



Zero Waste in New York City: Challenges and Opportunities

Kathryn Garcia, NYC Sanitation Commissioner

SWANA WASTECON 2015 | Orlando, FL

About the Department of Sanitation:



- **Mission:** Keep NYC healthy, safe, and clean by collecting, recycling, and disposing of refuse, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice.
- Largest municipal sanitation department in the United States
- Created in 1881

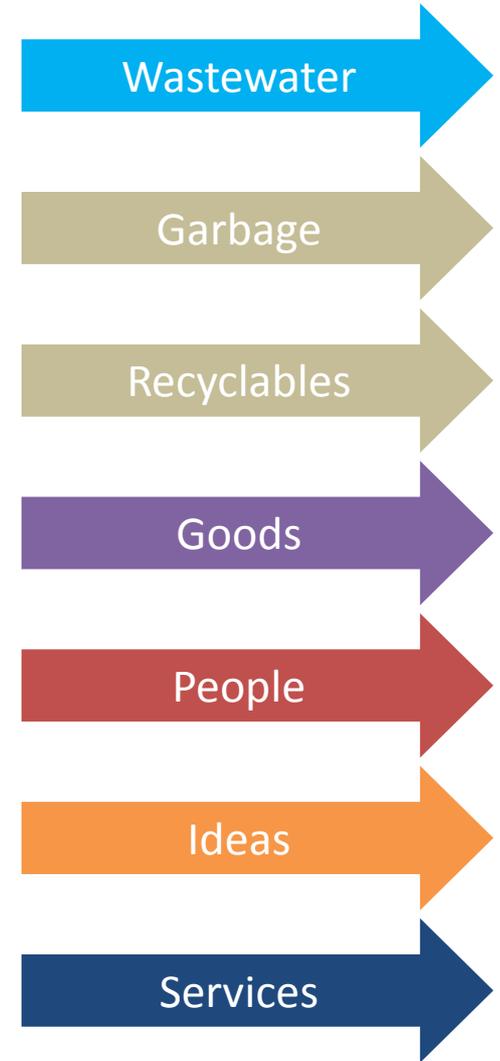
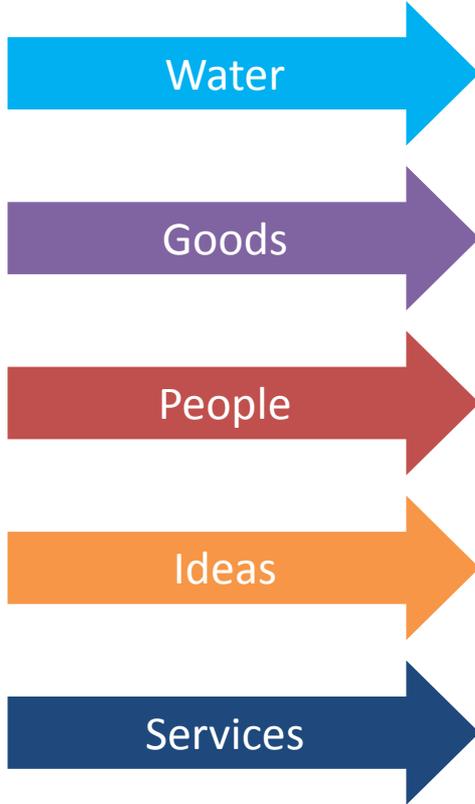
- Serves 8.5 million residents; millions of commuters and tourists
- Collects 10,500 tons of refuse and 2,000 tons of recyclables per day
- 9,600 employees
- 2,000+ collection trucks
- Operates 4 marine transfer stations and 1 rail transfer station



