



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 – NOW LIVE

I am delighted to inform you that the website is now up and running. As you can appreciate it is still a work in progress in terms of getting all the information on. I would ask you to 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 or eef@nienvironmentlink.org, our website address will remain www.eefni.org.uk Due to the funding of the Forum being withdrawn EEF will be a lot more web based from now on so the more up to date information I have to put on the better.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. NEXT EDITION OF LEEF NEWSLETTER 7.2: GLOBAL DIMENSION IN SCHOOLS NI (GDSNI)

The next edition of the LEEF Newsletter from the EEF will be on the subject of Global Dimension in Schools NI (GDSNI). If you as members would like any article/news in this edition could you please have it with me by Friday **the 12th February** and I will gladly include it. Unfortunately I won't be issuing any further reminders so send those articles in please. **To date I have received very little information.**



3. EEF AGM

The EEF AGM was held at Rowallane on Wednesday 3rd February. Many thanks to Neil Irwin from NICVA and Sue Christie from NIEL who both gave very interesting and challenging talks on funding. Alyn Jones our Chairman focused on Past Achievements and looked to Future Planning for the Forum now that our funding has been cut and our Co-ordinator is no longer in post. A number of minor changes were proposed to our Articles of Association copies of which will be issued to you over the next couple of weeks. It was also proposed that we change our name to **Sustainability Education Forum**; all changes will be discussed at our conference on the 14th June. We also elected a new Management Committee and we had valuable discussion on topics for workshops at our Conference.

The meeting was very well attended and we got some valuable work done. Many thanks to all who took time out of your busy schedules to attend.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. ANCIENT TREE HUNT RECORDING DAY

The Woodland Trust are organising a day for volunteers who wish to learn to record the key trees within the Borough of Antrim. The event is being held at Shane's Castle Antrim on the 27th February from 9.30am – 4pm. Further information will be sent prior to the day. If you would like to join us please contact Alison Evershed alisonevershed@woodlandtrust.org.uk or phone 0845 293 5650. The Woodland Trust will guide on how to recognise trees of interest (including ancient, veteran and notable trees) and how to record these on their website <http://www.ancientreehunt.org.uk/>

There will also be an opportunity to see the impressive 'Hangman's Oak' on Turnpike Road, Shane's Castle Estate.

2. NICVA GETS A NEW LOOK WEBSITE

NICVA is always looking at ways to improve the services they offer to the sector, most particularly to their members. In redesigning the NICVA site, they hope they've made it more accessible and easier for you to find what you're looking for.

As always NICVA is very open to feedback from users, so let them know if there's something else you'd like to find on the corporate site. Don't forget to check our family of sites for specific information:

[CommunityNI](#) - a dedicated networking website for the voluntary and community sector.

[GrantTracker](#) - GrantTracker is the only website dedicated to helping the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland to fundraise.



[CommunityBuyer](#) - Through the mixture of supplier directories, peer reviews and purchasing advice, CommunityBuyer aims to connect organisations with the right supplier. www.nicva.org

3. 2010 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

The United Nations has declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity.

The launch of the International Year of Biodiversity has taken place on 11 January 2010 in Berlin, Germany. Find out more here: www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/.

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. EAGLE RETURNS TO ANTRIM SKYLINE

More than 100 years have passed since eagles commanded the skies above north Antrim, but the recent arrival of one of these massive birds of prey has raised conservationists' hopes they might be back to stay. The exact location of the bird is being kept secret and a team of conservationists and local farmers are helping keep watch over the eagle.

There is no secret though over where this female eagle has come from. An electronic tag on its wing confirms it is one of a number released in County Kerry. A satellite tracking device fitted to its wing means members of the Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group are able to track its movements.

This story is from the BBC. Read it in full here: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8408846.stm.



6. CHARITY AWARDS 2010

Be proud of your achievements and ensure they are recognised and rewarded by entering the Charity Awards 2010, the voluntary sector's premier awards programme at www.charityawards.co.uk. The deadline for entries is Friday 12 March 2010.

Success at The Charity Awards can boost staff morale, enhance your influence, help funding applications and is a superb opportunity to raise your profile. Find out more and download an entry form at www.charityawards.co.uk.

7. NATIONAL NEST BOX WEEK

National Nest Box Week is great for birds. Starting on St Valentine's Day, it's the time we remind ourselves to provide homes for dozens of species, from Blue Tits to Barn Owls.

If you've never built a nest box before, why not give it a go this year? Or if you haven't got the time, it's easy to buy a good one. Go on, take part for Britain's birds!" For more information go to <http://www.bto.org/nbw/>

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 'Stupid or not: Education for a smarter planet' packs can be ordered from our online shop for £25

2. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SCIENTIST AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum in London has recently opened the Darwin Centre, a state-of-the-art research, exhibition and collections-storage space.



At the heart of the Darwin Centre is the 7-storey Cocoon building, where visitors can engage with the science that goes on at the Museum through interactive exhibits, meeting Museum educators and watching scientists as they work.

The Museum has produced a set of online activities for schools, called A Day in the Life of a Scientist, where you can take the role of a researcher or a science journalist. Your task is to prepare for your Cocoon visit by doing background research, and then use your visit to find out information which you'll report back to your class back at school.

There are separate activities for Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and post-16 students:

KS3 - Who Works at the Museum?

Choose to be either a journalist or a scientist presenting research about Biodiversity at the Darwin Centre. This activity is supported by free booklets for students to use during their Cocoon visit.

KS4 - Careers in Science

Conduct interviews for a research post at the Museum.

Post-16 - Planning an expedition

Take the role of scientists planning an expedition to investigate insect-borne diseases.

To access the online activities go to <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/a-day-in-the-life>

To find out more about visiting the Natural History Museum with schools go to:

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/education/index.html>

3. GARDEN ORGANIC

Garden Organic Website 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 or Alan Hayes alan@nyci.ie

2. NICVA LAUNCHES NEW 2010 TRAINING CALENDAR

NICVA's new training calendar for February to August 2010 is now available. Many of the courses are accredited which means that they are developed to meet criteria as laid out in the National Occupational Standards.

The courses planned for February and early March are:

Train the Trainer - 2, 18 Feb and 4 March – A three day programme for anyone hoping to or already facilitating training in the workplace.

Assertive managers - 23 February – Learn how to behave more assertively in potentially difficult situations and encourage assertive behaviour in others.

Managing change and writing a strategic plan - 2 March - The key elements of strategic planning.

Managing to fundraise - 10 and 24 March - Discover the key principles of fundraising, the elements of a fundraising strategy and a broad range of fundraising methods and techniques.

Find out more and download a booking form at www.nicva.org/news/nicva-launches-new-training-calendar-2010.

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FUNDING

1. SHARED FUTURES FUNDING

Shared Futures has received funding from Comic Relief to with new project partners across the UK. We want to build on the work by schools and other settings showcased in the SHARED Futures DVD. If you are a school, voluntary or community organisation, or youth work setting and would like to develop a creative and innovative project we would like to hear from you. SHARED Futures can help projects to support the integration and well-being of refugees and promote community cohesion. We are looking for partner sin England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Shared Futures will:

- Support you to plan and develop your project
- Assist with costs
- Support he participation of children and young people
- Work with you to document and disseminate the outcomes and learning of your project



To find out more please contact the SHARED Futures project manager:

Duncan Little Tel: 07910 773110

Email: duncanlittle1234@hotmail.com

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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