



Waste Watch's education newsletter

summer 2005

issue 8

# wasted

## contents

**2** waste education  
news from around  
the UK

**4** recycle western  
riverside

**5** clothes and textiles  
pull out resource

**10** WESPLife

**11** project details

**12** diary

**clothes  
and  
textiles**  
we bare all

[www.wastewatch.org.uk](http://www.wastewatch.org.uk)  
wasteline 0870 243 0136



**wasted** is published by Waste Watch, a leading environmental organisation promoting sustainable resource use in the UK by campaigning for all areas of society to reduce resource consumption, maximise resource reuse, and increase the percentage of waste recycled.

## editorial

### Welcome to the summer edition of **wasted**!

The summer is here and as temperatures rise there's a temptation to consign our winter clothes to the bin. That's why we are dedicating this edition of **wasted** to clothes recycling. Inside there are a hat-full of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle this often overlooked type of waste. One great idea is to make your own rag rug. You could say we've got the issue of textile rubbish sewn-up!

*The cover image shows the work of Heather Ritchie, an internationally known rug maker.*

[www.rugmaker.co.uk](http://www.rugmaker.co.uk)

#### editor

Richard Newson

#### editorial team

Waste Watch education staff

Waste Watch

56-64 Leonard Street  
London EC2A 4JX

t 020 7549 0300

f 020 7549 0301

[www.wastewatch.org.uk](http://www.wastewatch.org.uk)

For all recycling enquiries call  
Waste Watch Wasteline  
**0870 243 0136**

**wasted** is designed by Banjo Design and Print Ltd.  
and printed by Crowes of Norwich  
on 100% post consumer recycled paper.

The views expressed in **Wasted** are not  
necessarily those of Waste Watch.



**waste**  
**WATCH**  
Business Network

# newsupdate

## New northern projects

Schools in Rotherham and Cheshire will soon have the opportunity to become involved in two exciting new Waste Watch education projects.

*Schools Waste Action* in Cheshire builds on the success of Waste Watch's earlier project, the Cheshire Schools Waste Action Club. When appointed, the project's education officer will work intensively with secondary schools, as well as with the primary schools which feed into them. Through citizenship and other areas of the curriculum, students will be challenged to think about the waste that they produce at both home and school and to identify ways in which this can be cut. Work in schools will be supplemented with site visits,

events and teacher training. The project is funded by Cheshire County Council.

The *Taking Home Action on Waste* (THAW) project in Rotherham represents a departure from previous Waste Watch education projects in that it will focus solely on waste produced in the home. As well as working with pupils in primary and special needs schools, THAW will actively take the sustainable waste management message home through homework activities, information for parents, and child-led parent assemblies. The project is designed to

increase the use of local recycling schemes and its effectiveness will be measured by monitoring the amounts of waste put out for recycling. THAW is funded by the Community Recycling & Economic Development (CRED) programme and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Both projects will start working with schools in the Autumn term. Schools in Cheshire and Rotherham interested in taking part should contact Paul Maddox, northern education coordinator, [paulm@wastewatch.org.uk](mailto:paulm@wastewatch.org.uk)

## Nottinghamshire schools say NO to waste

The excellent progress in tackling waste made by schools in Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham is highlighted in *Celebrating SWAC* a report recently produced by Nottinghamshire Schools Waste Action Club (SWAC).

The report compares the results of waste audits carried out before and after SWAC started work with-in schools in the areas, and finds that schools have cut their waste substantially. For example, Snapewood Primary in Nottingham has cut its waste by a massive 70%.

Edwina Woodland, Nottinghamshire SWAC education officer praised the achievements of the schools. 'It has been great to see what the schools have accomplished. With support from SWAC, the pupils and teachers have worked together to identify ways to cut their waste. More importantly, they have put these into practice, greatly increasing the amounts that they recycle and slashing the amount of waste that they previously sent to be landfilled or incinerated'.

Copies of *Celebrating SWAC* can be obtained from Edwina Woodland, [edwina@wastewatch.org.uk](mailto:edwina@wastewatch.org.uk)

## Getting fruity in North Yorkshire

The introduction of free fruit for infant pupils in North Yorkshire is having an effect on the waste that schools are producing. For the first time, waste audits conducted by SWAC in North Yorkshire show that food and green waste is the largest component of school waste. This poses a problem for the schools, as while eating fruit is fantastic for our health, if green waste is simply thrown away and ends up in a landfill site it produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Luckily, schools in North Yorkshire are rising to the challenge. At St Hilda's RC Primary in Whitby, the older children have been appointed 'Compost Champions' and the school has taken delivery of a second compost bin. In order to determine the best location for this, the students carried out an experiment to discover the place with the most favourable composting conditions. They did this by making mini composters by layering fruit waste, shredded cardboard and paper, and compost accelerator in clear plastic bottles. These were then placed in different locations and pupils recorded the changes that took place.

Thanks to continued interest from schools and funding from North Yorkshire County Council, the North Yorkshire SWAC project is set to continue for another year. During this time, the project will be developed in order to increase the emphasis on waste produced in children's homes and communities and to fit more closely with the work of Local Education Authorities and North Yorkshire's County and District Council's.



