



Environmental Education Forum E-Bulletin

In This Issue:

News from the EEF

1. [New LEEF Newsletter 6.3: Fabulous Freshwater](#)
2. [New Members Join the Forum](#)
3. [EEF Conference Report](#)

Environmental Education News

1. [Does your School have an Appetite for action](#)
2. [British Wildlife Photography Awards](#)
3. [Challenge Europe: Climate Advocates 2009](#)
4. [BBC Breathing Places Do One Thing for summer: Make a Splash](#)

Resources

1. [LTL Launches the Essential Guide to Getting Outside](#)
2. [Promoting Development Education in Youth Work Training: A Research Report](#)
3. [Think Food and Farming jumps on the Facebook bandwagon!](#)

Training & Events

1. [Amnesty International Summer Scheme Course](#)
2. [Picture This! - Causeway Coast AONB Schools Photography Competition](#)
3. [WRAP NI: Recycling In Schools Training Course – 25/26 November 2009](#)

Funding

1. [NIEA Natural Heritage Grant Programme due to reopen](#)
2. [Paul Hamlyn Foundation](#)
3. [BBC Breathing Places Big Lottery Funding](#)

Job Opportunites

1. [Advisory Teacher: Magilligan Field Centre](#)

Membership of EEF

1. [Join the Forum](#)



INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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NEWS FROM THE EEF

1. NEW LEEF NEWSLETTER 6.3: FABULOUS FRESHWATER

The latest LEEF Newsletter from the EEF is now available as a hard copy or to download from the website at www.eefni.org.uk/publications. This issue has been designed for schools in Northern Ireland and will help teachers identify opportunities for developing wildlife friendly water features in the school grounds.

There are updates on Forum activities, member's news and diary dates and events. The supplement contains information on creating a pond or bog garden and helps compliment the BBC Breathing Places Do One Thing for Spring / Summer 2009.

All members will receive their hard copies in the post as usual, should you require any additional copies of this issue please contact the EEF Co-ordinator, at the usual address.



2. NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE FORUM

The EEF are delighted to welcome the following new members to the network:

2nd Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation Trust

2nd Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation Trust is a charity dedicated to the care of sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. Many of these animals end up in danger due to the effect of humans on their environment. They have become innocent victims of pollution, development, traffic collisions and increased pressure by the invasion and destruction of their habitat. Their education programme looks at ways to avoid harming wildlife and their habitat and encourages a greater appreciation and understanding of nature.

Belfast Harbour Commissioners

The Port of Belfast is Northern Ireland's principal maritime gateway, serving the Northern Ireland economy and increasingly that of the Republic of Ireland. About 60% of Northern Ireland's seaborne trade and 20% of the entire island's is handled by the Port which receives over 6000 vessels each year. The port runs an environmental education programme focused around 'Webster the Port Monster' www.belfast-harbour.co.uk

CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise)

CAFRE run further and higher education courses up to postgraduate level with a focus on practical training and work experience. Around 1,400 students are based at three campuses, Greenmount, Enniskillen and Loughry, Cookstown and a range of full time, part time and short courses are offered. CAFRE work in partnership with the RSPB and Ulster Wildlife Trust to provide curriculum-linked programmes at Greenmount, which include using a purpose built nature trail offering a range of habitats, woodland, lakes, constructed wetland and farmland. www.cafre.ac.uk

Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

Causeway Coast and Glens is a partnership body established in 2002 in order to promote and enhance the unique qualities of the Causeway Coast and Glens area. The area covered by the Trust includes a wide variety of scenic landscapes, important wildlife resources and cultural heritage. The Trust aims to promote environmental management which aims to protect the unique heritage of the area. It also aims to promote a sustainable tourism industry for the benefit of both visitors and the people who live and work here. www.ccght.org

Dogs Trust, Ballymena

The Dogs Trust is the largest dog welfare charity in the UK and has always campaigned on dog-welfare related issues. The Trust maintains a rescue/re-homing centre in Ballymena for the care, treatment and re-homing, of unwanted, homeless, stray, ill-treated, injured and sick dogs. The Trust also has an education programme and offers free interactive workshops for 7-11 year olds in schools and youth groups. They encourage young people to explore problems of irresponsible dog ownership. www.dogstrust.org.uk



