2017

Green-Schools Travel Annual Report





Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction from Director
- 2 Who we are
- 3 What we did
- 15 Events, Projects and Campaigns
- **30** Supporting Infrastructure
- 33 Modal Shifts
- **36** Case Studies

A word from our Director

For over 10 years the Green-Schools Travel Programme has been working with thousands of students, teachers and their wider school communities to change the way they travel to and from school to more sustainable modes. Every day significantly more students walk, scoot and cycle to school due to their engagement with the programme.

A key outcome of the programme is that all these schools have acquired and developed the problem solving capacity to sustain the changes and adapt them as their circumstances change. The participants have illustrated that they have enjoyed the experience and are keen to engage further with their wider communities and advocate, encourage and lead. They have also experienced the health and societal benefits of sustainable school travel.

This report outlines the outcomes, achievements and results of the year 2017. Green-Schools Travel is an excellent example of a high performing multi-scale partnership.

I am grateful for the work of the schools, students, teachers, parents, Local Authorities and the various other local programme supporters. I also want to acknowledge the ongoing and critical support of and funding from the National Transport Authority and the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Green-Schools Travel team for their commitment and work on the programme, many of whom have been with the programme for 10 years or more. You are all making a real difference.



Michael John O'Mahony *Unit Director*







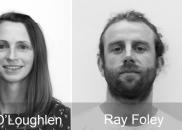


















Executive Summary

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:

- 1,800 extra pupils walking and cycling to school and increasing their physical activity.
- 4,400 cars parking away from the school gate, with pupils walking the remainder of the journey to school.
- 700 pupils less taking the bus, freeing up bus capacity for other users.
- 1,000 pupils are leaving the car at home for the whole journey therefore improving air quality and reducing CO2 emissions.
- 205 schools were awarded the Green Flag for Travel in May 2017.
- Green-Schools Travel Officers completed 2,539 visits to schools over the 2017 calendar year.
- 320 bicycle spaces were installed in schools.
- 840 scooter parking space were installed in schools.
- 3,507 students from +80 schools received subsidised Cycle Right training.
- Over 30,000 students walked to school on National Walk to School Day;
- Over 5,000 cycled to school on National COW day as part of National Bike Week, and over 4,200 students scooted to school on National Scoot to School Day.
- In 2017, the Green-Schools Travel competition entitled 'The Big Travel Challenge' sought entries from Awarded and Active schools. Scoil Ghobnatan, Bellevue, Mallow, Co. Cork was awarded the overall winner of the Travel Competition and was named Ireland's Travel School of the Year 2017.



2017 in numbers



2026 WOW days, 651 COW days, 1007 SOW days



521 Park 'n' Stride days

102 Walkability Audits, 54 Cycleability Audits



210 the number of print and broadcast items featuring Green-Schools Travel





30000+ students

walked to school on National WOW (Walk on Wednesday), which was held on May 17th, as part of National Walk to School Week.

The event attracted a great deal of national media coverage including a piece on Newstalk FM.











Scooting Support

840 Scooter Parking spaces were installed at schools

















Green-Schools Travel's national competition, 'The BIG Travel Challenge' ran in 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 10 day period. The competition is open to schools that are currently working on, or have completed, the Travel theme and the challenge proves schools can achieve increases in walking, cycling and scooting over a short period of time. There were eight category winners and one overall winner (Scoil Ghobnatan, Bellevue, Mallow, Co. Cork) and these schools were showcased at an awards ceremony held in The Hilton, Kilmainham in April where Professor John Sweeney was the guest speaker.





