

Green-Schools

Introduction to the Litter and Waste Theme



Litter and Waste Seminar

An Taisce EEU



The aim of the Green-Schools Programme

'Is to increase students' and participant awareness of environmental issues through classroom studies and to transfer this knowledge into positive environmental action in the school and also in the wider community'



Green-Schools Ireland

International
Environmental Programme

Award Scheme

Holistic

Long Term
Programme

Ethos

Whole-School Action



Partnership



Partnerships/Support

- Neat Streets
- YRE Litterless
- Local Authorities
- mywaste.ie
- Textile Recycling Ltd: www.trl.ie
- Lets Fix Fashion

To organize a Clothes recycling event contact Joe on 0861026104 or joe@trl.ie



Green-Schools Themes



9: GC Travel



10: GC Food & Biodiversity



1: Litter & Waste



2: Water



8: GC Marine Environment

Green- Schools
Themes



3: Energy



7: GC Energy



6: GC Litter & Waste



5: Biodiversity

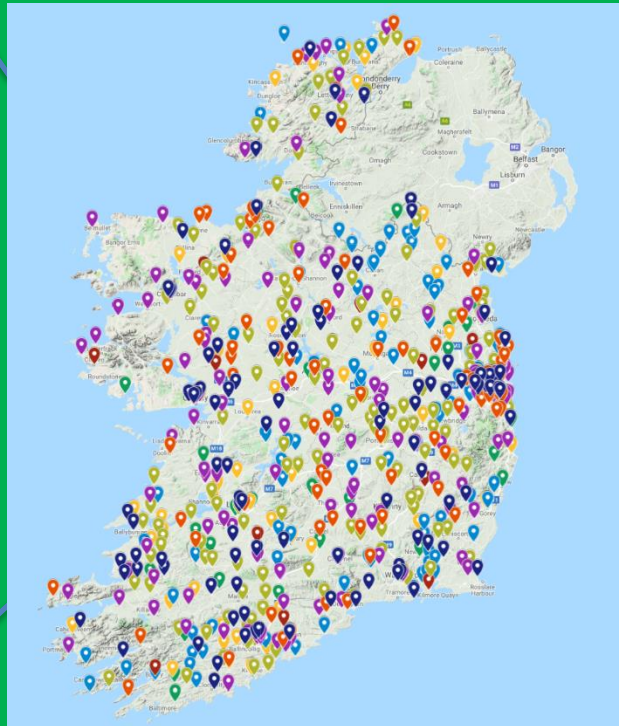


4: Travel

GREEN-SCHOOLS IN IRELAND

3,634 schools registered

Over 83% of all schools
in Ireland



80,592 teachers
886,190 pupils

3,350 schools awarded

Litter and Waste Theme 2022

53

Schools awarded Green
Flag for Litter & Waste



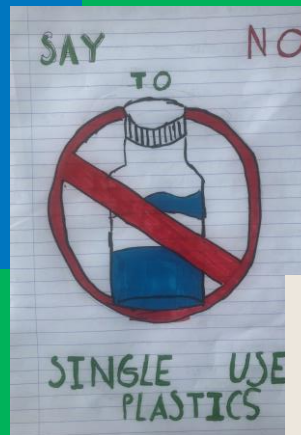
70%

Reduced their general waste



57%

of schools carried
out community clean ups!



53%

Schools created campaigns
around waste segregation,
waste-free lunches and
climate action



