



# Village of Oak Park Material Characterization Study & Opportunity Assessment

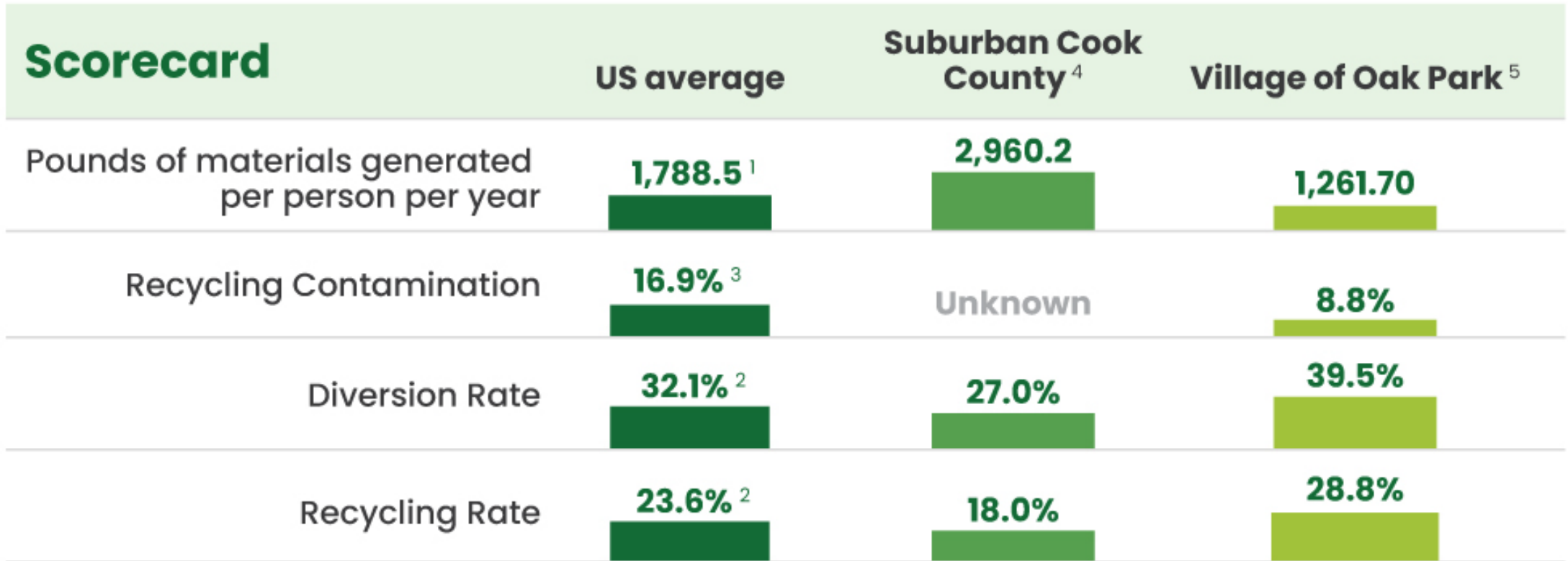




**Thank you!**



# Current State of Waste



1) USEPA 2018; 2) Recycling Partnership 2024; 3) Recycling Partnership 2022; 4) Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan 2024-2029; 5) Village of Oak Park 2024

# Climate Ready Oak Park

## Waste Reduction

### Goal #2: Expand Waste Goals & Data

#### WG.01. Conduct a Waste Characterization Study



# Value of the Study

- 1) Understand the composition of MSW (garbage), Recycling, and Organics streams
- 2) Refine the Village's greenhouse gas emissions report
- 3) Uncover opportunities for additional waste reduction and diversion

# Material Characterization Study

A total of **60** samples

## Material Stream Categories

**25**

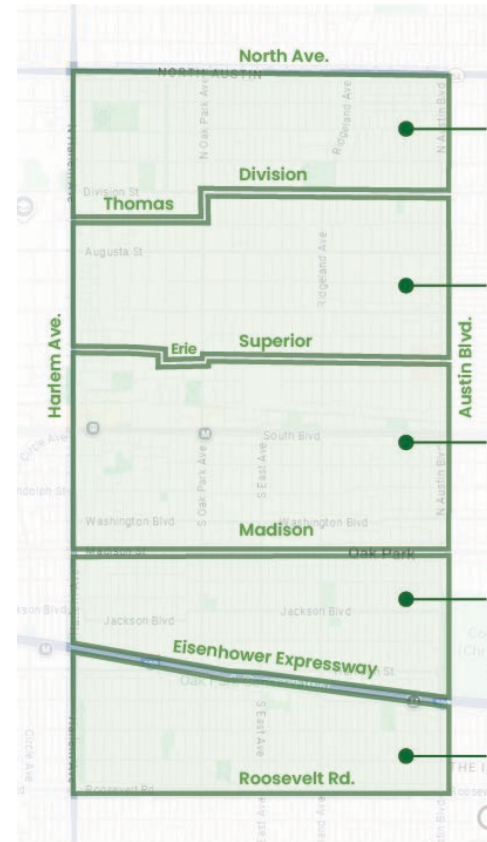
Municipal  
Solid Waste

**25**

Recyclables

**10**

Organics



**Monday**

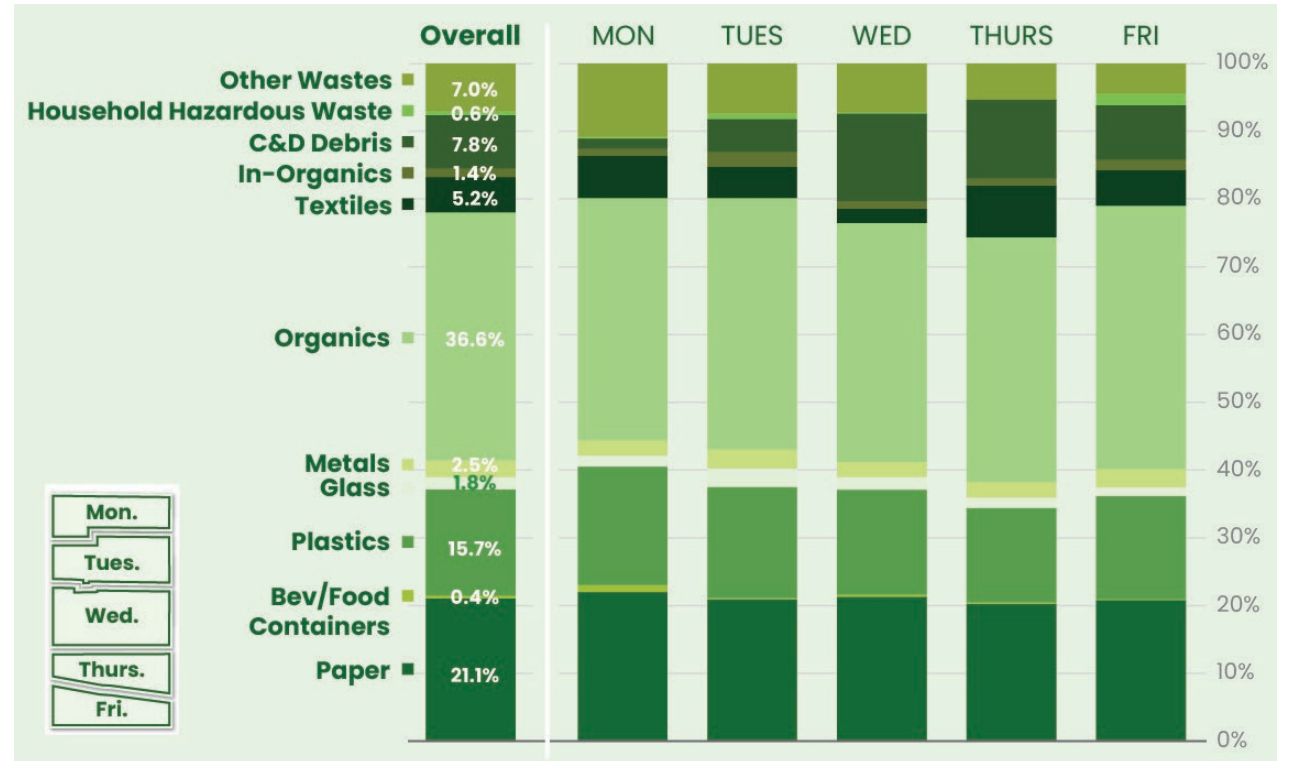
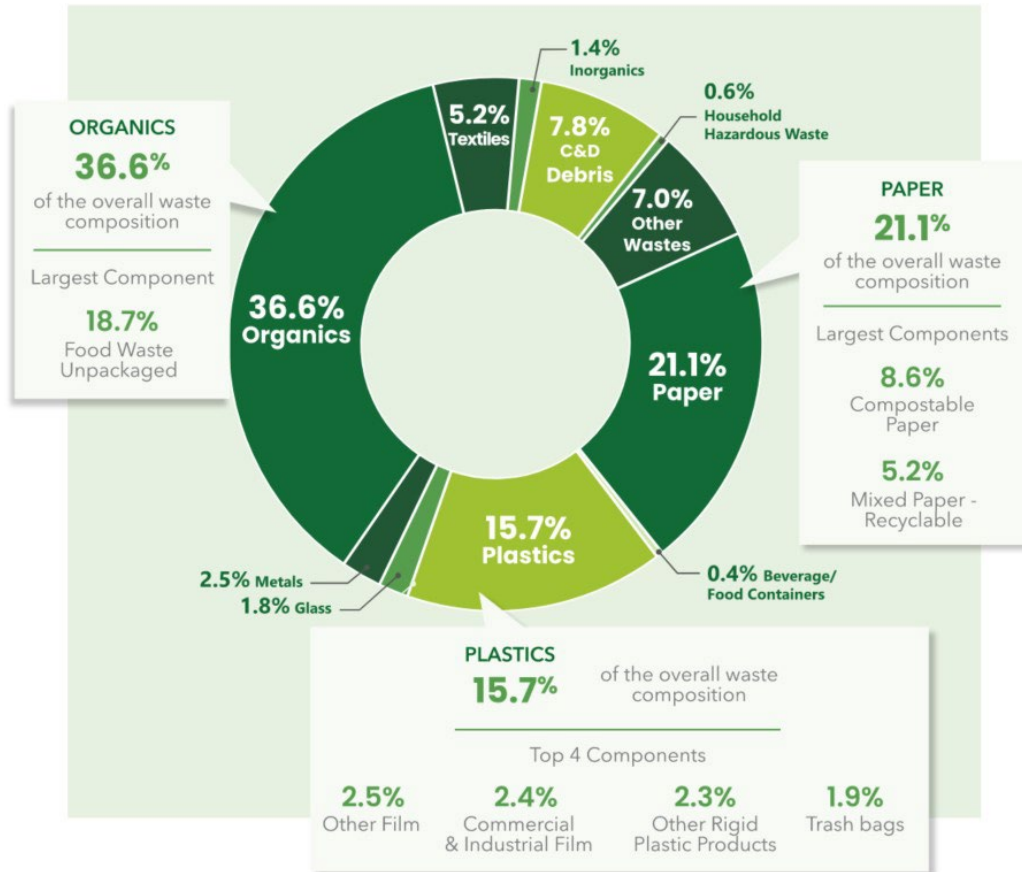
**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

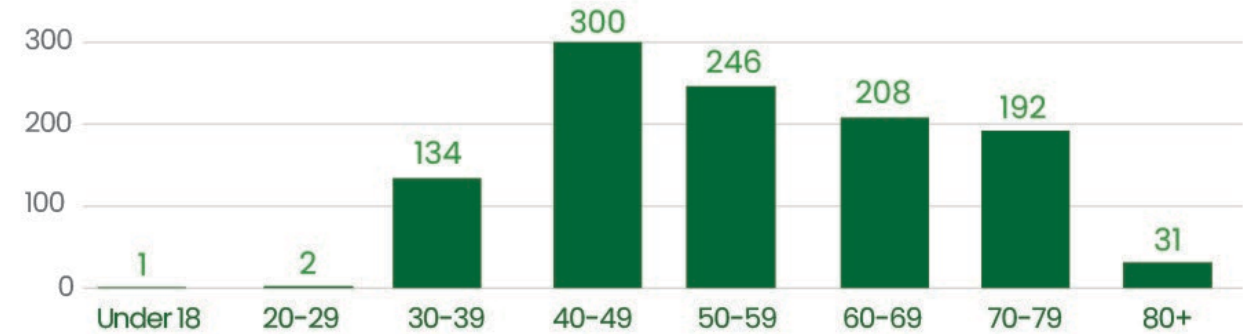
# Key Findings from the Study





# Waste Survey Results

- 1) Confirmed composition results
- 2) Identified values, motivations, barriers, and questions
- 3) Affirmed sources of information
- 4) 89% are satisfied or feel neutral about current solid waste collection services



Age Demographic of Respondents





## Next Steps for Consideration

### Establish a Village Solid Waste Management Plan

- 1) **Align goals / priorities**
- 2) **Measure progress**
- 3) **Advance as goals are met**



MSW



Recycling



Organics

# Next Steps for Consideration

## Enhance and Focus Education/Outreach Campaigns

- 1) Address common barriers
  - 2) Tailor education to maximize impact
- \*Characterization Study + Survey



# Next Steps for Consideration

## Evaluate Financial Incentive Opportunities

- 1) MSW Rate Study
- 2) Identify opportunities to offset program costs
- 3) Participation incentives

**73%**

Respondents' motivation for engagement/ participation is Financial Incentives



## Next Steps for Consideration

### Multi-Family Material Characterization Study

- 1) **MSW & Recycling Composition**
- 2) **Identify opportunities for reduction & diversion**

**35%**

Oak Park residents living  
in multi-family units  
(6-units or more)





