

Lunchtime Waste Audit

Somerset Waste Action Programme

Please Note: The format of a lunchtime waste audit may vary depending on your School's specific circumstances and the Waste Action Officer attending.

When you book your workshop we will discuss your needs with you.

Duration:

Introductory assembly: 20 mins,
 Time with lead class or green group to organise audit: 15mins
 Time to supervise audit: duration of lunchtime.
 Time with lead class/ green group to weigh rubbish, collate data and compile action plan and follow-up assembly: 1-2 hours

National Curriculum Links:

Science- Sc3 Materials and their properties
 Geography- Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development: 5a + b
 English- En1 Speaking and listening
 Citizenship- Preparing to play an active role as citizens 2 g
 Design and Technology

Links to DCSF/ QCA Schemes of work:

Science –3C Characteristics of materials
 Geography- Unit 8 Improving the Environment
 Literacy Strands: Speaking, Listening and Responding

Objectives of audit:

- To gain a better understanding of the three R's especially 'Reduce'
- Learn how to apply the 3 R's to their own lunchbox waste
- To work towards reducing the school's lunchtime waste

Common Difficulties, errors and misconceptions:

- That all refuse gets recycled
- Confusion over what can and can't be recycled at school and home.

Assessment Criteria:

Why is important to have a waste-free lunch? What can you do to reduce your lunchbox rubbish?

Vocabulary:

Reduce, re-use, recycle, waste, landfill, packaging, rubbish,

Resources to be provided by SWAP:

PowerPoint presentation, gloves, waste bags, bins and labels, spring balances for weighing rubbish, letters for parents following audit.

Strategies: Introductory Assembly

Use a short power-point presentation to introduce the topic of waste and what happens to things that we throw away. Put into context of rubbish made at school during lunchtime. Discuss more sustainable alternatives to land-filling rubbish (reduce, reuse, recycle) and how we can apply this to lunchtime waste. Explain format of audit and that results will be presented to them in a special follow-up assembly by the lead class/ green group.

Strategies: Audit

SWAP provides a series of bins labelled for different types of material e.g. paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, cartons, aluminium, compostable food waste, non- compostable food waste, non-recyclable packaging. Children are asked to sort all of their rubbish into the correct bins, excepting things that they will legitimately be reusing.

Strategies: Follow-up work

Working with a lead class or green group following the audit the different types of waste can then be weighed using spring balances. We then collate the data and calculate which types of rubbish generated the biggest weight, how much of the rubbish is recyclable and how much will go to landfill. We then discuss how pupils can have waste-free lunches and reduce the schools lunchtime waste. We use this data and discussion to create a waste 'action-plan' and put together a follow up assembly. SWAP will also provide follow-up letters for pupils to take home, informing parents of ways to reduce lunchbox waste. The option of a follow-up audit to see if the action plan is working is also available.