



KEEP
NORTHERN
IRELAND
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ECO-SCHOOLS

ECO-SCHOOLS NEWS

October 2015

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Eco-Schools World Days of Action - Live Here Love Here

World Days of Action, held annually, is an initiative of the Foundation for Environmental Education's (FEE) International Eco-Schools programme and is designed to empower students worldwide, to be the change our sustainable world needs, by engaging them in fun, action-oriented learning.

This year Eco-Schools NI are teaming up with the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, [Live Here Love Here](#) Campaign encouraging everyone to show some love, for this place we call home, by taking part in an environmental **Day of Action from 2-6 November**.

We are inviting schools to register an event and do one or all of the following:

- **Clean-Up** - tidy up your school grounds or a local grot spot by holding a litter pick event.
- **Green-Up** - brighten up a run down plot by clearing out the weeds and doing some planting.
- **Spruce-Up** - come together to tackle graffiti and vandalism by splashing a little paint around and revitalising a dingy corner.

Contact ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org to register for more information and a toolkit to help with your day.

"We would encourage everyone to [pledge](#) their commitment today and make that one positive change to encourage people across Northern Ireland to show that they love where they live by helping out in their local communities."

- Dr. Ian Humphreys, CEO Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.



LIVE
HERE
LOVE
HERE

We are teaming up with Live Here Love Here for our annual Eco-Schools World Days of Action

NI Eco-Schools looking forward to the NOM

Northern Ireland has been selected by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) to host the prestigious international Eco-Schools National Operators Meeting (NOM) 12th-14th November 2015 which will see representatives from FEE and the 60 countries worldwide come to Northern Ireland to share good practice and discuss the on-going development of Eco-Schools for the benefit of young people and our environment globally. As the host nation we will also provide our visitors with a rich and welcoming cultural experience and will be proudly showcasing some of the great work being implemented in Northern Ireland's excellent Eco-Schools.



With Switzerland the latest country to join the Eco-Schools programme, there are now 60 countries around the world working towards the same environmental education goals. Guests from these countries will be welcomed with at a reception in Stormont and will be visiting local schools to see what they have been doing: Lagan College, Ulidia Integrated College, Belmont Primary School and Fairview Primary School will be showing guests around their schools. Lagan College will also be producing a video report of the NOM and the winner of our Alpha Newspaper Young Journalist competition will be writing a report on the NOM. As a final farewell to our guests we will be hosting a dinner at the Ulster Museum where they can enjoy the exhibits and musical entertainment from Grosvenor Grammar School and Sullivan Upper School.

We look forward to sharing pictures and news from the NOM in next month's newsletter but in the meantime you can follow updates and leave messages for our guests on twitter [@Eco_SchoolsNI](#) [#bethechange](#) [#ecoschoolsNOM](#)



Hedgehog Campaign

Mark H Durkan, Minister for the Environment, as part of NIEA's new Species Champions initiative, is asking all schools to help their native hedgehogs. In the 1950's it was estimated there were 36.5million hedgehogs in Britain.

Hedgehogs hibernate every year, usually from about November to around Easter, but this is much affected by the weather. Hedgehogs normally wake up several times over winter and often build a new nest made of leaves, tucked under a bush or log pile or garden shed, anywhere that offers support and protection.

Please be careful if you are planning a bonfire or a garden clear-up as hedgehogs may have chosen your pile of logs or rough ground as their home.

To read more about our hedgehog campaign check out our [blog](#) on our website and enjoy this lovely [leaflet](#) from the NIEA.



If you have seen any hedgehogs in your school grounds or have top tips you would like to share please contact ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

School news:

Holy Family Primary School - Head Teacher of the Year Award.

Mrs Dinah MacManus retired as Principal of Holy Family Primary School, Belfast, last year. Dinah has been an inspirational leader and supporter of the Eco-Schools programme over the years with Holy Family Primary School now on its 3rd Green Flag. The school has been working on a forest schools project with Currie Primary School in Alexandra Park, a great example of cross community and outdoor learning in action. Currie Primary School also received their first Green Flag award last year. It is super to see these two schools receiving publicity for their work together .



