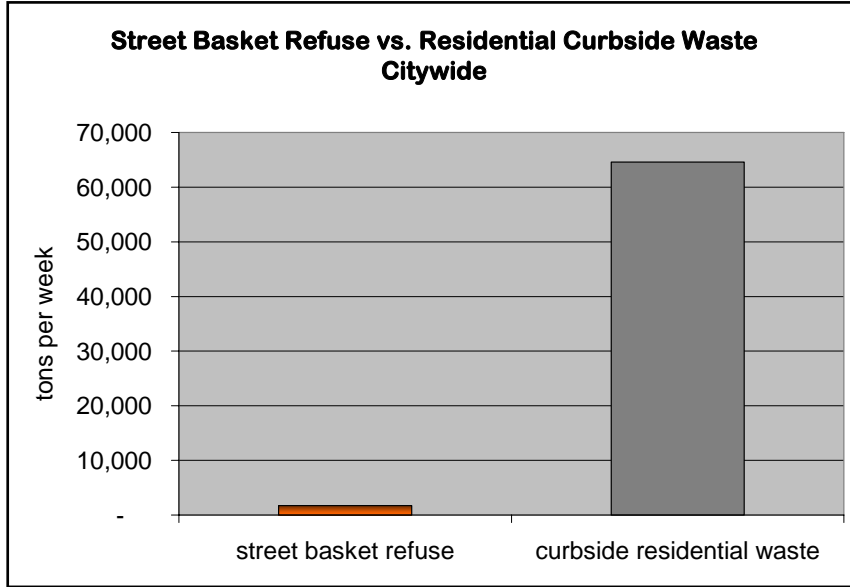


STREET BASKET WASTE

One of the Department of Sanitation’s most important street cleaning functions entails the provision and daily maintenance of street baskets. Hundreds of thousands of baskets are placed on street corners citywide. Baskets in heavily trafficked pedestrian areas are emptied as often as five times a day. Others (in residential zones) are only collected two or three times weekly.

Because of the variation of collection frequency and the dispersal of street baskets across the city, it is

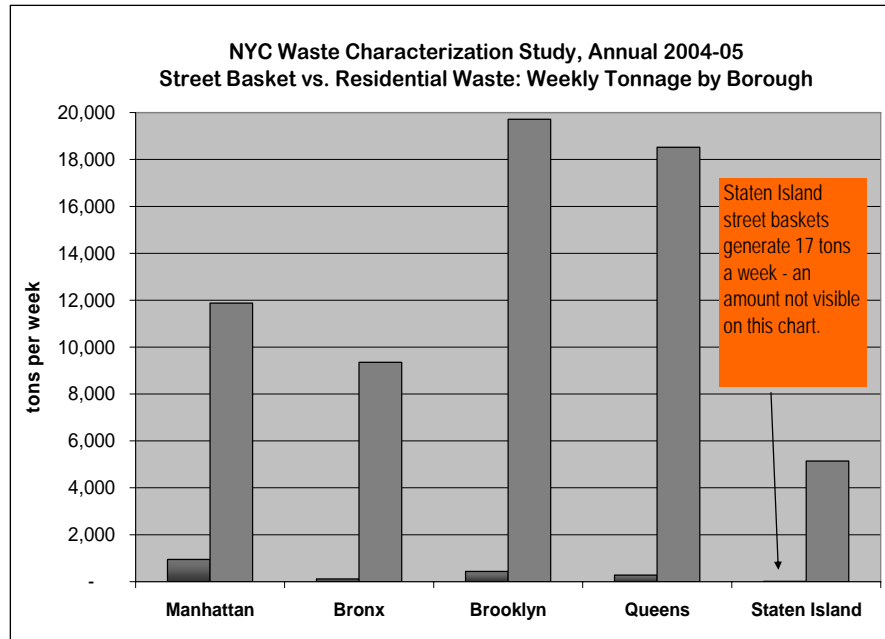


not possible to estimate street basket waste generation by individual basket. DSNY does, however, compile data on street basket collections as a whole.

Comparing street basket tonnages with those from residential waste demonstrates how relatively small the street basket stream is.

Most street basket refuse comes from Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn, which are hubs of business activity.

