

# Compostable Products Advisory Committee

Meeting #4 – January 9th, 2024

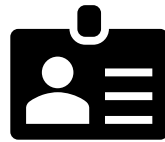
2 – 4pm



# Zoom tips and tricks



Please keep yourself muted unless you're speaking.



Please rename yourself with your affiliation and preferred pronouns: Click on 'Participants,' hover over your name Click 'More' then 'Rename.'



Please feel free to engage in the chat throughout the meeting.



Please keep your video on as bandwidth allows.



Use the Raise Hand feature.



The meeting packet is available at the "Resources" button.

# Welcome and Project Team Introductions

- Facilitation Team
  - Maddie Seibert, Project Manager/Facilitator
  - Hannah Swee, Research Lead
  - Gretchen Muller, Facilitator
  - Taylor Magee, Facilitation Support
- Ecology Project Team
  - Alli Kingfisher, Advisory Committee member
  - Cullen Naumoff Leese
  - Mary Harrington
  - Chery Sullivan
- ASTM Presenters:
  - Alyson Fick
  - Jeanette Hanna



# Advisory Committee Roll Call

- **Alli Kingfisher**, Ecology
- **Kate Kurtz**, City of Seattle
- **Ron Jones**, City of Olympia
- **Chris Averyt**, City of Spokane
- **Gena Jain**, City of Kirkland
- **Pete Rogalsky**, City of Richland
- **Travis Dutton**, WSAC
- **Patti Stacey**, Kittitas County
- **Ryan Dicks**, Pierce County
- **Zonell Tateishi**, Yakima County
- **Lewis Griffith**, City of Tacoma
- **Dan Corum**, City of Tacoma
- **Wendy Weiker**, Republic Services
- **Samantha Winkle**, Waste Connections
- **Jay Blazey**, Cedar Grove
- **Scott Deatherage**, Barr-Tech
- **Reingard Rieger**, Tilth Alliance
- **Shannon Pinc**, NatureWorks
- **Jenny Slepian**, Eco Products
- **Brad Christie**, Sysco
- **Amanda Dalton Pres**, NW Grocery Association
- **Brandon Houskeeper**, NW Grocery Association
- **Alex Truelove**, BPI
- **Janet Thoman**, CMA
- **Amy Clow**, WSDA
- **Liv Johansson**, WORC
- **Heather Trim**, Zero Waste WA
- **Samantha Louderback**, Washington Hospitality Association
- **Peter Godlewski**, Association of WA Businesses
- **Rod Whittaker**, WRRRA



# Meeting Agenda

Duration	Agenda Item
10 min	Welcome, agenda, & objectives
30 min	ASTM presentation and Q&A
10 min	Where we're going and where we've been
60 min	Research review, organics waste characterization and list of compostable products sold/distributed in WA
5 min	Public comment
5 min	Closing remarks and preview next steps

# Meeting Objectives

- Gain a better understanding of ASTM compostable product standards
- Continue challenge identification process
- Review current research surrounding compostable products in WA state and discuss findings

# Ways for Members of the Public to Participate

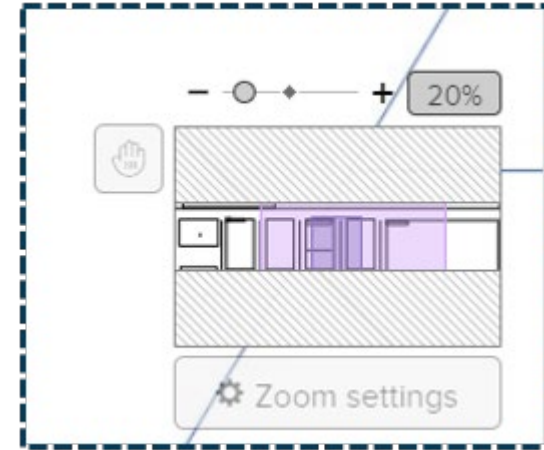
- During this meeting:
  - Add a question or comment using the **chat feature** at any time.
  - **Comment verbally during the comment period** toward the end of the meeting.
- Outside of Advisory Committee meetings:
  - **See the EZ View webpage** for this Advisory Committee to see agendas, meeting dates, and notes.
  - **Contact an Advisory Committee member.**
  - **Contact [organics@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:organics@ecy.wa.gov)** to reach the Ecology project team.



