



OVERVIEW OF PILOT RESIDENTIAL FOOD SCRAPS PROGRAM

September 20, 2016

WHY FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION IS IMPORTANT:

- Zero Waste Strategic Plan
- Meets Climate Action Plan, GHG reduction goals
- Largest remaining part of waste stream (33%)
- California Air Resources Board (CARB) hinting at residential food scraps mandate



THE PILOT WAS DESIGNED TO:

- Capture a high % of food scraps
- Convenient, accepted by residents
- Minimize cost increases
- Minimize number of extra trucks/carts



FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION PILOT OVERVIEW:

Details

- 500+ households
- 5 diverse neighborhoods
- March-December 2015
- All received:
 - 50/50 split cart
 - Countertop bucket
 - 2 boxes of compostable bags
- Outreach materials
 - Postcard, letter beforehand
 - Website with info

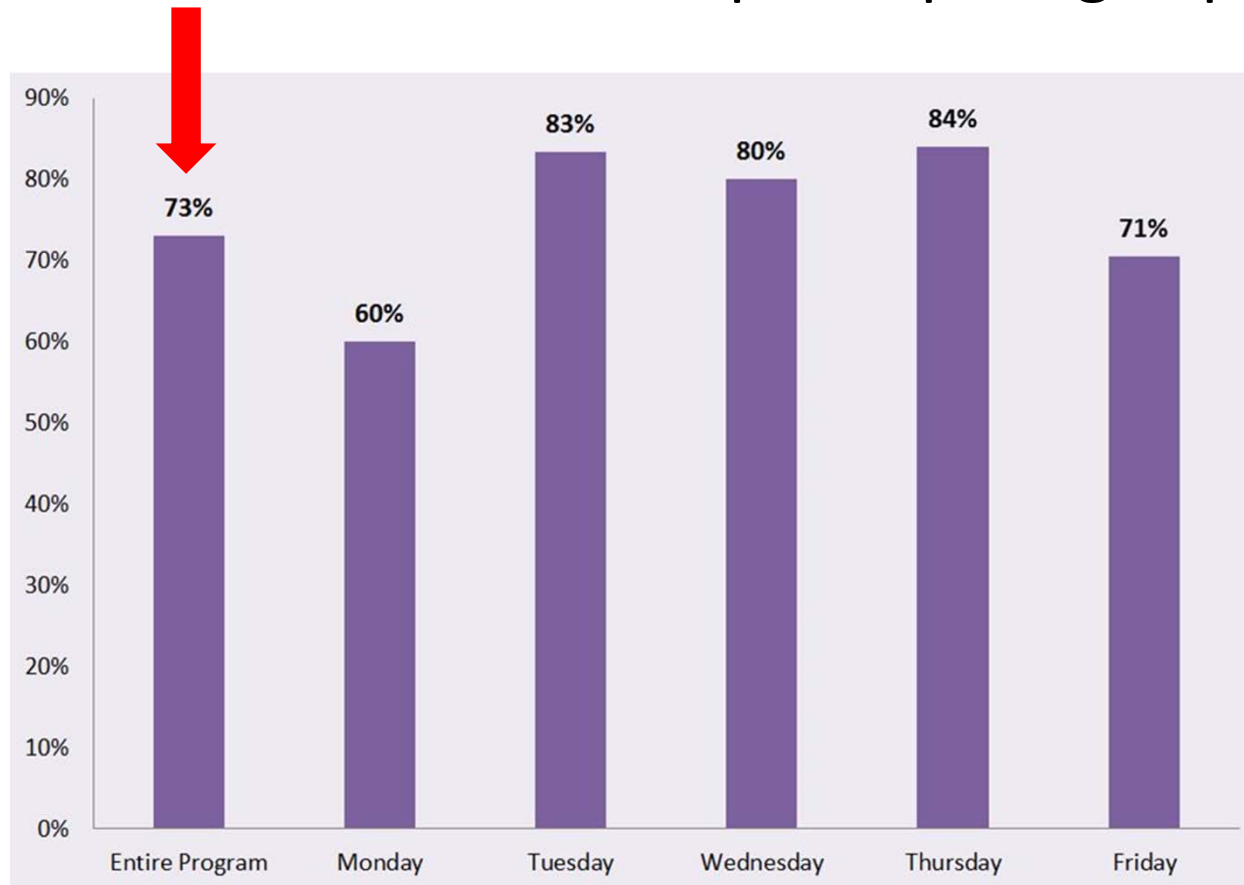


PILOT SET-OUT



OVERALL PARTICIPATION RATE WAS HIGH AT 73%

