

# Waste Reduction

SWMP Update & Recycle BC Partnership

April 14, 2022

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# Regional Solid Waste Overview

# SWMP - Purpose

- Mandated by Provincial Environmental Management Act

*“Provides long term vision for solid waste management, including waste diversion and disposal activities.”*

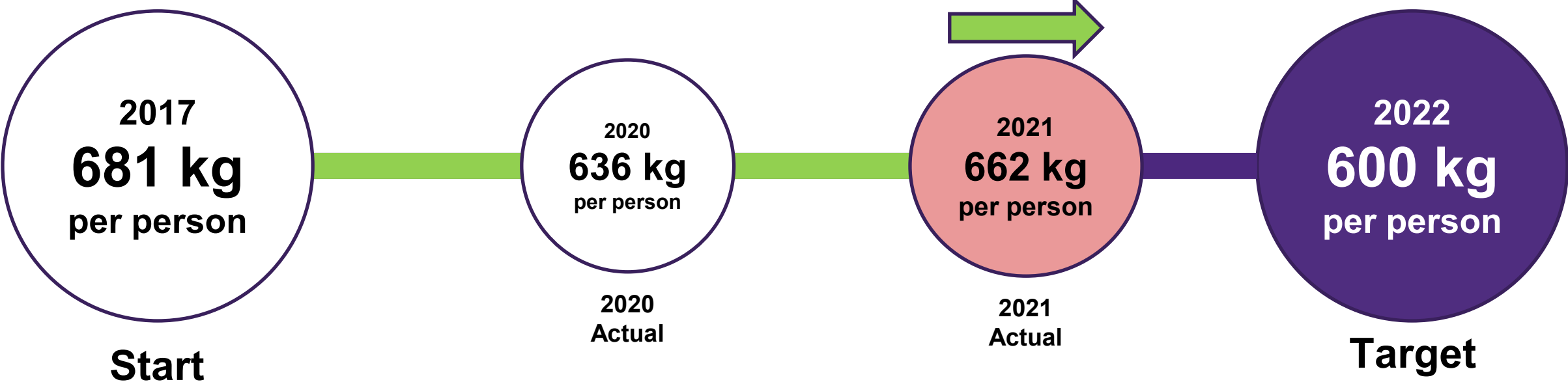
# SWMP Primer - Goals

1. The goal is zero waste...
2. Citizens are actively engaged...
3. Make it easy for residents and businesses to make the right decision.

