

WASTE AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STUDY GROUP

May 1, 2025





AGENDA

- Welcome, February notes
- DNR updates
- DNR efficiencies discussions
- Organics
- Rulemaking
- Topics for next meeting

DNR UPDATES

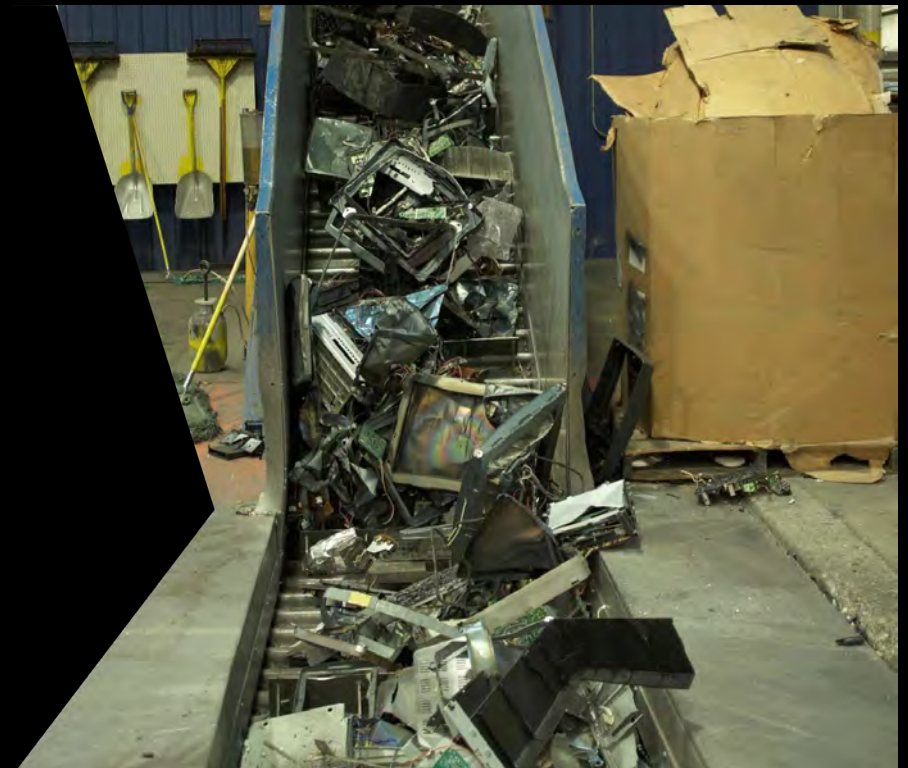
- Waste Program Staffing:
 - Waste Mngt Engineer posting soon
- Upcoming meetings
 - Council on Recycling June 6
- Landfill tonnage report online soon
 - Reporting season winding down – thank you!
- CCR landfill program approval
- Federal grants
- State budget process
- Guidance posted for public comment: Long-term care of closed landfills
 - dnr.wi.gov search “Waste public comment”
- Reminder: GovDelivery options

DNR PROCEDURAL EFFICIENCIES

- Document sent to Study Group on 1/24/25
- Request from Landfill Rule Technical Advisory Committee
- Individual calls or meetings with each Study Group member (8 so far)
- Future discussions at these meetings

EFFICIENCIES DISCUSSIONS— COMMON THEMES

- Facilities/consultants struggle with DNR staff vacancies and working with new/inexperienced staff
- DNR response times generally adequate, but frequency of incompleteness determinations has been frustrating for some facilities
- DNR could make more use of the Study Group/other externals to address issues/get training
- Better/more efficient coordination among DNR programs would be helpful



EFFICIENCIES DISCUSSIONS— OTHER IDEAS/FEEDBACK

- What types of training do you think would benefit newer DNR staff you work with? Do you have any recommendations on good places to get it?
- Are there topics that would benefit from new or revised DNR guidance that Study Group sub-teams could work on?
 - Updates to GEMS?
 - Active landfill monitoring guidance?
- Other general feedback or ideas based on this discussion?

