

Seventh National Forum on Education for Sustainable Development

Empowering Students on a Local and National Basis to create Sustainable Change

Group 3 - Empowering and Mobilising Youth and Local Community Engagement



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education



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Agenda

1. About me.
2. What is the ISSU?
3. Who we work with.
4. ISSU and ESD this term.
5. Preview of Student Resource.



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About me

- Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin
- Sustainability Officer of the ISSU
- Youth Activist in Sustainability and the SDGs
- Scouting Ireland
 - Sustainability Team Pod Lead
- 1st Year EPL at DCU



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What is the ISSU?



- The national representative body for second-level students.
- The umbrella body for student councils nationwide.
- Over 550 member schools.
- Aims: Represent, Uplift and Defend Student Voice.



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Who we work with...

Whole-Union:

- All Government Departments (especially the DoE).
- National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

Sustainability Officer:

- Department of Education ESD Advisory Group Seat.
- Interdepartmental ESD Steering Committee Seat.
- Climate Action Short Course Board Seat.

Other officers:

- Oifigeach na Gaeilge: Raidió Rí Rá Board Seat.
- Disability Officer: ESPEN Advisory Group Seat.



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ISSU and ESD this term

Done:

- Summer Sustainability Consultation Event
- Rural Student Sustainability Working Group
- Student Council Resources

To-do:

- ESD Working Group
- Debate Your Decision Makers
- Student Demands Lobbying
- Rural Transport Project



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Preview: Student Council Resource

Taking Action on Sustainability and Making It Part of Your Student Council

1. What Sustainability means.
2. How can sustainability be integrated into the work of a Student Council?
3. How can a school improve sustainability/possible areas of focus
4. Campaign and action ideas
5. Useful links/resources

Launch date: 15th February 2023 @ Debate Your Decision Makers!



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Preview: Student Council Resource

Irish Second-Level Students' Union

Aontas Daltaí Iar-bhunscoile na hÉireann

Representing, Uplifting and Defending Student Voice



Taking Action on Sustainability and Making It Part of Your Student Council

Topics to Cover

1. What sustainability means



Sustainability is the process of balancing the social, economic and environmental systems for the wellbeing of individuals now and in the future. In short, it is the way in which we meet our needs today while preserving resources for future generations to also meet their needs.

a. The SDGs



- i. In 2015 the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all United Nation Member States. This provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At the heart of this are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - to combat global issues in a united way. The SDGs recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Preview: Student Council Resource

2. How can sustainability be integrated into the work of a Student Council?

Sustainability is not a one-person job, it takes a team effort to see real change, be that globally, nationally or in your Student Council.

A main idea is to hold a meeting at the beginning of the Council's term and set out a 'Sustainability Plan'. In this plan, you can include goals that match up with the SDGs that you hope to see your school achieve by the end of the year. Some sample ideas include:

- Recycling bins throughout the school, decreasing the amount of recyclable waste that would be going into the ground.
- A school garden with natural pollinators and plants, increasing your positive impact on biodiversity and the environment while also making your school ground look aesthetically pleasing.
- Asking the Board of Management and staff to consider switching some of their single-use items (plastic cups, plastic cutlery in the canteen, non-biodegradable sanitising equipment etc) for more sustainable options.

An option for your council is to collaborate with the Green Schools Committee in your school to achieve this, letting the committee act as a sub-group of the Council will bring more focus to the area of sustainability.

Sustainability doesn't just cover climate action and the environment, it can be split into 16 other SDGs. here are some examples of other sustainability related actions your Student Council could take and the relevant SDGs:

- Organise a campaign/week/day around equality and diversity in your school community, it can be on the basis of gender, sexual orientation etc. have some

Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

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