



Managing the Waste of a Megacity: Achieving Zero Waste in NYC

Kathryn Garcia, NYC Sanitation Commissioner

About the Department of Sanitation:

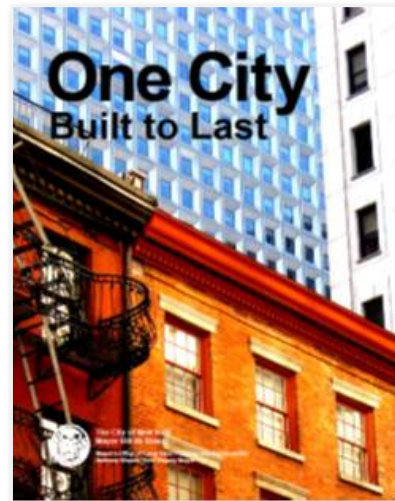


- **Mission:** Keep NYC healthy, safe, and clean by collecting, recycling, and disposing of refuse, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice.
- Largest municipal sanitation department in the United States
- Created in 1881

- Serves 8.5 million residents; millions of commuters and tourists
- Collects 10,500 tons of refuse and 2,000 tons of recyclables per day
- 9,600 employees
- 2,000+ collection trucks
- Operates 4 marine transfer stations and 1 rail transfer station



New York is a national leader in sustainability...



We are building a sustainable waste management system.

