

GREEN AMBASSADORS 4 Youth

RECYCLING

let's get started

Why recycling matters



Hello, I'm Crush and my favourite words are 'reduce', 'reuse' and 'recycle'!

The joker in the pack, **Crush** can turn a hand to anything and invents ways to use things for different purposes.

We throw so much away every day. But by reusing or recycling and reducing the amount we consume, we can help save the energy used in making new things, and reduce the amount of stuff that goes to landfill. Choosing things with less packaging also helps.



One of the biggest causes of environmental degradation is that we humans consume resources at an unsustainable rate. Whilst buying more stuff helps boost economies, it is also unsustainable in the long-term.

We create huge amounts of waste – the UK produces over 200 million tonnes of it every year and some human-made materials that are discarded in the ocean could take hundreds of years to degrade.

Recycling and reusing items is one way to save the use of yet more raw resources. It also saves energy - around 95% less is used to make products from recycled materials than using raw materials.

By recycling we're also throwing less stuff away, reducing our dependence on existing and future landfill rubbish sites. Eight million tonnes of plastic waste is dumped in the ocean each year, and this amount is set to double by 2025.

Your group can make a difference



Demonstrating good practice at your group's meetings is an easy first step to highlight the importance of recycling. Remind group members what can be recycled – there's very little which can't.

Appoint recycling champions amongst your group to help keep your meeting space clean and tidy. Giving the group some responsibility will give them ownership of recycling in your group.

Arrange a visit to a recycling plant. Seeing first-hand how recycling works is a crucial step to engagement.



Get ready... Go!



Sign up for our **Green Ambassadors badge scheme**, which encourages young people to connect with environmental issues and gives youth leaders some great activities and resources, such as the 'can it be recycled activity'. Simply complete five activities from any one theme, including at least one activity from each stage and your group members will each earn a badge.

Register your group here -

<https://wwfyouthscheme.education.co.uk/>

Find out more



www.recyclenow.com

Comprehensive information on just about every aspect of UK recycling from leading charity Recycle Now.

www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/youth-groups/activities

WWF's ideas for crafting with recyclable waste.



Now get their attention

Did you know...?

© GLOBAL WARMING IMAGES / WWF



Metal and glass can be recycled again and again without losing their original quality.

© GLOBAL WARMING IMAGES / WWF



In the UK alone, we use over half a million tonnes of metal packaging and nearly 2 million tonnes of glass packaging every year. Currently, we recycle 75% of steel packaging; 67% of glass packaging; and 51% of aluminum packaging.

© GLOBAL WARMING IMAGES / WWF



Recycling one drinks can would save enough energy to power a television for four hours.

© WWF-US / ZACHARY BAKO



It takes just seven days for a recycled newspaper to come back as a newspaper again.



For a future where people and nature thrive | wwf.org.uk

© 1986 panda symbol and © "WWF" Registered Trademark of WWF. WWF-UK registered charity (1081247) and in Scotland (SC039593). A company limited by guarantee (4016725)