

State of Recycling in Florida

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Florida's Recycling Goals

403.706, Florida Statute

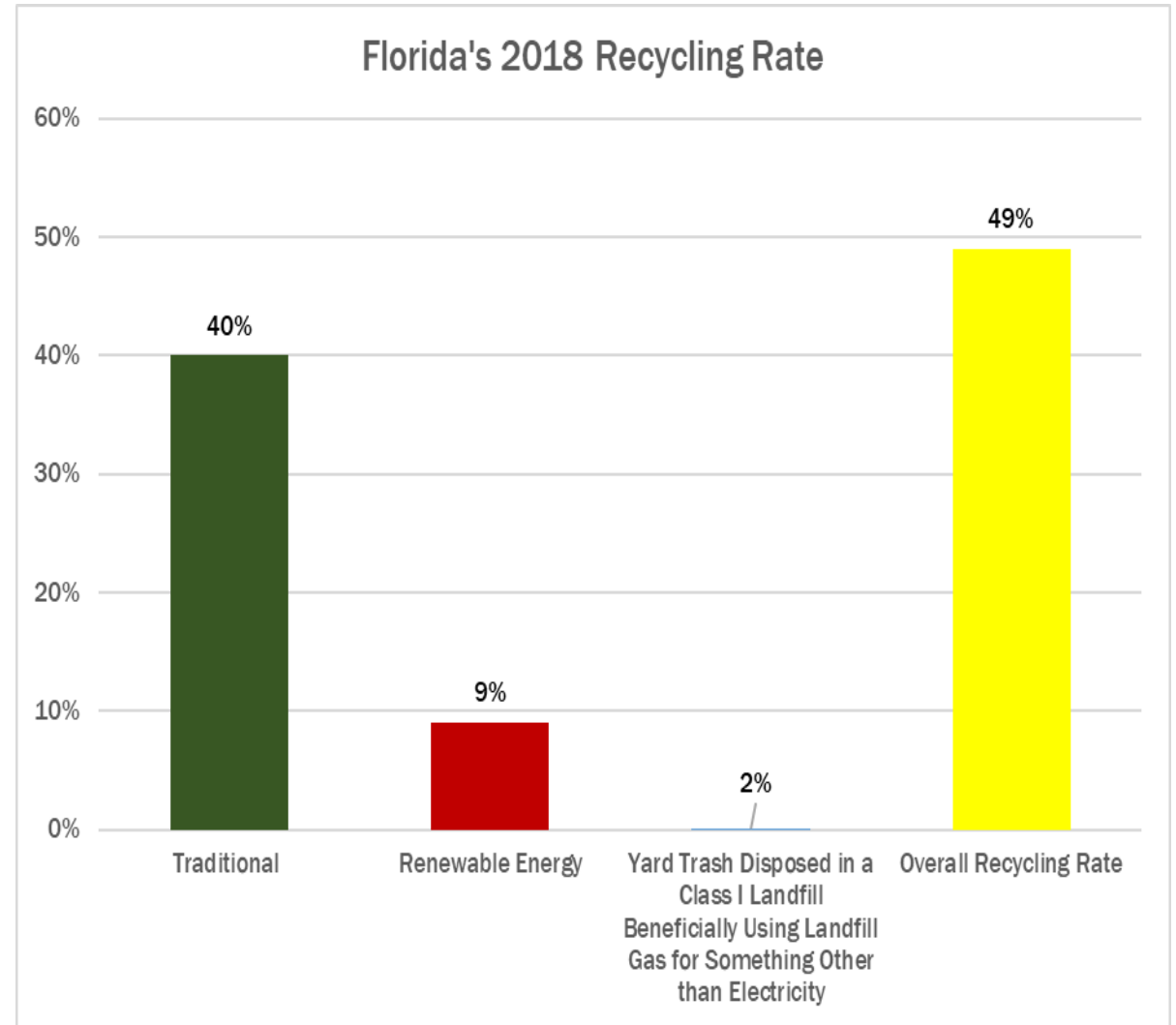
- The Legislature set a 75% statewide recycling goal for municipal solid waste by 2020.
- For 2014/2015, the threshold recycling goal was 50%. For 2016/2017 it increased to 60%. For 2018/2019 it was 70%.
- The Legislature also set that same goal for all counties over 100,000 population.
- The Legislature has directed all counties to report their recycling progress to DEP annually.



