



The 'Litter less' campaign commences

WWW.ECO-SCHOOLS.ORG

WWW.FEE-INTERNATIONAL.ORG

CONTENT:

Welcome Serbia and Mongolia to Eco-Schools

NOM registration

The *Litter less* Campaign

Adding Value for Eco-Schools

- **The Earth Charter**
- **U4Energy**
- **Eco-Schools Connect...**
- + **more**

Network News from around the world, including: USA, France, UAE, Dominican Republic, Morocco and many more.

Mars Ambassador Program

May 2011

In this Eco-Schools Newsletter...

The preparation of the 2011 NOM in Poland has commenced with registration of attendance. This process should be completed over the coming month.

A key focus of this year's NOM will be how coordination adds value to member organisations. This newsletter contains illustrations of some value adding initiatives as well as wonderful and inspiring news from a wide range of countries.

This newsletter also welcomes our two new member organisations to Eco-Schools, Mongolia and Serbia and congratulates the USA on the arrival of triplets...their 1st, 2nd and 3rd Green Flag co-Schools.

Our new major corporate sponsor The Wrigley Company Foundation will also be featured as we enter a trial year for the *Litter less* Campaign across 10 countries.

Kindest Regards,

Anna Norman, Sarah Pickering and Bernard Holland
International Eco-Schools Coordination



WELCOME TO FEE SERBIA

We welcome Serbia to FEE and in particular Eco-Schools. FEE Serbia operates as – Environmental Ambassadors (www.ambassadors-env.org).

Michael Ierides (FEE mentor) visited FEE Serbia earlier this year and acknowledge the great work already happening in Serbia under the leadership of Prof Dr Andjelka Mihajlov. We look forward to meeting the National Operator for Eco-Schools, Milica Petrovic at the 2011 NOM in Poland.



WELCOME TO FEE MONGOLIA

Members of the ITCNE team hosted their FEE board mentor, John Summers in Ulaanbattar (UB), Mongolia in April this year.

Shinee, (Shinetssetseg Erdenebayer), the Eco Schools Co-ordinator (front right) will hopefully join us in Poland for the Eco-Schools NOM.

Temuujin Lundaajanstan, (back right) is the ITCNE Director who managed the mentor visit. We welcome the ITCNE team to FEE and Eco-Schools

ECO-SCHOOLS WRIGLEY COMPANY FOUNDATION LITTER LESS CAMPAIGN.

With the generous support of the Wrigley Company Foundation, the Eco-Schools Litter less campaign will commence in trial countries for 2011-2012.

'Litter Less' will be implemented across 10 Eco-School and 5 YRE countries including Russia, the UK (Northern Ireland), United States, China, Greece, Lithuania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Uganda, Canada, Romania, Germany and France.

It aims to engage and educate children and young people on the issues of litter, and encourage them to make positive choices. The campaign supplements the existing work the Wrigley Company undertakes to encourage responsible disposal of litter.

Eco-Schools will be asked to design and lead their own anti-litter projects, create a *Litter less* product or organise a Litter Less event. [Clean Up the World](#) in September will be a focus day for coordinating action. The *Litter less* campaign will utilize web based recording of data within the seven step change framework. Using the new *Eco-schools Connect* database schools will be able to identify other schools to exchange data and ideas with, thereby educating others for sustainable development.

*International Eco-Schools Coordination, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE),
The Danish Outdoor Council, Scandigade 13, DK-2450, Copenhagen SV, Denmark
Tel: +45 33 28 04 07, Fax: +45 33 79 01 79, Email: bch@friluftsradet, >Skype: [eco.schools.international](https://www.skype.com/en/eco-schools-international),
Web: <http://www.eco-schools.org/>*



ECO-SCHOOLS NOM REGISTRATION

The National Operators Meeting will be held in Krakow, October 26-30, 2011

Attendees are asked to indicate their intentions over the next month with final confirmation of arrival details in August. Registration can be made through the following link:

http://www.ekoszkola.pl/media/filemanager/ecoschools/information_leaflet_ecoschools_octoberkrakow.pdf

ADDING VALUE TO ECO-SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

The Eco-Schools Coordination Team have been endeavouring to build partnerships so member organisations have further services to offer their own networks.

