

THE ETHICS OF RECYCLING

and Economically Managing Waste in Your Community



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The Flow of Materials



Resource
Extraction

Processing

Manufacture

Consumption

Landfilled
Incinerated
Recycled
Incinerated

Recycled Landfilled

Accounts for
42% of all GHG
Emissions

In the past 50 years...

Humans have consumed more resources than all of prior history combined!

1960

2010

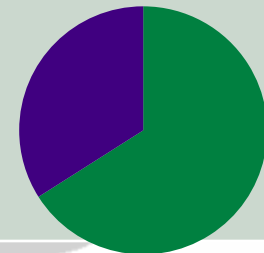
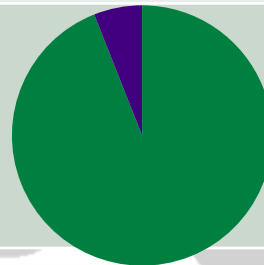
Americans produce nearly 3 times as much total waste now as we did in 1960!



Per Capita Waste Generation has almost doubled since 1960!



National Recycling Rate has increased from 6% to 34%



**Continuous use of Resources on a
Finite Planet puts**



PRESSURE

**on Prices,
Land, and
Future Generations**

But, we can relieve that pressure!



Extended Producer Responsibility



Product Stewardship



Renewable Energy Sources



Reducing, Reusing and RECYCLING our waste!

Wait, WHY do we have all this WASTE in the first place?



The strength of the ECONOMY relies on the buying and selling of goods and services



Producers pass on the burden of the package and products to the CONSUMER and MUNICIPALITY



Advertisements tell us to buy, throw away and then buy again



Being Thrifty, Frugal and Resourceful makes you look "poor" and "cheap"

Our CONSUMER CULTURE

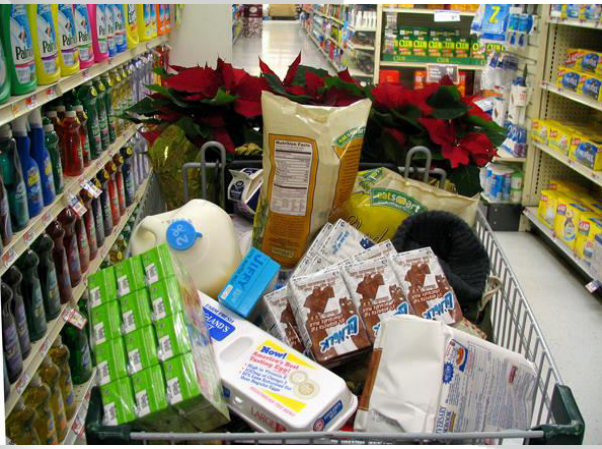
AMERICANS WANT:

- **Convenience**
- **Disposability**
- **Single use**
- **Latest Trends & Technology**

