

IO3 – ICE-CAP

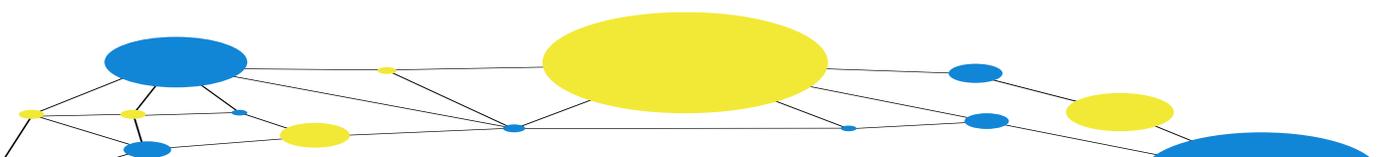
WebQuests

WebQuest – Recycling

Developed by SRC

ice-cap

<b>THEME ALLOCATED:</b>	360 minutes
<b>LEVEL:</b>	Expert
<b>TITLE OF THE WEBQUEST:</b>	Recycling, Upcycling and Downcycling your decluttering!
<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b> (It involves giving background information on the topic and, often introduces key vocabulary and concepts which learners will need to understand in order to complete the tasks involved. It should present a scenario and context for playing out the tasks in the WebQuest and it should be a fun, engaging and creative so as to draw the learners in):</p> <p>You have just moved into your new apartment where you will live for your first year of university. When you were unpacking your boxes, you began to realise that you have far too much stuff for your new, smaller, bedroom. You are a supporter of the Extinction Rebellion movement – an international non-partisan political movement which encourages non-violent protests, campaigns and action to lobby and persuade world governments to tell the truth about our climate emergency and to take just action to prevent a further ecological crisis. As such, you are aware of the impact you and your everyday activities are having on the environment; and you are committed to reducing the waste you produce, recycling what you can and repairing damaged devices rather than throwing them away.</p> <p>You need to get rid of some of the items that you brought with you from home, and you know your parents won't take the items back as they are turning your old bedroom into a new study. This means you will need to decide what to do with everything.</p> <p>All of these items hold a personal value to you, so you want to make sure that you don't just dispose of these items responsibly, you also want to try to re-use or re-purpose the items yourself, so that you can extend the life of these products – and make sure they find a suitable new home – but who will take your old stuff in its current state? Maybe with some magical upcycling and downcycling of items, you can find a new purpose and a new home for your prized possessions!</p>	
<p><b>TASKS</b> (explains clearly and precisely what learners have to do, it should be motivating and interesting and where possible, it should include activities that contribute to the development of skills that they will use in their daily lives. Guidance should be given on how to present findings; for example, maps, graphs, essays, wall displays and diagrams):</p>	



You have made a list of the items that you would like to find a new use for or recycle. These include:

- Clothes
- Shoes
- An old game console
- A box of vinyl records
- A glass lamp
- Some furniture you brought with you from home
- An old TV that your grandparents gave to you, but you won't have use for in university.

You will now need to research online to find out how you can responsibly recycle or re-purpose these items. When you have completed your research, you should make a checklist of which items you will recycle, up-cycle and down-cycle, and then get to work re-purposing these items! To raise awareness of how to reduce waste, and how to get the most from recycling, upcycling and downcycling unwanted items, you will start a blog and share your progress with your followers!

To complete this task, you will have to follow the steps outlined in the process below.

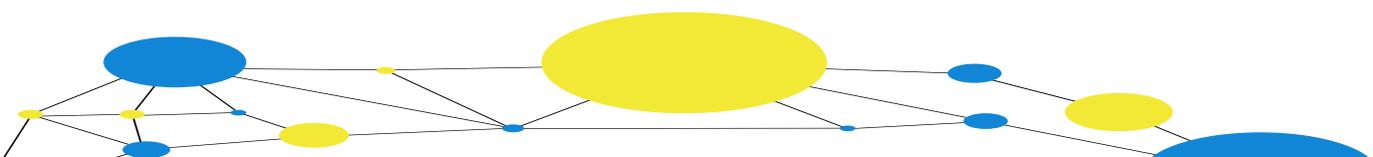
**PROCESS** (set of steps and research tasks using predefined sources that are predominantly web-based usually in a clickable form. This stage has usually one or more “products” that learners are expected to present at the end. These products form the basis of the Evaluation stage.