**+ Guiding Principles from BC Ministry of Environment**

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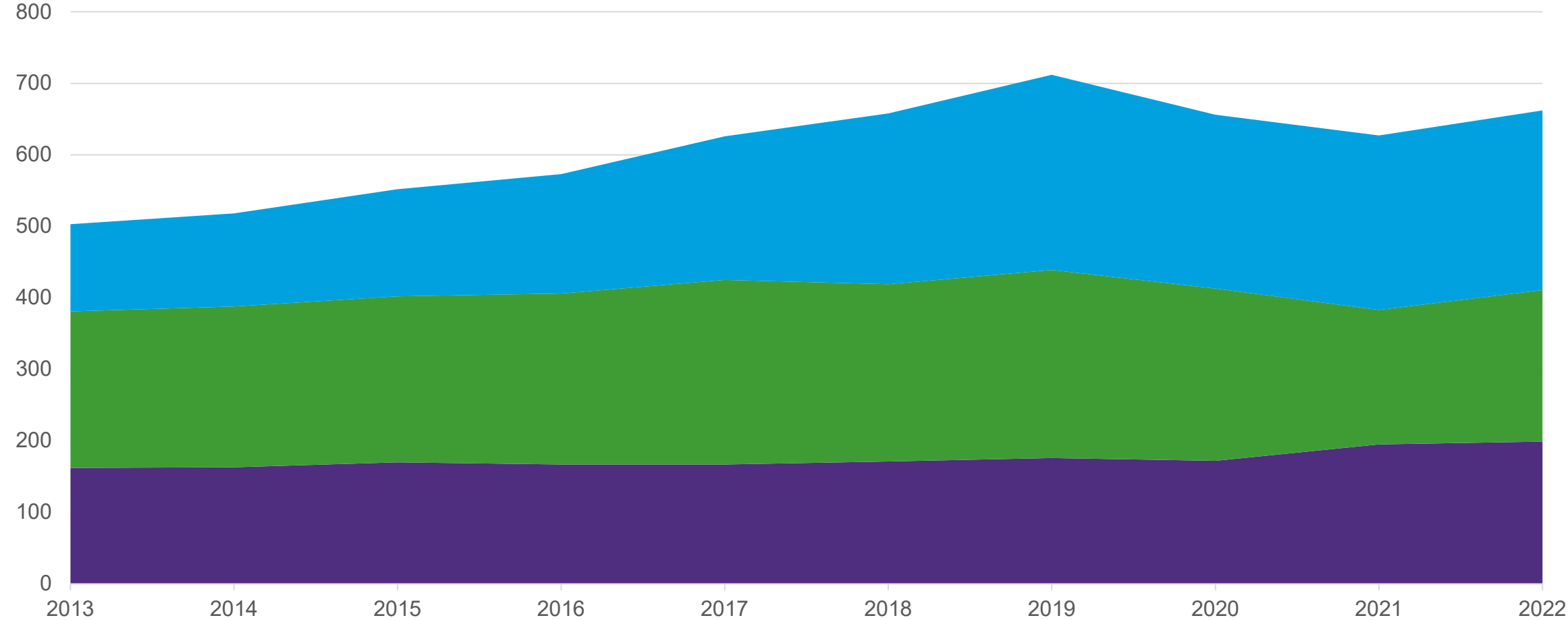
# Waste Reduction Target – Total Waste



98.4% increase in building permit values  
82% increase in housing starts  
6.1% increase in business licenses...

