

# ORGANICS REPORT

4th Quarter 2015

(Formerly Known as Yard Waste Report)

Seattle Public Utilities, Economic Services Section

Report Date: February 4, 2016

Phone: (206) 684-4143

## Tonnage Breakdown

### Self Haul<sup>1</sup>

Q4 2015:	926 Tons	0.6% decrease vs. same period in 2014
Cumulative YTD Self Haul:	4,167 Tons	0.8% decrease vs. same period in 2014

### Residential (single family and multi-family)

Q4 2015:	24,128 Tons	8.1% increase vs. same period in 2014
Cumulative YTD Curbside:	89,213 Tons	8.2% increase vs. same period in 2014

### Commercial (contract and non contract tons)

Q4 2015:	15,553 Tons	18.0% increase vs. same period in 2014
Cumulative YTD Commercial:	58,462 Tons	16.7% increase vs. same period in 2014

## Organics Subscription Information by Premises<sup>2</sup> Type

Can premises customers are those that receive can garbage service. Can customers can request Exempt service if they do backyard food waste composting. Dumpster premises customers are subscribed to dumpster garbage service. "Curb" service is the same as can premise service; the customer moves the can out to the curb for collection. "On Site" service does not require the customer to move their container(s) out to the curb, similar to dumpster service. "Liner" service means a new liner is provided after each collection.

### Residential Can Premises by Subscription Type

Dec-15	13 gal	32 gal	90 gal	Curb Liner	Onsite Liner	Total Signed Up	Exempt
Can Premises	32,236	19,095	93,636	447	81	144,768	4,779
%	22%	13%	63%	0.30%	0.05%	97%	3%

### Residential Dumpster Premises by Subscription Type

Dec-15	Curb No Liner	Curb Liner	Onsite Liner	Total Signed Up	Exempt
Multifamily Dumpster	1,481	2,672	1,012	5,050	107
%	28%	51%	19%	97%	2%

### Commercial Subscriptions<sup>3</sup>

Dec-15	Contract Commercial	Non Contract Commercial	Total Commercial Subscriptions
# Subscriptions	1,901	2,416	4,317
% Change 2015 vs 2014	75%	30%	47%

1 There have been fewer Self Haul trips and tons due to the closure of the North Recycle & Disposal Station on Jan 20, 2014 for a rebuild.

2 A premise is roughly equal to a building in our billing system. An apartment building is typically equal to one premise.

3 The large increase in subscriptions coincides with the ban on all organics in the garbage which began January 1, 2015.

## **Basics of Residential Organics Program**

**Service:** Beginning April 2009, collection frequency increased from bi-weekly to weekly pickup. All single family customers are required to sign up for organics service or request an exemption if they have backyard food waste composting. As of September 2011 multifamily and multiplex customers are also required to sign up for organics service. Multifamily customers can sign up for residential can/cart curbside service or onsite can/cart service. (Curbside service requires the customer to bring their container to the curb; onsite service does not require the customer to move their container.) Liner service, which includes a biodegradable plastic liner placed in the can or cart after each collection, is also available to multifamily customers.

**MATERIALS:** Leaves, grass clippings, prunings 4 inches or less in diameter. Starting in April 2009, all food waste and food soiled paper are allowed in the cart. As of January 1, 2015, Organics, including food waste, compostable paper, and yard waste are not allowed in the curbside garbage container.

**Fees:** Monthly Variable Can/Cart Prices: 13 gal = \$5.45, 32 gal = \$8.20, 96 gal = \$10.50

## **Basics of Self Haul Program**

**SERVICE:** Two city owned recycle and disposal stations accept organics during regular operating hours. Yard waste must be separated and cannot be disposed of as garbage.

**FEES:** **Cars:** \$20.00 per trip (compared to \$30.00 per trip for garbage).  
**Trucks:** \$110.00 per ton (compared to \$145.00 per ton for garbage).

## **Basics of Commercial Program**

**SERVICE:** Seattle has contracts with Waste Management and Cleanscapes for garbage and organics service. Customers can sign up with their contract garbage hauler for curbside can/cart organics service. If they want on-site cart or dumpster service, they can use Cleanscapes which has a contract with Seattle for this service<sup>4</sup>. In addition, Seattle commercial customers can choose organics service through a hauler outside of the city contracts. This is referred to as “non-contract” organics service.

**MATERIALS:** All food scraps (including meat, fish, dairy and produce), food soiled paper, waxed cardboard, and yard debris. Beginning January 1, 2015 all organics materials are banned from the garbage.

**FEES:** Approximately 32% below garbage prices. (Non-contract prices vary.)

---

<sup>4</sup> “Curbside service” requires the customer to bring their container to the curb. “On-site service” does not require the customer to move their container for collection.

