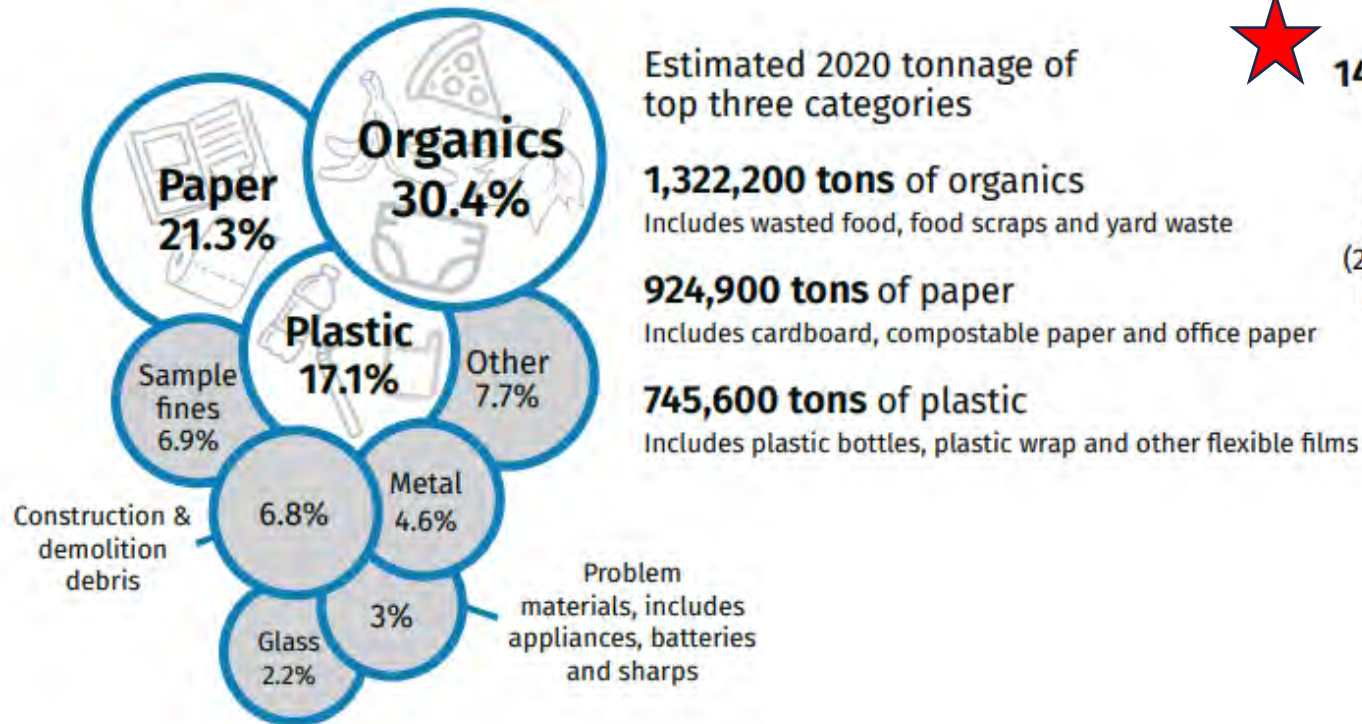


Wisconsin Council on Recycling  
Update: Wisconsin's Initiative for Food Waste Management

