

Green-Schools Travel

ANNUAL
REPORT 2021



TRAVEL

Contents

- 4 Executive Summary
- 6 2021 Engagement
- 8 Supporting Schools in 2021
- 12 Call to Action Events

- 24 Campaigns and Projects
- 32 Skills, Training and Resources
- 40 Infrastructure Supports
- 48 Case Studies

A word from An Taisce Education Unit Director Michael John O'Mahony



I want to acknowledge and thank the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Department of Transport for their ongoing and crucial support and funding of the programme. I also want to thank and acknowledge every stakeholder and participant, particularly the schools, teachers, students and their wider communities that make all this happen.

The Green-Schools Travel programme continues to be an exemplar behaviour change programme which is testament to the work

that committees, teachers, Principals, and parents do to promote sustainable travel to school. This work continued in schools even during the pandemic, when schools were facing uncertainty and stress. I would personally like to thank the school community for their ongoing work on the programme during this difficult time.

2021 was also a time of expansion for Green-Schools with the rollout of the Safe Routes to School Programme with funding from the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority. This programme uses the insights learned from the Green-schools Travel to deliver infrastructure at the school gates and on routes to school. We will be working closely with all local authorities as well as other stakeholders to ensure the delivery of appropriate infrastruc-

ture outside schools to support walking and cycling. The impact and legacy of the last 14 years of Green-Schools Travel was clearly illustrated when the initial expression of interest from schools to take part in Safe Routes to Schools was launched, we expected around 120 schools to apply, however over 900 schools expressed an interest in taking part in the programme. This was all happening with the backdrop of a global pandemic. We are delighted to say that all 931 schools will take part in the programme over the coming years.

The skills, creativity, commitment, insight, wisdom and abilities of the Green-Schools

Travel team make the programme the world class programme that it is. In 2021 the team had to continue to adapt and deliver the programme in spite of the unprecedented public health restrictions. Thank you to everyone involved. You are all making and continuing to make a real and lasting difference and we will all benefit. We continue to be impressed and proud of all the work going on in schools nationwide and look forward to seeing you at events over the coming year.

Executive Summary

TRAVEL



2021 was a busy and diverse year, where Green-Schools offered a blended approach to delivering the Travel Programmes. 2021 saw high levels of participation in walking, cycling, scooting and other sustainable travel initiatives.

Since school closures and lockdown restrictions, our network are now more engaged with Green-Schools across our digital platforms, with more people accessing our website resources and communicating with us on social media. New resources were developed including 'The Ethics of Climate Change' and 'Eco-Anxiety'.

Green-Schools Travel traditionally hosts five key call to action events, which are celebrated annually with participating

Travel and awarded Travel schools, as well as with families and the wider community. To compliment these key events in 2021, Green-Schools Travel developed several active travel and educational campaigns, which allowed students to engage with the programme.

February kicked off the Travel events calendar with our first ever #WOWsforWellness. This digital campaign encouraged students to get walking in February, not just for the health of the environment but for personal physical and mental wellness.

National Scoot to School Week was held in March and, in line with social distancing guidelines, families were invited to scoot together to school while classroom pods were

invited to hold scooter skills training during their assigned playground time. Almost 1,650 students scooted to school on National SOW (Scoot on Wednesdays/Weekdays).

Other key call to action events which took place during the year included; Walk to School Week in May with 3,250 students walking on National WOW and Bike Week in September saw 2,415 students cycling on National COW (Cycle on Wednesdays/Weekdays).

Green-Schools Travel developed four digital campaigns to engage with schools virtually. These included #WOWsforWellness in February, #BikewithyourBestie during the summer months, #MyBikeStory in September as part of Bike Week, and Clean Air Week in November which used the hashtag #BeatAirPollution.

Key Achievements in 2021:

The Green-Schools Travel theme has been operating at a national level since 2008. The theme is funded by the Department of Transport and supported by the National Transport Authority. The Green-Schools seven-step methodology is a key component and enables most participating schools to achieve modal shift within a two-year period.

The new Safe Routes to School Programme was officially launched in March. The highly anticipated programme was met with an overwhelming amount of interest with 931 schools (1 in 4 schools nationwide) making an application. Initial stage development commenced for the 170 schools who were accepted to Round 1 of the programme.

- 136 new schools were invited to participate in Travel themes
- Teacher Training seminars were delivered online in autumn
- 831 school visits were made by Green-Schools Travel Officers
- 150 walkability audits were undertaken by Travel Officers
- 17 cycleability audits were undertaken by Travel Officers
- 954 scooter parking spaces were installed in schools
- 4,700 cycle parking spaces and 248 bike shelters were installed
- 931 schools registered interest in the new Safe Routes to School programme & 170 schools took part in round 1
- 3,456 primary and 60 secondary school students were funded to undertake cycle right training
- 1,650 students scooted to school during Scoot to School Week
- 3,250 students took part in Walk to School Week
- 2,415 students cycled during Bike Week
- 50 new #andshcycles Ambassadors joined the 21-22 programme

2021 Engagement

Schools worked hard at promoting safe and active travel to school as well as raising awareness of the benefits of sustainable travel.



- #WOWsforWellness launched in February to support schools who were learning from home. The online campaign engaged students in Wednesday walking activities, building on regular WOWs
- The Cycle Bus Network was launched in April, supporting groups with resources and a webpage
- Walk to School Week was supported with four online events in May. 164 schools registered for talks which featured speakers & prizes. Live events enjoyed a potential reach of 5k participants
- #andshecycles ran #BikewithyourBestie, encouraging teen girls to cycle in summer. The campaign featured a bike give-away on Instagram and extensive printed and online media coverage
- Bike Week in September was supported with two webinars featuring a Cycle Bus networking event, the latest #andshecycles research & contributions from #andshecycles Ambassadors. The highly engaging #mybikestory competition saw schools & students sharing cycling experiences
- Teacher Training seminars were delivered to over 150 teachers across 12 online events
- Green-Flag Awards were held across five shows, where over 1,080 attendees from 120 Travel & 27 Global Citizenship Travel schools were awarded their Green-flag
- Clean Air Week was promoted across 2,000 schools in November. Schools took part in a digital #BeatAirPollution campaign and studied the no-idling and clean Air Quality toolkits
- #andshecycles training events & network gatherings commenced in November for ambassadors & their teachers, with over 900 minutes of online engagement achieved within the first two months
- The Green-Schools website had a 34.35% increase in new users in 2021
- Twitter has 11K Followers with Tweets in 2021 earning 1.4 million impressions
- The Green-Schools Instagram profile has 3,230 followers, up a huge 53% from the previous year
- YouTube videos enjoyed 56,476 views, 1.9K hours of watch time & a 36% increase in subscribers

