

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE June 7, 2019

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee: Sandy Greyson (Chair), Mark Clayton (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Jennifer S. Gates, Scott Griggs, B. Adam McGough, Omar Narvaez

SUBJECT **Update on Current Recycling & Diversion Initiatives**

On Monday, June 10, 2019, you will be briefed on the Update on Current Recycling & Diversion Initiatives.

The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata  
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney (I)  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer  
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
Directors and Assistant Directors

# Update on Current Recycling & Diversion Initiatives

Quality of Life, Arts, & Culture

Susan Alvarez, P.E.  
Danielle McClelland  
Office of Environmental  
Quality & Sustainability

June 10, 2019



**City of Dallas**

# Purpose

- Background
- Current Recycling & Diversion Initiatives in the Zero Waste Plan
  - Single Family Recycling
  - Multifamily Recycling
  - Organics Diversion
  - Commercial Recycling
- Programmatic Opportunities & Constraints
- Related Outreach
- Recommended Actions



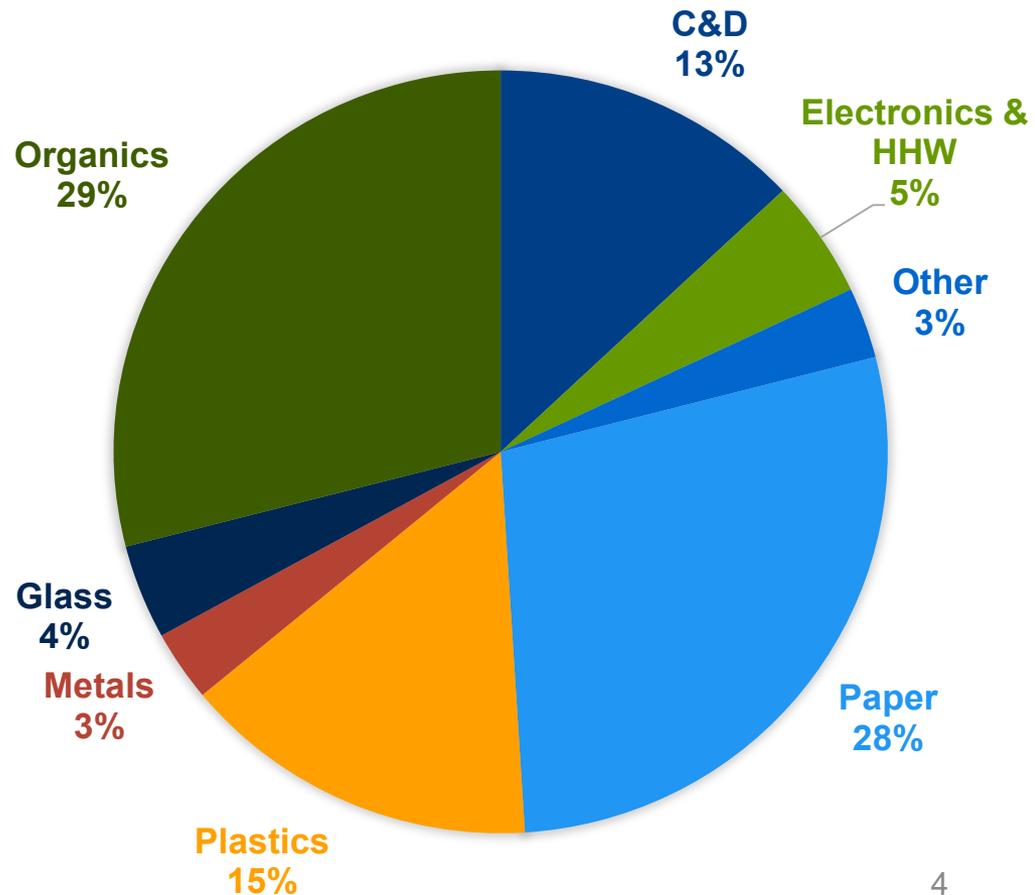
# Background: McCommas Bluff Landfill (MBLF)

- Estimated landfill life of 35 years
- Receives ~1.8M tons/ year
- City crews deliver ~23% or 400,000 tons annually
- Other 77% comes from multiple sources

