APPENDIX 1

Waste Education and Awareness Plan for Uttlesford District 2018-2024

Uttlesford District Council is keen to educate the next generation about waste and the associated environmental issues. The Waste Education and Awareness Plan (WEAP) aims to promote and encourage the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and the wider sustainability agenda in Uttlesfords schools and their local communities. Educating children about environmental issues is an essential component to achieving a more sustainable future.

Alongside targeted efforts to reach school age children the action plan aims also to reach out to local communities.

The aim of the Waste Education & Awareness Plan is to : -

- Reduce the level of contamination in the recycling collection services
- Increase participation in the food waste collection service
- Promote and encourage waste minimisation
- Empower schools and the wider community with increased knowledge regarding recycling and waste minimisation.
- To help schools to reduce the amount of residual waste they produce
- Improve capture rates of higher value materials

Objectives

- To enable 100% of schools to recycle by 2024
- To support and assist schools to compost on site by 2024
- To help schools who are engaged with the WEP to reduce contamination levels in their recycling bins
- Through the sharing of knowledge with parents/guardians a reduction in contamination in the recycling collection service
- A higher participation rate of the food waste collection service
- To assist schools with carrying out waste audits and developing waste minimisation plans
- To see a rise in the amount of higher value materials in the recycling collection
- To monitor the effectiveness of the plan and to keep accurate data

Primary School Programme

Primary schools have been identified as an opportunity to develop and increase pupils and staffs knowledge of the importance of recycling and waste minimisation. Primary schools have also been know as a channel to educating the wider community , as pupils will often share the information and knowledge gained with their families/caregivers and the wider community around them.

Therefore the target audience of the WEAP will be Primary School Pupils, Primary School Staff and Parents/caregivers and then the wider family and community.

The WEP will introduce and build on the pupils understanding and knowledge of waste minimisation and recycling (focussing on Uttlesfords recycling collection system) an emphasis will be placed on reducing contamination and promoting recycling at home.

A range of activities will be made available to the School and will utilise a range of resources such as class worksheets, paper making kits, a wormery, waste audit kits and recycling props.

These will be used to deliver a wide range of education activities which will include and not be limited to;

Reduce, Reuse and recycle

introduction to the world of waste, the waste hierarchy and learn about the environmental impacts of landfill. Pupils will learn about what can be recycled in the Uttlesford District and how non-recyclable items should be disposed off. We will finish the session with a game of recycling bingo and a 'rubbish relay' to check the pupils understanding and knowledge.

Paper Making

The paper making activity teaches pupils about the natural resources required to make paper and why these need to be preserved. We will then look at how paper is recycled and then they can have a go at making their own paper

Wonderful world of worms

This session allows pupils to investigate the world of vermicomposting (wormeries) a real life working wormery will be brought into school and the pupils can learn all about nature's top recyclers. They can gently handle the worms, identify the main parts, and learn about their diets and what products the worms produce. Children can even make their own composting or wormery bottles to see the waste decompose into compost before their very eyes.

Waste Audit

This is a practical hands on activity that pupils can carry out in school to identify the main waste materials and waste hotspots at school. Pupils will collect samples of waste which will then be sorted by material type and then weighed. This information can then be used to pinpoint what your school can do to reduce the amount of waste you produce and this in turn can help to develop a waste minimisation plan specific to your school. The waste audit will be carried out over 3 sessions

- Planning the waste audit
- Carrying out the waste audit
- Results and producing a waste minimisation plan

Waste free lunch

A large percentage of the waste that a school produces comes from lunchtime. A waste free lunch is a challenge to everyone to make as little rubbish as they can from their lunch (including the Teachers). It can start off as a one off event but it could become a regular

activity. We will start off by first carrying out a mini waste audit on a typical lunchtime; we will then introduce the concept of the 'waste free lunch' and plan the event. A week later we will hold the waste free lunch challenge and carry out a repeat waste audit to see if the waste free lunch challenge has made a difference to the amount of waste produced.

The WEAP will be evaluated through the use of session feedback forms completed by the teachers, presenter self-evaluation and anecdotal feedback from both teachers and pupils.

The WEAP will at first be focussing on schools which have been identified as being in areas where participation in the recycling scheme or the food waste scheme is lower, contamination rates are high or newer communities.

Target areas

Firstly schools which are deemed to be in areas where participation in the recycling /food waste scheme is low or contamination is high will be targeted first. This information will be gained by getting feedback from our collection crews.

Once Schools in the target area have been visited the WEAP will be rolled out across the whole of the district. It is hoped that a long term relationship will be built up with the schools engaged in the WEAP. This in turn will hopefully lead to a decrease in the amount of residual waste a school produces, a higher (and contamination free) recycling rate and a mini informed, engaged and knowledgeable recycling officer sent home to every household to help their family to recycle more and to recycle right.

Participation and engagement

Schools will initially be contacted by email. The email will introduce the waste education programme and will detail the activities which the school can avail. The school will directly contact the waste and recycling officer to arrange any activities and to book these into the calendar. If no response is received from a School in a target area the recycling officer will follow up with a phone call to explain and encourage participation in the WEAP.

The information will also be made available on the Uttlesford District Council website under recycling in schools (currently being rewritten).

Education in the wider Community

Even though educating children about waste and recycling will be a priority for Uttlesford District Council, it is just as important that every resident has access to the correct information and feels empowered to make the correct choices when dealing with their waste.

During the year UDC will be running recycling events including roadshows during Recycle Week. We will be meeting with residents and giving them the opportunity to ask any questions they may have about the schemes we run. In turn we will be spreading our recycling message, and getting our key messages about contamination in the recycling bin and improve the participation rate of our food waste scheme.

Early in 2019 we are also hoping to run some composting workshops for our residents. They would be able to learn the basics of home composting and would also offer advice to any residents who have tried in the past but faced difficulties and given up. These workshops would be free of charge.

Also in 2019 we will hope to launch the recycleopedia app. Recycleopedia is the recycling search tool that makes it simple for our residents to work out what should go into each collection service. It is currently available on the UDC website but the app should be released by early next year. Since its launch in 2017 the item search numbers are continuing to climb so our residents are making good use of this tool.

We will continue to promote the use of cloth nappies and the associated benefits to our residents. There is a £30 refund offer which is provided by Essex County Council for residents who do use cloth nappies or a laundering service. Leaflets outlining the refund offer will be made available during our recycling events and we hope to promote this to local baby groups such as the NCT and the baby weigh in session which is run at the local community hospital.

If any community groups such as the Scout or Girl Guide associations, neighbourhood watch, Women's Institute or U3A groups wish to have a visit from the waste and recycling officer this service will be available to them.