



Regional Waste Authority Study

Baseline Assessment

PREPARED FOR THE LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

NOVEMBER 18, 2025



Agenda

01. WELCOME FROM RIVERCOG

02. PROJECT BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

03. METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

04. KEY FINDINGS

05. DISCUSSION

06. NEXT STEPS

Project Background & Overview

- **Task 1: Comprehensive RWA Study**
 - > Baseline Assessment
 - > Potential for Regionalization
- **Task 2: Select Site Visits & Town Profiles**
- **Task 3: Public Engagement & Presentation of Findings**
 - > Presentation of Baseline Assessment
 - > Workshops to Identify Common Needs, Inefficiencies, and Opportunities for Collaboration
 - > Presentation of Findings & Adoption



Our Process

- **Interviews with 16 municipal leaders**
 - > Curbside collection programs
 - Hauling contracts & licensing/reporting
 - Haulers operating in the area
 - > Municipally-owned facilities
 - Hours of operation
 - Staffing
 - Equipment on site
 - Materials accepted
 - Tons of material collected
 - Annual reporting
 - Contracts (hauling, disposal, recycling)
 - Operating costs and revenue sources
 - Capital improvement plans
 - Program opportunities
 - > Interest in collaboration with neighboring towns
 - > Interest, concerns, challenges, and benefits of a regional waste authority
 - > Town reports to DEEP (2024)
- **Review and analysis of aggregated data from DEEP, including municipal reports (AMRR) and reports from private facilities (2023)**

Pounds Per Capita Per Day Waste Generation & Diversion

POUNDS PER CAPITA PER DAY BY TOWN, 2023

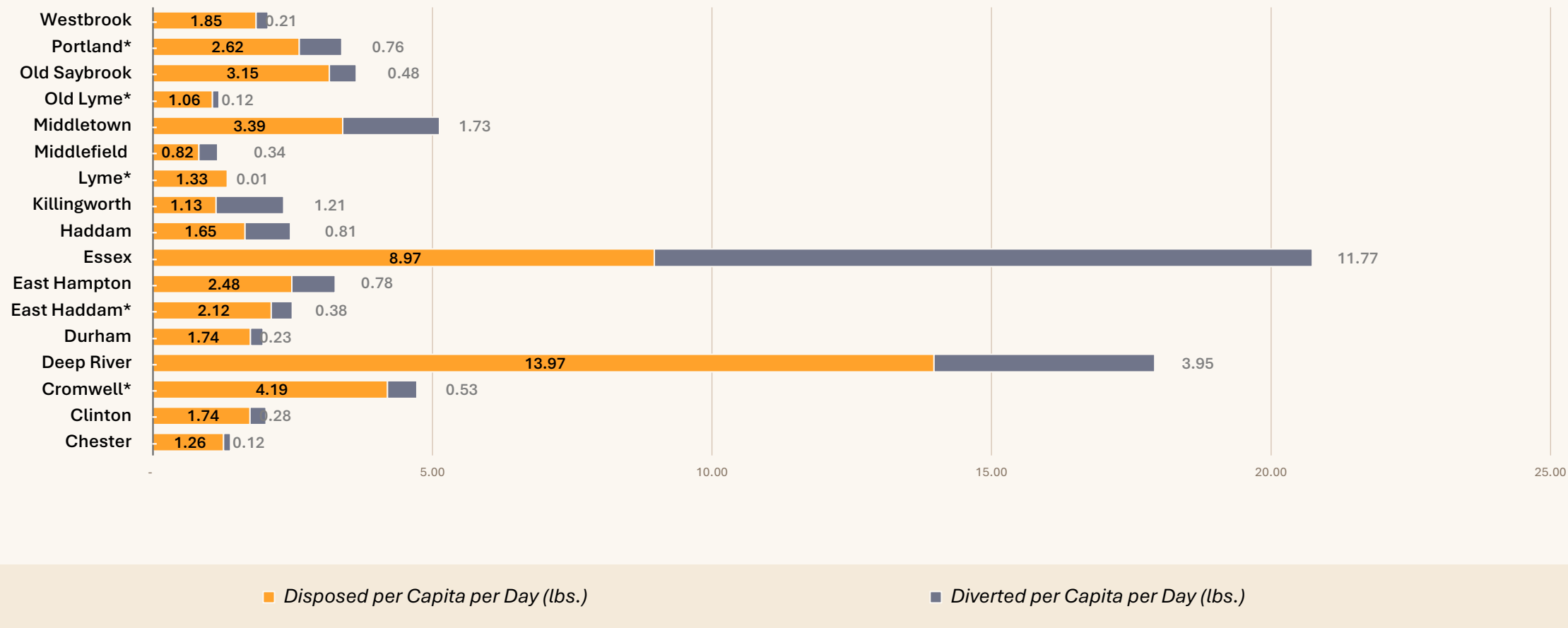
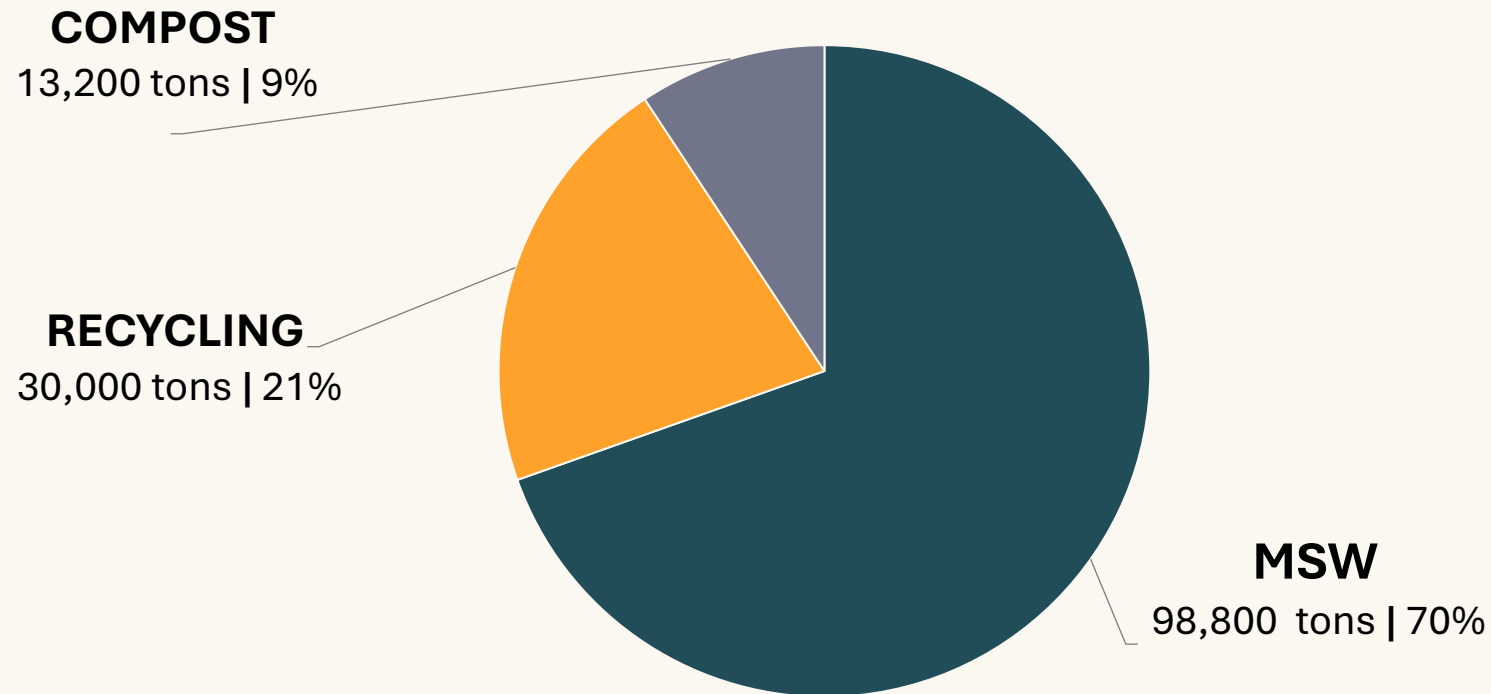