**Will not achieve 2022 waste reduction target**

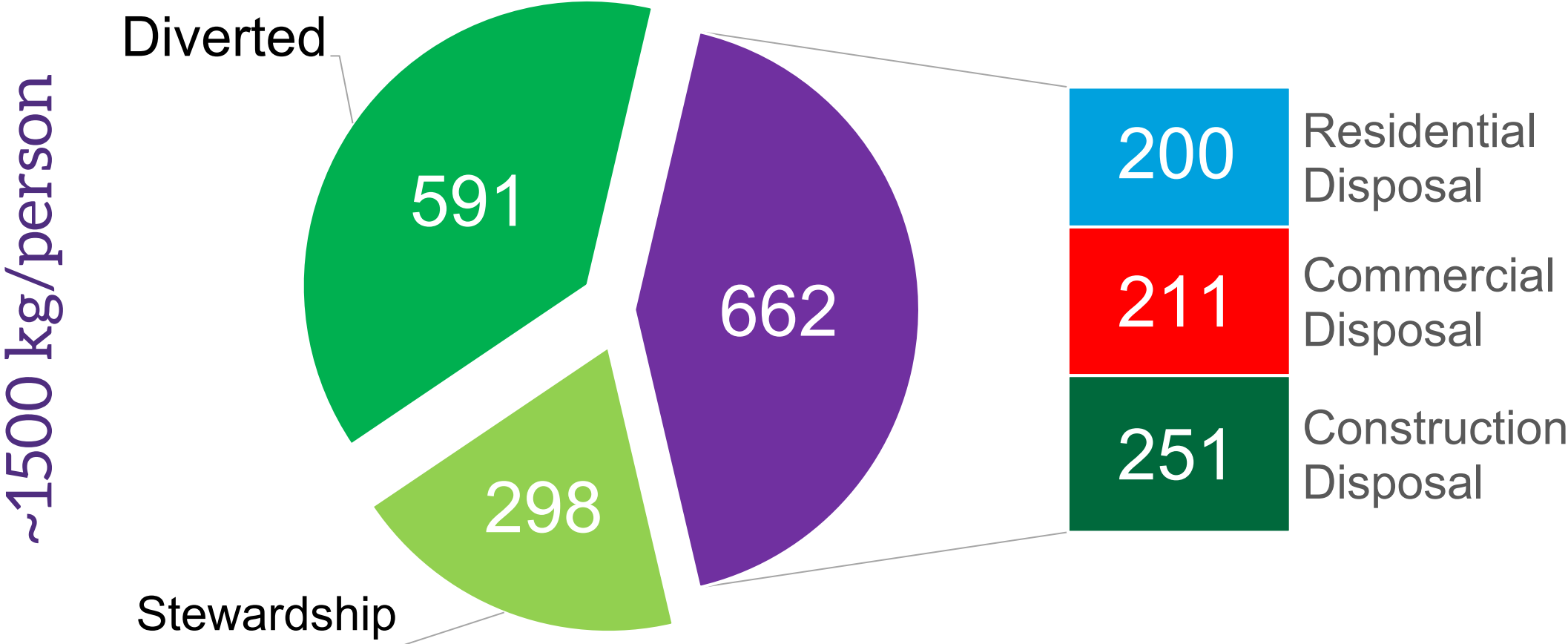
# Total Disposal Rates



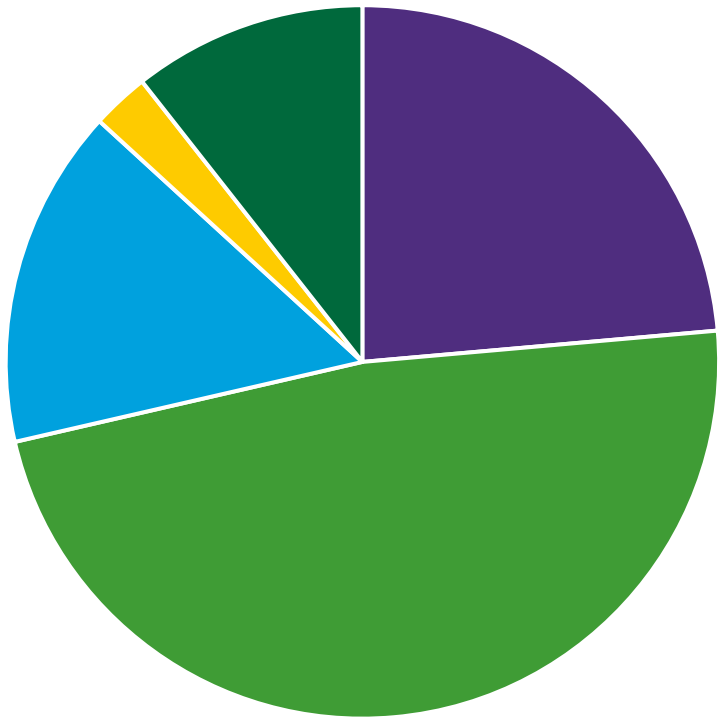