### ***Step 1 – What happens to your waste when it becomes ‘waste’?***

You already know a good bit about the circular economy, and you are aware that we throw away so much in the Western World that could be re-used or re-purposed. We have a throw-away culture, and you don't want to feed into this anymore. But have you ever stopped to investigate what happens to your waste when it becomes ‘waste’? The first item on your to-do list is to gain a deeper understanding of where our waste items end up, and to fully appreciate the damaging impact that our throw-away culture is having on our environment and the planet. For this, you should conduct some online research into the topic – the links provided below in the resources section should act as a good starting point for your research!

### ***Step 2 - What can be recycled? What should be upcycled? What could be downcycled?***

Now that you are more aware of exactly where our waste ends up, it has strengthened your resolve to ensure that your items don't end up in the landfill. When we talk about different practices we can adopt to help the environment and protect the future of the planet, we often talk about recycling, reducing and reusing. The concept of the 3Rs has been around for a long time, and many people are confident in their knowledge about what they are. But, can the same



be said for upcycling? Or downcycling? What are these concepts and where did they come from? You will need to complete some research to help you answer these questions. Once you have a better understanding of what upcycling and downcycling are, sort through your items and decide which items can be recycled, which you should consider up-cycling, and which are most suitable for downcycling? Make a simple matrix, with recycle, upcycle and downcycle at the top of each column, and list each item in one of the columns until you have completed the matrix for all items.

### ***Step 3 – Blog it!***

While you are invested in doing your part to protect the environment, you are quite new to upcycling and downcycling in particular. As such, you might want to help to raise awareness of these practices among your family and friends and with others in your networks, and further afield. A blog or a YouTube channel are good ways to get your ideas and messages out there. Why not start a blog to track and detail your recycling, upcycling and downcycling projects?

### ***Step 4 – Learn the basics – Making content attractive!***

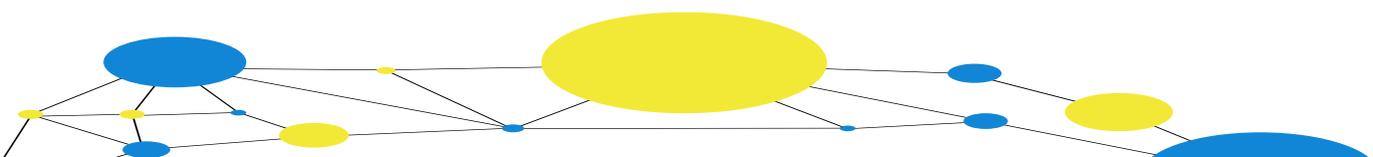
You want to start a blog to raise awareness about what can be recycled, upcycled and downcycled, but the upcycling doesn't only apply to the items you are trying to find a new use for. Content upcycling ensures that the content you share online is new and fresh – just like the furniture you might decide to re-paint and re-purpose. Browse some blogs and see what other online users are doing to share their content with their viewers. Start by viewing what the competition is doing, and then consider how you will present your content online. Consider making a short introductory video to introduce yourself and explain why you are undertaking these recycling, upcycling and downcycling projects. Maybe create an infographic to share what you have learned about where our waste ends up? Review the resources below to get some more inspiration!

### ***Step 5 – Items for recycling – what will you do with them?***

From reviewing your matrix from step 2, you can see the items that you have deemed most appropriate for recycling. Now that you have decided what you will recycle, it is important that you research online to find how you can recycle those items responsibly – in particular the electronic items that you may wish to recycle! The links provided in the Resources section below might be useful. Remember though, recycling is only the beginning – in order to embrace the circular economy and to extend the life of your products, you are better off upcycling or even downcycling your items so that they can continue to be used for years to come – you may even be able to sell these new items or gift them to your friends and family!

