

## Colorado diversion data, 2023

2023 Diversion rates	2023 Totals	Diversion by region	Diversion composition	Material diversion trends	Total generation
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2023:

**Municipal solid waste (MSW) diversion rate: 15.5%**

**Total diversion rate: 33.9%**

Please **navigate the tabs above** for additional information on recycling in Colorado including:

- Regional MSW diversion rates,
- Material composition of recycling and composting,
- Annual trends of diverted materials, and
- Per capita generation rates.

The “**MSW diversion rate**” includes the percentage of materials recycled from residential and commercial sources of solid waste, recyclables and compostable materials.

The “**Total diversion rate**” is broader in scope as it consists of waste and materials generated by the industrial sector, in addition to MSW, including construction and demolition (C&D) debris, manufacturing waste, energy production waste and other non-hazardous industrial wastes.

For questions about this year's data, please contact Jace Driver at [jace.driver@state.co.us](mailto:jace.driver@state.co.us).

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## 2023 Recycling

Material	
Cardboard	309,095
Commingled (mixed) recyc..	2,998
Electronics	11,717
Glass containers	48,706
Metal containers	11,474
Other (batteries, bulbs, pa..	5,157
Paper	83,352
Plastics (#1-7)	29,767
Textiles (carpet, clothing)	15,557
Tires	16,597
White goods/ferrous, nonf..	95,775
Yard trimmings/ wood (mu..	105,922
Total	736,117

## 2023 MSW per capita rates

MSW type	
MSW disposal (landfill)	5.40
MSW diversion (recycling + composting)	1.00
MSW generation	6.40

## 2023 Industrial diversion totals

Industrial diversion by type	
Asphalt, concrete, aggregate	1,715,395
Coal combustion residuals	211,212
Compost feedstock (Industrial, Ag.)	156,769
Construction & demolition debris	15,830
Land application of organics (beneficial use)	1,801,935
Tires (energy recovery)	45,616
Used oil, antifreeze	25,653
Total	3,972,410

## 2023 Composting

Material	
Food scraps	184,741
Yard trimmings/wood	143,640
Total	328,381

## 2023 MSW

MSW Diversion Rate: 15.5%

MSW category	
MSW disposal (landfill)	5,805,900
MSW diversion (recycling + composting)	1,064,498
MSW generation	6,870,398

## 2023 diversion totals

Total Diversion Rate: 33.9%

2023 Colorado Totals	
Total disposal (Industrial waste + MSW)	9,814,698
Total diversion (Industrial + MSW diversion)	5,036,908
Total	14,851,606

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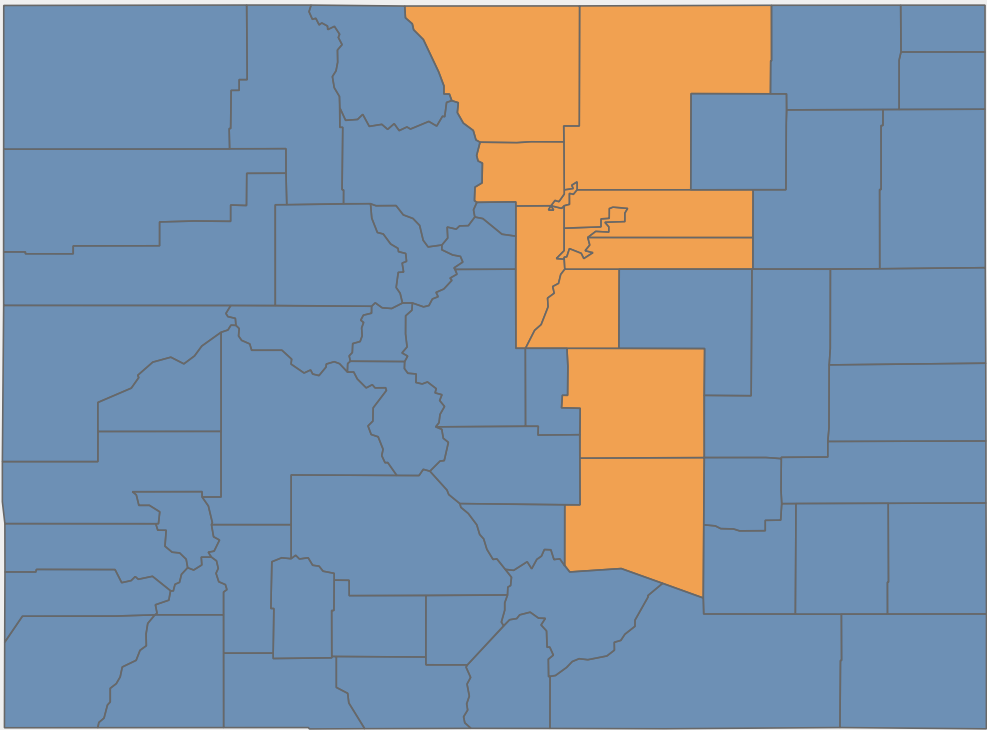
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## Regional diversion rates

