ECO-UNESCO; ESD & the SDG's

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empowering young people

About ECO-UNESCO Ireland

Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation focusing on protecting our environment and empowering young people

UNESCO
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Key Partner

UNESCO Global Action Programme on
Education for Sustainable Development

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ECO-UNESCO is a **Key Partner** of
the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

Programmes include:

- **Young Environmentalist Awards**
- **Youth for Sustainable Development**
- **ESD in Schools Learning2Change Our World**
- **ECO-UNESCO Clubs**
- **ECO-Choices Programme**
- **Workshops**
- **Educational resources**
- **QQI Accredited trainings (Sustainable Development; Ecology etc.)**

VISION

Our Vision is a sustainable world where young people are actively engaged in protecting the environment

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to protect the natural environment and empower young people by developing their knowledge, skills and confidence that channels their passion into positive and creative actions that helps create a sustainable planet.

We will have three main areas of work

- Young people 10-18 – Direct Youth Work
- Young people 18-25 – Upskilling and Training
- Awards

Young People (10-18)

-Direct Youth

-Provision of environmental programmes

Young People (18-25)

-Training & Upskilling

-Upskilling and training
young people and preparing those working with young people

Awards (10-18)

-Recognition and reward

-Recognising and Rewarding the work of young people in environmental protection

Our Target - Young people in Ireland

Number of children and young people under 25 years = 33.2% of the total population (CSO 2016)

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An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

CENSUS 2016
An Age Profile of Ireland

census 2016 RESULTS www.cso.ie

Population By Age Group

Children	Pre-school	Primary	Secondary
	331,515 down 7.0%	548,693 up 8.8%	371,588 up 7.7%

Adults	19-24 years	25-64 years	Over 65 years
	331,208 down 6.5%	2,541,294 up 1.9%	637,567 up 19.1%

Average Age of Population
37.4
up 1.3 years

392,119 Children Living In Rented Accommodation

127,098 aged 0-4 up 3.5%

168,878 aged 5-12 up 17.3%

96,143 aged 13-18 up 18.6%

FOR RENT

Youngest Administrative County
Fingal
average age 34.3

Oldest Administrative Counties
Kerry and Mayo
average age 40.2

Top 5 Youngest Towns

Town	Average Age
Balbriggan	30.8
Maynooth	31.9
Ashbourne	32.2
Navan	33.1
Portlaoise	33.2

Top 5 Oldest Towns

Town	Average Age
Killarney	40.9
Wexford	39.4
Malahide	38.6
Clonmel	38.5
Sligo	38.5

76,207 Children Living In Flats And Apartments

31,891 aged 0-4 up 24.3%

29,689 aged 5-12 up 62.6%

14,627 aged 13-18 up 45.9%

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation

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OUR APPROACH

We take a youth centered approach and promote learning for, about and in the environment;

We develop leadership skills, confidence, self-belief and self-esteem
We provide an opportunity for young people to feel socially engaged and make new friends;

We include young people's views – they decide, they plan, they act and they engage their peers.

Learning for the Environment

Promoting positive choices and actions
Youth led approaches
Social connections
Practical Action

Learning About the Environment

Eco Systems, Interconnections
Eco literacy
Sustainable development

Learning in the Environment

Experiential Learning in the natural environment
Health and Wellbeing
Self Esteem and Confidence Building

OUR APPROACH

Educating for Sustainable Development

Building Knowledge, skills, attitudes and values…in favour of a more sustainable world

Knowledge

Information on environmental issues, sustainable development e.g. biodiversity, energy, climate change, justice issues,

Interdependencies and relationships of ecosystems in the natural world.

Interdependencies of people and the natural world at a local and global level

Skills

Critical Thinking

Systems thinking

Reflection

Decision Making

Problem Solving

Discussing opinions

Communication

Self awareness

Planning for Action

Collaboration

Futures thinking

Attitudes

Respect for ecological systems

Respect for others

Appreciation of Diversity

Commitment to Action

Responsibility for Change

Behaviour and Action

Personal change.

