



What does **recycling** mean,  
why should we recycle, and how  
can your actions make a **difference**?

**Curriculum links:** PSHE, Science

**Time required:** 30 minutes for core content, plus optional extension activities

Share your work online for the  
chance to win a prize!

[www.theactionpack.co.uk](http://www.theactionpack.co.uk)





What harms our world?  
What makes our world better?  
What does it mean to be an active citizen?





How can **children** make the world a better place?



# LEARNING AIMS

- To understand why recycling is important
- To understand what can be recycled in your school, home and local area, and which bins to use
  - To understand why it's important to take action and spread the word about recycling

## Success criteria

I can...

- ...explain what recycling is, and why it is important
- ...use the recycling locator to check what can be recycled in your area
- ...help others to recycle by explaining what you have learnt



JOIN THE  
**ACTION PACK!**



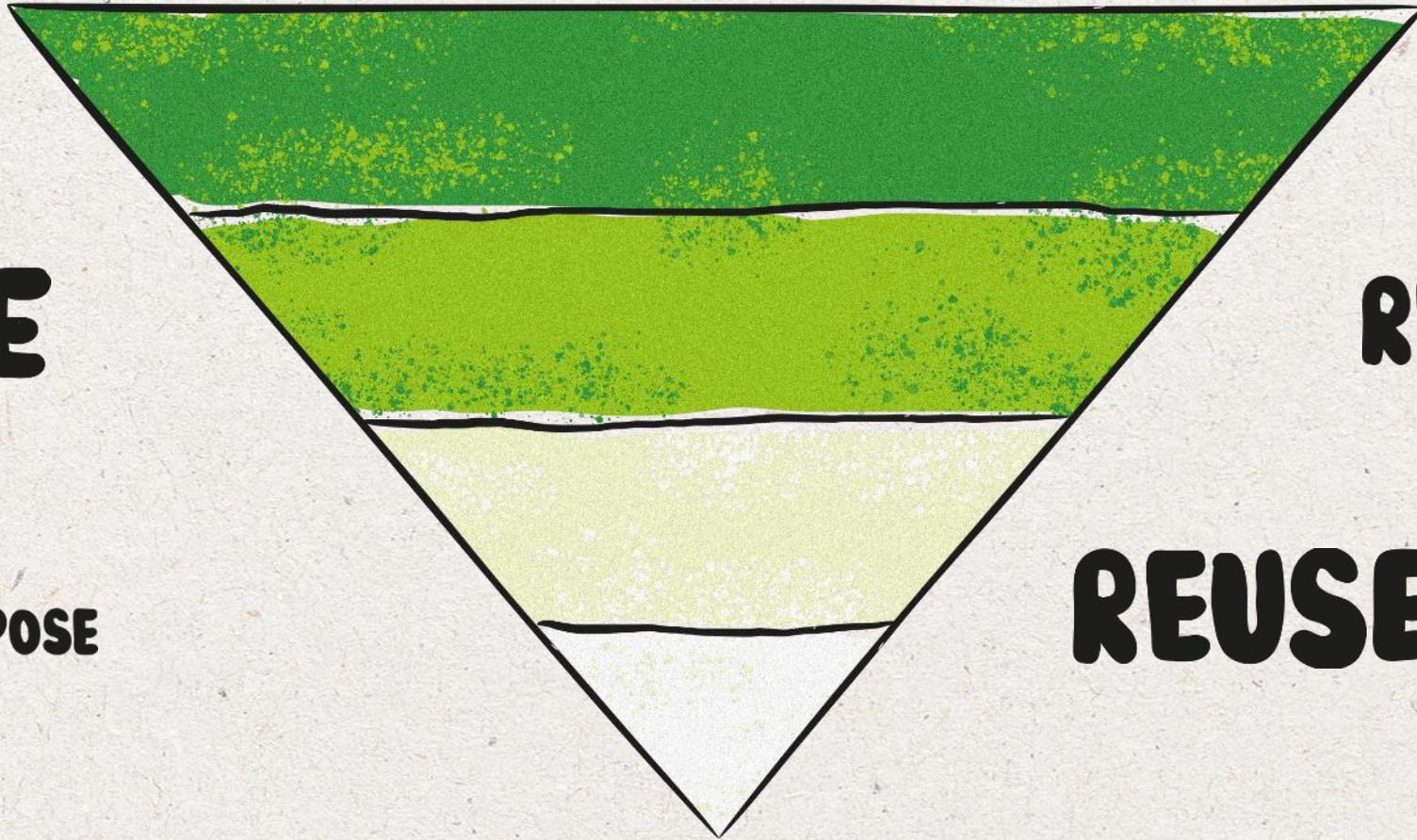
# What is recycling?

