

Background

Each year, the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) receives reports from municipalities, recycling associations and First Nations (“municipal programs”) on the amounts of materials diverted under each of their waste diversion programs—the Municipal Datacall. This includes submitting tonnage and financial information for residential Blue Box material collected from local residents. In addition, RPRA requests the submission of tonnage data for all other non-Blue Box materials the municipal program operates, including hazardous or special waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment, organics, garbage, and other materials.

This report is the third in a series of five reports based on data collected in the 2016 Datacall. It covers 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).

As part of the 2016 Datacall RPRA introduced the Short Form Datacall (SFD) available to all municipal programs with a population under 30,000. Municipalities that reported under the SFD were only required to submit Blue Box data, and therefore will not be included in this report. All tables and graphs from previous years have been updated to include only relevant data

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 can be found in the 2016 Organics spreadsheet available on the RPRA website.

Municipal Datacall Reporting

Of the 241 programs that submitted 2016 Datacall information, 105 municipal programs reported under the Long Form Datacall, with 79 of those municipal programs reporting residential organics collection in 2016. These municipal programs reported a total population of 12,994,892 and total household count of 5,146,914, which represents 96.1% and 95.0% of the provincial total respectively. 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.

Verification of Data Reported

There are several check points to ensure that the data reported into the Datacall by municipal programs is accurate. After the Datacall reporting period ends, RPRA attempts to verify the data provided by each program in its Datacall submission form through a data verification process. Although staff assess each section of the Datacall, the municipal program remains responsible for the correctness of data submitted. The verification process can include the confirmation of any data variances from the previous year and an assessment of costs and tonnages reported

Analysis

Decreased collection of organics in 2016

In 2016, a total of 994,362 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.

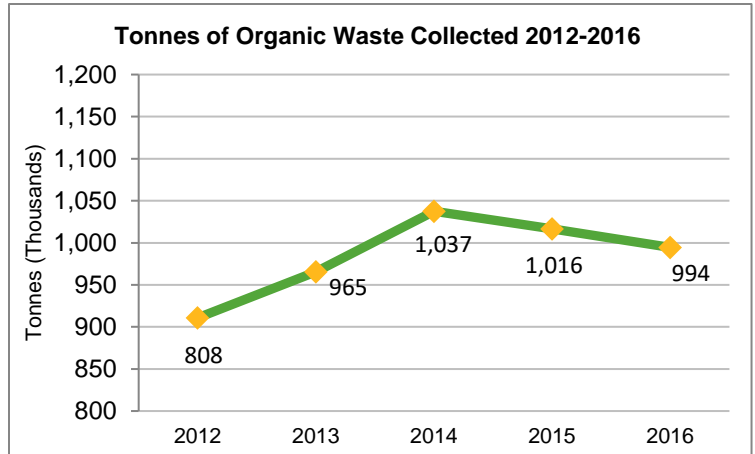


Figure 1: Organic Waste Collected 2012-2016

Since 2012, the amount of organic material collected has increased by 9.2%. Between 2015 and 2016, the tonnes of collected organic material decreased by 2.2%. Over the past five years, the average annual increase in organics tonnes collected was 1.9%. This trend can be seen in Figure 1 above.

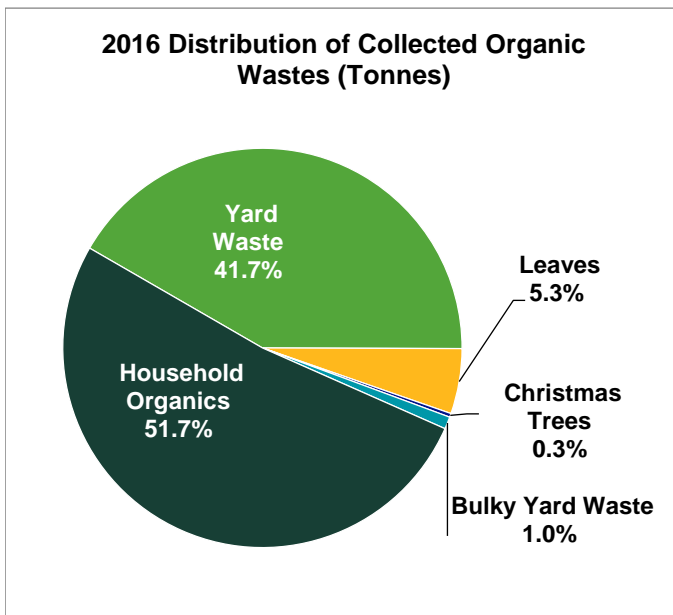


Figure 2: 2016 Distribution of Collected Organic Wastes (Tonnes)

Household organics the largest contributor to the total amount of organics collected in Ontario

The amount of household organics material continues to increase and, for the first year, represents a majority share of all organic material collected in Ontario at 51.7%. Contributing to this was both an increase in the Household Organics tonnage and a decrease in all Yard Waste categories excluding Christmas Trees.

Household Organics Tonnage Continues to Improve

The total tonnage reported for Household Organics improved by 31,276 tonnes, or 6.6% overall, with a small but negligible change in depot collection tonnage. This continues the trend from 2015, which saw a .9% increase in Organics collected. Yard Waste reported in 2016 decreased, with the exception of Christmas Trees, where the total change in tonnage was positive 297T and could potentially see changes due to small changes in reporting practices. It should also be noted that in total Yard Waste saw a decrease of 53,840 tonnes, but under the Wood waste collected section of the Non-Blue Box Reports 5,720 tonne increase was reported. Full tonnage details of each category can be found in Table 1.

Organics Collection Service Type	2016 Curbside Collection	2015 Curbside Collection	Y.O.Y Variance	2016 Depot Collection	2015 Depot Collection	Y.O.Y Variance
Yard Waste	319,156	355,435	-10.2%	95,704	108,333	-11.7%
Leaves	34,476	39,123	-11.9%	18,000	17,622	2.1%
Christmas Trees	2,947	2,417	21.9%	91	324	-72.0%
Bulky Yard Waste	714	1,441	-50.5%	9,136	9,368	-2.5%
Household Organics	513,839	481,834	6.6%	299	542	-44.9%

Table 1: Number of Households with Access to Organic Collection (Tonnes)

For further information, please contact datacall@rpra.ca.