



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:

Iona Meyer
Environmental Education Forum
89 Loopland Drive
Belfast BT6 9DW
Tel: 028 9045 5770
E-Mail: eef@nienvironmentlink.org
Website: www.eefni.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE EEF

1. EEF FUNDING WITHDRAWN

It has been a very difficult year for many organisations trying to function in this current economic climate and with extensive and biting Government cuts across all departments, funding is dwindling all the time. We in the EEF have not been immune and although we have all benefited immensely from the work of our Co-ordinator Andy Griggs and Iona Meyer our administrative officer, it is with great regret and a heavy heart that I must inform you that our funding from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency has now been stopped and sadly Andy will be leaving us at the end of this calendar year. This has come as a great shock to us all at the EEF management committee and we have tried to create a strategy that will continue to meet the needs of our members. Iona will continue (with reduced hours) to act as a link for the forum so if you have any information or news that you would like included in the LEEF or E-Bulletin please email her at iona@nienvironmentlink.org

Alyn Jones
Chairman of EEF Management Committee



2. NEW EEF WEBSITE

Due to the funding of the Forum being withdrawn EEF will be a lot more web based from next year.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

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. BIG SCHOOL MAKEOVER – BRITISH COUNCIL FOR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

The Big School Makeover is a national programme brought to you by the British Council for School Environments – the UK's leading charity in education, design and construction. It aims to encourage teachers, parents and young people to get involved in refreshing or refurbishing a classroom, dining room or even an outside space. Why? because school buildings matter.

Small change to Big difference

We want to see young people and teachers up and down the country involved in designing and taking action in their schools. The programme's slogan, Small Change to Big Difference, illustrates that with a little imagination and effort any area of the school can be turned into a pleasant and stimulating place for learning, whatever the budget. Visit the Big Schools Makeover website: www.bigschoolmakeover.org.uk

2. NEW LOOK FOR CAAN WEBSITES

CAAN'S marketing team has been working hard over the summer to change the emphasis of its consumer websites. OutdoorNI.com, CycleNI.com and WalkNI.com

The object of the redesign is to further inspire the consumer and make them aware of the possibilities to enjoy the outdoors in each area of Northern Ireland.

The websites now have mini-destination guides for several key areas within Northern Ireland with itineraries for both day trips and 48 hour breaks. This is accompanied with information on events, special offers and day/short breaks. For example OutdoorNi.com will make planning a family day out to the North Coast much easier while WalkNI.com will provide all the information need for that walking weekend in the 'Mournes'. For further information please visit the website www.countrysiderecreation.com/activities/



3. BREAKTHROUGHS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The nineteen 'Breakthrough Ideas' set out in this document are spread across the spectrum of sustainable development, with solutions ranging from policy change to grassroots action to technological innovation. They encompass varying levels, from individuals, to communities, cities, and things that need to be done at national or international level. Indeed, many of the ideas are driven from the grassroots, but require government to act as the enabler. **Sections three and four are of particular interest to EEF Members**, Section 3 is entitled Natural Values: Outdoor experiences for all children in the UK, Section 4 is entitled Taking happiness seriously. A copy of the full report can be downloaded from the website <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/breakthroughs.html>

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY OF LEARNERS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM (HASLOC) REVISION OF GUIDANCE

HASLOC will replace Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits: a good practice guide 1998 (known as HASPEV) and the 3-part supplement we published in 2002. HASLOC will have a wider audience across all children's services (not just schools). It sets out the enabling nature of sensible risk management and how to reduce 'red tape'. It flags up the lessons learned from serious incidents. HASLOC also sets out how and why staff can expect to be treated fairly if a participant is injured despite their care. In general HASLOC works at a high level and leaves most of the detail to the operational parts of the Learning outside the Classroom Council's website which will carry downloadable material. In this consultation, we seek views and suggestions to help us make this an accessible, user-friendly and effective guide for front-line professionals. If you wish to comment go to <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/>