## Cyclor meets the stars

In March, Cyclor appeared alongside a host of stars on the popular children's TV programme Blue Peter. The Blue Peter episode was a special event marking the 4000th edition of the programme, and Cyclor was proud to be one of a glittering array of guests including David Beckham, Ewan MacGregor and the cast of Mary Poppins. Cyclor even asked Ewan MacGregor a question about his role in the new animated film 'Robots'. The film is certainly dear to Cyclor's heart, as it features robots made from recycled rubbish. The programme, watched by 1.2 million viewers, is another example of the media's fascination with Cyclor.

## Cyclor bag competition

Children throughout the country have been sending in entries for the Cyclor bag competition. Well done to all the talented designers out there. It was very hard to choose the winner but the clear design and strong message in the picture sent by Morven from Hampshire, meant that this design has been chosen to be printed on the next batch of Cyclor cloth bags. Congratulations Morven! We all look forward to seeing them out and about across the country, saving all those plastic bags from landfill! You can see a selection of the pictures sent to Cyclor on [www.recyclezone.org.uk](http://www.recyclezone.org.uk)



The winning entry in the Cyclor Bag competition

## Cyclor fan club

Cyclor gets a lot of mail in response to his school visits spreading the 3Rs message. Children inspired by Cyclor are determined to try to implement changes in both their home and school life, reducing their rubbish and hoping to influence others as well. Here is a great rap sent to us recently by Tanya, Shane and Matthew from Newman School, Rotherham.

The world has got a problem,  
we throw too much away,  
We want to tell the people,  
recycling's here to stay.  
We have to save the planet,  
make it a better place,  
By using less packaging, put a  
smile upon your face.

No litter in the parks or in our  
schools and street,  
The world would be a better  
place for us to go and meet.  
So think about recycling,  
reducing and reuse,  
And everyone will be happier,  
and all things will be cool.

# SWAC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

*The SWAC Support Programme provides teaching resources, training and advice to organisations who have taken on the management of the SWACs in their area. Currently SWACs in Bexley, Cheshire, Essex, Lincolnshire and Norfolk are all participating in the scheme.*

## Norfolk crusaders

As part of Compost Awareness Week, eight SWAC Norfolk schools received a visit from Circus Takeaway, performing their 'Compost Crusaders' show. The show is designed to promote composting in a fun and engaging way and features characters such as Captain Compost, who takes the children through a training day at ACE – the Academy of Compost and Excellence.

The visits were part of a number of events organised by SWAC Norfolk to encourage people to start treating organic waste as a resource. The programme is funded by Norfolk County Council, who are also encouraging schools to get composting by offering free compost bins.



Circus Takeaway and students working with SWAC Norfolk

## Rags to riches in Bexley



Oooh scary! It's a sock monster

Have you ever wondered what to do with all your odd socks? Why not make a sock monster? It's a great way to have fun and stop all those socks from being landfilled. LMB has been helping children to make sock monsters at Bexley's annual Give or Take Day. The event gives residents a chance to bring along their unwanted items such as clothes, furniture and books and swap them for something useful. Michelle Barry, from LMB said, "Give or Take days provide a fun

opportunity for textile reuse. What you think is junk may be someone else's treasure!"

SWAC Bexley is also working with LMB to run their 'Shoe Friends' programme, helping schools to send unwanted shoes to Africa for reuse. For more information, visit [www.lmb.co.uk](http://www.lmb.co.uk) or if you are a Bexley school and would like advice on running your own 'Give or Take day' contact SWAC Bexley on 020 8303 7777 x3605/3606.





*Pupils and staff from Flora Gardens School at their visit to the waste transfer station*

## Barges of rubbish

As part of their project on the environment and recycling, teacher Beverly Crowe from Flora Gardens School in Hammersmith and Fulham took her class to visit the Western Riverside waste transfer station on the River Thames in Wandsworth in South London. The waste transfer station is where rubbish collected from all over London is loaded onto barges, and shipped along the river to a landfill site.

"I was amazed to see that all the mountains of rubbish were just one day's worth of waste", said Beverley. "Apparently they sometimes have to work right through the night to get it all transferred". Jerry Jacobs from Hammersmith and Fulham Education Department, who accompanied the class on the trip was equally awestruck, "lorries full of rubbish seemed to be coming in every 30 seconds".

Ms Crowe's class is currently carrying out a whole series of activities on waste and recycling. Their site visit motivated the class to cut down rubbish at school and in their homes too. The class is planning to do a survey of recycling habits and to organise a competition to see who can throw away less at home.

Schools in the Western Riverside area that are interested in visiting the transfer site can contact Mel (Hammersmith and Fulham) 07734 383339, [mel@wastewatch.org.uk](mailto:mel@wastewatch.org.uk), or Marina (Wandsworth and Kensington & Chelsea) 07734 383340, [marina@wastewatch.org.uk](mailto:marina@wastewatch.org.uk).

