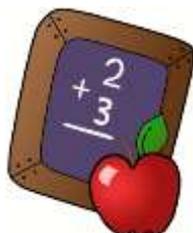




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EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM E-BULLETIN

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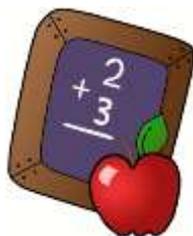
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INTRODUCTION

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 Forum is the networking body for the Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development sector that promotes a coordinated 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 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.

Iona Meyer
ESD Forum Administrator

NEWS FROM THE ESD FORUM

1. ESD FORUM UPDATE

Conor Tracey has been on placement with us from The Gibson Institute. The management committee had asked that I issue a member survey, Conor did ring round asking for the survey to be completed and he has pulled together the responses, which we will take on board going forward.

The one thing that kept coming up in the survey responses was members would like an updated version of ESDF Resource Guide; we are currently pulling together an online version and hopefully secure some funding later in the year to do a print run.

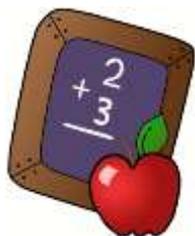
You will have received your invoices for membership renewal from our Finance Officer, thanks to those of you who have already paid. If you have not already done so could you please organize payments as soon as possible as there are quite a few outstanding?

Don't forget to check out the events section of our website to get an update of various events taking place, there are a number of events happening in the lead up to Christmas. <http://eefni.org.uk/events/>

If you have any information you would like promoted through the E-bulletin please send it to me by the end of the month, and if you want anything (news, upcoming events, etc.) promoted on the website do feel free to contact me. It's a good opportunity to get your information out to a wide audience at no charge to you or your organisation.



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. MONKSTOWN WOOD TO SHOW OFF NEW LOOK WITH EASTER EVENT

Families are invited to put a spring in their step at the Woodland Trust's Monkstown Wood, in the historic village of Monkstown, Newtownabbey.

Saturday 24 March, from 12pm to 4pm, is the date for the outdoor diary.

The Woodland Trust team will point you in the right direction. Then search for the hidden clues to complete a self-guided trail through this flourishing Local Nature Reserve. Young nature detectives, having completed the woodland adventure, will each be rewarded with a tasty Easter treat.

This urban woodland can't wait to show off its new look, made possible thanks to funding of £65,000 – that's almost £45,000 from Biffa Award¹ and £20,000 from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.



The facelift includes improved access, new and improved paths, way-markers, benches and interpretation boards.

The new pathways beckon walkers to step closer to nature. One route provides access to an adjacent council-owned wildflower meadow, while another offers a closer look at the neighbouring river, the glorious Three Mile Water.



Michelle McCaughtry is the Woodland Trust's people engagement officer and said: "This will be a fantastic day out for families in the run-up to Easter. It's a chance for children to get outdoors and to get to grips with nature, and a breath of fresh air for the adults, too.

"We've come up with a really fun and informative woodland trail. And with a chocolate prize at the end of the adventure, I imagine there'll be lots of happy faces.

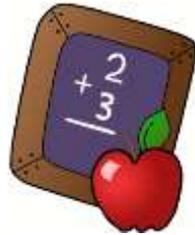
"Thanks to funding, we've been able to give Monkstown Wood the boost it deserves and it's now ready and

waiting to be explored by everyone, local people and visitors from further afield."

Gillian French, Biffa Award Head of Grants, added: "We are thrilled to see the difference the funding has made and how the wood has been made more accessible. Bringing people closer to nature is vital and we hope that the regeneration of this area will make a big difference to the community using it."



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Children from the nearby Hollybank Primary School were among the first to inspect the improvements, while making their own contribution. The youngsters recently rolled up sleeves to plant over 150 trees – a mix of alder, hazel and birch.

Booking in advance is essential. Find out more and book a slot at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/events or call [0330333 5302](tel:03303335302). The cost is £3 per child. Monkstown Wood can be accessed via Monkstown Road, just off the Doagh Road Newtownabbey.

2. CALL FOR PAPERS FOR SPECIAL ISSUE OF ECOPSYCHOLOGY

The journal *Ecopsychology* will publish a special issue focusing on Children and Nature. The use of the term children in this title includes adolescents.

