

**Table 3. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Disposal
(Percent by Weight)**

Year	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2003	2004	2005
Total materials recovery	6.4	6.6	9.6	16.2	29.1	31.1	31.4	32.1
Recycling	6.4	6.6	9.6	14.2	22.2	23.2	23.1	23.8
Composting ^a	s	s	s	2	6.9	7.9	8.3	8.4
Combustion with energy recovery ^b	0	0.3	1.8	14.5	14.2	14	13.8	13.6
Discards to landfill, other disposal ^c	93.6	93.1	88.6	69.3	56.7	54.9	54.8	54.3

^a Composting of yard trimmings, food scraps, and other MSW organic material. Does not include backyard composting.

^b Includes combustion of MSW in mass burn, modular, and refuse-derived fuel plants.

^c Includes all other MSW that is not recovered for recycling, composting or combustion (with energy recovery).
These discards are generally disposed of in landfills.

Note: Details may not add to totals due to rounding.