

Don't let Devon go to waste

at school



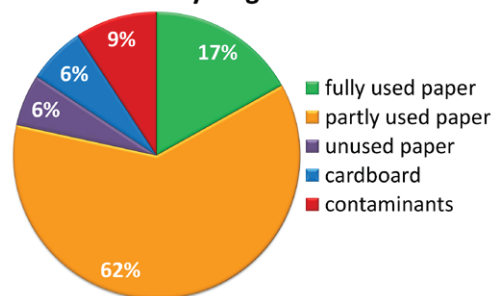
How to reuse at school

REUSE is the second of the 3Rs, after REDUCE and before RECYCLE. Before putting an object in a recycling container, teachers and pupils should get the habit of thinking "Can it be reused first?"

Paper

In most schools, the majority of the paper in classroom and office recycling containers has been used on only one side. The pie chart on the right shows typical results from an audit of recycling containers in a primary school. While it may not be realistic to expect 100% of the paper to be used on both sides, increasing the proportion that is 'fully used' will result in financial savings as the school needs to purchase less paper.

Results of recycling audit



To ensure that as much paper as possible is reused:

Set up 'scrap' or 'rough' paper drawers in classrooms and offices, making sure they are clearly labelled and easily accessible. Establish the expectation that adults and pupils will ask "Does it need to be new?" when they are about to use a piece of paper. Often the answer is "no" - a piece of reused paper is perfectly acceptable.



Ensure every photocopier and printer has a clearly labelled tray next to it to store paper suitable for reuse. If busy staff accidentally copy too many worksheets, or pupils click on 'print' too soon, these sheets can be stored flat in the tray ready to use again.

Fill one tray of your photocopier / printer with reused paper, or use a designated printer. If the reused paper is put in completely flat, it will work as well as brand new paper and will not jam the printer. Paper collected from printing / photocopying mistakes, as described above, is ideal for this use.

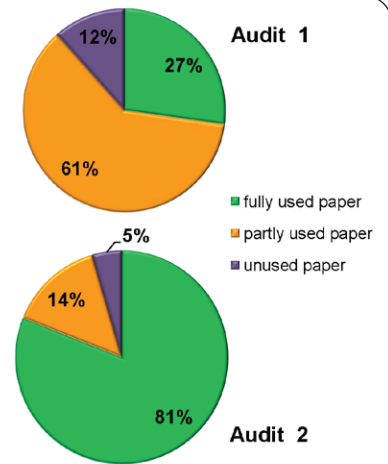
Print pupils' worksheets on reused paper whenever possible; this provides a powerful message about the school's approach to reuse. Put a footer on printed sheets saying 'printed on reused paper' to make explicit to pupils what has been done.

Conduct a yearly audit of the contents of your recycling containers, asking pupils to sort a sample of the materials and calculate the percentage of the paper that has been used on both sides. This provides an excellent data handling activity, and can kick start a whole-school campaign focusing on reusing before recycling.

Paper (continued)

After your campaign to increase re-use, repeat your audit of the recycling containers and compare the results with those from your initial audit. The pie charts on the right are real results from a primary school, and show what can be achieved. For audit resources see zone.recycledevon.org/3rs-monitoring-activities.

Alternatively, contact your Devon Waste Education officer who may be able to conduct an audit as part of the Waste Education Programme. See zone.recycledevon.org/visits-and-workshops.



Storage containers

Make reused plastic tubs and pots a feature of your school. They can be used for pencils, paintbrushes, visitors' badges, fruit cores for composting, dinner money etc.



Or you could use old builders' bags for large shrub planters in your grounds.



Don't be shy about reusing - make a feature of it, labelling your pots to draw attention to your environmentally friendly practices.

Food and drink containers

Expect pupils to use a drink bottle which can be refilled time and time again. You could get bottles printed with your school logo and sell them to parents.

Encourage pupils to bring their packed lunches and snacks to school in reusable boxes, instead of using throw-away packaging such as sandwich bags and clingfilm. See zone.recycledevon.org/waste-free-lunch for resources to help you audit your packed lunch waste and run a pupil-led campaign focusing on reusable containers. This work creates real life examples that can be used in maths and literacy, and is a great project for an Eco Committee.



