



EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
FORUM



Education for Sustainable Development Forum E-Bulletin

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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

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are now well rested and ready for another years work. Over the next couple of weeks I will be emailing you all for an update of your details for the online Resource Guide, I would ask you to please take a few minutes and check your page as obviously the Guide can only be as good as the information I hold.

During the past year three of our Management Committee stepped down, Graeme McKimm's role and responsibilities are changing, Robert Scott and Gerry Kelly have both retired. These men gave many years' commitment and dedication to the Forum and I wish to record our thanks to them and wish them all the best for the future.

Thank you all for your help and support during the past year and if you want anything (news, upcoming events etc) promoted on the website do feel free to contact me. I can be contacted at iona@nienvironmentlink.org our website address is still www.esdforum.org.uk.



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. HOLY TRINITY COLLEGE COOKSTOWN NEW ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Holy Trinity College Cookstown have set up an environmental group. They are called the Holy Trinity River Warriors HTRW, (Fighting for the environment). The group is made up of about nine pupils and four teachers. Although it is the intention to increase this number as the school year progresses.

The College are planning to achieve two RSPB awards this year; one is their Wildlife Action Award and the other their Climate Action Award. They have begun placing bird feeders around the school, making their own bird food from leftover foodstuffs from their Home Economics dept. and school canteen. They are also going to be erecting bird boxes, hedgehog homes, and mini beast corners, and in February will be planting 30 trees around the school, obtained from the Woodland Trust.

Within the school they are targeting lowering the schools carbon footprint by getting pupils and teachers to think about saving energy, reducing waste and sourcing materials and equipment as efficiently as possible, etc.

On the **2nd February**, World Wetlands Day, the College are planning a river tidy up and erecting bird and bat boxes along a stretch of the Ballinderry River, in Cookstown, which they have adopted. This event is planned along with the help of the Ballinderry River Enhancement Associations (BREA) Clean up the River Environment (CURE) campaign. The College at some stage plan to get other schools involved and perhaps get pupils and staff in those schools to set up similar projects. A big well done to all involved!

2. BRIGHTEN YOUR LOCAL LANDSCAPE WITH A LIVING, LASTING GIFT OF FREE TREES

Community groups, school groups and youth groups can now tap into an attractive range of free tree packs, thanks to a special tree-planting package from the Woodland Trust. The unmissable offer is part of the Trust's new campaign 'More Trees, More Good' which calls for a massive increase in tree planting, and a country rich in native woods and trees.

One of the first community groups in Northern Ireland to avail of the scheme is Bright Community Association in Downpatrick. With a helping hand from local people and St Patrick's Primary School in Legamaddy, the team planted over 100 native trees – a mix of hawthorn, hazel, birch and rowan – in the community centre grounds.

Owen O'Connor of Bright Community Association said: "We wanted to enhance our local landscape, making it more visually attractive. We were also keen to do our bit for wildlife and chose a mix of native trees that will provide homes for a whole range of insects and birds." He continued: "With local people and schoolchildren rolling their sleeves up to help plant the trees, it's been a fantastic team effort."

Kevin Burns, a teacher with St Patrick's Primary, added: "We're pleased to have played a part. The schoolchildren, parents, and even grandparents have rallied together to help with the planting. The children have had fun, while learning about nature in the process. I've no doubt that they will return to inspect their handiwork and keep an eye on how their trees progress."



The Woodland Trust wants to see a doubling of native woodland cover over the next 50 years, but recognises that it can't do it alone.

“Our focus is on making it easy for landowners and groups to experience the beauty and many benefits of native woodland,” said Jackie Morgan, the Trust’s Advice and Partnerships Manager. “Some groups have already availed of our offer and have received their trees this November. We’re now pleased to invite others – community groups, schools and youth groups – to apply for their free tree packs which will be delivered next March.”

