



Certification Waste and Recycling Supplement and Audit

As you work towards making your school more sustainable, you can use this supplement to help choose an area of improvement to address, access resources and tips, and allow you to share the most accurate data in the report card. This supplement is aimed to support student learning with assistance from the Green Team Leader.

Before you begin, download [EarthGen's Carbon Calculator](#) to get project ideas and to learn how you can measure the environmental impact of your Green Team's actions.

1. Consider discussing the following questions with your students:

- What types of waste are there? What sort of things do we “throw” away?
- Who is your school/district's waste hauler? Where does your school's waste ultimately end up at?
- Why is addressing your school's waste and recycling practices important?

2. School Dumpster Information: (The Report Card asks for this information.)

What is the volume of your school's trash dumpster in cubic yards? Note: If you have multiple garbage dumpsters, list each of their yardage.	a. ____ cubic yards b. ____ cubic yards c. ____ cubic yards
<i>Hint: Consider talking with your school's custodian and/or looking at your dumpster to see if the yardage is engraved/written on it.</i>	
How often is your school's garbage dumpster emptied/serviced per week? How often is your school's	a. ____ times in a week b. ____ times in a month

container emptied/serviced per month?	
<i>Hint: Consider talking with your school's custodian and/or a staff person in the front office.</i>	
On pickup day, how full is your school's garbage dumpster?	a. _____ %
<i>Hint: Find out when the trash is picked up and, on that day, look inside. 100% filled means the trash goes all the way up to the top of the dumpster.</i>	
[Optional] Complete the following formula to calculate the volume of waste your school produces each month: $((a \times (.01 \times c)) \times 27) \times b$ *Note: If you have more than one dumpster, use this equation for each dumpster and then add them all together.	_____ ft ³ /month
Considering your school's current waste policies, how much of the waste in the garbage dumpster should be there? In other words, how much of the dumpster is contaminated material like recyclables or food waste, which should go elsewhere?	Choose: Less than 5% 10% 15% 20% 30% More than 30% contaminated

3. Take a closer look at the data above. What do you observe? What is surprising?

4. The following table can help you and your Green Team identify areas of improvement in your school. This is not an all-inclusive list, but a way to inspire potential projects.

Observation	Yes/No	Notes	Possible Improvement(s)
Does your school compost paper towels in the bathroom?			
Do you have a composting bin (or worm bin) in your classroom or at school?			
Do students recycle in their classrooms?			
Are recycling bins labeled? How do students know what can be recycled?			