**CITY OF SEATTLE ORGANICS PROGRAM**

		TONNAGE DATA									ACCOUNT SIGN-UP DATA					
Year	Month	SELF HAUL <sup>1</sup>			CURBSIDE <sup>3</sup>				COMMERCIAL <sup>4</sup>			RESIDENTIAL		COMMERCIAL		
		North <sup>5</sup>	South	Total	WM	USD	CS	Total	Contract	Non Contract	Total	Accounts	Lbs/Acct	Contract	NonContract	Total
2014	1	100	186	286	2,657		2,237	4,894	152	3,688	3,840	146,741	67	865	1,674	2,539
2014	2		156	156	1,715		1,439	3,154	131	3,688	3,819	146,763	43	866	1,674	2,540
2014	3		271	271	3,334		2,483	5,818	139	3,688	3,827	146,856	79	861	1,674	2,535
2014	4		396	396	5,123		3,552	8,675	133	3,994	4,127	147,021	118	874	1,707	2,581
2014	5		458	458	6,003		4,115	10,118	147	3,994	4,141	147,235	137	871	1,707	2,578
2014	6		510	510	5,004		3,452	8,457	176	3,994	4,170	147,405	115	864	1,707	2,571
2014	7		451	451	4,103		2,930	7,033	161	4,168	4,328	147,507	95	864	1,734	2,598
2014	8		381	381	3,412		2,401	5,813	168	4,168	4,335	147,570	79	857	1,734	2,591
2014	9		359	359	3,670		2,630	6,300	178	4,168	4,346	147,706	85	853	1,734	2,587
2014	10		355	355	4,292		3,236	7,528	151	4,229	4,380	147,649	102	864	1,853	2,717
2014	11		312	312	4,284		3,593	7,877	162	4,229	4,391	147,646	107	865	1,853	2,718
2014	12		264	264	3,679		3,243	6,922	178	4,229	4,406	147,960	94	1,089	1,853	2,942
2015	1		221	221	3,022		2,492	5,514	243	4,158	4,401	148,286	74	1,531	2,161	3,692
2015	2		252	252	2,975		2,248	5,222	98	4,243	4,341	148,453	70	1,654	2,234	3,888
2015	3		367	367	4,139		2,961	7,100	150	4,239	4,389	148,720	95	1,713	2,240	3,953
2015	4		398	398	5,137		3,549	8,686	285	4,566	4,851	148,952	117	1,758	2,357	4,115
2015	5		463	463	5,424		3,731	9,155	288	4,548	4,837	149,196	123	1,812	2,277	4,089
2015	6		431	431	4,938		3,398	8,336	272	4,575	4,847	149,418	112	1,859	2,277	4,136
2015	7		370	370	3,948		2,851	6,799	323	4,739	5,062	149,571	91	1,860	2,339	4,199
2015	8		346	346	3,644		2,629	6,273	323	4,752	5,075	149,676	84	1,862	2,361	4,223
2015	9		393	393	4,539		3,460	7,999	315	4,791	5,106	149,776	107	1,877	2,383	4,260
2015	10		373	373	4,314		3,333	7,647	339	4,870	5,209	149,756	102	1,894	2,402	4,296
2015	11		317	317	5,284		4,474	9,758	311	4,870	5,182	149,765	130	1,899	2,415	4,314
2015	12		236	236	3,649		3,073	6,723	307	4,856	5,163	149,818	90	1,901	2,416	4,317
<b>Total 2015</b>		<b>4,167</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>51,013</b>		<b>38,200</b>	<b>89,213</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>55,207</b>	<b>58,462</b>	<b>2015 Avg</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>2015 Avg</b>	<b>4,124</b>
Total 2014		100	4,099	4,199	47,276		35,312	82,588	1,875	48,237	50,111	2014 Avg	93		2014 Avg	2,625
Total 2013		3,219	3,071	6,290	46,960		35,430	82,390	2,101	43,980	46,081	2013 Avg	94		2013 Avg	2,457
Total 2012		3,245	3,348	6,593	47,599		36,067	83,666	1,977	40,637	42,614	2012 Avg	97		2012 Avg	2,242
Total 2011		3,449	3,345	6,794	45,777		34,036	79,813	2,686	38,101	40,787	2011 Avg	94		2011 Avg	2,047
Total 2010		3,715	3,966	7,682	46,564		33,388	79,952	2,113	35,139	37,252	2010 Avg	95		2010 Avg	1,648
Total 2009		4,775	5,374	10,149	42,648	4,455	27,127	74,230	1,763	29,961	31,724	2009 Avg	90		2009 Avg	1,243
Total 2008		5,530	6,363	12,667	28,348	28,016		56,364	2,260	24,902	27,162	2008 Avg	87		2008 Avg	930
Total 2007		6,731	7,516	14,247	27,447	27,126		54,573	5,023	9,748	14,771	2007 Avg	87			
Total 2006:		6,953	7,323	14,276	26,125	25,414		51,539	7,123	280	7,403	2006 Avg	85			
Total 2005:		6,598	7,328	13,925	22,009	20,595		42,603				2005 Avg	74			
Total 2004:		7,729	7,177	14,905	19,670	18,815		38,485				2004 Avg	69			
Total 2003:		7,559	6,597	14,156	17,094	16,830		33,923				2003 Avg	62			
Total 2002:		7,844	6,522	14,366	17,086	17,417		34,503				2002 Avg	70			
Total 2001:		8,279	6,755	15,034	18,412	18,578		36,990				2001 Avg	NA			
Total 2000:		8,280	5,752	14,031	18,240	15,797		34,037				2000 Avg	66			
Total 1999:		8,186	5,506	13,692	28,080	11,657		39,737				1999 Avg	78			
Total 1998:		8,122	4,912	13,034	28,286	12,260		40,546				1998 Avg	79			
Total 1997:		8,574	5,563	14,137	30,017	13,113		43,130				1997 Avg	84			
Total 1996:		7,341	4,186	11,527	27,491	11,842		39,333				1996 Avg	76			
Total 1995:		7,567	4,596	12,163	29,122	11,622		40,745				1995 Avg	75			
Total 1994:		7,045	4,952	11,997	26,099	10,974		37,073				1994 Avg	72			
Total 1993 <sup>2</sup> :		8,019	5,423	13,442	30,113	12,582		42,695				1993 Avg	78			
Total 1992:		6,430	5,124	11,553	24,547	10,243		34,790				1992 Avg	61			
Total 1991:		8,814	5,908	14,722	28,103	11,100		39,203								
Total 1990:		7,339	5,625	12,964	25,936	10,845		36,780								
Total 1989:		6,495	4,753	11,249	22,812	8,845		31,657								