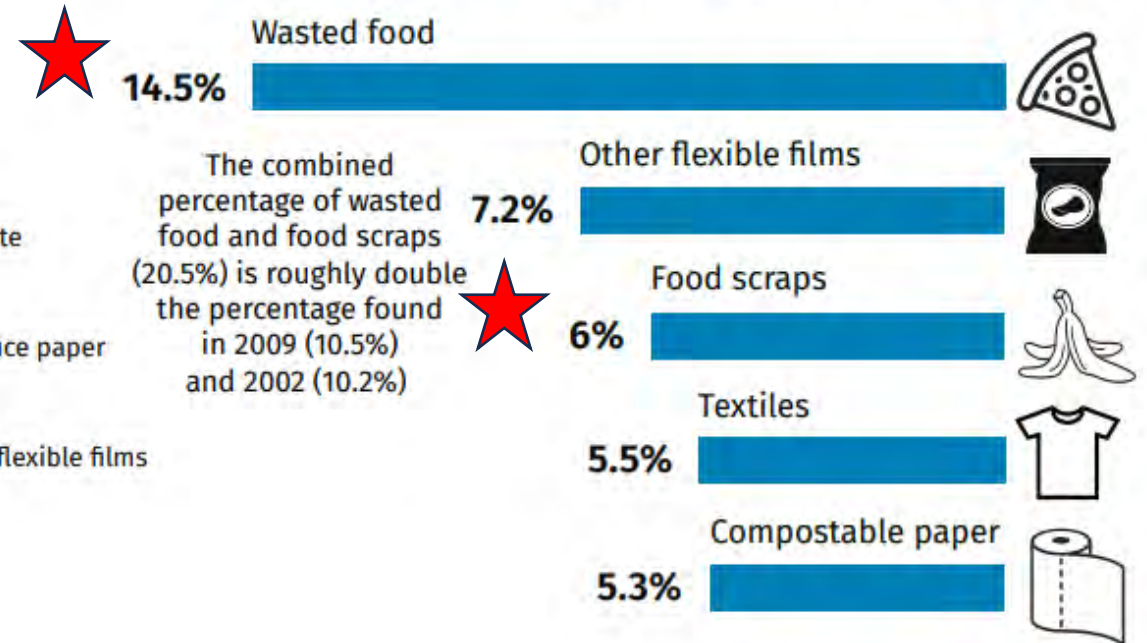
September 17, 2024

# DNR 2020-2021 Statewide Waste Characterization Study

## Statewide waste categories



## Top five waste components statewide



# Climate Impact of Landfilled Food



This does not include the climate, natural resource, food insecurity and economic impacts of uneaten food across the supply chain.

# DNR “Blueprint for DNR Climate Action”

“Reduce per-capita food waste disposed of in Wisconsin landfills by 50% by 2030, compared to 2020 levels.”



## 1. Statewide Food Waste Management Evaluation Plan:

- Kick off with HDR Inc in late June 2024
- Team in data gathering mode
- Surveys being developed to go to food waste generators, food reuse outlets, transporters & food waste processors
  - Where is food waste generated & why – sector & location
  - Current infrastructure capacity for:
    - Donation, rescue
    - Transport & recycling to compost & anaerobic digestion
  - Barriers to prevention & recycling

**Goal:** Create plan to inform policy decisions on food waste reduction and recycling methods and goals. Analyze where additional investment, technical assistance and education may be needed.

- 2. Beginning work on developing RFP for \$100,000 contract with a non-regulatory entity to provide statewide technical assistance and services on projects that prevent and divert food waste.
- 3. Outreach & collaboration activities sampling
  - **DNR Guidance Document**
    - Drafted “Adding Food Waste to Current Yard Waste Compost Operations”
  - **Wisconsin Science Festival October 19** – The Discovery Building Madison
  - **AROW Organics & Compost Committee**
  - **USCC – Wisconsin Chapter formation**
  - **USDA NRCS Wisconsin** – Soil Carbon Amendment CPS 336



Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

SOIL CARBON AMENDMENT

CODE 336

Adopted by Wisconsin  
Spring 2024

- Promotes & incentivizes (\$) the use of compost and biochar to improve soil and sequester carbon
- Applies to areas of crop, pasture, range, forest, associated agriculture lands, developed land, and farmstead where organic carbon amendment applications will improve soil conditions.
- NRCS Wisconsin creating webinars:
  - Inform compost facilities about testing and use of their product
  - Inform end users on criteria & requirements
- *Hopefully...* will expand the market for compost...with more organic feedstock diverted from landfill

# Other DNR Updates

- **“Organics Management News”** e-newsletter to replace “Compost Post” will include food waste reduction, food waste composting, anaerobic digestion, funding opportunities
  - Subscribe at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Compost.html>
- **Midwest Compost School in Ames IA Sept 24 to 26**
  - Food waste collection and composting will be covered in 2 sessions. DNR staff attending.



# National Updates – EPA, USDA, FDA

- Objectives:
  1. Prevent food loss
  2. Prevent food waste
  3. Increase recycle rate for all organic waste
  4. Support policies that incentivize and encourage #1 – 3.
- Resources on agency websites that can be used by states, communities and organizations.
- Grants & cooperative agreements are available



## **“USDA Invests Approximately \$11.5 Million in Composting and Food Waste Reduction Projects in 23 States” – January 2024**

- 2023 Wisconsin Recipients
  - Dane County
  - City of Milwaukee
  - Milwaukee Board of School Directors
- 2022
  - Eau Claire County
  - Village of Egg Harbor
- 2021
  - City of Madison

# Funding Just Announced!

## EPA Announces \$117 Million for Grants Focused on Recycling and Wasted Food Prevention, September 16, 2024

- [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Communities | US EPA](#)
  - Materials and waste streams within scope of this funding opportunity include municipal solid waste, including plastics, **organics**, paper, metal, glass, and construction and demolition debris.
  - This also includes the management pathways of source reduction, reuse, sending materials to material recovery facilities, composting, and industrial uses (e.g., rendering, anaerobic digestion), and feeding animals.
- [Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program | US EPA](#),
  - EPA seeks applications for one cooperative agreement that includes three projects: (1) developing and implementing a national consumer wasted food reduction campaign, (2) expanding the market for and sales of compost, and (3) increasing education and outreach to households on composting.

# Contact – questions & suggestions

[Ruth.Odonnell@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Ruth.Odonnell@Wisconsin.gov)