NI Forest Schools (NIFSA)

The development of Forest School began in Britain in the 1990s. It is based on a Scandinavian idea that considers children's contact with nature to be extremely important from an early age. NIFSA in Northern Ireland is an **independent charity** which promotes the Forest School ethos to educational establishments and like-minded organisations throughout the country. www.nifsa.org.uk

The Consumer Council

[The Consumer Council](#) is a statutory body that aims to promote and safeguard the interests of all consumers in Northern Ireland. The Consumer Council's aim is to make the consumer voice heard and ensure that policy makers in Northern Ireland hear that voice and take it into account when they are making decisions that affect us all. The Consumer Council also runs information and education campaigns, undertakes research and produces publications. The Consumer Council handles complaints about planes, trains, buses, ferries, water, electricity, natural gas and coal. The Council launched an e-based project called [Eco World](#) to help develop young people's awareness and understanding of the implications for the individual, society, the economy and environment in the areas of energy, transport, waste, food and water.

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 CONFERENCE REPORT

The recent EEF Conference, '**WORKING TOGETHER**' - [Understanding the benefits Eco Schools brings to schools, the environment and partners and developing a best practice approach for Northern Ireland](#) that took place at the Pump House, Science Park was attended by over 60 EEF members.

This event provided an opportunity for delivery partners to input into the future development of Eco Schools, gave ideas on how the impacts of Eco Schools can be measured, helped delegates to build capacity to support schools studying the global perspective and provided those attending with ideas on successful engagement with the Post Primary Sector.

The Eco Committee from St Mary's College in Clady stole the show and gave a fantastic and highly enthusiastic talk to the delegates on the journey they and the school have taken on their route to gaining their green flag. They shared with the audience their experiences and confidently answered a variety of questions from the floor! – **WELL DONE GUYS** – you certainly showed us all how its done!

The Conference report and all the presentations, including the St Mary's talk and can be found at the EEF website at the following address: www.eefni.org.uk/conferenceproceedings



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE AN APPETITE FOR ACTION?

Appetite for Action is a free online resource for all Primary Schools in the UK and Ireland, from Global Action Plan and Sky. Developed in conjunction with teachers and endorsed by the United Nations Environment programme, the website offers schools the chance to take on a challenge to win £3,000 and the unique opportunity to turn their school into a Sky News studio for a day! Appetite for Action will help schools to tackle a range of sustainability issues through the topic of food, helping pupils to reduce food waste, grow their own fruit and vegetables, understand composting and reduce waste to landfill.

Through the interactive website, a group of students can join the Action Club, a network of thousands of school Action Teams from across the UK and Ireland. By creating an online team profile, schools can write blogs about their actions, show visuals of their measurements and even twin with other schools. Register your school now at www.appetiteforaction.org.uk.

2. BRITISH WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Buglife is sponsoring the 'Hidden Britain' category of the new British Wildlife Photography Awards. The competition is now open for entries and closes at the end of July. The British Wildlife Photography Awards has been established to celebrate and recognise the talents of photographers of all nationalities practicing in the UK, while at the same time, highlight the great wealth and diversity of the natural history in the United Kingdom.

The awards will encourage photographers, whether professional or enthusiast, to explore Britain's natural and urban environments, and discover its bounty of wildlife species, from birds to mammals; insects to marine life. There are seven main categories to excite the imagination, as well as two special awards to encourage participation by young people, schools and youth community groups.

With a prize fund of up £15,000 and the overall winner receiving a cash prize of £5,000, the images receiving judges' commendations will form part of a series of nationwide exhibitions, including a premier launch and awards event. The exhibition will launch at Hoopers Gallery, London from 24th September 09 and tour several locations around the UK.

