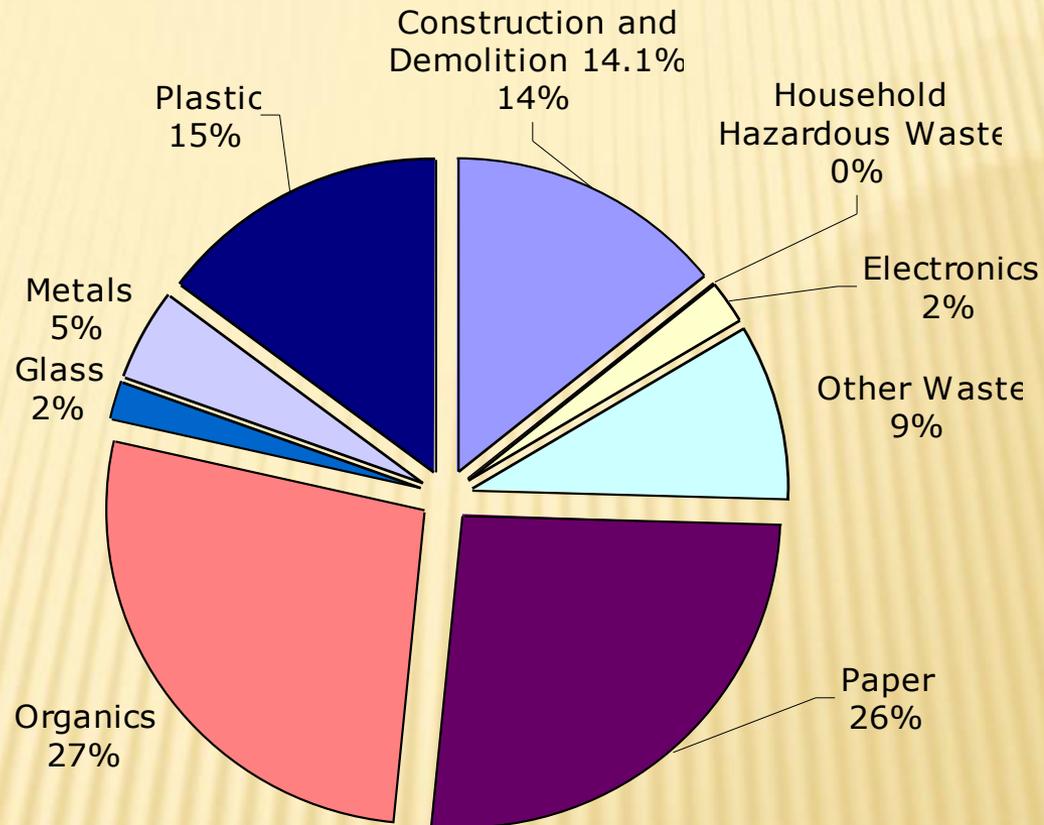


Finding the Opportunities in Waste



**Capturing the Value -
Transforming Municipal Materials
Management**



CT Statewide Composition & Characterization

Solid Waste vs. Sustainable Materials Management

There is a fundamental difference between a system established to collect and process waste that expanded to do some recycling, *and one in which the priority is to manage unwanted items and used materials in a manner that makes use of their inherent or residual value.*

Garbage
Garbage
Garbage
Garbage
Garbage
Garbage
Garbage



The Municipal Materials Management System

- *Downstream resource recovery through recycling and composting*
- *Mid-stream longevity through reuse, repair, and durable design*
- *Upstream waste reduction through redesign, procurement/purchasing initiatives, producer responsibility, and new rules applied to products and materials that fall outside these initiatives.*

A Commodity Based System

In the traditional solid waste system, the solid waste manager is really a carter of goods, paying or being paid primarily for transport and disposition –whether that be disposal or recycling.

In a sustainable materials management system, the manager is a broker of commodities.

Opportunity - The Key to Materials Management

A broker is always looking for opportunity, and in order to maximize that opportunity when they find it, they have to preserve the value of the commodity they are handling.

The method of handling a commodity, then, contributes both to its value and the range of opportunities available to the broker.

*Opportunity is a set of circumstances that make it possible to do something;
a chance for progress or advancement.*

Opportunity Defined

Organics - Single Largest Opportunity in Waste?

Organics diversion offers the widest path towards opportunity because organics represents such a large percentage of the waste stream, and, because it intersects with issues related to hunger, climate change, energy independence, soil security, farm viability, and more.



Organics - Single Largest Opportunity in Waste?

It should be no surprise, then, that every community, region, state, and country that has made a commitment to Zero Waste – an aggressive materials management system model - diverts organic materials from waste.



1. Different methods of handling materials



2. Municipal managers help create circumstances favorable to the creation of new initiatives

Where Are the Other Opportunities in Waste?

Focus: Mid-Stream Enterprises for Reuse & Repair



Municipalities should not leave the development of these enterprises to chance. Communities need to think strategically about how to encourage the rise of reuse businesses, and about the types of businesses and specific material types that should be diverted from entering the waste stream.

Reuse & Repair: Think Creatively!

Business plan competition?

Mini-grants for business expansion

RFP's for small-scale endeavors that can be added to a partnering non-profit's offerings

Engage Colleges and Universities in offering community wide programming; pay for research and planning expertise

Upstream: Producer Responsibility, Redesign of Products & Systems

***FLEX YOUR MUSCLES!** Municipalities play a key role in establishing the rules of the marketplace for producers, and it's important for managers to become comfortable with a wide range of rule-making.*

*Take every opportunity to create innovative demands that support the development of a resource based economy. **ACT TO AFFECT THE MARKET.***

Which Opportunities First?

Build on your strengths.

Think of change as being organic.

Look to make progress wherever you can.

*Use today's Summit
as a place to begin.*

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production.

- Mark Gagliardi



Vermont Technical College

Donna Barlow Casey

Director of the Center for Sustainable Practices

DCasey2@vtc.edu