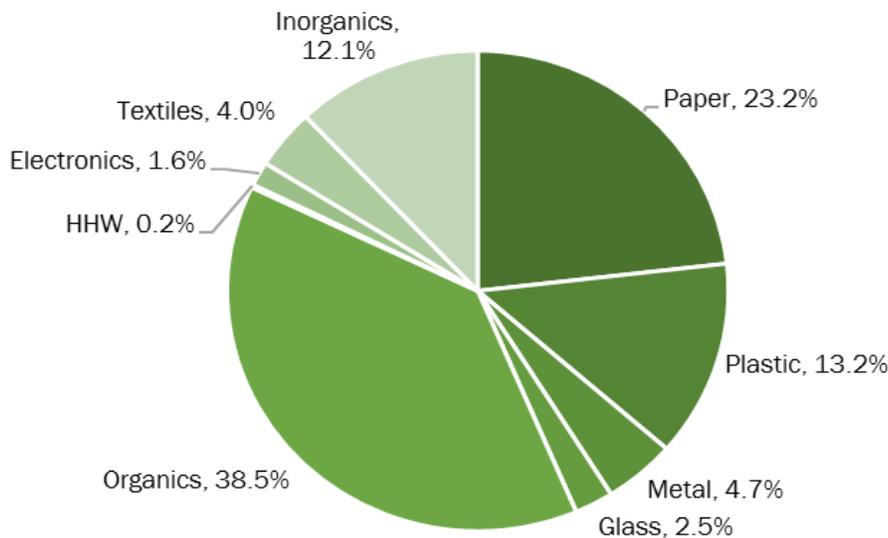


Waste

Solid waste refers to the things we throw away or waste. When waste goes to landfills, it breaks down and generates greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gas emissions from the disposal of solid waste contributed 2% to Columbia’s 2015 inventory. There are opportunities to reduce emissions associated with various parts of the lifecycle of goods and services, including manufacturing, use, and disposal. Overall, reducing consumption is the most effective way to reduce waste. For waste that is generated, diverting materials to recycling or compost can reduce remaining emissions.

Although not measured in the City’s greenhouse gas inventory, consuming goods carries a significant carbon footprint—notably from meat consumption, home construction, and the purchase of furniture, clothing, and vehicles. Reducing material consumption, through green purchases, reuse, and repair, reduces consumption emissions.

Caption: The majority of waste generated by Columbia residents and businesses could be composted or recycled, as indicated by findings from the last statewide waste composition study (Source: MDNR 2016-2017 Statewide Waste Composition Study; data for Columbia Landfill; “inorganics” largely includes construction and demolition waste).



Strategies and Actions

Waste reduction strategies involve both behavior change and access to recycling and composting. Understanding the waste stream is essential to identifying opportunities to divert waste from the landfill, so strategies include regular waste characterization. To incentivize waste diversion, strategies focus on requiring all homes have access to recycling, construction and demolition waste is properly managed, and rates are structured to encourage recycling.

Reducing emissions associated with consumption and the lifecycle management of products include appropriately disposing of appliances using hydrofluorocarbons, reusing and repairing damaged appliances, and salvaging usable materials from demolition.

Promotional and instructional materials on how to reduce waste, reuse materials, and recycle goods will be needed to successfully implement the CAAP.

Goal W-1. Reduce waste generation.

Strategy W-1.1: Encourage reuse.		
W-1.1.1	Create a reuse program for curbside collection and purchase a warehouse to store and sell items that are not accepted by local non-profit groups.	Priority
W-1.1.2	Partner with Restore/Habitat for Humanity for demolition waste pickup and reuse.	Priority

Goal W-2. Increase diversion.

Strategy W-2.1: Reduce landfill waste through customer education, rate structures and increasing City recycling programs.		
W-2.1.1	Use roll carts for all single-family home solid waste services, excluding bulky item collection. Customers can pick the type and size of roll carts for their property, but they are only billed based on the size of their trash roll cart.	Priority
W-2.1.2	Restructure all solid waste rates to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill.	Priority
W-2.1.3	Require multi-family homes to offer on-site recycling for residents.	Priority
Strategy W-2.2: Expand composting participation and operation.		
W-2.2.1	Study the short and long term cost/benefit of a City composting program.	Priority
W-2.2.2	Offer 5 days/week (Monday through Friday) collection for food waste and certified compostable material at businesses. Change the type of compost operation or increase land allocation to handle additional feedstock, as needed.	Other
W-2.2.3	Offer compost roll carts and dumpsters to all residential properties (single-family and multi-family) for yard waste, food waste, and certified compostable products. This service is optional for all residential properties.	Other
Strategy W-2.3: Divert construction and demolition waste.		
W-2.3.1	Research management practices of construction and demolition waste diverted from the landfill.	Priority
W-2.3.2	Promote a C&D recycling industry in Columbia by preparing ordinance and construction permit changes that would be implemented if a C&D recycling company wishes to operate in the Columbia area. City staff will actively seek C&D recycling companies that might be interested in the Columbia area following the proposed policy changes.	Other
Strategy W-2.4: Require and incentivize recycling.		
W-2.4.1	Offer positive reinforcement and indirect financial incentives to encourage businesses and residents to divert material from the landfill.	Priority
W-2.4.2	Develop and enforce ordinances requiring commercial customers to recycle material streams like cardboard, paper, beverage containers, etc.	Priority
W-2.4.3	Offer quarterly curbside bulky-items pick up for residents and businesses.	Other

Goal W-3. Improve waste system management.

Strategy W-3.1: Encourage proper disposal of products containing high Global Warming Potential (GWP) gases.		
W-3.1.1	Research and add best practices for recycling hydrofluorocarbons (potent GHG used in refrigeration and air conditioning) in next CAAP update	Priority
Strategy W-3.2: Upgrade solid waste facilities.		
W-3.2.1	Remodel and upgrade the City's Material Recovery Facility to increase processing capacity, add sortation technology, and provide space for additional material types to be recycled, including (but not limited to) e-waste, mattresses, cartons, and household hazardous wastes.	Priority
W-3.2.2	Research new technologies for enhanced landfill methane capture.	Other
Strategy W-3.3: Track waste diversion.		
W-3.3.1	Conduct a comprehensive waste composition study every five years.	Priority