## Worms wiggle into school

Recently, Recycle Western Riverside (RWR) joined one of its schools in the ongoing 'Recycle at School' programme in Western Riverside. Wyvil Primary School in Lambeth joined the programme in September 2004 and, as part of their commitment to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste, they have taken advantage of the free compost bins and wormeries available to the school this year.

As part of their 'Habitats' science topic, education officer Melanie Chew showed the children what materials they need to make the special worm environment inside a wormery and how best they can look after their colony of worms. The children also learnt about worm anatomy and how these creatures have adapted to their surroundings.

"Compost bins and wormeries are a great resource for schools as they show how many different organisms get to work to perform the most natural form of recycling, right in their school grounds", commented Melanie Chew. "They also do a great job of diverting a significant amount of organic waste away from landfill."

## Recycled fashion

In May, Recycle Western Riverside joined forces with TRAIID to provide workshops on re-designing clothes to secondary schools in the Western Riverside area. The best outfits designed during the workshops will be displayed in TRAIID shop windows during London Sustainability Weeks (5-19 June).

Kelly O'Connor, TRAIID's Recycling Development Manager, is positive about what fabric reuse can achieve. "With a little imagination, it is easy to re-design second hand clothes into up to date, fashionable outfits. This helps to reduce the amount of resources needed to make new clothes, which benefits the environment. The items that are produced are also unique. You know that no-one else will be wearing the same outfit!"

During the workshops, students were shown pieces of customised clothing from the TRAIID Remade label and watched a demonstration of various customisation techniques. The students then had the chance to customise their own outfits, with advice and guidance from one of TRAIID's experts.

The workshops are part of RWR's strategy to get the public in four London boroughs to reduce, reuse and recycle. "The Recycle Western Riverside campaign funded these workshops in the run up to London Sustainability Weeks to promote the message of reusing items rather than creating waste in the first place", commented Jim Fielder, RWR campaign manager.



*With a little imagination old clothes can be re-styled into unique fashion items*

## A whirlwind tour of issues relating to textile waste

### The figures

- The UK generates between 550,000 and 900,000 tonnes of textile waste every year. Most of this waste comes from household sources, with textiles making up about 3% by weight of a household bin.
- Waste textiles also arise during yarn and fabric manufacture, garment-making processes and from the retail industry.
- It is estimated that 400,000 to 700,000 tonnes of textiles are landfilled every year, a waste of valuable resources worth an estimated £400 million. At least 50% of the textiles going to landfill could be recycled, but in fact the amount of textile waste reused or recycled annually in the UK is estimated to be around 250,000 tonnes.



### The issues

Textiles present particular problems in landfill as synthetic, man-made fibres will not decompose, while woollen garments do decompose and produce methane, which contributes to global warming.

All together, the textile waste produced by households (post consumer), textile manufacturing and retail industries (post industrial) provide a vast potential for recovery and recycling:

- reducing pressure on natural resources
- aiding the balance of payments as we import fewer materials for our needs
- producing less pollution and saving energy, as fibres, fabrics and clothes do not have to be transported from abroad

Reclaiming textile fibres avoids many of the polluting and energy intensive processes needed to make textiles from virgin materials, including:

- savings on energy consumption when processing, as items do not need to be re-dyed or scoured
- less effluent, as unlike raw wool, reclaimed wool does not have to be thoroughly washed using large volumes of water
- reduced demand for dyes and fixing agents and the problems caused by their use and manufacture

### The politics

- No specific legislation exists to regulate or encourage the recovery and recycling of textiles in the UK.
- However aspects of the global textile industry are very political, with some of the largest international clothing companies accused of selling clothes made in 'sweat shop' conditions abroad. Workers may suffer long working hours, poor working conditions and very low wages.



### The solutions

Collect waste textiles for reuse and recycling. At present the consumer has the option of putting textiles in 'clothes banks', taking them to charity shops or having them picked up for a jumble sale.



There are about 3,000 textile recycling banks nationwide, but these are only operating at about 25% capacity. Clothes are given to the homeless, sold in charity shops or sold in developing countries in Africa, the Indian sub-continent and parts of Eastern Europe. Any un-wearable items are sold to merchants to be recycled and used as factory wiping clothes.

Waste textiles can also be recycled into new cloth through a process of fibre reclamation. Material is graded into type and colour then shredded into 'shoddy' (fibres), which are then spun ready for weaving or knitting. The colour sorting means no re-dyeing has to take place, saving energy and cutting pollution.

### Take action

- Take your used clothes to a textile bank. Contact the recycling officer in your local authority if there are no banks in your area and ask why? They may collect textiles through other means. Alternatively you can take used clothing to local charity shops.
- Give old clothes, shoes, curtains, handbags etc. to jumble sales. Remember to tie shoes together as single shoes are impossible to reuse.
- Buy from charity shops and avoid cut price clothes from major retailers who source their stock from factories abroad with poor labour rights for their workforce.
- Buy things you are likely to wear for a long time – a dedicated follower of fashion can also be a green one if items are chosen carefully.
- Look for recycled content in the garments you buy. This should be on the label, though at present there is no standardised marking scheme.
- Buy cloth wipers instead of disposable paper ones as they can be used repeatedly.



