



2014

Recycling Rate Report

July 1, 2015

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I. INTRODUCTION

The report starts out by explaining the report’s scope, how the recycling rate is calculated, and our recycling program planning background. The second section presents overall 2014 results, as well as results for each solid waste “sector.” The third section, on waste prevention, talks about waste prevention activities that touch all sectors. Section 4 lays out recycling program actions for 2015 and 2016. The report concludes with references and links for further information. Comments on the report from the Seattle Solid Waste Advisory Committee are attached, as required by Resolution 30990.

I.1 SCOPE OF THE REPORT

This is the eighth annual recycling report for the City of Seattle, as called for by the 2007 Seattle City Council Resolution 30990.

“SPU will report to Council by July 1 of each year on the previous year’s progress toward recycling goals, as well as further steps to be taken to meet goals in the current and upcoming years.”

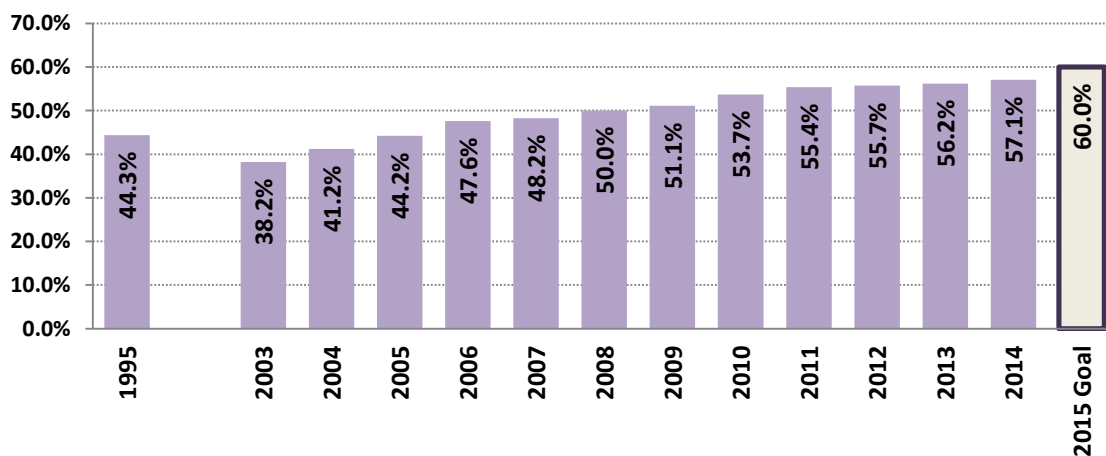
The Resolution set Seattle’s goal to reach 60% recycling of municipal solid waste (MSW) by the year 2012, and 70% by 2025.

In February 2013 the city council adopted revised recycling goals by adopting “Seattle’s Solid Waste Plan 2011 Revision.” The revised goals for MSW are to: recycle 60% by the year 2015, and to recycle 70% by 2022. Further, for the first time Seattle set a goal to recycle 70% of construction and demolition debris by the year 2020.

Four different sectors contribute to the overall MSW rate: single family residential, multi family residential, self haul, and commercial.

In 2014, Seattle recycled 57.1% of its MSW, an increase of 0.9 percentage points over 2013. The recycling rate has risen 18.9 percentage points since the 2003 low of 38.2%.

Figure I MSW Overall Recycling Rate Progress



I.2 ABOUT THE RECYCLING RATE

Seattle's recycling rate is the percentage of municipal solid waste (MSW) diverted from the landfill by reuse, recycling and composting.

Seattle's MSW includes:

- Organics managed onsite by Seattle residents (yard debris and food scraps)
- All garbage, organics, and recyclables that businesses and residents set out for collection
- All garbage, organics, and recyclables hauled to the city's recycling and disposal stations for reuse, recycling or composting

Seattle's 60% goal combines separate goals for each of the four primary MSW sectors: single family residential, multi family residential, self haul, and commercial. The specific recycling goals for each sector are different since waste stream materials, opportunities to recycle, and likelihood of participation vary among the sectors.

The MSW recycling goal excludes construction and demolition (C&D) material. C&D disposed and recycled tons are counted separately in the C&D stream, and Seattle now has a separate recycling goal for C&D. Also, a large portion of recycled metals (such as car bodies) never enter our MSW or C&D systems, and therefore aren't included in our recycling rate calculations (we do include metals collected at the curb and at our transfer stations).

The MSW goal also excludes other special wastes. Moderate Risk Waste (MRW) includes household hazardous waste (HHW) like garden pesticides, and small quantity generator waste (SQGW) like solvents used at a small business. The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) manages Seattle's moderate risk waste. The LHWMP is a joint program supported and implemented by Seattle, King County, Public Health - Seattle & King County, and the Sound Cities Association. The Seattle Municipal Code prohibits disposal of HHW and SQGW in the garbage.

Further, the recycling goal does not include other special categories of waste such as: biomedical wastes, biosolids, asbestos, petroleum contaminated soils, and Dangerous Waste (generally industrial), which state regulations exclude from MSW.