Awards and Prizes

British Wildlife Photographer - £5,000

Young British Wildlife Photographer (under 18) - £500

Schools, Youth and Community Group Award - £1,000

The competition is OPEN and the closing date is **31st July 2009**. Entrants can submit entries on-line or via post. For more detailed information about the competition, including how to enter, a full description of categories, shooting tips, and terms & conditions, please visit the competition website: www.bwpawards.org



3. CHALLENGE EUROPE: CLIMATE ADVOCATES 2009

Challenge Europe: Be Part of the Solution (www.britishcouncil.org/nireland or www.britishcouncil.org/ireland)

Challenge Europe is a three year project that aspires to make a definite and lasting impact on the climate change debate. It brings together young influencers (aged 18-35) from across Europe to work together as Climate Advocates to develop concrete ideas aimed at reducing carbon use locally and internationally. The British Council are now looking for the brightest, boldest and best minds in Europe to participate in the second year of the project. Have you got what it takes? If you care about the environment and want to make a difference then you could be just the person we are looking for.

Log on to www.britishcouncil.org/ireland or www.britishcouncil.org/nireland and find out more about how to become a Climate Advocate in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

4. BBC BREATHING PLACES DO ONE THING FOR SUMMER: MAKE A SPLASH

The summer term is here and BBC Breathing Places is helping schools make a splash for wildlife by launching the new Do One Thing topic. So it's time for schools to take the plunge and find out how to make their grounds a haven for frogs, dragonflies and other water-loving wildlife, which will not only help local biodiversity but will allow young people to experience the outdoor classroom whilst encouraging creativity and imagination.

All the information needed to get started can be downloaded from the BBC Breathing Places website at www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools. There are Teachers' Notes to help teachers and pupils to create mini-ponds and a mini-bog garden. Once created, these mini-wetlands will soon be teeming with wildlife. As well as information on how to help wildlife, there is advice and useful links to help schools conserve water, leaving more for wildlife. A curriculum guide provides information applicable to all areas of the country.

If you know of any schools that are not already registered all that you need to get started is log on to www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools, click on Register now, submit their details and they will be sent a colourful Breathing Places Schools folder FREE. Previous Do One Thing Teachers' Notes and all the activities can also be downloaded from the website free of charge.

RESOURCES

1. LTL LAUNCHES THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO GETTING OUTSIDE

Learning through Landscapes has launched a new tool-kit guide to help early years settings improve their outdoor environments for play and learning. PlayOut is the first of its kind and is aimed at all those involved with improving the use, design and management of outdoor spaces. The tool-kit includes two books - Preparing the Ground and Creating Changes, providing step-by-step advice on project management and how to plan improvements. Also included is a CD Rom of tools and resources, the Outdoors for Everyone DVD, case study cards and posters for settings.



The tool-kit will support early year's settings in developing their ethos and attitude towards the outdoors, helping to deliver a high quality curriculum to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and has been designed to provide practical, fun and manageable solutions to plan, use, and maintain improvements to any early year's outdoor environment, making it a better place for stimulating and enjoyable play and learning."

For those already planning capital improvements to their outdoor play, the toolkit will provide inspiration from others, helping settings to save time and money, with templates, resources and tips for avoiding costly mistakes. There are also links for curriculum planning and engaging children in the process.

The tool-kit is available now and can be purchased from the publications pages on the Learning through Landscapes website: www.ltl.org.uk for £60.00 or £40.00 for all LTL members.

2. PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION IN YOUTH WORK TRAINING: A RESEARCH REPORT

The Centre for Global Education, in partnership with the Community Youth Work Team at the University of Ulster (Jordanstown), has commissioned a practice-based research project with the aim of enhancing the global dimension in youth work training. **The research was carried out by consultants Dare to Stretch and involved:**

- Qualitative research into the global dimension in the BSc Honours in Community Youth Work at Jordanstown to determine trainee youth workers' knowledge of, and interest in, global youth work.
- The delivery of exemplar seminars on global youth work to demonstrate the effectiveness of development education methodologies and content in youth work training as part of the BSc in Community Youth Work.
- Interviews and focus groups with academic staff and youth work students in the University of Ulster campuses at Jordanstown and Magee.
- Interviews with wider stakeholders in youth work policy and practice.
- Assessing opportunities for, and identify challenges to, the enhanced delivery of global youth work within existing modules as part of the BSc Honours in Community Youth Work.
- Making recommendations for action based on the research findings that can enable the University of Ulster and the wider youth work sector to strengthen the global dimension in youth work training.