...and we want it for CHEAP

...and we don't want to live near industrial areas

... and we want benefits and high paying salaries



**“We don’t have a waste problem,
we have a resource opportunity”**



3 BIGGEST reasons we recycle today



**Cost
Avoidance**



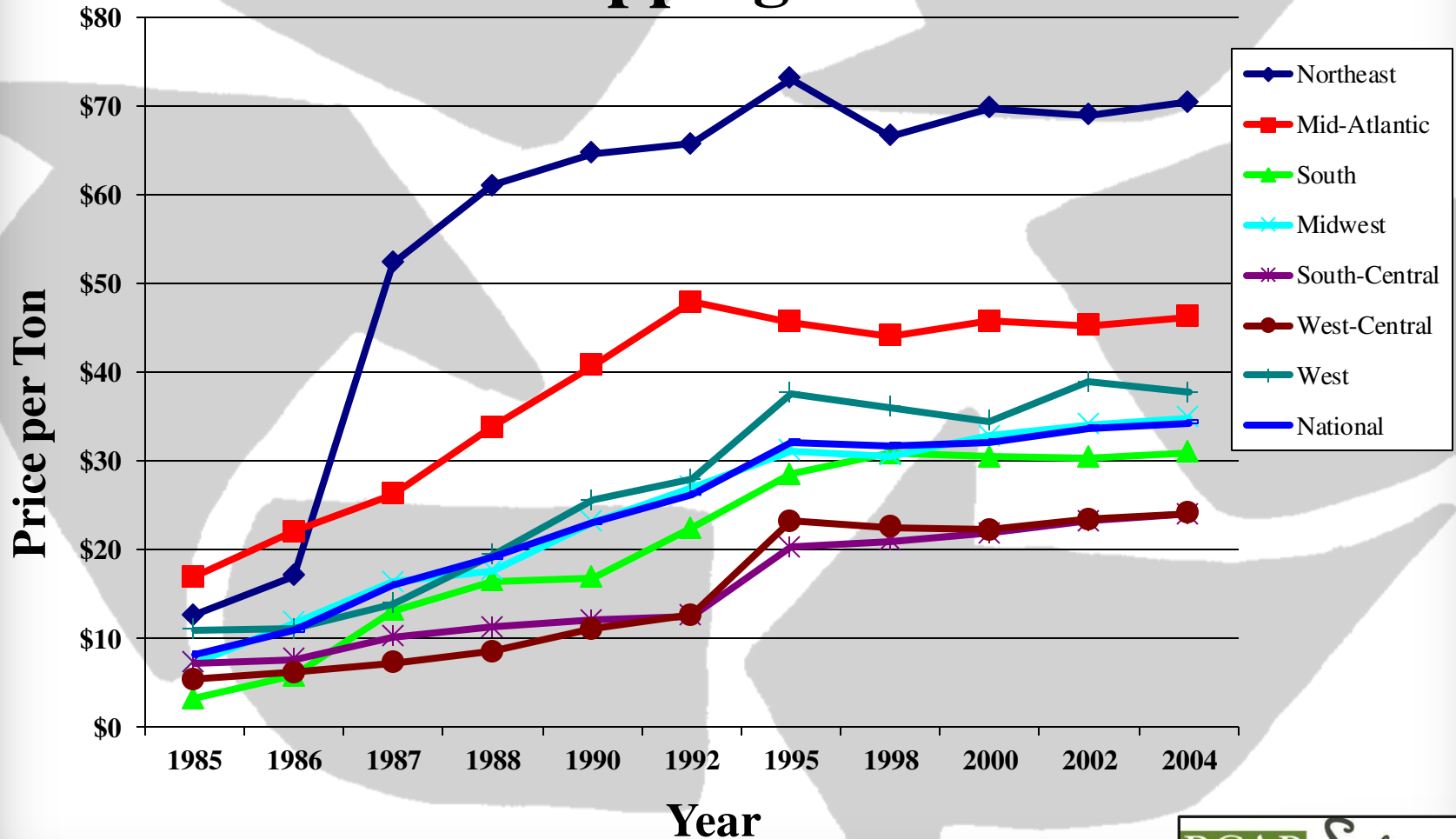
**Recovery
of
Valuable
Materials**



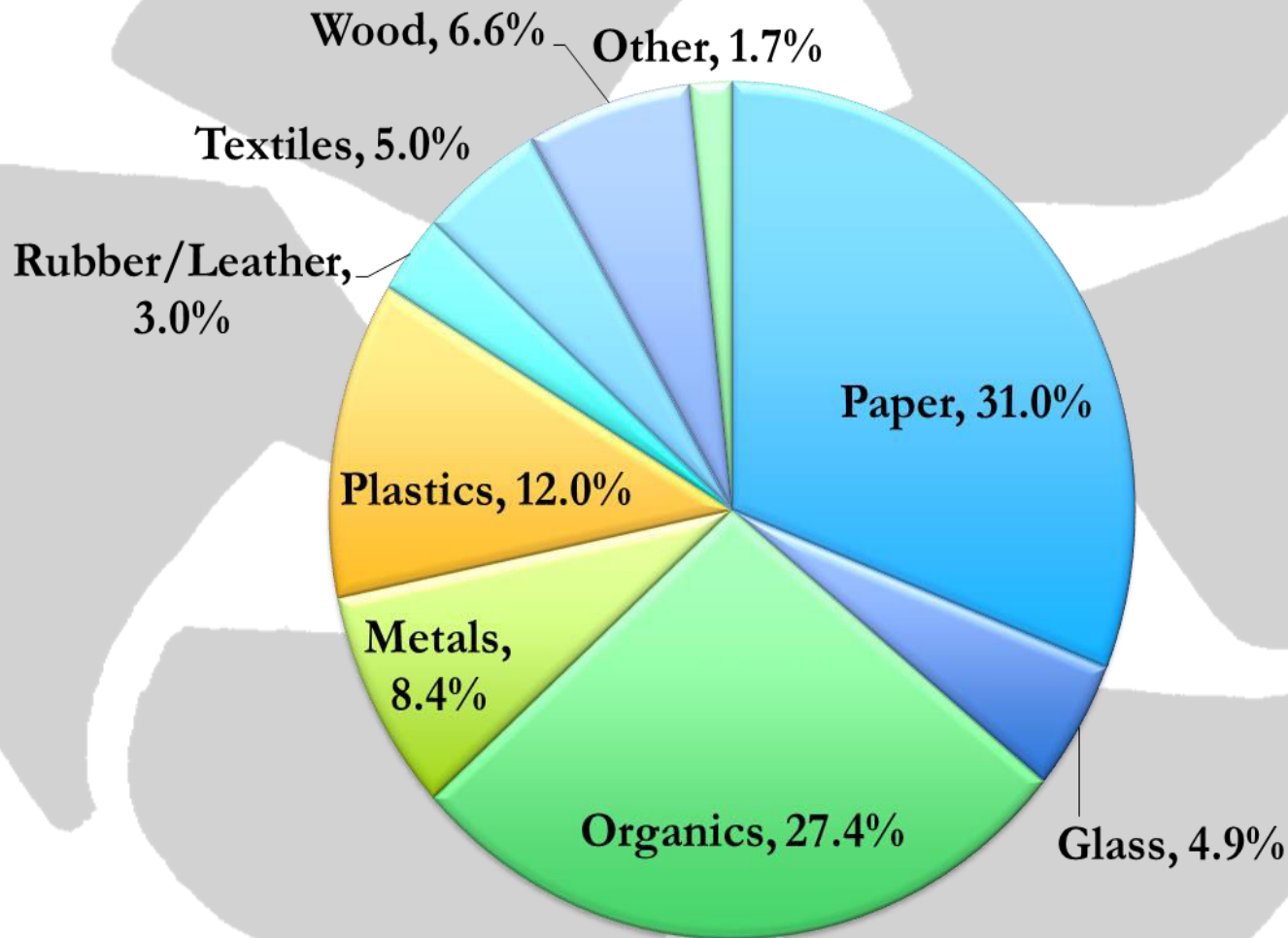
**Environ-
mental
Benefits**

Cost Avoidance

Tipping Fees



Recovering Valuable Material



* EPA Waste Characterization Report-2008

Environmental Benefits



POLLUTION REDUCTION

CONSERVE LANDFILL
SPACE



RESOURCE CONSERVATION

What can communities do?

- 1. Educate People about Recycling**
- 2. Make Recycling Convenient**
- 3. Incentivize People to Recycle**



Recycling Education

The most important and effective step that a community can take to increase recycling!!

- Some people don't know where or what to recycle
- Students that recycle at school bring their good habits home
- Increase recycling awareness through:
 - Community and School Activities
 - Newspaper Articles
 - Mailings



Mandatory Recycling

The Town requires that all recyclable materials **MUST be kept out of your trash bin**

PROs

- Effective (with enforcement)
- No direct added cost to residents

CONs

- Enforcement
- Penalties?
- Effective?
- Is recycling convenient?
- People don't like to be told what to do



Single Stream

Residents do not have to sort recyclable material, it all goes in one bin

PROs

- Convenience!
- Saves space at home
- Could decrease labor costs
- Effective in most areas

CONs

- Town may forgo revenue
- Hauling costs
- Contracts and market variation in recyclable material



Curb-Side Pick up

Residents do not have to go out of their way drop off recyclables, they set it at the curb

PROs

- Convenience!
- Effective!

CONs

- Expensive for the town
- May need to be combined with an incentive... otherwise might not be cost-effective



Composting Organics

Taking the food scraps and yard waste out of the waste stream, use in farm and garden

PROs

- Large part of waste stream
- Useable product created
