



Sustainability, Society and You: Waste Audit Guidance Notes

The purpose of this exercise is to examine how well you manage your waste on a daily basis. It will be messy, but hopefully fun too! Please make sure you ask permission of those you live with before you start – but also ask them not to change their waste-disposal behaviour before the audit! Encourage them to join in.

What you will need:

An audit form

Rubber or latex gloves: please don't handle the waste with bare hands

Pencil or pen

A plastic sheet to spread the rubbish out on

A camera

Getting started:

Choose a day

On that day, collect all the waste bins or bags in your house/flat.

Separate the waste bins/bags into two groups: Kitchen waste and Other waste (bedrooms, bathroom, living room).

Prepare your audit space – a hard floor or table surface covered with plastic

Lay out your waste in the two groups – kitchen and other.

Activity: Auditing the Waste:

Time yourself.

Divide the waste into different categories as on the audit form

Estimate the percentage of waste in each category

Note on the audit form the best destination for each category of waste identified

Photograph the process – the collected and separated waste (these photos will be useful if you carry out a follow-up audit towards the end of the course)

When you are finished, organise the waste ready for its destination (e.g. separate out the waste that can be recycled from that that has to go to landfill). Time how long this takes.

When you have finished, join in the discussion.