

# Waste Audit Data

## Arlington County Waste Data Review

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Douglas Krietemeyer  
Solid Waste Bureau

May 19, 2022

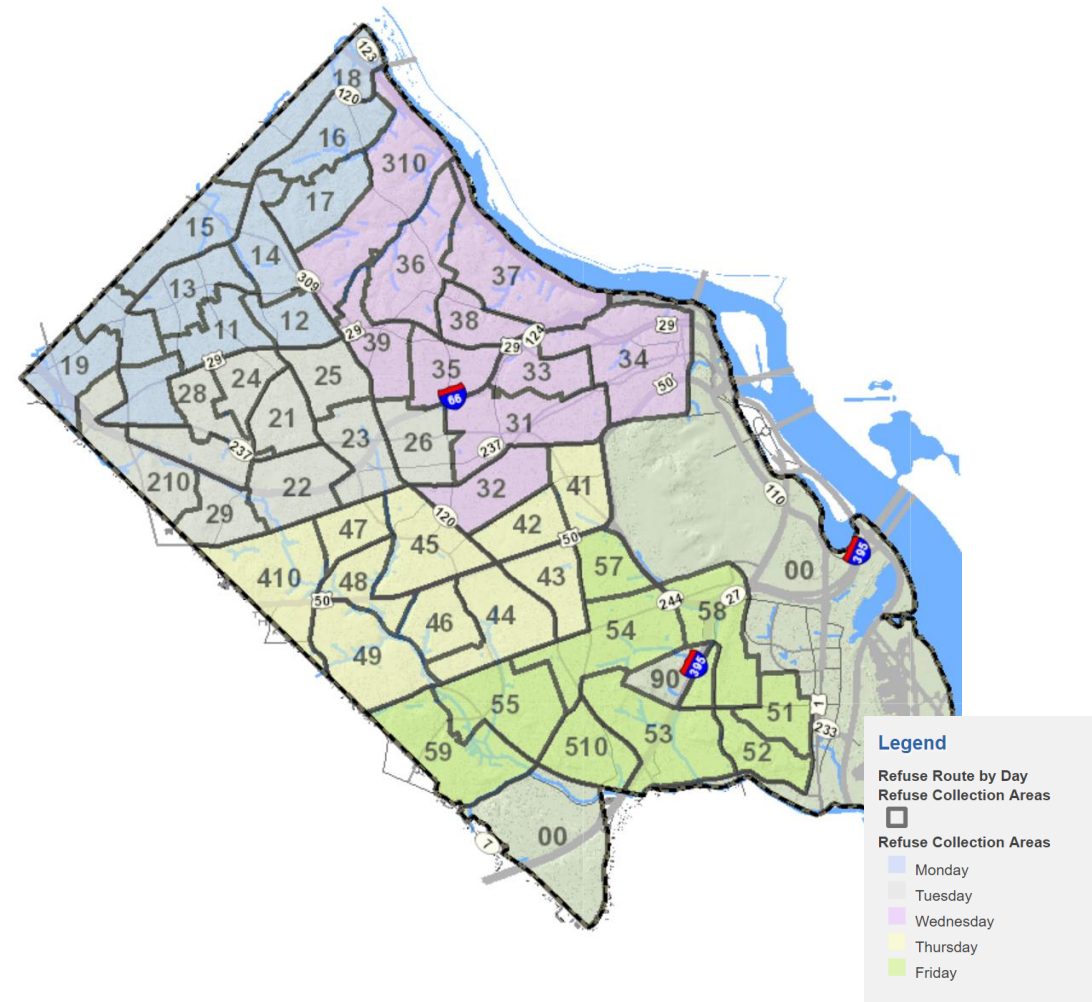


# Waste Audit Process



# Waste Audit Process

- Conducted Quarterly: January, April, July, October
- Trash/Recycling/Organics collected
- Material collected from same 100 homes
  - Geographically dispersed, 2 houses per route (50 routes)
- Manually sorted and weighed by category
  - Material sorted into 43 categories

