EcoEd4All

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

WITH ALL ISLAND INITIATIVE PARTNERS

All Island Schools 4 Climate Action Conference in Belfast. Interactive Discovery Centre. 1st February 2023 Excellent turnout and engagement by students. Duncan Stewart, Eco Eye to the left. Back left - Ms Morgan O'Toole, Regional Development Officer · Co-operation Ireland, Mr Andrew McAnallen, Communications & Programme Development Officer, Co-operation Ireland

Our Vision

To make environmental education a cornerstone of the formal second level curriculum.

Our Mission

To ensure that all of our young school going generation, will have access to an appropriate environmental education programme by the time they finish transition year. To empower them to bring environmental awareness into their families and the community.

Partners and Sponsor

With thanks to all our Partners

Alison
Empower yourself

GALWAY NATIONAL PARK CITY*

co-operationireland
working for a future together

sse Renewables

CORRIBBEO

seai SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

Digital Services Sponsor

sse Renewables

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Chairman - John O'Sullivan

Dear Reader,

Please take some time to review our EcoEd4All 2023 Annual Report. Our voluntary team has spent endless hours driving sustainable education In Ireland and in Northern Ireland. In a post-Brexit world, it is wonderful to collaborate with Cooperation Ireland and Alison for a second year to deliver the All Island Schools 4 Climate Action program, where our cross border youth focus on the common issues of climate and biodiversity rather than on what divides us.

While the Irish State and society are more aware than ever of the need for change on Climate, biodiversity, water and waste - the 'say/do gap' remains wide. We need to consider as a nation on what we can do to convert our rhetoric more effectively into action.

While we have sought to engage with the Department of Education and its Education for Sustainable Development ESD for 2030 strategy, including sending a detailed submission, the route for engagement with ESD and public support for the innovation has been lacking.

As we reflect on the learnings to date, its clear that the work of NGO groups in local and community education such as EcoEd4All remains fragmented. While we have crafted great material and delivered exciting training sessions to very driven teachers, it is an ongoing challenge for our teachers to deliver the Sustainability modules in a crowded, competitive Secondary school landscape, without greater support structures.

UNESCO and other International data show less than 40% of teachers feel confident teaching about climate change citing insufficient coverage of this area in curricula and teacher education… while 90% see this as an area of high importance for classroom learning.

So, for 2023 and beyond, I am looking forward to an open and fruitful review of our EcoEd4All strategy, including such challenges as:

How can we refine and expand the All Island Schools 4 Climate Action initiative and better support our teachers?

Should we respond to the growing interest to engage with students at the Primary school level?

Can local and regional Community partners, for example Tidy Towns bring added value?

What is abundantly clear is the enthusiasm of the many, but the change of a few. Change must be bottom up; some people get dismayed with environmental performance of certain large economies and adopt the stance "why should Ireland bother….. we are too small and can't make a difference…." If our film industry thought the same…. Would we have 14 Oscar nominations for 2022/23!!?

To use the often-cited saying, "Ireland has consistently punched above its weight in the global arena and we are capable of being real leaders in addressing the Climate Change and Biodiversity crises".

John O'Sullivan

Our Team

John O'Sullivan

Environmental Advisor

Dr Carmel Brennan

Ecologist

Brendan Smith

Technology Expert

Duncan Stewart

Environmentalist

Dr Gordon Bromley

Climate Scientist

Amanda Wilkinson

Coordinator / Web Designer

Paul Schwartzman

Environmental Educator

Deirdre Forde

Educator

Dr Micheal O'Cinneide

Ex Director EPA / Co Chair Corrib Beo

Damien Nee

Environmental Advocate

Denis Goggin

Co Chair Corrib Beo

Jennifer Cunningham

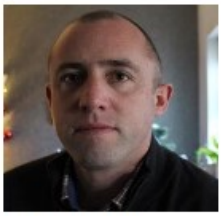
Eco Trails Leader

Noel Gavigan

BioGas / Biomass Expert

Dr Veronica McCauley

Education Expert



Dr Paul Flynn

Education Expert

Strategic Partners

Maeve Richardson

Head of Self-Publishing at Alison

Margaret Lucey

Programme Manager Cooperation Ireland

https://ecoed4all.com/our-team/

Our Team

Duncan Stewart

Duncan Stewart is an architect who pioneered, lectured & specialized in his practice in 'ecological building design' throughout his successful architectural career. He also became a film producer, where over the past 30years, he produced & presented more than 400 TV programmes, all screened on RTE1 channel. Since 18years old, as vice president of the Union of Students of Ireland.

Duncan became a committed environmentalist, where he then championed green issues for well over 40 years. He is also: A founder and patron of EcoEd4All. A patron of Galway National Park City. A director of Green Foundation Ireland & Dublin Civic Trust and ambassador to Irish Seed savers. Through his film company, Earth Horizon Productions,

Duncan conceived, produced and presented the popular TV documentary series, 'Eco Eye' and broadcast on RTE1, where it has run each year, over the past twenty years, while continuously achieving high audience ratings.

Duncan was for over 6 years instrumental in conceiving and advocating for environmental issues to be embedded and integrated into Ireland's school education curriculum, while acting as chairperson of GFI and as a director of the IEN. This eventually led to the founding of Eco Ed4All.

Other previous TV series that Duncan produced (or co-produced) and presented over the past 30years, include: 'Our House' followed by About the House, The State We're In, The Wood from the Trees, Engine Earth and The Changing Face of Dublin. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's chair award to Duncan as "Winner" in 2021 for 'outstanding contribution to Sustainable Energy'.

Brendan Smith

Brendan Smith, Education and Public Engagement Manager of the Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics at NUI Galway, has been granted many accolades for his science and technology learning initiatives as well as for his community and environmental activities including the 'Galway Science Person of the Year Award', 'Galway City Mayoral Volunteer of the Year Award', the 'NUI Galway President's award for Societal Impact' and the 'Cairdeas Award' from the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland. Brendan has been Global Master Mentor and Course Content Developer for Africa Code Week (ACW) since it was established in 2015. Founded by the SAP corporation and in association with UNESCO, Irish Aid, governments and NGOs partners in 54 African countries, ACW represents the largest educational digital movement in the history of the continent. In October 2020, Brendan launched a multi-sectoral initiative to transform Galway into a National Park City. As a member of EcoEd4All, he has developed its Circular Economy module.

John O'Sullivan

John grew up in the west of Ireland near Galway city and spent every possible moment on the family farm in Connemara, which allowed him be close to nature. While the farm was hard work, it provided endless learning and challenges. He received a BSc in Physics from National University of Ireland Galway and a MSc in Physics from Queens University Belfast. He moved to silicon valley California where he spent 12 years in the microchip sector. He dreamed of one day taking his international experience back to the west of Ireland and doing something meaningful for society and the community. Following relocation to Ireland with a US multinational, he left the company after 5 years due to travel and time pressure. He turned to his dream and self-trained in renewable energy for which he had a passion and where his physics, love of nature and multinational experience could intermingle. He eventually became development project manager for Galway Wind Park the largest renewable development in Ireland – before moving into an environmental advisor role.

Carmel Brennan

Carmel Brennan grew up on a farm in Ireland where she developed her love of nature. She went on to take degrees in Environmental Science BSc., Ecosystem Conservation and Landscape Management MSc. and a PhD in Landscape Ecology and has worked as a Consultant Ecologist and a Biodiversity Officer undertaking environmental impact assessments and delivering biodiversity initiatives. She is currently an Environmental Advisor in the renewable energy sector where she develops and implements environmental management systems, habitat monitoring and management plans.
As a member of the EcoEd4All team since 2019, Carmel has developed modules covering key themes in biodiversity as part of this cutting-edge Environmental Education course.