# Questions & Discussion



## Scorecard

US average

Suburban Cook  
County<sup>4</sup>

Village of Oak Park<sup>5</sup>

Pounds of materials generated  
per person per year

1,788.5<sup>1</sup>

2,960.2

1,261.70

Recycling Contamination

16.9%<sup>3</sup>

Unknown

8.8%

Diversion Rate

32.1%<sup>2</sup>

27.0%

39.5%

Recycling Rate




23.6%<sup>2</sup>

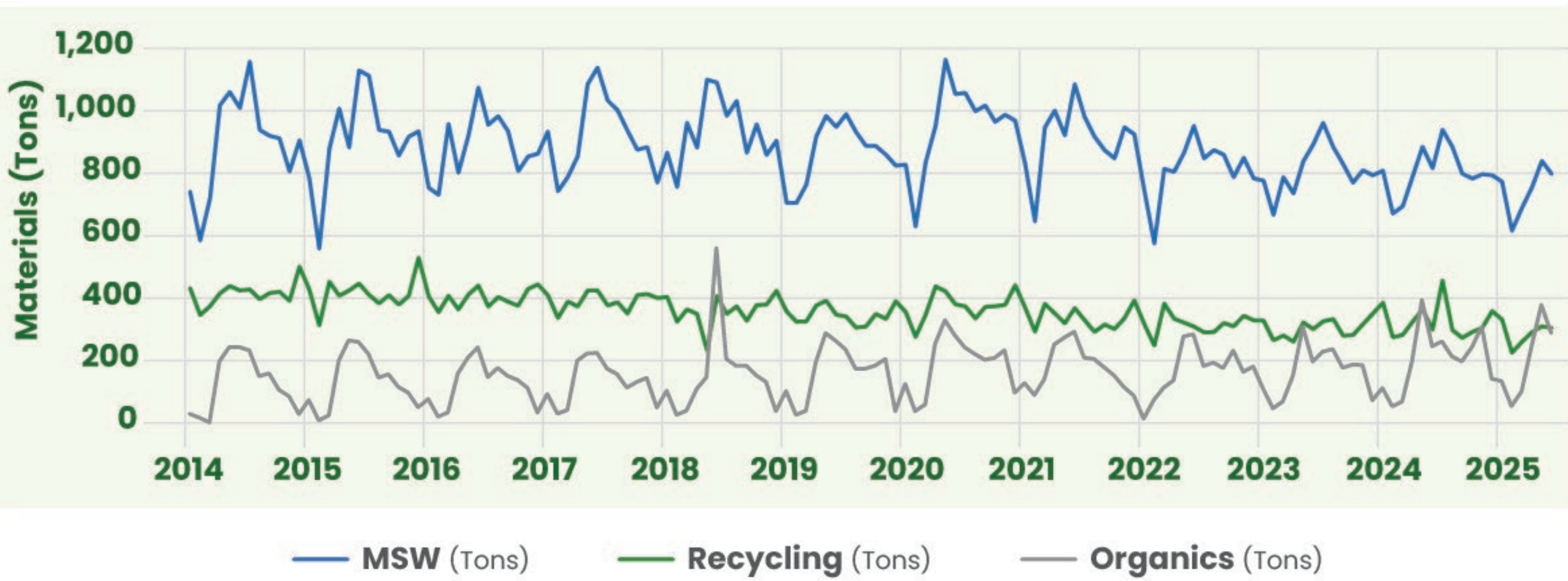
18.0%

28.8%

1) USEPA 2018; 2) Recycling Partnership 2024; 3) Recycling Partnership 2022; 4) Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan 2024-2029; 5) Village of Oak Park 2024



	Material <b>Categories</b>	Material <b>Components</b>
<b>MSW</b> 	<b>11</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Recycling</b> 	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Organics</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>



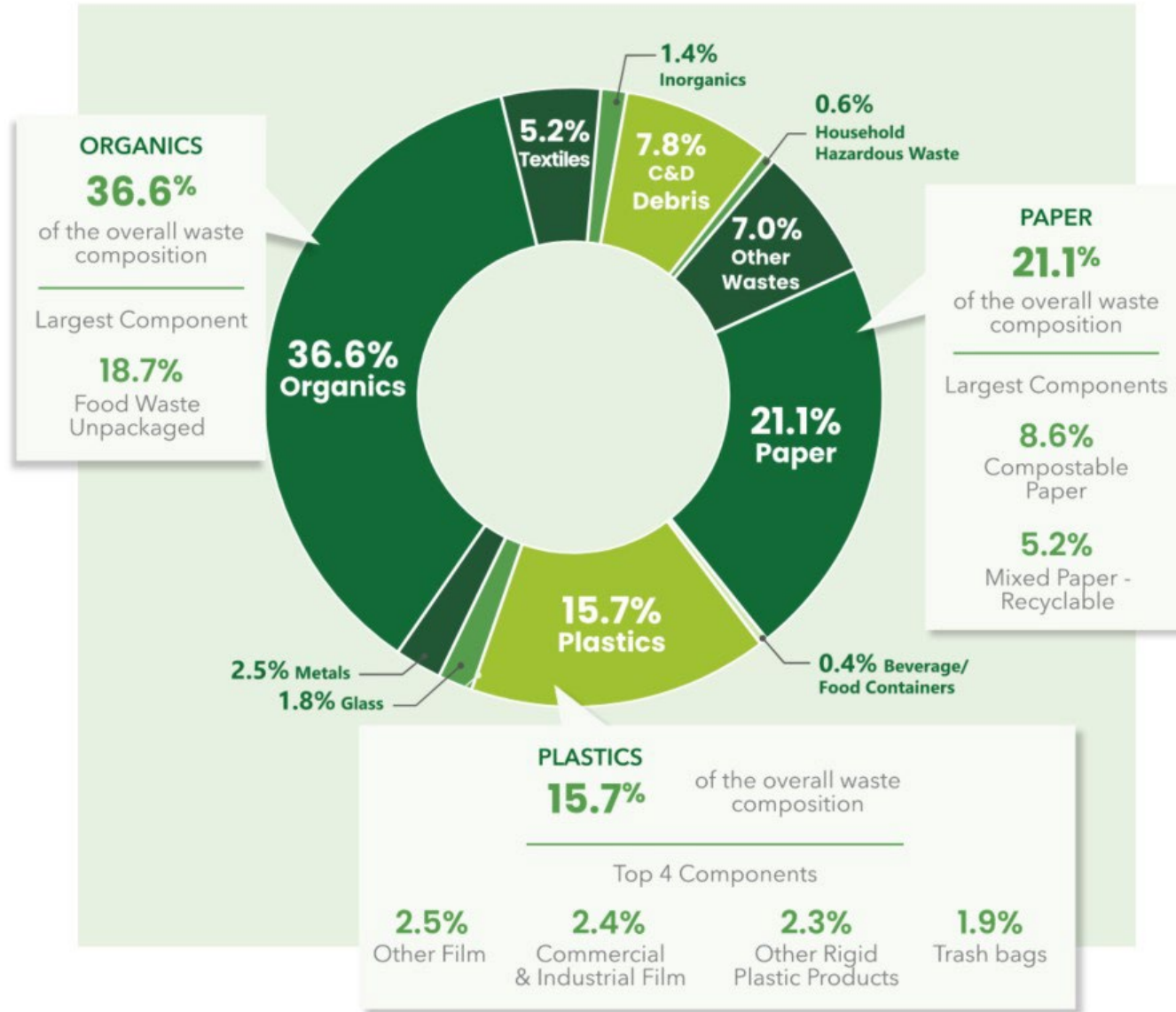
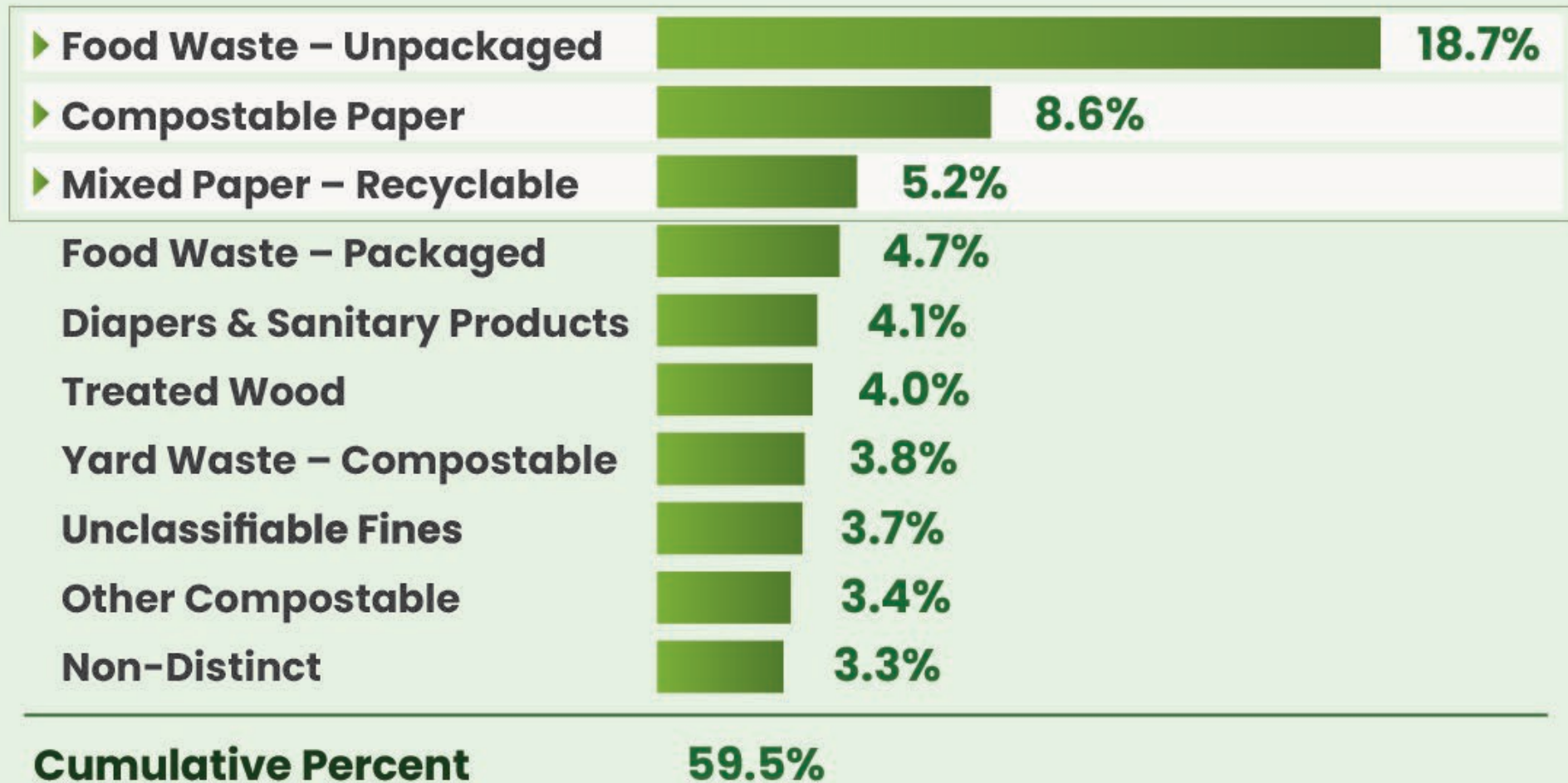
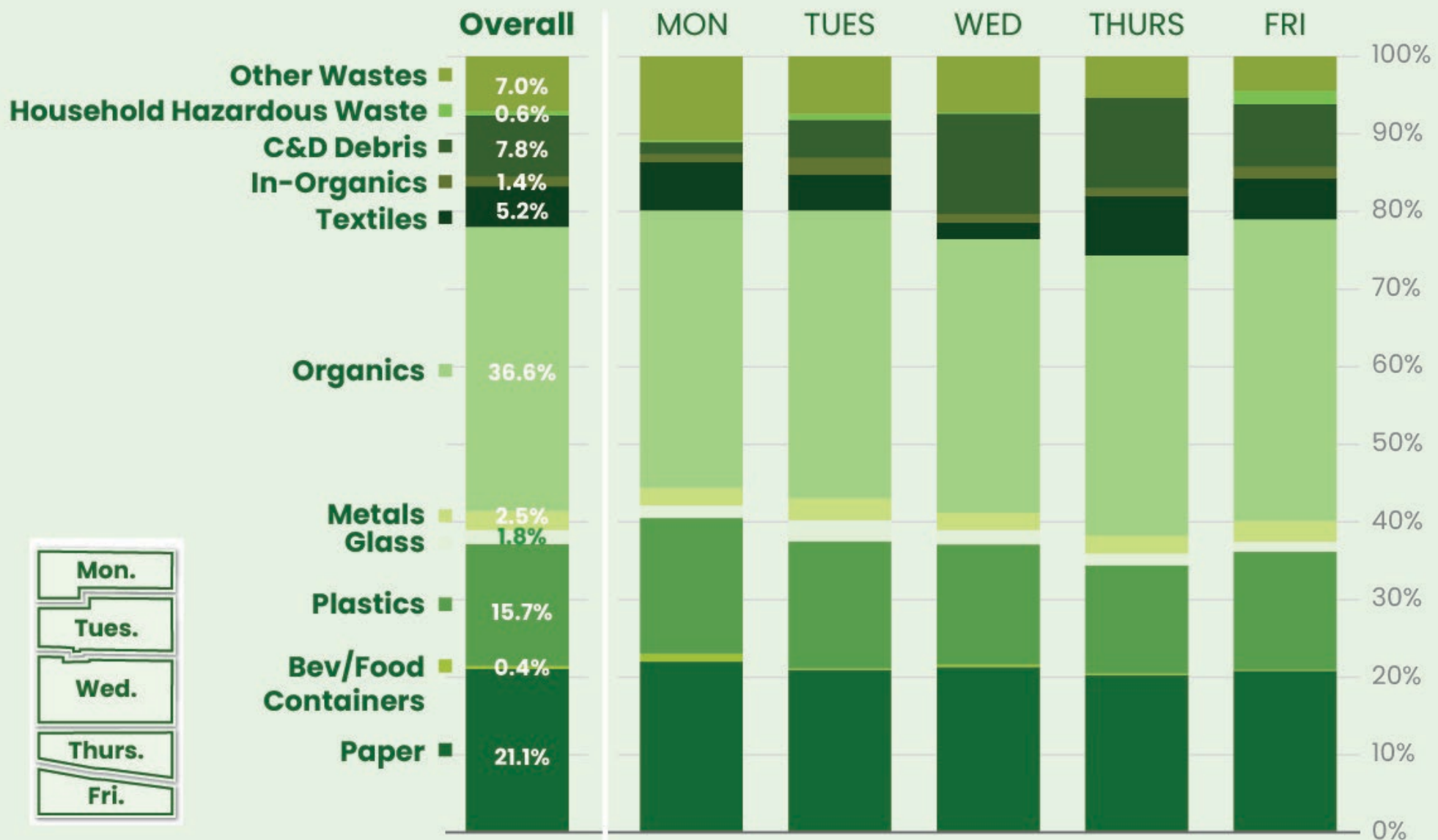
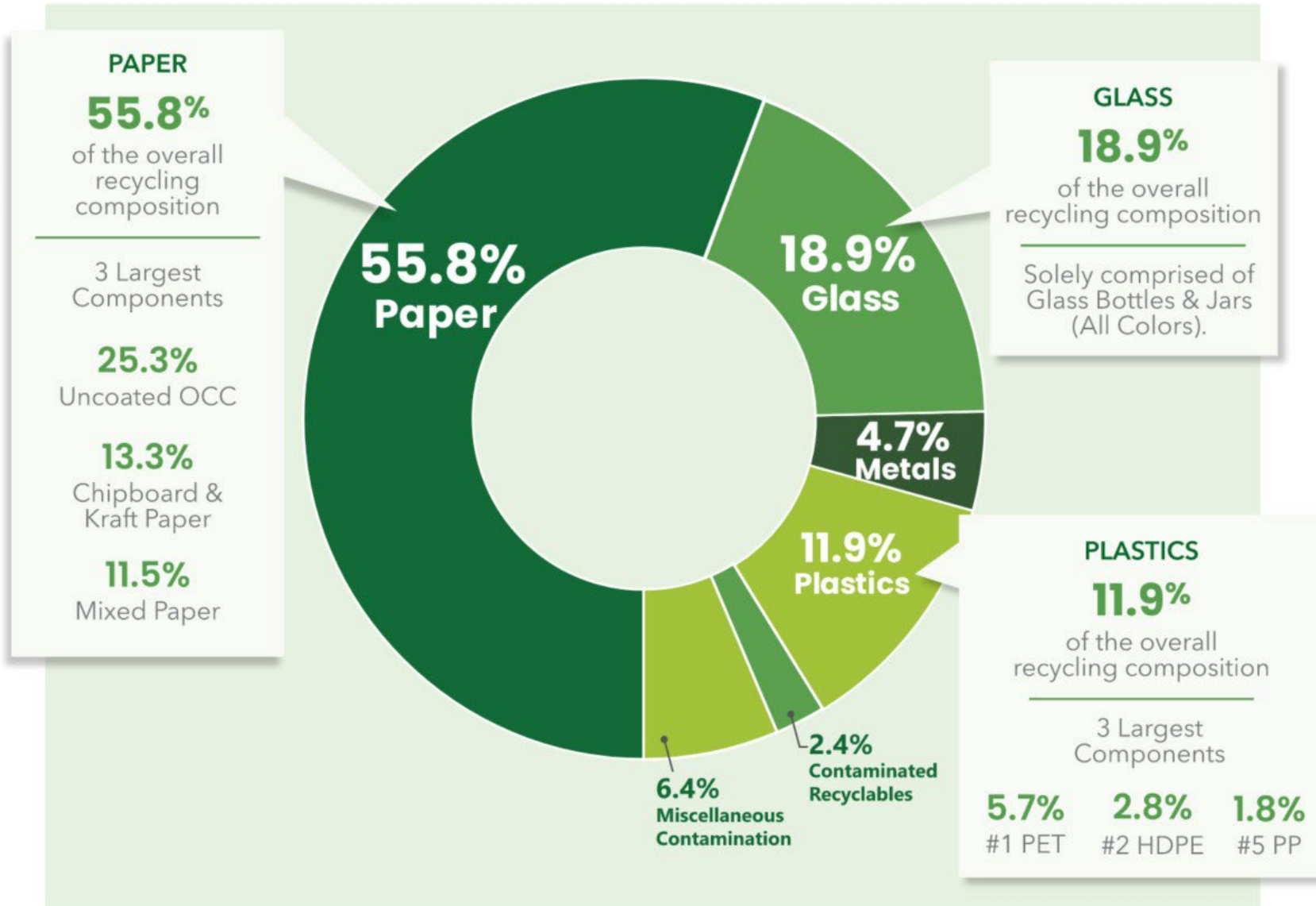




