



What is ESD?

The Newsletter of the Education for Sustainable Development Forum

Welcome to the ESD Forum newsletter from the Education for Sustainable Development Forum (ESD Forum formerly known as EEF). This newsletter has been produced for schools in Northern Ireland and is designed to be used by teachers to help you develop projects within the school. The information contained within will provide you links to many environmental organisations which can help you achieve this, as well as point you towards local case studies that you can draw upon.

'What is ESD?' is the main focus of this newsletter.

Education for sustainable development (ESD) aims to help people to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions.

WHAT IS ESD?

"ESD is fundamentally about values, with respect at the centre: respect for others, including those of present and future generations, for difference and diversity, for the environment, for the resources of the planet we inhabit. Education enables us to understand ourselves and others and our links with the wider natural and social environment, and this understanding serves as a durable basis for building respect." (United Nations 2004, p. 4.)

Sustainable development has been defined as seeking to meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations. It is increasingly accepted that we have to learn our way out of current social and environmental problems and learn to live sustainably.

Sustainable development is a vision of development that encompasses populations, animal and plant species, ecosystems, natural resources and that integrates concerns such as the fight against poverty, gender equality, human rights, education for all, health, human security, intercultural dialogue, etc.

Contents

1 - 3 What is ESD?

3 - 12 Members News

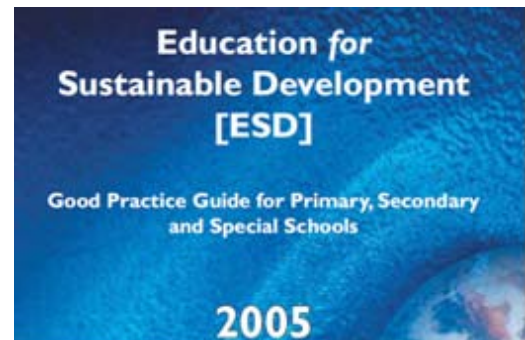
13 - 14 Environmental Events

15 - 16 Resources

WHAT IS ESD?

Education for sustainable development (ESD) aims to help people to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions. In 2005, the GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE which was circulated to schools by the Inter-board Education for Sustainable Development Group identified seven key concepts:

1. Citizenship and stewardship
2. Sustainable change
3. Needs and rights of future generations
4. Interdependence
5. Diversity
6. Uncertainty and precaution
7. Quality of life, equity and justice



Download from <http://clounagh.org> - Environment

The aims and values that appear in the Northern Ireland Curriculum relate to the development of young people as individuals, contributors to society, to the economy and the environment. Sustainable Development is also one of the Key Elements which should be addressed by every learning area across the curriculum. It can be integrated across subjects and embedded in a whole-school approach. In other words, it is relevant to the school's curriculum, campus and community.

ESD has a role in each of the 4 characteristics of a successful school outlined in Every School a Good School (child centred provision, high quality teaching and learning, effective leadership, and a school connected to its local community) and offers schools a bigger picture in which to join up their work on a range of policies and initiatives, such as, Healthy Eating, PDMU, Local and Global Citizenship, school buildings, grounds, purchasing, energy and waste. Sustainable development can build coherence among a range of initiatives and school practices.

"The school curriculum should pass on enduring values ... and help [learners] to be responsible and caring citizens capable of contributing to a just society. It should develop their awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live, and secure their commitment to sustainable development at a personal, local, national and global level" (Scott 2002)

Following a survey of ESD in schools across Northern Ireland, ETI produced a report in February 2010 making the following recommendations for schools:

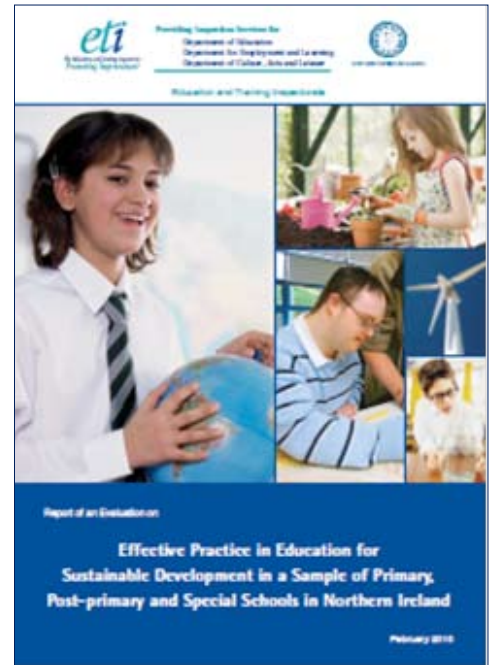
- Integrate ESD into the School Development Plan
- Identify coordinator and/or team
- Ensure a shared understanding of ESD and that sustainable development is promoted and progressed across the curriculum

WHAT IS ESD?

