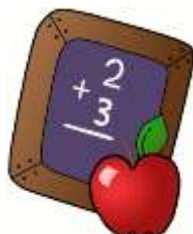




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## EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM E-BULLETIN

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest **E-Bulletin** from the **Education for Sustainable Development Forum** that provides information on activities in the environmental education and education for sustainable development sectors in Northern Ireland. Below you will find a variety of useful information, including ESD Forum and member's news, resources, training events and seminars, publications, funding opportunities, and any job vacancies in the sector.

The Forum is the networking body for the Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development sector that promotes a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education and education for sustainable development in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Forum attempts to raise awareness of environmental education and education for sustainable development issues in the formal and non-formal education sectors through the provision of services such as the production of resources, initial and in service teacher training, member meetings and training and organising member and public conferences.

**Iona Meyer**  
ESD Forum Administrator

## NEWS FROM THE ESD FORUM

### 1. ESD FORUM UPDATE

#### 2023 ESDF CONFERENCE OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

The ESDF conference and AGM is taking place on 28th March 2023.

The theme of this year's conference is Environmental Education and Urban Green Space.

Visit the link below to secure your place!

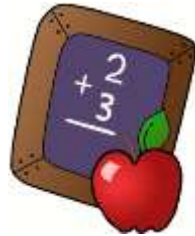
[READ MORE](#)

Please sign up for what promises to be an exciting event.





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Northern Ireland Environment Link have been working with Consultants to develop a New Strategy and Action Plan for Education for Sustainability the Strategy focuses on formal education and includes consideration of how environmental learning programmes support formal learning at all levels. Links to the Strategy and Action Plan are below.

[A New Strategy and Action Plan for Education for Sustainability \(Efs\) - Full Report](#)

[A New Strategy and Action Plan for Education for Sustainability \(Efs\) - Infographic](#)

If you need to contact me please use my email [iona@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:iona@nienvironmentlink.org) and I will get back to you as I am currently working from home. If you have any information you would like promoted through the E-bulletin please send it to me by the end of the month, and if you want anything (news, upcoming events, etc.) promoted on the website do feel free to contact me. It is a good opportunity to get your information out to a wide audience at no charge to you or your organisation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS**

**1. SPRING THEMED OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS**

**Spring themed outdoor classrooms/ bubbles**

Foundation, KS1, & KS2 Teachers, book a socially distanced workshop to explore nature in your school grounds or a wild place near you.  
 £3.50 per child + travel

Bookings & enquiries, e-mail: [liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk)  
 or Tel: 07807172893 or 028 30851595

**TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC**

A Spring/Summer 'World Around Us' Schools Event for Foundation Years  
 Bring your teddy to help Liz feed her wayward Teddy.  
 Trolley, tea set, explore your school grounds or wild place near you.  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 £3.50 per child.

Bookings & enquiries: [liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk)  
 Tel: 07807172893 or 028 30851595

**Pond Dipping**

A Spring/Summer 'World Around Us' Schools Event

Exciting Curriculum linked programmes with Liz Farnan, Environmental Educator at the Pilgrimage Centre, Bushyvar  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. £3.50 plus £3.50 per child

Bookings & enquiries: [liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk) Tel: 07807172893 or 028 30851595

**Love Bugs**

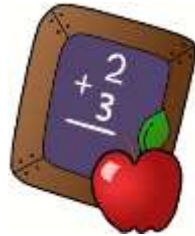
A Spring/Summer 'World Around Us' Event for Schools

Exciting curriculum based outdoor programmes with Liz Farnan, Environmental Educator at your school grounds or a wild place near you.  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 £3.50 per child

Bookings & enquiries: [liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk)



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Blow away the cobwebs and explore outdoors with a spring themed workshop with Liz Farnan, Environmental Educator; catering for Foundation, KS1, and KS2 pupils to support the curriculum in school grounds or a wild place near you.

