

SC 10-16-2025

Item No.2
Legislation

Presentations

Sustainability Commission

October 16, 2025



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State Legislation Related to Sustainability Policy



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Emissions Climate



Global Warming Solutions Act – AB 32 (2006)

CARB given authority to design, implement, and enforce regulations to reach 1990 GHG, levels by 2020.

MAJOR “DOWNSTREAM” LAWS

- SB 32 (2016) – 40 % below 1990 by 2030*
- AB 1279 (2022) – Net 0% by 2045*
- SB 100 (2018) – 100 % clean electricity
- SB 375 (2008) – Sustainable Communities
- SB 1383 (2016) – Methane & organics

Planning



Sustainable Communities / GHG Planning – SB 375 (2008)

Requires regional Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) tying housing, land use & transportation to GHG reduction targets; offers CEQA incentives.



Water Conservation in Landscaping Act -- AB 1881 (2006)

Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance – WELO (2025 update)
Applies to new landscapes ≥ 500 sq ft or rehabilitated $\geq 2,500$ sq ft. Sets water-budget limits, irrigation efficiency, and more.

Building Energy

Building Energy Benchmarking - AB 802*

Buildings over 50k sq ft report consumption annually

CALGreen Update – CALGreen 2025 (2025)

2022 update Adds electric-ready + EV-infrastructure and water-efficiency measures

2025 update Increases EV-ready/charger percentages (e.g., some nonresidential up to ~40%)

Building Code Freeze until 2031 – AB 130 (2025)

Freezes most residential building-code updates; limited exceptions (impacts reach-code timelines)

Transportation



Zero-Emission Fleet Transition – **Advanced Clean Fleets** (2023)

Requires public and private fleets to transition to zero-emission vehicles over time



EV Charger Permit Time Review Limits – AB 970 (2021)*

Limits local government, causing permitting delays for electric vehicle charging stations



EV Charger Permit Streamlining– AB 1236 (2022)*

The City must provide expedited, non-discretionary EV-charger permits

Waste



Waste Sorting is Required – SB 1383 (2016)*

Divert organic and edible food to cut methane



Mandatory Commercial Recycling – AB 341 (2011)*

MF and Comm must have a recycling container



Plastics and Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility – SB 54 (2022)

By 2032, Producers must make packaging recyclable/compostable; stricter labeling

Water



Non-Functional Turf Ban – AB 1572 (2023)

Bans potable water irrigation of decorative turf (grass) at commercial properties and HOAs

Jan. 1, 2027 – Government Properties

Jan. 1, 2028 – Commercial properties

Jan. 1, 2029 - HOA

Emergency Resilience



Climate-Ready Safety Elements – SB 379 (2015)*

Requires cities/counties to integrate climate-risk assessment & adaptation into General Plan safety elements.



Wildfire Risk Reduction – SB 901 (2018)

Funds forest health and wildfire prevention/resilience programs. Led by FireSafe Council.

Federal



Clean Water Act (1972)

Implemented and enforced by CA State Water Board and Regional Water Boards

Requires jurisdictions to monitor and report pollutants in the storm drains.
Sets limits on pollution volume.

Enforces limits by fees for non-compliance.

Federal - Continued



Clean Air Act – 1970, 1990

The foundational federal law enabling regulation of air pollutants, including greenhouse gases, via EPA rulemaking.

- Created CARB and Air Quality Districts (BAAQMD)



Inflation Reduction Act – US Climate Spending (2022)

Major federal climate law is driving investments in clean energy, tax incentives, emission reductions, and carbon management.

Discussion Questions

Which policies stood out to you?

SC 10-16-2025

Item No.3
Waste
Characterization
Study

Presentations

Waste Characterization Study Results



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Why do a waste characterization?

- Conducting a citywide waste characterization study every 4 to 5 years is a key supporting action of Zero Waste Measure W-1, as established in the City's Climate Action Plan 2.0.
- Identify diversion opportunities, check compliance with SB 1383, plan and evaluate waste reduction programs.

What is a Waste Characterization Study?



