**Schools Environmental Competition**

The aim of the Competition is to showcase environmental projects, undertaken by local Westmeath schools. This competition is open to any and all schools [pre-school, National and Secondary] within the County. The project can be undertaken by a group within a class, a class, a group of classes or the whole school.

The projects are based on environmental positive actions/message within a school. The 2025 project is for each applicant school to make, plant and grow 4 flowering window boxes. The magnitude of the window boxes is not overly important but rather weighted towards the sustainability of the box and/or if the box can be built upon in future years. However, as an environmental project, upcycling and recycled materials must be used. Above all, it should be educational, artistic, fun and where possible innovative. So, make a statement and go large and be original as often as you can.

**Judging:**

Each submission will be adjudicated on the submitted entry and received photographs. If an inspection is required such participating School(s) will be notified of that inspection date in advance.

Judging will be marked on

* Innovation (overall appearance and originality)
* Presentation (art and plant growth)
* Sustainability (upcycling, recycled materials used)

**Sub-Categories**

There is a separate Secondary School, National School, and Pre-school category and there will also be an overall winner of the competition.

**Conditions & Guidelines of the Competition:**

* The school must produce four flowering window boxes and it must be created from 100% recycled and/or upcycled materials.
* The materials must not be bought new but must be sourced from items that were being dumped, no longer in use or donated. All permissions for use and/or acquiring and/or upcycling (in part or otherwise) of materials is a matter for that school.
* There is no size limit on the item created and it is intended that the window boxes will be displayed at the Cathaoirleach awards event.
* The school can submit mutable, but indolently created entries.
* 5 photographs of the construction phases of the project together with 3 photographs of the completed window-boxes must be submitted with your application (these may be used in promotional material for the Cathaoirleach Awards).
* No Faces of The Children, all schools must have written consent from parents for photos to be used for promotional activities for the Cathaoirleach Awards.
* Only applications from Secondary School, National School, and Pre-school within County Westmeath will be accepted.

**Schools Environmental Competition**

* Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.
* Competing entries will be invited to the Westmeath Cathaoirleach Awards and the winner(s) announced at that event.
* The Westmeath Cathaoirleach Awards and the related competitions are run in good faith by Westmeath County Council.

**Prize’s**

* **Overall Winner** Trophy and €750
* **Secondary School** 1st Prize - Trophy and €500

2nd Prize - Trophy and €250

* **National School** 1st Prize - Trophy and €500

2nd Prize - Trophy and €250

* **Preschools** 1st Prize - Trophy and €500

2nd Prize- Trophy and €250

**Application:**

Online Applications must be completed by 4pm Friday 7th March 2025.

Supporting documentation (including photos etc) and any further queries can be submitted by email to: [communitygrants@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:communitygrants@westmeathcoco.ie) or telephone 044 9332051.

**Closing date for applications is Friday 7th March 2025**

**Schools Environmental Competition Application Form**

**Please complete all sections in block writing.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DETAILS OF SCHOOL** | | | | | | |
| **Name of school** |  | | | | | |
| **Name of Principal** |  | | | | | |
| **Contact person** |  | | | | | |
| **Contact Email address** |  | | | | | |
| **Telephone Number** |  | | | | | |
| **Postal Address** |  | | | **Eircode** |  | |
| **Municipal District (please tick)** | | **Mullingar-Kinnegad MD** |  | **Athlone-Moate MD** | |  |
|  | | | | | | |
| **APPLICATION DETAILS** | | | | | | |

**Please attach with this application full details of the proposed project including the following information:**

Class/Year of project team: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of project: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Before and after pictures: 5 photographs of the construction phases 3 photographs of the completed window-boxes

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Start Date** |  | | **Project completion date** | |  | |
| **Tick the School Type** | **Secondary School** |  | **National School** |  | **Pre-School** |  |
| **How many students attend the school?** | |  |
|  | |  |

**Declaration**

I have read and understand the terms of the competition and I hereby consent to allow Westmeath County Council to use the submitted photographs of this project, on social media or otherwise, for Community and/or Environment related promotional work. I confirm that the work completed was undertaking by the class students (under supervision) and that all material used is 100% recycled and/or upcycled materials. I acknowledge and accept that this competition has been run in good faith by Westmeath County Council The cost of all entries is sole responsibility of the school and all costs and charges will be discharged, no matter how incurred, in full by the participating school.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signed** |  |
| **Please Print Name** |  |
| **Position** |  |
| **Date** |  |