



**GLOBAL
ACTION
PLAN**



CHAIR'S STATEMENT

I would like to thank all the staff at Global Action Plan (GAP) for all their hard work and commitment over the last year. Without them there would be no Global Action Plan and our goal of helping the people of Ireland to live more sustainable lives would not be possible. GAP needs funds to achieve its aims and partners to collaborate with, so a heartfelt thanks to all our funders and partners for their work and trust in GAP over the last year. A final thank you to the Board and all of its members, new and old, for taking time out of their busy lives to help GAP work towards attaining its goals.

Highlights of the past year include another successful year for our Water Explorer programme. In 2016 over 1700 schools and teams registered with the Water Explorer Programme and with renewed funding from HSBC the numbers are set to grow further, enabling even more young Irish Water Explorers to learn and be inspired about global water issues.

The Virgin Mary Community Garden has continued to be a really valuable community asset with increased involvement of the local community and a valuable resource for the delivery of the Youth Gardening Programme and other environmental workshops. The Community Garden makes a real contribution to the community of Ballymun and its success must be applauded as a model for other communities.

GAP has a passion for measuring change- measuring the reduction in waste, how much water or energy has been saved. It is not enough for GAP to just say our programmes produce change in behaviour- we need to know what has changed and how. Our measurement of the environmental impact of our programmes enables us to focus on programmes that produce the most change for the most people. We intend to continue this work in the future to ensure that we focus our energies on producing real behaviour change working towards a more sustainable way of living for all.

Looking to the future, the staff and Board have plans in place to focus on our most successful programmes and work towards expanding these nationally. While also building on the success of the Community Gardens with a proposal to develop the Gardens into a national training centre and for the expansion of the Water Explorer Programme to reach more young people across Ireland. The next few years look really positive for the development and growth of GAP enabling us to work towards a more sustainable Ireland.

Penny McRedmond
Chairperson GAP Board of Directors

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MISSION AND PURPOSE

OUR PURPOSE: CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Global Action Plan supports schools, communities and businesses to take practical environmental action to live and work as sustainably as possible.

Global Action Plan is part of [GAP International](#) – a global network of organisations in over 27 countries that facilitate behaviour change in the **promotion of environmental sustainability**.

Through environmental education and awareness, GAP's goal is to inspire and support everyone throughout Ireland to take practical steps towards a more sustainable lifestyle. In doing so GAP focus on 4 main themes: **water, energy, food and waste**, working within communities of place and of interest.

OUR MISSION: INSPIRE ACTION

By supporting people to live more sustainable lifestyles, by offering practical yet creative solutions that inspire people to act.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Provide individuals with guidance and resources to help them reduce their own ecological footprint.
- Mobilise communities to take actions that support and reinforce the core principles of sustainability.
- Help individuals/communities assess the extent and nature of their impact on the environment.
- Engage with the ideas of local people for change, and for the improvement of their local environment.

PROGRAMMES AND IMPACT

GAP's focus is **environmental education** and **professional training**, led by a national team of environmental educators and expert facilitators. GAP's goal is to inspire and support everyone throughout Ireland to take practical steps towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

GAP PROGRAMMES:

- School & Community Outreach Workshops
- Ballymun Community Environmental Programmes
- Water Explorer
- National Public Events

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

In committing to creating sustainable communities, GAP's core programmes grew in considerable strength in 2016 with the launch of a number of exciting initiatives gaining traction internationally and working with over **34,000** individuals nationally.

GAP programmes introduce sustainable habits and lifestyle changes, but measurement is key to determining the success of these changes. GAP measures the impact and savings of participant's actions across every sustainability programme, using these results for ongoing development, support and feedback.

Each programme is specifically tailored to each group, targeting their exact developmental needs. The quality of GAP's resources, both online and in delivery, reference the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals with practical, action-orientated supports.

OUTREACH WORKSHOPS

GAP provides workshops, programmes and events for primary/secondary schools supporting and enabling in their missions to *go green*, and doing so in line with the national curriculum.

