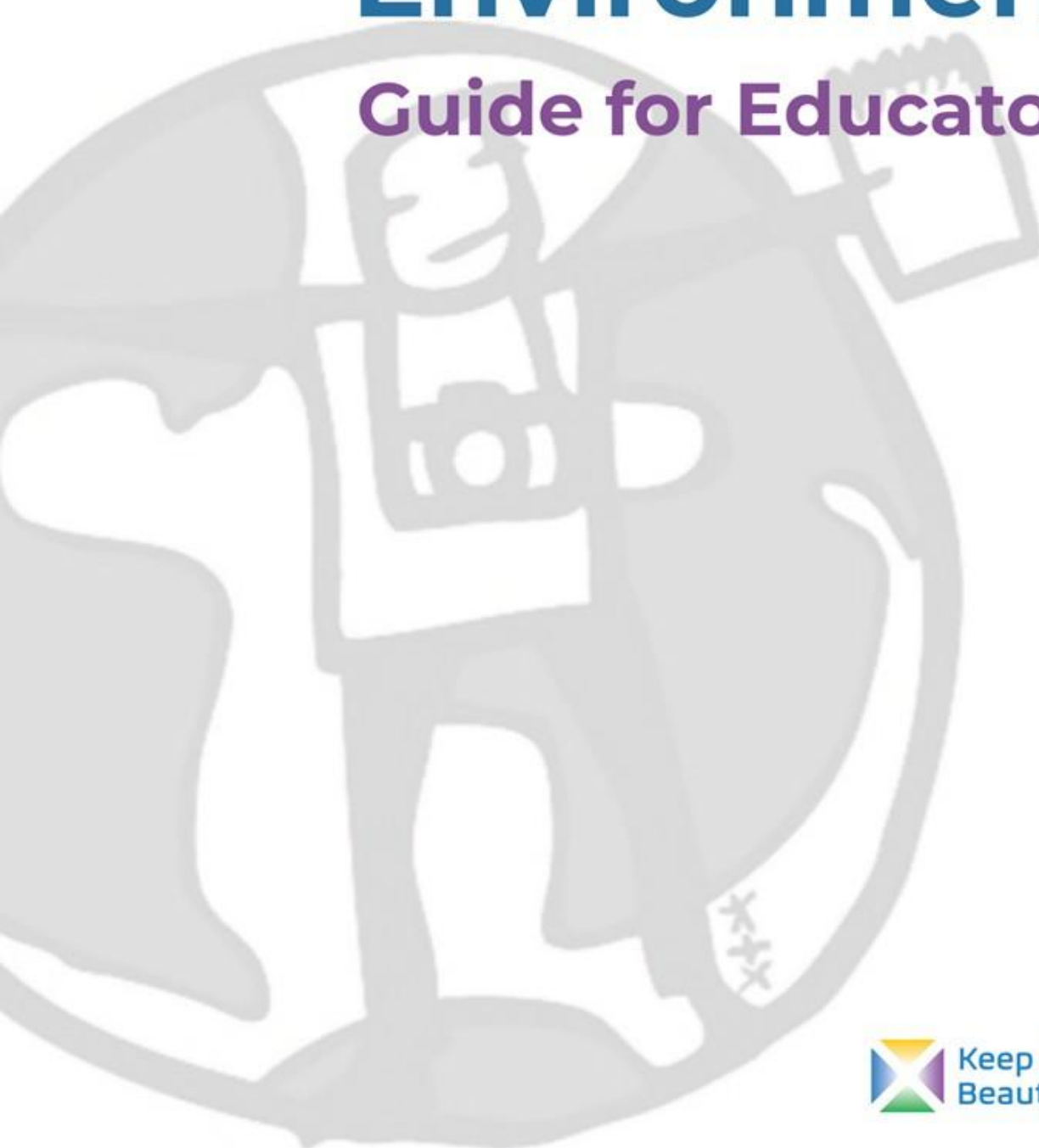




Young Reporters
for the environment

Young Reporters for the Environment

Guide for Educators



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What is Young Reporters?

Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) is an environmental journalism programme and competition that gives young people aged 8 to 25 an opportunity to speak on environmental issues through writing, photography, podcasting or video.

We know that young people care deeply about the environment and believe in the importance of channelling that concern into actionable solutions. Through YRE, young people become powerful advocates within their communities, inspiring all those around them. Our young reporters are actively shaping a future sustainable planet.

For over 30 years the YRE programme has been encouraging young leaders to investigate environmental issues and drive positive, solution focused change. Scotland joined the YRE programme in 2013, and now in 2025 YRE reaches over half a million young people in 44 countries worldwide.

YRE supports the development of communication, initiative-taking, and critical analysis meta-skills through storytelling, photography, and videography. The four steps of YRE provide young people with valuable life skills and knowledge to leverage media and their own voices.