EFFICIENCIES DISCUSSIONS NEXT STEPS

- Finish individual conversations
- Share results of individual and group discussions with WA Program supervisors and teams
- Identify 1-2 priority areas to work on internally at DNR
- Identify 1-2 priority areas for additional discussions with Study Group/regulated community
- Provide update at August WMM Study Group meeting



ORGANICS

- Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant activity, initial statewide survey results
- New WI Composting Council – overview and plans, Alex Thomas
- New Organics Study Group member, Jerod Reuter of Purple Cow Organics

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Activity

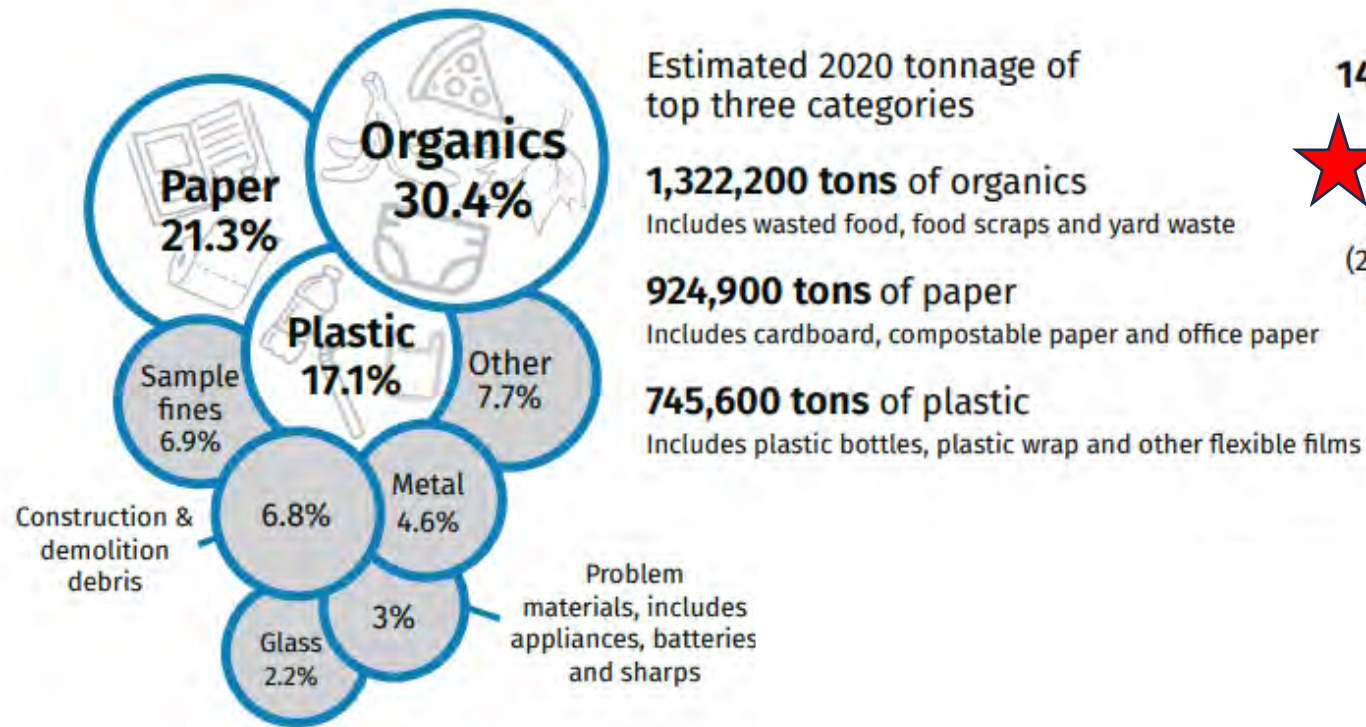
Waste and Materials Management Study Group