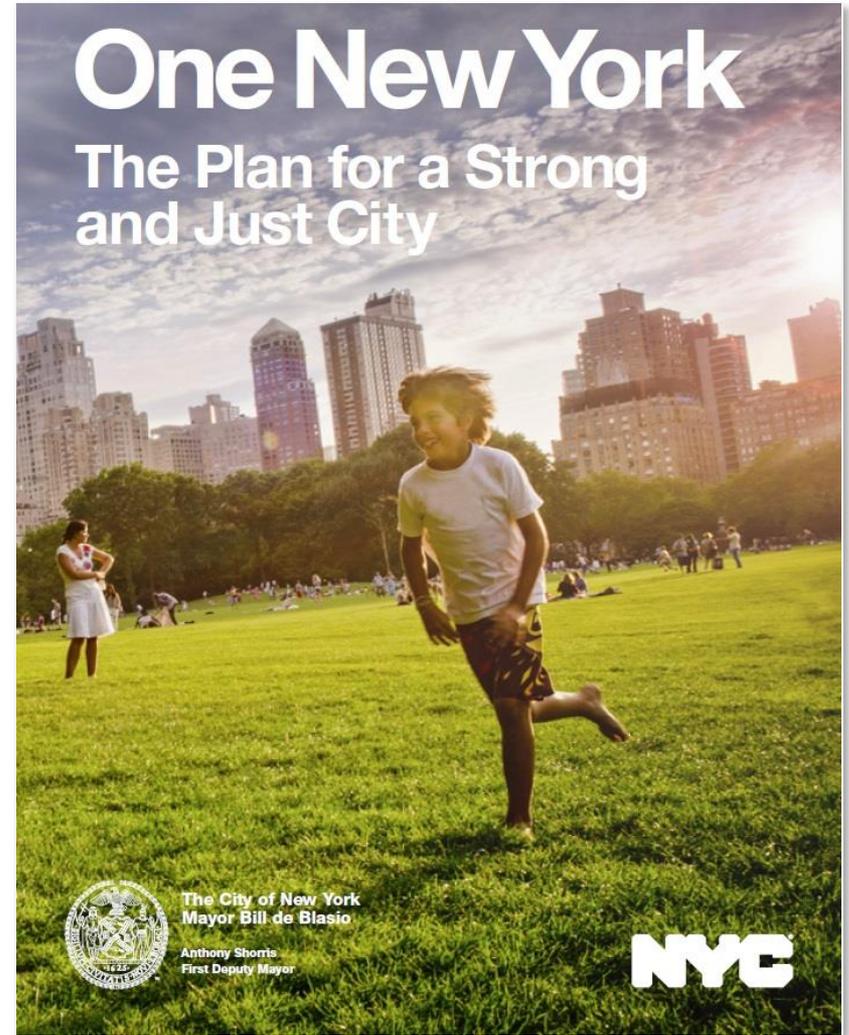
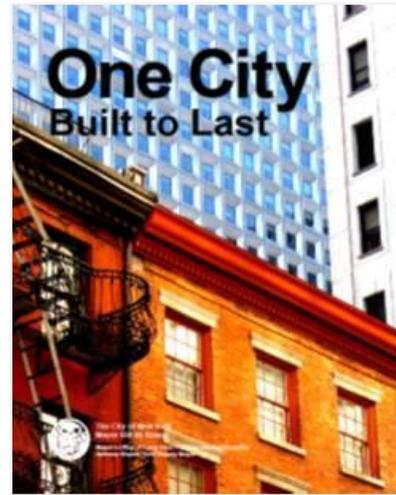
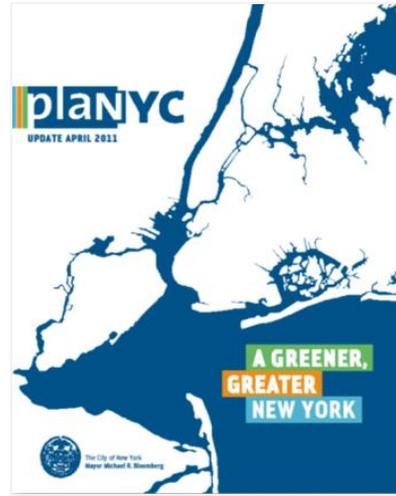
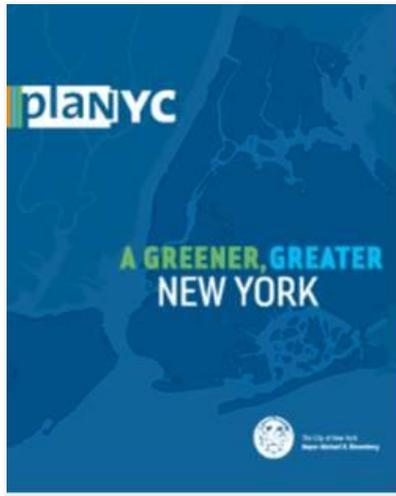
New York is a city of islands...



New York is a city of islands... ..and a city of flows.



New York is a national leader in sustainability...



And has the largest recycling program in the country.

Mandatory recycling began in **1989**.

All buildings served, including multi-family by **1993**.

Collected **564,000 tons** of paper, metal, glass, and plastic last year.



We are building a sustainable waste management system.

Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation

2014 or Earlier

2015

2016

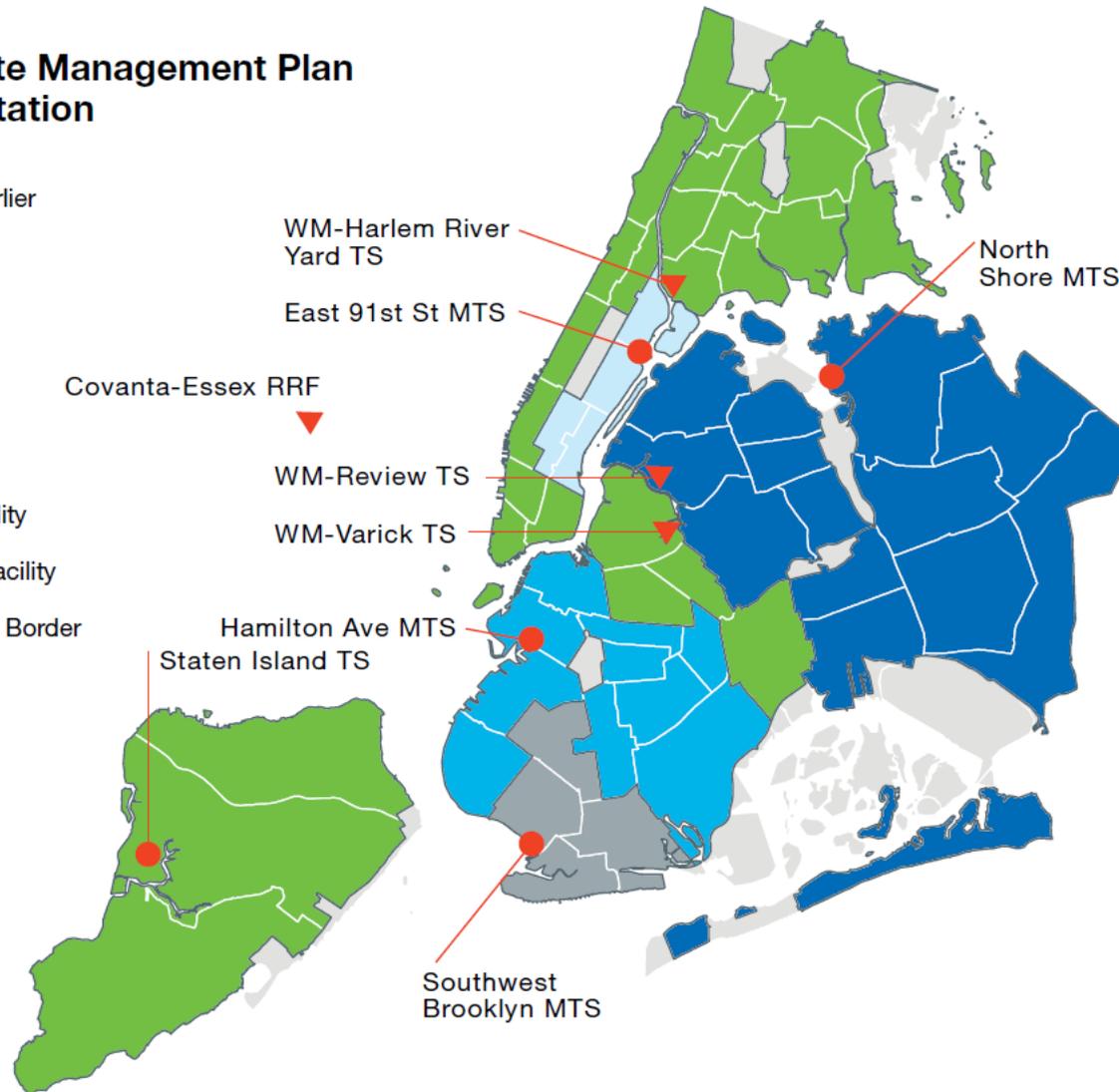
2017

2018

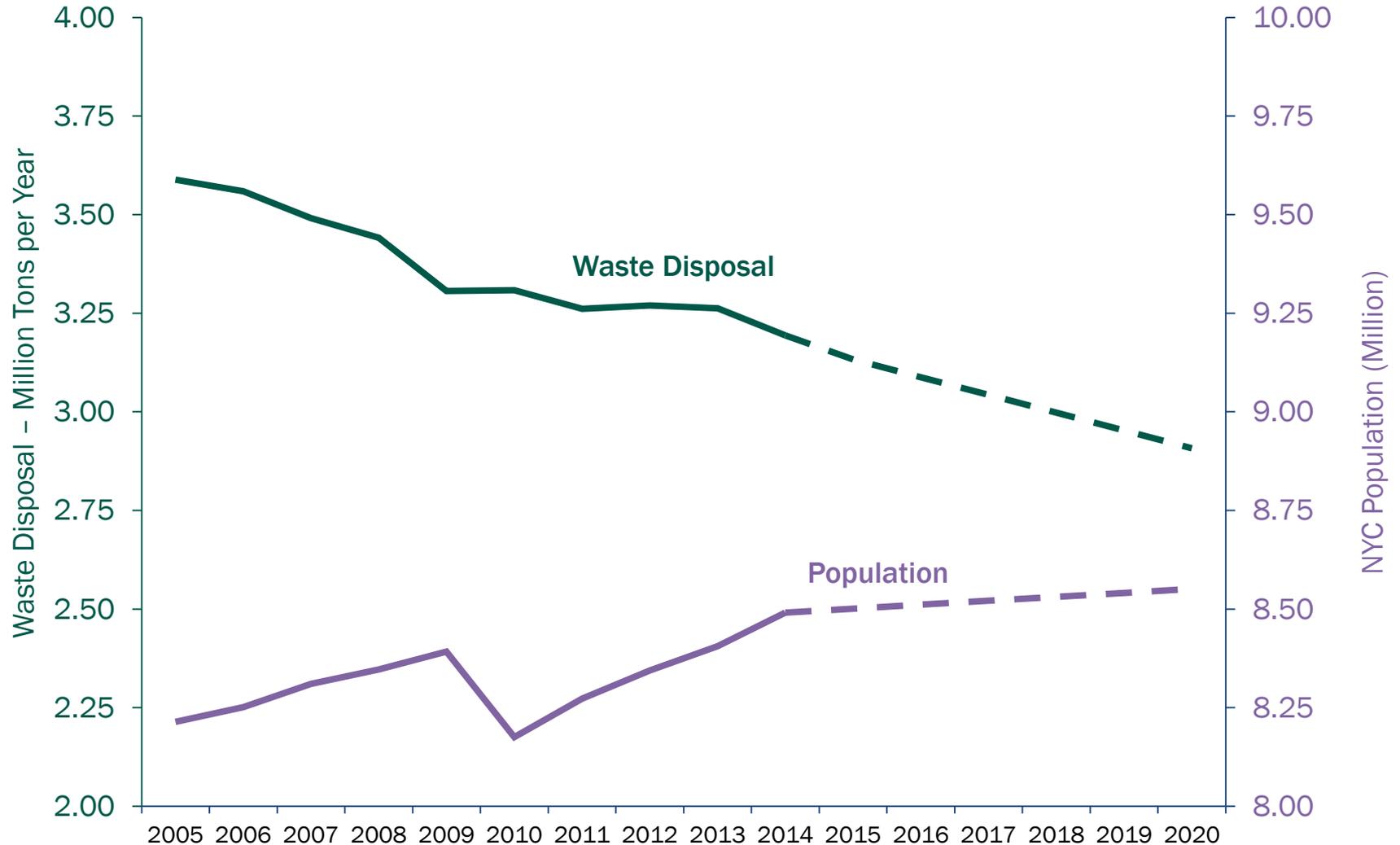
DSNY Facility

Contract Facility

Wasteshed Border



As a result, the amount of waste disposed has declined over time, even as population has grown.



On Earth Day, Mayor de Blasio set an ambitious goal of contributing Zero Waste to Landfills by 2030.