Chart compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset, 2023

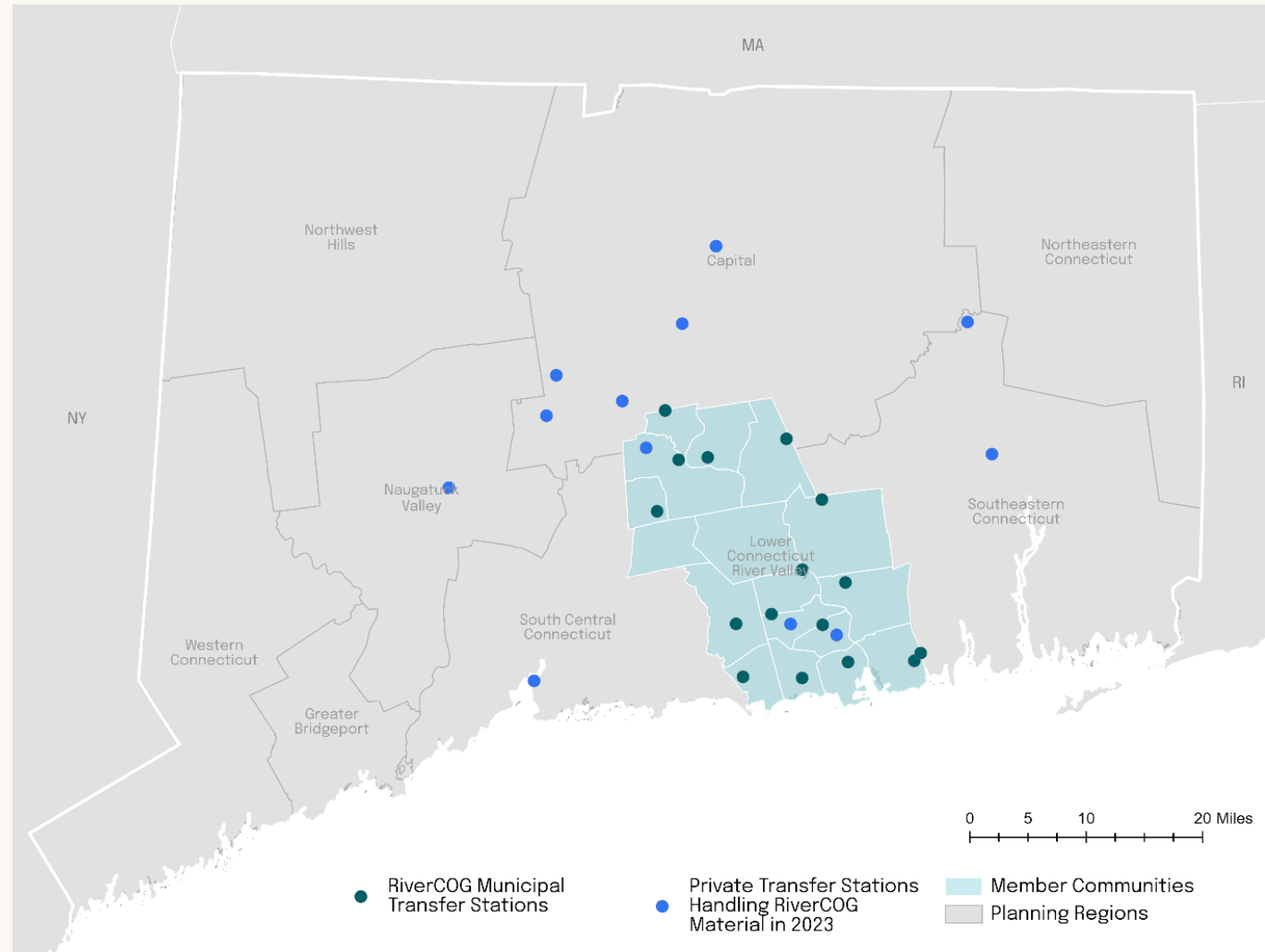
Materials Managed

2023 TOTAL RIVERCOG MATERIAL BY DISPOSAL METHOD



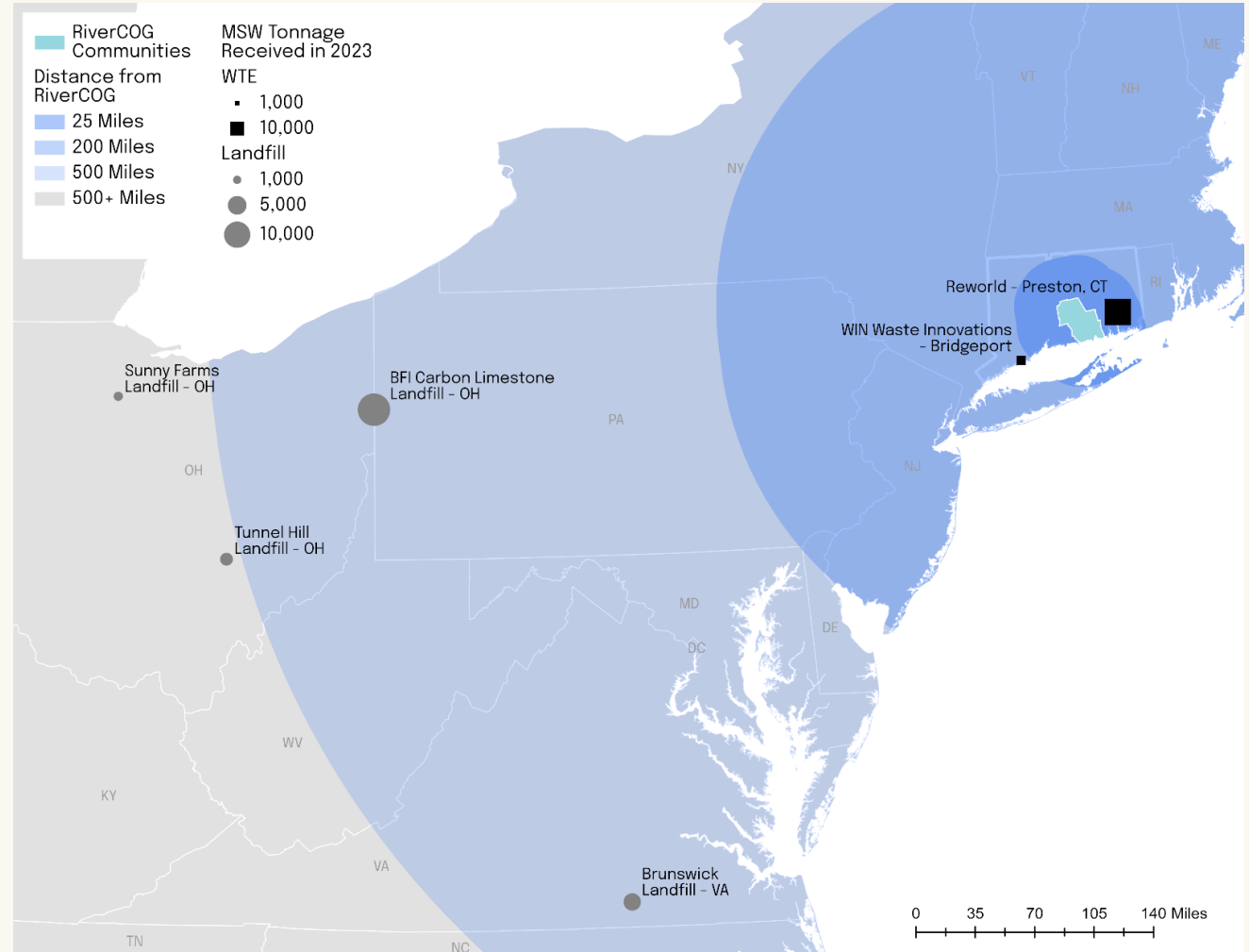
Transfer Stations

- **15 town transfer stations** across the region
- **12 private transfer stations** handling the region's materials (2023)



