Eco-Schools Action Plan

School name: Strangford Integrated College

Eco-Schools Topics: Reduce littering,

Date range of this plan: September 2022 – June 2023

Our overall aim(s) for this Topic:

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| **Reduce littering to improve our school environment and ensure the safety of the wildlife that inhabit our rural school site and in time the local community** |

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| **Problem Statement** | **Actions that can address the problem** | **How will you target the problem?** | **Timescale** | **Did you achieve your target?** | **What improvements could be made in future?** |
| After break and lunch, the school site has been littered extensively with students dropping their litter rather than deposing of this within the designated bins around the school site / and in time the local community | Whole school assembly for staff and students / tutor time assemblies | Whole school assembly to address the issue of littering with additional assemblies to be shown in tutor time which mentions the introduction of a new C2 which has been added to the behaviour and learning policy for littering – students who receive a C2 for littering will be expected to litter pick instead of a classroom-based reflection time.  Follow up assemblies to take place with regards to littering and the improvements that have been made, or the need for future improvements with regards to this aim. | Introduction assembly:  Nov 2022  Follow up assemblies:  Jan 2023  March 2023  April 2023  May 2023  June 2023 | YES  This will also be ongoing as other assemblies will take place as and when needed | We felt that we could add to the monthly parent newsletter a brief outline of the achievements and areas which require improvement with regards to litter. This would give parents a greater insight and where needed help reinforce the message of litter reduction at home.  ***This will begin in April 2023 as we had missed the March 2023 deadline.*** |
| Eco-Committee and staff presence at break and lunch time around the school site / litter picking rota | The Eco-Committee and school staff will encourage students to utilise designated bins at break and lunchtimes which will reinforce the assembly that has been shown in tutor time / Eco-Committee to litter pick each lunch to aid in instilling respect for the school and the wildlife that inhabit it. | Ongoing | YES  March 2023 – litter has reduced dramatically and as a result we have been able to reduce the amount of general industrial waste bins (Feb 2023 we reduced our general waste by 6600 litres) and increased our rate of recycling. | Coats could be ordered with our Eco-Committee logo on them which are to be worn during litter picks. These can also be used when we go offsite.  ***Feb 2023 - these coats have been purchased and are currently being used)*** |
| Construction of a litter level in the form of a traffic light system | With the use of a traffic light system which will be displayed on the Eco-Committee display board in the main reception area. This litter level will be amended accordingly each week to represent the litter around the school site. | Nov 2022  Ongoing with weekly updates being made to the traffic light system and Eco-Committee display board | YES  Ongoing | Add an additional display board in a different location such as the canteen with the traffic light system and other initiatives that the Eco-Committee are implementing to reinforce our aims through increased interaction. |
| Consequence of the litter level going to red is that all students consume all food in the canteen before leaving | If the litter level traffic light system goes to red then all students must eat all of their food in the canteen to aid in reducing the amount of litter around the school site. | Ongoing | YES  Due to a red for litter in January 2023 this consequence came into effect. This has both reduced general waste and increased our rate of recycling. | This highlighted that those using the bins in the canteen are not always 100% sure of which bin to deposit their litter into, so new signs are to be designed and displayed in the canteen.  ***March 2023 – the signs have been sent to print and should be installed both in the canteen and staff room by the end of March 2023.*** |
| Register for the ‘Litter Less Campaign’  Organise 6 litter pick dates | Register and take part in the ‘Litter Less Campaign’ with the criterion being the amount of litter found in the school grounds.  The Eco-Committee are to complete the 6 litter picks and weigh the waste each time to gauge any improvements that have made. They are then to submit the 2-page report on the progress made – closing date for applications 31st March 2023 | Oct 2022 - March 2023 | YES | Register for ‘Adopt a Spot’ in line with the ‘Big Spring Clean’. We have chosen to adopt Carrowdore as our spot. In doing so we are reinforcing the importance of not littering whilst helping reduce tensions that exist with the community of Carrowdore.  ***Feb 2023 – We registered to adopt Carrowdore through the ‘Adopt a Spot’ programme.***  ***March 14th 2023 – EDM (Eco Coordinator will attend a community meeting at Carrowdore Community Center to discuss litter within the area and the initiatives implemented by the college to reduce this.*** |
| Monthly Newsletter | This newsletter will give monthly updates on our aims and achievements with regards to litter. This will be displayed on our school website and on our Eco Board which means we will reach a wider audience of staff, pupils, parents and the wider community. | Monthly  (starting from Jan 2023) | YES  Ongoing | We could extend our reach by displaying our Newsletter in the local community.  ***Feb 2023 – we now display our Newsletter in the local Spar in Carrowdore*** |
| Register to the ‘Adopt a Spot Programme’ and complete a termly litter pick of Carrowdore (the chosen location) | By registering to the programme, the school agrees to keep the chosen location clean over a 2-year period. We have decided to complete a litter pick on a termly basis and will invite parents and the community. | Register by Feb 2023  Once a term | YES  Ongoing  March 15th 2023 – first litter pick with year 8 students  June 2023 – second litter pick with year 10 students  Sept 2023 – third litter pick with year 14 students  March 2024 – fourth litter pick with year 12 students  June 2024 – fifth litter pick with year 9 students  Sept 2024 – sixth litter pick with year 13 students | Once community relations have been established, we would like to select a particular area within Carrowdore and create a sensory garden. We have a bird table which was sent to us from Live Here Love Here which would like to utilise in this space. We will need to seek permission from the Ards and North Down Borough Council along with the local community. |
| Provide every staff member and student with a set of reusable cutleries and all students a reusable water bottle to reduce the amount of single use plastic cutlery | For Christmas we will gift all staff members and students with a set of reusable cutleries during their Christmas dinner event.  Remove the vending machines from the school site which were filled with both water and juice to limit the amount of plastic waste and use of single use plastic. | Oct 2022 WB  Dec 2022 RC  Jan 2022 VMR | Yes | Whilst the canteen has metal reusable cutleries, there are still some single use cutleries that is used. We need to discuss with the principal the message this sends to those who use the canteen. Students are to be reminded in the March tutor time assembly to bring their cutlery to school to use. |