Thursday May 1, 2025

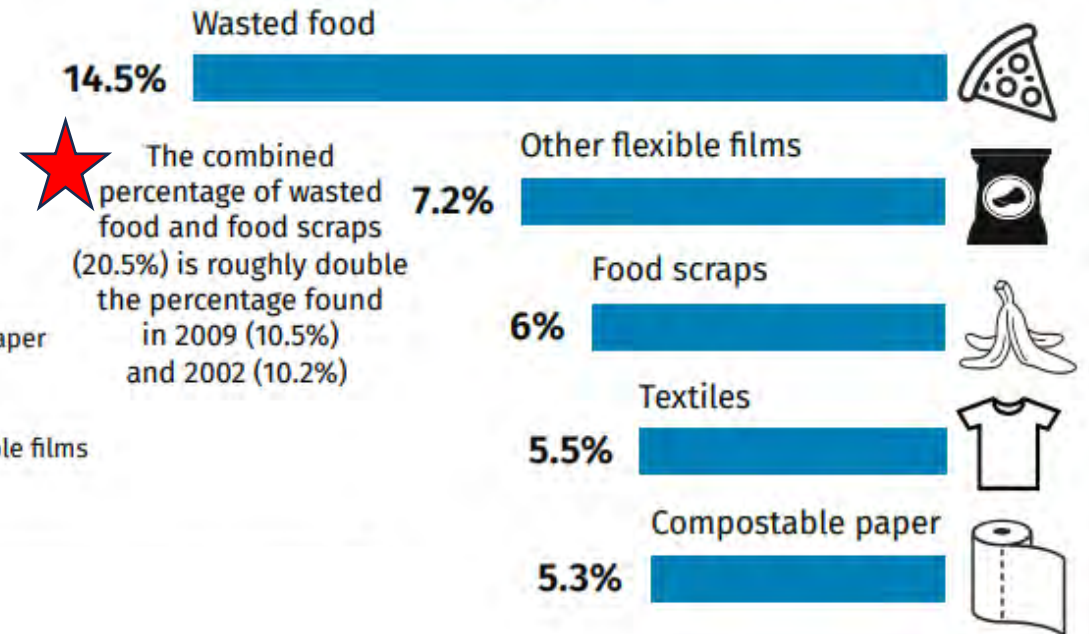
DNR 2020-2021 Statewide Waste Characterization Study

What's Ending Up in Wisconsin Landfills?

Statewide waste categories



Top five waste components statewide



Landfilling food waste is “least preferred”...



Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant

Period of performance: October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026

Three Main Goals:

1. Develop a statewide food waste management plan related to the National Food Loss and Reduction Goal to cut food loss and waste by 50% by 2030.
 - HDR Engineering started project July 2024 and will finish-up July 2025.
 - Draft data shared as it's made available

#1. **Food Waste Management Evaluation & Plan** is intended to:

- 1. Document the amounts, types and sources of food waste**
- 2. Provide data and analysis to help WDNR and local governments document the capacity of existing food recovery and recycling infrastructure**
3. Assess potential capacity and identify barriers between existing capacity and potential capacity to divert food waste from landfills
4. Assess and rank the impact of waste diversion initiatives, including consideration of economic factors
5. Inform policy decisions on food waste reduction and recycling methods and goals
6. Analyze where additional investment, technical assistance and education may be needed.