Our Team

Dr Micheál ÓCinneide

Micheál brings a blend of experience to EcoEd, as a manager in the Irish public and private sectors, with a special interest in advocacy for the environment, marine and sustainable development. He spent 10 years as Director with the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),** Wexford & a decade as Director of the Marine Environment with the **Marine Institute.** He served as a diplomat in New York and Cairo, was a policy adviser in the Department of Marine and worked in the Irish aquaculture sector in Connemara with **Irish Seafood Producers Group**. Amongst his recent projects is a review of the **National Parks and Wildlife Service,** with Prof. Jane Stout. Micheal has an MBA from Harvard and a Doctorate in Business Administration on "Social Learning and Water Management - the case of the Water Framework Directive in Europe". Since returning to Galway in 2019, he has worked with Denis Goggin, Damien Nee, John O'Sullivan and others as a co-founder of Corrib Beo Partnership, a voluntary group which promotes the sustainable development of the Corrib catchment; since 1985, he has been a Director of the Blasket Island Foundation, a cultural group dedicated to creating a National Historic Park on the Blasket Islands in county Kerry.

Email: michealocinneide17@gmail.com

Amanda Wilkinson

Amanda is an organiser, web designer and editor who keeps groups like EcoEd4All on track. Amanda has led out on the EcodEd4All online presence and in the layout and uploading of the EcoEd4All environmental education course content to the Alison.com platform. She is also a bit of a crusader, a founding member of EcoEd4All and has trained as an An Taisce Climate Ambassador. She loves to design annual reports, websites, newsletters and conference programmes for a variety of groups – Orthopaedic surgeons, the Ireland India Council and Galway National Park City, to name but a few. She believes in the positive effects of being out in nature on our health and wellbeing and in finding one's purpose.

Email: ecoed4all@gmail.com

Damien Nee

Damien is passionate about health, community, and environmental development policy and strategy, He is a co-founder of **CorribBeo and EcoEd4All** and believes that Education is Key to a sustainable future. Damien was highly influenced by Marshal McLuhan's 1960's vision of 'The Global Village', where the whole civilized world is made the psychological equivalent of a primitive tribe". We are responsible for the consequences of our choices and actions, individuals transcend the micro and macro-dynamics of their life and must get involved in communities of networks stretching worldwide. The Internet, Climate Change and Covid show a reality that demands coherent worldwide action on a heretofore unimagined scale. EcoED4All is the perfect medium for us all to contribute towards the realisation of that Sustainable Global Village. Damien is on the NOCA ICU Audit Governance Committee, National Health and Social Care Professions Committee, St James's Patient Council, Sexual Health Strategy Implementation Group, Ireland India Council and the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland Competitions Committee. Damien swims, loves boats, tennis, Bridge and wants affordable, health activities for the body and mind. "*There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew*." Marshall McLuhan

Dr Gordon Bromley

Gordon Bromley is a climate scientist and geologist based at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Over the past two decades, Gordon has worked on climate-related projects in Antarctica, Greenland, the tropical Andes, and Europe, where he focuses primarily on glaciers and the causes of natural climate variability. Since moving to Ireland from the United States in 2017, Gordon has become increasingly involved in delivering climate education and public outreach to diverse audiences, and in 2020 co-founded Ireland's Ice Age Trail, a public resource celebrating our rich geologic heritage. A member of the EcoEd4All team since 2019, Gordon has developed modules covering key themes in climate change as part of this cutting-edge Environmental Education course.

Our Team

Paul Schwartzman

Paul Schwartzman began his career as an environmental educator with a love for nature. Early on this was sparked by frequent visits to the American Museum of Natural History and Central Park in New York City, and reinforced by summer experiences in Algonquin Provincial Park, Canada, where he encountered wildlife up close. This established a deep relationship, appreciation and respect, as well as love for wildlife and nature. Paul went on to teach natural and environmental sciences in a variety of settings and locations. This included in classrooms and outdoors, from pre-school to university in the U.S., The Netherlands and France. While in The Netherlands he set up an editing and translation company that dealt primarily with environmental topics. More recently in Ireland he has helped inform his work colleagues at SSE Airtricity about sustainability issues and promotes environmental issues internally, as well as developing curriculum as part of EcodEd4All since 2019, specifically about water and plastic pollution.

Jen Cunningham

Jen Cunningham has worked in the field of sales and marketing for years, travelling extensively throughout Europe and Africa. In 2014, Jen became involved with sports coaching and development for both Rowing Ireland and NUI Galway. These roles involved engagement with hundreds of pre and post leaving cert students, creating a strong schools' pathway programme, driving fundraising campaigns and project-managing a major clubhouse refurbishment. More recently, Jen became involved with Corrib Beo and has assisted with drafting a concept note on developing a Lough Corrib multi-trail network. Jen also began collaborating with EcoEd4All and identified the need for increased outdoor learning to truly connect TY students with how they can impact directly upon biodiversity and our natural environment. This vision resulted in the development of the Eco Advocate course, which is due to be launched at the start of January 2022. The one-day Eco Advocate course, which is based on the EcoEd4All programme themes, is a field trip experience connecting students directly with the themes of Biodiversity, Climate Change, Water/Air Pollution and Circular Economy. Jen firmly believes that forming a direct connection with nature is key to forming our own understanding of place and advocating for its future.

Email: ecoadvocate.ty@gmail.com

Noel Gavigan

Noel Gavigan is a consultant in renewable energy and sustainable materials. Over the past 10 years he has managed or part managed over a dozen sustainable development and demonstration projects funded by Intelligent Energy Europe, Horizon 2020, RX3, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and the SEAI. He holds to roll of technical executive for the Irish BioEnergy Association for over 10 years where he has been deeply involved in much of the associations work setting up and running the Wood Fuel Quality Assurance Scheme, Biomass Trade Centres, economic studies, technical studies, lobbying, running industry events and general promotion of the biomass and biogas sectors. Mr Gavigan holds a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Science from University College Dublin, a Graduate Diploma in Management Practice from Dublin Institute of Technology and a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Protection from Sligo Institute of Technology. He has over 10 years experience in the Agricultural & Horticultural industry and 16 years experience in renewable energy and the bioeconomy.

Denis Goggin

Denis has been a saoi, a sadhu and sage on our EcoEd4All odyssey. His love of education was fostered while growing up in a family of teachers in Kilfinnane, County Limerick. He trained in horticulture and has operated a stone business in Galway for many years, rescuing some of the city's historic stone artifacts along the way. Denis and Martina founded the Circle of Life garden in Salthill, where we had many informal meetings and impromptu 'hedge schools' in the past two years. Denis has brought his vision and optimistic energies to the evolution of Corrib Beo, the Galway Waterways Foundation and to the EcoEd4All initiatives.