2021 in Numbers

In 2021, 3250 students took part in National Walk to School Week and Travel Officers worked with students on 150 walkability audits



1650 primary school students scooted to school during Scoot to School Week nationwide



831 school visits were made by Green-Schools Travel Officers



In the same year, 2415 students cycled during Bike Week and Travel Officers worked with students on 17 cycleability audits



931 schools registered interest in the new Safe Routes to School programme, with 170 schools taking part in Round 1 of the programme



954 scooter and 4,700 cycle parking spaces and 248 bike shelters were installed



Green-Schools Travel subsidised 3,456 primary and 60 secondary school students to undertake cycle right training



Supporting Schools

Photographic highlights from Green-Schools Travel supporting schools in scooting, walking and cycling initiatives for the 2021 academic year



Bike Parking Support
4,700 Bike parking spaces installed



Bike Maintenance Workshops
Helmet fitting, safety M-check and cycle skills



Speed Gun Survey
Regional surveys



Bike Week
Nationwide events and engagement with local authorities



SRTS
Officially launched in March 2021

in 2021



Resource Development
Online Travel resources were fully updated and new toolkits developed



WOW DAYS
Weekly and seasonal walking events

Supporting Schools

Photographic highlights from Green-Schools Travel supporting schools in scooting, walking and cycling initiatives for the 2021 academic year



School Zones in partnership with local authorities
New front of school infrastructure rolls out at schools across the country



Green-Flag Awards Ceremony
120 Travel and 27 Global Citizenship Travel schools renewed their Green-Flag



Cycle Events
Cycle skills and training

in 2021



Online Engagement
Workshops and Committee meetings were held online



Walkability Audits
150 carried out

Call to Action Events



WOWs for Wellness February

Green-Schools Travel has four key call to action events, which are celebrated annually with participating Travel, Global Citizenship Travel and awarded Travel schools, as well as with the wider community.

The Big Travel Challenge, which is usually held in the month of February, was replaced with a WOWs for Wellness Campaign due to school closures in February 2021.

Schools were invited to participate in WOWs for Wellness during February, as part of their work on the Travel theme. The aim was to encourage students to get out for a Walk on Wednesday (WOW) whilst highlighting the benefits that walking can bring for the mind, the body and the environment. The online campaign enjoyed direct engagement with schools.

March saw schools participate in National Scoot to School Week, which promoted scooting to school and scooter training. The initiative runs annually in March and in 2021 Green-Schools specifically focused on engaging with primary schools online and in outdoor settings. Schools were encouraged to engage with Green-Schools online, submit their SOW figures and compete to win scooter parking during the week. 1,650 students scooted to school during the week-long initiative.

National Walk to School Week is one of the

longest running initiatives on the programme and has been celebrated in May since in 2009. Green-Schools Travel promoted the initiative to primary and secondary schools in both rural and urban areas across Ireland and 3,250 students walked to school during the event.

In partnership with the Department of Transport, the NTA and local authorities, Green-Schools Travel annually invites schools to take part in National Bike Week. In 2021 the initiative was held in September and students were encouraged to discover the joys of the bike and to cycle to school. There was much enthusiasm for the initiative which coincided with the 'back to school' term, and over 2,415 students cycled to school during the week.

Clean Air Week was held in November in timing with The European Commission's third EU Clean Air Forum. Green-Schools Travel celebrated the third year of the #BeatAirPollution campaign and raising awareness of air quality at school gates. Students took part in the digital campaign and made pledges to #BeatAirPollution by walking, cycling, and scooting to school as well as committing to running clean air-focused campaigns. The campaign featured on RTE news2day and in regional newspapers.



National Scoot to School Week March 22nd - 26th



National Walk to School Week May 21st - 25th



Bike Week September 12th - 19th



Clean Air Week November 15-19th



Scoot to School Week

National Scoot to School Week celebrated its sixth year of encouraging students to scoot to school and ran from March 22nd-26th in 2021. National SOW Day saw over 1,650 primary school students scooting on Wednesday, March 24th.



Scoot to School Week
March 22nd - 26th
The 2nd call to action event on the Travel theme calendar focuses on getting primary students celebrating sustainability on the school run by scooting to school.



Walk to School Week

National Walk to School Week took place from Monday 21st to Friday 25th May and National WOW, was held on Wednesday 23rd.

As part of a virtual offer for schools during Walk to School Week, Green-Schools hosted four live webinar events with guest speakers. 164 schools registered to attend the talks. The speakers focused on aspects of walking including: Pilgrim Routes in Ireland with John G. O'Dwyer; the physical and Emotional Journey of Climbing Kilimanjaro with Claire McDonald; How to 'Spice Up Your Walk' and the Benefits of Walking with Dr. Elaine Murtagh; and Beginning Hillwalking and 'Happy Hiking' with Ruth Whelan.

Schools were encouraged to share their experiences on social media using the #walktoschool21. To build engagement, Green-Schools Committees around Ireland had an opportunity to win 36 cupcakes for their school each day. Walk to School Week enjoyed much media coverage on social media and featured on RTÉ and Schooldays.ie.



Coppeen NS, Cork
All students walked to school on WOW



Knock NS, Spink, Laois
Having fun on WOW launch

Walk to School Week
May 21st-25th
Celebrated in schools across the country.



Bike Week

National Bike Week is an initiative set up by the Department of Transport and one which Green-Schools encourages all participating Travel and awarded Travel schools to take part in. In 2021, Bike Week ran from September 12th - 19th, with National COW on September 15th.

2,415 students cycled during Bike Week and Green-Schools hosted a wide range of activities for schools and individuals to get involved. Travel Officers facilitated bike skills workshops across schools nationwide and students were invited to learn from our many bike-related videos and online resources. We celebrated National COW Day, hosted two webinars featuring our Safe Routes to School and #andshecycles programmes as well as launching our first online Cycle Bus networking event.

Throughout the week Green-Schools Travel ran a successful social media competition: #MyBikeStory. Students and schools were invited to take part by sharing a picture or a short video celebrating their bike journey. As a special end of year treat, Green-Schools rewarded six participating schools for their engagement with the #MyBikeStory competition. Schools were treated to an online screening of *Wadajda* with the Irish Film Institute during December 6-10th, and junior winners enjoyed a special prize of Green-Schools Travel goodies!

