

TOGETHER TOWARD ZERO



UCRRA

TOWN OF GARDINER

APRIL 7, 2026



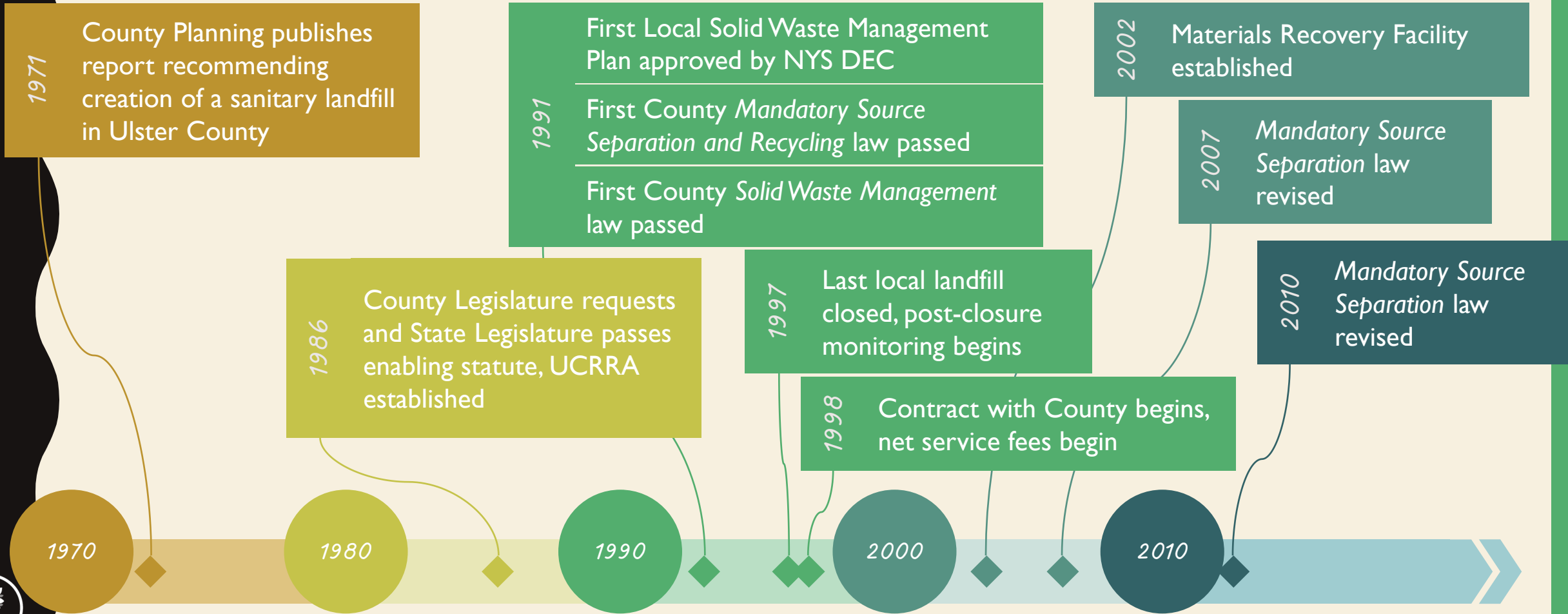


UCRRA

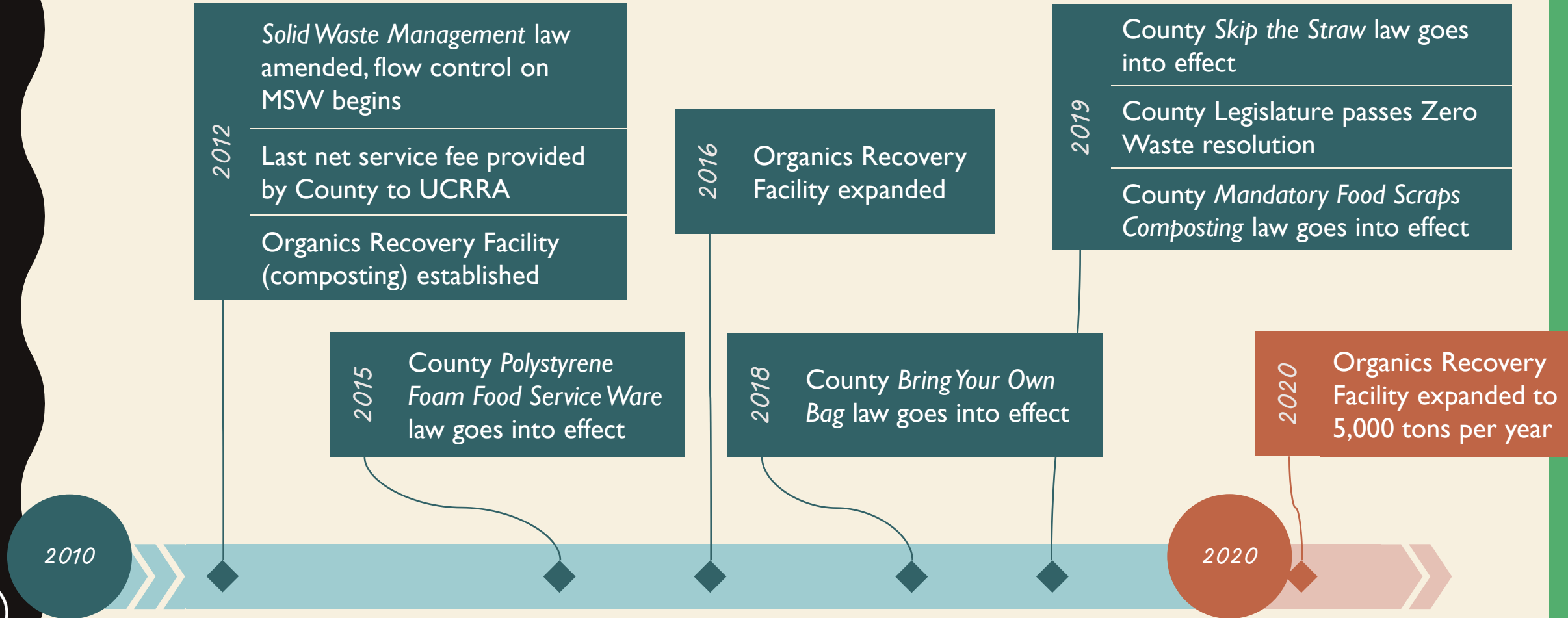
ABOUT THE UCRRA

*YOUR PRIMER ON THE ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY
AGENCY'S HISTORY, MISSION/VISION & CHALLENGES*

