EPA
MID-ATLANTIC REGION

You have arrived at:

Advancing Diverse, Locally-Based Composting Infrastructure in the Mid-Atlantic

Welcome!

We will get started soon.

EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION
2023 SUMMIT
Engaging and Investing for a
Healthy and Sustainable Future

Friendly Reminders Before We Get Started

Please mute yourself and turn off your webcam during presentations.

If you encounter technical difficulties during the meeting, you can:

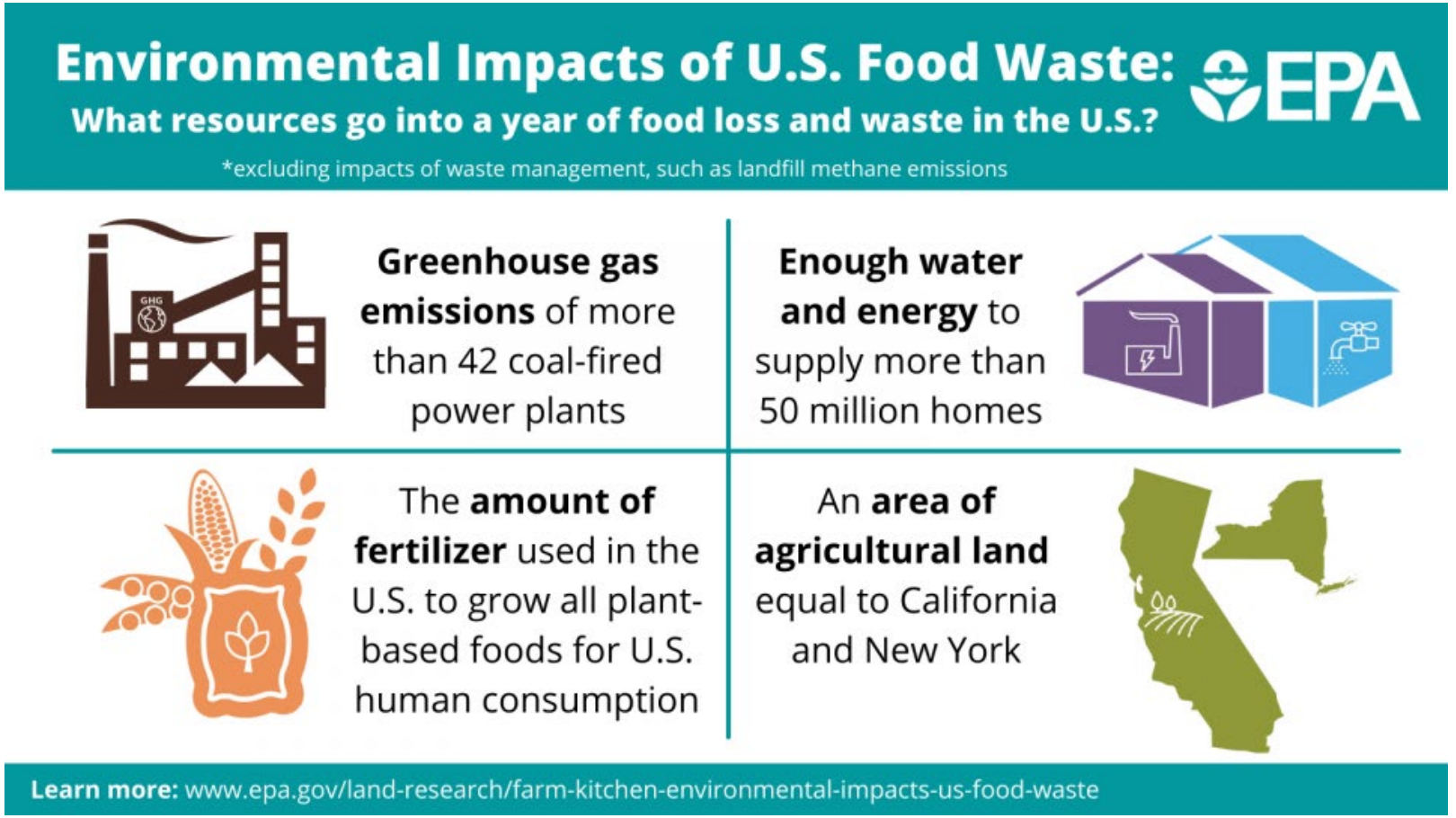
- ✓ Send a chat message directly to Host or IT Support
- ✓ Email epamidatlsummit@michaeldbaker.com with the subject line “Zoom Support“

This session is being recorded and will be made available after the summit.