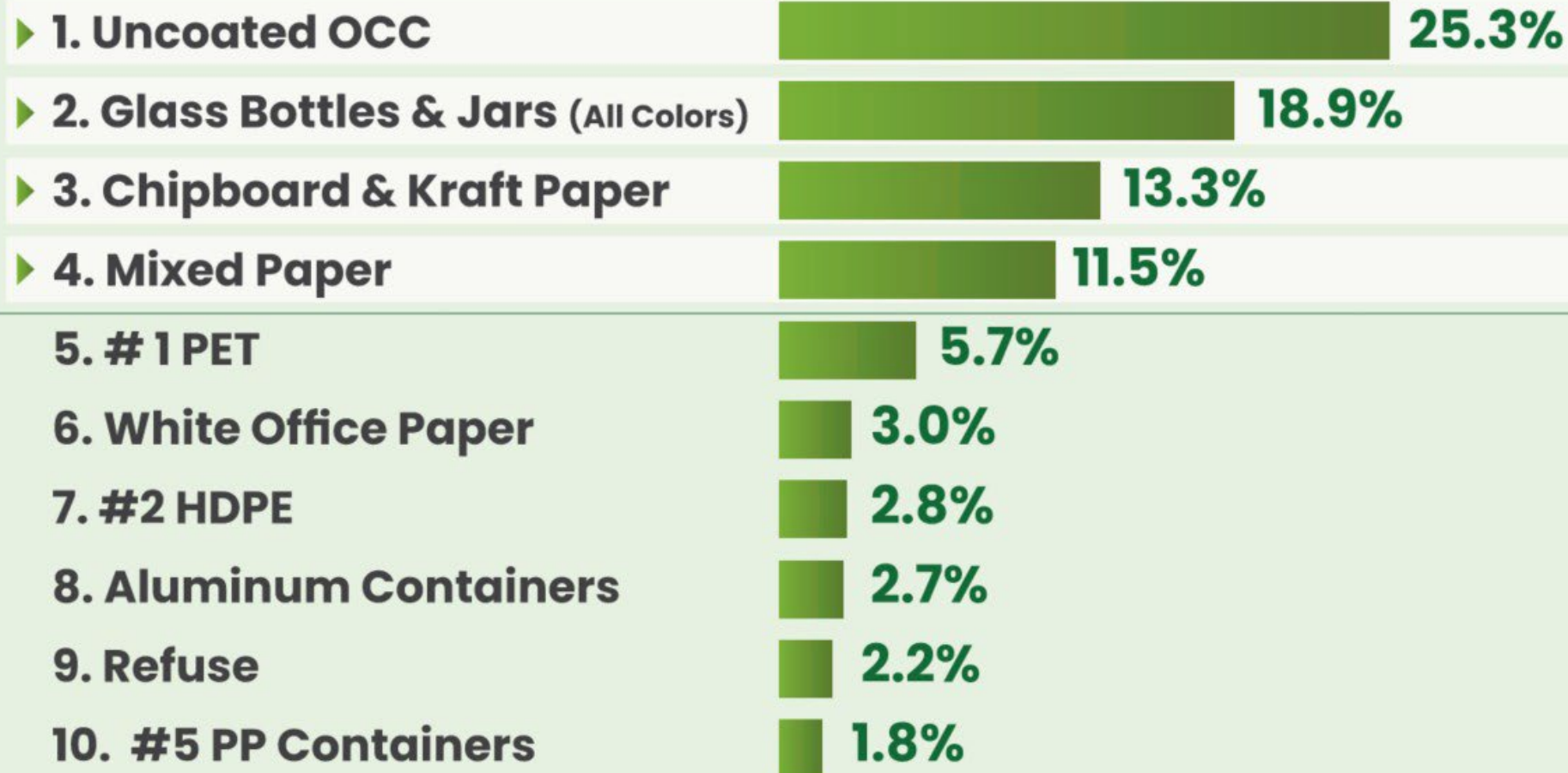
Exhibit 4 | **Top Ten Overall MSW Materials** (components)







## Exhibit 7 | Top Ten Overall Recycling Materials





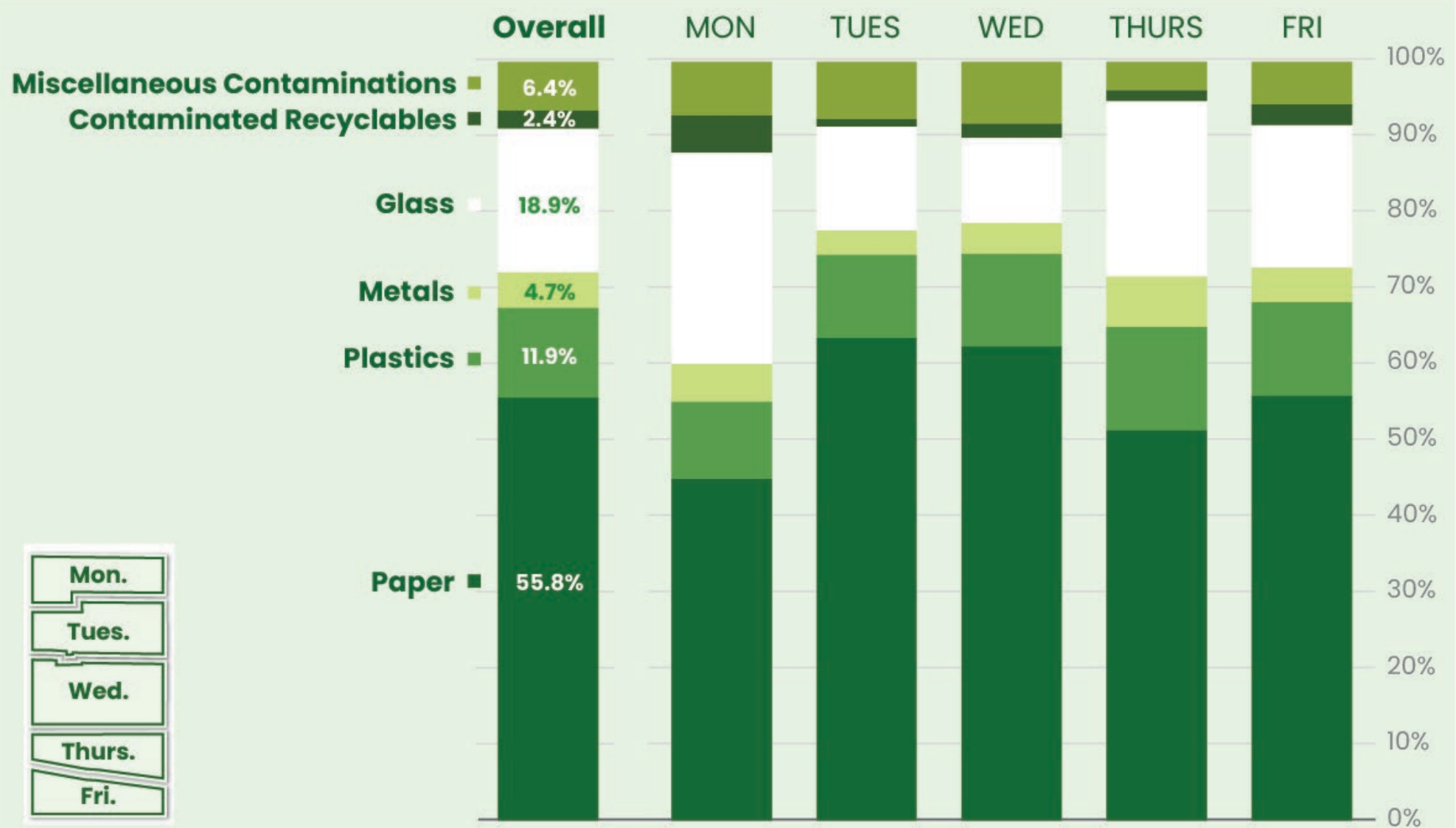


Exhibit 8 | **Top Ten Overall Recycling Contaminants**  
(not considered to be contaminated recyclables.)

