



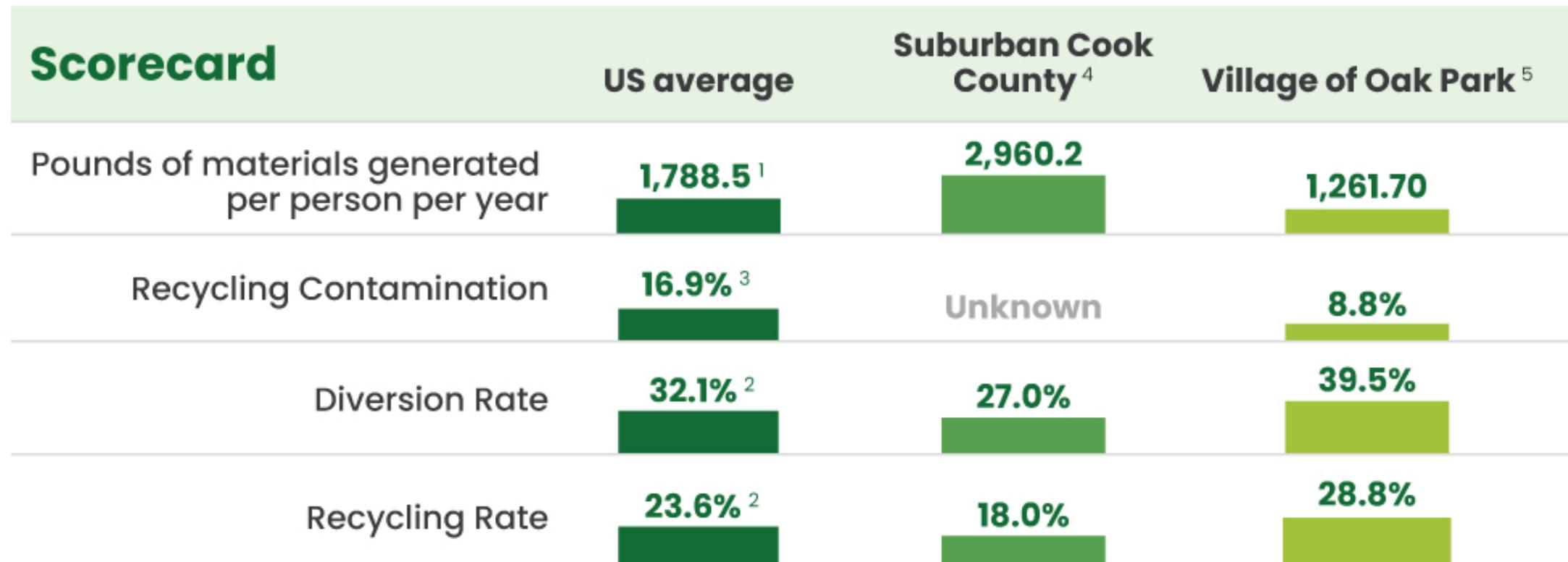
# Village of Oak Park Material Characterization Study & Opportunity Assessment



# 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**

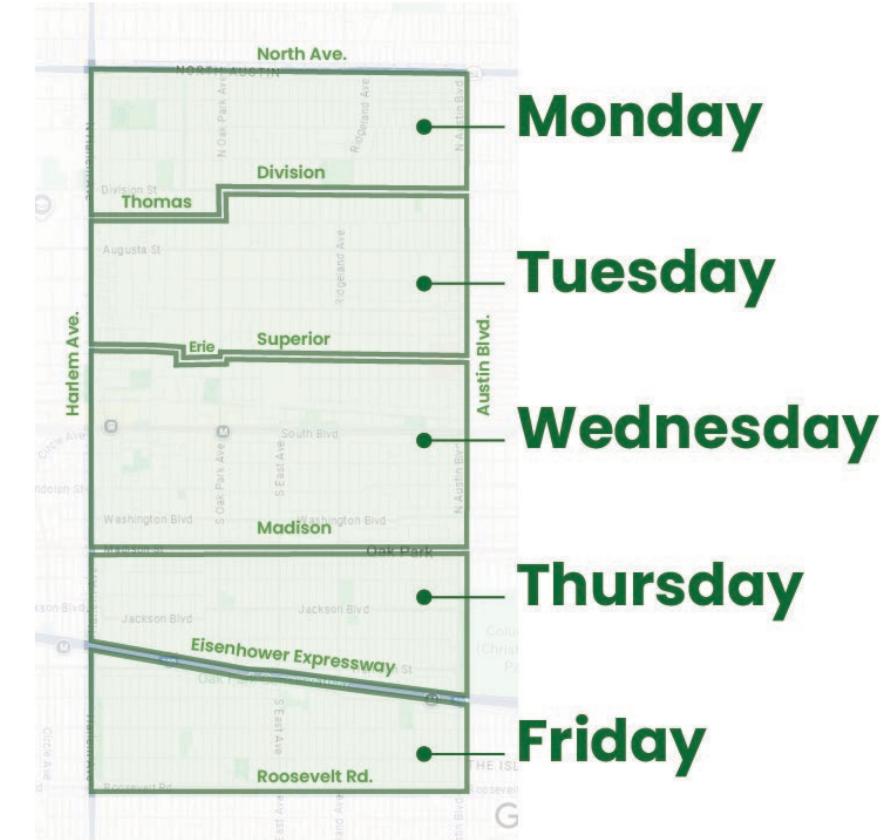
Municipal  
Solid Waste

**25**

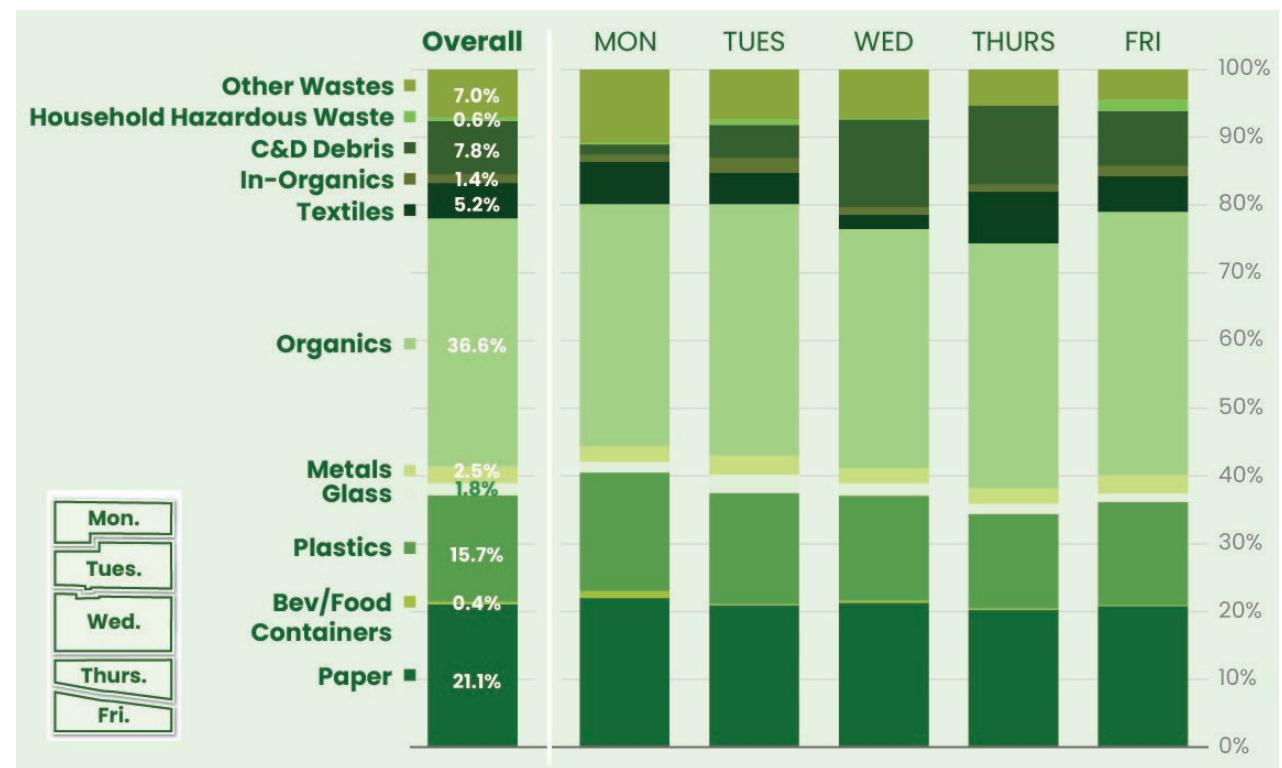
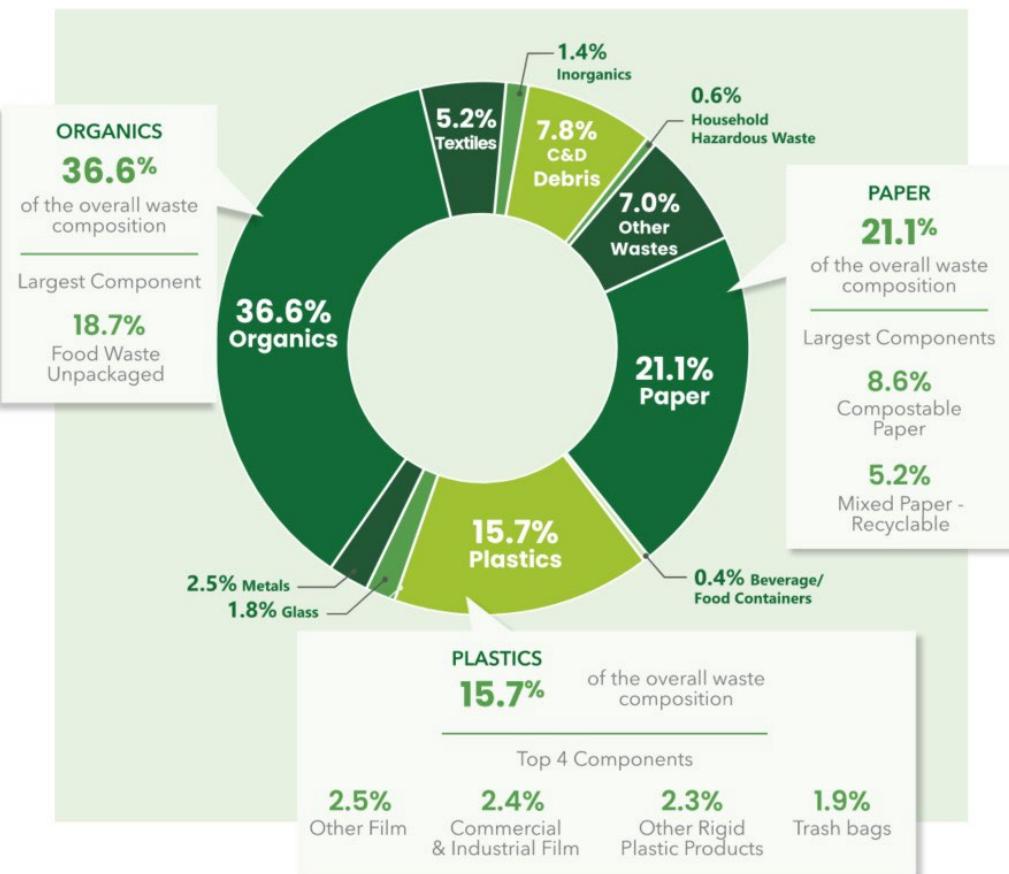
Recyclables

