

DRAFT

Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2023, 8:00am – 9:30am

Minute Taker: Richard Nurse

Members Present: Dailey Brannin, David Demme, Lee Elliot, Debby Galef, Tracie Gordon, Martha Henry, Sakiko Isomichi, Debby Knight, Elka Kuhlman, Emily Lee, Scott MacGrath, Audrey Ng, Richard Nurse, Carlie Peters, Dawn Quirk, Diane Roseman, Meera Singh, Helen Snively, Quinten Steenhuis, Alexandra Toupal, Rob Vandenabeele, Stephanie Wasiuk

Members Absent: Julia Tsang, Siddharth Vedullapalli

Public present: Amy Waltz

Staff Present: Mike Orr

Minutes from April were approved.

Mike shared the results of the Google Form vote regarding priorities of the RAC. The number of votes for each initiative are:

Curbside Compost outreach: 14
Encourage people to recycle textiles: 12
Bulky items & move-out waste: 11
Compile stats on Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance: 9
Encourage people to use Recycle Center: 6
Drop-off Compost Outreach: 3
Compile stats from Buy Nothing: 2

Other suggestions:

Work with businesses to reduce single-use items: 2
Try to restart carton/tetrapack recycling: 1

City Updates:

Earth Day was a great success. All 20 tons of compost were distributed. A second 20 ton load was ordered and distributed later on to those who put their names on a waiting list.

A good distribution of kitchen compost bins was provided for new users (approx. 45).

The FIXIT CLINIC was well attended and considered a great success.

Bike repair and clothing swap was positive.

Tracie suggested doubling the compost distribution to 40 tons. She also suggested a November pumpkin “smash”. Consideration will be given to the idea.

Cambridge Science Festival in the fall considered a good time to promote the compost program.

Upcoming May Fair a good time to make Harvard student s in campus dorms aware of the compost program.

Dailey explained that a pilot program was underway to encourage student composting. There was some opposition by building managers to the issue (rodent potential).

Tracie offered to use her college contacts to encourage greater student participation.

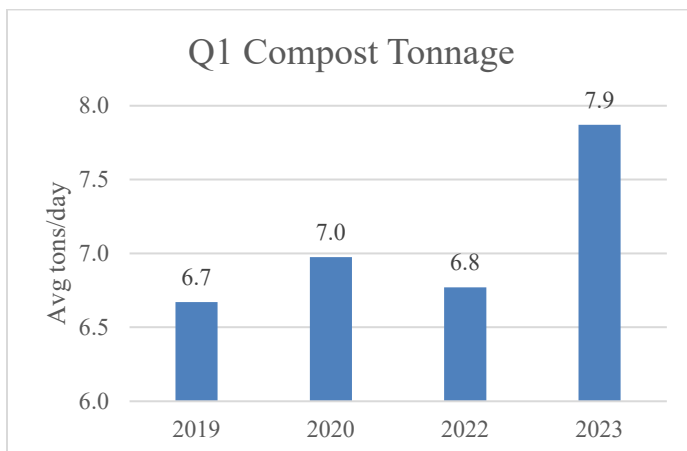
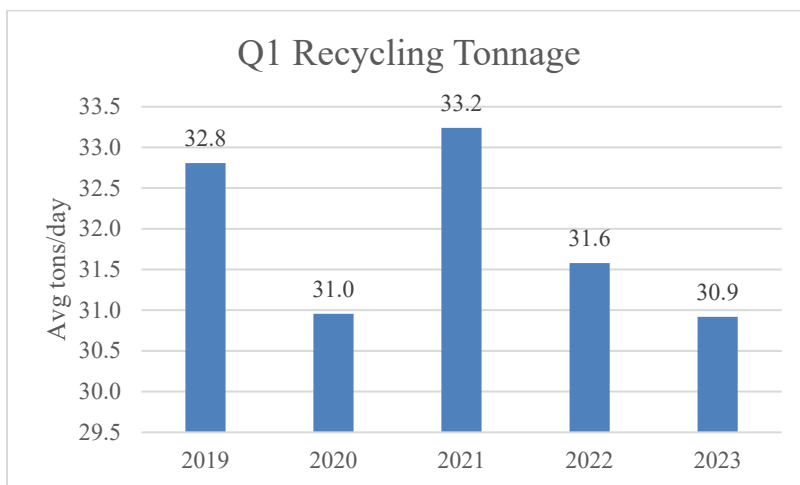
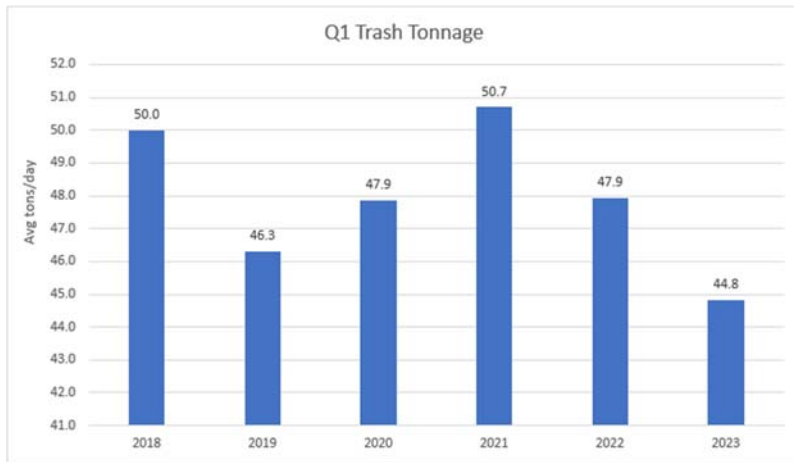
More drop off sites suggested, with mid-Cambridge as a focus.