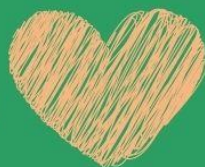
2021/2022 In Review



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

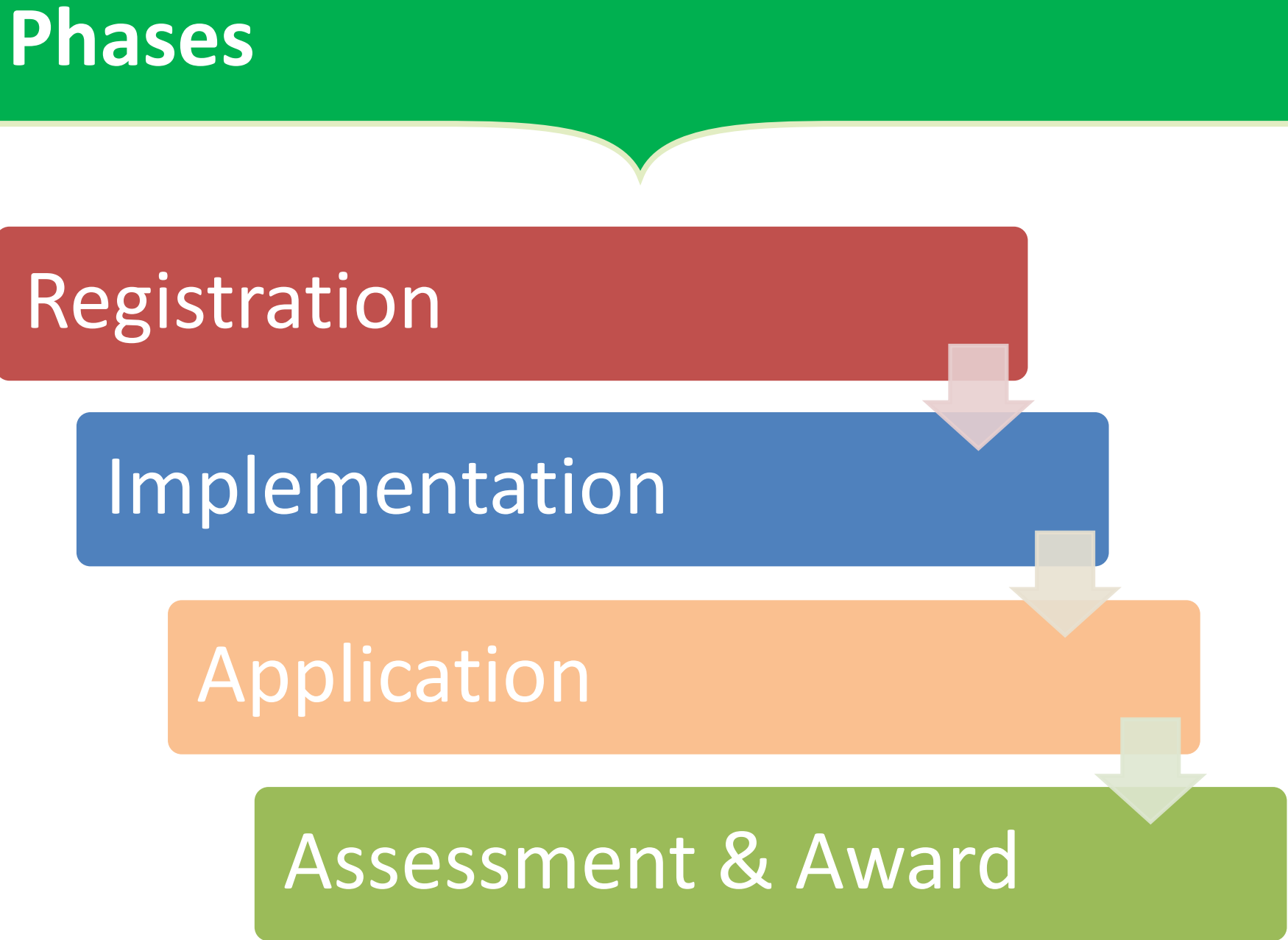


FOOD AND BIODIVERSITY

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



Phases



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graph TD; A[Registration] --> B[Implementation]; B --> C[Application]; C --> D[Assessment & Award];
```

Registration

Implementation

Application

Assessment & Award

Implementing the Programme – The 7 Steps!

7. Green Code



2. Environmental Review



3. Action Plan



4. Monitoring and Evaluation



1. Green-Schools Committee



5. Curriculum Work

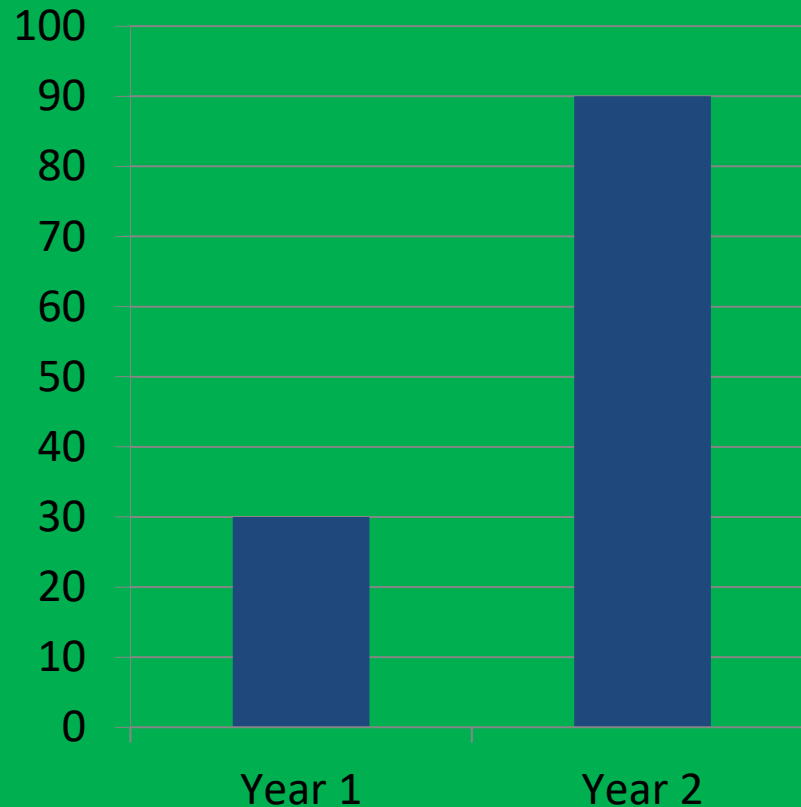


6. Informing and Involving



Does Green-Schools Make a Difference?

Raising awareness is
KEY!



Green-Schools for Everyone

Situation will vary from school to school

Green-Schools is a structured but
FLEXIBLE programme



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 and staff 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

Litter

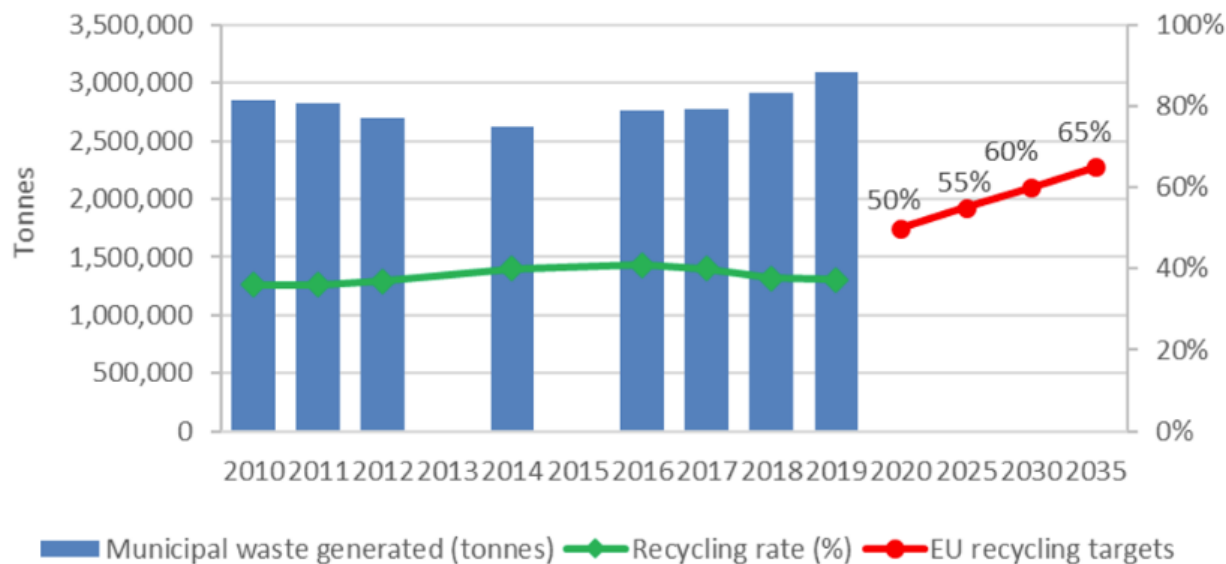
- **“Litter levels on rise again with coffee cups replacing Covid-masks as scourge of Irish beaches” Sept 22-IBAL**
- Food litter is a health hazard that attracts rats, flies that can spread disease, all litter ruins the appearance of our towns and countryside.
- Toxins in our litter can contaminate our soil and water (Dog Fouling)
 - These toxins enter the food chain by being eaten or absorbed by animals, most commonly by sea creatures such as plankton and shellfish.
- Globally, over 1 million sea birds, 100,000 turtles and sea mammals are killed by litter every year!



The most common forms of litter are cigarette butts, sweet wrappers and plastic bottles, according to the survey. Photograph: Daragh Mc

Waste

- Ireland generates over 1.1 million tonnes of packaging waste (less than 1/3 recycled) with 4 operational landfill sites compared with 25 in 2010.
- 320,000 tonnes of plastic packaging last year.
- 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste created since 1950. 30% still in use, 12% incinerated, 9% recycled, 79% landfilled or remains in environment
- Waste to energy incinerator (treats 35% of our residual waste) Capacity to convert 20 million tonnes of waste into more than 10 million MWh — enough clean energy to power over 1 million homes. 69% plastic packaging



The Circular Economy



<https://www.mywaste.ie/the-circular-economy/>

LINEAR ECONOMY

Materials in a **Linear Economy** create waste after use.



VS.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Materials in a **Circular Economy** are collected and reused after each use.



Seven Steps – Step 1

Green-Schools Committee

- Choose your committee depending on what will work best for your school e.g. whole class, pods, rotating committee
- Hold regular committee meetings
- Record the minutes of each meeting
