



The City of
Worcester

ZERO WASTE MASTER PLAN



ZERO WASTE MASTER PLAN • WORKSHOP 1

AGENDA

July 16, 2025 • 6:30-8PM

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
- 2. Zero Waste Systems**
- 3. Zero Waste Master Plan**
 - Community Survey Responses
 - Waste Characterization Study
- 4. Small Group Discussion (30 min)**
 - What's your experience with waste management in Worcester?
 - What's your vision of a Zero Waste Worcester?
 - Report back
- 5. Potential New or Expanded Policies, Programs, and Infrastructure**
 - Visit each station, ask questions, provide input



ZERO WASTE SYSTEMS

LINEAR ECONOMY

→ TAKE



Resource Extraction

→ MAKE

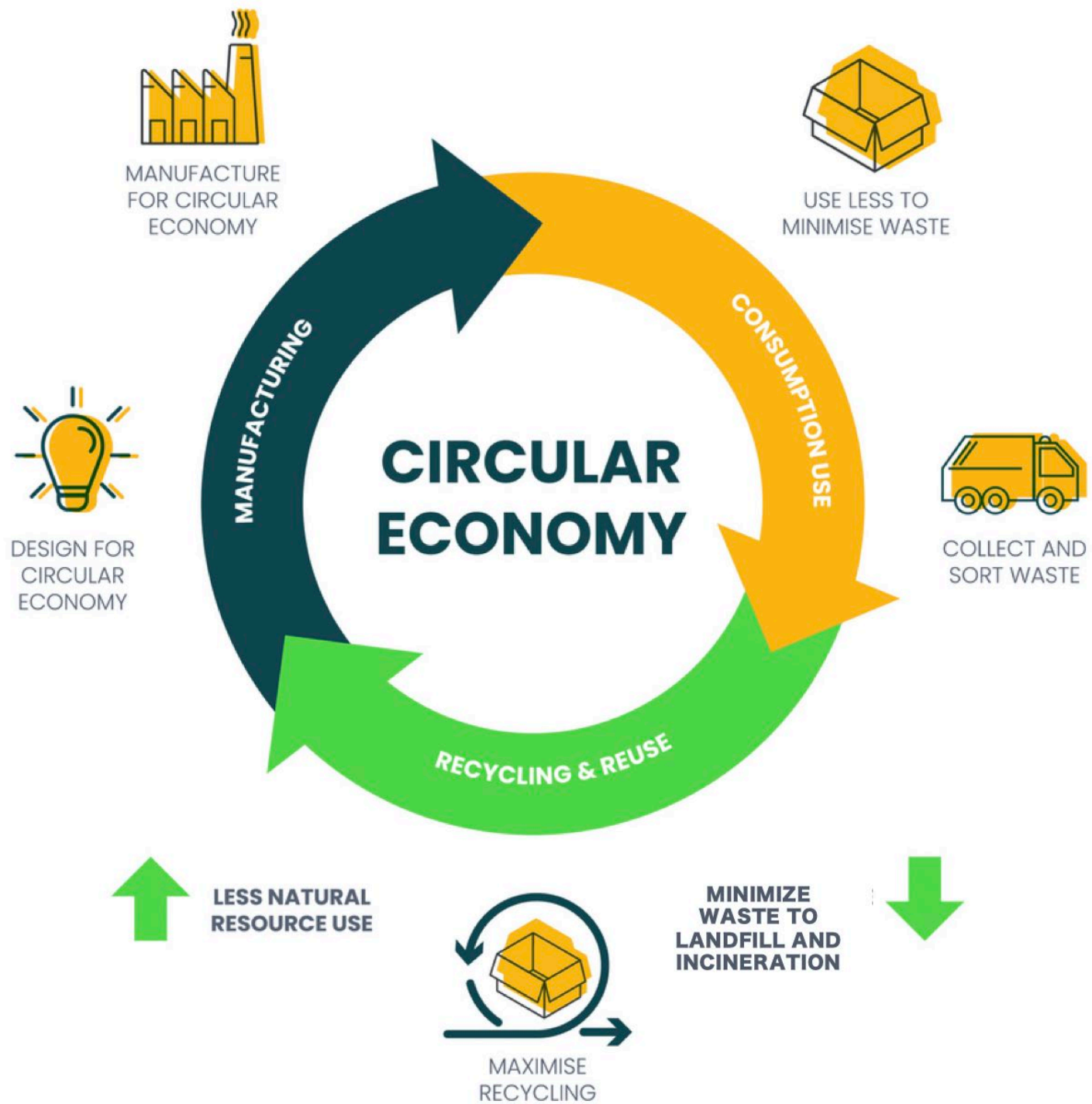


Manufacturing

→ WASTE



End of Life



International Peer-Reviewed Definition of Zero Waste

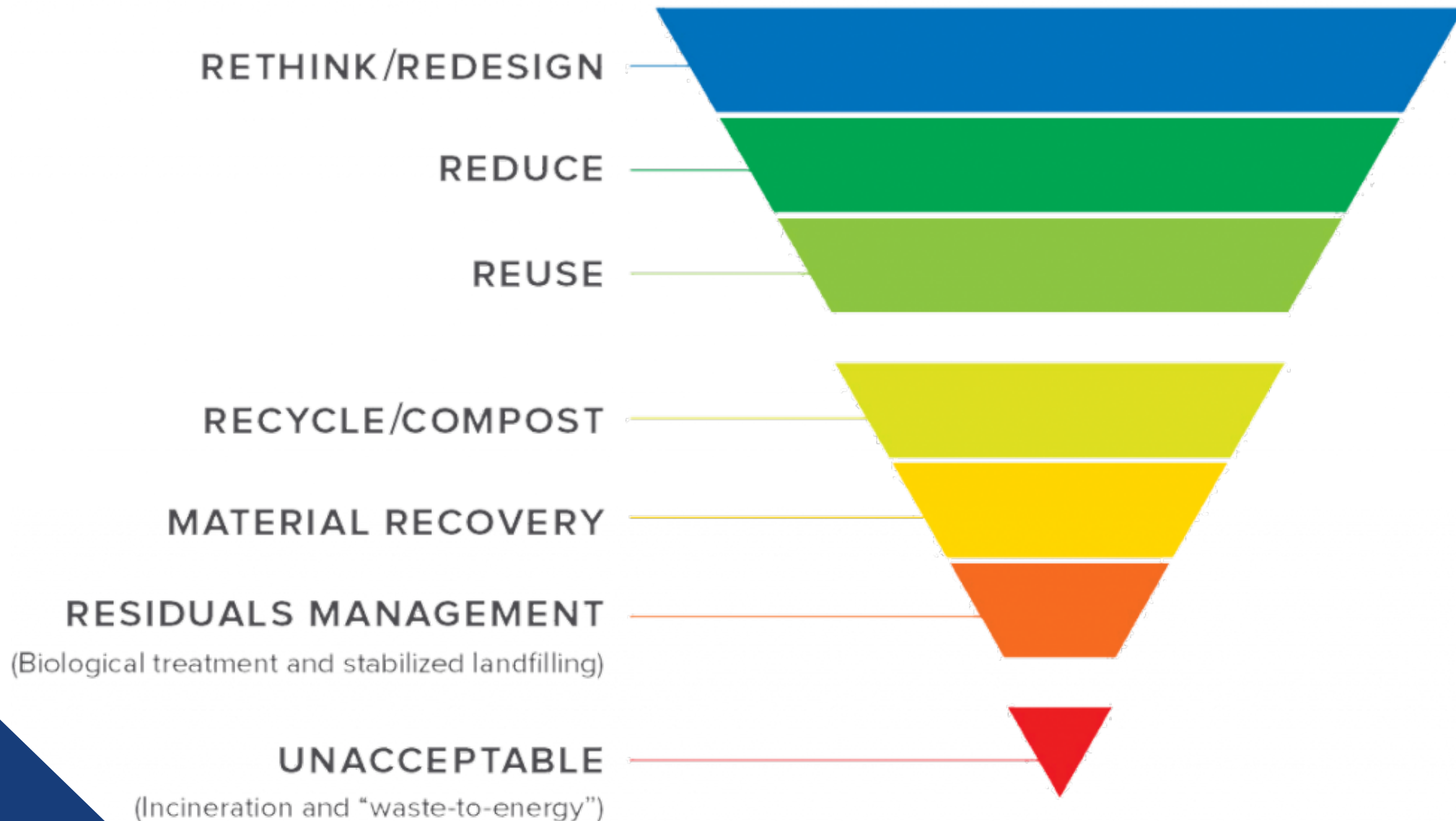
Zero Waste: The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.



Source: zwia.org

THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY 8.0

For detailed version visit www.zwia.org/zwh



Source: Zero Waste International Alliance

RETHINK/REDESIGN



REDUCE

The image illustrates the reduction of paper waste by transitioning from a physical form to a digital one. A large blue arrow points from a crumpled paper form on the left to a digital tablet form on the right.

Physical Form (Left): A crumpled paper form titled "EXAMPLE HEALTH LOGO" and "Sample Form Packet". It contains sections for "PATIENT INFORMATION" and "DENTAL INSURANCE". The "PATIENT INFORMATION" section includes fields for Full Name (Heather Hill), Preferred Name, Gender (Female), Birth Date (3/3/98), SSN, Home Address (4203 Brompton St, Unit #47, San Francisco, CA 94109), City, State, ZIP, Mailing Address, Email (heather.hill99@gmail.com), Cell R. (415-827-4299), Do you use text messaging? (Yes), Home P. (415-328-1210), Work R., Employer, Occupation, May we contact you at work? (Yes), Emergency Contact Name, Phone, Relationship to Patient, and Why are you seeking for referring you? The "DENTAL INSURANCE" section includes fields for Insured Policy Holder, Birth date, SSN, Insured's Employer, Relationship to insured, Name of Insurance Co., Insurance Address, Insured's Address, Insured's Phone, ID Card#, and RESPONSIBLE PARTY Name, Date of Birth, Home address, City, Home P.

Digital Form (Right): A tablet displaying the same form titled "EXAMPLE HEALTH LOGO" and "Sample Form Packet". It features a "Information" section with fields for Patient Name (First, Middle, Last), Address (Address, City, State, ZIP), Email Address, and Home Phone. Below this is a section titled "Please indicate if you have any of the following:" with checkboxes for ADDICTION, Chronic Fatigue, Heart Surgery, Hepatitis, Low Blood Pressure, Seizures, Sleep Apnea, Stroke, and Heart Murmur. The "Patient Consent To The Use of Telehealth" section includes a statement: "I, Heather Hill have read and understand the information provided above regarding telehealth, have discussed it with my provider or such assistants as may be designated, and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I hereby give my informed consent for the use of telehealth in my care." Below this is a signature field for Heather Hill and a date field (Jan 12, 2021). The form also includes a "HIPAA" logo and a "SEND AND CANCEL LATER" button.

