



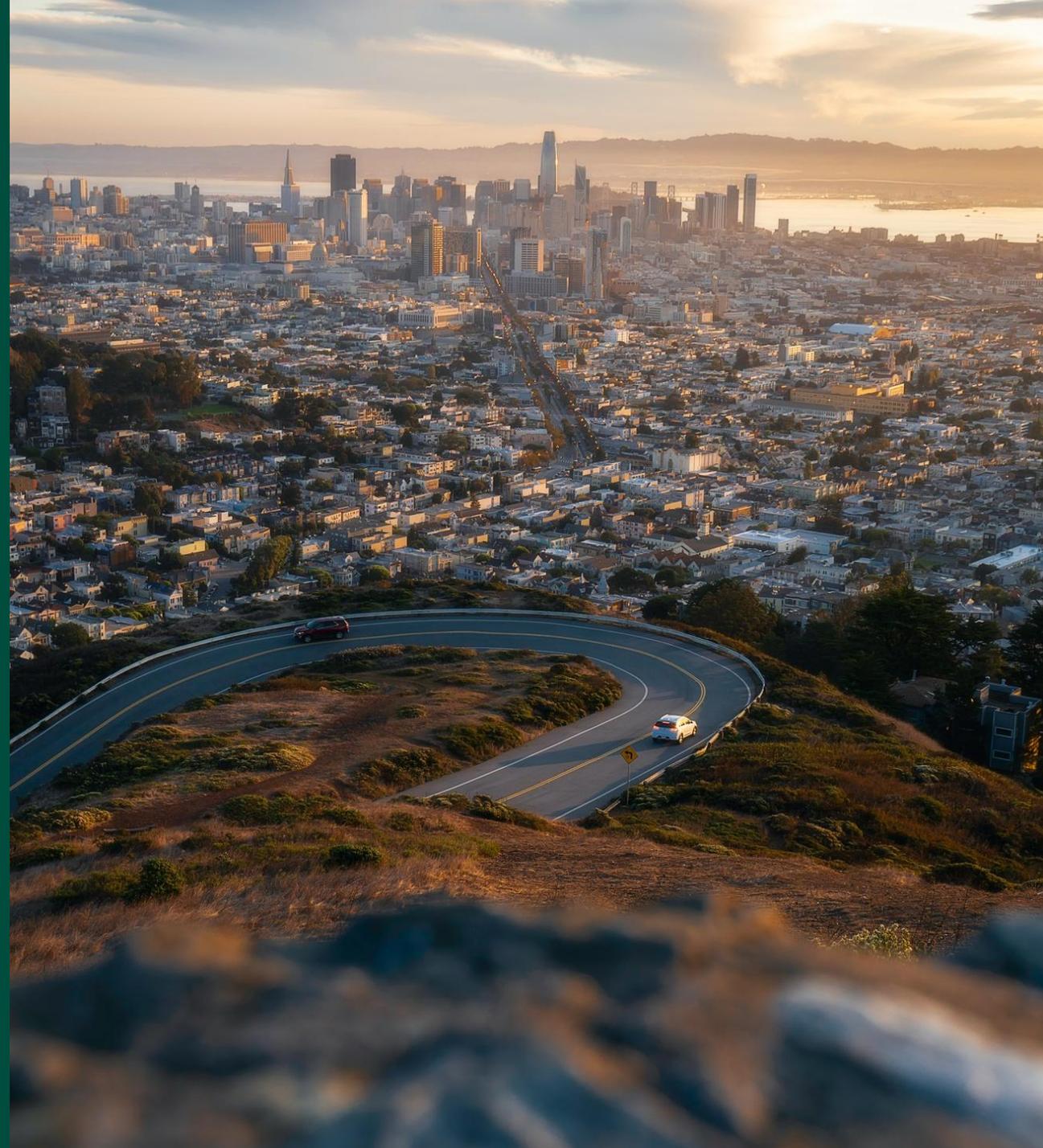
# SF Environment Refuse Rate Board Hearing

March 13th, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
DEPARTMENT

# Agenda

- RY24-25 Update
  - Edible Food Recovery
  - Reusables Transition
  - Building Material Reuse
  - HHW Campaign: Battery Mailers
  - Waste Characterization Study
- First Quarter Updates RY 25-26
  - Rate Cycle Planning Meeting
  - Wood-to-Reuse Market Development
  - Landfill RFP
  - Trash Processing Feasibility Report
- Questions



