

Celebrating 20 years of Eco-Schools



**KEEP
NORTHERN
IRELAND
BEAUTIFUL**



Highlights

1992

Eco-Schools is developed in response to needs identified at the United Nations (UN) Conference on Environment and Development also known as the Rio Summit or the Earth Summit.

1994

Eco-Schools is launched in Denmark, Germany, Greece and the United Kingdom with the support of the European Commission.



1994

Northern Ireland becomes the first country in the world to award a Green Flag to one of its schools. This was Downpatrick Nursery on 15 June 1994.

Above

2000

TIDY Northern Ireland (now Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful), the National Operator of Eco-Schools, is established as an independent charity.

2003

Eco-Schools is identified by the United Nations Environment Programme as a model initiative for Education for Sustainable Development.

2004

10 years after its launch Eco-Schools has reached 4.4 million students; 233,533 teachers; 12,640 schools worldwide.

2008

The inaugural Eco-Schools Celebration event recognising the work of Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland takes place at the Braid, Ballymena. *Below*



2009

The Eco-Schools Cookstown Textile Recyclers Cash for Clobber above and the Translink Travel Challenge *above right* **Campaigns are launched.**

2010

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), the international umbrella organisation for Eco-Schools, formalises its connection with UNESCO through an "NGO in official relations with UNESCO" partnership.



2010

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) announces Northern Ireland as one of the countries selected to participate in the Wrigley Company Foundation Litter Less Campaign. To date 130 'Litter Less' campaigns have been implemented in Northern Ireland's schools.

2010

Trócaire develops 'Go Green Go Global' Eco-Schools resources to support schools with the Global Perspective topic and have continued to support the topic ever since.



2011

Eco-Schools International signs a MoU with Earth Charter, an ethical framework for living in peace within a sustainable world.



2011

Airtricity (now SSE Airtricity) boosts Eco-Schools by becoming the principal sponsor as part of their commitment to sustainable education in Northern Irish schools and have supported the programme ever since.

2012

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) launches the first ever 'Eco-Schools World Days of Action' to showcase the impact young people around the world are making through Eco-Schools. Schools in Northern Ireland participate in an SSE Airtricity Operation Energy Power Down Day on the 7th November.

2013

Pupils present their findings on the impacts of climate change at an Eco-Schools Climate Change Summit at Parliament Buildings, Stormont. *Right*

2014

TIDY Northern Ireland rebrands to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. The new name better reflects all aspects of our work and sets a positive message for the many young people engaged through Eco-Schools for their future lives.



2013

Ulidia Integrated College, Carrickfergus and Fairview Primary School, Ballyclare achieve zero waste to landfill as part of a WRAP Rethink Waste Project, delivered through Eco-Schools in partnership with Bryson Charitable Group

2014

The first ever cross-border Green Flag Awards Ceremony takes place. The event, organised by An Taisce, National Operator of Green-Schools in the Republic of Ireland, takes place in Letterkenny. Three Northern Irish schools join sixty schools from Donegal to receive their prestigious Green Flags. Minister for the Environment, Mark H. Durkan, presents Green Flags to all the schools in attendance.



2013

155 schools participate in SSE Airtricity's Operation Energy Power Down Day using an average of 20% less energy on the day.

2014

Two Northern Irish Primary Schools, Holy Cross in Atticall and Cumran in Clough, win joint first place in the international World Days of Action competition for their energy saving efforts as part of SSE Airtricity's annual Power Down Day.

2013

318 schools participate in European Week for Waste Reduction helping Northern Ireland achieve 2nd place in the international rankings.

2014

20 years on the programme has expanded to over 15 million students; 1.2 million teachers and 45,000 schools in 59 countries around the world.



2011

The Young Reporters for the Environment Programme is launched supporting post-primary pupils to investigate and report on local environmental issues

2012

An Eco-Schools Celebration Event takes place at the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. The event is attended by the President of FEE, Mr Jan Eriksen, along with the International Eco-Schools Coordinator, Mr Bernard Holland. *Right*

foreword

I am incredibly proud to see the Eco-Schools programme reach its 20 year milestone and to see so many schools already involved and benefitting so highly from their involvement in such a prestigious international programme.