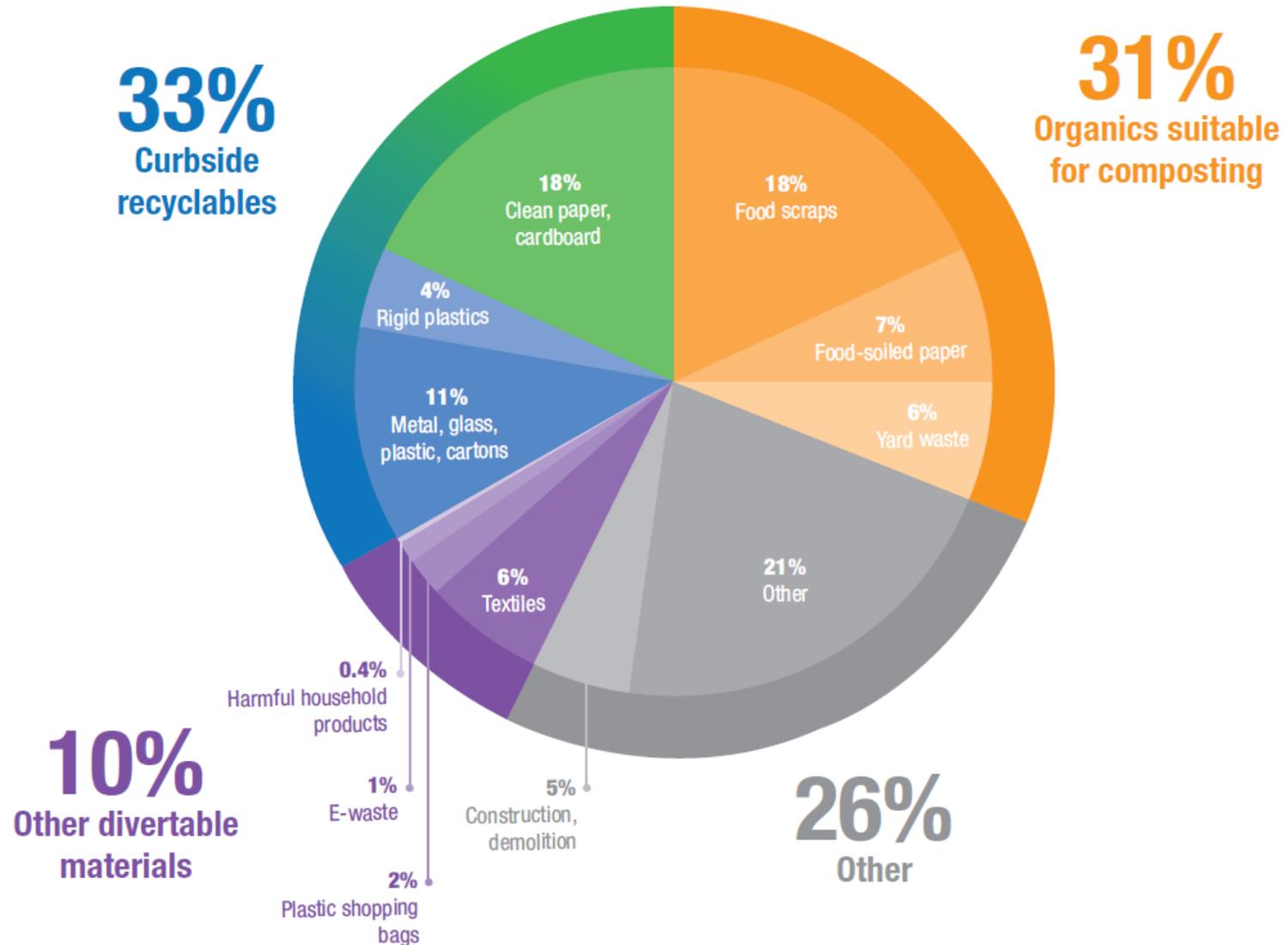
Photo by NYC Mayor's Office

**But how does a city
as diverse, dense and
complex as New York
achieve this
ambitious goal?**



Zero Waste

Solution: Develop programs for every slice of the waste pie.



