



Medford Talks Trash!

Weigh in on Medford's next contract for solid waste and recycling collection



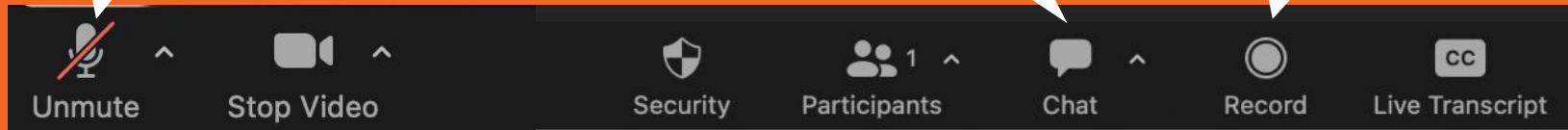


Housekeeping

Please mute your audio.

Add questions and comments to the Chat by clicking here

We are recording, Closed Captioning is available!



For any technical issues, please email mlevin@gsd.harvard.edu

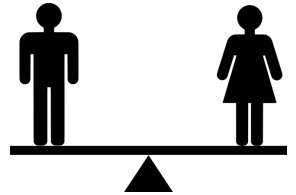
We are re-evaluating solid waste and recycling collection in Medford. It's time for a better system.

- Trash is expensive
- Trash is harmful to people and the environment
- Most of what Medford throws away isn't trash
- Now is the time
- It's the right thing to do



The issues we want to address in our new collection contract include:

- Inequitable service
- Rats
- Resident concerns
- Business concerns
- Regulatory constraints



Thank you to the
members of the
Medford Solid
Waste Taskforce:



- Angelica Ortiz
- Dina Smith
- Jaclyn Torres
- Jim Shuman
- John Doherty
- Kit Collins
- Lois Grossman
- Yvette Wilks



Agenda

1. Attendee Poll
2. Medford's Status Quo Presentation
3. Discussion Topic 1: **Basic Services**
4. Discussion Topic 2: **Bulky Items**
5. Discussion Topic 3: **Additional Services**
6. Next Steps & Closing

Who is represented here tonight?



Medford's Status Quo

What are the features of Medford's existing solid waste and recycling system?



