEA is open to any group of young people in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland from 10-18 years of age divided into the following categories: Super Junior Group: 10-12 years (non-category specific), Junior Group: 12-14 years, & Senior Group: 15-18 years. Young people are encouraged to enter their own group. A group can range 2-25 individuals.

Check out [our website](#) for more info regarding categories and registration or email [yea@ecounesco.ie/](mailto:yea@ecounesco.ie) info@ecounesco.ie for further support.

Youth Climate Advocate Programme

The Youth Climate Advocate programme is a fantastic opportunity for 12-18 year olds, to become inspirational leaders and advocates in the areas of Climate Justice and Climate Action. Each participant will be provided with amazing opportunities to practice new skills and grow as a leader, in a safe and supportive environment. We are looking for young people to sign up to become Youth Climate Advocates.

Contact us on info@ecounesco.ie

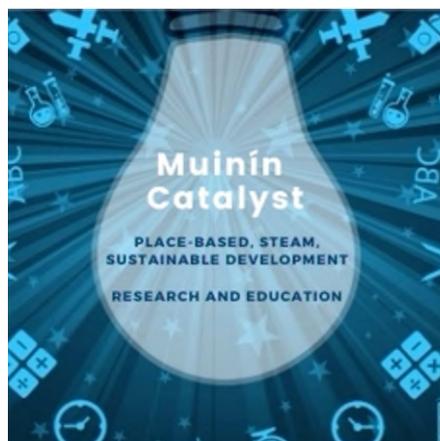
More info: <https://ecounesco.ie/youth-climate-justice/youth-climate-justice/>

Environmental Workshops and Transition Year Module

Our environmental workshops are available to schools and youth groups and include fun activities and games appropriately designed for each age group. Available workshops: 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 module

More info: <https://ecounesco.ie/10-18-youth-programmes/environmental-workshops/>

Book a workshop today! www.bookings@ecounesco.ie for more information visit www.ecounesco.ie



11. Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM - future-ready teaching and learning for resilience

Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM (MCSS) is 'tooling up education for the 21st Century'!

MCSS is a cross-curricular programme with a range of Transition Year units that blend the skills and competencies from the arts into the STEM subjects, with a focus on sustainable action. Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM emerged out of 3 years' research through [SMARTlab](#), the [Inclusive Design Centre of Ireland, UCD](#) and [Future Focus21c](#), and was selected by the [Royal Irish Academy Climate Change and Environmental Sciences committee](#) for best practice in knowledge co-production for a sustainable society - [Better](#)

[Together report](#)

The Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM project will support teachers through induction, timetable and planning consultation, CPD and online support clinics. MCSS uses project and inquiry-based learning to explore key challenges, with scaffolded resources that develop 21st Century Skills and competencies, as well as developing additional subject expertise to fully consider and implement solution-focussed actions.

MCSS was developed by a multidisciplinary team of educators, artists, scientists, engineers and close to 1000 learners and their teachers. The resources included in the programmes have been tested, evaluated, and produced as a result of this collaboration with young people and educators in schools.

The units use creative strategies and tactics grounded in the local place to provide deep learning through tangible, practical evidence-based activities and are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals. By developing and harnessing learners' and educators' creativity for innovation and transferable innovative thinking, the programmes support 'tooling up for the 21st Century'.

Developed to build upon the skills from the Junior Cycle Statements of Learning, while bridging Senior Cycle subjects, teachers have full access to lesson plans, blended learning resources and student workbook activities.

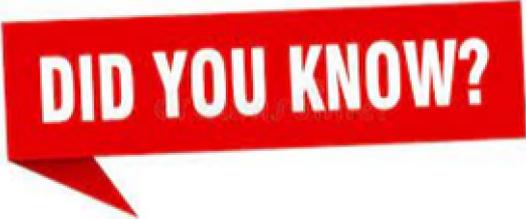
There are six units currently available for download for teachers and use with their learners. For more information, see [here](#).

How do I get involved?

