## **Recycle Your Electricals - Teacher’s Pack**

This year, **Recycle Your Electricals** is encouraging pupils across the UK to help HypnoCat and join The Great Cable Challenge - not just for International E-waste Day!

* In the UK we bin or stash away **627 million cables** - enough to go to the moon and BACK!
* Together, let’s give our old cables a new lease of life

We have put together this pack for schools, which includes:

* **Teacher’s briefing document** (this document)
  + Providing background information on e-waste and batteries. Plus key information around what to do with them once they’re finished with.
* **PowerPoint presentation** (with speaker notes)
  + E-waste and why reusing and recycling electricals is important
* **HypnoCat myth-busting videos**
  + (very) short videos about reusing and recycling electricals
* **The Great Cable Challenge student activity**
  + An at-home activity for pupils - for primary and younger secondary students
  + With detailed instructions on how to get involved
* **Pack of ready-to-use resources** 
  + How to promote The Great Cable Challenge student activity in your school
  + School poster to educate and encourage pupils to get involved

**Who are *Recycle Your Electricals*?**

[Recycle Your Electricals](https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/) is a UK-wide campaign motivating and making it easier for everyone to reuse and recycle unwanted electricals, ensuring we make the most of the valuable materials in them.

The campaign is led by [Material Focus](https://www.materialfocus.org.uk/), an independent not-for-profit organisation on a mission to transform the way we think about our unwanted electricals - from useless waste to valuable resources.

**Meet HypnoCat**



HypnoCat is our recycled-obsessed mascot on a mission to hypnotise the nation into recycling all their old, wanted electricals.

*Look into his eyes and you wiiillll feel a sudden, overwhelming urge to bag up your old electricals for recycling.*

## **Teacher’s briefing document**

**1. Background on e-waste and how to recycle**

* Electrical waste, also known as e-waste, is any broken or unwanted electrical or tech item with either a plug, battery or cable.

| **What’s the problem?** | **What’s the solution?** |
| --- | --- |
| * Electrical waste is one of the fastest growing sources of waste in the world - and in the UK. It’s growing faster than fast-fashion. * **Lost resources** - Electricals contain precious materials such as copper, iron, gold, platinum and palladium which are lost forever when items are hoarded or thrown in the bin. * **Environmental damage -** Producing electrical items creates carbon emissions. Recycling our old electricals instead of binning them could cut CO² emissions by as much as taking millions of cars off the road. * **Financial loss -** We lose millions of pounds per year in valuable raw materials in our electricals that are binned instead of recycled. UK households also hold onto thousands of unwanted electricals they don’t know what to do with. If we passed these on to charities they could make a big difference to people’s lives   Find out more about the problem with e-waste [here](https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/problems-with-e-waste/). | * Anything with a plug, battery or cable can and should be reused and recycled. Even the batteries and cables themselves. * If an electrical item is still in working condition but you no longer want it - you can ***donate***it. * If an electrical item is broken - you can ***repair*** it. * If an electrical item is broken and cannot be repaired, you must ***recycle*** it. Recycled electricals can be turned into everything from children’s playgrounds to lifesaving equipment. * The Recycle Your Electricals website has a handy R[ecycling Locator](https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/electrical-recycling-near-me/) where you can enter your postcode and find your local donation or recycling points. This includes charities, reuse organisations, shops and recycling centres.   Find out more about the benefits of recycling [here](https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/benefits-of-recycling-electronics/) |

**Key messages:**

* Everything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled. Even the batteries and cables themselves.
* There are hidden batteries within electricals which can start fires when crushed or damaged inside bin and recycling lorries.
* Never bin loose or hidden batteries.
* Remove batteries from electricals before recycling. If you’re unable to remove the battery safely, recycle it together with your old electricals.
* You may need assistance with the safe removal of batteries from electrical items, please ask a responsible adult to help with this
* Search Recycle Your Electricals to find all your local electrical and battery drop off points: [www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk](http://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk)

**2. How to take part in The Great Cable Challenge student activity**

Almost all of us have unwanted, broken cables clogging up our drawers, or have considered binning that flimsy cable when it broke. That’s millions of unwanted cables and thousands of kilograms of copper going to waste.