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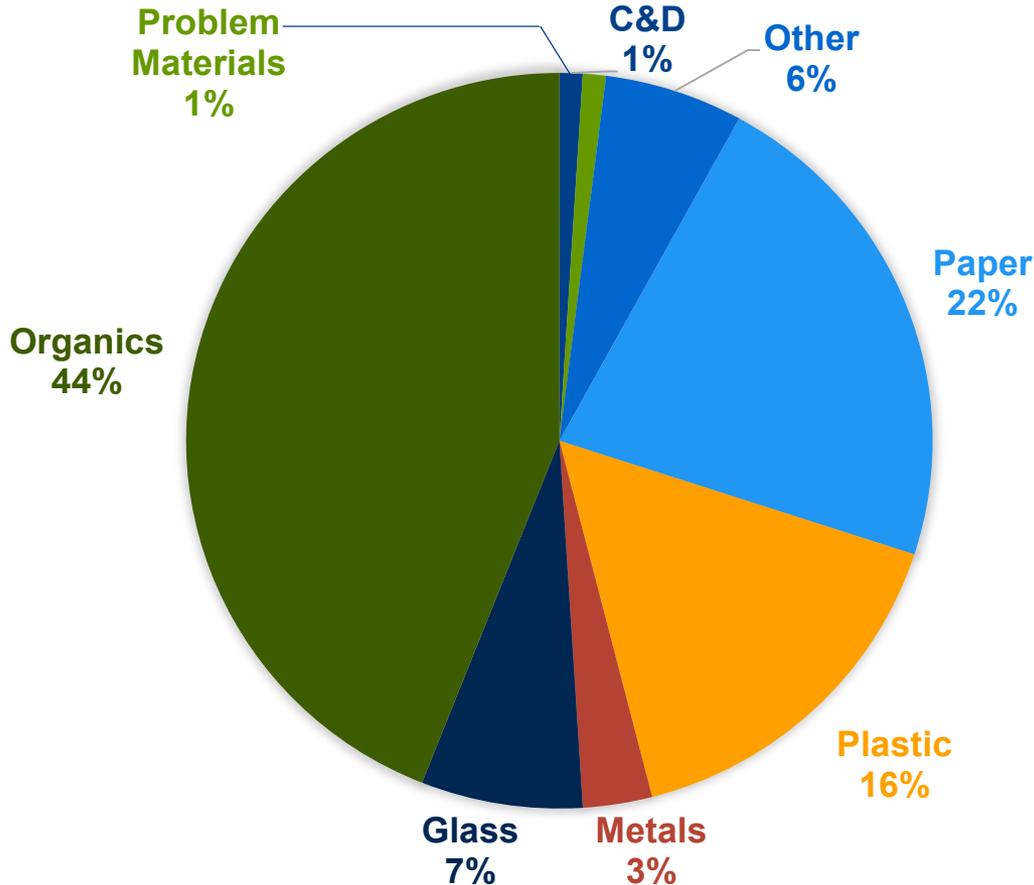
# Background – MBLF Waste Composition\*

- Based on waste audit of 5.2 tons from residential and commercial collections
- Greatest opportunities are in organics, paper, and construction & demolition (C&D)



\*Source: City of Dallas Sanitation Services, 2014

# Background – Regional Waste Composition\*



- Based on waste audit of 5.4 tons of residential waste from 10 cities, including Dallas
- Greatest opportunities are organics, paper, and plastic

\*Source: North Central Texas Council of Governments, 2018

# Background: Diversion Milestones

## OneDAY Dallas Started

Weekly recycling and garbage collection for single family residential

2010



2013



## Zero Waste Plan Adopted

Council approved Local Solid Waste Management Plan (aka Zero Waste Plan)

## Recycling Facility Opened

FCC Recycling Processing Facility opened January, 2017, Named America's Best in 2018

2017



2018-2019



## Brush & Bulk Study & Reviews

Council reviews study and weighs options to divert organics through brush/bulk changes