To this end, the 2011 NOM will focus on achievements so far and ask for guidance on a number of other issues, including:

Earth Charter

The Earth Charter has been described as the 3rd pillar of United Nation's Declarations, accompanying the declaration on Human Rights and the Millennium Goals. It has been initiated by eminent people like Mikhail Gorbachev and Ruud Lubbers (Former Netherland Prime Minister). The FEE Board will sign an MOU with [Earth Charter](#) at the 2011 NOM.

The 16 ethical principles of the Earth Charter can be used to underpin all Eco-Schools Programmes and therefore school development plans, however the most impactful situation may arise in long term Eco-Schools seeking to thread sustainability through all school policies. The 2011 NOM will include a session of input on the Earth Charter and a workshop of how we can best utilise its power in our own networks.

Young Masters Program

Constructing training courses for teachers or students can be assisted through the YMP Course building program provided by Lund University, Sweden.

You may want to have teacher training on-line or have Eco-School students learning about how to run a committee meeting and develop an action plan. Lund University is working on an application to support such an initiative. National Operators will have access to this course builder (in their native language) which enables dynamic collaboration during learning, thereby enabling the course itself to build knowledge for sharing at the time and for future courses. To do this, the program uses the latest technology from Gaming and Social Media.

While all technology will not be available until 2012, we hope to have a demonstration at our NOM and a workshop to look at its possibilities for the Eco-Schools program. More at: www.goymp.org

*International Eco-Schools Coordination, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE),
The Danish Outdoor Council, Scandigade 13, DK-2450, Copenhagen SV, Denmark
Tel: +45 33 28 04 07, Fax: +45 33 79 01 79, Email: bch@friluftsradet, >Skype: [eco.schools.international](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/eco-schools-international),
Web: <http://www.eco-schools.org/>*



Energy Saving, Energy Monitoring and Carbon Foot Printing Programs

Eco-Schools are signing an MOU with [U4Energy](#) as we collaborate on a number of initiatives including the Mars Ambassador program in Lithuania later this year.

Meanwhile, Eco-Schools USA is trialling a relationship with [Zero Footprint](#) with a view to an expansion to Eco-Schools globally. Reports on these partnerships and the implications for national operators will also be on the NOM agenda.

Additionally, the European Environment Agency is developing [Bend the Trend](#), a program where individuals can pledge to reduce carbon emissions. Eco-Schools are also working with the EEA to adapt this program for classroom use. This is a broader spectrum Co2 management tool and may be more viable for some schools. More at the 2011 NOM.

Keeping Older Eco-School Students Engaged

While Eco-Schools are involved from Kindergarten to University, there can be a perception that Eco-School's is more a programme for younger students than older students. This perception challenges National Operators to make Eco-Schools meaningful to every level of education. How can Coordination support this? How can Coordination help provide meaning to Eco-Schools for all students and learning institutions? This is another focus for our NOM.

Eco-Schools Connect

This database will enable Eco-Schools to identify other Eco-Schools for collaboration through a search and find tool or Geo-maps. The database will be the centre feature of the *Litter less* campaign. More at the NOM.

THE USA'S FIRST GREEN FLAG FLIES OVER SUSTAINABLE SAVANNAH SCHOOL

Savannah Country Day School in Georgia was named the nation's first Green Flag Eco-School, and have now been joined by the 2nd and 3rd Green Flag school in the USA.



The school achieved this honour through a combination of excellence by "green" management of its facilities and grounds, providing opportunities for outdoor education and by integrating environmental learning throughout its curricula.

The Eco-Schools USA program, which is hosted by National Wildlife Federation, counts nearly 500 schools and some 205,000 students among its participants, but none has achieved the program's highest honour, the Green Flag, until now.

To win the first Green Flag, Savannah Country Day School, which completed a Silver LEED-certified lower school building in 2008, tackled a variety of sustainability projects, including lunchroom recycling and composting programs, a well-tended vegetable garden, environmental current events coursework and school-supported 'outdoor classroom time.' This was in keeping with Eco-Schools USA's uniquely holistic approach—'greening' the school building, the school grounds and the student curriculum and experience.

