

DRAFT
Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2022, 8 am – 9:30 am
Virtual Meeting Minute Taker: Debby Knight

Members present: Leah Beckett, Dailey Brannin, Holden Cookson, Catrina Damrell, Shirley Elliott, Debby Galef, Sakiko Isomichi, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Scott MacGrath, Audrey Ng, Richard Nurse, Diane Roseman, Meera Singh, Quinten Steenhuis, Mary Verhage

Members absent: Martha Henry, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols

Staff Present: Mike Orr

Public present: Helen Snively, Suzanne Watzman

1. Housekeeping

- Minutes from January 2022 meeting approved, no amendments.
- Mike announced that Ilana Bebchick has resigned from the committee.
- March meeting will take place on the 16th, not the 9th.

2. City Updates

- Zero Waste Master Plan (ZWMP) Update
 - Cambridge started the process in 2017, working with consultants and collecting community input and feedback, and has been implementing since 2019.
 - Trash reduction goals (based on 2008 data) - 30% by 2020, 50% by 2030, 80% reduction by 2050.
 - ZWMP Recommendations met to date: Small Business Recycling Program, Mattress Recycling, Curbside Compost (now eligible to all large buildings on City trash collection program), Small Business Compost Pilot, Textiles Recovery Program
 - Trash specifics - In 2008 was 22.8 lbs/household/wk; City met the first goal by 2020 (16lbs/hh/wk). The amount started to climb again in 2020 as people spent more time at home during the pandemic. If that trend continues, may need to rethink the trash reduction goals.
 - Waste disposal costs for 2021 - trash was highest at \$109/ton, followed by compost at \$64/ton, and recycling at \$50/ton
- Next on horizon for ZWMP
 - New Waste Audit in spring (will contract with professional company paid for by grant)
 - Increase outreach on recycling, compost, and textile programs
 - Plan for state ban on textiles (begins November 2022)
 - Potential solid waste surveys to residents in spring 2022 based upon previous subcommittee's survey
 - Explore expanding the Small Business Compost Pilot as well as curbside compost collection for large buildings not on City trash collection (some small businesses have found it challenging - not enough employees, not enough organics, etc.)
 - Consider reconfiguring the Recycle Center

- Upcoming release of Circular Cambridge study. How might the DPW assist in that work (good opportunity for interdepartmental action).
- Discussion following the ZWMP presentation
 - City does not currently address issue/requirement of new developments setting up space/system for expanding into organics/compost collection
 - Could there be financial incentives for small businesses to compost? (perhaps go from 3 to 2 trash pickups/wk and then get free composting, for example?)
 - Holden talked about economic strategies for businesses that can reduce costs by diverting trash, giving an example of how Flour Bakery shifted to organics collection and significantly reduced trash pickups
 - Sakiko asked what RAC members can do to support composting in large buildings; Mike talked about a survey to find out more about what people are thinking
 - Mike mentioned that the DPW recently hired a new solid waste program manager, Camilla Elvis. Camilla will be heading up the trash program (new barrels) rollout then moving on to other related projects. There are now 3 solid waste program managers and 2 compliance officers.
 - In terms of the waste stream, textiles are currently the most lucrative
 - How to encourage more small business composting - it's tricky. The City can't favor any particular businesses, so ideas such as giving businesses who participate a shout-out or window stickers, for example, won't work. It was suggested that a self-promotion tool kit might work well.

3. Sub-committee Short Reports and Breakouts

- Communications - Chair: Sakiko
 - Goal is to promote food scraps collection, i.e. educate residents
 - Each month, February to June, has goal in that direction, such as collecting info, figuring out how to distribute it, etc.
- Food Waste - Chair: Catrina Damrell
 - Food Waste Reduction continues looking for ways to collaborate with the Communication subcommittee.
 - Planning for food outreach sessions; want to design a sandwich board to support those sessions
 - Looking to create a metric for emissions reduction linked to composting
 - Defining goals - for example, how many compost bins to distribute per year?
 - Thinking of audience for next round: off-campus graduate students, high school students, non-English speaking residents (people suggested expanding to include at least middle school students)
- Textiles - Chair: Leah Beckett
 - Group has been reading articles and reporting back to develop information piece to be included in next newsletter.