# Technology Tips for Discussion

## How to Use MURAL

- Copy and paste **Mural link** into your browser.
- Sign in as a **guest using your name** (there is no need to make an account).
- If asked, **accept "cookies"** to proceed with platform.
- **Zoom in and out** using the window in the bottom right.
- To edit a sticky note, **click and start typing**.
- **Double click** to add new sticky notes.



# Community Agreements

- Treat other workgroup members, facilitation team, and Ecology staff with respect.
- Allow one person to speak at a time and listen actively to others.
- Come to workgroup meetings with an open mind.
- Intend no malice with what you say, assume no malice in what you hear.
- Represent your interests and those of your constituents; bring forward constructive comments, don't disagree just to disagree.
- Be present and engaged throughout the meeting.
- Come prepared to use meeting time productively.
- When possible, provide data and information to support statements.





# ASTM Presentation



# ASTM Presentation

## Presenters:

- **Alyson Fick** – Staff Manager for ASTM Committee D20, plastics
- **Jeanette Hanna** – Senior Advocacy and Sustainability Manager for Biopolymers North America
  
- **Q&A**
  - Please enter comments in the chat or raise your hand.



## WA State Department of Ecology's Compostable Product's Advisory Council

Alyson Fick | Manager of Standards Development | ASTM International  
JEANETTE HANNA, Ph.D. - BASF Sr. Advocacy and Sustainability Manager, Biopolymers North America





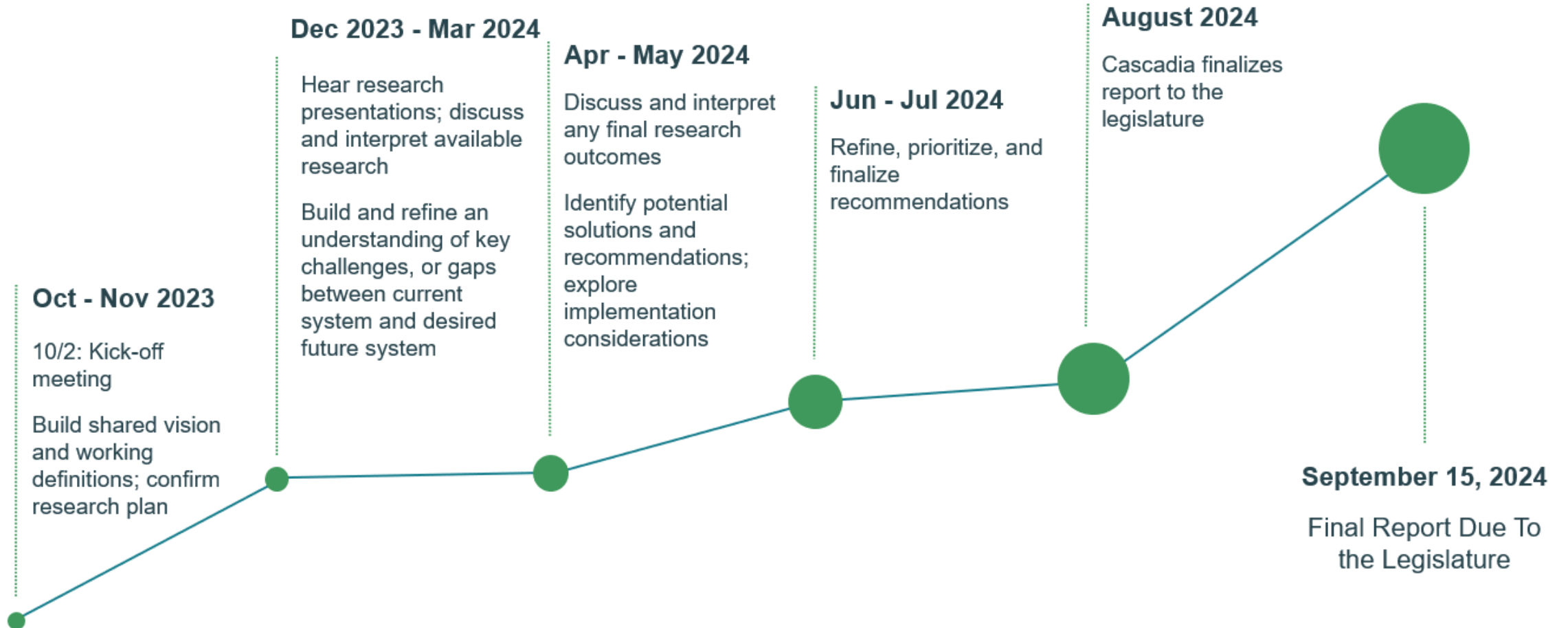
Questions?





