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ECO-SCHOOLS

# ECO-SCHOOLS NEWS

October 2016

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## Challenge Funding Now Open

The DAERA NIEA Challenge Fund 2016/17 is now open.

Schools have in the past made great use of this funding opportunity to develop their Eco-Schools projects. Outdoor learning areas, pond development and poly-tunnels have all been funded in recent years. We recommend that you have a look. Do bear in mind that the turn around time from receiving funding to final spend is usually only a few months so make sure your project is deliverable in that time.



See the following links for additional information and guidance on making applications. Projects may be funded to a maximum of £20,000 and applications must be received by **noon on Friday 18th November 2016**. All successful projects under this programme must be completed by the **15th March 2017**. [Read more.](#)

[Application and Guidance notes.](#) Contact DAERA with any queries.

## Trócaire are asking you to make your voice heard!

Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK not fully covered by the 2008 Climate Change Act. This means that we have not committed to do our fair share to meet global emissions reductions agreed in Paris in December 2015. On **Monday 14th November** as UN climate talks take place in Morocco, Trócaire will be heading to Stormont to tell our politicians that they are letting us down and the planet by not legislating for a carbon free future. Please join us by coming to Stormont and meeting your MLA face to face. This event is being organised by Trócaire, Christian Aid and Save the Earth. Please register to attend by clicking on the attached link. For further info please contact:

[rosie.murray@trocaire.org](mailto:rosie.murray@trocaire.org).

# Trócaire

Working for a just world.



Schools can come any time between 4 and 7:30 pm, even just for 30 mins, make a poster, dress up or wave your Green Flag.

The link gives more information and schools can invite their politicians directly: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stormont-climate-change-mass-lobby-tickets-28451074931>

## Eco-Schools NI meet New Zealand Eco-Warrior



We were thrilled last month to meet Eco-Warrior and globetrotter Maureen Howard. Maureen has been travelling overland from New Zealand to here exploring different environmental projects as she goes. Here is how she introduced herself: 'I am a Sustainability educator in Dunedin, New Zealand. As part of my activities, I run a community radio show with Otago Access Radio called Eco Living in Action on a voluntary basis. The show is aired in two New Zealand cities and has won "Most Podcast Hits" for its radio station in 2015.

'I have continued with my radio show while I have travelled to the northern hemisphere without flying in an aeroplane. So far I have travelled from NZ to Northern Ireland via freighter ships and buses where I am now staying with family.

'I am keen to profile individuals and groups in Northern Ireland who are engaged with sustainability activities here. My aim is to support individuals and organisations who are helping us transition to a sustainable future.'

We took the opportunity to chat to Maureen at the Ards and North Down BC Cluster Group Meeting where she interviewed us and Matthew Skimin from Andrew's Memorial Primary School, Comber. You can follow this [link](#) to hear the resulting radio clip.

## Translink Travel Challenge - get moving!

The Translink Travel Challenge is now open to all schools. The Challenge runs all year until **22nd May**, for any **2 weeks** that you choose. Encourage sustainable travel to school and record your results in the resources provided. Send your results to us for the chance to win super prizes!

This year pupils are also invited to enter a creative **#Smartmovers** project - with either a short written entry with photos or **new this year** a 30 second video clip using the phrase **'We're smart movers because...'**

A celebration award ceremony will be held at Central Station, Belfast in June. All schools who send results and/or a #Smartmovers project will be entered into a prize draw for an Ulsterbus school trip to Dublin. This is not only a competition but a great project with lots of learning and monitoring resources provided. Visit [www.translink.co.uk/ecoschools](http://www.translink.co.uk/ecoschools) for more information on the prizes and excellent resources or email [ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](mailto:ruth.vanry@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org).



## Cash in with your Clobber

Schools across the country are taking part in the 'Cash for Clobber' competition run in partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Eco-Schools and Cookstown Textile Recyclers. This great method of being environmentally friendly by recycling also raises some welcome funds for the schools taking part - **40 pence/kilogramme**.

Schools which collect the most textiles per pupil are in with the chance to win the annual 'Cash for Clobber' competition with fantastic **prizes of up to £1,500**. The closing date for the competition this year is 30th June 2017.



Cookstown Textile Recyclers are the only BSI certified clothing recycling company that Eco-Schools recommends. Clothing collected is redistributed to developing countries around the world or recycled into industrial fibers.

Schools who would like to get involved are asked to call the Cash for Clobber Team on **028 9447 9380** or visit [www.cashforclobber.com](http://www.cashforclobber.com) or [www.eco-schoolsni.org](http://www.eco-schoolsni.org).

## Topic of the Month: Water

Water might not seem like an obvious topic to study in Northern Ireland as we feel we have so much of it spare. However consider the facts: more than 70% of the earth's surface is covered in water, but only about 3% of that is fresh water, and only about 1% of that is not frozen, only about 0.34% is available to drink. That's like having £100 in the bank but only being able to access 34 pence of it. Water is a precious resource and vital to all life on earth so we should be thinking of ways to conserve it and look after it.