1. Beginning Feb 2014 cars are weighed. Prior to this, car weights were calculated at 258lbs based on composition study results.

2. Note that the fairly large increase in tonnage from 1992 to 1993 is due to two factors:

a) 1992 tonnage was the lowest since 1989 due to the drought and lawn watering ban which extended from June 1 - November 2, 1992.

b) 1993 tonnage was high due to abundant precipitation in the spring and summer months.

3. Some commercial curbside can/cart organics are included in residential curbside tons. New 10-yr contracts began 3/30/2009. CS (Cleanscapes) and WM (Waste Management) are the contracted haulers.

4. This table does not include some commercial non-compost food waste collection such as fats, oils and grease. This additional food waste is captured in our annual recycle survey and in our calculation of Seattle's overall recycling rate. Some Non Contract tons are reported quarterly.

5. North Recycle & Disposal Station closed on Jan 20, 2014 for a rebuild.

**City of Seattle Organics Customers by Customer Category**

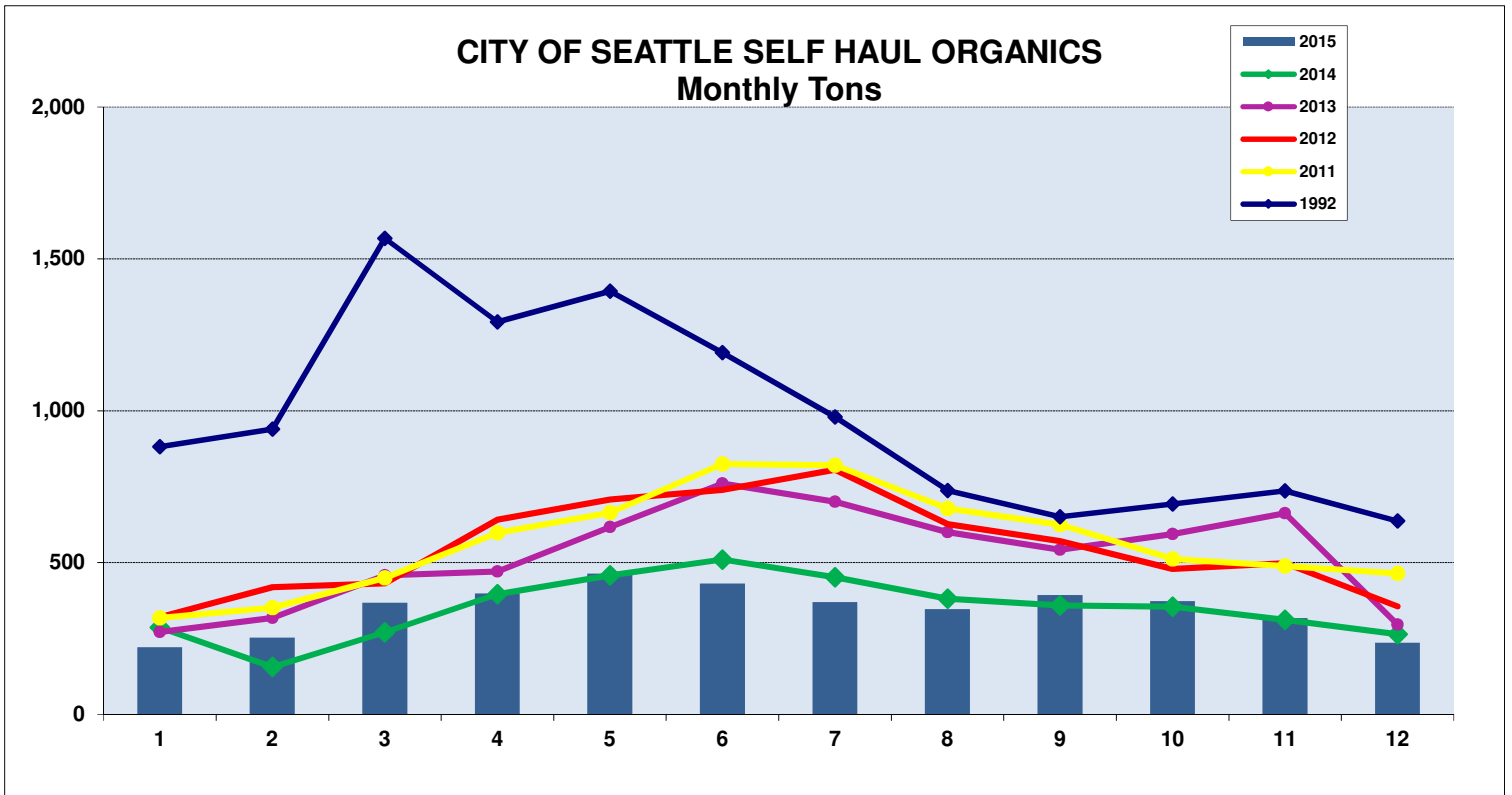
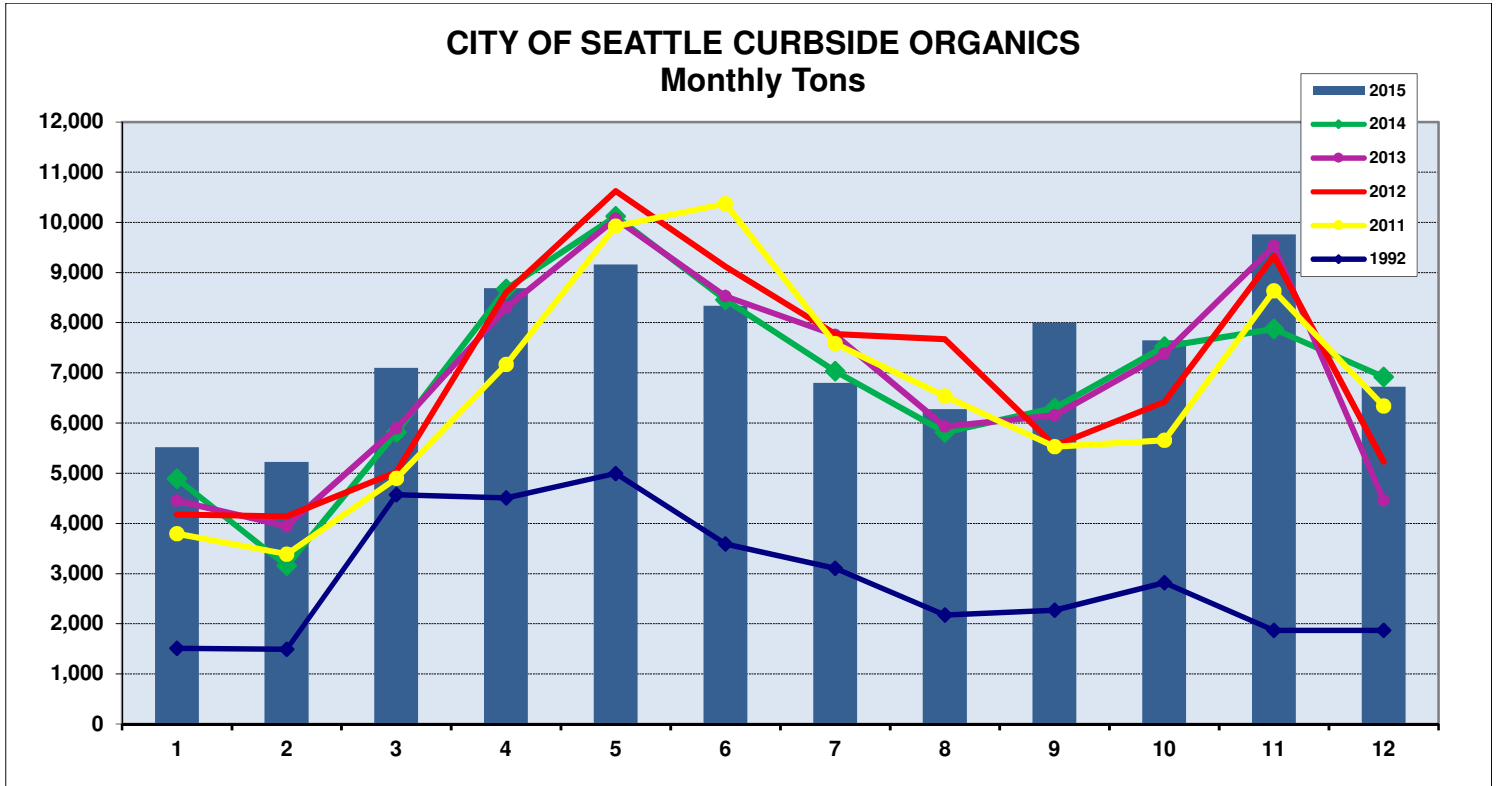
Date	Total Premises <sup>1</sup>		# of Premise Subscribers		Subscription Rate		Can Prems - % Organics Subscriptions by Type							Dumpster Prems - % Organics Subscriptions by Type				
	Can Garb Premis <sup>2</sup>	Dumpster Garb Premis <sup>3</sup>	Can Prems Signed Up	Multifamily Dumpster Premis Signed Up	Total Can Prem Sign Ups	Total Dumpster Prem Sign Ups	13 Gal	32 Gal	90 Gal	Curb Liner	Onsite <sup>4</sup> Liner	Exempt	Not Signed Up	Curb No Liner	Curb Liner	Onsite <sup>4</sup> Liner	Exempt	Not Signed Up
Jan-14	148,000	5,204	141,740	5,001	95.8%	96.1%	21.6%	10.0%	64.3%	0.2%	0.03%	4.2%	0.1%	34.6%	46.4%	17.2%	2.6%	1.3%