Encourage community, national and international change

taking opportunities to participate meaningfully

OUR APPROACH
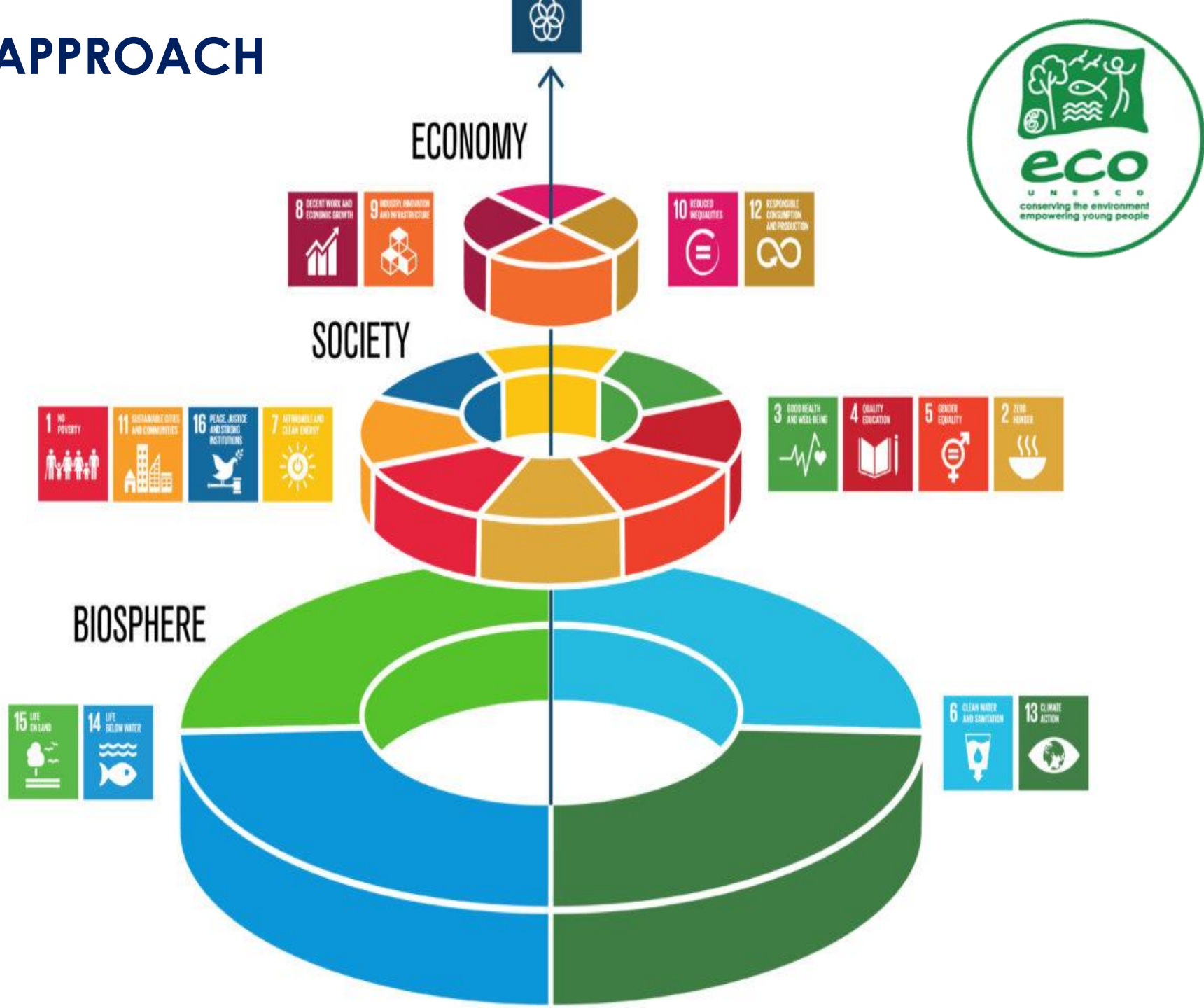
Specific methods used…identified by UNESCO

1. Holistic and interdisciplinary

6. Participatory decision-making

2. Values-driven

5. Multi-method

3. Critical-thinking & Reflection

4. Locally relevant

7. Action Orientated

1

6

esd

2

5

3

4

Source: http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23280&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Our Work

