



# Resource & Waste Education Strategy for Devon Schools 2017 - 2022

## Why do we need a Resource & Waste Education Strategy?

In 2017/18 Devon County Council was responsible for the treatment of over 372,500 tonnes of Local Authority Collected Waste at a cost of £35Million. The County Council recognises that to reduce the amount of waste we manage and its associated costs and environmental impacts, we must work with residents to change attitudes and behaviours. Educating children is an essential part of our long term strategy to reduce waste.

This Strategy seeks to identify and provide valuable support to schools to help equip our children for a more sustainable future.

## How does this Strategy support schools and their communities?

Schools need to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, helping children to understand the world around them and to become active citizens.

We recognise that schools are under increasing pressure to teach more children with less staff and increasing budget constraints. Supporting schools to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum is key to encouraging them to integrate our message into their school curriculum.

Our Waste Education Programme is at the heart of our strategy. During the past 10 years our programme has worked with over 150,000 pupils across Devon through a variety of workshops, assemblies, events and visits to waste management facilities.



Our popular and lively workshops develop pupils' understanding of local and global environmental issues, equipping them with the skills they will need as responsible consumers in the future. Exploring a wide range of topical subjects including food waste, Energy from Waste (EfW), and the advantages and disadvantages of packaging, we support a wide range of curriculum areas, including **English, Maths, Science, PSHE, Geography and Music**. Pupils are encouraged to share their learning with their families and friends, ensuring that the impact of the programme is spread beyond the school gates.

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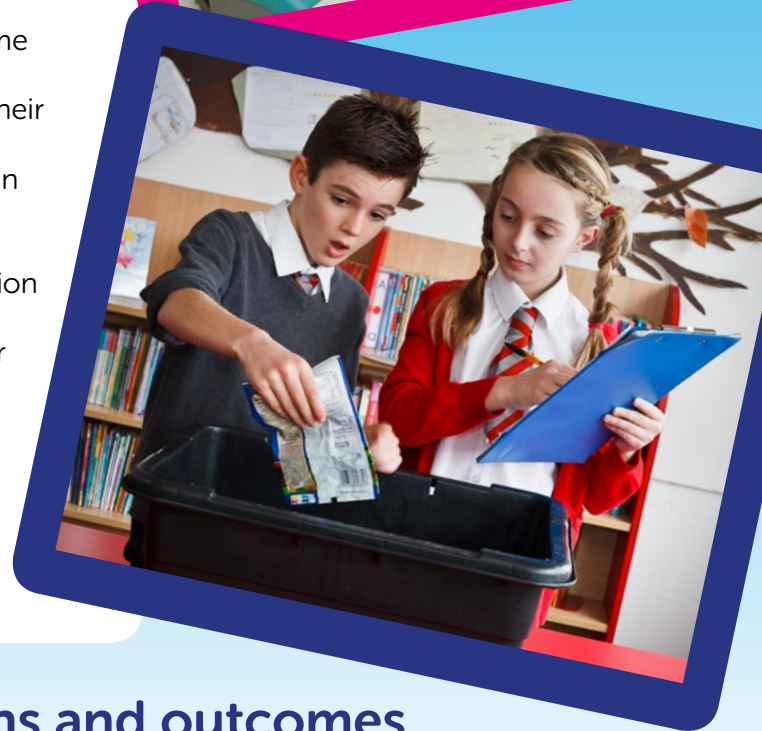
## Our Aim

Our aim is to promote and encourage learning and practical action to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency in Devon's schools and their surrounding communities.

## Our Objectives

1. To help children to actively learn about waste reduction and resource efficiency.
2. To help schools engaged with the intensive programme to reduce their residual waste by 10% by 2022.
3. To enable and support at least 40 schools to reduce their food waste and to compost on site by 2022.
4. To enable 100% of schools to recycle at least four main material streams by 2022.
5. To work with schools and support them to actively engage with their local communities on waste reduction and resource efficiency.
6. To provide signposting, training, resources and regular service delivery updates for strategy partners and schools.

The following is a summary of some of the key actions and desired outcomes from the strategic document. For the full version visit <http://zone.recycledevon.org/our-strategy>



## Summary of key strategy actions and outcomes

	Action	Outcome
Curriculum	Develop and deliver a comprehensive range of interactive and inspiring workshops/activities and events about waste reduction and resource efficiency that support the school curriculum and the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon.	All workshops and activities where appropriate are linked to aspects of the National Curriculum including Science, Geography & Citizenship. Pupils develop a broad understanding of issues regarding waste reduction and resource efficiency, leading to an engaged Devon population contributing to the ambitions contained in the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon.
	Provide educational school visits to waste management facilities.	Children gain first hand experience of the waste management industry, and understand what happens to waste in Devon, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells!
	Develop supporting educational resources to promote waste reduction and resource efficiency through the school 'Zone' website.	Online resources support physical delivery leading to greater autonomy for schools to deliver follow-on work and embed sustainable practices in their school.

