

## Waste Education Options for Schools

Waste Services can offer various activities for nursery, primary and secondary schools. A Waste Education Officer is in post and can come out to deliver the various parts of the programme. Waste, waste minimisation and recycling are not only part of Eco Schools, but are also part of the science experiences and outcomes within *Curriculum for Excellence*.



### Waste Auditing

This is an ideal starting point for any school taking action on their waste, and can be used as part of the Eco Schools Environmental Review. A waste audit is an analysis of the contents of the school bins, usually using two or three day's waste. The contents are separated into categories and each category is then recorded by weight and volume. This lets the pupils see just how much they are actually recycling, and usually throws up quite a few surprises, which the children can then discuss and deal with. Our Waste Education Officer can provide help in carrying out the audit and can supply the necessary equipment, including gloves, electronic scales and ground sheets.

### Class Talks and Activities

Various talks and activities available for schools are noted below, all of which can be tailored to the age range of the class and to the specific study topic.

**Landfill – What a Waste!** A power point presentation and class discussion about landfill and the problems that it causes. Older classes can also discuss the current legislation dealing with landfill and look at alternative ways of dealing with our waste.

**Recycling – Why do we recycle? What can we recycle in the Stirling Council Area? What happens to the materials when they are recycled?** All of these questions can be covered using a mixture of class games and discussion. We also have a range of recycled goods to show the classes and use in games.

**Waste Minimisation –** Class discussions about waste minimisation, looking at the current 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign, as well as looking at ways that the pupils themselves can make a difference both at school and at home (e.g. reusable shopping bags, reducing excess packaging from our regular shopping).

**Waste Aware Quiz –** A quiz in power point format looking briefly at a variety of waste topics. The classes are offered a choice of 4 answers and vote for their choice. This is done 'paper free' using voting cards, and the answers lead to a range of discussions. The quiz is available at a range of levels to suit primary and secondary pupils.

**Local Area Specific –** Waste Services often have specific campaigns running in particular areas, and involving local schools can help to get the message into homes, as well as providing the school with a community link for Eco Schools. Projects such as '*What Goes in the Brown Bin*' and '*Bin Lids Down*' have involved pupils in surveying streets, meeting the bin crews and presenting assemblies. These activities vary and are tailored to the needs of individual schools and areas.



### **School Composting**

Composters are available free of charge to schools, as are small collection caddies for within the school buildings. These will enable the school community to recycle fruit, vegetable and garden waste into good quality compost for use in the school grounds. Advice is available in the form of class or Eco Group workshops. Waste Services also run an annual spring composting workshop for primary schools.

### **Site Visits**

There are two main site visits available for school groups, though they have strict limits on numbers and age range of pupils.

**Lower Polmaise** – On this trip the classes can find out about recycling at the Household Waste Recycling Centre, see how much waste we still put into our grey wheelie bins at the transfer station, and view the large scale composting operation which uses the materials from our brown bins. Secondary school pupils will also be able to see the leachate treatment area where we deal with the groundwater from the site, and the landfill gas collection system for methane. This visit is limited to 25 people in each group, and is for pupils from P3 and above. A risk assessment will be sent out to all groups prior to their visits, and Waste Services will supply hard hats and high visibility vests. Visitors are expected to wear appropriate clothing and solid shoes. The visits last for approximately 1.5 hours. Transport is generally booked and paid for by Waste Services, though if there is a high demand for visits a small contribution from the schools may be required.

**O.I. Glass, Alloa** – This visit demonstrates perfectly the benefits of recycling our glass. Groups will start their visit at the O.I. recycling section, where the glass comes in from the kerbside collections and glass banks. They will find out how the glass is sorted and cleaned up ready for the next part of the process. Next, the group travels down to the glass manufacturing area, to see the whole of the glass making process, from the mixing of sand and old glass as it goes into the furnace, to the final quality control process.

Due to this being a working factory, numbers are limited to 12 pupils at a time, from P7 and above. Protective clothing is supplied and must be worn at all times, and everyone must also wear solid footwear (trainers are not acceptable in the factory). Before the visit, the Waste Education Officer will come to the class to explain a little about the glass making process, and will emphasise the health and safety points to the group. Transport is organised and paid for by OI Glass, but bookings are made through the Waste Education Officer.

### **Waste and Recycling Advice**

Waste services staff are available to offer advice on waste and recycling within the schools, including what materials can be recycled, options for collection systems, and examples of good practice from schools around the area.

### **Contact details**

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