Our overall aim(s) for this Topic:

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| **To reduce energy consumption within Strangford College to aid in reducing climate change and its negative impacts** |

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| **Problem Statement** | **Actions that can address the problem** | **How will you target the problem?** | **Timescale** | **Did you achieve your target?** | **What improvements could be made in future?** |
| There is a higher energy consumption produced within the college than needed due to a large percentage of staff and students not turning off lights, Clevertouch boards and workstations at the end of the day | Signs to be put up in all workspaces (classrooms and office spaces) to remind staff and students to turn off the lights and Clevertouch board as they leave the room, and to turn off their workstations at the end of the day and at weekends | An email to all staff and students to highlight the issue and to inform that signs will be placed in all workspaces to remind them to turn off the lights and Clevertouch boards when not in use, and workstations at the end of the day.  March 2023 – follow up tutor time assembly | Nov 2022  Ongoing | YES  Ongoing | Share with staff and students in a whole school assembly the figures associated with energy consumption and the financial savings made. Discuss with the principal if some of this money saved can be spent by the pupils via a voting system to help give them ownership of their hard work in reducing energy consumption levels. |
| Not all workspaces or areas within the college have motion sensor lights | Ensure these are installed in all workspaces and areas when our new school is being built. | Discuss with Angela Ross the possibility of having automatic lights incorporated into the new school build | June 2024 | YES  This have been incorporated into the new build plans | N/A |
| Students charge their iPads in the college which increases energy consumption | Follow the behaviour for learning policy and staff to give students C2’s if they do not charge their iPad at home. | Tutors to remind students of this during tutor time. This is included within the monthly parent newsletter. | Ongoing | Ongoing | Have a zero policy to charging iPads in the college. |

Our overall aim(s) for this Topic:

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| **Increase the rate of recycling within the college** |

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| Staff and students do not know which bin to put their waste into and so recycling is not effective | Create a sign which outlines which waste goes in which bin to increase recycling rates. | Students have had an assembly to help educate them on which waste to put their rubbish in.  These signs will be placed in the canteen and staff room and will help staff and students understand which bin to put their rubbish in. A copy of the sign will be added to the website to aid parental involvement with this activity. | Jan 2023  Feb 2023 | YES  Ongoing  March 2023 – the final draft for the sign has been passed off and the design has been sent to print. We expect the finished products before the end of March. | Ask the students at the college to design the sign rather than the Eco Committee to try and encourage more ownership of the task to be completed. |
| Not all workspaces have a recycling bin in the classroom | Buy enough recycling bins so that each workspace in the school has access to this. | Form tutors ask for a volunteer to empty this bin as required.  All workspaces around the school will have a copy of the new sign which outlines which rubbish goes in which bin. | June 2023 | Ongoing  The Eco Committee and wider school community are raising the money for these bins through the money saved from the reduction of general waste bins each month due to less litter. | Complete more fundraising activities to raise the money sooner. |

Which of the UN Sustainable Development Goals does our Eco-Schools Action Plan cover?

Circle at least one which we can link our Eco-Schools work to this year:

