



In This Issue:

News from the ESD Forum

1. [ESD Forum Update](#)

Environmental Education News

1. [The Mixed-up Beast](#)
2. [Green Living Fair](#)
3. [Reclaiming the Veg Patch!](#)
4. [Plant Dead Trees Say RSPB](#)
5. [Young Environmentalist Awards 2011](#)
6. [Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards 2010](#)
7. [Gardening Good for Kids](#)

Resources

1. [ECOSIA – The Eco-Friendly Search Engine](#)
2. [Sustrans Online Resources](#)
3. [Education Resources from Eco-Unesco](#)

Training & Events

1. [Eco Show Live](#)
2. [Countryside Access and Activities Network National Trails Day](#)
3. [Global School Partnerships Partner Finding Conferences](#)
4. [Children and Nature: Measuring Success](#)

Funding

1. [Lloyds TSB Foundation NI](#)
2. [Community Wildlife](#)
3. [Big Lottery Funding](#)
4. [Tesco Charity Trust](#)
5. [Garfield Weston Foundation](#)

Membership of ESD Forum

1. [Join the Forum](#)



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 members news, resources, training events and seminars, publications, funding opportunities, and 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.

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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

I hope you all had a nice summer break and are getting ready for another winter's work. With the Universities returning shortly I am currently setting dates in place for the ESD days. Our Queen's University ESD day is on the 15th October, I am currently starting to get things in place for that day. We already have dates in place for Stranmillis University College these are 8th October, 11th October, 8th November and 12th November. Both St Mary's University and Coleraine University follow later in the year and into early next year.

We as a Forum value these days, they are delivered by ESD Forum member groups, and are aimed at trainee teachers and PGCE students. The days consist of a series of workshops in which the leaders demonstrate best practice in delivering ESD through various aspects of the curriculum.

If you want anything (news, events etc) put on the website do feel free to contact me. I can be contacted at iona@nienvironmentlink.org our website address is still www.esdforum.org.uk. It is good to note that our website stats have gone up and I hope with keeping the website up to date they will rise even further.

[Back to Top](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. THE MIXED UP BEAST – RECYCLED ART WITH A BITE!

Pupils from Class Bn Uí Neill, St Mary's Primary School, Pomeroy have been involved in a recycled arts project. Helped by artists Jon Kelly (Genevieve Jon Designs) and Majella Flanagan (Any Bright Ideas), the 8 pupils designed and built The Mixed up Beast. It is an exciting sculpture that mixes aspects of reptiles, birds and the Loch Ness Monster but used plastic bottles, bottle caps, cardboard, willow and even a stop cock from an old cistern to create the piece.

The workshop set out to consider rubbish as a resource for creativity, teamwork, communication skills and learning while having fun.

The workshop ran over 3 days, a very short length of time. The high standard of the final piece is clear evidence of the commitment by the children and staff for teamwork and ingenuity.

For more information on this and other arts projects, contact Majella Flanagan, arts@anybrightideas.eu

2. GREEN LIVING FAIR 2010 – CASTLE ESPIE 11th - 12th SEPTEMBER

Eleven years on from the first event of its kind in Ireland, this year's Green Living Fair brings together a wide range of workshops, exhibitors, talks and events to explore the theme of sustainability.

Promoting grassroots action on topics such as slow food, renewable energy, ecological design and fair trade the organisers still hope the Fair gives visitors permission to think differently. See the full programme at:

<http://www.wwt.org.uk/files/Castle-Espie/CastleEspieGreenLiving.pdf>

3. RECLAIMING THE VEG PATCH!

An exciting new CVNI project got underway this month at Ballysillan Allotments, North Belfast. A group of 20 volunteers started clearance work at an overgrown site adjacent to the allotments which has not been in use for over five years.

The site was overgrown with shrubs, nettles and trees which covered a network of paths and raised beds. Volunteers from the Salvation Army and Kolping Group helped clear the site which will be developed as a community garden and allotment site.