- Give all learners an opportunity to learn about and take an active part in promoting sustainability within/without the school, through e.g. school councils, eco-committees; provide a range of opportunities for out of classroom learning, including visits to local and regional areas of environmental interest and outdoor centres, including field centres
- Offer ESD experiences that are safe and sustainable and of an agreed and consistently high quality
- Instil a strong global dimension into the learning experiences of all learners
- Ensure where possible that management of grounds, buildings, resources and procurement takes account of sustainability

Soren Breiting, an Environmental Adviser in Denmark links the curriculum, pupil voice and sustainability in this simple advice for school leaders and teachers:

“If you want your school to be a ‘green school’ let your students be the main driving forces in shaping ideas and priorities and plan changes, so it can be a continued process over many years and with many generations of learners involved.”



ANTI-LITTER TALKS

The Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Services offers free anti-litter workshops for schools in Belfast. Our talks and activities can be tailored to suit a school's environmental curriculum and are targeted to different age groups and abilities. These talks show the citizens of tomorrow how they can be more environmentally responsible.

A range of services are available and include...

Interactive education talks for classes or assemblies, Anti-litter quizzes using interactive handsets, Help and equipment to organise a cleanup, Cleanup kits (litter picks, brushes, gloves), Teacher's pack for primary and post primary schools which supports the revised Northern Ireland Curriculum. Anti-litter posters to display in your school

To book your free anti-litter session call us on 028 9050 0501 or email catcleansing@belfastcity.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS ELF (ENVIRONMENTAL LITTER FRIEND)

Belfast City Council is hosting our annual Christmas ELF story telling visits to all nursery schools in the Belfast area.

The story, told by a 'genuine' Elf, recalls how Santa and his reindeers run in trouble when they tread on broken glass when delivering gifts. But don't worry it all ends well when Belfast's very own super hero Captain Cleanup gives a helping hand.

Each session lasts no longer than 30 minutes. To book a place, please contact the Community Awareness team on 028 9032 0202 ext 5240.

Spaces are limited. Due to popular demand, we can only carry out one visit per nursery school.





MEMBERS' NEWS

BELFAST CALLING GHANA – COME IN GHANA

Migrant birds including swifts, whooper swans, black tailed godwits and terns were today celebrated at an international event at W5. The event was held in partnership between the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Council Global Schools Partnership and BBC Northern Ireland.

The highlight of the event was a live video link up between Glenlola Collegiate School in Bangor with Sakumono Junior Complex High in Ghana about the common terns which breed in Belfast Lough and overwinter as far away as Ghana in west Africa. Students from Glenlola have been learning about the impact of unsustainable fishing, not only on the birds that rely on fish, but also on the coastal communities who depend on them for their livelihood.



Environment Minister, Edwin Poots, in sending a message of encouragement to all participants said: **“We are all interlinked and responsible for the environment. Migratory birds are a stark reminder to us that all countries across the world are inter-dependent. We have a responsibility to act together to ensure the survival of biodiversity.**

“These birds depend on us for food, habitats and breeding grounds and many return to the same place year after year. It is crucial that we conserve and protect these species and their habitats and understand the threats they face.”

Using a range of digital technology and media, young students from across Northern Ireland reported on the threats faced by the thousands of migratory birds which travel here annually from destinations as far flung as southern Africa and Iceland.

Some may weigh less than an apple, but are able to make a perilous journey many thousands of miles long, to arrive here in Northern Ireland. Some come in the summer to rear their young, or in the winter to escape the coldest weather. Northern Ireland is uniquely positioned to receive species of birds from all over the globe, making this an internationally important centre for migration.

Speaking for the RSPB, Karen Sheil, Education Development Officer, said: “We were impressed with the depth of the students’ research identifying the most significant issues affecting their particular migratory bird species and how actions here can have an impact on wildlife and people in other parts of the world. It’s so encouraging that having taken the first step locally, the students have expressed a keen interest to explore the issues affecting their species and people at the other end of the migratory route. We hope this project will inspire other schools to identify global partners and take action for our shared biodiversity”.



Physics students from Lumen Christi College in Derry impressed the audience with their research on the potential collision risk of whooper swans passing through wind turbines. “It is great to identify what we have learned in this project by using our skills as physics students. This information we have gathered can influence critical decision making for the future of Lough Foyle and the whooper swans” Sarah Mc Dermott, year 12 physics student.

Recordings of the presentations and full details of how you can get involved in similar projects can be viewed at www.ni-environment.gov.uk.

MEMBERS' NEWS

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS AT W5

We hear and read about climate change and sustainable development almost daily – on the news, in newspapers and on the web – but do we truly understand what they mean, not just to us but also to others?

