



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



# Aiming for Zero Waste

Presented by:

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# Managing MSW (Municipal solid waste)

- MSW is managed by local government
- Federal and State governments are generally not involved
- Each local government designs the system that works best for their community
  - Laws and regulations
  - Collection
  - Disposal

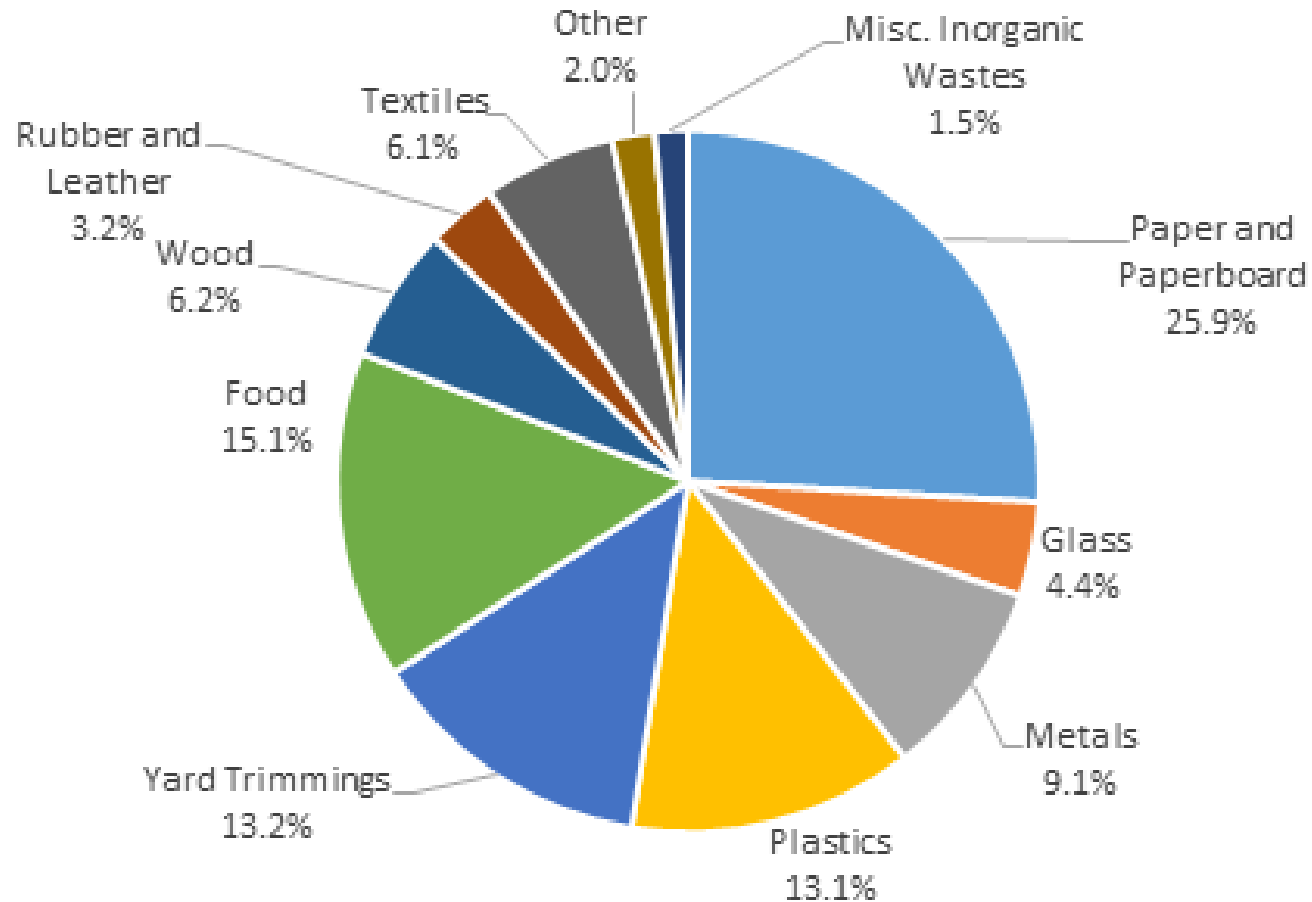


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Total MSW Generated by Material, 2015  
(262.43 million tons)



