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# MEASURING RECYCLING IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

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A PROJECT OF THE MICHIGAN RECYCLING COALITION WITH GRANT  
FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY







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# \*THE GOALS

**01.**

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Determine  
levels of  
access

**02.**

---

Determine  
participation

**03.**

---

Calculate  
the  
recycling  
rate

ACCESS  
+  
PARTICIPATION



RECYCLING  
RATE



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# \* METHODOLOGY

**01.**

---

Survey  
the supply  
chain

**02.**

---

Leverage  
industry,  
proprietary,  
and public  
data

**03.**

---

Model  
Data Gaps



**01.**

---

Survey  
the supply  
chain

**02.**

---

Leverage  
industry,  
proprietary,  
and public  
data

**03.**

---

Model  
Data Gaps

**01.**

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Survey  
the supply  
chain

**02.**

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Leverage  
industry,  
proprietary,  
and public  
data

**03.**

---

Model  
Data Gaps



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\* ACCESS TO RECYCLING



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What constitutes access to  
recycling?



## **CURBSIDE**

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Contracted  
Subscription



## **DROPOFF**

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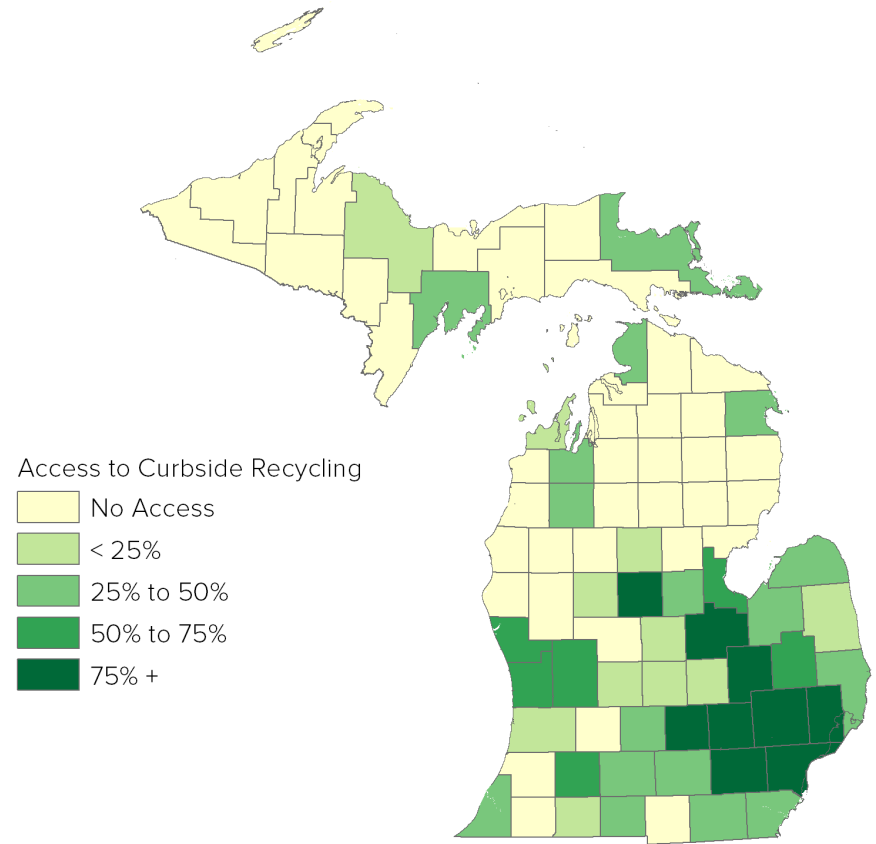
Convenient  
Minimal