*International Eco-Schools Coordination, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE),
The Danish Outdoor Council, Scandigade 13, DK-2450, Copenhagen SV, Denmark
Tel: +45 33 28 04 07, Fax: +45 33 79 01 79, Email: bch@friluftsradet, >Skype: [eco.schools.international](https://www.skype.com/name/eco.schools.international),
Web: <http://www.eco-schools.org/>*



In kindergarten, students tend to a natural herb garden, moving on to a fruit orchard in first grade.

Second-graders study monarch butterfly eggs, and third-graders take care of a full organic vegetable garden. The entire school supports composting of pre-consumer waste and participates in a "green hour" program allowing children to be outside every week for instruction time (in addition to recess).

Among the more unique elements of sustainable life at Savannah Country Day School is lunchtime. The school chef often creates a display of garden vegetables to entice youngsters to try them, and local food vendors are celebrated with "Meet the Farmer" signage. All kitchen scraps and food waste are added to the school's compost pile.

CELEBRATING WORLD EARTH DAY IN MOROCCO



Students from high school Jaâfar Fassi Fihri in Casablanca participated in a videoconference to celebrate World Earth Day 2011.

The teleconference in state of the art facilities brought peers from across the world, literally, *face to face* on [World Earth Day](#)

This special project allowed the secondary students to network with students in Qatar, India and USA on the problems of water in their country. Issues of salinity of fresh water supplies, securing water for poorer communities, food crops were discussed.

FEE CHINA AWARDS THE ECO-SCHOOL GREEN FLAG



On Feb 22, 2011, a formal document was issued for awarding 47 Eco-schools in China.

The picture shows some of these schools at their Green Flag awarding ceremony.

The students and teachers in attendance were very proud of their achievements and are already looking forward to the challenges of the coming year as they seek for continuous improvement.

In the lead up to the award ceremony, 45 HSBC volunteers went to Beijing Yangzhen, No.1 Middle School where they met with students and staff and talked about each other's environmental programs.

The students and volunteers focussed specifically on the topic of Environment Protection and identified ways in which trees can help reduce Co2 in the atmosphere, help provide sanctuary to



birds and small wild life around the school as well as shade for the students. Trees were also identified as providing enrichment to the soil and a preventer of erosion.

After these discussions the volunteers and students planted trees together on the school campus.

Planning is already underway for next year's volunteer programme.

ECO-SCHOOLS AT I' "UNIVERSITE DE LA TERRE JUNIOR", UNESCO



The conference "Children talk to children: Nature in my school and my house", attracted more than 250 people.

Eco-School France participated in this national scope public event to mark the first edition of the "Université de la Terre Junior", 2nd and 3rd April 2011.

Students of Jules Ferry School (Montigny-en-Gohelle) and Talentiél School (Vauréal) came to present their Eco-School projects. The Jules Ferry School, certified in June 2010 for its project on biodiversity, presented photos of their stick insects and butterflies breeding. A cartoon about the life and adventures of an ant also delighted the audience.

The Talentiél School spoke about the implementation of an earth worm farm for the school garden. Thanks to this project, the school was certified in June 2010. To end this great occasion, the children interpreted their musical creation about nature conservation through a presentation called: "*Let us be ecological, it is chic and less chemical*".



FINNISH SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS GO ECO

The Bovallius education and training center, Pieksämäki is a vocational special school with traditions in sustainability.

In the school the environment jury includes students and school's staff. The jury organizes different kinds of theme days in the spirit of sustainable development. Recycling is in a very important at Bovallius. Students are taught how to sort, store and dispose of recycled items at school and in the wider community. Last fall they had a special day where students learned how to recycle different kind of materials.

This spring we had another special day where staff from the metal workshop explained how to save electricity in the workshop. They demonstrated how they made a care carriage for flowers, made from old cleaning carriages. The school now has a Green Flag.



UAE ECO-SCHOOLS ILLUSTRATES CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION AND UNDERTAKES COMMUNITY WORK

One year after launching the Eco-Schools programme in the UAE, school children showcased their commitment to making real changes to mitigate climate change through a poster exhibition.

The posters were part of the HSBC Eco-Schools Climate Initiative's Eco-Code competition from which six national winners were selected from junior and senior age categories. The top winner from each category will now enter the international round.



