

2015 Green-Schools Travel Annual Report





An Taisce

The National Trust for Ireland

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland is the foremost environmental organisation in Ireland. Its range of interests extends from the natural heritage of land, air, water, flora and fauna, to the heritage of buildings and gardens. Through its local, national and international networks, it seeks to educate, inform and lead public opinion on the environment and influence policy and development. Strategies to achieve these aims include awareness and education programmes and campaigns such as:

• Green-Schools • Green-Schools Travel • Blue Flag • Clean Coasts • National Spring Clean • Green Communities • Green Home • Green Campus

www.greenschoolsireland.org

FEE (The Foundation for Environmental Education) – seeks to promote environmental education by carrying out campaigns and improving awareness of the importance of environmental education. It is composed of a network of organisations which undertake individual projects in their own countries and participate in international efforts. An Taisce as the Irish member of FEE co-ordinates these campaigns in Ireland.

A key objective of the **Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport** is the promotion of sustainable transport. The Department takes a two pronged approach to increasing sustainable travel rates: investment in infrastructure to support cycling and walking; supported by the active promotion of cycling and walking as healthy, cheap and safe ways to travel. The Department has provided funding for the Green-Schools Travel programme since 2008 to educate children and their parents on the benefits of sustainable transport and to encourage them to reduce the number of cars on the school run.

The **National Transport Authority**, through its predecessor the Dublin Transportation Office, sponsored An Taisce Green-Schools to establish the Green-Schools Travel theme. The National Transport Authority now oversees An Taisce's Green-Schools Travel module on behalf of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. We are delighted with the success of the programme in reducing the numbers of pupils travelling to school by car, improving their health and fitness, reducing the economic and environmental impact of the school run, and delivering a safer pupil-centred front of school environment.



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport



Údarás
Náisiúnta Iompair
National **Transport** Authority

smartertravel>>>
>>> **schools**

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In 2015...



40,200+ students walked to school on National WOW (Walk on Wednesday) Day 2015.



8,100+ students cycled to school on National COW (Cycle on Wednesday) Day 2015



In 2015, 3,800+ students scooted to school on the first ever National SOW (Scoot on Wednesday) Day.



262 Green-Schools flags were awarded for sustainable travel in May 2015



Executive Summary

The Green-Schools Travel theme has been operating at a national level since 2008. The theme is funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport 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. Key achievements for the year include:

- Participating schools achieved a reduction in car journeys to school of 20% from the initial baseline survey undertaken in 2013. Of the 43.3% of students who were driven to school, 15.7% of these car share.
- The proportion of students walking to school increased by 9% between October 2013 and May 2015
- Cycling levels to school increased by 100% over the same two year period.
- The proportion of students who participate in weekly walking events is 56.7%.
- The proportion of students who participate in weekly cycling to school events is 10%.
- 262 schools were awarded the Green Flag for Travel in May 2015.
- 209 schools were invited to participate in the Travel theme in September 2015 bringing to approximately 450 the total number of schools working on the theme in the calendar year 2015.
- Green-Schools Travel Officers completed over 2,892 visits to schools over the 2015 calendar year. This level of direct support is essential for schools implementing the programme.
- 440 bicycle spaces were provided to 23 schools participating in the theme in 2015.
- Over 3,826 students from 81 schools received subsidised cycle training as part of the programme.
- Over 40,226 students walked to school on National Walk to School Day and over 8,100 cycled to school on national COW day as part of National Bike Week.
- Over 3,800 students scooted to school on National Scoot to School Day in March 2015.
- In 2015, the Green-Schools Travel competition entitled the BIG TRAVEL Challenge sought entries from Awarded and Active schools. St. Vincent de Paul G.N.S, Griffith Avenue, Dublin was awarded the overall winner of the Travel Competition and was named Ireland's Travel School of the Year 2015.
- The Green-Schools website received over 129,556 visits during the year.



Introduction

Green-Schools, known internationally as Eco-Schools, is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment. The Green-Schools programme operates in over 3,000 primary and secondary schools across Ireland. The Travel theme is the fifth theme of the programme and is funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and supported by the National Transport Authority. The aim of the Travel theme is to raise awareness of active and sustainable travel as well as promoting modal shift.

Green-Schools works with participating schools to increase the number of students walking, cycling, scooting, carpooling, and using public transport, through the implementation of the seven step methodology. The seven step methodology of the Green-Schools programme includes; encouraging schools to carry out an audit of their students travel patterns at the beginning of their programme; increasing awareness of sustainable travel among the school's community; developing and implementing a travel action plan to promote mode change on the journey to/from school; and monitoring and evaluating progress on an ongoing basis.

This report outlines the work undertaken by schools during 2015, some of these schools began the two year theme in September 2014, some completed the theme in June 2015 and others started the theme in September 2015. Therefore the range of activities undertaken throughout the calendar year is a snap shot of the work schools are engaged in at different stages of the two year programme.

The opportunity for modal change varies according to school profile, school location and the availability of services and infrastructure. However the vast majority of schools achieved some level of modal change on the journey to school and schools that completed the theme in 2015 achieved on average a 20% reduction in car journeys to school over a two year period.

BIG changes



24.8%



22.7%



4.4%



2.2%



54.1%



43.3%



15.7%

of car journeys to school are shared journeys



56.7%

of students participate in weekly walking events



10.1%

of students participate in weekly cycling events

Schools making Big Changes

Schools around the country have worked hard to engage pupils, support parents and motivate teachers to make the change from car journeys to sustainable journeys to school. There were over 450 schools nationwide working on the Travel theme during 2015; these schools were at different stages of the theme with some finishing the theme and some only beginning their journey. The Travel theme takes two years from start to finish and the 7 Steps are the vehicle which schools use to successfully achieve the Green Flag Award.

The schools which completed the Travel theme in 2015 achieved changes in terms of the journey to school with walking increasing by 9% and cycling increasing by 100% from 2.2 to 4.4. The number of cars arriving at the school gates has reduced by 20% and of the 43.3% of journeys taken to school by car, almost 15.7% of these are shared journeys.

The changes not only took place in large, urban schools but also in smaller rural schools. These changes took place even though schools faced big problems such as a lack of basic infrastructure, reduced capacity within the school and diverse school profiles and locations. There is evidence to suggest that where infrastructure is available pupils have a greater choice when it comes to how they come to school. The percentage of pupils walking increased where pedestrian facilities were in place as did the percentage of pupils cycling to

school. This confirms the need for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure that supports permeability and connectivity in and around schools.