**10**

Organics

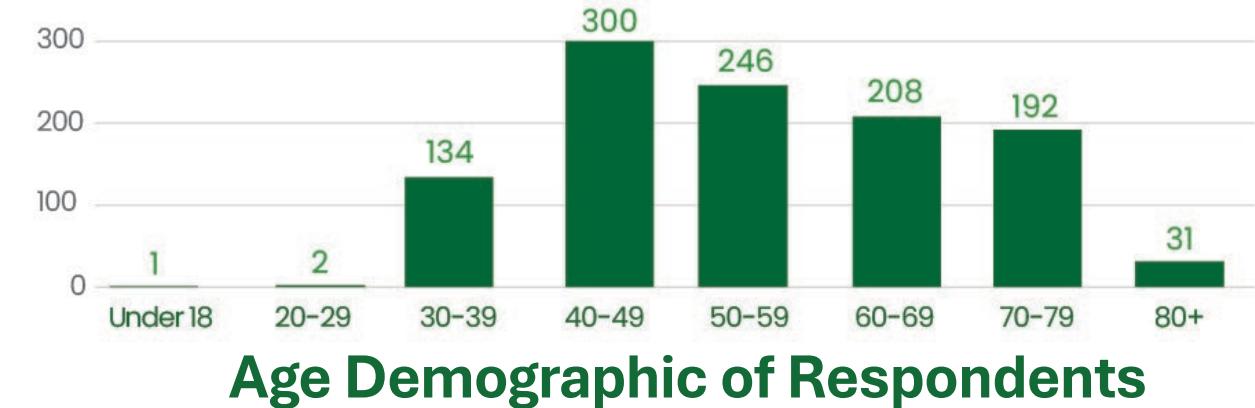


# Key Findings from the Study



# 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

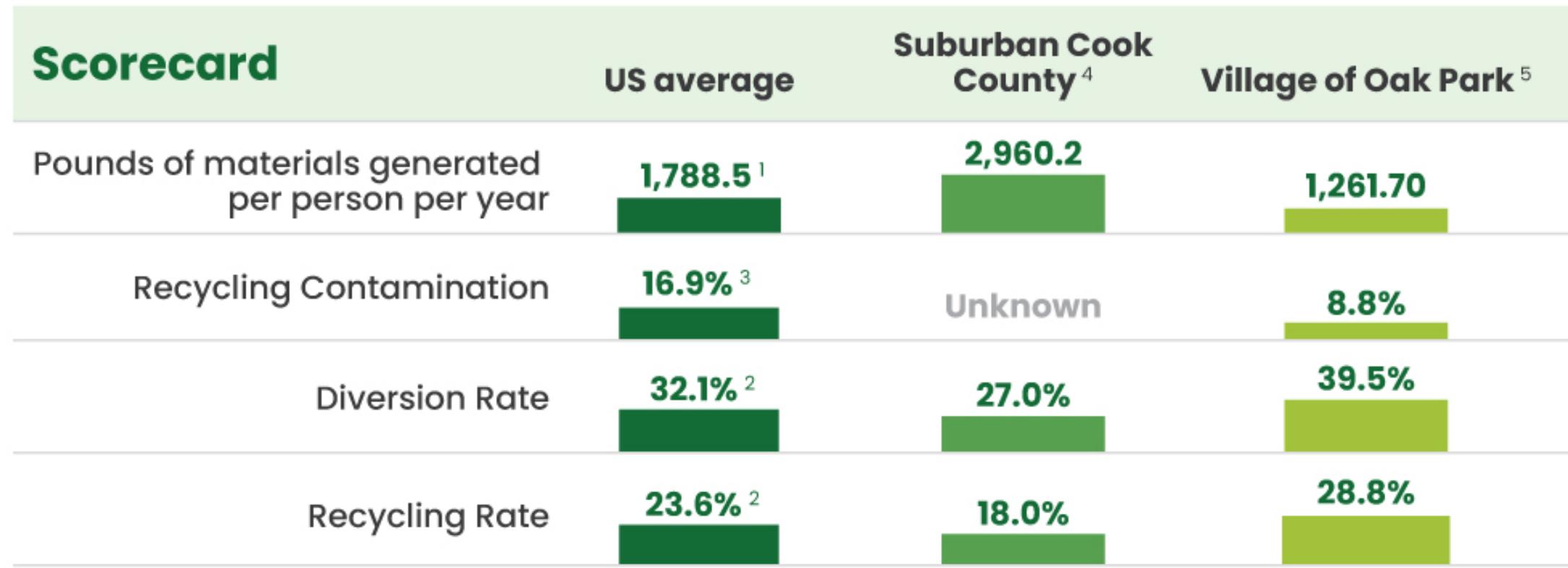
- 1) MSW & Recycling Composition
- 2) Identify opportunities for reduction & diversion

**35%**

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

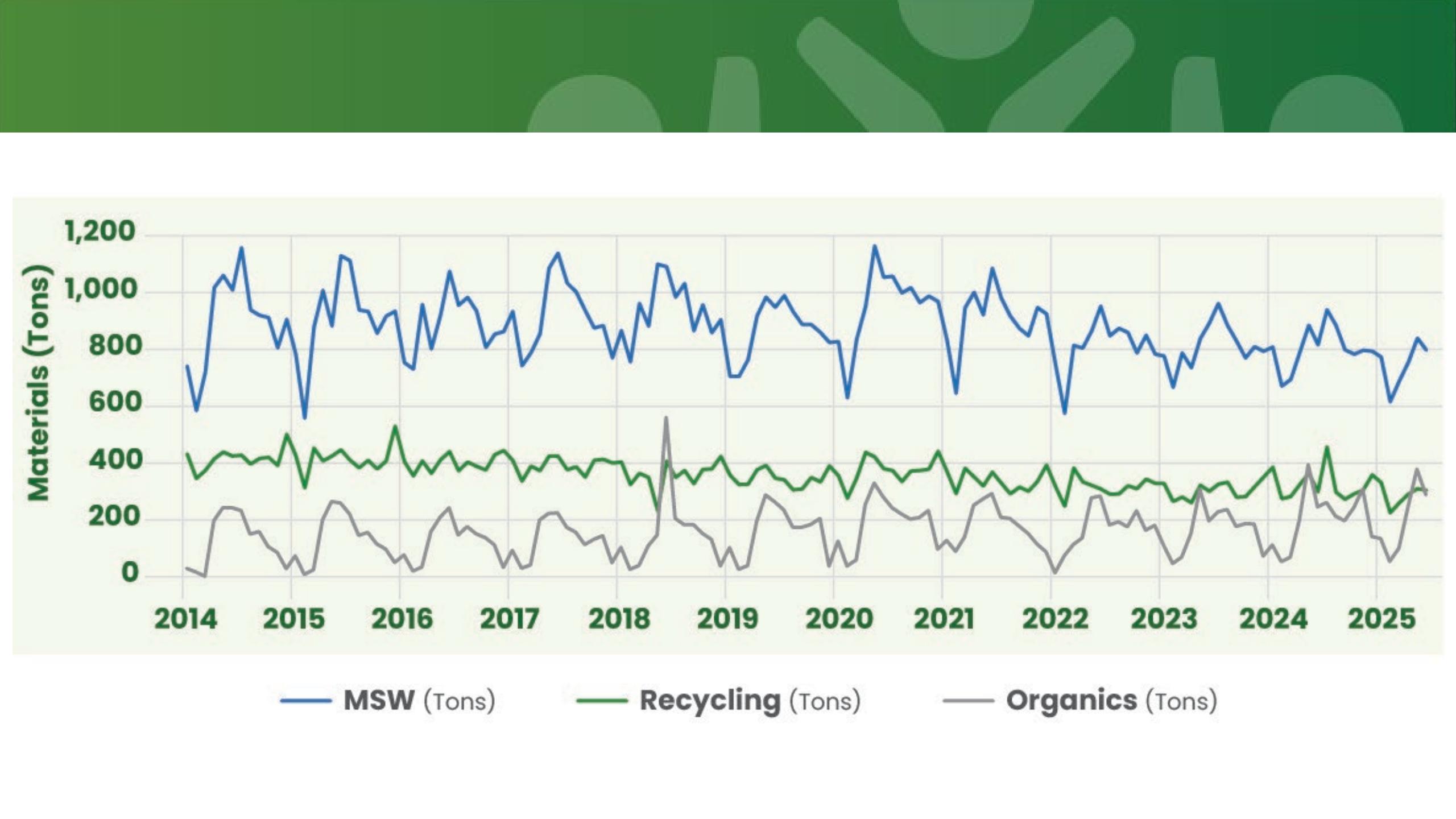


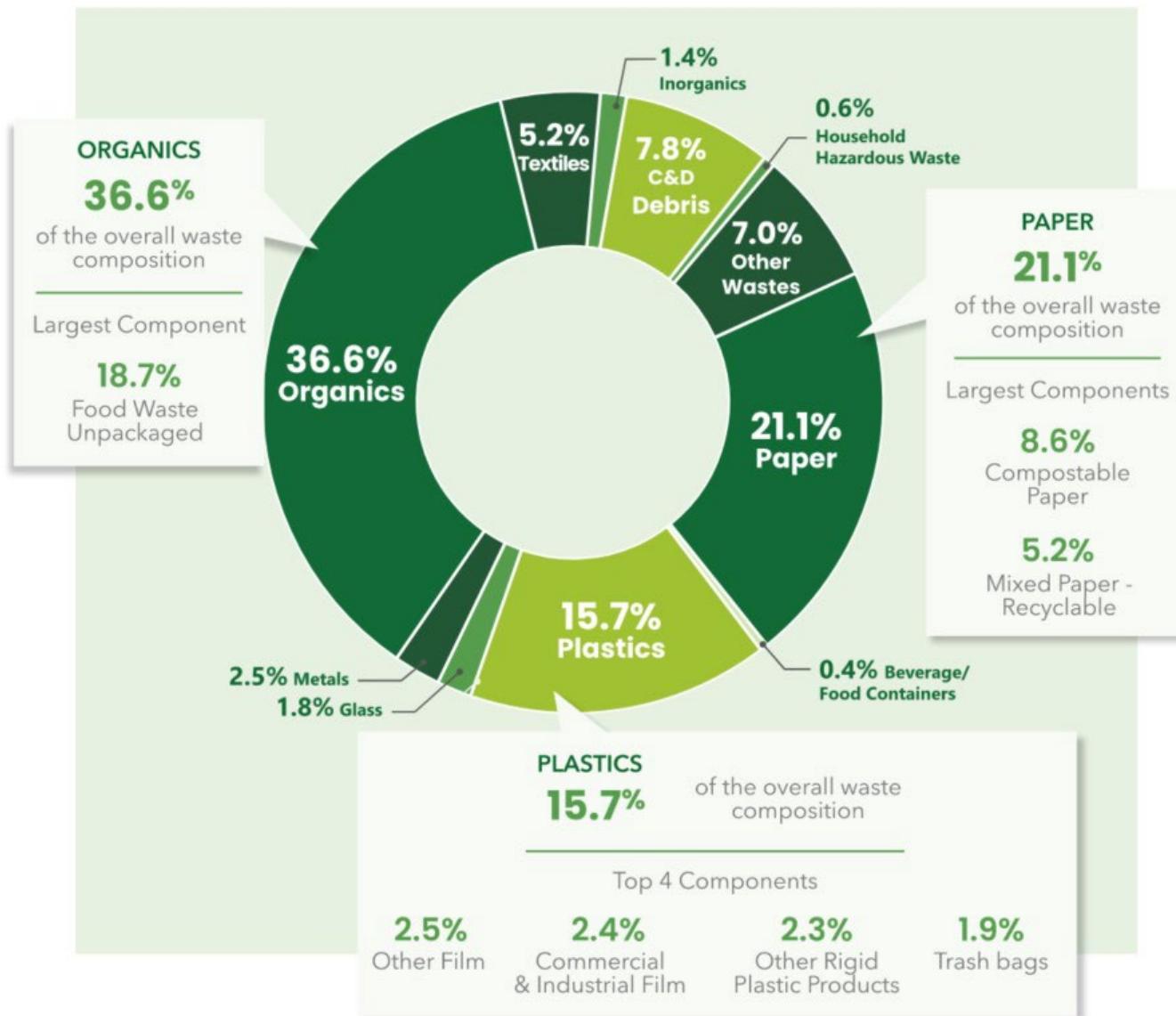
# Questions & Discussion



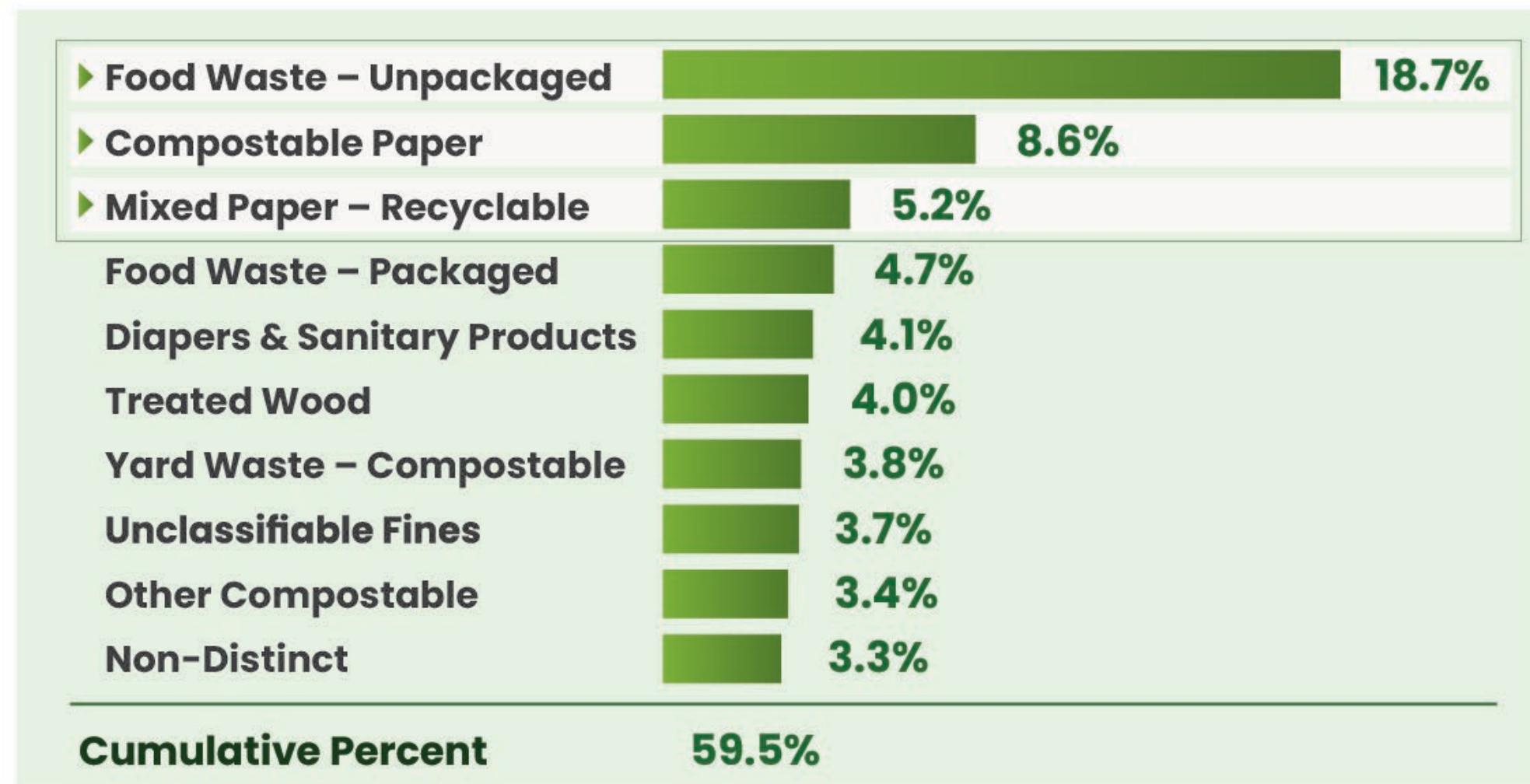
1) USEPA 2018; 2) Recycling Partnership 2024; 3) Recycling Partnership 2022; 4) Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan 2024-2029; 5) Village of Oak Park 2024