# \* CURBSIDE RECYCLING ACCESS

Access varies widely

Higher access in  
dense/urban areas  
Lower in rural areas

Some available by  
subscription only



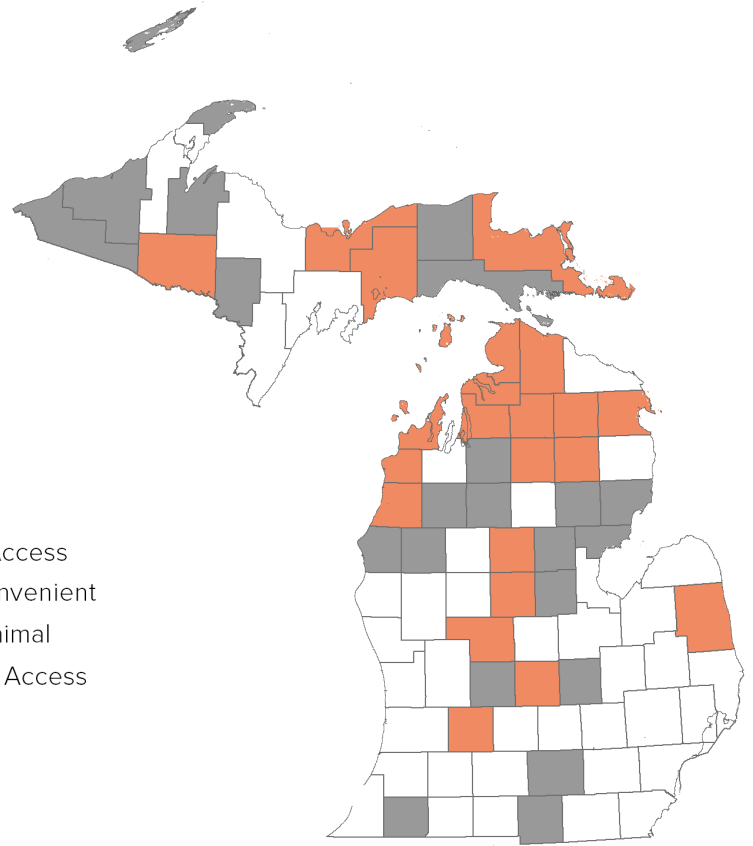
# \* DROPOFF ACCESS

At least 1 in county open to public



Dropoff Access

- Convenient
- Minimal
- No Access

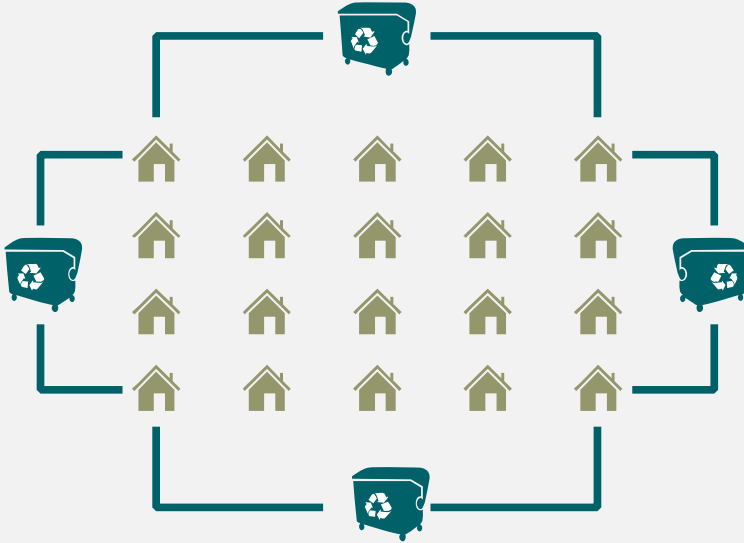






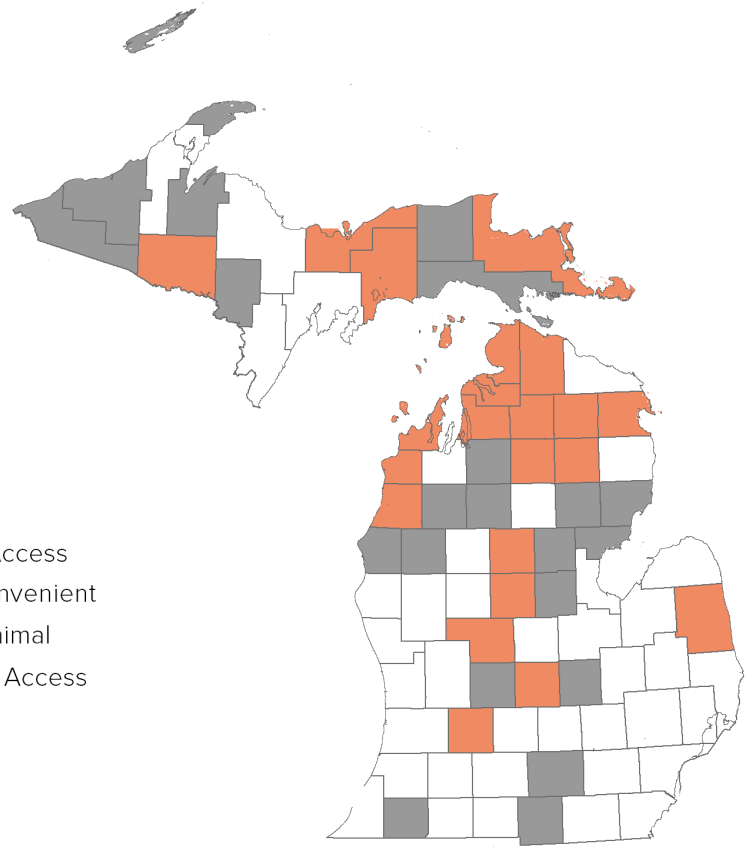
# \* CONVENIENT DROPOFF

At least 1 for every 10,000 residents



Dropoff Access

- Convenient
- Minimal
- No Access



# \* ACCESS PROFILES

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# \*PARTICIPATION IN RECYCLING



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What does recycling participation mean?

**01.**

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How many people participate in the recycling system?

**02.**

---

How much material do they recycle?

**01.**

---

How many people participate in the recycling system?

**02.**

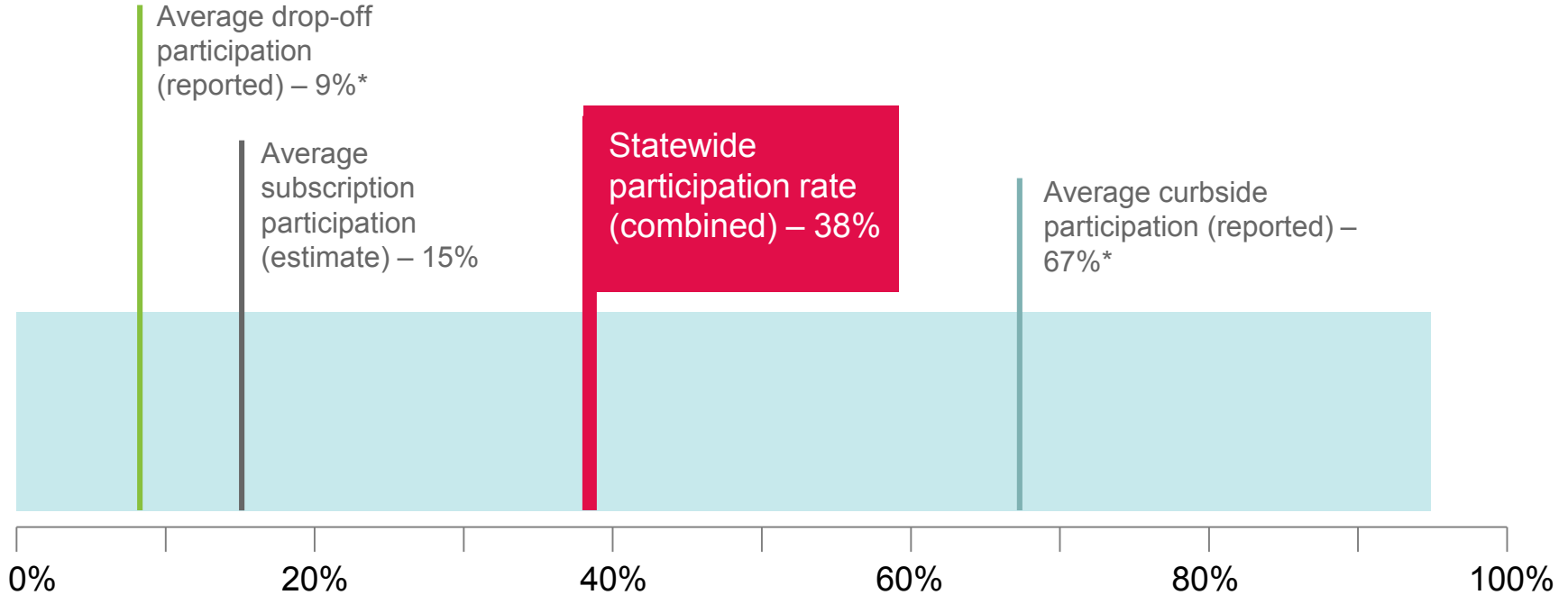
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How much material do they recycle?



# RANGE OF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION RATES

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\* Weighted by size of program

**67%** of eligible households with a municipal curbside program participate...

+ **15%** of subscription curbside households...

+ **9%** of drop-off households...

---

**38% participation statewide**



**01.**

---

How many people participate in the recycling system?

**02.**

---

How much material do they recycle?

