



Recycle-Rama!

10-Step Waste Assessment

Does your school's trash make the grade?

Materials needed:

- Hanging scale
- Gloves
- Two empty trash bags
- Large bag of classroom trash

Estimated time:

30 minutes

1

The day before this activity, ask the custodian to set aside a bag of trash collected from the classrooms.

2

Put on protective gloves.

3

Open up the bag of trash. Verify the bag is from the classrooms.



→ How can you tell?

- **Classroom trash (good):** pencil shavings, paper, tissues, paper towels, cardboard
- **Lunchroom trash (bad):** food waste, milk cartons, etc.



4

Weigh the bag of classroom trash using the scale. Record the result on the **Weight & Volume Tracking Sheet**.



Recycle-Rama!	
Weight & Volume Tracking Sheet	
Does your school's trash make the grade?	
Name: _____	
Date: _____	
1	
Classroom Trash Bag (continued)	
Weight of Bag _____ lbs	
Recycling Bag (continued)	Trash Bag (continued)
Weight of Bag _____ lbs	Weight of Bag _____ lbs
% by Volume _____ %	% by Volume _____ %
Notes: _____	
Date: _____	
2	
Classroom Trash Bag (continued)	
Weight of Bag _____ lbs	
Recycling Bag (continued)	Trash Bag (continued)
Weight of Bag _____ lbs	Weight of Bag _____ lbs
% by Volume _____ %	% by Volume _____ %
Notes: _____	

Make sure to record your results online:
www.GreenUpOurSchools.org/RecycleRama

5

Assign two people to hold the two empty bags. One is the **Recycling Bag** and one is the **Trash Bag**.

Recycling Bag

- Aluminum cans
- Colored paper
- Cardboard
- Glass bottles
- Newspaper
- Paperboard
- Water bottles
- White paper

Trash Bag

- Candy wrappers
- Chip bags
- Food
- Food-soiled cardboard
- Laminated paper
- Markers
- Paper towels
- Pencils
- Plastic bags
- Tissues



6

Start sorting!
Pull out items and place them in either the **Recycling Bag** or the **Trash Bag**.



Hint:

Sometimes it's easier to pull out only the recyclables, leaving the trash in the original bag. The two trash bags can be combined later.

7

When finished, weigh the **Recycling Bag** and the **Trash Bag** using the scale. Record the results on the **Weight & Volume Tracking Sheet**.

8

Talk about it.
Are the results what you expected?

9

Wash your hands.

10

Go to www.GreenUpOurSchools.org/RecycleRama to record your results.

