



Environmental Education Forum E-Bulletin

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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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Environmental Education Forum
89 Loopland Drive
Belfast BT6 9DW
Tel: 028 9045 5770
E-Mail: eef@nienvironmentlink.org
Website: www.eefni.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE EEF

1. LEEF NEWSLETTERS: SCHOOLS AND YOUTH SERVICE: AUTUMN 2009

The next 2 issues of the LEEF Newsletters are now being developed. Issue 6.4 will be sent to youth groups and issue 7.1 will be sent to every school. The deadline for submission of **ARTICLES, NEWS ITEMS, EVENTS and CASE STUDIES** is **FRIDAY 21 AUGUST**.

Please feel free to promote your programmes, as well as events being run. Please send to the regular address – eef@nienvironmentlink.org. We hope that you enjoy reading these publications and would like to hear feedback to help us continue to improve and enhance the impact of the newsletters for students and teachers on your behalf.

Should you wish to receive additional copies of LEEF please contact the EEF Co-ordinator, at the usual address. Copies can also be downloaded from the EEF website: www.eefni.org.uk/publications/index.asp

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2. NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE FORUM

Since the last e-bulletin the EEF are delighted to welcome the following new members to the network:

Conservation through Fishing

The aim of the group is to construct and deliver bespoke, alternative HANDS ON Educational Courses on Environmental Issues, for young people. (adult courses are also delivered). Modules include Fresh Water Pollution, Eco-Systems, Bio-Diversity, Entomology, Sustainability of Natural Resources and Ecology.

Their Ethos is ***“Creating Ambassadors for Nature”***. Conservation through Fishing instills Self-Worth, Responsibility and Ownership in its students. Fly Fishing runs all the way through the course, research shows the sports interaction with nature a very powerful resource in conveying many of the topics. The Programmes are delivered by the most qualified Coaches and Instructors in Northern Ireland, having all aspects of discipline such as Child Awareness, Disability Awareness, First Aid and Enhanced CBR.

As new members these organisations, just like all existing EEF members will have access to meetings, conferences, ESD University days and all other Forum activities. They will also benefit from the LEEF newsletter and monthly e-bulletins containing environmental news and information; regular networking opportunities; access to the EEF website; access to facilities and services based at Northern Ireland Environment Link premises in Belfast; support and publicity for their work; sharing of skills and perspectives; improved relations with members and external organisations; increased credibility; and much more.

3. EEF AUTUMN CONFERENCE: TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER @ GREENMOUNT COLLEGE, ANTRIM

The EEF autumn conference will take place at **CAFRE, GREENMOUNT CAMPUS, ANTRIM** on **TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER**. The title of the conference is **‘GROWING SCHOOL GROUNDS’**. A programme for the day and further details will be sent to you in due course. This conference is free to EEF members, there is however a charge applied to non members to help cover costs. Please contact eef@nienvironmentlink.org to book a place.

4. EEF MEMBER SURVEY

The EEF has undergone an intense period of development and growth over the past 4 years. We are currently reviewing the role of the forum to determine its effectiveness and usefulness to the members. EEF activities are and will continue to be determined by what the members require. This survey is your opportunity to help shape those activities and help us identify future areas of work which will better service the membership and improve the ‘network’.

We would be delighted if you could spare a few minutes to complete the short questionnaire attached to the e-bulletin e-mail and return it to us by **Friday 4th September 2009** either by email (iona@nienvironmentlink.org), fax (028 9094 2151) or post (89 Loopland Drive, Belfast, BT6 9DW). To fill in the form electronically, simply click/type in the shaded areas.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. ECO SCHOOLS UPDATE

CALLING ALL ECO-SCHOOLS!

Have you thought about how a partnership with a school in a developing country could add a global dimension to the education programmes within a school and help learning about sustainable development issues?

DFID Global School Partnerships are an exciting and effective way of providing learners with an understanding and knowledge of the world. Joint curricular work between partner schools and exchange visits can widen perspectives and change attitudes and values. Global School Partnerships can also help provide a context for real, topical content across a range of subjects and help teachers and learners to relate to issues of development, global citizenship, cultural understanding and ethical awareness.