PROCESS OVERVIEW

Single-family, Multifamily, Municipal

Route-based Sampling and Sorting for Single-family, Multifamily, and Municipal Generators



Step 1
Drive the
selected route



Step 2
Select a
random
property



Step 3
Collect set-
out materials



Step 4
Label each
sample



Step 5
Wrap each
sample



Step 6
Transport
samples to the
sort location



Step 7
Sort each
sample



Step 8
Weigh the
sorted
material

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Commercial

Back-of-Truck Sampling and Sorting for Commercial Generators



Step 1
Select sample
from tipped load



Step 2
Photograph sample



Step 3
Sort the sample



Step 4
Weigh and record each
material type

Methodology

- Checked all 3 streams (garbage, recycling, organics)
- 211 samples from 4 sectors: SF, MFD, COM, Muni
- Sorted into 63 material types



Methodology (cont.)

- Recoverability groups:
 - **Recyclable:** accepted in blue cart
 - **Contaminated Recyclable:** improperly prepared for recovery
 - **Compostable:** accepted in green cart
 - **Potentially Recoverable:** should be diverted through specialty take-back or drop-off
 - **Non-recoverable:** true trash



How many tons overall?

Table 6. 2024 Total Collected Tons

	2024 Collected Tons				
	Garbage	Recycle	Organics	Generation	
Overall	18,583	7,974	15,647	42,204	100%
Single-family	 6,616	 4,054	 8,212	18,882	45%
Multifamily	 3,182	 776	154	4,111	10%
Commercial	 8,721	 3,102	 7,169	18,991	45%
Municipal	64	42	113	219	1%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Metrics

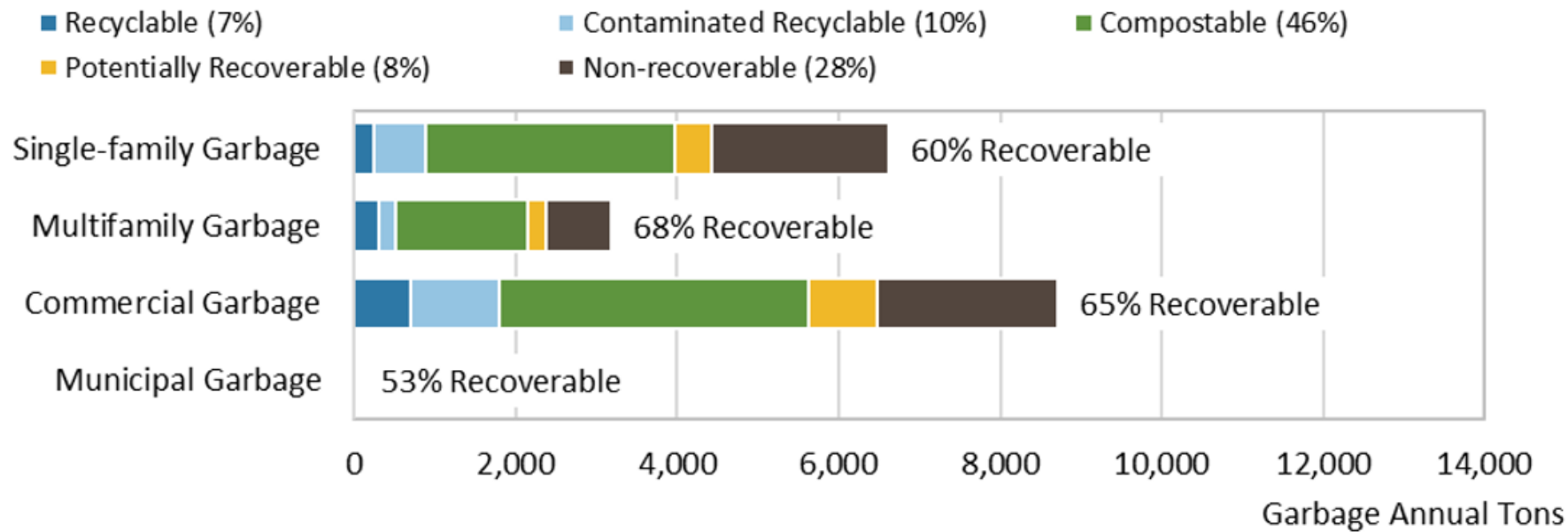
- Recoverability of items in garbage:
 - Could have been recovered if placed in the correct stream and/or properly prepared.
- Contamination
 - Put in the wrong place
- Capture Rate
 - How much of a recyclable material properly sorted

