



CITY OF BERKELEY ZERO WASTE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

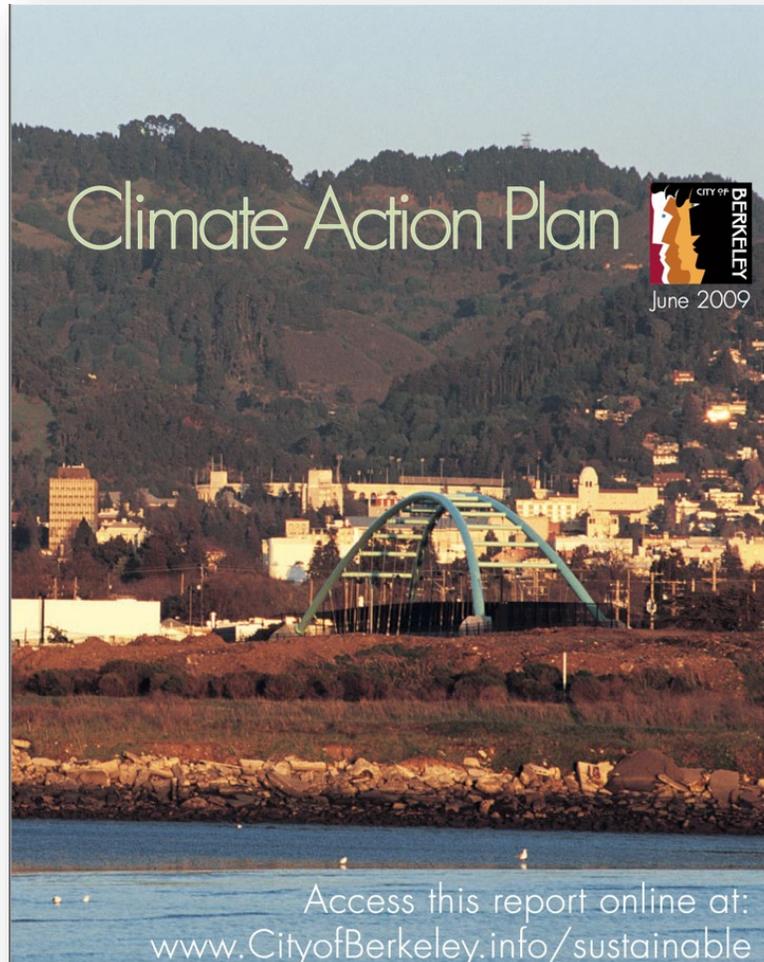
Environment and Climate Commission July 23, 2025

Purpose

Guide the City of Berkeley to identify the policies, programs and infrastructure to reach its Climate Action and Zero Waste Goals

Identify the investments needed to implement Zero Waste solutions over the 10-year planning period

