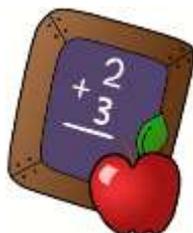




education for
sustainable
development
forum



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM E-BULLETIN

In This Issue

News from the ESD Forum

1. ESD Forum Update

Environmental Education News

1. Autumn Themed Outdoor Workshops
2. Big Schools Bird Watch 2022
3. Rathlin Projects to Save Seabirds
4. 'The River' CatchmentCare Education Programme Goes On-Line
5. Autumn Days out in Northern Ireland
6. Young People Key to Tackling Environmental Issues – Poots
7. The Winter Migration Festival
8. Ulster Wildlife Events
9. Update from Wee Critters
10. Growing for the Future
11. Adopt a Spot
12. Mountaineering Ireland Updated Walking With Wildlife Guide

Resources

1. Ulster Wildlife Resources
2. RSPB Resources
3. Magilligan Field Centre Resources
4. Eco-Schools Resources

Training & Events

1. Various Events

Funding

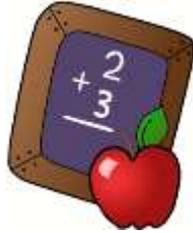
1. Big Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland

Opportunities

Some Opportunities Listed



education for
sustainable
development
forum



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest **E-Bulletin** from the **Education for Sustainable Development Forum** which 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

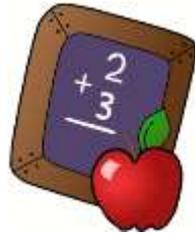
Some of our member organisations are now able to hold more events, walks etc. I have detailed a few in the e-bulletin. You will have to book online and complete the various Covid documents required.

You will have received your invoice for membership from our Finance Manager should you have any difficulty with this please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you need to contact me please use my email 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.



education for sustainable development forum



SEPTEMBER 2021



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS

1. AUTUMN THEMED OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS



Liz Farnan, Environmental Educator is currently delivering outdoor classroom/bubble autumn themed workshops to Foundation, KS1, and KS2 pupils to support the curriculum in school grounds or a wild place near you. Themes can include Gruffalo Trails, Exploring Woodlands, Room on the broom (Halloween), and imaginative fairy workshops.

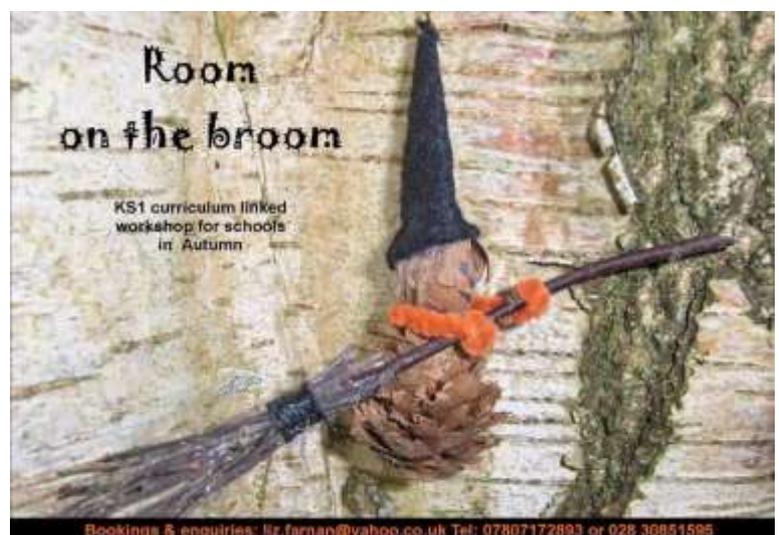
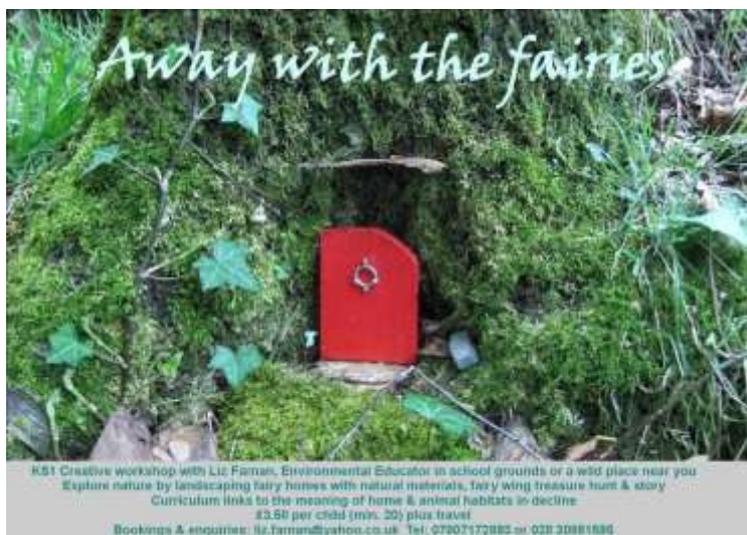
All workshops have been tried and tested and are risk assessed to include Covid-19 control measures.

