

Unit-Based Pricing and Equity

CCSMM Unit-Based Pricing Working Group Meeting
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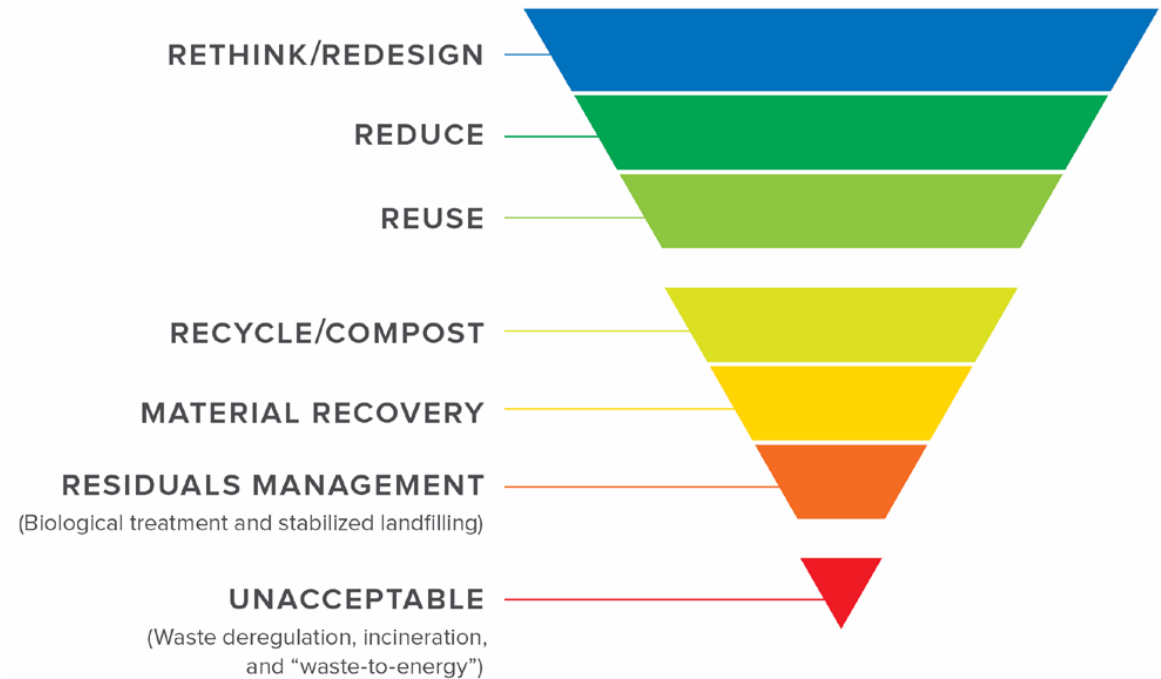


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Protecting New England's environment for all people