4. Closing

- Public Comment: None

- Gift for Rob Gogan
 - The video idea hasn't taken off; now considering some type of group card
- Action Plan/Decisions
 - None
- Announcements
 - Feb 12 Virtual Fix-It Clinic
 - Feb 12, 1-5 The Really, Really Free Market at the Cambridge Community Center, a swap which may take place on a monthly basis

5. Zoom Meeting Chat

08:16:53 From mary to Everyone:

Action item: what's the process for a building to be added to your composting program?

08:24:35 From Audrey Ng to Everyone:

Public procurement is the bane of my existence

08:24:43 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:

Thanks!

08:24:46 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:

^^ hahah yeah

08:25:16 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:

I love a long arduous application process with automated responses!

08:37:14 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

i love it that Camilla is a Camb native who has worked with DPW for years.. she really knows what she's getting into. yay

08:37:35 From Audrey Ng to Everyone:

That's amazing news!! Go Camilla!

08:38:43 From Debby Knight to Everyone:

Mike, the data you've shared is very compelling - wonder if creating posters to put in larger buildings would inspire people

08:40:54 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

and the bottom line on those posters would be something like... and you can help.. here's how!

08:45:32 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

catrina... telling people about GHGs and composting.. I remember years ago we had a number: if you compost x pounds of food waste it;s like NOT driving x miles. Mike.. did you come up with that number? It really amazed me and I remember it got attention. I wonder if it could go into the info you share?

08:48:07 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

reaching high school students.. Doesn't CRLS have an enviro club? Or other groups of students thinking about enviro issues?

08:49:35 From MICHAEL ORR to Everyone:

Yes--we shared some info on emissions reduction per lb of food waste with Catrina and Richard. That data is from the EPA lifecycle analysis study on the GLSD anaerobic digestion

08:50:02 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DTtjKquYUGI8i0ekkH-glIJFsE4LGg81s?usp=sharing>

08:53:03 From Debby Knight to Everyone:

Shirley, love the idea of working with existing groups to talk about composting - it can be fun and create more energy to share information in a group

08:54:45 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

for Rob.. maybe each of us can send a few lines about what we remember and appreciate about Rob's years with us? and then someone compile it? I'd be willing to pull it together :

08:56:01 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:

Would we consider making him some type of certificate of accomplishment/appreciation outlining some of the achievements of his career on RAC? I will create it if folks can compile his accolades.

08:56:15 From Suzanne Watzman to Everyone:

I would like to be in TEXTILES

09:08:48 From Susy Jones to Everyone:

Meryl Brott was the K-12 outreach person for recycling at DPW - i don't know if she is still around?

09:08:57 From MICHAEL ORR to Everyone:

yes she is!

09:21:04 From Susy Jones to Everyone:

brb

09:21:06 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:

Meera, I think its important and exactly why we talk PER CAPITA food waste. Its relative and important! Thank you!

09:21:34 From Suzanne Watzman to Everyone:

Please check out the documentary The True Cost- about the second largest polluting industry in the world. Free on You Tube

09:22:12 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:

Communication subcommittee: do you have time to meet on Friday 18th 8:30am?

09:22:21 From Helen Snively to Everyone:

i realize that the technique Leah and Scott came up with was really useful: Each person in the group find one article, read and summarize, and then talk about in cctte.. We got a lot of ideas out very quickly and then could see which ones had the most traction

09:22:28 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:

I think its also were returning to the topic of common excuses/nuances. Like you mentioned Meera, there are a lot of "higher level" reasons food is wasted... We should look into what is fact and what is fiction.

