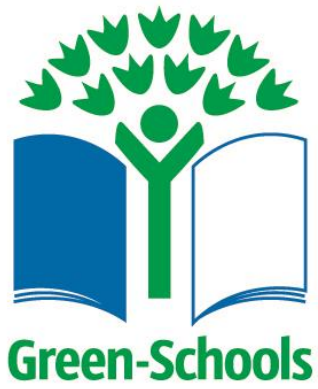




Green-Schools
2022-2023

Global Citizenship

Marine Environment Seminar

The Green-Schools programme is run by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce





Green-Schools



International Environmental Programme



Award Scheme



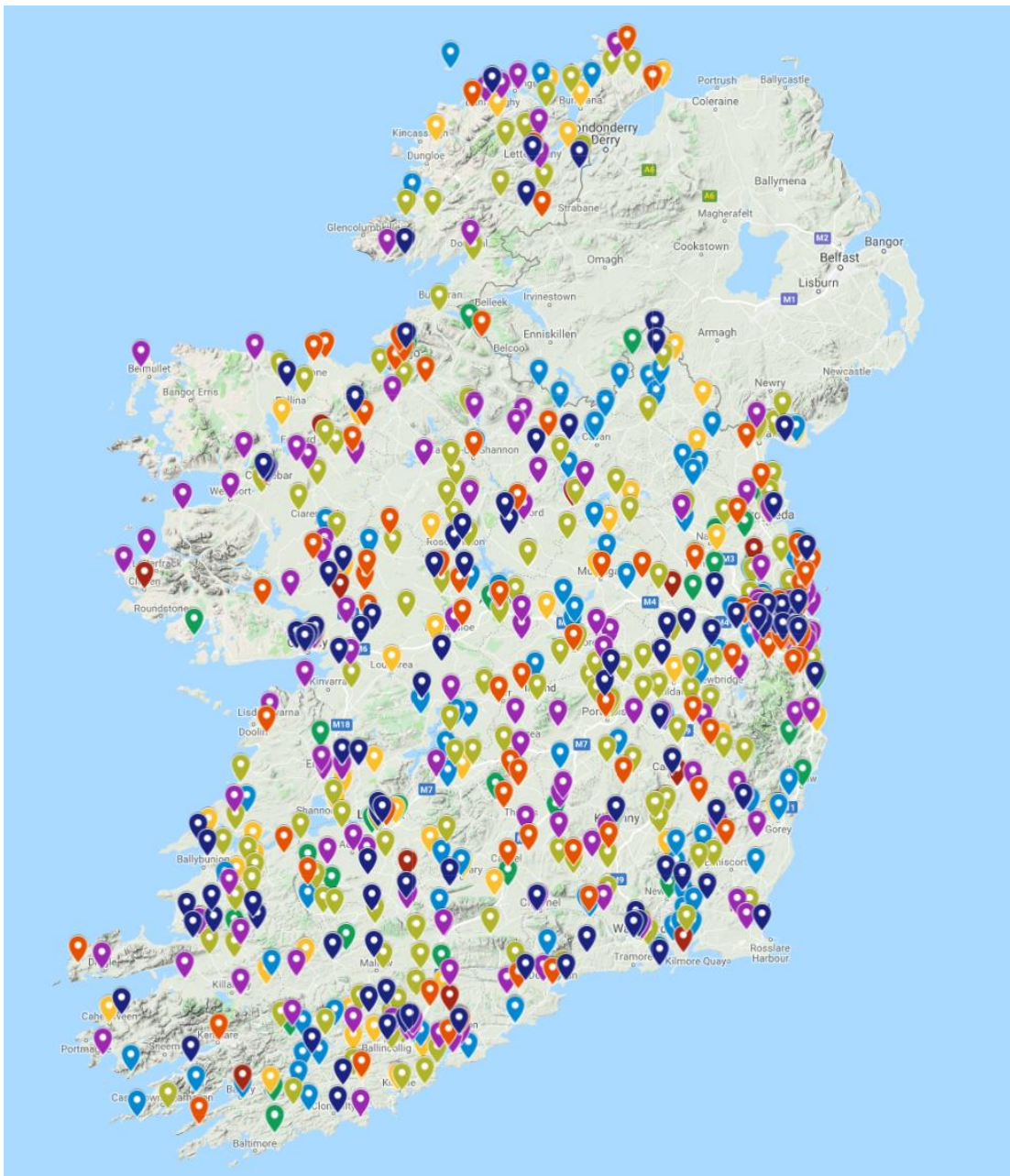
Long-term programme



Ethos



Whole-school Action



3634 SCHOOLS



83% OF ALL SCHOOLS
IN IRELAND



80,592 TEACHERS



886,190 PUPILS



3350 SCHOOLS
AWARDED



GREEN-SCHOOLS

SAVINGS

2021/2022



642 schools awarded

LITTER&WASTE

53 first green flags awarded
77% of schools reduced their landfill waste
57% carried out a community clean up



WATER

88% of schools had excellent awareness about water
77% have a water butt and/or a rainwater harvesting system and 56% carried out a cleanup of a beach/river/canal



TRAVEL

86% of schools recorded an increase in sustainable travel
20,725 students participated in 855 WOW days



BIODIVERSITY

77% of the students understand how to help biodiversity.
3608 trees planted and 304 new bug hotels



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

30,000 students increased knowledge on global citizenship to good and even excellent
528 Irish students participated in the Global Classroom project



