Updating the List of Accepted Recyclables

Board of Directors Meeting

October 23, 2025

Currently Accepted Recyclables

Yes

Empty, Clean, and Dry™

(#1-7) Plastic Containters

Bundled Plastic Bags

Metal Containers

Aluminum Foil

Glass Bottles and Jars

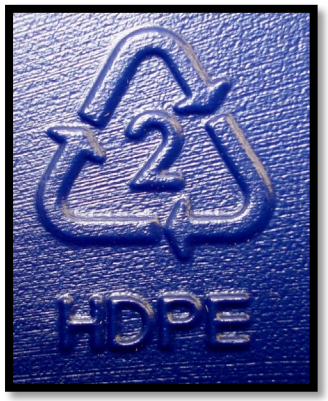
Clean Paper
(If shredded, put in clear bag)

Dry and Broken Down Cardboard

Currently Accepted Plastics with Strong Markets

- Plastic Containers #1 - PET

- Plastic Containers #2 - HDPE



Currently Accepted But Difficult to Market

- Plastic Bags

- Plastic Containers #3, #4, #5, #6, #7

- Shredded Paper

New Processing Agreement Requires

- All currently marketable materials, plus
  - Plastic Containers #5

SB 54 Will Require

- All currently marketable materials, plus
  - Plastic Containers #5
  - Gable-Top Cartons
  - Aseptic Containers

Timeline

- **Distribute Service Guides**
  - 4th Quarter 2025
  - Also in 2026 and 2027
- **SB 54 Requirement**
  - January 1, 2027
    - Updates annually
- **New Processing Agreement**
  - March 1, 2027
- **Re-labeling of Customer Containers**
  - March 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028

Summary Chart

Material	Currently Accepted in Authority Recycling Program	Currently Marketed by MDRR	Anticipated to be required by SB 54 in January 2027	Required by the New Recyclables Processing Agreement in March 2027
Plastic bags	Yes	No	No	No
Plastic containers #3, #4, #6, and #7	Yes	No	No	No
Plastic containers #5	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shredded paper	Yes	No	No	No
Gable-top cartons	No	No	Yes	No
Aseptic containers	No	No	Yes	No

Waste Characterization

Material	Estimated Tons Collected Per Year				% of Total Collected
	Landfill	Recycle	Organics	Total	Single-Family Materials
Gable-Top Cartons & Aseptic Containers	121.4	238	0.7	360	0.27%
Plastic Containers #5	500.6	380.9	7	889	0.67%
Plastic Containers #3 , #4, #6, #7	237.5	75.5	7.7	321	0.24%
Plastic Bags & Film Plastic	1,952	648.7	47.6	2,648	2.00%
All Collected Single-Family Materials	41,717	25,393	65,256	132,366	100%

Recommendation

- Keep the current list of accepted recyclable materials in RecycleSmart outreach materials the same until 2027;
- Update the list of accepted recyclable materials and related outreach materials in 2027; and
- Enter into a letter agreement with Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR)

2025 Waste Capture/ Waste Characterization Study

Board of Directors Meeting
October 23, 2025

Presentation Overview

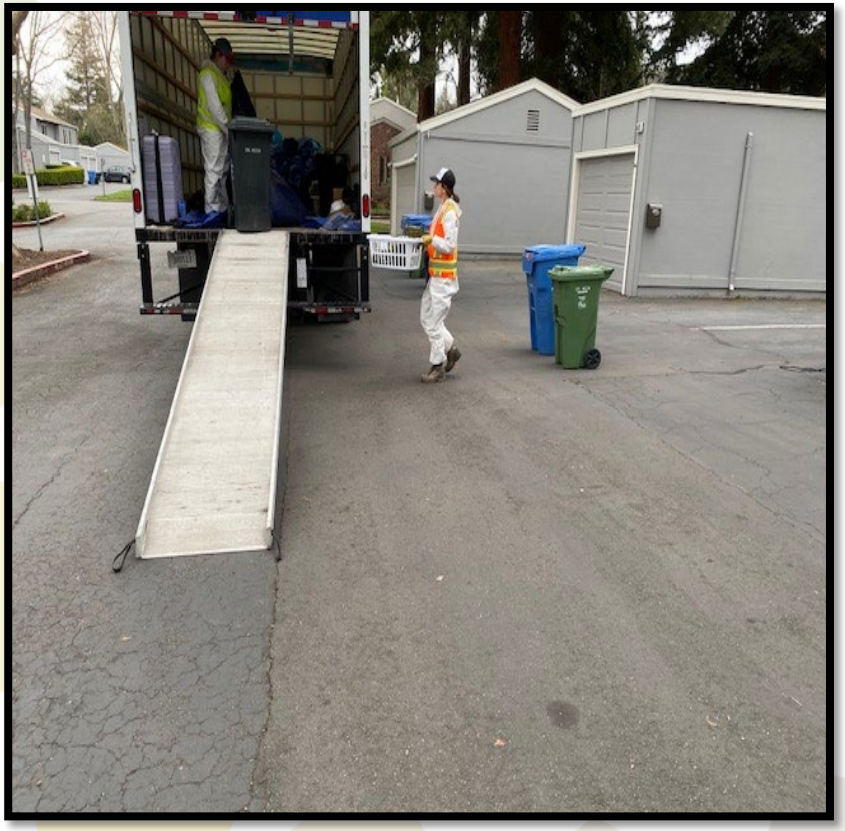
- 2025 Study approach
- 2025 Study findings
- Phase 2
- Action Item: Request to add time and value to the HDR contract

Waste Capture/Characterization Study – March 2025

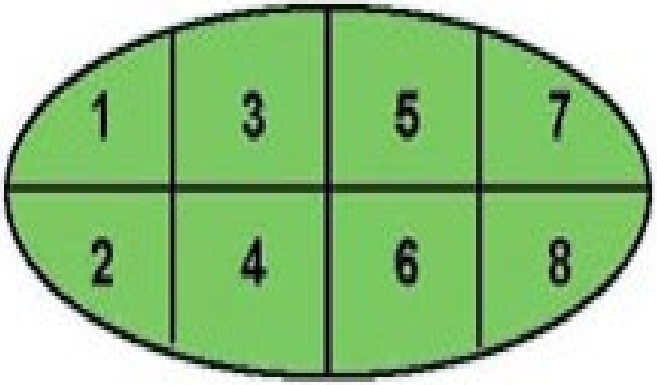
Single-Family Samples

	Landfill	Recycling	Organics	Grand Total
County	21	20	22	63
Danville	22	23	19	64
Lafayette	20	18	17	55
Moraga	12	10	8	30
Orinda	11	10	11	32
Walnut Creek	24	21	15	60
Grand Total	**110**	**102**	**92**	**304**

