



SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO RECYCLING STUDY

**Southwest Colorado Council of
Governments & LBA Associates, Inc.
January 2015**

Today's Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Welcome

- **Miriam Gillow-Wiles, SWCCOG Executive Director**

3. Study Findings & Observations

- **Laurie Batchelder Adams, LBA Associates**
- **Ben Walsh-Mellett, Fort Lewis College**

4. New Programs/Initiative from Audience

5. Group Discussion

6. Wrap-Up

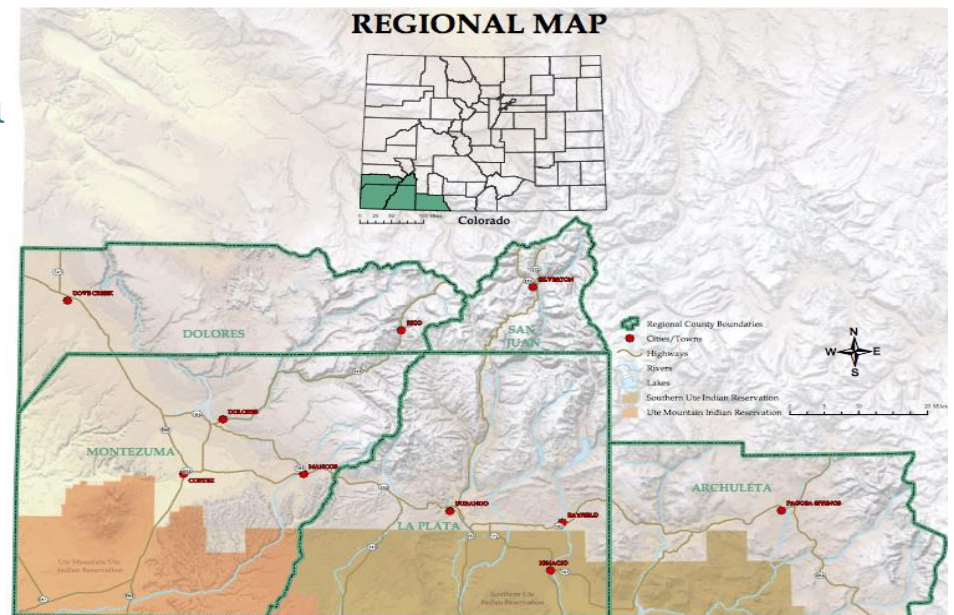
So who is this SWCCOG?

- **Partners:**
 - Archuleta County
 - Town of Bayfield
 - City of Cortez
 - Dolores County
 - Town of Dolores
 - City of Durango
 - Town of Ignacio
 - La Plata County
 - Town of Mancos
 - Town of Pagosa Springs
 - San Juan County
 - Town of Silverton



What does the COG do?

- **Goals**
 - Aging
 - Environment
 - Housing
 - Telecommunication
 - Transportation
 - Tourism



How we got here

- **Identified Need/Desire**
- **Funding**
- **Recycling Task Force**
- **Intros**
- **Feb to June**



Why Are We Here Today?

- **Clarify what we want to accomplish**
- **Identify ways to improve diversion economics**
- **Consider a regional approach**
- **Decide how best to deploy a regional
Recycling Task Force**

