

Update: The Waste Stream Managed by the Department of Sanitation, 2000-2004

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THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES an update to IBO's February 2001 Background Paper entitled "Overview of the Waste Stream Managed by the NYC Department of Sanitation." That report was a comprehensive account of waste managed by the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) in fiscal years 1992-2000.¹ Here, we present a condensed survey of the same data for fiscal years 2000-2004. Categories listed are consistent with those presented in the recently released Draft Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (CSWMP). As public discussion of the CSWMP proceeds, these data are intended to supplement and inform this conversation.

Summary. A complete description of all DSNY-managed waste from 2000 to 2004 is presented in Figure 1. Curbside and containerized waste is distinguished from other waste handled by the department. Both types of waste are further categorized into disposed (i.e. landfilled or incinerated) and diverted (i.e. recycled) portions. Tonnages projected in the CSWMP for fiscal years 2005 and 2010 are also included in Figure 1. DSNY projects that total waste will grow 0.38 percent in 2005, and just 0.48 percent in the following five years.

The curbside and containerized (C&C) diversion rates for 2003 and 2004 are lower than the previous years' rates primarily due to suspensions in the recycling program in those years. In 2003, facing budgetary shortfalls, the city suspended plastics and glass recycling, maintaining only the paper and metal portions of the C&C recycling program.² Plastics recycling was reintroduced at the start of fiscal year 2004, with glass returning to the recycling stream the following April. DSNY expects a significant increase in the C&C diversion rate in the next several years. The department projects a diversion rate of 19.5 percent this fiscal year, and a climb to well over 25 percent by 2010.

MGP and Paper Diversion. Figure 2 summarizes the history of the C&C recycling program, graphically depicting the effects on paper and MGP tonnages of changes to the program. Significant increases in the recycling diversion rate have occurred when a new material was introduced into the recycling program or when there was an increase in the frequency of recycling collections. Conversely, a pronounced decrease in the recycling diversion rate occurred when materials were suspended from the program. It should be noted that public education programs accompanied each of these program changes.

Capture Rate Comparison: 2000-2003. Figure 3 depicts district capture rates throughout the city in fiscal years 2000 and 2003. The capture rate is the amount of waste put out by residents and institutions for separate recycling collection as a percentage of the total amount of

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potentially recyclable materials accepted by DSNY. Capture rates of the city's 59 sanitation districts (roughly conforming to community boards) vary substantially, ranging from 17.0 percent to 67.2 percent in 2000 and from 14.7 percent to 56.2 percent in 2003.

The average citywide capture rate dropped significantly in 2003 from 2000. The 2000 capture rate (44.2 percent) expresses the amount of paper, metal, glass, and plastic put out for recycling collection as a percentage of the total paper, metal, glass, and plastic that DSNY estimated residents and institutions generated. In 2003, however, only paper and metal were accepted by the department for C&C recycling collection. The 2003 capture rate (31.3 percent) therefore

reflects the amount of paper and metal recycled as a percentage of *only* the paper and metal estimated to be in the waste stream. In short, when DSNY suspended the collection of glass and plastic recyclables, residents and institutions apparently recycled less paper and metal, as well.

END NOTES

¹ IBO's earlier report included preliminary data for fiscal year 2000, as well as projected final figures for that year. Actual final figures for 2000 are presented here, and differ slightly from both the preliminary and the projected data included in our previous report.

² Other recycling programs run by the department also were cut or reduced in those years, most notably yard and leaf composting.

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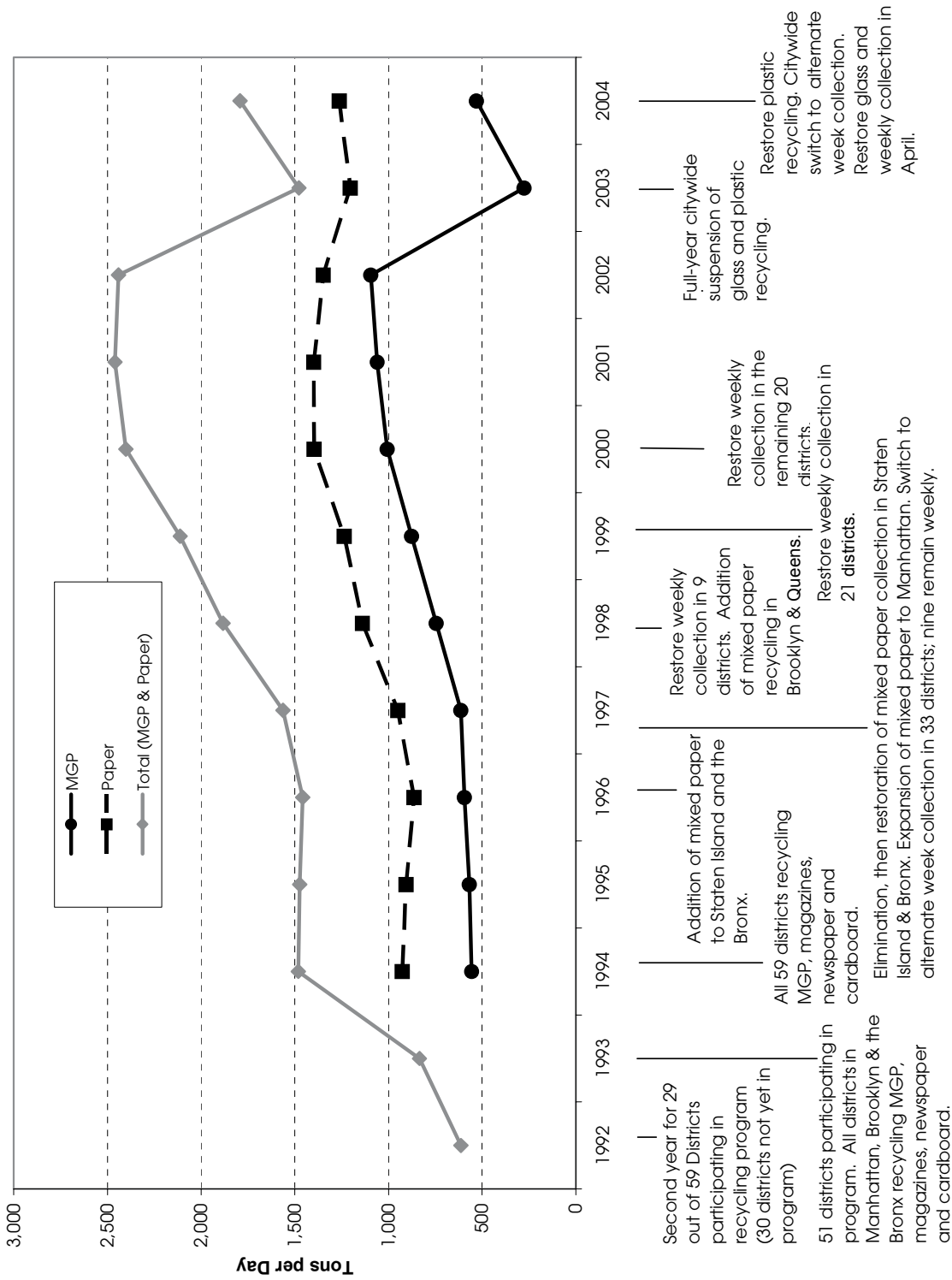
Figure 1. Summary of DSNY-Managed Waste, 2000-2010 (projected)

