

Recycling Lesson Plan

Aim

The aim of this lesson is to educate primary school pupils aged 7-11 in Scotland on recycling. It intends to inform children of Zero Waste Scotland's key messages which include: why we should recycle, what can be recycled (highlighting less commonly recycled materials if appropriate) and the recycling journey (including statistics about recycling).

The Recycling Lesson has been designed to take approximately 35 minutes and the optional bolt-on to take up to an additional 25 minutes to be delivered by a class teacher or waste officer.

Learning Objectives	Success Criteria
To understand why we should recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Describe what recycling is✓ Explain how recycling is good for the environment
To identify at least 5 items that we can recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Participate in the 'What can I recycle?' game and recycling quiz
To know what happens to at least 2 items when they are recycled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Watch the 'recycling journey' videos✓ Participate in the recycling quiz

Resources

Provided in this pack:

- Teacher's Guide/ Waste Officer's Guide
- Recycling Lesson PowerPoint (including teacher-led discussions, activities, videos etc.)
- Recycling Lesson Bolt-On PowerPoint
- Pupil Reflection on Recycling Lesson (Bolt-On)
- Action Cards

Required in Classroom:

- Computer – with Microsoft PowerPoint and internet access
 - Projector
 - Class-set mini-whiteboards*
 - Class-set whiteboard pens
 - Class-set whiteboard wipes
 - Timer
- *A4 pieces of paper and pens could be used as a substitute

In advance of the lesson

To adapt this lesson to your school's council area and so pupils understand what they can and cannot recycle, use the **Recycling Locator** to discover what can be recycled at home:

- 1 Click to open the [Recycling Locator](#)
- 2 Click **How to Recycle at home**
- 3 Enter your school's town or postcode
- 4 Become familiar with what you can (and cannot) recycle in your school's council area

The teacher/waste officer should use the Recycling Locator in advance of the lesson. The knowledge gained from the Recycling Locator can be used to inform pupils what they can and cannot recycle along with Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slides 6 & 7. Slide 7 should be adapted to reflect additional items that can be recycled in your school's council area. In other words you should delete image(s) on slide 7 as appropriate. For example if cartons and foil trays can be recycled then the slide should be amended to show:



It is also recommended that this task is set to pupils in advance of the lesson. Pupils are to find out what items can and cannot be recycled in their council. This can be achieved by asking their parent(s)/ carer(s), researching online, etc.

If possible it will be useful to have a couple of items with the recycling symbol brought in to pass around the class. Examples of items include a biscuit box, a plastic juice bottle and a glass sauce jar.

Lesson

Timing	Task	Resources
3 minutes	Class settles, topic introduced, <i>Learning Intentions & Success Criteria</i> covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slides 1 & 2• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
5 minutes	Think-Pair-Share Activity (N.B. See Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide for instruction)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slide 3• Class-set mini-whiteboards, whiteboard pens, whiteboard wipes• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
3 minutes	Class discussion on what recycling is and why we should recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slide 4 & 5• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
2 minutes	Class discussion on 'What can I recycle?'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See <i>In advance of the lesson</i> section above• Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slide 6 & 7• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
10 minutes	'Game: What can I recycle?': Pupils to identify items that can be recycled around the home based on different rooms, then watch the 'recycling around the home' video	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slide 8-13• 2 mini white boards, 2 white board pens and 2 white board wipes• Video: Recycling around the home• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
5 minutes	Pupils to learn what happens when items are recycled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slide 14-17• Video: Cans Recycling Journey• Video: Plastic Bottles Recycling Journey• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
2 minutes	Pupils to consider what action they can take to recycle more	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slide 18• Action Cards• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
5 minutes	Recycling Quiz, Learning Intentions and Success Criteria revisited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson PowerPoint slide 19-21• Class-set mini-whiteboards, whiteboard pens, whiteboard wipes OR paper, pens• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide

Bolt-On

If the Recycling Lesson Bolt-On will be used, insert the additional activities between **Recycling Action** and **Recycling Quiz**.

Timing	Task	Resources
10 minutes	Activity: Recycling Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson Bolt-On PowerPoint slides 1 - 3• Class-set mini-whiteboards, whiteboard pens, whiteboard wipes OR paper, pens• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
2 minutes	Class discussion on contaminated recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson Bolt-On PowerPoint slide 4• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
6 minutes	Class discussion on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson Bolt-On PowerPoint slides 5 - 8• Class-set mini-whiteboards, whiteboard pens, whiteboard wipes• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide
7 minutes	Pupil Reflection on Recycling Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling Lesson Bolt-On PowerPoint slide 9• Pupil Reflection on Recycling Lesson• Class-set mini-whiteboards, whiteboard pens, whiteboard wipes OR paper, pens• Teacher's Guide/Waste Officer's Guide

Justification

In 2011, Zero Waste Scotland launched the [Recycle for Scotland](#) campaign, building on the established UK-wide Recycle Now brand. Recycle for Scotland provides advice and information on how to recycle, and encourages increased recycling behaviour both at home and on the go. The campaign logo and iconography is used by every Scottish local authority and is being adopted by organisations across the country.

This lesson has been developed to support the work of Zero Waste Scotland with the education sector; it has been created with Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) in mind and has been matched to relevant CfE outcomes across curriculum areas at the second level. Please see the accompanying Links to Curriculum for Excellence in the Teacher's Guide/ Waste Officer's Guide.