

## City of Mount Gambier – Waste Profile 2016

City of Mount Gambier staff have conducted waste audits in 2006, 2012 and 2016. In all three audits 100 rubbish bins, 100 recycling bins and 30 green organics bin were audited. All bins were randomly selected and anonymous. Contents were sorted into a variety of categories to see exactly what is in Mount Gambier’s bins, what the community are doing well, and were they can improve.

### Rubbish

In 2014-2015 Mount Gambier residents sent a total of 5,779 tonnes of rubbish to landfill via their general rubbish bins. Over 4,033 tonnes (69.8%) of this could have been prevented through putting all recyclables in the recycling bin, and putting organic waste in the organics bin or home compost.

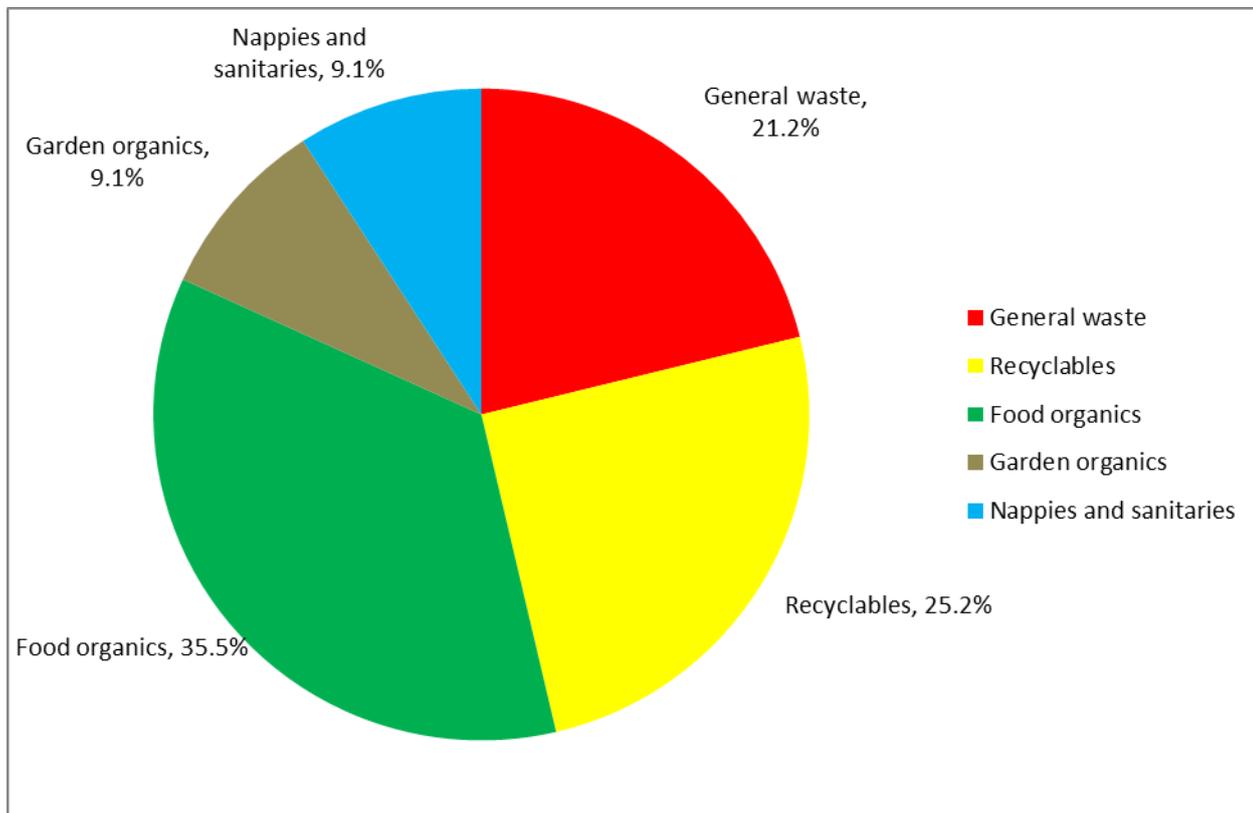


Figure 1: Contents of general rubbish bins in percentages, from February 2016 audit.

## Recycling

In 2014-2015 Mount Gambier residents put a total of 2,161 tonnes of material in their recycling bins. However, over 346 tonnes (16%) of this was not actually recyclable. This should have gone in the general rubbish bin, organics bin / home compost, or the Waste Transfer Centre.

