



2018 Annual Report

*Creating Sustainable Communities*

## Global Action Plan Board of Directors

Penny McRedmond  
Olaf Schmidt  
Síodnha McGowan  
Geoffrey Milton  
Christopher Brown  
Paul Nolan  
Vincent Carragher  
Rory Kelleher

Chairperson  
Secretary  
Director  
Director  
Director  
Resigned 3rd December 2018  
Resigned 14th January 2019  
Resigned 15th February 2019

## Auditors

Nexia Smith & Williamson (Ireland) Limited  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
Paramount Court  
Corrig Road  
Sandyford Industrial Estate  
Dublin 18

## Partners & Supporters

We are very grateful for all of the funding we receive to help empower people to live sustainably. Our funding comes from two sources: (a) by hosting training courses and workshops for groups and schools and (b) secondly via funding for project specific work through agencies or organisations. These funds come from private and public sources.

We would like to sincerely thank our funders who supported us in 2018, including:



# Message from our Chairperson

Welcome to Global Action Plan (GAP) Ireland's Annual Report for 2018.

2018 was a great year for Global Action Plan as we continued to inspire, educate and support communities throughout Ireland to take practical steps towards greener lifestyles. Our core programmes have grown in strength reaching wider audiences creating greater impact by mobilising communities across the country to take action and reinforcing the core principles of sustainability.

Environmental education is critical to empowering individuals to self-assess the extent and nature of their impact on the environment. GAP's environmental education and training programmes are successful now more than ever and are developed to be accessible and engaging for everyone, irrespective of their location (urban or rural), status or educational background.

Sustainability is a goal we share globally, GAP programmes are designed to inform the change of behaviour(s) necessary to achieve this urgent goal and create local champions and young generations who will be the drivers of change and put the world on a more sustainable path.

In 2018, we continued designing, developing and delivering programmes and activities for communities of place and communities of interest, this was informed by the outcomes of a Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation of our programmes carried out in 2016. We remain strongly committed to demonstrating the value of our work to our beneficiaries, funders and wider stakeholders and to provide evidence of that change.

GAP is a charity and as such shares the challenges of the Irish voluntary and community sector. A word of thanks is due to the Board of Directors: each member of the Board works hard to ensure GAP remains an example of good governance and upkeeps the gold sector standard of accountability and transparency throughout all aspects of our work. It is no easy job considering sector challenges and the current funding landscape, but nevertheless we remain committed to maintain and strengthen the work of GAP.

I would like to express a sincere thank you to all of GAP's dedicated staff, interns and volunteers, who are the cornerstone of our success and reach. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our financial supporters and sponsors who share our vision in helping create vibrant, sustainable and resilient communities and financially enable the delivery of our mission.

Penny McRedmond  
Chairperson of Global Action Plan Ireland Board of Directors

# Contents

<b>Message from our Chairperson</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Our Purpose</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2018 Highlights</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Performance &amp; Impact</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Our Work in 2018</b>	<b>8</b>
Water Explorer	
Action on Global Citizenship	
Action on Global Goals	
Environmental Stewardship	
Beautiful Spaces Competition	
Food Explorer Programme	
GLÁS Community Garden	
Public Events	
Community & Professional Development	
Communications and Reach	
<b>Governance &amp; Compliance</b>	<b>19</b>
Compliance & Governance Code	
Organisational Finances	
Memberships	
<b>Looking Towards The Future</b>	<b>22</b>

# Our Purpose

## CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

We use environmental education and awareness to support schools, communities and businesses to take practical, environmental actions to live sustainably. As part of GAP International, a global network of organisations in over 27 countries, we facilitate behaviour change in the promotion of environmental sustainability.

## OUR MISSION

To empower and inspire individuals to develop long-term, sustainable consumption habits, focusing on our themes of [Water](#), [Energy](#), [Waste](#), [Food](#).



## OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

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

## OUR STRATEGY

We develop workshops and training programmes tailored to participants' skill level and knowledge base. To do this, we employ a national team of environmental educators and expert facilitators. As a result, our workshops & programmes have touched the lives of people throughout Ireland and changed their behaviour in a more sustainable manner.

# 2018 Highlights



A Park Steward in our Community Garden

Our aim is to catalyse action at a local level and create local community ownership to ensure that implementation is done in ways that are sensitive and meaningful for the local community. The purpose is to help people visualise how collective local action can lead to a global impact.

