



GREEN-SCHOOLS

ANNUAL REPORT
2025-26

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 projects.

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.

An Taisce's Education Programmes



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INTRODUCTION

Message from the Director

At An Taisce, we are immensely proud of the impact that Green-Schools continues to have across Ireland.

The success of Green-Schools is built on the commitment of thousands of people who make the programme possible every day. We extend our sincere gratitude to the students whose enthusiasm and leadership drive change, to the teachers and principals who champion sustainability within their schools, to caretakers and support staff whose contributions are invaluable, and to the parents and wider school communities who embrace and reinforce these positive actions.

We also recognise the extraordinary dedication of the Green-Schools team, guiding, encouraging and supporting schools across the country.

What makes Green-Schools truly special is that its impact extends far beyond environmental outcomes. Through participation, young people develop confidence, leadership skills, critical thinking and a sense of shared responsibility. They learn that meaningful change is possible when people work together towards a common goal. In a world facing complex challenges, this may be one of the programme's most important legacies.

As you read this report, you will see evidence of the remarkable scale and reach of the programme. On behalf of An Taisce, thank you to everyone who continues to make Green-Schools a source of pride, inspiration and positive change.

– Cathy Baxter, Director of Education and Community Action



*Cathy Baxter, Director of Education
and Community Action*

INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary

Welcome to the 2025–2026 Green-Schools Annual Report!

This year we've done something a little different. Rather than producing a traditional annual report filled with pages of statistics, we've reimagined it as a celebration of our Green-Schools community. Think of it as a yearbook, a chance to look back on another incredible school year and celebrate the people, projects and partnerships that continue to make Green-Schools such a special programme.

And what a year it has been! Across Ireland, thousands of students rolled up their sleeves to protect biodiversity, reduce waste, save energy and water, travel more sustainably, explore global citizenship and inspire change in their schools and communities. Every Green Flag awarded this year represents not just environmental action, but months of teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and student leadership.

As you browse through these pages, you'll discover just a snapshot of the remarkable work taking place in schools across the country. From thriving school gardens to creative climate campaigns, lots of beach cleans, bike buses, swap shops, science investigations and student-led projects, every story demonstrates the enthusiasm and determination of young people who are helping to build a more sustainable future. We need your passion now more than ever!

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of teachers, school staff, Green-Schools committees, Local Authority Environmental Awareness Officers, our funders and sponsors, and the many partner organisations who support the programme throughout the year.

On behalf of the entire Green-Schools team, thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. We hope you enjoy looking back on another fantastic year, celebrating the achievements of our amazing schools, and finding inspiration for the year ahead.

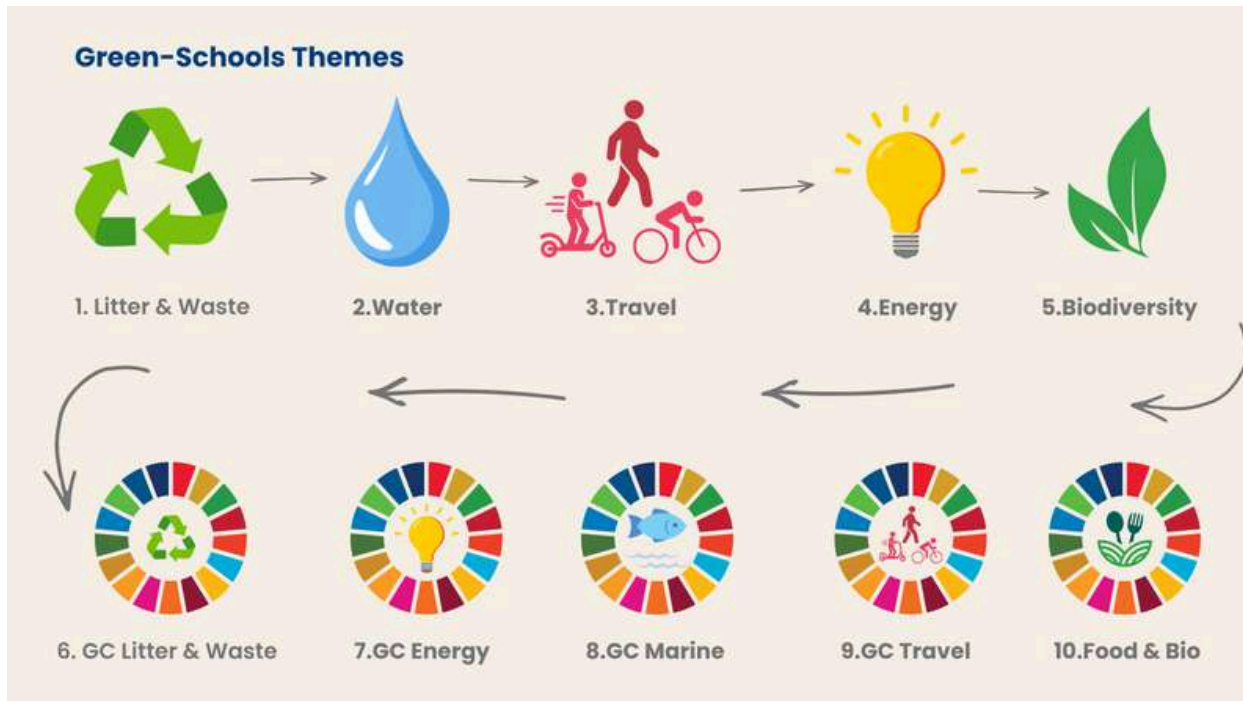


*Joanne Scott, Green-Schools
Programme Manager*

OVERVIEW OF THE GREEN-SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental education programme, operated by An Taisce in partnership with **Local Authorities** and part of the international **Eco-Schools network**, which reaches schools in **over 70 countries worldwide**.