**SFE is the City's climate accountability, coordination, and equity engine.**

# Programs Overview

# Impound Funded Programs

**Zero Waste**

**Toxic Reduction  
& Health  
Ecosystems**

**Community  
Partnerships &  
Engagement**

**Policy &  
Communications**

**Climate**

# Highlights from RY 24-25

# Edible Food Recovery

- SF Environment (SFE) supported over 3 million pounds of food recovery
- Equivalent to over 2.5 million meals for San Franciscans in need
- Recovered food avoids SF's refuse system and reduces costs to rate payers
- SFE completed 308 inspections of food generators to comply with SB 1383 food donation requirements

**SFE**



Source: Excelsior Strong



# Transition to Reusables

- **Converted 166 businesses and institutions to reusable foodservice ware**
- **Installed 19 dishwashers for San Francisco business through incentive programs**

# Building Material Reuse

- Funded by SF Environment, Building Resources SF (BRSF), recovered 1,324 tons of building material supply through reuse
- BRSF sold \$761,245 worth of reused building materials
- BRSF completed site improvements and increase recovery tracking

SFE



Source: SFE staff

**Battery recycling**  
回收電池現在就在你  
Reciclaje de pilas



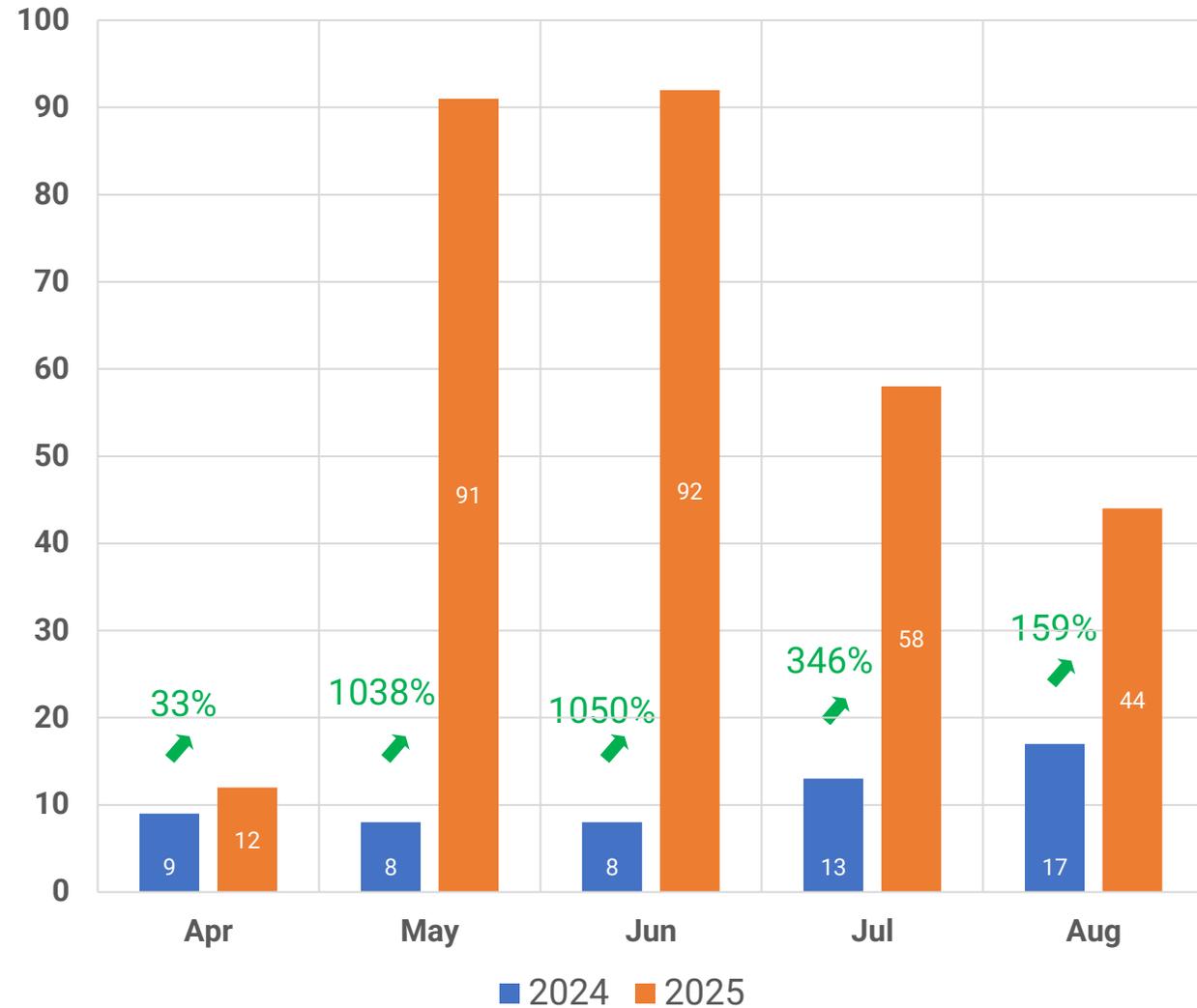
# Campaign: Battery Mailers

- **Date of Distribution:** May 2025
- **Audience:**  
Single-family mailers – 174,316  
Multi-family mailers – 204,326
- **Languages:** English, Chinese, and Spanish