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>

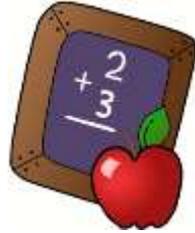
To book, for more details on price, content and curriculum links or to discuss social distancing guidelines please contact liz.farnan@yahoo.co.uk or Tel. 02830851595

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





education for sustainable development forum



2. BIG SCHOOLS' BIRD WATCH 2022

Like so many things, Big Schools' Birdwatch was a bit different in 2021. But in 2022, we're really looking forward to things being more normal, with teachers and pupils once again coming together to count the birds they see at school. For more information, go to the following link

[Here](#)

3. RATHLIN PROJECT TO SAVE SEABIRDS

Seabirds that are in decline on Rathlin Island are to be protected through a £4.5m scheme (via BBC News)

The five-year project aims to eradicate rats and ferrets from the island off the north Antrim coast.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has said 25 species of birds are at risk partly due to the invasive predators.

Puffin numbers on Rathlin have declined by more than half in recent years, according to the charity's research.



Claire Barnett from the RSPB said "Bringing this global-scale conservation project to Northern Ireland is vital to safeguard the amazing wildlife on Rathlin.

"We will protect and promote Rathlin's internationally important wildlife and landscape so future generations can enjoy seeing guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes and the iconic puffins and possibly even the return of locally extinct species such as Manx shearwaters and storm petrels, which were once common on the island."

Image via Pixabay

It is thought that ferrets were brought to Rathlin in the mid 1980s in an attempt to control the rabbit population.

However, they have since contributed to the decline of birds breeding on the island.

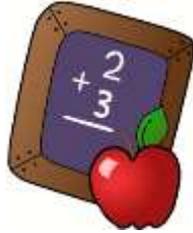
[Read more via BBC News...](#)

4. 'THE RIVER' CATCHMENTCARE EDUCATION PROGRAMME GOES ON-LINE

One of the successes of CatchmentCARE project has been the schools' engagement work being delivered by educators from the River Backwater Catchment Trust.



education for sustainable development forum



In 2020 plans were set in place to build on the success of the 2019 pilot education programme and encourage the 8 schools that participated in the pilot programme to incorporate elements into the core school curriculum through a series of teacher training events and curriculum planning activities.

There were also plans to engage with 6 new schools who would avail of the pilot programme, receiving in-school visits and visits to local rivers. The programme should have started in February 2020 but because of Covid 19 the programme has been postponed until schools begin to allow visitors back into the classroom and run off site schools' trips.

Rather than mothball the work however, the CatchmentCARE education team have been busy developing a series of online education programmes for use by schools and teachers across the 3 catchments. **"The River"**

is a fun and informative look at rivers and is packed with activities, crafts, interviews and experiments to help young people understand more about their local rivers. There are five episodes in the series, each accompanied by a teacher's pack and teacher notes. The programmes are linked to the NI curriculum at KS2 (P5 – P7) and the ROI curriculum (Classes 3, 4 and 5).

There are 5 episodes in the current series –

Episode one: **"The River- where it all begins"**.

