

VERMONT'S UNIVERSAL RECYCLING LAW AND ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

ECOS WEBINAR MAY 31, 2017

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Moving from “waste”



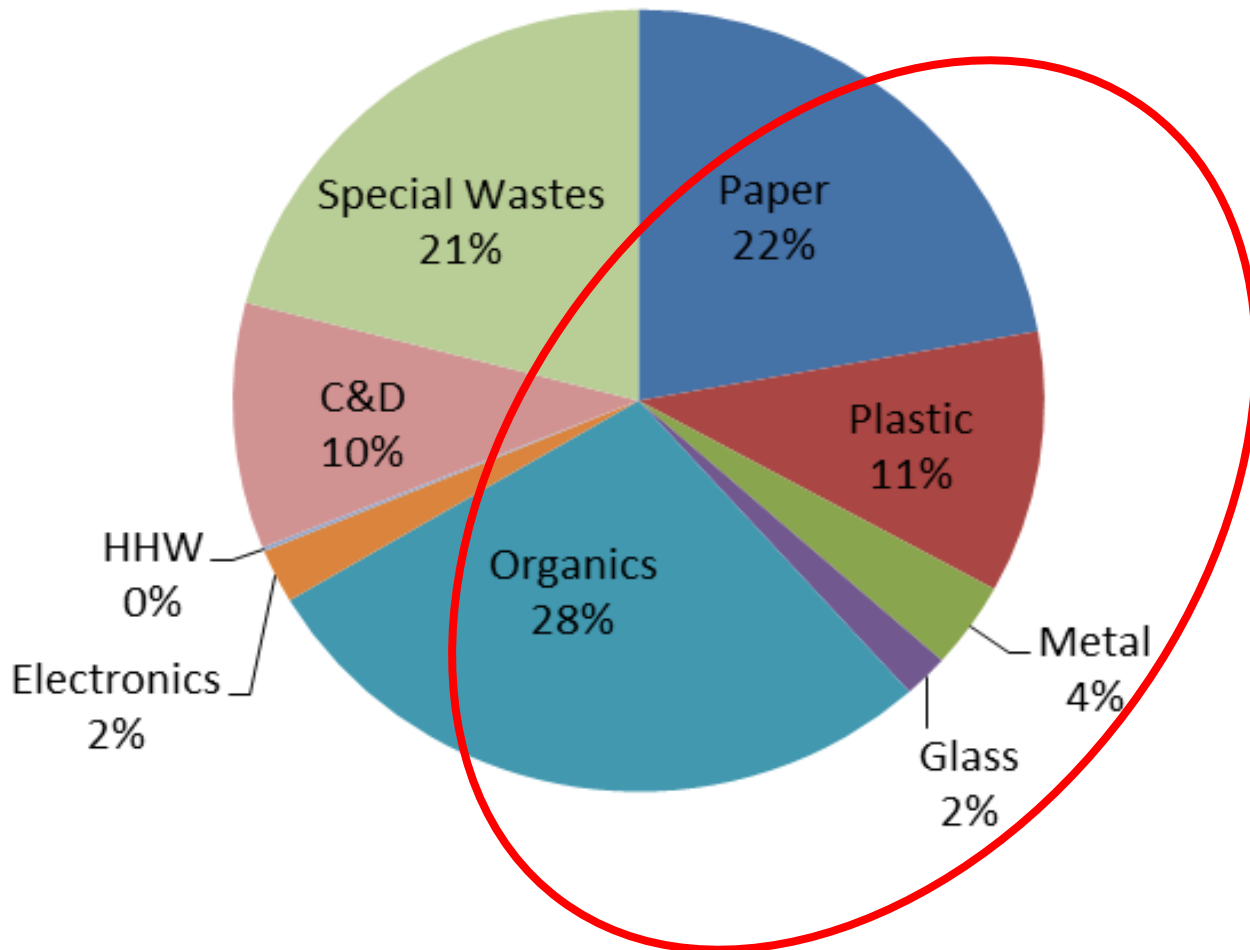


Materials Management



THE PROBLEM

VT Residential MSW 2012



**~50% of trash
could be
recycled/
composted**

**~60,000 tons/yr
food disposed**

Universal Recycling Law (Act 148)

- **GOAL:** To decrease the amount of waste disposed
- **STRATEGY:** To provide more consistent services statewide by increasing convenience, choices, and incentives for alternative disposal options

