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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 member's news, resources, training events and seminars, publications, funding opportunities, and any 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.

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

Just to keep you up to date, our ESD days are starting next week, Queens University is on the 14th October, Stranmillis University College, 19th October, and St Mary's University College on the 16th December. The days consist of a series of workshops in which the leaders demonstrate best practice in delivering ESD through various aspects of the curriculum. We see the days as a valuable way of reaching trainee teachers.

The printing of the Resource Guide has been put back until January, we had too many copies of the old one left to just discard, the main change is really only adding new members, and taking out some members who unfortunately no longer have funding for Education, the new Guide will be dated 2012 – 2014.

If you want anything (news, upcoming events etc.) promoted on the website do feel free to contact me it is a good way of getting your information out to a wider audience. I can be contacted at iona@nienvironmentlink.org our website address is www.esdforum.org.uk



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. ECO-UNESCO YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS PROGRAMME

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards is an all-Ireland environmental awards programme that **recognises and rewards** young people who **raise environmental awareness** and **improve the environment**.

Who should take part?

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards programme is open to **any group of young people** in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland between 10 - 18 years of age.

When do I need to get my project in?

ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Timeline:

End of November 2011	Project registration deadline
End of February 2012	Project submission deadline
March & April 2012	ECO-Dens: Regional judging
May 2012	ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase and Awards Ceremony

Further information on Timeline available [here](#)>>

[REGISTER NOW! >>](#)

2. HOW CLEAN IS YOUR NESTBOX?

If you have a spare moment between some last minute sunbathing and a late bonus BBQ this weekend, give some thought to your garden wildlife, says the RSPB.

The wildlife charity is urging gardeners and householders to give nest boxes, feeders and bird baths a clean during the late warm, dry spell, ready for the frantic months of winter feeding ahead.

The RSPB says that this weekend is the prime time to wash garden bird feeding apparatus and nest boxes with warm, soapy water, and leave them out to air dry in the sunshine.

Now is the time to put nest boxes up well in advance of the breeding season next spring, as many birds will do a 'recce' over winter to choose where to raise their family. Many birds also shelter in nest boxes in colder weather.

Over 60 per cent of the UK population feed the birds in their garden, and as winter approaches, millions of pounds will be spent on things like seed mixes, fat balls and mealworms.

Despite the Indian summer this week, temperatures will inevitably drop in the coming weeks, and as they do so the amount of natural food in the countryside also diminishes.



Garden birds may still seem scarce at the moment, but when berries and insects start to run out they will return in their droves for our hospitality.

That's when birds start to rely on our supplementary food and shelter, so being prepared with clean, full feeders and spick and span nest boxes is vital.

The RSPB also says that clean feeders can help prevent outbreaks of bird diseases like salmonella.

These diseases tend to get worse as larger numbers of birds congregate to feed close together.

The RSPB advises keeping feeding areas clean in order to avoid the infection, with these top tips:

- Clean and wash your bird table and hanging feeders regularly, ideally with a five per cent disinfection solution.
- Move feeding stations to a new area every month to prevent droppings accumulating underneath.
- Rinse water containers out daily, and allow them to dry out before fresh water is added as droppings can accumulate in bird baths.
- Personal hygiene is also important. Don't bring your feeders or nest boxes into your house to clean them - do it outside, using separate utensils. Wear gloves.
- Always wash your hands when you've finished.

Ian Hayward, RSPB Wildlife Adviser, says: "October is the best time to clean out nesting boxes. If you are sure they are not in use then open them up, remove the old nesting material and you can leave it under a nearby shrub to decompose naturally, and give it a good rinse. Allow it to air dry and then put it back into place so that wintering garden birds can use it to roost in and hopefully stick around to nest in the following spring.

"Now is also a good time to be cleaning your feeders for autumn and winter but we're not usually lucky enough to have weather like this! By doing it now you'll be ready for when birds start to return from the wider countryside."

3. THE KITCHEN SINK NATURALIST - LEARNING ABOUT BORDER BIODIVERSITY RECORDING

Are you fascinated by the wild happenings outside your kitchen window? Do you garden for bugs and butterflies? Do you pack binoculars for a short break by the sea? Are the animals in your garden better fed than your family? Then you'll love this series of fun and informative events for wildlife "experts" just like you. Identify birds, butterflies and moths of the Mourne and Cooley are supported by our "real experts", experience bird ringing up closes, and enjoy family fun activity days.