Feb-14	148,010	5,201	141,766	4,997	95.8%	96.1%	21.7%	10.0%	64.1%	0.2%	0.03%	4.2%	0.0%	34.4%	46.5%	17.2%	2.6%	1.4%
Mar-14	148,086	5,201	141,860	4,996	95.8%	96.1%	21.7%	10.1%	64.1%	0.2%	0.03%	4.2%	0.0%	34.2%	46.6%	17.3%	2.6%	1.4%
Apr-14	148,227	5,209	142,017	5,004	95.8%	96.1%	21.6%	10.2%	64.1%	0.2%	0.03%	4.2%	0.0%	34.0%	46.9%	17.3%	2.6%	1.3%
May-14	148,373	5,222	142,223	5,012	95.9%	96.0%	21.5%	10.3%	64.2%	0.2%	0.03%	4.1%	0.0%	33.8%	47.0%	17.3%	2.6%	1.4%
Jun-14	148,468	5,225	142,389	5,016	95.9%	96.0%	21.4%	10.4%	64.3%	0.2%	0.04%	4.1%	0.0%	33.6%	47.3%	17.3%	2.6%	1.4%
Jul-14	148,536	5,224	142,492	5,015	95.9%	96.0%	21.3%	10.5%	64.3%	0.2%	0.04%	4.0%	0.0%	33.2%	47.5%	17.3%	2.6%	1.4%
Aug-14	148,558	5,227	142,554	5,016	96.0%	96.0%	21.3%	10.6%	64.2%	0.2%	0.04%	4.0%	0.0%	33.0%	47.6%	17.4%	2.6%	1.4%
Sep-14	148,608	5,228	142,665	5,041	96.0%	96.4%	21.3%	10.7%	64.1%	0.2%	0.04%	4.0%	0.0%	33.0%	47.9%	17.6%	2.6%	1.0%
Oct-14	148,572	5,230	142,645	5,004	96.0%	95.7%	21.3%	10.8%	64.0%	0.2%	0.04%	4.0%	0.0%	32.1%	48.0%	17.6%	2.7%	1.7%
Nov-14	148,546	5,228	142,644	5,002	96.0%	95.7%	21.3%	10.8%	64.0%	0.2%	0.04%	3.9%	0.0%	32.1%	48.0%	17.7%	2.7%	1.7%
Dec-14	148,608	5,227	142,947	5,013	96.2%	95.9%	21.4%	11.0%	63.8%	0.2%	0.04%	3.8%	0.0%	31.9%	48.3%	17.7%	2.6%	1.5%
Jan-15	148,620	5,234	143,261	5,025	96.4%	96.0%	21.5%	11.3%	63.7%	0.2%	0.04%	3.6%	0.0%	31.3%	49.0%	17.8%	2.4%	1.5%
Feb-15	148,676	5,234	143,414	5,039	96.5%	96.3%	21.6%	11.4%	63.6%	0.3%	0.04%	3.6%	0.0%	30.8%	49.4%	18.2%	2.4%	1.4%
Mar-15	148,827	5,230	143,674	5,046	96.5%	96.5%	21.6%	11.6%	63.5%	0.3%	0.04%	3.5%	0.0%	30.4%	49.7%	18.5%	2.2%	1.3%
Apr-15	148,974	5,222	143,908	5,044	96.6%	96.6%	21.6%	11.8%	63.3%	0.3%	0.04%	3.4%	0.0%	30.0%	50.0%	18.7%	2.2%	1.2%
May-15	149,145	5,218	144,152	5,044	96.7%	96.7%	21.5%	11.9%	63.3%	0.3%	0.05%	3.4%	0.0%	29.9%	50.1%	18.9%	2.2%	1.1%