In the last decade, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of nature in children's lives. Evidence has been emerging that shows many physical and psychological benefits for children when they interact with nature; and this area warrants further research. In addition, there is reason to believe that childhood offers a critical period when people develop deep affinities and sensibilities with nature — and when they can come to love nature. Ecopsychology can have unique contributions to this research and discourse.

This special issue is co-edited by two leaders in the field. Judy Braus is Executive Director of the North American Association of Environmental Education. Sarah Milligan-Toffler is Executive Director of the Children and Nature Network. They bring the strengths of their two organizations together in this collaboration.

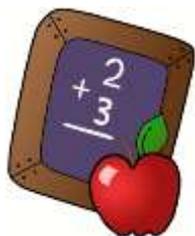
This special issue is interested in both empirical and theoretical papers — and evocative essays — that address this topic of children and nature, broadly conceived. Relevant topics could include:

- Empirical studies that investigate how nature impacts childhood health and wellbeing, learning, literacy, mental development, and/or human flourishing.
- The role of managed landscapes, such as gardens, farms, and zoos.
- Developing conservation stewardship values and caring about the environment, and how connection with nature impact attitudes and values toward the environment.
- The impact of wild nature in children's lives.
- Mechanisms by which contact with nature and nature-rich settings affect children.
- The role of mentors.
- Advances in research methods to investigate the outcomes of spending time in nature.
- Applications to clinical, educational, and other settings.

In addition, we welcome submissions in two categories. *Community Commentaries* report on community-based research. In these, we invite community partners involved in the research to provide their perspective on the research process, findings, or implications. *Perspectives* are articles by practitioners—including psychologists, educational administrators, environmental educators, policymakers, designers, advocates, funders, and others. In these pieces, we encourage practitioners to provide their viewpoints on the



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intersection of children and nature; as such, they may discuss current advances or future directions, and bring forward original data and/or personal insights.

We welcome submissions from diverse research areas including, but not limited to, psychology, landscape architecture, education, environmental education, child development, social and environmental justice, environmental studies, indigenous studies, and urban studies.

Your contribution should be no longer than 4000 words (excluding references) and submitted no later than **May 9, 2018**. Please submit using the journal's [online submission portal](#).

Questions?

Please contact either guest editor [Judy Braus](#) or [Sarah Milligan-Toffler](#).

Ecopsychology is the only peer-reviewed journal that places psychology and mental health in an ecological context to recognize the links between human health, culture, and the health of the planet. The Journal seeks to reshape modern psychology by showing that it cannot stand apart from an intimate human connection with the natural environment. We need that connection with nature to do well mentally and physically, let alone to flourish, as individuals and as a species. Against this backdrop, the Journal publishes original scientific research articles, as well as theoretical papers, case studies, nature writing, and reviews of important books and other media.

Advantages of publishing in Ecopsychology include:

- Fast and user-friendly electronic submission
- Rapid, high-quality peer review
- Maximum exposure: accessible in 170 countries worldwide
- Open Access options available

3. PUT A SPRING IN YOUR STEP WITH THE TRANSLINK TRAVEL CHALLENGE!

Schools across Northern Ireland are making 'smart moves' in a bid to cut congestion at school gates, boost pupil health and promote a more sustainable lifestyle.

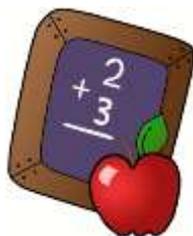
Pupils are taking action with the Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge which promotes the use of sustainable travel choices for the school run instead of car use over a 2-week period. There is still plenty of time to take part as the closing date for entries is **21st May 2018**. You can read more about Translink Travel Challenge [here](#).



If you are taking part in other travel initiatives, you can also incorporate the results from them into the Translink Travel Challenge - double the reward! And don't forget to enter any travel data you collect into your personal Eco-Schools school Data Zone to help with your future Green Flag applications.