Estimates of Wasted Food Generation

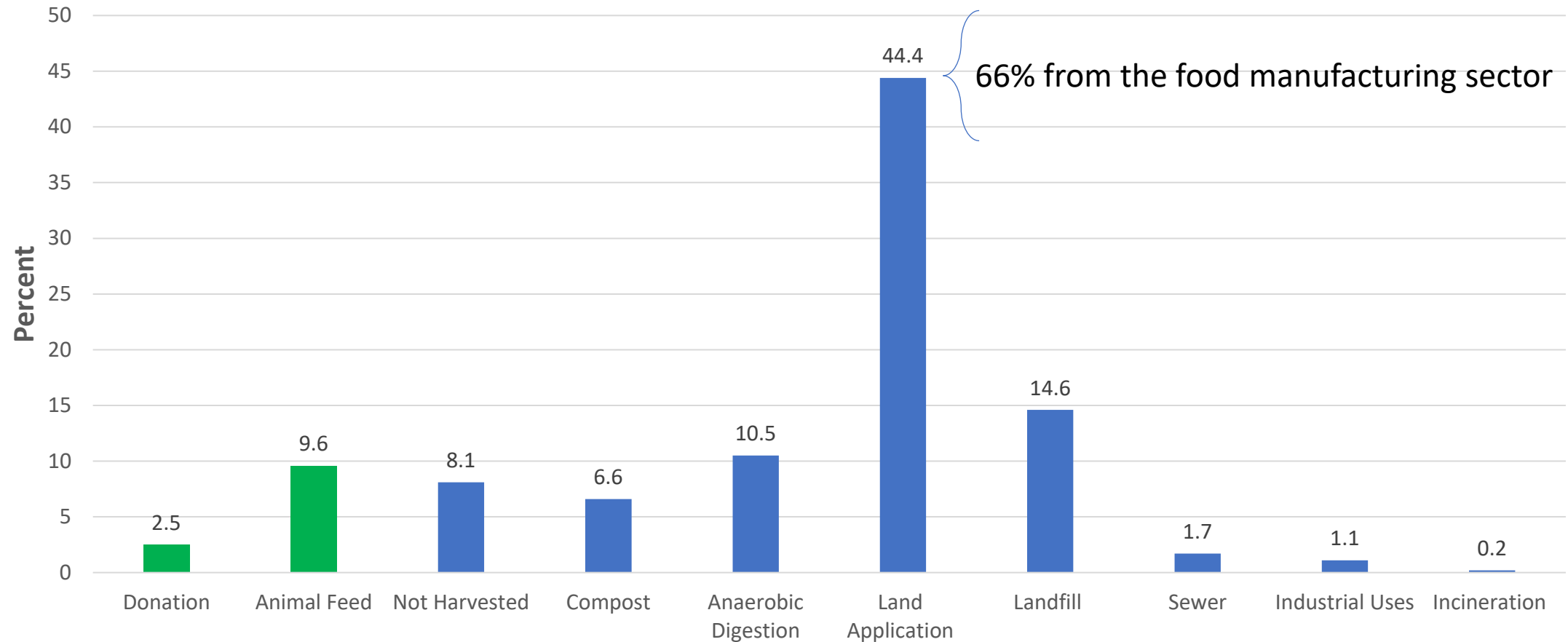
1. DNR 2020-2021 waste characterization study¹ applied to 2023 MSW landfill tonnage data
 - ~917,000 tons of food waste from residential, industrial, commercial, institutional entities going to landfills
2. EPA Excess Food Opportunities²
 - ~ 387,788 to 1,159,505 tons from all sectors *except residential and farm*
3. ReFED Food Waste Monitor³
 - ~3,075,300 tons from across the supply chain – farm, manufacturing, retail, food service, residential

¹<https://widnr.widencollective.com/portals/9locxp5m/SolidWasteinWisconsinLandfills>, accessed April 2025

² <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-08/EFOM%20V3%20Technical%20Methodology%2008.03.2023.pdf>. Accessed February 2025.