Progress Towards the Goal

- The statewide **overall recycling rate**, which **includes renewable energy* recycling credits**, decreased from **52% (2017)** to **49% (2018)**
- The statewide **traditional recycling rate**, which **excludes renewable energy recycling credits**, decreased from **42% (2017)** to **40% (2018)**

*Electricity produced from MSW or landfill gas



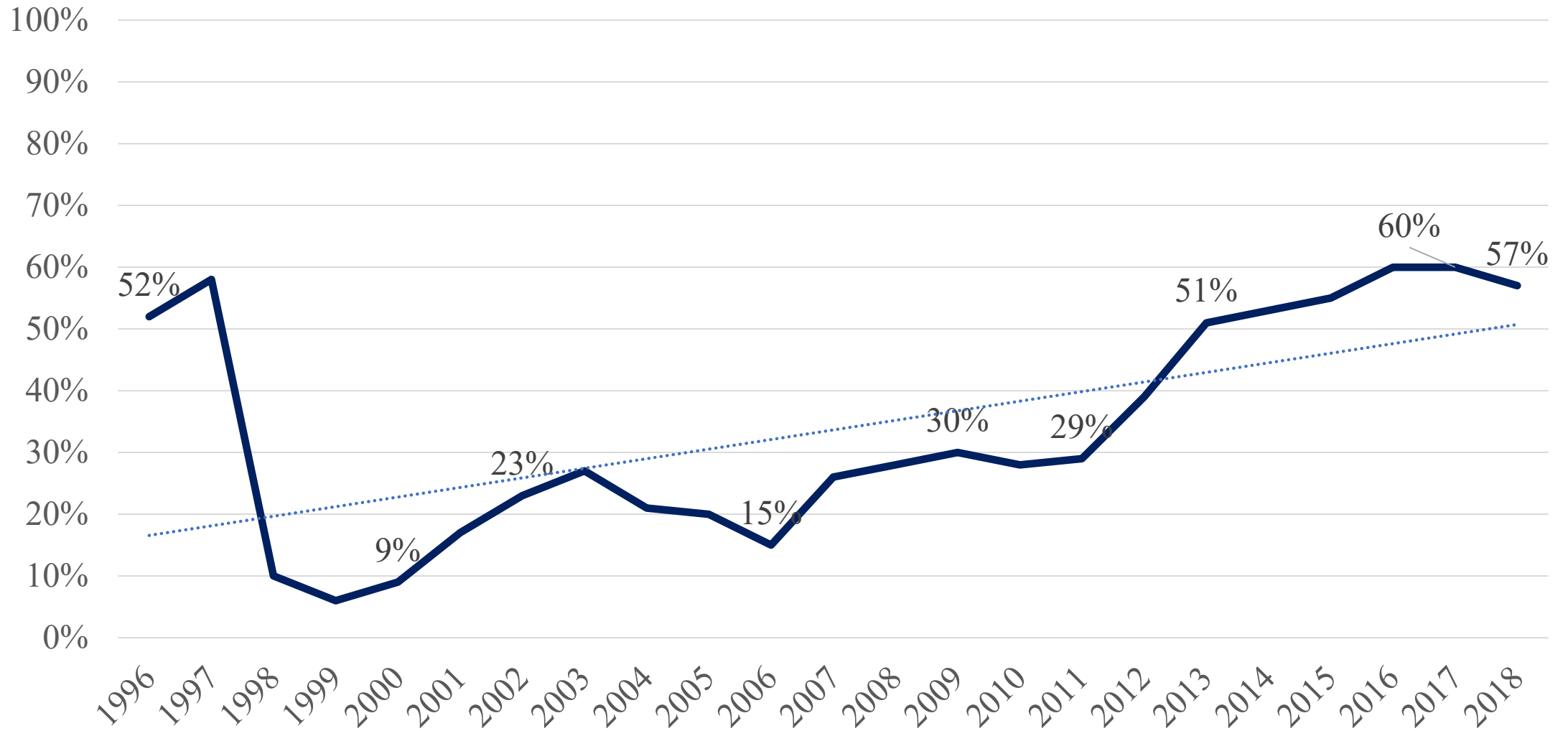


Why Did the Rate Drop?

- The decrease from 56% (2016) to 52% (2017) can largely be attributed to better data accounting
 - Landfills required to report the amount of waste disposed by county of origin
 - Helped counties better track waste being disposed outside of county landfills
 - Reported landfilled tons increased causing the recycling rate to decline
- The decrease from 52% (2017) to 49% (2018) can largely be attributed to a reduction in the reported amount of Construction and Demolition Debris being recycled