**Youth Engagement
and Empowerment**

**Reward
and Recognition**

**Capacity
Building**

**Promoting
Innovation**

**Digital
Development**

**Regional
Growth**

Collaboration

Advocacy

**Financial
Resilience**

OUR PROGRAMMES

Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD)

Empowering Young People through Leadership and Peer Education Programmes
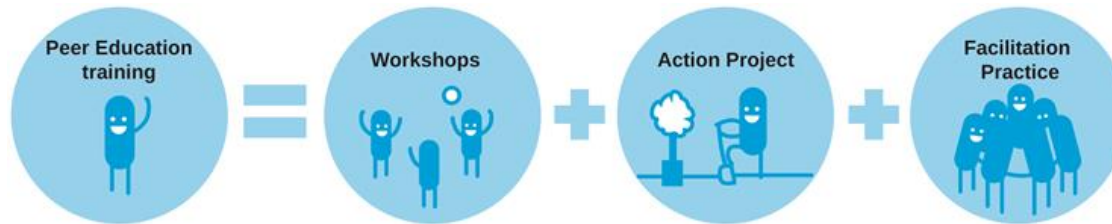
Progression Path

Facilitates Peer Educators through a flexible, needs-driven training process
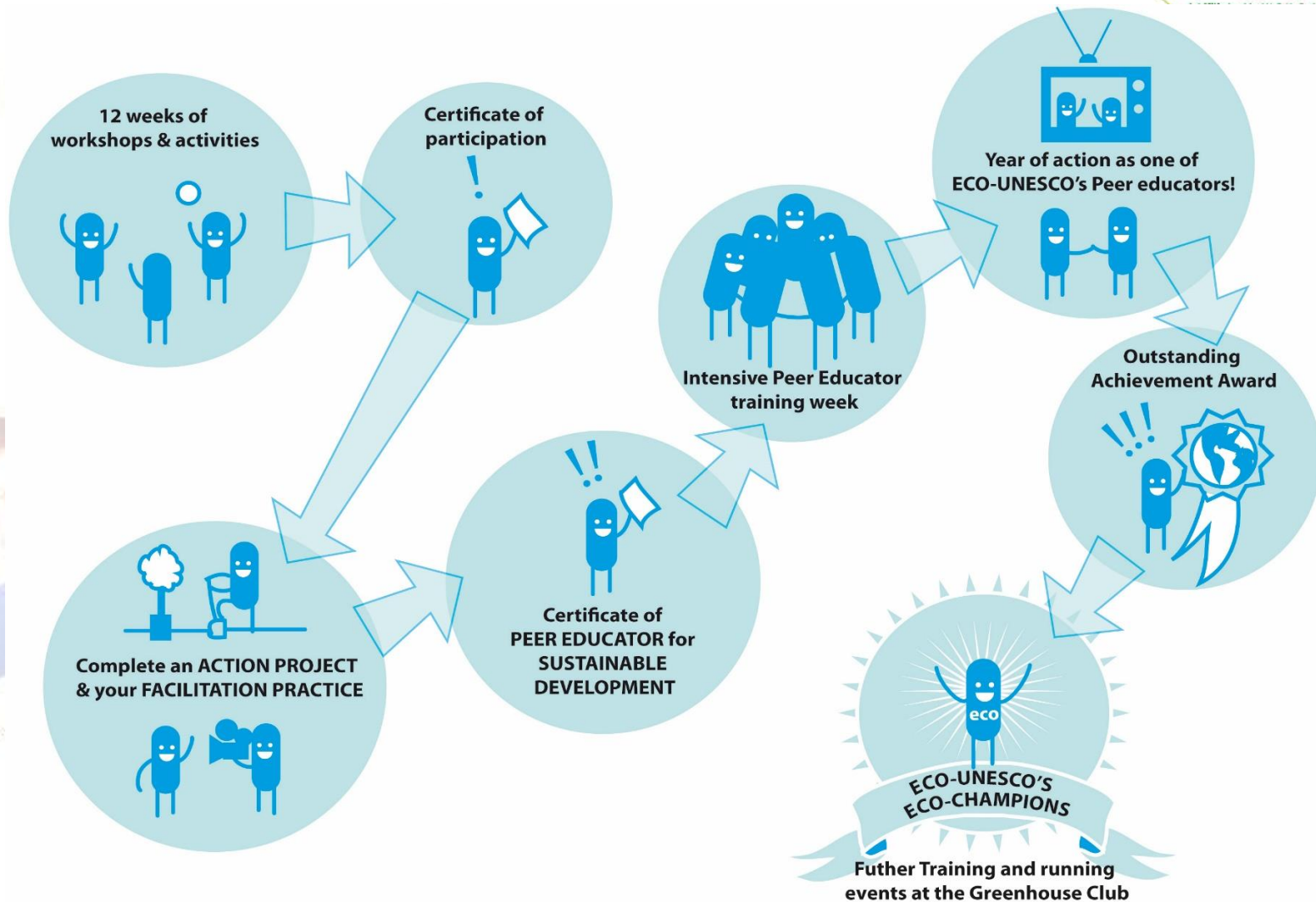
Action Project – Sample - Leap 2 the Future