# Where We've Been and Where We're Headed

# Re-Cap





# Progress Update

- **What has been completed:**
  - Literature review
  - Analysis of waste characterization results and compostable product registry
- **What we are working on:**
  - OMM facility interviews
  - Subject matter expert interviews
  - Continued desktop research
  - Requests for written information from Advisory Committee members
- **Process for sharing information:** Monthly research memos
- **Definition working group scheduled for January 22**



# Challenges for compostable products management

- **There is a lot of complexity** in the goal.
- **Variety of compost techniques and parameters:** Facilities use different composting techniques and even within composting techniques, there are many parameters that influence how quickly items break down.
- **Compost standards may not reflect conditions on the ground** at facilities; not all composters trust the standards.
- **Consumer confusion is a major issue** and cause of contamination.
- **Education is difficult** in multi-family settings and commercial sectors.
- **Lookalike products cause issues:** Compostable products that look like non-compostable plastic alternatives increase consumer confusion, contaminate compost, and obscure the extent to which compostable products break down.
- **There is not yet enough funding** for HB1799 and composting education and measures.

# Overview of Research



# Methods

- **Research questions from HB 1033**

- *(b) The types of compostable products, and amounts if known, sold or distributed in Washington*
- *(f) Estimates of the percentage of compostable products used in Washington that are disposed of at organic materials management facilities*

- **Sources**

- Producer declared compostable products from Ecology as of Jan. 1, 2024
- 2022-2023 Washington Statewide Recycling and Organics Characterization Study *(Contract No. C23000114. Study is not yet final & results have not been published.)*
- 2020-2021 Washington Statewide Waste Characterization Study
- **Answer the question:** Out of the amount and types of compostable products generated, how much of each type are ending up at commercial compost facilities?

# Producer Declared Compostable Products

- **Declared compostable products: 168**
  - Product Types: 21
  - Material Types: 10
  - Brands: 43
  - Producers: 26
- **Bags make up a significant portion of the types of declared products**
  - 51 different types of bags
  - 24 different cups
  - 10 other food service products
- **PLA (polylactic acid) is the most common material type**
  - PLA: 54 products
  - PBAT (polybutylene adipate terephthalate): 47 products (Bags!)
  - Wood/other fiber (lined): 26 products

