

## OVERVIEW Examining the Issues

### HOW DO YOU SPARK STUDENT INTEREST IN WASTE?

By using our Issue Cards! **Issue Cards are over 65 printable quotes, statistics, graphs, maps, definitions, excerpts, cartoons and photographs.** In groups, students will examine this content to gain a multidisciplinary understanding of waste and its relationship to current economic, social and environmental issues in New York City and the world. The Cards—also available as PowerPoint slides—are organized into five sets: Consumerism, Justice & Equity, Non-Renewable Resources, “Away,” and a History of Waste in NYC. The size of your class, the dynamics and learning styles of your students and the amount of time you would like to spend with the Cards can guide the way your students use them. Here is one successful method:

#### Students Break into 5+ Groups



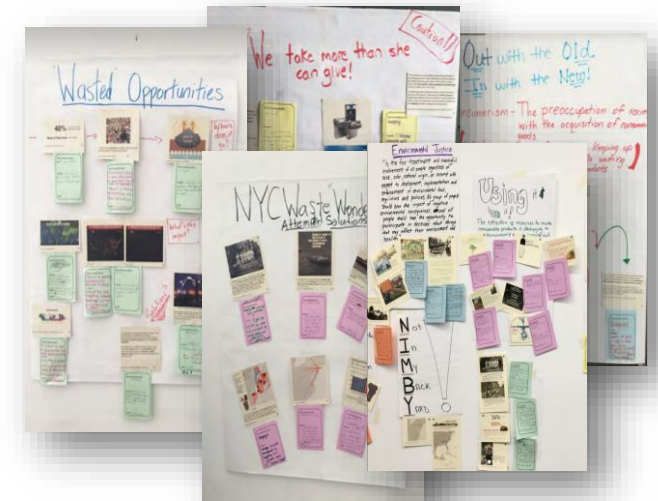
Each group receives a unique set of Issue Cards. Students spend time examining the content of their group's cards and begin to form reactions.

#### Students Complete Individual Response Slips



After examining their set of Issue Cards, students complete Response Slips to express what they think, feel or wonder about the information of one or more Cards.

#### Groups Construct a Poster and Present to the Class



In their groups, students share their reactions to the content, identify common themes and work together to create a poster to be shared with and presented to the rest of the class.

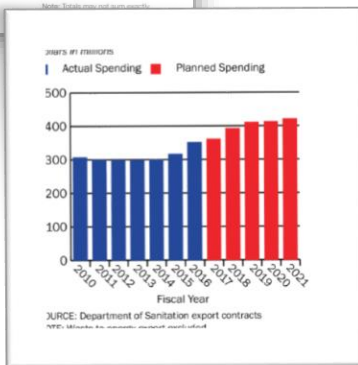
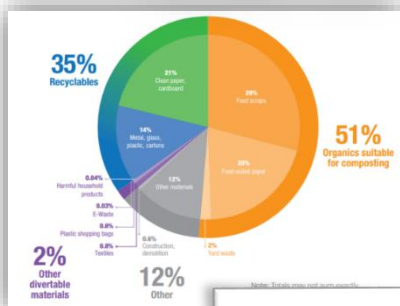
## OVERVIEW Understanding New York City

### WHAT IS NYC DOING ABOUT ITS WASTE?

New York City's waste systems are vast, complex and fascinating. Many New Yorkers do not know where their waste goes and doubt the efficacy of NYC recycling. **Our PowerPoint presentation grounds students in the reality of NYC waste management today and empowers them to recycle right.** Upon viewing statistics, charts, maps, images, and visual games, students will understand the composition of their waste, where it all goes, how it gets there, and the challenges and goals of NYC's 0x30 sustainability plan. Students will also learn how to properly sort their waste in school and at home. With this overview and understanding, students will be equipped to identify specific problems in their school community and take creative action toward solving them. The presentation slides are organized into three general categories:

#### Data

**16%** diversion rate\* in 2016  
**100%** diversion rate\* goal by 2030



#### Systems



Material Type	Instructions	Set Out Time	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
organics	In banded organics bins	after 2PM but before 4PM	X	X	X	X	X	
mixed paper & cardboard	In clear bags or bundles	after 2PM but before 4PM	X		X		X	
metal, glass, plastic & cartons	In clear bags	after 2PM but before 4PM		X		X		



#### Sorting





# LESSON PLAN Understanding New York City

In *Waste Deep 2*, students view city-based data, statistics, charts, maps, images, and visual games to understand the composition of their waste, where it all goes, how it gets there, and the challenges and goals of NYC's 0x30 sustainability plan. Students will also learn how to properly sort their waste in school and at home and start to imagine school-based solutions to waste.

## OBJECTIVE

Students will:

- learn about OneNYC – New York City's ambitious plan to become the most resilient, equitable, and sustainable city in the world
- learn about the goal of sending Zero Waste to landfills by 2030 and the systems NYC has put in place to tackle the "0 X 30" vision
- gain an understanding NYC's waste-related statistics and how these problems impact our city
- learn how they can be a part of the solution, including recycling basics
- brainstorm school-specific solutions to waste

## INQUIRY/CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

- What can we do to reduce the negative impacts of waste on our health, environment, and economy?
- What are the conditions needed to affect behavior change?

## MATERIALS NEEDED

### Teacher Materials

- Completed Waste Journals
- Posters on Display (from previous lessons)
- NYC Data, Systems, and Recycling Slide Deck
- Sample recyclables, waste items and recycling bins

## TIME REQUIRED

- One 45-minute period

## PROCEDURE

*Waste Deep 2* explores data, systems, and solutions to waste issues in NYC. Through a short opening discussion, presentation, and closing brainstorm discussion students will gain a thorough understanding of the City's waste landscape and start brainstorming ways to narrow the gap between our recycling knowledge/infrastructure and our recycling behavior, particularly in schools.

- I. **Waste Journal Homework Discussion (5 minutes)** discuss student findings from their Waste Journal
- II. **Phase 1 Issue Poster Recap: (5 minutes)** students review issues from Phase 1 and share their own associations with waste
- III. **NYC Data, Systems, and Recycling 101 (25 minutes)** using slide deck with talking points, present slide show to students
- IV. **Idea Brainstorm (10 minutes)**  
*Facilitate a discussion around recycling behaviors in school.*
  - Ask students to start thinking about why there is such a big gap between what we know (and the waste management infrastructure in place) and our behaviors.
  - What are ways we could help change behaviors in our school?

Continue the journey in *Waste Deep 3: Investigating Your School!*





OX30

zerowaste  
schools







zerowaste  
schools





# One New York

The Plan for a Strong  
and Just City



## VISION 3: Sustainability ↓

### GOAL 2

New York City will send zero  
waste to landfills by 2030.



zerowaste  
schools



Expand the NYC **organics program** to serve all New Yorkers by the end of 2018.

Make all schools **Zero Waste Schools**.



