

# Organic waste recovery in Victoria 2007–08

The Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey 2007–08 collects information on the Victorian reprocessing industry via a voluntary survey. Victorian reprocessors of secondary-use materials (waste material) report on their reprocessing activities over the financial year. The survey conducted during November 2008, sought data from 88 Victorian reprocessors. A total of 66 out of the 88 reprocessors provided data for the survey, representing a 75% response rate. It is estimated that these responses covered 90% of the industry by tonne of recovered waste material. An additional 34 plastic reprocessors surveyed for the 2008 *National Plastics Recycling Survey*<sup>1</sup> were also included in the report findings.

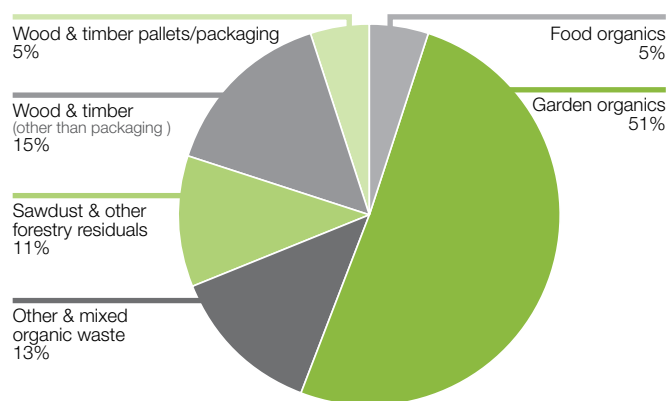
For more information or to download a copy of the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey 2007–08 report, please refer to the Sustainability Victoria website [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au)

The information presented is an extract of the organic waste recovery figures from the report.

## Recovery and trends

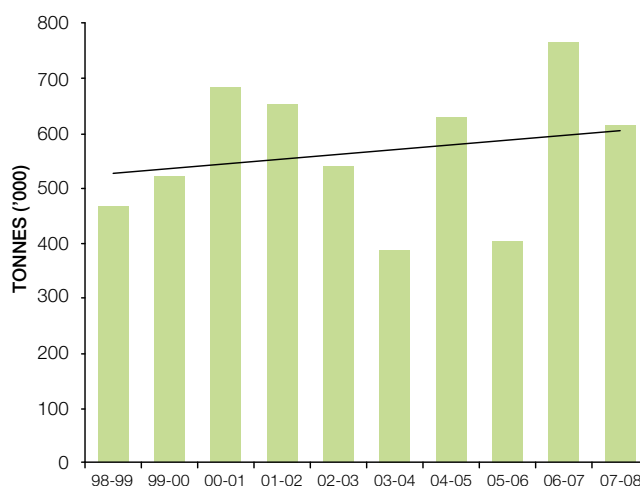
The total quantity of organic waste material recovered and diverted from landfill in Victoria during the 2007–08 financial year decreased to approximately 605,000 tonnes, down 20% from the previous year. Figure 1 shows that the majority of organic waste material recovered is in the form of garden organics (51%), compared to food organics which makes up only 5% of the total.

The large increase in timber, sawdust and other forestry residuals in 2006–07 were not repeated in 2007–08. This figure was affected by a non-response of a large organic reprocessor (see Table 1). The drop in timber, sawdust and other forestry residuals has contributed to the increase in the proportion of garden organics from 40% to 51%. Garden organics increased by 3% in 2007–08.



**Figure 1** Composition of organic waste (by weight) recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08

Quantities of garden organics collected through the municipal sector were up on the previous year to its highest level recorded since the survey began. Material recovered from green organic kerbside collection<sup>2</sup> was up while the quantities of food organics recovered dropped by 19% to just under 29,000 tonnes recovered in 2007–08. The drop in food waste recovery is due in part to the increasingly limited capacity within the compost industry to process food waste.



**Figure 2** Organic waste recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 1998–99 to 2007–08

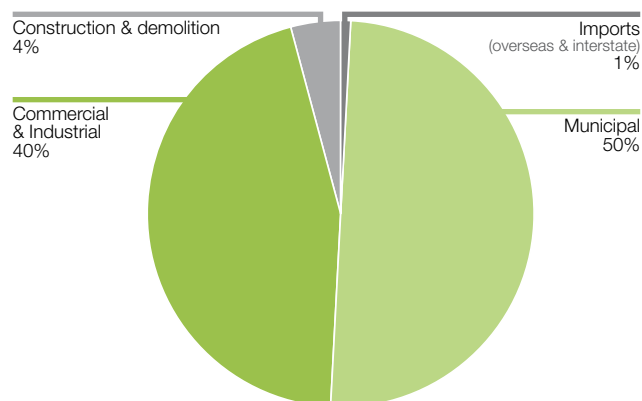
Note: Figures released prior to the 2002–03 financial year include prescribed industrial waste

<sup>1</sup> 2008 *National Plastics Recycling Survey*, report to the Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association

<sup>2</sup> *Victorian Local Government Annual Survey 2007–08*

## Sources of recyclables

The larger proportion of organic waste material received for reprocessing in 2007–08 was sourced from the municipal sector (see Figure 3). This has been caused by the decrease in the recovery of timber, sawdust and other forestry residuals which is predominantly sourced from the commercial and industrial sector. Garden organics recovered through municipal kerbside collections represented 94% of the garden organics recovered in the municipal sector.



**Figure 3** Source sectors organic waste (by weight) received for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08

	Timber	Food organics	Garden organics	Sawdust/ forestry residuals	Other	Total organic waste recovered
Tonnes ('000)						
1998-99	148	146	120	8	33	455
1999-00	49	206	230	21	4	510
2000-01	151	222	273	22	7	675
2001-02*	171	202	213	47	10	643
2002-03	169	22	217	111	10	529
2003-04	171	14	108	76	5	374
2004-05	229	13	310	26	40	618
2005-06	84	26	214	35	29	388
2006-07	196	35	302	144	77	754
2007-08	123	29	311	67	76	605

**Table 1** Organic waste material recovered in Victoria for reprocessing over the past 10 years, Victoria 1998–99 to 2007–08

\* Evaluation and cross-referencing of reported and actual data has led to an adjustment of previous financial year data.

Note: Food organics recovery data from 2002–03 no longer includes any prescribed industrial waste figures such as meat waste generated from rendering processes or grease traps.