■ Self Haul and Residential ■ ICI ■ D&C



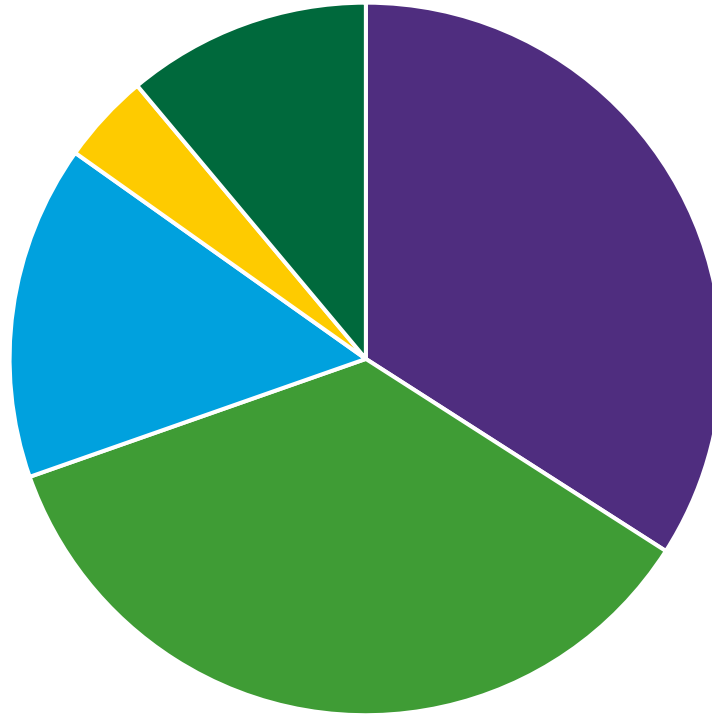
# Estimated 2021 Waste Generation



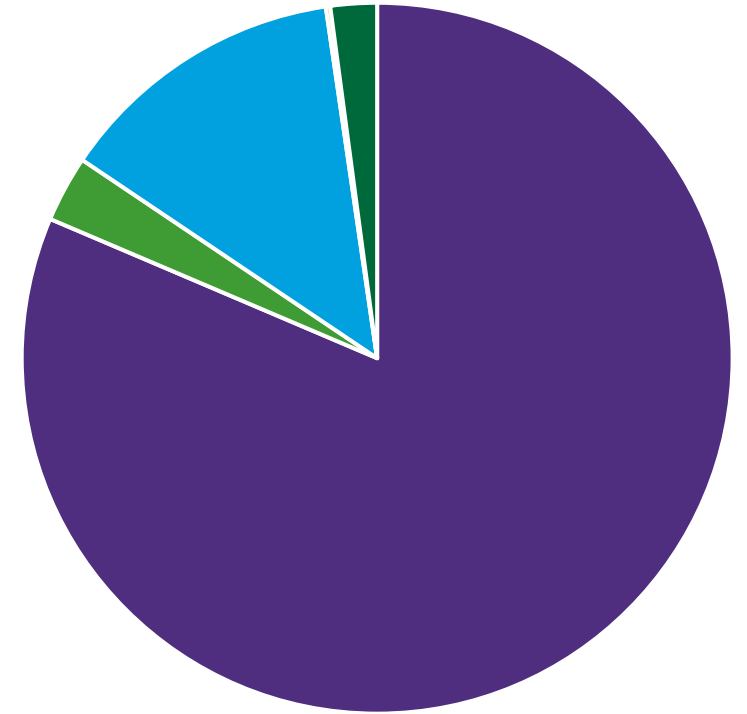




Residential



Commercial

