

Waste Audit

Scientific Investigation

Transform into a garbologist,
or a person who studies
garbage.

What can we learn from
studying our schools waste?



Safety Procedures

- 1) Keep safety gear on at all times
- 2) Do NOT throw trash
- 3) If something looks dangerous, Do NOT touch it. Leave it on your tarp and ask school staff for assistance
- 4) Do NOT eat trash, even it is still in its package
- 5) EVERYONE must participate to the best of their ability

Suit Up in Your Safety Gear!

Everyone will wear:



Aprons



Gloves



Goggles



Mask

Set Up your Audit Area

Layout tarps and samples

Color coding the tarps and samples helps identify sample streams in photos.



**Recycle
stream
sample**



**Landfill
stream
sample**



**Compost
stream
sample**

Phase 1: Sort!

For each waste stream
sort materials based on
what bin they should be
sorted into:

- Landfill
- Recycle
- Compost



When materials are sorted into the wrong bin, that's known as **contamination**. One goal of your sorting is to determine how much contamination was in each waste stream.

A Note on Compostables:

Compostables can be sorted into three sub-categories to better capture what potential any wasted food had to be recovered before discarded.



Food Share

Unbitten or unopened food from school



Wasted Food

Opened or bitten food that could have still been eaten



Inedible Food and Compostables

Peels, paper, bones, etc.

PHASE 2: Observations & Photos

Make observations of your sorted material.

- What do you notice?
- What do wonder?

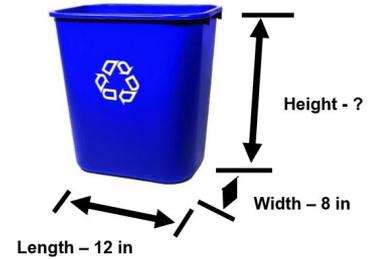
Write down your observations on your data sheet and take photos of all your samples.



PHASE 3: Weighing and Recording

Weigh all the materials by category. You can use a hanging fish scale or floor scale

If you are also taking volume data, use a standard set of bins and calculate volume.



Record the data on your recording sheet



Make sure you are weighing in pounds (lbs) and reset the scale after weighing a bag.

Site Assessment						
School Information	School Name	Audit Information	Audit Date	Staff Information	Auditors Initials	
	School District		Date of Waste Collection		Photographers Initials	
	Point of Contact & Role		Grade Levels of Waste		Data Inputter Initials	
	Kitchen Lead		Where was the Waste Collected From?			
	Custodial Lead		Menu			
	Other Key Stakeholders					
	School Hauler(s)					

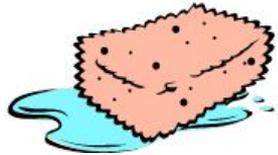
Audit Data by Weight - Pre-Intervention						
Waste Audit Data						
	Landfill Bin		Recycling Bin		Compost Bin	
	Pounds	%	Pounds	%	Pounds	%
Landfill	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Recycling	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
C - Edible Food	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
C - Food Share	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
C - Peels/Paper	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Total sample weight	0	lbs	0	lbs	0	lbs
% Correct	#DIV/0!	Correct	#DIV/0!	Correct	#DIV/0!	Correct
% Contamination	#DIV/0!	Contamination	#DIV/0!	Contamination	#DIV/0!	Contamination
# of Food Share Items						
Notes						

Clean Up

Everyone helps!



Spray Cleaner



Sponges



Broom and
Dustpan

Data Analysis

Figure out what percent (%) of each category you found in each waste stream sample.

Example:

	Landfill Bin		Recycling Bin		Compost Bin	
	Pounds	%	Pounds	%	Pounds	%
Landfill	2	26%	0.2	2%	0.2	0%
Recycling	2.4	31%	8.8	90%	0.2	0%
C - Edible Food	2	26%	0.8	8%	58.7	75%
C - Food Share	0.8	10%	0	0%	0.4	1%
C - Peels/Paper	0.6	8%	0	0%	18.47	24%
Total sample weight	7.8	lbs	9.8	lbs	78	lbs
% Correct	26%	Correct	90%	Correct	99%	Correct
% Contamination	74%	Contaminat	10%	Contaminat	1%	Contamination

Report Back

Develop a way to report back your findings to key stakeholders and to the school community.



You are a Garbologist!

