

Preliminary Findings of The Review of Programs and Measures of Local Governments on the Expenditure of Funds From the Surcharge on Spirit or Liquor Beverage Containers of Fifty Milliliters or Less (Nips)



Image by: [Samad Hakani, Photography Editor, Yale Daily News. 4/15/2024](#)

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The Council on Environmental Quality

In 1971, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was created to perform three primary functions:

1. Annually assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report the findings to the Governor.
2. Advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed actions.
3. Investigate citizen inquiries, complaints, and allegations of violations of environmental laws



Background

- Public Act 21-58, Section 10 established a 5-cent surcharge on all miniature alcohol bottles of 50ml or less
- The surcharge took effect in October 2021
- Wholesalers collect the funds and distribute them back to the municipality of sale every April and October
- The Public Act was codified in **CGS Sec. 22a-244b**



Usage of Funds

CGS Section 22a-244b(d) states that the funds can be spent on environmental measures intended to:

1. Reduce the **generation** of solid waste

a. Hiring of a recycling coordinator

b. Recycling equipment

c. Educational Programs

2. Reduce the **impact** of litter:

a. Personnel costs to remove litter

b. Mechanical street sweepers, vacuums, or brooms

Examples

Examples



The Council's Role

- Public Act 23-76 requires the CEQ to conduct a review of the program pursuant to **subsection (d) of section 22a-244b**
- Starting on September 19, the Council surveyed 159 municipalities that received funds. The reporting period is from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
- 91 out of 159 municipalities (57%) surveyed have responded so far.
- Responses included funds spent, uses, and program feedback
- This presentation reflects survey data received as of October 22.



2025 Miniature Alcohol Beverage Container Survey

1. Which municipality are you reporting for? Municipality
2. How much of the funds received through this program have been used to reduce the generation of solid waste or reduce litter between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025?
\$ _____
3. What percent of the funds reported in question 2 have been used on measures to reduce solid waste or litter? (Please indicate all that apply. Should equal 100%)

_____ % hire or provide financial resources for a recycling coordinator

_____ % financial resources for recycling equipment

_____ % educational programs (recycling, composting, organics, solid waste reduction)

_____ % installation of storm drain filters

_____ % purchase of mechanical street sweeper, vacuum, or broom that removes litter

_____ % support for personnel to reduce/collect litter

_____ % other: (please specify) _____

Additional Comments - How effective is this program for reducing solid waste and/or litter? Do you have any suggestions for improving the program?