“Our partnership has been a turning point and the schools’ curricula have taken on new flavour. We appreciate the benefits of fostering bonds of friendship between future citizens of the world, who need to appreciate and respect each other more than ever before” School teacher, India

Would you like to know more?

Help in finding partners is available as well as advice and guidance on establishing and maintaining effective learning partnerships with schools in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. **Reciprocal Visit Grants** for teachers in new partnerships and **Joint Curriculum Project Grants** for established partnerships are also available. **Visit the website at www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools** and contact Deborah Gadd at Deborah.gadd@britishcouncil.org or telephone 028 9024 8220 ext 246 for further information.

2. BBC BREATHING PLACES UPDATE

Do one thing - Give a bird a drink

At this time of year, when things really start to hot up, it's important that our feathered friends are able to get their beaks on some clean, fresh water. Providing water can make a big difference, and it's really easy to do. From bird baths to simple water feeders, there is something for everyone - no matter what level your DIY skills are pitched at. So, why not check out our website for [more information and tips](#) - and remember, other wildlife will also benefit from having access to fresh water.

Breathing Places on TV

CBeebies have got a great range of nature-related programmes lined up this summer. The Green Balloon Club Holiday specials will be on every Friday for five weeks starting 31 July at 7.30 am. Look out for the team's amazing trip to the Isle of Arran in Scotland.

We are also taking over the CBeebies *Bedtime Stories* every day for a week from Monday 20th July at 6.50pm. Chris Packham will be doing special readings of our brand new Breathing Places Nature's Tales booklets. The stories can also be downloaded from the Breathing Places website or picked up FREE at a [Green Balloon Club Week event](#) happening near you.



3. SPREAD THE WORD OF LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave No Trace Ireland was officially launched in September 2006, it is an outdoor ethics educational programme designed to encourage and promote people to make better decisions when using the outdoors in order to minimise their impact on the environment. The programme is based on 7 principles which act as guidelines when making decisions, each covers different aspects and techniques to minimise impact. It differs from other codes and outdoor messages by promoting the concept of a "land ethic" - what you do when no one is looking as opposed to adhering to rules and regulations. It encourages an ethos of respect for the land, wildlife, other users and land owners/managers.

In Ireland there are more and more people engaging in a wider range of water and land based activities. We are really fortunate to have the fantastic range of environments that we do - our coasts, rivers, lakes, forests, mountains, but these environments can also be fragile and vulnerable to damage.

We rely on our training structure to promote and raise awareness of Leave No Trace and the practices within it in order to reduce the above impacts on the environment. Now we have almost doubled the amount of Leave No Trace Master Educators from 2008 to deliver Trainer Courses, we delivered 13 Trainer Courses in 2008. In truth many of us are already practicing much of what Leave No Trace promotes, however exposure to the message provides outdoor users with a good background from which to make better decisions and introduces them to more complex techniques. Start off with using simple techniques to minimise your impact on the environment.

If you are interested in learning more about Leave No Trace please visit: www.leavenotraceireland.org.

Leave No Trace Ireland are also developing an e-newsletter with up to date news and stories on the programme. If you are interested in receiving this please follow the instructions below to subscribe to it. **To receive our newsletter, please go to www.leavenotraceireland.org/ and enter your email address into the 'E-Newsletter' box.**

4. CAAN: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Hannah Shields, the first Northern Irish woman to summit Mount Everest and Sammy Wilson, ex Minister of the Environment joined the Countryside Access and Activities Network to celebrate their 10th anniversary and to launch their new Operational Plan for 2009 to - 2012. The celebration took place on Thursday 23 April 2009 at Castle Ward, near Strangford, Downpatrick, one of the many National Trust properties popular for outdoor recreational activities.

CAAN's Operational Plan was officially launched by Sammy Wilson and the celebrations continued with Hannah Shields giving a slide show of her recent adventures in the outdoors and in order to earn lunch along side the other delegates she participated in a range of exciting adventure activities, facilitated by the Clearsky Adventure Centre, NI orienteering and the National Trust this included climbing, orienteering, archery, a nature walk and a Leave No Trace Awareness Session.

