

1 Introduction to C.R.O.W Crowthorne Reduce Our Waste

1.1 C.R.O.W.

This is a group of volunteers within Crowthorne who were inspired by a post in a local village facebook page to come together to make change. We all feel very passionately about the need to preserve and protect our environment by reducing waste, recycling efficiently and limiting use of plastic. We want to work with the wider community like schools and small businesses to bring about change.

C.R.O.W has joined forces with Surfers Against Sewage and Plastic Free Coastlines community to work towards becoming a plastic free community. We hope to achieve this in partnership with local businesses, local schools, local councils and local community groups.

1.2 Primary schools, catalyst for change

There is a campaign under way in Scotland for bars, restaurants and cafés to stop providing plastic straws to customers, in an attempt to cut down on marine pollution. It is being led by primary school pupils and SNP MSP Kate Forbes, with the ultimate aim of persuading businesses across the UK to replace all plastic straws with biodegradable paper ones. With awareness around marine pollution rising since the BBC wildlife programme Blue Planet II, the campaign appears to be catching on. This is just one of many just campaigns in place around the UK.

Read more at <https://inews.co.uk/news/environment/places-scotland-banning-plastic-straws/>

1.3 Reducing Waste

1.3.1 Reduce paper waste

- In the classroom
 - A box to store paper only used on a single side. This can then be re-used and thereafter recycled
 - Move online. Home learning and classroom material could be done online using various media like email, computer network.
 - Use of projector or whiteboard as much as possible. PTA could raise funds for this
- In the school
 - Send newsletters, school publications and communication via email. Post notices on the school website
 - Set doubled sided printing to be the default on all school printers
 - Recycle used paper and paper products like cardboard packaging and boxes

1.3.2 Conduct a waste audit

- A waste audit is a way to see what the school's waste is made up of. This is to aid in getting better at reducing waste, reusing and recycling.
 - Recycle used paper and paper products like cardboard packaging and boxes

1.3.3 Wise with water

Children encouraged to conserve water and not leave taps running. When they see a running tap, to turn it off.

1.3.4 Re-fill plastic bottles

Instead of throwing away plastic cups, encourage students to bring reusable bottles and install water fountains. PTA could raise funds for this.

1.3.5 Compost food waste

Waste from gardening, tea bags, food waste from canteen and staff room could be composted. C.R.O.W. could help with this.

1.3.6 Recycling used pens, batteries, milk bottle tops

Get children to make collection boxes for each item of waste. This could go in classrooms, staff room, kitchen or where ever appropriate. There are charities which collect these and these are recycled. C.R.O.W. can help the school with this.

1.3.7 Switch to rechargeable batteries

For every 10 charges, you have saved buying and throwing away 9. Replace batteries in remote controls etc with rechargeable. If these are expensive or not part of the school budget PTA could help raised funds for this.

1.3.8 Set up a ECO team

Children can help raise awareness and monitor waste and recycling throughout the school. Ecos can also help monitor litter and waste free lunch activities.

1.4 Getting creative and making recycling, reducing waste and looking after the environment fun and educational.

1.4.1 Plastic bottle greenhouse

This is a challenging project but highly creative and educational.

1.4.2 Wildlife in school grounds

School grounds are great homes for wildlife from mini-beasts to reptiles. The number and diversity of these can be increased by creating the appropriate habitat. This could become part of an ECO schools project. The project could look at ways to attract wildlife into the school ground and also monitor and record wildlife.

1.4.3 Home learning projects

Create arts and crafts from your recycling. Create a sculpture made of rubbish. Upcycle plastic containers into useful items.

1.4.4 Recycling contest

Which school year can recycle the most in a day, week or month. The winning year would get a reward. Student council could be involved in this.

1.4.5 Raising awareness

Both students and teachers could be part of a program to raise awareness about the need to conserve, reduce, re-use and re-cycle. Students could do presentations in assembly and/or to their peers in classroom. A C.R.O.W member who is also a teacher and passionate about our cause could come into school to do presentation in assembly.

1.4.6 Make and decorate your recycling bins

Children could use cardboard boxes to make recycling bins which will help in sorting the recycling that needs to be collected and delivered. These could be fun bins. Children could get really creative with decorating these. As much colour and glitter as they want !.

1.4.7 Create signs to hang around the school

As part of home learning and/or Eco project children could make signs for conservation, waste reduction, re-use and recycle.

1.4.8 Make your school and neighbourhood beautiful

Children could get involved in litter monitoring and picking in the school grounds and also the wider community. C.R.O.W is looking to involve wider community including schools in this. We can look at ways in which we can work together.

1.5 Eco schools

The Eco schools program is pupil led, involves hands-on, real-world learning and gets the whole school and the wider community involved in exciting environmental projects. The program provides free resources to help schools progress to the internationally recognised Eco-Schools green flag award within 12 to 18 months of registration.

<https://eco-schools.org.uk/howitworks/>