**Quick Tips for using the Policy & Program Impact Estimator What’s Addressed and What’s Not Addressed**

| **The Calculator Addresses…** | **But Does Not Address…** |
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| What EPA’s Waste Reduction Model (WARM) Addresses |  |
| 1. GHG projections for source reduction, recycling, and/or composting a given amount of material compared to the GHG emissions that would be generated by landfilling or combusting that same amount of material | The amount of GHGs generated by solid waste landfilled or combusted in a community (e.g., in a baseline year). (It is recommended to use a GHG inventory tool to estimate GHGs generated by solid waste.) |
| 2. Aspects addressed in WARM’s methodology for individual materials | Aspects not addressed in WARM’s methodology, e.g., due to data limitations, which may have an effect on GHG emissions and are not currently modelled in WARM. Information on WARM methodology for individual materials can be found in EPA’s documentation for WARM:<https://www.epa.gov/warm/documentation-waste-reduction-model-warm> |
| 3. GHG reduction estimates for materials for which a WARM emissions factor exists that is included in the waste characterization table(s) | GHG reduction estimates for materials not specifically identified in the waste characterization table(s). (Note: tons associated with materials that are not identified in the table(s) are automatically placed in the “Other/Undifferentiated” category). GHG reductions are not calculated for “Other/Undifferentiated” tonnage. For example, while there are WARM emissions factors for food waste, yard trimmings, and wood, there is no WARM emissions factor for compostable, soiled paper. Thus, for a curbside collection program that accepts both food waste and compostable, soiled paper, the calculator will only provide an estimate for GHG reductions from composting food waste. |
| 4. Source reduction for implementing a Pay As You Throw program | Source reduction for implementing other types of programs. (Limitations in available data precluded the usefulness of incorporating other source reduction measures.) |
| 5. GHG benefits from composting | Other benefits of composting, such as* reduced need for chemical fertilizers
* reduced use of pesticides / fungicides
* improved crop nutritional value
* improved water holding capacity of soil and infiltration (less runoff)
* removal of solids, oils, grease, and heavy metals from stormwater runoff
* suppression of plant diseases and pests
* facilitation of reforestation, wetlands restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts by amending contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils
* cost-effective remediation of soils contaminated by hazardous waste
* capture of industrial volatile organic chemicals in contaminated air
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| 6. The national average Landfill Gas Recovery, as applied in WARM, for purposes of estimating GHG reductions from source reduction, recycling, and/or composting versus landfilling | Other percentages of Landfill Gas Recovery that may apply in a given area |
| 7. Recovery rate of Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris recycling facilities - included as a specific factor on the C&D Recycling tab | Recovery rate of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)You may wish to apply a discount to projected recycling increases that you enter on the program tabs for metal, glass, plastic, paper, and wood to account for local MRF recovery rates less than 100%. |