Schools Against Waste

activity pack (Recycle More edition)

Carymoor Environmental Trust
www.carymoor.org.uk

1. Introducing the 3Rs

In Somerset, more and more people are following the 3Rs—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle—to make the most of things we have and the materials used to make them.

- **reduce** our use of materials to save the Earth's resources and make less rubbish. In our lifetime, we could run out of some natural resources if we don't take more care in how we use materials and what we do when we no longer want them. Instead of buying a new water bottle each day, why not use a reusable drinks bottle and fill it from the tap? (Find out more in section 2).

- **reuse** everything we can so we save natural resources, including the energy and any water needed to make it. Instead of throwing away clothes you have grown out of, give them to a friend! Tired of a toy, game or book? Pass it on to somebody who'll love it! (Find out more in section 3).

- **recycle** things so they can be made into new items. Recycling helps the environment and protects wildlife by saving natural resources and the land used to get them. (See section 4 and 5 for more).

We should only throw things away when we cannot reuse or recycle it.

Recycle More, an exciting new recycling service is coming to Somerset. We'll be able to pick up more stuff for recycling from outside everyone's homes every week, including plastic pots and tubs, food and drink cartons and batteries.

Everyone on Recycle More will get a Bright Blue Bag to make sure there's enough space for all that extra recycling. It will take us some time to bring Recycle More everyone, so if you have friends or family in other parts of Somerset, they need to look out for the Bright Blue Bag that means Recycle More is on its way.

Recycle More: what goes where?

With new items collected in the Bright Blue Bag, what goes into which recycling containers changes. If you have a Bright Blue Bag, this is how your recycling should be sorted. Section 4 covers recycling in more detail.

Did you know?

When you flip the handle to the front of your food waste recycling bin, it holds the lid down to stop animals getting into it.

You can keep your food bin clean by wrapping food waste in newspaper or using compostable liners.

When something is recycled it needs more work before it can be made into something new. It needs cleaning, more sorting, breaking down into smaller parts for melting.

The diagram over the page shows you what happens to your recycling after collection. Find out more in section 5, Beyond the Kerb and section 7 to learn how "burping bacteria" turn food waste into gas which can be used for electricity at the Anaerobic digestion plant near Bridgwater, how rubbish is turned into power, or how other materials are turned into new things.

Recycling—what happens beyond the kerbside

Why Recycle More?

Somerset has a great recycling record. Every year, we prevent more than 65,000 tonnes of carbon being released into the atmosphere. Yet around half of an average Somerset rubbish bin could be recycled.

We want you to recycle more, protect out environment and tackle climate change by putting more of the right things in the containers provided.

Around 90% of Somerset's recycling stays in the UK and we expect that to increase.

Since 2020, the rubbish in our bins doesn't go to landfill. Our non-recyclable waste gets taken to an Energy Recovery facility in Bristol where it is turned into energy that can power things in our homes, like our lights, televisions and fridge freezers.

Schools Against Waste

activity pack (Recycle More edition)

Carymoor Environmental Trust

www.carymoor.org.uk

2. Reduce

Here are some ways you and your family can make a difference and reduce waste!

Family waste audit - Collect up the waste your family makes in a week and sort it into different material types. For each material type work out

- what can be put in your recycling collection at home (easy to recycle),
- what you might be able to recycle somewhere else like a recycling site or high street collection point (harder to recycle) and,
- what cannot be recycled (non-recyclable).

You could weigh the waste or count the number of items and then think about how you could reduce your weekly waste (especially the harder to recycle or non-recyclable materials).

- What do you throw away most of?
- Are there recyclable alternatives, or do you need to change your habits to make less waste?

Discuss the results as a family and agree what changes you could put in place. Even small changes can make a difference. You could repeat the exercise again a few weeks later to find out if you have improved. Reward yourselves with something waste-free if you have!

Be Packaging Detectives - The next time you are shopping, see how many things you can find with little or no packaging, or with packaging made from recyclable materials. Are any of them things that your family buys regularly?

