**May 2022**

Dear Parent Council members,

**Recycling Bins and Materials for Schools**

From the **9 May 2022**, all schools in Edinburgh will be provided with food and dry-mixed recycling bins. This will help reduce unnecessary waste and support Edinburgh’s climate targets.

The new standard system will allow consistency in schools, using colour schemes which follow the same colour coding system as used for communal and kerbside bins throughout Edinburgh, and the same stickers, posters and bin styles across all schools.

A supportive engagement campaign is set to run alongside the roll-out of bins to schools, to help encourage school staff and pupils to reduce, re-use and recycle. It aims to:

* Provide a range of internal dry-mixed recycling and food waste bins for all schools to complement existing non-recyclable waste bins
* Provide uniform recycling information and support to all schools, including lessons, videos, posters and stickers
* Encourage school staff and pupils to recycle more by raising awareness of the new recycling facilities, and
* Raise awareness of what can and can’t be recycled in schools and how to reduce items being placed in the wrong bin.

 **How your Parent Council can support recycling in schools**

With the campaign set to start next month, this may be a good time to start thinking about what steps your group can take to support your children’s efforts and your school’s sustainability work.

For example, a waste compositional analysis on a range of schools in Edinburgh in March 2022 found that on average, three-quarters of the waste in schools non-recycling bins was made up of items which could be recycled. Of these materials – around half was made up of food waste.

Food waste recycling is underused across the city. This project is a chance for Parent Councils to help encourage children to recycle at home in the same way they do at school. All households can order a 5L Kitchen Caddy and/or a 20L food caddy for free by [visiting the Council website and requesting a new bin](https://webforms.edinburgh.gov.uk/site/portal/request/new_bin).

You could also help to lead by example in your community by thinking about the amount of waste your Parent Council generates, and the steps your group can take to reduce waste in other ways.

From implementing a Parent Council eco-code and supporting your school with its ecological aims, to running second-hand sales and reducing single-use plastic, there’s lots of ways in which you can help raise awareness about cutting waste and take action against climate change.

We have lots of information and support available on our website to help you reduce and reuse your waste. Visit [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/recycling) for more information.

With best wishes
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Karen Reeves
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