Despite its relatively minor contribution to the DSNY-managed waste stream, street-basket waste is high profile. Street baskets are integral to the smooth functioning of areas with many pedestrians, such as business districts and densely populated neighborhoods.

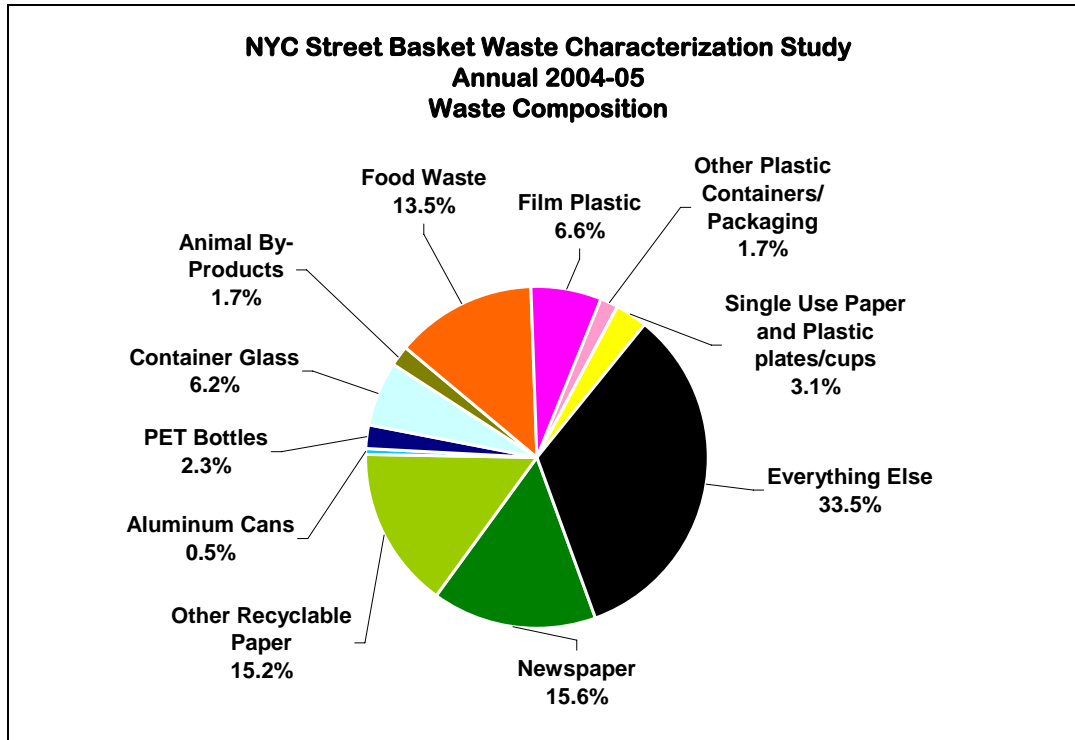


The information herein has been compiled, analyzed, and reported by the DSNY Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, using data collected by its consultant R.W. Beck. These highlights do not substitute for a thorough review of R.W. Beck's Final Report, which contains more detailed data. Some percentages may not total exactly due to rounding.

2004-05 NYC Residential and Street Basket Waste Characterization Study

COMPOSITION

The composition of street basket waste reveals that the contents reflect uses we would expect, from eating on the go, reading newspapers, and cleaning up after dogs.



