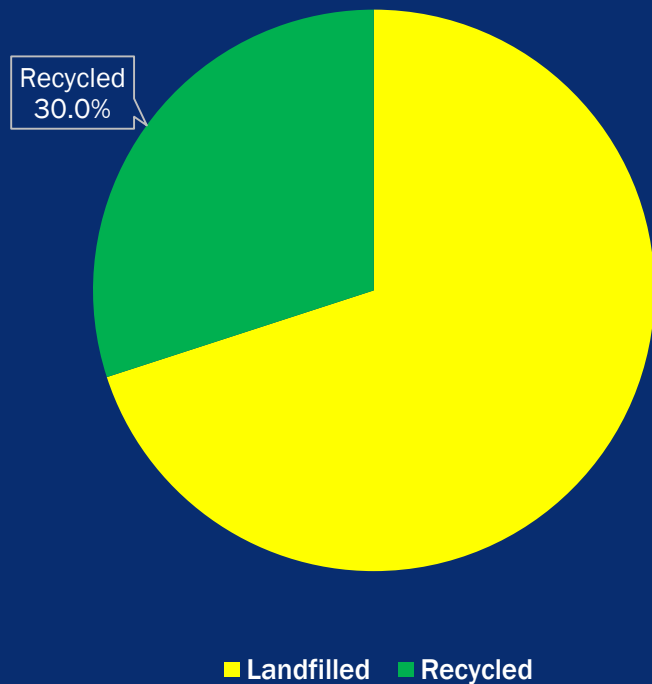
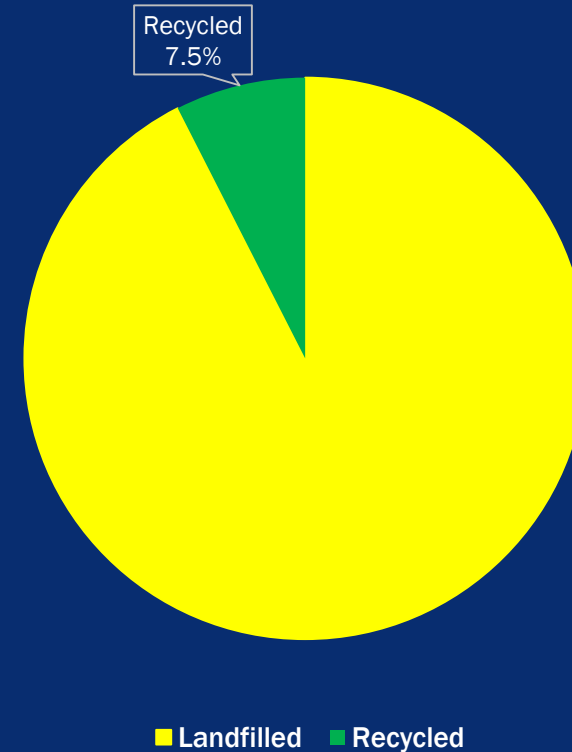


# City remains committed to recycling, but it has to be recycling that works

## 2018 Climate Action Plan Goal



## 2018 Recycling Performance



# How did we get here?

- Market for recycled materials has changed dramatically
  - China Sword Policy
    - Enacted January 2018
    - Banned importation of most plastics and other recyclable materials
    - Prior to this MRF's had incentive to take everything
  - Drove costs up for material recovery facilities (MRF's)
- MRF's started getting stricter about contamination
  - More loads rejected for contamination

# How did we get here?

## High contamination rates

- Based on physical audit at MRF in 2018, about 68% of collected recyclables were contaminated
- Types of recyclers:
  - Diligent” recyclers – do everything right
  - “Wishful” recyclers – put it in and hope it will be recycled someday
  - “Confused” recyclers – not sure what goes in due to multiple changes
  - “2nd Trash Bin” recyclers
- Tried to use education to drive down contamination

## City Education Efforts:

- *2014 – Partnered with Recycling Partnership and CCSWD on “One Simple Act” Campaign*
- *2015 – Ohio EPA Community Recycling Grant to fund education*
- *2015/2016 – NOAA Plastic Marine Debris Grant and “Don’t Break the Lake” Campaign*
- *2017 – Roll back of drop-off locations due to heavy contamination*
- *2017 – CCSWD Grant for water bill insert*
- *2018 – Public communication campaign regarding set-out rules*
- *2019 – CCSWD Grant for water bill insert*

Over past three years, applied for more than \$300,000 in Ohio EPA funding to support recycling

- *2020 application still pending*

# How did we get here?

- Favorable contract expired on April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Made about \$2 per ton on recycling
    - At beginning of contract, made over \$21 per ton
  - Contaminated recycling sent to landfill at regular landfill rate
    - Limited incentive for MRF to push back on us, limited incentive for us to push back on residents
- Went out to bid multiple times to secure a new contract
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time – no bidders
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> time – one bidder at very high per ton price
    - Market forces
    - Contamination rate
    - Transportation costs (hailed to SW Ohio)

## Why did we reject this bid?

- Approximately \$6 million to maintain the status quo
- Not meeting diversion goals
- Negative effect on local recycling contracts

# Where do we go from here?

- Recycling is on-hold, but we are still committed to recycling
  - Has to meet our local needs and context
- Bringing consultant on-board to review solid waste program including recycling
  - Vendor identified but waiting to evaluate until we return to more “normal” operations
  - Process will include public engagement opportunities
- We will be rolling out interim options
  - Paper, aluminum cans, etc...
  - COVID dependent
- Long-term opportunities for economic development locally
  - Market for plastics will likely get tighter
  - Circular economy solutions – already working with Economic Development

Questions?