## **Sorting It All Out:**

# What's in <u>Your</u> Garbage And Why You Should Care



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#### Why Should You Care?

# If you don't measure it, you can't manage it.





### Why Measure?

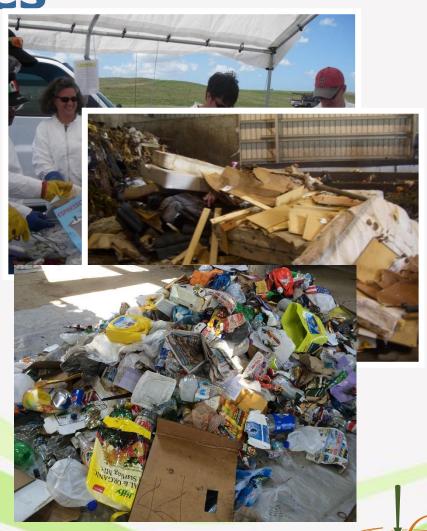
- SWM planning
- Benchmark/gauge program effectiveness
- Targeting education and outreach
- Potential cost savings
- Reporting requirements
- Certification programs (i.e., LEED®)



**Types of Studies** 

- Waste
  - Manual sorting
  - Visual audit

- Recycling
  - Pre-processing
  - Post-processing



#### **Generator and Sectors**

- Sectors
  - Residential
  - Commercial
  - Institutional
  - Public areas
- Municipal
  - City/County
  - State
- Facility specific







#### **Solid Waste Variables**

**Population** 

**Politics** 

**Policies** 

**Types of Haulers** 

**Geographic Location** 

**Tons Processed** 

**Service Areas** 

**Revenue Share** 

**Materials Collected** 

**Integration of Services** 

**Public Participation** 

**Timeframe of Study** 

Tip Fees

**Recycling Market** 



#### **Pitfalls of Comparing Data**

- Diverse demographic, collection, and processing factors
- Non-standardized information
- Varying reporting practices
- Inconsistent definitions and methodology
- Numerous local factors









#### **Measuring Recyclables**

#### **Pre-processing**

- Municipality/public
- Recyclables delivered
- Supply value
- Contamination

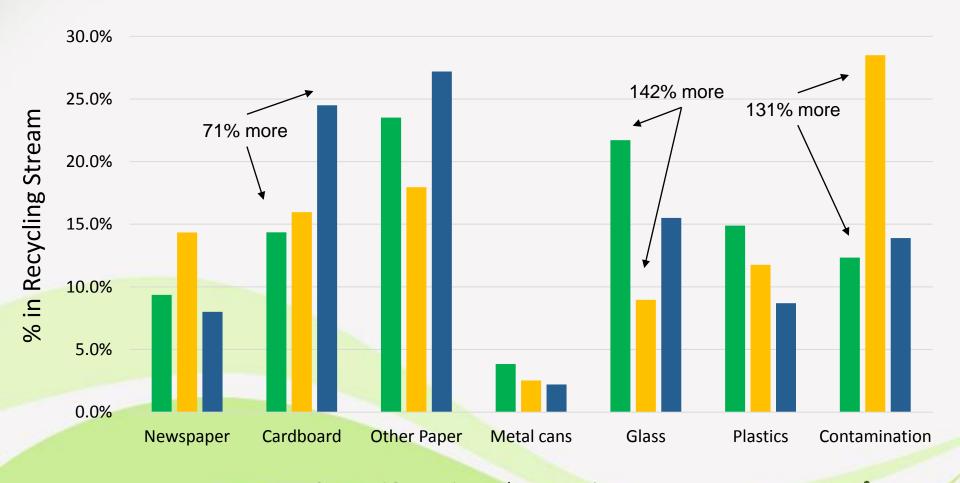


#### Post-processing

- Operator
- Means & methods
- System efficiencies
- What's in residue?
- Market for recyclables