## RESULTS

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Curbside recycling participants recycle **300-840 lbs/participating household/year**

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## MEDIAN

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570 lbs per participating household annually

# \* PARTICIPATION PROFILES

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LARGE  
SUBURBAN  
WITH CARTS

**720 LB**

Per Participant

**75%**

Participation

HAVE BINS

**375 LB**

Per Participant

**75%**

Participation

DENSE  
URBAN

**540 LB**

Per Participant

**50%**

Participation

# \* PARTICIPATION GAPS

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Boosting participation in urban areas

Increasing availability of carts



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\*RECYCLING RATE

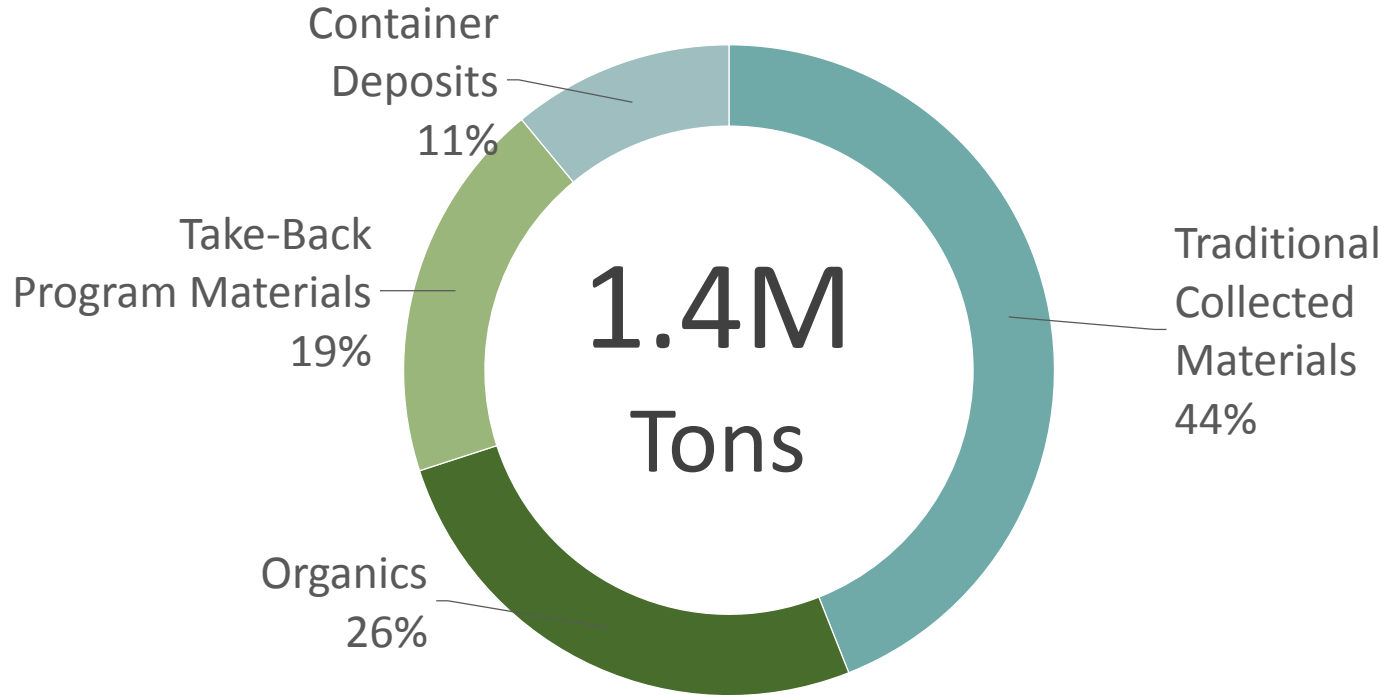


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# What gets recycled?

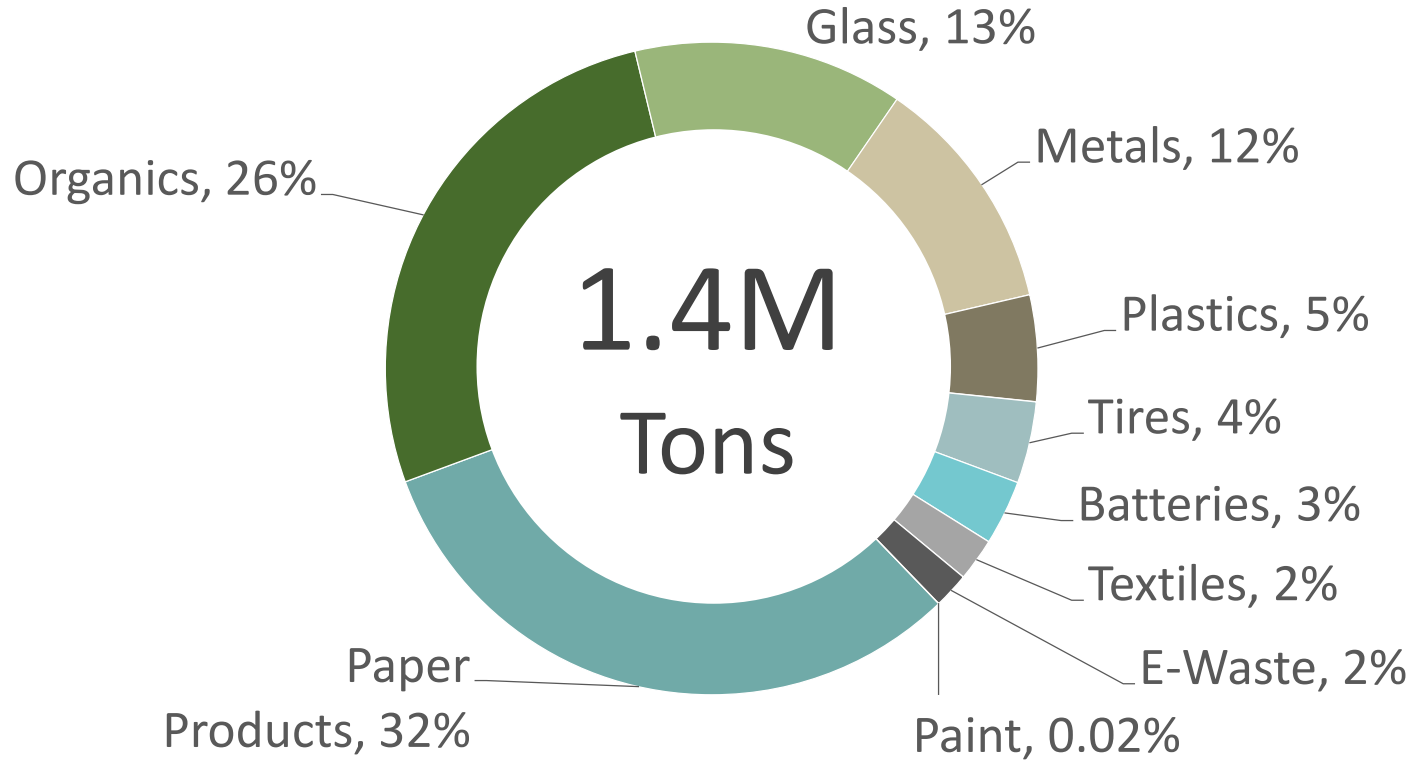
# \* RECYCLING STREAM COMPOSITION

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# \* RECYCLING STREAM COMPOSITION

