HOW TO DO A WASTE AUDIT
Materials:

One day of garbage

Nitrile gloves (S,M,L,XL)

10’ x 10’ tarp & dustpan

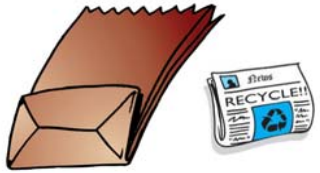
One day of garbage

Transparent bags & bucket

Clipboard & Paper

Recycling

Paper



Metal

Plastic

Compostable Food

Trash

Paper Towels

Non-recyclable Plastic

Food

Reuse

Milk Cartons

- Collect garbage from the previous day.
- Don’t do audits outside unless it’s a dry & calm day.
- Separate by area (classrooms, cafeteria, bathrooms, hallways, kitchen, and after school events).
- Explain why we do audits
- Spread signs around the edge & explain what goes in each category.

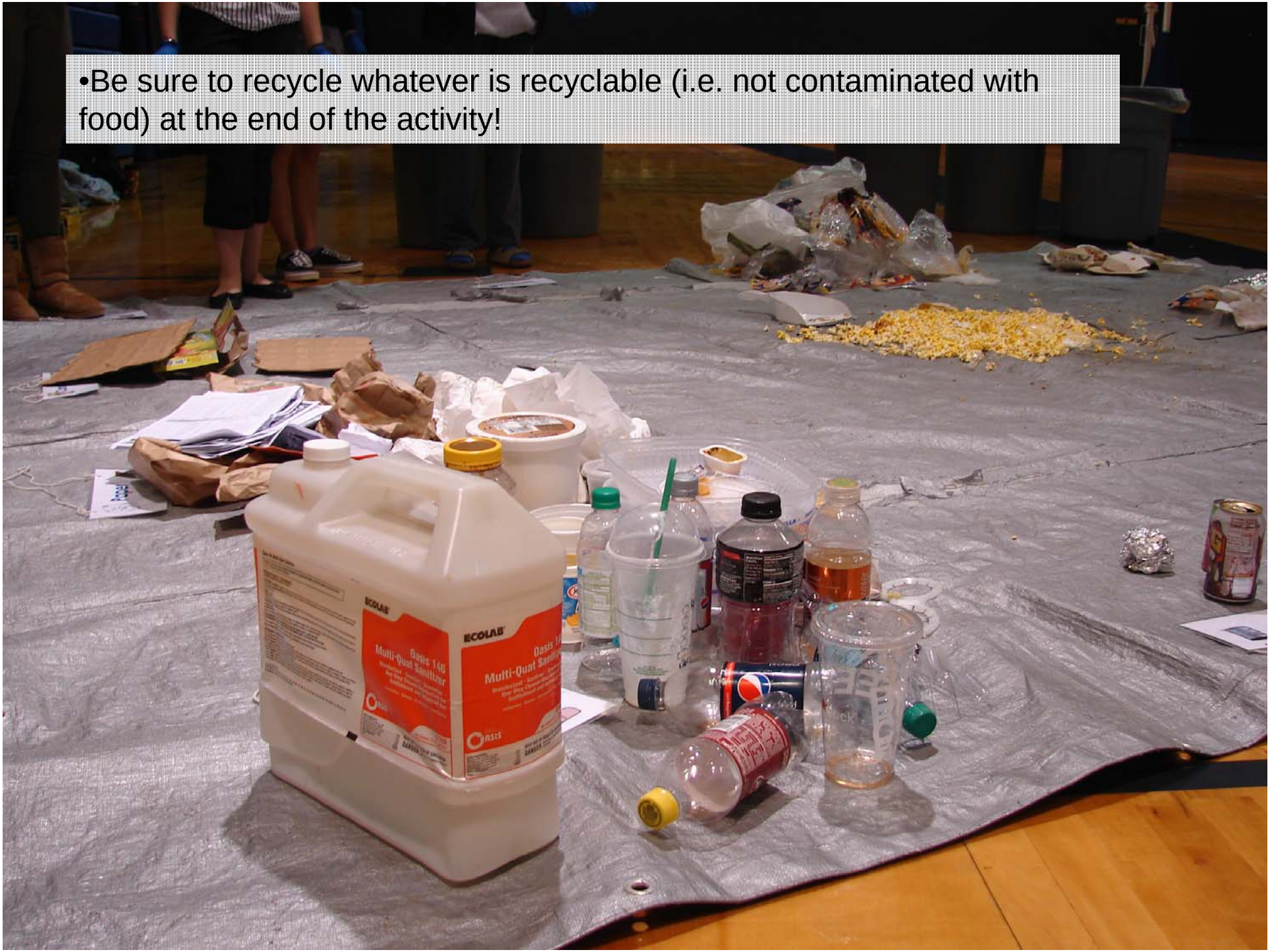
- Take garbage from one of the sorted categories (i.e. classroom garbage) and put in center of tarp.
- Only measure volume of bathroom waste & pull out non-food items from cafeteria waste.