³ [ReFED Food Waste Monitor](#), accessed March 2025

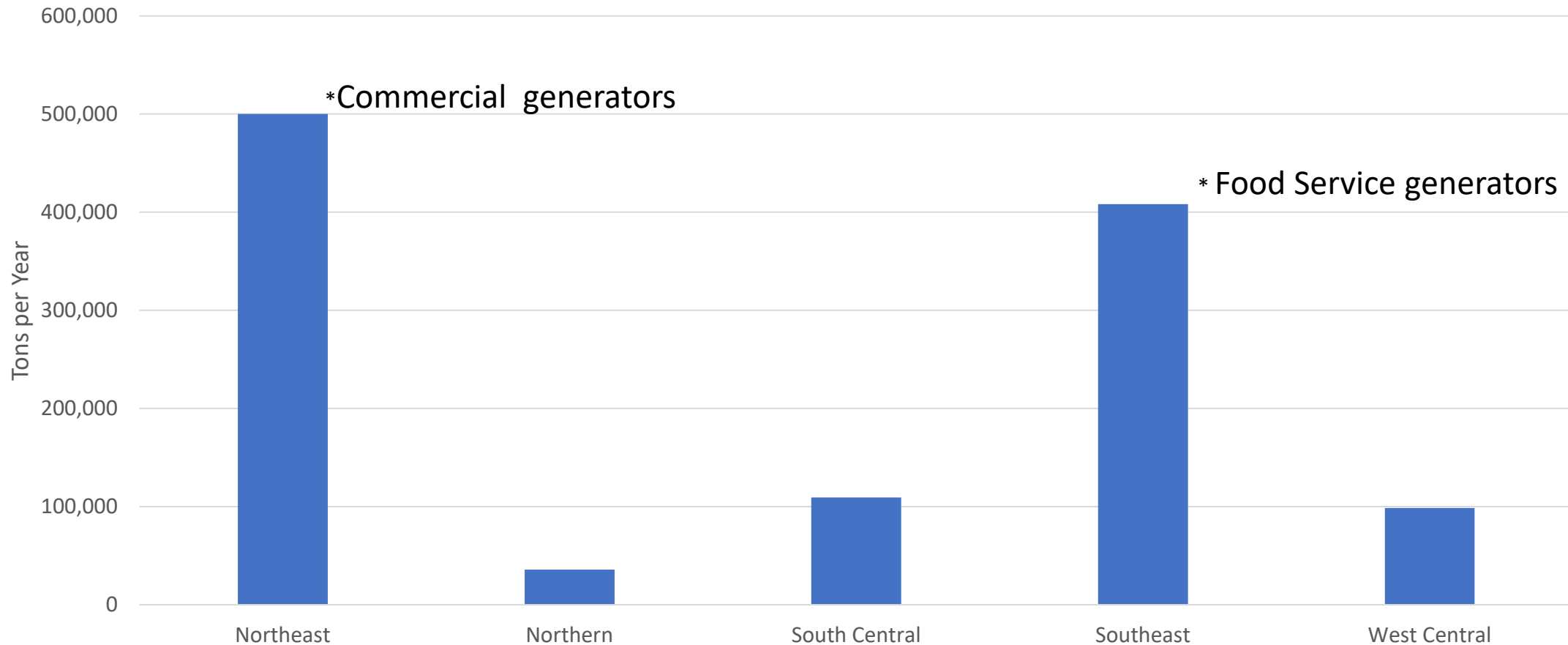
Where does Wisconsin's wasted food go?



