

Ei

Elemental  
**IMPACT**

Ei Partner Meeting

November 19, 2015

# Scaling Up Composting in the Charlotte, NC Region



Kim Charick  
USEPA Region 4

Feed People Not Landfills

[www.epa.gov/foodrecovery](http://www.epa.gov/foodrecovery)

# Sustainable Materials Management

*A systemic approach to using and reusing resources most efficiently and sustainably throughout their lifecycles. It seeks to minimize materials used and all associated environmental impacts.”*

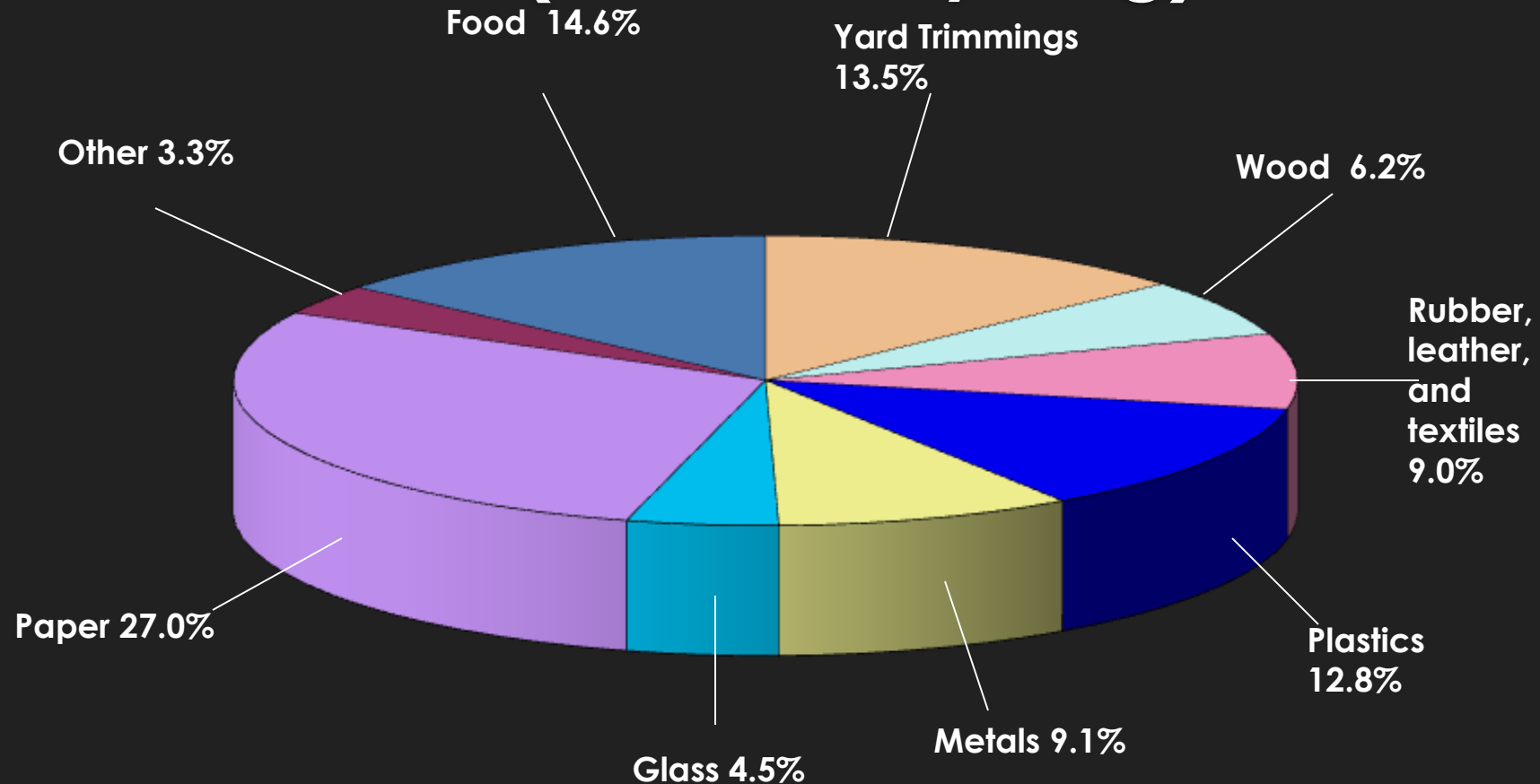
- From EPA, [Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Materials and Land Management Practices \(PDF\) \(98pp, 1.5MB\)](#)

# Sustainable Materials Management

- 1) Extraction
- 2) Material Processing
- 3) Product Design
- 4) Manufacturing
- 5) Product Use
- 6) Collection/Processing
- 7) End of Life (Disposal)

ReDuce ReUse ReCycle ReThink

# Municipal Solid Waste Generation in 2013 254 Million Tons (before recycling)



# Food Recovery

More food reaches landfills and incinerators than any other single material in municipal solid waste (MSW).

In 2013 alone, more than **37 million tons** of food waste was generated, with only five percent diverted from landfills and incinerators for composting.



# Packaging/Food Service Industry



# Scaling Up Composting in the Charlotte, NC Region

Grant Project began in late 2012:

- + Primarily funded by [EPA R4](#), In-Kind Funding by [Sustainable Packaging Coalition](#), seed funding from [Mecklenburg County](#)



# Scaling Up Composting in the Charlotte, NC Region

## Grant Goals:

- Promote Recycling of **Food Waste** and **Compostable Packaging**
- Improve **Infrastructure** for waste diversion
- Produce **training** and **educational** materials
- Create a marketable product-**finished compost**

# Scaling Up Composting in the Charlotte, NC Region

Grant Awarded to:

GreenBlue (SPC),

Grant Team included:

- Elemental impact,
- SES Earth Farms
- Mecklenburg County, NC LUESA
- NC-DENR,
- University of North Carolina (UNC) Charlotte IDEAS Center,







# Scaling Up Composting in the Charlotte, NC Region

## Elemental impact **Team**:

- Eco-Products
- Innovia Films
- Natur-Tec
- NatureWorks



# Scaling Up Composting in the Charlotte, NC Region

Grant provided funding for:

- Initial start up costs
- 1 to 3 months of organics collection/hauling costs
- Logistical Support
- Training and Education

# Participants Recruited:

- + Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- + Central Piedmont Community College
- + YMCA of Greater Charlotte
- + IKEA
- + Carolina Place Mall
- + Carolina Panthers/Bank of America Stadium

# Participants continued:

- + Food Lion
- + Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office
- + South End Hops Festival
- + Four Restaurants:
  - 300 East
  - Not Just Coffee
  - Friendship Trays
  - Pure Pizza









# Results of Grant

326.4 tons of Food and Packaging Waste were diverted from the landfill as a result of this project as of October 2015.

These entities will continue to divert their organics and help spread the word.

# Takeaways

- Understand your current disposal costs
- Understand What, When, and How much waste you generate
- Continuously monitor and track!

# EPA Free Food Waste Resources

- **Food Recovery Challenge, WasteWise**
- Food Waste Challenge
- Food Too Good to Waste
- **Reducing Wasted Food and Packaging Toolkit**
- **Food Waste Management Cost Calculator**
- Co-Eat Calculator
- Other Resources



# Questions

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