

## Waste management resource

“There is no such thing as away. When you throw something away, it must go somewhere.”

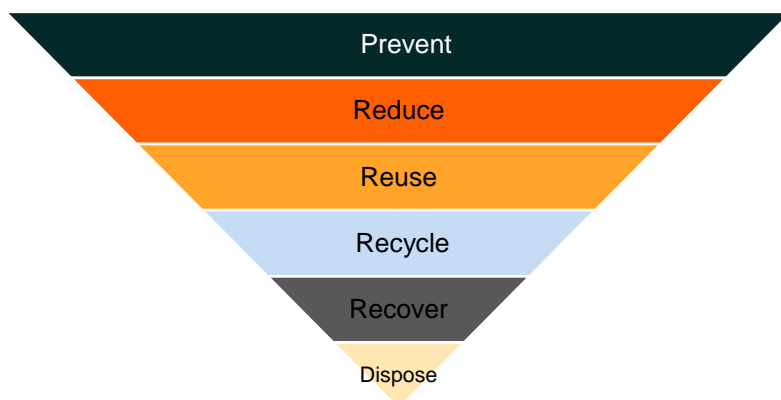
Annie Leonard, Executive Director of Greenpeace USA

The DfE's [Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#), a strategy for the education and children's services systems, tasks the education sector with reducing its environmental footprint, particularly in the drive to achieve net zero.

In action area 4, the strategy identifies a valuable opportunity to drive change by introducing children and young people to more sustainable practices, such as: the circular economy; waste prevention; resource efficiency.

### Waste hierarchy

Consider your Waste hierarchy and evaluate the processes that protect the environment alongside resource and energy consumption from most favourable to least favourable actions.



Have a look at [Waste hierarchy guidance](#) for more information, it can be briefly summarised as:

### Prevent

Keeping products for longer; re use.

### Reduce

Reduce waste at source, do not use disposable products, be a proportionate and wise consumer, buy second hand products and clothing, checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts. Remove plastic bottles from your catering service, take a look at [Plastic Free Schools](#) for more advice about reducing catering waste, please see Catering Strategy resource document.

Reduce waste by diverting it from the waste stream, i.e. fruit waste generated by the school fruit and veg scheme. Ensure products are used in the rotation suggested to avoid spoilage waste. Consider installing compost bins for breaktime fruit waste. Lidded buckets and compost monitors can reduce the amount of food waste sent off site. It can also help to reduce issues with wasps in school bins.

## Reuse

Refilling toners and printer cartridges, using durable cups, crockery and cutlery in staff rooms, school canteens and at school events, donating or reusing furniture or to scrapstores, use a library!

Some items can generate income or make a difference for others in the UK and around the world, such as the [crisp packet project](#) which turns crisp packets into survival items or get recycled by [Terracycle](#).

Consider a preloved Prom and Somewhere Special service, collect donations of prom dresses and suits and accessories and house them within school and make available for all to borrow them for their special occasion.

Provide a pre-loved uniform service.

At the end of Term 6 arrange for school shoes to be donated to [educate the kids](#).

## Recycle

Recycling involves processing materials that would otherwise be sent to landfills and turning them into new products. It's the third step of the waste management hierarchy because of the extra energy and resources that go into creating a new product. For instance, scrap paper can be recycled, but the process requires water and electricity to transform it into pristine paper products. To maximise recycling, your school should have clear waste management streams.

Printer cartridges and batteries can all be recycled easily using schemes like [recycling factories](#) and [big battery hunt](#). Some of these schemes can actually generate a small amount of additional funding for the school.

Any items that have a plug, use batteries, need charging or have a picture of a crossed out wheelie bin on are known as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and should not be disposed of in the bin or skip, but can be recycled at your local recycling centre, donated to charities (look at [computers 4 charity](#)) or contact the supplier for advice – many have recycle schemes and trade in opportunities.

Income may be generated from cardboard recovery, speak to your waste management contractor to explore this possibility.

## Recover

When further recycling is not practical or possible, energy can be recovered from waste through processes such as incineration, anaerobic digestion. There are many energy recovery incineration plants around the UK.

## Dispose

Goes to landfill 😞

Complete a waste audit for your school so you can identify where improvements can be made, see next page.

## Waste audit

Waste streams	Current position					
	Bin size	Frequency of collection	Cost	Contract end date	Supplier	Notes
Paper						
Cardboard						
Confidential Waste						
Food waste						
Garden waste						
Textiles						
Wood						
Glass						
Metals						
Plastics						
Electrical & Electronic equipment						
Lighting Tubes						
Mixed recycling (Cans, plastics, paper, cardboard)						
All other waste						
Chemical / toxic waste						
Nappy / sanitary waste						
Additional Nappy / sanitary waste						
Do you have a locked bin store area?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, is it lit?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a waste compactor?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a cardboard baler?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
How many hours a week do your site team spend on sorting waste?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you removed single use plastic from your catering service?					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Food waste	Kg per day	Kg per week	Kg per menu cycle
Production waste			
Plate waste			
Counter waste			

A reminder that some documents should be disposed of via the confidential waste route, check your retention schedule too, you might be able to clear some space by shredding some archive materials.

## Further guidance

<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/ten-topics/waste/>

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/oceans-and-plastics>

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/>

## Grant funding

<https://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund/>

<https://wrap.org.uk/what-we-do/our-services/grants-and-investments>

<https://www.biffa-award.org/>