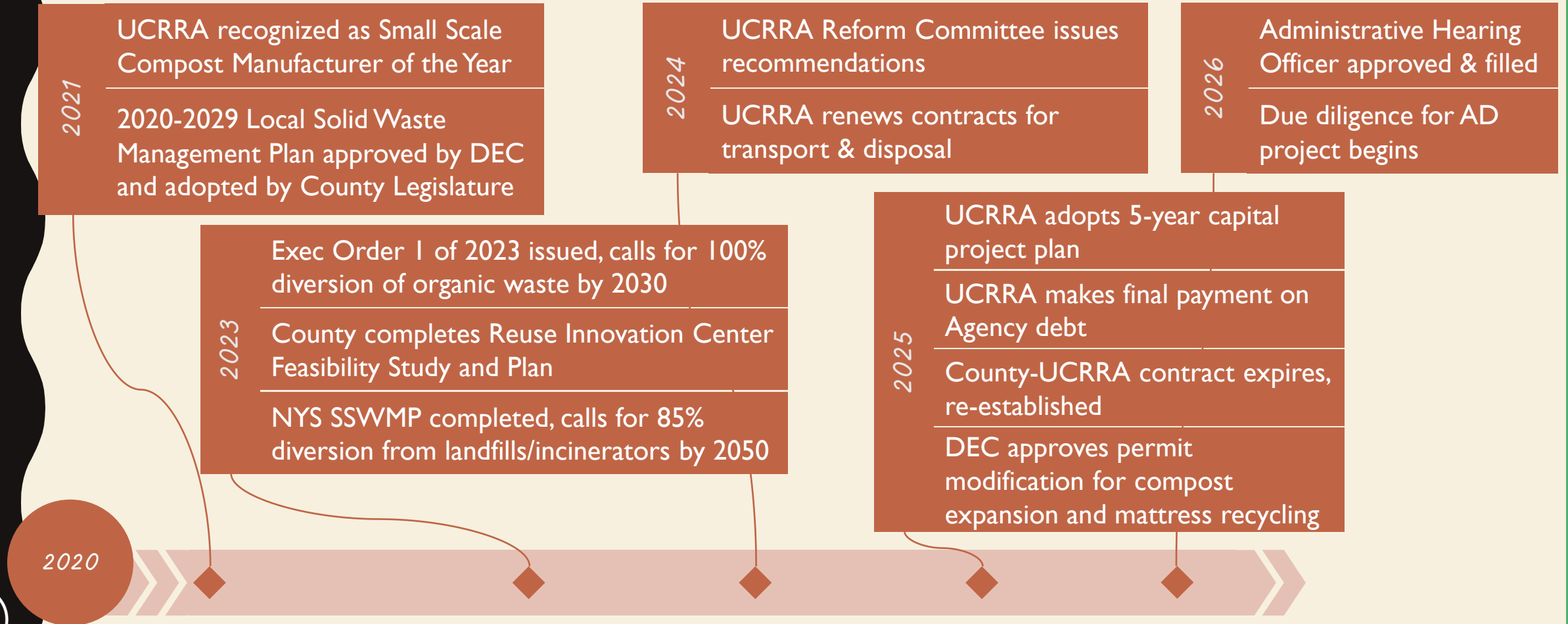
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UCRRA



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UCRRA



THE ENABLING STATUTE



Agency Purpose

- ✓ **Collect, receive, transport, storage, process, or dispose** of solid waste
- ✓ **Recovering materials, energy products or resources** from solid waste
- ✓ For the improvement of the **public health, welfare and prosperity**



Governance Process

- ✓ **Five-member board of directors**, appointed to fixed terms by the County Legislature
- ✓ Accountable to the State legislature, with oversight and reporting to the **state comptroller, the ABO, and DEC**
- ✓ **The County** may adopt and amend local laws regarding collection, receiving, transporting, delivering, storing, processing and disposing of solid waste or the recovery of any material, energy product or resource therefrom



Agency Powers

- ✓ **Acquire property** - including by eminent domain - hold, sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise dispose of it...without limitation, and plan, develop, construct, operate, maintain, improve, reconstruct, enlarge, extend projects, whether or not owned and operated by the Agency
- ✓ **Enter into contracts**, establish and enforce by-laws, and enter into any lands, waterways, and premises to make surveys, soundings and examinations
- ✓ **Borrow money**, including by issuance of revenue bonds of the Agency for which the County shall not be liable, and to collect rates, rentals, fees and other charges





