

Promoting sustainable living through whole-school action based learning

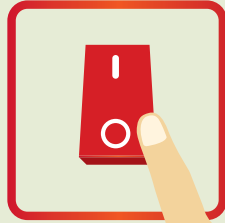
KEEP
NORTHERN
IRELAND
BEAUTIFUL



ECO-SCHOOLS

£6,000

what one NI school saved by switching off equipment not in use



£1.1 million

what schools could save by switching off electrical equipment¹

45%

reduction in littering behaviour, amongst pupils who littered, after pupils engaged in the Wrigley Litter Less Campaign⁵

£1.2 million



what schools could save every year by recycling



1st

country in the world to award a Green Flag²

NI SCHOOLS COULD BE CLEANER, GREENER AND £ MILLIONS BETTER OFF

334,531

teachers and pupils involved

Over 80,000

pupils and teachers involved in clean ups every year³

25,176,290

car journeys per year could be removed from local roads, significantly reducing congestion at school gates⁴

First country in the world to achieve 'every school an Eco-School'

100%





1st

First country in the world to achieve
'every school an Eco-School'

Downpatrick Nursery

Downpatrick

First Eco-Schools Flag goes to Downpatrick Nursery School

Northern Ireland has been part of the International Eco-Schools programme since it began in 1994. In 1994 we were proud to award the first ever Eco-Schools Green Flag to Downpatrick Nursery School. The school has maintained its Green Flag status over the years is now on its 8th Green Flag and is Ambassador Eco-School for the Biodiversity topic.



The Eco-Schools programme in Northern Ireland has steadily grown since it first began in 1994.

In January 2015 we were delighted to become the first country in the programme, running in 58 countries worldwide, to have all our schools registered in the programme.

This figure currently stands at 1,163 schools (annual variations occur due to closures, mergers and new schools) and includes all public nursery, primary, post-primary and special schools registered with DENI. There are also 41 other schools registered with us ('other' includes field centres, special education centres and private schools).



£1.2 million

What schools could save by switching off electrical equipment

Power Down Day was an initiative which Eco-Schools ran in November to coincide with International Eco-Schools World Days of Action.

Schools registered to receive a resource pack suggesting ways to save energy, raise awareness, and encourage pupils to get involved. Pupils would take readings from the electricity meter for a week every morning and afternoon to record how many units of electricity were used in the school during the day. On a specific



day of this week all the schools would try to 'Power Down' and use as little electricity as possible.

During Power Down Day, November 2013 and November 2014, 111 schools took part and reported a total saving of 3633.39 units - Kilowatt Hours (kWh). This is an average saving of 32.70 kWh/school. If every school in Northern Ireland (1,178 at that time) were able to save this much electricity every school day (200 days in a school year) schools could save a total of £1,232,659 (based on £0.16/unit cost).

111

Number of schools that took part in the Power Down Day



£6,000

The amount saved by switching off equipment not in use

Holy Trinity College

Cookstown

In June 2013 Holy Trinity College received a G rating on their Display Energy Certificate - the lowest possible efficiency rating.

The pupils in the Eco-Committee decided to take action on this disappointing result. They placed reminders on all light switches and electrical equipment to "Turn off when not in use". With the help of their caretakers they installed energy efficient light bulbs wherever possible around the school. They held assemblies to educate and raise awareness of the issue for the all the pupils in the school.

They took part in Power Down Day in November 2013, an initiative in which schools record their energy usage for one week and 'Power Down' as much

as possible on a specific day of that week. The pupils were delighted to report a 20% energy saving on Power Down Day compared to the rest of the week.

When the school received their electricity bill for the period April 2013 – April 2014 the Eco-Committee were delighted to see that they had saved £6,000 on their bill from the same period the previous year. Holy Trinity College, Cookstown, were proud to receive their first Green Flag award in January 2015.





£1.1 million

The amount schools could save every year by recycling

During 2012/2013 Eco-Schools took part in a Rethink Waste project aimed at reducing paper and plastic waste.

Schools distributed 'Mail Preference' cards via pupils to parents to reduce the amount of unsolicited marketing mail which they received in the post. Pupils who participated were also given a reusable plastic water bottle with the aim to reduce plastic usage. The project also included assemblies and workshops delivered by Eco-Schools staff educating on the hazards of waste going to landfill and the importance of recycling.

In 2012-2013, 44 schools took part and returned 6,712 Mail Preference Cards, this reduced unsolicited mail paper waste by 112.76 Tonnes per year (Calculated on the basis that the average weight of a piece of direct mail is 75gms (Source: ThisIsMoney.co.uk) and the average household receives 224 items of junk mail per year (Source: Mail Preference Service).

In 2012-2013 8,250 water bottles were distributed during the project which impacted on daily use of plastic bottles. It is estimated that this reduced plastic waste by 39.18 Tonnes per year (Calculated on the basis that the average 500ml plastic bottle weighs 25grms (Source: WRAP) and there are approximately 190 days in a school year.)

On the basis of the figures above it is estimated that the cost saving in terms of a reduction in landfill tax over a 3 year period would be £43,143. This is calculated on the basis of £12,783 in

landfill tax alone in Year One (i.e. 199.74 tonnes x £64 per tonne in 2012/13). Over three years and assuming an increase of £8 per tonne per annum (the Landfill Tax Escalator), the Project would save ratepayers £43,143.

If every Eco-School (1,178 at time of calculation) took part in a similar project saving an average of £980.52 then a total of £1,155,052.56 could be saved to taxpayers in landfill taxes over a 3 year period.





