



In This Issue:

News from the ESD Forum

1. [ESD Forum Update](#)

Environmental Education News

1. [Holy Trinity River Warriors \(HTRW\)](#)
2. [Free Trees for Autumn 2011](#)
3. [Wildlife Gardening Competition](#)
4. [Tree Identification at Colin Glen](#)
5. [Green Teacher of the Year 2011](#)
6. [Stand Up, Hop, Perch, Fly...And Be Counted!](#)
7. [Action Renewables have Moved](#)

Resources

1. [Education Resources – From Eco-UNESCO](#)
2. [The Year Round Organic School](#)
3. [Garden Organic](#)

Training & Events

1. [NIEL Annual Conference](#)
2. [National Sustainable Schools Conference 2011](#)
3. [Conservation Volunteers Take On Clay Pigeon Shooting!](#)

Funding

1. [The Revised NIEA Natural Heritage Grant Programme is Open for Applications](#)
2. [Big Lottery Funding](#)
3. [Tesco Charity Trust](#)
4. [Grants from the Tree Council](#)

Membership of ESD Forum

1. [Join the Forum](#)



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

The latest edition of the Forum Newsletter 'Growing Ideas' is now available to download from the website www.eefni.org.uk/cmsfiles/files/publications/LEEF-8.2-Growing-Ideas-Newsletter-pdf.pdf. A copy has been sent to every school, many thanks to all of you who sent information in to allow me to compile the Newsletter, I have already received positive feedback back from some teachers.

The updating of the Resource Guide is nearly complete it will be printed during the summer and a copy sent to the schools during the first week in September.

Our website is still on the increase the monthly figures continue to show a steady rise. This is encouraging so 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. HOLY TRINITY RIVER WARRIORS (HTRW)

Following on from the groups tidy up along their adopted stretch of the Ballinderry River (beside the Glenavon Hotel in Cookstown), when the group helped the Ballinderry River Enhancement Association (BREA), WWF NI, Tidy NI and the NIEA, lift litter from the banks of the river, erect bird and bat boxes, they were asked by Cookstown District Council to help tidy up some of the streets near the college. The group were helped by a couple of members of the council's environmental health department and teachers from the college. In the space of an hour they collected several bags of litter, thus highlighting the fact that litter is such a problem in urban areas too.

Just prior to this tidy up the group were presented with new hoodies, which have their new logo on. The hoodies were sponsored by the Glenavon Hotel. They were presented to the group by Brian Morris Jnr, (the hotels owner), and Mark Horton from the BREA. We would like to thank the Glenavon Hotel for their support.

The group also visited the Ballinderry Fish Hatchery BFH. This visit allowed the pupils to see, first hand, the essential and excellent work that the hatchery do in protecting, conserving and helping different species of animals to survive in the Ballinderry River and beyond. It also helped the pupils realise how important their own efforts, i.e. tidy – ups, erecting bird and bat boxes, are in helping the ecology of the Ballinderry River and the environment in general.

Two members of the HTRW, Shea O'Neill and Kathleen Fitzpatrick along with Mr Tennyson (Holy Trinity College Technology Department) helped erect a Barn Owl nest box. The nest box was erected within the area that the HTRW have adopted along the banks of the Ballinderry River. The nest box was given to the group by the RSPB. Holy Trinity College have been participating in the RSPBs Wildlife Action Awards this year. The school's Science Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the RSPB and especially Jen Banks who has held workshops at the school, which have included making bird feeders and minibeast corners.

The Holy Trinity River Warriors have recently returned to the area they have adopted to carry out another tidy-up. Thankfully this time there was not as much litter to collect.

These tidy - ups are made possible by the assistance of the BREAs C.U.R.E. (Clean up the River Environment) campaign. The HTRW would like to thank Mark Horton, Eamon Cullen, Frank Mitchell and all at the BFH for all their help and advice during this time. The warriors hope to help them in their work for many years to come and the Holy Trinity River Warriors intend to keep fighting for the environment for many years to come.

2. FREE TREES FOR AUTUMN 2011

[Register](#) for a free [edible tree pack](#) for November 2011 sponsored by Sainsbury's Active Kids.

The packs that were delivered in March 2011 contained the following species:

Copse Pack

The Copse Pack contains 30 native trees which are suitable for planting as a small wooded area or 'copse'. Your pack will be made up of: 10 of each - Birch, Rowan, Cherry.



All three species will add additional interest and colour and be of benefit to wildlife. The wild cherry will give you fantastic white blossom in the spring. The birch is dramatic throughout the year with its textured white bark and the vivid berries of the rowan will give you added interest in the autumn and are an excellent food source for birds.

[Copse pack planting requirements](#)

Hedgerow Pack

The hedgerow pack contains 30 plants of the following species:

6 of each - Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Dog rose, Dogwood.

The trees can be planted as a traditional hedgerow and provide an excellent habitat for wildlife.

A mixture of species within a native hedgerow is an excellent habitat for small birds and mammals too.