▶ 1. Refuse	2.2%
▶ 2. Plastic Bags & Film	1.1%
▶ 3. Non-Recyclable Metal	0.8%
4. Organic Waste	0.5%
5. Non-Recyclable Paper	0.5%
6. Non-Recyclable Plastic	0.3%
7. Polystyrene	0.3%
8. Electronics	0.2%
9. Non-Recyclable Glass	0.2%
10. Manufactured Products	0.1%

Exhibit 10. Recycling Contamination Route Comparison

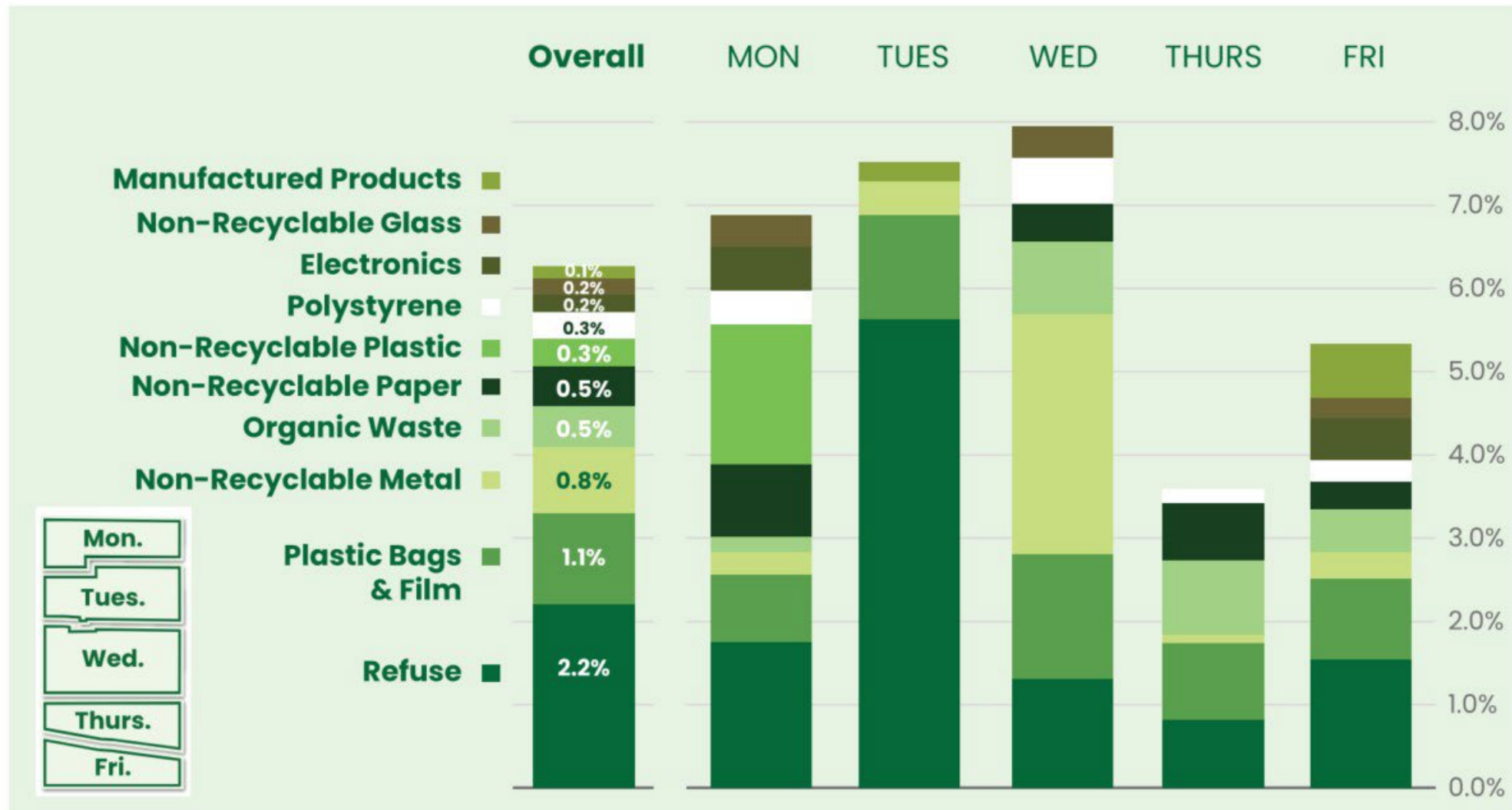
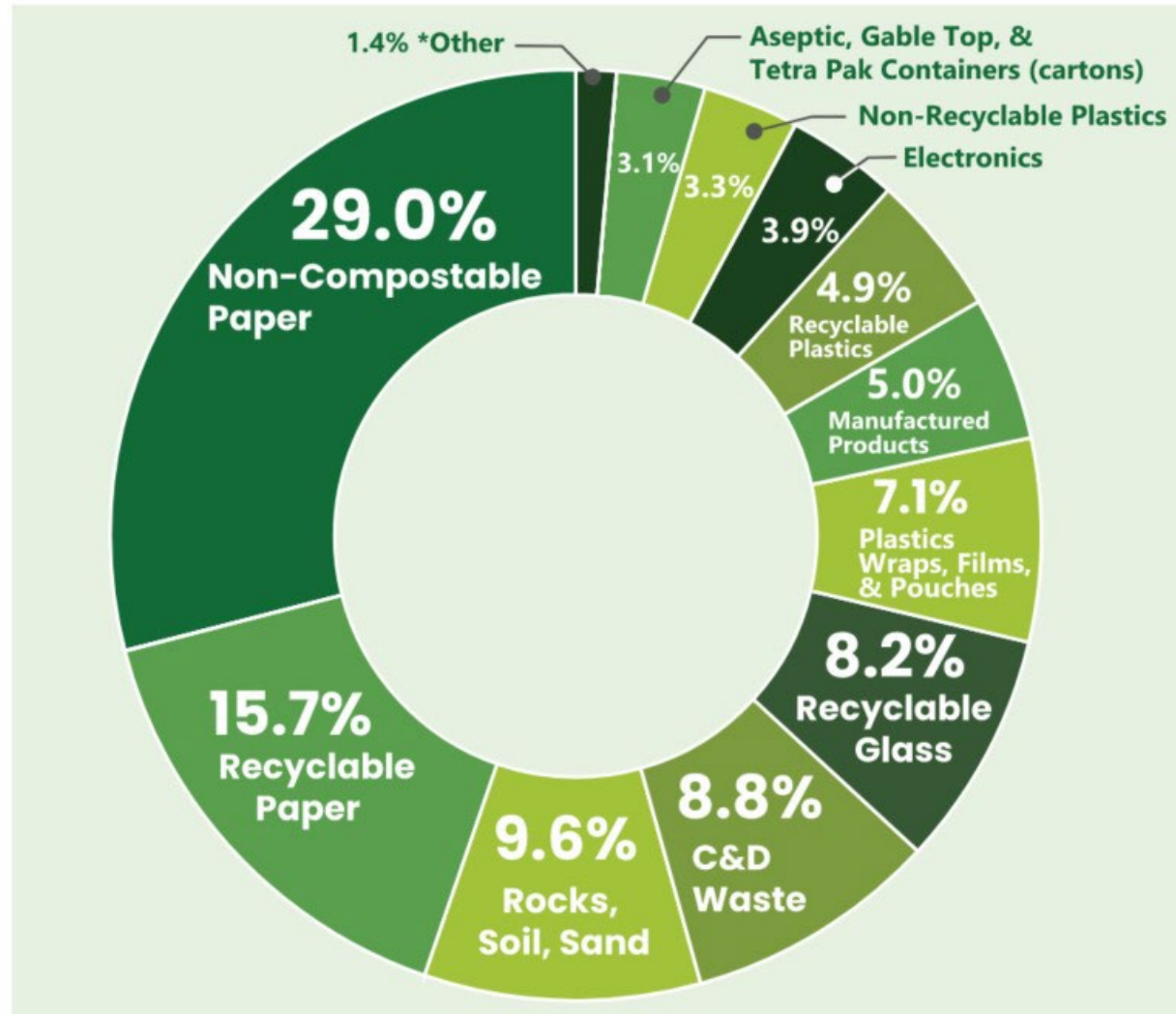


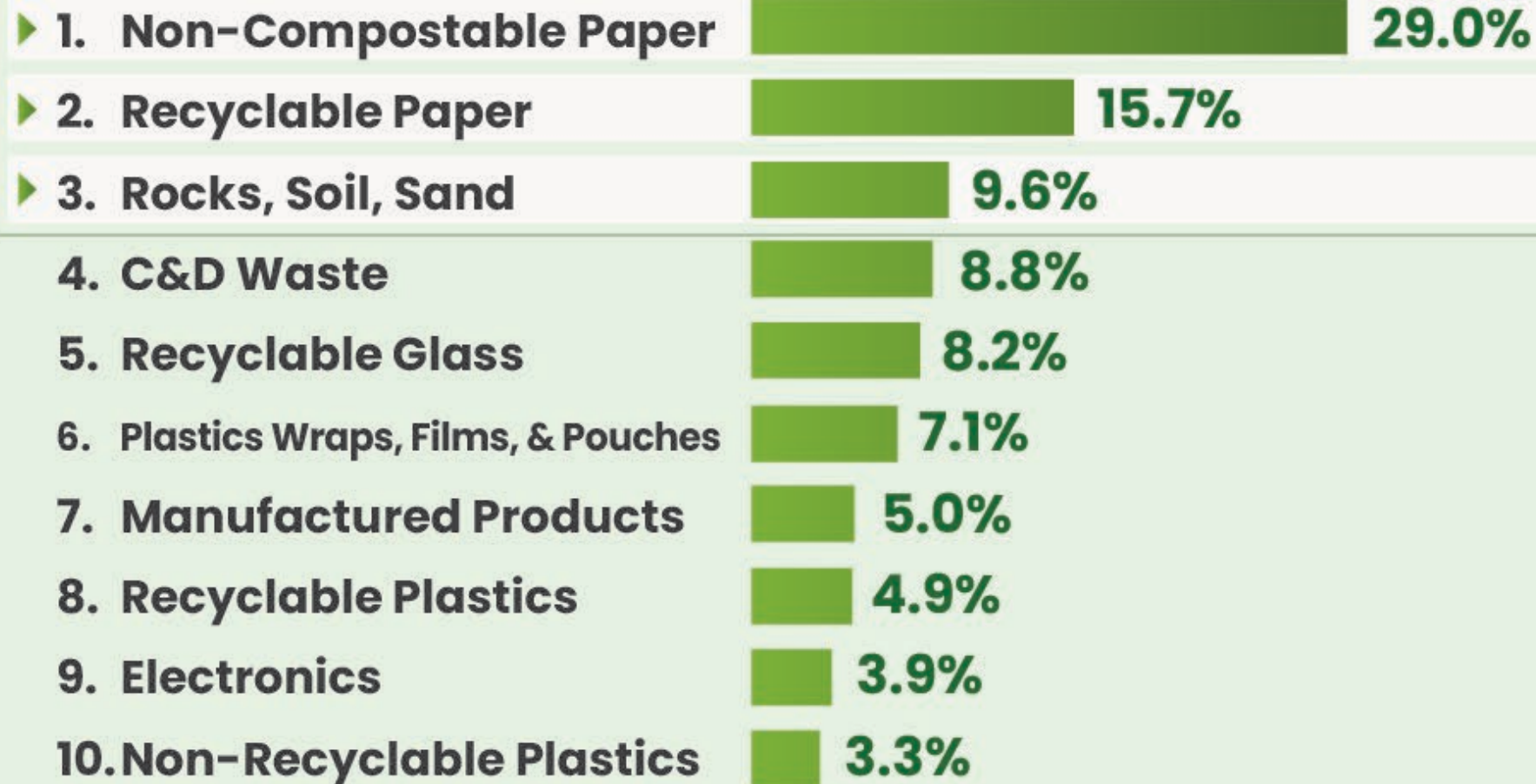
Exhibit 11 | Overall Organics Materials Contamination (Greater than 1 percent)

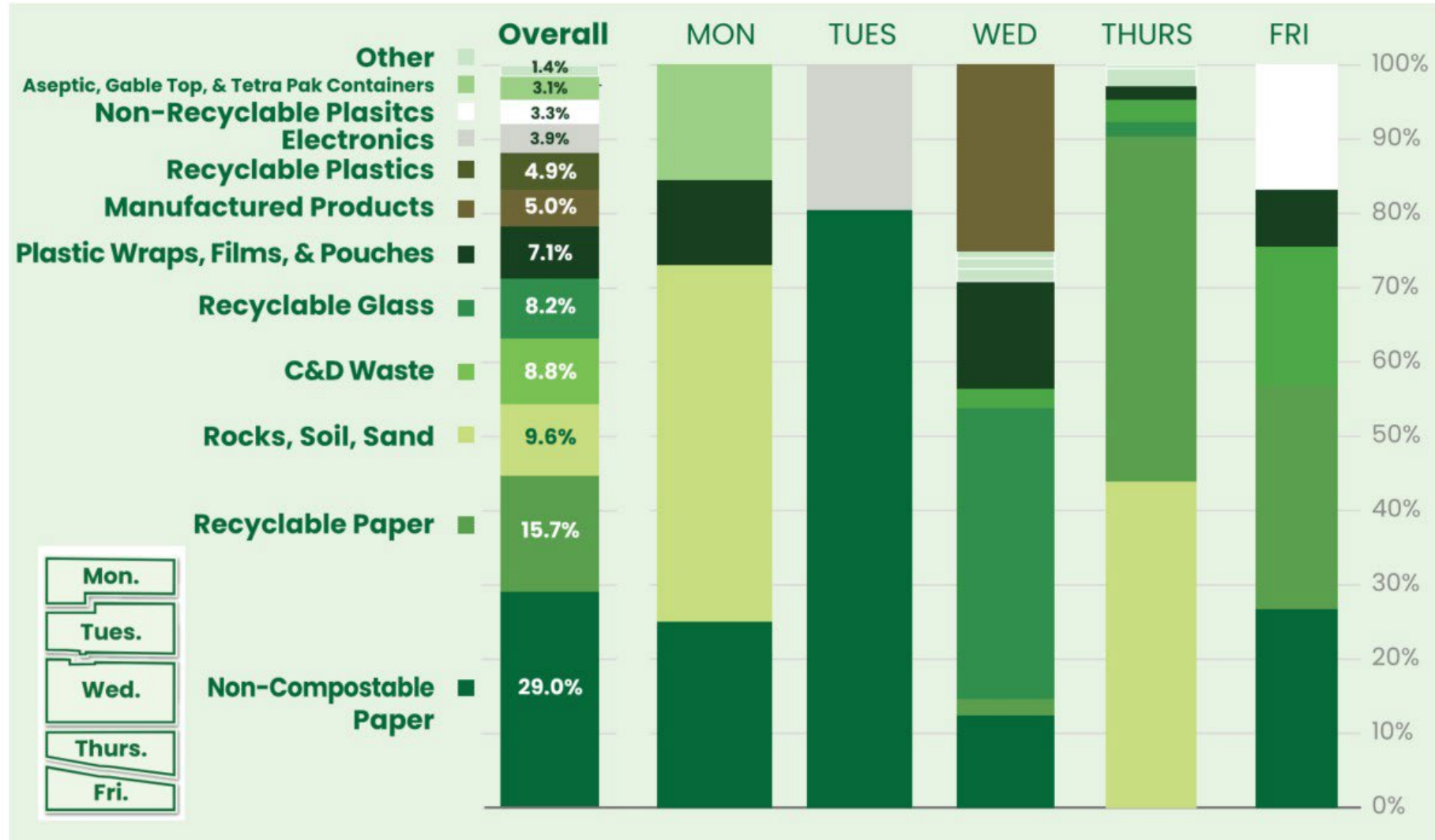
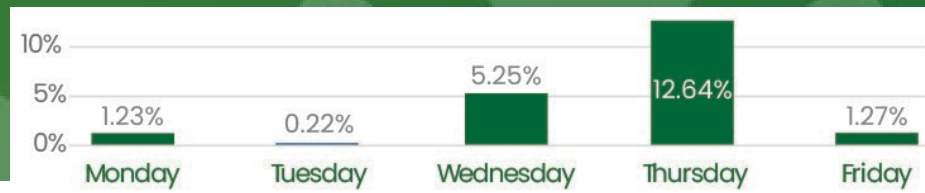


