

Vita – Cooking up Solutions to Climate Injustice in Africa



Vita staff with members of the DCC Staff World Development Fund who have been tremendous supporters of our fuel-efficient cookstove projects in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

We celebrated September’s week of climate strikes with a unique installation to demonstrate Ireland’s role in international climate action.

Getting Fired Up – How Sustainable Stoves are Cooking up Solutions to Climate Injustice in Africa was launched in partnership with Dublin City Council and illustrated the environmental, health, and climate impacts of inefficient cooking methods in Africa.

From deforestation to indoor air pollution, the installation examined the impact a single stove can have on a family’s health, livelihood, and environment and how Ireland is working to improve this.

We held a special breakfast event to launch the installation replete with pastries, coffee and inspirational guest speakers who spoke passionately on the need for climate justice. These speakers on the morning included:

Emily Hosford, Vita’s Programme Officer. Emily was resident MC for the morning and gave a rousing welcome and poignant speech about the importance of taking part in climate action, quoting her personal hero, Mary Robinson.

Michael Pidgeon, Green Party Councillor. Michael spoke of the need to think local and act global when tackling climate change and DCC’s commitment to improving its energy efficiency by 33% by 2020—a target it is well on its way to achieving.

Flossie Donnelly, school striker. Flossie was a voice of optimism and hope and the undisputed star of the morning! A keen environmentalist, she proved that change is possible and hope essential in creating a better, fairer, healthier planet!

Emily Hosford and young climate strikers feeling fired up!



Getting Fired up for Climate Action! Installation
How Sustainable Stoves are Cooking up Solutions to Climate Injustice in Africa

Where: Dublin City Council Atrium, Wood Quay
When: 20-27th September
Launch: 08:30-09:30





Councillor for South West Inner City, Michael Pidgeon

12-year-old climate activist and beach cleaner, Flossie Donnelly



Hitting the ground running with the Great Ethiopian Run!



It's our favourite time of year again! In just two weeks we will be travelling to Ethiopia alongside some of our fabulous partners to take part in Africa's greatest road race and raise funds for our climate justice projects! The Great Ethiopian Run is a 10km dash through the colourful streets of Addis Ababa. Every year, over 40,000 people descend on the capital to sprint, dance and laugh their way to the finish line and we'll be right with them alongside our partners at Avolon Aircraft Leasing and Dublin City Fire Brigade.

For Vita, it is a chance to show these supporters the profound impact they are making through our climate smart projects. From the deserts of South Omo to the lush mountains of Chencha, we have a jam-packed week of visits to our partner communities to see how lives are being transformed through poultry, weaving, irrigation, potato, camels, clean water, and pottery programmes. Keep an eye on our social media to see how we get on!



Putting the 'Fun' in Fundraising with Dublin Fire Brigade

This year we are thrilled to have the brave men and women of Dublin City Fire Brigade joining us on the 2019 Great Ethiopian Run.

Not content with fighting fires, these exceptional humans have been taking to Dublin's streets over the past few months to fight climate change and poverty as well!

They've been enlisting the help of superheroes and patron saints to put the fun back into fundraising and raise vital support for our life-changing projects that deliver food security, access to clean water, and renewable energy to rural families in East Africa.



Vita makes the shortlist for the Irish Times Innovation Awards!



Vita's social impact investment fund – the Vita Green Impact Fund – was one of fifteen finalists to be shortlisted for the prestigious Irish Times Innovation Awards – an accolade that recognises the best in innovative solutions to economic, social, and environmental problems.

Our next-generation carbon offsetting model was nominated in the Sustainability category for its transformational solutions to both sustainable development in Africa and climate action in Ireland. It is the only not-for-profit platform of its kind.

The awards ceremony took place on November 5th in Dublin's RDS and was hosted by David McWilliams. While we didn't win, the nomination alone was an enormous achievement not only for Vita but for all those who have supported us over the past years. We want to thank everyone who has been a part of Vita for the dedication and hard work that makes us the innovative and impactful community we are.

Measure, Reduce and Offset with Vita's Not-for-profit Carbon Calculator

Want to see what all this fuss is about? Why not check out our unique carbon calculator for yourself?

A simple way to track your carbon emissions, it has received phenomenal support from businesses and the public who are travelling lighter knowing they are treading softer on the planet! It couldn't be easier.

Simply enter your flight information, car mileage, or home energy usage and from there MEASURE, REDUCE, OFFSET. Take climate action now and offset your footprint to support climate justice [here!](#)





Amazon rainforest continues to burn

Since global outrage ignited in August when reports emerged from NASA and the INPE of unprecedented fires in the Amazon rainforest, the world's lungs have been a source of consistent controversy and environmental concern.

In addition to the effect the fires' carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide emissions will have on the global climate, potential threats to the biodiversity of the Amazon and the indigenous tribes that live within the forest are all worrying fallouts from the devastation.

Now, after INPE reported an 84% increase in fires across all of Brazil in 2019, there is further cause for concern as some researchers fear the Amazon will reach an irreversible tipping point as soon as 2021.



Miracle solution in the form of 'ice cream bean' tree

A unique tree species might hold a remedy to this crisis. The inga tree not only grows on very poor soil but also improves this soil's fertility, making it fertile enough for other species to return.



Its nitrogen-fixing properties, as well as linking up ravaged areas of forest and rebuilding biodiversity can also provide vital corridors for wildlife in the Amazon, which has become increasingly split into fractured areas.