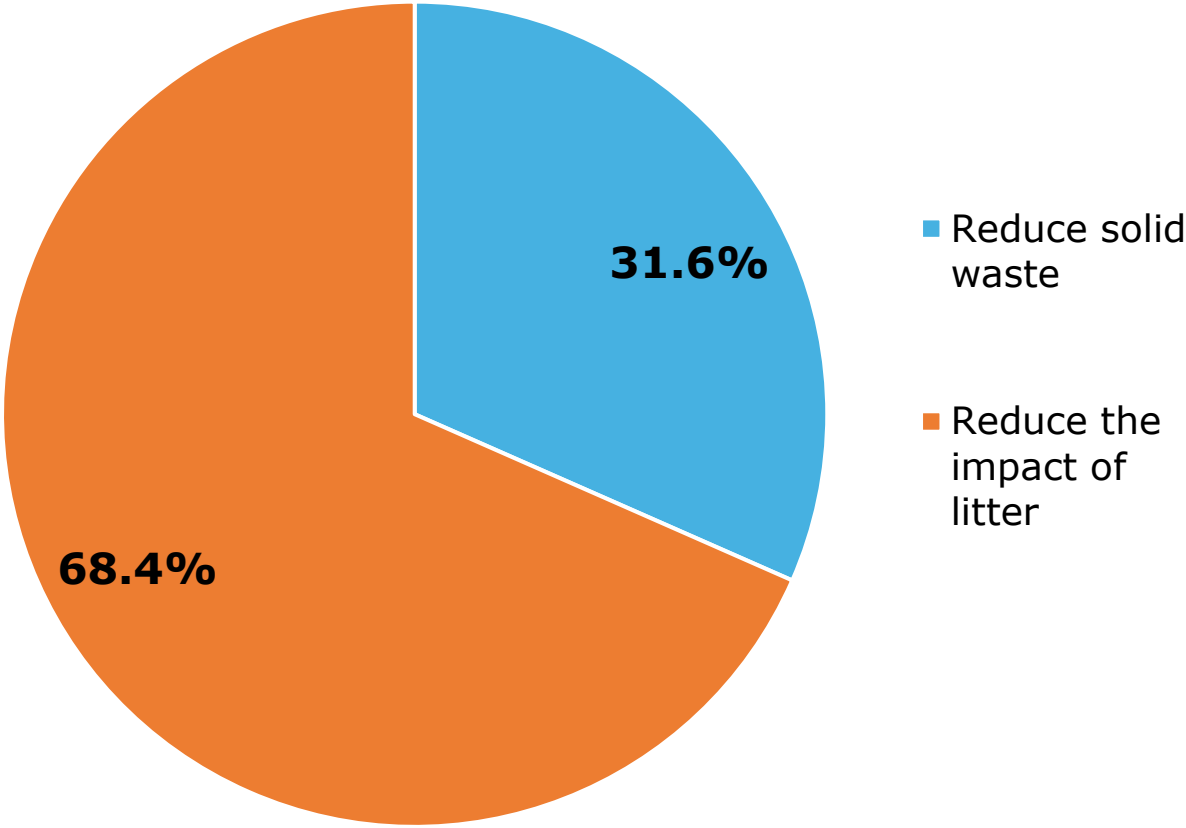
Early Takeaways

- The 91 responses detailed how \$2,084,080 of NIPS funds were spent for the reporting period.
- The 66 municipalities that expended NIPS funds spent an average of \$3,1577.
- Purchases of mechanical equipment and support for personnel to reduce/collect litter were the most common expenditure. The purchase of storm drain filters was the least.
 - 26.6% (\$553,387) of funds were expended on mechanical equipment.
 - 25% (\$421,104) of funds were expended on support for personnel.
- So far, 15 respondents reported that the program was effective or very effective at reducing solid waste and/or litter. Three reported it was ineffective.



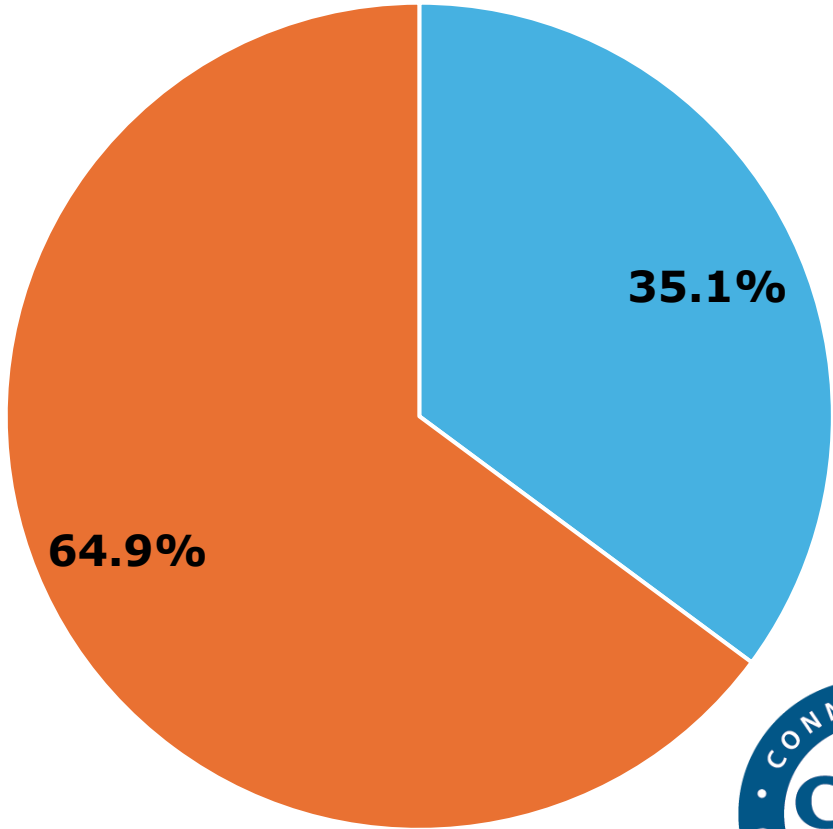
Program Review – Miniature Beverage Containers (Nips)

Expenditures of Nips Funds
(FY2024)



