



April 2010

*Environmental Education Forum E-Bulletin*

## In This Issue:

### News from the EEF

1. [EEF Website](#)
2. [EEF June Conference](#)

### Environmental Education News

1. [Ulster Museum & the Art Fund](#)
2. [Walk to School Week 2010](#)
3. [Damage We Do With Littering](#)
4. [Sign up for the 2010 Appetite for Action Challenge](#)
5. [BBC Breathing Places Schools. School Children Spot Ladybirds This Summer](#)
6. [International Year of Biodiversity - Schools Pack and Competition Launched](#)
7. [Bike Week 2010](#)

### Resources

1. [Nature Detectives](#)
2. [Muck in for Life](#)
3. [Garden Organic](#)

### Training & Events

1. [Engaging With Youth and the World: From Policy to Practice](#)
2. [National Sustainable Schools Conference – June 2010](#)
3. [Countryside Access and Activities Network National Trails Day](#)
4. [Vital Links - Get To Know the Northern Ireland Government and Assembly](#)

### Funding

1. [Lloyds TSB Foundation NI](#)
2. [BLF Peoples Millions](#)
3. [Big Lottery Funding](#)
4. [NI List on Grant Tracker](#)

### Membership of EEF

1. [Join the Forum](#)



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest **E-Bulletin** from the **Environmental Education Forum** which provides information on activities in the environmental education and education for sustainable development sectors in Northern Ireland. Below you will find a variety of useful information, including EEF and members news, resources, training events and seminars, publications, funding opportunities, and job vacancies in the sector.

The Environmental Education Forum is the networking body for the Environmental Education sector that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. The EEF attempts to raise awareness of environmental education and education for sustainable development issues in the formal and non-formal education sectors through the provision of services such as the production of resources, initial and in service teacher training, member meetings and training and organising member and public conferences.

If you would like to send an article to include in the next E-Bulletin please contact:

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## NEWS FROM THE EEF

### 1. NEW EEF WEBSITE – NOW LIVE

I have received some very positive feedback from some of you on our new website. As you can appreciate it is still a work in progress in terms of getting all the information on. Could I ask you to take a couple of minutes and look at your own member section and if you want any of the details amended/updated please forward them to me, also if you want anything put on the website please feel free to contact me. I can be contacted at [iona@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:iona@nienvironmentlink.org) or [eef@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:eef@nienvironmentlink.org), our website address will remain [www.eefni.org.uk](http://www.eefni.org.uk) Due to the funding of the Forum being withdrawn we will be a lot more web based from now on so the more up to date information I have to put on the better.

### 2 EEF JUNE CONFERENCE

The next EEF Conference will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, more details will follow.



[Back to Top](#)



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

### 1. ULSTER MUSEUM AND THE ART FUND

The newly refurbished Ulster Museum is one of eleven museums to have been nominated for the 2010 Art Fund Prize for Museums and Galleries. This is an extremely prestigious award and it would truly place the Ulster Museum on the map as one of the most exciting museums in the UK. They are up against some of the largest and best known museums in Britain.

Show your support for our local museum and vote online for it to win the award here: [Art Fund Prize](#).

### 2. WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

Travelwise NI is a Department for Regional Development (DRD) initiative that promotes the use of sustainable transport and travel options such as walking, cycling, public transport or car sharing. Travelwise is delivered in partnership with the Department of Education, DOE Road Safety Branch, Sustrans, the Public Health Agency and Translink.

The biggest event of the year is the annual Walk to School Week. Last year 220 schools and 53,000 pupils in Northern Ireland got involved. **This year's Walk to School Week will run from 17 - 21 May 2010.** Every school is invited to take part in this event which aims to encourage more people to walk to and from school. If you need any additional information or you wish to speak to one of the Travelwise NI team about Walk to School Week please contact:

**Tracey Arlow (Travelwise NI, Schools Co-ordinator)** Phone (028) 90541402 E-mail [Tracy.arlow@drdni.gov.uk](mailto:Tracy.arlow@drdni.gov.uk)

### 3. DAMAGE WE DO WITH LITTERING

Through our thoughtless acts we are bequeathing a terrible nest egg to the environment. Strangford Lough is Northern Ireland's first marine protected area -- yet so much litter is now polluting its shores that the National Trust estimates that at least 10% of breeding birds are using our waste as nesting material. More worryingly, Trust wardens have also come across a number of fledglings that have been throttled by the litter making up their nests — plastic rope and fishing wire used in the fishing industry are the worst offenders.

