

# *National Restaurant Association and USCC* Joining Together to Expand Composting in Restaurants



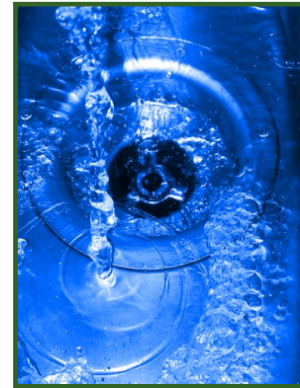
**US** Composting  
Council



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# Overview

- About the National Restaurant
- Food waste: size of the problem
- NRA's Conserve initiative
  - Partnership with USCC
  - Duke University report
- Virginia Beach
- Next steps

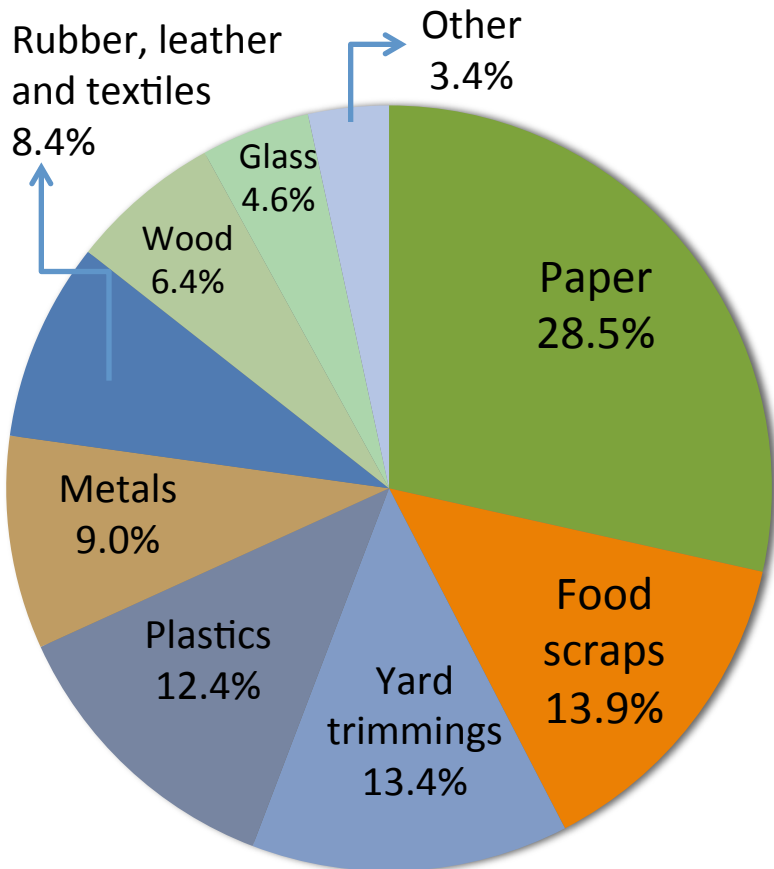




[www.restaurant.org](http://www.restaurant.org)

