



**FUTURE OF MATERIALS
MANAGEMENT IN VERMONT:
UNIVERSAL RECYCLING LAW (ACT 148)**

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Solid Waste Management Program

VT Department of Environmental Conservation

Act 148 changes our view from
“waste” to...

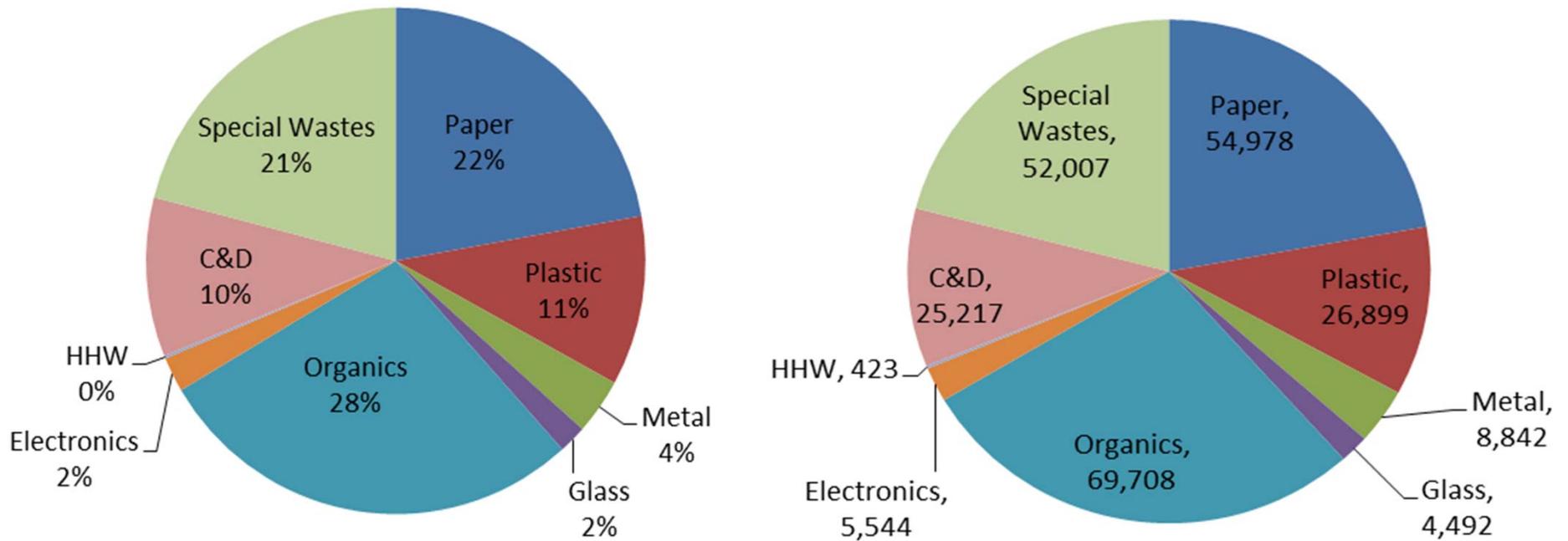




Materials Management



Residential MSW by percent & weight

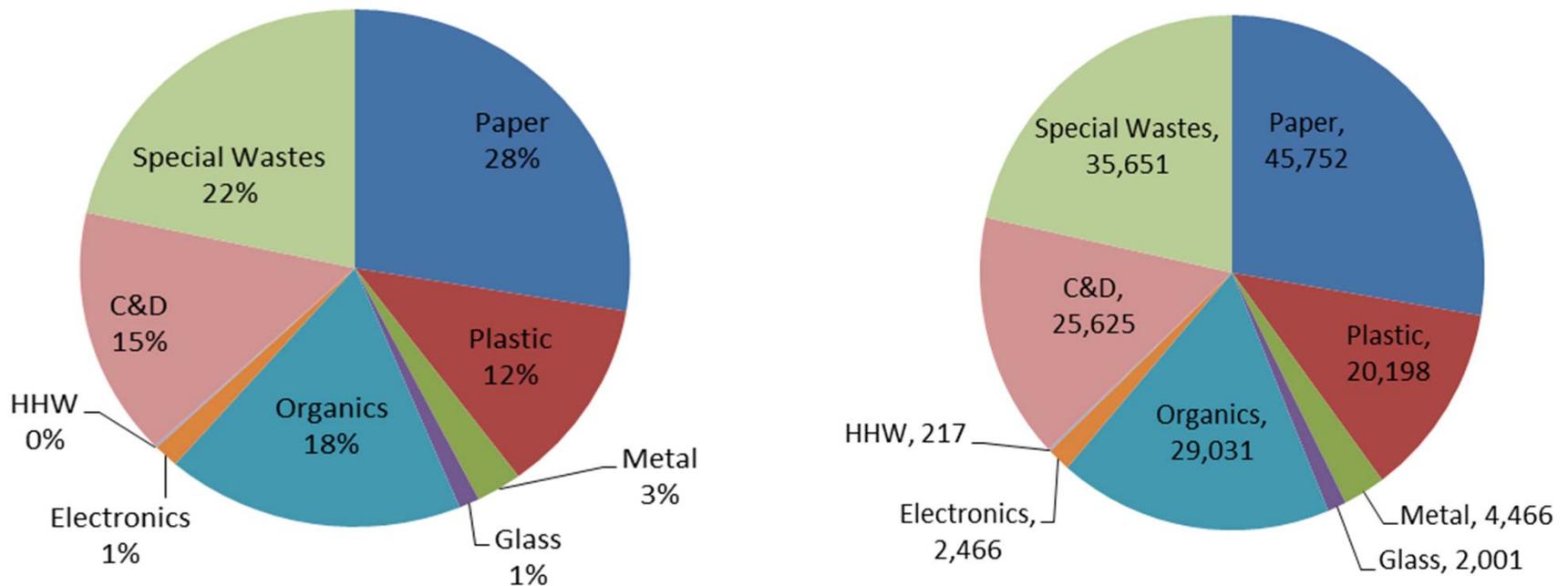


Highest amount of materials sent to the landfill are:

- Organics – 28% or ~70,000 tons
 - Food scraps were 16.7% or ~41,500 tons
- Paper – 22% or ~55,000 tons

ICI MSW

by percent and weight



Highest amount of materials sent to the landfill are:

- Paper – 28% or ~45,750 tons
- Organics – 18% or ~29,000 tons
 - Food scraps were 11.2% or ~18,600 tons

Universal Recycling Law (Act 148)

- Most significant change to VT solid waste law since 1988
- Approved unanimously by legislature
- Focuses on recyclables and organics
 - ▣ Mandated recyclables
 - ▣ Leaf and yard debris, food scraps, and clean wood
- Intent is to provide more **convenient and consistent** services statewide, that offer choices and incentives
- Phased approach to allow development of infrastructure



Universal Recycling Law (Act 148)

- State Standardized Symbols – adopted fall 2013



Universal Recycling law summary:

- Bans disposal of:
 - ▣ mandated recyclables by 2015,
 - ▣ leaf & yard debris and clean wood by 2016,
 - ▣ food scraps beginning with largest generators in 2014 and phased in to a full ban by 2020

