 **Questionnaires and Surveys**

Questionnaires and surveys are great ways of gathering information about people’s habits, knowledge, opinions and preferences. A questionnaire is a great tool to use as part of your Environmental Review. You can also redo the questionnaire throughout your work on the Green-Schools programme as a method of Monitoring and Evaluation (Step 4). Here are some tips to creating a great questionnaire!

1. Determine what it is you want to find out. For example, are you interested in people’s attitudes to recycling, levels of recycling in the school or at home, do pupils think the school has a litter problem, etc.
2. Decide who you are going to distribute the questionnaire to. For example, pupils and students, teachers, parents, local businesses, the local community, etc.
3. Create an introduction for your questionnaire that outlines why you are conducting the questionnaire and instructions on how to complete it.
4. Decide how you are going to distribute and collect the questionnaire, for example by post, email, sent home with students, etc.
5. Collate the results of the questionnaire and create graphs and pictures to show the results. Display the results on your notice board so the whole school body can see.

**Seven Steps Links:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Step 2: Environmental Review | Questionnaires and surveys are great ways of assessing the initial situation in the school as regards litter and waste. |
| **Step 3: Action Plan** | The results of the questionnaire will allow you to identify what kind of actions you will need to tackle litter, increase recycling, etc |
| **Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluation** | By redoing the questionnaire at a later point of your Green-Schools programme you will be able to recognise how successful the programme has been. |
| **Step 5: Curriculum Work** | Maths, Art and IT classes may be able to create graphs and diagrams that show the results of the questionnaire. |
| **Step 6: Informing and Involving** | Questionnaires are great way of informing and involving the school body and wider community and increasing awareness of Litter and Waste issues. |

**Sample Questionnaire**

We are students from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and we are conducting a questionnaire to find out about recycling in our homes as part of our work on the Green-Schools programme. If you could take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire we would be very grateful. Thank you for your time.

1. **What is recycling?**
2. **What materials do you recycle?**

Plastic

Paper

Cardboard

Cans

Bottles

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **How long have you been recycling?**

Days

Weeks

Months

Years

1. **Why do you recycle?**

To help the environment

For fun

To save money

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **If you don’t recycle, why not?**
2. **If you don’t recycle, will you start?**
3. **Do you know where your local recycling centre is?**

Yes

No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **When you grow out of clothes do you:**

Throw them out and buy something new

Pass them on to a sibling of friend

Donate them to a charity

1. **What do you do with paper that is printed on one side?**

Use the other side

Throw it in the rubbish bin

Recycle it

1. **Do you compost at home?**

Yes

No

1. **If not, why not?**

**Recycling Facts**

**Why should we recycle?**

Recycling conserves our valuable natural resources! Recycling helps to conserve our natural resources such as oil, metal and water. For example plastic bottles can be recycled into new plastic bottles and polyester fibres for use in fleece jumpers and car mats. By recycling we reduce the amount of natural resources needed to make products and packaging. Also less mining and extraction occurs, which is beneficial to the natural habitats of wild animals.

**Recycling saves energy!**

Recycling aluminium saves 95% of the energy required to produce aluminium from raw materials. Recycling just one plastic bottle will save enough energy to power a 60 watt light bulb for 3 hours!

**Recycling protects the environment!**

Recycling helps to conserve energy, so less greenhouse gases are emitted. Recycling reduces our dependence on landfill. With less materials going to landfill, less harmful emissions like methane gas are released into the earth's atmosphere.

**Recycling can save you money!**

By putting more recyclable materials into your recycling bin you reduce the amount of times you have to put your general refuse or black bin out for collection. It is usually more expensive to collect the black bin than the recycling bin, so recycling can save you money!

(Recycle facts adapted from [www.recyclemore.ie](http://www.recyclemore.ie) )

**Top Tip! If you have any blank space left on your questionnaire why not include some tips on recycling as a way of Informing and Involving!**