In 2016 GAP delivered **110** outreach workshops, in **43** schools, engaging **3,099** students in sustainability and development education.

These workshops included:



CLIMATE CHANGE
34 workshops



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
8 workshops



WATER
60 workshops



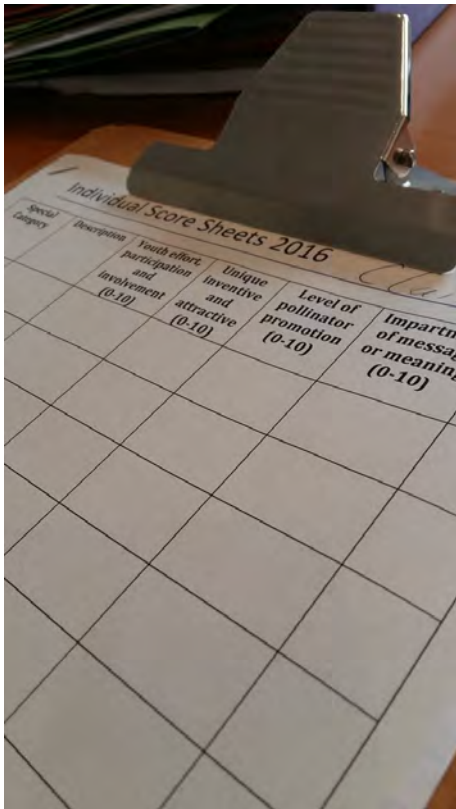
ENERGY
8 workshops

BALLYMUN COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES:

Our Community Environmental programme in Ballymun is supported by Dublin City Council.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME: Beautiful Spaces Competition supports schools and youth groups in improving their locality both aesthetically and in terms of biodiversity.

The focus of 2016's competition was to increase awareness for native pollinators such as bees and butterflies, and how to protect environments in which they thrive.



The emphasis on community engagement saw over **180** participants attending the awards, all of whom had actively established pollinator friendly gardens and wildflower meadows through the planting of suitable nectar plants.

BEAUTIFUL SPACES - IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR CHANGE:

- **87% of young people reported an increase pride and community cohesion (including demonstrated willingness to participate in community-led activities)**
- **82% of young people experienced an increase in time spent improving appearance of their local community**

PARK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME engages young people in supporting the long-term care, ownership and protection of local parks, while also connecting them with the authorities / agencies that are charged with the management of such sites.

The 10-week programme continues to receive excellent feedback from participating schools and there is further demand for participation:

*"Excellent, pupils love it and it linked perfectly with the 4th class curriculum.
They are more aware of how and why to care for their surroundings,"*

- Teacher 4th class, St Joseph's SNS

"It has improved their environmental awareness and made them more aware of their locality,"

- Teacher 4th class, Virgin Mary BNS



80 park stewards graduated from the programme in 2016, planting **8** native trees, **100's** of bulbs and recovering over **96kg** of rubbish collected from local parks.

PARK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME - IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR CHANGE:

- *Improved awareness of local community's responsibility for maintaining local parks including the welfare of plants and animals*
- *80% of young people experienced an increase in awareness of their community responsibilities.*

GREEN-FINGERS YOUTH GARDENING PROGRAMME teaches students how to grow food and support biodiversity. Facilitated in the Virgin Mary Community Garden, students and teachers learn practical planting and garden management skills, which can be implemented in school gardens and at home.



YOUTH GARDENING PROGRAMME - IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR CHANGE:

- *59% of young people involved have increased their consumption of fruits/vegetables.*
- *59% of young people experienced increased social engagement with other children through gardening*

COMMUNITY GARDEN membership grew to **529** in 2016. A surge in interest has proved a positive opportunity to collaborate with local groups and services within the community.

The Community Garden provides an opportunity for community groups, and local residents to have a supported experience of learning the core skills such as: growing their own, how to manage food waste through composting, rain-water harvesting and many more.