- Mandates parallel collection by facilities/**haulers** that collect trash:
 - ▣ mandated recyclables by 2014/**2015**
(at no additional charge for residential recyclables),
 - ▣ leaf & yard debris by 2015/**2016**, and
 - ▣ food scraps by **2017**



Universal Recycling law summary:

- Phased in mandates for larger generators to divert food residuals, if there is a facility within 20 miles

- 2014 for generators > 104 tons/yr
- 2015 for generators > 52 tons/yr
- 2016 for generators > 26 tons/yr
- 2017 for generators > 18 tons/yr



- Municipalities must adopt Unit Based Pricing by 2015
- **Recycling collection containers must be available in publically owned places by 2015**
 - and the Vermont statehouse by 2012

Recycling in Public Spaces

- “**Public building**” is a state, county, or municipal building, airport terminal, bus station, school building, or school.
- “**Public land**” is all land that is owned or controlled by a municipal or state governmental body.



Collection of recyclables in public spaces

10 V.S.A. §66051(b):

“Beginning July 1, 2015, when a container or containers in a public building or on public land are provided to the public for use for solid waste destined for disposal, an equal number of containers shall be provided for the collection of mandated recyclables. The containers shall be labeled to clearly show the containers are for recyclables and shall be placed as close to each other as possible in order to provide equally convenient access to users.

