

Characterization of residual materials in the residential sector 2012–2016 results



Municipal characterization of residential residual materials in four segments

Pursuing their long-standing collaboration to develop curbside recycling business intelligence, Éco Entreprises Québec and RECYC-QUÉBEC have undertaken another joint waste characterization study. This edition covers the entire municipal sector and includes four components:

- Residential (2015–2017)
- Away-from-home (2016)
- Industry, commerce and institutions (ICI) (2016)
- Sorting centres (2017)

The province-wide initiative provides a comprehensive profile of the waste handled by municipal curbside recycling programs.

This summary sheet—the first in a series—focuses on curbside recycling programs to collect residential waste. A comprehensive profile of the residential sector, including findings on the materials sent to landfill and organic matter, will be presented in the final study report, which will be drafted in fall 2018.

NEW CHARACTERIZATION OF WASTE IN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTOR: MONITORING TRENDS

The 2015–2017 study to characterize residential waste differs from previous studies in its methodology. Carried out over one year, previous characterizations only provided a snapshot of the situation. The new approach covers a three-year period and will rely on a rolling average average to monitor how the situation evolves and identify trends. More specifically, as new data become available, they will substitute the older data used to calculate the rolling average average.

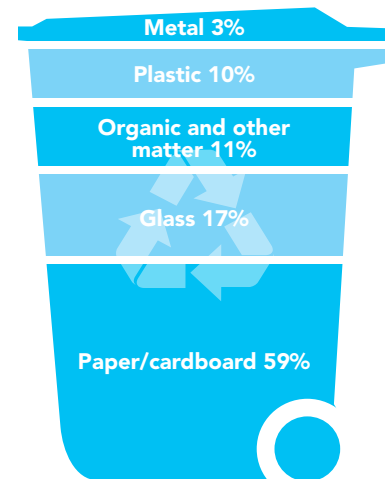
In the first two years of the study (2015 and 2016), published results considered 2012–2013 characterization data, in addition to data collected for the two study years.

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In 2016, a more in-depth analysis of plastic shopping bags was undertaken to determine their rate of reuse, and the study methodology was therefore adapted to reflect the initiative. The results will be available in the final study report.

63.6%
overall
recovery rate

COMPOSITION OF MATERIALS IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING BINS (2012–2016)



RECOVERY RATE BY CLASS OF MATERIALS

Category	Material	2012–2015 recovery rate	2012–2016 recovery rate
Newspapers, printed matter and paper and cardboard containers and packaging	Newspapers	84.0%	86.1%
	Newsprint inserts and circulars	84.0%	85.6%
	Catalogues and bound documents	81.4%	82.5%
	Journals and magazines	85.4%	85.5%
	Directories	86.7%	85.5%
	Paper for general use / Office paper	65.6%	62.8%
	Other printed matter	57.6%	58.6%
	Other printed matter not designated by the compensation plan	56.5%	40.8%
	Books	83.3%	80.5%
	Kraft paper packaging	29.5%	25.9%
	Kraft paper shopping bags	34.1%	36.5%
	Corrugated cardboard	72.2%	76.6%
	Laminated fibre containers	24.5%	25.7%
	Laminated paper	19.1%	23.0%
	Composite fibre containers	44.7%	48.1%
	Molded pulp	51.6%	54.9%
	Boxboard packaging	57.1%	61.1%
	Other paper packaging	49.3%	48.3%
	Gable-top containers	70.5%	75.4%
Aseptic containers	51.4%	54.6%	
Average rate – paper/cardboard		70.4%	71.5%

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RECOVERY RATE BY CLASS OF MATERIALS (CONT'D)

