

Data Report #3

2014 Organics Trends (Residential)

January 21, 2016

Introduction

Each year, WDO receives reports from municipal recycling programs (municipalities, recycling associations, and First Nations) on the amounts of materials diverted under each of their waste diversion programs. The reports are submitted by municipal programs to WDO through the Municipal Datacall.

These annual reports include data on the quantity (in tonnes) of organic materials diverted from landfill, including:

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

The information in this report highlights trends in the data from organics collection programs across the province over the previous five years. The data used to generate this analysis comes from the [2014 Organics Tonnes \(Residential\) spreadsheet](#).

Analysis

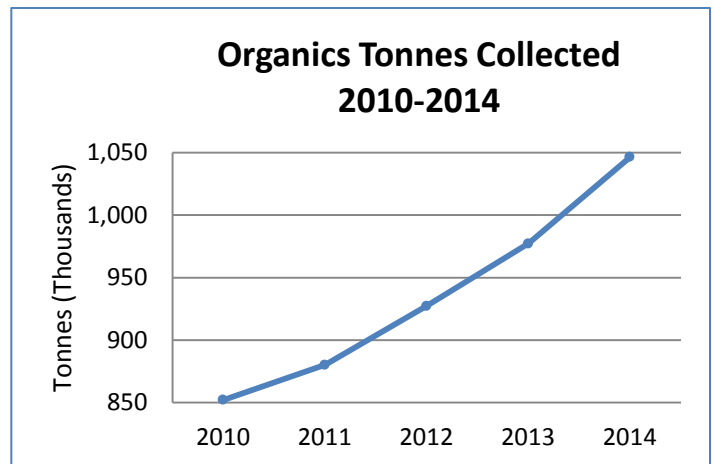
[More municipalities operated organics collection programs in 2014](#)

A total of 113 (versus 110 in 2013) municipal programs reported residential organics collection in 2014.

[Increased collection of organics in 2014](#)

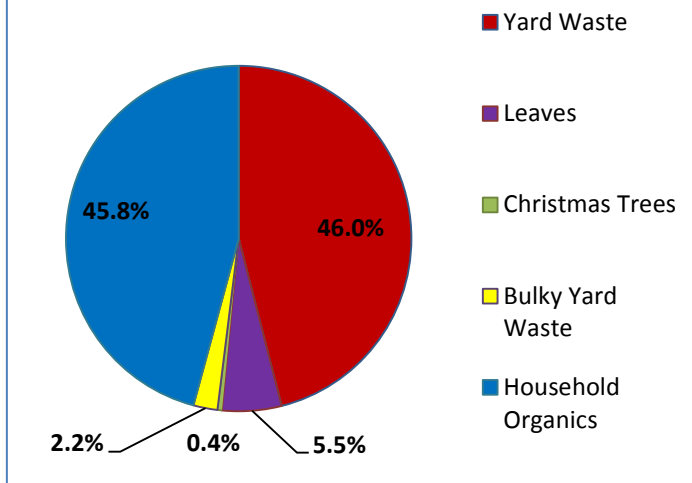
Of the 237 programs that submitted 2014 Datacall information, 113 programs (48%) reported the amount of organic materials collected. No current requirement exists for Ontario municipalities to report amounts of organics collected, other than leaf and yard waste for municipalities with populations over 50,000. In 2014, a total of 1,046,588 tonnes of residential organic materials were reported as having been collected in Ontario.

This tonnage is the total quantity of all organics streams listed above, and represents the amount collected for processing. Organics processing facilities include compost facilities, anaerobic digestion plants, and wood- and brush-chipping operations.



In 2014, 7% more organic materials were collected across Ontario compared to 2013, when 977,320 tonnes were collected. The amount of organics collected increased by 23% from 2010 to 2014. Over the past five years, the average annual increase in organics tonnes collected was 4.4%.

2014 Distribution of Collected Organics (Tonnes)



Yard waste (46%) and household organics (45.8%) remain the largest contributors to the total amount of organics collected in Ontario, as noted in the chart to the left.

Between 2010 and 2013, over 2,400 tonnes of Christmas trees were collected annually. In 2014, this number rose to 4,109 tonnes.

Curbside organics collection increasing

Curbside collection of yard waste and household organics is currently available to 63% and 58% of Ontario households, respectively. Based on current curbside collection rates, if all 5,361,335 households in Ontario with a Blue Box program also had access to curbside collection of organic waste, an estimated 633,003 tonnes of

additional organic materials could be diverted from landfill. The table below shows the increased access to curbside organics collection programs in 2014 compared to 2013. The highest growth was in curbside collection of household organics (3%), followed by curbside collection of yard waste (1%). The 2013-2014 decreases in depot collection growth are a result of more households across the province being offered the convenience of curbside organics collection in 2014. Between 2010 and 2014, depot household organics access grew by 49%, and curbside household organics access rose by 21%.

Number of Households with Access to Organics Collection

Organics Collection Service Type	2013 Households Served	2014 Households Served	Absolute Change in Hhlds: 2013 to 2014	Growth Rate: 2013 to 2014	Growth from: 2010 to 2014
Curbside Collection Yard Waste	3,363,036	3,392,085	29,049	1%	8%
Depot Collection Yard Waste ¹	312,866	289,205	-23,661	-8%	-9%
Curbside Collection Household Organics	3,008,515	3,109,323	100,808	3%	21%
Depot Collection Household Organics ²	92,714	85,747	-6,967	-8%	49%

¹ Where no curbside collection is available.

² Where no curbside collection is available.