Each of our workshops, programmes, and events are structured with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and national curriculum as a framework, hence ensuring our resources act as a conduit for individual action and collective impact.

In 2018, we completed 263 workshops throughout Ireland, with a total of 7,108 participants engaged.



64 Water Workshops



42 Global Citizenship Workshops



16 Climate Change Workshops



44 Biodiversity Workshops



3 Energy Workshops



8 Waste Workshops



7,108 Participants



263 total workshops

# Performance & Impact

GAP Ireland creates **long term learning** pathways for communities, as we believe that sustainability is a journey and not a destination. The programmes sign post what happens next for communities afterwards – that they themselves take on life-long learning approaches to sustainability in their lives and then by effect in the communities.

By using Global Action Plan’s ‘Action at’ process, GAP **empowers participants** to make change in their communities. This process involves participants taking on issues of local concern and trying to change them from within.



Students learning about biodiversity in our garden

**Measurement** is key to determining the success of these changes. We measure the impact and savings of participants’ actions across every sustainability programme, using these results for ongoing development, support and feedback.

We also undertake ongoing evaluation of our programmes and feed comments and constructive criticism into our review processes.

In 2018, evaluations across all programmes were again very positive, receiving high scores across the board:

## Park Stewardship Programme\*:

- 100% -“Workshop series content”
- 100%-“Effectiveness of teaching methods”
- 100% -“Students overall enjoyment of workshop series”
- 100%- “Fitted with the curriculum”

\* Teacher satisfaction rate

## Action on Global Citizenship Programme\*:

- 42%- Teacher Knowledge\*
- 34%- Teacher Skills Increase\*
- 34%- Student Knowledge\*
- 38%- Student Action\*

\*Figures show percentage increase

# Performance & Impact

## A Year in Quotes

*"Thank you very much for this series of workshops in the Park Stewardship Program. It was a terrific set of lessons put together expertly. The structure, activities, knowledge and enthusiasm brought by GAP were quite brilliant and I think it's been a brilliant thing to be a part of. I have thoroughly enjoyed each week and I know the boys have as well."*

- Vice Principal, St. Joseph's Senior School



Litter picking with St. Joseph's School



Interactive learning at Bull Island

*"I liked it because it was really fun and we learned a lot about the environment and lots of animals. It was great to learn outside."*

- Student, aged 10.

*"[The Action on Global Citizenship workshop] exposes students to issues in the wider world, empowering students to take action. Students then bring their learning home and into the community."*

- Teacher, Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount, Dublin 8.



Teacher training in Laois



# Our Work in 2018

## Water Explorer

Water Explorer is a **fun and interactive** online educational programme. Students from **12 countries** learn about local and global water issues. Over the last **4 years** students have challenged themselves to complete water-saving missions through Water Explorer and have competed with other participating students to benchmark their progress.



Students on the Water Explorer programme reviewing their work



Water conservation awareness raising with Rathlee National School

By the end of 2018, **4,900,000 Water Explorers** were reached and **327,000 participated** across 12 countries in the programme. To date, **3,500 teams** have saved **3 million cubic metres** of water.

In Ireland we reached over **854 new Water Explorers** and registered **20 new teams** in 2018. **544** Irish registered teams saved **74,719 cubic metres of water** and prevented **223.16 tonnes of CO2** from going in the atmosphere. Some examples of what they did are:

- Upcycled water bottles into foot stools and decorative items;
- Hosting a water festival and fundraiser to raise awareness about secret water;
- Gardening workshops to highlight the importance of water to grow food.

In 2018, we had the opportunity to collaborate locally with the Northside Partnership, delivering water workshops to [2 primary schools](#) and [2 youth groups](#).

The aim was to raise awareness of the [Santry River](#), and foster an interest and appreciation of it as an important wildlife habitat and also as an important part of a local community.



Students completing the 'Clean that Water Up!' challenge



The Water Explorer Awards in London

The 2018 International Water Explorer Champions were [Rathlee National School](#). Their hard work paid off as they attended the Water Explorer Awards in London.



Water Explorers from Rathlee National School

## Action on Global Citizenship

Action on Global Citizenship is a national programme that aims to engage secondary schools and secondary schools' teachers to deliver Global Citizenship Education in the classroom with a focus on the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). Between 2017 and 2018, we delivered [10 training sessions in 10 Education Centres](#) nationwide, which saw [112 teachers attending from 21 counties](#). Since teachers are multipliers in their communities of learning, GAP's structure of disseminations for the programme is key to its extended national reach.



