



Climate Action Week

Primary School Case Studies

Ireland's third Climate Action Week will run from October 14th-20th 2019. Here's some helpful case studies from Green-Schools around the country that took part last year.

St. Patrick's B.N.S., Roscommon

Survey

In 2017 the Green-Schools Committee in St. Patrick's B.N.S. used the Climate Action Week survey to measure the baseline awareness and knowledge of climate change in their school.

SESE

All classes then explored climate change using photographs, videos and presentations based on climate change, their personal carbon footprint and the polar regions.

Quiz

The school then held a climate change quiz and everyone got a certificate of participation.

Action Plan

The Green-Schools Committee then reviewed their current Action Plan with a focus on reducing Greenhouse Gases.

Pledge

Every student and teacher in the school also made a #ClimateAction Pledge which they posted on facebook to share with the wider school community. These are also displayed in their corridor for any school visitor to see.

News

The Green-Schools Coordinator contacted the local newspaper and their picture appeared in the Roscommon Herald as part of Climate Action Week.

Maths

At the end of Climate Action Week the whole school did the same survey again and then the older classes compiled the data and created graphs showing the changes in awareness and knowledge of climate change

"This is the first time our school has held an event like this and the experience has been very positive for pupils and teachers. Everyone gained an insight into what climate change is, the impact on our environment and how we can help to stop it. We look forward to this event next year".

Ms Beirne, Green-Schools Coordinator, St. Patrick's B.N.S. Roscommon.

Burnchurch N.S., Kilkenny

Whole School Effort

Climate change was the topic of discussion in the staff room of Burnchurch N.S. in the lead up to Climate Action Week 2017. The whole school did an introductory lesson on climate change and then individual class teachers came up with their own ideas also.

Senior

Senior classes did a web quest and looked at the climate change time machine.

3rd & 4th

These classes tied in their Climate Action Week activities with Maths Week and counted the number of hours of energy saved by switching off devices left on standby.

Junior

Junior classes counted sockets, plugs, windows, doors and electrical devices in their room using their 'Maths Eyes'. The Green-Schools Committee then created bar graphs to show their findings.

Climate Conversation

At the end of the week, 1st to 6th class gathered together and had a collective Climate Conversation, linking it in with their own personal stories from 'Storm Ophelia'.

Pledge

Turn off appliances not in use.

Slogan

Climate change has to change.

Share

All Climate Action Week activities were then shared on the school facebook page to try and reach a wider audience in the community.

St. Francis N.S., Wicklow

Communications

To get the Climate Conversation started early, prior to Climate Action Week St. Francis N.S. put up the Climate Action Week posters in school, the local church and community centre. The text every parent in the school letting them know what activities were planned for Climate Action Week. A flyer was sent home about the Climate Action Pledge and the Clothes Bank. Climate Action Week was announced in a special whole school assembly.

Curriculum

All classes were given information on climate change. Junior classes did the Guzzler Quiz, 1st to 6th class participated in a Greener Living Slogan Competition and everyone monitored their new classroom thermometers.

Planting

Each class got outdoors after Storm Ophelia to check on their winter vegetable beds and some lucky students even got to plant some sampling trees!

Clothes Bank

69 bags of pre-loved clothes were collected for NCBI. This raised money for new school equipment and provides stock for the charity shops. It's a win-win!

Climate Action Pledge

As the students were so good at collecting clothes, the whole school decided to make their Climate Action Pledges a big WEEE battery collection. This means you are safely disposing of all used batteries from each home and raising valuable funds for Ireland's Children's Hospice; Laura Lynn.

Music

Climate Action Week ended on a high note with the whole school learning the song 'Big Blue Planet' and performing it for all the parents on Friday.

Scoil Bhríde Glen, Longford.



St. Oliver Plunkett N.S., Mayo.



Deputy Dara Calleary with staff and students at the Quay NS in Ballina during his visit there for Climate Action Week. Included are, back row, from left, Mary Murphy, Green Schools co-ordinator; Cian Sheridan; Deputy Calleary; David Calleary and Hugh Lynn, principal. Front row: Leona Loftus, Eabha Kelly, Anna Knaf, Clodagh Loftus and Olivia Kenny.

Quay kids clue Calleary in on climate and global goals

Ballina-based Deputy Dara Calleary encountered some of his most enlightened and discerning constituents during a recent visit to his alma mater, St Oliver Plunkett NS at the Quay in Ballina, known locally as the Quay School.

The TD's visit coincided with Climate Action Week and he discovered that the students' recent study of the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development had left the youngsters very exercised on such topical issues.

The students had participated in Climate Action Week as part of their work to secure the school's seventh Green Flag for Global Citi-

zenship Energy.

It resulted in the Quay School's Green Schools Committee organising a poster and model competition for senior classes to highlight the effects of climate change.

The students even created a model iceberg which has been placed in the school corridor to encourage students to think about the effects of climate change.

Classes were also shown *The World's Largest Lesson* film which aims to promote an end to poverty together with justice and action on climate change.

They also studied the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development

and it was in order to discuss the latter, as well as Ireland's performance in implementing them and their vision for the future, that the 6th class students invited Deputy Calleary to meet them.

The visit turned out to be a lively and engaging event and the students made a big impression on Deputy Calleary who, having listened to their opinions and thoughts, promised to personally deliver a letter regarding their concerns to the Minister for Climate Change Denis Naughton.

He also presented prizes to the winning entries in the school's climate change competition.