The Evolution of the waste can



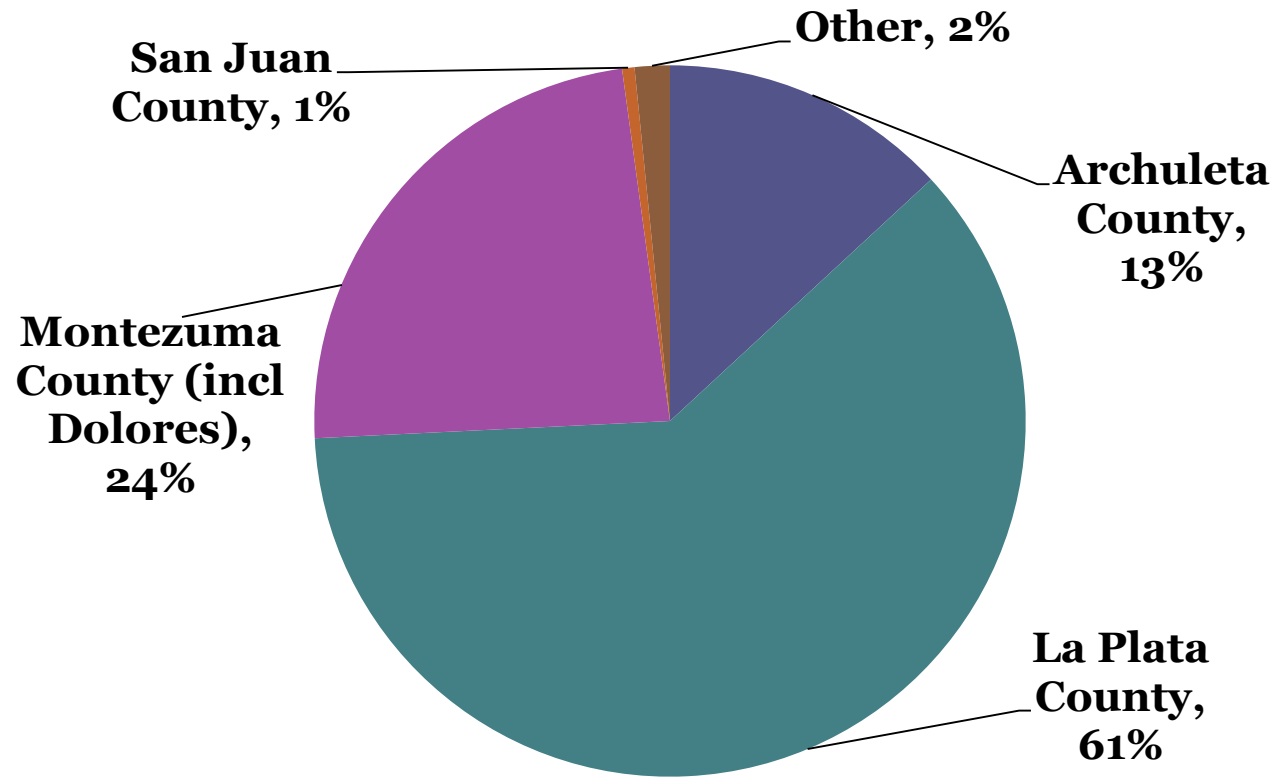


GROUND ZERO

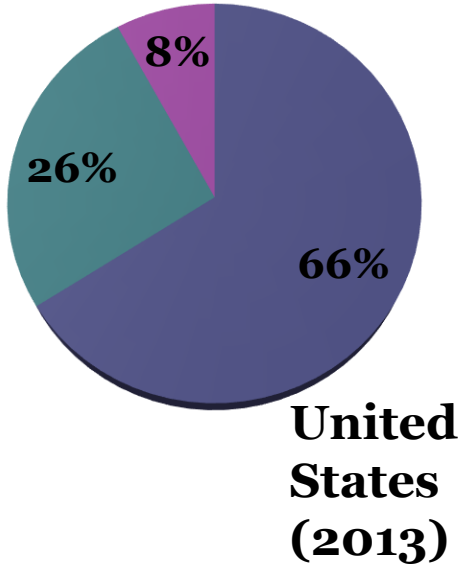
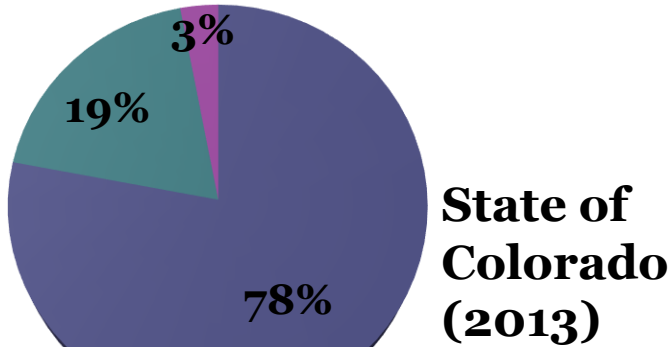
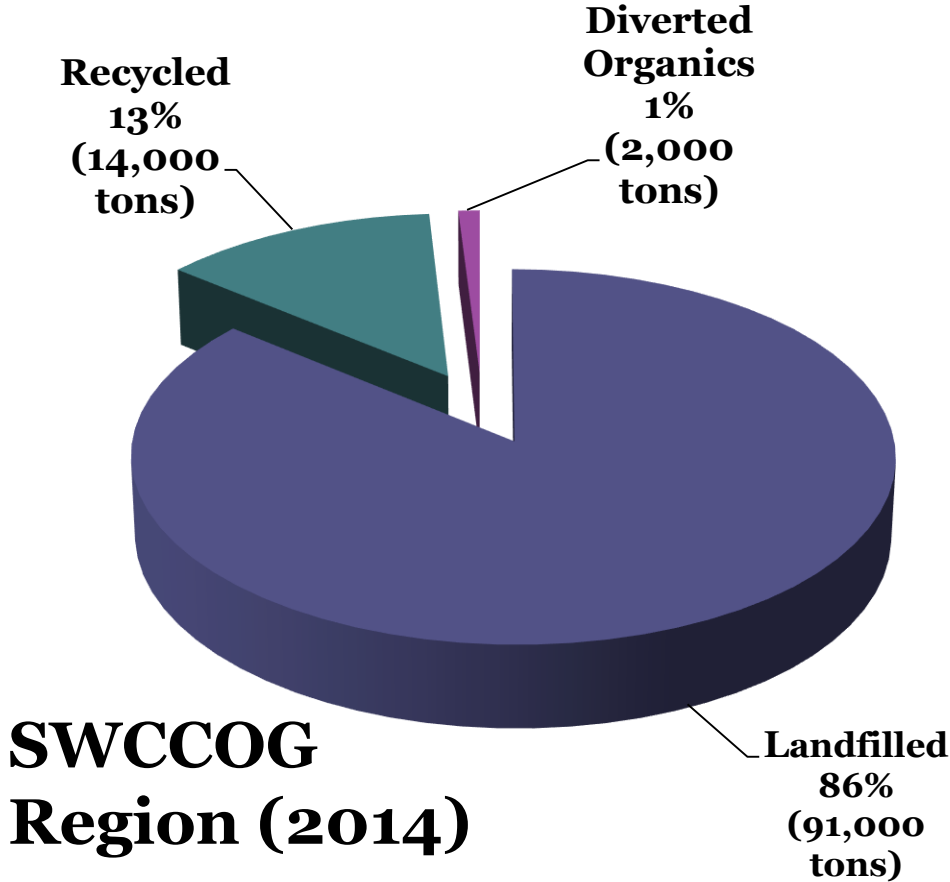
Organization	Diversion Policy	Diversion Services	Solid Waste Facilities
Archuleta Cty (12,800)		Other stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elite • At Your Disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC (multi) • Landfill/transfer
La Plata Cty (56,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government recycling • Green purchasing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 DOCs (multi) • SUIT DOC (multi)
Durango	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory pay up to 7 hhs • MFU > 7 hh must have R • New development R space 	Curbside SS w/o glass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T \$13-19.50/hh-mo • R \$3/hh-mo add'l Other stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCA (TS, LF) • Phoenix (SS) • Waste Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC for city & region (SS, multi) • R transfer
Montezuma County (26,500)		Other stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Corners • Baker Sanitation • Belt Salvage • Evergreen, WM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCRI, Cortez baling • Pilot YW compost • Landfill (incl Dolores County tons)
Cortez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory pay up to 7 hhs 	Curbside multi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T&R \$18/cart 	DOC at city service center
San Juan County (700)		Other stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruin Waste (T to Naturita, SS R to Montrose) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silverton TS for county • Collects T, R, other(\$) • \$22/hh-mo

