



EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
FORUM



Education for Sustainable Development Forum E-Bulletin

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest **E-Bulletin** from the **Education for Sustainable Development 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 ESD Forum and member's news, resources, training events and seminars, publications, funding opportunities, and any job vacancies in the sector.

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development sector that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education and education for sustainable development in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. The ESD Forum 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 ESD FORUM

1. ESD FORUM UPDATE

The Forum AGM was held in Peatlands Park, Dungannon on the 12th April. Our speakers for the afternoon were George Blackwood from Learning NI and Shirley Lennon from National Trust Castle Ward who told us how the 'Virtual Learning Environment' worked for them at Castle Ward. It was a very useful afternoon and we will be setting up training days for members who are interested in getting their programmes online, more information will follow.

I am currently working on the next edition of the School Newsletter which will be sent to every school during the week commencing 9th May. Thank you to all of you who sent information in. The updating of the Resource Guide is ongoing, it will be printed during the summer and a copy sent to the schools during the first week in September.

The recent statistics for our website still show that the site is popular with a record number of hits during the last month. This is encouraging so if you want anything (news, upcoming events etc.) promoted on the website do feel free to contact me it is a good way of getting your information out to a wider audience. I can be contacted at iona@nienvironmentlink.org our website address is www.esdforum.org.uk



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. BRICKS AND MORTAR FOR WILDLIFE

Sticks, fluff and other home scruff could help build a home says RSPB. Much of the 'rubbish' you throw away could be perfect building material for birds' nests in the next few weeks, says the RSPB. Knitting wool scraps, hair from brushes and combs and rug moultings are just some of the things that could be put on the garden rather than in the bin, the wildlife charity says.

As well as traditional nest building materials such as twigs, leaves and moss, birds often line their new homes with the less obvious items to make it softer and fill in small gaps. And some birds find even more ingenious materials, such as some fire crests on the top of the Eiffel Tower which helped themselves to the hair from some waxwork mannequins of the engineers that built the tower!

The RSPB also suggests that if you have pets that need grooming or brushing, any hair or fur that you collect could be placed on the grass for birds to take for nest building. Cat and dog fur and horsehair could be stuffed into holes and are great additional nest building materials. Clean hay and wood shavings used for pet beds are also suitable nest building materials.

The RSPB doesn't recommend synthetic fibres as they can be too tough and could entangle young birds. Claire Thomas, RSPB Wildlife Adviser, says: "In the coming weeks we'll see birds frantically busy building their nests, searching for suitable materials in our gardens. "There are loads of things that we may automatically throw away which could actually help a bird line its nest ready for the breeding season and by leaving a bit of hair, fluff or wool you could make their lives that bit easier." The RSPB is also asking gardeners not to be too tidy in the coming weeks as things like dried grass, dead stalks, leaves, moss and twigs will be the main materials used for next building.

Claire Thomas says: "If you leave things like flower cuttings and grass in a suitable place these will also be used for nest building – the birds will tidy it all up for you! "House sparrows in particular love natural nest building materials so a mixture of both will ensure all kinds of birds could set up home in your garden."

2. FREE TREES FOR AUTUMN 2011

[Register](#) for a free [edible tree pack](#) for November 2011 sponsored by Sainsbury's Active Kids.

The packs that were delivered in March 2011 contained the following species:

Copse Pack

The Copse Pack contains 30 native trees which are suitable for planting as a small wooded area or 'copse'. Your pack will be made up of: 10 of each - Birch, Rowan, Cherry.

All three species will add additional interest and colour and be of benefit to wildlife. The wild cherry will give you fantastic white blossom in the spring. The birch is dramatic throughout the year with its textured white bark and the vivid berries of the rowan will give you added interest in the autumn and are an excellent food source for birds.



[Copse pack planting requirements](#)

Hedgerow Pack

The hedgerow pack contains 30 plants of the following species:

6 of each - Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Dog rose, Dogwood.

The trees can be planted as a traditional hedgerow and provide an excellent habitat for wildlife.

A mixture of species within a native hedgerow is an excellent habitat for small birds and mammals too.