**REDUCE**

**RECYCLE**

**DISPOSE**

**REUSE**



True

# Why do we recycle?

False

It takes less energy to make things with recycled materials

It saves energy and natural resources

It uses up natural resources that we don't need

It means more rubbish is put into landfills

It protects natural environments and wildlife

It reduces carbon emissions, helping to stop climate change



# What can we recycle?



# What can we recycle in our area?



Find out using the **Recycling Locator**



# What can't be recycled?

## Not recyclable

- Bubble wrap
- Ceramics
- Laminated paper
- Wood
- Mirrors
- Paper with metallic, glitter or velvet on it
- Toxic containers (items that could usually be recycled, like metal cans, can't be recycled if they were used to hold toxic materials, such as paint)
- Greasy containers (like toxic containers, recyclable items that have grease on them usually aren't recyclable)
- Stickers
- Sellotape
- Plastic toys
- Nappies
- Pet food pouches
- Cat litter
- Toothpaste tubes
- Cotton wool
- Tissues
- Bricks

## Sometimes not recyclable

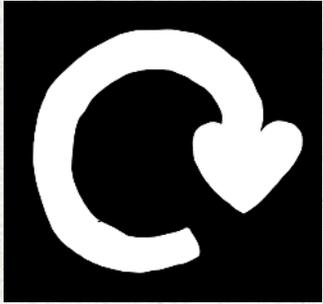
- Pots, tubs and trays— so make sure to check if they can be recycled in your area using the Recycling Locator
- Some wrapping materials aren't recyclable – use the [scrunch test](#) to check

## Check the recycling locator

- Plastic wrapping and bags (sometimes called soft plastic) can often only be recycled at supermarkets. Check the recycling locator to see if this can be recycled in your local area.
- Electronic items - these can be recycled, but they usually need to be recycled separately at a recycling centre. Some local authorities do collect them from your kerbside collection so check the recycling locator to see if they can be recycled in your local area.

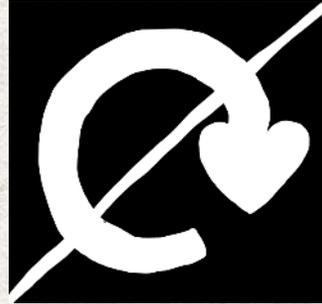


# How do you know if something can be recycled?



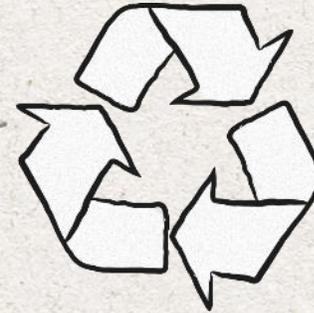
## Check locally

This symbol is put on items that can only be recycled in some parts of the UK. It is up to you to check whether it can be recycled in your area.



## Not yet recycled

This symbol is put on items that aren't recycled in most parts of the UK yet.



## The Mobius Symbol

This symbol is used on items that are made of a recyclable material. However, it doesn't say anything about whether the material is recyclable in your area.



## Widely recycled

This symbol is put on items that are recycled in most parts of the UK. However, it's still a good idea to check whether the items are recyclable in your area.



## The Green Dot

This symbol is used by companies who have paid money to help with recycling efforts in Europe, but it doesn't mean the item is recyclable.

