



# IMPACT REPORT

2022





## Acknowledgements

### Global Action Plan Board of Directors

Caoimhe Donnelly	Chairperson
Geoffrey Milton	(retired June 2022)
Christopher Brown	(retired June 2022)
Olaf Schmidt	Company Secretary
Aoife Connaughton	(appointed May 2022)
Aisling McCaffrey	(appointed May 2022)
Amine El Alami	
Jack Lee	(appointed March 2022)
Niall O’Leary	(appointed March 2022)
Jana Platau-Wagner	

### Auditors

Whiteside Cullinan  
Registered Auditors and Chartered Accountants  
Molesworth House  
1-2 South Frederick Street  
Dublin 2 D02 N820



We thank all our partners who supported us in the past year, including:





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# About Us

Global Action Plan aims to inspire people to become 'change makers'. We equip individuals and communities with knowledge and skills to develop solutions to the environmental and climate crises.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to support people to live more sustainable lifestyles, by offering practical yet creative solutions that inspire people to act. Equally important, GAP programmes empower individuals to change their long-term consumption habits.

Our programmes are evidence-based and designed to help people overcome barriers to change. We provide targeted support to communities, schools and businesses, to encourage smart and effective citizen solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises.

We believe that all of us can make a difference, through the choices we make - that is why we focus on assisting people, helping them discover their power to effect change, and enabling them to develop tangible actions that lead to lasting attitudinal development.



Global Action Plan helps people to take charge of change. We help people to develop local solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises.



Our focus is to enable individuals to be agents of change and we are proud to support people on their journey towards sustainability.