Raccoon access may be prevented with more secure locks. Upgrading to 35 gal bins is a better option than fiddling with smaller bins. They’re more ergonomic/easier to handle.

NEXTDOOR groups could be encourage with unofficial messages of positive compost experiences.

Port Arts Festival - May 20 from 10 am to 6 pm. Volunteers are requested.

Trash Collection statistics:



Summary: trash tonnage is down, aim is to get recyclables and food OUT of the trash collection.

Newspaper used to be huge percentage of recycling but no longer. Now it's cardboard from all the packages received.

Higher compost tonnage includes businesses.

43% of residences are composting; 13,000 out of 30,000 - which translates to 5.6 lbs/HH/week

Covanta tour recap: those who went found it quite interesting. Facility is at capacity. What they can't handle goes to NH. Long line of idling trucks waiting to enter.

Dave Demme, a career veteran gave an extremely informative presentation of the waste to energy technology. See the slides at the end of the Minutes. Europe uses the concept extensively and has for 35 years; here in the US we still landfill more than half of our waste. American plants are concentrated in the Northeast and FL (landfill leach into drinking water, so FL uses lots of waste to energy). We didn't use to ship waste but that's become more common. Most cities in Europe have their own waste to energy plants, with more than 500 in total. The steam produced by the burning of the waste produces electricity.

Many members interested in a RAC tour of the Bourne, MA landfill.

Priority results and the top topics for RAC's consideration were;

- Compost program
- Studying the BYOB ordinance progress
- Map of environmentally friendly stores

Emily's Google Map directory of stores/restaurants/cafes in Cambridge that support less packaging is still in progress.

Closing:

Reminder for upcoming volunteer opportunities and city events

- Tabling at the Port Arts Festival - May 20 from 10 am to 6 pm
- Shred Day
- Swap June 10, 10-1:30 Cambridge Community Center
- Fresh Pond Day June 10.
- Hazardous Waste Day June 10.

Plan to create a more informative webpage linked to Facebook and other media outlets.

Action items:

1. Follow-up the RAC priority list
2. Share location for June in-person event

Chat:

08:05:33 From Mike Orr to Everyone:

<https://forms.gle/SLonqFSTpDHeR5rW9>

08:12:35 From Mike Orr to Everyone:

complete this form if you haven't already:

<https://forms.gle/SLonqFSTpDHeR5rW9>

08:12:42 From Elka to Everyone:

Thanks for remembering that Meera

08:12:57 From Meera Singh to Everyone:

Reacted to "Thanks for rememberi..." with 👍

08:16:16 From Diane Roseman to Mike Orr(Direct Message):

I lost my audio. I have to log off and try again

08:17:26 From Amy Waltz to Everyone:

More compost drop bins would definitely be helpful around the city! It is great that we have 6 now! Many people I talk with are willing to walk to sites if they are nearby.

08:19:43 From Martha Henry to Everyone:

The locks on the 35 can freeze shut in the winter if it's damp.

08:21:15 From Debby Knight to Everyone:

Reacted to "The locks on the 35 ..." with 

08:21:35 From Emily Lee to Everyone:

We could bin tag with a notice that a larger compost bin exists?

08:22:01 From Alex Toupal to Everyone:

Reacted to "The locks on the 35 ..." with 

08:22:13 From Meera Singh to Everyone:

As an ACTION item, how about we all put a note on our n'hood NEXTDOOR and other groups that these secondary locks are available and pls email to ask for one - including the email.

08:23:32 From Meera Singh to Everyone:

we could also add about the secondary lock info on the new updated tags

08:27:29 From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone:

Wow those numbers look great!

08:28:17 From Audrey Ng (she/her) to Everyone:

This is amazing!! Congrats!

08:28:25 From Alex Toupal to Everyone:

Wooo!!

08:29:02 From Martha Henry to Everyone:

Excellent stat, Mike.

