



**San Jose's
Multi-Family Program
Counting Down to Zero Waste**

**US Composting Council 2011
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City of San Jose**

Presentation Overview

- **San Jose Background**
- **Multi-Family Challenges**
- **Program History**
- **Zero Waste Initiative**
- **New Compostables Program**
- **Program Results**



San Jose Background

- **10th largest city in US**
- **3rd largest in California**
LA is #1 & San Diego #2
- **1,000,000 residents**
- **178 square miles**
- **70% waste diversion rate**



Multi-Family Solid Waste Overview

- **96,000 multi-family households**
- **3,300 complexes**
- **90,000 tons of multi-family waste generated annually**
- **Exclusive agreements through 2021**
 - **GreenTeam of San Jose: Collection & Recycling Processing**
 - **GreenWaste Recovery: Organics Processing**



Program History – Recycling Begins 1993

- **Multi-family recycling program established 1993**
- **Limited waste diversion (12% max)**
- **Multi-Family Challenges**
 - High resident turnover
 - Outreach challenges
 - Inconsistent property management
 - Disconnect with bill payers



Program History – 2002 Commingled Program

- Implemented commingled recycling program 2002
- Fully-commingled recycling in carts & dumpsters
- Increased outreach
- Diversion increased from 12% to 18%
- Contract requirement for 35% diversion



Program History – 2003 Compostables Pilot

- **New compostables pilot proposed by GreenTeam in 2003**
- **1/4 of garbage transferred to Z-Best composting facility**
- **Recyclables manually removed, organics composted**
- **35% diversion target met**



San José Green Vision

Achieve these GOALS by 2022:

1. 25,000 Clean tech jobs
2. 50% Reduction energy use per capita
3. 100% Renewable electrical power
4. 50 million sq-ft retrofitted green bldgs
- 5. Zero Waste & waste to energy**
6. 100% wastewater beneficially re-used
7. Sustainability in General Plan
8. 100% alternative fuel City vehicles
9. 100,000 new trees planted
10. 100 miles of interconnected trails



Expanded Multi-Family Compostables Program

- **Opportunity to Expand Existing Pilot**
 - Waste stream rich in organics & recyclables
 - New GreenWaste processing facility
 - Existing collection and processing contracts
- **Expanded Program Began July 2008**
 - All multi-family garbage delivered to GreenWaste MRF for recyclables processing
 - Organics transferred to Z-Best facility for composting



Recyclables Processing

GreenWaste Facility

- Located in central San Jose, near GreenTeam corp yard
- 42,000 square foot building
- New state of the art equipment
 - Bulk Handling Systems
 - Unique side-by-side single-stream & MSW sort lines
- 300-kw solar-powered system



Recyclables Processing

- **Front loaders deliver garbage directly to Green Waste MRF**
- **Recyclables Recovered**
 - **28.9% recovery rate**
- **Some processing residue removed**
- **Remaining material prepared for transfer to Z-Best composting facility**



Organics Processing

Z-Best Composting Facility

- Located in Gilroy, 35 miles south of central San Jose
- 150 acre facility
- 1,500 tpd permitted capacity
- 600 tpd “in-vessel” limit for food waste & MSW



