



Waste Watch's education newsletter

winter 2005
issue 9

wasted

contents

- 2** waste education news
from around the UK
- 3** Cycler news
- 4** recycle western riverside
& SWAC support
programme
- 5** WESPLife
- 6** primary resource page
- 7** secondary resource page
- 8** instant expert



recycling

new life for old rubbish

www.wastewatch.org.uk

www.recyclezone.org.uk

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 winter edition of *Wasted*

In the next three issues of *Wasted* we will be taking a guided tour of the 3Rs of waste – reduce, reuse and recycle. We're starting with recycling, something that is increasingly part of all our lives, whether at school or home. Look out for information on how recycling works, why it is so important for the future of our planet and what schools working with Waste Watch and our partners are doing about it. If we all recycle, then like the advert says, "the possibilities are endless".

Cover image shows
kerbside recycling box
courtesy of
www.recyclenow.com

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newsupdate

Taking home the recycling message

Pupils at Rawmarsh Monkwood Infants, Todwick Junior & Infant, and Thorpe Hesley Junior and Infant Schools in Rotherham have been the first to take part in a new Waste Watch education project, Taking Home Action on Waste (THAW).

Pupils have been participating in a range of activities to show them the importance of home recycling including the 'rubbish races' game which requires them to identify as quickly as possible from a bag of rubbish what can be recycled using their kerbside recycling collection.

The impact of the THAW project on the awareness and behaviour of pupils and parents is being measured using questionnaires, backed up by careful monitoring of the amount of recycling collected from homes before, during and after the project has worked in local schools. "Pupils are



Rubbish racing in Rotherham

being urged to take the future into their own hands by recycling at home now!", commented Kay Whitfield, THAW education officer.

Notts paper chase



Schools in Nottinghamshire are working to increase paper recycling. More than 80% of Notts schools already have paper recycling banks, many provided free-of-charge by the County Council. This represents a great base on which Notts Schools Waste Action Club (SWAC) can build, by helping schools to maximise use of these facilities. In action plans developed with schools, SWAC has helped to set up paper collection points in all classrooms and offices, and ensured that all school staff members are aware of their recycling bank.

Cheshire SWAC reborn

Waste Watch's new Cheshire project is up and running. Jen Sterry, the project's education officer was appointed in June and, following her return from a period of maternity leave, has been working in Middlewich High School to raise awareness about waste and help the school cut the amount of rubbish it produces. Following this, she will be working in secondary schools and their associated primaries across the county.

Paul Maddox, Waste Watch Education Manager said, "This project represents an exciting opportunity to work with secondary schools which are often less able to participate in waste education work. It will enrich the curriculum and help the students to become responsible global citizens."

This has led to a great increase in the amount of paper being recycled. Schools which conducted repeat waste audits during the summer found that paper recycling had more than doubled, with two schools, Netherfield Junior and Jesse Gray Primary, now recycling more than 80% of their paper.

North Yorkshire parents go back to school

Children in the Harrogate area have been working with North Yorkshire SWAC to teach parents a lesson about waste. The children planned and delivered a number of assemblies about rubbish and following the success of these in Harrogate, further assemblies will be run in schools across North Yorkshire.

Irene Wise, SWAC education officer, has been impressed by both the children's enthusiasm and their parents' response. "The children have really enjoyed teaching the adults to reduce, reuse and recycle, while many of the parents have been surprised to discover that most of their rubbish ends up rotting in a big hole in the ground."



Cyclor joins war on waste in St Helens

Cyclor the rapping robot was delighted to make a return visit to schools in St Helens on Merseyside in October. Waste Watch worked in partnership with the local council and Planet St Helens – an independent association that champions local action for sustainable development. Cyclor rapped about the issue of waste and showed pupils how to take action using the 3Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle.

Cyclor and pupils from Holy Spirit Primary in St Helens learn about their local recycling bags

Taking the 3 point challenge

Motivated by Cyclor's visit to their school and his 3 point challenge to cut waste, pupils from across the country are showing their determination to reduce, reuse and recycle. For instance, Markham Primary near Caerphilly are now composting their organic waste and recycling cans. They are also using an audit of their school's waste as a basis for further action including setting up an eco-committee, having a visit from a recycling lorry and doing a litter pick with support from their local council. Similarly, South Wonston Primary School in Winchester is now recycling paper, milk bottle lids, mobile phones and ink cartridges.

