

Environmental Education: 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

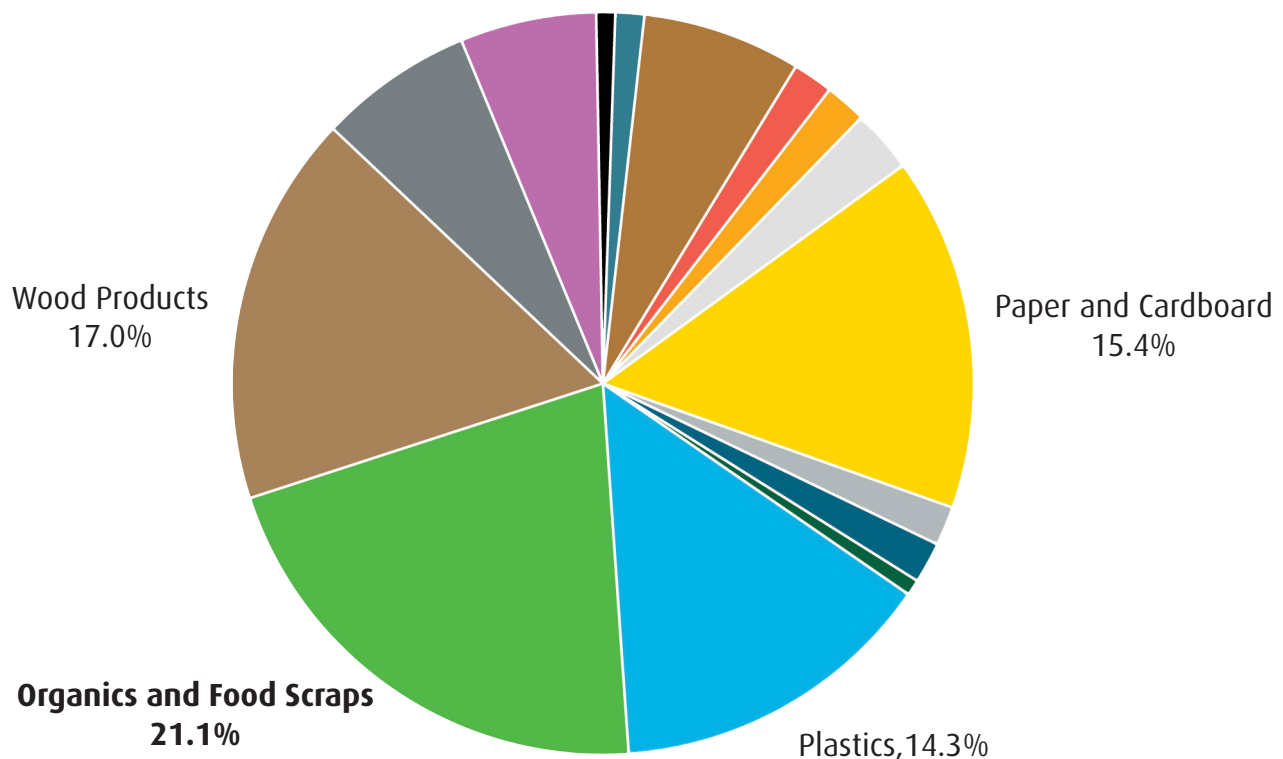
Love Food Hate Waste

Background Information

Organics, including food waste, account for about twenty-one percent of everything ending up in our landfill. Approximately half of that, about 15,000 tonnes, is **avoidable** food waste — food that could have been eaten. When we throw food in the garbage not only are we wasting a valuable resources, the food slowly breakdowns in the landfill and produces methane, a greenhouse gas.

Consider how long it takes to grow and produce our food. How much land and water is needed? How many people and vehicles are used to grow, pick, sort and transport our food?

If we are more thoughtful about the amount of food we buy, using the food we have and finding alternatives to throwing food in the garbage we will have a huge impact on the climate, environment and our regional landfill.



2016 Hartland Landfill Waste Composition Study

For more information about food waste in the region visit www.crd.bc.ca/lovefood.

If you have any questions about recycling or waste in the region, or are looking for ideas on how to connect this topic with other learning opportunities, please contact us at education@crd.bc.ca.

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We throw out how much food?

How many of the below items do you think would be needed to equal 15,000 tonnes — the amount of **avoidable** food waste that ends up in the landfill every year? Add your own comparison by choosing an item, researching the weight of your item and calculating how many you would need to equal 15,000 tonnes. (15,000 tonnes = 15,000,000 kg)



Tyrannosaurus Rex

3,000



School Bus

1,364



Apple



Killer Whale

1.5



BC Ferries Ferry Boat

2,143

My comparison:

75,000,000

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We throw out how much food? ANSWER KEY



Tyrannosaurus Rex
Approximate weight: 7000 kg
 $= 15,000,000 \text{ kg} \div 7000 \text{ kg}$
 $= \mathbf{2,143}$



School Bus
Approximate weight: 11,000 kg
 $= 15,000,000 \text{ kg} \div 11,000 \text{ kg}$
 $= \mathbf{1,364}$



Apple
Approximate weight: 0.2 kg
 $= 15,000,000 \text{ kg} \div 0.2 \text{ kg}$
 $= \mathbf{75,000,000}$



Killer Whale
Approximate weight: 5000 kg
 $= 15,000,000 \text{ kg} \div 5000 \text{ kg}$
 $= \mathbf{3,000}$



BC Ferries Ferry Boat
Approximate weight: 10,000 tonnes
 $= 15,000 \text{ tonnes} \div 10,000 \text{ tonnes}$
 $= \mathbf{1.5}$

3,000

1,364



1.5

2,143

75,000,000