

## You Can... **Recycle paper**

*Paper recycling is well-established and it is likely that your school is already involved in this type of project. However, if this is not the case then recycling paper is a quick and high-profile project with which to involve your school (nobody can miss a huge paper recycling bin!)*

### **Thinking points**

- On average, for every one-metre square of recycled paper you can account for saving one tree. It is highly likely that a class will produce this amount of recycling each week, every week of the year.
- Over a third of all waste is paper. In schools and office environments that fraction is much greater. In most cases all of this paper can be recycled and yet over a third is still appearing on landfill sites.

### **Tips, ideas and activities**

- Consider where you are going to place class collection bins. Put them somewhere that is nearer than the ordinary waste bin so that recycling paper is the easier option.
- Consider where you are going to place your main recycling bin. They are generally as large as a standard school refuse bin. As a rule of thumb you will need one bin per form so if you are a two-form primary you will most likely need two bins (though you could dedicate one for card boxes).
- Again, in the office or wherever your photocopiers are placed, make the recycling bin the nearest and therefore easiest option. Office bins may need emptying on a daily basis.
- Involve all office environments – the headteacher will need a recycling bin as much as any class. Again, encourage colleagues to place them as near to their desks as possible so that they are the easiest option.
- Avoid waste photocopying or printing. Always ask yourself the question do I need to photocopy this or can it be shown on the interactive whiteboard? Do I need to print this e-mail or can I just forward it?
- If your school has a litter team (see page 28) one of their weekly tasks could be to empty the paper bins into the main recycling bin (you may need to use Key Stage 2 buddies with the younger classes as the bins can be relatively heavy).
- Contact your local environment officer. They may be able to support or source your paper recycling project by providing bins.
- Below are a number of useful websites that could help your school to recycle more:  
[www.yellow-woods.co.uk](http://www.yellow-woods.co.uk) (see page 32)  
[www.bioregional.com](http://www.bioregional.com)  
[www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)  
[www.recycledproducts.org.uk](http://www.recycledproducts.org.uk)