Cyclor fan club

Cyclor's quest to inspire children across the country to take on board the 3Rs message continues to get plenty of positive feedback including this email from a fan. "Thank you for coming to Weston Coyney Junior School. Cyclor was really cool. I've been on the Recyclezone website. It's really mint. I've been reusing lots of things." From Olivia

If your school would like a visit from Cyclor go to www.wastewatch.org.uk and complete the booking form.

National projects

Cyclor

Wendy Jenkinson – 01743 236 951
wendy@wastewatch.org.uk



Waste Education Support Programme

Alison Pagan – 01328 711 369
alison@wastewatch.org.uk



Local projects

Schools Waste Action – Cheshire

Jen Sterry – 01244 603237
jens@wastewatch.org.uk



North Yorkshire Schools Waste Action Club

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



Nottinghamshire Schools Waste Action Club

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

Melanie Chew & Maree Berechree
020 7549 0333/0335
mel@wastewatch.org.uk
maree@wastewatch.org.uk



Taking Home Action On Waste (Rotherham)

Kay Whitfield – 01709 559910
kayw@wastewatch.org.uk



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

Undercover recycling

Hotham Primary in Wandsworth are making use of their old plastic bags to keep out the elements. The school's eco-group developed an innovative project where all the children brought in old plastic bags to swap for reusable "bags for life". A number of workshops then taught the children how to use heat compression to melt and mould the old plastic bags, with the result that the school now has a huge canopy made from recycled plastic.



Pupils from Hotham Primary shelter under their recycled canopy.

School waste champions



Recycling Ricky was on hand to help the children at St Leonard's CE Primary celebrate their win.

In a recent competition run by Recycle Western Riverside, four schools from Lambeth, Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea have been identified as excelling in recycling and rubbish reduction. The entries were judged on innovation as well as the sustainability of their recycling systems. There were many excellent entries but, in the end, Hotham Primary, Kenmont Primary, St Leonard's CE Primary and ADT College came out on top and were each awarded £100.

Kenmont Primary in Hammersmith & Fulham was chosen as it had shown that buying recycled paper is no more expensive than buying virgin paper provided you are prepared to shop around. Buying recycled is an important but sometimes forgotten aspect of recycling and means that there is demand for materials when they have been recycled. The whole school now uses recycled photocopier paper and Faye Papini in the school office keeps a close eye on the teachers to ensure that they are not wasting any!

St Leonard's CE Primary in Lambeth concentrates on composting. Teacher Tony Pizzoferro makes sure that all the infant children add their fruit waste to either the compost bin or the school's super-size wormery, where it is happily devoured by the 14,000 worms living inside. As well as helping to deal with organic waste, the wormery provides a wonderful hands-on environment for the study of worms and other 'minibeasts'.

SWAC Support Programme

The SWAC Support Programme provides teaching resources, training and advice to organisations who have taken on the management of the Schools Waste Action Club project in their area. Currently SWACs in Bexley, Essex and Norfolk are all participating in the scheme. Contact details for all these projects can be found on the opposite page.

Bexley pupils show they CAN recycle!

Secondary and special schools in Bexley are putting metal recycling into practice thanks to funding from European Metals Recycling (EMR). Schools are being given can banks and can crushers and will also get the opportunity to visit a metal recycling factory and undertake metal recycling workshops. To promote the scheme, students from Bexley Grammar School have designed stickers and posters.



The mean, green, can-crushing machine.

"Recycling cans saves up to 95% of the energy needed to make them from raw materials and saves valuable natural resources", commented Bexley SWAC education officer, Sarah Evans. "We hope the scheme will also encourage the children to recycle their cans at home as well as at school." **For more information on the EMR Reload Fund visit www.emritd.com/media.asp**

Recycling takes to the road in East Anglia

Eye-catching artwork created by young artists from seven Norfolk High Schools is being used to drive home the message about waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The designs are being displayed on the back of Norfolk County Council's 27 yellow school buses. The 'Wheels of Change' project has been organised by Norfolk SWAC, Arts in Education and Norfolk

County Services and has involved pupils from City of Norwich School, Diss High School, Flegg High School, Fred Nicholson School, Parkside School, Smithdon High School and Thetford



Grammar School. The participating schools worked with local environmental artist Liz McGowan to convey different waste messages ranging from paper recycling and composting to using real nappies. A bus also features as part of Essex County Council's new integrated waste education programme. The programme combines visits by a new waste education bus with class-based activities.