08:35:31 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:

Same with food waste!

08:38:41 From Amy Waltz to Everyone:

If you look at trash reduction from a household perspective, trash can often be easily reduced to less than 2lbs/week/person with ease in a matter of months after starting to compost. There is potential for dramatic trash reduction.

08:57:49 From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone:

need to re-share with sound

09:02:17 From Diane Roseman she/her to Mike Orr(Direct Message):

Maybe we should push the Google form discussion until next time. I don't want to cut him off

09:02:52 From Mike Orr to Diane Roseman she/her(Direct Message):

I think so, thanks!--maybe we will talk for 5 min about it.

09:07:50 From Martha Henry to Everyone:

Fabulous presentation, Dave! Thank you.

09:08:14 From Alexandra Toupal to Everyone:

Thank you, Dave!

09:08:40 From Elka to Everyone:

Thank you!

09:08:41 From Amy Waltz to Everyone:

Great presentation! Thank you!

09:10:35 From Meera Singh to Everyone:

V well explained and helpful - TYVM!

09:17:13 From Stephanie Wasiuk to Everyone:

Can we also see the other ideas people inputted into the google form?
Maybe they can be included in the minutes

09:17:24 From Mike Orr to Everyone:

yes that will be available

09:18:15 From Mike Orr to Everyone:

Shred Event on Sat 5/13. See Recycle newsletter for info

09:20:27 From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone:

I'll be traveling that day unfortunately

09:21:28 From Amy Waltz to Everyone:

My concern with the project approach is losing action on some of the overall planning concerns: Things like revising the ZWMP, advocacy, coordination with other organizations.

09:22:16 From Amy Waltz to Everyone:

Is there a way to communicate with members other than email?

09:22:40 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:

Amy, maybe in the next meeting?

09:23:26 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

maybe we talk about these bigger issues IN meetings and then do the projects mostly outside of meetings, with checkin time during meetings? I bet we can do it all :)

09:25:04 From Meera Singh to Everyone:

Suggestion - personal action I am planning to do- bring your own reusable container to restaurants so you can take back your leftover food and not have to trash the takeout container.

09:25:18 From Mike Orr to Everyone:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1OrWa1xjXqBq8fN5KCYtSidJI0aQSXfs>

09:25:29 From Scott to Everyone:

Reacted to "Suggestion - person..." with ❤️

09:26:06 From Stephanie Wasiuk to Everyone:

Reacted to "Suggestion - person..." with !!

09:26:12 From Martha Henry to Everyone:

Great work, Emily.

09:26:23 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

looks great, Emily!

09:28:08 From Meera Singh to Everyone:

TY for doing this Emily!

09:29:33 From Amy Waltz to Everyone:

Many of the overall objectives need ongoing planning, discussion and preliminary work that is difficult to do on the spot in a meeting.

09:30:18 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

true, Amy, but we can try.. Maybe do one of these issues at a time?

09:30:46 From Scott to Everyone:

Gotta drop but great meeting! Have a great week/weekend everyone.

09:30:57 From Stephanie Wasiuk to Everyone:

Same, thanks all!

09:31:00 From Audrey Ng (she/her) to Everyone:

Me too. Bye everyone, see you next month!!

09:31:07 From Quinten Steenhuis to Everyone:

Bye all!

09:31:36 From Martha Henry to Everyone:

Bye all,, great to see everyone

09:31:39 From Dave to Everyone:

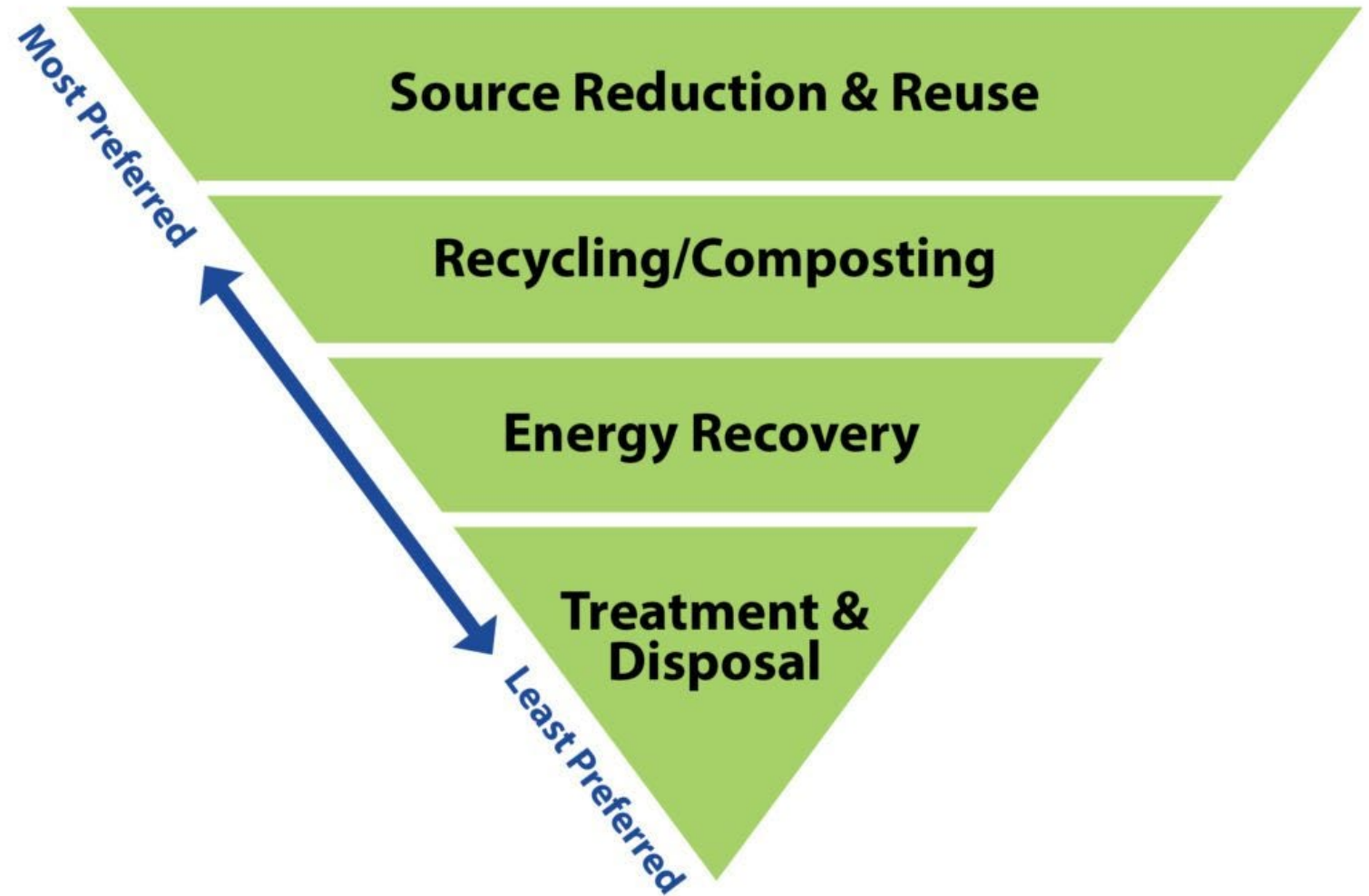
On Sundays there's a Farmers Market in Harvard Square

