



**Environmental Research
& Education Foundation**

Lighting a path to sustainable waste management practices

Join SCrAP

SCHOOL CAFETERIA DISCARDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT



Did you know that roughly 40% OF FOOD produced in America is THROWN AWAY?

This represents a loss of nearly **\$165 BILLION** worth of food annually!

In response to statistics like these, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture recently established a goal to divert 50% of food waste from landfills by 2030. The goal is to be met through waste management options as well as reduction in the generation of food wastes.

There is significant interest in understanding how much food served in school cafeterias is thrown away because very little information is available. Collectively, understanding these issues can lead to benefits such as:

- educating students/school staff regarding more sustainable waste management strategies
- reducing unnecessary food waste
- reducing food costs to schools
- developing ways to better manage institutional food waste



The School Cafeteria Discards Assessment Project (SCrAP) was developed by the Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) to quantify both food waste and related wastes (e.g. recyclables, to landfill) generated in cafeterias at K-12 schools nationally. The project aims to gather information regarding the quantity of waste generated in school cafeterias and obtain an understanding of how this waste is managed both at the school and after it is hauled away.

Would you be willing to HELP?

We are looking for trendsetters who want to make the environment cleaner and greener while at the same time educating students. Specifically, we need elementary, middle, high schools and combined schools (e.g. private, charter) to participate in the program.



Getting involved is easy as 1-2-3!

STEP 1 Sign up to participate in SCrAP.

You will be asked to enter some basic information such as school address and contact information for a school representative.

SIGN UP NOW!

STEP 2 Select your desired level of participation.

There are 3 levels of participation based on your food waste appetite.

PURPLE Questionnaire Only

The easiest level of participation involves answering a questionnaire about your school's waste management practices. The questionnaire takes less than an hour to complete, assuming most information is readily available and can be taken online or by completing a Word or Excel based version. Hard copies can also be mailed to you, if desired.

BLUE Questionnaire & Weight Measurements

This level involves taking the questionnaire but also weighing the cafeteria waste bins 3-5 times. Weighing the waste provides critical data needed to understand what types of waste are being created and how much of it there is. Each weight measurement activity usually takes about 30 minutes and can be done by students, parents or volunteers, as appropriate.

GOLD Questionnaire & A Few More Weight Measurements

This level is the same as the **BLUE** level except that you agree to weigh cafeteria waste bins 6-10 times. A few extra measurements like this provides a LOT more useful information, such as understanding how much the waste stream changes during the school year and whether different menu items affect how much waste is created.

STEP 3 Complete your participation level's tasks.

Once the level of participation is selected, you will receive further instructions on how to complete the questionnaire and, if you selected **BLUE** or **GOLD** levels, next steps for preparing for weight measurements to be conducted during the 2016-2017 school year.



Join SCrAP and get NEAT STUFF for your school

Participants in SCrAP will get the following materials, which provide support for teachers, educate students and inform administrators:

Waste Related **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS** for the Classroom

This 'virtual packet' contains various FREE educational materials (e.g. videos, links to educational websites, instructional materials, live webinars, etc.) on: what's in our garbage, how waste is recycled or turned into energy and how improper waste management can harm our environment.

SNAPSHOT RESULTS REPORT— Tailored for Your School (Blue and Gold Levels)

The report summarizes how your school compares to participating schools nationally, at the state level and by school type (e.g. elementary, middle, high school, private school). In addition, the report provides suggestions as to how your school can be more sustainable and whether more sustainable options may exist for managing food waste (e.g. local composting/re-use options).

CHANCE TO WIN MONEY to support the school, up to a maximum of \$1,500.

Participating schools will be selected to receive prizes, including \$750 awards for **BLUE** level and \$1,500 awards for **GOLD** level. Winners may designate how the award is disbursed (e.g. to support science classrooms, PTA program, other student activities, etc.) and the form of the award (e.g. cash, equipment, website membership fees, etc.). Multiple awards will be offered for each level.

WE INVITE YOU to do your part to make your school, and the environment, more sustainable by participating in SCrAP!

Sign up today or for more information email ScrAp@eref.org or call (919) 861-6876.

SIGN UP NOW!

The Environmental Research & Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 class charity that funds and directs scientific research and educational initiatives for waste management practices to benefit industry partners and the communities they serve.

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