

Data Report #3 2013 Organics Trends (Residential)

November 28, 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 by each municipality 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., leaves, grass clippings and sticks/twigs);
- Leaves;
- Christmas trees;
- Bulky and oversized 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 the data from Ontario’s organic waste program over the previous five-year period. The data used to generate this analysis can be found in the 2013 Organic Waste Tonnes (Residential) spreadsheet, available on the WDO website.

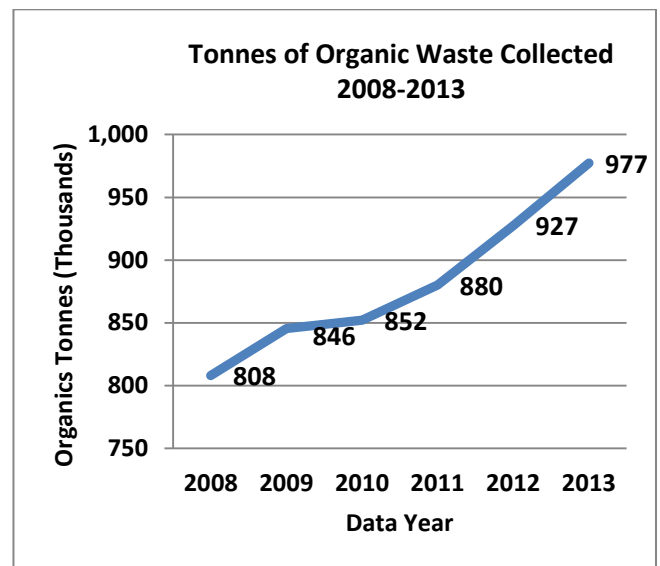
Analysis

More municipalities operated organic waste programs in 2013

A total of 110 municipal programs reported residential organic waste collection in 2013, which is one less municipal program than reported in 2012. However, due to the combined reporting of Dufferin County, representing eight individual municipalities, a greater number of programs reported organics than in 2012.

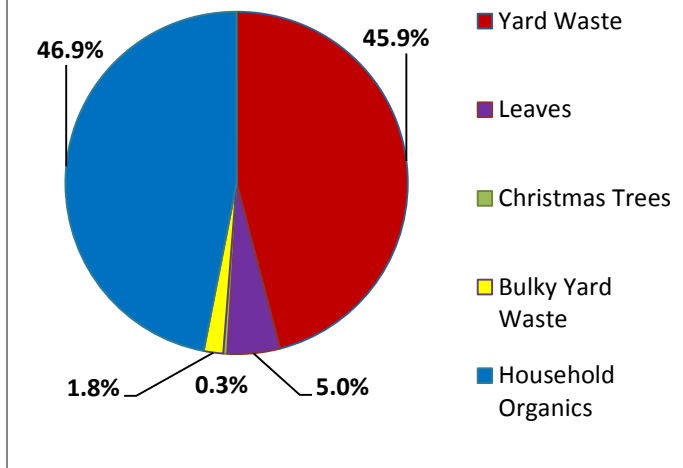
Increased collection of organic waste in 2013

Of the 226 programs reporting in the 2013 Datacall, 110 programs (49%) reported the amount of organics waste they 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 2013, a total of 977,320 tonnes of residential organic waste was reported collected in Ontario.



This represents a 5.4% increase over the 2012 collection quantity of 927,351 tonnes, which was the same increase from 2011 to 2012. There was a 20.9% increase in the tonnes of organics collected between 2008 and 2013. The average annual growth was 3.9% over the past five-year period.

2013 Distribution of Collected Organic Wastes (Tonnes)



Yard waste and household organics remain the largest contributors to Ontario’s overall organic waste tonnage.

For the last five years, over 90% of the municipal organic waste stream tonnage has included both household organics and yard waste. Household organics (or kitchen waste) is continually representing a larger share of the organic stream each year. 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 57% of households in Ontario, respectively. Based on current curbside

collection rates, if all 5,221,639 households in Ontario with a Blue Box program also had access to curbside collection of organic waste, an estimated 530,000 tonnes of organic material could be diverted from landfill, representing an estimated increase of nine percentage points in the province’s overall residential diversion rate. The following table shows the increased access to organics collection since 2012. The highest growth was in depot collection of household organic waste or kitchen waste (35.8%) followed by depot yard waste (9.2%). This suggests that more and more depots are accepting organic wastes across the province. Since 2008, depot organics (112%) and curbside organics (53.7%) have experienced the most growth.

The Number of Households with Access to Collection of Organics

Means of Organics Collection	2012 Households Served	2013 Households Served	Absolute Change: 2012 to 2013	Growth Rate: 2012 to 2013	Growth from 2008 to 2013
Curbside Yard Waste	3,302,330	3,363,036	60,706	1.80%	17.90%
Depot Yard Waste ¹	286,553	312,866	26,313	9.20%	-13.90%
Curbside Organics	2,786,07 ²	3,008,515	222,445	8.00%	53.70%
Depot Organics ³	68,249	92,714	24,465	35.80%	112.00%

¹ Where no curbside collection is available.

² From 2011 to 2012, the majority of the decrease in households with organics curbside access was due to multi-family households in Toronto that switched to receiving private collection services that year.

³ Where no curbside collection is available.