

Glossary of Abbreviations and Definitions

The first time that a term or abbreviation defined in the glossary appears in the text, it is printed in bold.

1989/1990 WCS The waste characterization study conducted by the New York City Department of Sanitation in 1989 and 1990.

Borough The five political/geographic areas of New York City: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island.

Bulk Item As defined for the NYC WCS, any item of waste that will not fit into a 96-gallon container.

BWPRR Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling

C&D An abbreviation of construction and demolition debris, a material group in the NYC WCS.

California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) A California state agency designated to oversee, manage, and track California's waste: one of several agencies within the CA EPA

Canadian Plastics Industry Association (CPIA) A trade organization for advancing the Canadian Plastics industry in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

Capture Rate The amount of materials set out for residential recycling collection as a percentage of designated recyclable materials in both recycling and refuse streams. This ratio measures how much of the targeted materials are actually being recycled, which is a measure of how successfully such materials are recycled.

Census Tracts Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county. New York City includes 2,217 census tracts, each containing on average about 4,000 inhabitants.

The City New York City

Community District The 59 areas into which New York City is organized for planning and service delivery purposes. These areas are co-terminus with Sanitation Districts.

Consumers Union (CU) A national nonprofit organization whose mission is to work for a "fair, just, and safe marketplace for all consumers...." CU publishes several reports and newsletters and performs independent research.

Contamination Rate The percentage of material that is found in the containers set out for residential recycling collection that is not accepted in New York City's curbside recycling program.

Citywide Recycling Advisory Board (CRAB) A group of interested individuals, non-profit organizations, grassroots community groups, and businesses that serves to advise local elected officials and communities on issues related to recycling in New York City.

The information herein has been compiled, analyzed, and reported by the DSNY Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, using data collected by its consultant R.W. Beck. These highlights do not substitute for a thorough review of R.W. Beck's Final Report, which contains more detailed data. Some percentages may not total exactly due to rounding.

2004-05 NYC Residential and Street Basket Waste Characterization Study

Curbside Collection The collection of residential refuse or recycling in bins or bags set out in proximity to residences that generate these types of waste. DSNY provides curbside refuse collection to all residents two or three times per week and recycling curbside collection once per week.

Density/Income Strata Divisions of New York City's population based on median housing density and median household income.

Deposit (containers) Beverage containers for which, under the New York State Redeemable Container Law, the purchaser is required to pay a deposit. The deposit may be redeemed when the empty containers are returned to a retailer or authorized redemption center.

Diversions Rate The amount of materials set out for recycling collection as a percentage of the total residential waste collected.

DSNY Department of Sanitation of New York City

Dual-bin Trucks DSNY collection trucks with two compartments used for the simultaneous collection of curbside residential Paper and MGP.

Durable An item of residential waste that is not putrescible, packaging, or unfinished material, but is a durable object, such as an appliance, piece of furniture, or other household item.

Film (Plastic) A category of flexible plastic materials used for packaging, trash bags and other applications, typically made of polyethylene or polypropylene.

HDPE An abbreviation for high density polyethylene; a plastic denoted by a #2 inside the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol.

H/H An abbreviation for the high housing density and high income stratum.

H/L An abbreviation for the high housing density and low income stratum.

H/M An abbreviation for the high housing density and medium income stratum.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) One of the material sort groups in the NYC WCS; a common category of materials that include flammable or caustic liquids, gases, or solids; fluorescent tubing; car batteries; and any other products that contain or create toxins that are then disposed of in the residential waste stream.

Illegally Disposed Street Basket Waste Residential or commercial waste that is illegally disposed of in street baskets.

L/H An abbreviation for the low housing density and high income stratum.

L/M An abbreviation for the low housing density and medium income stratum.

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LDPE An abbreviation for low density polyethylene, a plastic denoted by #4 inside the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol.

M/H An abbreviation for the medium housing density and high income stratum.

M/L An abbreviation for the medium housing density and low income stratum.

M/M An abbreviation for the medium housing density and medium income stratum.

Material Categories The classification of all materials in the waste stream into categories for sorting, weighing, and counting purposes. In the NYC WCS, 91 Material Categories were used to characterize the City's waste stream.

Material Groups Groupings of material categories used to simplify or generalize results. The Material Groups used in the NYC WCS are: Paper, Plastic, Glass, Metal, Organics, Appliances/Electronics, Construction and Demolition Debris, Miscellaneous Inorganics, and Household Hazardous Waste.

Mean The sum of the values of all observations divided by the number of observations. In analyzing the composition of samples of waste, refuse, recycling, and the contents of street baskets, the best estimate of the true percentage of each material in the population is the Mean percentage of that material from all the samples.

Median Relating to or constituting the middle value in a distribution, or set, of values.

MGP An abbreviation for Metal, Glass, and Plastic. One of the two streams of recycling collected by the DSNY consisting of plastic bottles and jugs; glass bottles and jars; metal cans and household objects; aluminum foil, trays and cans, and gable top beverage cartons. The other stream of recycling collected by DSNY is Paper.

Mixed Cullet Broken glass in small pieces (under 3" x 3") of mixed color.

