

Indicator: # of households, schools, and/or community groups that adopt improved practices for handling solid waste (ENV_012)**ENVIRONMENT SECTOR** **Type:** Outcome**Unit of Measure:** Household;
school; community group**Disaggregation:** Unit of
measure (household, school,
community group)**Outcome Measured:** Households, schools, and/or community groups adopt improved solid waste management practices**Precise definitions**

Solid waste: Any garbage, refuse, or other discarded material resulting from household, commercial, and agricultural operations and from community activities.¹ Solid waste does not include human feces but may include all manner of medical wastes, such as may be produced in health clinics.

Solid waste management practices: The handling of solid waste that minimizes environmental and health risks.

Requirement for demonstrating the adoption of improved practices for handling solid waste:² Individuals must be able to articulate, and optimally show, that their household/school/community group has adopted at least one new practice from the following practices:

1. **Recycle:** separating, collecting, processing, marketing, and ultimately using a material that would otherwise have been thrown away
2. **Reuse:** using a product or item in its original form more than once (e.g., using a plastic bottle as a planter, making eco bricks)
3. **Replace/Reduce:** activities designed to reduce the volume or toxicity of waste generated (e.g., replace plastic materials with an alternative)
4. **Compost**
5. **Pick up litter**
6. **Cut up and bury waste**

Data collection

Tool: If the Volunteer is measuring households, use Section 1 of the Individual Environmental Survey. If the Volunteer is measuring schools or community groups, use the School and Community Group Environmental Survey. Both surveys consist of questions to ask the representative for the household, school, or community group as well as observations to verify the response. Note: The Individual Environmental Survey consists of two sections that are used to measure

¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency. Last updated March 23, 2017. "[Criteria for the Definition of Solid Waste and Solid and Hazardous Waste Exclusions.](#)"

² United States Environmental Protection Agency. Last updated April 12, 2017. "[Sustainable Materials Management: Non-hazardous Materials and Waste Management Hierarchy.](#)"

two different indicators. The PM/APCD should determine if both sections are relevant to a post’s particular project. If not, the tool and this Indicator Reference Sheet should be updated to include only the relevant section(s).

Frequency of data collection and tracking:

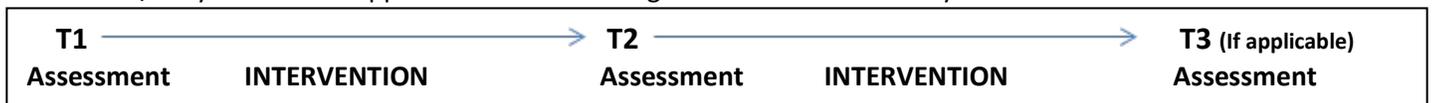
Time 1 (T1)—During the needs assessment activity/beginning of the intervention: At the beginning of the intervention, as part of the needs assessment activity, the Volunteer will conduct the Individual Environmental Survey or School and Community Group Environmental Survey with all representatives of households, schools, or community groups with which he/she expects to work on solid waste management practices. The survey will consist of a series of questions as well as observations. Following the survey, record the household’s/school’s/community group’s name and which practices are demonstrated under the T1 score column in the Solid Waste Management Practices Tracking Sheet (below). If a household, school, or community group demonstrates all practices at T1, *do not* include them in the measurements. This household, school, or community group already meets the requirement for adoption of improved practices for handling solid waste and should *not be* further recorded on the tracking sheet.

Time 2 (T2)—Three to six months after beginning the intervention: After three to six months, PCVs will administer the same survey with all representatives of the households, schools, and community groups that meet the minimum requirements described below (see “Who to measure”). Record the household’s/school’s/community group’s T2 scores in the tracking sheet.

Time 3 (T3)—Three to six months after T2, if applicable: Some households, schools, or community groups may not demonstrate an adoption of improved practices for handling solid waste after only three to six months of work with a PCV. If a household, school, or community group has *not* adopted new practices at T2 and if the household, school, or community member meets the minimum requirements described below (see “Who to measure”), then the PCV should conduct the assessment again after an additional three to six months and record the T3 score in the tracking sheet.

What to measure: Volunteers should only include households, schools, or community groups for this outcome measurement that they have worked with in one or more of the following ways to adopt solid waste management practices:

1. Conduct home visits to teach best practices for handling solid waste
2. Conduct school visits to teach and establish best practices for handling solid waste
3. Train community members on best practices for handling solid waste
4. Organize community clean-up events
5. Collaborate with community leaders/appropriate community bodies to establish community waste policies and/or systems that support solid waste management in the community



Reporting

Measuring progress toward the outcome, by unit of measurement: A household, school, or community group is considered to have adopted improved practices for handling solid waste if at least one new practice from the list above is demonstrated at T2 or T3 (if applicable).

- For all beneficiary categories (households, schools, or community groups) that have adopted at least one new practice at T2, place a Y in the column under the appropriate beneficiary category. Record an N for those that have not adopted at least one new practice.
- Record the sum of all Ys + Ns for each beneficiary category in the row titled “TOTAL REACHED” and the sum of Ys only for each category in the row titled “TOTAL ACHIEVED.” Report both column totals in the VRF.

- If a household, school, or community group did not demonstrate an adoption of a new solid waste management practice at T2, use the second tracking sheet with the T3 column to repeat the assessment and reporting process after an additional three to six months.

Note: A households, school, or community group may only be counted once as part of the “TOTAL ACHIEVED” in a Volunteer’s service for this indicator. If the same household, school, or community group is eligible for measurement for another indicator, it may be counted for that indicator according to the guidelines in that indicator’s definition sheet.