REUSE



RECYCLE/COMPOST



RESOURCE RECOVERY PARKS





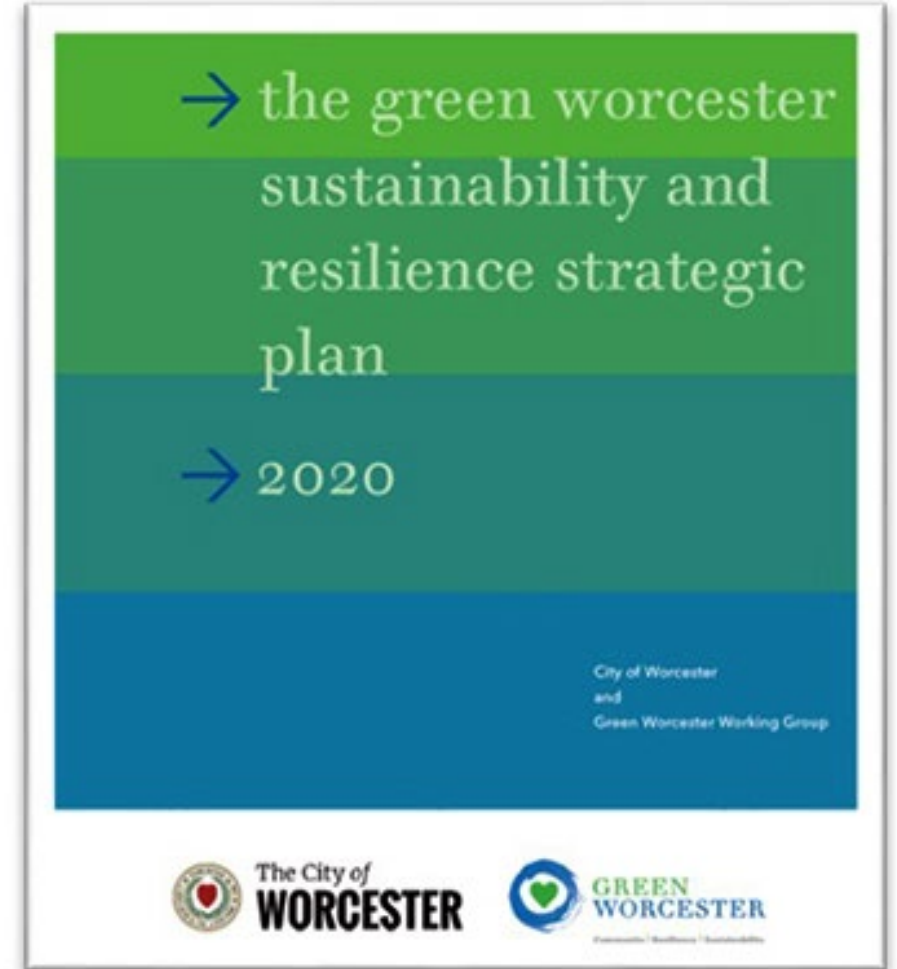
ZERO WASTE MASTER PLAN



GREEN WORCESTER PLAN

Charts a roadmap to bring sustainability values to all aspects of city life

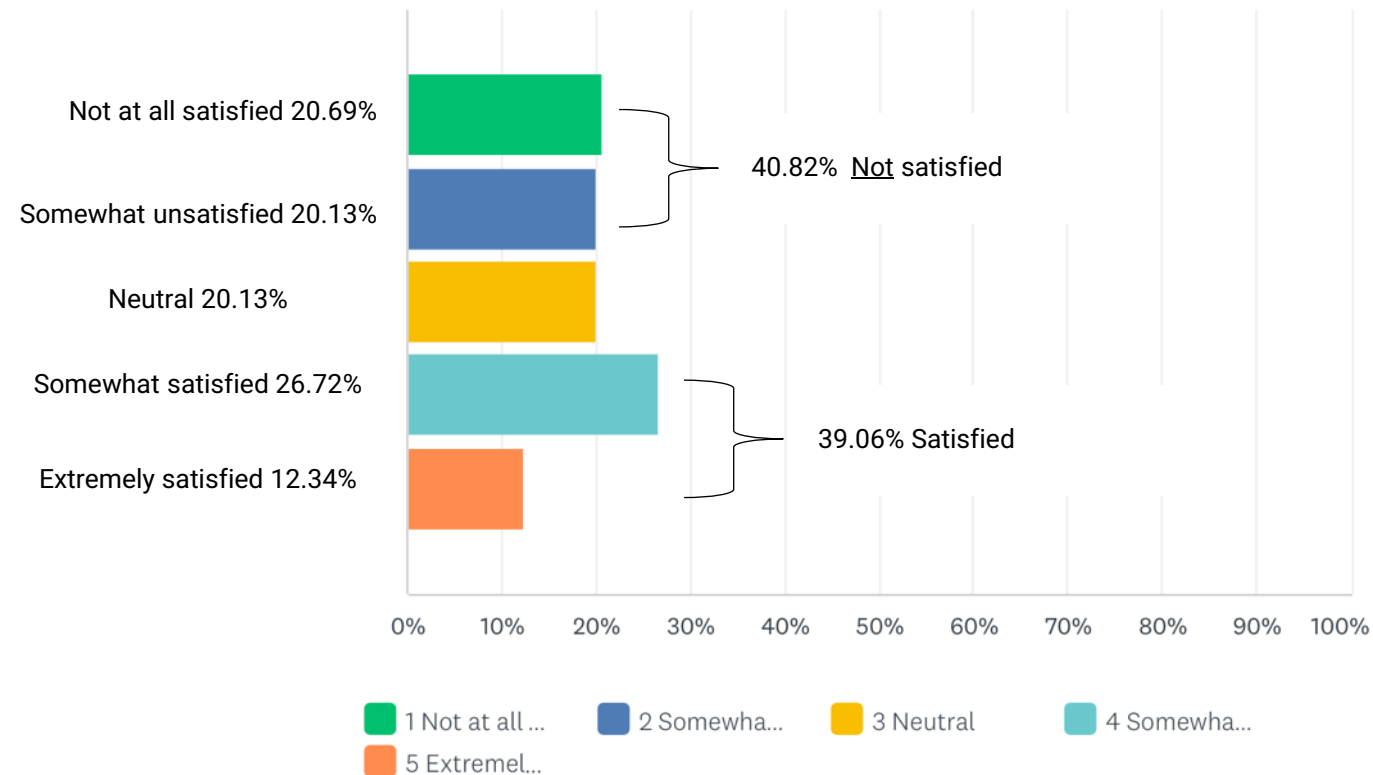
- Sustainable transportation and mobility
- Green infrastructure projects
- Renewable energy
- Urban Forestry Master Plan
- **Zero Waste Master Plan**



