

City of San Antonio Curbside Organics Program

North Central Texas Stewardship Forum
Webinar Series – May 2015

Nick Galus



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Agenda

- Why
- Overview
- Outreach
- Results
- Processing
- Future Outlook

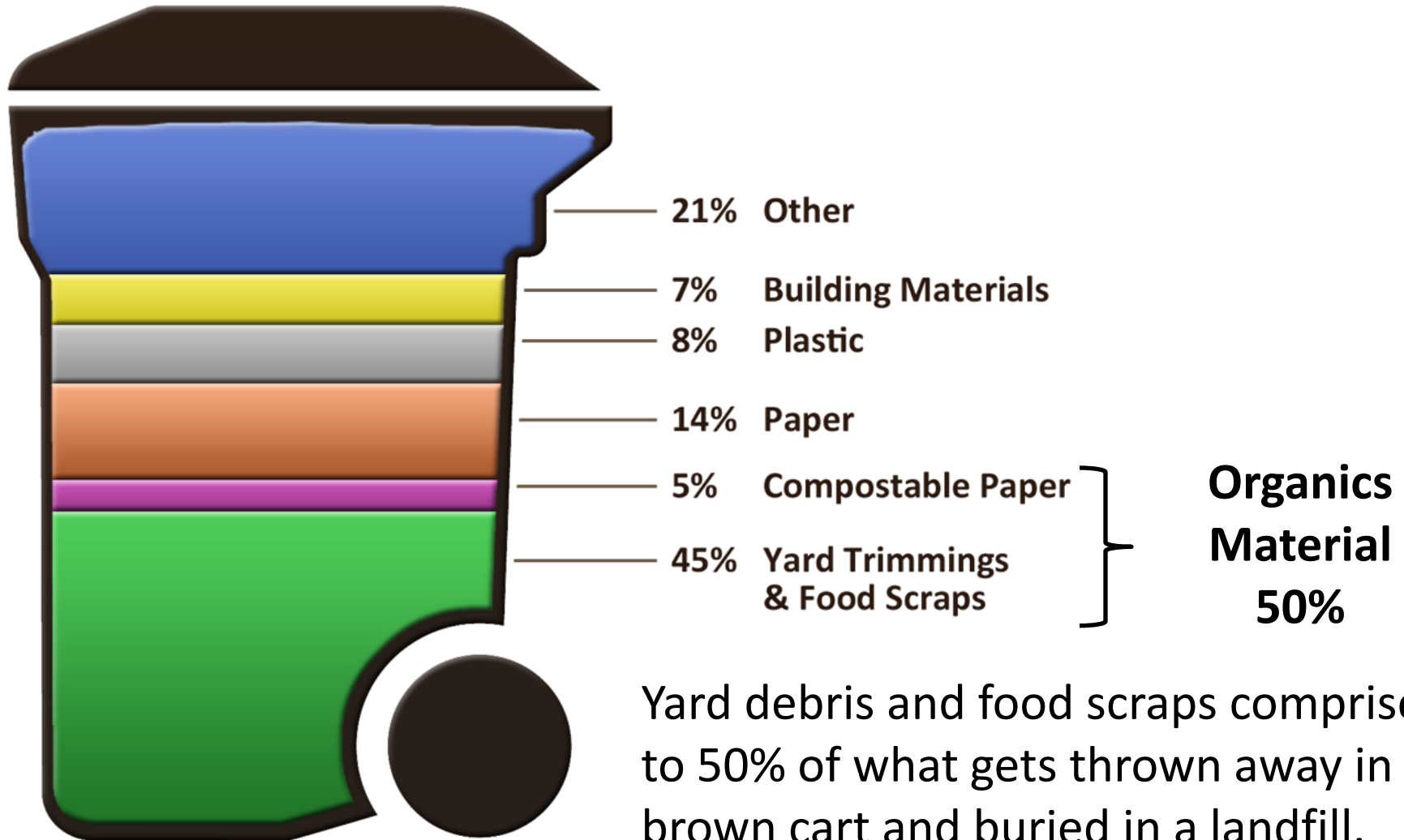


Why

- Recycle and Resource Recovery Plan Adopted June 2010
- Goal of 60% recycling rate by 2025
- Organics is a major component