### Make your own recycled rug

A great way of recycling unwanted fabric is to use it to make rugs and mats. 'Hookie and proddy' are not the names of two new cartoon characters! They are in fact the style of rug making described below which began in the Yorkshire Dales in the 18th Century. At this time the Yorkshire Dales was the centre of lead mining and the miners' cottages were made of stone with flagged floors that were very cold. Mining families could not afford to buy carpets and rugs so they started making their own using whatever scrap material they could find. The fabrics were cut into strips and then worked into a base made from Hessian sack cloth. Hessian was widely available as this was the main way of packaging foodstuffs such as vegetables, sugar and flour. The oldest surviving rag rug is said to have been made from uniforms worn at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

#### You will need

- A hook for pulling the material through the hole
- A knitting needle or similar to prod the material through the hole
- Hessian cloth
- Coloured fabric
- PVA glue



Note that traditional hooks are hard to come by, try antique shops or craft shows. Hand made hooks and prodders are available through Heather Ritchie's website [www.rugmaker.co.uk](http://www.rugmaker.co.uk). Alternatively, try crotchet hooks. There are a wide range of sizes available from craft shops.

#### What to do

- 1 Cut out the Hessian to the size of the mat or rag you wish to make.
- 2 Cut the fabric into strips 3cm wide.
- 3 Use either the 'Hookie' or 'proddy' technique to work your fabric into the Hessian base.
- 4 Hookie involves holding the strip of cloth behind the Hessian and pulling a loop through with a hook. The ends of the fabric strip are knotted to prevent it being pulled all the way through the Hessian. Hookie produces a smooth effect.
- 5 Proddy is similar, but the ends of short strips of fabric are pushed through the holes in the Hessian from behind with a blunt instrument, leaving the loop at the back. Proddy creates a textured, deep-pile, shaggy effect.
- 6 Use different coloured fabric to create designs and pictures in your rug.
- 7 When you have finished glue a piece of fabric to the back of your rug to prevent fraying.



For inspiration and ideas for your rug-making project visit [www.rugmaker.co.uk](http://www.rugmaker.co.uk) and look at the amazing work of master rugmaker Heather Ritchie.



Examples of modern day rugs made by Heather Ritchie



#### MAKE DO AND MEND!

##### Did you know...

During the Second World War clothes and materials were in short supply and had to be rationed. This was because the people who made clothes were busy making military uniforms and ships carrying cloth and goods into the country were often targeted and sunk during their journey. During the war they began handing out clothes coupons to family's to ensure the shortage of material and clothes didn't become too critical.

The phrase of the day became "Make do and Mend!" This involved taking old clothes and fabric and mending or altering them as needed so there was little waste. Old pillowcases could become baby clothes, scrap squares of material could be stitched into quilts and ladies dresses could easily be cut off at the waist and made into blouses. The possibilities were endless!

Unfortunately material is still wasted today whereas old clothes and fabric could easily be turned into something new and fantastic!

##### Here are a few ideas

- an old pair of jeans could easily be made into a trendy new bag
- shirt pockets can be unpicked and sown onto a curtain for handy storage
- an old or damaged table cloth can be cut up and made into napkins
- old boots, gloves and socks can even be used to make plant containers
- and of course there is always the age old sock glove puppet!!

But remember if you can't use old fabric or clothes somebody else can. So simply bag them up and send them to your nearest charity shop.

# SUSTAINABLE FASHION

## Aim

To compare the human and environmental cost of producing two T-shirts, one made by a high street chain store and another from an ethical clothes company.



## Preparation

Ask groups / individuals to bring in a T-shirt from any high street store. Ensure that the label is present so you can check the country of origin and the materials used to make it.

## What to do

This task should run over two classes. In the first class, use the information given below as a starting point for research into sustainable fashion and then answer the questions comparing the two garments. In the second class the students should present their findings and have a group discussion on the issues raised.

## Questions

- Cost, presentation/branding and packaging of the T-shirt**
  - How much does each T-shirt cost?
  - How are the T-shirts presented/branded?
  - Which T-shirt do you prefer? Explain your answer.
- Investigate and discuss the workers who made each T-shirt and their working conditions. Consider the following:**
  - age of workers
  - days / hours of work
  - pay
  - workers rights (eg sickness pay and holiday)
  - working environment
- Environmental cost of the T-shirt**
  - Does the production of either T-shirt pollute the environment in anyway?
  - Which T-shirt Company is more environmentally friendly? Why?
- Looking at both companies who are the winners and the losers?**
  - Think about the producer, manufacturer, and retailer to help you answer the question.
- Now you have completed the activity, which company would you buy from and why?**

## Shima's story

Shima is 17 years old and works in a clothes factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh. When she was a child of just 13 she left her home and school in a rural area to work in the city, not because she wanted to but because she needed to support the rest of her family.

Her job is to punch and stitch buttonholes in jeans and she earns about £4.00 per week. She works from 8am to 9pm, and has one day off per week. The factory she works in is very hot and has no fans to cool the workers. There is no fire equipment on the stairs. Shima lives in a very poor and dangerous area of the city, and does little outside of work other than sleeping.