MARINE ENVIRONMENT

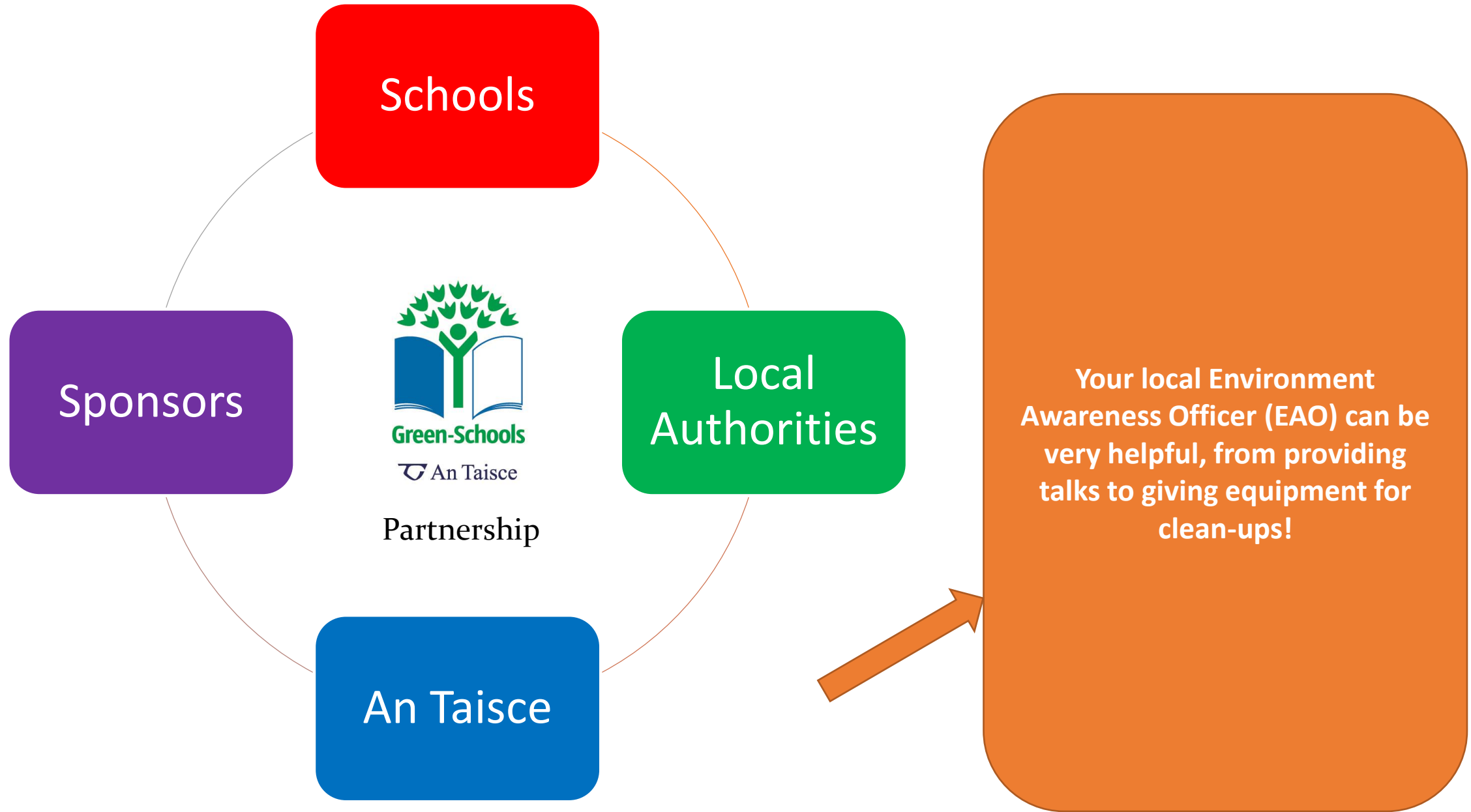
95% of schools investigated marine litter prevention
59% of schools investigated Global Goal 14: Life Below Water

FOOD AND BIODIVERSITY

100% of schools grew crops on their school grounds
52% of schools did Cooking Skills Workshops
More than 95% of schools took part in two or more cooking activities



www.greenschoolsireland.org

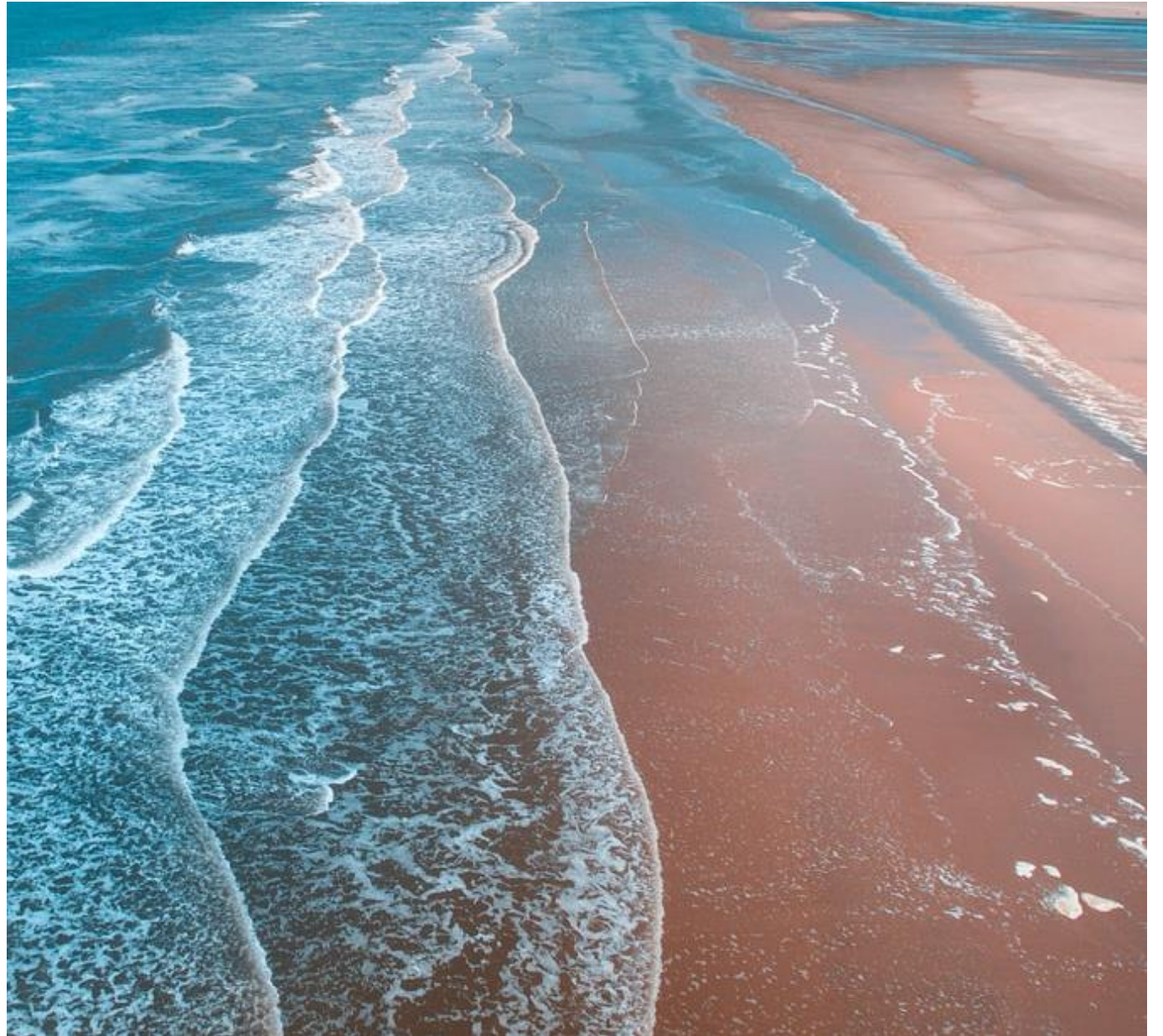




Green-Schools themes

1. Litter and Waste
2. Energy
3. Water
4. Travel
5. Biodiversity
6. Global Citizenship Litter and Waste
7. Global Citizenship Energy
8. **Global Citizenship Marine Environment**
9. Global Citizenship Travel
10. Global Citizenship Food and Biodiversity

Why should we care about the Marine Environment?

