



Massachusetts
Department
of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

fact sheet

Massachusetts 2006 Solid Waste Data Update

The Massachusetts *Beyond 2000 Solid Waste Master Plan* and *2006 Revision* set goals of 70 percent waste reduction and 56 percent recycling by 2010. MassDEP annually publishes solid waste management system data to track progress in meeting these goals and to evaluate solid waste management capacity needs. This fact sheet summarizes the 2006 Solid Waste Data Update.

Waste Generation, Diversion, and Disposal

Total solid waste generation was 13.9 million tons in 2006, a decrease of 600,000 tons from 2005. Diversion and disposal also decreased in 2006 compared to 2005. Table 1 shows generation, diversion (through recycling, composting, and other types of diversion), and disposal.

Table 1 Solid Waste Management 2005-2006				
	2005	2006	Tons Change	% Change
Generation	14,490,000	13,890,000	-600,000	-4.1%
Diversion	7,750,000	7,340,000	-410,000	-5.3%
Disposal*	6,750,000	6,550,000	-200,000	-3.0%

* Includes net exports to other states for disposal

Waste Reduction Progress

The total waste reduction rate rose to 60% in 2006, compared to 58% in 2005. Waste reduction includes recycling and composting of municipal solid waste (MSW); recycling and other diversion of non-MSW (mainly construction and demolition (C&D) debris); and an estimate of source reduction (preventing waste from being generated) based on comparing changes in waste generation to changes in economic activity.

Table 2 Waste Reduction Rates 2005-2006 (Including Estimated Source Reduction)			
	2005	2006	2010 Milestone
Total Waste Reduction	58%	60%	70%
MSW Waste Reduction	42%	45%	60%
Non-MSW Waste Reduction	87%	86%	88%

Recycling Rates

The total recycling rate held steady from 2005 to 2006, with increased MSW recycling but decreased C&D recycling.

Table 3 Recycling Rates 2005-2006		
	2005	2006
Total Recycling	47%	47%
MSW Recycling	36%	37%
C&D Recycling	70%	66%

Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Management

Generation of C&D debris decreased by 450,000 tons in 2006, or 9% less than in 2005. C&D disposal increased slightly in 2006, while recycling and other diversion of C&D decreased by 550,000 tons.

	2005	2006
Generated	5,100,000	4,650,000
Disposed	700,000	720,000
In-State	240,000	130,000
Net Export Out-of-State	460,000	590,000
Diverted	4,320,000	3,930,000
C&D Recycled	3,530,000	3,060,000
C&D Other Diversion	930,000	870,000

Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste disposal (MSW and non-MSW) totaled 6.55 million tons in 2006, a reduction of 200,000 tons from 2005 disposal. Net export for disposal also decreased by about 200,000 tons in 2006.

	2005	2006
Total Disposal	6,750,000	6,550,000
Landfilled in State	2,070,000	2,080,000
Combusted in State	3,090,000	3,100,000
Net Exported*	1,580,000	1,370,000

*Top export states include Maine, South Carolina, Ohio, New Hampshire, and New York.

Waste Management Capacity Projections

The 17 operating landfills in Massachusetts reported permitted disposal capacity of 2.5 million tons for 2006. By 2014, landfill capacity is projected to drop to 1.1 million tons, assuming that currently planned expansions are permitted and constructed. How much solid waste Massachusetts will need to ship out-of-state for disposal in the future will depend on how much Massachusetts increases its recycling rate. If the recycling rate remains level at 47%, net export of waste is projected to increase to 4.1 million tons by 2014 (assuming no new in-state disposal capacity). If the recycling rate increases to the goal of 56%, net export is projected to increase to 2.5 million tons.

For More Information

The complete *2006 Solid Waste Data Update*, as well as the *Beyond 2000 Solid Waste Master Plan* and *2006 Revision*, are available on MassDEP's web site at www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/priorities/dswmpu01.htm#swmp.

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