There is consistent evidence to show that awareness of sustainable and active journeys increases as pupils participate in the Travel theme. This is reflected in the number of pupils who wish to travel to school in a sustainable way. The majority of pupils show a preference for cycling to school which has increased to 50.7%. In reality however the number of pupils who actually cycle to school is 4.4%, therefore barriers are still in place when it comes to pupils switching to cycling. The question is what are the main barriers and how can schools, parents, local authorities and Green-Schools help pupils to make the switch.

There is evidence to suggest that schools who run weekly walking and cycling days have a higher number of pupils walking or cycling to school throughout the week compared to schools who do not run these initiatives. The participation of weekly walking days (WOW, Feet First Fridays, No Car Tuesdays etc) is 56.7%. The proportion of students who walk to school in these participating classes is 28.2% compared with the average of 24.8%. To find out more about how schools changed their travel patterns in 2015 please read the full survey analysis in Appendix 1.

Survey findings show that there is a greater potential for an increase in walking and cycling where students have appropriate facilities and infrastructure in place.

Walking Average 24.8%	Traffic warden service 38.4%	Pedestrian crossing 26.6%	Footpath 27.6%
Cycling Average 4.4%	Cycle training 7.6%	Cycle parking 5.7%	Cycle lane 14.6%

Walkability Audits Work!



During 2015, Green-Schools committees, with the guidance of Green-Schools Travel Officers, conducted walkability and cycleability audits, whose findings were then submitted to the relevant Local Authorities. Many of these audit reports have yielded infrastructural improvements nationwide.

Upper Left to Lower Right:

New road markings and a new LED School Warning Sign at St. Finbarr's B.N.S./Our Lady of Mercy N.S., Bantry, Co. Cork

New safer crossing point at St. John's N.S., Ballisodare, Co. Sligo

New pedestrian crossing at Rathdrum B.N.S., Co. Wicklow

Action on the Ground

The Green-Schools Travel programme is delivered through practical workshops and school visits that meet the individual needs of each school promoting sustainable journeys. Green-Schools Travel Officers work directly with schools to implement the programme and to provide advice, resources and training to students, staff and parents over the two years of the theme.

Green-Schools Travel Officers made 2,892 school visits during 2015. The following supports were delivered to schools during these visits:

- Environmental Reviews
- Traffic Surveys
- School Gate Assessments
- Mapping Workshops
- Walkability / Cycleability Audits
- WOW (Walk on Wednesday/Weekday) Launches
- COW (Cycle on Wednesday / Weekday) Launches
- SOW (Scoot on Wednesday / Weekday) Launches
- Travel Surveys
- Parents' Talks
- Walking Promotion Workshops IE. Bling your Shoe
- Cycle Promotion Workshops, IE. Group Cycle
- Scooting Skills Workshops
- Bike Safety and Maintenance Workshops
- Cycle Skills Sessions
- Get in Gear Parents' Cycle Skills Workshops
- Golden Boot / Bike / Scooter Awards
- National Walk to School Week including National WOW Day
- National Bike Week including National COW Day
- National Scoot to School Week including National SOW Day
- Green-Schools Travel Competition Awards
- Promotion of European Mobility Week
- Renewal Visits

3826

the number of pupils that received cycle training

81

the number of schools that received cycle training funding

440

the number of bike parking spaces installed

23

the number of schools that received cycle parking

45

the number of Get in Gear adult cycling courses delivered

Cycling Updates

Green-Schools Travel administered Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport funding for cycle training and cycling parking.



2818

the number of WOW
days



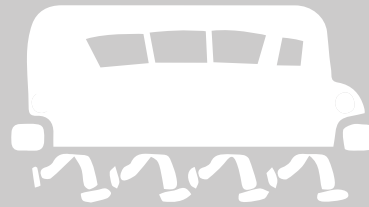
1088

the number
COW days



1981

the number of
Park 'n' Stride days



830

the number of
Walking Buses

218

the number
of Walkability
Audits



65

the number
of Cycleability
Audits

Teacher Training Summer Course

In 2015 teacher training courses were offered to schools during the summer break for the sixth year. The courses covered many areas of environmental education and sustainable development across the framework of the Green-Schools themes. In 2015, courses took place in Dublin, with 19 participants; in the Meath/Louth region with 12 participants and in Kerry with 19 participants. The course included lessons on sustainable and active travel which focused on road safety, walkability audits, cycle skills, bike maintenance and raising awareness of the travel theme. There was very positive feedback from participants and many teachers said that the course exceeded their expectations.

'Very enjoyable, many useful ideas for working with Green Flags and all other subjects. The co-ordinators were very helpful and enthusiastic.'

'A super action packed and incredibly interesting and enjoyable week.'

'Fantastic balance between outdoor and indoor activities. Very well chosen venues.'

Teacher Training Autumn Seminars

There were 20 seminars introducing teachers to the theme of sustainable travel, held between September and October 2015. The seminars were organised and delivered by Green-Schools Travel Officers in the following areas: Cavan, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath and Wexford.

The courses aimed to:

- Introduce participants to the theme of sustainable travel in schools and to explore the issues around local and global sustainable and active transport,
- Provide practical, low cost solutions for implementing the theme in the school environment,
- Give teachers the opportunity to network and to share ideas and experiences,
- Equip the participants with the practical tools to coordinate the Green-Schools Travel theme in their schools,

- Introduce the participants to their local Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO), Road Safety Officer (RSO) and other stakeholders and make them aware of the resources and supports available to them while working on the travel theme,
- Get practical feedback from experienced educators on how best to support them to implement the Green-Schools Travel theme within the school structure.

These seminars have proven to be a very effective way of engaging schools at the initial stage of the travel programme. Teachers who take part report feeling more confident and better equipped to implement the travel theme early on in their schools.

Conferences

Green-Schools Travel was invited to present at the Irish Transport Research Network (ITRN) conference in NUI Galway on 27th - 28th August 2015. Laura Dixon, Green-Schools Travel Officer for Mayo, was one of three presenters at the well attended session that focused on Smarter Travel and Education. The presentation entitled; 'Green-Schools Ireland - Changing Travel Behaviour in Schools' focused on how awareness and modal shift from the car to walking, cycling, car-pooling and public transport has been achieved by schools all over Ireland and outlined the process, the challenges and the results. ITRN members were inspired and encouraged by the positive behavioural change achieved by Green-Schools in Ireland.