\*Other less than 1% includes: Garbage Bags, Plastic that do not meet ASTM, Recyclable Metals, Refuse & Non-Distinct and Unclassified Fines.



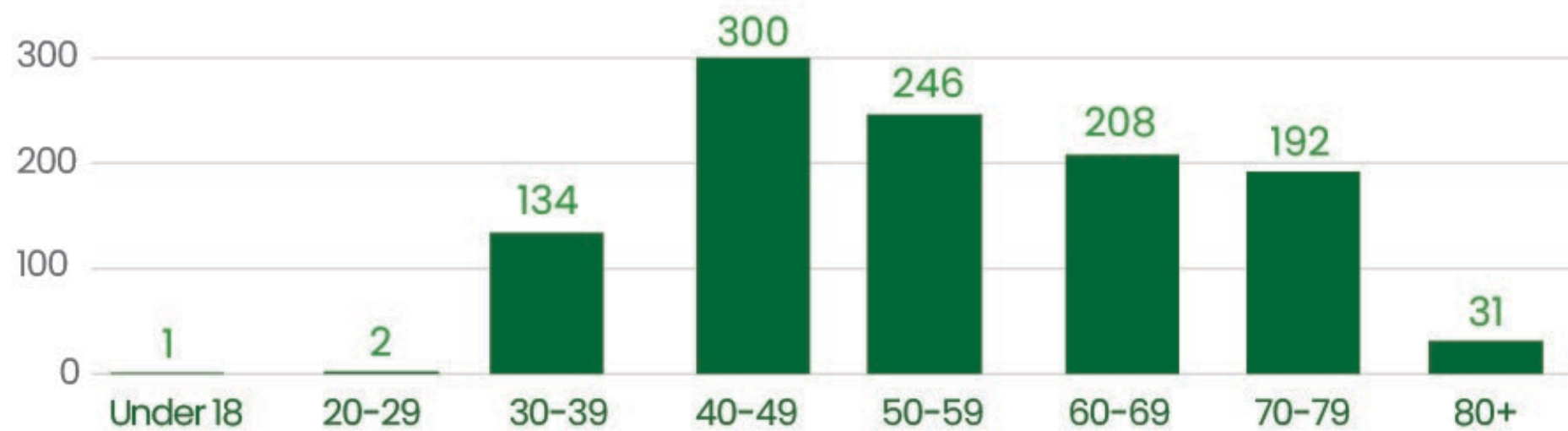
## Exhibit 12 | Top 10 Organics Contamination - Overall





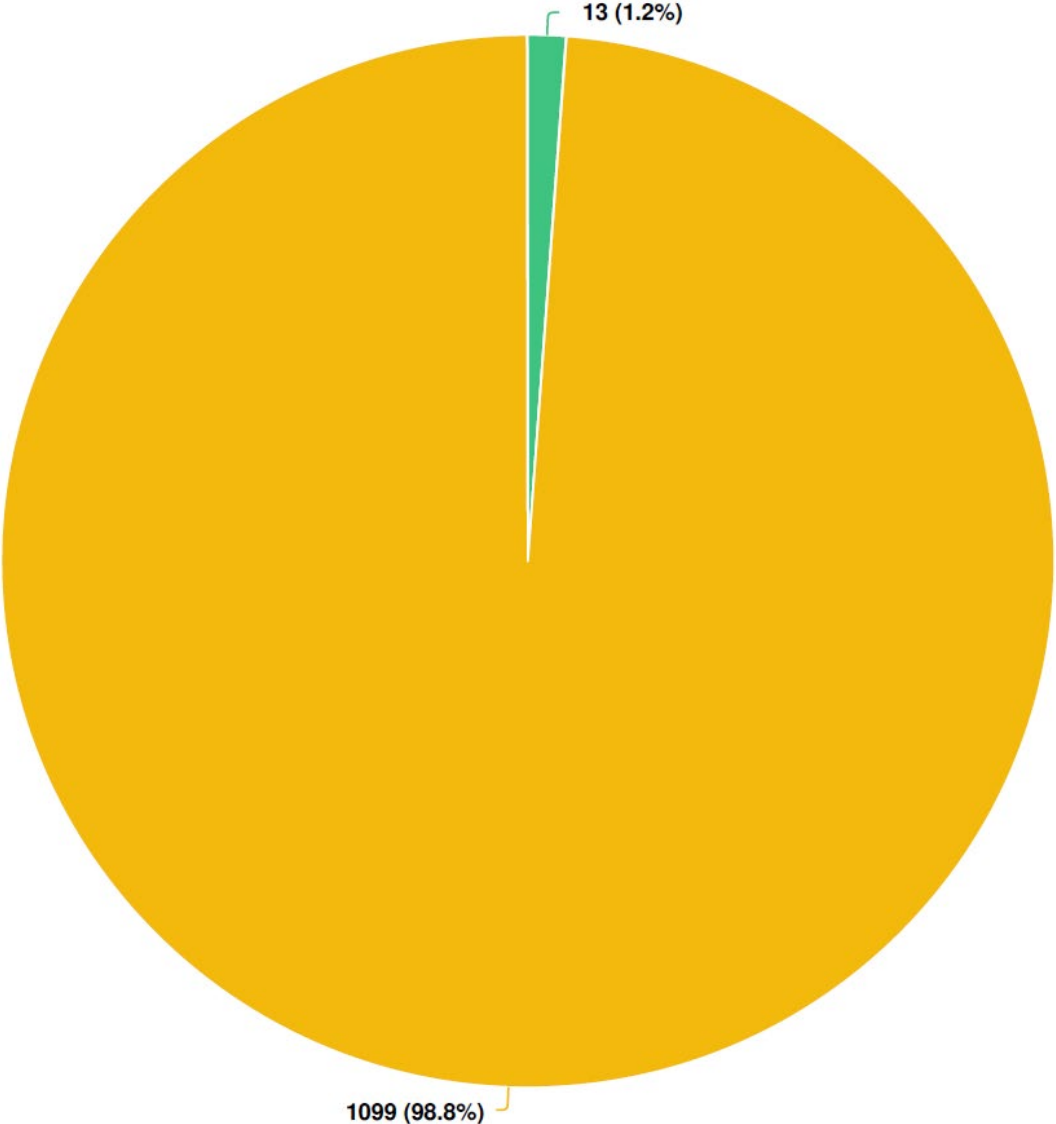
\*Other less than 1% includes: Garbage Bags, Plastic that do not meet ASTM, Recyclable Metals, Refuse & Non-Distinct and Unclassified Fines.

## Exhibit 15 | Age Demographic of Respondents





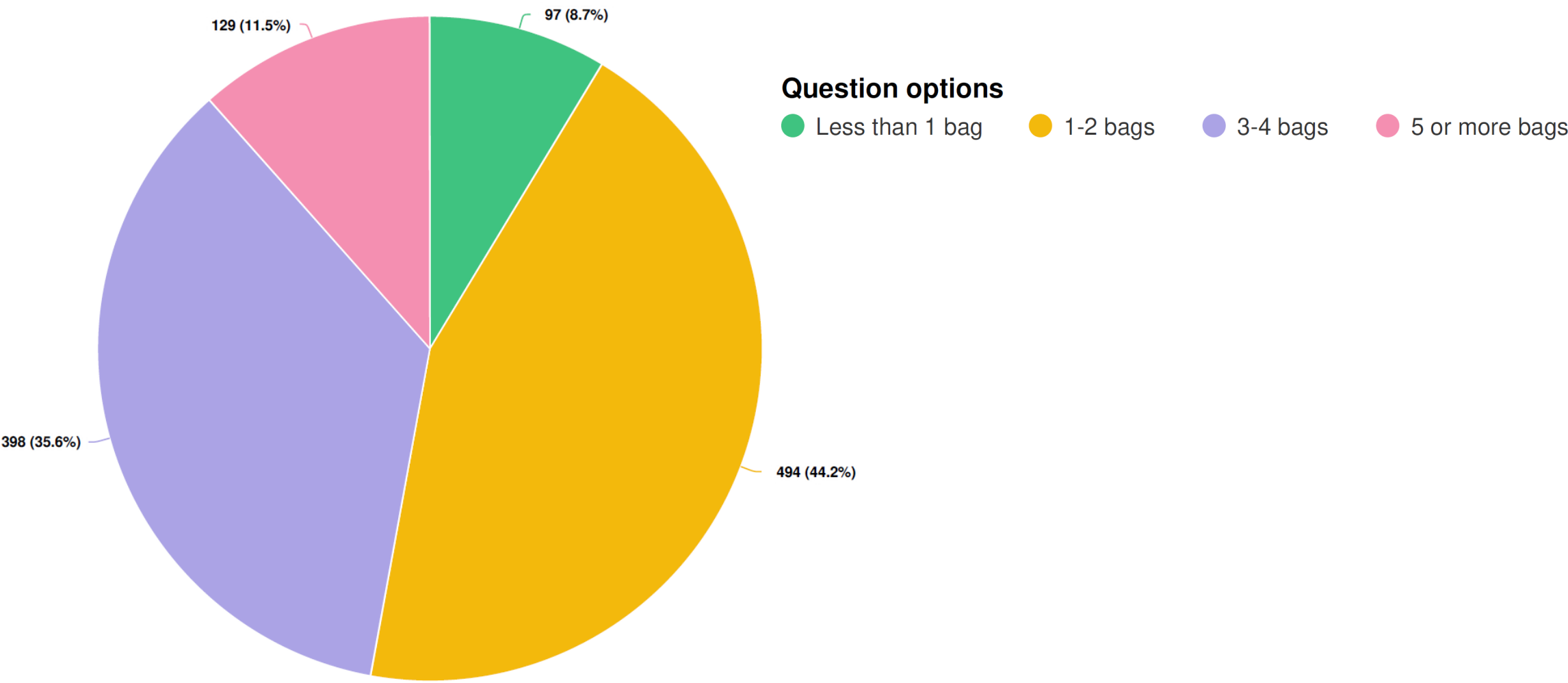
Q3 | Do you rent or own your residence?