### ***Step 6 – Items for upcycling – getting started.***

Now that you have decided what will be recycled, and you have taken steps to ensure that what you will recycle will be recycled responsibly, it is time to turn your attention to the items you



will upcycle. Upcycling can be a very rewarding activity! As part of your upcycling, you may decide to re-paint that furniture that you brought from home, or to turn some of your vinyl records into a clock for your new room. Check out some of the links below in the Resources section if you need some more inspiration and remember to include updates on your upcycling project on your blog.

**Step 7 – Your upcycled goods – get others involved!**

Now that you have decided what you will upcycle and how you will upcycle it, why not get your family and friends involved to help? Encouraging others to support your upcycling project could lead to them undertaking some upcycling of their own! If you cannot find any willing volunteers there are numerous upcycling groups on social media that you could join! Don't forget to showcase your upcycling talents through your blog!

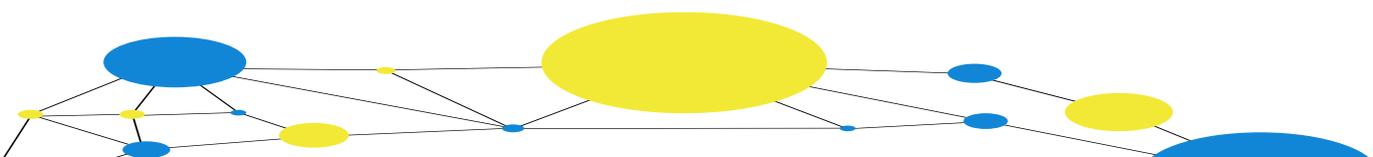
**Step 8 – Items for downcycling – get started and spread the word!**

Your last project will be to downcycle some items. Is that old TV a perfect planter? Could you fragment sections of the glass lamp to create a mosaic? Downcycling is perhaps not as exciting as upcycling, but it also helps to ensure that your items don't end up in the landfill, so these are all worthy activities to help to reduce the waste that we are generating. Post an update on your blog and invite your followers to share their upcycling and downcycling projects with you!

**RESOURCES:** For each step in the process, there should also be a series of links included (3-4 per step). These links should be for videos, articles, blogs, webpages, etc. that the learners can visit to help them to complete the task. Links should be embedded in the WebQuest to sites, pages, databases, search engines and so on.):

**Resources for Step 1:**

- Where many of the clothes you throw away end up - <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-40352910>
- Are our clothes doomed for the landfill? - <https://remake.world/stories/news/are-our-clothes-doomed-for-the-landfill/>
- Textile and Garment Recycling Facts and Figures - <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/textile-recycling-facts-and-figures-2878122>
- Where Does E-Waste End Up? - <https://recyclenation.com/2017/04/where-does-e-waste-end-up/>
- Electronic Waste: Where Does It Go and What Happens To It? - <https://techland.time.com/2011/01/14/electronic-waste-where-does-it-go-and-what-happens-to-it/>
- Where Does Your E-Waste Go? - <http://e-stewards.org/learn-more/for-consumers/overview/where-does-your-e-waste-go/>



- EPA Reports 9.8 Million Tons Per Year in Furniture Waste - <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUS126369713020110506>

#### **Resources for Step 2:**

- What is upcycling - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4-hFSw3NaY>
- What is upcycling: what you need to know - <https://www.pillarboxblue.com/what-is-upcycling/>
- 5 Benefits of Upcycling – <https://www.paulsrubbish.com.au/5-benefits-of-upcycling/>
- The Environmental, Social and Personal benefits of Up-cycling - <https://www.upcyclestudio.com.au/blogs/sustainable-living/the-environmental-social-and-personal-benefits-of-upcycling>
- Upcycling, Recycling, and Downcycling – What’s the difference? <https://community.materialtrader.com/upcycling-recycling-and-downcycling-whats-the-difference/>
- The Difference Between Upcycling & Downcycling - <https://www.ecofox.ie/blog/the-difference-between-upcycling-downcycling/>

