

# ESD Day at Queen's University Belfast

16 October 2009

## Feedback Summary

**Workshops provided by:** Action Renewables, British Council, Eco Schools, Eco Unesco, Red Cross, RSPB

### Overall

The overall consensus was that it was a very enjoyable and informative day. Some felt it was too long with a lot of repetition. Many would have liked a better link to their subject area. The big winners were the pupils who gave the practical examples of the various programmes in action. Some students felt two hour sessions were too long.

### What did you learn from the day?

- ❖ The inter-connection of global/sustainable development education
- ❖ That Sustainable Development is an important part of the new curriculum
- ❖ How Education for Sustainable Development is involved in all subjects
- ❖ The work that is going on between various schools to promote sustainable development
- ❖ Learned a lot more about the global issues
- ❖ How to be even more environmentally friendly, and change behaviour through education
- ❖ That schools are taking ownership of sustainable development

### What were the good points of the day?

- ❖ Grosvenor Grammar School's Presentation
- ❖ The activities carried out by the RSPB and Red Cross
- ❖ Good interactive exercises, and role playing
- ❖ Availability of resources that can be used in schools
- ❖ Learning about Eco-Schools, and hearing from the children
- ❖ Video at the introduction
- ❖ The links between the curriculum and SD were good. It was practical and interactive.
- ❖ Insight into teaching global issues
- ❖ Freebies and group work
- ❖ Showed how to integrate into the different subject areas
- ❖ Was good to hear the teachers view point

### What could be improved upon?

- ❖ More resources
- ❖ More scope for questions and answers in the workshops
- ❖ Timing of introduction – very rushed
- ❖ More examples of pupils coming in from schools to talk about projects
- ❖ Less repetitive
- ❖ More participation from schools that have taken part in these programmes
- ❖ Lesson too long – could be made shorter with same content
- ❖ The grasp of “Global Issues” displayed by many of the PGCE students seemed to be poor
- ❖ Activities that could be used in the classroom linking to the environment
- ❖ Workshops were too long – an hour would have been enough
- ❖ More space where the workshops take place – rooms too small
- ❖ Would have liked to hear the teacher from Ghana speak and share her experiences

### Did you find the speakers useful / interesting?

- ❖ Grosvenor Grammar School were great
- ❖ Speakers were very interesting, made lessons very enjoyable by interactive role playing
- ❖ Useful contacts and useful ideas
- ❖ The speakers were all passionate about their area

## What would you like future training sessions to include?

- ❖ More resources
- ❖ Protection of wildlife
- ❖ More lesson ideas
- ❖ Less statistics and facts
- ❖ More school examples
- ❖ More suitable rooms for group activity
- ❖ Other global issues/citizenship issues and showing practical ways of implementing these in schools
- ❖ Divide students into their subject areas so they're given more 'relevant' information and less general advice

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

- ❖ Minor time constraints
- ❖ Didn't know where College Park was
- ❖ No problems knew well in advance where we were going

## How would you rate the introduction/s to the day?

Some felt it was very good while others didn't think it was anything new. The students enjoyed the game at the start and some commented on the video being useful. Most commented on it being very rushed and a pity it had to be cut short.

**Overall score: 3**

### Action Renewables / British Council

Overall feedback from 38 students

The students enjoyed learning the different ways to save energy. They enjoyed the windmill exercise and the freebies. Many commented on the global partnership programme and how interesting it was.

**Overall score 3**

### Eco-Schools

Overall feedback from 38 students

The students really enjoyed the litter survey and getting out for 20 minutes. The big winner in this workshop was the students and teacher from St Mary's with their presentation and practical examples of how the whole Eco-Schools project actually works. There were also lots of practical ideas to take into schools to get the children enthused.

**Overall score 4**

### Eco-UNESCO

Overall feedback from 53 students

The students commented on the fun element in this workshop with all the activities offered. They also enjoyed the presentation from the Grosvenor Grammar School from the teacher and pupils on what they are doing. This was a very well received workshop.

**Overall score 4**

### Red Cross / RSPB

Overall feedback from 53 students

The setting up the refugee camp was enjoyed by the students. Many commented that it was great to have a teacher from Ghana present but they would have liked her to have taken part. Some students commented that they would also have liked to hear more on the work of Red Cross and RSPB.

**Overall Score 3**