Plastic-free challenge - Plastics are light, easily shaped, strong, long-lasting and often cheaper to use to make stuff than other materials. This means plastics have been used to make a lot of things. This includes things that are designed to be used once, such as disposable spoons or straws, which are sometimes described as single-use plastics.

It takes energy as well as natural resources to make products so it's always better to use products which can be reused—this saves energy and material resources.

Recycling products into something new takes energy too so even if a single-use plastic product can be recycled—and many of them cannot—it still has an environmental impact.

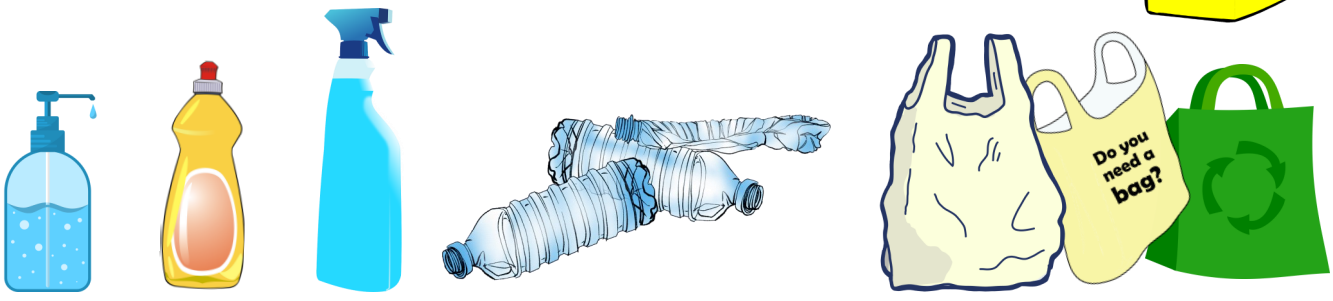
Because plastics last a long time, it is really bad when these end up littered in our streets and hedgerows. If not recycled or put in the bin as they should be, they can harm wildlife and spoil our environment.

So as a family, set yourselves the challenge of not using any single-use plastics for a week.

What products might you have to avoid?
What alternatives can you find?

You might like to record your experiences with a daily blog or video!

At the end of the week, were there any easy changes that you would like to continue with or other ways that you can reduce your waste?



Schools Against Waste

activity pack (Recycle More edition)

Carymoor Environmental Trust

www.carymoor.org.uk

3. Reuse

Here are some fun challenges to explore how you could reuse more and reduce what you throw away.

Make Elmer the Elephant: We have provided instructions to make an Elmer the Elephant using a plastic milk bottle over the next few pages.

Show your elephant to your friends and see if they'll make one. Elephants like company!

We'd love to see your creations, so ask your parents if you can share a photo of your elephant on social media, and tag us **@somersetwaste** and **@Carymoor**. Thank you.

The Reuse Challenge: Give each person in your family a different piece of rubbish (plus pencil and paper if you like).

Set a timer for 5 minutes and see how many different ways of re-using your item you can think of within the time!

- How many of these ideas do you already do?
- How many could you try?

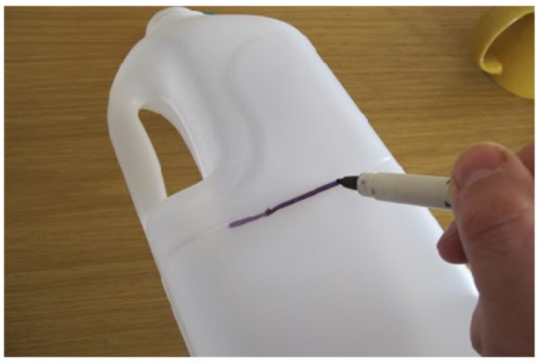
This is a good way to think about things as useful resources rather than just 'rubbish'.