Moisture and Particulate Test A laboratory test that determines the amount of moisture in a sample of material and determines the amount of fugitive or foreign material adhering to the sample.

Multiserve (containers) Beverage containers with a capacity of more than 24 ounces of liquid.

Multi-Unit Apartment Study or Multi-Unit Study (MUS) The component of the 2004/2005 waste characterization study that examined the correlation between the physical and operational characteristics of multi-unit buildings (those buildings with 6 or more residential units) and recycling success.

Non-deposit (containers) Beverage containers which are not designated as deposit containers under the New York State Redeemable Container Law.

NYC New York City

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2004-05 NYC Residential and Street Basket Waste Characterization Study

NYC WCS New York City Waste Characterization Study

New York State Bottle Bill The state legislation that established deposits for beverage containers to reduce littering.

Observation The value(s) associated with a given sampling unit.

OCC An abbreviation for old corrugated cardboard, one of the material categories in the PWCS and the NYC WCS.

ONP An abbreviation for old newspaper, one of the material categories in the PWCS and the NYC WCS.

Paper The second of two streams of recyclable materials collected by DSNY consisting of newspapers; magazines; catalogues; junk mail; white office paper; mixed paper; and gray and corrugated cardboard/paperboard. The other stream is Metals/Glass/Plastic (MGP).

PET An abbreviation for polyethylene terephthalate, a plastic denoted by #1 inside the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol.

Population (Statistics) The entire aggregation of items from which a sample can be drawn. In the NYC WCS, the population was all of the residential waste collected at the curb by DSNY.

PP An abbreviation for polyethylene propylene, a plastic denoted by #5 inside the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol.

Potential Deposit Beverage Containers Containers which are not currently designated as deposit containers under the New York State Redeemable Container Law, but which may be designated in future legislation.

PS An abbreviation for polystyrene, a plastic denoted by #6 inside the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol.

Pure Routes DSNY Refuse and Recycling collection routes that include only residences from a single housing density and income stratum.

Putrescible Describes refuse comprised of a combination of materials and matter that are in the process of decomposing or otherwise breaking down.

PWCS The preliminary waste characterization study conducted by the New York City Department of Sanitation in 2004.

PVC An abbreviation for polyvinyl chloride, a plastic denoted by #3 inside the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol.

Recycling The act of recovering items or materials that might have been discarded and, usually after processing, returning them to the stream of commerce; the materials that are set out for recycling collection.

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Recycling Subindicators A set of abbreviations used to indicate: i) those materials designated for recycling under New York City's current curbside recycling program during the study period ("R"); ii) those materials for which markets exist and which could be added to a future New York City curbside program ("PR"); and iii) those materials that are not designated for recycling under New York City's curbside recycling program because established or emerging markets do not presently exist ("NR").

Refuse Items or materials that are discarded and disposed.

Residential Study The component of the 2004/2005 waste characterization study that addressed the generation and composition of the curbside residential waste.

Reuse Alliance (RA) A member driven, nonprofit organization of, and for, reuse enterprises in and around the NYC metropolitan area.

R. W. Beck The consultant company that performed the 2004-05 NYC Residential and Street Basket WCS.

Sample A portion of the entire universe of waste used to calculate the composition of the waste as a whole.

Sample Acquisition, or Sampling The procedure for selecting Samples from the universe of waste.

Sample Weight The weight of a sampling. In the WCS, each refuse sample weighed between 200 and 300 pounds.

Sampling Unit A single elementary unit used as the basis for estimating the composition of the population.

Sanitation District (District, Community District) The 59 areas within New York City used by the Department of Sanitation to administer the City's waste management program. These districts are co-terminus, or identical, to the 59 Community Districts.

Section Each of the City's 59 Sanitation Districts is divided into 3 to 5 Sanitation District Sections within which routes are designed and tonnage data is collected daily.

Single-serve (containers) Beverage containers with a capacity of less than 24 ounces of liquid.

Society of Plastics Industries (SPI) A trade association representing all plastics manufacturing industry levels.

Sort Categories The 91 different categories into which samples of NYC's residential waste and recycling samples were sorted.

Sorting The procedure for separating a heterogeneous amount of material, such as a 200 pound sampling unit of refuse, into its constituent material categories.

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Sorting Period The days or weeks when the sampling and sorting of waste took place during the NYC WCS.

Stream A term used to describe the flow of the several different residential waste categories utilized to manage NYC's waste, ie: Refuse stream, Paper stream, MGP stream.

Street Basket Waste Study The component of the 2004/2005 waste characterization study that addressed the composition of the street basket waste.

Subsorts The process of sorting a particular material into smaller constituent components (e.g. drinking containers were sub-sorted into deposit and non-deposit containers).

Waste The combination of Refuse and Recycling.

Waste Generation The rate at which waste is set out for collection, typically reported in terms of amounts per generator per time period (e.g. pounds per capita per week).

WCS The waste characterization study conducted over four seasons by the New York City Department of Sanitation in 2004 and 2005.

Waste Prevention Coalition A volunteer organization that works to promote Waste Prevention techniques in New York City.

Weighting A mathematical calculation in which a factor is assigned to a group of numbers in order to make each number's effect on the whole relative to the percentage of the whole each number represents.

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