Solution: Improve the existing recycling program.

Current Stats

16% curbside diversion rate

48% capture rate for paper, metal, glass, and plastic

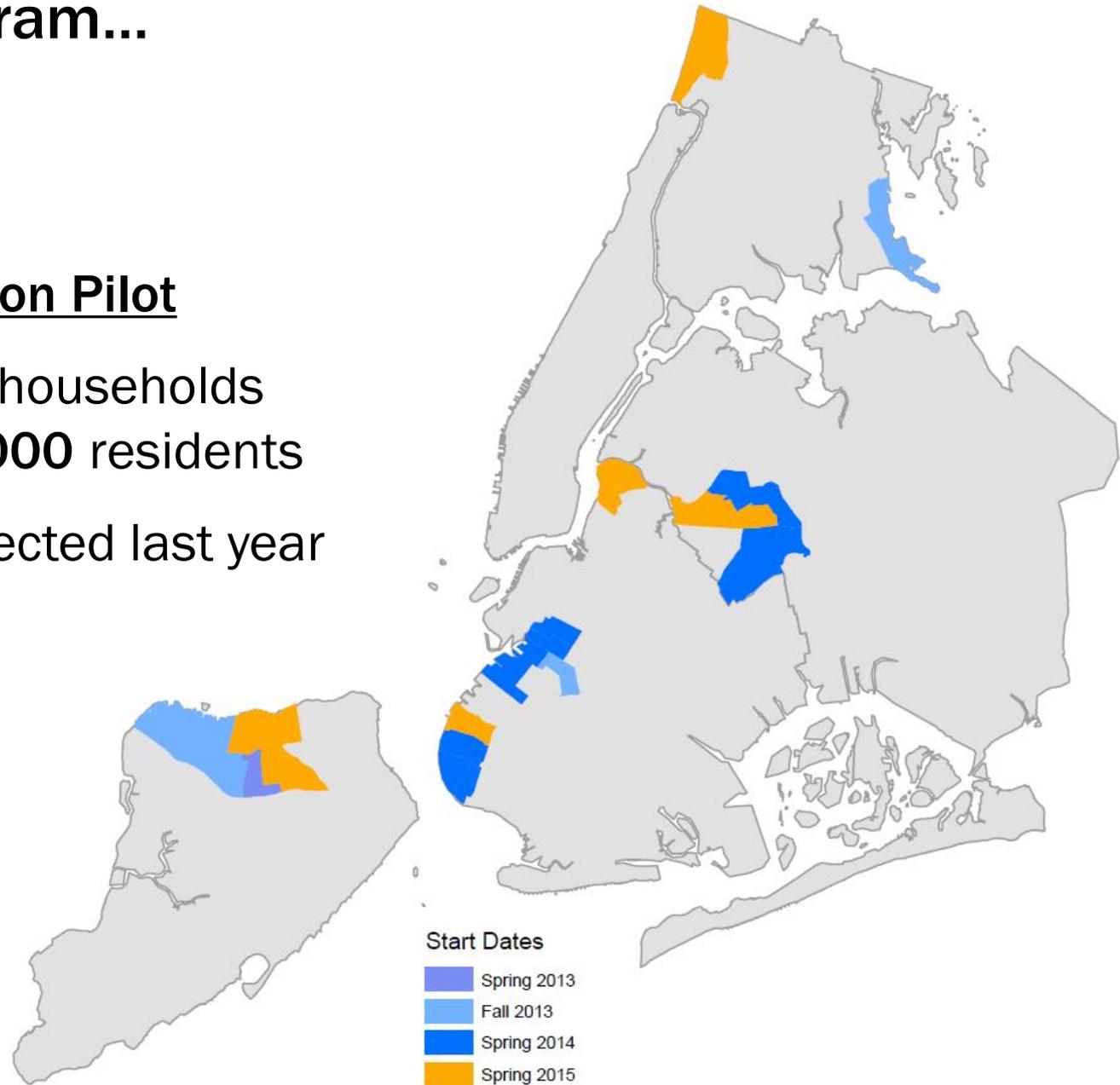


Solution: Build the nation's largest organics diversion program...