How to make an Elmer the Elephant (part 1)

You will need:

- A 2-litre plastic milk bottle (although any size will work)
- Scissors (and a parent to help!)
- PVA glue
- Tissue paper
- Double-sided tape or sellotape
- A marker pen

1. Start with a clean 4-pint (2-litre) plastic milk bottle complete with lid.



2. Find the groove half-way down the bottle, just below the handle. Use a marker pen to trace this line all the way around the bottle.

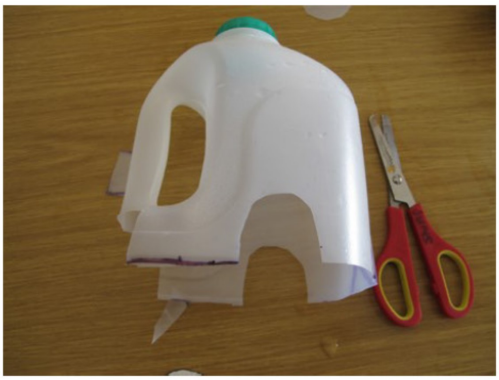
3. Cut the bottle in half. Remove the lid, pinch the softer plastic on the opposite side to the handle and make a cut with your scissors. Then get the scissors into this cut to follow the line you've drawn.

4. Cut around the free end of the handle to make it more trunk-shaped and also make the gap between Elmer's front legs.

How to make an Elmer the Elephant (part 2)

5. You should end up with something like this.

6. Draw semi-circles on either side of the bottle and cut these out to make the gaps between Elmer's front and back legs on each side.



7. It should look something like this.

8. Draw an 'M' shape on the opposite side to the 'trunk' to make Elmer's tail and the gap between his back legs.

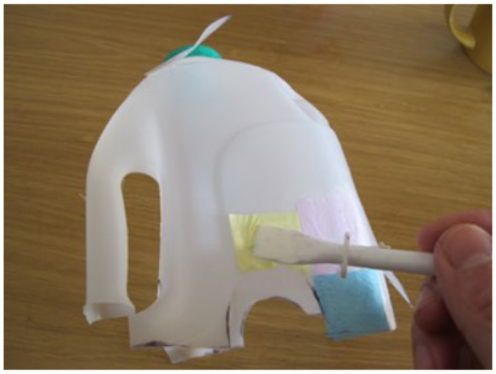
9. The middle part of the 'M' is the tail. It should look like this.

10. Bend the middle part of the 'M' up to make his tail stick out.

How to make an Elmer the Elephant (part 3)

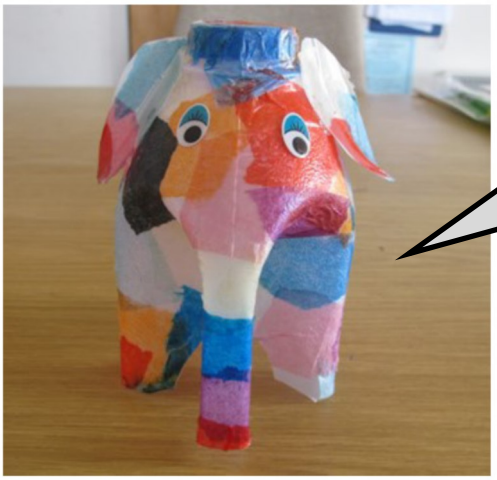
11. Now make an oval template for Elmer's ears. Draw around the template onto the base of the bottle and cut out two ear shapes.

12. Use double-sided tape or sellotape to attach the ears in place.



13. Use PVA glue to collage coloured tissue squares all over Elmer's body in a pattern of your choice. Once the squares are stuck down, add a coating of PVA to give a shiny effect.

Try to find me a new home when you've finished playing with me. That'll be more fun than the bin!



Help me to stamp out waste!

14. Stick on Elmer's eyes and leave to dry!

Schools Against Waste

activity pack (Recycle More edition)

Carymoor Environmental Trust

www.carymoor.org.uk

4. Recycle

Can you sort it?

Do you know what can be recycled? If you're not sure and need a reminder, take a look at the what goes where diagram in section 1, then put the diagram away and let's see what you can remember.

Cut out the items below.