2014 Municipal Solid Waste Stats

- **99,000 people**
- **107,000 total tons MSW**
- **5.9 pounds/capita-day (ppcd)**

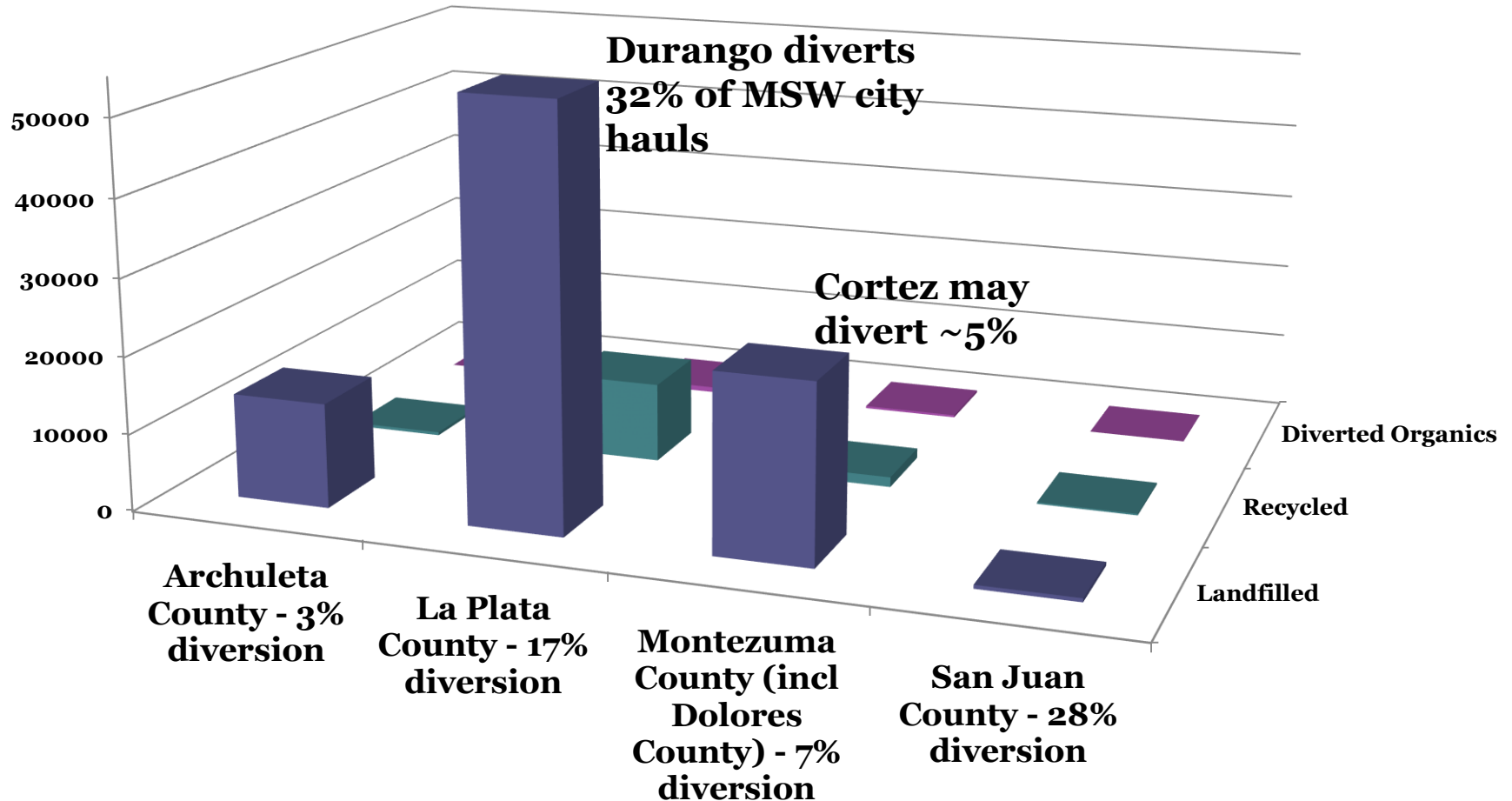


How Southwest Colorado Compares



■ Recycled ■ Composted ■ Disposed