Common contaminants include: bottles with lids on, clothes, items inside plastic bags, metal pots and cutlery, soft toys, plastics #6, plastics #7, containers with food in them, and nappies. Only plastics #1-5 can be recycled in Mount Gambier. Council also strongly encourages residents to take lids of bottles and jars, give items a quick rinse, and to also flatten cardboard boxes.

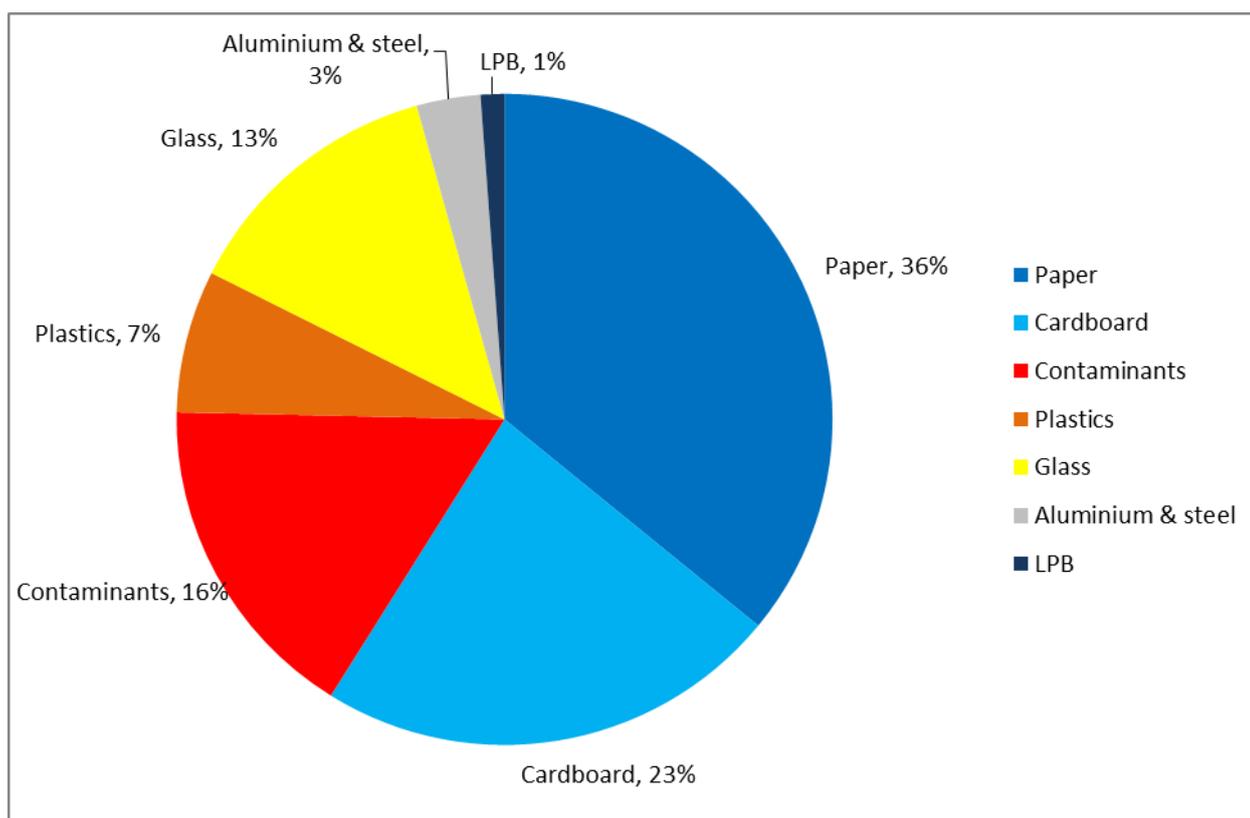


Figure 2: Contents of recycling bins in percentages, from February 2016 audit.

## Organics

In 2014-2015 Mount Gambier residents composted a total of 2,487 tonnes of organic waste via the green organics bins. A further 2,577 tonnes of organic waste was put into the general rubbish bins – this could have been diverted from landfill and then composted if it had been placed in the right bin. This equates to a total of over 5,000 tonnes, or an average of 424 kg of organic waste per household.

Over 996 tonnes of organic waste was received at Council's Waste Transfer Centre. It is estimated that a further 110 tonnes of organic waste was contained in food business rubbish bins.