5. DRAFT FOOD IN SCHOOLS POLICY SEPTEMBER 2009

The principal aim of the Food in Schools Policy, in line with the recommendations of the Fit Futures taskforce on tackling obesity in children and young people, is to ensure that *"Food in schools is representative of the balance of good health and makes a significant contribution to childhood nutrition and that schools contribute to the development of the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to make healthy food choices."*

The consultation does include some mention of schools growing their own food, however there is very little substance pertaining to environmental considerations e.g. locally grown produce, seasonal, organic or fairtrade. If EEF members would like to comment on the consultation a copy can be downloaded from www.deni.gov.uk

6. GUARDIAN 10:10 CAMPAIGN

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

Why 10% in 2010?

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



What does signing up entail?

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

What about companies?

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

Who is backing it?

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

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

RESOURCES

1. COMHLÁMH RESOURCES

Comhlámh (pronounced 'co-law-ve', Irish for 'solidarity') is a member and supporter organisation open to anyone interested in social justice, human rights and global development issues. Marking its 34th year in 2009, it connects, informs, educates and campaigns on these matters.

Index newsletter

This free newsletter aims to provide teachers and educators interested in social justice and global development issues with a space to share perspectives about their practice, to offer information on upcoming events and courses, to provide informative articles about current issues and to highlight links to educational resources. It is produced three times a year, in January, April and September. Among other issues past newsletters have looked at Linking and Immersion projects, Tackling Controversial Issues, Equality, Intercultural Dialogue, and Sustainable Development. Download it at [here](#). To be put onto the mailing list for a hardcopy or email version contact ali@comhlamh.org or call 01 4783490.

Diversity through the Arts resource

Based on Comhlámh's course of the same name this resource pack highlights some of the ways the arts could be used to promote inclusion, build participation, challenge discrimination and celebrate diversity in today's classroom. The hardcopy costs €10 and it is free to download from www.comhlamh.org/developmenteducation.

Contact ali@comhlamh.org or call 00353 1 4783490.



Focus Action for Global Justice

Produced by Comhlámh volunteers three times a year this is Ireland's only development issues magazine. Download it at www.comhlamh.org. To order a free hardcopy contact fileachta@comhlamh.org or call 00353 1 4783490.

2. FREE SUSTAINABLE FOOD TEACHING RESOURCES ONLINE

There are a number of free downloadable resources on this excellent website suitable for both Primary and Secondary schools. This new website looks at how our food choices have an impact on people and the planet and covers a variety of categories such as:

- Sustainable Food - Teaching materials which give a general introduction and overview to sustainable food.
- From Farm to Classroom - Teaching materials based around case study farms from Yorkshire and the Humber.
- Food Culture - Teaching materials focusing on why we buy what we buy.
- Grow your own Food - Teaching materials to support food growing projects in the classroom.
- Farming and the Environment - Teaching materials which look at how farming interacts with the environment.
- Food Packaging and Waste - Teaching materials which explore some of the packaging and waste issues that surround food.
- Food Miles and Transport - Teaching materials which lead pupils to investigate where their food comes from and how it was transported.

To find out more and download the resources please visit www.yorkshireandhumber.net/esd/food

3. MAKING CONNECTIONS WEBSITE- "THE WORLD IS OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD"

Making Connections is a project managed and delivered by the Centre for Global Education. The project's main aim is to enhance global education practice by organizations working in or behalf of the minority ethnic sector / global diaspora in Northern Ireland. The project seeks to increase knowledge and understanding of international development issues and provide skills, values and attitudes that will support action toward social justice and equality at local and global levels.

In addition, the project aims to support collaboration between global education and minority ethnic organisations. The web site has been established to provide:

- Access to resources on local-global issues related to ethnic minorities
- Support participants taking the Centre for Global Education's new accredited global educator course for the minority ethnic sector in Northern Ireland
- Access information about events, training resources, useful links and a space to network with other organizations.

