



Multi-Family Recycling & Enforcement in the District

Department of Public Works
Office of Waste Diversion

March 18, 2021



Businesses, multi-family buildings, and single-family households are all required to recycle in the District.

To date, DPW has largely focused on single-family material, which we have direct control over.





**104,000 single-family
households**

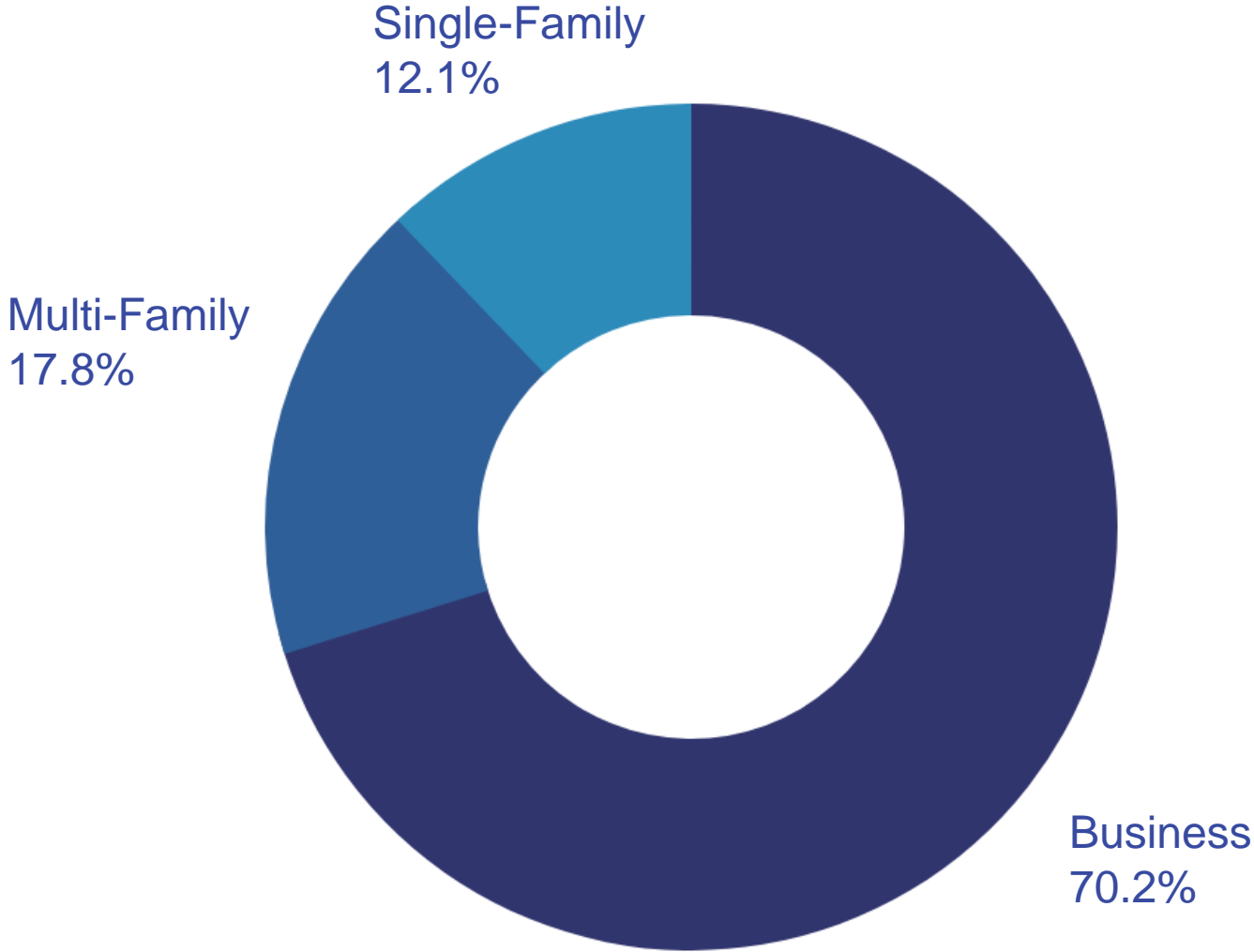


**206,000 multi-family
households**



Citywide Waste Generation

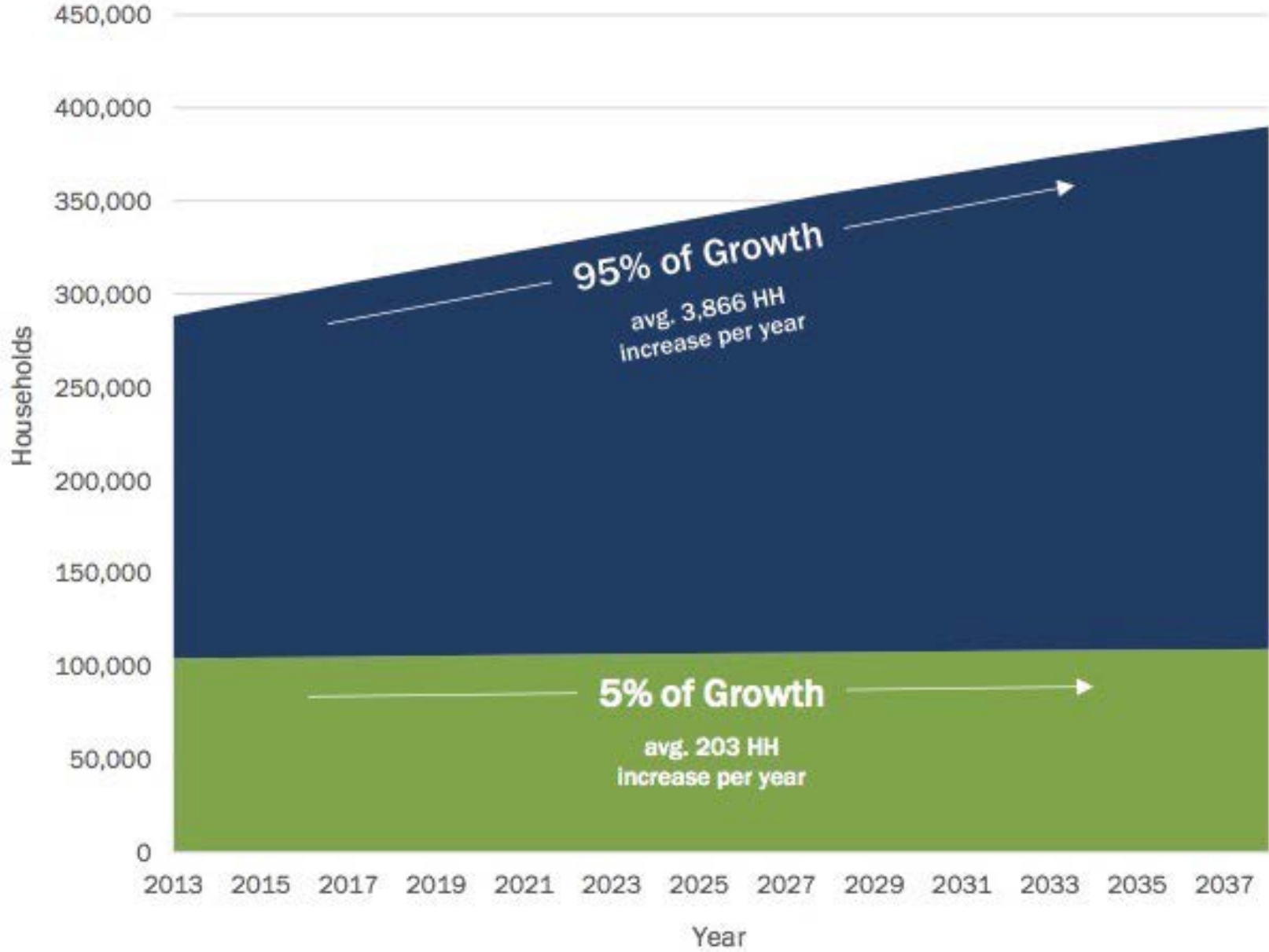
CY 2018, 1.2 million tons total



Growth of Single vs. Multi-Family

(CY 2013-2038)

- Multi-Family Households
- Single-Family Households





Early Stage Multi-Family Research

- 22 interviews with multi-family building owners and property managers.
- A focus group with the Apartment & Office Building Association's Washington, DC Chapter.
- Qualitative interviews with other jurisdictions about their multi-family programs.


Initial Learnings

- There's a fundamental lack of understanding of recycling (and trash) requirements.
- Haulers were beginning to levy contamination fees and reject contaminated loads, with an emphasis on bagged recycling.
- High performers are out there, going above and beyond to provide exceptional waste diversion access for residents.





To improve multi-family recycling, we need to increase both the "carrot" and "stick": technical assistance and enforcement.



Multi-Family Requirements

Hauling

- Hauler must be licensed with DCRA and registered with the Office of Waste Diversion
- Hauler must collect trash and recycling at least 2x each week.