The Discover Programme award enables us to roll out Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM to schools through a supported two-year programme. If you want to register for the 2022/23 academic year or find out more information please contact Rebecca White by email at info@futurefocus21c.com

This project is co-funded by the Department and the SFI under the Discovery Programme (€300k)

To find out more see: [SFI Discover projects to help public understanding of STEM | UCD](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

12. Did You know?

- Ireland produces 1 million tonnes of food waste, but collects less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of it. [See Read Cré's research](#) on the scale of the problem.
- Over 18 million appliances were collected for recycling by WEEE in 2021.
- In Ireland, over one million tonnes of food is wasted annually. This represents a carbon footprint of as high as 3.6 Mt CO₂eq (carbon equivalent)*

* See newsletter article below on **International Day of Awareness for Food Loss and Food Waste**.



13. United Nations - updates

High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022

The meeting of the UN HLPF in 2022 was held from Tuesday, 5 July to Thursday, 7 July, and from Monday, 11 July, to Friday, 15 July 2022, under the auspices of the [Economic and Social Council](#). This included a three-day ministerial segment of the forum from Wednesday, 13 July, to Friday, 15 July 2022. The [high-level segment of the Council](#) concluded with a final day on Monday, 18 July 2022. The theme for the 2022 HLPF is *“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*.

The HLPF also reviewed in-depth Sustainable Development Goals 4 on Quality Education, 5 on Gender Equality, 14 on Life Below Water, 15 on Life on Land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. It took into account the different impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all Sustainable Development Goals and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.

An Irish delegation comprising of governmental and non-governmental representatives attended the HLPF.

Minister of State Ossian Smyth attended the Ministerial segment, in addition to the ECOSOC Ministerial day on Monday 18 July and the General Assembly High Level Meeting "A Moment for Nature" on Tuesday 19 July 2022.

Ireland's [National Statement 2022](#) was delivered as a video statement by Minister Ryan.

To find out more see: <https://hlpf.un.org/2022>

SDG Report 2022

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>

UNESCO - Addressing conspiracy theories: what should teachers know?

This report is an introduction for educators, working in and outside of formal schooling, on how to identify, prevent and address conspiracy theories. It seeks to provide educators with key definitions and essential knowledge to grasp the complexity of the phenomenon and alert learners about the key characteristics and harmful effects of conspiracy theories for a first, immediate response.

See: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381958>



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

14. ESD in Early Years

Some recent updates on ESD in the Early Years sector are as follows:

- The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) is currently working on the design of three National Development Plan schemes having secured €70m in the NDP allocation. Investment under the NDP will consist of three pillars: Modernisation, New Capacity and First 5 / Innovation Initiatives. Investment under the NDP will include for improvements to premises in energy efficiency and sustainability.

- A request for tender has been issued for the provision of a communications strategy, website and e-learning modules in order to incorporate sustainability into resources to support the Universal Design Guidelines for Early Learning and Care Settings.
- A public consultation has recently concluded on regulatory requirements in relation to outdoor services and outdoor spaces in early learning and care.
- The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) are currently in the process of updating Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework, which will further embed ESD.



15. JCT - STE(A)M in Junior Cycle

The vision for STE(A)M in Junior Cycle is to provide Junior Cycle teachers with rich STE(A)M professional learning experiences in keeping with national and international best standards, which will allow for interdisciplinary responses to societal challenges in subject-specific and cross-curricular contexts.

As part of the STE(A)M in Junior Cycle initiative we work with a variety of partners to develop elective workshops which make up our **STE(A)M in Junior Cycle Online Series**. Through collaboration with our partners, we provide opportunities for teachers to engage with professional learning experiences in areas including biodiversity, energy, climate, sustainability, technology, research, and ethics.

In 2021/22 the online series offered the following workshops:

- Artificial Intelligence: Trading your Data with ADAPT
- The Value of Nature with BIAZA
- Climate Resilience in a Risky World with WorldWide Global Schools
- Engineering for a Sustainable Future with the Rediscovery Centre
- iCRAG and GSI: Going Green with Geothermal Energy
- The Superpower of Slime with CÚRAM
- “Tech-ing” in the Future: The Impact of Rapid Technological Advancement with Confirm
- Insulating our Futures with SEAI
- “Climate Futures: Can STE(A)M Thinking Save Us?” with Amber
- Open Research: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of Open Sharing Research Outputs with AMGEN.

