



Zero Waste 2030

A Plan for Fairfax County Government and Schools

Cross Departmental Effort

December 2, 2021

Outline

- Zero Waste Plan
- The Team
- Team Experience
- Feedback



Zero Waste Plan Timeline

**October
2020**

JET Zero Waste
Recommendation

**December
2020**

Zero Waste
Team Formed

**Jan-Jun
2021**

Data Collection
Strategy
Development &
Prioritization
Implementation
Planning

July 2021

Completion
of Draft Plan

**August
2021**

Stakeholder
Review

**September
2021**

Board Enviro
Committee
Presentation

**November
2021**

Board
Adoption

What Zero Waste Means to Us

Priority: Prevent waste before it occurs by systematically reducing and reusing



REACH OUT



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

Aspirational goals for 2030:



Divert 90% of waste from disposal.*



Reduce the overall waste generated by 25% from 2018 levels.

% as based on tonnage/weight

* Diversion = keeping waste out of landfills/incineration

Where We Are Now

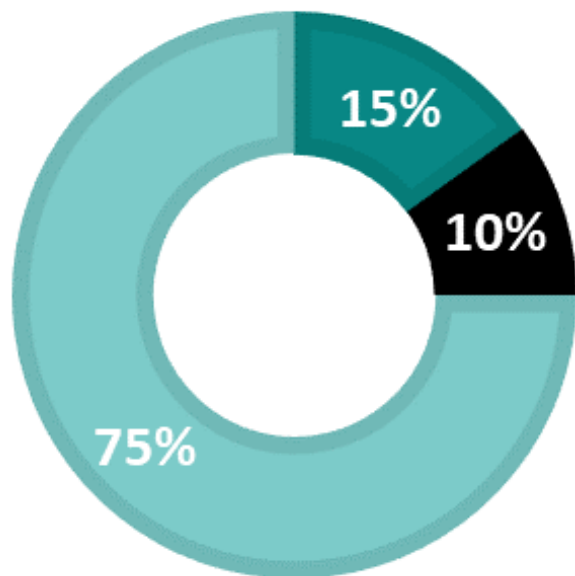
- Operations & Existing Programs
- Diversion Performance
- Waste Audits
- Employee Survey
- Tracking
- Other Communities
- Policies and Regulations



FCPS student recording data for food donation program

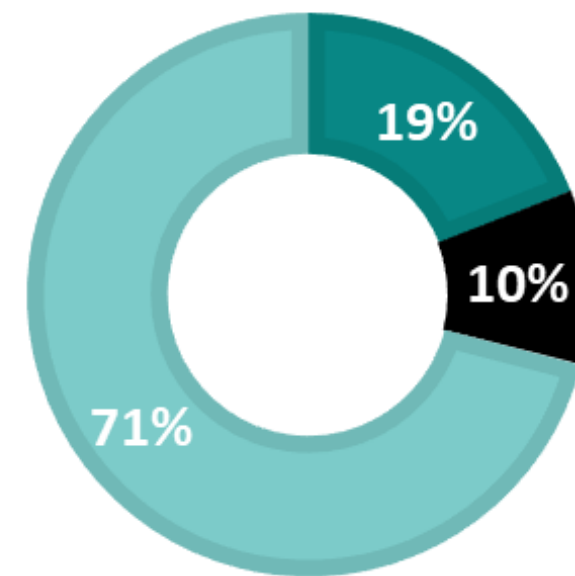
How to Achieve 90% Waste Diversion

COUNTY



- Currently diverted
- To remain as waste
- Diversion opportunities:
 - Track all applicable materials
 - Operational changes
 - Behavioral changes
 - Tech advances