#MyBikeStory Winners:

- Scoil Barra Naofa Cailini, Cork
- Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaill, Cork
- St Paul's Secondary CBS, Dublin 7
- Gort Community School, Galway
- Arklow CBS, Wicklow
- Scoil Mhuire GNS, Sandymount

Green-Schools staff also supported many local authorities with their events throughout the week-long initiative, including Pedalpalooza in Dublin City, Cork Bike Week, Galway Bike Week, Mayo Sports Partnership and Laois County Council to name a few. We have showcased one event from each of our regional teams as an example of some of the many events which took place across schools in Ireland.



Western Event

Green-Schools Travel Officers hosted a number of Bike Week events as well as offering students from local schools cycling activities and skills training. On COW day, Green-Schools Travel Officer Ciaran Hussey, held a cycling day event for Carrigeenoe NS, in Co. Roscommon. Students were given a bike and helmet safety demonstration, as well as a yard-based training session. 5th and 6th class, together with Ciaran, embarked on a 6km cycle adventure from the school to local sites and along woodland trails.

Midlands Event

Green-Schools Travel Officers Lorraine Flanagan and Karen Moore coordinated a three-time cycling event through Portlaoise, Laois. The duo were already working closely with Laois County Council on a Low Carbon project where cycling features highly in the project delivery. To celebrate COW day, two cycle buses and one 'bus rothaiocht' departed from three Portlaoise schools for a trip around the town. The success of the event was the result of much organisation and planning which involved managing a team of bike marshals and liaising with students, school staff, local authority staff, Gardai, Civil Defence, local drivers and local media. The students thoroughly enjoyed the event and had an opportunity to meet other students

from within the community.

Southern Event

Green-Schools Travel Officer Edwina Coman worked with Waterford City and County Council to promote a Bike Week grant, funded by the NTA, for schools to run Bike Week events. This opportunity was taken up by a number of primary and secondary schools. Edwina was also involved in a number of these, which included, greenway cycles, art competitions and balance bike skills. Coolnasmeear N.S., a rural school, wanted to inform the whole school about Bike Week and to encourage students to cycle when possible. Classes were brought to cycle the greenway, a variety of art competitions were held, and parents were asked to send in photos of their children on their bikes at home, or in their favourite place to cycle. This was then made into a collage and was displayed within the school. This not only made all the students aware, but it also raised awareness of Bike Week with parents of school-going children.



National Bike Week
September 12th - 19th
 National Bike Week is a Department of Transport initiative. Green-Schools encourages Travel and awarded Travel schools to take part, as part of their work and maintenance on the Travel themes.

Clean Air Week

Green-Schools Travel ran their third annual Clean Air Week from November 15-19th in timing with The European Commission's third EU Clean Air Forum. Green-Schools sought to engage schools with a digital Clean Air Week campaign, which aimed to raise awareness of air pollution and to engender schools to take action to reduce air pollution at the school gate. Students and individuals around the country made pledges to #BeatAirPollution by walking, cycling, and scooting to school.

New promotional graphics were developed in-house for the online campaign, which proved to be highly engaging among our school network and stakeholders. Regional press and radio, and national broadcasters RTE news2day promoted the clean air campaign. Clean Air Week and the Green-Schools programme was mentioned in Dáil Éireann on two occasions during the week. Councillors sought to highlight the importance of the initiative and the need to take

responsive action to keep the air quality around school gates pollution-free.

Four schools were acknowledged for their exceptional participation during the week-long campaign;

- **St. Laurence's N.S., Wicklow**
- **Ballina Primary School, Tipperary**
- **St. Paul's N.S., Westmeath**
- **Esker ETNS, Dublin**

Students at St. Laurence's N.S. in Wicklow, worked throughout the week on a clean air-focused awareness campaign to #BeatAirPollution. As well as their initiative to increase active travel to school, students undertook a survey to assess how many cars were idling their engines while waiting at the school gate. Their results showed that 81% of stationary cars were running their engines at the front of the school.

Students at St. Paul's N.S. in Westmeath took

a civic action approach to focus on a no idling campaign. The highlight of their success was that they made an agreement with their bus driver who is now committing to switching off the school bus engine at drop-off and pick-up times.

Students at Ballina Primary School in Tipperary worked on an extensive 'What is wrong with our Air?' project, which was displayed on their Green-Schools noticeboard.

Esker ETNS students in Dublin took the approach to engage parents with their no idling campaign. Parents and students took no idling pledges to help #BeatAirPollution at the school gate.



Clean Air Week

St Patrick's National School, Edenderry, Co Offaly



No Idling Campaign

GS Coordinator Kiltcealy with Tidy Towns volunteer



No-Idling pledges

Churchtown NS Athy



No Idling pledges with parents

ESKER ETNS Lucan

Green-Flag Awards

During an exciting virtual awards ceremony, Green-Schools awarded 121 schools with the Green Flag for Travel and 29 schools for Global Citizenship Travel.

During their two years on the Travel themes, 85% of the schools, which ranged from across 25 counties, recorded an increase in sustainable travel. 77% of schools recorded an increase in walking and cycling and 80% of schools recorded a decrease in car usage.

Separate to the Green-Schools Travel call-to-action events, schools recorded how many students took part in walking, cycling and scooting during their work on the two-year travel themes. 3,720 students participated in WOW; 856 students participated in COW and 280 students participated in SOW. The online awards

event was broadcast from an in-house studio, hosted by Green-Schools' MCs including a sign language interpreter, and streamed live to 1,080 attendees. 255 schools and individuals tuned in for the featured Travel Awards ceremony, which was highly interactive and engaging with 100 conversations happening within the platform's chat function.



Campaigns and Projects

Green-Schools Travel participated in a new project and developed two new campaigns, which were particularly successful in engaging secondary school students.



Cycle Bus Network
Supporting Cycle Buses around Ireland



#andshecycles Ambassador 2021/22
900 minutes of webinar meetings



#andshecycles Ambassador 2020/21 Awards
2021's first in-person ceremony event



Clean Air Week
Workshops and clean air focused campaigns



Seachtain na Gaeilge
Spring Nature Walk

in 2019



Clean Air Week
Schools host clean air campaigns



#andshecycles Ambassador
Media and press engagement

Speed Surveys and Speed Week

Speedweek 2021 was held from October 4th – 8th as a response to safety concerns around speeding outside and on routes to school. A working group of Travel Officers was formed as a response to the anecdotal observations of excessive speeding by schools and fellow Travel Officers.

A testing method was devised that was compatible with current speed testing conducted by Local Authorities in Ireland. 12 Green-Schools Travel Officers were involved in recording speeds using speed guns, which were then in-put into the ArcGIS Survey123 using mobile devices.

