

## Appendix 1

September 2021 – June 2022

Teacher Meetings	Date
St John's PS, Moy	17/9/21
Kilronan Special School	20/9/21
St Eoghan's PS	8/3/22
St Mary's, Greenlough	12/4/22
St Mary's PS	4/5/22

### Workshops

#### *Fast Fashion*

- St Eoghan's PS Magherafelt

#### **Green Flags awarded in June 2022**

- Churchtown Primary School
- Coagh Primary School
- Dungannon Primary School
- FIVEMILETOWN COLLEGE
- Fivemiletown Primary School
- Gaelscoil na Spéiríní
- Holy Family Primary School
- Holy Family PS, Aughamullan
- Howard Primary School
- KILRONAN SPECIAL SCHOOL
- Moneymore Primary School
- New Row Primary School
- Phoenix Integrated Primary School
- Roan St Patrick's Primary School
- Sperrin Integrated College
- St Columba's Primary School
- St Eoghan's Primary School
- St John Bosco Primary School Ballynease
- St John's Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School
- St Patrick's College
- St Trea's Primary School
- Walker Memorial Primary School

### **Ambassador School**

- Holy Family Primary School, Aughamullan
- KILRONAN SPECIAL SCHOOL
- St Columba's Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School
- St Colm's High School

### **Special Awards received in June 2022**

- Eco-School of the Year for Mid Ulster District Council – St John's Primary School
- Biodiversity Champion – Howard Primary School
- Eco Teacher of the Year – Rhonda Kelly of New Mills Primary School

# Mid Ulster District Council: facts and figures 2021-22

**129**

Number of schools registered in council area

**29,036**

Total number of pupils in council area

**80**

Number of schools who have achieved the Green Flag



**47**

schools with current Green Flags (36%)

**33**

schools with lapsed Green Flags (26%)

## Ambassador Schools

- St Colm's High School (new 2016/17)
- St Columba's Primary School, Straw (new 2017/18)
- Kilronan SP School (new 2018/19)
- St Mary's Primary School (new 2021/22)
- Holy Family PS, Aughamullan (new 2021/22)

**11** teachers attended the Cluster Group Meeting

**1** Outdoor Learning Garden installed

**4** Productive Biodiversity Gardens installed

**30** Pollinator Grants awarded

**1** Small Grants awarded

## Awareness and engagement with Eco-Schools topics



**40**

(31%)



**18**

(14%)



**34**

(26%)



**18**

(14%)



**53**

(41%)



**43**

(33%)



**3**

(2%)



**46**

(36%)



**13**

(10%)



**40**

(31%)



**19**

(15%)

## Financial support to schools through project funding

Project name	Schools	Funding
Danske Bank & Radius Housing Garden Projects	Churchtown PS, Phoenix Integrated PS, Edendork PS, Howard PS & St Mary's PS Greenlough	£12,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£12,500</b>



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



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**ECO-SCHOOLS**

# Eco-Schools: added value

- 1.** Contact with 100% of schools in your council area

100%

- 2.** Teacher resources across all Key stages



- 3.** Financial Incentives for schools participating:

Up to **£250** for the Wrigley Litter Less Challenge

Up to **£200** for Young Reporters for the Environment

Up to **£1,500** in our Cash for Clobber competition

Up to **£500** in our NIHE School's Energy Competition

Up to **£500** in Wheelie Big Challenge Competition

**Plus many other opportunities:**

Danske Bank and Radius Housing Gardens, Translink Travel Challenge etc.

- 4.** In person and online workshops to help engage dormant schools:



- Coastal Schools
- Tacking Fast Fashion
- Wheelie Big Challenge
- Young Reporters for the Environment

- 5.** A team of dedicated **Field Officers** out on the ground supporting schools through the Eco-Schools programme

- 6.** Online **webinars** and **clinics** to support teachers and delivery partners lead and deliver on our programme

- 7.** 4K+ followers and growing, with a reach of 130k



- 8.** Individual Council Eco-School's Award Ceremonies



- 9.** Carbon Literacy Training for teachers

Carbon Literacy Programmes



[www.eco-schoolsni.org](http://www.eco-schoolsni.org)

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ECO-SCHOOLS

07 February 2023

Dear Council,

**Council support request for the Eco-Schools Programme in Northern Ireland 2023/24.**

This letter is a request for support for the Eco-Schools programme in your council area in 2023/2024 and to highlight the excellent value the Eco-Schools Programme brings to Northern Ireland in helping deliver a safe and sustainable future for our youth.

