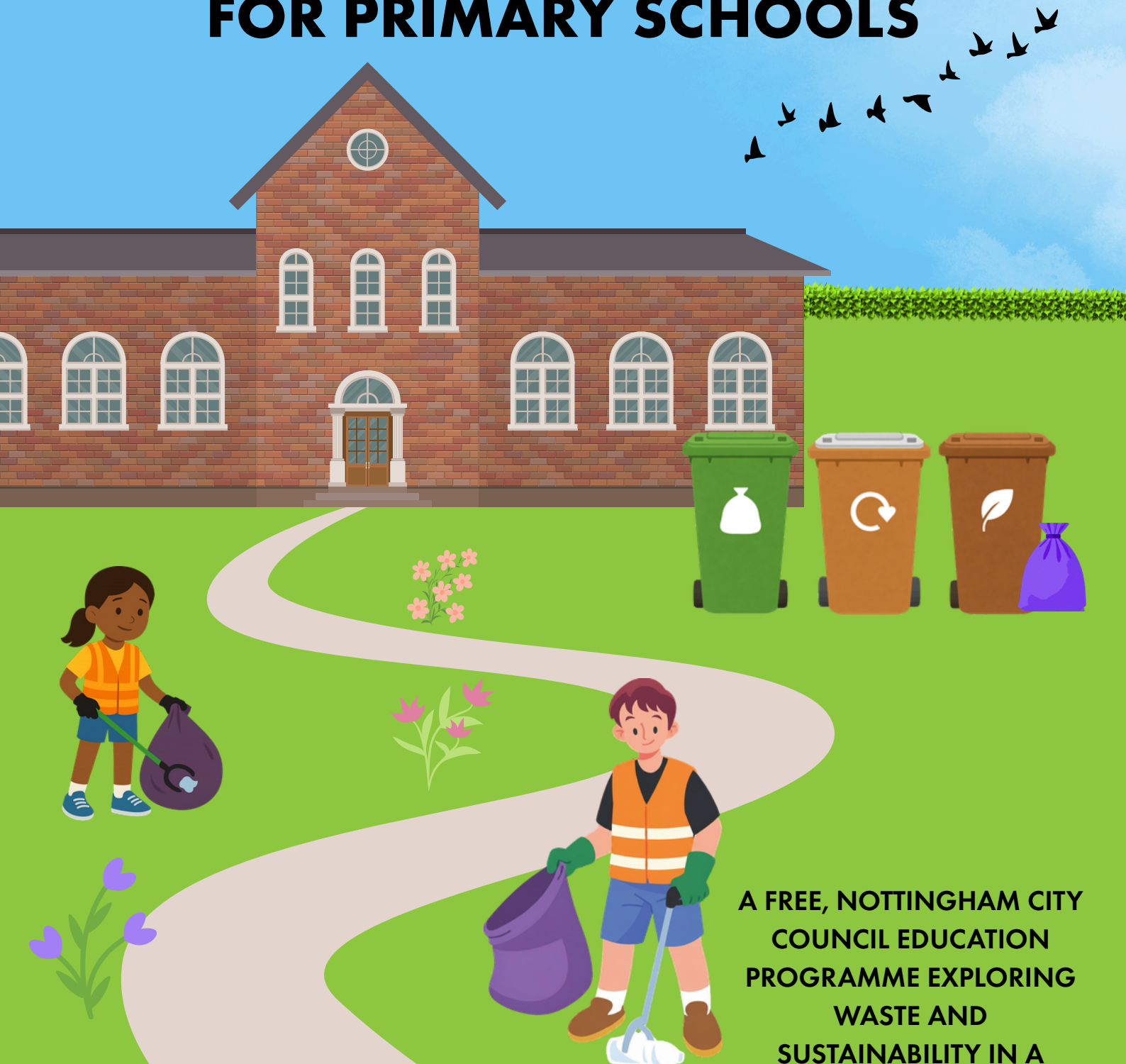
NOTTINGHAM CITY RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



A FREE, NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION PROGRAMME EXPLORING WASTE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN A LOCAL CONTEXT.