A massive congratulations to Mrs MacManus for recently winning the 'British Classroom Heroes' award for the Head Teacher of Year which was presented in Convent Garden in London and broadcast on the BBC - watch the awards on the BBC [iPlayer](#). We hope she enjoys her retirement!

Fairview Primary School invite minibeasts to check into their 5* accommodation.

Fairview Primary School became our Ambassador Eco-School for the Waste topic last year. Every year they hold an Environmental Blitz Day when parents, pupils, teachers and members of the community join together to tidy up and work on their school grounds. This year they put 'waste not, want not' principles in place and built a fantastic minibeast mansion from left over materials. The minibeasts will be queuing up to check in!



Partner News: Council Cluster Groups a great success.

Four Eco-Schools Cluster Group meetings were held in October, three in Newry, Mourne & Down and one in Ards & North Down. All were well attended by over 60 schools in total and were a great opportunity for schools to meet and share good practice, hear from environmental groups about projects they could take part in, ask Eco-Schools staff questions about the programme, and of course meet their Council representatives to see what services they offer schools.

Thanks very much to these Councils for organising the meetings and arranging all the interesting speakers. The information gathered by schools will prove very valuable for their Eco-Schools work and help them achieve the prestigious internationally recognised Green Flag award.



Downpatrick Nursery School, Ambassador Eco-School for Biodiversity, gave a terrific presentation on all the work they have been doing in school during one of the Newry, Mourne and Down Council Cluster Group Meetings.

Other News:

New Case Studies on Waste topic:

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful worked with Down High School and McClintock Primary School last year to develop two new case studies investigating approaches to the Waste topic. Both make interesting and inspiring reading and will be a useful tool to any schools thinking of taking on the Waste topic. The case studies are available on our [Resources Case Studies](#) section of the Eco-Schools website.



Over 30 schools to receive Challenge Funding:

Mark H Durkan, Minister for the Environment, has announced that 32 schools will receive £90,245 from DOE's Challenge Fund for environmental projects. We are delighted that so many schools have been successful and look forward to seeing the project outcomes. For more on this story and a full list of schools funded go to our Eco Schools [website news page](#).



DOE Marine Litter Autumn Newsletter an interesting read:

This edition has a strong focus on the activities individuals and groups are undertaking to help address the problem of marine litter. It contains updates on initiatives featured in previous editions, articles on the "2 minute beach clean" and the actions Surfers Against Sewage and divers are taking through to address marine litter. The newsletter closes with an article from Mike McAliskey, DOE Marine Division, on the implications of microplastics - a particular form of marine litter. Click [here](#) to read more.

International Eco-Schools News:

New Eco-Schools International Website

A new website has been launched by International Eco-Schools. Take a peep at all the international news, campaigns, tools and resources by visiting to www.ecoschools.global

Malta EkoSkola Summit:

The next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) meeting will be held in Malta on the 27th-29th November 2015.

Eco-Schools Malta 'EkoSkola' are planning to organise a pre-event Young People's EkoSkola Summit during which students will present issues, concerns and suggestions for a better future related to Commonwealth countries. The overall theme being explored is 'Ensuring a good quality of life for present and future generations'.

EkoSkola are seeking a Special School to partner with a Special School in Malta to share and discuss ideas. Please contact us at eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org if you are a Special School and are interested in taking part.

Other Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful news:

Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland is operated by the environmental charity Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. Here is the latest news on other projects from our organisation.

New Poster Campaign addresses dog fouling.

We're always looking for new ways to help fight the scourge of litter and dog fouling, and recently we've been working on a project which uses 'behavioural insights'. In trials in over 120 sites in England, these posters were shown to reduce dog fouling by an average of 46%. They work because people tend to alter their behaviour if they think they are being watched.

Even better than that, some of the posters glow in the dark!

Coast Care Awards 2015.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful held the Coast Care Awards for the sixth year at Stormont on the 8th October. Designed to acknowledge the excellent work of individuals and groups involved in the Coast Care Programme, the awards recognise the vital role volunteers play in protecting our coastline and inland waterways.

