What is a waste audit

A waste audit is a method of conducting an assessment of the waste produced at your club, by assessing the overall quantities of waste generated, identifying the different types of waste (paper, plastic, food etc.) and their quantities. An audit will give your club an opportunity to compare recycling and disposal rates and will highlight opportunities for improvement. Waste audits are a great way of getting a baseline of where your club is and what goals are realistic in terms of waste prevention and recycling.

When to conduct a waste audit

A waste audit should be conducted at the beginning of your pathway to sustainability and intermittently thereafter. The data collected will highlight the current situation and will provide the club with a benchmark against which progress can be measured.

THE WASTE AUDIT CAN BE REPEATED PERIODICALLY AS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE YOUR CLUB'S JOURNEY.

Audit Preparation

1

Form a Green Team
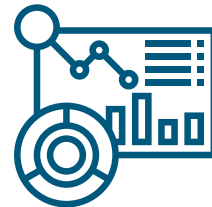Identify an audit team from club members and volunteers.

2

Risk assessment
Carry out a risk assessment of the activity.

3

Request data
Request annual waste data from your waste collector, including quantities of recyclable, food & general waste.

5

Collect waste in clear bags
Set up your waste collection for the audit by using clear bags for all waste streams in the entire facility, including where applicable, grounds, changing rooms, offices, canteen etc

4

Label each bag
This will ensure that you can **identify the area the waste originated from.**

6

Balance the survey
Carry out the audit on a selection of waste. **Auditing 25% will give a good indication - 1 in 4 bags.** Choose how many bags to audit and ensure you have a good representation of all areas from the organisation, i.e. offices, pitches, changing rooms, canteen etc.

How to carry out a
Waste Audit

Equipment Checklist
Ensure you have the following materials to conduct audit:

✓ Individual protection gloves & masks

✓ Weighing Scales

✓ Clipboards & audit worksheet

✓ 10-20 large clear bin bags

✓ 9 large plastic containers

✓ Plastic ground sheet for waste

Assessing contents of bins for audit

Be careful
Assess each bag visually and remove any dangerous objects and weigh bags.

➔

Sort the waste
Place the contents of one bag of waste at a time onto the ground sheet. Sort it into the 9 different types of waste shown on the recording sheet - see attached.

➔

Record and weigh
Sort waste into receptacles and weigh and record on recording sheet.

➔

When finished
Dispose of all waste and recyclables in the usual manner.

Data analysis from audit

1. Calculate totals

kg %

Following the review calculate based on findings the daily, weekly and annual projected waste totals and chart in both kgs and % for general and recyclable waste. See recording sheet.

2. Identify any problem areas for improvement
For example, if quantities of Single Use Plastics & general waste are high, and if recycling rates are low, significant improvements can be made.

■ Paper ■ Cardboard ■ Food Waste
■ Rigid Plastic ■ Glass ■ Soft Plastic
■ Tetra Pak ■ Other ■ Metal

The example above shows that paper, cardboard, food waste and rigid plastic are the largest amount of waste from an audit. What measures do you think could reduce such waste? Is there unnecessary paper waste in offices? Is there a lot of leftover food at events? Answers to these questions can will arrive when you develop a plan.

3. Develop an action plan
Based on waste audit findings, develop an Action Plan to focus on waste prevention and recycling. For guidance on this use the How-To guides from your Green Club GAA packs:

• How to Prevent & Segregate Food Waste
• How to Prevent Waste in Your Club
• How to Segregate & Recycle Waste

Waste Audit
Data Collection Sheet

Total Number of Bags Used for Audit: _____	Total of Overall Number of Bags Collected for Audit: _____	Date:_____

Materials	Identified in Recycling Stream (%)	or	Identified in Recycling Stream (kg)	Identified in General Stream (%)	or	Identified in General Stream (kg)
Paper						
Cardboard						
Rigid Plastic						
Soft Plastic						
Metal						
Food Waste						
Tetra Pak						
Glass						
Other						