



1: WHICH FOODS are children in your school throwing away?



Introduction

In some schools, a lot of food from school dinners ends up in the bin. This is a serious problem for the environment: water and energy are used to grow and transport food, so they are wasted when the food is thrown away. Wasting food is also an issue for children's health and learning. Hungry children may find it hard to concentrate in the afternoon.



This survey will help you find out WHICH FOODS children in your school are throwing away. Once you have done this survey, you will probably want to find out WHY children are throwing away food in your school, and use the BHee template to interview staff about how they think food waste could be reduced.

When you have completed both surveys and talked to plenty of people you can start to make a plan to REDUCE food waste in your school.

Instructions

1. Stand near the bins in the school dining hall. (Make sure you don't block any doorways or get in the way of the lunchtime staff.)
2. Ask each child to show you their plate before they scrape it into the bin. Record what food they are throwing away using a tally.
3. If there isn't time to look at every plate you could survey a sample of plates. Make sure you include both boys and girls, and different ages in your sample.

You could also carry out this survey in each class. After lunch time, read the list of foods to the class, then ask children to put their hands up to indicate which they have thrown away today.

It is a good idea to repeat this survey on different days to see if the food thrown away changes depending on the menu.

Which foods are being thrown away from school dinners today?

Record your results in the table below using a tally.



Meat / fish	Cooked vegetables
TOTAL	TOTAL
Potatoes / chips	Bread
TOTAL	TOTAL
Salad	Pudding
TOTAL	TOTAL

Survey carried out by:

.....