Reduce the use of **plastic bags** and other non-compostable waste.

Give every New Yorker the opportunity to recycle and reduce waste, including at **NYCHA housing**.



Enhance **curbside recycling** program.

Expand opportunities to reuse and recycle **textiles and electronic waste**.



Develop a **Save-As-You-Throw** program to reduce waste.



Reduce **commercial waste disposal** by 90% by 2030.



# Getting to Zero

zerowaste  
schools





New York City produces **6 million tons of garbage** per year.



Plastics carried by barge to a Brooklyn recycling plant.

**Source:**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/world/global-waste/?hpid=hp\\_hp-visual-stories-desktop\\_no-name%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm\\_term=.ad598af0fdce#newyork](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/world/global-waste/?hpid=hp_hp-visual-stories-desktop_no-name%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.ad598af0fdce#newyork)

zerowaste  
schools







115,000  
TONS/WEEK!

# 16%

diversion rate\*  
in 2016

# 100%

diversion rate\*  
goal by 2030



## \*diversion rate (n.)

the percentage of waste diverted from traditional disposal (i.e., landfilling, incineration) to be recycled, composted, or re-used

# Trash Journey & Impact

zerowaste  
schools





# COLLECTION

## Picking Up

Every day, more than 6,000 men and women of the Department of Sanitation collect garbage from residences and public buildings in New York City.



They work in pairs and collect more than 10,000 tons of material\* every day. All that waste goes into the back of compactor trucks.



zerowaste  
schools



NYC  
Department of  
Education





## TRANSFER

When trucks are full, they head to one of the city's transfer stations—except for Manhattan residents' waste, which goes to an incinerator or transfer stations in New Jersey\*.

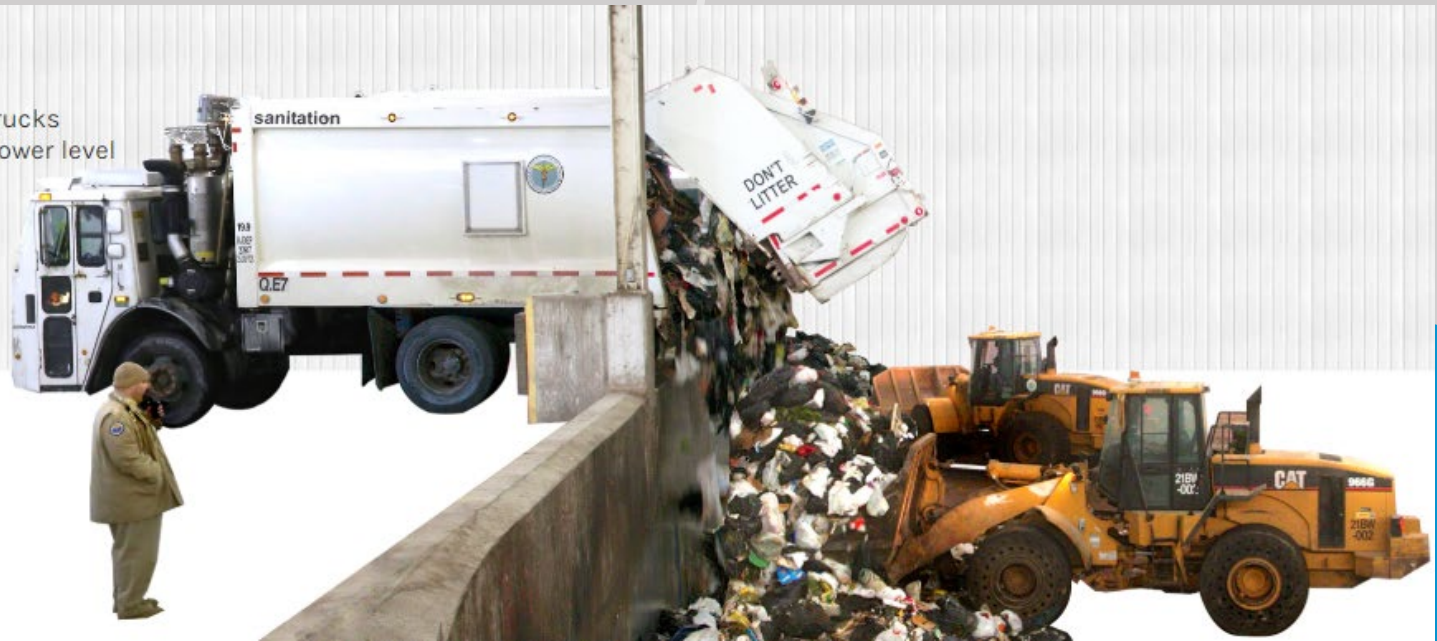


## Arriving at a Transfer Station

Transfer stations are consolidation centers for waste. They combine material from several collection trucks into containers.

### Tipping

Inside the transfer station, trucks unload their content onto a lower level known as the "tipping floor".





### Loading for Transportation

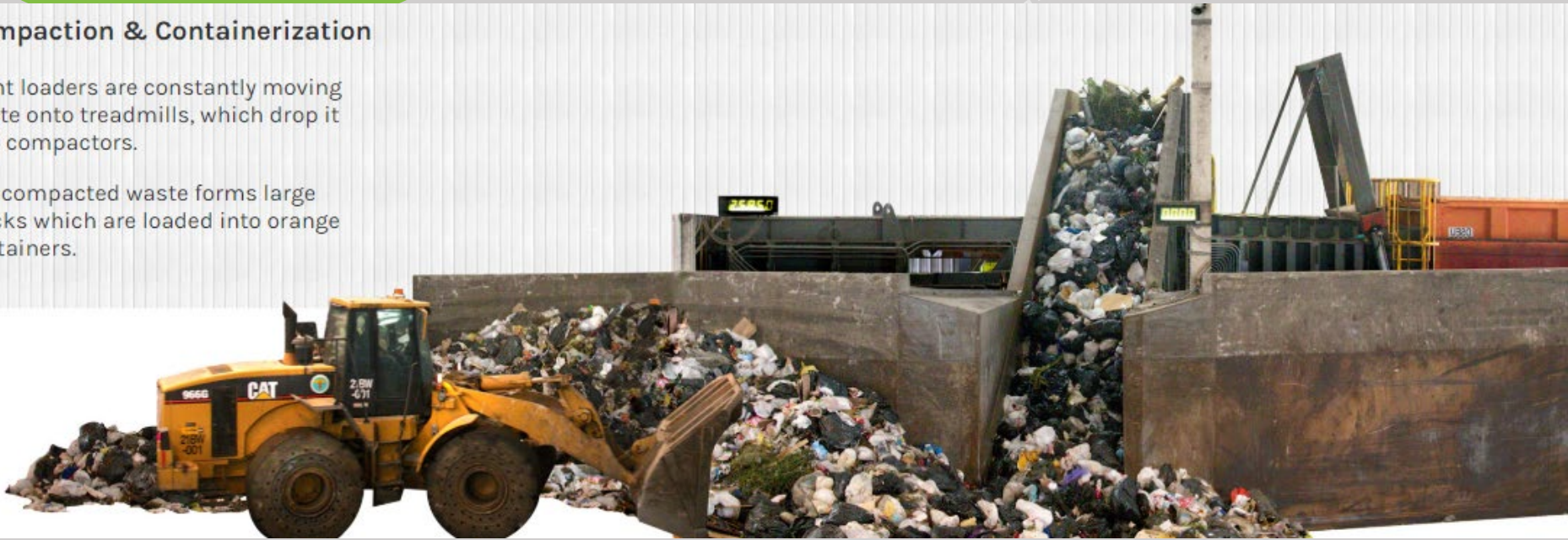
After leaving the transfer station, waste containers are loaded on trucks or trains for long-distance transport.