Single-Family
Capture Study Sampling

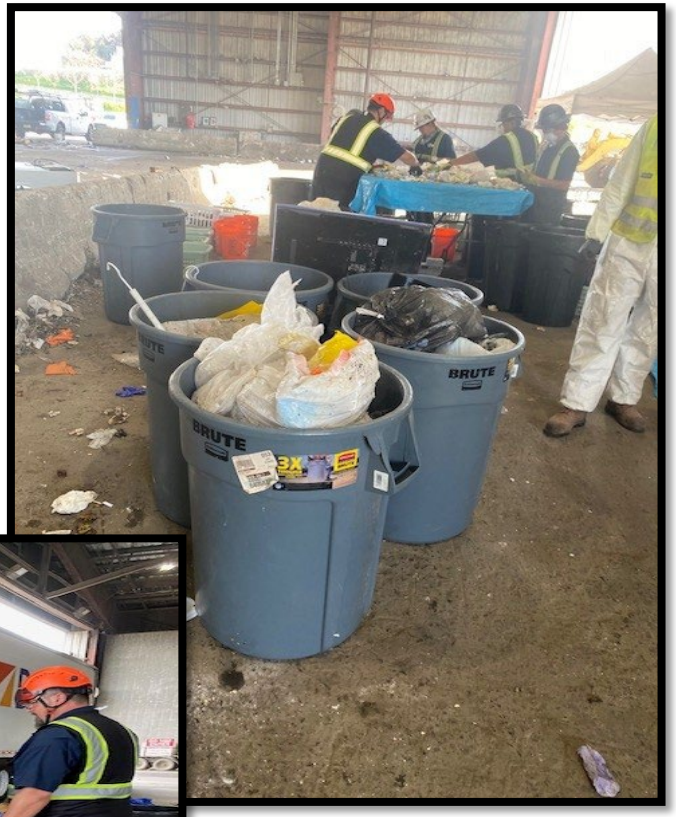


Multi-Family and Commercial Landfill Waste Characterization Study Sampling



Types and Categories

- 62 Material **Types**
- 6 Material **Categories**
  - Paper
  - Plastic
  - Metal
  - Glass
  - Organics
  - Other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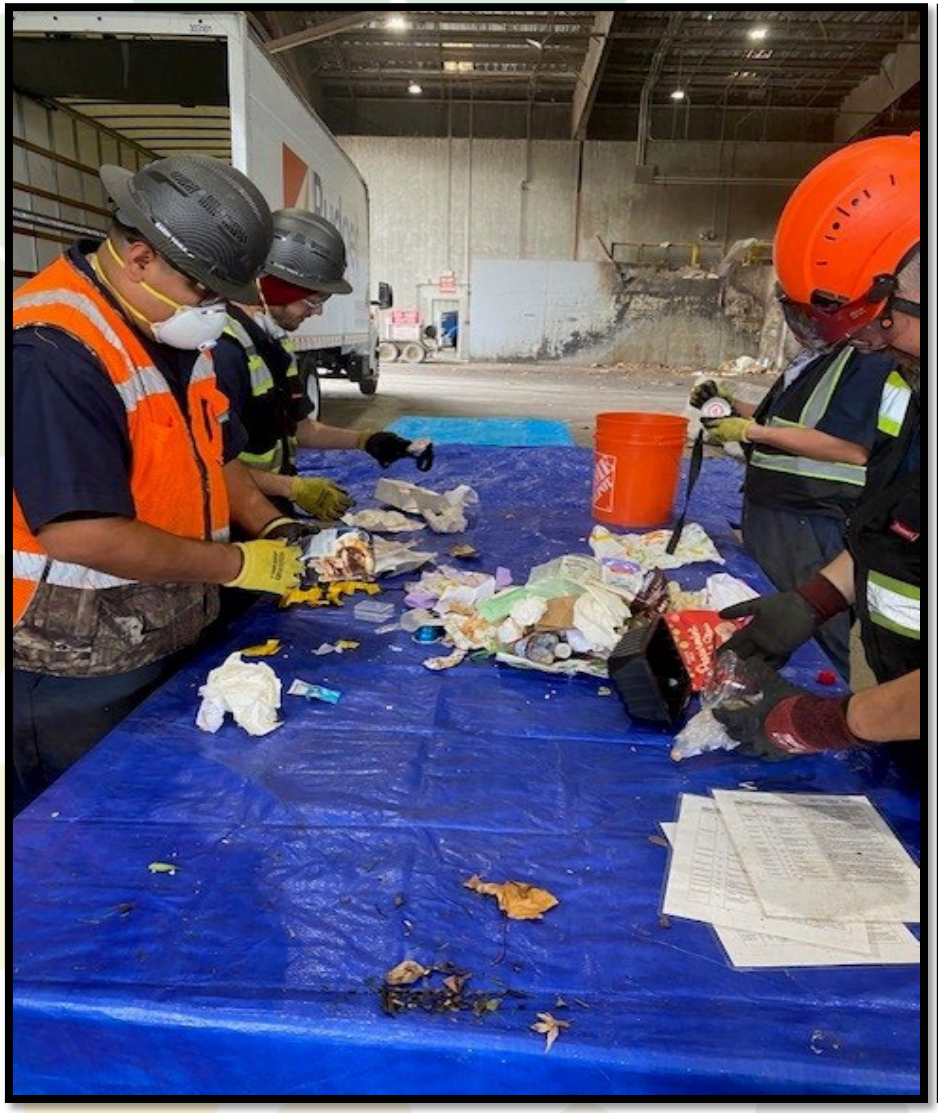



KIPPY
BARBECUE

Capture Rate Study Vs. Waste Characterization Study

Capture Rate Study: A capture rate study collects samples from the source (in this case, single- family residences) and allows for the calculation of recycling (capture) rates of specific materials.

- It looks at all 3 streams
- Not compacted

% composition of each stream: Recycling stream is 20% cardboard.

% capture of each material: 90% of cardboard went into the correct cart.

Waste Characterization Study: A traditional waste composition study collects samples from incoming vehicles arriving to a transfer or disposal facility.

