



State of the State 2022

VORS 16th year!

Josh Kelly,
Solid Waste Program Manager
May 2, 2022



Freedom and Unity

not only the State motto, but also my theme for
the VORs State of the state this year.

9 States
now have
varying
Food
Waste
Bans:

California

Connecticut

Massachusetts

Maryland

New York

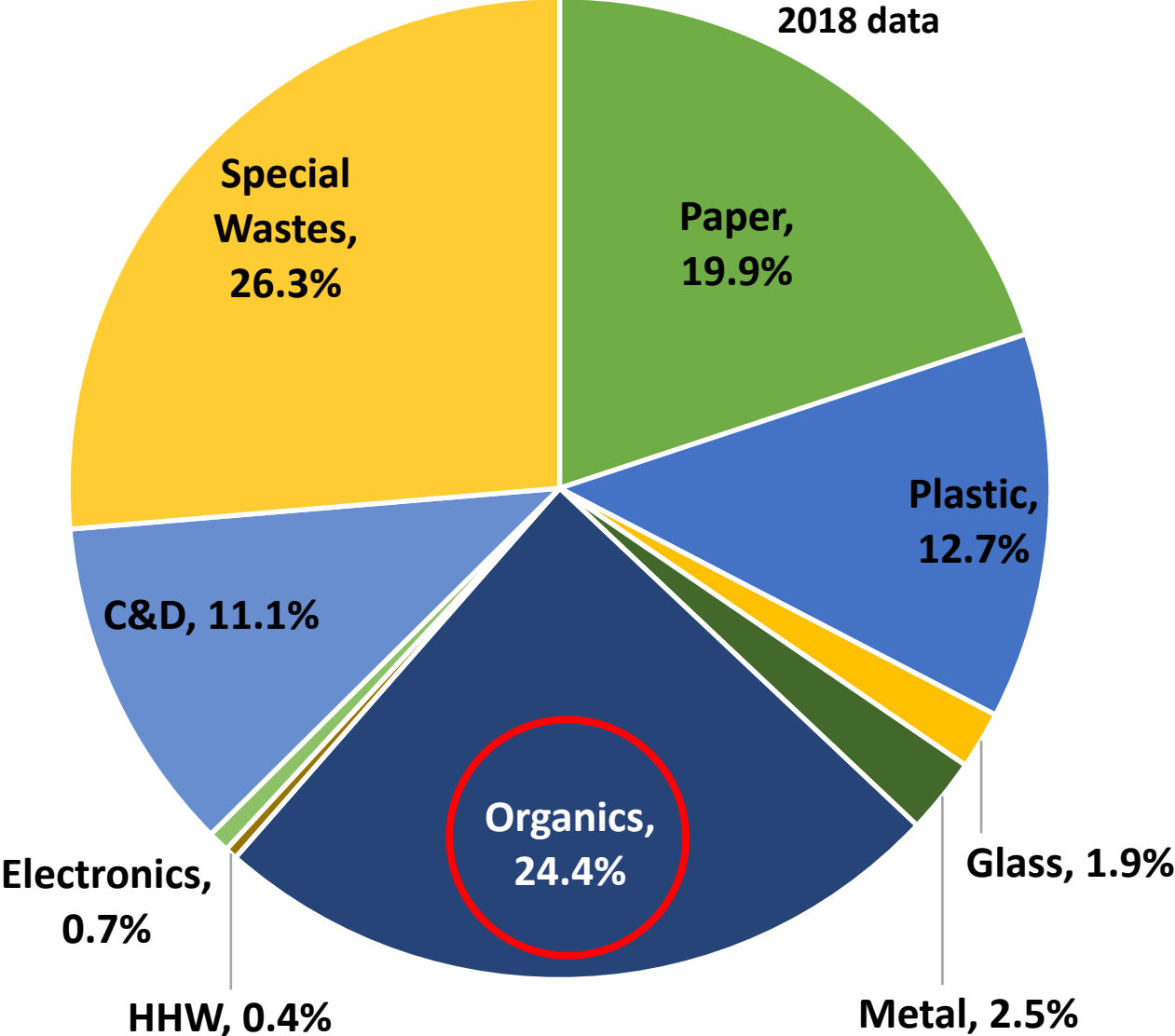
New Jersey

Rhode Island

Vermont

Washington

2018 Waste Composition Study



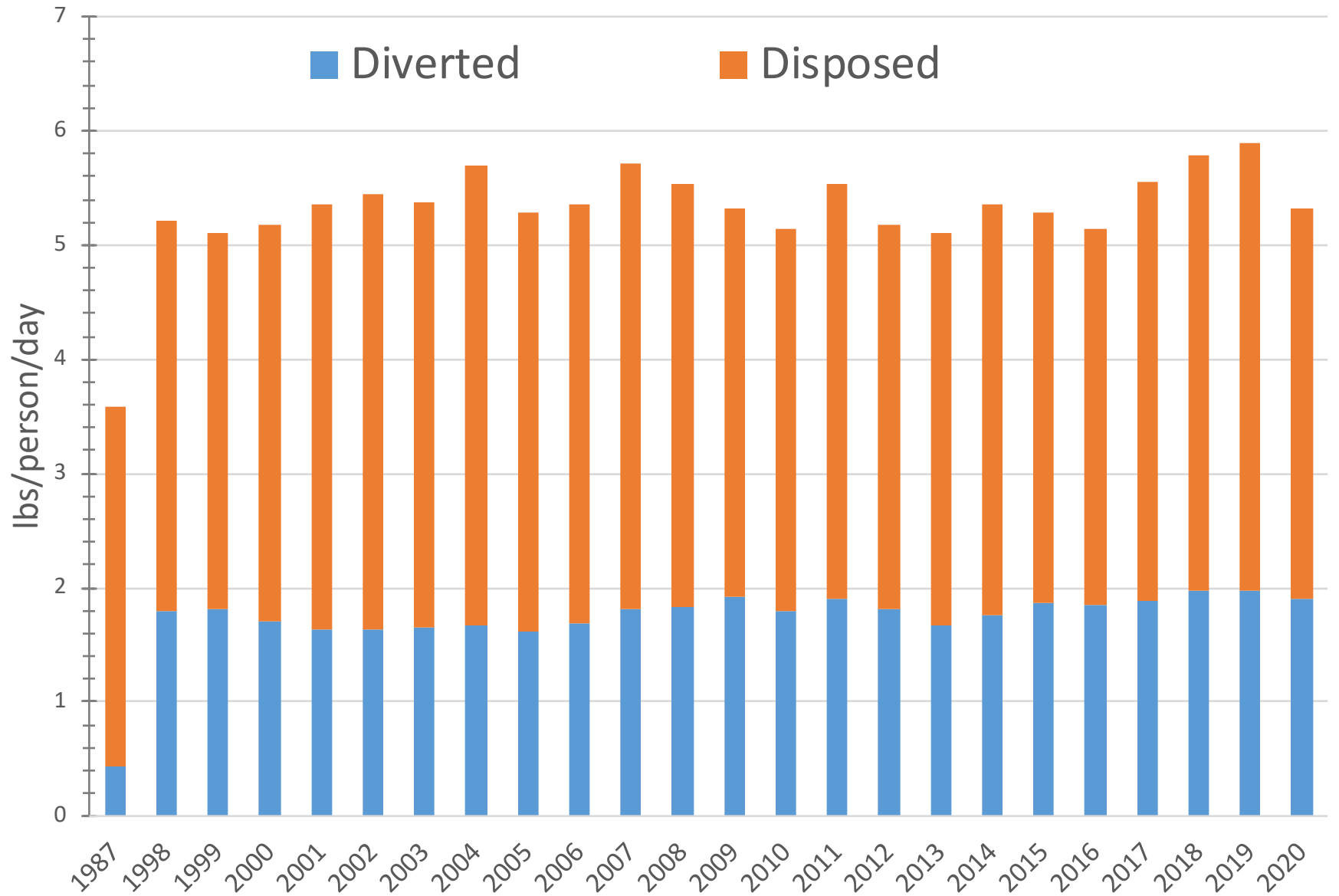
An estimated 20% of trash is food and food scraps (~77,000 tons/year).

Roughly half is residential.

