



# Waste Awareness Activities for Schools

## Recycled Craft Activities:

### Compost in a bottle activity:



Create your own mini composter using commonly thrown away household materials. Once you have your compost, think about planting a seed or two in it.

### Materials:

- A 1.5 litre or 2.0 litre clear plastic bottle with lid
- A pair of scissors
- A name label
- A small amount of soil/ready-made compost
- Vegetable/fruit peelings; eggs shells; cardboard egg box; paper towel; used tea bags; small twigs; dead leaves; grass cuttings; straw/hay; shredded paper; toilet paper rolls
- Small amount of water
- Clear wide packing tape
- Gloves

**Step 1:** Wash the plastic bottle thoroughly in hot water, ensuring you remove any labels

**Step 2:** Draw a line on the plastic bottle approximately 4 inches from the top. Use this line to cut the bottle right the way around (children will need assistance by an adult with the use of scissors). Set the top aside.

**Step 3:** Start with a small layer of compost, and layer all the food, garden waste, paper and cardboard materials until the bottle is 2/3s full (making sure to add a few layers of compost in-between). Be sure to use an equal mix of brown and green materials.

**Step 4:** Once all the layers are in, take the top part of the bottle and place it back on top by pushing it slightly inside the bottom half and taping around the whole join.

**Step 5:** Take off the bottle top and water your compost bottle just a little.



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**Step 6:** Put name labels on bottle if you're making more than one, and place them on a warm windowsill and watch them break down over a matter of weeks.

**Step 7:** You will want to keep the lids off most of the time to allow air in to help the natural composting process along. If the compost looks to dry add more drops of water, if it looks too wet remove the lid permanently.

**Step 8:** Once you have your compost, think about planting a seed or two in it!

## Plastic bottle mini-greenhouse activity:



You can easily grow your own plants; seeds or cuttings at home in a recycled mini greenhouse. Follow the instructions below to build your own mini greenhouse:

### Materials:

- A 1.5 litre or 2.0 litre clear plastic bottle.
- A pair of scissors.
- A felt tip.
- Soil.
- Sand or gravel.
- Access to hot and cold water.

**Step 1:** Wash the plastic bottle thoroughly in hot water, ensuring you remove any labels

**Step 2:** Draw a line on the plastic bottle approximately 4 inches from the top. Use this line to cut the bottle right the way around (children will need assistance by an adult with the use of scissors)

**Step 3:** Fill the bottom half of the bottle with a half a cup of sand or gravel which will provide drainage.

**Step 4:** Place a 1 inch layer of moss in the mini greenhouse to keep the soil from mixing with the sand (or gravel) layer. Put a thick layer of soil on top of the moss at least 4 inches deep or 1 inch from the top. Pat the soil down gently with your fingers.

**Step 5:** Plant the mini greenhouse with seeds or cuttings from another plant.

**Step 6:** Fit the top part of the plastic bottle on to the lower part of the bottle. Overlap the two parts of the bottle by at least 2 inches for a secure fit.

**Step 7:** Place your mini greenhouse in indirect sunlight to prevent your greenhouse from overheating. If your greenhouse appears to be damp, remove the bottle cap to vent for 24 to 48 hours. Add water if the soil appears to be too dry.



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## Beverage carton planters:



## Materials:

- Large rectangular beverage cartons with lids on
  - Scissors
  - Compost / soil
  - Seedlings / seeds
  - Water
1. Rinse out your beverage carton and leave aside to dry out
  2. Carefully take scissors to neatly cut out one full side of the container
  3. Fill with compost / soil
  4. Plant seeds or seedlings, and water in
  5. Use the top of the carton to hold plant details card

## Paper bead making activity:



## Materials:

- Pages from a magazine, old gift wrap or wallpaper
  - Scissors & glue stick
  - Dowel or bamboo skewer
  - Spray glaze (optional)
  - Thread for stringing beads together
1. Cut long triangles out of magazines, colored construction paper, wallpaper, etc. Choose colors that you like. The base of the triangle will be the width of the bead and the longer the triangle is, the fatter the bead will become. The



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slender 1-inch (2.5cm) beads used in this method are made from 1-inch by 4-inch (2.5cm x 10cm) triangles, but 1/2-inch by 8-inch (1.27cm x 20cm) triangles would create fat 1/2-inch (1.27cm) beads. Cut accordingly.

