



Goal 5: Environmental Protection and Enhancement

Desired Community Condition: Solid wastes are produced no faster than natural systems and technology can process them.



Indicator: **Waste Generated per Household**

Progress Rating: Local Trend: STABLE National Comparison: WORSE

Indicator Description

This indicator represents the waste stream produced by our community by measuring tons of solid waste generated per household per year, collected by the City of Albuquerque in FY/01, FY/02, and FY/03. It compares the FY/02 data with other local governments. Municipal solid waste (MSW) is household, commercial, and industrial material that is discarded and not recycled. Waste per household is the MSW divided by the number of households served. A small amount of waste (less than 5%) is collected by other services. Solid waste data have been managed by different information systems that make it difficult to present a longer time series of data.

Why is this indicator important?

All landfills are heavily regulated and require large land areas for waste burial, access, and buffer zones. Generating, collecting, transporting, and burying trash require labor and other resources. Old, former landfills in Albuquerque have produced groundwater contamination and methane - a greenhouse gas. Although modern landfills are much better constructed, they can still cause contamination problems as the trash in them decomposes. When it opened in 1990, the life of Cerro Colorado was expected to be 80 years, but recent calculations suggest that at current levels of use, its remaining life expectancy is 35 years or until 2040.

Landfill life can be extended and the need for expensive new landfills postponed by decreasing the waste generated and increasing waste diverted from the landfill and recycled. This occurs either because residents and businesses reduce the amount of trash they discard (often by choosing to purchase less or choosing items with less packaging) or by recycling as much of the waste generated as possible.

Data Sources

City of Albuquerque Solid Waste Management Department; International City County Management Association (ICMA) Comparative Performance Measurement Center, 2002

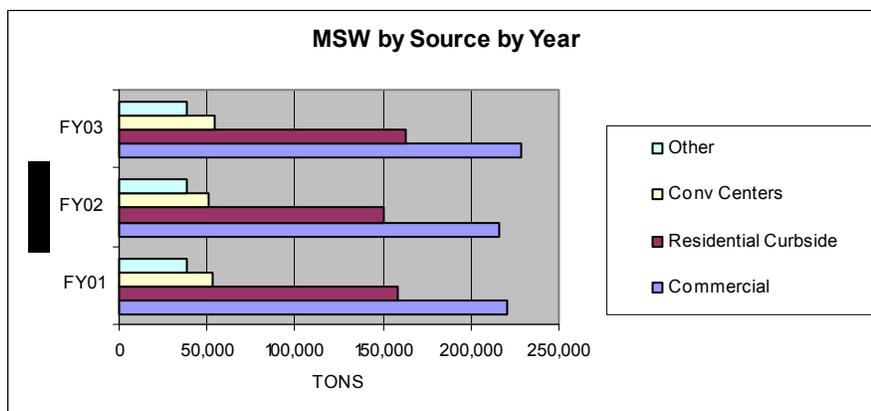
What can we tell from the data?

- The annual waste handled by the Albuquerque Solid Waste Management Department in 2003, including household, commercial, and industrial waste, was 484,223 tons. On a per household account basis, this translates to 3.18 tons (6,360 pounds) per household per year or about 122 pounds of total waste per household per week. This is less than the amount in 2001, but more than the amount in 2002. Albuquerque ranked ninth of eleven cities in rate of waste generated. Only a few of these cities collect commercial accounts to the extent that Albuquerque does.

- Commercial waste collected represented about 47% and residential waste collected 33.5% of the total.
- Total wastes in 2001 include used tires, which fell off significantly in subsequent years, due to their use as landfill ground cover and increased tire tipping fees.

Municipal Solid Waste Sources and Rates per Household and per Person

Fiscal Year	Commercial	Residential Curbside	Convenience Centers Disposal	Other	Total MSW	Residential Households	Waste per Household	ABQ Population	Total Waste per Capita
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons		tons		tons
FY01	220,082	157,925	52,699	37,930	468,636	141,837	3.30	444,993	1.05
FY02	216,549	150,087	51,305	38,382	456,323	146,649	3.11	447,478	1.02
FY03	228,324	162,433	54,499	38,967	484,223	152,107	3.18	461,422	1.05



Comparison among Cities of Waste Generated per Account

Jurisdiction	Pop Served	Number residential refuse collection accounts	# non-residential refuse collection accounts	Total refuse collection accounts served	Tons of refuse collected from residential and non-residential accts	Average tons collected per individual account-all accounts
Austin	667,705	144,075	2,415	146,490	120,926	0.83
Salt Lake City	181,743	42,113	4,915	47,028	58,268	1.24
Corpus Christi	276,857	69,378	5,701	75,079	130,000	1.73
Long Beach	473,100	112,078	6,139	118,217	221,179	1.87
Tucson	507,085	135,000	3,948	138,948	283,888	2.04
Tallahassee	156,703	43,026	17,495	60,521	136,847	2.26
Mesa	431,874	105,000	1,947	106,947	246,486	2.30
Orlando	194,913	45,540	7,037	52,577	137,548	2.62
Albuquerque	447,478	146,649	12,000	158,649	459,708	2.90
Las Cruces	73,539	20,676	2,540	23,216	71,623	3.09
Laredo	193,117	46,500	1,500	48,000	182,000	3.79