

How to do a WASTE AUDIT



Get together

- Two or three days worth of garbage from different locations around the school
- Reusable gloves (not essential), litter pickers or tongs
- Large tarp or sheet of plastic
- Labelled buckets to separate waste streams like landfill, food, recycling, soft plastics
- Recording sheet
- Enclosed shoes
- Small groups of 10-12 students

Prepare audit area

- Choose a calm fine day
- Choose a covered sheltered audit space like a COLA
- Use up to three buckets per waste stream placed in corners to allow students to move freely

Begin

- Empty the garbage bins onto the tarp
- Ask students to sort the garbage with tongs into relevant buckets
- Encourage separating waste types including removing cling wrap from sandwiches or removing chips from packets

Record and assess results

- Record the number of buckets for each waste stream including half buckets
- Assess how you can reduce your waste including replacing garbage bins with recycling reuse or avoid options
- Talk through the results with the students
- Show students how much of the waste is actually landfill and how much is recoverable
- Use low waste lunch checklist for follow up promotion