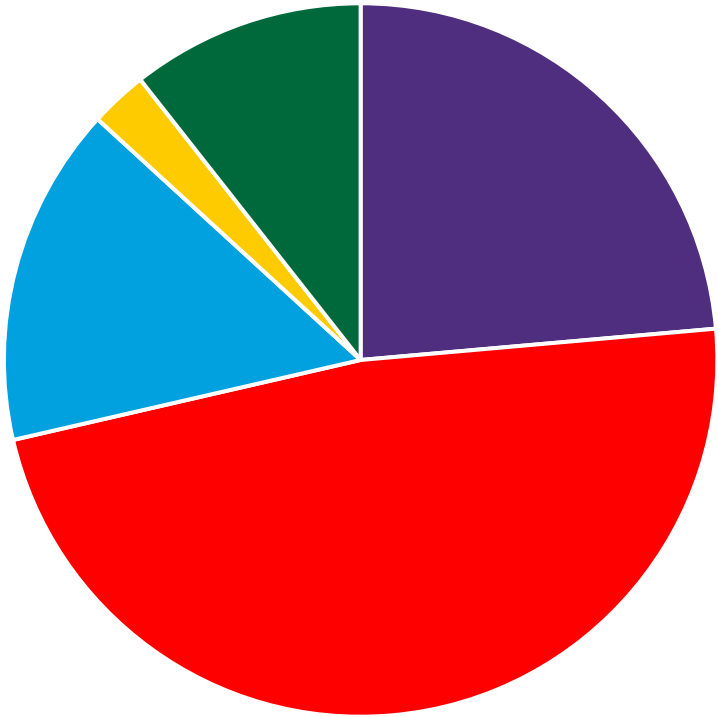


Construction

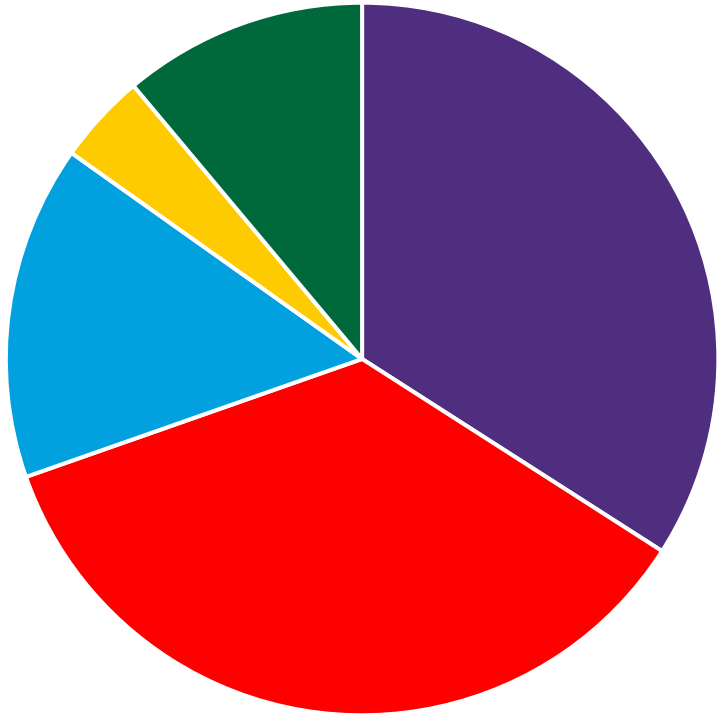
■ Residual ■ Compostable ■ Drop Off ■ Product Stewardship ■ Recycling