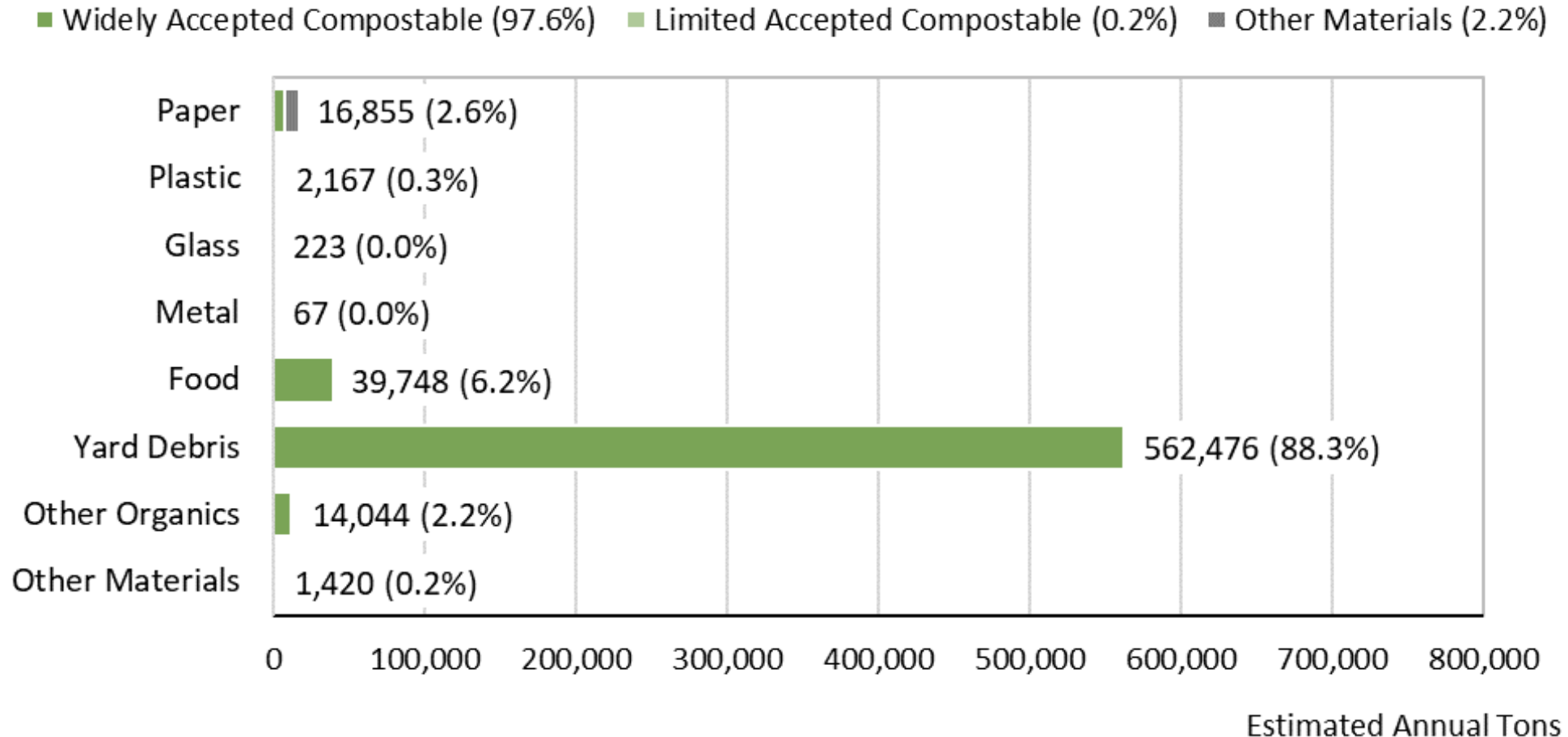


# 2022-2023 Washington Statewide Organics Characterization Data

- **By weight, compostable products are a small fraction of material** disposed in residential organics
  - Single-Use Food Service Compostable Paper & Compostable Paper Products: 1.2% (7,322 tons annually)
  - PLA compostable materials (mostly plastic bags & film): 0.1% (899 tons annually)
- **Weight may not accurately reflect the impact** of the presence of compostable products in the organics stream:
  - **Lightweight** (much more so than food and yard debris)
  - **Commercial sector data not available** & compostable products likely represent a bigger piece of the organics stream than reported
  - Data from prior statewide waste characterization study suggests there is the **potential for many more compostable products to enter the organics stream if diversion rates increase.**