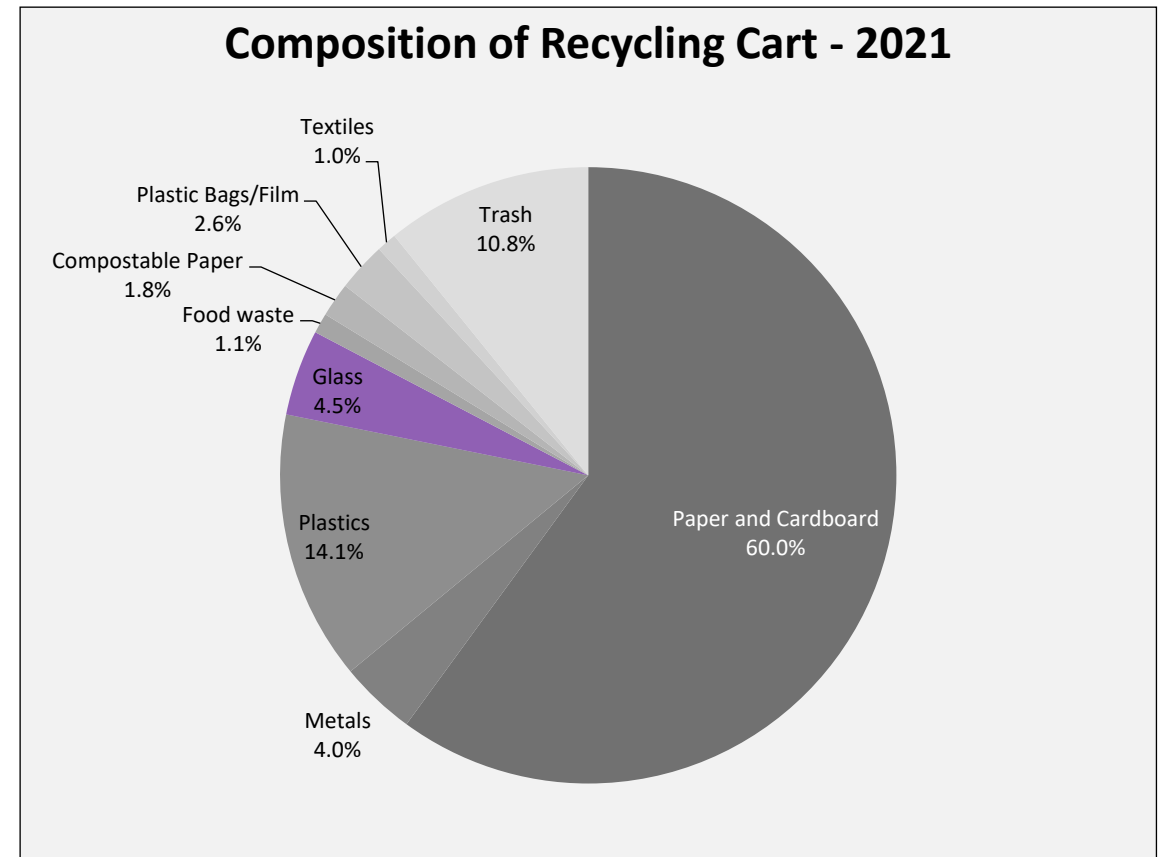
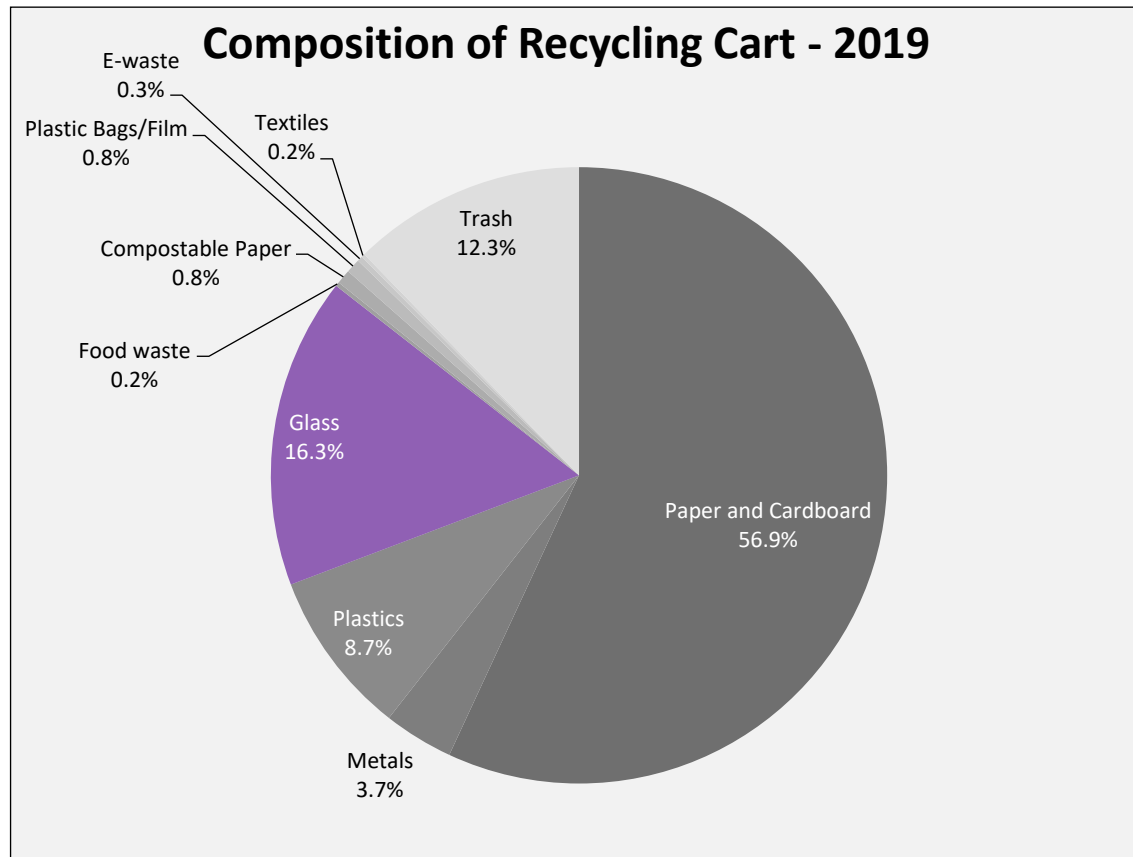


