

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE IN A NEW YORK COUNTY



RECYCLING AND
MATERIALS
MANAGEMENT
OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

Working Toward State Goals

***New York State Solid Waste and
Recycling Conference, May 2018***

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INTRODUCTION



- Tompkins County has traditionally been a **waste diversion leader** in the State:
 - Divert about **60%** from the landfill
 - Early adopter of **PAYT**
 - Innovations in **programs and financing**
 - Dual fee finance system
 - Incentives for residential & commercial
 - Recycling collection & processing
 - Food scrap incentive
 - **Partnerships** for progress
 - History of **Pilots** and evaluation
 - **Measure** performance from the beginning
- Want “environmentally sound, cost-effective, socially responsible, and safe”



ABOUT TOMPKINS COUNTY



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□ Trash

- Muni & contracted & Private haulers
- PAYT sticker program since 1992
- No local landfill

□ Recycling

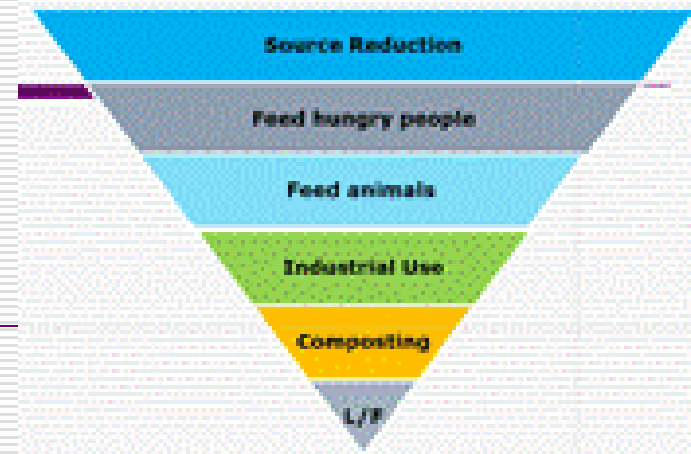
- Recycling & Solid Waste Center / core of diversion in County – residential & commercial access
- Residential & small business collection / 10-year contract with Casella
- Public space recycling stations and “Borrow a Bin” for events



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SERA

ABOUT TOMPKINS COUNTY



□ Organics

- 12 drop spots for residential food scraps, drop off for yard waste, FOG and yard waste at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center.
- Strong Backyard Composting (BYC) education outreach
- Had pilot of BMP practices for food scraps; future partnerships with other municipal garbage haulers to do food / organics collection
- Reduced fee for Food Scrap

□ Education

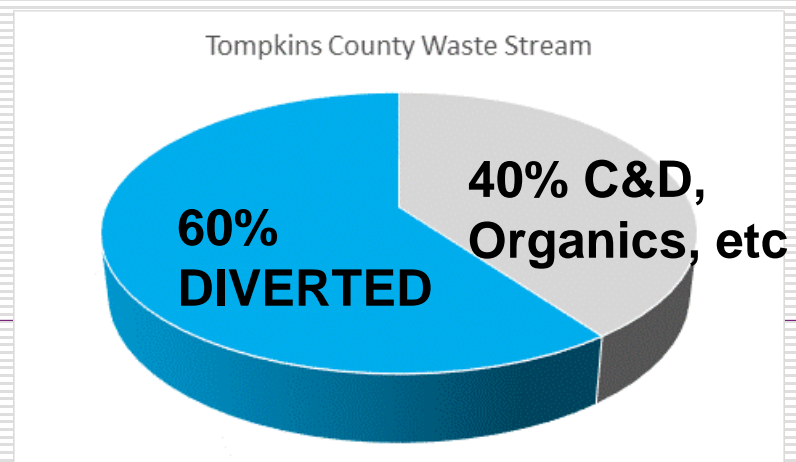
- Strong residential education; business education through ReBusiness Partner program



NEXT STEPS?



- State goal:
 - 2.4 lbs/capita/day now in Tompkins County. State goal 0.6. Can get to 1.2/day over a 10 year period
 - Importance of statewide organics ban for progress
- Looking at workable strategies toward State goals
- Hard part – taking it further to that last 40%
- Do a lot on their own, but started working with consulting firm to look at last 40%, especially:
 - Commercial
 - Organics
 - C&D
 - Programs and requirements





NEXT STEPS?

- Consultant Advisor Process – multi-part effort
 - Quick timeframe: Sent background info
 - Brainstorming meeting on-line (or in person)
 - Staff from multiple departments attending from the County.
 - Energizing short-cut
 - Immediate feedback and collaborative idea generation.
 - Issues / ideas / discussion and assigned “follow-ups”
 - Memos with strategies refinements, case-studies, recommendations for Comprehensive Plan
 - Cost-effective, real time turnaround
 - Geared to help meet State Goals
- Where we’re looking...

STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY



□ Residential Collection

■ Refine PAYT Program

- Review options for better enforcement / checking licensing requirements and possible improvements

■ Better measurement and reporting

- Standards / definitions, reporting requirement options being examined

■ Options for improving recycling – adding materials to list

- Methods that can be easily updated

■ Organics critical for achieving goal

- Revisions to pilot design / frequency and charges questions

- Exploring best options / Examples around the country

■ Some consideration of MF

STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Construction and Demolition (C&D)- a challenge
 - C&D Deposit program
 - Questions about markets, smaller examples, facilities
 - Case studies
 - Other strategies – required bin, others
 - Examples



STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Commercial Sector – a focus
 - Commercial recycling improvements
 - Licensing / enforcement / reporting
 - Examples:
 - ABC Laws
 - Questions: Examples in Bottle Bill States
 - Examples:



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STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Commercial Sector – a focus
 - Commercial PAYT / mandatory embedded recycling – with or without organics?
 - Question - How it works
 - No organics -
 - With organics -
 - Question - Contamination with commercial PAYT?
 - Examples of inspections,
 - Commercial Food Scraps
 - Requirements for largest generators?
 - Case studies



STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Better reporting to state
 - Hauler reporting – license-based
 - Examples
 - **Better metrics** – TBL & metrics based on waste characterization – **Percent Recoverables Remaining - “PRR”** (RR article)– 3 metrics in one; addresses “cons” of traditional metrics
 - PRR-Tons
 - PRR-Value
 - PRR-GHG
- Questions: getting authority / possibly requiring; authority at transfer station – TBD – checking in-state

PRIORITIES ON 3 CRITERIA for NEXT STEPS



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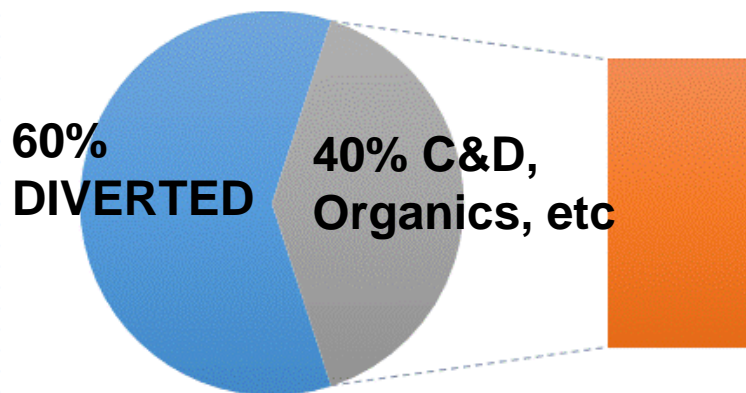
- Public Space and Events
 - Parks & downtown paired
 - Results from recent KAB/SERA study
 - Require ZW through permits
 - Examples
- Schools
 - Zero waste lunch and other strategies
 - Examples
- Food Waste Prevention
 - Information to residents
 - Examples
 - Business initiatives
 - Researching; Incentives in Tompkins County



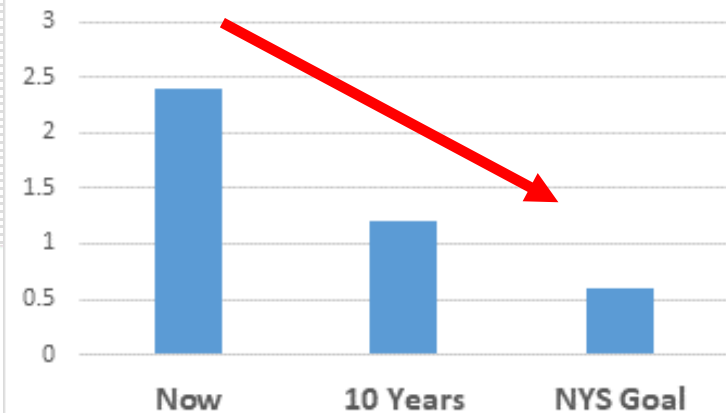
STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Overall
 - Consider embedded recycling in commercial / PAYT
 - May need additional facility in future / one site only
 - URO; targeted food scraps
 - C&D strategies
 - MF strategies
 - Impactful and compelling education
 - Useful, transparent measurement & reporting

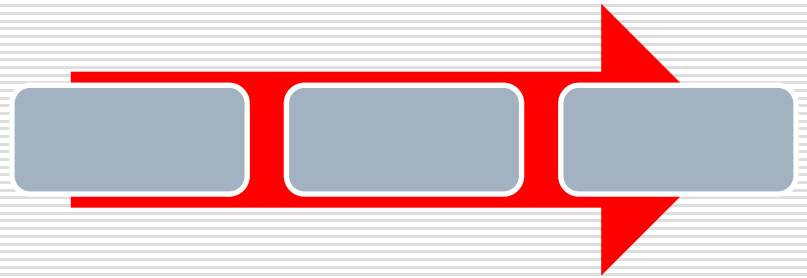
Tompkins County Waste Stream



Getting to Goal



NEXT STEPS



- SERA
 - Complete research
 - Memo with details on strategies
 - Info on ranges of impacts, costs
 - Assist with ordinances / license language, requirements
 - Monitor / assist / comments on plan
- Tompkins County
 - Review recommendations
 - Incorporate into Draft Solid Waste Plan submitted to State for public information
 - On-going design / implementation efforts

THANK YOU!!

Questions?

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