Along with many other excellent volunteer groups Mill Strand Integrated Primary School won the 'Brighter Futures Award' this year for the work they have done cleaning up and caring for their end of the West Strand in Portrush, which they regularly use as an outdoor classroom to explore their natural surroundings and learn about the sea-life on their doorstep.



Cookstown Textile Recyclers

Cash for Clobber Competition 2015/2016

Cookstown Textile Recycler's (CTR) 'Cash for Clobber' is a great way to raise money for your school's environmental projects. CTR will give money for the clothing they collect, **50 pence/kilo**, which is all sorted locally and either distributed to countries in need or recycled into fibers used in industry.



They are the only BSI certified clothing recycling company, with strong environmental ethics at their core, which Eco-Schools Northern Ireland recommended and they have proudly sponsored our Waste topic for the last six years.

You could win up to £3000 for your school by simply recycling all types of clothing and shoes (pairs only please), household textiles and handbags (not duvets or pillows).

Get collecting now! – the rules couldn't be simpler:

The school that collects the most clobber per pupil wins a magnificent cash prize. There are 3 bands to win prizes in, depending on the size of your school.

Band 1 = up to 100 pupils	Band 2 = 101-250 pupils	Band 3 = more than 250 pupils
£1,000	£2,000	£3,000

The Competition runs from **1 September 2015 until 31 May 2016**. Visit the Eco-Schools [website](#) for more information.

To arrange a 'Cash for Clobber' clothing collection for your school contact CTR at schools@c-t-r.com or phone 028 9447 8880.

Woodland Trust - Competition

Woodland Trust are inviting entries to a Tree Champions Challenge - create a woodland character to promote their new Charter. They are seeking entries from KS2 and KS3 and the winning entries will have the opportunity to work with acclaimed children's author Jackie Morris to develop their character. There are also teaching resources and free books available.

To read more about the competition go to the Woodland Trust [website](#). Closing date **4th December 2015**.

Funding Opportunities:

Polli: Nation Grant

Applications are now OPEN for primary and secondary schools: deadline **5th November**.



Would you like to be involved in a collaborative schools project promoting the conservation of bee habitats? Learning Through Landscapes are now welcoming applications from primary and secondary schools to take part and apply for support, as part of the Polli:Nation project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. For more information about the project please visit <http://www.ltl.org.uk/pollination>

To begin your application please follow this link <http://www.ltl.org.uk/pollination/getinvolved.php>

Grow Wild community funding:

Grow Wild is awarding funding of £1,000, £2,500 or £4,000 to community groups that want to bring people together to engage with nature or transform a communal space by sowing and growing UK native plants.

If your group has an inspiring idea to connect people to nature, then apply before **1 December 2015** for your chance to join our lively project network. For more information on **how to apply** visit: [Grow Wild Community Project Guidance](#)

Got a question? Had a brilliant idea for an inspiring community project near you and want to find out about next steps? Or perhaps you want to learn more about a project that's already under way? Please get in touch to discuss your ideas or to request an application form when you are ready please contact: northernireland@growwilduk.com

Other ways to get involved with Grow Wild:

- Groups can register for **free Grow Wild seed kits** to share. Register online at growwilduk.com from October 2015 to mid-February 2016
- **Be inspired** by our 2014 and 2015 community projects. [Click here](#) to visit our interactive map to read their profile pages



Green Flags this month.

Congratulations to all the schools who have achieved their Green Flag award in the last month. We are continually amazed at the knowledge and enthusiasm of all the pupils and staff at our Green Flag schools and they are to be congratulated on their fantastic achievement:

St Mary's Primary School, Newcastle;

Hollybush Primary and Nursery School, Derry;

St Patrick's Primary School, Aughadarragh;

St Patrick's Primary School, Donaghmore;

Ballymoney Model Controlled Integrated Primary School, Ballymoney;

St Nicholas' Primary School, Carrickfergus.



St Mary's Primary School, Newcastle



St Patrick's Primary School, Aughadarragh

Contact us at:

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Don't stop here! Visit our Eco-Schools Northern Ireland [website](#) for more news, project ideas, programme guidance, case studies, delivery partner information, and much more.