[Hedgerow planting requirements](#)

3. WILDLIFE GARDENING COMPETITION

Derry City Council are searching for the city's best school, community group and private residential gardens, to show what creative, bright and wonderful gardens we have throughout the city!

If your garden is a haven for bees, butterflies and birds, why not enter our competition, for the chance to win the title of the City's Best School Garden, City's Best Community Garden or the City's Best Garden and £100 worth of gift vouchers!

Full details are available to download at <http://www.derrycity.gov.uk/Biodiversity/WildlifeGardenCompetition>

Please return completed application forms and a photograph of your garden by **Friday 20th June 2011**.

4. TREE IDENTIFICATION – AT COLIN GLEN

The Colin Glen Trust is offering a series of plant identification courses throughout 2011. The first of these courses – Native Tree Identification – will help participants learn to identify a selection of trees using buds, bark and form.

Colin Glen Forest Park is an ideal location to learn a range of native trees. The park boasts 200 acres of native, deciduous woodland within easy access to Belfast and surrounding areas. Furthermore, forest park staff members are experienced in working with native species.

Speaking of the course, Lori Hartman, Environmental Education Coordinator at Colin Glen Trust said: "Colin Glen Forest Park has long been used for educational purposes, and I am so pleased to be adding plant identification courses to the list of offerings. The United Nations International Year of Forests was our original inspiration for the identification courses. What better way to get to know a forest than by learning about the plants that live there?"



Native tree identification will be the first of four identification courses throughout 2011. The first course will teach people to identify the native trees during the dormant season, when there are no leaves to rely on. In the spring and summer we will offer woodland flora identification, as the understory plants in a forest change from season to season. Finally, we will offer an extension of the native tree identification in September, looking at leaves." Speaking further of the course, Paul Bennett, Forest Park Ranger at Colin Glen Trust, said: "The native tree identification course is for anyone interested in trees or the outdoors, whether you are working in conservation or an enthusiast. Our identification courses will include lots of tips for recognising native plants. It is also a chance for professionals to get a refresher course."

Courses will be held at Colin Glen Forest Park, 163 Stewartstown Rd, Belfast, BT17 0HW. The cost per session is £10 per person. **Booking is essential**

Course dates:

Summertime Woodland Flora Identification:

Saturday 2 July, 1 – 4pm

Native Tree Identification, Part 2:

Saturday 10 September, 1 – 4pm

To book call 028 9061 4115 or email info@colinglenrust.org

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. 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 email to education@actionrenewables.co.uk

6. STAND UP, HOP, PERCH, FLY...AND BE COUNTED!

RSPB sends out the call to take part in their summer garden wildlife survey, Make Your Nature Count. Your garden could be an oasis of wildlife. And you might not even realise until you spend an hour observing what's fluttering, buzzing about or nesting on your patch. Even compact urban gardens can be a miniature world teeming with fascinating colourful creatures. The RSPB wants to know all about it. Their big summer garden survey, Make Your Nature Count, is taking place June 4 – 12. "This is the follow-up to our hugely successful Big Garden Birdwatch in January; the world's biggest survey of its kind attracting over half a million participants", explains Stephanie Sim, RSPB NI.



Make Your Nature Count goes several steps further in that it's interested in all the animals visiting or resident in gardens and local parks, not just birds. So frogs, hedgehogs, bats, butterflies, squirrels, badgers, are all important parts of this count.

"Early June is the time of year when gardens are brimming with life. Especially bird life. Migrating birds have arrived, breeding and nesting is in full swing, there are insects galore. So it's a rewarding time to spend a relaxing hour watching the show, totting up how many of each species are seen and sending us the results," Stephanie says.

"This year we especially want to know how garden wildlife has fared after two harsh winters in succession. These surveys have shown us that gardens are very important refuges for many animals."

The survey will include a question about house martins. This species flies from Africa each spring to nest under the eaves of houses. Although still a common sight ducking and diving playfully on summer evenings, their numbers are in decline.

Make Your Nature Count is for everyone, city and country. "You'd be surprised that country gardens could well have less, if for instance, the city garden borders on a park or forest."

Gardeners can help boost the wildlife community on their doorsteps by taking steps now to create a more nature friendly garden. Not only are gardens brimming with colourful blooms and beautiful shrubs more appealing; they are very attractive to birds and bees.

The RSPB website is full of easy, inexpensive ideas, including safe, effective alternatives to conventional pesticides, and putting out bird feeders. Stephanie advises, "Even into summer, it's important to help birds stay well-nourished as they are raising their young." To take part in Make Your Nature Count, visit rspb.org.uk to find information and wildlife recording sheets to download. Complete the survey, and then submit the results online.

"Schools participation forms a huge part of the Big Garden Birdwatch and we're hoping many schools will get involved in Make Your Nature Count," says Stephanie. "It's ideal for children. Kids get so much enjoyment and satisfaction out of these surveys, and it's the start of a lifelong interest in nature that could make a real difference to our future."