Through YRE, young people can:

- Learn how to conduct a good interview or questionnaire
- Learn how to find trustworthy sources of information and avoid disinformation
- Learn how to craft a good story with photos, videos or words
- Encourage others to take action for the environment
- Join a network of more than 500,000 young people worldwide speaking up for the environment.

YRE is suitable for:

- Youth groups, or youth forums
- Photography clubs or classes
- Eco-Committees or Pupil Councils
- Uniform groups like Scouts or Guides
- Home education
- Individuals interested in journalism or the environment

Deadline for entries to the 2026 YRE competition is **Earth Day 22 April 2026**

Four Elements

Like its sister programme Eco-Schools, YRE is based on a set of Elements grounded in Project-Based Learning (PBL), an approach where young people take the lead in identifying a problem, investigating its causes and impacts, and developing solutions. YRE also makes links to the Sustainable Development Goals.



Investigate

Start by choosing an environmental issue you're interested in. Gather information from sources like scientific papers, reports, or interviews to understand the scale of the issue.



Research & Propose Solutions

Research potential solutions to the issue. Contact organisations or community leaders to find the most effective solutions. Conduct original research like surveys, or interviews with people making a difference. Ask: what is being done to solve this environmental issue? What more could or should be done?



Report

Put your research findings into an exciting report. This could be photographs, a video, a podcast or an article. What media works best for your audience? Take a positive approach to inspiring change without shying away from criticism. Present your findings objectively, with clear reasoning and evidence.



Share

Share your report with your audience through social media, newspaper, magazine, TV, or radio, at an exhibition at a library or village hall, a film screening or a community meeting. Take part in discussions with others who share your interest for environmental responsibility.



Sustainable Development Goals

Have a look at the Sustainable Development Goals to link your issue to the bigger global picture. The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of global priorities for ensuring that economic, environmental, social and cultural wellbeing is achieved for everyone around the world.

YRE and Skills Development:

Participating in Young Reporters can support the development of [Meta Skills](#) including:

- **Curiosity:** in looking for a solution to an environmental problem or wanting to learn more about a project already happening.
- **Sense Making:** in explaining a solution and presenting a convincing justification.
- **Creativity:** creating an interesting report – whether it is an article, photograph, video, or podcast, requires strong storytelling and content creation skills.
- **Critical Thinking:** independent research, considering different perspectives and finding relevant information.
- **Communicating:** Creating a persuasive and engaging report requires strong communication skills. Additionally, sharing your report on social media and participating in discussions requires strong public engagement and advocacy skills.
- **Leadership:** Creating a powerful report will motivate others to act for the environment.
- **Collaborating:** Connecting with a diverse network of like-minded young people around the world. Group entries are welcomed and can foster collaboration skills.
- **Initiative:** Gathering independent information to answer the questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How? and confidence in public speaking when presenting a report or interviewing members of the community to understand their perspectives.

In addition, YRE can also support the development of Information Literacy in learning to distinguish credible sources, find biases, and analyse information objectively to avoid [disinformation](#).

YRE Supporting A Curriculum for Excellence:

The report format of Young Reporters for the Environment can fit well within subjects and qualifications across the curriculum including but not limited to:

- National 3 Geography: Global Issues
- BGE: English, Gaelic (Learners), Gàidhlig, and Social Subjects.
- National 4 English: English Creation & Production
- Higher and Advanced Higher English
- National 4, National 5 or Higher Media
- National 5 Gàidhlig: Component 4: Obair shònraichte–sgrìobhadh
- National 4 Gàidhlig: Creation and Production
- Higher Photography
- Skills for Work: Creative Digital Media
- Skills for Work: Creative Industries

In addition, YRE can support learning in colleges as part of qualifications such as:

- HNC or HND Media & Communication
- HNC or HND Photography

If you are interested in using YRE in your classroom and need support, please get in touch with us at youngreporters@keepscotlandbeautiful.org.

Competition Deadlines

The YRE Competition is held annually in two stages. Each participating country holds its own national competition, and winners of those competitions then progress to the international competition.

In Scotland, the deadline for entries to the 2026 YRE competition is **Earth Day 22 April 2026** but you can submit an entry at any point before that. All young people aged 8-25 are welcome to send in an entry either individually or in groups. Results of the Scottish Competition are announced by Keep Scotland Beautiful in the second week of May and we then send winners of each category on to the international competition.

The international competition is open to young people aged 11 to 25. International competition results are usually announced by the Foundation for Environmental Education in the first week in June.

Have a look at each category on our website to see previous winners.

Stay Connected

[Sign up to our mailing list](#) to receive monthly information including resources, training opportunities and events.

Visit our [Padlet](#) for a summary of what's coming up across all our Climate Action Schools programmes, including Live Lessons, training for pupils and educators, and other exciting opportunities.



We support the Sustainable Development Goals.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is your charity for Scotland's environment. We work with you to help combat climate change, reduce litter and waste, restore nature and biodiversity and improve places. We aim to inspire changes in behaviour to improve our environment, the quality of people's lives, their wellbeing and the places that they care for.



**Keep Scotland
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