



HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR HOME WASTE AUDIT

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

OBJECTIVES:

1. Learn about the waste streams in your municipality. i.e., learn what bins you have 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:

BEFORE HOME WASTE AUDIT:

Task 1: Complete entrance survey

- Complete the **entrance survey** to provide details about your current waste habits and levels of waste literacy.
- You can find this survey [here](#).

Task 2: Attend/Watch Intro Webinar

- The webinar provides you with a background on plastic pollution, discusses the importance of proper waste management, and covers instructions for the Home Waste Audit. If you aren't able to attend, [visit our website](#) to view past webinar recordings. Participants will also be emailed the recording when available.

WEEK 1: RECORD BASELINE DATA!

Task 1: Audit your household waste keeping it business-as-usual

- [Download datasheets](#) from the website and get ready to audit your household waste. **YOU GOT THIS!**
- We recommend tracking over a week from Sunday until Saturday.
- During this week you will record your baseline, **so do not change your normal day to day behaviours**, this will happen in the second week!
- Over this seven-day period, count and categorize the waste you dispose of in your landfill bin and your recycling bin. Record each item you dispose of in each bin

throughout the week. ***For the purposes of the Home Waste Audit we will not be tracking waste disposed of in the organics bin (if you have one).***

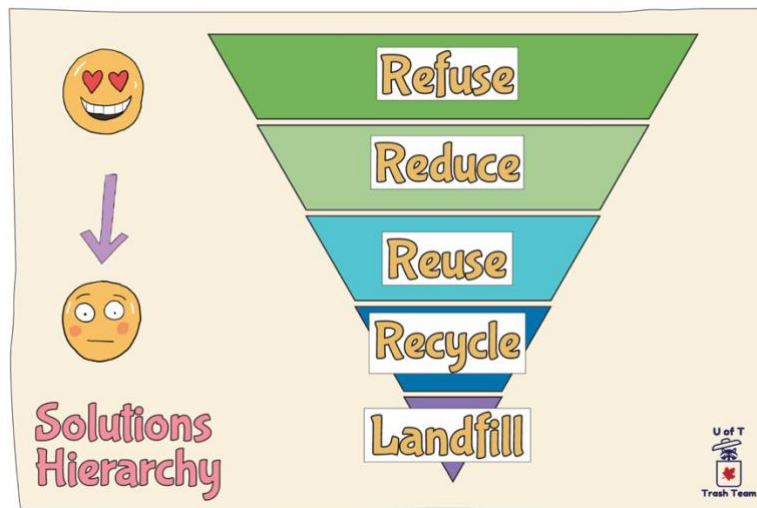
Task 2: Increase your waste literacy

- At the end of week one and before starting week two, complete our **waste management survey** to learn about waste management in your city.
- The survey will also help increase your waste literacy, by researching your local waste streams and waste sorting guidelines.
- You can find the waste management [survey here](#).

WEEK 2: PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION!

Task 1: Audit your household waste

- With your newfound knowledge, aim to take actions to reduce your waste in week two by following the solutions hierarchy (below), using our [waste reduction tips](#) and searching for other tips online.
- Continue to audit your household waste using the same methods as in week one.
- Aside from reducing your waste, please **do not change any other waste sorting behaviours** or it may bias the data (e.g. if you start to break down cardboard boxes into multiple pieces, this is still counted as once box).
- 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.

AFTER YOUR HOME WASTE AUDIT:

Task 1: Submit your results and celebrate your success!

- Give yourself a pat on the back, then email your completed datasheets to UofTTrashTeam@gmail.com so we can synthesize the data and get ready to share it during the results webinar.
- Download our [certificate of completion](#) to celebrate your accomplishments!

Task 2: Attend Results Webinar

- Once all results are analyzed, join us for the results webinar!
- Refer to your registration emails for the date (or [email us](#) if you'd like to confirm).
- This webinar is an opportunity to discuss our collective results of the Home Waste Audit and to share your personal experience! For example, how did participating change your waste literacy and waste habits? Which changes were the easiest or most difficult? Which changes do you plan to continue into the future? Would you encourage others to take part?

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

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