# 2022 AT A GLANCE

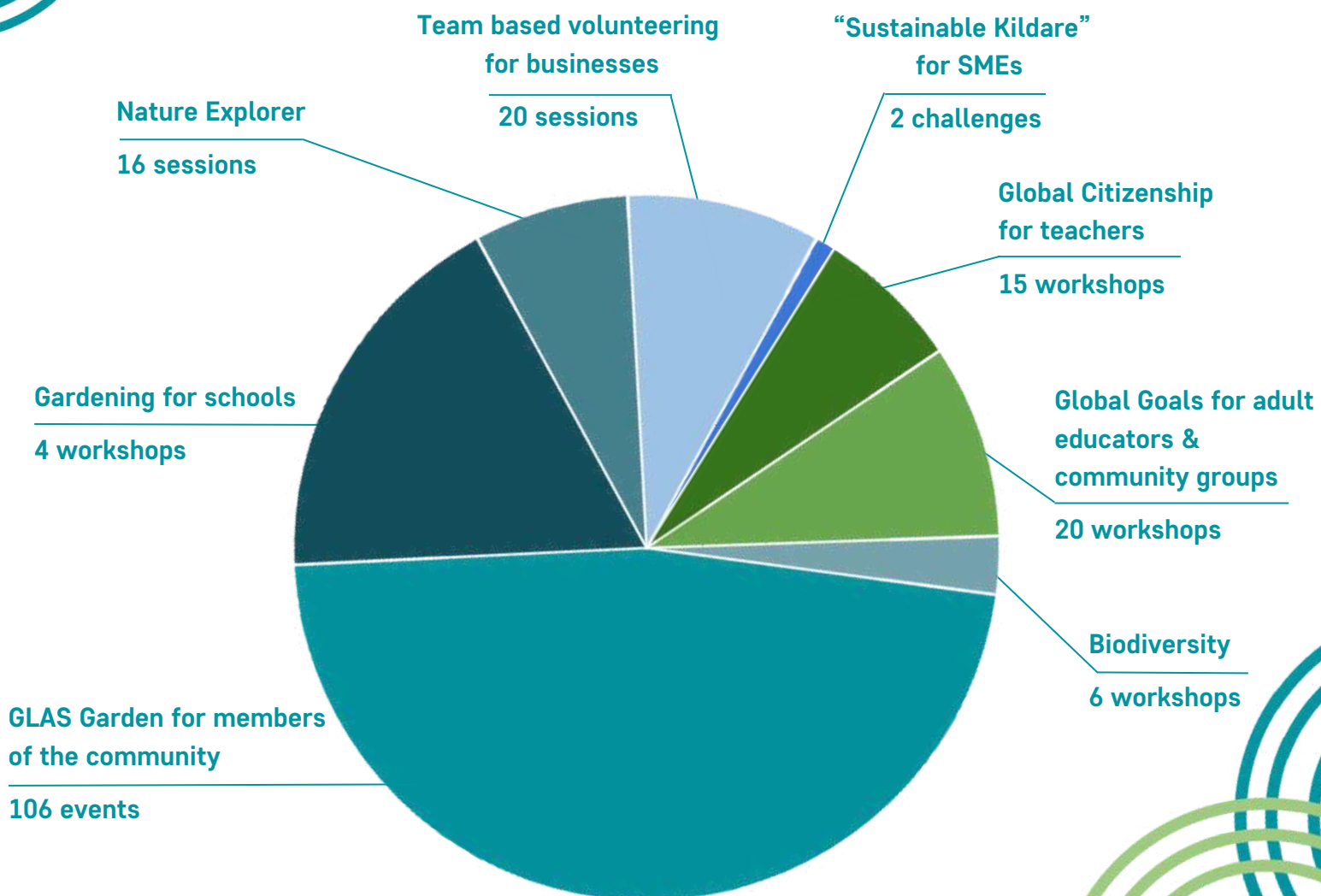
257

Workshops, training sessions  
& events delivered

6,200

Learners  
reached

## Breakdown of Programmes





## 2022 AT A GLANCE

107

107 teachers from Ireland and abroad trained to incorporate climate action and global justice themes into their lessons.

176

176 individuals supported from community groups to create change with our training workshops and newly-published resources.

2,000+

2,000+ students supported in 23 schools all over the country to learn about the environmental issues we face, and propose solutions to safeguard nature and the environment in their own communities.

48

48 occasions where GAP made the news. We participated in 23 interviews on local and national radio, and our work was referenced in 25 news articles, online and in print.

13,000

13,000+ views on videos we published this year which included 34 short videos on our Youtube channel and 41 videos on TikTok.

2022

2022 Intel Ireland's Signature Charity for the year.



# Community Action For A Better World

## Social Inclusion and Environmental Education

Since 2001, Global Action Plan has been involved in a social regeneration programme in Ballymun, with the aim of contributing to more sustainable communities in the area.

Over the past decade, Global Action Plan has implemented a programme of action to enhance environmental awareness and action in Ballymun, through the operation of a socially inclusive community garden, and a programme of outreach among schools, community organisations and businesses in the area.



By creating and hosting a safe, inclusive and accessible space for members of the communities to meet and work together, irrespective of backgrounds, abilities or skills levels, and to experience first-hand the principles and practices of 'Green Living', GAP has provided a centre of environmental learning and a social inclusion hub for the local communities.

During 2022, we were delighted to be able to begin a new social inclusion and environmental education programme, replicating the model trialled in Ballymun over many years, in support of the communities of Corduff and Tyrrelstown in West Dublin: Through a partnership with TU Dublin Blanchardstown and Fingal County Council, we will be developing a programme in support of schools and communities in the Blanchardstown area.







## Community Garden and Garden Activities

During 2022, 1,623 people took part in activities in the GLAS Garden in Ballymun. During the year we hosted 105 in-garden sessions, with an average of 15 participants.

GAP welcomed service users from St. Michael's House, the Central Remedial Clinic, Rosewood House as well as individual volunteers and people that are part of our longstanding partnerships with schools and organisations such as Young Ballymun. We also welcomed large numbers of volunteers from nearby direct provision centres at Crowne Plaza, Santry and Travelodge, Ballymun, among others.

Thanks to funding from the Irish Environmental Network, the garden now also has wifi access, which has been a great assistance for our workshops and project management.

The garden retained its Science Foundation Ireland Accredited Discover Primary Science & Maths Centre for 2022/23.



# Key Highlights From Our Community Garden and Garden Activities

The GLAS garden attracted high profile visitors in 2022:

We welcomed the Lord Mayor of Dublin to the community garden in Ballymun.