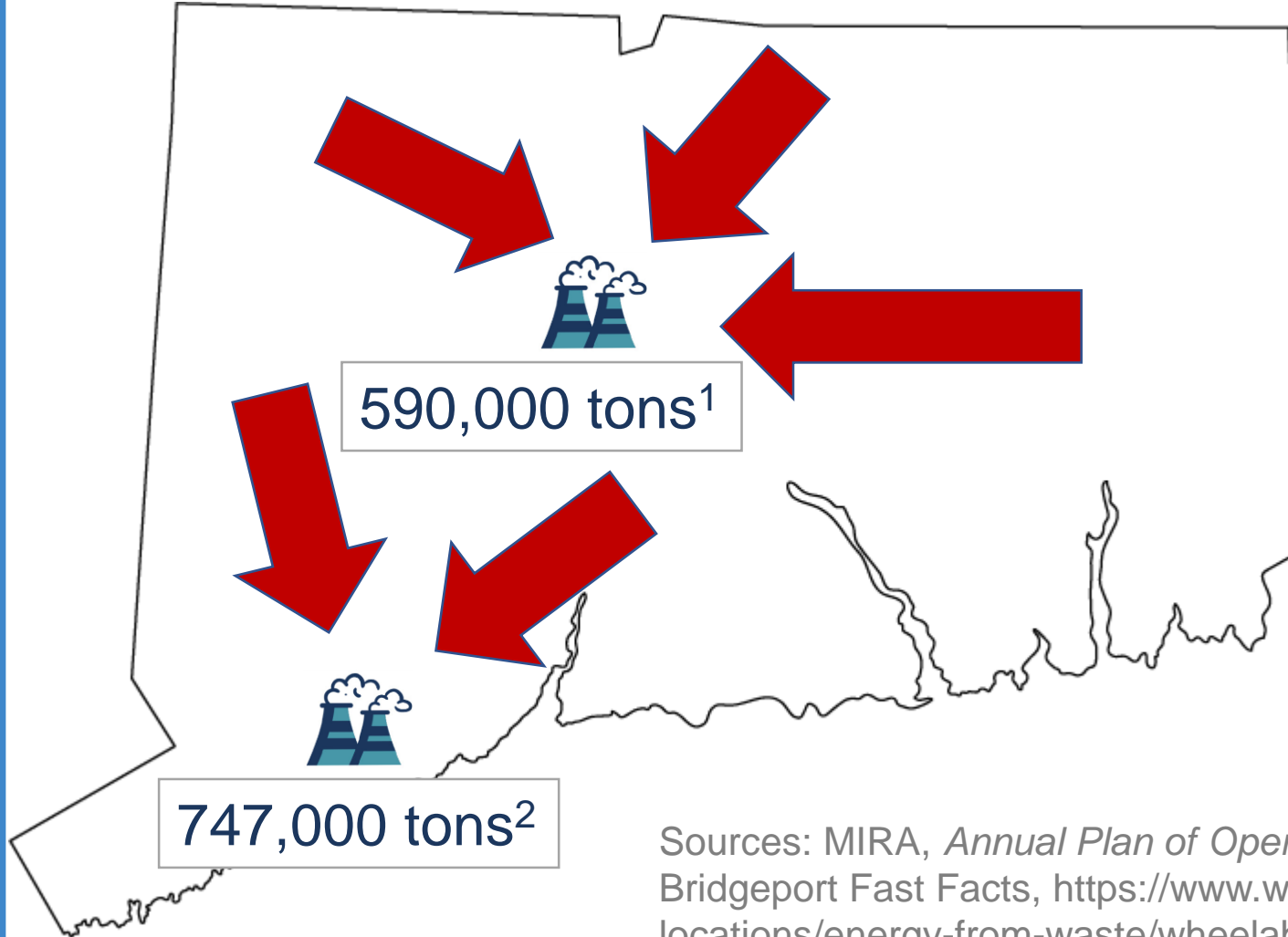
THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY



Unit-Based Pricing: **SMART** and Equitable

- Waste and Environmental Injustice
- Unit-Based Pricing Offers a Path Toward Equity
- Financial Impacts Of Unit-Based Pricing

Waste and Environmental Injustice



- Most of CT's waste is burned in communities of color and low-income communities
- Hartford and Bridgeport incinerators combined burn about 2/3 of CT's waste each year

Sources: MIRA, *Annual Plan of Operations – FY 2021*; Wheelabrator Bridgeport Fast Facts, <https://www.wtienergy.com/plant-locations/energy-from-waste/wheelabrator-bridgeport>