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Region	2026 Diversion Goals	MSW Disposal	MSW diversion	Recycling (tons)	Composting (tons)	2023 Diversion Rate
Front Range Region	39%	4,988,553	991,173	714,067	283,106	16.70%
Greater Colorado Region	13%	815,449	136,017	90,742	45,275	14.30%
Statewide	35%	5,805,900	1,064,498	736,117	328,381	15.50%

## Regions and diversion/disposal in tons



Highlight county  
All

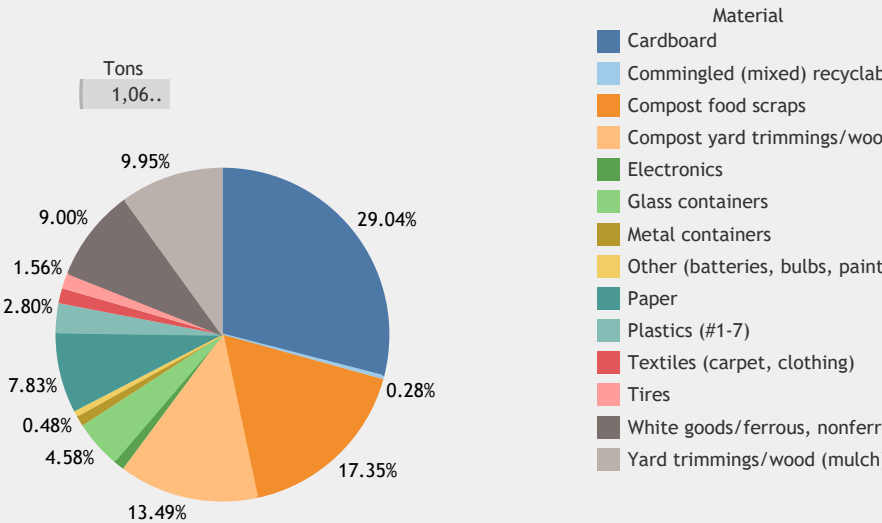
# Colorado diversion data, 2023

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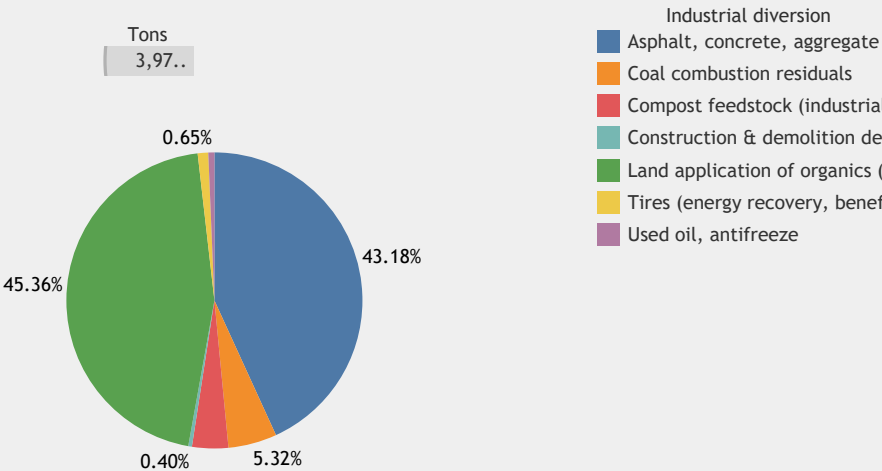
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## MSW materials diversion: 2023 composition