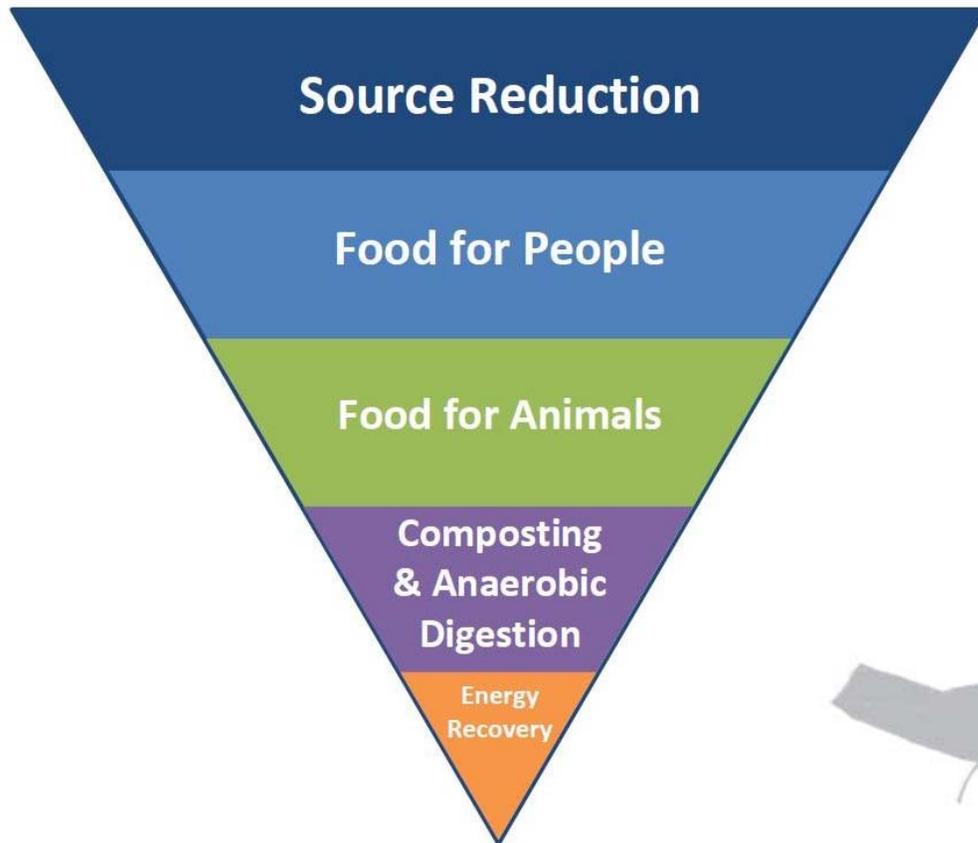
Bathrooms in public buildings and on public land shall be exempt from the requirement of this section to provide an equal number of containers for the collection of mandated recyclables.”

“Mandated Recyclables” – Includes most commonly recycled materials

□ Mandated recyclables:

- **Metal:** aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil, aluminum pie plates,
- **Glass:** bottles and jars from foods and beverages,
- **Plastic:** PET and HDPE plastic bottles, containers and jugs,
- **Paper:** corrugated cardboard, white and colored paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail and envelopes, boxboard, and paper bags.

Food Recovery Hierarchy



Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (1996) – helps protect food donors from liability associated with donated food.

What is a “facility”?

**Vermont Technical College's
Anaerobic Digester**



**Green Mountain
Compost Facility**

So where are these facilities?

- ❑ Cookeville Compost - Corinth
- ❑ Dane Farm - West Charleston
- ❑ Green Mountain Compost - Williston
- ❑ Grow Compost - Moretown
- ❑ Highfields Composting - Wolcott
- ❑ Hudak Farm - Swanton
- ❑ Paris Farm - Lyndon
- ❑ TAM Organics - Bennington
- ❑ Vermont Compost Co. - Montpelier
- ❑ Vermont Natural Ag. - Middlebury
- ❑ Windham SW District - Brattleboro
- ❑ Wise Worm Compost - Burke

See also **Find-A-Composter.com**.



Photo courtesy of CVSWMMD

Who's hauling food scraps?



Tote washing. Photo courtesy of CVSWMD

St. Johnsbury Region

- Highfields Center for Composting
- Wise Worm Compost, Terrance Lapointe

White River Junction Region

- Cookville Compost, Bob Sandberg

□ **Brattleboro Region**

- Triple T Trucking
- Goodenough Rubbish

□ **Bennington Region**

- TAM Waste Management

□ **Central Vermont - CVSWMD**

□ **Chittenden County Region**

- Casella Resource Solutions
- Gauthier Trucking Co.
- Myers Container Service

□ **Moretown/Randolph**

- Grow Compost

□ **Morrisville Region**

- Highfields Center for Composting

□ **St. Albans Region**

- Northwest VT Solid Waste Mgmt. District

What can be composted?

- **All Food Scraps including spoiled, rotten, stale:**
 - Meat, fish, & bones/shells
 - Milk, cheese, & other dairy
 - Veggies & fruits
 - Bread, pastas, grains, beans, nuts
 - Soups & sauces
 - Eggs & eggshells
 - Oils & fats
 - Coffee grounds & filters
- Wood chips, waste hay and grain
- Manures
- Landscape debris (leaves, brush)
- Paper, cardboard*
(*contact composter)

Food Scrap Separation 101

- ❑ Regular Staff Trainings
- ❑ **In office spaces:** 5-gallon buckets - cheap and easy to clean and carry.
- ❑ **In recreational spaces:** secured “critter proof” containers
- ❑ Compostable bags
- ❑ Paper and “Compostable disposables”
- ❑ Flies like trash cans and food scrap containers:
 - ❑ Keep lids closed
 - ❑ Empty and clean containers daily
 - ❑ Some Haulers provide sawdust for odor and fly control in totes during the summer months (coffee grounds work)



Benefits of diverting food scraps

- Saves resources.
- Reduces GHG emissions.
- Sustainable Business Practice – Going Green.
- Supports new jobs, businesses and farming.
- Value of materials, now considered commodities.
- Reduces landfill space needs.
- No more smelly trash.

Contact Details & Website

For assistance contact:

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802.522.5897

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802.522.5783

Web Page: www.recycle.vermont.gov