Check out the link below to Liz's free video resource aimed at 8-11 yr olds: 'Bird Murder Mystery' which highlights biodiversity & food chains in our gardens and how humans can affect them. It can be replicated as a fun interactive workshop in school grounds.

<https://youtu.be/uxVkkgpnY1M>

To book, for more details on price, content and curriculum links contact [liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel. 028 3085 1595

Find on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Liz-Farnan-Environmental-Educator-1674793462617924>

Find on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Liz-Farnan-Environmental-Educator-1674793462617924>





## 2. SUSTRANS BIG WALK AND WHEEL

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school to improve air quality in their neighbourhood.

**Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is taking place 20-31 March 2023**

### *Who can take part*

All schools in the UK can take part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, it is free to register and easy to participate.

Visit the dedicated [Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel website](#) and follow the instructions.

Once registered you will have access to a school login where you can log your journeys on each day of the challenge and track how your school is doing. You can even compete with your neighbouring schools.

### *Why take part*



Travelling actively and sustainably has never been so important, it helps pupils arrive to school alert and ready to start the day and helps create a nicer environment around the school.

We have designed our interactive school resources to be fun, flexible, and informative on how small changes can make a big difference.

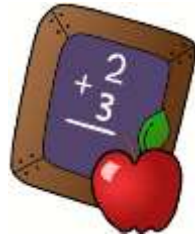
Free resources available include:

- Curriculum linked lesson plans
- Top tips
- School assembly presentation

*Help us achieve even more active journeys than last year*



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### 3. MAKING EDUCATION SSSUPER FUN

**MAKING  
EDUCATION  
SSSUPER FUN**

Discover the world around you with  
curriculum-led, interactive programmes.

Suitable for all ages and abilities.  
Available in the zoo, your  
classroom or virtually.

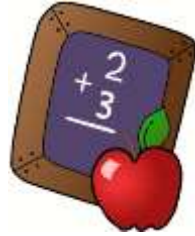
To book, email  
[education@belfastzoo.co.uk](mailto:education@belfastzoo.co.uk)  
or phone 028 9077 6277

[www.belfastzoo.co.uk/education](http://www.belfastzoo.co.uk/education)

**BELFAST  
ZOO**



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#### 4. NATURE RECOVERY NETWORKS – A LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT NORTHERN IRELAND

ESDF has produced this resource looking at the Northern Ireland Landscape Partnership's (National Trust NI, RSPB, Ulster Wildlife and Woodland Trust) Nature Recovery Networks project, with the aim of making it accessible for use with the Key Stage 3 curriculum in Learning Areas such as Science and Geography.



A synopsis of the Nature Recovery Network (NRN) project is provided with a brief background, an explanation of why NRNs are needed, an explanation of what a NRN is, examples of where NRNs are being implemented, what we need to do in Northern Ireland to establish NRNs and how we can all contribute to nature's recovery.

*Image via [Pixabay](#)*

Educators will hopefully find this resource useful to better understand Nature Recovery Networks, and to provide a starting point for exploring the topic with learners. This may lead to a desire to take action to contribute to a Nature Recovery Network for Northern Ireland, through practical action on the ground, by connecting with others or through advocacy for nature.

[Read the document in full here...](#)

[See the Northern Ireland Curriculum Key Stage 3 Links here...](#)

#### 5. BIG SPRING CLEAN

**The BIG Spring Clean is Northern Ireland's biggest volunteer clean up and each year we need your help to make it happen!**

The BIG Spring Clean 2023 will take place between **1st March and 30th April** and is Northern Ireland's largest community clean-up campaign. Since its inception, **553,571 volunteers** have participated in clean-up activities during the Spring months, removing over 800 tonnes of waste!

It is open to individuals, schools, community groups and businesses from all communities wishing to rid their streets of litter and discarded rubbish.