Sat 15th October	10:00 – 13:00	Identifying Shorebirds	Dundrum Bar Car Park
Sat 29th October	10:00 – 12.30	Introduction to bird Ringing. Families	MHT, Silent Valley Gate Lodge

All events free except where charge is stated. To book your place phone Liz on (048 from Republic) 4376 7244 or email lizfarnan@allianceyouthworks.org.uk



4. LIVE 'N' DEADLY

Live 'n' Deadly is CBBC's wildlife and adventure show for kids, fronted by Steve Backshall and Naomi Wilkinson. Their mission is to get kids outside and closer to wildlife- a message backed by the RSPB.

RSPB Northern Ireland will work alongside the BBC- holding events that will be promoted by the program and through the Live 'n' Deadly and Things to do websites.

The activities are themed on "deadly scene investigation". Children will be presented with a wildlife crime scene and asked to deduce who has eaten who with the help of eight clues, deadly detective booklets and badges.

RSPB Youth and Education Assistant Jen Banks said, "What a great opportunity to get children more interested in nature. With the help of the BBC the work we do all year to educate children on environmental issues has a new and exciting twist and with their help promoting the events we can reach and hopefully influence even more children and make sure that the next generation try as hard as we do to give nature a voice."

This live programme is packed with entertaining features about wildlife with a deadly twist, outdoor adventure activities, challenges and competitions.

The first RSPB and Live 'n' Deadly event in Northern Ireland will be a Halloween themed lesson on marine wildlife held at the Riverwatch centre in Derry.

Children will discover who eats who and what wildlife lurks in the depths of Northern Ireland's oceans - getting the chance to become a detective for the day, following clues through the spooky aquarium and getting face to face with suspects in the "deadly scene investigation" including a life sized wicker model of a basking shark.

The event will be held on Saturday the **29th October** so put the date in your diary and look out for more details closer to the time on the RSPB and Live 'n' Deadly and Things To Do websites. <http://www.rspb.org.uk/events> and www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo The BBC's interactive website offers games, clips and a message board.

5. GREEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2011

Please write in no more than 100 words why your teacher should be the "**Belfast Harbour Green Teacher of the Year 2011**" Last year Webster had so much fun finding his Green Teacher of the Year, he has decided to do it all over again!

So, if your teacher recycles plastic bottles into jet rockets, encourages you to give a bug a hug, or leads a double life as an energy-saving superhero... Webster wants to hear from you!

You could win a fantastic day out at W5 for your teacher and your whole class on Wednesday **16th November 2011**, all entries to be received by **19th October 2011**.

Send to Action Renewables, Block C, Unit 1, Boucher Business Studios, Glenmachan Place, Belfast, BT12 6QH or send an email to education@actionrenewables.co.uk



6. GET READY AND GET SET FOR IMPACT 2012 AWARDS!

The DOE (Department of the Environment) and OFMDFM (Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister) are urging young people up to the age of 25 across Northern Ireland to get ready and get set over the summer months, in preparation for the Impact 2012 Awards.

The Impact 2012 Awards are designed to recognise those young people who are making a positive impact in life, in terms of the environment and sustainability. These Awards will celebrate action being taken on the ground and they will also provide an excellent platform to share these award winning and inspirational ideas with hundreds of others.

Project applications can be made under a range of categories, including environment, innovation, rural sustainability, leadership, awareness raising, community safety and others.

Full details on how to apply will be released in September on the NI Direct website

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/environment-and-greener-living/your-local-environment/being-green-in-the-community-and-at-work/impact-2012-awards.htm>

The deadline for submissions will be in **December 2011** and the Awards will be announced at an event in Belfast on **14th March 2012**.

If people would like to register their interest in the meantime, please email marketing@doeni.gov.uk

7. PUTTING THE CAT AMONGST THE PIGEONS!

An unusual Province-wide, free to enter children's photographic competition will launch soon at Safari, Northern Ireland's dedicated free to visit animal event, on Sunday 30 October at Crawfordsburn Country Park near Bangor, County Down.

'Does Your Photofit?' is a special photographic design competition that will metaphorically, put the cat amongst the pigeons! The premise of the competition, which is open to all school age children in Northern Ireland, is to bring together images of different species and make up a unique creature, while learning about animals and their habitats. The overall winning entry will be used to promote Safari's main two-day event in September 2012 and will be used in posters, flyers and other advertising material.