Background



2005 City Council Resolution

- Eliminate Berkeley's materials sent to landfills by the year 2020

2009 Climate Action Plan

- Vision for the Year 2050: Zero waste is sent to landfills

State Laws

2012

- Mandatory Commercial Recycling

2014

- Mandatory Commercial Organics

2016

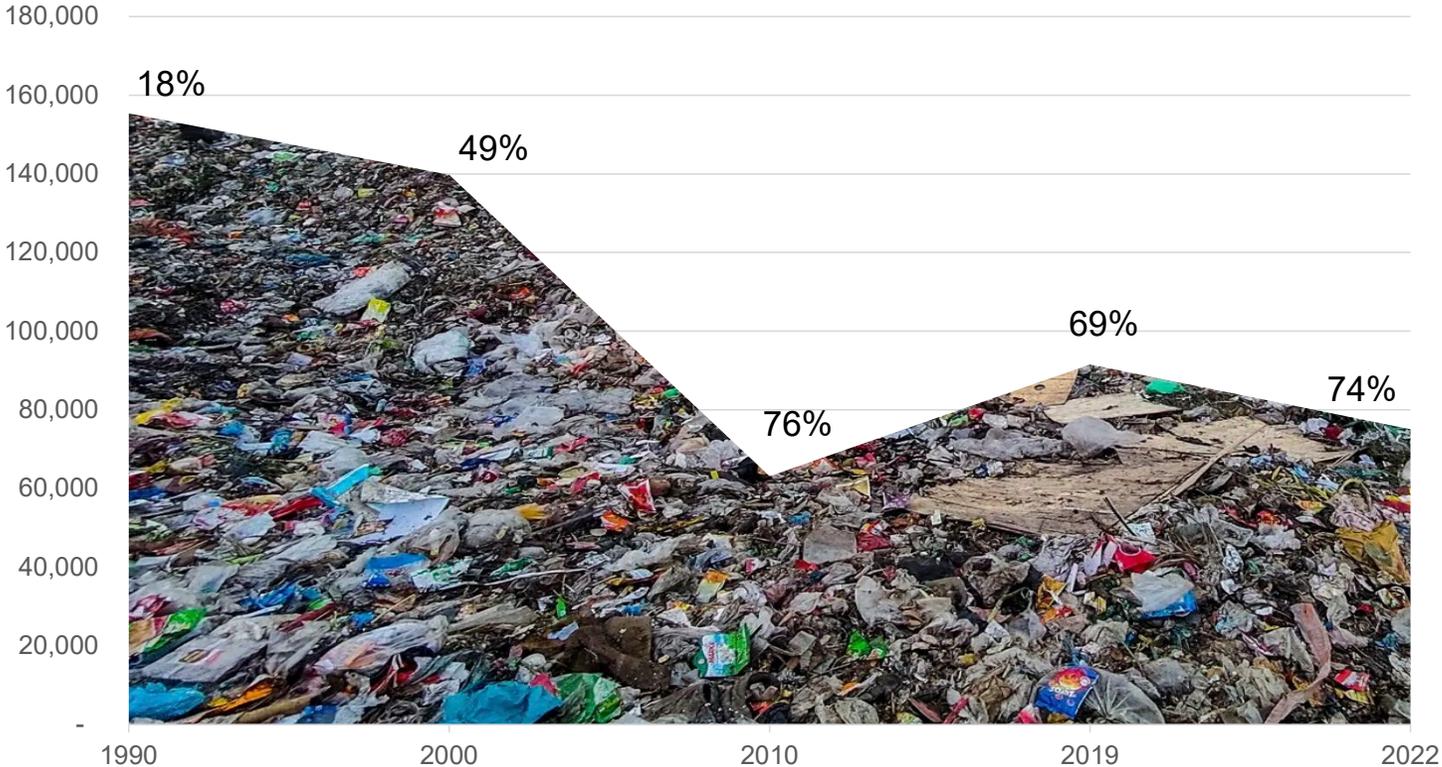
- Reduce organic waste disposal 75% by 2025
- Rescue for people to eat at least 20% of currently disposed surplus food by 2025

2022

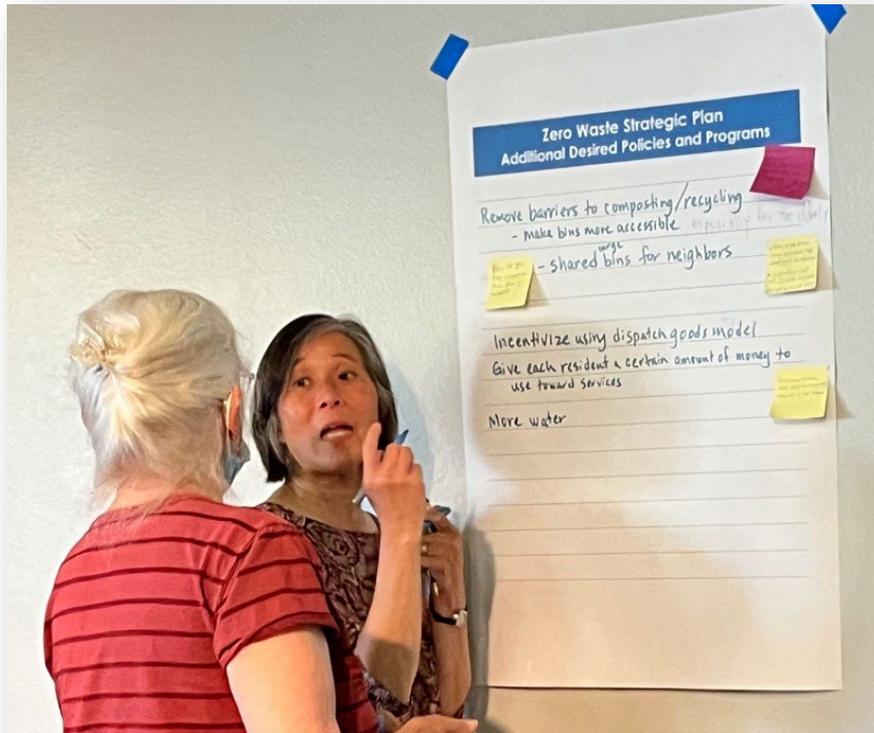
- Producer responsibility for packaging and plastic foodware

