

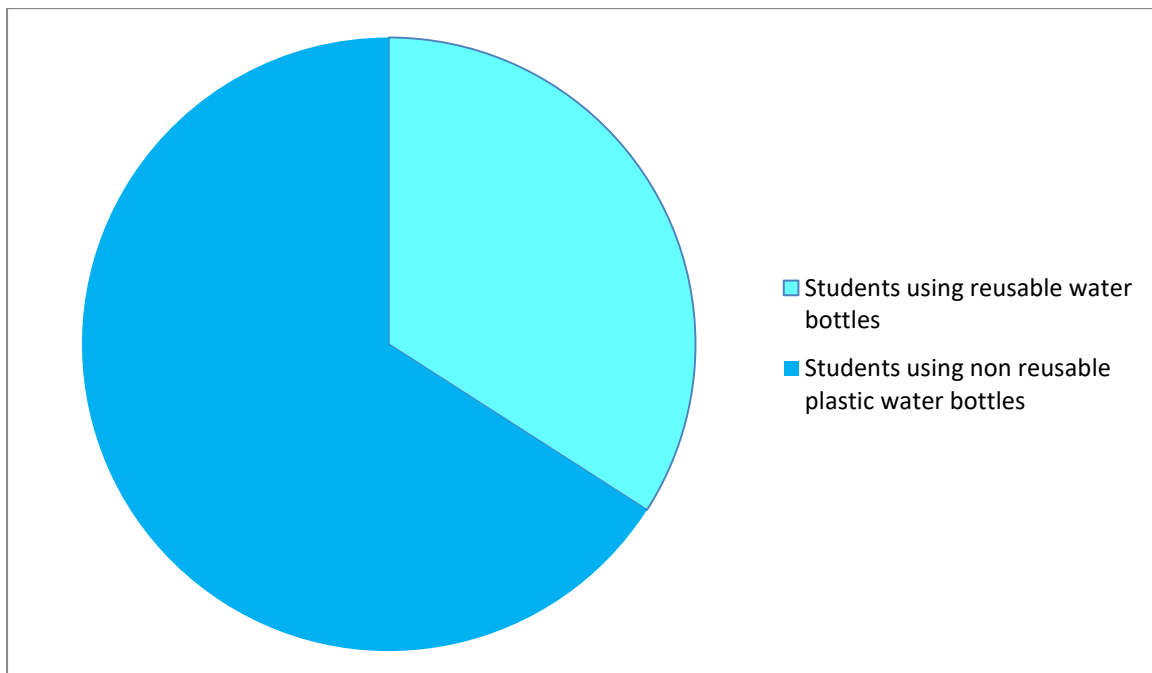
Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) project 2018/19

Introduction

Our aim for this project was to get more students and staff to use more reusable water bottles and reduce the use of non reusable plastic bottles used in our school.

What was the best way to spend the money?

The best way we thought we could spend the money was to buy reusable bottles and sell them to students and staff in our school to help reduce the use of non reusable plastic water bottles. We installed two water fountains in our school last year which made more students drink more water from reusable bottles. We put together a survey to find out how many people use reusable bottles and how many people use plastic bottles. We surveyed 625 students in total and found out that only 213 students used reusable bottles, that's only 34% of students in this school.



How we did it

We got €200 grants from YRE and used that money to buy the reusable water bottles and sell them. We made students aware of the health benefits of using reusable water bottles and made it more interesting by giving away prizes to students using them. We also went around to each class and asked the students who has reusable water bottles and gave out sweet treats to whoever had one. This encouraged the students who didn't already have reusable bottles to purchase them.

The two water fountains in our school that we purchased encouraged students to use their reusable water bottles. Since the water fountains has been installed it has been such a benefit to our school and to the students using them.



Findings/Results

This project helped a lot with the hygiene of our school, not a lot of students knew that there is a lot of bacteria that can build up on plastic bottles and how unhygienic they can be.

Since starting this project when we got €200 grant from YRE and by the 5th of March we straight away saw an increase of 10% in 3 weeks, after we promoted our campaign and saw that student were purchasing more reusable bottles and, we educated them by telling them how unhygienic plastic bottles can be. Now we are happy to say that since then it has increased to 44%.



Bug Hotel

On the 6th, 7th and 8th of March we decided to build a bug hotel. We did this to provide shelter and nesting facilities for insects. We also did this to encourage insect pollination. Here is a photo of the progress we made. We made the bug hotel out of plastic bottles that we collected.



Thank you.

By Jessica Ryan, Naomi Nugent and Katie Meagher



