



Erasmus+

Waste Management Programme



Waste Management Programme for Schools

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As part of Erasmus+ project „Think again! It’s not a
garbage!”

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INTRODUCTION

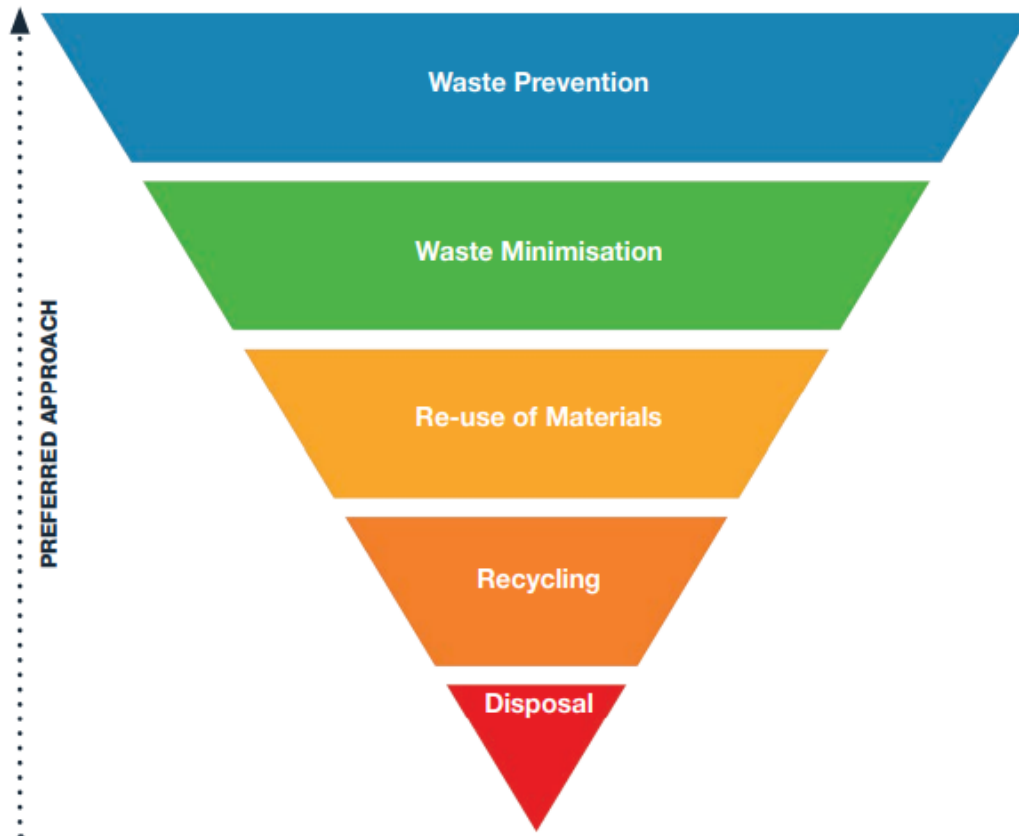
The Waste Management Programme (WMP) addresses management of all waste, produced as a result of normal activities and lessons conducted at schools. Waste Management Programme describes the principles, procedures and management of the waste generated by schools. This programme has been developed to ensure that the waste is reduced, reused and recycled wherever possible. The Waste Management Programme is designed to support an ecological based management approach.

PURPOSE

The WMP aims to provide guidelines on waste reduction, segregation, collection and disposal practices to avoid damaging natural environment and negative impacts on the health and safety of school communities. The schools are committed to apply the waste hierarchy and will seek to be a zero waste facilities. This programme is the primary tool to guide students and teachers towards waste management.

WASTE HIERARCHY

The waste hierarchy presents waste management stages starting with the most preferable option. Waste prevention is the most preferred option, followed by reuse, recycling, recovery and the last option is the disposal of waste.



Schools produce a range of wastes, including bio waste (e. g. food and kitchen waste), general waste (e.g. plastic, containers, bags) and contaminated/hazardous wastes (e.g. human wastes). The most common type of waste produced at schools is general waste. According to the survey “What do you throw away? Think again!” conducted at schools the most recurrent type of waste is plastic and paper. See Chart 1 and Chart 2 below:

The rubbish I throw away is mostly made of:

50 responses

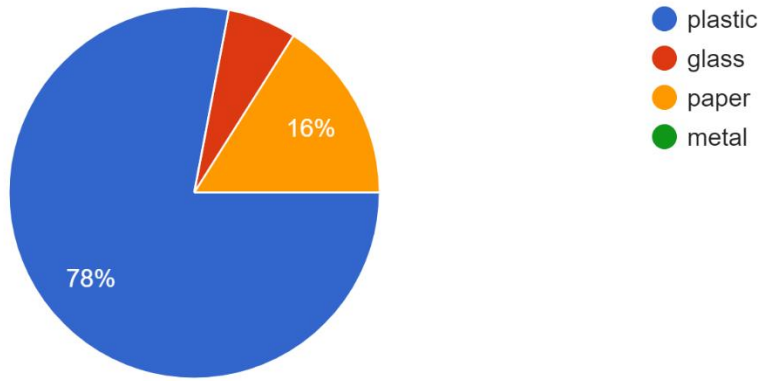


Chart 1

What are the most common items that you throw away?

