

greenmatters



THE GREEN GENIE

All your green questions answered

Q. I bought a new blu-ray player at Christmas to replace my old DVD player. I don't want to throw it away though, I'd rather it was recycled or re-used. What can I do with it?

A. More than 75 per cent of electrical items end up in landfill and can release toxins into the soil, so it is important people recycle or re-use as much as possible. Take small electrical items to any of 14 specialist on-street recycling banks in Hackney – the slot for depositing items is roughly the same size as a sheet of A4 paper, so a DVD player should fit. If it is too large, residents can arrange a free collection by calling: **0800 085 1050**; or visit a household waste recycling centre at Hornsey Street in Islington or South Access Road in Waltham Forest.

Alternatively, to make sure your DVD player is re-used, take it along to the next Give or Take Day at Lauriston Primary School on 9 February. Staff at the Council-run event will test the item to ensure it is in good working order and find it a new home.

For more information on Give or Take Days, or to find your nearest on-street recycling banks visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/recycling



MORE INFO

To ask the Genie a question, e-mail: recycling@hackney.gov.uk, or write to: **Green Genie, Recycling, Keltan House, 89-115 Mare Street, E8 4RU**. For more information on recycling in the borough call: **020 8356 6688**, or visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/recycling



Pupils at Kingsmead Primary School show off their TfL award for cycling; on-site help for bikes at the school (below)

By **Victoria Walvis**

KINGSMEAD Primary School has won a prestigious award from Transport for London (TfL) for its cycling project.

The Beacon Cycling School award was announced at a TfL annual event to celebrate London's leading school travel initiatives.

The E9 school was recognised for its efforts to get pupils, parents and staff on their bikes. It has bought cycles in a range of sizes so that children of all

ages can learn to ride and improve their on-road skills. All pupils are trained to National Standards 1 and 2; and the school has its own cycle instructor.

Megan, a Year 4 pupil, said: "When I first got my bike I couldn't do much on it, but with the lessons I improved all the time; I have also learned to signal."

Kingsmead also offers sports cycling and has set up a cycle-racing league with other local schools.

The project has engaged staff and residents too, through bike maintenance workshops; a weekly adult cycling club; cycle training; and communal bikes for

“When I first got my bike I couldn't do much on it, but with the lessons I improved all the time”

staff. An impressive 12 per cent of pupils, and 28 per cent of staff, currently cycle to Kingsmead every day.

Teacher Sabina Conjamalay said: "I now cycle nine miles to school and have discovered a love of cycling.

"I received some cycle training at school to build up my confidence and was able to make use of the communal bikes to

get me started." Kingsmead's cycling programme is part funded by the Council and reflects a wider drive in the borough to reduce car use and increase the number of children walking, cycling and taking public transport as part of the journey to school. Car journeys to Hackney schools have dropped by almost 10 per cent since 2006.

