

Focus On Waste

Dynamics of the Waste Stream

The **organic** portion of the waste stream contains **yard waste** and **kitchen waste**, each representing 25% of total waste generated (with geographic fluctuations).

The average waste generated per household in North America is approximately 2,000 lbs per year* and it is estimated that about **50 percent** of the **total waste stream** could be **composted**. **

On average, residents who compost at home can divert a minimum of 650 pounds per year from the solid waste stream. ***

Home composting is not only a viable and useful component of solid waste management but the most cost effective waste management option available.

** EPA Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1995 Update Statistics Canada, 2004 Waste Management Industry Survey U.S. Census Bureau Canada Post Householder Counts*

*** Composting Council of Canada*

****Applied Compost Consulting, CA 1996*