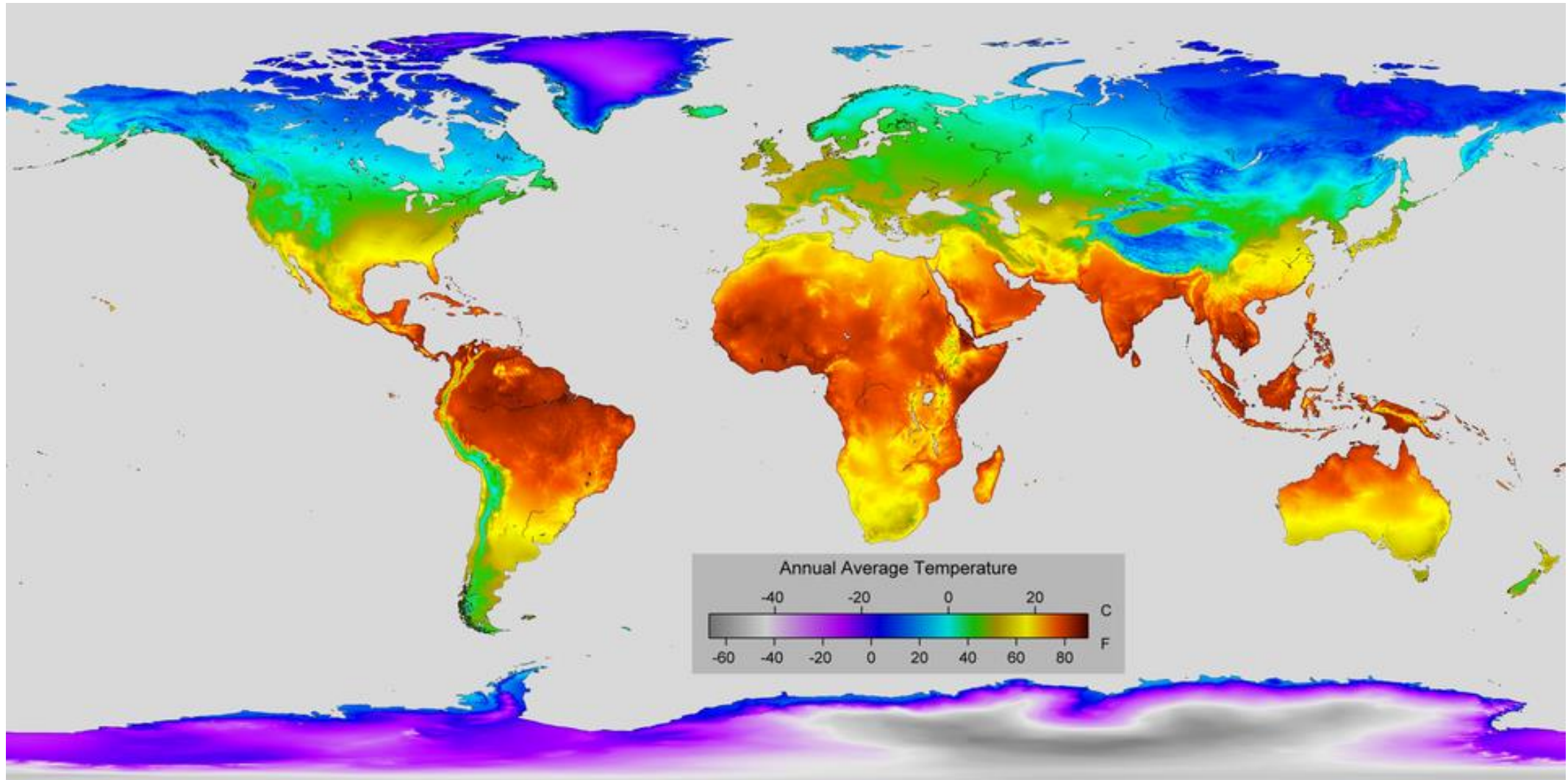






Oceans produce over half of the oxygen we breathe

Oceans regulate our climate





PRODUCTION OF
FOOD



PRODUCTION OF
RAW MATERIALS



EMPLOYMENT



TOURISM



SPORTS AND
RECREATION



WELLBEING

Our oceans provides
countless benefits to our
planet

We need to protect the oceans
from:

- Litter
- Pollution
- Climate Change
- Overfishing
- Invasive Species





Marine litter is a big problem, with 80% originating from the land

- Only 15% of marine litter is found at the beach.
- Another 15% is suspended in the water column
- At least 70% is estimated to be found on the sea bed.

Impacts of marine litter

- Entanglement
- Ghost Fishing
- Choking/harm
- Leaching of chemicals
- Transport invasive species
- Damage habitats
- Damage boats
- Litter beaches and affect use
- Decrease tourism
- Harm human health



Life on land is
inextricably linked with
life under

- Whether on the coast or inland
 - You breathe the air
 - Ireland's climate is affected
 - You eat food that has been produced in Ireland
- So please
 - Your waste
 - Litter in the sea
 - Your carbon footprint could impact the sea



Getting started
on the Marine
theme...

Green-Schools Programme

Information booklet for schools

Global Citizenship Marine Environment



Learn about Marine Biodiversity...

The EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 is a long-term plan to protect nature and ecosystems.

Marine biodiversity means the variety of life that lives in our oceans – from sea squirts to blue whales, algae to octopus and everything in between! The oceans are home to over 240,000 species, but scientists estimate that there are still millions of species yet to be discovered.

Life evolved in the ocean over 3.7 billion years ago, and our marine species are fundamental to a healthy, functioning planet.

Oceans provide somewhere between 50% and 80% of the oxygen in the atmosphere, three billion people worldwide rely on seafood as their primary source of protein, and every year thousands of new natural compounds are found in ocean life, that are used in the development of new medicines.

The Global Citizenship Marine Environment theme is a great opportunity to find out more about our amazing marine biodiversity, why we rely on it and how we can protect it.

The SeaKeepers Project

SeaKeepers is an optional module for primary schools working on the Marine theme. Classes take part in an initial survey and are then provided with free lessons and resources for six Irish marine species, which they learn about throughout the year. One participating class is selected at random for a free beach exploration workshop in the summer term, for some hands-on exploring and fun! Registration opens in Autumn each year, to find out more visit www.greenschoolsireland.org



Spotlight on...the Angel Shark

The angel shark is a species of nocturnal, bottom-dwelling shark native to Ireland's coastal waters. It can be up to about 2m in length and has a flattened body shape. The angel shark camouflages itself by burying into the sand of the seabed where it waits to ambush its prey (small fish and shellfish).