# Reason for Waste Sort

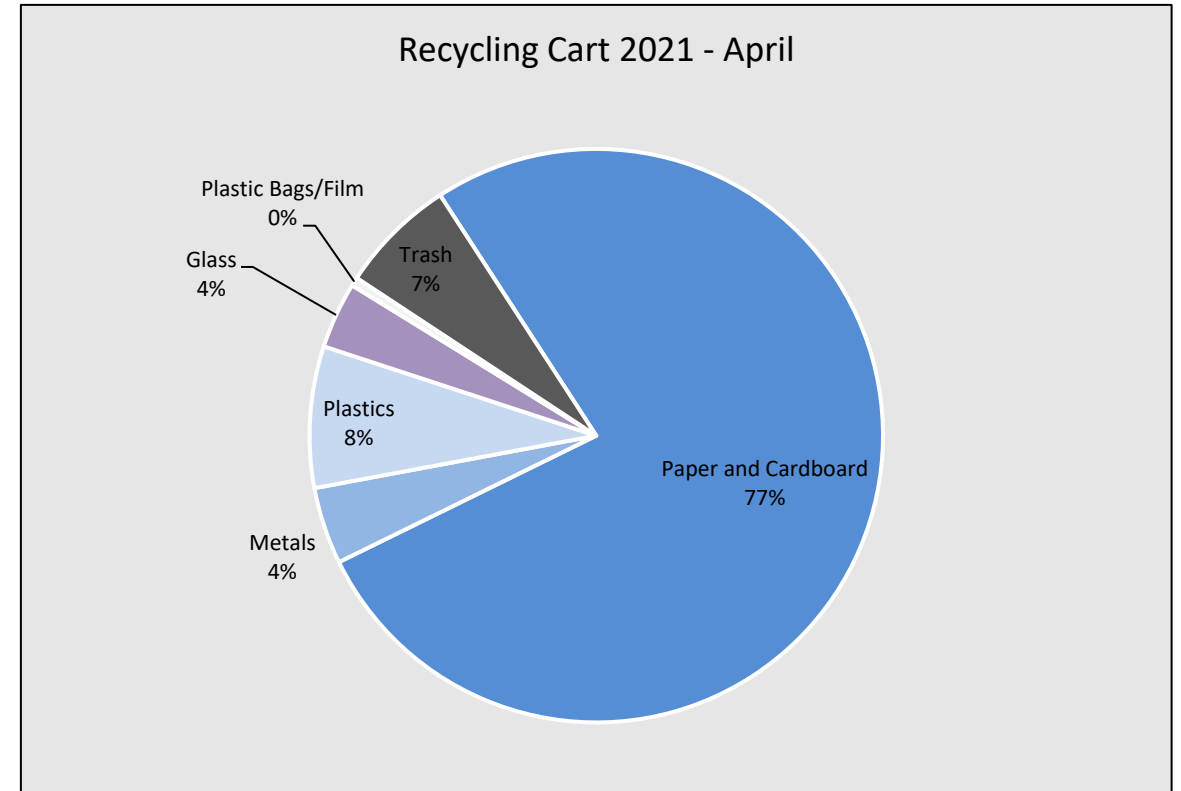
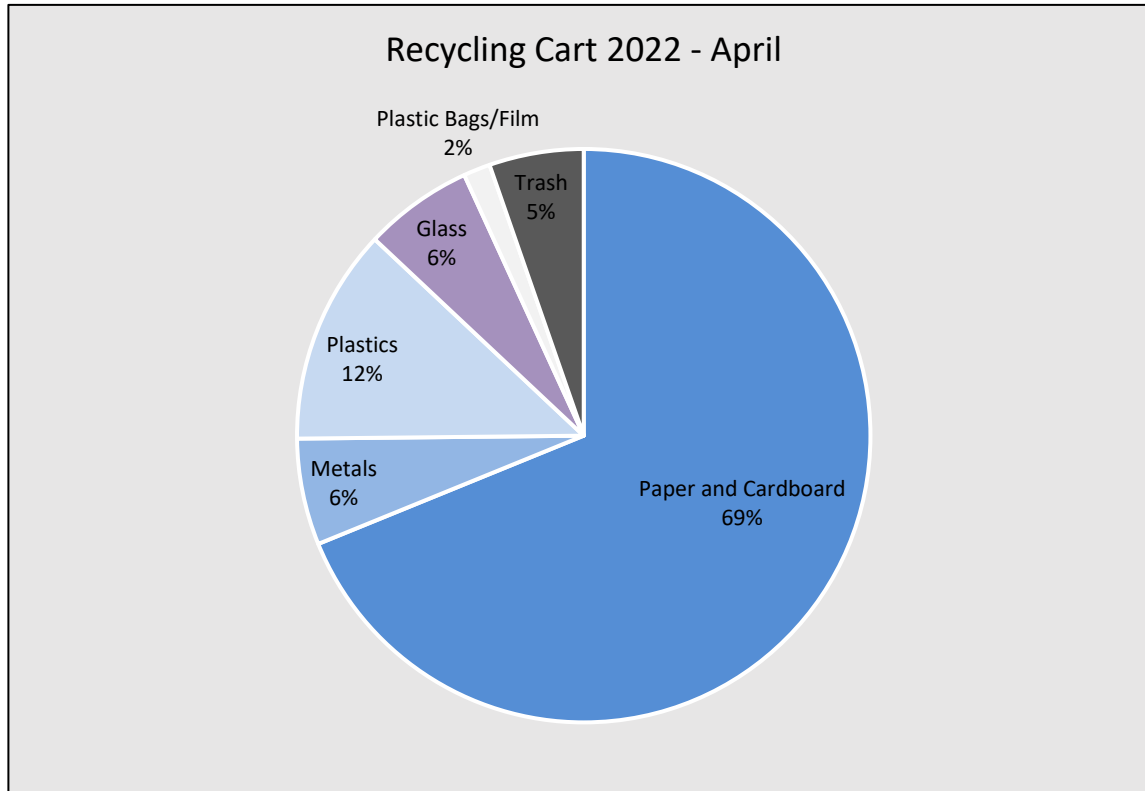
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- Audits allow the SWB to observe and analyze solid waste material trends and resident participation
- Gives us a snapshot of the various waste streams (trash, recycling, organics)
- Indicates the level of contamination in the recycling stream
- Identifies the types of materials being thrown away that could be recycled or composted
- Allows us to gauge the effectiveness of our services and outreach efforts
  - Yard trimmings 2016 = 25%
  - Yard trimmings 2017-18 = < 3%
- Allows us to make informed program and policy decisions

