

Mini Food Waste Audit

Purpose: Demonstrate to students the amount of food waste that comes from their daily meals.

Materials:

- Scale
- Tray
- [Food Waste Audit Datasheet](#)

Methods:

1. Set up a weighing station that is easily accessible for students after their lunch break
2. Ask students to weigh their leftover food that they otherwise would throw away
3. Have students fill out datasheet with the amount of waste (in lbs) that they are creating
4. As a class, add up the total waste (in lbs) from all students
5. Perform simple calculations to demonstrate to students how much food they are wasting annually if they were to waste the same amount of food each meal.

(Class food waste ___ lbs) x (3 meals/day) x (365 days) = Amount of food waste per class per year

Extension Activity for more advanced students: Have students come up with calculations on own

Discussion point examples (based on student level of advancement):

How many people do you think can be fed by the amount of food we wasted as a class?

What can we do to reduce the amount we throw away?

What are assumptions that are involved in the calculation of annual food waste?