**Project Inspiration Ideas for Plastic Free 4 Kids (for Change X)**

Participating schools will get €500 to spend on projects. Below are some ideas to get you started on thinking about how best to use the funding.

**School workshops with experts, artists, facilitators, scientists etc.**

* Invite a plastic free or sustainability expert to give workshops to students and staff.
* Ask an artist to help create a mural about being a plastic free school - maybe even use upcycled bottle tops to create this mural.
* Invite an artist in to do plastic free workshops - a papier mache, clay or upcycling specialist.
* Ask an upcycling fashion designer to teach sewing and upcycling skills in your school.
* Get a videographer or producer to help your school make a short film about your project.
* Ask a musician or playwright to help turn your project into a song or a performance.
* Contact a marine scientist to teach you more about marine plastic.
* Invite an expert composter to help your school set up its own compost heap.

**Bins & Signage for proper waste disposal**

* Remember: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - in that order.
* Eliminate the use for plastic bin liners in your recycling and compost bins and only empty the landfill bin when the bag is completely full
* Organise good quality recycling bins for each classroom and the staffroom
* Have a soft plastic collection bin in a central place in school so plastic packaging can be returned to supermarkets that have bins for it like Tesco & Lidl
* Write a plastic free charter for your school with commitments like saying no to straws, bringing plastic free lunches and using reusable water bottles.  Publish it on your website or noticeboard  - celebrate students who are living the charter.

**Competitions**

* Run an upcycling STEAM or engineering competition.
* Have an upcycling fashion show.
* Run a plastic free art exhibition - using recycled plastic, plastic free materials or having a plastic free message to teach spread the plastic free message.
* Run a competition to tell the story of plastic objects lifecycles -  from initial production to use to reuse, recycling, or disposal.

**Suggestions for plastic free prizes**

* Book tokens.
* Good quality reusable metal water bottles.
* Plastic free stationery and recycled school supplies - pencils, rulers, pens etc.

**Connect with your local Community**

* Connect with your Tidy Towns group or take the lead to run a plastic clean up in your area. Buy litter pickers, reusable gloves and reusable bags and crates to collect the rubbish.
* Run a project with a local sports club to help them to reduce their use of Single Use Plastics.
* Collaborate with a local shop to reduce plastic packaging.

**Some other ideas**

* Install a water fountain or drinking water  tap in the school and register it on refill.ie.
* Purchase reusable cutlery, plates, cups and glasses for school, staff and  PA events. Or a set of reusable cups for each classroom to eliminate disposable cups for celebrations, science experiments & smoothies.
* Build a composting area in your school garden.
* Buy Pollutoys for workshops on plastic pollution - visit other schools, pre schools, secondary schools and clubs in your area to run a workshop to teach what you have learnt.