Our Team

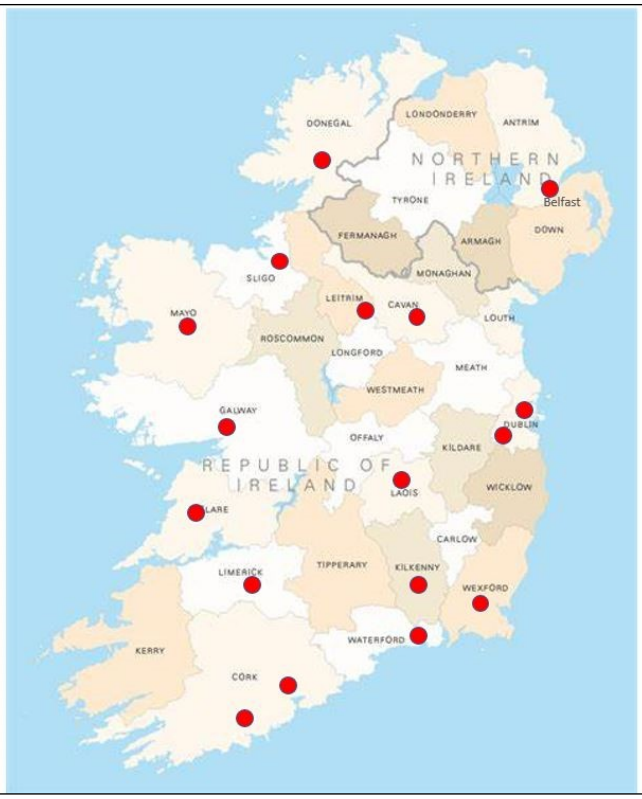
Dr Veronica McCauley

Veronica McCauley, PhD, is a researcher and lecturer in Science Education in the School of Education, NUI Galway, Galway, Ireland. She publishes regularly in the field of science education, science communication & public engagement, technology education, and related areas; and holds the seat of Vice-Chair at NUI Galway's University Ethics Committee. She is Director and co-founder of the Centre for Pedagogy and Public Engagement Research (CoPPER), NUI Galway; and within CoPPER, leads/contributes expertise to projects in the area of: STEM education (formal, informal, nonformal); Co-Creation Strategies/Participatory Research; Evaluation-Impact, Behavioural Change modelling. Veronica joined the EcoEd4all team in early 2021, and contributes in terms of dissemination strategy, through initial teacher education and recently the nascent design of a curricular linked environmental education module directed at post-primary students.

Dr Paul Flynn

Paul Flynn, PhD, is a Researcher and Lecturer in Education at the School of Education, NUI Galway. A Fellow of the International Society ISDDE and Ireland's representative on Cost Action 18213 - Modelling the Risks Underlying Rural NEETs Social Exclusion, Paul specialises in the application of Design-Based Research in the field of non-formal, placed based, community education and is currently the Principle Investigator on a number of nationally and internationally funded reproach projects.

Education Centres and Other Venues where training is taking place.



Location of Education Centres where EcoEd4All webinars have been held to date

- Belfast – All Island Schools 4 Climate Action
- Carrick-on-Shannon Education Centre
- Cavan Education Centre
- Clare Education Centre
- Cork Education Centre
- Donegal Education Centre
- Drumcondra Education Centre
- Galway Education Centre
- Kerry Education Centre
- Kilkenny Education Centre
- Laois Education Centre
- Limerick Education Centre
- Sligo Education Centre
- Drumcondra Education Centre
- Waterford Education Centre
- West Cork Education Centre
- West Dublin Education Centre
- Wexford Education Centre

3 Pillars of Our Strategic Vision

INFORM

Inform communities by providing secondary schools with free, objective, data driven environmental education materials and training for teachers.

INSPIRE

Inspire our youth by focusing on what can be done and the difference that this can make to return to more sustainable ways

ENABLE

Connect with and empower the youth to engage in initiatives, projects and activism to drive required exponential rate of change.

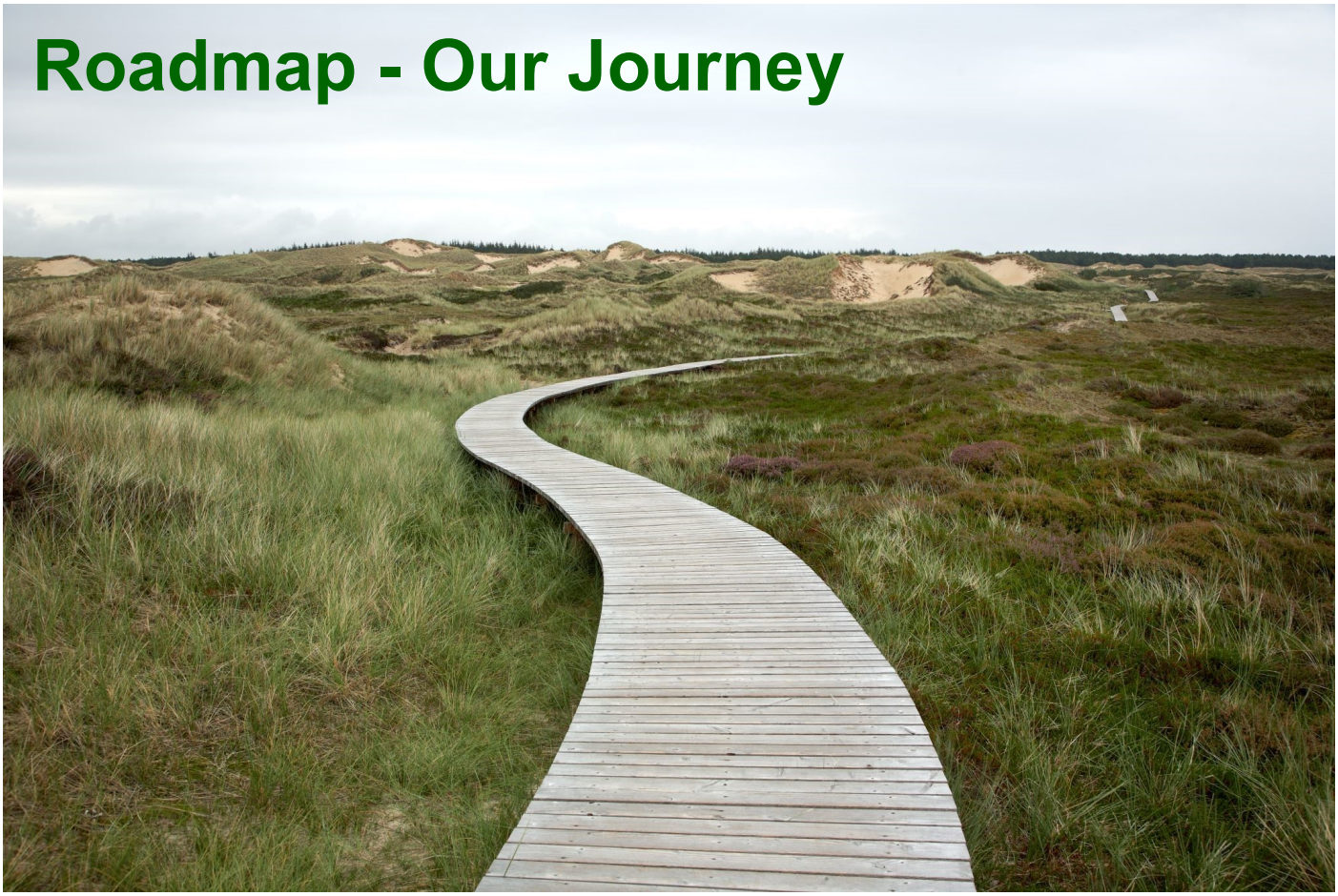
Engagement with

Education Centres - Teachers - Students

Communities - Volunteer Groups - Government Bodies

Associations - Partners- Sponsors

Roadmap - Our Journey



2018

EcoEd4All Established. Volunteers from Dublin, Galway and Portlaoise.

2019

Strategy and organisation development

2019

Content development and pilot in ROI schools .

2020

Set up suite of webinars via Education Centres Dropbox and Website

2020

Partnership with NUIG

2020

Partnership with Alison

2021

Partnership with Cooperation Ireland

2021

Northern Ireland Pilot Preparation

2021

Strategic plan Annual Report

2022

Community Engagement Projects

2022

Development of Eco Advocate

2022

Strengthening ties with Cooperation Ireland, Corrib Beo and Education Centres

Eco Advocate

Eco Advocate 1 Day Course – Place-based learning for Transition Year Students.