CAAN is a network organisation responsible for developing, managing and promoting outdoor activities including walking, cycling, canoeing and adventure activities throughout Northern Ireland by working in partnership with a wide range of organisations. CAAN was established in 1999 in response to the publication of Northern Ireland's first Countryside Recreation Strategy in November 1998. For more information on CAAN please visit www.countrysiderecreation.com

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CAAN has developed a range of 'one stop shop' websites for each activity area to help and encourage people to take part in outdoor activities. For information on adventure activities please visit - www.outdoorni.com on walking - www.walkni.com on cycling - www.cycleni.com and canoeing - www.canoeni.com.

CAAN is supported by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), Sport NI and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) Inland Waterways and Inland Fisheries Branch.

5. SPEEDWELL SUMMER FUN A HUGE SUCCESS

This year Speedwell Trust, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and BBC Breathing Places, organised two weeks of action packed activities and fun at their centre in Parkanaur Forest Park. Fifty children participated in the programme which ran for 2 weeks between July 6 – 10 and from July 27 – 31 and accommodated 50 children between 7 – 11 years old.

A whole variety of activities were developed aimed at raising children's awareness about their natural surroundings and promoting ways of enjoying and protecting the environment. These included minibeast hunting, pond dipping, river detectives, wildflower and tree trails, bird watching, orienteering, recycling and composting. In addition to this there were lots of art and craft workshops and as well as practical fun activities.

The programme was led by Speedwell staff who are qualified and experienced teachers and educational assistants who work with local schools throughout the year. An evaluation of the scheme showed that all parents of children participating felt that their children increased their knowledge of the local environment.

6. RSPB LAUNCH 'NATURE'S HOTSPOTS' PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

RSPB have just launched a photography competition called '**Nature's Hotspots**'. It will run from the Summer through to the beginning of November '09 and culminate with a Photo Exhibition at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on 23 November. RSPB's 'Nature's Hotspots' Photography Competition encourages the public to take a photo on their local Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), access permitting, and submit the image to the RSPB. We are also encouraging people to submit some text with the image, to describe what the photo means to them (text is optional). For full details on how to enter the competition, terms and conditions and a link to a map of Northern Ireland's ASSIs, please go to www.rspb.org.uk/northernireland

Categories include Best Bird Photo, Best Wildlife Photo (excluding birds), Best Landscape/Habitat photo, Under 16s category – any image taken on an ASSI. Our panel of judges will also choose an overall winner. Prizes include gift vouchers, a fabulous Fuji Film camera and a chance to win a day trip to see the recently released Red Kites in South Co Down.

The competition signals a re-launch of the RSPB's 'Safe and Sound' campaign, to ensure that Northern Ireland's most special natural places - Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are protected and maintained.

For further information please contact Colum Delaney at 02890 690853, colum.delaney@rspb.org.uk or Rosanna Ballentine at 02890 491547, rosanna.ballentine@rspb.org.uk



RESOURCES

1. VALUING OUR FUTURE: A TOOLKIT FOR DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Children who entered education in September 2007 will be leaving in 2020 to a very different world from this one: a world for which they will need new skills, knowledge and ways of living and working together. In order to prepare young people for this world, schools need to develop sustainability. Whether you are new to sustainability or already involved in the process, this NCSL sustainability toolkit can help you to develop sustainability. The toolkit was designed with school leaders and evaluated at all stages to ensure it is fit for purpose.

The toolkit includes:

- a Getting Started booklet with a facilitator guide
- an interactive resource with workbooks to help you structure your discussions and action points
- a Why Should We booklet which explains why schools need to act now to become more sustainable eight doorway booklets (based on the DCSF's Sustainable Schools National Framework) which include case studies and practical tips about how to make your school sustainable

How to use the toolkit

This tool enables school leadership teams to work collectively so that everybody feels a sense of ownership. It will help you to:

- identify different strands of sustainability work already underway in your school
- think strategically about what more can be done in the short-term and longer term to develop sustainability in your school and community
- allocate responsibility for developing action plans

The Valuing our future toolkit will give you the opportunity to engage with the sustainable schools agenda and make a difference in your school.

