# **The Great Food Waste Expedition: A Personalized Audit Adventure**

Imagine you’re an explorer, setting out on a mission to uncover a hidden mystery—where does all your food waste come from, and how can you make it disappear? A food waste audit isn’t just about collecting data; it’s about designing a system that works for *you*. So grab your metaphorical magnifying glass and choose your adventure!

## **Step 1: Choose Your Audit Style**

Are you a **notebook scribbler**, a **spreadsheet wizard**, or a **photo-documentarian**? Pick the method that feels natural—whether that’s jotting notes in a journal, tracking numbers in an app, or snapping pictures of food scraps before they hit the bin.

## **Step 2: Observe Without Judgment**

For a few days (or a week), don’t change your habits—just observe. Each time you throw food away, log:

* **What** you’re tossing (fruits, milk, vegetables, main dish at lunch)
* **Why** it’s going to waste (not hungry, grabbed too much, didn’t like it)
* **How much** is being wasted (a handful, a plateful, a whole meal?)

## **Step 3: Decode the Clues**

Patterns will emerge! Maybe you realize you grabbed a milk you didn’t want to eat, or that having recess before lunch leads to more food consumed by students.

Understanding these trends helps to build a system that works for your school!

## **Step 4: Make It Work for You**

Here’s where you get creative! Based on what you’ve discovered, choose *realistic* solutions that match your lifestyle:

* **The Food Recoverer:** Set up a share table to donate food you don’t consume, and so other students can pick this up!
* **The Compost Curious:** Turn unavoidable scraps into compost for a garden (or find a local compost drop-off).

## **Step 5: Celebrate Your Wins**

Reducing food waste is a journey, not a one-time event. Track your progress, adjust as needed, and reward yourself for the effort.

Your food waste audit isn’t about perfection—it’s about awareness and making changes that fit your school. So, grab your explorer’s hat and start uncovering the secrets of your cafeteria!

## **Social Media Campaign**

**Launch:** Begins with a food waste audit webinar and tutorial.

**Duration:** March 24 – April 20, 2025 (3 weeks).

**Call to Action:** Encourage schools to conduct their own food waste audits tailored to their context and collect imagery of their food waste audit and share this.

**Participation Incentives:** Webinar attendees receive a Food Waste Audit Certificate.

**Engagement:** Students, school staff, and parents can share audit results via photos, videos, creative projects, and data analysis.

**Social Media Spotlight**: If you’d like to engage on social media and post this online, please use any of the following FWPW hashtags so that we may track your images and art online: #FWPW or #FWPW25 or #Foodwastepreventionweek or #FoodMaestro

**Submission:** Upload via [Google Form](https://forms.gle/9U6KwvXFdJxdkNtr5) on Food Waste Prevention Week (FWPW). Files accepted will include presentations, drawings, images, videos, PDF, spreadsheet, documents.

**Spotlight Feature:** Selected audits will be showcased on the FWPW website.