There are lifelong benefits to getting Transition Year students involved in the TY Eco Advocate Course The one-day Eco Advocate course, which is based on the EcoEd4All programme themes, is a field trip experience that gives students the opportunity to connect directly with and explore the themes of Biodiversity, Climate Change, Water/Air Pollution and Circular Economy.

This course will equip the student with a practical understanding of the core elements of the online EcoEd4All Course and enable them to become involved in a youth advocacy capacity to bring value to their TY programme and in their school. The course allows students the opportunity to work in a fun and interactive environment in the great outdoors.

The field trip will be facilitated by a Trail Leader and will involve exploring, surveying and recording local habitats and species, discussing and observing causes and effects of climate change and pollution on local ecosystems.

All participants are to be given meaningful leadership roles and responsibility on the day and are expected to complete the online EcoEd4all themes upon completion of the field trip

View course details here

Wonderful video of our Corrib Beo colleagues, EcoEd4All, bringing outdoor environmental education to our Galway Schools with their Eco Advocates

Jen Cunningham, Eco Trails Leader

EcoEd4All had a super morning with Transition Year students in Coláiste lognáid this week. The students were all awarded their Eco Advocate Awards after completing a half-day session of place-based learning out along the biodiverse-rich banks of the River Corrib. The field trip comprised students having to undertake habitat assessments, biodiversity data capture, water sampling tests, and then presenting their findings to the wider group in the newly established outdoor classroom at The Boathouse, Corrib Village.

The Transition Year students have also been offered the opportunity to become involved with an exciting EU Erasmus+ project, called Watersport4Green. This will involve selected TY students measuring and testing water quality and assessing the sources of and impacts of pollution in several key locations around the Corrib. This project will be run in collaboration with project partners from Italy and Portugal who will also be assessing their own waterbodies and compiling a digital project of their findings together with our Corrib Catchment findings. A sincere thanks to LAWPRO, Local Authorities Water Programme for all their support with the Eco Advocates program..

Fantastic day out, we really enjoyed. Jen and the team were so organised and had amazing resources for the children to use. The area was very safe and the activities were varied. Well done and thank you!

Teacher, 6th Class
Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Galway

It was great students got out of concrete classrooms and had the opportunity of real world science and ecology in the outdoor classroom of their own city. Very engaging and practical. Lots of topics covered. Students were interested, engaged and busy. Good equipment kit given to students.

I really liked that she gave the students information in a fun way but also allowed the students respect to also discover things on their own, independently to some extent. Students were surprised how much could be discovered and studied around the river at the University. The Session ended with the students' presentations of their findings. This was well supported and encouraged by our guide.. Prizes were given to the best groups, which was a nice touch. Instructor gave very good guidance and instruction. She was well informed and enthusiastic.

Clodagh Henihan
Science Teacher, Coláiste Iognáid

Colaiste Iognáid students pictured here with Duncan Stewart, conducting a water sampling session, as part of an exciting new Transition Year field trip course, called Eco Advocates, an EcoEd4All initiative (www.ecoed4all.com). Stewart, an award winning architect, environmentalist and well known producer and presenter of Eco Eye, and official Patron of EcoEd4All, joined the students and Eco Advocate Course leader, Jen Cunningham along the banks of the River Corrib.

The water quality sampling session was led by GMiT Marine Biology students, Molly Curran and Joseph Donnelly. Brendan 'Speedie' Smith, Founder of Galway National Park City and Committee member and content contributor to EcoEd4All also spoke to students about the importance of the circular economy and the Galway National Park City initiative. Also in the photo is Pam Dolan, Environmental Officer and Coláiste Iognáid, Art Teacher.

100 TY students take part in eco field trips

THE recently launched Eco Advocates course designed for TY students has delivered multiple learning sessions for up to 100 students from Coláiste Iognáid (the Jes) and Taylor's Hill so far this year.

The students were out and about conducting water sampling sessions along the banks of the River Corrib, undertaking habitat surveys and logging biodiversity data, as part of an exciting new TY field trip course, called Eco Advocate from ecoed4all.com.

This is an environmental voluntary organisation promoting education for sustainability in secondary schools.

They provide free online content designed by subject matter experts for transition year students and teachers.

The field trip experience offers students a unique outdoors experience connecting students directly with exploration and monitoring of themes such as Biodiversity, Climate Change, Water Pollution, and Circular Economy.

Students and teachers are given free environmental course content and students are then offered to put their name forward to become involved with a year-long project. This year's project is an EU Erasmus+ co-funded project called Watersport4Green and will focus on connecting students with water quality through watersports.

This project is in collaboration with students from Italy and Portugal also focussing on water quality from the regions of Lago D'Iseo, Adriatic Coast and the River Douro. A digital project and presentation of each location's findings will be submitted as the EU Erasmus+ project.

▲ Coláiste Iognáid TY students using the Citizen Science Stream Index to assess the macroinvertebrates in local freshwater, with teacher Liam Parkinson. ► Coláiste Iognáid TY students on an Eco Advocate field trip in Galway.

Taylor's Hill TY students assessing, sampling and presenting their findings.

Galway City Tribute
4th November 2022

EcoEd4All Priority SDGs

Focus on good health and well-being throughout our course material and training courses.

Providing free, quality course material and training to schools around Ireland.

Good gender balance of male / female working volunteers in our organisation.

Helping to create sustainable cities and communities through environmental education

Providing free, quality course material and training to schools around Ireland

With our Corrib Beo links, we see water as key to ecosystems.

Work with Rural partners to teach the potential for sustainable farming.

Strong partnership with various Organisations, Education centres, Teacher and Public Bodies.

co-operationireland
working for a future together

Alison
Empower yourself

ea Education Authority

all-island schools 4 climate action

GET INVOLVED

www.alison.com/schools4ca
schools4ca@cooperationireland.org

Alison, a global empowerment platform, has sponsored a founding grant for the development of the **West of Ireland Chapter of Co-operation Ireland**. Co-operation Ireland has supported the establishment of various chapters in Dublin, London, New York and Cork. The CEO and Founder of Alison, Mike Feerick, feels it is important for the West of Ireland to support the work of peace building in Ireland.

This three-year sponsorship will seed the development to support the chapter for the North/South peace charity in the West of Ireland, as well as an All-island Online Schools Programme, www.alison.com/schools4ca, centred on fighting climate change through education, empowerment, collaboration and action.

All-island Schools 4 Climate Action is an initiative between Co-operation Ireland, EcoEd4All, EANI the Education Authority for NI and Alison to enhance environmental education, foster cross-border collaboration and implement seemingly impossible actions through changing mindsets, policies and results.

"Through the Covid period, every child north and south has become very familiar with doing classes and communicating online and, through that experience, there exists a new opportunity to connect schools, pupils and teachers in a way and at a scale like never before," said **Alison's CEO, Mike Feerick**.

About Alison

Alison, founded in 2007 in Galway, Ireland, is a social business, providing free online learning and self-empowerment courses to a global audience. Since then, 21 million people worldwide have enrolled in Alison courses, and 4 million have graduated. Over 3 500 free courses have been sourced from experts in their field as well as top training institutions. Unlike other websites that offer free courses, Alison has no sign-up or monthly subscription fees, making it accessible to all-income users.

Press and School queries: schools4ca@cooperationireland.org

Meath on the 14th of September 2022 with schools from Belfast, Armagh, Galway, Cork, Downpatrick, Lurgan & Roscommon for the latest meet up as part of the All Island Schools 4 Climate Change programme with @Alison_Learning Huge thanks to all the inspirational young people making a difference!

