



LOVE Northumberland Awards 2016- School waste category supported by Marmax Products

Rewarding achievements in school recycling and waste minimisation

Award nomination form

Please note that the closing date for submission for the *school waste category* is Friday 27 May 2016

Nominations are invited from Northumberland schools for projects that reinforce the Northumberland County Council (NCC) recycling and/or waste reduction messages and that benefit the wider environment and local community.

Has your school set up or improved an existing recycling or composting scheme, reduced food waste from school lunches, or perhaps reduced waste in another way, or solved another waste problem in school? Does your project reinforce the recycling and waste reduction messages that NCC promote? Does your project benefit your local environment and community?

If you are involved in a project that you think is worthy of an award and that has taken place sometime between September 2015 and Friday 27 May 2016, please complete the form below and return it with supporting evidence.

Name of project:	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle / Love Northumberland, Hate Litter
Name of school	Newsham Primary School
Contact name:	David Gregory
Contact address:	Warwick Street, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 4NX
Contact phone number:	01670 353124
Contact email address:	dgregory@newshamprimary.co.uk
Have you applied to the LOVE Northumberland Awards before? No If yes please give your project name and year of application For previous prize winners (winners or runners up) you may only apply for an award if you have a new project - you must not submit applications for the work you were previously judged on.	

Award prizes:

Many thanks to our sponsor, Marmax Products (MP) for providing the lovely friendship bench (Picture 1) and sturdy bench (Picture 2) made from recycled plastic milk bottles as prizes for the 2016 school waste challenge. Find out more about MP at www.marmaxproducts.co.uk

The winning school and runner up from the challenge will also be invited to the 2016 Love Northumberland Awards Ceremony and will receive a trophy at The Alwick Garden on Monday 20 June 2016.



Length of time project has been running:	October 2015
Who has been/is involved in your project?	The School Council (Junior Leadership Team) David Gregory All children and members of staff Members of the local Co-Operative Northumberland County Council Newsham Residency Association
How often does your group meet (if applicable)?	Once every 2 weeks (JLT meetings)

Details of project:

The main purpose of our school’s Junior Leadership Team (JLT) is to provide a voice for the children in each member’s class. At the start of the year, we asked the JLT members to speak to their classmates about areas for improvement throughout the school. In one of our first meetings of the year, we looked at what the children had come up with and made a decision on our focus areas for the year based on effectiveness, impact, cost and positive outcome. Recycling in school was an incredibly popular suggestion and something that the JLT were very passionate about. The JLT were tasked with coming up with a project to improve recycling in school that would be simple, that they could lead, that wouldn’t give cleaning staff an additional job to do and would actively engage every member of the school community. Following an ongoing process of trial and error, the children have now created an efficient system whereby recycling is collected from every class twice a week (to ensure that clear plastic bags are not regularly being half filled) by JLT members. The recycling is then taken to communal recycling bins on each floor of the school where it is placed in a clear plastic bag and taken to the office to then be placed in the larger school recycling bin. As part of the education aspect of their scheme, the JLT came up with posters and leaflets to give out to each class so it was clear what could and couldn’t be recycled but also explained the importance of recycling. They are currently creating some Early Years materials so that they can reinforce this message with our youngest children.

After a hugely successful visit from Northumberland County Council member Lorna Tingey, their messages were

strengthened, reinforced and developed even further. The Reduce, Reuse and Recycle motto has helped the JLT to inform their next steps. Staff and children have been encouraged to reduce the amount of daily waste they produce by only using what is needed, reusing paper and card through 'scrap paper drawers' before it is eventually placed in the recycling bin. Following Mrs Tingey's visit, many of the children in school were inspired to find creative ways to get the message of the importance of recycling across. In school, we have had examples of posters, leaflets, fact sheets, plays and even songs created all designed to get this vital message across. Many of these messages have been shared in assemblies with parents and members of the community.

The success of the 'dry-mixed' recycling items in school, has led to other initiatives being formed to tackle other areas of waste. With the help of Northumberland County Council, we now have compost bins. Fruit and vegetable waste is now being recycled to help us to grow our own fruit and vegetables to be used in school. As well as this, we have held several clothing drives in an effort to get the school community to recycle unwanted clothing items. So far, we have had a fantastic response in broadening the reach of our recycling scheme.

The JLT's recycling system has been so simple and effective that they have plans to implement it in other schools in Blyth in the future.