-FOr example, do kids trule NEED to be given milk during lunch, or is that a common nuance

09:23:04 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:

Yes Sakiko!

09:23:29 From Suzanne Watzman to Everyone:
The True Cost <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wB2SS1GC3M>

09:23:56 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DTtjKquYUGl8i0ekkHgIIJFsE4LGg81s>

09:24:11 From Dailey Brannin to Everyone:
<http://bit.ly/fixitcheckin>

09:24:32 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:
Awesome, Holden! How about you, Meera? Feb 18th Friday 8:30am?

09:25:28 From Deborah Galef to Everyone:
I'm free on the 18th too.

09:25:35 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:
^^ Just wanted to say that we encourage ANYONE to add ANY data set/reference they find useful on the topic of food waste. It doesn't need to be an in depth study etc. We want to meet people where they are at and it is helpful to catch an array of what folks are exposed to, regardless of where their starting point is on the topic.

09:25:47 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:
Great, Debby!

09:26:15 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:
Sakiko will you send a calendar invite or should I make an event?

09:26:38 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:
Yes, definitely, Holden!

09:26:39 From Meera Singh to Everyone:
Sakiko I think I should not commit to the 18th.

09:26:52 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:
I'll send the invite, that is.

09:27:02 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:
I see, Meera. When may be a good time?

09:27:28 From Meera Singh to Everyone:
I'll email you after the meeting? Sorry.

09:27:48 From Sakiko Isomichi to Everyone:
No worries. Will connect via email.

09:28:01 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:
<https://obportland.org/>

09:28:38 From Susy Jones to Everyone:
I need to jump off right at 9:30 to get to another meeting, so sorry if I miss closing!

09:28:38 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:
A cool business in Portland that does events/workshops like this that folks have memberships to and provide tools/equipment.

09:29:07 From Diane Roseman to Everyone:
sounds like Artisan's Asylum

09:29:19 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:
Never heard of it! Will look it up now.

09:30:00 From Holden Cookson to Everyone:
Helen, can you repeat the name of the event?

09:32:05 From Helen Snively to Everyone:
yes it's the really really free market 5 callender st

City of Cambridge Department of Public Works

Zero Waste Update to RAC

February 9, 2022



Zero Waste Master Plan

- Process to develop a ZWMP started in 2017.
- Final ZWMP completed in early 2019

- While completing the ZWMP, DPW began implementing some programs, such as the citywide curbside compost program

What would help reduce contamination in recycling?
Please place a sticker beside those options you support below

RECYCLE
THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:

CANS & FOIL
Aluminum and Steel Cans, Foil and Foil Containers
empty and rinsed

GLASS
Bottles and Jars
empty and rinsed

PLASTIC CONTAINERS
Kitchen, Laundry, Bath
empty and rinsed

PAPER & CARDBOARD
Office Paper, Junk
Newspaper, Magazines, Cardboard
empty, flattened

NO!

- No Hot Oil, Recyclables, No Carriage
- No Plastic Bags, Films or Wrappers
- No Food or Liquids (empty all containers)
- No Clothing or Linens (laundry)
- No Tangles (cords, hoses, wires, etc.)

More guidance on how to use the program

Notices on the carts when contamination is present

Not emptying cart with contaminated material

| Contaminant | Plastic Bags, Film, Wrappers | Plastic Bagged Recycling | Paper Towels, Tissues, Napkins | Excessive Food & Liquids | Paper Plates, Take-out Containers | Clothing & Textiles | Trash | Tangles, Cords, Hoses | Straws, Utensils | Wood, Metal, Electronics |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| % of carts | 52% | 21% | 20% | 14% | 14% | 10% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 3% |