I.3 ACTION PLANNING BACKGROUND

In 1998, the Seattle City Council adopted Seattle's Solid Waste Plan *On the Path to Sustainability*. It set a policy framework for the city focused on sustainability and stewardship, and established the goal of eliminating the maximum possible amount of waste as a guiding principle. It also identified programmatic goals and programs to achieve these goals. The 2004 Plan Amendment renewed Seattle's commitment to these policies and goals. The Seattle City Council adopted the 2011 Revision to the Plan in February 2013, and the Plan was approved by Washington Department of Ecology in June 2013.

2. RECYCLING RATES

This section first presents recycling rates for MSW: overall, single and multifamily residential, self haul, and commercial. Following the MSW sectors, the section goes on to present the results for construction and demolition debris (C&D), which is tracked separately from MSW, and to discuss public space and parks outdoor open space recycling.

2.1 OVERALL MSW RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

In 2014, Seattle's MSW recycling increased from 56.2% to 57.1%, an increase of 0.9 percentage points. This marks the 11th straight year of continuous recycling rate growth since 2003.

Table 1 Recycling Rates All MSW Sectors 2000-2014

Year	Residential		Res Total	Self Haul	Commercial	Overall
	Single Family	Multi Family				
2000	58.0%	17.8%	47.8%	17.2%	41.6%	40.0%
2001	57.0%	22.0%	48.5%	17.8%	39.6%	39.3%
2002	57.5%	21.5%	48.3%	18.1%	40.7%	39.7%
2003	57.5%	22.2%	48.4%	18.1%	37.3%	38.2%
2004	58.9%	22.2%	49.4%	18.8%	42.5%	41.2%
2005	61.4%	25.2%	52.1%	19.2%	46.6%	44.2%
2006	64.0%	26.3%	54.3%	18.8%	51.7%	47.6%
2007	64.8%	27.6%	55.1%	19.2%	52.5%	48.2%
2008	65.4%	28.3%	55.9%	18.4%	54.7%	50.0%
2009	68.7%	27.0%	58.4%	16.7%	54.9%	51.1%
2010	70.3%	29.6%	60.3%	13.5%	58.9%	53.7%
2011	70.5%	28.7%	60.2%	13.1%	61.4%	55.4%
2012	71.1%	32.2%	61.0%	12.5%	61.4%	55.7%
2013	70.8%	34.3%	60.9%	12.2%	62.9%	56.2%
2014	71.1%	34.6%	60.9%	10.6%	62.2%	57.1%
2015 Goal	75.4%	42.5%	66.9%	32.9%	63.4%	60.0%

Overall, Seattle generated 3,115 fewer total MSW tons in 2014 than in 2013. Recycling grew by 4,628 tons. Disposal decreased by 7,743 tons.

Table 2 Tons MSW Overall 2000-2014

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled	Recycle Rate
2000	793,842	476,132	317,710	40.0%
2001	782,809	475,270	307,539	39.3%
2002	768,346	463,086	305,260	39.7%
2003	741,094	458,011	283,083	38.2%
2004	780,044	458,389	321,655	41.2%
2005	790,457	440,693	349,763	44.2%
2006	836,499	438,381	398,118	47.6%
2007	848,759	439,407	409,352	48.2%
2008	789,608	394,748	394,860	50.0%
2009	719,424	351,689	367,735	51.1%
2010	724,468	335,570	388,898	53.7%
2011	715,996	319,341	396,655	55.4%
2012	713,803	315,966	397,837	55.7%
2013	724,383	317,258	407,125	56.2%
2014	721,269	309,515	411,754	57.1%

2.2 TOTAL MSW DISPOSED

This section addresses the active Resolution 30990 (2007) goal for total MSW waste disposed (landfilled). Specifically:

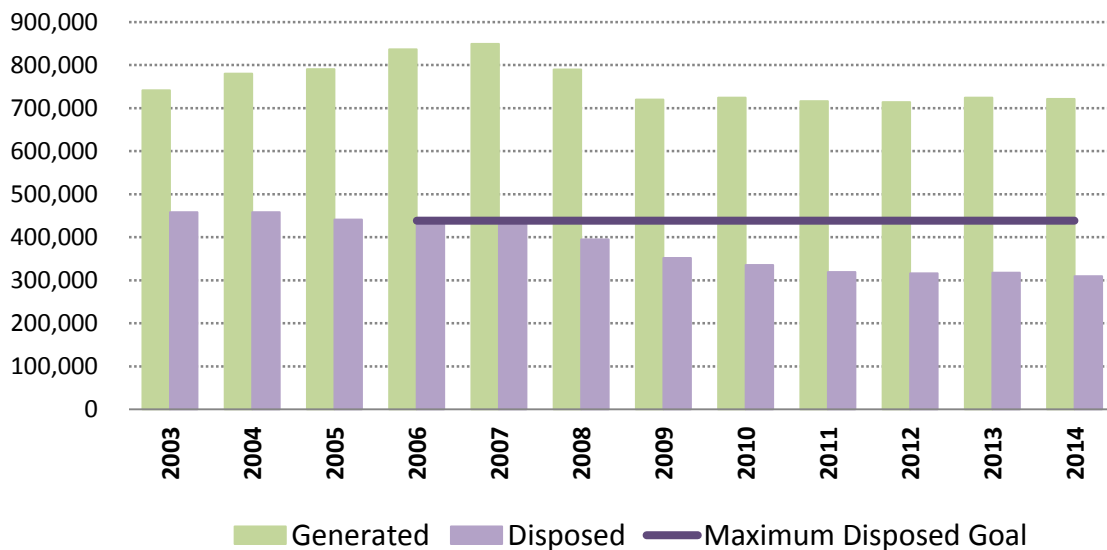
“The city will not dispose of any more total solid waste in future years than went to the landfill in 2006 (438,000 tons MSW).”