Green-Schools Travel National Manager, Jane Hackett attended the international Cycle City Active City conference from 25th – 26th June 2015, in the Newcastle Civic Centre in the UK. The two day event included expert speakers and exhibits from organisations with influence in cycle policy, promotion and infrastructure. Jane presented a talk entitled 'The Green-Schools Programme in Ireland – Behaviour Change in Schools' at a session on Community Building – schools, training, marketing and leisure. Delegates at the conference were inspired by the success of the Green-Schools Travel programme

to date and it was evident from the conference that it is one of the most holistic programmes between the UK and Ireland in changing travel behaviours in primary school pupils.

Green Flag Awards

In the month of May 2015, 233 Green Flags were awarded for the theme of travel to schools, in recognition of their success promoting and implementing the travel theme. Almost 88% of these schools had started work on the Travel programme in 2013 and had therefore successfully completed the Travel theme within a two year period of the Green-Schools programme. Only the remaining 12% of Travel schools awarded in 2015 started the theme before September 2013 and had required a longer period for successful implementation due to their individual circumstances. The successful travel schools in 2015 were awarded their flags at awards ceremonies held at seven venues around the country: Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny, Mayo and Westmeath.

Communications

Website

In 2015 the Green-Schools website continued to attract large numbers of visitors, with high numbers of pageviews and visits to the site, including the pages related to the Travel theme. The website is monitored by Google Analytics and the key statistics for the site are calculated from January 1st 2015 - December 31st 2015:

Pageviews: 129,556
Visits/Sessions: 129,556
Unique visits/sessions: 95,968

Green-Schools Travel is a prominent theme on greenschoolsireland.org. Pages related to the theme are placed highly in the pageview rankings on the website. Like all Green-Schools themes Travel has a theme page, a resources page, a case studies page and a useful links page dedicated to it. All of these are easily navigable from the homepage. In addition to this the news section, which feeds to a prominent space on the homepage, contains a majority of Travel-related items. These are submitted by staff and schools and are accompanied by images and often link

to a corresponding online image gallery on Flickr.

During specific campaigns in 2015 (National Walk to School Week / Bike Week) an icon for the week was placed on the homepage with a link to information about events.

Social Media in 2015

The homepage of www.greenschoolsireland.org contains links to the programme's various social media platforms: Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, Soundcloud, Google + and Instagram.

Twitter & Facebook

During 2015 the presence of Green-Schools on Twitter continued to grow and the year ended with an increase of 1312 followers, ending the year with 3,600 followers, as of December 31st 2015. Schools regularly use Twitter to connect with Green-Schools and share images of their Travel theme activities. During National Walk to School Week, Bike Week and on National Scoot to School Week were encouraged to share with us on Twitter, using hashtags.

Alongside Twitter, Facebook is one of Green-Schools' main social media channels. Starting with 1237 'Likes' in January 2015 the account finished the year with 1776. News and images related to the Travel theme and Travel events are ever present on the Green-Schools Ireland Facebook timeline.

Flickr & YouTube

Flickr and YouTube are the image and video hosting sites used by Green-Schools. The Green-Schools Flickr account had accumulated almost 1,000,000 photos views since its establishment up to December 2015. The account contains many Travel-related albums including albums dedicated to events such as Bike Week, National Walk to School Week, National SOW Day and the Green-Schools Travel Competition.

The Green-Schools YouTube page was created in January 2011 and has a lifetime views figure of over 39,000 since creation, approximately 9,000 views over 2015. Travel is a prominent theme on the YouTube channel and has a dedicated playlist of all Travel-related videos created by Green-

Schools Travel staff and schools participating in the programme.

Ezine

Green-Schools Ezine - The Green-Schools Ezine is distributed via direct email. In 2015 eight ezines were circulated. Each ezine is delivered to 4,000+ subscribers and is posted online and shared via Twitter and Facebook. Travel forms a large part of the ezine content and features in multiple articles in each ezine. The ezine also links back to news items from the website and contains notice about upcoming events such as National Walk to School Week; Bike Week and National Scoot to School Week.

Broadcast & Print Media

Green-Schools Travel events and initiatives were widely covered in print, online and broadcast media during 2015. Approximately 200 print and broadcast items across regional and national media featured Green-Schools Travel during 2015. This figure is approximate as no national clipping service is employed by An Taisce at present. National print and online media coverage included an article in the Irish Times regarding COP-21 and an accompanying video filmed by Green-Schools Travel Officer Ray Foley.

Radio mentions and coverage of the programme were high and ranged from regional radio covering local events such as WOW Days and local schools' involvement in national events like Scoot to School Week, to coverage on national stations, such as Green-Schools Travel Manager Jane Hackett's interview with Matt Cooper on Today FM's The Last Word in May 2015.

During 2015 Green-Schools Travel also featured on television. RTÉ's news2day show covered a number of events in the Green-Schools Travel calendar while RTÉ's Today Show; TG4 Nuacht and TV3 News also covered stories related to Green-Schools Travel. During 2015 many schools also featured their own Green-Schools Travel programme on their own websites and in community newsletters. Both are effective methods of circulating news and informing and involving the wider community in school activities.

'The BIG TRAVEL Challenge'

2015 was the first year that Green-Schools Travel ran the BIG TRAVEL Challenge which ran as a national competition during February. The aim of the challenge was to get schools to increase the number of students who travel to school in an active, sustainable way over a 15 day period. The challenge showed that schools could achieve increases in walking, cycling and scooting over a short period of time and during a cold, wet month.