While angel sharks were once widespread across European waters, they have disappeared from much of their historic range and are now listed as critically endangered (IUCN Redlist Assessment, 2017). Their

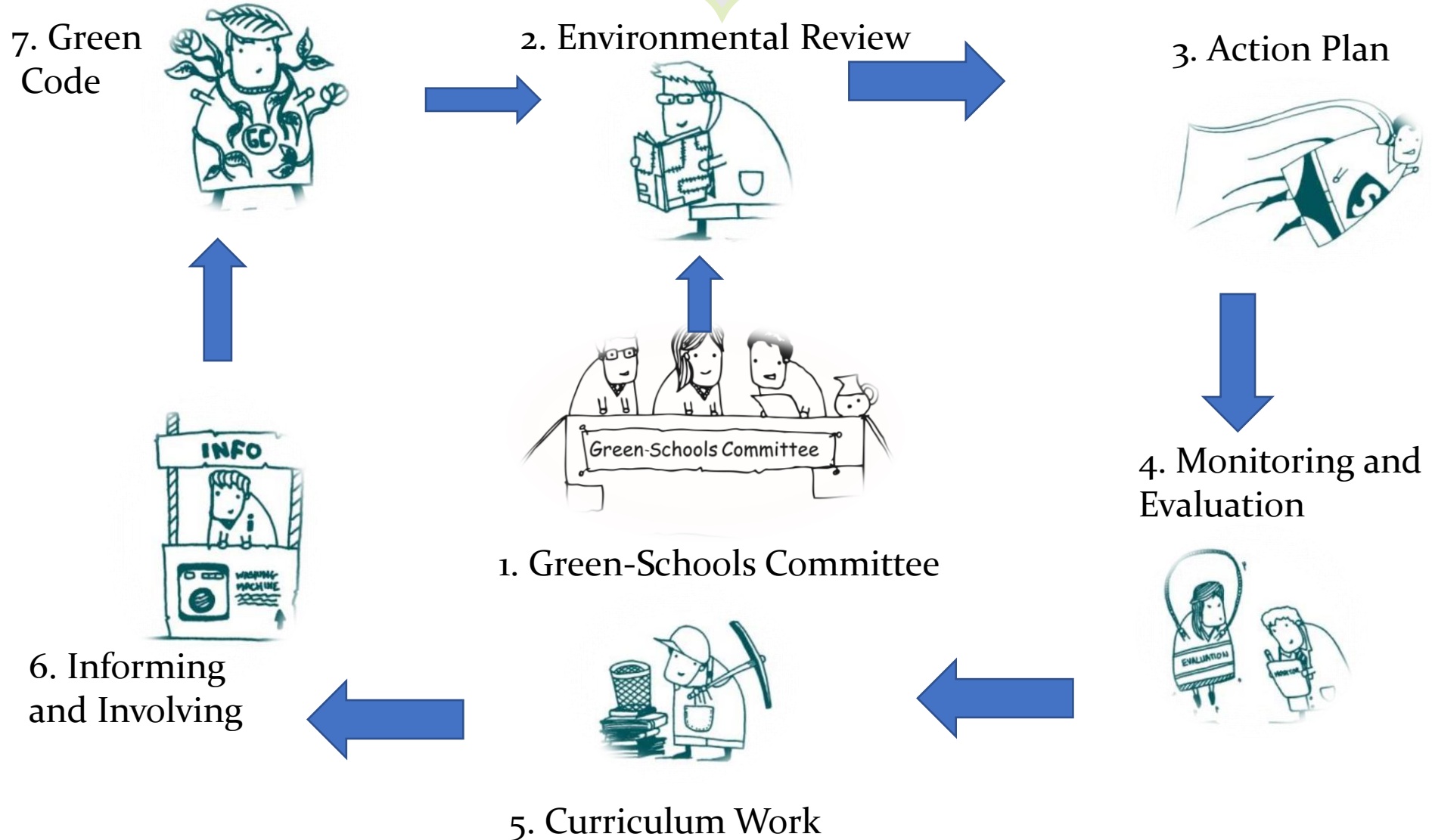


Green-Schools Programme

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population has decreased dramatically over the past fifty years due to overfishing, bycatch and habitat loss. As bottom-dwellers, they are particularly vulnerable to trawling and dredging, and their slow reproductive cycle makes it difficult for them to recover from a population decline. Why not carry out a project on the angel shark and find out ways that we can help protect this vulnerable species?

Implement the 7 steps to help protect the Marine Environment





Step 1: Set up the Green-Schools Committee

Green-Schools for Everyone

Our inclusivity statement:

Green-Schools' mission is to protect planet Earth - our shared home to which we all belong -and we want everyone involved!

We warmly welcome students of all backgrounds, cultures, races and ethnicities, religions and belief systems, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. Equity, diversity and social justice are fundamental to our values – so whoever you are, we can't wait to have YOU involved





Green-Schools Committee

Essential

- Students
- Green-Schools Coordinator

Optional

- Teaching Staff
- Non-teaching staff
- Principal
- Caretaker
- Parents
- Community Members

Aim for whole school involvement!

Tip:

Keep the whole school involved through class reps or intercom



Step 2: Environmental Review

Marine Litter Awareness Survey

	Year 1	Year 2
What % of students and staff have heard of marine litter?		
What % of students and staff can list three sources of marine litter?		
What % of students and staff can list three reasons why marine litter is bad for the marine environment?		
What % of students and staff can list three ways we can prevent marine litter entering the marine environment?		
What % of students and staff can list three ways in which climate change affects the marine environment?		

Tips:

- Ask individual class teachers to carry out the survey in their class and report back; combine the results for the school total.
- Copy the questions into SurveyMonkey or similar to distribute online.



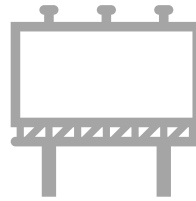
Repeat in year 2

Step 3: Action Plan.