2023 Sources of Wasted Food in Wisconsin Landfills

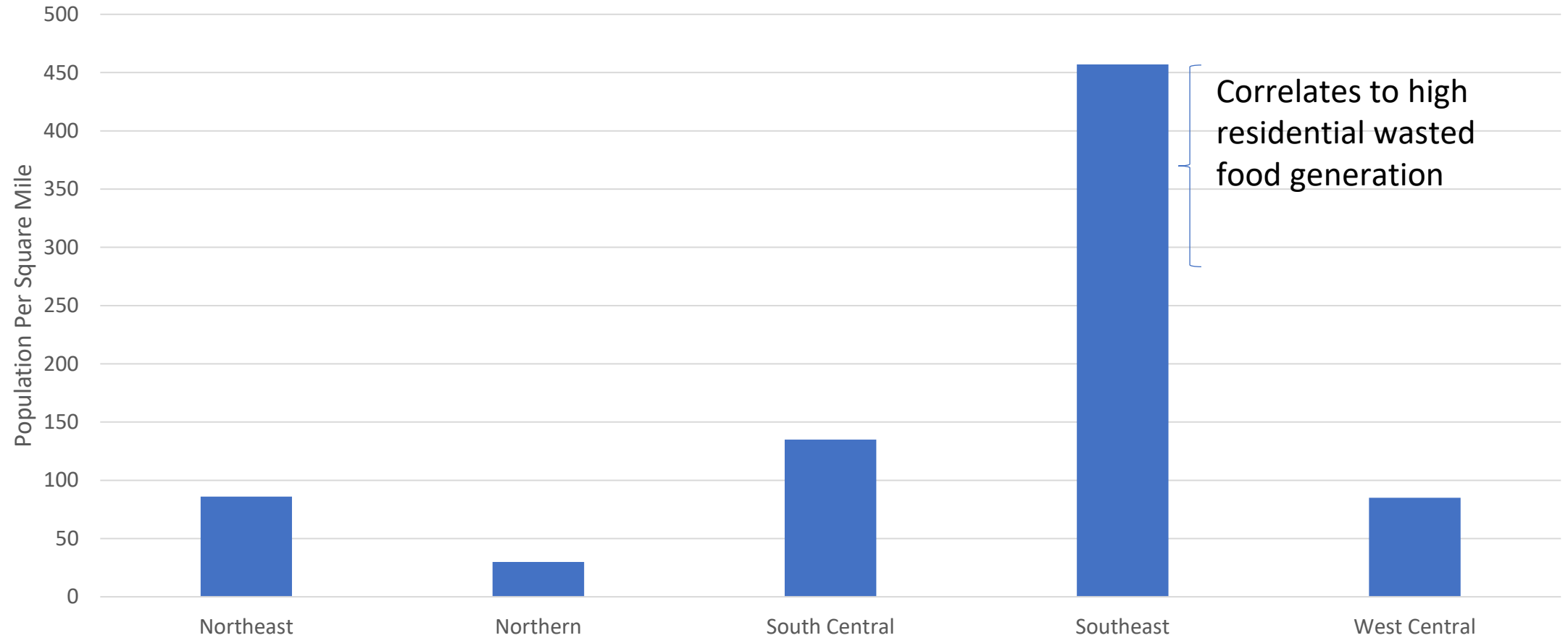
Sector	Tons Wasted Food	Percent of Wasted Food to Landfill	Tons Wasted Food to Landfill
Residential	401,000	52.2	209,000
Food Service	185,000	98	182,000
Manufacturing	2,050,000	1.3	25,800
Retail	69,400	33.7	23,400
Farm (produce)	363,000	2.4	8,580
Total	3,070,000		448,780

EPA Excess Food Opportunities by DNR Region



*EPA does not include the residential sector.

Wisconsin Population Density



Food Waste Generator Survey

- Over half surveyed track data regarding food waste generation
- Most were diverting a portion of food waste
- Common wasted food items are
 - Produce
 - Spoiled/unharvested items
 - Bread and grain
- Causes
 - Overproduction
 - Spoilage
 - Date label concerns

- Barriers to diversion include, lack of:
 - Time
 - Financial resources
 - Personnel
 - Storage space
 - Technology to track and plan to reduce food waste
 - Knowledge of ways to divert food waste
 - Knowledge of liability protection for donating food
 - Knowledge of tax incentives for donating food

Food Recovery for Redistribution

- **Feeding People**

- ReFED estimates 72,300 tons (2.5%) of wasted food recovered and donated in Wisconsin in 2023
- HDR survey of food donation outlets indicate they could accept more safe, wholesome food, but barriers include:
 - Funding and space for refrigeration to keep food safe
 - Lack of connections to collect food and logistics to obtain food
 - Storage space
 - Funding
 - Personnel

- **Feeding Animals**

- ReFED estimates 295,000 tons (9%) of wasted food diverted to animal feed, mainly from manufacturing sector
- DATCP report indicates 96,000 tons of human food byproducts from 1,000 businesses held licenses for feed