- The community tree planting packs are designed to help **community groups** enhance local shared spaces. These packs are available in two different sizes and consist of 105 trees (suitable for a small grove) or 420 trees (for planting on approximately one acre of land). Each pack is also available in different themes, so you can choose to plant for wildlife; for year-round colour; or for treats to eat in the form of jams, jellies and chutneys!
- **Schools and youth groups** can apply online now for a free consignment of 30 native trees.
- For **farmers and other landowners**, the Trust is offering all the practical tree planting advice you need and, thanks to Forest Service’s Woodland Grant Scheme, grant aid is available for planting half an acre or more.

To find out more and get your tree planting underway visit www.MoreTreesMoreGood.org.uk

3. SING OR PAINT YOUR WAY TO WIN WITH NI WATER

NI Water is launching its annual schools competition and is calling on local children to design a poster or rap a song telling us how they would use water more wisely.

The competition is open to all primary school children including special needs and Irish medium schools. First prize is a £200 cash donation for the winning school in each poster category and £350 for the winning school in the rap category.

The entry deadline is Friday 25th March 2011. Further information and all details of how to enter can be found on www.niwater.com/competition.asp.

4. RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2011

If like us, you love birds and want to help them, then the Big Garden Birdwatch is your chance to do something that really counts.

All you need is a pen, some scrap paper (or, a printout of our handy bird [ID sheet](#)), and an hour to spend watching the birds in your garden on either **Saturday 29th, or Sunday 30th January 2011.**

Then simply record the highest number of each bird species seen in your garden, or local park (not flying over) at any one time, and come back to these page to tell us what you saw.



If you're not too sure what bird you've seen, try our easy to use [bird identifier](#), or have a look on our [A-Z of birds](#) pages. You can also ask questions, and share your tips for a brilliant birdwatch on our friendly [Big Garden Birdwatch community group](#).

5. GIVE IT SOME WELLY FOR WOODLAND

Give it some Welly for Woodland is an exciting new fundraising event from the Woodland Trust, designed to help realise our vital goal of doubling native tree cover in the UK. People of all ages can come together and have fun, with the proceeds going towards creating valuable habitats for wildlife and protecting our precious ancient woodland.

On **4th March 2011**, people all over the UK will be springing into their wellies or holding a welly event and having some fun alongside their family, friends and colleagues.

It's easy to get involved we have some great ideas and will support you all the way. Why not go to your salsa class in wellies, be sponsored to wear wellies filled with custard, hold a welly fashion show or even a welly dinner party - wellies compulsory!

Take a look at our [Easy Steps fundraising booklet](#) for more inspirational ideas for all ages. Our [fundraising pack](#) has all the resources you may need to make your event a success. There's even a chance to win a family break in a [Double Tree by Hilton hotels \(pdf\)](#).

6. RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS

Recycle your Christmas cards with the Woodland Trust and partners TK Maxx and M&S. Hollywood actor Sean Bean is urging the public to recycle their Christmas cards with the Woodland Trust in the last ever year of its annual recycling scheme.

The star of the legendary Sharpe series is asking residents right throughout the UK to 'do battle against waste' by leaving their cards in special recycling bins which will be in place at TK Maxx and M&S stores this January.

Movie legend Sean Bean said: *"I would like to urge everyone to be at the sharp end and help the Woodland Trust do battle against Christmas waste this year by recycling Christmas cards with participating retailers in January.*

"Your support will help fund the planting of thousands of native trees across the UK; something I have personally been involved in and supported as a member of the Trust. This is the final year of the scheme so please do your bit to help it go out with a bang!"

All of the trees planted through the scheme contribute to the Trust's 'More Trees, More Good' campaign, which aims to see 20 million trees planted in the UK each year to help double native woodland cover.

After recycling your cards, log onto www.MoreTreesMoreGood.org.uk/cards and choose where you would like trees funded by the scheme to be planted.



RESOURCES

1. OXFAM'S SOW THE SEED WALL CHART

Climate change is having a large impact on agriculture. The livelihoods of 2.5 billion people globally depend on their ability to successfully grow seeds. The Sow the Seed resource encourages active global citizenship, helping pupils to understand more about the issue and inspiring them to take action.

