



What Are We Wasting?

COG Recycling Committee
January 31, 2019

Why Do A Waste Characterization Study?

- Gauge Program Success
- Assess Diversion Opportunities
- Calculate Environmental Benefits
- Estimate Potential Revenue and Jobs
- Identify Disposal Trends
- Targeted Education by Materials and Generators
- Assist in Facility Design
- Evaluate Energy Value





Sonoma County, CA

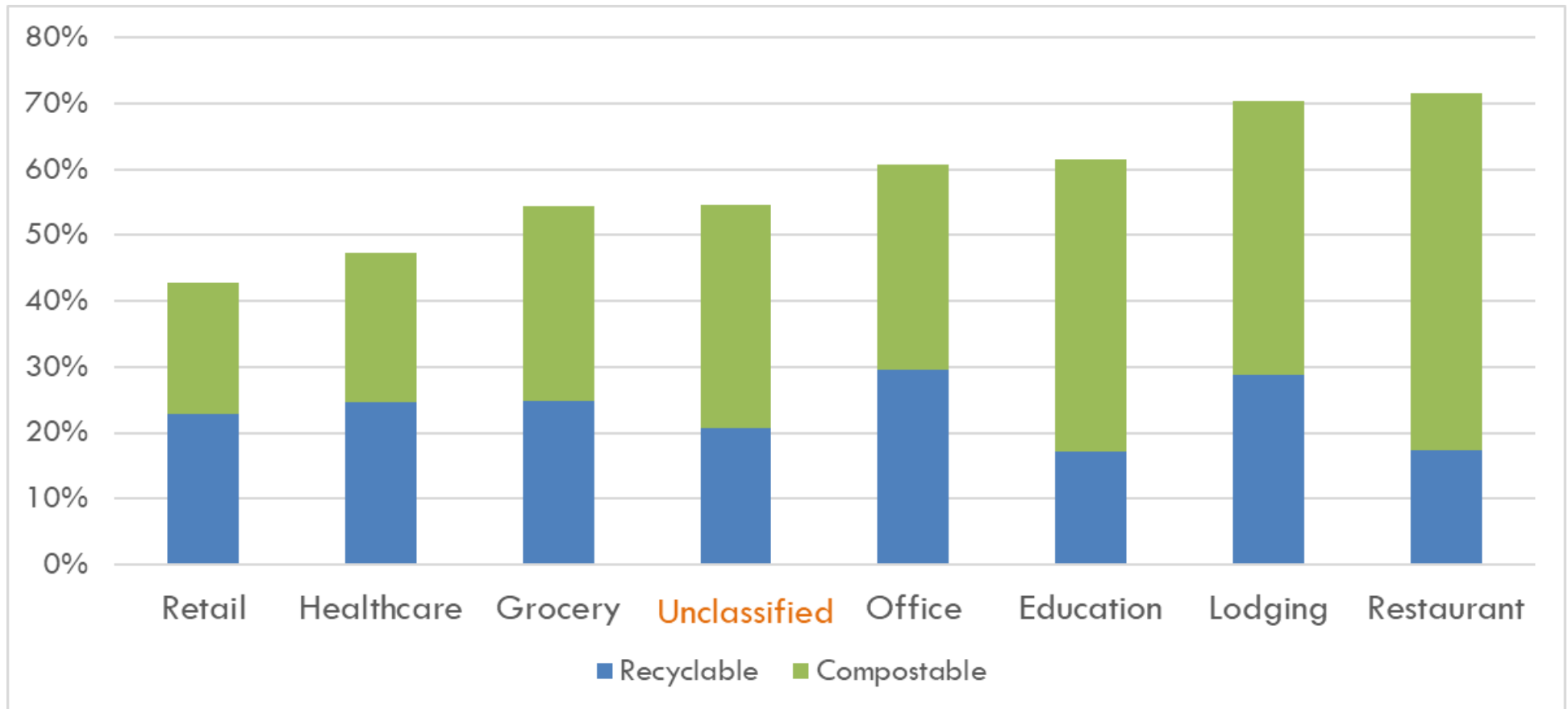
- Two Seasons Study
- 150 Commercial Samples
- **Stratified** by Generator Type