Starting the new school year

September is the perfect time to reinforce key messages about the school's ethos, including respect for the environment.

Discuss as a staff team what resources can be reused from the previous year. Do pupils need brand new pencils? Can last year's exercise books be continued for some subjects? Make a positive feature of reusing, explaining to pupils that it helps the environment and saves the school money.



Be creative

Think about how creative you could be in developing reuse projects for your school. When introducing these activities, make sure you are explicit to pupils that, by reusing objects that some would regard as 'rubbish', they are helping the environment while making something beautiful and/or useful.

Art and design activities with reused materials can inspire pupils of all ages, whether making musical instruments with 'rubbish' with KS1 children (see image below), or running a recycled fashion show with secondary students.

greenhouses from reused plastic bottles. For greenhouse instructions see the 'gardening and food' section on this webpage: zone.recycledevon.org/external-resources-schemes-websites-and-books



School gardens can be transformed with reused materials. Planters can be made from reused tyres or builders' bags; raised beds and bug hotels from reused wood or pallets; and



You may have a local **Scrapstore** where the school can source free or cheap 'waste' materials (see www.scrapstoresuk.org for more details.) Or put out a plea to parents and the local community, explaining that your school encourages both creativity and caring for the environment.

Furniture and equipment

Mending and refurbishing used furniture and equipment is a great way to save money while helping the environment.

When you do need new equipment, consider sourcing items from an online scheme like WARPit, which matches schools and other organisations with surplus items with those seeking resources. For more information see www.warp-it.co.uk/devoncc.



Reuse and Eco-Schools

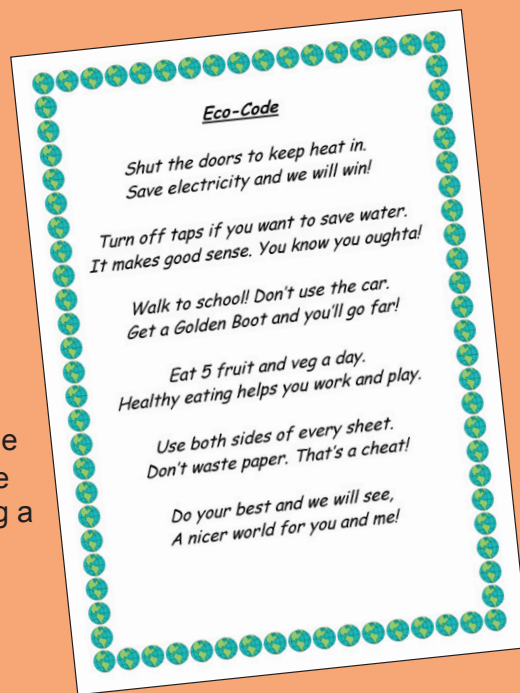
Engage staff and pupils, and gain a nationally recognised award for your hard work on waste, by participating in the **Eco-Schools** programme. Start your 'Waste' project by improving and raising the profile of your recycling, then move up the '**waste hierarchy**' by focusing more on reducing and reusing. For 'how to' guides on both reducing and recycling see:

zone.recycledevon.org/3Rs-practical-information.

The **whole-school campaigns** to increase the proportion of paper that is used on both sides before it is recycled (page 1) and encouraging the use of reusable lunch and drinks containers (page 2) are both great ways to integrate your Eco-Schools work into the **curriculum**. They also generate data to show that you are making a measurable **impact**, essential for your Green Flag award.

Don't forget to include reuse messages in your **Eco Code** to give them a high profile in your school. For an example primary school Eco Code, see right.

For more information on Eco-Schools see www.eco-schools.org.uk.



Your 'reuse' ideas

If you have examples of how your school has reused waste we would love to include them in the next version of this leaflet. Please email recycle@devon.gov.uk.

For further guidance, or to subscribe to the **Devon Schools Sustainability Bulletin**, which is emailed every half term with information on free resources, funding opportunities and training, please email recycle@devon.gov.uk.

There are many resources to support your school's waste reduction work at:

zone.recycledevon.org/teachers

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