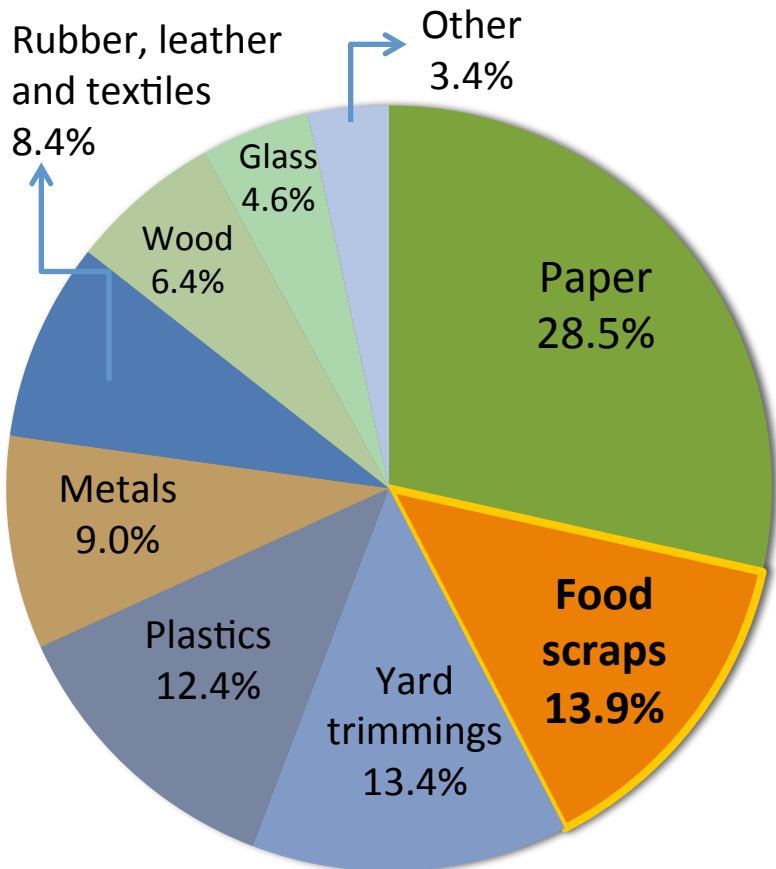
# Size of the Problem

**Total MSW Generation (by material), 2010  
250 Million Tons (before recycling)**



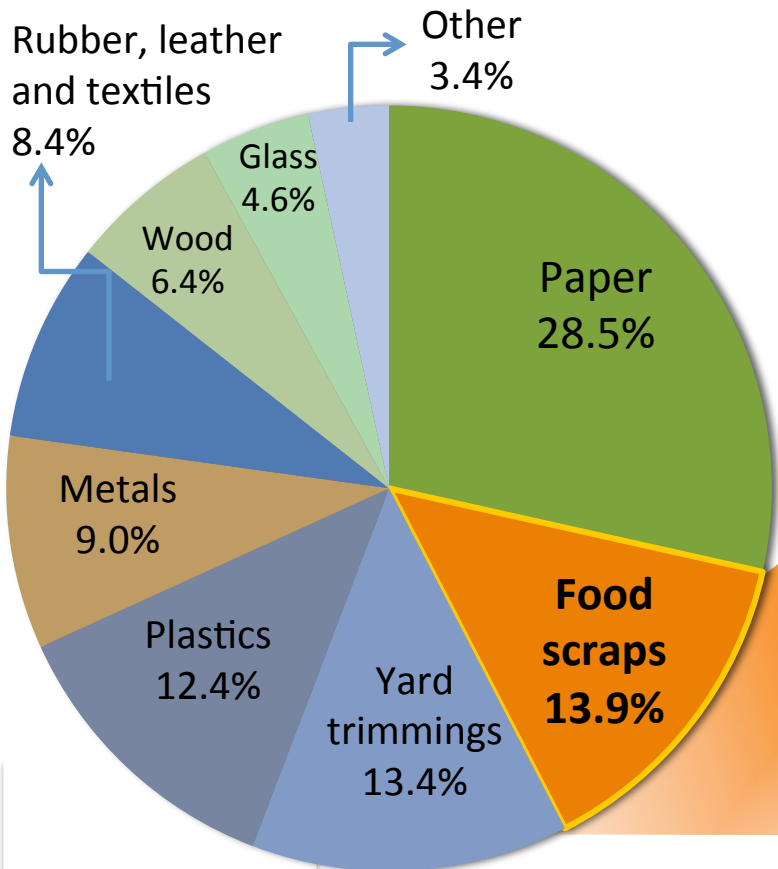
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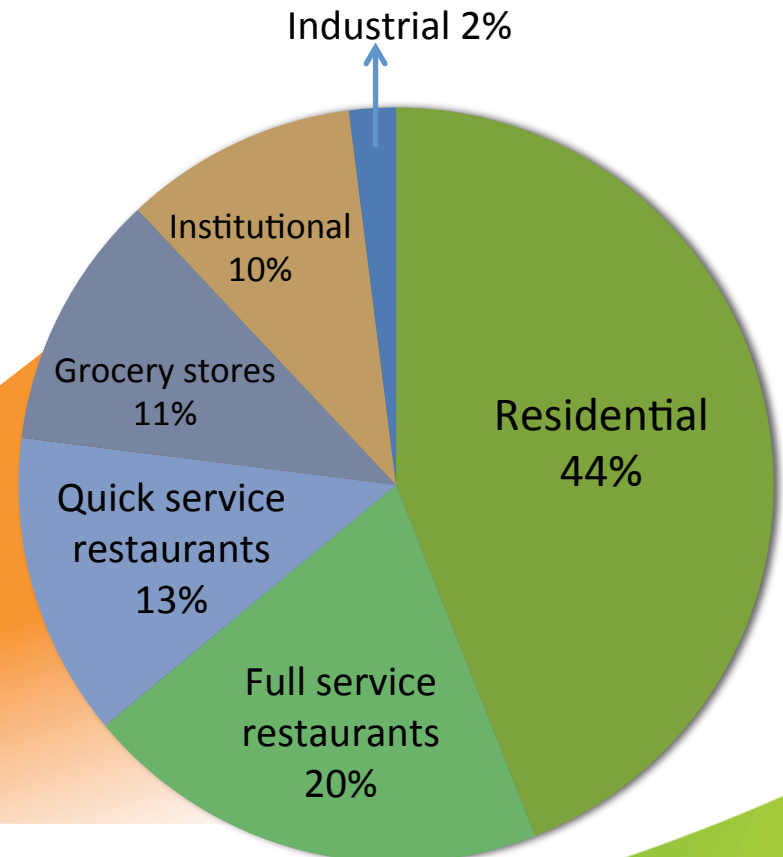