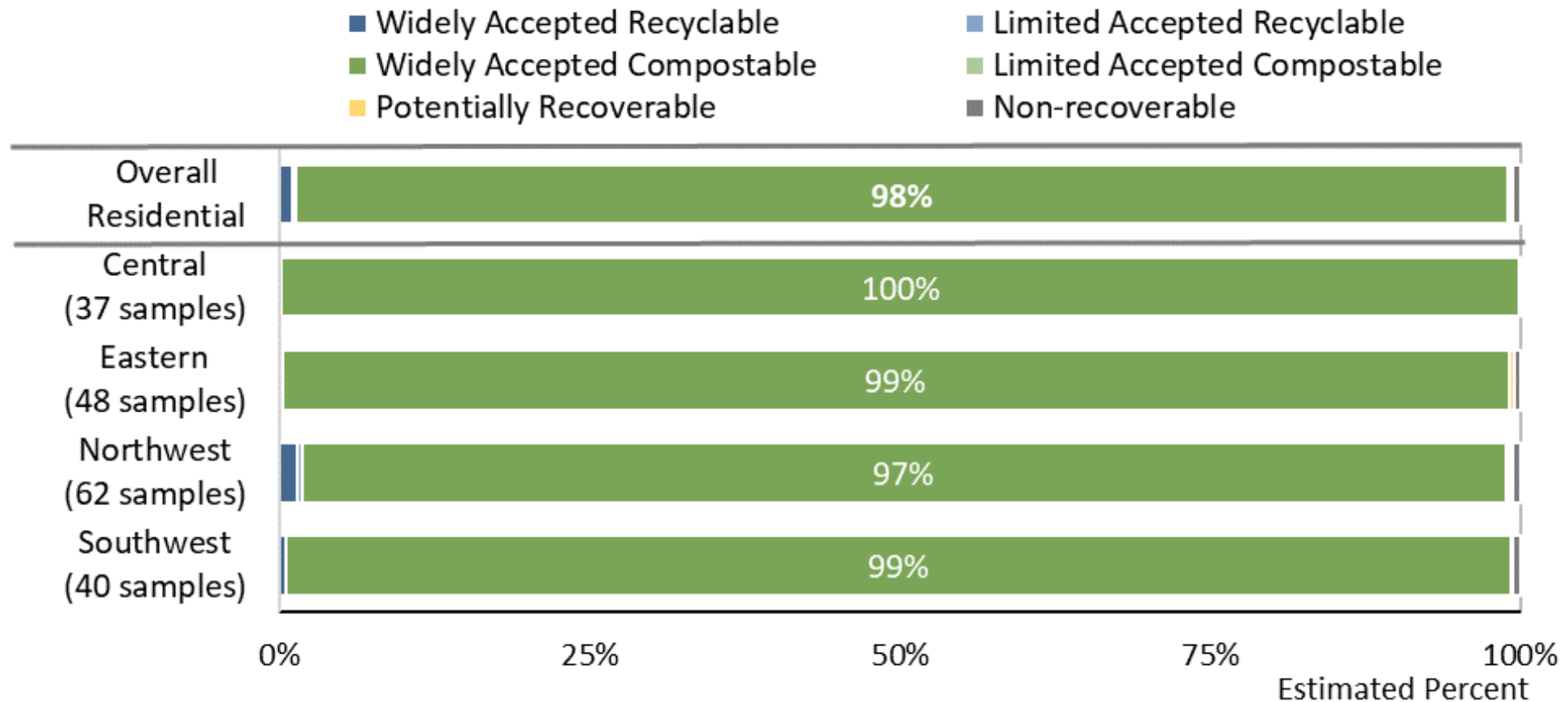
# 2022-2023 Washington Statewide Organics Characterization Data

## Tons by Material Class: Residential Inbound Organics



# 2022-2023 Washington Statewide Organics Characterization Data

## Composition by Recoverability: Overall Inbound Organics by Region





# Gaps in Data

- Insightful upstream and downstream compostable products data but have yet to fully answer **estimated percentage of amount and types of compostable products generated ending up at commercial compost facilities.**
- Gaps:
  - Manufacturer & distributor sales data (amount/weight)
  - Organics characterization data: Commercial generators & facility pick lines
  - Do compostable products increase food waste diversion?

# Next Research Steps

1. Organic materials management facility interviews
2. Increased food waste diversion through compostable products?
3. Collect data on amount of compostable products sold or distributed in Washington
4. Identify amount of single-use plastics in waste stream & compare to compostable plastics



# Discussion



# Public Comment

Please add comments to the chat or raise  
your hand to speak verbally



# Next Steps and Action Items

# Next steps

- Compostable products definition working group **Jan. 22, 2:00-3:30pm**
- Next meeting: **February 6, 10:00am – 12:00pm**
  - Working group report-out
  - Continue challenge identification/synthesis process