As well as the Ambassadors of the USA and the Netherlands



RTÉ sent the youth reporters of their Ecolution podcast to the garden



## In 2022, GAP was awarded:



Ballymun Tidy Town Competition 2022 - Best Community Garden



Dublin County Council North West Area City Neighbourhood - Best Community Garden 2022



Dublin City Neighbourhood Awards Community Gardens - Runner Up 2022



Ballymun Tidy Towns Competition 2022



## Nature Explorer Programme

We continued to run our Nature Explorer programme in partnership with Young Ballymun in 2022. The programme welcomes families and provides them with a safe space to experience nature together through planting, growing, crafting and play.

Many of the families who participate in the programme have limited access to safe outdoor green spaces, as they may be living in temporary or emergency accommodation in the local Ballymun community. This programme has been running since 2020 and has facilitated almost 700 engagements with nature in the GLAS community garden.



Through the ‘Nature Explorer Programme’, we create a sensory space for children and parents to safely and intuitively explore the natural world. Children and parents develop confidence and trust in nature and their natural surroundings. By providing these opportunities to people who have often been marginalised, the programme contributes to their sense of belonging and positive mental health.

During 2022 we ran two 8-week afterschool programmes for families, including special Halloween and Christmas events, with an average attendance of 25 participants per session.

During 2022, we organised 16 “Nature Explorer” events, in partnership with Young Ballymun, with an average attendance rate of 26 parents and children.



## Action for Community Transformation (ACT)

ACT (formerly Action for Global Goals) is our adult and community education programme. Funded by Irish Aid, this project supports community groups and adult learners to understand the interconnected dimensions of sustainable development, and to take action in their local communities. Through community toolkits and workshops, ACT builds knowledge and action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Sustainable Development Goals Session

In 2022 we worked with groups from:

- IRD Duhallow
- Dublin South City Partnership
- UCD in the Community, Ballymun
- WALK, Walkinstown
- Swords Tidy Towns
- COP ON festival



We also held open workshops where we showcased our GCE education materials to adult educators and groups active in their community.

In total, 176 people attended an ACT workshop in 2022. They reported that their awareness of the SDGs had increased by 25%, and their competencies as global citizens had increased by 12%. Following engagement with the programme, attendees designed and carried out their own local action projects, including initiatives to reduce waste, increase recycling and broaden the reach of existing community work to include more of the SDGs.

Our adult education materials has also attracted interest from other organisations and NGOs, including museums and businesses.

**In 2022, 176 people attended an ACT workshop, leading to a 25% increase in reported SDG awareness levels.**

**In March, we published a new toolkit for adult and community educators. This resource aims to help facilitators engage with the SDGs through interactive exercises and critical discussions.**





## Greening neighbourhoods Programme

The Greening Neighbourhoods programme, which is funded by Dublin County Council, aims to empower and motivate local residents in Ballymun to take care of and improve their local area, and to build on the success of many groups who have gained national recognition for their work in enhancing their neighbourhoods.

In 2022, GAP delivered Greening Neighbourhoods activities in 4 areas of Ballymun: Belclare Lawns; Balcurris Road; Whiteacre Close and Sandyhill Gardens. 35 members of the community engaged with the programme this year.

During 2022, we hosted 257 workshops, training sessions and other events, with the participation of more than 6,200 people.



## Just Transition

Over the past year, we have been working with the Irish Architecture Foundation, supported through the Creative Climate Action Fund, to assist communities in Bord na Móna workers' villages in the Midlands in their efforts to build a post-peat production future.

The villages, especially created for workers in the peat harvesting industry, have been hit hard by Ireland's transition from industrial peat harvesting, and GAP has partnered with the IAF to facilitate community workshops on community sustainability and climate action.

GAP will also use the learning from this project to inform our work in the Just Transition Alliance.

As part of our participation in the annual "Better Ballymun Day" activities, GAP organised a series of Fairtrade Fortnight workshops in Ballymun.

We used GAP presentations in the Axis theatre to produce short videos on Fairtrade, Food and Biodiversity.





# Environmental Education and Action

## Schools Programme

Our action-focused schools programme is aimed at primary and secondary school students and introduces them to issues of climate change, energy, waste, water, and biodiversity in an age appropriate, positive, and relevant way.

During 2022 we delivered 84 workshops for schools, reaching 2,103 students and teachers. Our interactive workshops encourage students and teachers to come to a deeper understanding of the root causes of the environmental challenges we all face and to critically engage with issues in order to find ways of taking action at a local level. Our approach aims to enhance personal development in critical thinking, communication and leadership.