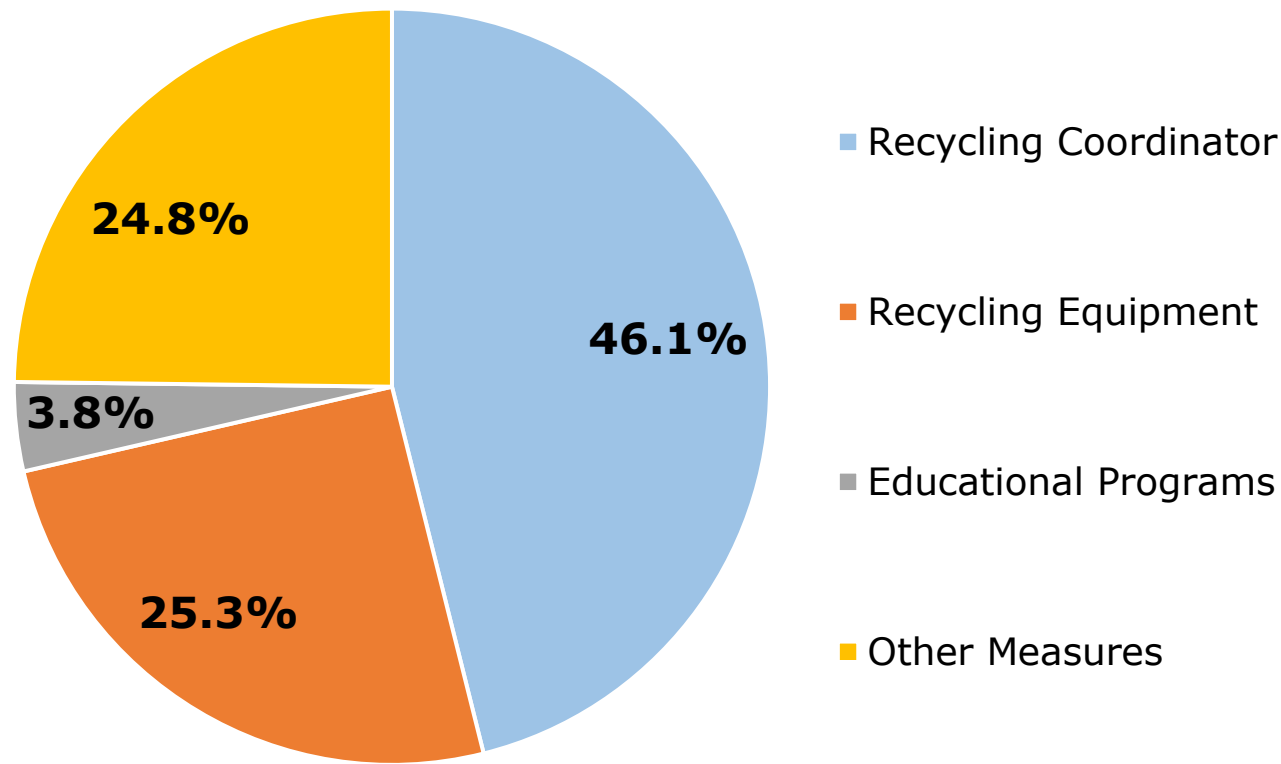
Expenditures of Nips Funds
(FY2025)

Preliminary

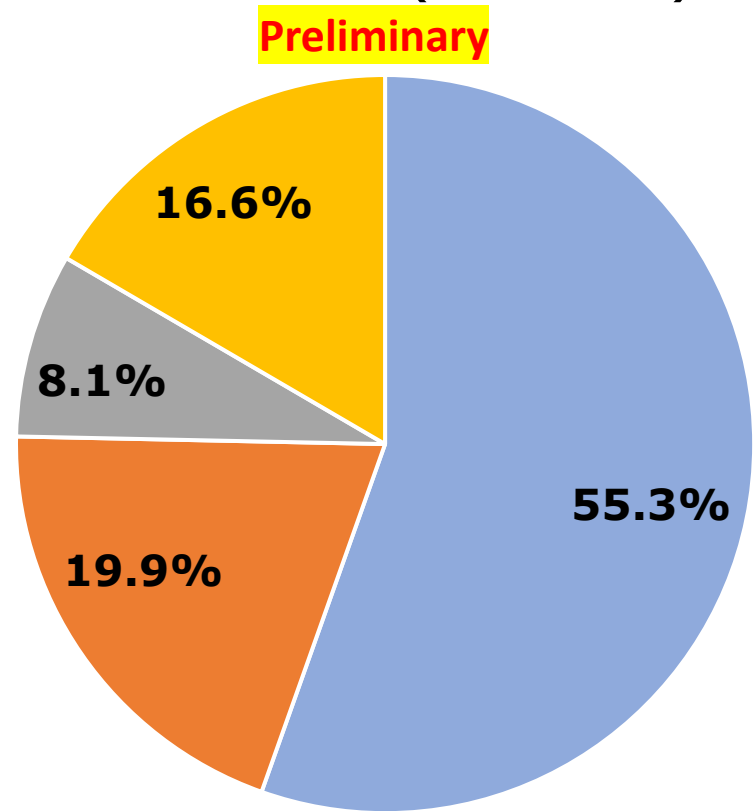


Program Review – Miniature Beverage Containers (Nips) - MSW

How CT Municipalities Expended Nips Funds on Measures to Reduce Solid Waste (FY 2024)