### Compaction & Containerization

Front loaders are constantly moving waste onto treadmills, which drop it into compactors.

The compacted waste forms large blocks which are loaded into orange containers.





# NEXT STOP: Landfills





2001

## The closure of Fresh Kills

In 1996, the City pledged to close Fresh Kills landfill in five years, due to intense community pressure



zerowaste  
schools



**NYC**  
Department of  
Education





## Sending it "Away"

Waste is transported on trains or trailer trucks, mostly to landfills.

It travels to other cities and states, located from 70 up to 600 miles away\*.

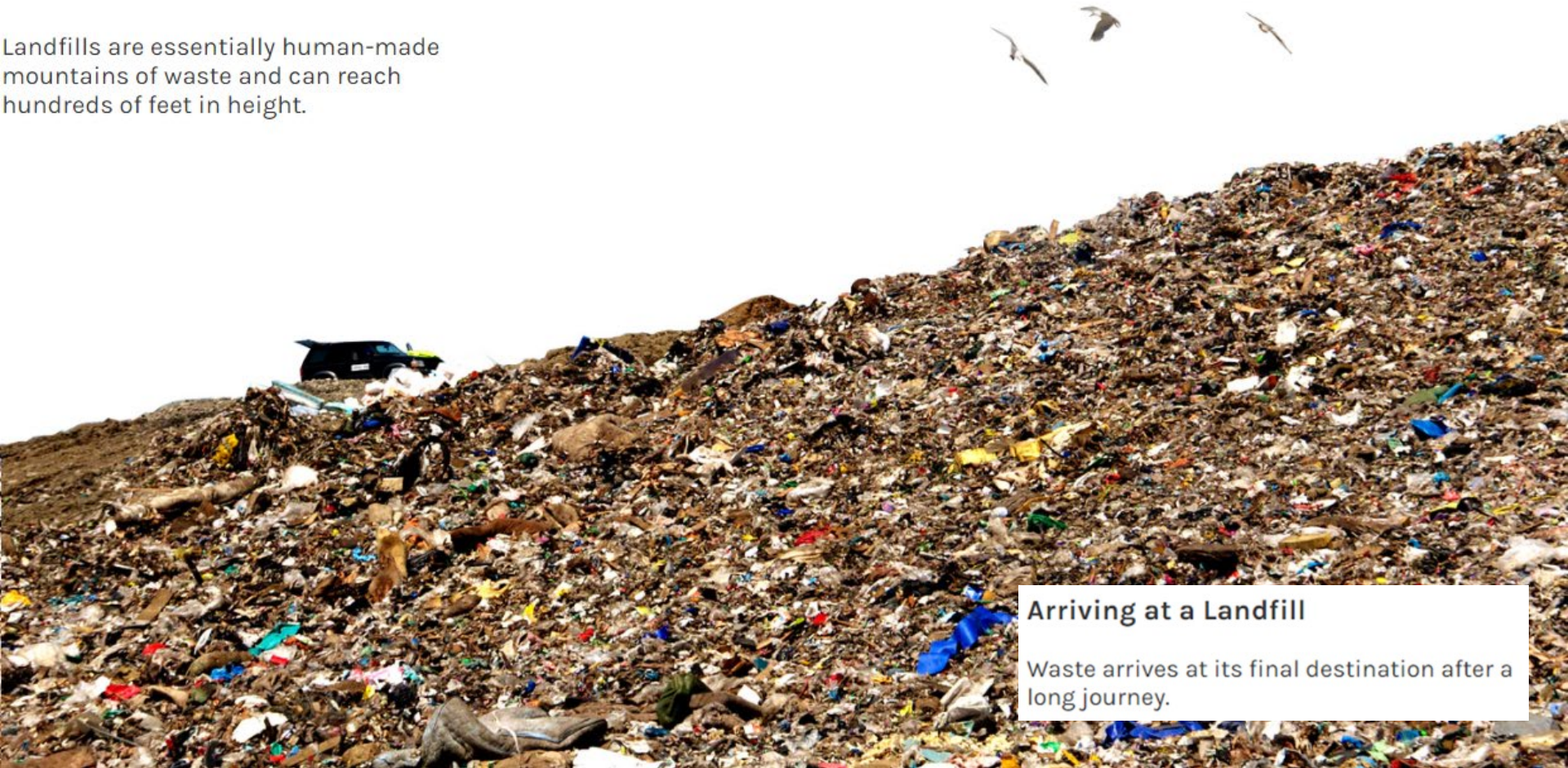


**Exporting waste  
costs NYC  
close to \$400  
million/year**





Landfills are essentially human-made mountains of waste and can reach hundreds of feet in height.