Breakdown by County



Waste Audit - Archuleta



Waste Audit - La Plata DRO Commercial



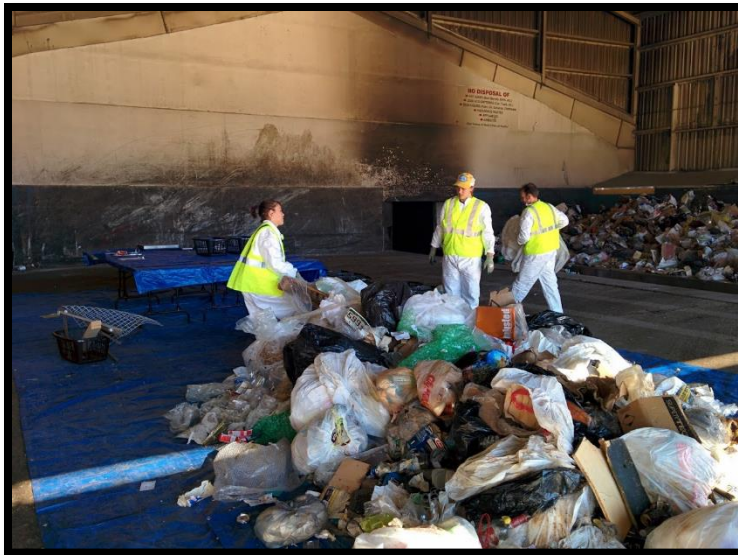
Waste Audit - La Plata DRO Residential



Waste Audit - La Plata Bayfield, Ignacio, and Phoenix



