

Pupils have a rubbish day out to promote green bin recycling

Four young eco warriors from Wigan Borough have gone behind the scenes of food recycling in a bid to encourage more people to recycle right in the green bin.

Year five pupils Jack, Finnlay, Maisie and Emma from St Peter's Primary in Hindley visited the council's organic waste transfer station in Ince, where the garden and food waste from the green bin goes before being sent off for compost, and have starred in a video to promote green bin recycling.

The group are 'eco warriors' at their school and they are champions for recycling, encouraging other pupils to do it correctly and taking out the waste from the school's food caddies out to the green bin each night.

They also help out on the school's allotment and are helping to make compost.

The summer months are peak time for green bin recycling with residents able to recycle garden waste such as leaves, twigs and grass as well as leftover food.

The green-fingered group enjoyed their visit to the waste station but were shocked to see the wrong items that had made it into the green bin waste. They saw clothes, rubble and plastic bags being picked out.

Pupil Maisie Elias, aged 10, said: "I couldn't believe how much stuff there was, there were teddies and Barbie dolls inside the green waste. I don't see how you can put that stuff in. I think people should recycle properly.

"As eco-warriors we visit each class giving out fruit and when they've eaten it we help them put the leftover banana peel or carrots into the caddy. We then take it to the green bin outside and it gets recycled.

And Jack Collier, aged 10, said: "My favourite bit was seeing the bin lorry empty the waste. I've learnt that some people put stuff in the green bin that just shouldn't go in there."

Karl Battersby, director of economy and environment, said: "Recycling garden and food waste in the green bin is really important as it saves that waste going to landfill and it also has a very important role to play in helping grow our future food.

"It is the single most effective way we can save money and if residents stick to The Deal by recycling more and doing it right, we can keep council tax low."

To help people recycle as much as possible, residents are provided with a silver caddy to collect leftover food inside the house which can be emptied into the green bin.

Compostable caddy liners can be obtained from life centres. Alternatively, people can use a layer of newspaper to line their caddy or simply put the food straight into the green bin.

Residents are urged not to use plastic bags as these are not compostable. A full list of caddy liner outlets and more information about recycling can be found at www.wigan.gov.uk/recycling

Watch the video of Jack, Finlay, Maisie and Emma on the council's youtube channel
www.youtube.com/wiganCouncil

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