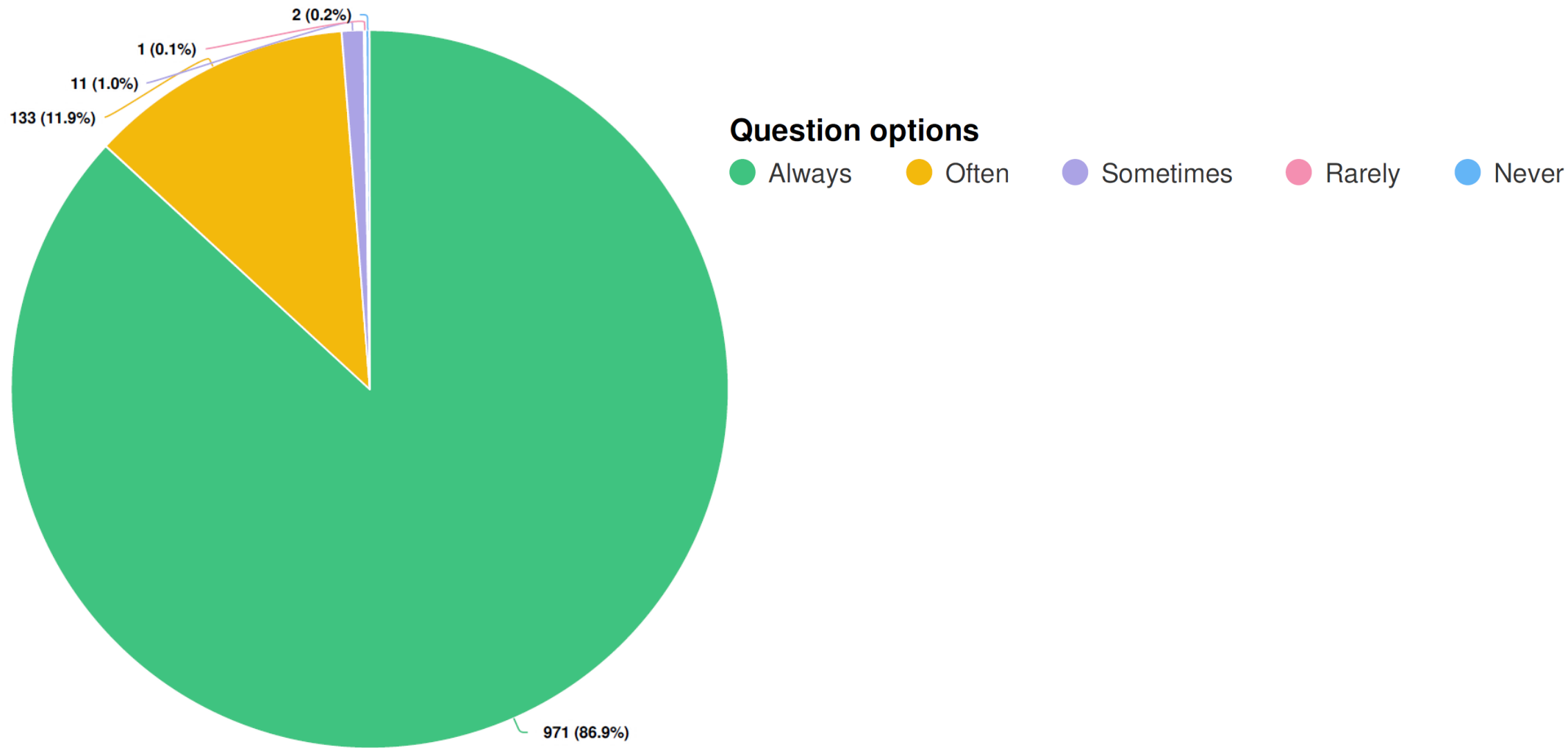
Question options

Rent Own

Q4 | Approximately how much garbage does your household generate per week?

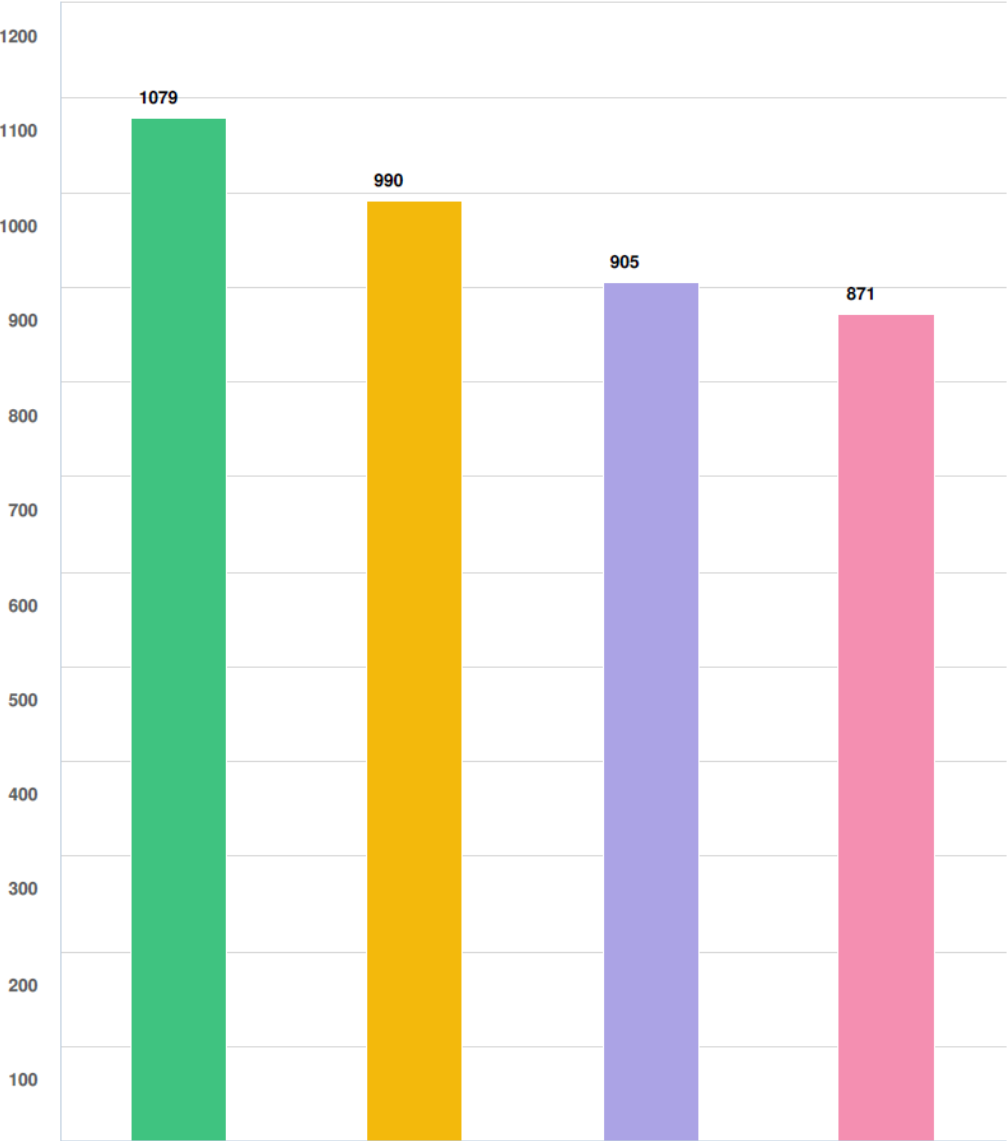


Q5 | How often do you separate recyclables from your garbage?





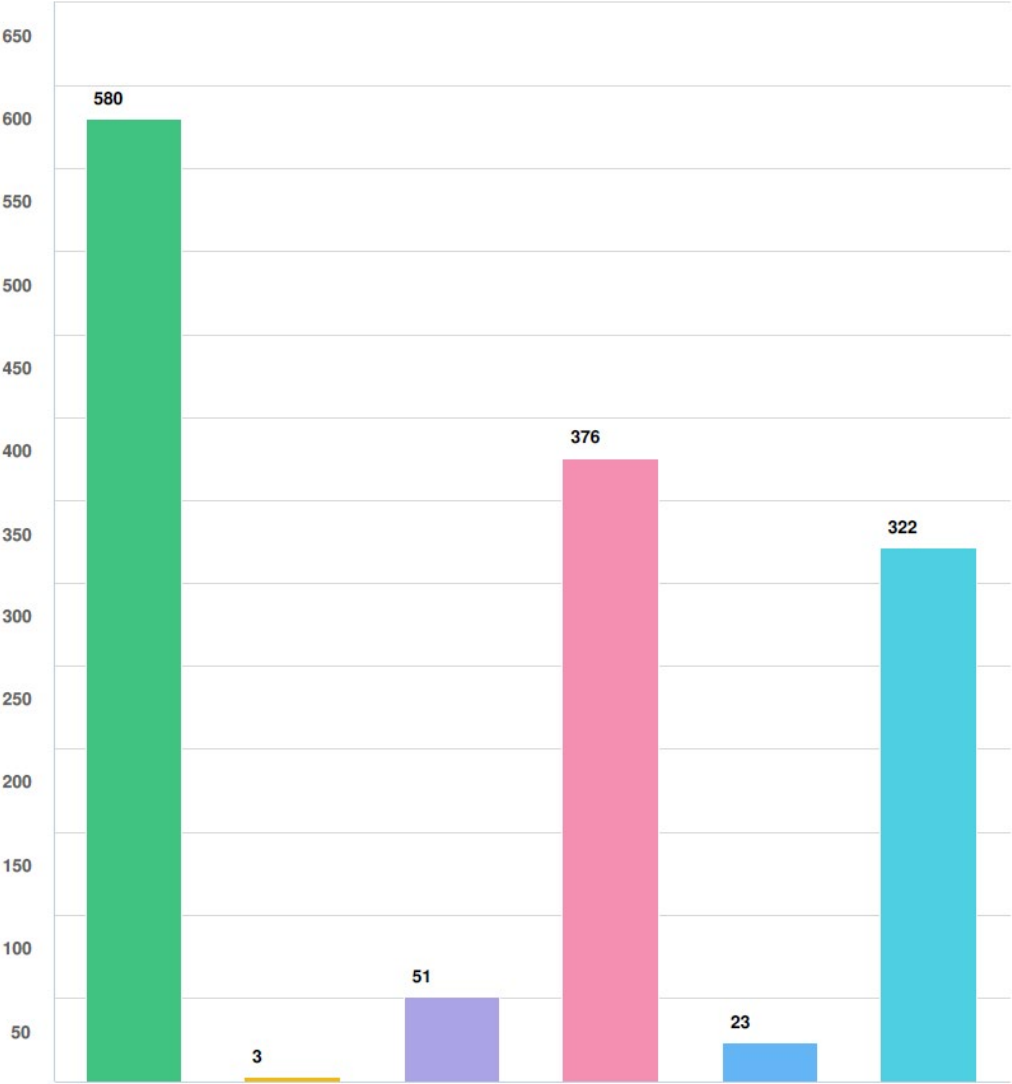
**Q6** Which of the following materials do you most often recycle? (Select all that apply)



**Question options**

- Paper and cardboard
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal cans

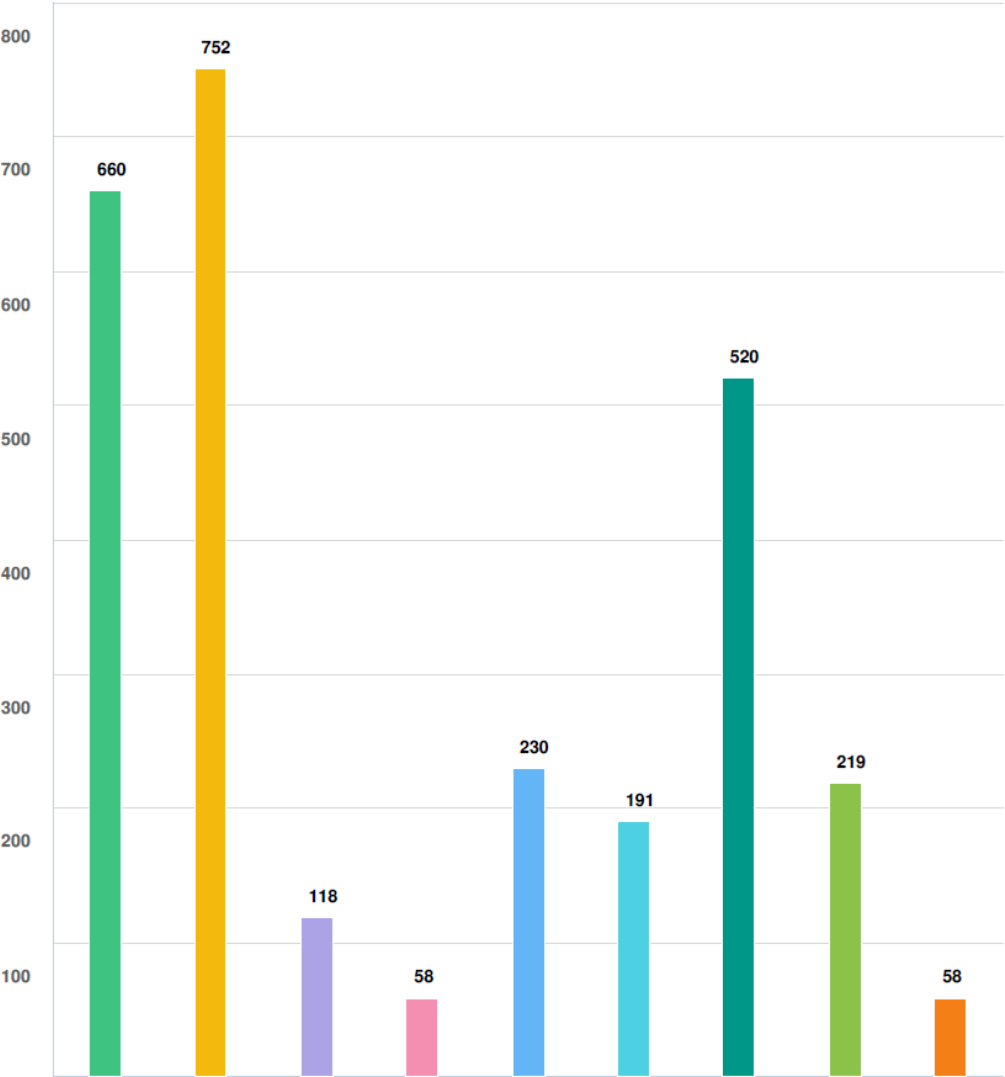
# Q7 Which of the following barriers prevent you from recycling more? (Select all that apply)



**Question options**

- Confusion about what can be recycled
- My residence does not have a recycling bin
- Fly dumping and contamination in my area
- Skepticism of the recycling industry
- Lack of interest
- Other (please specify)