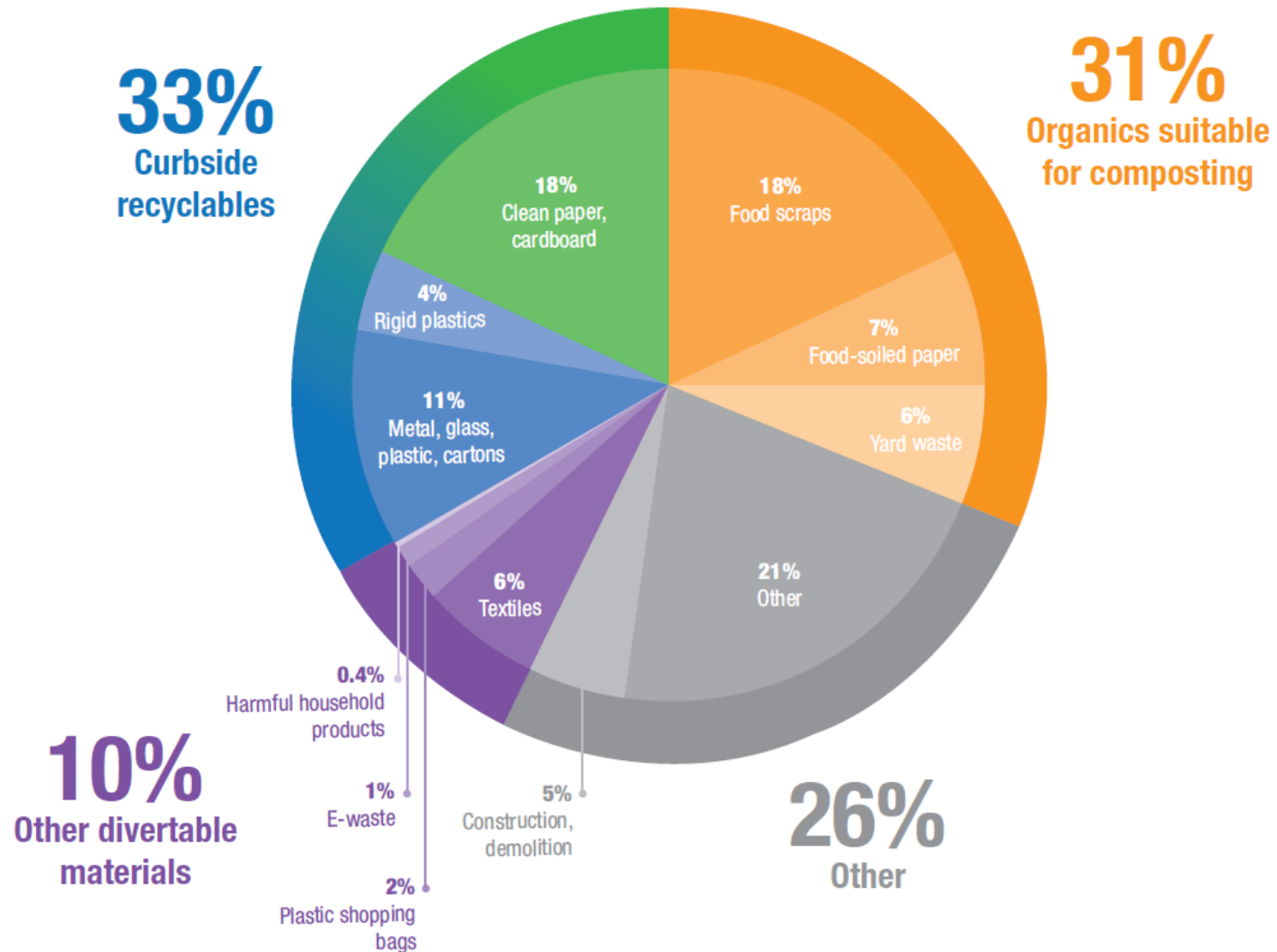


**But how does a city
as diverse, dense and
complex as New York
achieve this
ambitious goal?**



Zero Waste

Develop programs for every slice of the waste pie.

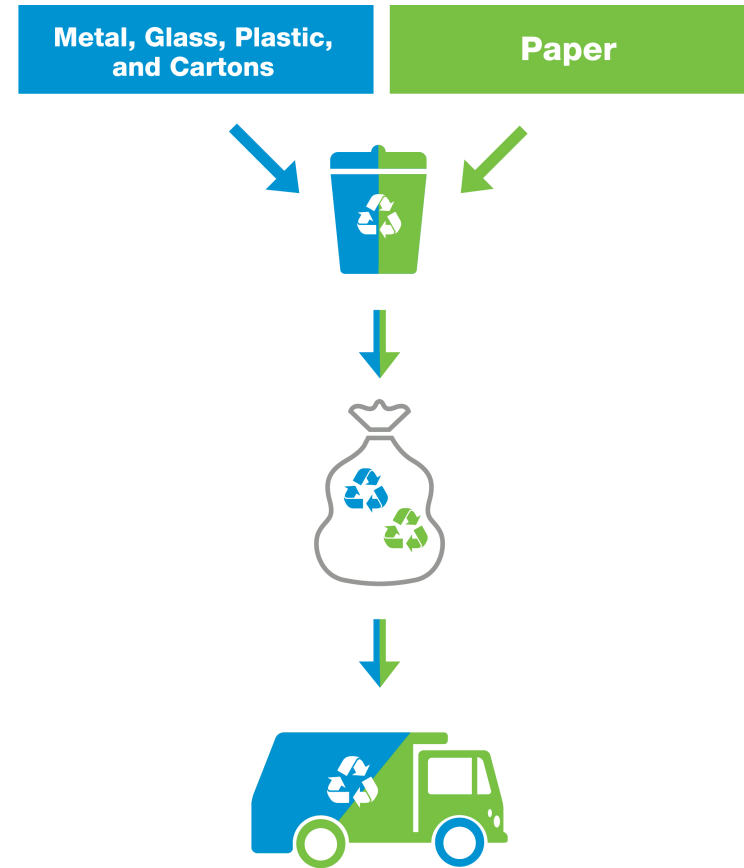


Improve the existing recycling program.

