



Eco Advocates

ECO ADVOCATES

FIELD TRIPS – TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS



The Eco Advocates field trip course empowers transition year students to connect directly with and explore the core Ecoed4All themes of Biodiversity, Climate Change, Water/Air Pollution, and Circular Economy in a natural outdoor setting.

This course equips the student with a practical understanding of the core elements of the online EcoEd4All Course. It enables students to become involved in a youth advocacy capacity to bring value to their TY program and beyond.

PLACE-BASED LEARNING

Coláiste Iognáid Transition Year Students 2023, With thanks to Oughterard Hatchery Volunteers and the Lough Corrib Angling Federation.



“A place is a piece of the whole environment which has been claimed by feelings”.

Alan Gussow, (Teacher, Author & Conservationist, USA)

Field trip experience for Transition Year students to connect with their natural environment.

Become an
Eco Advocate

Eco Advocate
OUTDOOR
Place-based learning
for Transition Years

- Place-based learning
- Half to full day course
- Multiple Theme/Trail options
- Cross curricular links and practical application of EcoEd4All Themes
- Eco Advocate Certificate
- Cost per Trail on request
- Fully insured and Garda Vetted Guides.

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Environmental Education
ECOED4ALL Initiative. www.ecoed4all.com



**OUGHTERARD
HATCHERY
FIELD TRIP 2023**

ECO ADVOCATES FIELD TRIPS

HABITAT SURVEYS / WATER SAMPLING

Eco Advocates is a 3-hour field trip experience delivered along the banks of Galway's River Corrib. The students are given biodiversity ID swatches, field guides, and habitat surveys, as well as field trip equipment to learn how to identify and connect with their local landscape. The students then present their findings at the end of the session and are encouraged to link the core EcoEd4all themes into their group presentation. Upon completion of the field trip, students may then apply to join 4 focus-field trip sessions that are delivered throughout the remainder of the year and they then complete a final project based on one of the chosen core environmental themes.

SURVEYING THE LANDSCAPE

Students undertake habitat surveys, identification of local biodiversity and watersampling sessions.



»»» PROGRESS TO DATE

- Over 250 Transition Year students have completed the Eco Advocates course
- A partner in the EU Erasmus+ Project, Watersport4Green until May 2024
- Eco Advocates presented a Coláiste Iognáid student with the "Best Project Award" in 2023
- Delivered a pilot primary school field session to several local primary schools in 2023
- Guest speakers at the 3rd Youth Climate Action Assembly, at the University of Galway
- Delivered project-focused field trips in Headford, Galway City, Moycullen and Oughterard
- Exciting new project field trip locations planned for Transition Year Students in 2024



Bookings Enquiries:
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WATERSPORT4GREEN
W4G



Co-funded by
the European Union

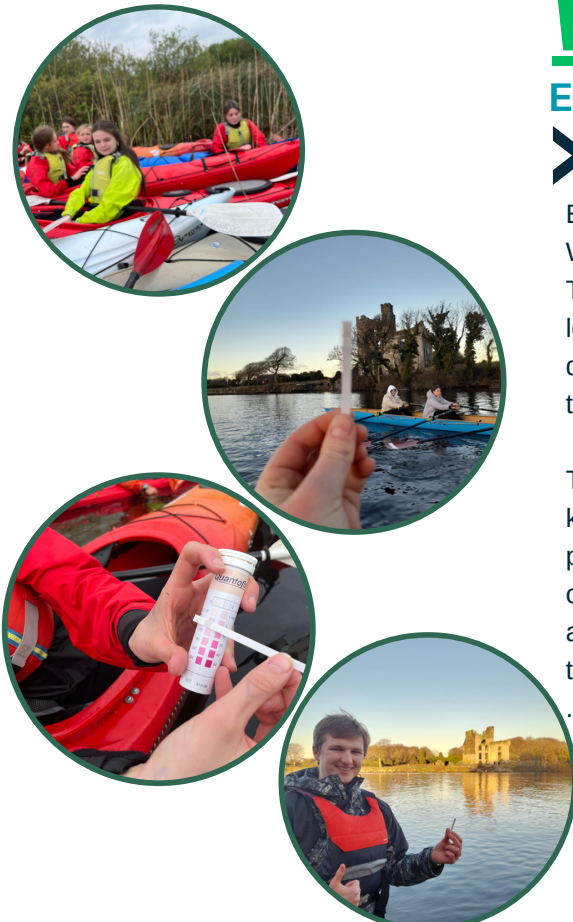
WATERSPORT4GREEN

EU ERASMUS+ PROJECT COMPLETION 2024

▶▶▶ SAMPLING THE WATERWAYS

Eco Advocates is a partner in an EU Erasmus+ Project called Watersport4Green. As part of this project, Transition Year students from Taylors Hill and Colaiste Iognáid took to our local waterways to study local biodiversity and test the quality of the water. The students have documented their findings in the Watersport4Green project which is due to be completed in May 2024.

The overall findings indicated that there were high levels of phosphates at key locations and that agriculture, forestry, and human mismanagement practices were significant contributors to poor water quality. The overall conclusion is that key stakeholder and community engagement is lacking and that multi-stakeholder cooperation is critical to safeguard the future of the Corrib.



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IS CRITICAL



KEY OBSERVATION

EDUCATION - COOPERATION - PROTECTION

- The EU Water Framework Directive requires all member states to protect and improve all waters to achieve good ecological status by 2027.
- Agriculture is the most significant pressure on the water environment, together with human sewage pollution, forestry, land drainage, and abstractions all contributing to the degradation of our water bodies.

CALL TO ACTION

- Key stakeholder cooperation and management to ensure water quality is monitored and protected adequately (sustainable farming and forestry practices).
- Management of physical modifications such as drainage, abstractions, and wastewater.
- Regular monitoring of septic tanks and human wastewater treatment plants.
- Education about the impacts of invasive species and biohazard contamination in our waterways and provide community training on eradication and prevention practices.

