

# Planning Our Solid Waste Management

**Community Presentation**

**March 5, 2026**

**6:00 p.m.**



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND

# Where We Are Now



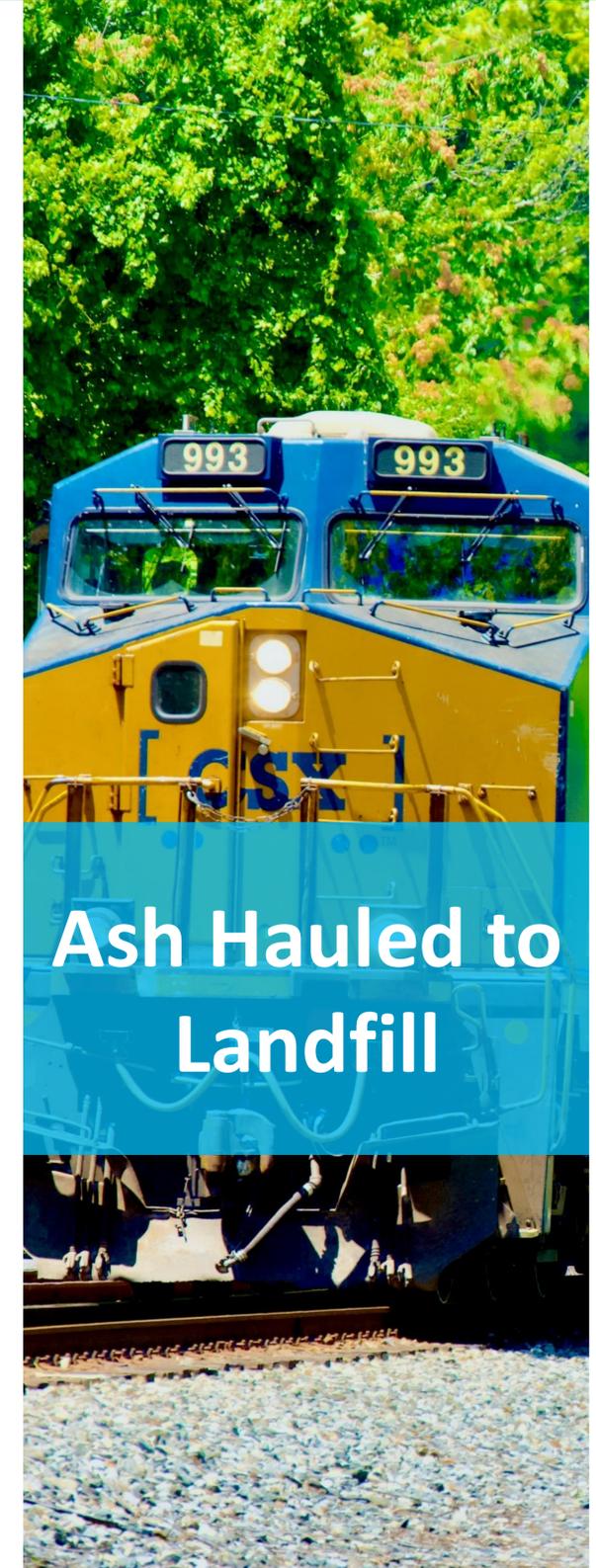
**Recyclables  
Separated**



**Waste Is  
Collected**



**Waste Is  
Incinerated**



**Ash Hauled to  
Landfill**

# What Is Aiming for Zero Waste?

## Waste Reduction

### Waste Reduction

- Reduce wasted food
- Bring-your-own bag law
- Mending labs and repair clinics
- Home composting

## Reuse and Repair

### Reuse Programs

- Building material reuse
- Medical equipment reuse
- Edible food donation

## Recycle and Compost

### Recycling Programs

- Food scraps and yard trim composting
- Construction and demolition material recycling
- Mandatory recycling for all sectors
- Recycling volunteer program
- Recycling outreach and education
- Single-family curbside recycling collection
- Multi-family and commercial recycling programs
- Plastic bag/film recycling