Episode two: **"How to build a river"**

Episode three: **"Creatures of the river"**

Episode four: **"The magic moving river"**

Episode five: **"All my fault"**

The advert introducing the programmes can be viewed at the following link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgLntTEUYsk&feature=youtu.be>

If you would like the links to all 5 episodes, please contact

andrew.Griggs@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

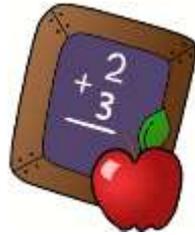
5. AUTUMN DAYS OUT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The National Trust in Northern Ireland have a series of autumn walks for more information follow the link below.

[Here](#)



education for sustainable development forum



6. YOUNG PEOPLE KEY TO TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES – POOTS

Environment Minister Edwin Poots has described the work primary school pupils are doing to improve our environment as inspirational.

He made the comments during a joint visit with the Education Minister Michelle McIlveen to an Eco-School. Eco-Schools is the world’s largest environmental education programme, which is delivered here by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB), with funding from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Ballycraigy Primary School, in Antrim, has been involved in the scheme since 2005 and has developed an outdoor vegetable garden, wildlife area and a wild woodland area with a hedgehog house, bug hotel and bird feeding stations to enhance local biodiversity.



Minister Poots said: “It is vital that we connect our young people with nature and the Eco-Schools programme is a fantastic way to achieve that. This generation will play a vital role in tackling climate change, one of the greatest challenges facing us all.

“Ahead of COP26, I am delighted to find these amazing young people who are so engaged and aware of climate change and are taking action to change things. I hope the work they are doing will inspire others to follow their example and become directly involved in helping us become a more sustainable place.

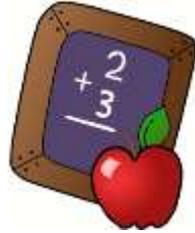
“Through the Eco-Schools programme, our young people have the opportunity to learn about our precious environment and the role they can play in protecting and improving it. And in this centenary year, it is crucial that we all look ahead to the next 100 years and do better by our environment and future generations,” he added.

Ian Humphreys, Chief Executive of environmental charity Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful said: “We’re immensely proud of Northern Ireland’s strong support for Eco-Schools, which is entirely down to the commitment and energy of many local teachers and parents. Funding from DAERA has been instrumental in helping achieve a world first, in that every school in Northern Ireland is registered as an Eco-School although not all are active yet.

“However, we’re facing a three-pronged global emergency of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and we want to see all schools in Northern Ireland embracing the programme and being given support and space within the curriculum to do so. Given the immense environmental challenges facing our young people,



education for sustainable development forum



it is our duty as a society to give them the information they need to make the right choices and take appropriate action going forward.”

7. THE WINTER MIGRATION FESTIVAL

The arrival of the Brent Geese in their thousands on to Strangford Lough after a gruelling 3,000-mile journey from Arctic Canada is one of the biggest wildlife highlights in Northern Ireland’s calendar year. The Winter Migration Festival is designed to celebrate this wildlife spectacle, along with the migration story of various bird across the world. We want to connect people with nature and immerse them in the beautiful surroundings of Castle Espie to come to understand the importance of what is around us, not just for us, but for wildlife too

From Saturday 2nd October to 13th November, we will be offering visitors exciting experiences from sunrise yoga, paddle boarding, art classes, tours and much more in a bid to immerse them in nature in ways they have never experienced before.

Events will be bookable online, and more info is to follow.

[Here](#)

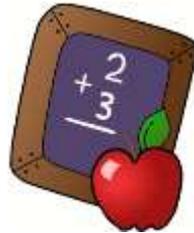


8. ULSTER WILDLIFE EVENTS

Ulster Wildlife have a number of events taking place over the next number of weeks. To find out more about the various events and complete the relevant Covid forms click [Here](#)



education for sustainable development forum



9. 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.

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 OF OUR SESSIONS ARE COVERED BY A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE.
 CHILD SAFEGUARDING, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE



PHONE - 079 1278 5047

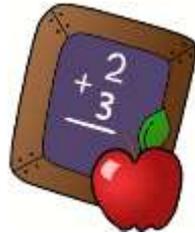
WEBSITE - WWW.WEECRITTERS.ORG

EMAIL - HELLO@WEECRITTERS.ORG





education for sustainable development forum



LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

We are currently delivering our interactive animal education sessions in a safe and fun way! Let our intrepid explorer take your class on an interactive adventure in an outdoor space at your school.

