

# 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**.

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| 1) Where is paper waste generated in the classroom?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Print out materials<br><input type="checkbox"/> Classwork and homework                                | <input type="checkbox"/> In-class printer/copier<br><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?<br><br>Are their clear labels on the bin(s)?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><br><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><br><b>Total Volume of Trash Bins and Recycling Bins Found in the Classroom:</b><br>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<br><br>____ (#) of recycle bins found with a total volume of ____ g |   |

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| <p>15) <b>Baseline Assessment Calculation</b><br/> <b>Garbage Currently Found in Classroom Trash Bin(s):</b><br/> 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<br>_____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 2<br>_____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 3<br>_____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 4<br>_____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 5<br><i>(Note- please put in N/A if the class does not have Trash Bin 2, 3, 4, or 5)</i><br>_____ =Total gallons from this category adding list above                                |
| <p>16) <b>Baseline Assessment Calculation</b><br/> <b>Recyclables Currently Found in Classroom Recycling Bin(s):</b><br/> 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<br>_____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 2<br>_____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 3<br>_____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 4<br>_____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 5<br><i>(Note- please put in N/A if the class does not have Recycle Bin 2, 3, 4, or 5)</i><br>_____ 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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