

# VORS 17<sup>th</sup> year!

## State of the State Of Organics 2023



Vermont Organics  
Recycling Summit



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Solid Waste Program  
May 1, 2023

# State of the State Of Organics 2023



**Culture**



**Data**



**Challenges**



**Successes**

# We're not alone...



**9 States  
have  
varying  
Food  
Waste  
Bans:**

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Connecticut--2011

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Vermont--2012

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Massachusetts--2014

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Rhode Island--2014

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California--2016

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New York--2019

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New Jersey--2020

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Maryland--2021

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Washington--2022

# 2023:

## Universal Recycling Law



11 years



>52  
tons/year

8 years



>18  
tons/year

6 years



>104  
tons/year

9 years



>26  
tons/year

7 years



**Full Ban**  
**3 years**





A large, messy pile of food waste is shown, including vegetable scraps, fruit peels, and meat. The waste is piled on a dark surface, possibly a compost bin or a pile of dirt. The word "Data?" is overlaid in large, white, bold text in the center of the image.

**Data?**



# 2021 Diversion and Disposal Report

A summary of solid waste management in the State of Vermont

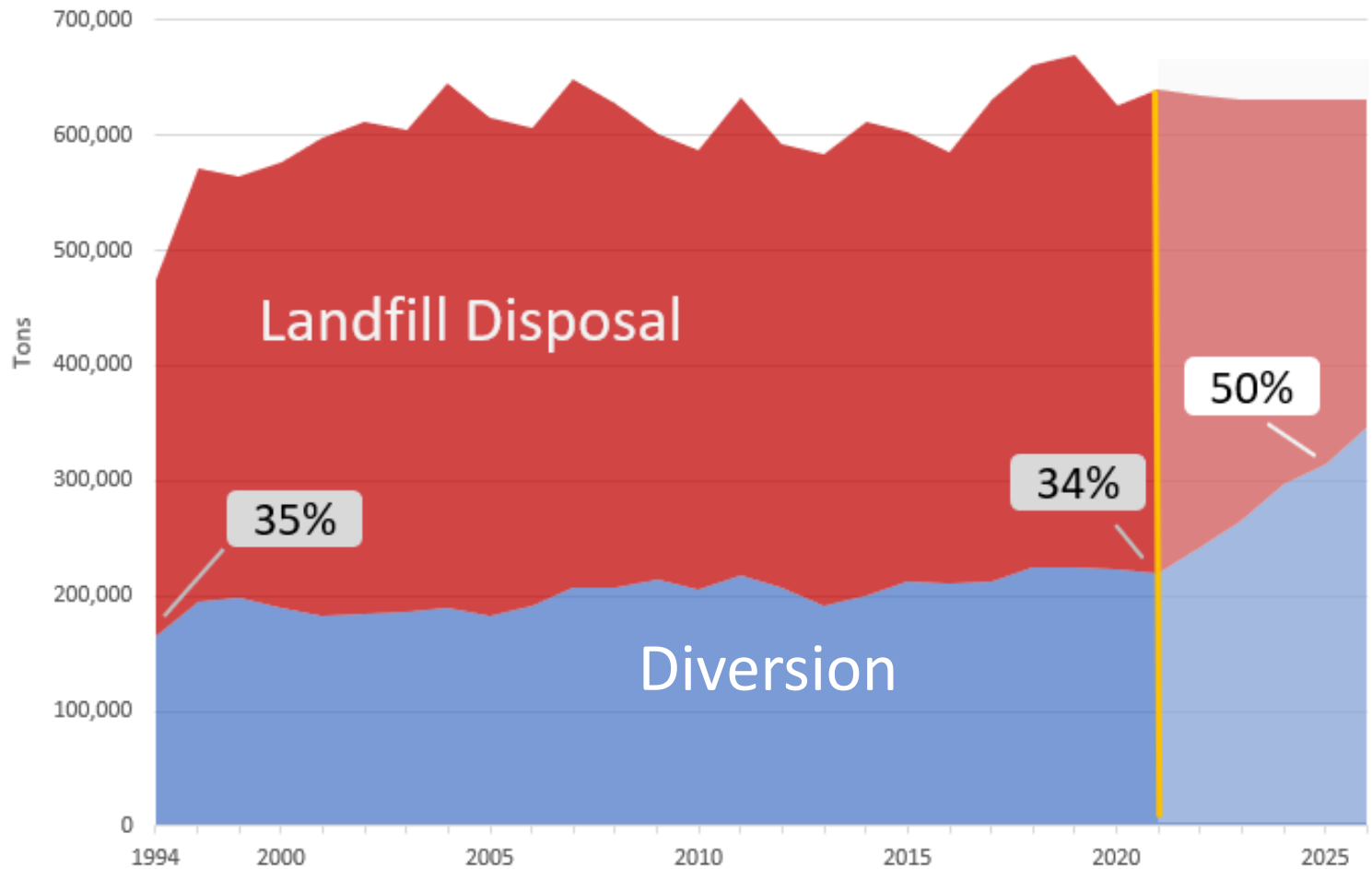
Prepared by:

Waste Management & Prevention Division  
Solid Waste Management Program

November 2022



# Subtle Trends in Disposal and Diversion





Landfill



Data

Transfer Stations



Data

MRFs



Data  
(Plus estimates)

Food Donation



Data  
(Food Bank Only)

Compost Facilities



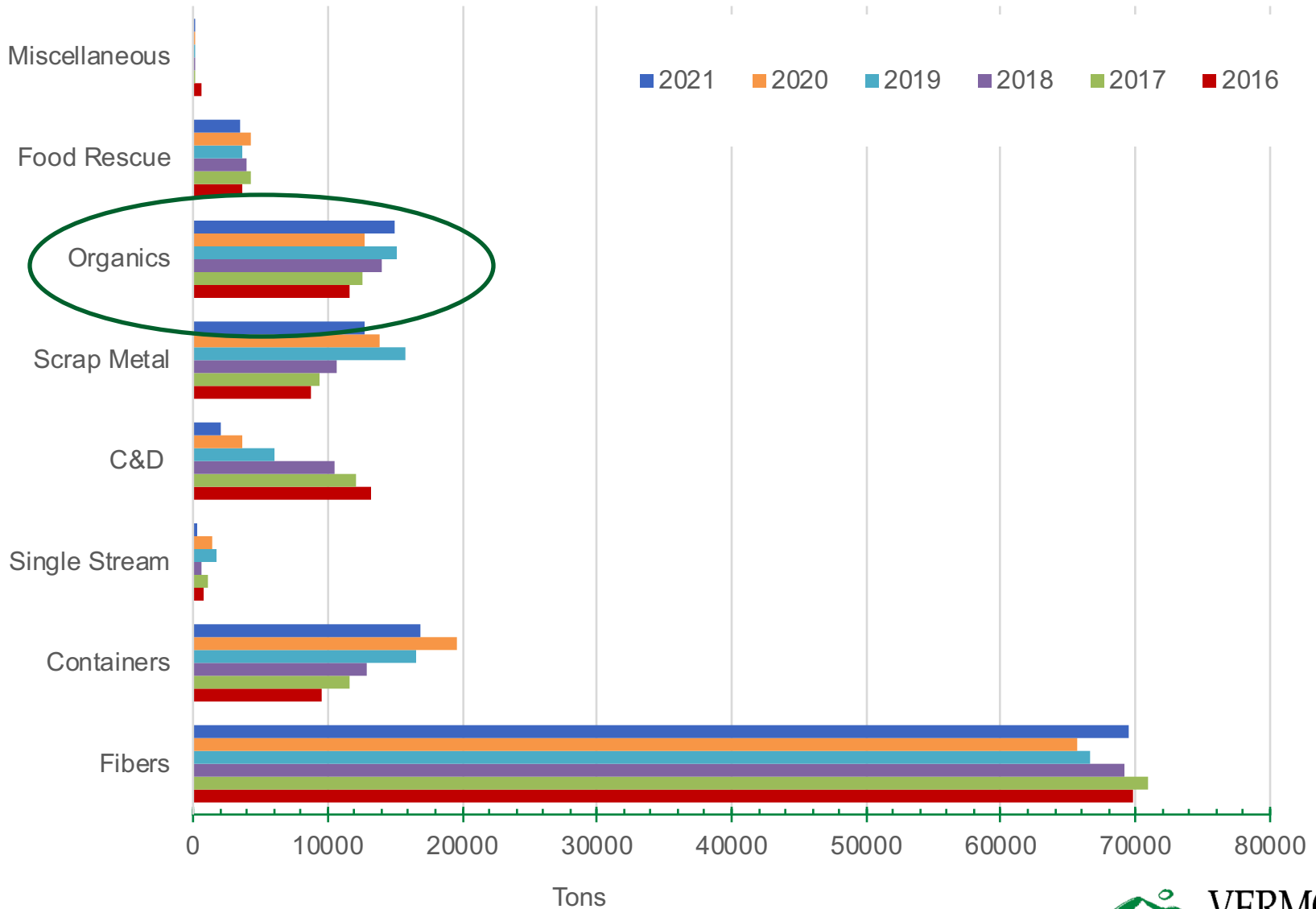
Data  
(not all facilities)

