



# Groundwork Leeds



# ReCreate Final Report

## **Project Aims and Objectives**

The ReCreate project aimed to deliver a range of educational activities designed to engage and promote young people's role as stewards of their local and global environment. By educating local children around the topics of waste, litter, recycling and the importance of sustainable decision making whilst increasing their community pride, local children gain an awareness and responsibility for their surroundings. This in turn allows them to informally educate their parents, carers and peers.

ReCreate was delivered through primary school workshops, after school and holiday clubs and community action days. The work was primarily focused in Ardsley, Robin Hood and Rothwell areas. By working alongside primary school staff and community volunteers as well as providing training, the project will be sustainable and the message of actively looking after the environment will be spread to the wider community

The aims of the project have been achieved by involving children and young people in a participatory/active environmental education programme. Children and young people have been educated in a fun and interesting way about the positive benefits of not littering or vandalising the area. The programme has been tailored to meet the needs of each school and developed to complement and enhance the National Curriculum and Key Skills.

Funding delivery targets:

- Young people engaged in actions to reduce waste, prevent litter, promote re-use, repair and re-cycling processes. The project workers promoted values to address the root causes of waste and litter and provide information to allow pupils to make sustainable choices.
- Identified and organised Action Days working alongside local community volunteers.
- After school clubs focused upon recycling and reuse of waste materials in a creative way.
- Organised fun days/workshops/holiday clubs/events for children focused upon caring for the environment.
- Developed mini "bring" sites in schools to help children learn and promote recycling habits at an early stage. The scheme was linked to work with a charity that runs a reuse initiative.
- Fostering "organic growth niches" on school premises encouraging the composting of organic waste and its application to the growth of food and flowers.
- Delivered school grounds consultation workshops.

## **Project Funding**

The project began in Jan 2007, and has been funded by the Outer South Area Committee match funded by the Constructive Partnership project, Groundwork Leeds Project Development Fund, HBOS TREAD Lightly project and Cleaner Greener Leeds programme.

## **Schools and organisations worked with**

### **Primary Schools**

Blackgates Primary School,  
Carlton Primary School,  
East Ardsley primary School,  
Hill Top Primary School,  
Oulton Primary School,  
Robin Hood Primary School,  
Rothwell Church of England School,  
Rothwell Primary School,  
Rothwell St Mary's Catholic Primary School,  
Rothwell Victoria Junior School,  
Thorpe Primary School,  
Woodlesford Primary School.

### **Secondary schools**

Royds High School

### **Organisations**

Woodlesford in Bloom  
John O'Gaunts  
Rothwell Day Services  
Rothwell in Bloom  
Rothwell Library  
South Leeds Health for All

Groundwork Leeds has also assisted at events organised by the partnership organisations, bringing expert support to environmental activities.

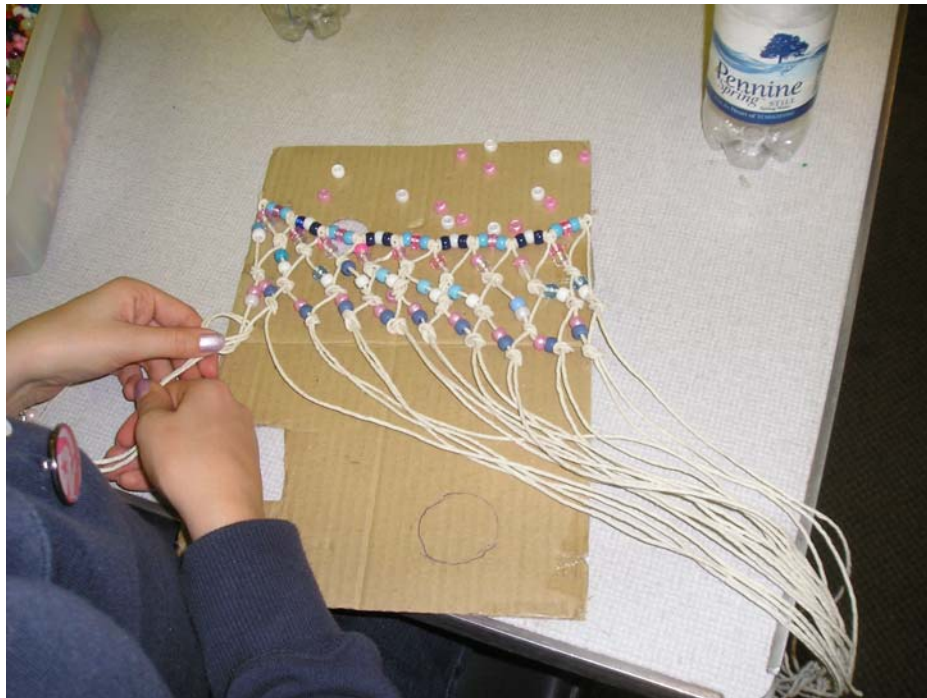
To initiate the project Groundwork Leeds undertook an analysis of the different organisations that were working and delivering projects in the area. This analysis was designed to ensure that Groundwork complemented rather than replicated any projects being delivered in the area. Organisations and schools were also contacted and offered a range of activities and sessions that best suited their current needs.

