 **Recycling Detectives: Teacher’s guidance**

The Recycling Detectives activity is designed to be a fun way for pupils to learn about recycling. Whilst being pupil-led and monitorable, it will help your school work towards Green Flag accreditation.

The activity has been developed so that it is adaptable to use with different age primary school classes or eco groups.

**About the Recycling Detectives activity**

Pupils will take on the role of a ‘recycling detective’, going home to search out items that can be recycled and making sure they are put in the right bin.

The activity sheet will help guide them through what they need to do (with varying degrees of support from adults at home given their age). The sheet has lists of what can and can’t be recycled on the back to help.

The recycling detectives need to find items and decide which bin they should go in to make sure the right items are being recycled. Younger pupils can simply tick when they’ve found an item. Older pupils could count a tally of the number of items recycled that week too.

Back at school, pupils can return their sheets to their teachers or group coordinator who can then lead a session to see what the pupils found and in what quantities.

To monitor the success of the activity, teachers or group coordinators can either report on how many pupils took part and/or on how many items they found.

The activity can be downloaded from: <https://jointwastesolutions.box.com/v/recyclingdetectives>

**How to introduce the activity**

Explain to pupils these key points:

* Different waste items are sent to different places after we have finished with them.
* If an item can’t be reused, it needs to go in the bin. But which one? Some can be recycled and turned into new things. Others can’t be and have to be sent to be burnt and turned into energy.
* It’s important to know which items can be recycled, as the right items in the right bin will mean more recycling. But we need to make sure items that need to go in the rubbish bin aren’t put in the recycling bin, as it causes problems during the recycling process and can damage good recycling.

To make the session interactive, you could set up a recycling station with recyclable items and non-recyclable items. Then pupils can be shown these or asked to sort them into the right bins.

Some key yes/no recycling items can be found on the activity sheet to help. Please be aware that there is slight variation over acceptance criteria for recycling across Surrey so the sheet only mentions items that can be recycled in all boroughs/districts.

**Adapting the activity**

Age/ability – there is an extension to the activity in which older pupils can record the number of items they find. For younger children, a teacher can talk through the activity and lead pupils to share what things they found that were recyclable, and note these down.

Involvement – the activity can be taken up by a range of class/group sizes, from eco-committees, classes or the whole school.

Monitoring – the in-school monitoring of what the recycling detectives found could be led by teaching staff or pupils if age appropriate.

Timescales – the time frame for the pupils to work on the activity at home can be varied. Especially for those counting how many items they found.