



# UNIVERSAL RECYCLING

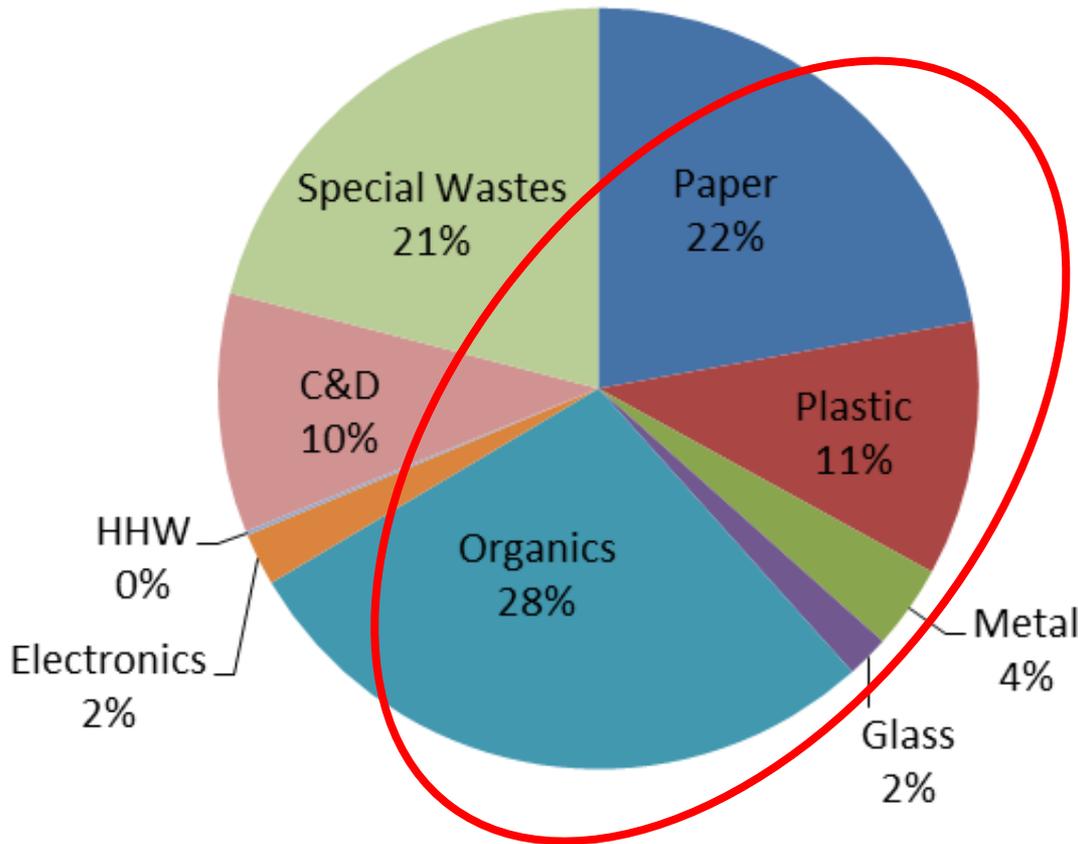
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**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**

# The Problem

Residential MSW 2013



**As much as 50%  
of trash could be  
recycled or  
composted**

- 70,000 tons of Organics
  - 40,000 tons of food scraps (16%)
- 55,000 tons of Paper

# Vermont's Recycling Rate

- 30-36% for the past 10 years.
- Goals: Moving Towards Zero Waste, 50% by 2022



From this, to...





# Materials Management



# Strategies:

- **Universal Recycling**
- **State Materials Management Plan**
- **Solid Waste Implementation Plans**
- **Efforts by Local Governments**
- **Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Cmt.**
- **Beyond Waste Work Group**

# Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Cmt.

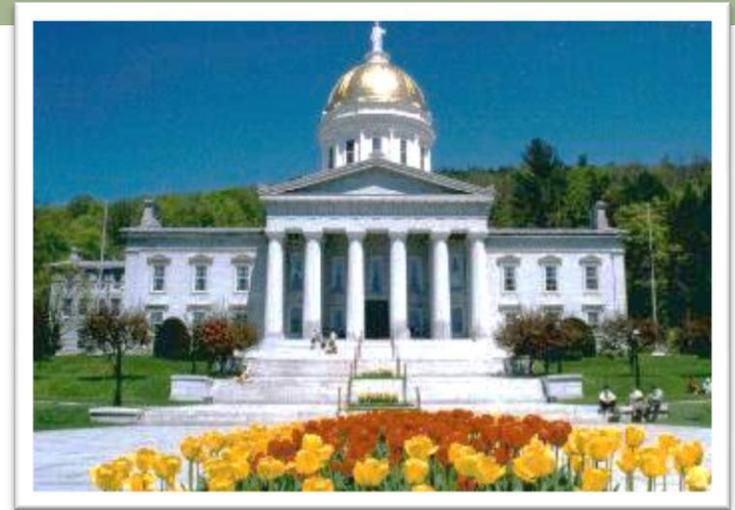
- Required by the Vermont Legislature (S.208 2014)
- Nine member stakeholder group with other participants
- Charge:
  - ▣ Evaluate capacity of existing infrastructure
  - ▣ Identify gaps and needed infrastructure
  - ▣ Determine cost of needed infrastructure
  - ▣ Develop funding Options

