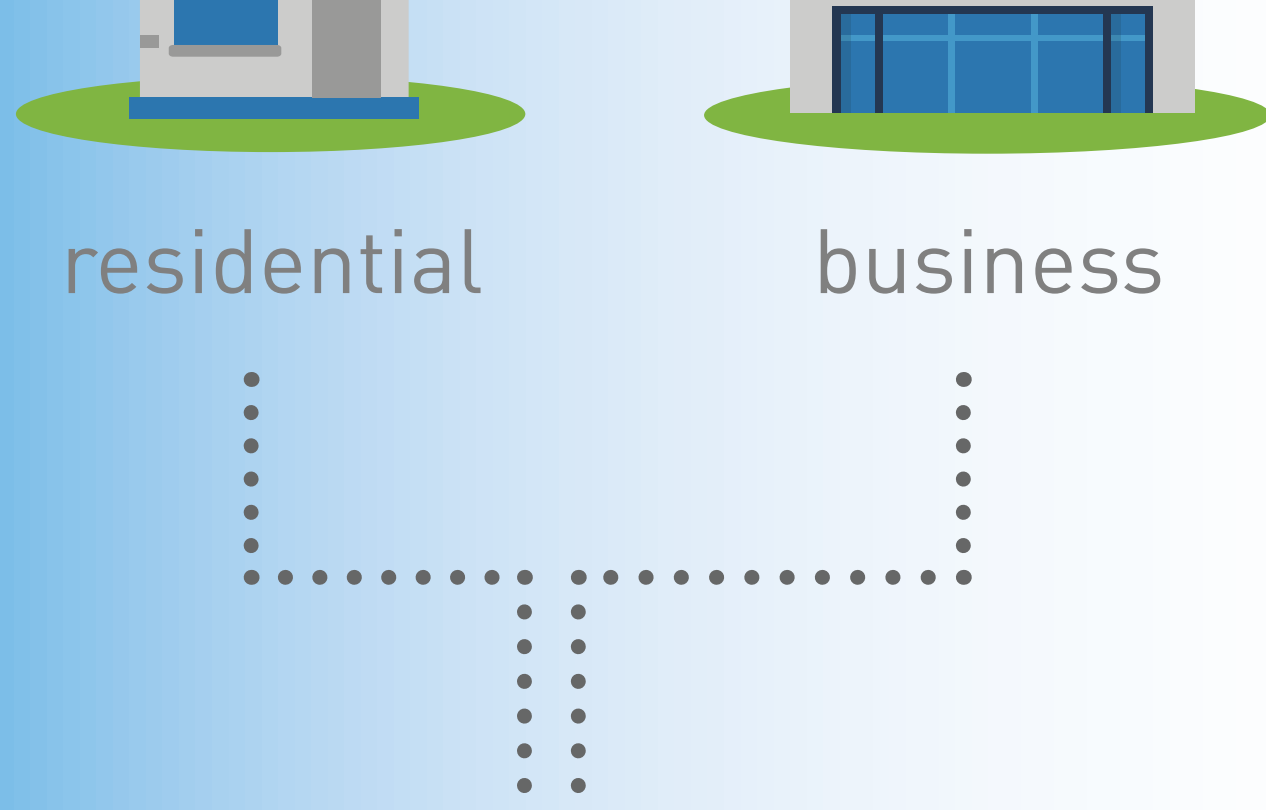


Waste Characterization Study

2019

About the Study

SWACO conducted a Waste Characterization Study to examine what is being thrown away in central Ohio and to identify opportunities to divert recyclables from the landfill.



Across four seasons, SWACO collected **180 business and residential** waste samples which, in total, weighed **39,000** pounds.

These samples were handsorted into **64 categories** and evaluated based on their **weight, material type** and **recyclability**.



Learnings and Insights

1

Overall, **76%** of the material that currently ends up in the landfill has the potential to be diverted.

41% of the material, including cardboard and yard waste, could easily be recycled or composted today.