Percent of households participating in pilot



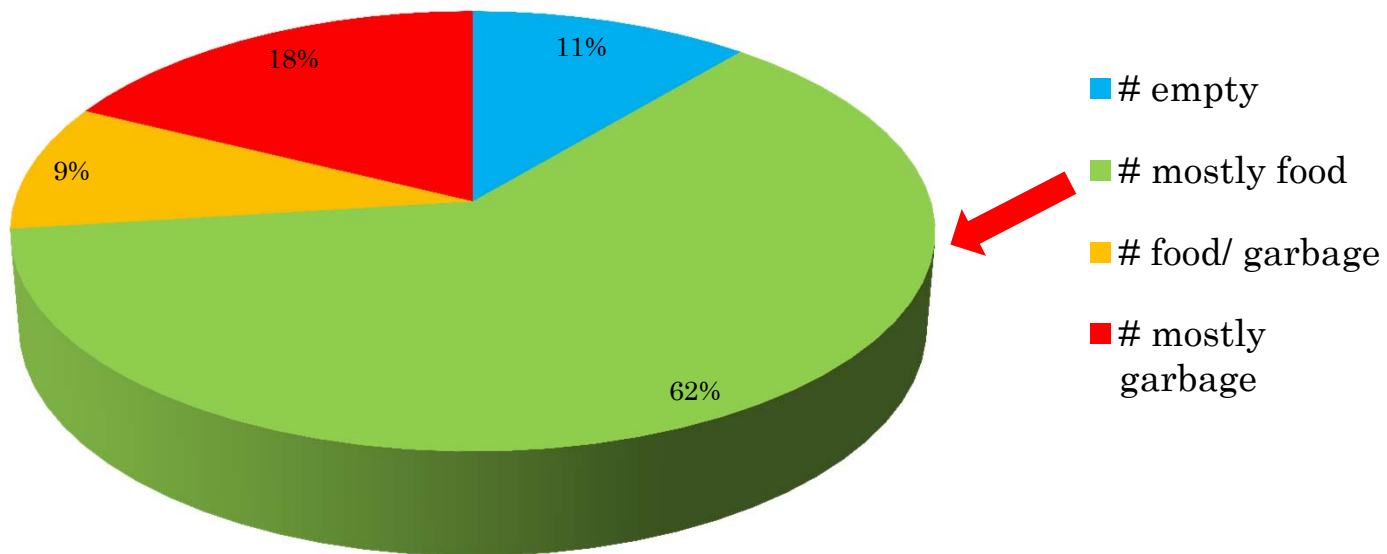
2009 EPA report: average participation rate for residential food scraps collection programs 35- 40%*.

*http://www.foodscrapsrecovery.com/epa_foodwastereport_ei_region5_v11_final.pdf



ROUTE AUDIT FOUND MOSTLY FOOD IN YELLOW SIDE OF CART:

Lid Flipping Results
62% of yellow side contents appeared to be food



ISSUES:

- 50/50 cart didn't have enough garbage space for some residents (6% of all carts audited)
- Majority of overfilled carts were on routes with high garbage generation



ADJUSTMENTS DURING PILOT TO COMPENSATE FOR OVERFILLED CARTS:

- On two high garbage generating routes:
 - Allowed extra garbage bag set-out for no charge and switch to non-compostable bags
- On one route the 50/50 cart was replaced with a **70/30 cart**
 - Participation went up: from **62%** to **81%** with the 70/30 cart