How to order

The toolkit, comprising all 11 booklets and the interactive resource, is available to order priced at £15 – see www.ncsl.org.uk/sustainableschools-toolkit for more details.

2. THE YEAR ROUND ORGANIC SCHOOL

Kerry Earth Education Project with the Irish Seed Savers Association have produced a wonderful resource for teachers and parents who wish to set up or progress their school garden. Simply presented and packed with useful information, this book takes you through the tasks associated with the garden for each month, offers many ideas for projects no matter how small your available space is, and demonstrates clear links as to how the gardening activities can be fully integrated into the curriculum. With class by class plans, glossary of terms, resource lists and photocopyable forms for classroom use, this is a book the school gardener will use again and again.

Available online www.theorganiccentre.ie/node/1131 or at the Organic Centre Ecoshop for €12 + p&p.



3. FREE SUSTAINABLE FOOD TEACHING RESOURCES ONLINE

There are a number of free downloadable resources on this excellent website suitable for both Primary and Secondary schools. This new website looks at how our food choices have an impact on people and the planet and covers a variety of categories such as:

- Sustainable Food - Teaching materials which give a general introduction and overview to sustainable food.
- From Farm to Classroom - Teaching materials based around case study farms from Yorkshire and the Humber.
- Food Culture - Teaching materials focusing on why we buy what we buy.
- Grow your own Food - Teaching materials to support food growing projects in the classroom.
- Farming and the Environment - Teaching materials which look at how farming interacts with the environment.
- Food Packaging and Waste - Teaching materials which explore some of the packaging and waste issues that surround food.
- Food Miles and Transport - Teaching materials which lead pupils to investigate where their food comes from and how it was transported.

To find out more and download the resources please visit www.yorkshireandhumber.net/esd/food

4. NAFSO PUBLICATIONS

The National Association of Field Studies Officers (Nafso) is

- the only organisation in the UK which represents professionals employed in teaching, developing and promoting field studies.
- a Voluntary Association which aims to disseminate good practice amongst its members and works to ensure that their interests are represented nationally.
- an organisation whose members are directly involved in raising awareness of, understanding of, and respect for the environment, making a hugely valuable contribution to life long learning.

Nafso has members based at centres throughout the UK, including those run by local authorities as well as independent and charitable organisations. The Association also produces a variety of publications. These include:

- Food, Farms and Fieldwork – A resource for teachers
- Quality, Safety and Sustainability in the delivery of learning through the environment
- Raising Achievement through the Environment
- Numeracy through the Environment
- Literacy through the Environment
- Science through the Environment

All of the above are available free of charge from our Stibbington office on 01780 782386. Please visit www.nafso.org.uk for more details.



TRAINING AND EVENTS

1. NATIONAL ALLOTMENTS WEEK 10-16 AUGUST

National Allotments Week is a week to promote the awareness and availability of allotments both locally and nationally and to show the public and local authorities the strength of support and interest for the heritage of allotment culture. Amateur gardeners and Allotment Associations are being called on to successfully raise further the profile of allotment gardening by supporting National Allotments Week. National Allotments Week is now promoted by the National Allotment Gardens Trust in partnership with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. The initiative, in the second full week of August, aims to promote awareness of allotments, both locally and nationally.

National Allotment Gardens Trust wishes to encourage as many gardeners as possible to support the initiative and to promote the social benefits of allotment gardening, which include benefits to health, education and community well-being. For more information about National Allotments Week, contact: naw@nagtrust.org or telephone Neil Dixon (National Allotments Week Co-ordinator) on 01752 363379 or visit: www.nsalg.org.uk or www.nagtrust.org

To participate in a local event for National Allotments Week 2009 visit Eden Allotment Gardens for their Family Fun Day on 8 August from 12 noon to 4pm. Find out more from: www.edenallotments.co.uk Ards Allotments are also hosting an Open Day on 15 August from 10am to 4pm - free Comber potatoes and butter available for all!