GREEN LIVING PROGRAMME encourages participants to take simple, measurable, everyday actions to reduce their environmental impact and live in a more sustainable manner. In 2016, **33** participants took on a total of **601** actions.

The programme covers the topics of waste, water, energy and food, and looks at tangible ways of reducing impact in each of these areas:

Money Saved	€11,917.66
Waste Diverted from Landfill	127.5 m³
Energy Saved	41,112 kWh
CO ₂ Emissions Saved	9,060 kg
Water Saved	624,064 L

GREEN LIVING PROGRAMME - IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR CHANGE:

- *74% adults reported an improvement in community cohesion*
- *89% adults reported a reduction in utilities (e.g. electricity bills)*
- *78% adults reported an increase in environmentally sustainable behaviour (e.g. recycling, composting and safe waste disposal)*

WATER EXPLORER



Water Explorer is one of our most successful international projects to date and has secured funding for the academic year 2016/17. Water Explorer is a fun and interactive online educational programme inspiring young people to learn about global water issues.

Supported by the HSBC Water Programme and delivered in **11** countries, students navigate GAP's custom platform, completing a series of water-saving missions, and benchmark their progress interactively with their peers nationally and internationally.

In collaboration with UK partners, 79,172 Water Explorers across 11 countries participated in the programme. Over **17,00** schools/teams registered on the site and this number continues to grow. To date **>1.3 million cubic metres** of water have been saved!

In Ireland, GAP inspired **15,723** Water Explorers. Collectively, these Water Explorers have saved **380,999m³** of water and **1,141 tonnes** of CO₂.

Water Explorer's second year saw an expansion of the audience group beyond schools, with growing popularity amongst scouts/guides, church and youth groups. Through Irish connections and collaborations Water Explorer has even reached into remote underprivileged townships in South Africa and engaged children in refugee camps in Germany.

The global reach of Water Explorer is testament to the interactive nature of the website and the impact of user generated content, the quality of the curriculum-linked resources, and the competitive spirit that the website features evoke.

The 2016 National Water Explorer Winners were Berrings National School, Cork who excelled across all of their missions. Berrings National School took their exploration for water conservation beyond their school and into their local community connecting with businesses to audit and suggest how they could reduce their visual and virtual water footprint.





One of the 2016 participating schools gained international recognition for their incredible efforts in water conservation and promoting global water issues. Convent of Mercy National School in Kanturk, Cork won the Water Air and Food Youth Award 2016, which will be presented to their school early in 2017. **This GLOBAL award had never been won in Ireland before.**

Award winning Social Activist Ayrton Cable from London and representatives from UN Global Compact, Dichiarazione di Bruxelles Pledge to Peace and The World Green Organisation will visit Cork to present the prize money and GLOBAL WAF Youth Award.

There are close synergies between the agenda of WAF and Water Explorer's conservation focus through education. The establishment of this relationship is one which GAP hope to build upon into 2017.

ACTION ON GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

GAP launched a new initiative to bring the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the classroom. Our Action on Global Citizenship Toolkit was launched in September 2016 with the aim to help teachers bring Development Education & Global Citizenship into the school curriculum. This toolkit is fully resourced with **20+** activities guiding teachers and students throughout any necessary steps.

In 2017 we will launch teacher trainings and project based student workshops in conjunction with the toolkit in order to further facilitate teacher involvement.



Funded by Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools Programme.

LET'S TALK SCIENCE FESTIVAL



The Let's Talk Science Festival, supported by Science Foundation Ireland, returned to Ballymun for its 2nd year in partnership with the Rediscovery Centre, to promote sustainability themed STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths) activities. Several external science and technology groups were also invited to attend such as the Exploration Dome, and SEAI.