Young people wanted to tackle climate change on a local level by reducing emissions

Young people were largely excluded from the Dublin bike sharing scheme (Ireland)

Followed 6 steps framework and carried out a project

Included meeting with local TDs and Councillors, and the Dublin Lord Mayor to propose their idea of linking the Leap Card to the scheme

the Leap Card was linked with the Dublin bikes scheme

The Action Project:
- *Motivate and empower*
- *Raise awareness*
- *Develops key skills*
- *Improve knowledge*
- *Develop active citizenship*
- *Improve their local area*
- *Change behaviours*

Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation

Reward and Recognition

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Young Environmentalist Awards

Youth Led; Action based; Environmental Awareness
An awards scheme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment through action projects

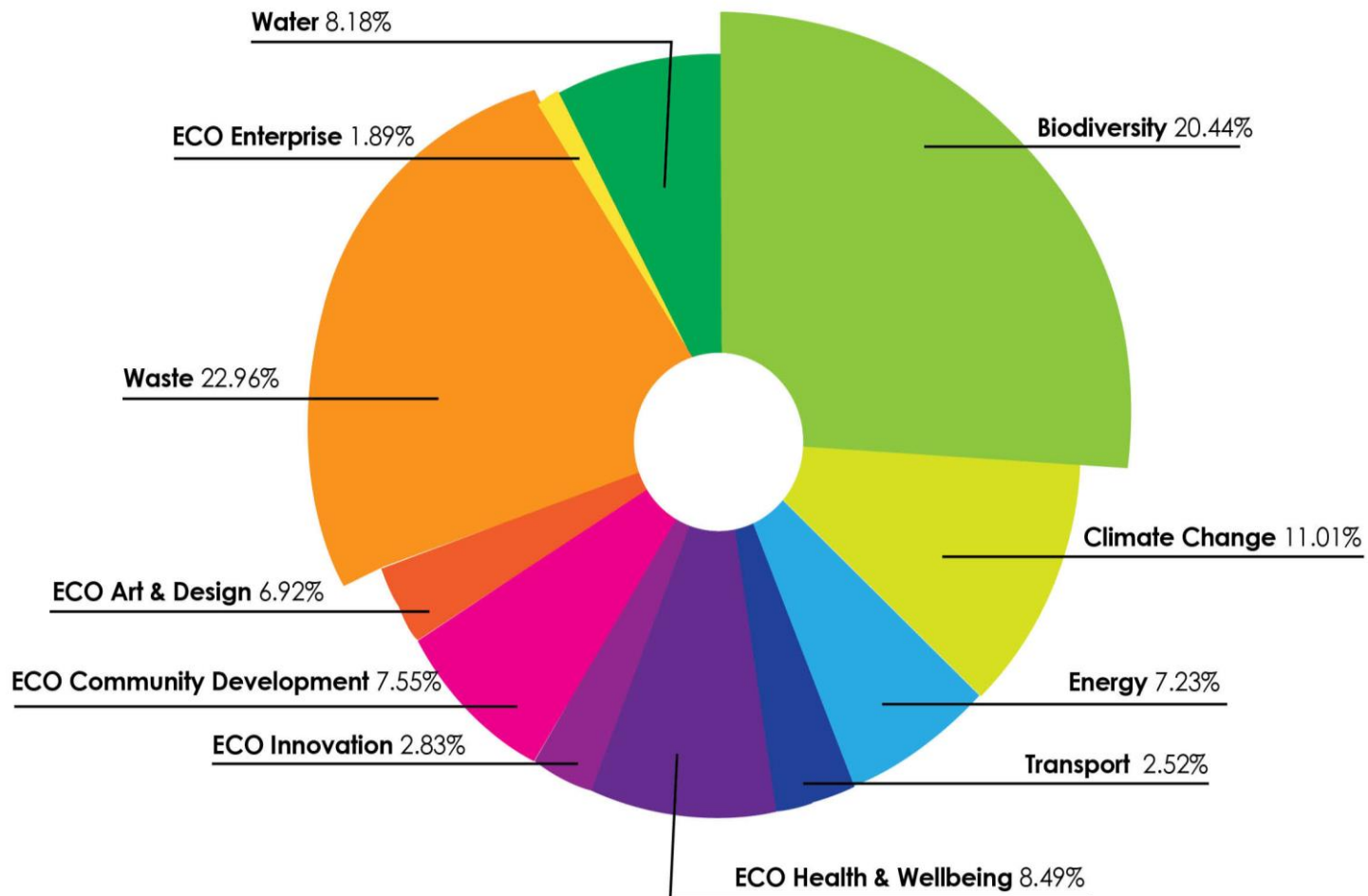Age Groups: Senior: 15-18   Junior: 12-14   Super Junior: 10-12

