

Curbside  
Food Scraps  
Composting:  
One Year  
Review

September 15, 2022



**ARLINGTON**  
**VIRGINIA**

# Background

- Curbside food scraps collection – 2004 SWMP
- Curbside yard waste collection – 2016
- Freestate Farms/PWC facility open – 2020
- County Board approved addition of food scraps collection – April 2021
- Food scraps collection begin – September 6, 2021

# Arlington's Program

- Approximately 32,200 single-family customers
- Mixed organics pickup weekly; either bagged in compostable or paper bags or loose
- Materials accepted:
  - Yard waste
  - Food scraps
  - Paper towels
  - Greasy pizza boxes
  - No compostable plastic

# Program Metrics

- Approximately 40% of households regularly participating
- 20 – 25% of food scraps being diverted; tonnage very difficult to estimate
- Over 100 CY of finished compost returned to Arlington for resident use



# Successes

- VaCO Award Recipient: 2022
- Successful education and outreach campaign
  - Hand distribution of 32,000 counter top caddies
- Low contamination rates
- High levels of early adopters – approximately 25%

# Lessons Learned/ Challenges

## Barriers to participation

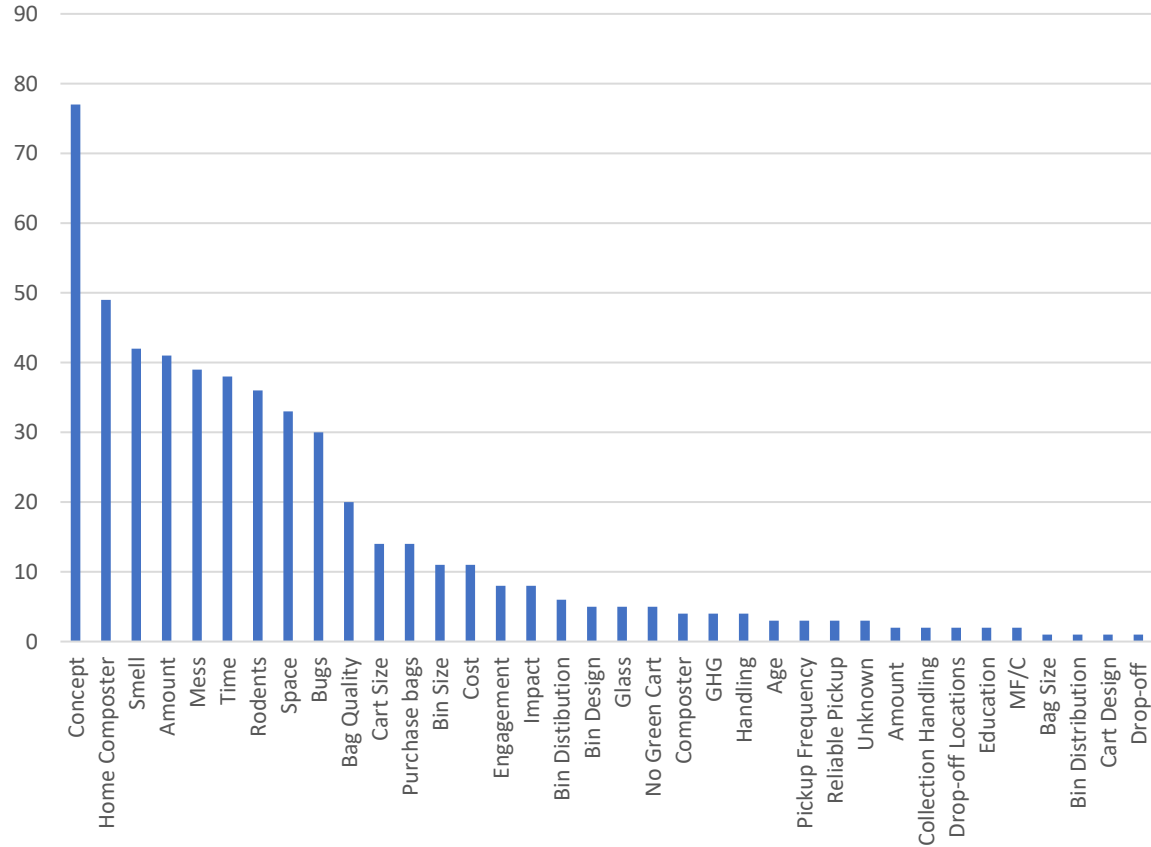
- “Yuck” factor – summer exacerbates issues
- Space constraints/Cart size
- Collection issues
- Bag availability
- Time
- Questions re: purpose of program

