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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b> 30 October 2012
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b> <b>EDUCOM/32/12/PA</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Palma Allan</b>	<b>Contact No:</b> 01475 712816
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>School Green Charters</b>	

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to give Committee an update on School Green Charters.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The 21st century has presented new opportunities and challenges and requires a different approach to education. In a fast-changing world, it is necessary for young people to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to adapt and to thrive. Their education should prepare them for living and working in a global society. This is why developing global citizens is a key learning context within Curriculum for Excellence and why it is firmly embedded within the experiences and outcomes across all eight curriculum areas. The embedding of global citizenship within the totality of all that is planned in the curriculum ensures that young people will be able to play a full and active part in society - politically, socially, economically, environmentally and culturally and understand Scotland's role within the wider world.
- 2.2 Developing global citizens through sustainable development education is a key theme within Curriculum for Excellence, ensuring deep and effective learning takes place. Sustainable development education is about more than recycling and energy saving. It is about nurturing our young people, so that they become global citizens. It's important to make connections between biodiversity, energy use, climate change, social justice issues, human rights and interdependence.
- 2.3 As part of the Single Outcome Agreement agenda, Inverclyde Council developed a Corporate Green Charter for Inverclyde in Spring 2009. The Green Charter is supported by an Action Plan. Education Services has contributed two targets to this Action Plan:
- All educational establishments will develop their own Green Charters and three year Action Plan
  - All educational establishments will work towards gaining Eco Schools Awards and Green Flags

In line with these targets educational establishments have produced their three year Action Plans and have recently returned a progress update for year two. A collation of progress made across the three sectors with highlighted good practice in nursery/pre 5, primary, and secondary is attached as an appendix along with the latest Eco Schools statistics for Inverclyde and for all Local Authorities in Scotland

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and its appendices.

**Albert Henderson**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities & Organisational Development**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The need for sustainable development was highlighted in the proposals from the Rio Earth Summit and other UN conferences in the 1990s. This was followed by Kyoto and other protocols on sustainability. The Kiev Conference of Ministers in 2003 stressed the central role of education in relation to sustainability, and this was followed by the production of a draft implementation scheme. The Scottish Government is committed to education for sustainable development, and both local authorities and educational establishments need to ensure that pupils have opportunities to learn about sustainable development and put their ideas into practice.
- 4.2 All establishments already address some areas of sustainable development, but this can vary considerably in both depth and breadth and in the ways in which learning takes place. 100% of Inverclyde schools and other educational establishments have now registered for the national Eco Schools scheme and 83% of these have already achieved an award at bronze and/or silver level. 13 of our establishments have also achieved 'Green Flag Status', the highest level of award, and several others are almost ready to achieve this level. In the secondary sector, involvement in the Eco Schools scheme has been slower to take off, but we now have all six of our secondary schools registered for the scheme. One of the strengths of the Eco Schools scheme is the way it lends itself to active learning and pupil participation. Pupils have opportunities to take responsibility for much of the work and to make informed decisions about it. A more detailed breakdown of eco schools achievement is given in Appendix 2 to this paper.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 Schools will continue to work towards agreed targets in their three year action plans and continue to gain ECO awards and Green Flag status as planned
- 5.2 Education Services will provide ongoing advice and support to schools in relation to education for sustainable development.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial: Educational establishments are funding development projects themselves through recycling and fundraising activities
- 6.2 Legal: There are no legal issues
- 6.3 Human Resources: There are no human resources implications
- 6.4 Equalities: All school Green Charter initiatives will comply with equalities legislation and recognise the need to promote equalities, including race, gender and disability equality

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this paper and its appendices

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Green Charter information and collated returns from educational establishments
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Eco Schools Statistics for Inverclyde and Local Authorities in Scotland

# APPENDIX 1



## School Green Charters

Every Inverclyde Educational Establishment is required to develop a Green Charter as part of Inverclyde Council's corporate work on the Council Green Charter. The following are required characteristics school Green Charters:

Green Charters will:

- be **three year plans** for promoting sustainability at school (local) level
- have **clear aims or targets** (measurable where appropriate)
- have **information on delivery**
- **involve** staff, pupils and the wider school community in planning the Charter
- be **displayed** clearly in schools
- be subject to ongoing **review**, progress being reported in Standards & Quality reports
- be **submitted** to the authority at the start of the three year period
- **cover the essential components** and several elective areas as well

Individual establishments can choose whether to present their Charter as an all-in-one plan or as two separate documents. An all-in-one plan will contain information on focus areas, targets and delivery in one document. The alternative is to have a Charter that has the areas the school is addressing in one document and target & delivery details in a separate Green Charter Action Plan.

