



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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NEWS FROM THE EEF

1. NEW EEF WEBSITE

Due to the funding of the Forum being withdrawn EEF will be a lot more web based from next year. We are currently in the process of getting a new website developed which we hope will be live by early January. If you have any articles or anything that would be of interest to other members please send me your information and I will upload it to the website. I can be contacted at iona@nienvironmentlink.org or eef@nienvironmentlink.org, our website address will remain www.eefni.org.uk I look forward to letting you all know when the new website has gone live. May I also take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous 2010; I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

2. NEW LEEF NEWSLETTER 7.1: GROWING SCHOOL GROUNDS

The latest LEEF Newsletter from the EEF will be available shortly to download from the new website at www.eefni.org.uk/publications. This issue has been designed for schools in Northern Ireland and will help teachers



identify opportunities to develop projects within the school grounds. Copies have been emailed to every school with very few bounce backs which have been followed up and are now up to date.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. THE COPENHAGEN COMMUNIQUÉ

The business leaders of over 500 companies from around the world have published the *The Copenhagen Communiqué* calling on world leaders to agree “an ambitious, robust and equitable global deal on climate change that responds credibly to the scale and urgency of the crisis facing the world today”. They will warn that business will suffer if a credible deal is not reached at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this December.

The global media launch of *The Copenhagen Communiqué* is timed to coincide with the UN Summit on Climate Change, which is taking place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York later today. A copy of The Copenhagen Communiqué will be handed at lunchtime today to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and distributed to more than 100 Heads of State and Governments attending the summit.

The Copenhagen Communiqué has already secured the support of companies based in over 50 countries (including the US, EU, Japan, Australia and Canada, as well as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), ranging from the world’s largest companies and best-known brands to Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) and across a wide variety of business sectors.

In just two pages, the *Communiqué* sets out the business case for a strong and effective UN climate framework and offers a progressive global consensus on the shape of an agreement. The full text of *The Copenhagen Communiqué* is available in 19 different languages at www.copenhagencommuniqué.com, in addition to the complete list of companies that have endorsed it so far and supporting quotes from their business leaders.

The Copenhagen Communiqué is an initiative of The Prince of Wales' Corporate Leaders' Group on Climate Change which is run by The University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership. Global partners in support of the initiative include The Climate Group, The UN Global Compact and WWF-International along with business associations and initiatives in many different countries.

To read further visit: www.copenhagencommuniqué.com/news

2. NEW LOOK FOR CAAN WEBSITES

CAAN’S marketing team has been working hard over the summer to change the emphasis of its consumer websites. OutdoorNI.com, CycleNI.com and WalkNI.com The object of the redesign is to further inspire the consumer and make them aware of the possibilities to enjoy the outdoors in each area of Northern Ireland.

The websites now have mini-destination guides for several key areas within Northern Ireland with itineraries for both day trips and 48 hour breaks. This is accompanied with information on events, special offers and day/short breaks. For example OutdoorNi.com will make planning a family day out to the North Coast much easier while WalkNI.com will



provide all the information need for that walking weekend in the 'Mourne'. For further information please visit the website www.countrysidecreation.com/activities/

3. FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UK COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) is an independent body established under the Climate Change Act to advise the UK Government on setting carbon budgets, and to report to Parliament on the progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The CCC's first annual report to Parliament, Meeting Carbon Budgets - the need for a step change, was released on 12th October, available from the CCC website: www.theccc.org.uk

This is the Committee's first annual report to Parliament on the progress that has been made by Government so far in reducing emissions and the implications of the recession and 'credit crunch' for meeting carbon budgets. The report will set out the emission reduction indicators that will be used to judge progress and will provide a detailed analysis of the policies required to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from electricity generation, from buildings and industry, heat and transport.

David Kennedy, Chief Executive of the Committee on Climate Change, comments on the report in an article on the University of Cambridge website: www.cpsl.cam.ac.uk/our_work/climate_comment.aspx

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. RSPB BIG BIRD WATCH

The RSPB's [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) - the world's largest wildlife survey - takes place Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 January 2010.