[Hedgerow planting requirements](#)

3. BBC WILD ABOUT AT OXFORD ISLAND

Wild About Live is a week of Radio and Television, scheduled for Saturday May 21 to Saturday May 28, which will celebrate the rich wildlife and the great outdoors of Northern Ireland. The event will bring stunning features on flora and fauna from all corners of Northern Ireland to the airwaves and will feature subjects such as bats, foxes, ancient forests, along with starlings, pine martins, hares and red kites.

Radio Ulster's week-long coverage will kick off at 8 am on Saturday 21 May with the whole programme "Your Place and Mine", presented by Ann-Marie McAleese, coming live from Rathlin Island. Then, every day from Monday 23 May to Friday 28 May, there will be a live 15 minute programme starting at 10.15 am and presented by Etta Haliday. The week will conclude on Saturday 29 May with a Wild Week Live focus on the Saturday Magazine programme presented by John Toal. Gardeners Corner and Arts Extra also have ideas for gearing their programmes to a Wild Week slant during this week.

The TV programmes will be presented by Donna Traynor and Darryl Grimason. Donna will be based at Castle Espie and Darryl will be live from Rathlin Island on the Monday evening, the Coastal Zone in Portrush on the Tuesday, **Lough Neagh Discovery Centre at Oxford Island on the Wednesday** and Crom Estate in Fermanagh on the Thursday. Both Donna and Darryl will be doing live interviews and introducing pre-filmed features (which will be presented by various BBC NI TV and Radio Ulster presenters).

At Lough Neagh Discovery Centre there will be a variety of activities going on including Moth trapping, Bat walks and talks, Guided walks around the building to see nesting swallow and house martins, as well as pond dipping and minibeast hunts for children run by LNDC Conservation staff. So why not come on down on the evening of May 25th and enjoy some great fun in the open air and who knows you may even get yourself on the television!

4. TREE IDENTIFICATION – AT COLIN GLEN

The Colin Glen Trust is offering a series of plant identification courses throughout 2011. The first of these courses – Native Tree Identification – will help participants learn to identify a selection of trees using buds, bark and form.



Colin Glen Forest Park is an ideal location to learn a range of native trees. The park boasts 200 acres of native, deciduous woodland within easy access to Belfast and surrounding areas. Furthermore, forest park staff members are experienced in working with native species.

Speaking of the course, Lori Hartman, Environmental Education Coordinator at Colin Glen Trust said: "Colin Glen Forest Park has long been used for educational purposes, and I am so pleased to be adding plant identification courses to the list of offerings. The United Nations International Year of Forests was our original inspiration for the identification courses. What better way to get to know a forest than by learning about the plants that live there?"

Native tree identification will be the first of four identification courses throughout 2011. The first course will teach people to identify the native trees during the dormant season, when there are no leaves to rely on. In the spring and summer we will offer woodland flora identification, as the understory plants in a forest change from season to season. Finally, we will offer an extension of the native tree identification in September, looking at leaves." Speaking further of the course, Paul Bennett, Forest Park Ranger at Colin Glen Trust, said: "The native tree identification course is for anyone interested in trees or the outdoors, whether you are working in conservation or an enthusiast. Our identification courses will include lots of tips for recognising native plants. It is also a chance for professionals to get a refresher course."

Courses will be held at Colin Glen Forest Park, 163 Stewartstown Rd, Belfast, BT17 0HW. The cost per session is £10 per person. **Booking is essential**

Course dates:

Summertime Woodland Flora Identification:

Saturday 2 July, 1 – 4pm

Native Tree Identification, Part 2:

Saturday 10 September, 1 – 4pm

To book call 028 9061 4115 or email info@colinglenrust.org

5. NEW SEEd WEBSITE LAUNCHED: www.se-ed.org.uk

Following a successful consultation, we have redesigned and upgraded our website so you can find the latest news and research from the sector, get more involved, search our database of ESD resources and read blogs from experts in the field. We have also added Twitter as a way to get information and links to you faster. SEEd members will find enhanced membership offers. You now can have a full web page promoting your resources and services, annotated resources available by searching, and a member's area for discussions, consultations and to inform the work of SEEd. Given the emerging Alliances that SEEd is part of, it has never been a better time to join SEEd and play your part.

Dedicated schools, HE, FE, Research and Policy areas

Our updated website has been specifically designed to provide you with important and supportive resources for your ESD journey. We have dedicated areas for you to explore sustainable schools, HE and FE with each section containing the latest news, resources and events. Research and policy will keep you up to date and well informed both from the UK experience and internationally.



