



eco'tude

changing your schools ecological attitude

Solid Waste Component Audit

What you are auditing?

In this audit you will be measuring the volume of solid waste produced by your school in a one day. The solid waste will then be divided into its component parts - recycle, compost, reuse and avoid.

Why are you auditing it?

The Eco'tude footprint calculator takes into account two solid waste streams that leave the school - solid waste that ends up landfill and the solid waste that is sent for recycling. It does not tell us how efficient the solid waste stream is. A quick glance into the bin destined for the landfill may reveal items that should be in the recycling bins. The waste produced by a school can be divided into four categories:

- Recyclable - items such as paper, cardboard, plastics, cans, glass
- Compostible - food waste, flowers, garden waste and contaminated paper
- Reusable - toner cartridges, jars & containers
- Avoidable - anything else that doesn't fit into the above categories (eg chip packets)

From this audit you will be able to make recommendations on how the school can improve the waste stream.

How do you do it?

1. Before you begin this audit you will need to plan ahead and consider the following:
 - a. Who will conduct the audit? Small teams collecting the waste from different areas of the school will save time.
 - b. Which staff need to be involved? You will need to conduct this audit with the cooperation of the cleaners and general assistants.
 - c. When will you conduct the audit? Select a "typical" day, not one where students are out on excursions etc
 - d. How will you get access to student restricted areas? Seek permission and have a staff member present.
 - e. How will you know that every area of the school has been done? Using a map of the school divide it up into sections. Allocate out each section and record who is doing what area.

2. Equipment you will need on the day include:
 - garbage bags to collect the waste
 - a plastic
 - four standard (48 litre) garbage bins labelled Recycle, Compost, Reuse and Avoid to measure the volume of the waste
 - a set of bathroom scales to weigh the waste
 - gloves and tongs to handle the waste
3. The day prior to the audit line each of the bins with a garbage bag
4. At the end of the audit day collect the bags and label them to identify the source of the rubbish
5. Categorise the source of rubbish into the following areas (you can break it down further if you wish): classrooms, school grounds, canteen, staffrooms, offices, library.
6. In each source area weigh each bag to measure the mass of solid waste. Note this in your Eco'tude journal.
7. Using gloves and tongs empty the contents of the bag onto the plastic sheet and sort out the contents into the 4 bins. Feel free to make notes in your journal of the common items you identify. Also note down any suggestions you come up with as you go.
8. Note the volume of waste produced for each source area.
9. Dispose of the waste and begin on the next source area.
10. Wash hands thoroughly after this audit.
11. In a table display the results of your audit in terms of percentage mass and percentage volume.
12. Note your thoughts in your Eco'tude journal on how the waste stream at your school should be improved. Will you make any recommendations to the school?

Source:	Classrooms	Schoolgrounds	Canteen	Staffrooms	Offices	library
TotalMass:						
%Mass:						
TotalVolume:						

Taking it further

Enter into the Eco'tude footprint calculator adjusted solid waste entries that reflect the outcomes of this audit. How does this impact on your schools footprint?