The three-part programme, funded by Irish Aid's World Wise Global Schools, includes a teacher resource, teacher training and schools' project to facilitate the introduction of Global Citizenship and the SDGs in the classroom. In 2018 we secured more funding for this programme and have seen the demand for this resource to grow.

## Teacher Toolkits

In 2018, over [60 teachers toolkits](#) were downloaded from our website. These toolkits offer over 25 interactive activities, SDGs cards and photos. As a result, teachers can introduce themes such as ecological footprints, global justice, sustainable communities and many more to students. In 2018 we also completed a toolkit review, and prepared a revised version to be released in 2019.



## Schools Project

Our schools project empowers students to build campaigns around the SDGs. In 2018 we engaged over [100 students](#), across 5 secondary schools in the Greater Dublin Area.



## Action On Global Goals

In 2018, we began our pilot project [Action on Global Goals](#) funded by Irish Aid. Stemming from the need to engage adult and community groups with environmental issues and the [SDGs](#), a pilot resource and a series of workshops were designed. The aims of these educational workshops are:

- to explore the environmental themed goals of the SDGs;
- to engage small group conversation to collaboratively identify actions and strategies that will support implementation of the Global Goals;
- to catalyse action at a local level in communities and create local community ownership of the SDGs to ensure that implementation is done in ways that are sensitive and meaningful to a local community;
- to help people visualise how collective local action can lead to a global impact.



In 2018 we began the design process of the Action on Global Goals resource. The resource uses a mix of [Development Education](#) and [Education for Sustainable Development methodologies](#).

All activities used are in line with the *All Irelands Standards for Community Work*, which are *Participation, Empowerment, Collectivity, Social Justice, Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Equality and Anti-Discrimination*.

Pulling from [local issues and global issues](#), the participants gained insight into how the SDGs demonstrate the interconnectedness of the world and gained practical tools and support to start taking action on global issues by targeting local problems. In 2018 our pilot project engaged 5 community groups to trial the programme which fed into the development of the resource.

## Environmental Stewardship

The Park Stewardship Programme aims to engage **local primary school** students in supporting the long-term care, ownership and protection of local parks, while also engaging young people with the relevant authorities and agencies that are charged with the overall management and social responsibility for parks, green and open spaces.

In 2018, Global Action Plan ran **4 programmes with 4 schools** in the Ballymun area, totalling **38 workshops**. **113 students** proudly graduated as Park Stewards.



Students on the Park Stewards Programme



## Beautiful Spaces Competition

The Beautiful Spaces competition aims to encourage all schools and youth groups within the community to ‘green up and clean up’ their local area. The competition encourages ownership of open public spaces and amenity areas and rewards young people for their efforts to improve their locality.

This year the Beautiful Spaces awards were launched in April 2018 with 8 groups participating. The theme of this year’s competition was pollinators, with our judges noting actions such as planting pollinator-specific plants and/or creating habitats for bees and butterflies.

Congratulations to all our winners:

	Primary and Younger School
Winner: Best for Pollinators	Virgin Mary GNS
Runner up & Best Visual Display	Our Lady of Victories Boys School
Best Raising Awareness	Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch
Best Composting & Organic Gardening	Glor na nGael
Best Participation	Poppintree Early Education Centre

	Youth Group
Winner: Best for Pollinators	BRYR Youth Club
Runner up & Best Visual Display	Ballymun Youth Reach
Best Improvement of Space for People to Enjoy	STAR Project



## Food Explorer Programme

The Food Explorer Programme is aimed at local schools. It provides opportunities for young people to learn about **food production** and raises awareness on the **environmental impacts** of food production and waste.

The four main themes for the workshops are:

- food and biodiversity;
- food and climate change;
- food and waste;
- food and water.

These include learning about the importance of pollinators, food sustainability, food miles and the hidden water in food.



Students testing the harvest during the Food Explorer Programme

The final session also includes a trip to the **GLÁS community garden** to get hands-on experience of planting crops and pollinator-friendly plants, rainwater harvesting, and composting, which also demonstrates to students the importance of growing food at a local level using planting beds, polytunnels and geodomes



Students working in the garden



Students visiting the Grow Dome

In 2018, Global Action Plan delivered **8 workshops** over 2 weeks in 2 local Schools in Ballymun, reaching a total of **42 students**.