**Arriving at a Landfill**  
Waste arrives at its final destination after a long journey.



**METHANE GAS  
RELEASED**



**LEACHATE**

**zerowaste**  
schools





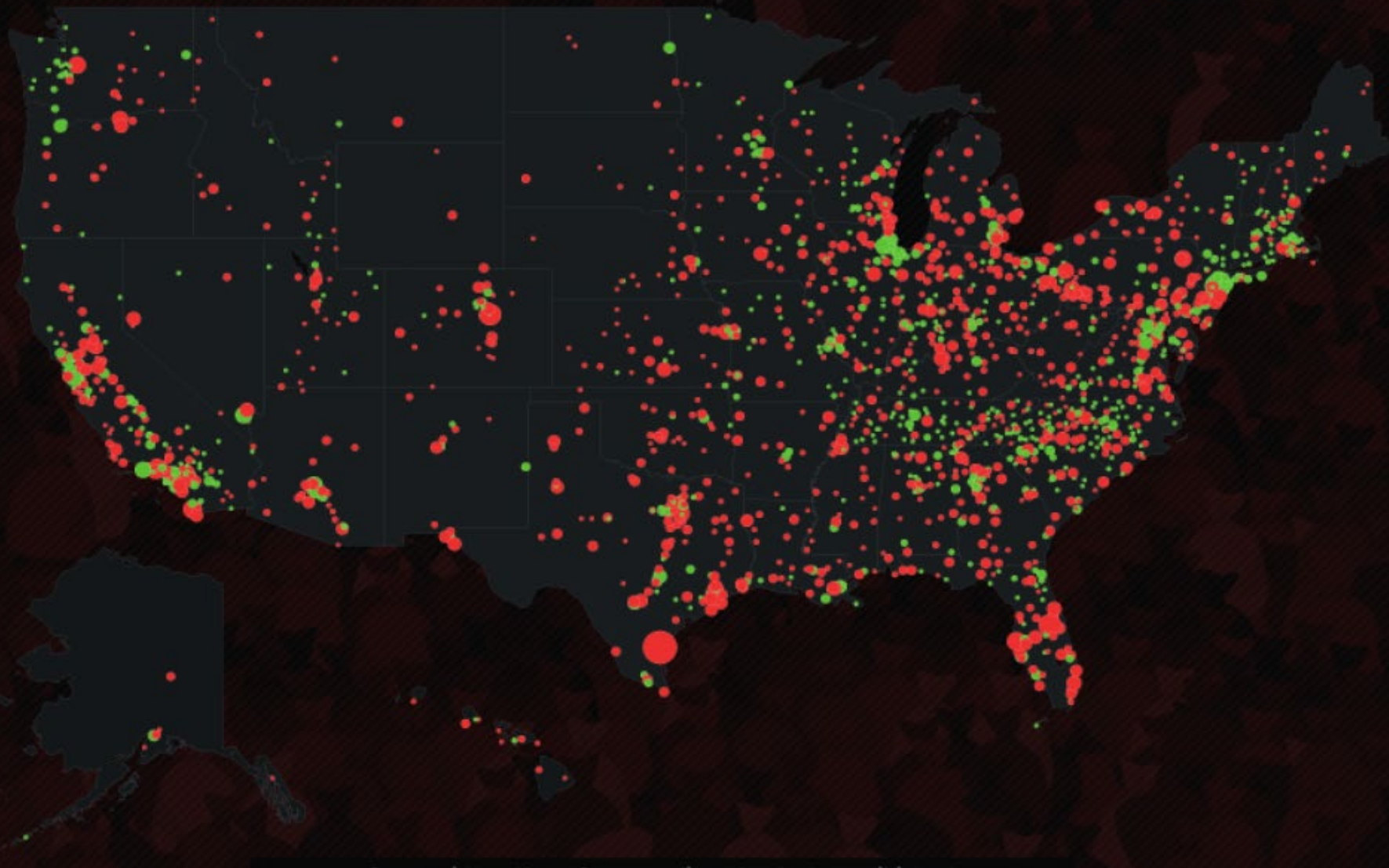
# A CENTURY OF AMERICAN GARBAGE

LANDFILLS OVER TIME, BY SIZE AND CURRENT STATUS

2013

LANDFILL STATUS

● Open ● Closed



Source: <https://www3.epa.gov/lmop/projects-candidates/>



350



500



1000



A million years??







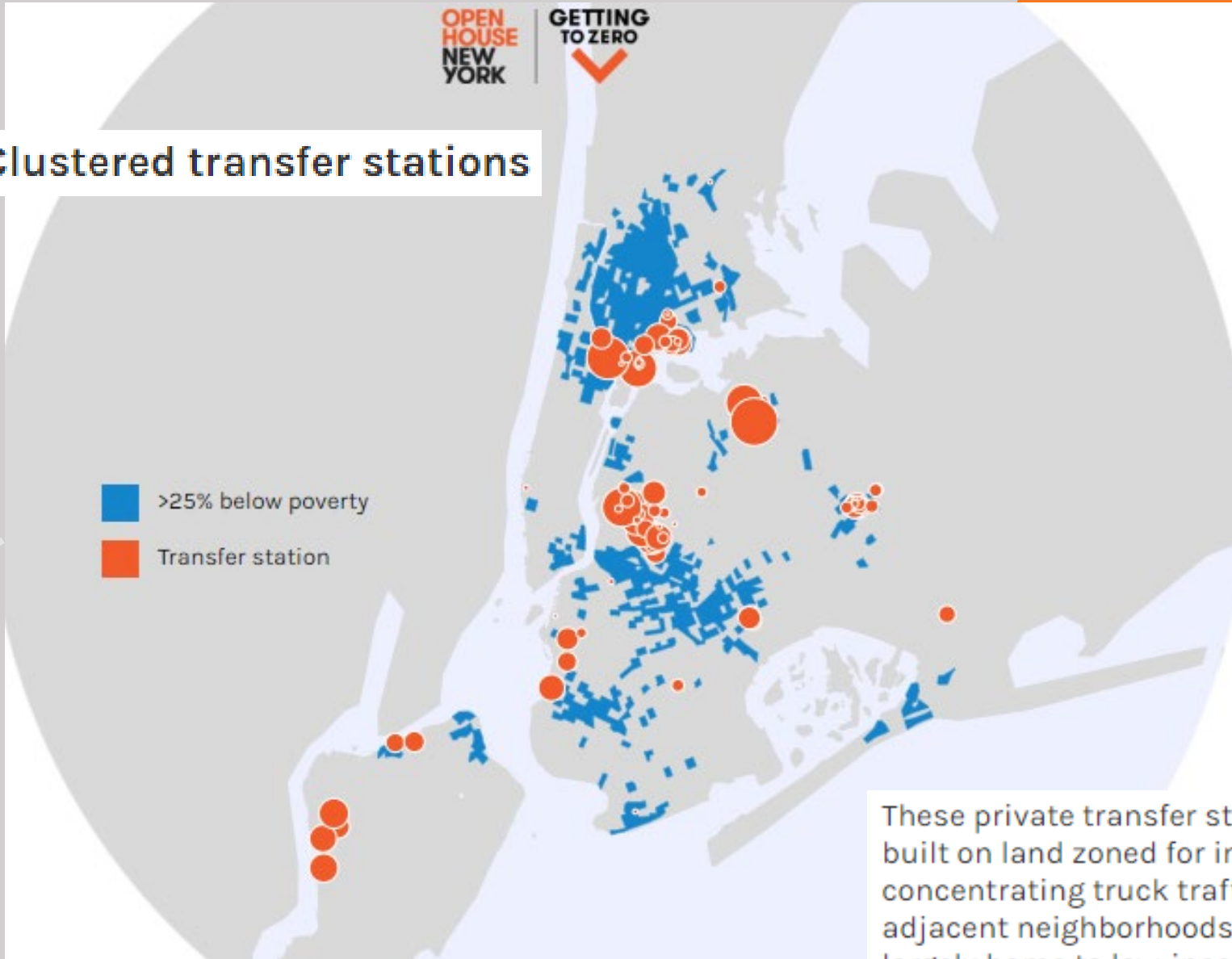
Over 70% of NYC's waste passes through 3 neighborhoods:

South Bronx  
North Brooklyn  
SE Queens



## Clustered transfer stations

-  >25% below poverty
-  Transfer station



These private transfer stations were built on land zoned for industrial use, concentrating truck traffic in the adjacent neighborhoods, which are largely home to low-income communities and communities of color.