The Trust owns and manages large sections of the lough along with Government and other charities and last year its staff and volunteers collected a staggering 1,000 bags of litter — including some hazardous waste. It's not the taxpayer but National Trust members who have to foot the bill for disposing of this hazardous waste, which includes asbestos found fly-tipped along the shore.

The Belfast Telegraph is highlighting the appalling impact litter is having as part of their Big Spring Clean campaign in partnership with TIDY Northern Ireland, a push to get people to organise clean-ups in their local area.

The Spring Clean at Strangford Lough will run from Monday April 19 - Friday May 7. A public day will also be held on May 1 in conjunction with the Seaweed day in Portaferry for members of the public interested in joining a beach clean up. There will also be a public beach clean at Ballymacormick point on the April 10. For more information, email [craig.mccoy@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:craig.mccoy@nationaltrust.org.uk) or find out about the Belfast Telegraph's Big Spring Clean at [TIDY Northern Ireland](#).



#### 4. SIGN UP FOR THE 2010 APPETITE FOR ACTION CHALLENGE

The Appetite for Action Challenge 2010 will be running from Sept 2009 to June 2010 and welcomes all primary schools from across the UK and Republic of Ireland to take part. It's free, fun and food-focused, helping schools to tackle a range of sustainability issues through a series of online steps.

##### 1) Register for access to the Appetite for Action site

By registering, you'll gain access to free lesson plans, activities, a series of short films created for use in the classroom and fact sheets.

##### 2) Recruit an Action Team and choose your challenge topic

Once registered for the site, you'll also gain access to the Challenge, a step-by-step process that helps your school to translate ideas into action.

Your Action Team will guide your school through your chosen challenge and can be a mix of staff, pupils and even parents. The maximum number of team members that can be recorded on your profile page is 35 but your Action Team should reach out to the whole school community to increase your impact.

To register go to <http://schools.appetiteforaction.org.uk/how-to-get-started/>

#### 5. BBC BREATHING PLACES SCHOOLS. SCHOOL CHILDREN SPOT LADYBIRDS THIS SUMMER

With their brightly coloured bodies, ladybirds are easy to spot and school children will be helping discover just how many there are in school grounds all over the UK. This summer, thousands of children across Northern Ireland can take part in the biggest survey of ladybirds in schools, as part of the BBC Breathing Places Schools project.

With over 500 Breathing Places Schools registered in Northern Ireland, and a total of 10,000 across the UK, it is hoped the results will identify regional variations and contribute valuable data to the UK Ladybird Survey, run by volunteers at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

Ladybirds are widely recognised and loved by children of all ages. Finding and recording what species of ladybirds their school environment attracts, will give young people the opportunity to discover and contribute to our understanding of ladybirds.

BBC Breathing Places Schools has decided to offer this new 'Do One Thing' activity as part of its summer of action in the International Year of Biodiversity. The ladybird survey will run from 24<sup>th</sup> of May to the 11<sup>th</sup> of June.

Since its launch in 2008, more than 10,000 schools have registered for the project and transformed their school grounds into havens for wildlife. Previous 'Do One Thing' activities have included planting seeds, nurturing minibeasts, feeding wildlife, making homes for wildlife, digging ponds and planting trees.



## 6. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY - SCHOOLS PACK AND COMPETITION LAUNCHED

To help schools celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), UNESCO Associated Schools in the UK has launched a biodiversity information pack and competition for schools.

Celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity is a great way to engage with issues around sustainable development, a key study theme for UNESCO Associated Schools.

The biodiversity pack includes practical suggestions for how schools can celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity and examples of how UNESCO helps protect biodiversity in the UK, including case studies from UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and natural World Heritage Sites which have distinct biodiversity.