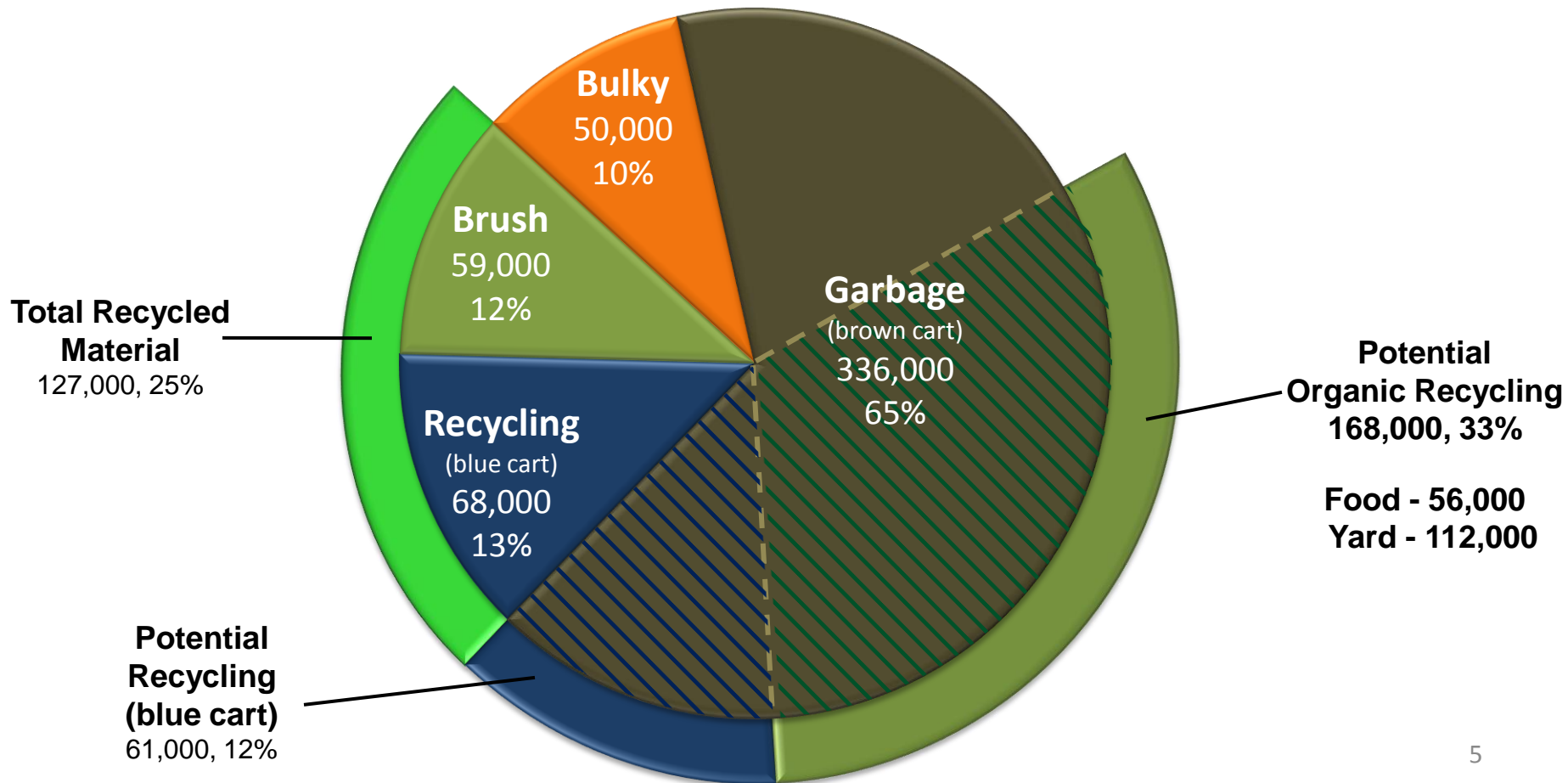


Why

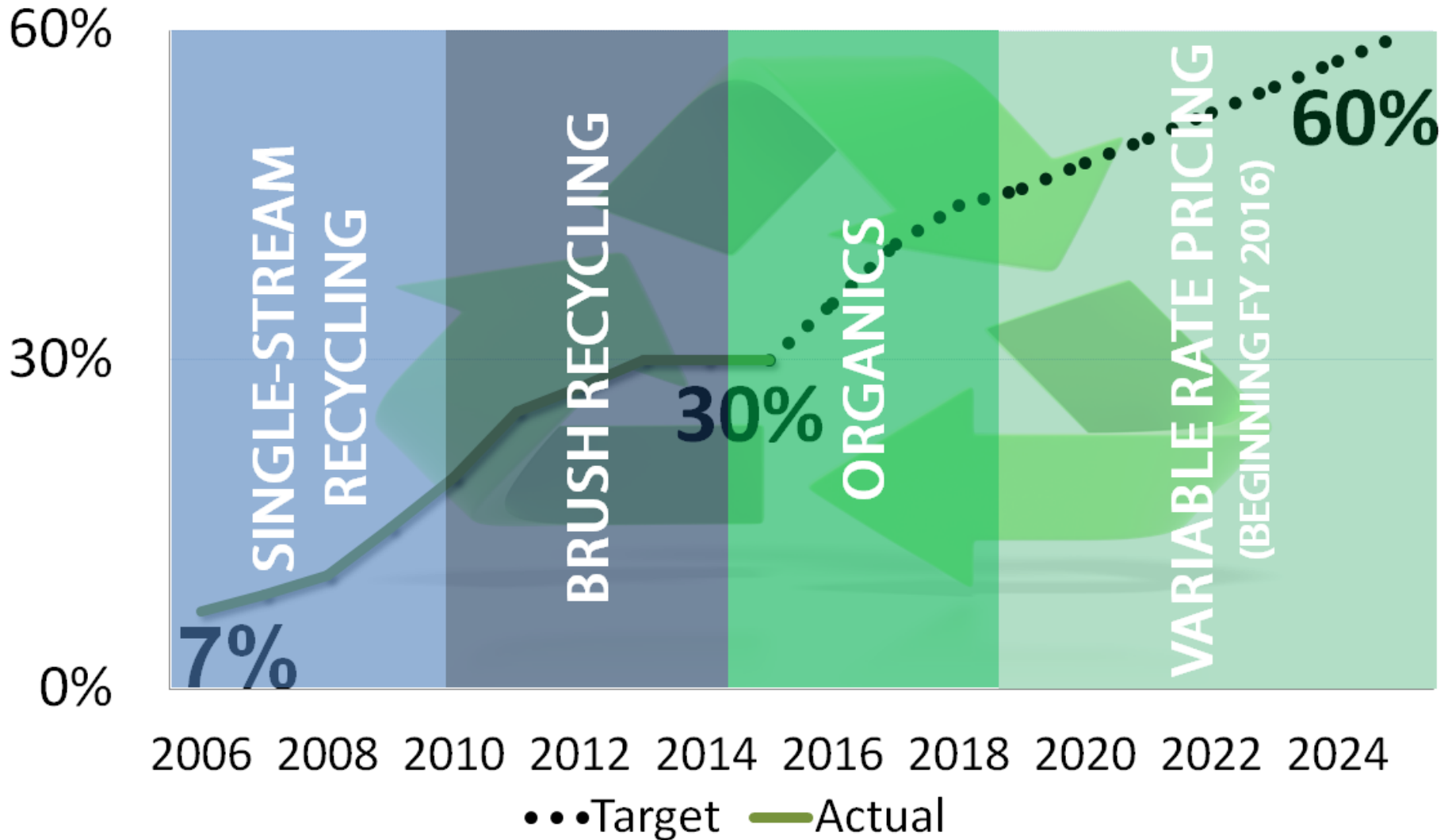


Why

Annual Residential Materials Collected by Type: 513,000 tons
Total SWMD Customers: 344,000