COMMUNITY SURVEY

How satisfied are you with Worcester's curbside trash collection program (also known as the yellow-bag or Pay-As-You-Throw program)? Rank 1-5 with 5 being extremely satisfied

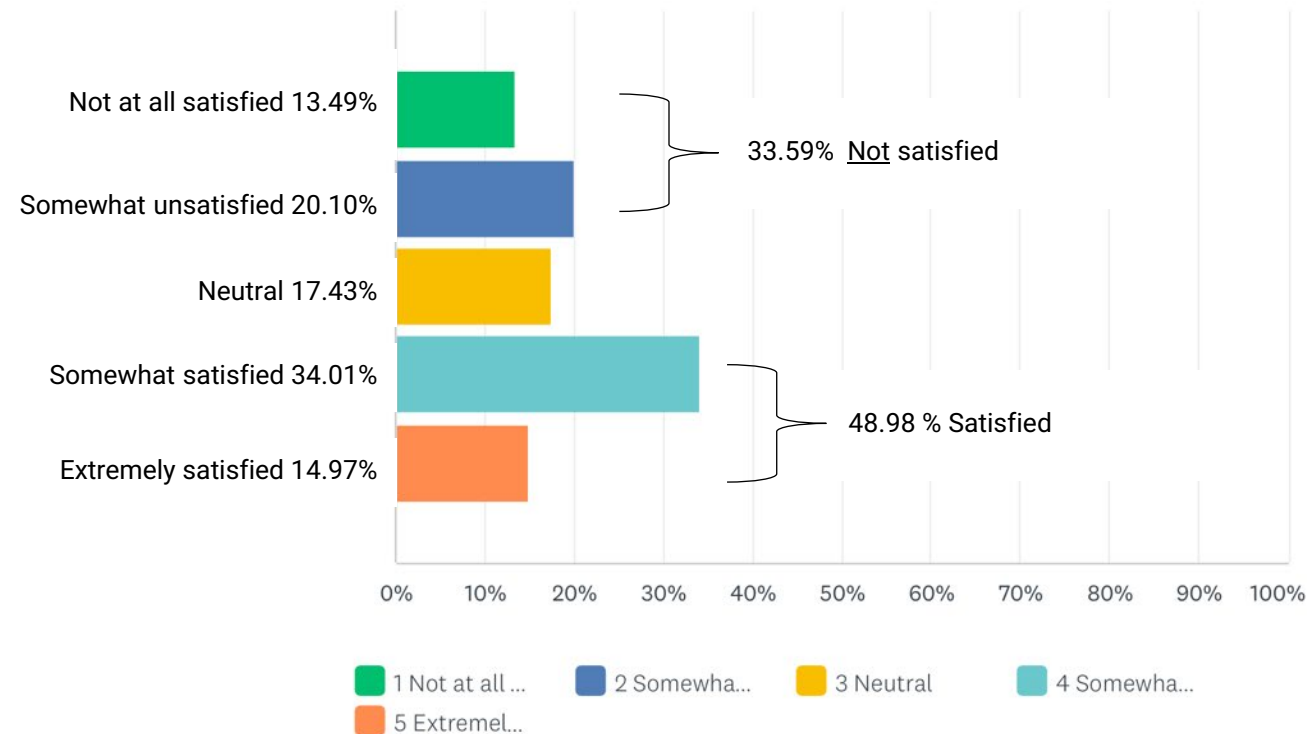
Answered: 1,426 Skipped: 394



COMMUNITY SURVEY

How satisfied are you with Worcester's curbside recycling collection program ? Rank 1-5 with 5 being extremely satisfied

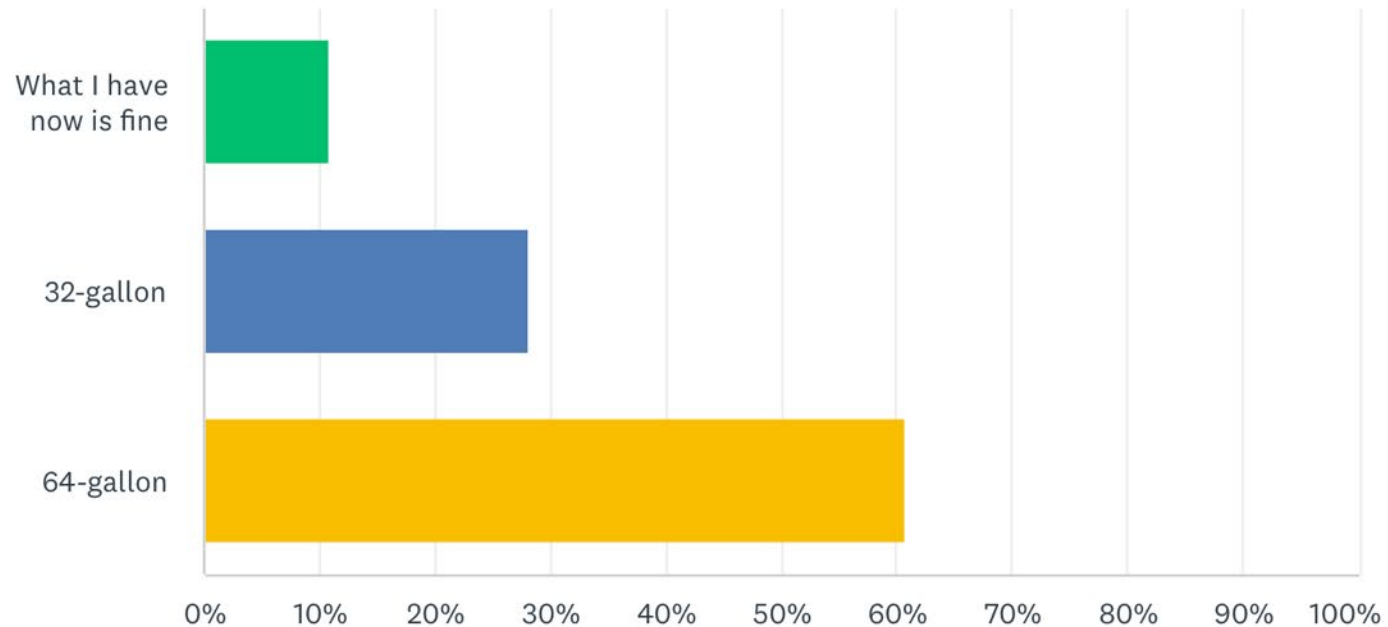
Answered: 1,423 Skipped: 397



COMMUNITY SURVEY

Currently Worcester provides 22-gallon, green recycling carts. If the City were to offer 32-gallon and 64-gallon wheeled carts, which would you prefer? (see example below)

