



ECO-SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

DEC 2008

Contents

EDITORIAL

ECO-SCHOOLS OF THE MONTH

- A TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN
- LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN - THEY CAN SAVE YOU MONEY AND HELP YOU BEAT THE RECESSION

FEE NEWS

- NATIONAL OPERATORS MEETING, RABAT NOVEMBER 20TH AND 21 ST
- FEE DONATION SHOP

ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION PROJECT NEWS

INTERESTING LINKS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Editorial

This month, we will invite you to take a look at the tree-planting campaign as an example of an environmental initiative in Poland.

Pay attention in the message coming from an Eco-Schools educated school children in Northern Ireland.

You can see the FEE donation shop projects that are being carried out at the moment.

Furthermore, you can find the schools that have won the Environmental and Innovation Climate Change: Let's Save Energy Project grant.

You will also see interesting links, news on other initiatives and Upcoming events.

And we would like to wish all the best for this holiday season and the coming year!

Estela, Isabel and Olga
International Eco-Schools Coordination

News from Eco-Schools

A TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN AS AN EXAMPLE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE ON THE KRAKOW-MORAVA-WIEN GREENWAYS POLAND

The main aim of the **Krakow-Morava-Wien Greenways** is to promote and preserve indigenous varieties and species of trees. The mission is to create the longest tree-lined avenue in central Europe.

The Greenways has the ability to involve local communities in cultural and natural heritage matters as well as to promote environmental education and awareness among the participants.

Numerous educational projects have been organized along the greenways such as: tree planting events, competitions, conferences, seminars and workshops.

Some good examples of the Greenways projects are summarized below:

“Tree of life on the Krakow-Morava-Wien Greenways”

The idea was to profit from the place where the trees were planted and to take advantage of the landscape and its natural and cultural features.

“Dedicate a tree on the Krakow-Morava-Wien Greenways”

The main goal was to increase the involvement of the local schools in the tree-planting campaigns and other educational events.

The 222 trees planted during the occasion will neutralize 106,5 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

This project is a good example of cooperation between schools and the community in environmental activities.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION DAY ON JUNE 5TH, 2008

Pupils had the opportunity to increase their knowledge about ecology and find out exactly how interesting environmental initiatives can be.

The event organizers promoted a debate with all the participants about the planting trees project and its magnitude.



To dedicate a tree, please see the following website:

<http://www.aeris.eko.org.pl/?dz=3&poddz=16&lang=pl>

For more information, see:

www.greenways.pl

Małgorzata Łuszczek

Fundacja Partnerstwo dla Środowiska

Polish Environmental Partnership Foundation

www.ekoszkola.pl

News from Eco-Schools

LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN - THEY CAN SAVE YOU MONEY AND HELP YOU BEAT THE RECESSION NORTHERN IRELAND

That is the message coming from a growing band of Eco-Schools educated school children throughout Northern Ireland.

The lessons being learned by the younger generation are not only benefiting the environment but having an impact on how their families deal with the current financial crisis.



Findings show that Eco-Schools pupils are saving money through the conservation of energy and water, as well as reducing fuel and transport costs by changing the way they travel to school when compared to non Eco-Schools pupils. Schools that have achieved a Green Flag have been able to reduce the amount of waste they produce by an average of 45%, and their pupils are also more likely to participate in local environmental projects, recycle materials within the home and are less likely to drop litter.

A third of Northern Ireland's schools are currently registered on the programme, with Holy Family Primary School becoming the 100th recipient of the prestigious Eco-School Green Flag Award. Coagh Primary School also recently became the 400th school to register for the scheme, which provides a simple framework to enable schools to analyse its operations and become more sustainable, reducing the environmental impact of the whole school on the community.

"They are not only making their schools more environmentally aware, but they are bringing the message home and reminding their parents of the benefits of living responsibly. Instead of parents complaining about

having to delve into their pockets to fund their children's spending, it makes a surprising change to hear parents say their children have helped them save money - something that is particularly relevant in the current financial climate" said Dr Ian Humphreys, CEO of TIDY Northern Ireland and National Operator for Northern Ireland.

In recognition of the efforts of Northern Ireland's pupils and teachers, FEE President, Jan Eriksen, and Director, Finn Bolding Thomsen, travelled to the province to acknowledge the achievements made by local primary and post primary schools at a celebratory event attended by around 400 delegates including schools, NGOs and Local Authorities that support the programme and funders. The event featured primary and post-primary schools presentations, awards for long-serving assessors and input from Eco-Schools in Scotland and China. "As the President of the Foundation for Environmental Education, I would like to send my best greetings to the Eco-Schools Programme in Northern Ireland. Our member organisation from Northern Ireland, Tidy Northern Ireland, has been running the Eco-Schools Programme very successfully with the Programme now celebrating the award of the 100th Green Flag."