Material Types (see Appx B)

Material	Est. %	+ / -	Est. Tons	Material	Est. %	+ / -	Est. Tons
Recyclable	9.0%	5.6%	10	Glass	1.6%	1.1%	2
Contaminated Recyclable	4.9%	2.6%	6	Clean Glass Bottles: CRV	0.6%	0.4%	1
Compostable	70.1%	17.1%	79	Clean Glass Containers: Non-CRV	0.4%	0.4%	0
Potentially Recoverable	3.7%	4.9%	4	Contaminated Glass Bottles: CRV	0.6%	0.9%	1
Non-recoverable	12.2%	5.6%	14	Contaminated Glass Containers: Non-CRV	0.0%	0.1%	0
Paper	33.2%	17.7%	38	Other Composite Glass	0.0%	0.0%	0
Flattened Corrugated Cardboard	0.7%	0.7%	1	Metal	1.2%	0.6%	1
Unflattened Corrugated Cardboard	0.3%	0.2%	0	Clean Aluminum Cans: CRV	0.4%	0.2%	0
Clean Recyclable Paper	4.0%	2.5%	5	Clean Aluminum Cans & Foil: Non-CRV	0.1%	0.0%	0
Contaminated Recyclable Paper	3.2%	1.8%	4	Clean Tin Cans: CRV	-	-	-
Pizza Boxes	0.0%	0.1%	0	Clean Tin Cans: Non-CRV	0.1%	0.1%	0
Coated Corrugated Cardboard	-	-	-	Clean Other Recyclable Metal	0.1%	0.1%	0
Paper Takeout Containers	0.5%	0.3%	1	Contaminated Recyclable Metal	0.3%	0.2%	0
Coated Paper Cups	0.6%	0.4%	1	Other Composite Metal	0.3%	0.2%	0
Paper Tissue & Towels	22.4%	10.6%	25	Organic Waste	50.9%	24.8%	57
Other Compostable Paper	0.6%	0.4%	1	Plant Trimmings	26.1%	26.5%	29
Gable Top Cartons & Aseptics	0.2%	0.1%	0	Edible Food: Potentially Donatable	0.8%	0.3%	1
Other Coated Paper	0.0%	0.0%	0	Edible Food: Non-donatable	8.2%	6.2%	9
Other Composite Paper	0.7%	0.4%	1	Non-edible Food	9.5%	11.5%	11
Plastic	10.2%	5.0%	11	Other Compostable Organics	1.2%	1.9%	1
Clean #1 PET Containers: CRV	0.6%	0.3%	1	Untreated Wood	0.0%	0.0%	0
Clean #1 PET Packaging: Non-CRV	0.1%	0.0%	0	Natural Textiles	3.4%	4.5%	4
Clean #2 HDPE Containers: CRV	0.0%	0.0%	0	Diapers	1.5%	0.9%	2
Clean #2 HDPE Packaging: Non-CRV	0.4%	0.3%	0	Animal Feces & Litter	0.1%	0.2%	0
Clean Other #3-7 Container: CRV	-	-	-	Other Composite Organics	-	-	-
Clean Other #3-7 Packaging: Non-CRV	0.1%	0.0%	0	Hazardous Waste	0.3%	0.4%	0
Plastic Takeout Containers	1.3%	0.8%	1	Electronics	0.0%	0.0%	0
Durable Plastic Products	0.0%	0.0%	0	Batteries	0.0%	0.0%	0
Contaminated Recyclable Plastic: CRV	0.2%	0.2%	0	Medicine	0.0%	0.0%	0
Contaminated Recyclable Plastic: Non-CRV	0.1%	0.1%	0	Other Hazardous Waste	0.3%	0.4%	0