Teachers select from the range of activities to allow their pupils to complete the wall chart. Pupils use the wall chart to track their learning as they carry out these activities. They must collect evidence of them learning more about the issue and also taking some action about it to complete the wall chart successfully. Pupils must begin by planting some seeds of their own! Sow the Seed is aimed at pupils aged 7-14.

Materials can be ordered or downloaded from the website oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/seeds/

2. ECOSIA – THE ECO-FRIENDLY SEARCH ENGINE

Schools can now support rainforest protection whilst using the search tool Ecosia for their learning. Ecosia is an eco-friendly Internet search engine backed by Yahoo, Bing and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). It basically works like any other search engine but, unlike others, Ecosia gives at least 80% of its advertising revenue to a rainforest protection program run by the WWF.

Because of this, Ecosia users can save about two square meters of rainforest with every search they do – without paying anything. Furthermore, all Ecosia servers run on green electricity, so they do not cause any CO₂ emissions. By using Ecosia, you can turn your web searches green.

To learn more about this resource watch the Ecosia short video at: ecosia.org/how.php Make eco-friendly internet searches using: ecosia.org

3. NASA'S EYES ON THE EARTH WEBSITE

A further multi-media resource comes from NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), which currently has more than a dozen Earth science spacecraft/instruments in orbit studying all aspects of the Earth.

Check out the current state of Earth's key indicators of climate change, including arctic sea ice, carbon dioxide, sea level, global temperature and the hole in the ozone layer.

The website also includes articles on the evidence, causes and effects of climate change, and discusses some of the questions still being asked. There is also a children's section with games and quizzes. For further information visit the website <http://climate.nasa.gov/>



TRAINING AND EVENTS

1. SEEd'S FACILITATION FOR LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY COURSE

SEEd will be running the Facilitation for Learning for Sustainability course in January 2011. This unique course brings together facilitation techniques with learning theory, action learning and practice.

Sustainability is an opportunity for us to live and work differently to develop solutions to present and future problems as a community. This involves social learning where new ideas and practices can be created together. Facilitation for Learning for Sustainability is the professional development course for teachers, educators, local authority staff, NGO staff and environment/sustainability champions in organisations.

The course has been designed to equip participants with the insights, tools, processes and confidence to work intelligently with audiences who are considering sustainability. The programme consists of four facilitated training days and a supported action learning project. You will have the opportunity to try your hand at different techniques.

Whatever you're level of experience as a facilitator, this course will develop your skills and improve your professional practice.

Days 1 and 2 **25th-26th January 2011**, Days 3 and 4 **29th-30th March 2011** at St. Ethelburga's Centre, 78 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AG. To book a place email facilitation@se-ed.org.uk or complete the online booking form at se-ed.org.uk/events/facilitation-for-sustainability.html

2. OPENING THE DOORWAY TO SUSTAINABILITY

Schools and teachers have a vital role to play in ensuring that the next generation has the skills and knowledge to make lifestyle choices that are sustainable. 'Opening the Doorway to Sustainability: An online course for educators' is the well renowned professional development participatory programme from WWF-UK, again being run in 2011 by Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd). The course is running from 12th January to 29th March, and is available online at www.se-ed.org.uk/onlinecourse2011

FUNDING

1. COMIC RELIEF

Comic Relief accepts applications from the voluntary and community sector throughout the UK including: constituted voluntary and community groups, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives, faith organisations, and community interest companies and is very keen to make sure that rural communities are informed of the funding available. Learn more [here](#).



2. 0% BUSINESS LOANS

Borrow £3,000 to £100,000 at 0% interest

0% business loans of £3,000 - £100,000 are available from the Carbon Trust to help organisations finance and invest in energy saving projects.

Why a 0% business loan makes business sense:

- You can borrow between £3,000 and £100,000 interest free.
- Anticipated energy savings offset the loan repayments. So new equipment should pay for itself and you should continue to make savings year on year.
- The loans are government funded and unsecured.
- A straightforward and fast application process with no arrangement fees.
- You'll receive a conditional offer within 24 hours of your application being processed.
- Loans can be repaid over a period of up to 4 years.
- You can track the progress of your application online.

You can start your application at any time by clicking [here](#).

3. 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 well being.

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>



4. 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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