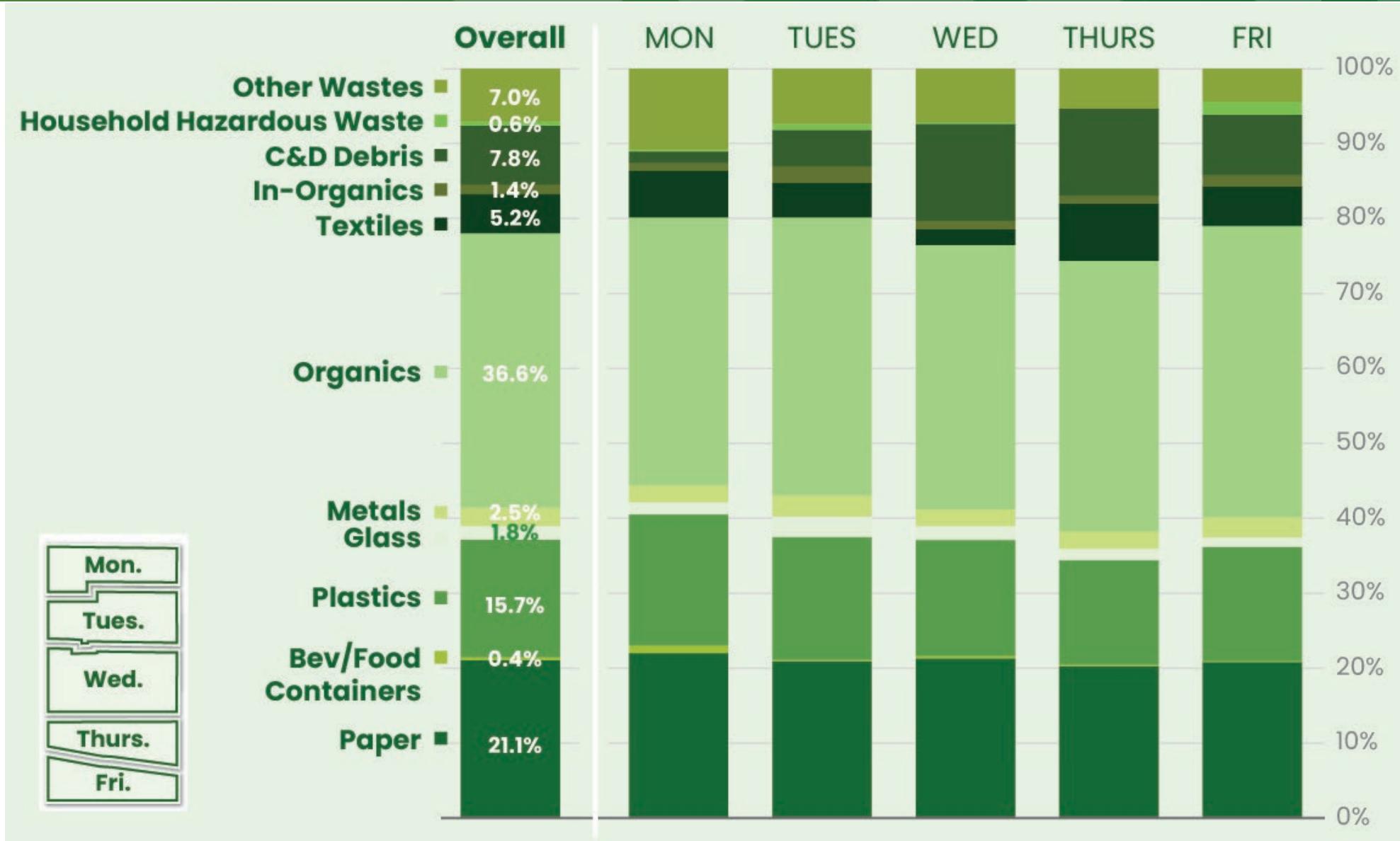
	Material <b>Categories</b>	Material <b>Components</b>
<b>MSW</b> 	11	68
<b>Recycling</b> 	6	42
<b>Organics</b> 	5	24

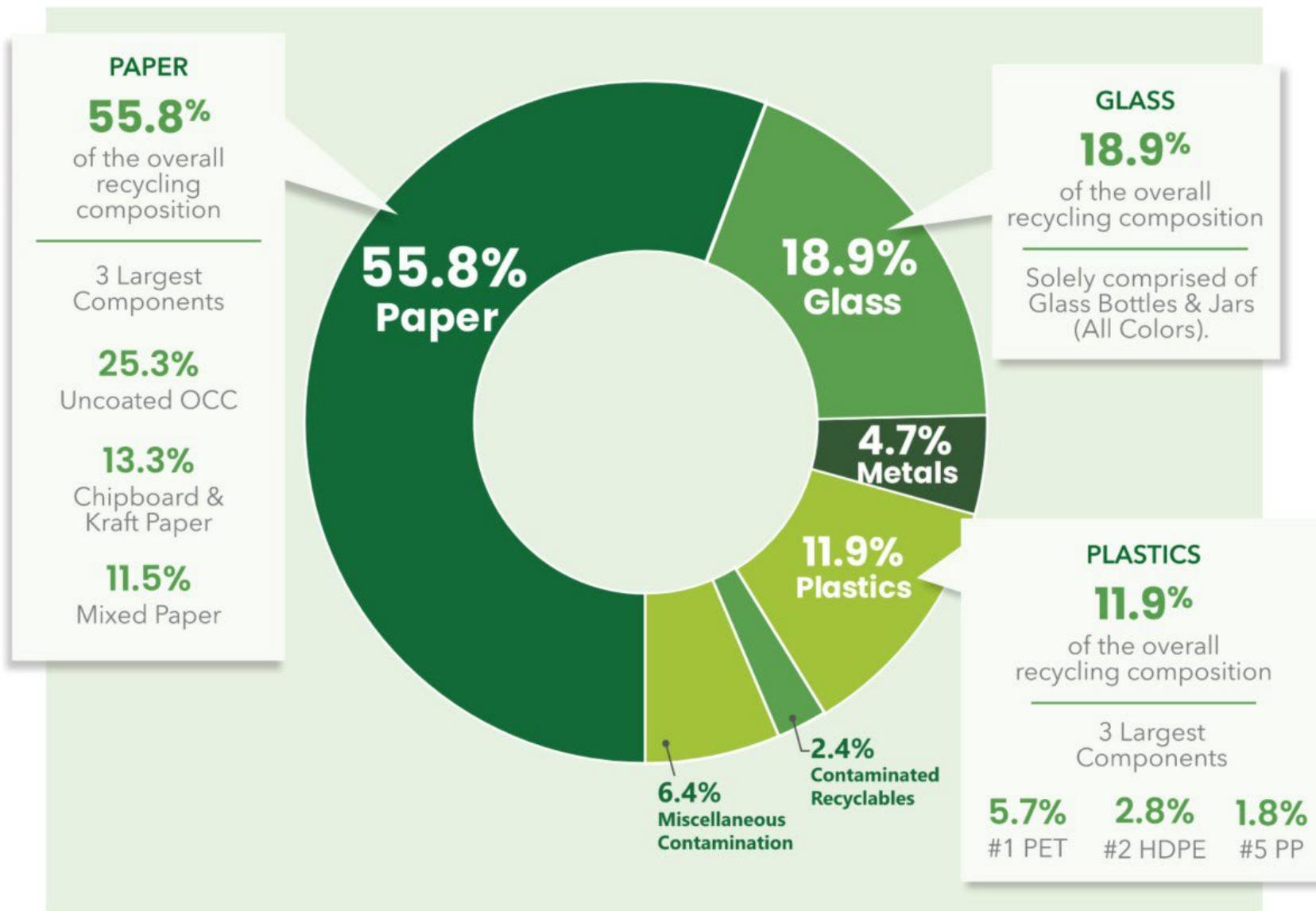




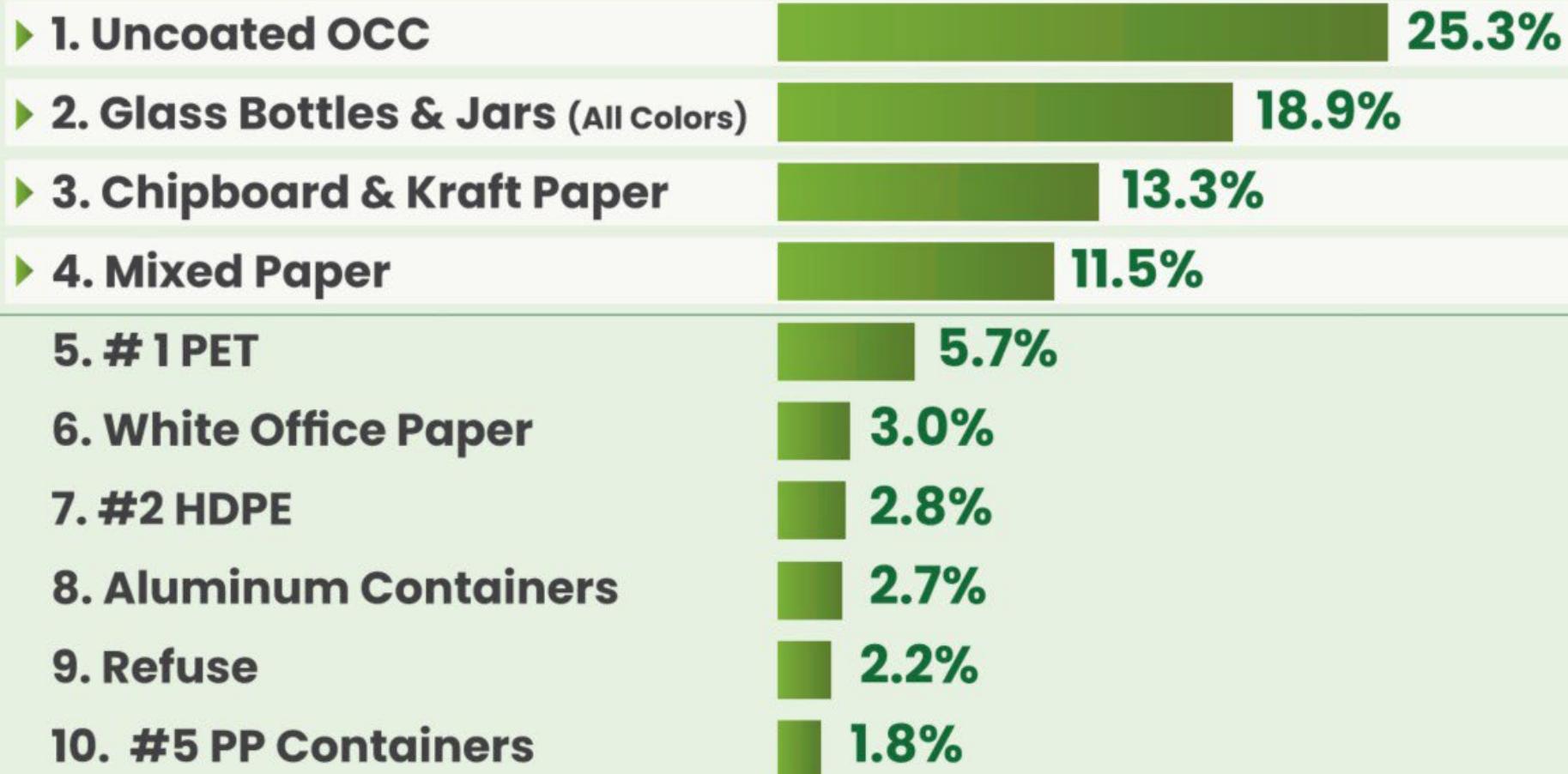
## Exhibit 4 | Top Ten Overall MSW Materials (components)







## Exhibit 7 | Top Ten Overall Recycling Materials



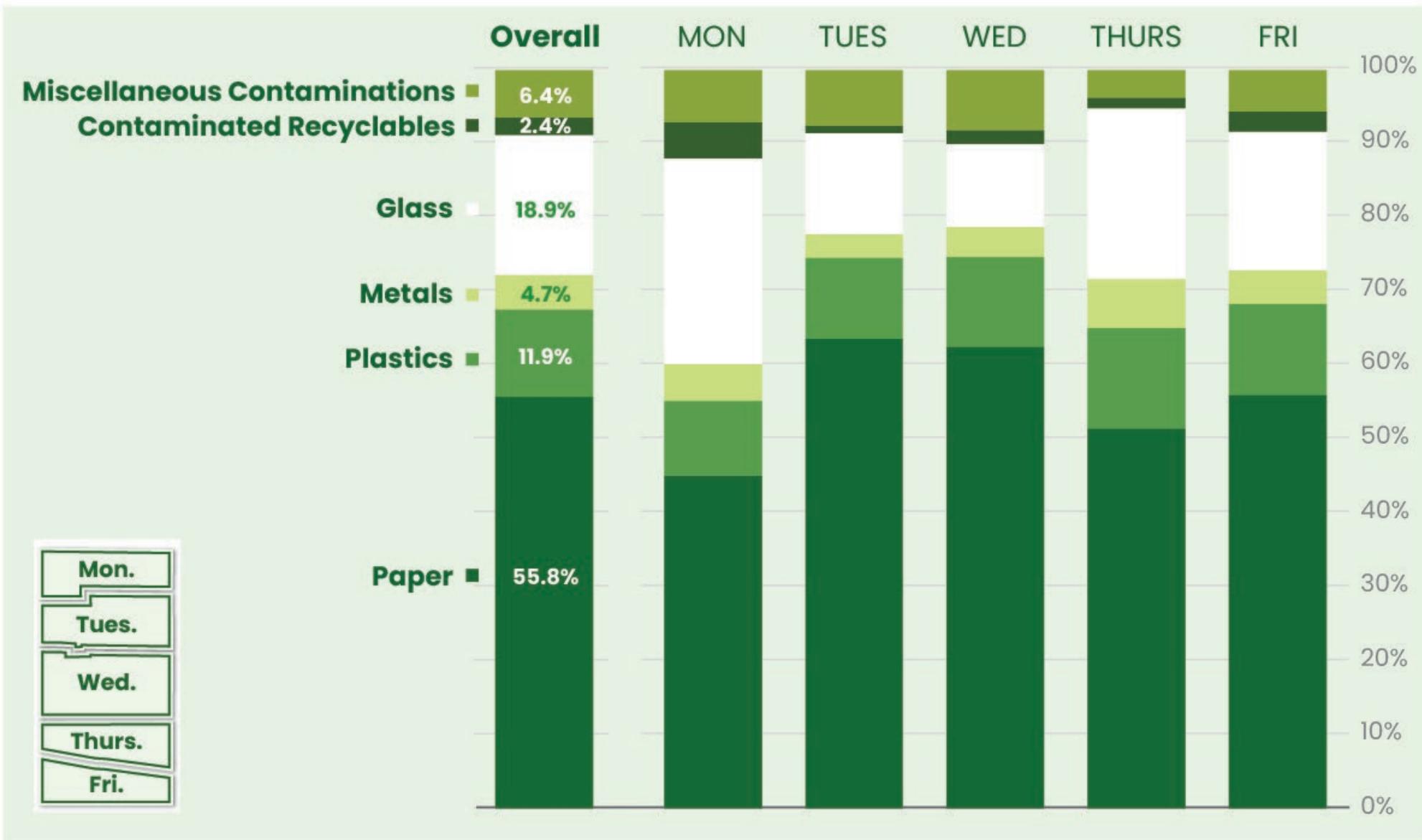


Exhibit 8 | **Top Ten Overall Recycling Contaminants**  
(not considered to be contaminated recyclables.)