Goal 2 SWIFR

- State-wide, non-regulatory technical assistance for projects that prevent or divert wasted food
 - Using information from the Wisconsin Food Waste Management Evaluation plan
 - Draft RFP in process to address large volume wasted food generators and to reduce barriers

Goal 3 SWIFR DNR Work

- **Develop and implement a plan for guidance and outreach**
 - Building awareness
 - Events, social media, news releases, interviews with TV and radio, DNR webpages and publications
 - Provide Resources
 - DNR [Reducing Food Waste](#) & [Composting](#) websites
 - Draft webpages in progress for business sectors and communities for food waste prevention and landfill diversion
 - New e-newsletter, Organics Management News, multi-sector audience on prevention and diversion of wasted food and organics. Monthly updates on opportunities, training resources and funding opportunities. Providing connections to solutions. [Subscribe here](#).
 - Consumer resources – *Home Composting: Reap a Heap of Benefits*, WA-072 updated and now in English & Spanish
 - Work continues throughout grant

- **Provide technical assistance and plan review to new food waste haulers and processing facilities**
 - [Fact Sheet: Composting Food and Other Source-Separated Compostable Materials at Yard Residual Facilities \(WA-2046\)](#)
 - Reviewed by stakeholders
 - Shared at 2025 Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference
 - Work continues throughout grant

Partner with other state agencies and universities on advancing food waste reduction and composting projects

- DATCP Retail Food Safety Advisory Council – provided wasted food awareness and resources for grocery stores & restaurants
- Initiated the Composting in Corrections Peer Network group
- Provided input on food waste reduction & composting grant applications
 - UW Extension – FoodWise Program
 - UW Steven's Point – Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology
- Department of Public Instruction & DNR Green & Healthy Schools
- Work continues throughout grant

Collaborate with other agencies, organizations and cities on advancing food waste reduction and diversion

- Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin: Organics Reduction and Compost Committee
- US Compost Council – Wisconsin Chapter
- FEED MKE Project (2024 recipient of USDA Composting & Food Waste Reduction grant)
- Rooted In LLC Green Bay – wasted food prevention, food rescue and redistribution
- Work continues throughout grant

Contact Information

Ruth O'Donnell

Organics Waste Management Specialist

Ruth.Odonnell@wisconsin.gov



ORGANICS

- New WI Composting Council – overview and plans, Alex Thomas
- New Organics Study Group member, Jerod Reuter of Purple Cow Organics



RULEMAKING UPDATES

- Non-landfill Solid Waste rule (WA-14-24)
- E-cycle rule (2023 WI Act 108, WA-15-24)
- Landfill rule (WA-11-22) – with final legislative committee
- Recycling rule (WA-13-21) – implementation this summer
- Municipal Landfill Owner Financial Responsibility rule (2023 WI Act 107, WA-07-24E, WA-08-24) – emergency rule still in effect, finalizing permanent rule work
- PFAS Groundwater Standards proposed (DG-02-25) – scope statement only



NON-LANDFILL RULE

- Transfer and Transporter code have first drafts complete with some research still being conducted
 - Many internal reviews and more in depth external overviews to come
- Infectious waste code in research phase
- Going to go over transfer code general concepts today

CURRENT PRACTICE CLARITY

- *Adding a transfer exemption for scrap metal and clean fill materials not causing a nuisance*
- *Flammable or explosive wastes no longer prohibited*
- *Community and non-community well setbacks vs private and public*
- *Locational criteria exemptions only apply when a transfer facility can be fully closed when not in operation*
- *Recyclable materials sorting moved to definition in e-cycle rule*

EXEMPTIONS

- *Adding a partial exemption for storm cleanup activities*
- *Hand unloaded (unlicensed sites) with containers holding non-putrescible waste need to be emptied as needed and at least 1x/year*
- *Non putrescible waste that won't be moved by wind or water may be stored uncontainerized at hand unloaded transfer facilities*

NON-PUTRESCIBLE WASTES NOT CARRIED BY WIND OR WATER

- Bunker or equivalent vs roofed structure
- Max storage time (or other limiting factor) TBD