	Fiscal Year					Projected	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2010
<i>Tons per day</i>							
Curbside & Containerized (C&C)							
Waste Generated	12,629	12,662	12,735	13,247	13,556	13,623	13,707
C&C Waste Disposed	10,110	10,103	10,180	11,729	11,722	10,966	10,066
Containerized	1,213	1,160	1,148	1,235	1,284	1,236	1,102
Curbside	8,897	8,943	9,032	10,494	10,438	9,730	8,964
C&C Waste Diverted (Recycled)	2,519	2,559	2,555	1,518	1,834	2,657	3,641
Total Paper and MGP recycling	2,402	2,459	2,441	1,478	1,793	2,616	3,229
Paper	1,396	1,399	1,347	1,203	1,262	1,458	2,060
MGP	1,006	1,060	1,094	275	531	1,158	1,169
other C&C recycling	117	100	114	40	41	41	412
Housing Authority bulk metal	0	4	0	2	7	7	2
City Agency recycling	12	11	3	0	0	0	0
Self-help metal recycling	14	17	22	17	10	10	17
Food composting (Rikers)	20	11	20	19	19	19	23
Christmas tree composting	8	7	5	0	3	3	8
Yard and leaf composting	62	49	62	0	0	0	166
Materials for the Arts (reuse)	1	1	2	2	2	2	3
New Programs ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	193
C&C Diversion Rate	19.9%	20.2%	20.1%	11.5%	13.5%	19.5%	26.6%
"Other Waste" Generated	5,817	4,748	3,783	3,999	3,887	3,887	3,887
"Other Waste" Disposed	2,169	1,540	944	851	768	768	768
Bulk	21	19	23	25	26	26	26
Lot Cleaning	223	450	97	13	17	17	17
Miscellaneous	22	19	30	64	132	132	132
Street Dirt	223	263	251	206	188	188	188
Other City Department/Paid	1527	662	417	415	404	404	404
Household Waste	153	127	126	128	1	1	1
"Other Waste" Diverted (Recycled)	3,648	3,208	2,839	3,148	3,119	3,119	3,119
Abandoned Vehicles	32	34	46	46	43	43	43
Tires	12	7	14	9	11	11	11
Lot clng bulk metal recy. & dirt reuse	26	19	12	11	7	7	7
DOT asphalt recycling	444	459	592	486	499	499	499
DOT millings recycling	744	542	301	234	379	379	379
Interagency clean fill reuse	1,534	1,422	1,086	1,330	1,473	1,473	1,473
Interagency road material reuse	856	725	788	1,032	707	707	707
"Other Waste" Diversion Rate	62.7%	67.6%	75.0%	78.7%	80.2%	80.2%	80.2%
Total Waste Generated	18,446	17,410	16,518	17,246	17,443	17,510	17,594
Total Waste Diverted (Recycled)	6,167	5,767	5,394	4,666	4,953	5,776	6,760
Total Waste Disposed	12,279	11,643	11,124	12,580	12,490	11,734	10,834
Total Diversion Rate	33.4%	33.1%	32.7%	27.1%	28.4%	33.0%	38.4%

SOURCES: IBO; October 2004 Draft Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan; Department of Sanitation Bureau of Planning and Budget.

NOTES: According to the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, "New programs may include those targeting waste prevention, other plastics recycling, or other streams."

Figure 2. Historical Timeline of the Curbside and Containerized Recycling Program, 1992-2004



SOURCES: IBO; May 2000 Solid Waste Management Plan Draft Modification; Recycling Diversion Reports; Dept. of Sanitation Local Law 19 Tons per Day Recycled spreadsheet (Nov. 2, 2000); October 2004 Draft Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan; Dept of Sanitation Bureau of Planning & Budget.

Figure 3. Recycling Capture Rates Were Lower in FY 2003 Than in FY 2000

