



August 2013

# Eco-Schools News

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Hello everyone and welcome to the August 2013 Newsletter. The Eco-Schools team hope that you have had a really enjoyable Summer holiday and that you are ready to start some fantastic Eco-Schools work.

Last term we awarded 81 Green Flag which brought the total Green Flags awarded for the academic year 2012-2013 to a record breaking 103! Congratulations to these schools on this fantastic achievement. We have already received 5 Green Flag applications for the new term and will be assessing these over the next couple of months.

Please follow the links or scroll down the Newsletter for more information on the following items.

### *Coming up this Term—Get Involved:*

- [Operation Energy Power Down Day on 07th Nov 2013 — sign up now;](#)
- [European Week for Waste Reduction \(EWWR\) 2013;](#)
- [Translink Travel Challenge;](#)
- [Cookstown Textile Recyclers - Cash for Clobber competition;](#)
- [Wrigley Litter Less Campaign;](#) and
- Young Reporters for the Environment investigate and report on local environmental problems. (see pg 6)

### *Eco-Schools Project News:*

- [Minister applauds best ever year for Eco-Schools;](#) and
- [Green Flag Deadlines, Application Forms and important new Data Collection Information.](#)

### *Other News:*

- [Bag Lady Productions;](#) and
- Possible post-primary link to French school. (see pg 6)

If you have any queries regarding Eco-Schools, please feel free to get in contact with us on 028 9073 6920 or email [joanna.mcdonnell@eco-schoolsni.org](mailto:joanna.mcdonnell@eco-schoolsni.org)

Carmel Fyfe

Eco-Schools Manager

*Eco-Schools is operated by TIDY Northern Ireland, sponsored by Airtricity and supported by the Department of the Environment.* [www.eco-schoolsni.org](http://www.eco-schoolsni.org)



# Eco-Schools International

## Eco-Schools Programme

Our primary aim regarding the Eco-Schools scheme is to combine learning and action for the improvement of the environmental performance of Eco-Schools.

The programme is administered by TIDY Northern Ireland, an environmental charity in Northern Ireland, and is now also being implemented throughout the world with schools in Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Oceania and Asia.

Northern Ireland has 196 current Green Flag Schools (a further 125 schools have had Green Flags which are now lapsed). Locally we now have around 77% of schools registered (over 930) with c42,000 registered worldwide.

This is an opportunity to get involved with a community of schools intent on improving environmental performance.

## About FEE

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education (formal school education, training of staff and general awareness raising).

FEE is an international umbrella organisation with one national member organisation per country representing FEE on the national level and in charge of implementing FEE programmes nationally. FEE has members in over 50 countries worldwide.

FEE is mainly active through its five environmental education programmes: Blue Flag, Eco-Schools, Young Reporters on the Environment, Learning about Forests and Green key.

[www.fee-international.org](http://www.fee-international.org)

## Eco-Schools International

The Eco-Schools Programme has a new international website that offers programme information, a range of methodologies and implementation procedures. It also lists the countries that operate the programme, as well as providing the latest international news concerning Eco-Schools.

Along with this information a newsletter is available on the website that illustrates the latest Eco-Schools news Worldwide. You can view and subscribe to this newsletter via the link <http://www.eco-schools.org>

## Eco-Schools NI Website

The Northern Ireland Eco-Schools website [www.eco-schoolsni.org](http://www.eco-schoolsni.org) is continuing to be a big success. Our website has been updated and now has a great new look. The website is also now available in Irish.

The website gives you information in relation to the process of and steps to achieve Green Flag status. You can obtain information regarding setting up an eco-committee, carrying out an environmental review, implementing your action plan, monitoring and evaluation and linking environmental initiatives to the curriculum.

Also included on the website are the contact details of our delivery partners who can help you to achieve your goals to obtain Green Flag status. There are teacher resources, competitions, newsletters, case studies and much more. If you have any content you wish to share on a particular topic, perhaps which we can add as a case study, or any other comments you want to make, please email [info@eco-schoolsni.org](mailto:info@eco-schoolsni.org).

## Green flags awarded



We are delighted to announce that the following 81 schools received their Green Flags during the last term. All the schools should be very proud of this fantastic achievement. The schools are:

- St Brigid's Primary School, Drumilly
- St Mary's Primary School, Derrytrasna
- St Mary's Primary School, Altinure
- St Mary's Primary School & Nursery Unit, Bellaghy
- Sacred Heart Boy's Primary School, Belfast
- Windsor Hill Primary School
- St Peter's Nursery School
- Loughshore Education Resource Centre
- Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir
- Orangefield Primary School
- St Scire's Primary School
- Kilrea Primary School
- The Country Playgroup
- Carrowreagh Primary School
- Cairnshill Primary School
- Cavehill Primary School
- Ballyholme Primary School
- Ballyoran Primary School
- Hamiltonsbawn Primary School
- St Luke's Primary School, Dunmurry
- St Joseph's Primary School, Carryduff
- Donegall Road Primary School
- Ballycastle Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit
- Jones Memorial Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary School, Downpatrick
- Glencraig Integrated Primary School
- Fivemiletown Primary School
- St Clare's Convent Primary School
- Holy Cross Primary School, Kilkeel
- McKinney Primary School
- Steeple Nursery School
- St Joseph's Primary & Nursery School, Dunloy
- St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt
- St Finian's Primary School
- Campbell College Junior School
- Antrim Grammar School
- Victoria College Prep Department
- Lisnally Special School
- Termoncanice Primary School
- St MacNissi's Primary School
- Parkhall Integrated College
- Botanic Primary School
- Clonalig Primary School
- St Comgall's Primary School, Antrim
- Glastry College
- Irvinestown Primary School
- Abbey Primary School
- Moneynick Primary School
- Duneane Primary School
- Sacred Heart Primary School
- Groggan Primary School
- St Pius X College
- Castledawson Primary School
- Craigbrack Primary School
- Victoria College
- Parkhall Primary School
- Rowandale Integrated Primary School
- Sion Mills Primary School
- Lumen Christi College
- St Joseph's Nursery School, Antrim
- Ampertaine Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School, Aughnacloy
- Roe Valley Integrated Primary School
- Banbridge Nursery School
- St Patrick's Primary School, Donaghmore
- Woods Primary School
- Downpatrick Primary School
- Portadown Integrated Nursery & Primary School
- Mossley Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary School, Meigh
- Sperrinview Special School
- Bellaghy Primary School
- Fairview Primary School
- Artigarvan Primary School
- St Therese of Lisieux Primary School
- Kilronan School
- St Teresa's Nursery School, Belfast
- Portstewart Primary School
- Dromore Nursery School
- Aughnacloy Primary School
- St John Bosco Primary School, Ballynease

We are continually amazed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the pupils and staff at all

our Green Flag Eco-Schools and would like to congratulate them again on their fantastic achievements.



## Deadline for Green Flags

The Eco-Schools team are very pleased to receive applications for Green Flag assessments at any time of year. **A deadline is set each year for Green Flag applications. This year there are 2 deadlines:**

- **10th January 2014 for assessments to be carried out before Easter break; and**
- **21st March 2014 for assessments to be carried out by 20th June 2014.**

*Please note that no assessments will be carried out in the week commencing 23rd June 2014. We would like to reassure schools that all applications will be assessed but unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications to be assessed during the summer term, we are unable to guarantee assessments before the end of June each year for applications received after the deadline date.*

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## Recent School Awards



- Ballycastle Integrated Primary School
- Ballymagee Primary School
- Ballyvester Primary School
- Belfast Model School For Girls
- Bellaghy Primary School
- Brookeborough Primary School
- Bunscoil an Iuir
- Campbell College Junior School
- Carnhill Nursery School
- Carntall Primary School
- Corran Integrated Primary School
- Culnady Primary School
- Dromara Primary School
- Duneane Primary School
- Early Learners Day Nursery
- Edenderry Nursery School
- Erne Integrated College
- Fivemiletown Primary School
- Gilnahirk Primary School
- GLENVEAGH SPECIAL SCHOOL
- GREENWOOD HOUSE ASSESSMENT CENTRE
- Holy Trinity Primary School
- Hunterhouse College
- Lisneal College
- Malvern Primary School
- Meadow Bridge Primary School
- MITCHELL HOUSE SPECIAL SCHOOL
- Newry High School
- Orchard Community Playgroup
- Our Lady's and St Mochua's Primary School
- Parkhall Primary School
- Portadown Integrated Primary School
- Queen Elizabeth II Primary School
- RODDENSVALE SCHOOL
- St Bride's Primary School, Belfast
- St Colman's Primary School, Lisburn
- St Joseph's Nursery School
- St Joseph's Primary School, Crossgar
- St Joseph's Primary School, Downpatrick

- St Mary's Primary School, Enniskillen
- St Mary's Primary School, Ballymena
- St Mary's Primary School, Magherafelt
- St Mary's-on-the-Hill Primary School
- St Patrick's Primary School, Enniskillen
- St Patrick's Primary School, Ballymena
- St Patrick's Primary School, Downpatrick
- St Scire's Primary School
- Termoncanice Primary School
- The Holy Family Primary School
- Thornfield House School
- Tummery Primary School
- Walker Memorial Primary School