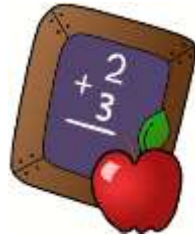


You can help in any one of **THREE** ways:

1. [Add your signature](#) to show your support and keep updated through our monthly newsletter
2. [Take part in a clean up](#)—check out what's on near you



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3. [Organise your own cleanup](#) and receive a free kit - this includes a high visibility vest, a pair of gloves and bin bags. Your local council may also be able to provide litter pickers and additional equipment (for details check out our [Council Contacts](#) page). Please ensure you have [read the hints and tips booklet](#) before organising your clean up.

Create a profile or register and event [Here](#)

### Get In Touch

If you do decide to do a small litter pick, we want to hear from you!

We'd love to share your **#BIGSpringClean** activities on our social media and share some positivity with our community. Just send us a message on Facebook or send an email to [Lynda Surgenor](#).

## 6. FREE BOARD GAME AND DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

RSPB NI urgently needs your help to protect Northern Ireland's internationally important seabird colonies and ensure our seabirds have a safe place to forage, breed and thrive.



Islands are special places for nature, particularly for the beautiful seabirds who nest and look after their chicks on them. However, sadly, many of the world's seabirds are being pushed to the brink of extinction. Here in Northern Ireland our stunning coastline and islands like Rathlin Island, the Copeland Islands, Sheep Island and islands in Larne and Carlingford Loughs, are home to a spectacular range of seabirds including common and Sandwich terns, kittiwakes, razorbills, Manx shearwater and the charismatic puffin.

So how can you help?

The RSPB Save our Seabirds schools' digital resource pack is designed to help young people understand some of the threats that face our seabird populations. The resource pack is completely free and includes a board game that encourages pupils to work as a team to save island seabirds.

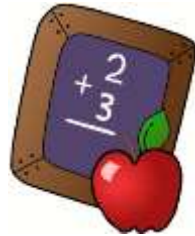
Working through the series of 6 modules your class will develop an understanding of the role they can play in restoring and protecting nature.

To access the modules, head to [www.biosecurityforlife.org.uk/education](http://www.biosecurityforlife.org.uk/education) and order your free Save our Seabirds board game (required for module 3)





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## 7. BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION SERVICES AT OXFORD ISLAND

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council have a new programme outlining the range of educational programmes available to schools and groups visiting Oxford Island National Nature Reserve on the shores of Lough Neagh.

Programmes for visiting schools and groups are led by knowledgeable staff from the Biodiversity Education team at Oxford focusing on the wildlife and habitats of the area. Programmes are delivered throughout the year with the summer term and the early autumn being very popular with nursery, primary and secondary schools, accommodating up to 60 pupils at one time.



2889. BIODIVERSITY  
EDUCATION SERVICE

Check out the leaflet above to see the full range of activities on offer.

We are now taking school bookings for autumn 2022, spring, and summer 2023.

## 8. EXCITING NEW EASTER TRAIL AT MOURNE PARK



If you go down to Mourne Park on Saturday 1 April, you're sure of an Easter surprise!

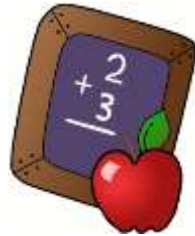
Bring your family along to the Woodland Trust's new interactive Easter trail at Mourne Park, just on the outskirts of Kilkeel. The conservation charity's self-led trails, tailored for toddlers and teens, includes how to identify and measure trees, recognise wildlife and learn about the history of Mourne Park. Little ones can play freely and safely in Mother Nature's Playground and teens can find out more about the work that goes on behind the scenes to restore and protect precious ancient woodland.

The Woodland Trust opened Mourne Park last August and since then it has welcomed over 50,000 visitors to its three new trails. Mourne Park is one of the largest areas for ancient woodland in Northern Ireland, and is home to wildlife such as native red squirrel, pine martens, otter and kingfisher.