MSW Final Destination

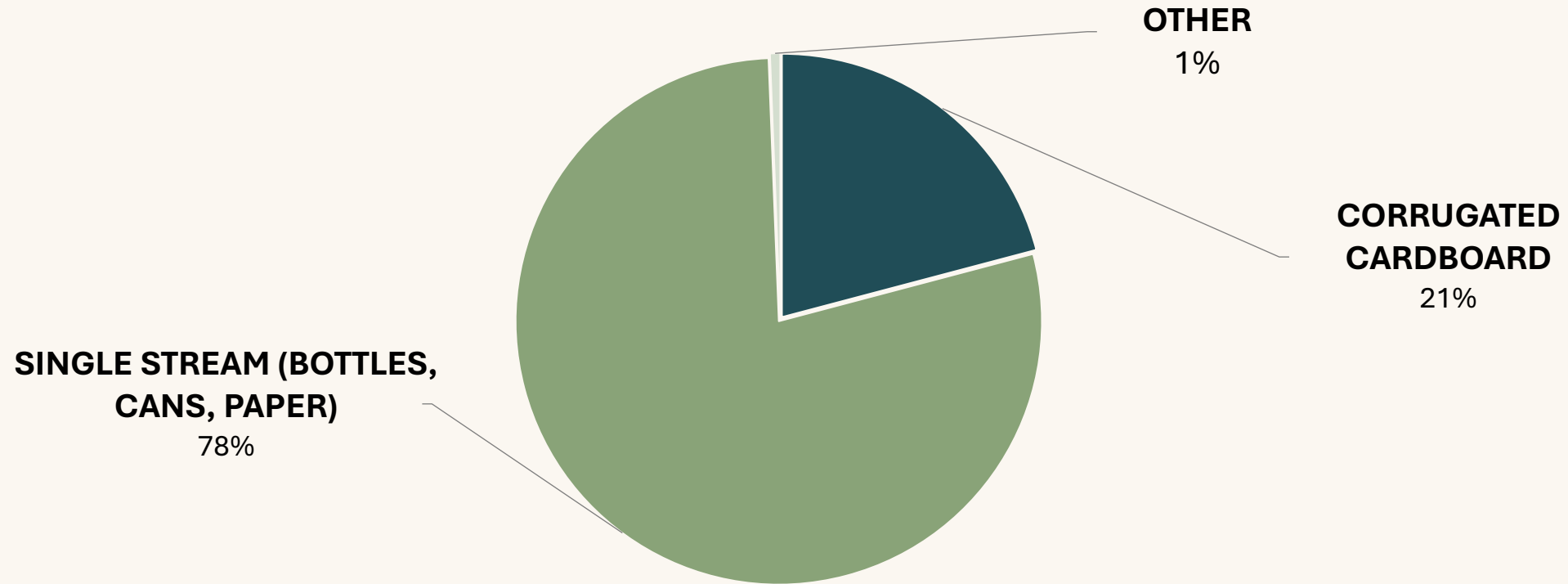
- 37% > Reworld – Preston, CT
- 16% > BFI Carbon Limestone Landfill, OH
- 5% or less going to:
 - WIN Waste Innovations, Bridgeport, CT
 - Brunswick Landfill, VA
 - Tunnel Hill Landfill, OH
 - Sunny Farms Landfill, OH
- 35% > Facility not identified



Mixed Recycling (WIWO)