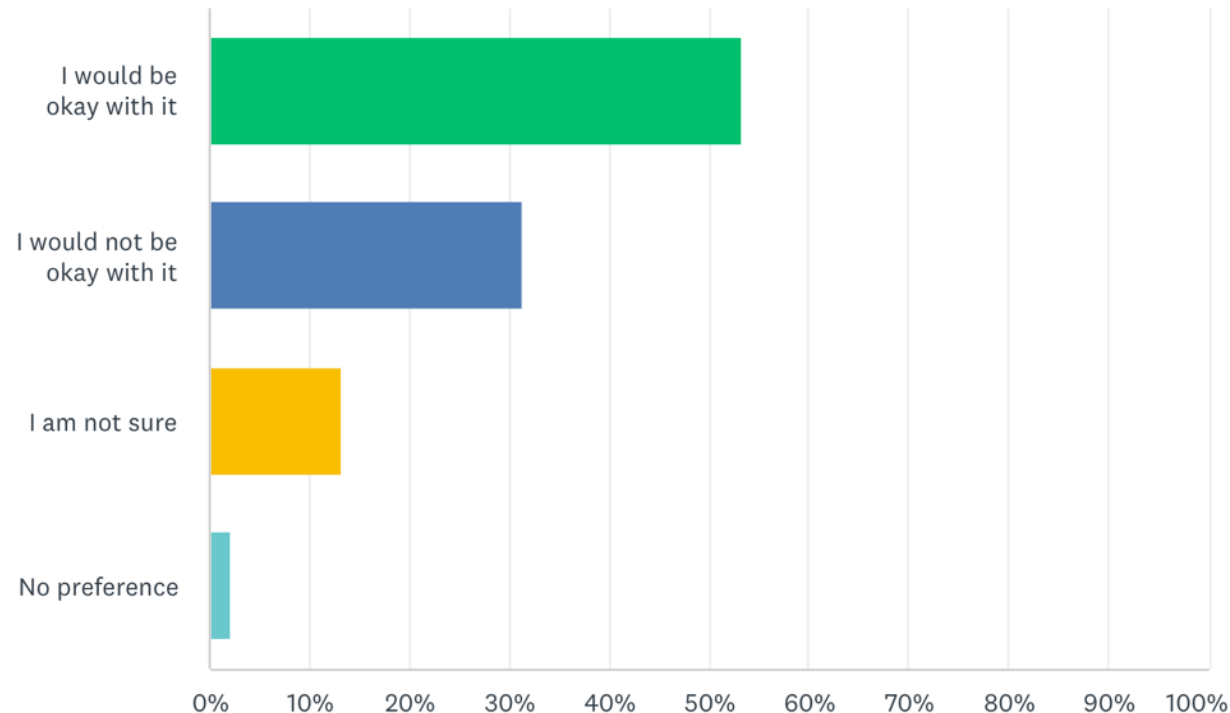
Answered: 1,423 Skipped: 397



COMMUNITY SURVEY

If the City provided a 64-gallon wheeled bin for every household in the curbside trash/recycling program, how would you feel about the City collecting recycling every other week, instead of once a week (with trash pick-up remaining at the once per week schedule)?

