



ZERO WASTE VASHON

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- All volunteer organization
- Started in 2014
- Working to help Vashon become a waste to resource community
- Helping Islanders to rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle

WHAT IS ZERO WASTE?

- Reduce consumption to reduce the amount of waste created.
- Use what we currently think of as “waste” as resources to make new products



HOW DOES ZERO WASTE WORK?

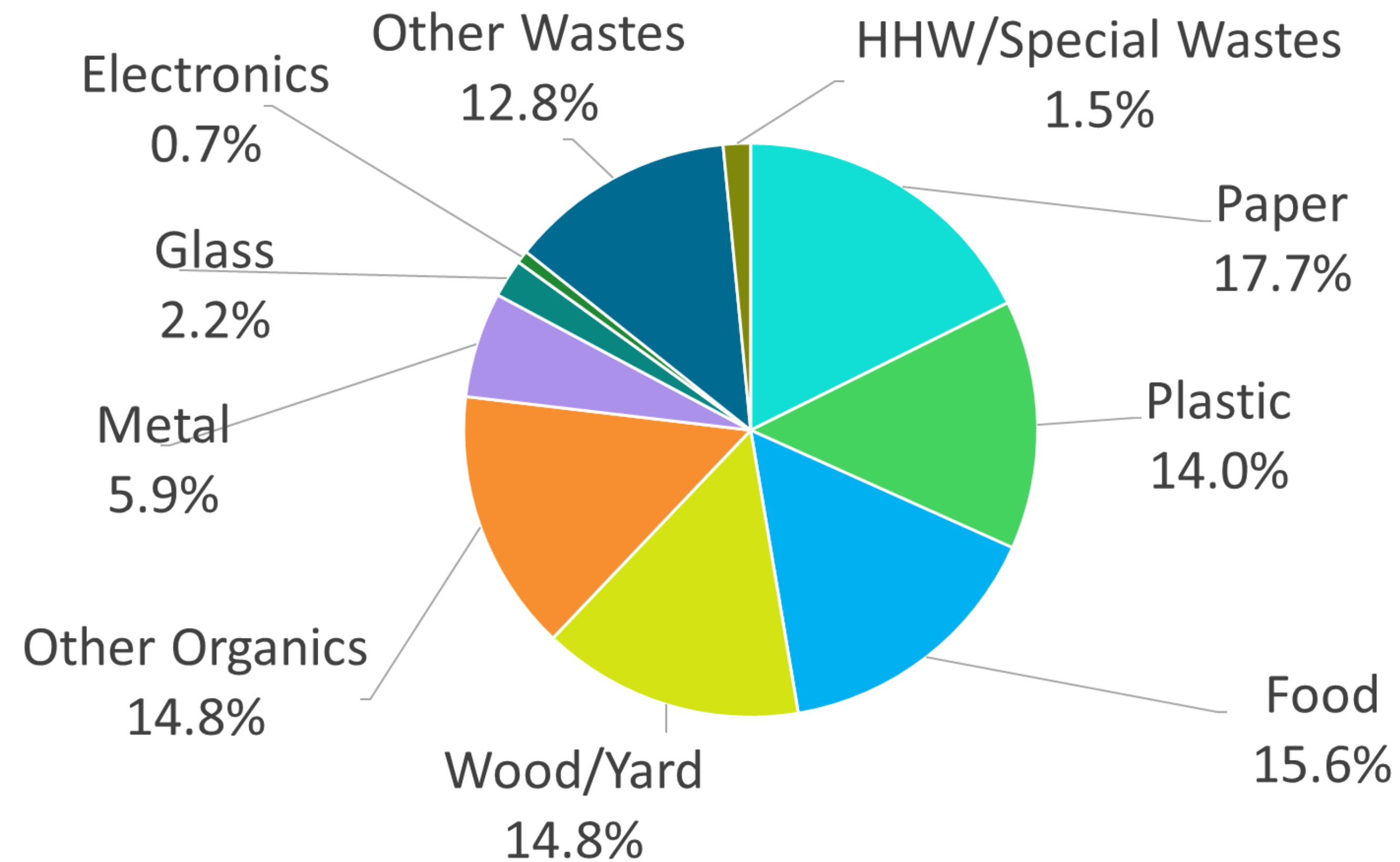
- Instead of a linear economy that extracts the planet's resources, uses them (sometimes only for minutes) and throws them away...
- A circular economy reuses or recycles discarded materials to make new products



USING OUR WASTE AS A RESOURCE CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT

- The production, sale and disposal of household goods and services accounts for 47% of greenhouse gas emissions
- Extractive industries cause deforestation, habitat loss, displacement of native populations
- Manufacturing uses and creates toxic chemicals that pollute our air and water
- Microplastics are poisoning our oceans

WASTE ON VASHON



ZVV AREAS OF FOCUS

- Community Compost
- Plastics
- Hard to Recycle
- Reduce/Reuse

COMPOST

Why It Matters

- Yard Waste and Food make up over 30% of our total waste stream
- When sent to rot in a landfill, these materials create methane, a powerful greenhouse gas
- When these valuable materials are properly composted, they do not create methane
- Compost builds healthy soils which serve as a powerful carbon sink



COMMUNITY COMPOST FACILITY

- Yard and food waste collected at the Vashon transfer station are currently trucked 28 miles to be composted at Cedar Grove
- Compost is then shipped 28 miles back to the Island to be sold
- Food and yard waste are a resource that can easily be turned into a valuable product right here on Vashon
- ZWV is working with King County to create a Community scale compost facility on Vashon



COMPOST FACILITY MILESTONES

- King County Solid Waste Division conducts a Vashon Compost Facility Feasibility Study. The study was completed in December 2021.
- The study concludes that having Vashon Community compost facility makes sense both economically and in terms of Greenhouse Gas emissions.
- KCSWD conducts a survey to gauge Vashon's interest in Composting. Nearly 25% of Vashon households respond.
- 96% of respondents were in favor of a Community Compost facility.
- 58% said they would definitely or probably sign up for curbside organics collection.
- Thank you so much for letting the County know that Vashon supports Community Compost!

COMMUNITY COMPOST NEXT STEPS

- Public Meeting to share results held June 7, 2022.
- KCSWD has assigned engineers to investigate establishment of a Community compost facility at the Transfer Station/Landfill property.
- KCSWD has hired consultants to determine requirements a location would need to meet.
- KC staff/consultants are determining steps required to offer curbside organics collection on Vashon.

PLASTICS

- 8-10% of the total oil supply goes into making plastic
- When plastics are not recycled, more oil must be drilled to create more plastics
- Oil spills have devastating effects on marine life
- Plastic production uses and creates toxic materials
- Plastics take hundreds of years to degrade



MONTHLY SYTRO RECYCLING EVENTS

- 400+ households a month
- 25-35 volunteers (150-200 hrs) for each event
- 60 cubic yards of Styrofoam and plastic film a month (4 Food Bank truck loads)
- 90+ cubic yards of other plastics a month
- Island Businesses have started to participate in this program
- Actively working with King County Solid Waste Division to have these items collected at the Transfer Station



VOLUNTEERS!

ZWV is thankful to have so many wonderful volunteers.

We invite you to join us!

- Help for a few hours at an event
- Be part of a project team
- Serve on a Committee
- Join our Board

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