

## Green Flags success for North Tipperary Schools

Congratulations to the 11 North Tipperary schools that were presented with Green Flags by Green Party Senator Deirdre De Búrca at an awards ceremony held in Croke Park recently. This brings the total number of Green Flags in the County to 44.

6 schools received their first flag for working on the theme of reducing litter and waste in the school, these include CBS Primary school in Nenagh, Bishop Harty National School in Ballinree, St Flannan's National School in Rathcabbin, Burgess National School in Nenagh, Scoil Angela in Thurles and Scoil Eoin Naofa in Roscrea.

3 schools received their second green flag for carrying out energy conservation programmes in their school. They are Killea National School and Ardcroney National School and Moyne National School. 2 schools received their third flag for working on the water theme, learning about on water pollution and water conservation. They are St. Mary's Convent Primary School in Nenagh and Leugh National School.

Green-Schools is the Irish branch of an international environmental education programme and award scheme known as Eco-Schools. It is designed to raise students' awareness of environmental and sustainable development issues through classroom study.

Green-Schools in North Tipperary is run by An Taisce, an independent, environmental, non-governmental organization, in conjunction with North Tipperary County Council. The scheme offers a well-defined, controllable way to take environmental issues from the curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of the school. This process helps students to recognise the importance of environmental issues and take them more seriously in their personal and home lives.

According to Áine Mc Carthy, North Tipperary County Council's Environmental Awareness Officer, "The amount of enthusiasm and effort the children put in to their litter and waste, energy and water programmes in their schools is great to see and they are helped along the way with guidance from committed teachers, parents and caretakers in order to create an effective Green Schools Programme. The children are very aware of the difference they are making to their local environment and they bring this information and knowledge not only into their schools but also into their homes and they spread the word to the wider communities."

For further information on how to become involved in Green Schools, contact Áine Mc Carthy, North Tipperary County Council on (067) 44784