

TOP STORIES

LOCAL GREEN PROJECTS RECEIVE FUNDING

Local environmental charities will receive £125,000 from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to carry out projects between now and the end of March 2013. Nineteen projects will receive funding of up to £8,000 each to carry out work to benefit Northern Ireland's people and wildlife. Bats in Londonderry, red squirrels in Fermanagh, puffins on the Copeland Islands and shellfish in Strangford Lough are all targeted by local projects. Schools will be developing their grounds to promote wildlife and encourage community engagement, a heritage trail will promote historic and archaeological sites near Maghera, a unique geological feature in Larne will be promoted and unmanaged sites will be revived to encourage and enable community involvement and access.

This programme has been funded by efficiency savings within NIEA. In the past, budgeted money which could not be spent within the financial year was returned to central coffers. This fund, building on the success of a pilot programme last year, challenged local environmental charities, community groups and schools to devise and deliver 'oven ready' projects on a very short timescale.

'The successful projects were among 112 applications received from 81 organisations that applied for funding under the initiative' commented

Sue Christie, representing Northern Ireland Environment Link which administers the fund on behalf of NIEA. She commented that from the response it is clear that 'a relatively small amount of cash can enable volunteers to deliver great value. Now the work begins; all of these projects must be completed before the end of March 2013, so look out for lots of environmental action over the next few months! The Judging Panel was greatly impressed by the quality of applications and is delighted that Minister Attwood and his staff have enabled this work to take place.'

The programme demonstrates the immediate demand for environmental projects; if the groups are able to fully deliver these projects it is hoped that a similar scheme may be available in future years.

NEW MARINE DIVISION A FIRST FOR GOVERNMENT – ATTWOOD

Environment Minister Alex Attwood today announced that DOE will have, for the first time ever, a dedicated Marine Division.

The new Marine Division will develop and deliver policy and legislation to promote, protect and sustain our coastal waters. The Division will also be responsible for implementing EC, international and national legislation.

For more on this story go to

<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/news/New-Marine-Division.php>

NIEL News

Your guide to the environmental sector

November 2012

ONE MAN MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Northern Ireland revealing a ground-breaking approach for Europe

Honoring his long-term commitment, participatory approach and success in conservation of protected areas, the EUROPARC Federation in cooperation with the Alfred Toepfer Foundation F.V.S. awarded the Alfred-Toepfer Medal 2012 to Dr. Arthur Mitchell of Mourne Heritage Trust.

At the heart of Dr. Mitchell's mission stands local ownership. Peoples' participation is the core of the community networks he initiated to protect and enhance natural landscapes, with income generating opportunities through sustainable tourism and other activities. It was his unstinting commitment and dedicated approach that serve many as best practice example. Now, as an Alfred-Toepfer Medal holder, Arthur Mitchell's strategy will reach out to even more people who combine nature conservation and landscape-based sustainable development.

For more on this story go to <http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/news/One-Man-Makes-a-Difference.php>

NI POLICY

ASSEMBLY NEWS

The latest edition of Assembly News is available on the NIEL website <http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/news/Assembly-News-October-12.php>

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

- [£½ tackle Derry Dereliction](#)
- [Launch of Ecotourism Ireland](#)
- [Get Tough on Litter Louts](#)
- [£400 Million Gas Storage Project](#)
- [Wave and Tidal Key Report](#)
- [Narrow Water Bridge](#)
- [Scrapped Waste Costs £3m](#)
- [Tackle Fuel Laundering Waste](#)
- [Attwood Comments on SWaMP](#)
- [Tackle Fuel Laundering Waste](#)
- [NI Water Fined £4,000](#)

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- [Emissions Targets Urged](#)
- [Return of the Red Squirrel](#)
- [£30,000 for Waste Offences](#)
- [NIAF Conference 2012](#)
- [Community Directory Venues](#)
- [Waste Management Stats](#)
- [£23,079 Confiscation Order](#)
- [Efficiency aids Fuel Poverty](#)
- [Planning Rules for Farmers](#)
- [Scheme for Renewable Heat](#)

EVENTS

- [The Economic and Social Value of the Historic Environment in Northern Ireland](#)
- [How can towns and cities drive economic recovery?](#)
- [Christmas Fair](#)
- [Agriculture and Food Seminar](#)
- [National Tree Week](#)
- [Indoor Christmas Craft and Food Fair](#)

For more information on events visit
www.nienvironmentlink.org/events/

CONSULTATIONS

NIEL responded on behalf of members to a number of consultations during the past month they include:

- Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework (DSD)
- Call for Evidence – Development of a strategic plan for the agri-food sector (DARD)

Further information on these consultations can be obtained by contacting iona@nienvironmentlink.org

Over the coming months NIEL plan to submit responses on the following consultations

- Onshore Wind Call for Evidence
- Proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) – Supplementary Consultation on Large Scale Solar PV and Biomass Sustainability
- Consultation On Permitted Development And Agricultural Buildings

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15th November: - **State of the Environment Conference** Lough Neagh Discovery Centre 9am – 2pm

The purposes of the Stakeholder Workshop are to:

- **Explore the use of environmental data, interfaces and opportunities**
- **Identify gaps and issues with existing environmental indicators**
- **Help develop the provision of accurate, accessible information in a useable form**

If you would like to attend, please complete the online WUFOO conference registration form at:

<http://stateofenvironment.wufoo.com/forms/m7x3q1/>

Should you have any queries please contact Annika Clements on annika@nienvironmentlink.org

28th November: - **Increasing the value of Northern Ireland's archaeology to the public: What can NIAF members do? Down County Museum**

A NIAF conference provided by NIEA, Institute for Archaeologists, the National Trust and Down County Museum is taking place from

Please see link to the registration form and programme.

<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/cmsfiles/NIAF-Conference-Booking-Form-2.pdf>

PUBLICATIONS

WASTE WATCH

The North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) has produced the sixth edition of its bi-annual magazine, Waste Watch. The publication includes information on how the public can help contribute to the waste management effort in their area by focusing on the 3Rs of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

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There is also a round-up of the work being carried out by the NWRWMG's constituent councils, as well as an update on the £500m public procurement exercise to deliver new waste management facilities for the North West region.

To read Waste Watch, please click on the link below:

www.northwestwaste.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Waste-Watch-Autumn-2012.pdf

WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS REPORT

The Provisional Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics report for April - June 2012 was published this morning by the Department of the Environment.

This publication provides information on local authority collected municipal waste collected from household and non-household sources and the levels of recycling in Northern Ireland. The information presented relates to April - June 2012.

This publication can be accessed on the Department of the Environment website:

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/environment_statistics.htm