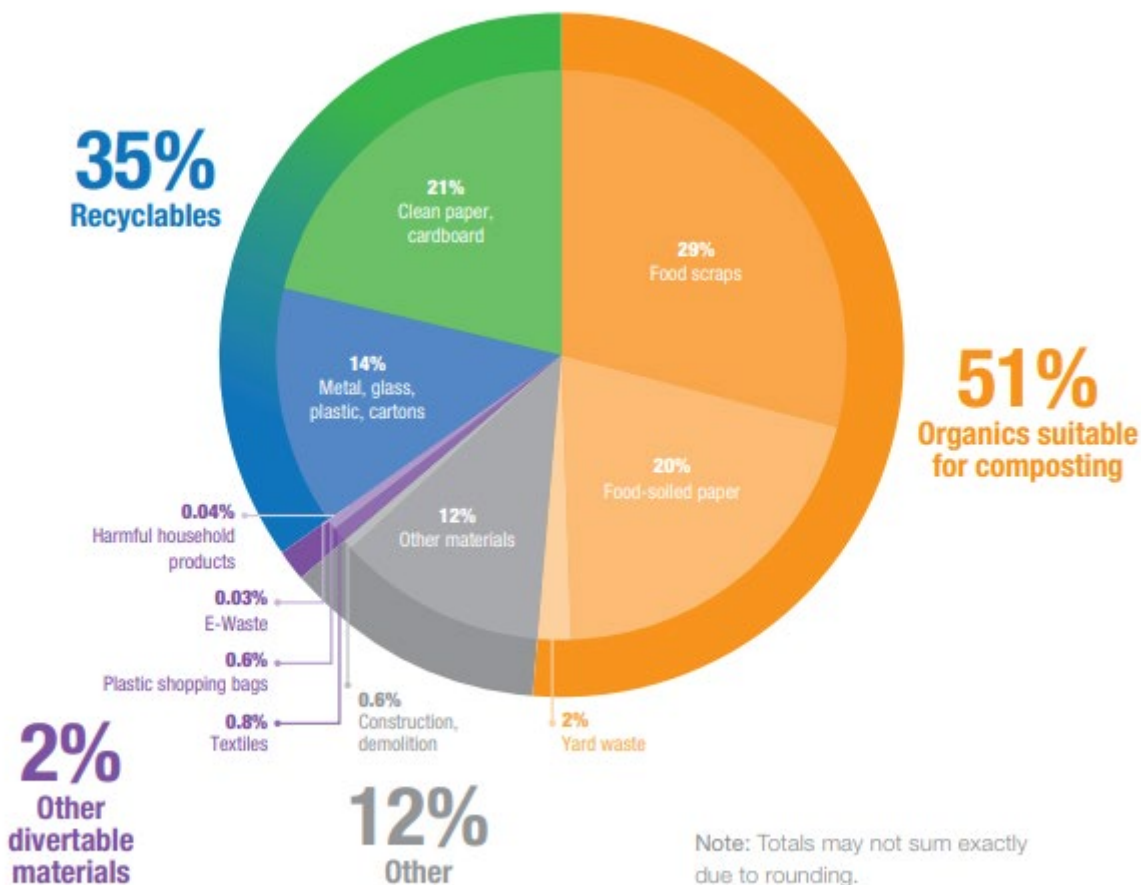
# zerowaste schools

---



Schools have the potential to divert as much as 86% of their waste for recycling or composting through DSNY curbside collections.

2017 Composition of Schools Aggregate Discards





So...why  
YOU?

Why  
schools?



**= HUGE IMPACT!**

# Recycling 101

zerowaste  
schools





# Sort It Out!



zerowaste  
schools

# Green Bin Don'ts





# Blue Bin Don'ts



# What Goes in My Trash Bin?

Soft Plastics

Chip Bags

Plastic Wrappers







**NO RECYCLABLES IN  
THE TRASH BIN**



zerowaste  
schools



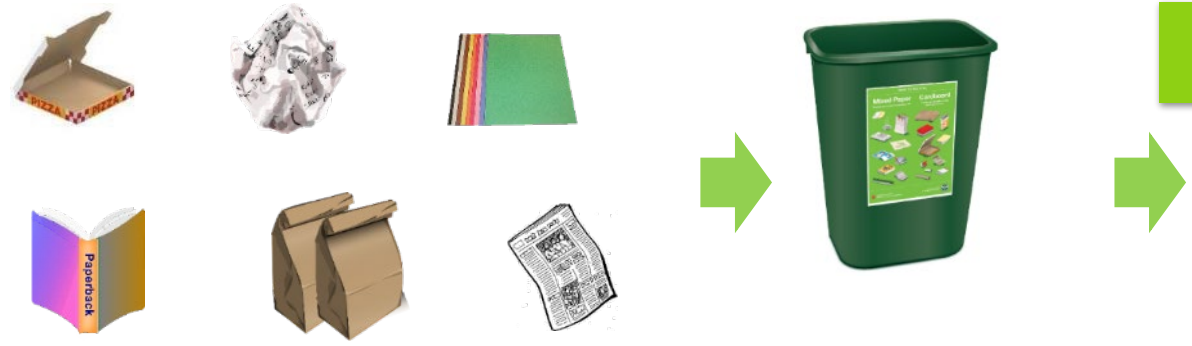


Recycling can create up to 7x more jobs than sending waste to landfills.



**Benefits: Jobs**

**SIMS Municipal Recycling (BK)**



**Pratt Industries (S.I.)**



**Composting Facilities (near NYC)**



# Green Bin Journey

zerowaste  
schools





# What Goes in My Green Recycling Bin?

Mixed Paper

Cardboard



## Recycling (half of the) paper in New York City\*

About half of the paper collected by DSNY is recycled in the city, at the Pratt Paper Mill on Staten Island.\*

The paper is taken there from Manhattan by barge, or from Staten Island and South Brooklyn by collection trucks.



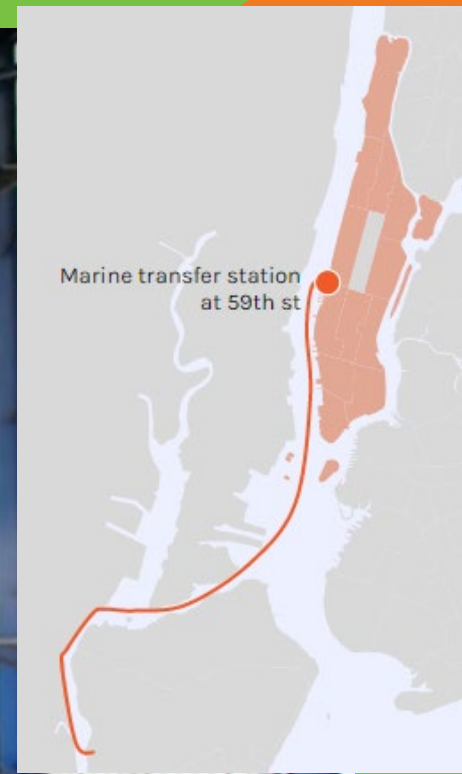
● Pratt paper mill



## Transferring the paper to barges

Paper collected in Manhattan arrives by truck at the marine transfer station at 59th Street on the Hudson River.