**Advanced Waste Processing** recovers additional recyclables that were left in the trash

## Advanced Waste Processing

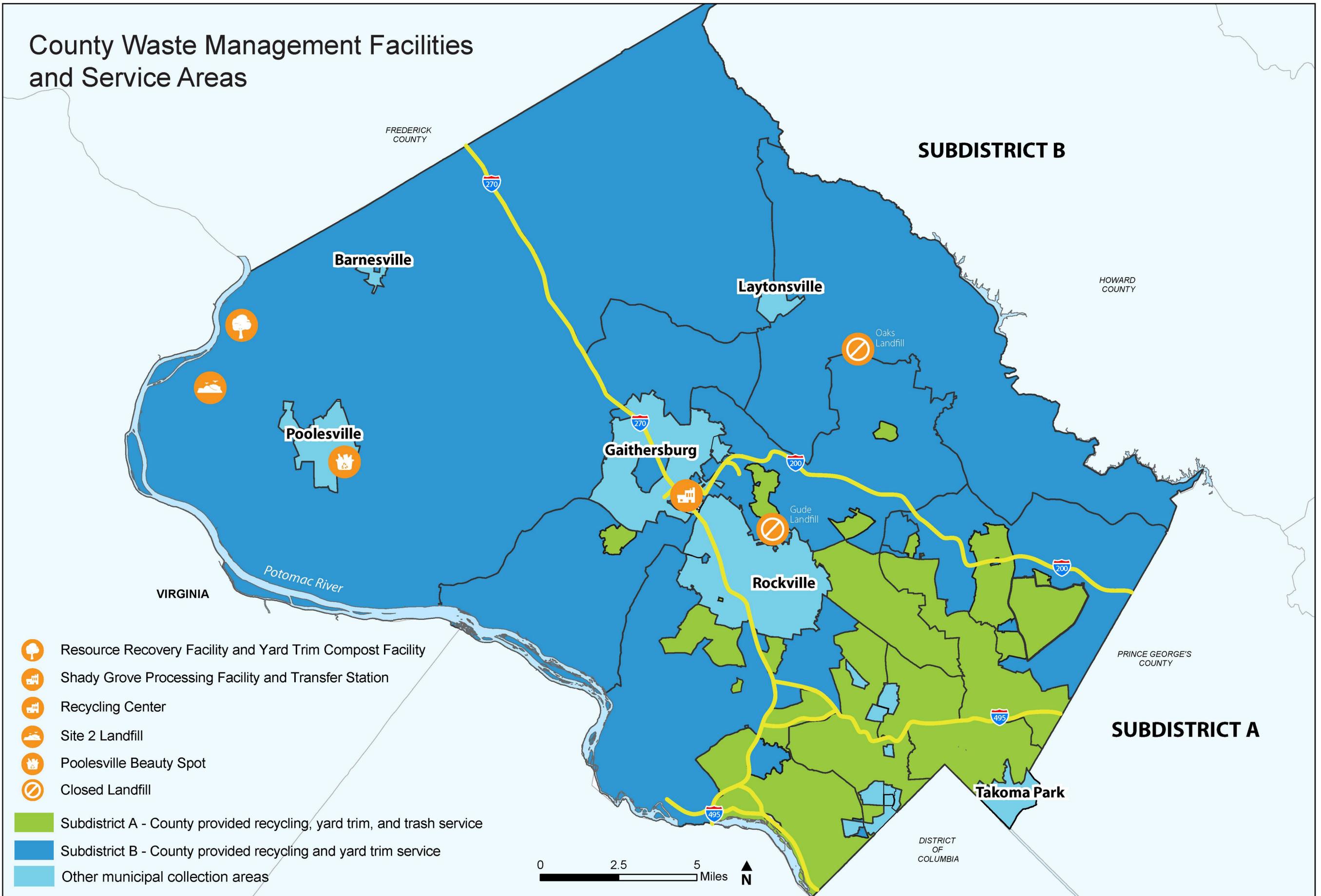
**Responsible disposal of the rest**

# Our Recycling Progress

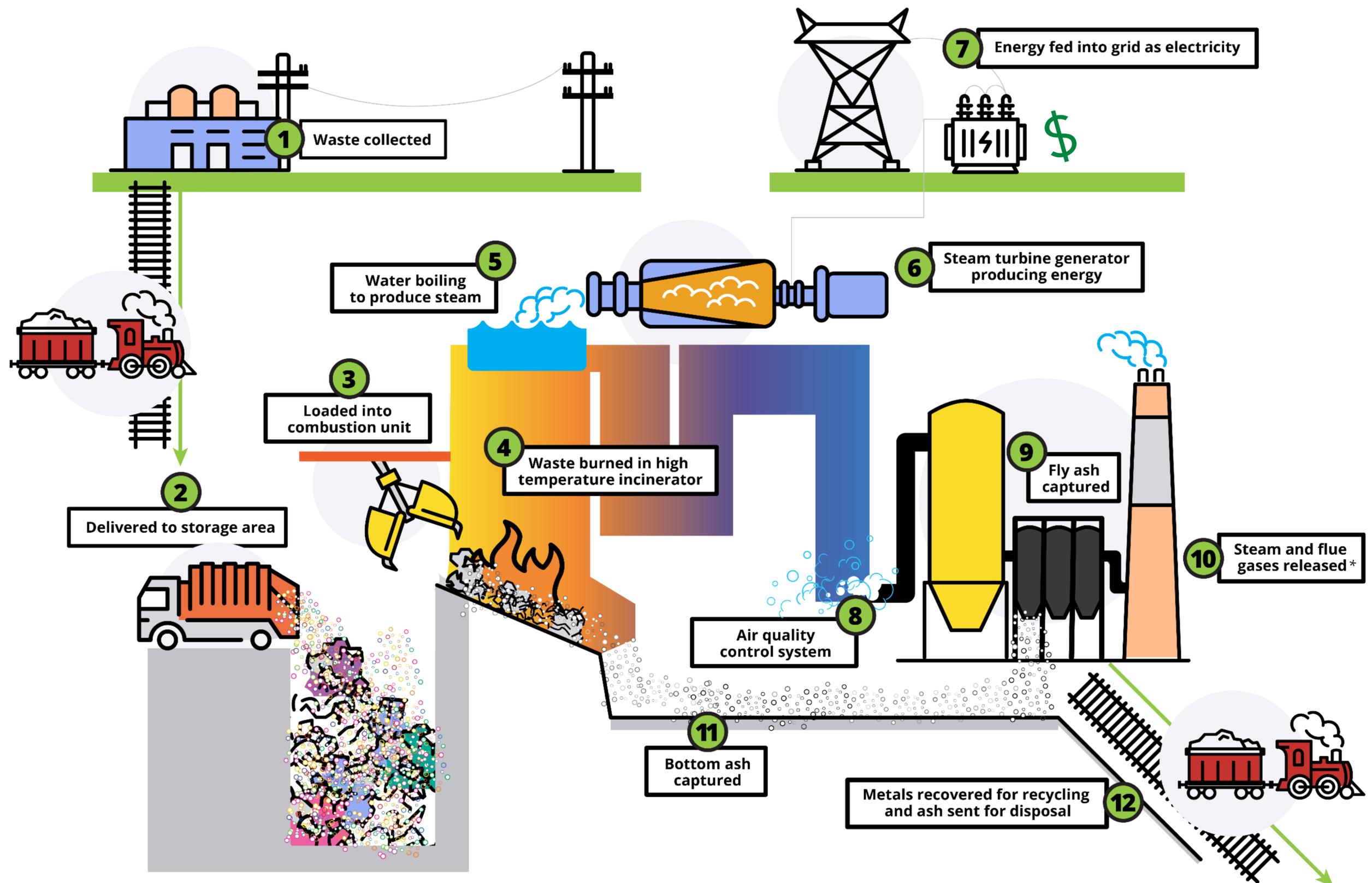
Material	Current County Recycling Rate	National Average
Glass	58%	25%
Paper/ Cardboard	58%	68%
Plastic	10%	9%
Metal	64%	34%
Food scraps	18%	4%
Yard Trim	87%	63%
All materials	40%	32%

# County Materials Management System

## County Waste Management Facilities and Service Areas



# What Is the Incineration Process?



\*Air pollutant emissions must remain below permitted levels for facility compliance with Maryland Department of the Environment permit