The **essential components** for establishment Green Charters are as follows:

1. Action on energy saving
2. Action on recycling
3. Action on litter
4. Aiming for an Eco School Award at the appropriate level

The rest of the Charter will be made up of items drawn from the elective list below or other sustainability areas that a school may choose to focus on (and that are not on the essential or elective lists).

The **elective areas** are as follows:









5. Water conservation
6. School grounds work such as initiatives to enhance biodiversity
7. Waste reduction
8. Journey to school
9. Going for Fair Trade School status
10. Developing an environmental 'Community Code'

These essential and elective areas cover eight of the nine Eco School Scotland targets, the exception being 'Health and Wellbeing' which could be addressed through several of the ten areas. However, establishments may choose to address them in greater depth than is required for Eco Schools and to involve a wider range of people than is sometimes the case.

A collated response to the Green Charter Progress reports from schools is detailed overleaf:

## APPENDIX 1

In Inverclyde Schools and nurseries we have made progress with our Green Charters as this summary report shows .....

-  Most educational establishments have reduced their electricity consumption by 15% between January 2010 and January 2013
-  Educational establishments are now regularly recycling cans, paper, glass, jewellery, batteries, ink cartridges, mobile phones and clothing and using the money raised to improve school grounds or send to charity
-  Most educational establishments have devised processes to encourage young people to tackle litter in and around the school e.g. litter monitors, ECO action teams, purchasing litter pickers, litter patrols with janitors, incentive schemes
-  Many of our schools and nurseries have achieved Eco Schools bronze or silver level awards and are working towards attaining Green Flags
-  Many of our schools and nurseries now have flower gardens within the school grounds with Scottish native species to encourage wildlife and fruit/vegetable gardens to grow produce for consumption. Some also have mini-beast/bug gardens which the children maintain. Water butts and compost bins have been introduced to help maintain these gardens
-  Our educational establishments are working to reduce the number of private car journeys to school between January 2010 and January 2013 through "Bikeability" and "Give Me Cycle Space" campaigns and actively working with parents to encourage walking to school
-  Fair Trade/Eco friendly events are growing and the money raised is helping to improve school grounds and instil good citizenship values in our young people
-  Trips and outdoor activities have been successfully embedded into the curriculum as part of the raising awareness of the country code and to highlight biodiversity issues. Outside speakers have been of great benefit in reinforcing learning

The next few pages contain more detailed information about the work that is going on in schools/nurseries in relation to Green Charter and Sustainability. This is a collation of returns from establishments in which I have highlighted good practice. The collations are in three different sectors viz. Nursery/Pre 5, Primary and Secondary. I have also included Eco-Schools statistics for all educational establishments in Inverclyde and for all Local Authorities in Scotland for August 2012.

# SECTOR – Nursery and Pre-5 Collation

## Green Charter Target

Progress with target at 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012

## Comments

Energy saving

- Building double glazed and motion sensor lighting installed
- Reduction in usage of electricity
- Posters placed around the nursery reminding us to turn off lights
- Eco rhyme of the month to help children continue good work at home
- Input from K. Barclay
- ECO action team read meters and record readings once a month

- Global Footprinting next session to calculate schools's carbon footprint

Recycling

- Rag Bag collection bins for recycling
- Recycling paper is now embedded in school routine – notepads made and sold for school funds
- Compost bins being used for fruit and food waste
- Photocopying reduced
- Batteries being recycled
- Ink cartridges recycled through Tesco scheme

- Money raised being used to improve the grounds
- Future collections planned
- Spot checks carried out by ECO Action Team