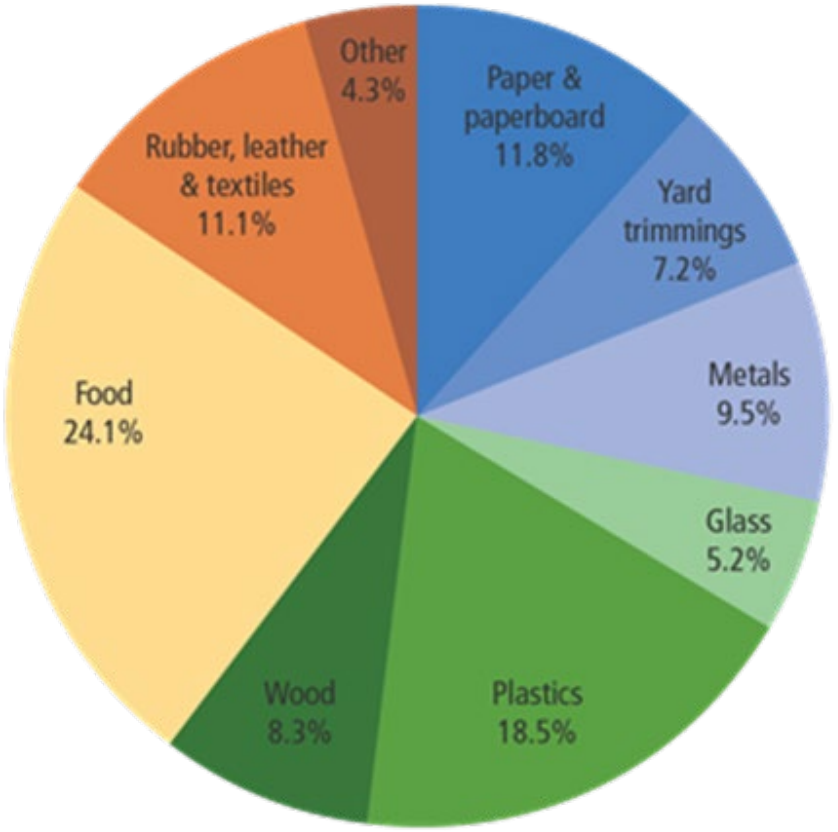
What if we viewed food and other organic materials, such as yard trimmings, as resources rather than as waste?

If we are producing it, aren't we responsible for managing it?

Food loss and waste represents 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)

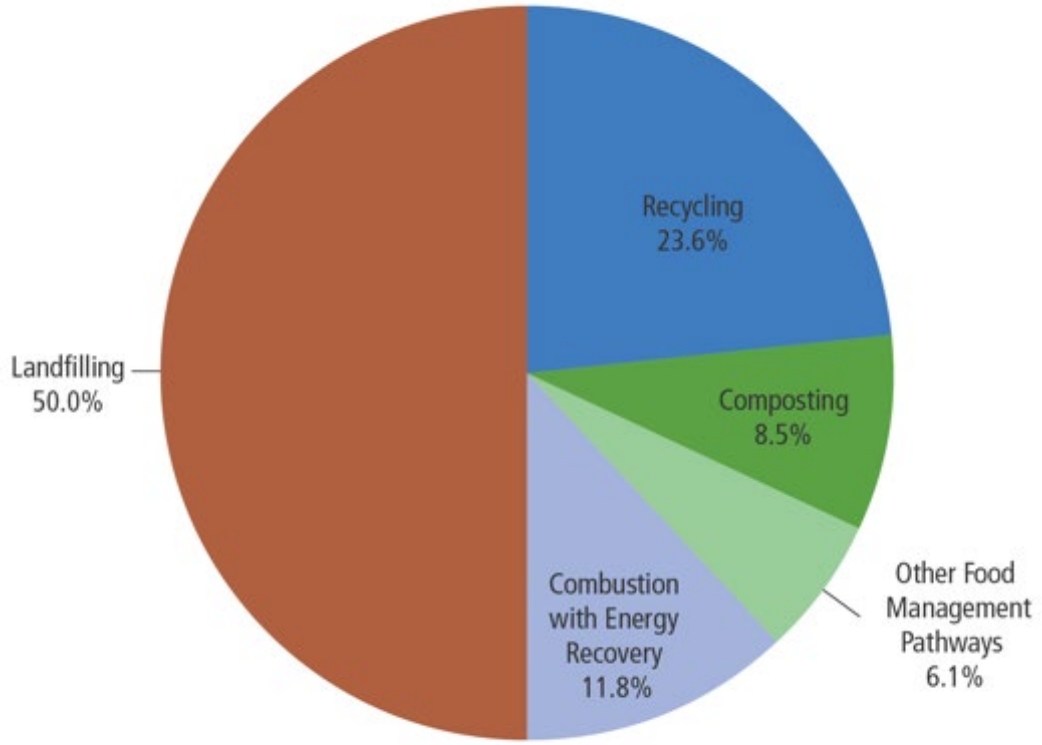


Total Municipal Solid Waste Landfilled (by Material)



