



Environmental Education Forum

Annual Report - 2007

2007 was an extremely active and productive one for the Forum. The outputs of the Forum were at an all time high. The activities and publications continued to be developed and both the quality and quantity of the work undertaken increased during this year. The Forum is now firmly established throughout the education sector as an active and effective group in the environmental education and education for sustainable development field.

The work of the Forum is supported by the Environment and Heritage Service of the DoE through a contract for service delivery to Northern Ireland Environment Link. The Forum is extremely grateful to them for their continued support.

Publications

LEEF Newsletter

Five Newsletters were completed and distributed in 2007. Each LEEF consists of 12 pages of news related to environmental education, events, activities, grants and other information plus an eight page supplement designed for use in the classroom. The issues were as follows:

- 4.2 - *Woodlands and Forestry (Schools)* x2000 copies – Distributed in January 2007
- 4.3 – *SENSational Environments (Schools)* x2000 copies – Distributed in April / May 2007
- 4.4 – *Youth and the Environment (Youth Edition)* x3000 copies – Distributed in Sept/ Oct 2007
- 5.1 – *The Curriculum in a Changing Climate (Schools)* – x2000 copies – Distributed in Oct 2007
- 5.2 – *Early Years Environment (Nursery / Playgroup)* - x2000 copies – Distributed in Nov 2007

Each of the above schools issues was sent to a named contact in every Primary, Post Primary, Special, Independent and Irish Medium School – approx 1,200 schools.

The Youth Service edition was sent to 3,000 groups via the Boys Brigade (400), Girls Brigade (300), Scouts Association (500), Girl Guides (500), Catholic Guides of Ireland (46), Scout Foundation (50). An additional 400 copies were sent to youth groups, clubs, projects, centres and associations via lists supplied by four of the five Board areas. SELB distributed 400 copies of this edition to groups in the area.

The Early Years edition was distributed to 2000 Nursery Schools / Nursery Units / Playgroups either via Early Years advisors in the Boards, via lists of these groups sent to us by EYA or via NIPPA.

ESD Day Resource Guide

This guide was produced in October 2006 for Student teachers, In-Service Teachers, Youth Group Leaders and Environmental Organisations as a guide to those who can contribute to or provide Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Northern Ireland. The booklet contains details of Forum members, the education programmes that they provide across Northern Ireland, the links those programmes have to all levels and subjects in the curriculum and relevant contact details, e-mail and website addresses. In 2007 approximately 700 copies were given to student teachers, in service teachers, new and existing members and other interested parties.

E-Bulletins

E-Bulletins are sent to all members once per month. On average 200+ members receive information and updates.

NIEL News

A one page digest of EEF and environmental education News is included in the NIEL Newsletter, **NIEL News** each month. This is distributed to over 100 NIEL members plus governmental contacts in all Departments.

Meetings

Conferences

There were two EEF conferences held in 2007.

"Making the Links": Antrim Board Centre: 17 April – A chance to look at the links and connections between the Environmental Education and Development Education Sectors attended by 35 delegates.

"From the Periphery to the Mainstream": Clifton House, Belfast: 23 October – Review of the progress made by the EEF and ESD in the past 12 years, to look at and examine the main emerging themes that have come to the fore during this time - attended by 32 delegates.

Reports of the conferences can be found on the EEF Website.

Forum Meetings

There were two full Forum meetings held this year:

March: **Kilbroney Centre**, workshops being run by member organisations to demonstrate techniques resources and share ideas. Attended by 25 members

August: **National Trust Divis**. Training day to look at an overview of the revised curriculum and examine how EE and DE will play an integral role in helping to deliver some of the key themes of the curriculum through ESD. Attended by 52 members

Tuesday 11 December: Christmas meeting - cancelled due to lack of member interest
In addition a planned visit to Dublin had to be cancelled due to lack of member interest

The average attendance was 20 members per meeting

An extra event was organised and carried out at the request of members: The development and use of identity boxes: John Johnson 80:20 – University of Ulster: attended by 10 members

Management Committee Meetings

Five meetings were held this year in January, March, June, September and December. The average attendance was eight per meeting. Three Management Committee Members retired this year - Conor Canning (Derry City Council) replaced by Andrew McLawrence (Ards Borough Council), Emma Meredith (WWT) replaced by George Blackwood (National Trust) and James Cuthbert (DENI) replaced by Gerry Kelly (DENI).

Activities

ESD Days 2007

Every year the Forum runs ESD Days at all of Northern Ireland's Universities. These are delivered by EEF 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 delivery of EE / ESD through various aspects of the curriculum.

Days completed in 2007:

Jan 2007	University of Ulster	Global Citizenship Day	30 student teachers
Jan 2007	University of Ulster	Key Stage 3&4 Geography	16 student teachers
March 2007	Stranmillis College	Science Afternoon	30 student teachers
March 2007	University of Ulster	Key Stage 1&2	50 student teachers
Oct 2007	Stranmillis College	Key Stage 1&2	45 student teachers
Nov 2007	Queens University	Key Stage 3&4	150 student teachers
Nov 2007	Stranmillis College	Key Stage 1&2	45 student teachers
Dec 2007	Stranmillis College	Key Stage 1&2	45 student teachers
Dec 2007	St Mary's College	Key Stage 1&2	165 student teachers

EHS Natural Heritage Grant Programme (NHGP)

Discussions took place in 2005 and 2006 with the EHS as to the possibility of the EEF inputting into the Natural Heritage Grants Programme and this was agreed by the Forum Management Committee. Applicants to the programme were required to submit their applications for comment by EEF prior to assessment. A form was completed by the EEF coordinator for each application detailing the strengths and weaknesses of the application and suggesting ways in which the project could be improved to increase chances of success. This year nine applications were received and discussed at a special Management Committee meeting; reports were written up and returned to applicants to assist their application. Feedback from members indicated that the process was a worthwhile and very useful exercise which enabled them to focus on the gaps and overlaps of EE provision and look at potential sharing of programmes with other agencies.

