

# TRDI

## Texas Recycling Data Initiative

A Collaborative Effort to Measure Recycling: Biennial Report (January 2015)

### WHAT IS TRDI?

The Texas Recycling Data Initiative (TRDI) is a collaborative effort to measure recycling in the state of Texas. The effort was initiated by a consortium of many stakeholders — including private industry, governmental agencies and non-profit organizations — and is led by the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR).

The goals of TRDI are to quantify the amount of recycling in Texas and establish a baseline recycling rate to measure future progress. TRDI accomplished this through a voluntary, confidential survey.

# SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Participation in survey was completely voluntary.
- Survey responses are confidential, and no company-specific information will be released.
- The survey focused on quantifying the amount of material recycled from homes, businesses and institutions, like schools and hospitals. TRDI chose a few recycled materials from the manufacturing sector to include in the survey.
- TRDI targeted Texas-based recyclers to participate, including recyclers of: traditional recyclables (paper, plastic, glass and metal), organic materials (yard waste, food waste and sludge), and other materials (construction materials, household hazardous waste, electronics, textiles and tires).
- In some cases TRDI targeted manufacturers, like paper mills, to quantify the amount of recycled material used that doesn't pass through a recycler first.

## GROUNDBREAKING TRDI SURVEY YIELDS STRONG RESULTS

TRDI received a strong response to this initial survey effort. In fact, TRDI had one of the highest response rates ever recorded for a state-level, voluntary program managed through the Re-TRAC Connect platform, a widely used online platform for gathering recycling data. The data received through the survey is summarized below (all data shown is for 2013).



13,919,817 tons of Texas material was recycled in 2013 (and probably more, since we were conservative).



Of the almost 14 million tons recycled, 6,143,393 tons came from homes, businesses and institutions (rather than manufacturing).



6.1 million tons represents 18.9% of the more than 32 million tons of waste generated by Texas homes, businesses and institutions in 2013.



22 of 25 large, commercial recycling facilities (the kind that process material from municipal curbside programs) responded to the survey.

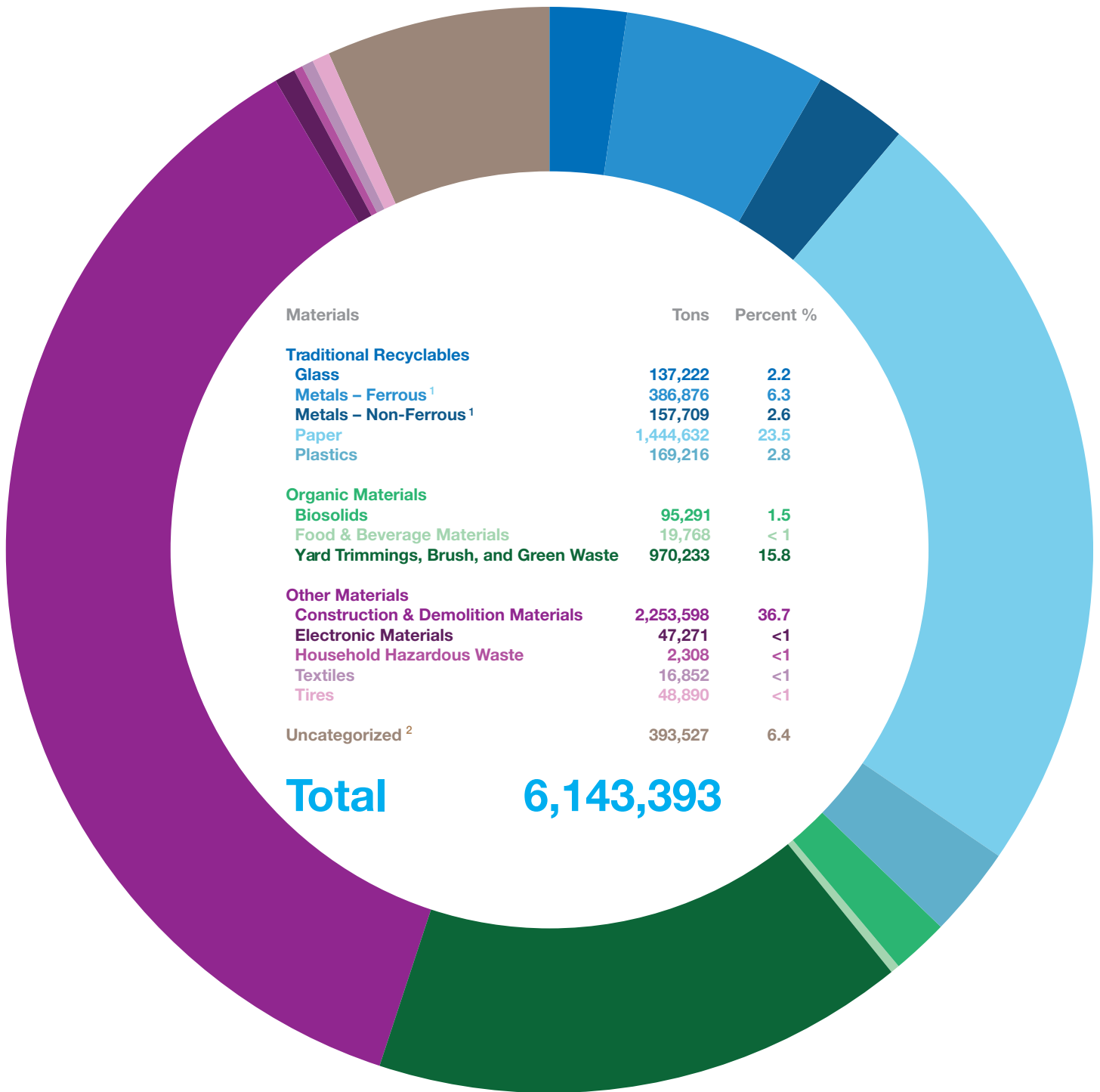


TRDI estimates that 12,678 Texas jobs are supported by materials recycled from homes, businesses and institutions (and this number is intentionally conservative).



Based on available data, households with curbside recycling generate an average of 503 pounds of recyclables per year.

# MATERIAL RECYCLED FROM MSW SOURCES IN 2013



1. The number shown in the table represents the portion of material that is MSW.

2. Includes all materials classified as “Other” by survey respondents. Respondents were required to provide a description. Respondents primarily reported commingled recyclables and commingled organic materials.

# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

[www.recyclingstar.org/causes/trdi](http://www.recyclingstar.org/causes/trdi)

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## Thanks to Our Steering Committee Representatives and Contributors

\*Indicates financial contributions

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