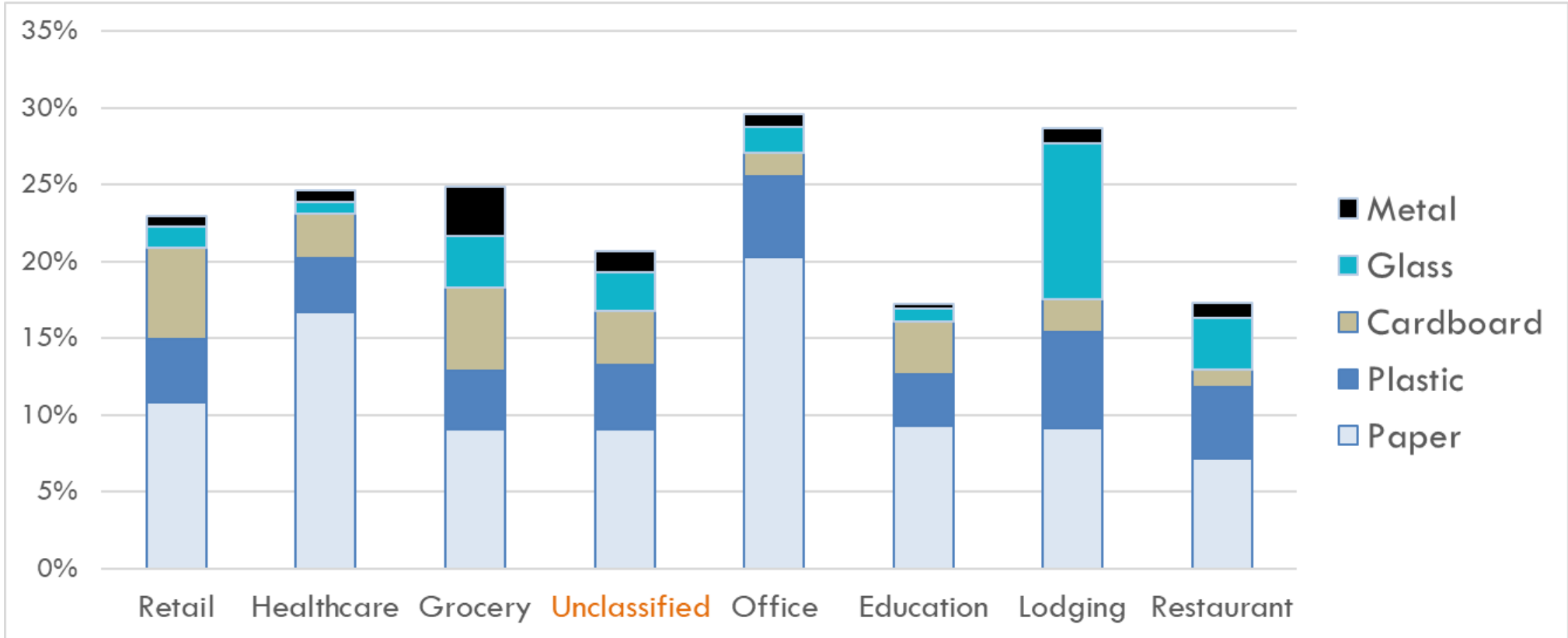
- Retail
- Healthcare
- Grocery
- Office
- Education
- Lodging
- Restaurant
- Unclassified

Sonoma County, CA

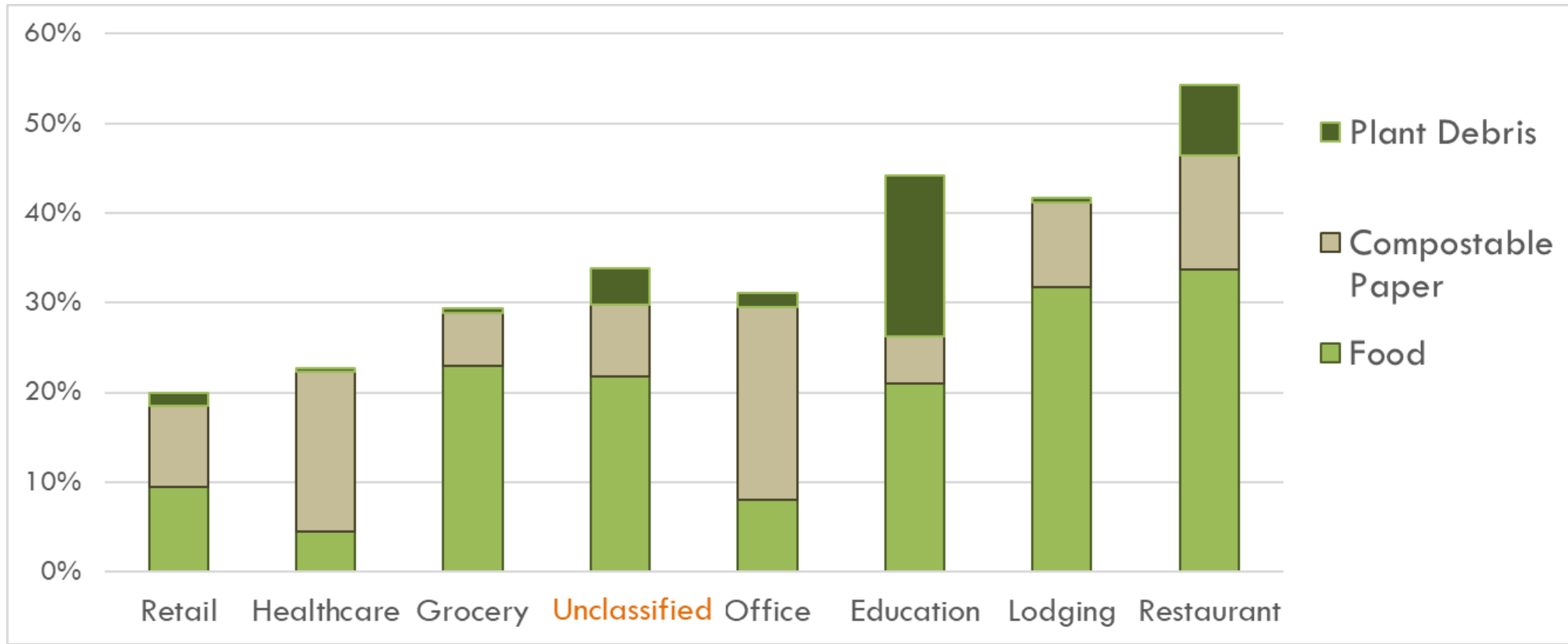
Recyclable & Compostable



Sonoma County, CA Recyclable



Sonoma County, CA Compostable





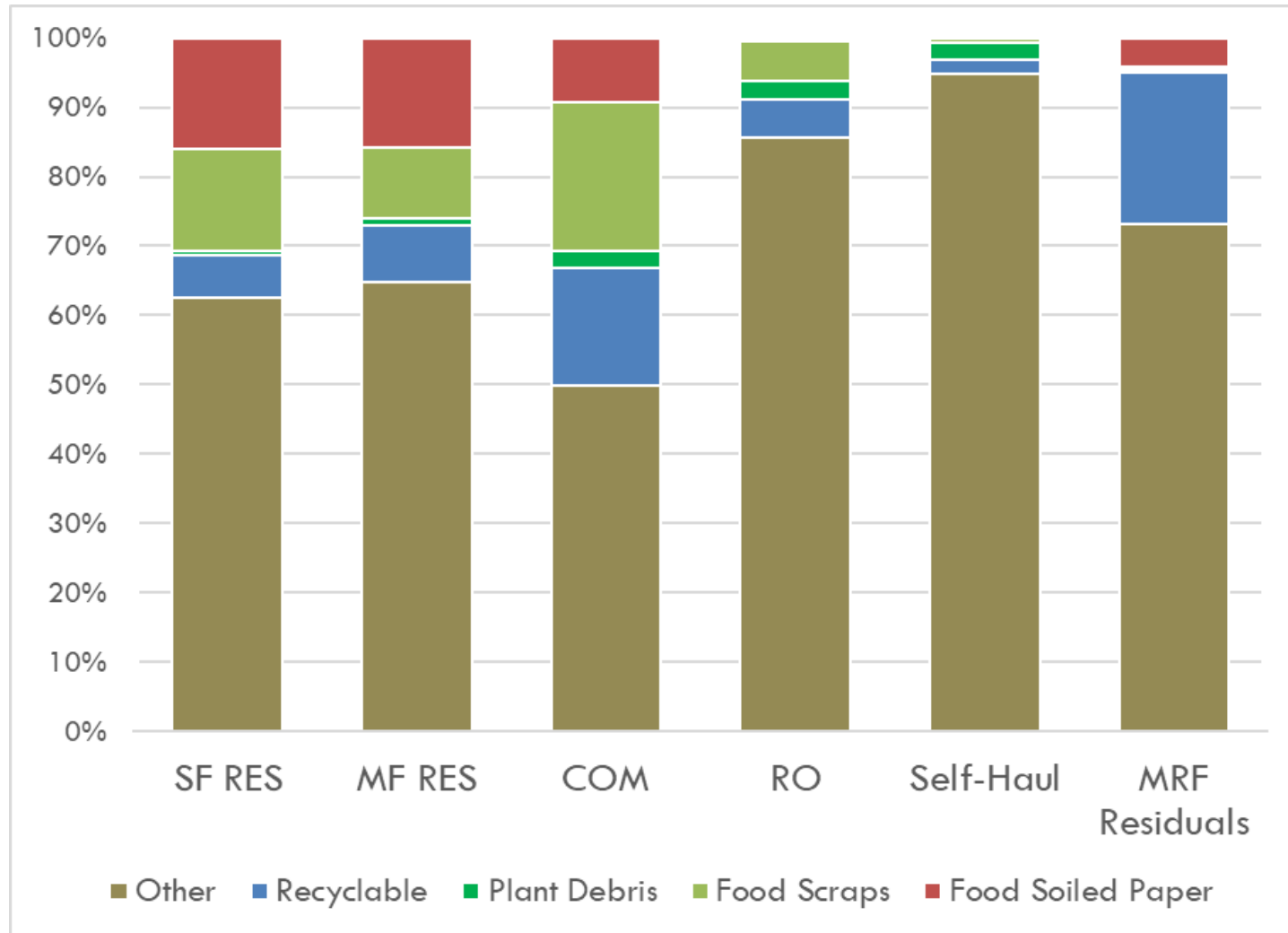
Alameda County, CA

- Two Seasons Study
- 250 Commercial Samples
- Incorporated **In-House Residential Data**
- Compared to **Previous** Studies
- Compared to **Statewide** Study