# Changes in Glass Recycling



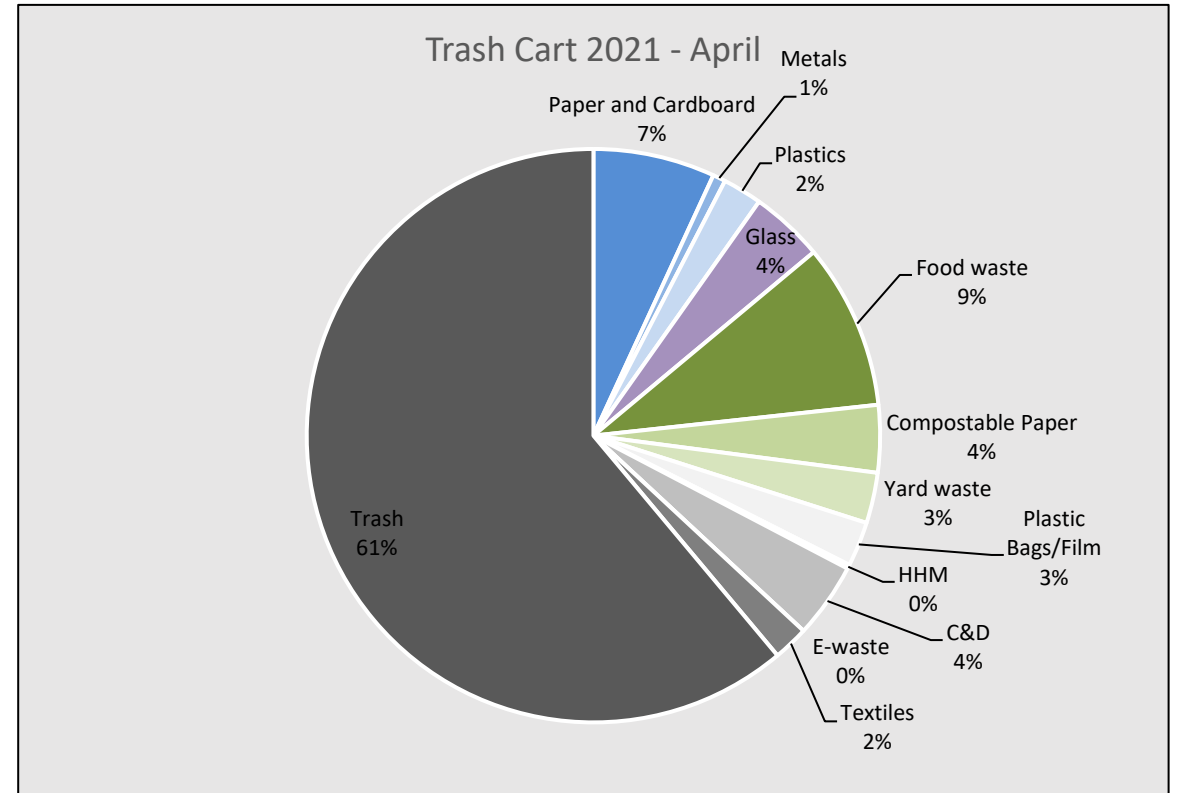
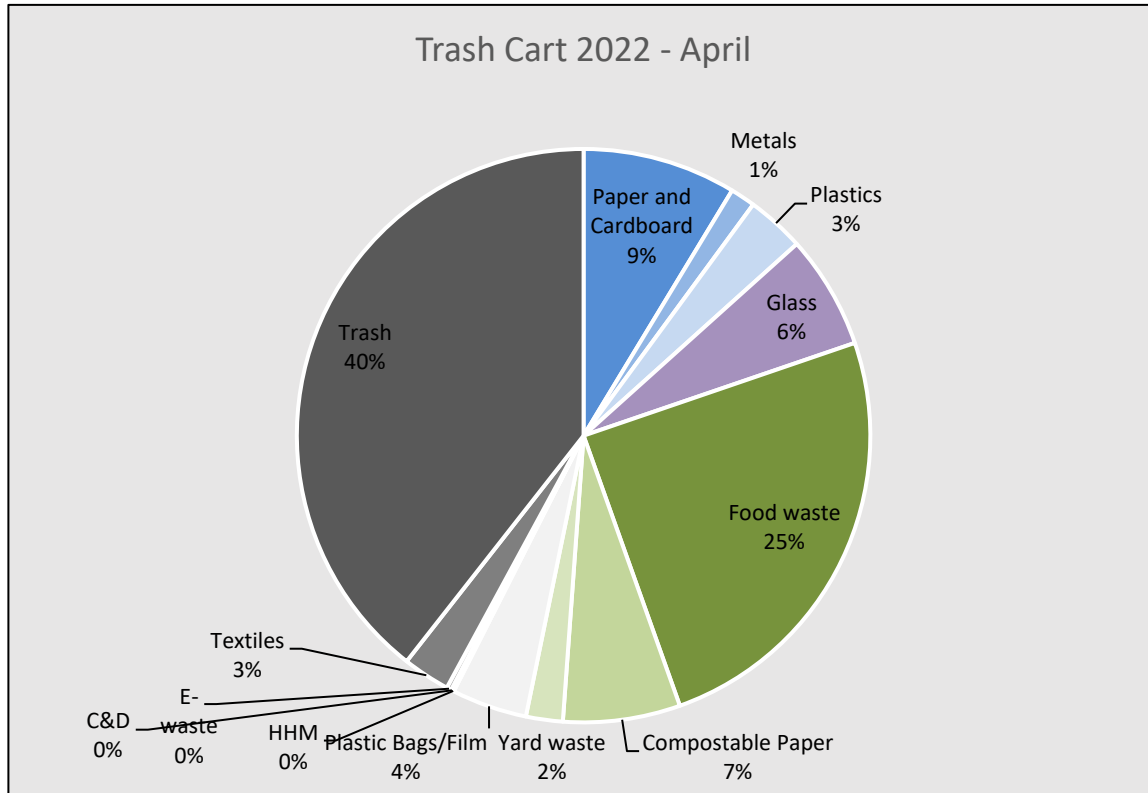
# Quarterly Waste Audit: Residential Recycling Cart