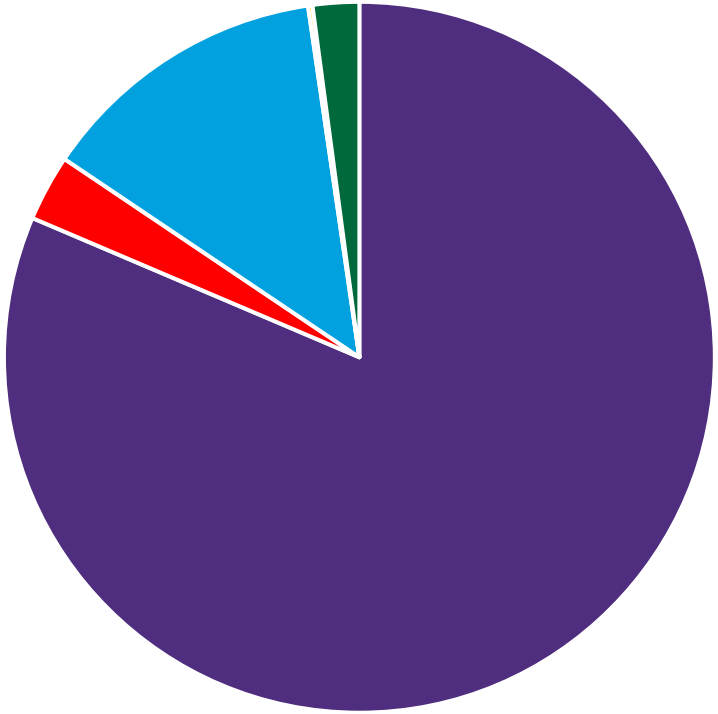
# Organics Management



Residential



Commercial

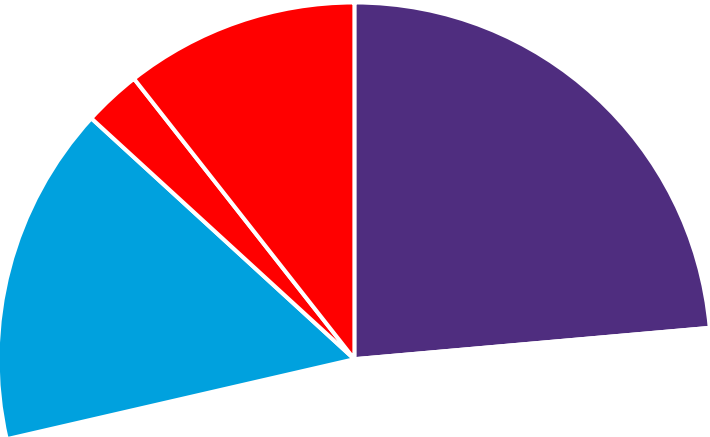


Construction

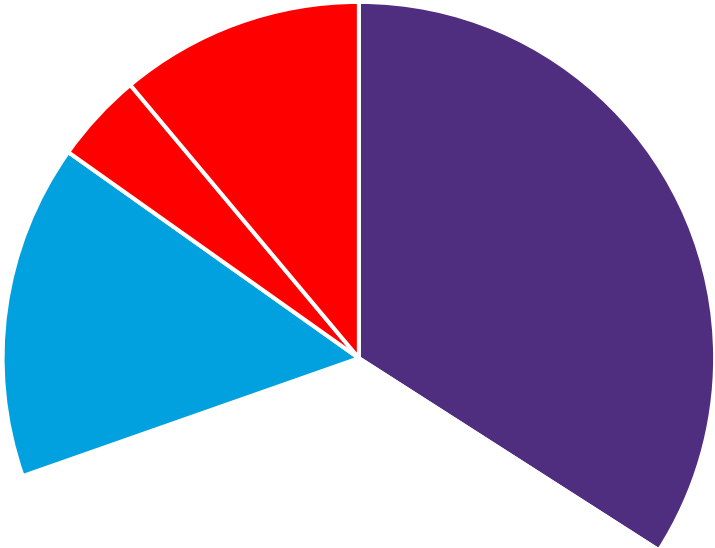
■ Residual ■ Compostable ■ Drop Off ■ Product Stewardship ■ Recycling