Promote an action to reduce marine litter



Plastic free lunch
classroom competitions



Investigate plastic

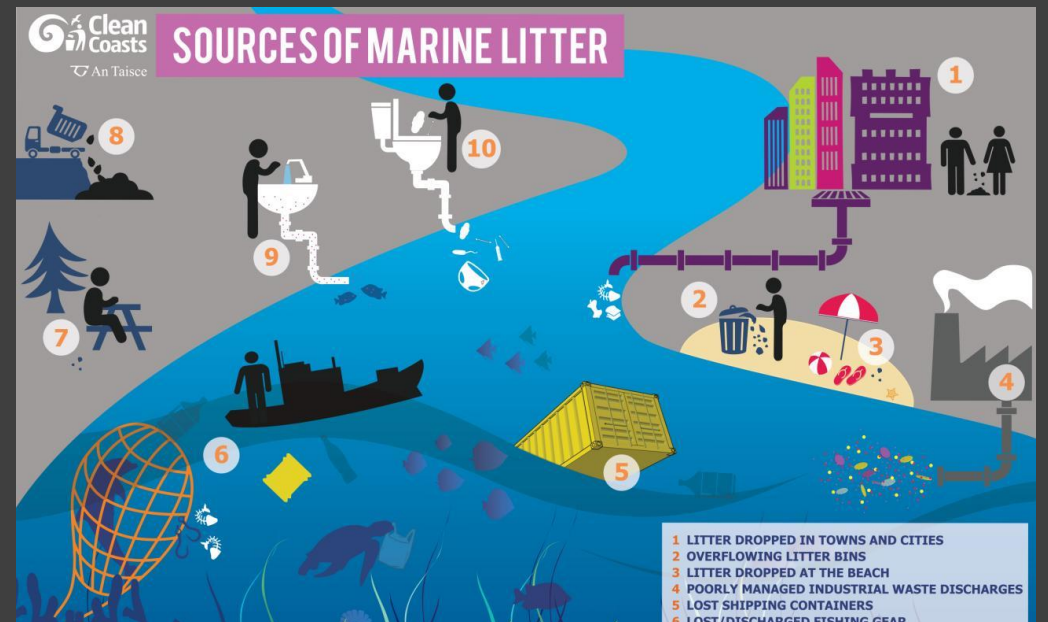


Promote reusable
bottles

Investigate the Sources of Marine Litter

- Land-based litter
- Microfibers from clothing
- Microplastics in cosmetics
- Balloons
- Tyre plastics
- Sanitary products, cotton buds – Think Before You Flush
- Overflowing bins
- Poorly managed landfill
- Fisheries
- Cargo spills
- Industrial waste

Carry out a research project on a type of litter, where it comes from and why it's harmful.



Take part in a Clean up such as a #2minutebeachclean or #2minutestreetclean



Tips:

- Outdoor clean ups are a great way to help the environment and get some fresh air!
- Ensure everyone has sufficient PPE e.g. gloves, litter pickers
- Students can write down what litter is being found
- <https://cleancoasts.org/get-a-small-clean-up-kit/>

<https://youtu.be/7WNnt0dj8rE>

Increase awareness levels

- Share marine facts with school community (notice board, ezine, newsletter?)
- Publish awareness survey results
- Carry out litter surveys (beach/local area)
- Research your local coastline, river or lake
- Find out about marine species
- Learn about currents, gyres and ocean garbage patches
- Ask each class to create a wall display on a different ocean
- Investigate how the oceans are connected to our climate



Set goals!
Display on noticeboard
Ongoing, working document

ACTION	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TARGET DATE
<i>Carry out awareness survey</i>	<i>Coordinator and Green-Schools Committee</i>	<i>October 2022</i>
<i>Create poster display on marine animals found in Ireland</i>	<i>4th class</i>	<i>November 2022</i>
<i>Record the number of students using a reusable water bottle or a disposable bottle. Display results on noticeboard</i>	<i>6th class</i>	<i>December 2022</i>
<i>Create Christmas decorations using recycled materials</i>	<i>Junior infants</i>	<i>December 2022</i>

Set goals!
Display on noticeboard
Ongoing, working document

ACTION	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TARGET DATE
<i>Carry out awareness survey</i>	<i>Coordinator and Green-Schools Committee</i>	<i>October 2022</i>
<i>Lunchtime treasure hunt based on marine facts</i>	<i>GS Committee and 1st years</i>	<i>November 2022</i>
<i>Record the number of students using a reusable water bottle or a disposable bottle. Display results on noticeboard</i>	<i>GS Committee</i>	<i>December 2022</i>
<i>River walk and clean up</i>	<i>Transition years</i>	<i>March 2023</i>

Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Evaluate levels of awareness

- Repeat the marine litter awareness survey
- Communicate the results

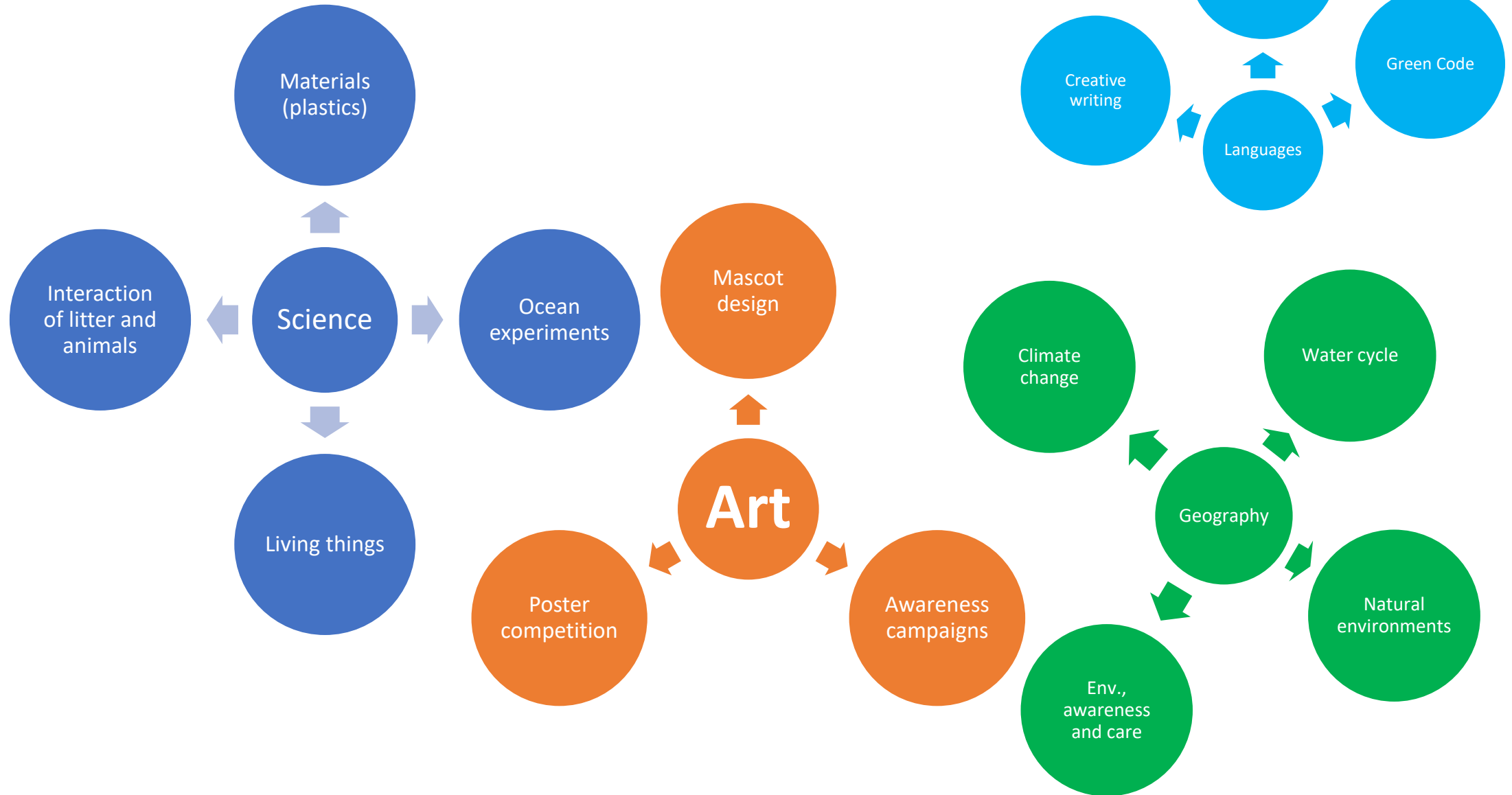
2. Evaluate progress on practical improvements

- Are more people using reusable bottles?
- Are clean ups taking place? Is less/more litter being found than last year? What types?