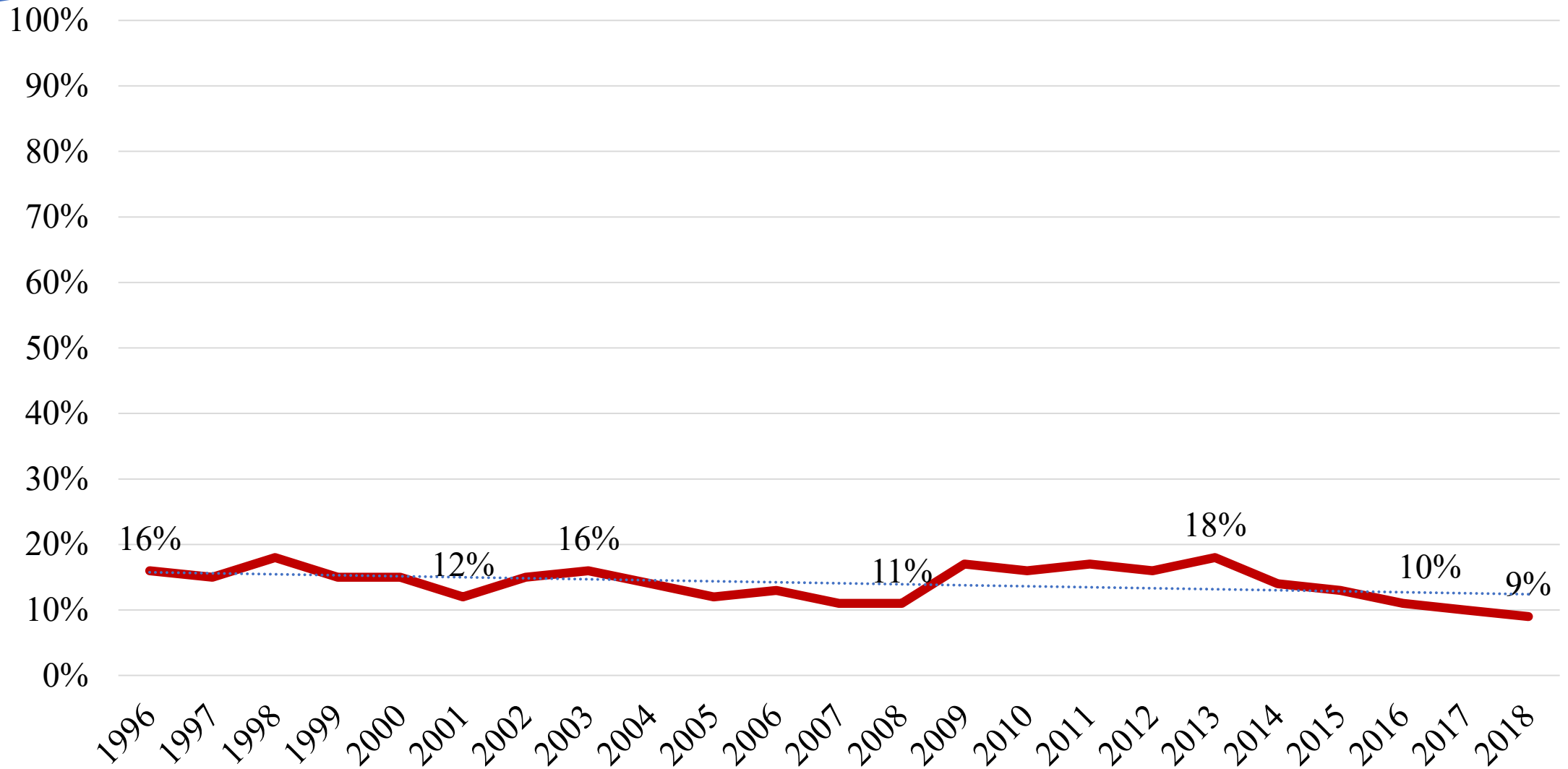


Construction & Demolition Debris (1996-2018)