Providing wintry fun for families and individuals of all ages, Big Garden Birdwatch is a vital way for your readers, listeners and viewers to contribute to a significant piece of wildlife research without leaving the comfort of their homes. Colin Bateman, writer and novelist, has kindly agreed to do the media launch. The angle will be 'Spy on your neighbours', referring to Colin's work as a crime fiction writer.

There will be a host of other BGBW activities across Northern Ireland, including one on the Comber Greenway, Antrim, Limavady, and Newry. The extranet created by the RSPB has photographs, birdcalls and information about the survey.

If you need any more information, please feel free to contact Stephanie on 028 9069 0843, or go to the website www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

6. GUARDIAN 10:10 CAMPAIGN

10:10 is an empowering [climate change](#) campaign with the aim of getting individuals, companies and institutions to reduce their [carbon footprints](#) by 10% during 2010.

Why 10% in 2010?

Although politicians argue about targets for 2050 and 2030, the scientists say world emissions must peak and begin to fall within the next few years. That means we need deep cuts in the developed world as quickly as possible. The longer we leave it, the smaller our chance of avoiding disastrous warming.

What does signing up entail?

For individuals it means what it says on the tin: pledging to cut your emissions by 10% by the end of 2010. We'll be offering lots of advice on how to do it and 10:10 has teamed up with the major energy companies who will help by showing customers how much energy they are saving on their bills.

What about companies?

The pledge for companies is slightly more flexible to allow firms that have made deep cuts over the last few years to join. They will commit to getting as close to the 10% target as possible – and to encouraging customers, staff and suppliers to sign up too. There are also specially designed targets for schools and other institutions.

Who is backing it?

The campaign is backed by a broad coalition ranging from the Guardian and several major NGOs to major companies, leading political figures and the [Carbon Trust](#).

To find out more and sign up to the pledge visit: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/10-10



RESOURCES

1. RESOURCE PACK - STUPID OR NOT: EDUCATION FOR A SMARTER PLANET

ActionAid, together with The Age of Stupid director Franny Armstrong, have developed a resource pack Stupid or not: Education for a smarter planet.

A new multimedia resource on climate change for learners aged 12+ supporting geography, science, citizenship and film studies. Explore the complexities of climate – from the science, to the possible impacts and solutions – through real, human stories from around the world.

There is a limited offer of either a free 'Stupid or not: Education for a smarter planet' or PowerDown resource available to the first 1,000 secondary schools and primary schools who sign up to the 10:10 campaign.

To find out what's in the pack and order a copy visit: www.actionaid.org.uk/101751/age_of_stupid.html

Or contact Jenna Downes at ActionAid: 0207 561 7502 jenna.downes@actionaid.org Download it at [here](#).

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 are 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 <http://muckin4life.direct.gov.uk/>

3. 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 improve 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.



TRAINING AND EVENTS

1. TEACHING LEAVE NO TRACE IN IRELAND MADE EASIER!

Leave No Trace Ireland has made it easier for those who teach Leave no Trace in Ireland by making games specific to the Irish Environment available on its website. The section 'Ways to teach 'Leave No Trace' consists of a range of games specifically tailored to each principle to ensure a complete understanding of the whole programme. As the programme originated in America, the games that were being used to teach the programme in Ireland were sometimes very specific to the American environment. Now the programme can be taught in a way that makes it relate to the Irish environment, hopefully creating a better understanding.

To access the teaching games please visit – www.leavenotraceireland.org/WaysToTeach.aspx.

2. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIELD STUDIES OFFICERS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The NAFSO Annual conference will take place between January 3rd - January 6th 2010 at The Purbeck House Hotel, Swanage, Dorset. The theme of the conference is 'Promoting Learning Outside the Classroom through Environmental Partnerships'.

The conference themes will enable delegates to...