273 people who attended took part in over **15+** experiments and creative activities ranging from: Dry Ice Experiments, Build-Your-Own Flood Defence, The Science of Sand, My Body & Me, The Chemistry of Bubbles, Magnet Science, Acids & Bases, Knex Engineering, and many more.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Every year GAP hosts events around national and international campaigns that promote sustainable lifestyles. In 2016, **310** people came out to the various events hosted around:

- National Tree Week
- Biodiversity Week & Summer Camps
- National Spring Clean
- European Sustainable Development Week
- Heritage Week
- European Mobility Week



AWARDS

- 2016 finalists in the Accenture Digital Media Awards for WaterExplorer.ie
- Shortlisted as NGO of the Year in the Green Awards 2017
- Global Action Plan won the 'Business Sustainability Initiative' - 1st place, at the North West Area City Neighbourhood Awards 2016 and the Virgin Mary Garden took 1st place in the community garden category.
- 'Business Sustainability Initiative' - 1st place, at the Dublin City Neighbourhood Awards 2016
- Heritage Council runner up in the Cool for Kids category in the National Heritage Week Awards

COMMUNICATIONS

GAP programmes and workshops focus on reducing programme participant's use of energy, water and waste. All communications therefore lead to actionable tasks participants can implement while broadening the environmental awareness of all those who engage with GAP.

In addition the goal of the communication strategy is to attract greater number of environmental programme participants, growing GAP's environmental impact nationally. The voice and communication strategy is highly visual, using graphic design and brand avatars to communicate the fun, interactive and flexible nature of GAP's programmes.

Key communication goals in 2016 were to grow GAP's social media footprint and email subscription database:

- **SUBSCRIBERS:** An ever-growing database of schools, teachers, youth group coordinators, community leaders and individuals engaging strongly with monthly e-newsletters. Throughout the year this is one of the strongest channels to generate new registrations for programmes and events, now topping **4,950** subscribers.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Connecting with schools, youth groups and environmental industry influencers, social media is GAP's channel to showcase the achievements of each programme and to promote collaborations or opportunities as they arise within our networks. With a global footprint, social media reach exceeded **328,000** in 2016.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	31/12/2016	31/12/2015
	€	€
INCOME		
Income	207,442	347,553
Grants	59,406	35,962
Total Income	266,848	383,515
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries & Wages	209,666	193,397
Project Costs	52,026	116,222
Administration Costs	63,298	51,524
Total Expenditure	324,990	361,143
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	-58,142	22,372

FUNDING GROUPS

Global Action Plan is funded in two ways, by hosting training courses and workshops for groups and schools and secondly via funding for project specific work through agencies or organisations.

External funding specific work sits comfortably within the overall objective of GAP and although funding from government agencies continues to reduce, it is still a core element of our income.

Our funding groups are as follows:



C A R L O W
C O U N T Y C O U N C I L

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA



Baile Átha Cliath
Dublin City



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Kilkenny
County Council



Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City
& County Council



Wexford
County
Council



Wicklow County Council
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTAIN

GOVERNANCE/COMPLIANCE

Good governance is the cornerstone of a successful and sustainable organisation. At Global Action Plan, we strive to meet the best governance standards driven by the principles of transparency, openness and accountability.

GAP has committed to adopting the Principles of the Governance Code and is now fully compliant with these principles. In 2016, the Global Action Plan Board completed the process set out in the checklist relating to organisational [Type B](#). The Code was formally adopted with the Global Action Plan Board of Directors in May 2016.

GAP is registered and fully compliant with annual reporting requirements to the Charity Regulatory Authority (CRA); registered Charity Number: 20053338.

In 2016 Global Action Plan Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) complied with the transition arrangements of the Companies Act 2014.

In 2016 and continued into 2017 GAP are working towards adopting the Statement of Recommended Practice for Financial Reporting by Charities (SORP).

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2017 GAP will continue to develop and refine programmes to lead education for behaviour change in sustainable living.

With a skilled and focused team, going forward GAP is preparing an expansion of all outreach programmes, including DPSM, Water Explorer and teacher training, for the academic year 2016/17 and beyond. This also includes a partnership with Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools in the development and print of a new teaching resource for development education in secondary teaching.

In addition GAP Ireland's collaboration with GAP international in the development of public and educational resources in the area of food waste and food miles is an area of priority.



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