# **Poll: Which of the following matters most to you, when it comes to solid waste management?**

**Reliable Operations**

**Affordability**

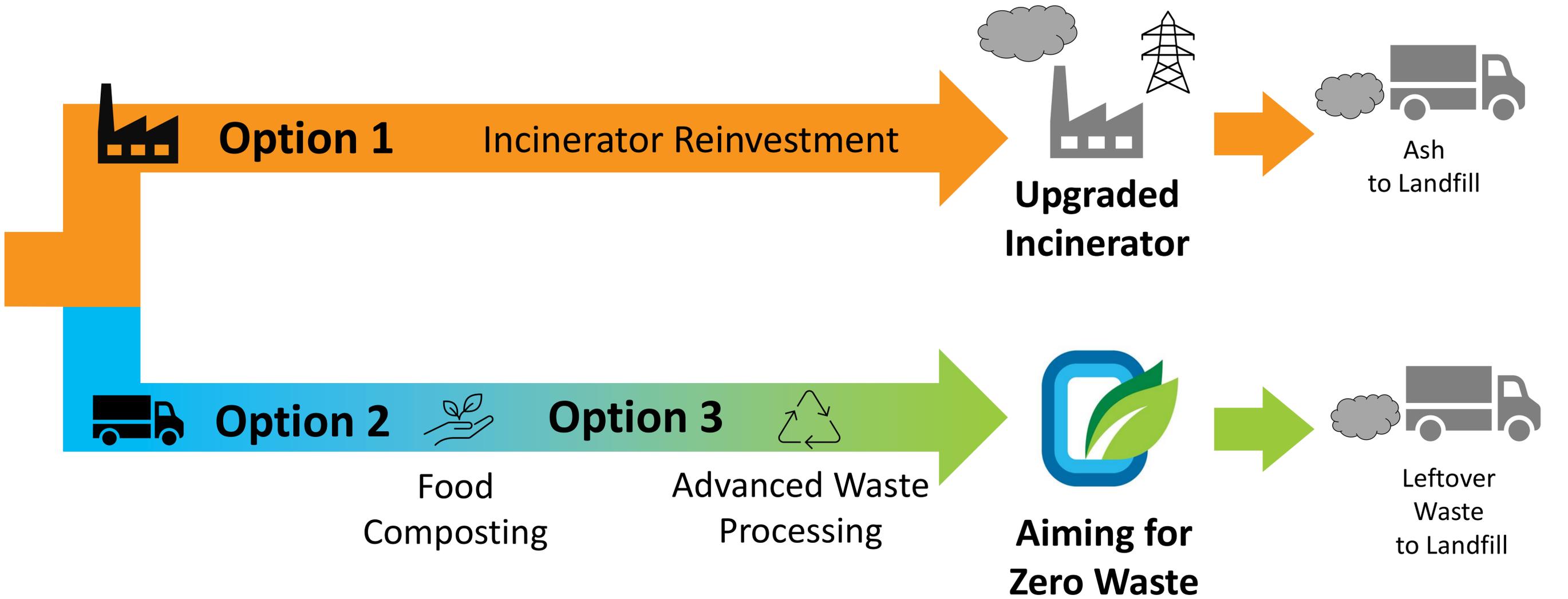
**Environmental  
Justice**

**Environmental  
Protection**

**Maximum Waste  
Diversion**

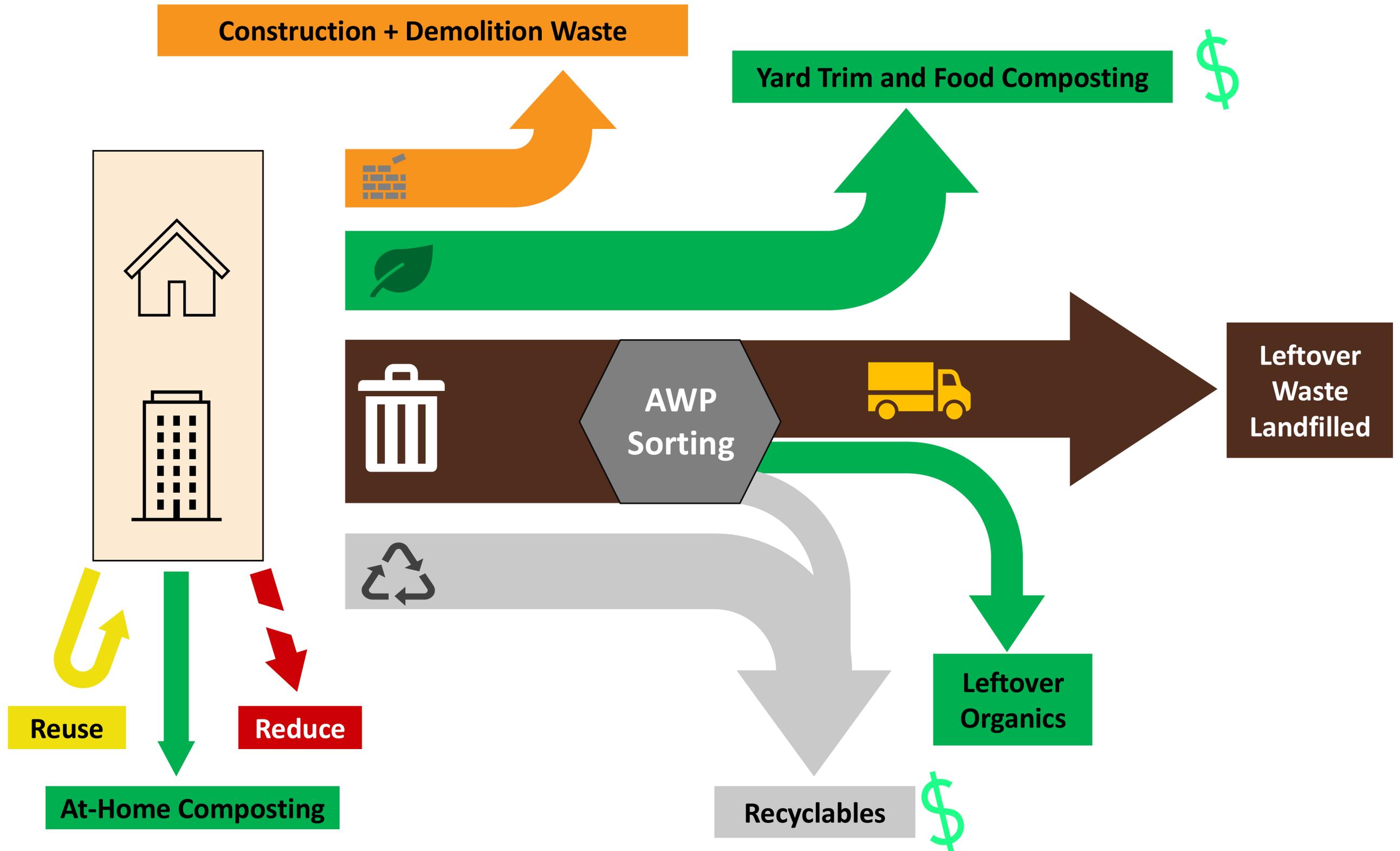
# Options for Managing Waste in the Future

<b>Option 1</b> Incinerator + ash to landfill	<b>Option 2</b> Food composting + long-haul	<b>Option 3</b> Food composting + AWP + long-haul
--	--	--