Why



Overview

- Pilot Program
 - Started September 2011
 - 30,000 households
- Subscription Program
 - Started February 2013
 - Service area of 120,000 households
 - Approximately 20,000 subscribers

What Goes In The Cart

- Yard trimmings

- Branches
- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Hedge/floral trimmings

- Food scraps

- Breads and grains
- Fruits and vegetables
- Spoiled food
- Leftovers
- Coffee grounds

- Compostable Paper

- Pizza boxes
- Coffee filters
- Napkins
- Popcorn bags

- Other

- Shredded paper
- Sawdust
- Dryer lint



Taking The Cart Curbside

ORGANICS ONLY



Yard Trimmings

Grass clippings, flowers, and weeds



Leaves

Leaves, twigs, and small branches
(no more than 4 feet in length and 4 inches in diameter)



Food Scraps

Bread, grains and pasta, coffee grounds with paper filter, dairy, eggshells and eggs, fruit (pits and shells too), leftovers and spoiled food, tea bags, and vegetables



Food-Soiled Paper

Coffee filters, greasy pizza boxes, paper cups and plates, napkins, paper towels, paper take-out boxes and containers, and wooden chopsticks



Shredded Paper

Shredded office paper and confetti

NOT ACCEPTABLE

- metal
- corks
- glass
- ceramics
- pet waste
- Non-compostable plastic (including biodegradable plastic)
- paper with wax or plastic coatings
- cooking oil and grease in large concentrated quantities
- dirt
- rocks
- stones
- cloth and fabric
- styrofoam®

For more information, please visit our website at www.sanantonio.gov/swmd or call 3-1-1.



Servicing the Carts

- Collection conducted with automated trucks
- Rear load trucks took longer
- Nothing special with the cart
- 96 gallon cart most effective

Outreach

- Block-walking is the primary outreach method
- Residents can subscribe online, fax, or email
- Fall and Spring seasons are ideal times to expand
- Pockets of subscribers observed
 - Neighbors influence each other's decision to subscribe

Outreach - Block Walking



- During Pilot City staff delivered kitchen bins by personally knocking on doors
- Residents were receptive
- Positive feedback

Outreach – Door Hangers

- Subscription Program Outreach



Outreach – Welcome Packet



*Welcome
to the Organics Recycling Program!*

PLACE IN YOUR GREEN CART
QUÉ PONER EN SU CONTENEDOR VERDE

Do not place materials in plastic, compostable, or biodegradable bags. Place materials loose in the green cart or wrapped in newspaper or paper bags only.
No ponga materiales en bolsas de plástico, por sean compostables o biodegradables. Ponga en el contenedor materiales sueltos, envueltos en periódicos, o en bolsas de papel.

1 **COLLECT** food scraps and food-soiled paper in a container.
Reúne restos de comida y papel con residuos de comida en un contenedor.

2 **EMPTY** the container into your green cart. Include your yard trimmings too.
Vacíe el contenedor en su contenedor verde. Incluya recortes de pasto.

3 **SET OUT** your green cart at the curb on the same day you set out your brown cart.
Coloque su contenedor verde al borde de la banqueta el mismo día que su contenedor café.