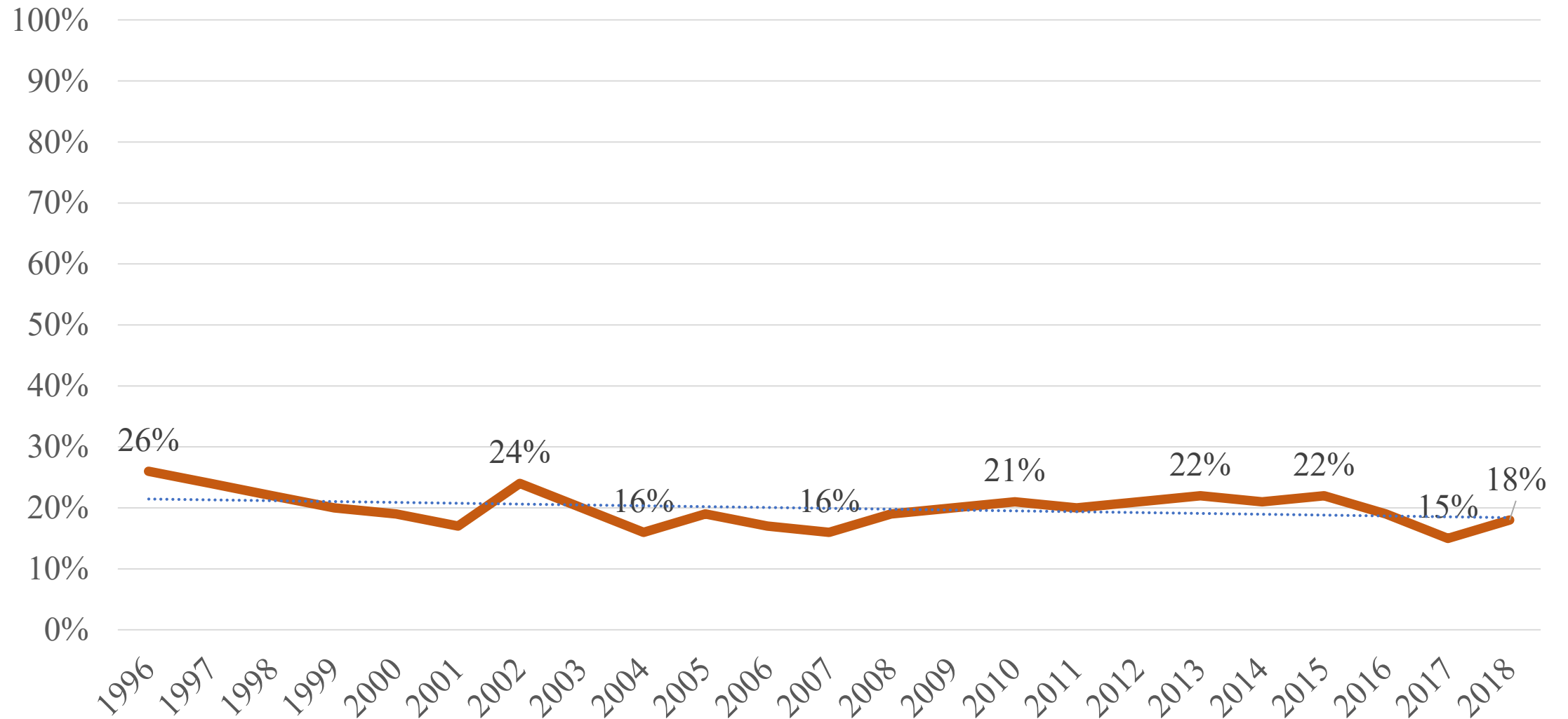


Plastic Bottles (1996-2018)