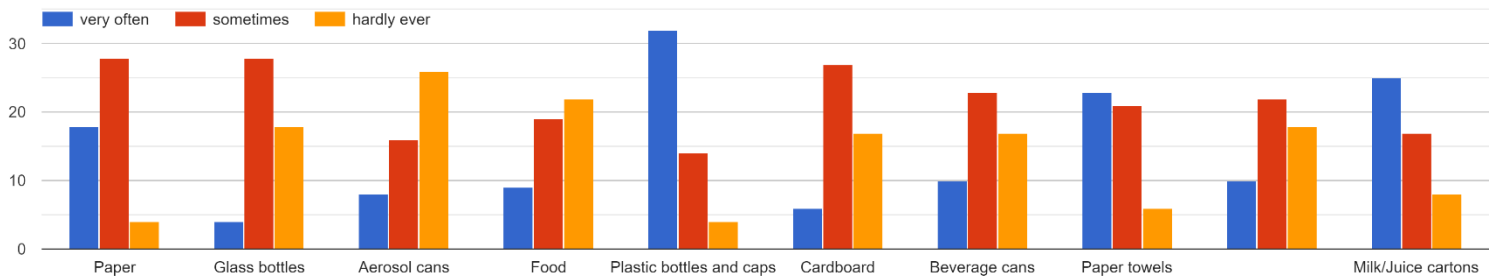


Chart 2

Table 1 provides an overview of the potential types of waste, their classification and avenues of disposal.

Table 1: Waste types and waste management practices

Waste type	Waste management practice
food	composting (if inedible) given away (if edible)
kitchen waste	composting
garden waste	composting
plastic bottles	recycling/reusing
plastic bags	recycling/reusing
plastic boxes, containers, packaging	recycling/reusing
other plastic waste	recycling
paper	recycling/reusing
batteries	recycling
cardboard packaging	recycling/reusing
glass bottles	recycling/reusing
cans, tins, metal	recycling/reusing
other types of waste	landfill

Waste materials fall into three categories for management, which include:

1. Reuse

If waste can be used in future it is classified as material which can be reused, i.e. plastic bottles, plastic bags. Throughout the project students created toys, jewellery, candles etc. out of rubbish. Reusable waste can be stored in a special storage area and kept for future reference (for example during art lessons, workshops).

2. Recycle

If waste cannot be reused in its present form but could be used in a different form, it will be sent to recycling by putting it into special bins – sorting rubbish.

3. Landfill.

If the above options cannot be satisfied then the only alternative left is to put the materials into the waste storage bin and send the waste to landfill.

Schools will implement all possible waste minimisation procedures and therefore reduce the amount of waste to be thrown away. School community members will be encouraged to look at ways to minimise the amount of waste generated on a daily basis. Waste materials will be reduced, reused and recycled where possible.

PREVENTION

The aim of Waste Management Programme is reducing the amount of waste. Generating of waste should be avoided wherever possible. Possibilities of turning waste into a new, useful product should be sought (eg. reusing plastic bottles to make jewellery, making shopping bags out of old T-shirts, composting of organic wastes).

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Studies conducted at the beginning of the project showed that the awareness of the students about recycling was low. It was determined that the majority of the students did not participate in any recycling activities. It was seen that the majority of the students had knowledge about the recycling symbol and its meaning and had positive attitude towards recycling. However, it was also observed that the recycling bins are not used at sufficient levels.

There are no recycling bins at schools taking part in the project now. All the waste is put into one storage bin and the rubbish is not sorted.