With three age categories, (5-10; 11-15; 16-18), the competition has been designed to bring fun into learning and is completed in a few easy steps.

The first step, 'Creature Create' is akin to piecing together the face of a wanted person, as each entrant is asked to use up to six photographs to 'Creature Create' their own species.

Next, the 'Name Your New Species' section identifies the new species. (But names such as Archie and Lucy won't do!).

Lastly 'The Science Bit!' sets the learning task as each entry must include an outline in less than 60 words, of the actual species name in each image used; the country of origin plus the habitat and conservation status.



The competition opens on Sunday 30 October 2011 when further details of prizes and other relevant information will be available at safarilive.info and at the Safari launch event. Only one entry per individual in the three listed categories is valid and all images used must be original. The closing date is Friday 25 May 2012.

Why not visit this year's launch event and get a taste of what's in store at next year's two-day event!

Aside of a great day out, visitors will learn all about animals from domestic to exotic, find out more about animal management and how they can help conserve endangered species, through talks on the day. In addition to this, expert veterinary advice is on hand and the opportunity to talk to the people behind Northern Ireland's leading wildlife charities, such as The Rare Breed's Survival Trust, R.S.P.B., Ulster Wildlife Trust, National Trust and other exhibitors on the day such as Northern Ireland's new woodland pet burial company, Down To Earth (NI). And don't forget to meet up with the donkeys from The Elisabeth Svendsen Trust on the beach! Other exhibitors include IKEA, various craft stalls and Fab faces face painting, who will help transform younger visitors into a little animal character of their choosing!

And for those who want to actively take part in the event, a children's recycled Halloween animal themed, craft workshop from Blue Frog, is available. Or take the chance to get into a creature-comfort zone with the animal menagerie from Mantella Environmental. A free drop-in nature-inspired workshop, will also take place, where participants will help create the event's mascot, a large willow squirrel, with artist, Jim Russell.

Safari runs between 10.30am and 5.00pm on Sunday 30 October at Crawfordsburn Country Park.

For further information please visit www.safarilive.info

8. CRAIGAVON ECO-SCHOOLS CELEBRATION AND SHOWCASE EVENT

The Craigavon Eco Schools Showcase is taking place at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre on **Wednesday 16th November 2011**

What are Eco Schools?

Most young people care deeply about environmental issues and wish to make a positive change in the environment around them. The Eco-Schools programme provides an ideal way for fostering environmental awareness in the entire school in a way that links into many curriculum subjects.

Programme for the day

The day itself will see Green Flag schools from across the Craigavon Borough displaying their work and celebrating their achievements. It will also be an opportunity for teachers and pupils from local schools not currently signed up to the programme to come into contact with their peers. There will also be displays and resources from a range of support organisations, as well as exciting workshops for pupils and teachers to take part in.

Throughout the course of the event we hope that ESD Forum members will take the opportunity to drop into the Centre and come into contact with these inspiring young people and their work. Please feel free to come along anytime **between 10am and 2pm**.



If you require any further details please contact:

Andy Griggs at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre on: Tel: (028) 3832 2205

E-Mail: andrew.griggs@craigavon.gov.uk or

Jennifer Cunningham at the Craigavon Civic Centre on: Tel: (028) 3833 2467

E-Mail: jennifer.cunningham@craigavon.gov.uk

RESOURCES

1. FREE RANGE KIDS WEBSITE

Sustrans' Free Range Kids website is now live. This is part of a new campaign to bring freedom back to the heart of childhood.

On the website you can:

- speak out for free range kids by adding your voice to the pledge
- find free resources and downloads to get kids outdoors and active
- join in the debate on blogs and comment pieces
- get involved as a partner and help to spread the word

Sustrans believes every child deserves to be free range. They should experience the freedom from their front door to go exploring, play outdoors, and make their own way to school and beyond.

Visit their [website](#) or get in touch and help them us make this possible.

2. THE YEAR ROUND ORGANIC SCHOOL

Kerry Earth Education Project with the Irish Seed Savers Association has produced a wonderful resource for teachers and parents who wish to set up or progress their school garden. Simply presented and packed with useful information, this book takes you through the tasks associated with the garden for each month, offers many ideas for projects no matter how small your available space is, and demonstrates clear links as to how the gardening activities can be fully integrated into the curriculum. With class by class plans, glossary of terms, resource lists and photocopy able forms for classroom use; this is a book the school gardener will use again and again.

