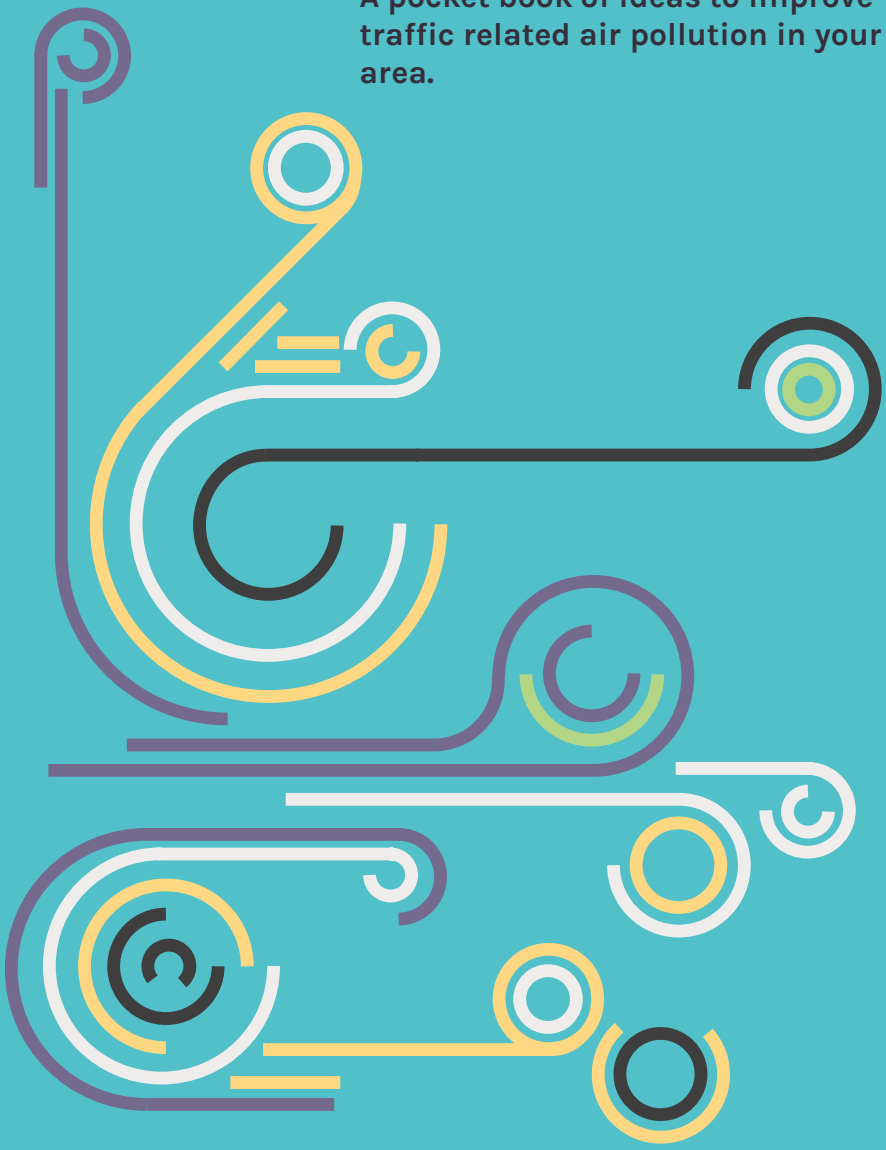
ACADEMY OF THE NEAR FUTURE

A pocket book of ideas to improve traffic related air pollution in your area.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101037193.

This handbook was co-created by a large group of people with various backgrounds and expertise, including science educators, local authority staff, data scientists, and university researchers.

You can look to this handbook as a toolkit as you embark on your citizen science journey.

With practical tips, useful resources and fun activities, this handbook is designed to help you and your classmates create an action project that will tackle important environmental challenges in your local area.

It is important to remember that this handbook is not prescriptive, it is simply a guide!

Each class, school, and community will encounter different challenges and opportunities when developing an action project.

Feel free to mix and match our suggestions with your own to create a project that works best for you, your school, and your local area!

Our team will provide as much support and guidance as possible for your class as you work together to create a local action project.

