

Sustainable Materials Management as a Pathway to NetZero

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State Support of Communities

- State assistance programs effective in facilitating community sustainability efforts:
 - Direct engagement
 - Familiarity with communities and their peers.
 - Statutory, reporting, grant and other mechanisms that drive interaction.
- North Carolina has a number of assistance programs:
 - Key example: programs to encourage ***sustainable materials management*** by communities.

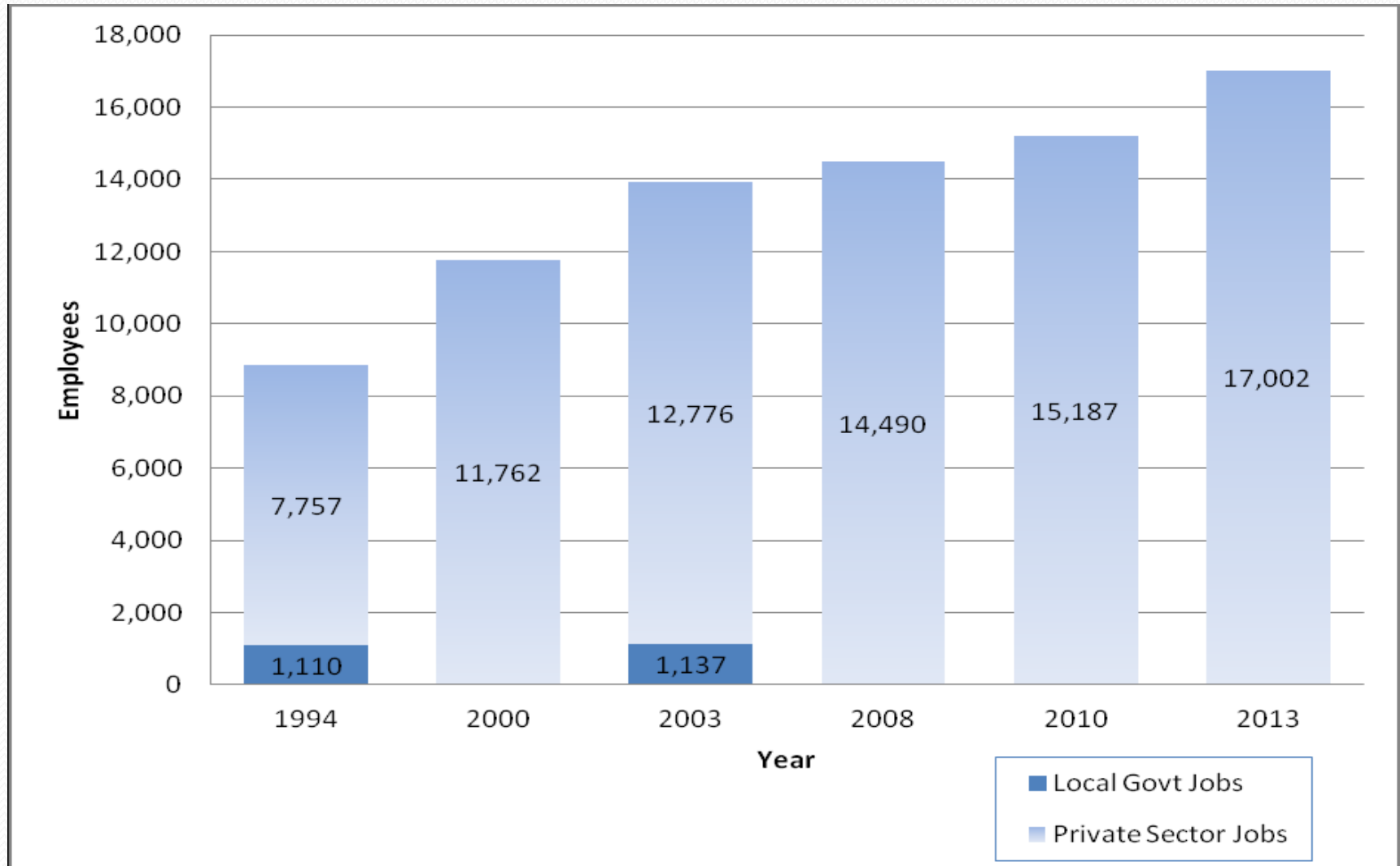
Community Involvement and Benefits from Sustainable Materials Management

- Local Governments on front line of materials management:
 - Operation
 - Financing
 - Decision-making about services
- Local Governments enjoy benefits from well-run systems:
 - Unit efficiency
 - Cost avoidance
 - Improved Services
- Local Governments not always savvy about their role in the materials supply chain or equipped to improve efforts.

