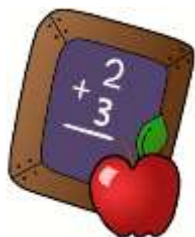




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EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM E-BULLETIN

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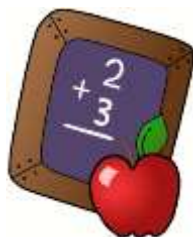
1. Various Events

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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

This year's ESDF forum conference took place on 28th March and explored the theme of outdoor education using our local urban green spaces.

Thanks to those who joined online and to those who gave the presentations. We had really good turnout and if you weren't able to make it you can click [Here](#) to catch up.

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 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.)



APRIL 2023



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. SUMMER THEMED OUTDOOR WORKSHOPS



Celebrate the end of term and explore outdoors with a summer 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.

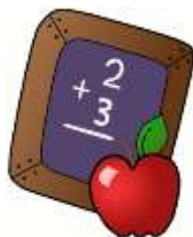
Check out the link below to Liz's free video resource aimed at 8-11 year olds: 'Bird Murder Mystery' which highlights biodiversity & food chains in our gardens and how humans can affect them. It can be replicated as a fun interactive workshop in school grounds.

<https://youtu.be/uxVkkgpnY1M>

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To book, for more details on price, content and curriculum links contact 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. WILD ISLES COMMUNITY FUND

WWF **RSPB** **AVIVA**

SAVE OUR WILD ISLES COMMUNITY FUND

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO TAKE ACTION FOR NATURE.

The UK is home to some of the most incredible species on earth, but we're pushing nature to the brink. We're giving **£1 million** to support community groups across the UK to protect and restore nature in their local area.

Let's work together to restore our wild isles
– find out more at
www.saveourwildisles.org.uk/community/fund

“Aviva, in partnership with WWF and the RSPB, is giving **£1 million** to support community groups across the UK to protect and restore nature in their local area.

From creating community gardens and replanting wildflower meadows, to protecting local wildlife and promoting community connection to nature – together we can help communities around the UK bring nature back to life and make our isles wilder.

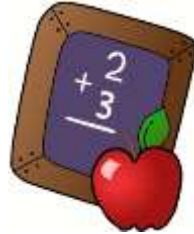
How does the fund work?

Projects that are accepted to the Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund will receive 2:1 match funding from Aviva. From 30 March 2023 until £1 million of funding has been allocated, pledges will be matched at a rate of £2 to every £1 donated. 2:1 match funding will apply to pledges of up to £250. The maximum value of 2:1 match funding a project can receive is £5,000.”

To apply
[Save Our Wild Isles | Aviva Community Fund](http://www.saveourwildisles.org.uk/community/fund)



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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
or phone 028 9077 6277

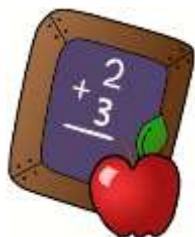
www.belfastzoo.co.uk/education

**BELFAST
ZOO**

The poster features a dark green background with yellow and white text. It includes an illustration of a lizard and a photograph of four children in school uniforms holding a large snake. The Belfast Zoo logo is at the bottom right, with the word 'ZOO' in large, stylized letters.



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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. 2023 BALMORAL SHOW

The 154th Balmoral Show will take place from Wednesday 10th May to Saturday 13th May 2023 at Balmoral Park, Lisburn. For more information click [Here](#) Lots to see and do.

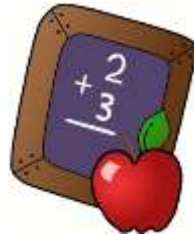
6. NATIONAL TRUST THINGS TO DO



Check out the National Trust website [Here](#) for a series of events throughout all their properties in Northern Ireland.



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7. 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 and order your free Save our Seabirds board game (required for module 3)

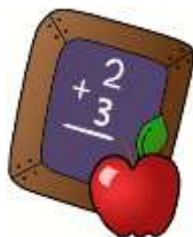
8. BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION SERVICES AT OXFORD ISLAND

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.



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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.

9. SONGBIRD ID (3 SESSIONS, WEDNESDAYS 10am)



British Trust for Ornithology are helping you develop your songbird identification by sight and sound, and learn how to use technology to help you!

This course involves three weekly online sessions of 100 minutes, with a trainer: participant ratio of about 1:30. Participants' microphones are muted during the sessions but there is a large interactive component, using chat messaging, polls and non-verbal signals to your webcam. The live sessions are complemented by supported self-study exercises, and we place a strong emphasis on providing tools and techniques that will help you to continue your learning after the course.

Compared to 'Bird ID', our **Songbird ID** course includes:

- greater coverage of some more challenging groups (e.g. warblers, pipits, chats)
- an introduction to bird topography as a tool for helping you to understand descriptions in bird books and better describe the birds you see
- specific guidance on using a smartphone to photograph and sound-record the birds you encounter
- advice on how to create your own sonograms.

With the above in mind, we feel this course is best suited to 'improvers', rather than beginners.

The training will be run by BTO staff [Nick Moran](#), [Kate Fox](#) and [Jenny Donelan](#), all experienced birdwatchers, surveyors and trainers.

In order to participate you will need broadband of sufficient speed to view live video, and a computer with sound and ideally a webcam, or a tablet. We will show you how to use a smartphone to take photographs through binoculars or a telescope, and to record bird sounds. If you don't have one, a small digital camera (with video) can be used instead.

