



Barriers in Local Ordinances for Organics Diversion



Speakers



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CITY OF ASPEN ORGANICS DIVERSION

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What is it?

Title 12, Chapter 12.05 *Organic Waste Diversion*

- Amendment to Solid Waste Code Chapter 12
- Passed February 2023



Chapter 12.05 Organic Waste Diversion

What does it do?

- **Organics shall separated from substances designated for trash disposal.**
- All organic materials must be collected and **disposed of-through a recoverable management practice** such as, but not limited to, **donation, animal feed, composting,** or any other recoverable management practice.





Pitkin County Solid
Waste Center
-
Industrial Composting
Operation

Chapter 12.05 Organic Waste Diversion

When does it
go into effect?



Phase 1: October 15, 2023
Restaurants (+100)

Phase 2: January 15, 2026
Commercial businesses
Multifamily properties

Phase 3: January 15, 2028
Everyone



Chapter 12.05 Organic Waste Diversion

Enforcement?



Phase 1:

Restaurants - October 15th



→ **Evaluations**

- ◆ Do they already compost?
- ◆ Indoor/outdoor containers
- ◆ Potential contamination

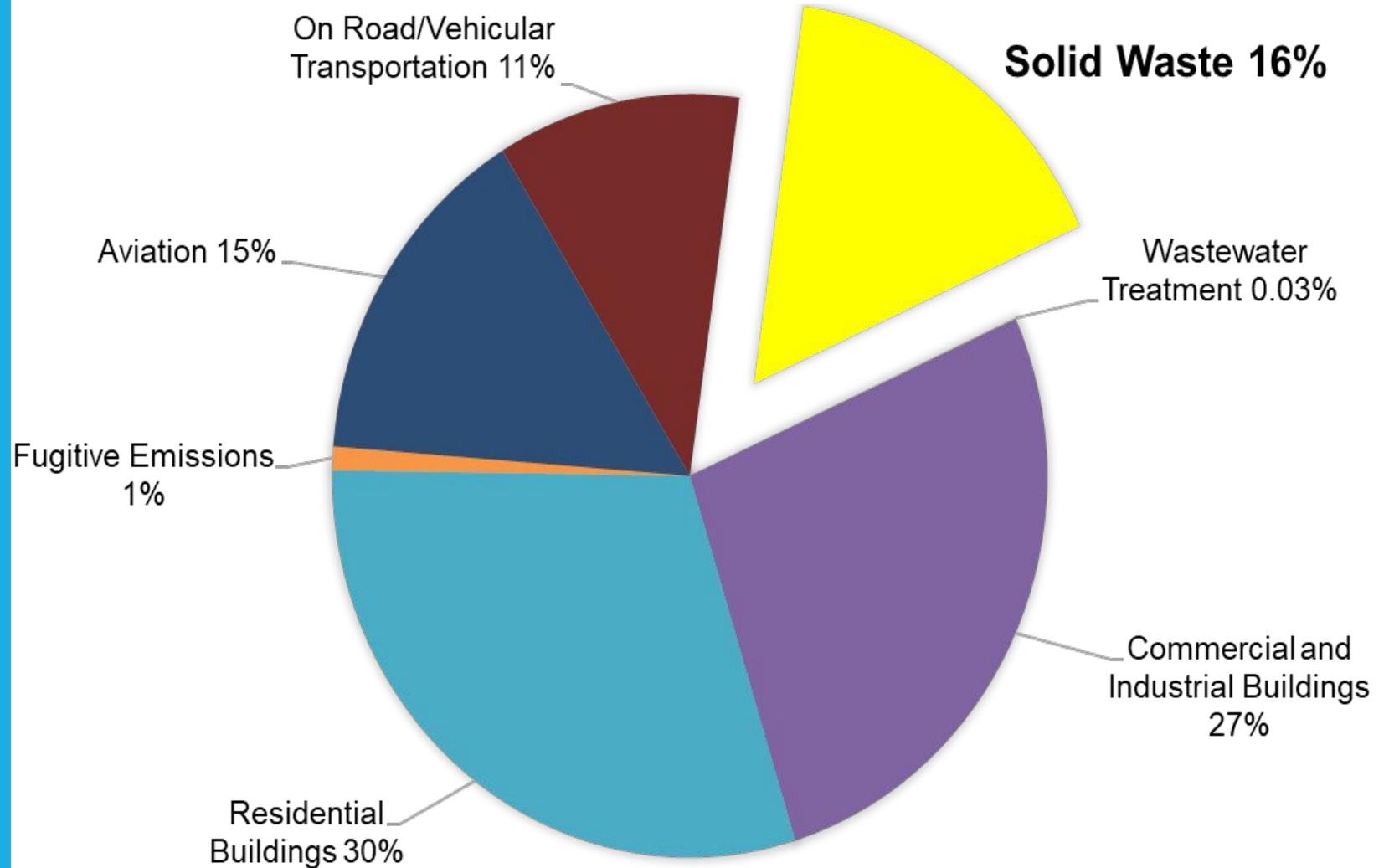
→ **Annual reports**

- ◆ Partnership with annual food licensing



→ GHG Emissions Inventory

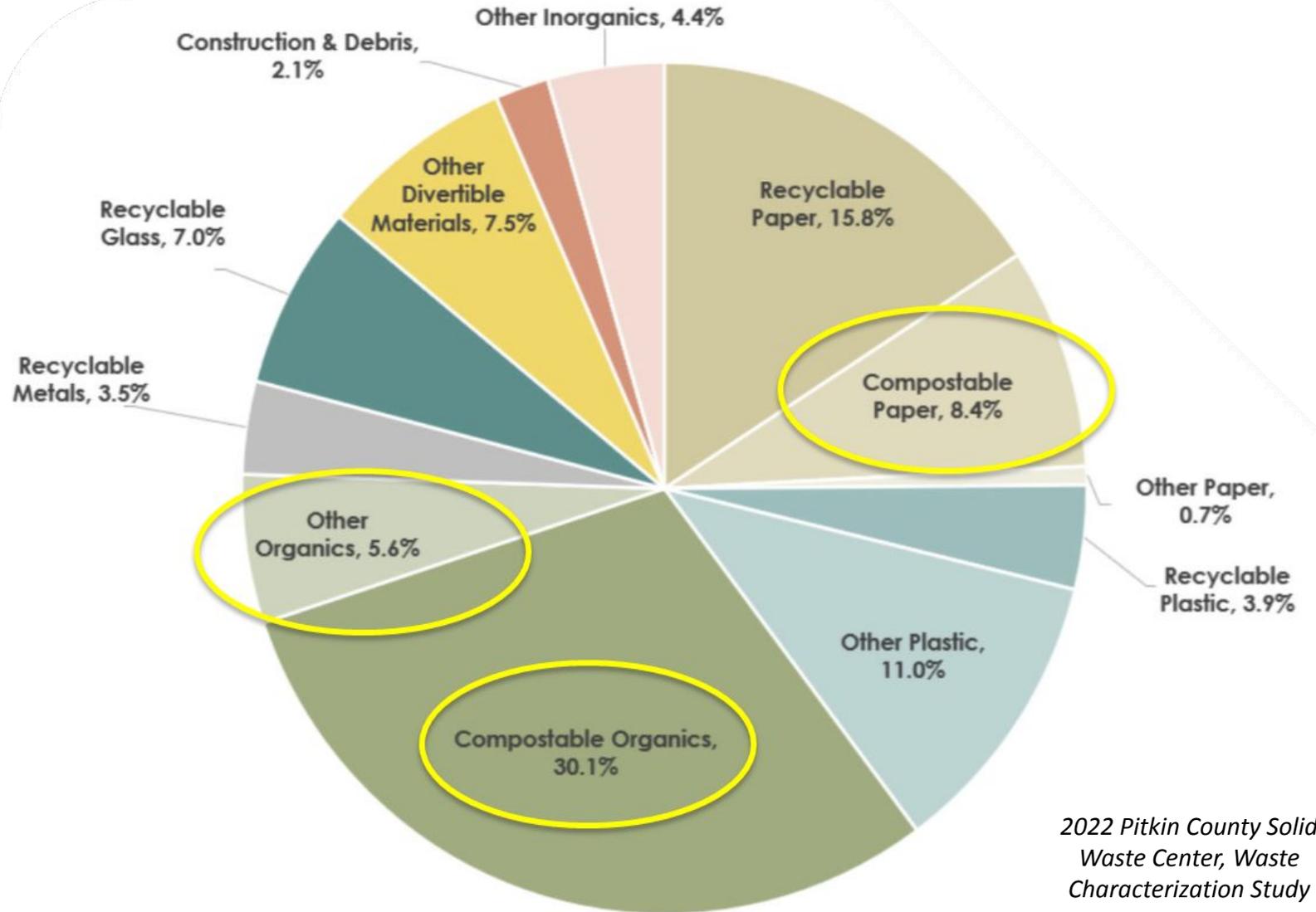
How did we
get here?



How did we get here?

→ Waste Characterization Study

- ◆ 2015: 37% organics in municipal trash
- ◆ 2022: 42% organics in municipal trash



2022 Pitkin County Solid Waste Center, Waste Characterization Study



How did we
get here?

→ City Council Carbon Goals 2021

◆ Landfill waste

- 25% organics reduction by 2025
- 100% organics reduction by 2050



How did we
get here?

→ **City Council Carbon Goals 2021**

◆ Waste goals

- 25% organics reduction by 2025
- 100% organics reduction by 2050

→ **Compost Hauler Data**

- ◆ **4%** organics diverted *annually*

Policy needed to achieve Council goals.