Waste and Environmental Injustice

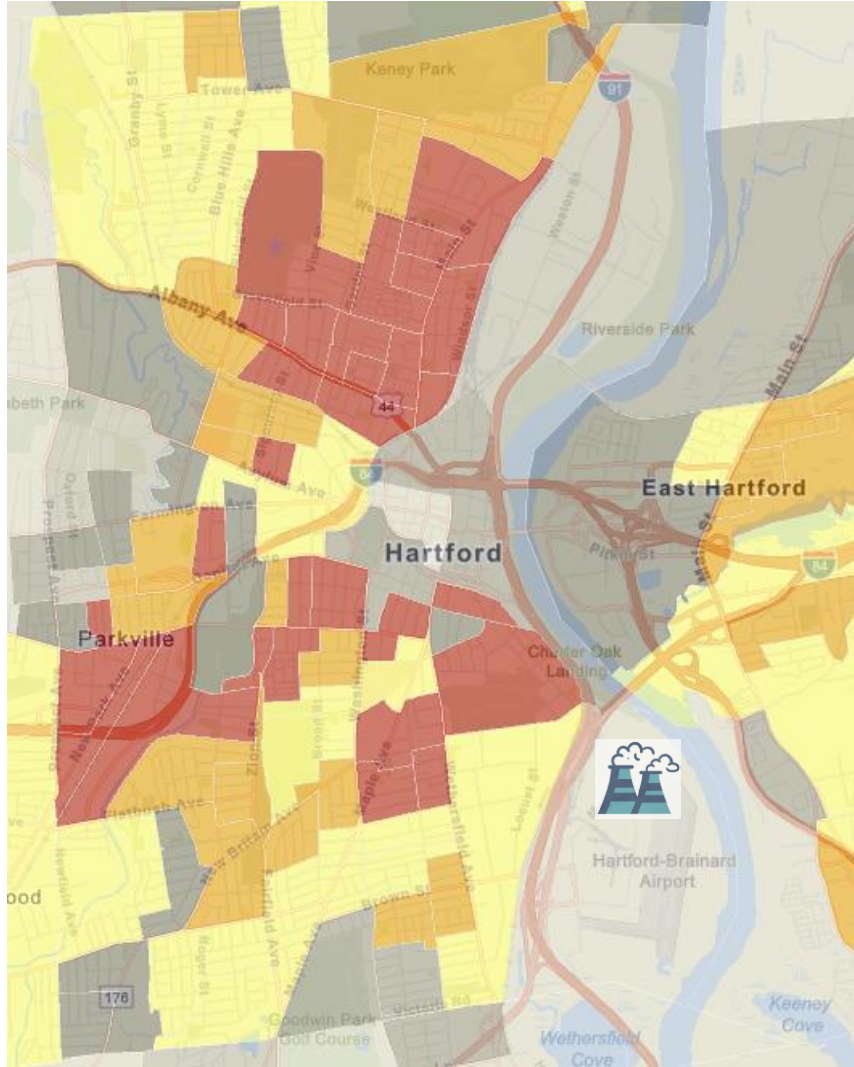
Hartford Incinerator:

- In 2019, fewer than 88,000 tons of the waste burned at the incinerator came from the city of Hartford
- More than 500,000 tons of waste burned in Hartford are from whiter, wealthier communities across CT



Sources: MIRA, *Annual Plan of Operations – FY 2021*; MIRA, *Tonnage Reports*, <https://www.ctmira.org/municipalities/tonnage-reports/>

Waste and Environmental Injustice



- Waste disproportionately burdens communities of color and low-income communities
- Connecticut is not alone: 80% of incinerators in U.S. are in Environmental Justice communities
- Incinerator closure is necessary but not sufficient: large transfer stations and landfills don't fix the problem

Sources: EPA, *EJSCREEN*, <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>; The New School, U.S. Municipal Solid Waste Incinerators: An Industry in Decline 34 (2019), https://tishmancenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CR_GaiaReportFinal_05.21.pdf

Unit-Based Pricing Offers a Path Toward Equity

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SMART is Proven Effective

10,000 communities and growing:

- **Worcester, MA:** 47% waste reduction
40% increase in recycling rate
- **Needham, MA:** 50% waste reduction
30% increase in recycling rate
- **Vernon, VT:** 56% waste reduction
recycling collection doubled

Sources: WasteZero, *PAYT Success Stories: Worcester, MA*; Massachusetts DEP, *Case Study: Town of Needham Pay-As-You-Throw Drop Off Program*; NEWMOA, *Municipal Solid Waste Pay-As-You-Throw Case Study: Vernon, VT*

