

2012 Organics Trends (Residential)

January 10, 2014

Introduction

Each year, WDO receives reports from municipalities on the amounts of waste diverted through each of their waste diversion programs. These reports are submitted to WDO through the Municipal Datacall.

The reports include data on the quantity, in tonnes, of organic wastes diverted from landfill in each year, including:

- Yard waste (e.g., grass clippings and sticks/twigs);
- Leaves;
- Christmas trees;
- Bulky yard waste (e.g., large tree branches); and
- Household or kitchen organics (e.g., food waste and food-soiled paper waste).

The information in this report highlights trends in Ontario’s organic waste diversion in 2012 and over the previous five-year period. The data used to generate this analysis can be found in the 2012 Organic Waste (Residential) spreadsheet, available on the WDO website at <http://wdo.ca/partners/municipalities/municipal-datacall/> (under “Program Highlights and Data” and “Organics”).

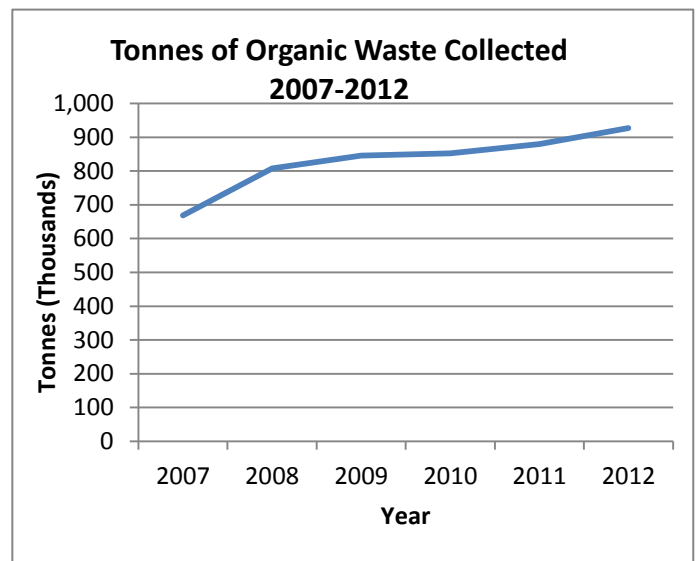
Analysis

More municipalities operated organic waste programs in 2012

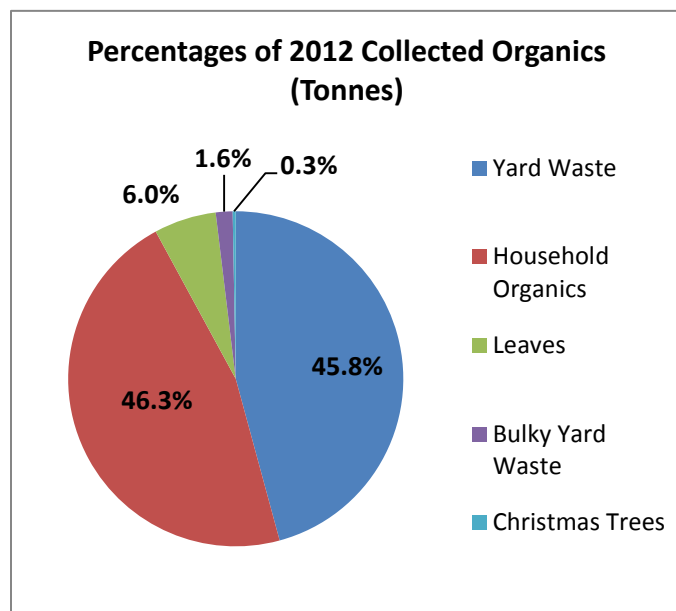
A total of 122 municipalities reported operating a residential organic waste collection program in 2012. This is an increase of over 30,000 households, or five more programs, than reported in 2011.

Increased collection of organic waste in 2012

Of the 122 municipalities that reported the operation of a residential organic waste program in 2012, 108 reported the amounts collected. (No current requirement exists for Ontario municipalities to report amounts of organic waste collected, other than leaf and yard waste for municipalities with populations over 50,000.) In 2012, a total of 927,351 tonnes of residential organic waste was reported collected in Ontario, which equals the weight of over 100 million pumpkins.



This represents a 5.3% increase over the 2011 collection quantity of 880,126 tonnes. There is a 39% increase in the tonnes of organics collected since 2007, which is an average annual increase of 7.7%.



Yard waste and household organics remain the largest contributors to Ontario’s overall organic waste tonnage. For the last five years, yard waste and household organics represented over 90% of the total organic waste collected, with household organics showing an increase since 2007 (38% versus the current 46%). For the past five years, over 2,000 tonnes of Christmas trees were collected annually in a one-month period.

Curbside collection of yard waste and household organics is currently available to 64% and 54% of households in Ontario, respectively. Based on current curbside collection rates, if all 5,192,900 households in

Ontario had access to curbside collection of organic waste, another 580,000 tonnes of organic material could be diverted from landfill, representing an increase of 12 percentage points in the province’s overall residential diversion rate.

Households in Ontario with Access to Collection of Organic Waste

Means of Collection	2011 Households	2012 Households	Absolute Change Year over Year	Percentage Change Year over Year
Curbside Yard Waste	3,216,763	3,302,330	85,567	2.7%
Depot Yard Waste (No Curbside Available)	260,717	286,553	25,836	9.9%
Curbside Organics	2,721,843	2,786,070	64,227	2.4%
Depot Organics (No Curbside Available)	62,094	68,249	6,155	9.9%