We will also point you towards additional resources and national competitions where you will have the opportunity to showcase your work.

This handbook is a place for you reflect, brainstorm and take inspiration from - it's yours to **draw, write and doodle**!

We'd like for you to discover citizen science, explore a local environmental challenge, co-create an action project, and have fun!

If you would like to get in touch with us, please find our contact details below:

Email: info@smartdocklands.ie
Website: nearfuture.ie
Instagram: nearfuture_ie
Twitter: nearfuture_ie

"The future of the planet concerns all of us, and all of us should do what we can to protect it."

— Wangari Maathai

Introduction

Phrases to Know — Glossary

Citizen Science

— the practice of community participation in scientific research, e.g. collecting traffic data or counting the number of trees in your local area.

Active Travel

— describes the most active and sustainable ways we can move around our towns and cities, including cycling and walking.

Air Pollution

— the contamination of air due to the presence of harmful substances in the atmosphere.

Nature Based Solutions

— take inspiration from the natural world to create cost-effective solutions to environmental challenges while building more resilient communities.

Internet of Things (IoT)

— connects physical objects to the internet to help collect useful data.

Sensors

— small devices that detect changes in the environment.

Smart City

— uses technology, data and sensors to improve the sustainability and livability of our towns, cities, and communities.

Stakeholder

— anyone that has an interest in a project and can influence its success.

Who are we?

Academy of the Near Future has teamed up with I-CHANGE researchers based in University College Dublin to deliver a citizen science initiative in schools across Ireland.

ACADEMY OF THE NEAR FUTURE

Co-funded by Dublin City Council and CONNECT, the SFI Research Centre for Future Networks headquartered at Trinity College Dublin, Academy of the Near Future is a Smart Cities education programme designed for Transition Year students.

By demystifying the technology behind smart cities, we equip young people with the skills they need to tackle 21st century urban challenges, including traffic congestion, air pollution, extreme weather conditions, and much more!

I-CHANGE is a European-wide research project that empowers communities through citizen science, offering them a first-hand understanding of the world around them.

As a 'Living Lab', Dublin invites citizens to participate in measuring air quality while brainstorming creative solutions to reduce air pollution in the city.

Citizen Science

Important Principles of Citizen Science

- Citizen science projects actively involve citizens in scientific research that generates new knowledge, where citizens have a meaningful role in the project.
- Citizen science projects have a genuine science outcome. For example, answering a research question, informing action, or an environmental policy on a local, national or international scale.
- Both the professional scientists and the citizen scientists benefit from taking part. Benefits can include the publication of research, learning opportunities, personal enjoyment, and social benefits.
- Data from citizen science projects are made publicly available and where possible, results are published in an open access format.
- Citizen scientists are acknowledged in project results and publications.

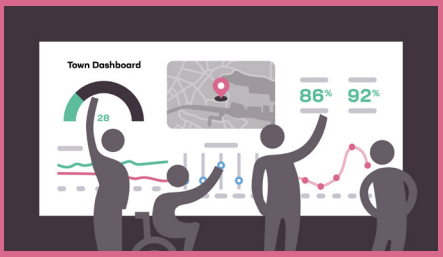
Ten Principles of Citizen Science. Berlin. European Citizen Science Association. 2015

BECOMING A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Citizen science allows communities to participate in research in their local area by collecting environmental data like air quality, noise levels or water quality. By connecting researchers with the lived experience of communities, citizen science incorporates local knowledge to unlock the 'story behind the data'.

As part of this project, you have used traffic and air quality sensors to ask important questions about your local environment, including:

- What is the link between heavy traffic and poor air quality?
- How do traffic and air quality patterns vary over time?
- What factors influence people's choice of transportation?



The data you have collected this past year contributes greatly to scientific research, shedding light on the link between our individual choices and the environment. In doing so, you have become true citizen scientists!

THE NEXT STEPS

The next step in your citizen science journey is taking all the important data you have collected to identify a key environmental challenge facing your community.

Some examples of these challenges include:

- Heavy rush hour traffic
- Poor cycling infrastructure
- Heightened air pollution on school days

Take another look at the data you have collected over the past few months. What trends do you notice? Is there anything that sticks out to you?

Brainstorm your ideas with your classmates and work together to identify an environmental challenge you think is most important!

TAKING ACTION

Now it's time to take action!

Your challenge is to develop a creative and innovative action project that will help tackle an environmental challenge in your local area.

Though this might feel daunting at first, taking action is an opportunity to learn and grow confidence.

Why should we take action?

- Give back to your local area
- Develop new skills (e.g critical thinking; communication; planning; organisation)
- Increase environmental knowledge & awareness
- Gain confidence in managing a project
- Become an empowered citizen at the local, national and global level
- Increase young people's involvement in their local community
- Play a fundamental role in securing a better climate future for your community
- Have fun!

WHY IS AIR POLLUTION IMPORTANT?

Air pollution is the contamination of air due to the presence of harmful substances in the atmosphere. These air pollutants typically include gasses (nitrogen dioxide; carbon dioxide) and particulate matter (PM) 2.5 and 10.

Studies have repeatedly shown that one of the key drivers of air pollution is the burning of fossil fuels, be it petrol, coal, diesel or peat. This makes traffic in our urban areas an increasingly important challenge we must tackle if we want to improve air quality.

If left unchecked, air pollution can negatively impact the health of communities exposed to it. Leading to some 7 million deaths each year, the World Health Organisation have called air pollution the 'Silent Killer'.

Moving closer to home, the EPA's 'Air Quality in Ireland Report 2021' found that while air quality in Ireland is generally good, there remains localised issues that leave some communities more vulnerable to the harmful effects of air pollution.

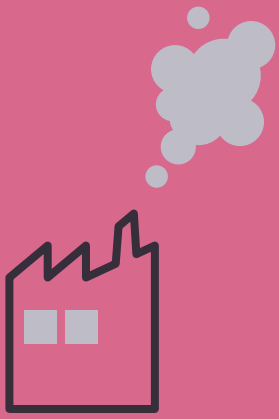
Citizen science plays a fundamental role in recognising these localised issues, ensuring that all communities are represented when we set out to tackle air pollution.

DID YOU KNOW

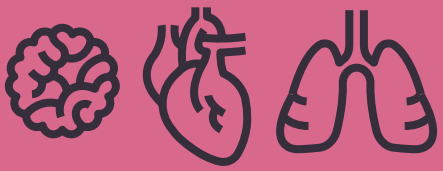
Every year, around

7 MILLION DEATHS

are due to exposure from both outdoor and household air pollution.



Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health. By reducing air pollution levels, countries can reduce:

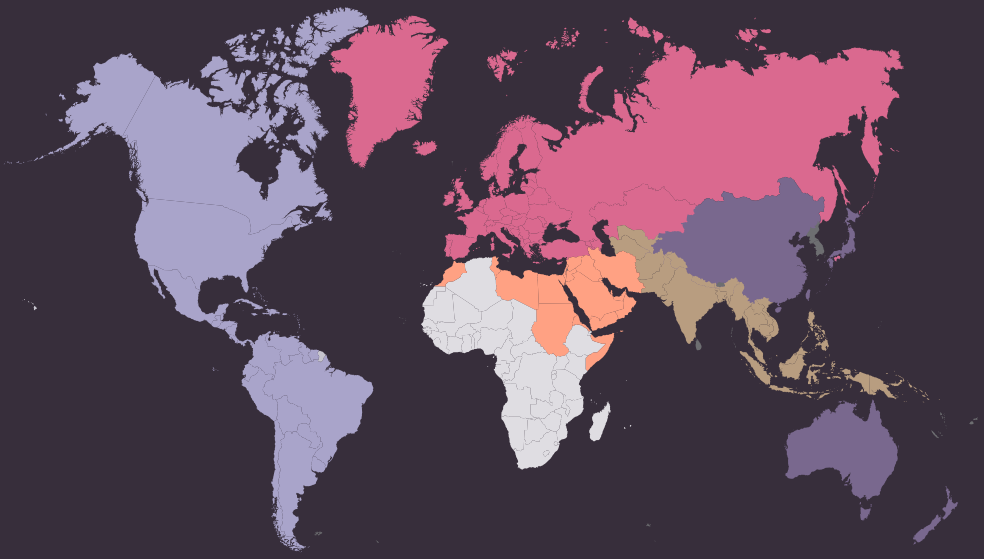


STROKE

HEART DISEASE

LUNG CANCER, AND BOTH CHRONIC AND ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES, INCLUDING ASTHMA

REGIONAL ESTIMATES OF DEATHS DUE TO AIR POLLUTION EXPOSURE



Over 2 million
— in South-East Asia Region

Over 2 million
— in Western Pacific Region

Nearly 1 million
— in Africa Region

About 500 000
— deaths in Eastern Mediterranean Region

About 500 000
— deaths in European Region

More than 300 000
— in the Region of Americas

Source: WHO Global Air quality Guidelines Report, 2021

Building a Successful Project

step 1

THE BIG PICTURE

Before you decide what project you would like to carry out, the first task is taking a step back to look at the big picture.

What is the main challenge you have identified using locally captured data? Can you think of the reasons causing this problem?

If this environmental challenge didn't exist anymore, what would your town look like? Would there be any noticeable changes in how your town feels, sounds, or even smells?

step 2

BREAKING IT DOWN

The next step is to break down your project into a more detailed action plan.

Developing a local project can feel daunting at first. That's why subdividing your project into manageable tasks is key!

step 3

TEAM SKILLS REVIEW

Take a moment to think about the different type of skills you might need. For example, if you are setting up an environmental blog, you might need a mix of communication, research, and creative skills.

Draw on your entire school community to make the most of the skills available. The more people and expertise that are involved, the better!

step 4

TIMELINE

The final step, and perhaps the most important one, is to design a project timeline.

Creating and delivering an action project can be a tricky task to manage. Having a clear and reasonable timeframe makes life that bit easier when juggling an array of different tasks and stakeholders!

"One individual cannot possibly make a difference, alone. It is individual efforts, collectively, that makes a noticeable difference—all the difference in the world!"

— Dr Jane Goodall

Project Toolkit

Active Travel projects

What is Active Travel?

Active Travel means moving from place to place by walking or cycling part or all of the journey.

Why is it important?

Rather than burning fossil fuels, Active Travel uses our own energy to move around. As such, travelling by foot and bike creates a cleaner environment while keeping you fit at the same time!

How can we promote Active Travel?

If you're looking to promote Active Travel in your school, feel free to take some inspiration from the action projects outlined in the following pages.

How do we measure the impact of our project?

You can use the air pollution and traffic sensors set up in your school to measure the impact your action project is having on air quality at a local level!

LESS POLLUTING WHEN COMMUTING

Anti-Idling Campaign

WHAT

Engine idling means leaving the engine running while the car is stationary. This can happen if a car is stuck in traffic, or if someone in a car is waiting to pick someone up eg. at the school gates.

An anti-idling campaign means raising awareness about the harmful effects of engine idling.

HOW

You could start by carrying out an idling survey. Can you count how many cars are idling each morning and afternoon, and for how long?

Then you could use social media, school newsletters or visual posters to raise awareness.

To take your campaign to the next level, you could work with the student council, Parent -Teacher Association, and principal to implement a 'No-Idling Zone' in your school!

WHY

Idling is one of the largest contributors to air pollution. A car emits more CO_2 and NO_2 idling than driving.

Cycling Bus

WHAT

Cycling to school is difficult sometimes. The weather might be poor, your bags might be heavy or you might not feel comfortable cycling alone. Organising a group to cycle together as a cycle 'bus' makes cycling more accessible, safer and fun!

HOW

The first step is to find out who might be interested in joining a cycling bus. You can do this by carrying out a quick survey with your classmates. Once you have gathered some interest, you can select a route where people know they can join the group, and advertise the time/dates. You might need some volunteers who will keep everything on track!

Top tip: Cycling Ireland and Green Schools have useful info on how to feel confident cycling.

WHY

Cycling doesn't emit harmful gases or particles into the atmosphere. By taking up less road space, cycling also reduces congestion on the roads, and keeps you active at the same time!

ON YOUR BIKE!

Bike Upcycling Workshop

WHAT

A bike upcycling workshop is a practical way to make cycling a more accessible mode of travel for your classmates – especially for those of us who have slightly older bikes.