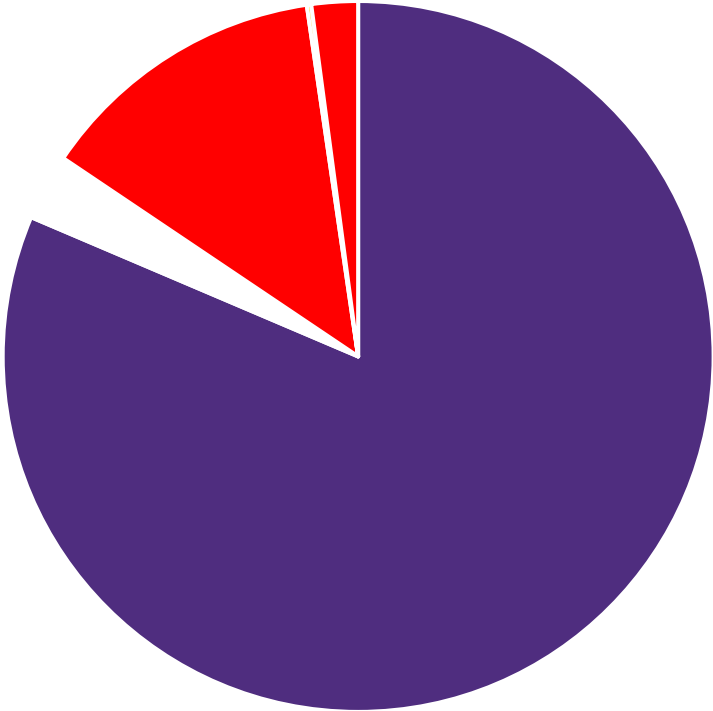
# Existing services



Residential



Commercial



Construction

■ Residual

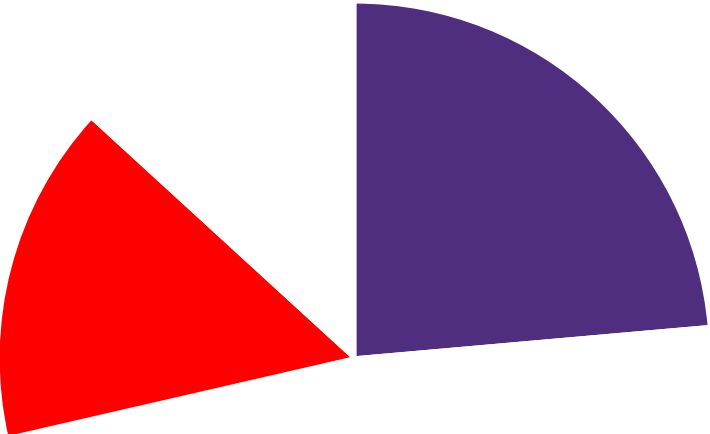
■ Drop Off

■ Product Stewardship

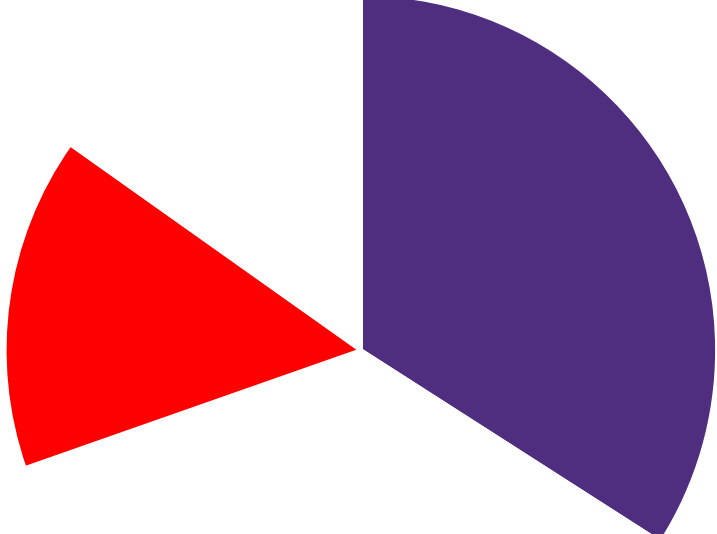
■ Recycling



# Depot Only Materials



Residential



Commercial



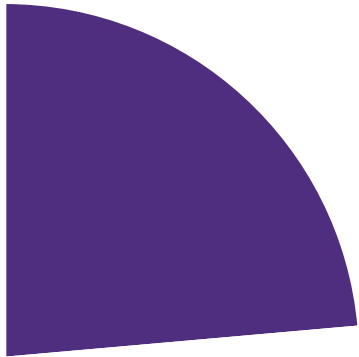
Construction

■ Residual

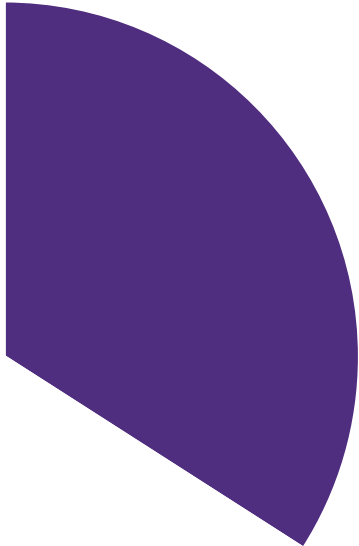
■ Drop Off



# Residual Materials



Residential



Commercial



Construction



# Key Initiatives (2022)

- Re-evaluate organic waste diversion opportunities
- Implement Multifamily Waste Reduction study recommendations
- Construction / Deconstruction project and study
- Expanded Waste Ambassador program
- Consideration of Recycle BC partnership (curbside recycling)
- Curbside Bear Carts (Phase 1)

# Future SWMP

- SWMP to be completed by 2025
  - 5 years ahead of schedule
- Effectiveness Review in 2024 should:
  - Evaluate 2020-2024 performance
  - Engage the public to obtain updated perspective
  - Amend the SWMP with new strategies and initiatives

A photograph of a wooden tunnel, likely made of recycled wood, with a rocky path leading to a bright opening at the end. The tunnel walls are made of dark, weathered wooden planks. The path is composed of smooth, grey stones. The opening at the end is bright and shows some greenery outside.

