

Publication

Climate Youth Delegate Programme

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The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, working in collaboration with the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), have established the annual **Climate Youth Delegate Programme**.

Each year, the Climate Youth Delegate Programme will appoint one young person from Ireland aged between 18-25 years to be part of Ireland's national and international climate change efforts for a term of 20 months. The goal of this programme is to provide the Department with a channel to support the active participation of young people in international climate policy and processes and ensure Ireland's official delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) benefit from the perspectives and knowledges of youth in its work.

Each Climate Youth Delegate serves a term of 20 months. They will be tasked with raising awareness of Ireland's international climate action efforts through sharing informative and engaging social media posts, including, where possible, interviews with high-level representatives. The Climate Youth Delegate will also reach out to youth communities and networks across Ireland to share knowledge and gather ideas and solutions. These will feed into Ireland's national and international climate change priorities.

As part of their role, the Climate Youth Delegate will be invited to accompany the Taoiseach, Ministers or Departmental officials at different national and international climate change negotiations each year to represent the voices of Irish youth.

These events may include:

- [National Youth Assembly on Climate \(https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/3fd5d-national-youth-assembly-on-climate-2023/\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/3fd5d-national-youth-assembly-on-climate-2023/).

- Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP) – Annual UN climate conference (<https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>).
- Meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC (SBs) (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/governing-and-subsidiary-bodies>).

You can read what the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, had to say on the launch of the programme [here](#).

Applications for this programme open early each spring. Please visit the [National Youth Council of Ireland website](#) (<https://www.youth.ie/articles/applications-now-open-climate-youth-delegate-programme/>) for details.

If you would like to learn more and stay up to date with news and information about the Ireland's Climate Youth Delegates' work, you can follow them on Instagram at [@climateyouthdelegate.irl](#). (https://www.instagram.com/climateyouthdelegate_irl/). More information is also available on the NYCI website. Additionally, those holding youth events in Ireland can contact info@nyci.ie (<mailto:info@nyci.ie>) to invite the Climate Youth Delegates to attend.

Ireland's Climate Youth Delegates

Oileán Carter Stritch – Climate Youth Delegate 2022-2023

Oileán Carter Stritch is a 23 year old climate justice advocate from Clondalkin, Dublin. Oileán has been involved with Change Clothes Crumlin since its beginning, where she helps to run community sustainability and upcycling events in Dublin. The aim of the initiative is to be accessible, sustainable and to take the doom and gloom out of climate change and allow a space for action. On a national level, she represents Irish youth in the National Climate Delegation and is a part of Plan International Ireland's Youth Advisory Panel. (<https://www.plan.ie/global-citizenship/>).

Internationally, Oileán is Ireland's first official Climate Youth Delegate with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the National Youth Council of Ireland, where she attended COP27. She also attended COP26 and COY12 on behalf of ECO-UNESCO, where she began her activism almost 8 years ago.

Jennifer (Jenny) Salmon – Climate Youth Delegate 2023-2024

Jennifer (Jenny) Salmon is a 21-year-old LLB student at Trinity College Dublin. In 2022/23 she represented Irish youth at an international level at COP27 in Egypt with NGO Concern Worldwide as their inaugural Youth Climate Ambassador. (<https://www.concern.net/press-releases/concerns-climate-youth-ambassador-bringing-messages-irish-people-cop27>) With Concern Worldwide, Jenny has advocated for climate justice, speaking at events and on social media, to amplify the voices of those presently suffering the effects of the climate crisis. Her core focus in climate activism is continuing to amplify the voices of those suffering now, and increasing participation.

Jenny has also acted as a youth representative in the European Parliament in Strasbourg with Rotary Ireland and with the European Parliament in Brussels. She has a background in NGO work, having previously held intern positions with FLAC Ireland and Concern Worldwide.

Jenny was part of Oireachtas 100 Dáil centenary celebrations where she delivered a TedX talk on the ethics of technology for people and planet. Additionally, through Jenny's work with Trinity FLAC as Moot Court Convenor 2022/23 and Secretary for 2023/24, she fosters her belief in the promotion of access to justice at home and abroad.

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