

# Waste detective program



**Principle:** to teach children how to reduce waste in educational establishments.

The best way to teach something is to show how to do it in practice. This is especially true in case of children who are eager to learn and to try out new actions. The underlying idea is to provide a guide to teachers containing ideas and best practices how to introduce the importance of waste reduction to students. Then in the name of the “think global, act local principle” together with the children a waste audit should be carried out: actual examination of the amount of waste in the classroom and in the canteen of the establishment. Then after the identification of possible problematic issues an action plan has to be worked out together – rules have to be laid down in a written format. Creative reminders could be created with the help of enthusiastic children to the bill boards of the schools or above the waste containers. Even a drawing competition could be organized.

During the week the amount of waste prevented could be determined if we compare the amount of waste generated after the new rules and the week before the action.

Target audience:

- primary target audience: primary school teachers and students
- secondary target audience: the families of the children (children take home the learned attitude and the practices)

## General information



reduce



difficulty

Waste stream



reuse



environmental impact



paper



packaging



recycle



cost



WEEE



organic

## Objectives

- ▶ General objective is to reduce waste generated in educational establishments: typical waste streams – paper, packaging and food waste
- ▶ Create an attitude according to which **“The best waste is the one that is not produced!”**
- ▶ The main concept is that teachers and students should identify the problematic areas and work out the solutions to their problematic issues
- ▶ Among the messages the popularisation of drink bottles, lunch boxes and re-useable bags could also appear

## Your tools to make this action

### **Presentation created for teachers**

- ▶ What is it? Tool which helps teachers to summarise the importance of waste reduction to the students in a “consumable” way. Interesting data about waste generation in a way that grab the attention of children to emphasise the importance of prevention. As an initial activity it could create more enthusiasm towards the week.
- ▶ How to make/use it?
  - Send it electronically to the contact person of the participating school to avoid waste generation.
  - Moreover, this could be downloaded from the website of EWWR.
  - Find a proper date and time to present it to the students in the beginning of the week.
- ▶ How to evaluate? Number of students listen to the presentation



### **Poster creation competition**

- ▶ What is it? tool to draw the attention to the aim of this action: Main message: less waste is best waste. The educational establishment organises a drawing competition amongst the students, a poster is also developed as a call for the competition.
- ▶ How to make/use it?
  - The students should think about waste issues within the schools, it should be drawn how they perceive the problematic areas of waste.
- ▶ How to evaluate? number of poster created, number of participants



### **Workshop: preparing my own drink bottle, lunch box and shopping bag**

- ▶ What is it? a workshop organised to prepare own lunchboxes, shopping bags and drink bottles
- ▶ How to make/use it?
  - pre-advertise it amongst the target group
  - collect the materials well in advance – they will determine the objects that will be prepared
  - some tips could be downloaded from [www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu), but on the internet there are several websites dealing with creative workshops to create the aforementioned objects
- ▶ How to evaluate? Quantity of “waste reused” , number of participants, waste prevented because of the use of these objects (amount of packaging avoided)



## Support tools for communication

### ***“Wastemeter – how to create a waste audit”***

- ▶ What is it? Tool which helps teachers to assess the waste audit.
- ▶ How to make/use it?
  - Teachers could catch a glance how a waste audit should be done, what parts should it contain and finally, how to determine the target.
  - could be downloaded from the website
- ▶ How to evaluate? Quantity of waste prevented; fulfilment of the target determined



## Preparing the action: Initial assessment of the situation

In order to determine the actual situation of the educational establishment properly before the week the initial activities should be carried out.

1. Download the presentation and the “wastemeter” document.
2. Hold the pre-prepared presentation to the students to grab their attention to this action.
3. Assess the situation together with the students: how many waste (measurement is either kg or 60 l bag) is generated first in the classroom, secondly in the canteen
4. Find out the practices with the help of which the generated amount could be decreased. (keywords: drink bottles, lunchbox, food: smaller portions...)
5. plan in advance the workshop

## Preparing the action: development and production

Start to examine the given communication tools 1 months before the Week.

### ***Presentation created for teachers***

- ▶ Download it from the website.
- ▶ Ask the coordinator if something is not clear enough
- ▶ Be prepared for further questions
- ▶ Determine the timing of the presentation: place, time (1 week before the EWWR), number of participants

### ***“Wastemeter – how to create a waste audit”***

- ▶ Download it from the website.
- ▶ Ask the coordinator if something is not clear enough
- ▶ Determine the timing and the process of the assessment of the content of waste containers at schools. Write down the result together with students.
- ▶ After the assessment organise a brainstorming on how to decrease this amount?
- ▶ Write down the chosen agreed ideas which will be introduced during the week



## Poster

- ▶ Decide in advance whether you want to organise a drawing competition.
  - If yes, download the poster referring to the call for the competition: topic – creative reminders to the target and practices agreed.
  - If no, download the poster which draws the attention to the importance of waste prevention.
- ▶ Print the material only in a really necessary amount
- ▶ Because of the workshop a collection campaign for usable materials should be organised to ensure that the components will be at our disposal by the time of the assigned date of the D-I-Y activities (bottles, textiles, waste paper, used wrapping papers, bottle caps etc)

## Implementing the action

- ▶ Display the posters on prominent position
- ▶ Appoint the waste detectives from the students whose task is to ensure that the determined rules are kept.
- ▶ Every day they should measure the amount of waste generated
- ▶ At the end of the week
  - the masterpieces of the drawing competition – if there is any – could be shown to the whole school – leave it out for at least two weeks to remind the students
  - add up the daily amount of waste generated during the whole week
- ▶ organise the workshop

## Evaluation methodology

### Number of participants

- ▶ count the number of students and teachers involved in this action

### Amount of waste prevented

- ▶ determine the amount of waste generated before the action
- ▶ determine the amount of waste generated at the end of the week
- ▶ deduct these two values: the amount of waste prevented could be calculated

### Amount of waste reused

- ▶ count the collected materials for the workshop activities
- ▶ those that are not used should be separately collected and sorted

## More information

<http://www.ewwr.eu/reduce>

- ▶ Examples of actions (more examples on [www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu))
  - [Elsa Morante High School](#) (IT - 2012)
  - [St. Francis School Cospicua](#) (MT - 2012)
  - [CIFP Hostelería y Turismo de Gijón](#) (ES - 2011)
  - [HEIG-VD](#) (CH - 2010)

- ▶ European Week for Waste Reduction: [www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu) [contact@ewwr.eu](mailto:contact@ewwr.eu)



With the support of  
the European Commission