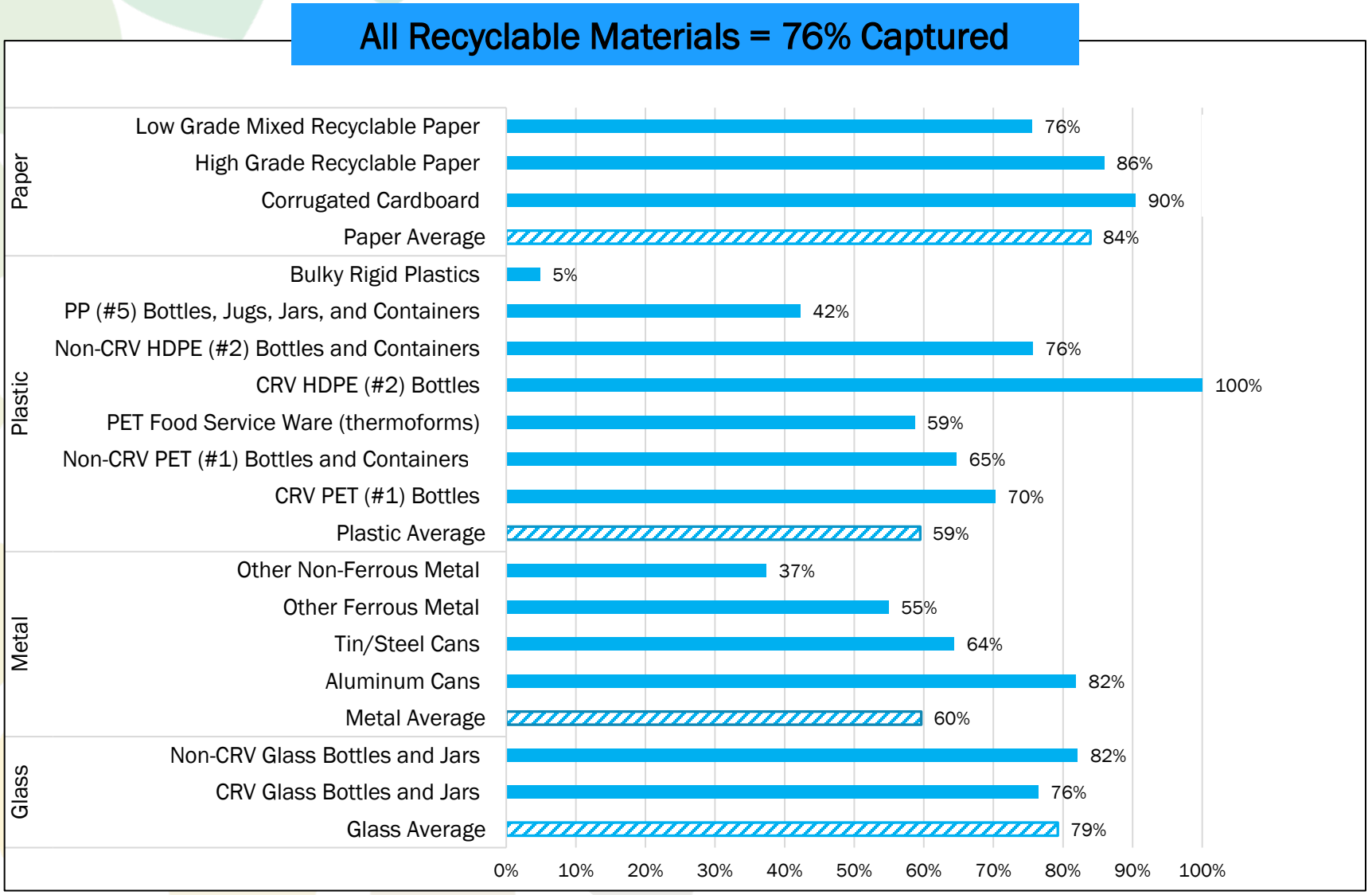
- Landfill only
- Usually compacted

% composition of landfill stream. 3 % of the garbage is cardboard.

Capture Rate – Specific Material Types

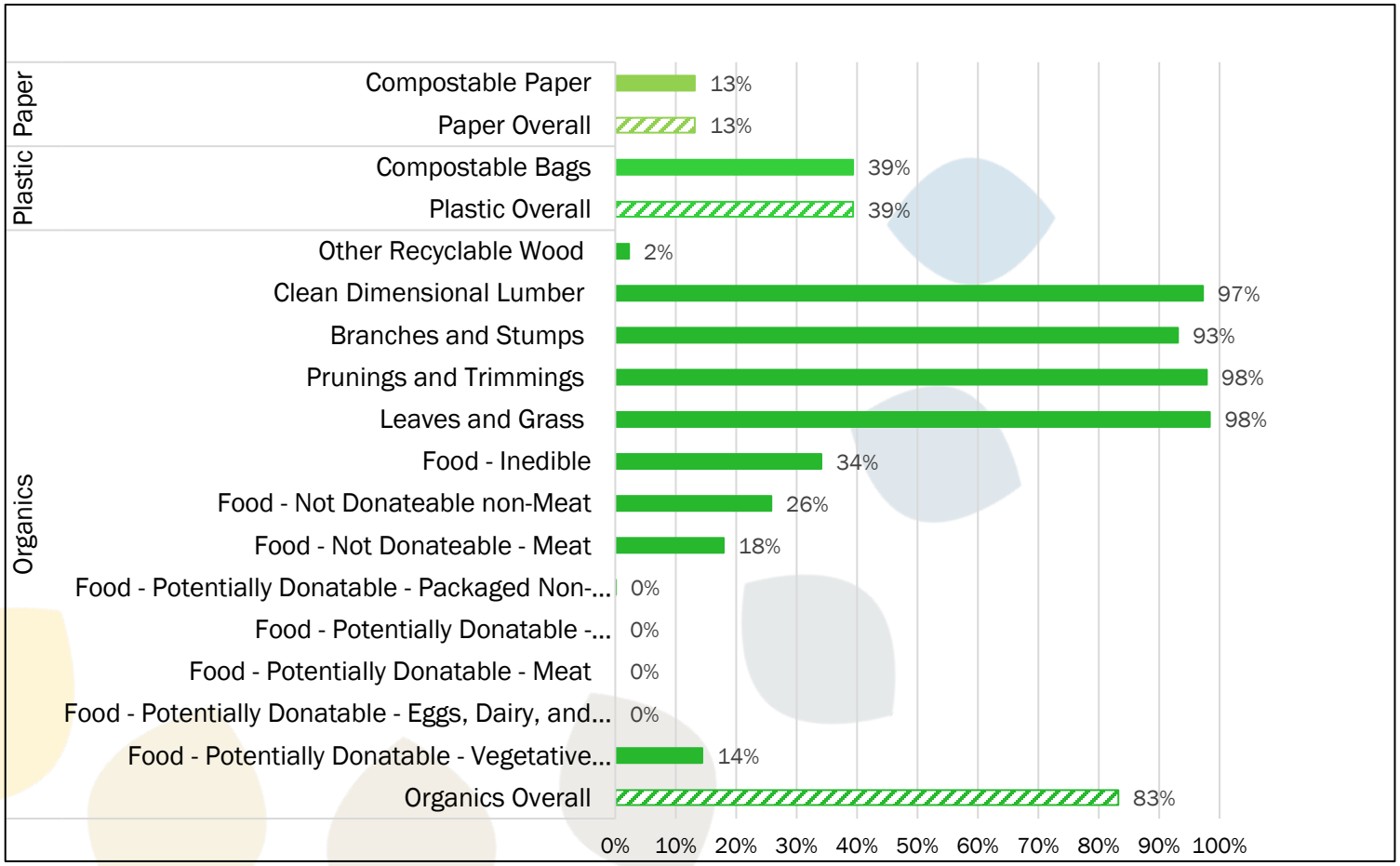
	Organics		Recycling		Garbage		All Streams	
Material	Total Material Weight	Capture Rate	Total Material Weight	Capture Rate	Total Material Weight	Disposal Rate	Total Material Weight	QC Check
Corrugated Cardboard	21.35	6%	298.7	90%	10.25	3%	330.3	100%
Non CRV HDPE (#2) Bottles & Containers	0.1	0%	28.25	76%	9	24%	0.9	100%
Food - Not Donatable non-Meat	129.5	26%	25.8	5%	345.9	69%	501.2	100%
Leaves and Grass	3,138	98%	0.3	0%	50.5	2%	3189	100%
Batteries	0.05	2%	0	0%	2.3	98%	2.35	100%

