



# USZWBC 2015 Source Separation Maximizes Material Value

# **Topic Overview**

Natur-Tec®

- Introduction
- What's in a Landfill?
- A Word on Food Waste
- Single-Stream Recycling
- Source-Separated Materials
- How About Food Waste?
- Wrap-Up

#### Introduction



**Natur-Tec** is a specialty compounder and formulator of biobased and compostable bioplastics.

- Assist with LEED certification efforts
- Meets ASTM D6400 and EN13432 standard specifications for compostable plastics
- Made from renewable content as per ASTM D6866

Available product portfolio comprises of:

- Natur-Bag® compostable trash bags and bin liners
- Natur-Ware® biobased and compostable cutlery





- Natur-Tec is a proud partner of Ei, a national non-profit
- Member of Sustainable Materials ACTION Team









#### What's in a Landfill?

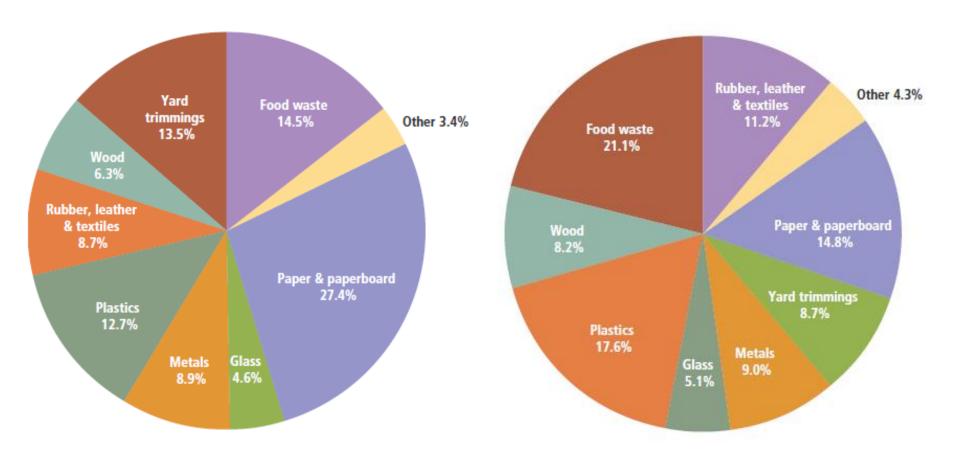


#### **Total MSW Generation (by material):**

2012 - 251 Million Tons (before recycling and composting)

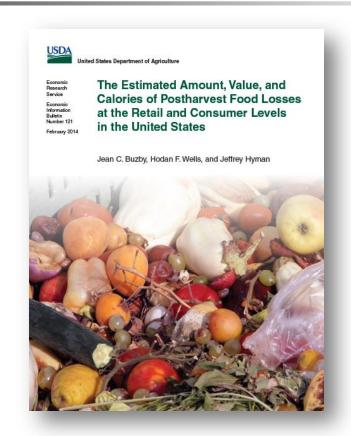
#### **Total MSW Discards (by material):**

2012 - 164 Million Tons (after recycling and composting)



Data and Charts: EPA "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2012"





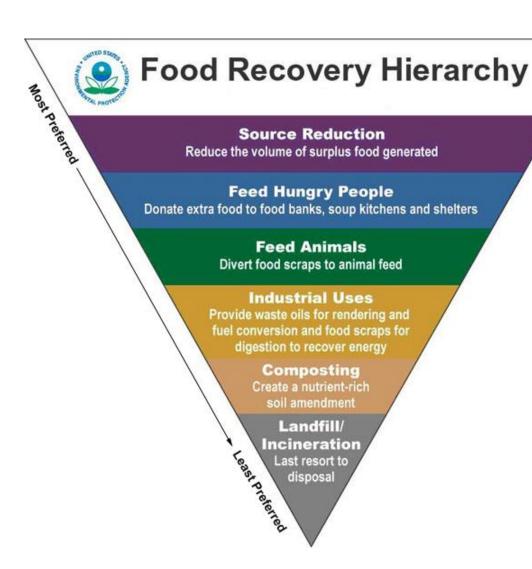


"In the USA, 31% (133 billion pounds) of the available food supply went uneaten."

