



The ACRE Project
Salesian College
Maynooth Road
Celbridge
Co Kildare
Ireland

LoCall: 1890 25 33 70
acre.project@gmail.com

Executive summary

The ACRE Project (*A Community Rethinking its Environment*) is a non-commercial eco-friendly community-based project, with charitable status, on a site on the Maynooth Road in Celbridge. The ACRE Project provides internal and external space for educational, youth, and integral community training programmes in which local communities in the north Kildare and west Dublin catchment areas can gather and use. It focuses on the following core elements:

- a creative space for the community to gather and engage;
- an interactive setting where people can learn about ecology and environmental living;
- a structured setting where young people can meet and grow, and
- non-formal education through the medium of horticulture and the creative arts.

The driving force behind The ACRE Project is a group of local people whose interests vary from business, to educating young people, to community development, to horticulture and the environment. Funding for the facilities to date has been due to the work of this group in collaboration with a large team of volunteers drawn from the north Kildare region. This funding has been a mixture of fund-raising and philanthropic grants.

Current and future target groups include:

- back-to-work initiatives;
- community and parent groups;
- community-based youth projects particularly focusing on youth on the margins;
- the formal education sector;
- those seeking an outlet for artistic creativity, and
- those wishing to share their skills and knowledge to improve the community.

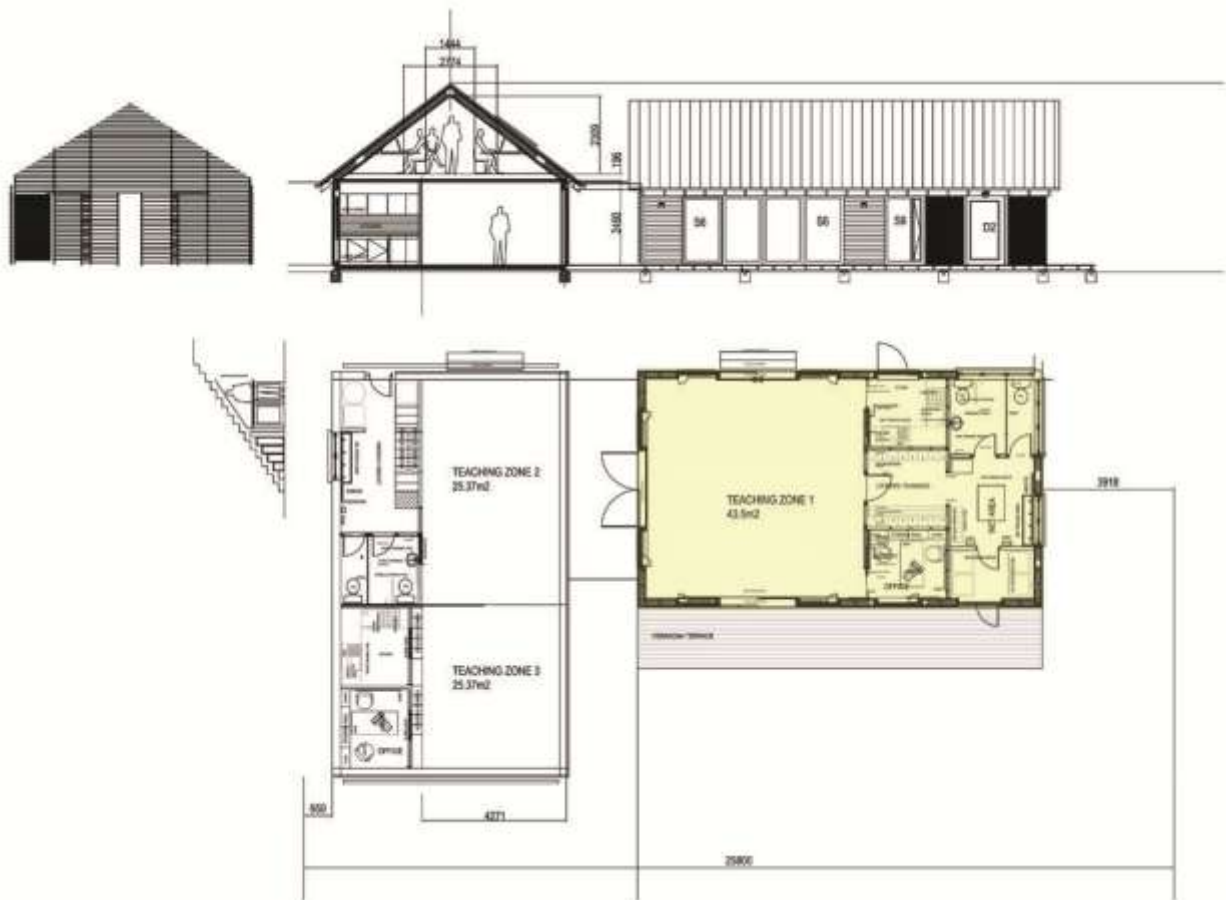
The ACRE Project Limited is a company limited by guarantee.

Registered Office: Salesian College, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Registered in Ireland No. 504580 – Registered charity number CHY 19854
Directors: M Byrne, P Egan, D Keogh, M Leyden, M J McCann, K McEvoy, P Murtagh, R Norris, A Taaffe, K van Gucht (Belgian)

Due to a steady increase in demand for the facilities and in line with its overall vision the project is now entering a second phase of development, which includes the following:-

- a hybrid wind turbine and solar panel electricity generating system in line with the environmental and green nature of the project;
- a second resource building to cater for current demand and new programmes;
- a sensory ornamental garden, for both individuals with learning difficulties and physical challenges, and as a space for the community to visit, contemplate and relax;
- landscaping, and
- two polytunnels, to allow for the production of a greater variety of produce and to greater facilitate teaching and working all year round.

The estimated capital cost for completing this second phase is €490,000. No similar community-based facility is available in the north Kildare Area.



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Development programmes at The ACRE Project 2011-2014

These programmes are non-commercial, community, youth, and education training events.

Children and Primary School Activities

Bug-hunt day for Primary Schools
Craft Summer School for under 12 year olds
Seed-planting day for Primary Schools
What We Can Eat in The Garden for Primary Schools

Teenagers and Post-Primary School Activities

Horticultural training programme for youth
Leaving Certificate applied horticultural module
Scouts of Ireland training days
Social development activities for young people with autism
Transition-Year Module for local secondary school

Adult Activities and Special Classes

Drama Therapy
Healthy Food Made Easy, supported by Health Service Executive and Kildare Education and Training Board
Mindfulness, supported by Kildare Education and Training Board
Pottery classes
Relaxation Classes
Shine - Schizophrenia support group
Team-building sessions for both a local technology company and a private health business

Whole-Community Events

Community growers programme for unemployed - mixed generational
Open days of introduction to creativity - Creative Explosion

Accredited Programmes

Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) horticultural training programme

August 2014

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