



For immediate release
2014

Date: Friday 20 June

School increases recycling with help from Council collections

Burford School has become the first secondary school in West Oxfordshire to receive waste and recycling collections from West Oxfordshire District Council.

For the first time, the school has recycling boxes in every classroom and designated bins for food waste for use in the school kitchen.

The service began at the start of May and the school is now able to recycle a large proportion of its waste, with around 100 recycling boxes for use by pupils and staff. Collections are weekly and there has already been a significant drop in the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

Jim Meridew, Business Manager of Burford School, said: "We had wanted to take this step for some time as we knew there was scope to increase our recycling efforts. We are very pleased that we are now in a position to do this by working with West Oxfordshire District Council.



"The recycling boxes in classrooms are making a huge difference and we are sure that recycling will go from strength-to-strength as the service embeds. It is of course also re-affirming a positive message to our students and visitors about the importance of recycling."

The school's Catering Manager Julie Cox said: "I have waited a long time for a service like this to happen as I have been aware of the amount of plastic we use in our food preparation and the previously missed opportunity to recycle the drink containers we sell.



"The catering team are committed to embracing the recycling effort and, although we do not have a lot of food waste, it is good to know the little we

do have is now being recycled effectively.”

Food waste from the school is sent to a processing plant in Cassington, which the Council also uses for household and other commercial food waste collections. There, it is recycled into fertiliser for use on farmland and renewable electricity is generated as a by-product.

Following the successful introduction of the service, the District Council is now looking to offer waste and recycling collections to all educational establishments in West Oxfordshire.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: “It is the first time our Council has worked with a school of this scale and, although it is still early days in our partnership, the increase in recycling and reduction in waste sent to landfill has impressed us all. The school should be congratulated for its efforts.

“What is extremely pleasing is that recycling becomes part of day-to-day life for pupils and they will take that with them outside of school. With the support of the people of West Oxfordshire, we already have a high recycling rate of over 60% and we continue to work to increase this and minimise waste wherever possible.”

The Council also provides commercial waste and recycling services to some local primary schools, around 900 local businesses and food waste recycling to 35 businesses.

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Notes to editors

Further information about waste and recycling: www.westoxon.gov.uk/waste or www.westoxon.gov.uk/business

Attached photographs show:

- Burford School Year 10 pupils and the School’s Business Manager Jim Meridew with one of the classroom recycling boxes.
- Catering assistant Lois Barker

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