

Mid and East Antrim 'Eco Community'



So what's involved?

This is a five step programme whereby you'll have five topics to choose from (please see below).

1. Eco-Community Members - Committee

A Committee directs the community group's involvement in the programme. Ideally the committee includes members of the group and perhaps members from local biodiversity groups, churches, residents groups.



2. Environmental Review

The Committee assesses the community group's current performance in the five topic areas.



3. Action Plan

An Action Plan is formed from the results of the Environmental Review outlining the actions and goals to be achieved within the year. Specific measurable targets are advised where possible.



4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Progress towards targets are measured and reviewed by the community group.

Adjustments are made where necessary and success celebrated.



5. Informing and Involving

A publicity programme keeps the wider community involved and informed through a notice board, displays, public meetings, website and media coverage etc.

The five topics:

1. Littering;
2. Waste and recycling;
3. Physical environment, land and air quality;
4. Biodiversity; and
5. Energy.

In Year 1 you'll be asked to cover two of the five topics whereby you'll deliver locally based projects to enhance the local environment. For example a project to address littering could include - local litter picks, introduction of recycling at your community centre, planting raised beds, creation of an allotment, monitoring energy usage and researching new technologies.

Council staff will provide advice and assistance on delivering your local projects throughout the year. This will be in the form of staff time, delivery of training sessions, and provision of equipment. Advice and support will always be on hand.

Measuring success?

Following completion of the one-year programme, Council will review your Action Plan by meeting with you and through the completion of monitoring and evaluation forms to determine if your community group will be awarded the Eco Community Certificate.

Criteria to apply to the Programme:

- The Community Groups constitution number;
- The support of the entire Community Group;
- A willingness to involve the entire group in decision-making and action at every stage;
- Active involvement of all; and
- A willingness to take action to instigate long-term change.

We will be looking for community groups who are currently active. This will mean being involved in current grants programmes e.g. Live Here Love Here 'Small Grants Scheme', community groups who have received environmental awards e.g. LHLH Community Awards and community groups who are involved in the Live Here Love Here (LHLH) The Big Spring Clean in partnership with Council or who have a LHLH 'Adopt A Spot'.

Your community group may not be involved in all of the above schemes, however you can demonstrate what projects you've undertaken, or partnerships you're involved in and your application will be considered.

What to do next?

If you are interested in joining the Eco Community programme, please complete the application overleaf. The Eco Community Programme is aiming to recruit six community groups across our Borough in the first year. Based on the success of the programme in this first year, additional groups will be added in year 2. Please note that applications will be reviewed by Council staff and successful applicants will be notified in writing.

Please return all application forms to:

Catherine Hunter

Larne Depot

Victoria Road

Larne

Co. Antrim

BT40 1RN

Closing date for all applications is **Friday 26th October 2018.**

If you have any questions regarding the application form, please contact catherine.hunter@midandeantrim.gov.uk or 028 2826 2417.

Eco Community Application Form

Community Group Name:		
Address:		
Key Contact:		
Contact Number:		
Contact Email:		
Does your group have a community centre?	Yes	No
How many active members in your group? 10%		
What two topics will you choose for Year 1: 10%		
How do you plan to deliver on the two topics? 30%	Topic 1	
	Topic 2	
Have you secured Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme or other environmental funding before? Please provide details.		

10%	
Have you received a Live Here Love Here Community Award? Please provide details.	
Have you participated in a local Live Here Love Here / Council BIG Spring Clean? Please provide details.	
10%	
Are there any other environmental improvement projects you've worked on locally which we should be aware of?	
30%	

Please note that the above sections have been weighted, with total marks out of 100.

This will be used to score each application in order to choose 6 successful applicants in the Year 1 pilot.