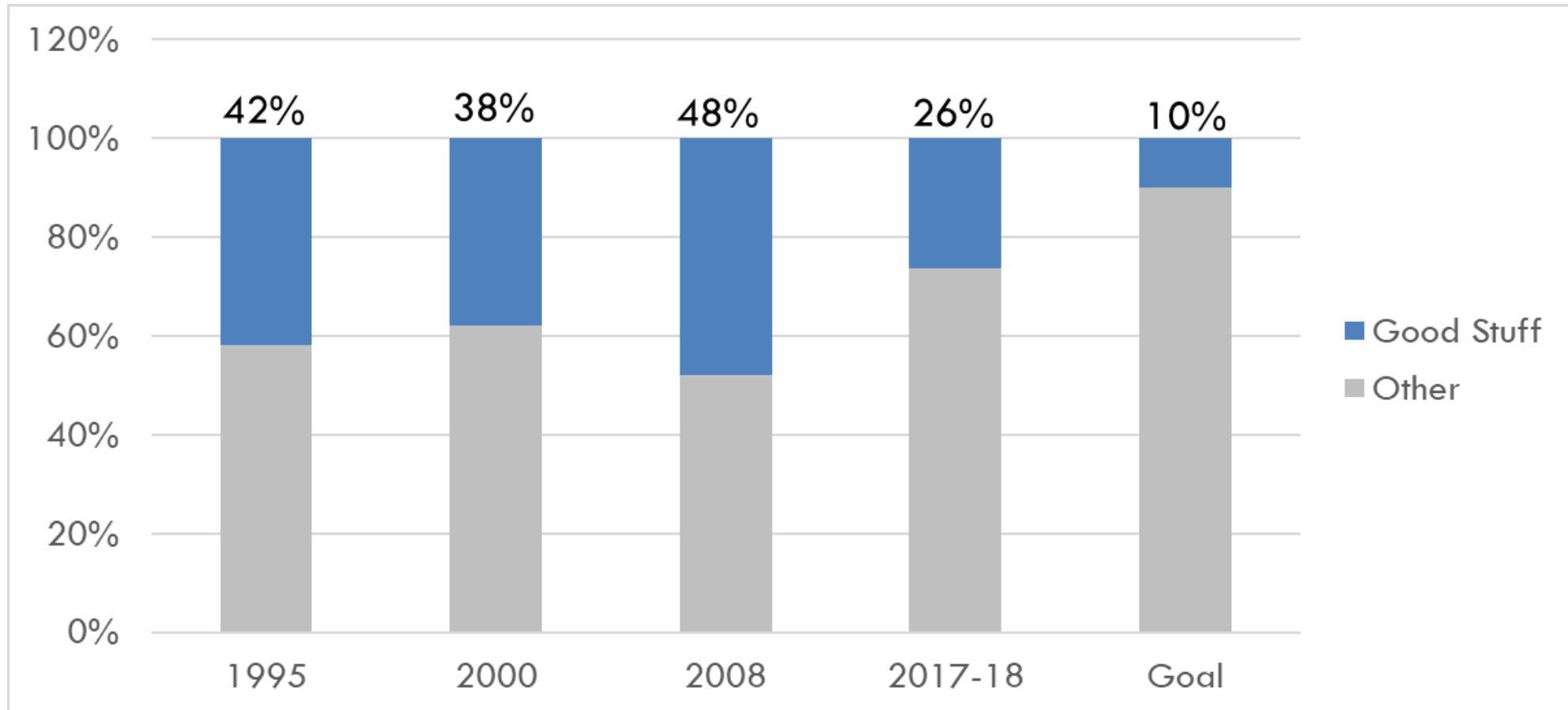
Alameda County, CA

Composition by Sector

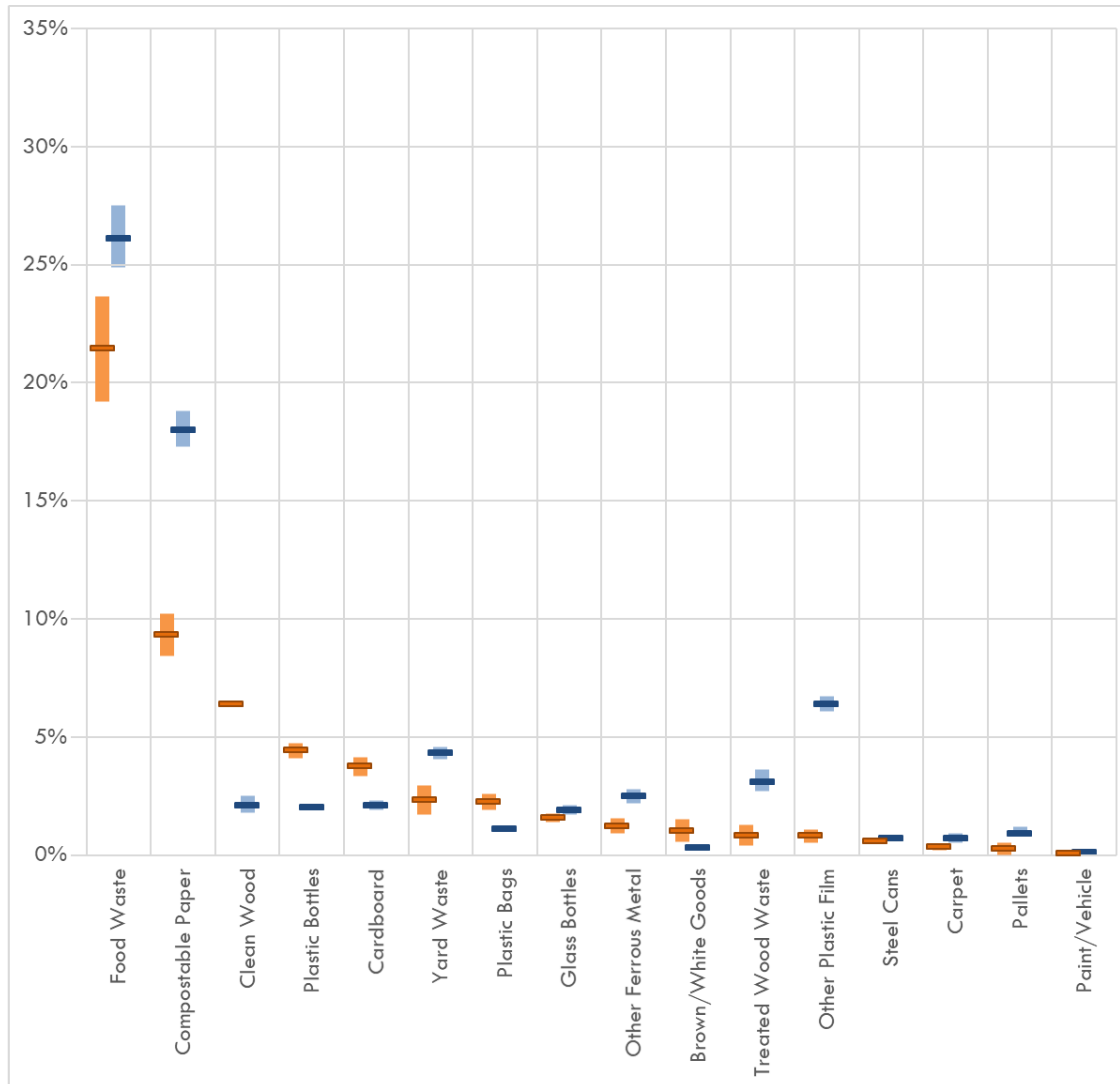


Alameda County, CA

"Good Stuff" in Garbage