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WHAT WE OFFER

The Nottingham City Recycling and Waste Reduction Schools Programme is designed to support schools in delivering high-quality, curriculum-relevant sustainability education with minimal staff workload, using real-life local context to create meaningful, long-lasting learning, and aligning your school's provision with the city's sustainability ambitions more widely.

The primary school programme offer is split into three distinct strands:

WHY TAKE PART?

The programme:

- Is fully-funded by Nottingham City Council
- Supports Geography, Science & PSHE curriculum aims
- Is delivered by our teacher-trained Schools Engagement Officer
- Offers engaging, real-world learning in a Nottingham-specific context
- Has ready-made sessions to save teachers time
- Builds pupil responsibility and community pride.

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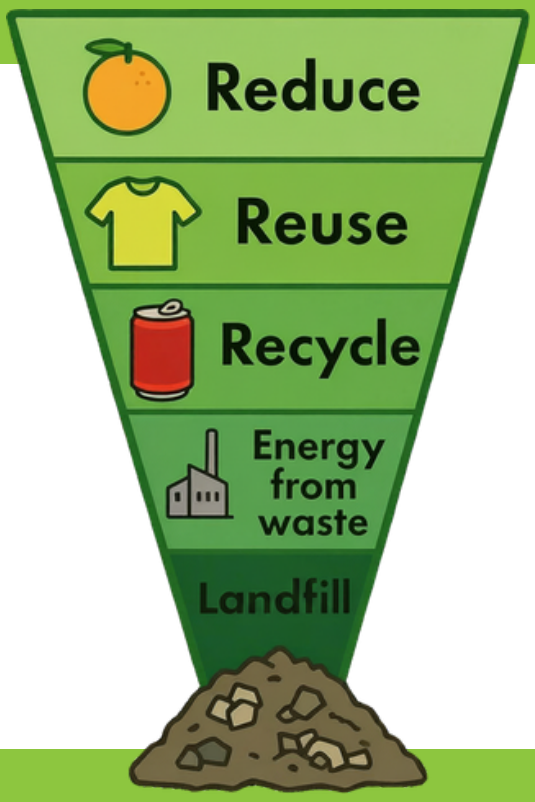
THE WASTE HIERARCHY

Underpinning the programme is the waste hierarchy, a useful tool demonstrating the order of sustainability and environmental benefit of different waste disposal actions. Our aim is for students to understand and apply the waste hierarchy in making positive choices in their waste disposal with the understanding of the beneficial impact their choices can have.



BOOK YOUR FREE SESSION TODAY

Email our Schools Engagement Officer at james.king2@nottinghamcity.gov.uk with your request and we will be in touch to confirm your booking and objectives.

Complete our short online form to register for the Waste and Recycling Education Network and you will be among the first to hear about new additions to the programme and national intiatives for the coming term. Join the network in just two minutes at https://forms.office.com/e/9J3fGzzNHK

Download a fully-resourced lesson from our website and deliver Nottingham City-specific waste and recycling education in your own classroom at ww.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/.

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ASSEMBLIES

We offer a range of engaging, interactive 15-20 minute assemblies designed to build whole-school awareness of waste and sustainability within a Nottingham context. Covering a range of key themes, our assemblies help pupils to understand where their waste goes, how it is managed across the city, and the impact of their everyday choices, supporting both personal development and environmental responsibility. We also offer assemblies linked to national campaigns such as Recycle Week and the Great Big School Clean, enabling schools to connect their learning to wider initiatives and take part in collective action at key points throughout the year.

THEME	DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES
ANTI-LITTER AND FLY-TIP	Defining the difference between litter and fly-tip, this session introduces students to the effects of that wrong choices can have on our communities, and the actions which students can take to support positive changes in litter choices across the city.
RECYCLING	Can we put this in our recycling bin? It's a question that your students will be confident in answering after being armed with top tips on how to reduce contamination so that more materials can be recycled into new, useful products.
THE WASTE HIERARCHY	Introducing students to the waste hierarchy, this assembly explores how reducing, reusing and recycling can make a real difference to our environment, empowering pupils to make simple, everyday choices that have the greatest positive impact.
ENERGY-FROM-WASTE	Exploring how Nottingham's energy-from-waste facility works, students discover how waste is transformed into electricity and heat to power Nottingham. Ideal to pair with a follow-up litter-pick to harness local litter as a resource for the whole city.
FOOD WASTE*	Why does food waste matter? This assembly helps students to understand the environmental impact of wasting food, while sharing practical ideas to reduce waste and make more sustainable choices at home and in school.