There, it is tipped into barges that will make the trip to the paper mill on Staten Island.





## Corrugation and manufacturing



### Processing the paper in Staten Island

The paper is unloaded from barges by a crane and then loaded into the paper mill's production line. Paper arriving on trucks will go through the same process.



### From waste to product



# Blue Bin Journey

zerowaste  
schools



# What Goes in My Blue Recycling Bin?

Metal

Rigid Plastics

Glass

Cartons





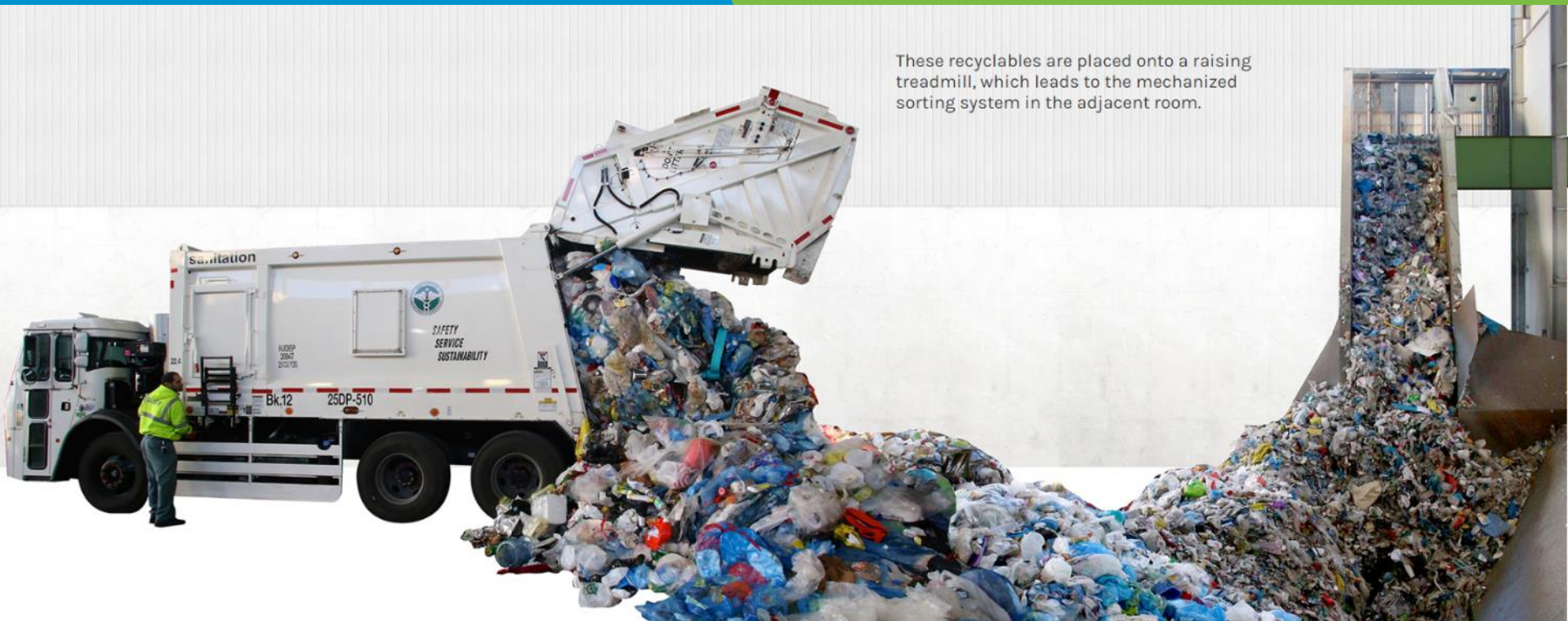
# Arriving at the Sims Material Recovery Facility in Brooklyn



## Metal, glass, and plastic

The other part of DSNY's recyclables, composed of mixed metal, glass, and plastic, are tipped on an opposite corner of the facility for further sorting.

These recyclables are placed onto a raising treadmill, which leads to the mechanized sorting system in the adjacent room.





# Mechanized sorting

Metals are recovered with magnets and electrical currents; several mechanical processes separate glass, plastic film and paper. The remaining plastics go through optical sorters that separate them by chemical composition.

OPEN  
HOUSE  
NEW  
YORK

GETTING  
TO ZERO  




zerowaste  
schools



NYC  
Department of  
Education







## The result: sorted bales

The end product of this sorting system are different bales, each containing a specific type of material.

Here, bales of hard plastics are being transported to storage by a forklift.



# Brown Bin Journey

zerowaste  
schools



# What Goes in My Brown Organics Bin?

All Food Scraps

Compostable Trays

Napkins

Food-soiled Paper



About one third of New York City's residential waste is comprised of organic material.

● McEnroe Farm, NY

### Alternatives to landfilling

- Composting facility
- Anaerobic digester

● Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, NYC

● Staten Island Compost Facility, NYC



## Arriving at the Staten Island Composting Facility



## Composting the organics

After being unloaded from collection trucks, organics are mixed with woodchips and arranged in long rows, called windrows.



## Compost made from local organics

The resulting compost is donated by DSNY for local use in gardening, public greening, soil mitigation, and street tree stewardship.

## From food scraps to food

The produced compost is often used in local community gardens and farms, helping turn food scraps into food again.