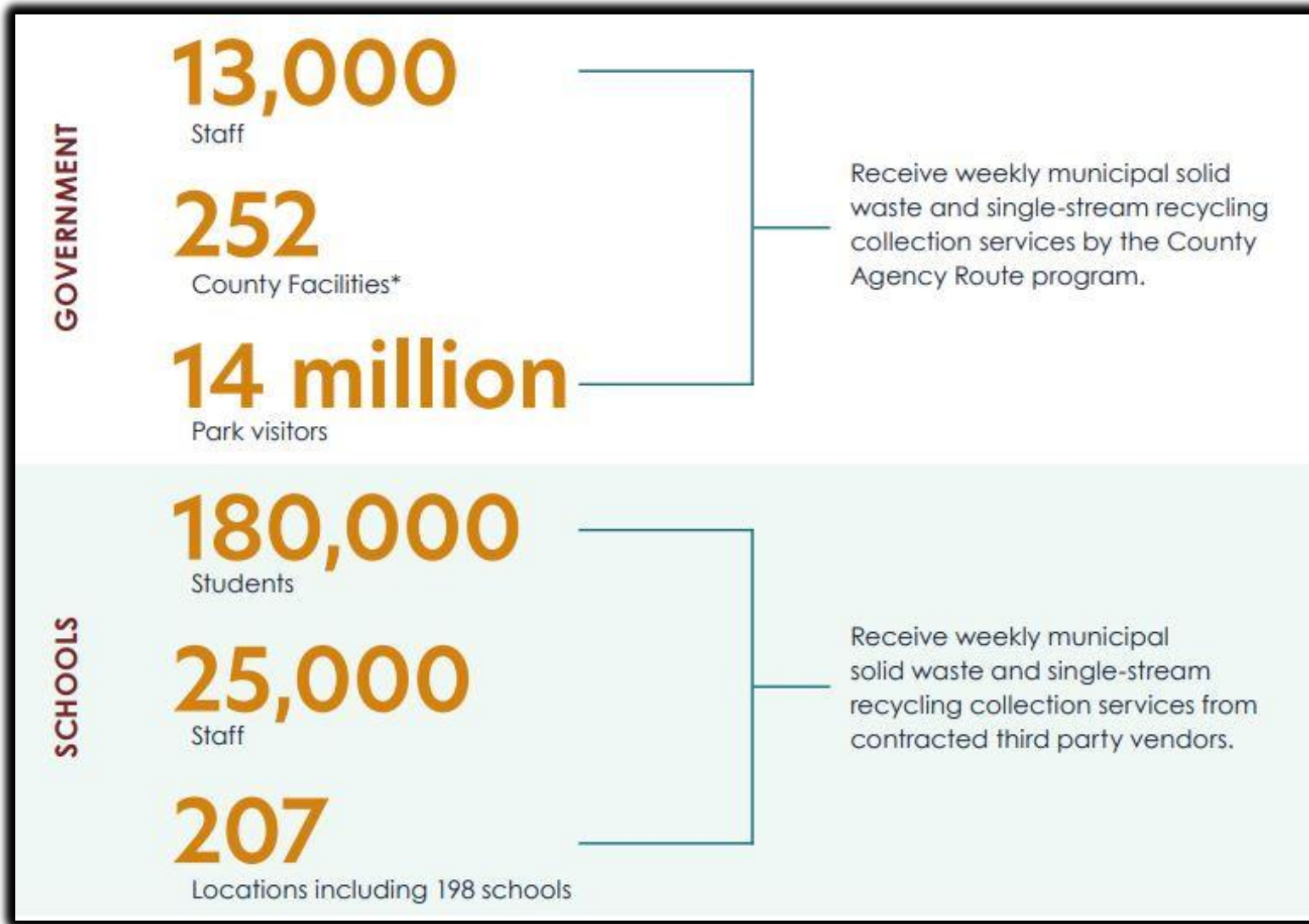
FCPS



Strategies

Theme #1: Culture: Education and Outreach	Theme 2: Program Establishment	Theme 3: Facility Upgrades	Theme 4: Policy Implementation/ Board Directives
1.1 Designate Zero Waste Champions	2.1 Establish Zero Waste Team	3.1 Design and Retrofit for Zero Waste	4.1 Establish a Zero Waste Policy
1.2 Develop Strategies to Recognize, Motivate, and Compensate Staff	2.2 Expand Sustainable Purchasing Program	3.2 Standardize and Increase Waste Receptacles and Signage	4.2 Establish Funding and Allocate Resources Appropriate to Meet Zero Waste Goals
1.3 Develop Educational Resources, Signage and Training	2.3 Establish Commitments by all County Departments and Schools to Participate in Zero Waste Efforts	3.3 Implement Reusable Food Service Ware	4.3 Establish Board Directive/Policy for Organics or a Food Disposal Ban
1.4 Facilitate Action through Campaigns, Toolkits and Guides	2.4 Establish Programmatic Reporting of Activities by County Departments and Schools	3.4 Install Additional Air Hand Dryers	4.4 Establish Board Directive/Policy to Ban Single-use Plastics
1.5 Maximize Opportunities for Student Engagement	2.5 Measure Success: Waste Audits, Reporting, Facility Assessments	3.5 Install Additional Bottle Filling Stations	4.5 Support Legislative Actions at the State and Federal Levels
	2.6 Establish or Expand Alternate Recycling, Reuse, and Recovery Program Partnerships		4.6 Use Events as a Catalyst to Minimize or Eliminate Waste
	2.7 Launch a Reusable Packaging Program		
	2.8 Establish or Expand Edible Food Rescue and Donation Program		

