



Local Authority Pod Membership (2021-22) FAQs

1) Who is Wastebuster?

[Wastebuster](#) is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company on mission to inform, inspire and empower young people to care for the environment by adopting more sustainable lifestyle choices.

Wastebuster has been delivering its local authority waste education programme since 2008 to address the significant challenges in developing and delivering strategies to promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. Wastebuster campaigns recognise the need to be responsive to local needs, to effectively support positive attitude and behaviour change in local communities.

2) What is the Pod?

In 2020, *Wastebuster* merged with the multi-award-winning environmental education and campaign platform, [The Pod](#). Creating a combined network of over 17,000 registered schools in the UK and 24,000 globally in 94 countries.

The Pod has a proven track record of helping communities take practical action to help mitigate against climate change, through high quality education resources on energy, waste, biodiversity, climate science and a range of other environmental topics, with a particular focus on STEM.

The *Pod* and *Wastebuster* specialise in engaging, informing, and inspiring children and young people to carry their learning beyond the school gates, so they might activate positive change in the home.

The Pod's annual national campaigns; *Switch-Off Fortnight*, *Waste Week*, *What's Under Your Feet?* in association with *BBC Countryfile*, have assisted over 200 UK local authorities to help schools, parents, and the local community to engage with important sustainability messages.

All Pod resources are curriculum linked and aimed at 4 – 16-year-olds. With lesson plans, practical activities, assemblies, films, games and information packs as well as posters, stickers, and badges and enriching home learning activities, that engage the whole family.

Visit www.jointhepod.org and wastebuster.co.uk for further information.

3) What are the Local Authority Pod Membership Options for 2021-22?

There are a range of local authority service subscriptions available, ranging from free access to Pod resources and campaign assets to a fully localised and supported school education and community engagement service with social, economic and environmental impact reporting. We have tried to cater for the widest range of needs for our local authority members and are happy to discuss your requirements.



Level 1 Pod Membership (Free)

Promote the Pod's free environmental education resources and campaigns to your community, to activate positive change with this Pod Membership package.

Includes:

- ✓ Ability to sign up to Pod campaigns and access posters and resources
- ✓ Your local authority's logo in the member's section of the Pod
- ✓ Quarterly member newsletter
- ✓ A press release for all Pod campaigns
- ✓ Annual national performance data

Level 2 Pod Membership (£2,000 pa)

Support cross-departmental working (across waste and recycling, climate change, energy, travel and transport), access all Pod resources, benefit from localised communications and school engagement support from the Pod, and receive local impact reporting, so you can see the positive change in your local community with this Pod Membership package.

Includes all the benefits of *Level 1 Pod Membership*, plus:

- ✓ A localised homepage to promote associated local services and information to schools and householders
- ✓ Your local authority's profile in the member's section of the Pod to promote your climate change mitigation strategy and positive impact achieved through the Pod
- ✓ Access to the entire Pod resource library including Officer use of Pod resources to support office, school and community engagement
- ✓ Localised, dual-branded emails released to schools in your area from the Pod to encourage sign up to all Pod campaigns
- ✓ A click through web/ social media banner promoting your local authority homepage and membership to the Pod
- ✓ Your local authority logo dual branded with all Pod campaign logos e.g. Take Part in Recycle to Read/ Switch Off Fortnight/ Waste Week 2022 in XXX authority
- ✓ Template press releases for each Pod campaign that recognises your local authorities support of the Pod
- ✓ Termly localised performance reporting on all Pod campaigns, including school and householder engagement and environmental impact e.g. KGs of toys and tech recycled and funds raised for local schools for books (Recycle to Read)

Level 3 Pod Membership (£135 p/school pa*)

Benefit from a tailored support package designed to respond to specific local needs including a dedicated Pod support team, targeted contract KPIs and detailed impact reporting with this Pod Membership package.

Includes all the benefits of *Level 2 Pod Membership*, plus:

- ✓ All schools to be assigned a Pod School Liaison Officer who will contact every school to identify key contacts and their specific needs
- ✓ A Local Authority Project Manager assigned to liaise directly with the local authority and provide tailored support
- ✓ A localised communications plan
- ✓ Monthly emails to school contacts and local authority school bulletins, plus supporting social media feeds
- ✓ A localised, interactive Pod Year Planner including local environmental events and opportunities for schools
- ✓ Termly contract management team meetings to monitor progress of activity
- ✓ Community consultation report (schools and householders and other identified key stakeholders)
- ✓ Monthly localised performance reporting against agreed KPIs (linked to community participation and environmental impact)



The cost of the contract is on a per school basis. The cost is £135.00 (+VAT) per school per academic year with a minimum contract cost of £10,000 (+VAT). Local Authority Pod Membership has an operational start date of August, and completion in July each year to be in alignment with the academic year. Local authorities must sign up a minimum of 3-months prior to the operational start date to secure a Pod Membership.

Who do I contact for support?

Please contact Julie Billings – Local Authority Partnerships Manager - Info@wastebuster.co.uk

What reporting do I get?

Level 1) Pod Membership – national reporting at the end of the academic year (August).

Level 2) Pod Membership – Termly performance reporting in your local area based on Pod campaign objectives, including community participation and environmental impact (e.g., number of schools, pupils and households participating in campaign activities, waste reduced, reused for Waste Week, material recycled (KGs/ material type) for Recycle to Read, energy/ CO2 saved for Switch Off Fortnight).

Level 3) Pod Membership – Monthly performance reporting with the addition of monitoring and evaluation of the localised aspects of the Pod campaigns against agreed KPIs based on local priorities, such as targeted contamination materials. Plus, qualitative and quantitative data from a whole school community consultation that is undertaken in Q2 each academic year.

Can I sign up anytime?

You can sign up to free Pod membership at any time. As the full Pod Membership and Community Programme are linked to the academic year, local authorities must sign up before August 1st each academic year.

How do I access resources on the Pod?

You will be sent login details for a local authority account on the Pod following registration approval or service contract agreement/ payment. If you have any problems registering on the Pod, email contact_us@jointhepod.org.

How do I sign up?

You will need to go to the [registration page](#) on the Pod and follow the instructions to register for the Pod. You will then be contacted by our Local Authority Membership team to discuss your requirements. You will then be given a Level 1 or 2 Pod Membership agreement, or if signing Level 3 Pod Membership, a Service Level Agreement with an appendix referencing your delivery schedule and agreed service specification.

How do I pay for Pod Membership?

You will receive an invoice after service contract signing. We accept BACS transfers. For further details please contact Ian Milton at Finance@Wastebuster.co.uk.

Can more than one person from my local authority access Pod resources?

Yes. They will need to register for a Pod account, and they won't get billed if you have a live account with us.

How do I renew our local authority Pod membership?

Contact us to request membership renewal (info@wastebuster.co.uk) and we will also send a reminder 1-month prior to your membership renewal date.