Resources and further information are available on the JCT website:

https://jct.ie/steAm/cpd_workshops_steAm_2021_2022

In 2021/22 the initiative expanded to include a **STE(A)M in Action in Schools** pilot project in which 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 which were explored

included biodiversity, energy production, energy usage, food supply, climate action, fast fashion, and water.

To find out more about STE(A)M in Action in Schools:

[https://jct.ie/steAm/ste\(a\)m_in_action](https://jct.ie/steAm/ste(a)m_in_action)

Through the STE(A)M initiative we are supporting two of the ESD Priority Action Areas, Transforming Learning Environments & Building Capacities in Educators. Both the online series and the schools project will be returning for 2022/23.

To find out more: <https://jct.ie/steAm/steAm>



16. Scoilnet - extension of collaboration on resource-sharing

The Water Forum is the latest organisation to collaborate with **Scoilnet** in the sharing of resources tagged to ESD. The Forum, which is concerned with the creation of societal and technical policy around water quality, has been using a Scoilnet Account to enable the sharing of their resources through the Scoilnet portal.

There are almost 500 teaching and learning resources on Scoilnet tagged to elements of the curriculum that support ESD. While most are shared by registered teachers - who can automatically get a Scoilnet Account - the portal also allows for formal collaboration with organisations involved in the ESD space. Over the past few years the following organisations have shared their ESD-related resources through a Scoilnet Account: PDST; Trócaire; Plan International; Wind Energy Ireland; Irish Water; Global Citizenship School; Development Education.ie; Self Help Africa.

If your organisation is interested in formally sharing resources on Scoilnet, please contact the portal <https://www.scoilnet.ie/contact-us/>



17. CSO report on SDG 13 – Climate Action

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has published its report on Ireland's UN SDGs – Goal 13: Climate Action for 2021.

This report is the thirteenth in a series of CSO publications which monitor how Ireland is progressing towards meeting its targets under the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

View the report here: [Ireland's UN SDGs - Goal 13 Climate Action 2021 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)





18. Green-Schools and Global Citizenship Education

The Green-Schools programmes' international linking project began in late 2020 when Green-Schools joined forces with our colleagues and friends in [Eco-Schools Kenya](#) and [Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education](#) . The aim was to link students directly with each other across the globe in order to examine the global dimension of our work in Green-Schools. Green-Schools linked with friends in Kenya initially and co-created five workshops on five Global Goals: Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Life Below Water, and Goal 15: Life on Land. Each school in Ireland and Kenya which participated in the project was required to take action on their assigned global goal, creating an environment of interconnected learning, and a greater understanding of the things the students have in common and things that may be different.

The school year 2021/22 has seen an expansion of the project and a new name the "Global Classrooms" project. Two additional countries, South Africa and the U.A.E participated. The Global Classrooms project included a launch event in November 2021, delivery of global goals workshops to 27 schools in Ireland and 1 school in Dubai delivered by Green-Schools staff and workshops delivered in all other countries by Eco-Schools Kenya ([KOEE](#)) and Eco-Schools South Africa ([WESSA](#)) .

A weeklong learning festival about the global goals (SDGs) was held in early May 2022, which included one day of communication and exchange of information between the students, and culminated in a final event of sharing their learnings at the end of June 2022.

This project really brings the global dimension of the Green-Schools programme alive! Students have the opportunity to learn and share knowledge, skills and their innovative ideas for change with students in Kenya, South Africa and U.A.E on topics such as gender

equality, climate change, global biodiversity challenges, global water shortages, and much more. It brings the reality of climate change to life but in a rewarding and challenging way for the students. They got the opportunity to use design thinking skills (maker education) to reimagine and design a better future for all and share their results and learning with each other.

To find out in what other ways we deliver ESD and GCE to the schools around Ireland you can watch [this short video](#) to get an overview, and then, if you think you would like to get involved and assist with this work, please watch [this video](#) on how you might be able to support it.