## Background information

### The real cost of fashion

In the U.K. alone we spend an estimated £300 billion a year on clothes, but only a tiny fraction of this money makes its way to those who actually manufacture the clothes. It has been estimated that for a pair of jeans costing £30, manufacturing workers receive just 0.5% of the total cost, that's only 15 pence.

The fashion industry is heavily reliant on chemicals. For example, cotton crops are sprayed with a quarter of the world's insecticides, many of which are highly toxic to humans and wildlife. It takes about one cupful (150 grammes) of pesticide to make enough cotton for just one T-shirt. In addition, it is estimated that at least 8,000 chemicals are used to turn the raw cotton into the clothes, towels, bedding and the other items that we put next to our skin every day. Other processes used to make clothes and textiles such as dyeing also use damaging chemicals.

Some designers are now looking for alternatives, and ethical traders, organically grown materials, and recycled or retro fashion could provide the answers.

### Ethical trading

Ethical trading means that companies ensure that the basic labour rights of their employees, and the employees of their suppliers in the developing world, are protected. Companies also take care to protect the environment in the production, packaging and distribution of their products.

Ethical clothes companies often describe themselves as 'sweatshop free'. A sweatshop is a term used to describe a business with poor working conditions. Often the employees will endure low wages and long hours, with few health and safety procedures in the workplace. Sweatshops may even use child labour.

### Organically farmed

An organic clothing farmer will ensure that no pesticides or other pollutants are used on the crops, and that minimal damage occurs to the environment. Organic farming improves the soil fertility, is better for wildlife and causes less pollution

from sprays. Organic farms also have higher standards of animal welfare.

### Fairly traded

By buying direct from farmers at better prices, helping to strengthen their organisations and marketing their produce directly through their own one world shops and catalogues, charities have offered consumers the opportunity to buy products bought on the basis of a fair trade.

### Recycled fashion

Recycled fashion is clothing, which has been made from recycled materials, for example, a plastic bottle can be recycled and used to make synthetic fleece, or even old clothing which has been made into new garments. However, recycled fashion is also confusingly, clothing which hasn't changed in appearance but has had a previous owner.

### Reuse/ recycling – retro fashion

Many high street clothes shops are now selling second-hand clothes. Carefully selected items with a 'retro chic' appeal are given a new lease of life and resold alongside new garments. While reusing clothes in this way is good for the environment, buying second-hand clothes from charity shops will also mean that the profits get used for a good cause. TRAIID, which stands for Textile Recycling for Aid and International Development, is one such shop. It is a registered charity which collects, recycles and sells second hand clothes and shoes to fund projects for some of the world's poorest communities.

### USEFUL WEBSITES

[www.labourbehindthelabel.org](http://www.labourbehindthelabel.org)  
[www.youthtearfund.org/lift+the+label](http://www.youthtearfund.org/lift+the+label)  
[www.nri/InTheField/India\\_pests](http://www.nri/InTheField/India_pests)

### ETHICAL CLOTHES

[www.peopletree.co.uk](http://www.peopletree.co.uk)  
[www.gossypium.co.uk](http://www.gossypium.co.uk)  
[www.eponasport.com](http://www.eponasport.com)

**Sources:** Soil Association, Allen Woodburn Associates Ltd, Labour behind the Label, Youth Tear Fund.

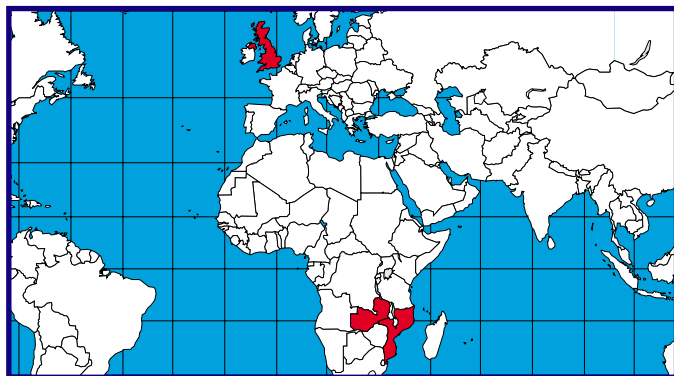
This activities on this page link to national curriculum areas in citizenship and geography.





### Focus on clothes recycling

Recycling banks are becoming an everyday sight on our streets. Increasingly, alongside the containers for glass, cans and paper you may see a special recycling bank for old clothes. Follow us on a trip to Africa as we look at what could happen to the clothes you recycle.



Britons throw out about 1 million tons of old clothes every year. Unfortunately, much of this goes straight in the dustbin and ends up being buried in landfill sites. However, an estimated 200,000 tonnes of clothes are recycled to be worn again or used by industry.

In the past, it was common for old clothes to be donated to local groups to be re-sold at jumble sales. Today, we have the additional option of depositing our old clothes in special clothes recycling banks. These banks are often owned by charities. When we put our old garments into one of these recycling banks we ensure that the charity owning the bank gets a share of the proceeds. However, there are many clothes recycling banks that are run purely as commercial operations and do not benefit charity at all.