Dublin City

Baile Átha Cliath

Funded by Dublin City Council

## GLÁS Community Garden

GAP Ireland manages the GLÁS Community Garden on Shangan Drive in Ballymun. In 2018, the garden was open for ten months, from 13th March to 5th December.

In total in 2018, there were **68 open days** and **730 visitors** to the garden.

A **diverse mix** of people use the garden, which offers volunteers a place to learn about growing food, plants, sustainability and the environment. The garden acts as a social hub.

Groups that regularly use the garden include: **St. Michaels House, Ballark Community Training Centre, Saol Clubhouse and the Central Remedial Clinic**, as well as regularly attending individuals / local residents and local primary schools.

In 2018, there were several development projects in the garden, including:

- the addition of a **geodome** which was funded by a once off grant from Patagonia;
- extensive work carried out on the pond;
- cleaning and remedial work on the polytunnel;
- improvements to the bottle house;
- building of a propagation bed to hold stock.

The number of plants planted in the garden also increased, with **9 trees**, **117 vegetable plants** planted, **252 seeds** planted and **146 other plants** planted in 2018.



Dublin City

Baile Átha Cliath

Funded by Dublin City Council



# Public Events

## National Biodiversity Week

For National Biodiversity Week in May, Global Action Plan engaged with Our Lady of Victories Boys' National School in a bespoke programme of events. **46 students and teachers** were taken to **Poppintree Park** to expose the students to parks and to ignite an appreciation of their importance.

The aim was to show how respectful use of our local parks is key to their protection and preservation.



Local biodiversity in the park



Investigating soil at the science week

## National Heritage Week

For National Heritage Week in August, Global Action Plan organised and delivered an exciting and bespoke event in the GLAS Community Garden. Entitled '**Ogham and Growing**', the event highlighted our Ogham heritage and the heritage of plants and vegetables that were grown in past times and how they relate to current gardening and growing methods today.

The community of Ballymun benefitted from **Ogham scripting sessions** and a display showing what people in Ireland have grown and consumed over the past three hundred years, which included foods for guests to taste. **Ballark**, one of the voluntary groups that work in the garden, made Ogham signs for the beds in the garden, which are now a permanent feature of the garden.

## Science Week Event / (Let's Talk Science Festival):

Global Action Plan partnered with the **Rediscovery Centre (RDC)** in Ballymun to host the Let's Talk Science Festival, which was funded by **Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)**. The festival, which was held in the RDC, took place on the 15th and 17th of November with an evening aimed at adults and a family day respectively.

2018 theme was food and GAP Ireland hosted two stands with **STEM-based experiments** showing the energy in food and the microorganisms in a composting heap, as well as tips on composting and reducing food waste, and information on the latest research on extracting energy from food and the use of palm oil and its environmental impact.

# Communications & Reach

In order to reach out to as wide an audience as possible, our vision is promoted throughout all our communication. Through [social media](#), [press releases](#), and [blogs](#) we promote positive behaviour changing actions as well as environmental awareness. By reaching out to a broader audience, everyone can be empowered to live sustainably. Readers that engage with our communication are also introduced to our programmes, increasing their participation.

To promote our strategy, we make sure to keep up to date with national and international environmental campaigns as well as environmental news. To engage with a varied audience, we use a highly visual strategy with brand avatars that communicate the fun, interactive, and flexible nature of our programmes.

Key communication goals in 2018 were to grow GAP's social media footprint and email subscription database:

- **Website:** Total searches reached over [7,394 hits](#)
- **Social Media:** Our following reached new levels with [1,770 Facebook](#) and [2,071 Twitter](#) followers. Through Facebook and Twitter we engaged [214,606 people](#). Since then, we have updated our Instagram and LinkedIn accounts from which we have been gaining even more followers.
- **GAP In the Press:** Throughout the year, we were featured in [20 press releases](#) that reached out to over [1,905,082 people](#) throughout the country during our [#showergoals campaign](#) to encourage the public to take shorter showers during the heatwave. Examples of newspapers that featured us include: The Irish Independent, The Irish Daily Mirror, Joe.ie, KFM Evening Echo, Irish Examiner, Breaking News.ie and The Sun.



# Community & Professional Development

Each year, we support various sustainability efforts throughout the Ballymun community. These projects are critical to our mission.

## Greening Neighbourhoods Project:

The aim is to motivate and empower local residents to take care and improve their local area. In 2018, there were 5 Greening Neighbourhood Projects led by GAP. The planting of a mix of herb plants, shrubs and flowers was carried out to provide a pleasing aesthetic and habitats and food for wildlife, including insects and small nesting birds. GAP also carried out extensive aftercare and we have seen positive results in terms of the sustainability and effectiveness of the workshops, with many of the participants continuing to maintain the areas after the initial planting.

In total, there were:

- 5 workshops run in the Ballymun area
- 59 residents that engaged with the programme.
- 7 trees and 241 plants planted across all the projects.

All respondents for Greening Neighbourhoods gave the project 4 or 5 out of 5.

*“I felt it brought out a lot in the community and working together. It brought the square together and the kids have to keep their area nice and clean.” - Denise, Hollytree Square*

## Community Waste Management workshops:

In response to the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Anti Litter League results for Ballymun, Global Action Plan proposed a series of community waste management workshops aimed at a broad range of community stakeholders who wished to start clean up activities in their community.

These workshops were run in for a range of local community groups, businesses and individuals. The themes for the workshops included:

- Master Compost
- Food Waste
- Recycling & Reducing Waste



# Governance & Compliance

## Compliance & Governance Code

Good governance is the cornerstone of a successful and sustainable organisation. At GAP Ireland, we strive to meet the best governance 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 following legislation 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.

GAP remains committed to the [Principles of the Governance Code](#) and has been fully compliant with these principles since May 2016, as Type B organisation under this code.

GAP has now committed to fully adopt the [Charities Regulator Governance Code](#), which was launched in 2018, and be compliant by 2020.

GAP is registered and fully compliant with annual reporting requirements to the [Charity Regulatory Authority \(CRA\)](#) and is on the journey to [SORP \(Statement of Recommended Practice\)](#) compliance for accounting and financial practices.

Since 2017, we have been signatories of the [Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages](#), which provides a best practices' framework for organisations for images and messages use in communications. These guidelines promote dignity, equality, fairness, solidarity, and justice for everyone involved.



## Organisational Finances

GAP Ireland has been working with Nexia Smith & Williamson (Ireland) Limited to ensure transparency and accountability with our accounts and financial statements. Furthermore, copies of our Accounts Audited for the last two years can be found on our website under Governance & Compliance.

	31/12/2018	31/12/2017
	€	€
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>274,739</b>	<b>261,950</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Salaries & Wages	185,641	209,666
Project Costs	31,781	52,026
Administration Costs	66,454	63,298
Total Expenditure	<b>283,876</b>	<b>324,990</b>
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<b>-9,137</b>	<b>-58,142</b>

## Memberships

Developing a community of sustainability oriented individuals is the most effective way to create meaningful impact. This concept does not only apply at individual level, but the organisational level. We are proud to work with various membership organisations that bring organisations together.

We are members in the following membership networks:



The Irish Association of Non-Governmental  
Development Organisations



# Looking towards the Future

At Global Action Plan we believe that empowered individuals can make a difference!

2018 has been a busy year for GAP – our Annual Report only provides a glimpse of the trojan efforts and work of our committed team and Board of Directors, empowering communities with solution-based workshops and activities, equipping people of all ages and backgrounds with the knowledge to bring sustainable practices to their everyday lives.

GAP Ireland remains committed to support the achievement of the targets set by the the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which have given us a universal set of global activities, and an agreed framework, to build a better and more equal society for all. We all have a responsibility to become leaders and champions of these goals so that we can work towards ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring equality and prosperity for all. In order to achieve these goals, GAP does and will keep engaging with different groups of Irish society and enable drivers of change to put the world on a more sustainable path.

We look forward to 2019 to further inspire, educate and support individual, communities and business across the country to live their lives sustainably and take this valuable opportunity to thank each and everyone who keep working with us and supporting us to achieve our mission.

*Eufemia Solinas*  
Chief Executive Officer





Global Action Plan Ireland  
Axis Ballymun, Main Street  
Dublin 9, D09 Y9WO, Ireland

Phone: +353 883 2185  
[info@globalactionplan.ie](mailto:info@globalactionplan.ie)  
[www.globalactionplan.ie](http://www.globalactionplan.ie)

 @globalactionplanireland  
 @gapireland  
 GAP Ireland  
 @gapireland  
 Global Action Plan Ireland

CRA Number: 20053338  
Company Number; 346806  
Charity Number: CHY 15448