During this hands-on workshop, you will have the opportunity to learn how to do basic repairs, change tires, check your gears, and other essential cycling skills.

HOW

Contact info@smartdocklands.ie and our team will arrange a workshop for your class with the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun!

WHY

Cycling can be daunting at times but knowing how to do basic bike repairs makes it that bit safer!

Bike Library

WHAT

While cycling is a cheaper and healthier alternative to driving, it is not without costs.

Bikes are expensive to buy, as is their upkeep, repair and maintenance.

To make cycling an option for all students, your class could organise a bike sharing initiative!

HOW

Start by organising a bike donation scheme in your community. Can a local business sponsor the purchasing of second-hand bikes?

Once you have a supply of bikes, select designated drop-off & collection points so students can rent a bike for their journey to & from school.

WHY

Bike sharing schemes makes active travel far more accessible for all students, regardless of their background!

MAKING ACTIVE TRAVEL ACCESSIBLE

Spot the Problem

WHAT

A campaign to track and tag issues on footpaths and cycleways in your area. These might be potholes, tree stumps or other obstructions that get in the way of road users!

HOW

Create a survey and record any obstructions in the area around the school. You can also take pictures to document the problem! Can you think of a way to create a shared tool that allow others to submit issues they see in the area?

A Walk in Different Shoes

WHAT

A campaign to increase accessibility for vulnerable road users.

HOW

Is there someone in your area who is more vulnerable when using the road? Eg a wheelchair user.

Can you take a walk with them in the area and identify challenges that make Active Travel more difficult for those users? Once you have tracked this you can create a campaign to increase accessibility, or write a letter to your local councillor to highlight the problem. You can track the issues using pen and paper, or online using Google My Maps.

WHY

It is really important our streets and footpaths are accessible to all road users! Having data or a campaign from the community that tracks this means that the council knows that it is important the community.

PUTTING PEN TO PAPER

Traffic Survey & Report

WHAT

Data can be a tool of empowerment for local communities. A traffic survey is a hands-on way to collect information on the type and quantity of traffic passing your school. Accompanying this data is a written report that details patterns, causes, impacts, and recommendations.

HOW

Surveys and reports are built on accurate data. We can collect this data using sensors and by deploying a traffic count survey. Are there any discrepancies between these datasets? After reviewing the data, draw up a short report that details your findings. Check the Appendix of this handbook for a traffic survey template!

WHY

Surveys and reports are clear, accessible ways of presenting data. They add weight to our argument and emphasise the need to promote Active Travel in school.

Letter to Leadership

WHAT

A letter to leadership is a written document directed towards a person or organisation in a position of authority be it a local TD, your school's Board of Management or the County Council. It outlines the challenge facing your community and how you would like to see it resolved.

HOW

Writing a letter to a leadership is no easy task. In the Appendix, we've outlined a template you can follow to help make it that bit easier.

It's also a good idea to call on the expertise of your English teachers to make sure your letter is as impactful as it can be!

WHY

Writing to those in power draws attention to an issue you feel passionate about while creating a sense of urgency.

Climate Action projects

What is Climate Action?

As Goal 13 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Action means working together to help mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

- Internationally (e.g. the 2015 Paris Agreement);
- Nationally (e.g. the Irish government's Climate Action Plan 2023);
- And locally (e.g. beach clean ups)

Why is it important?

If we don't take action, the climate crisis will accelerate with increasing temperatures, rising sea levels, and unpredictable weather. We must all play our part to help our local communities become more resilient places, one climate action project at a time!

How can we promote Climate Action?

If you're looking to promote Climate Action in your school, feel free to take some inspiration from the projects outlined in the following pages.

How do we measure the impact of our project?

Just like the Active Travel projects, you can use the air pollution and traffic sensors set up in your school to measure the impact your project is having on your local environment!

Climate Action Day

WHAT

A Climate Action Day is a full-day event that brings awareness to the environmental challenges we face on a local, national and global scale.

Through insightful talks, interactive activities and hands-on workshops, this day-long event will encourage your school community to get stuck into climate action!

You can organise a Climate Action Day as part of Climate Action Week, EU Green Week or even Earth Day (22nd April 2023).

HOW

It's always a good idea to plan an array of activities for day-long events.

