


Unit: What are we throwing away?

In this 5-part series students will track the energy and resources that go into getting food to their plates. Problem solving to design solutions and take action, students will minimize the impact food waste has on people and the climate.

8 hours total • 30-90 minutes per lesson • Grades 4th - 6th

 = Teacher leads, RE Sources supports

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Pink = NGSS standards met

RE Sources can provide...

Support

- Provide a framework for the action plan, including worksheets, SMART goals guidance and a project idea list
- Provide resources for select action projects such as improved signage, tools, or tips on how to lead an assembly
- Can provide a short training for students who want to be “waste monitors”

Guidance

- Help students analyze results of the waste investigation and/or waste audit; help them determine which project would be most achievable and beneficial to their school
- Offer guidance on implementing projects in coordination with the school’s administration, support staff, and outside partners

Want more ways to green your school?

Visit re-sources.org/greening

1 Food Waste 101

Lesson 1: What is “Away” anyway?

Activity 1: Students use investigative skills to assess their school’s waste

2 Deeper dive: how food waste impacts people and the environment

NGSS: 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS3-1

Lesson 2: Where does our food come from?

Lesson 3: What are the unseen resources that go into making a meal?

Lesson 4: What does our waste have to do with climate change and what are some solutions?

Optional Social Justice Lesson: How does our food waste impact people?

3 Optional: Waste audit

Activity 2: Cafeteria waste audit. Students literally dig deeper and perform a cafeteria waste audit

4 Students find solutions

NGSS: 3-5-ETS1-1

Activity 3: After analyzing data, students choose a project and create an action plan

5 Students take action!

NGSS: 3-5-ETS1-1

Activity 5: Project implementation

Activity 6: Share successes, challenges, and debrief