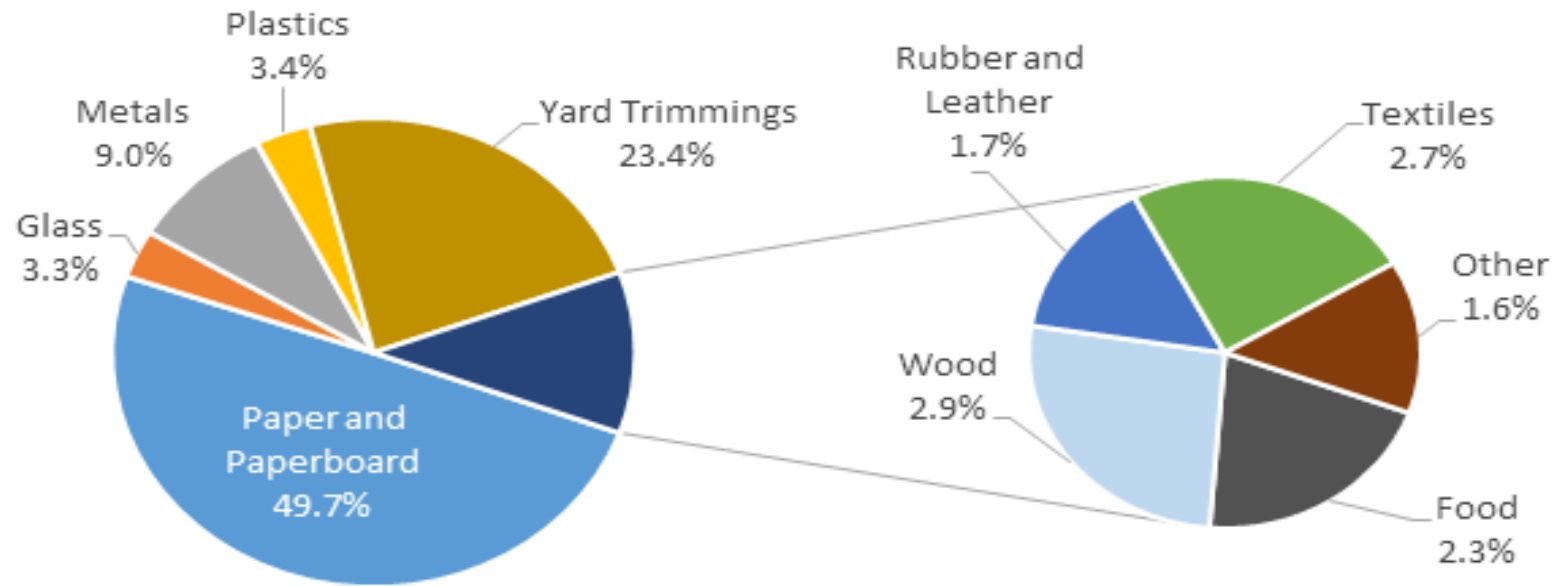


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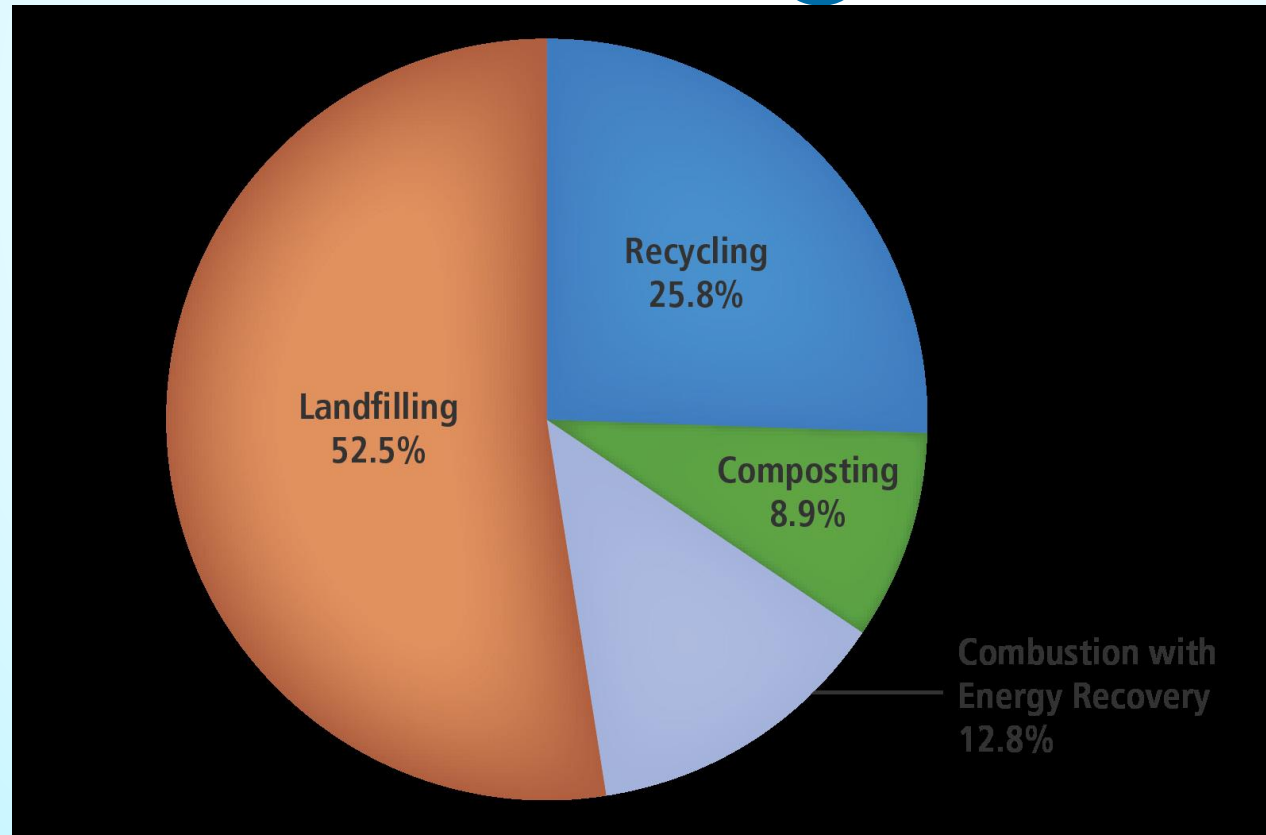


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### Total MSW Recycling and Composting by Material, 2015 (91.16 million tons)



# Where does it all go?





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# Managing MSW

- Montgomery County generated 1.5 million tons of MSW in 2017.
- 700,000 tons of material was recycled
- 600,000 tons were disposed
- MoCo's MRA recycling rate is 55.1%





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# Managing MSW

- Local governments manage the MSW they receive; however, they have no control over where the material comes from



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# Managing MSW

- What can they do?
  - Restrictive Laws and Regulations
    - Disposal bans (tires, white goods, yard trim)
    - Material and Packaging bans (plastic bags, Styrofoam, straws)
    - Mandatory recycling (residential, commercial)
  - Outreach and education
  - Adopt a Zero Waste Plan





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# What is Zero Waste

- A comprehensive plan to simultaneously engage multiple stakeholders to re-think product design, manufacturing, packaging, transportation, and purchase of goods with focus on a sustainable end-of-life.
  - Federal and State Government
  - Global Manufacturers
  - Distributors and Retailers
  - Consumers
  - Solid Waste Professionals
- To think of these products as resources, not as waste.



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# What is Zero Waste

- Call to action that aims to bring to an end the current take, make and waste mentality
- Addresses the entire social system of how we make, consume, and dispose of our “stuff”.
- Reduces demand on extraction and use of virgin materials
- Principle to redesign the way resources and materials flow through society
- Holds producers responsible for their products and packaging “from cradle to grave”. Product Stewardship. Extended Producer Responsibility.