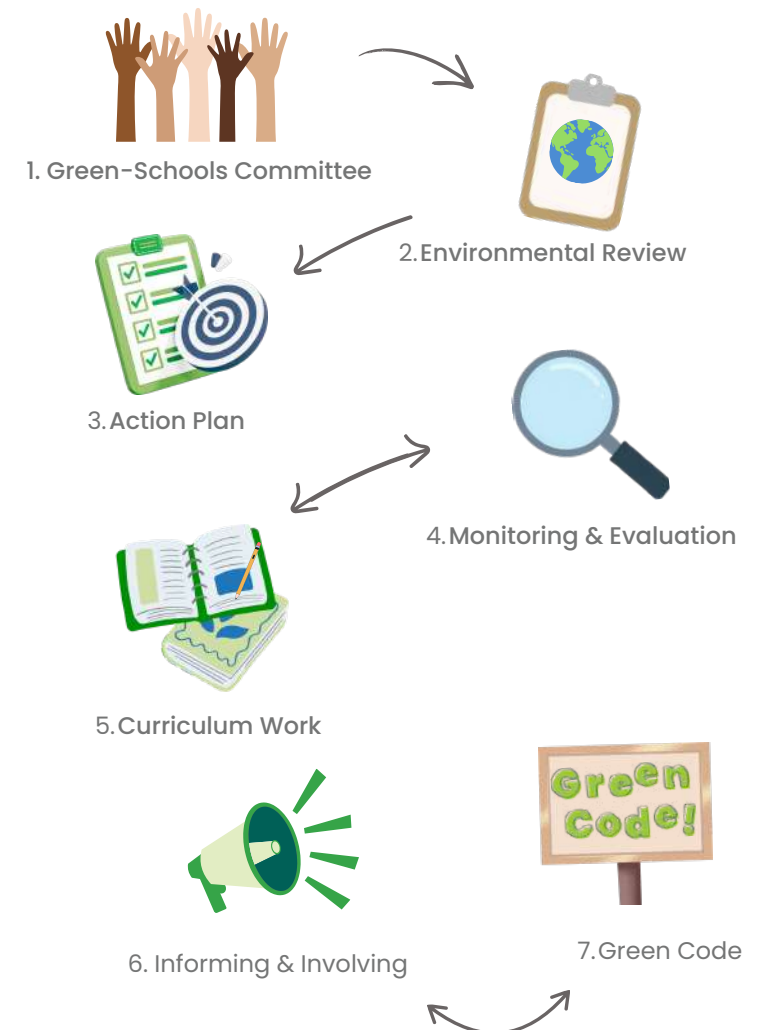
Schools that successfully complete the programme are awarded the **internationally recognised Green Flag**. The award is **valid for two academic years**, after which schools renew their Green Flag by building on their achievements and taking on a **new environmental theme**, ensuring continuous improvement and long-term environmental action. Schools registering for the first time begin on the **Litter and Waste theme** and work their way through **all ten themes**, before moving on to more **self-led project themes**.



Green-Schools Projects were introduced as a pilot in 2024 in response to a need for a **next step for schools** that had completed all ten themes but wanted to remain active in the programme. **Projects offer flexibility** through a less structured approach, but **still require an application** for the Green Flag at the end of the two-year cycle.

The 7 Steps

The 7-step process is the framework used by schools to implement the programme and ensure it is effective and sustainable. Schools adopt and adapt the steps as is practical for their particular situation.



SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP

The Green-Schools programme is supported and sponsored by a variety of public and private organisations, many of which are linked to a specific theme or aspect of the programme.



An Roinn Aeráide,
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil
Department of Climate,
Energy and the Environment



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport



Údaráis Áitiúla Éireann
Local Authorities Ireland

MARS WRIGLEY



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

KEY PROGRAMME STATISTICS

685 flags awarded

59



57



81



18



66



86



59



82



91



57



CLÁR NA SCOILEANNA GLASA TRÍ MHEÁN NA GAEILGE

Clár na Scoileanna Glasa trí mhéan na Gaeilge

During the 2025-26 school year, an Irish language page was launched on the Green-Schools website where all aspects of the programme provided through Irish are easily accessible in one location. [Clár na Scoileanna Glasa | Join | Green-Schools](#)

Youtube as Gaeilge

Continued development of Irish language webinars and video content as Gaeilge through the [Clár na Scoileanna Glasa Playlist](#)

Ó neart go neart

With funding from COGG, the long awaited Green-Schools Irish language handbooks for each of the 10 Green-Schools themes and the general handbook were produced in the early part of the school year. This was launched in January with a wonderful celebration in University College Galway in the great company of Gaelscoil Íde, Gaelscoil Mhichíl Cíosóg, Gaelscoil Raifteirí, Coláiste Dún Másc agus Coláiste Íosagáin, amongst others, working in and passionate about Gaeilge and environmental education. We have continued to translate hundreds of resources across the Green-Schools programme and continue to make them easily accessible to our Irish medium schools.

