

# What is R-Generation?

## The programme

R-Generation is an education programme which inspires young people to become recycling ambassadors, understanding that waste has value and need not be waste.

## How R-Generation transforms product lifecycles

An item's 'lifecycle' describes how it's made, used and then disposed of when it's no longer useful.

When we use an item once and then throw it away, that item's lifecycle is like a straight line. There's a problem with this. Everything we use is made from raw materials, like the oil from which plastic containers are made out of. These raw materials are valuable, and extracting, refining and manufacturing with them uses energy that contributes to the problem of climate change. If we throw them away, we've lost valuable raw materials and created waste.

What's more, if we let used materials become litter, it can find its way into rivers and our oceans, causing pollution and harm to marine life.

But there's a better way. When we find ways to reuse these items, we extend their life and they are useful to us for longer! Then, when we recycle them at the end of their useful life, we keep them out of landfill and out of our rivers and oceans. We can make new items out of their raw materials, this is a circular lifecycle. This saves materials and energy, and reduces our contribution to climate change. We're more sustainable this way.

## What's happening at our school?

We're trying to turn straight line lifecycles into circular ones, for as many of the materials we use as possible!

Many of our pupils have chosen to become R-Generation Ambassadors. Together, we're surveying how we use different materials, create waste and recycle. Then, our R-Generation Ambassadors are creating action plans with lots of great ideas to lead the way and help everyone in school to reduce, reuse and recycle!



# What can we do at home?

These puzzles and challenges will help you to carry out a simple check on how you recycle at home! Enjoy them together and see how many new ways you can find to reduce, reuse and recycle. Together, we hope to create a big impact and help R-Generation schools and families to be more sustainable.

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I	F	I	W	O	E	E	T	L	R	E	D	U	C	E
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N	B	C	J	X	X	W	H	O	T	D	E	X	Z	E
K	Q	V	L	A	T	E	M	J	T	B	I	D	A	T

BOTTLE

CARDBOARD

CONTAINER

GLASS

LITTER

METAL

PLASTIC

RECYCLE

REDUCE

REUSE

RGENERATION

WASTE

# Challenges

## Challenge 1 - recycled art

What kinds of art or modelling could you make out of clean, recyclable items? A robot? An animal? What about a decoration or ornament? You could try a new theme every week! Search 'recycled art' for inspiration. Don't forget to recycle your art once you've finished enjoying it.

## Challenge 2 - grow salads, herbs and flowers at home

Turn clean, used food and drink containers into plant pots to grow your own salads, herbs or flowers at home. You'll need seeds and a little soil or potting compost. Don't use toiletry or cleaning product containers, though.

## Challenge 3 - aim for 100%

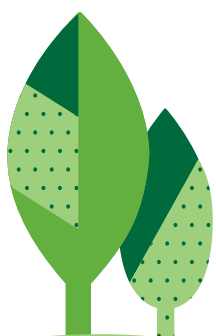
See if you can recycle everything possible! Each person can take charge of one room and make sure that every item that could be recycled is sorted, rinsed (if necessary) and put in the correct recycling bin. Who can make sure that no recycling ends up as waste?

## Challenge 4 - reduce

Take a look at your shopping and see what items you could buy with less or no packaging. For example, could you buy loose vegetables, or use a reusable vegetable bag? Make sure you're avoiding disposable items where possible.

## Challenge 5 - reuse

Hold a family competition to find the most fun or unusual way to reuse a recyclable container. What new ways can you think of to extend its useful life before it's recycled?



# Top Tips to help you Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

- 1. Check your bins!**

On bin day, check what's in the bin in each room. Does it contain recyclable items like card, plastic bottles, etc.? Work out what you could recycle more in each room and keep out of the bin.
- 2. Make it easier to recycle!**

Add a recycling bin in rooms like the bathroom, or set aside a spot to store recyclable containers like tissue boxes and toiletries. Have a system - encourage everyone to bring recyclable materials down to your kitchen instead of putting them in the bin.
- 3. Know what the labels mean.**

Use the link below to find out more about recycling labels - especially those that remind you to rinse containers or put the lids back on, for example. The more you know, the more you can make a difference!  
<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/packaging-symbols-explained>
- 4. Know how to recycle in your area.**

Use the link below to check what you can recycle at home, how to recycle specific materials, and where you can take things you can't add to your home recycling.  
<https://www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling>
- 5. Take charge!**

Why not take turns to be in charge of recycling each week? Encourage each other to remember to recycle, and think of ways to make it even easier to remember and do.
- 6. Remember the bathroom and kitchen.**

Recycling isn't just for food and drink packaging. Don't forget that toiletry and cleaning containers can be recycled too! Check the labels to find out what to do.
- 7. Avoid contamination.**

If it can't be recycled in your area, please don't put it in your recycling 'just in case'. This can cause the whole load of recycling to be rejected and become waste. Please don't recycle food containers that have leftover food or grease stains on them. They must be clean and free from stains to be recyclable.
- 8. Take one step at a time.**

Focus on one room, or kind of recycling, at a time, like the bathroom, or plastic containers. Once you've built your new habits you can move on and tackle another room, item or material. Before you know it, you'll be recycling experts!
- 9. Reduce!**

Look for ways to buy items with less packaging. Consider secondhand where possible. Buy longer-lasting alternatives if you can and avoid disposable items like paper plates, and plastic cups and cutlery.
- 10. Reuse!**

Find new uses for containers and packaging, like storage, planters and art materials. See if an item can be repaired. Why not pass on unwanted items to someone who could use them, donate them or swap?

