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Partners in Development

- Environmentally Sustainable Waste Disposal
- Recycling Program Development & Assistance
- Waste Diversion Education & Awareness
- Excellent Customer Service
- Public Recreational Trails

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Recycling

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Development Authority of the North Country



www.NorthCountryRecycles.org



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Trash - Stating The Obvious It's A BIG Problem

- ▶ When we no longer want something, we dispose of it.
- ▶ Trash goes to a local transfer station or a trash company picks it up at your business or residence.
- ▶ Finally, it goes to the landfill where it's buried forever.





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But Why Is It a Problem?

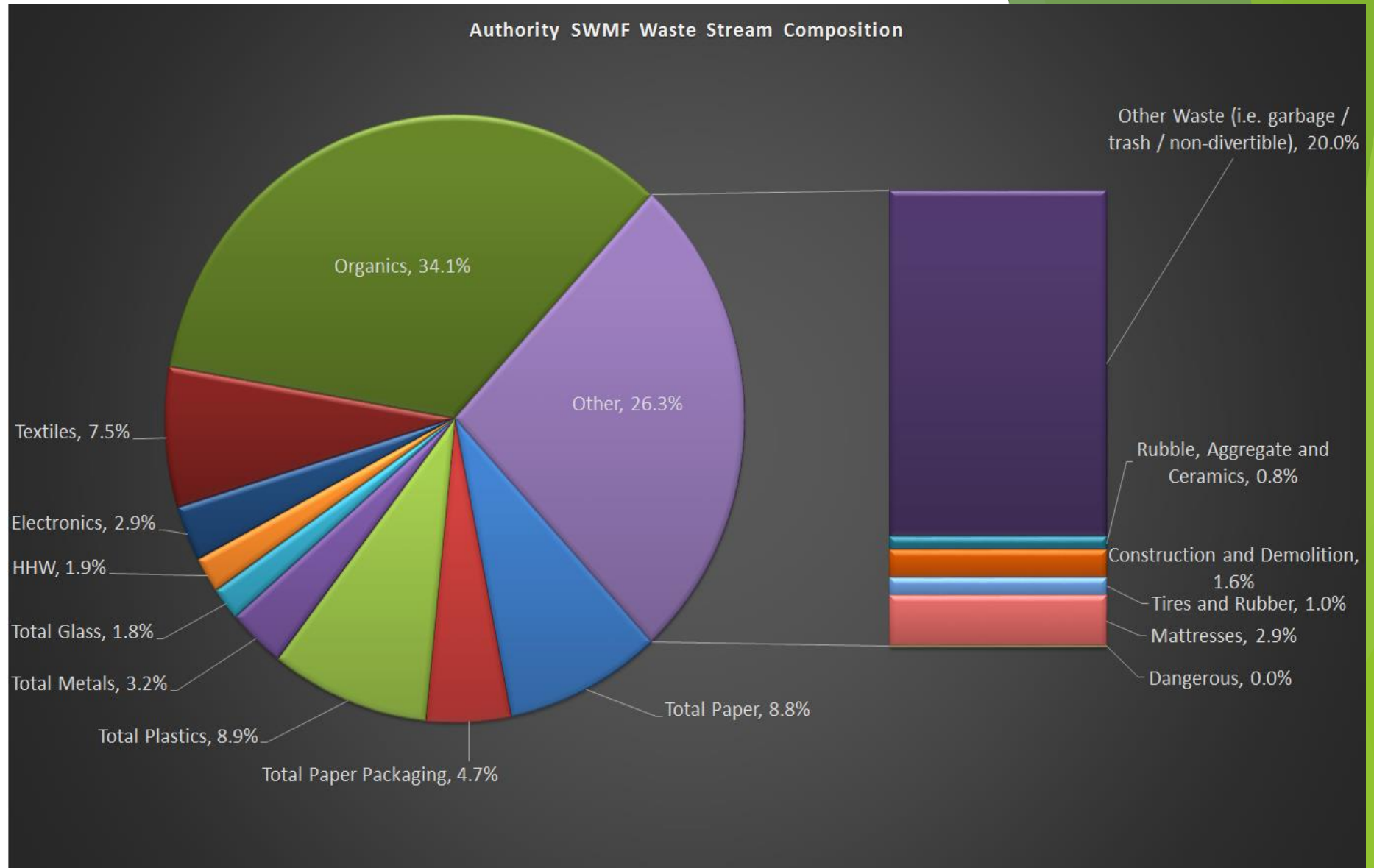
- ▶ The more we dispose of, the greater the need for landfills.
- ▶ Landfills:
 - ▶ Are expensive to build and operate
 - ▶ Take up a lot of space
 - ▶ Require perpetual operations, maintenance and monitoring.