For example, you could organise a series of talks, panel discussion, debates, and workshops focusing on an array of climate focused topics (including air pollution, climate justice, and biodiversity to name a few!).

Finish off the day on a high note and organise 'Climate Pledge' that will keep the climate conversation alive within your school community!

WHY

Climate change can be a daunting topic to tackle. That's why interactive events like Climate Action Days invites your peers to engage with the topic in an open-minded and non-intimidating setting!

Environmental Newsletter

WHAT

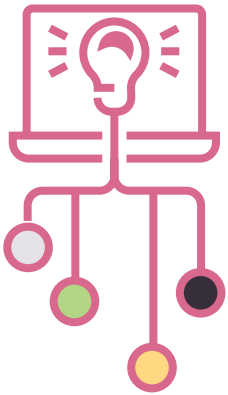
A newsletter is a great way to keep your school community up to date with the latest news stories and developments in climate change.

HOW

Start by subdividing into teams. For example, you might have a research team, writing team and an editing team. Next, decide on the segments you would like to cover in your newsletter. For instance, you might want to include a 'Did-You-Know?' or 'Good News' section. Finally, work in your teams to create a recurring newsletter that can published via email!

WHY

Newsletters are an excellent way to share bitesize information in a regular format, making climate change a more accessible topic for all!



Social Media Campaign

WHAT

A social media campaign is an active and organised digital strategy that uses various online platforms to convey a message. The goal of a social media campaign is to share information about a topic at hand, such as climate change!!

HOW

It's important to know who your audience is when creating a social media campaign. This will help you decide on the platform best suited to your campaign, be it Instagram, Twitter, TikTok or a combination of all. Regardless of the audience and platform, it's always a good idea to keep your content creative, engaging and informative!

WHY

Just like a newsletter, social media campaigns distill difficult topics into digestible pieces of information. It's also an excellent way to reach a wider audience that extends beyond your school community!

Art Installation

WHAT

Combining science and the arts, your class can work together to design a mural that brings attention to the environmental challenge facing your school and local community.

HOW

First decide how you would like to design the art installation - do you want to organise a competition or work on an art piece as a group? Second, work with your school's caretaker and art department to identify a suitable space for the mural. Lastly, and most importantly, get stuck into the creative process!

WHY

Art installations and murals open up a creative space to understand and engage with climate change.

Clean Air Poetry Competition

WHAT

As part of Clean Air Week each year, Green Schools organise a 'Clean Air Poetry' contest that encourages young people to engage with air pollution in a creative manner.

HOW

The first step is to follow Green School's brief for the competition. The next step is to bring awareness to the contest through in-school announcements, noticeboard flyers, and posts on your school's social media pages. To encourage your classmates to apply it's always a good idea to have some small prizes for the most creative pieces of poetry. For example, you could build on the previous action project and design a mural to accompany the winning poem!

WHY

Like an art installation, poetry competitions open up space to engage with the climate crisis in a creative way.

GETTING ACTIVE

Car Free School Week

WHAT

A Car Free School Week is a fantastic way of encouraging your classmates and teachers to leave the car at home while promoting climate action through active travel in your school.

HOW

Select a designated time within the school term to organise a Car Free Week. You can coincide this event with other important dates, such as Earth Day or Clean Air Week.

Communicate your campaign to the wider school community through announcements, flyers, and social media posts. You could organise a prize for the class that walked/cycled the most during the week to increase motivation!

Walkathon

WHAT

Much like a Car Free School Week, a Walkathon is an organised day event that specially promotes walking in your school.

HOW

Select a day and route suitable for a Walkathon with your teachers and class. Are there any green spaces or parks nearby that would be suitable? You could add a creative element to encourage participation. For example, it could be a colour run or fancy-dress walk with prizes for best dressed!

WHY

Car Free Weeks and Walkathons are collective efforts we can all make to travel to school in a more sustainable and climate-friendly way! It raises awareness, and creates an opportunity for people to walk together, be social and have fun.

These events can demonstrate the positive mental health impacts that Active Travel can have. Small changes in our travel habits can have a big impact on our health and well-being!