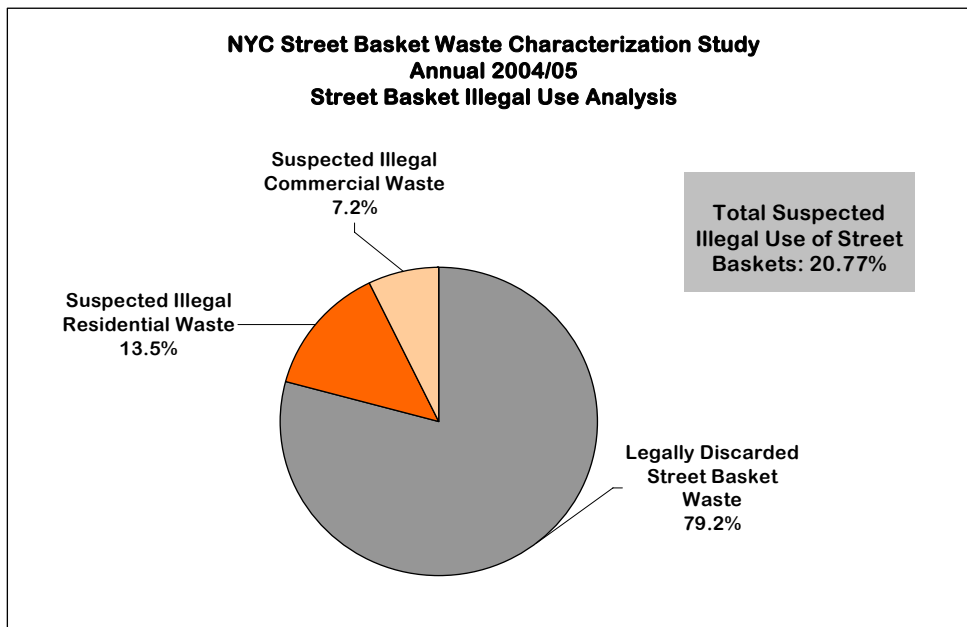
In the above diagram, "Everything Else" consists of a variety of items that are not typical of street use. The table below lists those subcategories and the fraction of the refuse stream consisting of that material.

Everything Else in Street Baskets	
Other Organics	9.67%
Other Metal Cans and Items	5.53%
Non-Recyclable Paper	5.24%
Other C&D Debris	4.28%
Textiles	3.08%
Untreated Dimension Lumber/Pallets/Crates	1.20%
Cullet/Other Glass	1.18%
Other Plastic Products	1.18%
Misc. Inorganics/HHW	0.85%
Electronics/AV	0.51%
HDPE Bottles	0.43%
Recyclable Beverage Cartons	0.34%

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SUSPECTED ILLEGAL USE

Some of the categories of street basket waste listed above suggest commercial or residential origin, such as lumber, C&D, metal cans (which are used for food, not drinks), and textiles. In order to assess the extent to which commercial venues or residents are illegally using street baskets to dispose of their wastes, the WCS included an assessment of the contents of street basket samples to identify suspicious uses such as black garbage bags in the street basket (only Business Improvement District personnel are allowed to line baskets with bags, and their bags are stamped with the B.I.D. name). Other suspicious materials included industrial-sized food containers, large amounts of a single type of material, and items normally used at home (such as toothpaste tubes and shampoo bottles).



A detailed description of this aspect of the street basket characterization is in the WCS Final Report. It suggested that as much as 20% of street basket contents may consist of materials that have been illegally discarded rather than collected through private commercial arrangements or properly set out for residential curbside collection.

RECYCLABLES IN THE STREET BASKET STREAM

Because the street basket component of the WCS used the same 91 sort categories as the residential aspect, we can also characterize how much of street basket waste consists of materials that we ask people to recycle under the curbside recycling program. This estimate is useful in predicting how much diversion could be achieved from placing recycling bins next to street baskets, as is done in certain areas within a few cities in North America, such as Seattle and Toronto. As shown on the next page, the street basket stream contains a larger percentage of designated recyclables than the residential stream, with newspaper, container glass, and PET bottles the most prominent.

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2004-05 NYC Residential and Street Basket Waste Characterization Study

		residential waste	street basket waste
Paper	Mixed Paper	12.8%	11.4%
	OCC	2.4%	3.8%
	ONP	7.5%	15.6%
Metal	Aluminum	0.8%	1.0%
	Ferrous	4.0%	4.3%
	Non-Ferrous	0.2%	0.2%
	Other Metal	0.7%	0.5%
Glass	Container Glass	2.5%	6.2%
	Mixed Cullet	1.8%	1.0%
Plastic	HDPE Bottles	0.9%	0.4%
	PET Bottles	1.2%	2.3%
Beverage Cartons		0.5%	0.3%
		35.4%	47.1%