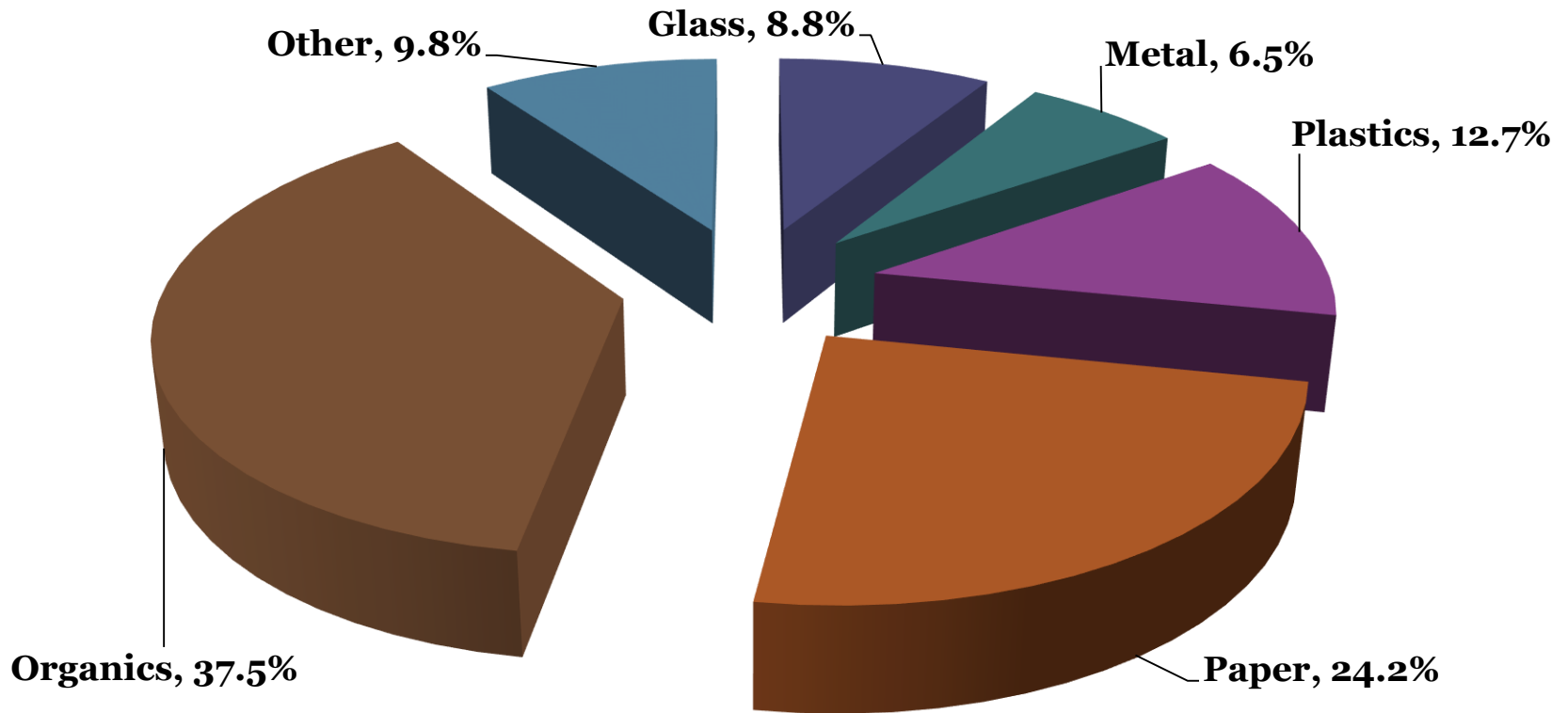
Waste Audit - Montezuma County



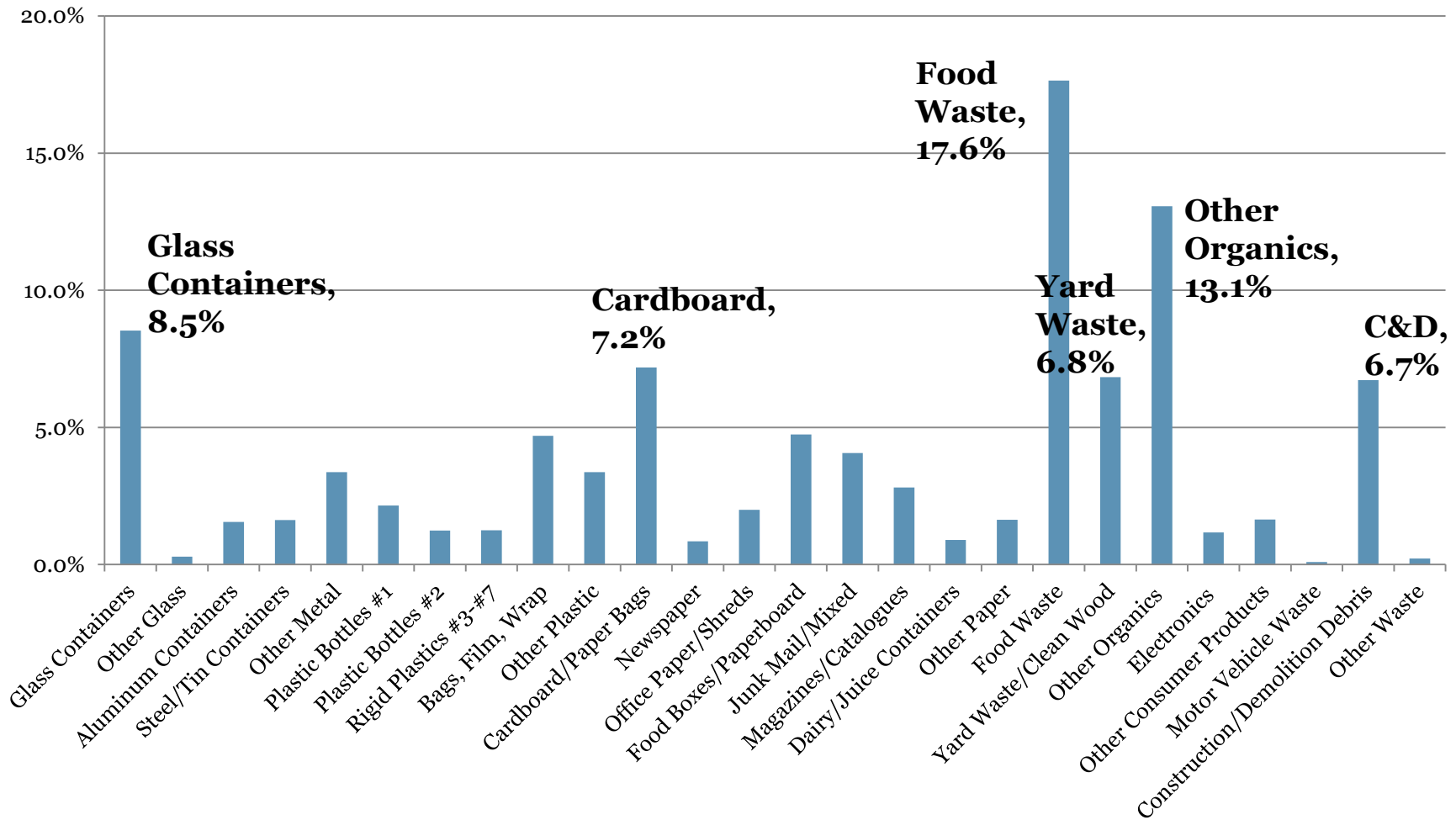
Waste Audit - Montezuma County, Cortez



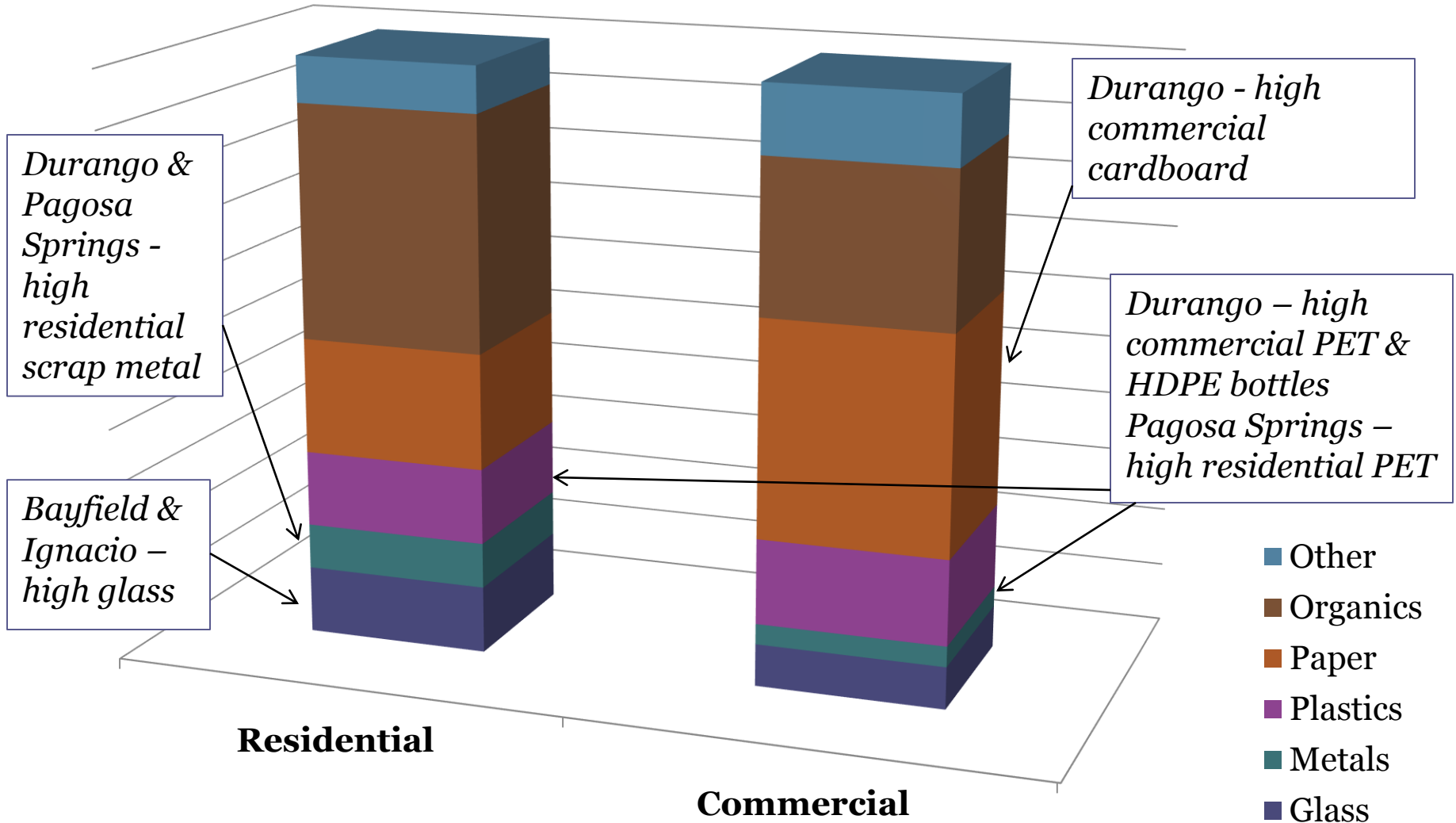
SWCCOG MSW Composition (by weight)