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Register for the Travel Challenge online through the Eco-Schools School Zone or by emailing ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org - receive a full toolkit and wall chart and avail of free teaching resources for KS1-KS3

4. ECO-SCHOOLS TEACHERS CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED TO 20th APRIL – ECO-LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE



The Eco-Schools Teachers Conference **has been rescheduled to Friday 20th April** due to severe disruption from “the Beast from the East”. Teachers that were registered to attend on 2nd March will be contacted to confirm attendance on this new date, please let us know if you can no longer attend as the conference was fully booked and we would be able to offer the space to someone else.

If you have any queries about the conference please contact karina.magee@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org.

5. NEW WATER EXPLORER PROJECT SUPPORT FOR 10 SCHOOLS IN NI ANNOUNCED



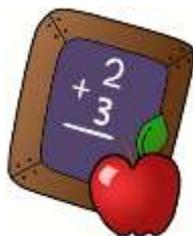
Eco-Schools are delighted to announce a new partnership with the Water Explorer project. This excellent project is run by the Global Action Plan and Eco-Schools NI will be encouraging and supporting schools to take part from now until the end of this school year.

Schools taking part are able to access the fantastic interactive online resource provided by Water Explorer which guides them through four water project themes: Precious Water, Secret Water, Fresher Water and Global Water. There are lots of opportunities to score points and win prizes.

The Eco-Schools team will be on hand to support your journey, provide workshops and whole school event support. We highly recommend these resources to any school looking at the Water and/or Global Perspective themes. We have the capacity to support 10 schools through the programme this year so please get in touch with ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org ASAP to register your interest and find out more.



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6. WHEELIE BIG CHALLENGE

It's not too late to get involved in this year's Wheelie Big Challenge! Schools in Belfast have until 25th April to submit an entry to the competition, all you need to do is submit up to 200 words to [Cathy Gorman](#) on how you have tackled waste (especially food waste!) in school and at home.

The final event will be held in the Great Hall, Belfast City Hall, on 17th May, where shortlisted schools will be asked to show off a creative display showcasing their activities and results to our judges. The winners will be announced on the day, with prizes up to £500 for Primary and Post Primary schools!



7. LOUGH NEAGH DISCOVERY CENTRE EVENTS

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March 11am – 3pm

Wildlife Photography Course (delivered by local photographer Danny Gibson)

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island

The second of this year's wildlife photography courses run by Danny Gibson will take place on the weekend of 24th & 25th March. This course will involve photographing the birds of Lough Neagh both on the water and around the islands from the Master McGrath boat. There will be time to stop, enjoy and capture images of the Grey Herons nesting on the islands and catch the famous mating dance of the Great Crested Grebes.

Cost £50 for the 1 day course which includes the boat trip and tea/coffee and scones. This visit will be limited to a group of 8 persons only.

Pre Booking is essential - Online bookings can be made at www.oxfordisland.com/bookings or contact Lough Neagh Discovery Centre on 028 3832 2205, or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oxfordislandnaturereserve

Friday 30th March – Tuesday 3rd April

Oxford Island Easter Trail

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre

Come and take part in our self-guided Easter Trail at Oxford Island. Collect a trail from the reception of the Discovery Centre and follow the clues around the reserve. Complete all the questions correctly and then collect your Easter treat.

This is a drop in event – no booking is necessary.

Trails will take approximately 1 hour and cost £1.00 per sheet.

Contact Lough Neagh Discovery Centre on 028 3832 2205 for further details, visit www.oxfordisland.com or follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/oxfordislandnaturereserve

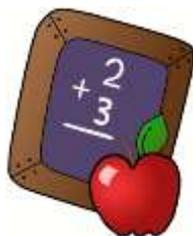
Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th April: 10am – 1pm

Archaeology for Children Programme

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre



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The 'Archaeology for Children Programme' will educate children (8 to 11 year olds) in some of the techniques that Archaeologists use to discover the past.

Day 1 will focus on fossils, dinosaurs and early man.

Day 2 will look at Vikings, Christians and World Wars

As children will be working with plaster and mud, old clothes and sturdy footwear should be worn

£5 per child per day. **Places are limited and pre Booking is essential** - Online bookings can be made at www.oxfordisland.com/bookings or contact Lough Neagh Discovery Centre on 028 3832 2205, e-mail or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oxfordislandnaturereserve

8. ENVIRONMENT WEEK – SAVE THE DATE

2018 marks the 4th year of NI Environment Week! The purpose of Environment Week is to celebrate our built and natural environment and encourage discussion on a wide-range of environmental issues.