Target Groups

This document will be of interest to development and youth organizations, and may also benefit other third level institutions that provide youth work training. The Centre encourages use of the document by other organizations and institutions. It can be added to web sites and distributed through youth, development, community / voluntary and academic networks. The report has been published by the Centre for Global Education and is available from www.centreforglobaleducation.com/documents/105.



3. THINK FOOD AND FARMING JUMPS ON THE FACEBOOK BANDWAGON!

Social networking has become one of the new wonders of the world and Think Food and Farming has chosen to 'get with the programme' and set up a page on Facebook. The Think Food and Farming page on Facebook aims to attract more traffic to the existing website; the Think Food and Farming website will remain the focal point so supporters not using Facebook will not be missing out!

'The idea is to reach audiences we have so far missed such as college and university students, and to take advantage of the marketing potential of Facebook. Supporters both new and old will be able to become 'fans' of the page and interact in a variety of new ways including idea and information sharing forums, 'real-time' news and event updates on their own home pages and they can even post relevant pictures on the page.' www.thinkfoodandfarming.org.uk

TRAINING AND EVENTS

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL COURSE

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) and Amnesty International will be running the following courses as part of the RTU Summer School.

Sharing good practice in whole school approaches to Rights Education in Primary School Thursday 20th August

This course will:

- Consider ways to develop more effective, democratic schools through whole school rights education.
- Raise awareness of rights in relation to the NI Primary Curriculum
- Share good practice from the Lift Off human rights education initiative and the NICCY school council initiative
- Consider ways to incorporate a rights based approaches into practice and policy

Teaching Citizenship through Human Rights (Post Primary) on Wednesday 19th August

Course participants will:

- understand what human rights education is, and will be able to deliver the Global citizenship element of LLW through a human rights based approach.
- leave with a full range of practical lesson plans and teaching strategies to teach the KS3 and 4 components of global citizenship and cascade this knowledge to other citizenship practitioners in their school.
- have a knowledge of the contents of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other key human rights frameworks be able to explain the aims and principles of human rights education and to relate these to their own practice and to the ethos of their school.

For further details and application forms see the prospectus available in your schools, visit the **Regional Training Unit website** www.rtuni.com/summerschool or Telephone **02890 618121**



2. PICTURE THIS! - CAUSEWAY COAST AONB SCHOOLS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust are currently running a photography competition with local schools aimed at engaging pupils with their area and encouraging them to record their experiences of the natural, built and cultural environments.

The competition is already taking place and the remaining visits and schools are as follows:

St Patrick's/St Brigids will be visiting Larrybane, Carrick-a-rede, Kinbane on Friday 12th June

Dunseverick PS G. will be visiting the Giants Causeway and Dunseverick castle on Monday 15th June

Straidbilly PS will be visiting the Portrush Nature Reserve, East Strand on Wednesday 17th June

St Patrick's PS will be visiting Magheracross, Dunluce Castle, Portballintrae and the Bushfoot on Monday 22nd June

Whilst on site the children will be provided with digital cameras and they will be assisted and instructed by the photographer on techniques to capture the ultimate image. Staff will also be available to answer questions about the natural environment. The children will provide captions for each photograph and the school's selection will be forwarded to the Trust for shortlisting and judging.

There will be 1 Winning image, 3 Runner-up images and 7 Highly Commended awards, with the overall winner receiving a digital camera with accessories. Runners up and highly commended prize winners will all receive book tokens. There will also be a Prize-giving ceremony from 7 – 9 July in the University of Ulster, Coleraine.

