



## Press Release

### 12 schools go through to the SEAI One Good Idea National Final

**4 March 2020:** 12 schools from around the country are through to the National Final of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) One Good Idea competition to encourage climate action following their success at the regional finals. Regional finals were held in Cork, Limerick, Longford and Dublin. The SEAI One Good Idea Competition encourages students, their families and communities to take individual and collective responsibility for tackling climate change.

Students created a one-minute film and campaign to inspire people to save energy and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in an effort to address climate change. At the regional final, students showcased their film on the big screen and presented their campaign to a panel of judges.

They will now go on to compete in the National Final on Thursday, 23 April in Omniplex cinema Rathmines, Dublin.

Congratulating all participants, Emer Barry, Programme Executive with SEAI, said:

*“It’s fantastic to see the passion and enthusiasm these students have shown in promoting a better, more sustainable future. SEAI One Good Idea empowers young people and encourages leadership. It gives them a chance to have their voice heard in the vital national conversation we are having around climate change and the Government’s Climate Action Plan. All those involved have encouraged their classmates, teachers, families and communities to make positive changes an achievement they can all be proud of. I also thank the many teachers who helped their students in this important campaign. Young people learn by example, and you are setting a great example for our younger generations.*

*The standard of projects this year was exceptional, and I am looking forward to seeing the all the regional winners showcase their work in the national final in April”.*

As part of SEAI’s One Good Idea competition, students learn important skills in communication, film-making and creating real change at a community level. This year, over 180 campaigns were developed by young people all over Ireland. In the last decade, over one and a half million people in Ireland have been reached by the projects put together by 7,500 inspiring schoolchildren.

The finalists going through the National Finals include:

#### **Cork**

##### **Primary winner – St Michael’s NS Seasonal Superheros (Kerry)**

Their idea was to encourage people to shop and eat in season to reduce food miles. As part of their promotion they went to Supervalu to get shoppers to take a pledge to shop in season.

**Primary Runner Up – Tahilla CNS Lego Lifesavers (Kerry)**

They used a Lego Star Wars themed stop motion video to encourage people to Walk on Wednesday. By not using the car you will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Junior Winner – Loreto Secondary School Letterkenny – Re-Bag (Donegal)**

The message from the Re-bag team is to reduce waste and single use plastic bags by making their own reusable shopping bags from old material and curtains. Their message is to Reduce, Refuse and Recycle.

**Senior Winner – Presentation Secondary School – Sustainable Karoke (Kerry)**

The team promoted sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and carpooling. Their video showed friends having fun either walking or carpooling to school. By using less cars they reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Limerick**

**Primary winner – Dromtrasna N.S. – Climate Kids (Limerick)**

The Climate Kids looked at the Climate Action Plan and pointed out that it isn't kid friendly. Their idea is to create a website suitable for kids that informs about the Climate Action Plan as well as other climate issues.

**Primary Runner Up – St Rynagh's NS – Team SSUP (Offaly)**

To have public drinking taps at prominent places in towns so people will be encouraged to refill their reusable bottles instead of buying bottled water. They want to Stop Single Use Plastics.

**Junior Winner – Dunmore Community School – The Binjas (Galway)**

To create awareness of recycling in all classrooms and promote, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE in their whole school.

**Senior Winner – St Patrick's Comprehensive School – CompGoesGreen (Clare)**

Reduce the use of single-use plastic in schools - promote stainless steel water bottles, handmade beeswax wraps + fundraise for installation of a Hydration station

**Longford**

**Primary winner – Kilglass N.S.- Solar Stars (Galway)**

Kilglass students are raising awareness on the importance in investing in solar energy. They're demanding a free or low-cost solar panel initiative for the school.

**Primary Runner Up – Scoil Naomh Pdraig – BOB (Galway)**

They want us to "Turn off the Hob Bob" to save energy by turning off and unplugging appliances when you are finished.

**Junior Winner – Inver College –Bottle Rescue (Monaghan)**

Their idea is to encourage the use and installation of Reverse Vending Machines for plastic bottle recycling nationwide. The pilot project is being run by Carrickmacross Tidy Towns and sponsored by Shabra, Monaghan County Council, and Quinn packaging. Vouchers are redeemable in Supervalu, now 5c per bottle.

**Senior Winner – Colaiste Naomh Einne – Team Seamus (Inis Mor, Galway)**

The team used unwanted materials such as an old bike wheel and old turbine blades to make a working wind turbine for their school which generated enough power to light a bulb.

## **Dublin**

### **Primary winner – St Clare’s Convent N.S. – The Party Bag Busters (Dublin)**

The Party Bag Busters researched the energy it takes to make a plastic party bag. They want to encourage people not to have party bags at their birthday parties.

### **Primary Runner Up – St Thomas’ Senior N.S. – Plastic Packaging Pirates (Dublin)**

To save and pack soft plastic into ecobricks, to make building blocks, furniture, cushions, art mats, skipping ropes. These items can be used time and time again

### **Junior Winner – Meánscoil Gharman- The Bin Debunkers! (Wexford)**

The team are raising awareness of how to dispose of everyday waste in the school and home by debunking recycling and composting myths. Their aim is to ‘save the nation from contamination’.

### **Senior Winner – St. Louis Secondary School – Active Angels (Louth)**

Promoting students and staff members to use their bikes instead of either public transport or the car when possible.

For more information on the SEAI One Good Idea Competition visit the [website](#)