As Minister for the Environment, I am delighted that my Department has supported the programme over the years.

I believe passionately that this work with schools and our young people is vital not only for the local environment and wider community in the here and now, but for generations to come. I have seen first-hand how our young people care deeply about environmental issues and wish to make a positive change in the environment around them and I am greatly encouraged by their commitment to their Eco-Schools work, which I know they will carry on throughout their lives. I also never cease to be amazed by the dedicated teachers who pass their eco-passion on to successive pupils.

Over the past 20 years the Eco-Schools programme has played an integral part in supporting our schools to foster environmental awareness and practice in the entire school in a way that links to many curriculum subjects. I am greatly inspired to see 100% of all schools are now involved in the programme. Now, I look forward to seeing our schools continuing on their Eco-Schools journey, to achieving the highly respected Green Flag and positively contributing to the local environment on the way.

Our rich natural and built environment, clean water and heritage lie at the heart of our lives and are central to our economy and jobs. The environment belongs to everyone and to safeguard its future everyone needs to be involved in its protection and enhancement. Eco-Schools are a central component in achieving this.

My gratitude and congratulations go out to everyone involved in Eco-Schools and it is with great hope that I look forward to the continued success of the programme and to ensuring on-going support for our schools to continue on their long-term aim of reducing environmental impact.



Mark H. Durkan MLA
Minister of the Environment



Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful is delighted to give you this special little book to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Eco-Schools.

Being a student led programme it is a book full of the wonder, dreams and achievements of our young people, but also a testament to the dedication of our teachers who have willingly taken on the extra work involved. Being awarded the Green Flag is no walk in the park but it is worth it: nearly every school here is now working towards that accolade!

The growth of this programme, here in Northern Ireland and globally, reflects the success of the model and its ease of applicability within various education structures and curricula. Eco-Schools was launched in 1994 in Denmark, Germany, Greece and the United Kingdom with the support

of the European Commission. Eco-Schools today has over 15 million school students participating in over 50 countries covering every continent bar Antarctica.

So this year is a very special year, but it is made even more special by one single fact. Downpatrick Nursery was the first ever school to be awarded the prestigious Green Flag. It is still flying the flag 20 years later making it the oldest Green Flag school in the world.

Enjoy the book, keep achieving and yes, fly the flag with pride!



Dr. Ian Humphreys
CEO, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

Eco-Schools

MESSAGE BOARD

Frank Mitchell with Fairview Primary School, Ballyclare, Eco-Committee pupils Luke McDowell and Emilie Montgomery *Right*



Josh Bradley

Principal sponsors of Eco-Schools
SSE Airtricity

At SSE Airtricity, we're proud to have helped Eco-Schools set the sustainable agenda throughout classrooms over the last four years. When you enter any school across Northern Ireland, the popularity of the programme amongst pupils and teachers alike is clear to see, and one that we at SSE Airtricity have taken real inspiration from. Through the likes of Power Down Day and the Global Wind Awards, schools have embraced energy saving and started to make real changes around how they monitor and control energy usage.

Frank Mitchell

Eco-Schools Ambassador
UTV and U105 presenter

As Eco-Schools Ambassador I am delighted to celebrate with Eco-Schools on their 20th Anniversary. Eco-Schools is a wonderful programme of great value in educating our young people about the importance of looking after the environment and living sustainably. The school pupils are so full of energy and ideas that it is inspiring to be working with them. Appreciation must also go to the teachers who make this programme such a success through their dedication and guidance. Eco-Schools is growing in strength every year and the young people are leading the way and expecting high standards from us adults too. I forecast a brightening environmental future for us all.



Pupils of Gillygooley Primary School, Omagh, with their teacher Miss McFarland visit SSE Airtricity's Bessy Bell Wind Farm. *Above*





Brid Conneely visit to Taughmonagh Primary School, Belfast, 2012. Left

Carmel Fyfe, Eco-Schools Manager, presents Augher Primary School with a Green Flag. Below

Brid Conneely

International Eco-Schools Director
Foundation for Environmental Education

The work that is being done by Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland is very, very impressive. Children who are actively taking part now and who've been empowered by the programme will be the leaders and decision-makers of the future, and it's reassuring to know that from an early age they realise the importance of having and maintaining a sustainable world. It is always a great pleasure to come to Northern Ireland and to see the fantastic results of the Eco-Schools programme here. The children are open, confident and completely sure that they are doing the right thing for their schools and their communities. The future of Northern Ireland is in good hands, and that is very reassuring, not only for these islands, but also for Europe and the world.