## Key Trends:

- Low contamination rate in residential Blue cart.

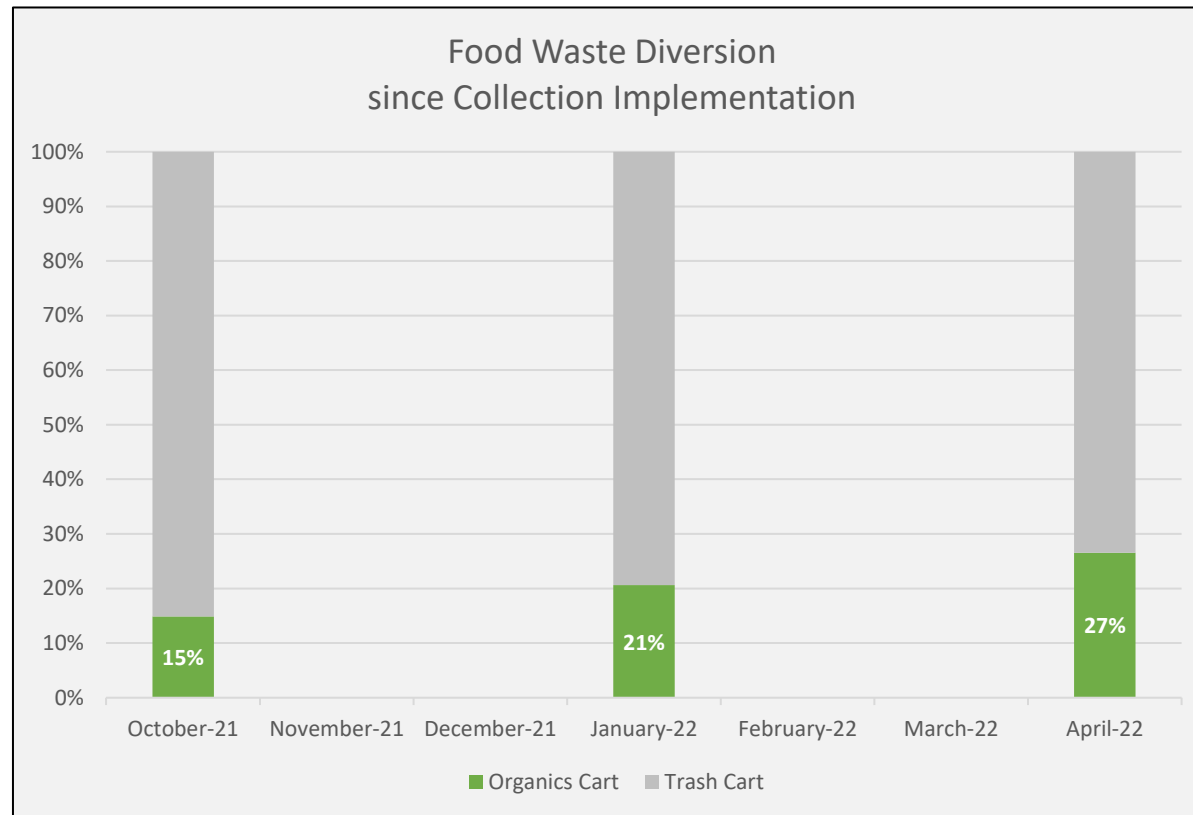
# Quarterly Waste Audit: Residential Trash Cart



## Key Trends:

- Composition remains relatively consistent.
- Due to COVID-19 impacts its difficult to gauge the fluctuation in trash and food waste year over year.