The IYB competition will find the school that can best communicate the important messages of the International Year of Biodiversity. The competition is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK. Participating schools are asked to devise a creative and effective campaign that can spread the IYB messages to their local community. Schools can submit a poster, collage, brochure, video or podcast. There will be prizes for the best entry in each category and prizes for runners up. The deadline for competition entries is [28 May 2010](#).

The United Nations has designated 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) to celebrate the importance of biodiversity and highlight the different threats facing this irreplaceable natural wealth across the globe. The International Year is an opportunity to celebrate progress made so far in protecting biodiversity, but also to recognise that we need to do more to promote creative solutions to reduce threats to biodiversity.

An electronic version of the pack is available to download on [www.unesco.org.uk/iyb](http://www.unesco.org.uk/iyb)

We hope you can share this information with schools you are working with. Contact me on [abreivik@unesco.org.uk](mailto:abreivik@unesco.org.uk) or 020 7766 3460 if you would like hard copies of the information pack for schools.

## 7. BIKE WEEK 12-27 JUNE 2010

Bike Week 2010 will this year be extra special as cyclists in Northern Ireland will have two weeks to celebrate this means of sustainable travel.

The Travelwise theme for 2010 will be Two Wheels Two Weeks

If you are holding an event in Northern Ireland to celebrate Bike Week 2010 why not register your details with Travelwise and avail of public liability insurance. You can also receive promotional material.

If you need any information or you wish to speak to the Travelwise NI Bike Week Co-ordinator, please contact: Andy Bready Phone (028) 9054 0595 or E-mail [andy.bready@drdni.gov.uk](mailto:andy.bready@drdni.gov.uk)



## RESOURCES

### 1. NATURE DETECTIVES

“Nature detectives” is run by the Woodland Trust creating, protecting and inspiring people about woods and trees. Their website [www.naturedetectives.org.uk/](http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/) is packed with worksheets and lots of ideas to inspire young children to get involved and take an interest in their local woods.

There are scores of games, activities and ideas for FREE days out to ensure your next family trip to the woods is action-packed fun. The Woodland Trust want kids to learn about the wildlife on their doorstep and Nature Detectives can help them do this too.

### 2. MUCK IN FOR LIFE WEBSITE

The Muck In4Life website, is the home of fun, healthy and free environmental activities for all the family. There are lots of ways to get involved and anyone can join in from grand-parents to children. You can find out about the environmental activities you and your family can enjoy in your local area - everything from bat spying to tree planting and clearing beach litter to pond de-sludging. There's something for everyone so why not have a look around?

Find out more about how people like you have got involved in different environmental activities, from the city to the countryside in the real life stories section and learn more about the charities and voluntary organisations that offer Muck In4Life activities. Also find out how your organisation can be considered as a Muck In4Life partner. To find out more and get involved visit [www.muckin4life.direct.gov.uk](http://www.muckin4life.direct.gov.uk)

### 3. GARDEN ORGANIC

Garden Organic Website [www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools\\_organic\\_network/](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools_organic_network/) is full of ideas for getting an organic garden started. It includes a Fun Zone with games and activities, along with a Teaching Zone and a Learning Zone to name a few. Well worth a look.

## TRAINING AND EVENTS

### 1. ENGAGING WITH YOUTH AND THE WORLD: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

**Date for your Diary: Thursday 29th – Friday 30th April 2010.**

The National Youth Council of Ireland invites you to participate in a 2-day residential seminar: **Engaging with Youth and the World: from Policy to Practice.**

This development education seminar explores the new European Youth Strategy, focusing particularly on the implications and opportunities provided by the Youth and the World field of action. The seminar is funded through Youth in Action and will provide a space for participants to engage with National and European policy makers, share learning and explore how Youth in Action funding can be used to support development education activities in Ireland.