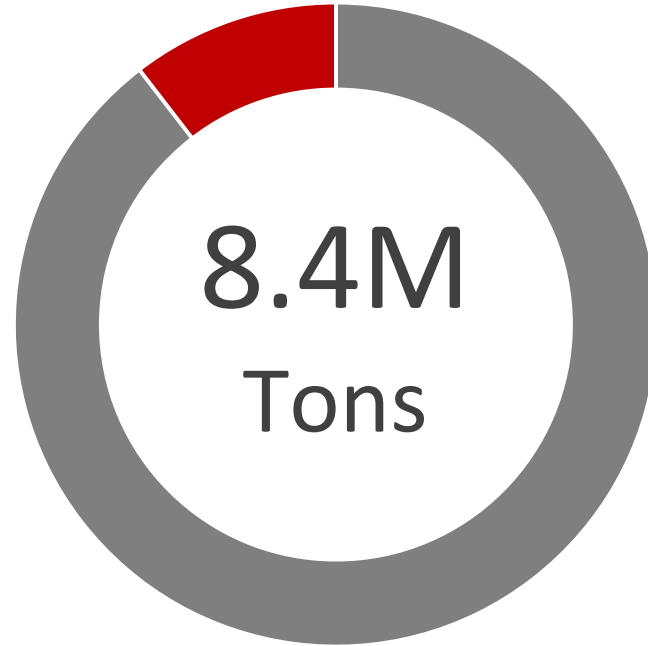
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# \* DISPOSAL IN MICHIGAN

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- Landfilled
- Incinerated

# \* RECYCLING RATE

---

TONS RECYCLED

---

TONS RECYCLED

+

TONS DISPOSED

=

RECYCLING

RATE

# \* RECYCLING RATE

---

1.4M TONS RECYCLED

---

1.4M TONS RECYCLED

+

8.0 TONS DISPOSED

=

15%

15%

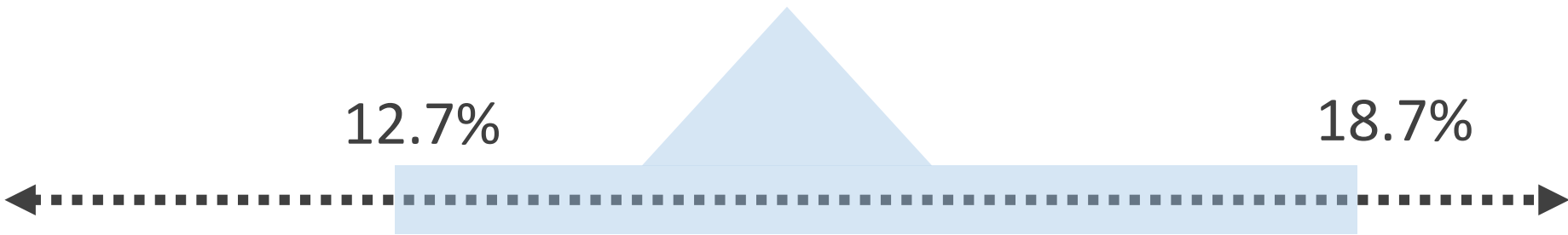
12.7%

18.7%

10%

15%

20%



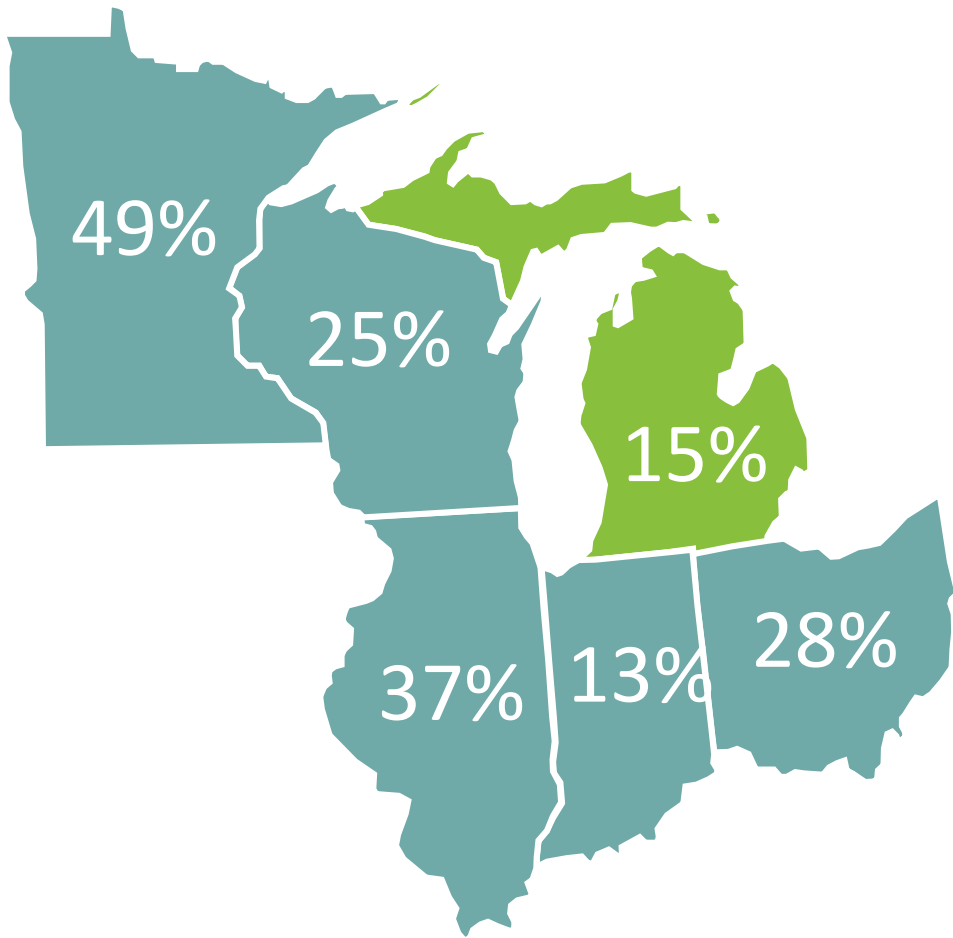


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So how do we achieve  
Governor Snyder's Goal  
of 30%