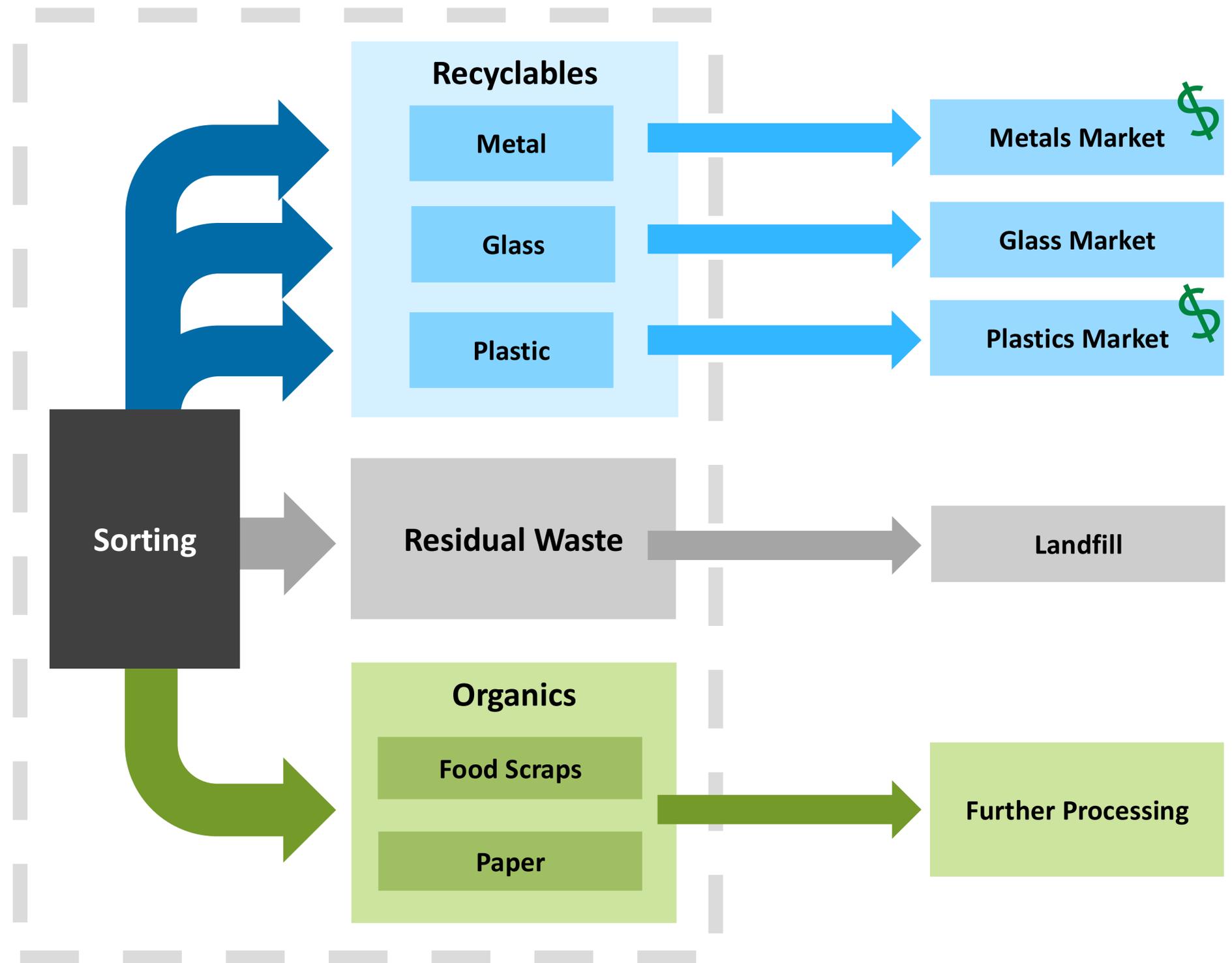
Due to a County agreement with the Sugarloaf Citizens Association, food scrap composting at the yard trim facility is only available if the incinerator closes.

# Option 3: Food Composting + AWP + Leftover to Landfill



# What Is Advanced Waste Processing?

How we can capture valuable resources from your trash to minimize what's landfilled.



# Poll: How Supportive Are You of Investing in Advanced Waste Processing?

Do not support

Might support with more information

Not sure

Likely to support

Definitely support

# How Will Your Bill Change?

## Annual Solid Waste Charge for Single-Family Home

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32
<b>Option 1:</b> Incinerator + ash to landfill	\$388	\$410	\$411	\$415	\$430	\$440	\$512
<b>Option 2:</b> Food composting + long-haul leftover waste to landfill	—	\$402	\$432	\$451	\$464	\$473	\$508
<b>Option 3:</b> Food composting + AWP* + long-haul leftover waste to landfill	—	\$402	\$432	\$469	\$483	\$492	\$526

**\$1 Monthly  
Difference!**

**By FY32, average monthly cost between Option 1 and Option 3 is about \$1 different:**

- Option 1: \$43
- Option 3: \$44

Note an apartment or multi-family dwelling would be less than the average and businesses would be more.