7. ACTION RENEWABLES HAVE MOVED

Action Renewables have moved offices. Their new address is: Block C, Unit 1, Boucher Business Studios, Glenmachan Place, Belfast, BT12 6QH.

All mail and telephone calls will be redirected to their new office for a period.

RESOURCES

1. EDUCATION RESOURCES – FROM ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO publish a wide range of **education resources** focused on environmental education for young people:

- [resource packs](#)
- [activity packs](#)



- [activity sheets](#)
- [posters](#)
- [CD-ROMs](#)

These resources aim to support teachers, youth leaders and other educators to apply environmental education to their educational activities.

For more information, contact: ECO-UNESCO, *the greenhouse*, 17 St Andrew Street, Dublin, 2

Tel.: (01) 662-5491

Fax: (01) 662-5493

Email: info@ecounesco.ie

2. THE YEAR ROUND ORGANIC SCHOOL

Kerry Earth Education Project with the Irish Seed Savers Association have 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 photocopyable 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. NIEL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Would you like to talk to the members of the new Environment Committee about your environmental concerns? Here's your chance!

The NIEL Annual Conference *Determining Environmental Priorities for the New Assembly* will take place on Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at La Mon Hotel & Country Club, Belfast.

NIEL's Annual Conference will consist of a series of 'cafe conversations' on main work themes - Climate Change, Freshwater, Land Use, Marine, Planning, Transport and Waste - where you will have the opportunity to talk to members of the new Committee.



We also hope to have a special guest to introduce the day and a look at how the NIEL Manifesto commitments have been incorporated into party political manifestos. Many of the MLAs attending the event also attended our Hustings event in March; will they be able to follow through their statements now they are in power? What are the constraints that could make that difficult?

This is a unique event which will help to encourage reciprocal discussion between politicians, eNGOs and key stakeholders within the environment sector. This event is part of our on-going Building Change Trust project looking at effective engagement by the eNGO sector in the work of our Government Institutions.

Please book your place early as high demand is expected. For further information and to get a booking form please contact Neil Halliday on niel@nienvironmentlink.org. Attendance is free!

2. NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE 2011

DATES: Online Conference 1 June – 20 July 2011. Four live regional events including London on the **9 June 2011** – please keep this date free to celebrate *Creativity in Sustainability*, from the curriculum to funding to teaching!!

All events (including the online conference) will have **up to date news** from local and national organisations, **workshops** and an **opportunity to learn from other delegates and from the other regional events**. Further dates and locations still to be confirmed.

3. CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS TAKE ON CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING!

Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland is having a charity Clay Pigeon Shoot at Burnside Clay Shoot, Ballyclare on Saturday 11 June 2011. All proceeds will go directly to help CVNI continue to care for the environment and the people who live in it.

It will be a forty bird sporting event and is guaranteed to be fantastic fun! First entry is at 11am and last entry at 4pm. Admission is £7 and re-entry £5.

There'll be a BBQ and a raffle will take place to win amazing prizes, ranging from meals for two to hotel stays. Find out how to take part [here](#).

FUNDING

1. THE REVISED NIEA NATURAL HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAMME IS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

The revised Natural Heritage Grant Programme Guidance Notes and 2011 Grant Application Form, along with the Pre-Application Form, is available for downloading from the NIEA grants website [here](#).

Closing Dates for Applications



Submission of Pre-Application Forms (optional but advised) - **Tuesday 14 June 2011.**

All full Grant Applications - **4pm Friday 12 August 2011.**

This is a competitive grant programme. There are normally many more grant applications than the budget can support. Successful projects will be those which will help to achieve Natural Heritage's priorities. These are outlined on the website and in the appendices of the Natural Heritage Grant Programme Guidance Notes. Grant queries can be sent to the grant email at nhgrants@doeni.gov.uk.

Grants team staff will be available to help grant applicants with queries:

Maia Taylor - Grants Programme Manager – 028 9056 9621

Niall McAleenan – Access Grants – 028 9056 9580

Cathy Barker – Biodiversity & Landscape Grants – 028 9056 9806

Peter Turner – Economic Appraisals and Financial Issues – 028 9056 9610

Ken Wooster – Administrative queries – 028 9056 9611

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>

4. GRANTS FROM THE TREE COUNCIL

The Tree Council's Tree Futures offers help for tree planting through two grants programmes, the 'Trees for Schools' and 'Community Trees' funds. Any school or community group within the UK that is planning a project that actively involves children under 16 is encouraged to draw on the fund to plant trees and make a greener future. The Tree

Council's [National Tree Week](#) (this year from 26 November to 4 December) is the focus for these projects and successful applicants organise their planting events in conjunction with our annual celebration of the new tree planting season.

We are able to fund projects between £100 and £700 and successful applicants will receive up to 75% towards their planting costs. For example, if your project totals £700, The Tree Council would offer up to £525. The remaining 25% will need to be secured by your school or organisation.

Applications for 2011 are now OPEN. Please see the Schools or Community pages to download an application form. With the generous support of an anonymous donor we have been able to produce a teaching and learning resource which will be sent out free of charge to all successful grant applicants.

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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