Carmel Fyfe

Eco-Schools Manager
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

I am very proud to be the Eco-Schools National Operator for Northern Ireland. It is truly inspiring to see the great work undertaken by our schools and it is also very clear to see just how much young people become positively engaged through the programme. Having the opportunity to work with such a positive, fun and important programme gives me great hope for our future.



Ursula Kelleher

Translink

Translink are pleased to support the Eco-Schools Transport topic through the Translink Travel Challenge. We are committed to good environmental performance and the Travel Challenge reflects our 'Go Eco' approach encouraging a greener lifestyle. We look forward to educating more pupils about the environmental and health benefits of sustainable travel.



Rosie Murray

Trocaire

Eco-Schools, and the great work done by pupils, is helping us reflect on how we use the Earth's resources and how to make positive changes in our daily life. Educating our young people on how their actions have a global impact is important, and Trocaire's support of the Global Perspective topic is a positive way to do this.

Eco-Schools

MESSAGE BOARD



Billy Conway

Cookstown Textile Recyclers

Cookstown Textile Recyclers are delighted to support the Eco-Schools Waste topic. Our Cash for Clobber scheme teaches pupils the benefits of recycling and raises valuable funds for schools. Investing back into our schools and community is an important link in our recycling chain and Eco-Schools plays an important part in that.

Mr. Mulhern Eco-Coordinator Harberton Special School

Eco-Schools is the foundation for our environmental work, inspiring us to create a tree trail which has grown into a bigger combined project with Taughmonagh Primary School. The collaboration of the two Eco-Committees has developed a fitness and biodiversity trail far beyond anything we would have dreamt of without Eco-Schools.



George Lyttle

Belfast City Council

Waste to landfill is an increasingly pressing issue. We have been glad to work with Eco-Schools to promote the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message to schools. Educating our young people on the importance of waste reduction and resource efficiency is vital. It is great to see pupils taking that message home to parents as well.



Alex West

The Wrigley Company Foundation

Wrigley are delighted to be able to continue to support Eco-Schools and encourage the creative and innovative approaches young people are taking to reduce litter in their communities. We take the issue of littered gum very seriously and firmly believe that education is the long-term way to tackle it.

WRIGLEY
Company Foundation





Mr. Short Principal
Holy Child Primary School

Our Eco-Committee encouraged school improvements, making it more aesthetically pleasing and carbon friendly. The wider community has also benefited from involvement in eco-projects, particularly caring for the garden. Our greatest Eco-Schools successes have been the educational value, teamwork and change of mind-set that will improve our environment for future generations.



I have loved being part of the Eco-Committee and it is a great honour to be chairman this year. I have had so many opportunities to do things most pupils in the school don't get to do or be part of. Leading the waste project, and becoming Zero Waste, has definitely been my favourite part. Thank you to Eco-Schools for all your help and challenges!

Jake Gordan
Eco-Committee Chairperson
Fairview Primary School



Aisha Rahman and Bethany Fisher Eco-Prefects
Victoria College, Belfast

Eco-Schools demonstrates caring for the environment is everyone's duty. It inspired our actions to protect the World's biodiversity, reduce litter and waste, and inform others how their actions can make a big difference. Eco-Schools is at the heart of our school ethos and we look forward to meeting future challenges.



The response from Eco-Schools participating in Operation Energy, our online energy education programme has been terrific; it's great to see Eco-Schools across the country getting involved in such a wide variety of energy saving activities.