## Exhibit 10. Recycling Contamination Route Comparison

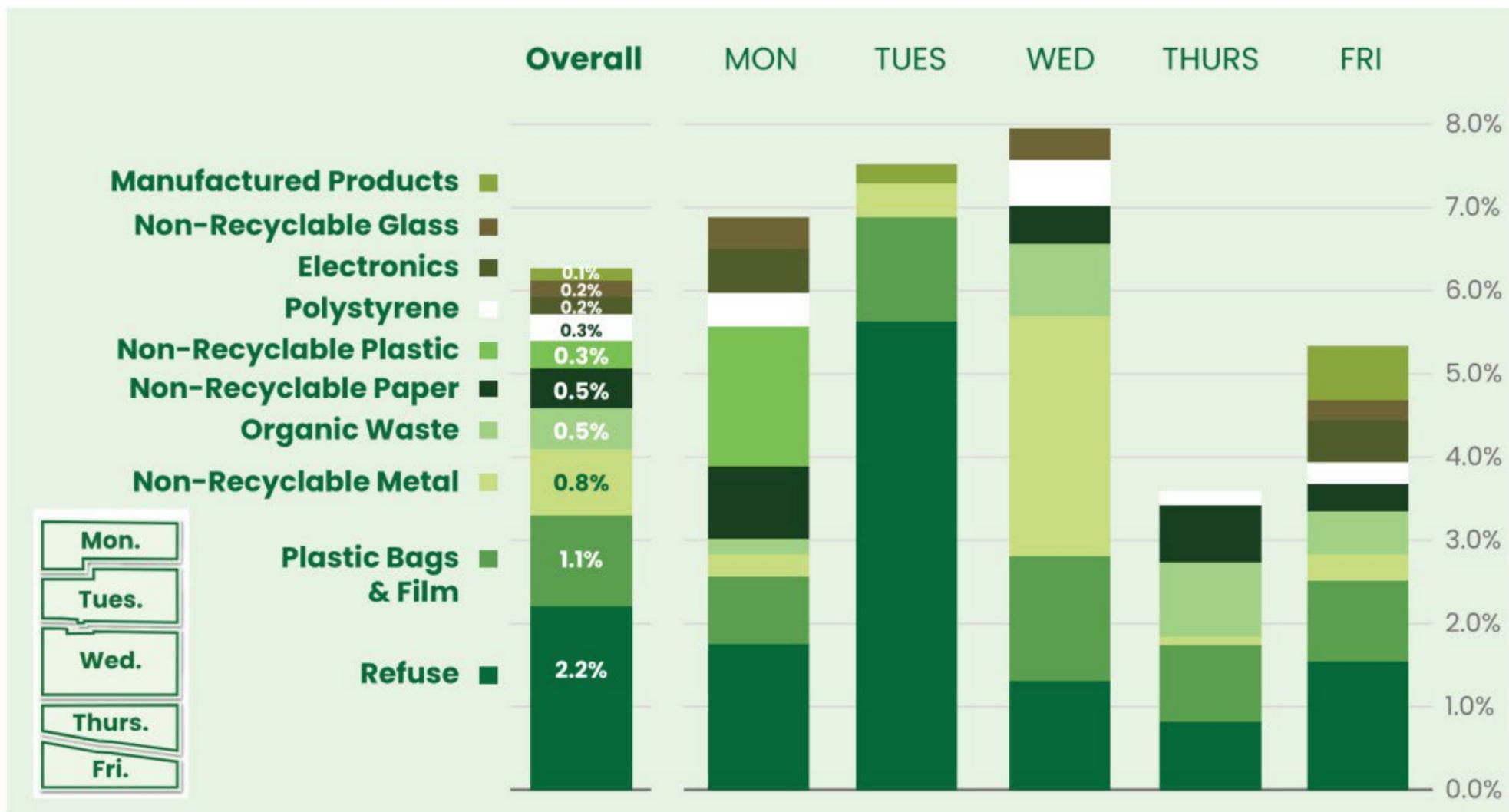
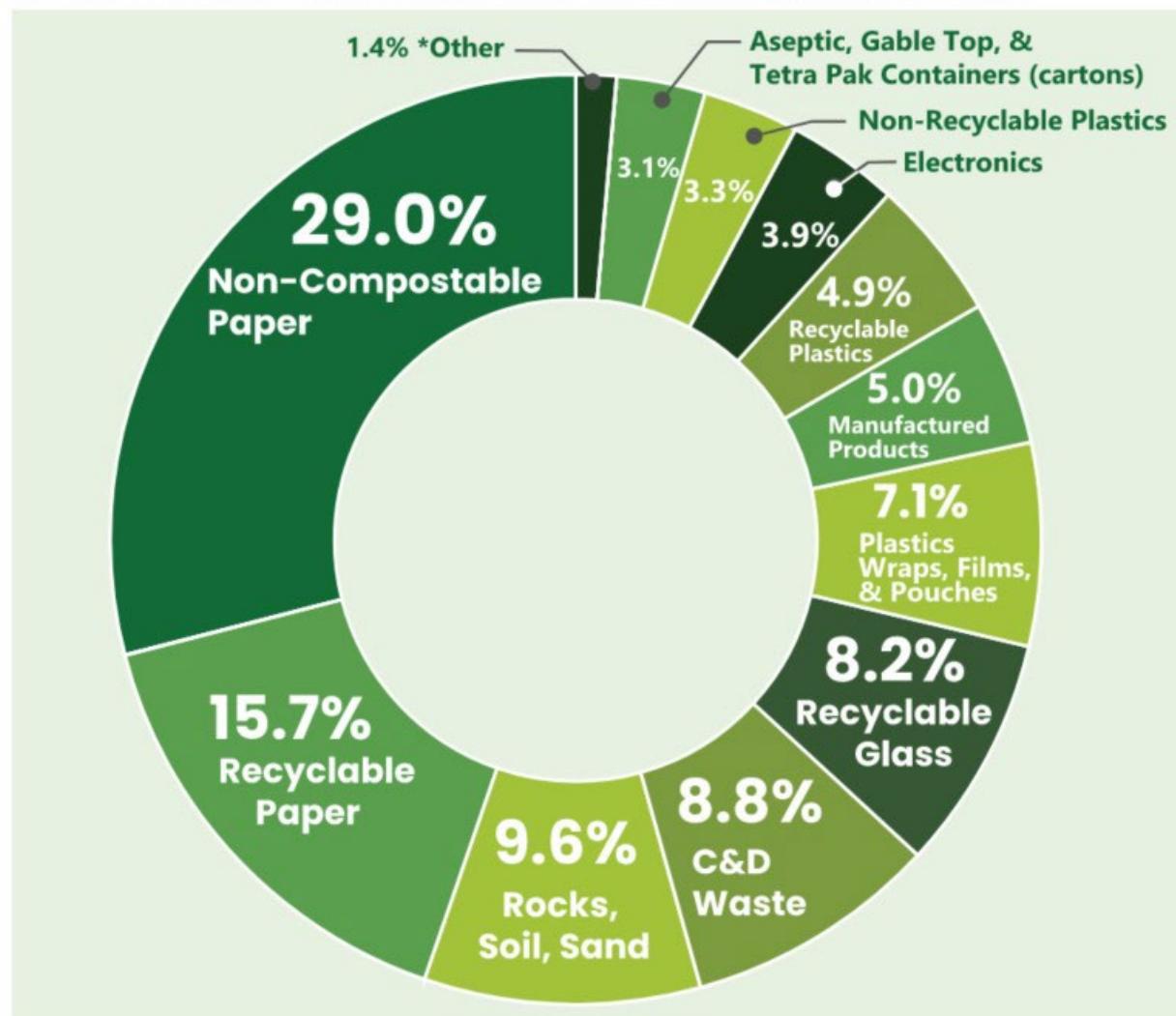
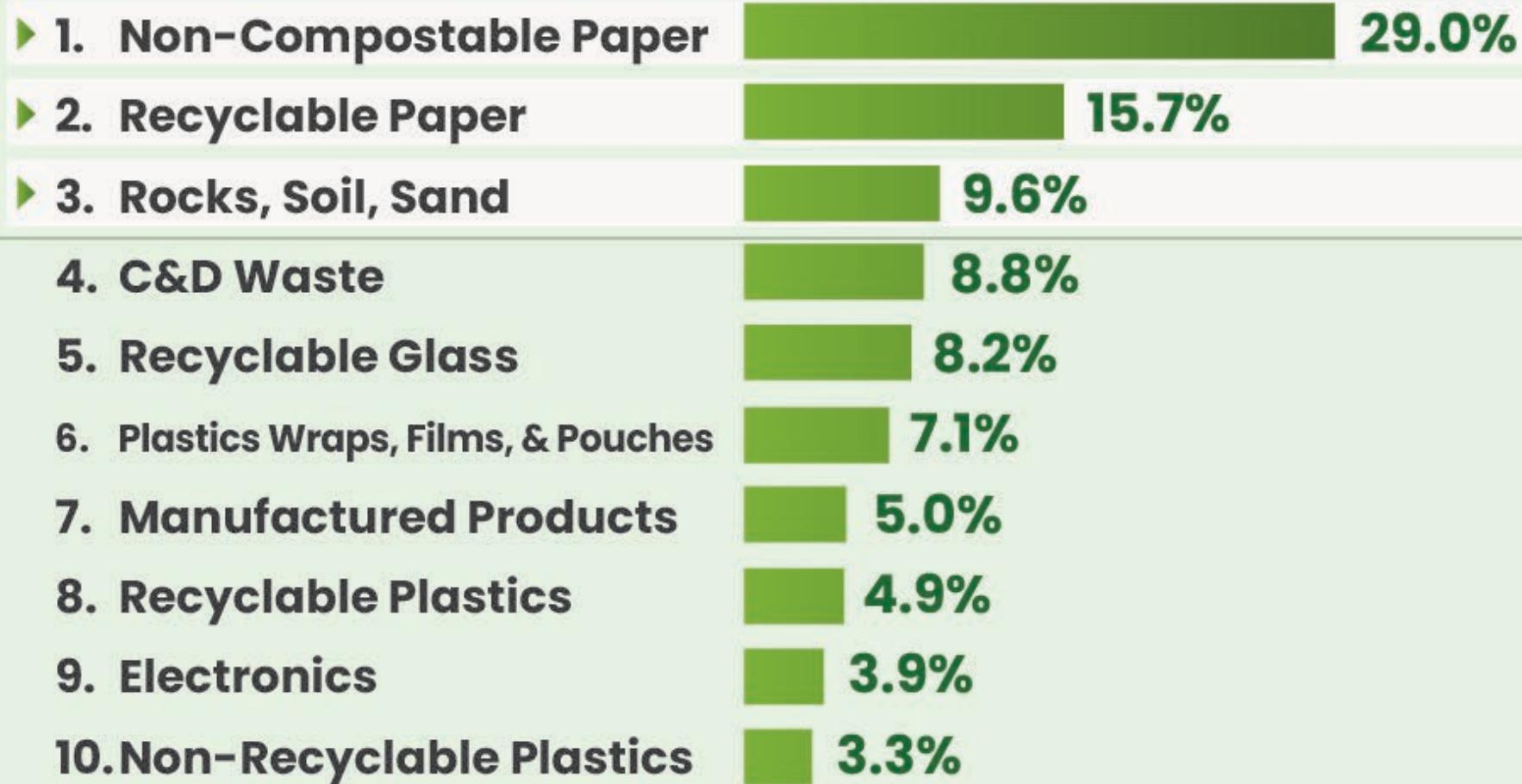