- Give pupils roles within the committee

Use the chat box to share how your school plans on choosing their committee



Step 1: Green-Schools Committee

Essential:

- Students (N.B. student led)
- Co-ordinator

Optional:

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

Tips:

- Represent all classes
- Sub committees
- Delegate responsibility of notice board to a different class each week, enforcing whole school involvement
- Award best classroom with 'green cup/cert'
- Meet regularly and keep notes!

Remember! Whole school involvement!



Eg: St Cronan's Sec. school, N. Tipp. 58 pupils, teachers, parent rep & community rep.

Step 2: Environmental Review



- Identify and quantify the initial situation. **how?**

Essential Actions:

- Litter and Waste Checklists (online)
- Identify litter black spots
- Waste Audit (online):
 - What is going into the bins?
 - How much waste?



Assess levels of awareness (Recommended)

Create a map of litter black spots (Recommended)

What and how much is being recycled (Recommended)



Check out your Litter and Waste Handbook for an example of an Environmental Review!



Litter Checklist

The following checklist is an open-ended checklist looking at the schools impact on the environment in relation to litter. This checklist also has an educational function whereby the process of gathering data raises awareness and gives you a basis for developing your action plan. Each question in the checklist can be answered 'yes' or 'no'. 'No' indicates that improvement is possible. Quantifiable targets can then be set for area highlighted for improvement. The questions in the review below are suggested questions please feel free to add questions in order to examine a particular area relevant to add questions in order to examine a particular area relevant to your school.

Question	Yes/No	Action Notes: Litter
Does your school have a litter problem?		
Does your school have a policy on litter?		
Is the school clean inside?		
Are there any areas where litter is particularly bad?		
Are there any times of the day/week where litter is particularly bad?		
Does the litter mostly originate from inside the school?		
Are there enough litterbins inside the school?		
Are there enough litterbins outside the school?		
Are they in the right places?		
Are certain types of litter more common than others?		
Have your school ever carried out a litter survey?		
Do you take part in local (e.g. Tidy Towns) or national events (e.g. National Spring Clean) tackling litter?		
Is the topic of litter incorporated into the school ethos/curriculum?		
Have the school ever been visited by a Litter Warden from the Local Authority?		



Waste Checklist