The charity Scope works to help sufferers of cerebral palsy and has about 900 clothes banks around the UK. Scope owns most of these, though 140 of the banks are owned by companies licensed to use the Scope name. For each bank carrying the Scope logo, the company makes a donation of £100 a year to the charity.

#### From charity shops to Africa

Many more clothes are donated to charity shops than can be re-sold. It's estimated that only about 10-20% of the clothes donated in Britain are sold and worn again. The surplus is often sent to other countries where the

clothes are really needed. The clothes are weighed and inspected not just for their condition, but also for their suitability. For example, light summer blouses are perfect for hot countries whereas winter overcoats are not. Usually the clothes are packed into containers and sent by ship.

#### Zambia

The journey from the UK to Africa can take up to 2 months, when the ship arrives from the UK in Beira in Mozambique there is a lot of excitement as people have often slept out on the docks to be first in line for the bundled-up clothes. The clothes may then make a further journey by truck to the markets in Zambia, which is one of the main recipients of clothes from the UK.

With average earnings of only one or two dollars per day, most Zambians cannot afford new clothes. But Zambians, like most people, take pride in their appearance and wearing good clothes, even second-hand ones, is an important part of their self-esteem. Development workers in the region agree, adding that it is better to sell the clothes than to give them away as constant handouts are demeaning for the people.

#### Salaula

Zambians call the second hand clothes business salaula which literally means to rummage in a pile. Usually bundles of clothes are bought by clothes traders to sell in the markets. The industry is a major employer providing jobs from carrying and sorting the clothes, to selling them on the individual market stalls.



The flood of imported clothes has had a downside for the Zambian economy, causing the collapse of the Zambian textile industry. In the seven years before 1993, 51 of the 72 Zambian clothing manufacturers closed down. However, Karen Tranberg Hansen of North Western University in Illinois argues in her book *Salaula* that poor economic management and high inflation were the real culprits.

Most Africans are happy with salaula, but some cannot understand why they have to buy the clothes in Africa if they have been given away in the UK. Charity sources in Britain insist that giving the clothes away is unrealistic, because of the cost of sorting, packing, baling and shipping them. A senior executive from one charity has said selling the clothes "generates jobs, helps the micro and then the macro economy and makes the best use of donated items. Charities have to operate efficiently, like businesses. It's not aid or trade, it's trade for aid".

Source *Guardian*; 25/02/04.



# TEACHERS' RESOURCE

## useful resources

All the information you need is out there on the internet – somewhere! We tell you where to look.



### Waste Online

This should always be the first website on your list for information on all aspects of waste or recycling. There is a huge selection of facts and figures, regularly updated by the Waste Watch team. One gem is the great information fact sheet on textile recycling. Top drawer!

[www.wasteonline.org.uk](http://www.wasteonline.org.uk)

### Rug maker

This is the website of master rag rug maker Heather Ritchie. Over 25 years, Heather has refined her technique and is now an internationally renowned artist. There is a gallery of her work showing the amazing detail she is able to capture in her rugs, along with a range of courses and products to help the novice rag rug maker achieve the best results.

[www.rugmaker.co.uk](http://www.rugmaker.co.uk)

### Charity Shops

How do charity shops help the environment? How do charity shops contribute to textile recycling? How do charity shops contribute to other forms of recycling? Just a few of the questions answered on this website dedicated to all aspects of, you guessed it, charity shops! If you fancy giving some time as a volunteer this website has got that angle covered too!

[www.charityshops.org.uk](http://www.charityshops.org.uk)



### Textiles Online

A good educational resource which aims to explore the processes involved in designing and producing textiles as well as the impact of these procedures on the environment. The textiles part of this website is part of a range of resources provided on education for sustainability.

[www.e4s.org.uk/textilesonline](http://www.e4s.org.uk/textilesonline)

### Shoe Friends

The website of LM Barry, a company who collect textiles for recycling and run the 'Shoe Friends' scheme in schools. There are good interactive games to play including one that encourages kids to tidy up a messy bedroom! All in all this website gives some good tips on how the public and business could help the environment through textile recycling.

[www.lmb.co.uk](http://www.lmb.co.uk)

### TRAID

Textile Recycling for Aid and International Development, or TRAIID for short, recycles 94% of all donations and collects nearly 2000 tonnes of textiles every year. Can you host a new textile recycling bank or do you just need to find your nearest one? This website also has a very funky style that all fashion gurus and label junkies will approve of.

[www.traid.org.uk](http://www.traid.org.uk)



### Labour Behind the Label

Labour Behind the Label is an organisation campaigning for the rights of garment workers in Britain and around the world. The website provides an interesting insight into the plight of people working in so-called sweatshops and has information on some of the companies lagging behind in the provision of good working conditions for their employees.