Your continued support both financially and with staff time is highly appreciated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and is critical to the success of the programme in educating young people on environmental issues and empowering them to make informed choices, take positive action and be the change needed to ensure a sustainable Northern Ireland. We seek to give young people a platform to make their voices heard and influence their peers, communities, policy and decision-makers.

The Eco-Schools programme encourages and directs young people to think about litter, waste and recycling, energy saving, water conservation, transport options, biodiversity, the natural environment they are custodians of, and make positive choices for a better future. We look forward to continuing the relationship we have established over the years which has helped cement Northern Ireland as a top achiever globally in the Eco-Schools programme.

Eco-Schools creates behavioural change in our youth and we have seen it dispersing into society via our Eco-Campuses and Eco-clubs who are now engaging and valuing the impact of the Green Flag Award. The programme may start in schools however, the impact is far reaching and a consultation has begun on the new online Earth Hub to begin linking all the great working happening across the country in all sectors. Continued support of our programme will encourage this further growth and spread into the wider society through positive behaviour change.

We bring additional support from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, grant making bodies and other corporate and charity funders and continue to make efforts to diversify funding opportunities for environmental education in Northern Ireland.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind councils they play a vital role in helping us meet our **match funding** for the grant received from DAERA to keep this programme operational. We are conscious corporate funders tend to stay around for around 2-3 years and for many of them we are into year 3. Although we will continue to look for additional funding to keep the current team and the growth in the team, we believe councils could really help to ensure our essential locally available 'on the ground' services are maintained.

It is important to note that we have so far, because of your continued support, not had to pass the cost on to schools and have been able to offer the programme and assessments free. We hope to continue this in the future as schools come increasingly under financial pressure. However, loss of council support nationally would result in match funding not being met and the programme either running at a cost to the school or the loss of core funding.

Other countries have moved to charging schools, however, for us at Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, we believe it is imperative this remains a free programme so **all sections of the community** can benefit equally and it not become a postcode lottery. We are continually being reminded on the news and more so at COP27 the need for a just transition and we believe environmental education should be free for all. However, the reality may be individual councils who do not support the programme may see their schools paying £200 for assessment and award of Green Flag next academic year.

### ***Your responsibility to our youth and your constituents***

We know from surveying our young people, their asks are clear and structured about the need for further Environmental Education and they are huge advocates for the Eco-Schools Programme listing it as one of their 5 recommendations to our politicians last year.

“According to the responses from the survey the young people trust schools and colleges as places to receive information about climate change. Therefore, it is important that educational settings and staff have the tools, resources and expertise to engage with young people on issues pertaining to climate change. There should also be an emphasis on teacher training and continued professional development on issues such as Carbon Literacy and the Eco-Schools Programme.” Eco-Schools has been able to deliver both the teacher training and, more recently, an exam, to help progress climate knowledge in the younger population.

We also participated in the [Running Out of Time](#) International Movement having schools, teachers, pupils, staff and the entire school community coming together for a Global School Action Day. Our schools were closed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, however many carried out activities the week previous. In total there were **752,393 students** from **2,129 schools** in **104 countries** took part in the Global Schools Action Day! **817,576** and counting young people signed the baton message to give to world leaders at COP. Our very own Emer Rafferty attended the final stage of the baton relay in Egypt and was one of the international team of Young Reporters for the Environment.

### [The Baton Message](#)

#### **We are Running Out of Time.**

Quality climate education is critical if we are to equip people of all ages and in all places with the knowledge and skills necessary to build a future in which all can thrive.

Young people need to be recognised as leaders, placed at the forefront of the conversation about climate change and empowered through education.

We are calling on the world's leaders to provide us with the skills and training to build a sustainable world.

Our world is warming and to keep the increase to 1.5 degrees we need forward thinking, consistent policies and funding to help us reach Net Zero Emissions.

We are committed to help build a future that is inclusive and sustainable for all.

Show by your actions, not just words, that you are too.

It is clear not just in Northern Ireland but worldwide the huge impact the Eco-School's movement is playing in preparing our young people and many of our older members of the community in giving them the skills and training to build a more sustainable world and to be more resilient in the face of ongoing setbacks and difficulties. The work we are doing on the ground currently with local field officers is vital in preparing people for hardships here now and to come over the medium term.

