

Young Environmentalist Awards 2008

Bees and Alien Species triumph at ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards 2008

Young people from all over Ireland were awarded at the Young Environmentalist Awards 2008 ceremony, which took place on Tuesday, 13th May in the Round Room of the Mansion House, Dublin 2. There were 40 short-listed projects competing the awards in fifteen categories including Junior (12 – 14 years old) and Senior (15-18 years old). The overall Junior Young Environmentalist Awards 2008 went to young people from St. Catherine's College, Co. Armagh with their project called '*Bee Garden and Bee Beautiful*'. The overall Senior Young Environmentalist Awards 2008 went to the young people from St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow, Co. Cork with their project '*Alien plants - should we be concerned?*'.

"We've had such an outstanding range of projects this year focusing on diverse environmental issues including climate change, biodiversity loss, water and waste issues. We are thrilled with the young people's creativity and dedication to their projects and happy to be celebrating their achievements at the Young Environmentalist Awards ceremony." Comments Elaine Nevin, Director of ECO-UNESCO.

Seventeen groups of young environmentalists from all around Ireland and Northern Ireland were awarded in various categories. Some of the highlights were the Senior Energy winners from **Ballybay Youth Centre, Co. Monaghan** with their project on electricity pylons, the Senior Waste winners from **Presentation Secondary School, Tralee, Co. Kerry** with their '*Chews to stick it*' project which focused on gum litter. This year's two special prizes were COMHAR SDC prize for Sustainable Development, presented to **Moate Community School** for their commitment to providing a long-term environmental solution to a social and economic issue and the Special Department of Transport Award presented to **Ardcoil Rís, Co. Limerick** with their project '*Reducing Car Emissions*'.

Aidan Power (RTE2 TTV and The Café) was the master of ceremony, with a keynote address from **Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Eamon Ryan. Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Seán Haughey, TD** presented the overall winner prizes and **maSamba's Youth Group** shook the Round Room with their samba tunes closing the event.

This year, the YEA had over 140 registered projects from which 40 were short-listed and displayed at an open showcase prior to the awards ceremony. All the short-listed projects will be exhibited in ENFO, 17 St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2, from 14th to 17th of May.

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards Programme has been running since 1999 and has attracted the participation of over 10,000 young people and reached countless others with awareness raising campaigns in over 750 schools and communities in Ireland.

Please find below full list of winners:

Junior Overall Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Bee Garden and Bee Beautiful***'

FROM: **St. Catherine's College, Armagh.**

Senior Overall Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Alien plants - should we be concerned?***'

FROM: **St Mary's Secondary School, Co. Cork.**

Junior Waste Category Winner 1

PROJECT TITLE: '***Composting - teabags, worms and beyond***'

FROM: **Grosvenor Grammar School, Co. Antrim.**

Junior Waste Category Winner 2

PROJECT TITLE: '***You can do it, we can't do it alone***'

FROM: **St. Clare's Comprehensive School, Co. Leitrim.**

Senior Waste Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Chews to stick it***'

FROM: **Presentation Secondary School, Co. Kerry.**

Junior Biodiversity Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Bee Garden and Bee Beautiful***'

FROM: **St. Catherine's College, Armagh.**

Senior Biodiversity Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Alien plants - should we be concerned?***'

FROM: **St Mary's Secondary School, Co. Cork.**

Junior Climate Change Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Kids change the climate***'

FROM: **St Mary's Holy Faith, Dublin 5.**

Senior Climate Change Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Spread the solution not the pollution***'

FROM: **Presentation College, Co. Galway.**

Junior Energy Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Energy and water efficiency in St. Colm's High School***'

FROM: **St. Colm's High School, Co. Derry.**

Senior Energy Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Pylon the pressure***'

FROM: **Ballybay Youth Centre, Co. Monaghan.**

Senior Water Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: '***Glaine Na h-Abbna***'

FROM: **Ennistymon Vocational School, Co. Clare.**

Junior Eco Art and Design Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: 'Eco Art and Design'

FROM: Stella Maris Secondary School, Co. Waterford.

Senior Eco Art and Design Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: 'Green School Musical'

FROM: Loreto College, Co. Cavan.

Junior Eco Consumerism Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: 'The waste warriors'

FROM: Ionad na nÓg, Clones, Co. Monaghan.

Senior Eco Consumerism Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: 'Tree Wise and Waist Knot'

FROM: Coláiste Mhuire, Co. Clare.

Senior Eco Community Category Winner

PROJECT TITLE: 'The Community Garden'

FROM: St Kilian's Community School, Co. Wicklow.

Special COMHAR SDC Sustainable Development Award

PROJECT TITLE: 'Nothing but acres of tar and cement'

FROM: Moate Community School, Co. Westmeath.

Special Department of Transport Award

PROJECT TITLE: 'Reducing Car Emissions'

FROM: Ardscoil Rís, Co. Limerick.

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA).

ECO-UNESCO's aims are:

- **to raise environmental awareness, understanding and knowledge of the environment among young people**
- **to promote the protection and conservation of the environment**
- **to promote the personal development of young people through practical environmental projects and activities.**

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