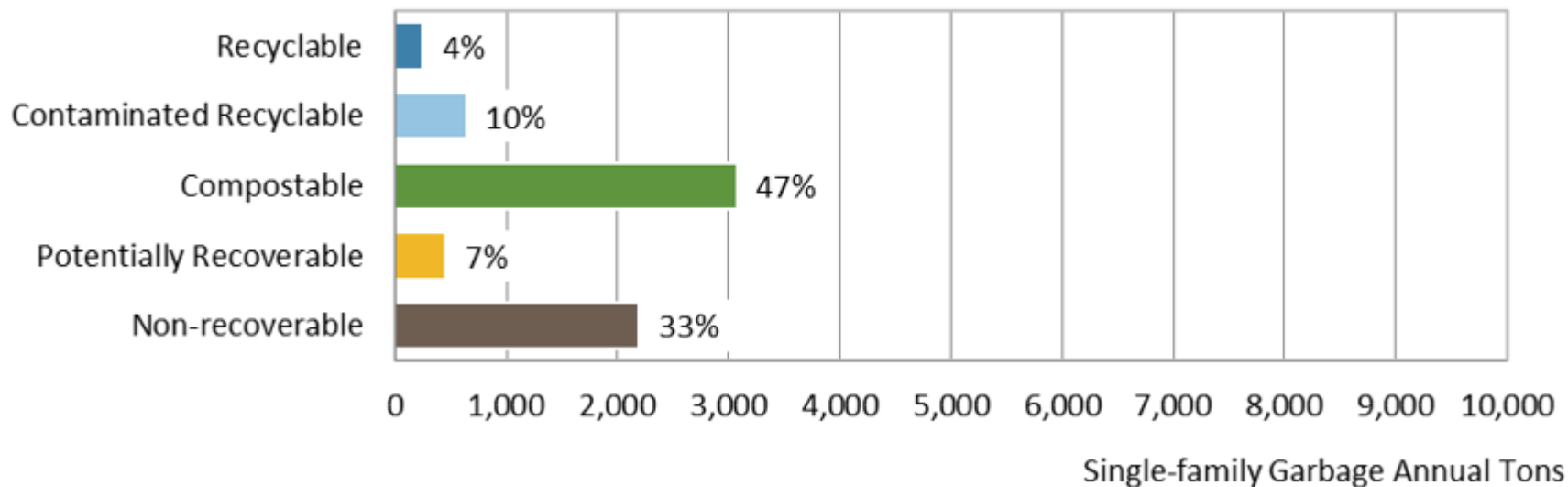
What's in the garbage? Still >half recoverable

Figure 2. Garbage Tons by Sector and Recoverability Group



What's in the garbage? SFD deep-dive

Figure 8. Tons by Recoverability Group: Single-family Garbage



What's in the garbage? SFD deep-dive (cont.)

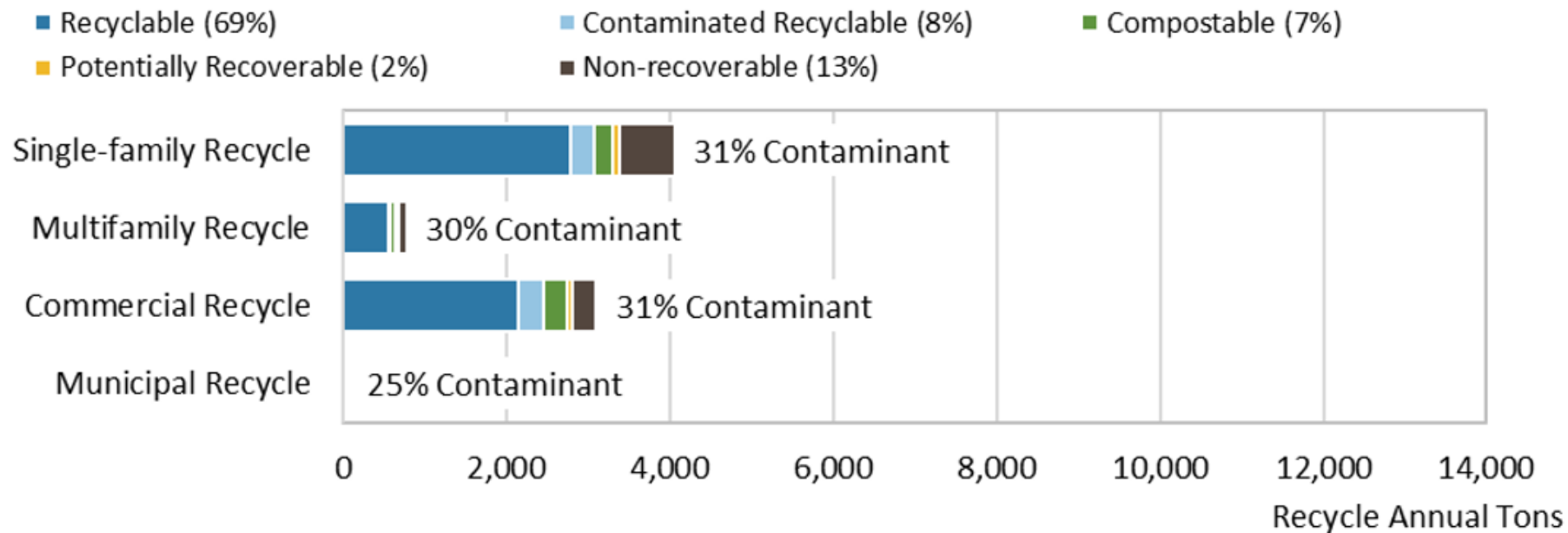
Table 7. Most Prevalent Curbside Recoverable Material Types: Single-family Garbage