Dea-nuachta a scaipeadh!

We had a bilingual [good news campaign](#) at the beginning of 2026 where we shared global and national news stories weekly through English and Irish about positive environmental actions taken by everyday heroes! The dedicated Green-Schools work being done by the ionaid ghaelscolaíochta in Éirinn (Irish language schools) featured seven times on nuacht cúla4 in 2025-26.



*Clár na Scoileanna Glasa on the
Green-Schools Website*



An Chomhairle um Oideachas
Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta



256

Irish medium
schools that
have a Green
Flag.



11

Theme
handbooks
were
translated.



77%

of all Irish
medium
schools in
Ireland taking
part.



100's

of other
resources
available in
Irish.



15

School visits
took place
during
2025/26.



Scoil Naomh Ciarán in Connemara – Energy Workshop

LITTER AND WASTE

Litter and Waste Webinars

This year we hosted webinars covering different important topics relating to Litter and Waste. We were delighted to welcome speakers from the Deposit Return Scheme, Viola Recycling Centre, National Spring Clean, Clean Coasts, as well as host an Irish-language upcycling workshop. These sessions gave schools practical ideas and expert guidance to help strengthen their environmental initiatives throughout the year.

Theme Application Deadline

On 3 December 2025, we received an outstanding number of high-quality applications for the Litter and Waste Flag from schools across the country.

No Waste Wednesday

For the second year, our No Waste Wednesday campaign reached an even wider audience, with schools across the country embracing the initiative. We were delighted by the level of participation, with many schools highlighting their No Waste Wednesday activities in their Green-Schools applications.



Learn more about the Litter and Waste Theme



No Waste Wednesday Campaign example shared on Green-Schools Instagram

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

59

Schools received
their Litter and
Waste Flag in
2026.



60

Schools
registered for
the Litter and
Waste Webinar
in 2026.



1,680

Students
registered for
the Litter and
Waste Webinar
in 2026.

WATER

Green Flag Awards

57 schools achieved the Water Green Flag, recognizing two years of Green-Schools Committee-led actions to protect and conserve water in schools and wider communities.

Water Schools of the Year

In May 2026, the Green-Schools Water Awards celebrated the exceptional work of Green-Schools Committees. Across both primary and secondary ceremonies, students showcased inspiring projects focused on water conservation, local waterbodies, and community action. From reducing water use and fixing leaks to creative awareness campaigns and hands-on environmental learning, students demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovation.

To learn more about the fantastic work of the Water Schools of the Year, see the [Primary](#) and [Secondary](#) Awards Booklets.

Water Ambassador Programme

This national programme supports secondary school students to take action on protecting and conserving water in their communities. Water Ambassadors are teams of 3-6 students, supported by a teacher mentor. The programme begins with a training, equipping students with key knowledge, tools and motivation. Teams then complete two core actions during the school year. Selected groups present their projects at the Water Awards.

Water Workshops

Four in-person Water Workshops were delivered in Dublin City, Cork City, Enniscorthy and Kilkenny. Workshop content included an introduction to the Green-Schools methodology, water conservation and action planning. Additional virtual workshops and online seminars were also provided.



Learn more about the Water Theme



Glenroe Community National School were awarded as one of the Primary Water School of the Year

WATER

5-minute Shower Showdown

In November 2025, the Green-Schools Water team piloted a new water conservation challenge to help schools save water at home in a simple and engaging manner. The 5-Minute Shower Showdown is a week-long campaign where Green-Schools Committees encourage their school communities to take showers of five minutes or less. Showers are typically the second largest water use in homes, after toilets. Looking at our time in the shower not only reduces our water usage, but it also saves energy needed to heat it.

Water Poster and Video Competition

Students were invited to design posters or create videos on the theme “Water and Me” or “Misé agus Uisce”. Entries explored personal connections with water, from moments that feel fun or calming to experiences that are adventurous or memorable. Winners were recognized at the Water Awards in May 2026. View winning entries [here](#).

Daily Swaps Challenge

In March 2026, the new Daily Swaps Challenge invited students across Ireland to take simple actions to reduce water and energy use. The initiative highlights the close connection between water and energy use in everyday life. Heating water for showers, running washing machines, producing food and manufacturing clothing all require significant amounts of both resources. By making small changes to everyday habits, students can help reduce pressure on ecosystems and lower environmental impacts. Find out more [here](#).

Walks for Water

In April 2026, the Green-Schools Water team, in partnership with Uisce Éireann, brought together hundreds of students and teachers to connect with their local water and learn how to protect it. Read about each “Walk for Water” event [here](#).



Water Poster Competition winning entries



Walk for Water Event in Wicklow

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



170

Students and mentors participated in the Water Ambassador training.

40

Articles were published based on press releases from the Green-Schools Water team.

9,658

5-min showers were logged, saving an estimated 482,900 litres of treated water over one week during 5-minute Shower Showdown.



22,923

Daily swaps were recorded from schools in 18 counties for the Daily Swaps Challenge.

1,300

Shower timers and 35 water butts were gifted by Uisce Éireann to participating schools.



1,676

Posters were received as part of "Water and Me" or "Mise agus Uisce" competition.

90

People attended the in-person Water Workshops.



230

Students and teachers participated in a Green-Schools-led Walk for Water.



TRAVEL

Travel is the first travel theme which aims to promote sustainable travel for school journeys. Find out more about this theme [here](#). Travel themes are funded by the Department of Transport and supported by the National Transport Authority.