Teachers and students from Galway Community College, pictured with Co-operation Ireland programme staff

AIS4CA Lurgan Cluster: Lurgan College and St. Ronan's College, Lurgan

AIS4CA Lurgan Cluster: Lurgan College and St. Ronan's Collage, Lurgan

https://cooperationireland.org/projects/all-island-schools-4-climate-action/#:~:text=AIS4CA%20is%20a%20student%2Dled,time%20fostering%20cross%2Dborder%20collaboration.

Alison is a provider of free online courses at Diploma and Certificate levels. Driven by the goal of providing free education irrespective of barriers like geography or economic status, Alison provides 3,500 free online courses, with new offerings every week. Currently, the platform caters to the learning needs of over 21 million registered learners, 4 Million graduates from around the world and over 175 Thousand more signing up every month.

EcoEd4All Courses

https://alison.com/course/environmental-education-climate-change-the-science

https://alison.com/course/environmental-education-circular-economy

https://alison.com/course/environmental-education-transport

https://alison.com/energy-calculations

EcoEd4All Content Developers

Biodiversity	Dr Carmel Brennan
Circular Economy	Brendan Smith
Climate Change-The Science	Dr Gordon Bromley

Energy Calculations	Noel Gavigan
Energy	John O'Sullivan
Water Pollution	Paul Schwartzman

Alison
Empower yourself

Environmental Education: Climate Change - The Science

'Climate Change – The Science' is a free online course that introduces you to the basics of our climate system and explo...

Environmental Education: Transport

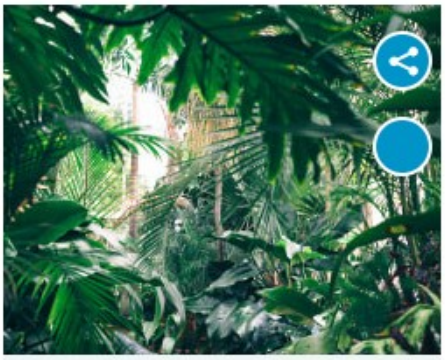
When heading out for work or running a few errands, what form of transportation do you use: car, bus, bike or something...

Environmental Education: Circular Economy

This is a free online introductory course that looks at two mutually incompatible economic systems. First, we look at th...

Environmental Education: Energy Calculations

How much energy does it take to power a home, a school or an entire city? How would you go about calculating these? Our...



Environmental Education: Biodiversity Overview

This introductory conservation course explores the journey of biodiversity from its early evolution to the current crisi...

Environmental Education: Water Pollution

Water is a vital resource in short supply and unevenly distributed on our planet. Less than one percent of all the water...

Corrib Beo, 2021

The Covid pandemic has limited the work of Corrib Beo and many such groups across Ireland since Spring 2020. Nonetheless, one of the key activities of Corrib Beo this year has been to promote the concept of a **Corrib Trails** network. The idea grew from a series of informal discussions during 2019/20 with community groups around the Corrib (eg in Moycullen, Oughterard, Clonbur, Headford) on ways to foster/restore a sense of cultural identity and promote recreation around the Corrib.

Project funding was secured from FORUM Connemara (a LEADER company) and LAWPRO. An experienced consultancy team, Meehan Tully & Associates, Sligo, www.meehantully.com were engaged via a tendering process.

Workshops were held with the Meehan Tully team and the wider Corrib Trails promoters in Petersburg (11th June, 2021) and in Claregalway castle (22nd September, 2021).

The feasibility study will be ready during November 2021, which will include a detailed appendix on a variety of community trails and potential Blueways around the Corrib. This also integrates with the National Park City initiative for Galway. We look forward to the report providing a catalyst for a network of linked trails and blueways around the Corrib in the years ahead.

Ag Féachaint romhainn / Looking Ahead

On behalf of Corrib Beo, we look forward to continuing our close cooperation and informal links with the EcoEd4all network in the years ahead.

Each of us can learn from working together and give support on the odyssey.

We are immensely proud of the progress to date and see the educational work as a key element of building more sustainable communities, in the 'decade of transition' ahead.

Damien Nee, Denis Goggin, Micheál Ó Cinneide, John O'Sullivan

Directors, Corrib Beo Partnership.

Corrib Beo

Corrib Beo Partnership is a not-for-profit voluntary association, established in 2019 to advance and promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Corrib Region. It is managed by a steering committee of 12 members.

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The Corrib Beo Partnership plans to include on our new and developing website, a comprehensive fact- file of the many different and interesting facets of the lake and its hinterlands. The availability of this information will not alone inform and stimulate conversation, but also fulfil a key role in a dynamic process leading from greater awareness through to appreciation and respect, pride in place and disposition for participation and positive action.

This data-base can also play an effective, complimentary role to the recently launched environmental, “education for sustainability” programme developed by EcoEd 4 All (developed collaboratively by a team of interdisciplinary experts from Presentation College Headford, NUIG, SSE Electricity and the Corrib Beo Partnership). It will further provide source material for highlighting and mapping points of interest on the Corrib as well as providing a valuable assist to the Partnership’s plans to create and develop a distinctive “Corrib Cultural Identity”.

Ultimately, this exercise can contribute to the realisation of the type of international recognition afforded to the Lake District in Cumbria (UNESCO World Heritage Status) and to enjoyment of the huge social, economic and conservation benefits of such an accolade.

Corrib Beo Partnership plans to hold extensive consultations with relevant authorities and experts over the coming months to complete this work.

Corrib Beo Board Meeting Moycullen January 2023, Standing Gerry Hanley, Vincent Campbell , Hazel Morrisson-Pagett, Phil James, John O’Sullivan, Seán O’Farrell. Sitting Gerry Lydon, Denis Goggins , Micheál Ó Cinneide, Jennifer Cunnigham. Missing from picture Damien Nee. Photo by Sean Lydon

.

Heritage Week '22

"Connecting Corrib Communities - Showcasing Heritage"

Knockferry & Kilbeg Piers - Water Heritage Day 21/8/22

To all who contributed to, participated in, or helped us celebrate the rich heritage of the Corrib during Heritage Week '22

Míle Buíochas

https://www.corribbeo.ie/gallery/corrib-beo-heritage-week-2022/

The "***Connecting Corrib Communities - Showcasing Heritage***" project was a huge success, involving:

A media launch in Claregalway Castle on Monday, August 8th 14 coordinated community-staged heritage events during Heritage Week.

A "*Hands Around the Corrib*" cultural celebration on Knockferry and Kilbeg Piers on Sunday, August 21st:

400 plus people
20 traditional musicians, songs, information talks and dancing
Free hospitality – 270 burgers served
Free inter pier ferry crossings – 70 crossings reconnecting communities with the tradition of lakeshore connectivity and friendships.

Corrib Beo plans to continue working with local communities to build on, and expand on, the success of **Heritage Week '22** project towards a similar event next year and for a series of cultural, recreational and environmental events throughout the year.

We also plan to circulate a draft consultative document of Corrib community-based project ideas, on which we would welcome your comments and suggestions.

Our aim:

Through this process, greater interconnectivity of Corrib communities can evolve and the potential for development of a more unified voice to effect positive change for the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Corrib region.

Claregalway Castle

If you would like to add your voice to support this campaign, and receive regular action updates, please forward your contact details (name/email) to corribbeo@gmail.com

Please also feel free to circulate this invite to family members and friends who might wish to lend their support.

Finally, our thanks to the Corrib Heritage Week project sponsors:

LAWPRO, Lough Corrib Navigation Trust and Galway Co. Council.

Special thanks also to all at Claregalway Castle and to the many, many others who gave so generously of their time and talents to make the project the success if was.

