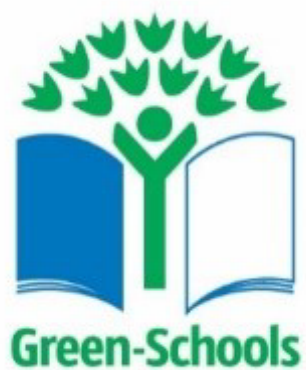




LET'S TALK RUBBISH

When carrying out a Waste Audit in your school, the aim is to find out if there are opportunities to reduce your waste even further. The best way to go about this is by actually finding out exactly what type of waste you generate and then to weigh the waste your self. However, this might not always be possible and sometimes you might have to estimate how much waste is in your bin bag or wheelie bin. We have created a handy guide for you so that you can guess how much waste you are generating and, better yet, how much you might reduce your waste by. You can also see that we are sharing a handy check list with you so that you can check what type of waste is generated even before it ends up in the bin or in your lunchbox before you take it home. Good luck with your work!

what if you can't weigh your landfill waste?

Here are some conversions you can use to input in your application form at the end of the year



= 30 kg



= 20 kg



= 18 kg



= 9 kg

Would you like to measure your recyclables and compost too?

Compost or organic waste is heavier, you can apply these conversion rates:



= 58 kg



= 34 kg



= 17kg

Recyclables are highly variable but here are some general conversion



= 60 kg



= 16 kg



= 5 kg



= 2.5 kg

Now that you have some idea about how much your waste weighs it is time to start finding opportunities to reduce your waste. The best way to do this is by understanding the type of waste you generate. You could have three different bins in your classroom:

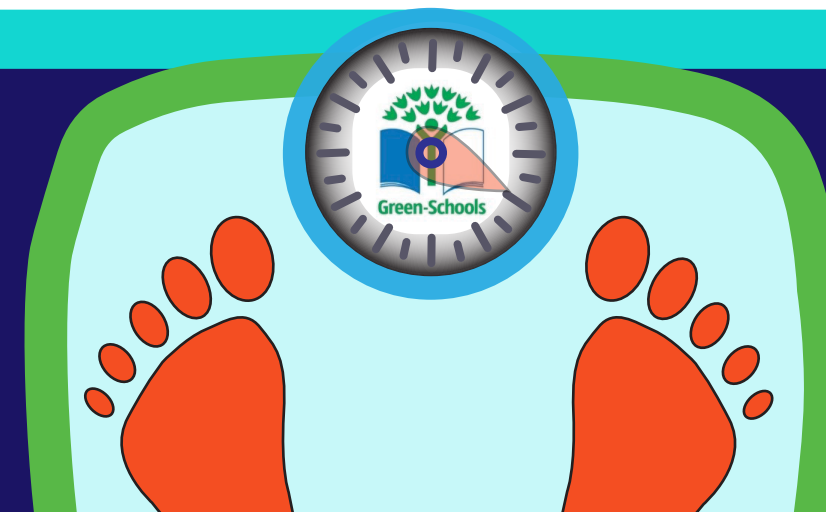
recycling bin

landfill/rubbish bin

compost bin



It might be difficult to empty out your bin to look at the type of waste you have in there. Therefore, we have created the checklists you can see on the next few pages to help you with this process. Check off what waste you are putting in the classroom bins and maybe even the waste you have left in your lunchbox before you go home. This will give you some idea of what type of waste you are generating and will help you find ways to reduce it.



What if you want to weigh the waste yourself?

Let's get onto the weighing scales! Check how much you weigh yourself first. Then hop off the scales and get your bag of waste and weigh yourself again but now with the bag(s) in your hand. Write down the new weight and subtract your own weight and...voila... now you know how much the waste you collected weighs! For example, lets assume you weigh in at 45kg and when you get back on the scales with your waste it states that you now weigh 54kg your equation is: 54kg-45kg=9kg so your waste weighs 9kg If you don't have a large scales you could use a luggage scales instead. Good luck!

Landfill waste checklist

Record what’s in your bin without getting your hands dirty! Print this checklist and stick it next to your bin. Colour in one square for every item you put in the bin - this will form a graph so you can see what kind of rubbish you have, and what you can try to cut down on.

Start date for this bin bag: _____
End date for this bin bag: _____

The landfill bin is for waste we can’t reuse, recycle or compost. This rubbish ends up in landfills (buried underground) or incinerated (burned at very high temperatures). Soft plastics, products made from “blended materials” (e.g. a disposable cup is made from a blend of paper and plastic which cannot be separated) and soiled tinfoil, all go in the rubbish bin.

Tissue																				
Wrapper																				
Old markers																				
Crisp/popcorn packet																				
Plastic cutlery																				
Tinfoil (dirty)																				
Cling-film																				
Plastic gloves																				
Disposable mask																				
Straw																				
Disposable cup																				
Empty frubes packet																				

But what about.....?

Clothes and fabric...send to a clothes bank like Clothes Pod <https://www.clothespod.ie/> , a charity shop, create something new or hold a swap shop.
Batteries and appliances...check out WEEE Recycle for their electronics recycling facilities <https://www.weeeireland.ie/>
Glass...bring to your nearest bottle bank
Furniture and other big items....Visit <https://www.mywaste.ie/what-to-do-with-my-large-items/> for lots of tips and information.



Recycling waste checklist

[illegible]

Compost bin checklist

Any plant or animal-based products usually go in the compost bin, where they are broken down by natural processes and can be used to enrich the soil. Never put plastics, metal or glass in the compost bin.

Apple core																			
Banana skin																			
Orange peel																			
Other fruit/peel																			
Pencil shavings																			
Leftover lunch																			
Egg shells																			
Kitchen roll/tissue																			
Teabags* and coffee																			
Compostable cup**																			
Vegware**																			

* Many teabags contain a small amount of plastic; to avoid this, choose eco-friendly brands – or most simply, use loose tea leaves instead of teabags.

**Compostable cups and Vegware may look like normal disposable cups and cutlery, but they are actually made from corn starch and other plant products. Check the label if you’re unsure if it’s plastic or vegware. If it is vegware it should go in the compost bin – but only if the compost bin goes to an industrial composter; unfortunately these products still won’t break down in your garden compost – which is why reusable is always better for the environment than single-use!