National Walk to School Week 2025

Walk to School Week is an annual campaign which aims to encourage as many children, parents, and teachers to walk or park & stride to school during that week with special emphasis placed on National WOW (Walk on Wednesday) day. Visit the [webpage](#) for further information.

Big Travel Challenge 2026

In February of each year, schools are invited to achieve a tangible increase in sustainable travel over a period of two weeks and submit data from their highest performing day. Modes promoted for this campaign include walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, park & stride, public transport, and carpooling. Visit the [webpage](#) for further information.

National Bike Week 2026

Green-Schools Travel works with schools, local authorities and community groups every year to deliver bicycle workshops and bike-themed events as part of National Bike Week. This year the event ran from 9 – 17 May 2026 and National Cycle On Wednesday (COW) took place on May 13 2026. Visit the [webpage](#) for further information about this event.

Clean Air Week 2025

The seventh annual Green-Schools Travel Clean Air Week ran from 17 – 21 November 2025. This campaign encourages schools to improve local air quality through actions such as no-idling campaigns, walking/cycling/scooting events, and citizen science. Visit the [webpage](#) for further information.



Learn more about the Travel Theme



Bike Week celebrations at Cong National School, Mayo

TRAVEL: KEY PROJECTS

#ASC-AndSheCycles

#andshecycles is a Green-Schools Travel campaign that provides a platform for teenage girls to explore, understand and address the barriers that prevent them from cycling to school. This is achieved through building and supporting student leaders to take action and empower teenage girls to cycle to school. Visit the [dedicated webpage](#) for further information.

Bus in the City Pilot

In 2025, the Green-Schools Travel Bus in the City initiative was developed as a Public Engagement Pilot Initiative (PEPI) under the Department's [Climate Action and Sustainable Mobility Public Engagement Strategy 2024 – 25](#). This pilot project explored ways to raise awareness about local public transport networks through class workshops and field trips on existing services. This was delivered in 10 schools located in Waterford, Cork, and Limerick from November 2025 to February 2026.

Portlaoise Cluster Project (PCP)

This project is part of the Portlaoise Low Carbon Town Initiative which aims to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and safety on the way to school. Green-Schools Travel officers worked with 10 primary and post-primary schools located within Portlaoise town to deliver a series of school interventions. These included bike workshops, travel forums, workshops on public transport, competitions and more. Visit the [webpage](#) for more information.



Ambassadors from Colaiste Na Trocaire at the #AndSheCycles in-person training



Staff information event for Bus in the City at Scoil Mhathair De, Limerick

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

81

Schools were awarded a Green Flag for Travel theme.



19,683

Students participated in National Walk to School Week in October 2026.

468

Students from 10 schools engaged with the Bus in the City Public Engagement Pilot Initiative.



48,981

Students and 4413 staff members engaged by Travel Education Officers from September 2025 – June 2026.

5,017

Students received funding support for cycle training from September – November 2025.



129

Walkability audits conducted with schools.



5,620

Students participated in Big Travel Challenge 2026.

128

Schools participated in Clean Air Week in November 2026.



ENERGY

Partnership renewal Launch

In October 2026, Adamstown Community College served as the host location for the relaunch of the EirGrid partnership with the Green-Schools Energy theme. This partnership aims to empower young students to reduce electricity consumption, conserve energy, and lead climate action in their communities.

Regional Energy Workshops

The Energy workshops brought together schools working on the energy theme in their area to share ideas and learn about energy. From trialling these workshops in 2024-25 with 4 regional workshops, we have greatly expanded our reach and number of workshops with 10 workshops in 2025-26 in a bigger geographical spread.

Festival of Energy

February saw our annual Green-Schools online Festival of Energy back for its second year! The festival engaged in online learning and fun as we celebrated all things Energy, with a dedicated webpage for students to enjoy. Each day held live interactive webinars, accompanied by pre-recorded videos, downloadable resources, and challenges for schools.

Daily Swaps Challenge

This year Green-Schools Water and Energy themes launched a joint saving challenge. They asked schools to register, work in teams, and run a weeklong campaign to make daily swaps to reduce energy and water consumption. Amazingly, 82 schools registered for the challenge.

Energy School of the Year

The Energy School of the Year awards honoured the exceptional work of Green-Schools Committees for all their hard work on the Energy theme. From reducing Energy consumption and raising Energy awareness in schools and at home, to learning all about Energy and its impact on the world. Eight schools were awarded regional winners and two schools as national winners. Coláiste Éamann Rís from Cork won the National Secondary School of the Year, and Star of the Sea NS from Cork won the National Primary School of the Year.



Learn more about the Energy Theme



EirGrid and Green-Schools Partnership launch at Adamstown Community College

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

18

Schools awarded a Green Flag for Energy.



103

Schools worked on the Energy theme in 2025-26.

This is a 150% increase on 2024-25.



206

Students attended the post-primary online webinar series.



10

Schools were awarded at the Energy School of the Year awards, attended by 8 schools, 68 students and 14 teachers.



5

Regional primary school workshops delivered.



3,297

Students and 221 schools registered for the Festival of Energy in 2026.

4

Regional secondary school workshops delivered.

BIODIVERSITY

Tree Week

We celebrated Tree Week by collaborating with our colleagues from GLOBE Ireland with a “Tree Tales” video campaign. Over 50 schools from Ireland and abroad submitted a video of their favourite tree fact, joke or myth.