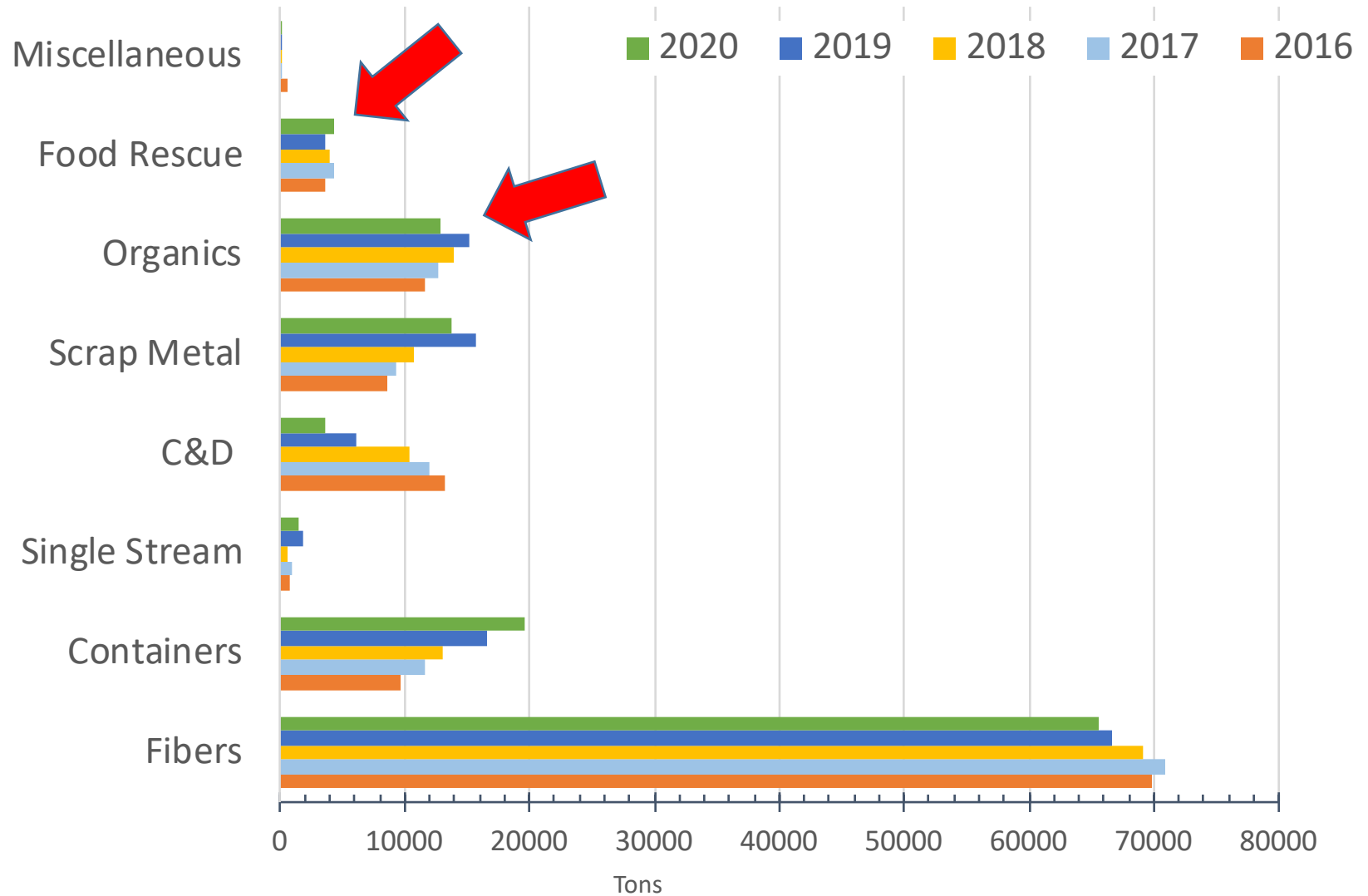
Composting this would reduce emissions equal to taking over 9,500 vehicles off the road each year.