# Quarterly Waste Audit: Residential Organics Cart

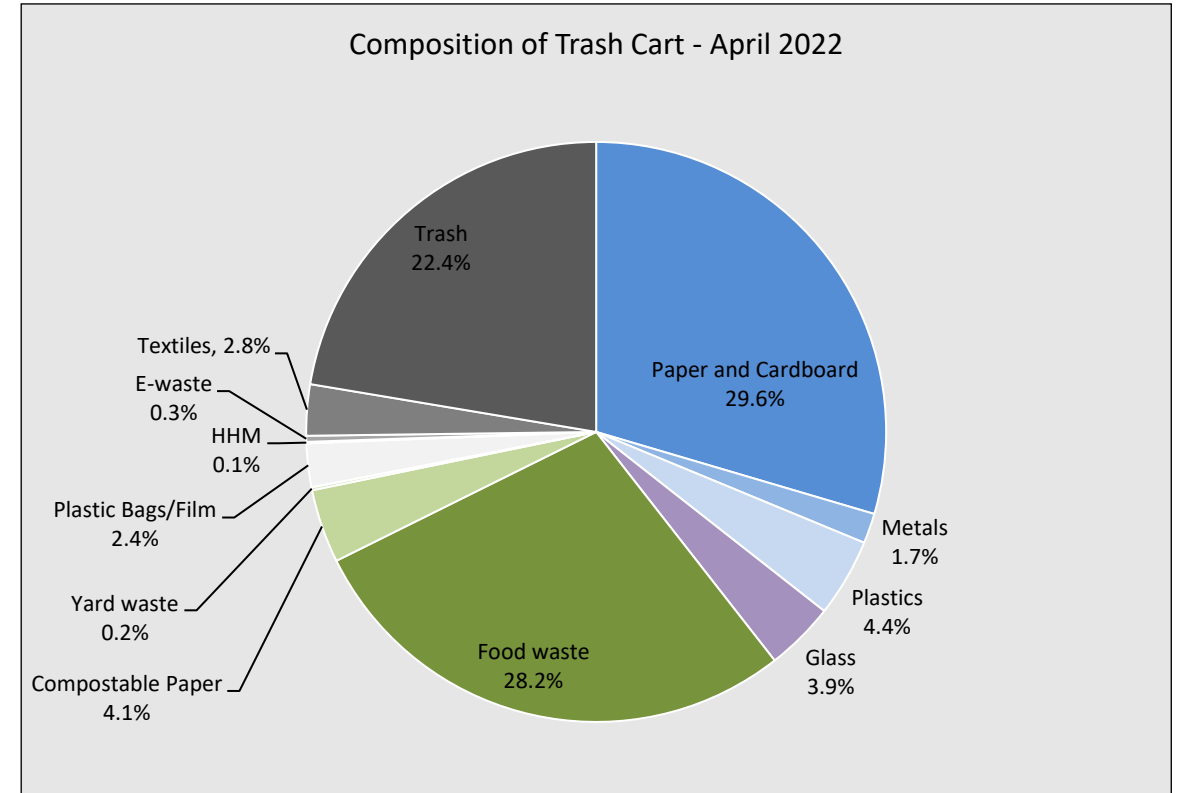
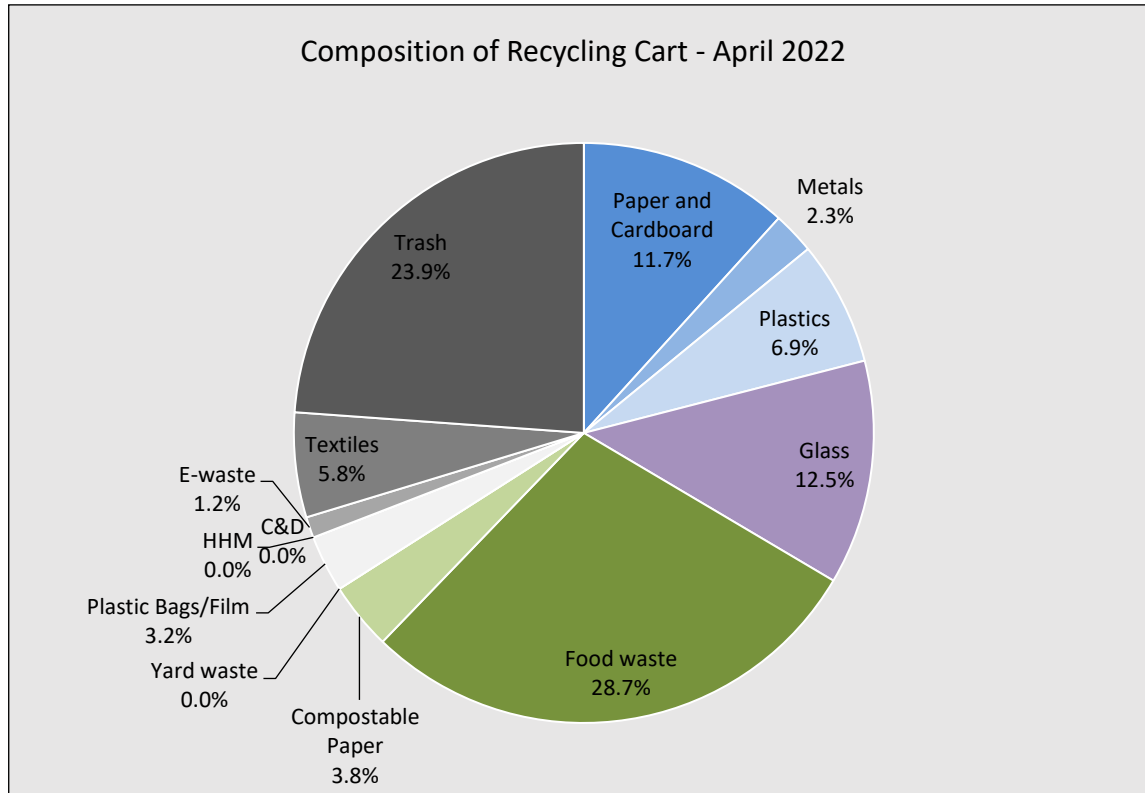