In Northern Ireland, climate change is currently taught in schools as part of GCSE Geography and pupils learn about its general causes and consequences. They also study sustainable solutions that deal with problems in development. But how is this theory related to everyday life? Today, all of us are encouraged to care more for our environment, to save water and energy, to waste less food and buy products with less packaging. Even so we, in the developed world, still tend to take things like the provision of water and energy and commodities like food for granted. Most of us think very little about how our present day-to-day lifestyles can affect provision of the world's food, water and energy in the future.



W5, Ireland's only interactive discovery centre, has received funding from Irish Aid's Development Education Funding Scheme to develop a programme called Global Conversations, designed to stimulate debate about these issues. The aim is to inspire students from 14 to 18 years of age to think more sustainably. Students from four Post Primary schools in Northern Ireland, along with four from the Republic of Ireland will team up with schools in Ghana and Ethiopia to hold face-to-face discussions and debates via video conferencing, all with the aim of raising awareness of sustainable development issues on a local and a global scale.

The issues involved in this programme are central to the international poverty reduction agenda and the UN Millennium Development Goals – in particular, 'ensuring environmental sustainability' and 'eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.' Through video link-ups, students can take the unique opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge and understanding of other peoples' lives and to connect it to their study of geography. The initiative can be used to increase their understanding of how their own actions affect others, learn how important it is to have a central global agenda for sustainable development and develop their thinking skills and abilities in communication.

Within the programme, students from the different countries involved will be tasked with forming small cluster groups to explore four themes; Food Security, Water Security, Energy and the Environment. To increase the level of engagement within their group, over the course of four months, the students will remain in contact with their groups between the introductory and the final video conference, building relationships. Students will also research each country in their cluster before creating a fun presentation exploring relevant sustainable development problems and solutions.

To complete this exciting and ambitious project W5 will be working in partnership with the British Council in Ghana, Ethiopia, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. For further information please contact Elaine Steele at elainesteele@w5online.co.uk

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Every year the Forum runs ESD Days at all of Northern Ireland's Universities. These are delivered by ESD Forum member groups, and are aimed at trainee teachers and PGCE / BEd students.

These days consist of a series of workshops which demonstrate best practice in delivery of ESD through various aspects of the curriculum. The day is designed to offer student teachers the opportunity to experience at first hand the type of lessons that can be provided by non-governmental organisations which promote environmental education and education for sustainable development, and have grown out of a need to inform student teachers as to the importance of delivering these messages through the revised curriculum.

This year's Flagship day took place at Queens University in mid October, and we have completed two mornings at Stranmillis, with two more to complete. St Mary's day is in December with Coleraine early in the New Year.



MEMBERS' NEWS

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Education is not an end in itself. It is a key instrument for bringing about the changes in the knowledge, values, behaviours and lifestyles required to achieve sustainability and stability within and among countries, democracy, human security and peace. Hence it must be a high priority to reorient educational systems and curricula towards these needs. Education at all levels and in all its forms constitutes a vital tool for addressing all global problems relevant for sustainable development.”

(UNESCO “*Educating for Sustainability*” quoted in State of the World 2010, p.55) *‘If education can be harnessed, it will be a powerful tool in bringing about sustainable human societies’*
(Erik Assadourian, *State of the World, 2010, p.55*)

The above quotations highlight the crucial role which education can and must play in building sustainable societies across the world.

Global context:- The world is facing serious environmental, economic and social challenges including climate change, rapid depletion of natural resources, the dependency of our economic systems on consumerism and increasing levels of poverty. In this context there is a greater sense of urgency than ever before of the need to adopt sustainable ways of living. In relation to climate change, world leaders met in Copenhagen in December 2009 for the UN climate conference but failed to reach agreement on the significant measures necessary to address the challenges we face. The time has come for people to accept that current lifestyles in western countries are unsustainable and that there is a need to live within environmental limits. This implies significant social change and I believe that sustainability is a social and cultural challenge facing societies around the world. Education has a fundamental role to play in addressing this challenge: ***‘Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world’ Nelson Mandela*** (quoted in Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, Information document No: 066/2008, 2008 page 4.)

Teachers have a central role to play in educating the present and future generations about sustainability issues. There are over 60 million teachers in the world and each one is a key agent for bringing about the changes in values and lifestyles that are needed. This was recognised by UNESCO which designated 2005-2015 the decade of Education for Sustainable Development. We are now mid-way through the decade and while much has been achieved much remains to be done.

Local context:- On a local level in Northern Ireland there are a whole range of sustainability issues that need to be addressed. Society is characterised by, for example, high levels of consumerism and waste, the natural environment is under threat from pollution and the actions of those who think it is there to be exploited for their benefit.