Backyard Compost

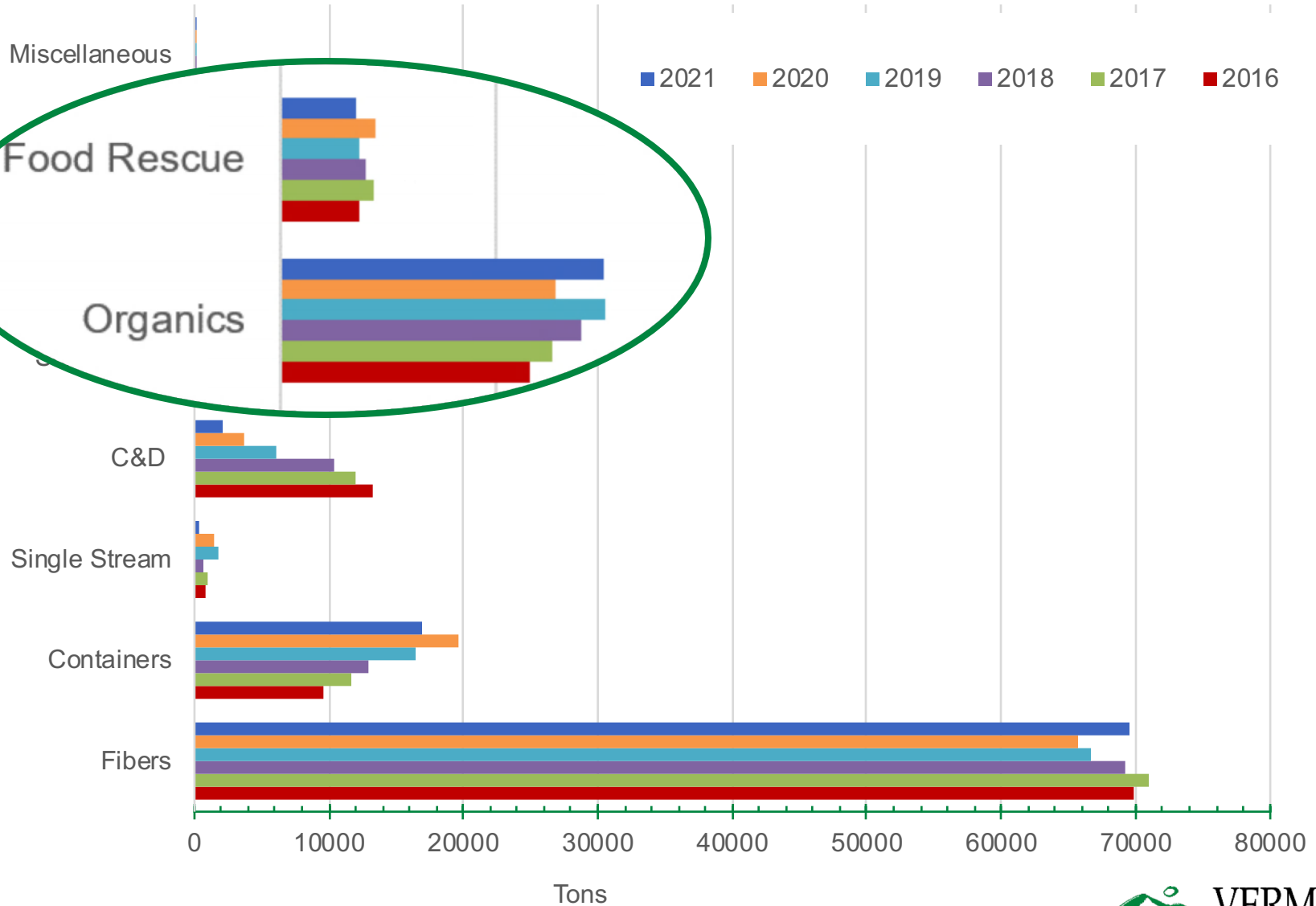


Estimate

# Diversion (our best estimates)



# Diversion (our best estimates)





## Data:

Regulated  
Compost  
Facilities



Regulated  
Drop-offs



Estimate:  
Backyard  
Compost



## Data:

Regulated  
Compost  