Michelle McCaughtry, Engagement Officer for the Woodland Trust said: "Mourne Park is an explorer's dream, an exciting playground for families, and a wonderful natural setting for days out to make lasting memories. I tailored self-led trails in Mourne Park especially for Easter to give families the opportunity to come and see the developments in the woodland. We have plenty of parking facilities and three surfaced paths for easy access into the woodland that families can also enjoy before or after taking part in the Easter trail".



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The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity and by running public events such as its Easter Trail, allows the conservation charity to raise vital funds which goes directly back into work in Northern Ireland.

Michelle added: "Our Easter event is perfect for everyone – it will be a wonderful day of fun and a great opportunity to get your little ones and teens away from their screens and get some good fresh air in this beautiful woodland."



Entry fee, which is £5 per child and £2 per additional child, includes activities along the interactive trail and a chocolate treat to bring home. Book ahead to secure your place on the trail by emailing [michellemccaughtry@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:michellemccaughtry@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

To find out more about Mourne Park, visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mournepark](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mournepark)

## 9. NEW TO NATURE

New to Nature will offer new, full-time, temporary work placements in nature and landscape organisations across the UK, aiming to increase diversity and enrich the environmental sector.

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the celebrations to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee, the programme will run until May 2024 and will provide paid work placements for at least 70 people, targeting young people from diverse backgrounds to undertake a range of environmental roles.



New to Nature is delivered through a partnership of Groundwork, The Prince's Trust, Disability Rights UK, and Mission Diverse. We are working closely with the Youth Environmental Service to ensure the programme acts as a stepping stone for a longer-term journey of change in the sector.

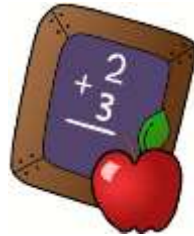
Our focus will be on attracting diverse talent from communities currently underrepresented in environmental roles, encouraging young people who are from ethnically diverse backgrounds, are disabled or who are economically disadvantaged.

We're working with a range of Placement Host organisations who are committed to helping change the face of the environmental sector by providing high quality 12-month work placements for people from diverse backgrounds.

For more information click [Here](#)



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10. UPDATE FROM WEE CRITTERS

## WEE CRITTERS IS A FULLY MOBILE AND PROFESSIONAL INTERACTIVE ANIMAL EDUCATION SERVICE WHICH OPERATES THROUGHOUT NORTHERN IRELAND.

We unfortunately live in a world where many species of both animals and plants are on the brink of extinction. Developing an appreciation of wildlife in our children is a fundamental element in safeguarding the safety and future of our wildlife and environment.

Our mission is to bring the wonder of wildlife straight to your school with the aim of providing a unique, fun, memorable and educational experience which will inspire a lifelong appreciation for wildlife and a commitment to playing an active role in the protection and conservation of animals and the natural environment.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

LET OUR INTREPID EXPLORER TAKE YOUR CLASS ON AN INTERACTIVE ADVENTURE. ALONG WITH HIS TEAM OF 'WEE CRITTERS', ALLAN, WILL BRING THE NATURAL WORLD STRAIGHT TO YOUR CLASSROOM OR OUTDOOR SPACE.

With curriculum-based topics to suit all age groups, our sessions will give you the chance to meet some of our specially selected animal ambassadors and will support work being carried out in your class.

ALL SESSIONS ARE COVERED BY A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE.

## WE OFFER A RANGE OF CURRICULUM-BASED TOPICS:

THE WORLD AROUND US  
RAINFORESTS  
MIMIBEASTS  
ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION  
NOCTURNAL ANIMALS  
ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS  
ANIMAL LIFECYCLES  
ANIMALS AND THE SEASONS

ANIMAL HABITATS  
NATIVE SPECIES  
ANIMAL DIETS  
ANIMALS IN DANGER  
CUSTOM TOPICS  
NURTURE AND SEN GROUPS

DOWNLOAD OUR SCHOOL BROCHURE AT [WWW.WEECRITTERS.ORG/SCHOOLS](http://WWW.WEECRITTERS.ORG/SCHOOLS)

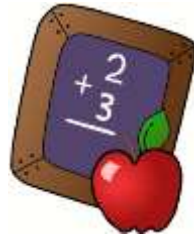
079 1278 5047

WWW.WEECRITTERS.ORG

HELLO@WEECRITTERS.ORG



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We have teamed up with the C2K Newsdesk to deliver a series of 10 educational videos focusing on the small changes we can all make to our daily routines to make the world a better place for everyone including the animals we share it with!