We at Eco-Schools and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful as a whole have already started to respond to this broader public agenda and demand from our teachers and youth. We are continuing to deliver Carbon Literacy Training to our Teachers and Youth Leaders across the country. We now have an official Climate qualification called: [OCNNI Level 2 Certificate in Reducing Carbon Footprints through Environmental Action](#). There are 5 units available with Carbon Literacy being the core unit. We have developed teaching resources to support teachers and youth workers with the delivery of this course.

Dealing with the Climate Crisis moving forward, employment within this sector will be in demand and we need to prepare our young people for the jobs they will be working in. We are in the first year of our [30 Under 30 Climate Change Makers](#) programme designed to unearth, inspire, and equip 30 leaders under the age of 30 who can play an instrumental part in shaping a better climate future for Northern Ireland and beyond.

***Statistical Impacts from the Eco-Schools programme and financial support Eco-Schools brought to your local schools.***

Most programmes across the country across all sectors saw a lack of engagement or participation during the COVID19 period however; Eco-Schools maintained the number of active Green Flags but have also seen a huge reengagement from previously less engaged schools and expect the numbers of Green Flags to begin to increase significantly each academic year. There has also been a huge focus on gathering more data from schools to begin to measure impact.

The Eco-Schools programme has brought significant financial gains to your local school communities from competitions, to installation of gardens, free workshops, pollinator grant and small grant support for schools etc.

Please view the over NI wide impact card and your council specific impact card, both attached in the email.

***Support for Eco-Schools Going Forward***

Over the past few years we have increased the amount of support we offer schools in your council area. The demand has grown exponentially since lockdown and our online resources and support offered during this time has increased in response. Through corporate partnerships we have been able to expand our Eco-Schools team to provide feet on the ground in your council area offering direct support to schools in the form of workshops, practical advice and support and online sessions. This corporate funding however is not secure and we can only hope your council continues to help us with its excellent and much needed support.

**Currently your council contributes 3.5% of the overall Environmental Educational Team budget at a cost of £2,975 per annum (10 pence per pupil).**

We were delighted to see several councils increase their level of support this year in recognition of the growing impact of the programme. Belfast City Council contribute 16.5% alone to the Eco-Schools programme with Derry City and Strabane District Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council all each contributing 13% respectively.

**Each of the above councils all now have a dedicated Field officer working solely in this council area.**

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you your investment in light of how the Eco-Schools programme has grown and developed in your Council area in the hope of sustaining the additional staff resource we have put in place to make this happen.

We understand the difficulties councils are facing at present with budget cuts and absorbing high inflationary rates and now is not an ideal time to request an increase in financial support. Therefore, **we would hope you would maintain your current offer of support with us.**

We would invite you to review the following 2 options and an additional awards ceremony contribution.

***Option 1: Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful' s preference.***

Support of the Eco-Schools Programme at a cost of **£10,942**. This includes Wheelie Big Challenge and core running cost of the programme, which equates to an investment of approximately **38 pence per pupil** in your council area and would continue to have your council in line with others.

***Option 2:***

Support of the Eco-Schools Programme at a cost of **£2,975** would equate to an investment of approximately **10 pence per pupil** in your council area.

***Additional Eco-Schools Award Ceremony: £4000***

***After the huge success of our Eco-School Awards last year we hope for this to become an annual ceremony each year in each council.***

*We understand last year many you supported us with a venue and catering for the Eco-School's Award ceremony however, we understand this proved difficult at such short notice. Eco-Schools covered a significant cost out of KNIB reserves to get all 11 over the line however; this cannot be sustained moving forward. We have laid out a budget below.*



Organisation and promotion of Eco-School's Award Ceremony <i>Invitations, rsvp, dietary requirements, comms</i>	£850
Venue, Catering and refreshments	£2000
Photographer/videographer	£600
Guest speaker	£100
Host	£300
Sponsor an Award (award can be discussed: e.g. Eco-School, Eco-teacher, Eco-Pupils etc)	£150

**If your council would prefer to organise the venue and catering the cost will be £2000.**  
*I would stress we expect the award ceremonies to be larger this coming year with an increase in green flag applications and engagement*