Your look at the Water Topic could be focusing on saving water in school and at home, keeping our local water sources and rivers clean, if you live near the coast you could even look at marine conservation and the issues of litter and plastic in the ocean. You could also look further from home at the Global Perspective of water - what access issues do people in other parts of the world face in regards to water?

Measuring water consumption in school can be tricky if your meter is somewhere inaccessible however Northern Ireland Water should be able to help you out with readings and are an Eco-Schools delivery partner. One school in NI started monitoring their water usage and realised they had a leak - getting this fixed saved the school thousands of pounds which would otherwise have gone unnoticed. If you are studying the water cycle in school this is a great curriculum link.

Here are some useful links to help get your Water Topic started:

Eco-Inspiration Eco-Schools Water - <http://eco-schoolsni.org/eco-schoolsni/documents/006535.pdf>

To book a visit from a Northern Ireland Water Environmental Champion please contact [education@niwater.com](mailto:education@niwater.com) for meter readings contact [Pat.McCauley@niwater.com](mailto:Pat.McCauley@niwater.com) for resources and site visits <http://www.niwater.com/resources-for-schools/>

For river conservation contact Lisa Kirkwood [lisa@ballinderryriver.org](mailto:lisa@ballinderryriver.org)

For global water issues:

Trocaire - <https://www.trocaire.org/education-resource-themes/water>

Water Explorer - <http://www.waterexplorer.org/united-kingdom>

Global Goals SDG 14 - <http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/global-goals/life-below-water/>



## Resource: Marine survey from DAERA

The autumn 2016 edition of Marine Litter Watch, the newsletter of the [Marine Litter Strategy](#), is now available from the DAERA website. This is not only an interesting read but would also be a useful resource for schools studying the marine environment and litter issues.



The articles featured in this include: the experience of Kate Wilson, from the Marine Conservation Society, who promoted and took part in a challenge to give up single use plastic of a month; how Northern Ireland Water is working with schools to educate the water users of tomorrow; how a grant from the Live Here Love Here campaign to buy a boat is helping the Lagan Rivers Trust carry out litter picks from otherwise inaccessible parts of the Lagan; the contribution Ulster Wildlife's Living Seas Programme is making to cleaning up the coast, and how Fishing for Litter is helping to change behaviour and attitudes to waste management from the fishing industry.

## School News: Lagan College impresses at Queen's University PGCE Key Elements Day

Eco-Schools were delighted to be invited to present information on our programme to student teachers completing their PGCE year at Queen's University. The day's activities were focusing on the Key Elements of the curriculum and Eco-Schools was pleased to point out how many ways the programme complements the Key Elements and different subject areas of the curriculum.

Much more exciting than anything we had to say though was the section of the workshop delivered by two pupils from Lagan College, Castlereagh. The school is now working on their fifth Green Flag and are the Ambassador Eco-School for the Climate Change topic. Pupils, Nicholas Jamison and Rebekah Ogilby, wowed the students with their knowledge and confidence, and the volume and depth of work being done on the Eco-Schools project at Lagan. They were a great example of how the Eco-Schools programme benefits young people and their personal development.



Eco-Schools would like to say a big thank-you QUB School of Education for inviting us along on the day and a special thanks to Lagan College for your contribution on the day.

*Student feedback, "The pupils presenting were excellent and clearly cared about the project."*

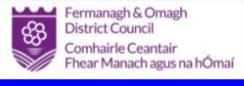
# Council News: Eco-Schools Cluster Group Meetings-

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council - Limavady 3.15pm Thursday 10th November  
contact John McCarron [John.McCarron@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:John.McCarron@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)  
for more information.



Big thanks to the Councils who hosted Cluster Group meetings last month: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. Eco-Schools were delighted to attend and talk to so many excellent teachers and hear all the interesting projects other organisations have on offer. In all 90 schools attended the cluster meetings.

Thank-you to the following Councils who support the Eco-Schools Programme:



## International Eco-Schools News:

YRE at the International Conference "Transforming Education for Children and Youth" in India.

The session highlighted the role of education for youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on good practice examples whilst underlining innovative strategies and methodologies in pedagogy and curriculum in both formal and non-formal settings.

Young reporters from YRE India actively participated in discussions during the conference, as well, they were working as journalists reporting during the different sessions.

[Read more...](#)

### Eco-Schools England -

Prime Minister, Theresa May, raised a Green Flag at a Maidenhead school and learned about the world's largest schools programme.

The Prime Minister found out first-hand about children's passion for protecting the environment as she visited St Mary's RC Primary School.

Mrs May visited the school, in her constituency, to help the children celebrate a decade of environmental action that has seen them reduce their gas bill by 40%, reduce their waste by a third and build a greenhouse from 2,000 plastic bottles.