ESD Promoted through YEA Action Projects

- **Knowledge:** Sustainable Development, Citizenship, Participation
- **Concepts:** Stewardship, Interdependence, Rights & Responsibilities
- **Skills:** Identification/awareness skills, analysis/evaluation skills, communication skills, action skills
- **Attitudes/Values:** Commitment to active citizenship, care for the environment, Willingness to act responsibly

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Water 8.18%

ECO Enterprise 1.89%

Waste 22.96%

ECO Art & Design 6.92%

ECO Community Development 7.55%

ECO Innovation 2.83%

ECO Health & Wellbeing 8.49%

Transport 2.52%

Energy 7.23%

Climate Change 11.01%

Biodiversity 20.44%

YEA 2018 Highlights

Young Environmentalist Awards

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(Affiliated to W.F.U.C.A)

+40,000

young people involved since 1999

+2,600

young people participated in action projects for YEA 2018

318

projects registered for the YEA 2017

36

groups received the 6 Steps to Success training workshops

Derry 4
Antrim 2
Donegal 7
Tyrone 2
Armagh 2
Leitrim 1
Down 1
Sligo 3
Monaghan 12
Louth 5
Mayo 6
Cavan 6
Roscommon 16
Longford 3
Meath 1
Galway 15
Westmeath 15
Dublin 68
Offaly 3
Kildare 8
Wicklow 9
Laois 5
Clare 9
Carlow 2
Wexford 5
Kilkenny 4
Limerick 5
Tipperary 9
Kerry 12
Waterford 19
Cork 59