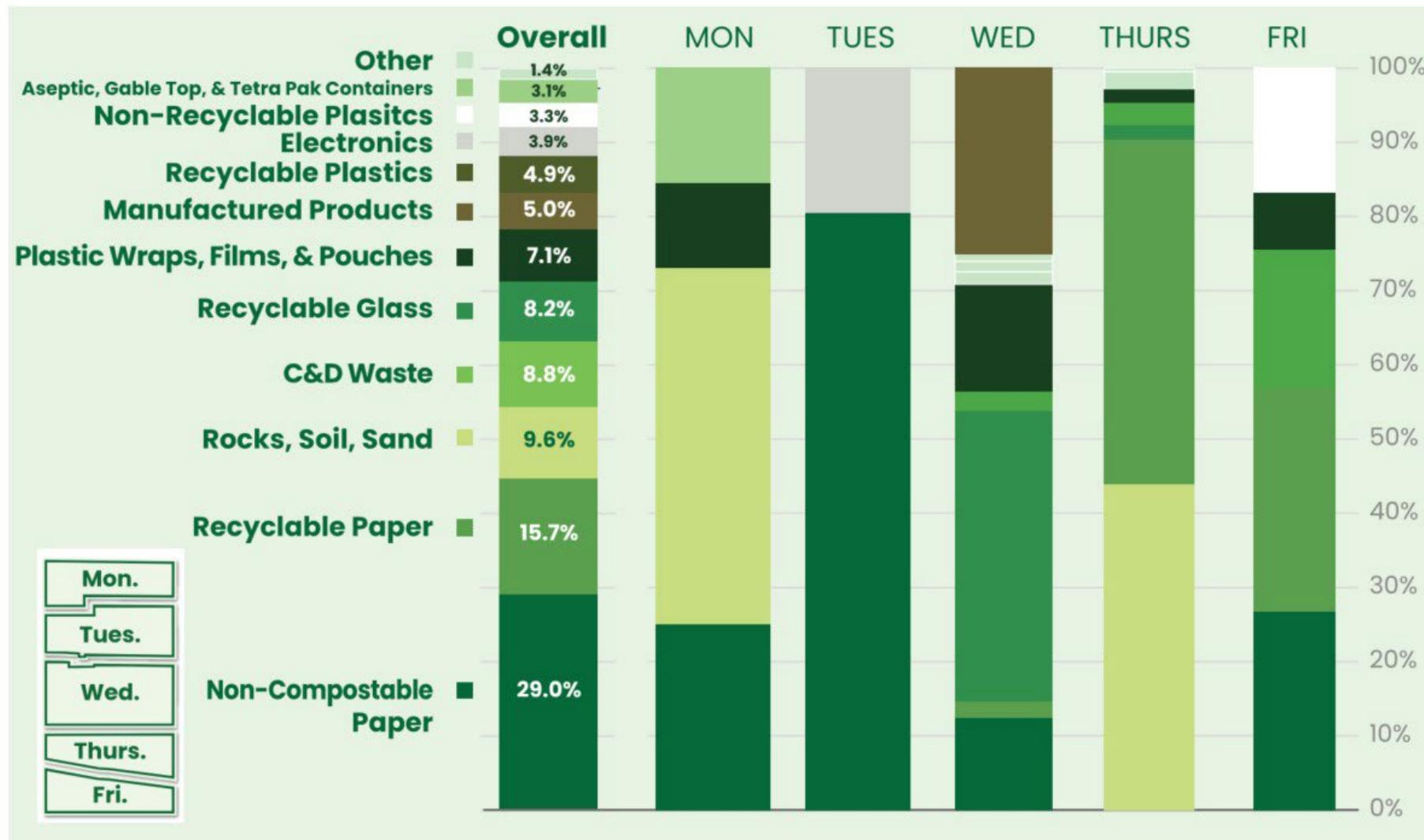
Exhibit 11 | Overall Organics Materials Contamination (Greater than 1 percent)



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

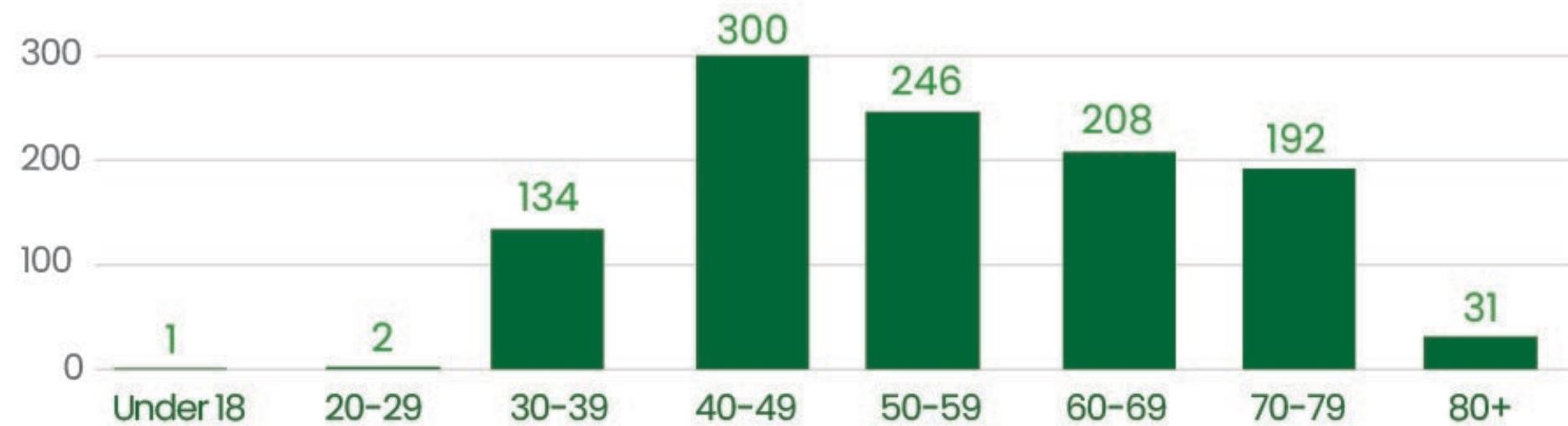
## Exhibit 12 | Top 10 Organics Contamination - Overall



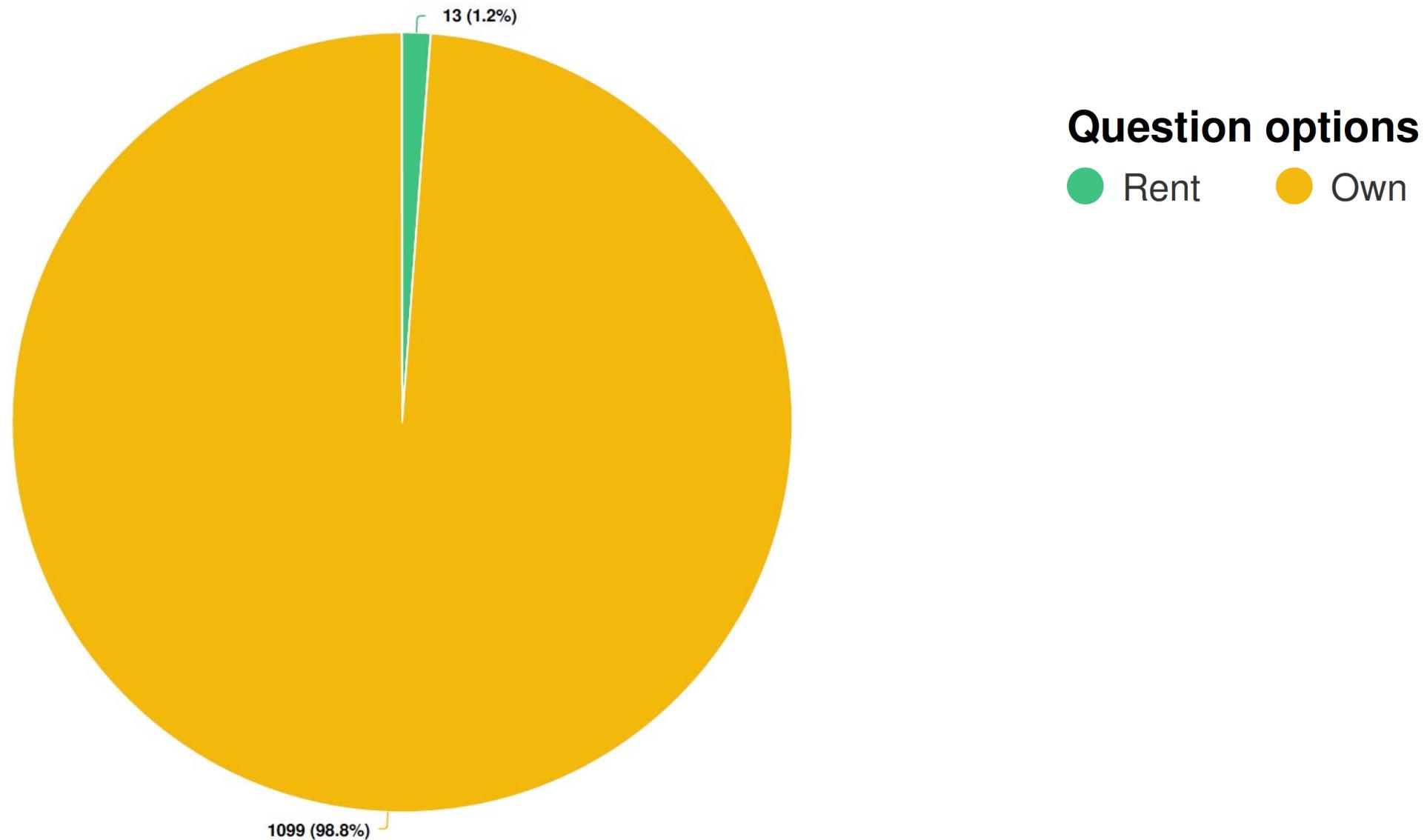


\*Other less than 1% includes: Garbage Bags, Plastic that do not meet ASTM, Recyclable Metals, Refuse & Non-Distinct and Unclassified Fines.