#### **Resources for Step 3:**

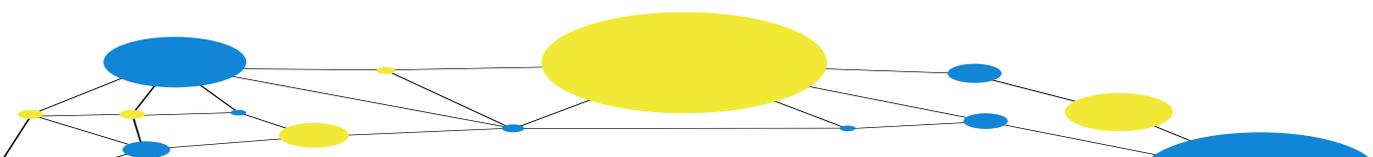
- How To Start A Blog In 2020 - [https://www.theblogstarter.com/?gclid=Cj0KCOjw2PP1BRCiARIsAEqv-pT1WKfLo7Dr3R4uomVs0g8T1yRe9SPDJO8qAD3SM7i83NKeVd3Me3UaAhB4EALw\\_wcB](https://www.theblogstarter.com/?gclid=Cj0KCOjw2PP1BRCiARIsAEqv-pT1WKfLo7Dr3R4uomVs0g8T1yRe9SPDJO8qAD3SM7i83NKeVd3Me3UaAhB4EALw_wcB)
- Best Blogging Platform 2020: Top 8 Free & Paid Blog Options - <https://startbloggingonline.com/blog-platform-comparison-chart/>
- 30 “Expert Tips” that I Wish I Knew Before Starting a Blog - <https://www.wpbeginner.com/beginners-guide/expert-tips-that-i-wish-i-knew-before-starting-a-blog/>

#### **Resources for Step 4:**

- 10 Genius Ways To Get Started With Content Upcycling - <https://vidooly.com/blog/ways-to-get-started-with-content-upcycling/>
- How to shoot great video with your smartphone - <https://www.theverge.com/2017/7/26/16026238/smartphone-video-editing-apps-how-to-tips-iphone-android>
- 7 Ways to Get Professional Quality Video from Your Smartphone - <https://vtrep.com/7-ways-get-professional-quality-video-smartphone/>

#### **Resources for Step 5:**

- How Can You Recycle Fabrics? - <https://recyclenation.com/2015/11/how-can-you-recycle-fabrics/>



- How to responsibly get rid of the stuff you've decluttered - <https://www.theverge.com/2019/1/31/18202482/how-to-recycle-declutter-books-tech-sites-responsibly>
- How to Dispose of Everything, Including Old Cell Phones, Mattresses, and Batteries - <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/a19805/how-to-dispose-of-everything/>
- How To Recycle Clothes & Shoes That Aren't In Good Condition - <https://www.bustle.com/p/how-to-recycle-clothes-shoes-that-arent-in-good-condition-15723408>

#### **Resources for Step 6:**

- How to Get Started with Upcycling in 5 Easy Steps - <https://www.beehiveit.co.uk/how-to-get-started-with-upcycling-in-5-easy-steps/>
- Upcycling for beginners: Getting started - <https://homelet.co.uk/tenants/blog/article/upcycling-for-beginners-getting-started>
- A Beginners Guide to Getting Started with Upcycling - <https://www.easystore.co.uk/upcycling-beginners-guide/>
- Recycling Furniture Ideas Upcycling and Downcycling - [https://youtu.be/weMvm\\_afsRM](https://youtu.be/weMvm_afsRM)

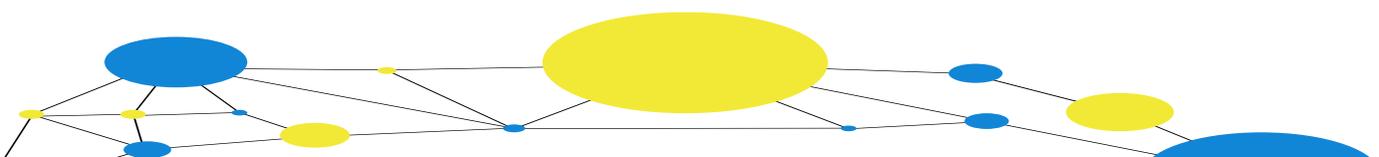
#### **Resources for Step 7:**

- Top 100 Upcycling Blogs And Websites on the Web in 2020 - [https://blog.feedspot.com/upcycling\\_blogs/](https://blog.feedspot.com/upcycling_blogs/)
- Upcycle Sharin' - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/upcyclesharin/>
- crafts DIY & upcycling - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1595751924060007/>