Single-Family Recycling Capture Rates

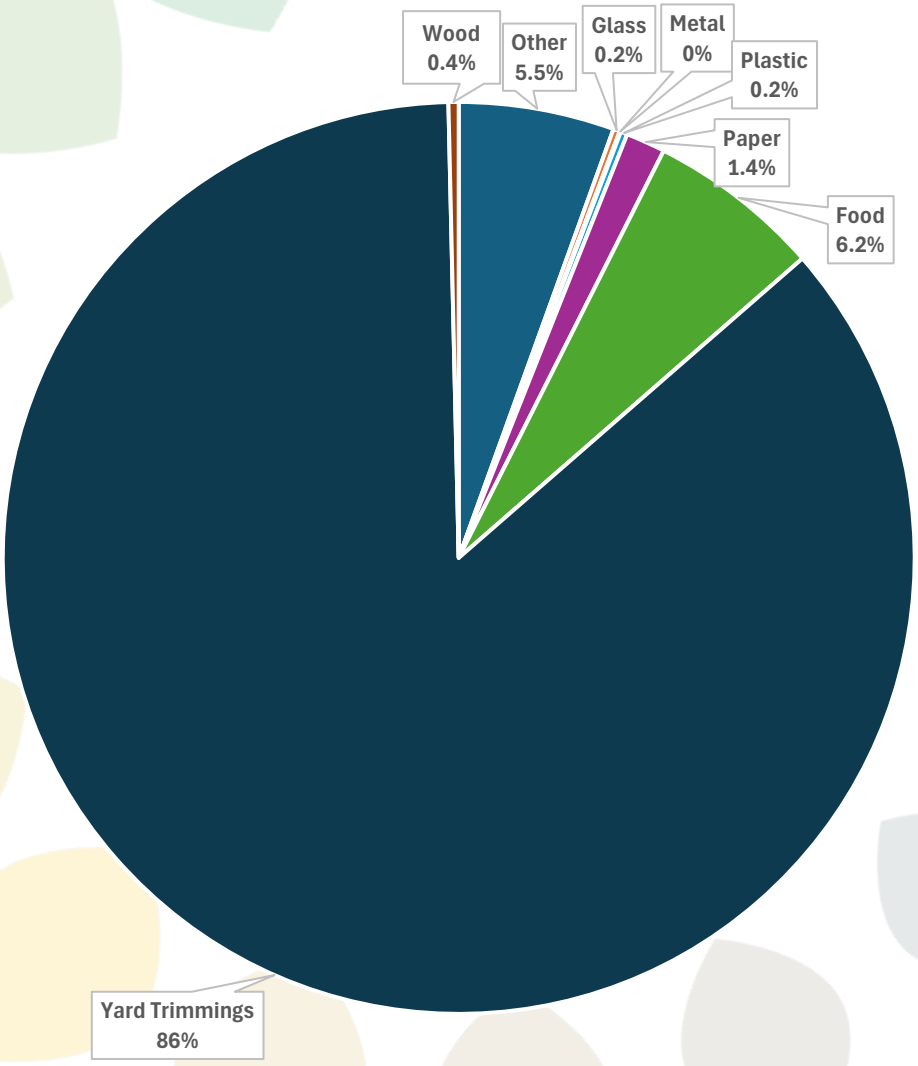


Single-Family Organics Capture Rates

All Compostable Materials = 80% Captured
Food Scraps = 27% captured
Compostable Paper = 13% captured