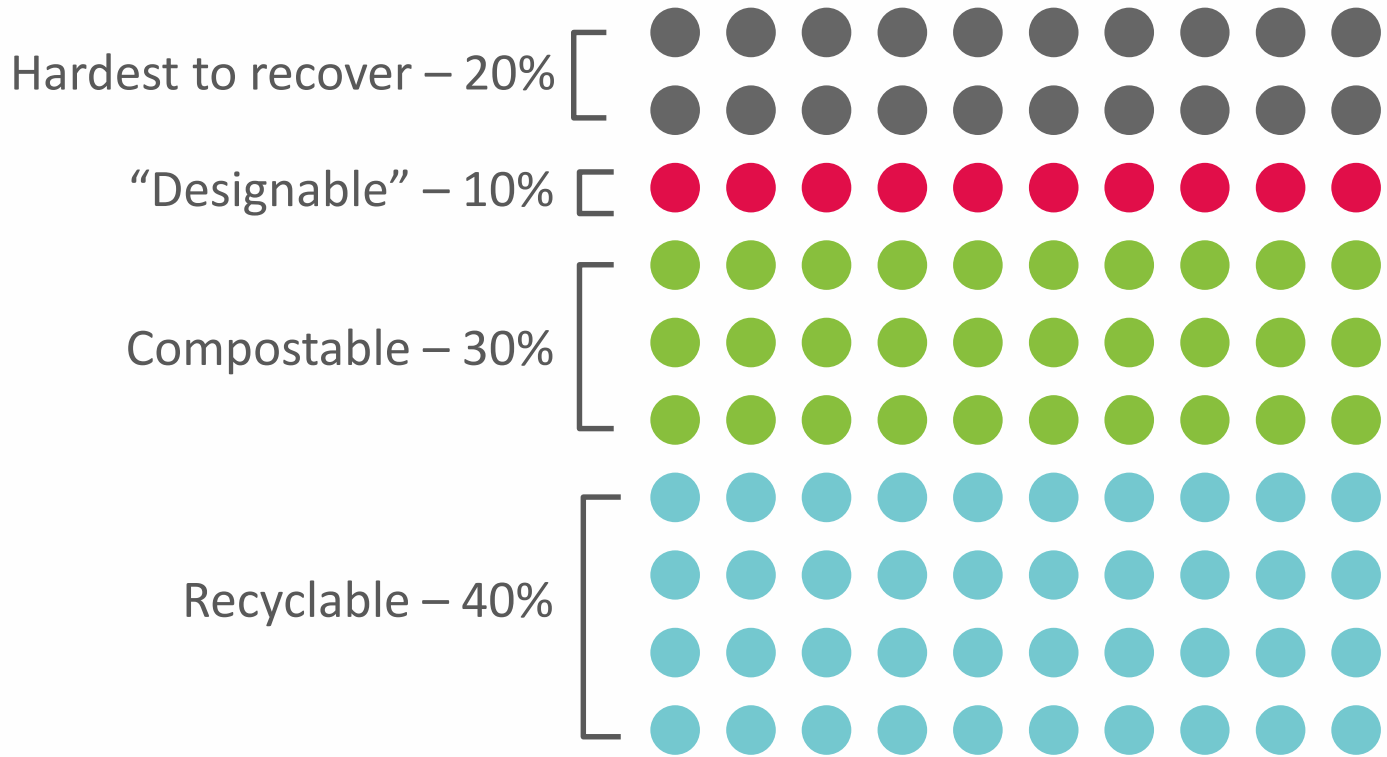
Managing change in a  
resource-constrained  
world for nearly 30 years

