

Action Plan

Key Stages 1 and 2

Objectives

- Interpret data from the waste audit
- Evaluate needs arising from the audit data
- Provide realistic solutions to these needs
- Co-operate effectively as a group

Pupils Opportunities

- Appreciate the link between behavioural patterns and waste generation
- Understand the need to promote positive action to gain and support within the school community
- Take responsibility for the school environment
- Make decisions and choices that have an effect on the school environment
- Play a role in the school's decision-making process

Curriculum

English

Key Stage 1

- listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers

Key Stage 2

- ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings



- use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others

Science

Key Stage 2

Working scientifically

- using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions

Living things and their habitats

- recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

Maths

Key Stage 1

Statistics

- interpret and construct simple pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and simple tables

Key Stage 2

Statistics

- interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms and tables



Activity - Introduction

After you have the results of your audit and the children understand the quantities, materials and locations in the school where waste is produced, you can analyse the results in a class discussion.

Present the data collated from the waste audit to the class and, as a class discuss the environmental benefits of recycling. Identify the waste 'hot spots', and most common types of waste found at the school.

Things to consider

- The most common items found of each material
- Why items are more common in some areas than others
- The reason for, the amount of, the materials used and the environmental implications of packaging
- Ways to reduce the waste of each material
- Which materials could be reused and how
- Which materials can be recycled

Discuss why certain locations and materials present greater problems than others and agree likely explanations. It might be helpful to create a mind map with the class to stimulate debate and further understanding.

You are now ready to start action planning!

Action Planning

List issues brought to light by the audit that you would like your class/group to address. As a class/group, take each of the issues, discuss possible solutions. Reduce the number of solutions giving reasons to the class/group leaving 3-5 for each issue. Agree to a solution to each issue by voting. Multiple solutions can be agreed if viable.

It is best to keep in mind the incentives for school management to approve any activity and incentives for pupils to take part, along with the fact that recycling saves energy and resources.

School Management Incentives

- How actions they suggest could benefit the school community and environment
- What might change teacher's attitude to waste
- What might be good incentives for the whole school/your family to reduce, reuse and recycle
- The feasibility of any strategies they wish to implement



Pupil Incentives

- What might be good incentives for pupils to reduce, reuse and recycle
- What might change pupil's attitude to waste
- What might make the 3Rs in school more practical

Solutions Implementation

Consider how to implement these solutions. With your class/group discuss each solution aiming to help them split each solution up into the various steps that need to be undertaken to complete it. These steps should include methods for implementing them, delegation of responsibilities and realistic time frames.

Ask your class to work in their teams to decide:

- What action/step they would like to take in their area
- How they might do it
- Who they believe should be in charge of organising this
- How long they believe it will take to carry out

On completion of your Action Plan you should discuss how best to present your ideas to decision makers and the school community, to seek approval for ways of encouraging the whole school to get involved.

Things to consider

School Community Engagement

- Add a section on recycling to your school's website. This could include details of key people involved and a regular recycling newsletter
- Regularly prepare an assembly to share recycling results, achievements and development plans for the future and share these results with parents
- Agree, adopt and display an 'Eco-Code' (an environmental mission statement for your school)
- Display a waste chart for your school, to be displayed in prominent area in the school with marked progress and incentives for achievement
- Present waste reduction ideas to parents in presentations and performances



School Management Engagement

- Nominate a pro-active Eco-Champion for your school
- Speak to your local authority and find out what your waste contractors have to offer
- Consider registering to be an Eco-School and electing a school Eco Team
- Get local media involved to raise community awareness and the profile of your school by submitting information and images about your school's activities
- Organise a school fundraising day, inviting parents and local artists to run activities and stalls relating to waste reduction and 3Rs
- Raise money by recycling lots of items – clothes, printer cartridges etc can be saved and collected in return for money.

Execute your tasks

Make sure that your pupils have enough time to carry out their Action Plan duties. Assign some class time for them to carry out the activities they have assigned themselves and notify other staff of the responsibilities assigned to them. The tasks will depend on whether you already recycle at school or are about to set up a new recycling scheme.

Some examples of action plan tasks are listed below:

- Provide training to staff and pupils on what materials can be recycled at your school and where. Discuss issues such as contamination (throwing the wrong material into the wrong bin) and explain the benefits of recycling.
- Distribute recycling containers and clearly label them. Students can download, print and attach the easily recognisable Recycle Now posters and signage: www.wastebuster.co.uk/homerecyclingchallenge
- Clearly mark recycling areas, for example by putting up Recycle Now posters and signage: www.wastebuster.co.uk/homerecyclingchallenge

Review

Set a review date when you will revisit your action plan as a group to see how far you have come and identify what else you can do.

A repeat audit is recommended to measure the actions effectiveness in reducing the school's waste. The children will then be able to see the positive impact they have had on the school. You may want to perform a waste reduction plan each year so that your school can continue to improve or you can use the same process to



concentrate on a particular material or location that you may be having issues with.

Audits can be performed throughout the year and this will also help give you a detailed image of what is happening with regards waste around the school and hopefully lead your pupils into helping find and establish a solution.

The school audit can also be extended to investigate how changing purchasing pattern might affect waste reduction for food, paper, cleaning materials, services etc.

Top tip: It may be helpful to contact your local authority before undertaking this activity with your pupils to see what actions would be feasible in your area and manage pupils' expectations.