#### **Resources for Step 8:**

- What is DOWNCYCLING? What does DOWNCYCLING mean? DOWNCYCLING meaning, definition & explanation - [https://youtu.be/\\_gkLui3-kvc](https://youtu.be/_gkLui3-kvc)
- Upcycling Vs. Downcycling - <http://blog.parecorp.com/2013/12/11/upcycling-vs-downcycling/>
- Definitely downcycle - <https://blogs.rochester.edu/thegreendandelion/2016/11/definitely-downcycle/>

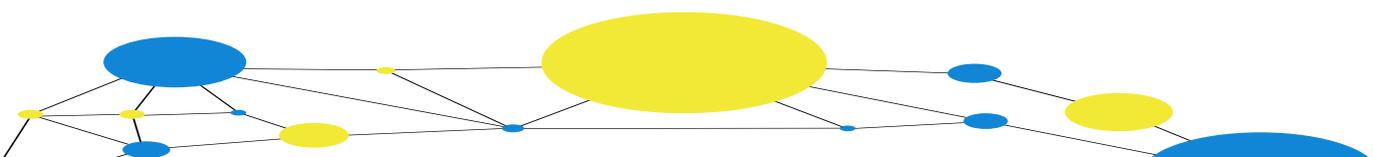
**EVALUATION** (self-evaluation, comparing and contrasting of what the learners have learned, giving feedback to the trainer on how they feel, what they have learned):



On completion of this WebQuest, young adults will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factual knowledge about how to recycle different items correctly.</li> <li>• Theoretical knowledge of how different items can be re-purposed and upcycled.</li> <li>• Theoretical knowledge of how to dispose of electrical waste responsibly.</li> <li>• Theoretical knowledge of downcycling.</li> <li>• Factual knowledge of how to establish and manage a blog.</li> <li>• Factual knowledge of how to create engaging content for a blog.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the importance of recycling, re-using and up-cycling old items.</li> <li>• Recognise how different items can be re-used and re-purposed.</li> <li>• Evaluate the value of waste items, as raw materials for other uses.</li> <li>• Research to identify where waste items can be recycled in the local area.</li> <li>• Conduct research into recycling, downcycling and upcycling.</li> <li>• Synthesize ideas to develop a plan for how to recycle, up-cycle or down-cycle the items listed in the WebQuest.</li> <li>• Apply digital and creative skills to establish and maintain a blog.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased regard for the importance of recycling and re-using items to reduce waste.</li> <li>• Awareness of the circular economy.</li> <li>• Awareness of upcycling.</li> <li>• Awareness of downcycling.</li> <li>• Appreciation of the value that still exists in items that we consider to be 'waste'.</li> <li>• Openness to changing personal habits to reduce waste and benefit the environment.</li> </ul>

As part of the assessment of this WebQuest, all young adults will be expected to establish and run a blog so that they can undertake their recycling, upcycling and downcycling projects in the



public domain, while also raising awareness of how the life of items that would normally be considered waste can be lengthened with some creativity! Through this activity, young adults will learn the value that still exists in items that we would normally consider to be waste products. By creating a blog to document their project, this will act as inspiration to other young adults, to peers and family members, to take care of their products and to repair and re-use what they can, rather than just throwing the items away.