Containers

- Sufficient size and number of containers.
- Containers cannot be damaged with holes or missing lids.
- No litter is permitted around bins, all material must be containerized.
- Containers must display size, hauler name, and phone number.

Bags

- All trash must be bagged.
- If recycling is bagged, it cannot be in an opaque or colored bag.

Communication

- Signage must be posted everywhere trash or recycling is stored or collected.
- Buildings must explain the recycling program to residents upon move-in and at least once a year.
- Janitorial staff must receive training at least once a year on the building's recycling program.

Sorting

- All recyclable materials on the Mayor's List must be recycled.
- Trash cannot contaminate the recycling and recycling cannot be present in trash.

Multi-Family Toolkit

- **3 recycling videos** (for residents, property managers, and janitorial staff)
- **Multi-Family Zero Waste Guide**
- **Resident Resources:**
 - Move-In Flyer
 - Engaging Residents One-Pager
 - Creating a Green Team One-Pager
- **Janitorial Staff Resources:**
 - Engaging Janitorial Staff One-Pager
 - Janitorial Checklist
- **Property Manager Resources:**
 - Requirements One-Pager
 - Guide to Hauling
 - Capacity Calculator
 - Laminate Bags



MULTI-FAMILY TRASH & RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS

Multi-family buildings like apartments, condominiums, and cooperatives must fulfill the District's trash and recycling requirements. Understanding what is required of your building is important to make sure that requirements are met.

Buildings that are not in compliance with trash and recycling requirements may receive warnings and/or violations with fines from Department of Public Works inspectors. Inspectors periodically visit buildings to ensure compliance. For more information on each requirement, check out the Multi-Family Zero Waste Guide, as well as additional tools and resources available at zerowaste.dc.gov.

HAULING



- All trash and recycling must be hauled by a company that is licensed as a solid waste collector with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and is also registered with the Department of Public Works' Office of Waste Diversion.
- Trash and recycling must each be picked up a minimum of twice per week.

CONTAINERS



- A sufficient size and number of containers is necessary to collect all trash and recycling so that there is no overflowing material and that all lids can close properly.
- All trash and recycling containers cannot be damaged, including having holes or missing lids.
- No trash or recycling can be littered around containers. Only broken down cardboard may be stacked neatly next to recycling containers.
- Containers must be labeled with the hauler's name, phone number, and the size of the container.

For more information about recycling in the District, visit zerowaste.dc.gov.
For general information about the Department of Public Works, visit dpw.dc.gov.

RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

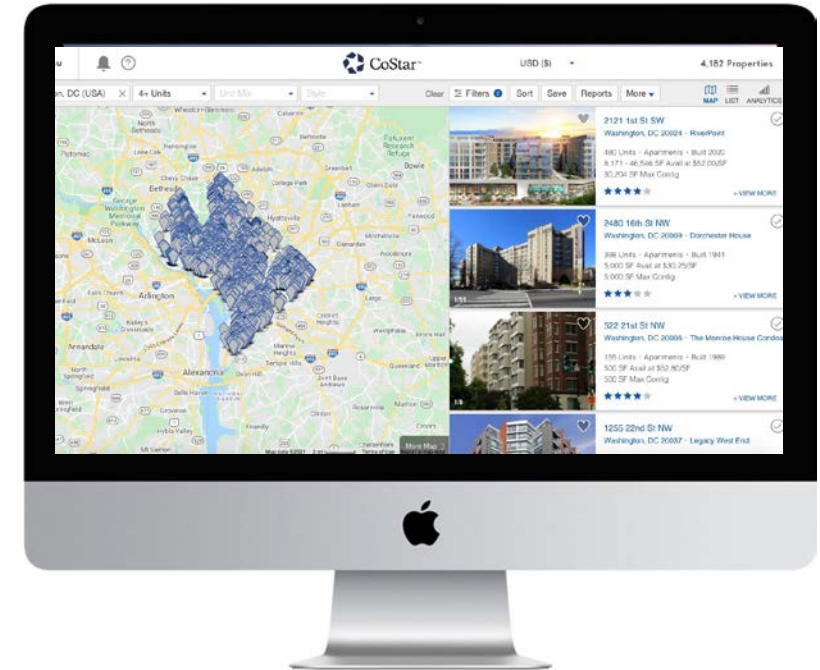
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



How compliant are multi-family buildings in the District with trash & recycling requirements?