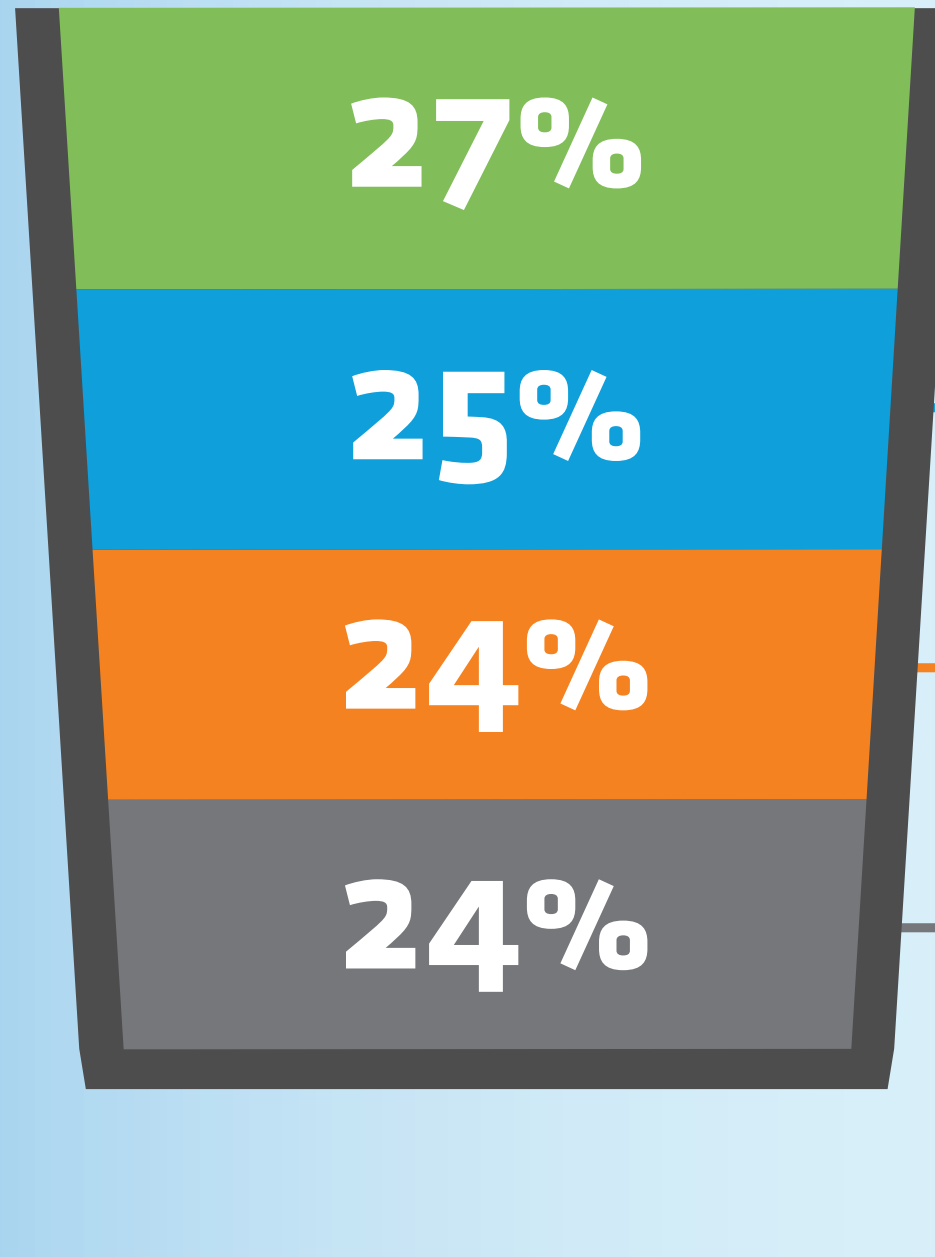


An additional **35%** of the material, including mattresses and food waste, could be recycled or composted with new programs or infrastructure.



2

Franklin County Sanitary Landfill Waste Characterization



Compostable Material

Recyclable Material

Other Recoverable Material

Non-Recoverable Material (cannot be recycled or composted)

3

The **top 10** materials thrown away in central Ohio.

