Climate Resilient Schools: Empowering Young People and Children to Implement Community-Based Nature-Based Solutions

The Task:

Investigate: How Spongy is Your School?

Rainfall and Flood Resilience

In January 2023, 20 Schools across Ireland investigated rainfall patterns, soil infiltration rates, and flood-related risks and nature-based resilience-building opportunities on school grounds

Explore: How *Cool* is Your School?

Surface Temperature, Land Cover, and NBS

In March, 2023, 30 schools across Ireland measured and compared surface temperature and surface-related heat risks, investigating corresponding nature-based urban cooling solutions

These projects were developed and coordinated by GLOBE Ireland. GLOBEIreland is part of the International GLOBE Programme, an Earth-System Citizen Science Education Programme supported by NASA. GLOBE Ireland is based in the Environmental Education Unit of the Irish NGO AnTaisce and is funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Angency.

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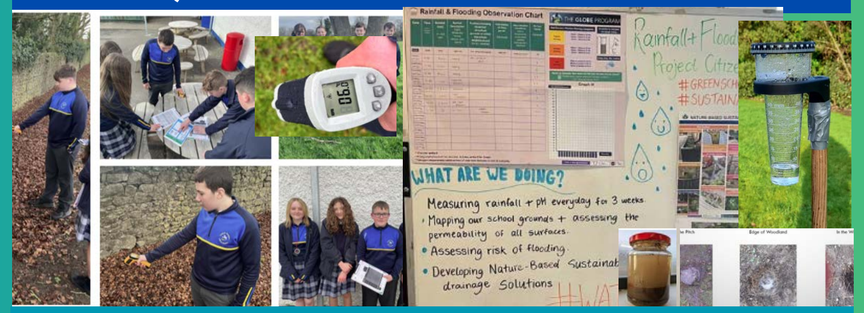
Learn more about GLOBE Observation at globe.gov

The Process:

1) Investigate and learn from experts

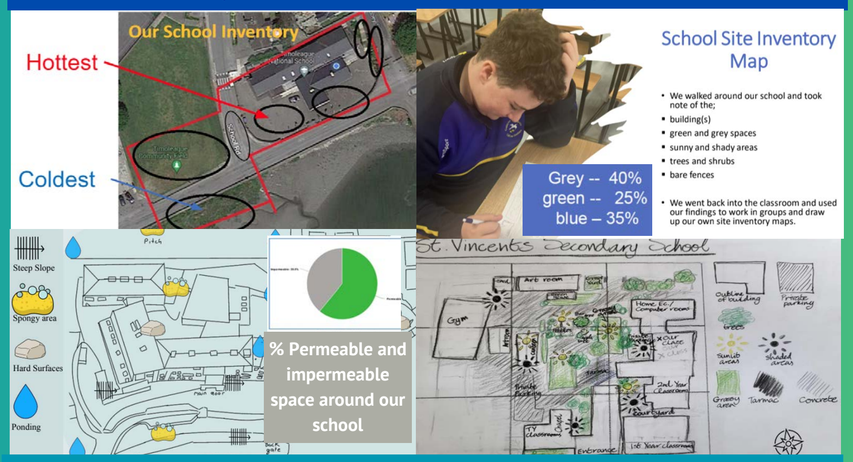
Students listened to experts representing university professors, sustainability engineers, local entrepreneurs, meteorologists, and local authorities.

2) Evidence-Based Earth Observation



Over a set time duration the students used the scientific method and GLOBE-approved protocols to investigate the topics. A material resource bundle was sent to all participating schools.

3) Site inventory and analysis

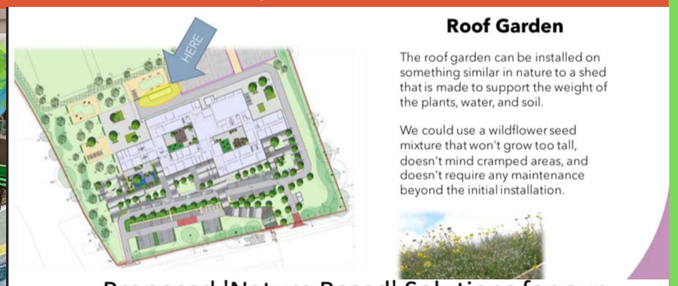


Students completed in-depth land cover analysis around the school and neighbourhood to create site inventories using a GLOBEIreland -developed climate risk checklist.
Site maps highlighted opportunities for implementing nature-based solutions.

The Outcomes:

Student-created climate-resilient school designs:

A selection created by students ages 9-16



Proposed 'Nature Based' Solutions for our School Environment

Student-led Implementation underway..

Mini ponds

Mini ponds

Rain Gardens

& more coming...

Local Authority Implementation Support

Upon completion of the climate-resilient school proposals, the Irish Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and the local Water Authorities Protection Office (LAWPRO) offered to deliver a total of 7.500 EUR across 14 schools across the country to pilot the implementation of their Nature-Based Solutions.
Schools will start implementing the projects September '23
Projects Include: Green Roof developments, rain gardens, ponds, tree planting, hedge planting, living walls, and permeable pavement

Any questions about this project, contact: mayagryestenfields@gmail.com

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