- **Highlights:**

- ✓ Focuses on recyclables and organics
- ✓ Phased-in approach to allow development of infrastructure
- ✓ Organics Hierarchy



VT Universal Recycling Law Passed 2012

Comprehensive Solid Waste Policy

- **Required Diversion (bans) = Motivation**
 - ▣ recyclables
 - ▣ leaf, yard, and clean wood
 - ▣ food scraps
- **Parallel Collection = Convenience**
- **Pay As You Throw = Incentive**
- **Recycling in Public Spaces = Lead by Example**

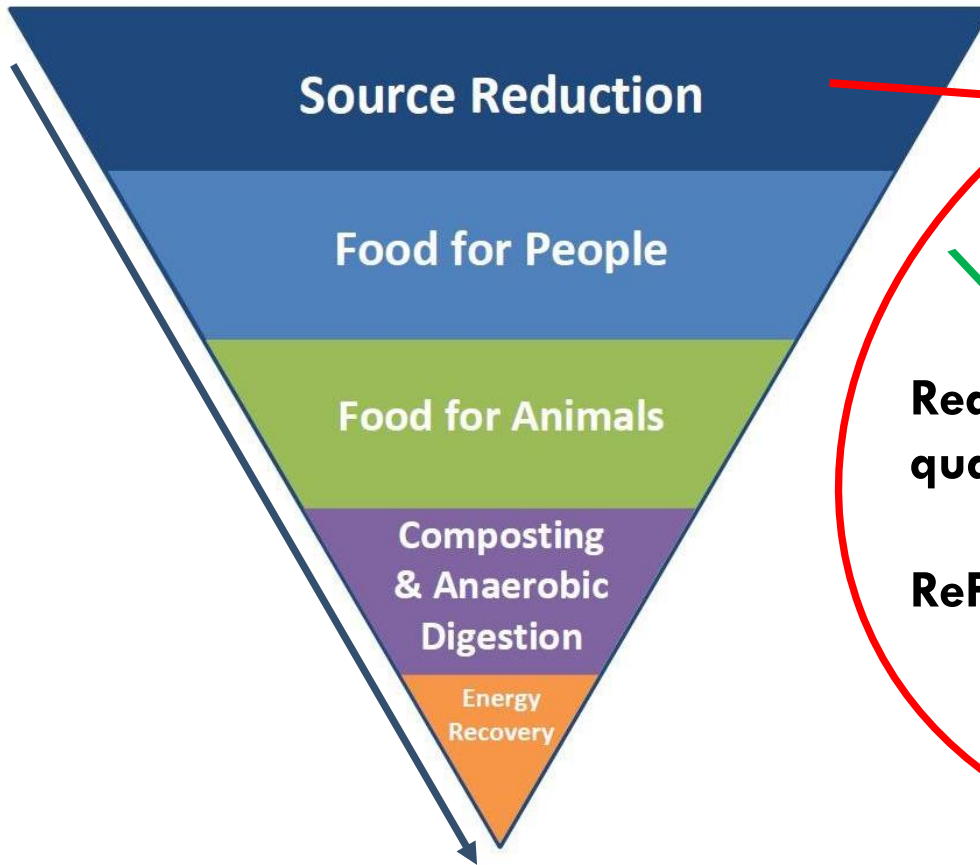


Food Scraps: Phased Approach

- Phases for larger food scrap generators, if there is a facility within 20 miles
 - 2014 > 104 tons/year **2 tons/wk**
 - 2015 > 52 tons/year **1 ton/wk**
 - 2016 > 26 tons/year **1/2 ton/wk**
 - 2017 > 18 tons/year **1/3 ton/wk**
 - **2020 all food scraps banned regardless of distance**



