

#ChangingOurWays  
#ChangingOurWorld  
#EthicalEducation



# CHANGING OUR WAYS CHANGING OUR WORLD

**Educating for a Sustainable Environment**  
Educate Together Ethical Education Conference 2018



Friday 23 - Saturday 24 November 2018  
Science Gallery Dublin  
The Alex, Dublin

# Welcome to Educate Together's Fourth Annual Ethical Education Conference

Each year the Ethical Education Conference supports educators to enhance their knowledge and skills in an area related to Educate Together's Learn Together (primary) and Ethical Education Curriculum (second-level). Ethical Education supports critical thinking, respect for diversity and active citizenship both locally and globally amongst other important learning outcomes. This year's conference theme is Education for a Sustainable Environment.

## Why focus on Education for a Sustainable Environment?

Ethical Education invites students and teachers to engage with issues and challenges facing society in order to nurture globally aware and active citizens who are prepared to take action. Life on the planet is facing a crisis. The devastating effects of climate change have resulted in changing weather patterns, rising sea levels and the mass extinction of flora and fauna. Single-use plastic and other pollutants have added to the destruction of the natural environment. As a direct result of human activity, the present cohort of primary and second-level students will be living in a very different world from generations before them.

The conference programme features eminent speakers such as Duncan Stewart (RTÉ's Eco Eye), Óisín Coghlan (Friends of the Earth), Elaine Nevin (ECO-UNESCO) and Dr, Charlotte Holland (DCU) who, along with the workshop facilitators, TeachMeet and StudentMeet presenters, will provide educators with a wide range of ideas and activities to help empower students to make a difference.

We are delighted to incorporate the launch of the LITTLE Guide for Teachers of Ethical Education with the support of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. We are equally grateful for the support of our main sponsors Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and Brady Insurance. We hope you enjoy the conference and look forward to joining you in finding out more about Educating for a Sustainable Environment.

Educate Together Education and Support Team



Sandra Irwin-Gowran  
Education & Support  
Programme Manager



Fionnuala Ward  
Primary Education  
Officer



Dr. Laura Dooley  
Second Level  
Education Officer



James McGlynn  
Project Officer

# Agenda

## Friday November 23rd Science Gallery Dublin, Pearse Street, Dublin 2

- 2.00pm Second-level Student Session  
(closed session for students)
- 3.30pm Registration, Light refreshments
- 4.00pm CEO Welcome
- 4.05pm StudentMeet
- 5.30pm Break, Light refreshments
- 6.00pm Panel Discussion:  
Educating for a Sustainable  
Environment
- Dr Shane Bergin  
(Chair)
  - Duncan Stewart
  - Óisín Coghlan
  - Elaine Nevin
- 8.30pm Conference Dinner\* The Farm  
Restaurant, Dawson Street
- (\*Separate ticket required, available  
to purchase [here](#))

## Saturday 24th November The Alex Hotel, Fenian Street, Dublin 2

- 9.00am- 2.15pm Education Exhibitors
- 9.00am Registration, Light refreshments
- 9.20am Welcome by Aidan Clifford  
(Educate Together Director)
- 9.30am TeachMeet  
Fintan Murphy (Facilitator)
- 11.00am Break, Light refreshments
- 11.30am Launch of The LITTLE Teacher  
Guide for Teachers of Ethical  
Education (Co-funded by  
Erasmus+ programme of the  
European Union)
- 11.45am Keynote Address:  
"Thinking Like a Mountain?  
Recalibrating the self in the  
context of educating for  
sustainability"\*\*\*  
Dr Charlotte Holland
- 1.15pm Lunch, The Alex Restaurant
- 2.15pm Workshops  
(See options below)
- 3.45pm Workshops  
(All workshops will run twice)
- 5.10pm Conference closes

\*\* In preparation for the Keynote Address, delegates are invited to read Aldo Leopold's "Thinking Like a Mountain" available at the end of this brochure.

# Workshops

## **1: Teach for Tomorrow: Exploring education for sustainable development in the classroom**

**Aoife Titley**

(Orient 1)

This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to engage with emerging issues in the area of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). It will touch on the politics, ethics and science behind our relationship with the living planet and natural world. A variety of active methodologies, encouraging participants to reflect on their own complicity in environmental destruction will be modelled. Age-appropriate action and activism with students will be explored, with a particular focus on ethical consumerism in relation to food, fashion and single-use plastic.