Material	Est. %	+ / -	Est. Tons
Non-edible Food	16.6%	1.6%	1,096
Edible Food: Non-donatable	12.5%	1.6%	830
Paper Tissue & Towels	9.4%	1.3%	619
Edible Food: Potentially Donatable	4.7%	1.2%	311
Contaminated Recyclable Paper	4.3%	0.5%	284
Contaminated Recyclable Plastic: Non-CRV	1.8%	0.2%	121
Contaminated Recyclable Metal	1.6%	0.8%	105
Clean Recyclable Paper	1.4%	0.5%	93
Plastic Takeout Containers	1.1%	0.2%	70
Other Compostable Paper	1.0%	0.2%	68
Total for Top Recoverable Material	54.3%		3,596
Total for Other Recoverable Material	5.8%		385
All Other Material	39.8%		2,636
Total Annual Garbage Tons	100.0%		6,616

Percentages for material types may not total 100% due to rounding.

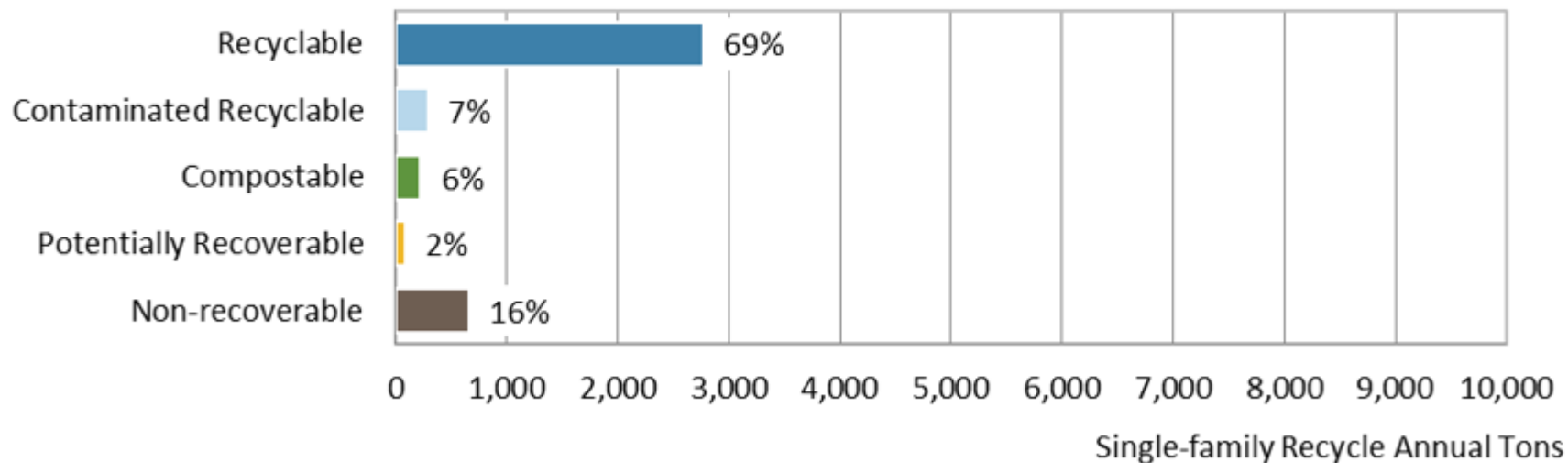
What's in the recycling?