Composition by Individual Materials



Residential v. Commercial (100% scale)



LANDFILL NUMBERS

- **Tip Fees for MSW***
 - Archuleta = \$52/ton
 - Bondad = \$46/ton
 - Montezuma = \$39/ton
- **Landfill Capacities**
 - Archuleta – 20 to 30 years
 - Bondad – at least 20 years
 - Montezuma – over 40 years (full build-out)



* Fees converted to \$/ton as needed



**What
We're
Up
Against**

Every Rural Area Struggles with . . .

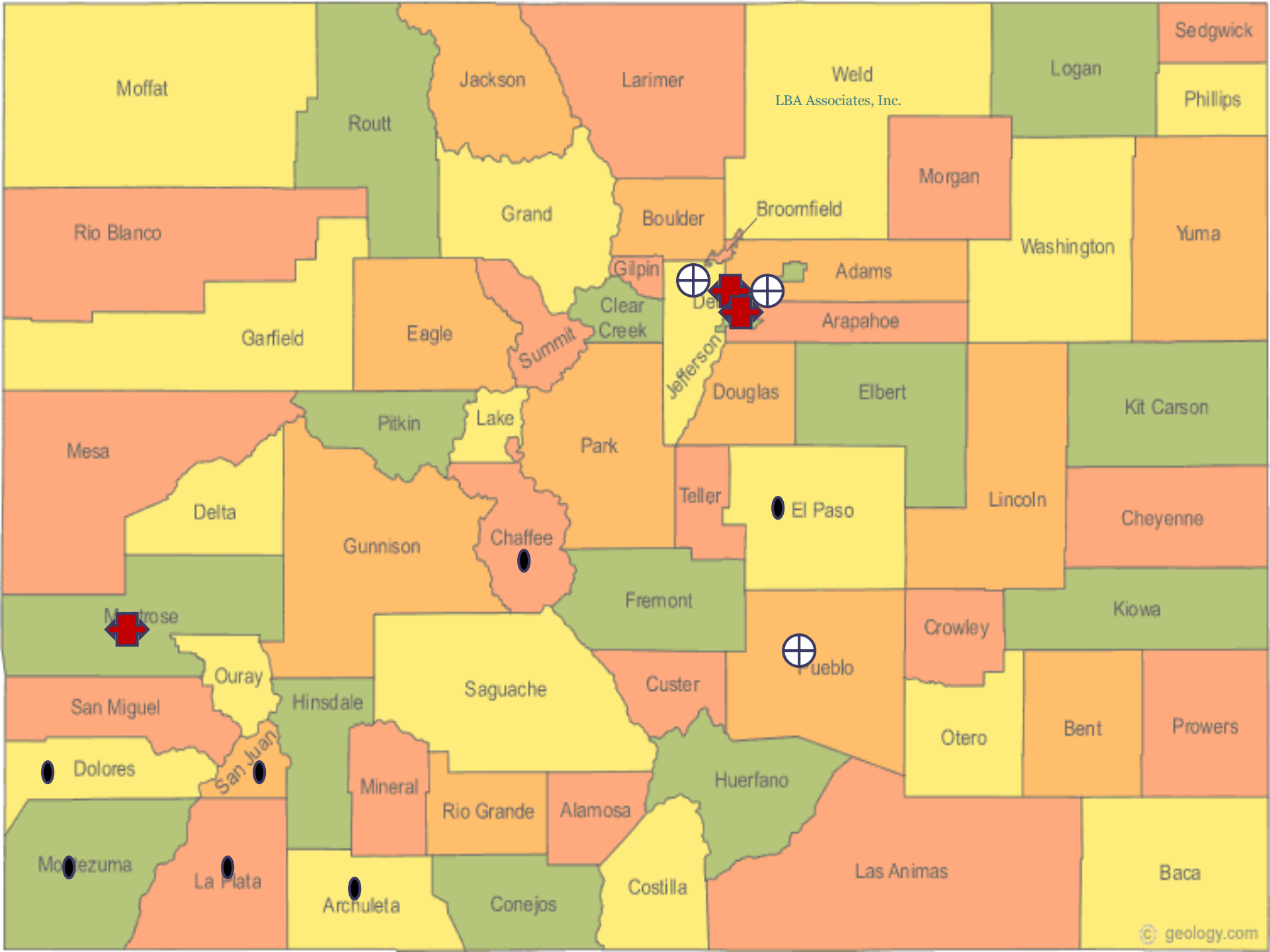
Low Recyclables Tons

- **Low population/density**
- **Lack of policy incentives**
- **High unit costs**

Long Hauls

- **Higher costs/lower revenues for recyclers**
- **Bigger environmental footprints**





Sedgwick

Logan

Phillips

Moffat

Jackson

Larimer

Weld

LBA Associates, Inc.

Routt

Morgan

Rio Blanco

Grand

Boulder

Broomfield

Washington

Yuma

Garfield

Eagle

Clear Creek

Delta

Adams

Arapahoe

Mesa

Pitkin

Lake

Park

Douglas

Elbert

Kit Carson

Delta

Gunnison

Chaffee

Teller

El Paso

Lincoln

Cheyenne

Montrose

Fremont

Kiowa

Ouray

Saguache

Custer

Pueblo

Crowley

San Miguel

Hinsdale

Custer

Otero

Bent

Prowers

Dolores

San Juan

Mineral

Rio Grande

Alamosa

Huerfano

Mozuma

La Plata

Archuleta

Conejos

Costilla

Las Animas

Baca

Lotsa Small Programs . . .