- Antrim Grammar School
- Augher Central Primary School
- Ballycastle Integrated Primary School
- Barbour Nursery School
- Bellaghy Primary School
- Bocombra Primary School
- BROOKFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL
- Campbell College Junior School
- Carr's Glen Primary School
- Clounagh Junior High School
- Collegiate Grammar School
- Craigbrack Primary School
- D H Christie Memorial Primary School
- Donaghadee Primary School
- Duneane Primary School
- Hazelwood College
- Irvinestown Primary School
- Kilbroney Integrated Primary School
- Killyman Primary School
- Ligoniel Primary School
- Lissan (1) Primary School
- Loughview Integrated Primary School
- Mount St Catherine's Primary School
- Mountnorris Primary School

- Parkhall Primary School
- Portadown Integrated Primary School
- Portstewart Primary School
- Rathmore Grammar School
- St Bronagh's Primary School
- St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor
- St Ita's Primary School
- St Joseph's Nursery School, Antrim
- St Joseph's Primary School, Crossgar
- St Joseph's Primary School, Cookstown
- St Laurence O'Toole's Primary School
- St Macnissi's Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School, Magherafelt
- St Mary's Primary School , Aghnacloy
- St Patrick's Primary School, Newry
- St Patrick's Primary School, Enniskillen
- St Patrick's Primary School, Portrush
- St Scire's Primary School
- Termoncanice Primary School
- The Holy Family Primary School
- The Royal School Dungannon
- Victoria Primary School

Congratulation to all these schools. It is fantastic that you are started on the Eco-Schools Awards and we look forward to hearing about your progress towards your next award.

The Bronze and Silver awards are self-assessed online and trust is placed on each school to complete this process. If your school meets the award criteria, log on to [http://www.eco-schoolsni.org/apply\\_for\\_award.aspx](http://www.eco-schoolsni.org/apply_for_award.aspx) to apply for your Bronze and/or Silver award.

## Young Reporters for the Environment

Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) is a network of international young people who are engaged in environmental journalism and Education for Sustainable Development. It operates in more than 25 countries worldwide.

Young Reporters, aged between 11 and 21, investigate environmental issues and problems and propose solutions through investigative reporting, photographic or video journalism.

**Eco-Schools Northern Ireland would like to encourage post primary school pupils to research an environmental issue in their area and report on it using film, photography or written reporting. If you are interested, please get in contact with [julia.brown@eco-schoolsni.org](mailto:julia.brown@eco-schoolsni.org)**

## Post-primary school link with French school

We have received an enquiry from a school in North France about an exchange they would like to establish between one of their classes and an English speaking school/class.

The school is working towards recognition as an Eco-school and will be focusing on a project on recycling and selective sorting of waste.

They would like to share their work with another school and exchange ideas about taking better care of the environment.

If you are a post-primary school that would be interested in taking part, please contact [joanna.mcdonnell@eco-schoolsni.org](mailto:joanna.mcdonnell@eco-schoolsni.org).

## Games

Our website now contains exciting interactive games including:

- Rethink Waste Game: Sort it Out for teachers and pupils <http://rethinkwastegame.eco-schoolsni.org/>  
The object of the game is to sort unwanted items into the relevant reuse or recycling facilities. None of these items should be sent to landfill. Every time you correctly dispose of an item in a receptacle you score points but beware— you lose points for disposing of items incorrectly! See how high you can come on the leaderboard! This is a fun and competitive way to learn about the 3 Rs (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle)
- [Operation Energy Interactive Games](#); Do you have what it takes to help Doc Energy and Penny Monitor stop Sir Standby and his Evil Eyes in these 4 exciting interactive games?
- [Bin Run](#); this game is free for everyone but the competition is only open to schools in Belfast City Council area.

## Eco-School Resources

We have an excellent range of resources available on our website <http://www.eco-schoolsni.org/resources.aspx> . These include:

- Operation Energy– a fantastic range of free resources to help tackle the energy topic [www.operation-energy.com](http://www.operation-energy.com);
- The Rubbish Monster Books;
- Trocaire- The Go Green, Go Global perspective resource;
- Rethink Waste – There is a range of curriculum based activities and lesson ideas which deal with the subject of paper and plastic waste reduction; and

Our website is updated on a regular basis with any new resources so please keep this in mind when you are working on your topics

### Attention teachers!

If you have any interesting stories about projects which you have undertaken regarding Eco-Schools we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Joanna McDonnell, Eco-Schools administrator at: [joanna.mcdonnell@eco-schoolsni.org](mailto:joanna.mcdonnell@eco-schoolsni.org)  
028 9073 6920

### Thank you for your financial support

The post of part-time Eco-Schools Admin Officer is funded by the Department of the Environment and the vast majority of Local Councils in Northern Ireland .

Joanna McDonnell is the Admin Officer. Office opening hours are 9.00-5.00 Monday to Friday.

We are also proudly working in partnership with **Airtricity**, our Principal Sponsor, Translink, our Transport Topic Sponsor, Cookstown Textile Recyclers, our Waste Topic Sponsor, Wrigley, our Litter Topic Sponsor and Trocaire, our Global Perspective Topic Sponsor.

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