

# Waste education & awareness activities for schools



## Waste Aware Trailer

The Waste Aware Team has a 4 metre by 2 metre (13 ft x 6.5 ft) educational caravan which can attend any open events your school may have planned throughout the year. Onboard are a variety of visual promotions and plenty of information on waste reduction and recycling within both the home and school environments.



## Helping you recycle more ... at school

Education and awareness activities are at the heart of driving a change of attitude toward waste.

Incorporating the reduce, reuse, recycle message within lessons is key to encouraging young people to think differently about waste, and to think about how they can incorporate waste minimisation activities into their own school and home environments.

Midlothian Council offers a comprehensive programme of waste education which links into the Curriculum for Excellence through Sustainable Development Education and the Eco-Schools Program.

We have several new and exciting waste activities to offer and hope that continued collaboration with local schools will improve pupil's understanding of waste and recycling and that the lessons learnt will be passed on and become part of everyday life.





## The story of 'King Wastealot and the Mountain of Rubbish' (waste & recycling)

The story of 'King Wastealot's Picnic' (litter & recycling)

**Description:** These two stories feature a King who does not recycle, and tell what happens to his kingdom. It can be shown on a smart board as slides or as A3 laminated pictures which are held up in front of a small group whilst the story unfolds.

**Message:** What can be done at home and in school to recycle waste

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Sciences, Social Studies, Technologies

**Age suitability:** Nursery aged 3-5 and P1-P2

**No of participants:** 5 – 25 children

**Activity duration:** 20 – 30 minutes

**Room requirements:** Classroom with area to seat all pupils comfortably on the floor

**Other information:** Please state if there is a smart board available.

**"Introduces waste and recycling to a young age group."**

## DVD – refuse collectors and recyclers

**Description:** Educational film looking at recycling and waste collections. It highlights a typical family situation and demonstrates how children can become involved in recycling activities within the home.

**Message:** How and why we should recycle our waste

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Health and Wellbeing, Sciences, Social Studies, Technologies

**Age suitability:** P1-P4

**No of participants:** 12 – 25 children

**Activity duration:** 30 minutes plus discussion time. Can lead in to classroom activities i.e. sorting, poster making and tasking.

**Room requirements:** Classroom /area with room to allow children to view screen

**Other information:** TV or other viewing equipment is required to be provided.



## Rubbish Challenge

**Description:** Large floor based game for the whole class or smaller groups played in teams. The game is set out on the floor and played in a similar way to monopoly with die being thrown and markers (pupils) being moved around the board where challenges are given out along the way. Pupils need wits and imagination to win!

**Message:** The concepts of reduce, reuse and recycle can be applied to everyday life

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Health and Wellbeing, Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Wellbeing, Social Studies, Technologies

**Age suitability:** P5 upwards

**No of participants:** 12 – 20 children

**Activity duration:** 45 minutes

**Room requirements:** Gym or dining hall

## Rubbish Circle Game

**Description:** Pupils are arranged in a circle and are each presented with an item from a bag of waste (clean objects). Working in pairs, pupils have to decide how waste materials can be reduced, reused or recycled.

**Message:** Many waste items can be reused, and smart purchasing decisions can reduce household waste

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Health and Wellbeing, Sciences, Mathematics, Social Studies, Technologies

**Age suitability:** P4-P7

**No of participants:** 6 – 30 children

**Activity duration:** 30 – 45 minutes

**Room requirements:** Classroom or area to seat all pupils in circle either on chairs or comfortably on the floor



## Recycling Relay

**Description:** Fun, active and intense. Similar to the 'Rubbish Circle Game' but more lively. Pupils work in teams to decide if various items can be reused or where they can be recycled at a mock up Household Waste Recycling Centre.

