



SALVATION ARMY  
TRADING  
COMPANY



### **Additional information to aid classroom discussion**

The majority of scientists are convinced that humans are affecting the climate by the way they live. The Met Office Hadley Centre is the UK's official centre for climate change research. They recently carried out a study that found today's temperatures could only be the result of human activity.

By reducing waste, reuse and repair, recycling effectively and making greener choices we can save energy and raw materials.

#### ***Surely there's no point in me taking action?***

Every reduction in emissions makes a difference by not adding to the risk. Countries like the UK are in a position to give a positive example to the rest of the world – if the UK can rise to the challenge successfully, others will follow. Simple changes to our lifestyle can reduce our individual carbon footprint.

#### ***What can I do?***

Nearly two thirds of all household rubbish can be recycled, which saves energy and raw materials. You can also do even more by avoiding waste in the first place, or repairing and reusing items

#### ***Reduce waste***

Recycling can help save materials and energy, but cutting down on waste in the first place is even better – for example, avoid excess packaging and unnecessary carrier bags, or buy products which you can use again instead of disposable items. Choosing locally sourced, seasonal produce wherever possible will also reduce air miles notched up by transporting our food long distances.

#### ***Reuse and repair***

Repairing or reusing items means that they will last longer and won't need replacing with new items so soon. Even when you have finished with something, someone else will often be able to use it. Our numerous charity shops and clothing banks enable your unwanted items to have a new purpose.

#### ***Recycle***

Many councils now collect paper, glass and plastics in the roadside green bins, and some also collect metal and organic waste. Your local council will often be able to say what it can recycle and what it can't. Many recycling bins

and facilities show pictures of what can be dropped in them (and what shouldn't be).

Paper and card are easy to recycle. Some plastics can be recycled too, like plastic milk bottles, water bottles and bottles of household cleaning products (but not usually things like plastic food trays and wrappings). Bottle banks are not just for bottles – they're for all glass packaging, including jars.

Textiles, batteries, printer cartridges and a wide range of other things can be recycled by various councils – you can find out more from the RecycleNow campaign. Also consult the website [www.recycle-more.co.uk](http://www.recycle-more.co.uk) to find out more about what can be recycled at home, in local schools and in the workplace.

### **Interesting statistics**

1. A recent DEFRA report states that the UK buys 2,066,000 tonnes of clothes each year (approx over £34 billion) and only 24% is being collected for reuse or recycling. The same report estimates that 1,081,000 tonnes are thrown away, with 310,000 tonnes unaccounted for all of which could be reused. In short, every person in the UK buys £600 worth of clothes and throws away £400 each year.
2. Records show that of the clothing and shoes recently exported by Salvation Army Trading Company to eastern Europe 95% was reused or recycled, with up to 80% reworn. Clothes are also recycled into mattress filling and engineering wipes.
3. Schools can lead the way by helping to raise awareness of an extremely important issue which is often overlooked. So much good can be achieved by reusing unwanted clothes, from raising funds for our charitable work in the United Kingdom, to clothing people who would otherwise struggle to afford new items.
4. Salvation Army Trading Company recycles clothes, shoes and textiles; from jackets to jumpers, shoes to shirts, all items can be put to good use for clothing or recycling.
5. Making just one t-shirt uses 800 litres of water! In fact 10 times more energy is needed to make one tonne of textiles than one tonne of glass. So help make a difference and bring your unwanted clothes to your school's collection.

### ***How the clothing collection scheme works***

1. There is a superb eight minute DVD featuring Gary Lineker and Chris Tarrant, to provide educational motivation to pupils and staff, on the benefits and process of the collections. For more information, contact

cherrelle@satradingco.org.

2. Schools contact the Salvation Army Trading Company via e-mail to register for the scheme and organise collections.
3. Media and PR support can be arranged with the Salvation Army Trading Company press office.
5. Statistics of the amount collected will be made available to the school and to the relevant local authority.