

Solid Waste Management Report Definitions

Taken from *Interim Guidance for Calculating Federal Compliance with Executive Order 13693 Waste Diversion Goals*, Council on Environmental Quality, December 23, 2016.

Composting: The biological decomposition of organic materials such as leaves, grass clippings, brush, paperboard, cardboard, and food services waste (e.g., waste food, food soiled paper, napkins, paper towels, compostable tableware) into a soil amendment or mulch. This includes both on-site and off-site composting.

Construction and demolition (C&D) materials and debris: Waste materials and debris generated during any construction, renovation, demolition, and dismantling of all structures and buildings and associated infrastructure. C&D materials often contain bulky, heavy materials that may include concrete, wood, asphalt, gypsum, metals, bricks, glass, plastics, salvaged building components, and trees, stumps, earth, and rock from clearing sites.

Credit for waste converted to energy recovery (CWC): The smaller number between: total waste converted to energy recovery and 50% of total materials recycled plus organics composted.

Energy Recovery: The conversion of waste materials into usable heat, electricity, or fuel through a variety of processes, including combustion, gasification, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion, and landfill gas (LFG) recovery. This process is often called waste-to-energy (WTE).

Incineration: A waste treatment process involving the combustion of organic substances contained in waste materials without energy recovery. Incineration does not count as waste converted to energy recovery.

Landfill: A discrete area of land or excavation that receives waste.

Landfilling: Disposing of waste materials in a landfill.

Recycling: The series of activities—including collection, separation, and processing—by which products or other materials are recovered from the solid waste stream for use in the form of raw materials for the manufacture of new products, other than fuel for producing heat or power by combustion.

Reuse: Preventing or delaying an existing product or material's entry into the waste collection and disposal system.

Source reduction: Any change in the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials or products, including packaging, to reduce their amount or toxicity before they become municipal solid waste.

Total waste converted (TWC): The total weight of all materials converted to energy recovery.

Total waste diverted (TWD): The total weight of non-hazardous solid and/or C&D waste material diverted to recycling and composting.

Total waste stream (TWS): The total weight of non-hazardous and/or C&D waste material either 1) diverted to recycling and composting, 2) used by energy recovery facilities, or 3) disposed in landfills.

Waste converted to energy recovery: The conversion of waste material into usable heat, electricity, or fuel through processes such as waste-to-energy and anaerobic digestion. This does not include incineration.

Waste diversion rate: The fraction of the total waste diverted (TWD) from landfills, calculated by dividing TWD by TWS.

Waste goal rate (WGR): The percentage of the total waste stream (by weight) that counts towards the 50% diversion goal for E.O. 13693. The WGR is the total waste diverted (TWD) plus credit for waste converted to energy recovery (CWC), divided by the total waste stream (TWS), multiplied by 100 to yield a percentage.