Zero waste challenge

Fairview Primary School

Ballycare



During the 2012/2013 Rethink Waste project four schools focused on a Zero Waste challenge.

One of these schools was Fairview Primary School. The aim of the challenge was to carefully audit the amount of waste in the school's bins with the goal of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill through the application of the three R principals - reduce, reuse, recycle.

The school's Eco-Committee conducted 2 waste audits of their bins before and after an awareness raising campaign and actions on waste. They were shocked to discover in their first audit in December that only 29% of their waste was being

recycled. They delivered awareness raising assemblies, labelled all the bins correctly, removed paper towels from the bathrooms, introduced scrap paper trays in every classroom and encouraged everyone to take part in recycling more.

The results of their second audit in March showed 84% of waste was being recycled, compared to the baseline of 29% in December. The school then switched waste disposal company to ISL Waste Management which sends none of its collected refuse to landfill.

This step made Fairview Primary the first zero waste to landfill school in Northern Ireland. They are now the Ambassador Eco-School for the Waste topic and continue to complete an annual waste audit to make sure they stay on track and continue to think of ways to reduce their waste.





45%

reduction in littering
behaviour, amongst
pupils who littered, after
engaging in the Wrigley
Litter Less Campaign



LITTER LESS
CAMPAIGN



**The Wrigley Company
Foundation has sponsored
the International Eco-Schools
'Litter Less' Campaign for
4 years.**

2014/2015 saw 31 countries and 400,000 students worldwide take part. The goal of the Litter Less Campaign is to reduce litter and affect long-term behaviour change among global youth. The main objectives of the campaign are to raise awareness of the effect of litter on the local environment and wider community, increase student knowledge and practical skills in preventing and managing litter, collaborate with other schools to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and influence others by communicating with them through multimedia and other channels.

During the 2014/2015 year an attitudinal survey was completed by pupils from around the world before and after the campaign. The results were collated and analysed by An Taisce, Ireland.

30 schools in Northern Ireland took part in the 2014/2015 Wrigley Litter Less Campaign – 11 participated in the attitudinal survey. The objective of the survey was to measure changes in perception, behaviour and opinion leadership associated with litter and waste that could be due to the intervention of the 'Litter Less' Campaign.

107 pupils from 11 primary and post-primary schools completed the surveys. The results of the survey showed a 45% reduction in littering behaviour amongst pupils who littered after pupils engaged with the Litter Less Campaign. This 45% shift in behaviour by the litterers is based on the following information. Before engaging in the Litter Less Campaign 10.3% of pupils admitted to sometimes or always dropping litter with only 5.6% saying they sometimes dropped litter after taking part in the Campaign representing a 45% reduction in littering behaviour.



Over 80,000

St Colm's High School

St Mary's Primary School

Draperstown

pupils and teachers
involved in clean ups
every year



Litter over 80,000 pupils and teachers involved in clean ups every year

Results from schools getting involved in Northern Ireland largest clean up, the BIG Spring Clean, and from schools focused on the litter topic of the Eco-Schools programme in 2014-15 show that over 80,000 pupils and teachers are involved in clean ups every year.

Two schools in Draperstown, St Colm's High and St Mary's Primary, have joined forces in recent years not only to look after their own schools grounds but also a local recreation area known as the Moykeeran, Plantain Park. This area

close to the 2 schools used to attract antisocial behaviour and was frequently littered with drink cans and other rubbish. Working together and with the support of the Wrigley's Litter Less Campaign, the BIG Spring Clean and Adopt a Spot the pupils from both schools have worked together to tidy up the park at regular times throughout the year for the last 3 years and have reported removing 55 bags (330 KG) of litter from the area.

Their care has resulted in the long term improvement of the park and with support from their local council it is now a nature trail and has seen a reduction on antisocial behaviour.





25,176,290



car journeys per year could be removed from local roads significantly reducing congestion at school gates

Eco-Schools has been working with Translink to deliver a Travel Challenge since 2009.

In 2015/2016 36 schools, primary and post-primary, participated in the 2 week challenge. Pupils are asked to record their transport methods to school for 2 weeks before the challenge and then continue to record their travel methods for the 2 weeks during the challenge when they attempt to come to school sustainably i.e.

shifting away from car use. 1,122 pupils submitted results.

Pupils reported baseline information showing they took 13,195 car journeys before the challenge and 8,973 during the challenge – a reduction of 4,222 car journeys over the 2 week period.

If every pupil in Northern Ireland (334,531 at time of calculation) did the same, they could save 25,176,290 car journeys over a school year.





Travel Challenge Winners

Ulidia Integrated College

Carrickfergus



Most Eco-Journeys Made category 2014/2015

Ulida Integrated College ran the Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge with all four of their year 9 classes in 2014/2015.

They launched the challenge in assembly and every pupil in year 9 were given a tally sheet for their diary to keep track of their journeys for the 2 weeks. The pupils were reminded to keep track every day and at the end of the 2 weeks the results were transferred to the Excel sheet provided by Translink and Eco-Schools which calculated the results.

The pupils enjoyed seeing how many sustainable miles they had travelled and seeing where those miles could potentially help them travel. The school was delighted to discover they had won the prize category for the class which had made the 'Most Eco-Journeys'. Over 90% of the journeys made by the winning class had been sustainable during the challenge with many pupils travelling by train to school.

The winners were invited to the closing event at Central Station where they give a short presentation on their challenge and received their prize. Ulidia Integrated College are Ambassador Eco-School for the Global Perspective topic.