Figure 3. Recycle Tons by Sector and Recoverability Group



What's in the recycling? SFD deep-dive

Figure 9. Tons by Recoverability Group: Single-family Recycle



What's in the recycling? SFD deep-dive (cont.)

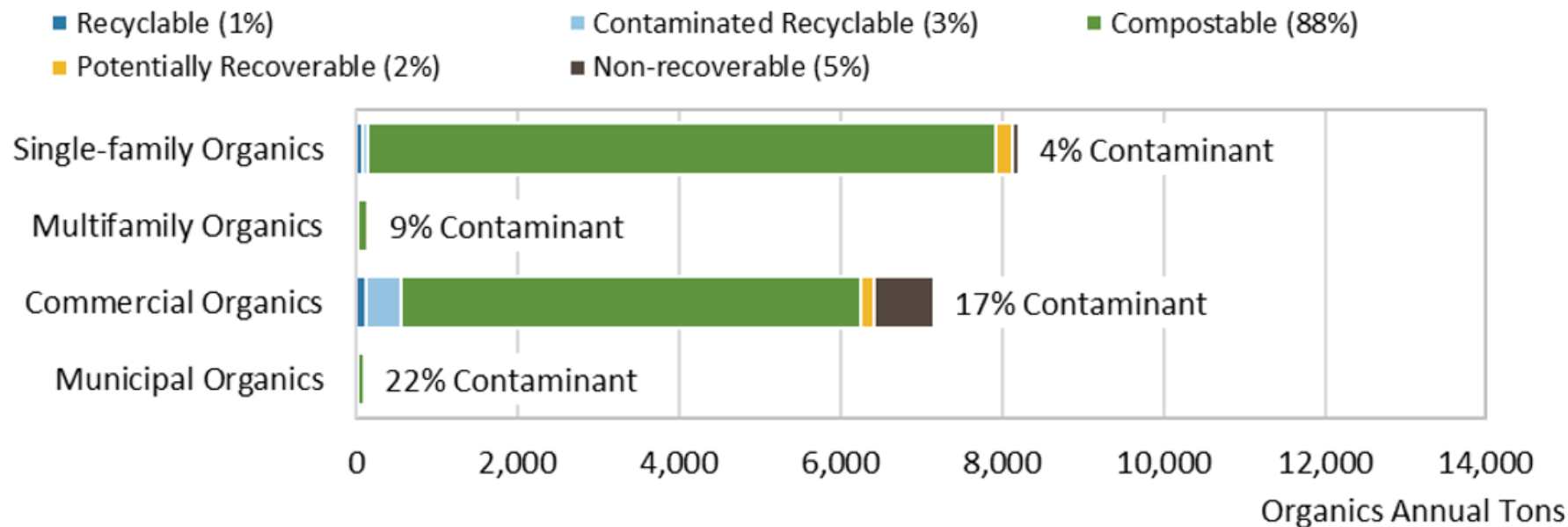
Table 8. Most Prevalent Contaminant Material Types: Single-family Recycle

Material	Est. %	+ / -	Est. Tons
 Other Composite Materials & Fines	3.2%	1.3%	129
 Contaminated Recyclable Paper	3.1%	1.2%	127
 Other Composite Plastic	2.4%	0.4%	99
 Clean & Loose Recyclable Film	2.4%	0.7%	97
 Other Composite Metal	2.1%	1.2%	86
Total for Top Contaminant Material	13.3%		538
Total for Other Contaminant Material	18.1%		736
All Other Material	68.6%		2,780
Total Annual Recycle Tons	100.0%		4,054

Percentages for material types may not total 100% due to rounding.

