



# The Recycling Circular

## News from your local Waste and Recycling Visitor Education Centre

**We're here to help residents, community groups and schools in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland do their bit for the planet by reducing waste and recycling correctly.**



### Waste and Recycling Visitor Education Centre

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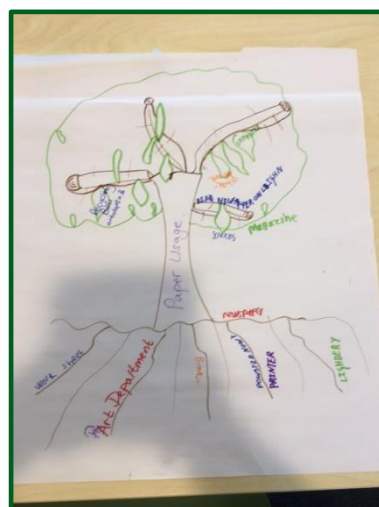
### School's Eco Team Tour

Now that we're seeing life beginning to return to normal, the Waste and Recycling Visitor Education Centre has started to welcome back schools and community groups.

The centre has been working closely with Brighton Avenue Primary School in Gateshead to support the work of their Eco Team in tackling recycling issues and most particularly recycling for batteries, and paper usage in their school.

The group visited the centre and undertook a tour of the Campground Household Waste Recycling Centre, learning about how all the materials were recycled and what these recycled materials are being used for.

*James Nesbitt, SUEZ's Site Manager, said: "It's great to see energetic young children wanting to learn about what happens to all the waste they generate and how it's recycled to make new products."*



*Problem Tree Analysis – exploring the issue of paper usage in the school*

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Following the tour of the site, pupils took part in a workshop which allowed them to explore the issue of paper usage in their school.

To do this, they used a tool called “Problem Tree Analysis” to understand the causes of the issue in the context of their school and to come up with solutions about how to solve them.

The Eco Team will continue to work with the centre over the coming weeks to develop their ideas and help them implement waste reduction initiatives across the school.

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## Whickham Cubs Tackle Food Issues

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On the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> January, Whickham Cub group spent their weekly gathering exploring their understanding of global warming, carbon footprints and most specifically the carbon footprint of the food they eat.



Each member brought along to the session, an empty packet from a foodstuff they had eaten over the previous week. Using this as a start point, they began to

think about where the food had been grown, how it had travelled across the world, and where they bought the items.

They then used a continuum line to assess the carbon footprint of their food items and discussed ways that their own decisions and actions might reduce the carbon footprint of the food they eat in future.

The cubs will continue to work with the Centre so that the group can keep growing their understanding of how their actions impact on the planet, especially how they're re-using, reducing and recycling.

This included a session on 11<sup>th</sup> February where they used single use plastic bottles to make bird-feeders.

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## Many hands make light work

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Since June 2021, the Visitor Education Centre has visited 16 schools across the region to organise litter picks and carry out workshops.



*Above: pupils from St John Boste School taking part in a community litter pick in Sunderland.*

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The litter picks helped students learn about how small positive actions can make a huge difference.

Since November, students from across the schools really have shown that many hands make light work through their collection of almost 8,000 pieces of litter from our local communities - such an important action to help improve our local environment.

Students were also able to explore how they might encourage others in their school to take-action to reduce litter and recycle more.

Ideas and actions included making a video to ask their headteacher for recycling bins to be placed into every classroom, starting up a weekly lunchtime litter picking club and putting a “no litter” message on the back of school sports team shirts.



*Above: students designing projects to get others involved in tackling the issue of litter.*

It has been encouraging to see so many creative ideas coming from the schools which participated and the centre is looking forward to hearing how these projects continue to grow and evolve.

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## Global Recycling Day

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**18<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

The Visitor Education Centre is looking forward to marking Global Recycling Day, taking place on 18 March 2022.

Keep a lookout via the following social media for upcoming details.

- <https://www.facebook.com/GWKNE>
- <https://servicesforschoolsnortheast.org.uk/Services/5992>

<https://www.ourgateshead.org/waste-and-recycling-visitor-education-centre>

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## Top Tips for Easter Egg waste

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- Remember that Easter egg foil can be rolled into a ball and recycled.
- Easter Egg waste packaging can be recycled but its best to separate the front plastic cover from the cardboard.