Jun-15	149,265	5,210	144,378	5,040	96.7%	96.7%	21.5%	12.1%	63.3%	0.3%	0.05%	3.4%	0.0%	29.7%	50.3%	19.0%	2.2%	1.1%
Jul-15	149,366	5,213	144,526	5,045	96.8%	96.8%	21.5%	12.3%	63.2%	0.3%	0.05%	3.3%	0.0%	29.4%	50.6%	19.0%	2.1%	1.1%
Aug-15	149,439	5,212	144,633	5,043	96.8%	96.8%	21.5%	12.4%	63.0%	0.3%	0.05%	3.3%	0.0%	29.2%	50.7%	19.0%	2.1%	1.1%
Sep-15	149,499	5,218	144,722	5,054	96.8%	96.9%	21.5%	12.5%	62.9%	0.3%	0.05%	3.3%	0.0%	29.0%	50.9%	19.1%	2.1%	1.0%
Oct-15	149,426	5,218	144,704	5,052	96.8%	96.8%	21.5%	12.6%	62.9%	0.3%	0.05%	3.2%	0.0%	28.8%	51.0%	19.2%	2.1%	1.1%
Nov-15	149,404	5,217	144,713	5,052	96.9%	96.8%	21.5%	12.7%	62.8%	0.3%	0.05%	3.2%	0.0%	28.6%	51.1%	19.3%	2.1%	1.1%
Dec-15	149,438	5,215	144,768	5,050	96.9%	96.8%	21.6%	12.8%	62.7%	0.3%	0.05%	3.2%	0.0%	28.4%	51.2%	19.4%	2.1%	1.1%
<b>2015 Avg</b>	<b>149,173</b>	<b>5,220</b>	<b>144,238</b>	<b>5,045</b>	<b>96.7%</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>63.2%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.05%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>50.3%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
2014 Avg	148,383	5,219	142,329	5,010	95.9%	96.0%	21.5%	10.4%	64.1%	0.2%	0.04%	4.1%	0.0%	33.3%	47.3%	17.4%	2.6%	1.4%
2013 Avg	147,924	5,208	141,454	4,994	95.6%	95.9%	21.6%	9.4%	64.7%	0.2%	0.03%	4.3%	0.1%	37.2%	44.2%	16.7%	2.4%	1.7%
2012 Avg	147,191	5,214	139,501	4,936	94.8%	94.7%	21.3%	8.3%	65.3%	0.1%	0.02%	4.4%	0.8%	39.9%	41.4%	15.7%	2.3%	3.1%
2011 Avg	147,037	5,299	138,763	2,934	94.4%	55.4%	21.0%	7.2%	66.0%	0.1%	0.01%	4.6%	1.0%	40.0%	11.6%	4.9%	0.8%	43.8%
2010 Avg	146,677	5,369	137,139	2,349	93.5%	43.8%	20.5%	5.9%	66.9%			4.8%	2.3%	41.1%	1.9%	1.3%	0.3%	55.7%
2009 Avg	145,826	5,421	130,844	2,123	89.7%	39.2%	16.9%	1.0%	72.4%			1.9%	7.9%	40.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%	59.0%