In 2014 Seattle disposed 309,515 tons, which is 128,666, or 29.9%, fewer tons compared to 2006. Compared to 2013, 7,743 (or 2.7%) fewer tons were disposed.

Table 3 MSW Tons Change – Overall Generated & Disposed

Year	Generated	Percent Change	Disposed	Percent Change
2000	793,842	NA	476,132	NA
2001	782,809	-1.4%	475,270	-0.2%
2002	768,346	-1.8%	463,086	-2.6%
2003	741,094	-3.5%	458,011	-1.1%
2004	780,044	5.3%	458,389	0.1%
2005	790,457	1.3%	440,693	-3.9%
2006	836,499	5.8%	438,381	-0.5%
2007	848,759	1.5%	439,407	0.2%
2008	789,608	-7.0%	394,748	-10.2%
2009	719,424	-8.9%	351,689	-10.9%
2010	724,468	0.7%	335,570	-4.6%
2011	715,996	-1.2%	319,341	-4.8%
2012	713,803	-0.3%	315,966	-1.1%
2013	724,838	1.5%	317,258	0.4%
2014	721,269	-0.4%	309,515	-2.4%

Figure 2 MSW Tons Disposed Compared to Goal



Recycling and waste reduction programs reduce MSW tons disposed. However, this effect can be muddled by factors in the overall economy that also drive MSW tons generated. We suspect that a good share of the sizable drop after 2007 was due to the economic downturn and slow recovery. For example, an analysis looking at the decline in commercial tons between 2004 and 2009 indicated that about half the decline in tons disposed was due to factors related to the economy and about half due to new recycling programs. Time will tell if or when generation will approach pre-recession levels again.

2.3 RESIDENTIAL: SINGLE FAMILY RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

The single family sector includes households on “can” (or cart) garbage service (as opposed to dumpsters). These are mostly single family, and duplex to 4-plex households. They set out garbage (disposal), recycling and organics (yard and food) for collection at the curb. They also compost some food and yard waste at their homes.

In 2014, recycling in the single family sector slightly increased, by 0.3 percentage points, to 71.1%, getting back to its highest level last seen in 2012.

2014 also saw a 0.2% increase in total generated tons. Recycled tons increased by 919 (0.6%), and disposed tons decreased by 519 (-0.9%).

Figure 3 Recycling Rate – Single Family

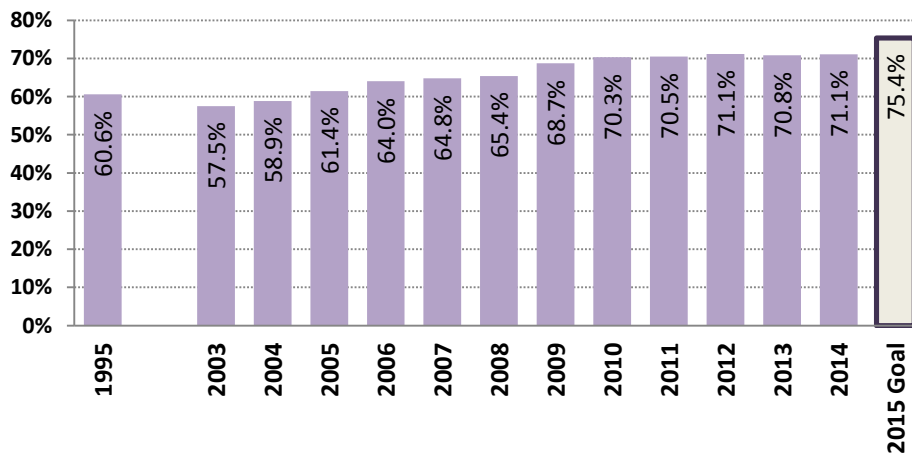


Table 4 Tons Single Family 2000-2014

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled	Recycle Rate
2000	208,468	87,499	120,969	58.0%
2001	211,982	91,072	120,910	57.0%
2002	206,474	87,834	118,640	57.5%
2003	205,748	87,426	118,322	57.5%
2004	209,132	86,029	123,103	58.9%
2005	208,675	80,478	128,197	61.4%
2006	216,946	78,078	138,868	64.0%
2007	220,128	77,494	142,634	64.8%
2008	213,889	73,961	139,928	65.4%
2009	215,015	67,229	147,786	68.7%
2010	216,484	64,309	152,175	70.3%
2011	212,861	62,779	150,082	70.5%
2012	211,030	60,906	150,124	71.1%
2013	206,592	60,291	146,301	70.8%
2014	206,992	59,772	147,220	71.1%

The single family sector needs a 4.3 percentage point rise to achieve its 2015 recycling rate goal. In terms of 2014 tons, 8,852 more tons would have needed to be recycled.

Program Highlights – Single Family

- Conducted extensive campaign leading up to 2015 food waste composting requirement. Achieved 75% awareness through direct mail, advertising, and community engagement
- Awarded \$50,000 in grants to neighborhoods and businesses through Waste Management’s Neighborhood Recycling Rewards program
- Educated 3,000 residents and distributed 1,000 free kitchen compost containers at community events and promotions
- Supported the “Big Garden Give” which resulted in 1,000 yards of compost donated to local community gardens, and 9,800 bags of discounted compost purchased by residents
- Distributed 7,000 kitchen compost containers at the Seattle Mariner’s Safeco Field

2.4 RESIDENTIAL: MULTI FAMILY RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

The multi family sector includes apartment and condominium buildings. These buildings contain five or more units and generally use dumpsters instead of tote carts for garbage. Material collected includes garbage, recycling, and food and yard waste.

In 2014, recycling in the multi family sector continued its trend of gains by rising 0.3 percentage point to 34.6%, setting a new record high for the 3rd year in a row.

Total generation increased 3,218 tons (4.2%), with a proportionally higher increase in recycling (1,326 tons, for a 5.0% rise) compared to disposal (1,892 tons, for a 3.7% rise).

Figure 4 Recycling Rate – Multi Family

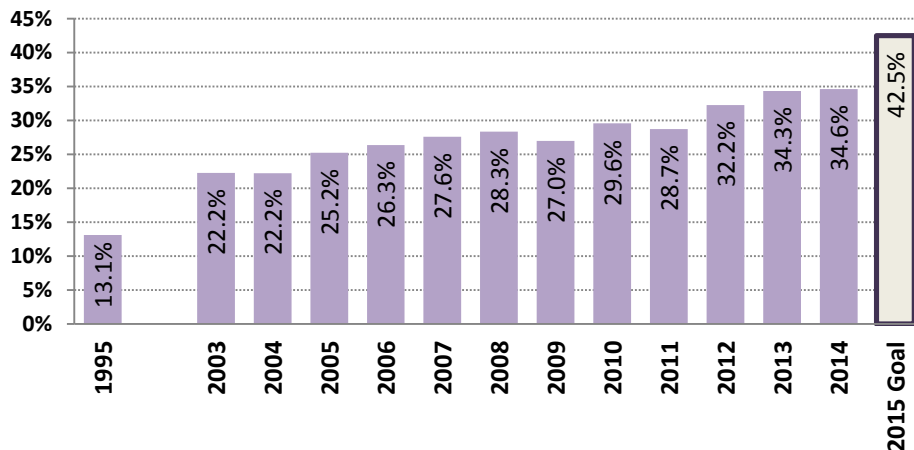


Table 5 Tons Multi Family 2000-2014

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled	Recycle Rate
2000	70,944	58,333	12,611	17.8%
2001	68,611	53,487	15,124	22.0%
2002	70,144	55,076	15,068	21.5%
2003	72,149	56,106	16,043	22.2%
2004	72,640	56,498	16,142	22.2%
2005	72,325	54,080	18,245	25.2%
2006	75,545	55,643	19,903	26.3%
2007	77,108	55,847	21,261	27.6%
2008	74,223	53,199	21,024	28.3%
2009	70,524	51,497	19,028	27.0%
2010	70,675	49,788	20,887	29.6%
2011	70,145	49,993	20,152	28.7%
2012	74,532	50,497	24,035	32.2%
2013	76,970	50,547	26,423	34.3%
2014	80,189	52,439	27,750	34.6%

The multi family sector needs a 7.9 percentage point rise to achieve its 2015 recycling rate goal. In terms of 2014 tons, 6,331 more tons would have needed to be recycled.

Program Highlights – Multi Family

- Delivered 6,702 free kitchen compost containers to multi family properties
- Trained 81 new Friends of Recycling and Composting (FORC) volunteers
- Conducted education presentations to 28 properties, community groups and 4 SPU new employee orientations
- Provided technical assistance to 145 properties
- Provided specific outreach to the East African community in Rainier Valley via a community liaison: Made 175 door-to-door Got Green contacts at 7 properties, plus outreach to 4 community organizations. Delivered 390 compost containers

2.5 SELF HAUL

The self haul sector includes material brought (or “self hauled”) by residents, businesses and governmental agencies to the two city-owned recycling and disposal (transfer) stations. It does not include the material transferred by Seattle’s contracted collection haulers.

Recycling in the self haul sector includes organics (food and yard waste, clean wood), appliances and metals, and other recyclable material. Seattle’s self haul recycling count does not include recycling and organics self hauled by customers to other facilities.