Stakeholders





Zero Waste Planning Team

**Procurement &
Material Management**

Chris McGough; Nathalie Owen

**DPWES-Solid Waste
Management**

Eric Forbes

Facilities Management

Emmanuel Waleola

Park Authority

Keith Snyder

**FCP Schools:
Get2Green**

Ali Culhane

**FCP Schools:
Facilities Management**

Scott Larson

with input from many other County and FCPS departments

Team Member Role

- Actively participate in planning effort
- Represent their agency
- Liaise w/their agency
- Leadership connectivity
- Identify opportunities
- Tell the Zero Waste story



What worked well

- Multi-agency work group
- Team structure
- Meeting cadence
- Technical assistance
- Leadership support
- Connectivity with Leadership



Reach out

Create a culture of sustainability by engaging individuals to pursue Zero Waste through collaboration, education, and outreach.

What could be better

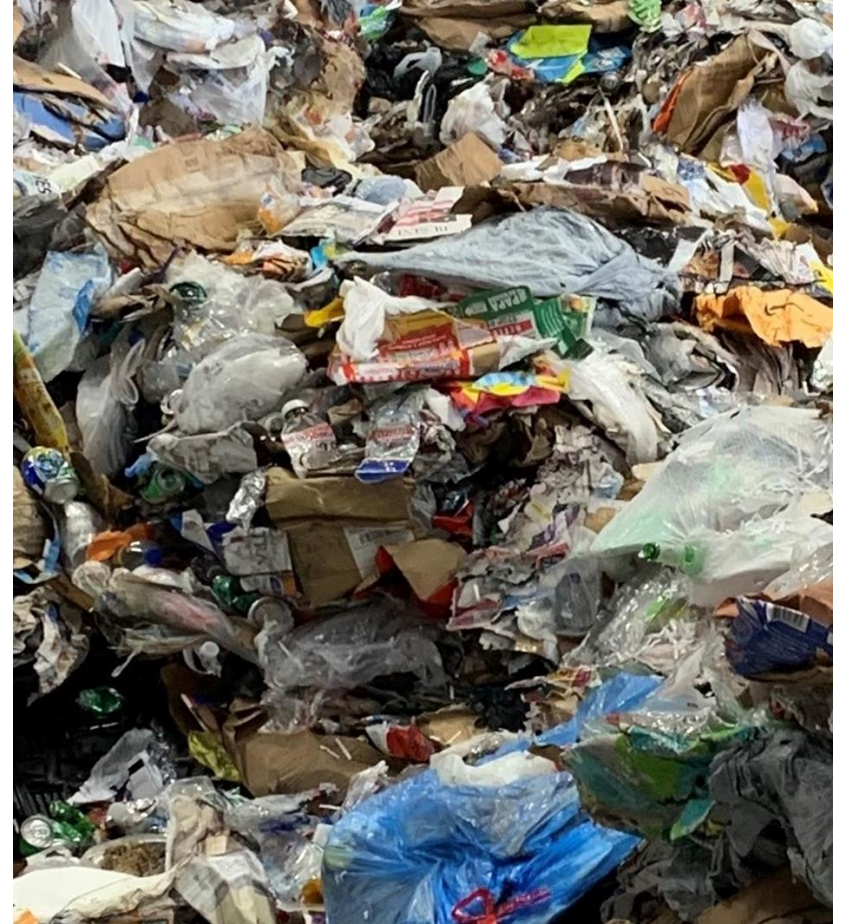
- Agency Connectivity
 - Challenge due to timeline & number of agencies
- Use of technology for sharing
 - County & Schools are on different intranets (no shared IT)
- Traditional Silos- how to break them down
- Accountability
- Measuring success
- Leadership Connectivity

Team Member Feedback

- Rewarding to have broader scope across all county operations, to learn more about county programs/services/impact, and to make new connections between people and projects
- Challenging having to work around differing technology platforms and access for schools and county, but we figured it out eventually!
- Coordinating with stakeholders was both challenging and rewarding, but we had lots of meaningful conversations and gained a stronger plan by listening to each other and to stakeholders beyond the team
- Navigating different audiences, cultures, and perspectives between schools and county requires ongoing creativity and flexibility
- This one is easy to overlook, but having that main weekly meeting was critical to building rapport as a team and momentum for the plan. I think that's evident in that we all agreed to keep the momentum going by continuing to meet

Challenges

- Changing to Zero Waste mindset
- Education
- How to get buy in from Non-believers
- Giving agencies access to resources
- Accountability
- Measuring success



Questions?

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