

# Wake County's (Ever-Evolving) Food Waste Recycling Program

Presented by:

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Management Division



# Wake County Solid Waste Management Division



Located in central NC. Population over 1 million.

17 waste facilities – MSW landfill + waste and recycling facilities + HHW

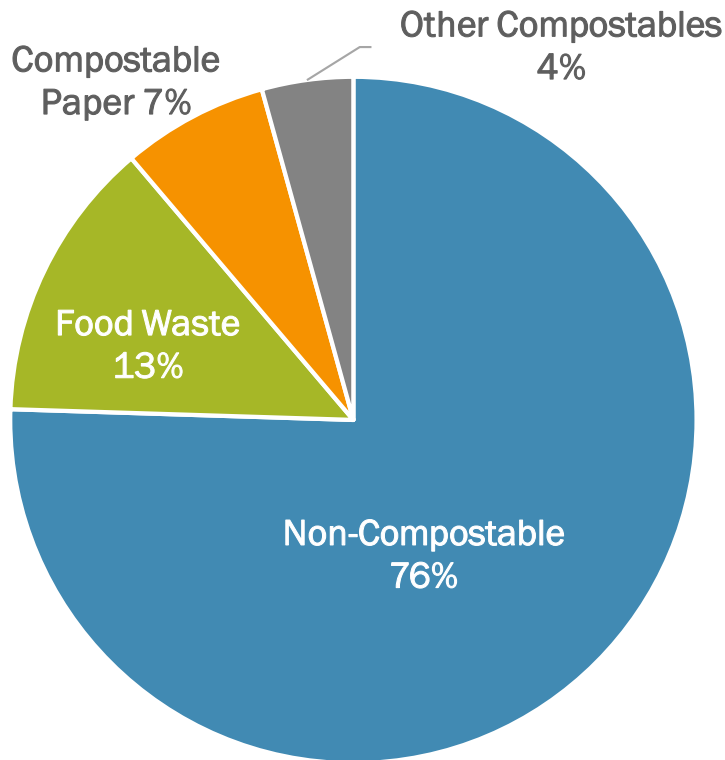
Programs funded by landfill fees, \$20 annual household fee and recycling revenues

# Impetus for Food Waste Recycling

**24%** of Wake County's waste stream consists of potentially compostable materials

## **TEN YEAR SW MANAGEMENT GOAL:**

Investigate and pursue opportunities for food waste composting and other means to reduce food waste disposal at the South Wake Landfill.



# Program Development

## Public Interest

Partnered with NCSU to survey 500 drop-off site users

40% in favor of food waste drop-off options

## Collection/Processing

Three permitted composting facilities within 30 miles

Issued RFQ for collection and hauling services

Received quotes from 3 companies

## Drop-off Program

2015: Pilot at 2 drop-off sites based on survey findings

2017: Expanded to 4 drop-off sites

2020: Expanding to 7 drop-off sites



# 2015

## FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

### FOOD SCRAPS & LEFTOVERS



COOKED MEATS



PAPER PLATES, CUPS, TRAYS



TEA BAGS & COFFEE GROUNDS

### FRUITS & VEGETABLES



EGGS & DAIRY & BAKED GOODS



PAPER TOWELS & NAPKINS



PIZZA BOXES & PAPER CARTONS



NO PLASTICS



NO RAW MEATS



NO RECYCLABLES



NO YARD WASTE





# 2019

## FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

### FOOD SCRAPS & LEFTOVERS

COOKED MEATS  
PAPER PLATES, CUPS, TRAYS  
TEA BAGS & COFFEE GROUNDS

### FRUITS & VEGETABLES

EGGS & DAIRY & BAKED GOODS  
PAPER TOWELS & NAPKINS  
PIZZA BOXES & PAPER CARTONS



NO PLASTICS NO RAW MEATS  
NO RECYCLABLES NO YARD WASTE

### RECYCLE FOOD WASTE HERE

- 1 Ask attendant to unlock cart.
- 2 Empty food from packaging and place in cart.
- 3 Take a compostable bag for your next trip!



# Program Setbacks

- Contamination issues
- Participation
- 3 different haulers in 3 years





# Contamination Issue

- Packaging not removed
- Food left at sites
- Site attendants not monitoring





# Contamination Solutions

- Simplified signs
- Placed a trash can for bags and food packaging near carts
- Additional site attendants training
- Add locks to carts and have site attendants unlock for citizens



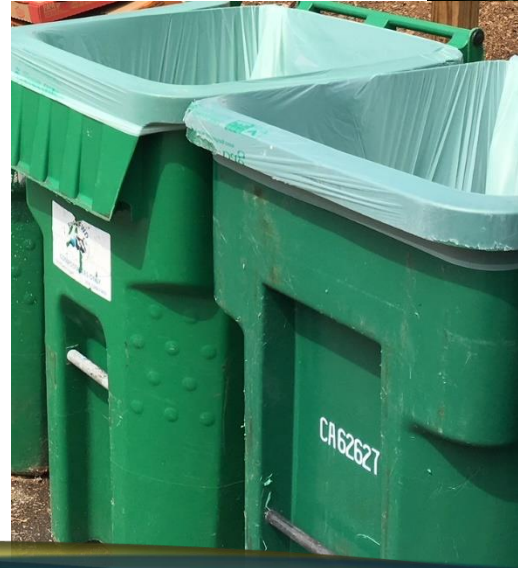
# Participation Issues

- Container issues – odors/residue
- Collecting and transporting of waste from home to site
- Pizza box overload



# Improve Customer Experience

- Changed carts
- Added cart liners, hauler switches out at each pickup
- Added bio-bag dispensers





# Increase Participation

- Flyers available on site
- Conduct on-site outreach
- Incentivize participation



# Monitoring Success

- Survey participants frequently
- Request feedback from site attendants and hauler
- Conduct regular site inspections
- Request data from hauler





# Wake County's Results

**7** drop-off locations throughout the County by 2020

**37%** of volunteers surveyed use the sites at least once a month

**\$200** average cost per site per month for once a week collection

**3,505** average pounds of food waste collected from sites monthly

**137,000** pounds of food waste collected since program started



# FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

FOOD SCRAPS & LEFTOVERS	FRUITS & VEGETABLES	 NO PLASTICS  NO RAW MEATS  NO RECYCLABLES  NO YARD WASTE
COOKED MEATS	EGGS & DAIRY & BAKED GOODS	
PAPER PLATES, CUPS, TRAYS	PAPER TOWELS & NAPKINS	
TEA BAGS & COFFEE GROUNDS	PIZZA BOXES & PAPER CARTONS	

**RECYCLE FOOD WASTE HERE**

- 1 Ask attendant to unlock cart.
- 2 Empty food from packaging and place in cart.
- 3 Take a compostable bag for your next trip!

# Questions?

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[www.wakegov.com/recycling](http://www.wakegov.com/recycling)