Decentralized Programs

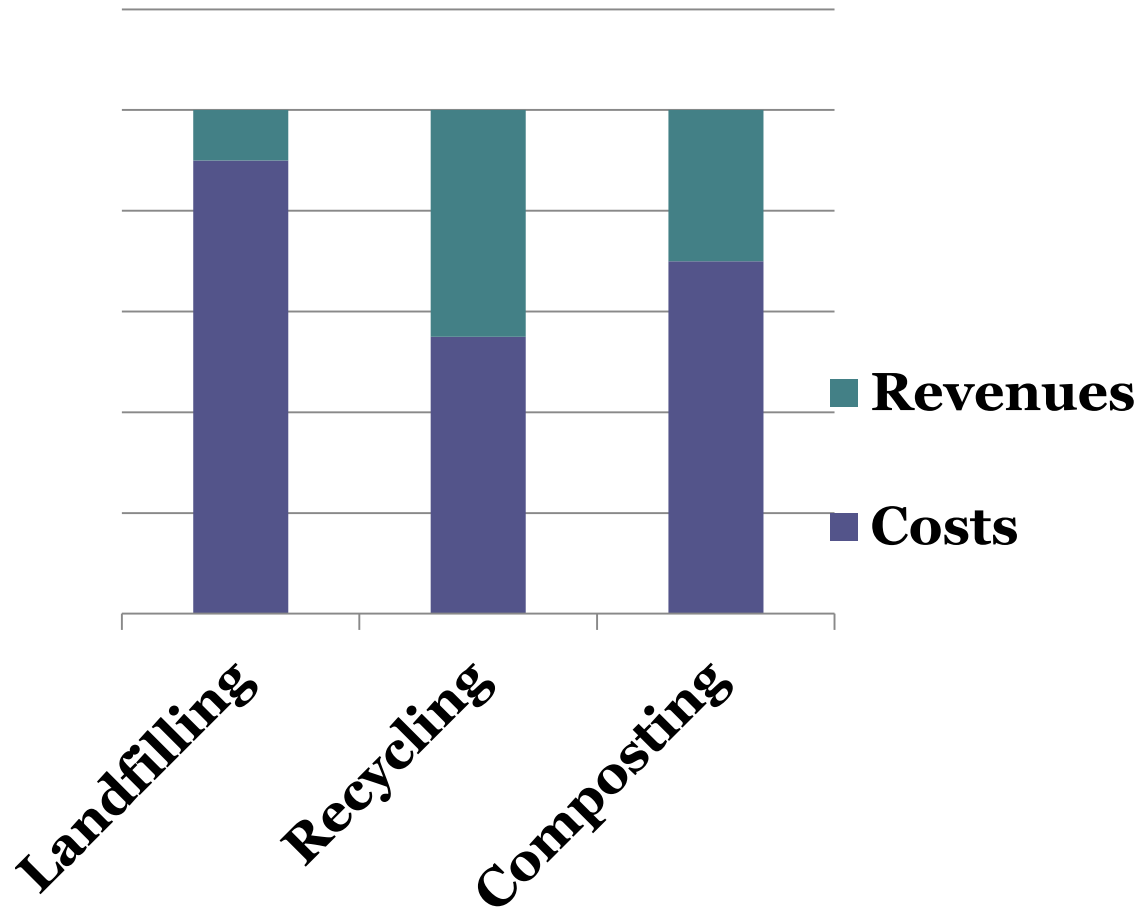
- **Even fewer tons/higher unit costs**
- **Reinventing the wheel - inefficient use of resources**
- **Every program**
 - **Collects different materials**
 - **Gives different messages**
 - **Uses different markets**

Confused Public

- **Frustrated by variability**
- **Inadequate motivation to participate**



Challenging Communications



Those “Tough” Materials . . .

Glass

- **Public expects glass will always be recycled**
- **Heavy weight helps data goals**
- **Breaks easily – contaminates other materials**
- **Limited Colorado market (at least for now) – use as LF cover in many communities**



Organics

- **Compost permits onerous**
- **Seasonal - high acreage req'd**
- **Insufficient local markets**
- **Need for tip fee**
- **3% of CO organics recovered**





Options for Getting Out From Under

Name of Game = Increasing Tons

Why

- **Meet sustainability goals**
- **Improve system economics**
- **Improve stability & longevity of both public & private sector services**

How

- **Policies that drive diversion**
- **Regionalize**
- **Effective public education & outreach (both residential & commercial)**
- **Organics recovery**

Diversion-Targeted Policies

- **PAYT**
- **Disposal bans (e.g., cardboard, yard waste)**
- **Litter bans (cigarettes!)**
- **Fee programs (e.g., single-use bags)**
- **Universal residential collection (cities)**
- **Mandatory commercial recycling &/or food waste recovery**



Implement “Hub & Spoke” Features

Establish Fundamentals

- **Infrastructure capacity & change**
- **Program uniformity**
- **Improve material quality**
- **Increase marketing clout & pricing**
- **More consistency in terms of program services & pricing**

Resource Sharing Benefits

- **Program development**
- **Equipment purchase**
- **Collection**
- **Outreach materials**



Education & Outreach

“Soft” Program Packs a Punch

- **Outcomes**
 - **Debunk myths**
 - **Explain incentives**
 - **Encourage participation**
- **Components**
 - **Initial & on-going “campaigns”**
 - **Outreach materials – signage, brochures, website, messages on collection vehicles**
 - **Branding**