During the project in each school:

- recycling boxes were placed in designated areas in the schools;
- information activities on waste management were carried out for the students both inside and outside the classroom;
- recycling themed workshops were held;
- things made out of rubbish were prepared by the students and exhibited at schools;
- school-wide recycling campaigns were organized and a significant increase in the recycling of plastic bottles and paper was achieved;
- visits to institutions operating in the field of recycling in local communities were made;
- staff and the students were taught how to separate the garbage (education, presentation, practice);

- students took part in new initiatives of collecting different kind of garbage- caps, paper etc.;
- students took part in cleaning the outside of their schools action – they cleaned the school yard;
- students started to collect and to recycle electrical and electronic devices, separate bins for electronic devices were introduced;
- a special place for students to plant flowers and herbs was created in the school garden;
- it was observed that the students who participated in the activities within the scope of the project were more aware of recycling;

As a result of Erasmus+ project “Think again! It’s not garbage” special recycling bins will be provided in each school taking part in the project. Waste will be divided into 5 different types:

1. Glass
2. Paper
3. Bio-waste
4. Metal and plastics
5. Mixed waste



All waste that can be reused will be stored in a special storage area for future usage. All school community members will be required to sort rubbish and use special recycling bins to make sure the waste disposal process is optimised through recovery, reuse and recycling. By implementing sustainable waste management programme we help the environment. Before implementing Waste Management Programme students and teachers took part in a survey which showed that they are aware of the importance of reusing and recycling waste. They are also quite aware of the most effective ways of reducing waste and they know how to sort rubbish. See chart 1 and chart 2.

Chart 1 – The best ways of dealing with waste.

What are the best ways of dealing with waste, both economically and environmentally?

179 / 201 correct responses

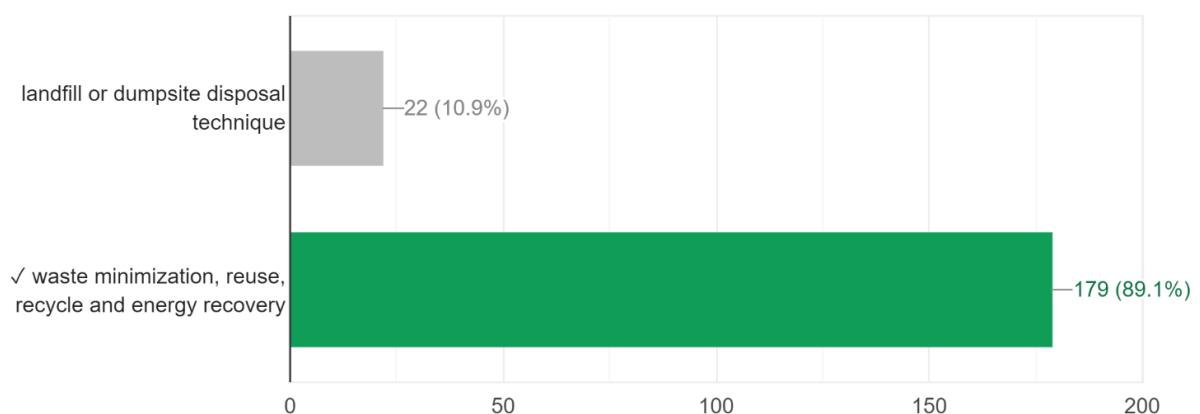
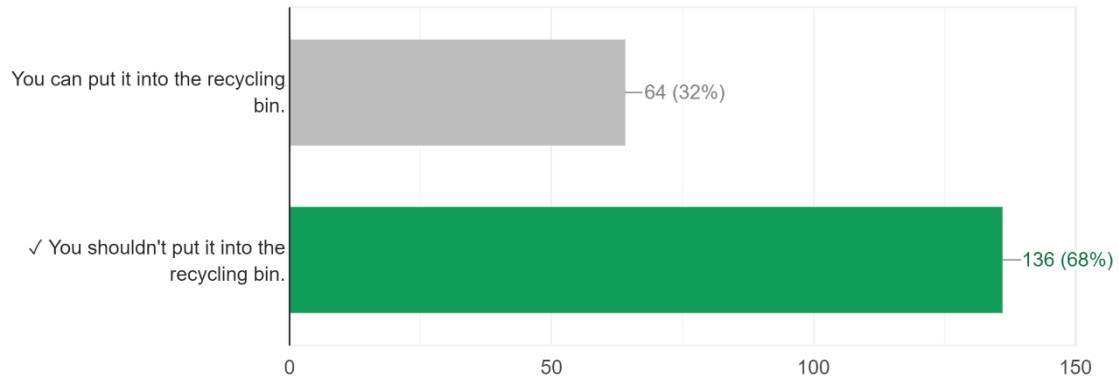


Chart 2 – What can I put into the recycling bin?