Bio Bealtaine

During the month of May we ran a nature spotting campaign that focused on 7 common species. Schools were supported with online events, resources and activities to get out and explore their communities.

Hedgehog Project

We piloted our Hedgehog Project with St. Colmcille’s National School in Kildare. Students used a trail camera to monitor wildlife in their grounds and developed a plan to make their grounds more hedgehog-friendly. Together we planted over 100 trees, added hedgehog gates and a hedgehog house!

Biodiversity School of the Year

St. Kevin’s Boys National School was awarded the Primary Biodiversity Schools of the Year. Limerick Educate Together Secondary School was awarded the Secondary Biodiversity School of the Year.

World Wetlands Day

We collaborated with our colleagues in Clean Coasts to run a Wetlands competition with Biodiversity Schools that encouraged students to visit their local wetlands.



Learn more about the Biodiversity Theme



*Students in St. Colmcille's National Schools
with their new Hedgehog House*

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

66

Schools were awarded their Biodiversity Green Flag in 2026.



30

New ponds were added to school grounds.



2,000

Trees were planted by Biodiversity Schools.



On average student's understanding of the meaning of Biodiversity increased from 40% to over 80%.

12,000

Engagements were observed with the Bio Bealtaine campaign.



9,000

Students were reached through student webinars held over the course of the year.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – LITTER AND WASTE

Global Citizenship Litter & Waste Green Flag Awards

65 primary schools achieved the Global Citizenship Litter & Waste Green Flag, recognising two years of student-led action linking waste reduction with global citizenship and the SDGs.

Global Citizenship School of the Year Awards 2026

Schools from across Ireland were recognised for outstanding work connecting local waste reduction with global issues such as climate justice, fast fashion and sustainable consumption. National winners demonstrated exceptional student leadership and measurable environmental impact.

Global Goals Book Club

The Global Goals Book Club continued to expand in 2025–2026, growing to 47 public libraries across Kildare, Fingal and Cork, with 183 registered teachers reaching almost 20,000 students through books linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Global Goals Book Club Library Launches

Three library launch events were held in Kildare, Fingal and Cork to celebrate the expansion of the Global Goals Book Club, bringing together students, teachers, librarians and local communities.

Designathon Workshops

Ten Designathon workshops were delivered in Irish primary schools, enabling 314 students to develop creative solutions to local sustainability challenges through design thinking and Global Citizenship Education.

Global Goals Week

Schools across Ireland and international partner schools took part in Global Goals Week, participating in collaborative online activities exploring the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Citizenship.



*Learn more about the Global
Citizenship – Litter and Waste Theme*



Designathon workshop in Bunscoil Lughaidh Naofa

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – LITTER AND WASTE

Global Classrooms Programme

The Global Classrooms programme connected 26 schools and partner organisations across six countries, giving students opportunities to collaborate, exchange ideas and take action on global issues.

Global Classrooms Final Showcase

Students from participating countries presented 16 student-led projects at the Global Classrooms Final Showcase, demonstrating how local action can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Initial Teacher Education Module

A two-day "Problem Solving for Global Justice" module was delivered to 40 student teachers at Maynooth University, building their confidence and skills in teaching Global Citizenship Education through active learning.

Global Goals Go Local Pilot

The Global Goals Go Local pilot was trialled in Cork primary schools, helping students develop teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving skills while connecting local action to global issues.

Staff Professional Development

Staff completed specialist training in remote team leadership and children's participation in decision-making, strengthening the delivery of student-led Global Citizenship programmes.

Let's Look Closely

5 workshops were held in Cork City with 93 children where they had the opportunity to explore, reimagine and redesign their cities. This was part of an Erasmus+ supported programme in partnership with çocukistanbul in Turkey. For more information visit www.letslookclosely.org.



Global Goals Go Local Project testing



LLC workshop and training in Istanbul in November 2025

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

79

Schools were awarded their GC Litter & Waste Green Flag in 2026.



177,768

Students were engaged on the GC themes.



970

Schools participated across the GC Litter & Waste and Energy themes.



146,000

Kilograms of waste was reduced annually by participating schools.



Global citizenship awareness increased by 17–32 percentage points across all survey questions in awarded schools.

22,000

Students engaged with the SDGs through the programme.

15,160

Teachers were involved on the theme.

63

Awarded schools actively monitored recycling and waste reduction.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – ENERGY

Global Citizenship Energy Green Flag Awards

49 schools were awarded the Global Citizenship Energy Green Flag for demonstrating student-led action on energy conservation while exploring global climate justice and sustainable energy.

Global Citizenship School of the Year Awards 2026

Schools were recognised for outstanding achievements in reducing energy use and connecting local energy action with global climate challenges. The national winner showcased exemplary student leadership and energy monitoring.

Read about the Let's Fix Fashion and TL;DR Global Goals Bookless Club projects on pages 38 and 42 respectively.



*Learn more about the Global
Citizenship – Energy Theme*



*Our Lady's Girls' National School awarded
as the GC Energy National Winners*

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

49

Schools were awarded their GC Energy Green Flag in 2026.



177,768

Students were engaged on the GC themes.

970

Schools participated across the GC Litter & Waste and Energy themes.



Awareness survey improvements of 15–35 percentage points across all questions.

578,000

kWh of annual energy savings were achieved by participating schools.