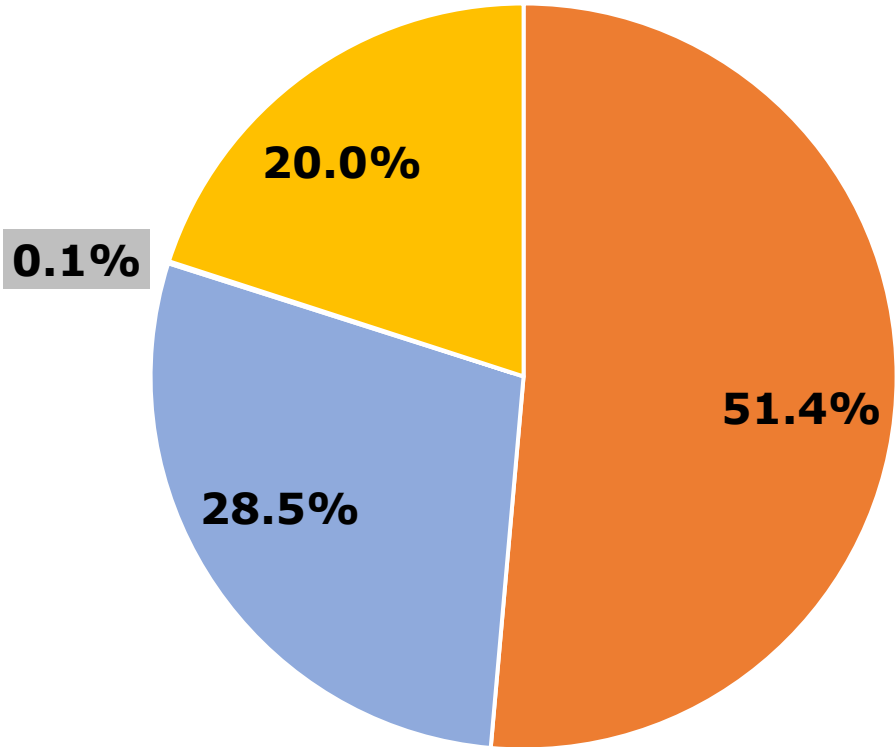


How CT Municipalities Expended Nips Funds on Measures to Reduce Solid Waste (FY 2025)



Program Review – Miniature Beverage Containers (Nips) - Litter

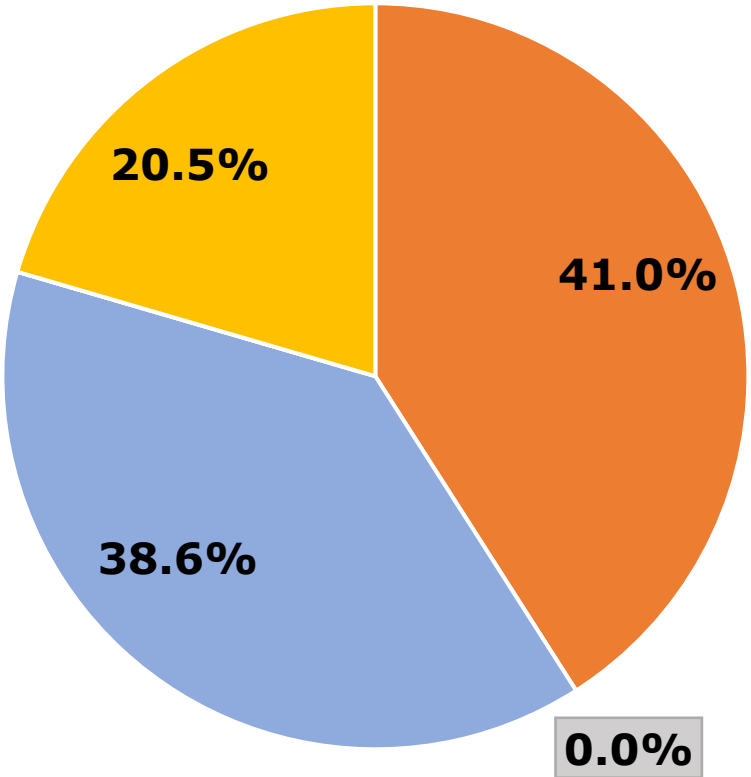
How CT Municipalities Expended Nips Funds on Measures to Reduce Litter (FY2024)