As part of their community activity, 55 students from four Eco-Schools attended a camp with Ecoventure, a schools-focused outdoor education company. Students worked on projects which included creating a pathway through a mini 'wadi' habitat area (Arabic for 'valley'), designing and painting school eco-murals, working on the irrigation system of the Ghaf (*Prosopis cineraria*) Tree Foundation Nursery and designing and creating a cactus garden with an environmental theme.

The first year of Eco-Schools brought 12 government and eight private schools from across the country under Eco-Schools. The programme is operating with the support of the UAE Ministry of Education and HSBC Bank Middle East Ltd., whose staff volunteers are engaging with the schools through school Eco-Committees and helping in other ways.

ECO-SCHOOLS SCOTLAND LAUNCHES NEW FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT TOPIC



A new Eco-Schools topic, called *Food and the Environment*, was officially launched in March by the Minister for Community Safety at North Queensferry Primary School in Fife.

The topic aims to inspire action towards more sustainable food choices, re-engaging pupils of all ages with where their food comes from, and how it arrives on their dinner plate.

The new topic explores issues relating to local and global food perspectives from primary production to food wastes. Eco-Schools Scotland sent almost every school in Scotland a 'Food and the Environment Topic Pack'. The pack included an exclusive packet of oat seeds, to 'grow their own oat cakes'.

North Queensferry Primary School was chosen for the launch as it has just been awarded its Green and already had a food project up and running.



The school has set up a kitchen garden where the pupils develop gardening skills and see the connection between what is grown in the ground and what they eat. The produce from the garden is used in the school canteen. This not only reduces the schools food miles, but also rekindles the pupils respect for the processes that puts the food onto their plates.

Pupils at schools like North Queensferry will benefit through getting involved in a range of activities that will encourage them to think more about the world around them, such as school food growing projects, practical experience of soils, seasons and culinary skills, and actions to reduce food waste.



MALAYSIA WELCOMES MENTOR VISIT

Board Member Malcolm Powell visited FEE Malaysia and Eco-Schools during May.

New member organizations with FEE receive a mentor visit to assist with strategic planning and organizational issues.

Thaiga Nadeson from WWF Malaysia has been instrumental with the introduction of Green schools networks in Malaysia and his work within Eco-Schools is now paying dividends with joining a growing network.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ECO-SCHOOLS CREATES ECO-SCHOOL FARMS



More than 2000 students, 40 teachers and members of the education community took part in an “Eco-School Farm contest”, where using recycled goods were used by the students to make animals, houses, tools and things related to a farm.

Imagination overflow was present the whole time. A lot of the students made their version animals are and tools the farmers use to work on the farms.

Some students focused on themes such as environmental problems of water scarcity, the deforestation because of felling trees and animals mistreatment. The farms were made using recycled packaging from home such as juice cartons, sponges, toilet paper rolls, newspapers and clothes' hangers.



CARSHALTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AIMING FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST GREEN FLAG FOR 2011

Carshalton Primary in rural KwaZulu Natal, is aiming for their International Green Eco-School Flag in 2011.

For the last 6 years, Midlands Meander Education Project Eco-School support node, has co-taught lessons on water, energy cycles, nutrition, permaculture, biodiversity and ecosystems.

Gugu Nxumalo in Grade 7 says: "I used to think gardening was for grownups, but now I help my Gogo (Granny) in the garden and have fun. I thought you was crazy blowing kisses to the plants, but I see they grow better, so I also do that."

Recognising the importance of food security, the Principal, Nathi Majola, offered to share their new expertise with the surrounding community and is delighted with the results. "There is excitement and love of food gardening in the whole community." He commented. "We add fresh vegetables to the feeding scheme and even in winter our garden is producing food."



Dust from the road passing the school is a problem, so with a grant from the FEE Carbon Fund, 30 hardy indigenous trees were planted last year to form a dust and wind break, provide wildlife habitats, shade, and useful learning opportunities too.

Recently, a tiny shed was transformed into a cheerful library with contributions of old carpets, shelves and books donated from "The B.U.G. Shop." This is a real thrill for the 55 learners at this little Eco-School, who are now able to research environmental projects.

Mr Majola said that "What makes Eco-Schools special is that it integrates the current curriculum rather than add-on. It has taught us about changing the way we live and changed our perceptions about nature. We have been able to deepen our knowledge and learn to manage the environment better. Better".