*Available only to schools within the area of the Berridge Food Waste Collection Trial.

WORKSHOPS

Our workshops provide practical, one-hour sessions that introduce key waste and recycling concepts in a relatable, local context, while supporting curriculum objectives in Geography, Science and PSHE. Delivered by our Schools Engagement Officer, one-off sessions explore themes such as litter and energy-from-waste, using reasoning tasks and hands-on activities to help students apply their learning in everyday life. Our waste hierarchy workshop series offers a deeper exploration across three linked sessions, enabling students to build and apply their understanding over time.

We also provide downloadable classroom resources, supporting teachers to explore the journey of waste and recycling and the benefits of responsible disposal within Nottingham in their own classrooms.

EYFS WORKSHOPS

For our youngest learners, the programme offers memorable, first-hand experiences that introduce children to the role waste and recycling play in their community. Through "People Who Help Us" visits, pupils meet the frontline crews who keep Nottingham clean and learn how waste is collected and managed. A key highlight is seeing collection vehicles up close, creating a powerful "wow" moment that sparks curiosity and questions. Visits are tailored to each setting, supporting early learning goals in communication, understanding the world, and personal development, while helping children build a sense of responsibility, community pride, and positive environmental habits.

KEY STAGE ONE

WORKSHOPS

ONE-OFF WORKSHOPS		
THEME	**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**	**OUTCOMES**
LITTER	To know how to identify litter and describe how it can harm our local environment.	• Identify that litter is waste not disposed of correctly and recognise common examples of litter in their local area (streets, playgrounds, parks). • Describe the impact of litter on their environment. • Choose responsible ways to dispose of litter.
FOOD WASTE*	To know how to recycle food waste responsibly in Nottingham.	• Identify what food waste is and its impact. • Recognise how to limit food waste. • Show how to dispose of food waste responsibly in Nottingham.

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WASTE HIERARCHY WORKSHOP SERIES		
THEME	**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**	**OUTCOMES**
1: REDUCE	To know how we can reduce the amount of waste we produce.	• Identify what the waste hierarchy is and that reduce is the most effective action. • Suggest improvements to packaging and products that reduce the materials used. • Describe actionable ways to reduce material use in their own lives.
2: REUSE	To know how we can reuse materials.	• Recall what the waste hierarchy is and that reuse is the second most effective action. • Sort reusable and single-use products. • Demonstrate actionable ways to reuse materials and products in their own lives.

KEY STAGE ONE

3: RECYCLE 	To know how waste materials can be recycled into useful new products in Nottingham.	• Recall what the waste hierarchy is and that recycling is the third most effective action. • Sort materials and products that can be recycled in Nottingham City and which cannot. • Identify which products can be made from specific recyclable materials.

DOWNLOADABLE LESSON RESOURCE PACKS		
THEME	**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**	**OUTCOMES**
JOURNEY OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE	To know that Nottingham's waste is used to create energy for the city.	• Identify that the green bin is for household waste that cannot be recycled. • List materials and products that should be disposed of in the residual waste green bin. • Sequence the journey of Nottingham's waste once it is collected.
JOURNEY OF RECYCLING	To know that Nottingham's recycling is sorted and turned into new products.	• Recognise that the grey-lidded bin is for waste that can be recycled. • List materials and products that should be disposed of in the grey-lidded recycling bin. • Sequence the recycling process that commonly recycled materials undergo at a Materials Recovery Facility.