SMART is a Powerful Educator

Assign a Value and People Pay Attention

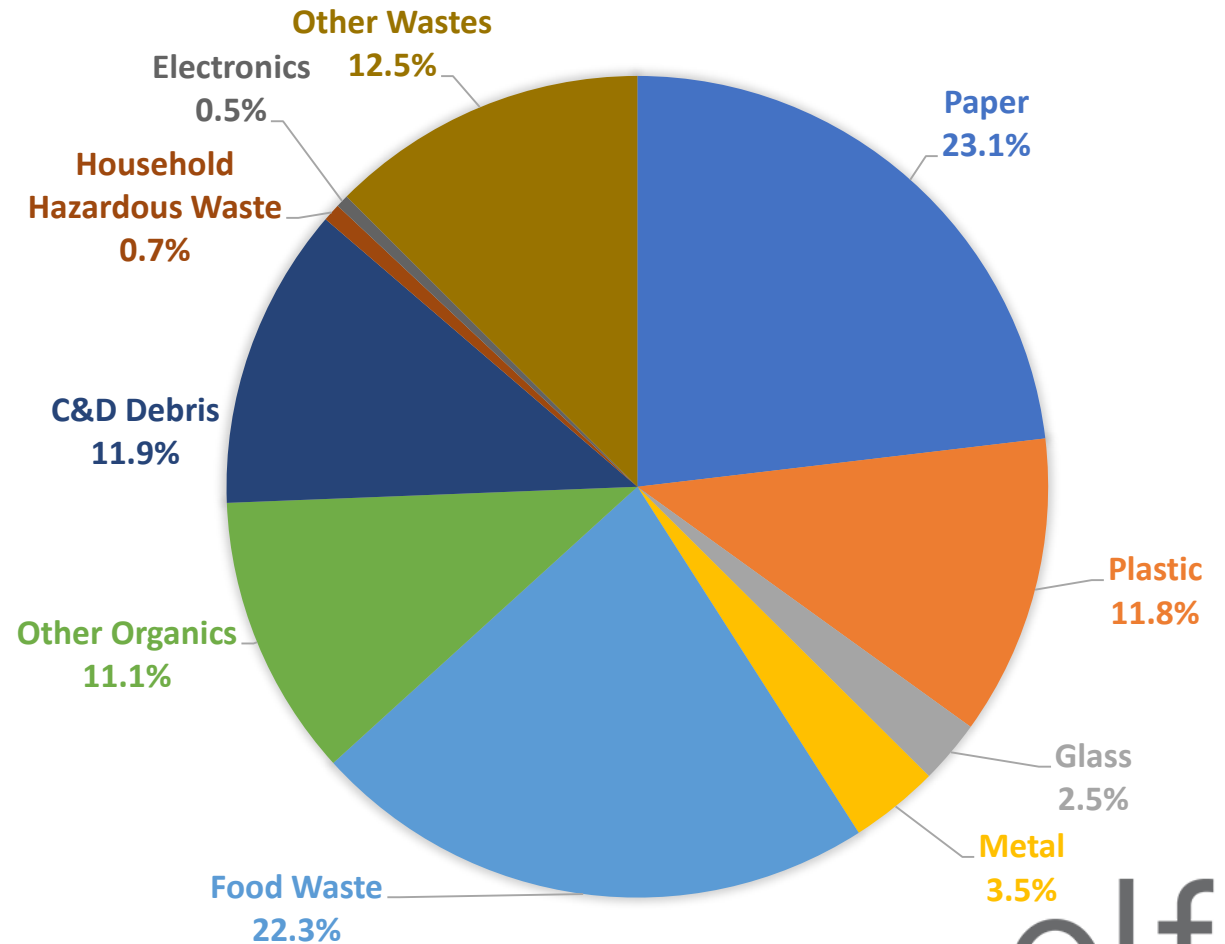
- SMART → 21% reduction overall in waste + recycling
 - People make different choices
- 98% compliance after implementation period
 - People follow the rules
- Financial incentives make us pay attention to our waste → they can help us reduce waste and understand what happens to our waste

Sources: WasteZero, *Situation and Discussion of Potential SMART Pathways*; ILSR, *Metering Residential Garbage Can Pave the Way to Zero Waste*, <https://ilsr.org/metering-residential-garbage-can-pave-the-way-to-zero-waste/>

SMART Supports Other Solutions

Unit-based pricing helps drive diversion to:

- Organics composting
- Modernized bottle bill
- Better recycling through EPR for packaging