Bikeweek Logo Competition

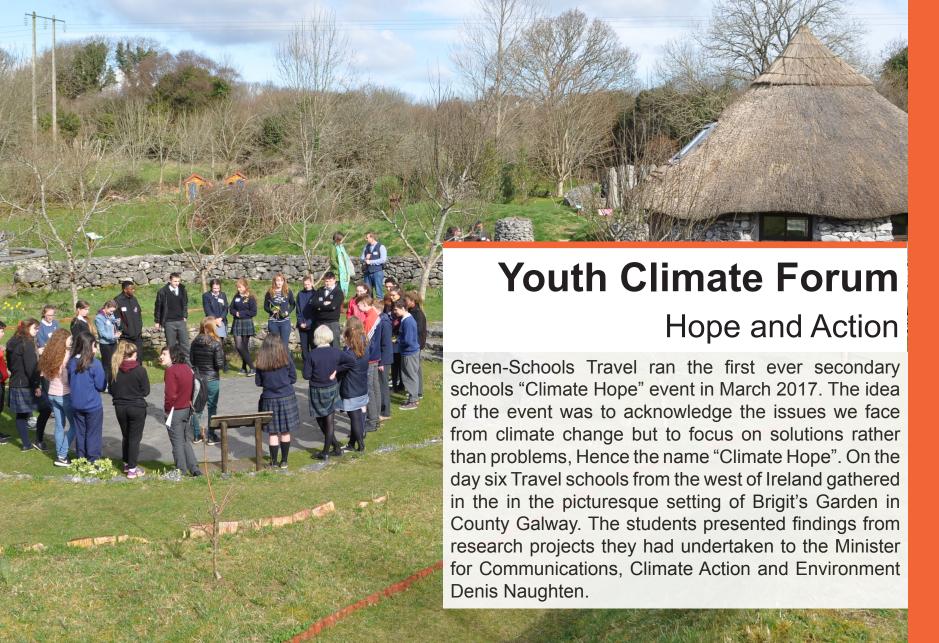
In March, Green-Schools invited secondary schools pupils to take part in the Bike Week Logo Competition. This logo competition is being run in partnership with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Smarter Travel Campus programme. The aim of the competition was for individual students to design a logo which best illustrates the theme: Bike Week – a celebration and promotion of all that's great about bikes and cycling. There were over 80 entries from secondary schools and the winner was from a school in Tipperary.



Change Maker Summit

Green-Schools Travel hosted a post-primary Change Maker Summit on February 28th. Nine schools from across Dublin, Meath and Louth attended this all day event. On the day pupils heard from experts including Dr. Stephanie Keogh, Conor Cahill, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Arlene Finn and Green-Schools Officers. The pupils also took part in a number of workshops on the day that applied their learning. The event inspired environmental leadership and encouraged them to follow up with action within their own schools.







schools wherever they may be located.







Pupils and parents from Glasnevin N.S. joined Lord Mayor of Dublin, Brendan Carr in welcoming Mr. Bernhard Ensink and Mr. Marcio Deslandes from the European Cycle Federation (ECF) to the Mansion House on Thursday, 6th April 2017 to sign the contract that will bring the Velo-City Conference to Dublin in June 2019. Glasnevin N.S., currently on the theme of Travel, cycled from their school to the Mansion House to assist in the promotion of Velo-City 2019. The school hope to be awarded their flag for Travel in 2018. The conference is taking place in Dublin from 25th – 28th June 2019.





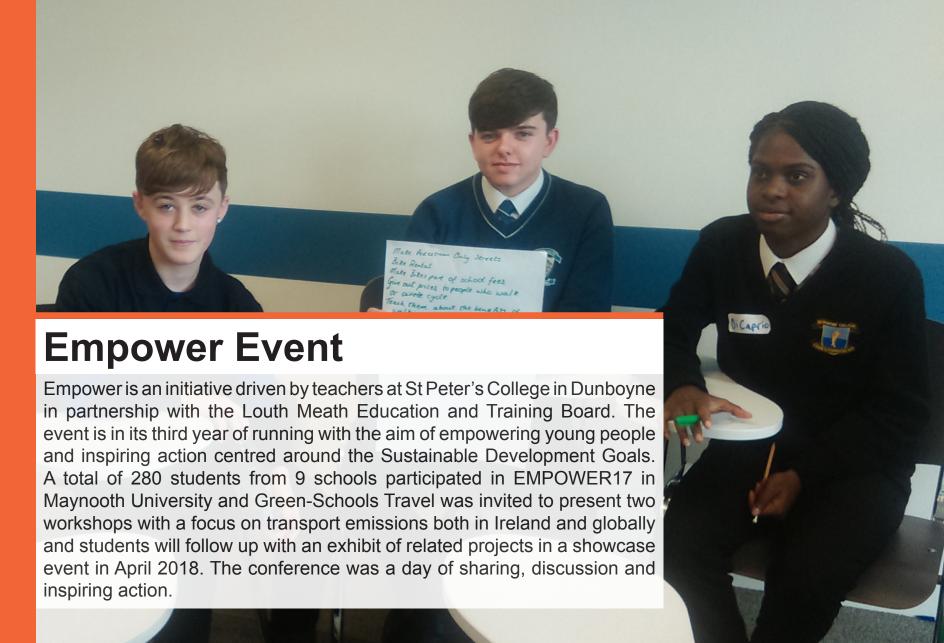
Bus in the City - Limerick

Green-Schools Travel linked up with Bus Eireann, An Garda Siochana and Limerick Smarter Travel for a fifth year to deliver the 'Bus in the City' workshop with three schools across the city. Over 220 students participated this year. This initiative ran in September 2017 as part of European Mobility Week. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about public transport routes and the benefits associated with taking the bus (lower emissions, less traffic, cheaper). It also included talks from An Garda Siochana about bus safety. This event was a huge success and a number of schools have expressed interest in taking part next year.



