

WHAT CAN TRASH TELL US? FOOD WASTE AUDIT

Did you know archaeologists study ancient garbage dumps to learn about how people lived long ago? That's right — old trash can tell us a lot about what people ate, what they valued, and how they lived



BUT WHAT WOULD OUR GARBAGE SAY ABOUT OUR SCHOOL?

😬 Probably that we waste a lot of food!

Let's find out for ourselves with a simple **Food Waste Audit** — a fun way to become a Data Detective and help your school waste less!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:



Rubber Gloves



2-3 buckets or bins
(lined with clear plastic bags)



A bathroom or portable scale



Log sheet or piece of paper



A small table, bench, chairs



Clean-up supplies
(soap, spray, broom, mop)

WHAT'S A FOOD WASTE AUDIT?

An audit is just a fancy word for a closer look.

In a food waste audit, you and your team will:

1. **Collect** leftover food waste from a meal
2. **Sort it** into different categories
3. **Weigh** each category
4. **Record** what you find
5. **Learn** how much food is going to waste — and how to stop it!

Ready to get messy, learn something cool, and save the planet one lunch at a time?

☀️ LET'S GO, GREEN TEAM! ☀️

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STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Pick your spot!**
Choose a place where people are eating (like the cafeteria or kitchen) and get your supplies ready.
- 2 Let others know.**
Tell the people who usually take care of the trash what you're doing — they'll appreciate the heads-up!
- 3 Set up your log sheet.**
 - Create 2–3 columns:
 - 🍎 Food Waste
 - 🗑️ Other Trash
 - ♻️ Recycling
- 4 Build your measuring station.**
Put the lined bins on a table, bench, or chairs near where people eat. Easy to reach = more success!
- 5 Weigh your empty bins.**
Write down how much each empty bin weighs before you start collecting. This will help you subtract it later.
- 6 Sort the leftovers.**
 - As people finish eating, help them sort their leftovers into the right bins. You can ask:
 - "Why didn't you finish your food?" (This can be fun and informative!)
- 7 Count the people.**
Keep track of how many people bring waste — this helps you figure out how much waste was made per person.
- 8 Weigh the bins again.**
 - After the meal, weigh each full bin.
 - Then subtract the bin's empty weight to find out how much waste was collected!

STUDENT SUCCESS TIPS:

👍 **Be kind and encouraging** — some people might feel nervous or unsure. Help them out!

🧤 **Keep it clean** — wear gloves and clean up when you're done.

💡 **Be curious** — take notes or make guesses: What food gets wasted most? What surprised you?

📊 **Show your findings** — make a simple chart or poster to share your results with others!

EXTRA BADGE