Historical Landfill Reduction

Tonnage Reduction and
Diversion Rate Increase Over Time



Stakeholder Outreach



Workshop Series

- June/July – Guiding Principles, Zero Waste Initiatives
- October – Single-family, Multifamily and Commercial Preliminary Analysis
- March – Self-haul Preliminary Analysis
- May – Draft Plan Elements

Stakeholder Interviews

- Businesses and Institutions
- Service Providers
- City staff
- Tabling Events

Communitywide Survey

Guiding Principles

1. Grow community power through public engagement, accountability & a sense of accomplishment

2. Ensure City department leadership in Zero Waste practices

3. Engage public & private institutions to model Zero Waste practices

4. Prioritize reduction, reuse & repair

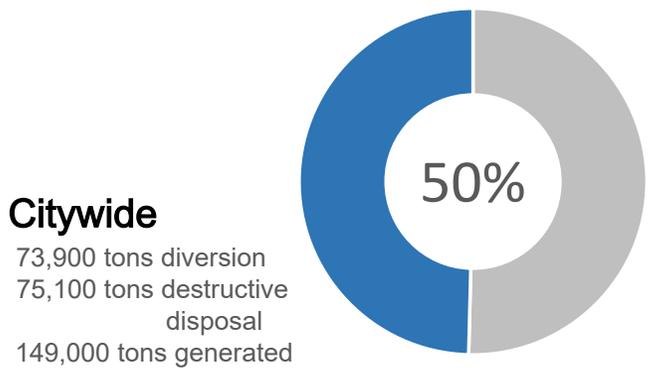
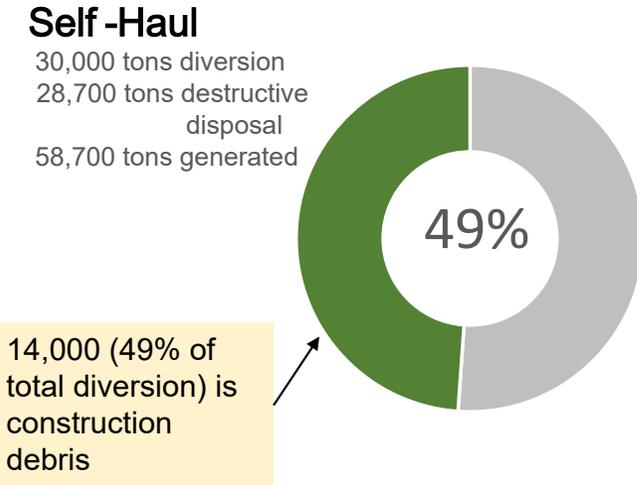
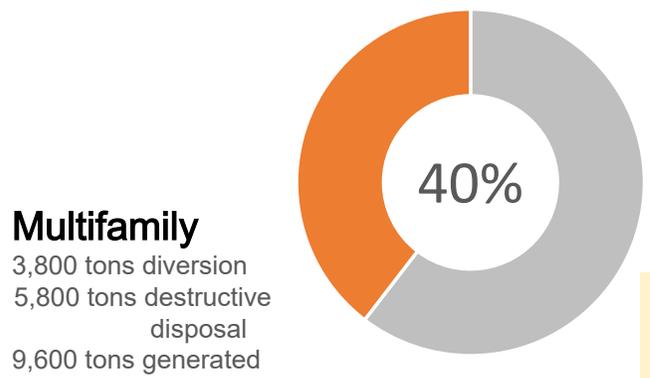
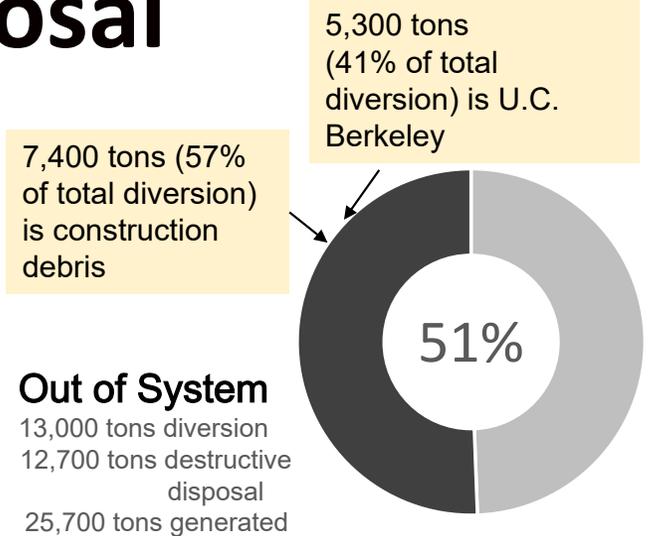
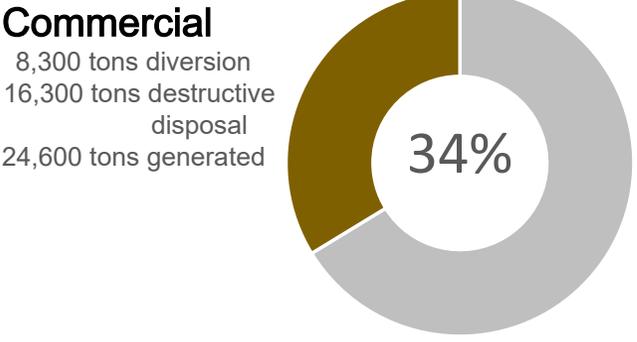
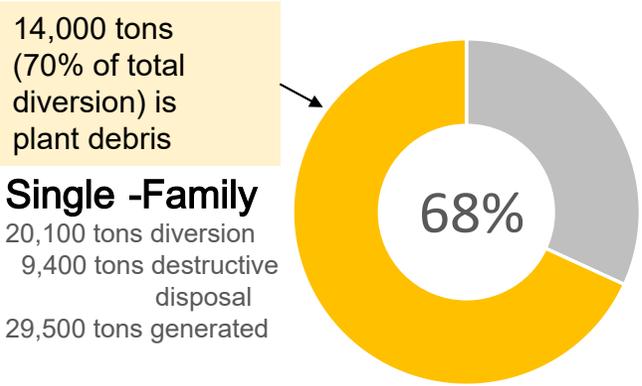
5. Hold producers accountable for their problem products through state & federal advocacy