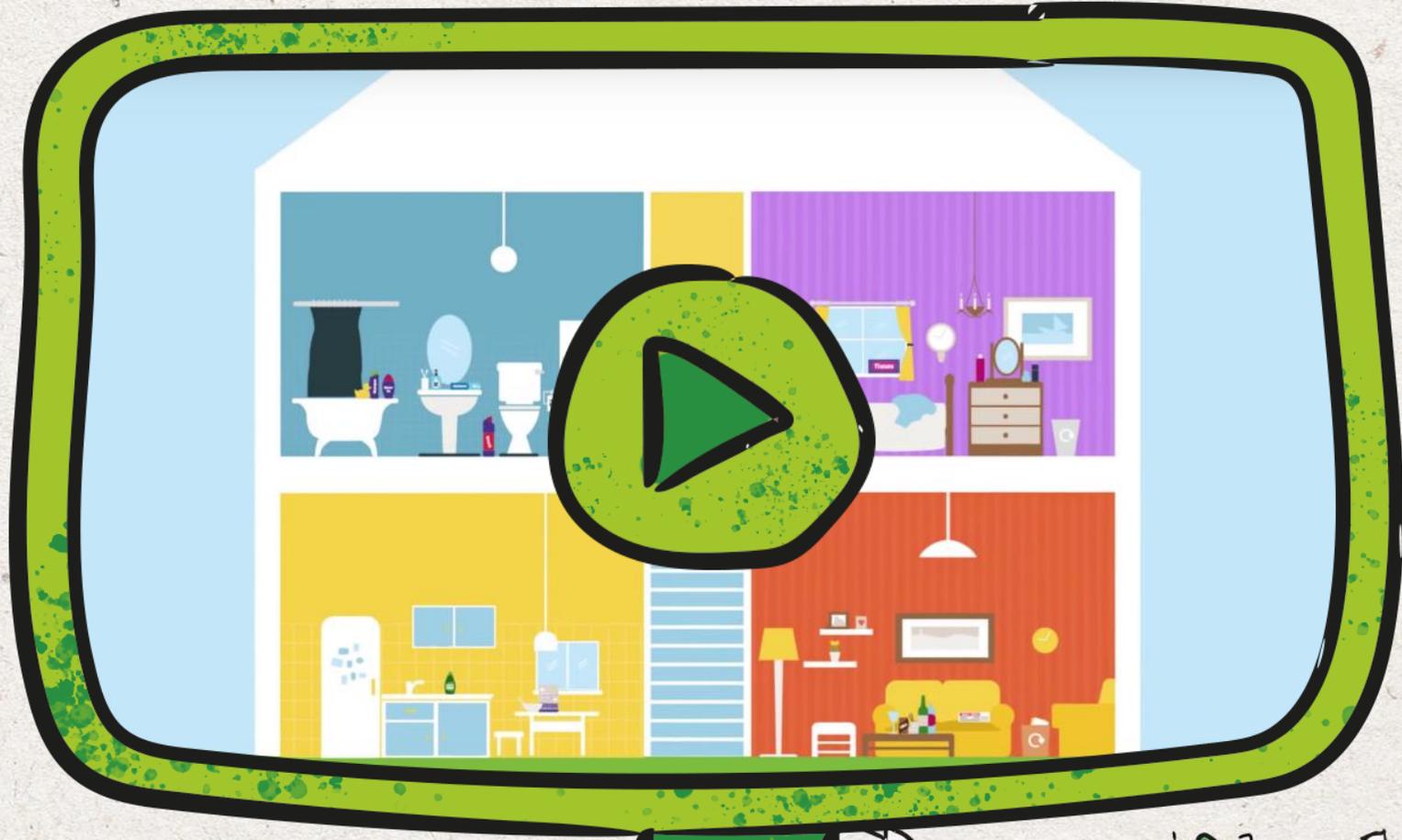


## Tidyman

This symbol is part of a campaign called *Keep Britain Tidy*. It is used to encourage people to throw rubbish away instead of littering, but doesn't relate to recycling.



Create **recycling** reminder signs for your home!