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

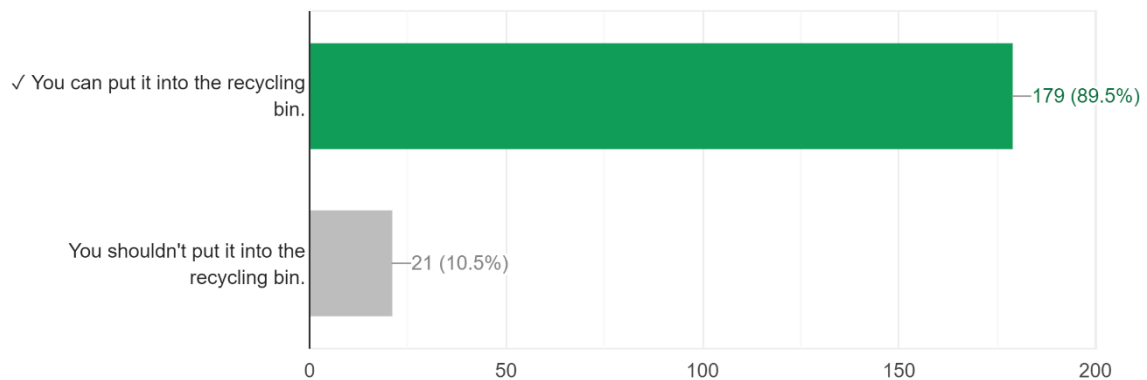
136 / 200 correct responses



Row 1: Sewing needles

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

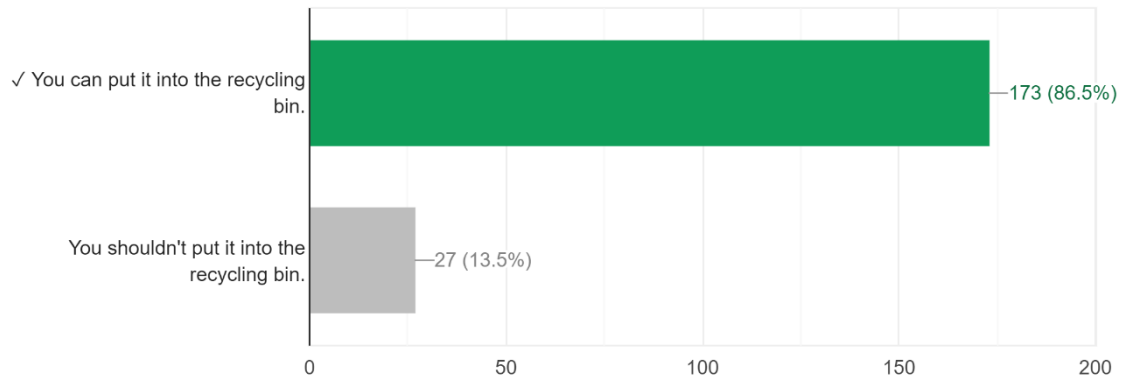
179 / 200 correct responses



Row 2: Paper

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

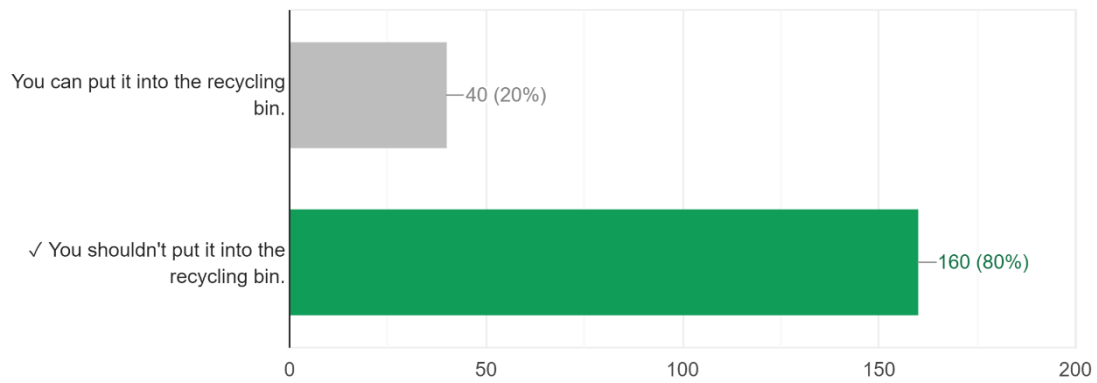
173 / 200 correct responses



Row 3: Glass bottles

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

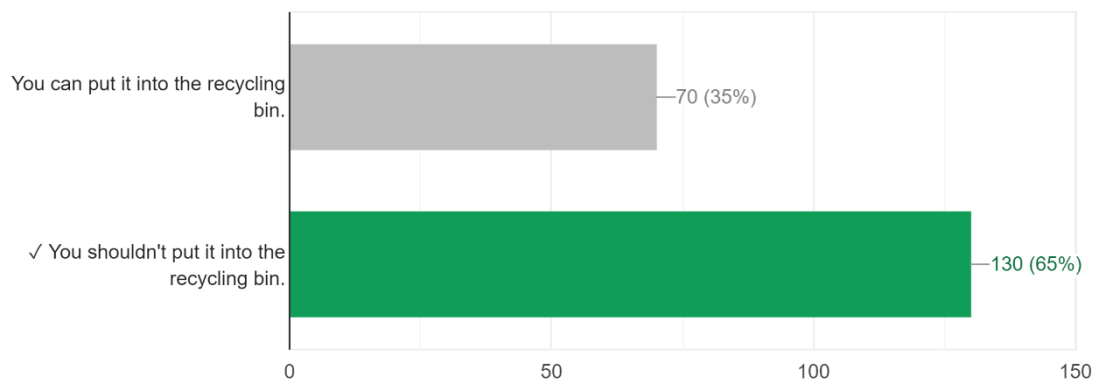
160 / 200 correct responses



Row 4: Aerosol cans that aren't empty

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

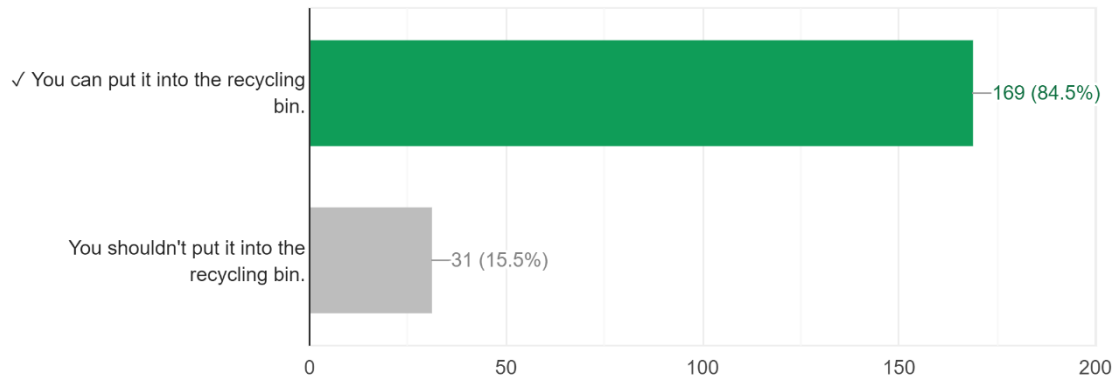
130 / 200 correct responses



Row 5: Food or food-soiled paper

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

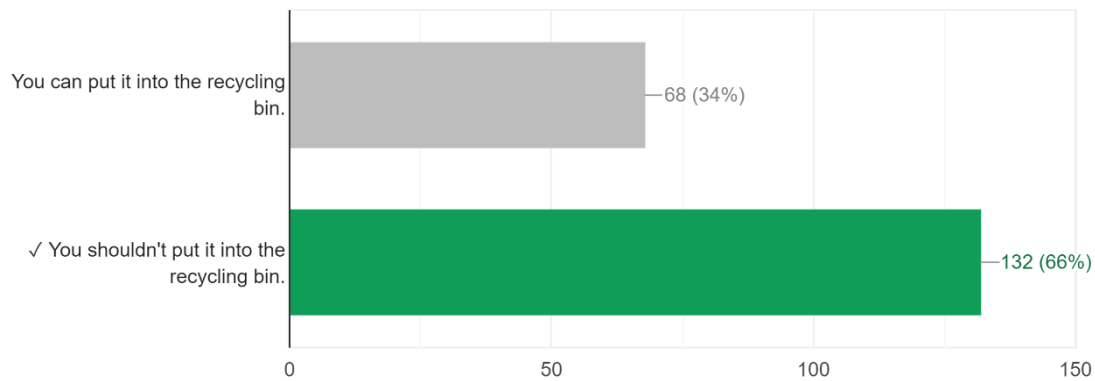
169 / 200 correct responses



Row 6: Plastic bottles and caps

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

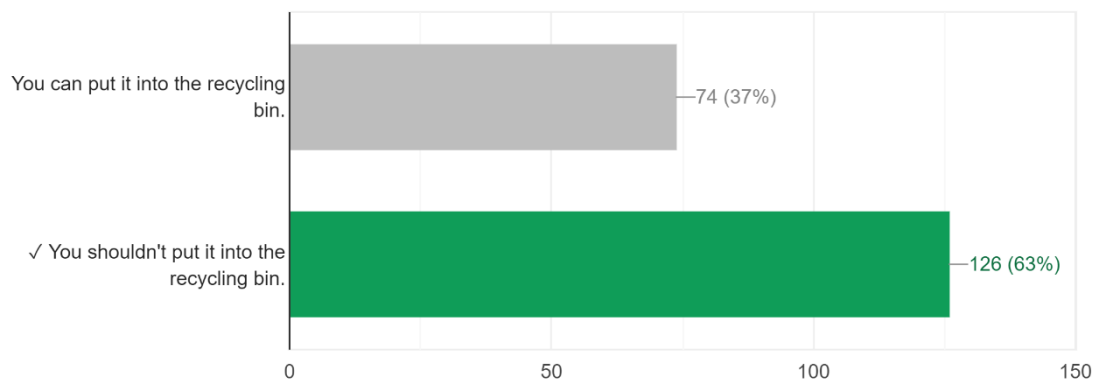
132 / 200 correct responses



Row 7: Syringes