## Industrial materials diversion: 2023 composition



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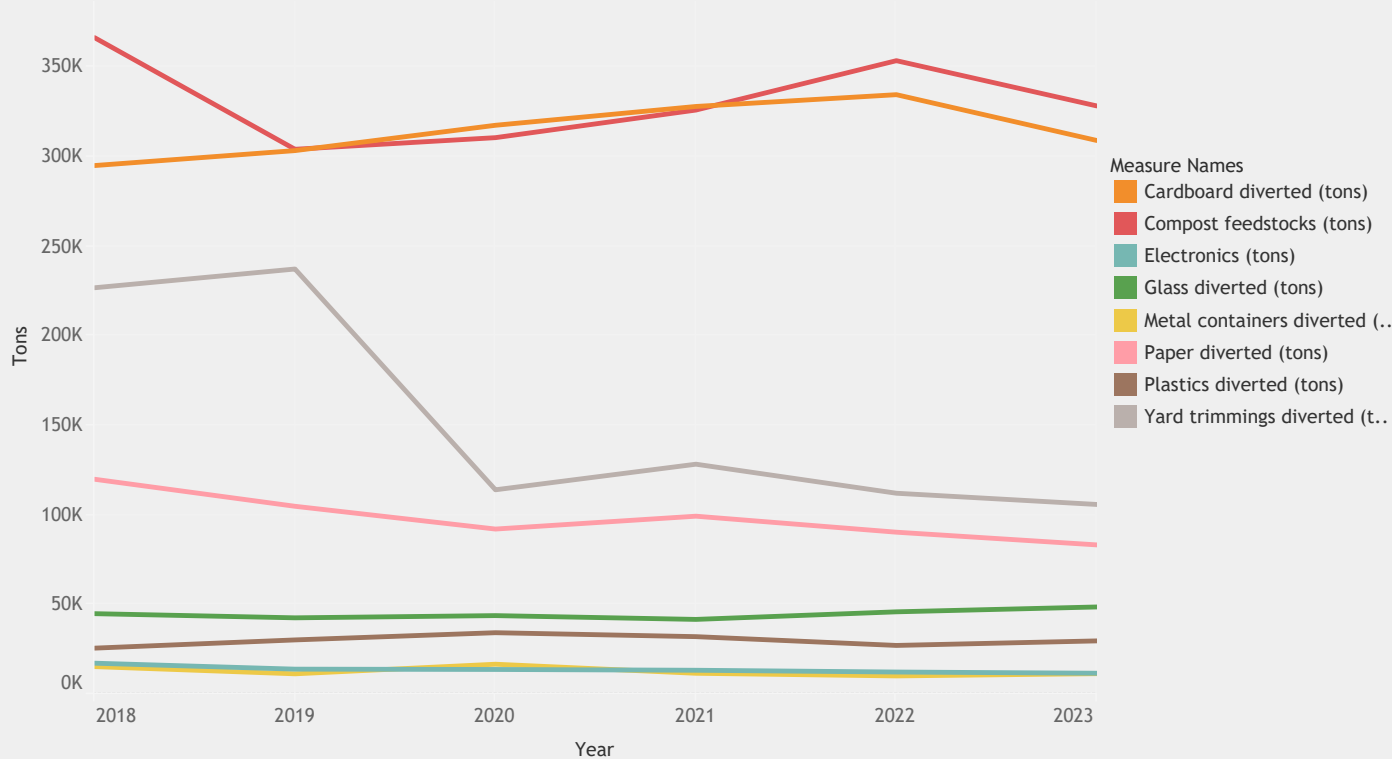
2023 Total s	Diversion by region	Diversion composition	Material diversion trends	Total generation	State comparison	Greenho use gas
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	Year					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cardboard diverted (tons)	295,112	303,461	317,595	328,095	334,679	309,095
Compost feedstocks (tons)	366,525	304,202	310,686	326,096	353,660	328,381
Electronics (tons)	17,322	13,995	13,818	13,377	12,390	11,717
Glass diverted (tons)	44,965	42,646	43,880	41,764	45,996	48,706
Metal containers diverted (tons)	15,414	11,389	16,745	11,690	10,215	11,474
Paper diverted (tons)	120,006	104,910	92,200	99,381	90,447	83,352