Zero Waste Master Plan Goals

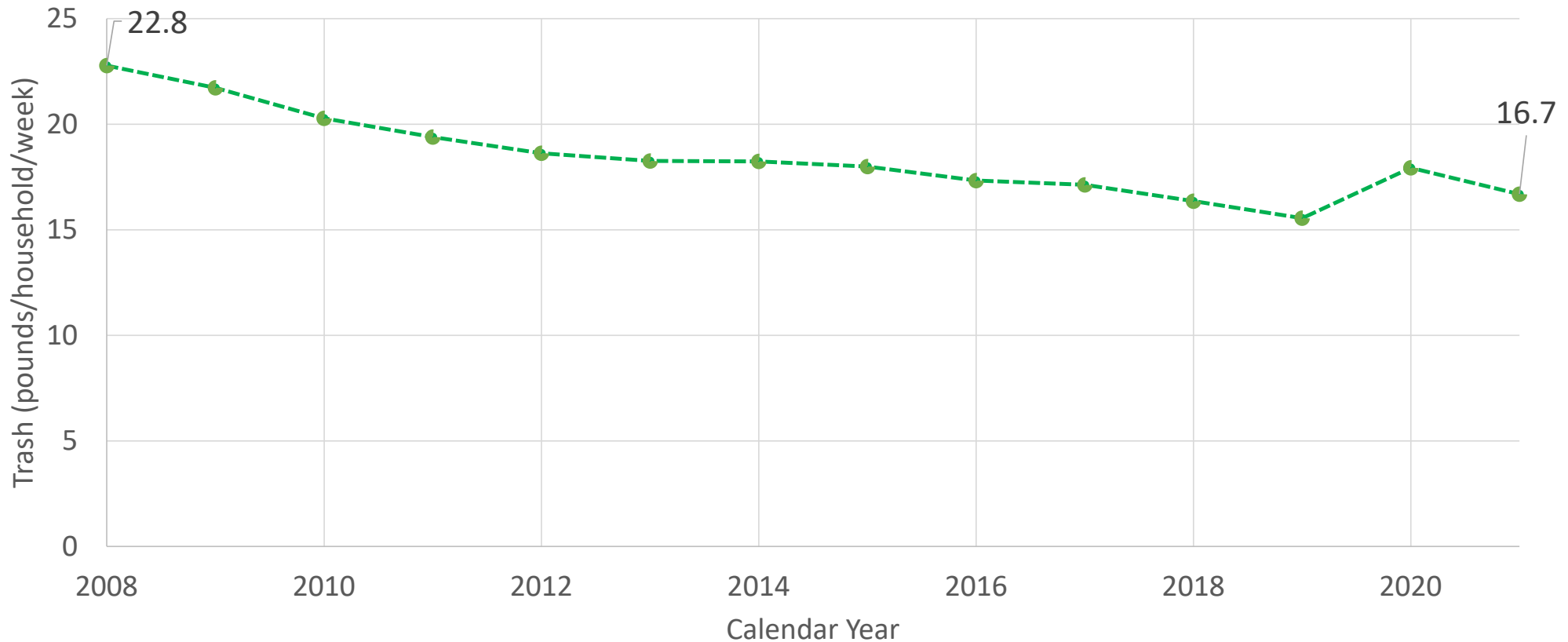
- Goal: Provide mechanism for achieving the City's trash reduction goals.
- Trash reduction goals (2008 as a baseline):
 - 30% reduction by 2020
 - 50% reduction by 2030
 - 80% reduction by 2050



Zero Waste Master Plan Recommendations Completed

| Recommendation | Timing | Status Update |
|---|-------------|---|
| Begin Small Business Recycle Program | Fall 2018 | Complete; 123 businesses receive free service |
| Start Mattress Recycling | Spring 2019 | Complete; >400 tons diverted from trash |
| Improve Recycling through increased diversion and decreased contamination | Ongoing | Ongoing; Goal of reducing contamination rate to 5% was accomplished in 2019 |
| Make Curbside Compost eligible to all large buildings on the City trash collection program | Fall 2019 | Complete & Ongoing |
| Expand Small Business Recycle Program | Fall 2020 | Complete; 200 businesses receive free service |
| Start Small Business Compost Pilot | Fall 2021 | Complete; 64 businesses receive free service |
| Start Textiles recovery & recycling program | Fall 2021 | Complete; service began 12/7/21 |
| Continue to support Reduce/Reuse activities in the community | Ongoing | Ongoing process to determine ways to support reduce & reuse |