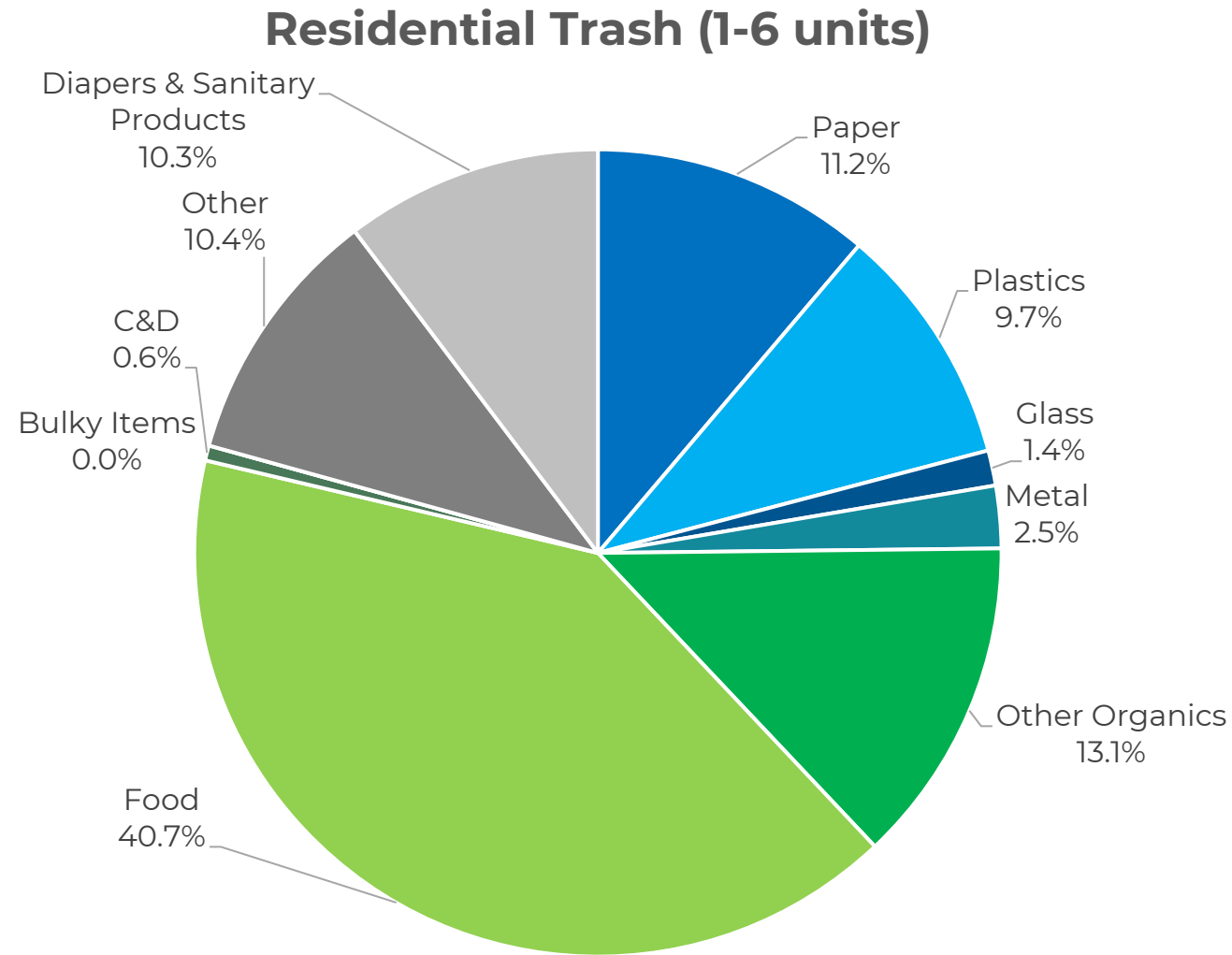
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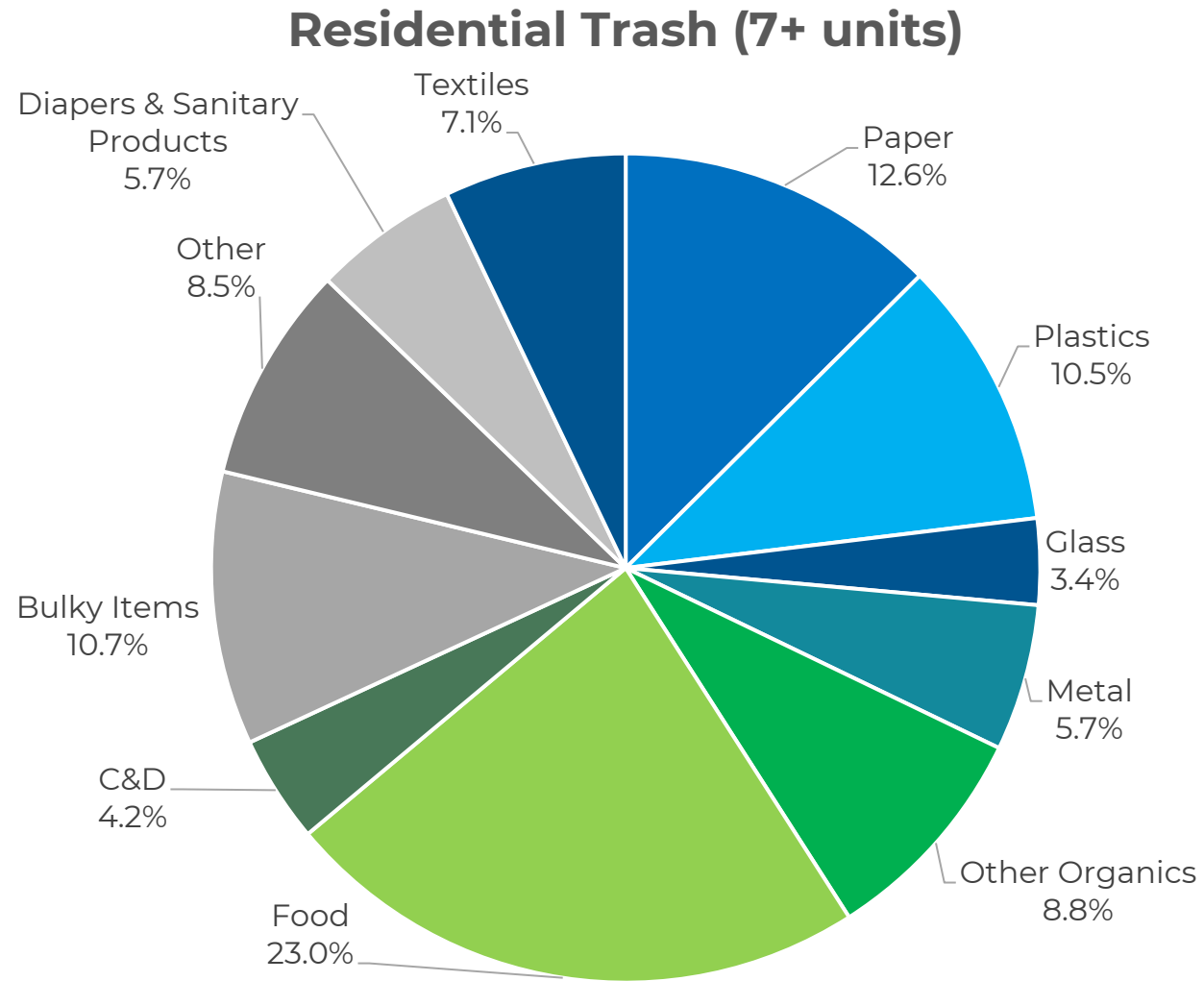


Quick reactions?