UCRRA

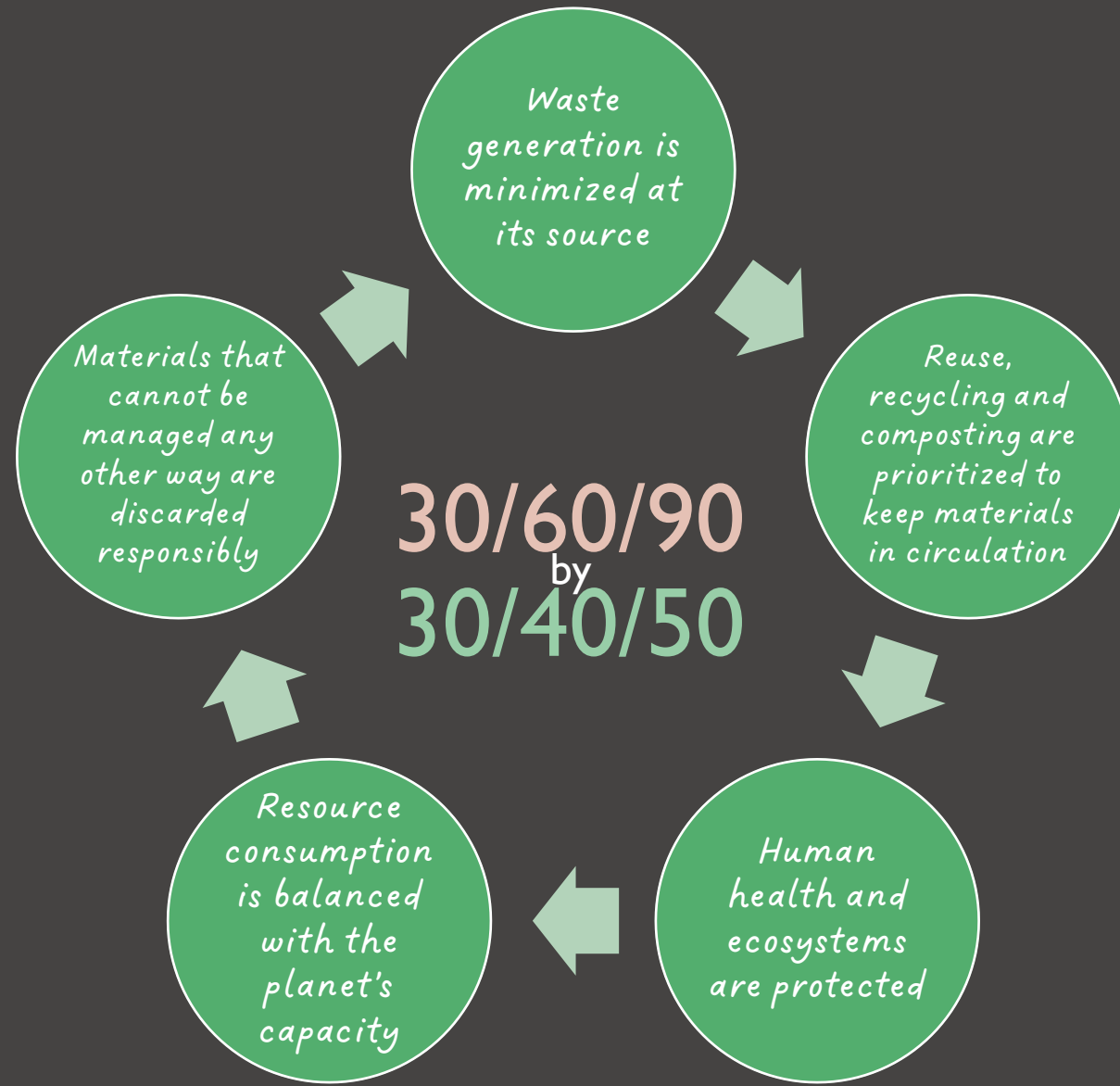
MISSION STATEMENT

To protect public health and the environment and to promote sustainable materials management practices in Ulster County by efficiently managing solid waste materials with a focus on resource conservation.



UCRRA

VISION STATEMENT



UCRRA'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES



Public compliance with mandatory source separation of recyclables and other laws



Revenue model that incentivizes waste generation, not reduction or diversion



Increasing disposal and transportation costs due to lack of landfill capacity



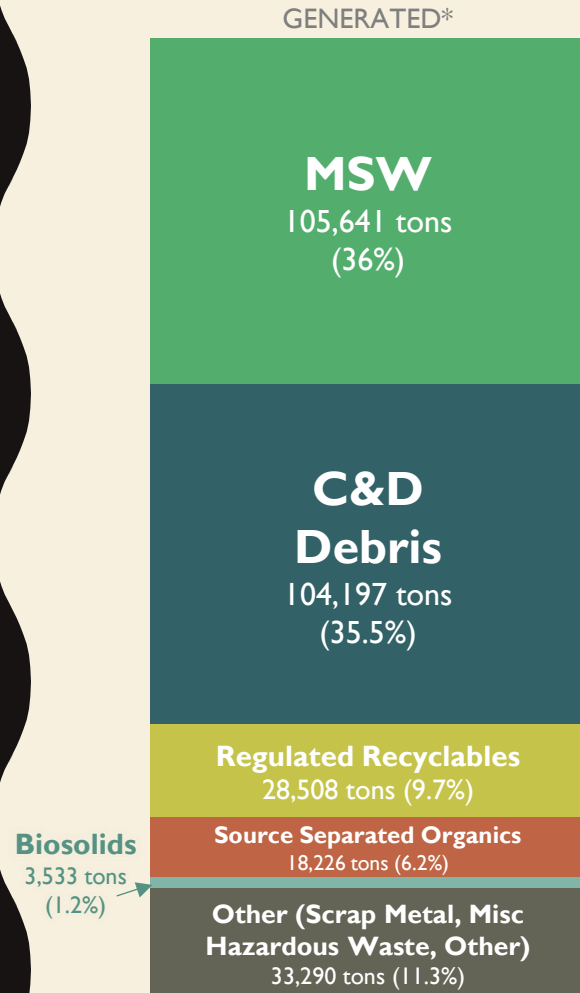
Unpredictable and under-developed markets for diverted materials