#### The Tale of Three Cities

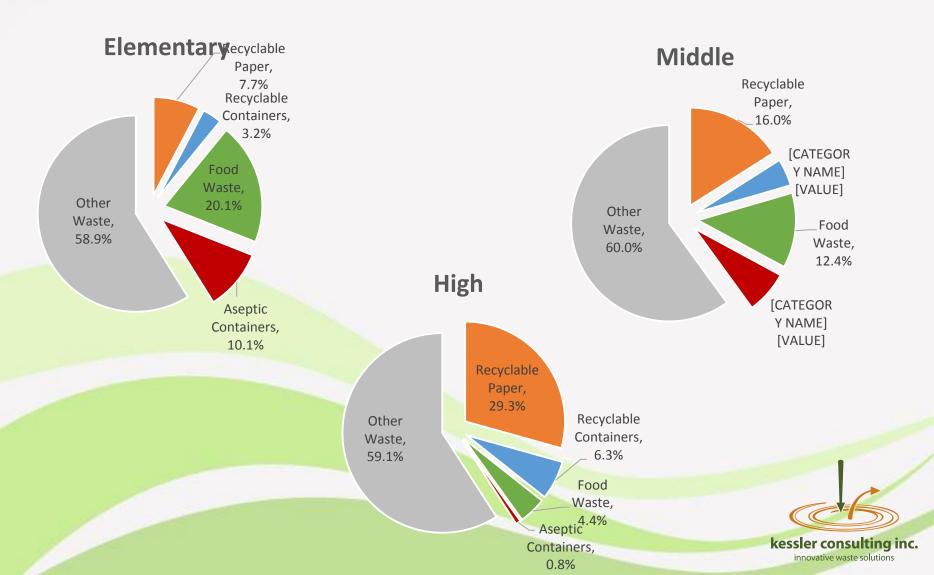


City 1 (Green): \$107.64/ton

City 2 (Yellow): \$90.14/ton City 3 (Blue): \$88.01/ton



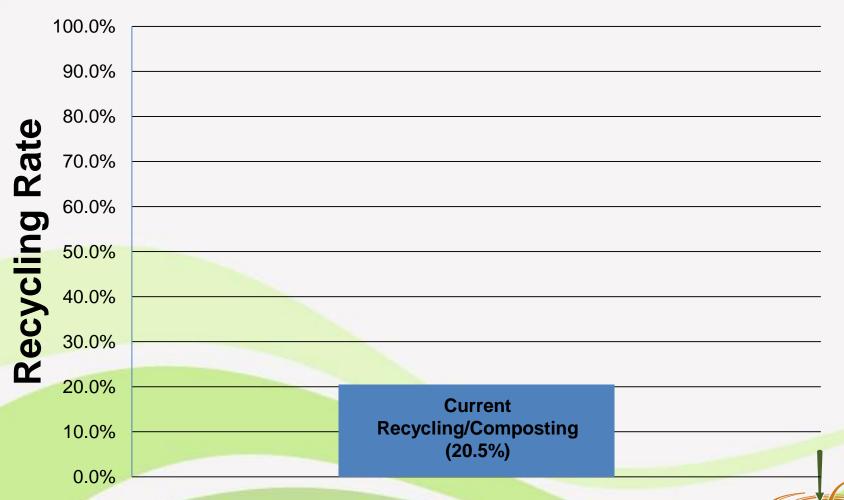
### **Educating Schools on Diversion**



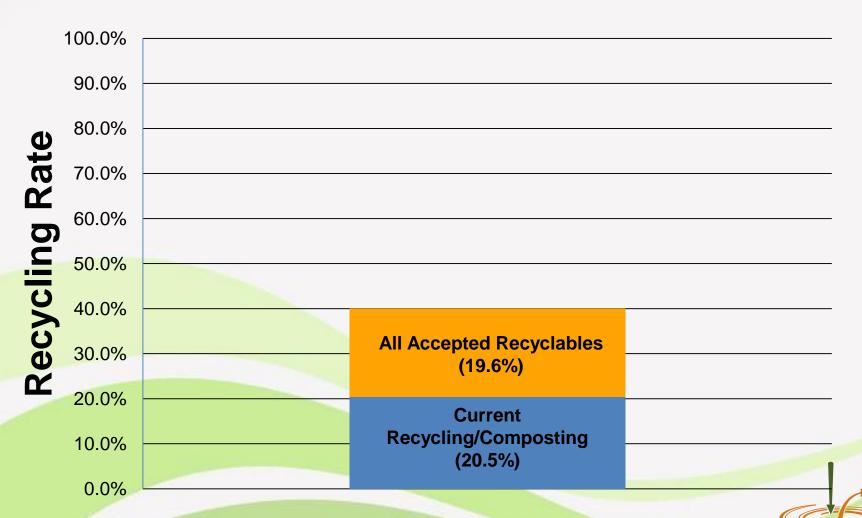
# **The Changing Waste Stream**

Material Category	1994 Study	2001 Study	2014 Study	% change
Newspaper	4.7%	4.2%	2.0%	-57.8%
Plastic Bottles	0.6%	1.1%	2.5%	346.4%
C&D Debris	27.8%	23.8%	17.6%	-36.6%
Yard Waste	18.5%	28.8%	32.0%	72.7%
Food Waste	4.7%	5.2%	6.8%	46.2%