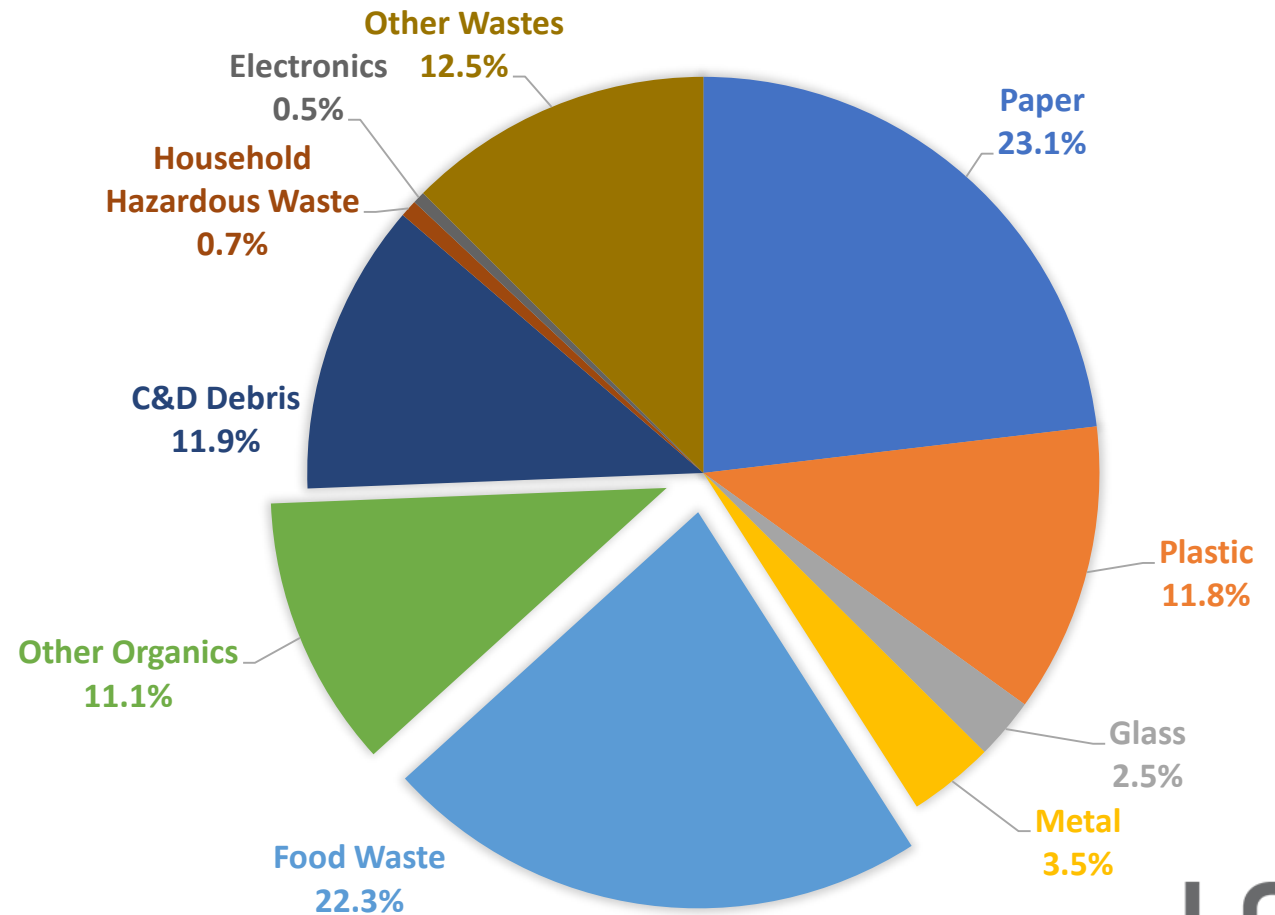


Data source: Connecticut DEEP, *2015 CT Statewide Waste Characterization Study*

SMART Supports Other Solutions

Organics Composting
779,000 tons per year

- Complete ban on organic waste in MSW + unit-based pricing together drive adoption of universal curbside composting