SOLID WASTE IN ULSTER COUNTY

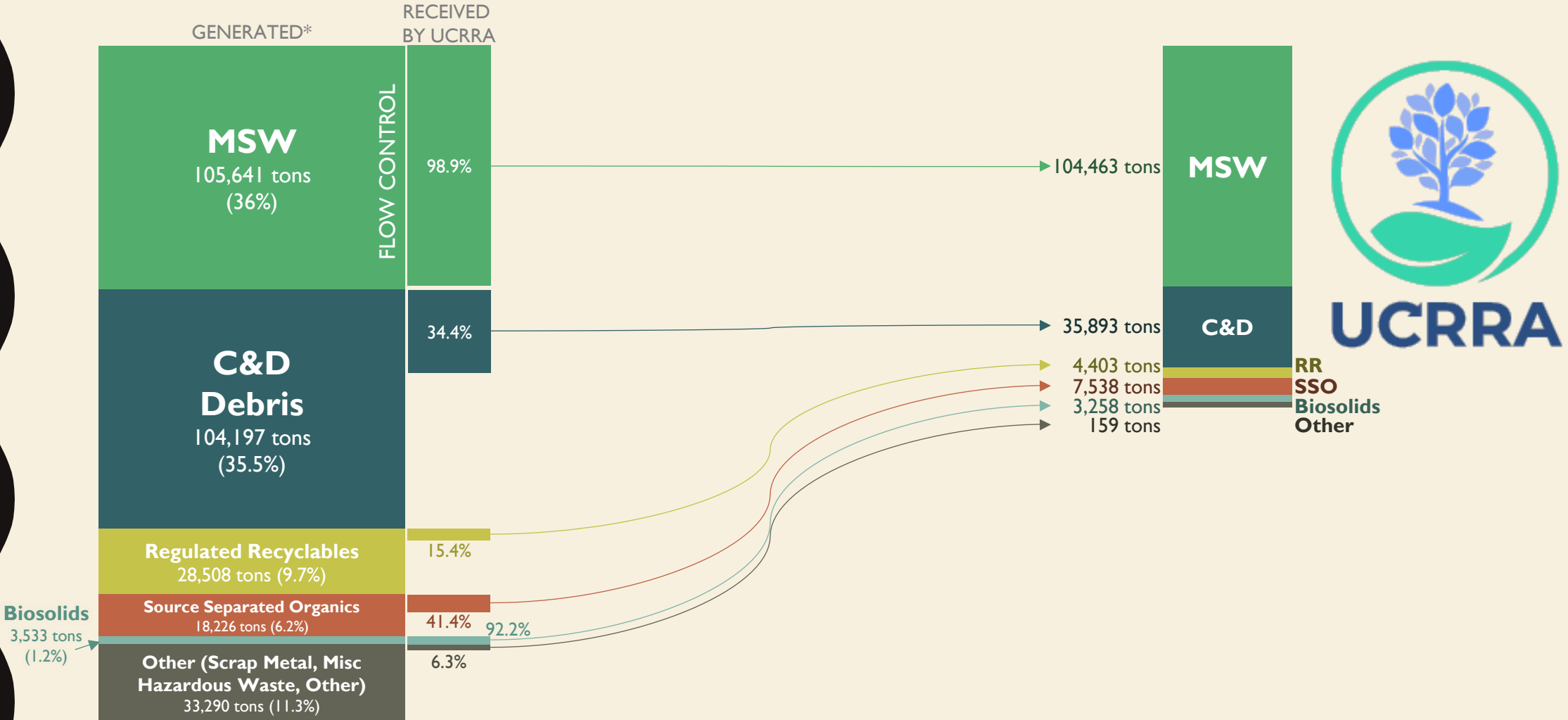
*EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW, BUT DIDN'T
KNOW TO ASK...*

WASTE FLOWS IN ULSTER COUNTY



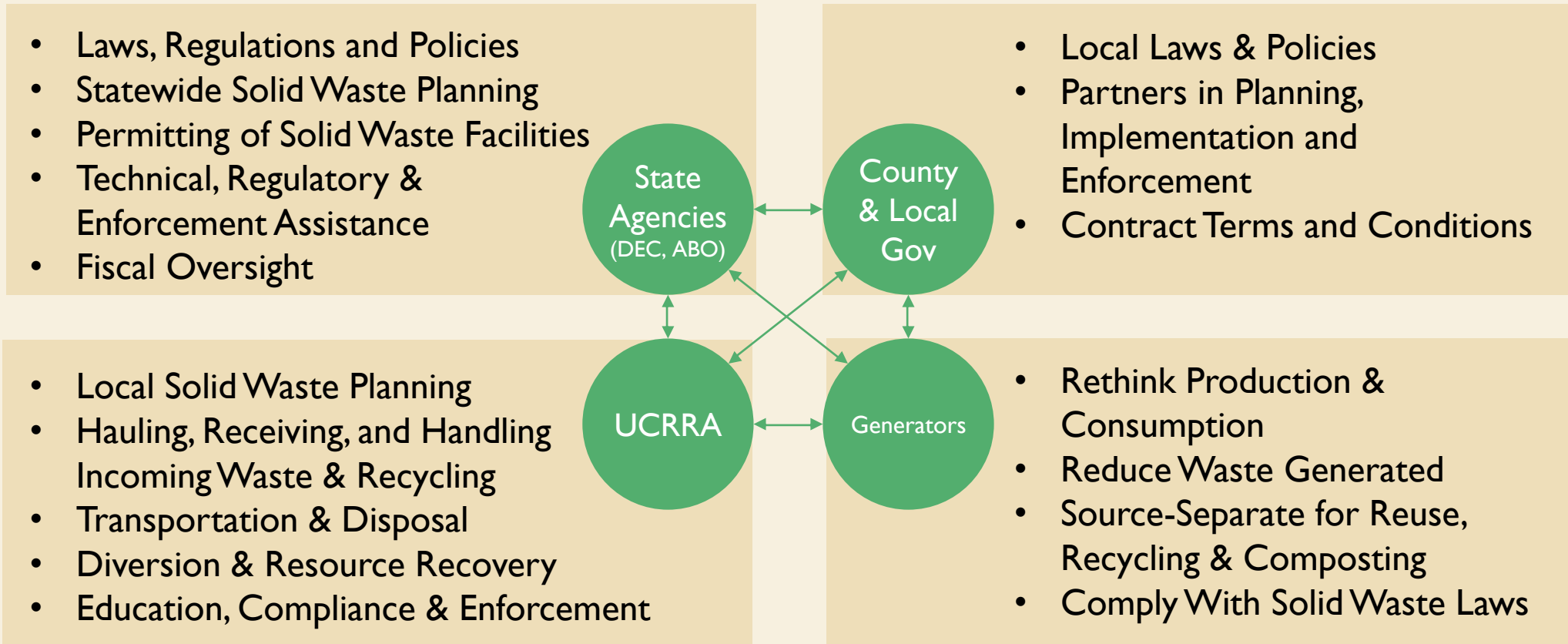
* Waste generation data a/o 2024, from self-reports collected as part of the Agency's Annual Recycling Report

WASTE FLOWS IN ULSTER COUNTY



* Waste generation data a/o 2024, from self-reports collected as part of the Agency's Annual Recycling Report

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SOLID WASTE IN ULSTER COUNTY

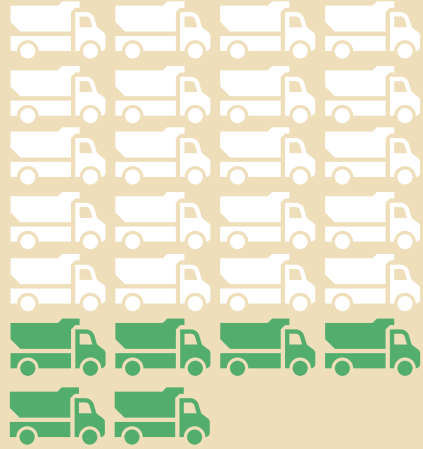




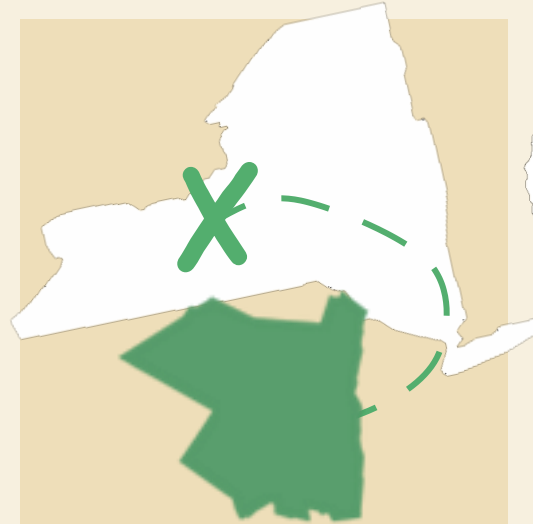
A CRISIS ON THE HORIZON

A SOLID WASTE CRISIS IS BREWING – WILL ULSTER COUNTY BE READY?