Next Waste Comp. in 2023

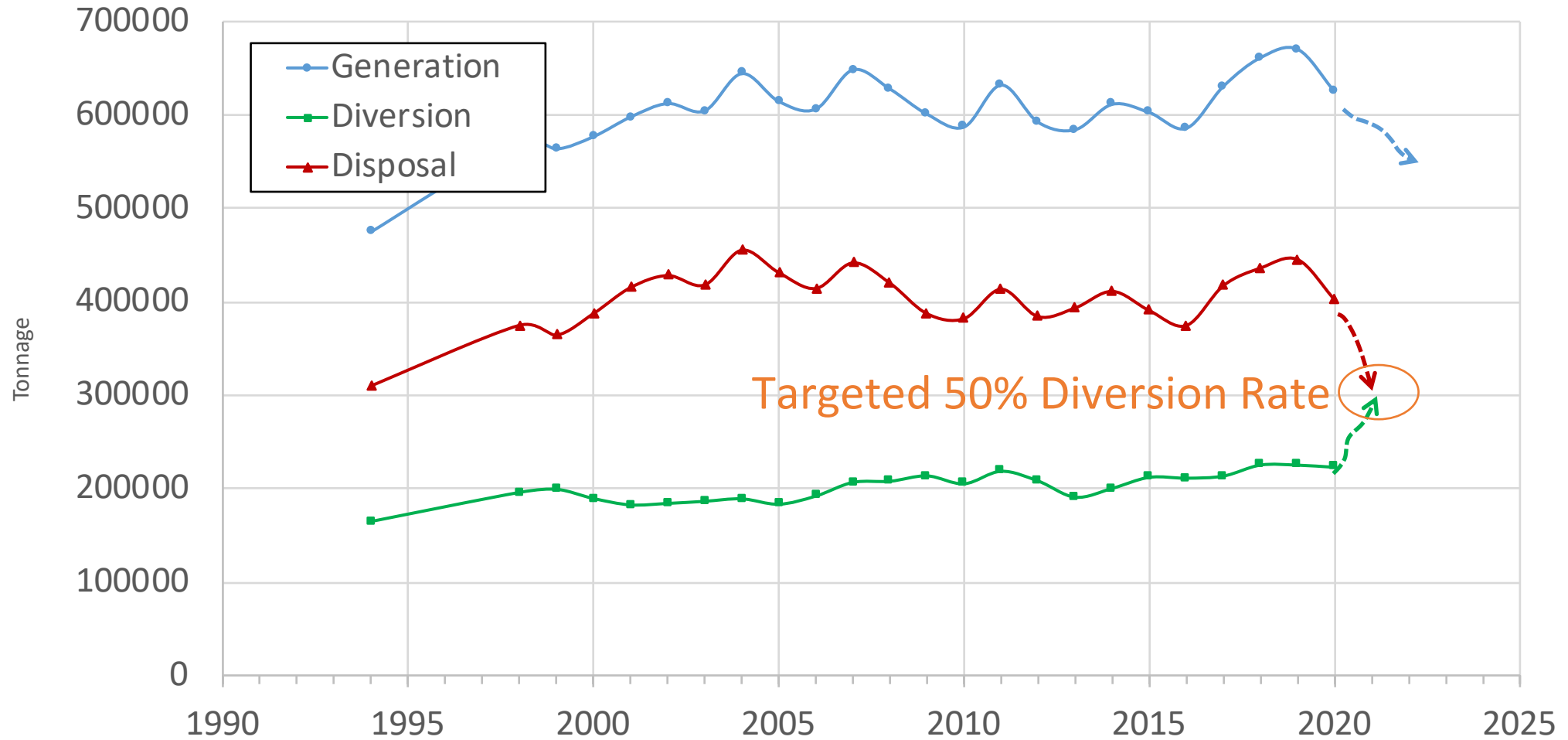
VT Annual Diversion & Disposal Data

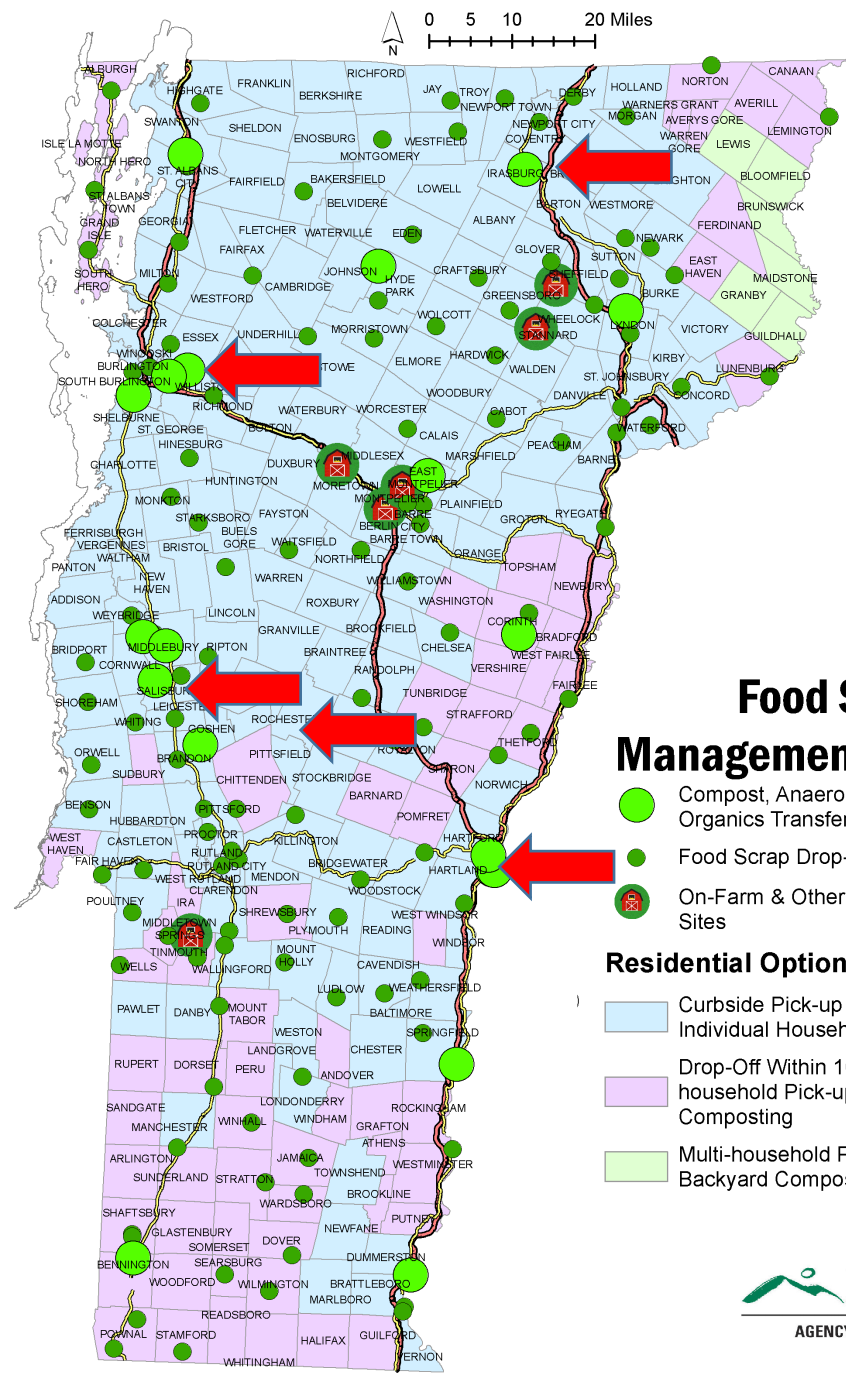


VT Annual Diversion Data



Vermont State Diversion Goal





Food Scrap Management in Vermont

- Compost, Anaerobic Digestion, or Organics Transfer Facility
- Food Scrap Drop-Off
- On-Farm & Other Composting Sites

- #### Residential Options
- Curbside Pick-up Available for Individual Households
 - Drop-Off Within 10 Miles, Multi-household Pick-up, or Backyard Composting
 - Multi-household Pick-up or Backyard Composting



Since 2012 food scrap haulers have nearly tripled (~12 to ~44)

Several new facilities have opened in '20/'21 and many facilities with upgrades.

This map is based on how haulers advertise their services and local understandings of where service is currently available. ANR does not guarantee the accuracy of this map. Some residents may find that different options exist in their town. Some haulers may have expanded beyond the blue towns.

DEC Solid Waste Rules

- Composting 42 cubic yards/year of food scraps or less is exempt.
 - (2 cubic yards food scraps = ~1 ton)
- Employees can add food scraps to employer's food scrap bins if the employer allows it.
- Food Scrap Drop Offs – Require onetime registration and annual reporting.
- Note: AAFM Thursday afternoon on-farm composting presentation.

H.501 – An Act Relating the Regulation of Depackaging Facilities

- Moratorium on new depackaging facility certifications in Vermont
- ANR shall convene stakeholders to make recommendations