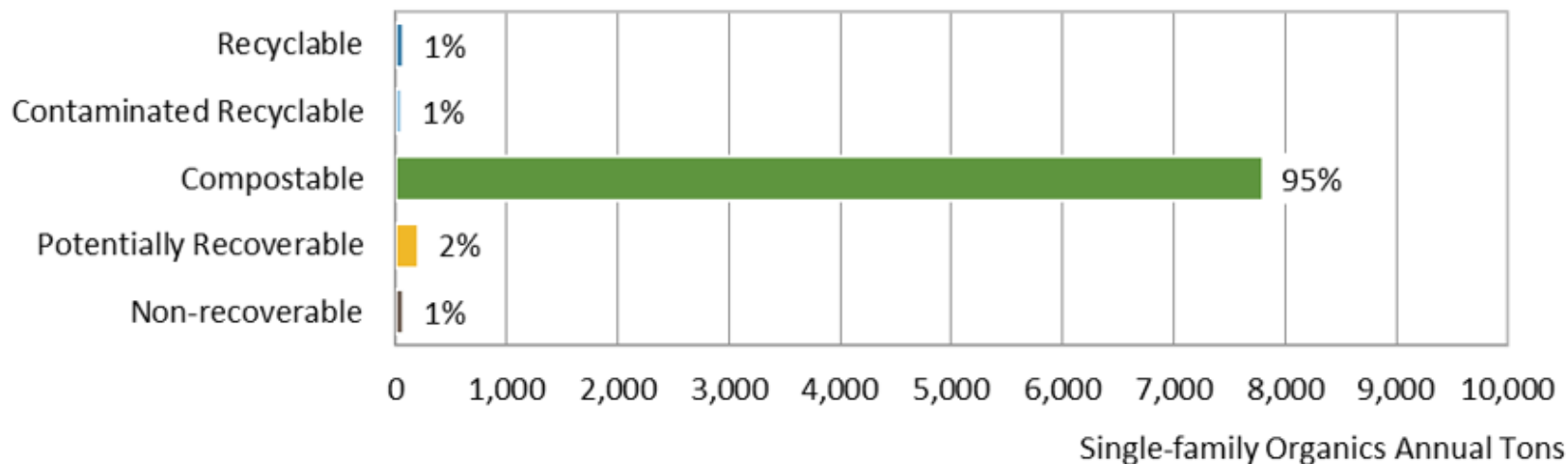
What's in the organics?

Figure 4. Organics Tons by Sector and Recoverability Group



What's in the organics? SFD deep-dive

Figure 10. Tons by Recoverability Group: Single-family Organics



Notable changes from previous study

- Doing better at capturing recyclables

Recyclable Material Capture Rates					
		2018-2019	2024		Difference
Single-family		90%		89%	▼ -1%
Multifamily		45%		64%	▲ 18%
Commercial		47%		72%	▲ 25%
Municipal		59%		66%	▲ 7%

Notable changes from previous study

- SFD: small shift in organics from trash to green cart

	Compostable Material Capture Rates		
	2018-2019	2024	Difference
Single-family	 65%	 70%	▲ 6%
Composted Tons	7,211	7,799	▲ 588
Disposed Tons	3,763	3,079	▼ (685)
Multifamily	 6%	 7%	▲ 2%
Composted Tons	97	137	▲ 40
Disposed Tons	1,422	1,641	▲ 219
Commercial	 64%	 58%	▼ -6%
Composted Tons	4,890	5,704	▲ 814
Disposed Tons	2,641	3,839	▲ 1,198
Municipal	 51%	 74%	▲ 22%
Composted Tons	52	79	▲ 27
Disposed Tons	48	25	▼ (23)

Top problem materials/issues

- Compostables in the garbage
- Poor sorting at MFDs
- Trash, food, plastics, soiled paper in the recyclables
- Plastics in the organics



Plastics and foodware....

- SFD only correctly sorts 32% of plastic takeout containers
- SFD only capturing 5% of paper takeout containers (13% of cups)
- COM only correctly sorts 8% of plastic takeout containers
- COM only capturing 22% of paper takeout containers (44% of cups)

How much single-use foodware?

- Per year:
 - 299 tons of paper takeout containers
 - 442.5 tons of plastic takeout containers



How much plastic?

- Per year:
 - 4,843 tons of all types of plastic
 - 2,294 tons (47%) is potentially recyclable plastic
 - 30% of that properly recycled
- 2018/2019
 - 3,909 tons of all types of plastic
 - 1,470 tons potentially recyclable
 - 45% of that properly captured

2018-2019 plastic graphic

