



WASTE AUDIT



INTRODUCTION

A waste audit is one of the most effective ways for Clubs to understand the type and quantity of waste generated across their facilities.

By reviewing and sorting waste produced at your Club, you can identify opportunities to reduce waste, improve recycling and prevent valuable materials from being sent to landfill.

Waste audits provide a clear baseline of your Club's waste performance and help identify practical actions that can support the Club and Wales' wider ambitions for a circular economy.

Conducting a waste audit can also engage volunteers, players and staff in sustainability efforts and increase awareness of responsible waste management.





AUDIT TIMELINE

When Should a Waste Audit Be Conducted?

A waste audit should ideally take place at the beginning of your sustainability journey. The results will help your club understand its current waste profile and set realistic targets for improvement.

Clubs may repeat the audit periodically, for example, annually or after introducing new recycling or waste reduction initiatives, to measure progress.



PREPARATION

Preparing for a Waste Audit

Form a Waste Audit Team

Create a small team of volunteers, players or staff to help carry out the audit.

Carry Out a Risk Assessment

Ensure the activity is conducted safely. Consider potential hazards such as sharp objects or food waste.

Request Waste Data

Ask your waste contractor to provide annual waste figures for general waste, recycling and food waste collections.

Collect Waste in Clear Bags

For the audit period, collect waste in clear bags so the contents can be easily identified.

Label Each Bag

Mark each bag to identify where it came from, for example:

- Changing rooms.
- Canteen or kitchen.
- Offices.
- Spectator areas.
- Pitch side bins.

Choose the Sample Size

Auditing approximately 25% of the waste produced will provide a good indication of waste composition. For example, review one out of every four bags collected during the audit period.





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EQUIPMENT

To conduct a safe audit, you will require a range of equipment:

- Protective gloves and masks.
- Weighing scales.
- Clipboards and recording sheets.
- 10 to 20 clear bin bags.
- Large containers or boxes for sorting waste.
- Plastic sheet or tarp for sorting waste safely.





WASTE AUDIT STEPS

Step 1 – Inspect the Bags

Visually inspect each bag and remove any potentially dangerous items before sorting.

Step 2 – Sort the Waste

Empty one bag at a time onto the plastic sheet and sort the contents into the following categories:

- Paper.
- Cardboard.
- Food waste.
- Rigid plastic.
- Soft plastic.
- Glass.
- Metal.
- Other waste.

Step 3 – Weigh and Record

Place each waste type into containers and record the weight for each category.

Step 4 – Dispose of Waste Safely

Once recorded, place the materials back into the appropriate recycling or waste bins.





ANALYSING RESULTS

Record totals for each waste type in kilograms and as a percentage of total waste.

The results will highlight opportunities for improvement, for example:

- High levels of single use plastics.
- Low recycling rates.
- Large amounts of food waste from catering areas.
- Excess paper waste from offices.





ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Understanding Your Club's Waste Profile

Once your waste audit has been completed, the next step is to review and interpret the results. The information collected during the audit provides a clear picture of how much waste your Club generates, the types of materials being disposed of, and how effectively waste is being separated for recycling.

This assessment stage is essential because it helps your Club identify the most significant opportunities for improvement. Rather than introducing broad changes, Clubs can focus their efforts on the waste streams and areas where the greatest impact can be achieved.

The results from your audit will form the baseline for your Club's waste reduction actions as part of the FAW Together Greener Programme.

Key Questions to Consider

When reviewing your waste audit results, your Green Team should consider the following questions:

- What are the main types of waste produced at the Club?
- How much of your waste could be recycled?
- Where is the most waste generated?
- Are there opportunities to reduce waste at the source?





PRIORITY ACTIONS

Identifying Priority Actions

Based on your findings, your Club should identify a small number of priority actions to focus on first. These actions should target the waste streams with the greatest potential impact.

Examples may include:

- Introducing clearly labelled recycling stations around the grounds.
- Improving food waste separation in kitchens or canteens.
- Reducing single-use plastics during matches and events.
- Improving recycling awareness among players, volunteers and supporters.

Starting with a few manageable actions can help build momentum and engagement across the Club.





TARGETS & NEXT STEPS

Setting Waste Reduction Targets

Your audit results also provide the baseline data needed to set measurable targets. These targets should be realistic and achievable based on your current waste profile.

Examples could include:

- Reducing general waste by 20% over the next 12 months.
- Increasing recycling rates across the Club.
- Reducing single-use plastic items at Club events.
- Introducing food waste recycling where it does not currently exist.

Tracking progress against these targets will help demonstrate improvement and support your club's sustainability journey.

Next Steps for Your Club

Following the waste audit assessment, clubs should:

- Share the results with the Club committee, staff and volunteers.
- Develop a waste action plan based on the findings.
- Communicate new waste initiatives to players, supporters and facility users.
- Monitor progress and repeat the audit periodically to measure improvement.
- Use your findings to create a waste reduction plan for your Club.

Waste audits are not just about measuring waste, they are about creating practical solutions that help Clubs reduce their environmental impact while supporting the goals of the Together Greener Programme.





WASTE AUDIT RECORDING FORM

Date:
Location:

Waste Composition Recording Table

MATERIAL TYPE	IDENTIFIED IN RECYCLING (%)	IDENTIFIED IN RECYCLING (KG)	IDENTIFIED IN GENERAL WASTE (%)	IDENTIFIED IN GENERAL WASTE (KG)
Paper				
Cardboard				
Rigid Plastic				
Soft Plastic				
Metal				
Food Waste				
Glass				
Other				



WASTE AUDIT RECORDING FORM

Date:
Location:

Audit Summary

SUMMARY TOPIC	KG/%/#
Total Weight of Recycling Identified (Kg)	
Total Weight of General Waste Identified (Kg)	
Total Weight of Waste Audited (Kg)	
Estimated Recycling Rate (%)	
Estimated General Waste Rate: (%)	
Total Number of Bags Used for Audit (#)	
Total Overall Number of Bags Collected (#)	



WASTE AUDIT RECORDING FORM

Date:
Location:

Observations and Key Findings

USE THIS SPACE TO RECORD ANY IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS DURING THE AUDIT & ANY POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

Examples may include:

- Common recyclable materials found in general waste / Improve recycling signage.



FURTHER SUPPORT

Completing a waste audit gives your Club a detailed understanding of the types and quantities of waste generated across your facilities. This information helps identify where waste can be reduced, reused or recycled more effectively.

You do not need to tackle every issue immediately. Focus first on the waste streams that make up the largest proportion of your waste, as these will usually provide the greatest opportunity for improvement.

Waste audits can also be repeated periodically to monitor progress and measure the impact of new waste reduction initiatives.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Inform one of your two mandatory Green Goals.
- Develop actions within your Club's Waste Action Plan.
- Improve recycling infrastructure and bin placement.
- Reduce key waste streams such as food waste or single-use plastics.

Understanding your waste profile allows your Club to move from assumptions to evidence-based action, helping you make practical improvements that support the goals of the Together Greener Programme.

Further information on Waste can be found at www.faw.cymru/TogetherGreener-waste

If you require support completing this audit, please contact sustainability@faw.cymru