The new project will continue to involve volunteers from the Salvation Army and Conservation Volunteers and will include opportunities for training in NVQ Level 2 and a range of horticulture skills. The improved site will provide space for volunteers and groups to grow their own fruit and vegetables and accommodate educational visits from local schools. The project will be run in Partnership with the Salvation Army, Belfast City Council and the Ballysillan Allotment Holders Association and aims to involve local community groups and schools in the development and management of the site.

Learn more here: [Reclaiming the veg patch!](#)



4. PLANT DEAD TREES SAY RSPB

Decaying wood is the perfect home for wild creatures

You would expect a wildlife charity to wax lyrical about the importance of lush, berry bearing plants for wildlife. But the RSPB believes that wildlife badly needs dead trees in our gardens too.

The charity believes that the presence of dead or decaying wood is an important but often overlooked element of wildlife gardening. It wants gardeners to be aware of the importance of standing and fallen decaying wood and old plants for lots of creatures. Whether its small twigs or huge tree trunks they are home and food to invertebrates, fungi, mosses and lichens.

Birds feed on the invertebrates that make their home in old wood, and dead branches make excellent song and display perches. A decaying tree with a snagged bough or a small cavity might also provide a nest site for a bird or bat.

And you don't have to have a large garden with space for dead branches, trunks or stumps to make a difference. Even in a small space a bit of creativity goes a long way. For example a nest box replicates a snug hole in a tree trunk. If you have a balcony or terrace the wildlife charity suggests you can lay logs among planters, or even place or part bury them upright as a feature in a tub. Or, fill a large plant tub with wood chippings and soil, and part bury a small log upright in it.

The RSPB recommends providing a variety of dead wood, some lying down and some standing, to give secret but needy wildlife a chance of finding exactly what it wants. You can do this by retaining and increasing the amount of dead woody material in your garden and lying or stacking it near to where it has been cut. It's also a great idea to mimic standing deadwood (as long it's not in a dangerous place). An easy way of doing this is to 'plant' logs upright in the ground.

For more information on using deadwood and tips on gardening for wildlife visit www.rspb.org.uk/hfw.

5. YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS 2011

Registration is now open for the Young Environmentalist Awards 2011. The earlier you register the more support the Young Environmentalist Awards team can give you!

Registration entitles you to **free training** in regional locations. Contact Sandy at yea@ecounesco.ie for more details.

Irish language entries also welcome.

[Online registration form](#)

- November 2010: Registration deadline
- February 2011: Project submission deadline
- February-March 2011: Judging
- May 2011: Showcase and Ceremony



For further information contact

ECO-UNESCO

the Greenhouse

17 St Andrew Street

Dublin 2

Phone: 353 1 662 5491

Fax: +353 1 662 5493

Email: info@ecunesco.ie

6. BRIGHTER BELFAST ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2010

Are you helping to make Belfast a brighter place in 2010?

YES? Then you need to get your entry in before Monday 27th September 2010.

Now is the chance to reward you or your group for making a contribution to improving Belfast's environment. We want you to tell us how your hard work has helped to make your local area a cleaner, greener place.

No matter how small your efforts seem they may have made a big difference! So if you think that you are helping to make Belfast brighter enter now! Just look at the categories below to see which relates to you;

Award categories

- **Clean and green award** - *projects to reduce litter and help raise awareness.*
- **Reduce, reuse, recycle award** - *projects to reduce waste and help raise awareness.*
- **Business and community partnership award** - *businesses that have carried out a local environmental improvement programme in partnership with a group, individual or school.*
- **Nature conservation award** - *creating or maintaining a wildlife habitat, conservation or garden area which benefits the community.*
- **Judges' special award** - *applicants who have gone above and beyond all expectations in promoting and caring for Belfast's environment.*

Projects which qualify for an award should have started/be taking place between September 2008 and September 2010. If you or your group is successful you will receive £500 along with a crystal trophy celebrating your achievement.