Universal Recycling Food Hierarchy



Workshops

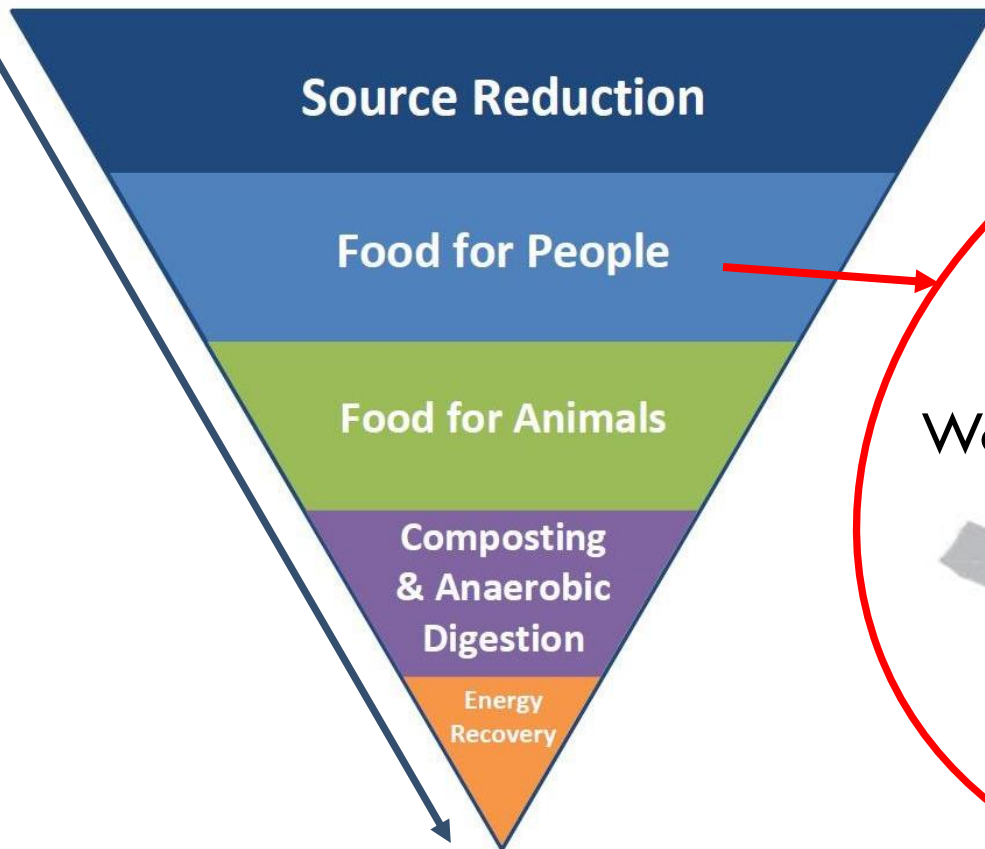


Reduction is challenging to quantify/track statewide

ReFED recommendations:

Standardize date labeling,
consumer education,
packaging adjustments

Universal Recycling Food Hierarchy



FOOD DONATION

Work with Partners!

 Vermont Foodbank
Gather Share Nurture

Work with Health Dept on Guidance

Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (1996) – helps protect food donors from liability associated with donated food.

Food Rescue in Vermont

- Policy / Law
 - driver of change and incentives

- Partnerships / Synergy
 - VT FoodBank
 - Gleaning
 - Farm to Plate
 - Schools



Food Bank & Food Rescue & UR

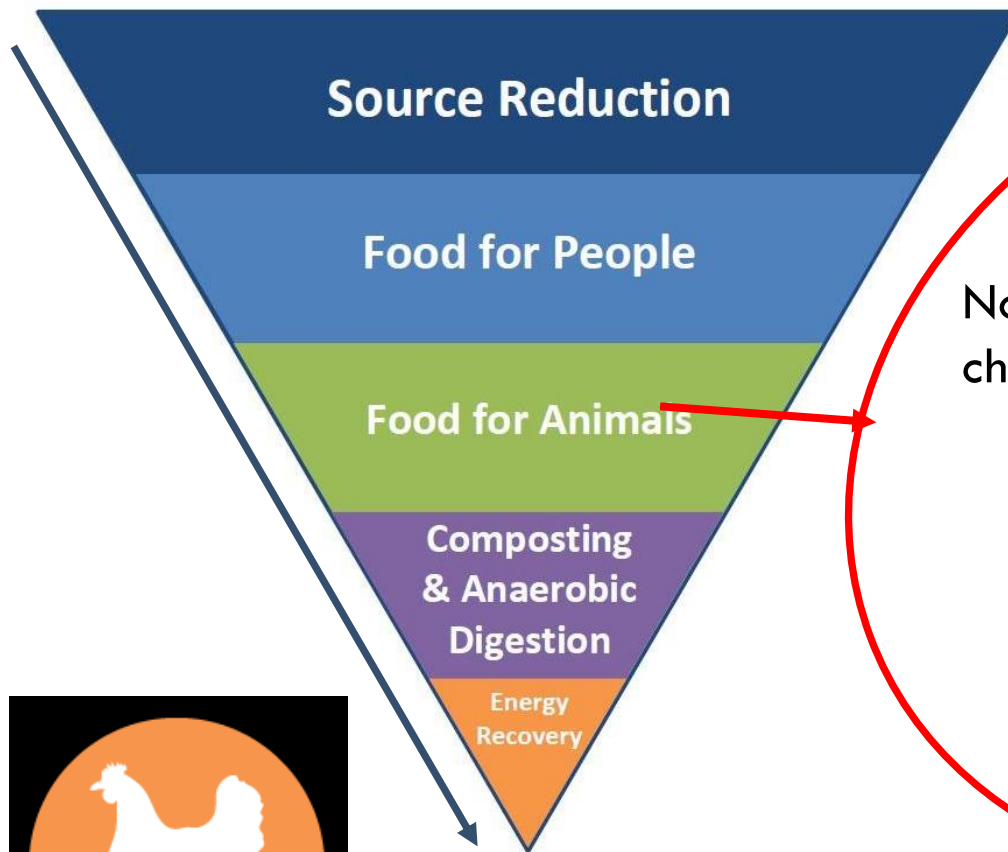
- FoodBank worked with supermarkets
 - ▣ Matched stores with nearby food shelves or others food recipients
 - ▣ Promoted direct delivery of fresh produce/perishable foods to local food shelves and others