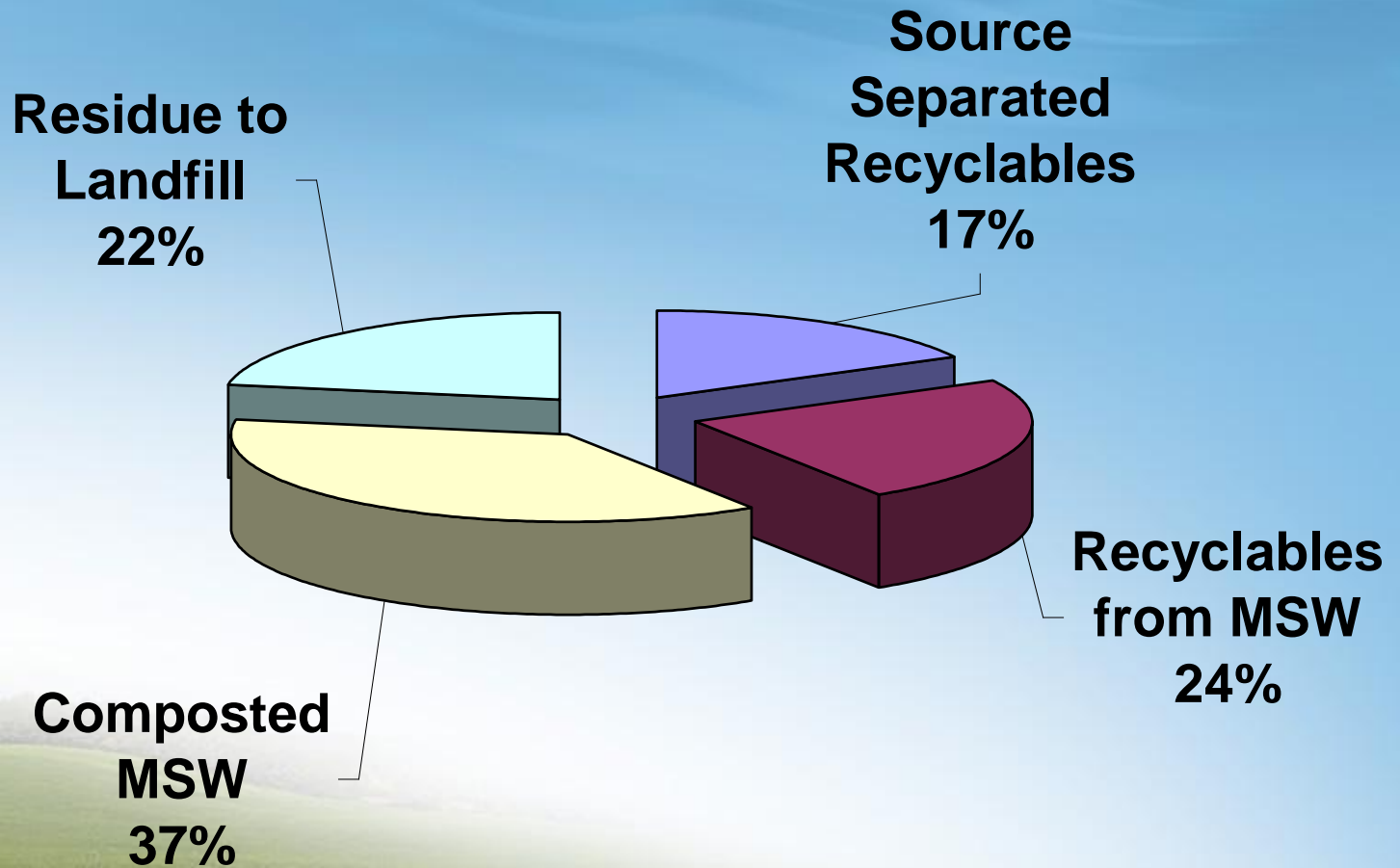
Organics Processing

- **Composting Process**
 - Composted for 4 months, in-vessel
 - Cured for 4 weeks in open windrows
 - Screenings remove film plastics and other contaminants

- **Compost Product**
 - Finished compost marketed to local landscapers



78% Multi-Family Diversion (July 2008 – December 2010)



Program Benefits

- **Preserves landfill capacity, lower disposal costs**
- **Transportation efficiencies**
- **Provides 65 new “green” jobs**
- **Avoided Mandates / Enforcement**
 - **Less burden on property managers, program invisible to residents**
 - **Buy-in from California Apartment Association**
- **Low cost, moderate rate increase**



Next Steps for Zero Waste

- **Increased multi-family recycling efforts**
 - Policy of highest & best use, traditional recycling encouraged
 - “Free” recycling available to all
 - Pilots and Rewards Program to boost recycling participation
- **Single-family pilots**
 - Food waste collection
 - Back-end processing



A close-up photograph of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, gently cupping a small, vibrant green plant with many leaves. The plant is growing out of a dark, rich soil. The hands are positioned as if they are carefully holding or presenting the plant. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the plant.

Thank You!

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