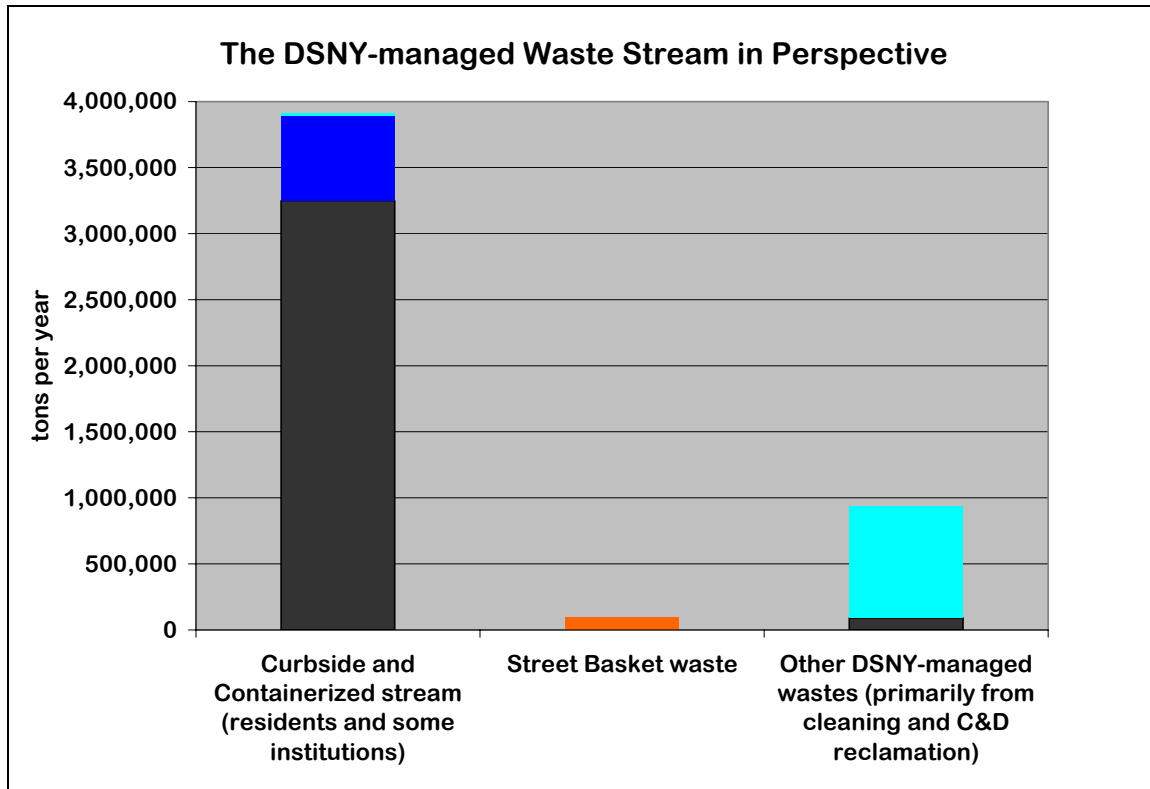
THE POTENTIAL FOR STREETSIDE RECYCLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO DSNY-MANAGED DIVERSION

While placing recycling bins on the street may be a useful educational initiative, the overall contribution of such a program to the curbside or overall DSNY-managed diversion rate will be extremely small.

The street basket waste stream averages around 95,000 tons a year. We know that around 47% of the street basket stream consists of designated materials, as shown above. This means that in street baskets, around 44,000 tons of recyclables are discarded per year. Assuming an optimistic capture rate of 70% under an extraordinarily successful public space recycling program, we would achieve only 30,000 tons a year in additional diversion. This would add less than 1% (0.77%) to the diversion rate. The chart on the following page shows the tonnages for the residential waste stream, street basket stream, and other DSNY managed streams.

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2004-05 NYC Residential and Street Basket Waste Characterization Study



The street basket tonnages referenced above do not reflect baskets in New York City parks, which are managed by the Parks Department; or baskets in subways or rail stations managed by the MTA or Amtrak. However, it is doubtful that the tonnage in these basket streams equal, much less exceed, the DSNY-managed street basket stream.

New York City's expectations for public space recycling should be consistent with those of other cities, such as Seattle, who consider this enterprise a good educational tool, but do not count on the activity to significantly affect overall diversion rates, because of the small size of the stream itself.

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