DWINDLING LANDFILL CAPACITY



26 active landfills in NYS, but only **6** have enough daily capacity for Ulster County's waste



Even at **240 miles** Seneca Meadows is still the best option for Ulster County's waste



Given the current daily disposal rates in NYS, landfill capacity will be exhausted by **2043**. In the future, UCRRA would be forced to send waste out of state.



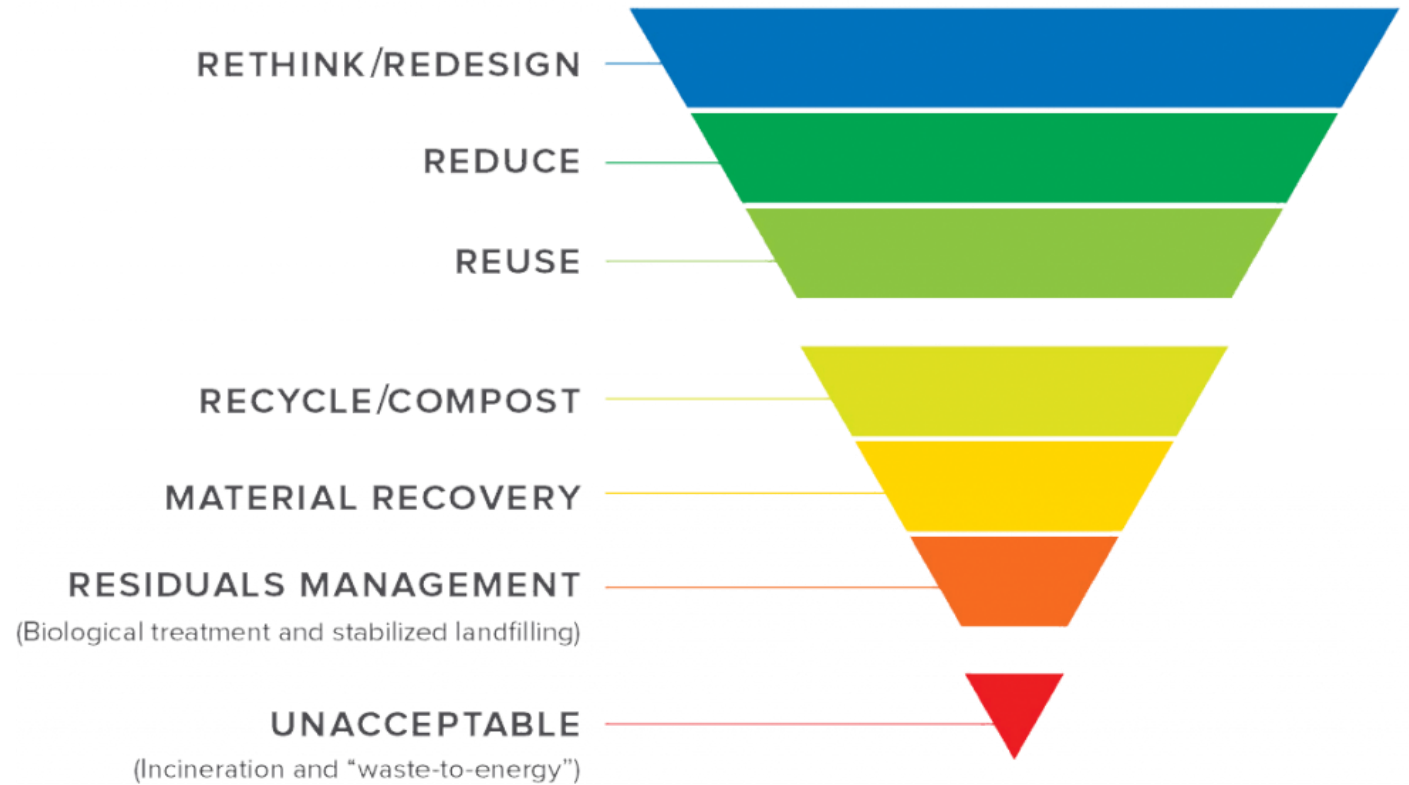
T&D costs for landfill disposal will rise by at least 5% per year, reaching nearly **\$300** by 2043, making the status quo untenable.

THE BEST SOLUTION?

WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD ZERO

THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY 8.0

For detailed version visit www.zwia.org/zwh

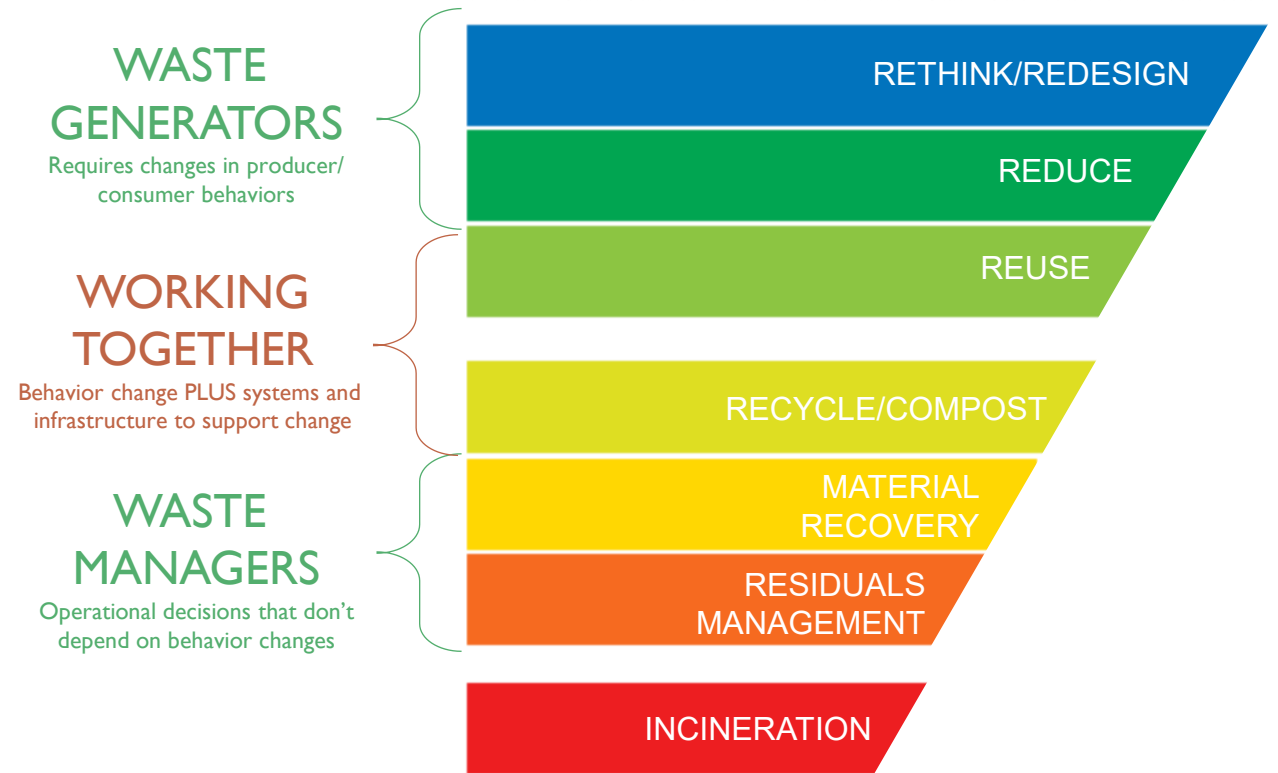


THE BEST SOLUTION?

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HOW WE'RE RESPONDING

*MAXIMIZING DIVERSION IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE
THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DISPOSAL*

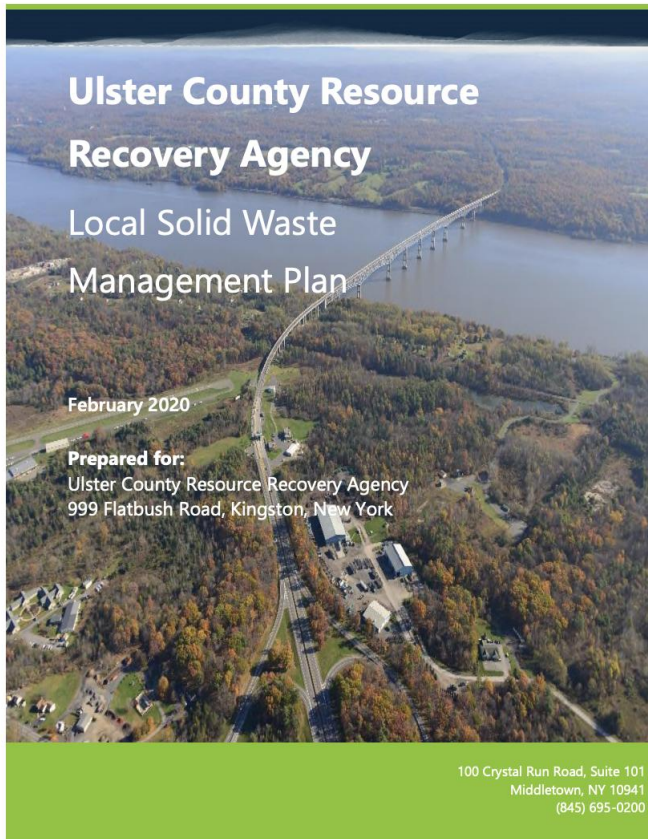
ULSTER COUNTY CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY (IN PROGRESS)



OUR 10-YEAR LOCAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Building lifetime relationships with our clients and employees.



Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Local Solid Waste Management Plan Biennial Update (May 2021) Planning Period 2020-2021

Prepared by
Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability
Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency
999 Flatbush Road Kingston NY
www.UCRRRA.org
845-336-0600

Together Toward Zero - 2026 Agency Priorities

Preview

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Local Solid Waste Management Plan Biennial Update (revised January 2025) Planning Period 2022-2023

Prepared by
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Preview



OUR PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES



Education &
Compliance



Advocacy (State and
Federal)



Events & Festivals



Updating Ulster
County's Solid Waste
Laws

2025 CAPITAL PROJECT PLAN

6/25/2025 Revision 3

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

#	Project Name	Priority	Status	Estimated Cost	Start/End
25-01	Mattress Recycling Area	Med	Complete	\$100,000 (+/-10%)	1/1/25 – 12/31/25
25-02	Secondary Diversion Building	Low	Planning	\$1,930,000 (+/-50%)	1/1/25 - 12/31/26
25-03	RePOWER (aka Reuse Innovation Center)	Med	Procurement	\$6,750,000 (+/-50%)	1/1/25 - 12/31/26
25-04	Admin Building Weatherization Upgrade	Med	Complete	\$100,000 (+/-20%)	1/1/25 - 12/31/25
25-06	Compost Expansion (Hub and Spokes)	High	Planning	\$1,780,625 (+/-20%)	1/1/25 - 12/31/25
25-07	Alternative Tech Research Plan & Study	Low	Design	\$150,000 (+/-10%)	1/1/25 - 12/31/25
25-08	GHG Emissions Study (Scope 1 - 4)	Low	Planning	\$75,000 (+/-10%)	1/1/25 - 12/31/25
25-09	New On-Site MRDC at UTS	Low	Planning	\$500,000 (+/-20%)	1/1/26 - 12/31/26
25-10	PPE Maintenance & Replacement	High	Ongoing	\$3,664,440 (+/-10%)	1/1/25 - 12/31/29
25-11	Landfill Leachate Collection & Treatment	High	Design	\$1,560,000 (+/-50%)	1/1/25 - 12/31/27

DEEP DIVE:
**MATTRESS
 RECYCLING (25-01)**

- UCRRA receives thousands of used mattresses for disposal each year.
- These items are large, heavy and difficult to transport. Landfill operators do not want to receive these items, and in the future may charge for them.
- Mattresses contain many recyclable or reusable materials that can be recovered through specialized disassembly.
- UCRRA has entered into a contract to begin mattress recycling at our Town of Ulster transfer station. The operation has begun and is on track to recycle YY mattresses this year.

