



# Textiles reuse & recycling in Connecticut

August 2016



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

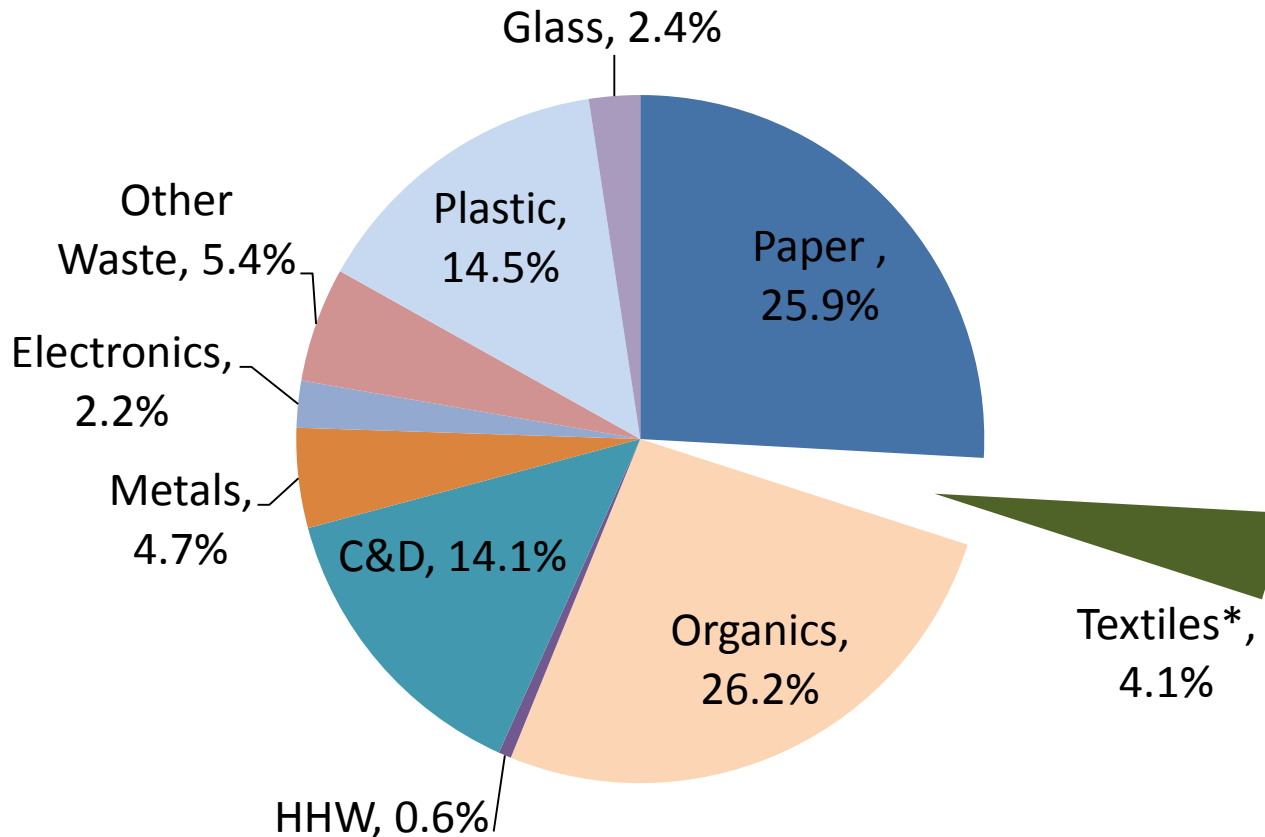
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# Opportunity for diversion

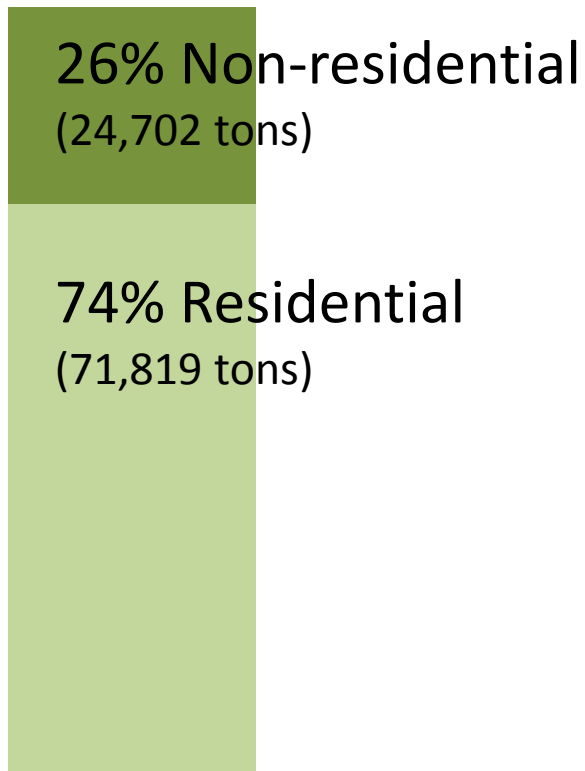
Overall composition of MSW disposed in CT, 2009



