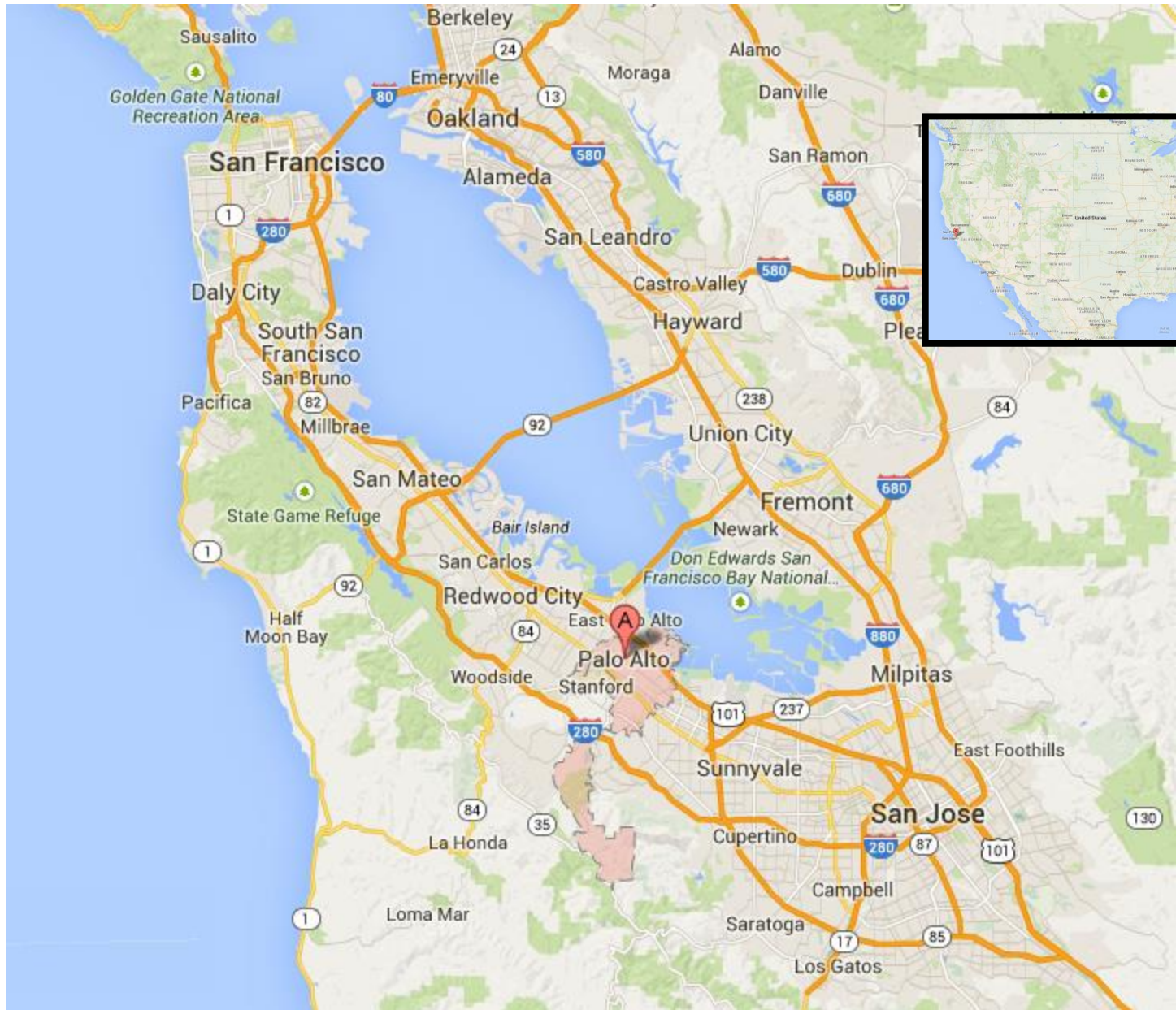


Palo Alto's Zero Waste Program

Mayor Karen Holman

March 2015





About Palo Alto

- 66,029 residents
- 148,209 daytime population including Stanford
- Nearly 30% of the residents are over 55
- Located in Silicon Valley between San Francisco and San Jose
- Neighbor to Stanford University
- Regional job center – home to HP, SAP Labs, Stanford Hospital, Tesla, VMWare

What is Zero Waste?

Zero Waste seeks to eliminate waste wherever possible by encouraging a systems approach that avoids the creation of waste in the first place.