Waste to Energy

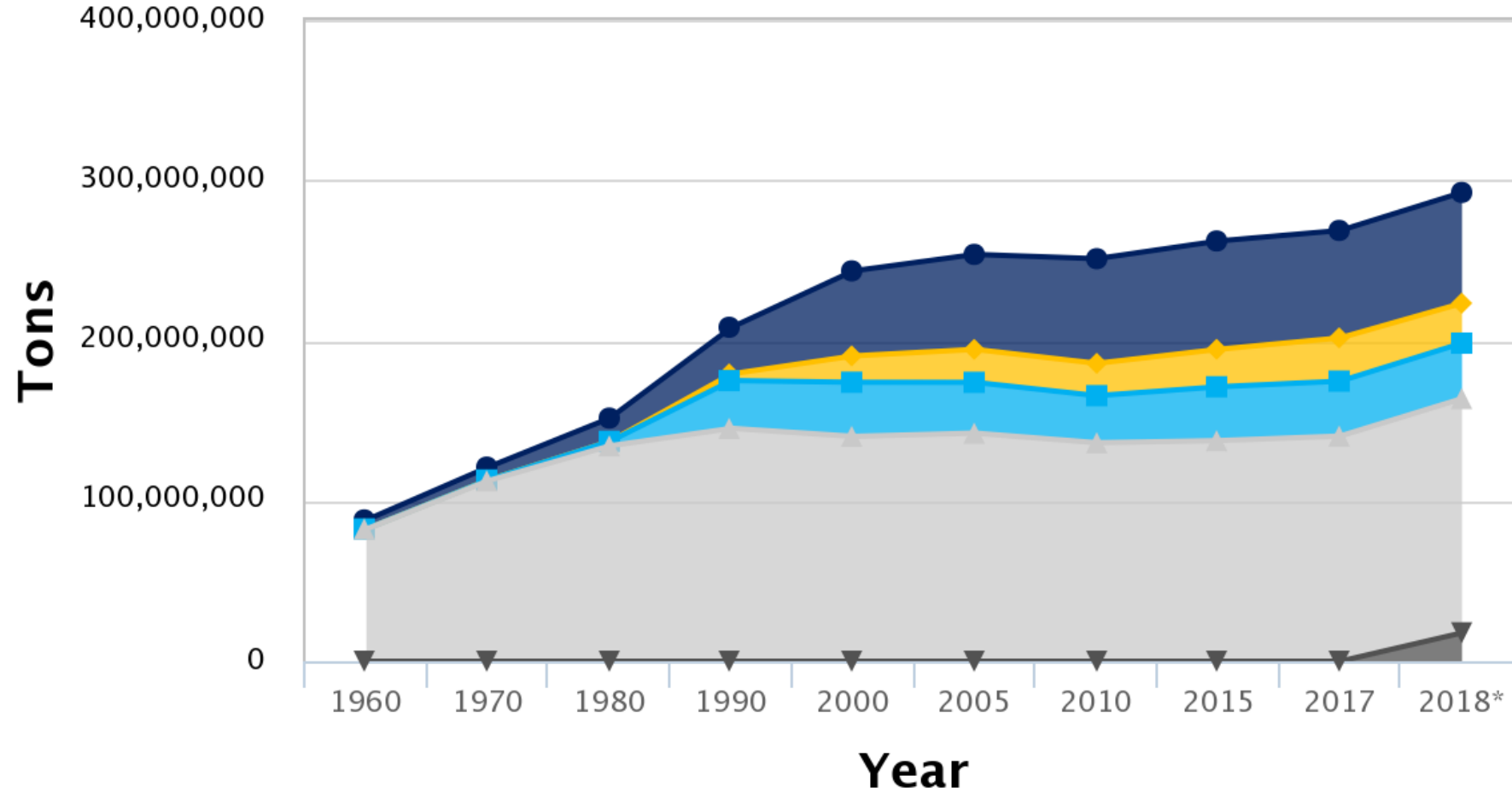
Cambridge RAC Meeting

May 10, 2023

U.S. EPA Waste Management Hierarchy



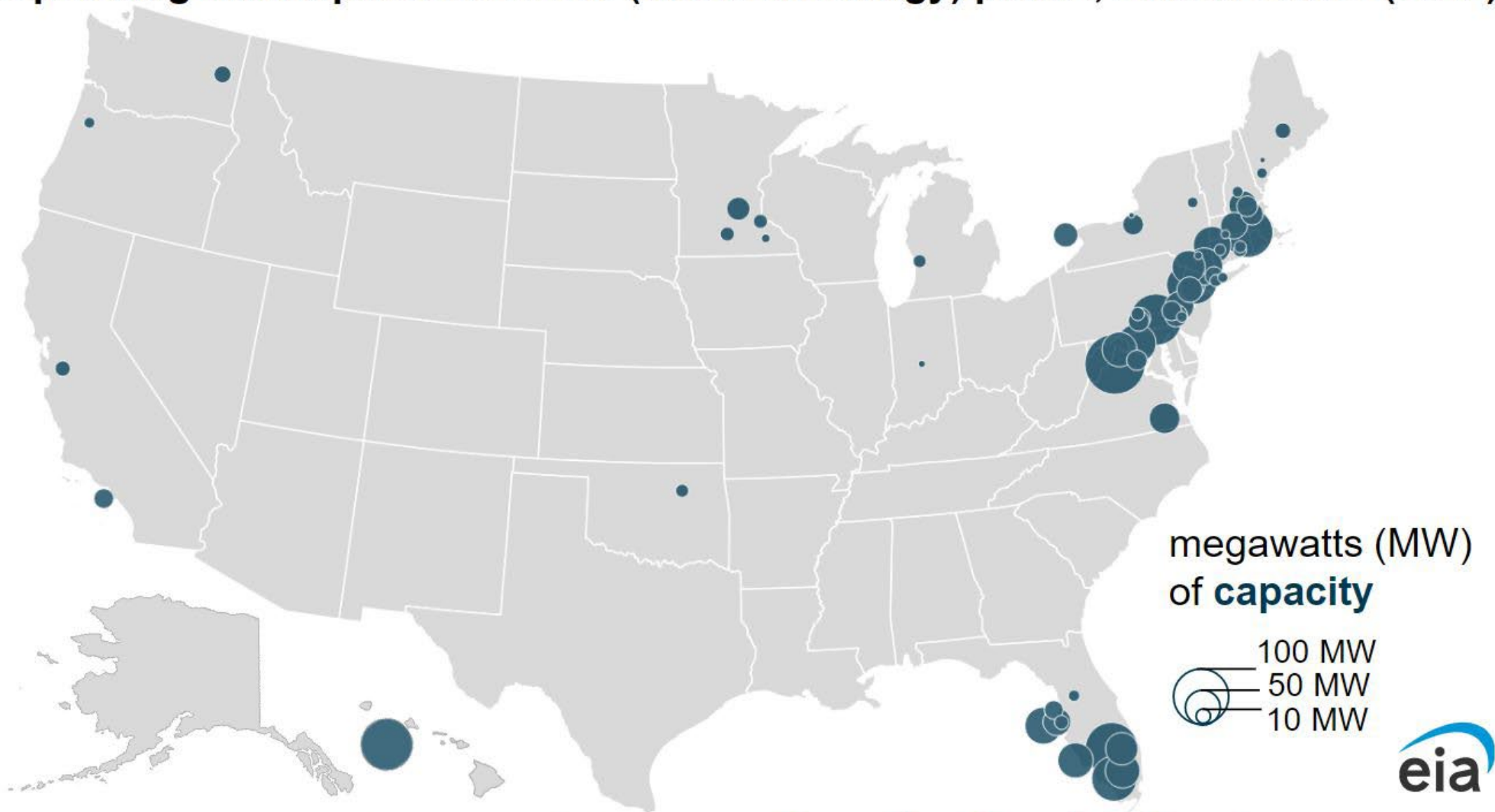
Municipal Solid Waste Management: 1960–2018