The three sessions will cover the following:

SESSION 1: Songbird calls and bird topography **Wednesday 10 May, 10:00–11:45am**

An introduction to the types of calls given by songbirds, followed by an interactive workshop to help you recognise the calls of some UK garden and woodland birds. This will include Robin, Wren, Dunnock, tits, thrushes



and sparrows. We'll also give an overview of bird topography and how this can be useful in describing birds, and we'll give guidance on taking 'record shots' with your smartphone.

SESSION 2: Chats, pipits and the power of technology **Wednesday 17 May, 10:00–11:45am**

We'll start by recapping your homework, including a closer look at some of the chat family. We will then look at and listen to Meadow, Tree and Rock Pipits, building both your visual and auditory ID skills for identifying this tricky group. We'll explore the value of sonograms in more detail, using examples of where this can help with species ID, and we'll show you how to make your own sonograms so that you can visualise sounds that you have recorded.

SESSION 3: Worrisome warblers **Wednesday 24 May, 10:00–11:45am**

Following a recap of the homework tasks, we'll focus on warbler identification by sight and song. To begin, we will work through some commoner species: Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Reed and Sedge Warblers. We'll then look at a few examples of rarer warblers, with an emphasis on the transferable skills that you can use when trying to identify this tricky group.

COST: The programme of three weekly sessions and supported self-study exercises costs £36. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend all three sessions to get the maximum benefit. We are unable to offer single sessions at a reduced price. If the cost is a barrier to you, please contact us by email.

This course is designed for amateur birdwatchers and bird survey volunteers – professionals seeking training should contact us by email.

After booking you should receive an automatic confirmation email. If this doesn't arrive, please check your spam/junk email folder and if it is not there, or you have any other questions or booking issues, email us at training@bto.org

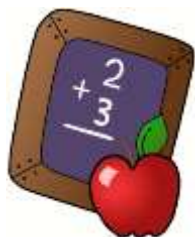
10. NEW TO NATURE

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.



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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](#)

11. SUMMER WILDFLOWER WALK AT BALLOO WETLAND

Join our Nature Reserves Officer, Ryan Bradley, to marvel at the new wildflower meadow at Balloo Wetland 21 Innotec Drive, Bangor BT19 7QZ which is now in full bloom and buzzing with insect life. Ryan will also provide tips and advice to create your own wildflower oasis at home.

All funds gratefully received from this event will help support our vital conservation work to bring wildlife back in Northern Ireland – from protecting species such as barn owls and skates to restoring green spaces, like peatlands and wildflower meadows.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for an outdoor event.

The new path is suitable for wheelchair users.

Suitable for all ages – under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

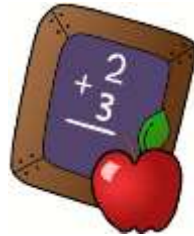
A waiting list is available and you will be notified if a place becomes available.

Not a member of Ulster Wildlife? [Join us today and together we can help bring nature back](#)

There are only a few tickets left to get one click [Here](#)



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12. 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:

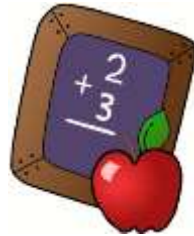
THE WORLD AROUND US	ANIMAL HABITATS
RAINFORESTS	NATIVE SPECIES
MINIBEASTS	ANIMAL DIETS
ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION	ANIMALS IN DANGER
NOCTURNAL ANIMALS	CUSTOM TOPICS
ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS	NURTURE AND SEN GROUPS
ANIMAL LIFECYCLES	
ANIMALS AND THE SEASONS	

DOWNLOAD OUR SCHOOL BROCHURE AT 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.



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:



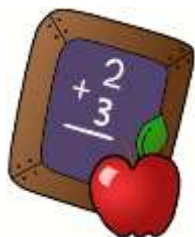
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WEE CRITTERS IS FULLY LICENSED BY DAERA TO PROVIDE THESE SESSIONS AND IS RECOGNISED THROUGH THIS LICENSING PROCESS FOR DEMONSTRATING GOOD ANIMAL CARE PRACTICES AND HAVING HIGH STANDARD OF FACILITIES.



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13. GROWING FOR THE FUTURE – APRIL

Visit the Growing for the Future resource on 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.

14. 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.

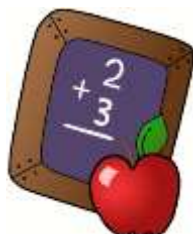
Through the Adopt A Spot project, you can apply for one of the following four free kits:

- **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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



COASTAL HEALTH



CLEAN-UP



WILDLIFE



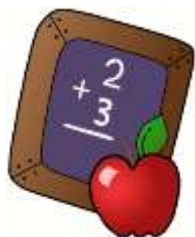
To register your Spot and apply for your free kit, please access the [Live Here Love Here app](#). If registering from a smart phone or app device, download the app from the Google Play Store (Android devices) or App store (iOS) by searching Live Here Love Here.

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



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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

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

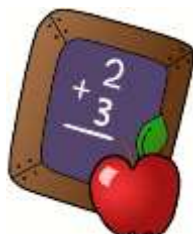
National Trust NI Events which have to be pre booked on [Here](#)

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.

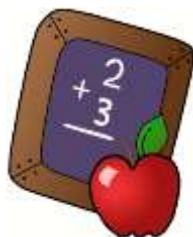
A larger amount of funding (between £10,001 and £500,000) for projects that work with young people (between the ages of 8 and 25) to face and overcome challenges.

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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OPPORTUNITIES

See opportunities listed below

[Ulster Wildlife Membership Recruitment Team Leader](#)

Closes 02/05/23

[Ulster Wildlife – Membership Recruitment Officer](#)

Closes 02/05/23

[Ulster Wildlife – New to Nature Work Placement](#)

Closes 17/05/23

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
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

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www.esdforum.org.uk