- not an end-of-pipe solution
- designing products and packaging with reuse, repair and recycling in mind
- producers take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products and packaging

Current Linear Waste System



Zero Waste System



Zero Waste in Palo Alto

- 2004-5: Goals, strategic plan and ordinance developed by Task Force and adopted by Council
 - Goal: 90% diversion to landfill by 2021
- 2007: Comprehensive operational plan adopted
 - covers programs and services, education, policy, and infrastructure
- 2009: 100% C+D diversion requirement added
- Success requires community effort
 - Fundamentally change material management

About Palo Alto: Zero Waste

- One, exclusive contract hauler for all residents and businesses
- Curbside collection for:
 - Garbage
 - Recycling (all in one container)
 - Compost (organics like food scraps and yard trimmings)
- Household Hazardous Waste collection program
- Regional MRF/transfer facility (SMaRT Station)

About Palo Alto: Zero Waste

- City-owned landfill stopped receiving waste in July 2011 and will be fully capped in 2015
 - Byxbee Park Hills, partially open now, will be fully open in 2016
 - 10 acres set aside for a potential energy/compost facility

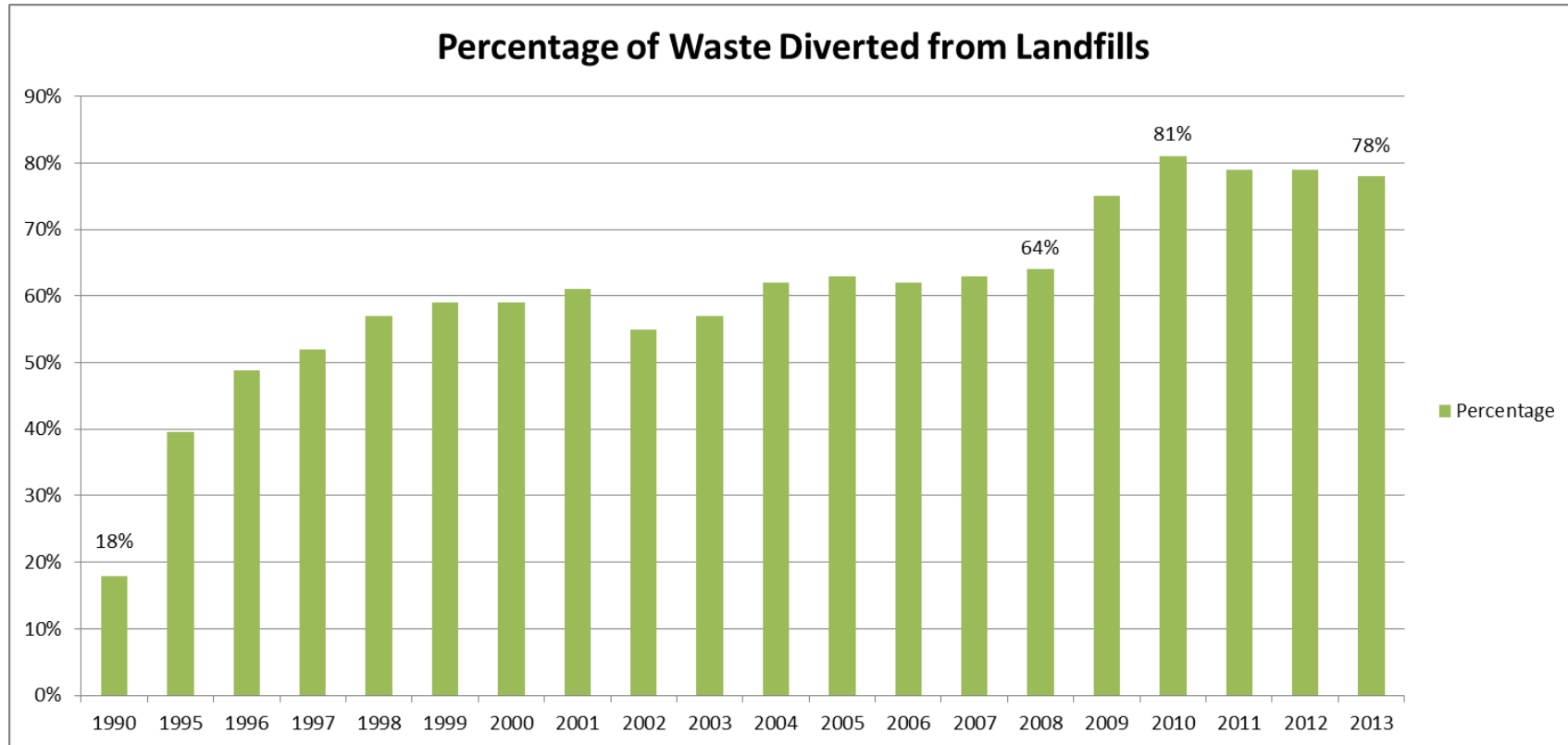


Zero Waste Programs

- Community Education
- Partnership with Schools
- Comprehensive Website and Facebook Page
- Block Leader Program
- City Operations
- Home Composting
- C+D Recycling

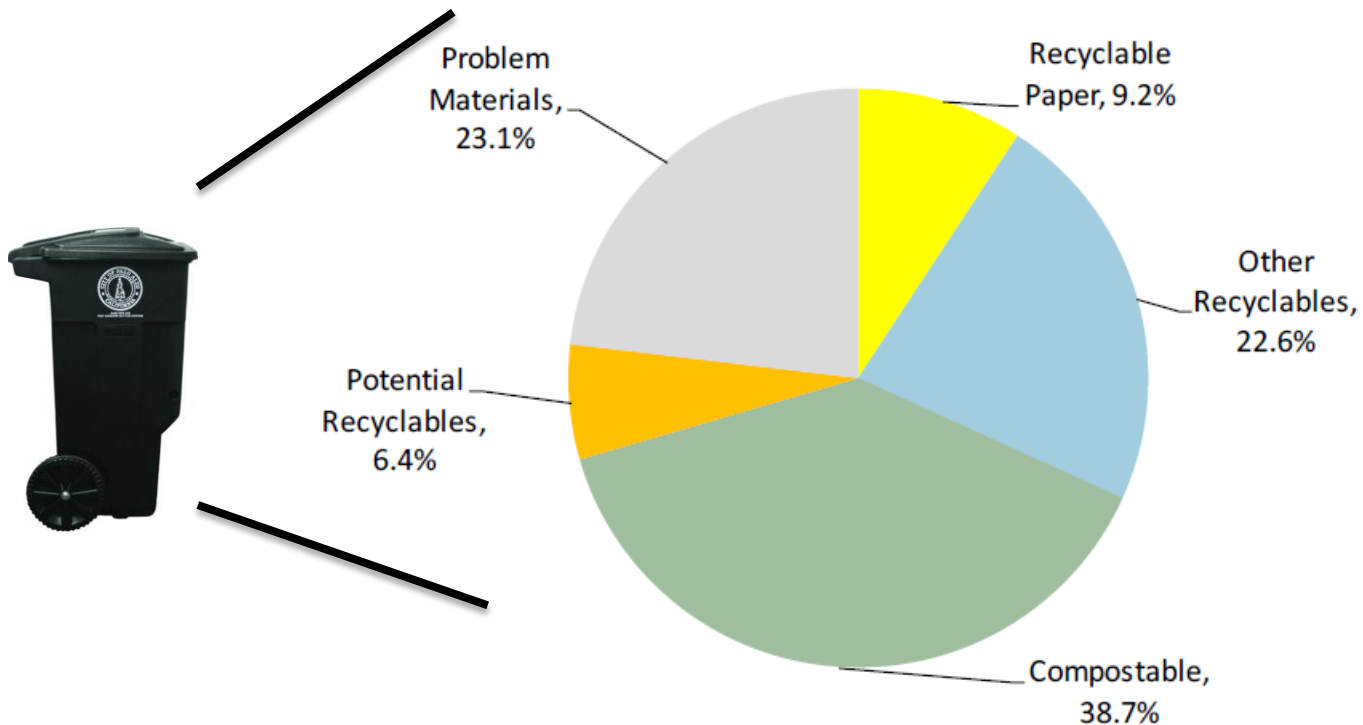


Have We Achieved Zero Waste?



Good Stuff is Still in the Garbage

Material In Garbage Citywide In 2012



What's Next in Zero Waste

- Residential Food Scrap Collection
- Mandatory Commercial Recycling and Composting Ordinance
- Food Waste Reduction
- The new programs will:
 - bring diversion rate up to 82%
 - result in a 3,800 MT CO₂e reduction of greenhouse gas emissions



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