Litter

- Took part in National Spring clean
- Litter picking sessions established with hi-vis vests
- Children from primary visit nursery to help clear litter
- Talks to children by Environmental Health Officer
- Green Light bags used at all times throughout the nursery
- "Don't Drop Litter" song learned and used with children and parents

- Litter policy being devised in some nurseries
- Parents have volunteered to support litter picking sessions

Eco school award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working at next level to gain award</li> <li>▪ Working towards Green Flag</li> <li>▪ Parents recruited onto Eco committee</li> <li>▪ Children developing ECO code</li> <li>▪ Stop parents leaving engines running outside the gates</li> <li>▪ Reduce by 2013 number of private car journeys</li> <li>▪ ECO friendly/Fairtrade Spring Fair held</li> <li>▪ New fruit trees and shrubs planted and flowered species to encourage wildlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Links with nearby primary developed to learn from their experience</li> <li>▪ Posters will be created to highlight this</li> </ul>
School grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Composting</li> <li>▪ Identify an area for mini-beast garden</li> <li>▪ Mini-beast garden/bug hotel established and utilised by children</li> <li>▪ Vegetable garden successful with children using them to make soup and cook them in the nursery</li> <li>▪ Water butts installed and used</li> <li>▪ Registered for Oxfam water week and Well Water campaign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage walking and cycling to nursery</li> <li>▪ £200 raised for Fairtrade</li> <li>▪ Undertake wildlife garden survey</li> <li>▪ Planning to develop nursery garden and mini-beast garden</li> <li>▪ Parents supportive in helping to gather resources</li> <li>▪ Gardening Club to be reinstated next session</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New equipment such as magnifying glasses and binoculars purchased.</li> <li>▪ Trips to Cornalees and the local community to raise awareness of the Country Code</li> <li>▪ Bird feeders purchased and in use around the fence</li> <li>▪ Visits to Finlaystone Country Estate for guided woodland walks</li> <li>▪ Children caring for caterpillars and watching them turn into butterflies then releasing them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further investigative trips planned</li> <li>▪ Further woodland guided walks planned</li> </ul>

## SECTOR – Primary Collation

Green Charter Target	Progress with target at 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2012	Comments
Energy saving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Campaign to turn off electrical equipment rather than stand by</li> <li>▪ Reduction in electricity costs</li> <li>▪ Reduction in water use</li> <li>▪ Water hippos ordered for pupil toilets and new sinks and taps installed in cloakrooms</li> <li>▪ Timeswitch for photocopier introduced</li> <li>▪ Termly newspaper issued reminding pupils of their responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plans to take part in EDF Energy's Switch Off fortnight in November 2012</li> <li>▪ Continue to campaign for this</li> </ul>
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rag Bag events used for recycling</li> <li>▪ Recycling is now embedded in school routine</li> <li>▪ Plastic bottle greenhouse set up and constantly in use</li> <li>▪ Mobile phone recycling</li> <li>▪ P7 Litter leaders/buddying P1 to tackle litter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Look at canteen food recycling</li> <li>▪ Look at recycling glass and aluminium cans</li> </ul>
Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in Keep Scotland Beautiful Litter campaign</li> <li>▪ Significant reduction in amount of litter within school grounds</li> <li>▪ Litter patrols with janitors</li> <li>▪ Incentive schemes e.g. extra playtime for tidiest playground</li> <li>▪ Litter policy prepared</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Money used for school grounds projects</li> <li>▪ P6s now included in this</li> <li>▪ Purchase litter pickers</li> <li>▪ Litter reduction in the community</li> </ul>
Eco school award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working to gain next award which is 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Flag in some cases</li> <li>▪ ECO group running projects – plants, disposal of aluminium cans</li> <li>▪ School orchard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research growing methods</li> <li>▪ Purchase gardening implements</li> <li>▪ Develop an environmental community code</li> </ul>