1. A Premise is essentially a structure - so a single family house would count as one premise, a tri-plex with 3 housing units counts as one premise and an apartment building with 25 housing units would also count as one premise

2. Can Garb Prems refers to customers that subscribe to can garbage service.

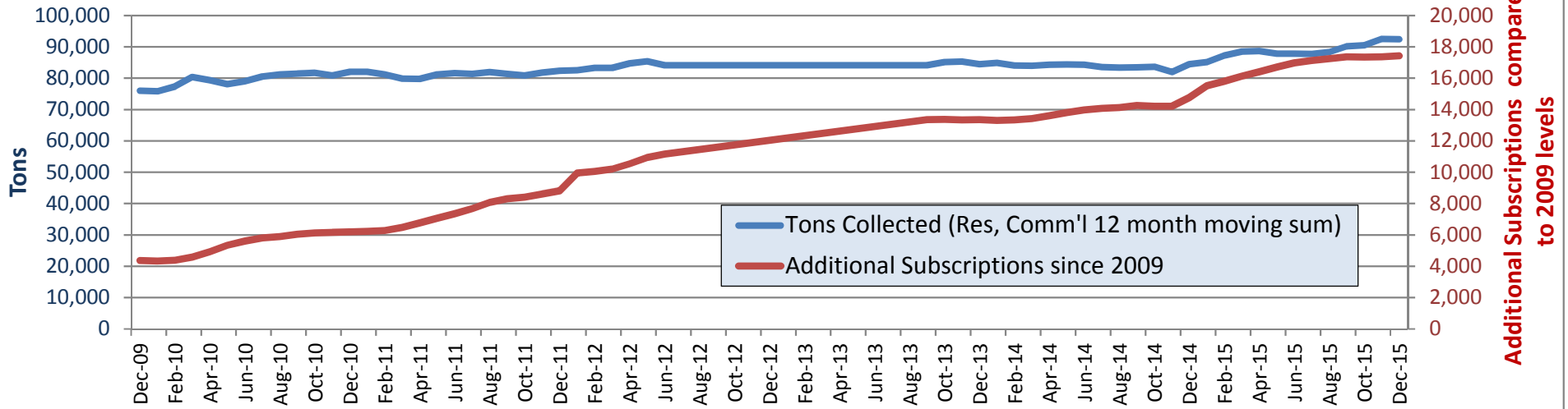
3. Dumpster Garb Prems refers to customers that subscribe to dumpster garbage service. Dumpster Prems are typically Apartment buildings.

4. Onsite customers do not need to move their container to the curb.



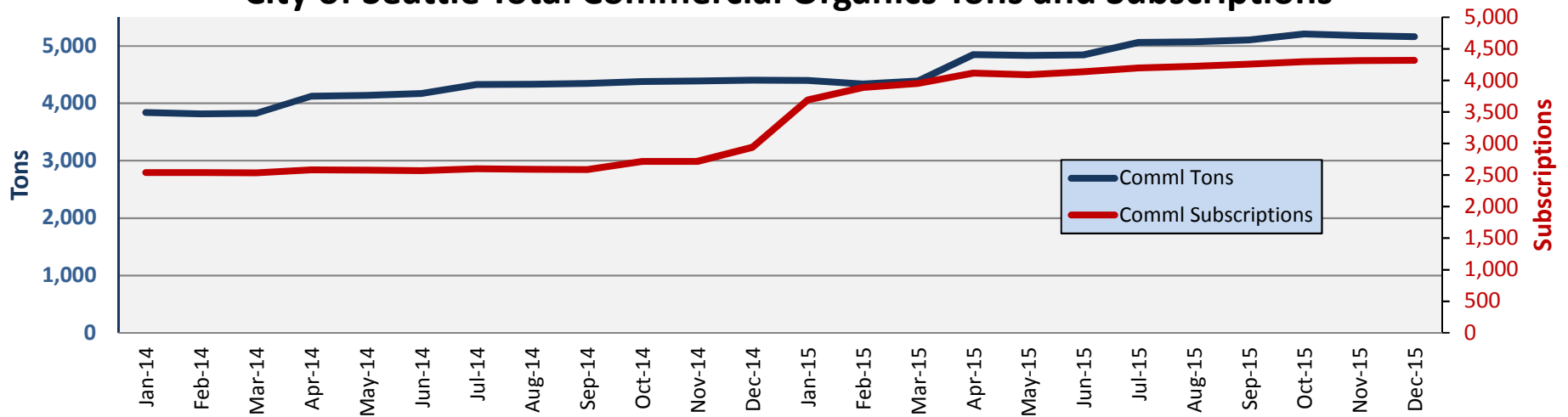
The North Transfer Station closed on Jan 20, 2014 for a rebuild.

