



Education RECYCLING PACK





Who's this guide for?

Whether you're running a busy secondary school, a local nursery, a college campus, or a training centre – this guide is here to help you kick-start (or level up) your recycling game.

This guide is for the person managing waste in your educational setting. That might be a facilities manager, a caretaker, or even a headteacher or admin lead in smaller schools. No matter your role, we're here to make recycling simple, practical, and something your whole community can get behind.

We've broken it down into four easy steps.

Here's what you'll get from this guide:

- Optimise your current waste collection setup – make it work harder for you.
- Plan a recycling system that fits your space, your team, and your day-to-day operations.
- Save money – yep, recycling can actually cost less than general waste disposal!
- Stay compliant with the latest regulations, so you're not caught off guard.

Let's make recycling simple, practical, and something your whole team can get behind.



Firstly, Let's Look at Your Waste

Taking the guesswork out of your waste!

Not sure where to start with recycling in your school, nursery, or college? Or how much waste your setting is actually producing? Don't worry – we've got your back. We offer a free waste audit to help you get a clear picture of what's going in the bin and what could be recycled instead. No clipboards or complicated forms – just practical insights tailored to your educational setting.

Tailored support, every step of the way

After the audit, we'll review your current waste setup to make sure it's:

- Efficient
- Cost-effective
- Aligned with your needs

We'll help you:

- Boost recycling rates
- Streamline services
- Cut costs
- Stay compliant with upcoming regulations

Whether you're running a single nursery or a multi-campus college, we'll design a bespoke recycling system that works for your space, staff, and students – no copy-paste solutions here.



Why Recycling is Important



1. It saves the planet (literally).

Recycling helps reduce pollution, saves energy, and protects nature. Less waste = a cleaner, greener Earth!



2. It keeps rubbish out of landfills.

Landfills are filling up fast. Recycling means less trash piling up and more space for nature (and maybe future skateparks?).



3. It saves energy.

Making new stuff from recycled materials uses way less energy than starting from scratch. That means fewer fossil fuels burned and less climate change.



4. It protects animals and oceans.

Plastic and rubbish can harm wildlife. Recycling helps keep our oceans, rivers, and forests safe for animals (and us!).



5. It turns old into awesome.

Recycling and reusing give things a second life—like turning old jeans into bags or plastic bottles into cool new gear.



Why Recycling is Important



6. It's part of your future.

The choices we make today shape the world you'll live in tomorrow. Recycling is one way to build a better, brighter future.



7. It saves money.

Reusing things means buying less. Schools, families, and even whole cities can save money by recycling smartly.



8. It's a team effort.

When everyone joins in—students, teachers, staff—it creates a positive vibe and shows what we can do when we work together.



9. It's easy to do.

Recycling doesn't take much effort. Just pop things in the right bin, and you're already making a difference.



10. It makes you a changemaker.

Every bottle, can, or piece of paper you recycle is a small act of kindness to the planet. And small actions add up to big change.



How to Get Everyone on Board in Your School or College

Effective internal communication is key to making recycling successful.

Getting your staff and students involved in recycling isn't just a nice-to-have—it's essential if you want your efforts to really make a difference. Good internal communication is key. Here's how to kick things off and keep everyone in the loop:

Start with the “Why”

Why should your school or college recycle? There are loads of great reasons—from helping the planet to meeting legal requirements.

Who's in Charge?

Make it clear who's responsible for managing waste. Is it the facilities team? Specific cleaners? Naming names helps everyone know who to go to with questions or ideas.

Where Do Things Go?

Let people know where the recycling bins are and what types you've got. Are they in classrooms, hallways, or outside? What can go in each one? This step's first section will help you map it all out.

Who Picks It Up?

Share details about your external waste collection provider. When do they come? How often? This helps everyone understand the bigger picture.

How Should We Recycle?

Make it easy for everyone to do the right thing. Should items be clean, dry, and loose? Spell it out so there's no confusion.



Recycling Hero's (Waste Champion)

Want to make a real difference in your school or college? Why not appoint a Waste Champion! Waste Champions are students (and sometimes staff) who are super passionate about recycling.

They help by:

- Reminding others what goes in which bin
- Keeping an eye on how bins are being used
- Answering questions and sharing tips
- Encouraging everyone to recycle the right way

Having friendly, visible champions around makes recycling easier and way more fun. Plus, it's a great way to show leadership and help your school or college go green!

The goal is to make recycling second nature for everyone, no matter their role.



Recycling Hero - Activity Ideas



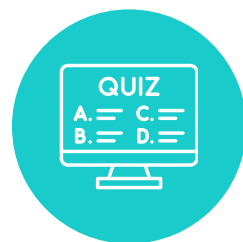
1. Recycling Poster Competition

Let students design eye-catching posters with recycling tips, fun facts, or creative slogans. Display the best ones around school or on social media!



