



Goal 5: Environmental Protection and Enhancement

Desired Community Condition: Residents participate in caring for the environment and conserving natural resources.



Indicator: **Wastes Diverted from the Landfill – Recycling Tons**

Progress Rating: **Local Trend: NEGATIVE** **National Comparison: SIMILAR**

Indicator Description

This indicator shows the total tons of wastes diverted from the City landfill by recycling, as well as the categories of recyclables. Data on diversion are provided from FY/01 through FY/03. Rates of recycling have been computed for this period by year by dividing the total annual diverted tonnage by the number of residential households. This recycling per household rate is compared to other cities around the country. In late FY/02 the City switched its curbside recycling frequency from weekly to biweekly. This change is fully manifested in the FY/03 data.

Why is this indicator important?

Recycling is important because it helps conserve resources and lessens demands placed on the environment by waste disposal, which can contaminate air and water. Recycling saves resources by supplying paper, plastic, aluminum, and greenwaste for reprocessing. For example, the processing of raw materials uses enormous amounts of energy - aluminum extraction creates up to four tons of waste mineral material for every ton of aluminum. This is an 'unsustainable' activity – something that prevents future generations from enjoying the benefits of the earth's resources. Recycling aluminum saves energy and raw materials and minimizes the environmental impact of aluminum extraction. Recycling succeeds only through the participation and support of residents. This indicator aggregates the extent to which Albuquerque residents are taking concrete actions to participate in caring for the environment.

Data Sources

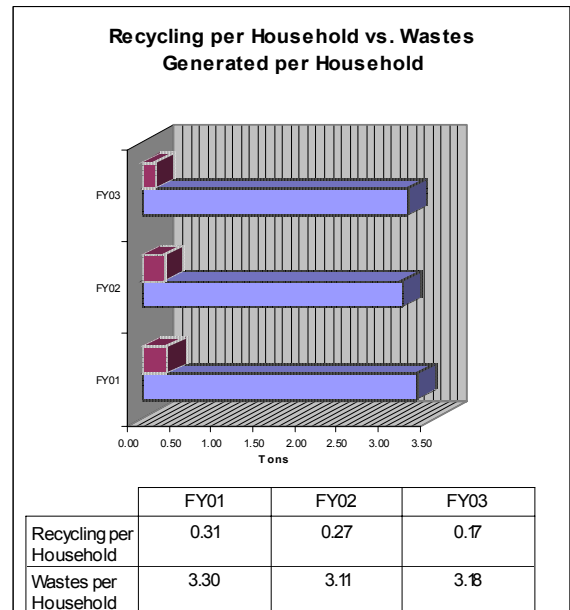
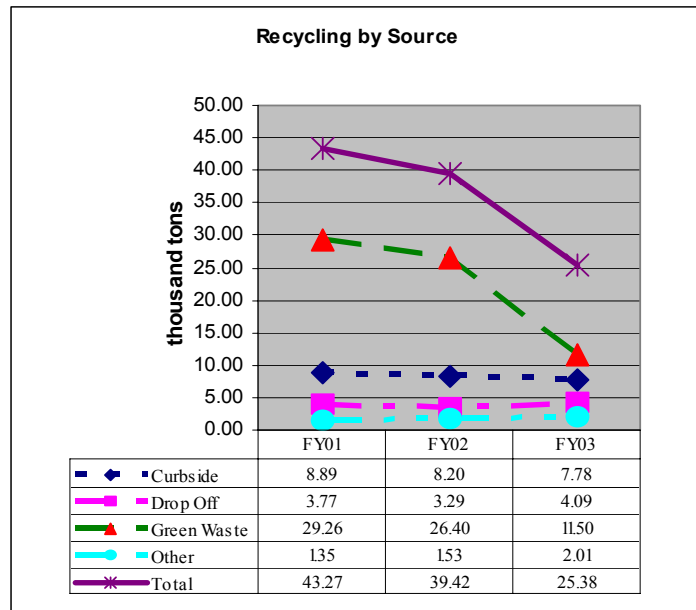
City of Albuquerque Solid Waste Management Department; International City County Management Association (ICMA) Comparative Performance Measurement Center, 2002

What can we tell from the data?

- In FY/02 Albuquerque reached its peak in recycling per household. Recycling dropped off in 2003 when green waste recycling dropped significantly. Curbside reduction was much less significant.
- Greenwaste recycling, which is captured at the curbside, at convenience centers, and through special pick ups, has exceeded the curbside recycling of papers, cardboard, and metals, even in FY/03.
- Albuquerque ranked third of ten similar sized cities in recycling rate per household in FY/02. Some of these cities are in pay-as-you-throw states, which have the effect of rewarding recycling financially. Albuquerque households recycle at a rate of less than 6% of wastes disposed per household.

Sources and Rates of Recycling in Albuquerque

Fiscal Year	Curbside Recycling K tons	Drop Off Recycling K tons	Greenwaste Recycling K tons	Other K tons	SWMD Recycling K tons	Residential Households 000's	Recycling per Household tons	ABQ Population 000's	Recycling per Capita tons
FY01	8.89	3.77	29.26	1.35	43.27	141.837	0.305	444.993	0.097
FY02	8.20	3.29	26.40	1.53	39.42	146.649	0.269	447.478	0.088
FY03	7.78	4.09	11.50	2.01	25.38	152.107	0.167	461.422	0.055



2002 Comparison of Average Tons of Recyclable Material Collected per Account				
Jurisdiction	Pop. Served	# Recycling Accounts	Tons Recycling Collected	Ave. Tons Recyclable Material Collected per Account
Virginia Beach, VA	425,257	120,000	70,646	0.589
Mesa, AZ	431,874	105,245	32,877	0.312
Albuquerque, NM FY/02	447,478	146,649	39,420	0.269
Austin, TX	667,705	146,198	30,261	0.207
MEAN of these Jurisdictions				0.190
Albuquerque, NM FY/03	461,422	152,107	25,380	0.167
Long Beach, CA	473,100	111,932	16,132	0.144
Des Moines, IA	198,682	62,700	6,400	0.102
Richmond, VA	197,790	63,864	6,366	0.100
Corpus Christi, TX	276,857	75,079	5,900	0.079
Oklahoma City, OK	510,800	149,638	9,594	0.064
Dayton, OH	166,179	67,250	3,543	0.053