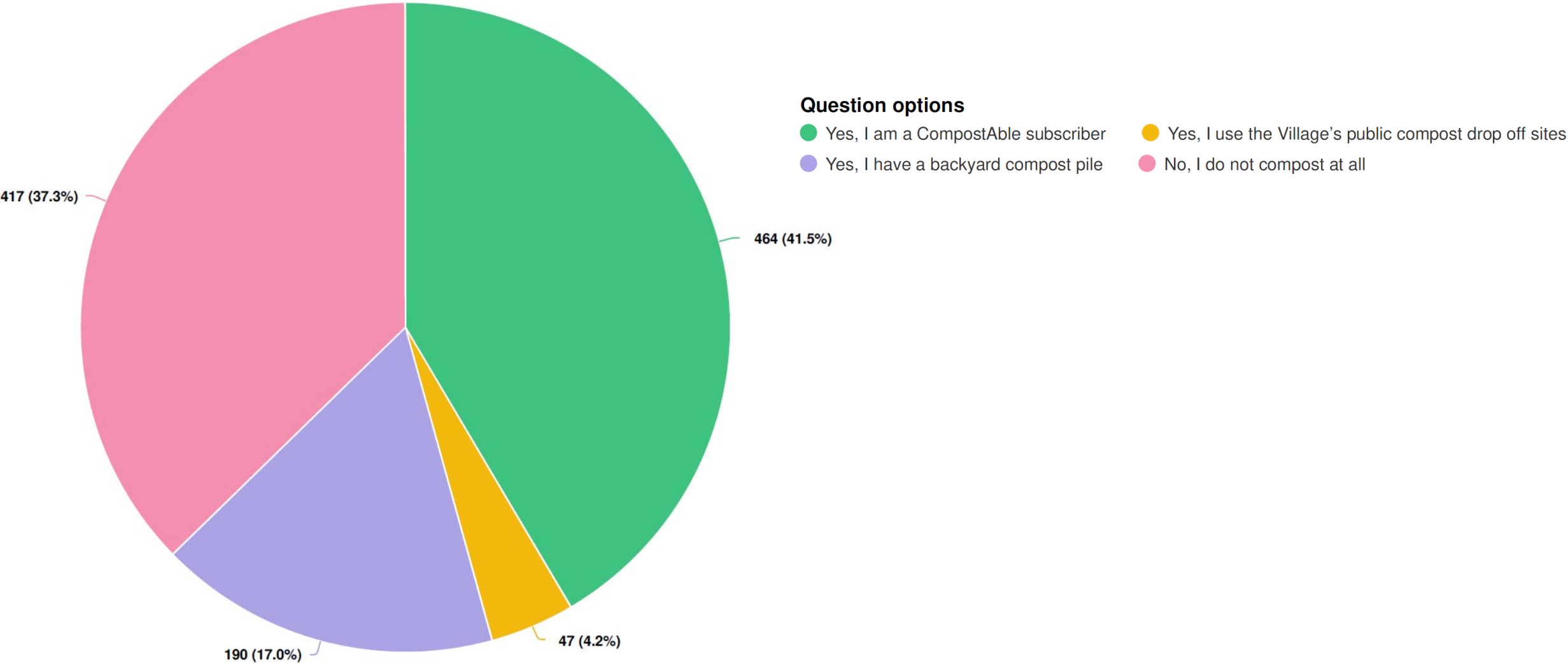
# Q8 Which of the following waste types do you most often struggle to dispose of properly?



**Question options**

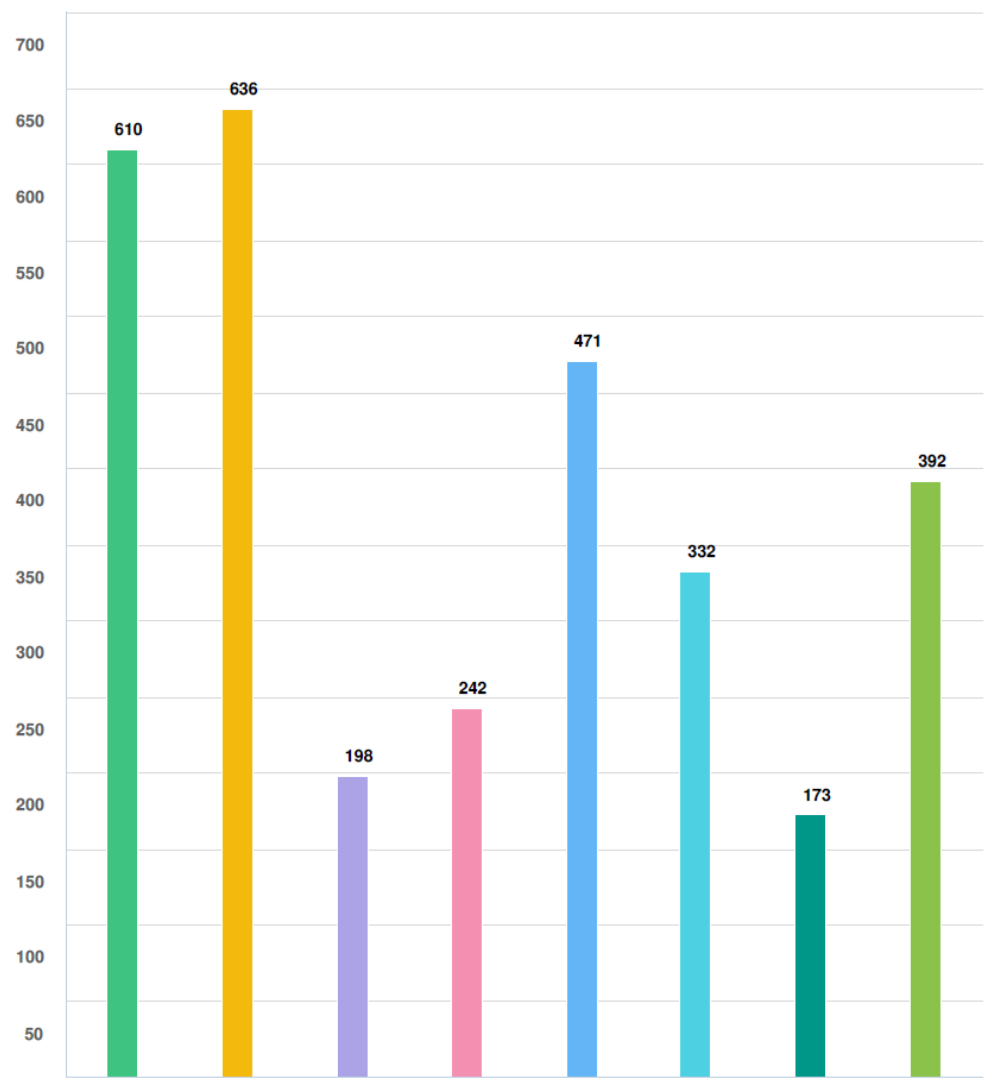
- Electronics
- Household Hazardous Waste (batteries, lightbulbs, paint)
- Organics (food scraps and yard waste)
- Recyclable materials (paper, plastic, metal)
- Medical waste (old prescriptions and sharps)
- Construction & demolition debris
- Styrofoam
- Textiles
- Other (please specify)

Q9 | Do you currently compost any of your household waste?



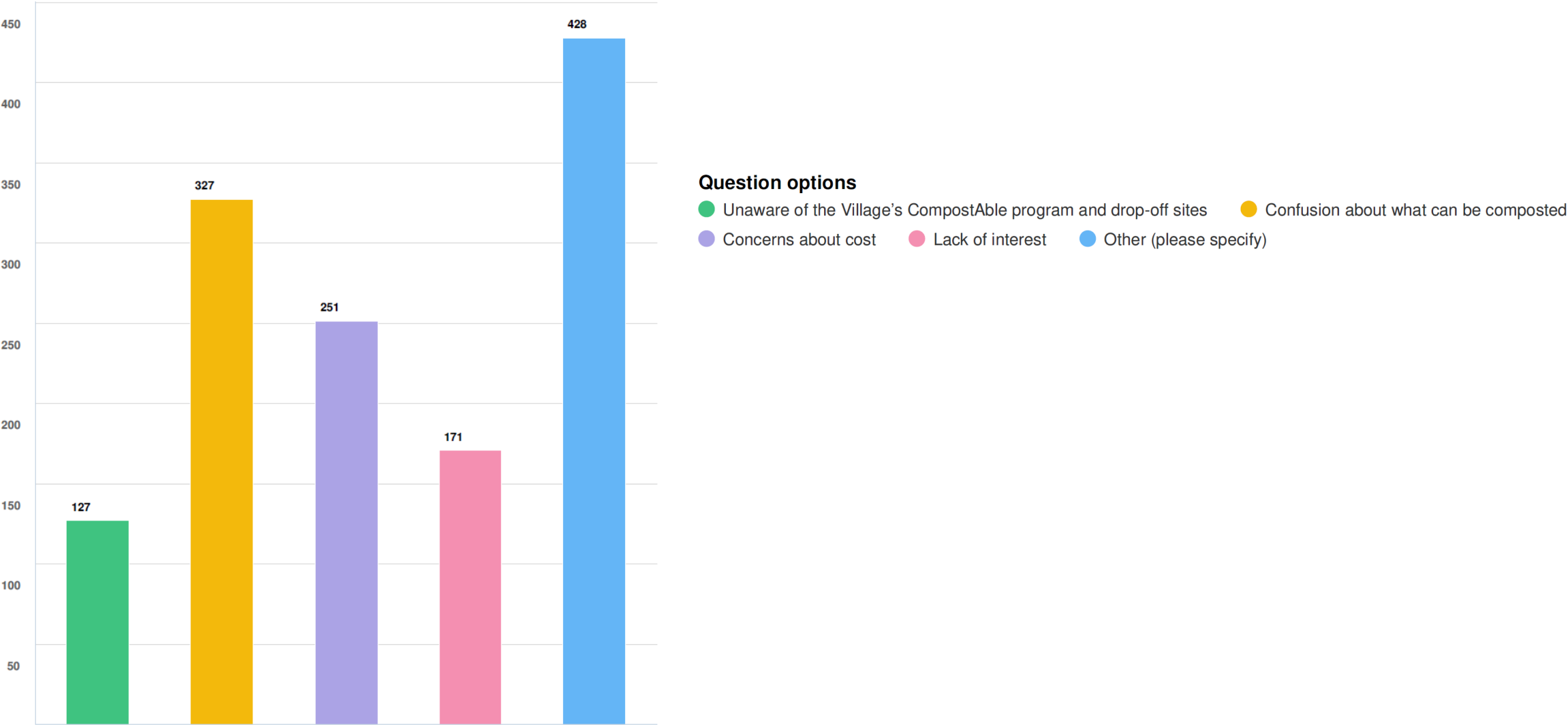


Q10 Which of the following materials do you most often compost? (Select all that apply)

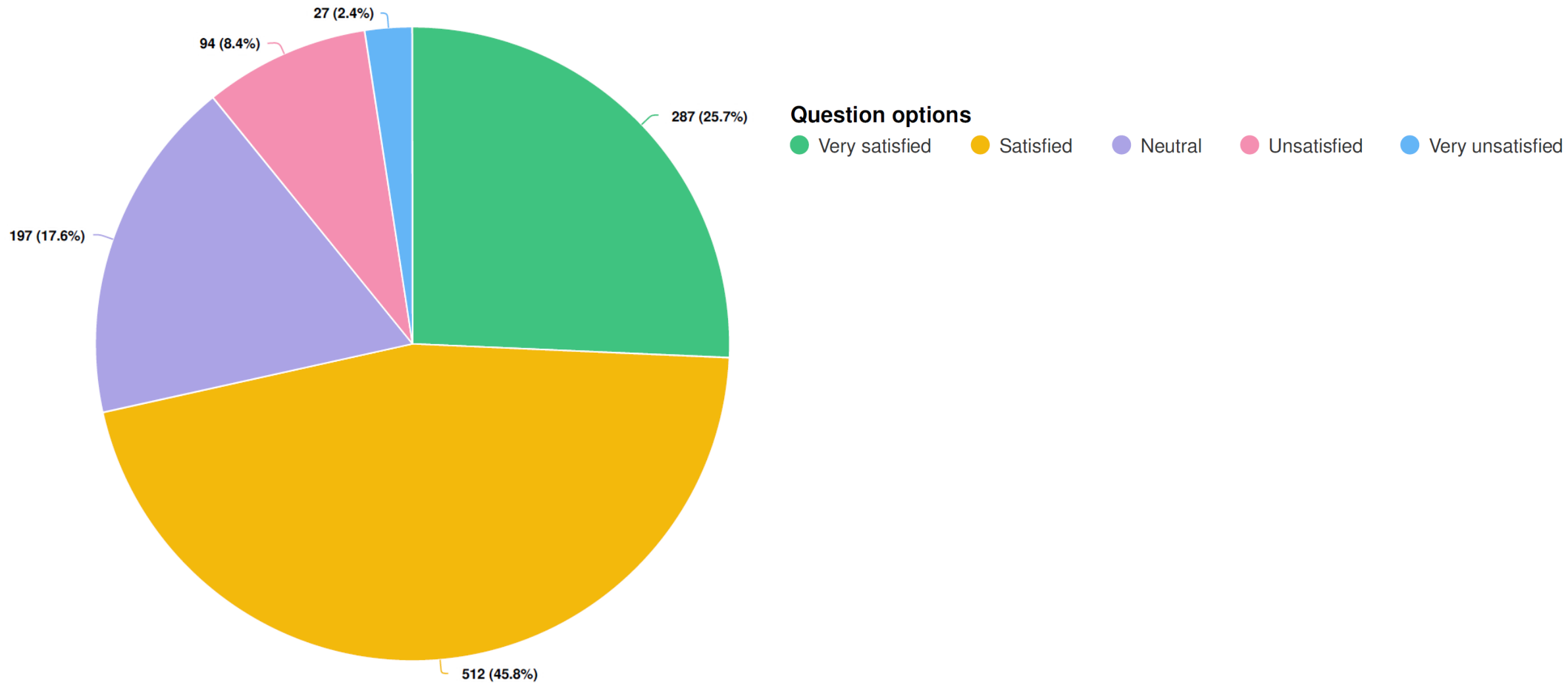


- Question options**
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
  - Yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, plants)
  - Paper and cardboard
  - Meat and dairy
  - Coffee grounds and tea
  - Pizza boxes
  - Compostable utensils and foodware
  - N/A - I do not compost

