

# GLOSSARY

**Capture Rate** – Measurement used by DSNY to document the percentage of MGPC or Paper properly separated for recycling as opposed to discarded as Refuse. Capture rates identify the latent potential to recycle more.

**Commercial Waste** – Waste materials, including recycled material, generated in New York City by business establishments and construction activity and collected by private carters that are respectively defined in the DSNY Rules as Putrescible Waste and Non-Putrescible Waste.

**Community Board (CB)** – The official municipal body representing the City's 59 Community Districts. Community Boards are appointed by New York City's Borough Presidents in consultation with New York City Council Members. Community Boards advise elected officials and government agencies on land use and zoning, the City budget, municipal services, and other public welfare issues. Each Community Board is comprised of 50 nonsalaried members who must reside, work, or possess a specific interest in the Community District they represent. Community Board members serve in a voluntary capacity for two-year staggered terms.

**Community District (CD)** – An official New York City designation that divides the City into 59 geographic areas, each represented by a Community Board. Community Districts range in size from less than 900 acres to almost 15,000 acres. CD populations can be as little as 50,000 residents to more than 200,000.

**Contamination Rate** – Measurement used by DSNY to document unwanted or incorrect materials placed in curbside recycling. Paper placed in an MGPC bin is an example of contamination.

**Diversion Rate** – compares the amount of curbside collection materials separated for recycling (i.e., Paper, MGPC, Organics, E-Waste, Textiles) to the total amount of material set out (including Refuse). Diversion rate does not measure Contamination.

**DSNY** – Acronym for New York City's Department of Sanitation.

**MGP or MGPC** – Acronym for materials made from Metal, Glass, Plastic or recyclable Cartons. One of three streams of recyclable materials (the other two are Organics and Paper) collected from residences by DSNY.

Recoverable MGPC includes plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, metal cans, aluminum foil, trays, and cans, and table-top beverage cartons. In New York City, MGPC items are placed in blue recycling bins.

**MSW** – Acronym for Municipal Solid Waste. MSW encompasses all material – recyclable and non-recyclable – collected by DSNY. MSW does not include collection from private businesses which are required to pay private haulers for waste collection services.

**NYCHA** – Acronym for the New York City Housing Authority. NYCHA was the first agency in the United States to provide housing for low- and moderate-income residents throughout New York City. The New York City Housing Authority's mission is to increase opportunities for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers by providing safe, affordable housing and facilitating access to social and community services. NYCHA provides housing to 555,498 New Yorkers in public housing and Section 8 programs and 166,389 families (365,806 residents) in public housing, including Section 8 residents living in former State- and City-funded developments.

**NYS DEC** – Acronym for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Non-Putrescible Commercial Waste** – Stable (i.e., inert) waste coming from commercial and residential demolition and new construction and renovation projects comprised of inorganic materials, not all of which are recyclable. The non-recycled fraction is processed by the City's Non-Putrescible Transfer Stations for shipment to disposal facilities. This waste is also referred to as construction and demolition (C&D) debris to distinguish it from Fill Material, which is a subset of Non-Putrescible Waste comprised of materials such as excavated fill, stone rubble and road millings that are graded into materials such as sand and aggregate and stockpiled at Fill Material Transfer Stations in the City and reused in other building projects.

**Organics** – Second of three recyclable material streams collected by DSNY. Recoverable organic materials suitable for composting or anaerobic digestion in DSNY's Curbside Organics Collection program include food scraps, food-soiled paper, leaves, grass clippings, yard prunings and trimmings, house plants, and yard debris. Inclusion of animal and human waste is not permitted as part of Organics recycling. In New York City, organic materials are placed in brown recycling bins.

**Paper** – Last of three streams of recyclable materials collected by DSNY. Recoverable paper materials include newspapers, magazines, catalogues, junk mail, white office paper, mixed paper, and gray and corrugated cardboard/paperboard. In New York City, these items are placed in green recycling bins.

**PET** – Acronym for polyethylene terephthalate, a plastic denoted by #1 inside the "chasing arrows" recycling symbol.

**Plastics** – Broad term that includes rigid, expanded, or film plastic. The only types of plastics that are truly recyclable according to some experts are plastics labeled No. 1, No. 2 or No. 5 on the bottom of the container.

**PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment.

**Putrescible Commercial Waste** – Material generated by business establishments and collected by private carters that may be delivered to putrescible transfer stations or recycled, which may contain organic matter.

**Recycling** – The act of recovering items or materials that might have been discarded as Refuse and sent to landfills or incineration and instead applying them to further uses. Items that are downcycled includes recoverable materials that are of lower quality and functionality than the original. Items that are upcycled are put to creative reuse and transformed into new materials or products perceived to be of greater quality or environmental value.

**Refuse** – Waste items that are correctly placed in trash bins rather than recycling or organics bins because the materials have been deemed to be non-recyclable.

**SMRNY** – Acronym for Sims Municipal Recycling of New York LLC. Sims Municipal Recycling (SMR) provides key services for New York City's curbside recycling collections managed by DSNY. SMR is a business of Sims Metal Management that processes and markets more than 200,000 tons of plastic, glass, and metal that New Yorkers put into recycling bins each year.

**SWMP** – Acronym for the Final Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the period 2006 through 2025 prepared pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 360-15.

**Waste** – All materials placed out for Municipal Solid Waste collection, including both Refuse and Recycling.