

# Trash Troop: tackling trash together!

## Trash Can Audit

### *Kitchen Trash Audit*

#### **Goal**

Conduct a trash audit to determine if the trash can and recycling bins are being properly used to dispose of waste.

#### **Introduction**

The majority of all practice produced will end up in landfills where they take up to 1000 years to start to break down, leaching chemicals harmful to human health and ecosystems. By performing this audit, you will get a gauge of people's understanding of what can and cannot be recycled in order to provide clearer guidelines to ensure waste goes in its proper place.

#### **Next Generation Science Standards**

##### Practices

- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

##### Core Ideas

- ESS3.C Human impacts on earth systems

##### Crosscutting Concepts

- Influence of Science, Engineering and Technology on Society and the Natural World
- Structure and Function

#### **Supplies**

- Gloves
- Tarp (to sort waste on)
- Two 5-gallon bucket
- Scale

#### **Instructions**

1. Remove bags from trash can and recycling bin. Measure total weight and estimate volume (based on size of the bag) of all of the waste in each bag.
2. Sort through each bag of waste and separate misplaced items – trash items in the recycling and recyclables in the trash. Find the volume and weight of the misplaced items.
3. List the items most commonly misplaced, if there are any. For example, do you tend to consistently find plastic forks or straws in the trash?
4. Discuss why you may be seeing these trends (people may not know straws are recyclable, items are dirty)

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## Trash Can Audit

Use the following data sheet to record weights and volumes:

Item	Total Volume (L)	Total Weight (kg)	Note commonly misplaced Items
Trash Bag			
Recyclables in Trash can			
Recycling Bag			
Trash in Recycling Bag			