



March 2013

Eco-Schools News

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Hello everyone and welcome to the March 2013 Newsletter. The Eco-Schools team hope that you have had a really enjoyable and productive term.

We have already awarded 6 Green Flags this term bringing the total number of Green Flags this academic year to 22. Congratulations to these schools on this fantastic achievement. We have received a further 81 Green Flag applications, 73 of these before the deadline of 15th March, and we will be organising these over the next term. It is fantastic to see so many schools working hard towards the Green Flag award and we appreciate your patience while we work through the significant numbers of applications.

- [Register for Operation Energy](#)

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

Coming up this Term—Get Involved:

- [Eco-Homes](#)— register as an individual householder or contact [Ruth Van Ry](#) to register your school as a group;
- [Young Reporters for the Environment investigate and report on local environmental problems;](#)
- [Translink Travel Challenge;](#)
- [Cookstown Textile Recyclers - Cash for Clobber competition;](#) and
- [Register for the Big Spring Clean.](#)

Eco-Schools Project News:

- [Eco-Schools 'Get a Bag Habit';](#)
- [Airtricity announce the results of the Operation Energy Power Down Day;](#)
- [Airtricity Welcome 900th registered school;](#)
- [Airtricity Officially Present Green Flags to Schools;](#)
- [Schools celebrate successful Rethink Waste Project;](#) and
- [Eco-Schools bring Climate Change to Stormont.](#)

Other News:

- [Paint a Fish;](#)
- [The Big Lunch;](#)
- [Balloon and Chinese Lantern Releases;](#)
- [Baglady Productions;](#) and
- [Samuel Gardiner Primary Schools Gardening Competition.](#)

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

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



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 158 current Green Flag Schools (a further 119 schools have had Green Flags which are now lapsed) out of c12,900 flags awarded worldwide. Locally we now have 933 registered schools with c38,000 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

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 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.

Green flags awarded



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

- All Childrens Integrated Primary School
- Carrick Primary School
- Enniskillen Model Primary School
- Gaelscoil na Mona
- St Colmcille's Nursery School
- St Columba' Primary School, Clady

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:**

- **11th January 2013 for assessments to be carried out before Easter break; and**
- **15th March 2013 for assessments to be carried out by 21st June 2013.**

Please note that no assessments will be carried out in the week commencing 24th June 2013. 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



- All Childrens Integrated Primary School
- Bangor Academy and 6th Form College
- Bushmills Primary School
- Flvemiletown College
- Roan St Patrick's Primary School
- Sacred Heart Primary School
- St Joseph's College
- St Joseph's Primary School
- St Lawrence's Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School
- St Michael's Nursery School
- St Patrick's Primary School
- St Paul's High School



- All Childrens Integrated Primary School
- Denamona Primary School
- Gaelscoil UÃ- Dhochartaigh
- Kilronan Special School
- Kingsmills Primary School
- Magherafelt Controlled Primary School
- Sacred Heart Primary School
- St Cecilia's College
- St Comgall's Primary School
- St Comgall's Primary School
- St Francis Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School
- St Michael's Nursery School
- St Nicholas' Primary School
- St Patrick's Primary School
- St Paul's High 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 to apply for your Bronze and/or Silver award.

Big Spring Clean, April 2013

TIDY Northern Ireland is organising the Big Spring Clean campaign for the month of April 2013. Last year over 26,000 people registered their support and this included support from 128 of our Eco-Schools so a big thank you to all those litter pickers! This



year we are hoping to involve 50,000 people in the campaign and we would actively encourage every Eco-School to register their litter pick, no matter how big or small!



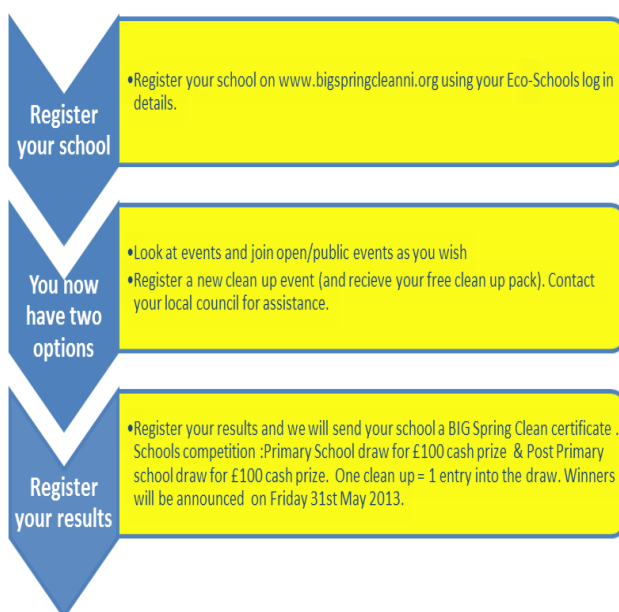
The schools that registered received information on how to organise a clean-up, 20 refuse bags, a high visibility vest for the group coordinator and children's

stickers. We know that many of our Eco-Schools already organise regular litter picks and this is a fantastic way to tackle the litter topic on the Eco-Schools Programme.

We would like all of our Eco-Schools to register for the Big Spring Clean. Suggested ideas include cleaning the playground, classroom, local community, local beach or other areas where litter is a problem.



For more information or to register your school, please visit the [Big Spring Clean website](#). See below for easy step guide and competition details:



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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;
- 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
- HSBC Climate Initiative resources are available on a range of topics which impact on climate change.

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.

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.

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
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, HSBC, our Climate Change Topic Sponsor, Cookstown Textile Recyclers, our Waste Topic Sponsor, Wrigleys, our Litter Topic Sponsor and Trocaire, our Global Perspective Topic Sponsor.

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