Available online www.theorganiccentre.ie/node/1131 or at the Organic Centre Ecoshop for €12 + p&p.

3. GARDEN ORGANIC

Garden Organic is committed to getting people growing and there is no better place to start than getting our children involved. The Garden Organic Website www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools_organic_network/ is full of ideas for getting an organic garden started. It includes lots of ideas along with a Fun Zone with games and activities, along with a Teaching Zone and a Learning Zone to name a few. This website is definitely well worth a look.



TRAINING AND EVENTS

1. NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE – *LET'S GET CREATIVE!*

Attend in **London on 21st October** at ZSL London Zoo, in **Leicester on 30th November** or **online from 21st October to 2nd December** with unique spaces to learn together.

Scheduled for the opening of the school year, October and November will see the biggest Sustainable Schools annual event, run by SEEd, coming to a location near you and online. It will bring together teachers, pupils, NGOs and others who work in or are interested in sustainability and environmental education in schools; it will encourage learning and sharing resources, skills, successes, and also help make plans on how to become a sustainable school and save money. The theme is *Let's Get Creative*, with workshops led by experts in their fields, covering ideas such as:

- Creative engagement with students
- Creative use of the outdoors and museums
- Creative Curriculum
- Creative with Funding, and
- Creatively engaging with your community

With inspiring national speakers who have just “done it” – often without money or support – the day is designed to help you and your school or organisation in your sustainability journey with new and exciting creative ideas. The conference also includes a market place of organisations and resources that support sustainable schools and local authorities, with presentations and films.

Four events shall be held around the country and online during October and November: it's truly national!

Even if you cannot make one of these dates, our Online Interactive Conference will last throughout the regional events and beyond, so why not join in at home or at school for half the price and twice the experience?

Take part in facilitated workshops, discussions, listen to key note speakers and get the workshop outputs and presentations from our country-wide events. All this without travelling anywhere!

All conference delegates also have automatic access to this online arena and everyone receives the collated resources e-pack after the online conference ends; a valuable resource for all attendees.

Spaces are limited so confirm your place now by signing up online on our new website: se-ed.co.uk/NSSC2011

Remember to check the website for the regional updates and for the latest news from the conference workshops.

2. CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS HERITAGE TRUST SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONFERENCE

Making Landscapes Work for You



This conference on Wednesday **26 October 2011** in the Great Hall, Galgorm Resort & Spa Galgorm, Ballymena will seek to answer questions on how the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism can benefit local tourism in the Causeway Coast & Glens area.

Guest Speakers will include Jim Eastwood from the Apprentice, representatives from the Forest of Bowland AONB, Mourne Heritage Trust, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, to name a few.

RSVP before Friday **16th September** by email to tierna@ccght.org or telephone on 028 2075 2100. Learn more [here](#).

3. NATIONAL TREE WEEK

Local schools and interested parties will once again be invited to plant native tree species in Carnfunnock during National Tree Week. If you are interested in bringing a group along, please contact the Duty Officer Lisa Kirkwood at Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne, (028) 2827 0541.

FUNDING

1. GRANTS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The John Moore Foundation is a registered charity, established in 1964, that gives money to charitable community organisations. We focus on funding projects based in [Merseyside](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).

The Foundation supports projects which aim to break down barriers. To encourage co-operation and joint working between different community and voluntary groups, grants may be given for work involving local trust-building initiatives.

Priority is given to small, grass-roots and volunteer driven organisations and new rather than long-established groups. We are particularly interested in supporting those groups that find it more than usually difficult to raise money.

The Foundation Makes Grants Towards

- Start up and running costs
- Volunteer and programme costs
- Education and training costs
- Venue and travel costs
- One-off project costs
- Equipment

No grants are made to **individuals**. Nor are grants made for **capital building projects** or for work that clearly falls under **statutory** responsibility. For a complete list of our exclusions please follow the link on the left: What we are unlikely to



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fund.

The size of grant varies, but we prefer to give smaller grants to a larger number of projects.

Applications may be refused where we feel that the organisation concerned is already well funded or has excessive reserves.

2. 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 wellbeing.

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>

3. 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: <http://cr2010.tescopl.com/communities/tesco-charity-trust.aspx>

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 three times per year
- One conference 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 via the E-Bulletin
- 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 a 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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