The following checklist is an open-ended checklist looking at the schools impact on the environment in relation to waste. This checklist also has an educational function whereby the process of gathering data raises awareness and gives you a basis for developing your action plan. Each question in the checklist can be answered 'yes' or 'no'. 'No' indicates that improvement is possible. Quantifiable targets can then be set for area highlighted for improvement. The questions in the review below are suggested questions please feel free to add questions in order to examine a particular area relevant to your school.

Question	Yes/No	Action Notes: Waste
Prevention/Minimisation		
Is there a purchasing policy for materials such as toilet tissues, stationery, books, notepaper, etc?		
Does the school have email addresses/mobile phone numbers for families?		
Does the school use notice boards/circulars to give out information to staff instead of individual bulletins?		
Are students encouraged to avoid excess packaging with their lunches?		
Are long life products chosen over short life ones?		
Are materials bought in large packs to avoid excessive packaging?		
Are copies/records kept on disk, not paper?		
Is paper used on both sides?		
Re-use/Recycle		
Is re-useable selected first, then recyclable?		
Are old envelopes saved for re-use?		
Are casual notes written on scrap paper?		
Is office waste paper recycled?		
Does the school have or use any recycling facilities?		
If so what materials are recycled?		
Does the school have a compost heap or compost bin?		
Is the topic of waste and waste minimization incorporated into the school ethos/curriculum?		

10. Please compare the amounts of waste your school produced for two comparable periods of time over the duration of your work on the Litter and Waste theme:

- Please provide figures for all types of waste produced by your school: general, recycling and compost.
- If you are counting your waste in bins/bags please note the size of the bins/bags used

Year 1 (Review) - General Waste

Start date for period over which waste to landfill was monitored



Number of school days in this period

Amount of waste sent to landfill

Unit of measurement:



Cost in Euro

Year 1 (Review) - Recycling

Start date for period over which amount of waste sent to recycling was monitored



Number of school days in this period



what if you can't weigh your landfill waste?

 240 Litr bin = 30 kg
  140 Litr bin = 20 kg
  80 Litr bin bag = 18 kg
  40 Litr bin bag = 9 kg

Would you like to measure your recyclables and compost too?


 140 Ltr
bin

= 58 kg


 80 Ltr
bin bag

= 34 kg


 40 Ltr
bin bag

= 17 kg

recycling bin	
landfill/rubbish bin	
compost bin	

Check off what waste you are putting in the classroom bins and maybe even the waste you have left in your lunchbox before you go home. This will give you some idea of what type of waste you are generating and will help you find ways to reduce it.

Let's get onto the weighing scales! Check how much you weigh yourself first. Then hop off the scales and get your bag of waste and weigh yourself again but now with the bag(s) in your hand. Write down the new weight and subtract your own weight and...voila...you now know how much the waste you collected weighs!

For example, lets assume you weigh in at 45kg and when you get back on the scales with your waste it states that you now weigh 54kg your equation is: $54kg - 45kg = 9kg$ so your waste weighs 9kg

If you don't have a large scale you could use a luggage scale instead. Good luck!

The landfill bin is for waste we can't reuse, recycle or compost. This rubbish ends up in landfills (buried underground) or incinerated (burned at very high temperatures). Soft plastics, products made from "blended materials" (e.g. a disposable cup is made from a blend of paper and plastic which cannot be separated) and soiled tinfoil, all go in the rubbish bin.

[illegible]

Furniture and other big items....Visit <https://www.mywaste.ie/what-to-do-with-my-large-items/> for lots of tips and information



LET'S TALK RUBBISH

Recycling means turning waste into something that can be used again. It's much better than sending waste to landfill but it still uses a lot of energy – so reuse when you can. Remember, recycling must be clean and dry before going in the bin, and soft plastics like wrappers must go in the landfill bin instead.

[illegible]

Any plant or animal-based products usually go in the compost bin, where they are broken down by natural processes and can be used to enrich the soil. Never put plastics, metal or glass in the compost bin.

[illegible]

* Many teabags contain a small amount of plastic; to avoid this, choose eco-friendly brands – or most simply, use loose tea leaves instead of teabags.

*Compostable cups and Vegware may look like normal disposable cups and cutlery, but they are actually made from corn starch and other plant products. Check the label if you're unsure if it's plastic or vegware. If it is vegware it should go in the compost bin – but only if the compost bin goes to an industrial composter; unfortunately these products still won't break down in your garden compost – which is why reusable is always better for the environment than single-use!

Recommended Actions

Sample Awareness Questionnaire



1. Do you know what  means?



Yes = 

No = 

2. Do you know what this symbol means?



Yes = 

No = 

3. Do you know why we recycle?



Yes = 

No = 

4. Do you know what this is made of?



Yes = 

No = 



Green Schools Questionnaire



Please indicate if you are a Teacher or a Student: Teacher ☐ Student ☐

Littering

Have you ever littered? Yes / No

Any suggestions on how we can improve / reduce littering both in and outside our school?

Waste Management

What is Recycling?

What materials do you recycle? Plastic Paper Cardboard Bottles Other_____

How long have you been recycling? Days Weeks Months Years

Do you know what contamination refers to when recycling? Yes / No

Do you know where your local recycling centre is? Yes / No

Any suggestions on how we can improve recycling in our school?