# Increase in requests for Battery Buckets



## # of New Battery Bucket Requests

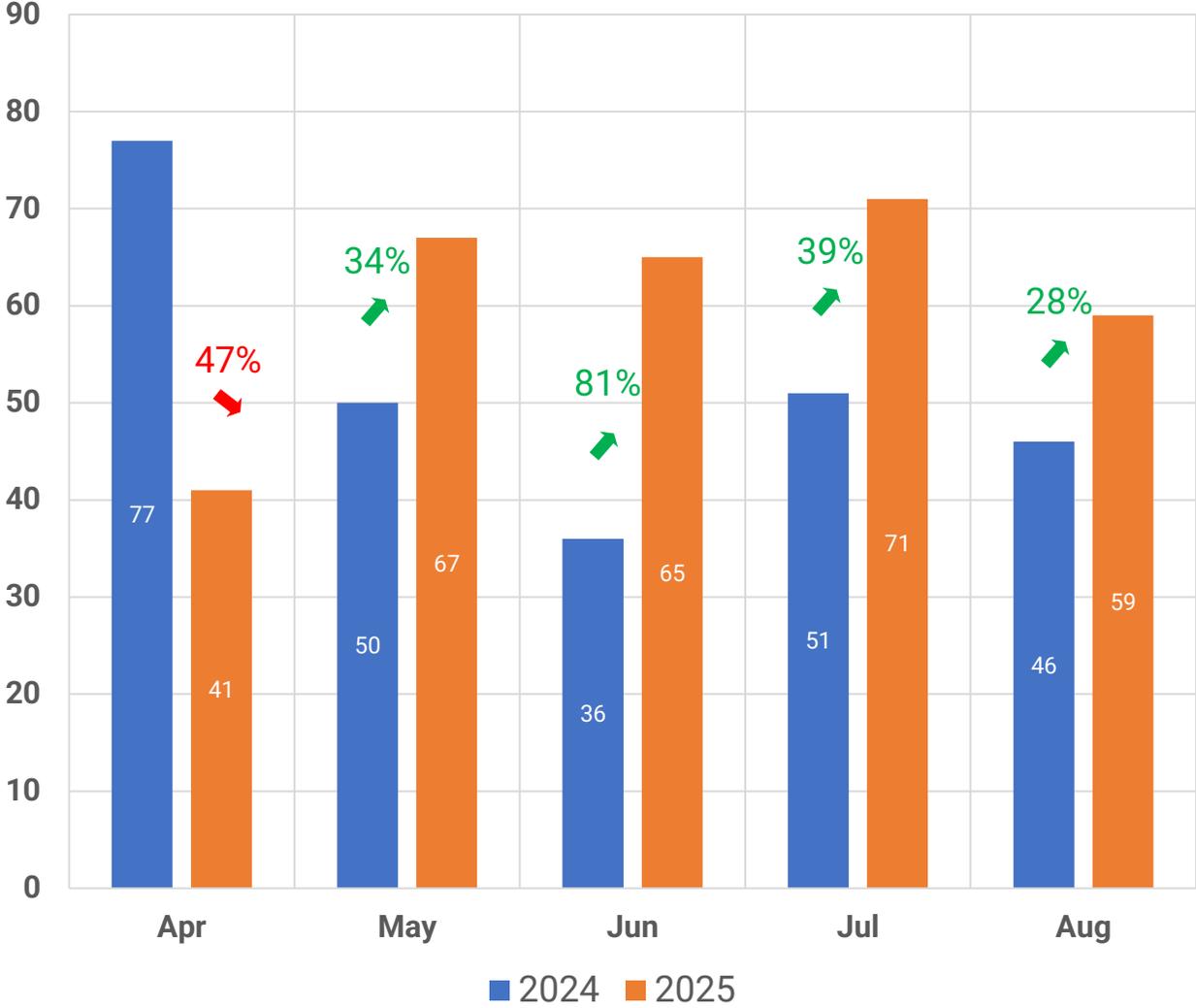


\*Apartment mailer was sent on May 16th

# Increase in Battery Bucket exchanges



### # of Battery Bucket Exchanges



\*Apartment mailer was sent on May 16th



# Household Hazardous Waste

- Recology received 1,006,563 pounds of material collected across all HHW programs
- 165,329 pounds of batteries collected
- 1,262,748 pounds of e-waste collected

# Waste Characterization Study

# 4.2.1 Residential, Small Apartment, and Small Commercial Streams (Side Loader, Cart-based Collection)

## LANDFILL – CART SERVICE

Table 4: Landfill – Cart Service, Detailed Composition

Material	Est. %	+ / -	Material	Est. %	+ / -
<b>Paper</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>Organics</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
Paper Shopping Bags	1.1%	0.2%	Plant Trimmings	1.1%	0.4%
Other Paper Bags/ Kraft Paper & Brown Grades	2.2%	0.2%	Large Woody Trimmings	-	-
Clean Uncoated Corrugated Cardboard	0.8%	0.3%	Donatable Unpackaged Food	1.1%	0.3%
Coated Corrugated Cardboard	0.0%	0.0%	Donatable Packaged Food	3.2%	0.5%
Shredded Paper	0.1%	0.1%	Not Donatable Unpackaged Food	12.5%	1.6%
Coated Paper Cups	0.3%	0.1%	Not Donatable Packaged Food	10.0%	1.0%
Aseptics & Gable Top Cartons	0.3%	0.1%	Inedible Unpackaged Food	2.9%	0.6%
Wine & Liquor Cartons (CRV)	0.0%	0.0%	Inedible Packaged Food	1.4%	0.4%
Compostable Paper & Fiber Foodware	3.4%	0.6%	Clean Wood	0.4%	0.4%