Park(ing) Day 2017

Green-Schools Travel took part in PARK(ing) Day on 15th September 2017. It is a place-making initiative that calls on Artists, Public Awareness Campaigners, Businesses and Citizens to take a parking space and turn it into a park for the day. A total of 3 spaces were taken over by Travel Officers in Cork and Dublin and included artificial turf, large plants, a picnic bench and lots of bunting. There were different types of bikes in and around the space including a folding Brompton bike, city scheme bikes and cargo bikes. A variety of people came and hung out and enjoyed free hot chocolate, discussed the campaign, reminisced with their 'first experiences' on a bike, overall creating a valuable, social public space.



Zeminar

Green-Schools Travel Officers Caitríona Buggle and Karen Moore delivered a workshop as part of the Zeminar event in the RDS in October. Zeminar is a conference for generation Z and focuses on mental health and well being. The aim of the workshop was to allow students to think creatively about how their schools can take action on climate change and sustainable travel. The students contributed some innovative ideas and designs and the format proved successful in providing an opportunity to engage students in critical thinking about their journey to school. Green-School Manager, Jane Hackett, was invited to speak at the event.







Green-Schools worked in partnership with the Health and Safety Authority to deliver workshops at Keep Safe Events nationwide. The workshops are delivered to secondary school students and focus on safe cycling and bike maintenance.







Smart Dublin

This year Green-Schools teamed up with Liberty Bell, the winner of the Smart Dublin/Enterprise Ireland Cycling Technology Challenge, 2016 and 2017. Liberty Bell is a new high-tech survey tool that allows schools to assess routes to school from the point of view of pupils walking, scooting and cycling. Assumption Senior Girls NS, Walkinstown, Dublin took part in this pilot project and conducted walkability and a scootability audits around their campus. The students used Smart bicycle bells for scooting and Smart wristbands while walking to record issues on a online map, exactly where and when they were encountered while they were out and about. The project is at the data visualisation phase and it is hoped that this smart technology will inform future Green-Schools Travel audits.





Before

As part of their walkability audit pupils identified a need for a pedestrian crossing to enable pupils to walk to school safely. The students also campaigned for traffic calming measures outside the school. Following meetings with local councillors and the senior engineer of Roscommon County Council a new pedestrian crossing was put in place outside the school and in addition speed monitoring signs are now in place on approach to the school.





Walkability Audit Success

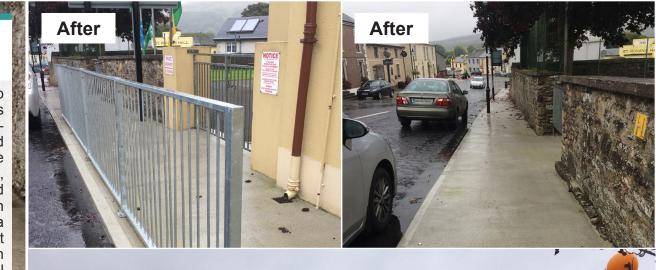
During 2017, Green-Schools committees, with the guidance of Travel Officers, conducted walkability and cycleability audits, the findings of which were then submitted to the relevant Local Authorities. Many audit reports have yielded infrastructural improvements nationwide.

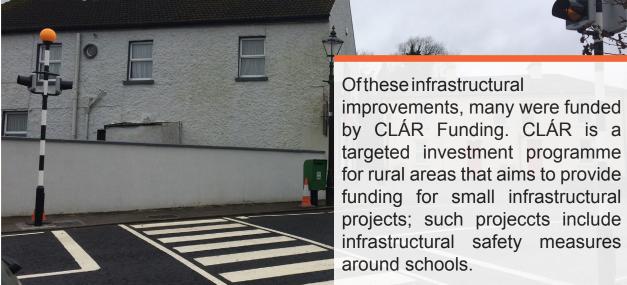
Kilronan NS, Keadue, Co. Roscommon

Work had commenced in the village to realign the main street and replace footpaths under the CLÁR funding when the Green-Schools committee of Kilronan NS carried out their walkability audit. As part of the audit, the pupils mapped where they lived, and the findings of the audit were presented to local and senior engineers in Roscommon County Council by Travel Officer, Lisa McDaniel. Despite replacing the footpaths it was evident that most of the pupils lived on the opposite side of the road to the school and were within walking distance from the school. It was obvious that a pedestrian crossing would be needed to facilitate safe walking to the school. The pedestrian crossing, replacement of footpaths leading to the school and a barrier preventing parking at the school gate were added to the works taking place in Spring 2017.