2. ORGANIC GARDENING IN SCHOOLS 29 AUG 2009: INSTRUCTOR: CIARA BARRETT

Aimed specifically at teachers and parents who wish to set up organic gardens in schools. The course combines practical activities and theory with lots of ideas about how to work with children and teenagers in an outdoor environment. Ciara will also present a garden calendar detailing the various activities that can be carried out throughout the school year. A short trip to a local school garden is included.

Please visit www.theorganiccentre.ie/node/915 for more information

3. BAGLADY PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS LIVING ASAP: STRANMILLIS COLLEGE – FRIDAY 21 AUGUST

You're invited to the launch of *Baglady's ASAP World* [where S=Sustainably] on **Friday August 21**: 11am-4pm; Dance ASAP 7.30-9.30pm at **Stranmillis College**, Belfast - venue kindly provided by Belfast City Council.

The idea of this exciting event will be to connect organisations and people, through education and environment. It will be a fun day and have serious consultation. ASAP lunch will be provided.

The outcomes of the event will be: sharing of information and know-how; action, networking and getting the word out. All children are welcomed; it's their future. Shirley Lewis aka Baglady has been living ASAP, 24/7 since her return to NI, late 2001. Minus car, garage, oil tank, mobile, printer, TV...and every single thing in her house is ASAP. But is she doing it right.....? and what are YOU doing?

For more information please visit: www.bagladyproductions.org contact shirley@bagladyproductions.org or telephone 028 2563 9609



4. BUILDING BIRD IDENTIFICATION SKILLS A TRAINING COURSE FOR FIELD SURVEYORS

The Building Bird Identification Skills course will facilitate those who have an interest in developing their bird watching and bird surveying skills beyond the level of passing interest, towards real expertise that will enable them to undertake bird surveys for professional reasons or to contribute to regional and national surveying and conservation planning.

The course will facilitate participants to learn how to identify the vast majority of birds that they are likely to encounter while surveying in Northern Ireland, and it will teach them the principles of how to identify the more unusual and rare species that might turn up. The course will equip them to usefully take part in all the ongoing bird surveying conducted in Northern Ireland.

This course is now going to start on the evening of Monday 17th August 09 with the first full day of training (birding) on Tuesday 18th. **This course is managed and delivered by Shane Wolsey Consulting, please contact 028 9146 7947 or 07831 697371 for further details or to reserve a place.**

5. BATATLAS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The **Northern Ireland Bat Group** are seeking volunteers to take part in the **BatAtlas** monitoring programme in order to record Pipistrelle bats and Leisler's bats across Ireland. No knowledge of how to use the equipment or how to identify bats is actually necessary as Creggan Country Park's Environmental Officer can provide bat detectors and training. If you are interested in taking part in the survey please contact Karen Healy at Creggan Country Park on **028 71363 133** or email Karen.healy@creggancountrypark.com.

If you would like more information on the BatAtlas monitoring scheme please contact Austin Hopkirk at a.hopkirk@ntlworld.com

6. HOPE TRANSITION PROJECT - VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The HOPE (Horticulture, Organic, Produce and Environment) Transition Project will provide training for 15 young people (aged 18 – 25), with learning disabilities, to assist with their transition from school life to adult services. It will involve training two days per week, for a period of 25 weeks. One day a week will entail ASDAN training modules, to promote personal development, health and well-being. The second day will consist of horticultural and environmental activities with Conservation Volunteers NI.

We would like to recruit 10 volunteers to assist with this project, to provide a 'buddy' system and mentoring to the young people through this programme. In particular, we would like to attract senior citizens and young people with horticulture skills that they would be willing to share with the group. The volunteers will be supported by the ASDAN tutors, CVNI staff and Liberty Consortium. Volunteers will be based mainly at the Playtrail, two days a week (four hours each day) and will receive any necessary training, mileage / transport costs and lunch.

If you would like further information please contact:

Christine

HOPE Transition Project, The Playtrail, 15 Racecourse Road, Derry, BT48 7RE

Tel: 028 71 368173 Email address: christinedoherty@playtrail.com



7. EXPERIENCE THE NEWTOWNABBEY WAY: SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

Why not walk or cycle to the Shoreline Festival with our FREE guided tours along the attractive Newtownabbey Way walking and cycling route.