Josh Bradley
Communications Executive
SSE Airtricity



Eco-Schools

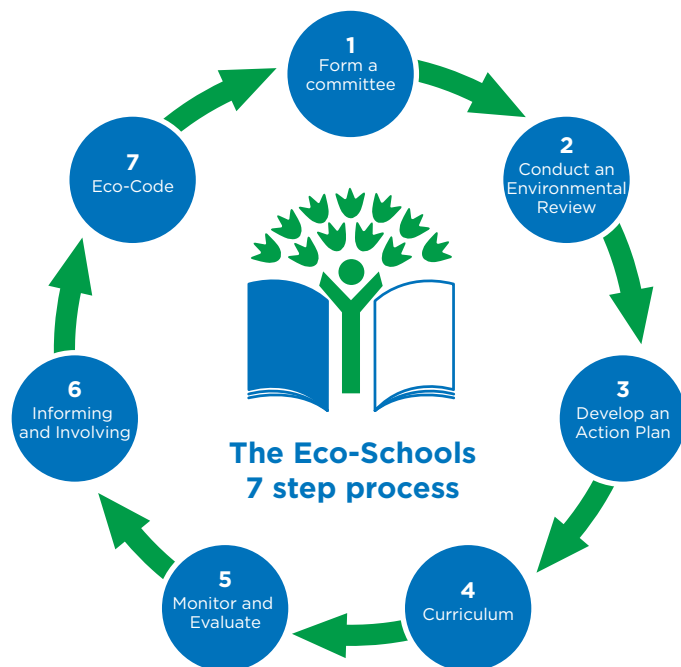
THE FACTS



Eco-Schools is empowering students to be the change our sustainable world needs by engaging them in fun, action-orientated learning. It is the world's leading environmental education programme and has become a global Education for Sustainable Development phenomenon. Based on ISO 14001, it provides schools with a long-term environmental management system as they move from awareness in the

curriculum towards implementing practical actions as a whole-school. Eco-Schools is designed to be fun, hands-on and holistic in its approach all the time helping schools to reduce environmental impact.

The Eco-Schools 7 step process lies at the heart of the programme supporting long-term behavioural change to instil habits that last a lifetime.



Eco-Schools Topics

In Northern Ireland schools can choose from ten topics.



BIODIVERSITY



CLIMATE CHANGE



ENERGY



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



LITTER



HEALTHY LIVING



SCHOOL GROUNDS



TRANSPORT




WASTE - RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



WATER

What does the Eco-Schools logo mean?

Eco-Schools around the world are identified by the Eco-Schools logo and prestigious Green Flag. So, what exactly does the logo represent?

- 
- 1 The central figure shows people are at the heart of the programme
 - 2 In their hands lies the greening of the future...
 - 3 ...symbolised by the flowers flourishing overhead
 - 4 The flowers symbolise both the flourishing of the environment and of human beings, enriched by values and attitudes that protect the environment and themselves.
 - 5 Once this bouquet of green flowers is open over our heads, it turns into a kind of umbrella, a shelter that protects us.
 - 6 The two pages, separated by the person, mean that this knowledge is not purely academic.
 - 7 Books only contribute to the change in behaviours. Teaching and learning and people are central.
 - 8 The blue page on the left represents the book of human history, loaded with the problems of human society, and already written.

Eco-Schools Awards

There are 3 levels of awards: bronze, silver and Green Flag. The Green Flag is a prestigious, internationally-recognised award which requires renewal every two years in line with the Eco-Schools continuous improvement methodology.