Research into the attitudes of young people and adults in Northern Ireland on issues relating to sustainable development has shown that while there is an awareness and fairly widespread concern about, for example, environmental damage but there was a non-acceptance of responsibility among young people and adults to take personal action to address the issues of concern. There is a sense that it is someone else’s problem, whether that be local, national or international governments. (Devine & Lloyd, 2003; Devine, 2007; Greer, 2005). A major challenge will be to influence beliefs, attitudes and behaviour about ESD issues. The publication, in May 2010, of a Sustainable Development Strategy entitled ‘Everyone’s Involved’ by the Northern Ireland Assembly is a welcome development. Every government department is required to contribute to the implementation of the strategy.

The educational context in Northern Ireland presents particular challenges and opportunities in relation to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). A revised curriculum was introduced at primary and post-primary level in 2007. In the revised curriculum or Northern Ireland Curriculum (NIC) as it is now called, there is much less prescription in relation to curriculum content and a much greater focus on the acquisition of skills. It allows for curriculum flexibility in learning and teaching and opens up new opportunities for delivering education for sustainable development through innovative curriculum approaches and content. Teachers are open to



MEMBERS' NEWS

experimenting with new ways of learning and have been guided to adopt active learning methodologies, which, of course, are suited to the delivery of ESD. There is an emphasis on connecting learning across the various curricular areas and this facilitates more holistic learning experiences which are one of the characteristics of ESD.

Education for sustainable development is one of twelve statutory key elements at Key Stage 3 which every subject is required contribute to the delivery of. In practice this is happening in a variable fashion because no programme of training has been provided for teachers on education for sustainable development and it is delivered where there is interest and motivation on the part of individual teachers and schools.

From personal observation and experience as an adviser working with teachers over the last ten years the delivery of education for sustainable development in schools in Northern Ireland could be described as variable with examples of excellent practice where there are enthusiastic and committed teachers. This concurs with the observation by Palmer (1998) regarding environmental education: 'how far it is actually pursued in practice remains, as it has always done in Britain, with the enthusiasm and motivation of individuals'. The Eco-Schools programme has been quite widely and successfully implemented, particularly in primary schools in Northern Ireland. A recently published Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) report (2010) noted the strength of environmental education in the primary sector in NI.

I would argue that one of the aims of formal education in Northern Ireland should be to prepare young people to participate in the necessary social change required to achieve sustainable lifestyles and this should be an explicit objective of education policy. There is a need to provide professional development and support to staff working at all levels in schools in Northern Ireland in relation to ESD if our education system is to successfully address the challenge of sustainability. To begin with we need to win the hearts and minds of our school leaders and senior managers who have the responsibility to determine a school's priorities. ESD is a key element at Key Stage 3 and it is important that all teachers contribute to the delivery of ESD. A school ideally should become a model of good practice in relation to ESD and be an example of good practice in the community in which it is situated and be involved in the dissemination of ESD principles and practice in that community and beyond.

We owe to the children in our schools today some of whom may be alive into the 22nd century to play our part in bringing about the societal change that is needed to achieve sustainable lifestyles in Northern Ireland.

The author is the Adviser for Environment & Society with the Belfast Education and Library Board and has recently graduated with an MSc with Distinction in Education for Sustainability from London Southbank University. Brigid is keen to support schools in delivering ESD and she can be contacted by email at brigid.murray@belb.co.uk or by telephone 02890 564054/564310

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MEMBERS' NEWS

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) IN PRACTICE: THE ECO-UNESCO YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS PROGRAMME

ECO-UNESCO is an environmental education and youth organization committed to transforming awareness on our environment into action. The range of programmes on offer to children and young people all over Ireland aim to promote environmental action with a difference.

The ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards programme supports, recognises and rewards the work of young people carrying out action projects on environmental issues at a local level. Now entering its twelfth year, the Awards programme is an excellent example of how ESD methods can work in practice. The programme is based on a 6-step approach which empowers young people to carry out action and to make decisions that support Sustainable Development.



While ECO-UNESCO offers a high level of support to groups, they are fundamentally self-directed and learner driven, which helps groups develop a wide range of skills. Groups carry out research on the cause and effect of environmental issues at both the global and local level thereby encouraging the 'Think Global, Act Local' approach. Groups then plan and carry out their chosen action, and actively raise awareness of this action in their school, youth group and community. This also fosters better communication skills and an understanding of participatory decision making.

Projects in a range of presentation styles (video diary, songs, drama, written report, pictures, etc) are accepted. Thus, the programme supports a multiple-method approach to education (learning through word, art, drama, debate, experience) which is inclusive of all learning styles and aptitudes. The range of categories in the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards programme also facilitates this approach. This allows teachers and leaders greater flexibility and engages far more young people, whose talents may lie in art and design (Eco-Art & Design) or entrepreneurship (Eco-Business) as opposed to the more traditional academic subjects.