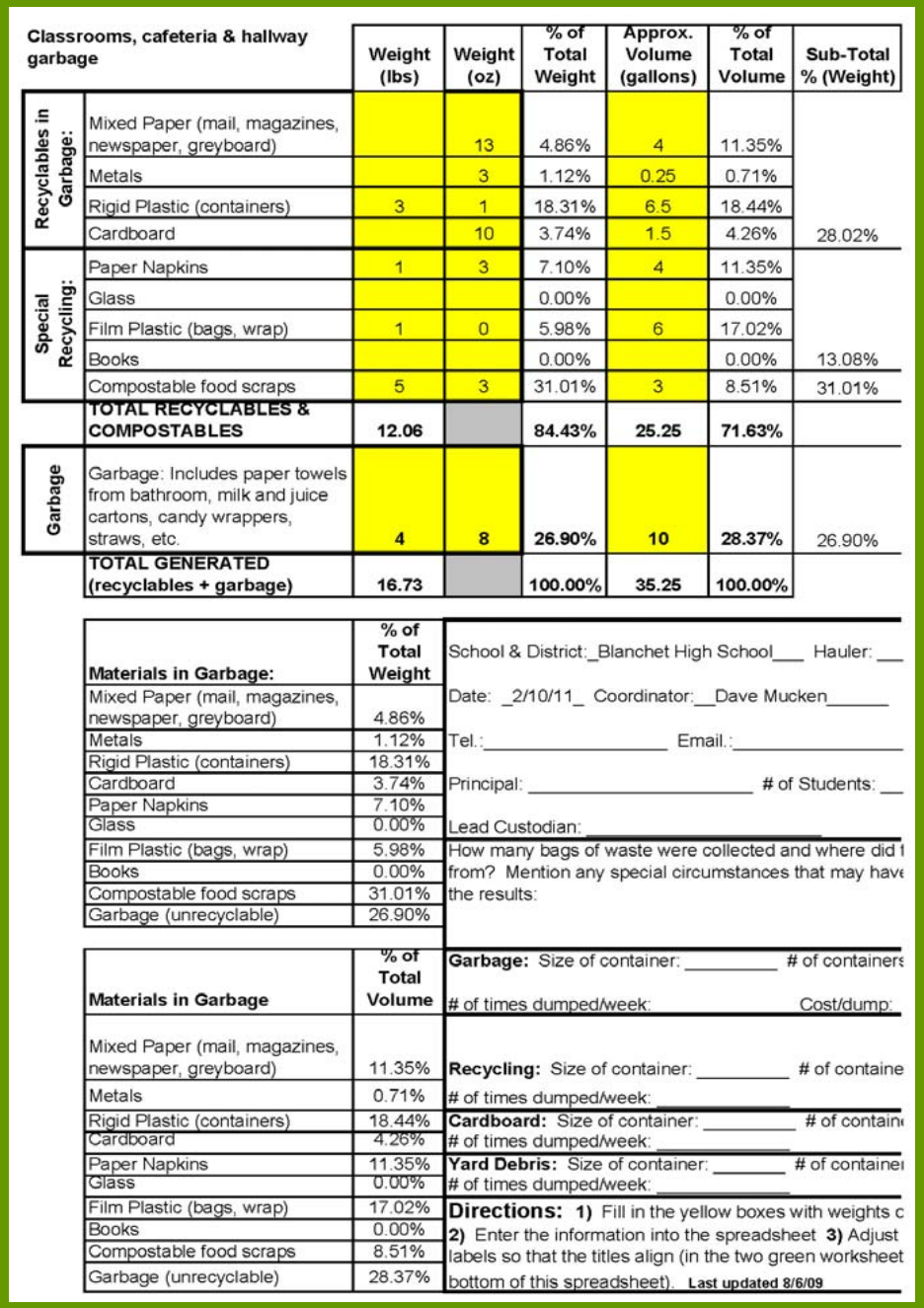
•Once you have sorted everything from one particular area, go around & make any corrections.

•Ask the students to make observations.

- Another way to do it is to use buckets to collect the material.
- Repeat the previous steps for each area until you have finished sorting all of the garbage (except bathrooms).

