

Checklist Waste Composition

School:

Group (names of all pupils):

.....

.....

Taker of the minutes:

Tutor of the group:

Dialogue partner:

Date:



Find out how our school deals with waste! For this purpose do a waste sorting with your teacher. Have your teacher help you with arithmetic problems.

Preliminary remark: A lot of what we throw away is in fact a valuable resource: New products can be made from bottles, glasses, newspapers and used writing paper or from junk. You can gain compost or even energy from plant waste. In Germany many of such usable materials are collected separately.

Today you will give attention to the “residual waste”, which is left and which is collected in the grey or black bins. If waste separation works well there should only be little residual waste, and this rest should hardly carry any valuable resources. This is what you will check with your waste sorting.

1 Waste sorting

Prepare the sorting together with your teacher.

Look at the waste together and think about the components you want to sort into. Make a note of these components in the list on the next page of this checklist.

Now sort the waste into its components.

Eventually there is just a little waste left that consists of very small pieces (like scraps of paper, pen cartridges, chewing gums, single sheets, dust). You *don't* have to sort that any more – just treat this rest as you treat the other components as well.

Try to take as many photos as possible!

2 Volume and weight

When the whole waste is sorted you have several piles, each containing just one material and one pile with the unsorted “rest”.

Now find out volume and weight of each pile. To do this you fill a bucket with the waste material and enter the volume into the list on the back. Weigh the entire bucket, deduct the weight of the empty bucket and write down this result on the list as well. Keep going until the whole pile is done.

Proceed with the next pile.

Climate detectives: checklist waste composition p. 2

Measurement no.	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5	Component 6

	l kg	l kg	l kg	l kg	l kg	l kg
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Sum						
<p>Now sum up the volumes of all components (in l):</p> <p>Now sum up the weight of all components (in kg):</p> <p>Then calculate the percentage of each component in relation to the waste. Do these calculations separately for volume and weight and enter the results in the list below.</p>						
	Component 1 weight volume % %	Component 2 weight volume % %	Component 3 weight volume % %	Component 4 weight volume % %	Component 5 weight volume % %	Component 6 weight volume % %

3 Evaluation and presentation

If one group did something on waste disposal, you should work together with this group now.

Remember which recyclable material you found in the residual waste. To what extent could we reduce the amount of residual waste if waste separation worked faultlessly? Try to make a guess together with your teacher how much money (waste disposal charge) could be saved.

Think about which components of the waste are really superfluous! If, for example, everybody brought their snacks in a box, wrapping like aluminium foil or other bags would be redundant. Do you find more examples?

Build an opinion about the composition of the residual waste!

We like:

We don't like:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Discuss what we could do better!

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Think about how you would like to present your results to other pupils and teachers!

Do a graph that shows the composition of the residual waste.

Write a report about your waste sorting. Write an appeal to all pupils and all teachers to take part in waste separation. Select your best photos for this. Take this material – texts, graph, photos – to the editorial office of the school magazine and of the school homepage and ask them to publish your article.

As well you can prepare a breakfast snack with the group on waste disposal without producing any waste. Think with your teacher about which food and drinks you could serve and how to get them

.....

.....

.....

.....

Now get ready to present your results!