Link to images of the Heritage Week events: https://www.corribbeo.ie/gallery/corrib-beo-heritage-week-2022/

Link to Video : https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLP5gsWpT0-uahtHIpG9f0lBBuL8Q8hIcn

Signed, on behalf of Corrib Beo;

Denis Goggin, Micheál O Cinneide, Sean O'Farrell, Gerry Lydon, Gerry Hanley, Jen Cunningham,

Photo - Phil James telling the history of Galway Waterways, August 2022

Galway National Park City (GNPC)

Walking and Cycling Trails of Galway City

Available on its website, GNPC champions mapped out a series of trails in Galway city which offers a diverse range of river, seashore, woods and park environments, many suitable for walking (with varying levels of accessibility) and some more suitable for cycling. These include walking routes within the main public urban parks along the Galway Bay seashore and on the banks of the city's canals and River Corrib.

The Outdoor Classrooms in Galway City
With funding provided by the Lifes2Good Foundation, the Galway National Park (GNPC) initiative has provided four areas of biodiversity richness across Galway city with kits comprising binoculars, bug containers, clipboards, measuring tapes, magnifying glasses, sitting mats, raingear, bat detectors, tent marque, foldup table, teacher's blackboard and much more. Compiled by Carmel Burns (director of the Galway Education Centre) primary school teacher Fionnghuala Gerathy, and a group of Galway teachers and eco experts, these kits allow school groups to undertake regular scientific nature studies in the parks, meadows, woods, and waterways of Galway city where onsite community, environmental and educational experts and volunteers act as guides.

The sponsorship also allowed the establishment of Galway city's first visitor park information and volunteer centre. Known as An Nead (nest) it is located at an entrance to Terryland Forest Park and provides storage space for the outdoor classroom kits, park seating, school desks and other materials used by schools/volunteers, a display area for nature-themed artwork as well as a rendezvous point for volunteers, schools undertaking nature studies, and park information for general park visitors.

As part of this year's Galway Science and Technology Festival, the Galway National Park City initiative hosted the Urban Blueways & Greenways Part 1 seminar/ webinar with members of local government/ state agencies of four cities-Belfast, Chicago, Chattanooga and Glasgow-who gave an overview of their urban waterways and associated greenways past and present.

The event was designed to provide information to Galwegians and others from all walks of life on how such urban infrastructure can be improved in order to meet the needs of city dwellers and of biodiversity.

The seminar is part of the 'This is the World Calling Galway' series (learning from the experiences of other cities, in Ireland and worldwide) that will be held every few months by the Galway National Park City initiative on topics relevant to sustainable city development such as Energy, Biodiversity, Urban Food and Sustainability in large institutions.

GNPC coordinated the first ever local Youth Climate Assembly in Ireland on November 15th 2022. Its primary aim was to increase youth awareness of and participation in decision making in relation to climate action policies.

Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh President of the University of Galway welcoming the young delegates to the Galway Youth Climate Assembly

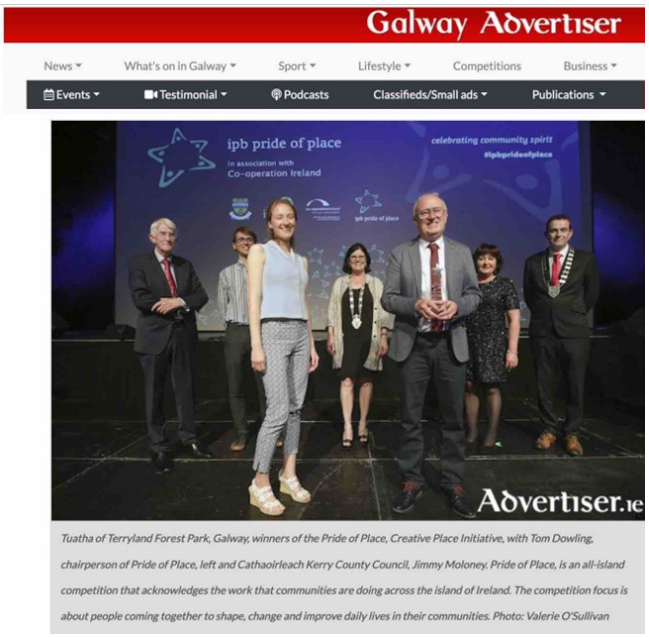
GALWAY NATIONAL PARK CITY* PÁIRC NÁISIÚNTA CHATHAIR NA GAILLIMHE*

Urban Blueways & Greenways Part 1 seminar/webinar

So whilst COP27 was taking place in Egypt involving the United Nations, presidents, prime ministers, international environmental activists, climate justice campaigners, powerful corporations and other influential entities, the GNPC and Youth Work Ireland Galway, publicly supported by the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, bought together at a local level key stakeholders comprising university presidents and top administrators, science researchers, nationally renowned climate/ecological/ sustainability experts, public science event organisers, student volunteers, youth groups, politicians and teachers to support young people from 10 city secondary schools.

Also supported were youth groups to review how they as individuals, as members of a school/youth group and as part of local society could come up with practical implementable sustainable solutions in tackling Climate Change and its associated issues. A follow up Assembly is expected to take place in April.

In May 2022, the Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park led by EcoEd4All team member Brendan Smith was presented with the Cities Creative Place at the annual all-Ireland IPB Pride of Place Awards 2021 in Killarney.



Terryland Forest Park volunteers scoops Pride of Place Award

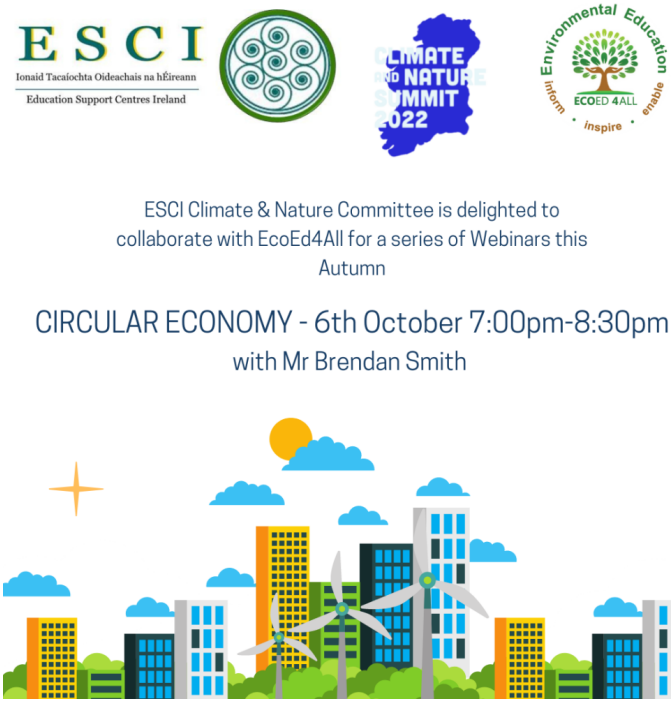
The Pride of Place awards is a competition that acknowledges and celebrates the work that local communities are doing across the 32 counties of Ireland. The judges of the Pride of Place awards said, “This group in partnership with their Council has created a bio-diversity sanctuary, that is at once educational, scientific and artistic” calling it a “terrific example of how climate change can and is being tackled” in Ireland.

Webinars

PRESENTERS
Mr John O'Sullivan
Galway Wind Park, Hydrogen Project
EcoEd4All Committee Member
John.OSullivan3@sse.com

Mr Duncan Stewart
Ireland's Leading Environmentalist

PRESENTER
Dr Carmel Brennan
Ecologist
EcoEd4All Committee Member
carmel.brennan@sse.com



PRESENTER

Mr Brendan Smith
Founder of the Galway National Park City
Insight Centre, NUI Galway
EcoEd4All Committee Member

EcoEd4All would like to thank Ms Norma O'Brien, Director of the Limerick Education Centre and Ms Carmel Burns, Director of Galway Education for their support.