Broader State Involvement and Benefits of SMM

- State Roles in SMM:
 - Setting of baseline policies
 - Direct influence over infrastructure development
 - Assistance to communities in improving conditions and deploying best management practices.
- State Benefits:
 - Reduced environmental impacts from disposal
 - Improvement of state economy – job and business creation, support of manufacturing

NC Recycling Employment Growing



Note: State measurement of recycling jobs focused on the private sector after the 2003 study

North Carolina Manufacturers Looking for Local Materials



“If we were able to utilize the waste generated within the state it would help to reduce our raw material cost by reducing transportation costs, which would obviously improve our ability to grow our business in North Carolina.”

- Cascades Tissue Group NC mill manager Mike Kitner

Examples of Local SMM Practices

- Municipal Curbside Recycling
 - Sustainability gains from adopting new collection formats
- Rural Drop-off
 - Efficient transport of recyclables
- Other Local Recycling Programs
 - Broadening of community material focus and offering of additional public services

Achieving New Efficiency in Curbside Collection

Old Collection System Using Bins



Average Bin-based program:
247 lbs/household/year

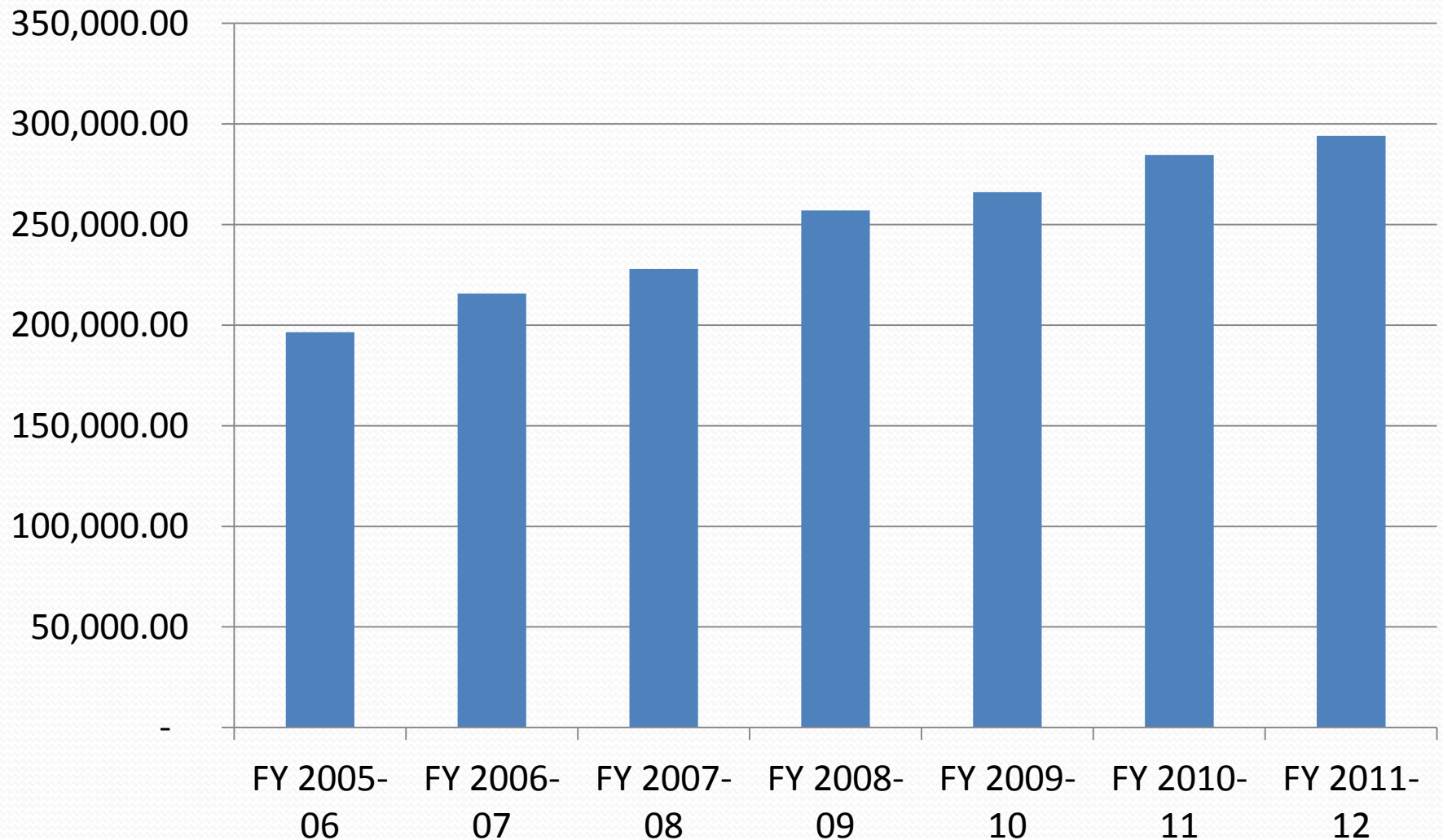
**More than 85% of NC municipal
curbside customers now have carts**

