

Waste management industry: Business and government sectors, 2012

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In 2012, 25.0 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste were sent to private and public waste disposal facilities, essentially unchanged from 2010.

The total amount of waste diverted to recycling or organic processing facilities increased by 4.5% from 2010 to 8.4 million tonnes in 2012.

Residential sources accounted for 38.3% of waste for disposal, while the remainder came from non-residential sources.

The amount of residential waste disposed of by Canadian households increased by 1.3% from 2010 to 9.6 million tonnes in 2012. Non-residential waste sent for disposal remained relatively stable at 15.4 million tonnes in 2012.

Provincial differences in the quantities of waste sent for disposal

New Brunswick and Quebec saw the greatest increase (both up by about 4%) in waste sent for disposal between 2010 and 2012, while Ontario and British Columbia each reported a decrease of about 2%.

Nationally, Canadians sent 720 kilograms of waste per person for disposal. Provincially, Alberta had the highest per capita waste disposal rate at just over 1 tonne per person, while Nova Scotia had the lowest at 386 kg per person.

Waste diversion: British Columbia and Quebec top diverters

The amount of material sent for diversion in Canada rose by 4.5% between 2010 and 2012, following a 2.7% decline in diversion activities between 2008 and 2010. Materials diverted from landfill from non-residential sources increased by 5.9%, while diversion of materials coming from households rose by 3.4%.

Nationally, Canadians diverted 243 kg of waste per person from landfills. British Columbia led the way, diverting almost 340 kg of waste per person, followed by Quebec (310 kg).

Electronic waste recycling saw the biggest increase since 2010, up 39.7% to just over 71 000 tonnes in 2012. This was followed by organics recycling, which rose by 10.9%.

Note to readers

This release is based on the results of the biennial Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors 2012.

This analysis examines the quantities of waste disposed of in landfills and incinerators managed by governments and waste management firms, as well as the amount of waste diverted from landfill through recycling and composting.



Available in CANSIM: tables [153-0041](#) to [153-0043](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [1736](#) and [2009](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).