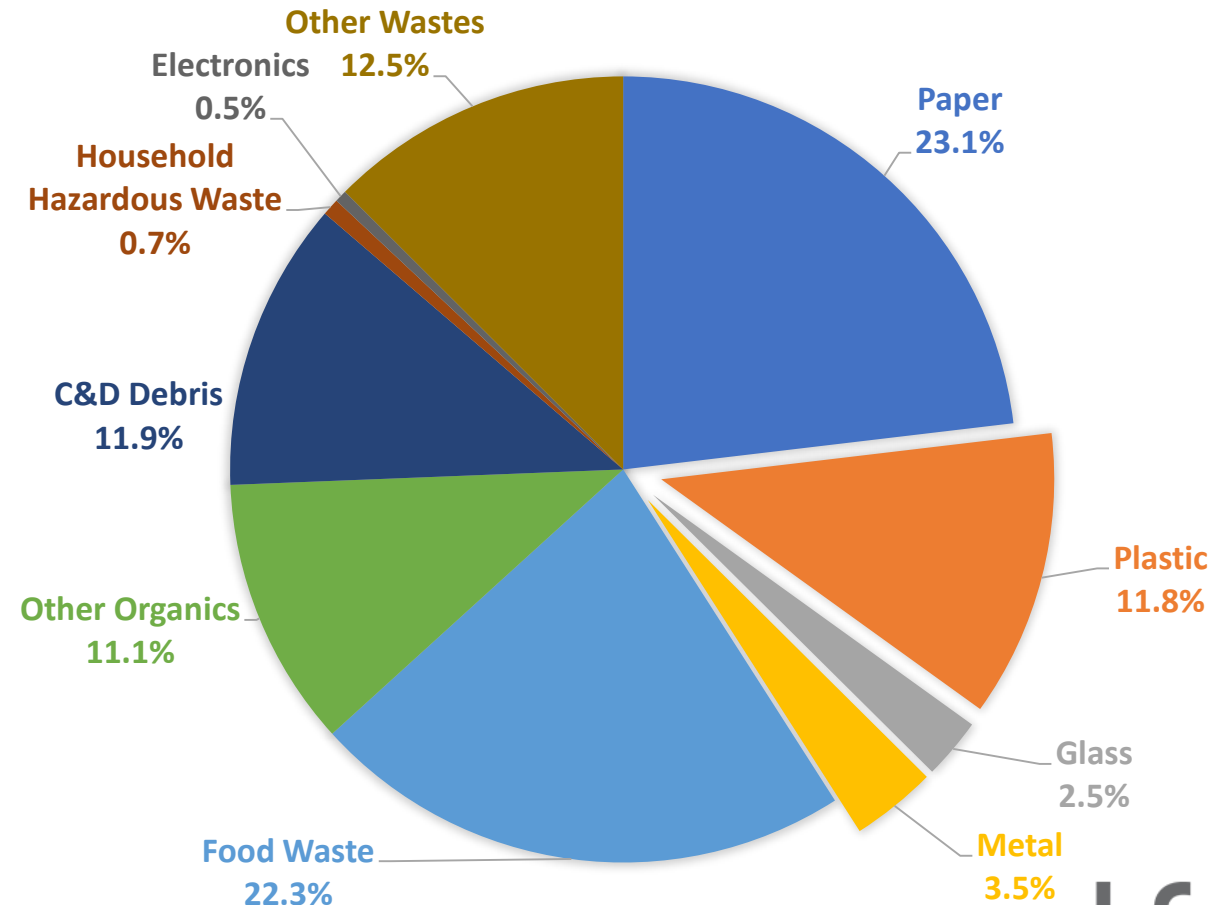
Data source: Connecticut DEEP, 2015 CT Statewide Waste Characterization Study

SMART Supports Other Solutions

Bottle Bill Modernization

75,000 tons per year

- 10¢ deposit on all beverage containers + unit-based pricing can keep these containers out of CT's incinerators



