

INDUSTRY: WASTE MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMME: SCHOOL-EMPLOYER  
PARTNERSHIP  
ACTIVITY: CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
CHALLENGE  
BUSINESS: VEOLIA

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY CHALLENGE

The aim of the Circular Economy Challenge – delivered in partnership with DYW West Lothian, Veolia UK and Young Enterprise Scotland – is to develop pupils' business skills in the context of the circular economy, helping pupils to view waste as a resource.



The annual Circular Economy Challenge incorporates:

- Teacher-led learning about the circular economy and enterprise, matched to Experiences and Outcomes within the Curriculum for Excellence
  - An employer-led workshop, which asks young people to think creatively about recycling household waste and encourages pupils to work in teams to complete a business task
- Design of a product or service that adheres to the principles of the circular economy, which takes place over a period of 8 weeks
  - A final showcase event, where small teams of pupils pitch their idea to a business panel

The programme is aimed at Primary 6 and 7 pupils and the 4 local primary schools involved in the Challenge - Broxburn PS, Seafield PS, St Paul's R.C. PS and Whitdale PS - are within closest proximity of a Veolia Waste Water Treatment Site. The winning school receive a trophy and a Deposit Return Scheme – provided by Veolia – to the value of £300 for their school.

The challenge provides an amazing opportunity for pupils to actively develop their knowledge and a wide range of skills under one theme. It also provides a perfect opportunity for the pupils to easily link their learning to the wider world of work.

Over 200 pupils have taken part in the programme to date, with the Challenge now part of the school curriculum in at least one participating school. Veolia has made a real impact on the local community and, in fact, they were awarded the DYW Regional Employer of the Year Award in 2019 for the contribution they have made to the Developing the Young Workforce agenda in West Lothian.



## Circular Economy Challenge

Pilot Programme for Primary Schools

VEOLIA

YES  
YOUNG  
ENTERPRISE  
SCOTLAND



*“ This is a terrific opportunity for us to spread the word about both the Circular Economy and enterprising approaches to learning to staff and pupils alike. Veolia’s workshops are fun, engaging and interactive, providing the perfect ‘hook’ for the teachers to get the pupils involved in the challenge. It can sometimes be challenging in primary schools to access appropriate opportunities to expose learners to the world of work, but this enables participating schools to have a rich, relevant experience alongside a local business. ”*

MARIE LECK, SCHOOL DELIVERY MANAGER  
FOR YOUNG ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

*“ The young people from all the schools were fabulous. I was really proud of them all and it was clear to see just how much work and effort they had all put into their business ideas. Choosing a winner was very difficult as every idea was good enough to win. I send my congratulations to every school and every pupil that took part. ”*

ANGELA CONSTANCE, CONSTITUENCY MSP FOR ALMOND VALLEY

*“ I learned that poo can be your electricity and vegetable and poo can be your compost. I also learned never to put paper in the bin since it can be reused. We also developed our DYW skills a whole lot more. ”*

P7 PUPIL

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