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

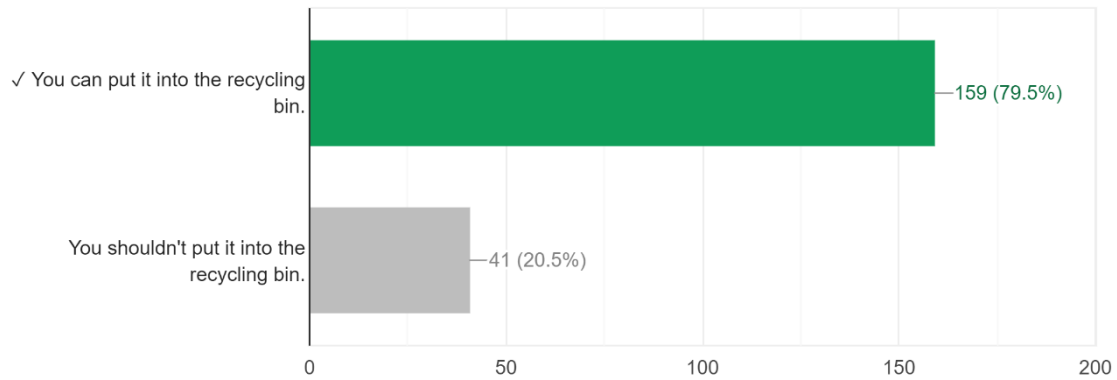
126 / 200 correct responses



Row 8: broken light bulb

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

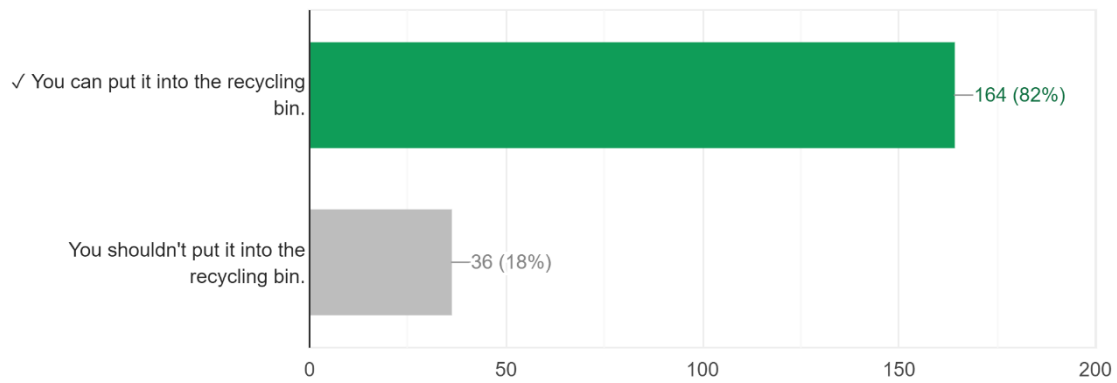
159 / 200 correct responses



Row 9: Cardboard

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

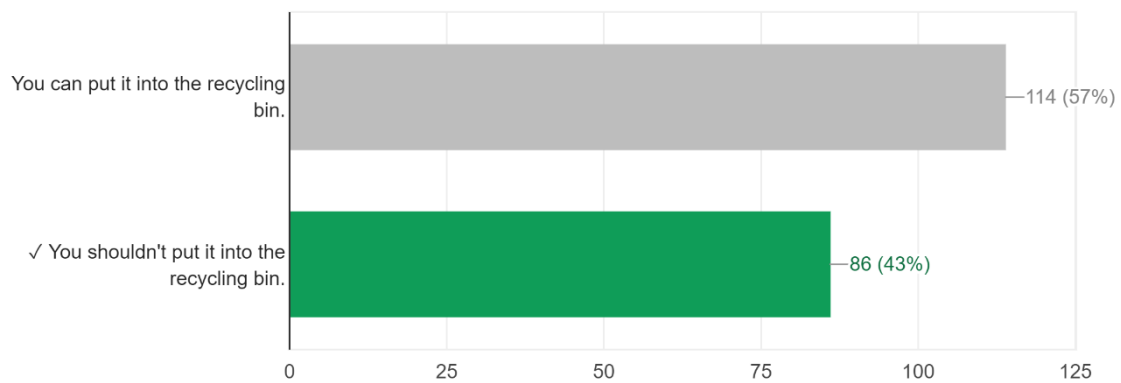
164 / 200 correct responses



Row 10: Beverage cans

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

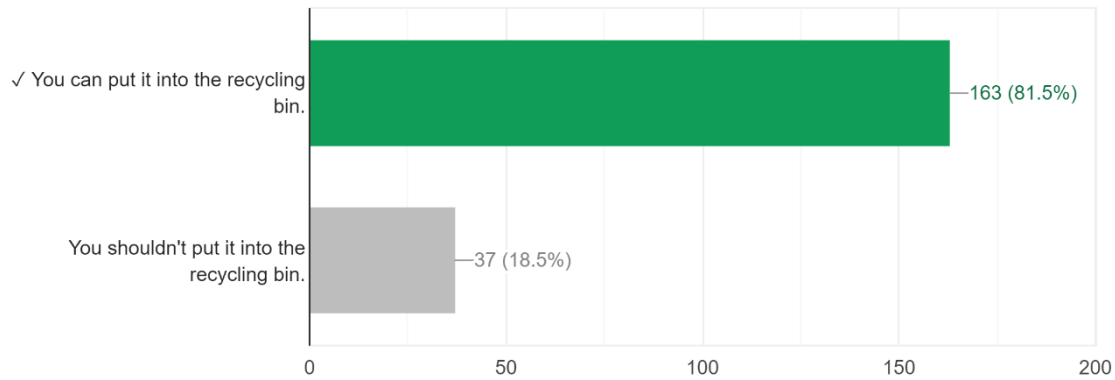
86 / 200 correct responses



Row 11: Paper towels

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

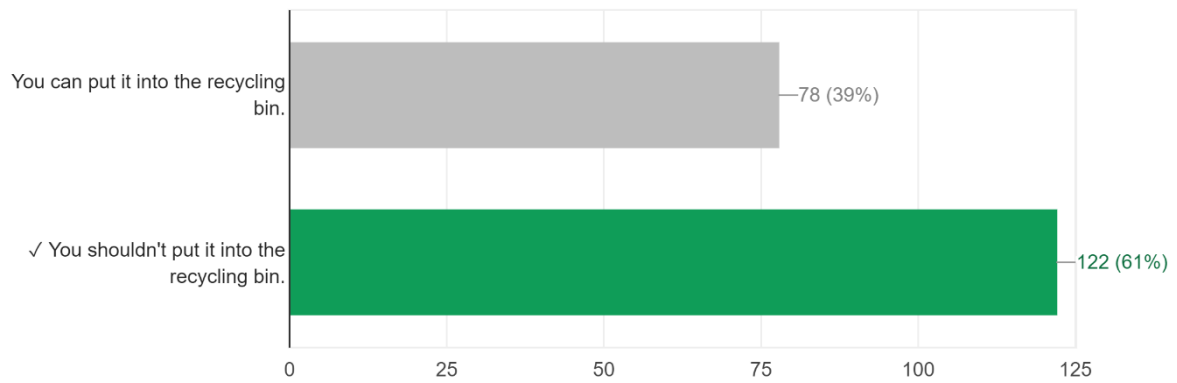
163 / 200 correct responses



Row 12: Newspaper and magazines

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

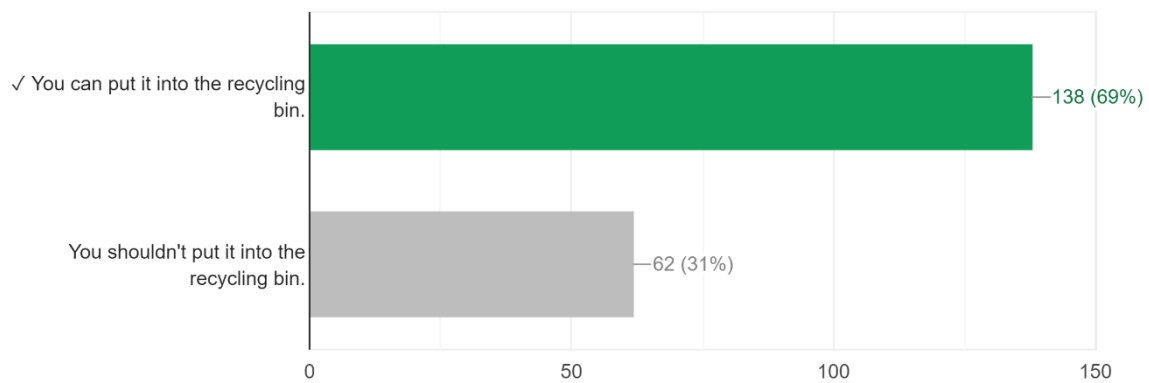
122 / 200 correct responses



Row 13: Tissues

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

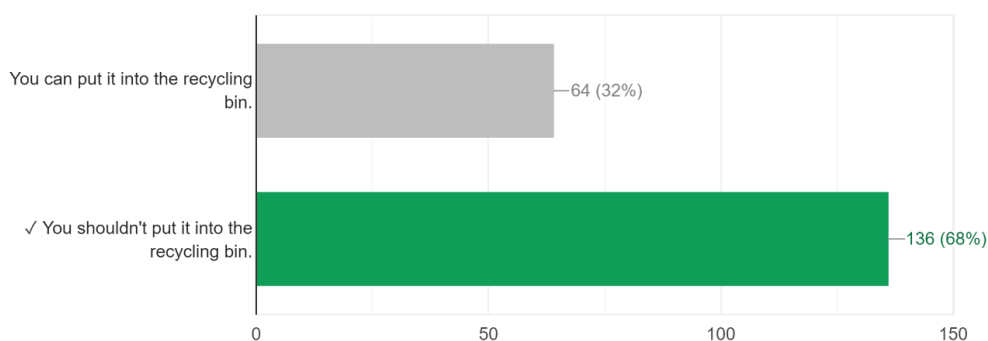
138 / 200 correct responses



Row 14: Clean takeaway containers