Source: 2010 USDA Study (Economic Information Bulletin Number 121, February 2014)

# **EPA:** The Food Recovery Hierarchy





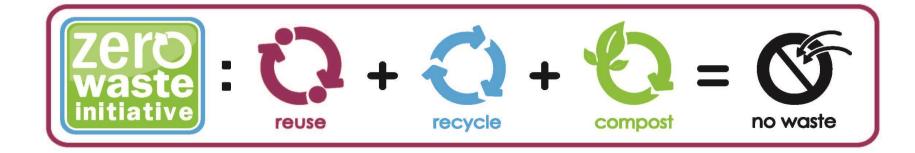
## **Food Waste Diversion is Critical**











# What's the Most Effective Way?





- Single-Stream Recycling?
- Source-Separation Materials?

# **Single-Stream Recycling**







- Convenient
- Collection cost-savings
- High diversion rates
- High participation rates

# **Single-Stream Material Recovery**









Photo Credit: Holly Elmore (2013)

## **Single-Stream: Contamination?**







- High capital cost
- Less net recovery due to contamination
  - "¼ of single stream goes to landfill"
  - "40% loss with glass"

Susan Collins, Container Recycling Institute

# **Source-Separated Materials (SSM)**











# Plastic, Paper, Aluminum....











Photo Credit: Holly Elmore (2014)

## **SSM Program**

#### **Considerations and Enablers**

- Know and understand existing hauling, concessionary contracts, lease agreements, etc.
- Establish baseline metrics with on-going waste audits.
- Diversion infrastructure with performance targets and metrics
- Control product supply: compostable, reuse, and recycle
- Readily available sorting stations and effective signage
- On-going education and engagement









# **How About Food Waste?**



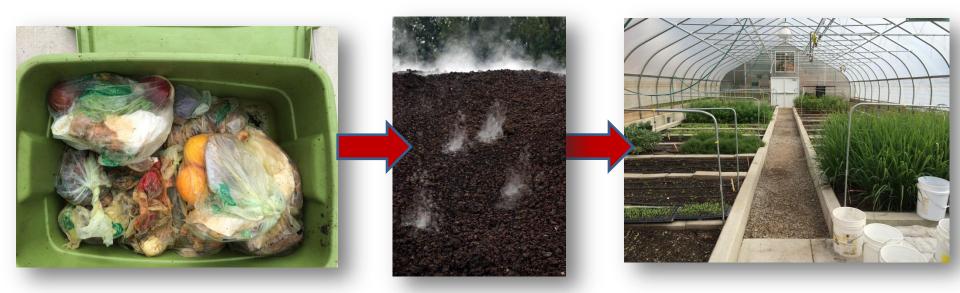






# The Important Role of Food Waste





- Food waste is a contaminate in Single-Stream Recycling rendering materials in stream as waste (little to no recycling options).
- Added cost due to more frequent pulls due to odor and vector concerns
- Food waste is a valuable material!

# **High Quality Compost**





- Improved soil health (reduce fertilization requirements)
- Increased water retention
- Increased crop yield
- Reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions

## **Two Way Street**





- Source-Separated Material programs help reduce contamination concerns at compost facilities by keeping non-compostable items out of the food waste stream
- "Contamination is an expensive trip to landfill!"

# **Value of Compostable Plastics**



"Compostable plastics are a vehicle for collecting more food waste."

Dick Lilly
Seattle Public Works





Photo Credit: Holly Elmore

### **Value of Compostable Liners for Food Waste Collection**



## Natur-Bag® is 100% Certified Biodegradable & **Compostable**

#### **Features:**

- Certified Compostable by the BPI (Biodegradable Products) Institute) and AIB-Vinçotte
- Meets ASTM D6400 and EN13432 standard specifications for compostable plastics
- Does NOT contain any polyethylene or other conventional plastics
- Approved for use in Cedar Grove Compost Systems
- Engineered strong, industrial size liners (30 gallons and up) will hold a min. of 80 lbs.
- Prevents odors and keeps bins and containers clean.
- Reduce need to clean bins with water and detergent.









## Thank You!!





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