1. GHG Emissions Inventory

16% Solid Waste

2. Waste Characterization Study

2015: 37% organics in municipal trash

2022: 42% organics in municipal trash

3. City Council Carbon Goals 2021

Waste goals

25% organics reduction by 2025

100% organics reduction by 2050

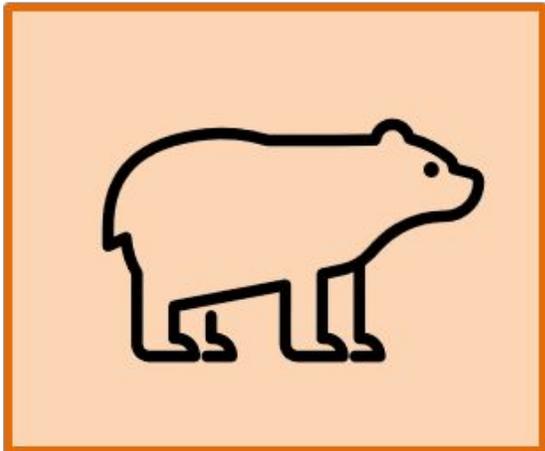
4. Compost Hauler Data:

4% organics diverted *annually*

Barriers to Entry for Businesses:



Space



Wildlife



Smell



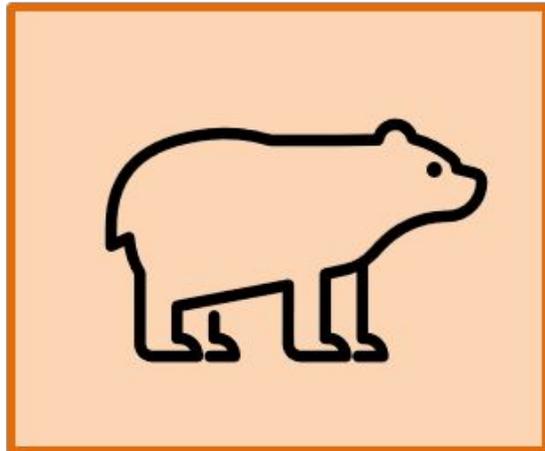
Cost



Barriers to Entry for Businesses:



Space



Wildlife



Smell



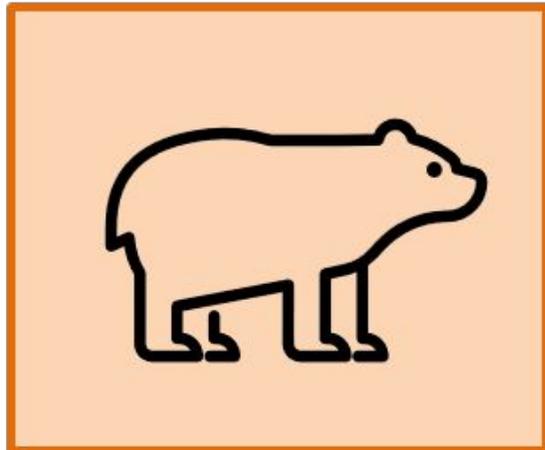
Cost



Barriers to Entry for Businesses:



Space



Wildlife



Smell



Cost



Thank you

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City of Fort Collins Organics Policies

Caroline Mitchell

Waste Reduction and Recycling Program Manager



Fort Collins

170k residents

Home of Colorado
State University

Licensed Open Market
System



Composting Infrastructure



- Have access to multiple **yard trimmings** composting options
 - **Food scraps** composting facilities cost-prohibitive drive distance away (60+ miles one-way)
 - Have been working to develop **food scraps** composting ability, but pathway not clear yet
 - Did LCA study of compost options for Fort Collins
 - Biodigester
 - Using garbage disposal / anaerobic digester at wastewater treatment facility
 - Windrow composting
- End answer: all are soooo much better than landfilling, and differences between the options are not significant

Community Recycling Ordinance

Developed 2015 - 2016

- Started with a broad question: how do we get to 75% diversion?
- What would community members keep and what would they change?
- Community interest focused on keeping pay-as-you-throw and increasing access to composting
- Also interest in increasing commercial and multi-family recycling

Community Recycling Ordinance

Package adopted 2016

Final Package Adopted

- **Grocers must have food scraps collection by end of 2017**
 - Made it clear that donation and reuse of food still preferred to composting
- **All residential haulers had to offer yard trimmings collection from April - Nov**
 - Can charge an extra fee
 - two haulers charge cost prohibitive fees so not many new customers
- **Haulers must provide recycling service to multi-family and commercial customers**
 - Minimum of 33% of service must be recycling
 - Implemented by June 2021

Contracted Residential Hauling

Adopted 2023



- Basic service includes weekly yard trimmings collection from April - November
 - Households can opt out for a \$5 / mo reduction in their service
- Interest in adding food scraps when facility in reasonable haul distance
- Service includes weekly collection of trash, recycling, and yard trimmings (seasonal) plus 2 bulky items / year
 - XS service: \$11 (16 gal)
 - S service: \$19 (35 gal)
 - M service: \$37 (65 gal)
 - L service: \$55 (95 gal)

Take Aways

- Policy driven by infrastructure available / price point that works for community
- Incremental approach can work well
 - Consider by sector, by material
 - Can step up by system type: opt-in, opt-out, bundled / mandatory
- Make policy that works for your community
- Allowing haulers to set fees for yard trimmings collection didn't work well – were able to price themselves out of offering a service they didn't want to offer
- Grocers were willing to compost, but many wouldn't do it unless required

Thank you!

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