- Possible sale or gift to local farms or residents
- Reduces methane gas at landfill

CONs

- Infrastructure Costs
- Difficult change for some
- Cost-effective?



Pay-As-You-Throw

Charging a small fee to residents for the waste they generate- a financial incentive to recycle

PROs

- VERY Effective if recycling is “free”
- Generates revenue to cover costs for the town
- Creates Equity- people no longer pay for their neighbors wastefulness

CONs

- Not popular at first
- Recycling must be convenient
- Administration and start up

PAYT can be an unpopular transition

Myth

I'm paying for something that used to be free!

There is no such thing as free trash disposal. It is paid through taxes. Everyone pays the same regardless of what they contribute.

Myth

I'm getting taxed twice for the same thing!

Revenues from bag sales, and reduced tipping fees, will offset the taxes needed for solid waste in the town budget.

Pay-as-you-throw creates EQUITY



Do you want to pay for your neighbors trash?

47 NH Towns “Pay-as-they-throw”

Lancaster

- Population: 3,200
- 1998 SW budget: \$178,000
- 2006 SW budget: \$83,000

Lyme

- Population: 1,730
- 2005 SW Budget: \$110,000
- 2006, after PAYT, SW Budget: \$10,000

Franconia Easton & Sugar Hill

- Population: 1,920
- First year of PAYT-MSW dropped 59%
- Saved taxpayers \$65,000

Peterborough, NH

Recycling Rate ~ 75%

They do it all!

- Pay-as-you-throw
- Mandatory
- Composting
- Hazardous Waste
- “Mini-Mall”

**Revenues earned from
PAYT and recyclables
have covered up to
92% of total costs !**



Take Action!



Establish advisory committee



Determine baseline costs and potential savings



Explore different politically feasible options to reach targets



Gather Public Input and sell program to key decision makers

The MORAL of this story is...

EFFICIENT use of resources

\$ave\$ MONEY AND

has less IMPACT on our ENVIR  NMENT



(Stop throwing your \$ in the Trash)

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

Questions?



Comments?

Special Thanks to our funder:



Committed to the future of rural communities.