Yard Trimmings
Recortes de pasto

Leaves
Hojas

Food Scraps
Restos de comida

Food-Soiled Paper
Papel con residuos de comida

Shredded Paper
Papel triturado

ORGANICS RECYCLING
3-1-1 • www.sanantonio.gov/swmd
SW-01-6026 • 10-2011

Outreach – Post Cards

**Now I'm
Recyclable**



Outreach – Post Cards

Not all trash is the same



Outreach – Community Events

- Community meetings with neighborhood leaders, HOAs, and Webinars
- Booths at schools, parks, and special events
- School presentations focused within the pilot areas



Outreach – Truck Wraps



Common Concerns and Suggestions

Odors

- Freeze strong smelling foods and set-out on day of collection

Cleanliness

- Wrap messy and wet food scraps in newspaper or use paper bags

Rodents/Critters

- Same material you currently place in the brown cart

Storage & Space Constraints

- The City has smaller containers
- The footprint of 3 small containers is equal to 2 big ones

Using The Kitchen Bin



No Plastic Bags



Cart Notes

Cart Note

OOPS!
The following materials should not be placed in the green cart.

- 1. Household items (clothes, toys, hangers, appliances)*
- 2. Construction/demolition materials*
- 3. Garden/lawn materials (garden hoses, ropes, flower pots)*
- 4. Liquids*
- 5. Medical waste (syringes, needles)*
- 6. Plastics (bags, wrappings, containers)*
- 7. Rocks*
- 8. Waste (diapers, cat litter, pet waste, dead animals)*
- 9. Other*

SW/CR/034-10-2011


SWMD Employee Name

Notes:

Helpful Tips

- ✓ Leave some space between the brown and green carts*
- ✓ Make sure carts are not blocked by vehicles*
- ✓ Paper bags are okay*

*Questions? Call the Organics Recycling Hotline:
207-6428 or visit www.sanantonio.gov/swmd*

**City of San Antonio
ORGANICS
RECYCLING**

- Solid Waste Inspectors
- Tags are placed on cart to educate residents

Compost Giveaway



Residents within the pilot areas received an invitation

Organics Recycling Survey

- Random and anonymous surveys conducted by local university
 - Pilot Pre-Implementation
 - Pilot Post-Implementation
 - City-Wide to estimate demand

Organics Recycling Survey

- Pre-Implementation Survey to establish baseline perception
 - Most residents favor the program
 - Most organic material goes into garbage
 - 49% would use it weekly
 - 32% would use it occasionally

Organics Recycling Survey

- Post-Implementation Survey to gauge cart usage and issues
 - Green cart mainly used for yard waste
 - Minimal issues with odors, rodents, or space constraints
 - 90% little to no effort required
 - 80% set cart out at least every other week; 15% used the cart occasionally; 5% didn't use the cart

Organics Recycling Survey

- City-Wide Survey to estimate demand
 - Respondents who already knew of program were more than twice as likely to subscribe
 - Most interest in NW and NE areas
 - 23% of residents would subscribe
 - 48% knew of the program
 - 28% by news
 - 11% by friends or family