Alameda County, CA Changes Since 2008



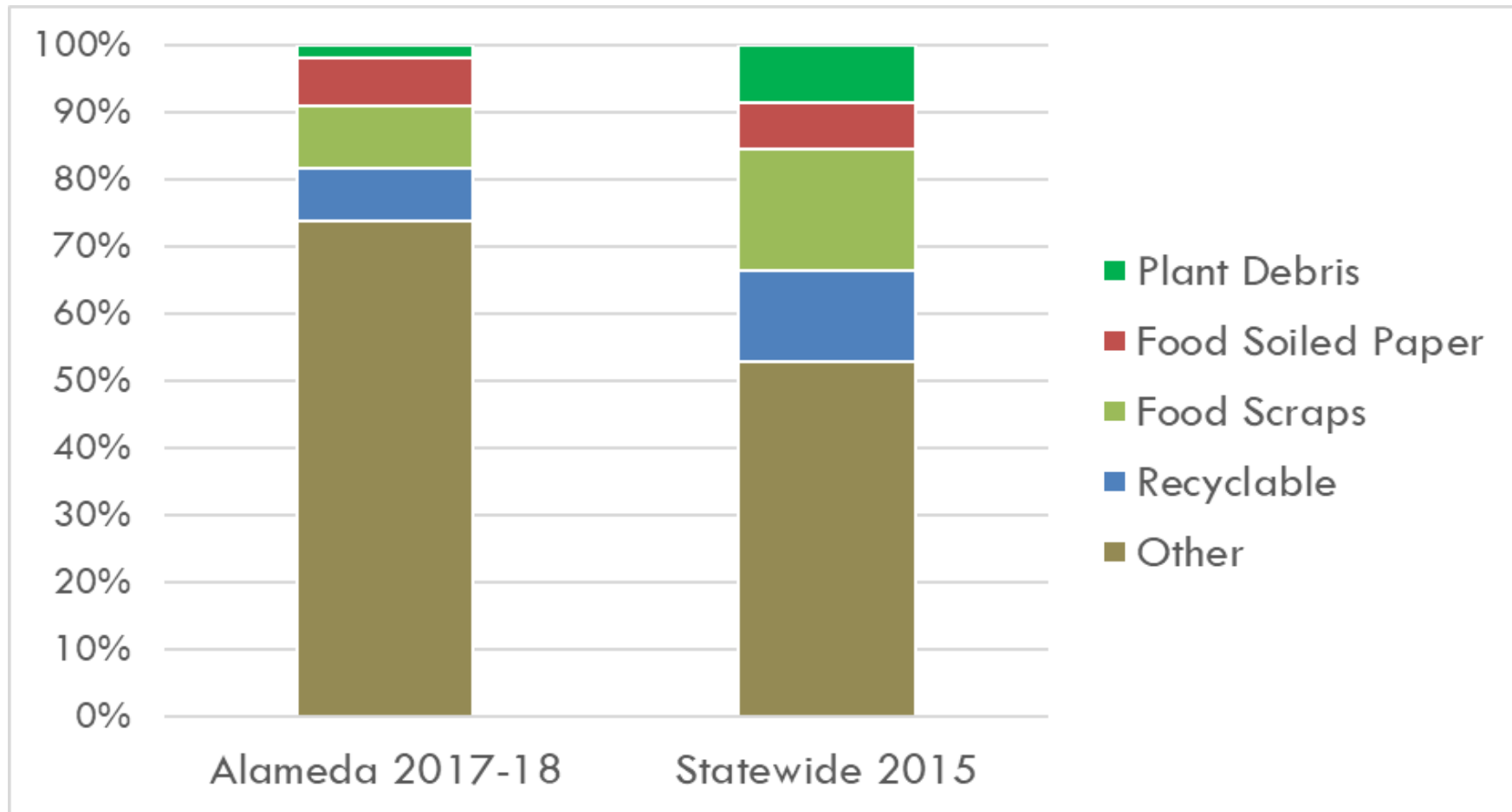
Increases in

- Cardboard
- Plastic Bottles/Containers
- Plastic Bags
- Clean Wood
- Brown/White Goods