## Multifamily Recycling Starts

Ordinance approved June 2018 goes into effect January 1, 2020

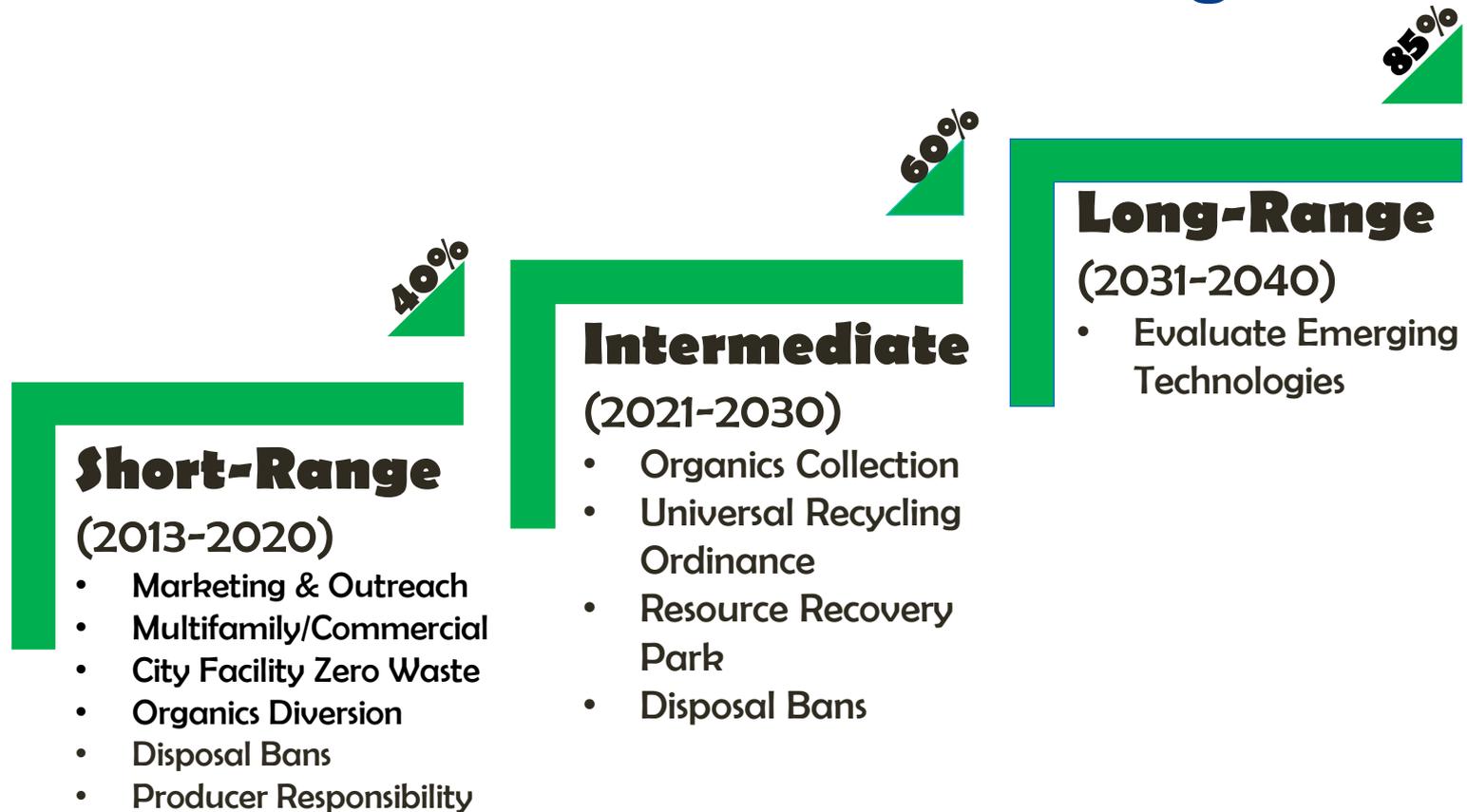
2020



# Zero Waste Plan

- Approved in 2013
- Major shifts in the last six years
  - Global Markets & Technology
  - Air Quality
  - Climate Change
  - Public Awareness & Tolerance for Change
- Time to update Plan Goals and Strategies

# Zero Waste Plan: Goals & Strategies\*



\*Source: City of Dallas Local Solid Waste Management Plan, 2013

# Zero Waste Plan: Single Family Recycling

- Voluntary
- 240,000 accounts
- 55,000 Tons/Year
- Reported diversion rate is ~20% corresponding with single family residential residential program



# Zero Waste Plan: Multifamily Recycling

- MFRO adopted June 23, 2018
- Requires properties to:
  - Offer minimum service levels;
  - Use registered recycling collector;
  - Submit annual recycling plan;
  - Provide ongoing education;
  - Register with Code
- City marketing and building registration systems – On track



# Zero Waste Plan: Multifamily Recycling



- Requires recycling collectors to:
  - Use marked containers;
  - Submit annual reports to City;
  - Deliver to an authorized recycling processor;
  - Provide education and specific level of service to properties
- City processing of recycling collector permit applications and building out reporting systems – On Track

# Zero Waste Plan: MFRO Outreach

- Two direct mail campaigns to notify properties of ordinance and training workshops - February & April 2019
- Prominent booth at AAGD Expo 2019 - March 2019
- Pre-launch meetings with AAGD Board members and Dallas Housing Authority - May 2019
- First three MFRO training workshops well attended
  - 75% of survey respondents indicating very satisfied with training
- “Special case” property site visits are being conducted on request