WESP is Waste Watch's 'Waste Education Support Programme'. It provides training and resources as well as a new online waste education database and the opportunity to join a network of waste education practitioners.

Waste Education Gateway soon to go live

Are you a primary school with a pile of paper which you'd rather see recycled than landfilled? Or a secondary school throwing away too many cans? If so, Waste Watch's new Waste Education Gateway can help.

The Gateway is a free database set up to provide local and national waste information to schools and is accessible from the education pages of the Waste Watch website. Its development has been sponsored by the Yellow Pages Directory Recycling Scheme.

If you are an organisation delivering waste education or recycling schemes to schools and would like to be included on the Gateway, email alison@wastewatch.org.uk

WESP training

The first training event of the new WESP programme for 2005/6 took place in October in Northamptonshire. Participants came from as far apart as Midlothian and Devon to attend the two day course which included presentations, group discussions and practical sessions showing how to run a successful school waste education programme as well as providing curriculum based education resources. Participants particularly valued the way in which knowledge, inspiration and ideas were provided in a clear and easily applicable way.

More WESP training on a variety of waste education themes is being run throughout the year. For information, visit the education pages of the Waste Watch website.

Waste Education Network

Waste educators from across the UK are signing up as members of Waste Watch's new education network. The network provides the opportunity to share best practice and obtain regular waste education updates and also offers discounts on Waste Watch training and resources. The following are already members of the Network and can be approached by schools wishing to undertake waste education work.

Biffa	Liz Fenlon	01494 521 221
London Borough of Bromley	Amy Bevins	020 8313 4989
Northamptonshire County Council	Anne-Marie Pauline	01604 237 633
Devon County Council	Lindsay Coyle	01392 382 920
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Paul Quigley	01954 713 134
Essex County Council	Cat Auckland	01245 437 169
Isle of Man	Stephanie Gray	01624 686 540
Norfolk County Council	Martina Glason	01603 223 835
	Jenny Craven	01603 223 929
	Mark Henderson	01603 223 347
Shropshire County Council	Sue Jelleyman	01743 235 036
Melton Borough Council	Paul Coates	0771 768 4707

Top marks for composting competition winner



Buckinghamshire's Rethink Rubbish at School programme challenged schools to design a bookmark to help promote the benefits of composting. More than 1,800 entries were received, with the design by Kori Richards, a year 5 pupil from Oak Green School in Aylesbury being chosen as the winner. Kori was presented

with a book token and a bag of recycled goodies and her school received a picnic bench made from recycled plastic. Kori's artwork was printed onto 20,000 bookmarks which will be distributed to Buckinghamshire libraries and to all schools that took part in the competition. In addition, a display of some of the competition entries was held at County Hall during September.

Above: Kori's winning bookmark

Derbyshire pupils 'dig' compost

Green-fingered pupils in the Derbyshire Dales finished off this year's growing season in style. The children made use of the compost they had produced using free



compost bins provided as part of a county wide promotion. Pupils from Bonsall Primary and All Saints Primary schools took part in two composting workshops with Georgina Cass, the council's Environmental Education Officer, in which they were shown how to make top quality compost by having the right balance of ingredients. A trouble shooting session helped to address common problems, such as how to prevent the compost going slimy by adding screwed up newspaper and ripped up cardboard.

With the coming of autumn, the pupils dug most of their finished compost into the school garden to prepare for the next batch of crops and plants. The remaining compost was used to plant herbs and seeds into reused and recycled pots, drinks cartons and egg boxes for a truly 'green' gardening experience.

Above: Bonsall Primary pupils show off their school garden

Staffordshire Moorlands Council	Nicola Kemp	01538 483 662
Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire	Claire Baldry	01296 387 195
Bexley Council	Sarah Evans Andrea Cornwell	0208 303 7777 ext 3605
Shanks	Tracey Grant	01708 634 553
London Borough of Redbridge	Siri Mittet	0208 708 5518
Gateshead Council	Heather Tarvit	0191 433 7418
Islington Council	Melissa Painter	020 7527 5996
Derbyshire Dales District Council	Georgina Cass	01629 761 318
Oldham Council	Joanne Stanley	0161 911 4448

For information on how you can benefit from membership of the Network, email alison@wastewatch.org.uk

Recycling

– the possibilities are endless!



