

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



Problem waste includes household batteries, mobile phones and accessories, light globes, smoke alarms, DVD's and CD's. It can be disposed of at Lake Mac Libraries, Awaba Waste management facility and Councils administration building.