

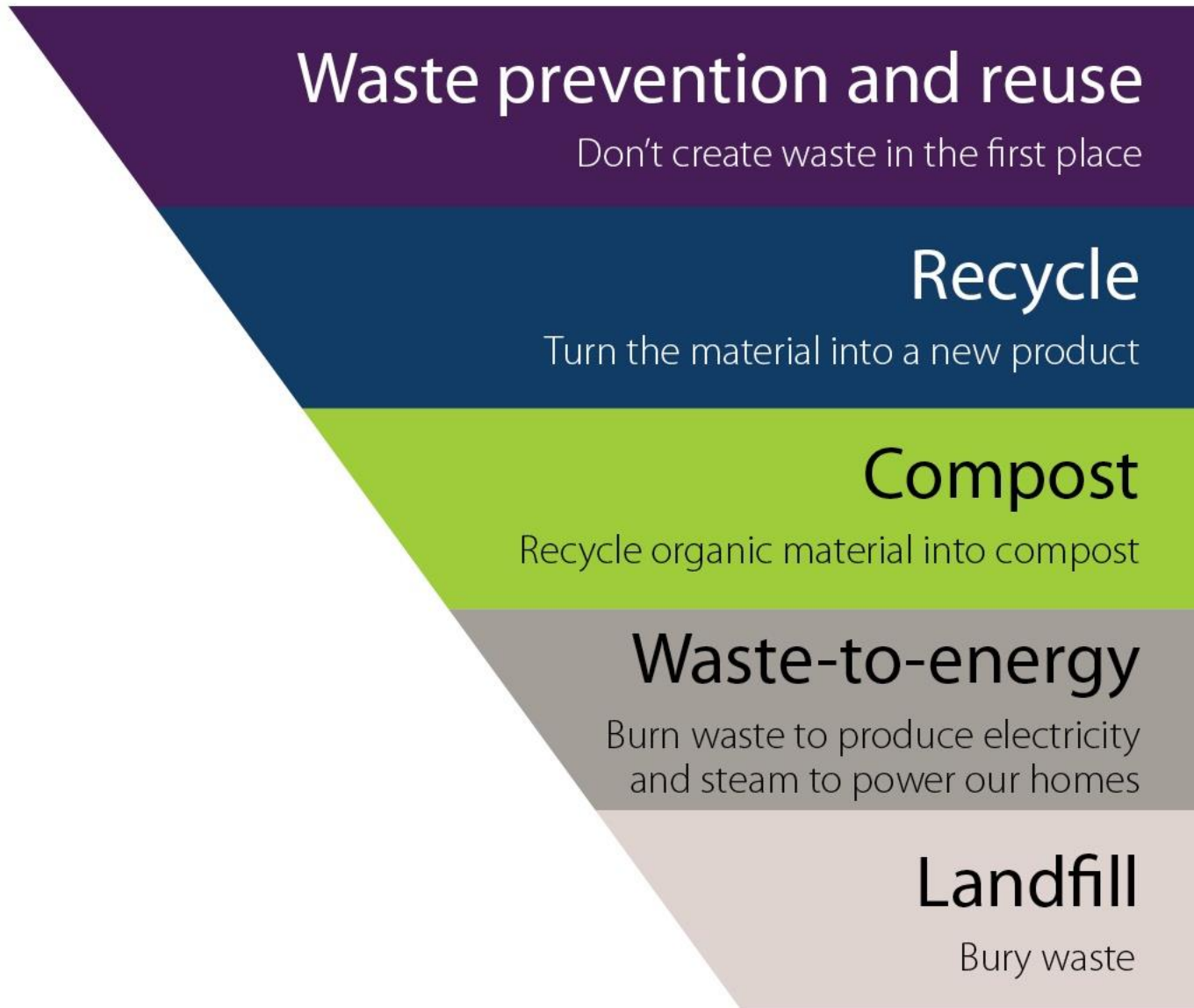


# Solid Waste Management Overview

Carolyn Collopy, Waste Reduction and Recycling Unit

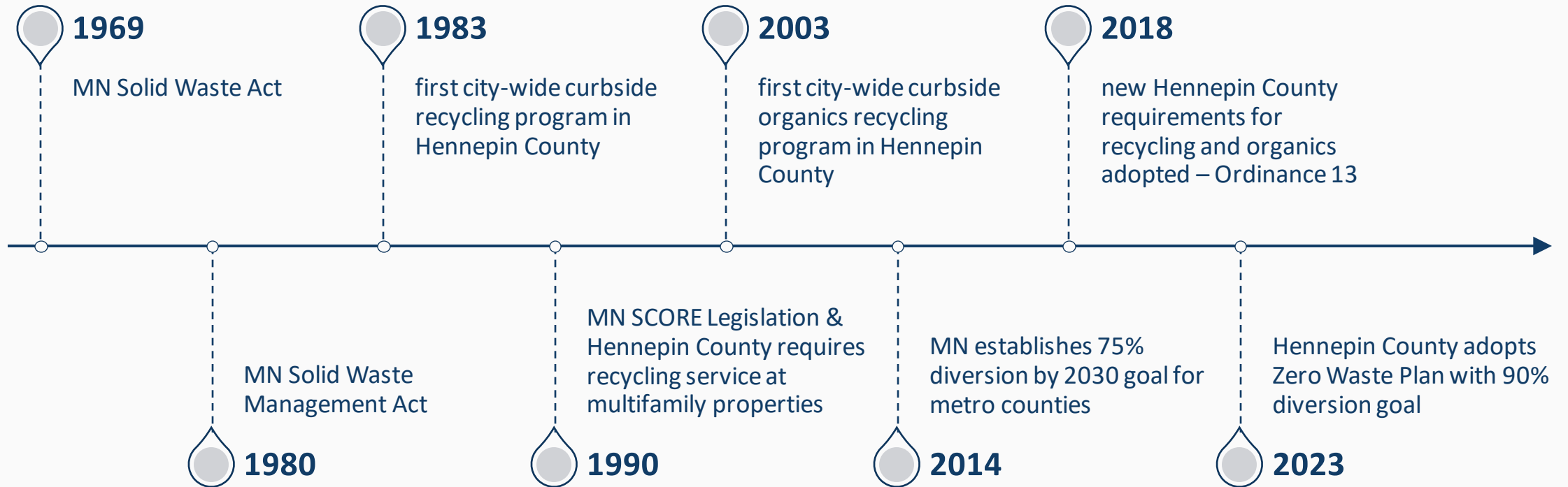
# When does something become waste?

# Waste Management Hierarchy in Minnesota



- Waste hierarchy guides preferred management practices
- Designed to protect public and environmental health, support a vibrant economy and wise use of resources.
- At least 9 times more jobs in reuse and recycling than landfilling
- Study by the MPCA estimated \$285 million worth of recyclables landfilled in 2010

# Solid Waste Management History



What percentage of waste is recycled or composted?

Residents and businesses discarded  
1.27 million tons of waste in 2022





# How is waste collected?

- Open hauling collection
  - Customer chooses hauler
  - Many haulers compete in geographic area
  - Includes all commercial (recycling, trash, organics), most multifamily (trash, recycling, organics), and some residential collection (trash, recycling, organics)
- Organized collection
  - City contracts with hauler on customer's behalf
  - Only one hauler in geographic area
  - Mostly limited to residential collection programs (trash, recycling, organics)

# Where does it go - Recycling

- 8 material recovery facilities (MRFS) in metro, all privately owned
- About 80% of the materials are processed in the region
- MN recycling markets include West Rock and Pioneer (paper and cardboard), Master Mark and Choice Plastics (#2 HDPE plastic) and Anchor Glass
- Cost to process recyclables (sorting into material streams) is \$70-110/ton





# Where does it go – Organics

- Commercial programs send material to food rescue organizations, farms and processors for animal feed, or to compost facilities
- Residential programs send to compost facilities
- 2 compost facilities in metro
- Brooklyn Park Transfer Station (BPTS) subsidized rate \$35/ton
- Cost to process organics into compost \$40-60/ton



# Where does it go – Trash

- Hauled direct or to transfer stations which haul in 20-ton loads to:
  - Waste to energy - Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC)
  - 6 landfills (2 in WI), most goes to 2 sites in Dakota County
- Cost of disposal \$69/ton