**Message:** We live in a 'throw away' culture, but there are alternative ways to deal with what some consider to be 'waste'

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Health and Wellbeing, Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Wellbeing, Social Studies, Technologies

**Age suitability:** P4 - P7

**No of participants:** 6 – 36 children

**Activity duration:** 60 minutes

**Room requirements:** Gym or dining hall



## Wheel of Waste

**Description:** Pupils spin the wheel to select an item then tell their class how it can be reduced, reused or recycled.

**Message:** Many items can be reused before they are recycled

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Health and Wellbeing, Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Wellbeing, Social Studies, Technologies

**Age Suitability:** P4 upwards

**No of participants:** Small groups or whole class

**Activity duration:** Can be tailored to suit any time from 20 minutes up to 1 hour

**Room requirements:** Classroom with area to seat all pupils comfortably on the floor



## Bean Bag Game

**Description:** Pupils select a bean bag which corresponds to a waste item. They have to decide how to dispose of the item and then try their hand at throwing the bean bag through the correct hole in the display stand.

**Message:** Many common household items can be reduced, reuse or recycled

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Health and Wellbeing, Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Wellbeing, Social Studies, Technologies

**Age Suitability:** P4 upwards

**No of participants:** Small groups –up to 30 individual or team game

**Activity duration:** Can be tailored to suit any time from 15 minutes up to 1 hour

**Room requirements:** Classroom or hall

**Materials required:** Smart Board or projector and screen, extension lead.



## Waste Audit

**Description:** A practical data collection and analysis often done by the Eco Committee or whole class. Children collect waste from within the school in advance of the activity. Mats are laid on the floor and the collected rubbish tipped out. Pupils then sort through and separate the waste into categories to weigh and record it.

**Message:** Some areas of the school create more waste than others, but steps can be taken to reduce or recycle waste created by the school

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Health and Wellbeing, Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Wellbeing, Social Studies, Technologies

**Age Suitability:** Eco Committee or P6-7 class

**No of participants:** Small group or whole class

**Activity duration:** Waste needs to be collected by pupils the previous week. Waste Analysis can take up to 2 hours depending on amount of waste collected

**Room requirements:** Large hall

**Materials required:** Pencils, photocopies of record sheets, bags to collect the rubbish.

**Other requirements:** Planning meeting with Waste Aware Team necessary in advance.

**This activity will count towards your Green Flag Award.**



## Zero Waste Lunch

**Description:** At the end of a lunch period, all the waste is collected in separate categories and weighed by the pupils. Children bringing a packed lunch to school are encouraged to consider how they can bring a waste free lunch in the future. The waste team return to repeat the activity to see if increased awareness has reduced the overall food waste and packaging composition.

**Message:** Many items of food waste or food packaging are avoidable and there is an environmental benefit in reducing food waste

**Curriculum strands:** Language, Health and Wellbeing, Sciences, Technologies, Mathematics, Health & Wellbeing, Social Studies

**Age suitability:** P1-P7

**No. of participants:** This is a whole school activity

**Activity duration:** 30 minute pre-activity information session and two lunch periods

**Room requirements:** Assembly hall with facilities to project an interactive presentation to the whole school

**Materials required:** Smart Board or projector and screen, extension lead.

## Rag bag textile recycling

Raise funds for your school by recycling clothes, shoes and accessories.

The scheme is completely FREE and your school will be paid for every kg of clothes recycled.



## Green Santa

Green Santa promotes the message of reuse.

In the run up to Christmas he collects unwanted toys from pupils and donates these to local charity shops where they can be enjoyed by another child.

Green Santa collects toys, dolls, teddy bears, board games, PS or Xbox type games, children's books, jigsaws, and unwanted Christmas decorations.



# Helping you recycle more at school



For more information on the community waste activities available from Midlothian Council

Call: **0131 561 5360**

Email: [recycling@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@midlothian.gov.uk)

Visit: [midlothian.gov.uk/waste-aware](http://midlothian.gov.uk/waste-aware)

 **recycle for Midlothian**

  
Midlothian