# Curbside Recycling Program



# Recycle BC?

- Stewardship program for residential packaging and paper products (PPP)
- Operated on behalf of packaging producers



*To develop methods of environmental stewardship that focuses responsibility on producers and consumers of products rather than governments.*

# Recycle BC Partnership

- What is it?
  - Municipality collects recyclables (E360s)
  - RDCO provides education and administration
  - Recycle BC funds collection and education
- What is the alternative?
  - Recycle BC does it all (self funded)

# Existing Challenges



- Contamination Financial Penalties
  - Up to \$780,000 / year
- Contamination Rates
  - 3% Requirement
- Waste Reduction Focus on contamination reduction
  - Effort split between “Waste Reduction” and “Contamination Reduction”

# Important Upcoming Date

- July 2022 - Decision to continue partnership
  - Decision will persist for 7 years, minimum:
    - Current agreement expires December 31, 2024 (2 years)
    - Next agreement will expire in 2029 (5 years)

# Solid Waste Management Plan

*The option of handing over responsibility of curbside recycling to 'Recycle BC' will also be given consideration. For all potential changes costs and benefits will be considered as part of the overall decision-making process.*

# Recycling Net Cost

Status quo net financials: **+\$54,000**  
Potential penalties: **- \$780,000**

## Expanded service

Status Quo + Glass: **- \$1,546,000**  
Penalties + Glass: **- \$2,326,000**

Recycle BC Direct Service: **\$0**

# Public Engagement – Regional Feedback

## Preliminary Results

- 91% satisfaction with existing curbside recycling service
- 85% of residents are willing to sort recyclables at curbside into multiple boxes
- 78% of residents would be more willing to sort recyclables at curbside if glass collection was included
- 73% of residents would be more willing to sort recyclables at curbsides if it avoided a future fee increase

# Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee

- **Historically a great program**
  - Funded Curbside Recycling
  - Diverted recyclables from landfill for over 8 years
- **Concern regarding contamination**
  - Financial penalties
  - Emphasis should be waste reduction, not contamination reduction
- **If the relationship does change**
  - Removes financial risk and adds potential service improvements
  - Require significant effort and collaboration to transition successfully



# Summary

Two great options:

1. Maintain the partnership (RDCO led recycling)
2. End the partnership (Recycle BC led recycling)

# Option 1 - Maintain Partnership



- **Maintains:**
  - Single, convenient recycling container
  - Existing relationship
  - Current recycling commodities
  - Curbside Recycling funding
  - Existing curbside service provider (E360s)
- **91% Residential Satisfaction**
- **Historically a very good partnership**
- **Financial penalties may require new funding to maintain service**

# Option 2 - End Curbside Partnership



Source: [recyclebc.ca/preparing-recycling-three-steps/](https://recyclebc.ca/preparing-recycling-three-steps/)

- May include changes:
  - multiple curbside recycling containers
  - glass recycling at curbside
  - weekly collection
- Service provided by Recycle BC
  - No cost or other resources
- Supported by SWTAC
- Supported by 85% of curbside recyclers

**Operational 2025 at the earliest**

# Both options allow for...

- Future expansion of curbside collection (ie: new materials) like kitchen scraps
- Responsible Environmental footprint reduction by diverting material from landfill
- Cost effective service, entirely funded by producers
- Continued progress on innovative Waste Reduction initiatives

# Recommendations

- **THAT** the Regional Board receive the Recycle BC Partnership & Curbside Recycling Services report from the Director of Engineering Services dated April 14, 2022 for information.
- **AND THAT** the Regional Board support further consultation with municipal members regarding the regional Recycle BC partnership and report findings back to the RDCO Board, no later than May 30, 2022.



End of Presentation