

How Much Food Packaging Waste Does Your Classroom Produce?

Yesterday you saved all of your food packaging. Now it is time to find out just how much food packaging waste you generate as a class.

Step 1: Sort all packaging waste into two piles, one for recyclables and one for trash.

Step 2: Weigh each pile and record the data for use in the next step. How many pounds of trash and how many pounds of recycling did you generate?

	Recyclables	Trash	Total
Weight	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.

Step 3: Calculate how much waste your class produces in 1 week, 1 month, 1 year

	Recyclables	Trash	Total
Week (Day Total x 7)	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Month (Day Total x 30)	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Year (Day Total x 365)	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.

Questions

1. Were you surprised by how much waste your class generates?
2. Does your school have a recycling program?
3. After completing this activity, can you think of any ways that you could reduce the amount of waste you generate?

Additional Activity

Step 1: Separate all aluminum cans, glass bottles, and plastic bottles from your recycling pile.

Step 2: Count how many of each item you collected.

	Aluminum Cans	Glass Bottles	Plastic Bottles
Total			

Step 3: Use the recycling converter from the EPA to see what your recyclables can do:

<https://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/iwarm/widgets/3rwidget.htm#>