- Next have the students weigh each bag of garbage. Fish scales work well, but another (less accurate) method is a bathroom scale.
- Ask students to estimate the volume. Have them think of a milk jug or use a 5 gallon bucket.
- Record the weights & volumes separately for each area that you collect garbage.


•Be sure to recycle whatever is recyclable (i.e. not contaminated with food) at the end of the activity!
ECOLAB
Oasis 146
Multi-Quat Sanitizer
ECOLAB
Multi-Quat



Classrooms, cafeteria & hallway garbage		Weight (lbs)	Weight (oz)	% of Total Weight	Approx. Volume (gallons)	% of Total Volume	Sub-Total % (Weight)
Recyclables in Garbage:	Mixed Paper (mail, magazines, newspaper, greyboard)		13	4.86%	4	11.35%	
	Metals		3	1.12%	0.25	0.71%	
	Rigid Plastic (containers)	3	1	18.31%	6.5	18.44%	
	Cardboard		10	3.74%	1.5	4.26%	28.02%
Special Recycling:	Paper Napkins	1	3	7.10%	4	11.35%	
	Glass			0.00%		0.00%	
	Film Plastic (bags, wrap)	1	0	5.98%	6	17.02%	
	Books			0.00%		0.00%	13.08%
	Compostable food scraps	5	3	31.01%	3	8.51%	31.01%
	TOTAL RECYCLABLES & COMPOSTABLES	**12.06**		**84.43%**	**25.25**	**71.63%**	
Garbage	Garbage: Includes paper towels from bathroom, milk and juice cartons, candy wrappers, straws, etc.	**4**	**8**	**26.90%**	**10**	**28.37%**	26.90%
	TOTAL GENERATED (recyclables + garbage)	**16.73**		**100.00%**	**35.25**	**100.00%**	

Materials in Garbage:	% of Total Weight
Mixed Paper (mail, magazines, newspaper, greyboard)	4.86%
Metals	1.12%
Rigid Plastic (containers)	18.31%
Cardboard	3.74%
Paper Napkins	7.10%
Glass	0.00%
Film Plastic (bags, wrap)	5.98%
Books	0.00%
Compostable food scraps	31.01%
Garbage (unrecyclable)	26.90%

Materials in Garbage	% of Total Volume
Mixed Paper (mail, magazines, newspaper, greyboard)	11.35%
Metals	0.71%
Rigid Plastic (containers)	18.44%
Cardboard	4.26%
Paper Napkins	11.35%
Glass	0.00%
Film Plastic (bags, wrap)	17.02%
Books	0.00%
Compostable food scraps	8.51%
Garbage (unrecyclable)	28.37%

School & District:_Blanchet High School___ Hauler: ___

Date: _2/10/11_ Coordinator:__Dave Mucken_____

Tel.:_____ Email.:_____

Principal: _____ # of Students: ___

Lead Custodian: _____

How many bags of waste were collected and where did t
from? Mention any special circumstances that may have
the results:

Garbage: Size of container: _____ # of containers

# of times dumped/week: Cost/dump:

Recycling: Size of container: _____ # of containe

# of times dumped/week: _____

Cardboard: Size of container: _____ # of contain

# of times dumped/week: _____

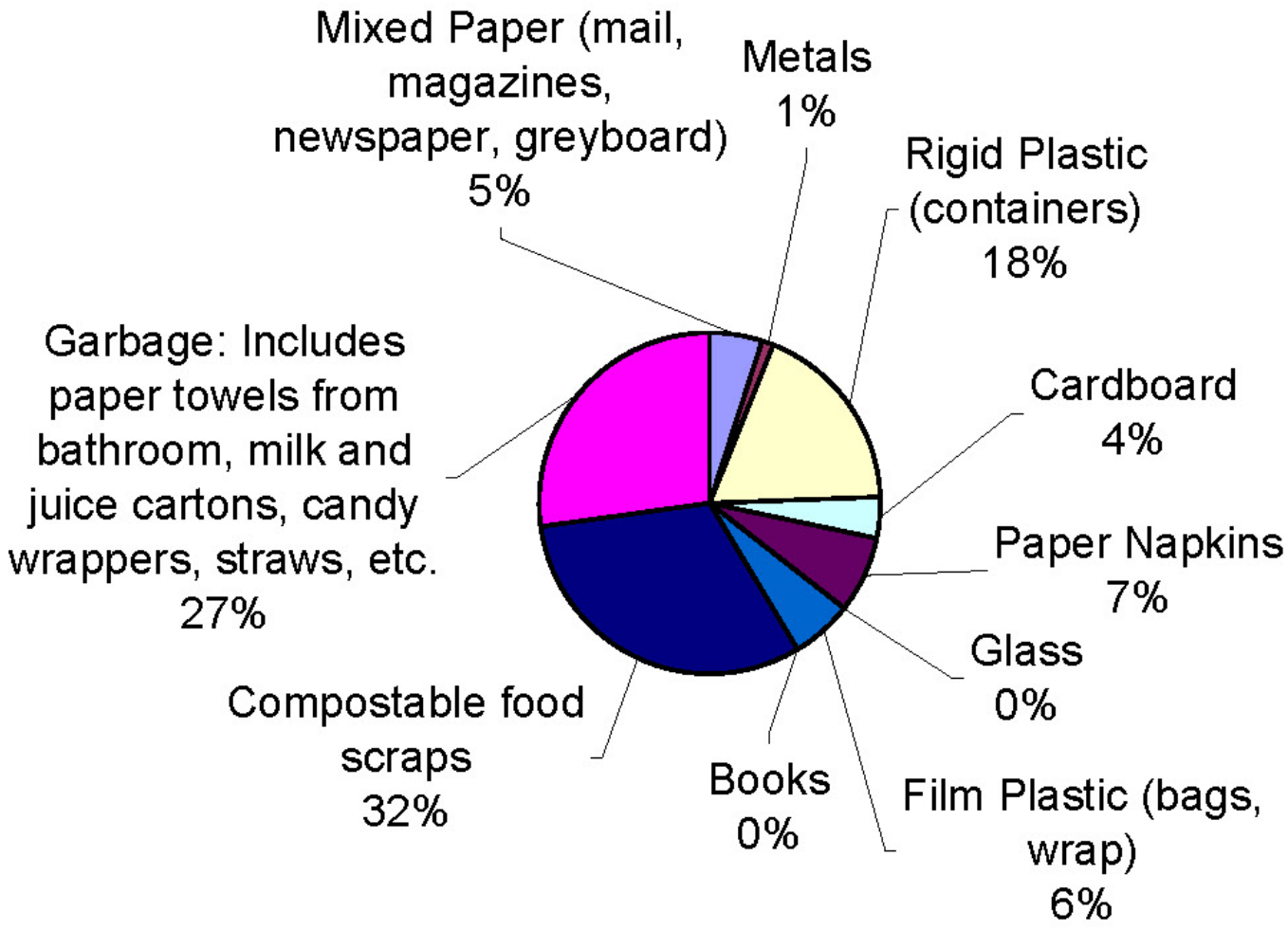
Yard Debris: Size of container: _____ # of containe

