

Report on	Eco Speak Competition 2024
Date of Meeting	14th May 2024
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director: Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karen Brown, Recycling Education & Data Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the Eco Speak Competition for Mid Ulster Primary Schools.
2.0	Background
2.1	Eco Speak helps to raise awareness of environmental issues by giving young people the opportunity to research environmental issues such as waste, recycling and litter and to present their views and to develop their confidence and skills in public speaking.
2.2	The competition has relaunched after a five year break following the Covid pandemic and was open to primary six and seven pupils from all primary schools in Mid Ulster district. Schools were contacted via email with an information leaflet and a competition entry form to return to the Recycling Team (see Appendix 1 and 2).
2.3	The topic which pupils were invited to speak on (for a maximum of 4 minutes) was "Don't mess up Mid Ulster". Pupils were asked to demonstrate how they would tackle the problem of litter in the Mid Ulster area, including prevention and managing litter; what different elements of litter are most common, and the wider environmental problems associated with this. Pupils also had to explain how they would encourage others not to litter and be more environmentally conscious.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The competition was held in the Burnavon on the morning of Monday 22 nd April 2024 with entrants from 22 primary schools from across the district. Council Chair, Cllr Dominic Molloy, welcomed everyone to the event before participants were split into two heats which ran simultaneously. The judging panels for both heats of the competition were made up of representatives from ReGen, Recyco, Moy Park, Dunbia and Biffa Waste.
3.2	Two finalists were selected from each heat who then went on to compete in the Final, judged by: Cllr Clement Cuthbertson (Chair of Environment Committee), Mark McAdoo (Assistant Director, Environmental Services) and Sharon McMaster (Natural World Products Ltd.).
3.3	A list of all 22 primary schools which entered the competition is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augher Central Primary School • Aughnacloy Primary School

- Ballylifford Primary School
- Ballytrea Primary School
- Bush Primary School
- Carntall Primary School
- Churchill Primary School, Caledon
- Churchtown Primary School
- Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt
- Moneymore PS
- New Row St Patrick's Primary School, Castledawson
- Orritor Primary School
- St. John's Primary School, Swatragh
- St. Malachy's Primary School, Glencull
- St. Mary's Primary School, Aughnacloy
- St. Mary's Primary School, Bellaghy
- St. Mary's Primary School, Cabragh
- St Mary's Primary School, Glenview
- St Mary's Primary School, Greenlough
- St Patrick's Primary School, Glen
- St. Patrick's Primary School, The Loup
- Woods Primary School

3.4 Participants' each received a certificate and a goody bag from the Council. The four finalists were: Ger Bradley from St Patrick's PS Glen, Odhran Luiten from St Mary's PS Greenlough, Bethany Sawyers from Augher Central PS and Grace Eagleson from Aughnacloy PS. All four finalists received a £25 voucher in addition to their goody bag and certificate. The overall winner of the competition was Bethany Sawyers of Augher Central Primary School who received a trophy and a complimentary class trip to OM Dark Skies Observatory.

3.5 This year's event was kindly sponsored by the companies who also sat on the judging panels, namely Recyco, ReGen, Moy Park, Dunbia, Biffa Waste and Natural World Products Ltd (NWP). Sponsorship details as follows:

- Recyco – 4 no. £25 vouchers for heat winners
- NWP – 1 no. bag of compost for each participant and a pallet of compost to be divided between the schools of four finalists
- ReGen – promotional items for goody bags
- Moy Park – promotional items for goody bags
- Dunbia – promotional items for goody bags
- Biffa Waste – promotional items for goody bags

3.6 A press release and accompanying photos (see Appendix 3) appeared in the local press. The competition was also given coverage on the Councils website and social media.

3.7 The event was a great success and the feedback from the pupils, teachers and parents present on the day was very positive.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: The total costs of the event was £2,440 and is included within Departmental 2024/25 revenue budgets.
	Human: The Recycling Education and Data Officers spent a considerable amount of time in the planning and delivery of the event. Risk Management: Consent forms were obtained for each pupil involved for photography purposes.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The entries received were from a wide range of schools across Mid Ulster with representation from the three former legacy areas. Rural Need Implications: Rural primary schools were well represented in the event.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Eco Speak Information Flyer
6.2	Appendix 2 – Eco Speak Entry Form
6.3	Appendix 3 – Press Release and accompanying photos
6.4	Appendix 4 – Photographs of event