The young people participating in the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards programme bring about real change in their community and environment. Moreover, the programme emphasises and encourages personal development. The judging process examines evidence of team work, learner development of knowledge and skills and also of values and attitudes.

"The ECO-UNESCO Awards are a great opportunity to learn about the environment and to make a difference in your community. I learned so much about my topic and also about working a part of a group." – ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards participant, St. Colm's High School, Draperstown. The ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2011 are open to all groups of young people aged 10 – 18. The deadline for registration is 26th November 2010. Register now on www.ecounesco.ie or contact ECO-UNESCO for more information: e: yea@ecounesco.ie t: +353 1 662 5491

YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE: CREATING A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

This 90-page Peer Education Handbook provides a guide to developing and supporting a Youth for Sustainable Development Peer Education Programme. The handbook includes over 40 interactive activities and helpful tips and checklists for both young people and adult support workers.

A first of its kind, this resource combines both peer education and sustainable development, viewing young people as powerful agents for a more sustainable world amongst their peers and in their communities. No prior understanding of sustainable development is required as this resource provides the user the tools necessary to explore it through the relevant interests of the youth group.

MEMBERS' NEWS

‘ECO SHOW LIVE’ WINNERS VISIT LOUGH NEAGH DISCOVERY CENTRE

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island played host to some special guests recently when a group of P6's from St Teresa's Primary School, Loughmacrory, Co Tyrone visited the facility as part of a prize for taking part and winning a province environmental competition.

“Talking Rubbish” was the name of the story devised by P6 pupil Sarah Fox. Under the guidance of enthusiastic form teacher Una McCullagh, the whole class entered the competition run by EcoShow, ahead of their EcoShow Live event to be held in the Kings Hall, Belfast, on 8-10 October. Attracting interest from across all of Northern Ireland, the challenge for P5 and P6 pupils was to write a story and draw two cartoon characters, one for good rubbish that is recycled, and one for bad, which goes straight to landfill. The judges agreed that Sarah's entry was the best and her efforts have won her a framed watercolour of the Vikings in Strangford Lough by well known book illustrator Joanna Martin, and a day out at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, courtesy of Craigavon Borough Council, for the whole class.

The visit to the Centre involved the class being treated to a host of fun activities such as a ramble through the woodlands plus minibeast hunt and pond-dipping. The class also had a presentation about the work of the Centre and learnt about further ways to improve their schools grounds for biodiversity. Andy Griggs, the Centre's Education, Events and Activities Officer commented “Craigavon Council had very kindly donated the prize of a free class trip to the Oxford Island and it was a real pleasure to guide the group for the day. The children were all very knowledgeable and polite – they were a real credit to themselves and the whole school”.

Translink were also closely involved with the day helping to bus the pupils from the school to Lough Neagh and back. Translink's Ursula Kelleher says that educating young people is an important part of the organisation's environmental strategy:

“We are committed to caring for the local environment and encouraging those who live near or use the bus and rail network to respect and appreciate nature. We are pleased to join forces with the Discovery Centre and Eco Show Live to raise pupils' awareness of our rich local biodiversity. Last year, Translink launched its first biodiversity action plan to help protect the environment in and around our bus and rail network. We hope that this special trip shows children why it is important to support wildlife and plant species and enhances their understanding of subjects such as Science and Geography.”



P6's from St Teresa's Primary School, Loughmacrory, Co Tyrone on their visit to the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre. Also pictured are the teacher from the school, Mrs McCullough and teaching assistant, as well as Rosemary Mulholland Head of Conservation at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Andy Griggs, Education, Activities and Events Officer and Translink bus Ulsterbus driver Nicola Brice. Translink were involved in helping the school out with transport on the day.

MEMBERS' NEWS

SOWING THE SEEDLINGS AT LOUGH NEAGH DISCOVERY CENTRE

A great new project has been under way at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre over the spring and summer aimed at showing visitors how easy it is to grow their own vegetables and herbs. 'The Discovery Centre Vegetable, Herb and Flower Garden' has been taking shape thanks to dedicated members of the Conservation Service who have built, dug and planted four raised beds on the unused grass areas at the back of the Discovery Centre. These have been planted out with a range of flowers, herbs and vegetables which have been growing away over the summer and have even been used on the menu in the Café at the Centre.

Andy Griggs, the Centre's Education, Events and Activities Officer explained "There are so many benefits that can be derived from gardening and we wanted to demonstrate these advantages to visiting school children, community groups and members of the public. Throughout the year the team have been giving advice to visitors and council staff about how to get started in growing flowers and vegetables in their own gardens, school grounds or local communities.

The work has developed so well that some of the produce such as herbs, potatoes, lettuces, mizuna salad, spinach, peas and courgettes has been used by the Discovery Centre's chef Pauline Skelton in the kitchens and placed on the menu for the public to try.