Need for consistent education and outreach efforts

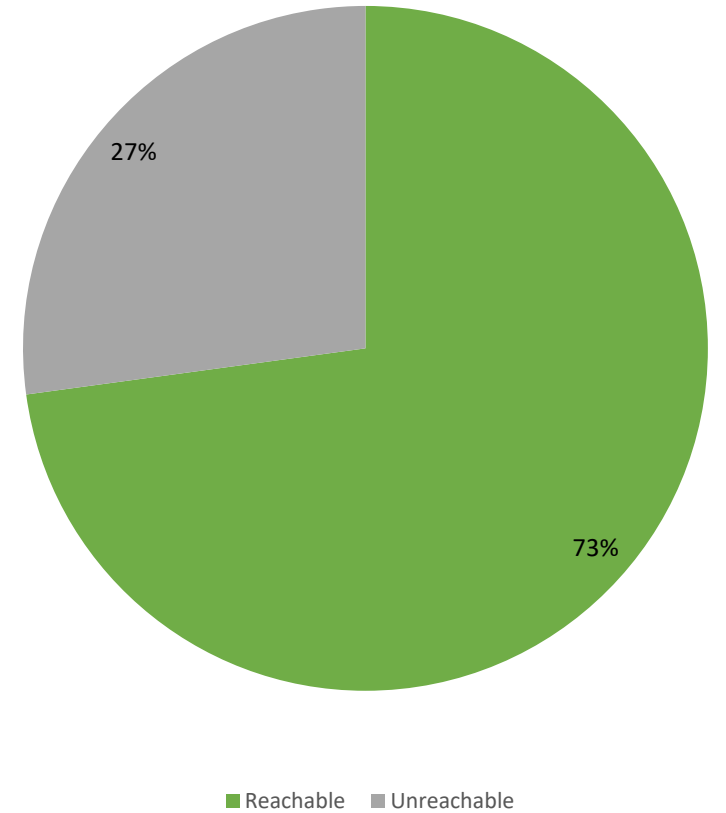
Re-engagement of former participants

# Year Two: Opportunities

Reasons for Non-participation

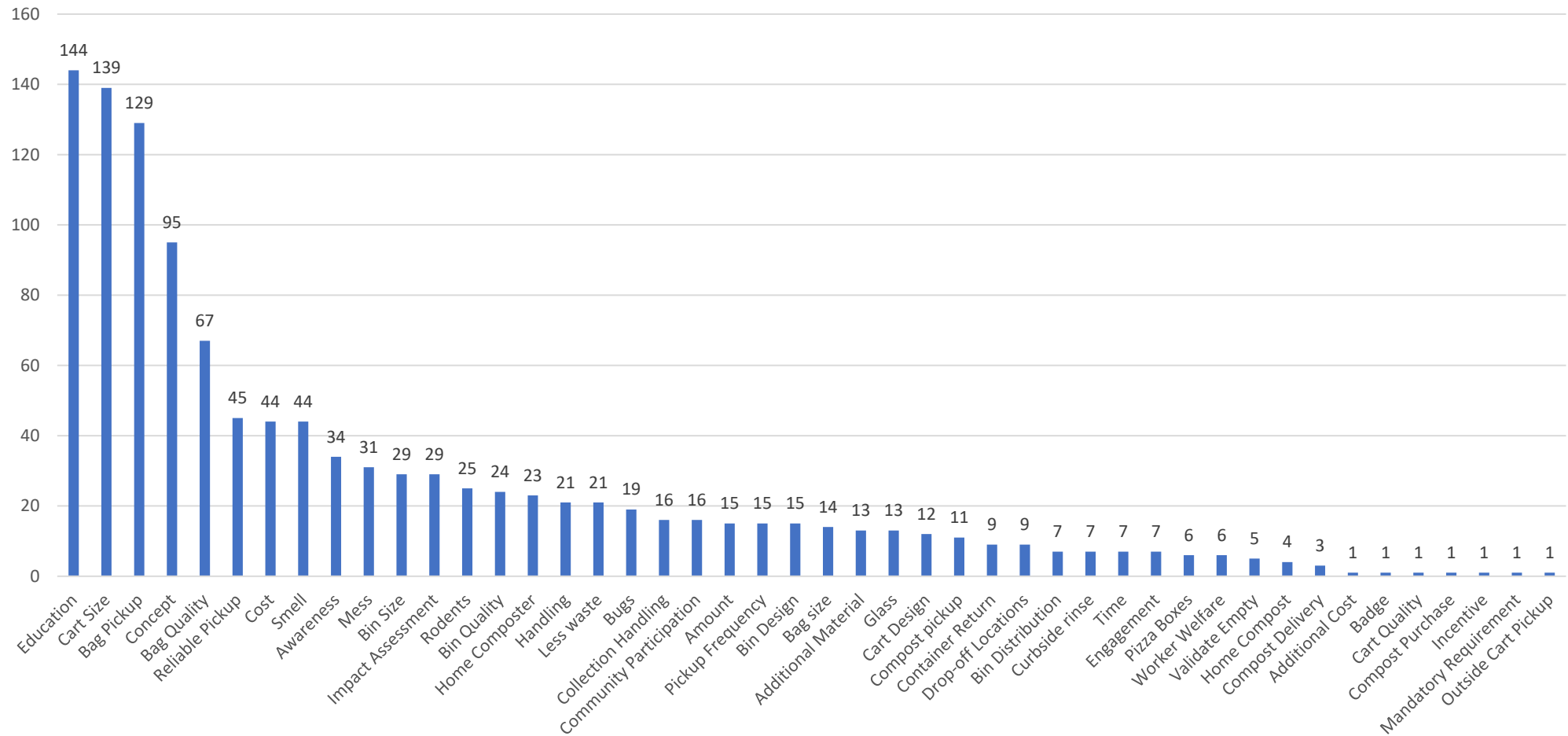


Non-participant Reachability



# Year Two: Improvements

Improvement to Curbside Food Scraps Collection





Questions?



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