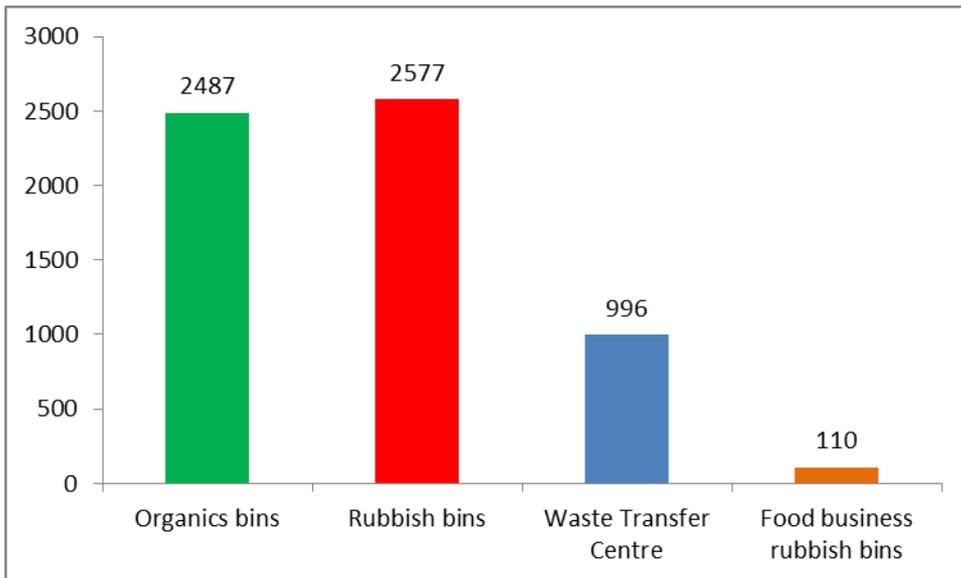


Figure 3: Sources of organic material in total tonnes, 2014-2015.

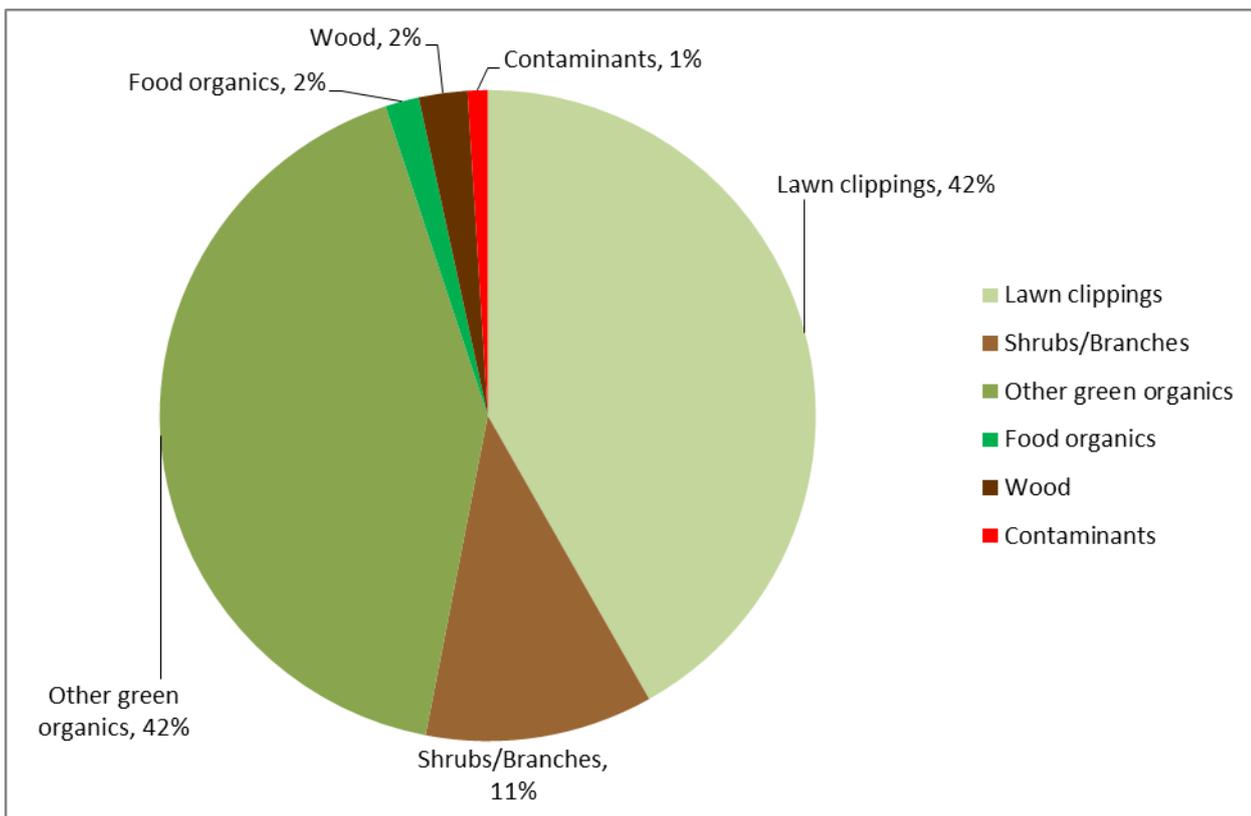


Figure 4: Contents of organics bins in percentages, from February 2016 audit.