Cambridge Residential Trash

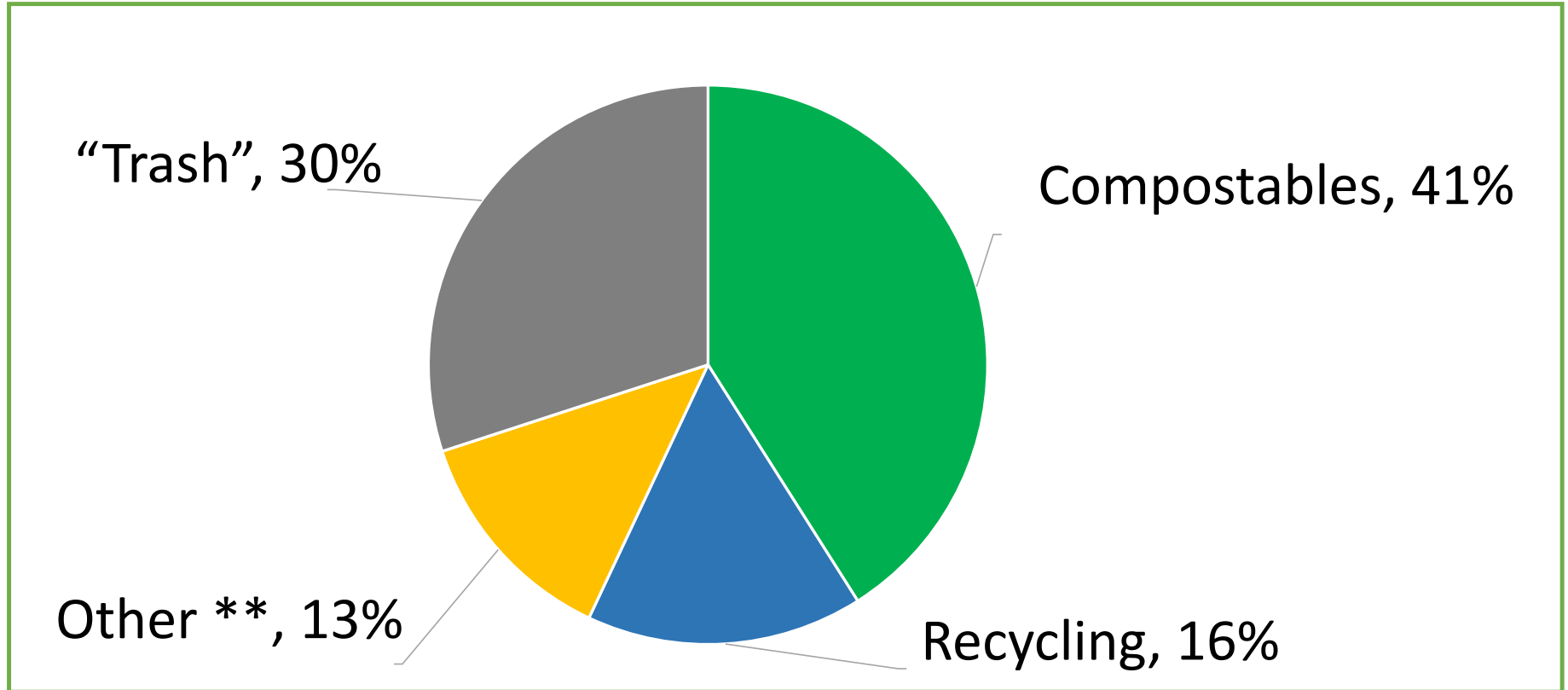


Goals:

12 pounds of trash per household per week by 2030

4 pounds of trash per household per week by 2050

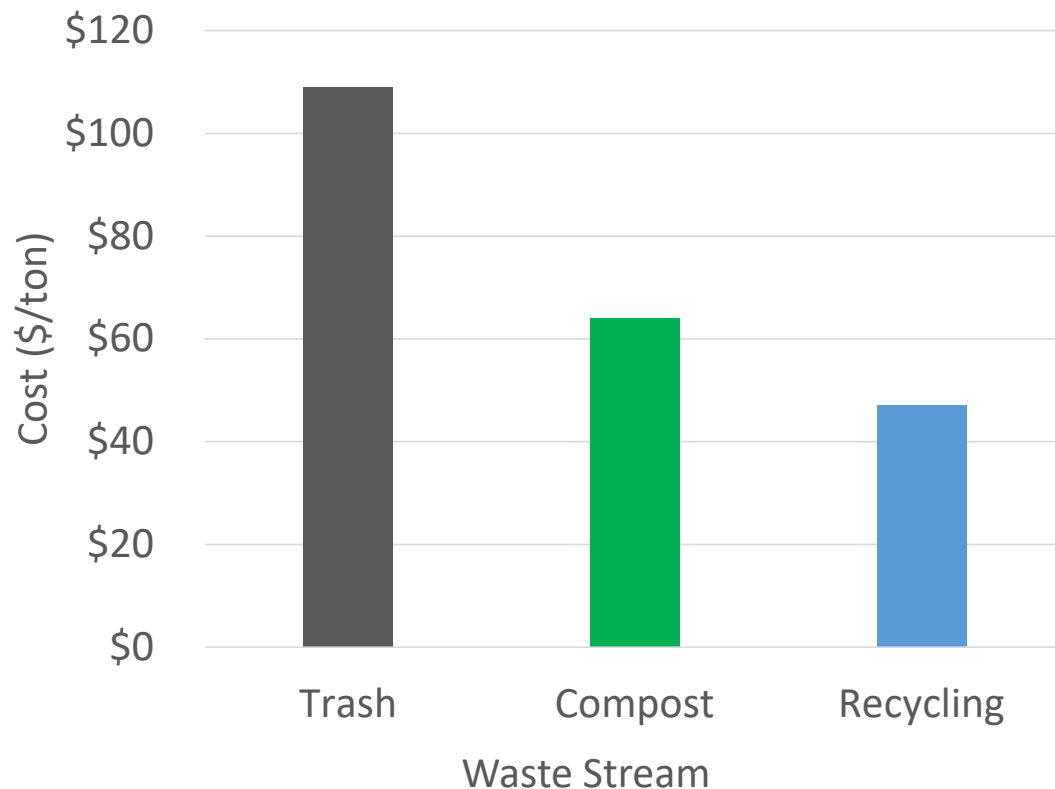
What's in Cambridge's trash?



**Other: Textiles, Electronics, Scrap metal

Why is recycling and composting important?

2021 Cambridge Waste Disposal
Costs



Trash disposal is the most expensive way to manage waste.

Recycling is mandatory.

Recycling and composting both have significant environmental savings, of course!

Whats on the horizon for our Zero Waste efforts?

- New Waste Audit conducted in Spring 2022
- Increasing our outreach on the recycling, compost, and textiles programs
 - Plan for ban on textiles in Nov. 2022
- Potentially--Solid Waste survey to residents in Spring 2022 (with the assistance of Sakiko and her sub-committee from Summer 2021)
- Explore expanding Small business Compost Pilot in late 2022.
- Explore Expanding curbside compost program to all buildings NOT on the City trash collection program in 2023
- Consider reconfiguring Recycle Center
- Upcoming release of Circular Cambridge study and how DPW may assist