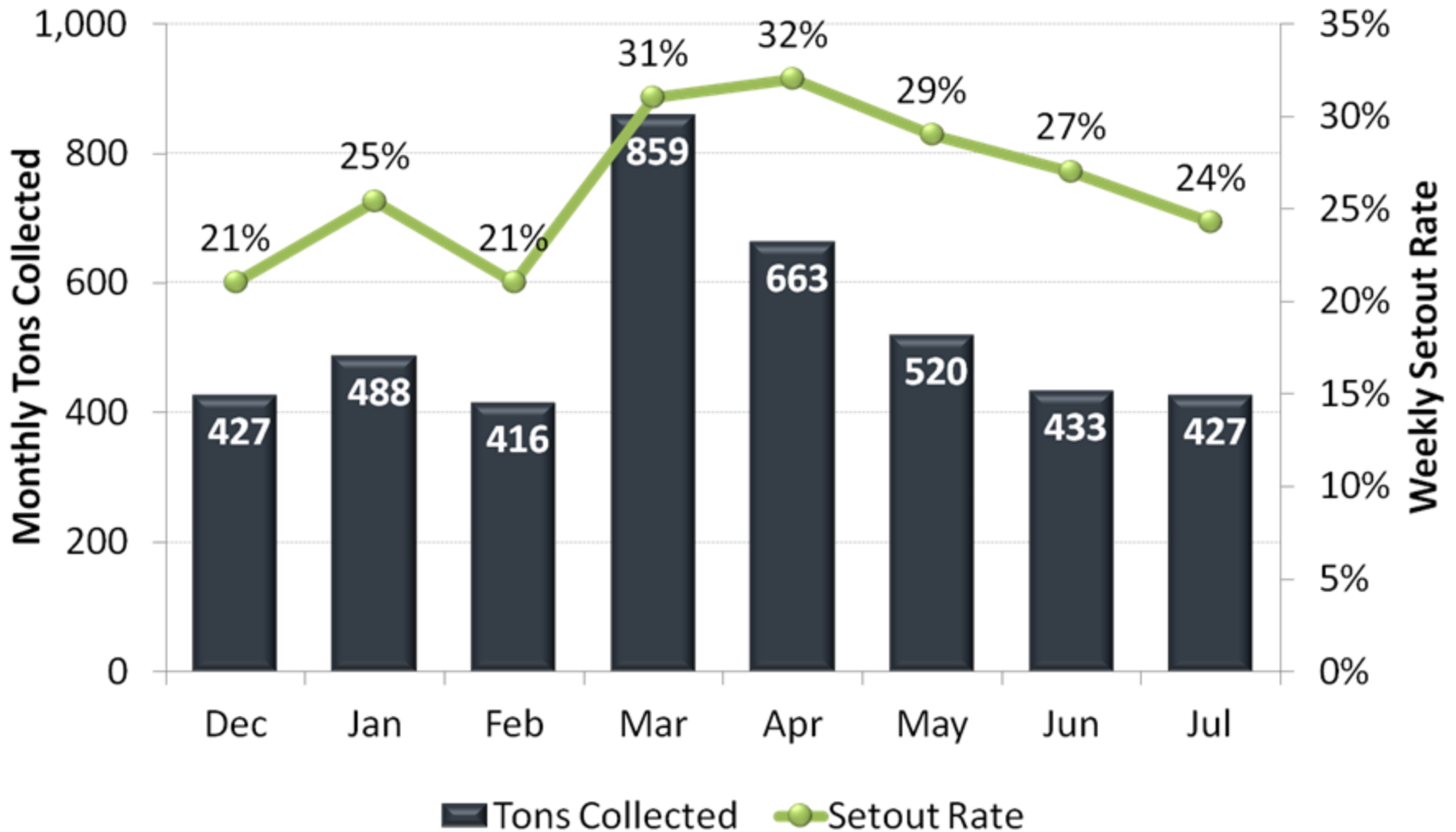
Results – Pilot Program

- Commenced Fall 2011
- 30,000 homes got a green cart
- 1,800 homes per route
- 425 lbs per account
- 26% average setout
- 1% towards recycle rate

Results – Subscription Program

- Transitioned Pilot Spring 2013
- Offered to 120,000 homes
- \$3 monthly fee
- 3,600 homes per route
- 750 lbs per account
- 17% subscription rate

Seasonality



Compost Facility - New Earth



Processing the Loads



Waste Characterization

Category	Characteristic	Cubic Yards	Lbs.
Contamination	Metal	0.58	60
Contamination	Plastic	6.25	546
Contamination	Styrofoam [®]	2.17	118
Contamination	Other	8.30	1,747
Organic	Food	1.29	518
Organic	Paper	24.82	2,728
Organic	Yard Waste	412.01	151,723
TOTALS		455.42	157,440
Contamination by Volume	3.80%		
Contamination by Weight	1.60%		

Future Outlook

- Variable Rate Pricing with Organics
- FY2015 Program Development
- FY2016 Implementation
- FY2017 Complete Implementation
- Expected contribution to 60% recycling rate goal by 2025
 - 15% - 20% from Organics Recycling

Nick Galus

City of San Antonio

Solid Waste Management Department

nicholas.galus@sanantonio.gov

210.207.6443