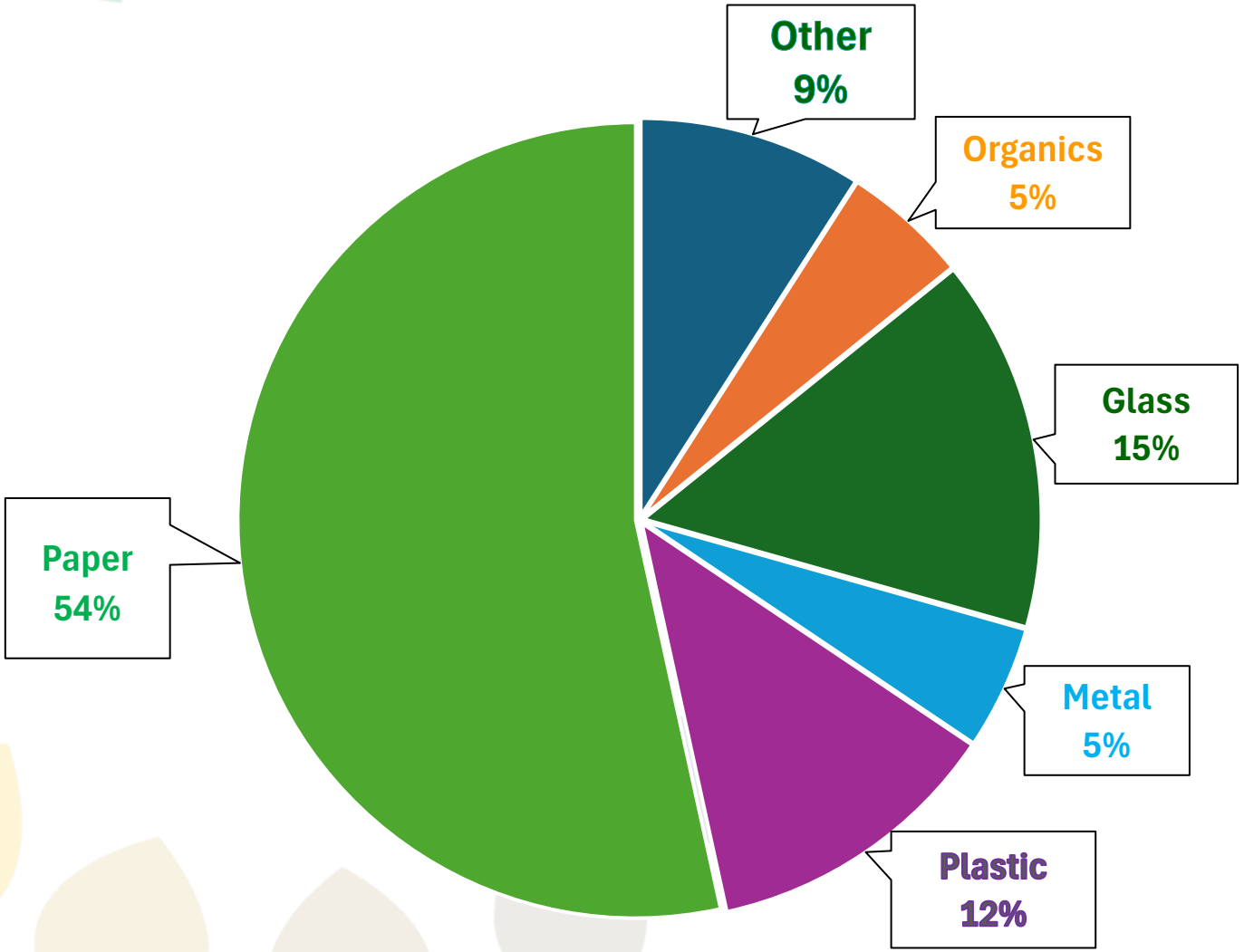


Single-Family Organics Composition

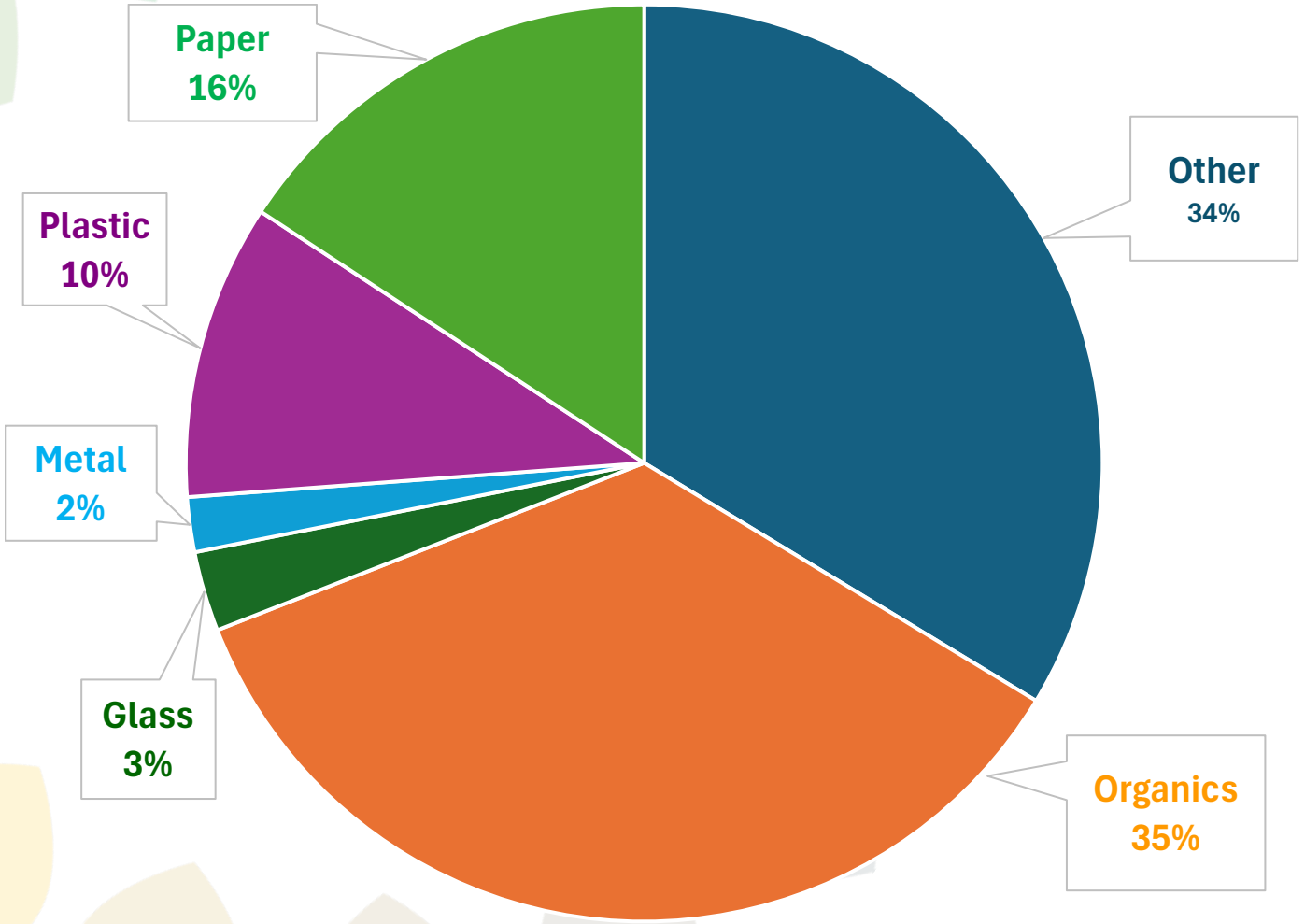


Yard Trimmings	86%
Food	6.2%
Paper	1.4%
Wood	0.4%
Metal	0%
Glass	0.2%
Plastic	0.2%
Other	5.5%

