



Green-Schools Global Citizenship

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As soon as the United Nations put the environment on the agenda; numerous organisations were established to start educating people about the issues concerning the environment and sustainable development. One such organisation is the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

FEE, a non-governmental and not for profit organisation, was established in 1981. It aims to promote Sustainable Development through environmental education using programmes such as Blue Flag, Eco Schools (our Green Schools programme), Young Reporters for the Environment, Green Key and Learning about Forests. FEE is an international umbrella organisation with one national member organisation per country representing it on a national level; and in charge of implementing FEE programmes within that country. FEE has member organisations in 55 countries, worldwide. FEE programmes had been so successful that in the year 2000, they decided to become a global organisation. In 2003, they formalised a long-standing relationship with UNEP by signing a “Memorandum of Understanding”. This effectively means that FEE and UNEP are working together to achieve the same goals. To learn more about FEE check out www.fee-international.org/en

The organisation affiliated to FEE in Ireland is An Taisce and you will learn more about us in the next section.



One organisation within Ireland, that helps to protect the Irish environment and aims to educate, inform and lead public opinion on environmental issues, as well as influence policy and development at European, national and local levels, is **An Taisce** (*'The Store*

House, or Treasury'). An Taisce was established in 1948 and it is the most influential environmental body in Ireland. All their policies reflect their core belief that a high quality environment is central to Ireland achieving a successful and sustainable economy, as well as a high quality of life. This is based on the view that prevention is better than cure; partnership and dialogue are better than conflict and monologue; and strategic planning surpasses reactive expediency⁸.

In 1993, in order to develop the educational aspect of An Taisce, Patricia Oliver established the Environmental Education Unit (EEU) of An Taisce. The unit is the national operator of FEE projects in Ireland (including Green-Schools) and you can find an outline of the national and international campaigns and programmes that are part of their responsibility, below.



Blue Flag – The International Blue Flag is an eco-label awarded to beaches and marinas that meet a specific set of criteria concerning environmental information and education, water quality, safety and services and environmental management. In 2006, over 3,200 blue flags were awarded in 36 countries throughout Europe, South Africa, Morocco, New Zealand, Canada and the Caribbean. In Ireland, the Blue Flag Programme is supported by funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.



Green-Schools - Green-Schools is an International environmental education programme, designed to promote and acknowledge whole school action for the environment.



Young Reporters for the Environment - Young Reporters for the Environment is a European-wide environmental education programme developed for secondary schools. Students carry out a journalistic enquiry on a local or international environmental problem and then inform the public of their findings via television, radio, newspapers or exhibitions.



Learning About Forests - Learning about Forests is an international programme that aims to encourage schools, classes and teachers to use forests for educational activities.



Clean Coast Project - The Clean Coast Project is both a programme and an award:

Coast Care - which is largely focused on the establishment of local, community, voluntary groups who would 'adopt' and manage stretches of their local coastline by promoting and supporting safe enjoyable conservation activities.

The Green Coast Award - which recognises beaches of the highest environmental quality, but which is visited and enjoyed for its intrinsic qualities and is where local interest and management maintains a clean environment.



National Spring Clean – Ireland's, annual anti – litter campaign.



Green Home – Environmental Awareness programme for householders



SOUTHERN & EASTERN
Regional Development
Priority Axis 2007 – 2013



IRELAND WALES
2007 – 2013



Supported by the Irish Government
and the European Union



EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Green Communities programme - an EU funded

Interreg IVA Ireland-Wales programme that works with community groups focusing on the themes biodiversity and carbon foot printing.