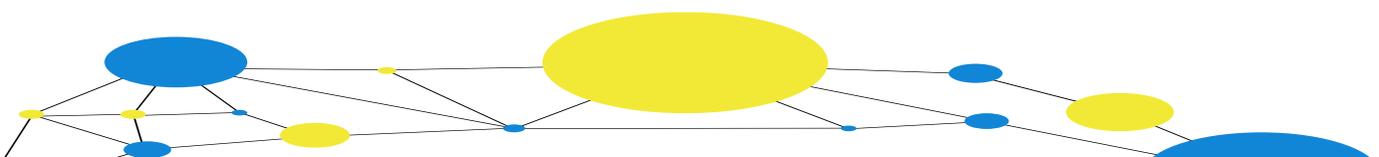
As a self-assessment activity, young adults will be asked to reflect on the following questions and assess their performance in this task:

- What did I learn about the circular economy?
- What did I learn about recycling, upcycling and downcycling that I didn't know before?
- Why did I choose to recycle/upcycle/downcycle each item?
- Did I enjoy this activity?
- Did I enjoy maintaining a blog to follow these projects?
- What elements of this activity did I enjoy best?
- What aspect did I find most challenging and why?
- What skills did I acquire through this activity? Is there something I was good at that I did not think I would be?
- If I was to do this activity again, would I do things differently next time? What and why?

Questions that a parent might use to start a discussion with the young adult about recycling and to debrief this WebQuest:

- What do you think you have learned through this challenge?
- Are there things you learned in this WebQuest that would make you want to change your habits? If so, what are they?
- Are there lessons from this WebQuest that can be applied to your home? If so, what are they?
- Do you have a sense of accomplishment on completing this challenge?
- Will you maintain the blog and continue recycling, upcycling and downcycling now that the project is over? Why or why not?

**CONCLUSION** (provides an opportunity to summarise the experience, to encourage reflection about the process, to extend and generalise what was learned, or some combination of these. Suggest questions that a trainer might use in a whole class discussion to debrief a WebQuest):

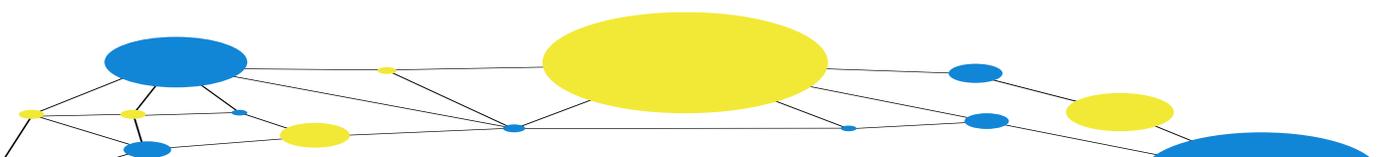


In 2018, it was estimated that approximately 50 million tonnes of electronic waste was created around the world, half of which came from personal technology like smartphones, laptops, and tablets. Research shows that only 20% of this figure was recycled and the rest when to landfill. How has so much electronic waste been generated? The answer to that question comes in two parts. Firstly, the cost of some electronics leads us to be wasteful in many respects. Take for example the cost of a printer and its ink cartridges; we have all heard the story of someone considering buying a new printer rather than the ink. This is down to pricing, often the cost of a printer fit for the household is quite low while the cartridges can be relatively expensive in comparison. The second reason for this significant volume of electronic waste is that we have become a society that discards our technology due to the slightest inconvenience, and often in favour of a newer model. Not only do these technological devices use resources that damage the environment in their production and mining, but gadgets that end up in the landfill are adding to the vast quantities of electronic waste.

And it doesn't end with our electronic waste, or e-waste, either! Less than a third of plastic waste in Europe is recycled. The EU textile industry generates waste estimated at 16 million tons per year. Much of this waste is thrown in landfills or incinerated, with a high environmental impact and at great cost. So, what can be done? We cannot change the wants of consumers, so repairing and repurposing our unwanted items is the only way to combat this vast production of waste across the EU.

Through this WebQuest, you have shown how you can do your part. Instead of waste ending up in landfill, you have the power to come up with a variety of activities that extend the life cycle of each item. But why stop there? What else can you de-clutter, re-use, recycle, upcycle or downcycle? Who else can you tell about your recycling, upcycling and downcycling activities? Share what you have learned with other members of your family and see if you can start a recycling, upcycling or downcycling revolution in your home!

Every little change you make can have a greater impact on the environment – remember, small steps make a big difference!





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