Food Scraps

15%



Corrugated Cardboard

10%



Other Compostable Items and Fiber

9%



Magazines, Newspaper, and Office and Other Paper

8%



Bulky and Durable Goods

7%



Construction and Demolition

4%



Plastic Containers

4%



Wood Pallets

4%



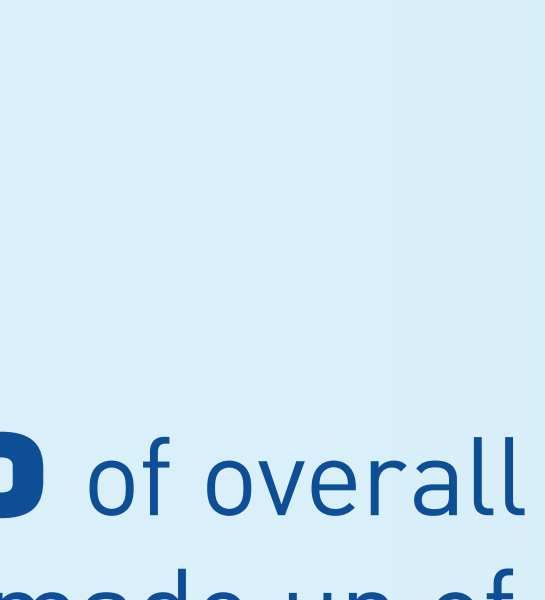
Textiles

4%



Yard Waste

3%

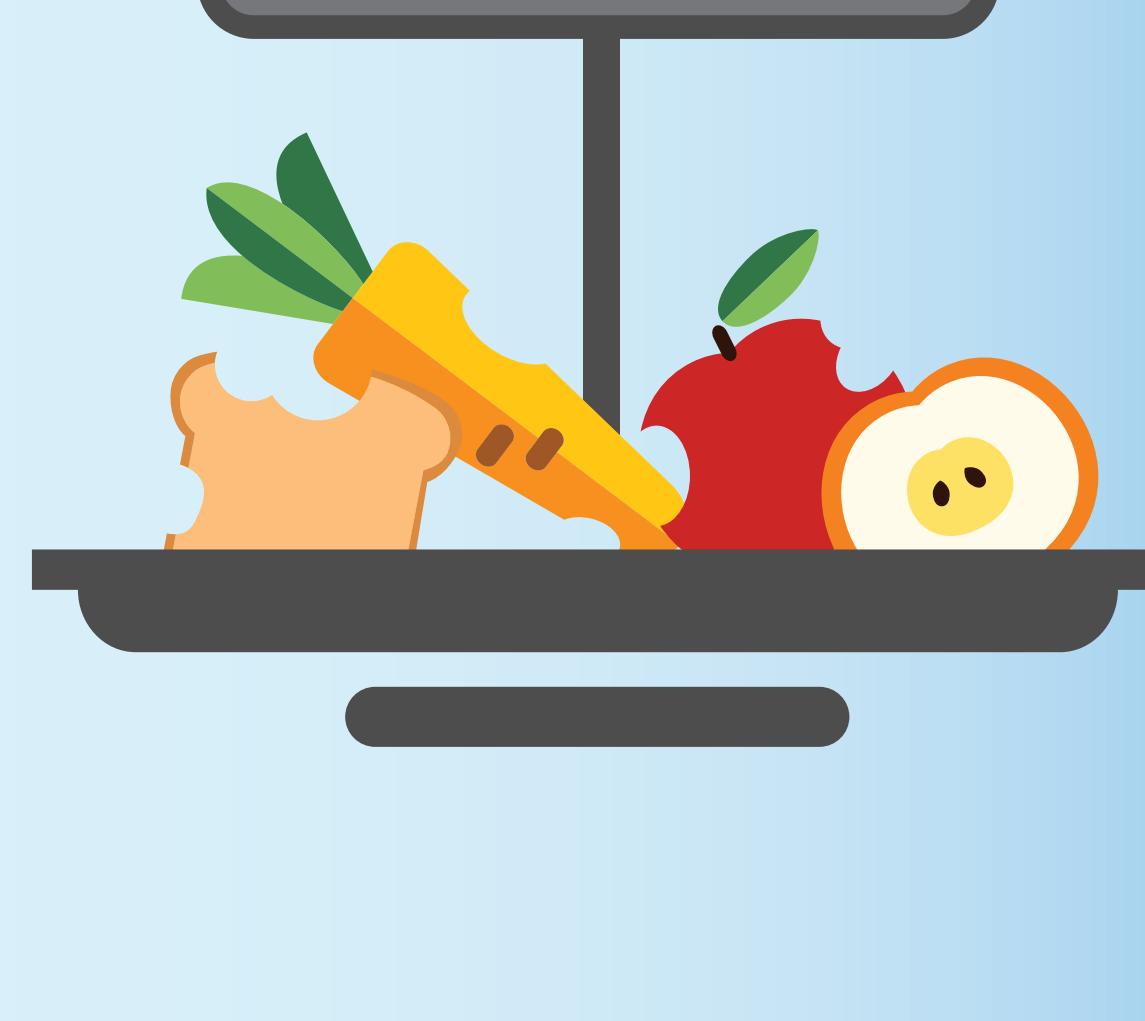


4

1 million pounds

The amount of food that enters the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill every day.

That's equivalent to every resident throwing away **260 pounds of food** each year.



5

Approximately **18%** of overall waste – nearly **400 million pounds** – is made up of corrugated cardboard, magazines, newspaper, office and printing paper, mail and other paper items. **All of this can be easily recycled today and diverted from the landfill.**

The amount of cardboard being thrown away would fill **21,800** garbage trucks. End to end, the trucks would stretch from

Columbus to Cleveland.