Single-Family Recycling Composition



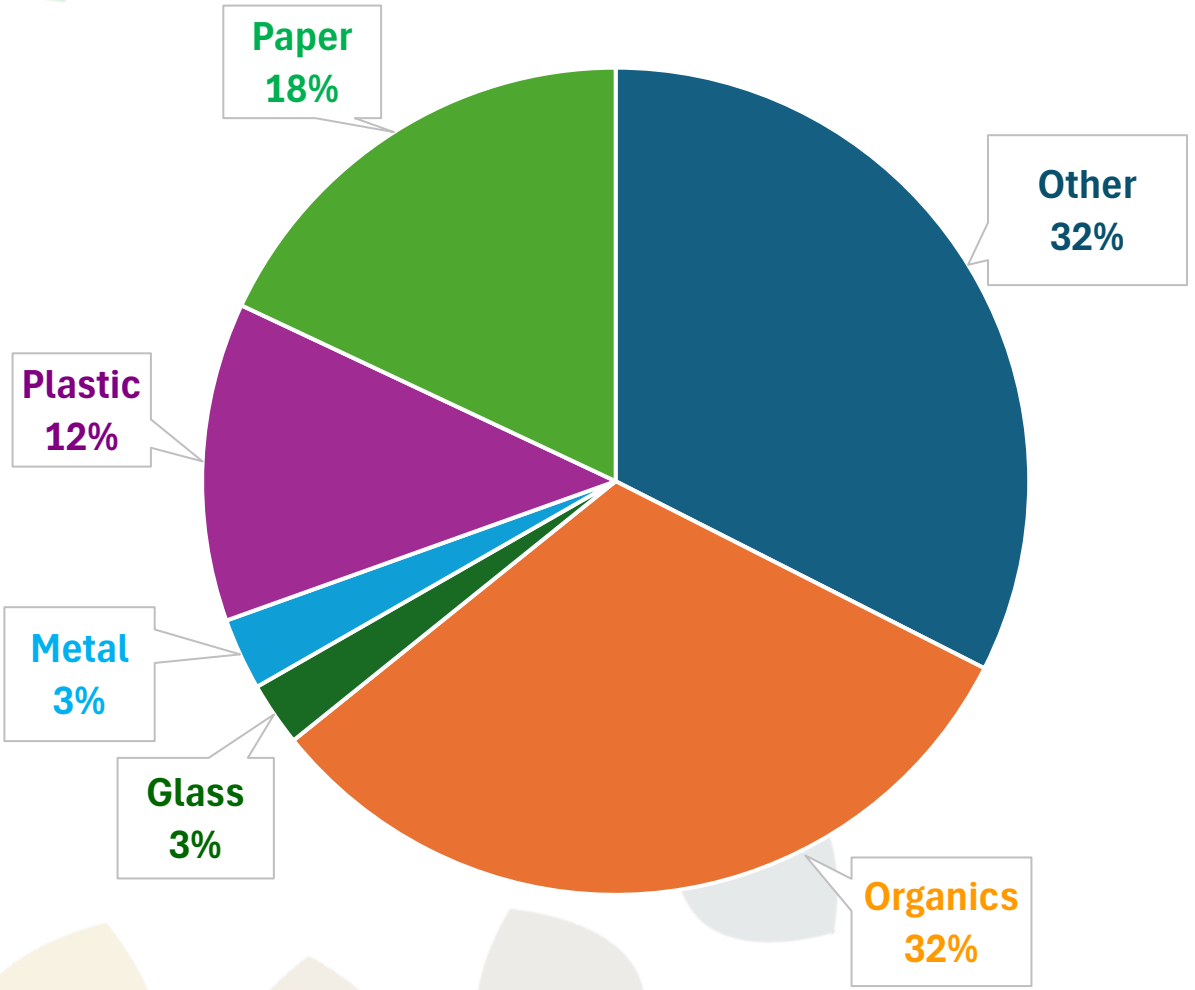
Single-Family Landfill Composition



Top 5 Material Types in Single-Family Landfill

Rank	Material Type	Composition	± %	Estimated Tons
1	Food - Not Donatable non-Meat	14.2%	1.8	6,129.8
2	Pet Waste	11.9%	2.6	5,102.8
3	Hazardous Waste and Sharps	11.1%	3.2	4,775.0
4	Food – Inedible	11.0%	1.8	4,755.5
5	Compostable Paper	7.3%	1.2	3,157.9

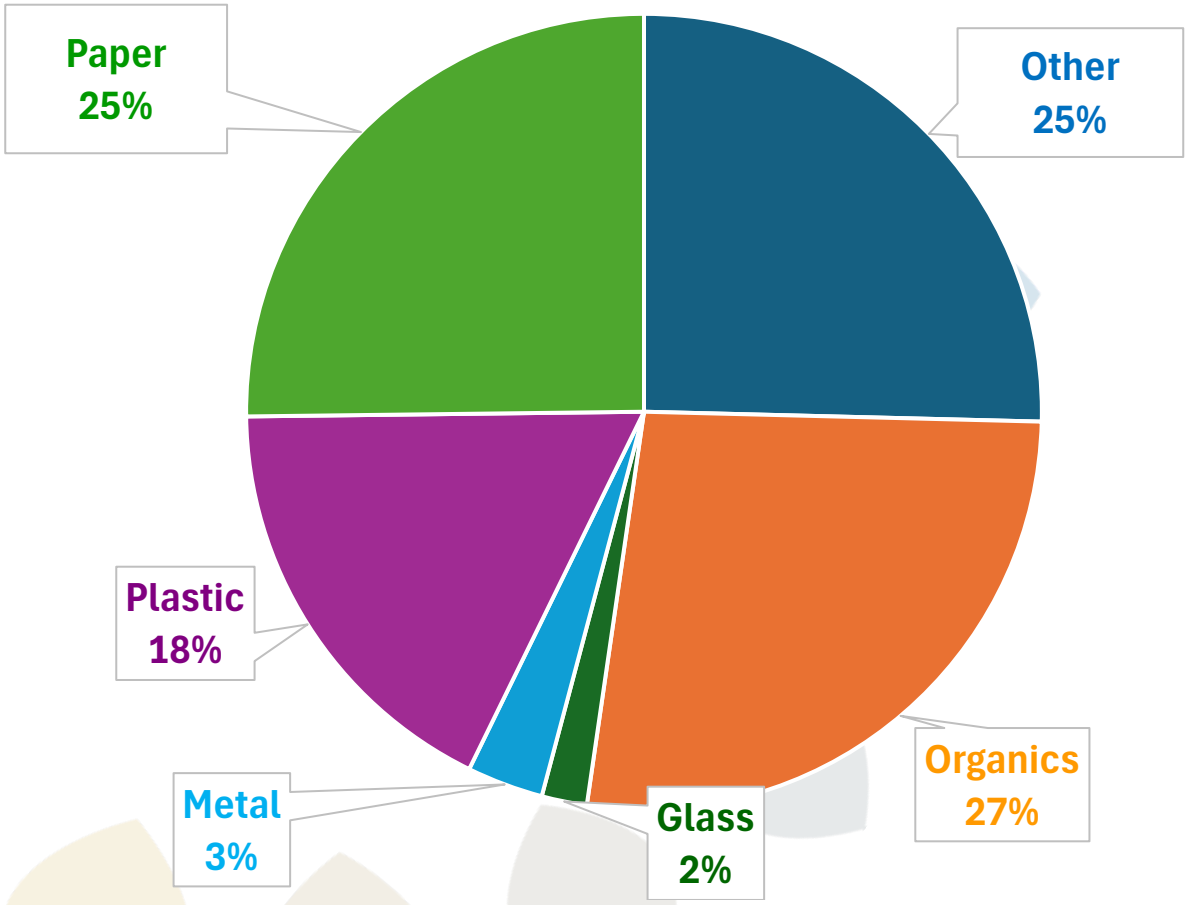
Multi-Family Landfill Composition



Top 5 Material Types in Multi-Family Landfill

Rank	Material Type	Composition	± %	Estimated Tons
1	Food - Not Donatable non-Meat	11.5%	1.3	1,175.70
2	Food - Inedible	9.5%	1.5	967.9
3	Hazardous Waste and Sharps	8.4%	1.7	858.3
4	Compostable Paper	7.4%	0.7	752
5	Mixed Residue	7.0%	0.9	712.1