# of times dumped/week: _____

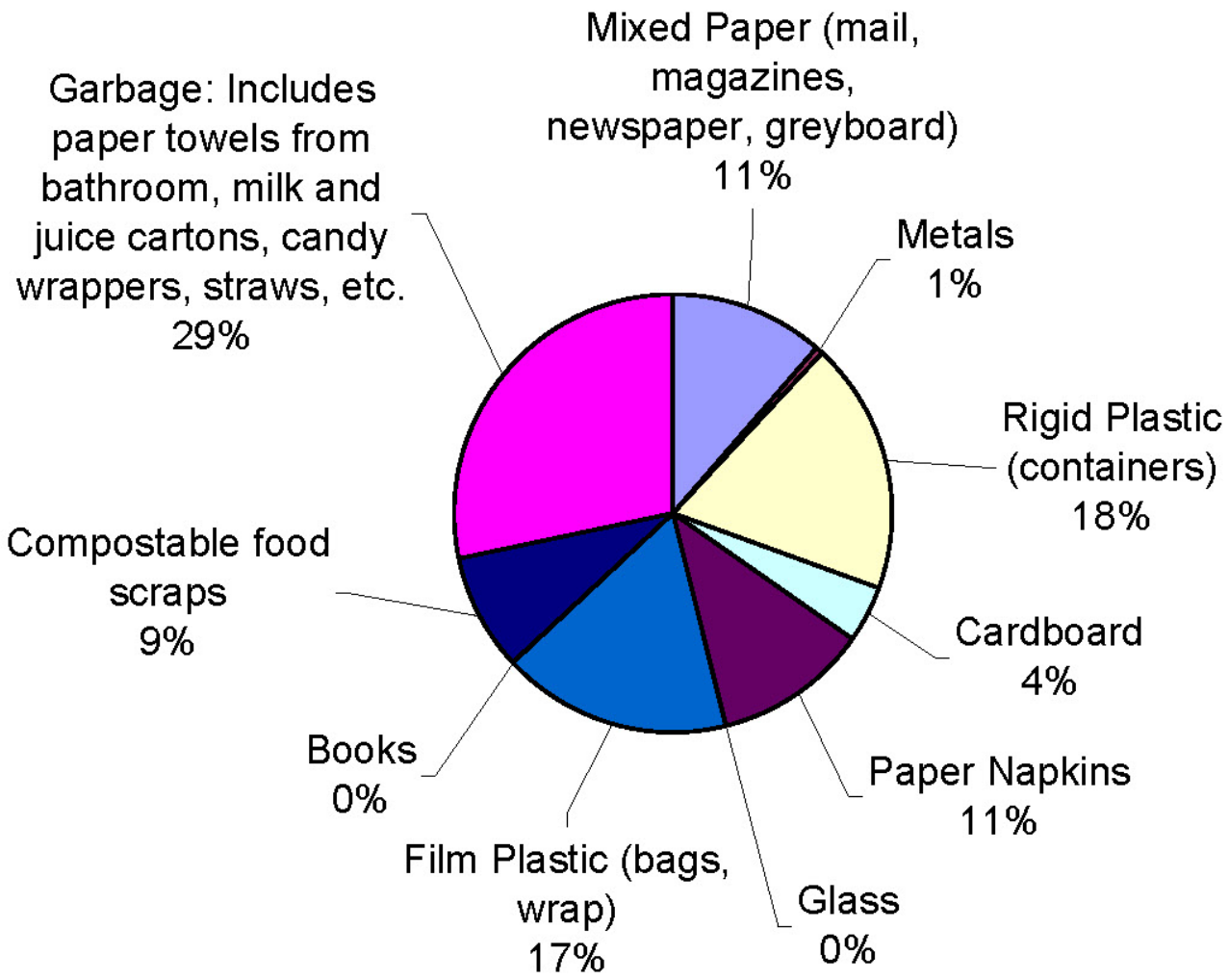
Directions: 1) Fill in the yellow boxes with weights c
2) Enter the information into the spreadsheet **3)** Adjust
labels so that the titles align (in the two green worksheet
bottom of this spreadsheet). **Last updated 8/6/09**

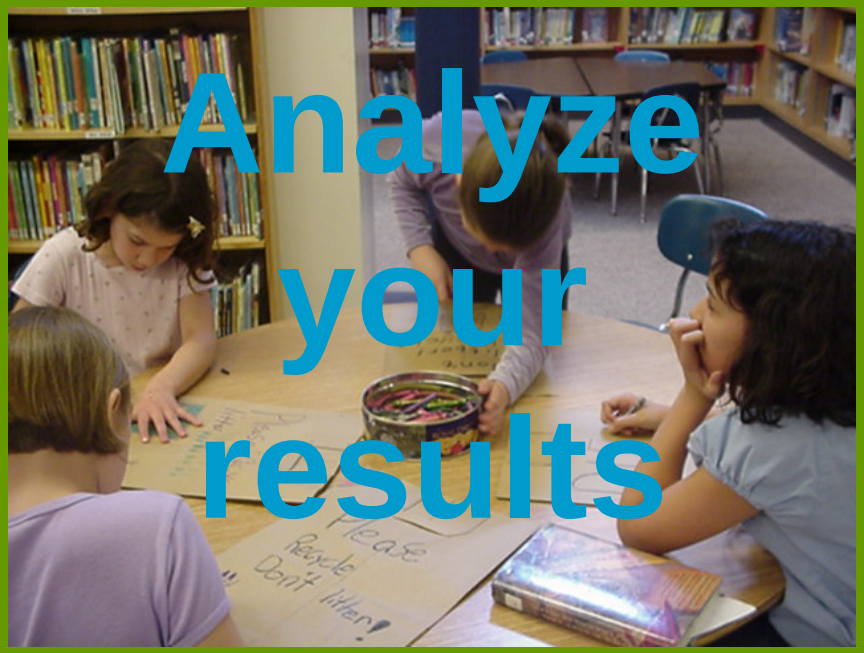
- Enter in the weights and volumes of the various categories of materials.
- Use a separate form for each area that you audit.
- The form is customizable.
- It is not a requirement that you use this format.

Weight of Waste



Volume of Waste





Analyze your results

Create a plan of action

Share your results & plan

Take action

Questions???

Please email me if you would like me to send you…

- The “How to do a Waste Audit” document
- The “Waste Audit” spreadsheet
- This presentation
- Any other tools or calculators from the flash drive demo

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