In 2014, the self haul sector recycling rate fell 1.7 percentage points compared to 2013, continuing the trend of annual decreases since 2007. Total generation decreased 19,660 tons

(23%) compared to 2013, reversing 2013’s increase over 2012. Disposed tons decreased by 16,172 tons (-21.8%), and recycling decreased 3,488 tons (-33.8%). Since 2007, total generation has dropped 51.2%.

Much of the sizable drop in 2014’s self haul tonnage is assumed to be caused by the temporary closure of Seattle’s North Transfer Station. The north station closed in February 2014, and is in the process of being rebuilt. While some material went to the South Transfer Station instead, other material may have migrated to Seattle’s residential and commercial sectors, as well as to King County’s Shoreline transfer station or other facilities. Overall, self haul trips to Seattle’s stations dropped from 224,455 in 2013, to 149,070, a 34% decrease.

Other considerations for evaluating self haul recycling include:

- Commercial businesses and large institution (for example, Seattle Housing Authority, University of Washington) bring the bulk of material self hauled to the transfer stations. Their normal practice for recycling and compostables is to take them directly to processors. That recycling is credited to the residential or commercial sectors, not self haul, while their garbage is counted in self haul
- Since 2007, self haul yard waste (organics) has dropped by 70.5% (from 14,247 tons to 4,199 tons). In addition to the north station closure, this drop is likely due to three additional factors. First, there may be less demand for landscape and yard care services during and following the recession. Second, residents and landscapers may be taking advantage of other yard waste drop-off locations in or near Seattle. Third, homeowners may be making greater use of their food and yard waste curbside collection service. In 2009 it became mandatory for all single family customers to sign up for food and yard waste collection, and in 2012 it became mandatory for multi family buildings. At the same time in 2009, single family food and yard waste collection increased from every other week to weekly service.
- Compared to 2007, recycling (not including organics) decreased by 76.5% (from 11,200 tons to 2,635 tons), whereas self haul garbage tons decreased by 46.0%. Since the bulk of drop-off recycling is metals, mostly appliances, the decrease in appliance tons may be a result of the north station closure, less purchasing in general, the overall drop in economic activity, direct delivery to metal processors, or some combination of these influences.

Figure 5 Recycling Rate – Self Haul

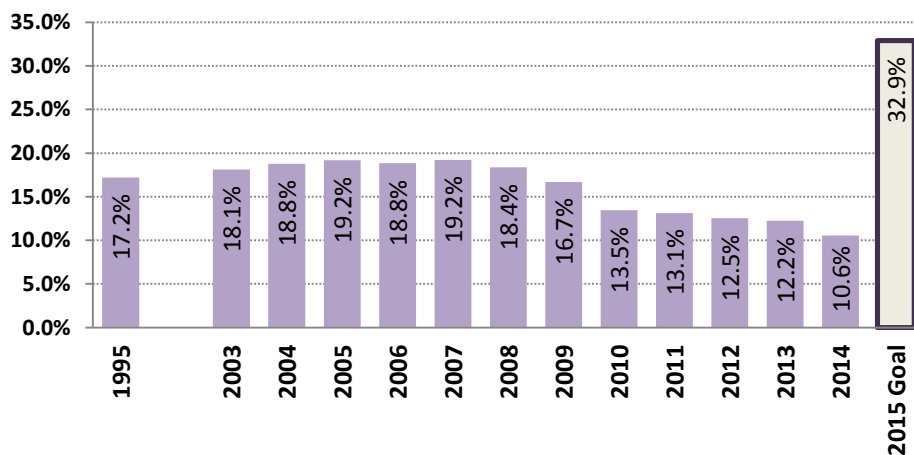


Table 6 Tons Self Haul 2000-2014

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled	Recycle Rate
2000	123,024	101,883	21,141	17.2%
2001	124,453	102,305	22,148	17.8%
2002	125,710	102,981	22,729	18.1%
2003	123,597	101,232	22,365	18.1%
2004	122,819	99,750	23,069	18.8%
2005	124,364	100,499	23,865	19.2%
2006	127,444	103,429	24,015	18.8%
2007	132,545	107,098	25,447	19.2%
2008	111,229	90,814	20,415	18.4%
2009	97,893	81,565	16,328	16.7%
2010	91,618	79,293	12,325	13.5%
2011	81,776	71,033	10,743	13.1%
2012	80,568	70,474	10,094	12.5%
2013	84,341	74,019	10,322	12.2%
2014	64,681	57,847	6,834	10.6%

The self haul sector needs a 22.3 percentage point rise in its recycling rate to achieve its 2015 recycling rate goal. In terms of 2014 tons, 14,446 more tons would have needed to be recycled.

SPU does not expect to see significant self haul recycling rate increases until SPU's solid waste facility improvements are complete. The new North Transfer Station is planned to be completed in 2016. However, separate reuse and recycling drop off at the south facility won't be in place until the completion of South's Phase 2, expected in 2018.

