

PERSONAL WASTE AUDIT

Explore the waste our household creates, and what improvements could be made to reduce your waste.

BIG IDEAS

- Become familiar with households' environmental impacts.
- Record and interpret data.
- Share/express personal connection/impacts on nature.

ACTIVITY

Preparation:

- Get familiar with what is or isn't recyclable in your community by exploring Recycle BC's [resources](#) including their [PDF printout](#). As well as Recycle BC's [home recycling resources](#).
- Find out where the closest Return It [location](#) is to you for any refundable containers found.
- Find out some of the items commonly contaminating BC Recycling in this [CBC News segment](#).

Instructions:

A. DESIGNING THE AUDIT

1. Decide which bins to use for your 24 hours of collection and where you will perform your audit. You will need an open space that can get a bit messy. A tarp may be used to mitigate this.
2. Collect Materials

B. EXECUTE YOUR AUDIT

1. Empty your bin(s) for collection and alert household of your collection bin for the next 24 hours.
2. After 24 hours has passed, collect the waste and recycling from designated bins.
3. Conduct the sorting! *Be sure to keep the products from the waste bin(s) and the recycling bin(s) separate. *
4. As you sort the waste and recycling, keep track of the most common items found in your sample.
5. Once you have separated each bin into the four categories, weigh and record each subcategory.
6. Calculate your results.
7. Dispose of waste accordingly and clean up!

REFLECTION

1. What patterns/behaviours did your data show?
2. What were the most common types of waste you found?
3. Were there any items that were in the wrong bin? Ex. Recyclable items in the trash.
4. What easy steps could your household adopt to improve/limit your trash and waste?

Post your findings and thoughts in the form of a [blog](#). (Please format discussion titles as follows; Name - Activity (ex. Daphne - Waste Audit). Afterwards, check back at others posts!

MATERIALS

- ✓ Safety gloves (latex, gardening etc.)
- ✓ Paper & pencil
- ✓ Camera (opt.)
- ✓ Weight scale (opt.)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

- Design/create your own labels or signs to help your household recycle appropriate items into their bins at home.
- Discuss a better recycling stations and/or bins with your household to create