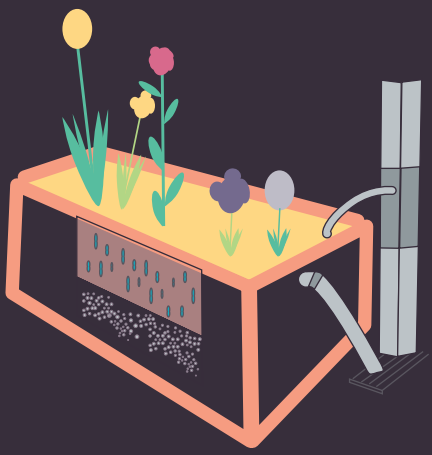
Nature Based Solutions projects

What are Nature Based Solutions (NBS)?

NBS are cost-effective ways of building more resilient and sustainable towns and cities. Just like the name suggests, NBS take inspiration from nature to tackle socio-environmental issues, such as flooding, heat waves, water and air pollution.

Why are they important?

NBS have a whole host of social, environmental, and economic benefits for our towns and cities. For instance, NBS can reduce the effects of storms, mitigate flood risk, increase urban biodiversity while improving the health and wellbeing of local communities!



How can we create Nature Based Solutions?

As larger projects, NBS require some extra planning and management. In the following pages we outline NBS that are perfect for a school setting!

How do we measure the impact of our project?

NBS bring plenty of positive changes to our local environment and it's important that we capture these improvements. Air pollution sensors are a great way to capture what the air quality was like before and after a NBS project has been built in your school. We can also use our own senses (sight, taste, touch, smell, hearing) to measure the impact of NBS.

Adapted from Dublin City Council's 'A how-to-guide for Rainwater Planters', 2021

GREENING YOUR SCHOOL

Green Roof

WHAT

A green roof refers to a building rooftop that is covered with soil and vegetation, such as grass, flowers, and trees. Green roofs are designed to be living gardens that are brimming with biodiversity!

HOW

The first and most important step is to check if your school is suitable. Is there a flat roof that can be accessed safely and easily?

If so, schedule a meeting with your principal, caretaker, and Board of Management to discuss the possibility.

Once you have gotten the seal of approval, you can get planning and planting! Dublin City Council's Green Roof Guide 2021 gives step-by-step instructions on building a successful rooftop garden.

Community Garden

WHAT

A community garden is a shared green space that is cultivated and maintained by a group of people. Community gardens can be used to grow fruit, vegetables, and flowers.

HOW

Akin to green roofs, the first step is to scope out a suitable location. Is there somewhere in your school that is lacking in greenery? Next, take some time to research the type of plants and flowers you wish to grow in your community garden. Lastly, this is fundamentally a community project. Are there any groups in your local area that you would like to invite to participate (such as Tidy Towns or Active Age)?

WHY

Environmental Benefits

Green roofs and community gardens help to reduce local air pollution by absorbing pollutants from the atmosphere. They also serve as bustling hotspots of biodiversity, providing pollinators such as bees with shelter and food!

Social Benefits

Green spaces are important for our mental and physical wellbeing. They provide a slice of nature in school that are calming spaces to unwind.

Importantly, green roofs and community gardens encourage us to work together, and create community connections.

PLANTING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Rainwater Planter

WHAT

A rainwater planter is a small box that collects excess rain that falls from the roof of a building. Varying in both size and shape, rainwater planters are home to an array of flowers, plants, and shrubbery.

HOW

In order to collect rainwater run-off, planter boxes are built beside a downpipe and the gully they drain into. Remember, rainwater planters are living structures. Use plants that are resilient to both dry and wet conditions to ensure a healthy rainwater planter! For more detailed outline, check out Dublin City Council's 'A how-to-guide for Rainwater Planters'!

Soil Moisture Sensor

WHAT

You can create and code your own soil moisture sensor that will detect and signal you when your plants need to be watered!

HOW

Water is not conductive but the nutrients in soil are. This makes soil act like a resistor in an electronic circuit. The more water there is in the soil, the lower the electrical resistance. You can code a microbit to measure the conductivity of the soil and therefore how dry or wet it is!

Go to makecode.microbit.org and follow their coding tutorial.