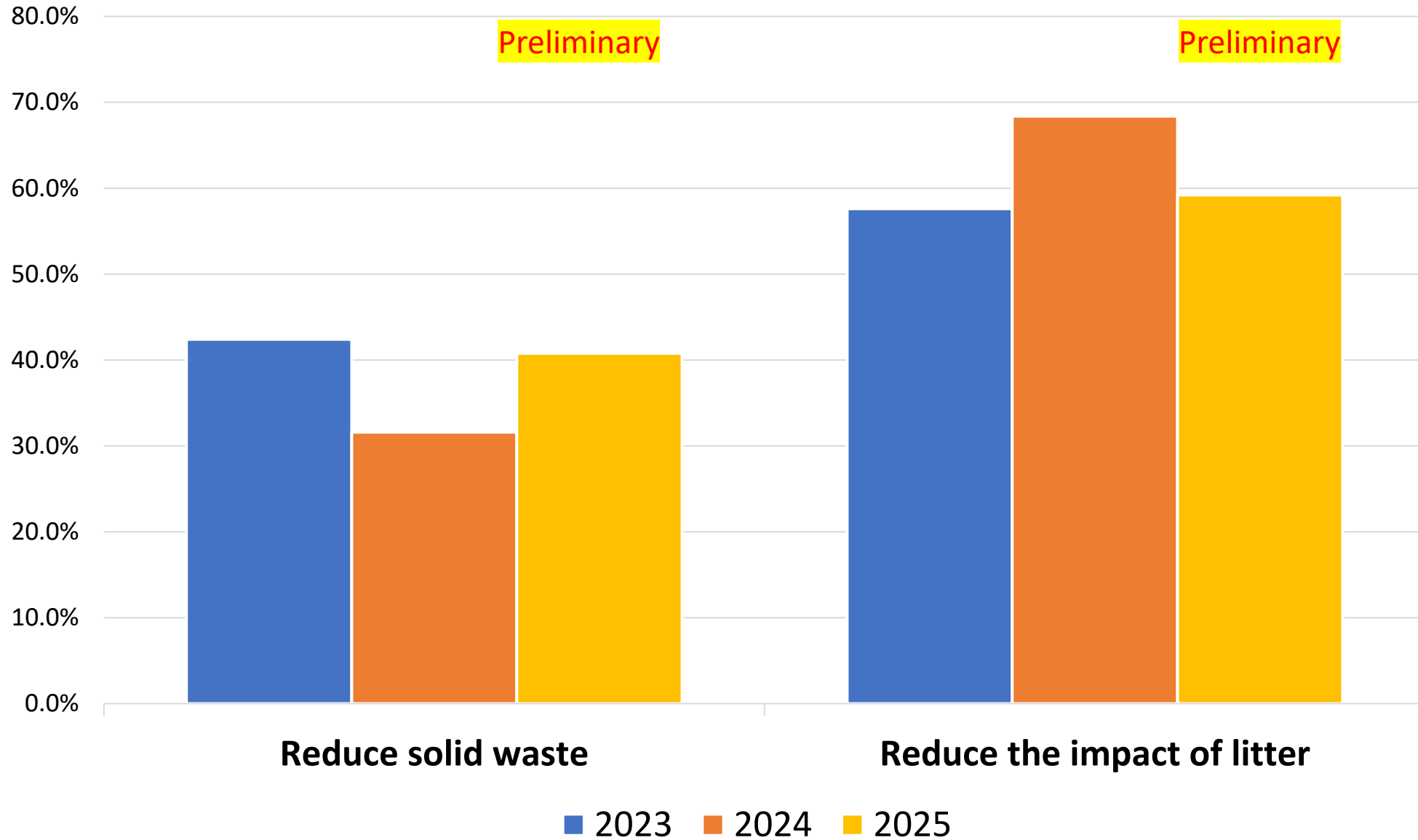
How CT Municipalities Expended Nips Funds on Measures to Reduce Litter (FY 2025)

Preliminary

- Mechanical Equipment
- Personnel Costs
- Storm Drain Filters
- Other Measures



Comparison of How CT Municipalities Expended Nips Funds



How Will These Data Be Used?

- Survey results will be summarized in aggregate and appear in the 2025 edition of the Council's annual report, "*Environmental Quality in Connecticut*"
- Results will help inform policymakers and may determine how the program might change in the future
- Survey results will inform municipalities on funding options and best practices
- The results will help ensure confidence that funds are being used as intended by the legislature.



Questions?

For questions, please contact our office at CEQ@ct.gov or by phone at 860-424-4000

Further information can be found on the CEQ website (portal.ct.gov/ceq/publications/environmental-reviews)

