



What Are We Wasting?

Using Waste Characterization
Data for Program Planning
and Design

SCS ENGINEERS

Why Do A Waste Characterization Study?

- Gauge Program Success
- Assess Diversion Opportunities
- Calculate Environmental Benefits
- Estimate Potential Revenue and Jobs
- Identify Disposal Trends
- Target Materials and Generators
- Assist in Facility Design
- Evaluate Energy Value



What Materials are in This Pile?



Material Types usually dictated by Client, and based on:

1. Previous Studies
2. What MRF Accepts
3. Recycling Programs of other jurisdictions
4. Curiosity

Typical Load Sampling



Sample Sorting



Waste Sorting Happens:

1. **Quickly** – sort about 2000 pounds per day
2. **Larger, Easily-Identifiable Items First**
3. **Unidentifiable Items go in Other Category**
4. **Plastics always most difficult material**

Some Plastic Material Types



PET Bottles (#1)



HDPE Natural (#2)
Bottles & Jars

Some Plastic Material Types



Polystyrene (#6)



Styrofoam
Expanded Polystyrene (#6)

Some Plastic Material Types

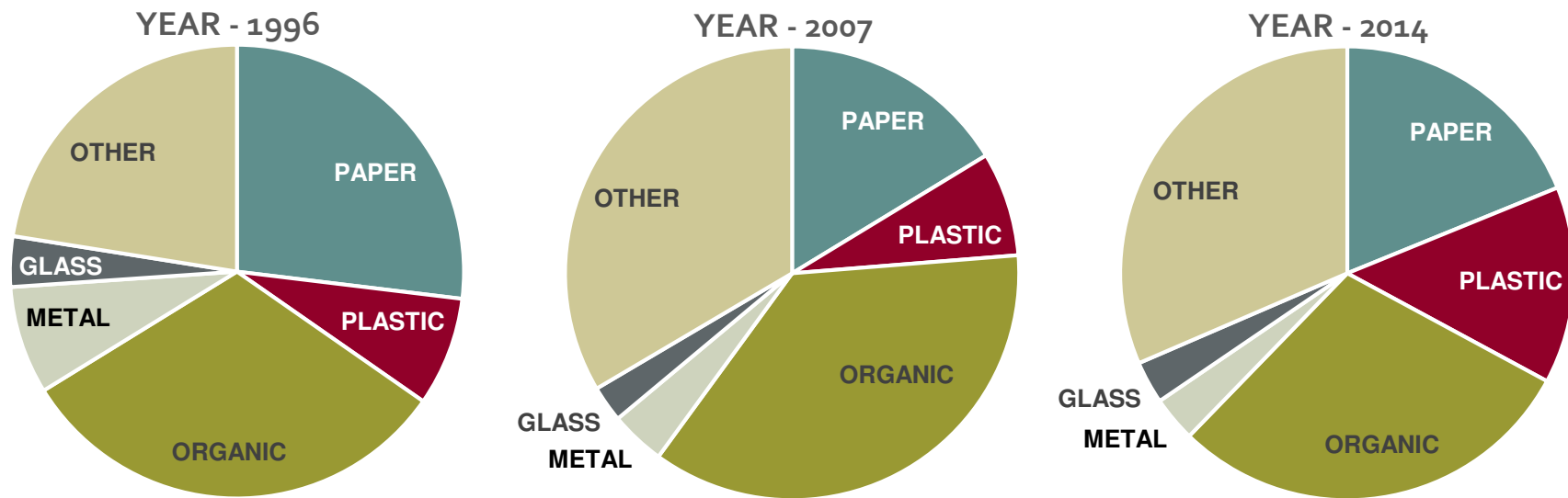


Single-Use Shopping Bags



HDPE Colored (#2)
Bottles & Jars

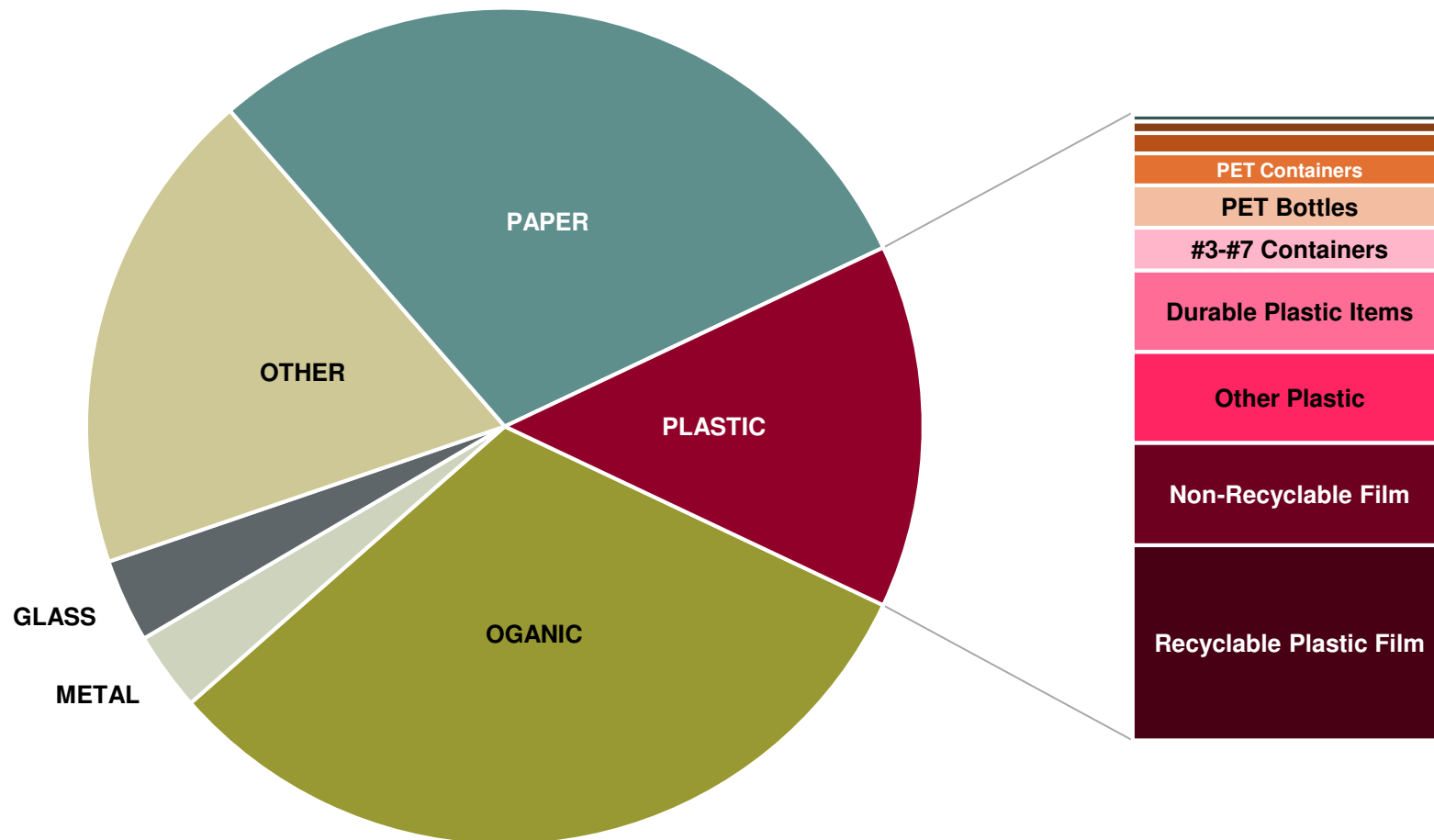
Consistent Material Definitions Allow Comparisons



The Changing Waste Stream

Although Material Types Can Be Added

YEAR = 2014



Before a Waste Characterization Study...

1. How Will the Information & Data be Used
 - a) Education and Outreach
 - b) Evaluation of Existing Programs
2. More Materials = More time = More Cost
3. Plan Early for Comparisons
 - a) Prior Studies
 - b) Other Jurisdictions and Statewide
4. Use APR Guidance for Consistency

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