- Meet and exchange ideas with senior figures from Dorset County Children's Services, Nafso, and other local LOtC providers, RSPB, SEEd, FSC and Growing Schools / FACE.
- Attend a wide range of seminars and workshops linked to the main themes which will educate, inform and engage. These will include Forest Schools, Beach Art, the Heritage Coast, & issues like Greening your environment, Growing Schools and Inclusion in the Outdoors!
- Experience Dorset's endeavours to embrace the greater issues of the day including climate change, sustainability and the environmental impacts of these and others such as food and farming and the concept of Growing Schools.
- Join field visits which will enhance our themes by visiting sites such as Lulworth Cove, Studland Study Centre, various Local Field Centres, Brownsea Island, local schools involved with LOtC and RSPB Arne Reserve. Booking forms can be downloaded from the website; www.nafso.org.uk

3. BRITISH COUNCIL FOR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS – WORLD LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS CONFERENCE

The alienation that many young people feel from the natural world has become a major concern. It was beautifully articulated in Richard Louv's book Last Child in the Woods, which has spawned an international children and nature movement. This course looks at why nature is important for children's development and creativity, and how the



“nature gap” can be bridged. It includes outdoor arts-based workshops and experiential exercises which can be used in many environmental education contexts.

The course is intended for: teachers at all levels, environmental educators, childcare and family services professionals, and parents.

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FUNDING

1 THE GARFIELD WESTON FOUNDATION

The Garfield Weston Foundation was established in 1958 by Willard Garfield Weston, a Canadian businessman who arrived in the UK with his family in 1932. He was the creator of Associated British Foods and the Foundation was endowed with the donation of family-owned company shares. As a result, the Foundation is today the ultimate controller of the company.

Over the past fifty years The Garfield Weston Foundation has supported a wide range of organisations with grants of varying sizes. Recent funding has supported projects in the following categories: Arts, Community, Education, Welfare, Medical, Religion, Youth and Environment. All applications should be sent by post.

There are no formal deadlines for submitting applications and organisations should allow approximately four months for a final outcome, though acknowledgement letters are sent within four weeks. Please note that once an acknowledgement letter has been sent there is typically no further correspondence until the outcome of the application. Please see the www.garfieldweston.org

2. THE WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST

The Woodward Charitable Trust is one of the [Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts](#). The Trusts share a common administration, but are otherwise independent of each other.

The Trustees favour small-scale, locally based initiatives. Funding is primarily for one-off projects, but the Trustees are willing to consider funding for start-up or running costs (including core costs and salaries).

Funding Priorities

1. **Social and ethnic minority groups, including young people at risk of exclusion or isolation, refugees, asylum-seekers, gypsies and travellers.** Projects that promote integration and community cohesion will be favoured;
2. **Prisoners and ex-offenders.** Projects that help the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners and/or ex-offenders are supported as well as requests to help **prisoners' families**;
3. **Homelessness, especially affecting young people and women,** and covering facilities such as women's refuges;
4. **People experiencing violence or abuse**;
5. **Arts outreach work** by local groups involving disadvantaged people;



6. **Disability projects**; which can include rehabilitation, training or advocacy for people who are either
7. physically disabled or learning disabled as well as help to improve employability;
8. **Environmental projects**, especially with a strong educational element;
9. **Addiction**, including projects tackling the social exclusion elements and preventative programmes and projects supporting families of addicts.

Trustees review grant applications twice a year, usually in January and July. Please consult the [diary page](#) for up-to-date deadlines for receipt of applications.

- **Small grants**, £100-£5,000 (around 40-50 grants made per year, to projects within areas 1-8 above on a one-off basis)
- **Large grants**, over £5,000 (around 5-10 grants made per year, usually to projects within areas 1-5 above and spread over a maximum of three years). **Applications for large grants will be rejected unless applications are discussed with the administrator prior to submission.**
- **Children's summer play scheme grants** £500-£1,000 (usually about 30-40 grants made each year on a one-off basis). Applications for these are made separately and considered in May each year.

Further information can be found www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk

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>

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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.

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

	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

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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