## Key Trends:

- Anticipate increasing participation in the program, will take about 2 years to fully measure impact.
- Expect seasonal fluctuations in participation; increased food scraps in months where there will be yard waste.



# Multi-family Waste Audit: April 2022

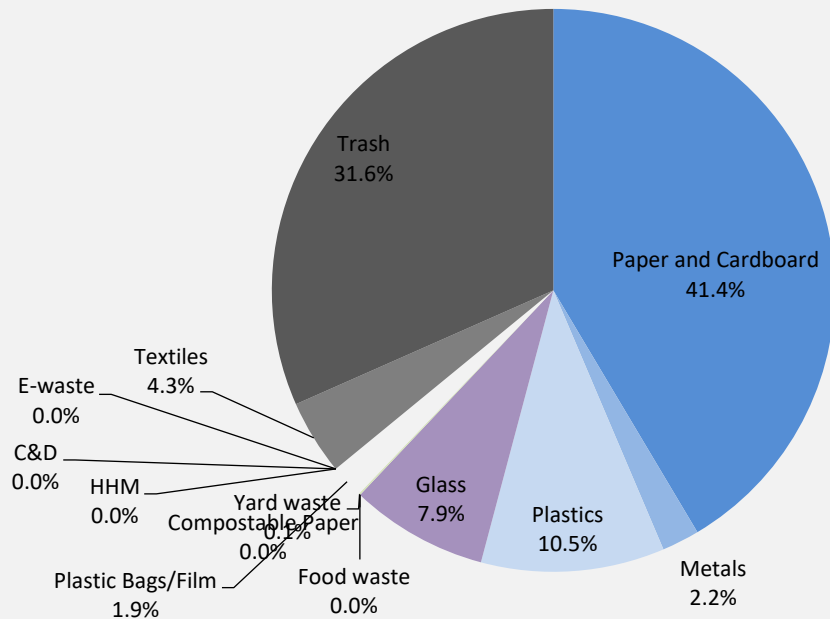


## Key Observations:

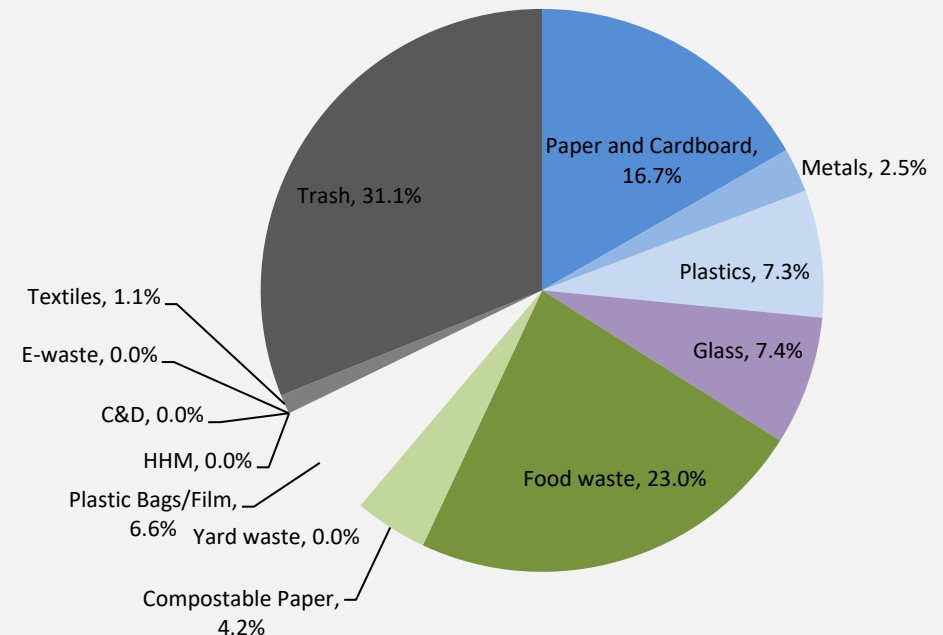
- Trash and recycling are almost identical streams.
- Presents a substantial opportunity for diversion through proper recycling and organics collection.