Over the course of the Speedweek initiative

a total of 7,545 individual speed recordings were taken at 52 different schools around Ireland. This was broken down to include 4,279 results during the morning drop-off time and 3,266 results after drop-off time. Speed limits ranged from periodic 30km zones to 100km fixed zones and all limits in between. Green-Schools Travel will produce a report on the findings in Spring 2022.



Speed Testing Surveys

Compatible with testing conducted by Local Authorities



Speed Guns

Students measuring car speed



Lower Speeds

Campaign for lower speeds



Speed Week

Collecting data

#andshecycles

Green-Schools Travel further developed the #andshecycles campaign with a new #andshecycles Ambassador programme in 2021. The programme works directly with teenage girls in secondary schools across Ireland to support them to develop their own #andshecycles campaigns within their schools and to encourage other girls to cycle to school. A series of events and initiatives were developed for the 23 students from nine secondary schools, who trained as #andshecycles Ambassadors during the 2020/2021 academic year.

A series of Network Gatherings were facilitated with an aim to train, motivate and inform the students on how to run an effect campaign within their school. The first Network Gathering was held in February where students received formal training in Media and Communications. The second Network Gathering, which took place in early March was on the topic of Leadership, and included a video address from Dublin Lord Mayor Hazel Chu.

In terms of visibility, the campaign continues to grip the attention of the media, individuals, policy makers and active travel advocacy groups. Radio, podcast series, RTÉ, The Sun, and regional news media regularly reported on the campaign during 2021. Online and printed regional media published over 10 articles publicising the success of the #andshecycles Ambassadors during the week of their award ceremony. As well as holding a selection of virtual interviews with Ambassadors, RTÉ news2day reporter Aisling Moloney travelled to Galway to interview some of the #andshecycles Ambassadors. Photos and video interviews were recorded and used towards an RTÉ publication on the #andshecycles Ambassador programme for World Bike Day on June 3rd.

In terms of engagement with the Green-Schools website, four new touch-points for #andshecycles participants and Ambassadors were developed, which provided campaign updates and resources. A 'Slack' account was developed for the Ambassadors where they could exchange news and ideas on a shared communication channel.

In terms of social media reach, the registration call for incoming 2021/2022 #andshecycles Ambassadors was the high-

est performing tweet for the 2021 Q4 period, with almost 20,350 impressions and 261 engagements. The tweet was 'liked' 38 times, with 47 link clicks to the application page, and 26 retweets. The hashtag continues to enjoy much coverage with hundreds of unique #andshecycles tweets from schools, individuals and stakeholders.

Instagram is the main platform where Green-Schools engages with students in a public online space. The #andshecycles account is developed by the ambassadors themselves and is managed by Green-Schools. Students have an opportunity to showcase their work on the campaign to a wider audience and take part in competitions and give-aways.

The group of Ambassadors achieved successes through both collaborative and individual school actions. Ambassadors developed a survey which sought to investigate the barriers for teenage girls cycling. The survey received 650 responses and the results were compiled in a report with recommendations for making cycling more accessible for teenage girls. On November 4th, Green-Schools held the

much anticipated #andshecycles Ambassador Awards, which was the first in-person awards ceremony since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Three students – Aimee Kavanagh, Isabella Mary Quinn and Aoife McCarron – were honoured for their outstanding achievements as ambassadors; their actions included working with their school's management for uniform reform in their school, liaising with their local council to improve infrastructure around their school and campaigning to have a 'Bike to School' programme made available to students. Speaking at the inaugural #andshecycles Ambassador Awards in Dublin, Mobility Researcher, Robert Egan presented the findings of Green-Schools' #andshecycles research. The study explored the experiences and perceptions of cycling among teenage girls and boys in Ireland. All ambassadors were presented with a trophy, a certificate, a celebratory lunch and a performance of Elaine Gallagher's Freedom Machine.



Training
Bike maintenance and skills training



Network Gatherings
#andshecycles ambassadors met online for training and engagement



In-School Campaigns
Ashbourne CS #andshecycles Ambassadors mural



#andshecycles Ambassador Awards
23 #andshecycles Ambassadors from nine secondary schools awarded

Spring Nature Walk

Green-Schools Travel Officer Cairtriona Cunningham lead a Green-Schools initiative for Seachtain na Gaeilge entitled "Spring Nature Walk". All Green-Schools' schools, parents and teachers were invited to go for a Spring Nature Walk from the 1st to the 17th of March. On this walk students were asked to complete a spring scavenger hunt and to photograph the early signs of spring. Students and families were invited to share their experiences with @GreenSchoolsire on social media, giving their photos an Irish title.

Over one hundred students from seven Green-Schools Travel schools participated in the Spring Nature Walk by sharing their photos on @GreenSchoolsire social media platforms. The schools that participated in the walk included four schools from Co.

Galway: Ballinlass N.S.; Scoil Mhuire, Oranmore; Claregalway Educate Together, and Scoil Chroí Naofa, Athenry, one school from Co. Mayo: Glencorrib N.S., a school from Co. Roscommon: Gaelscoil Dé hÍde and a school from Co. Waterford: Scoil Coolnasmeair. All students who took part in the initiative were treated to travel prizes.

Students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the Spring Nature Walk and photography competition, with one teacher commenting: "Smaoineamh iontach uaitse a bhí ann agus is féidir é a dhéanamh gach Earrach anois!" ("The Spring Nature Walk was a fantastic idea and we can now do this walk every Spring!")

Verse composed by Glencorrib National School, Shrule, Mayo, for Seachtain na Gaeilge's "Siúlóid Nadúir an Earraigh":

*"Tá blathanna ag fás,
Tá an ghrian sa spéir,
Tá na huain ag rince,
Amuigh faoin aer."*

**SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE
AGUS
NA SCOILEANNA GLASA**
1-17 Márta

Siúlóid Nadúir an Earraigh le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge
Call-to-action promotion



Glencorrib N.S., Shrule
Mayo



GRIANGRAFANNA DEN CHOMARATHA EARRAIGH
17 Márta 2021



Ballinlass National School
Galway



Scoil Mhuire, Oranmore
Galway

In addition to teacher training, Travel Officers developed online learning resources and provided cycle and scooter skills training to current Travel schools.

Skills, Training and Resources

Green-Schools Travel Officers redeveloped classroom-based workshops onto virtual platforms, supported more schools with outdoor training exercises and published 46 new online Travel resources. We reached more students across Ireland offering practical training videos such as bike and scooter safety, and supported teachers with sustainable travel and climate-themed lesson plans.