In 2022, we delivered workshops in Dublin, Meath, Laois, Donegal, Tipperary and Kildare.

During 2022, we provided 87 biodiversity and climate workshops in schools, reaching 2,103 learners.





## Park Stewardship Programme

In 2022, 124 students from four different schools across Ballymun took part in the “Park Stewardship” programme

The 8-week Park Stewardship Programme introduces students to environmentally friendly activities such as:

- Tree planting
- Litter picking
- Working with natural materials (making art out of willow rods, leaves, etc.)
- Meeting with a member of An Garda Siochana to discuss vandalism and littering in local green spaces
- Nature Trails
- Biodiversity and Waste workshops

These activities aim to engage young people to support the long-term care, ownership and protection of local parks, while connecting young people with the relevant authorities and agencies charged with the overall management of such spaces.

In 2022, 124 students from four different schools across Ballymun took part in the programme. The feedback received testified to the effectiveness of the programme - instilling in the participants a value for stewardship of public areas and an interest in climate action.



## Park Stewardship: The feedback

### From Teachers:



"Getting outdoors is always a treat. Searching for litter was made interesting. Emer has a lovely way of communicating important information"

"Each week, there was such a wide variety of activities for the boys. The hands on nature of the activities were exactly what the class needed."



"The programme was excellent. The children really enjoyed this programme and all the outdoor activities. Especially our trip to Bull Island."

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### From Children:

"I always looked forward to Thursday because you made school fun. Thank you for everything."

- Tyler

"Thank you for everything. I really enjoyed going to the park. My favourite thing was when I discovered new insects with you." - Jayden



"Thank you for bringing us to the park. I had so much fun with you. I was always happy when we went too."

- Cole





## Call for improved nature and environmental education

In February, GAP made a submission in response to the Draft Primary Curriculum Framework published by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. We broadly welcomed the new framework and its recognition of the central role of teachers, but also argued for the importance of outdoor learning environments for all age groups, with a particular focus on increased and improved nature and environmental education. We also called for the inclusion of quality global citizenship education in primary schools.

GAP was also invited to make a presentation to the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss in November.



## Action on Global Citizenship Schools Programme

Action on Global Citizenship builds the capacity of Irish secondary school teachers to engage with the climate emergency. The programme aims to better equip teachers with resources, knowledge, skills, and methodologies to explore how climate change interacts with inequality, poverty, development and consumption, and to support student-led whole-school action. The programme is funded by Worldwide Global Schools.

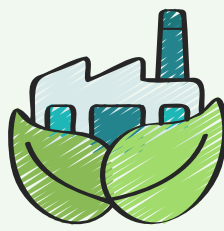
### **In 2022, programme staff delivered:**

- **A 4-week online training course on global citizenship and climate action**
- **Online workshops on greenwashing, fast fashion, effective climate action and degrowth**
- **Video lessons for students on greenwashing, doughnut economics, and a just transition**
- **A 45-hour course that can be used by Transition Year teachers, which will be released on our website in 2023**
- **5 Teacher Factsheets with at-a-glance information to help teachers with important figures**

In November, we partnered with the Irish Schools Sustainability Network on their Irish Climate and Nature Summit project. As a result, our video lessons were shown in 754 classrooms across the country during the 5-day event, reaching an estimated 20,358 students.

- In 2022, we trained a total of 61 teachers through this programme.
- Our 5 Factsheets have been downloaded a total of 1,490 times, and our Teacher Toolkit has been downloaded 448 times since it was published in 2021.
- We also host a Global Citizenship Education (GCE) Support Group on Facebook that shares resources and networking opportunities with 281 teachers.

Our Action on Global Citizenship teacher training was also adapted into a 5-day course offered through Europass Teacher Academy to teachers from all over Europe. In 2022, 56 teachers from other countries attended one of these courses.



# Working With Businesses

At Global Action Plan, our work is about helping people make informed decisions that will reduce their impact on the natural environment on which we all depend. We believe that, to respond to the climate crisis, people must be empowered to participate in collective action in their communities, be they at home, in schools or at work. Through connection, communication and collaboration, we help people develop more sustainable places and lifestyles.