After









35



1,800 extra pupils walking and cycling to school and increasing their physical activity

of all students
participate in weekly
cycling events.



of all students
participate in weekly
walking events.

Green-Schools

GAn Taisce

34



1,000 pupils are leaving the car at home altogether.

30%

of car journeys are shared journeys.

of students would prefer to travel by a sustainable mode



St Joseph's NS

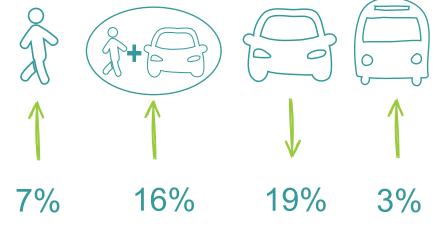
Glenamaddy, Co. Galway

St Joseph's NS is based in north east county Galway. It is situated close to the centre of the small rural town. Initial hands up surveys suggested there was some potential to increase walkers from two estates in the town. At the time of the first surveys the majority of students from the town took the car to school.

Key Actions:

- Took part in a range of workshops in the lead up to their first whole school WOW and additional supporting workshops throughout the two years of the programme (road safety, environmental effects, health benefits).
- Exhibited at the 2016 Expo in Dublin.
- Completed a Walkability Audit and forwarded the results to Galway County Council.
- Put in place the Golden Boot award system to reward the classrooms making the greatest effort to achieve modal shift.
- Continued WOW days and held whole school Walk on Wednesdays.
- The school achieved a sustained 10% increase in daily walking numbers.
- Key to success Dedicated Co-ordinator and supportive staff; relatively good infrastructure; cohort of students living within walking distance.





St Matthew's NS

Ballymahon, Co. Longford

St. Matthew's NS is a mixed National School situated in the market town of Co. Longford with a school population of 300 pupils. There are good footpaths leading to the school and a large population of pupils live within walking and cycling distance to the School. They started the travel theme in September 2015 and were awarded in May 2017.

Key Actions:

- Green-Schools Travel Officer held meeting with GS Committee, Coordinator and Principal, as well as a seperate meeting with parents.
- Conducted both a Walkability Audit and Cycleability Audit and submitted findings to Longford County Council.
- Ran a Poster and Slogan Competition.
- Green-Schools Travel Officer delivered Climate Change workshops; mapping workshops, road safety workshops and travel mime workshops with junior classes.
- Launched a No Car Thursday (NCT).
- Held weekly Car Free Days.
- Held three mass cycle rides through Ballymahon and along the Royal Canal Greenway.
- Participated in cycle training, which was delivered by their Green-Schools Travel Officer.



Travel Officer - Tiarnan McCusker

Coláiste Muire

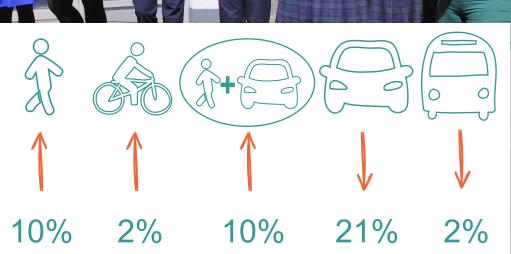
Ennis, Co. Clare

Coláiste Muire is an all-girls secondary school based in the heart of the town of Ennis, with 900+ girls attending the school. Traffic was a significant issue at this school before the school commenced the Travel theme.

Key Actions:

- Staff presentations, parents presentation and 2 meetings with Parents Council Chair.
- Walkability audit and class surveys with over 60% of students.
- Workshops in various subject classes inc. Project Maths data collection and analysis; C.S.P.E Action Projects; Climate Change; Art Competition to design Fresh Air Fridays/WOW days car stickers and signs; Cake sale to raise funds for raffle prizes for Car Free Day Raffle.
- Cycle training as part of PE with 1st, 2nd, 4th years and Dr. Bike workshops with same 18 groups
- · Staff Cycle Training.
- Greenest Class surveys and reusuable cup prize for every student in winning class that did most green travel to school.
- Free parking attained from County Council for all council car parks every morning.







Environmental Educational Unit Programmes