Recently, our school was fortunate enough to be asked to take part in the launch of the Love Northumberland, Hate Litter campaign. With members of the local Co-Operative, councillors and members of the press, the JLT went out into Newsham and tidied up a messy area of our community – an area which members of the Residency Association had previously complained about. Members of the local community were quick to praise us on the day and we have also subsequently had a lot of positive feedback after the event. As a part of our on-going project, we intend to make litter reduction a huge part of our scheme going forward. After half-term, we are going to have a big launch in school and we are going to set up a mentoring scheme to engage and educate as many people in the local community as we can.

What has the impact of your project been / what do you hope to achieve?

Since September, we have gone from a school who did no recycling at all, to one who now regularly fills an entire whole school recycling bin every two weeks. Every member of the school has embraced our recycling scheme because it has been designed to be as easy for them as possible to recycle. With the help of Northumberland County Council, we have been able to send a variety of information home to parents and members of our community about the importance of recycling and although we cannot monitor the impact of this; speaking with children in school, it is clear they are trying to reinforce our messages at home. While we still have two large general waste bins in school, the amount of waste being entered into them is reducing. With a school our size, it will be challenging to reduce our general waste down to one large bin collection but it is an aim that we are passionate about achieving. Following on from the Love Northumberland, Hate Litter campaign launch, one of our new targets is to educate the people in our town about the importance of not throwing litter on the ground. We intend to carry out more litter picks in some of the busiest parts of Blyth to show the members of our community that we are willing to do something to help. It is our goal to educate and inspire others about the need to take pride in where we live and keep our town, and county, tidy.

Environmental benefits:

As a part of the JLT's research into recycling, they found that Northumberland County Council reuses their general waste to create energy; something they were very happy to hear. Even though all of our waste will be reused, a lot more of it is now going to be recycled and made into new products. Essentially, less of the waste from our school will now need to be burned. Through the engagement and education part of our scheme, we hope that this will also be the case in our homes around Newsham. We firmly believe that if the children get on board with this from an early age, they are more likely to carry it on into their later lives and hopefully this potential impact will be a significant one.

In terms of the Love Northumberland, Hate Litter campaign and our future planned litter pick events, the

environmental benefits are immediate. The children are able to see from the beginning of a litter pick to when they have finished just how much of a positive impact they have had. We feel that it is vital to give this sense of achievement in what they have done to as many children as possible in order to foster a sense of pride in their community.

Community benefits:

There have been several stages of this process where we have engaged with the community. In terms of the recycling, we have handed out lots of information at different times of our project. They have been informed on what can and can't be recycled, why recycling is important and the benefits that small changes can make. Northumberland County Council gave us some interactive magnetic charts so the children could monitor the recycling at home and we received positive comments from parents about the success of their use. Our various clothes drives have also been open to any member of the community who is willing to donate and, as mentioned previously, they have been very successful. During the Love Northumberland, Hate Litter campaign, we were keen to establish community links. We were joined by members of the local Co-Operative, the residency association and parents. Members of the community were quick to thank us as we helped and we are hoping to reinforce these initial community links when moving forward. After our big Litter Launch next half term, we are going to send out a message to our community to help with our litter pick. We intend to create posters to encourage our community members to help keep Newsham, Blyth and the county tidy. We hope that if our community can see how much we care about our environment that they will be inspired to help.

Innovation:

Although the scheme we created for recycling, and our intended litter pick campaign, appear to be simple in their design; the innovation of our project comes from the fact that the children themselves have been involved in creating every aspect of it. Following the initial idea that we needed to start recycling as a school, the children have created a system that is so clear in its outcomes that everyone has got behind it and so clear in its implementation that everyone can get involved. Innovation can sometimes be taking a simple idea and refining so that it works more efficiently and I feel the children at our school have done a fantastic job of achieving that.

Ambition and future plans:

- To increase our main school recycling bin collection from one large bin to two by next year.
- To continue to reduce our general waste as a school and reduce our bin collection from two bins to one.
- To use our composting bins as an educational tool with the children and members of the community about what can be saved from our food waste and used to create new foods.
- To launch a litter campaign to keep Newsham tidy. If this works, we would like to extend this campaign into our town centre.

Award event

The awards evening will be at The Alnwick Garden on Monday 20th June 2016.

All entries will be considered and the winner and runner up in the school waste category will be contacted when schools return after the summer mid-term holiday.

The judges' decision is final.

Please return this form and supporting evidence to: Lorna Tingey, LOVE Northumberland Awards 2016, School Waste Category, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, MORPETH, Northumberland, NE61 2EF or e-mail a copy of your completed form and evidence to Lorna.Tingey@northumberland.gov.uk

For supporting information: please visit www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste and see the school recycling webpage or phone 01670 624425 with any queries.

For all other Love Northumberland categories:

To find out about other Love Northumberland categories that you may like to enter, please see the website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/love