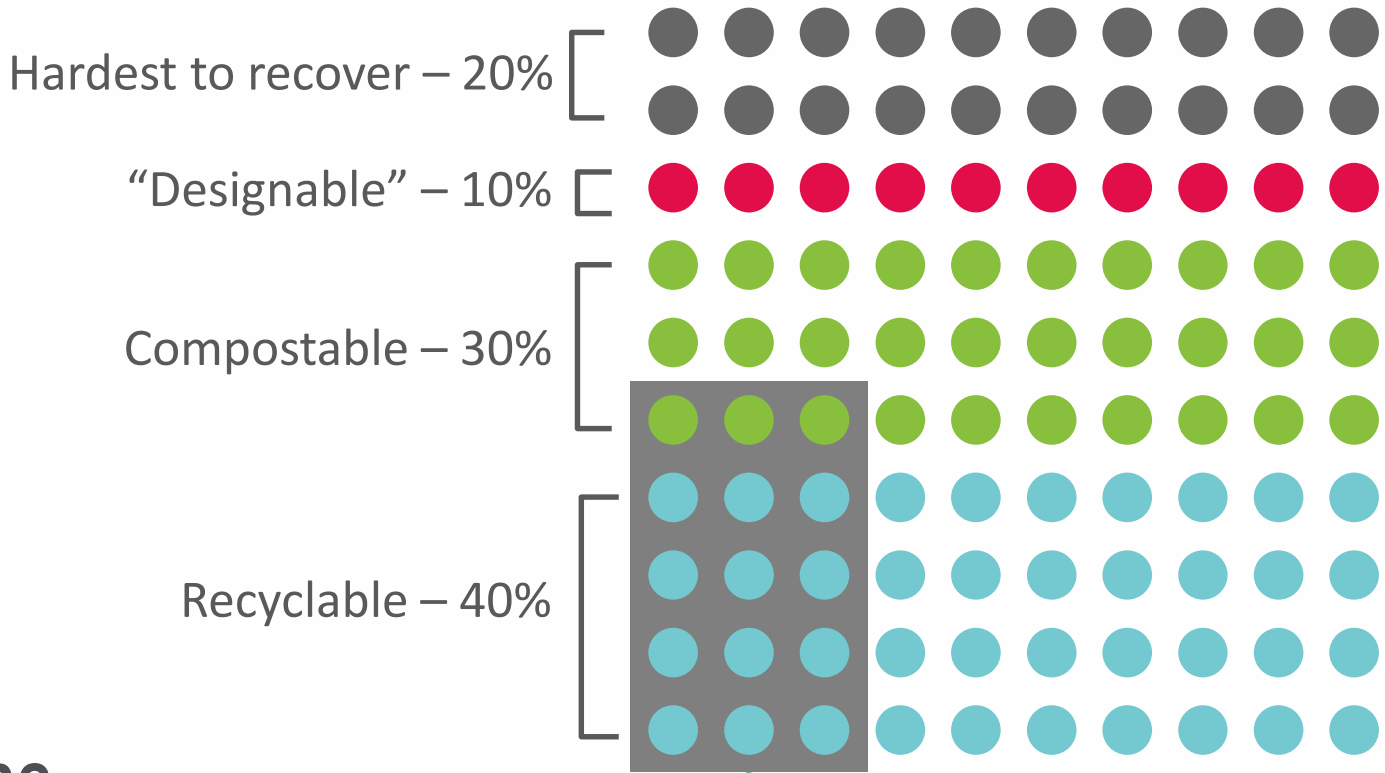


Capturing more of the  
remaining 85%

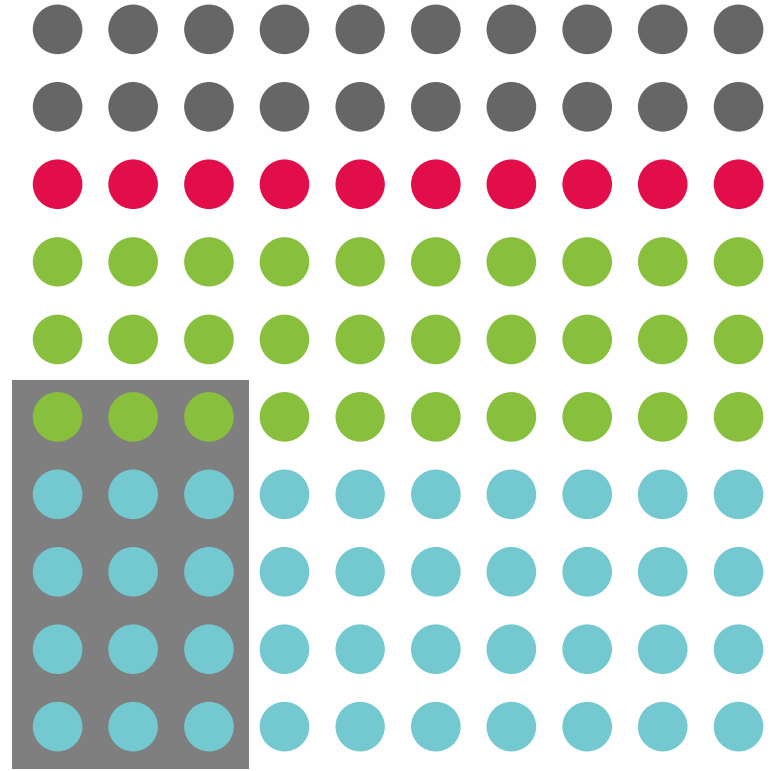






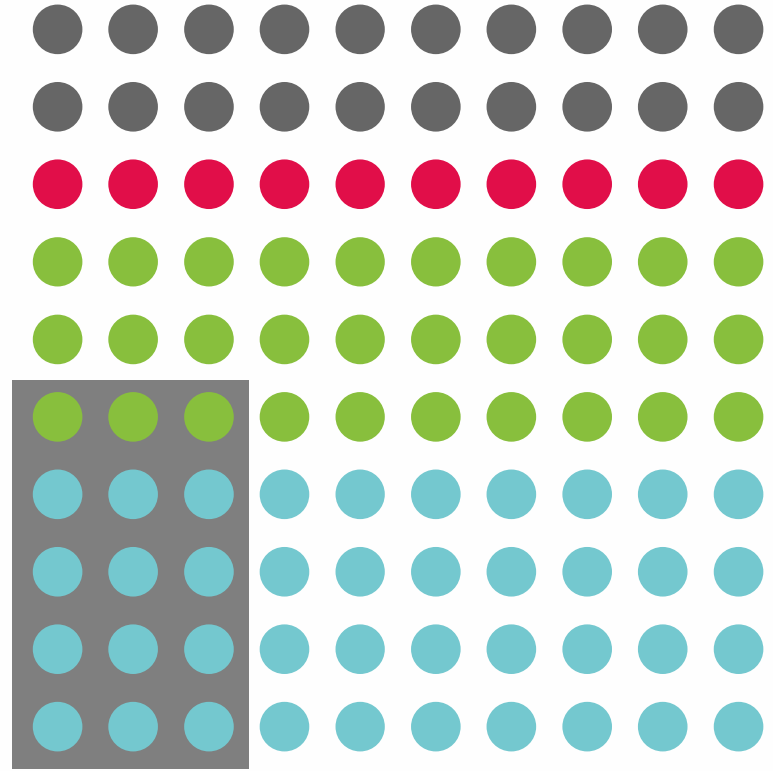


Improve current  
curbside programs  
to best practice  
recovery levels.



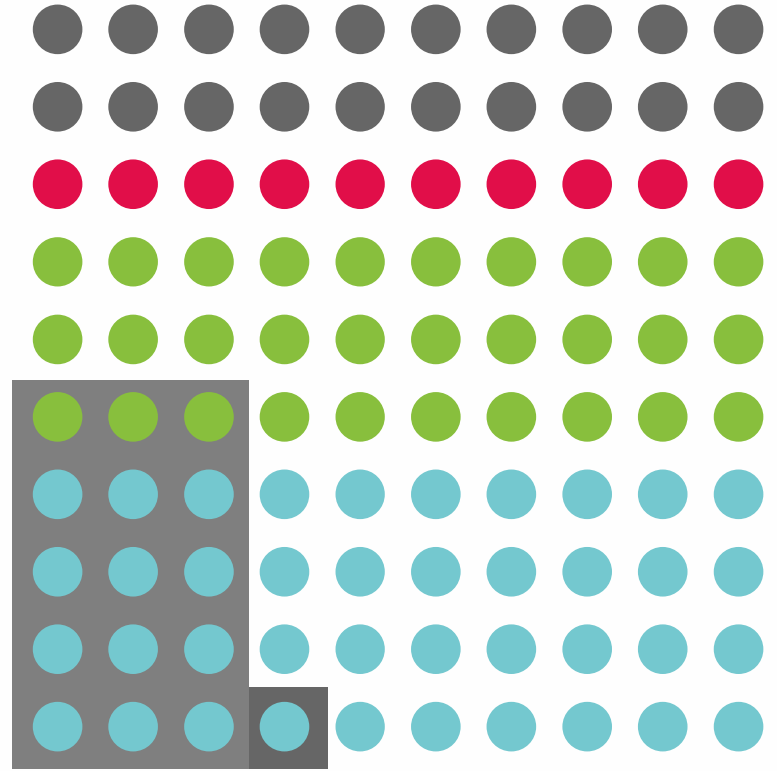
# Improve current curbside programs to best practice recovery levels.

433 → 550 (lbs/hh)  
LB Recyclables per Household Annually





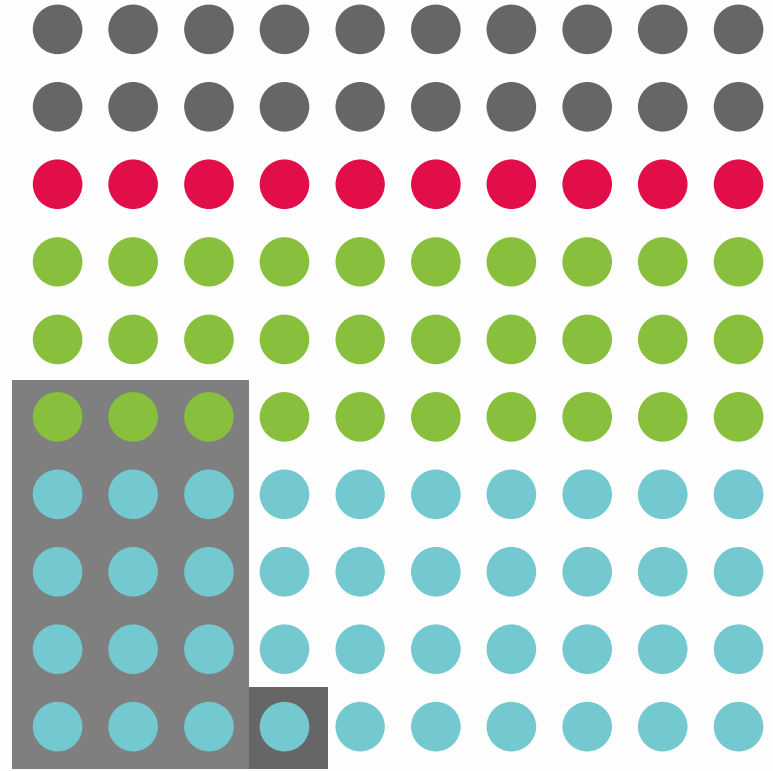
**Expand curbside programs to all cities larger than 25,000 residents.**



**Expand curbside programs to all cities larger than 25,000 residents.**

88-163 → 550  
(lbs/hh)