From the curiously cute to the creepy and crawly, when you book a Wee Critters session a carefully selected team of animal ambassadors will come along to your class.

Wee Critters offer a range of curriculum-based topics to suit all age groups and abilities including the world around us, rainforests, nocturnal animals, mini-beasts, animal diets and food chains, habitats, lifecycles, animals in danger, classification and many more!



You can find out more and download Wee Critters' school programmes leaflet at www.weecritters.org.uk/schools, email hello@weecritters.org or call 079 1278 5047.



All Wee Critters sessions are covered by a full risk assessment. We have comprehensive covid-19 training, Covid-19 procedures and full public liability insurance.

Book today...a wild time awaits your class!

WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

At Wee Critters we believe that environmental and conservation education must be a collaborative effort both here in our wee country and on a global scale to have the impact necessary to incite a change in behaviours.

We work closely with a number of like-minded organisations and have professional membership of institutions including:

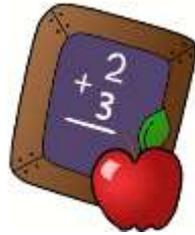


WEE CRITTERS IS FULLY LICENSED BY DAERA TO PROVIDE THESE SESSIONS AND IS RECOGNISED THROUGH THIS LICENSING PROCESS FOR DEMONSTRATING GOOD ANIMAL CARE PRACTICES AND HAVING HIGH STANDARD OF FACILITIES.





education for sustainable development forum



NEW FOR 2021 / 2022!

Meet our new Wee Critters!

We have welcomed some new members to our Wee Critters family including:

- Pepper the white-breasted barn owl
- Bramble, Maizy and Barley the harvest mice
- Bluey the blue-tongued skink

New topics and learning resources!

We are launching new topics to support classroom learning including:

- Brilliant birds
- Love our locals
- Winter is coming
- When dinosaurs roamed



We have been busy getting ready for the new academic year with a range of new learning resources and have added a number of sensory elements to support our existing topics and create an even more immersive and interactive experience. Your class can learn what frog spawn feels like, get a whiff of skunk spray or take part in our 'rainforest rhythm' where your class can recreate the noises of the jungle with rain, thunder, frogs, insects and more!

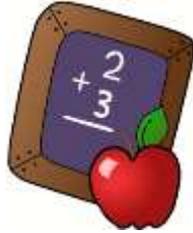
ALLAN THE EXPLORER'S KOALA-FICATIONS

- 18 year career in animal management, zoology and conservation
- Diploma in zoo animal management (Sparsholt College)
- Animal First Aid
- Child Protection Training (level 2)
- Autism Awareness Training (Autism NI)
- Understanding the Autism Spectrum (Queens University)
- Sensory Steps Training ASD Processing and Sensory Equipment Training
- Sensory Loss Awareness Training (Sense Northern Ireland)
- Disability Awareness Training
- Covid-19 Awareness Training
- Fully Access NI checked
- Wee Critters is fully licensed by DAERA (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs).





education for
sustainable
development
forum



10. GROWING FOR THE FUTURE - SEPTEMBER

Visit the Growing for the Future resource on www.ccea.org.uk/growing and get ideas to manage your garden. As the summer has come to an end now is the perfect time to start looking if you don't already have a vegetable garden or growing space.

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.

11. ADOPT A SPOT

Applications are now open

We have reopened applications for Adopt A Spot through our new app! The Live Here Love Here app is available to download on the play and app stores for iOS and Android devices by searching Live Here Love Here.

You can also access it online by going to <https://livehereandlovehere.app> or by clicking the button below.

[Apply to Adopt A Spot here](https://livehereandlovehere.app)

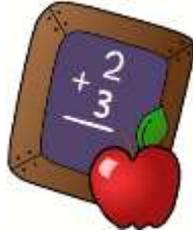
PLEASE NOTE you will be on a waiting list until July and we will be in touch to arrange collection/delivery of your kit.

Is there an area near you that could use a bit of TLC? Could you commit to carrying out just four clean ups a year? Then get involved in our Adopt A Spot programme!