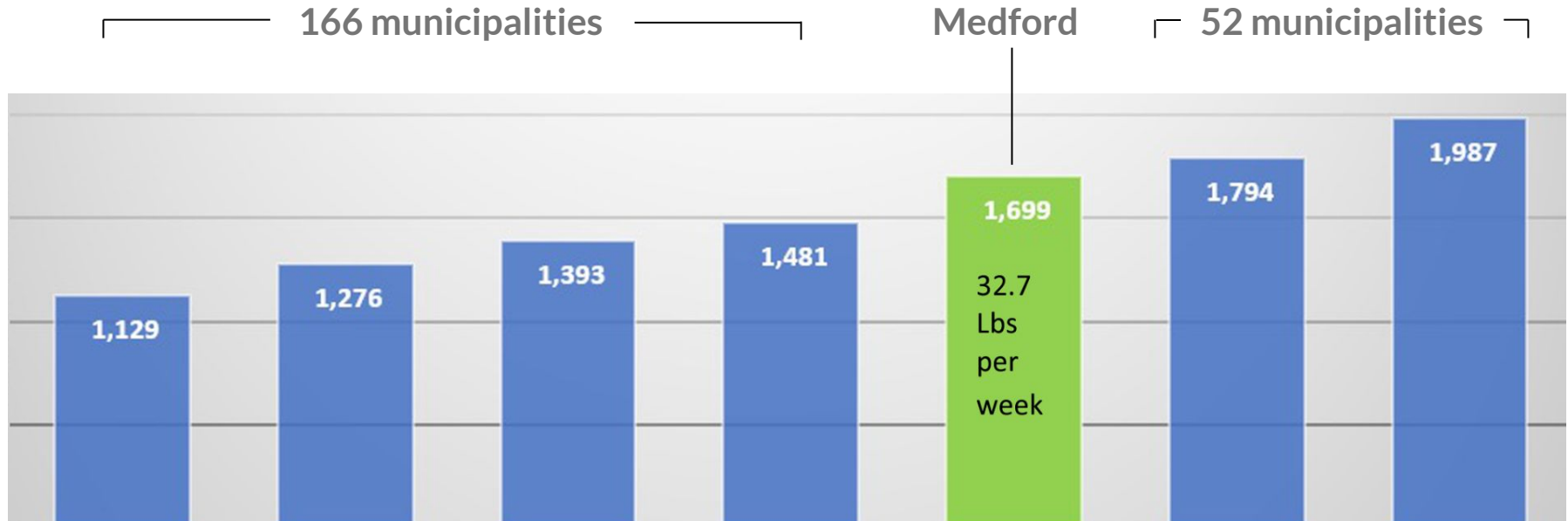
Status Quo

Current Collection Services:

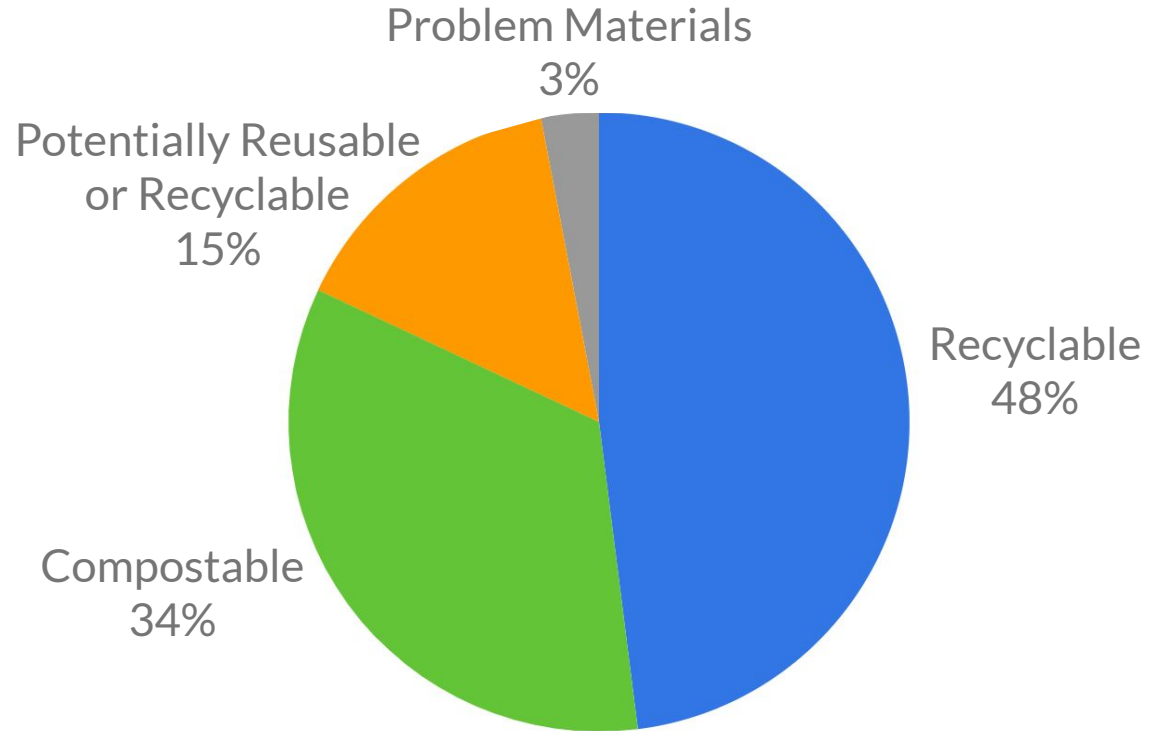
- Weekly trash collection (64-gallon cart)
- “Overflow” bags (33-gallon bags – \$2/bag)
- Every other week recycling (96-gallon cart)
- Seasonal leaf collection (15 weeks/year)
- Bulky items (no cost, no limit)
- White goods (\$26/item)



How does Medford compare?



What's in our trash?