CCGHT would like to extend an invitation to all members for the Environmental Education Forum to attend one of the above days and participate in this exciting and innovative project. If you would like to come along to any of the days please contact: Carole O'Kane on 02820752100 or at carole@ccght.org

3. WRAP NI: RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS TRAINING COURSE – 25/26 NOVEMBER 2009

This course aims to enable delegates to provide advice on the range of options/ strategies for recycling collection schemes in schools and to plan and implement recycling collection schemes for schools.

Target audience will be Individuals with responsibility for developing / delivering recycling collections to schools.

Structure

Delegates are required to complete pre-course work / reading.

1.5 days residential (Day 1: 14:00 to Day 2: 16:00)

Delegates are required to complete one work-based report. The purpose of this is to enable delegates to extend/consolidate the learning gained from the course by applying the knowledge gained / ideas developed during the course to their own work situation and producing an action plan applicable to their work place.



Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course delegates will be able to evaluate how work with schools can help the LA meet its strategic aims; identify and critically evaluate the factors that influence the viability of different waste management strategies for schools; critically evaluate the possible recycling and waste collection arrangements between schools and local authorities; work effectively with key school stakeholders to recommend, develop, implement and evaluate an appropriate recycling scheme; and evaluate the potential for integrating schools recycling schemes with other schools initiatives.

This course is accredited by CIWM and equates to Masters Level (NVQ equivalent 7)

FUNDING

1 NIEA NATURAL HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAMME 2009

The NIEA Natural Heritage Grant Programme is due to reopen next week for applications over £10,000.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) administers the Natural Heritage Grant Programme (NHGP) to support projects in Northern Ireland to:

Encourage the conservation and enhancement of key elements of the environment and its wildlife, and the provision of facilities which help as wide a range of people as possible to enjoy and appreciate our natural heritage.

Grant applications are invited from a wide range of organisations, although some [grant categories](#) are restricted to certain sectors such as District Councils.

For more information please visit: www.ni-environment.gov.uk/landscape/grant.htm

2. THE PAUL HAMLYN FOUNDATION

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation is an independent grant making body which funds organisations whose charitable activities help people to realise their potential and a better quality of life. Education and Learning Open Grant Scheme

The Foundation recently issued new guidelines for the Education and Learning Open Grants Scheme Programme, featuring three specific themes: supplementary education, tackling school exclusion and truancy, and developing speaking and listening skills for 11- 19 year olds. This scheme supports innovative ways of increasing people's learning, funding the development, implementation and dissemination of new ideas to increase people's education and learning. There are no closing dates – full details are available on their website: www.phf.org.uk



3. 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.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1. ADVISORY TEACHER – MAGILLIGAN FIELD CENTRE

The Advisory Teacher will be responsible to the AAO for initiating and facilitating a Field study programme to meet the needs of schools and other clients through the provision of a high quality, safe and sustainable service.

Job Ref No NC09004 - Required until 31 August 2010. This post may be subject to extension by the Education Skills Authority (ESA) or any education employing authority

36 hours per week: Teachers Main Pay Scale plus £2435 per annum Above Scale Allowance

Applicants **must** at the closing date for applications:

- be qualified teachers as recognised by the Department of Education to teach in grant-aided schools;
- have a degree in one of the following areas: Biology or other Science, Geography, Geology or Environmental Science.



- have a minimum of 3 years' experience of teaching Science including Biology and/or Geography and/or Geology and/or Environmental Science to KS1/2 or KS3/4 and AS/A2 level.
- have experience of developing, promoting and leading field study activities;
- have used ICT to support teaching and learning in the classroom, resource publication and administration and contribute to the Centre's website.
- have a valid driving licence in order to drive the Centre's minibuses (minibus training can be provided if necessary).

Applicants must have access to transport in order to fulfil the requirements of the post.

Application forms and further information may be obtained on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope (1st class postage per application form) from the Human Resources Department, 1 Hospital Road, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT79 0AW TO BE RETURNED NOT LATER THAN NOON ON MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2009. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence relating to these posts.

Further documentation relating to the above posts and all other current vacancies for teaching and non-teaching posts is available on the Board's website at www.welbni.org

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 sector.

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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