Green-Schools Ireland will be running the Global Classrooms project again this year and teachers can express interest in participation [here](#)



19. EPA Report on 2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Ireland's latest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 1990-2021 provisional figures based on the SEAI's interim energy balance provided in June 2022, have now been published

In 2021, Ireland's provisional GHG emissions are estimated to be 61.53 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq), which is 4.7% higher (or 2.76 Mt CO₂ eq) than emissions in 2020 (58.77 Mt CO₂ eq). There was a decrease of 3.4% in emissions

reported for 2020 compared to 2019. Emissions are over 1% higher than pre-pandemic 2019 figures.

In 2021 national total emissions excluding Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) increased by 4.7%, emissions in the stationary ETS sector increased by 15.2% and emissions under the ESR (Effort Sharing Regulation) increased by 1.6%. When LULUCF is included, total national emissions increased by 5.5%.

Increased emissions in 2021 compared to 2020 were observed in the largest sectors except for residential, waste and commercial and public services. These 4 sectors showed decreases in emissions (-4.9%, -4.5%, -3.0% and -3.8% respectively), shown highlighted green in the "Emissions change 2020-2021" table below.

Emissions per capita increased from an historic low of 11.8 tonnes CO₂eq/person in 2020 to 12.3 tonnes CO₂eq/person in 2021. Ireland's average tonnes of GHG/capita over the last ten years were 12.8 tonnes. With recent CSO preliminary 2022 census data showing a population of 5.12 million people and with population projected to increase to 5.5 million in 2030, 5.9 million in 2040 and 6.2 million by 2050, per capita emissions need to reduce significantly. At current per capita emission levels, each addition 500,000 people would contribute an additional 6 million tonnes of CO₂eq annually.

Arresting growth in emissions is a challenge in the context of a growing economy but one which must continue to be addressed by households, business, farmers and communities if Ireland is to reap the benefits of a low-carbon economy.

For more details, see [latest emissions data](#).



20. Ireland's Nominee to the UNECE ESD Steering Group Youth Platform

The Department together with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) were delighted to nominate Ms. Eimear Manning as Ireland's nominee to the **UN ECE ESD Steering Group Youth Platform**.

Eimear is currently the Youth and Climate Justice Development Officer with the National Youth Council of Ireland and has great experience including as the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassador with the European Commission in 2019/20 and a mentor since then, and also in a previous role as Environmental Education and Youth Coordinator with ECO-UNESCO. She has an M.S. in Environmental Sustainability and a B.A. in Geographical Science & English from University College Dublin.

We would like to wish Eimear well in her role, and we are sure she will be a great asset to the Steering Group.



21. Climate and Nature Summit – Irish Schools Sustainability Network

What is the Climate and Nature Summit?

The **Climate and Nature Summit** runs for one week in Primary and Post-Primary Schools, Monday 7 to Friday 11 November. It is a series of **FREE** engaging online sessions spanning all subject areas. Educators and students learn together. The summit is an opportunity to create a space for a whole school climate and nature conversation during the next UN Climate Change Conference, COP27. Educators can register for the summit on www.issn.ie. These short videos explain how the summit will work in [primary](#) and [post-primary Schools](#).

More and more young people and adults are beginning to understand the magnitude and scale of the climate and biodiversity crises. This can be frightening. We will engage students in a relevant and meaningful way, ensuring pupils can take action and are filled with hope for a positive future. By joining the conversation, your school is demonstrating to your staff and students that this is a priority for your community, and that you want to create a new culture of agency and empowerment.

5 Minutes of Sustainability

Students and teachers regularly ask what can we do about climate change and biodiversity loss? The 5-minute sustainability initiative ensures that every teacher and student in Ireland is aware of the actions that we can take to address the climate and biodiversity crises. By showing the videos to your whole school once or twice a month, you will be helping to change mind-sets and foster a culture of agency and empowerment.

Each video speaks to a particular action, an explanation for how that action helps and the impact of taking the action. You'll get ideas for class or school projects, topics for CBAs and a chance to demonstrate the actions that you have taken. The initiative will launch in the autumn term on the [ISSN](#) website.