Waste Prevention

Do you bring a re-usable water bottles to school? Yes / No

Do you bring a re-usable lunch box to school? Yes / No

Do you print on both sides of a page? Yes / No

Any suggestions on how we can reduce waste in our school?

Step 3 Action Plan

Action	Person/Group Responsible	Time Frame
Carry out a Biodiversity Awareness Survey to examine the level of awareness among students and staff	Green-Schools Committee	Early to mid September
Habitat Map the school grounds and do up a list of the biodiversity in our school	Green-Schools Committee	Early to mid September

Two overall objectives



1) Increase levels of awareness



2) Practical improvements

Action/Target: Year One	Person/Group Responsible	Timeframe	Progress Made
<i>% targets</i>			
<i>Achievable</i>			
<i>Actions needed to meet targets</i>			

Seven Steps – Step 3

Action Plan

Use results from the environmental review to inform your action plan and set realistic targets.







GENERAL WASTE



What we can put in our green bins/recycling

	Tetra pack cartons	✓
	Milk cartons	✓
	Plastic milk cartons	✓
	Plastic juice cartons	✓
	Soup bottles	✓
	Shampoo bottles	✓
	Fruit/veg boxes / vegetable trays	✓
	Toilet rolls / kitchen rolls	✓
	Cardboard boxes (flat)	✓
	Paper boxes / brochures	✓
	Plastic drinking bottles	✓
	Glass bottles (clear)	✓
	Plastic cups (clear)	✓

Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Repeat surveys carried by students where possible
- Litter wardens, waste watchers.
- Regular meetings in parallel with action plan
- Mini review on procurement – are people satisfied with new products?
- Create graphs and charts to represent the changes you have made

Print and stick next to bin. Colour in one square for every item you put in the bin (will form a graph)

Tissue																																																																																																																																															
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Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

NB: Not just results but how you achieved them!



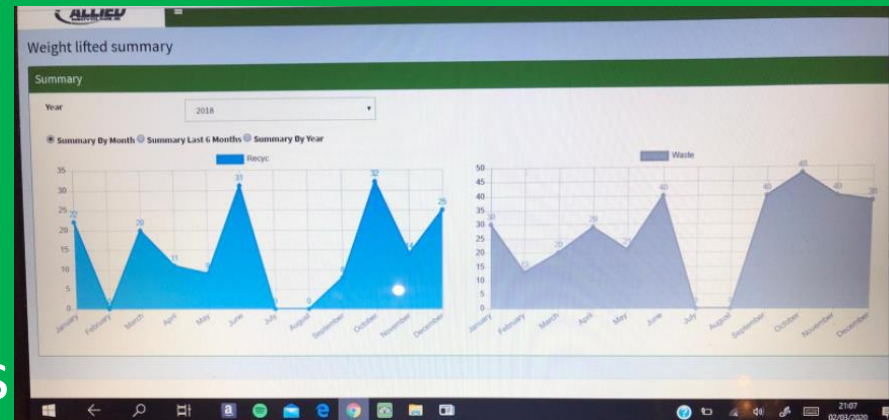
- Lunch box and bin monitoring systems
- Use photos, bills, charts, eco diaries, surveys, graphs, traffic light system;
- **Red Light**: Over 15 pieces of litter found ...
- **Orange**: 5-10 pieces
- **Green**: 5 pieces or less



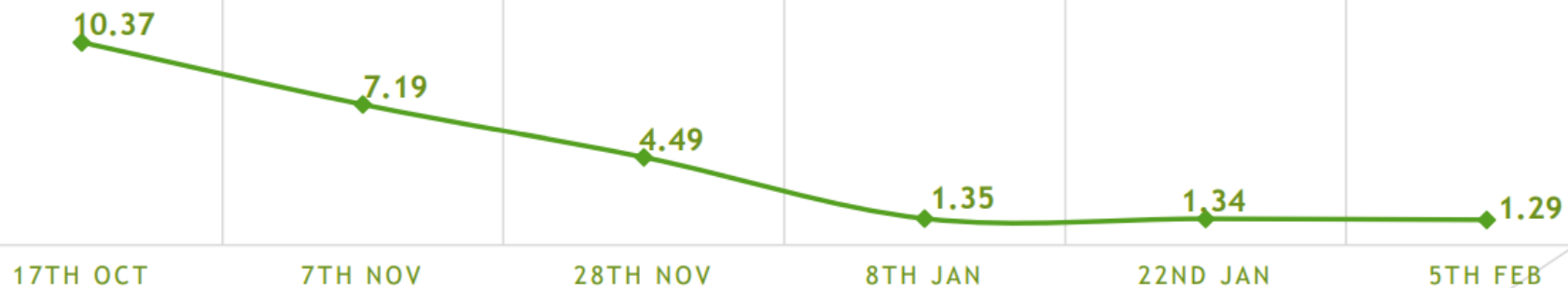
Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Publicise work and results
- Keep records of everything!!!
- Celebrate!!!

Graph & display your results



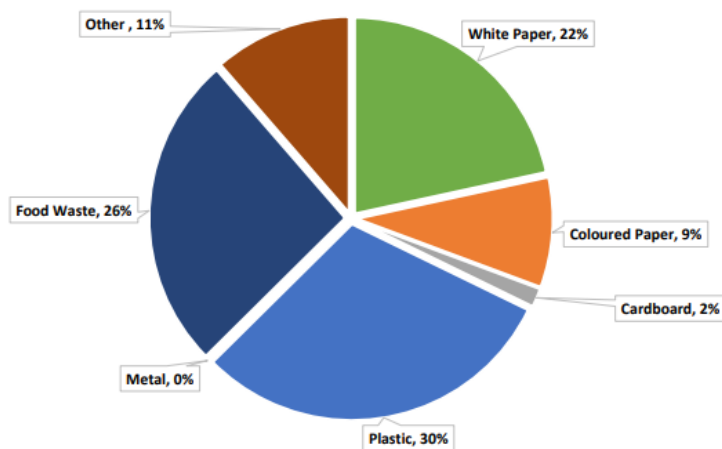
WASTE REDUCTION (KG'S)



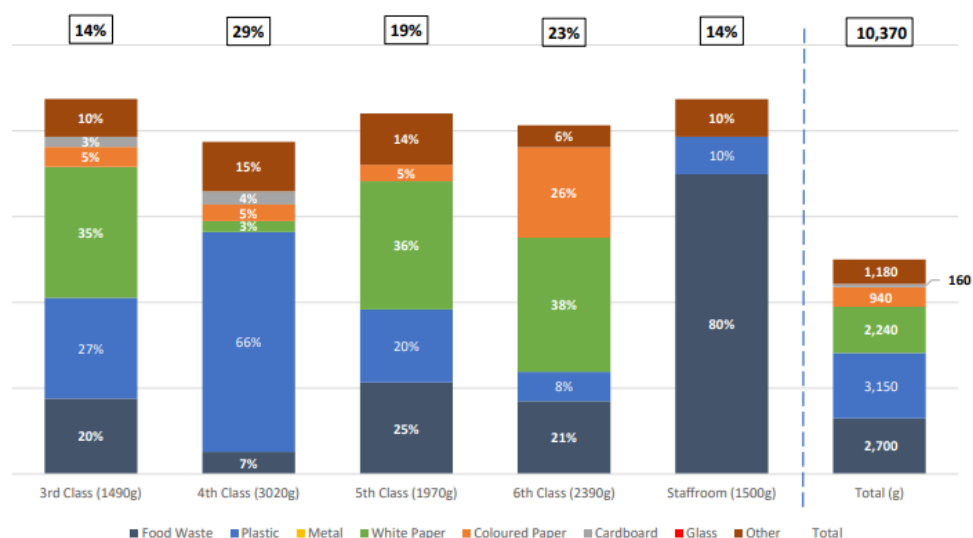
Advanced

Area of School	White Paper	Coloured Paper	Cardboard	Plastic	Metal	Glass	Food Waste	Other	Total
3rd Class	520	80	40	400	0	0	300	150	1,490
4th Class	100	150	120	2,000	0	0	200	450	3,020
5th Class	700	90	0	400	0	0	500	280	1,970