## School grounds

- Sensory garden planted with Scottish native species to encourage wildlife
- Orchard progress
- Plants growing in school gardens
- Compost and waterbutts set up
- Planted a tree for every pupil in the school at Everton creating a diamond jubilee forest
- Sought advice on planting Beechwood hedging
- Green day a big success
- Membership of Woodland Trust
- Clyde in the Classroom initiative releasing trout and butterflies into their natural environment
- Took part in Waste Week Challenge
- Raising caterpillars and butterflies education in class
- Gallus Galoshans bed and Willow Arch set up
- Vegetable garden established and first crop due
- Working towards Fair Trade status and forging links with partner schools

## Fairtrade

- Design logo for water bottles to fund partner school
- Monthly Fairtrade coffee mornings
- Fairtrade shop by pupils
- Fair-trade drama performances by pupils
- P7s now members of Young Cooperative Society

## Walk to school

- Being used across the primaries to encourage healthy living and reduce energy
- Walk to School Week competition
- Cycle proficiency training undertaken with P6s majority receiving a pass
- Bikeability level 1 started with P5s

- Build on existing practice
- Plant herbs next session
- Worm factory
- Birdfeeders
- Bat and butterfly boxes to be repaired and used

- Fair-trade policy being developed

- Continue to encourage pupils to walk to school
- Continue to take part in "Give me cycle space" campaign



## SECTOR – Secondary/Special Collation

### Green Charter Target

Progress with target at 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012

### Comments

Green Charter Target	Progress with target at 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2012	Comments
Energy saving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Campaign to turn off electrical equipment rather than stand by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Posters and stickers/posters planned for next year in every classroom to raise awareness</li> <li>▪ Continue to campaign for this</li> </ul>
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduction in electricity costs</li> <li>▪ Rag Bag company used for recycling</li> <li>▪ Recycling facilities available to school investigated</li> <li>▪ Waste wood being reused in wood burning stoves</li> <li>▪ Battery recycling container introduced</li> <li>▪ Jewellery recycling for resale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New recycling bins actioned</li> </ul>
Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Litter collections ECO coordinator and ECO monitors</li> <li>▪ Contact with Climate Challenge Fund established</li> <li>▪ S6 litter committee promote effective disposal of litter both in and out of school</li> <li>▪ Working to gain next award</li> <li>▪ Presenting to P7s on 2 day visit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Money sent to charity</li> <li>▪ More encouragement and poster campaigns</li> </ul>
Eco school award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ECO group running projects – plants, disposal of aluminium cans</li> <li>▪ School orchard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enthusiastic S1 pupils meet every week to plan and take responsibility for ECO issues</li> <li>▪ Research growing methods</li> <li>▪ Purchase gardening implements</li> <li>▪ Develop an environmental community code</li> </ul>
School grounds/biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellent work being done. A number of litter picks and excellent work in Geography class</li> <li>▪ Garden pond completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Build on existing practice</li> <li>▪ Expand on garden work</li> </ul>
Fairtrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation to all yeargroups</li> <li>▪ Activities during Fair Trade Week</li> <li>▪ Fairtrade policy written</li> <li>▪ Fairtrade stalls at Enterprise events and parents' evenings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to raise awareness and work toward Fair Trade status</li> <li>▪ Well received by parents/visitors</li> </ul>

