



Eco-Schools Newsletter

Welcome to the last Eco-Schools Northern Ireland Newsletter for the academic year 2014 -2015.

Congratulations on Green Flag Awards

We would like to congratulate all our Eco-Schools that have achieved the Green Flag award this year. Pupils and staff continually amaze us with their knowledge and enthusiasm and it is extremely encouraging to see the many benefits of the Eco-Schools programme, such as better pupil engagement, cost savings and environmental improvement, being shared by schools in Northern Ireland. Green Flag Eco-Schools should be very proud of their fantastic achievements and we look forward to seeing more of our schools achieving the prestigious Green Flag award.



SSE Airtricity and Eco-Schools Global Wind Awards

Eco-Schools and SSE Airtricity hosted the **Global Wind Awards** for the third year in a row on 3rd June 2015 at the Everglades hotel in L/Derry. The Awards were a great success with shortlisted schools enjoying a trip to Slieve Kirk Wind Farm and getting an up-close look at the wind turbines – even going inside them! The finals were a great day of celebrating all things to do with sustainable energy including workshops, entertainment and lunch.

The winners are:

Eco-Committee of the Year Award (Primary)

- 1st Fairview Primary School
- 2nd St Columba's Primary School, Strabane
- 3rd McKinney Primary School Dundrod



Eco-Committee of the Year Award (Post-Primary)

- 1st Holy Trintiy College
- 2nd Ulidia Integrated College
- 3rd St Mary's Grammar School



Operation Energy Project (Primary)

- 1st Fairview Primary School
- 2nd St Mary's Primary School
- 3rd St Bride's Primary School

Operation Energy Project Post-Primary

- 1st St Colm's High School
- 2nd St Louise's Comprehensive College
- 3rd Beechlawn School



Family Energy Champions Poster Competition

Cairnshill Primary School - Ava Guiney

The Wheelie Big Challenge

Eco-Schools and Belfast City Council were delighted to host a very successful day at the Wheelie Big Challenge Awards on 4th June 2015 at Belfast City Hall. The Challenge was a new, fun, waste themed, project and competition for schools in Belfast City Council. 30 schools submitted entries for the competition and the shortlisted entries presented a final display outlining their waste actions.

The winners are:



Primary

- 1st - Lisnasharragh Primary School
- 2nd - St Teresa's Primary School
- 3rd - Holy Family Primary School
- 3rd - Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Post- Primary

- 1st - Victoria College
- 2nd - St Louise's Comprehensive College
- 3rd - Methodist College



Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge winners celebrate at Central Station

The Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge was celebrated with a unique event in Belfast's Central train station. This year 31 local schools participated in the Travel Challenge, with 1176 pupils monitoring their travel patterns and making an effort to walk, cycle, use the bus or train for the school run.



During the challenge, 53% of total journeys made were sustainable, totalling a distance of approximately 37,027km. If all 1,178 schools (320,000 pupils) in Northern Ireland took part in the challenge adopting a similar percentage of sustainable journeys, an estimated 453,108 litres of fuel could be saved annually, more than enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool and we could remove 1,365,712 car journeys per year from local roads, reducing congestion at school gates.

Ulidia Integrated College, Carrickfergus; St Ciaran's Primary School, Cushendun; St Colmcille's PS, Downpatrick; and Holy Cross PS, Atticall, were the top performers in the initiative that aimed to encourage school pupils and parents to choose more environmentally-friendly transport modes. Termoncanice Primary School, Limavady, also won an Ulsterbus Tours educational class coach trip and day out in Dublin. Well done to all the schools who took part.

Best Kept School Award

Almost 200 schools entered this year's 'Best Kept' School Awards, which are run by the Northern Ireland Amenity Council. The competition encourages both staff and pupils to work together to improve the school's environmental surroundings.



Ballycraigy Primary School has been crowned, 'Overall Outstanding School' at this year's Open+Direct Insurance 'Best Kept' Awards. The awards ceremony, held at The Education Centre in Crawfordsburn Country Park, saw 5 schools battling it out for the 'best of the best' title with the Antrim School coming out on top.

The full list of 2015 'Best Kept' School winners is as follows;

Region		PRE-PRIMARY	PRIMARY	POST-PRIMARY
North Eastern	Winners	Earlview Nursery School, Newtownabbey	Ballycraigy Primary School, Antrim	Ballyclare High School
	Runners Up	St. Joseph's Nursery School, Antrim	Maghera Primary School	Antrim Grammar School
Southern	Winners	Tandragee Nursery School	Blessed Patrick O'Loughran Primary School	Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon
	Runners Up	Drumnamoe Nursery School, Lurgan	Cookstown Primary School	Lisanally Special School, Armagh

South Eastern	Winners Runners Up	Downpatrick Nursery School Barbour Nursery School, Lisburn	St. Joseph's Primary School, Carryduff Cumran Primary School,	Beechlawn Special School, Hillsborough Parkview Special School, Lisburn
Western	Winners Runners Up	Denamona Pre School, Fintona Lisnagelvin Nursery School, L'Derry	Jones Memorial Primary School, Enniskillen Gortin Primary School	St. Comhghall's College, Lisnaskea No Award
Belfast	Winners Runners Up	Matt Talbot Nursery School St. Theresa's Nursery School	Harberton Special School Holy Family Primary School	Victoria College, Belfast Fleming Fulton Special School, Belfast

Polli:Nation – Applications now open for new project

Polli:Nation is a new Heritage Lottery Fund funded, UK-wide project which will see schools working together to help pollinators through raising awareness, learning new skills and making positive practical changes at home, at schools and in their communities.

The Polli:Nation project has just been launched and has a target audience of schools, teachers and pupils, and everyone is being encouraged to sign up.

Teachers can go to the Polli:Nation website where they will find lots of information on the project and can watch the launch video. They can also do a quick online eligibility survey to find out if they qualify to work towards a Polli:Nation bid later in the early autumn, once the schools go back. This will be like a mini lottery where one secondary school and three of its feeder primaries get together to work up a bid on what they would do to help pollinators.

There will be 8 school clusters selected from the applicants across Northern Ireland during November who will receive support over the next 3 years to improve their 'pollinator power'. There will be lots of 'Polli:Nation-Lite' activities for all schools and young people's groups to get involved in, regardless of whether they are successful.

Applications are now OPEN for primary and secondary schools

Applications are now welcome 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>

Contact Details:

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Learning Through Landscapes

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Green Flag Award Presentation Ceremonies

Green Flag Award Presentation Ceremonies are an excellent opportunity for both schools and councils to publicise their environmental activities and to reward the pupils who have undertaken all the hard work over the year.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council held a Green Flag Award Presentation Ceremony on 22nd June 2015 at the Civic Building in Banbridge for schools in the old Banbridge District Council that attained the Green Flag award in 2014 -2015. Pupils from Downshire Nursery School and Banbridge Nursery School were delighted to attend along with teachers and parents.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held a Green Flag Award Presentation Ceremony on 25th June 2015 at Downshire Civic Centre in Downpatrick for schools that attained their first Green Flag award in 2014-2015. Pupils from 8 schools were delighted to attend and celebrate their achievements and the Council presented some fantastic prizes on the day including a wormery, a composter and a bike rack.

Green Flag Awards

Well done to the following schools on achieving the Eco-Schools Green Flag in **June 2015**:

- Christ the King Primary School Omagh
- Ballymoney Nursery School Ballymoney
- St Mary's Primary School Aghnacloy
- Ballymacash Primary School & Nursery Unit Lisburn
- Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir Derry
- Holy Family Primary School Derry
- The Diamond Primary School Cullybackey
- Dromore Road Primary School Warrenpoint
- The Country Playgroup Ballymena
- Irvinestown Primary School Irvinestown
- Ballycastle Integrated Primary School & Nursery Unit Ballycastle
- Gilford (Craigavon) Primary School Gilford
- St Joseph's Primary School Carryduff
- Groggan Primary School Randalstown
- Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Belfast
- St Brigid's Primary School, Drumilly Newry
- Scarva Primary School Scarva
- St Malachy's Primary School, Camlough Newry
- Lisnasharragh Primary School Belfast
- Botanic Primary School Belfast
- Lough View Integrated Primary School Belfast
- St Bernard's Primary School Belfast
- Lisbellaw Primary School Lisbellaw
- St Ciaran's Primary School Cushendun
- Mount St Catherine's Primary School Armagh
- McKinney Primary School Dundrod
- Carntall Primary School Clogher
- Donaghadee Primary School Donaghadee
- St Joseph's Nursery School Antrim
- Lisanally School Armagh
- St Comgall's Primary School Bangor
- Drumrane Primary School Dungiven
- All Children's Integrated Primary School Newcastle
- Campbell College Junior School Belfast
- Holy Cross Girls' Primary School Belfast
- Parkhall Primary School Antrim

- Jones Memorial Primary School
 - Bellaghy Primary School
 - Drumgor Primary School
 - The Grove Nursery School
 - St Teresa's Nursery School
 - St Mary's Primary School, Altinure
 - Antrim Grammar School
 - St Michael's Nursery School
 - Carrowreagh Primary School
 - Gillygooley Primary School
 - St Louise's Comprehensive School
 - Strabane Controlled Primary School
 - St Colmcille's Primary School
 - Ballyholme Primary School
 - Currie Primary School
 - St Mary's High School
 - Dromore Nursery School
 - St Joseph's Primary School, Ederney
 - Cairnshill Primary School
 - St Francis Primary School
 - Carr's Glen Primary School
 - St John's Primary School
 - Cooley Primary School
 - St Patrick's High School
- Enniskillen
 - Magherafelt
 - Craigavon
 - Armagh
 - Belfast
 - Claudy
 - Antrim
 - Belfast
 - Ballymoney
 - Omagh
 - Belfast
 - Strabane
 - Downpatick
 - Bangor
 - Belfast
 - Newry
 - Dromore
 - Enniskillen
 - Belfast
 - Lurgan
 - Belfast
 - Swatragh
 - Omagh
 - Keady

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.

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