Cables are made of an average of 20% copper which is one of the most precious materials on our planet. Copper is essential to our everyday lives - vital for our phones, our transport, clean energy, lifesaving medical equipment and our green future. Like any electricals, cables can be recycled and the copper in them can be reused to create essential hospital equipment or even electric vehicles.

We’re calling on students of the UK to join The Great Cable Challenge and recycle their old cables!

Together, let’s give our old cables a new lease of life.

**Key messages:**

**SUMMARY**

* Got old or broken cables cluttering up your home? They’re full of precious copper that could be recycled and reused!  
    
  Join Recycle Your Electricals’ The Great Cable Challenge student activity and help save thousands of kilograms of copper from going to waste!   
    
  It’s simple – just bag up your unwanted cables, and any other old electricals for recycling. Then search ‘recycle your electricals’ to find your local donation and recycling points.

**WHY**

* Copper is essential to our everyday lives and vital for our phones, our transport, clean energy, lifesaving medical equipment and our green future. Like any electricals, cables can be recycled and the copper in them can be reused to create essential hospital equipment or even electric vehicles.
* Electrical waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the world – and we are throwing away some of the most precious materials on our planet. Cables are the biggest challenges, with millions of cables binned every year and held onto.
* Old or unwanted cables should never be lost in your drawer of doom! The precious copper inside could be used to make lifesaving hospital equipment or even electric vehicles. Copper is key – set it free!

**HOW**

* Be part of The Great Cable Challenge and join the millions across the UK who have already taken one small action to make a big difference.
* Bag up your old cables - and any other old electricals you find in your drawer of doom! Search ‘recycle your electricals’ to find all your local donation and recycling points.

**3. The Great Cable Challenge student take-home activity**

* A fun activity pack for primary or younger secondary school students.
* With The Great Cable Challenge, students can get in on the action too.
* We’re encouraging them to hunt for old electricals buried deep in drawers and cupboards.
* If all 4.56 million primary school pupils across the UK all recycled at least one cable, we could save 22,800 kg of copper from going to waste!
* The task for students will be to:

1. **Collect** - Ask their parents/guardian or a responsible grown-up to help them find any broken or unused cables stashed away in cupboards or drawers.
2. **Check** -After gathering up all their unused cables, encouraging them to check which ones work and which can be donated or recycled.
3. **Recycle them** - Once they’ve decided which cables they’re keeping and which can be recycled, bagging them up and either bringing them into school (if your school is organising its own Great Cable Challenge activity) or finding their local drop-off point on our Recycling Locator (with the help of their parents/guardian or responsible grown-up)

Use the R[ecycling Locator](https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/electrical-recycling-near-me/) on the Recycle Your Electricals website to find local donation and recycling points.

**Battery recycling tips**

* If the batteries can be safely removed then recycle these separately with other batteries and the item with other small electricals
* You may need assistance with the safe removal of batteries from electrical items, please ask a responsible adult to help with this
* If the battery cannot be removed safely or is imbedded in the electrical device then recycle the whole thing with your old electricals
* Batteries can cause serious injury if swallowed, please keep batteries out of reach of small children and pets.
* When a battery has been removed, store it securely and recycle it properly and promptly
* Never put a battery, an electrical item containing a battery or an electrical item in your household waste or recycling bin
* Batteries should be recycled at battery drop off points
* Electricals should be recycled at an electrical drop off point
* You can find these using our **Recycling Locator** at [www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk](http://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk)

**More information about battery safety can be found below:**

* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/child-safety-button-batteries>
* <https://www.recycle-more.co.uk/files/Valpak_Batteries_Guidance_-_Child_H_S_Considerations.pdf>