Facilities



Regulated  
Drop-offs



Estimate:  
Backyard  
Compost

## Not Measured:



On-farm  
Composting

Animal  
Feeding



Other on-  
site  
Composting



Some Anaerobic  
Digestion



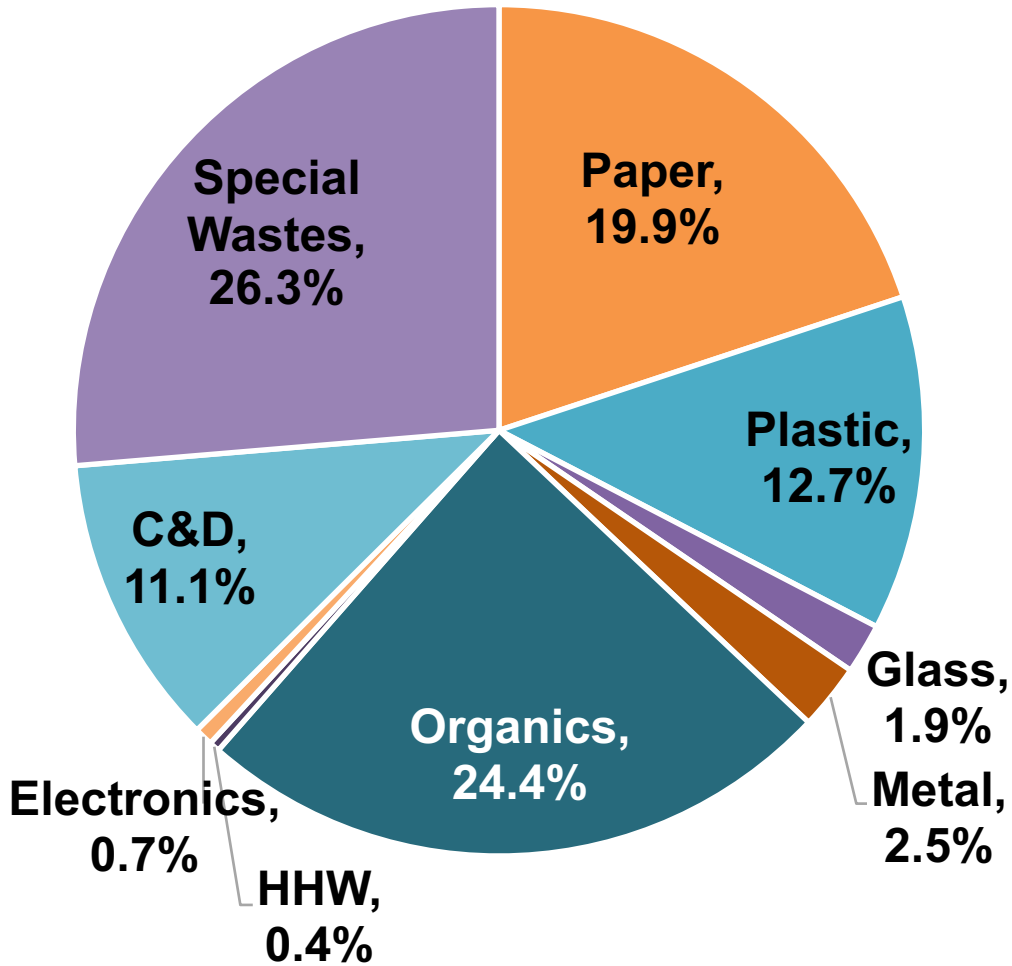
# How much wasted food is in our trash?