Dr Ian Humphreys
Tidy Northern Ireland

www.tidynorthernireland.org

FEE News

NATIONAL OPERATORS MEETING, RABAT NOVEMBER 20TH AND 21ST

The National Operators Meeting (NOM) has taken place in Rabat between November 20th and 21st, 2008.

The NOM occurred in Rabat and involved 42 ES delegations and 57 people.

The NOM was organized by ES International Co-ordination and the Fondation Mohammed VI Pour la Protection de L'Environnement, the FEE Delegation from Morocco and NOM host organization.



The main subjects discussed were:

- Eco-Schools International programme Status and Standards;
- Different projects between delegations and schools;
- Establishment of the Eco-School Committee, the importance of Involving the Students and all the School in the ES Activities and the importance of networking;
- Eco-Schools in Kindergartens and primary schools;
- Eco-Schools in Secondary Schools;
- The importance of organizing ES events and recognition of the ES teachers;
- 7 steps and the implementation of Water, Energy and Waste themes;

- COPE – children, Outdoor, Participation and environment project;
- The evaluation of the programme in Ireland;
- Low energy consumption, eco-indicators and how to use the building as an educational project;
- The evaluation of the programme in South Africa;
- Sustainable development possible themes: the case of Finland;
- How to implement Climate Change in the ES;
- Environmental and Innovation Project;
- FEE donation shop;
- Eco-Schools Communication Strategy;
- Proposal – Climate Change Project;
- ES Action plan follow up 2008/2010;
- The ES International programme Levy;
- The ES International programme Financial Matters.

Thanks to all participants! ... Well done!!

Executive Board meeting on 19 June were to welcome to Lourdes Díaz (Puerto Rico) and Sarah Winterton (Canada) as new FEE Executive Board members and the appointment of Heiko Crost continuing as FEE Vice-President and Malcolm Powell continuing as Treasurer of FEE.

It was also decided that the new political responsible for the Eco-Schools Programme would be Henny Kromhout. Besides, the Eco-Schools 2008-2011 Objectives and Action Plan were approved.

Eco-Schools International Co-ordination

www.eco-schools.org

Environment and Innovation

SECOND CYCLE – “LET’S SAVE ENERGY”

The second cycle of the project has been active since November 2007 in the following countries:

- Denmark
- Finland
- Italy
- Norway
- Portugal
- Turkey

Currently there are 82 Participants/projects and 29 Awarded projects. Congratulations to the schools that have won the grant as listed below:

Turkey - National Winners

1. Hilal Nemciye Hüsnü Ataberk I.Ö.O.
2. Stek Özel Belde I.Ö.O.
3. Fenerbahçe Spor Kulübü Özel I.Ö.O.
4. ODTÜ Gelistirme Vakfı Özel I.Ö.O.
5. ENKA Adapazarı Özel I.Ö.O.

Norway - National Winners

1. Vollen skole
2. Kvadraturen skolesenter
3. Reipå skole
4. Lianvatnet skole
5. Sætra barnehage

Finland - National Winners

1. Vasaramäki Primary School
2. Neulanan Kindergarten
3. Terälahti Primary School, Kinderkarten and Nature School
4. Maikkulanraitti Primary School
5. Mettijäinen Kindergarten
6. Koiramäki Kindergarten
7. Torpparinmäki Primary School

Denmark National Winners

1. Krogårdskolen
2. Hedegårdenes Skole
3. Janderup Skole



Italy - National Winners

1. I.C. di Lerici
2. Istituto IPIA di Trebisacce
3. 44° CD “G.B. Grassi”

Portugal - National Winners

1. EB 2,3 de Algoz
2. EB 2,3 Manuel Pinto de Vasconcelos
3. EB 2,3 de Lousada
4. EB 2,3 de Grijó
5. Escola Secundária João de Deus
6. EB 2,3 de Celeirós

The application forms are available in 8 languages on the website: <http://www.Eco-Schools.org/innovation2008/index.php>

Eco-Schools International Co-ordination

www.Eco-Schools.org

TOYOTA

FEE Donation Shop



A site where visitors can give donations towards a FEE project. It offers the possibility of a fun way to contribute to charity.

Currently there are projects from 4 different countries as shown below. For more information go to www.fee-shop.com:

1. SLOVAKIA

Model Zero Energy House - Railway Secondary

Vocational. A model to help younger pupils to understand term "passive house" and its advantages.

Solar energy project in a primary school in Svaty Jur.

A primary School wants to use solar energy to save energy and reduce greenhouse gases by installing photovoltaic panels on the school roof.

