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** or return your worksheet to any Scottsdale Public Library no later than Earth Day, April 22.

Thank you for making a difference!

This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
## HOUSEHOLD WASTE AUDIT WORKSHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSING WASTE</th>
<th># OF ITEMS</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>% OF TOTAL WASTE BY</th>
<th>WASTE ALTERNATIVES?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>REDUCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>REUSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RECYCLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>COMPOST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECYCLING

- Paper
- Flattened
- Plastic Bottles
- Glass Bottles
- Metal Food
- Food & Beverage Cartons

*TOTAL RECYCLING*  

### CAN BE DONATED OF DISPOSED OF AT APPROPRIATE RECYCLING CENTERS

- Plastic Bags & Film
- Textiles
- Electronics
- Batteries

*TOTAL DONATE*

### COMPOSTABLE

- Food Waste
- Non-recyclable paper, such as (napkins/paper)

*TOTAL COMPOST*

### LANDFILL

- Styrofoam
- One-Time-Use Disposables
- Other

*TOTAL LANDFILL*

### TOTAL ALL

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PER DAY</th>
<th>PER WEEK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Household Waste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recyclables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compostables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Send your data, photos and ideas to info@scrapgallery.org

*Thank you for making a difference!*