

*County of Maui – Polystyrene Bill #127  
Testimony / May 8, 2017*

A stylized graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a light gray, rounded hand shape with a white palm, holding a green leaf. The background behind the hand is a light gray gradient.

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# PS Foam Foodservice Recovery & Recycling

## Annual Performance

- 200 programs fielded
- 240,000 trays daily recovery
- 28 million foam trays
- 280 tons recovered and diverted for recycling.

## Performance 2012-16

- 60 million PS foam trays

# Reality of Commercial Composting

- The compost industry in the U.S. *is not being driven by demand for compost products.*
- But by the increased cost of landfill disposal, public support for resource conservation, and local mandates on waste diversion.
- *End Market* demand for compost by the consumer does not meet the growing supply. (i.e. Peninsula)

# Maui 3-Can Guidelines

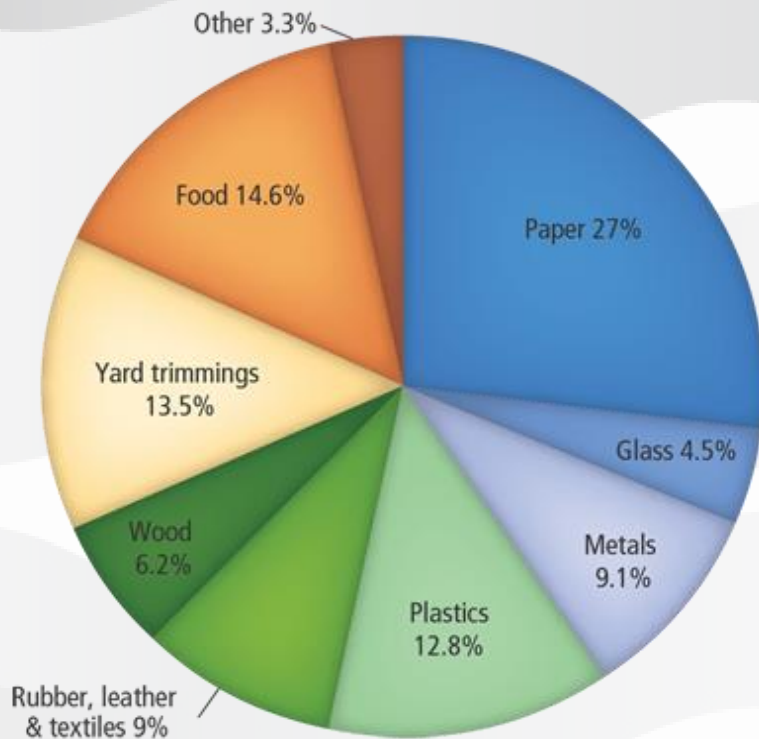
Mixed Recycling & Green Waste

***“DO NOT PUT THIS IN THE CART”***

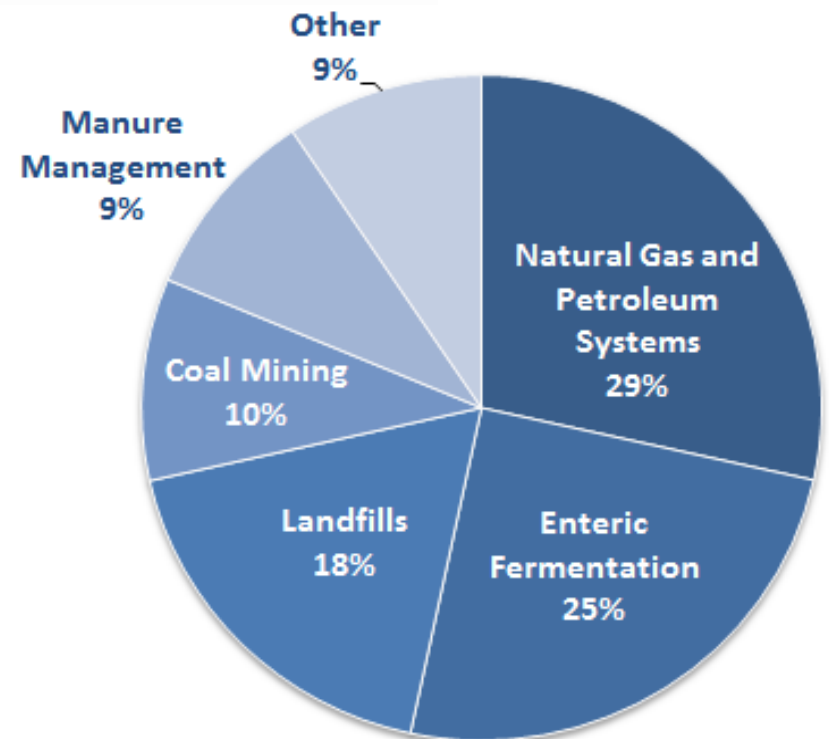
- No Food Residue or Waste
- No Paper Plates
- No Shredded Paper
- No Food-Soiled Paper:
  - Towels & Napkins
  - Paper Plates
  - Pizza Boxes, Cartons
  - Biodegradable Food Containers