<5
<10
<20
>50

dreamstime.com
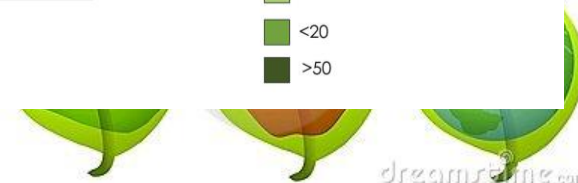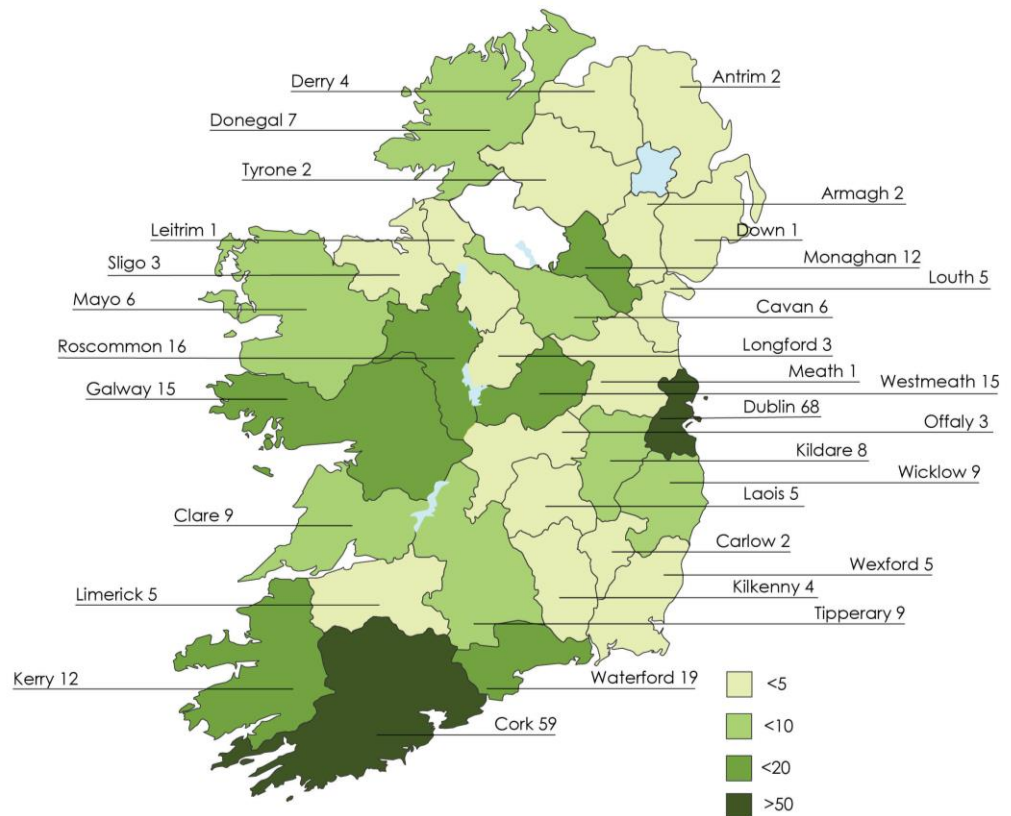
YEA 6 Steps Framework & Phases

Step 1. Get a team together
Step 2. Select an environmental issue
Step 3. Develop an action plan
Step 4. Take action
Step 5. Raise awareness
Step 6. Reflect

Make sure you record everything!

Runs from September to May

Phase 1. **Registration** Deadline (end Nov)

Phase 2. **Training** (Oct-Nov)

Phase 3. **Submission** Deadline (end Feb)

Phase 4. **ECO-Den Semi-finals** (Mar/Apr)

Phase 5. **Showcase & Awards Ceremony** (May)

Supports available –
YEA training and workshops
YEA Resource Manual

Training - Build skills in young people and progress them onto education, training or employment (Employability programmes e.g. Green Skills)