This year, Environment Week will run from 24th – 28th September. If you would like to feature an event in the 2018 programme, please complete and return the attached [form](#) to iona@nienvironmentlink.org. More information to follow!



9. EASTER & SPRING EVENTS AT SHARE CENTRE

Jump into spring this year with SHARE!

SHARE are offering activities, events, cruises and much more over the Easter holidays, for you and your family.

Check out the following link <http://sharevillage.org/whats-on/> for an array of events something to suit everyone.

10. FEDERATION OF CITY FARMS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS EVENT 24th MARCH

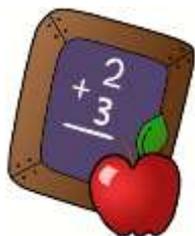


The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens would like to invite you on Saturday the 24th March to the NI Allotment and Community Garden Forum. Every year the Fed organises a get together for community growing projects to meet each other, share skills and have fun together.

You can follow this link to book: www.farmgarden.org.uk/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=497



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This year the event will be in the MACCA centre in Omagh, which has an eco-building, solar panels, well-used polytunnels and a nature reserve.

The programme will include a community garden surgery with a panel of experts, and workshops and discussions on a range of topics, including community supported agriculture, funding advice, peace gardening and vegetable fermenting. The event will also include the launch of Fermanagh and Omagh Council's exciting new PEACE IV Growing Communities Programme.

Locally sourced healthy lunch will be provided, and there will be a social in town in the evening for anyone who wants to stick around. Hope to see you there!

11. SUSTRANS ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAMME

"Sustrans is now recruiting schools to join the **Active School Travel Programme** in the next academic year beginning in September 2018. This is an **exciting, free initiative** for schools who wish to see more of their pupils choosing an active and healthy journey to school.

We would appreciate your help in spreading the word to schools that you engage with or schools in your area.

Schools can download the application form and supporting materials from our [website](#). Alternatively, they can request the application pack by emailing schoolsNI@sustrans.org.uk or ringing 028 9043 4569. Applications must be returned before the deadline of **Friday, 23rd March.**"

12. LIVE HERE LOVE HERE SMALL GRANTS SCHEME INFORMATION SESSIONS



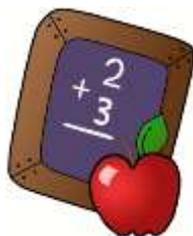
Live Here Love Here will be holding **Small Grants Information Sessions** to help with your questions, queries and help get your bright ideas off the ground.

The Small Grants Information Sessions will be taking place between the **22nd March and the 12th April** in a number of our supporting council areas.

The details are as follows:



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 **Fermanagh and Omagh District Council**

26th March, Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

 **Ards and North Down Borough Council**

27th March, Hamilton Road Community Hub, Bangor, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

 **Mid and East Antrim Borough Council**

28th March, Larne Town Hall, 6pm to 8pm

 **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**

29th March, Craigavon Civic Centre, 6.30 to 8.30pm

 **Belfast City Council**

5th April, Girdwood Community Hub, 10 Girdwood Avenue, Belfast. 6.30pm to 8.30pm

 **Mid Ulster District Council**

9th April, Ranfurley House, Dungannon Square, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

 **Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council**

10th April, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, 7pm to 9pm

 **Newry Mourne and Down District Council**

11th April. 6.30pm to 8.30pm venue to be confirmed.

Updates for these sessions will be provided on our social media pages closer to the time. For more information and to register your interest in the Small Grants Information Sessions, please contact Karina Magee at karina.magee@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Get thinking about your innovative project ideas!

13. THE BIG SPRING CLEAN 2018!

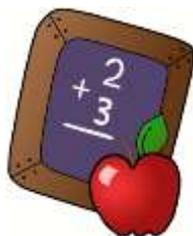
The BIG Spring Clean is Northern Ireland's biggest volunteer clean up and we need your help to make it happen in **April**.

In Spring 2017, 111,000 volunteers got involved in clean up events across Northern Ireland, removing an amazing 141 tonnes of litter (that's equivalent to 77 family cars!).

