



City of Seattle's Organics Program:
history, successes, challenges



- 1986 - now
Master
Composter
resident
volunteer
program
- 1988 – 1993ish
Bin giveaway
and at home
education

Curbside collection of food and yard waste



RECYCLE

Seattle
Public
Utilities

(206) 684-3000

FOOD & YARD

Seattle
Public
Utilities

(206) 684-3000

WASTE

Seattle
Public
Utilities

684-3000

1990

2000

2005

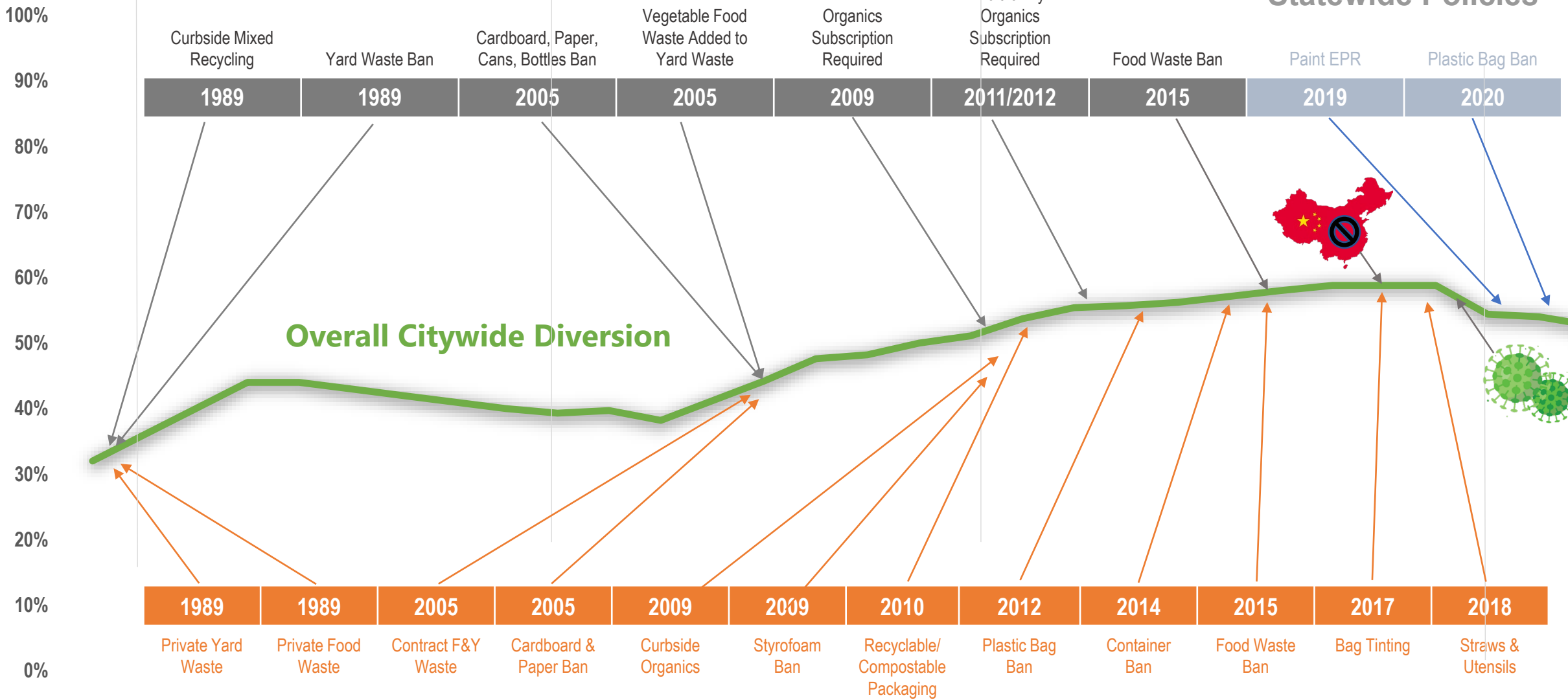
2010

2015

2020

SPU Residential Diversion Policies

Statewide Policies



SPU Commercial Diversion Policies

Wasted Food



- Mandatory weekly collection
- Banned from landfill
- Comingled collection of:
 - yard waste,
 - food waste,
 - certified compostable food service ware,
 - food soiled paper



**Compost
so life goes on.**

Variable sizing and pricing to meet customer needs



Monthly Residential Garbage Cart Rates

Pay as you throw

Service Level (weekly)	Effective April 1, 2023 (per month)
<u>Micro-cart (12-gallon)</u>	\$26.85
<u>Mini-cart (20-gallon)</u>	\$32.90
<u>32-gallon cart</u>	\$42.80
<u>64-gallon cart</u>	\$85.45
<u>96-gallon cart</u>	\$128.30

Outreach Examples

- Direct mailers
- Community events
- Master composters
- Signage above or on bins
- Uniform system
- Technical assistance
 - particularly for multifamily
- Social and traditional media
- Web
 - includes “Where does it go?” lookup tool
- Compost giveaway events





Food Waste in Garbage		
	Year	2022
Residential	Percent	19.7%
	Tons	24,831
	Capture Rate	36.3%

Key elements promoting Seattle's success

- Pay as you throw (economic incentive)
- Systems to make the right choice is the most convenient choice
 - Required service subscriptions
 - Review & enforce multifamily complexes to co-locate services
 - Standardized system across the city (home, work, school, events)
 - Comingled food & yard waste
 - Compostable collection bags & takeout containers
- Excellent, ongoing outreach.
- Access to nearby commercial composting infrastructure, partnerships
- Strong markets for the finished product

Key elements to improve success in Seattle & WA state

- Enforcement and accountability
- State-wide food and yard waste landfill ban
- Grant and seed money for infrastructure and municipal program development.
- Permitting simplification
- Increased rebates for farms using compost
- Compostable products clarity and optimization
 - Standardized labelling
 - Trusted certifications for compostable products
 - Research composting conditions optimization
 - Effective enforcement (funding is likely needed)