# Beyond Waste

- Target 50% of the waste stream not captured through Act 148 implementation
- Stakeholder process -- developed matrix of criteria for assessing various material types
- Priorities:
  - Top Priorities: Textiles, C&D, Tires, HHW
  - Secondary Priorities: Ag Plastics, Packaging & Printed Materials, and Pharmaceuticals

# Universal Recycling law (Act 148)

- Approved unanimously by legislature in 2012



- Goal to decrease amount of waste disposed by providing more **convenient and consistent** services statewide, & offer choices and incentives
- Phased approach to allow development of infrastructure

# Universal Recycling Summary

- **Diverts materials from disposal:**
  - mandated recyclables by 2015,
  - leaf, yard, and clean wood by 2016,
  - food residuals by 2020



- **Ensures parallel collection** of municipal solid waste & recyclables

	Facilities	Haulers
□ mandated recyclables	2014	2015
□ leaf & yard residuals	2015	2016
□ food residuals	2017	

# Universal Recycling Summary

- **Recycling collection containers:** Available in publicly owned places by July 1, 2015
- **Municipalities:** Adopt Unit Based Pricing by July 1, 2015



# “Baseline” Recyclables

**Metal:** aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil, aluminum pie plates,

**Glass:** bottles and jars from foods and beverages,

**Plastic:** #1 and #2 (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.



# Recycling in Public Spaces

Recycling collection containers in publicly owned places by **July 1, 2015** (except restrooms).

- “**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.



# Unit-Based Pricing – July 1, 2015

- Unit-Based = per unit **pricing based on Volume or Weight**
  - ▣ Increases recycling, cuts costs, is equitable, supports local control
  - ▣ Consistent with how water, sewer, electric rates are calculated.
  
- Municipalities implement Unit-Based Pricing via ordinance.
  - ▣ Applies to all **haulers** and **transfer stations** in the jurisdiction
  
- Fixed fees (e.g. property tax) permitted when accompanied by a **per-unit fee**
  
- Unit-Based fees cover cost of disposing of unit of trash (e.g. bag or container)

# Unit-Based Pricing – Options

- **Bags or stickers**
- **Punch cards**
- **Containers or cans**
- **Hybrid** – Allows for 32-gallon base-level service funded by flat fee or property taxes with unit-based price charged for additional bags or containers collected
- **Weight-based** – Price per pound

# Unit-Based Pricing – Addressing Concerns

## □ **Illegal Dumping**

- Studies show this is not a problem or no greater than before UBP system was implemented

## □ **Impacts to Low-Income Households**

- Municipalities may provide reduced rates for low & fixed income households

## □ **Burden to Manage**

- Some UBP options have less administrative burden than others

# Unit-Based Pricing – Benefits

- **Reduces costs** – Newark, VT cut its trash in half
- **Allows Residents to Control Costs** – Low waste producers/avid recyclers no longer subsidize large waste producers
- **Reduces waste** – “single most effective way to reduce waste, increase recycling, and decrease waste-related GHGs.” – US EPA
- **Flexibility** – Many options available for unit-based pricing systems. Municipalities choose.

# Materials Management Plan (MMP)

- 2014 State and Municipal Performance Standards:
  - A. Recyclables
  - B. Organics
  - C. C&D
  - D. Toxics (HHW and CEG, and Electronic Waste)
  - E. Residuals (Septage and Sludges)

# A few SWIP Requirements\*

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## **\*SEE THE FULL MMP FOR ALL REQUIREMENTS**

- ❑ Conduct public media outreach campaign
- ❑ Outreach to Schools & Businesses
- ❑ Convenient access for various materials
- ❑ More convenient HHW collection opportunities.

# Summary of Municipal Requirements

## **Universal Recycling:**

- Implementing Unit-Based Pricing system by July 1, 2015, such as by passing an ordinance
- Provide for public space recycling wherever trash containers are available by July 1, 2015

## **SWIP Requirements (MMP requirements):**

- Adopting a Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) by June 18, 2015, in conformance with the Materials Management Plan
- Yearly SWIP reporting on outreach efforts and solid waste assets

# Benefits of Universal Recycling

- Saves resources by increasing recycling.
- Reduces GHG emissions.
- Supports new jobs, businesses and farming.
- Cuts costs: people pay only for what they waste.
- Sustainable business practice – going green.
- Value of materials, now considered commodities.
- Reduces landfill space needs.
- No more smelly trash.

# Contact Details & Website

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**Web Page** [www.recycle.vermont.gov](http://www.recycle.vermont.gov)

(or search web for “**Universal Recycling Vermont**”)

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