

Ireland

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Organization and Number of Staff:

GLOBE is coordinated in Ireland by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce. An Taisce is an Environmental NGO with approximately 70 full-time staff. There were 3 team members (not all full time) working on GLOBE during the Oct 2022 to Oct 2023 year.

Funding by:

Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently funding GLOBE Ireland

Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:

GLOBE Ireland partners with The Environmental Protection Agency, working closely with the EPA citizen science and air quality teams. GLOBE also collaborates with local authorities, teacher organizations, scientists, and relevant subject matter experts in Ireland.

GLOBE Schools (what types, how many):

The GLOBE program in Ireland works with Primary schools (ages 4-12) and Secondary schools (ages 12-18) across the country. **Over 400 schools registered for GLOBE Ireland campaigns/pilot campaigns during the year**, highlighting the growing interest and engagement of schools in citizen-science, outdoor learning, climate-related investigations, and action-based solutions to environmental challenges. As of, October 2023 there are **123 Fully Trained GLOBE Educators and 1100 GLOBE Observers** in Ireland

GLOBE Areas you and schools focus on:

GLOBE Ireland works across the Atmosphere (Weather, Climate, Air Quality), Biosphere (Green-up, Green-down, Tree measurements), Hydrosphere (Water temperature, pH, nutrient pollution, and ecological sampling)

Number of Schools Reporting Data Over Past Year:

In Ireland, many of the GLOBE schools participate in a non-GLOBE nitrogen dioxide protocol, data was reported at a national level by over 200 schools using this protocol. In the past year, 32 schools have reported 265,717 total observations directly to GLOBE, 8 of these schools reported via an automatic upload from their school weather stations.

Program Implementation, International Cooperation in GLOBE Network, and Activities over Past Year (categorized by GLOBE Strategic Plan 2018-2023 Goals):

1. Education

An objective of the GLOBE Ireland team is to raise awareness and understanding around key environmental topics and themes, particularly **air quality, water quality, biodiversity, climate change and sustainability**, and how they are interlinked.

During the year, we provided:

- Educational resources to support learning and participation in our campaigns
- Teacher Training
 - o Empowering teacher training that focuses on inquiry-based outdoor learning, where participants can experience the value of connecting with nature and the environment, using GLOBE protocols and relevant environmental themes
 - o Online 'Continuous Professional Development' Training using GLOBE protocols and other themes
 - o Online training on campaign participation
- Student Engagement and Training
 - o Student-focused webinars where subject matter experts and education specialists join to listen to student presentations
 - o Student workshops on themes of weather, rivers as ecosystems, tree observations
 - o Student presentation webinars and in-person events where students present their projects to an audience and get feedback.
 - o International collaboration by linking up schools and setting up an introduction call.

2. Science

In 2023-2024, GLOBE Ireland coordinated **citizen science campaigns on air quality, phenology** (seasonal tree observations), **weather and climate, and rivers as ecosystems** (water quality, river system habitats and biodiversity). The team developed new collaborations with experts, scientists, and local authorities to deliver fulfilling, relevant, and meaningful citizen-science experiences to teachers and students across Ireland.

3. Community

The GLOBE Ireland community **continues to grow** due to many factors, primarily due to an **increase in staff members** which allows for more time spent promoting GLOBE, developing, and coordinating campaigns and building relationships with Teachers. As a result, there are more opportunities for schools to engage with different GLOBE spheres and themes, resulting in an **expansion of our teacher network to over 1,000 teachers**. There is also a growing appetite for citizen-science in Ireland. Newly established or rekindled collaborations with universities, Green Schools teams, local authorities, and local experts have all helped the team create meaningful citizen-science experiences.

In May 2023, we held our first in-person student sharing and prize-giving event since 2019. **Over 100 students and teachers joined us in Dublin for an inspiring morning of student presentations and an award ceremony**, the winning projects submitted to GLOBE Ireland can be viewed here: [@globe ireland | Linktree](#) . The event was also attended by the Director General of the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Laura Burke and senior EPA managers, local authority

CARO (Climate Action Regional Office representatives and LAWPRO (Local Authority Waters Programme) representatives.



GLOBE Ireland has facilitated **multiple successful and rewarding international collaborations** between Irish schools and GLOBE France, GLOBE Malta, GLOBE Israel, and GLOBE Netherlands schools over the past year

4. Technology

We encouraged participants to use the **GLOBE Observer App** and **GLOBE website** to add observations and collected data to the **GLOBE database**. We also use **ArcGIS dashboards and maps** for gathering and sharing non-GLOBE protocol observations.

5. Communications

The GLOBE program in Ireland regularly communicates with schools via **newsletters, social media, webinars and email**. Our social media audience continues to grow across **Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram** platforms. We use communication platforms to recruit new schools, promote GLOBE campaigns, connect with campaign participants and encourage collaboration between GLOBE Ireland and the greater GLOBE community.

Plans and Ideas for Next Year:

- Coordinate national air quality campaign (nitrogen dioxide) in autumn 2024.
- Develop and coordinate a pilot campaign on air quality (Particulate Matter) for autumn 2024.
- Further development of GLOBE campaigns based on successful pilot outcomes on water quality, weather and climate, and phenology.
- Promote and facilitate collaborations between Irish schools and international GLOBE schools.
- Strengthening and expansion of the network of teachers and teaching organisations in Ireland.
- Provision of teacher training programs (in-person and online) on GLOBE.
- Engagement and promotion of the work of GLOBE Ireland within the international GLOBE community.
- Continue to work with the GLOBE Implementation Office to develop the NO₂ investigation as an official GLOBE protocol.