

Executive Summary

Many local governments are considering implementing residential collection of organics or expanding existing programs, either by volume or types of material collected. Typical reasons cited are to increase the overall waste diversion rate from landfilling or incineration, or to address specific concerns about impacts of disposal, notably global warming.

To provide information for these communities, this report examines data from the 121 existing Residential Organics Programs (ROP) in the United States and Canada. The study utilized a survey, site visits, and interviews. The report focuses on (1) the economics of various options for collection and processing, (2) the connections among the various program components, (3) operational implications of the volume of material and categories of organics that are collected, and (4) changes needed to increase composting capacity in communities across North America.

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Composting Report

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