

3

INVESTIGATING YOUR SCHOOL **Research Tools**

1. WASTE JOURNAL

A look at personal recycling behavior

A Waste Journal allows students to hold a mirror up to themselves and take an inventory of their recycling behaviors over time. Students look at the number of materials they used, how long they had them, and how they disposed of them.

Use Waste Journal to capture data.

2. STUDENT SURVEY

A look at student recycling knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors

Surveys are an efficient way to collect information from a large number of people in a short amount of time. Students create and conduct a 5-10 question survey to understand more deeply the recycling knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of their peers.

Use Student Survey Template to create additional survey questions and to capture data.

3. ADULT INTERVIEW

A look at adult recycling attitudes and behaviors

Interviews allow you to gain valuable information from people that have the most influence on and/or are most affected by a

problem or situation. Students decide who they want to interview (e.g. Principal, Custodial Engineer, Cleaner, Sustainability Coordinator, Teacher) and then develop a list of questions that are most relevant to the person they are interviewing. Make questions targeted and specific.

Create your own Adult Interview Tool and capture data.

4. COLLECTING CAFETERIA DATA

A look at student recycling attitudes and behaviors in the cafeteria

The reasons students don't recycle correctly and consistently are varied. Students capture this data to better understand the barriers to successful student recycling in the cafeteria.

See Collecting Cafeteria Data Instructions for more details and the Activity Sheets to capture data.

5. RECYCLING INSPECTION RATING CHART

A look at classroom recycling behaviors

Also known as classroom monitoring, recycling inspections allow students to rate and assign recycling grades based on contamination levels in classroom bins.

Use Recycling Inspection Rating Chart to capture data.

6. CLASSROOM WASTE INVESTIGATION

An in-depth look at the physical composition of your school's waste

Ever wonder what's in the school's classroom waste? A waste investigation is a structured process used to quantify the amount and types of waste being generated in a defined building space. Information from waste audits help identify current recycling practices and how they can be improved.

Use Classroom Waste Investigation Guide, Data Capture Sheet, and Data Analysis Sheet.

7. BIN TALLY SHEET

A look at school recycling infrastructure

Design, infrastructure, and signage impacts behavior. Use the Bin Tally Sheet to take an inventory of recycling bins in the school. This will help assess if you need additional bins or more signage. It's also an opportunity to see if all bins are being kept in one location near the door and/or if classroom bin lids are present.

Use Bin Tally Sheet to capture data.