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY

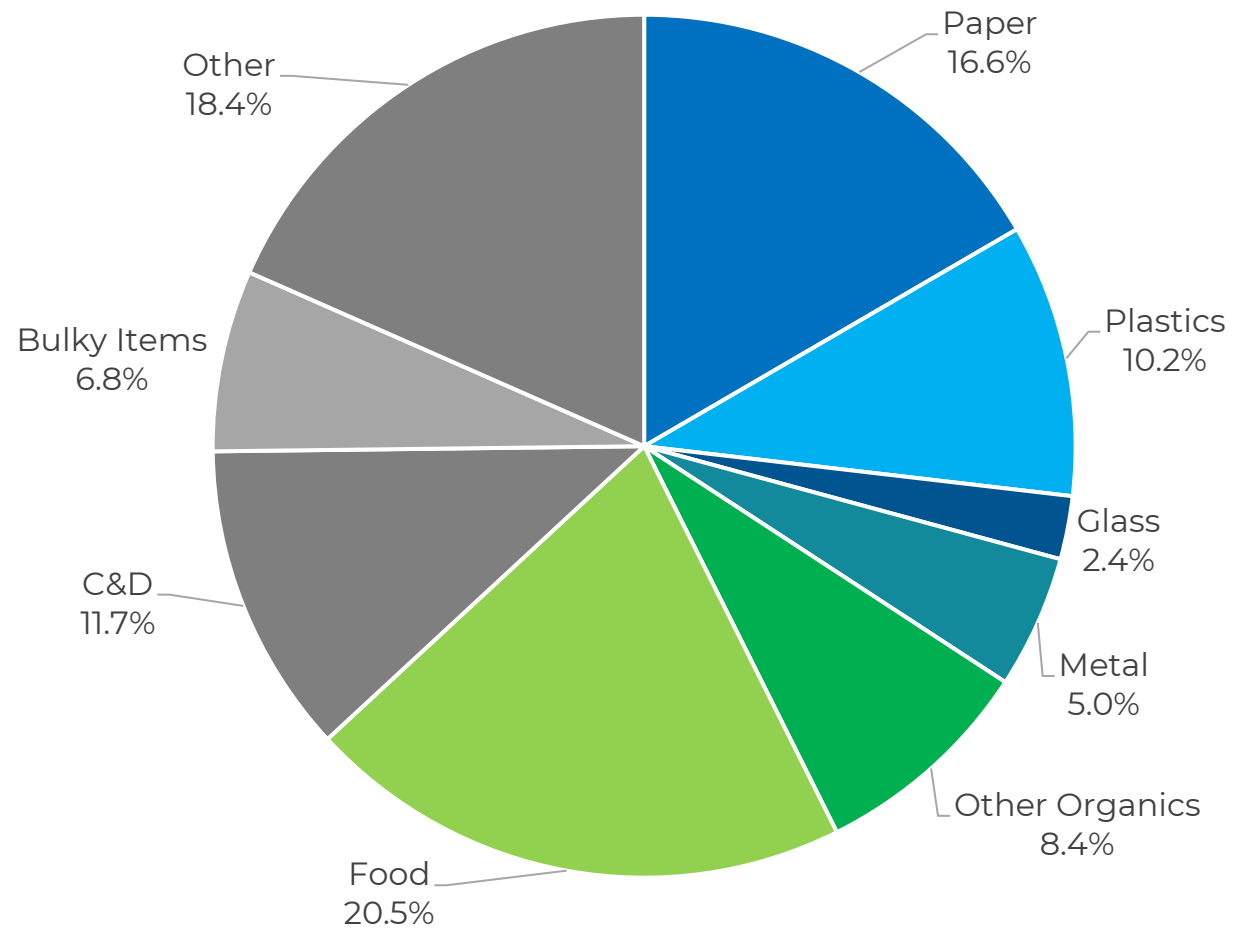


WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY

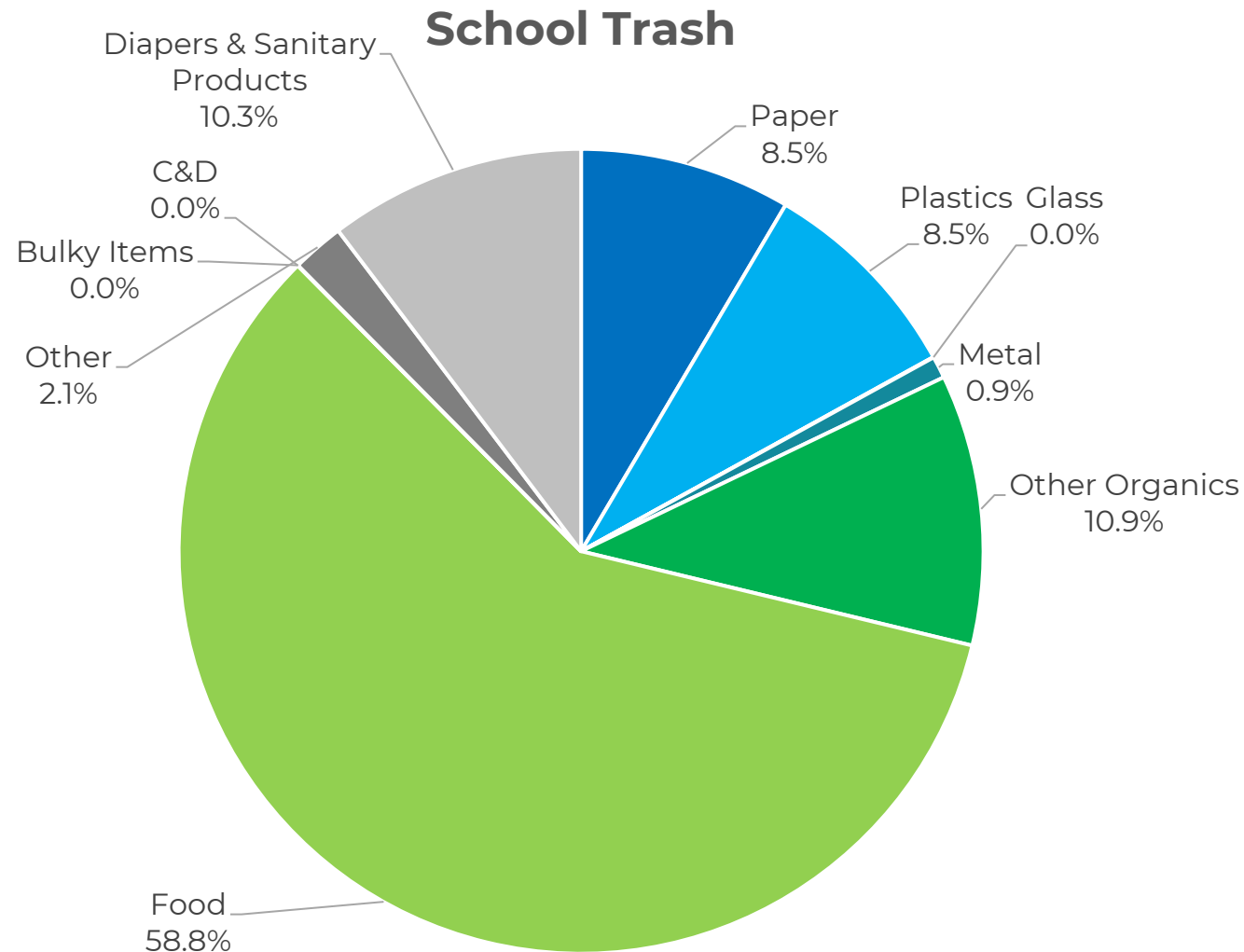


WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY

Commercial Trash



WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY





Quick reactions?

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
COMMUNITY SURVEY									
LISTENING SESSIONS									
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS	4/17		6/18		8/21		10/16		12/18
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS				7/16		9/17		11/5	
ONLINE MEETINGS				7/22		9/23		11/13	

KEY DELIVERABLES

Current State Review & Analysis	Policy & Program Analysis		Zero Waste Plan	
Waste Generation and Disposal	Organics program	Drop-off Center	Implementation Road Map	Budget & Resource Allocation
Facility Survey and Analysis	Disposal Market	Litter & Illegal Dumping	Framework for Monitoring & Evaluation	Draft & Final Plan
Legal and Regulatory Analysis	Pay As You Throw	Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban	Framework for Education & Outreach	Presentation to City Council
	Large Multifamily & Commercial	Others Initiatives		



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

1) Small group discussions

2) Individual input



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (30 min)

1. What's your experience with waste management in Worcester?
 - What's going well?
 - What are the challenges?
 - What is missing?
 - What could be improved?
2. What's your vision of a Zero Waste Worcester?
3. Report back

POTENTIAL NEW OR EXPANDED POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE




**VISIT EACH OF THE 4 STATIONS, ASK
QUESTIONS, VOTE, PROVIDE INPUT**





POTENTIAL NEW OR EXPANDED POLICIES

1. Single-use Plastic Bans, Fees or Deposits
(Styrofoam Ban, Accessories only on Request)
 2. Mandatory Recycling Participation
 3. Enforcement of State Disposal Bans
 4. Lease Requirements (Notices and Transition Plan)
- 

POTENTIAL NEW OR EXPANDED PROGRAMS

Residential (1-6 units)

- 5. Rolling Carts for Recycling and Trash Collection