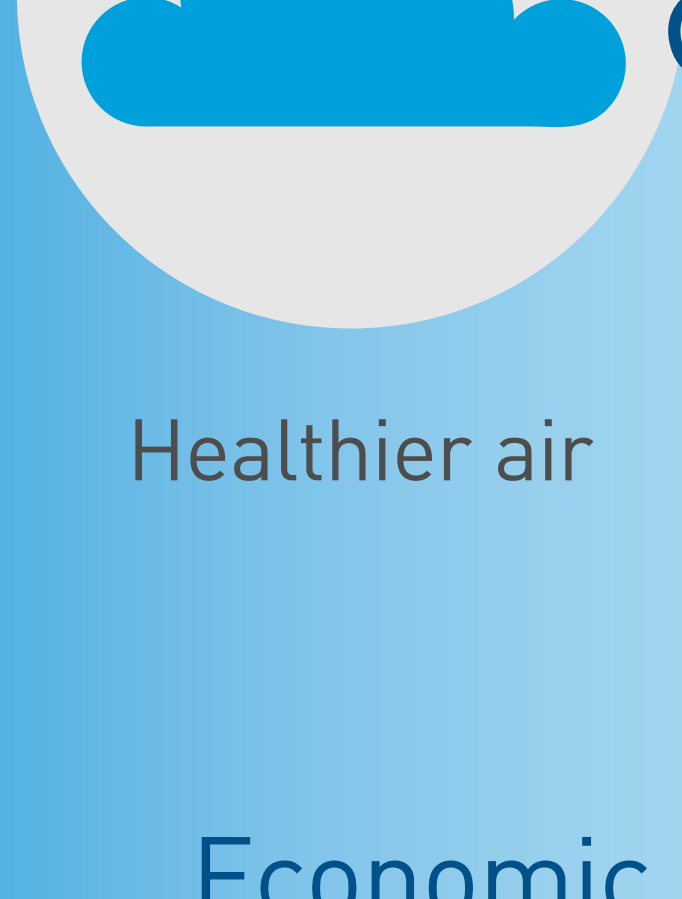


represents 1,000 trucks

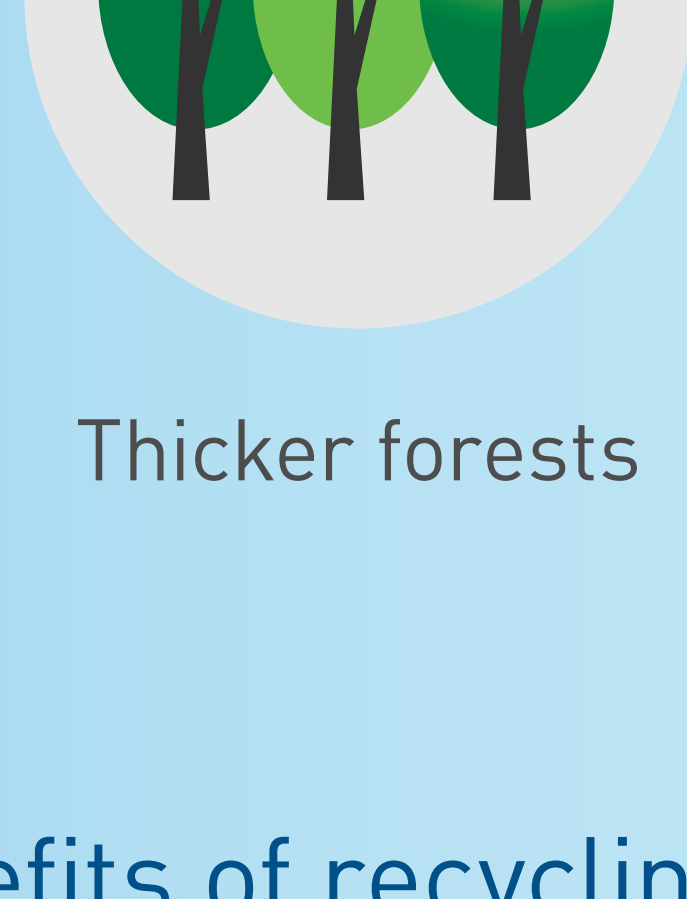
21,800 trucks

Let's Make a Difference

Environmental benefits of recycling:



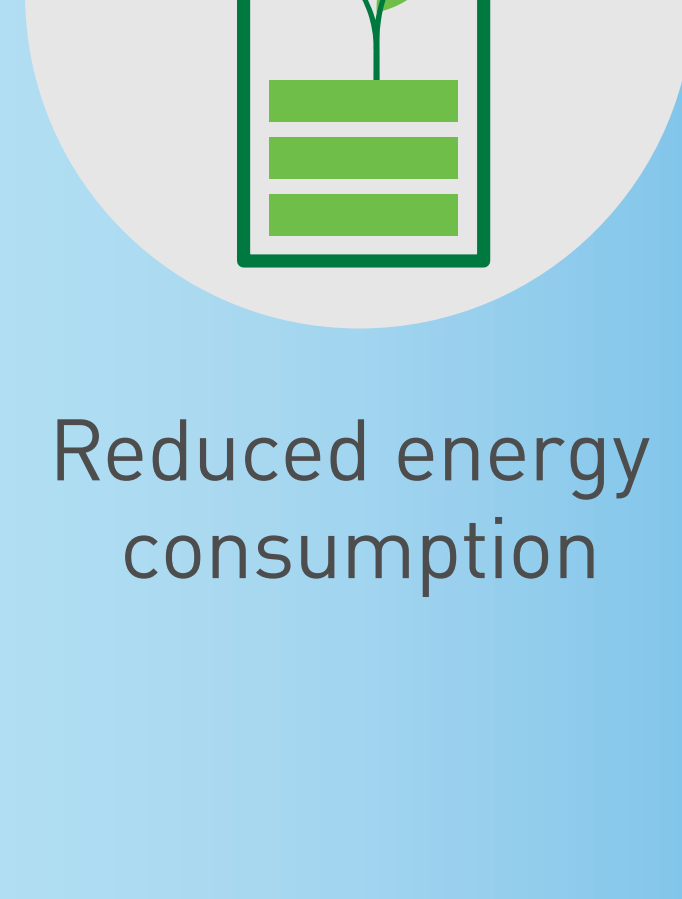
Healthier air



Thicker forests



Less destruction to wildlife habitat



Reduced energy consumption

Economic benefits of recycling:

370



Supports more than 370 businesses in central Ohio

5,000



Creates 5,000 jobs across the region

Currently, central Ohio recycles, composts or otherwise diverts **50%** of waste from the landfill. SWACO has set a goal for our community to reach a **75%** diversion rate by 2032. It will take concerned residents, businesses and local governments working together to reach this important goal.



2019



2032

SWACO offers many **community education** and **support services** to help reach these goals. Get involved. Learn how to **reduce, reuse, and recycle**.



Recycle Right
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

RecycleRight.org



CENTRAL OHIO
FOOD WASTE INITIATIVE

cofwi.com