22. Climate Education Summer University

In July 2022, Toulouse, France, the first CESU was held. The **Climate Education Summer University** is a professional workshop for European teachers (middle and high school) and teacher trainers on climate change and climate modelling topics. CESU 2022 was organised by ESM2025 (an ambitious European project that aims to develop the next generation of Earth System Models), and its researchers and development partners from the Office for Climate Education (OCE under the auspices of UNESCO).

Teachers from Norway, Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Greece, Slovenia, Romania, Turkey, Northern Ireland and Ireland presented projects that they are involved in.

This course deepened educators' understanding of projections for climate change, climate simulations and their complexity. The hands-on experience addressed a wide range of topics, from biodiversity, climate anxiety, to climate science and Earth System modelling. While informally teachers discussed their experiences of climate change and climate change education.

These teachers will continue to work on new teacher's resource handbook focused on climate modelling and climate change.

If you are looking for educational resources based on the latest scientific knowledge on climate change and climate modelling, check out the "Education" section of ESM2025 website.

<https://www.esm2025.eu/>



23. Irish Aid – European Congress on Global Education

European Congress on Global Education

Ireland will be hosting a **European Congress on Global Education in Europe to 2050** from the 3 – 4 November in Dublin Castle. A new **European Declaration on Global Education** will be adopted at the Congress which will bring together Government Ministries and agencies from across Europe as well as NGOs, youth, adult and community organisations, local government, academia and international organisations. There are close synergies and interdependencies between Education for Sustainable Development and Global Education. Further details are available on www.gene.eu

Science for Development Award

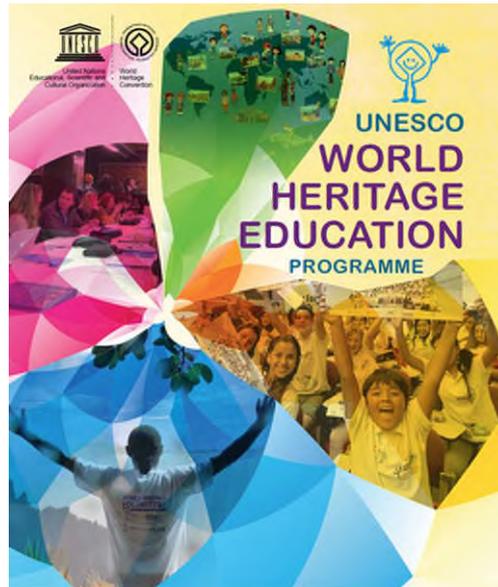
The **Science for Development Award**, which is jointly organised by Irish Aid and Self Help Africa, rewards the BT Young Scientist project that best addresses a challenge faced by communities in the Global South. The aim is to give students a greater insight into the wider world, and their role as global citizens. A trip to Africa, which is part of the prize, gives the winners a chance to investigate how their science project might have a positive impact on the lives of people in rural Africa.

Read about Science for Development projects in 2022 [here](#).

Read about past Science for Development Award winners [here](#).

To register a project for BTYSTE 2023 visit: [BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition](#)





24. The World Heritage Education Programme - Patrimonito International Storyboard Competition 2022

The **World Heritage Education Programme** have just announced the [Patrimonito International Storyboard Competition 2022](#). This scheme dates back to 2002 when the World Heritage Education Programme launched the cartoon series 'Patrimonito's World Heritage Adventures'. The cartoon aims to raise the awareness of the importance of heritage preservation among the youth, through a "by young people, for young people" approach, inviting them to convey the message of World Heritage preservation to their peers.

The theme for the storyboards this year is World Heritage and Climate Change, applicants must be aged 12 to 18, and the deadline for submissions of the storyboards to the World Heritage mailbox is **28 September 2022**. The winning storyboards will be professionally adapted into the 15th episode of the 'Patrimonito's World Heritage Adventures' series, which will be released in 2023, and the winner will receive a UNESCO certificate and be credited in the film. Currently there are 14 episodes, available to watch [here](#).

Participants can submit their storyboards directly to the World Heritage mailbox: worldheritage@housing.gov.ie.