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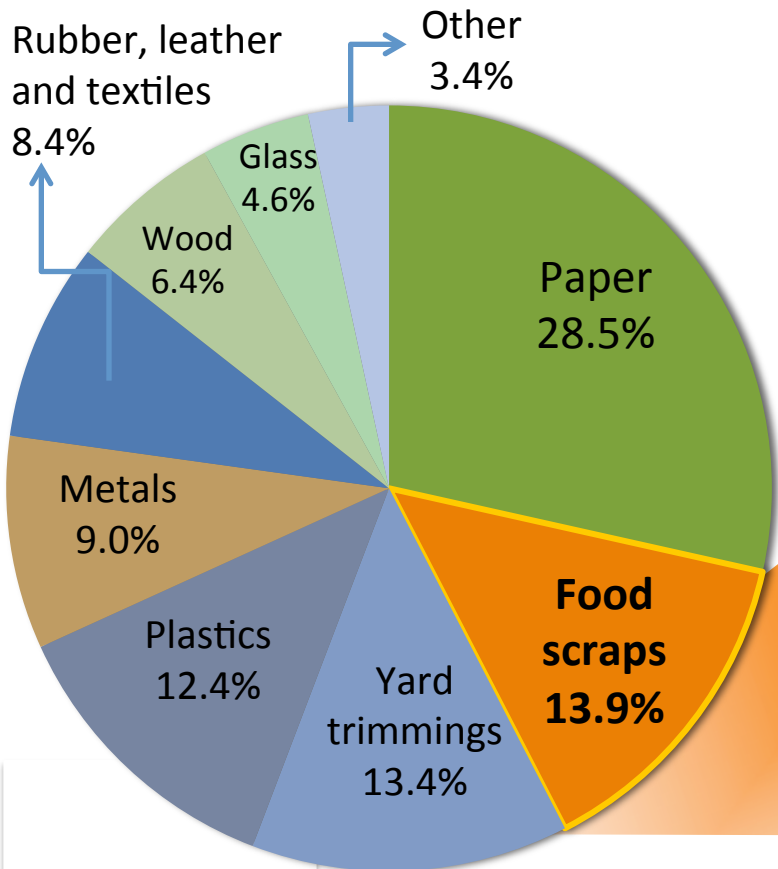
**Food Waste by Sector, 2011**



