

ESD Forum 2010 Report

The annual Conference was held last June in Lough Neagh Discovery Centre where Gerry Kelly and Tony Scullion from the ETI shared the results from the report they published in February 2010, 'Effective Practice in Education for Sustainable Development in a Sample of Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools in NI.

Nora McQuaid told us how Global Dimension in Schools NI, is supporting teachers in implementing the Northern Ireland Curriculum through the effective teaching and learning of global issues throughout all learning areas.

As a result of the conference we changed our name from EEF to ESD Forum (Education for Sustainable Development Forum). Obviously the change necessitated slight rebranding, the Logo has been changed and the school publication is now known as the Forum Newsletter instead of LEEF. We also have a new website as we are now a lot more web based, I also have to report that our website stats are continuing to rise month on month.

We lost three members due to the funding cuts NIEA, Mourne Heritage Trust and Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN).

In the autumn the Management Committee met with Patricia Mackey from Sustainable Northern Ireland to discuss the Sustainable Development Strategy Consultation which Liz felt we needed to respond to. After the meeting Liz put together a response to the consultation which I forwarded to OFMDFM in October.

We held 5 Management Committee meetings during the year where the average attendance was 9, we lost three members from the committee 2 due to retirement Robert Scott Belfast City Council and Gerry Kelly Schools Inspectorate, Graeme McKimm Business in the Community has changed job and no longer able to serve on the Committee, letters from the Chairman have been sent to all 3.

During 2010 we held our ESD Days at Coleraine, Queen's and Stranmills a total of 212 students attended, we had very positive feedback and some students have been in touch looking for further information. Huge thanks to all the University co-ordinators and to the workshop leaders for their co-operation which makes my job so much easier. Due to change of staff and restructuring at St Mary's we didn't have an ESD day during 2010 but we will be back again later this year.

11 e-bulletins were compiled and sent out during the year August being the only month missing, thanks to all of you who continue to send the information through to me, please keep it coming.

Two Newsletters 'Global Dimension in Schools NI' in the spring 2010 and 'What is ESD?' in the autumn of 2010, a copy of these was emailed to each Primary, Post-Primary and Special school in Northern Ireland.

Our ESD Resource Guide is currently being updated and thanks to all who have send in information. This will be printed over the summer and in the schools for the start of the autumn term.

During the year I attended a number of events on behalf of the Forum at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre and W5.

We have had a good year all things considered, I personally want to thank a number of people, Sue for allowing me to continue the work of the Forum (it is well known within NIEL that I have a real passion for the work of the forum), the members for sending the information in and the Management Committee for their continued help and support, and finally a huge thanks to Alyn and Catherine for all the help, support and friendship they have given to me over the past year.