Teacher Resources

Theme Session Breakdown of Time

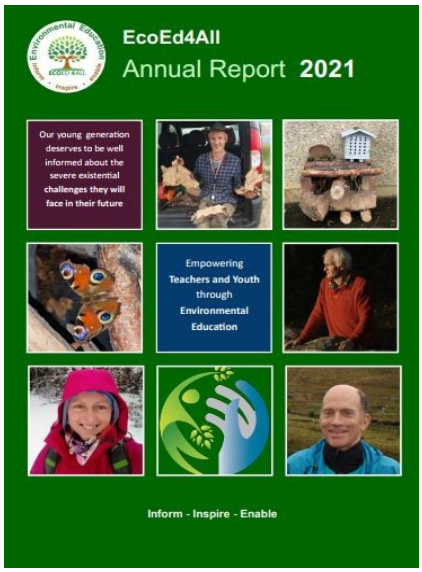
Time Per Session = 40 minutes		
Week 1		
10 minute	Introduction	
20 minute	Show PowerPoint Presentation	
8 minutes	Discussion	
2 minutes	Hand out Project Sheet	
	*Hand out Quiz Sheet at the start of the next session	

View a Course Quiz sheet here

View a Course Project sheet here

Communications

Newsletters



Annual Report 2021

Annual Report 2022

https://www.facebook.com/ecoed4all/ @ecoed4all

Highlights

Volunteers and Galway City Council Parks staff for a clean-up at Terryland Castle and adjacent riverbank.

Launching the EU Erasmus+ project, Watersport4green. Jen Cunningham from EcoEd4All and Corrib Beo is pictured in Lago D'Iseo with her European partners. This project is currently engaging students with how to test for water quality of their local lakes and rivers, to identify sources of pollutants and to raise awareness for future prevention.

Duncan Stewart launches 'timely and important' resource for teaching climate change created by MIC academics link

EcoEd4All team members with Ms Carmel Burns (front row left) at the Galway Science and Technology Festival 2019

In the News

Duncan Stewart to put emphasis on all things climate in Athlone. Environmental activist, broadcaster and presenter of RTE's 'Eco Eye' Duncan Stewart, travelled to Athlone thiw for the inaugural Arcadia Creative Climate Awards which had to be postponed last year due to Covid. March 2022.

EcoEd4All at the Galway Science & Technology Festival.

John O'Sullivan

Environmental management for SSE onshore operational wind assets in Ireland south. SSE Renewables project manager for Galway Hydrogen Hub consortium (GH2.ie) Galway Hydrogen Hub (GH2) is a consortium consisting of seven members - University of Galway, the Port of Galway, CIÉ Group and Bus Éireann, Aran Islands Ferries, Lasta Mara Teo, Aer Arann Islands, and SSE Renewables. The consortium is proposing a new zero-emissions green hydrogen fuel facility developed at Galway Harbour, positioning Galway as the home of Ireland's first Hydrogen Valley. GH2 is hosting a public consultation relating to its proposed green hydrogen zero emission transport hub on December 14th at the Harbour Hotel from 3pm – 8pm. The subject of the public consultation to changes to the proposed route for an underground cable which will supply electricity from the Galway electricity network to a new 38 Kilovolt (kV) substation adjacent to the proposed GH2 site.

- Up to 1,450 tonnes of indigenous hydrogen generated annually.
- Powering zero emission transport and other services in Galway City and beyond.
- The development will act as a catalyst for other businesses to use hydrogen - providing a secure local supply of hydrogen to allow others to convert to hydrogen.
- The project would create jobs in the short-term and support the long-term ambition of developing green hydrogen production and a supply chain locally.

Virtual consultation room - https://www.innovision.ie/gh2

Dr Carmel Brennan

Where's Me Jumper?

Taylor Swift may have rekindled the love of Aran jumpers, but will she still have her geansaí in 40 years' time?

Knitting was once a common craft throughout Ireland. Like many homes in the 70's and 80's, clicking knitting needles and the whispered counting of stitches were familiar sounds in our house most winter evenings. We knew never to interrupt our mother until the end of the row for fear of losing count. Intricate patterns were common place and probably the most complex of these was the Aran with stitches inspired by fishing and nature. The cable stitch represented fishing ropes and complex cables denoted interwoven family. The diamond stitch mirrored the fishing net mesh and symbolise wealth and success; honeycomb represents the hard work associated with bees, blackberry had religious connotations while the moss stitch symbolised abundance and growth.

Two of my mother's hand knit Aran jackets survive and are between 40-50 years old: a traditional cream and a less traditional cerise pink that I still wear each winter. They are made of durable yarn and took time, skill and dedication to create. Mohair blankets and crochet rugs may not be fashionable, but they are imaginative ways of using odds and ends. All of these products are the essence of slow fashion and sustainability.

In contrast, fast fashion relies on cheap, rapid, large-scale production of low-quality products that reflect the current fashion trends but ignore the environmental and social impact. Textile production contributes more to climate change than international aviation and shipping combined and accounts for 10% of global carbon emissions.

Child labour and modern slavery are widespread with 97% of fast fashion produced in countries with poor labour and human rights protection.

While we may not return to knitting at night, we can take small actions to change the system. We can choose sustainable materials and ethical brands that are organic, fair trade, or use natural fibres; repair before replacing; buy less but better quality; wash less, swap, donate, buy second-hand or vintage. Our personal actions nudge industries in new directions and collectively we can change the system. But change, for better or worse, can be stressful and it's easy to become overwhelmed and disengage. The sustainability journey is a marathon not a sprint, so pace yourself and bear in mind that sustainability is not only good for the environment, it can be a creative outlet, a mindful practice and a way of slowing down.

I never mastered the art of complex knitting patterns. My output ranged from free-style, enormous, multi-coloured jumpers that would challenge Joseph's coat for tonal variation to a miniscule jumper for my Cindy doll, which took two weeks to finish, but at least I followed the pattern.

There's no set pattern on how we reinvent the economic system from a linear to a circular model, but we know it will be a complex task. As we slowly unravel the linear economy with systemic over consumption and waste, we can begin to create a new circular economy that will endure and serve the needs of future generations.

Carmel grew up on a farm in Ireland where she developed her love of nature. She has worked as a Consultant Ecologist and a Biodiversity Officer. She is currently an Environmental Advisor in the renewable energy sector where she develops and implements environmental management systems and habitat management on operational wind farms. As a member of the EcoEd4All team since 2019, Carmel has developed modules covering key themes in biodiversity as part of their environmental education programme.

Above: Handknit Aran jackets that are over 40 years old and wool blankets made from odds and end.
Below: Traditional Aran stitches including cables, diamond and honeycomb.

Paul Schwartzman

Cycling Without Age is a free service offered to mobility-challenged individuals, such as the elderly and people with disabilities, and which is run by volunteers, myself included, who 'pilot' the trishaws. These are three-wheeled electric-assist bikes with a two-person seat in front of the person pedalling, ie. the 'pilot'. CWA began in Denmark and the initiative was established in Ireland by Clara Clark. It now has 23 local chapters in the Dublin area and 18 others scattered around the country (Local Chapters - Cycling Without Age).

I volunteered to be a pilot for CWA about a year or so before Covid and Clara had identified the Leopardstown hospital, which had been donated a trishaw and is very close to where I work, so I thought it would be ideal to get colleagues involved as pilots as well. Unfortunately, the hospital fell through due to a change in management and I hoped another place/partner would become available. For me that turned out to be the Bike Hub (thebikehub.ie) located in Dun Laoghaire, and which started up midway through Covid. Besides being a local chapter of CWA, the Bike Hub also repairs bikes, including ones that are donated, and then gives them to people in direct provision and to other economically disadvantaged. The Hub attracts volunteer pilots and bike-repair enthusiasts from all walks of life (I pilot and do some repairs), and is a very satisfying way to give back to the community.

