



HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR HOME WASTE AUDIT

Throughout your Home Waste Audit, you will be tracking your waste with a goal to reduce the amount heading to landfill. Your Home Waste Audit will take 4 weeks to complete.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Learn about the waste streams in your municipality. i.e., learn what bins you have (e.g., recycling, landfill, organics) and what goes in each of them.
2. Decrease your waste footprint and divert waste away from landfills by procuring and using products that you can reuse/recycle.

INSTRUCTIONS:

WEEK 1: BASELINE DATA (BUSINESS AS USUAL!)

Task 1. Watch Intro Webinar

- The webinar provides you with instructions for the Home Waste Audit and covers any questions you may have. Please [visit our website](#) to view past webinar recordings.

Task 2. Audit your household waste (business-as-usual)

- [Download datasheets](#) from the website and get ready to audit your household waste, **YOU GOT THIS!**
- Pick a day to start your first week, we recommend Monday through Sunday. During this week you will record your baseline, ***so do not change your normal day to day behaviours***, this will happen in the week(s) to follow!
- Over this 7-day period, count and characterize the waste you produce in your landfill bin and your recycling bin. Record the count and category of each item you throw away in each bin throughout the week.

Task 3. Increase your waste literacy

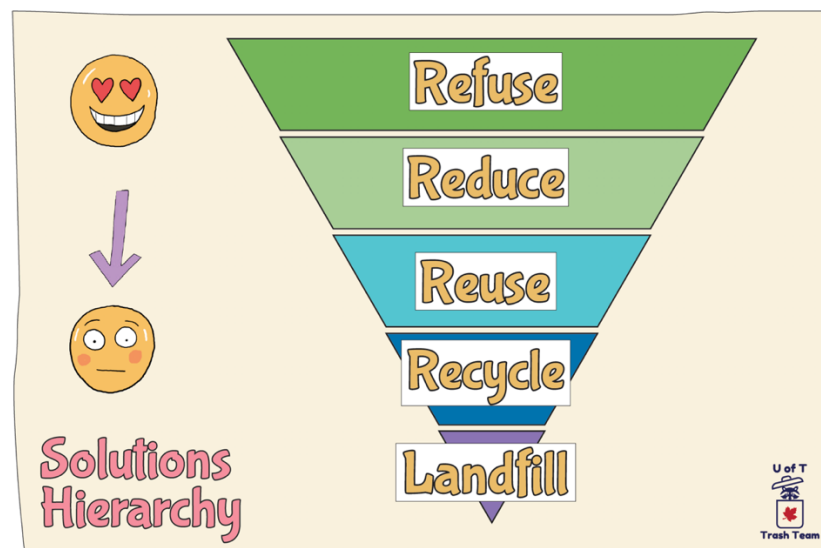
- At the end of week 1, complete Survey 1 to learn about waste management in your city. The survey will also help increase your waste literacy, by going online and researching your local waste streams.



WEEK 2 & 3: PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION!

Task 1: Audit your household waste

- With your newfound knowledge, aim to take actions to reduce your waste in weeks 2 - 4 by following the solutions hierarchy (below), using our [waste reduction tips](#) and searching for other great tips online.
- Continue to audit your household waste using the same methods as in week 1.
- Aside from reducing your waste, please **do not change any other waste habits during the audit** (e.g. breaking down cardboard before putting it in your recycling bin) or it will bias the data.
- See how these changes affect your waste footprint.



Remember – this is not a competition! No one is judging you on how much (or little) waste you produce, we are interested in the differences we all can make to our waste production over time. Once we have all of the data, we'll synthesize it, anonymize it, analyze it, and share our results and discuss lessons learned.

WEEK 4: RECORD YOUR FINAL WEEK AND ANALYZE YOUR RESULTS!

Task 1: Continue to audit your household waste

- Follow the same methods as previous weeks.
- See how these changes affect your waste footprint.



Task 2: Analyze your results and celebrate your success!

- Give yourself a pat on the back, then take a look through your results, do you notice any changes or reductions in material type? How about waste streams? Did you find some changes more challenging than others? What were some of your favourite waste reduction tips?
- Download our [certificate of completion](#) to celebrate your accomplishments!

Task 3: Fill out the closing survey

- At the end of week 4, complete survey 2 (the closing survey) to share how you found the Home Waste Audit, and to share what actions you took to reduce your household waste.

Task 4: Watch Results Webinar

- Please [visit our website](#) to view past webinar recordings.
- This webinar is an opportunity to hear about shared results of other participants in Home Waste Audit. For example, how has it changed your waste literacy and waste habits? Which changes were easiest or most difficult? Which changes do you hope to continue into the future? Would you encourage others to take part?

Congrats!! You've made it. Thank you SO MUCH for your participation.

We encourage you to complete survey 3 (follow-up survey) within 2 - 4 weeks after completing your home waste audit to see how participating has impacted your long-term waste habits and waste literacy.

Please contact UofTTrashTeam@gmail.com with any questions or feedback.