## CITY OF SEATTLE TOTAL CONTRACTED ORGANICS TONS COLLECTED COMPARED TO ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTION LEVELS SINCE 2009 <sup>1</sup>



1. In April 2009 subscription to curbside organics service became mandatory for single family residents. In September 2011 mandatory subscription to curbside organics service expanded to multi-plex and multi-family customers. on organics tonnage.
2. Drier and warmer than average weather since 2013 contributed to a drop in Organics tonnage. (see weather charts for more details)

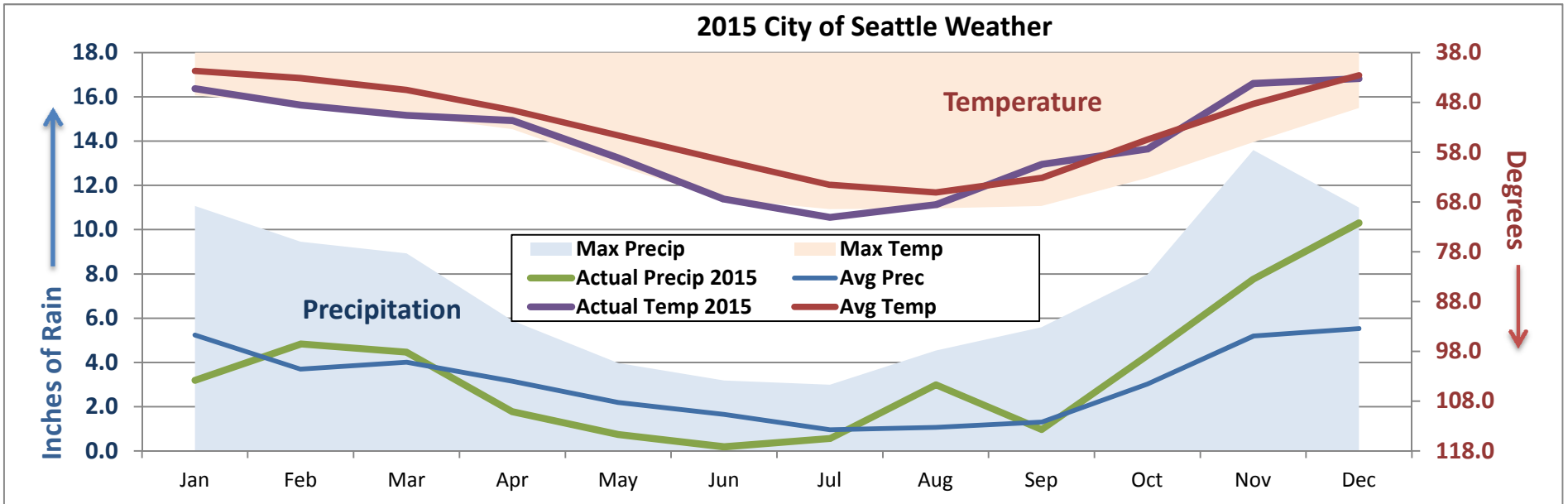
## City of Seattle Total Commercial Organics Tons and Subscriptions



Non contract portion of commercial tons and subscriptions are reported quarterly.  
 Ban on all Organics in the garbage began on January 1, 2015.