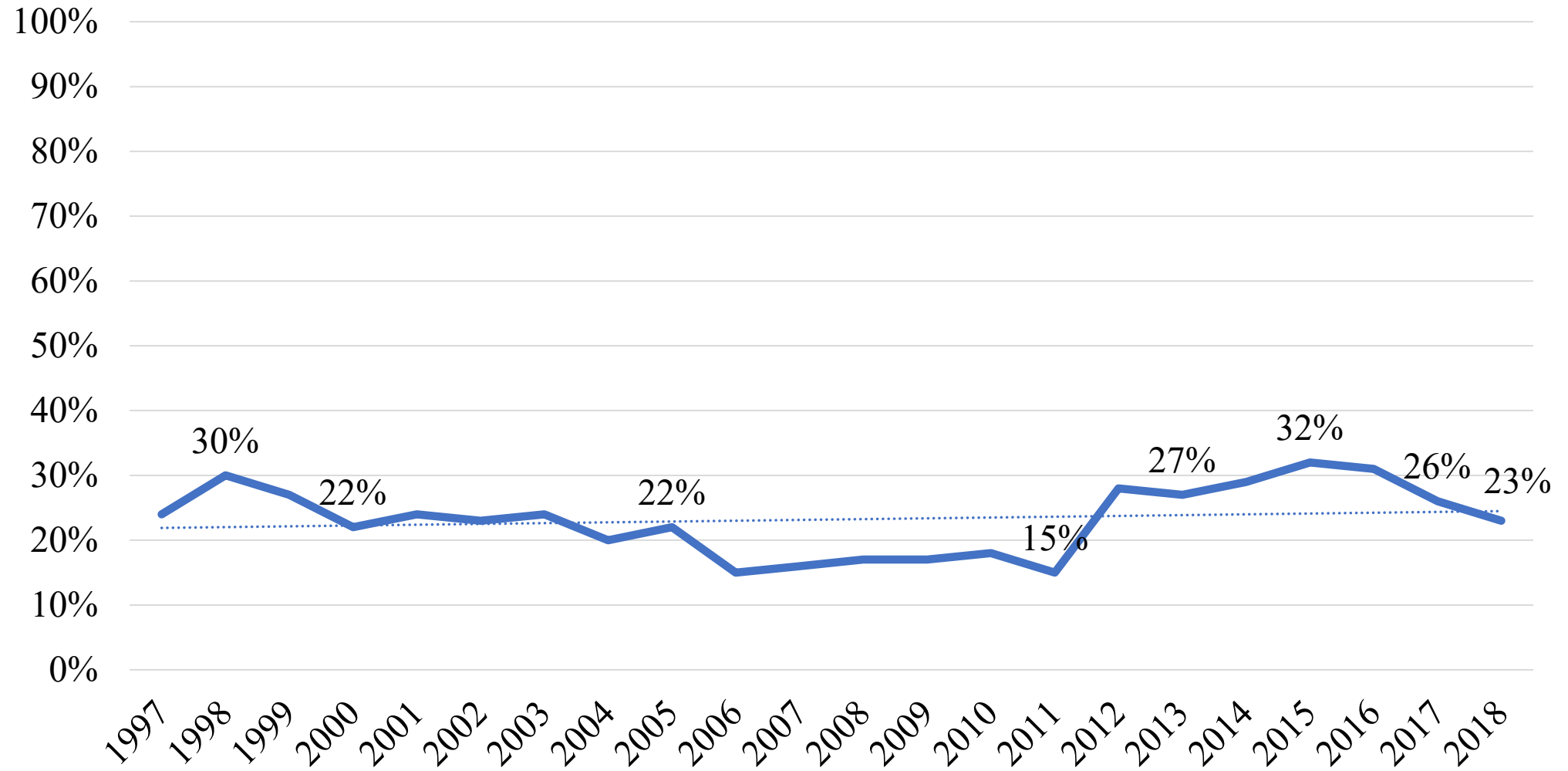


Aluminum Cans (1996-2018)



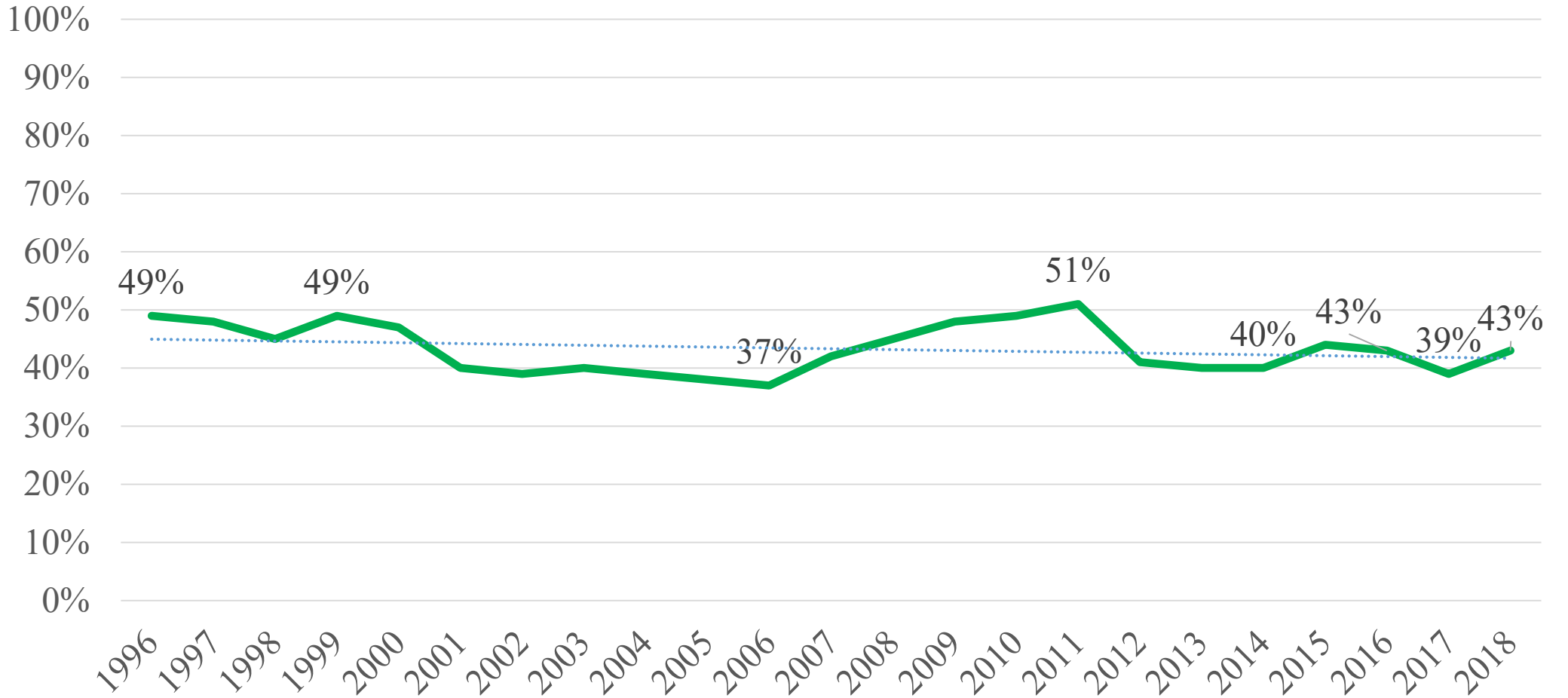


Glass (1997-2018)





Corrugated Cardboard (1996-2018)