Curbside Collection Pilot

Serves **144,600** households
with nearly **375,000** residents

11,702 tons collected last year



...with the support of grassroots community organizations and a passionate local composters.

225 + community composting sites

64 food waste drop-off sites



Solution: Eliminate non-recyclable materials from the waste stream...

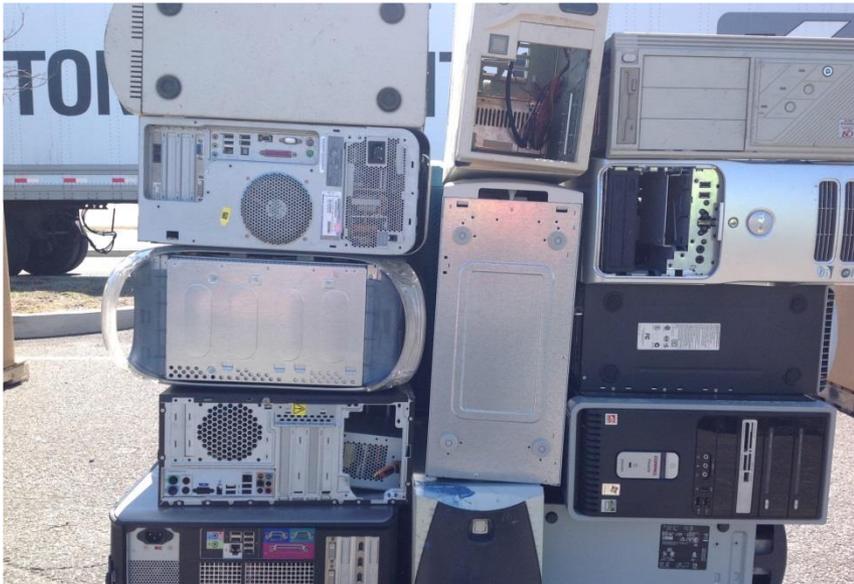


Photo by Carly Souix

...and divert electronics and other toxics for recycling or proper disposal.

NYC

SAFE DISPOSAL



Solution: Design programs for a vertical city.



re-fashionNYC
NYC's official clothing reuse program in partnership with 



Solution: Support a robust reuse community.



REUSE!
THINK SECOND-HAND FIRST



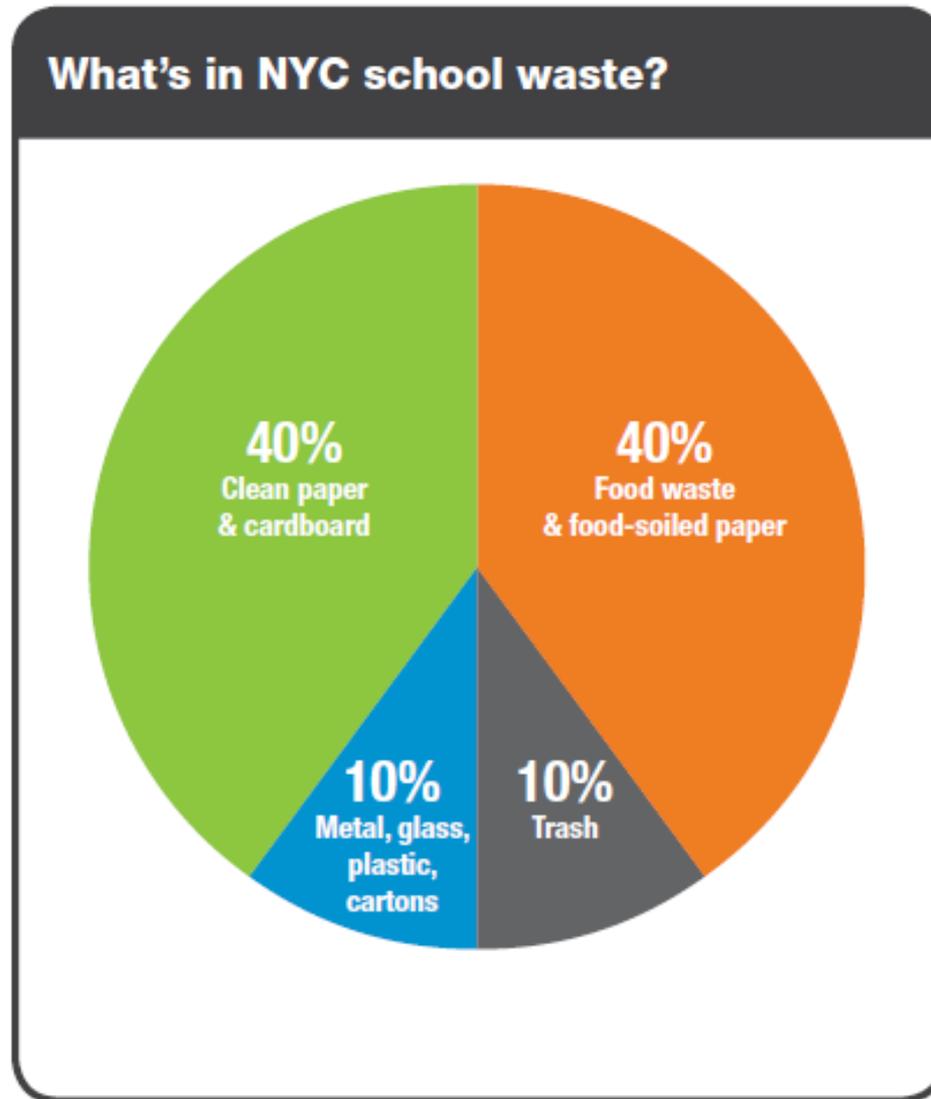
Solution: Support a robust reuse community.