Used UR law as an incentive

Increases in Food Rescue:
30% increase first year,
Additional 40% second year.



Universal Recycling Food Hierarchy



Chickens
Swine (NO meat)

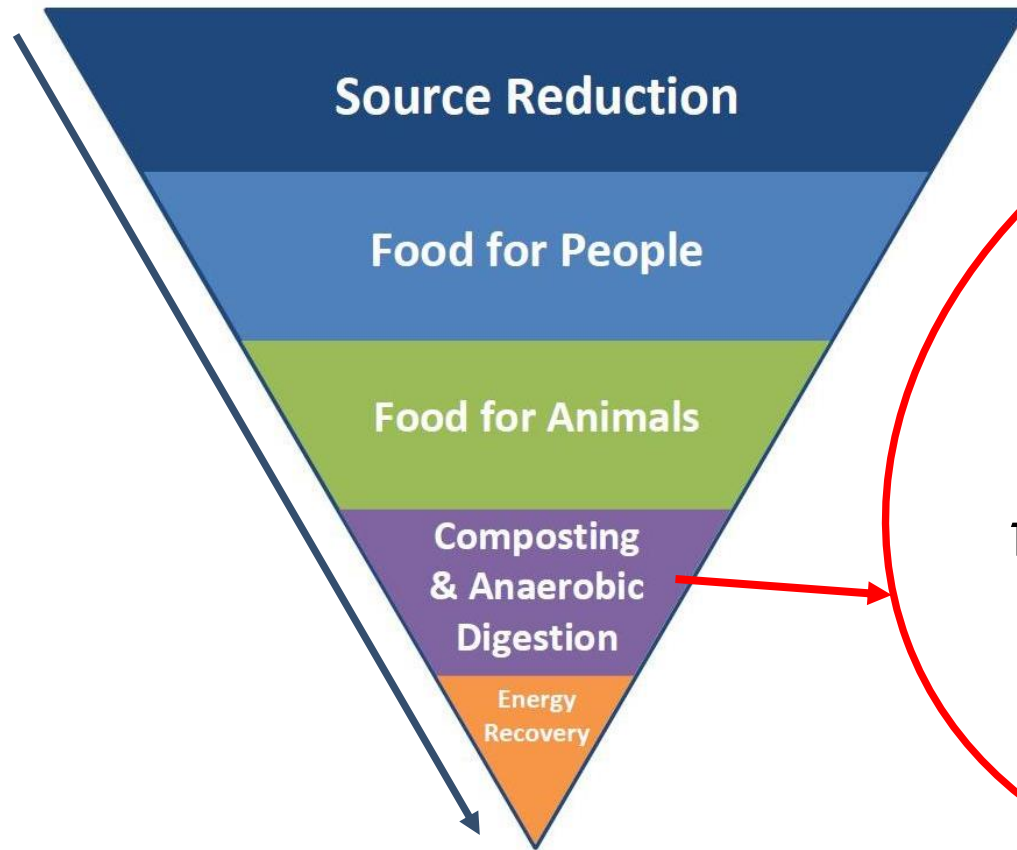
No reporting required,
challenging to quantify.

