



reduce, reuse, recycle

This badge introduces the theme of waste and encourages the young people to think about what happens to waste once they have finished with it. After week one's introduction you can do the other weeks in any order you like. Hopefully by the end everyone will think twice before throwing something into the bin! The programme is aimed at Juniors/Seniors but can be easily adapted for any age-group.



WEEK ONE – How long does your waste last?

You will need: 'how long will it last' cards, recycling charts, pieces of rubbish (e.g. old newspaper, carrier bag, food scraps, plastic bottle...),

1. Work in teams to try and pair up the type of waste with the length of time it will take to decompose.
2. Sort through the waste and put into bundles for recycling, composting and non-recyclables.

Encourage the children/young people to recycle more of their waste and record it on their "recycling chart" you may wish to give a prize at the end for the best "recycler."

WEEK TWO – Paper

You will need: recycling paper comic strip, basin, kitchen tray, old towel, J-cloths, sponges, plastic tapestry mesh, blender, glitter, scrap paper.

1. Draw pictures in the gaps to complete the comic strip.

Have a go at making your own paper (see craft sheet for instructions) or 're-cycle' used paper with any paper-craft of your choice.

WEEK THREE – Plastic

You will need: canes, wire-2mm, beads, 2 litre bottles, duck tape, glass pens, scissors.

1. A plastic bottle may never decompose – try to come up with as many possible uses for old plastic bottles as you can!

Recycle old drinks bottles into beautiful windmills (see craft sheet for instructions).

WEEK FOUR – Compost

You will need: 2litre plastic bottles, scissors, compost, seeds, tape, labels, pen

1. Learn how to make your own compost.

Make a miniature greenhouse using a 2litre drinks bottle cut in half or use some compost to plant up some flowerpots.

WEEK FIVE – Fabric

You will need: fabric paints/pens/crayons, sequins, fabric glue

1. Ask each child to bring in an old piece of clothing that they no longer wear
2. Talk about the importance of recycling/reusing clothing – think of places you can take clothes that no longer fit.

Give your old piece of clothing a new lease of life by decorating it with fabric paints/pens/crayons and sequins.

WEEK SIX – Metal

You will need: old CDs (2 each), string/wool, scissors, glue, permanent coloured pens, sticky tape, sequins/shiny stars etc. AND/OR amazing aluminium factsheet

1. Create a Christmas decoration by decorating the CDs with sequins etc (on the shiny side), attaching string to the back (label side) of one then gluing them together back-to-back.

OR (if it is not appropriate to make Christmas decorations) design a poster to encourage people to recycle their aluminium cans using some of the amazing aluminium facts (see factsheet)