6th Class	920	620	0	200	0	0	500	150	2,390
Staffroom	0	0	0	150	0	0	1,200	150	1,500
Total	2,240	940	160	3,150	-	-	2,700	1,180	10,370

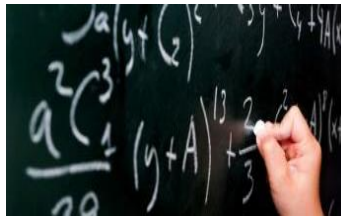
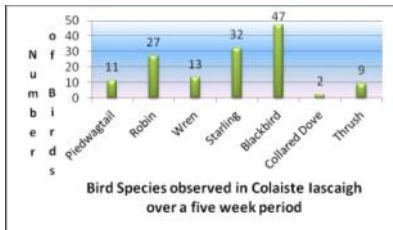
Holy Rosary Waste Profile



Holy Rosary Waste Profile by Class



Step 5: Curriculum Work



Maths

Provide real life situations for mathematical analysis (graphs/charts)



Science

Develop a scientific approach to problem solving
Encourage responsibility for the environment

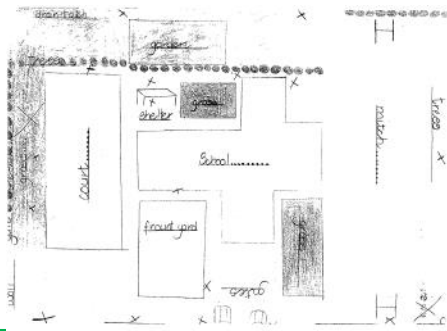
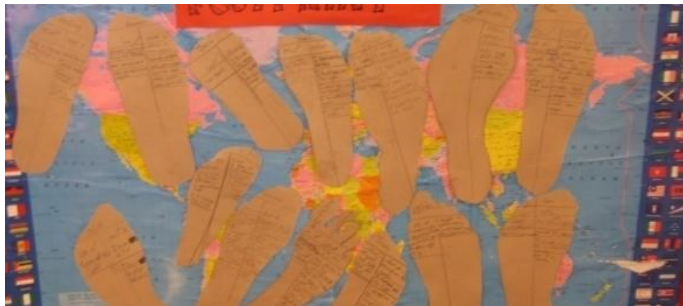


Art

Posters, murals, fashion to aid environmental awareness

Step 5: Curriculum Work

'Pick up your litter & let the place glitter'



Languages

Essay topics, new Green Code, as Gaeilge/French. Promotes public speaking etc.

CPSE (Secondary)

Recognised as a suitable Action project for Junior Cert

Geography

Mapping the school grounds, discussion & exploration of environmental issues e.g. pollution & litter

Step 5: Curriculum Work



Home Economics

Examine where our food & textiles come from
Investigate ways of reducing/reusing etc.



Woodwork

Design & construct bins/signs/bird tables/boxes



History

Examine changes throughout time

Seven Steps – Step 6

Informing and Involving

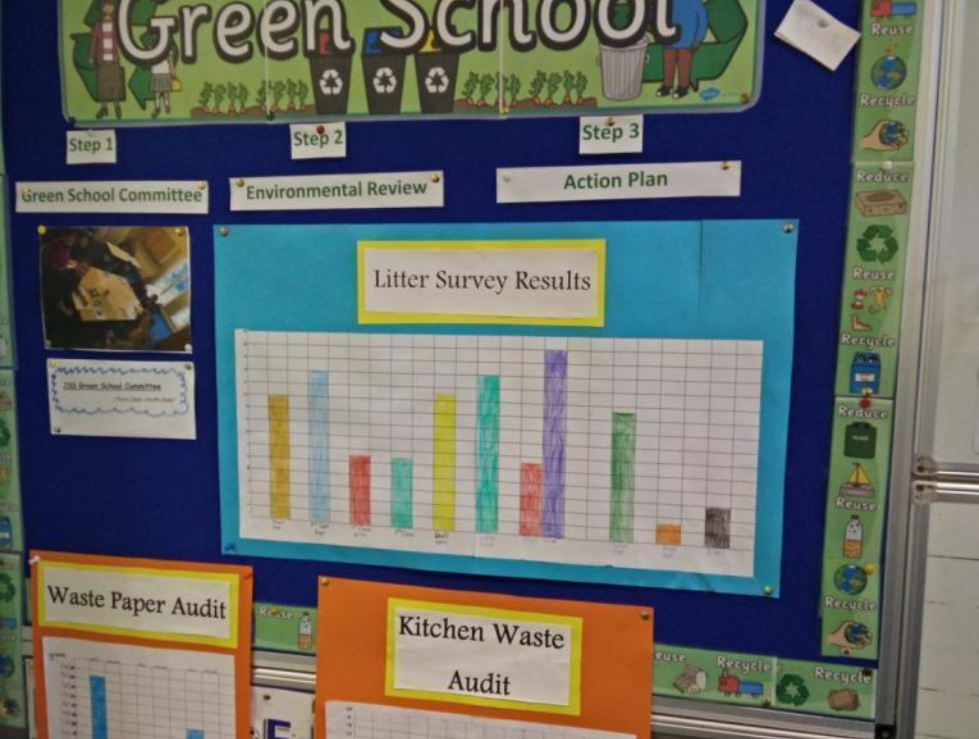


In schools and in the wider community





- Reading books, quizzes, games, talks,
- Posters/art displays, **videos** etc.
- Write to local businesses asking them to think about reducing plastic packaging and single use plastic items.



Day of Action

- Raise awareness of Green-Schools within and beyond your school
- Learning Day or week –focus on online lesson plans.
- Educational tour of Recycling/Waste to energy plant
- Investigate what happens to your waste when it's taken away from the school, i.e. recycling/ landfill / sewerage.
- Virtual Webinars
- Clean-up, Tidy Towns
- National Spring Clean
- Waste free Wednesdays

www.nationalspringclean.org



Green Code

Aim: To state the objectives that demonstrate the school's commitment to environmentally-friendly actions

- Competition
- Rap/song/poem
- Code of Conduct
- Display on Green-Schools Notice Boards



www.mywaste.ie

what to recycle

To keep up with international standards in recycling we have drawn up a list of the materials you can put in your household recycle bin.

[learn more](#) →



what to do with my large items?

[learn more](#) →



what to do with my food waste?

[learn more](#) →



what to do with my textiles?

[learn more](#) →



Waste Management Hierarchy



Prevention and Minimisation

- Buy products with little or no packaging with a long life span
- Check your purchasing policy; is it necessary and where will it end up?
Dispose of refrigeration units, electrical good and batteries appropriately through the WEEE scheme.
- Try to repair items rather than throwing them away
- Implement a Lunch box policy to reduce packaging waste