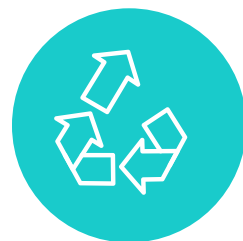
2. Recycling Relay Race

Turn recycling into a game! Set up bins and have teams race to sort items correctly. It's fast-paced, fun, and educational.



3. Eco Quiz or Kahoot!

Host a quiz with questions about recycling, climate change, and sustainability. Add prizes for top scorers to boost participation.



4. Upcycling Challenge

Challenge students to turn old or unwanted items into something new and useful—like turning a T-shirt into a tote bag or a jar into a plant pot.



5. Eco Drama or Skit

Get creative with a short play or sketch about recycling superheroes, talking bins, or a world without waste. Perform it in assembly or film it for your school's social media.



6. Recycling Photo Hunt

Create a scavenger hunt where students find and snap photos of recycling bins, reused items, or eco-friendly actions around school.



7. Green Ambassadors or Waste Champions

Let students apply to be Waste Champions—leading by example, helping others recycle, and coming up with new ideas to reduce waste.



8. Story Time or Comic Strip Creation

Younger students can write short stories or draw comics about recycling adventures. Older students can create zines or digital stories.



9. Swap Shop or Uniform Exchange

Set up a space where students can swap clothes, books, or school supplies instead of buying new ones. It's sustainable and saves money!



10. Recycling Art Installation

Use clean waste materials to build a sculpture or mural that sends a message about protecting the planet. Great for art classes or eco clubs!

Setting Communication Aims and Objectives

This helps align your messaging with your recycling goals and track progress.

Example Aim and Objective

Aim: Encourage the catering team to improve recycling in the kitchen.

Objective: Raise awareness by installing recycling bins, signage, and posters in bin areas.



Raise awareness of recycling opportunities.



Inform staff about your recycling policy and legal duties.



Explain how your business manages waste and the benefits of recycling.



Educate and motivate staff with clear instructions and support.



Encourage behavior change—make recycling the norm.

Keeping Everyone in the Recycling Loop

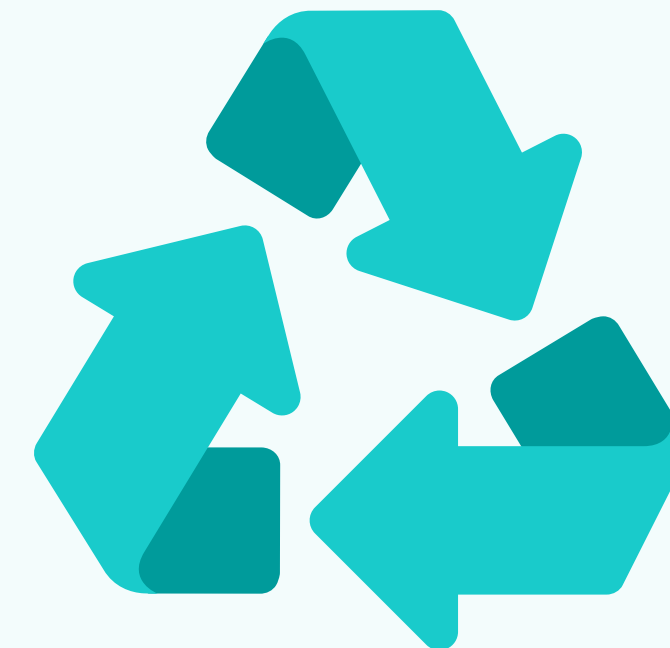
If you want your recycling efforts to really make a difference, it's all about teamwork. Everyone in your educational setting—whether they're teaching, tidying, cooking, or working behind the scenes—has a part to play. And the key to making it all work? Clear, friendly communication. Start by thinking about the different people in your school or college community. You might have:

- Senior leaders and heads of department
- Teachers and teaching assistants
- Facilities and cleaning staff
- Catering teams
- Office and admin staff
- Recycling service providers
- Part-time, temporary, or seasonal staff
- Students, of course!

Each group might need slightly different info depending on the kind of waste they deal with. For example:

- Office staff might need reminders about recycling paper, cardboard, and packaging.
- Catering teams will need clear guidance on food waste and how to clean containers before recycling.
- Cleaners & facilities staff might need to know where bins go and how often they're emptied.
- Students might benefit from visual prompts, fun activities, or peer-led initiatives like Waste Champions.

The more tailored and engaging your messages are, the more likely everyone is to get on board—and stay on board. Whether it's posters in the staff room, quick chats in team meetings, or student-led campaigns, the goal is to make recycling part of everyday school life.



Get in touch

Let's build a partnership to reach your recycling and sustainability goals

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