Decreases in:

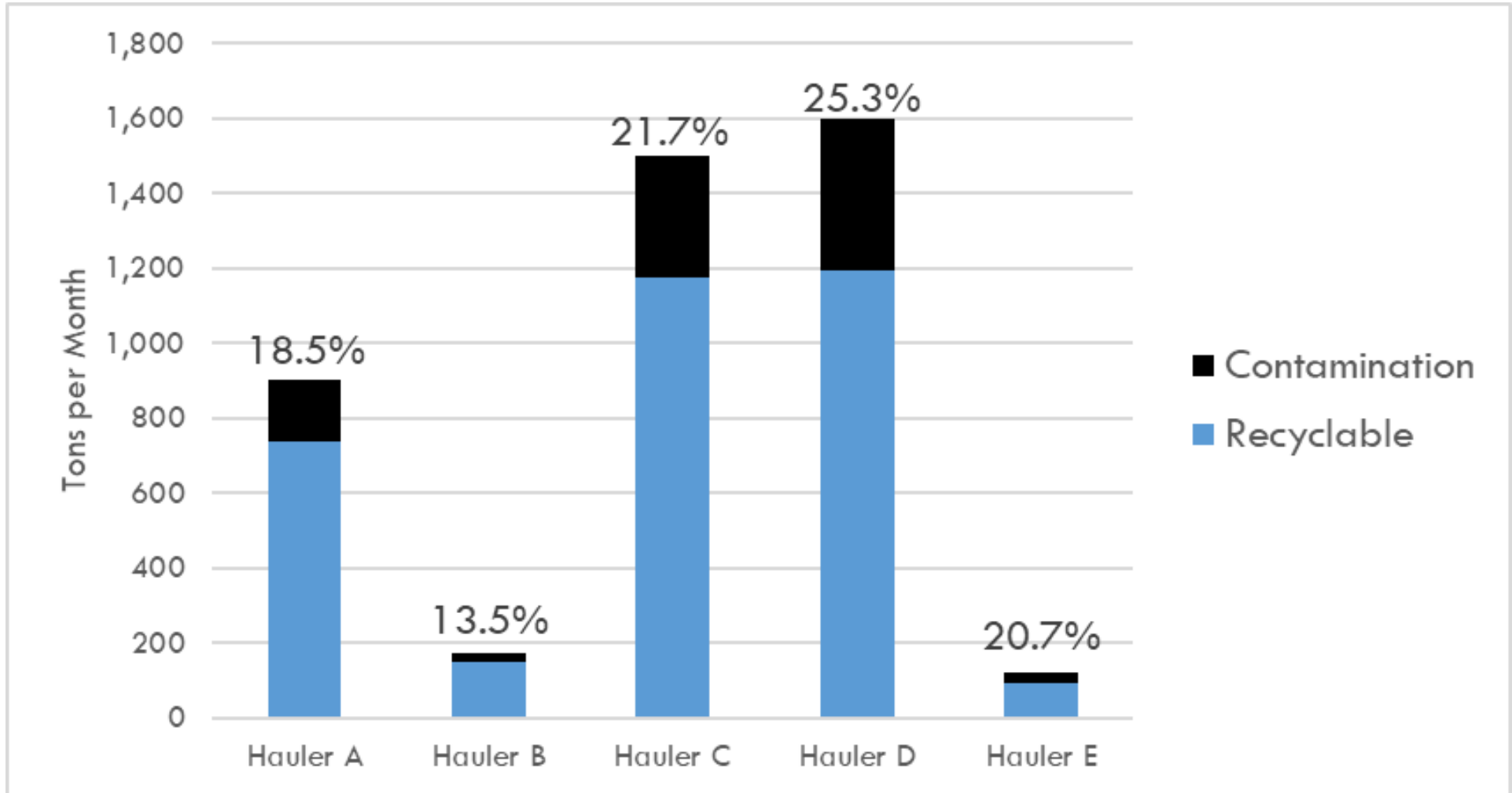
- Other Plastic Film
- Glass Bottles/Jars
- Steel Cans
- Other Ferrous Metal
- Yard Debris
- Food Waste
- Compostable Paper
- Pallets
- Carpet
- Treated Wood
- Paint/Vehicle Fluids