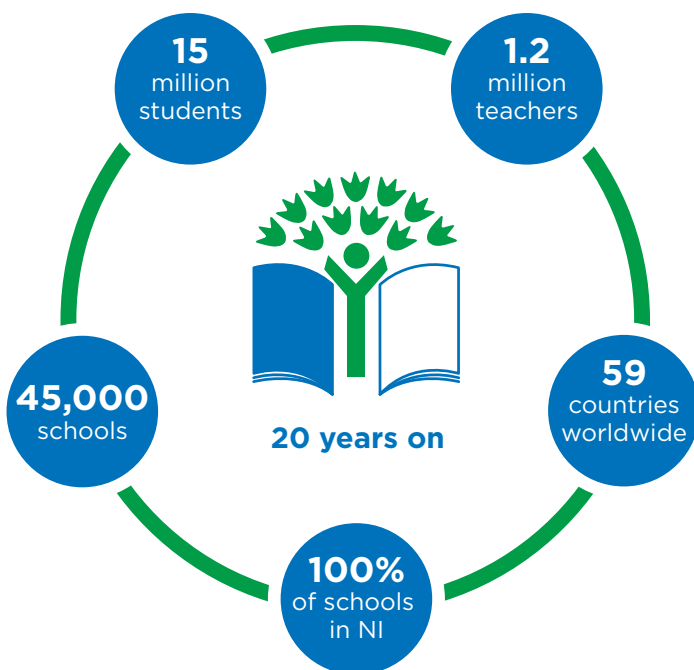


Eco-Schools

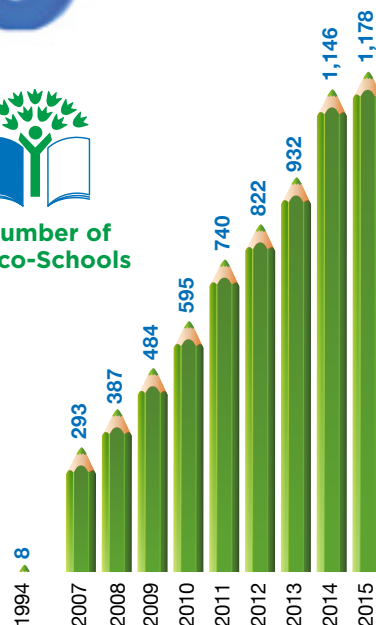
20 YEARS

When the Eco-Schools programme was first launched in 1994, 8 schools in Northern Ireland registered in the initial year. Over the next 13 years numbers grew steadily as schools became more aware of the programme and its benefits to pupils, schools and the local environment. By March 2007, nearly 300 schools were involved, representing about 20% of schools in Northern Ireland

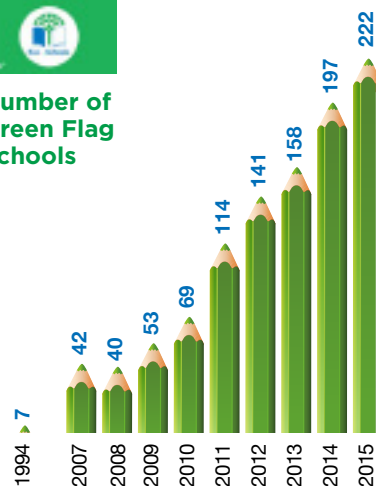
at that time. Since then the programme has gone from strength to strength and on 9th January 2015 Northern Ireland reached 100% registration rate making us the very first country in the world to achieve every school an Eco-School. It is inspiring to see such interest in the programme and we look forward to seeing more and more of our young people getting involved.



Number of Eco-Schools



Number of Green Flag Schools



Growth of Green Flag

Northern Ireland was the first country in the world to award a Green Flag to one of its schools, Downpatrick Nursery on 15 June 1994. This is a fantastic achievement and one that we can be proud of. With smaller numbers of schools registered on the Eco-Schools programme in the initial few years, the numbers attaining the Green Flag were relatively high compared to registrations at that time. Since 2008, the number of

schools achieving the Green Flag award has grown year-on-year from about 10% of registered schools to about 17% in 2014 with a record breaking 114 schools attaining the prestigious award in the 2013-2014 academic year. The commitment and quality of work demonstrated by many Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland is world-class and going forward we can expect to see more of our schools achieving the prestigious award.

Eco-Schools today

Eco-Schools has become a worldwide phenomenon with 59 countries worldwide, 15 million pupils and over 1 million teachers. In Northern Ireland an estimated 320,000 pupils and 18,900 teachers are now involved. All types of schools are involved, from Nursery through to Post-Primary, helping young people of all ages to continually develop pro-environmental behaviours that will last a lifetime. Through the on-going growth and development of the programme in our schools we can all look forward to seeing more and more of our young people becoming the change our sustainable world needs while becoming the environmentally-responsible generation of tomorrow.

In 2013, Stranmillis University College signed up to an Eco-Campus pilot taking Eco-Schools in to third level education also. Having been around for 20 years we are now starting to see university students who were involved in the programme as pupils bringing Eco-Schools into our colleges and universities too.



Downpatrick Nursery School have successfully maintained Green Flag status since they were awarded the world's first Green Flag on 15 June 1994. Above



Eco-Schools IN ACTION



Holy Trinity College Cookstown

Through the Eco-Schools programme Holy Trinity College have tackled the issue of litter head on. Their Eco-Warriors have taken part in the Wrigley Litter Less initiative two years in a row, organised community litter picks and won the 2012 Young Reporters for the Environment national competition for their video report on litter. They have extended their care of the environment to the Ballinderry River where they participated in conservation

Holy Trinity College clean-up with the help of Wrigley and Cookstown District Council. *Left*

Fairview Primary School's Eco-Committee proudly demonstrate their Zero Waste activities. *Below right*

and biodiversity projects. The school promoted energy efficiency during SSE Airtricity's Power Down Day reducing electricity use by 20% and went on to reduce their energy bills by an incredible £6000 over the school year. The Eco-Committee have also won a Sustainable Ireland Award for the Most Inspiring Environmental Project by a Young Person/Persons in 2014 and hosted a visit to the school by Minister for the Environment, Mark H. Durkan.

Fairview Primary School Ballyclare

The school believed they were recycling as much as possible but thanks to their involvement in an Eco-Schools Rethink Waste project they were able to take a closer look at recycling. After conducting a detailed audit of the content of their bins they were shocked to discover that only 22% of their waste was being recycled. The Eco-Committee focused all their attention on raising awareness and monitoring waste and only four





It is important to take care of our bodies to prevent health issues when we are older. Being healthy makes me feel great and I'm very proud of myself!

Leah Gregg

Holy Family Primary

months later had managed to increase the amount of recycled material to 74%. Further work with their local council and waste collection company has now resulted in zero waste going to landfill from the school as of September 2013. The school continues to promote and monitor waste reduction and have designed their own reusable shopping bags, purchased a composter and created a plastic bottle greenhouse. The school regularly run an ECOlympics event to promote environmental awareness, invite parents to take part in Eco-Blitz days and won SSE Airtricity's Eco-Committee of the Year Award in 2013. Pupils are constantly reminded to think of ways to reduce, reuse, recycle and be resource efficient.

Antrim Primary School perform their Eco-Rap at a Translink celebration.

Below



Antrim Primary School Antrim

The school originally decided to focus on the Eco-Schools Transport topic because of their close proximity to Antrim Bus & Rail Centre and the station's redevelopment into a sustainable 'Sus-Station'. The school has taken part in the Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge for the last four years and through this developed a special eco-rap to encourage all pupils to think about choosing more sustainable ways of

travelling. By focusing on the transport topic the school has successfully achieved sustainable transport becoming a part of their school routine. Pupils have also had the opportunity to implement ICT and data handling for real life experiences through their ongoing monitoring of school travel methods. Pupils at the school closely followed the development of the 'sus-station' and were delighted to perform their eco-rap at the official opening.

Eco-Schools IN ACTION

Fair Hill Primary School Dromore

Pupils at Fair Hill PS were spurred on to take action on their energy usage when they realised their energy efficiency rating had deteriorated. They decided to monitor classrooms to make sure appliances, lights and whiteboards were not left on during breaks. Red or Green bulbs were awarded to each class with points depending on inspection results. The Eco-Committee announced the best classes in assembly and displayed

these on the Eco-Schools notice board. Faulty doors were fixed, heating turned down a notch and the school took part in SSE Airtricity's Power Down Day. The results of these actions helped the school improve from an E to a C rating. The school was rewarded for their efforts as part of SSE Airtricity's Global Wind Awards and had the opportunity to visit Slieve Kirk Wind Farm. The school has recently installed more solar panels and is looking forward to seeing the results of their sustainable energy source.

Ballycraig Primary School Antrim

Recognising the importance of outdoor play as part of their Eco-Schools programme helped Ballycraig PS revamp their school grounds over a number of years to include: outdoor classrooms; woodland walks; play and fitness equipment; apple trees; a greenhouse; raised beds; wildflower areas; and mini-beast habitats. They even have their own hens! This did not happen overnight and funding originally came from Awards for All and through participating in Cookstown Textile Recyclers Cash for Clobber. The benefits to the children and the enjoyment they take from outdoor work has been apparent and the community, parents and grandparents have also become involved in caring for the gardens and the creatures that live there. These actions have raised the profile of the school and given the pupils a sense of self-esteem which is felt at home too.