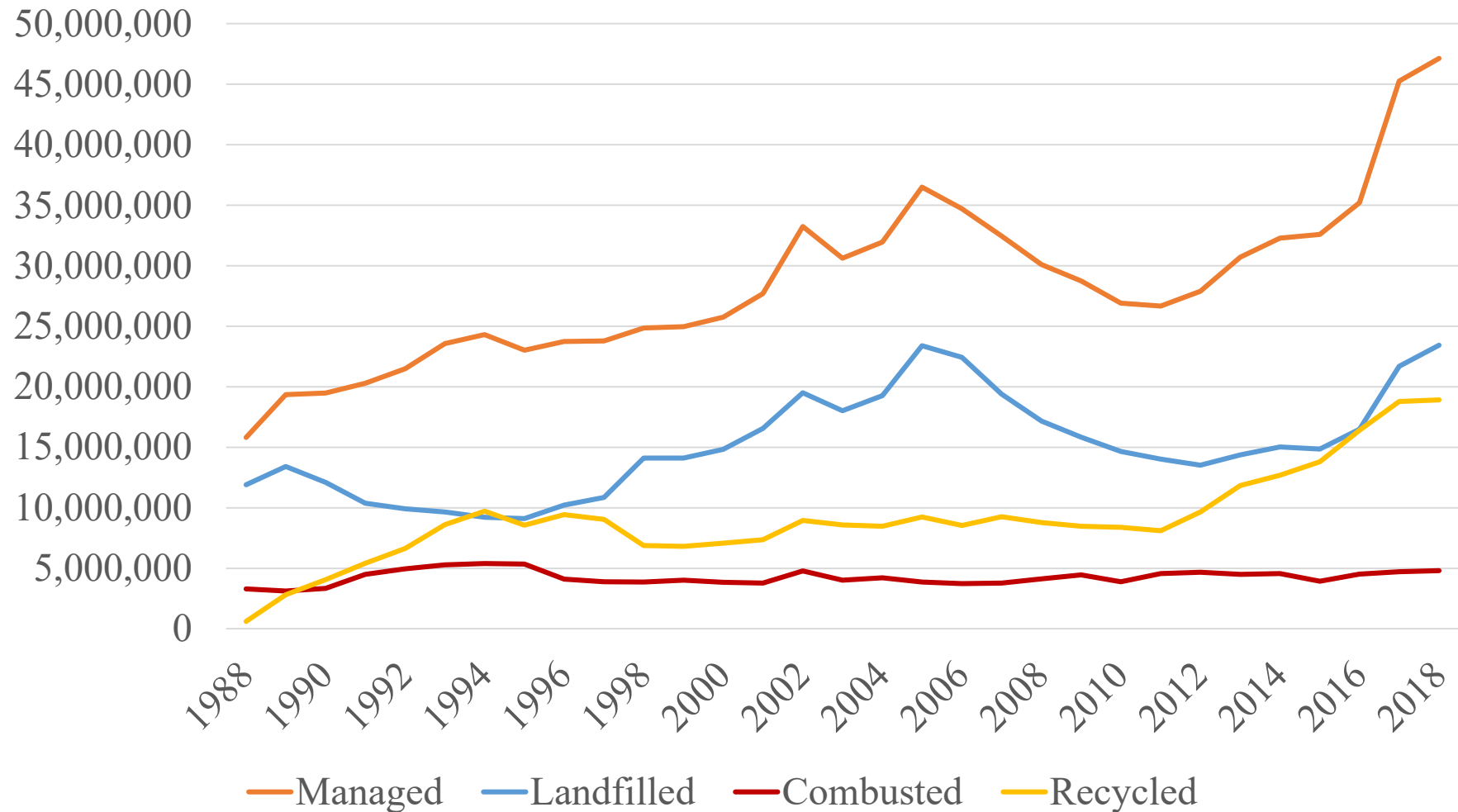
Implications of the 75% Recycling Goal

The 75% goal is a weight-based goal which led to:

- Methodology change to include heavier materials, i.e, construction and demolition debris
- More recyclable material included in programs
 - Single Stream Recycling
- Additional recycling credits
 - Renewable Energy (Waste to Energy, Landfill Gas)
 - Landfill Cover



Solid Waste Management in FL (1988-2018)





Has Recycling Improved in Florida?

The amount of material recycled has continued to rise from 600,000 tons in 1988 to 18.9 million tons in 2018.

However, if the 2011 methodology was applied to the 2012-2018 recycling data, Florida's recycling rates would be:

- 2012 – 30%
- 2013 – 31%
- 2014 – 32%
- 2015 – 33%
- 2016 – 33%
- 2017 – 27%
- 2018 – 25%



Recycling Report to the Legislature

Why was the report written?