Program Highlights – Self Haul

- Closed the North Transfer Station for its replacement project on January 12th 2014.**
 All Seattle self haul customers were directed to take their materials to the new South Transfer Station. Extending the hours at South Transfer attracted back some customers but it appears many customers started using the King County station North of Seattle in Shoreline and/or other disposal and recycling options
- Initiated a Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D) sorting pilot in 2014.** During the pilot station staff visually screened incoming self haul loads, and directed those with over 50% C&D to a dedicated area of the tipping floor. The separated material was transferred (trucked) to a C&D sorting facility. Over 400 tons of C&D went to the sorting facility in 2014. Initial estimates for diversion to recycling were visual, and estimated to be 74%. Subsequent sorting and commodity weighing showed recovery closer to 36%. The pilot was refined and continues in 2015.

2.6 COMMERCIAL

The commercial sector includes garbage, recyclables and compostable materials collected from businesses.

The commercial sector’s recycling rate fell to 62.2%, a loss of 0.6 (rounded) percentage points.

Total commercial generation increased for the third year in a row, up 12,927 tons in 2014.

Recycling rose 5,871 tons, but not as much as disposal, which increased 7,056 tons. Compared to 2007, total generated tons are down by 11.8%

Figure 6 Recycling Rate – Commercial

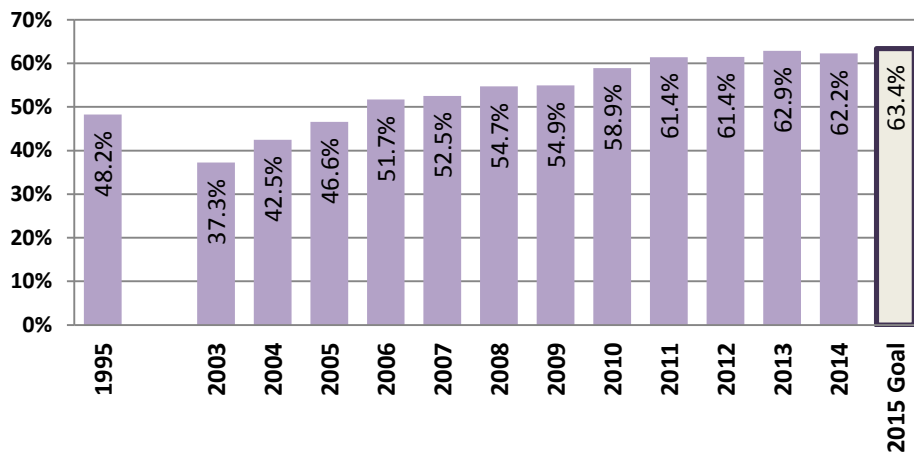


Table 7 Tons Commercial 2000-2014

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled	Recycle Rate
2000	391,406	228,417	162,989	41.6%
2001	377,927	228,405	149,522	39.6%
2002	366,224	217,195	149,029	40.7%
2003	339,844	213,247	126,597	37.3%
2004	375,739	216,112	159,627	42.5%
2005	385,093	205,637	179,456	46.6%
2006	416,564	201,231	215,333	51.7%
2007	418,979	198,968	220,011	52.5%
2008	390,267	176,774	213,493	54.7%
2009	335,992	151,398	184,593	54.9%
2010	345,692	142,180	203,511	58.9%
2011	351,214	135,536	215,678	61.4%
2012	347,673	134,089	213,584	61.4%
2013	356,480	132,401	224,079	62.9%
2014	369,407	139,457	229,950	62.2%

The commercial sector needs a 1.2 percentage point rise to achieve its 2015 recycling rate goal. In terms of 2014 tons, 4,254 more tons would have needed to be recycled.

Program Highlights – Commercial

- Mailed postcards to 30,000 business, to provide information regarding new recycling and food waste composting requirements
- Sent a cover letter and flyers providing additional information regarding the recycling and food waste composting requirements to 12,000 businesses that were food service business or business that had a garbage account with SPU
- Provided technical assistance to 835 businesses via the Resource Venture / Green Business program. Conducted 308 recycling and composting program site visits to businesses. Conducted 282 food service business visits to support compostable food packaging implementation. Provided outreach via business community events and tradeshow (7 events)
- Supported introduction of numerous restroom paper towel composting programs
- Visited 79 businesses for the Get On The Map (resource conservation) outreach program
- Supported the 3rd annual Golden Dumpster Awards green business recognition program in collaboration with Recology and Building Owners and Management Association (BOMA)
- Developed letters, flyers and tags to use during inspections for new recycling requirements
- Developed and began to implement a plan for the new 2015 food waste composting requirements outreach.

2.7 CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS (C&D)

The C&D sector is comprised of C&D materials (sometimes called “CDL”) – construction, demolition, and land clearing debris) which are not mixed with MSW. These materials are collected by a firm under contract with the city for C&D, or are self hauled, to C&D recycling facilities. Smaller amounts of C&D materials mixed with MSW, and delivered to the SPU’s transfer stations, are counted as MSW and not included in the measure of C&D recycling and disposal. In general, C&D generation correlates closely with economic and building activity cycles.