Fair Hill Primary School improved the school's energy rating from an E to a C with their energy action plans. *Left*



A bumper crop from Ballycraigy Primary School's Eco-Garden.

Left



I think it's really important that kids are taught about wildlife and how it's important to protect wildlife.

Carter Wickham

Lagan College

Lagan College Castlereagh

Lagan College have effectively engaged with the litter and waste topics in the past, taking part in the Big Spring Clean and a Rethink Waste project. After the recent redevelopment of their school buildings they decided to make full use of their fortunate position on a National Trust site and take a close look at the biodiversity topic. There is an established rookery on site and the pupils have developed a wildflower meadow, pond area, bird houses and bug habitats. The bird and bug habitats have been a great success with birds making use of the nesting boxes

Lagan College attend the Eco-Schools Climate Change Summit at Stormont. Right

in the courtyard area. The pupils are hoping to install a camera into one of the nesting boxes and view the baby birds safely from the ICT suite. The school regularly takes part in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch and signed up for Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful's Adopt a Spot project completing regular litter picks of Cregagh Glen adjoining the school grounds. The Eco-Committee complete regular biodiversity audits and are hoping to review all their topics in a wider context as they consider the effects of their Eco-Schools work in connection to the Climate Change topic.



To learn more about these and other examples of good practice in schools please visit the Eco-Schools website:

 www.eco-schoolsni.org/case-studies.aspx

 www.eco-schoolsni.org/eco-inspiration.aspx

Eco-Schools

MEMORIES

Kilrea Primary School
celebrate the achievement
of their 8th Green Flag.
Below

Downpatrick Nursery School Downpatrick



We are very proud to have been an Eco-School for 20 years and to have been the first nursery school to receive a Green Flag.

We now have 8 Green Flags and the school environment has been totally transformed thanks to our involvement in Eco-Schools. In the 1970s the playground was a bare concrete “yard”; now it is referred to as the “hidden gem” of Downpatrick with tall native trees and an exciting “jungle”. We have different garden areas including wildflowers, fruit and vegetables, a small woodland, and our main playground with compost bins and water butts. We are currently developing our outdoor kitchen area and our homemade willow “wigloo”. Our Eco-Schools ethos has been at the heart of all that we do, with environmental education a focus since joining the movement at its inception. We are actively advancing in outdoor education and are training as a Forest School in this anniversary year of Eco-Schools.



Kilrea Primary School Kilrea

We have many Eco-Schools memories over the 20 years.

Earliest memories are the creation of our wildlife area, pond and butterfly garden. As they have grown and developed we love to explore what lives in the various habitats and have lots of adventures there.

Cooking and eating our school grown fruit and vegetables to make delicious soups and treats and then watching the leftovers turn into compost for the following year.

Over the last 20 years we've developed excellent recycling habits and now have almost zero waste to landfill.

Eco-Schools has been part of our school for so long now that it has become a way of life for us.



Mullavilly Primary School pupils enjoy lessons in their outdoor learning zone. *Left*

Millington Primary School pupils rethink waste and get a bag habit during the introduction of the carrier bag levy. *Below right*



Millington Primary School Portadown



Last year our school made and put up bird, bat and robin boxes. This immensely increased the population of birds around our school! It's lovely to go out at all times of the year, stand quietly and listen to the differing bird song. One of the boxes is fitted with a camera and we enjoy watching the little blue-tits hatching and being fed by their mother. We also bought a water butt for our new raised beds. By growing our own produce; we've made pumpkin soup, rhubarb crumble and had our very own brussel sprouts for our Christmas dinner! Receiving the Green Flag has been the highlight of two years of hard work and enjoyment!