KEY STAGE ONE

CURRICULUM LINKS

	GEOGRAPHY		SCIENCE			PSHE	
	Use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.	Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key human features (waste disposal, recycling, energy use, food waste, litter).	Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including paper, card, cardboard, plastic, glass, and metal.	Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.	Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including metal, plastic, glass, paper and cardboard for particular uses.	L3. about things they can do to help look after their environment.	L5. about the different roles and responsibilities people have in their community.
LITTER	X	X	X			X	
FOOD WASTE		X	X			X	
1: REDUCE			X			X	
2: REUSE					X	X	
3: RECYCLE		X	X	X		X	X
JOUNREY OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE		X				X	X
JOURNEY OF RECYCLING		X	X	X		X	X

LOWER KEY STAGE TWO

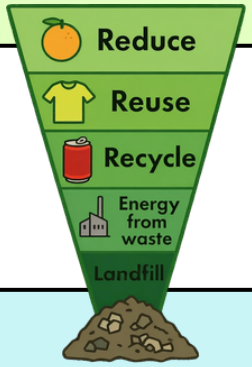
WORKSHOPS

ONE-OFF WORKSHOPS		
THEME	**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**	**OUTCOMES**
ANTI-LITTER & FLY-TIP	To know what bad littering habits are and identify ways we can change littering behaviour in our local area.	• Know and use key waste and recycling vocabulary. • Explain how litter impacts the local community. • Identify what responsible waste disposal looks like. • Explain how they can dispose of waste responsibly in their community.
FOOD WASTE*	To know how food waste can be recycled in Nottingham City.	• Explain what food waste is. • Summarise the impact of food waste on the environment. • Compare the impact of different food waste disposal methods. • Choose responsible ways to dispose of food waste.

*Available only to schools within the area of the Berridge Food Waste Collection Trial.

WASTE HIERARCHY WORKSHOP SERIES		
THEME	**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**	**OUTCOMES**
1: REDUCE	To know why reducing the waste we produce is the most sustainable action in the waste hierarchy.	• Explain the waste hierarchy, including why reduce is the most effective action. • Compare packaging and products by looking at the materials used and their effects. • Explore actionable ways to reduce material use in their own lives.
2: REUSE	To know the impact of reusing materials on our environment.	• Explain the waste hierarchy, including why reuse is the second most effective action. • Categorise reusable and single-use products. • Explore actionable ways to reuse materials and products in their own lives.

LOWER KEY STAGE TWO

3: RECYCLE 	To know how some waste materials can be recycled into useful new products.	• Explain the waste hierarchy, including why recycling is the third most effective action. • Categorise products that can be recycled in Nottingham City and which cannot based on the materials used. • Sequence the recycling process that commonly recycled materials undergo.

DOWNLOADABLE LESSON RESOURCE PACKS

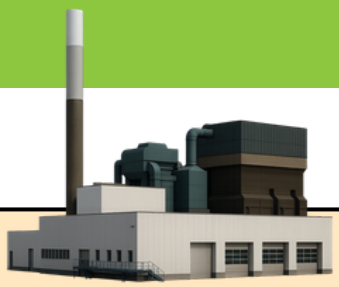
THEME	LEARNING OBJECTIVE	OUTCOMES
JOURNEY OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE	To know how Nottingham's waste is used to generate energy for the city.	• Categorise the materials that should be disposed of in the green household waste bin. • Explain what happens to the city's waste after it is collected from the green bin. • Explore how the Eastcroft incinerator generates electricity and heating for the city.
JOURNEY OF RECYCLING	To know how Nottingham's recyclable waste is sorted at a Materials Recovery Facility.	• Categorise materials that should be disposed of in the grey-lidded recycling bin. • Explain what happens to recyclable materials after it is collected from the grey-lidded bin. • Explore how the MRF sorts different materials by their properties.