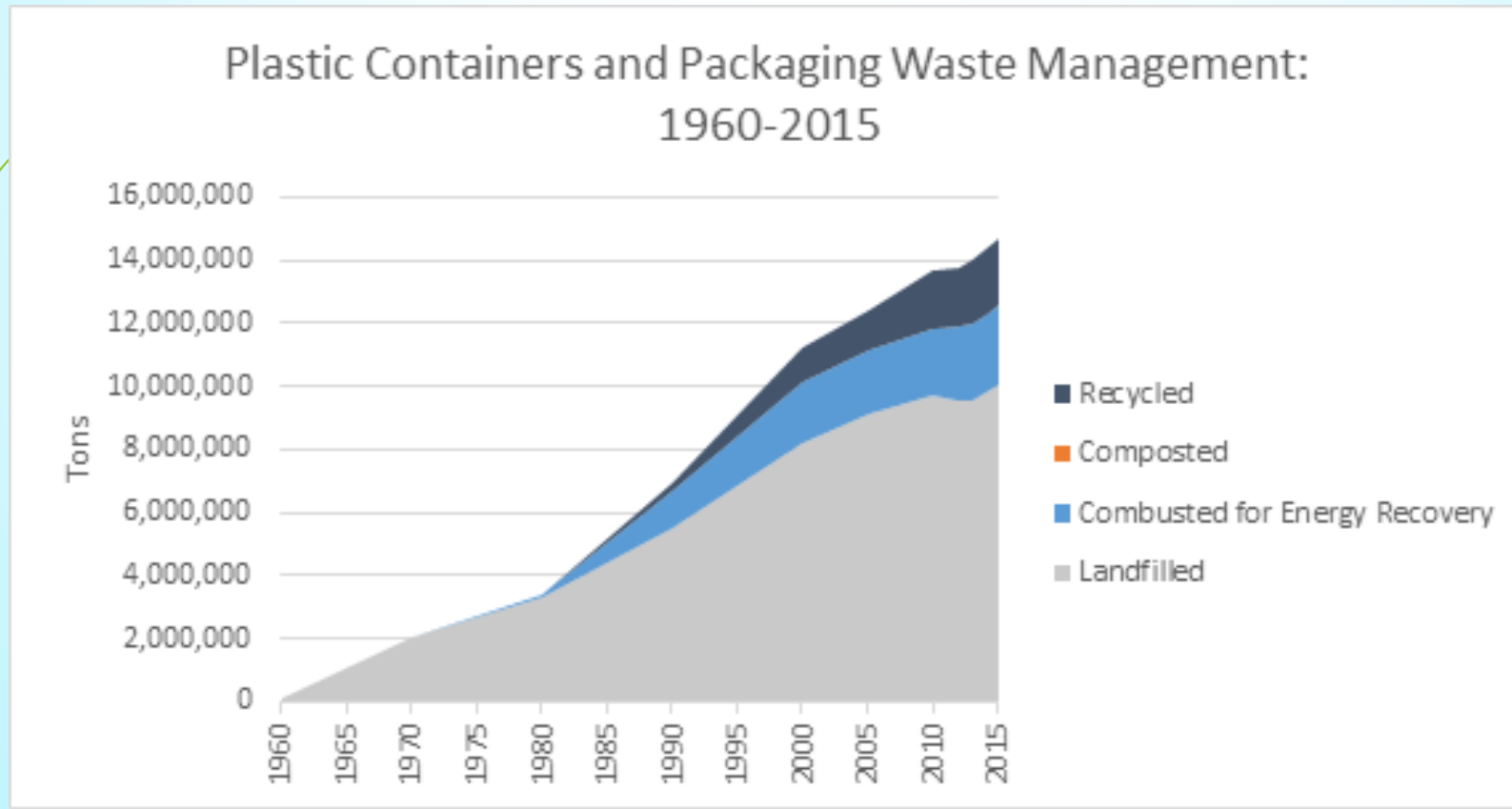


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## Managing MSW





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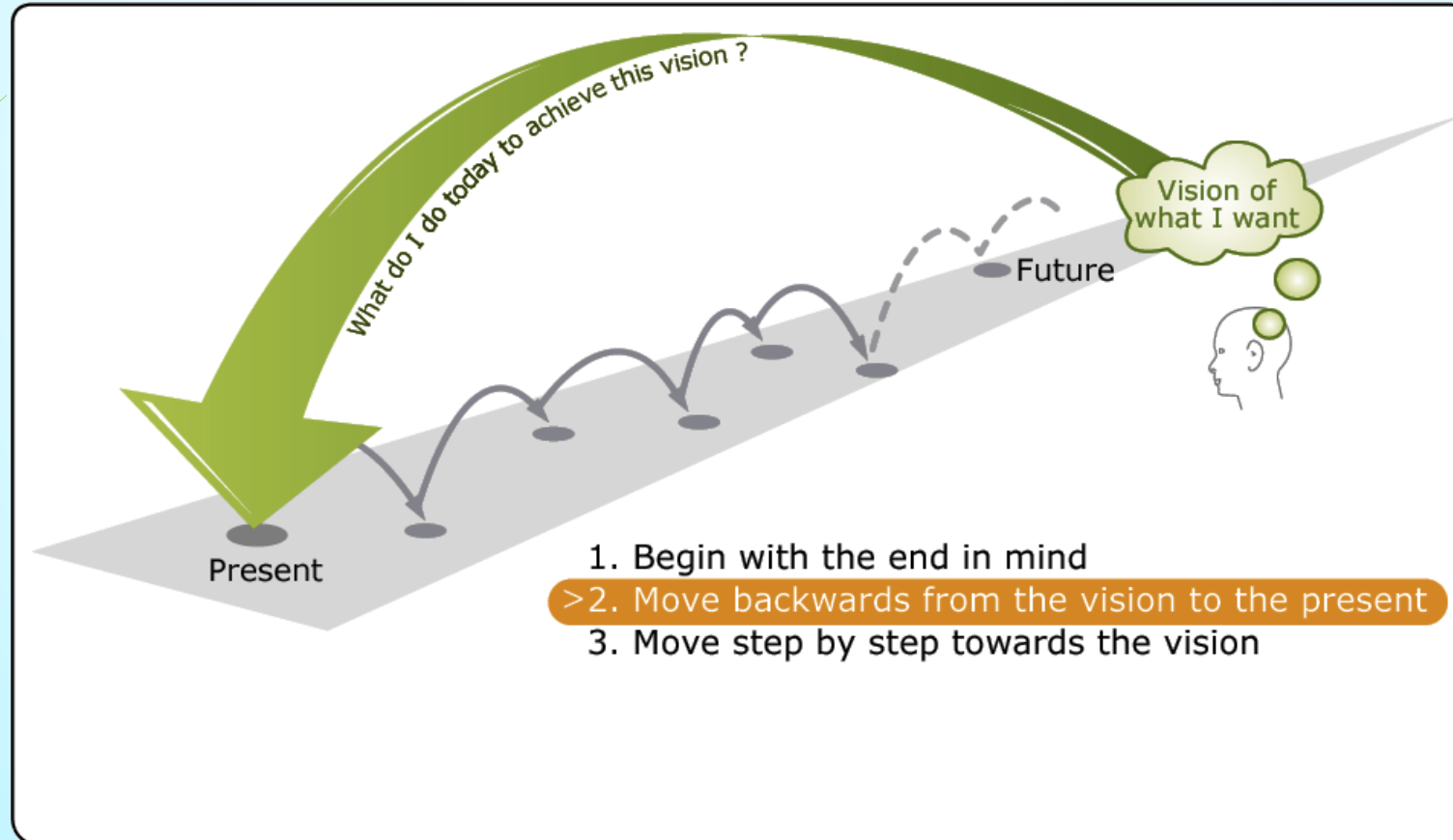
# Planned/Perceived Obsolescence





# How do we start?

# Backcasting





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# Designing for the Future

- How can product manufacturers be engaged?
- How can State and Federal governments be engaged? Extended producer responsibility?
- How can consumption be reduced?
- How can reuse/repair/re-purposing be increased?
- What else can be recycled or composted?
- What collection and processing systems will work best?



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## How can MoCo aim for Zero Waste?

- Styrofoam ban ✓
- Plastic bag fee ✓
- Mandatory recycling for businesses ✓
- Curbside recycling service for all SF and TH ✓
- Outreach and education ✓
- Appoint a Zero Waste Task Force ✓
- Food waste recycling
- Construction and demolition debris recycling



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## What can you do?

- Be a champion of recycling
  - Neighbors, friends, co-workers
- Buy durable, re-usable items (limit disposables)
- Know what can/cannot be recycled in MoCo
- Re-think purchasing habits. Need? Want?
- Organize school and neighborhood furniture, clothing, toy, book exchanges
- [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycle](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycle)



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Questions?