Status Quo

Wheelabrator Saugus Incinerator



Status Quo

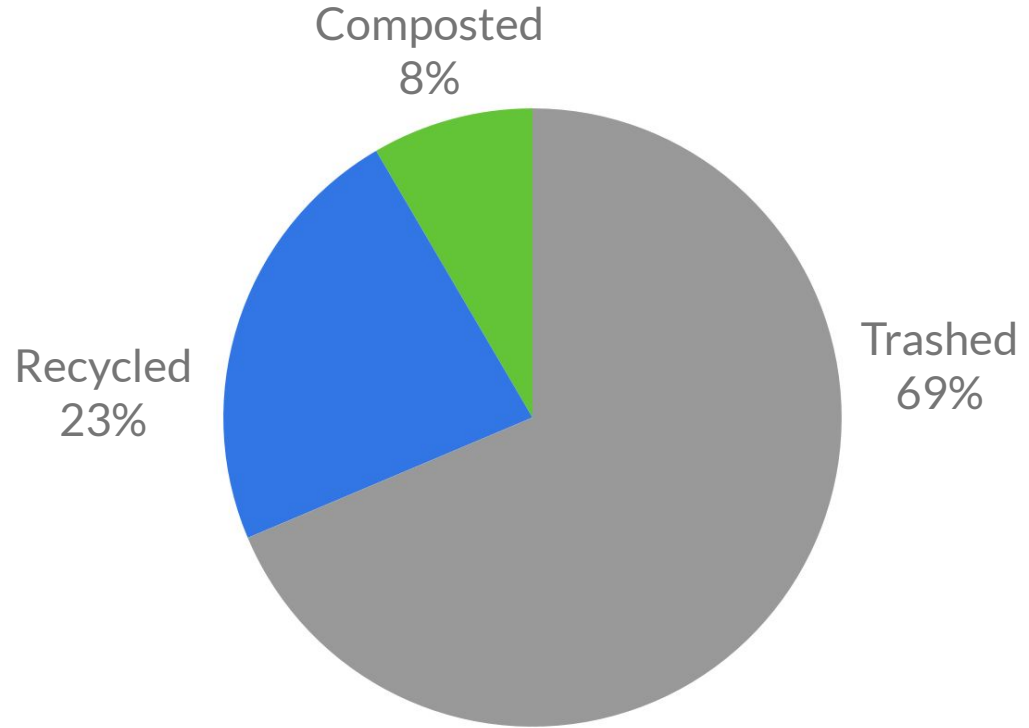
Casella Materials Recovery Facility



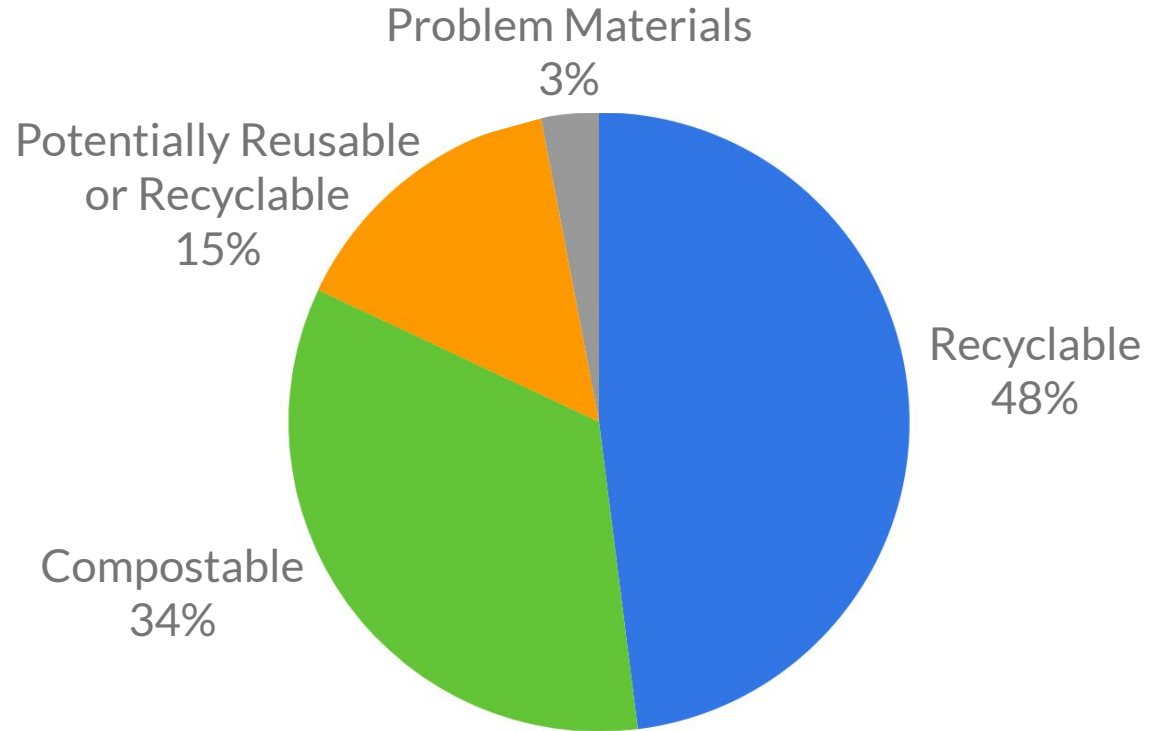
Yard Waste Composting Facility



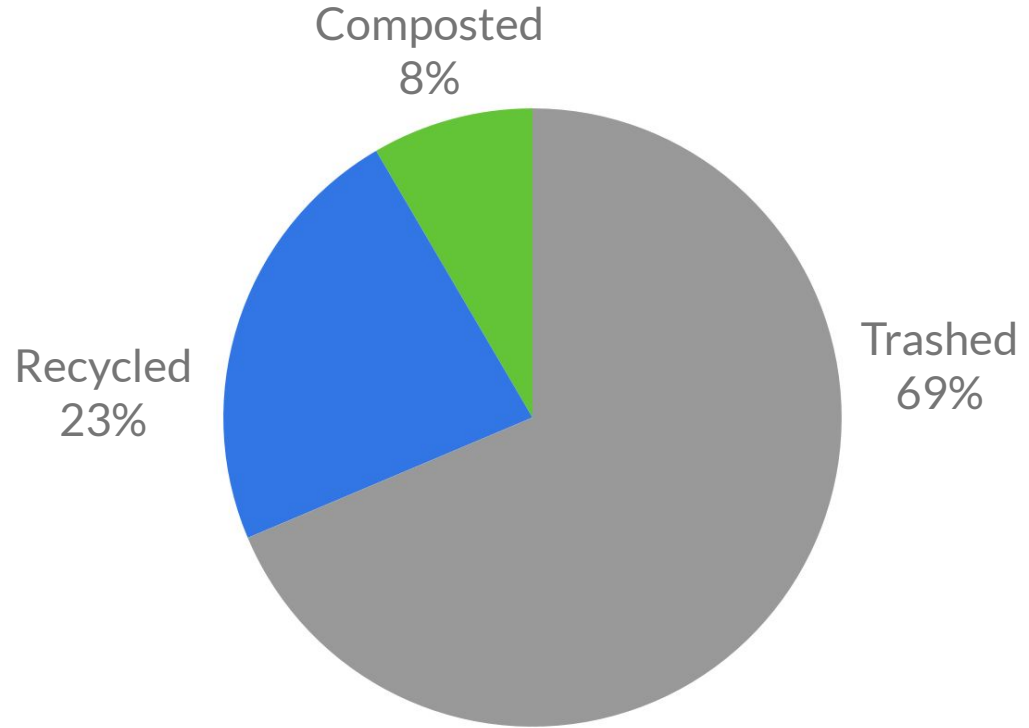
How is Medford doing?



What's in our trash?



How is Medford doing?



Topic #1

Basic Services



Basic Services

Considering for Inclusion:

- 1-3 unit residences
- K-12 schools
- Houses of worship
- Municipal facilities



Basic Services

Considering for Basic Services:

- Trash
- Recycling
- Compost
 - food scraps, food-soiled paper, small yard debris
- Yard Trimmings



Basic Services

Weekly Compost:

- Collected every week
- 13-gallon cart with locking lid
- Materials accepted:
 - food scraps
 - food-soiled paper
 - small yard debris



Basic Services

Every Other Week Trash:

- Collected every other week
- 64-gallon cart
- Option to pay for more frequent collection
- Overflow bags would still be available



