



## Waste – Resource Efficiency

Waste – Resource Efficiency Topic Case Studies

Teacher Name:	Jocelyn Brown
School Name:	Ballycraigy Primary School
Number of Pupils:	140
Eco-Schools Status:	Green Flag
Topic:	Waste – Resource Efficiency

**Introduction:** Ballycraigy Primary School is a school which has participated in the Cookstown Textile Recyclers ‘Cash for Clobber Competition’ several times. Although the school has not won the competition they have been able to avail of the money which is paid to the school at 60p per kilo. These funds have then been able to go towards the school garden. Further details are included in the case study.

### 1. Why did you choose Waste – Resource Efficiency as an Eco-Schools topic? What was your involvement with Cash for Clobber as part of Waste – Resource Efficiency?

At the school we started off by contacting Antrim Borough Council to get brown bins for compostable waste and food waste for our school. We then used the brown bins to collect food waste scraps and this allowed us to have a focus on waste as a topic in our school.

After this, composting was set up in our garden and this also became part of the waste topic as our garden grew and became the fantastic resource for pupils that we have today. The Cookstown Textile Recyclers Cash for Clobber Competition enabled us to use the funds we collected from unwanted textiles and put them back into the school in the school ‘Muckamore Garden’.



## 2. How do you integrate Waste – Resource Efficiency into the curriculum?

The pupils in school are encouraged to collect information and gather data regarding each of our topics including waste, and recording this onto spread sheets and data bases so that it can be used for classroom activities. Food waste for example is weighed and this data can be used in class time.

During European Week for Waste Reduction this year all of the food waste will be weighed by pupils.



## 3. How do you co-ordinate with other teachers to ensure a whole school approach?

To ensure a whole school approach the teachers are spoken to on an individual level asking for their help to participate in the programme. Some of the teachers were already on board with the Eco-Club and were interested in becoming more involved.

The teachers are spurred on by the garden and the esteem it brings to the school and to the pupils on an individual level.



#### 4. How did you encourage pupil participation? How did they have ownership of the project?

It took a number of years to build the Eco-Committee and Eco-Schools programme to where it currently is at school. It began with the children in the gardening project and then the grandparents began to get involved with their expertise in horticultural knowledge. St. Jude's Church and Muckamore Parish Development Association came on board with the whole school and lots of friends from the area began to get involved and then parents got on board – at first they resisted but it's the opposite now and the parents are taking on the responsibility roles and pushing the project forward and I feel my (Eco-Schools Coordinator Jocelyn Brown) role is more a facilitator for all of the ideas happening.



### 5. How did pupils/whole school benefit from this project?

So many ways, the benefits began with outdoor play in foundation stage were pupils are required to play outside as part of the curriculum and now the school is on its second outdoor grant to build the green house and procure equipment. The pupils developed through taking part in the Eco-Schools Green Flag award and through getting involved in the Cash for Clobber Competition.



### 6. Did you receive any support or resources from parents, staff or outside agencies?

We have been supported through building up partnerships with teachers in the school, parents, grandparents, friends in the area, St. Jude's Church, Muckamore Parish Development Association, Eco-Schools Staff, RSPB, Royal Horticultural Society, Appetite for Action and Green Schools Revolution. Grandparents of the children at the school have been fantastic help to the school and the efforts at the school as some of them have excellent horticultural knowledge which we find seems to have skipped a generation and it is important that the children have an understanding of where their food produce comes from and to enjoy playing outside and being outside.



### 7. Did you have to source any funding?

We sourced funding from a range of different agencies such as Appetite for Action, Belfast Harbour's Green Teacher of the Year award, school competitions, the Co-Op Green Schools Revolution, Cookstown Textile Recyclers through the Cash for Clobber Competition, Antrim Borough Council, Enkalon Foundation, Wildlife Action Awards through the RSPB, and 'Awards for All' lottery funding.



### 8. Did you encounter any problems and, if so, how did you overcome them?

Yes, problems are always encountered at schools! But these were overcome in various ways. There was resistance from pupils and adults to going outside, but this has become easier with the new garden being developed more and more pupils and adults connected with the school want to help

with outdoor work. Weather is never a problem – we just go out anyway! At the school we created outdoor plays planners to overcome the problems associated with going outside including the development of the Green Fingers Club.



**9. Is there any advice you could offer to schools undertaking the Waste topic? Do you have any useful suggestions for other teachers embarking on the topic?**

It is hard at the beginning, starting up the programme at school and making it become established. But is worth it in the end and is worth building the relationships with the agencies.

It is worth being able to expose the pupils to a wide variety of learning in the curriculum but you need to take a risk to get it started.

Using Facebook to engage the local community has worked better than previous use of websites to transmit information to the wider community including parents.



**10. Has doing this topic driven other Eco-Schools ideas? What are your future plans regarding Eco-Schools?**

Creating the school garden has really helped to drive ideas as lots of suggestions are made by parents who are taking on the responsibility roles and pushing the project forward. Asking the pupils for ideas and suggestions is always a great way to push the programme further.

Having an adventurous side, and encouraging the pupils to do the same is a great way to develop Eco-Schools ideas and of course going for the next Green Flag always is an encouragement!



### 11. How did you use Cash for Clobber to help you with the waste – resource efficiency topic?

Using the Cash for Clobber monies for funding and using the Cash for Clobber DVD in assembly has helped us with the Waste Topic.

Having Billy Conway (from Cookstown Textile Recyclers) as a guest speaker, has also created more interest in the Waste Topic – we also used the idea of Cash for Clobber to send a classroom assistant to Tanzania to make links with other schools in Africa.

