

# POTENTIAL IMPACT ESTIMATOR

It's useful to have an idea of how many milk and juice cartons or boxes your school uses. It will allow you to estimate the environmental impact your program will have (see next worksheet) in order to inspire participation and educate students. It will also help you gauge the potential effect on your waste-hauling and recycling service. All you'll need to start is the total number of enrolled students who eat lunch at school. Our formulas take attendance into account, so don't worry about that. Just follow the calculations below, based on metrics we've developed through pilot programs and research.

## 1. HOW MANY CARTONS WILL YOUR SCHOOL BE RECYCLING?\*

a. Identify the total number of enrolled students who eat lunch at school

b. \_\_\_\_\_ x .54 = \_\_\_\_\_  
# of enrolled students who eat lunch at school      **Expected Daily Milk-Carton Usage**

c. \_\_\_\_\_ x .022 = \_\_\_\_\_  
# of enrolled students who eat lunch at school      **Expected Daily Juice-Carton Usage**

d. \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily Milk-Carton Usage + Daily Juice-Carton Usage      **Expected Daily Carton Usage**

For weekly figures, multiply your Daily Carton Usage by 5. For monthly and annual figures, multiply by 22 and 180, respectively.

\* If your school serves breakfast or after-school meals, carton usage will be higher. If you know the average number of milks served at these meals, add that number to the daily milk carton usage figure (b). Our metrics are based on results for lunch periods in schools with an average US public school free-and-reduced-lunch rate of 36%.

## 2. HOW MUCH WASTE WILL YOUR PROGRAM DIVERT FROM LANDFILL?

a. Multiply your Expected Daily Carton Usage (d, above) by 180 for your Expected Annual Carton Usage

b. \_\_\_\_\_ ÷ 190 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected Annual Carton Usage      **Number of 55-gallon trash bags diverted from landfill per year**

c. \_\_\_\_\_ x .024 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected Annual Carton Usage      **Weight of recycled cartons per year (lbs.)**

d. \_\_\_\_\_ x .166 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected Annual Carton Usage      **Weight of excess liquids diverted from waste stream per year (lbs.)**

e. \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected weight of recycled cartons (c)      Expected weight of excess liquids (d)      **Total expected weight of diverted waste per year (lbs.)**