

## Teacher Instructions + Overview

**Time Required:** 20 – 45 minutes

**Materials Needed:** One worksheet per student or small group, a clipboard (optional), writing utensils

**Objective:** Students will explore key areas of the school to observe how waste is generated, handled, and possibly reduced. They will reflect on environmental impact and suggest simple changes that could improve school-wide sustainability.

**Importance of This Activity:** This activity encourages students to take a moment to examine how waste is generated and handled in the environments they contribute to and spend time in. This fosters awareness and responsibility as students think critically and consider potential solutions to keep their school and planet clean.



**Use this activity with new groups of students as an opportunity to familiarize them with the school layout. Rather than a passive tour, students are prompted to observe and think critically.**

### Activity Instructions (to read aloud):

"Today, we are going to take a walk through the school. Your goal is to look at each space with fresh eyes and think about what kind of waste could occur and what we can all do to help prevent it. Use the questions on your worksheet to guide your thinking. You're not being tested, so there are no right or wrong answers. Just notice what you can, reflect, and be creative with your solutions."

### Optional Add-Ons:

- Use responses to launch a class project: poster campaign, composting initiative, etc.

### Suggested Reflection Questions (after the walk):

- Where did you see efforts to reduce waste already happening?
- How might your personal choices impact what you saw?
- What location surprised you the most in terms of waste?
- Think back to the cafeteria and vending machines. What's one small change you could make in your own food habits to waste less?
- If you could improve one thing at our school to reduce waste, what would it be?



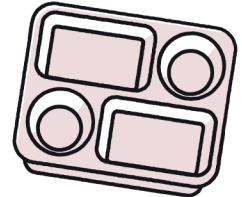
**Access more free food waste prevention and education resources at [learnecprogram.org](http://learnecprogram.org).**

# Waste Not! Explore Your School

**Instructions:** Walk through your school like an eco-detective. For every location we visit, identify 2 potential sources of waste. Consider what small changes can reduce waste and improve our school's sustainability.

## Cafeteria

- 
- 



**What do you think is wasted the most here? What could help reduce it?**

---

---

## Trash and Recycling Bins

- 
- 



**Q: Are the bins clearly labeled? Do you see items in the wrong bins (contamination)?**  
**How can we avoid waste and encourage students to recycle when possible?**

---

---

## Water Fountain or Bottle Refill Station

- 
- 



**Do you think most students use reusable bottles or disposable bottles? What would encourage more students to use refillable options?**

---

---

---

## Vending Machines

- 
- 



What kinds of waste do you notice from these snacks? Are there a lot of single-use plastic or packaging items? How can we avoid this type of waste at school?

---

---

---

## Notes/Ideas