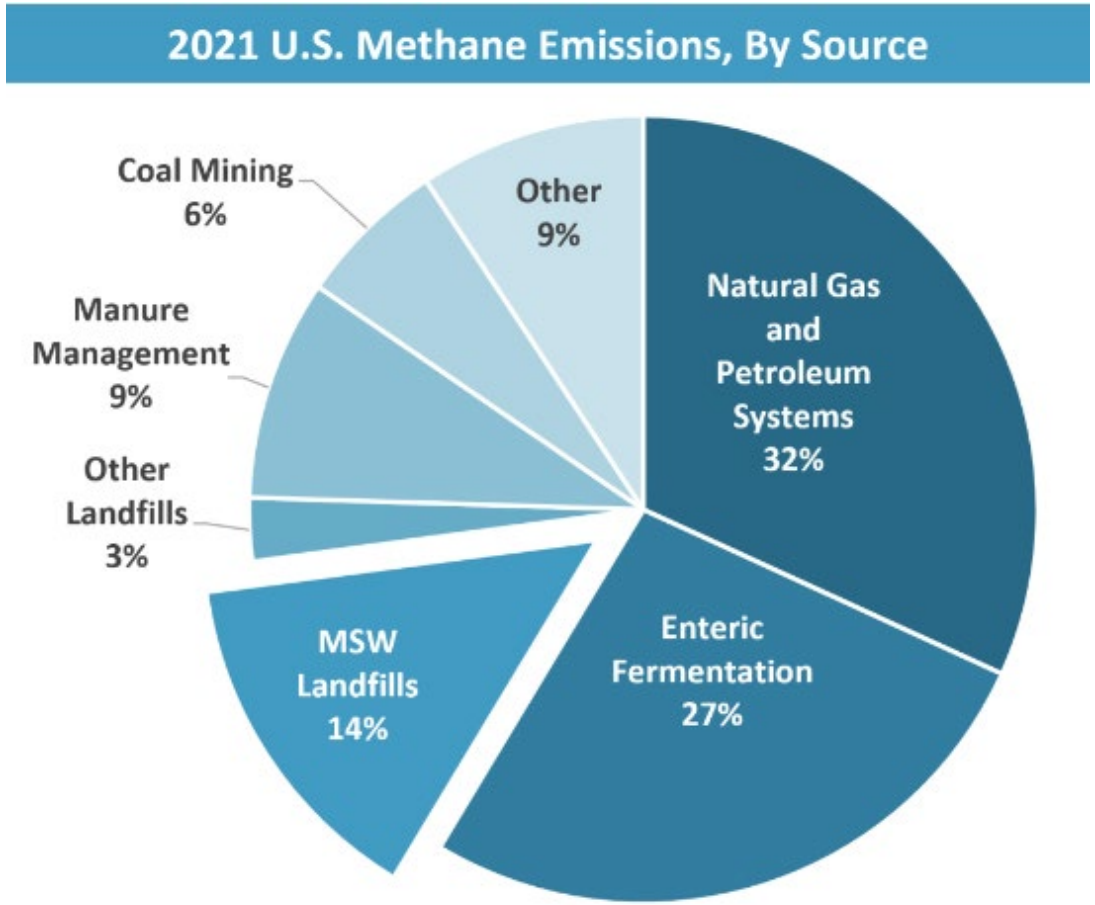
Source: U.S. EPA Facts and Figure Report, December 2020 (2018 data)

Management of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States



Source: U.S. EPA Facts and Figure Report, December 2020 (2018 data)

Municipal solid waste landfills are the **third largest source of methane emissions** in the United States.



Source: Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–2021 (U.S. EPA)

Promoting Compost Use to Build Healthy Soils

- Increases nutrient content in soils
- Helps soils retain moisture
- Can help prevent pollution and manage erosion problems
- Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides
- Suppresses plant diseases and pests
- Promotes higher yields of agricultural crops
- Helps regenerate poor soils and remediate contaminated soils
- Extends municipal landfill life by diverting organic materials from landfills
- Increases resilience to impacts of climate change – droughts, flooding
- Wide uses: horticulture, landscaping, soil erosion control, land reclamation

Challenges and Opportunities

- Even if we divert all our food scraps and other organics from landfills, we currently don't have enough composting capacity in the Mid-Atlantic Region to manage it all.

- As States, local governments, and Tribes develop climate change and sustainability plans/goals, waste characterization reports show us that food waste is an area we can and should address.

- "No one size fits all" approach. We need a diversified, decentralized approach to composting which includes developing locally-based capacity.

EPA Region 3 Funding to Advance Composting and Capacity in the Mid-Atlantic

- **Past grantees include:**
  - City of Philadelphia Department of Prisons
  - Prince George's County, MD
  - Institute for Local Self-Reliance
  - ECO City Farms

- **NEW funding opportunity** (EPA-R3-LCRD-23-09 in Grants.gov):
  - $150,000 to improve local post-consumer materials management in Mid-Atlantic
  - Development/enhancement of municipal recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion programs
  - **Deadline: July 14, 2023**