# 55% MSW Composition is *Organic*

## U.S. MSW Composition



## Methane Impacts



# False Equivalency and Conformity

- “Follow in the footsteps of nearly 100 other cities....by allowing only items that are readily compostable or recyclable”
- “A ban on EPS will improve our quality of life, the natural environment,.....and impacts on marine life and birds.
- “Alternatives to polystyrene food service that are renewably sourced rather than fossil-fuel based are thus more environmentally sound”
- “Prohibiting PS disposable containers would reduce amount of liter entering the environment by displacing toxic material with non-toxic biodegradable materials”

# Follow the others -

- Urban School Food Alliance
  - “Incorporating sound environmental practices”
- 5 of U.S. largest school districts
- 4,700 schools
- Switched from polystyrene trays to paper fiber compostable, “cutting *225 million PS trays per year* (9 months) from the waste stream”

None of these trays are being composted.

- Volume prohibits / Weak Infrastructure / Weak end-markets
- Landfilled = Methane = Ocean Warming

What are we teaching this next generation?

# NYC Public Schools / 850,000 meals per day

	<i>PS Foam</i>	<i>NYC Schools Foam Ban Organic Based “Compostable”</i>	
<b>Cost — Student Nutrition Budget</b>	<b>\$4.5 million</b>	<b>\$8 million</b>	<b>&gt; 78%</b>
<b>Waste Stream Weight Per Day</b>	<b>4 Tons</b>	<b>11.5 Tons</b>	<b>&gt; 175%</b>
<b>Waste Volume Reduction</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Resource Recovery / Reuse</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Transportation Demand</b>		<b>Increase</b>	
<b>Commercial Composting</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>No — Volume Prohibits</b>	
<b>Landfill Biodegradation</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>No - Anaerobic Degradation</b>	
<b>Equivalent Landfill Methane Emissions</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Approx. 1700 lbs (CH<sub>4</sub>)</b>	
<b>Sustainable Practice</b>		<b>No</b>	



# International Union for Conservation

- ICUN Director General – Inger Anderson

“Ocean warming is this generations greatest hidden challenge – and one for which we are completely unprepared”. “The only way to preserve the rich diversity of marine life, and to safeguard the protection of resources the ocean provides, is to cut greenhouse gas emissions rapidly and substantially” (*IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawaii – 2016*)

“Most of the heat from human-induced warming since 1970 – staggering 93% - has been absorbed by our oceans, which acts as a buffer against climate change, but this comes at a price. We are surrounded by the scale by the scale and extent of ocean warming effects on the entire eco system” (*Dan Laffoley, Marine Vice Chair of World Commission on Protected Areas at ICUN, 2016*)

