

# Wastebuster: A Guide for Eco-Coordinators

## What we do

Wastebuster is a not-for-profit social enterprise that helps schools to become more sustainable and empowers children to change their environment, by showing them how they can make a difference to their world. Our work is focused around three outcomes, to:

- Help children understand and practise the 3R's: reduce, reuse and recycle
- Help school leaders and teachers to embed the 3R's and sustainability across all aspects of school life
- Empower schools to become catalysts for action in their communities, reaching parents, families and more

## How can Wastebuster help me?

Eco-teams play a vital role in helping children to become more sustainable! Wastebuster can make learning about plastic, waste and recycling easier and more fun for eco team members ...and you!

This guide for eco-coordinators in schools will help you get started, with ideas and tips that help you:

- Easily find and deliver eco-team activities that enhance your school's curriculum
- Embed sustainability across your school life and inspire real change
- Create eco-team pupil champions for sustainability
- Involve your wider school community and be a catalyst for change
- Sustain interest and action with regular activities
- Celebrate your success and recognise pupils' achievements

If you're a senior leader in your school, take a look at our [Guide for Senior Leaders](#), which includes details of the three levels of Wastebuster membership for schools.

## How to find and use Wastebuster resources for your eco-team

Local Authority or paid school Wastebuster memberships provide lots of benefits for eco-coordinators, including access to all eco-team resources, Wastebuster school forum meetings, regular challenges and more!



We know that every school's needs are different. Wastebuster resources support a flexible approach to eco-teams, including:

- Fun, engaging videos featuring Captain Busta and his friends
- Quick activities
- Eco-team activities and projects
- Assemblies that team members can help to deliver

Wastebuster activities combine fun entertainment with a serious look at the facts. Through songs, debates, art, craft, animation and music activities and more, we help children understand why waste is a problem, introduce some solutions and vitally, help to change their attitudes and beliefs about waste, inspiring them to change their behaviour and help to create a more sustainable future.

Here's how to find the right activities for you:

- You can Filter by selecting eco-team resources, or by choosing one or more options for age range, curriculum subject, resource type, theme or campaign topic, date of production or teacher rating
- Search for key words
- ...or simply Browse the complete library to explore what's on offer!

<http://resources.wastebuster.co.uk/Resource/Index>

### Designed to deliver the curriculum

Like all our resources for schools, Wastebuster eco-team activities also help you deliver the curriculum for 5-7 and 7-11 year-olds, including English / literacy, Maths / numeracy, Science, Geography, PSHE / Citizenship, Music, Drama and more.

Using Wastebuster also helps you integrate SMSC into your eco-team activities:

***Spiritual:*** pupils can explore their beliefs and values and explore the effects of their actions on the surrounding world.

***Moral:*** pupils can explore ideas of right and wrong, understand the consequences of their actions and explore a topical ethical issue.

***Social:*** pupils will develop their social skills as they participate and cooperate.

***Cultural:*** pupils can appreciate cultural influences on their behaviour.



## Wastebuster and your eco team

### *Plan your calendar of eco-team activities*

- Use the search and filter tools to find the right activities for your pupils
- Individual activities and quick activity ideas let you pick and choose
- Eco-school toolkits provide a structured series of activity ideas around a topic or theme

If you're a paid school member, your Wastebuster School Liaison Officer will help you plan your eco-team activities for the whole academic year, including challenge activities to win a Wastebuster and Eco-Schools award!

### *Coordinate with class teachers*

Coordinate with teachers to identify how your eco-club activities might synchronise with and enhance classroom learning about plastics, waste and recycling. This could include regular activities and suggestions that help everyone to build more sustainable habits!

- Set a weekly challenge to find a new way to reduce, reuse or recycle. Share and celebrate pupils' ideas!
- Eco-team pupils can share their stories and ideas, to inspire others

### *Help eco-team members to become pupil champions*

Eco-team members can make ideal pupil champions for recycling. By harnessing their abundant ideas and energy, you can build motivation and excitement across your whole school.

Eco-team pupil champions can lead activities and lead by example, to create real change in their lives and in the life of your school and community.

- Are there eco-team members on your School Council? They can help to make waste, recycling and other sustainability issues a regular part of what your School Council discusses
- Eco-team pupil champions can demonstrate helpful actions to reduce, reuse and recycle plastics and other waste, in assemblies and by visiting each class as a team.
- Eco-team members can help to plan and deliver assemblies
- Plan creative work together: what songs, displays, dramas, poems and stories can eco-team members help other pupils create, to highlight the problem of waste plastic and the many simple ways pupils and adults can make a difference?



### *Lead whole-school activities*

Eco team members can help plan and deliver whole-school activities, developing their confidence, communications and team working skills. Team members could:

- Help to lead Wastebuster activities with classes and during assemblies, or with parents during school events
- Spread the word to pupils and parents about using reusable containers for school lunches
- Help class champions to survey the amount of plastic waste created in each class, your staffroom, playground and office, and come up with action plans to help pupils and adults reduce, reuse and recycle more
- Help lunchtime supervisors encourage more recycling during breaktime and lunches
- Monitor progress and share successes
- Create displays and other creative works to spread the key messages to your school community
- Help to lead after school drop in sessions to help parents learn about the problem with plastic and simple ways to reduce plastic waste
- Explore together how to make thinking about waste a normal part of your school's culture and ethos. This might include your playground buddy system, and how you decorate your classrooms, corridors and foyer
- Help your school eco-team to take a leading role and work alongside teachers and your school council to steer your goals, encourage helpful actions and monitor progress

Your eco team can help everyone to play a role, including your leadership team, teachers and assistants, lunchtime supervisors, parent helpers, office team and canteen staff.

### *Work with your wider school community to become a community catalyst*

Your school community includes pupils, parents and carers, families, governors, residents, local councillors and business owners. Involving them helps you share ideas, get more people acting to reduce waste and showcase your school as an inspiring beacon of sustainability your wider community can emulate.

Eco-team members can:

- Lead discussions with community members to share ideas and identify goals to work towards together
- Help to plan and deliver community activities on waste and recycling at your school. Pupils can explain the issues and demonstrate how to reduce, reuse and recycle
- Share ideas and achievements with parents, community groups and your local media
- Invite community members to your assemblies, activities and celebrations



- Visit other places in your community where waste is an issue or where there's a success story to share. This might be a council office, a local business or other community facility that's already on the way to being much more sustainable

Local Authority membership helps you be the first to know about local freebies and opportunities, such as trips to local recycling facilities and free recycling posters, bin signage and composters when available, new resources, campaigns, calendar events and environmental news about waste and sustainability.

### *Lead by example at school events*

Your school events, like sports days, Christmas and Summer fairs, performances and parent evenings are a great way for eco-team members to help parents and your wider community to become more sustainable. Eco-team members can:

- Explain to parents that you are aiming to recycle more and create less waste
- Encourage parents to avoid single use plastics when providing cakes, prizes etc.
- Help you to provide reusable or compostable containers, cups and plates
- Create posters and signs that help people reduce waste and recycle more at the event – and be on hand to show people what to do!
- Create a display for visitors, which explains what you are doing and why

The Wastebuster Guide for Senior Leaders includes lots of ideas to help you set recycling goals your eco-team can help your school achieve, including how to monitor your progress and celebrate your success.

### **What to do next**

- Share our quick guides for [teachers](#) and [senior leaders](#) with your colleagues.
- [Register with Wastebuster](#) or find out if you are covered by a Local Authority membership contract, and then search and [browse our resources](#) to begin creating your own Wastebuster resource library for your eco-team.