SEEd Resource Search

We now have a search tool to look through our hundreds of resources for schools, FE and HE. We are continuously adding new resources so look back for new teaching resources, reports from the sector and many more. You also have the opportunity to register and leave comments on each resource. Find resources: se-ed.co.uk/resources

Interactive Map

Don't forget to look at our interactive map of the UK showing where SEEd members are! Simply zoom in on where you are based and the icons will tell you who is close by! These can be schools or universities, regional and national organisations that can help, support or work together with you. If you want to be on the map become a member of SEEd. Find networks: se-ed.co.uk/map

Discussion Forums

You also have the chance to join other users to "Have your say", in our new online forums so be sure to register as a SEEd Web User (free registration at se-ed.co.uk/user/register). SEEd members will automatically be registered and will get login details in the next 2 weeks.

The website will keep growing and changing, including the latest resources and innovative research and reports so keep visiting to see what's new! Get involved and let us know what we can add to help support you. To contact us please email admin@se-ed.org.uk or call 020 7420 4446.

6. GREEN TRAILS FOR BIODIVERSITY WEEK (23-27 MAY)

As part of Biodiversity Week celebrations, ECO-UNESCO will be offering guided tours of Dublin City to school groups and individuals with our Green Trail. Participants will get the opportunity to explore nature in the heart of the city and fun activities along the way give participants a greater understanding of our role within the wider environment.

How can you get involved?

Contact ECO-UNESCO at youth@ecounesco.ie or phone +353 (0)1 662 5491

7. RSPB LOVE NATURE WEEK MAY 28TH – 5TH JUNE

It's no secret, nature is in trouble. From the decline in some of our best loved birds and wildlife, as well as the destruction of fragile habitats, it seems that wherever we turn the environment is having a hard time. But, all is not lost – you *can* do something about it. By giving **a couple of hours** of your time to Europe's largest conservation charity, you can be part of the largest conservation effort in the UK to raise funds for wildlife.

The RSPB is holding Love Nature Week from 28th **May** – 5th **June** this year and it is looking for as many volunteers to help out.

"We will be holding a day-long collection in Belfast City Centre and are looking for volunteers to help shake and rattle as many tins as we can get our hands on," said Cara Gibney, Volunteer Development Officer.

"It will be part of the wider Love Nature Week, where across the UK people will be doing everything they can to make a big noise about how something needs to be done for the environment and the wildlife in it, or we will have very little to pass on to the next generation," she added.



“With the money collected, the RSPB carries out a mind-boggling array of activities, from education in schools to advocacy in Stormont. We also are on the ground working with farmers for farmland birds, and in places as far away as Indonesia restoring rainforests. When you volunteer with the RSPB you are acting local and thinking global – literally.” Volunteering is also shown to benefit the individual who does it as well.

“This is the European Year of the Volunteer,” said Cara. “Volunteering benefits people at all levels – health, well-being and socially too. It is the social glue that society depends on. With over 16,000 volunteers helping out in the RSPB across the UK, we would not be able to be the organisation we are if we did not have that support.”

RESOURCES

1. EDUCATION RESOURCES – FROM ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO publish a wide range of **education resources** focused on environmental education for young people:

- [resource packs](#)
- [activity packs](#)
- [activity sheets](#)
- [posters](#)
- [CD-ROMs](#)

These resources aim to support teachers, youth leaders and other educators to apply environmental education to their educational activities.

For more information, contact: ECO-UNESCO, *the greenhouse*, 17 St Andrew Street, Dublin, 2

Tel.: (01) 662-5491

Fax: (01) 662-5493

Email: info@ecounesco.ie

2. THE YEAR ROUND ORGANIC SCHOOL

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

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



3. GARDEN ORGANIC

Garden Organic is committed to getting people growing and there is no better place to start than getting our children involved. The Garden Organic Website www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools_organic_network/ is full of ideas for getting an organic garden started. It includes lots of ideas along with a Fun Zone with games and activities, along with a Teaching Zone and a Learning Zone to name a few. This website is definitely well worth a look.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

1. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – 5 JUNE

World Environment Day (WED) is an annual global event for positive environmental action. WED activities take place all year round but climax on 5 June every year. Everyone counts in this initiative and WED relies on you to make this happen! Organize a neighbourhood clean-up, stop using plastic bags and get your community to do the same, plant a tree or better yet organize a collective tree planting effort, walk to work, start a recycling drive... the possibilities are endless but whatever you do, tell WED about your activities and they will post it on the UNEP website and make it part of the Wide World of WED map.

