

The Waste Not Newsletter

TWO-THIRDS OF WHAT RESIDENTS LANDFILL COULD BE DIVERTED

According to the District's 2018 waste characterization study, nearly 63% of what residents currently landfill could have been recycled or composted. This study looked at residential waste loads coming into Rumpke landfill. Thirty 200-pound samples were sorted in June and again in November.

Recyclables made up 31.2% of the waste stream by weight, including special recyclables and items that residents can place in their cart or take to a drop-off. Special recyclables include plastic grocery bags accepted by most large retail stores and electronics with many local outlets. The percent of recyclables in the landfill has decreased since the residential study in 2012, when it was 40.9%. This drop might be attributed to the increase in curbside recycling programs or changes in the recycling stream that make recyclables lighter.



Materials that residents could easily either compost in their backyards or compost through a yard trimmings program (curbside or drop-off) made up 31.7% of the total amount landfilled. The largest percentage of this material was vegetative food, making up 10% of what residents landfill. Compostable material landfilled has increased since the 2012 study from 22.5% in 2012 to 31.7% in 2018.

We published the [full study](#) on our website.