

Where do the peelings go?

A food waste lesson with Eddie, Wee Bin, Amina, Fiona and Hamish from the made-up Scottish town of Gullbrae.

Learning aim	Pupils explain that good food should be saved first, that unavoidable food scraps can be treated to make energy and fertiliser, and that scraps are never animal feed.
Level	Approximately ages 5 to 7 (with adult reading) and 8 to 11. These are content levels, not a claim of curriculum alignment.
Time	Suggested 45 to 60 minutes. To be confirmed after an educator trial.
You need	This pack printed (colour or black and white), scissors for the cards, pencils. No real food or food waste.
In the pack	Lesson plan · readers' theatre script · 7 story sequencing cards · 12 sorting cards · quiz · answers · "Our council's bins" sheet · teacher fact sheet

Where teachers can use it

- **England, science:** Year 5 properties and changes of materials, where some changes make new materials (food scraps become biogas and digestate). Also suits cross-curricular sustainability work.
- **Scotland, sciences:** Planet Earth and Materials, with links to Learning for Sustainability.
- **Eco-Schools:** a starting activity for a school's waste topic.

These are suggestions. The pack does not claim to cover any curriculum objective. Wales and Northern Ireland are not yet mapped.

Inclusion and safety

- Pupils can take part by drawing, pointing, reading aloud or writing. Quiet pupils can draw or point instead of speaking, and an adult can read any card aloud.
- No real food waste, bins or caddies are handled. Pupils never approach a working lorry.
- Food safety is an adult decision; no activity asks pupils to judge whether food is safe to eat.
- Eddie speaks Scots. Translations are given in brackets, and the class can enjoy different ways of saying the same idea.

Gullbrae is a made-up seaside town. Real bins, caddies and rules depend on your council: check yours at bindaybuddy.co.uk or on your council's website.

Lesson plan

Part	What happens	5 to 7 / 8 to 11
1. Prediction about 5 min	Ask: "Where do you think the potato peelings go after the caddy?" Collect ideas. Like Eddie, make a confident prediction, then check it with the expert in the story.	Draw or say an idea / write one sentence.
2. The story about 10 min	Read the readers' theatre script with six readers, or read the four-picture home pack story aloud.	Teacher reads / pupils take the parts.
3. Put it in order about 10 min	In pairs, cut out and order the seven sequencing cards. Ask: which card is the most important? (There is no single right answer.)	Use cards 1, 3, 5 and 7 / all seven.
4. Save, caddy or neither? about 10 min	Sort the twelve cards into three piles: save it, Wee Bin's caddy, or neither. Discuss the "neither" pile: packaging never goes in the caddy.	First eight cards / all twelve.
5. Quiz about 5 min	Six questions, answers at the back.	Questions 1 to 3 / all six.
6. Take it home about 5 min	Give out "Our council's bins". Pupils find out their real food waste day with a grown-up.	With help / independently.

Words to use

Caddy a small kitchen bin for food scraps. **Scraps** bits of food nobody can eat. **Bio plant** where food scraps are treated (8 to 11: **anaerobic digestion**, breaking down without oxygen). **Microbes** tiny living things. **Biogas** gas used to make heat or electricity. **Digestate** what is left; suitable digestate is used as **fertiliser**. **Wee** small (Scots).

Questions for the end

- What could your family do so the caddy has less in it?
- What did Fiona do before Hamish went back into the field?
- What did Wee Bin learn about his few peelings?
- Eddie guessed the peeling would be Hamish's dinner. How did he find out he was wrong?
- Does every council do the same thing with food waste? How could we find out about ours?

Hamish's short menu: a script

Six parts: Narrator, Wee Bin, Eddie, Amina, Fiona and Hamish. Hamish only has one line, and it is the best one.

Narrator	Eddie clicked the lid onto a tub of leftover vegetables. Another meal was ready.
Narrator	Wee Bin peered at the few potato peelings inside his caddy.
Wee Bin	All that cooking, and this is my whole job?
Eddie	Nae need tae fill a bin wi food we can still eat. (No need to fill a bin with food we can still eat.)
Wee Bin	But do a few peelings do anything?
Narrator	Eddie paused. He knew where the collection lorry went. After that, he wasn't sure.
Eddie	I'll ask Amina, then come back an tell ye. (I'll ask Amina, then come back and tell you.)
Narrator	After the scraps had been collected, Eddie visited Amina at the bio plant's visitor fence.
Eddie	Wee Bin wants tae ken what happens tae his peelings. (Wee Bin wants to know what happens to his peelings.)
Narrator	He pictured tiny workers busy inside the tanks.
Eddie	Have they aw got wee hi-vis jaikets? (Have they all got little hi-vis jackets?)
Narrator	Amina laughed.
Amina	You're imagining quite a team!
Amina	The real workers are microbes. Tiny living things, too small to see without special equipment. They break down the scraps inside a sealed tank, without oxygen.
Narrator	Eddie looked at the enormous tanks.
Eddie	Aw that work, an nae wee jaikets. (All that work, and no little jackets.)
Amina	Exactly. And no little jackets.
Narrator	Amina showed him two pictures.
Amina	One shows where we use biogas to make energy. The other shows a store for digestate. Digestate contains nutrients, and suitable digestate is used as fertiliser to help plants grow.
Eddie	So Hamish gets his denner fae the plant? (So Hamish gets his dinner from the plant?)
Amina	Neither scraps nor fertiliser! Hamish eats grass. The fertiliser helps the grass grow. Scraps and fertiliser are never his lunch.
Narrator	Eddie grinned.
Eddie	I'd best tell Wee Bin afore I tell Hamish. (I'd better tell Wee Bin before I tell Hamish.)