Section 403.706, Florida Statutes:

Directed counties over 100,000 in population, to develop a plan if the county does not achieve the interim recycling goal (70% by 2018)

Directed the state to identify additional programs or statutory changes if the interim recycling goals are not met, i.e., *Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Report*



Results

<https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/documents/2019-status-report-2020-75-recycling-goal>

**Florida and the 2020 75% Recycling Goal:
2019 Status Report
Volume 1**



Prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection



Development of the Recycling Report

- Updated from the December 2017 report
- The report looks at options and recommendations for:
 - Single stream
 - Markets
 - C&D Recycling
 - Organics Recycling
 - Commercial Recycling
 - Education
 - Sustainable Materials Management



Top Strategies for Increasing Recycling

1. **Recycling Material Market Development**
 - Tax incentives for usage of recycled materials as feed stocks in manufacturing and to support materials recovery plant upgrades
 - Public/Private partnerships to invest in new processing technologies
2. **Recycling Education and Outreach**
 - Programs to encourage participation and awareness in placing the correct materials in the recycling bins
 - Mobile and website application software that provides recycling information and education to guests and residents of Florida
3. **Local Government Recycling Assistance**
 - Grants programs for purchasing updated recycling and organics processing equipment, developing recycling and food diversion campaigns and incorporating new or innovative technologies



Report Conclusions

- Recycling in Florida has changed vastly over the last 10 years
 - Challenges have occurred due to changes in collection, shifts in the recycling markets and contamination of recyclables (i.e., collection of unwanted materials)
- Florida's current recycling rate is 49% and has continued to decline each year since 2016
- Even with significant changes to the current weight-based approach, 75% will not be achieved
- Summary of Options Table shows possible legislative changes by type, including statutory, policy, regulatory and recommendations for new or additional programs, as well as options for local level decisions
- There is a developing consensus that suggests using a weight-based goal does not result in efficient or effective recycling; rather, incorporation of source reduction and sustainable materials management concepts into a comprehensive statewide recycling program may be needed



Alternate Goals: Sustainable Materials Management (SMM)

- SMM is a systematic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their life cycles
- A shift toward sustainable materials management would refocus the goal to reduce the life cycle environmental impacts of materials
- SMM provides a goal that is focused on the environmental attributes that are most important to protecting Florida's environment, society and economy



Working Towards 2020 & Beyond

- Rulemaking
 - Chapter 62-709 (Criteria for Organics Processing and Recycling Facilities)
- Upcoming Events
 - Webinar: County Recycling Coordinator Annual Report Training
 - February 13th, 9:00 – 12:00
 - Food Recovery, Diversion and Donations Forum
 - Florida International University, May 28th
- MMP - ReTrac
- Education Campaigns
 - WRAP (Wrap Recycling Action Program)
 - Rethink, Reset, Recycle

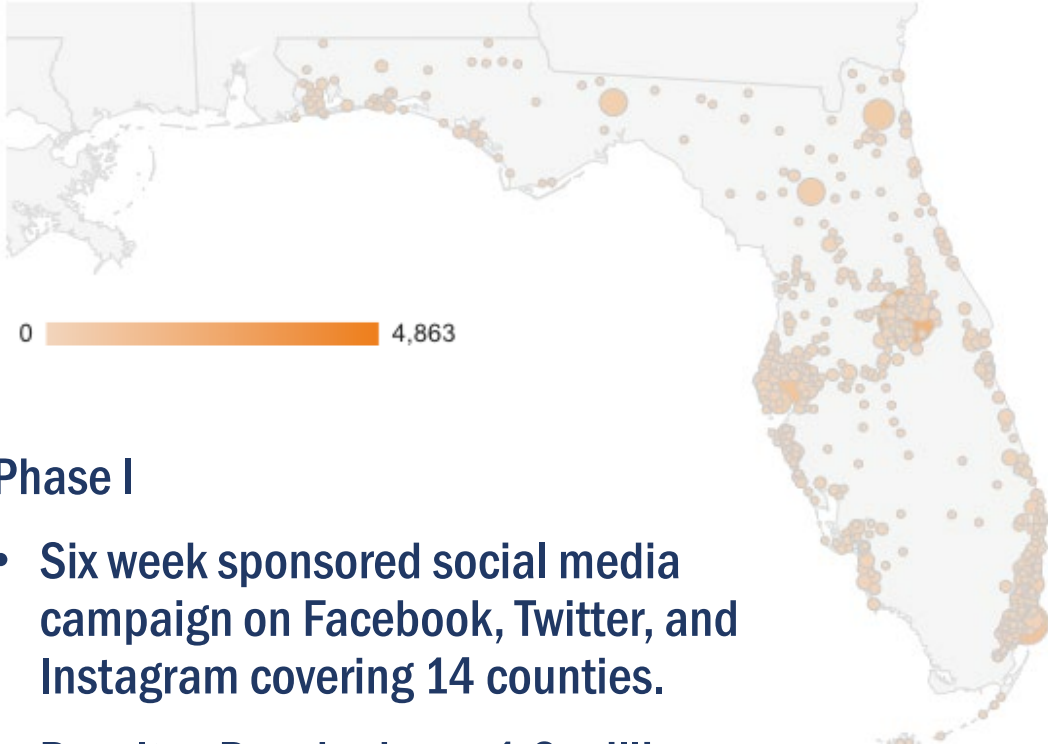


The Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP) is a national public awareness and outreach initiative promoting retail takeback of plastic film including wraps, bags, and flexible packaging.



