

It's all about the rubbish – Waste Audit 2010

Competition

The aim of this exercise is to promote recycling in the home and to try to encourage your scout troop (with their parents or guardians) to ask people to think about Reducing, Reusing and Recycling as an alternative to sending Waste to landfill.

Step 1

We would like your members to audit of what they are putting in their bins today and then track it monthly over a 6 month period, a template has been attached for ease but please feel free to modify to suit your group.

Step 2

As a group collate all of your results after a 6 month period and use these figures to create a chart to show how much waste collectively you have managed to divert from landfill as a result of your actions.

Step 3

Send an e-mail attaching your results, charts to scouts@serco.com and let us know of what changes (big or small) that helped you achieve these results. If you have reused or recycled any items in a new and innovative way we would also love to see the pictures.

Step 4

We will review all of the results charts and photo's at start of 2011 and award prizes to the troops who have made the biggest impact, the most innovative Reuse and innovative Recycling of item(s).

How to get started

Two tables have been created in the separate Word document for individuals to use to capture data over the 6 month period.

Please let your groups agree the list of items that they regularly throw away and let them change the item list at the start of the Audit, this way we will capture the items that they actually throw away not what we think they throw away – everyone is different.

However once the list has been agreed and created it must not be amended for the rest of the 6 month period to give consistency of data.

Then all everyone needs to do is count the items that they as a family have managed to Reduce, Reuse or Recycle as a family, these need to be items that that they would usually throw away every week or fortnight (depending on collection frequency) and note it down ideally electronically onto the attached templates.

We have provided an example below for guidance and also provided a few suggestions that may also help boost those results.

| Item | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | Week 6 | Week 7 | Week 8 | Week 9 | Week 10 | Week 11 | Week 12 | Week 13 | Week 14 | How I have reduced, reused or recycled this item |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Clothes & textiles | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 10 | 0 | Week 1 and 9 donated good items to Charity Shops Week 3 placed item in textile recycling bank Week 11 we dress them Guy for Guy Fawkes night Week 13 donated items to local playgroup for dressing up box |

You will also find a word document template for you to collate your monthly troop data and a spreadsheet with some basic sample charts and – once again please feel free to adapt both of these to suit your group.

Think before you throw

Charity shops are a treasure trove of quality household goods and clothes. By reusing items in this way you can help to look after the environment and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill or you as a group you could even hold a bring and buy sale to raise funds for a local project.

Stop before they drop

You could cut down on the amount of Junk mail you receive through the door by registering for Mailing Preference Service which is a free service that can prevent your name is added to direct mailing lists, but did you know that you can also register a previous occupants' name at your current address., contact MPS by calling 08457 034 599 or visiting <http://www.mpsonline.org.uk/mpsr/>

You can also reduce the amount of unaddressed items that are delivered through your door registering with the Royal mail Door-to-Door Opt-Out, which is a free service that will stop unaddressed mail items delivered by the postman. To register for this e-mail your name and full postal address to optout@royalmail.com and they will send you an Opt Our Confirmation form to complete.

Find your furniture a new home

Furniture reuse projects provide furniture and household appliances to people who would not otherwise be able to purchase these much needed household items. 10 million items of furniture are thrown away in the UK every year and of these 3 million items could be easily re-used, why not look on the website to find a project near you.