Build Confidence, self-esteem , develop skills, progress…

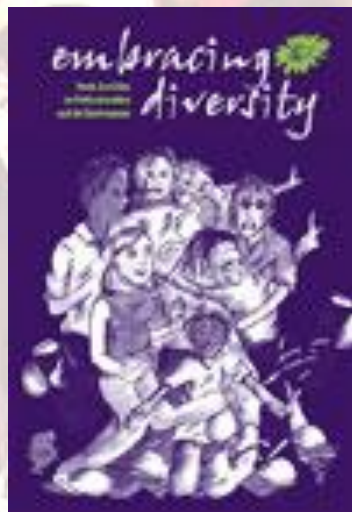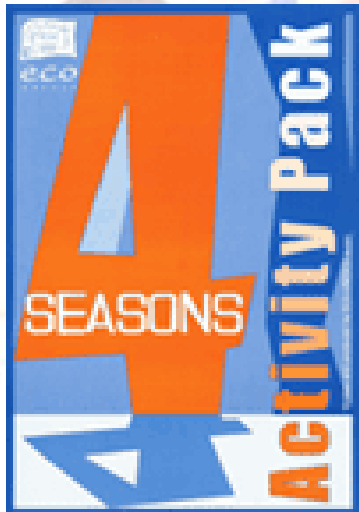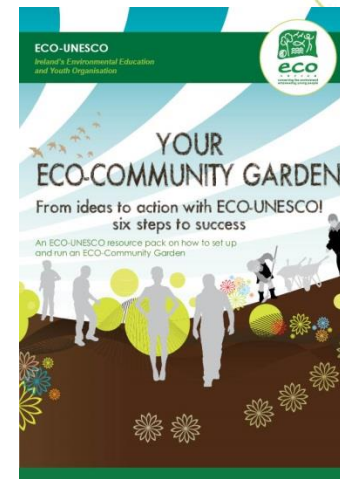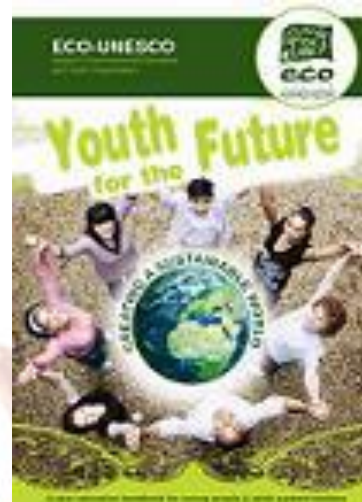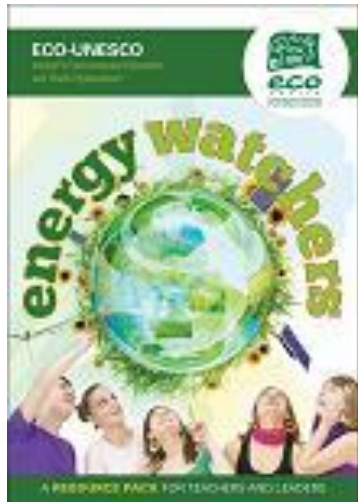| Induction & Motivational training	QQI accredited Training\n\nSustainable Development\n\nEcology	Supported Work Placement	Supports, 1-2-1 mentoring, career guidance, guest speakers; site visits; Fieldtrips	**Progression**

ECO-UNESCO's Resources

Internationally UNESCO is leading on ESD

Currently through Global Action Plan (runs to end of 2020) has two objectives

•*to reorient education and learning so that everyone has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that empower them to contribute to sustainable development and make a difference;*

•*to strengthen education and learning in all agendas, programmes and activities that promote sustainable development*

http://en.unesco.org/gap

To enable strategic focus and foster stakeholder commitment, the GAP has identified five priority act areas to advance the ESD agenda.

*1 **Advancing policy:** Mainstream ESD into **both education and sustainable development policies**, to create an enabling environment for ESD and to bring about systemic change*

*2. **Transforming learning and training environments:** Integrate sustainability principles into education and training settings*

*3. **Building capacities of educators and trainers:** Increase the capacities of educators and trainers to more effectively deliver ESD*

*4. **Empowering and mobilizing youth:** Multiply ESD actions among youth*

*5. **Accelerating sustainable solutions at local level:** At community level, scale up ESD programmes and multi-stakeholder ESD networks*

What people say…

"Active experiential learning is the way to go. […] We must meet people where they are at and know that the seeds of change have to be sown to bring about change."

'Thank you so much for delivering that very informative and enjoyable workshop this morning. It is so refreshing to have experts like yourselves come in to school to meet with our students and support teachers'

"I have become more interested in issues related to development and sustainability, and have a greater want to take action."

"I learned about the environment and what effects we have on it. I can see what kind of things I have to do to protect it." "After the YEA, I am more conscious in my actions and more aware of what I am doing."

"I've developed more confidence and became more comfortable talking to adults. I have developed an interest in youth work of some sort due to facilitation practices."

"It has made me aware of what´s going on in the world and the issues surrounding global warming and climate change. It helped me gain confidence and gave me facilitating skills. I enjoy meeting and talking to new people."

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