Publicise results! Celebrate your success!

Step 5: Curriculum links

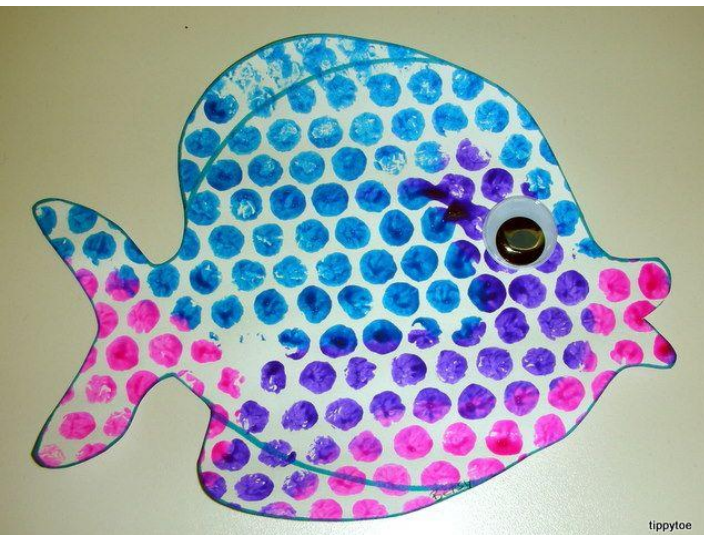


Sample Art Activities

SURPRISE SEA CREATURES



Projects with Kids.com



tippytoe



Step 6: Informing and Involving



Green-Schools Notice Board

Questionnaires/surveys for home

Intercom –fact of the day

Assembly- top tips or show a video

Social Media

Letters home/Text-a-parent

Local Press/Local radio interviews

Newsletter

Website

Quizzes

Open Day

Day of Action



Action Day

Aims:

Raise awareness of the importance of the marine environment

Involve the wider community e.g. parents/parish/local schools

Ideas:

- Guest speaker
- Marine litter art day
- Screen a documentary
- Visit a beach
- National Spring Clean
- Green-Schools assembly
- Everyone wear fancy dress or blue

Step 7: Green Code

Clean seas are the bees
knees

Keen to be green, save the
marine

State the objectives that demonstrate the school's commitment to environmentally friendly actions

- Display on your Green-Schools notice board
- Theme specific
- Developed by the students
- Poster/slogan competition
- Rap/Song/Poem/Code of Conduct

Keep the seas clean,
Recycle your plastics,
Our fish will survive,
Our oceans will look fantastic!

Don't be Shellfish,
Save our fish!

Whenever you throw rubbish, Please think of me,
Because I'm just a little fish swimming in the sea.

Recap:



1. Set up committee



2. Conduct the 1st Marine Litter Awareness Survey



3. Carry out action plan (investigate the sources of marine litter, promote an action to reduce it, carry out a beach clean)



4. Conduct the 2nd Marine Litter Awareness Survey



5. Link to the curriculum



6. Hold an Action Day



7. Green Code

Online Application Process

- Year 2 schools application deadline: 24th March 2023

How it works

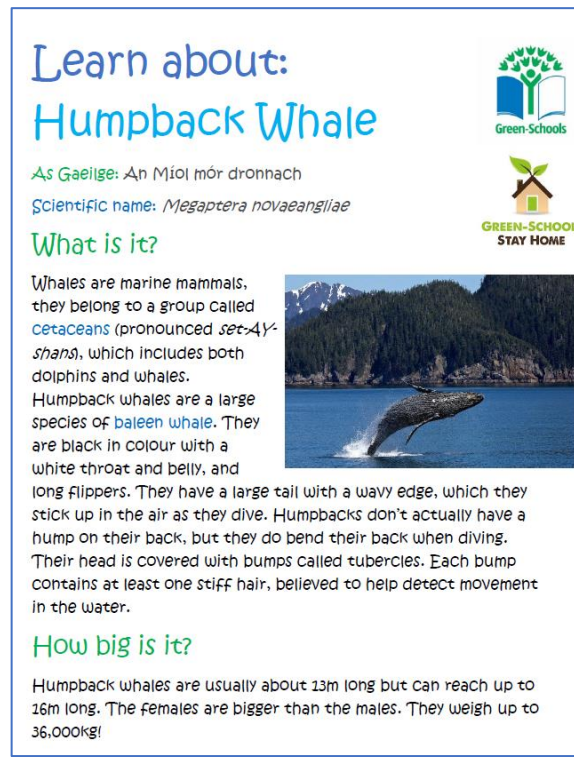
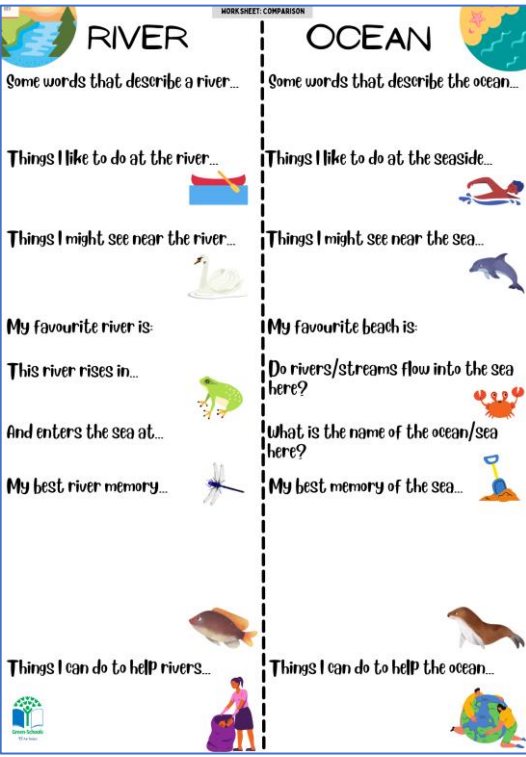
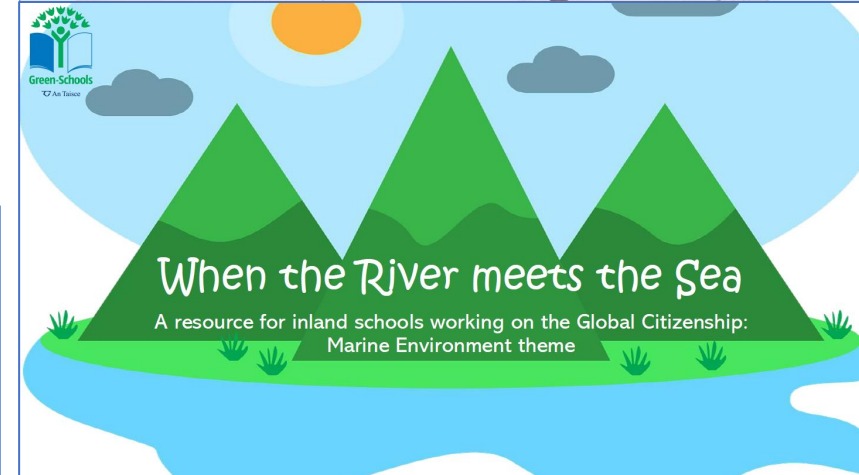
- Online application system
- <https://greenschools.submit.com/>