At least 4 farms with
significant number of
chickens feeding on
food scraps.

Working with Agency of
Agriculture



Universal Recycling Food Hierarchy



10 Certified Organics Facilities:
8 compost facilities
1 anaerobic digester
1 organics treatment facility



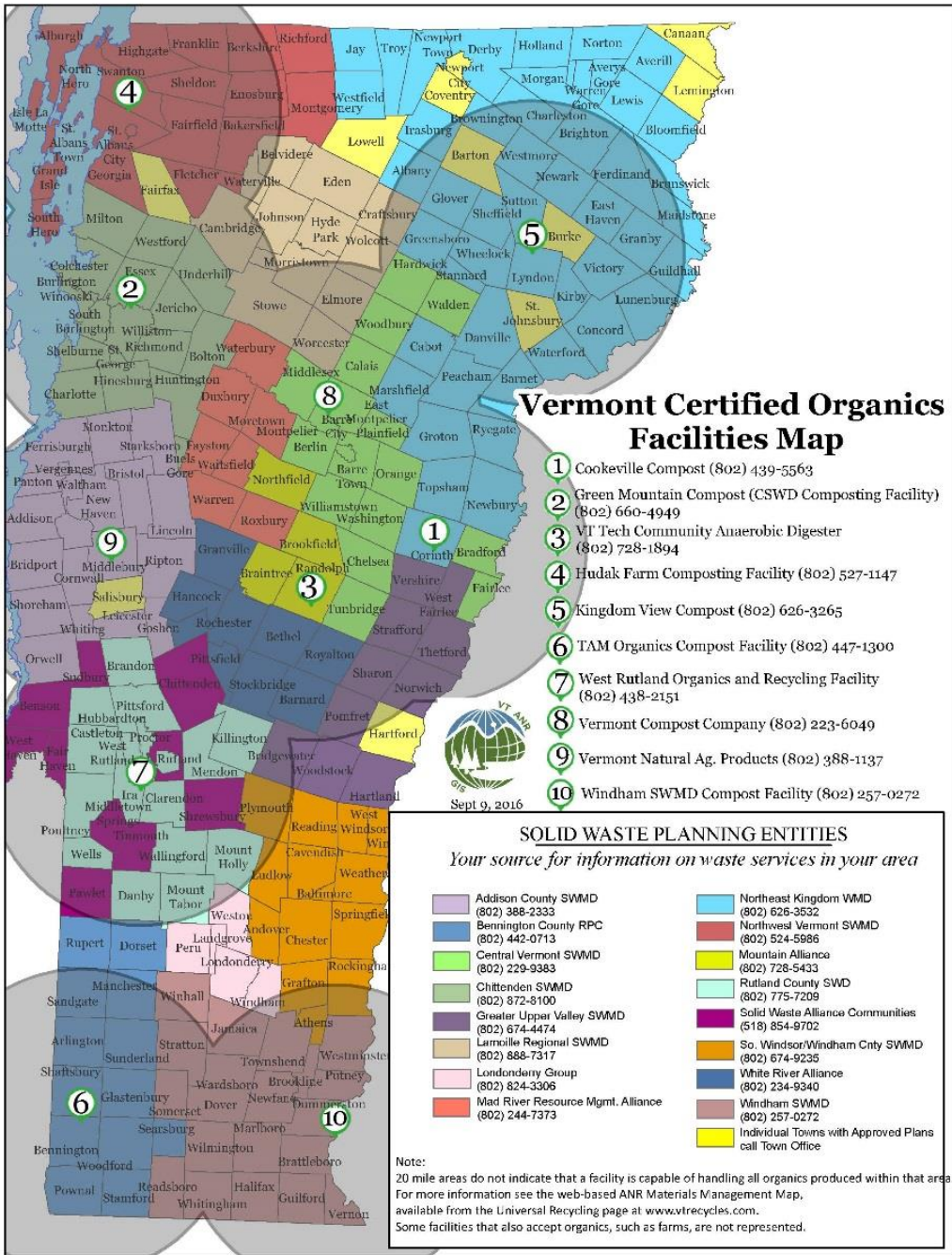




Anaerobic Digesters

- 17 on-farm, manure and food processing waste
- 2 Pilot Projects for post-consumer food scraps





