

## 2015 Organics Trends (Residential)

April 2017

### Introduction

Each year, RPRRA 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 RPRRA 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 [2015 Organics Tonnes \(Residential\)](#) spreadsheet.

### Analysis

#### [More municipalities operated organics collection programs in 2015](#)

Of the 243 programs that submitted 2015 Datacall information, 117 municipal programs (48%) reported residential organics collection in 2015 compared to 113 in 2014.

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.

#### [Increased collection of organics in 2015](#)

In 2015, a total of 1,024,440 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.



Figure 1: Organic Waste Collected 2011-2015

Since 2011, the amount of organic material collected has increased by 16.4%. Between 2014 and 2015, the tonnes of collected organic material decreased by 2.1%. Over the past five years, the average annual increase in organics tonnes collected was 3.8%. This trend can be seen in Figure 1 above.

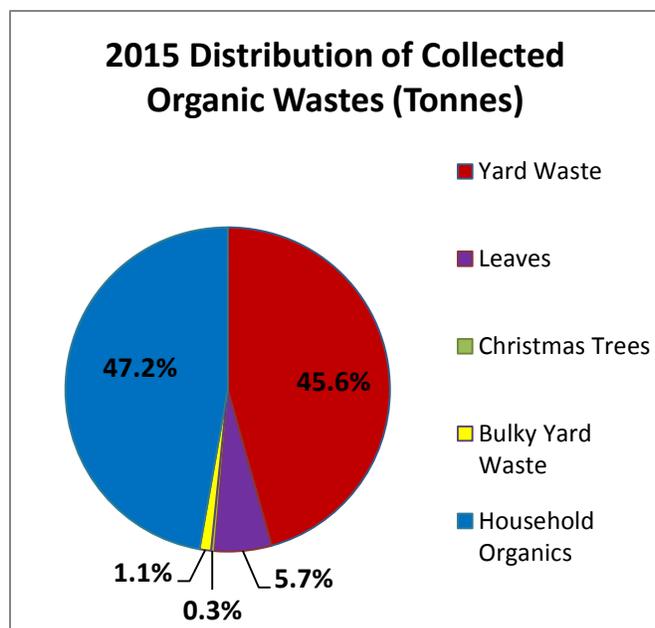


Figure 2: 2015 Distribution of Collected Organic Wastes (Tonnes)

Yard waste (45.6%) and household organics (47.8%) remain the largest contributors to the total amount of organics collected in Ontario, as noted in the chart to the left.

The amount of household organics material continues to increase. In 2015, 483,757 tonnes of household organics material was collected. This shows an increase from the 479,253 tonnes collected in 2014.

Curbside organics collection increasing

Curbside collection of yard waste is available to 64.5% of Ontario households. The curbside collection of Household Organics is available to 58% of Ontario households. Based on current curbside

collection rates, if all 5,165,154 households in Ontario with a Blue Box program also had access to curbside collection of organic waste (both Yard and Household), 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 2015 compared to 2014. The highest growth was in depot collection of household organics (14.2%), followed by depot collection of yard waste (6.1%). The 2014-2015 increases in depot collection growth are a result of more households across the province introducing organics collection in 2015. Between 2011 and 2015, depot household organics access grew by 58%, and curbside household organics access rose by 8%.

Organics Collection Service Type	2014 Households Served	2015 Households Served	Absolute Change in Hhlds: 2014 to 2015	Growth Rate: 2014 to 2015	Growth from: 2011 to 2015
Curbside Collection Yard Waste	3,392,085	3,500,595	108,510	3.2%	9%
Depot Collection Yard Waste <sup>1</sup>	289,205	306,749	17,544	6.1%	18%
Curbside Collection Household Organics	3,109,323	3,281,270	171,947	5.5%	8%
Depot Collection Household Organics <sup>2</sup>	85,747	97,951	12,204	14.2%	58%

Table 1: Number of Households with Access to Organic Collection