7 category winners & 1 overall winner

The list of winners can be reviewed in Appendix 1





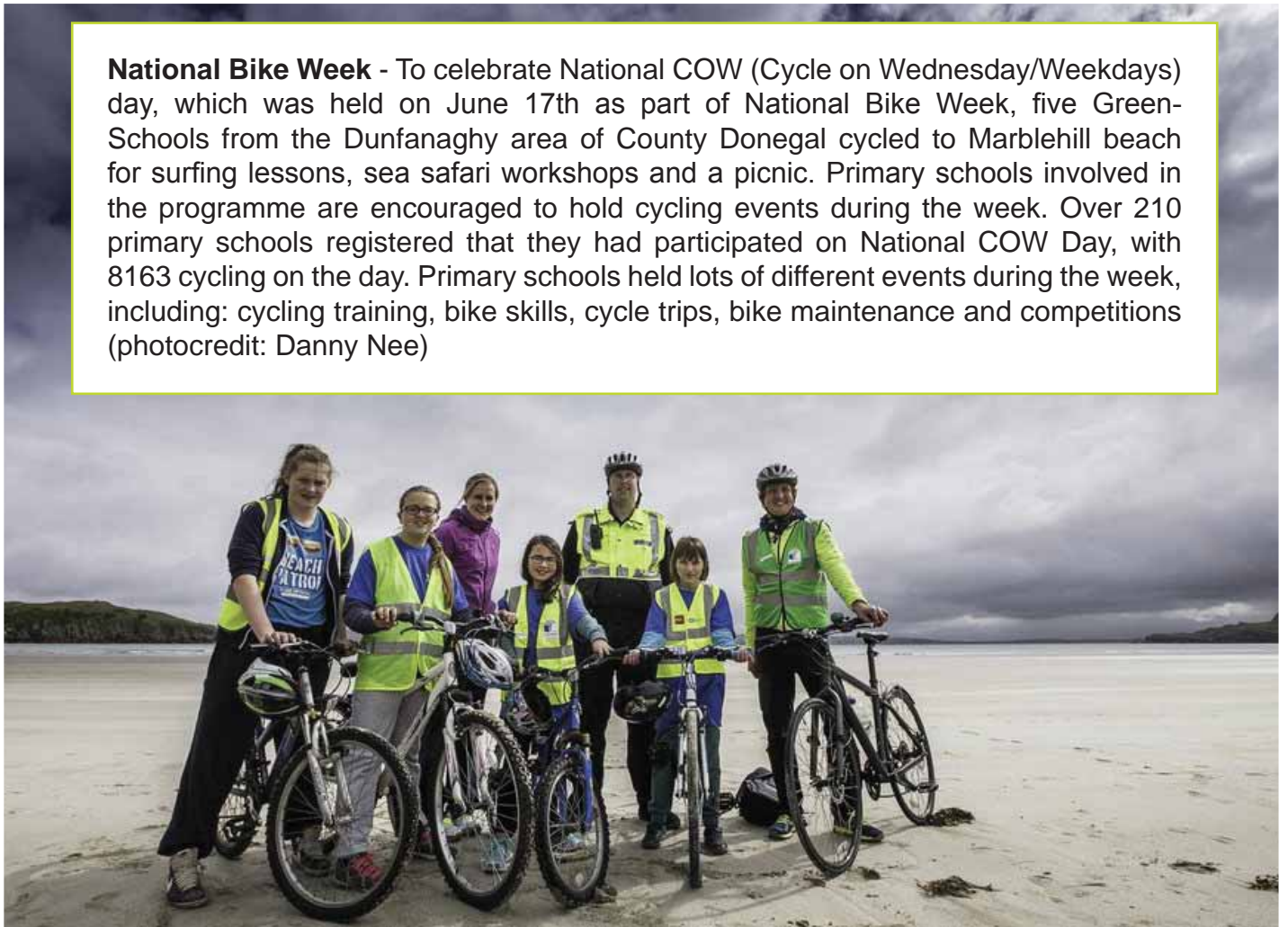
National Walk to School Week - Students around Ireland participated in the week with 40,226 students across the country walking to school on National WOW day, which fell on May 11th in 2015. Schools also took part in events such as sponsored walks, fancy dress walks to school, road safety talks and health and fitness days throughout the week

(photo credit: Anthony Lenonard)



National Scoot to School Week - Students of St. Patrick's B.N.S. in Drumcondra, Dublin 9 scooted to action on National SOW (Scoot on Wednesdays/Weekdays) day, during National Scoot to School Week, which ran from March 9th – March 13th, 2015. In spite of very poor weather during the week, a total of 3801 students scooted to school on National SOW day. In 2015, Green-Schools Travel teamed up with Micro Scooters, the leading provider of children's scooters in Ireland and the UK, to provide scooters as prizes for schools who took part in National SOW Week. There were 50 scooters and 70 scooter packs awarded to schools that held Scoot to School days around the country during that week

National Bike Week - To celebrate National COW (Cycle on Wednesday/Weekdays) day, which was held on June 17th as part of National Bike Week, five Green-Schools from the Dunfanaghy area of County Donegal cycled to Marblehill beach for surfing lessons, sea safari workshops and a picnic. Primary schools involved in the programme are encouraged to hold cycling events during the week. Over 210 primary schools registered that they had participated on National COW Day, with 8163 cycling on the day. Primary schools held lots of different events during the week, including: cycling training, bike skills, cycle trips, bike maintenance and competitions (photocredit: Danny Nee)



Some examples of what happened in schools during



Mapping



Walkability Audits



Cycle workshops

visits from Green-Schools Travel Officers in 2015...

Action Days



WOW days



Group cycles



Case Studies

St. Joseph's Primary School

Dungarvan, County Waterford

This school is a boys' primary school in Dungarvan, County Waterford with 124 students. There were issues with traffic congestion and safety at the school gate at drop-off and pick up times. The school is located close to five other schools in the centre of the town.

The school achieved their green flag for travel in May 2015. In order to achieve this, the school carried out a number of initiatives which increased walking, cycling and park and stride numbers.

Key Actions:

- Participated in the Big Travel Challenge
- Cycle Training
- Celebrated Bike Week (Games and Cycle to school week)
- Purchased bike themed books to promote the cycling ethos in the school
- Celebrated Walk to School week
- 6th Class Transition workshop
- Students designed a sustainable travel website
- Received bike shelter through Green-Schools Travel
- Dr. Bike workshops
- Peer to Peer education
- Walkability audit
- Travel Fun Day
- Road Safety Week

Modal Change



10%



3%



28%



41%



St. Vincent de Paul Girls' National School

Marino, Dublin 9

The school is a senior girls' national school with just over 300 pupils and is located on Griffith Avenue, a busy arterial road in Marino Dublin 9. Traffic congestion is a big issue in the area as the avenue is a commuter route into the city centre and there are a number of infant, primary and secondary schools located along it.

The school achieved their green flag for travel in May 2015. Their Green-Schools work was featured on RTE's News2day to showcase their work. The school's efforts were justly rewarded when they were named 'walking school of the year' for The BIG Travel Challenge 2015.