# APPENDIX 2

## Eco-Schools Statistics for Inverclyde

Aug-12

### Local Authority Schools

School Name	Registration	Bronze	Silver	Green Flag Status Since	Latest Green Flag Renewal	Grant Awarded
Ailemill Primary School	16/02/2010			16/02/2010	16/02/2010	
All Saints RC Primary School	14/06/2010		10/10/2011			
Ardgowan Primary	03/11/2008	28/05/2009				
Blairmore Nursery School & PSA/DU Unit	05/02/2004	30/09/2005	16/09/2010			07/11/2005
Bluebird Family Centre	08/05/2009	15/06/2010				
Clydeview Academy	11/10/2011					
Garvel Deaf Centre	09/10/2007		08/06/2009			
Gibshill Children's Centre	23/01/2007	16/03/2010	08/08/2011			15/09/2010
Glenbrae Children's Centre	25/05/2007	03/07/2009	15/02/2012			01/12/2009
Glenburn School	29/05/2002	18/02/2003	29/06/2004	26/11/2008	28/04/2011	26/03/2003
Gourock Pre 5 Centre	31/01/2008	27/01/2011				12/05/2011
Gourock Primary School	30/04/2008	21/08/2008	23/01/2009			23/02/2009
Highlander's Academy Primary School	08/10/2004	08/08/2005	23/06/2008	10/06/2009	19/01/2012	28/04/2006
Hillend Children's Centre	02/11/2006	02/03/2009				01/08/2009
Inverclyde Academy	01/09/2008	20/10/2008	25/11/2008			
Inverkip Primary School	02/01/2001	05/03/2002	13/06/2003	05/06/2006	02/12/2010	08/07/2003
Kelly Street Children's Centre	30/09/2002	27/08/2003				19/02/2004
Kilmacolm Primary School	11/11/2002	18/05/2004		30/05/2007	25/06/2012	14/12/2004
King's Oak Primary	29/06/2007	10/11/2008	10/12/2009			10/06/2010
Lady Alice Primary School	05/11/2003		29/04/2004	20/06/2005	22/06/2011	29/06/2004
Larkfield Children's Centre	18/06/2012	18/06/2012				
Lilybank School	02/11/2006	22/01/2010	24/08/2010	01/02/2012	01/02/2012	
Mearns Centre	09/05/2012					
Moorfoot Primary School	18/11/2008	28/05/2009	23/03/2011			12/05/2011
Newark Primary & Nursery School	01/09/2008	09/01/2009	06/01/2011			
Notre Dame High School	01/05/2002	13/06/2003	06/07/2005			30/03/2004
Overton Primary School	05/03/2002	14/04/2003	02/04/2008	17/09/2009	22/02/2012	15/03/2005
Port Glasgow High School	10/09/2007	17/02/2009				
St Columba's High School	14/11/2005		06/11/2007			
St Francis Primary School	05/02/2010	25/02/2011	10/11/2011			
St John's Primary School	19/01/2007	08/06/2009	03/05/2012			
St Joseph's Primary School	11/10/2005		07/06/2007			13/07/2007
St Mary's Primary School	01/05/2008		23/06/2011			
St Michael's Primary School	07/02/2005	05/06/2006	05/06/2007	06/05/2010	06/05/2010	30/10/2006
St Ninian's Primary School	24/01/2003	23/02/2007	30/04/2009			13/07/2007
St Patrick's Primary School	23/11/2006		02/02/2009	26/06/2011	26/06/2011	20/05/2009
St Stephen's High School	20/12/2004					
St. Andrews Primary	03/04/2012	03/04/2012				
Wellpark Children's Centre	20/10/2004		16/06/2009			
Wemyss Bay Primary School	04/05/2001		10/05/2002	20/06/2011	20/06/2011	25/04/2003
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>

### Independent Schools

School Name	Registration	Bronze	Silver	Green Flag Status Since	Latest Green Flag Renewal	Grant Awarded
Cedars School of Excellence	31/05/2005	10/04/2012				
Enchanted Forest Nursery	21/04/2011	02/03/2012				
Enchanted Forest Nursery	26/06/2012					
Muddy Puddle Nursery	20/01/2010					
Muddy Puddle Nursery	20/01/2010					
St Columba's Junior School	18/06/2007	15/05/2008	12/11/2009	03/06/2011	03/06/2011	01/02/2010
St Columba's School	08/02/2007	06/05/2008	03/09/2009	03/06/2011	03/06/2011	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

### Early Years Partnership Providers

School Name	Registration	Bronze	Silver	Green Flag Status Since	Latest Green Flag Renewal	Grant Awarded
Glencairn Nursery	08/03/2010	14/04/2011	13/06/2012			
Gourock Park Pre-School	02/03/2010					
James Watt College Nursery	09/06/2008	29/09/2009	16/03/2010			10/06/2010
Madeira Nursery	25/08/2011					
Rainbow Family Centre	02/03/2009	08/03/2010	27/01/2011			
Wellington Pre-5 Nursery and Out of School Care	30/07/2012					
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>