Following the award of your school's first Green Flag, each subsequent application is a "Renewal", so-called as you are "renewing" your Green Flag award under a new theme. Schools must submit renewal

Resources

- Find our bank of resources at:
www.greenschoolsireland.org/resources

Wellbeing on the Seashore - A Resource for Teachers



Child Protection and Garda Vetting



- An Taisce's Child Protection Policies and Procedures are regularly reviewed and have recently been updated.
- A summary and link to these policies will be sent to all schools later in October
- Our Safeguarding Statement will be available shortly on our website
- Garda Vetting:
 - all An Taisce staff regularly working with children are vetted on a biennial basis
 - vetting to be renewed for all staff in November
 - schools may request a Joint Agreement to obtain vetting results
 - if any school wishes they can choose to vet our staff member themselves
 - For all queries or requests related to vetting please contact: vetting@eeu.antaisce.org

Regional Primary Workshops

- We are delighted to re-introduce our popular in-person workshops in November 2022. Schools are invited to register to bring a group of five people (including teacher(s)) to a fun, active learning experience that will inspire and spark enthusiasm for the theme. Workshops will be delivered in the following locations on the following dates:
- South Dublin 22nd November
- Tralee, Kerry 24th November
- Galway 25th November
- Kilkenny 29th November
- Ballina, Mayo 30th November
- West Dublin 1st December



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Life Below Water Workshops

- Pre-recorded workshop ready to display to your class (primary school only)
- Learn about why the marine environment is important, and how litter and climate change are impacting the marine environment
- Linked activities and experiment guidance provided with workshop content
- Registrations are open and all schools have been emailed a link to register.
- Registered schools will receive a USB key in the post with their workshop content (while stocks last!)

The SeaKeepers Project

- **Exciting marine biodiversity project for 3rd-4th class students!**
- **Aim:** To increase students' knowledge of marine biodiversity
- We provide a suite of teaching resources focussing on six native Irish marine species. Resources now available as Gaeilge too!
- To sign up 10 students from participating classes carry out a biodiversity awareness survey before and after use of resources
- Schools who take part are in with a chance of winning an all expenses paid beach workshop for an entire class!
- Further information on how to apply is available at:
<https://greenschoolsireland.org/the-seakeepers-project/>



Basking Shark

The **basking shark** is a **species** of shark found in Irish waters - it is the second largest fish in the world!

Basking sharks don't have any teeth - they eat tiny animals called **plankton** which float in the water that they strain out of the seawater through their gills!

Plankton are tiny animals that float in the seawater; they include tiny shrimps and the larvae (babies) of crabs, jellyfish, sea-snails and other sea creatures!

Basking sharks migrate long distances from South America and the Caribbean all the way across the Atlantic to Ireland and Scotland!

Scientists are able to collect the **slime** from basking sharks' skin and use this to find out if the shark is male or female, where it has been and how old it is!

Basking sharks are about 3 - 4 times as long as a grown man!

Activities

Marine Word-search - there are 13 hidden sea-related words - how many can you find? They can go down, across or diagonal!

P	W	S	M	A	R	I	N	E	D
L	X	H	M	J	D	Q	O	P	O
A	T	L	A	N	T	I	C	A	L
N	F	I	N	L	Z	C	T	C	P
K	U	T	E	A	E	E	O	I	H
T	M	T	Y	G	S	C	P	F	I
O	C	E	A	N	Y	A	V	I	N
N	J	R	W	B	G	P	S	C	K
Q	N	F	I	S	H	I	N	G	L
S	H	A	R	K	P	B	T	D	R

Can you draw a basking shark? Think of how it looks different to other sharks and why!

Quiz!
The basking shark is the _____ largest fish in the sea
Can you name another type of sea animal that eats plankton? _____
Can you name another type of animal that makes long migrations? _____

SeaKeepers Junior

- New resources available for Senior Infants, 1st & 2nd class
- 6 x Prezi species presentations with linked videos and activity suggestions
- 6 x teachers' resource sheets
- Links to SESE: *Living Things, Environmental Awareness & Care*



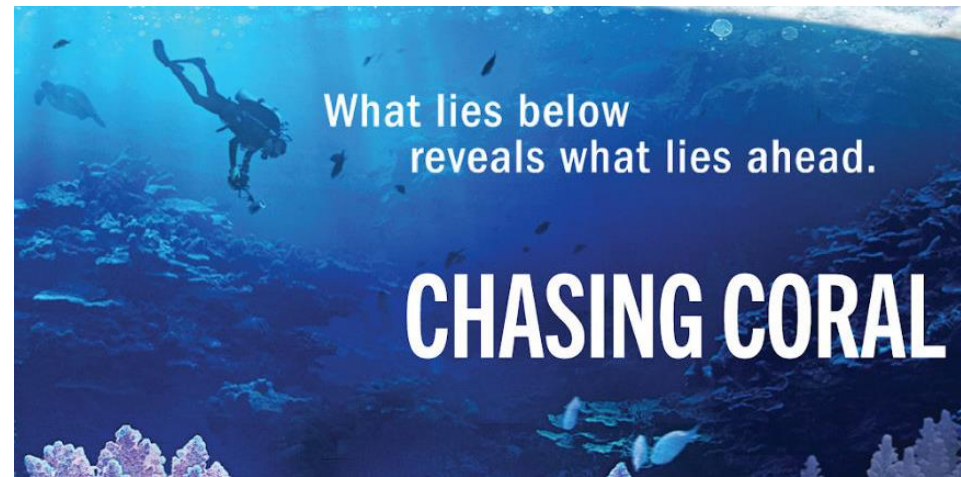
SeaKeepers Beach Day, September 2021



Tramore Beach, Waterford

Marine Film Club

- Secondary School initiative
- Online screening in the Spring term



Green-Schools National Marine Creative Writing Competition 2022 "Through the Eyes of the Ocean"

1st & 2nd class category
3rd Place Winner

Through the Eyes of the Ocean

*Here swim the fish in yellow, blue and green,
Shades of all colours you have never seen.
The coral is pretty and bright.
It gives fish protection day and night.
I see dolphins doing tricks with their friends.
In the ocean the fun never ends.*

By Saoirse Barry
Church Street National School



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Aitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Creative Writing Competition 2023

- January 2023
- Open to primary and secondary schools
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each age category
- Prizes: trophy, book vouchers, creative writing workshop (for 1st place winners' class) and more!