materials for the arts



Solution: Educate the next generation of New Yorkers in Zero Waste Schools.



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722 schools served by organics collection

100 Zero Waste schools launch in January 2016

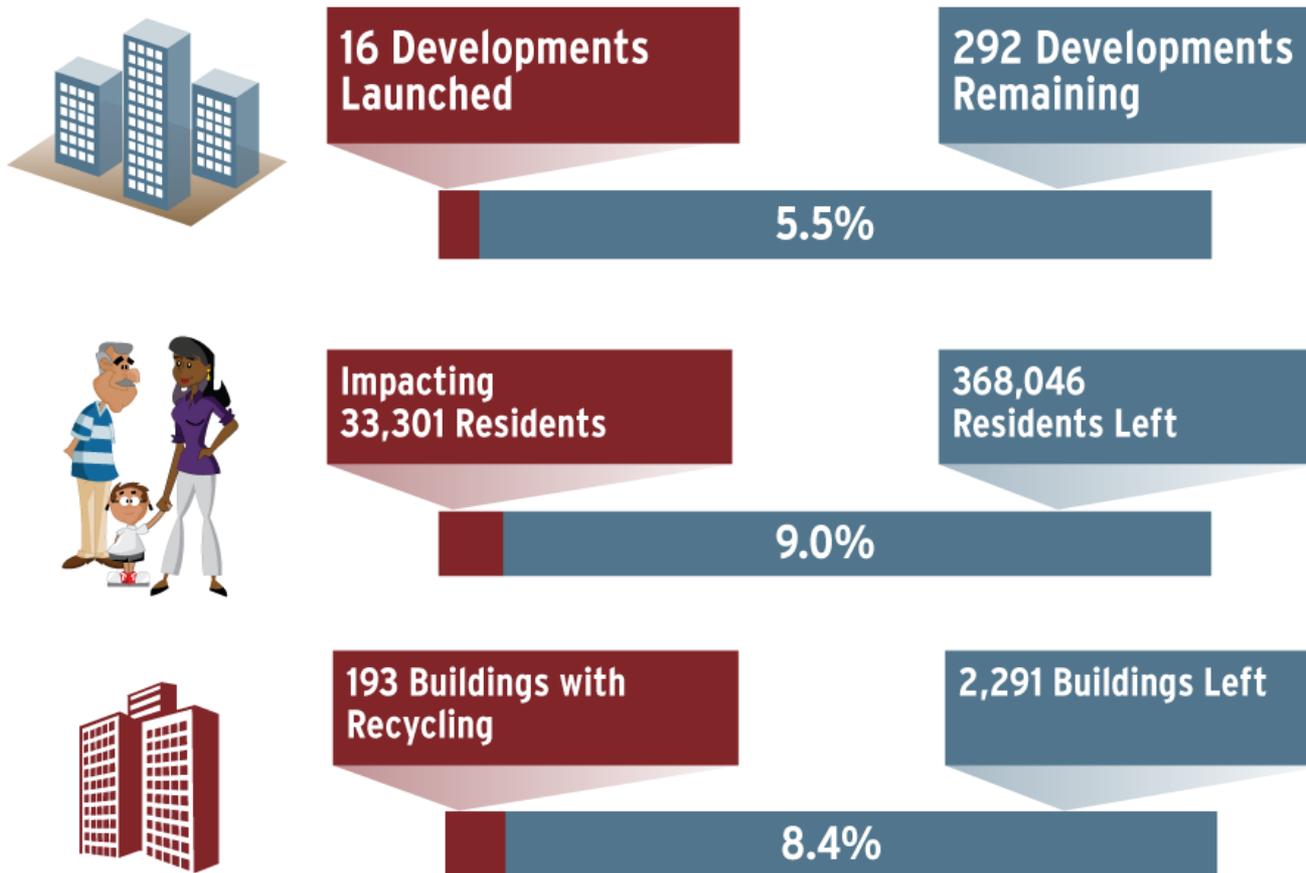


Solution: Develop an equitable Zero Waste program, including for public housing residents.