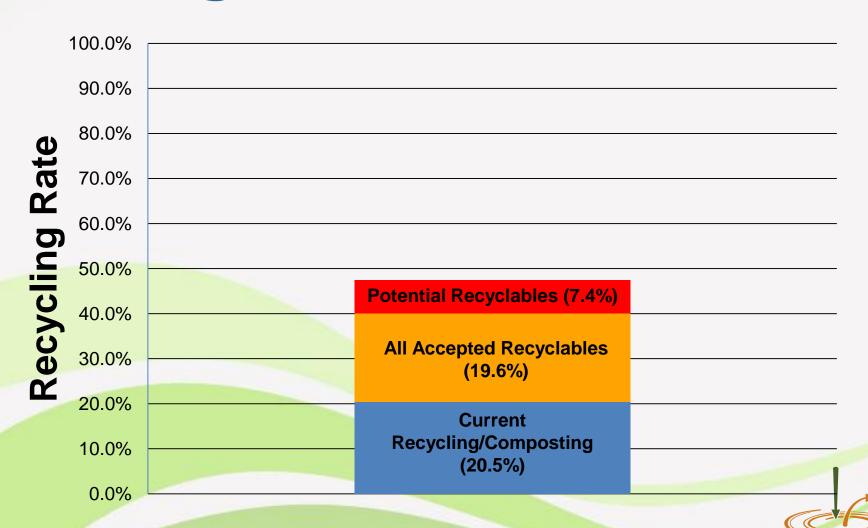


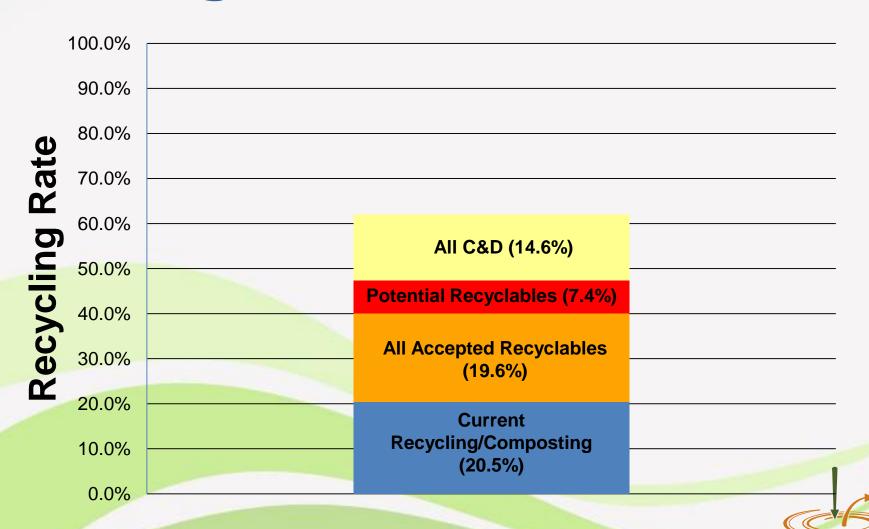


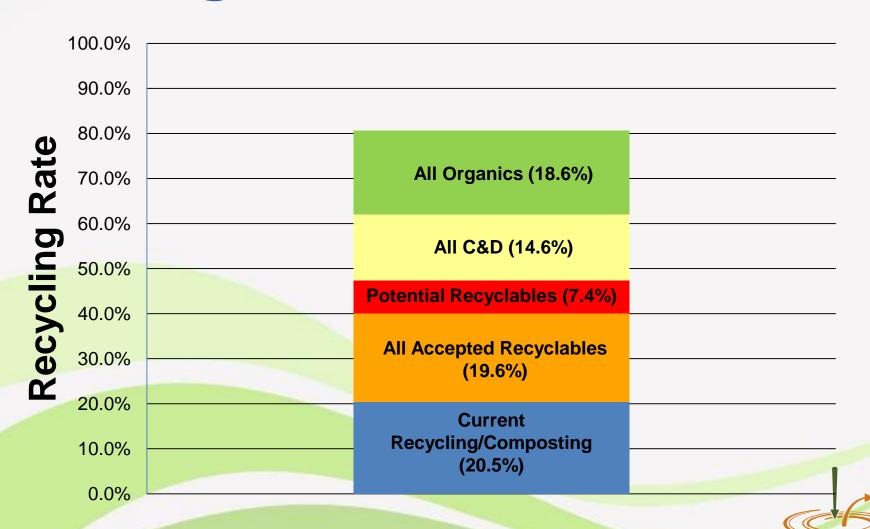












# Value of a Comp Study/Why You Should Care?

- Real actionable data
- Benchmarking and reporting
- Evaluate programs
- Identify future recycling opportunities
- Focused outreach
- Certification programs
- Environmental impact





#### What's Best for Your Community?

- Focus on YOUR waste and YOUR program's needs & objectives
- Know YOUR objectives
- Understand industry trends
- Remember...All solid waste is LOCAL





# "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

- Will Rogers



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