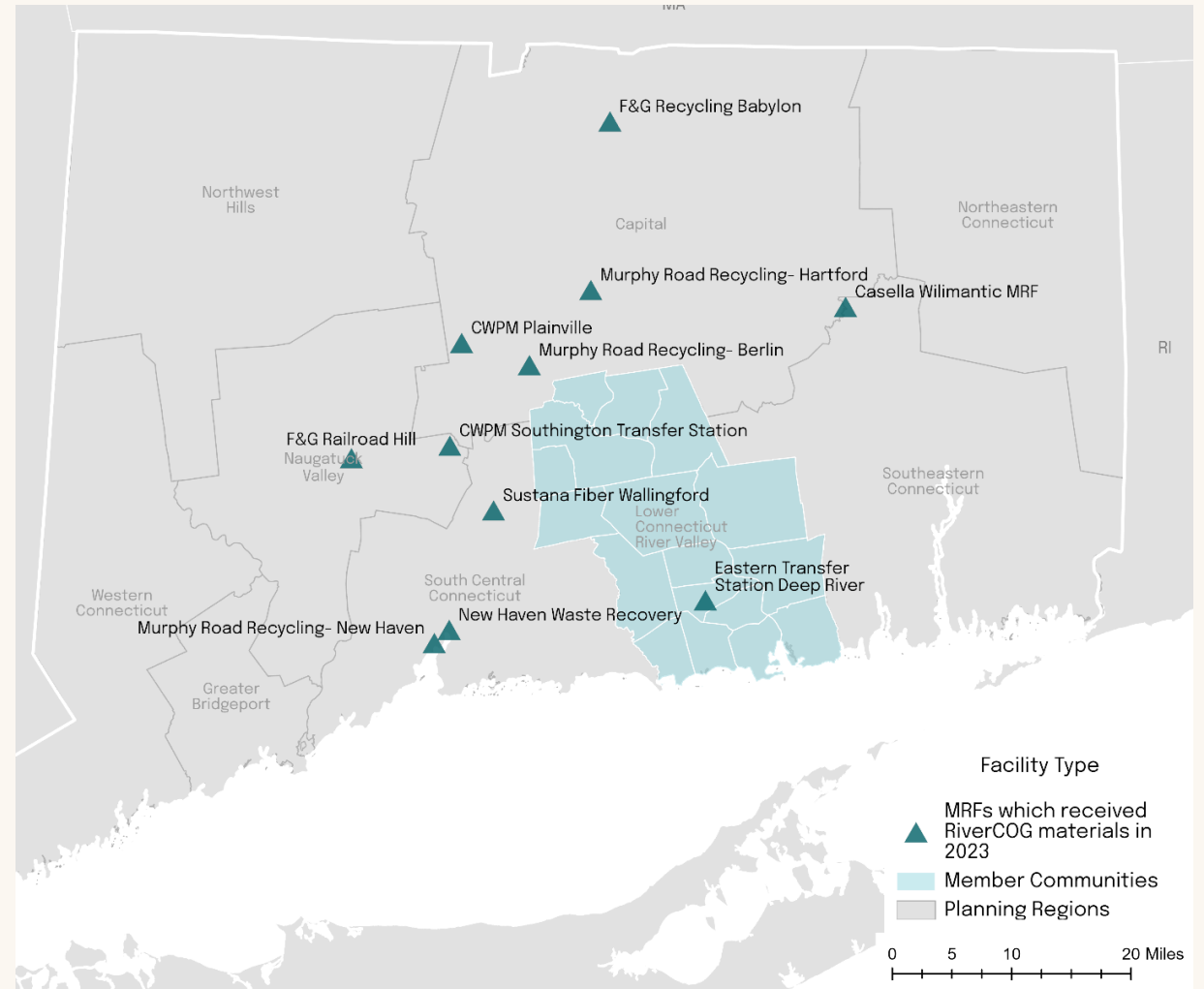
What's In, What's Out

2023 RIVERCOG MIXED RECYCLING (WIWO) BY MATERIAL TYPE IN TONS

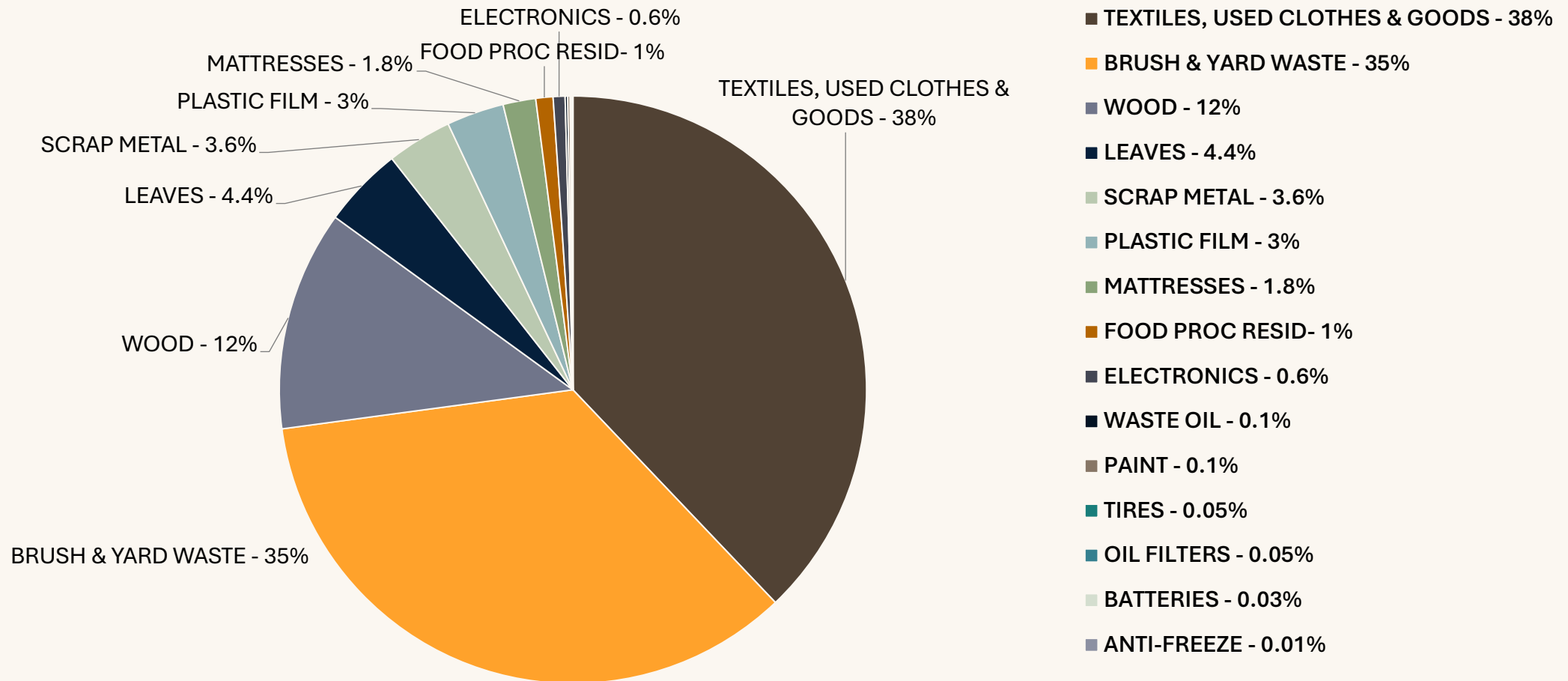


Mixed Recycling Processing Destination

- **42% > Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin)**
- **26% > Murphy Road Recycling (Hartford)**
- **10% or less going to:**
 - Eastern Transfer Station
 - CWPM Plainville
 - Casella Willimantic MRF
 - Murphy Road Recycling – New Haven
 - Central CT Resource Recovery
 - New Haven Resource Recovery
 - Sustana Fiber Wallingford
 - F&G Recycling Babylon
 - F&G Railroad Hill