Summer classrooms – Trenčín. To greenify the concrete space in front of the classrooms.

We love Patrovec in a primary School Východná. It is an interactive course about Nature protection, team building and outdoor skills development.

2. THE NETHERLANDS

Field work week in primary school 'De Piramide'.

One week long, the children themselves are going to work.

3. KENYA

Effective Microorganisms programme. Support the schools in Kenya with the Environmental Programme. Children will make and study Effective Microorganisms.

Improving Learning conditions in Kibera school.

The project aims to construct 1 classroom for children between ages 3-6 years who are currently learning in an open space in the slum.

4. SOUTH AFRICA

Budding Birders. It is an opportunity for 18 learners to visit the African Bird of Prey Sanctuary to learn more about birds.

Indigenous trees. We aim to improve school self esteem and pride in the school grounds by planting suitable hardy indigenous trees.

Snake Country. In an attempt to dispel some of the myths and fears surrounding snakes, we invite a snake expert to visit schools to share information.



Solar cookers. Solar Cookers for schools in Johannesburg.

Super Solar Chefs. Lesson how to deal with climate change and renewable energy.

Tree tags. Old indigenous trees that occur in rural school yards need to be used as environmental education tools.

Worm farms. The introduction of 6 worm farms into Ekhukhanyisweni Primary school.

Go now to: www.fee-shop.com and give a donation to one of the projects.

Eco-Schools International Co-ordination

www.eco-schools.org

News

4TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY CONFERENCE



Enhancing the Energy Security of the European Union: The Role of Technology - 2 day conference in association with

The Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). This 2-day conference will take place on the 17th and 18th of March in Brussels.

Registration for this conference can also be made online and the deadline is February 3rd

Further details are available online at www.euenergypolicy.com

CHECK IT OUT

Check it Out! is a project co-funded by the European Union under the Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme.

The projects' main goal is to improve the energy performance of schools through technical measures and education.

The project has been underway now for more than two years and in 90 schools across Europe we are saving energy and educating children!

More information about the project and the progress per country can be found in the following link:<http://www.check-it-out.eu/index.php?p=33296&main=33206>

Caspar Noach

Project manager Check it out

www.check-it-out.eu

Interesting Links

Some interesting links related to biodiversity, conservation, and other environmental issues:

WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTRE

<http://www.unep-wcmc.org>

VIRTUAL LIBRARY ON ENVIRONMENTAL

<http://www.earthsystems.org/virtuallibrary>

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE

<http://www.ens-newswire.com>

GUIDE TO BIODIVERSITY

<http://uk.oneworld.net/guides>

CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY

<http://www.cat.org.uk/index.tml?refer=index&init=1>

FOODFIRST

<http://www.foodfirst.org>

Upcoming Events

THE VOLVO ADVENTURE

The Volvo Adventure in collaboration with the United Nations Environmental Programme arranged an educational programme that rewards environmental activities and the decision-makers of the future.

To enter, you need to form a team of 2 to 5 members aged 13 to 16 years and perform an environmental project in your local community. The deadline is January 31st 12 pm, 2009

Projects are judged during February and March and the best projects will be selected for an all expenses paid trip to Göteborg, Sweden where they can win: 1st place = 10,000 USD, 2nd = 6,000 USD and 3rd = 4,000 USD.

See the registration details and guidelines for more information at <http://www.volvoadventure.org>

CEPS

<http://www.ceps.be/index3.php>

EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK (EUSEW)

The EUSEW is the key annual reference point for sustainable energy issues in Europe. The events organised during EUSEW cover key topics that highlight the multi-sectoral nature of sustainable energy development and stress the need for everyone to work together towards a common goal.

It will take place in Brussels, Belgium, and in other cities across Europe from Monday 9 to Friday 13 February 2009.

See further details at <http://www.eusew.eu>

ENERGISESSION 2009

Energisession is a two day conference with 12 separate half days sessions about different energy issues.

Some examples of topics include:

- new fuels for transport
- energy efficiency in the building sector

- solar electricity
- wind electricity
- the trade and industry role for changing to sustainable energy systems
- garbage a source for heating
- environmental innovations
- entrepreneurs for energy companies
- community planning for changing to new energy systems etc.

The conference will take place in Skövde on the 5th and 6th of February.

See further details at <http://www.eusew.eu>



FEE - Foundation for Environmental Education is a non-profit umbrella organisation implementing programmes for environmental education, management and certification.

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The International Coordination is hosted by Associação Bandeira Azul da Europa (ABAE), the Portuguese Member of FEE.

fee.portugal@abae.pt - www.abae.pt

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www.unep.org



www.scotland.gov.uk

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