CYCLE RIGHT
Green-Schools Travel works closely with CYCLE RIGHT, the national standard of cycle training in Ireland. Green-Schools Travel supported CYCLE RIGHT training to primary and secondary school students by providing 101 schools with a grant of €10 per student up to 60 students. Eligible schools were either currently working on, or had received their Travel Flag. For many schools this grant provides essential support to allow all students in a class to take part in cycle training. In 2021, 3,456 primary and 60 secondary students across the country took part in Green-Schools subsidised CYCLE RIGHT training.

The CYCLE RIGHT training course provides young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to cycle to school or for leisure. The training course provides an equal opportunity to all participants by providing each student with a helmet and bicycle for the 8-hour (4-8 sessions) training course. Two trainers lead students through yard-based skills and simulations to give them the confidence to cycle safely and eventually take their place on the road.

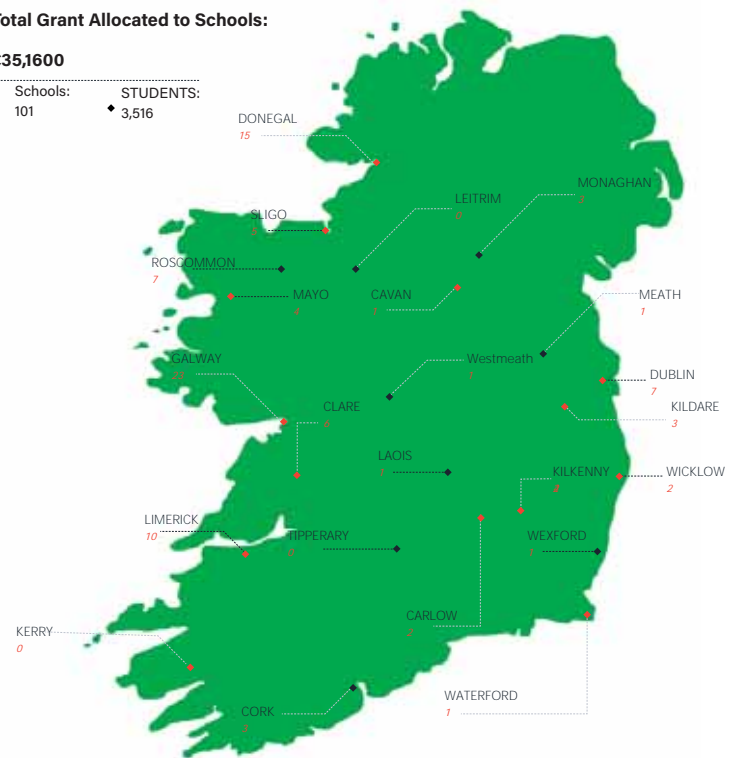


CYCLE RIGHT

Total Grant Allocated to Schools:

€35,1600

Schools: 101
STUDENTS: 3,516



TRAVEL Skills and Training



To compliment the cycle skills offered by CYCLE RIGHT and Travel Officers, basic bike maintenance workshops are also offered to Green-Schools Travel schools. The bike maintenance workshops give students the opportunity to learn about the different parts of the bike while checking that they are all in good working order. The 'M-Check' includes a full bike scan starting with the wheels, moving up to the handlebars, down to the pedals, up to the saddle, and back down to the chain creating an easy to remember 'M' shape.

Following the 'M-Check', children are provided the hands-on challenge of repairing a puncture. Classes are split into small groups and given a punctured tube, tub of water, repair kit, and pump.

Bike Maintenance



Bike and Scooter Skills Training

Travel Officers continued to engage with schools to offer outdoor training and skills.

Indoor and outdoor engagement was undertaken, depending on the Covid-19 protocols of individual schools and new staff members were given the opportunity to shadow Travel Officers as part of their inductions. Several virtual engagements took place during periods of strict Covid-19 restrictions and Green-Schools Stay home video resources were offered to schools.



Cycle Bus Network



City-wide cycle buses have been operating for multiple schools in Galway, Limerick and Dublin since 2019. In early 2021, Green-Schools Travel launched the Cycle Bus Network to bring together volunteers from cycle buses all around Ireland to create a cycle bus community. In this Network, volunteer leaders can share their cycle bus expertise, tips, queries, and troubleshoot issues as they come up. The network is an excellent platform for established cycle buses to help new cycle buses get started as well as share successes and challenges of running a cycle bus. As the goal of cycle buses is for children to cycle safely to school, this network helps to unite cycle buses around the country and create more visibility.

The first Cycle Bus Network Event ran in September via an online webinar meeting with over 35 attendees. This webinar gave an opportunity for families who participate in cycle buses to share their experiences, connect with existing buses and celebrate Bike Week 2021. Cycle buses have since spread to other places around the country such as Cork City, Skibbereen and Strandhill to name a few.

Online Resources

TRAVEL



The Ethics of Climate Change Toolkit was developed by Travel Officer Lukasz Krzywon, for secondary schools on the Green-Schools theme. The toolkit, which was published in April, aims to discuss moral problems related to climate change using critical, collaborative and creative thinking.

The resource links to the Green-Schools Travel and Global Citizenship Travel themes, but it is also relevant to all Green-Schools Global Citizenship themes and SDG 13 – Climate Action. The toolkit directly links to secondary schools' curriculum, especially geography but also falls into the Moral Philosophy strand in the Junior Cycle Philosophy Short Course. The toolkit introduces a simple to follow method for running a session in the form of an enquiry, techniques and tips, as well as five comprehensive scripts that touch on different ethical aspects of climate change.

To celebrate the launch and promote the toolkit, Green-Schools Travel hosted an interactive online workshop. The workshop was designed to give teachers the opportunity to take part in a sample session and learn more about how to use the resource. Climate Ambassador programme Officer, Grainne Ryan also gave an informative talk about resources developed by Climate Ambassador which complement the toolkit.

17 teachers from secondary schools attended the online launch via Zoom. Also in attendance were individuals from outside Ireland, with participants from the U.K., Romania, and the Czech Republic interested in the toolkit. All participants received an attendance certificate.

Ethics of Climate Change

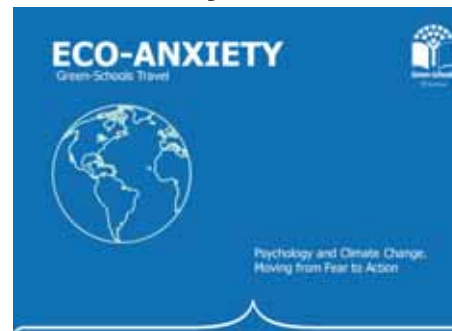
Travel Resources and Toolkits

The Green-Schools website has an online learning resource feature which hosts 175 Travel and 187 Global Citizenship Travel resources. Students and teachers can download templates, toolkits, posters, graphics, surveys, fact sheets, videos and activities. In 2021, a full audit was undertaken to re-brand and update the Travel resources, ensuring educational information was relevant and current. Schools have found the online resources and invaluable asset especially during school closures and remote learning.