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# Zero Waste Plan: MFRO Outreach

- 9 additional workshops scheduled through September
- Workshop schedule, tools, and resources for properties, recycling collectors, and residents are available online at [www.dallasrecycles.com](http://www.dallasrecycles.com)



# Zero Waste Plan: MFRO Lessons Learned

- Extensive outreach, education, and stakeholder consultation required
- Internal system updates required for recycling collector permitting and property registrations were challenging
- Both the public and private sides need considerable time to increase system capacity and build the required infrastructure to support new programs

# Zero Waste Plan: Organics Diversion

- Dallas collects brush & bulk waste together and doesn't have established limits
  - Organic materials is about 40%-60% of the waste stream
- Based on recent studies, up to 29% of landfilled materials are organic
  - Organics, including food waste, present future opportunities to increase diversion
- On June 12<sup>th</sup>, Council will consider ordinance changes to implement incremental brush/bulk program changes
  - Changes promote compliance and volume limits, to establish a baseline for future program pilots to include organic diversion

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# Zero Waste Plan: Commercial Recycling

- Last summer SAN recommended strategy to impact commercial recycling, specifically:
  - *Identify Players* ✓
  - *Research other Benchmark City Commercial Recycling Programs* ✓
  - *Identify Opportunities & Constraints* ✓
  - *Develop phased implementation and related ordinance*



# Zero Waste Plan: Commercial Recycling

- OEQS has reviewed 12 Benchmark City recycling programs and learned:
  - *El Paso & Orlando encourage, but do not require mandatory multi-family or commercial recycling;*
  - *Phoenix implements “Eco-zones” in parks, and other public places near commercial/ multi-residential areas to facilitate voluntary commercial/ multi-family recycling;*
  - *Remaining programs typically require single-stream recycling related to primary business operation, along with some C&D and vegetative waste;*
  - *Most cities allow variances for hardships and for facilities that generate small quantities of recyclable waste;*
  - *Most cities also handle multi-family and commercial recycling requirements together in one universal recycling ordinance.*

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# Zero Waste Plan: Commercial Recycling

- Multi-family process for hauler registration may be used to support commercial recycling
- Paper, cardboard, and organics including food waste may form easiest way to expand diversion to commercial entities
- Phased implementation is strongly recommended due to #s and different types of businesses (art galleries, bars, banks, churches, dry cleaners, schools, shopping centers, truck stops, warehouses, etc)



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# Programmatic Opportunities & Constraints

## Multifamily

- Singular industry
- Homogenous waste stream
- Relatively uniform operations
- Universal professional organizations accessible for education
- All are subject to City Code enforcement and registration
- ~1,200 properties subject to MFRO