6. Create a culture of Zero Waste through reducing consumption & maximizing reuse, recycling & composting

7. Make "doing the right thing" convenient & accessible for all

Diversions + Destructive Disposal

2022 Baseline Tons

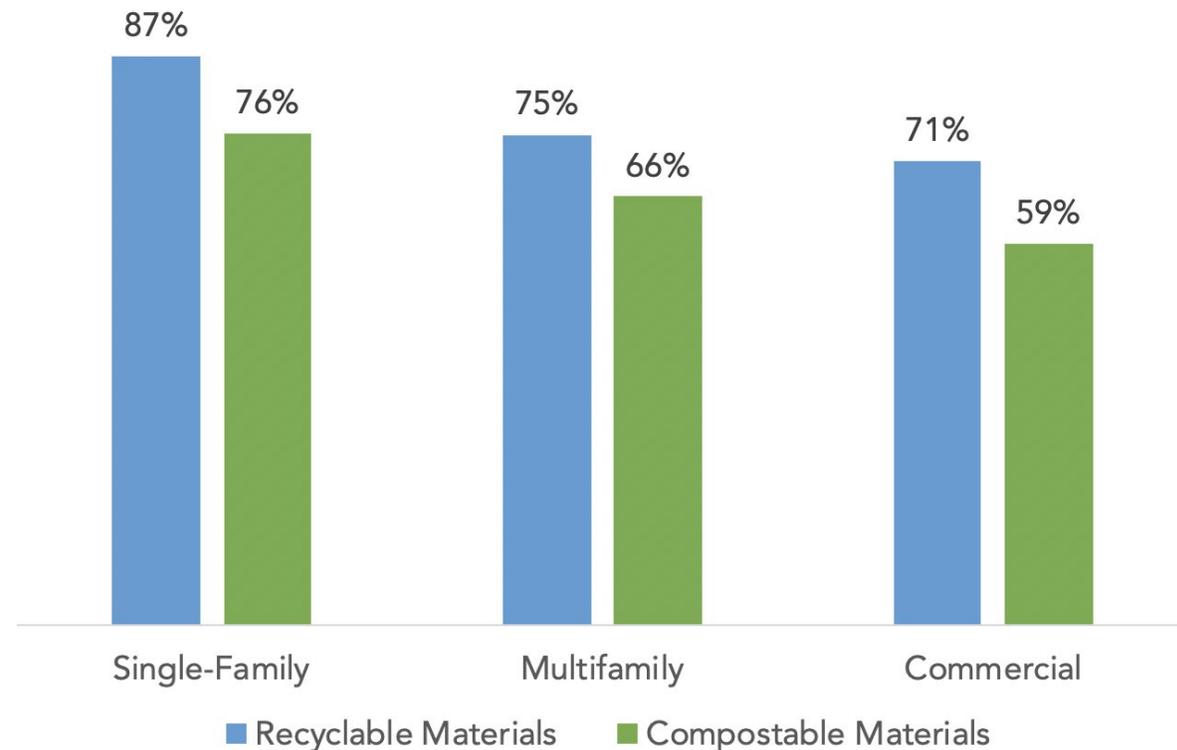