The best Irish storyboards will be featured on the World Heritage Ireland website.

<https://www.worldheritageireland.ie/home/>



25. Wool in Schools – New Programme for Schools

Wool in School has launched this September their exciting new programme called "Wool2Ewe™".

Wool2Ewe™ is presented to schools in a fresh, colourful and educational, display box including posters, workbook and wool/ textiles, that is both inspiring and entertaining. Learning about wool is so important in the current discussion of climate change and the increased use of products that are both environmentally and economically sustainable.

Wool2Ewe™ teaches children about wool, its benefits and encourages all children to be conscious creatives. As part of the Wool2Ewe™ all schools also have access to the accompanying wool resource for teachers which complements a number of curriculum areas including ESD.

For more information log on to www.woolinschool.com

26. New Research - CBAs to integrate ESD and Outdoor Education

Is Ar Scáth A Chéile A Mhaireann Na Daoine ('We Are Stronger Together'): An Investigation into the Potential of Classroom Based Assessments to Integrate Education for Sustainable Development and Outdoor Education in Irish Technology Education Master's thesis conducted at the University of Linköping by Paul Mason.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth assessment report was stark, and called for action to address global warming, climate change, and carbon emissions (United Nations, 2022). As educators one way to enact change is to educate the current and future generations for sustainable development. Education for Sustainable Development and Outdoor Education are two popular pedagogical practices utilised for this purpose globally. The aim of this study is to explore teacher perceptions of Classroom Based Assessments and their potential to integrate Education for Sustainable Development and Outdoor Education in the Irish Technology Education subject Wood Technology. To realise this aim, the following research questions were formulated:

1. How do teachers perceive the new Junior Cycle and Classroom Based Assessments?
2. How do teachers perceive and integrate Education for Sustainable Development into Wood Technology?
3. How do teachers perceive and integrate Outdoor Education into Wood Technology?

Wood Technology teachers working in the Republic of Ireland were recruited for qualitative semi-structured interviews to gather data and ultimately to answer the research questions. These interviews were later transcribed and analysed using a phenomenographic analysis. As a result an outcome space was created describing the variations in teachers' perceptions (Sin, 2010). The outcome space demonstrated that teachers value Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs), Education for Sustainable Development, and Outdoor Education. Education for Sustainable Development was widely integrated through the sustainable use of material in the classroom and through some Classroom Based Assessments. Outdoor Education was practiced in Wood Technology, Transition Year, and most often in Senior Cycle Construction Studies.

The full text can be found here:

<http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn%3Anbn%3Ase%3Aliu%3Adiva-187653>



27. SEAI – Tender Notice – Schools Workshop Programme

The SEAI Education & Youth Programme held, on 30 August 2022, a Meet the Buyer Webinar in relation to forthcoming tender in relation to identifying a suitable energy education service provider(s), to provide Management and Administrative Services to support the delivery of the SEAI Schools Workshop Programme.

The public procurement competition will be divided into 4 lots. Each Lot will result in a separate service contract:

- Lot 1: Management and delivery of SEAI Energy Workshops for Primary School student cohort and their educators; including reviewing and updating Primary Workshop content & materials in collaboration with SEAI.
- Lot 2: Management and delivery of SEAI Energy Workshops for Post Primary School student cohort and their educators, including reviewing and updating Post Primary Workshop content in collaboration with SEAI,
- Lot 3: Early Years Energy engagement development, management and delivery including content and material development in collaboration with SEAI.

- Lot 4: Irish language Energy Workshop programme management and delivery including Irish workshop content and material development in collaboration with SEAI.

Further information, when it becomes available, will be published on www.etenders.gov.ie



28. Picker Pals - Making an Environmental Impact Beyond the Classroom

As educators concerned with Education for Sustainable Development, we all want to make as much of an impact as possible through our teaching and the imprint we leave on the coming generation. There is a crisis of waste in the environment, exemplified by litter and littering behaviour that is a part of a wider picture of disconnect and disrespect. It's something that schools and families can have an immediate positive effect on.