As part of applying for the Green-Flag for Travel, Borrisokane Community College in Co. Tipperary planned out a 'roadmap', as pictured, of resources and tools which helped them with their work on the Travel theme.



Eco-Anxiety



Eco-Anxiety is a psychology and climate change themed resource aimed at secondary school students. The resource, developed by Green Schools Travel Officer, Catherine Russell, is a response to a growing unease of climate anxiety reported by students. The aim of the resource is to create a 'toolbox' of coping mechanisms for students and to give them a space to discuss and explore global issues in a World Café Style environment.

The resource is formatted into two workshops. The first workshop 'Love your Planet', aims to explore the concept of eco-anxiety and provides students with coping mechanism tools. Part two, 'Fear to Action', can be delivered as a workshop or a campaign.

Teacher Training

Green-Schools Travel continues to offer training support throughout the school year to teachers and Green-Schools Coordinators around Ireland.

During the summer of 2021, The Climate Action Programme for schools offered teachers and coordinators the 'Climate Change, Science and Action' course as an Open Learning platform. The learning platform used to deliver the course enabled Green-Schools to build a user-friendly course, track participant progress and make use of the embedded chat function. The major benefit of the online course is the potential to reach teachers in remote locations, and create meaningful experiences and engagement. The course was developed and piloted in 2019, and was fully accredited for 2020-2022 by Drumcondra Education Centre on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills.

The completion of this 20-hour Continuous Professional Development course grants primary teachers three Extra Personal Vacation days as an incentive to participate. 51 teachers enrolled at the start of the summer and 48 of these teachers received the official certificate having completed five learning logs and a final assignment. Five Green-Schools Travel Officers; Breanne Ayala, Caitriona Cunningham, Chiara Hanrahan, Laura Astori and Lukasz Krzywon supported the programme as course facilitators.

Twelve teacher training seminars were carried out during September and October with over 150 attendees. The seminars were held online allowing more teachers to attend. The seminars introduced teachers to the Travel and Global Citizenship Travel themes. Teachers were trained in how to support sustainable travel in schools and advised on

the funding opportunities which are available to participating schools.

In December, all #andshcycles Ambassador support teachers attended a briefing presentation evening on Zoom. New support teachers were given the opportunity to learn from teachers of the previous year and exchange ideas on engaging with the programme in their own school.



Green-Schools Summer Course 2019
Green-Schools Travel Officers gave one day of training



'Climate Change, Science and Action' online summer course
46 teachers from 18 counties across Ireland completed the online course in 2021

Infrastructure Supports



Skills and Training



Infrastructure Supports

Not having somewhere safe – or sheltered – to store a bike or scooter has been highlighted as a barrier to sustainable travel for many students in primary and secondary schools. One of the many invaluable supports made available to schools through Green-Schools Travel is the opportunity to apply for infrastructure at their school. More students around Ireland now have somewhere safe to park their bike or scooter, thanks to the installation of 4,700 cycle parking spaces, and 248 bike shelters and 954 scooter spaces in schools nationwide during 2021.

Of these figures the installation of 2,830 cycle parking spaces and 153 bike shelters in 154 schools nationwide was delivered as part of the new Safe Routes to School Programme which is supported by the Department of Transport.

If schools express an interest in promoting cycling and/or scooting their Travel Officer may suggest applying to Green-Schools for fully funded cycle parking stands, cycle shelters and scooter parking. Only schools currently working toward the Travel or Global Citizenship Travel flag are eligible to apply for this funding.

With help from their Travel Officer, schools put together a detailed application form to apply for parking. In the application, schools are asked questions regarding barriers to cycling and scooting, numbers of students currently cycling

or who could cycle to school and for actions that would promote cycling and scooting to school. Schools then request the amount of cycle or scooter parking that is needed and a shelter, if applicable.

All applications were received in the winter term and were assessed based on need and Travel Officer feedback on cycleability of the school area. Schools around the country were delighted with their new infrastructure, some even celebrated their parking on social media and in their local newspapers. Many schools see an increase in children and students both cycling and scooting to school once new parking infrastructure is provided.



Bike Parking
Supporting students to cycle



Bike Parking
Supporting students to cycle

4,700 bicycle spaces and 248 bike shelters were installed in participating schools



Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School Programme (SRTS) is an initiative of the Department of Transport and is supported by the Department of Education. The new programme is developed in partnership with the National Transport Authority and Green-Schools as a response to the need to support schools to increase walking and cycling to school. The programme was formally launched in March 2021 by Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Education Norma Foley TD and Minister of State Hildegard Naughton TD. The programme, which is the next phase in the Government's investment in active travel, will see funding provided from the €1.8 billion committed under the Programme for Government, to support walking/scooting and cycling to primary and secondary schools.

The new initiative is operated by the Green-Schools Programme in partnership with the NTA and the Local Authorities, and aims to

support active travel infrastructure for participating schools around the country. The programme aims to create safer walking and cycling routes within communities, alleviate congestion at the school gates and increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school by providing walking and cycling facilities. The improvements to the school commute could range from an upgraded footpath or new cycle lane to a complete reworking of a school's entrance.

Schools are selected for participation in the programme based on a mix of criteria including school type, location and school's commitment to sustainable travel. All schools are eligible to apply and in 2021, 931 schools expressed an interest in the programme. SRTS has been rolled out to

an initial 170 schools in Round 1 with the remaining schools coming onto the programme on a rolling basis.

The selected schools are guided through the application process and work with a designated Green-Schools Infrastructure Officer who acts as a liaison with the school and the local authority as works are planned and carried out.

As a means to reduce traffic and improve access and safety at the front of schools, Local Authorities have already rolled out many 'School Zones' across schools in Ireland during 2021.



SRTS
2021 launch



School Zone
Cork City



School Zone
Dublin City Council



School Zone
Dublin City Council

Walkability Audits



Walkability Audits
150 number carried out



Cycleability Audits
17 number carried out

Walkability audits carried out in 2021 continued to highlight the many challenges that students across the country face daily when actively travelling to and from schools.

Green-Schools Travel Officers have been using a new interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) tool since 2020, which enables digital recording and mapping of data generated by walkability and cycleability audits.

The GIS tool, enhances the ability of Green-Schools to communicate the work of Travel Officers' as they assess the audits of school catchment areas. This will allow the outputs of audits to be readily shared with the public and with the local authorities responsible for providing active travel infrastructure.

Despite periods of school closures and restrictions in 2021, the nature of walkability audits facilitated an appropriate means of engaging with schools in the outdoor environment.