Reaping the Benefits – 10 advantages to gardening and growing your own food

- Gardening is a useful form of exercise and can burn extra calories.
- Being out and about in nature boosts your psychological well-being
- Producing your own food is fresher, tastier and more nutritious than shop brought.
- Growing your own encourages you to eat your 5 daily portions of fruit and vegetables.
- Gardening organically helps to protect biodiversity by developing alternative methods of pest control such as companion planting.
- By growing your own food you are also helping to reduce your carbon footprint. Think of the food miles you could save by producing vegetables in your back yard as compared to flying them in from half way around the world!
- Organic gardening also uses no artificial fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides making what you produce better for you and the environment
- Gardening is an activity that the whole family can join in with and enjoy.
- Children especially love to help sow seeds and plant flowers – it connects them back to the earth and where their food comes from.
- Growing your own vegetables will help you to save money on your weekly grocery shopping.



MEMBERS' NEWS

A BIG IMPACT!

On 6 October, OFMDFM, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, hosted the Impact 2010 Awards in the Waterfront Hall. The Awards were designed to recognise and reward excellence in sustainability and environmental projects for young people under the age of 25.

This fantastic venue allowed entrants to showcase their projects, the enthusiasm, knowledge and presentational skills demonstrated by all entrants was truly exceptional.

The Awards Ceremony – attended by Ministers and senior officials – was hosted by Frank Mitchell and entertainment was provided by 'General Fiasco', one of the hottest young bands around!

In all, 16 awards were presented across a range of categories and as Minister Newton said during his speech, "our future is in good hands, judging by the standard of entries we have seen and the enthusiasm of the people who have brought these projects to life".

Sadly, it wasn't possible for everyone to win but each and every participant should be very proud of their achievements and hopefully there will be an opportunity to try again in the future.

To find out more, please visit www.impact2010.info



Junior Minister Newton with Award Winners Assumption Grammar School

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN CRAIGAVON WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

On Sunday, October 3rd, over 20,000 people took part in Ireland's 3rd National Trails Day! There were 186 events available across the whole island guided by experts in the outdoors. The weather proved generally excellent and encouraged huge numbers to get out and take part.



Locally in Craigavon five events took place, four walks and a cycle, which helped members of the public to enjoy the beautiful lakes, parks and countryside on offer on their doorstep. A good crowd turned out to enjoy a stroll around the Oxford Island National Nature Reserve, taking in views of the Lough and visiting the bird hides to learn about the species that live in and around the Lough. Cycling enthusiasts took to their bikes around the Craigavon Mountain Bike Trail and made their way around Craigavon Lakes on a 6.5 mile route. Alongside the cycle ride another trail took place around the Lakes, this time on foot when trained guides took those assembled on a three mile shoreline walk. For those that turned up at Lurgan Park on the day a stroll around Northern Ireland's largest urban park lay in store. They were treated to a walk and talk about the history and wildlife of the area.

The last of the trails took place to coincide with the Lurgan 400 event and was a must for history buffs as they were taken on an historical tour of the town and were taught interesting facts about the town's linen industry amongst other things.

MEMBERS' NEWS

TIME TEAM CREGGAN

Creggan Country Park has launched its new heritage project 'Time Team Creggan' for schools and local community.

The project will tie in with the City of Culture celebrations and will educate the wider community on historical significance of our 100-acre site through new signage, leaflets and guided Heritage Walks. Creggan Country Park is now home to a cannon dated back to the Siege of Derry so visitors can learn how the Creggan Country Park site and the nearby "crobie" or Rath was used during this time. The project will also include a series of practical workshops including



- Guided tours of our Heritage Trail on request
- Tree planting event at Creggan Country Park on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st January 2011.

All equipment, trees and refreshments will be provided.

All workshops must be booked in advance as places are limited. All activities are free; the project is kindly funded by Derry City Council

To book a place for your school contact our Environmental Officer on 028 71363 133 or email Karen.healy@creggancountrypark.com

SPEEDWELL WIN IMPACT 2010 AWARD

At the IMPACT 2010 Awards ceremony held at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast on October 6, Speedwell Trust collected a 'Special Lifetime Achievement' Award. Jointly organised by OFMDFM together with NIEA, the IMPACT 2010 Youth, Sustainability and Environment Awards recognises various environmental and sustainable initiatives. The Awards allow young people and organisations to showcase their perspectives, be inspired, and help make a real difference.