Click on legend items below to customize items displayed in the chart

- Recycling
- Composting
- Combustion with Energy Recovery
- Landfill
- Other Food Management

Operating municipal solid waste (waste-to-energy) plants, United States (2022)



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Power Plant Operations Report](#)

Massachusetts WTE Plants

Covanta Haverhill

Covanta of SEMASS - Rochester

Wheelabrator Saugus

Wheelabrator Millbury

Wheelabrator North Andover



Waste-to-Energy in Europe in 2020

■ WtE Plants operating in Europe
(not including hazardous waste incineration
plants) : **504**

■ Waste thermally treated in WtE plants
(in million tonnes): **101**

Data supplied by CEWEP members
and national sources

*: Includes plant in Andorra and SAICA
plant



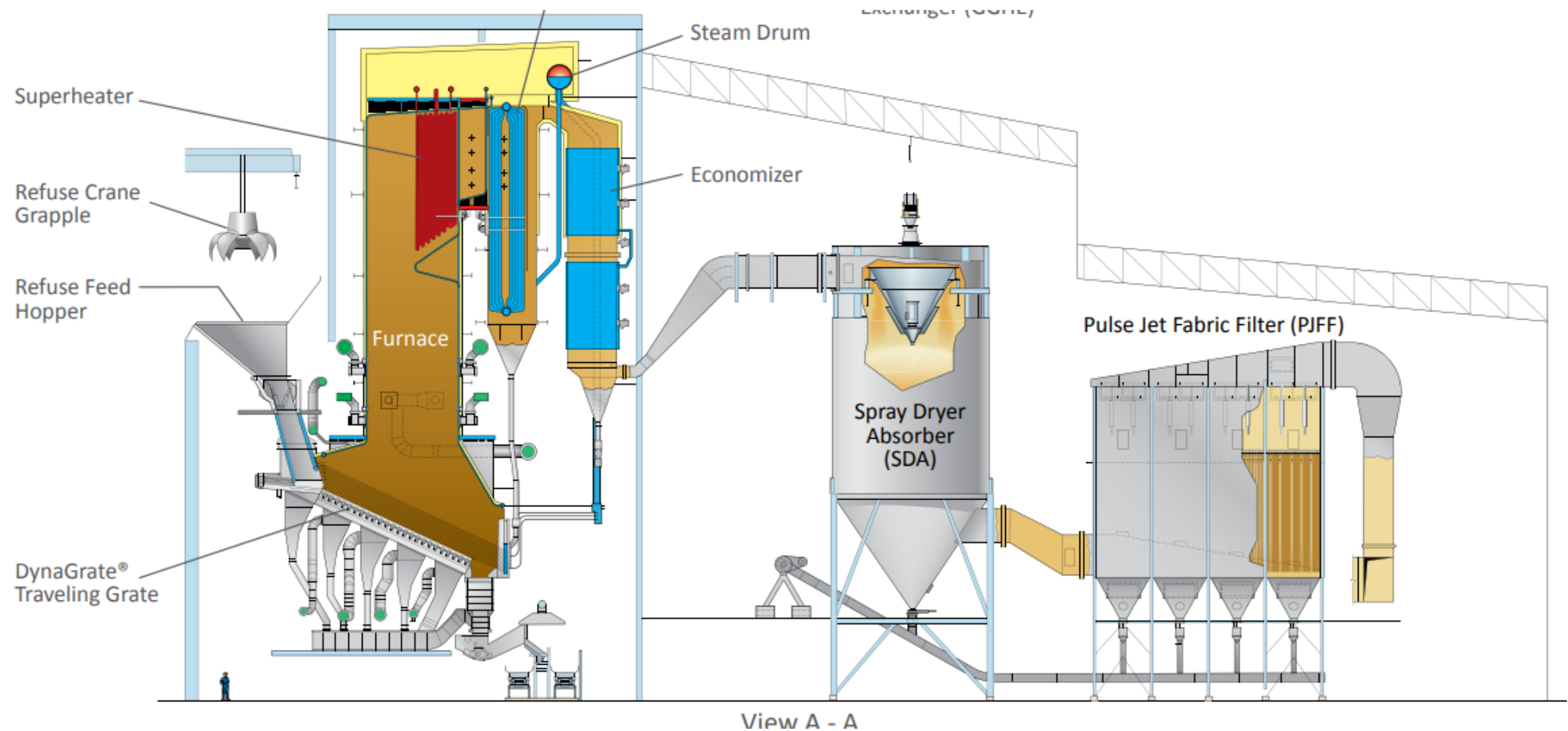


Covanta
Haverhill –
1989



West Palm
Beach, FL —
2016?

Typical Mass Burn WTE Facility



Explanatory WTE Video

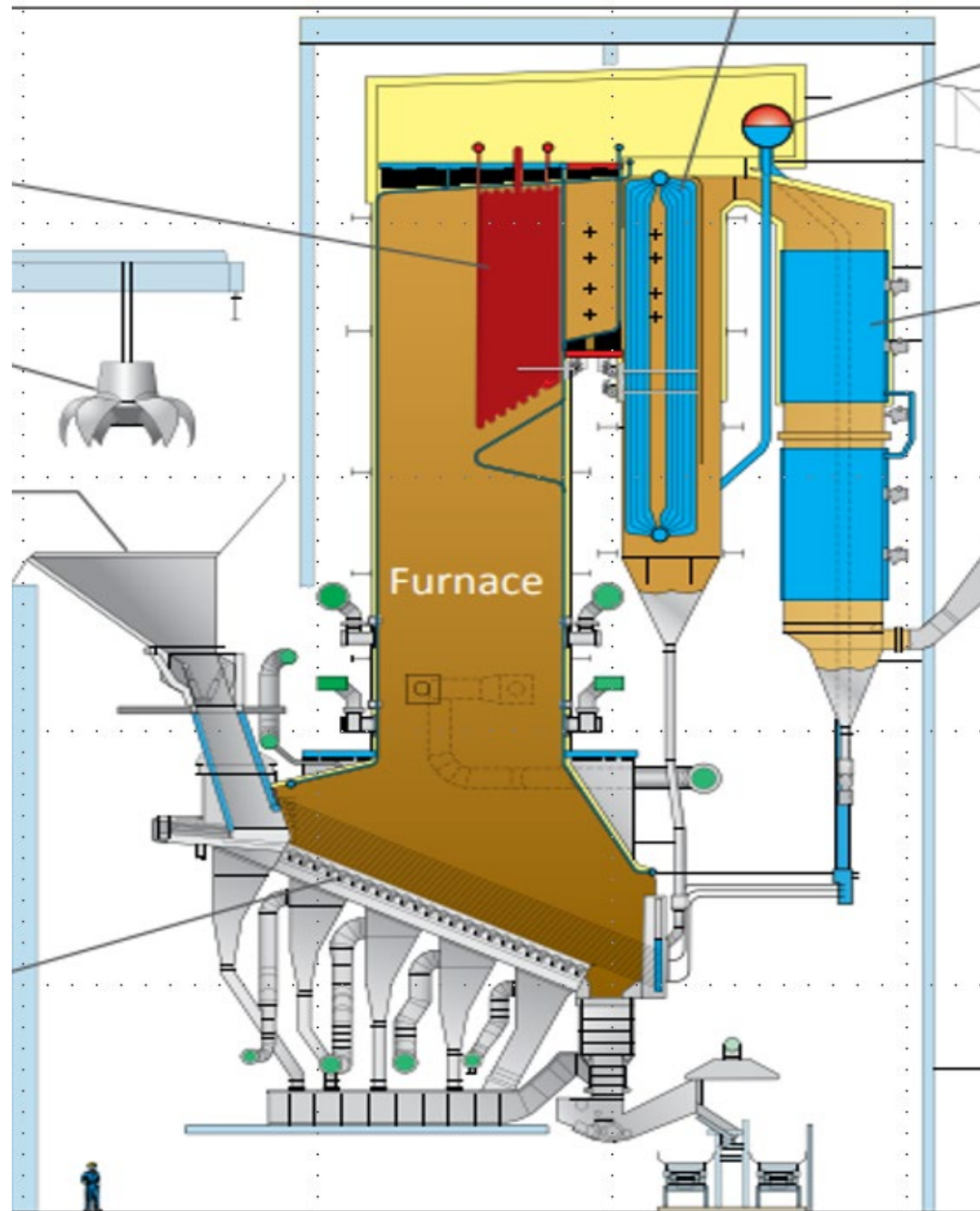
Prepared by the Leading U.S. WTE
Operator – Covanta