## Exhibit 15 | Age Demographic of Respondents

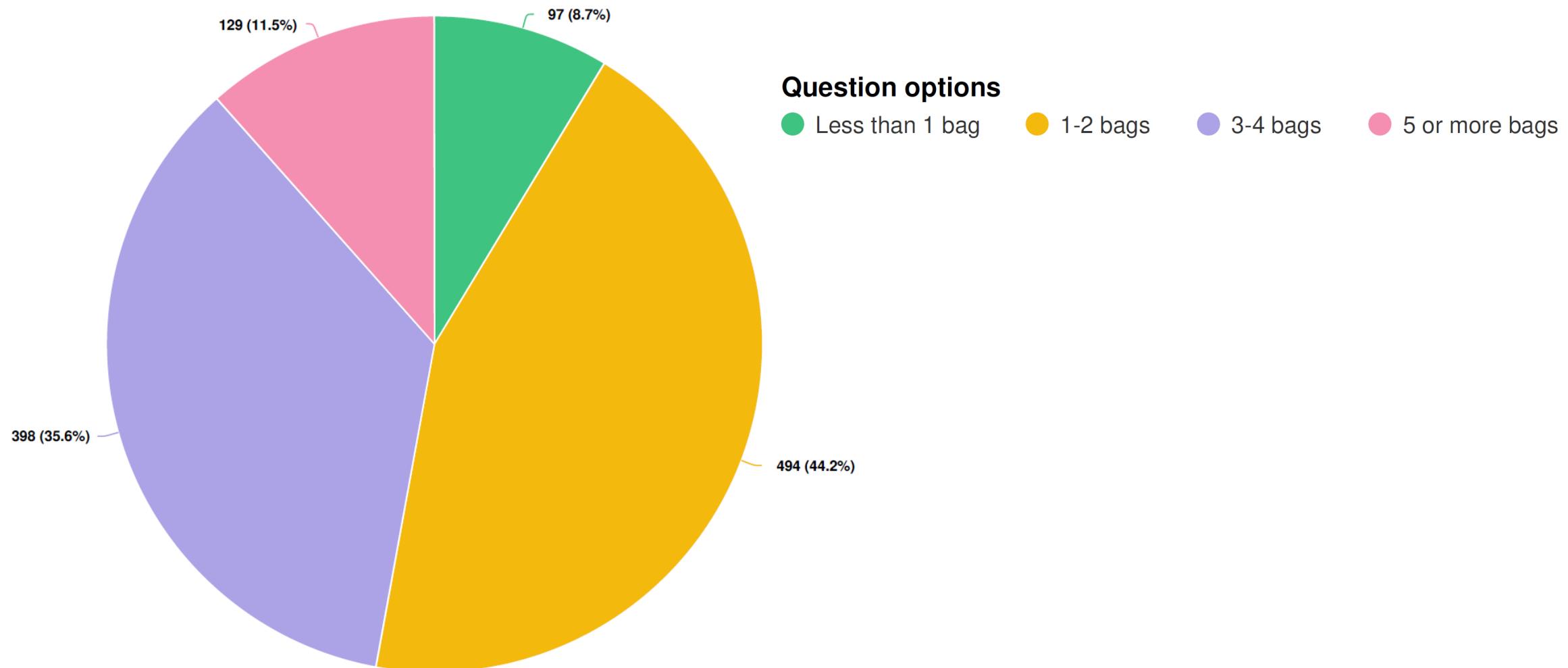


**Q3 | Do you rent or own your residence?**



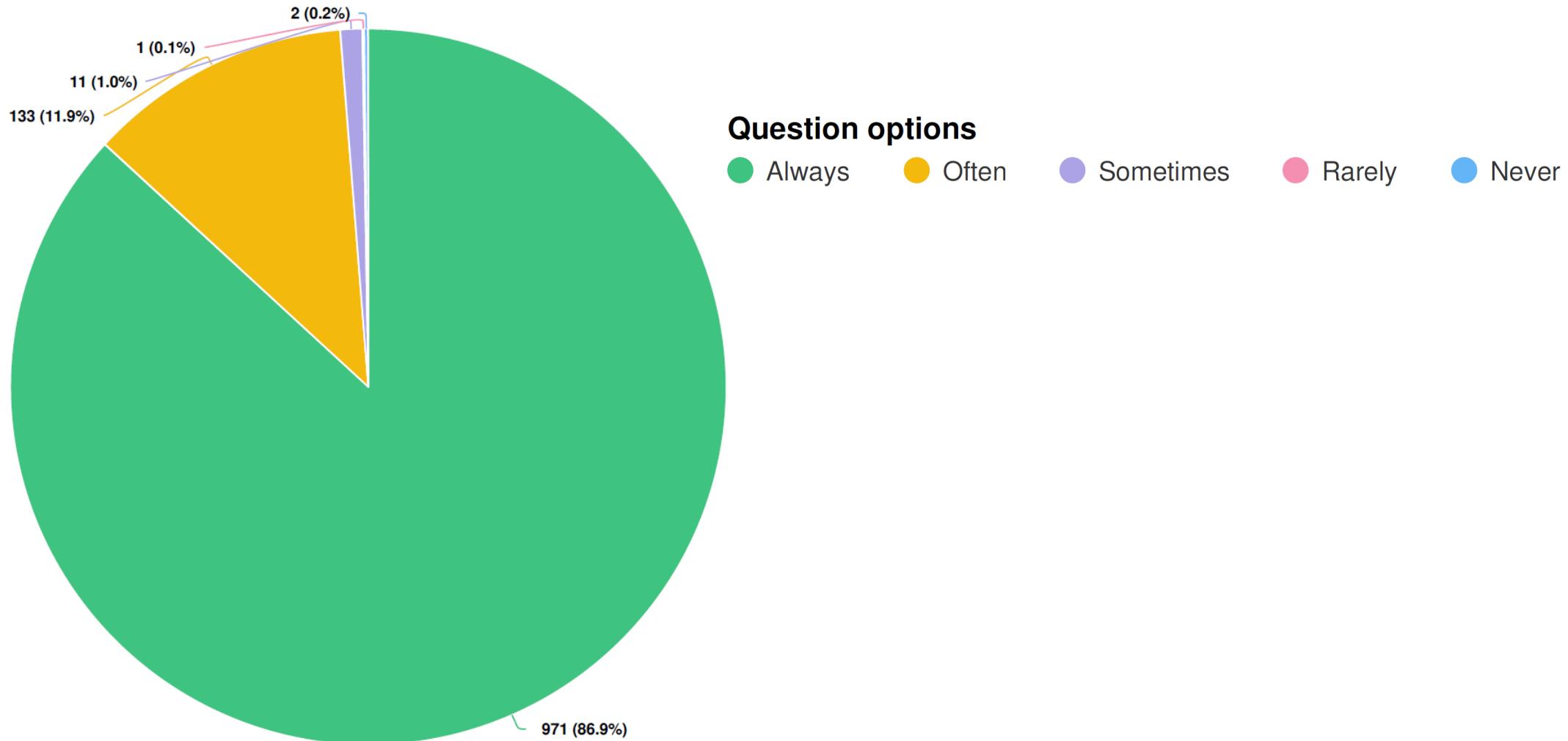
Q4

## Approximately how much garbage does your household generate per week?

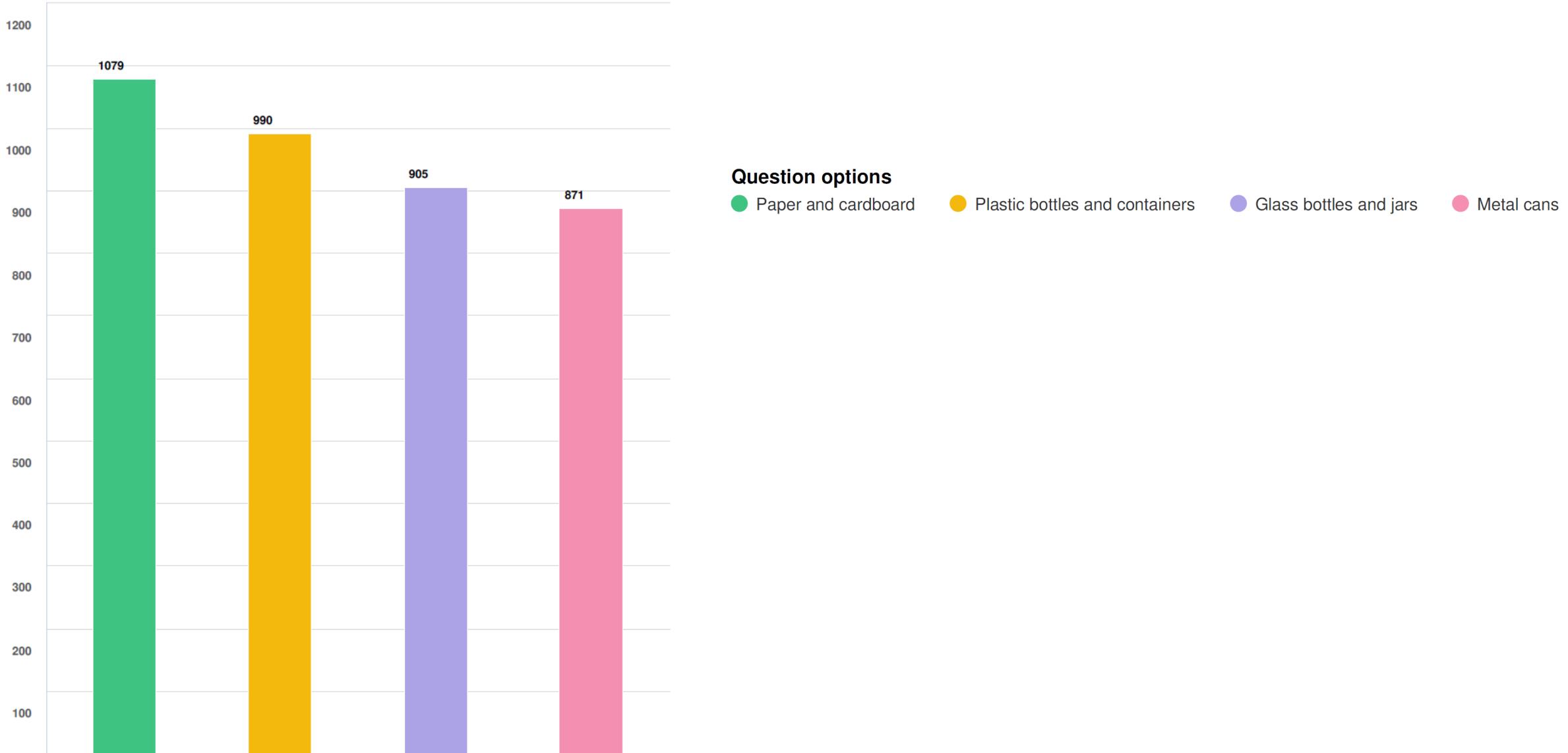


Q5

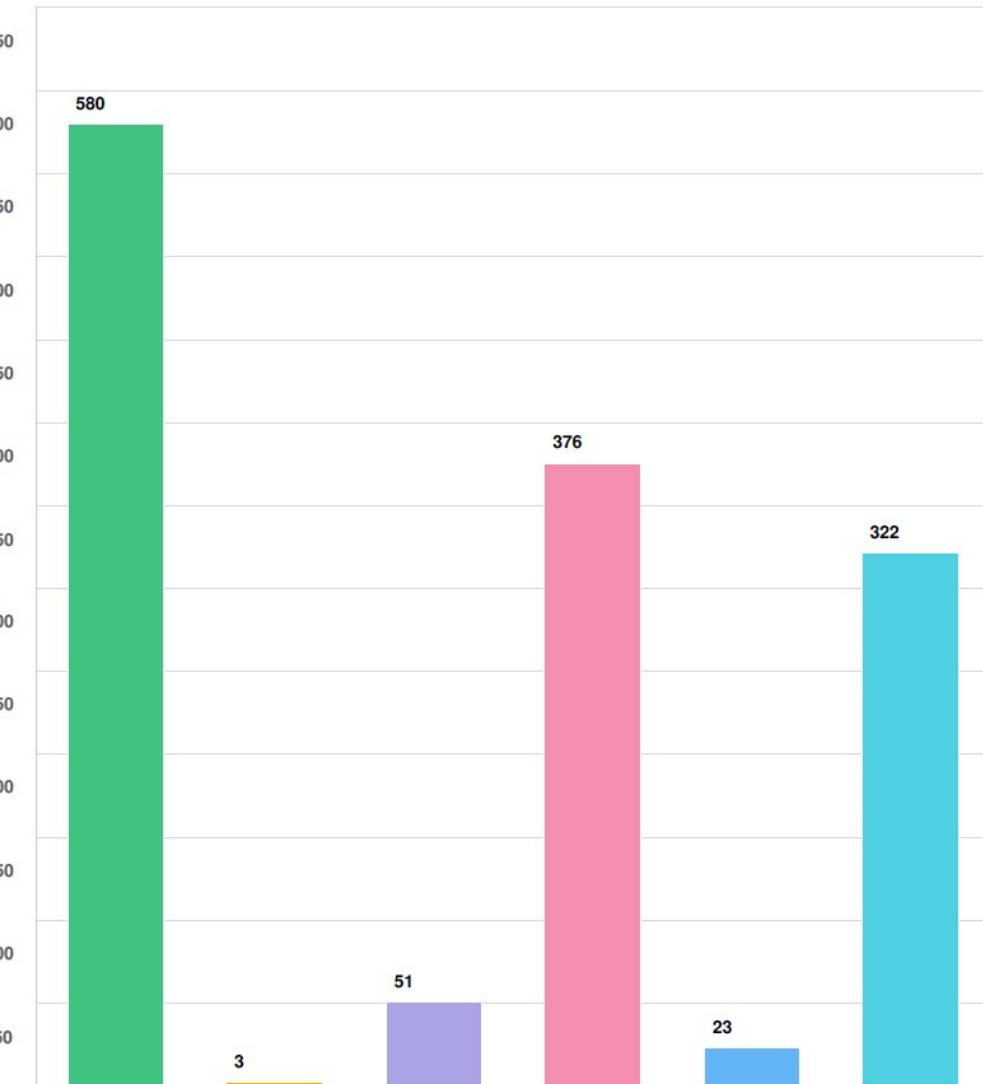
## How often do you separate recyclables from your garbage?



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



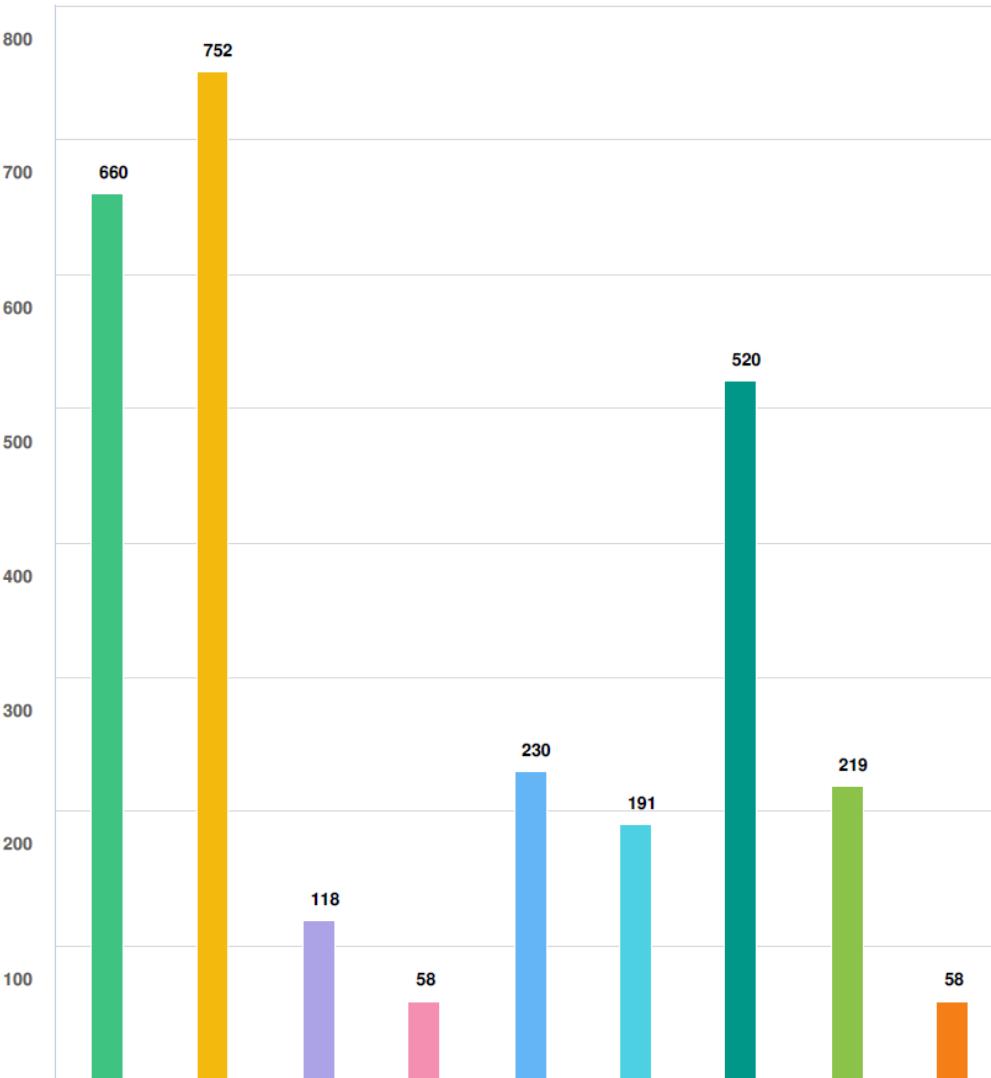
## Q7 | Which of the following barriers prevent you from recycling more? (Select all that apply)