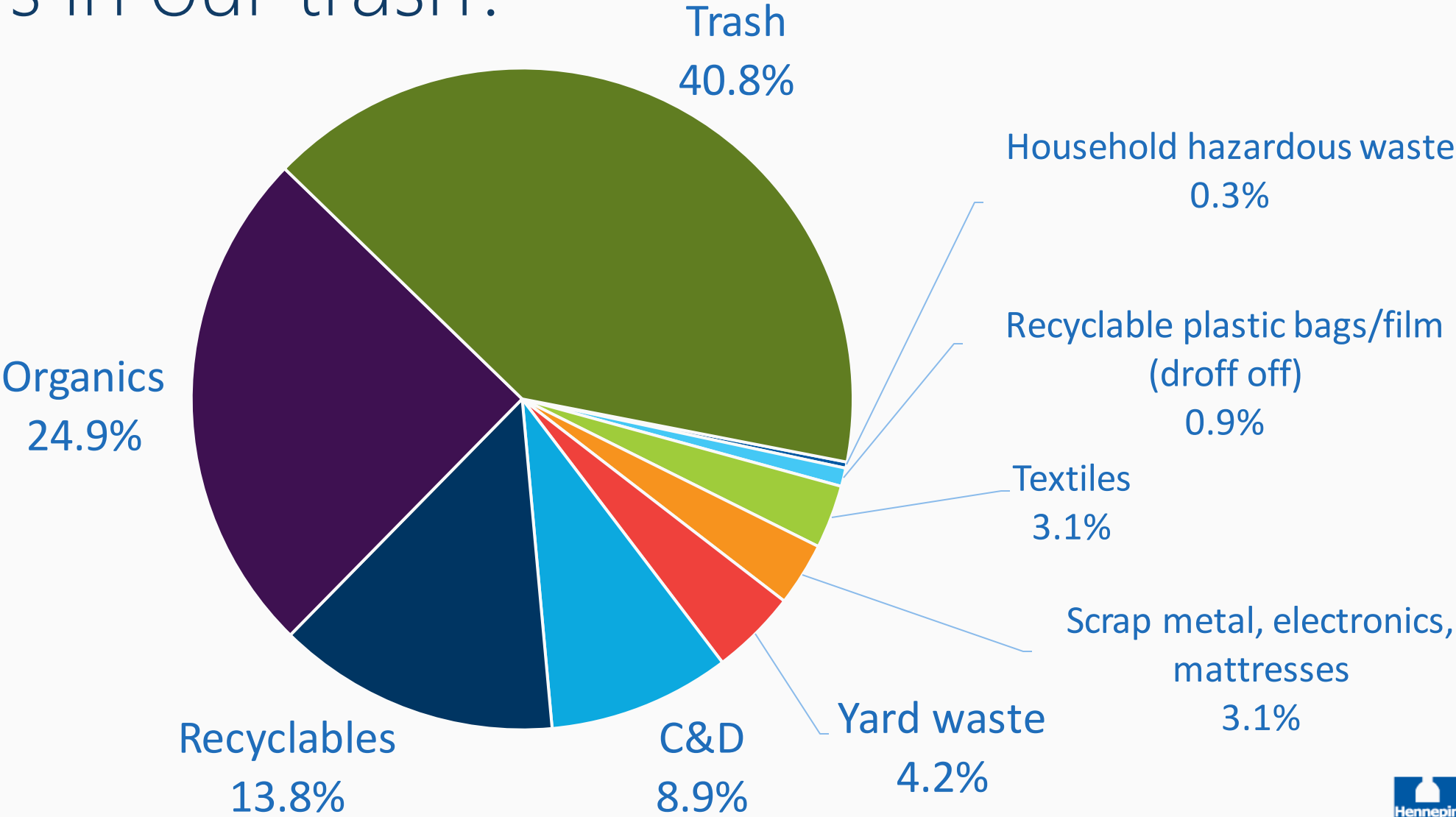


# Where does it go – County-owned Facilities

- Brooklyn Park Transfer Station & drop-off
- South Hennepin Bloomington drop-off
- HERC
- Anaerobic Digestion (AD) (in the works)



# What's in our trash?



# Waste Management Tools

## - Incentives

- Subsidized rate for organics
- Taxes and fees on trash
- Grants to cities, businesses, multifamily properties, homeowners and schools
  - Containers
  - Waste prevention projects
  - Organics drop-off sites
  - Food rescue
  - Building deconstruction and reuse



# Waste Management Tools - Education

- Residential programs – Zero Waste, Plastic-Free and Stop Food Waste Challenges, Community Recycling Ambassadors, Choose to Reuse, Fix-it Clinics
- Community partnerships – Green Partners Env. Education Program
- School recycling program
- Education campaigns and materials





# Waste Management Tools - Investments in Market Development & Infrastructure

- SCORE funds – residential recycling & organics
- Organics recycling – subsidized rate
- Mattress recycling – workforce and market development
- Food waste prevention - research, grants
- Reuse & Repair – retailer support, Fix-it Clinics
- Deconstruction – workforce and market development