How do you **recycle...**



**GLASS**



**FOOD**



**PAPER**

**PLASTIC**



**METAL**



# Recycling glass



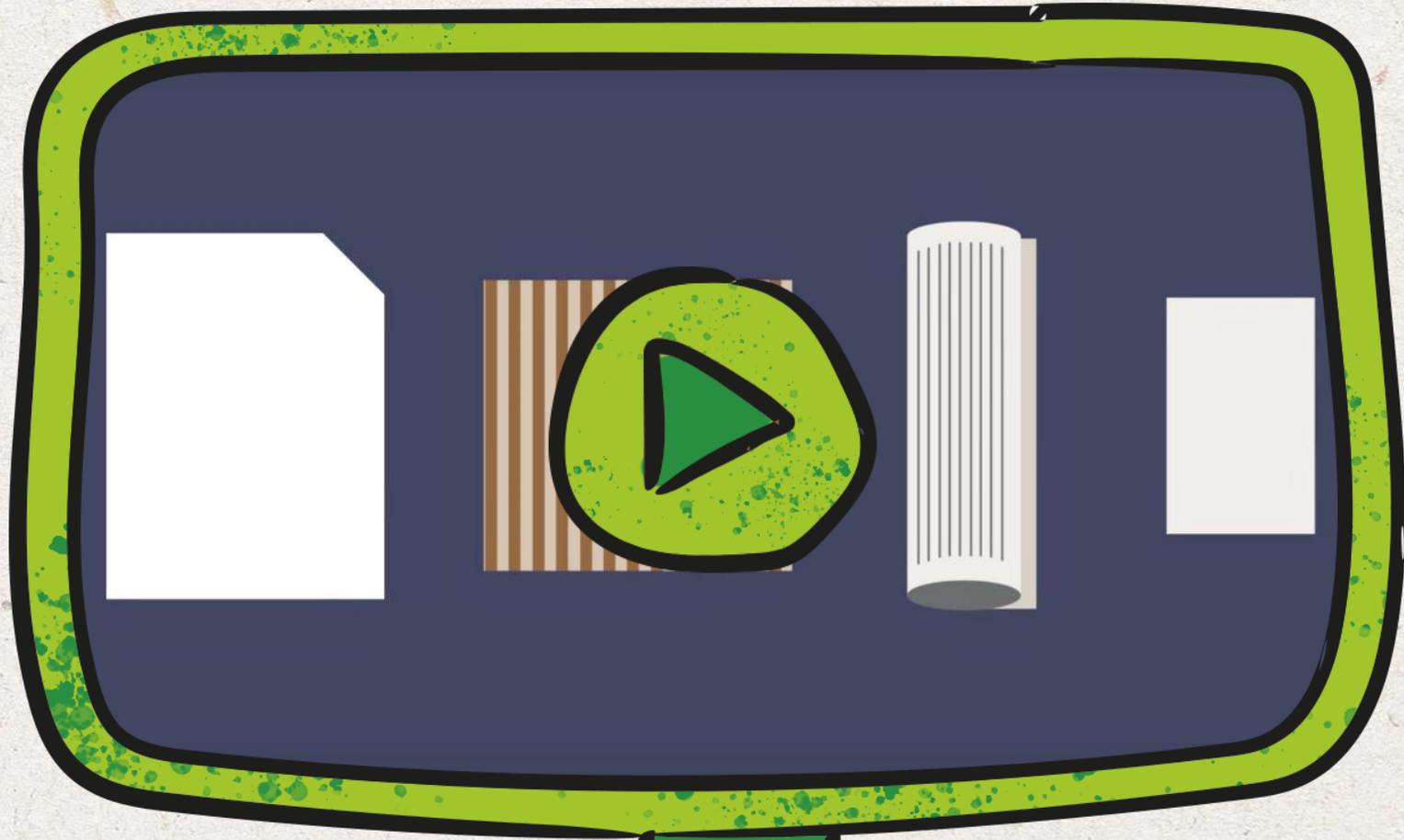
# Recycling glass

Once glass is collected and taken to be reprocessed, it is:

- crushed and has any contaminants removed (such as labels or bits of food)
- sorted by colour
- mixed with other materials, depending on how the new glass will be used
- melted in a furnace
- moulded or blown into new bottles or jars



# Recycling paper



# Recycling paper

Once paper is collected and taken to be reprocessed, it is:

- sorted by colour and quality
- pulped in a tank containing water and chemicals
- screened to filter out debris and other objects, like paper clips
- cleaned and coloured, if required
- sprayed onto a mesh to form a sheet
- pressed, heated and dried using rollers
- stored in rolls until they are ready to be used



# Recycling plastic



# Recycling plastic

Once plastic items are collected and taken to be reprocessed, they are:

- sorted from other recyclable materials
- cleaned and sorted by plastic type using advanced technology
- then sorted by colour: blue, natural, green and mixed
- shredded, washed, melted and reformed into pellets; these pellets can then be used to make new plastic items, from clothes and furniture to more bottles and containers



# Recycling food



# Recycling food

Once food is collected, it is recycled in one of two ways:

## 1. In-vessel composting

- involves mixing food waste with garden waste
- it is then shredded and composted in an enclosed system for around 2-4 weeks
- temperatures of up to 70°C speed up the process and ensure any harmful microbes are killed off
- it is then left outside to mature for a further 1-3 months before going on to be used as soil conditioner

## 2. Anaerobic Digestion

- uses microorganisms to break down food waste inside an enclosed system
- as the food breaks down it gives off methane, which is collected and converted into biogas
- the biogas is used to generate electricity, heat and fuel
- it also creates a nutrient-rich fertiliser for agriculture and in land regeneration



# Recycling metal



# Recycling metal

Once metal is collected and taken to be reprocessed, it is:

- sorted from other recyclable materials
- sorted by metal type using magnets
- formed into blocks and shredded into small pieces
- heated to remove decoration
- melted in a furnace, poured into moulds and cooled
- rolled into thin sheets, ready to be used again



# How do local councils help people to recycle **more**, and **better**?



## **Just a nudge!**

Some councils encourage recycling by giving households a big recycling bin and smaller rubbish bin. A simple nudge to recycle more!



## **Spark a change!**

To recycle more and better people need to know how to recycle well, have the time and chance to change and a spark to inspire them to get started. What will your script provide?



## **Follow the crowd!**

Some people are more likely to recycle when they know that others are really passionate about recycling and are recycling on a regular basis!



# How can **you** get involved and...

...help your community to recycle more, and **recycle better?**

...be an active citizen, and help make our **world better** now and in the future?

...get your voice heard?

Take the Action Pack Challenge and create materials that encourage others to recycle more and better. Upload your work for a chance to win a prize!

Choose from two exciting missions