- Cut up old clothes to make rags for cleaning.
- Compost organic waste.
- Talk to your postman about not delivering junk mail.
- Talk to your catering providers about eliminating single use plastic
- Organise a clothes, book or toy swap event.
- Make eco-friendly cleaning products.



Plastic Free

Use	Use a reusable water bottle
Choose	Choose pencils or pens made from recycled materials
Swap	Swap paper towels (they come wrapped in plastic) for cloths
Avoid	Avoid plastic food bags. Use a reusable lunch box
Make	Make wax paper food wraps to wrap your sandwiches, cheese etc for your lunchbox
Don't laminate	Don't laminate paper or opt for reusable plastic pouches

Reuse

Checklists: Can the packaging or the product be used again?

- Re-usable masks, cloths for cleaning
- Old bottles and jars –storage
- Yoghurt pots, milk cartons – planters, wellies.
- Wrap presents in recycled wrapping paper or old newspaper., shoe boxes
- Scrap Box for paper
- Envelopes (re-use labels)
- Ice cream tubs (crayons)
- Art
- T shirt into tote bag
- Swap shop



Seomrai 13 - 22
Rooms 13 - 22



Recycling



download
here



download
here



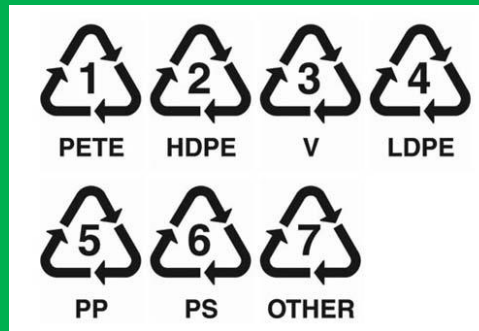
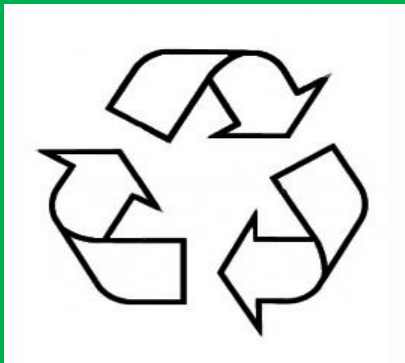
download
here



<https://www.mywaste.ie>

Any local collections – mobile phones, ink cartridges, stamps (for Charities)

Recycling



Composting

What can I compost at my school?

Anything that once lived or grew can be composted!

- Shredded paper
- All fruit and vegetables waste
- Tea bags/ coffee grounds
- Pencil parings
- Kitchen paper
- Compostable nappies

Why compost?

- Helps the environment by reducing waste
- Cheap, easy & saves on waste charges!
- Good for the garden-returns nutrients to the soil, conserves boglands



The 4 rules of Composting



1. Use quality MATERIALS (Greens & Browns)

2. Create an adequate VOLUME for the pile

3. Maintain consistent MOISTURE

4. Ensure good AIR circulation

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](#) on Instagram

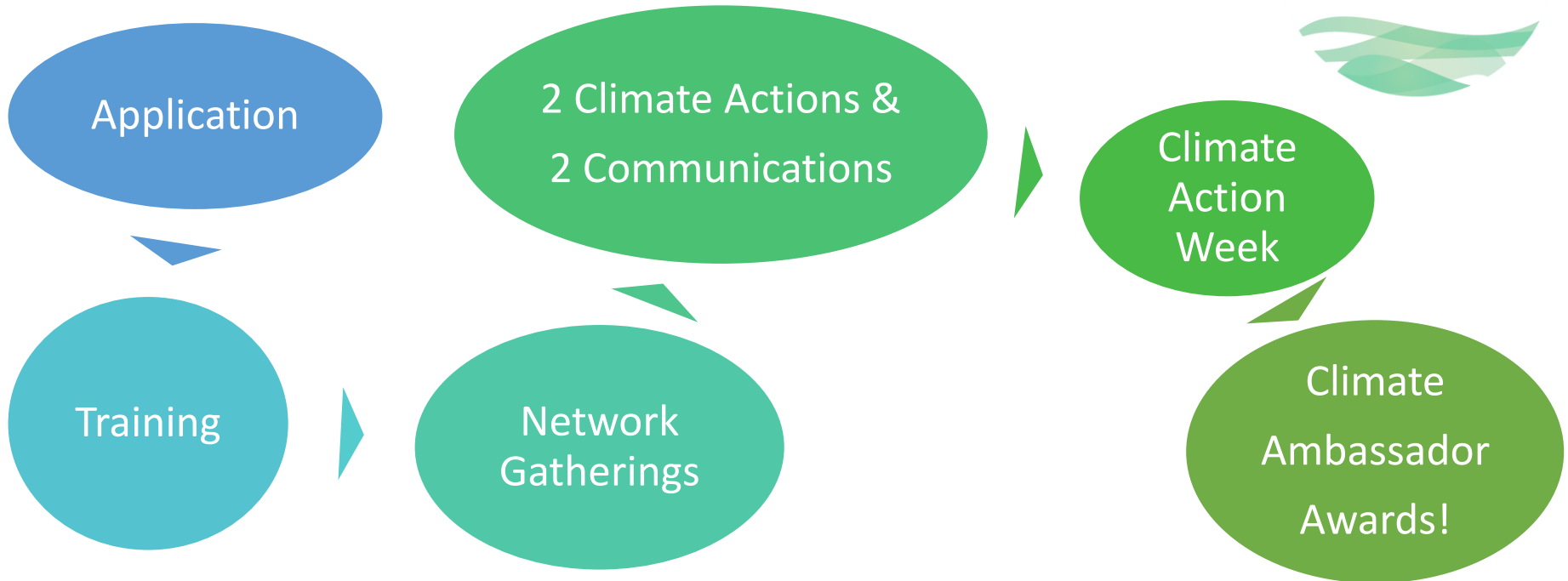




Sustainable Energy Workshops

SEAI are back to conducting in-class, outdoor and online workshops for students and teachers. [Book Now](#) For more info visit [SEAI Workshops for Schools](#).
Guzzler is waiting for your call!

Climate Ambassador Programme



Application Process

- Online Applications open
- Recommendations
- Assessment visit by March 2023
- National Awards Ceremony (May)
- Flag raising ceremony
 - Everyone involved
 - Wider Community
 - Celebrate!!!



NEWSLETTER

<http://eepurl.com/gfU4Tr>

Green-Schools Newsletter Mailing List

Sign up to the Green-Schools monthly newsletter to learn about good news stories and upcoming Green-Schools events

Email Address

First Name

Last Name

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

Questions & Answers

- Thank you for your attention!



Questions?

Contact us

0872205069

info@greenschoolsireland.org