On **Saturday 24th March** Live Here Love Here will be launching the BIG Spring Clean in Rea's Wood, Antrim. If you would like to get involved in the launch please get in touch with Karina Magee at



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karina.magee@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org. If you are not free on this date or would like to hold your own clean up, please keep reading for more information!

So get thinking, could you organise our biggest clean up event to date? Register your details and [register your event online](#) and receive a **FREE** clean-up kit including gloves, litter bags, high-vis vests, posters and a Hints and Tips booklet. Don't forget to register your results and we can send you a certificate for all your hard work.



The BIG Spring Clean supports local community clean ups across all 11 council areas in Northern Ireland. It is open to individuals, schools, community groups and businesses wishing to rid their streets of litter and discarded rubbish.

Let's make this year our biggest year yet!!

RESOURCES

1. OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

[FSC Derrygonnelly](#) offers courses for groups of all ages from primary to University. Please follow the link below to browse the courses available across FSC Northern Ireland:

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/northern-ireland/derrygonnelly/learn/schools/course-information.aspx>

FSC has also developed a set of Get Inspired Outdoors resources with NIEA, to support teachers in delivering outdoor learning in a range of subjects:

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/northern-ireland/derrygonnelly/learn/schools/info-for-teachers/resources/get-inspired-outdoors.aspx>

2. RSPB RESOURCES

RSPB have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link. <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/lesson-plans-and-supporting-resources/spot-it/>

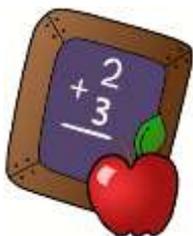
TRAINING & EVENTS

1. VARIOUS EVENTS

Don't forget to check the forum website for various events coming up over the next few months, this time of year there are plenty. If you have, any events coming up in your own groups let me know and I can publicise them on the website. www.eefni.org.uk/events/index



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FUNDING

1. BIG LOTTERY AWARDS FOR ALL NORTHERN IRELAND

Awards for All is a quick and easy way to get small Lottery grants of between £500 and £10,000 for projects that last for a year at most (they can be shorter).

You can apply at any time and you will normally get a decision around 3 or 4 months after applications are received.

<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/northern-ireland/awards-for-all-northern-ireland>

2. ERNEST COOK TRUST

The Ernest Cook Trust is one of the UK's leading educational charities. Rooted in the conservation and management of the countryside, the Trust actively encourages children and young people to learn from the land through hands-on educational opportunities on its estates and by offering grants.

Scheme details

The Ernest Cook Trust gives grants to registered charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest either in the countryside and the environment or the arts (in the broadest sense) or aiming to raise levels of literacy and numeracy.

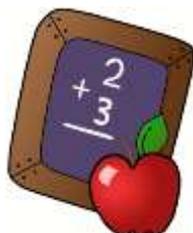
Since the ECT is a land-based Trust, work which encourages or ensures the continuation of rural skills and crafts is of particular interest to the Trustees. All applications are expected to link in with either the National Curriculum or with recognised qualifications.

Each year the ECT Trustees give around £1.8 million to support hundreds of educational projects throughout the UK.

- A large grants programme for awards of over £4,000 and a small grants programme for awards of under £4,000 operate throughout the year.
- For small grants, most awarded are in the range £1000 - £1500
- For large grants, apart from a few larger awards to projects especially close to the interests of the Trustees, most awards are in the range of £4,000 – £12,000 Find out more on [GrantTracker](#) or on the [website](#)



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MEMBERSHIP OF ESD FORUM

JOIN US

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the sector that promotes a coordinated 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
- 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 ESD Forum website
- Support and publicity for your work
- Sharing of ideas, expertise and experience

	Voluntary Organisation	Statutory Body
Organisation, one person	£35	£50
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 free place at an ESD Forum conference each year. The E-Bulletin goes into many of the schools and is a good way to promote your work. If you would like to promote your events, publications and training through this E-Bulletin please contact.

Iona Meyer

Education for Sustainable Development Forum

89 Loopland Drive

Belfast BT6 9DW

Tel: 028 9045 5770

iona@nienvironmentlink.org

www.esdforum.org.uk