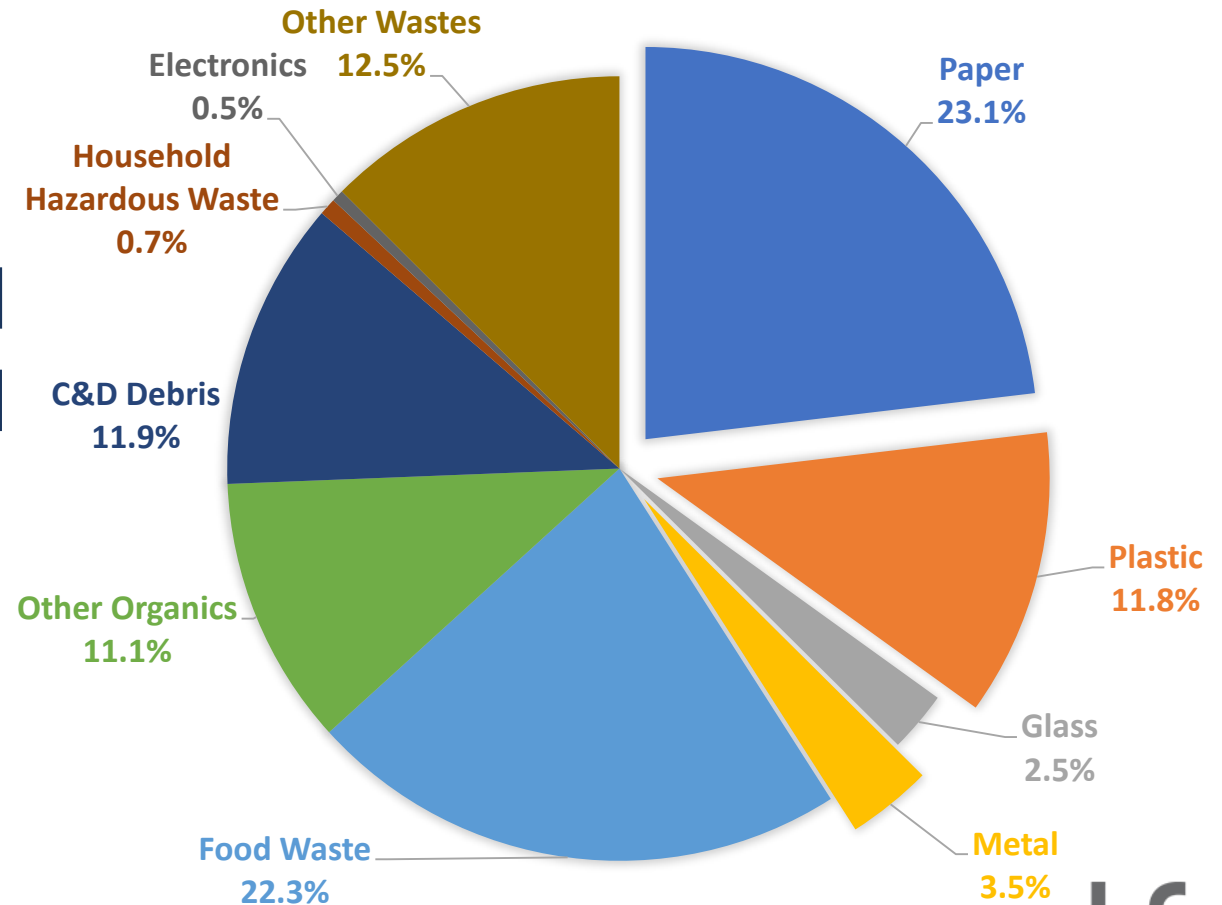
Data source: Connecticut DEEP, *2015 CT Statewide Waste Characterization Study*

SMART Supports Other Solutions

EPR for packaging

743,000 tons per year

- Incentivizes reusable and recyclable packaging and funds collection and processing
- Unit-based pricing drives diversion



Data source: Connecticut DEEP, *2015 CT Statewide Waste Characterization Study*

Financial Impacts Of Unit-Based Pricing

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SMART Saves Cities Money

- **Worcester, MA:** saved more than \$10 million over 20 years
- **Vernon, VT:** bag sales revenue has almost entirely offset hauling and disposal fees
- **Malden, MA:** has saved almost \$2.5 million through UBP

**These savings can be reinvested
directly into the community**

Sources: WasteZero, *PAYT Success Stories: Worcester, MA*; NEWMOA, *Municipal Solid Waste Pay-As-You-Throw Case Study: Vernon, VT*; Massachusetts DEP, *Case Study: City of Malden Pay-As-You-Throw Program*

Impact on Low-Income Households

Bag fees do not need to be a regressive tax:

- Cities and towns can provide reduced-price or free bags
 - **Malden, MA:** uses Community Development Block Grant money to buy bags for income-eligible residents
 - Communities could provide a set number of bags to eligible households each year
- Bag systems provide a more transparent cost environment, especially in rental buildings

Sources: Massachusetts DEP, *Case Study: City of Malden Pay-As-You-Throw Program*; ILSR, *Metering Residential Garbage Can Pave the Way to Zero Waste*, <https://ilsr.org/metering-residential-garbage-can-pave-the-way-to-zero-waste/>

SMART Is Zero Waste In Practice



Unit-based pricing helps address disproportionate waste burdens, saves money, and moves us closer to a world without burning or burying trash

Source: Olivia Synoracki, Maddie Dennis, & Olivia Pecini, *To Bury or Burn our Trash? That's the Wrong Question*, <https://www.clf.org/blog/to-bury-or-to-burn-our-trash/>