

Report on	Eco Schools Programme
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Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on participation in the Eco Schools programme within Mid Ulster.
2.0	Background
2.1	Eco-Schools is an international programme which promotes all school sustainability. Running in 64 countries it currently involves 15 million pupils in over 49,000 schools. Within Northern Ireland 100% of all schools are registered for Eco-Schools.
2.2	Under the programme schools must strive to make their school more sustainable by working under 10 pre-set topics which are waste, litter, water, energy, biodiversity, healthy living, outdoor learning, transport, climate change and global perspective.
2.3	Schools can also register on line for their bronze and silver awards which are stepping stones to full green flag status. The green flag is the highest accolade that can schools can obtain although some may also become ambassador schools under specific topics. Green flag status is not permanent and schools must renew their flags every 2 years and show continual improvement to keep their green flag status.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Eco-schools is coordinated in Northern Ireland by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) which depends heavily on expert delivery partners such as local Councils, Sustrans and Trocaire to deliver the individual topics. KNIB receive funding from DAERA as well as some of the delivery partners such as the local Councils to manage the programme and the assessment of green flags.
3.2	Every school in Northern Ireland is now registered for the Eco-Schools programme but not all of them have yet attained their green flag status. Currently 25% of all schools in Northern Ireland have their green flag status. However with 37% of all schools currently registered as green flag schools Mid Ulster District Council currently has the highest percentage of green flag schools of any Council in Northern Ireland (see below graph)

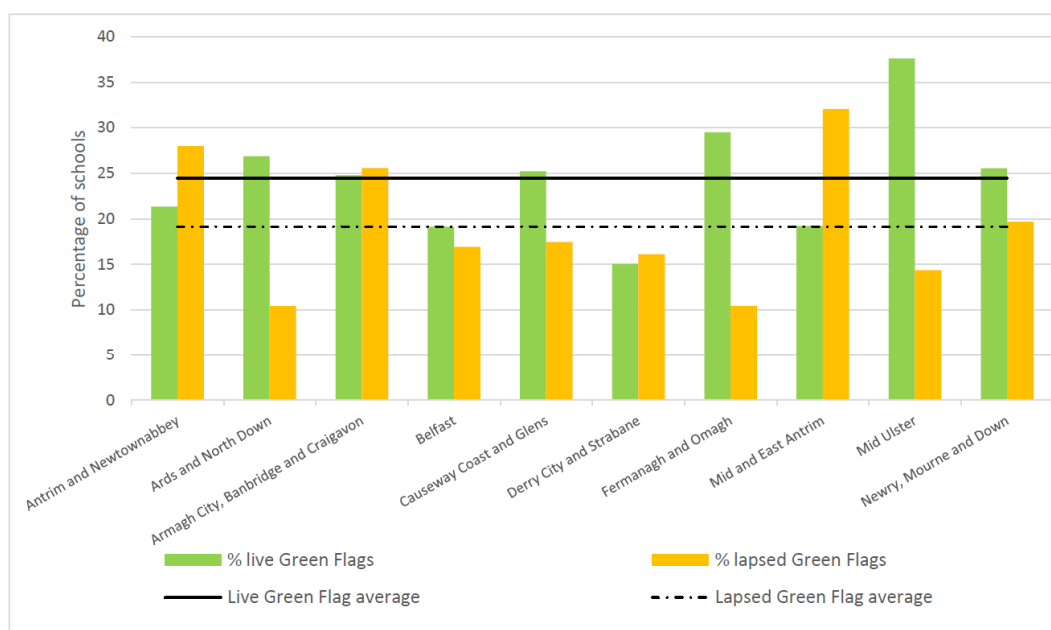


Figure 1: Percentage live and lapsed Green Flags in each of the supporting council areas. The solid line represents the average percentage of live Green Flags and the dashed represents the average percentage of lapsed Green Flags, across supporting council areas.

- 3.3 At time of report Mid Ulster currently has 45 green flag schools, 22 silver award schools, 8 bronze award schools and 20 schools with lapsed green flags (which simply means that they may not have renewed their flag in time and may be working to renew it).
- 3.4 As part of the programme and Green Flag assessment some schools such as Bush Primary School (Eco School's ambassador school) produce their own video; see below: <https://www.facebook.com/dungannonlife/videos/1907238145969984/>
- 3.5 In order to maintain participation in the Eco-Schools programme and to try and push all our schools toward green flag status the Council recently ran an Eco-Schools cluster group for local schools. The event which was held in the Dungannon office on 22nd November 2017 was open to all schools in Mid Ulster, however an extra effort was made to encourage those schools which have not yet attained their green flag to come along.
- 3.6 The event gave schools the chance to meet with KNIB, and other delivery partners such as the Councils recycling officers who play a huge role encouraging and supporting schools to attain their green flag status. The event was very well attended with almost 30 schools represented on the day.
- 3.7 Eco-Schools have now also secured DAERA funding to run a food waste challenge for secondary schools. Schools will be encouraged to research the topic of food waste with a view to producing video, audio and written reports as part of their Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) competition. Pupils and staff from the participating schools will be given free workshops facilitated by real reporters and photographers in preparation to producing their food waste reports. The reports will be entered into the YRE competition with the winner going on to represent Northern Ireland in an international competition. Again Mid Ulster District Council is supporting this project by the provision of a venue.
- 3.8 As part of our ongoing wider work to support schools within the District and to promote the Councils recycling message we recently produced a video in partnership with the Education Authority c2kni news desk which goes to every school in Northern Ireland. The video was free of charge to the Council; please follow the below link to view:

	https://bit.ly/2hSgeo0
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial & Human Resources Implications Financial: Council currently contributes £1500 per annum to the Eco Schools Programme Human: Some officer time supporting schools within the various topics and working towards green flag status.
4.2	Equality and Good Relations Implications The Eco Schools programme is open to all schools.
4.3	Risk Management Implications N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	KNIB report on Eco Schools Programme
6.2	Eco Schools Press Release