



Sustain.me HOME WASTE AUDIT

GOAL OF AUDIT: To determine what we are throwing out, what we are recycling, how much of each, and how we could reduce our waste and increase recycling.

A household waste audit is a simple and useful tool to help you determine what waste your household is producing so that you can find ways to reduce the waste or find ways to recycle or to reuse it.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION:

Bagged rubbish;
bathroom or kitchen scales;
ground sheet/floor covers;
clipboards with copies of the recording sheet;
rubber gloves (one pair for each adult and child);
overalls, or old clothing.



- The teacher may send a letter to parents to inform them about the activity, and ask them to provide clothing and support for the activity.

SAFETY RULES:

Always use rubber gloves and don't forget to wash your hands after the audit. You could also wear a pair of coveralls or some old clothes. Never just put your hands into the middle of the garbage. Handle **ONLY** what you can see, avoiding getting hurt by broken glass or other sharp objects. Try using disposable chop sticks to sort through your waste.

HOW TO PROCEED:

The trash audit should be made on a daily basis, everyday during a week in January 2017. If you use large bins, then you can measure them every two or three days, or even at the end of the week period, but it may be more difficult to sort and classify the different items.

Weigh the contents of your waste (and when possible count the number of items) and record all weights in the various categories on the Waste Audit Recording Sheet. Don't forget to take photographs and upload them to the shared folder on Google Drive.

At the end of the week add up all the numbers on the Form and then calculate the total amounts and the amount per person, and the % of each type of waste your household generates in a typical week.

CONCLUSIONS:

When finished you should consider the following questions and be ready to discuss your conclusions in the classroom:

- How much of our waste could we avoid buying?
- How much do we recycle? How much more could we recycle?
- Are there some items we could/should be reusing?
- Are there items that could be used by someone else? (i.e. used clothing or linens)
- Can we substitute long-life items for short-life items) (i.e. ceramic mugs for disposable cups)
- Are we using new plastic bags each time we go shopping?
- Do we use both sides of printed papers?
- Do we look for minimal packaging when we make purchases?
- How much "waste per day" do we generate?
- How much "waste per person per day" do we generate?
- How much "waste per person per year" do we generate?

Sustain.me HOME WASTE AUDIT RECORDING SHEET



Name:..... School:.....

Date(s) of audit:.....

Categories (weight)	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Total	%
Mixed paper									
Magazines/books									
Cardboard									
Plastics (bottles, containers...)									
Plastics (wraps, bags...)									
Foam (trays, glasses...)									
Milk/juice cartons									
Aluminium cans									
Food tins									
Batteries									
Electronics									
Glass									
Fabric / clothing									
Food waste									
Food still edible									
Others									
Total (material)									

Summary	Home Total (kg) per day	Home Total (kg) per week (x7 days)	Home Total (kg) per year (x52 weeks)	
Total				