Activity one – matching pairs

Successful recycling has two sides to it. Recycled materials need to be collected correctly and then made into new products that we will buy and use again. Cut out or copy the ten pictures below and stick onto old card. Can the class match up the pairs of recycled rubbish and the products made from it?



printer



wine glasses



bike



cans



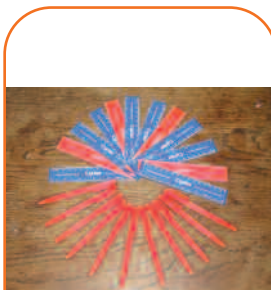
compost



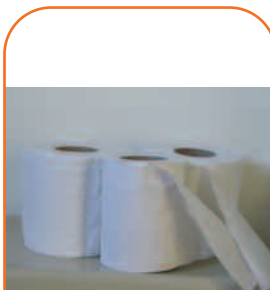
bottles



organics



pens & rulers



loo rolls



newspapers

Activity two – internet investigation

The following activity concentrates on the recycling of one material, glass. You can find the answers and fill in the gaps by looking on two excellent web-sites: www.recyclingglass.co.uk and www.rockware.co.uk/index-recycling/index-recycling.html. (See below for answers)

- When we buy glass bottles and jars they come in four colours. These colours are and .
- Used bottles and jars can be taken to a special recycling bank. This is called a bank.
- The glass is emptied from the bank by lorries and the coloured glass is kept in separate containers. Blue glass should be put in with the glass.
- The scrap glass is crushed and cleaned at the recycling factory. It is now called .
- The glass is mixed with raw materials and is melted at °C.
- The glass is made into new bottles and jars, drinking glasses or even a road surface material called .

Investigation answers
 1. green, clear, brown and blue
 2. bottle
 3. green
 4. cullet
 5. 1600°C
 6. glasphalt

4. Bottle – wine glasses
 5. Organics – compost

Matching pairs answers
 1. Newspapers – loo roll
 2. Cans – bike
 3. Printer – pens/ rulers



What is recycling?

Recycling is the process by which materials are collected and used to make new products. Many materials can be recycled: glass, metal, paper and cardboard, plastic, even clothes and wood.

Is recycling important?

Recycling is very important as everyone makes rubbish. Every week an average family in England and Wales gets through an average of:

- 6 glass bottles or jars
- 14 cans
- 8 plastic bottles
- 4 kilograms of paper

In total, UK households produce 82,000 tonnes of rubbish every day – the same weight as 16,000 fully grown African elephants. We cannot continue burying or burning this amount of rubbish forever and recycling is one of the solutions.

Recycling reduces the demand for raw materials which means that less needs to be mined, quarried or felled, all of which have implications for the environment and the people and animals that live in it. Also, transporting raw materials around the world uses large amounts of fossil fuel. Although some materials for recycling need to be transported, the impact of this is significantly less than that of transporting raw materials from remote parts of the world. Recycling also uses less energy than producing goods from virgin material and results in less pollution.

How does it work?

Materials collected for recycling are sorted at a Materials Recycling Facility (or 'MRF'). This uses mechanical and manual systems to separate the recycling into different materials, and remove any that shouldn't be there.

The sorted materials are then sent to reprocessors who prepare them for use in the manufacture of new products. Some reprocessors turn the sorted materials into new products themselves.



Sorting paper at a Materials Recycling Facility or 'MRF'.

Buying recycled

Buying recycled products helps to create a demand for the materials recovered by recycling schemes. For recycling to work, there need to be markets for the products made with recycled materials. Buying recycled helps keep reusable material in the economy, reduces the amount of waste needing to be landfilled and conserves resources, particularly energy.

Many products contain recycled materials as part of the normal manufacturing process. Examples of these include newspapers, glass jars and steel and aluminium cans. We, as consumers, can also make intelligent choices and actively choose recycled products in preference to ones made entirely of virgin materials, for example by purchasing copier paper and kitchen towels with a 100% recycled paper content. In some cases the recycled products are very different from the materials from which they are made. For instance, waste plastic can be used to make imitation wooden benches and waste glass used to make road surfacing.

Classroom activity

Aim: To understand what happens during the recycling process, that there are many recycled products available to buy and that purchasing them helps to save resources and reduce pollution.

What to do

1. Read the information provided on this page as a quick introduction to recycling.



2. Divide the class into small groups and give each group either **aluminium** or **glass** to research using the websites below.

- www.wasteonline.org.uk
- www.recyclezone.org.uk
- www.recyclemore.org.uk
- www.recycledproducts.co.uk
- www.greenchoices.org.uk

Relevant pages can be printed out before the lesson if internet access will not be available.

