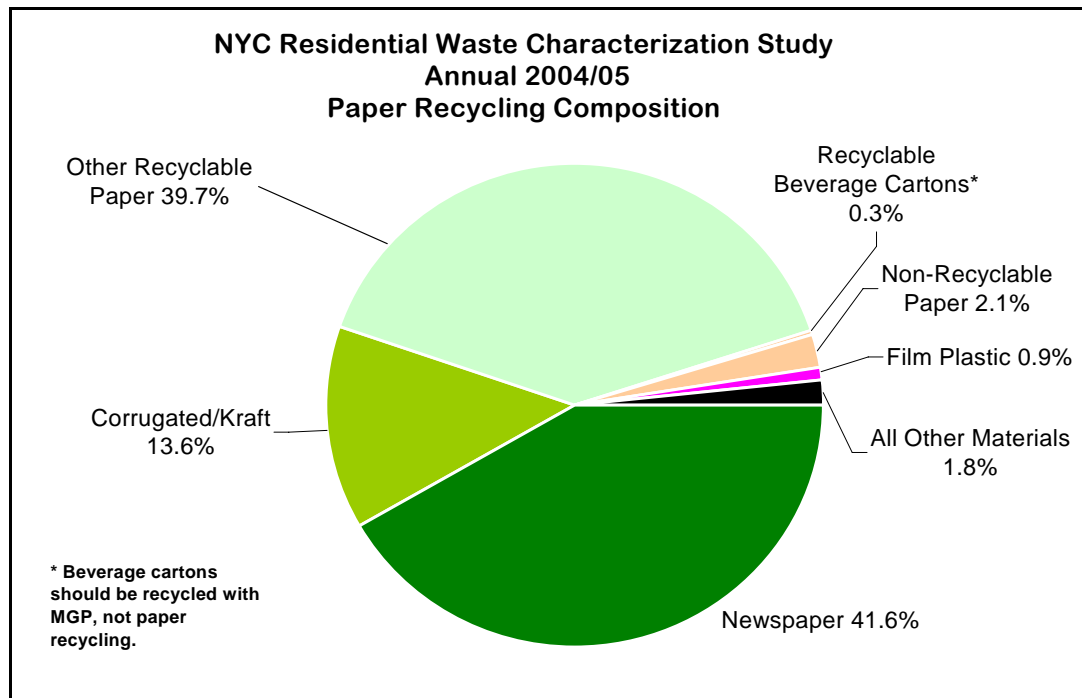


RESIDENTIAL PAPER RECYCLING

Paper recycling, including newspaper, cardboard, magazines, and white/colored mixed paper, is one of two recycling streams that New York City residents are required to separate. On average, New Yorkers set out about 6,994 tons of paper recycling each week. That's about 4.2 pounds per week for each household.

COMPOSITION

Around 95% of what is set out as paper recycling consists of accepted materials. The small amounts of other materials include non-recyclable paper such as tissues, soiled napkins, and paper plates; as well as plastic bags (film plastic).



CAPTURE RATE

The capture rate measures how much of a material that is designated for recycling is making its way into the recycling bin (as opposed to being thrown out improperly). It is calculated as: tons of recycled material collected ÷ total tons of designated recyclables in waste (refuse + recycling).

The overall paper recycling capture rate is around 45% citywide, annually. In other words, New Yorkers are recycling about 45% of the designated paper recyclables they should.

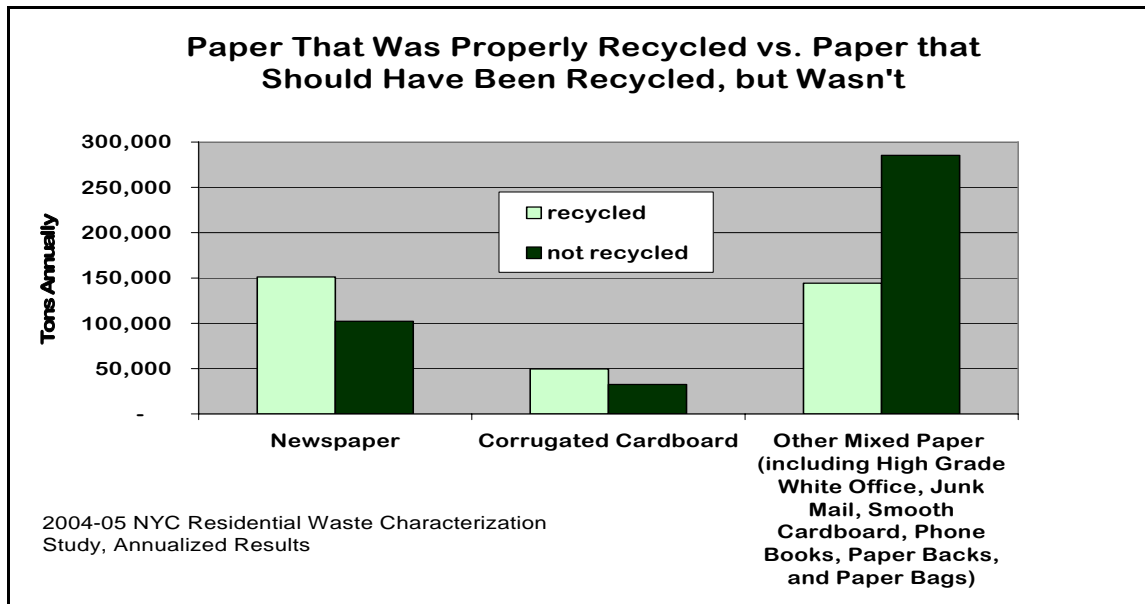
What is getting "captured" least and most successfully? As the chart below shows, newspaper and corrugated cardboard (OCC) are being captured at a rate of 60%. But mixed paper, along with other categories of recyclable paper, is being captured at lower rates.

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

Material	Capture Rate
Newspaper	60%
Corrugated Cardboard/Kraft Paper	60%
Other Mixed Paper (including High Grade White Office, Junk Mail, Smooth Cardboard, Phone Books, Paper Backs, and Paper Bags)	34%

More of the materials listed in the table above as “Other Mixed Paper” are ending up in the trash than in the recycling bin. As shown below, this adds up to a significant tonnage figure over the year. Focusing on increasing mixed paper recycling is a clear next step for recycling public education and outreach.



As you read on:

For seasonal variations in paper, consult the “Citywide Results Across Seasons” tables of the Final Report for paper recycling, refuse, and waste. The paper recycling tables will show what is being set out properly; the refuse tables will show you what kinds of paper are being mistakenly thrown out in the trash; and the waste tables will give you the “big picture” about how much paper is “out there” in NYC’s residential waste – including recyclable paper and nonrecyclable paper such as tissues, paper cups and plates, and coated papers.

For data specific to income and density strata, look at the “Density and Income Tables” for those same streams.

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