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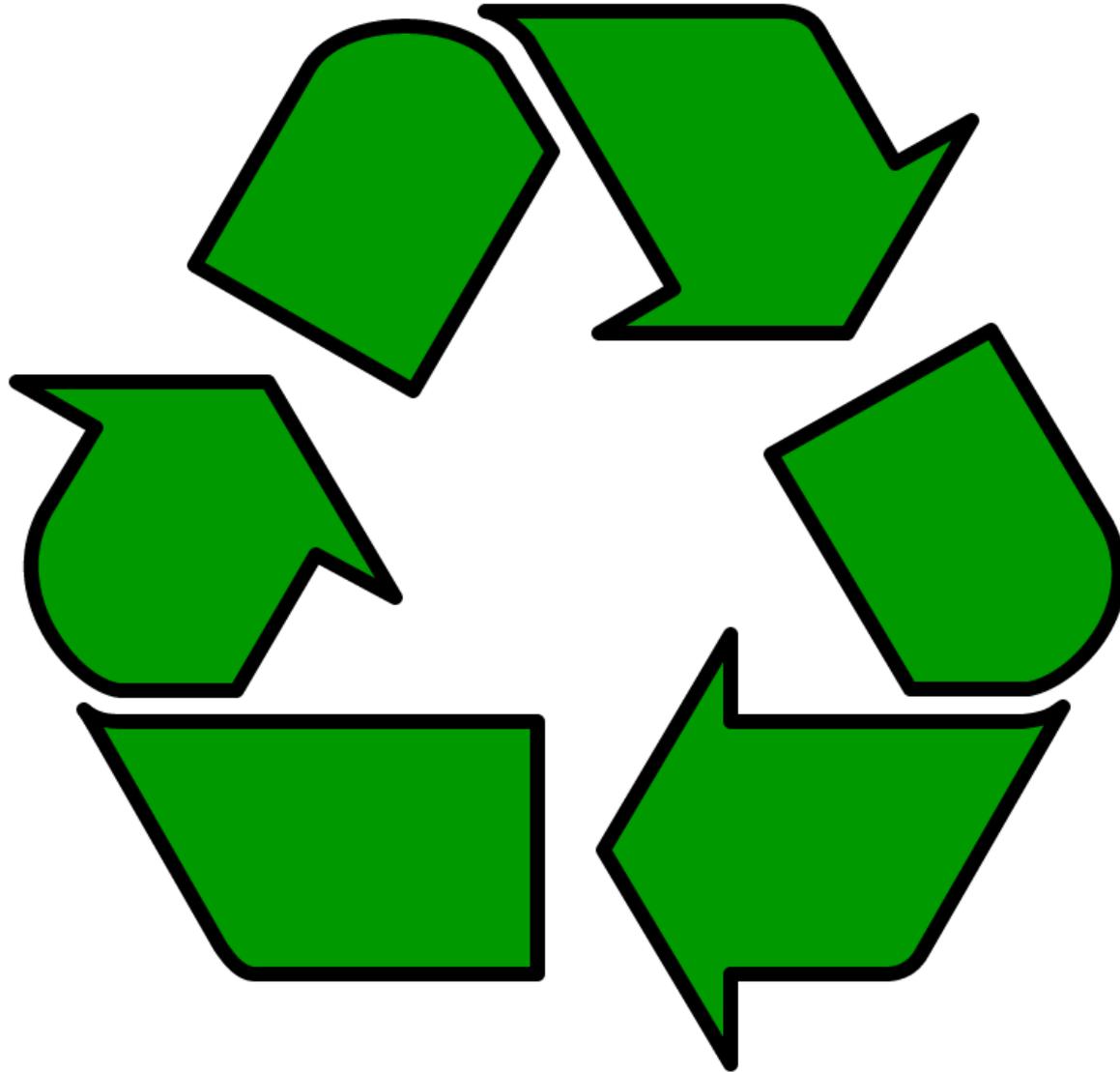
NYCHA RECYCLES IMPLEMENTATION



Solution: Incentivize residents to reduce waste



Solution: Engage the private sector to reduce commercial waste.



**Together, these
initiatives will put
NYC on the road
toward Zero Waste.**



Zero Waste



Thank you!

Learn more:

@nycsanitation | nyc.gov/sanitation