



January 2010

*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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**Website: [www.eefni.org.uk](http://www.eefni.org.uk)**

## 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Due to the funding of the Forum being withdrawn EEF will be a lot more web based from next year.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](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) I look forward to letting you all know when the new website has gone live.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> February** and I will gladly include it. Unfortunately I won't be issuing any further reminders so send those articles in please.



### 3. EEF AGM

The EEF AGM will be held at Rowallane on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10am. As well as the AGM we will be looking at the whole Funding issue for the NGO Sector with so many cutbacks and we will have a lineup of speakers. We also will be focusing on Past Achievements and looking to Future Planning for the Forum now that our funding has been cut and our Co-ordinator is no longer in post. Importantly we will be making amendments to the Constitution of the Forum with a possible name change.

We want to use this opportunity to plan a Conference for June and would very much value your input. Please make every effort to attend this meeting.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

### 1. TREE PLANTING WORLD RECORD

Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland in partnership with BBC Breathing Places has broken the world record for the number of trees planted in one hour. The new record of a massive 26,422 native trees was set in the grounds of Gransha Hospital, Londonderry on Saturday 5 December 2009. The previous record stood at 18,124.

A team of 100 volunteers, joined by Nadine Coyle of Girls Aloud and Miss Earth Northern Ireland, Kayleigh O'Reilly, worked extremely hard to break the record, which was certainly no easy task. According to Ivan Black, Conservation Volunteers' L/Derry Field Officer, "It was touch and go whether we would break the record or not." The event was part of Tree O'Clock - a UK-wide attempt to also break the record of the greatest number of trees planted at multiple sites in one hour. You can read this story in full at: [www.cvni.org/stories/new-tree-planting-world-record](http://www.cvni.org/stories/new-tree-planting-world-record)

### 2. 1<sup>ST</sup> COLD WEATHER HUNTING BAN

As much of Northern Ireland remains in an icy Arctic embrace, the RSPB is reminding the public that birds need extra help and consideration during this exceptionally cold spell.

As well as putting out food and water for garden birds, the charity is calling for those that use the countryside, including birdwatchers, walkers, anglers and water sports enthusiasts, to minimise disturbance to groups of ducks, geese, swans and wading birds on lakes, rivers, wetlands and coastal areas.

To help birds during this sustained cold period, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency have called for a legal suspension of the shooting of ducks, geese and waders from 7 January for a period of at least seven days. This is the first time a ban has been introduced in Northern Ireland, and reflects how prolonged and severe our weather has been. You can read the full story at [www.rspb.org.uk/northernireland/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/northernireland/).



### 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 will take place on 11 January 2010 in Berlin, Germany. Find out more here: [www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/](http://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. RSPB BIG BIRD WATCH

The RSPB's [Big Garden Birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/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](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)



## 6. ACTRESS BACKS CHRISTMAS CARD RECYCLING DRIVE

Recycle your Christmas cards with the Woodland Trust, and partners TK Maxx and Marks & Spencer.

Film legend Dame Judi Dench is urging the public to recycle their Christmas cards with the Woodland Trust.

The Oscar-winning actress is asking residents right throughout the UK to support the conservation charity by recycling their Christmas cards. Simply take your cards to TK Maxx or Marks & Spencer, and leave them in the special recycling bins which will be in place throughout January.

After recycling your cards, you can log onto [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/cards](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/cards) and choose which UK region you would like the Woodland Trust to plant trees in, with funding provided by the retail partners.

Dame Judi Dench said: "We all enjoy giving and receiving Christmas cards. Well, thanks to the Woodland Trust there is the chance for a second giving and receiving opportunity this year." She continued: "I would like to challenge people to give to the environment, recycle their cards and choose where the new trees generated by this year's recycling should be planted!"

In the 12 years of the Trust's recycling scheme, a total of 659 million cards – that's 13,080 tonnes of card - have been recycled throughout the UK, allowing the Trust to plant 155,000 trees. Last year alone 59 million cards were collected, which funded the planting of 14,000 trees.

## 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](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/101751/age_of_stupid.html)

Or contact Jenna Downes at ActionAid: 0207 561 7502 [jenna.downes@actionaid.org](mailto:jenna.downes@actionaid.org) 'Stupid or not: Education for a smarter planet' packs can be ordered from our online shop for £25



## 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. GARDEN ORGANIC AND LET'S GET COOKING

Garden Organic has worked with Let's Get Cooking to produce an activity pack based around growing and cooking with herbs, which is full of recipes and growing advice. This resource is only available to schools that have a Let's Get Cooking club, but if your school already has a cooking club you can apply to join Let's Get Cooking as an associate member.

Let's Get Cooking associate clubs receive £500 to help open their cooking activities out to parents and members of their local community as well as a range of resources including recipes, activity ideas, wall charts and much more. You can also access the Club Zone of our website to link up with other clubs in your area and find out about competitions, training and events.

To apply to become an associate club visit <http://www.letsgetcooking.org.uk/associate>

Let's Get Cooking is a national network of healthy cooking clubs for children and parents, backed by £20 million from the Big Lottery Fund.