The closing date for applications is 4pm Monday 27th September 2010.

For more information or to apply online visit www.belfastcity.gov.uk/brighterbelfast or for an application pack contact the Brighter Belfast Awards Team on 028 9032 0202 (extension) 5422 or email: catcleansing@belfastcity.gov.uk.



7. GARDENING GOOD FOR KIDS

Taking part in gardening can make a child feel happy and boost their development, research suggests. The study of 1,300 teachers and 10 schools was commissioned by the Royal Horticultural Society. It found children in schools that encouraged gardening became more resilient, confident and lived healthier lives. The RHS says school gardening should be used as a key teaching tool, rather than as an extra-curricular activity.

This story is from the BBC. Read it in full here: [Gardening 'makes children happy and teaches new skills'](#).

RESOURCES

1. ECOSIA – THE ECO-FRIENDLY SEARCH ENGINE

Schools can now support rainforest protection whilst using the search tool Ecosia for their learning. Ecosia is an eco-friendly Internet search engine backed by Yahoo, Bing and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). It basically works like any other search engine but, unlike others, Ecosia gives at least 80% of its advertising revenue to a rainforest protection program run by the WWF.

Because of this, Ecosia users can save about two square meters of rainforest with every search they do – without paying anything. Furthermore, all Ecosia servers run on green electricity, so they do not cause any CO2 emissions. By using Ecosia, you can turn your web searches green.

To learn more about this resource watch the Ecosia short video at: ecosia.org/how.php

Make eco-friendly internet searches using: ecosia.org

2. SUSTRANS ONLINE RESOURCES

Sustrans undertakes many projects and publishes information on guidelines, best practice and research to benefit their partners and interested parties. Their resources range from the latest guidelines on National Cycle Network signage, information sheets from projects such as Active Travel, Travel Smart and Safe Routes to Schools, or Cycle Tourism statistics.

These online articles and resources are available at: www.sustrans.org.uk/resources

For Sustrans news articles, visit: www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/in-the-news

For all publications, visit: www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/publications

3. EDUCATION RESOURCES FROM ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO publishes 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

TRAINING AND EVENTS

1. ECO SHOW LIVE – KINGS HALL BELFAST

Do you think that climate change is dull, boring, and irrelevant? Think again - there is a lot more to it! Looking after the environment and living sensibly can be fun, fulfilling and fundamentally good for you and the world we live in.

There are seven zones to walk through in the exhibition hall - each packed with things to do as well as to see. There are seminars, demonstrations, interactive games and experts to talk to. There is even an Open Forum for you to have your say. The event is being held at the Kings Hall Belfast on Friday 8th October to Sunday 10th October at 12 noon to 7pm on Friday and on the Saturday/Sunday 10am to 6pm. For further information go to www.ecoshow.ie

2. COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND ACTIVITIES NETWORK NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

National Trails Day is a celebration of Ireland's wonderful variety of trails and a chance for everyone to enjoy some of our most beautiful countryside, forests, mountains and lakes. Its primary objective is to raise awareness of outdoor trails. CAAN will be leading the organisation and marketing of National Trails Day for Northern Ireland in partnership with our funders Department of Culture Arts & Leisure, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Waterways Ireland and partners National Trust.

National Trails Day 2009 was very successful in the Republic of Ireland, with more than 10,000 people getting out enjoying trails in a variety of ways. Events included bat walks mountain bike cycles, family orienteering, horse riding, try canoeing, heritage walks and just plain ordinary walking! Several events were held in Northern Ireland. This year we hope that in all areas of Northern Ireland we can have a fantastic range of interesting and exciting things on a trail, be it on land or water.

CAAN asks you to **mark Sunday 3 October in your diary now for your local trail event.** Details will be sent to you in the coming weeks giving guidelines for planning the event and how to get your event included in National Trails Day. For any queries in the meantime, please contact aideen@countrysiderecreation.com.

Let's make National Trails Day in Northern Ireland a major participation event.



3. GLOBAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS PARTNER FINDING CONFERENCES

UK Schools attending these 2 day conferences will receive a Southern Country Global School partner, and will be registering their partnership on the Global School Partnerships website, at the conference.

The Partner Finding Conferences provide an ideal opportunity to find a global school partner in a supportive and informative setting. **All** UK schools are invited to attend **any** of the conferences.

The Northern Ireland conference will be held on the 2nd – 3rd October in Belfast and the Southern Country will be Sri Lanka.

Applications from Head Teachers, Senior Leadership Teams and staff with responsibility for international education are welcomed. Because the conferences are residential, there will be plenty of provision for networking and planning. Experienced GSP staff from the UK and partner countries will be present to advise and inform. Delegates will be receiving and registering their global school partnership with GSP during the conference.

The conferences are subsidised by the Global School Partnerships programme, but there is a £50 registration fee to cover costs. For more information log visit the website www.ukowla.org.uk

4. CHILDREN AND NATURE: MEASURING SUCCESS

October 21, 2010, 10am-6pm, Natural England, London

This one-day seminar will be held on October 21st in Natural England London. The focus of the conference will be on the interactions between children and nature in Britain, exploring the role of Britain's natural environment in children's health, education, and wellbeing. We are particularly interested in how success in engaging with children is accessed, what evidence is seen as useful, what methods are used to measure success. If you would like to attend or contribute a paper or post then please see the website. <http://science.kingston.ac.uk/ceesr/childrenandnature/>

[Back to Top](#)

FUNDING

1. LLOYDS TSB FOUNDATION NI

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland would like to announce a call for applications for their International Grant Programme 2010.

Applications are welcome from organisations registered as charities in Northern Ireland who carry out work within disadvantaged communities overseas.

Organisations must choose which level of grant to apply for. Organisations which are small and provide localised support should apply for a small grant for a specific project, up to the level of **£5,000** for one year.



Organisations undertaking larger projects and where there is a wider benefit may apply for grants of up to **£20,000** for one year.

Further information is available on the Foundations' website www.lloydstsbfoundationni.org

Application packs and guidance on eligibility can be obtained by telephoning the Foundation on 028 9032 3000.

The closing date for applications is **24th September 2010**.

2. COMMUNITY WILDLIFE

Community Wildlife will fund projects that bring local people together to discover, enjoy or protect the wildlife in their local area. BIG have teamed up with the [BBC Wildlife Fund's Go Wild](#) campaign to bring you the Community Wildlife programme.

This new programme will fund projects that bring local people together to discover, enjoy or protect the wildlife in their local area.

The programme will fund between £300 and £10,000 for projects that:

- improve rural or urban environments for people to enjoy, for example by:
 - protecting wildlife habitats
 - creating a nature trail, woodland walk or wildlife garden for people to enjoy
 - improving natural community spaces, such as rivers, ponds and woodlands.
- get people more active and healthier, for example by:
 - exploring parks, rivers and the countryside to look for rare or endangered species
 - encouraging people to take up gardening or go on nature walks
 - providing opportunities for children to learn about nature through play.

The programme has two rounds left **22nd September and the 24th November**.

What to do next

- If you have more questions, look at our [Questions and Answers page](#)
- If you are eligible to apply, download a copy of the application form from the [apply page](#)
- Not eligible? Please look at our [other funding programmes](#), or programmes from [other lottery funders](#)



If you are unsure of anything or would like further help, please call **0845 367 0610** or email general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.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>

4. 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: [Tesco Charity Trust](#).

5. GARFIELD WESTON FOUNDATION

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a UK based general grant-giving charity. The Foundation does not have precisely defined criteria, but rather invites applications across the spectrum of community, voluntary and charitable activity.

The Minimum grant award is in the region of £1,000 and has no set maximum. All applications are considered on an individual basis by a committee of Trustees. Learn more here: [Garfield Weston Foundation](#).

[Back to Top](#)



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 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 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 one 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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