

# Waste Reduction and Recycling Pathway

## Baseline Assessment

Use the assessment sheet below to evaluate the current status of the classroom's waste reduction and recycling practices.

*(Please note – If your students decided to assess more than one classroom and/or library please complete one of these forms for each room.)*

After the classroom has completed this baseline assessment, proceed to Step 2 to develop an **Action Plan Report**.

1) Where is paper waste generated in the classroom?	<input type="checkbox"/> Print out materials <input type="checkbox"/> Classwork and homework	<input type="checkbox"/> In-class printer/copier <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
2) Do you have a classroom special events policy to reduce waste and increase recycling? (ex: holiday decorations, party supplies, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3) Is there a worm bin in the classroom for composting food scraps?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
4) Are students allowed to eat lunch in the classroom?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5) Is there an organics collection bin in the classroom or for special classroom events and parties?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6) If your school offers a commercial organic collection program, what type of organics are generated and collected in the classroom?	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Scraps <input type="checkbox"/> Soiled Paper	
7) Are the recycling bins placed next to the garbage bins to prevent contamination?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
8) Are recycling and trash bins clearly labeled?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9) What types of recyclables are in the trash bin? (Cardboard, paper, bottles, cans, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
10) Are there bins for reusing paper and other materials?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
11) Who is responsible for emptying the garbage and recycling classroom bin(s)?	_____	
12) Is there signage showing which items to trash (landfill) and which to recycle placed above each bin?  Are their clear labels on the bin(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
13) Are there other collection bins for recycling items such as ink cartridges, cell phones, plastic bags?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Please do the following baseline assessment calculations, questions 15-19. Please note, the data collected from the bins should be made on the day or the day before classroom recycling bins are emptied / serviced.</b>		
14) <b>Baseline Assessment Calculation</b> <b>Total Volume of Trash Bins and Recycling Bins Found in the Classroom:</b> How many trash bins and recycling bins are in the classroom? What is the <b>total volume</b> that all the trash bins and recycling bins can hold? For example, in the classroom there are two trash bins. One trash bin has a volume of 10 gallons and the other trash bin has a volume of 7 gallons. Therefore, the total volume that the trash bins can hold would be 17 gallons (10 gallons + 7 gallons = 17 gallons).	____ (#) of trash bins found with a total volume of ____ g  ____ (#) of recycle bins found with a total volume of ____ g	

<p>15) <b>Baseline Assessment Calculation</b>  <b>Garbage Currently Found in Classroom Trash Bin(s):</b>  Visually estimate the <b>percentage</b> of garbage found in each trash bin and then find the <b>total volume</b> of garbage collected in each bin. For example, if one 10 gallon garbage bin is 75% full, it would have 7.5 gallons of garbage (10 gallons multiplied by 75% = 7.5 gallons.) Once you have the gallons of garbage in each bin please add the volumes together to find the total volume – gallons.</p>	_____gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 1 _____gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 2 _____gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 3 _____gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 4 _____gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 5 <i>(Note- please put in N/A if the class does not have Trash Bin 2, 3, 4, or 5)</i> _____ =Total gallons from this category adding list above
<p>16) <b>Baseline Assessment Calculation</b>  <b>Recyclables Currently Found in Classroom Recycling Bin(s):</b>  Visually estimate the <b>percentage</b> of recyclables found in each recycling bin and then find the <b>total volume</b> of recyclables collected in each bin. For example, if one 10 gallon recycling bin is 50% full it would have 5 gallons of recyclables (10 gallons multiplied by 50% = 5 gallons). Once you have the gallons of recyclables in each bin please add the volumes together to find the total volume – gallons.</p>	_____gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 1 _____gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 2 _____gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 3 _____gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 4 _____gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 5 <i>(Note- please put in N/A if the class does not have Recycle Bin 2, 3, 4, or 5)</i> _____ Total gallons from this category adding list above
<p>17) What is the percentage of recyclable bottles and cans in the trash bin(s)?</p>	(Visual Estimate) _____%
<p>18) What is the percentage of recyclable paper in the trash bin(s)?</p>	(Visual Estimate) _____%
<p>19) What is the percentage of organics in the trash bin(s)?</p>	(Visual Estimate) _____%

Write down any additional notes or comments below:

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