New Collection System Using Carts

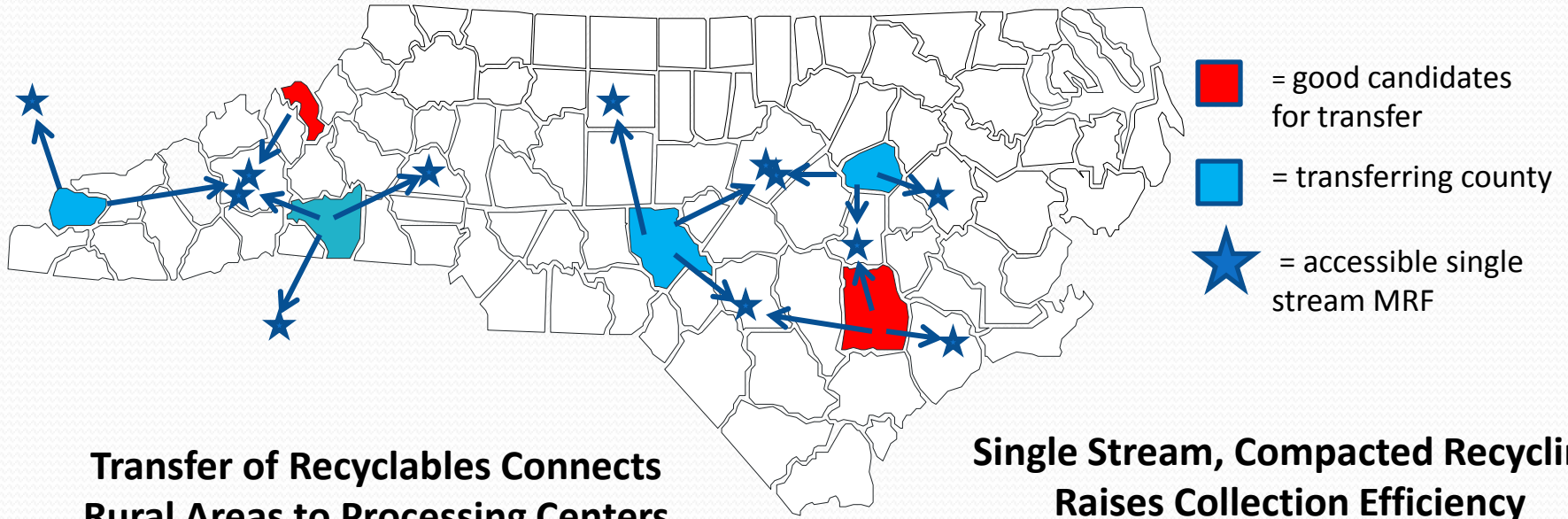


Average Cart-based programs:
445 lbs/household/year

Curbside Tonnage Increase of 50% since FY05-06



Improving SMM in Rural Areas



Examples of Other Local SMM Activities



Cooking Oil Recycling Feeds
Local Biodiesel Production



Mercury Lamp Collection Supports
Adoption of Efficient Lighting



Public Space Recycling
Spreads a Recycling Ethic



Electronics Collection Provides
Options For Discarded Devices



Household Hazardous Waste Programs
Reduce Toxicity in Landfills

Additional Aspects of Community of Net Zero Activities and State Support

- Energy and water use in public buildings:
 - North Carolina assists communities through the *Utility Savings Initiative (USI)*.
 - USI track record indicates many opportunities for successful, high return-on-investment initiatives.
- Energy and water use in businesses and institutions:
 - *Waste Reduction Partners* program conducts audits and recommends reduction strategies.
 - WRP track record indicates savings can be immediate with very quick pay-back.



Recommendations for Federal Support

- Convene states and communities with each other
- Convene states and communities with other stakeholders (especially private sector)
- Provide resources – direct and strategic support of local programs and state programs that help communities.
- Create an atmosphere of support and commitment by decision-makers.

Fed Support of North Carolina's SMM Efforts

- Region 4 EPA actively engaged:
 - Direct assistance of key projects
 - Effective convening of Region 4 states
 - Support of Southeast Recycling Development Council and other regional/national efforts
 - Advocacy for regional and local needs with headquarters and other stakeholders.
- EPA Headquarters Support
 - Convening of key dialogues with brand companies on recycling issues
- USDA and DOE
 - Funding of Waste Reduction Partners program

Thank you!

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