

# Municipal Solid Waste

## DESCRIPTION

Municipal solid waste (MSW) is defined as what is sent to municipal solid waste landfills, meaning the construction and demolition waste is included in addition to “everyday” waste. The organic constituents of Wisconsin’s MSW include paper (987,646 tons), untreated wood (607,650 tons), food (486,619 tons), diapers (85,006 tons), yard waste (61,921 tons) and treated wood (44,459 tons).<sup>1</sup> Nationally, woody yard waste is comparable in volume to the national forest harvest.<sup>2</sup>

## CLASSIFICATION

Lignocellulose, starches and sugars, manures

## SOURCE INDUSTRY

Construction, housekeeping

## ANNUAL VOLUME GENERATED IN WISCONSIN

4.75 million tons, of which at least 52 percent is organic

## CURRENT APPLICATIONS

Landfilled

## COST

Tipping fees vary greatly by geography, as well as the air classification of the waste.

## APPLICABLE BIOREFINING PROCESSES

[Aerobic digestion/composting](#), [anaerobic digestion](#), [biomass gasification](#), [combustion](#), [fast pyrolysis](#), [fermentation of lignocellulosic biomass](#), [fiber composites manufacturing](#), [thermochemical liquefaction](#)

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin Statewide Waste Characterization Study Summary. 2002. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/publications/recycle/summarywastecharacterization2002.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/publications/recycle/summarywastecharacterization2002.pdf) (26 April 2004)

<sup>2</sup> McKeever, David. Research Forest, US Forest Products Laboratory. BioCycle Renewable Energy from Organics Recycling conference speaker, Minneapolis, MN. 18 November 2003.