The Prime Minister praised the school's efforts and spoke to the children about her trip to the UN in New York earlier this week to discuss climate change and said that, although it was a 'big problem', we could all make a difference every day in small ways and the more people who did that, the more chance we had of tackling the global issue.



## 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 from other areas of our organisation:

### Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme Apply Now!

For the third year running, the Live Here Love Here Small Grant Scheme is open for new applications! Launched by Local Councils, the Department of the Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Tourism Northern Ireland, Choice Housing, Coca-Cola, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, the small grants scheme provides support to schools, communities, and groups to take practical action to improve their local environment and support the growth of civic pride throughout Northern Ireland.

Grants are available from **£500 to £5,000** and are open to all schools and third level education organisations as well as volunteer and community groups, youth groups and sports clubs undertaking civic pride projects in the following Council areas:

- \* Belfast City Council
- \* Derry City and Strabane District Council
- \* Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- \* Northern Ireland Housing Executive (All Council Areas)

The Small Grants Scheme is designed to help groups improve the quality of their local environment, while contributing to the development of civic pride within a community or to enhance tourism to their community through environmental improvements. To apply, complete a simple application form detailing how your project will improve the local environment and links to the community through practical action. The deadline for applications is noon on **Monday 28th November 2016**.

For more information on the live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme and to download an application pack please visit [www.livehereandlovehere.org](http://www.livehereandlovehere.org) or contact Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful on **028 9073 6920**.

Don't forget you can [pledge your support](#) to the **Live Here Love Here** campaign and receive updates about actions being taken in your community.



Killycooley Primary used funding to revamp their outdoor learning spaces last year.

## Other News:

### Register now for RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch!

3 January – 17 February 2017

Registration is now open for the 2017 Big Schools' Birdwatch; a simple educational activity that gets you and your class/group closer to the birds visiting your area. It takes just an hour and works for all ages and abilities.

You can use the Birdwatch to work for you: as the centre-piece of cross-curricular studies, Eco-Schools awards, or as part of work to improve your school grounds. By taking part you'll also be providing us with data on how well some of our most familiar birds are faring, as well as helping to give nature a home at your school.

Every year, educators from every corner of the UK take part with their classes. There's plenty of flexibility to run it with any age group of children and we have resources to help. Join in with Big Schools' Birdwatch 2017 and help us make it the biggest ever!

When you register for Big Schools' Birdwatch we'll send you a free bird identification poster for your classroom - the perfect preparation for the big day. To register and find out more go to [www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch)



### Global Learning Programme - free global learning CPD this term

Free CPD for teachers – with sub-cover provided - is available this term from the [Global Learning Programme](http://www.globallearningni.com) (GLP). More than 21% of all NI schools are already participating in the programme, which helps schools embed education for a fair and sustainable world through the provision of training, guidance and resources. The next round of GLP training will take part in November at a choice of locations: Belfast, Derry and Dungannon. For the first time, there will be primary-only and post-primary only sessions in Belfast. To find out more or to register, please visit [www.globallearningni.com](http://www.globallearningni.com). Contact the GLP team on [glp@centreforglobaleducation.com](mailto:glp@centreforglobaleducation.com) or 028 9024 1879 with any questions. The GLP is managed by the [Centre for Global Education](http://www.centreforglobaleducation.com) and funded by the UK government.

### NIEL's Education for Sustainable Development Forum Newsletter

All schools receive this newsletter to their info@ email box. It is full of useful information on environmental projects - make sure it finds its way to you. The NIEL website is also a great resource <http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/>.

If you are already an ESDF member then save the date 10th February for the AGM and conference themed on output measurements and how to use these to improve funding applications. More information will follow from ESDF shortly.

## Green Flag application deadlines for 2016-2017

We accept Green Flag applications at **any time throughout the year** however below are some deadlines for applications if you would like to be assessed before a certain time of the year:

- **Pre-Christmas** assessment: **4th November 2016**
- **Pre-Easter** assessment: **6th January 2017**
- **Summer** assessment (before the 23rd June): **10th March 2017**



We will do our best to assess schools submitting after the suggested deadlines but may find this difficult, particularly in the summer term, which is very busy. So beat the rush and get your application in early.

**Please note** the preferred application method in 2016/17 is through the **School Zone online system**. Initial feed back from schools suggests this is a much improved method of submission. If you have forgotten your login please contact us.

You may, in special circumstances, [download](#) and submit the current paper version of the form. Outdated/old versions of the paper form may no longer be accepted.

**Be sure you start using the School Zone for collecting your data and saving your Eco-Docs - Environmental Review, Action Plan and Eco-Code. These will automatically be submitted with your online Green Flag Application.**

## 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.

Congratulations this month goes to:

- St Finian's Primary School, Newtownards
- St John the Baptist Primary School, Enniskillen



Contact us at:

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The Eco-Schools Programme is supported by DAERA

**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.**