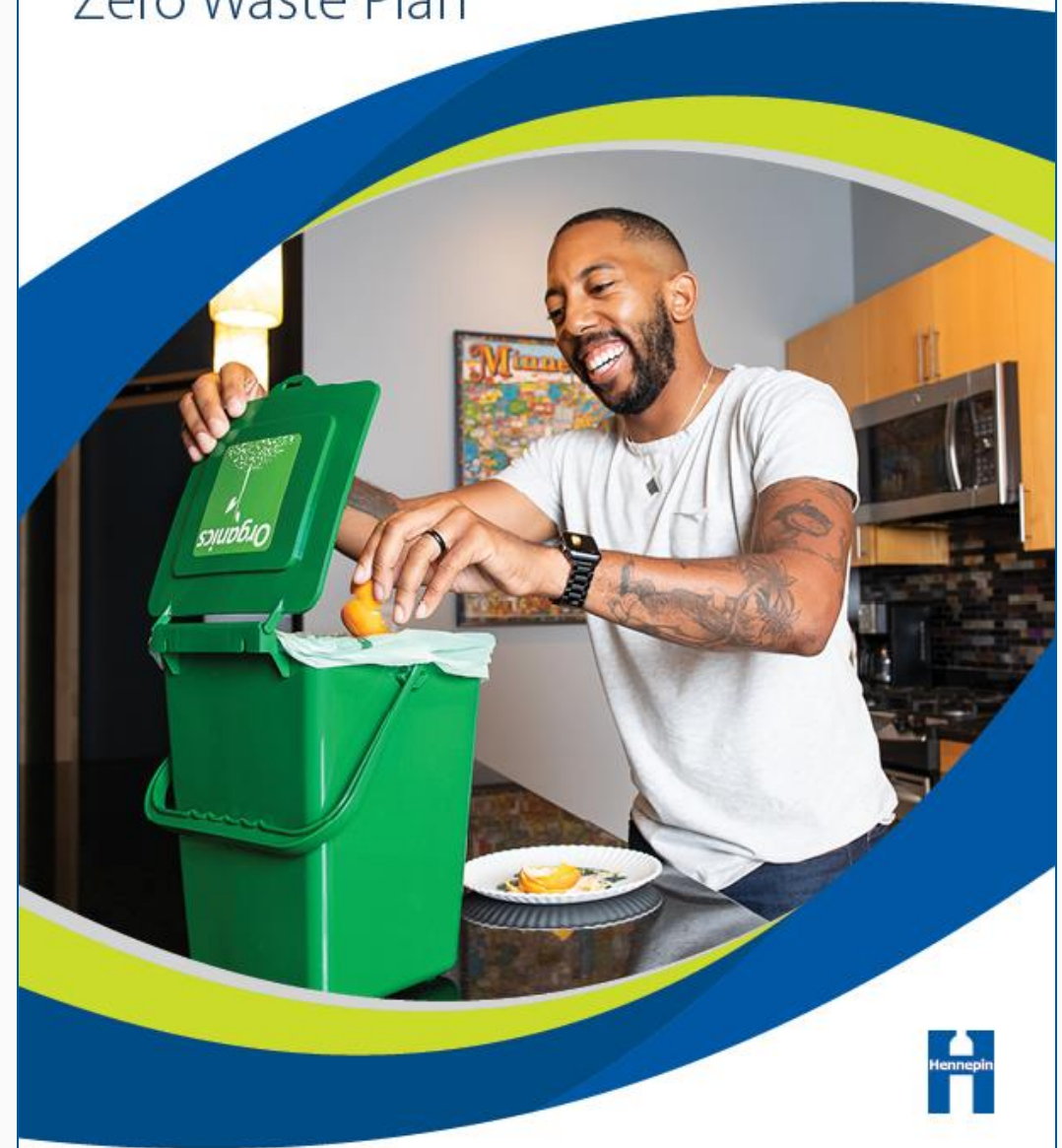
# Waste Management Tools - Policy

- State requirements – waste hierarchy, management plans and diversion goal for metro counties – 75% by 2030
- County requirements – Recycling ordinance 13, licensing
- City requirements – multifamily & business recycling, packaging ordinances, licensing
- Product stewardship and extended producer responsibility (EPR) – problem materials like electronics, paint, and packaging



Hennepin County's  
Zero Waste Plan  
includes  
62 total actions  
to transition  
the county to a  
zero-waste system

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
Zero Waste Plan



# What is zero-waste?

A system where all materials are designed to become resources for others to use, with a key performance measure of diverting 90% or more of all discarded materials from landfills and incinerators.