3. Use the information gained to create a spider diagram for the material covering the following points:
 - Information about the material – what it is used for, its properties, and statistics about it.
 - Why it is important to recycle the material.
 - The recycling process.
 - The different products that can be made from the material e.g. a metal can could be recycled into a car part.
4. Ask each group to present their finished spider diagrams to the rest of the class. Use them to explain why recycling the material is better than throwing it away.

Homework

What to do

Research recycled products using the websites listed below. Find out where you can buy the following items in order to create a "Save the Planet" school bag:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. School Bag | 2. Pencil | 3. Ruler |
| 4. Pencil case | 5. Pen | 6. Notebook |

- www.earthpak.com
- www.greenstat.co.uk
- www.recycledproducts.org.uk
- www.remarkable.co.uk
- www.recycled-products.co.uk
- www.londonremade.com

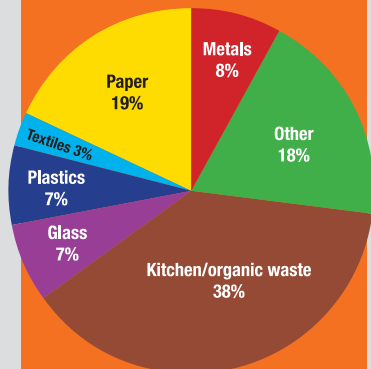
Record where you can purchase each item and how much it costs. Compare your results with your class mates to see who can find the best bargain.



A whirlwind tour of issues relating to recycling

The figures

- Each UK household produces over 1 tonne of rubbish each year. This adds up to more than 30 million tonnes of waste every year, enough to fill the new Wembley stadium to the brim in just 3 days.



- The amount of waste we produce is growing by between 2 and 4% a year.
- On average, households are now recycling more than 20% of their rubbish but more than 60% of what's thrown away can actually be recycled.

The issues

- Unless we increase recycling rates and start to buy recycled products, resources which in some cases have taken millions of years to form, will be lost forever.
- About 80% of all households now have doorstep recycling schemes but in some cases these are underused.
- Many of our European neighbours are recycling more than we are in the UK.



- Although figures show that many of us are recycling, the number of people buying recycled products is still very low and this can create a problem due to lack of demand for recycled materials.

The politics

- The EC Directive on 'Packaging and Packaging Waste' seeks to reduce the impact of packaging waste on the environment by introducing recycling targets for this waste and encouraging manufacturers to use less packaging. The target for the EC Member States is for between 55% and 80% of packaging waste to be recycled by 2008.
- The Waste Strategy 2000 aims for a 50% reduction in the biodegradable waste (i.e. waste that will rot away) going to landfill by 2013, compared to the amount in 1995. Although most people know that this includes food waste, they do not realise that it also includes paper and card which, if they decompose anaerobically (without the presence of oxygen) in a landfill site, produce methane, a highly flammable greenhouse gas.

The solutions

- The opportunity to recycle is now widely available in most areas. As well as kerbside collection schemes, materials can also be taken to recycling banks (known as 'bring sites'), often located at local supermarkets. You can find the location of your nearest bring site by entering your postcode at www.recyclenow.com.
- If your school does not already have recycling facilities, you may be able to obtain these by contacting your council's recycling officer. Paper is still the most common material collected from schools but in some areas, card, metal cans, plastic bottles, ink and toner cartridges and aluminium foil can also be collected. Some local authorities may be able to replace an existing waste bin with a recycling bin, thereby cutting your waste collection bill and saving your school money.
- If you are a London school, you can sign up to the Mayor's Green Procurement Code which puts you in touch with a London Remade broker who can provide information on the cheapest suppliers of recycled products.
Visit www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/waste/green_procurement_code.jsp

Take action

- Develop an action plan to implement a recycling scheme in your school. Get the backing of all the staff including the head teacher, site manager and kitchen staff.
- Buy recycled paper for your school. Recycled brands are as good as those produced from virgin pulp and may not cost any more. You might need to shop around but your waste management department or local education authority may be able to help negotiate a lower price.
- Form an environment group at school. It could even be part of your school council.
- Go to Waste Watch's new Waste Education Gateway (see page 5) to find out whether there is anyone in your area who can run a waste education programme at your school.
- Recycle as much as you can at home. If you have a kerbside collection, use it!