



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Waste Minimization and Diversion Efforts in Maryland



Stakeholder Meeting #2 – June 23, 2021

Presenters: Land Management Administration (LMA)

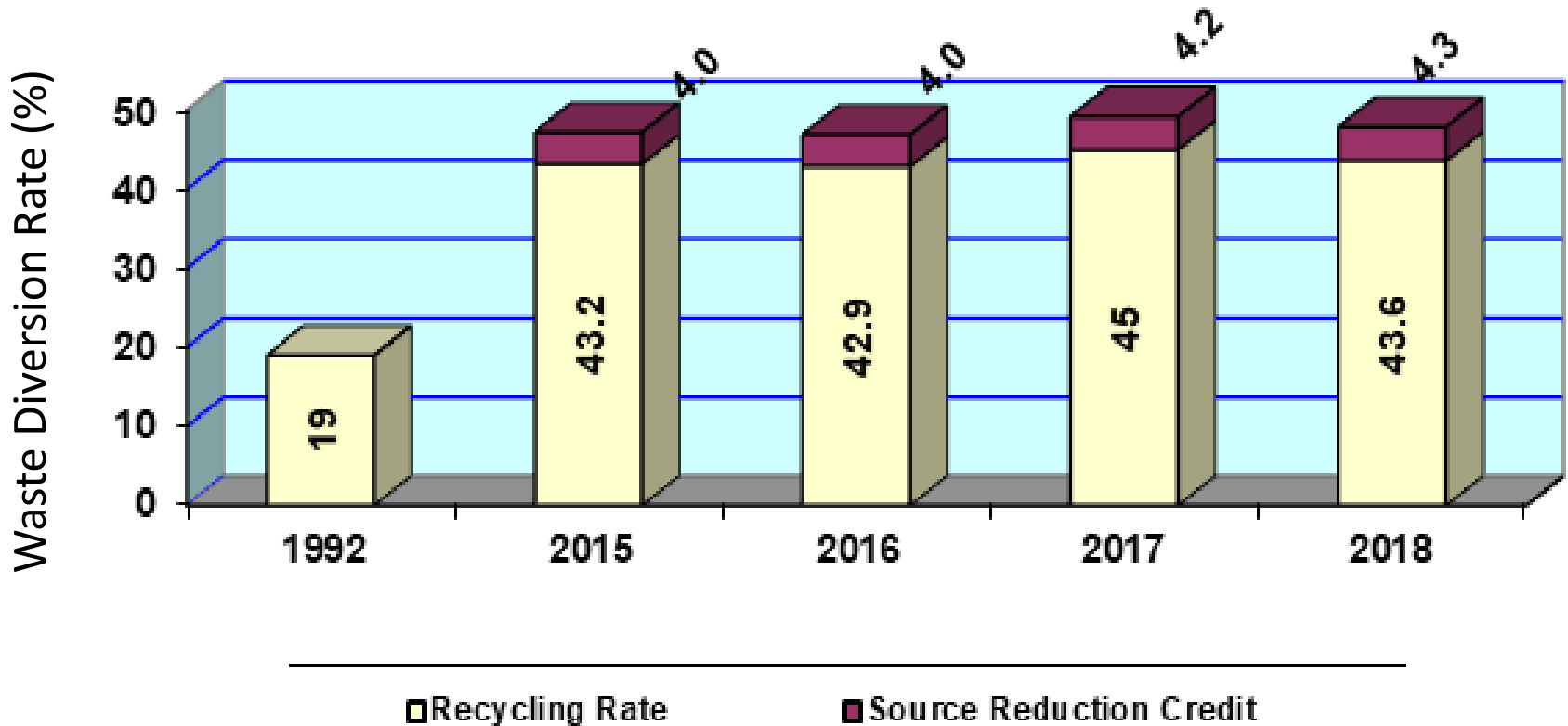


Maryland Recycling Act

- In 1988, the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) (Chapter 536) mandated that Maryland reduce the overall amount of solid waste disposal in the state through improved management, education, and regulation
 - Each county, including Baltimore City, is required to develop and periodically update a recycling plan addressing certain topics
 - A county with a population greater than 150,000 is required to recycle 35% or more of its waste, and a county with a population of less than 150,000 is required to recycle 20% or more of its waste