Sources: City Tonnage Reports, CalRecycle

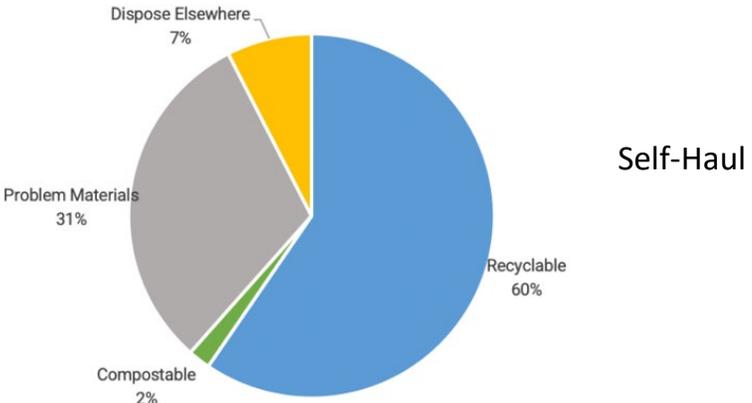
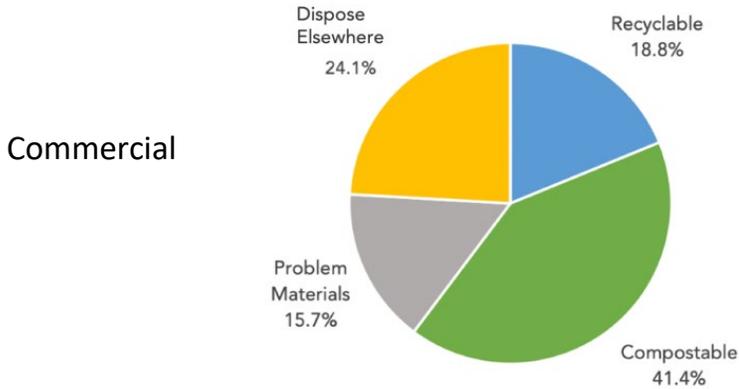
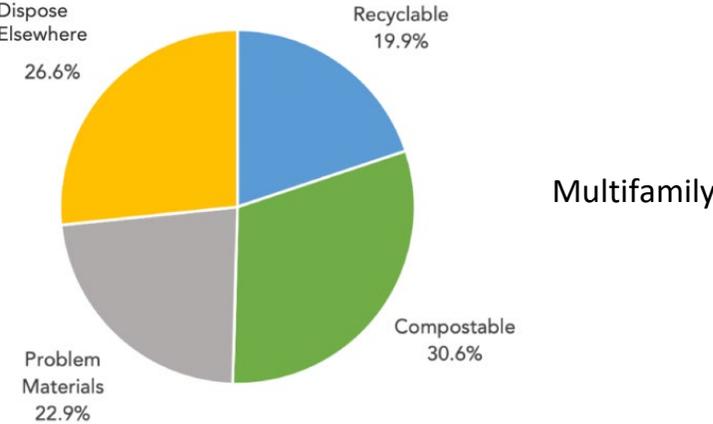
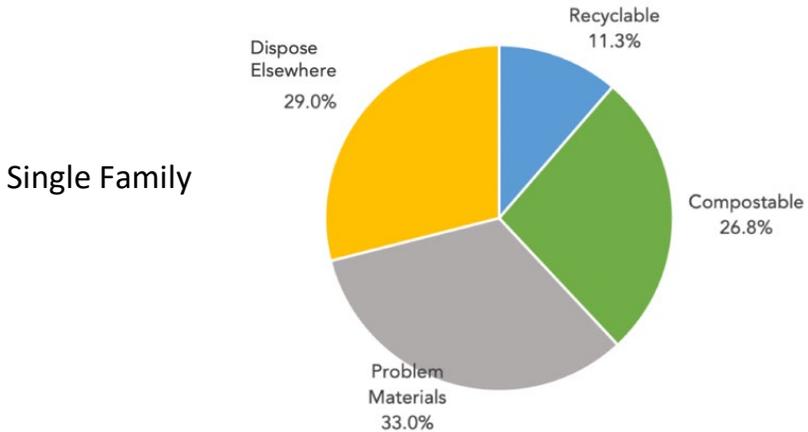
Characterization Study – Capture Rates