# WEE WAYS

to change the world

The videos are available every Wednesday on the newsdesk and you and your class can tune in to enjoy these educational resources. Each week's video will focus on a different 'wee way' including:

1. **Switch off**
2. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**
3. **Shop Sssmarter**
4. **Love your Locals**
5. **Join The Refill-ution**
6. **Become A Wildlife Warrior**
7. **Become A Habitat Hero**
8. **Rewild Yourself**
9. **Let's Fundraise For Wildlife**
10. **Be Kind**

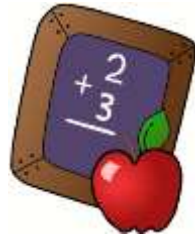
The video series can be used to support environmental learning in your school or before or after a Wee Critters interactive animal education session. There are even downloadable activity booklets to support each video.

WE ARE MEMBERS OF:





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## 12. GROWING FOR THE FUTURE – MARCH

Visit the Growing for the Future resource on [www.ccea.org.uk/growing](http://www.ccea.org.uk/growing) and get ideas to manage your garden.

CCEA has developed a web resource, in partnership with Tourism NI, to encourage children to grow fruit and vegetables, explore where food comes from and to promote healthy eating.

Teachers can access curriculum-linked resource sheets for Key Stages 1 and 2 divided into the calendar year, with monthly overviews and guidance to growing the fruits and vegetables that are in season. These resources can support many of the Ten Topics of the Eco-Schools Green Flag journey, such as Biodiversity, Energy and Healthy Living.

Let us know how you get on with any of these activities by sharing on CCEA's social media or email Melanie Mulligan, Education Manager on [mmulligan@ccea.org.uk](mailto:mmulligan@ccea.org.uk).

## 13. ADOPT A SPOT

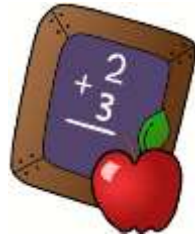
**Live Here Love Here's Adopt A Spot project enables individuals and communities across Northern Ireland to make a difference in their local area by creating cleaner, greener outdoor spaces.** Adopters can be anyone from families, community groups, schools, to sporting associations who want to adopt area and look after it.

Through the Adopt A Spot project, you can apply for one of the following four free kits:

- **Food For Thought** – The starter food growing kit will enable you to grow your own food in your adopted spot. This kit contains pots of various sizes, compost, vegetable and herb seeds, a watering can, gloves and hand tools.
- **Wildlife** – The Wildlife kit to help you to increase habitats in small spaces. This kit contains a timber bird box, bat box and bug box, hand tools, gloves and native Irish wildflower seeds.
- **Clean-Up** – This clean-up kit will support you in creating a cleaner and greener outdoor space. This kit contains litter pickers, gloves, a first aid kit, a sharps box, bin bags and Hi Vis vests.
- **Coastal Health** – The coastal health kit will help you to make your adopted coastal space cleaner. This kit contains litter pickers, handy hoops, bin bags, gloves and sieves for monitoring microplastics.



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# Adopt a Spot

Choose 1 of 4 kits



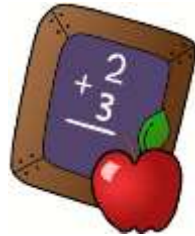
To register your Spot and apply for your free kit, please access the [Live Here Love Here app](#). If registering from a smart phone or app device, download the app from the Google Play Store (Android devices) or App store (iOS) by searching Live Here Love Here.