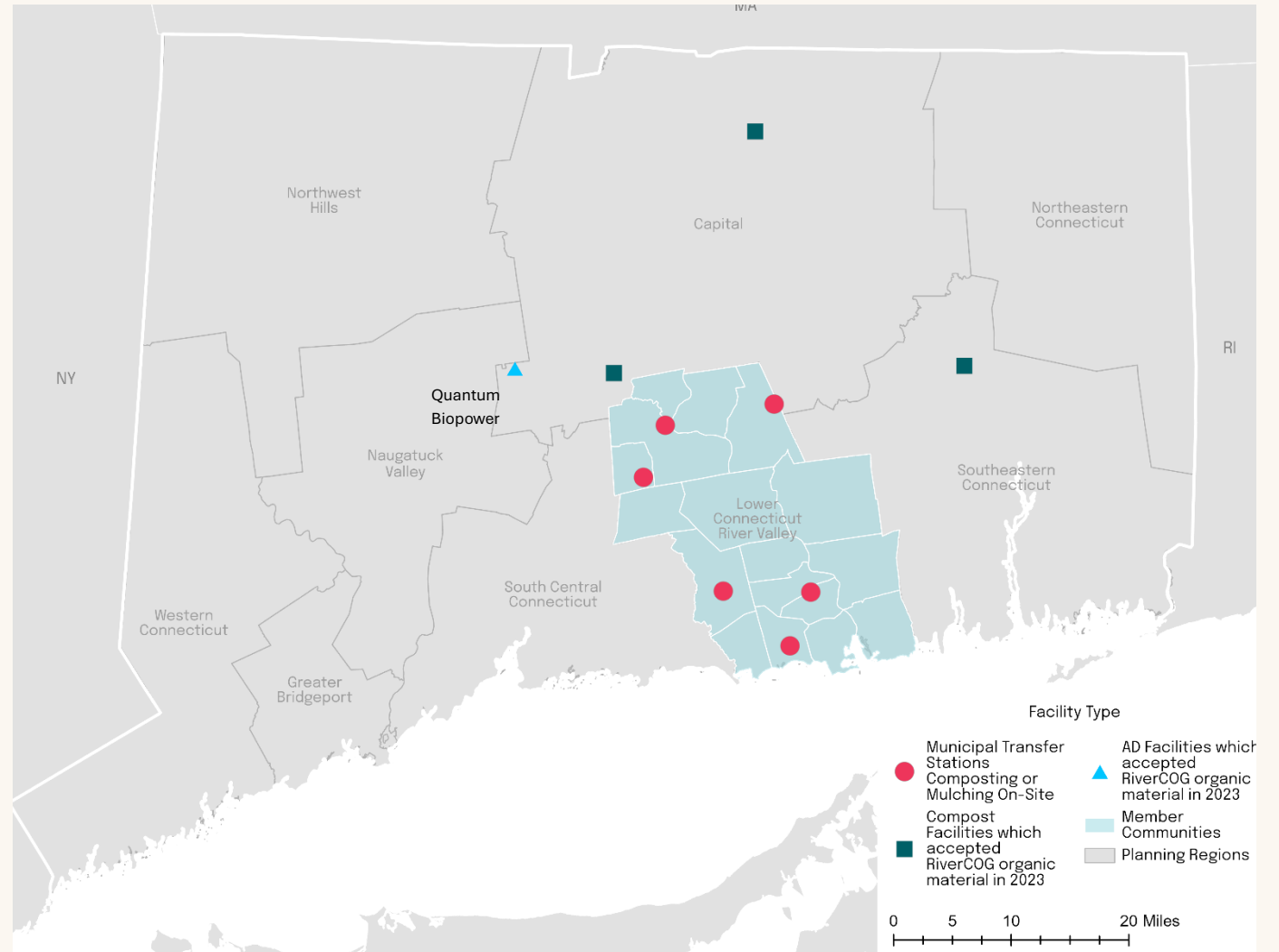


Additional Recycling (Non-WIWO)



Organics

- **78% > Town transfer stations**
- **17% > Local farms**
- **5% or less going to:**
 - Scotts' Earthgro
 - Quantum Biopower
 - Bright Feeds
 - WeCare Denali



Preliminary Opportunities

Facilities




Most Municipal Facilities Accept:

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) or household trash
- Common recycling includes cardboard, plastics, paper, aluminum, etc.
- Yard waste, including leaves and brush
- Bulky waste items
- Scrap metal
- Mattresses
- Electronics
- Refrigerants
- Propane tanks
- Tires
- Oil and antifreeze

Opportunities:

- Reusable goods
- Textiles
- Glass
- Food scraps
- Paper
- Film
- Paint



Operations & Programs

- Some **facilities do not have scales** to measure tons for cost recovery and reporting accurately
- There **is little to no tracking** of how many residents use municipal facilities, or how frequently.
- Common interest in compactors to **increase efficiency**
- Individually **evaluating purchases** of major equipment
- **Limitations for expansion** due to proximity to closed landfills, environmental factors, and adjacent land uses
- Hours/days of operation are **highly variable** across facilities
- Solar arrays as a beneficial reuse
- **New programs:**
 - > Swap shops
 - > Food scrap pilots
 - > Paint
 - > On-site Compost

Outreach & Education

A Guide to Recycling

Connecticut now has a universal list of what belongs in your recycling bin and what doesn't. All items should be **empty**, **rinsed**, **clean** and **open**. Do **not** shred, box, bag or bundle.

What's IN?

Cardboard & boxboard
Food & beverage cartons
Junk mail
Magazines & newspaper inserts
Newsprint
Office paper
Pizza boxes

What's OUT?

Gift wrap & gift bags
Ice cream containers
Paper cups (hot & cold)
Shredded paper
Take-out food containers
Tissue paper

Beverage bottles & jars

Ceramic mugs & plates

Food bottles & jars

Drinking glasses

EAST HADDAM

SOLID WASTE

Household trash, including soiled newspapers, pizza boxes, styrofoam packing material, and plastic bags.

HAZARDOUS WASTE for 2025

Household hazardous waste (HHW) — mercury thermometers, pesticides, and pool chemicals should be brought to the following collection sites, 9a-1p, on these dates:

Apr 19: 117 Nod Rd, Clinton
May 17: 20 Gildersleeve Dr, East Hampton
June 7: 49 Lyme St, Old Lyme
July 19: 30 Woodside Rd, Cromwell
Aug 9: 206 Winthrop Rd (Rte. 80), Deep River
Sept 13: 100 Training Hill Rd, Middletown
Oct 11: 272 Saybrook Rd, Higganum

SHREDDING EVENTS for 2025

Selected Saturdays from 9a-12p. For more information call RiverCOG at 860-581-8554.

April 5: 20 Gildersleeve Dr, East Hampton
May 3: 866 Boston Post Rd, Westbrook
Sept 6: 405 Main St, Middlefield
Oct 4: 11 Kirtland Terrace, Chester

E-Waste: Residential electronics, including televisions, computers, monitors, and printers, may be recycled in a container at the Transfer Station. Please wipe out personal information or destroy your hard drive before you deposit it. If you have commercial e-waste, see the Transfer Station Supervisor before you deposit the items.

PLASTIC

(with or without caps attached)
Plastic containers, tubs & lids
Plastic one-use cups (no lids, no straws)

RECYCLING

Paper and Cardboard: No plastic bags, shredded paper. Acceptable items:

- Clean newspaper
- Corrugated cardboard, including printed or shiny
- Boxboard, such as cereal and cracker boxes; remove cellophane windows.
- Paper egg cartons
- Junk mail; Remove cellophane windows
- Magazines and catalogs
- Books, including paperback, hardcover, and phone books.