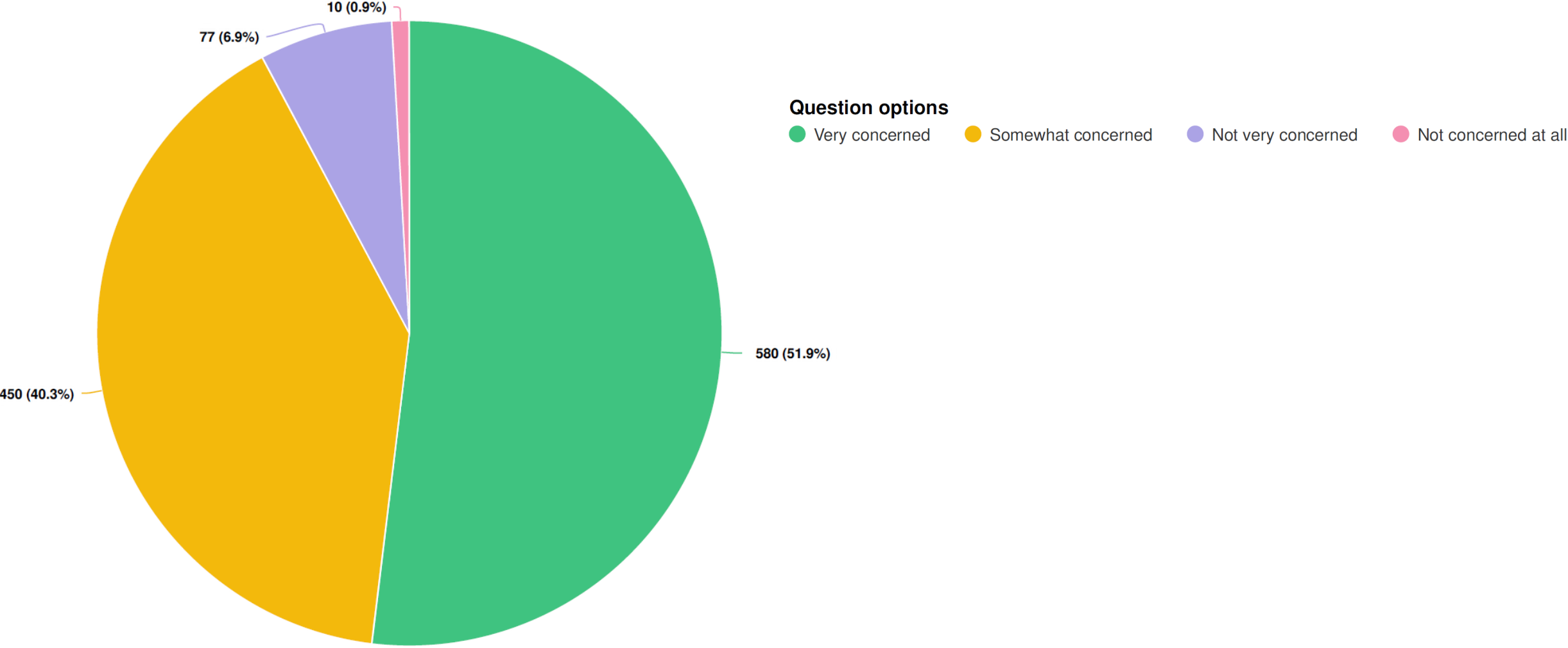
**Q11** Which of the following barriers prevent you from composting more? (Select all that apply)



**Q12** | How satisfied are you with your current solid waste collection services?

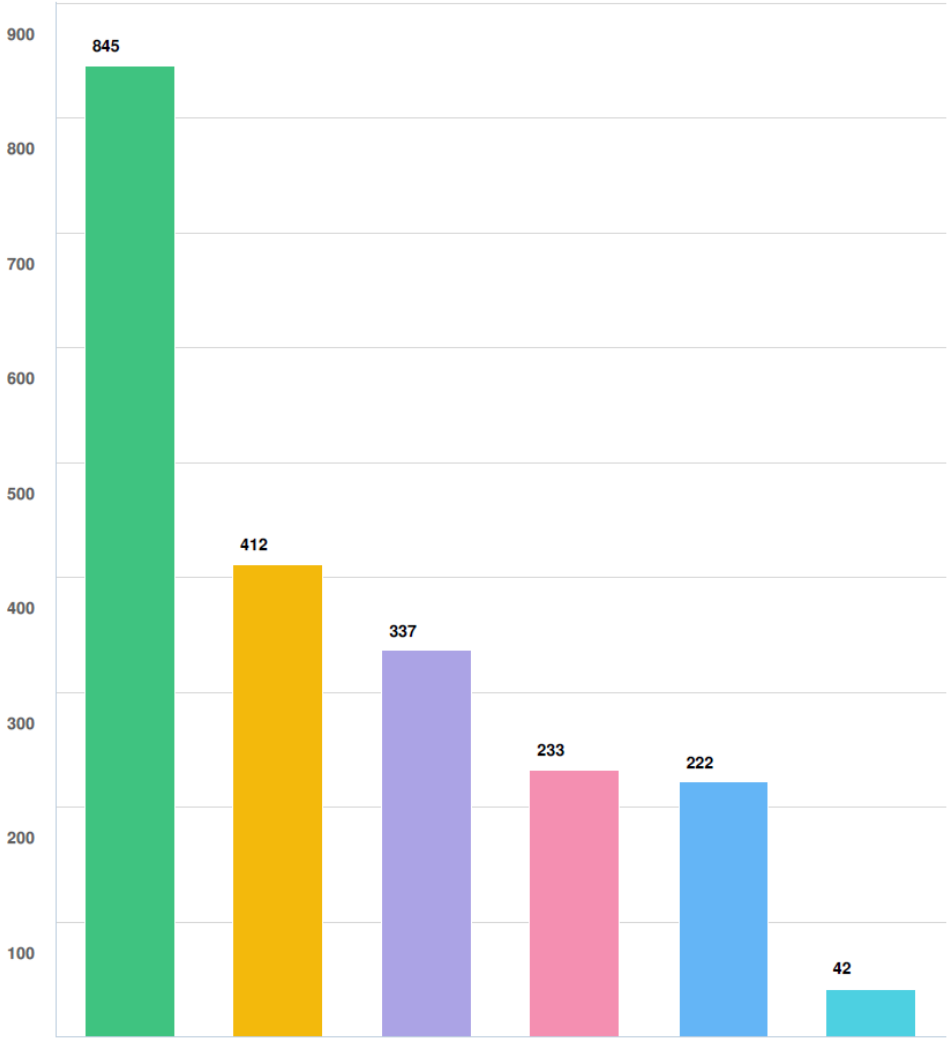


Q13 | How concerned are you about the environmental impact of solid waste?





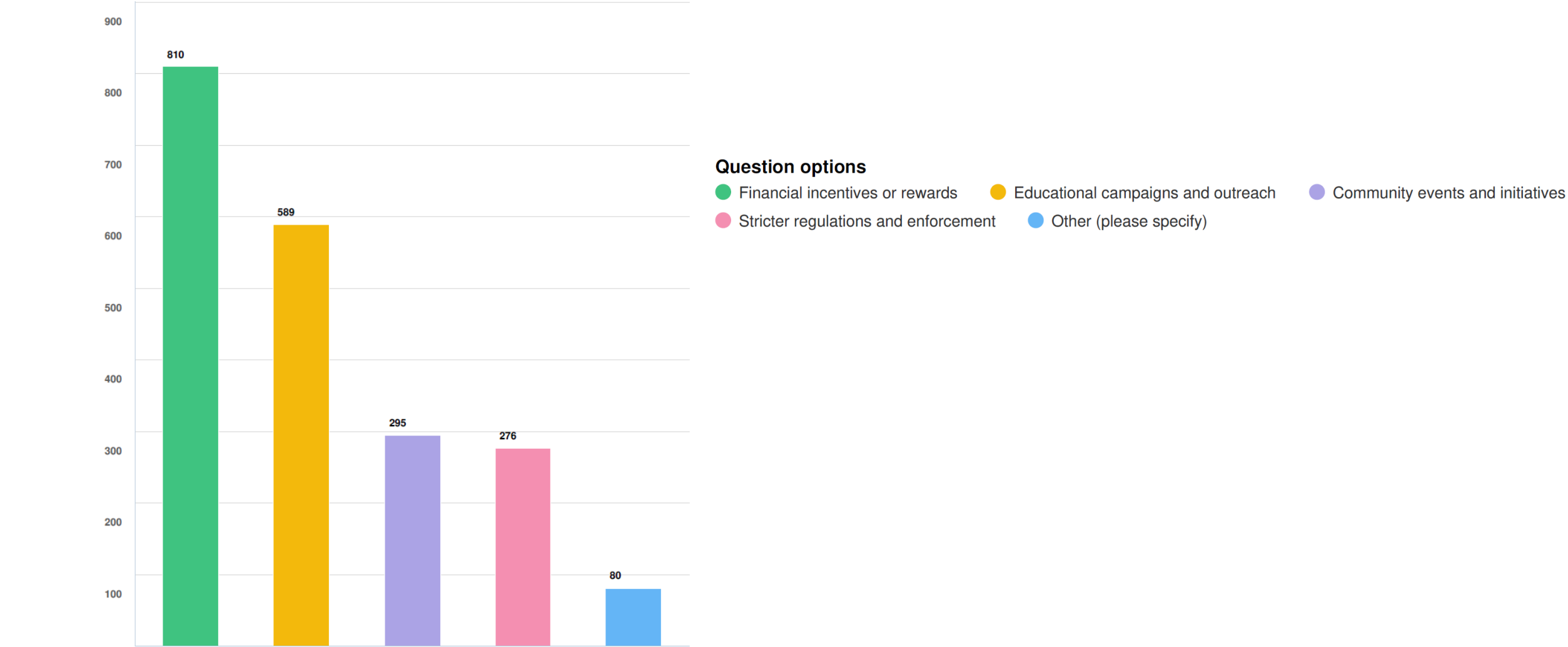
Q14 | Where do you primarily get information about solid waste management and recycling?  
(Select all that apply)



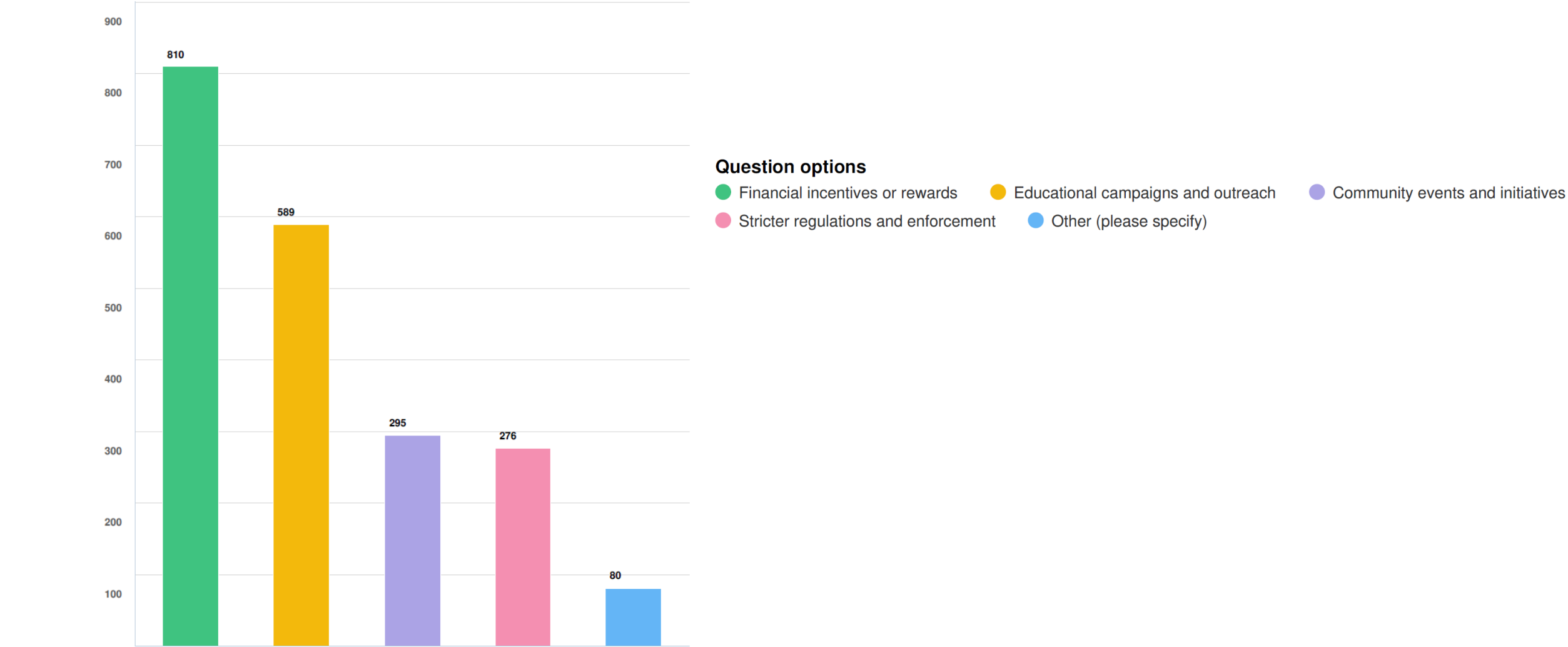
Question options

- Local government website or publications
- News media
- Environmental organizations
- Social media
- Friends and family
- Other (please specify)

Q15 | What do you think would be the most effective way to encourage public participation in waste reduction and recycling programs?



Q15 | What do you think would be the most effective way to encourage public participation in waste reduction and recycling programs?



Q16 | Do you feel optimistic about the future of solid waste management in your community?