€153,600

Annual energy cost savings.

15,160

Teachers were involved on the theme.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – MARINE

Global Citizenship Marine Environment Awards 2026

82 schools were awarded the Global Citizenship Marine Environment Green Flag for demonstrating student-led action on marine litter awareness while exploring marine biodiversity and effects of climate change.

Global Citizenship Marine Environment School of the Year Awards 2026

Eight schools were recognised for outstanding achievements in raising awareness of the marine environment and taking action to reduce marine litter. One national winner was selected in the primary school category, and one was selected for the secondary school category.

Marine Week

The sixth annual Green-Schools Marine Week took place from 20th to 24th April 2026. This online celebration of the sea is centred around a webpage that releases new marine resources each day of the week. Resources included ocean wonders videos, draw-along tutorials, career profiles, famous scientist profiles, a quiz, marine jokes and riddles. There was also a live webinar with a marine expert Monday-Thursday which attracted over 60 classes a day!

The National Marine Environment Conference

Six marine schools came together on Friday 24th April at the Gibson Hotel, overlooking Dublin Port, and presented projects focused on marine conservation and ocean awareness. The conference was dedicated to celebrating our ocean, featuring a talk about diving, shipping ports, good news stories as well as art, dance, and a plankton appreciation activity. Highlights included an introduction to QuakeShake, an interactive presentation by three Marine Ambassadors and a life size fin whale created by St. James National School, Stradbally, Waterford.



*Learn more about the Global
Citizenship – Marine Theme*



*Scoil Mhuire, Mount Sackville, presenting their project
at the National Marine Environment Conference*

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – MARINE

Marine Ambassador Programme

The revised Marine Ambassador Programme successfully engaged 15 students from across six secondary schools and provided opportunities for environmental action and peer learning. The transition to an individual student focused model encouraged students with natural interests in the subject to gain a deeper understanding of the topic and develop skills that will benefit them in future engagement within their schools and communities.

SeaKeepers Project and Beach Day

110 classes took part in this years SeaKeepers Project where they learned about six native species. The results of the project indicated that there was a significant increase in the ability to identify target organisms all the way to species level. One school was selected for the end-of-year beach workshop which took place in Rathmullan Beach, Co. Donegal.

Primary School Beach Workshops

This year we launched our first primary school beach workshops. Two workshops, ran on the North and South Dublin coastline, encouraged teamwork, observation skills, and a deeper appreciation of the natural environment. 52 students and 8 teachers attended.

Ocean Appreciation Beach Workshop

32 secondary students visited Bull Island in December 2025 for a hands-on workshop, celebrating our oceans and Climate Action Week! Activities included a mini bioblitz, beach cleaning, mindfulness and nature photography.



Scoil an Linbh Iosa and the Green-Schools Marine Puffin mascot at the SeaKeepers Beach Day



Seapoint College awarded the national prize of Marine Secondary School of the Year

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – MARINE

Marine Film Club

In December 2025, Green-Schools Marine hosted a Marine Film Club cinema screening of “Ocean” at the Light House Cinema in Smithfield, Dublin. Over 100 students from five secondary schools attended and took part in a post-screening discussion.

Regional Marine Workshops

Six regional Marine Workshops were held around the country in November 2025, in Carlow, Dublin City, Galway, Limerick, Roscommon, and Tipperary. Workshop content included an introduction to marine biodiversity and litter, recycled art activity, action planning and ocean good news stories.

Marine Spatial Planning Poster and Photography Competition

Students were invited to design posters or take photographs illustrating how they envision Ireland’s seas being used in the future. 1,800 posters and almost 100 photographs were received. Regional and national winners were awarded at a ceremony in Dun Laoghaire in February 2026.

Marine Creative Writing Competition

This year the theme of the competition was “A Message from the Waves” and we were delighted to receive over 250 entries. Winners were announced during Marine Week and awarded at the Marine Awards in Dublin in May.



Winning students of the Marine Spatial Planning Poster Competition and their entries



Theo Kennedy, Winner of the 1st-2nd class category of the Marine Creative Writing Competition accepts his prize at the awards ceremony

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

82

Schools were awarded their GC Marine Green Flag in 2026.



15

Students took part in the new Marine Ambassador Programme.



2,904

Students and 100 classes participated in the SeaKeepers Project.



1,800

Entries were recieved for the Marine Spatial Planning Poster Competition.



34% average increase in student awareness of Marine Litter and the Marine Environment.

27

New marine resources were created.

140

Students attended the National Marine Environment Conference.

20,044

students and teachers participated in Marine Week.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – TRAVEL

Global Citizenship Travel is the second travel theme in the Green Schools Programme where schools revisit the travel theme in a global context. While transport can be related to each of the Sustainable Development Goals, this theme focuses on four Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities
- SDG 13: Climate Action

Actions key to this theme includes road safety and speed campaigns (SDG 3), No-Idling campaigns (SDG 3, SDG 11) and walk/cycle/scoot to school action events (SDG 13). Walkability, cycleability and busability audits link directly to SDG 10. Event participation and engagement are cited in the collective in the previous travel section on page 16.



Learn more about the Global Citizenship – Travel Theme



No Idling Campaign at Lisnafunchin National School, Kilkenny

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



19,683

Students participated in National Walk to School Week in October 2026.

468

Students from 10 schools engaged with the Bus in the City Public Engagement Pilot Initiative.