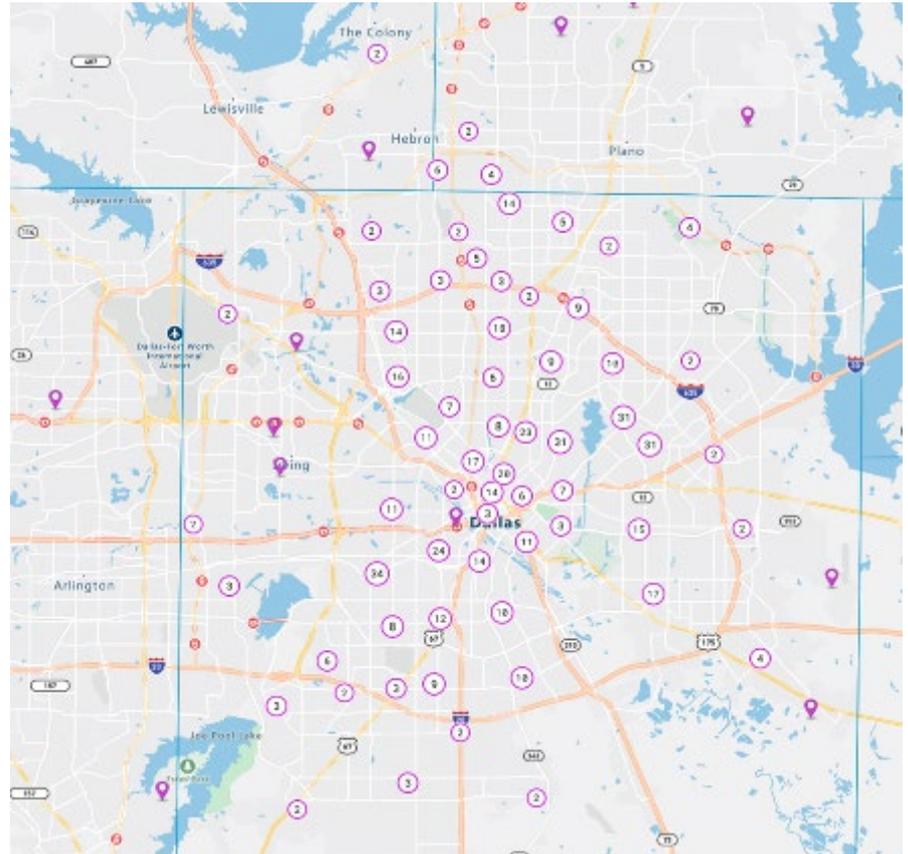
## Commercial

- Includes multiple industries
- Widely variable waste stream
- Operations vary and can include front of house and back of house
- No universal professional organizations accessible for education
- No central enforcement authority
- ~39,400+ businesses potentially subject to commercial recycling\*

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\*Based on City of Dallas, Dallas Water Utilities Billing Data, 2019/ Dallas Central Appraisal District Property Database, 2019

# Related Outreach: CECAP

- 6 formal Comprehensive Environmental Climate Action Plan (CECAP) meetings
- 28 presentations at other meetings
- 1,235 survey responses in 7 plan focus areas
- > 88 pages additional comments & suggestions



Responses to CECAP Survey (May, 2019)

# Related Outreach: CECAP

- Composting for organic materials identified as community desire (916\* responses)
- Food waste also identified as a critical focus area (250\* responses)
- Also, 437\* requests for multi-family recycling were received



Source: CECAP Community Survey Summary, June 2019,  
<http://www.DallasClimateAction.com>

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# Recommended Actions

- Update Long Range Waste Master Plan/Zero Waste Plan to reflect recyclables market and programmatic changes
- Continue Multifamily Recycling Ordinance Implementation
- Use Lessons learned from MFRO to develop framework for future Commercial Waste Program
- Partner with the City's internal Food Equity Working Group convened by the Office of Innovation, and others, to develop options for addressing food waste
- Implement incremental change to brush/bulk service

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# Questions and Comments

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# APPENDIX

# Background– Waste Diversion

- Prior to 1996– Recycling collected at “igloo” drop off locations by contractor
- 1997– City began dual stream recycling collection using blue bags for plastics 1-3 and cans; and paper bags for newspapers every other week
- 2005 -- Mayors Recycling Task Force recommends recommends weekly recycling service
- 2006-- 2009 – Pilots and phased implementation for weekly recycling & waste service using city-issued roll carts
- 2010– Citywide conversion to weekly recycling

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# BACKGROUND– Waste Diversion

- February 2013– Council adopts Local Solid Waste Management Plan (aka “Zero Waste Plan”)
- June 2014– The Road to Resource Recovery briefing
- January 2017– Recycling processing plant opens
- January 2018– Zero Waste Plan Update briefing
- May 2018 – Multi-Family Recycling Ordinance (MFRO) briefing
- June 2018 – Council Adopted MFRO
- January 2019–Brush/bulk briefing

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# City Program Comparison (small)

	Salt Lake City	Orlando	Plano	Collier County
				
Population	200,000	280,000	286,000	373,000
State Requirement				
City Ordinance Date	2016	N/A	200,000	2004
Primary Target	property	property	hauler	property
Unique Feature	Allows properties to share containers	Voluntary / Gathering public input	Includes C&D and organics	Includes temporary events/venues
Exceptions	✓	N/A	✓	✓
Incentives				✓

# City Program Comparison (medium)

	El Paso	Boston	Seattle	Austin
				
Population	684,000	685,000	725,000	957,000
State Requirement		✓	✓	
City Ordinance Date	N/A	2009	2014 (expand)	2017
Primary Target	<b>property</b>	<b>hauler</b>	<b>property</b>	<b>property</b>
Unique Feature	Voluntary/No fines	Prohibits recyclables at solid waste sites	Police officers can enforce	Allows material substitutions
Exceptions		✓	✓	✓
Incentives			✓	✓

# City Program Comparison (large)

	San Diego	Phoenix	Chicago	Miami-Dade
				
Population	1.4M	1.56M	2.7M	2.75M
State Requirement	✓		✓	
City Ordinance Date	2008	N/A	2017	1992
Primary Target	<b>property</b>	<b>voluntary</b>	<b>property</b>	<b>property</b>
Unique Feature	3 year implementation	City drop off stations	Pick 3 to recycle	Recycling required for CO
Exceptions	✓	N/A	✓	✓
Incentives				