



REDUCING WASTE AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

PLASTIC

Plastic lasts in the environment for hundreds of years. It can damage habitats and harm wildlife.

The Government has taken big steps to cut plastic pollution by: banning plastic straws, cotton buds and drink stirrers; and introducing a 10p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags given out at shops.



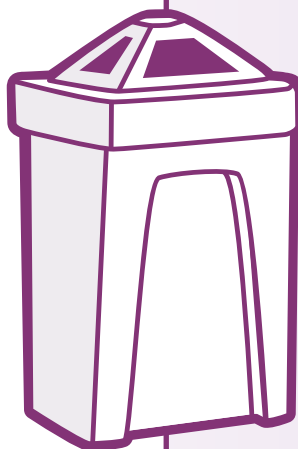
How you can help:

- Remind your parents to take reusable bags with them to the supermarket
- Use a flannel instead of single-use wipes
- Carry a reusable water bottle

LITTER

Litter is bad for nature, ugly to look at and expensive to tidy up.

The Government gives local councils the powers they need to solve littering and fly-tipping problems in their areas. It also makes sure that, wherever possible, the costs of dealing with littering are paid by those responsible.



How you can help:

- Always put litter in a waste bin or take it home with you
- Take part in local litter picks
- Report litter problems to your local council (www.gov.uk/report-litter)

FOOD WASTE

The UK produces 9.5 million tonnes of food waste a year and 70% of this occurs in our homes. If you put all of that food waste in one place, it would fill 3,600 Olympic sized swimming pools. If we all waste less food and stop it from going to landfill by throwing it away in a food waste bin or composting at home, we will help tackle climate change.

The Government supports campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste (<https://lovefoodhatewaste.com/what-to-do>).



How you can help:

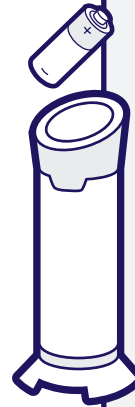
- Ask your family to take the Wasting Food: It's Out of Date quiz
- Check your fridge temperature; it should be below 5°C

RECYCLING

We can all reduce what we throw away by reusing, recycling, and repairing items. This helps the planet by saving precious resources.

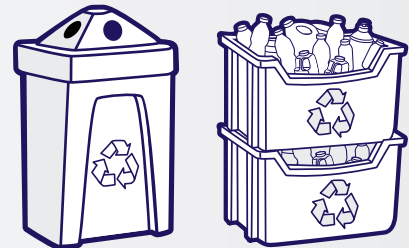
The Government is always exploring new ideas to help people recycle more. This includes making sure there are rules on labelling, to make it easier for you to know what packaging you can recycle.

We are making sure the same materials will be collected for recycling across England, to make it easier for everyone to recycle.



How you can help:

- Put items in the right bin so that they can be recycled
- Check www.recyclenow.com to find out if an item can be recycled



WHAT ELSE YOU CAN DO

- Sign your school up to be an 'Eco-school' (www.eco-schools.org.uk). This is run by Keep Britain Tidy to educate young people about sustainability and waste reduction.
- Sign up to one of the other Keep Britain Tidy campaigns (www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns)
- Join a Marine Conservation Society Beach Clean (www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/join-a-beach-clean/)
- Support the Canal and River Trust Plastics Challenge (www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/features/plastic-and-litter-in-our-canal)