PLAN OF OPERATION

- Submittal maps and blueprint requirements reduced to meet transfer facility needs
- Approval conditions added to list of requirements facilities must follow
- Specific exemption authority provided
- *Removal of solid waste mgmt. plan consistency requirement*
- *Grinding removed from compaction methods list*

OPERATIONAL

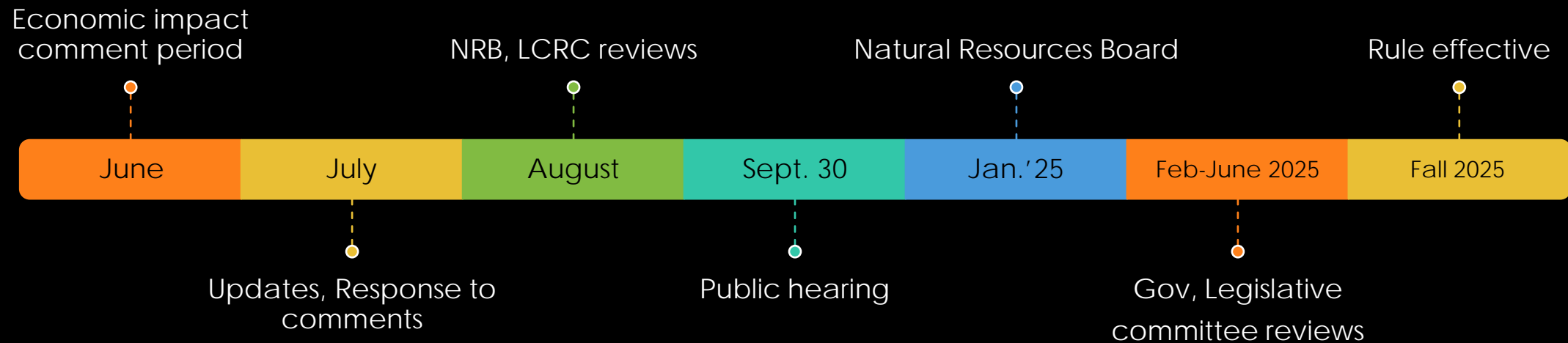
- Recyclables must be maintained in a marketable condition
- All wastewater that could flow freely from the operational area shall be collected and treated at a wastewater treatment facility
- Attendant on duty needed only when open for public access vs all access
- Max hold time on floor extended to 48 hours unless conditions require a shorter timeframe.



E-CYCLE RULE


- Scope statement approved earlier this month
- Updates to ch. NR 530 related to the E-Cycle Wisconsin program
- Mostly codification of existing procedures/minor technical updates
- Will be seeking stakeholder input on additional battery-containing devices that could be included as eligible under E-Cycle Wisconsin

LANDFILL RULE REVISION (anticipated)



RECYCLING RULE

- Effective date of July 1st
- Working now and through the summer/fall on outreach to stakeholders
 - RUs- webinar (July, recorded), direct emails, summary specifically of RU impacts, will try to speak at WI Towns Association annual conference (Oct)
 - MRFs- MRF Stakeholder meeting (Aug), direct emails, summary specifically on MRF impacts, OFR specific guidance (OFR does not go into effect until 2027)
 - Haulers- direct emails, specific guidance on providing RUs tonnage data
 - Will submit abstract to speak at WIRMC
- Department will work to educate on new requirements, has discretion on enforcement
- Modifications to RU and MRF annual reports

- 
- Municipal Landfill Owner Financial Responsibility rule (2023 WI Act 107, WA-07-24E, WA-08-24) – emergency rule still in effect, finalizing permanent rule work
 - PFAS Groundwater Standards proposed (DG-02-25) – scope statement only
 - Would add public health related groundwater standards for six PFAS based on the 2025 Dept. of Health Services recommendations

NEXT MEETING



- Any questions?
- Topics for next meeting
- 2025 Meeting dates:
 - Aug. 7, Nov. 6

Thank you!