Covanta Owns and Operates the
Haverhill WTE Plant

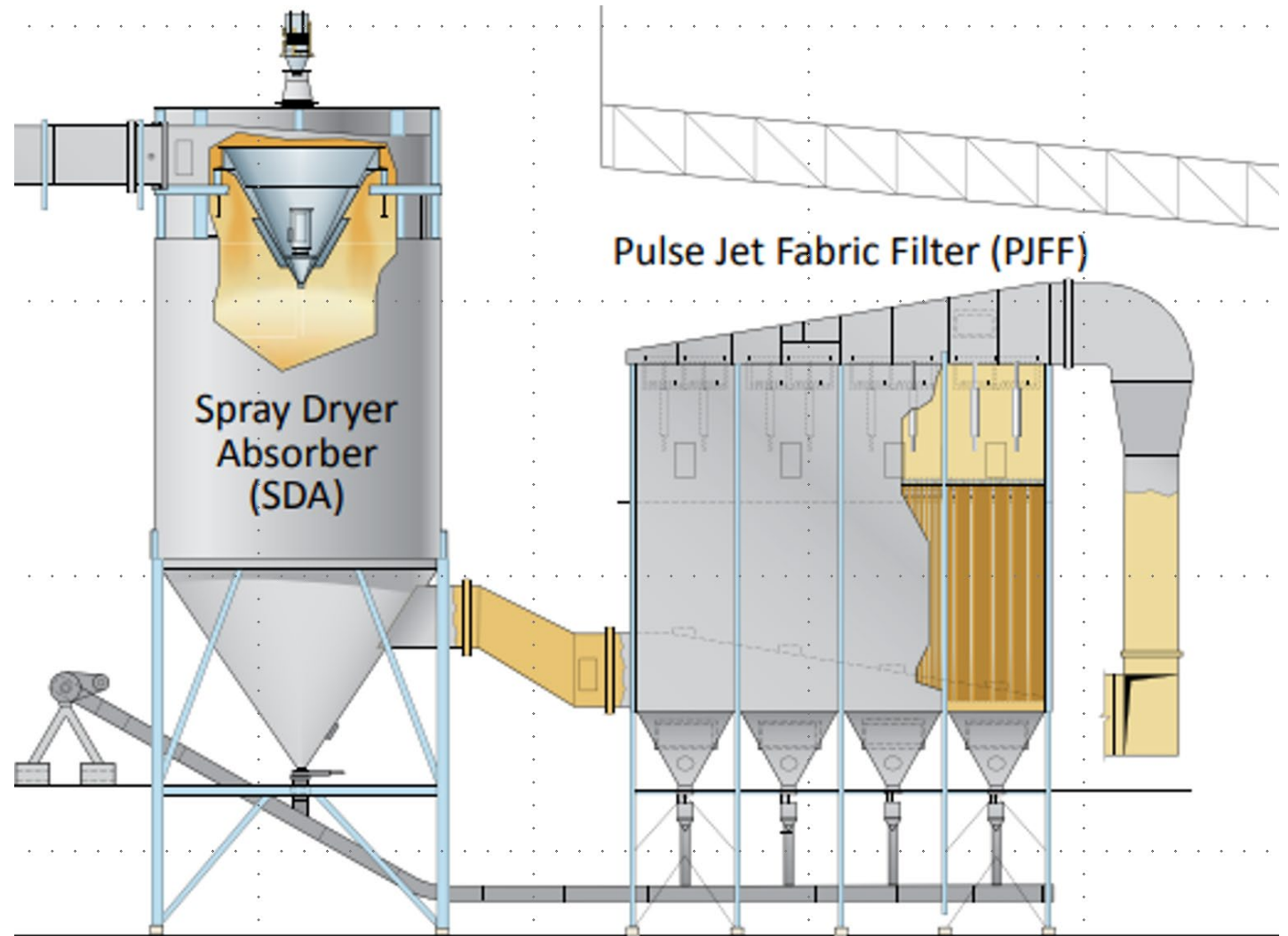
Presents the Advantages of WTE

Ignores the Issues Raised by
Opponents

NO_x and Dioxin Control in the Furnace



Particulate,
SO_x, HCL, and
Heavy Metal
Controls -
Scrubber
Baghouse



WTE Pros and Cons

Pros

- Net Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Reduces Fossil Fuel Use
- Renewable Energy Source (24 States)

Cons

- More Expensive
- Ash Disposal Issues
- Competes with Recycling and Composting??



Durham,
Ontario –
2016



Dublin,
Ireland -
2017