

Challenges and opportunities of Eco schools

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What is ESDGC and Sustainable Education

The Welsh Assembly Government (2017) states that Educational for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship commonly referred to as ESDGC is an education that sets out to teach children about the impact that their decisions and choices have on other people and the economy and the environment. The Welsh Assembly Government (2017) further adds that ESDGC aims to challenge learners to figure out how they can contribute to the lives of other people.

What does the organisation do for education ?

Carmarthenshire County Council (2017) details how all 133 schools in Carmarthenshire are registered with Eco schools and how 81 of those schools have been awarded the green flag (Carmarthenshire County Council, 2017.)

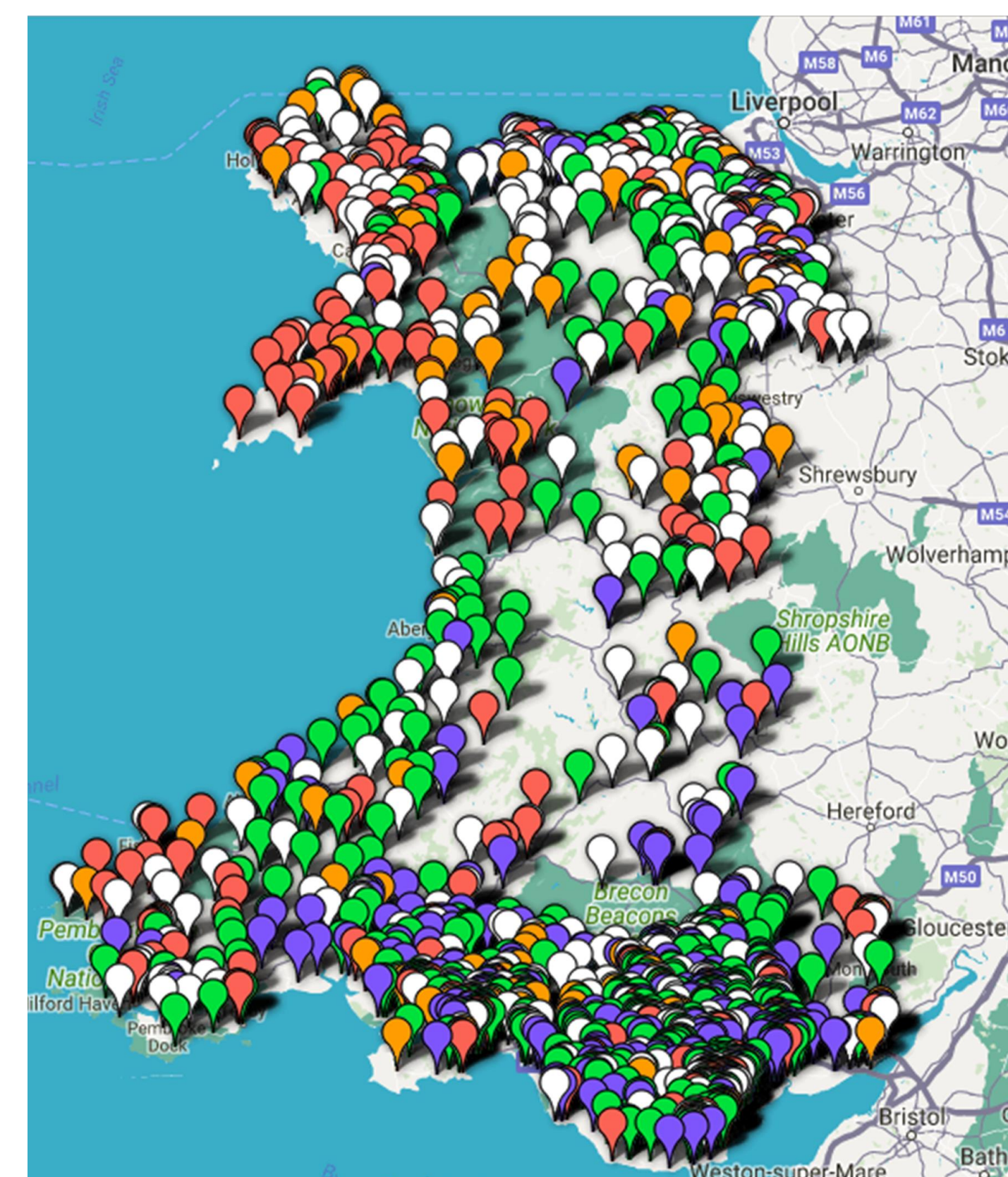
The Eco schools organisation helps education by allowing children to do the following points:

- Participate in a pupil led approach (Eco Schools, no date)
- Participate in hands on experiences (Eco Schools, no date)
- Gain closer links to the whole school and community (Eco Schools, no date)
- Allows every individual to have a chance to build up knowledge and understanding (Eco Schools, no date)
- Opportunity to change the school and the community (Eco Schools, no date)
- Encourages children of all ages and abilities to work together (Eco Schools, no date)
- To become independent and critical thinkers (Eco Schools, no date)

The organization we have chosen

“We believe in the power of change and that the best gift we can give to future generations, the most valuable legacy we can leave behind us, is a world of educated and environmentally conscious people equipped with the sustainable attitude which is so sorely lacking in today's society”. The Foundation for Environmental Education (1994).

In relation to the quote above the Foundation for Environmental Education. (1994) discusses this act aims to help practitioners to deliver sustainable thinking which aims to encourage communities to work together to help improve sustainable lifestyles and learn about the impact this has on the world (Foundation for Environmental Education, 1994).



(Source: Keep Wales Tidy, no date: 1)

Challenge One: Links with community

Dillon et al. (2013) indicates that there is still an issue in regards to community involvement within the curriculum. As Dillon et al. (2013) further adds that there is a lack of connections being made through learning experiences within the curriculum and what children might learn through community involvement (Dillon et al. 2013).



(Source: Southern Water, no date, 1)

Challenge Two: Separate subject

Davies (1998) highlights that ESDGC can not be embedded into the curriculum unless it is a whole school; approach. Therefore, in order for ESDGC to be implemented effectively within the curriculum the whole school has to be involved which the Eco schools organization promotes (Davies, 1998).

However, The Welsh Assembly Government (2017) discusses how in order for ESDGC to be embedded in the curriculum ESTYN have made it part of the inspection. This was created in 2010 to ensure that good practice is happening in settings today.

Challenge Three: Too complex

Tinney (2013) suggests that ESDGC can sometimes be perceived as a difficult subject for young children to engage with. From the research undertaken by Tinney (2013) it is also suggested that organisations which are associated with the environment, conservation, human rights and poverty equality that's supports ESDGC education organisations often focus on older children (Tinney, 2013).

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