The hierarchy of C&D materials that SPU tracks includes:

Recycling – Wastes separated for recycling or reuse.

Beneficial Use – Not recycled or reused, but used for some other purpose such as wood as pulp mill boiler fuel.

Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) – Counted as disposal (not beneficial use) in the recycling rate. ADC covers the active face of a landfill instead of using soil cover. C&D waste is not

longer disposed as Industrial Waste Stabilizer (IWS), which provided structure in specialized landfills.

Disposal – Material permanently placed in a landfill.

In addition to the recycling rate, for C&D we calculate the “**diversion**” rate, the sum of recycling and beneficial use.

In 2014, the C&D recycling rate rose 3.4 percentage points. The C&D beneficial use rate also increased, by 1.8 percentage points. These increases pushed the recycling rate to 64.2%, and the total diversion rate (including beneficial use) to 72.3%. *Note: these are preliminary figures for 2014.* Obtaining timely, accurate C&D recycling data continues to be a challenge, although it improved greatly in 2014 due to the new reporting requirements. If SPU revises these numbers, they will be published in late July at www.seattle.gov/util/CDWasteManagement.

Figure 7 C&D Recycling and Diversion Rate

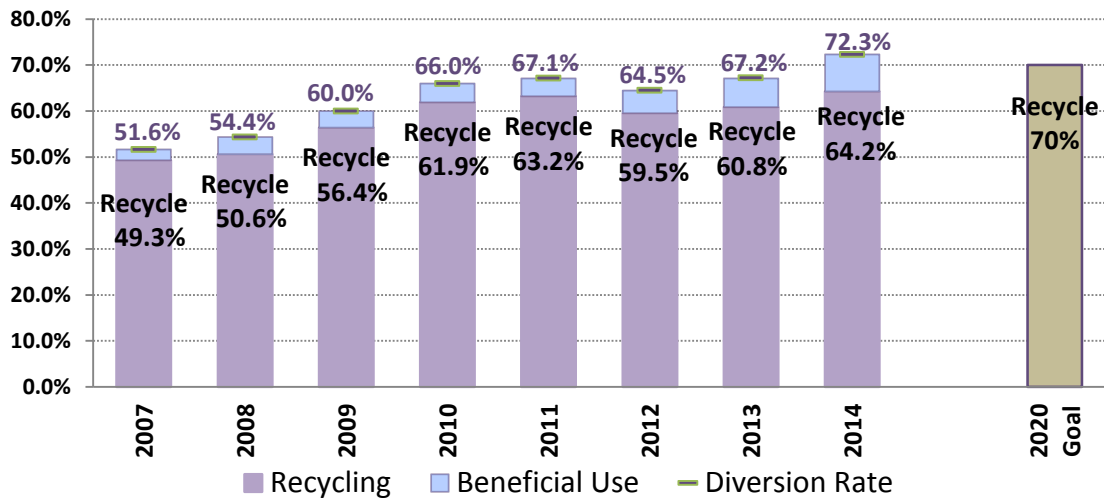


Table 8 Tons Construction & Demolition Debris 2007-2014

Year	Total Generated	Disposed*	Recycled	Beneficial Use	Recycle Rate	Diversion Rate
2007	415,801	201,156	204,907	9,738	49.3%	51.6%
2008	397,052	181,241	200,851	14,961	50.6%	54.4%
2009	288,551	115,446	162,742	10,362	56.4%	60.0%
2010	288,957	97,241	178,794	11,864	61.9%	66.0%
2011	359,390	118,216	227,049	14,125	63.2%	67.1%
2012	376,328	129,383	224,060	18,519	59.9%	64.5%
2013	386,200	127,040	234,982	24,178	60.8%	67.2%
2014	494,055	136,837	317,331	39,887	64.2%	72.3%

*Includes ADC and residuals from recycling

Program Highlights – C&D

- Implemented 2014 requirement to recycle asphalt paving, bricks, concrete, cardboard, metal and clean gypsum scrap on construction job sites. Increased concrete generation and recycling drove much of the recycling increase in 2014. Clean wood will be added to the recycling requirement in 2015. Will add carpet, clean plastic wrap, and tear-off asphalt shingles in 2016
- Implemented C&D processing facility certification program, for the operations that accept mixed C&D for sorting. Certification requirements include health department permits and conformance, reporting to SPU, residual sorting and others. This program is expected to include more mixed waste recycling operations in 2015 with additional funding from King County
- Published certification quarterly updates -- on certified facility recycling rates, and on the status of regional C&D recycling facilities
- Implemented an SPU Waste Diversion Report (WDR) submission requirement, for all building permit projects where the value is over \$30,000 and for all demolition projects. The response rate steadily improved in 2014, as this requirement went into the building code mid-year. The Department of Planning and Development's (DPD) also implemented a companion Waste Diversion Plan requirement. It is required for all permit applicants for projects over 750 square feet in order receive their building permit, and includes a Salvage Assessment for all demolition permits
- Conducted outreach about inclusion of the recycling requirements into standards & specifications for procurement documents. Activities included trainings for trade associations and individual architectural and construction companies, newsletter articles, and meetings with public agency engineers and procurement staff

2.8 PUBLIC SPACE RECYCLING & PARKS OUTDOOR OPEN SPACE RECYCLING

In 2014, the Department of Parks and Recreation continued with recycling collection in open spaces in parks citywide. Collection cans are strategically sited based on lessons learned during a 2008 pilot project. Targeted materials include aluminum cans, and plastic and glass beverage containers.