LOWER KEY STAGE TWO

CURRICULUM LINKS

	GEOGRAPHY	SCIENCE				PSHE
	Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.	Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (nutrients from soil).	Observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others.	Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials.	Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.	L5. ways of carrying out shared responsibilities for protecting the environment in school and at home; how everyday choices can affect the environment (e.g. reducing, reusing, recycling; food choices).
ANTI-LITTER & FLY-TIP	X				X	X
FOOD WASTE	X	X				X
1: REDUCE	X				X	X
2: REUSE	X				X	X
3: RECYCLE	X		X			X
JOUNREY OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE	X				X	X
JOURNEY OF RECYCLING	X		X	X		X

UPPER KEY STAGE TWO



WORKSHOPS

ONE-OFF WORKSHOPS		
THEME	**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**	**OUTCOMES**
ENERGY-FROM-WASTE	To know how and why Nottingham City uses energy-from-waste to dispose of waste.	• Categorise the materials that should be disposed of in the green household waste bin. • Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of energy-from-waste plants. • Justify the sustainability of energy-from-waste plants in the long-term.
FOOD WASTE*	To know how food waste can be recycled and how it benefits Nottingham City's environment.	• Examine the impact of food waste on the environment. • Propose solutions to reduce the food waste we produce. • Break down the stages of the food waste recycling process.

*Available only to schools within the area of the Berridge Food Waste Collection Trial.

WASTE HIERARCHY WORKSHOP SERIES		
THEME	**LEARNING OBJECTIVE**	**OUTCOMES**
1: REDUCE	To know why reducing the waste we produce is the most sustainable way of living.	• Analyse how design choices influence waste generation across a product's life cycle. • Evaluate the sustainability of different materials and packaging designs. • Propose improvements to product design that reduce environmental impact.
2: REUSE	To know how human choices about reusing materials can influence long-term sustainability outcomes.	• Analyse the life-cycle impact of single-use vs reusable products. • Evaluate the barriers and benefits of reusing materials. • Develop realistic proposals for reuse initiatives in school.

UPPER KEY STAGE TWO

3: RECYCLE	To know how materials are sorted and processed at an industrial level and what affects recyclability.	• Examine common barriers to efficient recycling. • Analyse how different materials are sorted at scale using scientific properties (magnetism, density). • Evaluate the long-term sustainability of recycling different materials.

DOWNLOADABLE LESSON RESOURCE PACKS

THEME	LEARNING OBJECTIVE	OUTCOMES
JOURNEY OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE	To know how and why different waste-management systems work, using evidence to compare their impact on the local and global environment.	• Categorise the materials that should be disposed of in the green household waste bin. • Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of energy-from-waste plants and alternative waste management options. • Justify the sustainability of energy-from-waste plants in the long-term.
JOURNEY OF RECYCLING	To know how materials are sorted using their properties in a Materials Recovery Facility and how these properties influence their recyclability.	• Categorise the materials that should be disposed of in the grey-lidded recycling bin. • Investigate how the MRF sorts and filters materials based on their properties. • Evaluate the sustainability of recycling different materials based on their properties.

UPPER KEY STAGE TWO

CURRICULUM LINKS

	GEOGRAPHY	SCIENCE		PSHE	DT
	Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.	Compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets.	Use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating.	L5. ways of carrying out shared responsibilities for protecting the environment in school and at home; how everyday choices can affect the environment (e.g. reducing, reusing, recycling; food choices).	Investigate and analyse a range of existing products.
ENERGY-FROM-WASTE	X			X	
FOOD WASTE	X			X	
1: REDUCE	X			X	X
2: REUSE	X			X	X
3: RECYCLE	X	X	X	X	
JOURNEY OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE	X			X	
JOURNEY OF RECYCLING	X	X	X	X	

LITTER-PICKING

Litter-picking equipment and support is offered as a valuable extension to the Nottingham City Recycling and Waste Reduction Schools Programme, giving pupils the chance to put learning into action within their school and local community. After our assemblies and workshops have built your students' understanding of waste, recycling and sustainability, litter-picking reinforces these messages by empowering students to take responsibility for their environment and contribute positively to shared spaces.

This activity works particularly well as a follow-up to sessions such as anti-litter, energy-from-waste or the waste hierarchy, helping pupils to apply their knowledge in a real-world context. Seeing the immediate impact of their efforts develops a stronger sense of ownership, responsibility and community pride.

We offer class sets of litter-picking equipment, available to loan for up to one week, allowing schools the flexibility to plan activities around their timetable. Litter-picks can take place on school grounds or in the surrounding local area. The Schools Engagement Officer may be available to support your litter-picks in-person; however, responsibility for supervision, safeguarding and risk management remains with the school and its staff at all times.

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