Adopt a Spot is a scheme that enables volunteers across Northern Ireland to adopt an area and look after it.



education for
sustainable
development
forum



Adopters can be anyone, from families, community or youth groups, schools and sporting associations. Live Here Love Here will provide groups with an adoption pack containing all the equipment you need, including a hints and tips booklet on how to run a successful clean up.

The guys at Mid Ulster Walking Club take their litter pickers out with them on all of their walks across Northern Ireland - mostly the Mourne Mountains! Your spot can be as big or as small as you want it to be, it can even be the street you live on! It could be a mile of beach that always seems to be full of litter, an urban park, your local forest.... anywhere is possible!

The Adopt A Spot Kit

When you register for Adopt A Spot you'll get a maximum of 5 litter pickers, 5 high vis vests, 5 pairs of gloves, bin bags, First Aid Kit, bucket, sharps box, hints and tips booklet and a certificate. All we ask is that you record your clean ups on your profile and agree to carry out 4 clean ups a year for a minimum of 2 years.

What's Next?

When you register for Adopt A Spot, we will approve your application. We'll then be in touch for you to book an appointment to collect the equipment from our office in Belfast. If it is not possible for you to get to Belfast, please let us know.

12. MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND UPDATED WALKING WITH WILDLIFE GUIDE

Click on the link below to get the latest Mountaineering Ireland Walking with Wildlife Guide.

[Mountaineering Ireland produce printable Walking with Wildlife guide](#)

You can also contact helen@mountaineering.ie if you are interested in receiving a batch of printed hard copies

RESOURCES

1. ULSTER WILDLIFE RESOURCES

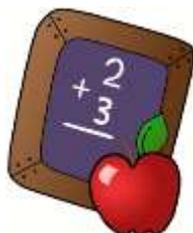
Ulster Wildlife have an excellent range of resources for teachers and students available on their website, to check these out go to the following link. [Here](#)

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](#)



education for
sustainable
development
forum



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

Check out Belfast Hills Partnership events on <https://belfasthills.org/events/>

National Trust NI Events which have to be pre booked on

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/location/1431734304954/whats-on>

FUNDING

1. BIG LOTTERY AWARDS FOR ALL NORTHERN IRELAND

What funding is available?

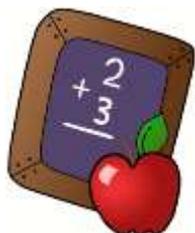
National Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland

£300–£10,000

- Projects bringing local people together to make positive changes in their community.
- No deadline, so groups can apply any time.



education for
sustainable
development
forum



- 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. MARINE CAPITAL GRANTS

The Live Here Love Here Marine Litter Capital Grants are being provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs through the Live Here Love Here collaborative partnership, involving DAERA, ten Local Councils, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. For more information click on the link [Here](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

[RSPB LIFE Raft Project Manager](#)

(Closing date:24/09/2021)

[RSPB LIFE Raft Programme Manager](#)

(Closing date:24/09/2021)

[Business in the Community Relationship Manager](#)

(Closing date:24/09/2021)

[Butterfly Conservation Senior Policy Officer](#)

(Closing date:27/09/2021)

[Ulster Architectural Heritage Chief Executive](#)

(Closing date:28/09/2021)

MEMBERSHIP OF ESD FORUM

JOIN US

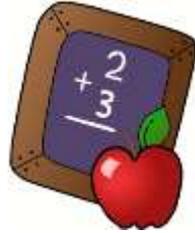
The Education for Sustainable Development Forum is the networking body for the sector that promotes a coordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education in Northern Ireland. Forum Membership consists of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Most members are actively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



education for
sustainable
development
forum



	Voluntary Organisation	Statutory Body
Any Organisation, either voluntary or statutory	£48	£48

As part of your subscription, you will have free place at an ESD Forum conference each year. The E-Bulletin goes into many of the schools and is a good way to promote your work. If you would like to promote your events, publications and training through this E-Bulletin please contact.

Iona Meyer
 Education for Sustainable Development Forum
 89 Loopland Drive
 Belfast BT6 9DW
 Tel: 028 9045 5770
iona@nienvironmentlink.org
www.esdforum.org.uk