Continued over the page.

Narrator	Back in the kitchen that afternoon, Wee Bin was waiting.
Wee Bin	Well?
Narrator	Eddie explained how the scraps help make gas for energy and fertiliser for plants.
Narrator	Wee Bin lifted his lid.
Wee Bin	So my few peelings count.
Eddie	Aye. Save the guid food first. (Yes. Save the good food first.)
Narrator	Eddie pointed to the tub.
Wee Bin	What's on the menu?
Eddie	Saved denner. (Saved dinner.)
Wee Bin	Excellent choice.
Narrator	On a later visit, Fiona held up a picture of the field from earlier. Now Hamish was grazing in the long grass.
Fiona	The fertiliser helped this grass grow. I checked the fertiliser and followed the grazing rules before letting Hamish back.
Narrator	Eddie stood beside Fiona and watched Hamish take another mouthful.
Eddie	He looks fair pleased wi yer work, Fiona. (He looks pleased with your work, Fiona.)
Narrator	Then he gave Hamish a grand wave.
Eddie	Right, Hamish. Whit's on the menu the day? (Right, Hamish. What's on the menu today?)
Narrator	Hamish chewed slowly.
Hamish	(<i>thinking</i>) Grass. Excellent choice.

The same words as the story on bindaybuddy.co.uk (Hamish's short menu, revised 21 October 2026), with "he said" left out. A draft: not yet read aloud with children, and Eddie's Scots lines were checked by a fluent Scots speaker on 21 October 2026.

Put the story in order

✂ Cut along the dashed lines. Shuffle, then put the cards in order.



1. The small job

Eddie saves the leftover vegetables. Wee Bin wonders if a few peelings do anything.



2. Eddie has a theory

At the bio plant fence, Eddie pictures tiny workers in hi-vis.



3. The hidden workers

Microbes break the scraps down in a sealed tank, without oxygen.



4. Two useful jobs

Biogas is used for energy. Suitable digestate is used as fertiliser.



5. An answer for Wee Bin

Eddie comes back and tells Wee Bin what his scraps help make.



6. Later at the farm

Fiona followed the grazing rules. Now Hamish grazes the long grass.



7. The short menu

Hamish chews slowly. Grass. Excellent choice.

Save it, Wee Bin's caddy, or neither?

✂ Cut out the cards. Sort them into three piles. Packaging never goes in the caddy.

Potato peelings	Banana skin	Apple core
Eggshells	Leftover vegetables in a tub	A whole apple
Bread still in its bag	Cooked rice for tomorrow	A crisp packet
The wrapper from a sandwich	Plastic food tray	A glass jar



Save it



Wee Bin's caddy



Neither

Quiz: Hamish's short menu

Tick one answer for each question. Ages 5 to 7: questions 1 to 3, with an adult reading.

Name or group: _____

1. What should we do first with food we can still eat?

- ☐ Throw it away ☐ Save it and eat it later ☐ Put it in the caddy

2. What goes in Wee Bin, the kitchen caddy?

- ☐ Scraps nobody can eat, like peelings ☐ Wrappers and trays ☐ Good leftovers

3. Does Hamish eat the potato peelings?

- ☐ Yes, every day ☐ No. Hamish eats grass ☐ Only on Tuesdays

4. Inside Amina's sealed tank, the tiny living things break the food down without...

- ☐ water ☐ oxygen ☐ light

5. The bio plant makes two useful things. Which two?

- ☐ Biogas and digestate ☐ Plastic and paper ☐ Compost and glass

6. What did Fiona do before letting Hamish back into the field?

- ☐ Nothing ☐ She checked the fertiliser and followed the grazing rules ☐ She gave him the scraps

Bonus question: Does every council collect food waste in the same way? How could you find out about yours?

Answers

Sequencing cards

1 The small job · 2 Eddie has a theory · 3 The hidden workers · 4 Two useful jobs · 5 An answer for Wee Bin · 6 Later at the farm · 7 The short menu.

Quiz

1 Save it and eat it later · 2 Scraps nobody can eat · 3 No, Hamish eats grass · 4 oxygen · 5 Biogas and digestate · 6 She checked the fertiliser and followed the grazing rules.

Bonus: No. Some councils use anaerobic digestion, some compost food waste, and some do not collect it yet. Check the council's website or bindaybuddy.co.uk.

Sorting cards

Save it: leftover vegetables in a tub, a whole apple, bread still in its bag, cooked rice for tomorrow (a grown-up stores it safely and decides when it is eaten).

Wee Bin's caddy: potato peelings, banana skin, apple core, eggshells.