Category	Material	2012–2015 recovery rate	2012–2016 recovery rate
Glass	Non-returnable glass bottles – Alcoholic beverages	85.5%	87.0%
	Non-returnable glass bottles – Non-alcoholic beverages	75.4%	77.1%
	Food containers – Glass	59.5%	60.5%
Average rate - glass		77,5 %	78,8 %
Metal	Non-returnable aluminium cans	55.1%	59.3%
	Other rigid aluminium packaging	42.5%	41.6%
	Aluminium foil and containers	10.2%	10.1%
	Steel aerosol containers and tubes	17.7%	17.7%
	Other metal containers and packaging	57.1%	62.6%
Average rate – metal		44.4%	49.3%
Plastics	Single-use water bottles - #1 plastic	65.3%	70.2%
	Non-returnable beverage bottles – Transparent clear, blue or light green - #1 plastic	67.3%	72.7%
	Non-returnable beverage bottles - Opaque - #1 plastic	53.2%	57.2%
	Bottles and containers with cap – Transparent clear, blue or light green - #1 plastic	46.0%	52.1%
	Bottles and containers with cap - Opaque - #1 plastic	49.2%	51.9%
	Other opaque packaging - #1 plastic	44.5%	47.5%
	Other transparent packaging - #1 plastic	48.7%	53.6%
	Beverage bottles - #2 plastic	58.4%	60.7%
	Bottles and containers with cap - #2 plastic	64.4%	67.6%
	Other packaging - #2 plastic	54.0%	61.5%
	Bottles and containers - #3 plastic	43.8%	52.8%
	Containers and packaging - Rigid - #4 plastic	47.1%	50.5%
	Containers and packaging - Rigid - #5 plastic	39.2%	41.2%
	Pails, buckets and covers - #2 and #5 plastic	33.8%	28.7%
	Other uncoded plastic packaging or #7 plastic (non-PLA)	30.5%	35.8%
	Containers and packaging - Food - #6 expanded plastic	7.6%	9.9%
	Containers and packaging - Protection - #6 expanded plastic	33.0%	33.9%
	Containers and packaging - #6 non-expanded plastic	27.3%	26.4%
	Other laminated and plastic bags and film	13.2%	14.3%
	Stand-up pouches – Plastic	28.6%	33.4%
Packaging film and bags - #2 and #4 plastic	27.3%	31.7%	
Non-degradable plastic shopping bags	13.1%	15.2%	
Other plastic film (non-packaging)	8.4%	7.8%	
Average rate – plastics		31.2%	33.8%
Overall average		62.1%	63.6%

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About Éco Entreprises Québec

Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) is the organization that develops the Schedule of Contributions and collects company contributions, which are then redistributed to finance municipal curbside recycling services in Quebec. ÉEQ also encourages innovation and sharing of best practices in order to optimize the recyclable materials value chain. To do so, ÉEQ cooperates, on the one hand, with companies to reduce quantities of materials at the source and encourage the use of recyclable materials, as well as with municipalities to increase recycling and the economic value of recovered materials.

ÉEQ is a private non-profit organization created by companies that put containers, packaging and printed matter on Quebec's market to represent them. The organization was accredited by RECYC-QUÉBEC in 2005 in accordance with the Environment Quality Act.

HEAD OFFICE

1600 René-Lévesque Blvd. West
Suite 600
Montréal, QC H3H 1P9
Telephone: 514-987-1491
Toll free: 1-877-987-1491
Fax: 514-987-1598

E-MAIL

service@ecoentreprises.qc.ca

WEBSITE

www.ecoentreprises.qc.ca



About RECYC-QUÉBEC

Seeking to make Québec a model of innovative and sustainable management for a waste-free society, RECYC-QUÉBEC is a government corporation created in 1990 that aims to promote, develop and foster the reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling of containers, packaging, materials and products and their conversion with a view to resource conservation.

HEAD OFFICE

300 Saint-Paul Street
Suite 411
Québec, QC G1K 7R1
Telephone: 418-643-0394
Fax: 418-643-6507

MONTRÉAL OFFICE

141 Président-Kennedy Ave.
8th floor
Montréal, QC H2X 1Y4
Telephone: 514-352-5002
Fax: 514-873-6507

INFO-RECYC LINE

1-800-807-0678 (toll free)
514-351-7835 (Montréal area)

E-MAIL

info@recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

WEBSITE

www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