Key Actions:

- Comprehensive action plans
- Focused on awareness raising
- Conducted Cycle training and scooter training
- Designated three P'n'S locations
- Organised two daily walking bus routes
- Themed WOW, COW and SOW days each month
- Held a number of Action Days
- Installed new scooter parking
- Sustainable travel leader-board
- Climate Change workshops
- Dr. Bike workshops
- National Scoot, Walk & Cycle to School Weeks
- Participated in European Mobility Week
- Travel Surveys
- Walkability Audit

Modal Change



5%



8%



17%



5%



33%



Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh

Limerick City

Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh Secondary School is a mixed inner city secondary school with in excess of 500 students in attendance. As a Gaelscoil, they have a wide catchment. The school commenced work on the travel theme in September 2014 and are due to be awarded their travel flag in 2016.

Following walkability audits and mapping workshops with 2nd years, the 3rd years stepped up to the challenge to organise a WOW day as part of an action project, along with creating videos and posters to raise awareness and arranging 'walking groups' from the Park 'n' Stride locations identified by the 2nd year students. Following on from this great start, the school has gone on to carry out some fantastic initiatives to encourage more students to walk, cycle, Park 'n' Stride and carpool to school.

Key Actions:

- The committee was representative of the whole school
- Mapping workshops were carried out to find out which are the most popular routes to school
- Walkability audits of 6 routes were conducted to help identify safe Park 'n' Stride locations
- Sustainable travel video were created by GS committee
- Awareness raising workshops were carried out
- 3rd years organised WOW and COW days for 2nd years in the school, as part of their CSPE action project
- The whole school took part in a School Car Free Day during National Walk to School Week
- Held regular WOW and COW days
- 2nd years participated in Halfords Bike Maintenance workshops
- They took part in the Big Travel Challenge
- 'Don't Park Here' cardboard cut-outs were designed and made by GS committee to encourage safer school drop off in the morning

Modal Change



5%



0.1%



19%



3%



26%



Appendix 1

Quantitative Survey results

Introduction

In order to monitor the progress and performance of participating schools over the two year period of the programme An Taisce EEU conducts up to four surveys per school at various stages across both academic years. Schools undertake an initial baseline travel survey during the first two months of the programme, followed by another survey towards the end of the first academic year. This methodology is repeated over the second year of the programme to ensure a comprehensive and complete set of results. This is an extensive process which allows An Taisce EEU to monitor the overall performance of the programme and also provide information at an individual school level throughout the year. Schools are also required to monitor and measure progress themselves as part of the programme. Surveys monitor travel patterns and attitudes of pupils and staff over the period of the programme. Student surveys are conducted by Green-Schools Travel Officers via a class questionnaire where pupils respond to questions by raising their hands. In a minority of cases student surveys are conducted by the class teacher. Staff surveys are carried out in a similar format and usually in the staffroom by Green-Schools Travel Officers. Results are collated and analyzed independently by Optimize Economic Consultancy which is affiliated with UCD Urban Institute. This report focuses on results for two distinct groups of schools; a comparison of results for students that completed the programme in May 2015 (final survey results); and a comparison of results for staff (teachers and non teaching staff) that completed the programme in May 2015 (final survey results).

Student Survey - Final Results May 2015

May 2015 was the final survey date for schools that started the Green-Schools Travel theme in September 2013 and is compared to their original baseline survey results and also interim surveys carried out in May and October 2014. In the May 2015 Final Survey results for the 2013 sample there are 248 schools and 1,023 classes. This compares 272 schools and 966 classes in the original Baseline survey. At least 189 of the schools sampled on this occasion were sampled in the Baseline. In addition, for some key travel questions, it provides a better indication of the success of Green Schools Travel by comparing 1) the same schools represented in the final survey and the baseline survey, and 2) a like-for-like comparison for the same classes from the current and baseline sample.

A total of 24,489 students are included in the current survey compared with 20,960 at the time of the baseline despite the greater number of schools in the original sample. Of this number, 46.7% (11,429) are boys and 53.3% (13,060) are girls. There are 14 all-boys schools and 27 all-girls schools, although some younger classes are mixed and a few are either boys or girls only. In this sample, 41% (100) of the schools are urban compared with 53% at the time of the baseline. However, these schools have 55.2% (13,521) of students as they tend to be larger. However, as noted above, many of the “urban” schools, as well as those defined as “rural”, are actually located in small communities (or on the edge of these communities) where the student population catchment would be both urban and rural. The majority of schools, i.e. 93% (229) are primary with 85.9% (21,034) of students. The proportion of secondary schools is 7% (18) with 14.1% of students (3,455).

Over the period of the programme (September 2013 to June 2015) participating schools recorded an overall mode share reduction in private car use on the journey to school of 10 percentage points. The

share of students walking to school increased by nearly 2.1 percentage points, cycling increased by 2.2 percentage point and the mode share for park and stride increased by 9 percentage points. As a result the mode share split for walking, cycling and park and stride increased by 9%, 100% and 233% .The share of students travelling to school by car dropped by 20%.

Travel to School

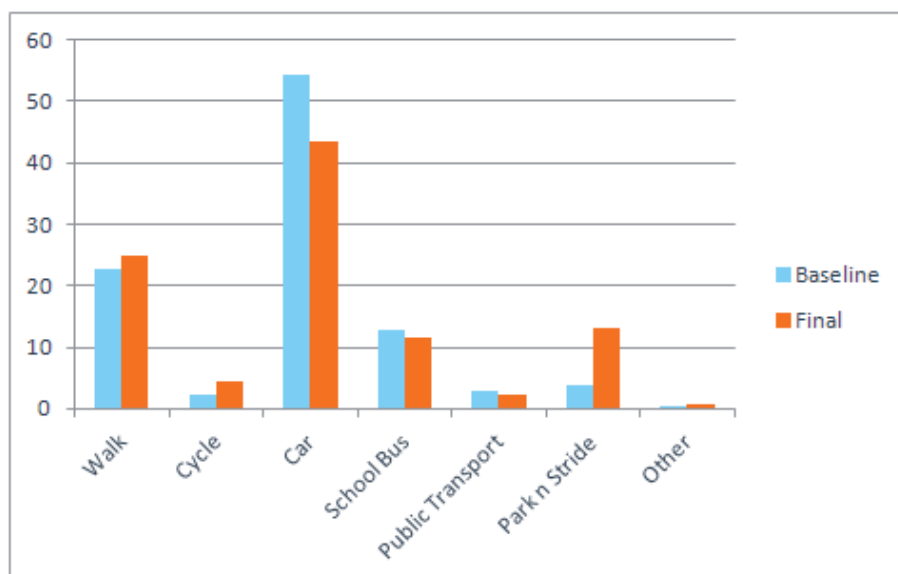


Figure 1: Changes in School Travel between September 2013 and June 2015

	Walk	Cycle	Car	School Bus	Public Transport	Park 'n' Stride	Other
Baseline	22.7	2.2	54.1	12.8	2.8	3.9	0.4
Final Follow On	24.8	4.4	43.3	11.4	2.4	13	0.8
Mode Change	2.1	2.2	-10.8	-1.4	-0.4	9.1	0.4
% Change	9%	100%	20%	11%	14%	233%	100%

