

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio  
Resource Development Associates  
**Business Waste Audit**

Pre Waste Audit Tasks

1. Review Waste Hauling Contract and Examine:
  - Provision for Recycling
  - Reporting Back
  - Charge per pull on dumpsters
  - Ownership of MSW
  - Right of Refusal
  - Contract Length
  
2. Record Collection and Review a years worth of billing for:
  - Trash removal
  - Costs associated with recycling
  - All dumpster rental
  - All compactor costs, if applicable
  
3. Review agreement, billing and receipts of revenue for special commodities, if applicable i.e.
  - Shrink Wrap, Cardboard, etc.

## Example/Waste Audit Company A

Please Note: The “Steps” in this document correlate with the “Steps” listed in the  
“Small and Medium Business Solid Waste and Recycling Assessment”

Example: 6 cy dumpster pulled weekly – monthly cost=\$100

**Step 1:** Calculate the amount of cubic yards generated annually, and the annual costs and cost/cubic yard.

Formula: 6 cy dumpster x 52 weeks = 312 cy collected annually  
\$100 mo. x 12 mo. = \$1,200 annually or \$3.85 per cy (\$1200 divided by 312 cy)

**Please Note: Steps 2 – 4 can be completed at the same time with one walk thru**

**Step 2:** Walk thru and visually estimate the materials in the waste stream.

25% paper = 78 cy (25% of 312 cy)  
30% metals = 94 cy  
15% plastic = 46 cy  
30% other = 94 cy

**Step 3:** Walk thru and determine where waste is generated internally.  
Inventory equipment i.e. dumpsters, etc.

- Number and Size
- Are your dumpsters full when pulled?

**Step 4:** Walk thru and examine different areas of your business where trash and recyclables are generated. Estimate the amount of material by material type that can be captured for reuse and recycling.

Formula:  
50% paper 78 cy x .50 = 39 cy for recycling  
60% metals 94 cy x .60 = 56 cy for recycling  
50% plastic 46 cy x .50 = 23 cy for recycling  
Total = 118 cy for recycling

**Step 5:** Compare existing waste disposal costs with new disposal and recycling (if any) costs to determine if there is a costs savings or simply additional costs.

Please Note: This formula can only be completed once your contract is re-negotiated or re-bid. Most likely a Net Savings will come from reduction in waste disposal costs.

Formula: Existing \$    New \$    Recycle \$    Net Savings  
\$1,200 – (\$746 + \$200) = \$254

To access the Business Waste Audit Tool: <http://www.swaco.org/WasteAudit.aspx>

For Weight Conversion Table and Guide on Dumpster Contents visit:  
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swb/doc/Conversiontable.doc>