Audits are a valuable part of the educational

programme as they empower students to participate in societal decision making while also leading to increased walking, scooting, and cycling. 150 walkability audits were carried out by Travel Officers and students in 2021.

There have been numerous successes in 2021 with audit reports prompting local authorities to implement new or improved active travel infrastructure across the country.

Case study: O'Brennan National School, Tralee

O'Brennan National School is a mixed rural school, located on the outskirts of Tralee in Kielduff, Ballymacalligott in County Kerry. In 2021 the school had 182 students with 17 members of staff. As part of their work on the Green-Schools Travel theme the Green-Schools Committee undertook a walkability audit on the 15th of November 2019 with their Green-Schools Travel Officer. The objectives were to examine the barriers to promoting walking to school and propose solutions to raise awareness on road safety and to identify any possible park'n'stride locations by the school.

The walkability audit report was shared with the whole school and sent to Kerry County Council for review and feedback in 2020. The students, school staff and Green-Schools Committee were delighted with the new and improved infrastructural work conducted by the council following their submitted recommendations. They succeeded in advocating for the repair of the flashing school sign beacon, improvements to the school name sign, the development of road markings to indicate a school is in the area and general road markings were repainted. The council visited the school to discuss the actions required from the report in relation to adding a path. Students enjoyed the valuable opportunity to be involved in a public participation exercise and receiving the direct feedback from the council was equally as important as seeing the implementation of the physical infrastructure.



Walkability Audit
Scoil Bhríde Monaghan



Participation
Experience in public participation



Walkability Audit
O'Brennan National School, Tralee



Walkability Audit
Kiltealy NS

Cycleability Audit Martinstown N.S., Limerick



Martinstown N.S. is located on rural roads just off the R515, approximately 7.5km from Kilmallock. A walkability audit conducted in 2019 indicated that walking was not an option for this school in the absence of suitable pedestrian infrastructure and narrow bending roads. This was reflected in initial survey results where only 2.9% walked to school.

However, the school has nurtured a strong cycling culture over the years where initial surveys indicated that 30% of the student population cycled to school. Some actions undertaken by the school community to facilitate a cycling culture include designing road signs for the approach roads to highlight the presence of young cyclists during the school term. They also linked with the church to enable cycling students to access the rear of the school. As part of their work on the Travel theme, the school completed a review of cycling access to the school, climate change workshops, mapping, bicycle maintenance workshops and cycling games with Travel Officer Ellen O'Sullivan.

Barriers

- **NARROW COUNTRY ROADS**
- **ABSENCE OF SUITABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ACTIVE TRAVEL**
- **DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL**
- **STUDENTS EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY IN EXITING/ENTERING THE ROAD OWING TO PARKED CARS AND A RISE IN THE FOOTPATH SURFACE**

Success

- **NEW BIKE PARKING COVER INSTALLED IN 2021**
- **FOOTPATH SURFACE EXTENDED TO DETER PARKING & ENABLE SAFE ACCESS/EXIT ONTO THE ROAD BY CYCLISTS**
- **STRONG CYCLING CULTURE IN PLACE**

Cycleability Audit

In 2021, cycling students reviewed the school surrounds with their travel officer to identify areas for improvement. Students exit using the pathway from the church which extends around the corner to the roadway. This enables them to avoid cars pulling out from the church yard at peak times. Students identified issues exiting/entering the path citing that parked vehicles blocked their line of vision and space. In addition, the uneven surface made it difficult to enter the road safely. This was followed up with a meeting with the district roads engineer from Limerick Co. Council in June 2021 and the issue was resolved in November 2021 with an extension to the path and a drop kerb installed. The school is in a location where many would consider sustainable travel to be impossible, but they overcame the odds and made it work for them.



Actions Taken

Students designed road signs indicating the presence of young cyclists and placed them on the approach roads. These are put in place each year from February – June and September – October.

Cycling to school is targeted at the senior cycle and students must wear a Hi-viz and helmet to participate.

Some students living a distance from the school arranged to cycle to their friend's house to enable them to participate in the initiative.

The link with the church enabled separate access for cyclists where a separate path to the rear of the school (parking) was installed in early 2019.

The school applied for sheltered cycle parking in late 2020.

Students undertook a bike maintenance workshop and games with their travel officer.

The school liaised with Limerick County Council (Kilmallock Office) to improve access by bicycle.



CASE STUDIES



Secondary School

Castleisland Community College, Kerry
Castleisland Community College is a secondary school located on the outskirts of Castleisland in Co. Kerry. They began the Green-Schools Travel theme in September 2019 and during their two years on the programme they took part in many green initiatives and won awards for their efforts.

As part of promoting sustainable travel to and from school the Green-Schools Committee decided to promote bus use as a majority of their students lived outside Castleisland. As part of their action-planning to promote sustainable travel, they took part in travel

surveys, mapping exercises, traffic surveys, and a walkability audit. They attended workshops on the Sustainable Development Goals and covered project work on climate actions.

During Covid-19 lockdown, they decided to promote WOWs for Wellness, and they held a photography competition to promote the initiative. The competition called for students to take a picture of the 'great outdoors' within walking distance of their home.

Once back in college again, there was a great focus on walking within the locality,

for example, Sí na Sláinte walking routes were designed on the school grounds and Cappanalea Outdoor Adventures came to give workshops on the school grounds to promote well-being.

The school also took part in the EEU An Taisce GLOBE project which focused on raising awareness of the air quality around their college. The students and staff made considerable contributions towards the development of the Kerry Education and Training Board Sustainability Strategy 2020-2021.

St. Brendan's National School, Kerry

St. Brendan's National School is a mixed primary school in the village of Blennerville, located on the outskirts of Tralee on the N86 in County Kerry. This is a very busy national road, the main route to Dingle. Morning times and at the end of the school day are busy times with considerable traffic congestion. The school welcomed the Travel theme to help with congestion outside the school gates.

Before any work started on the Travel theme the school conducted a Baseline Travel Survey which showed that the majority of students travelled to school by car. The Green-Schools Coordinator and the Committee were the driving force behind the programme, and they had the support of the whole school. They kept daily records of how everyone travelled to school. The school saw an increase in carpooling, park'n'stride, cycling and walking.

They made excellent progress in trying to reduce congestion outside the school, reducing CO2 emissions and raising awareness on air quality. From a mapping exercise, it showed that only one family lived in the village. Their main campaign was to initially promote carpooling and explore the park'n'stride initiative. They took part in the Big Travel Challenge in 2020 and were the overall carpooling winners in Ireland. To tackle traffic congestion at the school gate, the Green-Schools Committee embraced every Green-School Travel initiative available to them. They decided to promote cycling to school, received Cycle Right training, applied for cycle parking, organised a 'No Idling' Campaign, took part in Clean Air Week, Walk to School Week and the Celebrate Cycling Campaign.