Materials: microbit, 2 x nails, 2 x crocodile clips

WHY

Rainwater planters sensors are excellent ways of bringing colourful vegetation to your school.

Beyond aesthetics, rainwater planters reduce flood risk and water pollution by capturing and filtering harmful pollutants.

Like all nature based solutions, rainwater planters require a degree of maintenance and upkeep. Coding a soil moisture sensor is a fantastic way of keeping your plants alive and well, especially in those hotter summer months!

Further Opportunities

Take a moment to congratulate your class; identifying a local environmental challenge and creating an action project to help solve this issue is no easy task!

Check out these additional opportunities below where you can share your action project with the wider community and gain national recognition for all your hard work as citizen scientists.

In the Appendix, we've outlined a short report that you can submit to our team via email (info@smartdocklands.ie). We'd love to build a collection of all the amazing projects our partner schools have worked on over the year and showcase your work on our website and social media pages!

'Design Your Future City' Week

Academy of the Future is running a week-long TY programme where you can build on the skills you have gained throughout your citizen science journey. Over the week, you will explore the tech behind a 'smart city', reflect on the challenges facing our cities and create your own idea to try and solve it! Apply at nearfuture.ie!

Gaisce – The President's Award

Community involvement is a key aspect of Gaisce's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Through citizen science, your class has tackled a local environmental challenge and has made a real difference to your community. The Gaisce Awards are the perfect opportunity to showcase this!

Young Reporters for the Environment

Lastly, you can submit your action project as part of the Young Reporters for the Environment Awards where you can share the story behind your work in a creative fashion. Applications close 5th May 2023 and with a top prize of €1,500, this is not an opportunity to be missed!

Appendix

Team Report

Introduction

Background **information** on the challenge you have identified and the subsequent action project you have developed!

You can also include a **brief description** of your main findings and conclusions.

Identifying a Local Challenge

How did you pick a local challenge? What role did sensor data play in this?

What motivated you to select this challenge? **Who** does this challenge impact most?

Why does this challenge exist?

Taking Action

What action project did you develop?

How did you go about developing this project?

Who were the main stakeholders in this project? E.g., students, teachers, local community etc**...**

What skills did you need to successfully carry out this project?

Where did this project take place?

Feel free to include any pictures, graphs or diagrams to illustrate the nature of your project!

Measuring Impact

What impact did your action project have?

Who did it impact most and why?

How did you measure this impact? Did you use sensor data, surveys or your own observation skills?

Conclusion

Sum up your findings, action project and impact in a few sentences.

What did you learn from this citizen science experience?

What were the main challenges? How did you overcome them?

If you were carrying out a similar project in the near future, what would change?

Traffic Survey

Date:

Start Time: Finish Time:

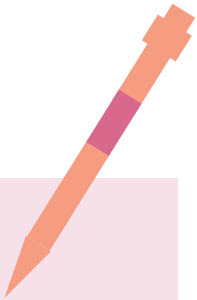
Location:

Mode of Transport	Tally Count	Total No.	No. of Passengers
Car			
Lorry/Truck			
Van			
Busses			
Motorcycle			
Electric Scooter/Bike			
Bicycle			
Pedestrian			
Other:			

Key Observations

Graph Your Findings!

Sample Letter to Leadership



Your address/ Date

Dear [insert name of person or organisation]

I hope this letter finds you well. We are a group of Transition Year students from [school name]. As part of our studies, we are carrying out a citizen science project to investigate air pollution levels and traffic trends in our local area. We are writing to you to express our deep concern for [state the problem], an important environmental challenge impacting our community on a daily basis.

Stating the Problem

- What issue are you drawing attention to?
- Why does this issue exist?
- How do you know this is an important issue? (e.g sensor data)

The Impact

- What sort of impacts does this issue have (environmental; social; economic)?
- Who is most affected by this issue? Is it an equal impact across all social groups in your community?
- What will happen if this issue is not resolved?

Call to Action

- Why is it important to have this issue resolved?
- How do you want to see this issue resolved?
- How can the person/organisation receiving the letter play a part in solving this issue?

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. This issue is a topic we feel passionate about and we would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Transition Year class of [school name]

Useful Resources

Find your local TDs & Senators:https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment: http://www.dccae.gov.ie/