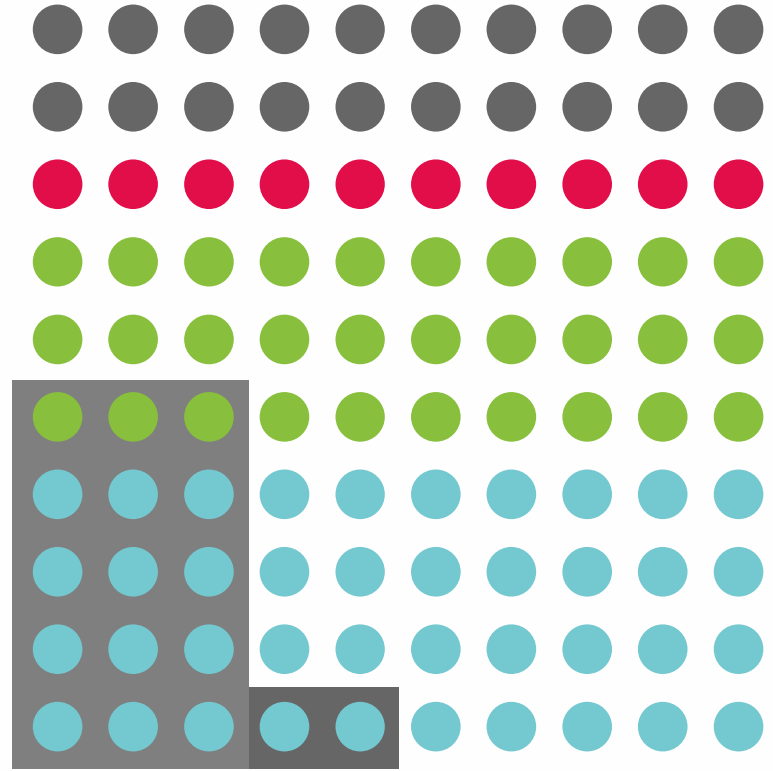
LB Recyclables per Household Annually



Expand curbside programs to all cities larger than 25,000 residents.

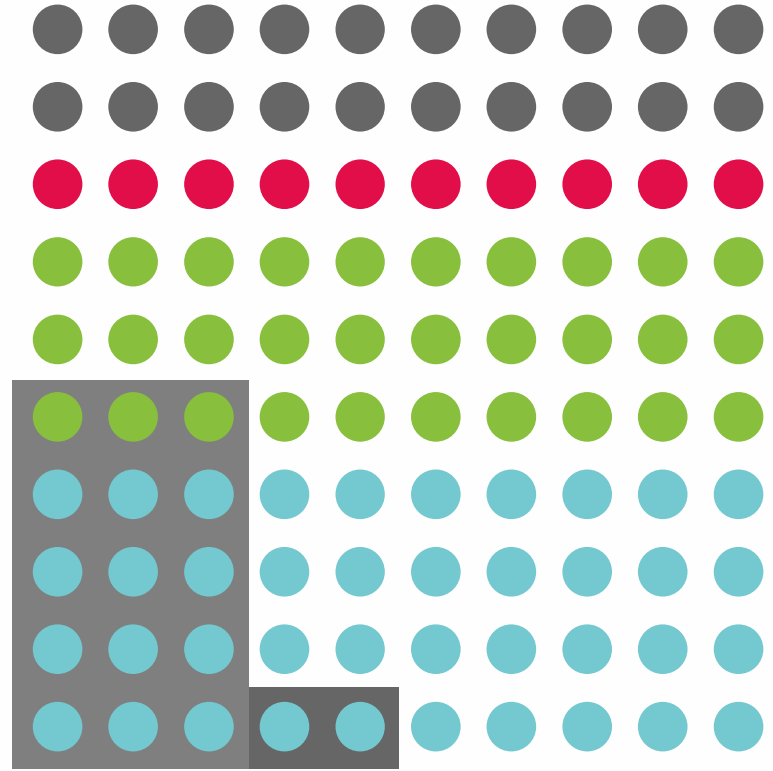


17%





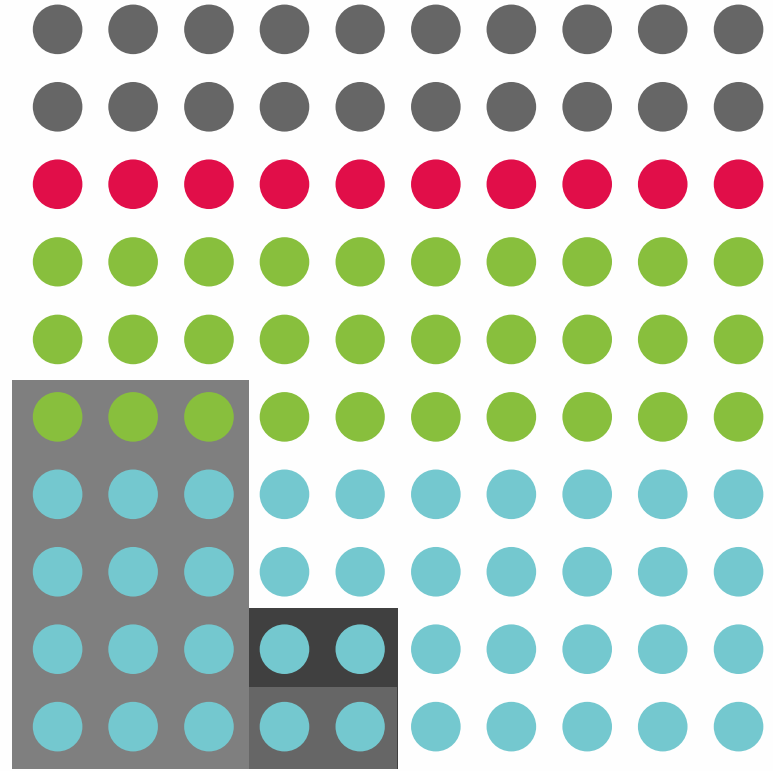
**Increase best  
practice access to  
curbside carts for  
all single-family  
homes.**



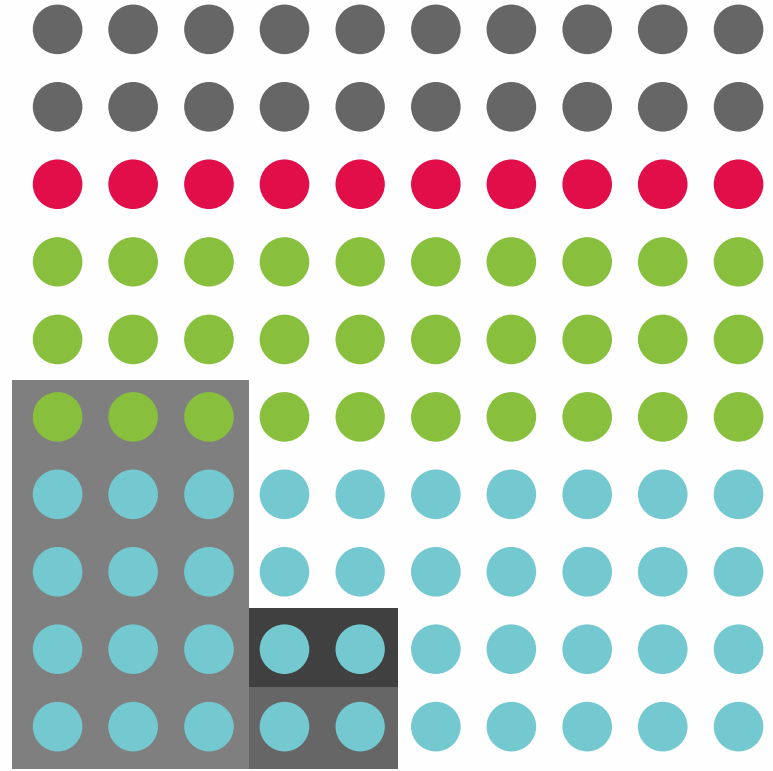
Increase best practice access to curbside carts for all single-family homes.