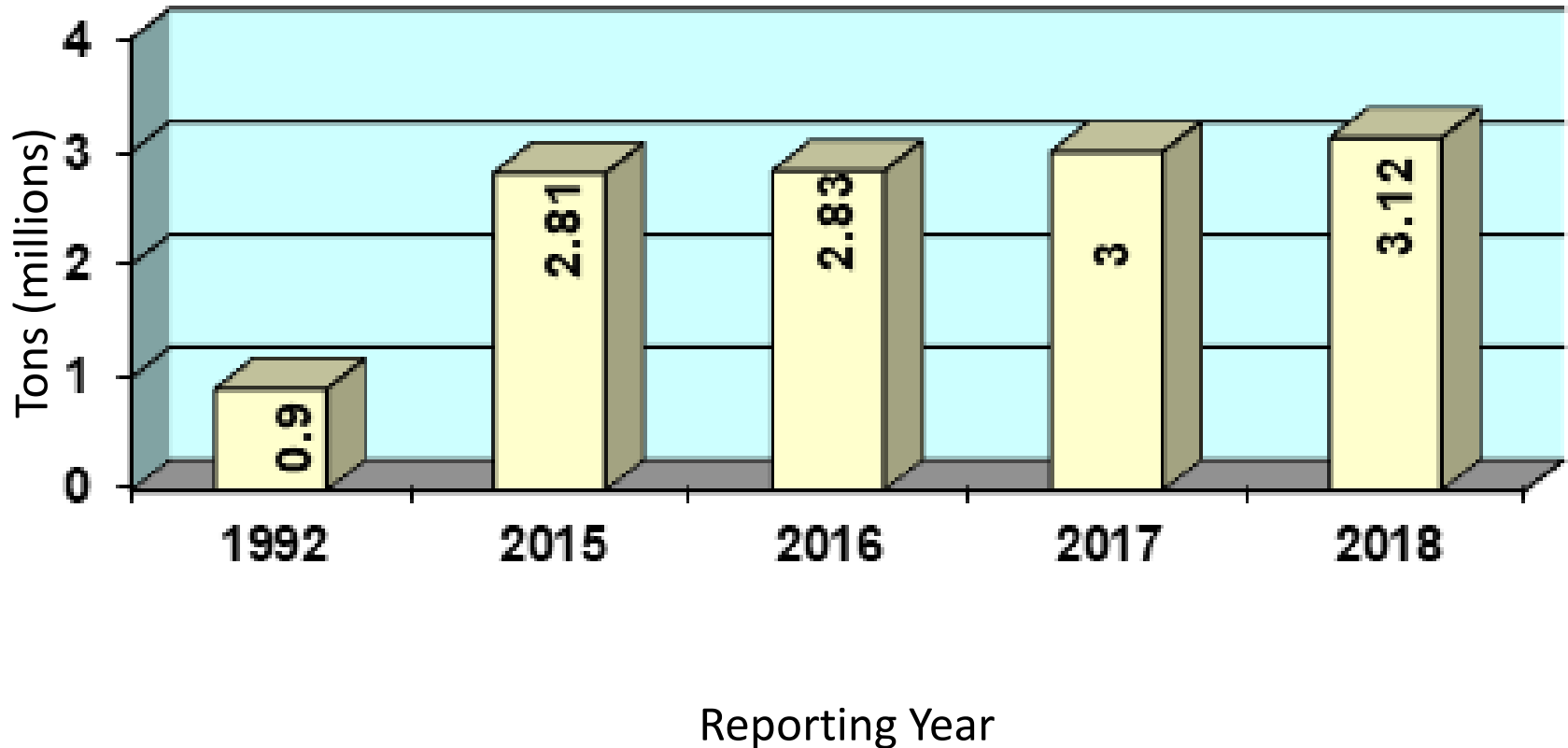
Waste Diversion Rates



Source: MDE – LMA, Waste Diversion and Utilization Program - Maryland State, County and City Recycling