What are the most common items that you can put into the recycling bin?

136 / 200 correct responses



Row 15: Cables

To make school community members aware of the importance of sustainable waste management a series of actions and activities for students was conducted. The main purpose of all the actions conducted throughout the project was to make all community members aware of the crucial role of taking care of the environment by adopting a sustainable waste management procedures. It is critical not only to the flourishing natural environment that contributes to human and animal health, but also to free up valuable land from landfills. We all have to be aware that sustainable waste management solutions help reduce pollution, produce energy, and conserve natural resources To raise that awareness the following activities/actions were conducted during the Erasmus+ project:

1. Don't mix! Segregate! – students prepared presentations about waste management legislation in their countries. They learned what happens with rubbish after we put it into the bin.
2. World Water Day – students learned how important water is not just for people but also for animals and the environment. They learned about the problem of retreating glaciers and desertification of the landscape. Students had to think about climate change and global water crisis. They wrote short stories about these two topics and illustrated them. They painted water drops. They made a video #MyGroundWaterStory
3. Earth Day – students learned about the problems caused by irresponsible ways of waste disposal. Students created mind maps about ways of helping the environment and posters showing how our planet might look like in the future if we do not care about it. Students also prepared an ebook entitled “An Adventure of a Piece of Rubbish” and cleaned the school garden.

4. Eco-workshop – students learned how we can reuse things we normally throw away. They made a shopping bag out of an old T-shirt and Easter decorations out of rubbish. They thought about other ways of reusing rubbish.
5. Biodiversity Day – students learned why biodiversity is important. They prepared presentations and mind maps about biodiversity.
6. Global Day of Action for the Climate – students made protest banners saying no to climate change. They thought of actions we can take on a daily basis to prevent climate change.
7. Wildlife Conservation Day – students learned about the importance of preserving Earth’s endangered flora and fauna. They prepared posters and played a special game showing the importance of preserving wildlife.
8. Eco-workshop – students learned how to make useful things out of rubbish. They thought about creative ways of using waste. They prepared albums showing things made of rubbish. They learnt about the importance of segregating rubbish and recycling.

MONITORING

Recycling bins will need to be monitored regularly to ensure that waste is sorted properly. Schools will continue to review the type of waste produced and will introduce changes if necessary. The Waste Management Programme and its importance will be communicated to the whole school community. The rules and procedures will be reminded to all the school community members whenever necessary.