This short walk-through video will help you get registered on the app - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72zPYjKNz5w>. Registering takes less than 5 minutes and will allow you to view current Adopt A Spots and upload the impact of your kit.

You can find out more about the project and Live Here Love Here by visiting our [website](#). If you have any additional queries, please get in touch with us at [adoptaspot@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](mailto:adoptaspot@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org)



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## RESOURCES

### 1. ULSTER WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Ulster Wildlife have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link. [Here](#)

### 2. RSPB RESOURCES

RSPB have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link. [Here](#)

### 3. MAGILLIGAN FIELD CENTRE RESOURCES

Magilligan Field Centre presents a new set of *free* outdoor learning activity resources for primary schools. What better time to plan for a term filled with outdoor learning opportunities, fresh air and adventures in your school grounds!

Follow the link below to find all the details and resource links.

[Here](#)



### 4. ECO SCHOOLS RESOURCES

Eco-Schools have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link: [Here](#)

## TRAINING & EVENTS

### 1. VARIOUS EVENTS

Some organisations are beginning to hold events now; those I know of are listed below. If you have, any events coming up in your own groups let me know and I can publicise them on the website.

[www.eefni.org.uk/events/index](http://www.eefni.org.uk/events/index)

Check out Belfast Hills Partnership events on [Here](#)

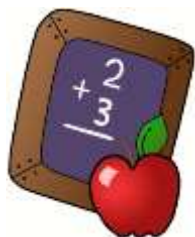
National Trust NI Events which have to be pre booked on [Here](#)

Check out Ulster Wildlife events on [Here](#)

Check out Woodland Trust events on [Here](#)



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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### 1. BIG LOTTERY AWARDS FOR ALL NORTHERN IRELAND

What funding is available?

**National Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland**

**£300–£10,000**

- Projects bringing local people together to make positive changes in their community.
- No deadline, so groups can apply any time.
- Applying is quick and simple.
- Applications welcome from constituted voluntary or community organisations, schools, and statutory bodies.
- If we funded you within the last two years, we may have to give priority to other groups that have not recently been funded through this programme.
- less
- For more information, click on the link below

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/northern-ireland>

### 2. EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE



There are various funding opportunities under the National Lottery Community Fund. One is Empowering Young People.

A larger amount of funding (between £10,001 and £500,000) for projects that work with young people (between the ages of 8 and 25) to face and overcome challenges.

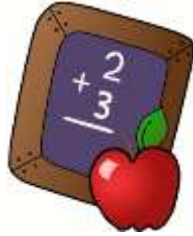
This funding stream is Northern Ireland wide and is suitable for voluntary and community organisations. The funding ranges from £10001 to £500000 and the application process is ongoing.

[Read more via Community Fund...](#)





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**MARCH 2023**



## OPPORTUNITIES

*See opportunities listed below*

[USPCA Director of Operations and Development](#)

Closing 13-03-23

[Keep NI Beautiful Local Environmental Quality Manager](#)

Closing 17-03-23

[Ulster Wildlife High Nature Value Farm Advisor](#)

Closing 20-03-23

[NI Environment Link Chief Executive Officer](#)

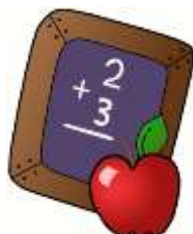
Closing 21-03-23

[RSPB NI Conservation Officer](#)

Closing 28-03-23



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## MEMBERSHIP OF ESD FORUM

### JOIN US

The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the sector that promotes a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Most members are actively involved in environmental education and bring a wide range of expertise and enthusiasm to the forum. Membership to the ESD Forum is open to all individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

#### Benefits of membership include:

- Access to an established networking and information organization
- One conference per year organised on a range of related environmental education topics
- ESD Days run at all of Northern Ireland's University establishments
- E-mail updates on the Forums activities plus information, publications and events via the E-Bulletin
- Access to ESD Forum website
- Support and publicity for your work
- Sharing of ideas, expertise and experience

	Voluntary Organisation		Statutory Body
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