# Zero Waste Plan aims



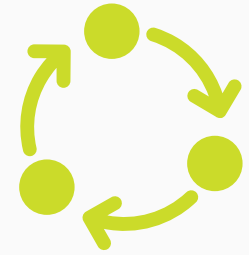
Create a materials management system that reduces racial disparities and advances equity



Expand the reach of county waste education, grants, and programs

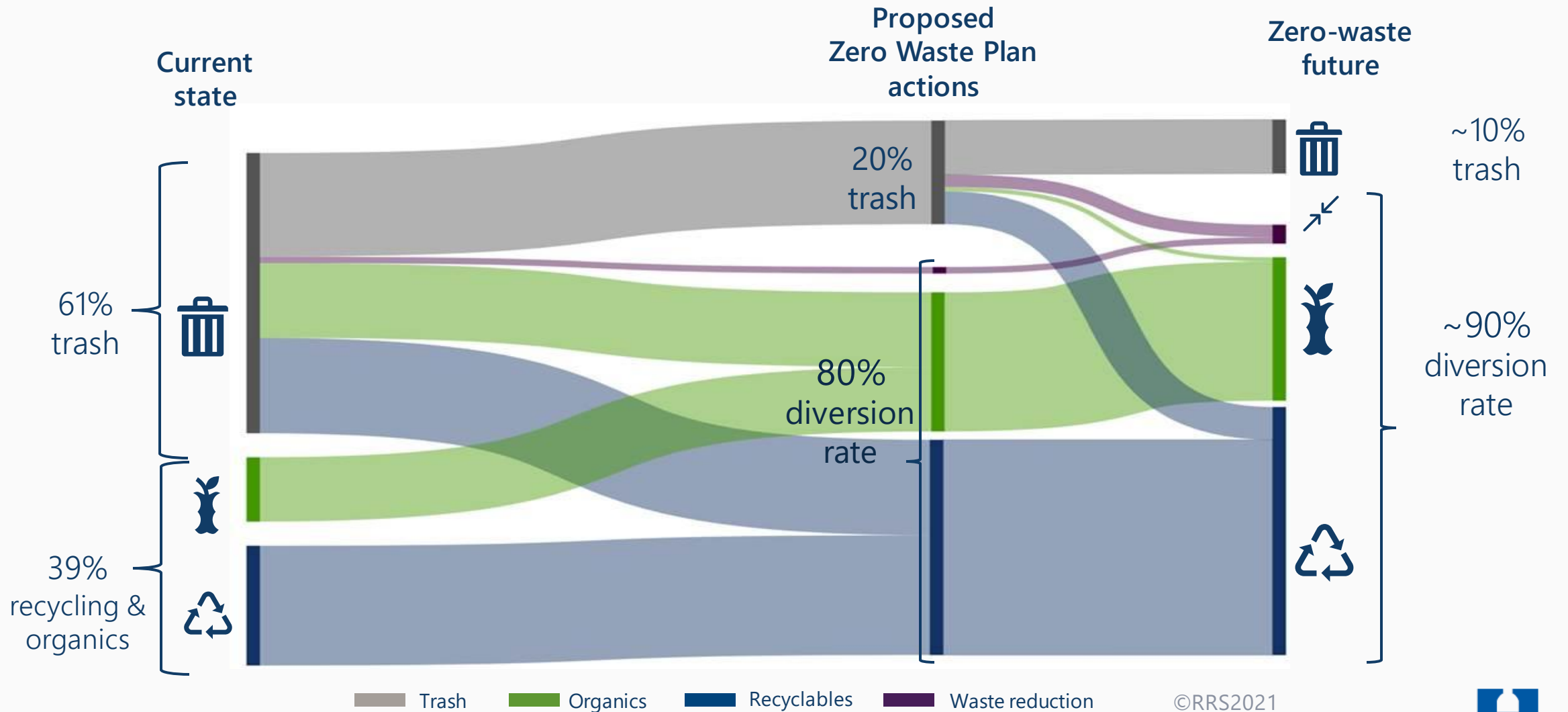


Adopt policies that accelerate the transition to a zero-waste future



Implement programs to advance circularity, reduce waste, and support reuse

# Will the proposed actions get us to zero waste?



# Beyond disposal – material impacts and Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan



Most of the environmental and health impacts of a product happen before disposal. Materials with the greatest climate impacts include food, plastics, concrete, aluminum and steel.

We can't recycle our way out of this, getting to zero waste will require transformative changes in the policies, programs and resources that make up the solid waste system and significant shifts in who benefits from the system.



Carolyn Collopy

[Carolyn.collopy@hennepin.us](mailto:Carolyn.collopy@hennepin.us)