The Ouro Verde Institute, which hopes to promote inga tree-planting, has also pointed out its social benefits. With its beans providing a source of income for farmers, its leaves used as cattle feed and its branches for firewood, the inga tree truly appears to be a miracle solution in a nightmare reality.

A brief published by Monica de Bolle suggested that the Amazon rainforest could stop producing enough rain to sustain itself by 2021. After this point the rainforest would start degrading into a drier savannah, releasing billions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere and exacerbating global heating and unpredictable weather across South America.

Soaring deforestation and political policies are the driving factors towards this seemingly irreversible tipping point. Already this year, it is estimated that over 906 thousand hectares of forest within the Amazon biome has been lost to fires in 2019.

All we need is...SPUDS!

For a while now, some of us here at Vita have had a chip on our shoulder about the waste that swathes our favourite fish and chip takeaway and makes our Friday night guilty pleasure more guilty than pleasurable.



Take-away packaging has a very short lifetime and is often hard to recycle, creating vast amounts of waste and leaving a bitter taste in our mouths that can not be attributed to the copious lashings of salt and vinegar.

On top of this, potato peel is discarded in vast quantities by fry processors, adding to the global epidemic of food waste.

Enter, Peel Saver. Peel Saver is an innovative solution to both potato peel waste and unsustainable packaging developed by Italian designers Simone Caronni, Paolo Stefano Gentile and Pietro Gaelli.

This new product turns wasted material into new ecological fries' packaging by recycling potato skins and repurposing them to create a product that is fully biodegradable!

As we know, the humble spud is filled with starch and fibres. This means that when they are softened and naturally dried, the organic material bonds and hardens into a desired shape—in this instance the tantalising chip cone.

Not only does this mean production waste is drastically decreased, this natural packaging can be reintroduced to the biological cycle to become animal food or fertilizer for crops—giving it widespread ap-peel.

Best of all, our chips can feel good in their own skins as we enjoy them in nature's original packaging. Proof, once again, that all we really need is spuds!

Ethiopian Prime Minister Wins Nobel Peace Prize

Abiy Ahmed has been announced as the 2019 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.



Ethiopian PM, Abiy Ahmed

The prize recognised his efforts in ending the 20-year-long war between Ethiopia and Eritrea last year.

Since coming to power in April 2018, Abiy Ahmed has pushed through significant reforms at home as well as devoting himself to resolve the border conflict through a new peace deal with Eritrea.

Speaking on the achievement, Abiy said: "I am so humbled and thrilled ... thank you very much. It is a prize given to Africa, given to Ethiopia, and I can imagine how the rest of Africa's leaders will take it positively to work on the peace-building process in our continent."

Other contenders for the prestigious prize included climate activist Greta Thunberg, Hong Kong pro-democracy activists and German chancellor Angela Merkel.

With programmes in both Ethiopia and Eritrea, Vita is delighted to see this new era of peace and unity flourishing and looks forward to a brighter future in East Africa. Find out more about our Ethiopian programmes [here](#).



Contact Us

00 353 (1) 873 4303

Vita

16-17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 7

Ireland, D07H7DE

info@vita.ie www.vita.ie



@Vitalreland

Vita Ireland

Vita Ireland

@vitaireland



Jellyfish is the new caviar as Italy fishes for a culinary solution!

This summer saw unprecedented levels of jellyfish decorate our Irish shores with the Portuguese Man O'War currently making many Irish beaches unsafe. However, Italy might have found a solution to the rising jellyfish swarms - by eating them.

Italian scientists are hoping to restore balance to marine ecosystems and offer a vital and sustainable meat alternative by turning jellyfish from a dangerous plague into a safe and plentiful food source.

Led by Antonella Leone, research scientists are determined to prove that jellyfish are so much more than a nuisance and that they could be the answer our planet, oceans, and sea-swimmers need.

Can these rubbery friends pass a taste test to become the new ingredient du jour? We will sea.

Global Climate Strike

Friday, September 20th, was a momentous day in world history as students all over the globe took to the streets for the largest climate action protest to date.

The Fridays for Future movement was begun by Greta Thunberg in August 2018 when the then 15-year-old climate activist skipped school to protest for robust climate action from the government outside the Swedish parliament.

Since then, the Climate Strike movement has grown exponentially, with an estimated 6 million people – mainly students – shunning schools and offices between September 20th and 27th to protest the continued failure to deliver on climate change.

In Ireland, strikes took place in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Waterford, Navan, Louth, and Belfast as well as many towns across the country.

The protest followed the release of the Irish Governments Climate Action Plan during the summer—an ambitious strategy aimed to tackle continued climate change.



Feeding the Masses



Huge crowds at Merrion Square

In Dublin, over 15,000 people gathered at Custom House Quay before marching together to Merrion Square. There they congregated to hear from school strikers and activists and to demand the Irish Government fulfil its climate responsibilities.

Knowing the hungry nature of protesting, we were on hand to not only walk in solidarity with the students but to keep their spirits and energies up with some pastries from our installation launch!

Combatting food waste and climate change, our array of croissants went down a treat and we were immediately surrounded by hungry students!

Thankfully, our empty hands were soon replaced with placards as we made our way to Merrion Square for a momentous and emotional protest for our planet's and its children's' future.

The Climate Strikes reminded us of the power we all have to take action – find a Fridays for Future near you and join the fight each and every Friday [here!](#)



Emily buttering up the protesters with some delicious pastries!