RRS 

19%



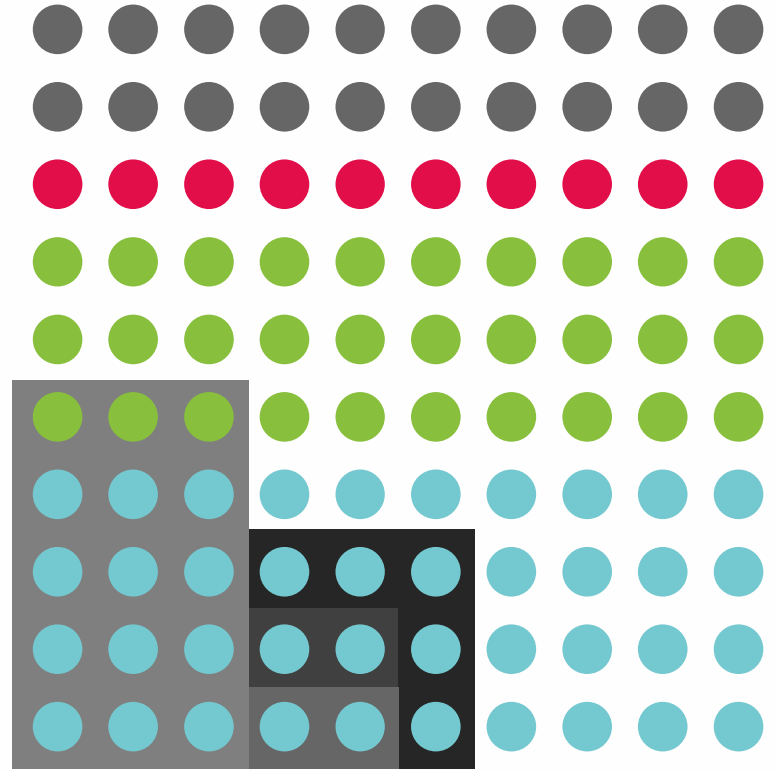
**Increase commercial recycling and improve reporting of commercial recycling activity.**



Increase commercial recycling and improve reporting of commercial recycling activity.

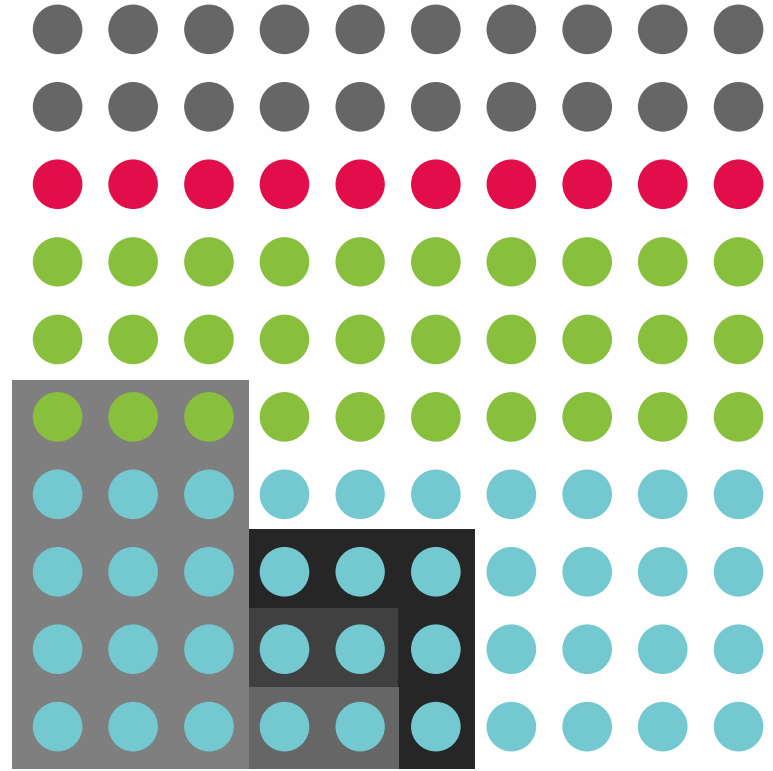
RRS 

24%

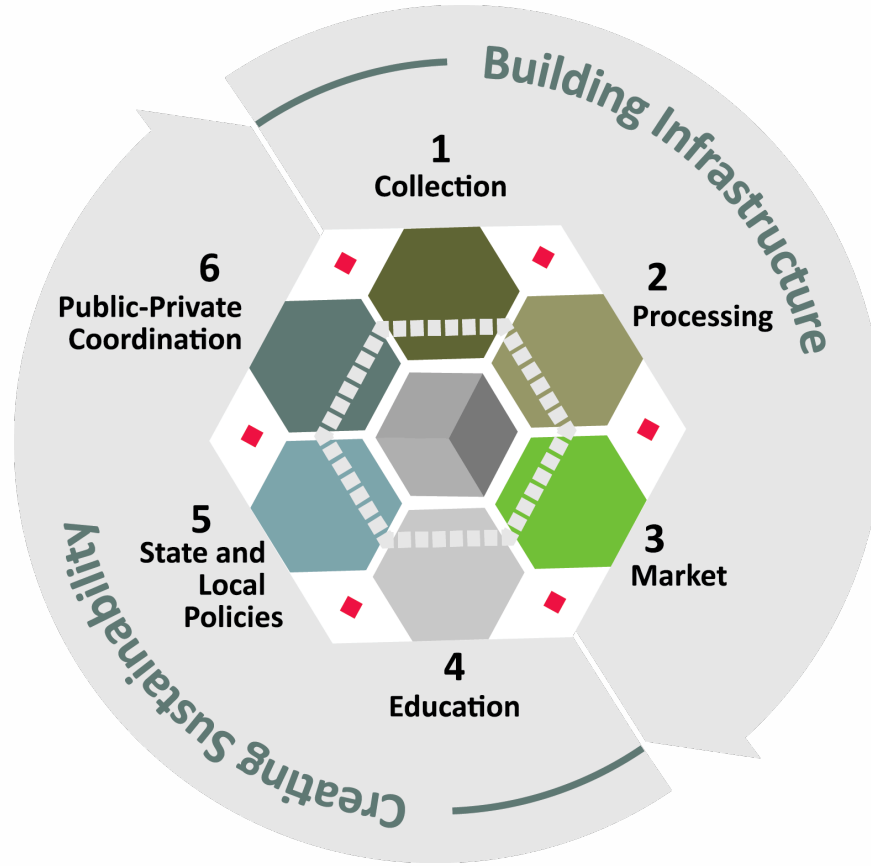


# Capture 1/3 of food waste statewide

Residential  
+  
Commercial







# Thank You!



RRS (Resource Recycling Systems)



@recycle\_com



Resource Recycling Systems

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