# **Environmental Impact Feedback Loop currently being observed, due to GHG and ocean warming.**

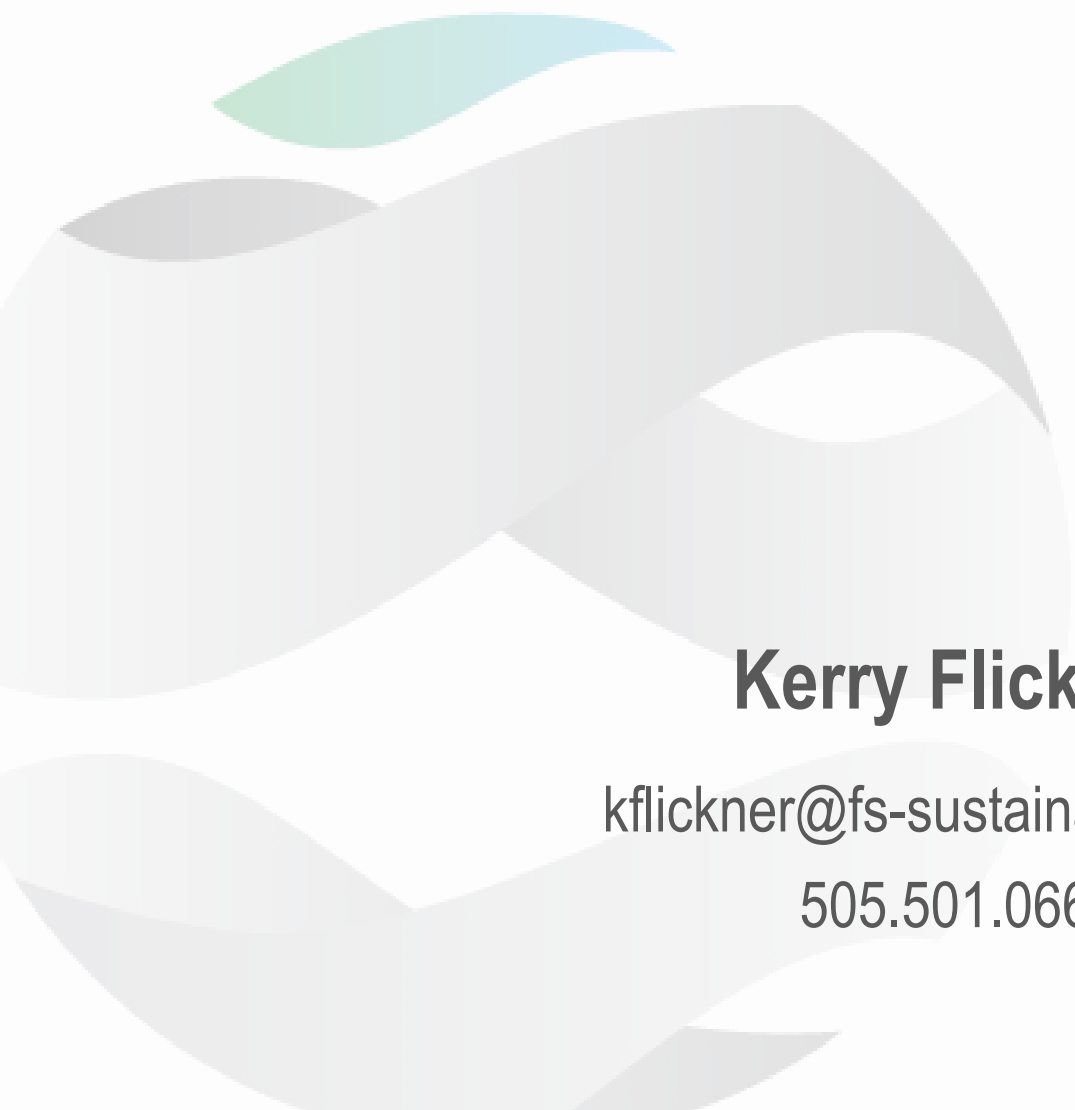
- Coral Bleaching
- Ocean Acidification
- Fish migration
- Species die-offs

Example:

The Starfish Wasting Disease that decimated more than 20 species of starfish from Alaska to Mexico is now understood to be the largest observed die-of of a wild animal in the ocean. All due to warmer ocean temperatures.

# Transitioning to Practicable Solutions

- ❖ Transforming current systems instead of banning.
- ❖ Holistic and comprehensive approach to waste management, litter control, public education and accountability.
- ❖ Quantifying environmental impacts of purposed alternative organic waste stream.



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