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▶ A recent waste composition study identified that ~ 80% of the material going into our landfill could be diverted!



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Recycling- A bigger problem? This is yet to be determined.



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What is China's National Sword?

- ▶ The National Sword is a wide-ranging program aimed at reducing the importation of recycled materials to that country. China wants to transition to a domestic materials recovery approach that would not only boost the demand for Chinese scrap, but also cut down on the amount of waste that's imported along with recycled material loads.



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How does that affect Us?

- ▶ For many years China was the largest importer of recyclable material. Until recently, China consumed 55 percent of the world scrap paper.
- ▶ Most of the material that was sent to China was mixed paper and mixed plastics.
- ▶ The best material had already been removed from the recycling stream before it was shipped to China.
- ▶ Domestic Markets for recyclable material here in the U.S. have been weak for marginal quality materials.



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How did we get here?

- ▶ The National Sword policy has placed restrictions on several materials that are not in high demand domestically and have lowered acceptable contamination rates.
- ▶ A lot of the material that was previously being exported to China was substandard and/or contaminated.



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Where do we go from here? We have to do something!

- ▶ People still want to Recycle because, “it is the right thing to do”.
- ▶ We need to remember the 3 R’s.



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Reduce

- ▶ This is the first step to The Three R's.
- ▶ This is the **MOST IMPORTANT!**
- ▶ If we **REDUCE** waste from the source, we won't produce as much and there is less waste to get rid of.



REDUCE YOUR
WASTELINE



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Reuse

- ▶ This is the second step to The Three R's.
- ▶ This is finding alternative uses for our things instead of throwing them away.
- ▶ If we REUSE items or pass them on to others for use, then there is less waste to get rid of.





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Recycle

- ▶ This is the third step to The Three R's.
- ▶ Always remember to check if the item you are throwing away can be RECYCLED!





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Contamination is a huge issue.

- ▶ Contamination is all of the “stuff” that ends up in the recycling stream that is not recyclable.
- ▶ On average 25% of collected recycling is contamination.
- ▶ The road to hell is paved with good intentions. In our world it is called “Wishcycling”.



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Wishcycling ?

- ▶ This is the action of the over achiever of recycling. It is putting things in the recycling bin that are not recyclable in the system that is in place where you are.
- ▶ Wishcycling fouls the recycling stream causing additional time to be spent on sorting and it generates a waste stream at the MRF.
- ▶ The trash that is generated at the MRF has to be hauled to the Landfill.



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So what do we do to reduce contamination?

- ▶ Educate
- ▶ Inspect
- ▶ Implement compliance



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Education

- ▶ Reach out to large generators such as hospital, schools, housing developments. Provide them with outreach materials. This should be in addition to the programs that you already have in place.
- ▶ Educate haulers and transfer station personnel.
- ▶ Transfer Station attendants should educate Transfer station users. Especially “wishcyclers”



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Inspection

- ▶ Inspections at the transfer station or recycling centers can greatly reduce contamination and improve the quality of your recycling stream.
- ▶ Partner with your landfill personnel. Use compliance staff to ensure users are recycling and recycling appropriately beyond the curb and transfer station.
- ▶ Perform a waste audit and recycling composition study, know your stream.



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Compliance

- ▶ Create financial disincentives at the transfer station, fines or additional fees.
- ▶ Assist haulers in developing a tagging system if one is not in place.
- ▶ If we are consistent, violators will run out of options.



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Its not all paper or containers

- ▶ Electronics
- ▶ Scrap Metal
- ▶ Textiles
- ▶ Rechargeable Batteries
- ▶ Plastic Film and Bags
- ▶ Tires





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Look for opportunities

- ▶ Know your markets
- ▶ Seek new outlets for your material
- ▶ Be innovative
- ▶ Develop partnerships
- ▶ Don't be afraid of new technology

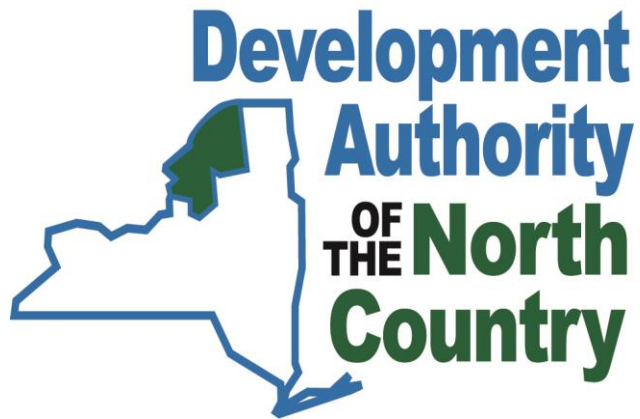


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Any Questions?



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