### 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
- Other (please specify)
- Lack of interest

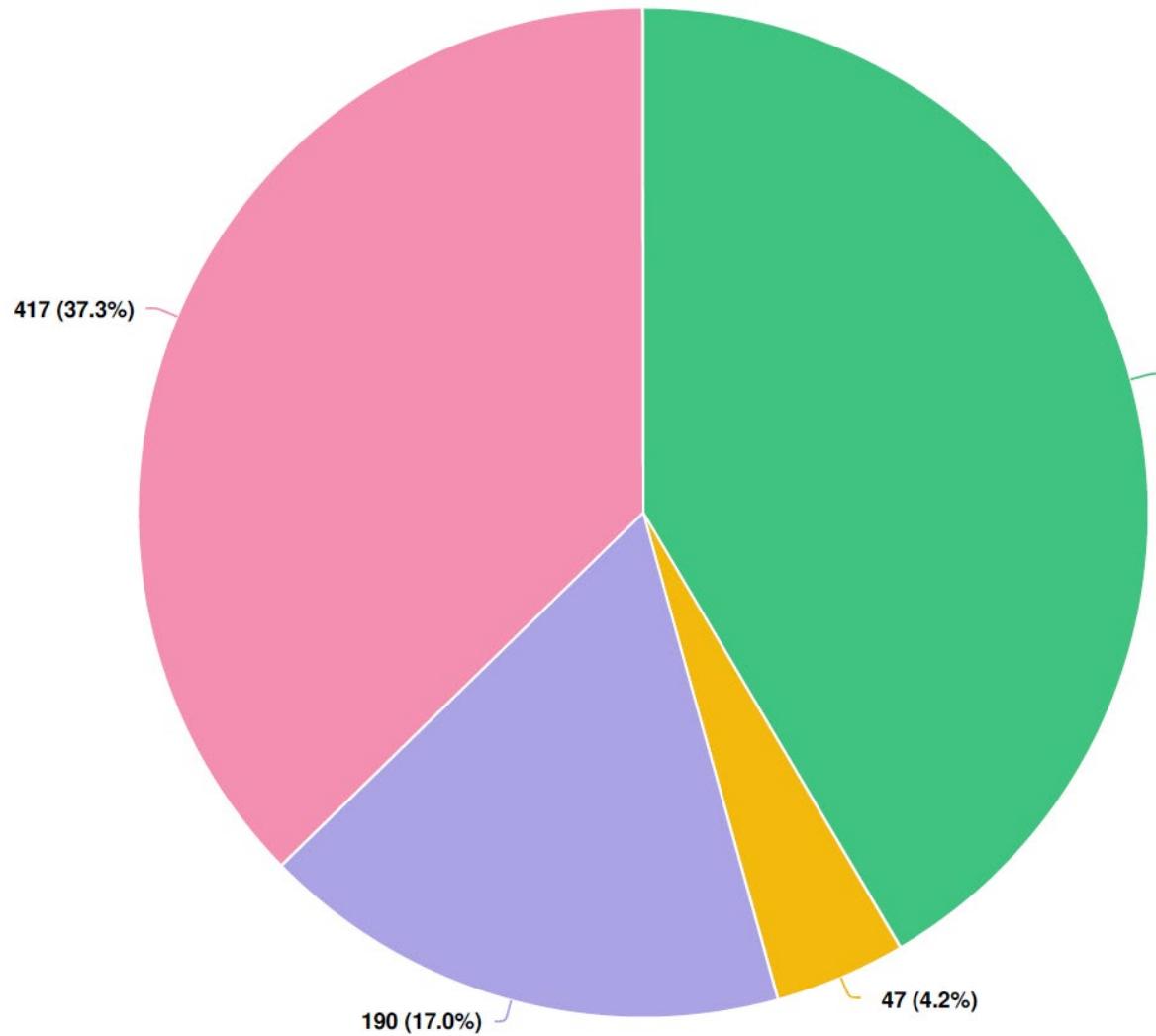
## Q8 | Which of the following waste types do you most often struggle to dispose of properly?



### 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?



### Question options

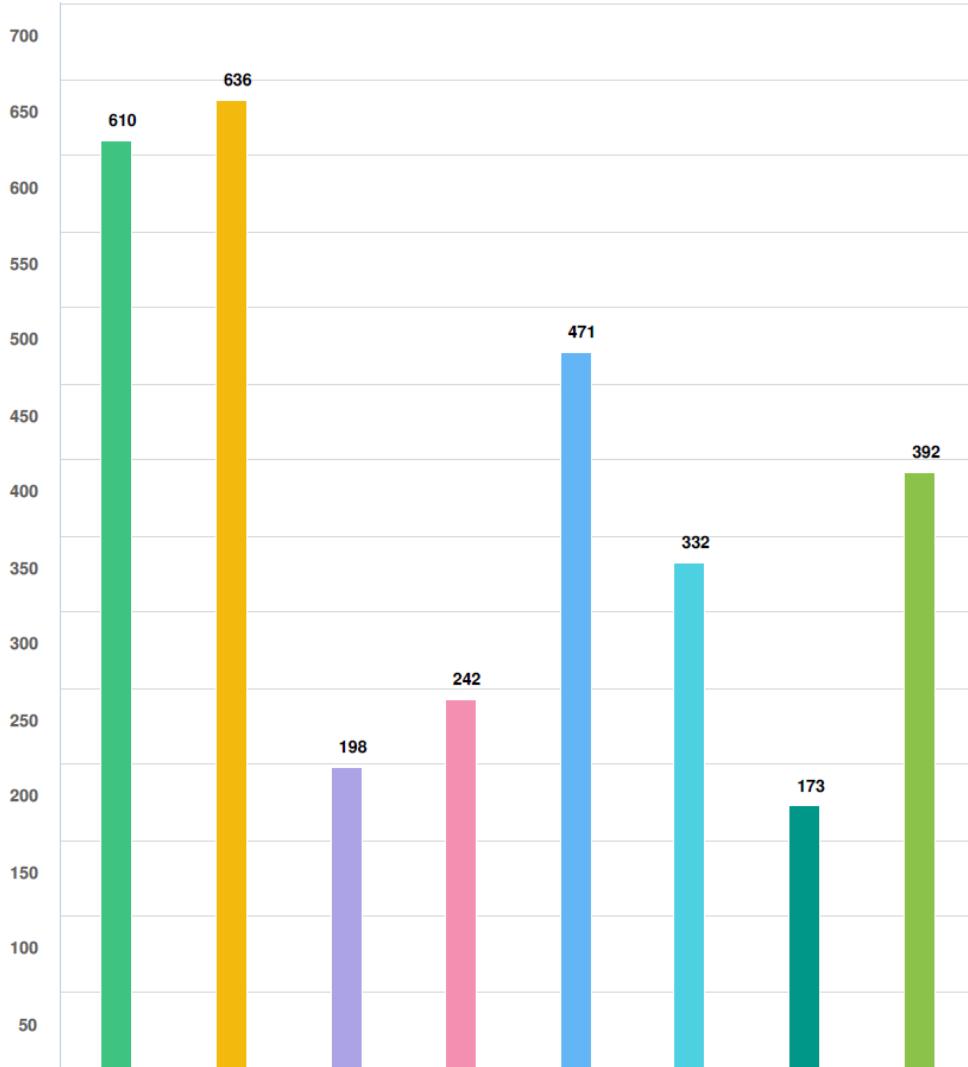
Yes, I am a CompostAble subscriber

Yes, I have a backyard compost pile

Yes, I use the Village's public compost drop off sites

No, I do not compost at all

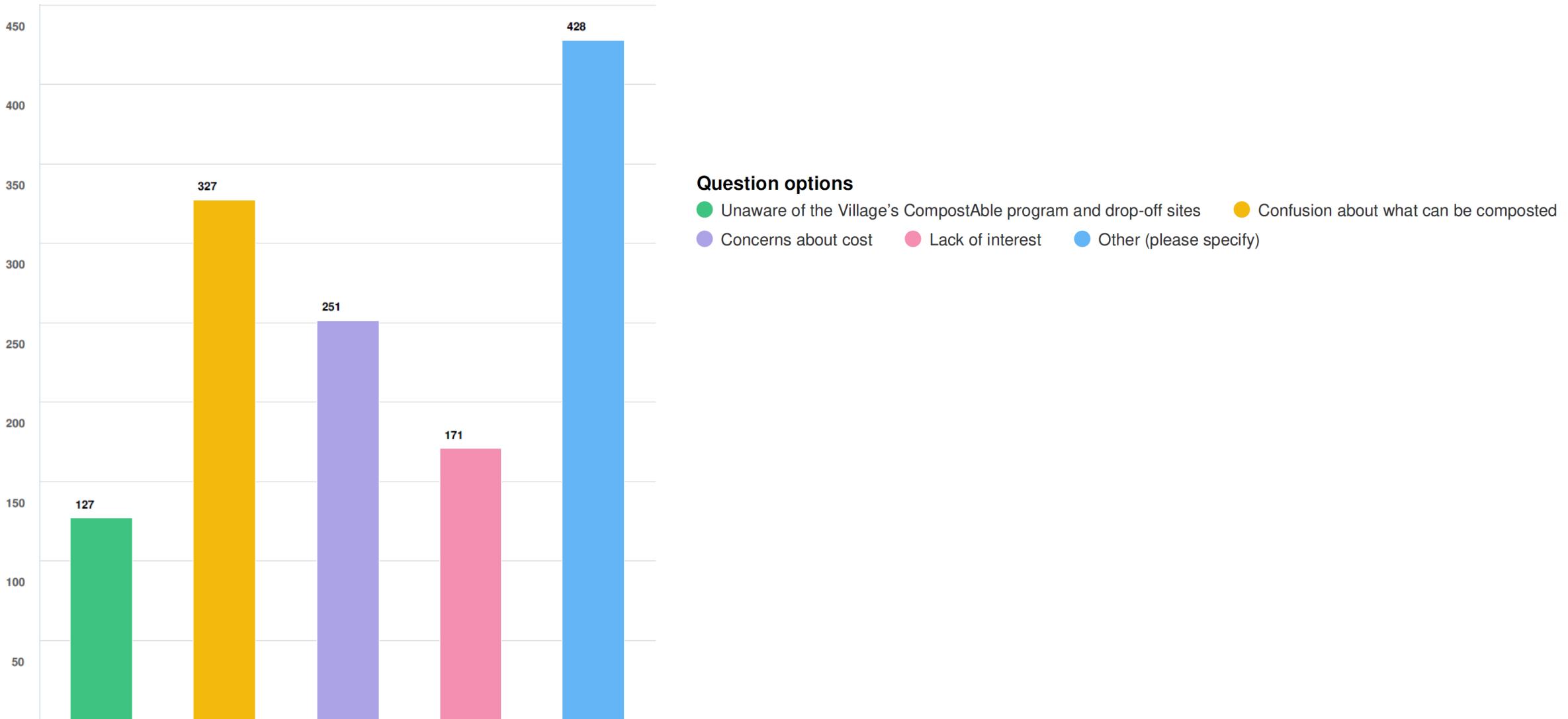
## Q10 | Which of the following materials do you most often compost? (Select all that apply)