**Please see the Matrix Grid to compare support**

### Matrix for Council's Eco-Schools Support options

Deliverable	Option 1	Option 2
A pre-existing programme to <b>assist council delivery of their waste and litter prevention programmes and to help councils meet waste prevention and landfill reduction targets.</b>	X	X
Direct communication with <b>all schools</b> in your council and NI as a whole.	X	X
Support councils in educating and raising awareness on <b>litter, waste and avoidable single use plastics</b> that will be dealt with in forthcoming EU and Northern Ireland Executive Committee legislation.	X	X
The opportunity to be associated with this prestigious international environmental education programme.	X	X
Clear linkage to Council support for young people's environmental leadership development.	X	X
<b>Free training</b> for your staff to become Eco-Schools Green Flag Assessors.	X	X
Provision of assessments and flags	X	X
Organisation of <b>1 Cluster Group meeting and 1 Green Flag Clinic</b> for teachers in the council area which deliver valuable information to schools progressing through the Eco-Schools programme and provide the council with opportunities to promote their own projects and build relationships with teachers.	X	X
<b>Development of the Ambassador Eco-School network</b> in your Council area - Ambassador Eco-Schools are flagship schools driving their environmental message further into the community and mentoring other schools in their area.	X	X
Providing reports and statistics on schools in your Council area which are involved in the Eco-Schools programme. <b>Annual report</b> provided in July to supporting councils highlighting statistics for schools and information about the new incoming initiatives.	X	X
We provide support for council staff and elected representatives such as responding to ad hoc queries on the status of schools in the council area. However, further consultation on support of developing and delivering initiatives will <b>incur a consultancy fee charge.</b>	X	X

Eco-Schools Northern Ireland is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Access to the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Data Hub, which puts information and statistics from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful programmes you support at your fingertips ( <a href="http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org">www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org</a> ).	X	X
<b>Opportunities to promote your campaigns</b> and activities through the monthly Eco-Schools newsletter and multiple social media channels and signposting schools to relevant council contacts on the Eco-Schools website ( <a href="http://www.eco-schoolsni.org">www.eco-schoolsni.org</a> ).	X	
Opportunity to promote campaigns, events and activities in the monthly Eco-Schools newsletter and <b>two social media posts annually</b> . Posts and article must be provided in full.		X
<b>Preference given to schools in council areas</b> supporting the programme for promotion through media outlets.	X	
Allowing schools access to additional funding provided through Eco-Schools for projects such as the international Wrigley Litter Less campaign.	X	
<b>Dedicated Field Officer working in your council area.</b>	X	
<b>Wheelie Big Challenge:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contact school Eco-Coordinators to recruit schools to the project,</li> <li>• manage all communications,</li> <li>• Provide the toolkit for school and home</li> <li>• provide workshops/webinars and support,</li> <li>• ensure data is gathered and uploaded correctly</li> <li>• gather competition entries,</li> <li>• organise invitations to the final award event and</li> <li>• generate PR around the project.</li> <li>• Produce an end of project report to be included with your Eco-Schools report in July.</li> </ul>	X	

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Enclosed is an Eco-Schools Support Request Form. I would be very grateful if you could provide the necessary Purchase Order number by the end of January 2023 to ensure access to the benefits listed above is maintained in 2023/24.

If you require any further information or clarification on anything above, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to facilitate a meeting with councillors or council staff to talk them through the programme impact and the options.

Yours Sincerely



Charlene McKeown  
Environmental Education Manager  
[Charlene.mckeown@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](mailto:Charlene.mckeown@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org)  
Tel: 07845050890  
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

**Eco-Schools Support 2023-2024 Request Form**

Please tick your preferred option:

- Option 1: **£10,942** at a rate of 38 pence per pupil
- Option 2: **£2,975** at a rate of 10 pence per pupil

Please tick your preferred option:

- Additional Eco-Schools Award Ceremony: **£4,000**
- Additional Eco-Schools Award Ceremony: **£2,000 – council provide venue and catering/refreshments**

..... Council

- Agrees to support the Eco-Schools Programme

OR

- Do not wish to support the Eco-Schools Programme

Council Purchase Order Number (required for invoicing) .....

Signed .....

Name .....

Position/job title.....

Date.....

**Please return to:**  
 Victoria Rowan  
 Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful  
 Bridge House  
 2 Paulett Avenue  
 Belfast  
 BT5 4HD

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