Picker Pals <https://pickerpalsworld.org> is a completely free government and local authority supported environmental programme for lower primary classrooms that addresses the problem of litter and waste in the environment and helps us to do our bit while building bridges between the classroom and the home.

Picker Pals is run by NGO VOICE Ireland <https://www.voiceireland.org/campaign/picker-pals> and is now in over 1,500 primary schools, in every county in Ireland. Classrooms are provided with a 'Picker Pack' containing litter-picking equipment, readers (available in English and Irish), an activity book and teacher resources based on the colourful Picker Pals characters. Picker Pals TV episodes also provide news reports, a picture gallery and a craft corner with Picker Pals-themed art activities.

The highlight for the children is when they get to take the Picker Pack home and lead their family on a litter-picking adventure in their local area. The Picker Pals experience creates a virtuous circle of healthy attitudes and behavioural change in participating schools, families and communities.

So what has it achieved? Last year, over 30,000 children took part in regular litter-picking adventures. Every weekend, thousands of children and their families were out and about tackling litter in parks, streets, beaches, playgrounds and estates all over Ireland. In total they picked up over 150 tonnes of litter - that's about the weight of a blue whale! It's the goal of the organisers to be able to offer Picker Pals to every school in the country in the next couple of years.

Picker Pals visited every county in Ireland during the 2021-22 school year and ran "Olympicker Games", challenging the children to improve their litter-picking skills. Programme founder, Patrick Jackson remarked on the hugely warm welcome the programme has received everywhere he went. "Ireland is an incredibly beautiful country that we should be proud to take care of. And schools are delighted to be playing their part in making a better future and having fun doing it. What's more, kids love a visitor and a break from their usual routine".

The response from teachers has been extremely enthusiastic. Some have described it as the most impactful and well-received initiative that they have participated in. Laura Kingston, 1st Class Teacher, Greenmount National School said "My class loved it. Any time the kids took the pack home their parents sent me pictures, which I printed and stuck on the Picker Pals poster. It was so lovely to see all of the family getting involved in the project."

Limited places are available on the programme for the 2022/23 school year.

Classrooms can register [HERE](#)



29. Dublin Climate Action Week

Dublin Climate Action Week (#DCAW22) is back for 2022 and the event programme and online registration have been launched!

A great range of events will be delivered throughout the week, which takes place across Dublin from **12 to 17 September**. An overview of the events and online registration is now available at <http://www.dublinclimateactionweek.ie>

The programme, which will be a combination of both in-person and online events, will cover a range of climate themes such as energy, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions, resource management and citizen engagement.

From biodiversity walks and business events, to pop-up shops and climate festivals, the programme is full of interesting solution-focussed events which are hoped will show the people of Dublin what their local authorities are doing, and what they themselves can do to tackle climate change.

The week is being organised and delivered by the partnership of South Dublin County Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Codema – Dublin's Energy Agency and the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).



30. International Day of Awareness for Food Loss and Food Waste

The **29 September** has been designated as the International Day of Awareness for Food Loss and Food Waste. To celebrate the day, we have compiled a list of a few important facts and figures about food waste in Ireland. When food is disposed of, it ends up in the landfill where it produces large quantities of methane gas – one of the more potent greenhouse gases, which is 25 times stronger than CO₂. A high level of energy and water is consumed in the production of food.

When food is thrown out and is not given another life, its carbon footprint grows.

The facts and figures [here](#) give a clearer picture into the depth of food waste.

Find out how you can get involved at: [International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu/international-day-of-awareness-of-food-loss-and-waste/)

DublinGazette

31. Making Dublin Greener – Competition for Post-Primary Schools

The Making Dublin Greener competition for post-primary schools has now been launched. This competition, supported by the Department of Education, promotes climate change awareness and sustainable solutions at a community level.

Post-primary schools interested in submitting a project on how they feel both the school and the community can contribute towards making Dublin a greener and more sustainable place in which to live should contact greenerdublin@dublingazette.com for an entry form.

See: <https://dublingazette.com/news/digital-gazette/dublin-gazette-digital-edition-september-1-2022/> for more details.



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.

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.

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 December 2022

To unsubscribe – [Click here](#)