FREE Guided Walk - Sat 15th August

Meet at Monkstown Wood (Woodland Trust car park off the Monkstown Road) at 11:00am.

The guided walk will be lead by Ben Simon from The Forest of Belfast. Join Ben for a relaxing walk along the Newtownabbey Way while hearing about the natural and historical heritage of the area.

FREE Guided Cycle - Sat 15th August

Meet at Threemilewater Conservation Park (car park off the Doagh Road) at 11:30am.

The guided cycle will be lead by volunteers from SUSTRANS. Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity.

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for both guided walk and cycle. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking is essential for both events. For more information or to book your place please contact Lindsay Matthews on 028 90340069.

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FUNDING

1 NIEA NATURAL HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAMME 2009

The revised NIEA Natural Heritage Grants Programme is now open for applications. The revised Guidance Notes and Application Form are available for downloading from the grants website <http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/funding.htm>.

The 2010/11 budget will have to support some on-going projects as well as new applications. Competition for funding is therefore expected to be high. In our consideration of applications which stretch over more than one financial year, we will be mindful of the need to reserve adequate funding levels for future years. We recommend that you consider the guidance notes, and associated documents, carefully in planning any applications.

To ensure co-ordination of education grants you are required to send an outline of your project to the Environmental Education Forum (EEF) for their comment and suggestions. This applies to any structured education programme focussed on young people (up to 25 years old) and further details will be provided in the grant package.

The closing dates for all applications are as follows:

All applications except Education	4pm Friday 21 August 2009
Education Grants	To EEF - 4pm Friday 31 July 2009 To NIEA - 4 pm Wednesday 16 September 2009

We expect the next call for applications will be Spring 2010 for projects with a proposed start date after April 2011.

The targets for reviewing large applications are as follows but will depend on the number of applications received and staffing levels:

Complete Assessments	Late November
Group Review	Early December
Decisions DFP approval not required	January
Decisions DFP approval required	February

Please bear in mind that the grants team is small and will have a considerable workload to complete between September and November. To assist them you are asked to do the following:

- Submit applications as early as you can before the closing date to assist the team to initiate assessments sooner.
- Provide any additional information or answer any queries as quickly as possible.
- If seeking ongoing funding, ensure that all reports for any previous project have been submitted.



If you do not have computer access you may ask for the materials to be posted to you. Grant Programme staff are also available to help applicants with queries and can be contacted at:

Maia Taylor – Grants Programme Manager – 028 9056 69621 – maia.taylor@doeni.gov.uk

Terry Eakin – Access Grants – 028 9056 9580 – terry.eakin@doeni.gov.uk

John Farren – Biodiversity Grants – 028 9056 9612 – johnfarren@doeni.gov.uk

Peter Turner – Economic Appraisals and financial issues – 028 9056 9610 – peter.turner@doeni.gov.uk

Ken Wooster – Administrative queries – 028 9056 9611 – nhgrants@doeni.gov.uk

2. BIG LOTTERY FUNDING

For the period of 2006-2009 there is £90 million available through the **Big Lottery Fund** divided over several different grant programmes:

BIG TRUST FUND

Big Trust Fund is designed to support change in organisations in Northern Ireland's voluntary and community sector through a period of significant restructuring and rationalisation. It is a long-term investment, possibly up to ten years, to support all the changes that will need to happen to the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland. See www.biglotteryfund.org.uk.

AWARDS FOR ALL

Awards for All is a joint Lottery grants scheme aimed at local communities to bring people together and increase community activity. Awards range from £500 to £10,000 and are on-going. See www.awardsforall.org.uk.

BIG DEAL

Fund projects that help young people to make a difference in their own life and to the lives of others. The Big Deal can only make awards directly to individual and informal groups of children and young people aged 0-25. An individual can apply for awards of £500 and a group can apply for an award between £500 and £2,500. Closing date for applications is 30th September 2009. See www.thebigdealni.com for further details.

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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.

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

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

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:

Andy Griggs
Environmental Education Forum
89 Loopland Drive
Belfast BT6 9DW
Tel: 028 9045 5770
eef@nienvironmentlink.org
www.eefni.org.uk