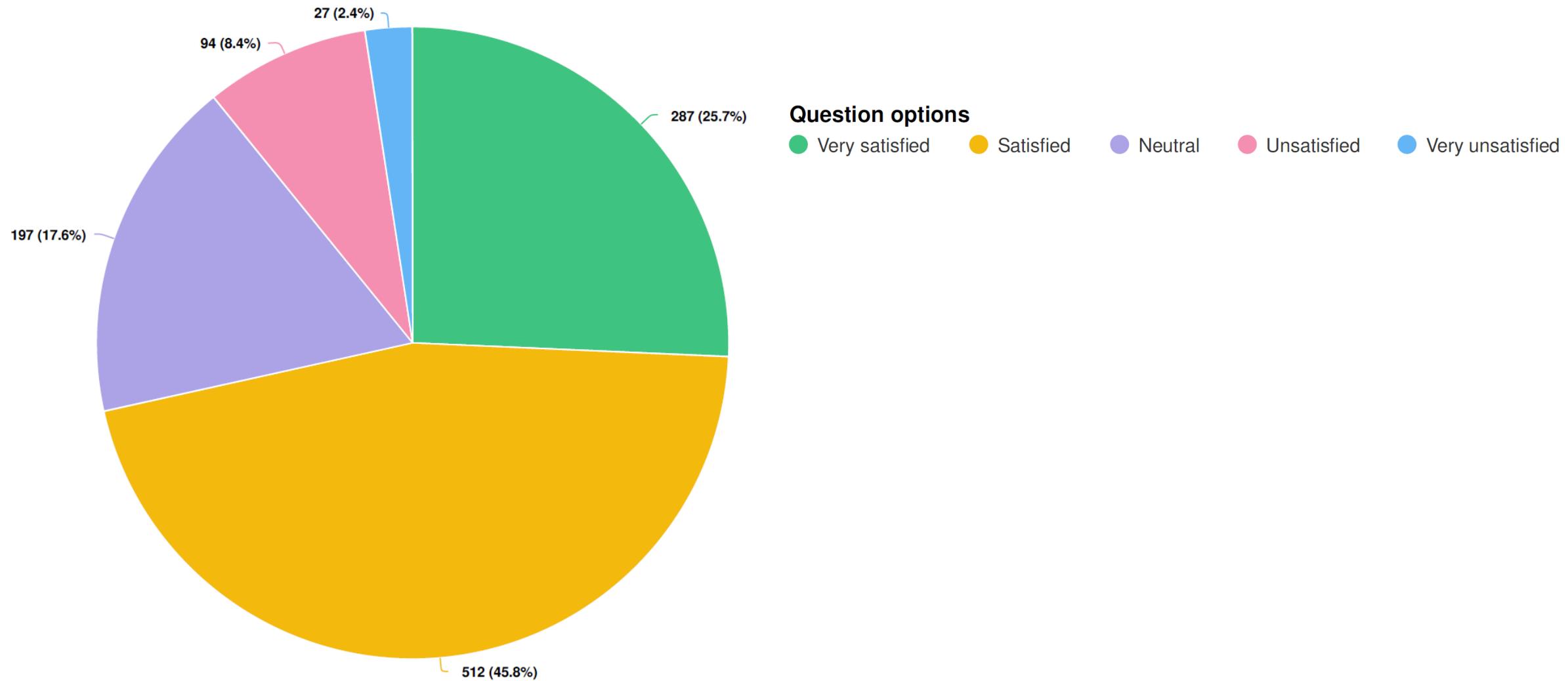
### Question options

- 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

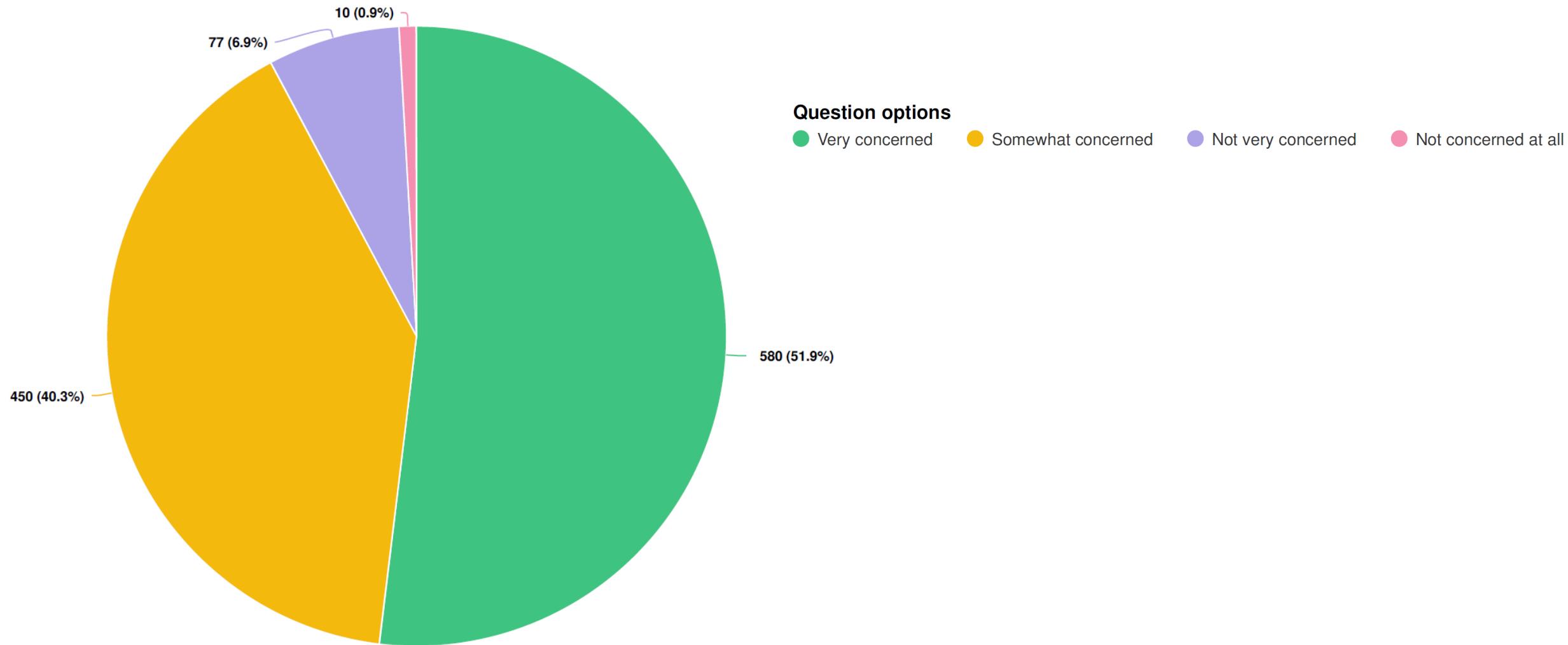
**Q11 | Which of the following barriers prevent you from composting more? (Select all that apply)**



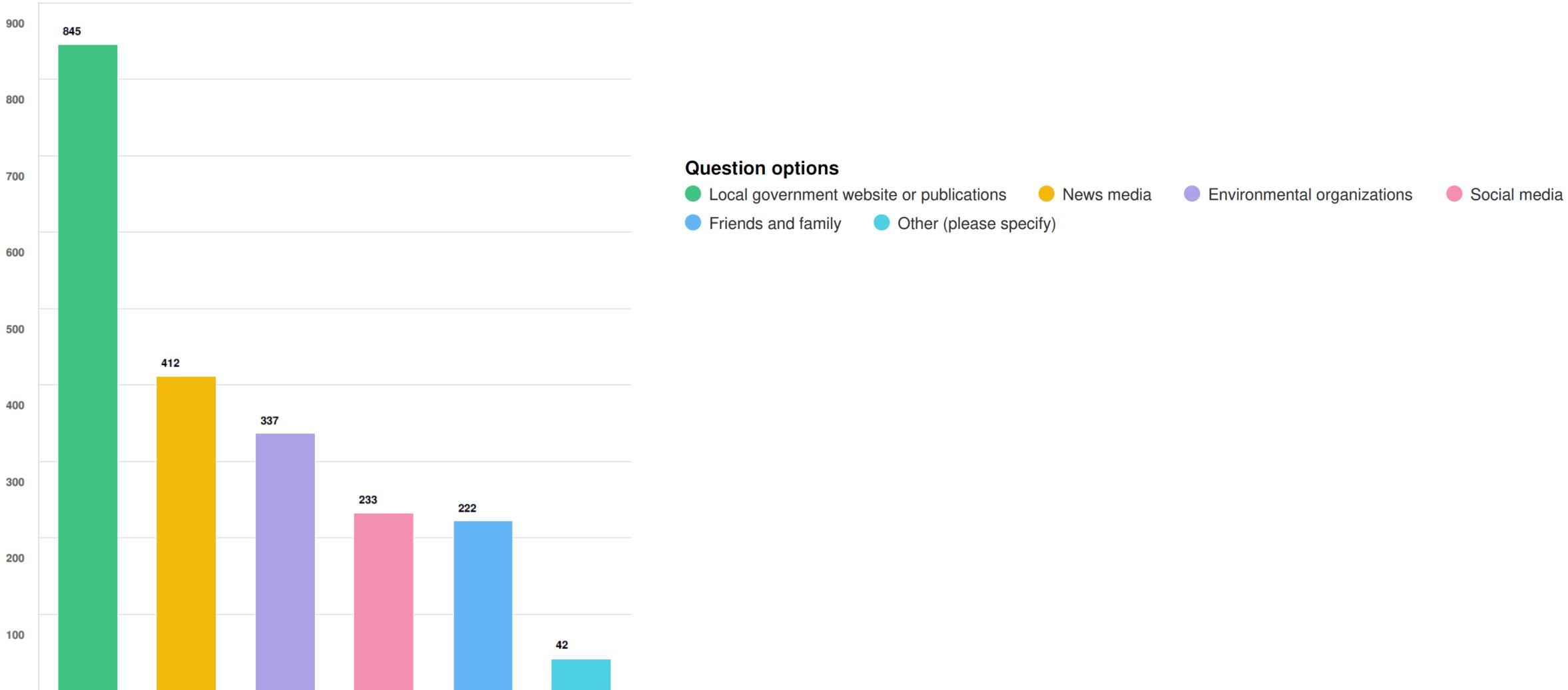
## Q12 | How satisfied are you with your current solid waste collection services?



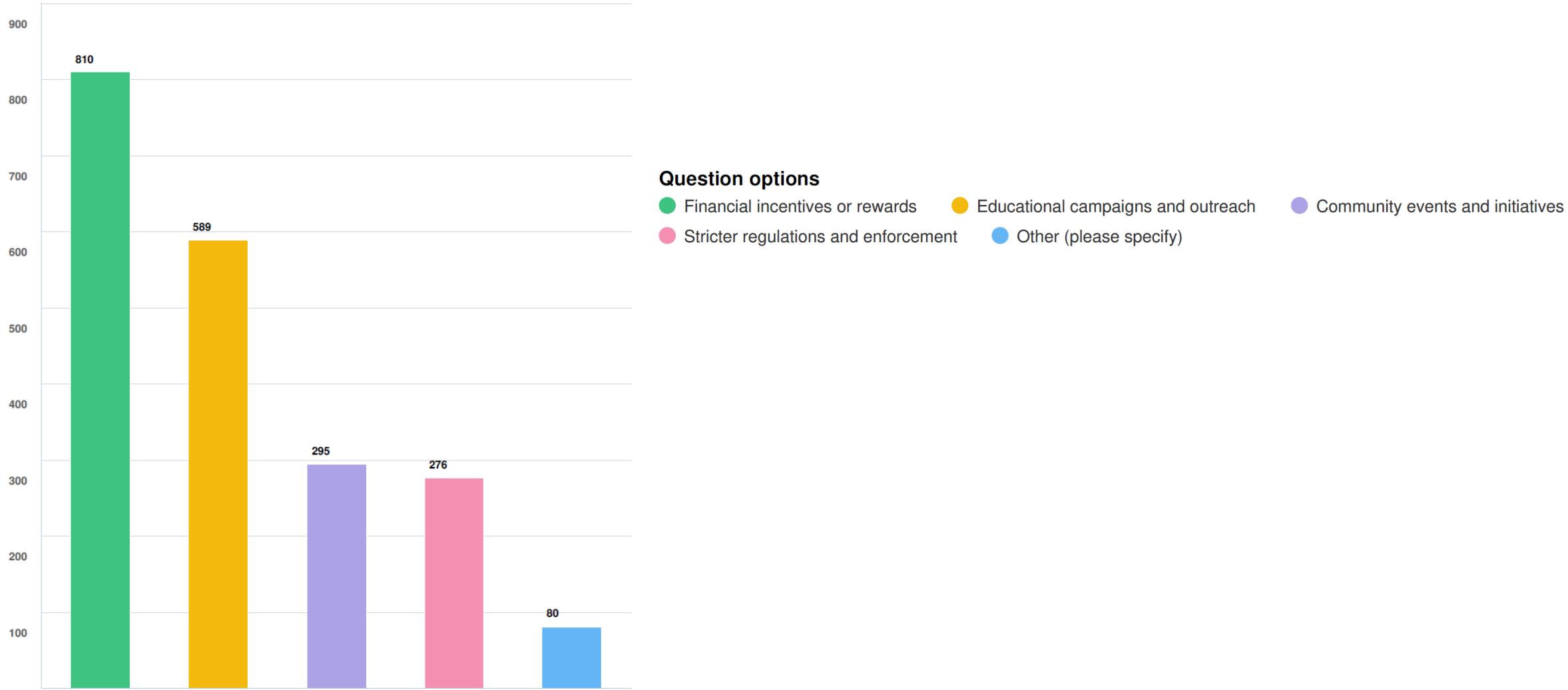
## Q13 | How concerned are you about the environmental impact of solid waste?



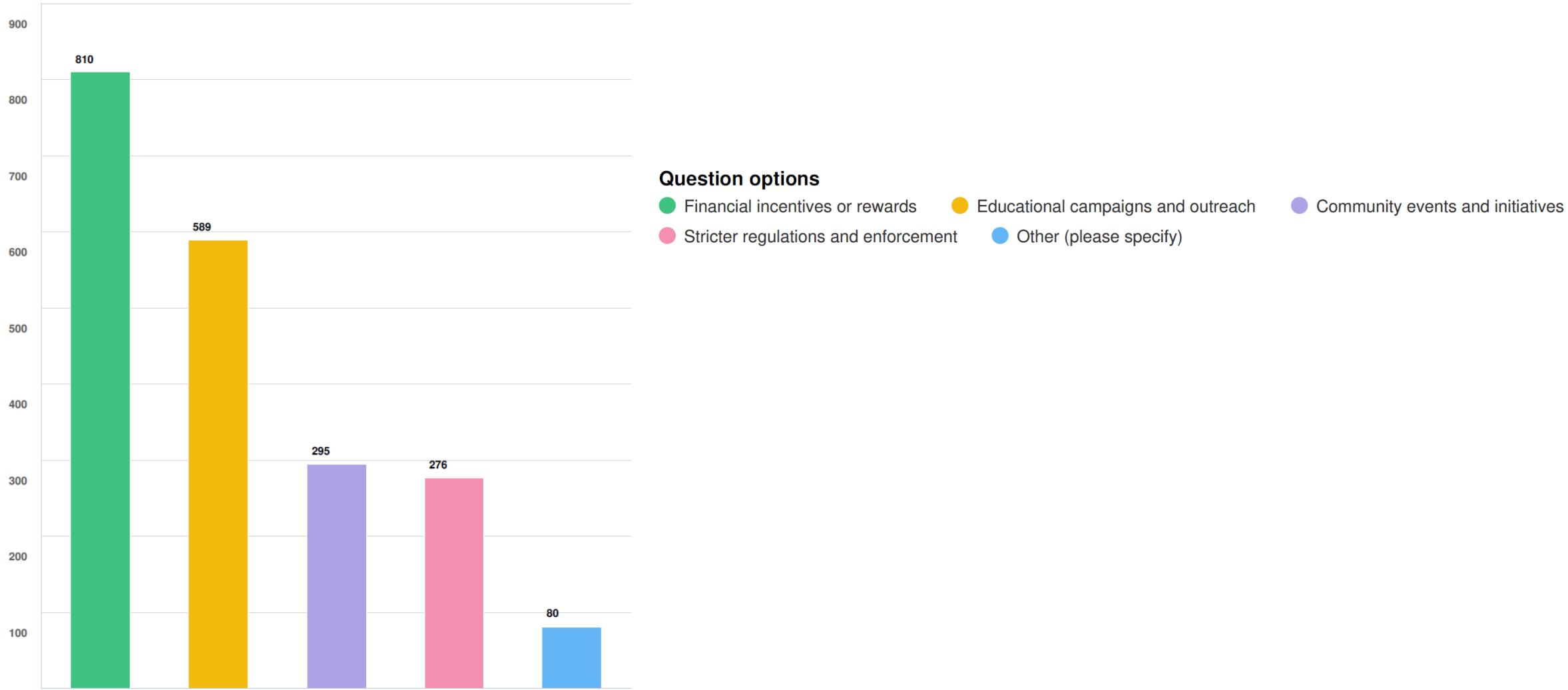
**Q14 | Where do you primarily get information about solid waste management and recycling?**  
**(Select all that apply)**



**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?