# Annual Solid Waste Charge - Multi-Family

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32
<b>Option 1:</b> Incinerator + ash to landfill	\$30	\$38	\$38	\$34	\$36	\$40	\$60
<b>Option 2:</b> Food composting + long-haul leftover waste to landfill	--	\$34	\$48	\$51	\$52	\$56	\$59
<b>Option 3:</b> Food composting + AWP* + long-haul leftover waste to landfill	--	\$34	\$48	\$61	\$61	\$64	\$67

# Annual Solid Waste Charge - Non-Residential

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32
<b>Option 1:</b> Incinerator + ash to landfill	\$1,090	\$1,315	\$1,338	\$1,079	\$1,115	\$1,163	\$1,592
<b>Option 2:</b> Food composting + long-haul leftover waste to landfill	—	\$1,223	\$1,567	\$1,474	\$1,497	\$1,531	\$1,550
<b>Option 3:</b> Food composting + AWP* + long-haul leftover waste to landfill	—	\$1,223	\$1,567	\$1,672	\$1,696	\$1,731	\$1,750

\* Non-residential rate shown is for the “medium” generator category and is charged per 2,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area

# Keeping Items Out of Landfill

Currently, more than 365,000 tons of waste are kept out of the landfill through recycling programs.

We can increase the amount by almost 180,000 tons with Option 3.

Projected Waste Recycling in FY32	
<b>Option 1:</b> Incinerator + long-haul ash to landfill	365,000 tons
<b>Option 2:</b> Food composting + long-haul leftover waste to landfill	405,600 tons
<b>Option 3:</b> Food composting + AWP* + long-haul leftover waste to landfill	543,571 tons

\*Assumes a 30% diversion rate for waste processed through Advanced Waste Processing.



# Benefits of Food Composting in Option 3



**Option 3** is estimated to have fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to the current process of **Option 1**.



It's an impact similar to not burning over 230,000 tons of coal

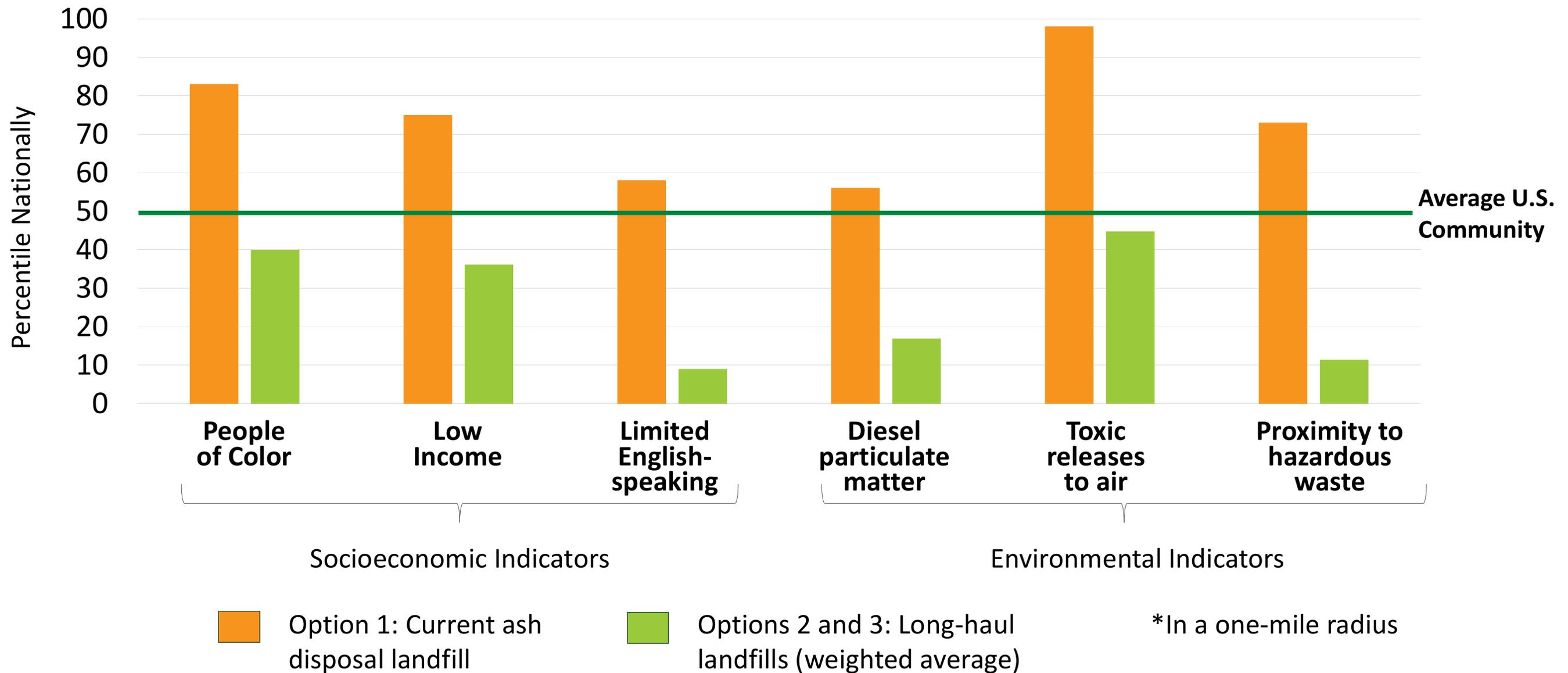
**Keeping food scraps and other organics out of landfills**