Aluminum, Glass, and Plastic: containers before disposal; *ren* need to remove labels.

- Plastics #1-#7, up to 3 gallons
NO: Toys, flowerpots, or bag
- Glass bottles and jars of any color
NO: Light bulbs or drinking glasses
- Aluminum and tin cans, including (nontoxic) aerosol cans and foil trays. NO: Pots and pans
- Waxed paper cartons, such as milk and juice cartons
- Aseptic containers, such as milk and juice boxes (remove caps and straws)
- Containers from personal hygiene products

Plastic bags & wrap
Plastic plates, bowls & utensils
Prescription bottles
Single-use coffee containers
Styrofoam cups, containers & packaging peanuts
Water filters



To learn more, go to
RecycleCT.com

Thank you for recycling right!

KILLINGWORTH

SPECIAL

Antifreeze: Clean (not mixed with motor oil)

Appliances containing Freon:

Including refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers

Batteries: Household batteries should go in the electronics container.

Brush: Up to 3" in diameter. No stumps, leaves, logs, or wood chips.

Bulk: ...

RECYCLE THESE ITEMS HERE

All recyclable items should be empty, rinsed, clean and open
No recyclable items should be shredded, boxed or bagged
All corrugated cardboard boxes should be flattened
Use any and all bins — no sorting needed
If it is not on this list, it cannot be recycled

PLASTIC

- ✓ Plastic bottles (with or without caps attached)
- ✓ Plastic containers, tubs & lids
- ✓ Plastic one-use cups (no lids, no straws)

PAPER

- ✓ Corrugated cardboard (flattened)
- ✓ Cardboard & boxboard
- ✓ Food & beverage cartons
- ✓ Junk mail
- ✓ Magazines & newspaper inserts
- ✓ Newsprint
- ✓ Office paper
- ✓ Pizza boxes (tops only)

METAL

- ✓ Aerosol containers (food-related only)
- ✓ Aluminum foil
- ✓ Cans & bottles
- ✓ Foil containers
- ✓ Metal lids from cans & bottles

GLASS

- ✓ Beverage bottles & jars
- ✓ Food bottles & jars

LYME

FOR MORE INFO

www.townlyme.org/landfill-recycling-and-trash

Town of Clinton CT
Department of Public Works
117 Nod Road

Single-Stream Recycling Guide

DO RECYCLE:

Cardboard, newspapers & inserts, magazines, junk mail, catalogs, white & colored paper, shoe boxes, computer paper, cereal boxes

All #1-#2 plastic containers under 3 gallons (no caps)

Aluminum, steel, tin & food trays, foil & cans

Plastic beverage and containers up to 3 liters

Milk & juice cartons, juice boxes

Glass food & beverage jars, bottles & jugs

Large plastic items such as toys, recycling bins, coolers, baskets, containers & buckets

Accepted Items:

Metal, glass & ceramic pots & pans, scrap metal

Batteries or electronics

Motor oil - Paint (in original containers)

Light bulbs

CLINTON



Contracts

- Each town manages its own facility contracts
 - > Hauling (or self-haul)
 - > Disposal
 - > Recycling
- Costs varied widely
 - > MSW Disposal: \$98-131 per ton
 - > Recycling:
 - MIRA agreement
 - \$15,000/year
 - > Food waste:
 - \$900/month or
 - \$35/collection with a \$6-50 container fee or
 - \$55/ton
 - > Bulky waste: \$105-175 per ton



Curbside Services

- **Curbside collection varies significantly between towns**
 - > Town-provided
 - > Town contracted
 - > Subscription
 - > Bulky collection
 - > Food waste
 - > Limited haulers servicing towns
- **Cost varies widely for residents**
 - > \$105-114 quarterly for weekly MSW and bi-weekly recycling for Chester, East Hampton, Essex, Old Saybrook, Deep River,
 - > Lyme: \$52 every two months and \$10 bi-weekly for recycling
- **Difficult to get accurate data from private haulers**
 - > Materials collected
 - > Annual tonnage
 - > Material destinations
 - > Number of households serviced
 - > Cost of service

Questions You May Have...

If you have a question about the report or would like to throw out an idea that answers any of these questions, this is the time to start that dialog! **Drop your question in the chat.**

We received a few questions in advance that will kick us off.

- How do I get a food scrap collection going in my town?
- How do I review my town's reported data?

Next Step - Take the Survey

Help Shape the Future of Waste & Recycling in our Community



ABOUT:
7 minutes



OPEN UNTIL:
December 8



OPEN TO:
Those who live and work within the RiverCOG region



SCAN TO TAKE SURVEY

www.surveymonkey.com/r/RiverCOGRWA



RIVERCOG

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

Sub-Region Workshops

- Three will be held – in person
- January timeframe
- Intended to:
 - > Further identify where gaps in material recovery exist in the region
 - > Elevate the opportunities for collaboration across political boundaries
 - > Identify sensitivities to regional collaboration
 - > Inform next steps

Watch for an email inviting you to attend one of these workshops!





Thank you!

If you have questions about this study, please contact:

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Or visit:

www.rivercog.org/rwastudy