State law requires recycling at large events. SPU works with event promoters to ensure that their food vendors comply with the regulation that single-use food ware and packaging are either compostable or recyclable and collected for proper processing.

The public place recycling program pairs street side litter cans with beverage container recycling cans in commercial areas throughout the city. About half of all street side litter cans are paired with a recycling can.

3. WASTE PREVENTION

SPU's waste prevention programs work to reduce waste volumes from households and businesses. They also seek to reduce toxics in goods purchased by people, institutions and businesses. Wherever possible, SPU seeks to quantify results, and takes credit in the MSW recycling rate.

Program Highlights – Waste Prevention

- **Food Waste Prevention:** customer research phase completed documenting food waste habits of 381 households in Seattle
- **Food Recovery Partnership:** new partnership with the non-profit Operation Sack Lunch (OSL) resulted in expansion of OSL's food rescue by 29,648 pounds
- **Threadcycle:** campaign formed with eight textile collection partners (non-profit and for-profit) to expand textile recycling beyond gently-used clothing
- **Junk Mail Opt Out Service:** 29,714 total opt out accounts, an increase of 3,211 accounts in 2014. 415,366 total opt outs, an increase of 57,634 in 2014
- **Green Purchasing:** Standard City specification for construction in right-of-way revised in 2014 to provide for use of recycled asphalt shingles
- **Master Composter/Soil Builder Volunteers:** 959 hours served contacting 13,210 residents in 2014; 35 new volunteers recruited and trained from across the city
- **Garden Hotline:** 9,503 public contacts in 2014, including Hotline staff attending 49 events and classes
- **Pesticide Reduction (LHWMP):** 234 landscape professionals attended fall IPM workshop; trained 161 staff at 12 area nurseries
- **Sustainable Landscape Professional Development (LHWMP):** new sustainable landscape certificated training completed in partnership with the Washington Association of Landscape Professionals and the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association. 40 professionals received training in 2014, plus 77 landscapers attended two Spanish-language trainings

4. RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES FOR 2015-16

The following lists the new 2015-16 waste reduction and recycling activities that are underway or planned, to close the gap between our recycling goals and performance.

Table 9 Recycling Activities 2015-16

Sector	Work Item	Description
Single Family Multi Family Commercial	Composting requirement	The main focus for the rest of 2015 will be broadening awareness of the composting requirement , prior to officially starting the fines in 2016. This will also increase the amount of food waste and compostable paper diverted

		from the landfill in 2015. Includes tripling annual education and outreach investment to \$1.5 million.
Commercial	Compostable food service ware	SPU is still considering whether to further restrict the quick-serve food industry to predominately compostable food service ware in 2016.
Self Haul	Add drop off recycling containers	In 2015, implement drop-off containers at South Transfer Station for materials recently banned (i.e., construction and demolition debris targeted materials)
Self Haul	Continue C&D floor sort pilot	We are still evaluating the cost-effectiveness of diverting mixed construction and demolition debris from the transfer station floor for transportation and further sorting and partial recovery of recyclables. We have found that indiscriminate transferring of these types of loads can result in recovery of perhaps only 30% of the loads, while careful transfer of only the larger pieces of material can result in 70% recovery. We are analyzing the benefits vs. cost of this more careful approach and should have results by July 2015. If it is found to be cost effective, we will move to separate these materials on a more regular basis, increasing our self-haul recycling in 2015 and into 2016.
Self Haul	Open New North Transfer Station	In 2016. The new facility will include a new, more convenient, recycling drop-off area that does not require crossing the scale.
Construction & Demolition Debris	Add material bans	In 2016, tear-off asphalt shingles, carpet and clean plastic wrap from construction projects will not be allowed in disposal.

5. CONCLUSION

We congratulate all of Seattle in again setting an all-time high recycling rate. Total generation and disposal are also staying down at historical lows, even through the climb out of the Great Recession where Seattle has seen, since 2010, about a 5% growth in population, and an 11% growth in employment. This is a remarkable achievement. Nonetheless, we have much more to do to achieve our 2015 and 2022 recycling goals. Seattle’s continued commitment to environmentally responsible solid waste management will get us there.

Please see [Seattle’s Solid Waste Plan](#) for more background on recycling planning. More detailed sector and historical information may be found on SPU’s web site at [Solid Waste Reports-- Seattle Public Utilities](#), including: Prior annual recycling reports; composition studies by sector/garbage/recycling; quarterly and yearly tons for garbage, recycling, organics, C&D; recycling market and Seattle recycling value; and, surveys.

Recycling continues to be a sound investment by the city as well as a key part of our climate action strategy.

