

# MSW Characteristics

**Table 3.2 Recovery for Recycling and Composting**  
(for use with Part B)

Year	Percentage Recovered of Total MSW Stream	Year	Percentage Recovered of Total MSW Stream
1980	10%	1991	19%
1981	10%	1992	21%
1982	9.5%	1993	22%
1983	10%	1994	24%
1984	10%	1995	26%
1985	10%	1996	27%
1986	11%	1997	27%
1987	12%	1998	28.2%
1988	13%	1999	29% (projected)
1989	16%	2000	32% (projected)
1990	17%	2005	35% (projected)

**Table 3.3 U.S. Population and MSW Generation**  
(for use with Part D)

Year	Population in Millions <sup>a</sup>	MSW Generation in Millions of Tons <sup>b,c</sup>
1960	180	88
1965	194	107
1970	205	121
1975	215	137
1980	227	151
1985	238	170
1990	249	205
1995	263	211
1998	270	220

a U.S. Census Bureau. Population. [www.census.gov/statab/freq/99s0002.txt](http://www.census.gov/statab/freq/99s0002.txt). 1998; and USA Statistics in Brief - Population and Vital Statistics. [www.census.gov/statab/www/part1.html](http://www.census.gov/statab/www/part1.html). 2001.

b U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1994 Update. Washington, DC: U.S. EPA, 1994.

c U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental Fact Sheet: Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 1998. Washington, DC: U.S. EPA, 2000a.)