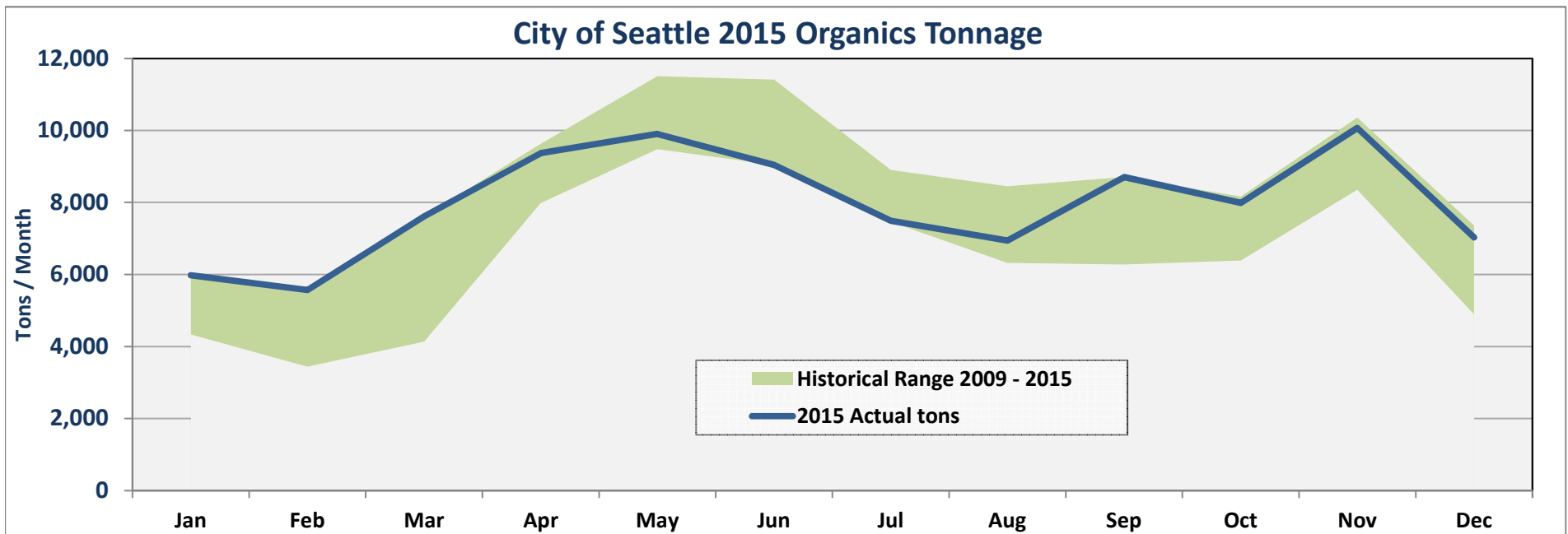
## Weather Impacts on Organics Tonnage

### 2015 City of Seattle Weather



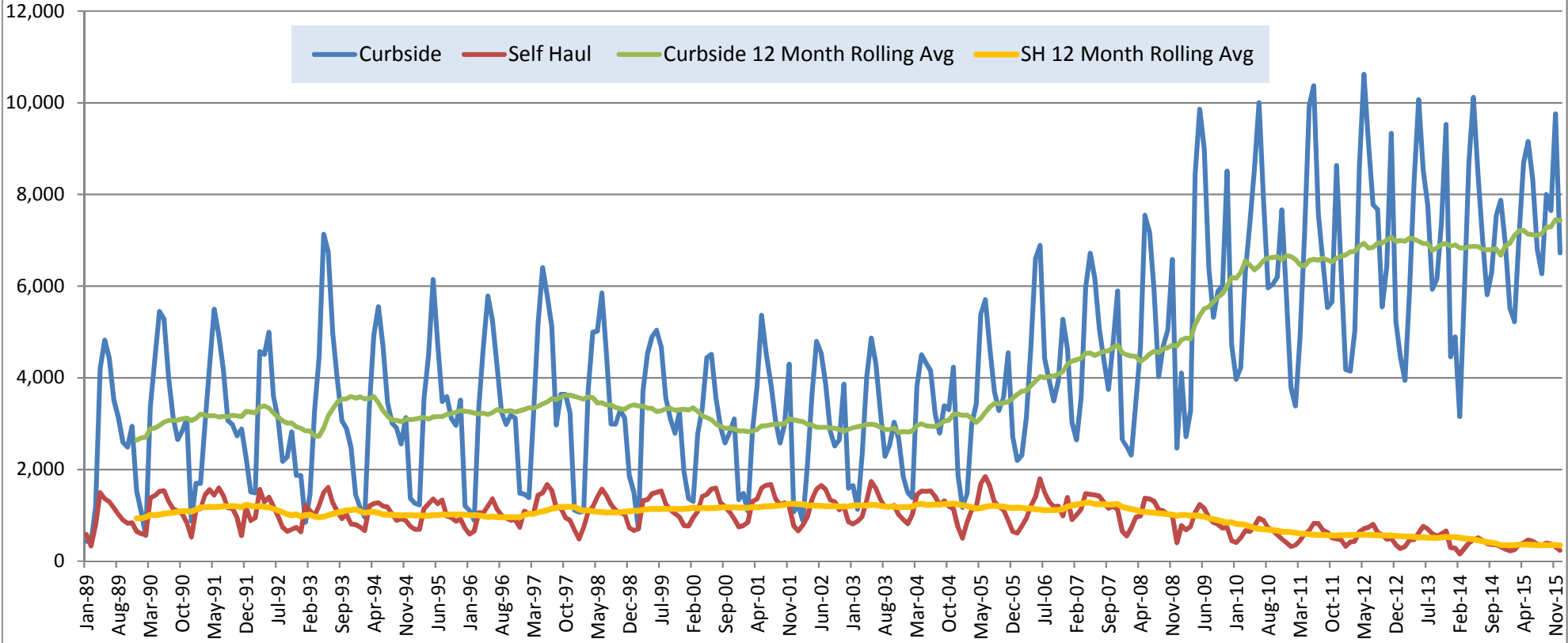
The blue and orange areas show the maximum and minimum precipitation and temperature ranges from 1977 to year to date. 2015 has experienced the highest temperatures since 1977. (Dark purple line.)

### City of Seattle 2015 Organics Tonnage



The green area shows the minimum and maximum range of tonnage since 2009.

# CITY OF SEATTLE RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE AND SELF HAUL ORGANICS TONS



Some of the 2014 decline in SH tons can be attributed to the closing of The North Transfer Station on Jan 20, 2014 for a rebuild.