Mullavilly Primary School Tandragee

We achieved our first Green Flag in 2006 and since then things have grown and grown. In 2007 we won a time capsule for a walk to school competition and every pupil drew or wrote an article for inclusion in it. We continued with that theme in 2009 with a big breakfast walk from the park for friends, family and pets. In 2010 we took part in the WWF's virtual torch relay and were interviewed by the BBC. For Earth Hour celebrations in 2012 we contributed to an energy saving leaflet and its launch at Stormont. We concentrated on Healthy Living and outdoor learning in 2013 with our big

lunch for parents and grandparents and the development of our sensory garden, outdoor learning zone and 'Black Pad Environmental Trail'. 2014 was our most successful year to date with the school achieving our 5th Green Flag; obtaining £5000 from the NGO Challenge Funds; being a finalist in SSE Airtricity's Eco-Committee of the Year Award; winning the Giro Challenge with over 70% of teachers and pupils travelling sustainably to school; being selected as an Active Travel School; achieving runner up in the Green Teacher of the Year Awards, winning the Gold Health Action Awards and highly commended in the Best Kept School Award.

St. John the Baptist Nursery School Portadown

We thoroughly enjoyed building our Bug Hotel and it generated a lot of excitement with the children and parents. We were so impressed at the children's ability to discuss our Eco-Schools topic



'biodiversity'; they understood what it is, why it is important and the potential threats posed to it in our world.

For 3 and 4 year olds to use language associated with this topic made us extremely proud of the work that went on in our school and of the children themselves.



Eco-Schools

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an important role in helping with Green Flag Assessments. Our volunteers bring all kinds of expertise with them and are interested in the environment, education and inspiring our young people. Many of our assessors are already working in environmental projects in schools often from the local councils and our delivery partners.

"I recently completed my assessor training and it's great to see first-hand the work that Eco-Schools are doing. As a teacher, it gives me lots of great ideas as well as the chance to share good practice with my own school. Volunteering as an Eco-Schools intern also gives me the opportunity to help plan and deliver projects which really interest me and has helped me gain valuable project management experience which I can take forward in my own professional development."

Claire Lundy Teacher
Beechlawm School, Hillsborough and
Eco-Schools Intern Volunteer



"Since retiring I have spent much of my free time carrying out voluntary work. I try to encourage others to appreciate nature and help our ailing environment by pointing out the good things we can achieve by our own hands. In schools I see great enthusiasm for 'doing our bit to save the planet' among the Eco-Schools participants and we need to get them to carry the message home to family and friends. I really enjoy the look of joy on the wee faces of the Eco-Schools Committee when they learn of their success in attaining their Green Flag."

Paul Moore Retired

"The reason I became involved with Eco-Schools is threefold. Firstly, I was glad of the opportunity to connect with the most important people on the planet who are the next generation currently in Primary and Secondary Schools. It is they who will implement the solutions to the environmental problems both mine and previous generations have created. Secondly, I have the resource to introduce into education that my employer is more than willing for me to allocate and finally, I want to help as many people as possible make a difference by considering the effects their actions have on the health and wellbeing of our part of the world."

Nigel McGarry IKEA



To learn more about volunteering with Eco-Schools please email

 eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Eco-Schools

W H A T T H E
F U T U R E
H O L D S

In 20 Years our schools have accomplished so much and across the country we see just how much our young people care about the environment and the difference they are making through their Eco-Schools actions.

There have been many positive changes so far and Northern Ireland has a lot to be proud of. However, the challenge is still very much on for our young people as we continue to use the planet's resources far faster than they can be renewed. WWF's Living Planet Report 2006 shows that on current projections humanity will need at least two planets' worth of natural resources by 2050 and in the UK alone, we are currently living a 'three planet lifestyle'. We have hope though, with so many of our schools clearly committed to protecting our environmental future we can look forward to seeing an ever growing environmentally-responsible generation of tomorrow. It is with this in mind that we look to our young people to be the change that our sustainable world needs.



My advice to other teachers would be that they should not fear tackling the Global Perspective topic. Initially, I was very daunted by what was expected of me. However, following advice from the Eco-Schools team my apprehension soon dissipated. It then became apparent that there was so much that could be covered.

Eimear McShane Eco-Coordinator
St. Clare's Convent Primary School, Newry



Acknowledgements

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