# School Recycling Systems

zerowaste  
schools



# Bins and Signage

## Cafeteria



## Classrooms and Offices

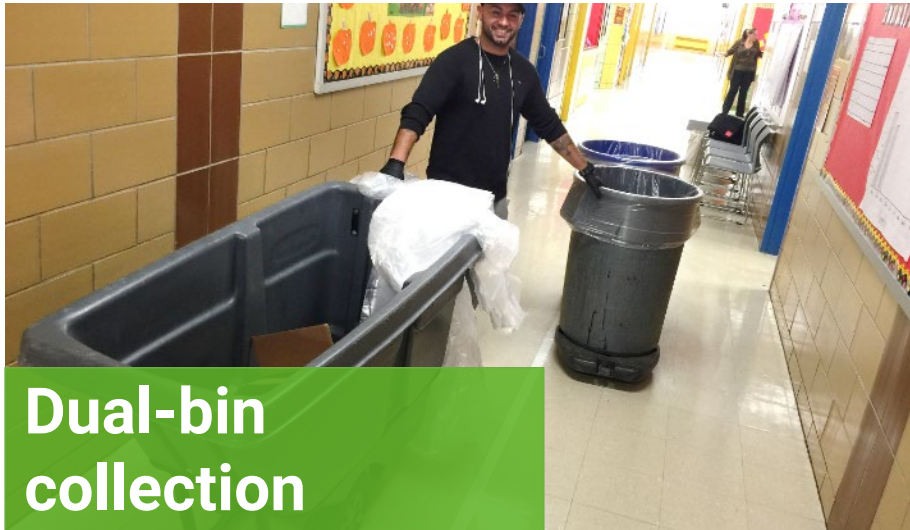


## Hallways and Shared Spaces





# Collection, Storage, Set-out, Trainings



Dual-bin collection



Designated storage space



















Curbside set-out



Custodial Staff Trainings



# DOE Building Code: M470 Address: 145 W 84 ST, 10024

MATERIAL TYPE	INSTRUCTIONS	SET OUT TIME	COLLECTION TIMES BEGINNING @4PM					
			MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Organics</b> 	In latched organics bins	After 2pm but before 4pm	 ORGANICS	 ORGANICS	 ORGANICS	 ORGANICS	 ORGANICS	
<b>Mixed Paper</b> <b>Cardboard</b> 	In clear bags or bundles	After 2pm but before 4pm	 MIXED PAPER/ CARDBOARD RECYCLING		 MIXED PAPER/ CARDBOARD RECYCLING		 MIXED PAPER/ CARDBOARD RECYCLING	
<b>Cartons</b> <b>Hard Plastic</b> <b>Glass</b> 	In clear bags	After 2pm but before 4pm		 METAL/GLASS/ PLASTIC/ CARTONS RECYCLING		 METAL/GLASS/ PLASTIC/ CARTONS RECYCLING		
<b>Trash</b> 	In clear bags	Between 4pm and 12 Midnight the day before*	 GARBAGE		 GARBAGE			

\*Confirm your school's trash collection schedule at: [nyc.gov/dsny](http://nyc.gov/dsny).

Enter your building address under "Collection Schedule."

Follow your set out schedule. Report any missed collections to your local DSNY Garage.

**Please note:** Material set out after your school has been serviced is not a missed collection.

If you have dumpster or compactor service, your schedule may be different.



# Research & Data

zerowaste  
schools

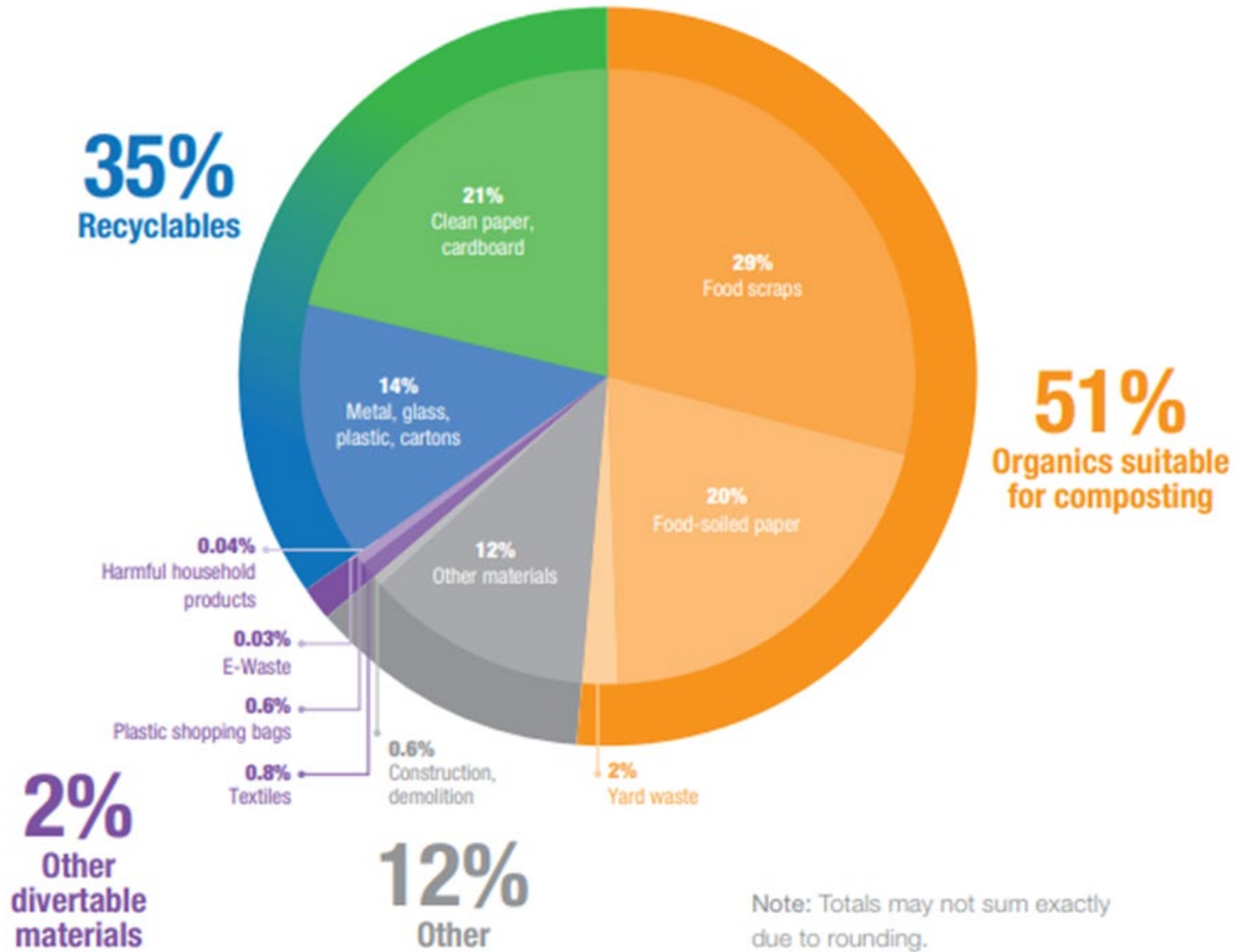


# 2017 NYC Residential, School, and NYCHA Waste Characterization Study





## 2017 Composition of Schools Aggregate Discards





## Recycling Achievement

The charts below show the average recycling achievement of NYC schools in 2017. Some schools capture significantly more recyclables and have lower contamination of unwanted materials in recycling collections than others, but the 2017 Study documented that, on average, there is considerable potential to recycle more from school waste.