This award recognised the valuable contribution which Speedwell has made in working with local schools since its inception in 1991. The Speedwell project began in the midst of sectarian violence and social unrest in Northern Ireland. Its primary aim was to bring children together to 'respect themselves, each other and the world we share'. Speedwell founder, Mrs Jean Kelly, chose something common to everyone in our community, the environment, as a focus for collaborative work. 42 local primary schools were among the first to join together and take part in environmental programmes at Parkanaur Forest Park. Since then over 200 schools have participated jointly in Speedwell's environmental programmes. Commenting on the award Trust Manager, Eamon McClean said, 'Everyone at Speedwell is absolutely thrilled and delighted about receiving this award. This recognition is very timely because in 2011 Speedwell will celebrate its 20th year of raising awareness of the importance of the natural environment on a cross community basis. This has been achieved through dedication, commitment and passion on the part of all of the staff and Trustees who have been associated with Speedwell since 1991. This award is a huge morale boost for everyone associated with Speedwell and gives us the encouragement and impetus to continue our environmental and community relations work in this area.'

Mr McClean also thanked all those who provide funding for Speedwell to carry out its work, particularly the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, the Australian Ireland Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin, The Peace III programme as well as the many other Friends of Speedwell in Ireland and throughout the world.



ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2010

Saturday 13th November 2 – 4pm

BRENT BONANZA - STRANGFORD LOUGH

Join in the Autumn celebration of the return of thousands of Brent Geese and other waders and wildfowl, newly arrived on Strangford Lough after their epic journeys from Arctic Canada, Iceland and Northern Europe. Telescopes, binoculars and guides available. Meet at The Lockout Mount Stewart. For information contact 028 4488 1411. No charge donations welcome. Organised by the National Trust.

Wednesday 17th - Sunday 21st November 6 - 9pm

THE HOUSE DRESSED FOR CHRISTMAS - THE ARGORY MOY

The mansion will be dressed for Christmas and filled with festive music. Normal Admission, Members Free. Organised by the National Trust.

Monday 22nd November - Friday 3rd December

NATIONAL TREE WEEK - CARNFUNNOCK COUNTRY PARK LARNE

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 Office at Carnfunnock Country Park at outdooreduction@larne.gov.uk. Organised by Carnfunnock Country Park.

DECEMBER 2010

Wednesday 1st - Wednesday 22nd December Wednesday to Friday 4 - 7.30pm, Saturday to Sunday 2 - 7.30pm

SANTA'S HOUSE AT CASTLE WARD CO DOWN

Santa welcomes you back again to Castle Ward this season. Sitting by a log fire he will tell you a wonderful story about Christmas while Mrs Claus serves warm mince pies and mulled punch. After visiting the elves workshop Santa gives each child a beautiful gift. Booking essential. Adult £7, Child £15. Organised by the National Trust.

Saturday 4th - Sunday 5th December 1 - 6pm

SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR, THE ARGORY MOY

It wouldn't be Christmas without a visit to The Argory craft fair! Enjoy an afternoon choosing gifts and browsing through the many craft stalls. Home made seasonal refreshments in Lady Ada's Tea Room are also worthy of a visit! Normal Admission, Members Free. Organised by the National Trust

Sunday 5th December 2 - 4pm

CHRISTMAS CREATIONS - COLIN GLEN FOREST PARK

Start the Christmas season at the Forest Park Centre as we create Christmas wreaths and Yule logs using natural materials from the Forest. This activity is fun for all ages. Admission: £3.00 per Christmas wreath or Yule Log. Organised by Colin Glen Forest Park.

Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th December 12noon - 5pm

YULETIDE MARKET - ROWALLANE GARDEN

The original Christmas Market with craft stalls and food to suit all the family. Mulled wine, Christmas trees, wreaths and floral art to decorate your home. Come and soak up the Christmas atmosphere at Rowallane. Normal Admission, Members Free. Organised by the National Trust.



ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

Sunday 12th December 7.30pm - Mount Stewart

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EVENINGS

Enjoy an evening of Christmas music in the lavish setting of Mount Stewart's Central Hall. Includes interval refreshments. Booking essential, contact 028 4278 8387. Adult £25. Organised by the National Trust.

Saturday 11th December 11am

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS - LAGAN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Join the Lagan Valley Regional Park team for an exciting day learning the art of creating traditional Christmas decorations, including, Christmas wreaths and Yule logs, using evergreen materials gathered from the Park. Materials provided, please bring your own secateurs/pruners if possible. Venue advised at time of booking. Adults £3, Child £1. Organised by the Lagan Valley Regional Park.

Saturday 11th December 10.30am

TREE PLANTING - CARNFUNNOCK COUNTRY PARK

Come along to this tree planting morning where you have an opportunity to have your personal touch on the woodlands in Carnfunnock by planting a native tree. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Free Event, for more information please contact the Duty Officer at Carnfunnock Country Park at outdooreducation@larne.gov.uk. Organised by Carnfunnock Country Park.