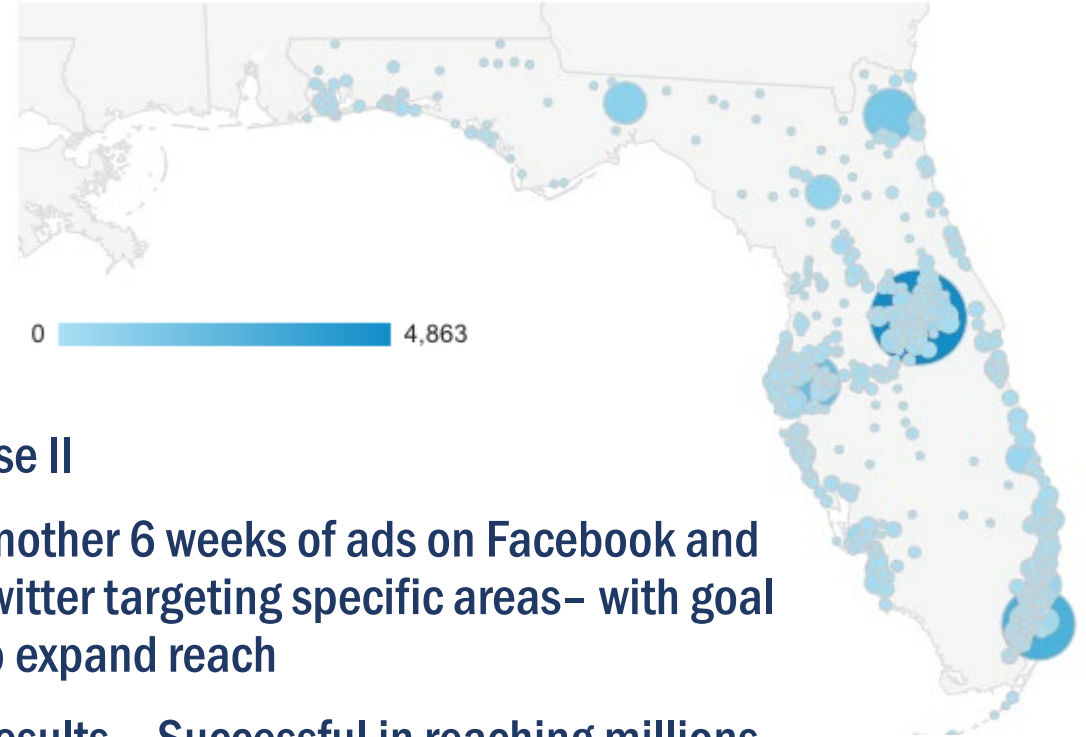


WRAP Campaign Social Media Engagement



Phase I

- Six week sponsored social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram covering 14 counties.
- Results - Reached over 1.2 million people



Phase II

- Another 6 weeks of ads on Facebook and Twitter targeting specific areas- with goal to expand reach
- Results - Successful in reaching millions more Floridians as Twitter engagement increased 73% resulting in more than 9,000 queries for “drop off locations” for the overall campaign



WRAP Campaign

- **Extension of Original Pilot through 2020**
- **Exploration of Commercial and Retail Opportunities**
- **Develop Partnerships to boost markets for Post Consumer material**

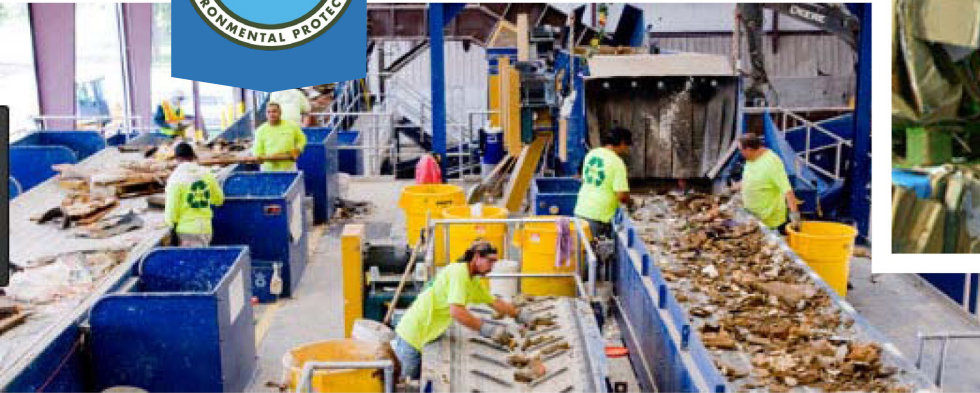




DEP Efforts

“Rethink. Reset. Recycle.” education campaign in partnership with material recycling facilities across the state to address the need to educate residents on how to reduce contamination in single stream curbside recycling.





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<https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/content/recycling>