# Commercial Waste Audit: May 2022

## Composition of Recycling Cart - May 2022



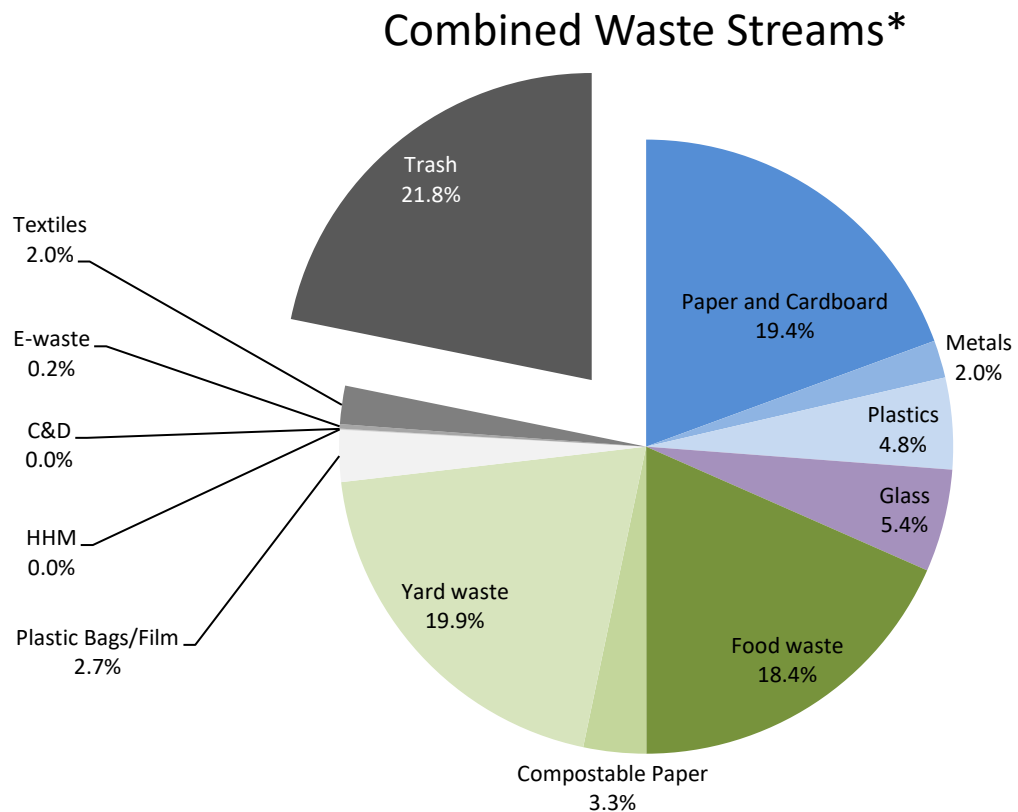
## Composition of Trash Cart - May 2022



### Key Observations:

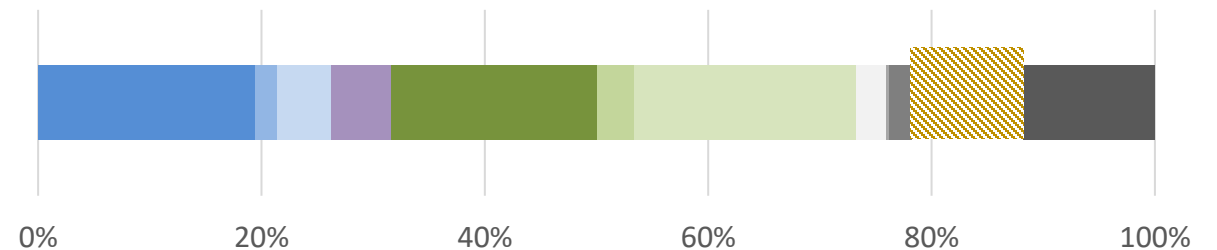
- Trash and recycling are almost identical streams, with exceptions of food waste and Paper and Cardboard recycling.
- Contamination of recycling remains high.

# Diversion Potential



\*excludes County facilities and APS.

- Attain **78.2%** diversion through
  - 100% proper disposal
  - additional regulation
- How does the County attain the additional **11.8%** diversion?



## Strengths:

- Add text here...

A large, white, stylized letter 'S' is centered on a teal diamond-shaped background. The diamond is slightly offset to the right and bottom, creating a layered effect with a darker teal diamond behind it.

## Weaknesses:

- Add text here...

A large, white, stylized letter 'W' is centered on a pink diamond-shaped background. The diamond is slightly offset to the right and bottom, creating a layered effect with a darker pink diamond behind it.

## Opportunities:

- Add text here...

A large, white, stylized letter 'O' is centered on a yellow diamond-shaped background. The diamond is slightly offset to the right and bottom, creating a layered effect with a darker yellow diamond behind it.

## Threats:

- Add text here...

A large, white, stylized letter 'T' is centered on a blue diamond-shaped background. The diamond is slightly offset to the right and bottom, creating a layered effect with a darker blue diamond behind it.