

HOW MUCH PLASTIC DO WE HAVE??

We see so much plastic around us, but how much do we really have and use? This is a quick **awareness activity** to understand the amount of plastic in our midst—in our homes, schools and at various events.

The best way to do this activity would be to conduct the activity **at least twice at different points in time** to observe whether there have been **any reductions in plastic usage over time**. For example, it can be done at an annual event so that the same event can be a reference for how much plastic usage there has been from one year to the next. At household levels, a certain day of the month can be referenced over a course of a few months.



MATERIALS

- Paper / notepad
- Pen
- Scale
- Light tote bag or mesh bag
- Rubber gloves
- Permission to conduct activity if being done in a particular location outside of home

STEPS

1. At your chosen time and location (house, event, school cafeteria), collect the plastics that have been thrown away at that specific point in time. This can be the trash bins or recycling bins.
2. Put on rubber gloves and collect the plastic waste into a lightweight tote or mesh bag (or if there are plastic bags in the trash pile, use them).
3. When a bag is filled, weigh the total plastic on a scale. Depending on the amount of plastic waste, you may have to weigh multiple times or fill multiple bags.
4. On a paper/notepad, write the date and the weight of the plastics gathered.
**Note the weight of the bag and use the same bag for the next measurement.*
5. Create an awareness poster or flyer to post by the trash bin (or submit your activity at www.edfordsd.org or a local newsletter) showing how much waste was generated. Communicate that the measurement will be done again at another future point in time.
6. Repeat the activity (at a set time later on, at least a month after) to compare plastic produced from a similar situation (household celebration, annual events, similar times at a school cafeteria, etc).