## Material diversion trends



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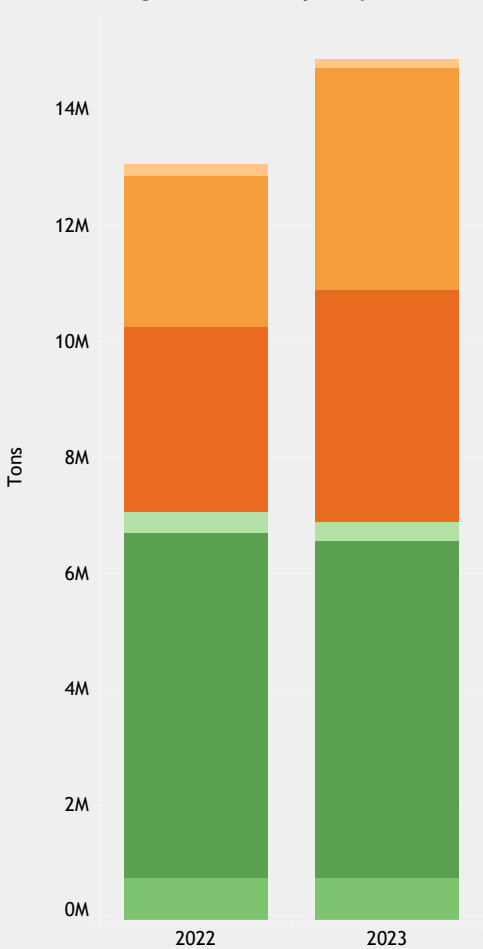
Diversion by region	Diversion composition	Material diversion trends	Total generation	State comparison	Greenhouse gas
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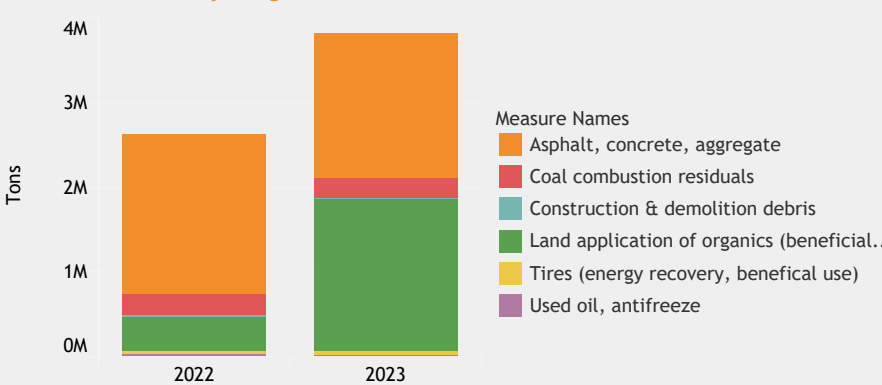
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Total 2023 generation: 14,851,606 tons