Decide whether they should go in the food waste bin or recycling boxes and Bright Blue Bag. Put the items in by the correct containers on the next page.

When you have finished you could put it on your fridge to remind everyone in your home what to recycle each week.

Drinks can

Plate scrapings

Plastic bottle

Cardboard

Glass bottle

Fruit waste

Plastic pots/tubs

Juice cartons

Mouldy food

This page has been left blank so if you have printed double-sided you won't lose anything when you cut out your game tokens in activity 4.

4. Recycle

Can you sort it? Let's play the game!

Put the items you cut out earlier into the correct containers. When you think you have all the items in the right place, check what you have done against the answer sheet. (See separate download).

When all the items are in the right place, why not put it on your fridge as a helpful reminder? Or you can download a **full list of what goes where** from **somersetwaste.gov.uk**

Food recycling bin

Recycling boxes and the Bright Blue Bag

Schools Against Waste

activity pack (Recycle More edition)

Carymoor Environmental Trust
www.carymoor.org.uk

5. Beyond the kerb

Have you ever wondered what happens to your recycling once it has been collected from the kerbside? All of the items are broken down and made into new products.

Can you draw a line to link the recyclable items to the correct recycling process and the new product they have been made into? We have done the first one to get you started. (See section 7 to find out more about recycling processes).

Recyclable item	**Recycling process** before making something new	**New product**
 Steel can	Crushed and melted down.	 Car
 Food waste	Mixed with water and turned into slurry. Then squeezed out and dried.	 Newspaper
 Plastic bottle	Melted down in a furnace to make large blocks of metal called ingots.	 Glass jar
 Used envelopes and junk mail	In an Anaerobic Digester tank, "burping bacteria" eat it producing biogas which is burnt and used to power turbines.	 Electricity
 Glass bottle	Shredded and melted to form pellets.	 Fleece jacket

Schools Against Waste

activity pack (Recycle More edition)

Carymoor Environmental Trust
www.carymoor.org.uk

6. Design a poster

Can you help spread the word and encourage others to practice the 3Rs?

We would like you to design an eye-catching poster that explains all about the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message. Your poster could feature some food waste being transformed into electricity, a tin can being recycled into a new car or advice on how to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce.

Ask your parents if you can share the poster on social media, using the hashtag **#somersetrecycles**. Doing this will help inspire others to make a difference and you could win a prize.

We have over 15 prizes to give out periodically throughout 2021. Prizes include packs of colouring pencils that you can grow after you've finished with them, rolls of caddy liners for your food waste kitchen caddy, and reusable drinks bottles or cups.

And we will choose three of the best posters to receive a **£10 voucher** to spend at **Protect the Planet** which has lots of eco-friendly gifts.

Schools Against Waste

activity pack (Recycle More edition)

Carymoor Environmental Trust
www.carymoor.org.uk

7. Find out more

We hope you have enjoyed these activities and inspired you learn more. Here are some helpful links if you want to explore more:

- Recycle More: what goes where? infographic
- Recycle More—new family-friendly recycling for Somerset (video)
- What happened to your recycling in Somerset beyond the kerb
- How food waste is turned into energy in Somerset (Food Waste Education Pack for Key Stage 2 with Horrible Science Burping Bacteria worksheet)
- Learn how an Energy from Waste plant turns rubbish into power
- How food and drinks cans get recycled
- How paper is recycled
- How plastic is recycled
- How food and drink cartons are recycled
- How waste electrical items are recycled. These are collected at local recycling sites, or Recycle More collections (small electrical items only)
- How garden waste is recycled into soil conditioner or compost
- Recycling facts and info from Recycle Now
- Understand recycling labels
- Play the Junk Jumble Recycling Materials game
- Discover more links to educational resources, campaigns and information for all ages to explore less-wasteful ways to live

This Recycle More activity pack by **Carymoor Environmental Trust** was published in February 2021.

It is a home-learning resource for the Schools Against Waste programme funded by **Somerset Waste Partnership** and **SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd**.