Basic Services

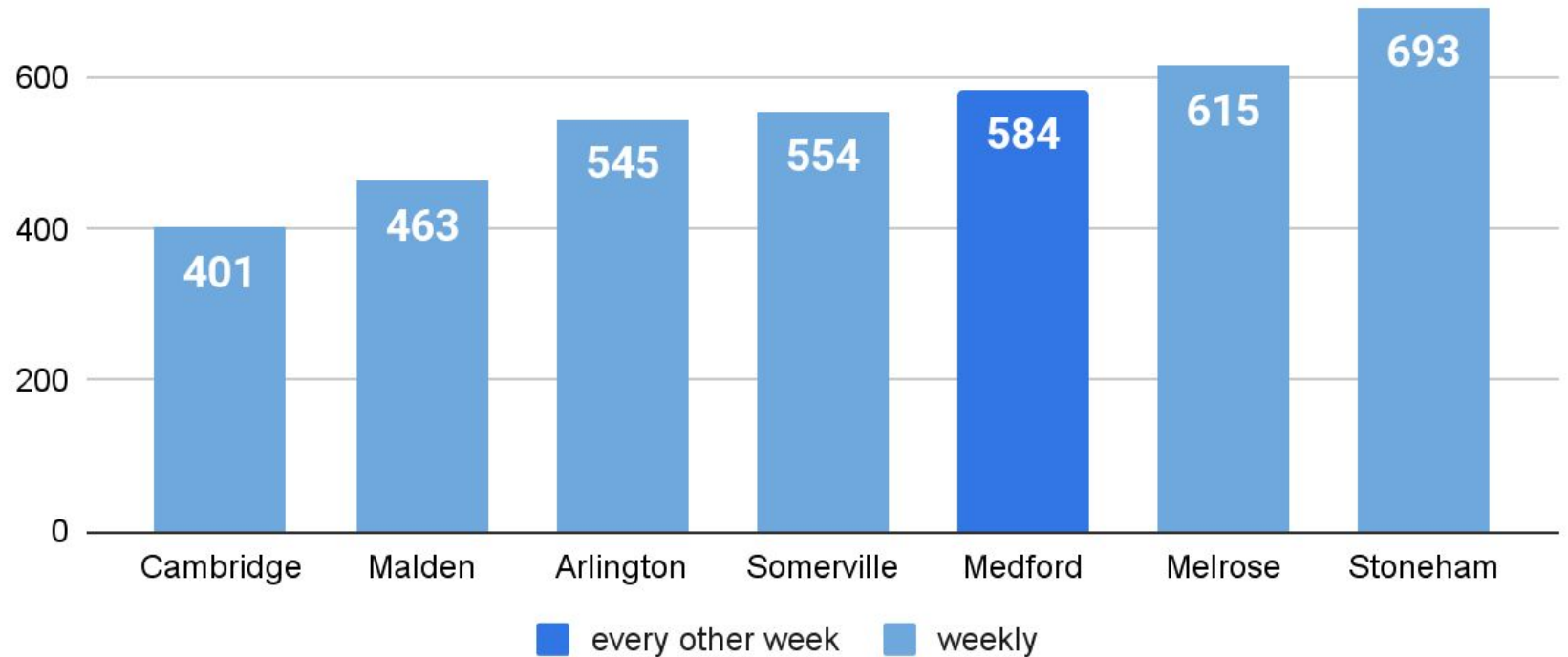
Every Other Week Recycling:

- Collected every other week
- 96-gallon cart
- Option to pay for additional cart or more frequent collection; lower rate than trash
- More frequent collection \neq more recycling



Basic Services

How much does Medford recycle?



Real Barriers to Recycling:



- Recyclables still going in trash
- Contamination
 - Food residue on containers
 - Recyclables in plastic bags
 - Non-recyclable paper (e.g. tissues and napkins)
 - Hard to recycle items (e.g. plastic bags, scrap metal, drinking glass)
 - Non-recyclable plastics (e.g. black plastic, hoses)
 - Household Hazardous Waste

Seasonal Yard & Leaf:

- 20 weeks
- In paper bags or resident-owned cans



Questions about Basic Services

1. What would you need to get on board with weekly composting?
 2. What would make EOW trash palatable?
 3. What would be the most effective way to educate residents about how to “recycle right” to ensure what we are recycling will get recycled?
 4. Would you like to see 4+ unit residences and businesses included?
-