**Lower greenhouse gas emissions**

# Environmental Justice Impacts

## Comparison of Communities Surrounding Landfills\* vs. Average U.S. Communities



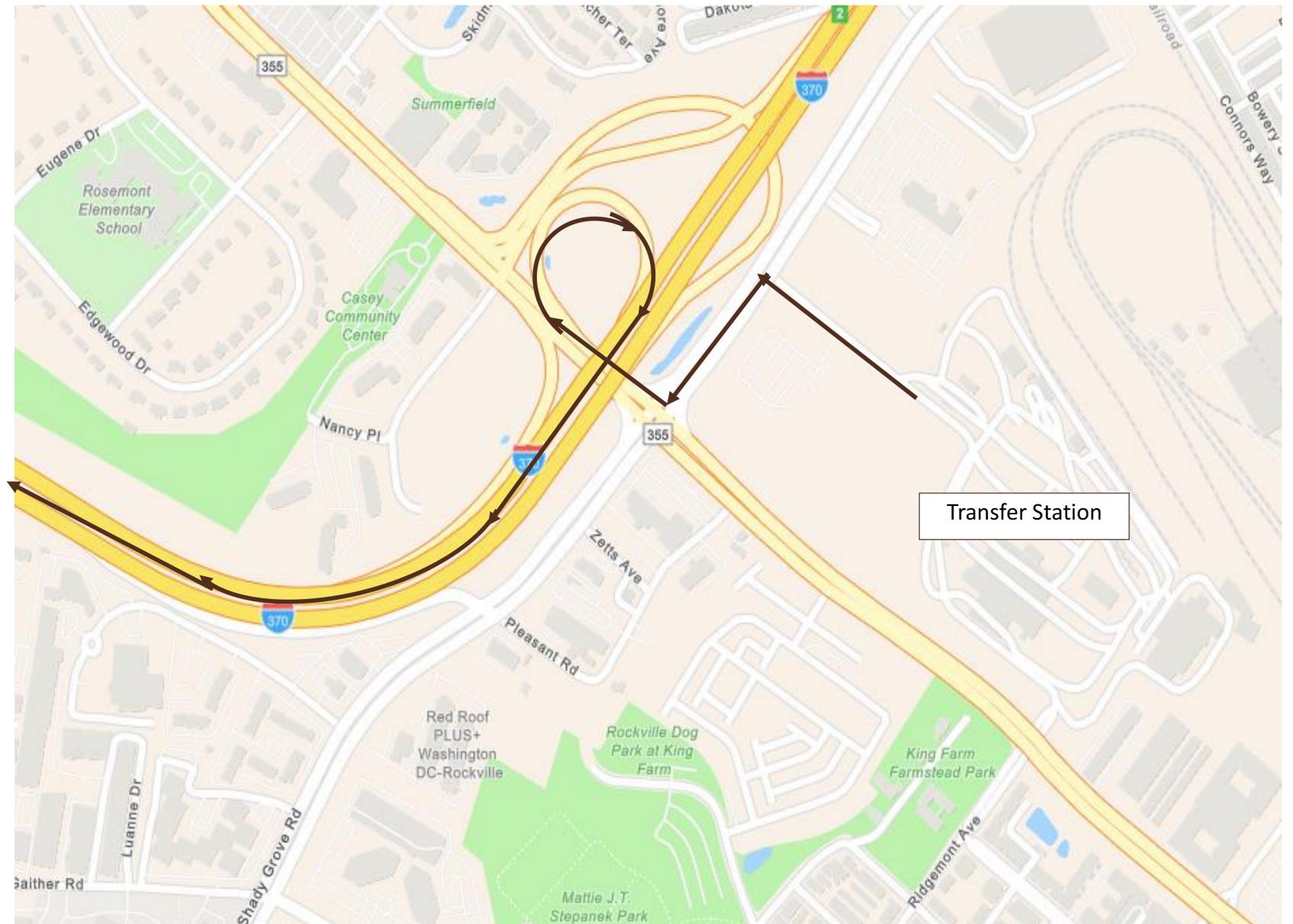
**Environmental Justice (EJ)** is defined under Maryland state law as “equal protection from environmental and public health hazards for all people regardless of race, income, culture, and social status.”

# Traffic and Route Information

In the **long-haul to landfill options (2 and 3)**, trucks will pick up pre-loaded trailers of trash for transport to a landfill.

The loaded trucks will exit the Transfer Station to Shady Grove Road, access I-370 and, then I-270 North or South to exit the County.