Current Stats

16% curbside diversion rate

48% capture rate for paper, metal, glass, and plastic

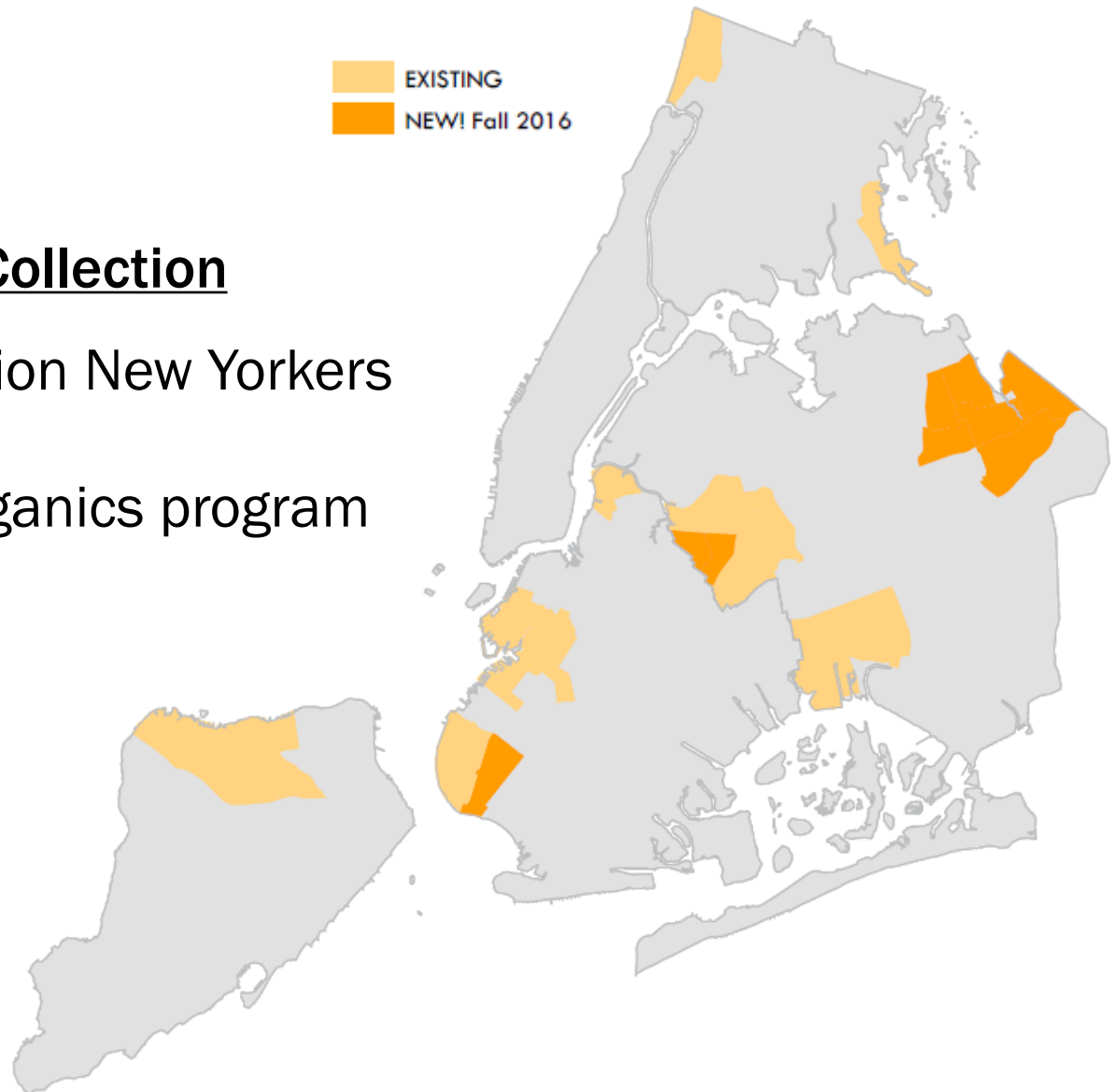


Build the nation's largest organics diversion program...

Curbside Organics Collection

Serves nearly 1 million New Yorkers
by the end of 2016

Largest curbside organics program
in the country



...with the support of grassroots community organizations and a passionate local composters.

225 + community composting sites

87 food waste drop-off sites



Eliminate non-recyclable materials from the waste stream...



Photo by [Carly Souix](#)

...and divert electronics and other toxics for recycling or proper disposal.

NYC

SAFE DISPOSAL



Design programs for a vertical city.



re-fashionNYC
NYC's official clothing reuse program in partnership with 



Support a robust reuse community.

give goods. find goods. do good.



donate**NYC**

Educate the next generation of New Yorkers in Zero Waste Schools.

700+ schools served by
organics collection

100 Zero Waste schools
launched in 2016



Develop an equitable Zero Waste program, including for public housing residents.

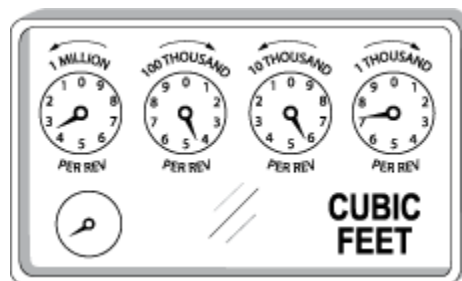


Incentivize residents to reduce waste.

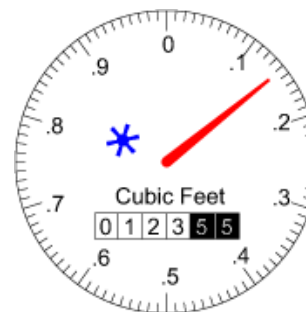
METERED



ELECTRICITY



GAS



WATER

SAYT



WASTE

**Together, these
initiatives will put
NYC on the road
toward Zero Waste.**



Zero Waste