Green-Schools proudly presents...

MARINE WEEK

24th – 28th April 2023

Join us for a week of online events and fun activities
in celebration of our oceans!

Marine Week is an initiative of Green-Schools
Global Citizenship: Marine Environment theme and is supported by
the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

National Marine Conference

- A one-day event for primary schools working on the Marine theme
- Attendees will display their marine projects to other schools
- Marine wildlife talks, art activities, special guests, lunch and more!
- Midlands location – 27th April 2023.
- Spaces limited!

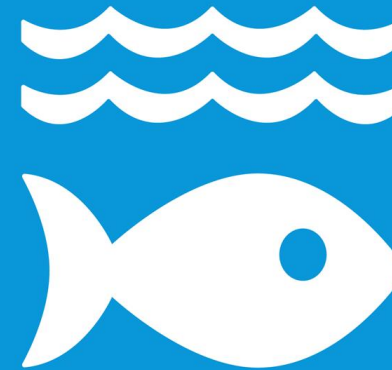


The Global Goals

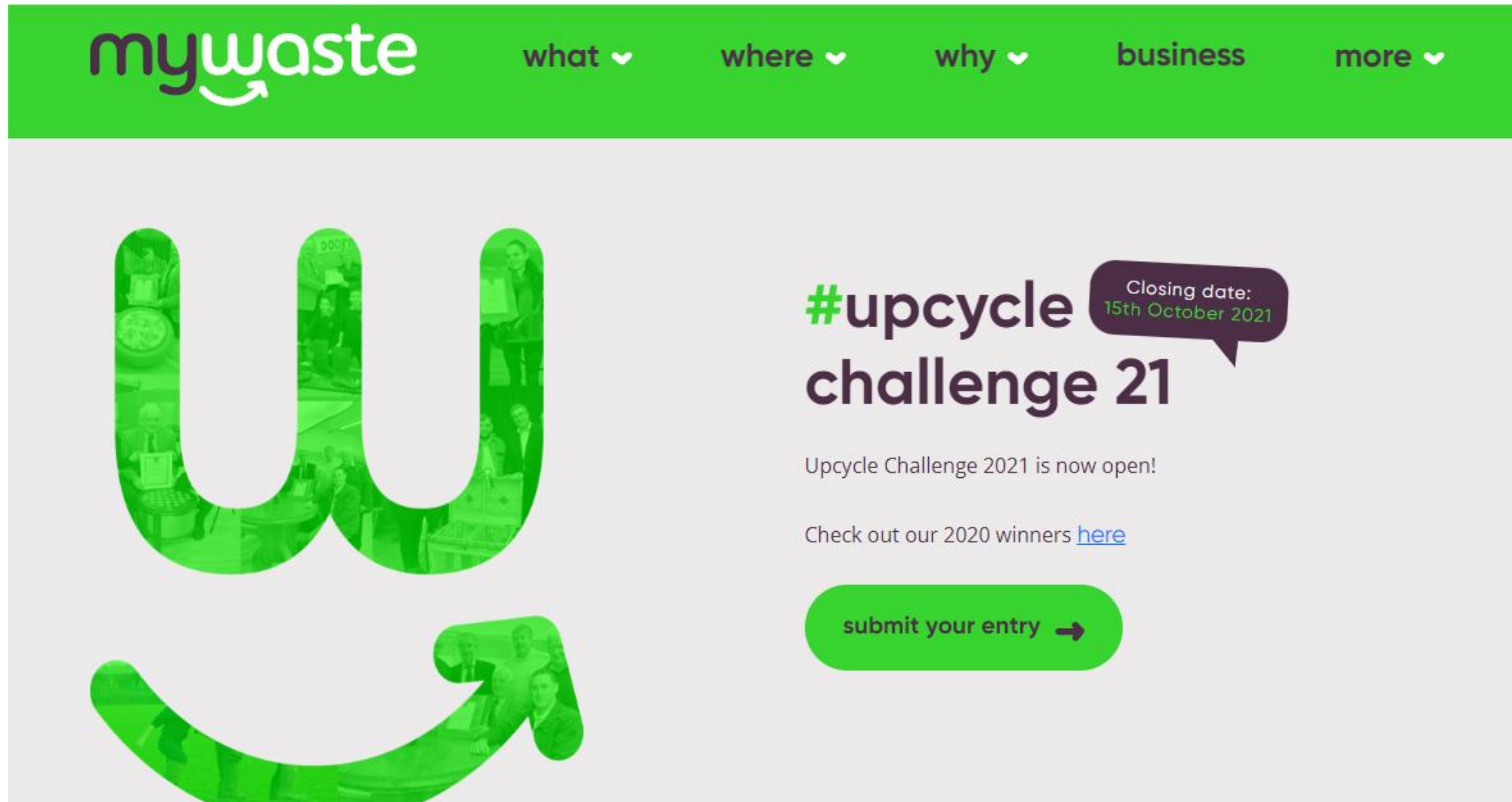
- In 2015, world leaders agreed to 17 goals for a better world by 2030.
- These goals have the power to end poverty, fight inequality and stop climate change.
- Guided by the goals, it is now up to all of us!



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Mywaste.ie – a national resource for all you need to know about how to dispose of waste



Young Reporters for the Environment

- ▶ YRE platforms student voices and their solutions for Climate Action across all themes - See our Exposure site for past entries.
- ▶ You can enter anytime. Entries accepted until April 2023.
- ▶ Chance to share in €1,500 prize fund!
- ▶ Free access to online skills courses - Article Writing, Videography, Photojournalism Skills
- ▶ Register now for 1st webinar 11th October with Sylvia Thompson - The Irish Times



How to Enter - YRE's 4 Steps

1. Uncover an environmental issue in your area
2. Research a solution for it
3. Create an article, photo or video to communicate your findings (as a group or individually)
4. Share your work in your school, home and community

- ▶ Register here:
<https://forms.office.com/r/q0EG82h0dH>
- ▶ Contact Eoin at yre@eeu.antaisce.org
- ▶ [@yreireland](https://www.instagram.com/yreireland) on Instagram



Green-Schools Online

- Find us on social media @GreenSchoolsIre and on our website www.greenschoolsireland.org
- Join the Green-Schools Coordinators facebook group for help and advice from Green-Schools staff and other Green-Schools Coordinators





An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Thank you

Green Schools Marine team

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