

# RECYCLING BY THE NUMBERS

Did you know that the average American discards about 4.5 pounds of trash every day?\* For a family of three, that's more than 94.5 pounds of trash per week! How does your family match up?

## Part A. Trash Tracker

Use this chart to track how many bags of trash and recyclables your family tosses during the next week. Show how many bags are trash and how many are recyclables. Use the data you collect to answer the questions below.

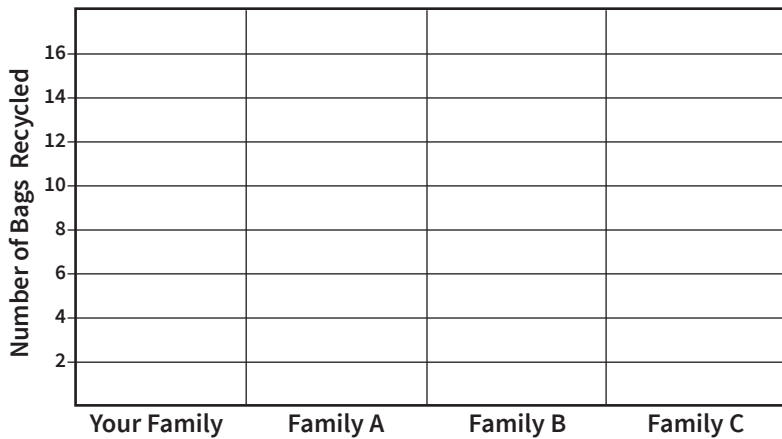
	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Trash							
Recyclables							

- How much total trash and recyclables did your family discard in one week (number of bags)?  
Trash: \_\_\_\_\_ Recyclables: \_\_\_\_\_
- Assuming that this was a typical week, how much would your family accumulate in one year?  
Trash: \_\_\_\_\_ Recyclables: \_\_\_\_\_
- What was the ratio of recyclables to trash in your home? \_\_\_\_\_
- Estimate what percentage of your recyclables was:  
% paper/cardboard \_\_\_\_\_ % glass \_\_\_\_\_ % metal \_\_\_\_\_ % plastic \_\_\_\_\_



## Part B. See the Difference

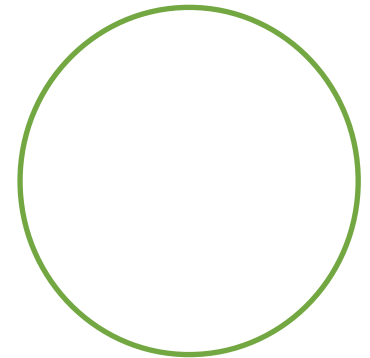
Within your group, fill in the following graphs to show how much your family recycled and how it compares to your classmates.



### Family Waste Allocation

Use this circle to create a pie chart that shows the amount your family produced in:

- Trash
- Paper/cardboard recyclables
- Other recyclables



## Recycling By Volume

Now compare your family's stats with those of your classmates. Who "won" the title of best recycler?

## Part C. Spread the Word

Using the data you collected above, and any statistics you can find about your state or town's recycling program, create an infographic and PSA campaign aimed at increasing recycling in your community. Be creative! You can design a poster, an outline for a video, a social media campaign, a series of bumper stickers, etc. Here are some topics to help get you started, but you can come up with your own theme, too!

- Digital isn't greener.
- The average American discards about 4.5 pounds of trash every day.\*
- There are recyclables in EVERY room of the house – it's not just the kitchen!
- Here's a tip – let it rip! How to tell what's recyclable and where it goes (hint: paper tears, plastic doesn't)

**Paper and cardboard are recyclable!**  
Learn more at [www.paperrecycles.org](http://www.paperrecycles.org)

Program made possible with generous support from Paper and Packaging Board and Young Minds Inspired.

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