



CITIZEN SCIENCE STREET LITTER AUDIT INSTRUCTIONS



PURPOSE

Street Litter Audits are a great way to get an accurate picture of what types and quantities of litter are appearing throughout our suburban streets, thereby giving us an opportunity to identify likely sources of this litter and what measures can be undertaken to reduce or eliminate these. Reference sites on 6 different street use types are regularly audited to track any increase or decrease of litter items that are known to threaten wildlife and/or human health, or are the subject of ongoing campaigns, eg. Container Deposit Legislation. The data will help make a case for legislation, education, infrastructure and enforcement to reduce these items in our waterways. The data is entered into the LitterWatch database.

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM LINKS

- F-2** Use informal measurements in the collection and recording of observations ([VCSIS052](#)).
Use a range of methods, including drawings and provided tables, to sort information ([VCSIS053](#)).
- 3-4** Use formal measurements in the collection and recording of observations ([VCSIS068](#)).
Use a range of methods including tables and column graphs to represent data and to identify patterns and trends ([VCSIS069](#)).
- 5-6** Construct and use a range of representations, including tables and graphs, to record, represent and describe observations, patterns or relationships in data ([VCSIS085](#)).
Compare data with predictions and use as evidence in developing explanations ([VCSIS086](#)).
- 7-8** In fair tests, measure and control variables, and select equipment to collect data with accuracy appropriate to the task ([VCSIS109](#)).
Construct and use a range of representations including graphs, keys and models to record and summarise data from students' own investigations and secondary sources, and to represent and analyse patterns and relationships ([VCSIS110](#)).
- 9-10** Construct and use a range of representations, including graphs, keys, models and formulas, to record and summarise data from students' own investigations and secondary sources, to represent qualitative and quantitative patterns or relationships, and distinguish between discrete and continuous data ([VCSIS137](#)).
Analyse patterns and trends in data, including describing relationships between variables, identifying inconsistencies in data and sources of uncertainty, and drawing conclusions that are consistent with evidence ([VCSIS138](#)).

LOCATION

Any suitable street or urban location where there is sufficient space to safely conduct an audit. Schoolgrounds are ideal for student groups.

EQUIPMENT

Tape measure, compass, clip board, datasheet, pen, chalk, gloves, 3 buckets (1 per zone).

SAFETY

Before you start: Have a First Aid Kit and gloves on-site. Check the entire site to note possible hazards. As this audit involves data collection near roads and car park bays, a job safety observer must be appointed to warn data collectors of any car movements (including car doors opening).

Warn all collectors: Don't put your fingers where you can't see them!

Do not collect syringes. Do not collect glass. Remain on kerb when collecting from gutter area. Do not stand on street or in gutter or car park area.





DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

- Litter is recorded as collected from 3 zones (defined areas for which observations/ records are made) located at the footpath, grass and/or mulch beds, and gutter zones of the street frontage to quantify litter from the source to the stormwater system.
- Each audit zone (footpath, gutter and car park) runs the entire length of the property frontage. Permanent landmark structures at the property boundaries serve as the starting point for repeated surveys.
- Describe the survey start & finish points (at the property boundary) in the 'Start Landmark' and "Finish landmark" fields at top of the datasheet.
- Measure and record the length between the property boundary landmarks; then the width of each zone.
- At the start landmark, use a compass to record the direction along the street. Record the direction on the datasheet.
- Use chalk to mark the ends of the audit area at the property line and gutter.
- Don gloves and begin litter data collection in zone 1 (footpath), proceeding to zone 2 (grass and/or mulch beds) and zone 3 (kerb & gutter).



LITTER COLLECTION TIPS

Divide the group into 3 (1 for each zone). Teams collect and put all litter in the bucket for their zone. Counting and data recording should be done after all litter is collected.

Litter in audit area zones is to be collected, recorded, bagged, and responsibly disposed of.

Note: Any litter collected from outside the audit zones is not to be recorded on this data sheet. Do not record food and paper as they are not ecologically harmful.

DATA COLLECTION TIPS

Be sure to complete all details at the top of the datasheet. Please write clearly!

Any errors should be crossed out with an X (not squiggly lines).

Record the number of each item in the correct zone column (Footpath, Grass/mulch or Kerb & gutter).

Any harmful litter items found that are not on the datasheet can be recorded in notes for each zone.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Take photos of litter collected from each zone and the completed audit sheet and send to: baykeeper@ecocentre.com

Questions: Call Neil Blake 0409 138 565 or email: baykeeper@ecocentre.com

RELEVANT LINKS

[Port Phillip EcoCentre](#) | [CSIRO](#) | [LitterWatch Victoria](#) | [Beach Patrol Australia](#) | [Yarra Riverkeeper](#) | [Werribee Riverkeeper](#) |