Commercial Landfill Composition



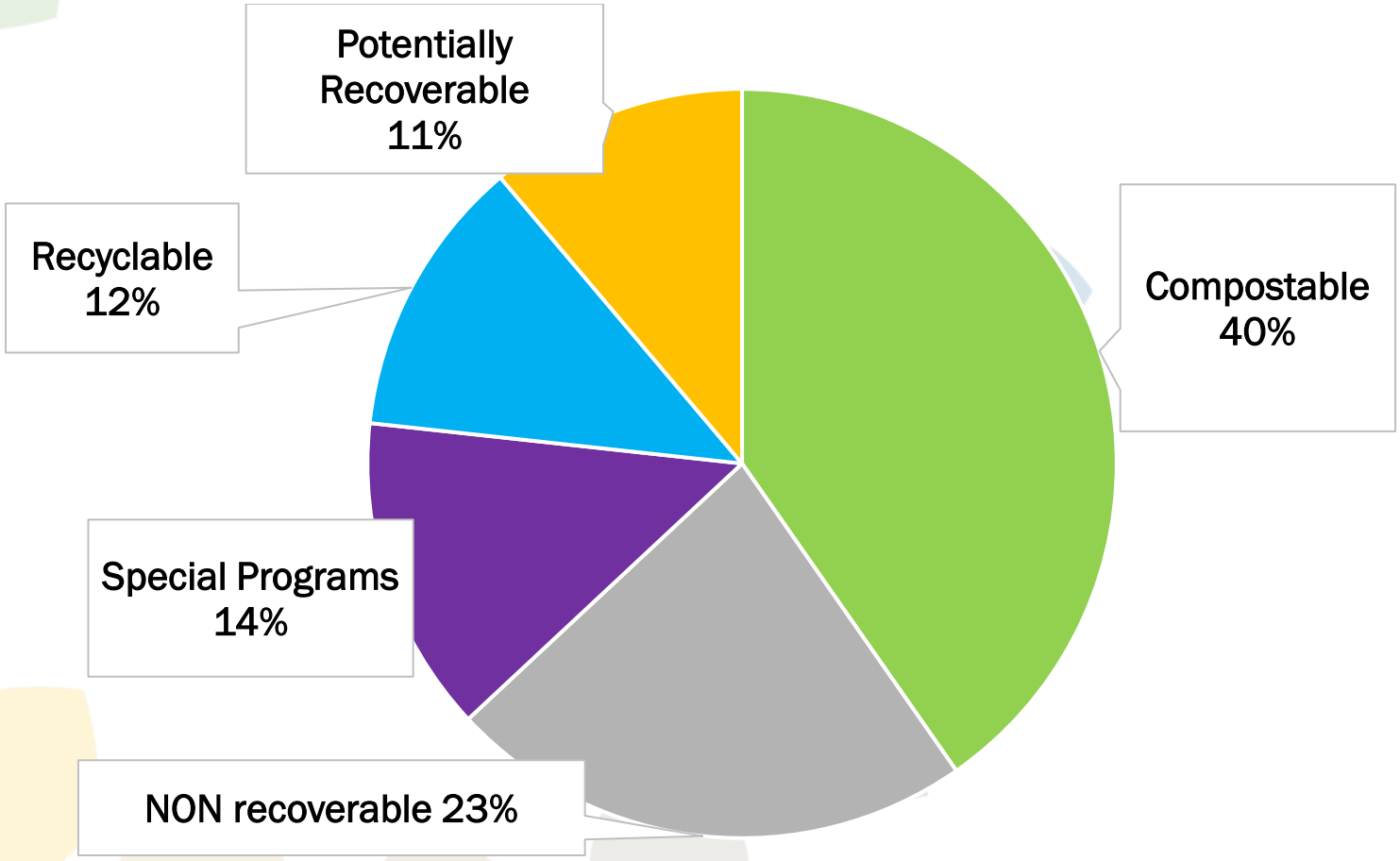
Top 5 Material Types in Commercial Landfill

Rank	Material Type	Composition	± %	Estimated Tons
1	Food - Not Donatable non-Meat	13.2%	1.8	3,598.20
2	Compostable Paper	9.7%	0.8	2,652.70
3	Hazardous Waste and Sharps	9.2%	2.1	2,515.90
4	Food - Inedible	7.4%	1.2	2,026.50
5	Low Grade Mixed Recyclable Paper	5.6%	0.5	1,537.20