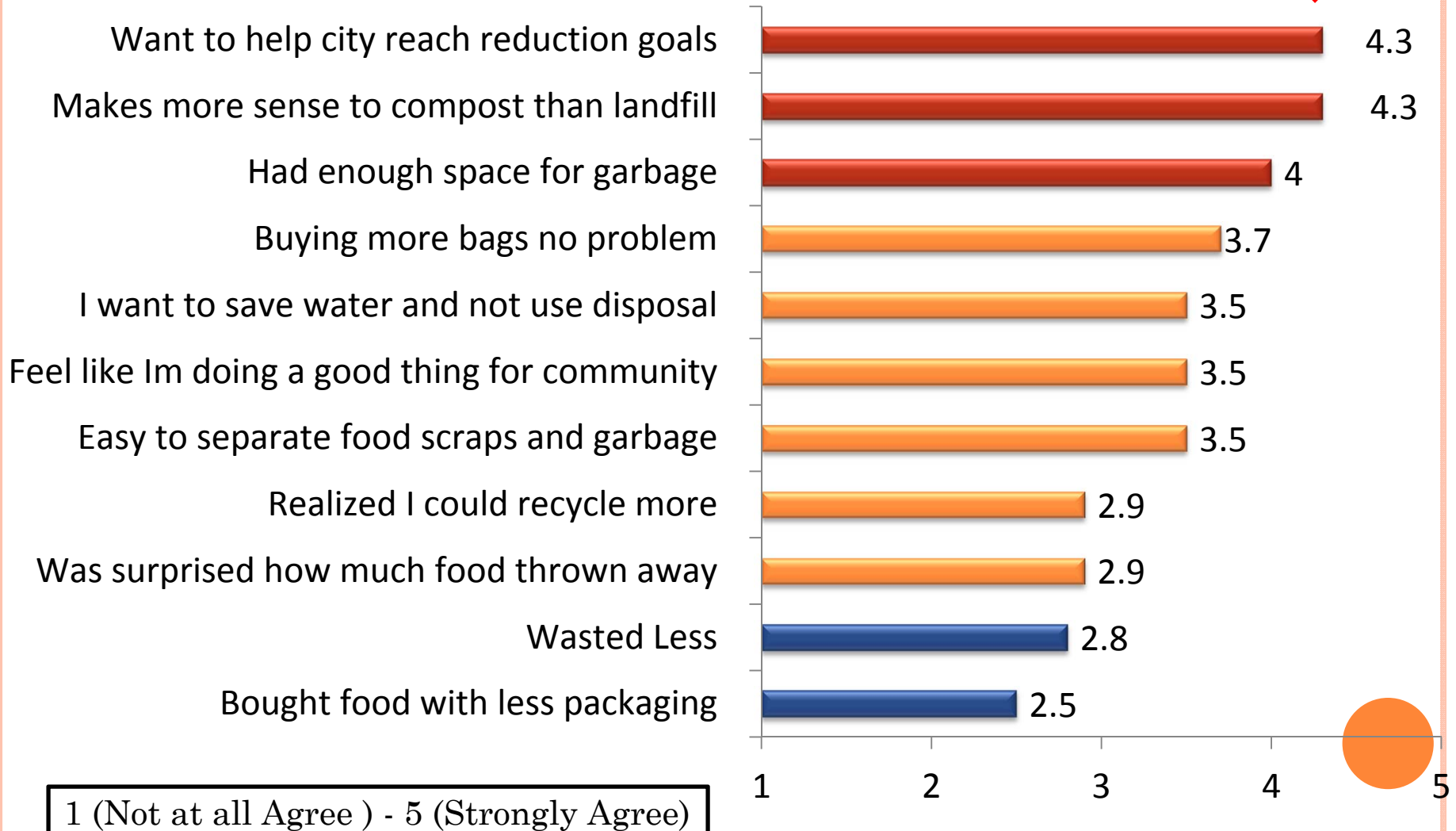
POST-PILOT SURVEY RESPONSE TO THE 70/30 CART:

- 84% felt they could fit all their garbage into the garbage side of a 70/30 cart

Note: Range of cart choices would be available if program is implemented city-wide



SURVEY RESPONSE INDICATES RESIDENTS WISH TO HELP CITY REACH GOALS, REDUCE LANDFILLING:



NET COSTS OF PROPOSED SERVICE:

- One-time startup costs-\$1,200,000*
 - Truck replacement, cart replacement, pails, liner bags, labels, outreach, delivery
- Additional annual costs-\$220,000*
 - Depreciation of trucks/carts over 10 years
 - Includes landfill disposal savings

*Both the startup and annual costs of implementing the program are within the amounts provided in the Zero Waste Strategic Plan, which is funded throughout the Solid Waste Fund's 20 year financial plan. Therefore, no fiscal adjustments are needed if approved.



PROCESSING

- City has two contracts to process food scraps currently:
 - Animal feed
 - Windrow composting



**SOME RESIDENTS WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS
TO SHOW THEIR DISAPPROVAL:**



**BUT MOST RESIDENTS WERE VERY HAPPY
PARTICIPANTS!**



RECOMMENDATION AND TIMEFRAME:

- **Direct staff to implement a split-cart curbside collection program to collect food scraps from single-family households and small businesses that use commercial cart service.**
- Roll-out would be phased in by route over the course of 6-9 months after carts/trucks arrive (trucks require 6 month lead time).
- Possible implementation start date: Summer/Fall 2017
- Outreach would be conducted city-wide at neighborhood association meetings and through electronic outreach methods (Nextdoor, Facebook). Residents would also be contacted directly by mail and when possible, with 1:1 visits from staff.

