



Environmental Youth Speak

Environmental Youth Speak is a competition which has been running for 13 years and is organised by the 3 Northern Ireland waste management groups (Arc 21, SMAP and North West). It is the largest environmental public speaking event for schools in Northern Ireland. Its main aim is to get school children thinking seriously about environmental issues and is truly a province wide event with all 26 councils participating.

Our Ballymena Winners!



Fourtowns Primary School's Jay Hall, and Slemish College's Joshua Park.

Also in the picture: The celebrity host for the event Nuala McKeever along with Councillor Kieran Corr Deputy Mayor of Craigavon Borough Council who kindly hosted the event at the Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre.

This year saw pupils participating in the SWaMP, Arc 21 and North West Regional heats. All participants were speaking on the topics of "Rethink Your Waste – reduce, reuse, recycle" and "Love Food Hate Waste". After much deliberation by the judging panels the following pupils made it through to represent each Region in the NI Final:

- **SWaMP Junior** Sean King, St Joseph's PS, Meigh
- **Arc 21 Junior** Jay Hall, Fourtowns PS, Ballymena
- **North West Junior** Eve Gairneir, Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle
- **SWaMP Senior** Christopher Corry, Lismore Comprehensive Craigavon
- **Arc 21 Senior** Alex Sheerin, Carrickfergus Grammar School
- **North West Senior** Laura Mc Carry, Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle

Nuala McKeever, celebrity compere for the day, presented all regional winners with a perpetual trophy made from reclaimed materials and a sun jar.



Picture: Jay Hall, Primary Seven, won the ARC21 Trophy (regional round) of Environmental Youth Speak competition for Ballymena District Council.

Each of the six regional winners then delivered their speeches in front of a large crowd of pupils, parents and teachers in the main auditorium to compete for the NI junior and senior titles. After a closely contested final Nuala Mc Keever announced that Sean King and Christopher Corry were crowned the 2011 NI Junior and Senior Champions and presented them with their trophies, vouchers and a bench made from recycled plastic for their school.

If you have any other questions regarding our Environmental Youth Speak Competition please contact Gary McKnight our Recycling Officer on (028) 2566 0492 or via email at recycling@ballymena.gov.uk.