

# GREAT WASTE AUDIT

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American generates **4.51 pounds of waste per day**. Of that daily average, plastics are a rapidly growing segment of municipal solid waste.

Only about **6.5% of the 33.6 million TONS of the plastic** Americans discard every year is recycled. The other 93.5% settles in and on our environment – land and sea. 8 million metric tons of plastic ends up in our oceans. The output into our oceans could be around 155 million metric tons by 2025.

## So...How much waste do you really generate daily?

You might be surprised to find out when you join the Great Waste Audit. Not only can you learn for yourself, and think about ways to change your waste and recycling habits, you can contribute to Citizen Science and be a part of a recycling research project for Earth Day 2021!

## GET STARTED!

### Take the Household Waste Audit on the back of this page!

1. Collect, sort and track your waste before putting it out for your regular garbage collection, usually a week or so.
2. Lay out a tarp/newspaper/protective covering on the ground and sort your trash and recyclables into categories (refer to the Household Waste Audit Worksheet).
3. Keep a log of your waste. Take photos too!
4. When your audit is complete, move and properly dispose of the trash and recyclables.
5. Evaluate. How many of the items could be recycled? How much actually should go in the trash? How much of your waste is plastic? What can you do to decrease your waste impact and help save the Earth?
6. Send your data and let us know what you will do next!

Send your data and waste photos to [info@scrapgallery.org](mailto:info@scrapgallery.org) or return your worksheet to any Scottsdale Public Library no later than Earth Day, April 22.

*Thank you for making a difference!*



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# HOUSEHOLD WASTE AUDIT WORKSHEET

Number of People in Household =				Duration of Waste Audit (e.g., 1 day, 1 week, 1 month) =			
HOUSEHOLD WASTE	# OF ITEMS	WEIGHT	% OF TOTAL WASTE BY	WASTE ALTERNATIVES?			
				REDUCE	REUSE	RECYCLE	COMPOST
<b>RECYCLING</b>							
Paper							
Flattened							
Plastic Bottles							
Glass Bottles							
Metal Food							
Food & Beverage Cartons							
<b>TOTAL RECYCLING</b>							
<b>CAN BE DONATED OR DISPOSED OF AT APPROPRIATE RECYCLING CENTERS</b>							
Plastic Bags & Film							
Textiles							
Electronics							
Batteries							
<b>TOTAL DONATE</b>							
<b>COMPOSTABLE</b>							
Food Waste							
Non-recyclable paper, such as (napkins/paper)							
<b>TOTAL COMPOST</b>							
<b>LANDFILL</b>							
Styrofoam							
One-Time-Use Disposables							
Other							
<b>TOTAL LANDFILL</b>							
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>							

Note: To calculate "% of Total Waste (by weight)\* for each category, divide the weight of a category by the "Total All Categories" weight and then multiply by 100.

## RESULTS

BY WEIGHT	PER DAY	PER WEEK
Total Household Waste		
Total Household Waste Per-Person		
Recyclables		
Compostables		
Other		



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