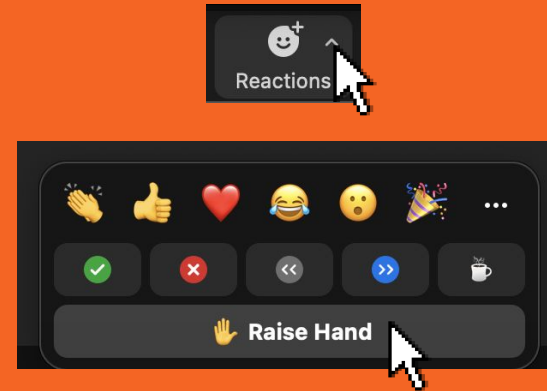
Breakout Sessions

Please raise your hand to speak:

1. Click the arrow next to the Reactions button at the bottom of the Zoom screen
2. Select the Raise Hand icon

Introduce yourself:

1. Name?
2. Live or work in Medford?
3. Part of town you live/work?



Report Back

Basic Services

Topic #2

Bulky Items



Bulky Items

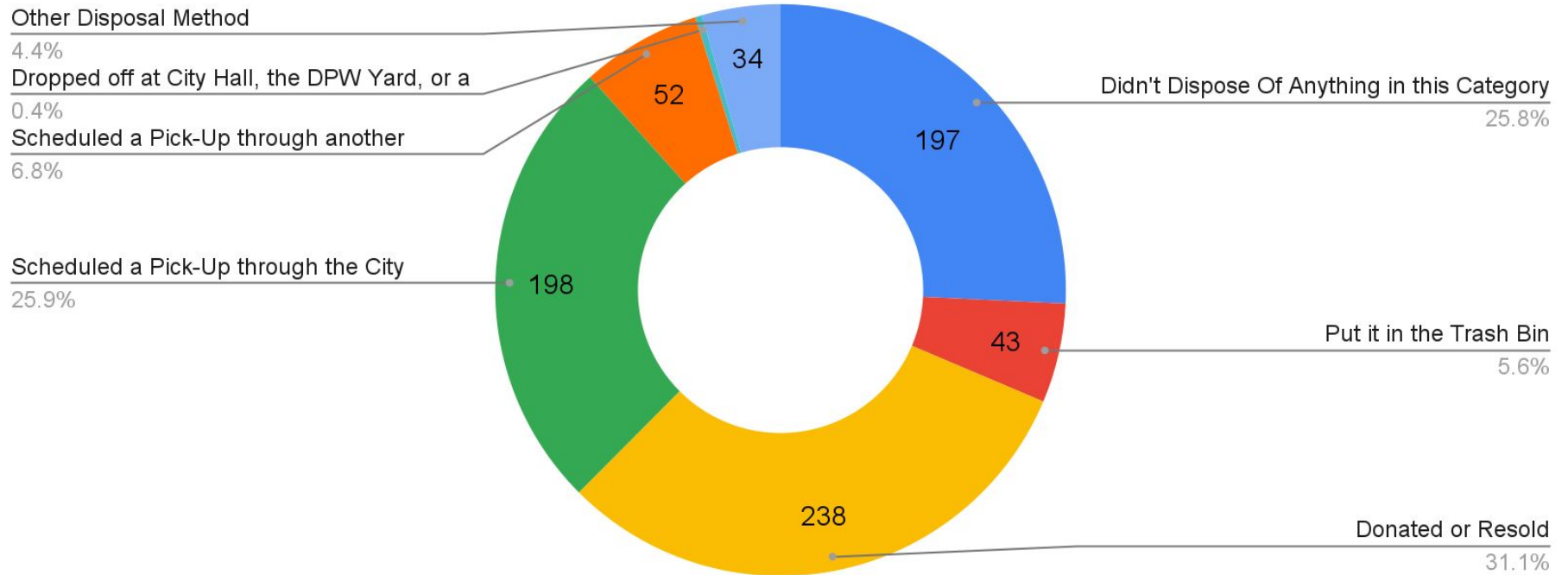
Current Situation:



- Bulky items collected curbside by appointment at no cost to residents
 - Costs paid by City whether item is there when the truck arrives or not
 - \$25/item
 - Cost to City: approx. \$395,000 per year
-

Bulky Items

Typical Disposal for Furniture:



Bulky Items

Considering these changes:

- Residents pay \$5/item
 - Earns City \$7,000 per year from the state to support waste reduction programs
- Items go to reuse and recycling, as possible
- Seasonal “no cost” drop-off events



Questions about Bulky Items

1. What do you think of residents sharing the cost of bulk item collection?
 2. Do you think \$5/item is a reasonable price?
 3. Would you be in favor of seasonal (spring/fall) free bulk drop-off events?
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Report Back

Bulky Items

Topic #3

Additional Services



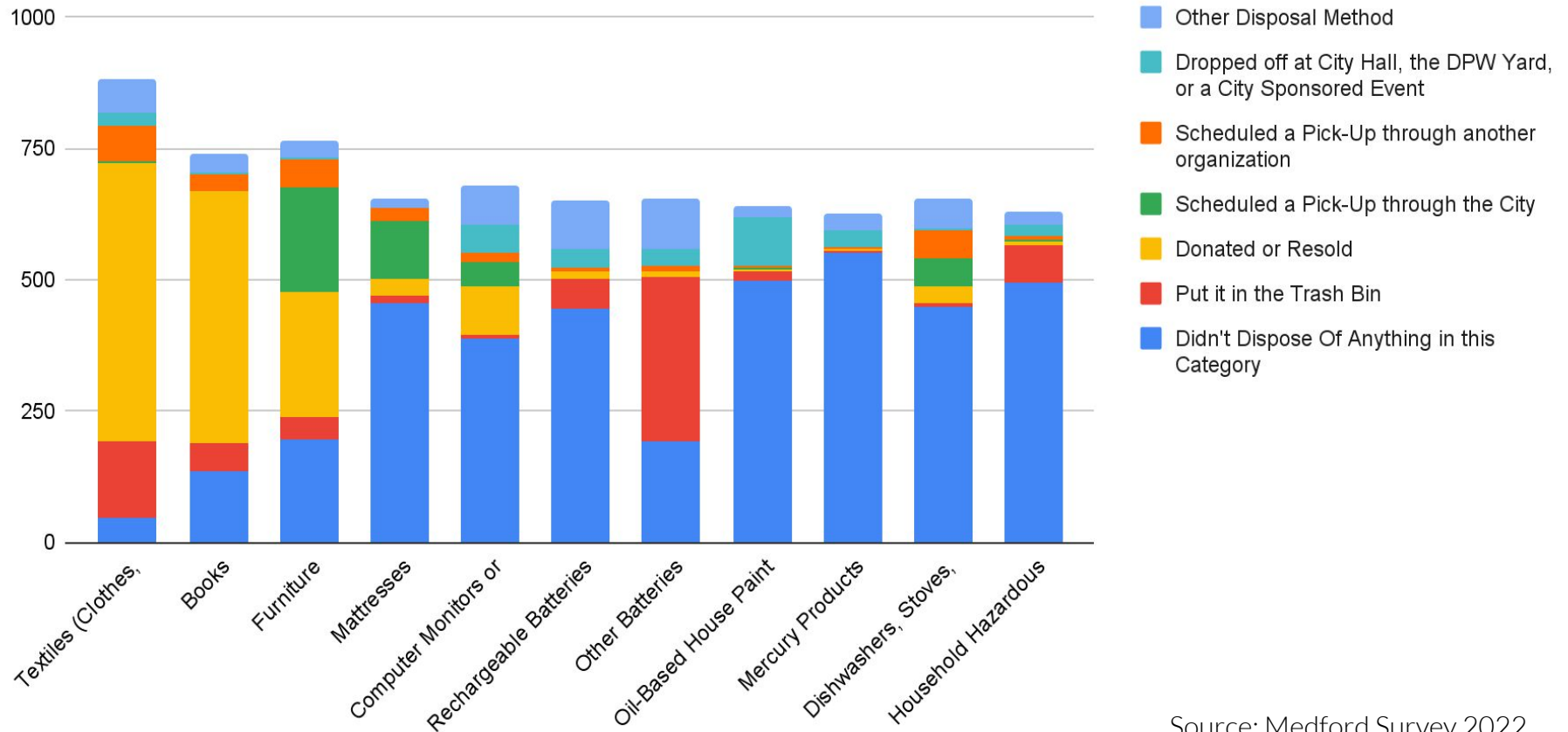
Additional Services

Current Situation:

- Mattresses – HandUp – \$55/item
- Textiles – Helpsy – no cost
- Household Hazardous Waste – no option

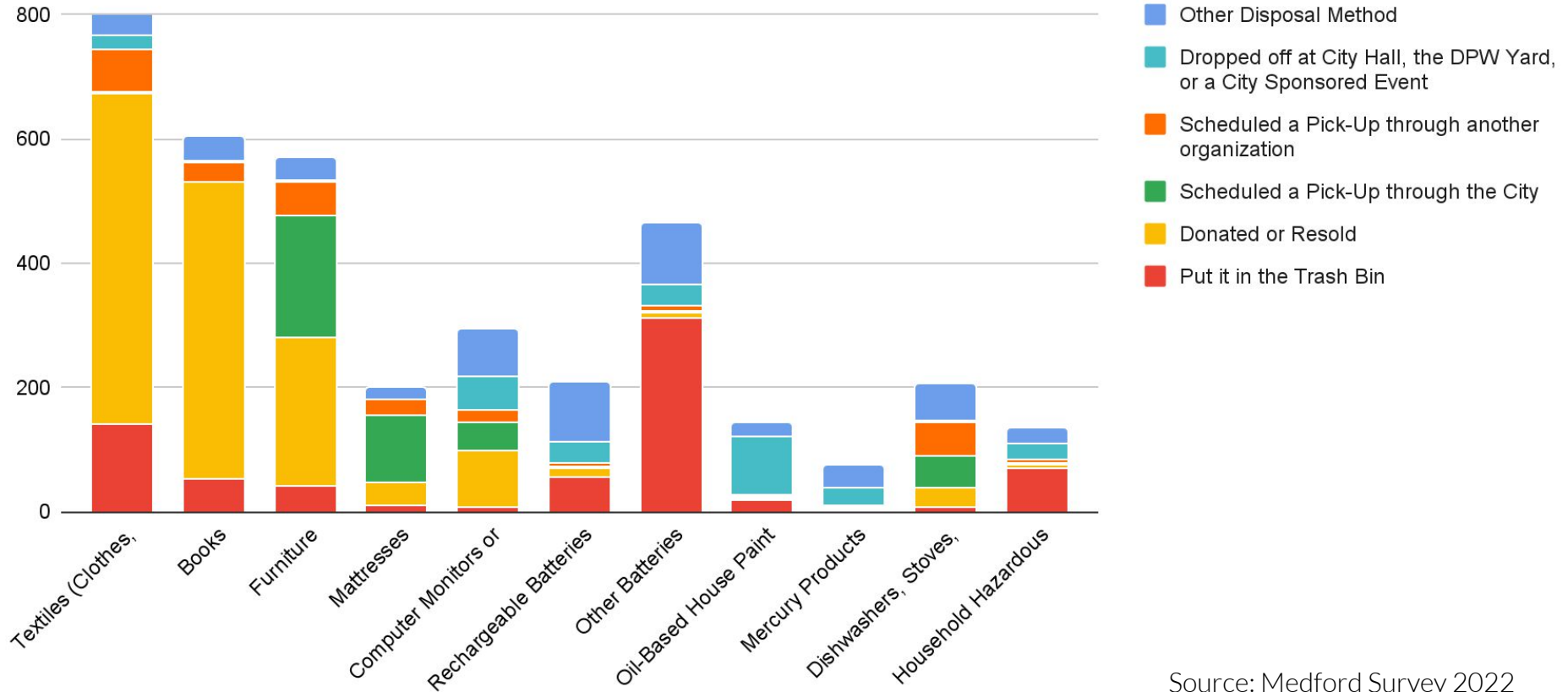


Additional Services



Source: Medford Survey 2022

Additional Services



Questions about Additional Services

1. Are the current services sufficient?
 2. What is your highest priority for additional services?
 3. TBD
-

Report Back

Additional Services



Next Steps:

- TBD
- TBD

Keep in touch!

To get updates and learn about upcoming opportunities for participation with the Solid Waste Task Force, sign up at tinyurl.com/PlanDevNewsletter to receive the Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability newsletter or email mlevin@gsd.harvard.edu.