## Annual Waste Volume Trends

The graphs below show the trend over the past 10 financial years in terms of total waste per year per category, and also total average waste per household per year per category.

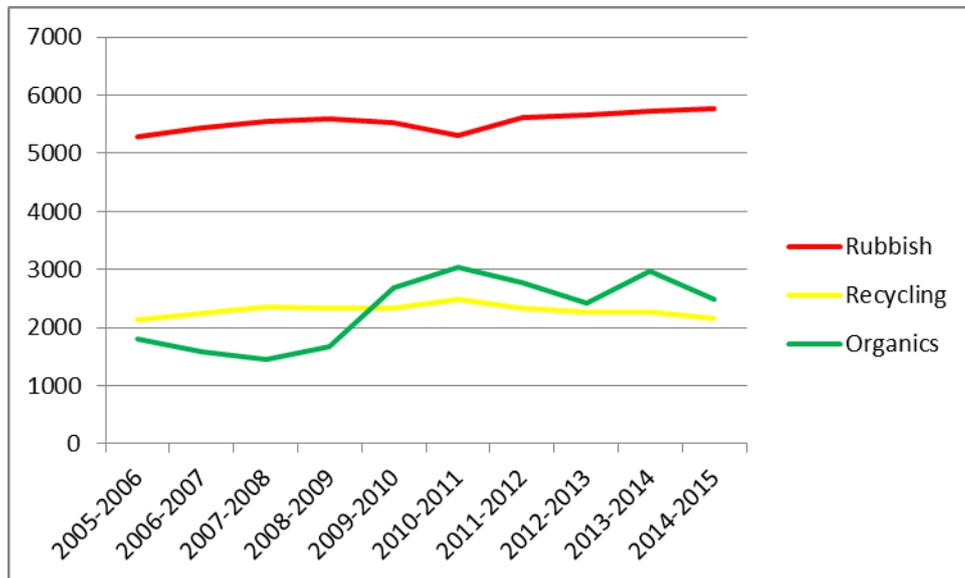


Figure 5: Total tonnes of waste per year per category for entire City (tonnes).

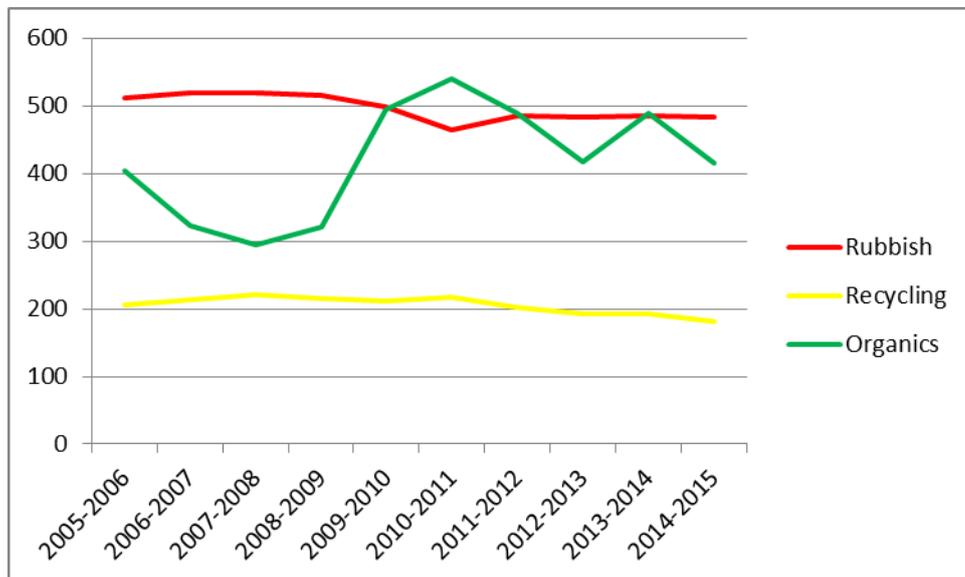


Figure 6: Total average waste per household per year per category (kilograms).