Neither: crisp packet, sandwich wrapper, plastic food tray, glass jar. These are packaging. Some may be recycled in a different bin, depending on the council.

If a pupil asks...

- **"Can hens or pigs eat our scraps?"** No. In the UK, kitchen scraps must not be fed to farm animals, including backyard hens and pet pigs, because they can spread disease.
- **"Is digestate the same as compost?"** No. Compost is made with air; anaerobic digestion works without oxygen. They are different products with different checks.
- **"Does my peeling feed Hamish?"** Hamish is made up. The story shows one possible route; real routes vary.

Our council's bins

Find out with a grown-up. Use your council's website or bindaybuddy.co.uk.

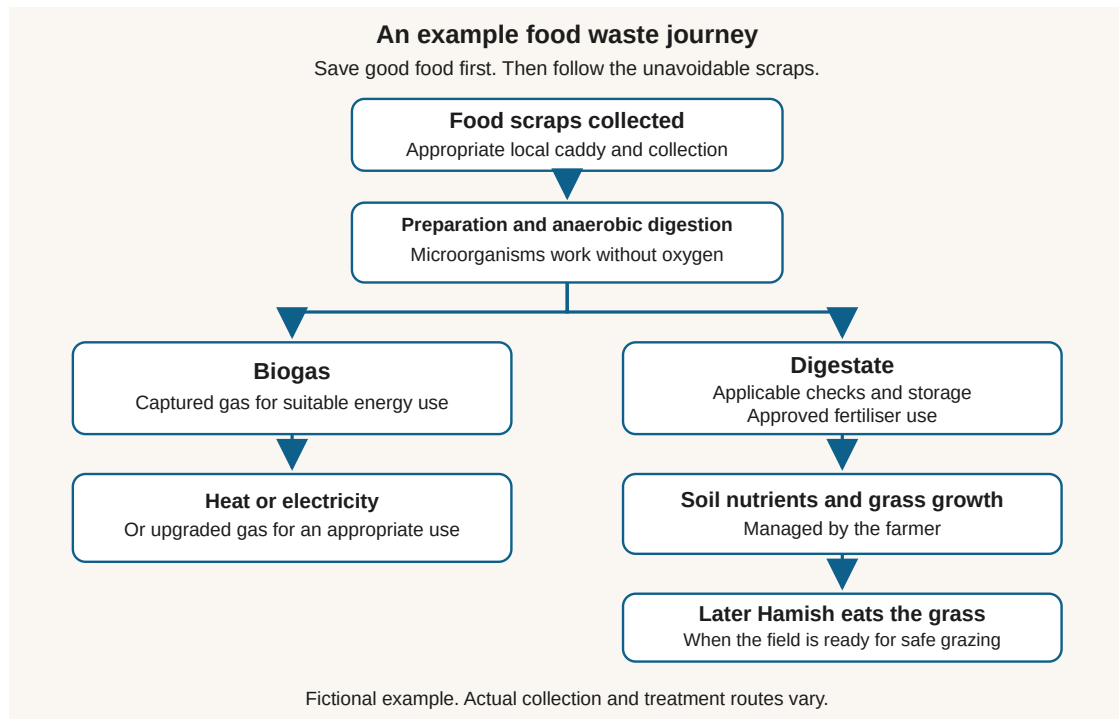
Question	Our answer
Which council collects our bins?	
Does our council collect food waste?	☐ Yes ☐ Not yet ☐ Not sure
What is our kitchen caddy like? Draw it.	
What colour is the outdoor food waste bin?	
Which day is food waste collected?	
Can we use caddy liners? Which kind?	
One thing our family will do to waste less food	



Wee Bin says: an empty caddy at the end of the week means the good food got eaten. That's a win!

Gullbrae's bins are made up. Your council's colours and rules are the ones that count.

The facts behind the story



- **Prevention first.** Saving edible food comes before any recycling. A full caddy is not a goal.
- **Anaerobic digestion** uses microorganisms in sealed tanks without oxygen. It produces biogas, used for heat or electricity or upgraded for other uses, and digestate, which goes through checks before it can be used as fertiliser (Zero Waste Scotland).
- **Not animal feed.** Household kitchen scraps and catering waste must not be fed to farm animals, including backyard hens (Defra and APHA).
- **Grazing waits.** Fertilisers made from processed animal by-products carry grazing and harvesting restrictions, so animals do not go straight back onto a treated field (Defra and APHA).
- **Local differences.** Collection containers, liners and treatment routes vary by council; some compost food waste instead (Recycle Now).

Sources, checked 8 October 2026: zerowastescotland.org.uk/resources/anaerobic-digestion · recyclenow.com/how-to-recycle/how-to-recycle-food-waste · gov.uk/guidance/supplying-and-using-animal-by-products-as-farm-animal-feed · gov.uk/guidance/using-fertilisers-made-from-processed-animal-by-products-on-farms

Pack reviewed by: educator [name, date] · fact reviewer [name, date] · Scots dialogue: checked by a fluent Scots speaker, 21 October 2026. Story pictures are proposals until approved. No adverts. BinDayBuddy is run by Towpath Digital Ltd and is not a council or school service.