



Solid Waste Disposal audit

What you are auditing?

In this waste audit you will determine the volume of solid waste that leaves your school to end up as landfill and the amount that is sent for recycling.

Why are you auditing it?

Most of the questions in the Eco'tude calculator involve 'upstream' environmental impacts. The contribution to the school's footprint from the solid waste disposal audit is in the form of the 'downstream' environmental impact from the areas of land used to take unsorted solid waste to landfill sites for disposal.

Recycling diverts materials from the solid waste stream and landfills. It still however makes a contribution to the footprint due to the 'downstream' environmental impacts due to the collection method and operation of the recycling plant. Using recycled materials to make new products saves energy and resources. Even better is to reduce consumption and reuse products where possible.

How do you do it?

1. In your Eco'tude journal draw a table similar to the one below. You need to identify the following:
 - The types of waste that leave your school
 - How the waste is stored and collected (generally skip or wheely bins)
 - The number of bins that are put out at each collection (could be less than the actual number of bins)
 - Total volume per collection (as an approximate guide: a large skipbin contains 3 m³, a small skipbin 1.5 m³, a large wheely bin ¼ m³, small wheely bin 1/8 m³)
 - How often are the bins collected?
 - From all this data you can determine the volume collected per week.
2. Decide which staff member in your school could best assist you in completing this question.
3. Record your results in your Eco'tude journal.
4. Enter your results into the online calculator. How has the footprint changed from your best guess trial?

Current waste disposal example					
Waste	Storage & collection method	Number put out for collection	Total Volume per collection m ³	Collection Frequency	Volume collected per week m ³
General	Large skip bin	1	3	3 x fortnight	4 ½
Commingled PET & Glass	Small skip bin	1	1 ½	Weekly	1 ½
Paper	Large wheely bins	6	1 ½	Weekly	1 1/2

Taking it further

1. Conduct a “component waste audit” to determine the efficiency of your current waste disposal and to identify areas of improvement.
2. From the contractor bills determine the annual cost of waste disposal in your school.