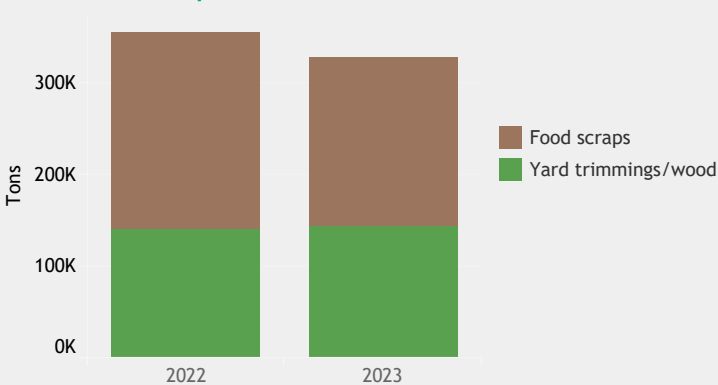
Total generation per year



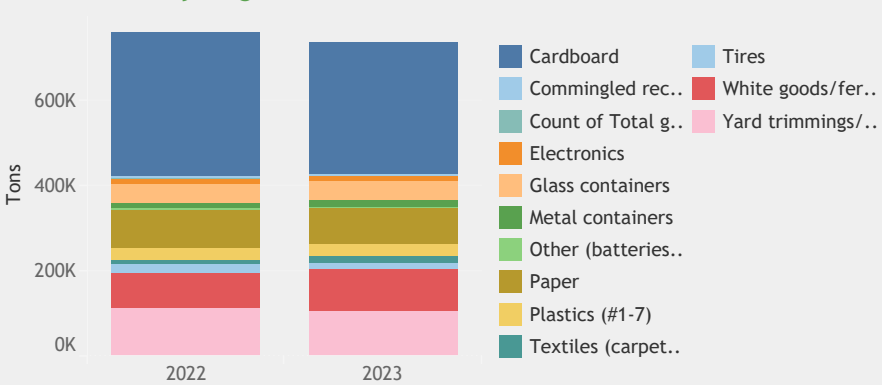
Industrial recycling breakdown



MSW compost breakdown



MSW recycling breakdown



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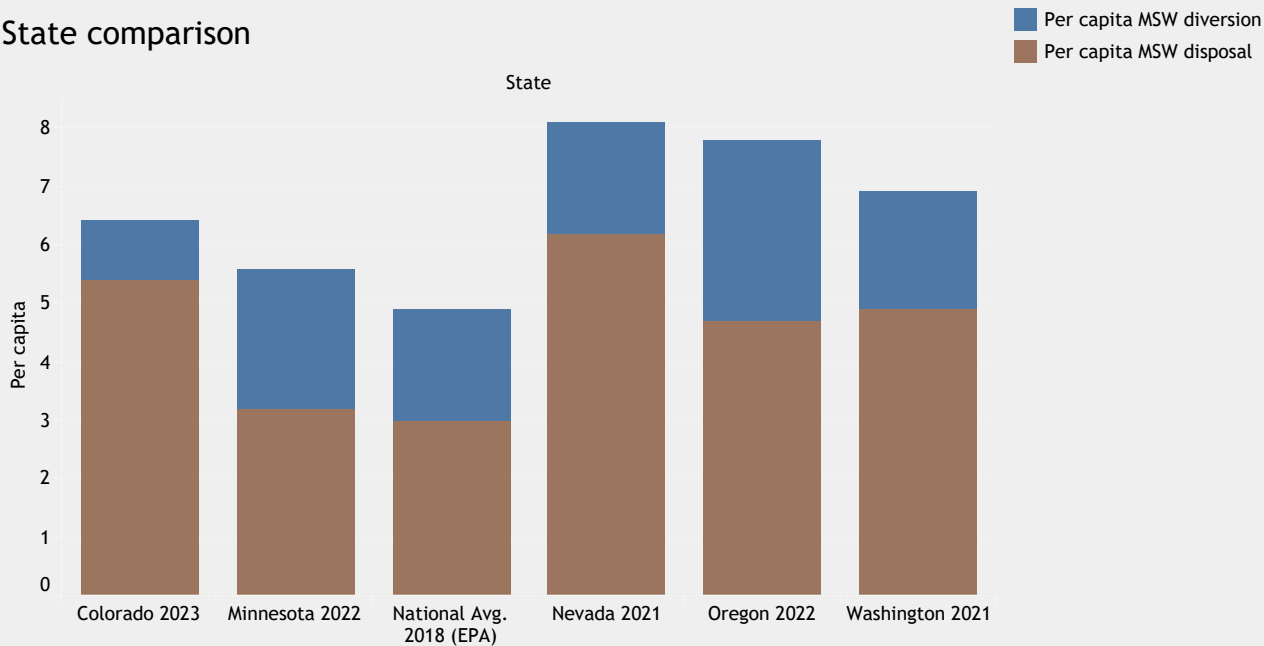
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State	Per capita MSW diversion	Per capita MSW disposal	Per capita MSW generation	Population
Colorado 2023	1.0	5.4	6.4	5,877,610
Minnesota 2022	2.4	3.2	5.6	5,717,184
National Avg. 2018 (EPA)	1.9	3.0	4.9	327,200,000
Nevada 2021	1.9	6.2	8.1	3,143,991
Oregon 2022	2.1	4.7	6.8	4,884,854

The data shows that Colorado residents generate municipal solid waste at rates similar to residents in other states. However, Colorado residents recycle less material, at 1.1 pounds per person per day, compared to residents of other states.

## State comparison



Source for national and state data:

- MN: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/understanding-solid-waste>
- NV: <https://ndep.nv.gov/nevada-recycles/recycle/reports>
- OR: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Pages/Survey.aspx>
- WA: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Research-Data/Data-resources/Solid-waste-recycling-data>
- US: <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/advancing-sustainable-materials-management>

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## Total GHG reductions from waste diversion



1,975,782.74 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions were prevented, saving the equivalent emissions from over 419,487 passenger cars.



The energy savings from waste diversion was equivalent to the energy used in 161,105 homes in one year.



The equivalent of 2,540,300 barrels of oil or 122,530,915 gallons of gasoline was conserved through recycling and composting this year.