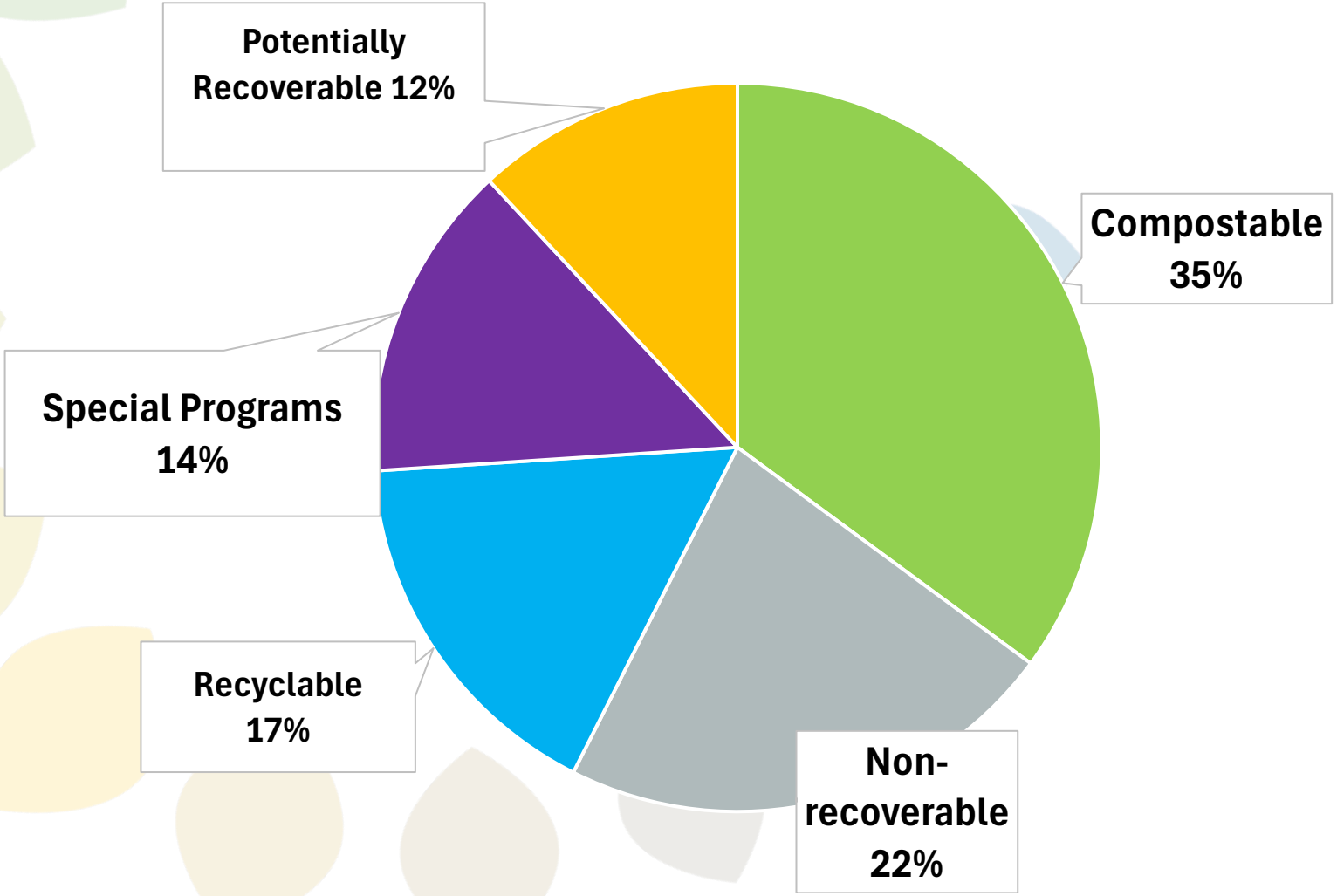
Recoverability Categories

Recoverability Group Designation	Recoverability Group Description
Compostable	Materials currently accepted in the organics bin and readily recovered
Recyclable	Materials currently accepted in the recycling bin and readily recovered
Currently Recovered through Special Programs	Materials that have existing programs/outlets for recovery other than curbside diversion programs
Potentially Recoverable	Materials that have the potential to be recovered but do not have existing programs currently
Non-recoverable	Materials that cannot be recovered through diversion programs and belong in the landfill.

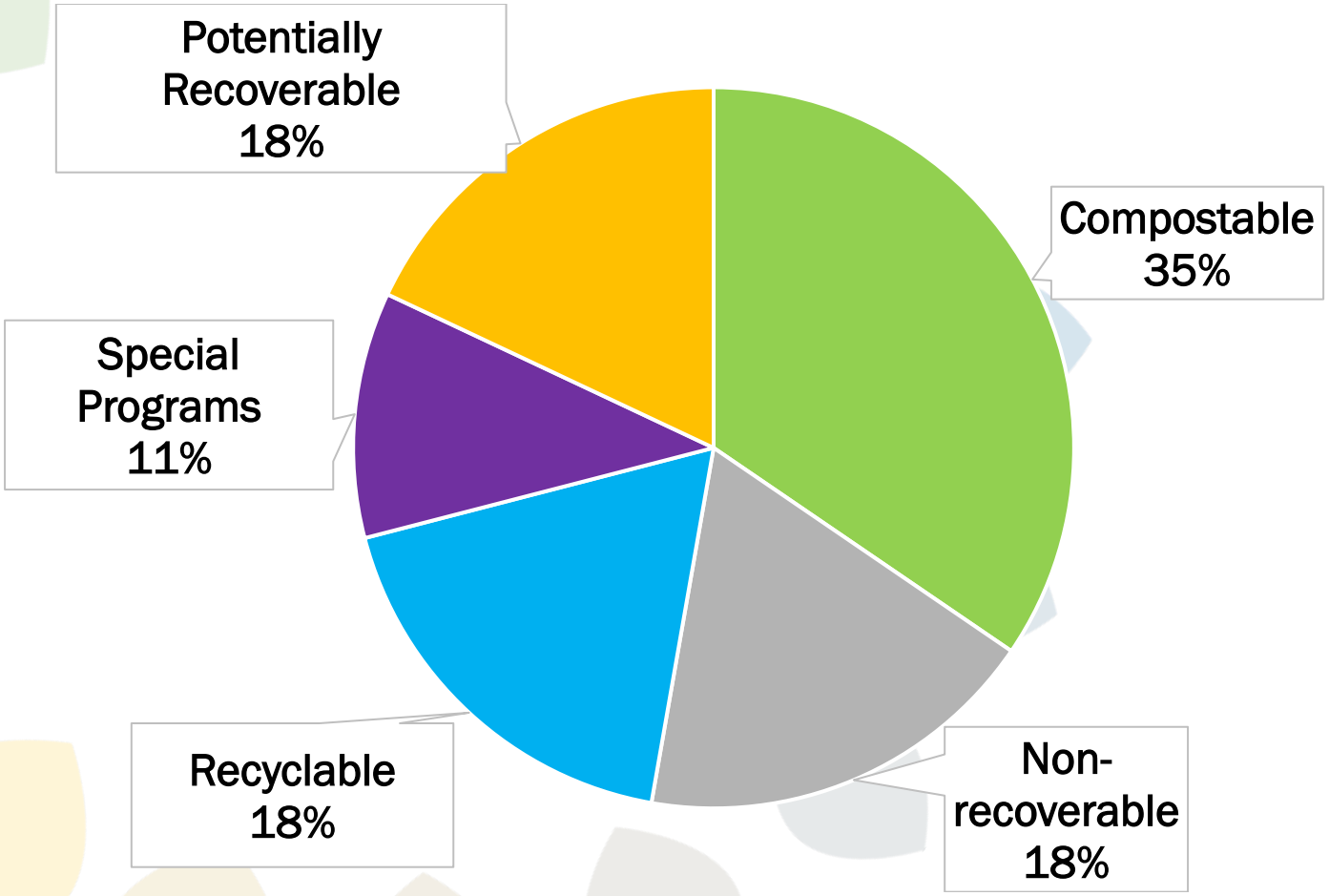
Single-Family Landfill Recoverability



Multi Family Landfill Recoverability



Commercial Landfill Recoverability



Phase One Study Findings

- **There are still significant amounts of organics in the landfill stream in all three sectors.**
- Staff will continue to promote opportunities for proper hazardous waste disposal across all sectors.
- The single-family sector is highly successful at diverting yard trimmings into the organics cart but has not yet fully embraced food scraps diversion.
- Our 75% diversion goal may be achievable
  - Current Single-family diversion is approx. 64%
  - Potential Single-family diversion is appox. 88%

Outreach Campaigns

Next Steps

AB 2346 – Local Waste Characterization Pathway

CURRENT: 0.08 x 233,385 (population) = 18,671 (tons) x $6.00 = $68,283 annually, OR

POTENTIAL: 0.04 X 233,385 (population) = 9,335 (tons) x $6.00 = $34,132 annually

Potential savings over 5 years: $170,708

Fund Phase II with a combination of grant funds and budgeted SB 1383 program funds.

Recommendation

"Amend HDR Engineering's on-call consulting contract to add $115,000 to the not-to-exceed amount and extend the term by one year (from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2027) in order to complete Phase 2 of the Study."