The seminar is open to people aged 18-30 years who are currently involved in youth work as participants, volunteers or staff. The seminar will take place in the Emmaus Centre, Swords, Co. Dublin. For further information, contact Johnny Sheehan [johnny@nyci.ie](mailto:johnny@nyci.ie) or Alan Hayes [alan@nyci.ie](mailto:alan@nyci.ie)

## 2. NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE – JUNE 2010

Please mark your diaries with the next **National Sustainable Schools Conference in June 2010**. One date is confirmed so far – June 18th in London. Please keep checking the website [www.se-ed.org.uk](http://www.se-ed.org.uk) as more details are confirmed. We are looking for 3 regional partners to cut travel again and suggestions of workshops that you could run. Please contact Michael Cutts ([michael.cutts@se-ed.org.uk](mailto:michael.cutts@se-ed.org.uk)) to register interest in workshops, offers of regions, or if you are interested in having a stall at any of the conferences.

## 3. COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND ACTIVITIES NETWORK NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

National Trails Day is a celebration of Ireland's wonderful variety of trails and a chance for everyone to enjoy some of our most beautiful countryside, forests, mountains and lakes. Its primary objective is to raise awareness of outdoor trails. CAAN will be leading the organisation and marketing of National Trails Day for Northern Ireland in partnership with our funders Department of Culture Arts & Leisure, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Waterways Ireland and partners National Trust.

National Trails Day 2009 was very successful in the Republic of Ireland, with more than 10,000 people getting out enjoying trails in a variety of ways. Events included bat walks mountain bike cycles, family orienteering, horse riding, try canoeing, heritage walks and just plain ordinary walking! Several events were held in Northern Ireland. This year we hope that in all areas of Northern Ireland we can have a fantastic range of interesting and exciting things on a trail, be it on land or water.

CAAN asks you to **mark Sunday 3 October in your diary now for your local trail event.** Details will be sent to you in the coming weeks giving guidelines for planning the event and how to get your event included in National Trails Day. For any queries in the meantime, please contact [aideen@countrysiderecreation.com](mailto:aideen@countrysiderecreation.com). Let's make National Trails Day in Northern Ireland a major participation event.

## 4. VITAL LINKS - GET TO KNOW THE NORTHERN IRELAND GOVERNMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Following the launch of Vital Links, a project supported by the PEACE III Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, we are pleased to announce the first training dates for the programme. These free training events are aimed at helping voluntary and community organisations better understand how the institutions of government in Northern Ireland work and on learning more about how to lobby for real change.

The sessions are as follows:

- Getting to know the Assembly – 14 April – Parliament Buildings, Stormont
- Making policy work for you – 28 April - NICVA
- Successful lobbying and campaigning – 28 April - NICVA
- How government departments get and spend their budgets – 5 May - NICVA



The training will be delivered in an interactive, participative style and will bring you face to face with decision makers and insiders in the political system in the form of MLAs, government officials, political experts and successful influencers. The sessions are designed to help you take what you learn from your own organisation's work and feed it into the decision making processes of government to try to bring about real change.

For more information and to download a booking form, visit [www.nicva.org/news/vital-links-get-know-northern-ireland-government-and-assembly](http://www.nicva.org/news/vital-links-get-know-northern-ireland-government-and-assembly).

[Back to Top](#)

## FUNDING

### 1. LLOYDS TSB FOUNDATION NI

Northern Ireland's Voluntary and Community sector received a major boost in December 2009 when the long-term future of funding streams for local organisations was confirmed. The Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland has now concluded negotiations with its primary funder, the newly formed and expanded Lloyds Banking Group.

Together with sister foundations in England and Wales, and the Channel Islands, they will receive guaranteed funding every year for four years from 2010 to 2013, and at a higher level than in 2009. The three foundations have also secured an ongoing commitment for at least the subsequent six years.

Sandara Kelso-Robb, Executive Director of the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland, said that the outcome ensures the Foundation will maintain and potentially expand funding and support for Northern Ireland charities at a time of very difficult and challenging economic circumstances.