Considerations for Organics Recovery

- **Materials – yard & food waste**
- **Management options**
 - **Food waste donation**
 - **Chipping/mulching**
 - **Composting**
 - **Anaerobic digestion, etc.**
- **End-markets**



Colorado Success Stories

- **Fort Collins**

- **PAYT w/SS recycling**
- **Cardboard disposal ban**
- **~45% diversion rate**



- **Loveland**

- **PAYT w/SS w/o glass**
- **Mandatory pay <3 units**
- **Residential diversion 55%**

- **Aspen**

- **SFU = PAYT w/SS**
- **MFU & commercial = T+R pricing bundled**
- **Yard waste disposal ban**
- **30% diversion rate**

- **Upper Arkansas Area COG (Chaffee, Custer, Lake, Fremont Counties)**

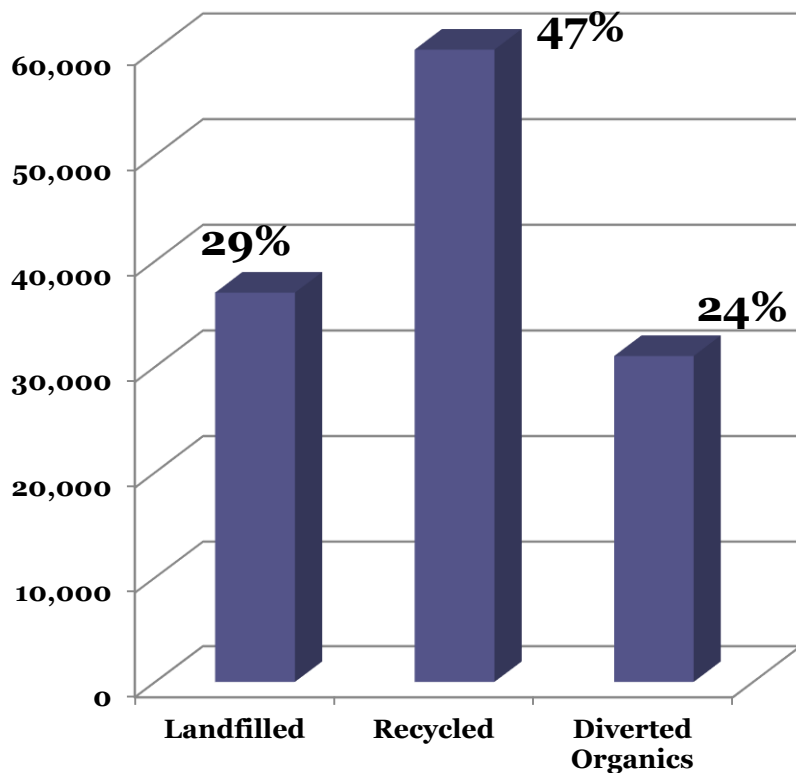
- **UAR Recycling Program – DOC collection**
- **IGA w/ counties**
- **\$0.79/capita-year**



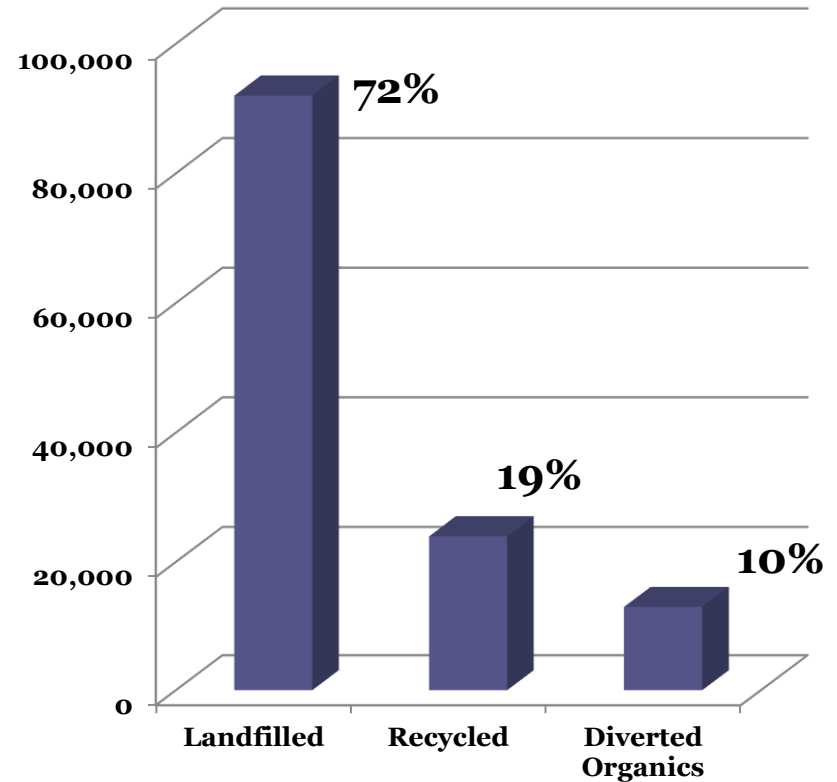
**Are We
Ready for
Change?**

What SWCCOG Can Achieve By 2025

If All Recyclables & Organics Recovered . . .



If Current Recovery Levels Are Doubled . . .



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Discussion Questions

- 1. What are common diversion goals?**
- 2. How do we improve diversion economics?**
- 3. What would regional collaboration look like?**
- 4. What should Recycling Task Force's objectives goals be?**

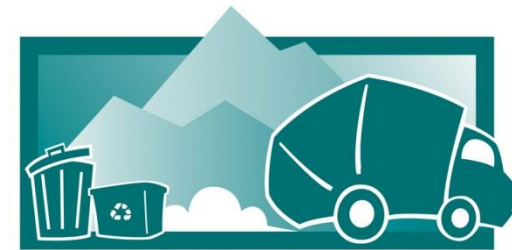
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