Paul Schwartzman

Damien Nee

Founding member EcoEd4All

Spending his time between Portlaoise - Galway - Dublin

Helping others along the way and being an active member of several HSE patient representative committees including: NOCA ICU Audit Governance Committee, National Health and Social Care Professions Committee and St James's Patient Council, Sexual Health Strategy Implementation Group.

Noel Gavigan

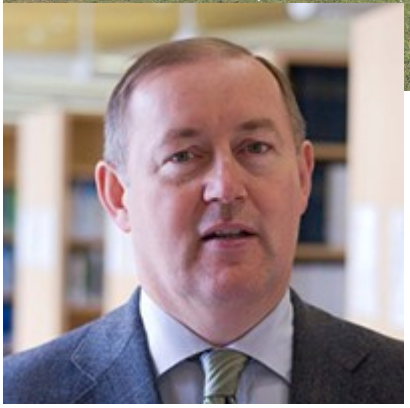
Noel Gavigan is a consultant in renewable energy and sustainable materials. Over the past 10 years he has managed or part managed over a dozen sustainable development and demonstration projects funded by Intelligent Energy Europe, Horizon 2020, RX3, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and the SEAI.

Denis Goggin

Denis along with his wife Martina founded the charity Strange Boat Donor Foundation which established, in partnership with Galway City Council, the Circle of Life National Organ Donor Commemorative Garden within the Quincentenary Park Salthill. Opened in 2014, the park now plays a vital role in promoting and supporting the cause of organ donation nationwide. In the process it has become a major visitor destination for tourist and local alike.

Denis is also co- chair of Corrib BEO, which was established in 2019 to advance and promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the Corrib region by bringing its communities together and connecting them with the natura world of its vast waterways network of lakes and rivers. He has recently worked with Brendan Smith in developing educational wildlife and heritage sculpture trails across Terryland Forest Park.

Dr Micheal O'Cinneide



Micheál was a co-founder of Corrib Beo Partnership, Galway, a voluntary group which promotes the sustainable development of the Corrib catchment; served as a Director with the Irish Forum on Natural Capital www.naturalcapitalireland.com; and was co-founder/Director, Fondúireacht an Bhlascaoid (Blasket Island Foundation), a non profit cultural group dedicated to creating a National Historic Park on the Blasket Islands in Kerry.

Micheal is committed to the development of a people oriented, effective, networked public service and to the long term conservation of Irish culture and our natural environment.

Jen Cunningham

Jackie Mons- Boat Restoration Project Lough Corrib Traditional Lakeboat - Circular Economy - Sustainability.

Overview by Jen Cunningham - Corrib Beo / EcoEd4All

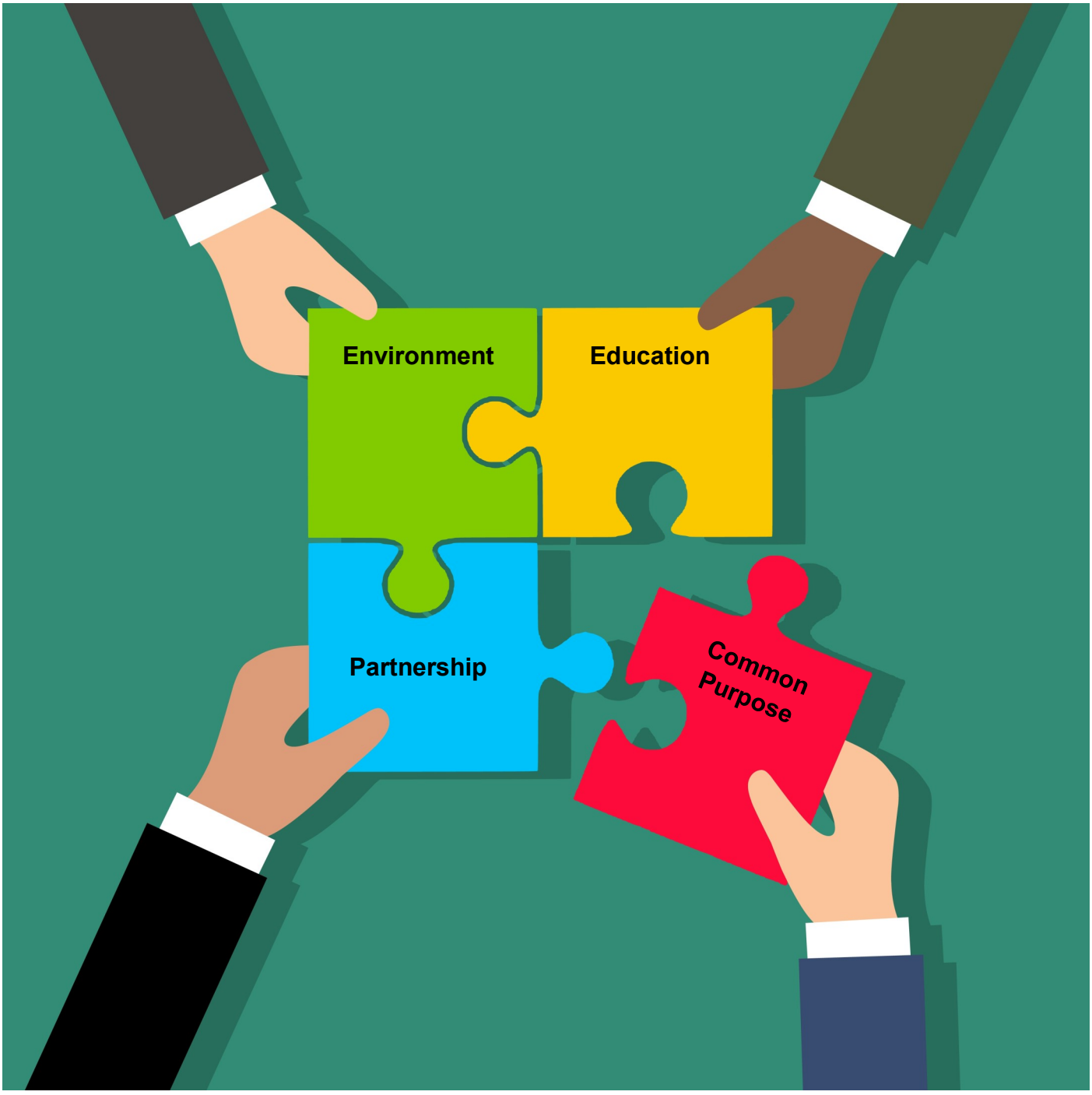
“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”
— Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows

This beautiful old Jackie Mons’ Corrib Lakeboat was previously owned by Fr. Sean Manning and was recently purchased privately from John Dolan, himself from a boatbuilding family, who had this lovely boat in his charge for a number of years. The boat was taken on as a boat restoration project by Grainne Mhaol Rowing Club members with the help and support of Galway Hooker Sailing Club members as well as Galway Bay.

Seafoods, who kindly provided the workshop to the crew to work in. This beautiful Jackie Mons’ Lakeboat is believed to be 40 years old. Jackie Mons started his boat-building career with Tommie Mallon in Camp Street in Oughterard. He set up shop in Glann near Currarevagh House Hotel where he continues to build and repair beautiful Corrib lake boats.

A Mons boat is highly prized among those Galway anglers who still know the qualities that distinguish a wooden boat from a fiber-glass one. Images of the boat going through the restoration process, expected Spring completion

Putting It All Together



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EcoEd4All @ 2023

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