

Waste and Recycling Classroom Supplement

As you work towards greening your classroom by assessing the waste disposal and recycling efforts in your school, you can use this classroom supplement to help you fill out your report card. This document can also guide your students in the certification process by providing opportunities for in-class activities, discussion, and data collection. This supplement is a resource for you and is NOT a required part of the program; however, in some cases data from the audits you conduct will be used in your report card.

Question to Ponder:

- 1) Where are the garbage cans and recycling/compost bins located in the building?
- 2) Are they near each other?
- 3) Do waste items and recycling products get mixed up because they're close to one another?
- 4) Look inside your classroom's garbage can. Is there anything in there that shouldn't be?
- 5) Where could the garbage bin be moved to encourage better disposal?
- 6) In addition to the cafeteria, are there any other places in the school that you need to track? Classroom garbage cans? Bathrooms?

Tables for Success

Please use the tables below to complete your Waste & Recycling audits. These data will be used in your report card and should help to inform your Lasting Change. Please feel free to duplicate or modify these tables to meet your needs.

Waste Container Audit- The following table will allow you to understand how much and what kind of waste your school produces.

Note: You may have more/less than 3 containers per waste type. If you have less for any given waste type, simply leave the other fields blank. If you have more, try to average yours into 3.

		Material Type e.g., food waste, plastic bottles	Container Type, Size e.g., 3 yd or 96 gal	Times Emptied/ Week	Percent Full	Quantity/ Week Size x % Full	Quantity/ Month Quantity per week x 4
Example	Container 1	Mixed Paper: cardboard, office paper, newspaper	3 yard dumpster	1/Week	50%	1.5 yards/wk	6 yards/mn
Garbage	Container 1						
	Container 2						
	Container 3						
Recycling	Container 1						
	Container 2						
	Container 3						
Compost	Container 1						
	Container 2						
	Container 3						



Visual Inspection Audit- This table will help illuminate what type of contamination could be taking place in your school's waste disposal containers.

Note: Fill out this visual inspection audit in one or more areas of your school (e.g., cafeteria, classroom, gymnasium). You can print out a separate copy for each area and summarize your findings in the Report Card.

		Container	Container Size (estimate)	Percent Full	Contaminated? (Yes or No)	Percent Contaminated (Estimate)	Contaminated with what? List items.	Estimated volume of contaminants	
Example	Garbage	Container 1	10 gal	100%	Yes	25%	Plastic containers, aluminum	10 gal * 25% = 2.5 gal	
Area of School:	Garbage	Container 1							
		Container 2							
		Container 3							
		Container 4							
		Total: Add the est. volume of contamination for each container above							
	Recycling	Container 1							
		Container 2							
		Container 3							
		Container 4							
		Total: Add the est. volume of contamination for each container above							
	Compost	Container 1							
		Container 2							
		Container 3							
		Container 4							
		Total: Add the est. volume of contamination for each container above							