School Recycling Collections	Paper Recycling	MGP Recycling
Capture Rate	57.9%	19.4%
Contamination Rate	17.2%	40.6%

zerowaste  
schools



# Year Three Report

September 2018

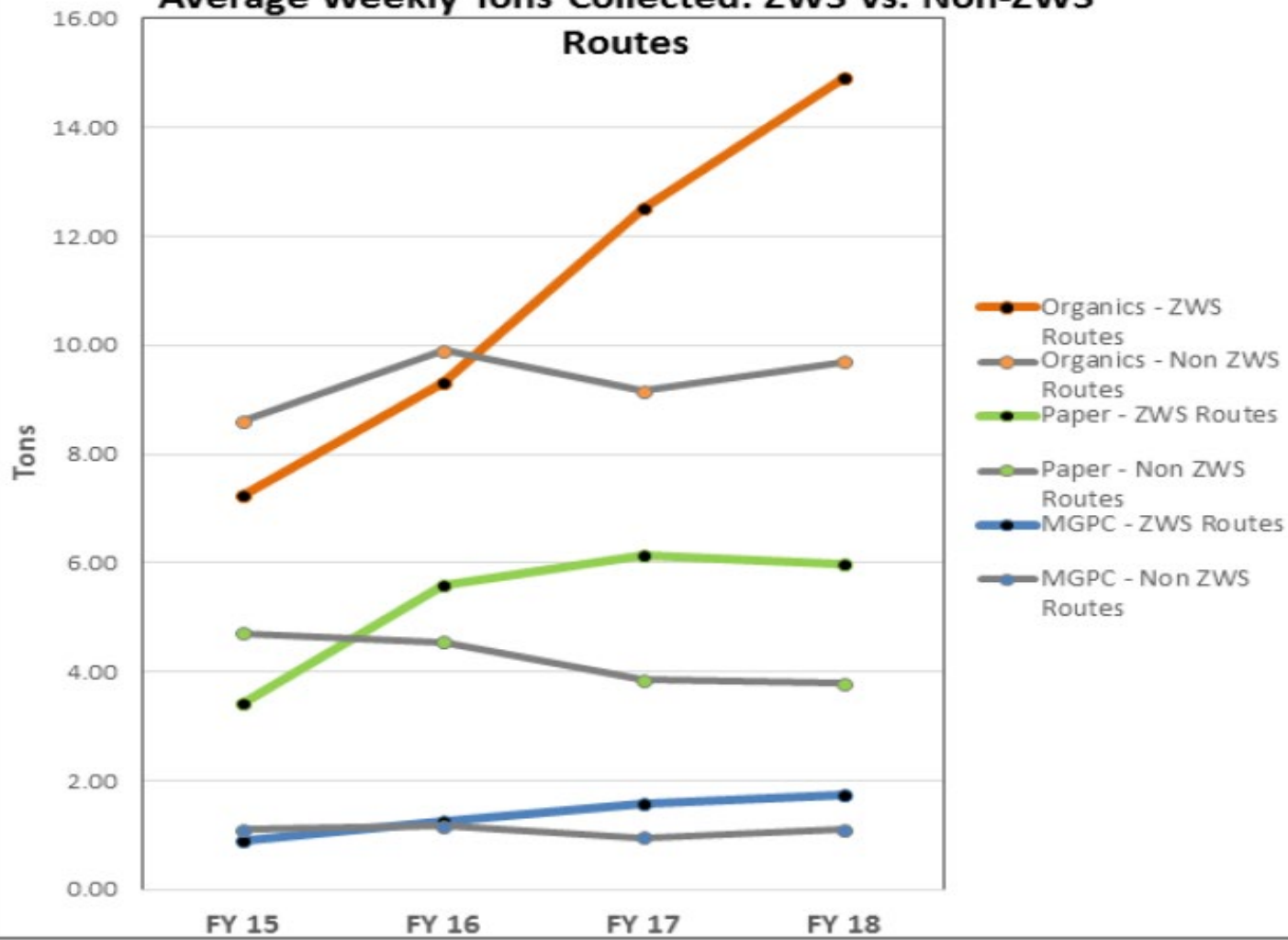




# Zero Waste Schools Report: Year 3

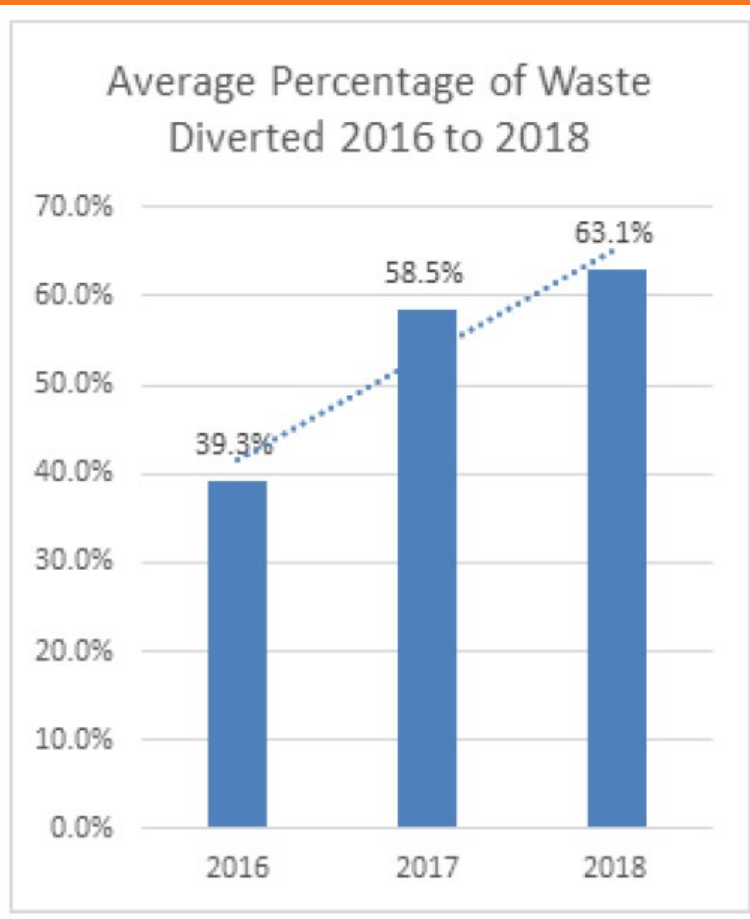
## Average Weekly Tons Collected: ZWS vs. Non-ZWS

### Routes



## DOE-RCP's Curbside Waste Audit Snapshot

During the spring of each programmatic year, DOE and RCP outreach staff collected weights of all curbside recycling and trash bags for one week to take a snapshot of school waste diversion at ZWS. 15 buildings were chosen as representative sample. The analysis of the data recorded at these 15 buildings shed light on the amount of waste and recycling produced by each school building.



The table and graph shown left depict the average percentage of waste that was diverted away from landfills. There has been a positive trend with time. In 2016, 39.3% of all waste were materials that went to recycling (Paper, MGPC, and Organics) facilities instead of landfills. Comparatively, this increased to 58.5% in spring of 2017 and 63.1% in spring of 2018.

