



Environment,
Wildlife
and Climate

GREEN POLICY

ÓGRAS



DON GHAEILGE • DON ÓIGE

2022





Policy Statement

Ógras is committed to providing a professional and efficient service which supports our volunteers in Ógras Irish youth clubs and activities.

With that said, the Earth is going through a climate and extinction emergency where people are suffering and animals and plants are disappearing permanently.

The development of young people is a central objective of Ógras, thus we must turn our attention to our planet, our environment and the future of our young people.

Ógras always aims to preserve the significance of the country's heritage for future generations.

The meaning of "heritage" here is culture and language, certainly – but also environment and nature.

It is highly important for our members, our leaders and the organisation as a whole to focus urgently on climate justice, on the nature of the country and on the future of the young people of the world.

The basis of our Green policy is “**Think Globally. Act Locally**”. Ógras recognises the central role we play in supporting young people to take practical action locally while taking the whole world into account at the same time.

This policy emphasises the conservation of climate, wildlife and culture in a global context but with local action.

How you can take action locally

Things that Ógras recommends doing to help the environment by implementing green action:

- Take rubbish home after events and ensure to leave any place you use as you found it.
- Turn off the lights when no one is in the room
- Walk or cycle to events where possible
- Ensure to book buses of the right size for events, no larger than necessary
- Ban on deodorant cans on trips (recommended to use a roll-on instead)
- Use soap as opposed to shower gels or liquid soap
- Take care not to use too much water at events – Turn off taps, limit time in showers, etc.
- Use green, eco-conscious hostels where possible
- Use renewable/reusable and sustainable materials for prizes eg. Buying things from the Siopa Leabhair, local companies, small businesses etc.

When buying materials:

- Ógras will encourage the use of **recycled and recyclable items**.
- Ógras will purchase goods **from Ireland** and with a short travel distance as far as is practical.
- Ógras will completely **avoid single-use plastics**.
- Ógras will reduce our use of **printed materials** by encouraging the use of digital technology.
- Ógras will **recycle** any paper we use.
- Ógras will use **recycled paper** when materials need to be printed.
- Ógras will use **recycled** computers and office materials as much as possible.

Training:

- Ógras will provide members with a **Green Training Program**.
- Each year will have a **special month** in which Ógras will place particular emphasis on climate change and justice.
- Ógras will take an active part in **Earth Day** (April 22 each year).
- Ógras will promote **training through Irish** on climate change and climate justice among the country's youth.
- Ógras will work towards being **nationally-recognised champions** of environmental work and youth work.



- Ógras will support the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations** (Appendix 3).
- Ógras will seek recognition for an **Ógras Green Certificate**, which shows that Ógras clubs or members have completed our **Green Project**.
- Ógras will provide **educational resources and information on reducing food waste**, and we will facilitate activities that encourage members and leaders to actively reduce the amount of food they waste and teach them how to do so, e.g. Organise a competition to write the best recipes that help cut down on food waste.

Activities/Events (Examples can be seen in Appendix 2):

- **Ógras Clubs** – Ógras will organise green events and games for club and camp members.
- **Ógras Events:** We will do our best to take our Earth, nature and climate into account on our camps, day trips etc.
- **Climate competition** – Ógras will organise various green competitions aimed at Ógras members and young people in general.
- **Debates** – as an organisation that places special emphasis on communication, Ógras will organise events where young people will perform a talk or presentation on the climate, with an emphasis on climate justice.
- **Transition Year** – Ógras will join up with transition year teachers to promote climate training.

Resources available from Ógras - more details on the Ógras site – ogras.ie:

- Ógras Green Policy
- *Amuigh Faoin Aer* – training program on nature and the outdoors
- Climate Justice video *Ógras: An Domhan* - youtube.com/watch?v=UzUq_ewUtk4
- *Ógras: An Domhan!* Debating Competition
- Art competition about Climate Justice (ogras.ie/aeraid)
- Information sheet about Ecobricks – Full PDF available at ogras.ie/files/ugd/87f8cc_4689488e0d9a492da80fd69e27edbe7c.pdf
- Designer postcards image about climate justice ogras.ie/ogras-an-domhan
- E-Learning Programme *Ógras: An Domhain!* by Dó Cent – ogras.ie/challenge-page/riomhfhoghlaim

Other available resources:

- See Appendix 2



Collaboration and sponsorship:

- Ógras will collaborate with other organisations/campaigns that provide climate training.
- Ógras will champion climate training programs and campaigns for young people and will make sure that they are available in Irish.
- We will take part in schemes by the government or other groups to increase our environmental and climate abilities.
- Ógras will seek sponsorship from various sources, public and private, local, national and international, to increase our ability to develop green Ógras events and activities.
- See Appendix 1

Appendix 1 – Examples & Explanations

- **Examples of potential collaborations with other organisations:**
 - Campaigning Organisations – e.g. [EasyTreesie](#) (founded by a past Ógras member), [Global Campaign for PEACEducation](#), [Global Action Plan](#), rubbish collection organisations, [Tidy Town Committees](#), [Dó Cent](#) agus ar uile.
 - Sponsorship organisations – e.g. Intel, Tesco, Microsoft, Facebook, Google and other large companies; Pobal, Coillte, Government Departments and other state organisations.
 - Networked organisations – e.g. National Youth Council, [Irish Environmental Network](#),
 - Irish Language Organisations – e.g. Seachtain na Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, Gael Linn, Gaelphobal, GaelGoers.

Appendix 2 – Useful Resources

- **Earth Day:**

Every year April 22nd is celebrated as Earth Day. Earth Day events around the world are used to help teach people how they can help our planet. It's been reported that over 1 billion people do something on or around Earth Day each year in an effort to help the environment.

More information on Earth Day at links below:

- **Full description of Earth Day ón Global Campaign for Peace Education** (English) – peace-ed-campaign.org/event/earth-day/2023-04-22/
- **CUIRIMIS CRAINN!** – Earth Day Movement ón Nós.ie (Irish) – nos.ie/gniomhaiochas/comhshaol/cuirimis-crainn
- **The History of Earth Day** on EFerrit.com (Irish) – ga.eferrit.com/stair-la-na-cruinne-2
- **Earth Day** on Tristar History (Irish) ga.tristarhistory.org/earth-day
- **Our Toolkits** on Earthday (English) – earthday.org/our-toolkits/



- **Developmental Education:**

- **Irish Aid** – State programme to aid other nations:

“Ireland’s development cooperation programme aims to reduce poverty, hunger and humanitarian need, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa. By supporting long term development and providing humanitarian assistance in over eighty countries, on behalf of the Irish people, we are helping to build better futures for some of the world’s poorest communities.”

– irishaid.ie/what-we-do/

- **Irish Development Education Association** – a national network for Development Education in Ireland working to strengthen and promote Development Education in Ireland and internationally with training, events, membership and more – ideasonline.ie
- Plenty of resources & guidance about development education available on **Development Education** developmenteducation.ie
- **Global Campaign for PEACEducation** –
“The go-to source and community for peace education news, views, research, policy, resources, programs & events worldwide”
– peace-ed-campaign.org
- **Tidy Town Committees**
“The National Competition has always been the backbone of Tidy Towns, but the spirit of Tidy Towns goes much deeper than that in Irish society. Many people today are not even aware that the Tidy Towns were originally linked to a single competition organised by Bord Fáilte, Bord Fáilte Éireann, for 37 years and that is now being organised by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government”
– Translation from Irish at tidytowns.ie/ga
- **Crann: Trees for Ireland** – A resource of information about trees in Ireland with plenty on site including information on legislation, a database of Irish trees and lots of other useful information for tree lovers – crann.ie
- **EasyTreesie** – A voluntary group made up of individuals, schools and associations, committed to helping in the fight against climate change by planting trees (founded by a former member of Ógras!).
“Now in our third challenging planting season, Easy Treesie is on track to reach our goal: 1M trees planted by 2023-4 with Ireland’s 1M Irish schoolchildren and their communities.”
– easytreesie.com/who-we-are
- **Saotharlann** – Site full of Irish language diagrams, calendars, etc., created by Kaytria Stauffer





– Some sample Images of what is available at saotharlann.com

Appendix 3 – Sustainable Development Goals

The **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) have provided us with a universal set of global objectives, together with an agreed framework within which we can build a better society in which all people are equal.



Read more about the Global Goals at [globalgoals.org/http://www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org) and globalactionplan.ie



Creation of the Policy

Date this policy was created	September 2022
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Signed

	Name and Role	Signature
Approved by	Maedhbh Ní Dhónaill – Ógras Director	
Approved by	Anita Nic Amhlaoidh – Ógras Chairperson	

Revision Date

Date this policy will be revised	October 2025
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Responsible for the implementation of the policy

The Board of Directors and Management of Ógras will be responsible for the implementation of the policy.