Speed survey tests were also undertaken and the major findings from the speed surveys were that driving drop off time, 38% of vehicles were driving over the speed limit. Then a further survey was undertaken (off peak) and 29% of vehicles were speeding. The highest speed recorded was 71km/h past the school entrance grounds. A further survey showed that 58% of the traffic was driving over the speed limit past the school. So, the school raised awareness in the community, and this is an ongoing concern.

Reducing Front of School Traffic



CASE STUDIES



St Anthony's BNS, Ballinlough, Cork City
St Anthony's Boys National School is a large primary school set within the suburbs of Cork City. The school has 1000 students and a very enthusiastic Green-Schools Committee.

Traffic congestion directly outside and around the school is a long-standing issue. The Green-Schools Committee, along with their Coordinator, made a huge effort to address this traffic issue whilst working on the Travel theme. They took the approach to engage with the Parents Committee and organised several very successful Park'n'Stride days, meeting at Ballinlough Community Park.

The Committee also took part in the An Taisce GLOBE Air Quality Programme and conducted highly engaging 'No-Idling' campaign. They communicated the campaign with parents and undertook a week-long survey to monitor cars during pick-up and drop-off times.

5th class students undertook a comprehensive study of 'The Impact on the Environment of St Anthony's Boys getting to school' and found that the total fuel cost for one day – travelling to and from school – was valued at €1,000 with a total mileage of 8,640km – they equated this sum as the equivalent of travelling from Cork to China!

Urban School

Considering the large size of the school the initiatives undertaken took considerable organisation, coordination and hard work from the Green-Schools Committee and those who supported them.

St. Anthony's BNS were awarded the Green Flag for Travel in 2021 and were commended by their Green-Schools Travel Officer for the difference they made in raising awareness of and encouraging sustainable travel in their school community.

Rural School

Scoil Treasa Naofa, Tralee

Scoil Treasa Naofa is a mixed rural primary school set within the village of Kilflynn in north Kerry. The school has 132 students and 11 staff members. Their Green-Schools Committee has eight student members who meet monthly, along with one teacher and a caretaker. As part of their environmental review, they conducted a travel survey, a carpooling survey, a mapping exercise and a walkability audit.

Many challenges and barriers to sustainable travel were identified as part of the walkability audit. Students identified that there is no safe and dedicated parking area for parents or guardians and car spaces for staff are very limited. The road along the school is very narrow with no footpath directly in front of the school. Students proposed to Kerry County Council various road maintenance issues and upgrades which were needed. These including the fixing of signs, the repairing of the flashing beacons, the re-painting of road markings and they proposed the need for a safe crossing to the school.



Their baseline Travel Survey showed that 80% of students travelled to school by car, 5% by carpool and the rest either walked, cycled, used park'n'stride or came by bus. To monitor their progress rate, a weekly survey was completed in each class to measure how students were travelling to school. These sheets were collected each Friday and the results were analysed to identify the class with the most students travelling to school in a sustainable way. The class with the most students travelling to school in a sustainable way wins the Golden Boot award and gets to keep the award for the week.

Following their promotion for active and sustainable travel to school in year one, their second survey showed a 33% decrease in the number of cars travelling to and from the school. The survey showed a 10% increase in the amount of students walking, a 0.16% increase in the number of students scooting and cycling, and an 25% increase in the amount of students parking and striding.

Five successful WOW days were held during the two years, with all 132 children plus guardians getting involved.



Meet the Team



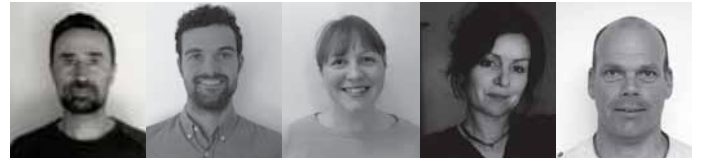
MICHAEL JOHN O'MAHONY Director, An Taisce EEU
JANE HACKETT Green-Schools Travel Manager
CHIARA HANRAHAN Green-Schools Travel Team Leader Leinster
ÁINE O'LOUGHLEN Green-Schools Travel Team Leader West
ANGELA WALL Green-Schools Travel Team Leader Munster



AENGUS KENNEDY Green-Schools Travel Officer
CATHERINE RUSSELL Green-Schools Travel Officer
CATERINA MC NAMARA Green-Schools Travel Officer
CAROLINE MURPHY Green-Schools Travel Officer
CAITRIONA CUNNINGHAM Green-Schools Travel Officer



CIARA NORTON Green-Schools Senior Communications Coordinator
REBECCA FLANAGAN SRTS Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Officer
ALLISON PHILLIPS Green-Schools Cycling Development Officer
BREANNE AYALA Green-Schools Cycling Admin Officer
RONAN MCLAUGHLIN Green-Schools Travel Administration Officer



CIARÁN HUSSEY Green-Schools Travel Officer
DAVE BROOKS Green-Schools Travel Officer
EDWINA COMAN Green-Schools Travel Officer
ELLEN O'SULLIVAN Green-Schools Travel Officer
HANS VAN DE VEN Green-Schools Travel Officer



SUSAN DOORLEY SRTS Infrastructure Officer
LISA MCDANIEL SRTS Infrastructure Officer
FIONA BARRY SRTS Infrastructure/GIS Officer
CYNTHIA O'MAHONY SRTS Infrastructure Officer
ELLEN MURPHY SRTS Infrastructure Officer



JENNIFER COONEY Green-Schools Travel Officer
JENNIFER MUSCHEIDT Green-Schools Travel Officer
KAREN MOORE Green-Schools Travel Officer
LAURA ASTORI Green-Schools Travel Officer
LISA O'GRADY Green-Schools Travel Officer



TRACEY LYDON SRTS Infrastructure Officer
RACHEL MACKAREL Green-Schools Travel Officer
SARAH MCELLISTREM Green-Schools Travel Officer
SORCHA BROPHY Green-Schools Travel Officer
RICHARD SILKE Green-Schools Travel Officer



LUKASZ KRZYWÓN Green-Schools Travel Officer
LORRAINE FLANAGAN Green-Schools Travel Officer
LUCY MURPHY Green-Schools Travel Officer
MONICA MULLINS Green-Schools Travel Officer
OISÍN KLINKENBERG Green-Schools Travel Officer



*smarter*travel>>>
>>> *schools*