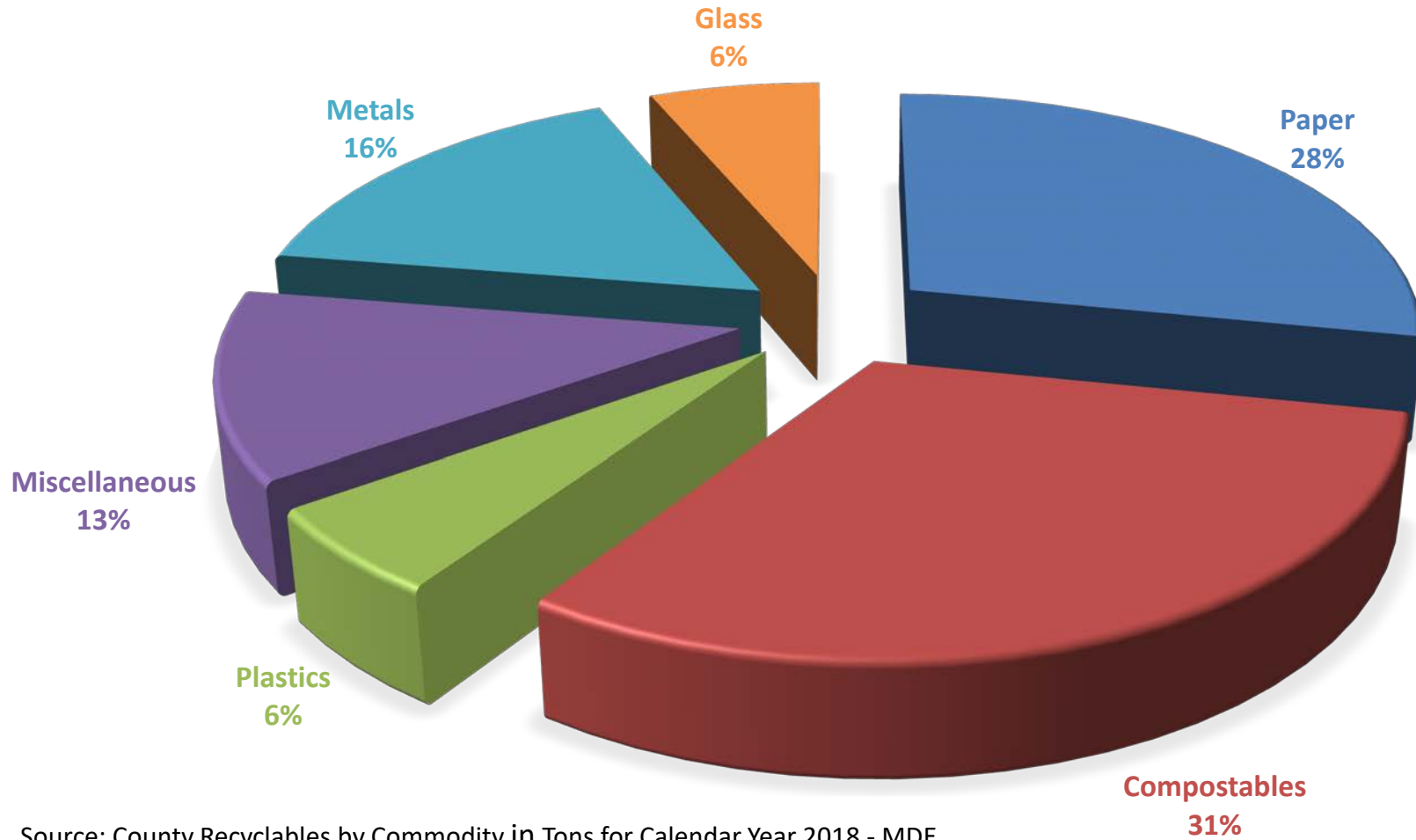
Recycling Tonnage





Materials Recycled

MRA – RECYCLED MATERIALS BREAKDOWN - 2018



Source: County Recyclables by Commodity in Tons for Calendar Year 2018 - MDE



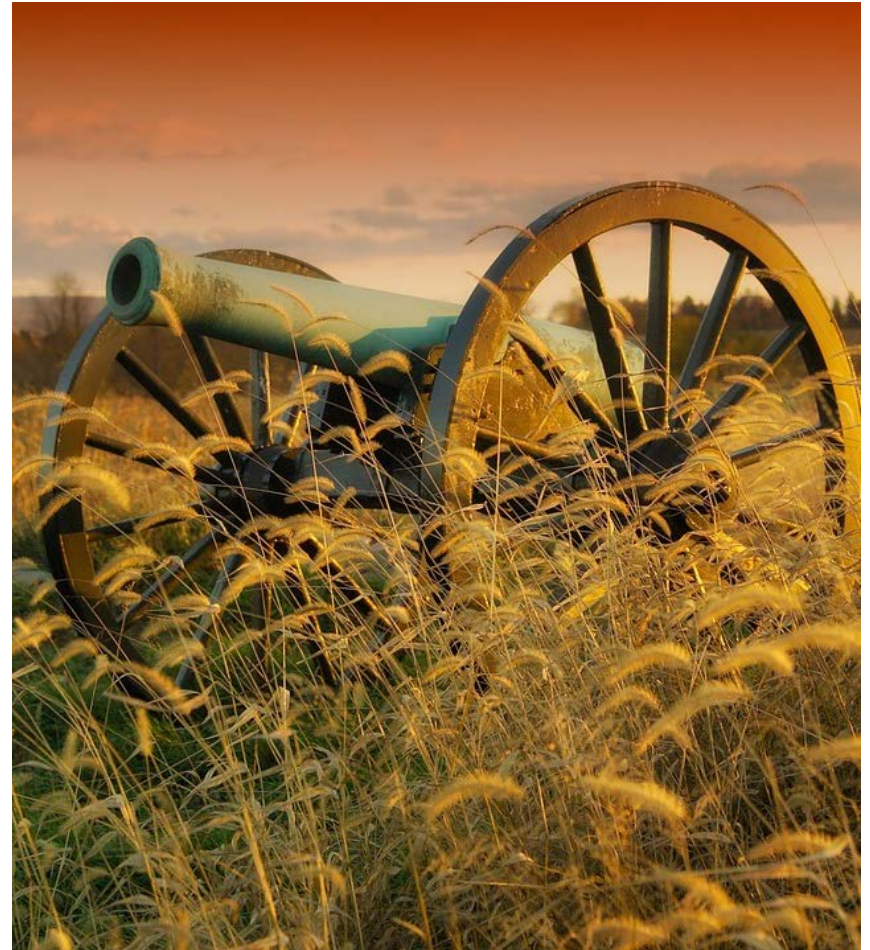
Sustainable Materials Management

- On June 27, 2017, Governor Hogan signed Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, *Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland*. The order emphasizes collaboration across state and local agencies, the private recycling sector, and citizens in order to establish and make meaningful progress toward waste diversion goals
- The executive order establishes a sustainable materials management policy for the state as follows:
 - Minimize the environmental impacts of materials management over their entire life cycles, including from product design to production, consumption, and end of-life management;
 - Conserve and extend existing in-State disposal capacity through source reduction, reuse, and recycling;
 - Capture and make optimal use of recovered resources, including raw materials, water, energy, and nutrients; and
 - Work toward a system of materials management that is both environmentally and economically sustainable in the long term



Sustainable Materials Management

- Sustainable materials management goals and metrics developed under the EO are available on MDE's web page at: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Waste-Reduction-and-Resource-Recovery-Executive-Order.aspx>





Waste Diversion in Maryland

Most recent
activities are as
follows....



Current and Upcoming Initiatives

- Improved data collection and tracking
 - Waste characterization study to identify and target the materials still being disposed in landfills (July 2017)
 - Expanded sustainable materials management goals and metrics (April 2019)