- 6. Food Scraps Collection
- 7. Yard Trimmings Collection
- 8. Backyard Composting (Training, Promotion)
- 9. Enhanced Education and Outreach, Community-Based Social Marketing

Residential (7+ units) and Commercial

- 9. Require Haulers to Provide Recycling Services to All Customers
- 10. Food Scraps Collection
- 11. Education and Outreach
- 12. Technical Assistance - onsite help implementing new policies or programs
- 13. Edible Food Donations/Food Rescue

Municipal

- 15. Recycling at All Public Buildings, Parks, Schools
- 16. Food Scraps Collection
- 17. Employee Training, Green Teams in City Departments and at Schools
- 18. Zero Waste Public Events (Recycling, Food Scrap Collection, Vendor Waste Reduction)
- 19. Carbon Farming for Public Lands and Parks (Compost Application)

POTENTIAL NEW OR EXPANDED PROGRAMS

Construction & Demolition

- 20. Recycling Requirements for Contractors and Builders
- 21. Public Notice of Pending Demolition to Facilitate Deconstruction

Citywide

- 22. Rental, Reuse, Repair, Share, & Recycling Business Directory and Promotions
- 23. Green Product and Services Directory and Promotions
- 24. Share, Reuse, Repair Events (Fix-It Clinics, Repair Fairs)
- 25. Citywide Education Enhancements: Website, Social Media, Presentations
- 26. Zero Waste Ambassador Training
- 27. Food Waste Prevention Program
- 28. Program for Diapers (Compostable, Reusable, or Disposable) & Animal Waste
- 29. Business Recognition or Certification for Green Businesses, Zero Waste Businesses
- 30. Systemic Cleanup (Litter and Illegal Dumping)



POTENTIAL NEW OR EXPANDED INFRASTRUCTURE

- 31. Tool Lending Library Expansion
 - 32. Water Bottle Filling Station Expansion
 - Municipal Buildings, Schools, Parks
 - 33. Materials Reuse Exchange (Put & Take)
 - 34. Expansion of Drop-off Center
 - (Days per Week, Months per Year, Materials Collected)
 - 35. Trash Infrastructure (Additional Litter Cans, Drop-off Sites)
 - 36. Wood Recycling Facility - Pallets, Dimensional Lumber, Logs
- 

THANK YOU!



Zero Waste Program Website:
worcesterma.gov/ZeroWaste



Email:
zerowaste@worcesterma.gov