We work with businesses all over Ireland, as many companies have realised that there are long-term and short-term benefits with being a leader in the area of environmental sustainability. As businesses develop their sustainability strategies, GAP supports them on their journey, by providing services to empower and engage employees in the complex issues.

GAP was chosen as Intel Ireland's Signature Charity for the year 2022. Covid restrictions in the Intel factory in Leixlip meant that many of the planned workshops could not take place, but towards the end of the year, when staff returned to the site, GAP was able to brief staff of our work, and support staff fundraisers.



## Key Highlights From Working With Businesses

### During 2022 we:



Organised 36 events for companies.



Delivered in-house workshops on the themes of sustainability, climate action, biodiversity and wellbeing for 6 companies as well as for the Ballymun4Business network.



Organised corporate team-building and volunteering events in the GLAS garden for 9 companies.



Facilitated an in-house climate competition, using our powerful Ducky online platform, for staff in AIB headquarters.

## The "Sustainable Kildare" Programme

In 2021 and 2022, GAP partnered with Intel Ireland and the Kildare Chamber to organise the "Sustainable Kildare" programme. The climate championship, which ran in three separate phases, brought together small and medium businesses in the county of Kildare to participate in an interactive environmental challenge. Each phase lasted three weeks and encouraged staff to save as much CO<sub>2</sub> as possible, by registering daily, eco-friendly activities and making small changes in their lifestyle.

A total of 65 different businesses participated in the championship, with a participation rate of 86% from staff across the businesses. In total, 56,106 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e was saved during the campaigns, which was achieved by participants logging 41,716 climate smart actions. If everyone in Ireland had taken on this challenge and achieved the same results, nearly 780,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> would have been saved nationally.



During 2022,  
65 companies participated in  
the "Sustainable Kildare"  
business climate competition,  
saving 56,106 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e  
emissions.





# Memberships

All our programmes are delivered in partnership with other organisations. We believe lasting and meaningful impact requires the building of partnerships in which different perspectives and areas of expertise are brought together for a common goal.

**We are proud to be part of a range of coalitions and membership organisations, including:**



Stronger Charities.  
Stronger Communities.



Just  
Transition  
Alliance







# Organisational Finances

GAP worked with Whiteside Cullinan, Registered Auditors and Chartered Accountants, to prepare the 2022 Financial Statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and in compliance with the Charity SORP. Copies of our Financial Statements for the last four years can be found on our website, in the Governance & Compliance section.

**Income 2022: € 494,159**

**Expenditure 2022: € 527,097**



# Governance and Compliance

GAP is committed to a culture of efficiency, transparency and good governance: we strive to meet best standards driven by the principles of integrity, transparency, openness and accountability.

**GAP Ireland is registered and complies with the requirements of:**

- Revenue Commissioners, with the charity number CHY15448
- The Charities Regulator, under the number 20053338
- Companies Registration Office, with registered company number 3346806

**We adhere to the relevant legislations and standards of good practice, such as:**

- Charities Act 2009;
- Charities Regulatory Authority Internal Financial Controls Guidelines for Charities;
- Data Protection Act 1988, Amendment 2003, General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679;
- Guidelines for Charitable Organisation on Fundraising from the Public.

GAP remains committed to the Principles of the Governance Code and has been fully compliant since 2016. GAP and its Board continued working towards its full compliance throughout 2022.

We also remain signatories of the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, which provides a best practice framework for organisations for the public communications of global justice organisations. These guidelines promote dignity, equality, fairness, solidarity, and justice for everyone.

GAP has also signed up to the IDEA Code of Good Practice for Development Education. This code encourages reflective assessment of DevEd delivery so we can ensure we will work towards the continuous improvement and quality of DevEd delivery and to critically evaluate and monitor if we are contributing to the sector meaningfully.

## Global Action Plan Board of Directors

Caoimhe Donnelly	Chairperson
Olaf Schmidt	Company Secretary
Aoife Connaughton	(appointed 16/5/2022)
Aisling McCaffrey	(appointed 16/5/2022)
Christopher Brown	(retired 2022)
Amine El Alami	Amine El Alami
Jack Lee	(appointed 28/3/2022)
Geoffrey Milton	Geoffrey Milton (retired 2022)
Niall O'Leary	Niall O'Leary (appointed 28/3/2022)
Jana Platau-Wagner	Jana Platau-Wagner

Auditors: Whiteside Cullinan, Registered Auditors and Chartered Accountants  
Molesworth House 1-2 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2, D02 N820



## What's Next?

The year 2022 was a transformative year for Global Action Plan. After two years during which the COVID-19 pandemic obstructed much of our work we finally had opportunities to once again meet with people face to face and organise in-person events and training sessions.