Baseline Compliance Rate Survey

- **Answer the question:** are multi-family buildings complying with trash and recycling requirements?
- **400 buildings total (50 in each Ward)**
- **Characteristics Incorporated:**
 - Apartment, Condominiums, Co-ops
 - Building size (4-20, 20-100, 100-250, 251+)
 - Price (per sq/ft)
 - Affordability status
 - Contact information
- **Opportunity to Distribute Resources**
- **Opportunity to Enforce Requirements**





Questions?

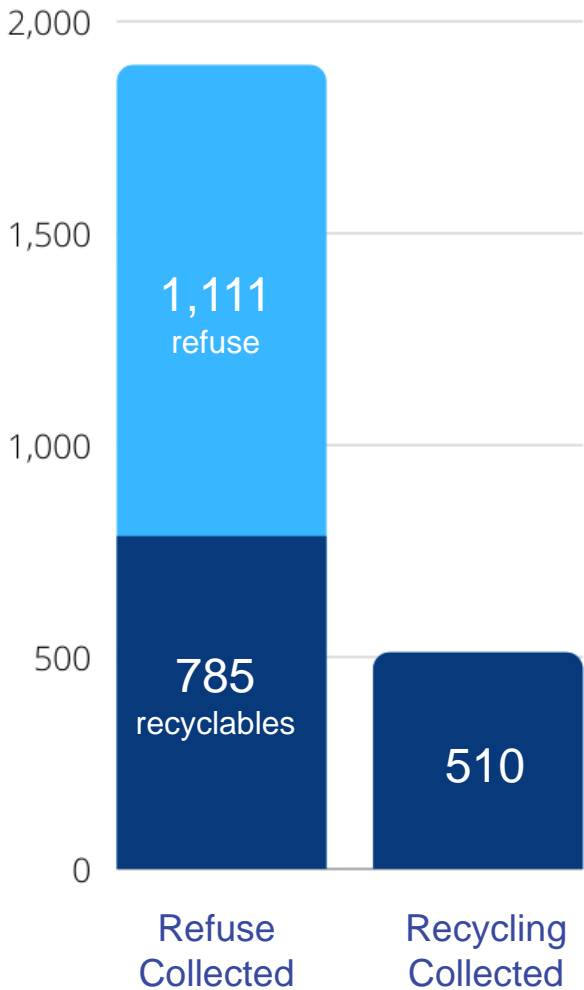
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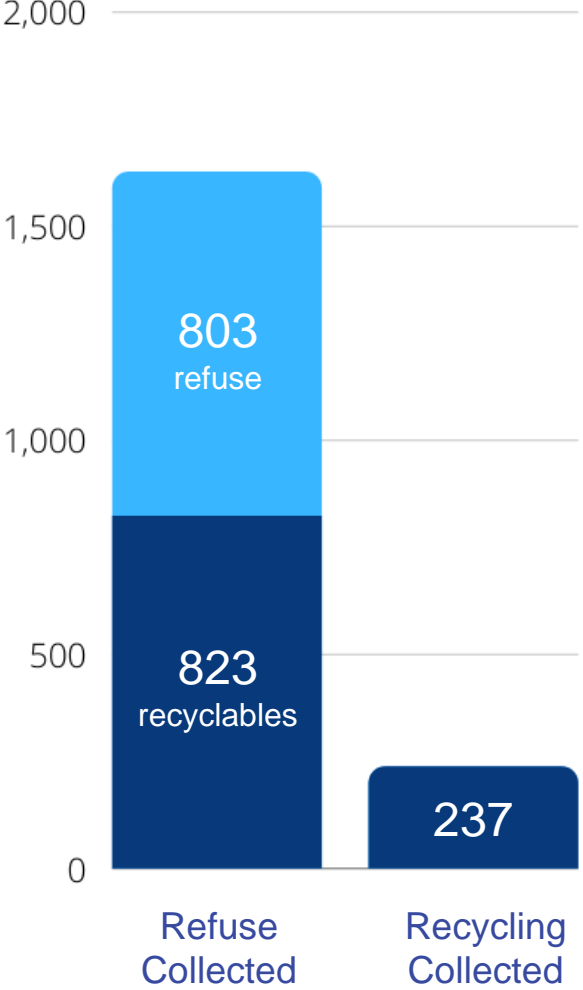


Capture of Single vs. Multi-Family Recycling

CY 2018



Single-Family
(tons/household/year)



Multi-Family
(tons/household/year)

Relative to single-family households, we know that multi-family households don't divert as many recyclables and that the contamination rate tends to be higher.

Why is multi-family successful not as successful as single-family recycling?

Property Manager Video