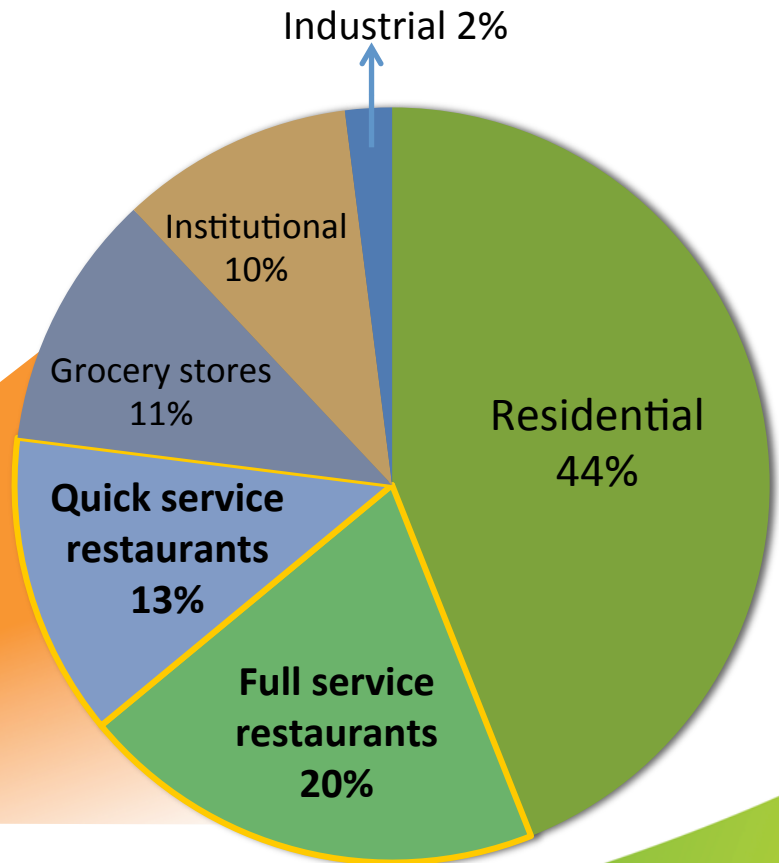
Sources: EPA; BSR, "Food Waste in the US Tier 1 Assessment," 2011

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# Conserve Sustainability Education Program

- Web-based portal for restaurateurs
- More than 90 best practices to track progress
- More than 65 instructional videos
- Based upon third-party resources (e.g., EPA, DOE, Food Service Technology Center)





# Partnership with USCC

- Memorandum of understanding
  - Share education resources
  - Find collaborative opportunities
  - Promote the role composting plays in waste reduction
  - Promote the Conserve Sustainability Education Program
  - Demonstrate how compost leads to:
    - Improved soil structure
    - Better water quality
    - Reduced soil erosion

# Duke University Report

- **Clients:** US Composting Council (USCC) and National Restaurant Association (NRA)
- **Title:** Market Driven Analysis of Restaurant Composting
- Team of four students analyzed two policy questions:
  - What are the main state and local barriers to implementing a nationwide, market-driven restaurant composting program?
  - What market-driven, cost-effective policy options should the NRA and USCC pursue to overcome these barriers?

# Barriers for Increasing Composting

- Cost
  - Hauling, lease agreements, and Training/education
- Access
  - Lack of composting facilities, NAICS classification
- Awareness
  - “Yuck factor,” employee & consumer habits
- Policy
  - Overturning yard waste bans, absence of state-level laws

# Composting Uptake Goals

1. Minimize composting costs for restaurateurs
2. Improve restaurant access to compost facilities and resources
3. Promote awareness of composting
4. Create a favorable market environment for composting
5. Maximize institutional feasibility for NRA and USCC

# Methods to Overcome Barriers

Implement in a phased approach:

1. Demand-side policy
2. Supply-side policy
3. Anchoring institutions
4. Education program
5. Food waste audits
6. Member benefits

USCC and NRA are outlining how we can work together to implement these efforts (both short- and long-term)

# Examples of Implementation



**MCGILL**

# What Croc's Composting Shows Us

- Takes champion
- Anchor institutions key to collecting materials
- Cost is a major hurdle (bags very expensive)
- Compost facility is too far away
  - SPSA closed its yard-waste center in Virginia Beach 2007
- Long term sustainability of initiative in question...

# Zero Waste Zones



- Atlanta program
- Reaching out to local businesses
- Some challenges with composting but strategizing solutions
- Second Duke research report:
  - Looking at city policies to get Durham, NC to “zero waste”
  - Began research Jan. 2013
  - Final report in April 2013



# Next Steps for 2013

- Collect information and best practices
- Develop implementation roadmap
- Collaborate to install in-the-ground projects
- Map local infrastructure available in the U.S.
- Zero Waste Zones
- Continue efforts with USCC

# Thank You