Cost Category	Estimated Cost
Planning	\$ -
Design	\$ -
Other Pre-Construction	\$ -
Construction/Renovation	\$84,500
Construction Mgmt/Inspection	\$ -
Other Construction	\$ -
Capital Equipment & Installation	\$5,500
Contingencies	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$100,000



DEEP DIVE:

THE RePOWER PROJECT (25-03)

- The Reuse Pathway for Zero Waste & Economic Resilience project builds on the County's 2023 Reuse Innovation Center Feasibility Study and Plan.
- The project uses a hub-and-spokes model to facilitate collection and distribution of reusable goods and materials.
- Planned investments include improvements at the Ulster Transfer Station and Town MRDCs, as well as the construction of a central warehouse for receiving, processing and distribution.
- Funding challenges are likely to slow implementation.

Cost Category	Estimated Cost
Planning	\$ -
Design	\$ -
Other Pre-Construction	\$4,400,000
Construction/Renovation	\$500,000
Construction Mgmt/Inspection	\$ -
Other Construction	\$1,000,000
Capital Equipment & Installation	\$850,000
Contingencies	\$ -
Subtotal	\$6,750,000*

* Does not include Secondary Diversion Building at UTS or operating subsidies for RIC

DEEP DIVE:
**COMPOST
 PROCESSING
 EXPANSION (25-06)**

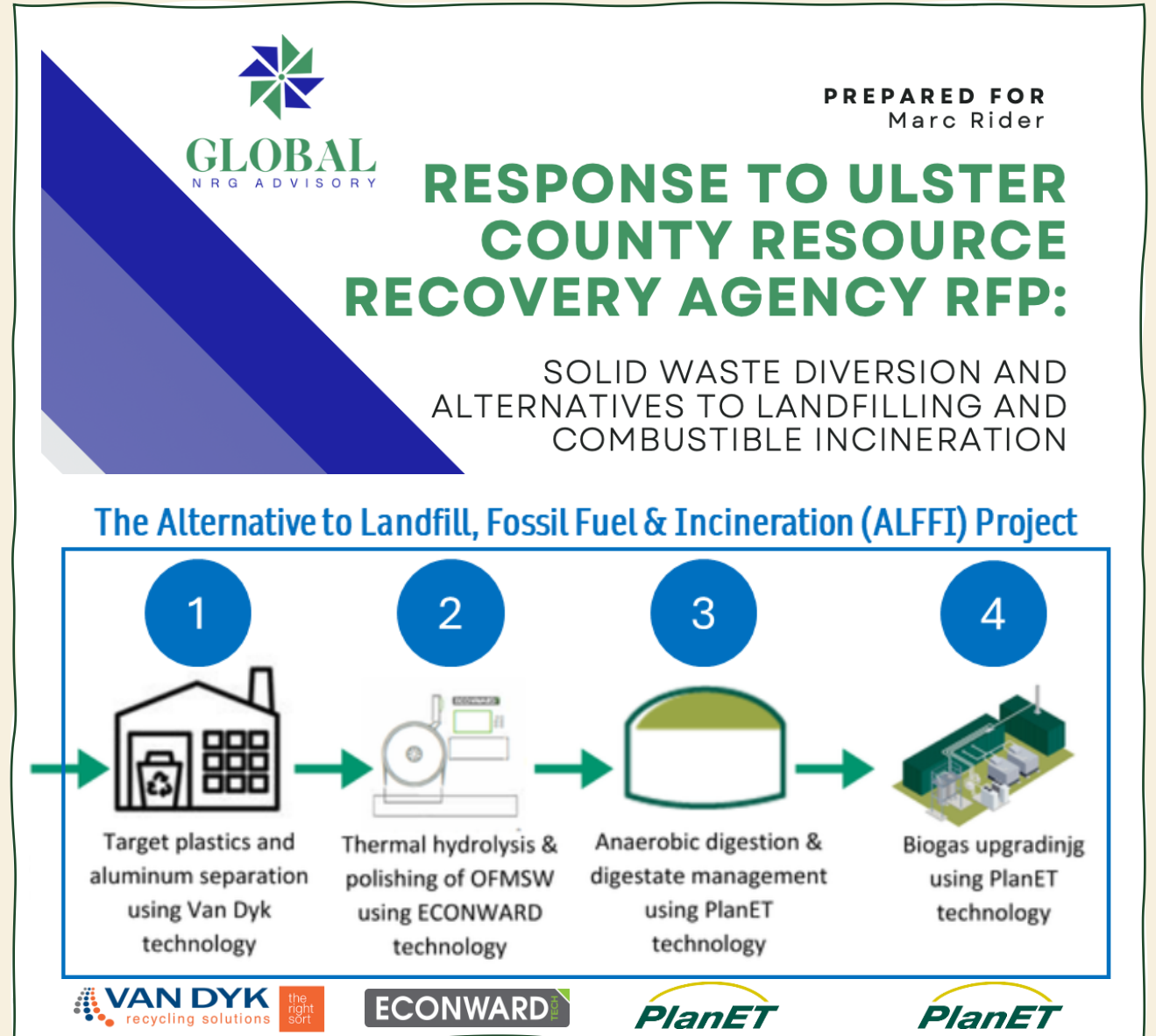
- This project involves the expansion of UCRRA’s Organics Recovery Facility from 5,000 to 10,000 TPY.
- The project includes investments at Town MRDCs, which would serve as spokes for food waste collection, and – in some cases – on-site processing.
- The project also includes a pilot program to implement food waste collection and on-site processing at select schools.
- We are actively seeking funding to implement this project.

Cost Category	Estimated Cost
Planning	\$ -
Design	\$50,000
Other Pre-Construction	\$250,000
Construction/Renovation	\$1,200,000
Construction Mgmt/Inspection	\$18,750
Other Construction	\$ -
Capital Equipment & Installation	\$100,000
Contingencies	\$161,875
Subtotal	\$1,780,625

DEEP DIVE:

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO LANDFILL

- Currently, UCRRA's best option for final disposal is to truck waste to a landfill 240 miles away.
- This project seeks alternative final disposal solutions that reduce the amount of waste landfilled.
- UCRRA issued a request for proposals (RFP 25-01) in 2025 and has awarded the RFP to a team led by Global NRG.
- The proposed project includes four separate processing stages, which together are expected to reduce landfilled waste by 60-70%.



WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS



Public compliance with mandatory source separation of recyclables and other laws



Revenue model that incentivizes waste generation, not reduction or diversion

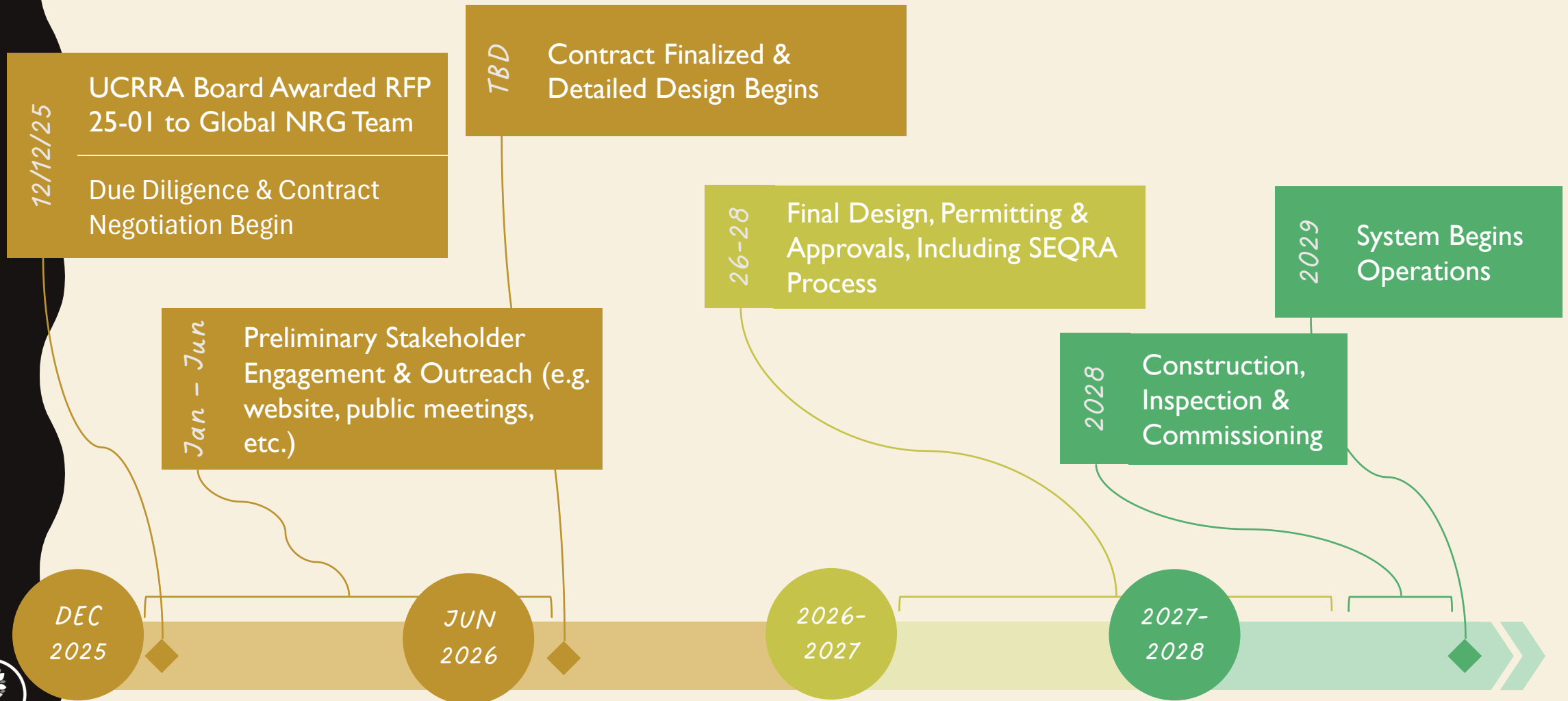


Increased disposal and transportation costs due to lack of landfill capacity



Unpredictable and under-developed markets for diverted materials

AD PROJECT TIMELINE





WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD ZERO

*WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE – A ZERO-WASTE FUTURE REQUIRES A
WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH*

WORKING TOGETHER

TOWARD ZERO WASTE



Refuse



Say no to single use plastics. These items are used for only a few minutes, but they can stick around in our environment for hundreds of years. Politely decline things you don't really need – they just end up as waste! Visit our website to learn more about the Skip the Straw Act, and other policies that reduce waste in Ulster County.



Reduce



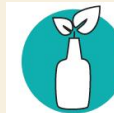
Small acts make a big difference. Be in the habit of choosing to purchase items with minimal packaging, or buying only what you need. Search our website for local refilleries that allow you to buy in bulk, reduce packaging waste, and refill your own containers!



Repair



Fix broken items before you toss them! Repair extends the useful life of goods and materials, conserving the resources used to make them, and diverting waste from landfills. Repair can also stretch your dollar and teach you new skills along the way! Look up DIY repair tutorials online, or visit a local Repair Café for free.



Reuse



Look for creative ways to reuse and upcycle items as much as possible. The "Bring Your Own" movement is helping to normalize small acts of reuse – because our planet is not disposable... Not only can you bring your own bottles, mugs, and shopping bags, but try utensil kits, and tiffins too! Visit our website to learn more about the Ulster County Tiffin Project and browse the resources there.



Regift



Thrift, buy used, or organize a regift swap with friends! Donating gently-used items (that are still in good condition) reduces waste and helps our neighbors in need, all while supporting local charitable organizations. Search our website for local places to buy or donate gently used items like books, furniture, home goods, building materials, and more.



Recover



Turn waste into resources! Try home composting and recover the nutrients from wasted food to make gardener's black gold! Search our website for home composting resources like our home composting guidebook!



Recycle



Recycling guidelines can vary, so it's important to know your program. When in doubt, ask! Contact your service provider or call the Recycling Hotline 845-336-3336. Remember to recycle by shape (bottles, jugs, jars, tubs) and NOT by number!

Recyclopedia

"How do I get rid of...?" Ask our Recyclopedia! With over 150 items listed, you'll find answers to some of our most common recycling questions right at your fingertips, 24/7!



CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS

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