48,981

Students and 4413 staff members engaged by Travel Education Officers from September 2025 – June 2026.

129

Walkability audits conducted with schools.



91

Schools were awarded a Green Flag for their work on Global Citizenship Travel.



5,620

Students participated in Big Travel Challenge 2026.

128

Schools participated in Clean Air Week in November 2026.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP – FOOD & BIODIVERSITY

Little Green Fingers Project

Two schools piloted this EU-funded project for junior primary schools in Ireland. Teachers attended a training course in Brussels before bringing their project home. Schools combined active learning and outdoor education to allow student's ideas for new habitats and play spaces to be brought to life.

Planting Teacher Seminar

41 teachers attended a seminar on "Preparing for Planting" to assist them in getting their school grounds ready for growing vegetables in the Spring.

Biodiversity Webinar Nibbles

Throughout the month of November we ran a series of short (but sweet!) webinars to give students a little taste of some of the issues around our diets that impact the environment. We looked at topics like food miles, food waste and the potential for eating insects.

Harvest Time

This May and June, we provided schools with a suite of resources to help them turn their vegetable harvest into something delicious! From cooking skills demonstrations to ideas for recipes, schools made the most of their crops!



*Learn more about the Global Citizenship –
Food and Biodiversity Theme*



*Student's in St. Joseph's Convent NS display
their project work that investigate the bugs
that help our food grow*

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

57

Schools were awarded their Green Flag for the GC Food and Biodiversity theme.



44

Different kinds of fruits and vegetables were grown by schools this year!



6,000

Students engaged with the "Food and Bio" Webinar Nibbles.

40

Different recipes were tried out by schools with their vegetable harvest.



OTHER GREEN-SCHOOLS PROJECTS



SEAKEEPERS PROJECT

- The Marine theme worked with eleven schools on the SeaKeepers Project during the 2025–26 academic year. A minimum of two classes from each school were required to complete the SeaKeepers Project in order to achieve the Green Flag. Committee members were encouraged to take on the role of “Project Managers” and disseminate information throughout the wider school community. All GSP SeaKeepers schools worked with the newer “B Set” of SeaKeepers resources, covering sea bass, common dolphin, moon jellyfish, sugar kelp, dogfish, and gannet.
- Participating schools received a range of resources, including a copy of “An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Irish Seashore”, along with updated and newly designed “Let’s Go Plastic Free” educational materials.
- In May 2026, eight schools that started the project in 2024 submitted their application and were awarded the Green Flag through the Green-Schools Projects SeaKeepers programme.
- In total, twenty-four classes (304 students) from the eight engaged schools fully participated in the project, and of these 88% submitted their repeat survey data by June 2026 with the option to submit any remaining surveys by September 2026. These schools were posted a certificate of achievement.
- Feedback from participating teachers was overwhelmingly positive, with one teacher contacting us to say: “The Prezzi platform was a great resource and very comprehensive and engaging to use and to learn from.” and another teacher said, “We loved it!”. All teachers who provided feedback said that they saw a significant increase in students’ knowledge regarding Irish marine life since beginning SeaKeepers.



Sample classroom resources shared with the SeaKeepers Project Schools

LET'S FIX FASHION

- Fifth successful year of the Green-Schools Let's Fix Fashion Campaign.
- A total of 52 schools across 15 counties participated during the year, representing a 32% increase in engagement compared to previous years.
- The campaign also expanded its international reach, welcoming five schools from Kenya, two schools from South Africa, and one school from Dubai, creating valuable opportunities for cross-cultural learning and collaboration.
- More than 1,050 students directly engaged in workshops and school-led sustainability initiatives throughout the year.
- Student ambassadors for 2026, Sarah Burns and Elizabeth Peeke from Coláiste Muire, Cobh, took on a leading role in inspiring and supporting participating schools, demonstrating the value of youth leadership within the campaign.
- The 2025–2026 programme was structured around five thematic modules, each supported by a live virtual event, educational resources, and practical action-based tasks designed to deepen understanding and encourage behaviour change.



**Impacts of
Fast Fashion**

**Culture and
Identity**

**Upcycling and
Repairs**

**The Circular
Economy**

**Clothes
Sharing and
Reuse**

YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- This year's winners showcased environmental journalism under categories that included photography, videography, article writing and podcasting. Judging for this year's YRE Competition took place in April.
- A high volume of entries were submitted across all categories with a total of 150 students working on submissions. Under the theme of Food Security and Climate Action, the standard of entries was exceptionally high.
- Under Photography category top entries focused on fragility of nature and microplastics, while under categories of Videography, Articles and Podcasts, winning entries explored a range of environmental issues from water quality to farming animals to climate change and food security.
- While under categories of Videography, Articles and Podcasts, winning entries explored a range of environmental issues from water quality to farming animals to climate change and food security.
- Students were awarded a wooden trophy and certificate along with their prizes and €2000 in vouchers at a national awards ceremony with Global Citizenship schools in Hotel Kilkenny on May 15th.



Young Reporters
for the environment



Angelina Shebala Vasilyeva from St Augustines
College won the National Article Winner Award



Check out the
winning article here!

GLOBAL GOALS BOOK CLUB

Library Partnership Expansion

Expanded the Global Goals Book Club to 47 public libraries across Kildare, Fingal and Cork, providing free access to the full collection for schools.