As a result, we organised more events, and welcomed more participants, than at any time in the last 4 years: 4% more events, and 12% more participants, than in our previous busiest year, 2019.

Demand for our workshops and community gardens has increased, with schools, community groups and businesses approaching us for options to engage people in the complexities of, and possible solutions to, global environmental crises. Some of that demand arose as a result of GAP's greater visibility, but it was also driven by a number of high-level initiatives, including the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss and European ESG regulation, requiring companies to publish their policies on the integration of sustainability risks in their investment decision-making process.



In response, Global Action Plan has increased its staffing levels to meet the demand for workshops, and broadened the range of thematic workshops it can provide to community groups, schools and businesses. We have also decentralised, opening a hub in Co. Clare, and developing partnerships with community gardens in Waterford and Cork.

In 2023, we will be completing our new strategy, which aims to establish GAP as the leading environmental behaviour change organisation in Ireland.

## Our priorities for the coming year include:



### Social Inclusion

- Further develop a social inclusion and environmental education programme for the communities in Blanchardstown, building on our experience in Ballymun;
- Strengthen our Ballymun programme, by increasing our engagement with youth groups, supporting business in the area that want to make a transition towards a low carbon business model, and supporting local initiatives to make Ballymun a Circular Economy Town.



### Education

- Increase the reach and impact of our schools programme, extending the programme to national coverage and bringing our toolkits and teacher supports to a greater number of educators;
- Address environmental education gaps for adult learners across Ireland, by providing supportive, peer-led group supports on environmental issues people care about, empowering individuals and giving them agency to act.



### Working with Business

- Facilitate employee engagement in a wide range of companies, through workshops and interactive climate challenges.



### Organisational development

- Strengthening our capacity to measure and assess our programme impact;
- Ensure our programmes remain grounded not only in community experiences and needs but also in the latest academic insights;
- Broaden our income base, to ensure increased levels of flexibility and financial independence.



## Testimonials

**“ACT brought a flexible way of exploring global issues in the local context.”**

“The programme helped to break down big abstract terms into understandable pieces relevant to everyday experiences. The participants discovered the links between local and global issues, and widened their perspective on how small everyday, locally made choices impact on distant issues and lives lived elsewhere. They learned practical solutions and were energised to take actions as individuals and as a group to become a part of the answer to critical global challenges.

ACT encouraged the participants to see the big picture, explore unknown subjects, think and reflect deeper. It became the platform to identify shared concerns, evaluate common practices, unearth forgotten knowledge and seek new creative ways for creating a better world - starting small in Walkinstown.

The programme provided DSCP with an opportunity to respond to the changing needs and interests of our learners. We were able to expand our course offerings, providing coherent and logical learning progressions from other topics and events we promote – such as gardening workshops, an Earth Day event. It also helped us link naturally with various new groups that have recently been formed in our area (and are supported by our Community Development team). The programme started new conversations, helped in bringing local communities together and is building on an increased and current interest in the topics of environmental change and climate justice.”

**Asia Rutkowska**  
**Lifelong Learning Team, Dublin South City Partnership**



## Testimonials

“This year we formed a partnership with GAP Ireland to deliver the Climate and Nature Summit for Primary and Secondary Schools in Ireland. They have been a tremendous support. GAP Ireland created three excellent, thought provoking workshops for the summit which engaged students and teachers in 754 classrooms. These resources are now part of a Global Citizenship and Environmental Education Resource Booklet which will be shared with teachers across Ireland.

Their invaluable guidance and expertise has helped us to coordinate the event and they have been instrumental in promoting the summit. The climate and biodiversity crises require us to build and invest in partnerships but this is not always easy! The team at GAP Ireland work with great integrity and moral purpose. As a grassroots organisation we felt listened to and understood. They showed us what a good partnership looks like and we hope they will continue to work with us in the future. What an amazing team!”

**Patrick Kirwan**  
**Irish Schools Sustainability Network**



## Global Action Plan Ireland

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