Saturday 18th December 11am

YULE LOGS AND LEGENDS - LAGAN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Midwinter has been a time of lights, stories and celebrations all across the world for thousands of years. Join us for a winter walk with a Yuletide theme. Meet at Belvoir Park Forest Car Park. Organised by the Lagan Valley Regional Park.

JANUARY 2011

Saturday 1st January 2pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY WINTER WOODLAND WALK

Walk the woods with an experienced guide and feel less guilty about the extra portion of pudding! The perfect way to start the New Year. Children over 10 and dogs welcome. Booking essential. Contact 028 4278 8387. Adult £10, Child £3, Family £22. Organised by the National Trust.

Sunday 2nd January 9am

THE SEABIRDS OF DUNDRUM INNER BAY

Learn about the wildfowl and waders of Dundrum Inner Bay. Meet at 12 Acres Carpark. Suitable footwear essential. Organised by the National Trust.

Monday 24th January - Friday 4th February

BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH

Local schools will be invited to visit Carnfunnock to learn all about the birds visiting the Park to help them as they take part in the UK's biggest bird survey. Organised by Carnfunnock Country Park.

Saturday 29th January 10.30am - 12.30pm

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

If you're a bit unsure about birds, or would like to get in the mood before having a go yourselves, you can come along to our Big Garden Birdwatch event to learn how to tell the difference between all those chirpy little garden birds. Organised by Carnfunnock Country Park.



RESOURCES

EDUCATION RESOURCES FROM ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO publishes 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



SUSTRANS ONLINE RESOURCES

Sustrans undertakes many projects and publishes information on guidelines, best practice and research to benefit their partners and interested parties. Their resources range from the latest guidelines on National Cycle Network signage, information sheets from projects such as Active Travel, Travel Smart and Safe Routes to Schools, or Cycle Tourism statistics.



These online articles and resources are available at: www.sustrans.org.uk/resources
For Sustrans news articles, visit: www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/in-the-news
For all publications, visit: www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/publications

NEW LEAVE NO TRACE IRELAND DVD NOW AVAILABLE!

Leave No Trace Ireland has produced a DVD specific to the Irish environment to capture visually what it means to 'Leave No Trace' in Ireland. Each of the principles have been taken separately, each one is explained along with a handy checklist to make sure you have checked or packed everything you need for a trip to the outdoors in order to 'Leave No Trace'. Leave No Trace Ireland would like to thank those who prepared the DVD as it will be a great asset especially for training purposes.



To request a copy of the DVD please send a cheque to cover the postal charge of €5.99 / £4.95 to Leave No Trace Ireland, C/O CAAN, The Stableyard, Barnett's Demesne, Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5PB. Please make cheques payable to 'Leave No Trace Ireland'.

The DVD was produced by Chris Avison on behalf of Mountain Meitheal (www.pathsavers.org) for Leave No Trace Ireland.

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.



RESOURCES

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.

NATURE DETECTIVES

"Nature detectives" is run by the Woodland Trust creating, protecting and inspiring people about woods and trees. Their website

www.naturedetectives.org.uk/ is packed with worksheets and lots of ideas to inspire young children to get involved and take an interest in their local woods.



There are scores of games, activities and ideas for FREE days out to ensure your next family trip to the woods is action-packed fun. The Woodland Trust wants kids to learn about the wildlife on their doorstep and Nature Detectives can help them do this too.

MUCK IN FOR LIFE WEBSITE

The Muck In4Life website is the home of fun, healthy and free environmental activities for all the family. There are lots of ways to get involved and anyone can join in from grand-parents to children. You can find out about the environmental activities you and your family can enjoy in your local area - everything from bat spying to tree planting and clearing beach litter to pond de-sludging. There's something for everyone so why not have a look around?



Find out more about how people like you are involved in different environmental activities, from the city to the countryside, in the real life stories section and learn more about the charities and voluntary organisations that offer Muck In4Life activities. Also find out how your organisation can be considered as a Muck In4Life partner.

WHAT IS THE ESD FORUM?

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum (ESD Forum) is a networking organisation that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Members include representatives of central and local government, the voluntary sector and educationalists.

WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

The Forum itself was established in 1995 with the aim of enhancing the profile of environmental education in the Curriculum. It aims to promote the role of environmental education in the delivery of many core and non-core Curriculum subjects, encourage partnership, improve co-operation, exchange information, avoid overlaps in provision and to promote greater interaction among all those involved in environmental education and education for sustainable development.

HOW CAN I JOIN?

Membership of the Forum is open to organisations and individuals interested in environmental education.

Annual membership fees are based on a 'band' system depending on organisational status and the number of people benefiting from the Forum's activities within that organisation.

IF YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THIS NEWSLETTER PASS IT ON TO COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS OR INTERESTED GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY ENJOY IT.

For further information on the ESD Forum contact Iona Meyer at 028 9045 5770 or iona@nienvironmentlink.org