ESD in Northern Ireland – Updating of 2000 publication

Work has begun on updating the ESD publication that was originally produced in 2000 by the EEF and the Centre for Global Education. Planning to complete in early 2008 and will be launched at a major conference in April (EEF / CADA).

Membership and Networking

Membership

Forum Membership currently stands at 94 organisations, agencies and individuals representing government, voluntary, academic and business sectors. Eight members joined the Forum in 2007:

Baglady Productions
Children in Crossfire
Creggan Country Park
Sustrans
Water NI
Weeks Environmental

W5

Anna Stamp (Individual)

Two members left the Forum in 2007

Alistair Herron – University of Ulster (Individual Member)

Kilcranny House – No education Officer currently – focusing efforts on new building

Networking / Promotion

A great deal of time has been spent on liaising and networking with member organisations. By promoting the Forum's activities and the benefits which it provides the Forum's reputation and role as key component of the environmental education sector in Northern Ireland has become more established. This groundwork has been crucial in providing a firm base from which the EEF has continued to move forward and develop. The EEF Coordinator has been active in attending conferences, member's events and training days in 2007.

Conferences

- Speaking at Cultivate Centre ESD conference in Dublin (March)
- Attendance at Centre for Global Education conference – St Mary's College (March)
- Organise and attend, plus workshop facilitation at conference for 6th form students (September)
- Organise and attend EHS / Eco – Unesco conference, Belfast (September)
- Speaking at and workshop facilitation at Global Dimension conference, St Mary's College (October)
- Speaking at TIDAL conference – Children in Crossfire (December)

Working Groups

- Sitting on National Trust working group: Development of new education programme (Jan – March)
- Sitting on working group for development of new education tool: Vital Signs (January)
- Sitting on working group for Enviro-Centre: development of Northern Visions (January - March)
- Input into EHS Waste Communications Forum (February)
- Sitting on working group for Eco Schools (May – Present)
- Input into Forest Schools Working group (August – Present)
- Input and organise development meeting for Baglady Productions (October)

Members Events

- Judging of Eco-Unesco YEA schools – Belfast (April)
- Environmental Youth Speak Awards - Invited to sit on judging panel for awards (May)
- Attendance at Eco-Unesco YEA awards ceremony, Dublin (May)
- Attendance at RSPB ASSI Schools project at W5 (June)
- Attendance and input into launch of RSPB Sustainable Schools Strategy, Stormont (October)

Other

- Attendance at public consultation for Giant's Park (February)
- Attendance at NIEL AGM – Clifton House, Belfast (June)
- Attendance at NIEL Climate Change event, Stormont (June)
- Help organise and attend launch of NI Archeology Forum, Dungannon (October)

Extended Schools Programme

The EEF Co-ordinator has contacted all of the Extended Schools co-ordinators in the five ELB's and as a consequence attended seven organised events in the SELB and BELB areas to demonstrate to teachers how the 'network' can support environmental project and programmes that tie in with the Extended Schools priority themes.

EEF Website

Continued updating and expansion of website took place in 2007. Events and publication are added to the website regularly.

New EEF Member Pack and Folder

A new folder was produced and printed (2000 copies), to be used to send out membership information to potential EEF members. It has also been used for packs for ESD day student teachers and for Extended Schools training days to provide teachers with information on EEF.

Finances

EEF Accounts

Jan 2007 - Dec 2007

Income

	Jan to Mar 07		Apr to Sep 07		Oct to Dec 07		Total Budget	Total Actual
	Actual		Actual		Actual			
SUBSCRIPTIONS	200.00		3146.37		200.00		3000	3546.37
CONTRACT INCOME	11633.00		25000.00		12500.00		49133	49133.00
OTHER ACTIVITIES INCOME	0.00		220.00				500	220.00
GRANT AID ACTIVITIES	0.00							0.00
							52633	52899.37

Expenditure

POSTAGE	0.00		141.71		300.00		600	441.71
TRAVEL & TRAINING	234.05		184.40		184.70		800	603.15
EVENTS	202.00		1069.10		824.50		2000	2095.60
PUBLICATIONS	61.14		5602.89		1987.35		13000	7651.38
SALARIES (NET)	3792.12		7705.68		3852.39		15500	15350.19
PAYE & NIC	1624.20		3746.35		1873.50		7300	7244.05
WEBSITE	0.00		0.00		500.00		500	500.00
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	0.00		0.00		0.00			0.00
ADDITIONAL STAFF					14000.00		13000	14000.00
							52700	47886.08

The Environment and Heritage Service provides the operating expenditure for the Forum through a contract to Northern Ireland Environment Link to provide secretarial and staff services and through direct printing of publications through the Corporate Services Department.

The EEF is supported by:

