



Eco-Schools Newsletter

Hello and welcome to the Eco-Schools Northern Ireland October 2014 Newsletter. We hope that you are well settled into the new school term and all your Eco-Schools work.

Your invitation to the Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary Celebration Event



Schools across Northern Ireland will soon be receiving their invitations for the Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary Celebration Event, which will be held on **Thursday 5th March 2015 at the Meadowbank Sports Arena, Magherafelt**. We are hoping that approximately 3000 guests, mostly schoolchildren from across Northern Ireland, will attend so we recommend booking your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.

Eco-Schools are proud to celebrate 20 years of Eco-Schools and this landmark event provides the opportunity to recognise all the fantastic environmental projects that schools are working on. Hands-on practical workshops and inspirational activities will form a key part of the event, providing guests with a productive and motivating learning experience. There will also be numerous interactive environmental activities, performances and exhibitions.

Tickets will initially be limited so keep an eye on your emails to avoid disappointment!

Eco-Inspiration Resources



A fantastic range of free resources can be found on the Eco-Schools website to cover each of the ten Eco-Schools topics. Developed in conjunction with local schools, the ten [Eco-Inspiration resources](#) are full of information on each topic, including a case study from a local school, curriculum links/skills and both primary and post primary activity ideas.

Operation Energy Resource

Operation Energy is an exciting education programme from SSE Airtricity, Principal Sponsors of Eco-Schools, which is aimed at inspiring teachers, children and parents to become advocates for energy-use reduction, awareness and efficiency. This fantastic free resource, including all downloads, lesson plans and games, is available online at www.operation-energy.com.



Operation Energy Power Down Day – 6th November 2014

Eco-Schools in Northern Ireland will be taking part in the International World Days of Action again this year with SSE Airtricity's Operation Energy Power Down Day. Schools will be asked to monitor their electricity use for a week with a whole school effort to switch off and power down on Thursday 6th November.



Last year schools were able to make an impressive 20% reduction in energy consumption during Power Down Day. Two Northern Ireland Schools, Cumran Primary School and Holy Cross Primary School Attical, were awarded first prize for their energy saving efforts in the Eco-Schools International competition for World Days of Action.

For more information or to take part contact ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Cookstown Textile Recyclers (CTR) Cash for Clobber Competition

Eco-Schools in partnership with Cookstown Textile Recyclers are pleased to announce that the Cash for Clobber competition is now open.

Following on from the success of last year's campaign, the current competition is running from 1st September 2014 – 31st May 2015. This year schools can win up to £3,000 by collecting and recycling unwanted clothes, shoes (pairs only please), handbags and household textiles (excluding duvets and pillows). On top of this, Cookstown Textile Recyclers are paying schools 50 pence per kilo collected.



Schools who would like to get involved are asked to register for the competition by calling the Cash for Clobber Team on 028 9447 8880 or by visiting www.cashforclobber.com or visit the [Eco-Schools website](#) for more information.

Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge

The 2014-2015 Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge has been launched to tackle the issue of car use and congestion around schools. Pupils are encouraged wherever possible to move away from car usage to more sustainable ways of getting to school and taking part in the 2 week Translink Travel Challenge is a great way to do this. Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 educational resources focusing on travel which are linked to the Northern Ireland curriculum can be found at www.translink.co.uk/eco-schools.

For more information or to register your school's interest in the Travel Challenge please contact ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org.



Young Reporters for the Environment

Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) is an international competition for young people aged 11-21 to investigate environmental issues and problems, and report on them through written, photographic or video journalism, while investigating solutions. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful will be operating the YRE competition again this year through Eco-Schools. If you would like any further information please contact ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org.

Green Flag Awards

Well done to three Belfast City Council schools, Hazelwood Integrated Primary School, Holy Child Primary School and Elmgrove Primary School on renewing the Green Flags in September. 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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