Table 1: Comparative Results between the Baseline Survey 2013 and the Final Survey 2015

Car and Carpooling

The majority of students are brought to school by car at 43.3% (10,604). Allowing for the differences in the sample, this is quite a reduction on the baseline figure of 54.1% and a reduction too on the figure of 47.0% recorded for the last follow-on survey.

Car pooling occurs in 79% of classes and 85% of schools for 15.7% (3,768) of all journeys and 36.2% of the number who travel by car. These figures are a slight improvement on the respective figures of 13.7% and 25.2% recorded at the time of the baseline survey. Despite the small increase in the overall proportion of students using a car pool, the data suggests that there has been an increase in the proportion making use of car pooling where this activity is established in the school. On average in the schools for which there is car pooling, 36.9% of students arriving by car are in a car pool, compared with 23.0% at the time of the baseline. In 5.8% (59) of classes the proportion arriving by car or park-and-stride who car share is greater than 50%.

Walking

The proportion of students who walk to school is 24.8% (6,064), representing an increase on the

23.7% recorded at the baseline. Roughly equal proportions of boys and girls walk at 23.8% (2,716) and 25.6% (3,348). The prospect of increasing the number of students who walk to school is greater where facilities are present to allow them to do so more safely. As previously, the presence of a lollipop crossing service increases the proportion of students walking to school most at 38.4%. For schools with a pedestrian crossing, the proportion is 26.8%, while for schools with a footpath the proportion walking is 27.6%. Of course, these facilities may also have been provided in response to demand. More pedestrian facilities are also present for urban schools to which more students would be expected to walk. Nevertheless, it is still the case that the more facilities there are the more inclined students are to walk to school.

Walking Average	Crossing Service	Pedestrian Crossing	Footpath
24.8%	38.4%	26.6%	27.6%

Table 2: Increased Walkers where Infrastructure or Services Exist

Cycling

Only a small proportion of students arrive by bicycle at 4.4% (1,072), but this figure is a higher than during the Baseline when it was just 2.2%. The proportion of boys who cycle is 5.8% (665) compared with 3.1% (407) of girls (this being a slight increase compared with the last follow-on survey figure for girls of 2.8%). For those schools represented in the baseline sample the proportion cycling has increased to 5.0%.

Having a cycle path and cycle parking increases the proportions who cycle to 7.6% and 5.7% respectively. However, in those classes for which training has been provided the level of cycling is 14.8% compared with 9.6% at the baseline.

Cycling Average	Cycling Path	Cycle Parking	Training
4.4%	7.6%	5.7%	14.8%

Table 3: Increased Cyclists where Infrastructure or Services Exist

Park and Stride

Park-and-stride currently accounts for 13.0% (3,170) of journeys. This proportion is very similar to the last survey, but a large increase on the 3.9% of journeys recorded in the baseline. Park and Stride is often the only option for schools that have a large catchment and are located in rural areas with limited infrastructure.

Bus

The proportion of students arriving by school bus is 11.4% (2,788) which is a slight reduction on the 12.8% recorded in the baseline. The proportion arriving by public transport is little changed at only 2.4% (594).

Urban and rural

In terms of urban and rural characteristics, more than twice as many students, i.e. 34.1% (4,612) walk to an urban school than walk to rural schools for which the figure is just 13.2% (1,445). In both cases, though, the figure is higher than at the time of the baseline survey. In this sample the proportion of urban and rural students who cycle is quite similar at 4.8% (646) and 3.8% (416) respectively whereas distinctly more urban students cycled in the last follow-on survey. The proportion of rural students who cycle has increased compared with the baseline.

The proportion of urban students using school buses is 6.7% (902) whereas the figure for rural schools is much higher at 17.3% (1,886). Despite its relative availability in some urban areas, public transport is used by just 2.7% (360) of urban students while the figure for students in rural schools is just 2.1%

(234). Most students in the sample are quite young and so would understandably be less inclined to travel on public transport.

Travel by car makes up most of the balance and accounts for 34.7% (4,686) of journeys by urban students and 54.1% (5,908) of journeys by rural students. Car pooling amongst urban students accounts for 12.1% (1,633) of journeys, but for a higher proportion of rural students at 20.1% (2,196). Car use has fallen from the figure of 39% and 60% recorded for urban and rural students respectively in the previous survey due to greater use of car pooling and park-and-stride. For the most part the figures reveal positive trends towards more sustainable modes when compared with the baseline, except in the case of bus transport.

Mode	Walk	Cycle	Car	School Bus	Public Transport	Park 'n' Stride	Carpool
Urban	34%	4.8%	34.7%	6.7%	2.7%	16%	12%
Rural	13.2%	3.8%	54%	17.3%	2.0%	9.2%	20%

