

SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION AS A LONG-TERM WASTE MINIMISATION STRATEGY**C. Bottrill***Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University, Oxford, UK*

In the United Kingdom municipal waste, of which the majority is from households and biodegradable, has been rising annually and could double by 2020. The EU Landfill Directive requires biodegradable waste to be diverted from landfill therefore local authorities have to implement new waste management practices as well as waste minimisation and resource efficiency strategies. In this paper, environmental sustainability education is examined as potentially providing a pivotal means for local authorities to achieve long-term waste minimisation. Waste provides a unique educational opportunity to engage children on how their lifestyle impacts the environment as well as an opportunity to discuss environmental complexity. The paper presents the results of a pilot education programme running in a selection of Oxfordshire primary schools that links together waste, climate change and energy issues. The programme is centered on three types of learning - cognitive, affective and evaluative with the purpose of helping pupils' formation of an environmental ethic. Pupils' knowledge, attitude and practice on waste and climate change are measured to assess the programme's impacts. The programme uses a problem-based learning approach to encourage pupils to form and express ideas for minimising household waste. Pupils are researchers of their household waste profile by weighing the amount of organic waste going into the bin and implementing an action plan to reduce it. A reduction of household waste profile through a sustainability education programme has many potential benefits including raised awareness of complex environmental issues, participation in waste infrastructure decisions and economic savings for waste disposal.