## Activities delivered during the project

### After school clubs – with an environmental focus

Groundwork Leeds has run after school clubs based in primary schools focusing on reusing waste material. Sessions were delivered as part of a five week project working with Key Stage 2 pupils. The project developed pupil's design and art skills focused upon the collection, sorting and reuse of waste materials.

Pupils have learnt about how to use waste materials for creative projects such as making jewellery, musical instruments and bird feeders. The after school clubs also encouraged the pupils to come up with other ideas for how waste can be reduced and reused both at school as well as at home, and how this directly leads to less space being used for landfill sites.



Photograph 1 Threading beads to make a shaker from a 2 litre plastic bottle.

## **School grounds workshops**

Groundwork Leeds has supported partner organisations with school grounds workshops at Rothwell Primary School, and Rothwell C of E Primary School. These encouraged the pupils to take ownership of their school grounds, and to come up with creative ideas for their improved use and design. Pupils used maps to locate features they liked and disliked within their school grounds and identified areas for change. It was important for pupils to gain an understanding to the different uses of school grounds and the importance in accounting for the whole school communities input into the consultation process.

Pupil's ideas were used to inform a school grounds development report which was presented to the headteachers. Subsequent to our work in Rothwell C of E Primary School, the school has received an RBS Supergrounds grant for the development of its school grounds. The school used the consultation work produced by pupils as part of the ReCreate project to support their application.



Photograph 2 Rothwell Primary School pupils taking pictures of their likes and dislikes in the school grounds

## **Neighbourhood consultation workshops**

Workshops were developed to undertake a consultation exercise focused upon the area adjacent to the school. Working with year 3 pupils the project conducted led walks of the local area with pupils mapping their likes and dislikes as well as photographing the area. The project worked with pupils to

develop their findings into areas for change, these ideas were displayed at a community day held at Blackgates Primary School with Groundwork staff running activities on the day. The community day was also supported by the ReCreate project working with pupils to create recycled fashion with pupils putting on a fashion show.



Photograph 3 Display of work at Blackgates Primary School community day

### **Community Action Days**

The ReCreate project supported community days working alongside local volunteers to improve the local area by various environmental initiatives.

Groundwork initially contacted Rothwell in Bloom to involve them in the ReCreate project, this initial contact led to a series of community led projects in the Rothwell area. Over time our contacts expanded to include schools, gala organisers and local community groups resulting in focused projects that had a big impact upon local communities. Over the course of the project, project partners have suggested sites or areas that are particular litter spots or need clearance and maintenance work on them. The ReCreate project has then worked with volunteers from the local community, and school pupils on a variety of Action Days. This has improved the appearance of many community areas and created a sense of ownership in local people.

Examples of Community Action Days include:

Woodsford Primary School action days working alongside pupils, staff, local community volunteers and Woodsford in Bloom to develop allotment sites and wildlife areas in their school grounds. The ReCreate project trained staff

and parent how to coppice willow and use materials to maintain their willow tunnel as well as school grounds development advice.

A spring bulb planting day at Rothwell Adult Learning Centre with pupils from Woodlesford Primary School and users from the centre. The work has continued at the centre with a Groundwork youth worker working alongside Woodlesford in Bloom staff to maintain the raised planters. This relationship has continued after the completion of the project funding period with an action day taking place 08/02/08 to continue the work in the grounds.



Photograph 4 Pupils from Woodlesford Primary School planting bulbs at Rothwell day centre

## **Community Recycling campaign in Rothwell**

Groundwork Leeds organised a campaign to get primary schools in East Ardsley, Thorpe and Rothwell Victoria Primary Schools, Rothwell library and members of the local community, to donate music cassette tapes to the Torch Trust for the Blind. These tapes will be converted into audio books for visually impaired people in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Britain.

Approximately 3900 cassette tapes were collected for the 'Torch Trust for the Blind' by the primary schools and Rothwell Library. Out of this number, 1552 tapes were collected by users of Rothwell Library, with East Ardsley Primary School collecting the most tapes out of the primary schools with a total of 850.