Table 4: Comparison between Urban and Rural Schools

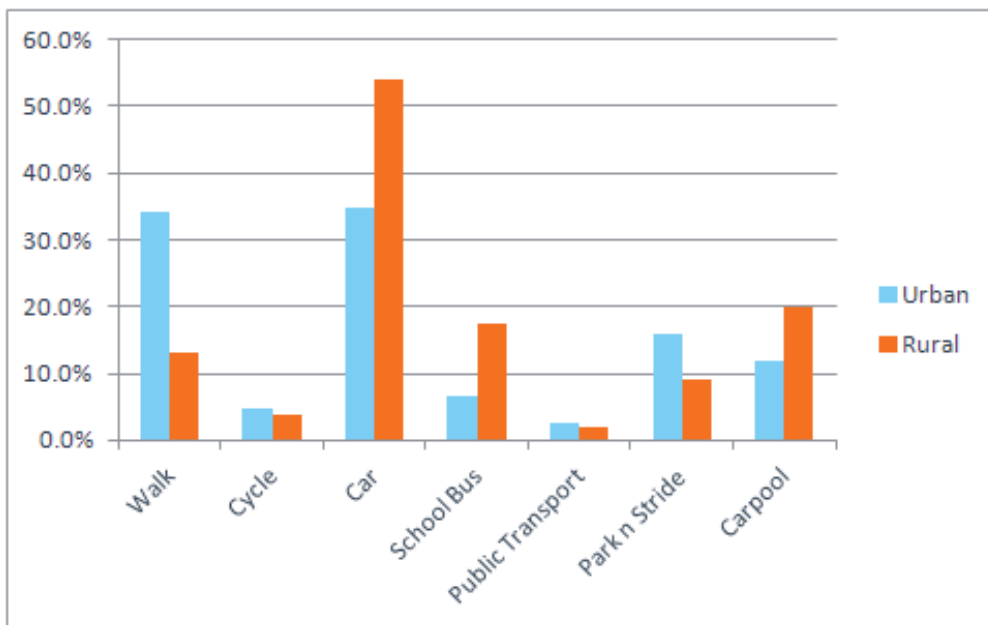


Figure 2: Urban and Rural Modes of Transport to School (final survey)

Primary and Secondary

A comparison of travel mode for primary schools and secondary schools reveals that the number of students who walk to a primary school is 25.7% (5,410) compared with secondary schools for which the figure is 18.9% (647), although the latter sample is quite small and so subject to change. For cycling the proportions are 4.5% (948) of primary students which compares with just 3.3% (114) of students in secondary schools. Although the latter figure is small, it is still greater than the proportion recorded in the baseline survey.

School buses are used by 9.4% (2,926) of primary students. This figure is proportionately much less than the 23.6% (806) of secondary students who come to school by bus. The corresponding figures for students arriving on public transport are understandably low for primary students at just 1.6% (326) compared with 7.8% (268) of secondary students.

Car is the dominant mode for both groups with the proportion of primary students using this means

being 44.1% (9,262), although this proportion is less than the 48.6% recorded in the previous survey and much less than the 58.7% recorded in the baseline. The respective for secondary students is 39.0% (1,332). The relative proportion who car pool are 74.5% (15,666) for primary students and 13.5% (460) for secondary students. The proportion of primary students using park-and-stride is 13.9% (2,926) compared with just 4.2% at the baseline, but similar to the previous follow-on survey figure. This figure compares with 7.0% (238) of secondary students who arrive using this means.

Mode	Walk	Cycle	Car	School Bus	Public Transport	Park 'n' Stride	Carpool
Primary	25.7%	4.5%	44%	9.4%	1.6%	13.9%	16%
Secondary	18.9%	3.3%	39%	23.6%	7.8%	7.0%	13.5%

Table 5: Comparison between Primary and Secondary Schools

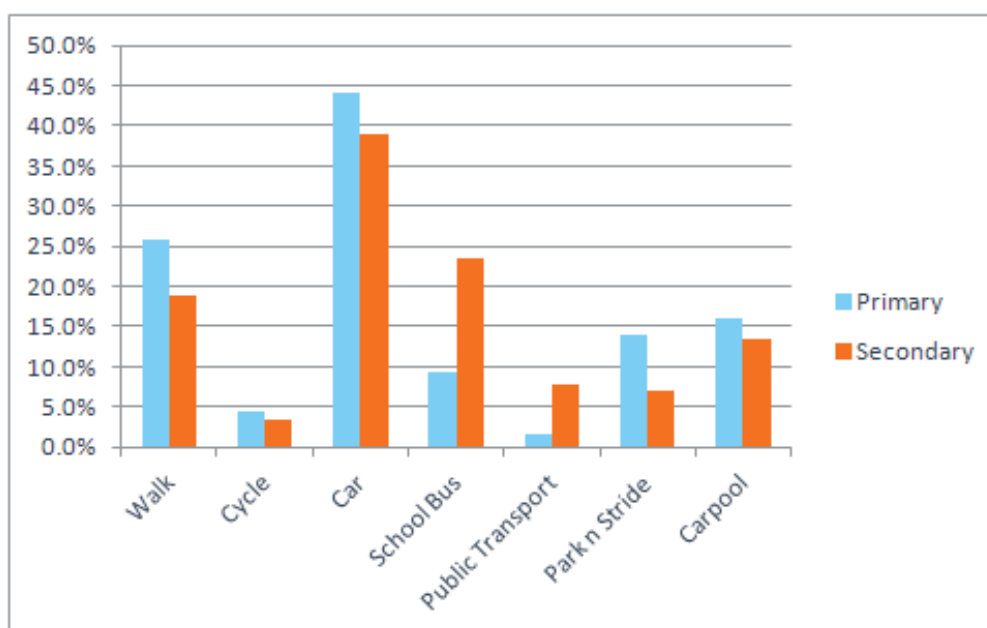


Figure 3: Primary and Secondary Modes of Transport to School (final survey)

Preferences for Travel to School

Students were asked how they would prefer to travel to school given the choice. The proportion of students who prefer to walk is unchanged at 23.3% (5,682) and almost the same as the proportion who actually walk. A higher proportion of girls would prefer to walk than boys at 25.7% and 20.3% respectively.

The proportion of students who would prefer to cycle given the choice continues to increase and now accounts for 50.7% (9,502), a figure that is higher than the Baseline figure of 41.6%. This figure is, of course, much larger than the 4.4% who actually cycle. The proportions of boys who would prefer to cycle is higher than that for girls at 53.7% and 48.0% respectively.

Weekly Walking Events

The proportion of students who have participated in Walk to School events is 56.7% (13,892) compared with just 0.8% recorded at the time of the baseline. The proportion of students who usually walk to school in these participating classes is 28.2% (5,424) compared with the average of 24.8%, but is 43.5% (8,357) if Park-and-Stride is included.

Weekly Cycling Events

The proportion of students who have participated in Cycle-to-School events is 10.1% (2,480) which compares with just 0.8% at the baseline. In schools which provide these events, average participation has now risen to 37.8%. Furthermore, the level of cycling in these schools is 8.5% (547) and so much higher than the average for the full sample of 4.4%.

Staff Survey Results

The total number of staff in the sample is 1,652. There are more female staff than males at 83.8% (1,384). Of the total, 63.2% (1,044) work in urban schools and 36.8% (608) in rural schools. Primary school staff account for 84.2% (1,391) of the sample. The average number of staff per school is 7.3.