Applications can be made for up to a maximum of £5,000 and only organisations with an overall income of less than £250,000 should apply. The closing dates for 2010 are 9 April, 9 July and 8 October. For more information email [info@lloydstsbfoundationni.org](mailto:info@lloydstsbfoundationni.org) or visit: [Lloyds TSB Foundation](#)

### 2. BLF – PEOPLES MILLIONS LAUNCHES

The 2010 People's Millions competition will give communities throughout the UK the opportunity to win local public support and share in £3.8 million of Lottery funding.

Grants of between £20,000 and £50,000 will be provided for projects that transform local environments and offer opportunities or facilities for people to take part and enjoy their local area. This will include initiatives focusing on buildings, amenities, public and green spaces and natural habitats.

Voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, local authorities, schools and health organisations are invited to apply. Head-to-head competitions will take place in the local ITV regions in November, when the public will be able to cast their vote for the projects they want to win. There will be a total of 75 winning projects this year; four awards and one bonus award for the runner-up in each of the 15 ITV regions.

The deadline for receipt of entries is 14 May 2010. Application forms available online through: [The People's Millions](#)



### 3. BIG LOTTERY FUNDING

This Programme is delivered and funded by the Big Lottery Fund in Northern Ireland and awards funds of between £500 – £10,000 over a 12 month period.

The aim of the programme is to bring real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need by funding projects which involve people in their communities, bringing them together to enjoy a wide range of charitable, community, educational, environmental and health-related activities.

#### **We want our money to make a difference by helping:**

- people to participate in their communities to bring about positive change
- people to develop their skills and widen their experiences
- people to work toward better and safer communities
- improve people's physical and mental health and well being.

We hope these awards will improve people's lives and will strengthen community activity. For further information see <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/northernireland/summary.html>

### 4. NI LIST ON GRANT TRACKER

Northern Ireland funders list available for free on Grant Tracker website.

The Northern Ireland independent grant-making trusts sector is relatively small in comparison to the whole UK sector but nonetheless offers generous support to a wide variety of organisations and good causes. A list of Northern Ireland funders is provided by NICVA for free through its Grant Tracker website. As such the funders provided are only the tip of an iceberg of funding opportunities available to Northern Ireland good causes. To access the hundreds of opportunities it is recommended that you subscribe to the Grant Tracker website.

#### **[Grant Tracker](#)**

The Northern Ireland Trusts Group is a network of local independent funders who periodically publish information on the funding they offer. The publication of "Funding for Voluntary Action" has proved an essential resource for many small organisations over the years offering as it does a concise snapshot of the typical funding available locally. The Northern Ireland Trusts' Group last printed the Funding for Voluntary Action Handbook in 2003 although plans are underway to republish the guide in 2010. This list should only be viewed as a local sample of the potential sources of grant funding.

Contact NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, BT15 2GB, Tel: 028 9087 7777 or email: [grant.tracker@nicva.org](mailto:grant.tracker@nicva.org) for further information.

#### **[Back to Top](#)**



## MEMBERSHIP OF EEF

### JOIN US

The Environmental Education Forum is the networking body for the Environmental Education sector that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Most members are actively involved in environmental education and bring a wide range of expertise and enthusiasm to the forum. Membership to the EEF is open to all individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

#### Benefits of membership include:

- Access to an established networking and information organisation
- LEEF Newsletter distributed five times per year
- Two conferences per year organised on a range of related environmental education topics
- ESD Days run at all of Northern Ireland's University establishments
- E-mail updates on the Forums activities plus relevant information, publications and events
- Access to free reference Library
- Access to EEF website
- Support and publicity for your work
- Sharing of ideas, expertise and experience

	<b>Voluntary Organisation</b>	<b>Statutory Body</b>
<b>Organisation, one person</b>	£35	-
<b>Organisation, up to 3 people receiving membership benefits at one site</b>	£50	£100
<b>Organisation, more than 3 people receiving membership benefits at one site at one site</b>	£75	£150
<b>Organisation, additional sites receiving membership benefits</b>	£35 per site	£35 per site

As part of your subscription, you will have the opportunity to have one page in the ESD resource guide for teachers and group leaders and one free place at an EEF conference each year. If you would like to promote your events, publications and training through this E-Bulletin please contact:

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