



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

*"To protect and improve  
the health and environment  
of the people of Colorado"*

# NEWS

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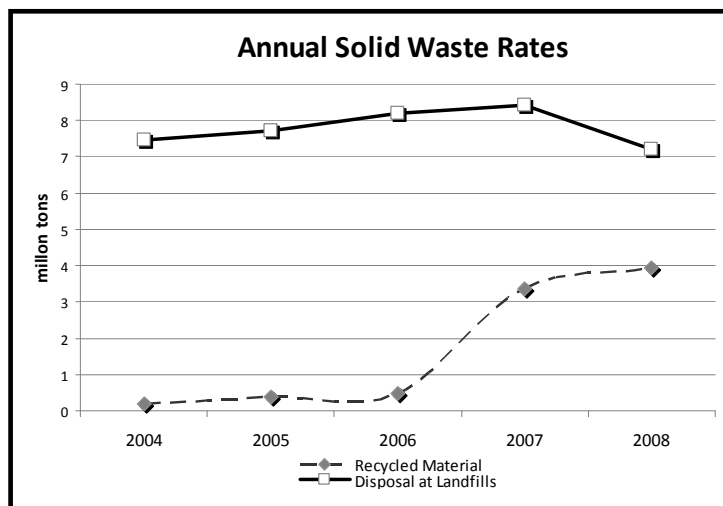
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## State Data Shows Recycling Success in Colorado

DENVER – In 2008, Coloradans diverted 35 percent, or 3.9 million tons, of the total solid waste generated in Colorado from disposal in landfills to recycling or other beneficial uses, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This represents an increase from 28 percent of waste diverted in 2007 through residential, commercial and industrial recycling.

<b>Total Waste Material Generated</b>	<b>11,204,790 tons</b>
<b>Total Diverted Material</b>	<b>3,944,892 tons</b>
<b>Total Solid Waste Disposed</b>	<b>7,259,898 tons</b>
<b>Diversion Rate</b>	<b>35%</b>

The Solid Waste and Material Management Unit of the department's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division reports that recycling in Colorado continues to increase, even with the drop of commodity market prices and material demand following the economic downturn. In addition to recycling more waste in 2008, Colorado sent less waste to landfills for the first time since 2003.



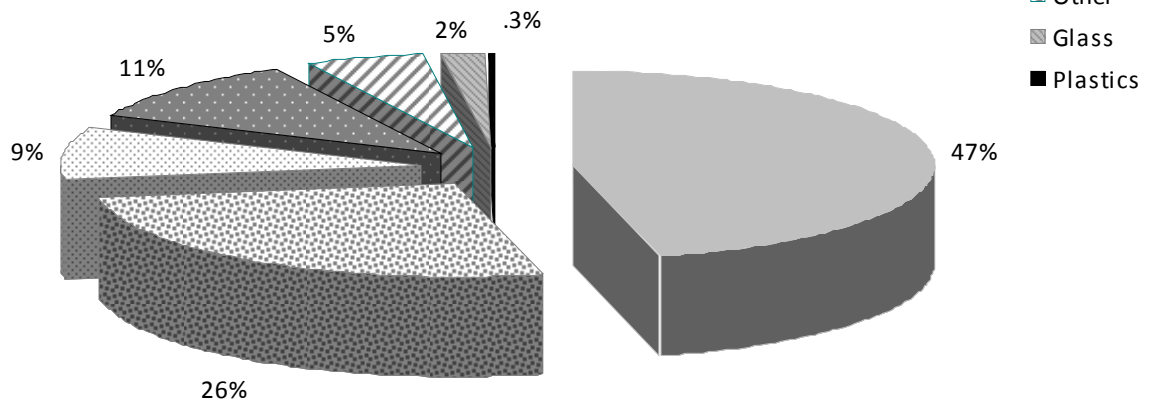
"Colorado residents clearly are committed to recycling," said Charles Johnson, unit leader in solid waste at the department. "We're seeing a significant diversion from throwing these materials into landfills to using them beneficially."

The 2008 recycling data also indicates that residents recycled 20 percent of the municipal solid waste generated, and increased the amount of other materials diverted (aggregates such as asphalt and concrete, oil, construction and demolition waste, compost, etc.) from the 2007 rate of 16 percent.

The majority of diverted materials by weight for 2008 were aggregates followed by metal recycling and composting organic wastes. Paper, glass and plastics totaled more than 11 percent of the entire diversion rate based on tonnage recycled. As noted in the figure below, there is a significant amount of non-municipal solid waste material recycled that often goes unnoticed and without credit.

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## 2008 Total Recycled / Recovered Materials Percent by Weight



The energy savings that can be attributed to recycling in Colorado during 2008 total approximately 35 trillion BTUs – equaling more than 6 million barrels of oil or 288 million gallons of gasoline conserved. Recycling in Colorado saved the equivalent energy that would be needed to power nearly 350,000 average homes for a year.

The total savings by residents recycling in Colorado for the year resulted in a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions equaling 3.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide – the equivalent of removing more than 695,000 average passenger cars from Colorado’s roadways for a year.

For more information about the “Annual Recycling Report for Calendar Year 2008,” and where to recycle in Colorado, visit the Recycle4Colorado Web page at <http://recycle4colorado.info>.