

# Wastebuster: A Guide for Teachers

## 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 teach?

Wastebuster can make learning about plastic, waste and recycling easier and more fun for pupils ...and for you!

This guide for teachers will help you get started, with ideas and tips that help you:

- Easily find and teach activities that deliver your curriculum
- Create pupil champions for sustainability
- Sustain interest and action with regular activities
- Celebrate your success and recognise pupils' achievements

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

## Deliver your curriculum

Wastebuster creates compelling videos and songs for children that make environmental issues relatable, comprehensible and engaging.

We back these up with a wide range of teacher-developed activities, lessons and toolkits that make it easy to plan and deliver high-quality teaching and learning, with delivery notes, differentiation and extension ideas and curriculum links. It's real learning that creates real change.



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.

Wastebuster activities help you deliver your curriculum for 5-7 and 7-11 year-olds in:

- English / literacy
- Maths / numeracy
- Science
- Geography
- PSHE / Citizenship
- Art & Design
- Design & Technology
- Music, Drama and more!

Using Wastebuster to explore waste and recycling also helps you deliver SMSC in your class:

***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.

It can also contribute to your work as a Rights Respecting School and provides a wealth of activities to support your eco-team and Eco Schools involvement.

### How to find and use Wastebuster resources

Wastebuster makes it easy to plan and deliver high-quality teaching and learning! The Wastebuster resource library is packed with exciting videos, engaging pupil activities and high-quality delivery ideas for teachers, including:

- Fun, engaging videos featuring Captain Busta and his friends
- Assemblies
- Lessons
- Home learning activities



- Quick activities
- Whole-school projects

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

- You can Filter by selecting 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>

### Create class champions

Creating class champions is a great way to listen to and involve pupils in your class, so you can better understand what they do and don't understand about plastics, waste and recycling and identify the best ways to work together.

By harnessing their abundant ideas and energy, you can build their motivation and excitement. Pupils can lead by example, to create real change in their lives and in the life of your school and community.

- Make thinking and talking about waste and recycling a regular part of your life as a class
- Model the behaviours you'd like your pupils to copy, like using reusable containers, avoiding plastic where possible, and remembering to recycle at school or by taking waste plastic home
- Create class champions who can demonstrate helpful actions to reduce, reuse and recycle plastics and other waste
- Understand that pupils will come from a range of different home lives with varying abilities to make a difference – tailor your expectations to suit what they can realistically achieve
- Pupils can help plan and deliver class and circle time activities, and monitor your class's progress towards your goals
- Plan creative work together: what songs, displays, dramas, poems and stories can pupils create to highlight the problem of waste plastic and the many simple ways pupils and adults can make a difference?
- Encourage pupils to play a wider role in your school's approach to reducing waste. They could join your eco-team or help to monitor and report back on your success
- Encourage and support more sustainable actions at school events like fairs, sports days and parent evenings



## **Involve parents to become a community catalyst**

Think about how you can involve parents and share how pupils are learning and taking action. How could pupils set an example for their families and community to follow?

- Use your normal parent communications, including school displays, letters, emails and your school's website and social media feeds
- Use Wastebuster home learning activities to help pupils share their understanding with parents, model more sustainable behaviour and help their families to make a difference
- Invite parents to your assemblies and celebrations
- Hold a parent activity where pupils explain the issues and demonstrate how to reduce, reuse and recycle
- Find ways for pupils to visit other places in your community where waste is an issue or where there's a success story to share, and invite parents to come along too. This might be a council office, a local business or other community facility that's already on the way to being much more sustainable

## **Regular activities sustain interest and action**

Wastebuster provides lots of activity ideas that help keep pupils thinking about waste and recycling. Regular activities and suggestions will help everyone to build more sustainable habits!

- Find ways to remind pupils each day about reducing their plastic use and remembering to recycle
- Set aside regular times for pupils to share their stories and successes, to inspire others
- Set a weekly home learning challenge to find a new way to reduce, reuse or recycle. Share and celebrate pupils' ideas! Plan ahead, so you have lots of ideas to use. Take a look at the short activities in the Wastebuster resources library!
- Invite parents to share suggestions and successes, via their children or by visiting your class
- Encourage pupils to talk to parents and other adults during school events

## **Celebrate success**

You may wish to set some goals for reducing, reusing and recycling in your class. Involve pupils in your planning, including for any home activities you'd like to encourage.

Goals based around outcomes are important, but remember to include goals related to the actions pupils and their families can take. Action-related goals help everyone to build new, more sustainable habits, like using reusable containers, avoiding single-use plastic items and remembering to recycle plastic packaging for food and school items.



Help pupils, especially younger ones, understand what each goal means and what actions they need to take to achieve each one.

- Involve your pupil champions, who can demonstrate what to do
- Create posters, displays and a progress chart for your room
- Share your goals with parents
- Track and share your progress towards your goals

Don't forget to celebrate your achievements!

- Recognise pupils who do the most to change their own habits or to encourage others, with certificates and a big 'well done!'
- Create a 'recycler of the week' award
- Reward the class when you reach one of your goals. This might be a 'well done' session, or a special treat like some suspended timetable time
- Remember to invite parents who have been involved!

### What to do next

- Share our quick guides for [eco-coordinators](#) 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.