\*Textiles category does not include carpet

# Valuable materials in CT's trash

Total: 96,520 tons



- Potential for statewide savings of \$5.7 million from avoided disposal costs\*
- Potential revenue

\*Used average tip fee of \$60

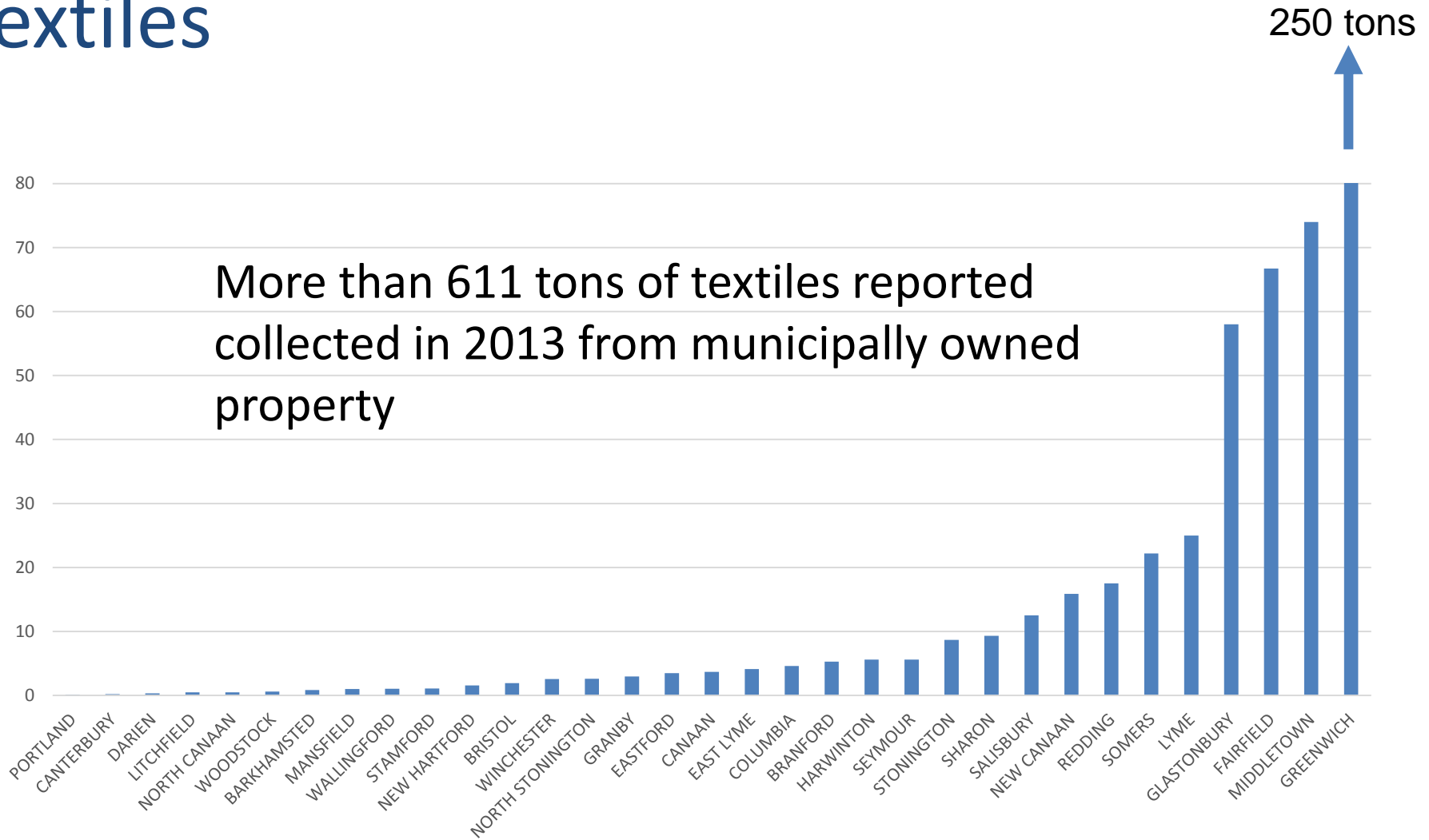
# Understand current landscape and build awareness

- Identified stakeholders in CT/region
- Held statewide dialogue in June 2013
  - Learned the basics of how textiles are collected, sorted, and processed
  - Learned about CT specific laws
- Developed [CT DEEP Textiles Reuse and Recycling webpage](#)
- Publicized via DEEP newsletters and social media

# Consistent message for increased diversion

- Collect or donate ALL textiles (clothing, shoes, linens, sheets, etc.) except if wet, mildewed or saturated with petroleum products
- Textiles that are not reused are recycled - only 5% of collected textiles are discarded

# More municipalities reporting collecting textiles



# Creating buzz about textiles in CT

- 9 towns participating in a regional master contract for textiles collection



- Salisbury School clothing and textile reuse
- CRC tour of Goodwill Facility

# Path to increasing diversion

- Statewide or regional textiles campaign
  - Agree on consistent message
  - Change behavior – ok to donate damaged materials because of end use
- Clean up the single stream bin – RecycleCT
- Attract facilities which sort, grade, and market post-consumer textiles
- Ensure easily accessible collection points