Long-hauling trash to a landfill would require approximately 80 additional loads per day. Traffic would be roughly evenly distributed between 3:00 AM and 3:00 PM.



The County plans to phase out acceptance of large loads of construction materials at the Transfer Station, which will offset approximately half the additional loads from long-hauling trash.

# **Poll: Which option do you like best for managing our waste, based on what you heard today?**

**Option 1: Continue to operate the incinerator + long-haul ash to landfill**

**Option 2: Close the incinerator + food composting + long-haul leftover waste to landfill**

**Option 3: Close the incinerator + food composting + build an Advanced Waste Processing Facility (AWP) + long-haul leftover waste to landfill**

# Why Must We Act Now



**Incinerator Reliability  
Is Declining**

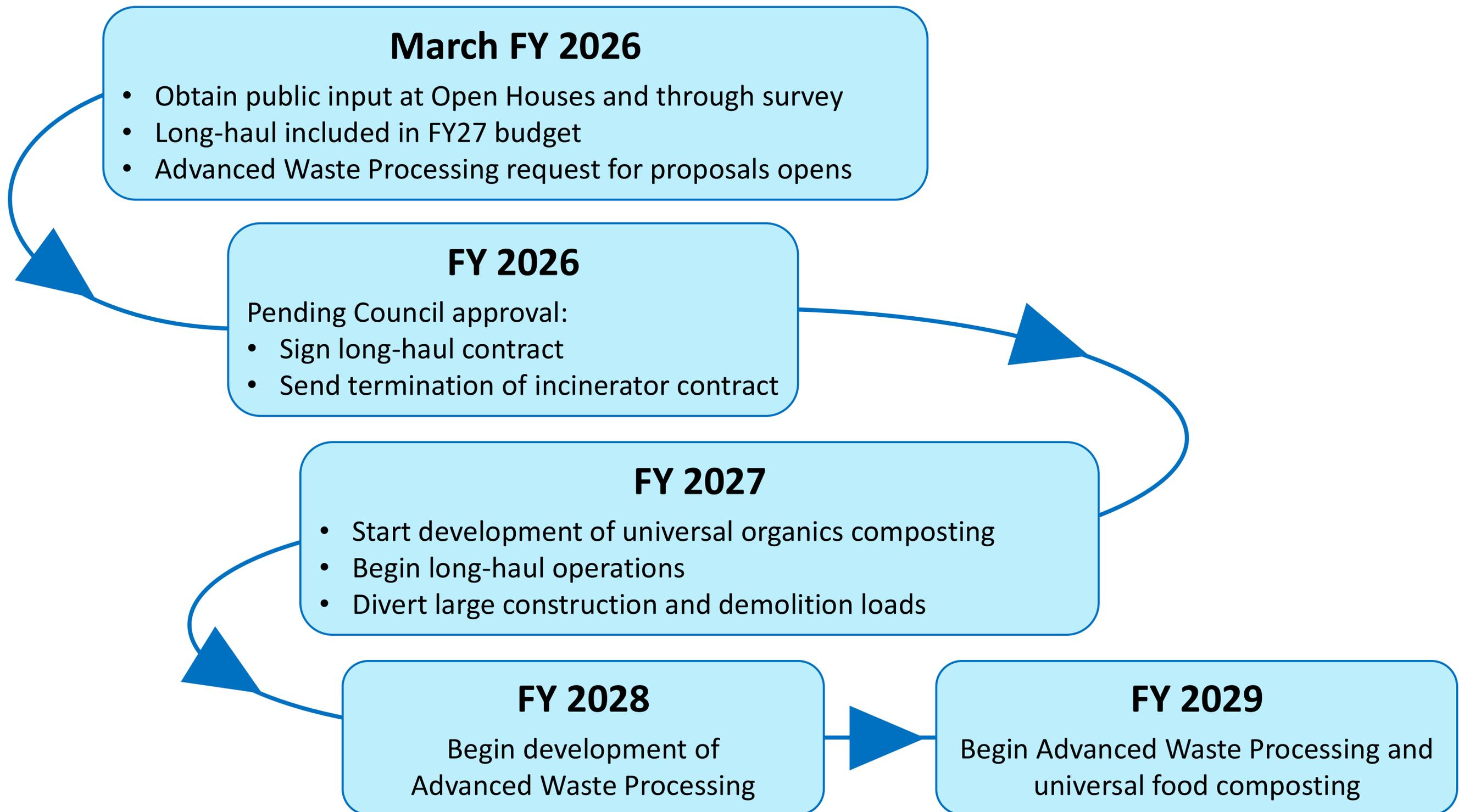


**Incinerator Contract Is  
Expiring**



**The Trash Keeps Coming!**

# Where Do We Go from Here?



# Poll: What is the best way to reach you?



**Email**



**Regular Mail**



**Social Media**



**Meetings**

# For More Information

## Contact Us

**Email:** [ZeroWasteInfo@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ZeroWasteInfo@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**Learn More At:**

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep)

**Take Our Survey**

