



Activity 8 –Recycling Audit & Action Plan

This activity will help children learn what they can recycle from home and develop their critical thinking skills.

You will need:

- Tarpaulin or an old sheet
- Some space to sort materials
- Set of scales (optional)
- Recording sheet
- Scrap paper & pens
- Recycling materials from around your home
- Access to a computer (optional)
- Details of your local district recycling scheme (available at <https://www.recycledevon.org/recycling-collections>)
- Gloves (optional)
- Cleaning materials to clean equipment afterwards



Time required: 1-2 hrs

Suitable for KS1 & KS2



Safety Tips:

- Beware of sharp edges. Talk to your children about how to handle materials safely. Remove any items that you feel are unsuitable for the activity.
- Clean equipment after use.
- Wash hands after activity.

Instructions:

1. This activity is best done the day before your recycling collection so that you have plenty of dry recycling materials to sort through.
2. Gather the equipment you need and lay out the tarpaulin or an old sheet.
3. Check what you should be putting in your recycling bin/box/or bag at <https://www.recycledevon.org/recycling-collections>
4. Use some scrap paper and pens to make some labels for the categories of materials your district council collect and spread them out on the tarpaulin.
5. Gather the recycling from the recycling bins in your house and start sorting it into the different categories, using the labels to make sure everyone puts things in the right place.

Watch a video of this activity on our Zone website.
Go to <http://zone.recycledevon.org>





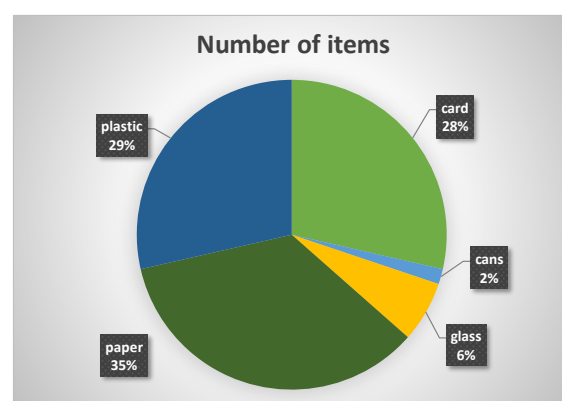
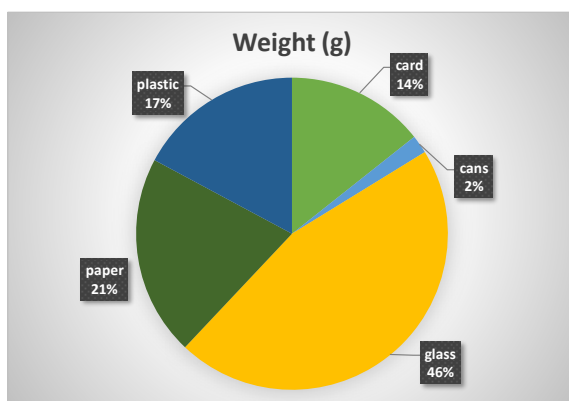
Instructions continued...

6. Use the scales to weigh each category and record the weight on the recording sheet. If you don't have scales or if you would like to extend the activity to do a comparison, then simply count the number of items for each material and write it on the recording sheet (at the end of this activity sheet).
7. Once all the material categories have been weighed and/or counted take a look at your results and discuss them. There are some useful points to consider in the discussion points below. You could also use the data to draw some charts.
8. Now challenge yourselves to come up with an ACTION PLAN to reduce the amount of packaging you produce.
9. Once you have completed your Action Plan, remember to put the correct materials back in your recycling bin, box or bag
10. Tidy up, clean any equipment you used and remember to wash your hands.

Discussion Points:

- Which material was the heaviest? Which material had the greatest number of items? Could you draw a chart to show this data and compare the two? Which type of chart would be best?

Example of Results from a Home Recycling Audit



- Talk about the properties of each material. Why are they used as packaging? Are they strong, flexible, transparent, waterproof? What other words can you think of to describe them?
- Looking at the information about your local District Council collection – did you learn anything? Were you putting the right materials in your recycling container? Are there other materials you could collect for recycling?



Write an Action Plan to reduce your waste:

- Recycling is important but we should all try to reduce and reuse more.
- Reducing our waste means cutting down on the amount of waste that we make in the first place. Buying products with less packaging and not buying things that we don't need.
- We can also **Reuse** things again instead of throwing them away. For example, refilling plastic bottles and taking our clothes to the charity shop.
- Visit <https://www.recycledevon.org/at-home/top-tips-at-home> for more ideas
- Are you collecting all the material that could be recycled? Think about where in the house recyclable materials come from? How could you make it easier to collect your recycling from these rooms? E.g.: could you put a recycling bin in the bathroom to collect shampoo bottles?
- Set yourself a target to do another recycling audit in a month's time to see if your Action Plan is working?

Useful Tip: Remember to subtract the 'tare weight' if you are using a container to weigh the recycling in.

Tare weight: the weight of the empty container.

Gross weight: the weight of the container when full.

Net weight: the weight of just the contents of the container. This can be calculated by subtracting the tare weight from the gross weight.

DID YOU KNOW?

The average household in Devon produces just over 1 tonne of waste per year. That's nearly half a tonne (449kg) per person!



Home Schooling:

Children in **Years 1 and 2** will develop their scientific skills, including identification and sorting things into groups. Weighing and counting the different materials and creating a chart can help children practise their interpreting skills (introduced in **Year 3**). This activity can also help children in **Year 3 to Year 6** understand our responsibility to protect the environment and how our everyday choices, such as recycling can impact this.

Share your pictures with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging @RecycleDevon #recycledevon





Don't let Devon go to waste

at home

Recycling Audit Materials Recording sheet

Fill in the number of items and/or the weight for the different categories of materials*

Material	Weight	Number of items

*Check what you can recycle in your area at www.recycledevon.org/recycling-collections