Alameda County, CA Compared to Statewide

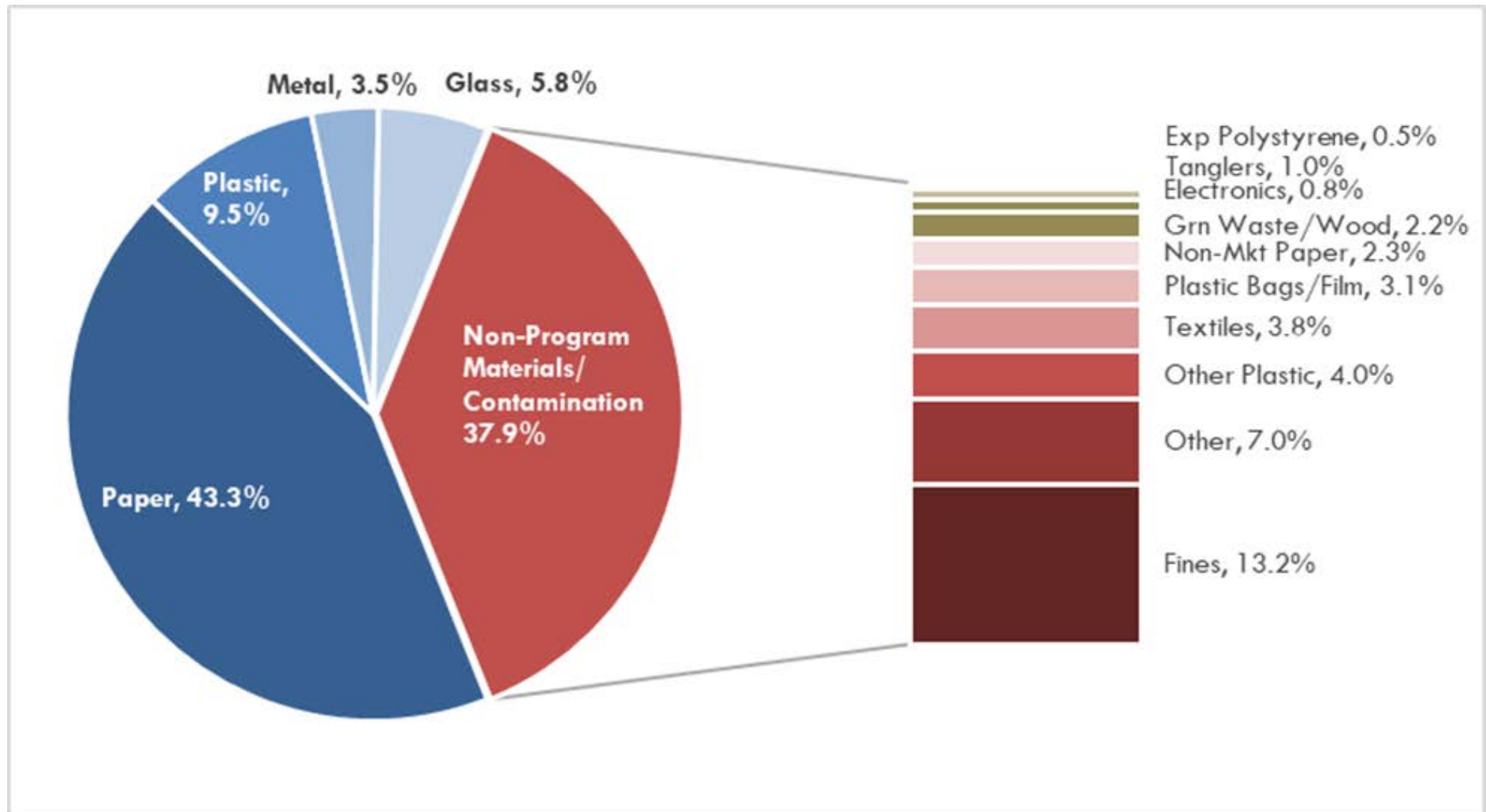


Monterey, CA

Recycling Contamination

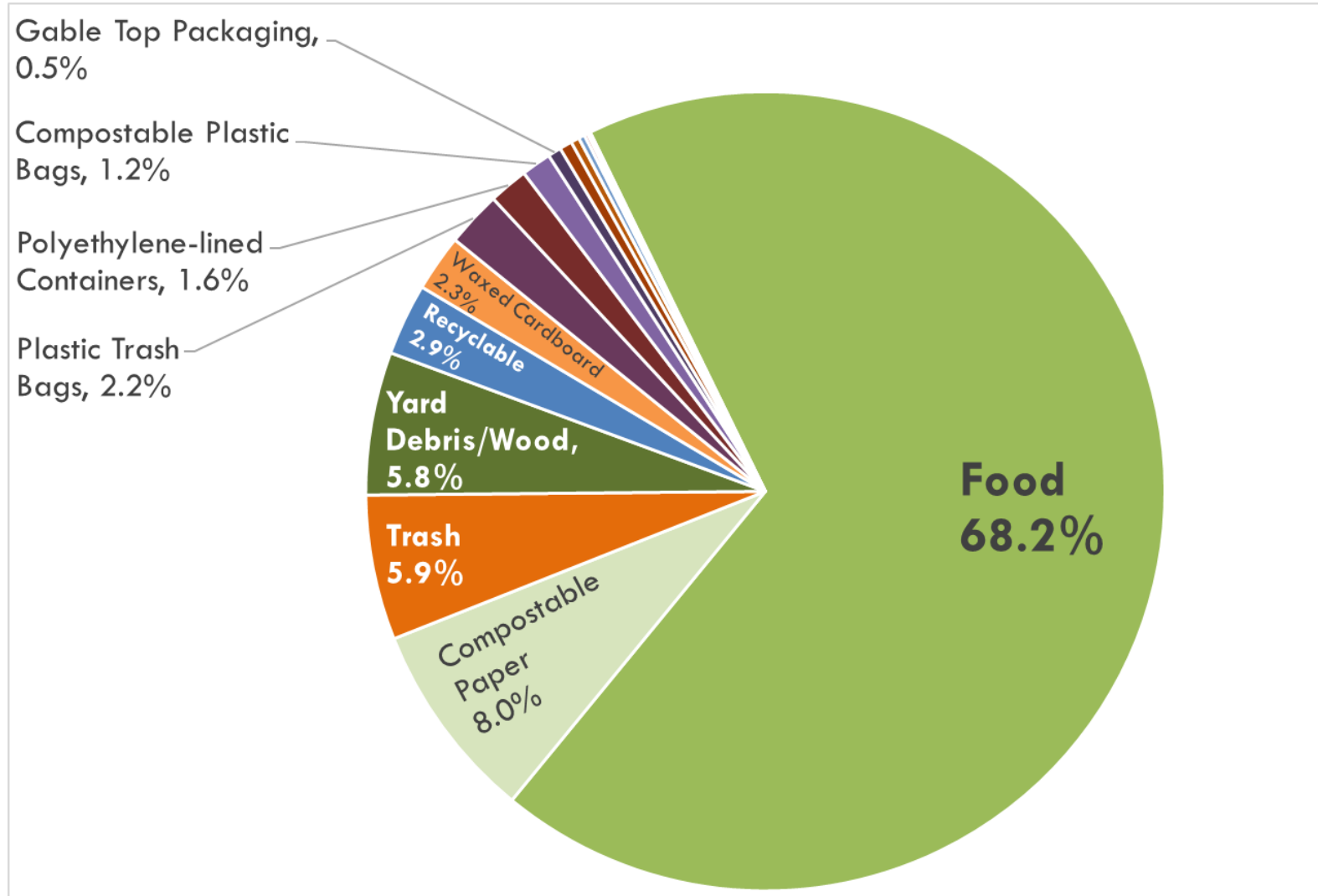


Florida County Recycling Composition



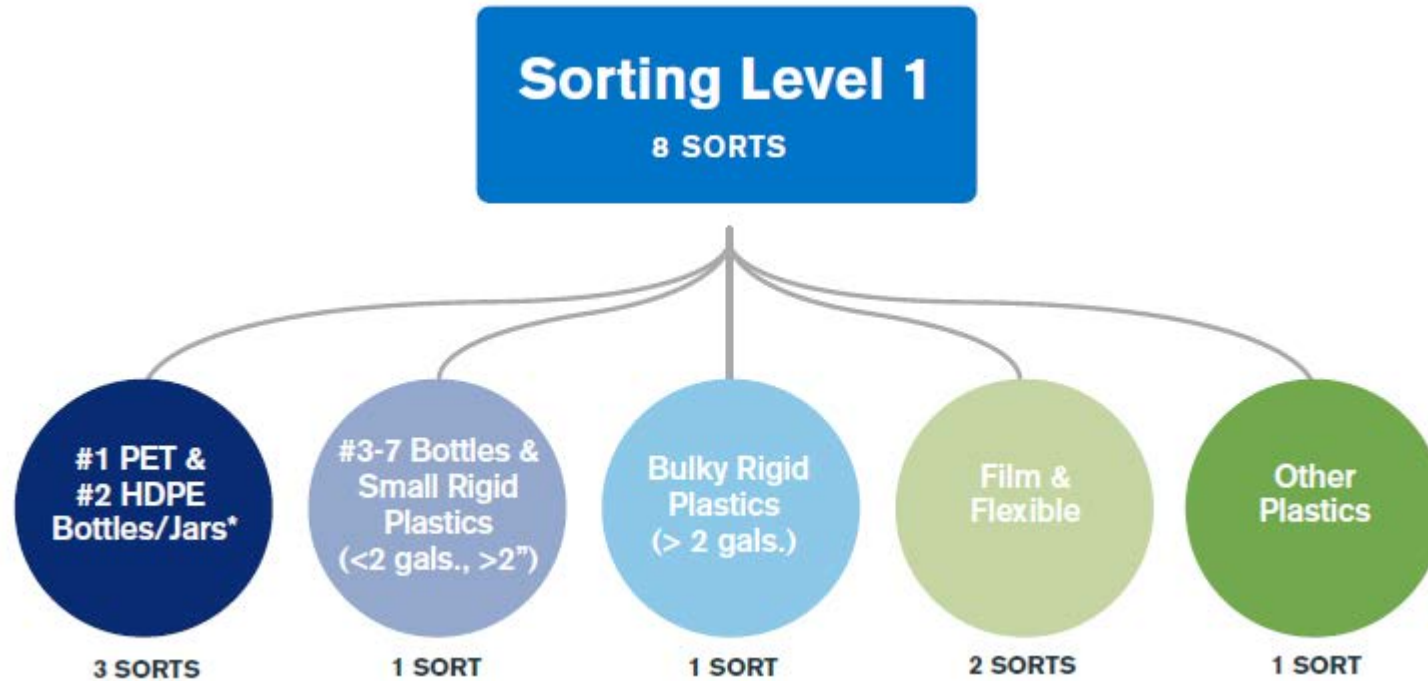
California County

Organics Composition



Association of Plastic Recyclers

Plastic Sorting



<https://plasticsrecycling.org>

"Resources"
Plastic Sorting BMP

Before a Waste Characterization Study...

1. How Will the Information & Data be Used
 - a) Education and Outreach
 - b) Evaluation of Existing Programs
2. More Materials = More time = More Cost
3. Plan Early for Comparisons
 - a) Prior Studies
 - b) Other Jurisdictions and Statewide
4. Use APR Guidance for Consistency

Questions?
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