

Year 6: Sustainability

Key Vocabulary

audit	A process with the purpose of highlighting the areas of something that need to improve
biodegradable	Something that can be decomposed by bacteria or other living things
carbon emissions	Emissions that come from the burning of fossil fuels such as carbon dioxide
extracted	Removed or taken out by effort or force
fossil fuel	Fuel such as coal or oil that is formed from the decayed remains of plants or animals
incinerate	Destroy waste material by burning
microplastics	Tiny pieces of plastic that are less than 5 millimetres across
raw materials	Materials that are in their natural state before they are processed or used in manufacturing
refinery	A production place that breaks down certain materials and makes raw materials into products of value
survey	An examination of opinions, behaviour, etc., made by asking people questions
synthetic	Products that are made from chemicals or artificial substances rather than from natural ones

What is plastic waste?

Plastic is everywhere, from our water bottles to our toothbrushes. It is a human-made material that can be formed into almost any shape.

Crude oil is one of the main ingredients needed to make plastic. It is a fossil fuel which means there's a limited supply. Plastic is polluting the environment because it takes so long to decay,



How long does it take for single-use plastics to break down?



Plastic can take over 400 years to decompose. It gets smaller and is swallowed by marine animals.

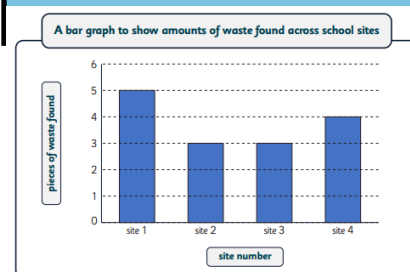
How is plastic recycled?

Recycling plastic is a two-stage process:

1. Sorting is done automatically with a manual sort to ensure anything harmful has been removed.
2. Once sorted and cleaned, plastic can be shredded into flakes or melted to form



How can we find effective ways to reduce plastic waste?



By collecting data and analysing it, we can present ideas for reducing the amount of plastic pollution on our school grounds.

Where does plastic waste come from?

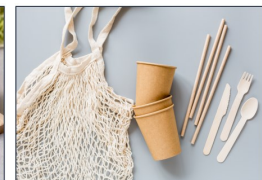
Most plastic waste is washed into the ocean from the land. It is swept into rivers due to rain, overflowing storm drains or littering and is then transported out to sea.

Greenpeace found there were 640,000 tonnes of fishing gear abandoned, lost or discarded into the oceans.

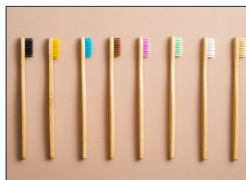
What can we do to reduce plastic waste?



Switch to alternative reusable materials. Use **beeswax wraps** instead of **clingfilm** or **plastic bags**.



Avoid **plastic straws** and **cutlery**. Try **paper** or **metal** reusable ones.



Bamboo is 100% decomposable and can be used for **toothbrushes**, **lunch boxes** and **chopping boards**.



Before buying new **pencils**, **pens** and **notebooks**, check if you have any at home. You'll reduce your plastic by **cutting down on the packaging** these items are often wrapped in.



Look out for **school supplies** in **plastic-free packaging**, like single pencils, erasers and pens.



Buy pencils **made of wood** instead of mechanical pencils, which are often made from (and packaged in) **plastic**.



If your school isn't already recycling plastic bottles and utensils, **talk to your teachers** about how to start. Why not ask about setting up an **eco club** with your classmates to **make your school greener?**



Encourage classmates and staff members to have **plastic-free packed lunches**.



Talk to the headteacher and parent's association about selling **second-hand uniforms**.