

ESD Day at University of Ulster Coleraine

27 March 2009

Feedback Summary

Workshops provided by: Action Renewables, Forest Service, R.S.P.B.

Overall:

This day was probably best summed up in the words of one student "overall excellent worthwhile day full of good ideas". The feedback was very positive right across the board. Some students mentioned that it would be good to get some sort of certificate to say that they had completed the ESD training.

What did you learn from the day?

- ❖ Lots of useful advice for the classroom and home
- ❖ How to make environmental studies fun and interactive
- ❖ How to tie ESD into so many curriculum areas
- ❖ The whole concept of renewable energy
- ❖ A lot about sustainable development
- ❖ Didn't realise that the RSPB was not only about birds
- ❖ Lots of practical examples and wonderful creative ideas
- ❖ Didn't know that there were so many organisations able to provide expertise and help deliver ESD
- ❖ Really good information/resource guide will be useful
- ❖ The importance of recycling and re-using

What were the good points of the day?

- ❖ Free resources and good practical activities
- ❖ Each workshop was different, sessions were relaxed, informative and practical
- ❖ The lively presentations, and the choice of organisations
- ❖ The RSPB session was very hands on
- ❖ Lots of teaching ideas
- ❖ Learned a lot about ESD that I didn't know
- ❖ Love the rainforest part by the RSPB
- ❖ Abundance of free resources/ offers of support and possible school visits from the speakers
- ❖ Enjoyed the renewable energy discussion. Would be keen to teach about renewable energy
- ❖ How easy it all is to transfer into the classroom situation
- ❖ Very varied and interesting
- ❖ Each presenter was very enthusiastic about their area
- ❖ Everything was fun, practical and very useful

What could be improved upon?

- ❖ More resources to use in the classroom
- ❖ More KS2 from the Forest Service – although what they did was great
- ❖ Maybe a bit more information on how ESD will be implemented in schools
- ❖ Longer sessions – even two days

Did you find the speakers useful/ interesting?

- ❖ They were really excited and passionate about what they were speaking about - great to see
- ❖ Found it all very useful
- ❖ RSPB and Forest Service very extremely good
- ❖ Renewable Energy particularly good

- ❖ Enthusiastic and encouraging
- ❖ Very entertaining and interactive
- ❖ All speakers delivered very good sessions
- ❖ They did so well to enthuse someone who thought ESD had no relevance to them
- ❖ Loads of ideas and support for when we are in the school situation

What would you like future training sessions to include?

- ❖ Even more superb ideas for lessons
- ❖ Perhaps the Forest Service could provide more ideas for classroom integration prior to a visit
- ❖ Maybe more practical, independent/group activities
- ❖ Maybe (depending on the weather) go for a nature walk
- ❖ Visit to a forest
- ❖ Other external bodies – just to build on our knowledge and ideas
- ❖ Information on Eco-Schools
- ❖ A certificate for our CV – to show we have completed a day on Environmental Education
- ❖ Longer sessions
- ❖ Information for teaching on peatlands
- ❖ Maybe community focused - i.e. someone from Trocaire

Was getting to and from the workshops on time easy/ok/difficult?

- ❖ No problems – well organised
- ❖ They were all close together which made it easy
- ❖ Timings were well considered and explained

How would you rate the introduction to the day?

- ❖ Andy really explained what was coming but also left enough for the organisation to expand. He also made it relevant to the curriculum.

Overall score: 5

Action Renewables

Overall feedback from 35 students

The students commented on Adrian's obvious knowledge and enthusiasm for his subject. They liked the use of resources and the ideas given for activities. Many didn't realise the importance of Renewable Energy. This workshop was very well received and enjoyed by all the students.

Overall score: 4.5

Forest Service

Overall feedback from 35 students.

The students enjoyed hearing about the learning potential in a forest. Many of the ideas talked about could be easily used in a school trip, nature walk etc as it was all child friendly. This workshop had very positive comments and with a focus on KS2 would be brilliant.

Overall score: 4.5

R.S.P.B.

Overall feedback from 35 students.

Many of the students didn't realise that RSPB's remit was so wide ranging. The students enjoyed the debate through role playing. The video of the rain forest getting destroyed was very visual and thought provoking. Every aspect of the workshop was enjoyed.

Overall score: 5