## **2: Introduction to ECO-UNESCO and the Young Environmentalist Awards**

**Dr Megan Kuster**

(Orient 2)

Situated in the context of Education for Sustainable Development, this active learning workshop is suitable for all teachers who are curious about integrating local-to-global perspectives into their teaching practice. The workshop takes teachers through the 6 easy steps to support students to carry-out and submit their own environmental-action project as part of the Young Environmentalist Awards programme and aims to empower teachers to integrate student-led, environmental action-projects into their teaching practice.

## **3: Is it Fair? Exploring the injustice of climate change in the classroom**

**Rowan Oberman**

(Odyssey Suite)

Climate change is often understood in environmental terms, associated with polar bears, recycling and other geographical processes like ozone depletion. The human and justice dimensions of climate change can be overlooked or under-explored in education contexts. This workshop will use a picturebook to explore different responses to climate change and model a variety of simulation and dilemma activities for engaging children in the social questions which climate change raises. The research-based activities integrate well into the SESE, literacy, Maths and Learn Together curriculum and also the Ethical Education curriculum at second level. They support greater understanding of the causes of, consequences of and solutions to climate change.

## **4: Teaching Energy and Sustainability: Exploring SEAI's free classroom resources and lesson plans**

**Una Halpin**

(Orient 3)

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) resources help children learn about energy in a real world and practical way, exploring how and why as a society we need to develop new ways to meet our energy needs. This workshop will help teachers bring the topic of sustainable energy into the classroom in the context of various curricula and the Green-Schools programme. Teachers will be provided with posters and booklets for the classroom and shown how to access online resources and enter SEAI's annual schools' competition.

# StudentMeet hosted by Dalkey School Project Student Council



The first ever StudentMeet in Ireland was held at the 2016 Raising Student Voices Ethical Education Conference. Since then, it's grown in popularity each year and pupils from Dalkey School Project Student Council will be taking up the mantle as hosts this time round. The first ever Educate Together school, Dalkey School Project is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year! With such a long history of supporting student engagement and action, there's no doubt the Dalkey School Project Student Council will deliver a fun and entertaining StudentMeet.

This year's StudentMeet presenters include pupils and students from:

- Canal Way Educate Together National School
- Celbridge Community School
- Dalkey School Project
- Griffith Barracks Multidenominational School
- Malahide and Portmarnock Educate Together National School
- Stepside Educate Together Secondary School

# Launch of The LITTLE Guide for Teachers of Ethical Education



**LEARN TOGETHER TO LIVE TOGETHER**

Teachers Leading Ethical Education For An Inclusive Society

LITTLE (Learn Together to Live Together Teachers Leading Ethical Education for an Inclusive Society) is an Ethical Education project being led by Educate Together in partnership with three European partners; the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia; educational provider Petit Philosophy in Croatia and an Italian Education Research organisation, STePs srl. The project is supported by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and aims to build teacher confidence and capacity in Ethical Education; through an online course for teachers in Ethical Education and comprehensive guidance for teachers of Ethical Education to integrate learning across all curricular areas.

The LITTLE Guide, designed specially for teachers of Ethical Education, provides information, guidance and advice for teaching Ethical Education and includes chapters on:

- Active Learning
- Co-created Teaching and Learning
- Higher Order Thinking Skills and Ethical Issues
- How to include Ethical Education in different subject areas
- Ethical Education and EU Values

As with the online course, The LITTLE Guide will be available in four languages and is freely available at [www.ethicaleducation.eu](http://www.ethicaleducation.eu) and from the Educate Together Resource Bank [www.learning.educatetogether.ie](http://www.learning.educatetogether.ie).

# Education Exhibitors Competition

The Alex Saturday 24th November

9.00am- 2.15pm

Don't forget to visit our Education Exhibitors on Saturday and enter our competition to win one of two fabulous donated prizes :

- €100 voucher for **Fallon and Byrne Food Hall and Wine Shop**
- A **Google Home** - this is a smart speaker with Google Assistant built-in. So whenever you need help, it's by your side!

## How do I enter?

Fill up your Education Exhibitor card (received at registration) with stickers by visiting at least 10 of our Education Exhibitor stands listed below.

Brady Insurance

CJ Fallon

Concern

Educational Research Centre

Emu Courses

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

Ethical Education Network

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Lafayette Photography

Léargas

Our World Irish Aid Awards

Recreate

GreenIT

The Educational Company of Ireland

Trocáire

# Speakers and Presenters

**Duncan Stewart** is an architect and environmentalist. He has lobbied for changes in regulations to ensure the protection and viability of natural habitats and indigenous species and his programme Eco Eye has drawn attention to the crisis now facing life on the planet. Duncan is an advocate for Education for Sustainability and believes it should be integrated into all areas of the curriculum at primary and second-level.



**Elaine Nevin** is the National Director of ECO-UNESCO. She has worked in the field of environmental education and education for sustainable development since 1995. She is a member of the Department of Education and Skills Advisory Committee for the Irish National Strategy on ESD and is Chair of the Advisory Group to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment on the National Dialogue on Climate Action. Elaine believes engaging, educating and empowering young people is essential to achieving sustainable development.



**Óisín Coghlan** is Director of Friends of the Earth Ireland, the Irish member of the world's largest grassroots environmental network. He co-founded the Stop Climate Chaos coalition in 2007 and led the campaign for a climate change law which eventually passed in 2015. Óisín previously worked for 10 years in the areas of overseas aid and human rights and believes education plays a vital role in creating meaningful change.



**Dr Shane Bergin** is a physicist and an Assistant Professor in Science Education at UCD's School of Education. Shane is passionate about education and works on a number of more informal public engagement and outreach learning projects including Quavers to Quadratics (with the National Concert Hall), a podcast series on learning (101 The Ways We Learn), as well as regular slots on Today with Sean O'Rourke (RTÉ) & Futureproof (Newstalk).



**Dr Charlotte Holland** is Associate Dean for Research and Associate Professor in the DCU Institute of Education. She is also Director of the Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development for the greater Dublin region, which was acknowledged by the UN University in 2014. She lectures and supervises doctoral candidates in Education for Sustainability, and Technology-enabled Learning in the School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies at Dublin City University.



**Fintan Murphy** is an alumni of one of the first Educate Together schools in Ireland and was Chairperson of the Parent Teacher Association at Lucan East Educate Together for 2 years. Fintan is CEO and Founder of Damson Cloud. He studied Business Analysis at the National College of Ireland and is a graduate of the Common Purpose, Meridian Senior Leadership Programme.



**Aoife Titley** is a Lecturer in Social Justice Education in the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University. She previously worked as Manager of the DICE Project, which aims to embed development and intercultural education into initial teacher education. Aoife is currently studying for a PhD in DCU, focusing on barriers to teacher education for young people from minoritized ethnic backgrounds.



**Dr Megan Kuster** coordinates ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards, Ireland's largest all-island, environmental-action awards programme for young people. Megan has a BSc in Ecology & Biology (UToronto) and a PhD in Postcolonial Environmental Literature (Trinity College Dublin). She is passionate about environmental education and empowering people to take action and realise their full potential.



**Rowan Oberman** is Assistant Professor in Global Citizenship Education and Co-director of the Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship Education at DCU Institute of Education. She is an experienced educational resource developer and her most recent publication, *Creating Futures*, is an online resource providing innovative climate change lessons for senior primary classrooms. Rowan is a qualified Barrister with particular expertise in human rights and family law and is currently studying for a PhD exploring the use of picturebooks in climate change education.



**Una Halpin** has been working with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for 6 years running student and teacher workshops for primary and second-level schools. She is a member of the Heritage in Schools panel and trains teachers for Science Foundation Ireland's primary schools programme (Discover Primary Science & Maths). Una has a passion for bringing children outdoors to explore and engage with the natural world and has her own company, Wildways Adventures.



# Thanks To Our Conference Sponsors



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



SEAI is Ireland's national sustainable energy authority. Our vision is for Ireland's energy to be sustainable, secure, affordable and clean. It's crucial that our children be educated about why we need to do this, and how. SEAI's Schools programme aims to excite and inspire teachers and children about sustainable energy and the role they can play. We offer schools teaching resources and in-school workshops linked to the SESE curriculum, various Junior Cycle subjects and Transition Year. Primary and post primary schools also have the opportunity to demonstrate their practical work by entering SEAI's annual competition which rewards projects on energy efficiency and climate change.

Educate Together is working with Brady Insurance to provide a group insurance scheme. Brady Insurance is our only recommended insurance provider. If Educate Together schools group together, we have a much greater bargaining power, which should lead to stable premiums and future premium reductions. To be part of the scheme please contact Claire at [Claire@bradyinsurance.ie](mailto:Claire@bradyinsurance.ie) or on 01 5676797.

# Thinking Like A Mountain

Aldo Leopold

A deep chesty bawl echoes from rimrock to rimrock, rolls down the mountain, and fades into the far blackness of the night. It is an outburst of wild defiant sorrow, and of contempt for all the adversities of the world. Every living thing (and perhaps many a dead one as well) pays heed to that call. To the deer it is a reminder of the way of all flesh, to the pine a forecast of midnight scuffles and of blood upon the snow, to the coyote a promise of gleanings to come, to the cowman a threat of red ink at the bank, to the hunter a challenge of fang against bullet. Yet behind these obvious and immediate hopes and fears there lies a deeper meaning, known only to the mountain itself. Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf.

Those unable to decipher the hidden meaning know nevertheless that it is there, for it is felt in all wolf country, and distinguishes that country from all other land. It tingles in the spine of all who hear wolves by night, or who scan their tracks by day. Even without sight or sound of wolf, it is implicit in a hundred small events: the midnight whinny of a pack horse, the rattle of rolling rocks, the bound of a fleeing deer, the way shadows lie under the spruces. Only the ineducable tyro can fail to sense the presence or absence of wolves, or the fact that mountains have a secret opinion about them.

My own conviction on this score dates from the day I saw a wolf die. We were eating lunch on a high rim rock, at the foot of which a turbulent river elbowed its way. We saw what we thought was a doe fording the torrent, her breast awash in white water. When she climbed the bank toward us and shook out her tail, we realized our error: it was a wolf. A half-dozen others, evidently grown pups, sprang from the willows and all joined in a welcoming melee of wagging tails and playful maulings.



What was literally a pile of wolves writhed and tumbled in the center of an open flat at the foot of our rimrock.

In those days we had never heard of passing up a chance to kill a wolf. In a second we were pumping lead into the pack, but with more excitement than accuracy: how to aim a steep downhill shot is always confusing. When our rifles were empty, the old wolf was down, and a pup was dragging a leg into impassable slide-rocks.

We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes - something known only to her and to the mountain. I was young then, and full of trigger-itch; I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view.

Since then I have lived to see state after state extirpate its wolves. I have watched the face

of many a newly wolfless mountain, and seen the south-facing slopes wrinkle with a maze of new deer trails. I have seen every edible bush and seedling browsed, first to anaemic desuetude, and then to death. I have seen every edible tree defoliated to the height of a saddlehorn. Such a mountain looks as if someone had given God a new pruning shears, and forbidden Him all other exercise. In the end the starved bones of the hoped-for deer herd, dead of its own too-much, bleach with the bones of the dead sage, or molder under the high-lined junipers.

I now suspect that just as a deer herd lives in mortal fear of its wolves, so does a mountain live in mortal fear of its deer. And perhaps with better cause, for while a buck pulled down by wolves can be replaced in two or three years, a range pulled down by too many deer may fail of replacement in as many decades. So also with cows. The cowman who cleans his range of wolves does not realize that he is taking over the wolf's job of trimming the herd to

fit the range. He has not learned to think like a mountain. Hence we have dustbowls, and rivers washing the future into the sea.

We all strive for safety, prosperity, comfort, long life, and dullness. The deer strives with his supple legs, the cowman with trap and poison, the statesman with pen, the most of us with machines, votes, and dollars, but it all comes to the same thing: peace in our time.

A measure of success in this is all well enough, and perhaps is a requisite to objective thinking, but too much safety seems to yield only danger in the long run. Perhaps this is behind Thoreau's dictum: In wildness is the salvation of the world. Perhaps this is the hidden meaning in the howl of the wolf, long known among mountains, but seldom perceived among men.

Available to access online at: <http://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/AppalFor/Readings/leopold.pdf>