Distance From Home to School

Most staff, i.e. 69.7% (1,157) travel six or more kilometres to school with the largest proportional grouping falling within the over 10 kilometre category at 40.8% (678). The average distance travelled is 7.8km. Table 5 shows that rural staff typically need to travel further with the majority, i.e. 55.0% (330) of rural staff needing to travel for more than ten kilometres compared with 32.4% (342) of urban staff.

Car

At 87.8% (1,449) most staff drive to school. However, this figure does represent a small reduction on the 91.0% recorded at the time of the baseline survey.

Walking and Cycling

Only a small number of staff walk to school at 4.7% (79), but this again is slightly higher than the figure of 3.0% for the baseline survey. Cycling accounts for 3.7% (61) of journeys to school by staff. Although small, this again is higher than the 2.5% recorded at the baseline.

Bus

Public buses are used by only 2.2% (37) of staff, an increase on the 1.5% recorded at the time of the baseline

Mode	Walk	Cycle	Car	Public Transport	Park 'n' Stride
Baseline	3.6%	2.5%	91%	0%	0%
Final	4.7%	3.7%	87.8%	2.2%	1.4%

Table 6: Comparison between Baseline and Final Survey for Staff Travel

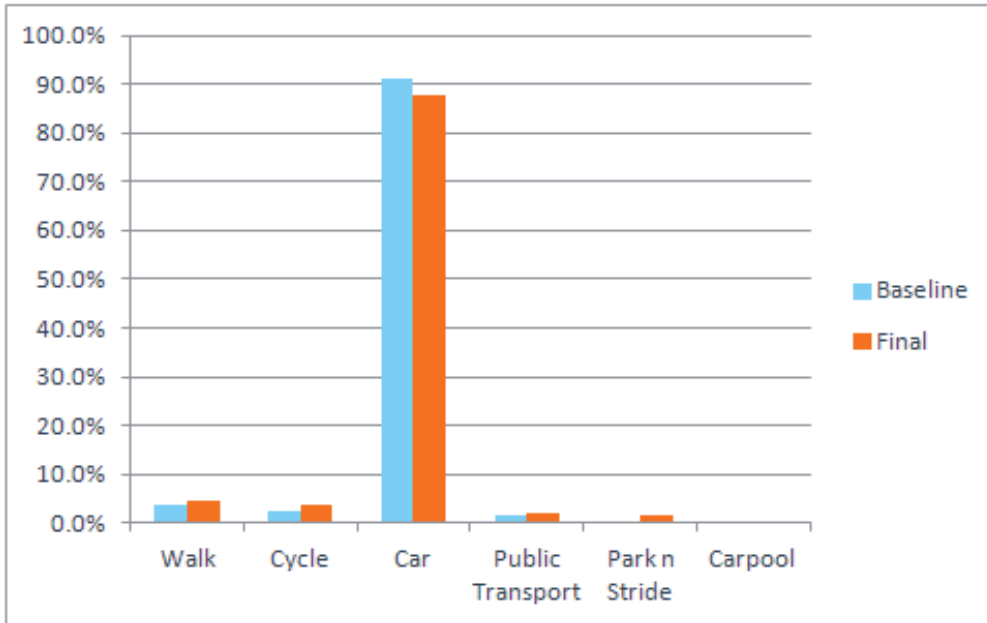


Figure 4: Comparison between Baseline and Final Survey for Staff Travel

Appendix 2

National Travel Competition Winners 2015

Overall Winner

St. Vincent de Paul G.N.S, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9

Walking Category

St. Peter's N.S, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Mountmellick Community School, Mountmellick, Co. Laois

Cycling Category

Crossmolina N.S, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

Scooting Category

Scoil na Coroine Mhuire, Ashford, Co. Wicklow

Carpooling Category

St. Gerard's Junior School, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Park 'n' Stride Category

Scoil Barra Naofa, Monkstown, Co. Cork

Bus Category (Merit Award)

Central Remedial Clinic School, Clontarf, Dublin 3





Green-Schools

 An Taisce



Is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes whole school action towards a sustainable environment through the implementation of the Seven Step methodology. It is known internationally as Eco-Schools.

W. www.greenschoolsireland.org
E. greenschools@antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 222



Encourages a partnership approach to environmental management in third level educational institutions. The programme places significant importance on the inclusion of all sectors of the campus community in environmental management, protection and enhancement.

W. www.greencampusireland.org
E. greencampus@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 211



An international award recognising beaches and marinas that meet strict criteria related to environmental education, information provision, water quality, environmental management and safety. The aim of the Blue Flag is to promote integrated coastal zone management and sustainable development in coastal areas.

W. www.blueflagireland.org / www.blueflag.org
E. blueflag@antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 210



Is Ireland's largest and most popular anti-litter initiative. The campaign runs very April and encourages all members of the community to actively participate and take responsibility for their immediate environment. By participating in clean-ups, groups are making a positive and important contribution to their community.

W. www.nationalspringclean.org
E. nsc@antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 212



Is an anti-litter programme for secondary schools. It involves students working with their peers to develop initiatives to tackle litter in their schools and local area. The programme is designed to facilitate and develop leadership, project management, citizenship and communication skills among students, through the design and implementation of an anti-litter campaign.

W. www.neatstreets.org
E. neatstreets@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 222



Is about protecting and enhancing our beaches, seas and marine life. It strives to improve the economic and aesthetic value of the coastline for community and visitors alike by involving local communities in beach management and encouraging them to be guardians of their coastline.

W. www.cleancoasts.org
E. cleancoasts@antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 210



Provides practical tips and information on ways to save money and help to protect the environment. Green Home empowers householders on their journey towards sustainable living and promotes behaviour change on the themes of waste, energy, water and travel. Green Home is operated in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency.

W. www.greenhome.ie
E. greenhome@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 218



Is a joint initiative of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the EPA and An Taisce, to encourage the growth of Greening Communities. The programme recognises and celebrates the work being undertaken at community level throughout the country. It aims to enhance coordination and collaboration between the public, private, non-governmental and voluntary sector.

W. www.greeningcommunities.ie
E. greeningcommunities@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 229



Works towards empowering community groups to improve their local environment, enhance biodiversity and reduce their resource usage. This is largely achieved through community environmental improvement initiatives. These initiatives are supported by training sessions; action based environmental activities; and field trips.

W. www.greencommunitiesproject.org
E. greencommunities@eeu.antaisce.org
T. +353 (0)1 4002 202