Library Launch Events

Held three launch events in partnership with local libraries, introducing children and communities to the Global Goals through storytelling and interactive activities.

Teacher Handbook Launch

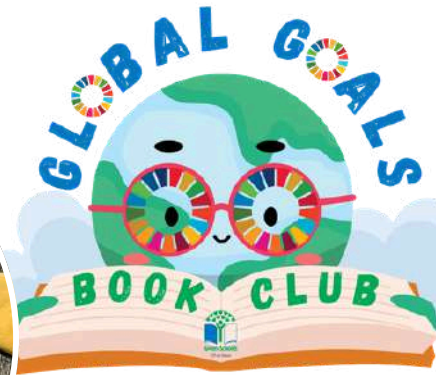
Developed and distributed a new teacher handbook to support curriculum-linked Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCE).

Green Flag Award Events

Hosted Global Goals Book Club activity areas at six Green Flag Award ceremonies, engaging students and teachers through book-themed sustainability activities.

Collection Development

Added eight new titles, including the first Irish-language book, to broaden representation and sustainability themes.



#ANDSHECYCLES

October 2025 Application and Selection Stage

17 schools selected with a total of 135 ambassadors. These schools covered the following areas: Athlone, Galway, Clare, Limerick, Dublin, Laois, Meath, Carlow and Kilkenny.

November Training

One national in-person training event was held in Portlaoise, with 83 ambassadors from 11 schools in attendance. The remaining six schools received training through visits from Travel Officers, ensuring that all ambassadors participating in the programme received this essential training.

Online Storytelling Webinar

53 Ambassadors attended an online webinar led by Sheila McCormack, Green-Schools Communications Manager, on the power of storytelling for advocacy and engagement. They also received guidance on completing their digital portfolios.

January and February Visits

Travel Officers visited ambassador schools to support action planning and deliver hands-on bike maintenance workshops, helping ambassadors build skills and confidence. 15 schools received this training.

March Cycles

The #andshecycles programme with the support of Cycling Ireland, delivered six cycling events for ambassadors with 71 ambassadors from 10 schools attending. These events provided memorable biking experiences while also providing an opportunity to improve bike handling skills and confidence in cycling.

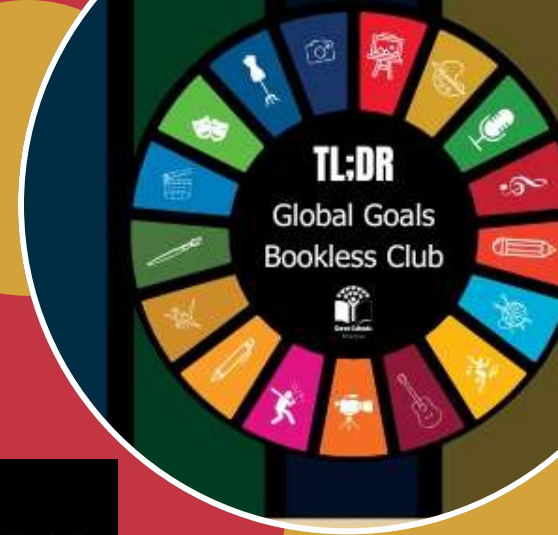
#AndSheCycles Awards

118 ambassadors from 15 schools completed the programme and were celebrated at an awards ceremony in Portlaoise.



TLDR BOOKLESS CLUB

- 2025–26 marked a second successful year of this initiative to engage secondary school students with the Global Goals through art.
- The first edition of the year was on SDG 3 – Good Health & Wellbeing. We received four entries from 2 schools and engaged four students through individual and collaborative artworks.
- The second edition was focused on SDG 2 – Zero Hunger in collaboration with the Young Reporters for the Environment programme. We received 32 entries from 11 schools and engaged 89 students through individual and collaborative artworks.
- The theme of the third edition was SDG 7 – Affordable & Clean Energy in collaboration with Green-Schools Energy theme. This edition resulted in 45 entries from 12 schools and engaged 88 students through individual and collaborative artworks.
- The fourth and final edition of the year was centered on SDG 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation in collaboration with the Green-Schools Water theme. We received 22 entries from 10 schools and engaged 25 students through individual and collaborative artworks during this engagement.
- The feedback from students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive and the quality of artwork was impressive.



Flyer showcasing the project and some winning art pieces from this year created by secondary school students on a range of Sustainable Development Goals.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to the year ahead, we will continue to develop Green-Schools so that it remains relevant and practical for schools and young people.

One of our main priorities will be streamlining the next phase of the Green-Schools journey: Green-Schools Projects. This is designed for schools that have completed all ten themes and want to remain active in the programme. It gives them more freedom to focus on environmental issues that matter to their students and their communities. We will work to make this next step clearer and more engaging, while continuing to recognise the commitment of schools that have been part of Green-Schools for many years.

We also want to encourage schools that have paused or stepped away from the programme to get involved again. Schools can restart at a pace that works for them, and the Green-Schools team will be there to support them as they renew their journey.

This work has never been more important. As the climate and biodiversity emergencies intensify, young people need opportunities to understand the challenges facing our planet. They also need to know that our actions can make a real difference. Through Green-Schools, students develop the confidence and skills to take meaningful action and inspire change within their wider communities.

In the year ahead, we will continue to listen to our schools and strengthen the partnerships that make the programme possible. We know there is more work ahead, and we look forward to continuing it alongside our Green-Schools community.