Campus

Action	Outcome
Maintain a wide range of relevant guides and information to promote waste reduction and efficient use of resources in schools and their wider communities.	Schools are supported with a wide range of good practice guides linked to strategy actions such as information on how the school can reduce waste and save money.
Provide practical support for schools to help them reduce their waste and improve recycling and composting performance.	Devon Schools have access to practical support from partners to assist effective delivery of 3Rs initiatives.
Work with schools to achieve a 10% reduction in waste sent for disposal (intensive schools programme only).	Schools engaged with the intensive programme are helped to reduce their waste sent for disposal using baseline waste audit data. Support is delivered through self-help good practice guides, direct practical & educational support, following targeted action planning. Heads and Governors support efforts to reduce waste leading to a reduction in waste management costs and improved environmental performance and waste awareness in schools.
Work with waste management providers and collection authorities to ensure that all schools have access to a recycling/composting collection service for at least four main material streams.	All schools have access to adequate and appropriate recycling and / or composting collection services (or on-site composting) for at least four main waste streams such as food, paper, card, plastics or waste electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE).
To enable and support at least 40 schools to reduce their food waste and to compost on site by 2022.	Food waste is reduced and the schools are successfully utilising an appropriate size and type of composting system on-site resulting in behavioural change benefits and curriculum support (e.g. science).

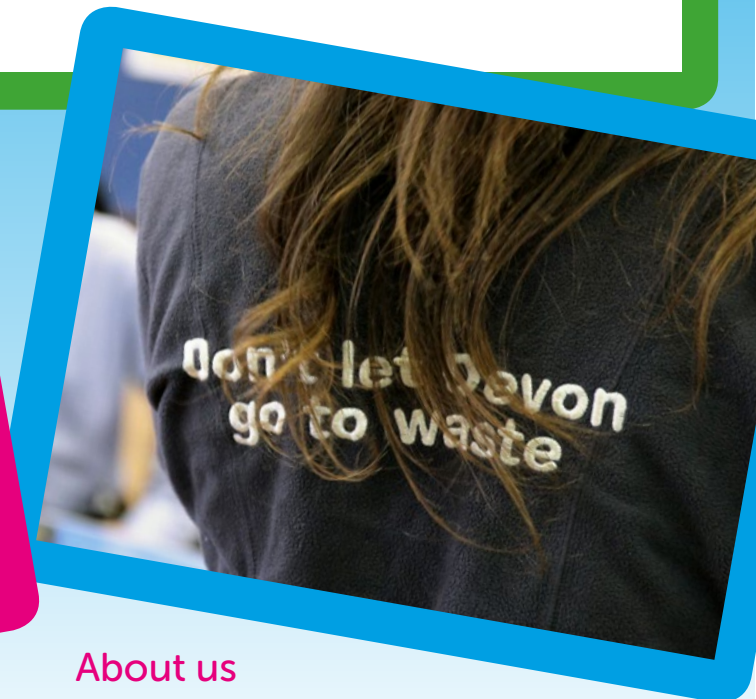
Community

Action	Outcome
Provide 'take home' sheets for pupils and parents containing targeted and practical approaches to reducing waste and resource efficiency in the home.	Activity based take-home sheets are provided for all pupils following delivery of a Waste Educator's workshop. Relevant and practical information is included for parents linked to authority specific schemes.
Work with schools and support them to actively engage with their local communities on waste reduction and resource efficiency.	Schools host events for their wider community promoting sustainable waste & resource management e.g. uniform sale days, repair events, give & take events etc.
Support and encourage partnerships between schools and other organisations in their communities which contribute toward waste reduction and resource efficiency in both schools and their surrounding communities.	Schools are supported via a network of organisations linked by a common purpose to deliver waste reduction and resource efficiency in their communities.

For Strategy & Management please see next page



	Action	Outcome
Strategy & Management	Maintain the continuity of waste education in Devon's schools through 3+ years contract terms for at least 1.5 full time equivalent 'Waste Educators'.	Schools benefit from on-going support to help children to learn how to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency within the wider sustainability agenda leading to fuller engagement with the programme and embedded sustainable change and improved awareness and management practices within schools.
	Support training and development needs of partners and school staff (e.g. heads & governors, teachers, support staff & parent helpers) to encourage the school community to embed good practice for sustainable waste management in Devon's schools.	All partners and school staff are inspired to share and deliver good sustainable waste management practice in Devon's schools, leading to engaged pupils throughout the partnership area.



## What do schools think of the Waste Education Programme?

'The workshop fitted in really well with our curriculum coverage in school. We used the workshop as our hook into the topic and children were really interested and this has helped set up future learning on the topic.'

**Topsham Primary School (Recycling Audit and Marine Litter workshop)**

'It was fantastic! The children were so enthused and understood a lot. It was enjoyable and full of hidden educational aspects, thank you!'

**Orchard Vale Primary School (Batteries and Alternative Circuits workshop)**

'Children loved both activities and were really engaged throughout. Excellent delivery and management of the children. Lots of fun too.'

**Denbury Primary School (KS1 Materials workshop and Wild Waste Walk)**

## About us

Devon's Waste Education Programme has evolved over many years. In 2003, a Waste Education Steering Group (WESG) was formed, bringing together countywide approaches to waste education by local authorities, voluntary organisations, individuals and the Environment Agency.

Devon's pioneering work through WESG has now resulted in one of the most successful and advanced waste education programmes in the country.

Educating children is an essential part of our long term strategy to achieve a more sustainable future, with an increasing emphasis on waste minimisation, resource management and greater awareness of the issues surrounding consumerism.

If you would like more information about our work or to book a workshop, visit [zone.recycledevon.org](http://zone.recycledevon.org)