# 2023 Waste Composition Study: Happening this Year!



# 2018 Data:



~20% of trash is food and food scraps (~77,000 tons/year)

Composting this would reduce emissions equal to taking over 9,500 vehicles off the road each year



# Challenges

# Bird seed, trash, food scraps, and bears, oh my!



# Contamination



# Depackager and Microplastics



# Successes

# Bird Seed, Trash, Food Scraps, and Bears, Oh My!





# Depackager and Microplastics

- **Act 170 – An Act Relating the Regulation of Depackaging Facilities**
- Moratorium on new depackaging facility certifications in Vermont until DEC adopts rules.
- Stakeholder’s group report complete on recommendations:
  - Hierarchy, Source Separation, Proper use of depackagers
- Study Microplastics & PFAS in food waste via EPA P2 Grant

# Compost Operator Training

## 10 courses since 2011



# Compost Technical Assistance

## ~45 facilities since 2012

- Compost facilities
- Farms
- Schools
- Transfer stations



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# Grants: > 1.5 million Awarded

2019

5 Projects



2021

11 Projects



2023

2 Projects



LET'S  
**SCRAP**  
FOOD  
WASTE

**2020**



# 2021

USE YOUR  
**LEFTOVERS.**  
SCRAP FOOD WASTE.



**SHOP SMART.**  
SCRAP FOOD WASTE.



LOVE  
**LEFTOVERS.**  
SCRAP FOOD WASTE!



**SAVE SIMPLY.**  
SCRAP FOOD WASTE.



PLASTIC THAT  
GOES INTO THE  
**COMPOST**  
GOES INTO  
**VERMONT.**



Remove all plastic  
when you compost.

[LEARN MORE »](#)

LET'S  
**SCRAP**  
FOOD  
WASTE

**COMPOSTING**  
IS GIVING BACK TO  
THE SOIL.



Keep plastic out of  
your compost.

[LEARN MORE »](#)

LET'S  
**SCRAP**  
FOOD  
WASTE

PLASTIC DOESN'T  
BELONG IN OUR  
**COMPOST.**  
PLASTIC DOESN'T  
BELONG IN OUR  
**SOIL.**



Remove all plastic  
when you compost.

[LEARN MORE »](#)

LET'S  
**SCRAP**  
FOOD  
WASTE

**CLEAN FOOD SCRAPS.**



**CLEAN COMPOST.**



# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scrap Food Waste Challenge

- >85 participants
- Food waste reduction = climate solution
- Understanding and measuring wasted food
- Strategic shopping
- Savvy storage
- Careful cooking
- Eating with intent





# Community - Collective Action - Commitment - Creativity





# Questions?

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