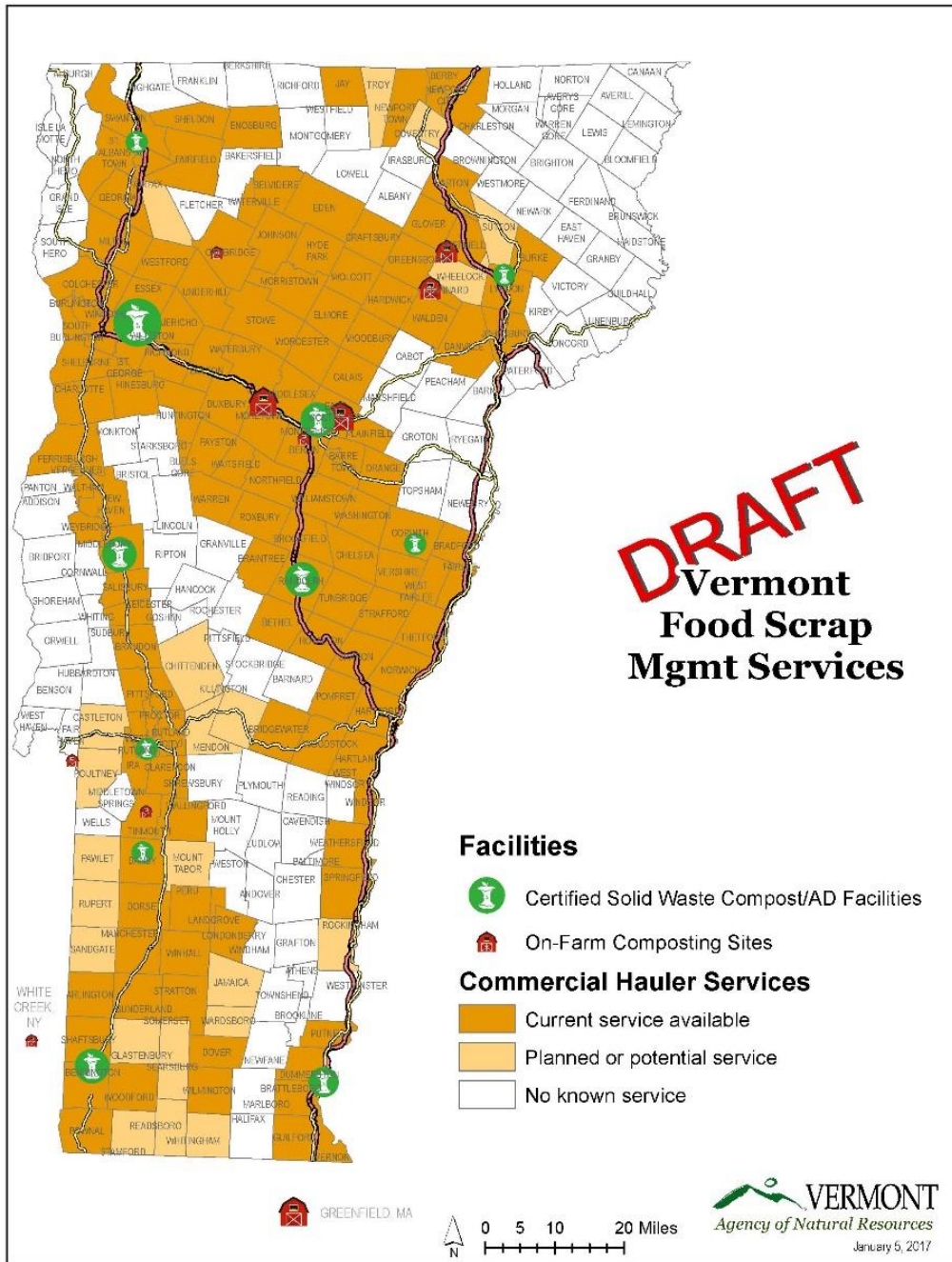
10 Certified Organics Mgmt. Facilities

(8 compost, 2 AD)

~82% of towns are w/in 20 miles of a facility

Food Scrap Haulers





13 Commercial
 Organics Haulers

~62% of VT has
 commercial
 organics hauling
 service or
 planned service

Universal Recycling is Working!

- All VT municipalities adopted Pay-as-You-Throw
- 5% decrease in MSW disposal (2014 vs. 2015)
- Diversion up 2%, from 33% to 35%
- Organics:
 - Food Rescue: increased 30%, then another 40%
 - Food scraps to Certified facilities up 14.7% (2015)

Stay Tuned!

Website -- www.recycle.vermont.gov



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