

Enter the BiodiverCity 2010 competition and win up to £500!

To celebrate the UN's International Year of Biodiversity, every school and nursery in Edinburgh has the chance to win one of 12 cash prizes. To enter, you have to come up with a great idea to protect the nature in your local area. The first prize for each neighbourhood area is £500, with a runner up prize of £250. Think what you could do for your school and your local community if you won!



What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a term that was coined by joining the words 'biological' and 'diversity'. It means the variety of all living things on our planet and the habitats in which they are found. Scotland is lucky enough to have rich biodiversity across its lands, but our modern lifestyles are rapidly threatening much of this natural variety. The good news is there is much that eco friendly kids can do to halt these threats and help biodiversity flourish. That's why we want your ideas!

Who can enter?

Any nursery, primary, secondary or special school in the city can enter. Only one entry per school will be accepted, but this could be from the whole school, an individual class, group of pupils or eco-committee

What can you win?

A winner and runner-up prize will be awarded to schools in each of the six neighbourhood areas: North, South, East, West, City Centre and South West.

1st prize:

£500 to spend on Eco-Schools activities.

Runner up prize:

£250 to spend on Eco-Schools activities.

To find out which neighbourhood area your school is in, go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ecoschools and follow the links to 'local neighbourhood information'.

What to do?

Investigate your local area and its biodiversity. Come up with an idea to protect or enhance it. This could be in your school grounds, a nearby park, woodland or wild space. It could focus on one species or many different species. Give ideas on how you will raise awareness of the need to protect the local biodiversity, how to survey your area, or how you will encourage other people to take action to help protect it. It is up to you!



How to enter

Step 1

Fill in the entry form. You can also download it from www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ecoschools

Step 2

On the entry form tell us about your local biodiversity and your idea on how to protect or improve it.

Step 3

Design a piece of evidence to show the judges more about your idea in a clear and imaginative way. The format of the evidence is up to you! For example:

- A website
- A video
- A scale map
- A pod cast
- A photographic display
- A report

Important – make sure you label it clearly so we know who did it!

Step 4

Return the entry form, along with your evidence to:

Eco-Schools in Edinburgh, Business Centre C4,
Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street,
Edinburgh, EH8 8BG

Tel: 0131 469 5277

e-mail: ecoschoolsinedinburgh@edinburgh.gov.uk

The closing date is 12 November 2010

Ideas

The UN's International Year of Biodiversity 2010 is focussing on key actions. Here are some ideas you can incorporate into your entry.

- **Buy seasonal**
Healthy biodiversity is vital for growing the food we eat. Hold an exhibition of local produce. Make a recipe book of seasonal vegetables.
- **Experience nature on your doorstep**
Nature can be found everywhere – so why not get outdoors and discover the wonderful nature close to where you live?
- **Garden for Life**
Our gardens can be great for birds, insects and other animals. It's easy to help wildlife to thrive in a garden, allotment or window box.
- **Help with a wildlife survey**
Wildlife surveys are essential to finding out how well our biodiversity is doing.
- **Tell someone about it**
Seen a rare bird? Planted wild flowers in your local park? Make sure you let people know. Video it. Give a talk. Make a podcast.
- **Get others involved**
You've made a difference, so why not get others to do a bit more? Get a local business to help you revamp a local black spot. Persuade your parents and neighbours to get involved.

Useful Websites

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity

Find the biodiversity action plan or species action plan for your part of Edinburgh.

www.ecoschoolsscotland.org.uk

Learn more about the Eco-Schools programme and about sustainability, biodiversity and citizenship.

www.rbge.org.uk

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is deeply involved with Scottish diversity and has one of the best collections of Scottish plants in the world.

www.elgt.org.uk

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust carries out a range of community projects and even has free workshops on badgers, bats and bees up until October.

www.wwf.org.uk

World Wildlife Fund website has a range of tips on how we can change the way we live to protect the environment.

www.biodiversityislife.net

The Natural History website has a wide range of exciting ideas to choose from that could be adapted to help your local community.

www.earthcalling.org

Earth Calling is one of Lothian's leading providers of environmental education. Check it out for creative hands-on ideas.

www.jmt.org

The John Muir Trust is the leading wildlife conservation charity and helps people discover wild places, explore their wildness, take action to conserve them and share their experiences.

www.bumblebeeconservation.org.uk

Packed with useful information, and includes pages to help you identify bumblebees, advice on how to garden or farm in a sensitive way and surveys which you may like to take part in.

www.snh.gov.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage plays a lead role in protecting Scotland's biodiversity and its site will provide a useful source of ideas.



BiodiverCity 2010 Competition Entry Form

Please answer the following questions and return this form along with your chosen piece of evidence.
Please remember to include your school name on your evidence as well!

Name of group or class:

School:

School Address:

Postcode:

Neighbourhood area:

To find out which area your school is in, go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ecoschools and follow the links to 'local neighbourhood information'.

School phone number:

Contact email address:

Title of entry:

Where is the area you have explored?

What did you find there (plants, mammals, insects, birds)?

Why is local biodiversity important to you?

Entry form cont.

In support of your piece of evidence, please provide a short summary of your idea to protect or enhance your local biodiversity:

What will you spend the prize money on if you won? The possibilities are endless and the only condition is that you spend the money on a product, service or project that is linked to or will help you with your Eco-Schools activities.

Please send your entries to:

Eco-Schools in Edinburgh, Business Centre C4, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG

If you have any queries about the competition, please email ecoschoolsinedinburgh@edinburgh.gov.uk

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