2. Turn a triangle design-side down and apply a bit of glue to the pointy end. A glue stick or a tiny bit of liquid glue will do.
3. Starting at the wide end, roll the triangle around itself using a dowel or other slender cylinder. A rounded toothpick or bamboo skewer would work nicely. For a symmetrical spiral, keep the triangle centered as you roll.
4. Glue the tip of the triangle to the rolled paper. If the bead doesn't stay tightly rolled up, apply another dab of glue.
5. Recommended: Extend the life of each bead by glazing it. Let it dry thoroughly, making sure it doesn't stick to anything.
6. Slide the bead off the end of the dowel. If it is well wrapped and glued, it will hold.
7. Repeat Steps 2 through 6 to make as many beads as you want. For earrings or a bracelet, you might make only a few beads. For a necklace or other larger project, you'll need more.

## Reused plant pot gift activity:



## Materials:

- Empty steel food can rinsed and with no sharp edges for each participant
  - Old wrapping paper, scrap crate paper, or colourful magazine pages
  - Decorations (glitters, pictures, beads, buttons etc)
  - Craft glue
  - Gravel & soil
  - Seedling or sunflower seeds
1. Children to bring a clean empty tin food can with no lid or sharp edges.
  2. Remove the label from the tin and put a small amount of glue dots around the outside of the tin.
  3. Cut colourful sheets of scrap crate paper, used wrapping paper, or magazines to go around the outside of the can to cover it. Glue together each end of the paper.



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4. Stick decorative beads, buttons or sparkles as desired on to the crate paper to create a unique design.
5. Insert a small amount of gravel into the bottom of the tin followed by a layer of soil.
6. Plant a small seedling or sunflower seed, and gift to a loved one.

## Recycled Fashion Show:



### Materials:

- All kinds of scraps i.e., fabric cutoffs, ribbon, buttons, beads etc.
  - Used fabrics i.e., torn clothing, accessories, or linen.
  - Common items of rubbish i.e., newspapers, crisp packets, poly bags, sweetie wrappers, used gift wrap etc. (It is important to either use non-recyclable waste items for this activity, or to make sure that finished garments can still be recycled when the activity is complete).
  - Tools for assembling garments i.e., rope, tape, hot glue guns, needle and thread, sewing machine, pins etc.
1. Children to bring in a selection of the above items to undertake this project.
  2. Children should work in teams of 2-3 per garment, nominating one participant as model.
  3. Groups should draft their garment designs, making sure to consider what materials are available to incorporate into their designs.
  4. Groups will need some direction and advice on how to assemble their garments, and will need to decide if the garment can be designed in a way that will allow it to be removed and modeled for a later fashion show.
  5. A small scale fashion show will allow groups to display their work at the end of the session, or at a later date. Consider inviting the local press to your finished session to show case the children's work to reuse otherwise wasted materials.
  6. After all free-play activities are complete, garments that will not go on permanent display should be disassembled for further reuse or recycling.



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## Shaggy rag rug making:



A shaggy rag rug is a good way to use up small strips of cloth, or worn out clothing.

### Materials:

- Strips of rags or worn out clothing
  - Old hessian sack, or large piece of hessian/jute cloth
  - Pliers, needle or hook to pull strips through
  - Scissors
1. Basically short strips of rag are threaded into the weave of a hessian backcloth so that both ends stick out on the same side. Traditionally, the hessian used was an old sack. Hessian sacks are now hard to come by, but 'sacking hessian', the same material in sheet form, is still readily available. As hessian has such a loose weave it's easy to poke bits of cloth into it; the hard threads just move aside without breaking.
  2. The secret of rag rug making is to fill up the hessian backcloth with bits of cloth until the slackness in the weave is taken up and all the bits are squeezed in securely. The idea is to pull a short strip of cloth through the backcloth from one side to the other and then back out again so that both ends of the strip are on one side and a squeezed up bit in the middle of the strip on the other.
  3. Different people prefer different sizes of cloth strips, but a good standard is about 1 inch (25mm) wide by 3 inches (75mm) long. This size is wide enough to be gripped in the backcloth and long enough to ensure a thick pile.
  4. When the strip is halfway through, just let it go, it doesn't need to be knotted (unless you're using old bit of wool). As long as the backcloth eventually gets filled up with bits of cloth, so that there is virtually no slackness left in the weave, it doesn't matter whether you work in rows or not.

Reference: <http://www.makings.co.uk/www.makings.co.uk/info.php?p=7>

Remake is a social enterprise with educational and environmental aims that specialise in craft and construction workshops to find new uses for reclaimed and scrounged objects, while encouraging children and adults from 5 to 85 to use tools with confidence. The Remake Scrapstore is located at Unit 2, Crieff Visitor Centre, Muthill Road, Crieff, PH7 4HQ.

Consider becoming a Remake Scrapstore member, for more information: [info@remakescotland.co.uk](mailto:info@remakescotland.co.uk) / [http://www.remakescotland.co.uk/?cbg\\_tz=-60](http://www.remakescotland.co.uk/?cbg_tz=-60)