[www.labourbehindthelabel.org.uk](http://www.labourbehindthelabel.org.uk)

### Imperial War Museum

There are some great resources on this website including the 'Make,



Mend or Spend' game looking at the rationing of clothes during the second world war, and also 'Make do and Mend Toys'

[www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

### Ebay

Ebay is the biggest second-hand shop in the world. Find original vintage clothes, fabrics, shoes and bags here. Someone else's junk could be your new outfit! And remember, buying second-hand is a great way to

decrease our resource use.

[www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)

### Recyclezone

Our website designed for teachers and children is proving extremely popular and is packed with games, quizzes and ideas for everyone on how to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste.

[www.recyclezone.org.uk](http://www.recyclezone.org.uk)

### It's out there on the internet – scarecrows galore

One of the oldest uses for unwanted clothes in the UK has been for making scarecrows. It's a simple idea, just take a few old clothes, stuff them with straw and hey presto! You have 24-hour protection against unwanted flying visitors, intent on eating vulnerable seedlings.



Increasingly though, scarecrows are invading towns all over the world for so called 'scarecrow festivals'. From Yorkshire to Chicago and the Australian Outback, the streets of certain towns and villages have been filled with scarecrows. One festival in Newport, USA claims to have over 200 of the straw-filled visitors. Another in the UK is inundated with scarecrows that look suspiciously like famous cartoon characters.

The scarecrow has certainly captured our imagination and regularly crops up in campfire tales, books, films and even ghost stories. In the techno age of the 21st century its good to see our old friend the scarecrow even making it into computer games created with Flash software.

[www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire/content/articles/2005/03/30/lacock\\_scarecrow\\_trail\\_05\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire/content/articles/2005/03/30/lacock_scarecrow_trail_05_feature.shtml)

[www.wrayvillage.co.uk/web scare05/index.htm](http://www.wrayvillage.co.uk/web scare05/index.htm)

[www.theskeletonshop.com](http://www.theskeletonshop.com)

The Waste Education Support Programme (WESP) was set up in response to the growing number of requests that Waste Watch was receiving for help running waste education projects. As a result, WESP was designed to provide organisations with an 'off the shelf' set of training and resources to use in schools in their area.

## Annual seminar

WESP's first annual waste education seminar was held on March 22nd at the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund offices in London. The event was well attended, with WESP Network members travelling from as far as Shropshire, the Chilterns and Norfolk, to join representatives from five London Boroughs. The day provided a relaxed forum to exchange ideas and discuss issues through a mix of presentations, group discussions, and workshops. The waste education seminar will now be held annually in spring for WESP Network members.

## New look WESP gets support

The new WESP programme has recently gained support from DEFRA. The team were overjoyed to hear that WESP has secured a grant from the Waste Partnership Fund. This fund aims to enable community groups to make stronger links with local authorities and share expertise. Competition for the funding was fierce, and Defra received over 600 applications of which only 36 were successful. Announcing the award, Eliot Morley the Environment Minister praised the pioneering work made by community sector organisations working in the waste sector. The funding has been awarded to WESP in order to develop the WESP programme further to provide a national network for waste educators.

## How can you get the most from WESP?

1. Join the Network and benefit from the opportunity to access new ideas and share best practice. The annual seminar alone makes the Network great value for money, plus as a member you also get exclusive web services, regional development meetings, update bulletins and a helpline.
2. As a network member you can post details of your education programmes and the services in your area on the Gateway website, where they can easily be accessed by anyone searching for waste education in your area.
3. Access WESP teaching resources to complement your waste education programme.
4. Attend WESP training events throughout the year to hone your skills and get fresh ideas. Use your Network membership to get reduced price places and priority booking.

For more information about WESP contact Alison Pagan, education projects coordinator, 01328 711369, 07764269123, [alison@wastewatch.org.uk](mailto:alison@wastewatch.org.uk)



*The Rubbish Challenge, just one of the teaching resources available*



## WESP programme update

The new WESP programme got underway in April 2005, and there has already been a very positive response to its launch. Local authorities and organisations are already signing up to join the WESP Network, and expressing great interest in the other services and resources that the Network can offer.

**The Gateway** is a set of web based resources currently being developed. Information is being gathered from new Network members about their projects, resources and services. This information will be made available through the Gateway website which is funded by Yell.

**WESP training** will offer 6 training days per year covering the following topics

- core resources for primary and secondary schools (including an introduction to waste, the waste audit, and formulating an action plan)
- working with schools
- composting in schools
- nursery waste education
- secondary school resources
- waste education through theatre and drama

**WESP teaching resources.** There are a series of integrated activities and waste education games now available

- The Rubbish Challenge (a giant floor game)
- interactive dustbin
- paper making kits
- waste audit kits

**Remember that Network members qualify for discounts for both training and resources.**



# Waste Watch Education Projects

## Regional projects

### SWAC North Yorkshire

Irene Wise & Nick Lishman  
01609 761 818  
irene@wastewatch.org.uk  
nicklishman@wastewatch.org.uk



### SWAC Nottinghamshire

Edwina Woodland 0115 977 2467  
edwina@wastewatch.org.uk



Ashfield DC, Bassetlaw DC, Broxtowe BC, Gedling BC,  
Mansfield DC, Newark & Sherwood DC, Rushcliffe BC

### Recycle Western Riverside

Marina Littek & Melanie Chew  
020 7549 0333/0335  
marina@wastewatch.org.uk  
mel@wastewatch.org.uk



London Boroughs of Wandsworth, Lambeth, Hammersmith & Fulham  
and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

## National projects

### Recyclerbility

www.wastewatch.org.uk

supported by



To book a visit from Cyclor the rapping robot, please  
complete the form on the education page of the Waste  
Watch website. Please bear in mind this is a very popular  
national project and there is a six month waiting list.