Share your activity with the rest of the world by filling the form via the link:

<http://hqweb.unep.org/wed/2010/english/DailyUpdates/aroundtheworld/>

2. NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE 2011

DATES: Online Conference 1 June – 20 July 2011. Four live regional events including London on the **9 June 2011** – please keep this date free to celebrate ***Creativity in Sustainability***, from the curriculum to funding to teaching!!

All events (including the online conference) will have **up to date news** from local and national organisations, **workshops** and an **opportunity to learn from other delegates and from the other regional events**. Further dates and locations still to be confirmed.

3. HILLSBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW COMPETITION

Would you like to win a garden for your school? The Department of the Environment is offering one lucky school the chance to win the DOE Rethink Waste inspired garden exhibition from this year's Garden Show Ireland event.

You might wonder what this is all about. Composting? Recycling? Growing your own? Well, it's about all of the above and encouraging more people to do the same. The Rethink Waste garden will demonstrate loads of ideas that anyone can incorporate into their own garden to reuse waste and help the environment. More to the point this garden will be recycled as it will be reassembled in the winning school.

The prospect of fresh, inexpensive fruit and vegetables from your own garden is obviously inviting. But is it realistic? It is fashionable and increasing numbers of people are rediscovering a basic human contact with their environment. More than that, people of all ages are finding that growing food is fun, saves money, is good for biodiversity and the local economy and ultimately is good for the planet.



To win the garden - plants and all, all your school needs to do is return the [postcard](#) which will arrive in school after Easter. The Garden Show Ireland judges will draw one card from the composter on Saturday 21 May. DOE will then arrange for the whole thing to be dismantled and rebuilt at the winning school. The best thing of all is that the garden has been designed in such a way that it can be rebuilt to fit whatever area your school has available. For further information see www.rethinkwasteni.org.

FUNDING

1. COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief accepts applications from the voluntary and community sector throughout the UK including: constituted voluntary and community groups, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives, faith organisations, and community interest companies and is very keen to make sure that rural communities are informed of the funding available. Learn more [here](#).

2. 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 wellbeing.

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>

3. TESCO CHARITY TRUST

The Tesco Charity Trust was set up in 1987 to support both national and local community charities. The Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £500 and £4,000 to local projects that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people and adults and children with disabilities. There are four rounds of funding each year.



The Tesco Charity Trust Trustees also consider grant applications at their tri-annual meetings. These grants range between £4,000 and £25,000 and are to support local, national or international projects. More information from michelina.filocco@uk.tesco.com or visit: <http://cr2010.tescopl.com/communities/tesco-charity-trust.aspx>

4. GRANTS FROM THE TREE COUNCIL

The Tree Council's Tree Futures offers help for tree planting through two grants programmes, the 'Trees for Schools' and 'Community Trees' funds. Any school or community group within the UK that is planning a project that actively involves children under 16 is encouraged to draw on the fund to plant trees and make a greener future. The Tree

Council's [National Tree Week](#) (this year from 26 November to 4 December) is the focus for these projects and successful applicants organise their planting events in conjunction with our annual celebration of the new tree planting season.

We are able to fund projects between £100 and £700 and successful applicants will receive up to 75% towards their planting costs. For example, if your project totals £700, The Tree Council would offer up to £525. The remaining 25% will need to be secured by your school or organisation.

Applications for 2011 are now OPEN. Please see the Schools or Community pages to download an application form. With the generous support of an anonymous donor we have been able to produce a teaching and learning resource which will be sent out free of charge to all successful grant applicants.

MEMBERSHIP OF ESD FORUM

JOIN US

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the 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 ESD Forum 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 organization
- Newsletter distributed three times per year
- One conference 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 via the E-Bulletin
- Access to free reference Library
- Access to ESD Forum 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 a free place at an ESD Forum conference each year. If you would like to promote your events, publications and training through this E-Bulletin please contact:

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