 - Efforts to encourage increased reporting of commercial recycling through online voluntary reporting (underway)
- Diverting food scraps from disposal
 - Composting regulations and general permit (22 operations currently permitted)
 - Organics diversion and infrastructure study (July 2019)
 - Anaerobic digestion regulatory guidance (July 2019)
 - Food waste minimization toolkit for Maryland schools (March 2020)
 - Food Recovery Summits (2016, 2018, and upcoming in December 2021)
 - New food residuals diversion requirement for certain large generators of food scraps (Ch. 439 of 2021)



Current and Upcoming Initiatives

- Recycling Business and Markets Development
 - Sustainable Materials Management Maryland (private sector-led group)
 - Greater coordination between Commerce and MDE on recycling business and permitting assistance
 - Sustainable materials management representative named at Commerce to assist prospective recycling businesses
 - Recycling market development
 - Viable markets and end uses for recycled materials are critical to diverting more material from the waste stream.
 - New market development program established under Ch. 289 of 2021
 - MDE’s Office of Recycling will promote the development of markets for recycled materials
 - Conduct research, make recommendations, identify market development opportunities, provide resources to businesses, establish the “Maryland is Open for Recycling Business Campaign”

A bright sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, casting a strong glow and creating a lens flare effect across the sky. The sky is a deep, clear blue, and several large, fluffy white cumulus clouds are scattered across the scene, particularly on the left and right sides. The overall atmosphere is bright and clear.

QUESTIONS ...