For more information, please email [info@letsgetcooking.org.uk](mailto:info@letsgetcooking.org.uk)

## TRAINING AND EVENTS

### 1. FACILITATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY: DEVELOPING THE SKILLS

What is Facilitation for Sustainability?

Sustainability requires us to live and work differently and this involves social learning in facilitated groups where new ideas and practices can be created together.

Who is this course for?

Teachers, educators, local authority staff, NGO staff and environment/sustainability champions in organisations.

Why you should do this course?



This course is about being able to run creative facilitated events and workshops that help people develop new ideas that they can sustain by engaging in a learning process.

You may be finding yourself grappling with the need to make personal and organisational changes that are intended to lead towards a more sustainable future. But how to engage others in this?

As a pioneer or champion you may be working in isolation but know you need to engage other groups to work effectively for change. You can't do it on your own!

But this course will show you how!

For more information please visit our [website](#) at and download our brochure or contact Hermione Fricker at [hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk](mailto:hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk). The location of the courses will be in Central London.

## 2. CELEBRATING WORLD WETLANDS DAY

**1st - 5th February 2010 \*Please Note Booking is Essential**

### *Wildlife & Well-Being Education Programmes Key Stages 3 and 4*

Derry City Council and Liberty Consortium are pleased to announce a week of free education programmes for post-primary schools to celebrate World Wetlands Day (2nd February). The programmes deliver on the learning outcomes of Environment & Society, Science and Local and Global Citizenship. They also deliver on the key element of education for sustainable development.

The programmes will be delivered on Bay Road Park Local Nature Reserve, and at the Ecobase, the Playtrail, Racecourse Road. The Ecobase is a sustainably constructed straw-bale building.

### **Programmes on offer:**

#### **Wetland Ecosystem Study**

##### ***Bay Road Park Local Nature Reserve***

**2 hours**

This programme will enable the pupils to study the wetland habitats on this Local Nature Reserve through observation, sampling and surveying.

Curriculum links: Learn about the interdependence of plants and animals

- Investigating the effects of pollution
- Develop skills in the safe use of science equipment
- Exploring the importance of biodiversity
- Education for Sustainable Development



## Planning for a Local Nature Reserve

### *Classroom, Bay Road Park Local Nature Reserve and Ecobase*

*1 hour in class, 2 hours on each site - can be programmed in on different weeks*

This programme can be linked to the Geography Unit, Where Am I? Examining the local area and what makes it unique. The pupils examine two sites to decide which should be used for a Local Nature Reserve.

Curriculum links:

- Map work skills
- Enquiry and fieldwork skills
- Develop critical and creative thinking skills
- Develop a sense of place and belonging at a local level
- Explore environmental stewardship
- Investigate what can be done to conserve and promote biodiversity
- Education for Sustainable Development

## Climate Change

### *Ecobase, the Playtrail 1 hour workshop*

This workshop explains terms such as climate change, global warming and renewable energy. Pupils will explore the Ecobase to determine how it was constructed to reduce its' impact on climate change, and work as a team to determine the benefits of renewable energy.

Curriculum links:

- Education for Sustainable Development
- Develop creative and critical thinking.
- Plan for investigations, obtain evidence, present and interpret results
- Investigate the effects of pollution and specify measures to improve and protect the environment

## Pond Study

### *1.5 hour workshop, Ecobase*

A workshop to examine the biodiversity found in ponds, sampling techniques and how to use keys to identify pond-life. Sampling water for pollution will also be undertaken using biological and bio-chemistry indicators.

Curriculum links:

- Plan for investigations, obtain evidence, present and interpret results
- Develop a range of practical skills.
- Learn about the interdependence of plants and animals.
- Investigate the effects of pollution
- Explore the importance of biodiversity



For further details contact Annie Mullan, Wildlife Education Officer, Tel: 028 7136 5151, email: [annie.mullan@derrycity.gov.uk](mailto:annie.mullan@derrycity.gov.uk)

### 3. WANT TO RECYCLE AN OLD COMPUTER

Camara, a charity which takes in used computers and refurbishes them and sends them to schools in Africa, will be collecting in used computers at a shopping centre near you this month.

The charity is constantly on the lookout for members of the public and organisations that will donate their used computers. There is a minimum spec (Pentium 3, 256 MB RAM, 600Mhz processor, 10GB) but a good rule of thumb is if the computer is under 10 years old and switches on, Camara should be able to reuse it or some part of it.

Collection details are as follows:

- 16 January - Sprucefield Shopping Centre - 9.00am-6.00pm
- 23 January - Quays shopping Centre, Newry - 9.00am-6.00pM
- 30 January - Crescent Link Retail Park, Derry - 9.00pm-5.30pm

For more information contact  
*Ann Fitzpatrick at Camara*  
Tel: 028 9033 2470  
email: [belfast@camara.ie](mailto:belfast@camara.ie)

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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](mailto: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](http://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



	<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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