### WESP

Alison Pagan 01328 711369  
alison@wastewatch.org.uk



## SWAC support projects

### SWAC Bexley

Sarah Evans 020 8303 7777 Ext 3605  
sarah.evans@bexley.gov.uk



### SWAC Cheshire

Janet Sampson 01244 603 574  
janet.sampson@cheshire.gov.uk



There is currently no SWAC  
education officer in post at  
present.

### SWAC Essex

Cat Auckland 01245 437 169  
catherine.auckland@essexcc.gov.uk



### SWAC Lincolnshire

Helen Percy 01522 552 398  
helen.percy@lincolnshire.gov.uk



LINCOLNSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

### SWAC Norfolk

Martina Glason & Jenny Craven  
01603 223 835 / 829  
martina.glason@norfolk.gov.uk  
jenny.craven@norfolk.gov.uk



Breckland DC, Great Yarmouth BC,  
North Norfolk DC, Norwich City Council,  
South Norfolk DC, West Norfolk & Kings  
Lynn BC, Broadland DC

# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## Textiles Online



Every issue we review an education resource that teachers can use in the classroom. Here we take a look at Textiles Online a web-based resource that is part of a wider set of resources on education for sustainability.

### Overview

[www.e4s.org.uk/textilesonline](http://www.e4s.org.uk/textilesonline) aims to introduce pupils to the processes that are used for designing and producing textiles, to help make them aware of the impact of these processes on the environment and how we can reduce these impacts in the future

### Format and curriculum links

Textiles online is divided into four sections which look at the key issues surrounding the processing, design and use of textiles: the future, the environment, recycling, and design. Each of these sections provides an online activity, teachers' notes with downloadable activity ideas, and associated resources within the online library. The curriculum focus of the site is to develop ICT skills across several curriculum areas and most of the activities are aimed at lower key stage 2 pupils.

### The Activity Centre

This part of the site provides interactive online games for exploring the world of textiles under each of the four sections identified above. To successfully complete the online activities pupils need to have undertaken some previous research into the topics addressed. The additional activities provided in the teachers' notes and the online library can be used for this purpose or as the basis for homework assignments. The online activities could be completed individually or in groups, but should be followed up by a class discussion of the issues raised. You will need to download and install the free Shockwave plug-in onto your computer to use the online activities.

### Teachers notes

Each online activity has a set of supporting teachers' notes with suggestions for incorporating site resources into classroom activities. The teachers' notes are supplied in Acrobat format for downloading, and usefully identify the curriculum links, activity learning objectives, follow up and extension activities.

### Library

The library information is based on a detailed report produced by BTTG (British Textile Technology Group) and provided in a format which can be read and researched by key stage 2 pupils. It can be searched online or printed as a complete report.

### Context

Textiles online has been developed by BDP Media Solutions in association with Heads, Teachers and Industry (HTI) in conjunction with the Salvation Army Trading Company and British Textile Technology Group (BTTG). It is one of a series of environmental websites created as part of [www.e4s.org.uk](http://www.e4s.org.uk) (Education for sustainability) which contains a range of educational resources for those interested in understanding and using our environment in a sustainable and responsible way.

## Dates for your diary

### 5 June

**World Environment Day** is an annual event supported by the UN. Every year a different city hosts a week of events to mark the occasion, this year taking place in San Francisco. The theme is 'Green Cities' and there are events planned on subjects from urban power to redesigning the metropolis. A great day for people around the world to come together and think green.  
[www.wed2005.org](http://www.wed2005.org)

### 5-19 June

**London Sustainability Weeks** are a huge celebration of community action for a cleaner, greener and healthier London. If you live in the capital then there are a host of funky environmental events to get involved in.  
[www.lsw2005.org](http://www.lsw2005.org)

### 11-19 June

**Bike week** is all set to be even bigger and better in 2005, with over 2000 local events planned around the UK. It is expected that 300,000 people will get involved and prove the popularity of pedal power.  
[www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk)

### 20 June

On this day in 1995 Greenpeace won a great victory for the environment when they prevented the deep sea dumping of the Brent Spar, a North Sea oil rig. An inspiration to the next generation of eco warriors!  
[www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)



### 17-18 September

Volunteers will be gathering around the coast of the UK for **Beachwatch 2005**. This annual survey and tidy up of the litter on our coastline is a fantastic way of showing how much you love the seaside. Knot that hankie and get involved.  
[www.adoptabeach.org.uk](http://www.adoptabeach.org.uk)