## **Developing composting within schools**

**The workshop were deisgned to establish composting sites in school grounds.** Groundwork Leeds has worked with five primary schools to introduce the composting of organic waste, and helped the schools start running their own composting schemes. At four of the schools, work has included running workshops with pupils to explore the reasons to compost and excite their interest in composting their school's waste. Composting bins and collecting caddies have been provided for all five schools with ongoing support provided by Groundwork staff.

## **Recycling, energy, sustainable school sites and global footprint workshops**

The ReCreate project developed and delivered energy workshops at Carlton and Rothwell St Mary's Primary schools focused upon the ways we can produce energy, use it and waste it. The sessions were designed to encourage pupils to adapt their energy uses to reduce the amount they and their families use as well as implementing changes in school. These workshops were complemented by sustainable schools sites, recycling and eco-footprints workshops delivered to all of Key stage 2 pupils at Carlton Primary school supported by an initial assembly and follow up presentation assembly, where pupils exemplified the recycled products they had designed.



## Playschemes

Playscheme sessions focused upon the use of the outdoor environment were developed, designed and run for children attending the Rose Lund Centre. Children hunted for minibeasts, engaged in arts and craft activities, played team games and even built their own boats out of reclaimed materials..



**Photograph 5 Playscheme at Rose Lund Centre recycled boat race**

## Additional Activities

Work with Royds High School resulted from a comment concerning the problem with litter around the school from a local community group. After initial meetings with the school six sessions were delivered to a year 7 class focused upon consultation workshops focused upon the local environment followed by action days with pupils participating in litter picks. The class worked on a performance based around the topic of litter and presented this alongside Stuart Beaumont (Rothwell in Bloom) to the rest of the school.

John O'Gaunts Community gala. The Recreate project set up a display evidencing the work the project had completed to date. Activities were provided focused upon reusing reclaimed materials to make newspaper bags and setting up a recycling game for participants on the day.

## Summary of activities delivered

	<b>After School Club Sessions</b>	<b>Waste and Recycling assemblies</b>	<b>Energy workshops</b>	<b>Sustainable schools workshop</b>	<b>Composting Workshops</b>
<b>Number delivered</b>	10	6	5	2	8
<b>Number of children involved</b>	34	1326	120	55	200
<b>Number of adult volunteers involved</b>	2	3	2	4	2

	<b>Eco-footprints workshop</b>	<b>Recycling workshops</b>	<b>Playscheme sessions</b>	<b>Rothwell library recycling activity sessions</b>	<b>Community Action Days</b>
<b>Number delivered</b>	1	2	5	2	6
<b>Number of children involved</b>	32	51	38	15	287
<b>Number of adult volunteers involved</b>	2	4	4	6	43

## Media coverage

The ReCreate project received good coverage in the local press, including articles in the Rothwell & District Record, About Leeds, and the Outer South newsletter of Leeds City Council.

Work was updated on the Groundwork Leeds website and included within the Groundwork Leeds quarterly newsletter.

## **Feedback from schools**

As part of Groundwork Leeds' delivery we constantly collect feedback from schools and groups we have worked with. Groundwork Leeds has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from schools involved in the project, scoring an average of 9 out of 10 on the internal feedback form.

Some comments from schools that have been involved in the project are included below.

"It has given us ideas to make the school more sustainable, and the children can now deal with issues around school with a good knowledge" – Teacher, Rothwell St Mary's Primary School (after an energy conservation workshop)

"Great practical activities that our children really respond to and learn from" - Teacher, Thorpe Primary School (composting workshop)

"Helped to make children aware of the benefits of recycling organic waste and they enjoyed the sessions!" – Teacher, Rothwell Victoria Junior School (composting workshop).

## **Project Summary**

The ReCreate project has allowed the education team to work in a new area of Leeds working with a diverse range of community groups delivering targeted projects that meet their needs. The project has allowed us to build strong links with schools and local community groups that Groundwork feels would benefit from additional work in the future.

The project has focused on working with primary school children on encouraging a greater environmental awareness in their local community, and empowering them with knowledge and enthusiasm to start making improvements straight away. The natural curiosity of young children, and their ability to influence other members in their families, made them an ideal audience for ReCreate, as they will be able to educate others with their newly learnt knowledge.

The project has made sure that children have got involved in projects which are not just school-based, but involve the wider community thus strengthening the school-community link. Additionally, with active participation of local volunteers on many activities, has made sure that the wider community was directly involved in the implementation of ReCreate.

The project has had enough flexibility to allow it to adapt to partners' and beneficiaries needs. The project has been tailored to fit with partners' plans thus resulting in the project more effectively meeting their aims. Finally, by training and working closely alongside partners, ReCreate's aims and goals will be sustainable and Groundwork staff will be able to give advice or support when needed.

For any further information on the delivery of this project please contact:

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Thank-you to all the groups, school and organisations that made this project so enjoyable to work on and so successful.