

Welcome to R-Generation

As R-Generation Ambassadors, you will become active citizens, thinking about how we can use our planet's resources more sustainably.

You will work as a team to inspire and lead your school community in making real change. And you will develop leadership and communication skills that will help you in your future.

Recruiting your R-Generation Ambassadors

R-Generation is led by a team of around 10 to 20 R-Generation Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors take part in a series of workshops to build an Action Plan to make your school community more sustainable. They then involve the rest of the school community to make the plan a reality.

The R-Generation Ambassadors might be:

- from a single form or a year group, or from across the school
- an existing School Council, Eco-club or Eco-Schools team
- a new committee, perhaps with representatives from each form.

One or more of your teachers will be leading R-Generation in your school. They may have already decided who will be on the team, or they may ask a group of older students to put together and lead a committee made up of younger students.

Tips on starting a new committee

Make it clear what is involved: Ambassadors may lead an assembly, attend a series of meetings, develop the Action Plan and work in groups to deliver it.

Explain how to volunteer: this could be via form teachers, a dedicated email address, or a sign-up box, for example

If you get lots of volunteers, agree how you'll involve everyone.

Getting everyone involved

Students

The R-Generation Ambassadors are going to create an Action Plan for your school.

The more the team can consult the rest of the student body, the more ideas you will discover. While the R-Generation Ambassadors will take the lead, there are many ways to involve all other students:

- The programme can be introduced with a whole-school assembly.
- If the committee has a rep from each form, you can use tutor periods to gather ideas and feedback, and give updates.
- You can run surveys, seek feedback and provide regular updates via assemblies and school newsletters.
- There can be a whole-school celebration assembly at the end of the programme.

Working with school leaders

Some of the ideas in your Action Plan may need approval or support from your school's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) or the school's governing body.

Talk to the teacher(s) leading the R-Generation programme about how and when to involve the SLT and/or governors.

Involving the wider school community

Your school's non-teaching staff have a lot of influence over sustainability in your school. Think about:

- Office staff, who make purchasing decisions.
- Caretakers, who help maintain the school site.
- Catering staff, who may have influence over packaging and waste disposal.

R-Generation is brought to you by Nestlé Waters, in collaboration with RECOUP, a recycling charity, EVERFI, an education company, and a panel of practising teachers. Nestlé Waters is part of the European Plastics Pact to help make 100% of its packaging recyclable or reusable, and reduce its use of virgin plastics by one third by 2025. We have also committed to reaching net zero by 2050.

Running R-Generation step by step



1. R-Generation launch assembly

Participants:	All students
Resources:	Briefing presentation
Leader preparation:	Familiarise yourself with the presentation.

Purpose

This presentation helps you to tell your whole school about R-Generation.

Your R-Generation lead teacher may run this assembly, or the R-Generation Ambassadors may do it.

Content

Where materials come from and why we need to use them responsibly.

Examples of inspiring young people who are already using their initiative and leading by example.

2. Workshop 1 - Introduction and survey planning

Participants:	R-Generation Ambassadors
Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop 1 presentation• Survey template
Leader preparation:	Familiarise yourself with the resources.

Purpose

This and subsequent workshops might be led by the R-Generation lead teacher, or by one or more of the R-Generation Ambassadors.

The Workshop 1 presentation guides the R-Generation Ambassadors through planning and running a survey and/or interviews with decision-makers in your school community.

Content

Workshop 1 welcomes the R-Generation Ambassadors and recaps what it means to be active citizens.



Running R-Generation step by step



3. Workshop 2 - Reduce

Participants:	R-Generation Ambassadors
Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop 2 presentation• Survey and interview findings• Action Plan template
Leader preparation:	Familiarise yourself with the resources.

Purpose

Workshop 2 helps you to review your survey and/or interview findings. It explores needs vs. wants, the materials used in school and how you might reduce their use.

Content

The workshop guides you through beginning an Action Plan, which you will build on in the next sessions.

4. Workshop 3 - Reuse and Recycle

Participants:	R-Generation Ambassadors
Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop 3 presentation• Action Plan from last meeting• Internet access to explore local recycling opportunities using the Recycling Locator website
Leader preparation:	Familiarise yourself with the resources. If possible, gather clean, safe examples of the different materials (with labels, so you can find the recycling information).

Purpose

Workshop 3 explores opportunities to reuse and recycle, including how to interpret recycling information and follow local instructions for recycling.

Content

The workshop guides you through checking progress against your Action Plan, and adding some new actions to complete before the final workshop.



Running R-Generation step by step



5. Workshop 4 - Active citizens

Participants:	R-Generation Ambassadors
Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop 4 presentation• Survey and interview findings• Action Plan template
Leader preparation:	Familiarise yourself with the resources.

Purpose

In Workshop 4, you check your progress against your Action Plan. You reflect on their successes as active citizens and think about extending the reach of your campaign using simple ways to encourage positive behaviour change to include your wider school community.

Content

The workshop guides you through extending the reach of your R-Generation Action Plan. These might include links via governors/trustees or local businesses.

6. Celebrate your successes

Consider how you can best celebrate your successes, both as R-Generation Ambassadors and as a whole school:

- Create displays that show your progress.
- Plan and present an assembly.
- Send a press release to your local media.
- Share through your newsletters, website and social media presence.
- Invite parents and community members to a presentation.
- Interview students to see what they think and feel.

Don't wait until the end of the programme - share your successes as soon as you identify them as this will inspire everyone to continue to recycle more.



Timeframe

Now you know what is involved, you need to think about when you will complete each stage:

You may choose to run the R-Generation programme over a half term, a whole term or the whole school year. Decide on this before your first workshop, and share the timeframe during the first workshop.

Here is an example timeframe:

Weeks 1-2	Launch assembly and committee applications
Week 3	Workshop 1
Weeks 4-5	Survey, interviews, analysis
Week 6	Break
Week 7	Workshop 2
Week 8	Workshop 3
Week 9	Workshop 4
Week 10	Celebration

You may also want to meet up between workshops to check on your progress. Regular meetings might take place:

- once a week/fortnight
- at breaktime or after school.

Planner



Agree a timeline and roles and responsibilities with your R-Generation lead teacher, using the planner below.

Date	Activity	Leader	Location
	Launch assembly		
	Committee applications		
	Workshop 1		
	Survey, interviews, analysis		
	Break		
	Workshop 2		
	Workshop 3		
	Workshop 4		
	Celebration		

Sustain your success

It's important that our recycling behaviours become normal habits so we can all help to reduce waste and the environmental and climate issues it can cause.

- Build R-Generation and recycling into the regular work of your school council or eco committee etc.
- Build on the foundation of your initial success. Set new goals and consider making an R-Generation Action Plan a yearly event.
- Use your Action Plan and what you learn to make school events more sustainable, e.g. Christmas, Fairs, Sports Days.