AN TAI SCE NATIONAL TRAVEL MASCOT /SOGAN COMPETITION

In partnership with the Department of Transport and the National Transportation Authority, An Taisce hosted this year's Green-Schools Travel Competition Award Ceremony.

Each year, Green-Schools Travel holds a national competition for schools that have received or are working towards a Green Flag for travel. There was an overwhelming response this year calling for a Green-Schools Travel slogan or mascot and winners were selected from over two thousand entries, received from schools across the country. Winning schools were



presented by Minister Kelly with a digital video camera and prize-fund, which will be used to further support environmental initiatives in their schools under the Green-Schools programme.

Winners were presented with a new bicycle and a cycle goodie pack. This year's winning entrants had their mascots and slogans reproduced in a professional graphic design and these will be used by the Green-Schools Travel programme in materials to promote sustainable travel on the school journey. Among the inspired winning entries this year were a model of a travel super-hero and giant paper-mache walking shoe, the effort of an entire Green-Schools committee in one primary school.

To date, over 650 primary and secondary schools countrywide have or are taking part in the Green-Schools Travel programme, implementing sustainable travel action plans in their schools. The ultimate aim of the Green-Schools Travel programme is to encourage students, parents and teachers to walk, cycle, Park 'n' Stride, use public transport or car pool instead of using the private car on the school run.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING in MOROCCO

The Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, organized a workshop to launch the Eco-School program at the de M'diq-F'nideq province with support from the Agency for the Promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the Prefectures and Provinces of Northern Kingdom.



This workshop is part of the Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean (RBIM) project, which aims to promote and enhance the sustainable development dimension of projects in ecosystems of great national and international ecological value.

The workshop involved 13 schools in the M'diq-F'nideq province and focused on Eco-Schools Methodology.

One outstanding example was The Hjar Nhal Eco-School associated with UNESCO and located in a rural area. The school had initiated a project on medicinal and aromatic plants which has enabled people to know all the local plants and their use.

Green Key and Eco-Schools have also been working together with 36 students from School Oum al Fadl discovering the environmental provisions adopted and managed within the Hotel Tikida Palmeraie (GK).

This visit was in focus on a simplified technique of compost followed by a demonstration session of the site. This visit, has also involved the different areas of the establishments (restaurants, kitchens, bedrooms).



HSBC VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN POLAND

Volunteers from HSBC have supported pupils to develop a more sustainable school.



The Eco Schools Project commenced on 30th November 2010 with a videoconference connecting volunteers and schools from 6 cities.

The three-hour meeting between Mobile Sales Manager from the Gdansk branch and the local students on 15th February for the National Energy Saving Day was a great opportunity to discuss the bank's eco policy and the school's green activities.

The children firstly talked about ecological activities of the bank as well as ways of saving money, energy and paper. Then the girls from the Eco Monitoring Group decorated the guest with symbols of the school's Ecological Patrol.



The energy area was decorated with beautiful posters on renewable energy, equipped with solar battery experimental sets and energy meters measuring energy consumption by electric bulbs. This was a great opportunity for mathematics lovers to make all sorts of calculations as different electrical home appliances had been collected and tested for energy consumption. A pressing iron turned out to be the infamous winner.

Next, the children carried out energy experiments including an energetic mission on Energy Planet using a multimedia board. They also painted energy posters and distributed leaflets informing the whole school community about the National Energy Saving Day.

The class is now looking forward to the next meeting and we hope that other schools' cooperation with the bank's volunteers will be equally fruitful and will result in more Green Flags this year!"

MARS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



The first Eco-Schools MAP (associated with the Wrigley Company) will be conducted in a large Vilnius school.

Renaldus Rimavicius National Operator for Lithuania will host up to 10 volunteers from the MAP in September.

The MAP has worked in many countries however this foray in Lithuania is designed to provide support to student led energy auditing which could be duplicated across all Lithuanian schools with the aid of Eco-Schools.

The students will be empowered to teach students from other schools during the week long mentoring and peer learning program while local and national government authorities will be invited to the final presentation to build support for a wider spread of the programs learning's.



Eco-Schools Newsletter