The website is now live and can be accessed at www.makingconnectionsni.org



TRAINING AND EVENTS

1. LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM - FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LOtC are proud to announce the date of their first annual conference including:

- Influential speakers from education correspondent and writer, Hilary Wilce, to Judith Hackitt, Chair of the Health and Safety Executive who will be talking on Demystifying Health and Safety and its impacts on LOtC'
- The Council's first AGM and elections to the Board of Trustees
- An open debate on barriers to learning outside the classroom
- A variety of practical and supportive LOtC workshops
- Quality Badge 'Ask the Expert' sessions and
- The announcement and presentation of the national and regional winners of the LOtC Awards in Excellence and Innovation 2009 in association with TUI – Student Division.

Date: 3rd December 2009
Cost: Delegate fee £35 per person
Venue: Leeds Royal Armouries
Further Information: For full details visit:

www.lotc.org.uk/News-and-events/Events/Council-for-Learning-Outside-the-Classroom-Nationa

2. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIELD STUDIES OFFICERS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

The conference themes will enable delegates to...

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



Booking forms can be downloaded from the website; www.nafso.org.uk

3. CREGGAN'S CRACKING CHRISTMAS PLANTING PARTY 2009!

Come to Creggan Country Park to plant your own tree at our annual Cracking Christmas Planting Party. Visitors will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with their tree to send to family and friends. So do your bit for wildlife this winter and plant more native trees to help support our birds, bats and invertebrates!

Advanced Booking is essential so to book your place contact our Environmental Officer on 028 71363 133 or email karen.healy@creggancountrypark.com

We would advise anyone wanting to take part in planting this year to wear strong footwear and warm waterproof clothing - it is December after all! Our Cracking Christmas Planting Party is kindly funded by the Big Lottery Fund

4. OPENING THE DOORWAY TO SUSTAINABILITY: AN ONLINE COURSE FOR EDUCATORS

'[Opening the Doorway to Sustainability](#)' is the ever popular professional development programme from WWF-UK, which is once again being run in 2010 by Sustainability and Environmental Education.

Using the DCSF's National Framework for Sustainable Schools as a starting point, this course offers an opportunity to explore how taking a sustainable schools approach can benefit pupils, teachers, the wider community and of course the health and wellbeing of the planet on which we all depend.

Course participants will explore different approaches to sustainable schools, identify and begin to develop key skills, and practise reflection and action learning approaches to ensure new skills and knowledge are applied. At the end of the course, participants should feel equipped to take forward the sustainable schools agenda with confidence.

How do I find out more?

[Download Course Information Resource](#)

To request a registration pack, and obtain further information on this course, please contact Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd) on:

Tel: 07525 264540

Email: hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk

Or visit our website: se-ed.org.uk/onlinecourse2010.

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FUNDING

1 THE GARFIELD WESTON FOUNDATION

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

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

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

Please see the www.garfieldweston.org

2. THE WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST

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

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

Funding Priorities

1. **Social and ethnic minority groups, including young people at risk of exclusion or isolation, refugees, asylum-seekers, gypsies and travellers.** Projects that promote integration and community cohesion will be favoured;
2. **Prisoners and ex-offenders.** Projects that help the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners and/or ex-offenders are supported as well as requests to help **prisoners' families**;
3. **Homelessness, especially affecting young people and women,** and covering facilities such as women's refuges;
4. **People experiencing violence or abuse;**
5. **Arts outreach** work by local groups involving disadvantaged people;
6. **Disability projects;** which can include rehabilitation, training or advocacy for people who are either physically disabled or learning disabled as well as help to improve employability;
7. **Environmental projects,** especially with a strong educational element;
8. **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

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.

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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:

Iona Meyer
Environmental Education Forum
89 Loopland Drive
Belfast BT6 9DW
Tel: 028 9045 5770
eef@nienvironmentlink.org
www.eefni.org.uk