Capture rates were calculated for the major material categories.

A capture rate indicates what proportion of a material type is being placed in the correct container.



Characterization Study – Recoverability



New Policies

1. Single-Use Foodware & Litter Reduction Ordinance Update

2. Zero Waste Events Ordinance

3. Mobile Food Vending Ordinance

4. Space Allocation for Buildings Ordinance

5. Living Walls, Landscaping or Rooftop Gardens Ordinance

6. Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance

7. Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance

8. Zero Waste Business Sector Expansion Ordinance

9. Lease Requirements & Minimum Service Ordinance

10. Space Allocation for Enclosures Ordinance

11. Mandatory Self-haul Source Separation Ordinance

12. Green Building Ordinance Update

New Programs

13. Household Hazardous Waste
Collection

14. Food Recovery Program Expansion

15. Zero Waste Education &
Enforcement

16. Share, Reuse, Repair Events

17. Hard-to-Recycle Materials
Collection

18. Furniture & Household Goods
Collection

19. Alternative Rates Structures

20. Battery Collection

21. Diaper & Pet Waste Diversion
Program

22. Zero Waste Events Program

23. Construction Materials Reuse
Exchange

New Infrastructure

24. Reusable Foodware Infrastructure

25. Tool Lending Library Expansion

26. Zero Packaging & Refill Store
Expansion

27. Museum of Bad Design Displays

28. Research & Development Institute

29. Household Hazardous Waste
Drop-off Expansion

30. "User-friendly" transfer station

31. Water Bottle Refill Stations

32. Public Compost Bins

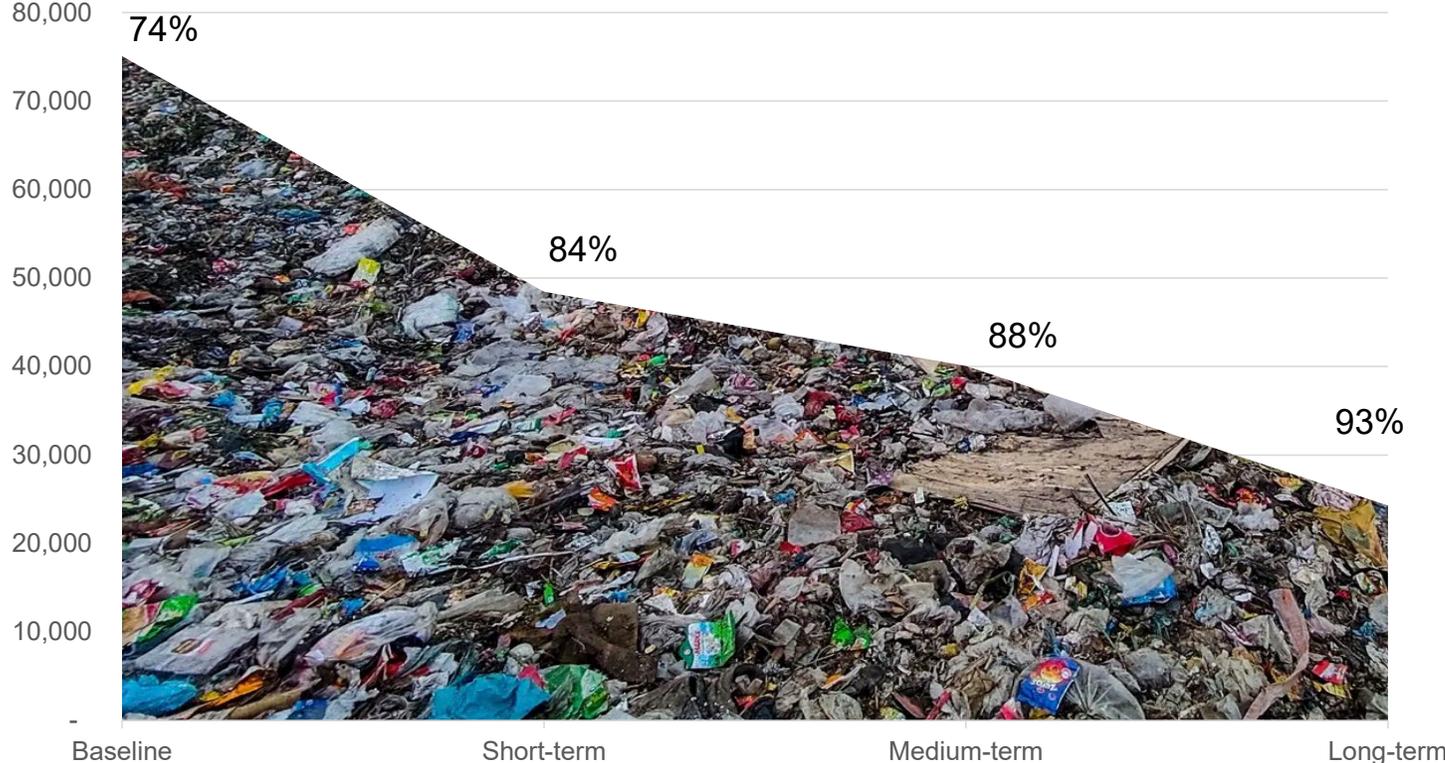
33. Expand Materials Collected
Curbside

Berkeley Zero Waste Transfer Station



Landfill Reduction Projection

Tonnage Reduction and
Diversion Rate Increase Over Time



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

64,392.52 MTCO₂e =

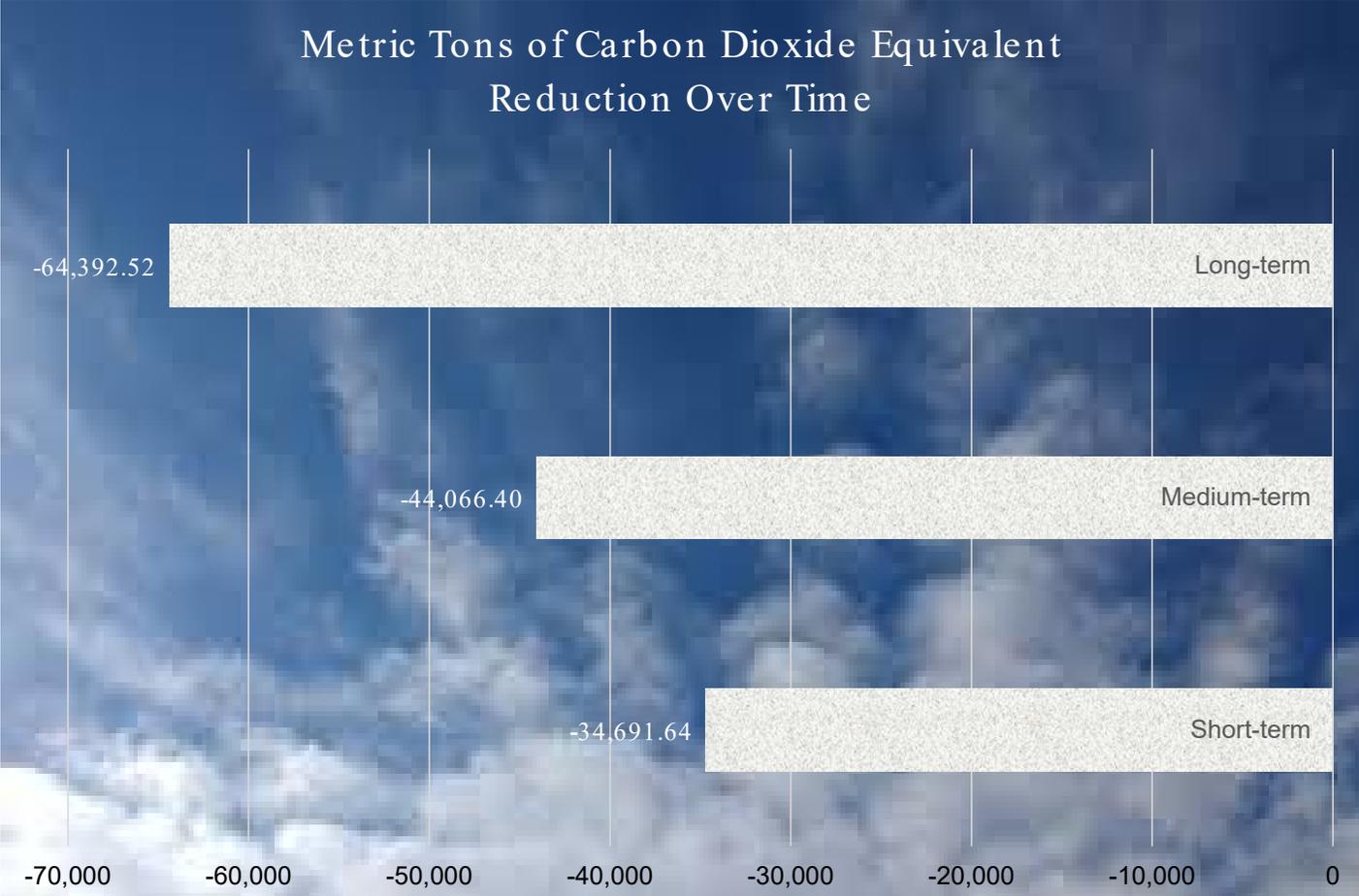


15,326
gasoline -powered
passenger
vehicles driven
for one year



8,397
homes' energy
use for one year

Source:
<https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>



Planning Cost Estimates

	Staff One - Time FTE	Staff Annual FTE	One -Time Costs \$M	Annual Costs \$M
Short-Term	1.22	11	1.3	3.2
Medium -Term	1.08	5	4.3	3.3
Long-Term	0.55	2	120.2	1.1
Total	2.85	18	125.8	7.6

Key Staffing Needs

- Green Building
- Zero Waste Events
- Zero Waste Outreach & Enforcement

Cost Drivers:

- Staff Salaries & Benefits
- Investment in New Infrastructure
- Transfer Station Rebuild

Inter-Department Support to Implementation

Activity	Department
Mobile Food Vending Ordinance	Environmental Health Division
Zero Waste Events Ordinance	City Manager's Office
Green Building Ordinance Updates	Planning Department
Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance	Engineering Division
Zero Waste Business Sector Expansion Ordinance	Planning and Finance Departments
Lease Requirements and Minimum Services Ordinance	Development Department and Rental Housing Authority
Share, Reuse, Repair Program	Library
Tool Lending Library Expansion	Library
City Lead By Example	All Departments