 - Hierarchy, Source Separation, Proper use of depackagers
- Study Microplastics & PFAS in food waste
- ANR shall adopt rules for depackaging facility operation in Vermont

Compost & Emerging Contaminants

- Pathogens & Heavy Metals
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Persistent Herbicides
- PFAS & Microplastics – Potential impacts to compost and digestate

EPA Reports and UVM Study

- EPA - “Much remains unknown about the fate of PFAS and plastics during composting and anaerobic digestion and when applied to land in compost and digestate, making it challenging to evaluate risks to human health and the environment.” (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/emerging-issues-in-food-waste-persistent-chemicals-and-plastic-contamination.pdf>)
- UVM – “It is critical for legislation to bolster monitoring and research on microplastics to enable design of data-driven, risk-based regulatory standards that protect Vermont soils and enhance the sustainability of organics recycling.” (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Natural/Bills/H.501/Witness%20Documents/H.501~Eric%20Roy~Policy%20Brief%20-%20Microplastics%20in%20Composts,%20Digestates%20and%20Food%20Wastes~2-9-2022.pdf>)

Media
Campaign
Planning
begun for
reducing
compost/
digestate
contaminants



**Eat what you buy. Compost the scraps.
Click to learn more.**



Thank you

- For doing this work, even when it's hard
- For doing this work, even when it's messy
- For doing this work, even when it feels like it doesn't matter.
- It matters.



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