

## READ ALL ABOUT IT! - PAPER RECYCLING

### DID YOU KNOW...?

- Producing recycled paper uses less water and between 28 - 70% less energy than new paper. This is because most of the energy used in papermaking is the pulping needed to turn wood into paper.
- The average family uses 6 trees worth of paper each year.
- Paper is a biodegradable material. This means that when it goes to landfill, as it rots, it produces methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas (20 times more dangerous than carbon dioxide).
- Once paper is landfilled it takes over 30 years to decompose.
- A forest the size of Wales is required each year to supply the UK's paper consumption.
- One tree can produce 15,000 sheets of A4 paper.

Almost one fifth of all rubbish thrown out by UK families is paper or card, mainly magazines and newspapers! This makes approximately 4kg thrown out each week by every family in the UK.

1. CALCULATE THE WEIGHT OF PAPER AND CARD WASTE THROWN OUT BY AN AVERAGE FAMILY IN THE UK EACH YEAR.
2. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY HOUSES ARE IN YOUR STREET? USE THIS NUMBER TO WORK OUT HOW MUCH PAPER AND CARD IS THROWN OUT EACH YEAR BY THE PEOPLE LIVING IN YOUR STREET.
3. PAPER CAN BE RECYCLED SIX TIMES. HOW MANY KGS OF NEW PAPER COULD BE PRODUCED BY THE AVERAGE FAMILY IF THEY RECYCLED ALL THE WASTE PAPER AND CARD THEY THROW OUT IN A WEEK?



### MAKE YOUR OWN RECYCLED PAPER

#### What you will need

Old newspapers, a bucket, water, a wooden spoon, a tray or square pan, thin mesh or netting, a flat piece of wood or a large book.

#### What to do

1. Tear up about three sheets of the newspaper and put them into the bucket with four mugs of water. Leave overnight to soak.
2. Use either your hands or a wooden spoon to mash the paper up into a pulp. If you want to make coloured paper you can add ink at this point.
3. Pour about 2cm of water into the square pan and lay the mesh in the pan.
4. Take a cupful of mushy paper from the bucket and pour it over the mesh. Spread the pulp evenly over the mesh using your fingers.
5. Carefully lift out the mesh and place it on some spare newspaper to drain.
6. Place another section of newspaper on top of the pulp, and carefully turn the whole thing over so that the mesh is now on top of the pulp. Leave both sections of newspaper in place.
7. Place your wood or book onto the newspaper and push it down to squeeze out the water.
8. Remove the top piece of newspaper and the mesh. Then leave the pulp to dry for at least 24 hours.
9. When it is dry you will have your very own recycled paper. You can write on it, fold it or cut it up – just remember to put it in the recycling bin when you are finished!