Compostable Paper Tissue & Other Compostable Paper	10.3%	0.7%	Painted Wood	0.1%	0.1%
Other Coated Paper	0.2%	0.0%	Diapers	6.9%	1.6%
Newspaper, Office Paper, & Other Recyclable Paper	2.3%	0.4%	Animal Feces & Litter	5.2%	1.4%
Miscellaneous Paper Packaging & Other Composite Paper	1.5%	0.3%	Other Compostable Organics	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Plastic</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>Hazardous</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Single-use Compostable Plastic Foodware	0.2%	0.1%	Sharps	0.0%	0.0%

# Updates for Quarter 1

# Rate Cycle Planning Meeting

**“The purpose of this ordinance is to reform and modernize the City’s process for setting residential refuse rates to be more fair, transparent, and accountable; and to help the City continue to pursue its Zero-Waste goals.”**

Proposition F, Section 2(b)

# Rate Cycle Planning Outcomes

- Clarification of roles and responsibilities
- Debrief of 2025 Refuse Rate Process
- Forward planning
- Written Agreements



# Q1 Highlight



# Wood-to-Reuse Market Development

- Makes SF economy **resilient** to disturbances in material supply chains
- The local reuse market is a higher-and-better end-of-life use case
- Lumber routed to **Building ReSources of San Francisco** for resale at discounted cost
- Reduces truck trips from 145-miles round trip to a regional mulch market and instead routes the same commodity to **Building ReSources** which is **5-miles roundtrip**

# Landfill Contract

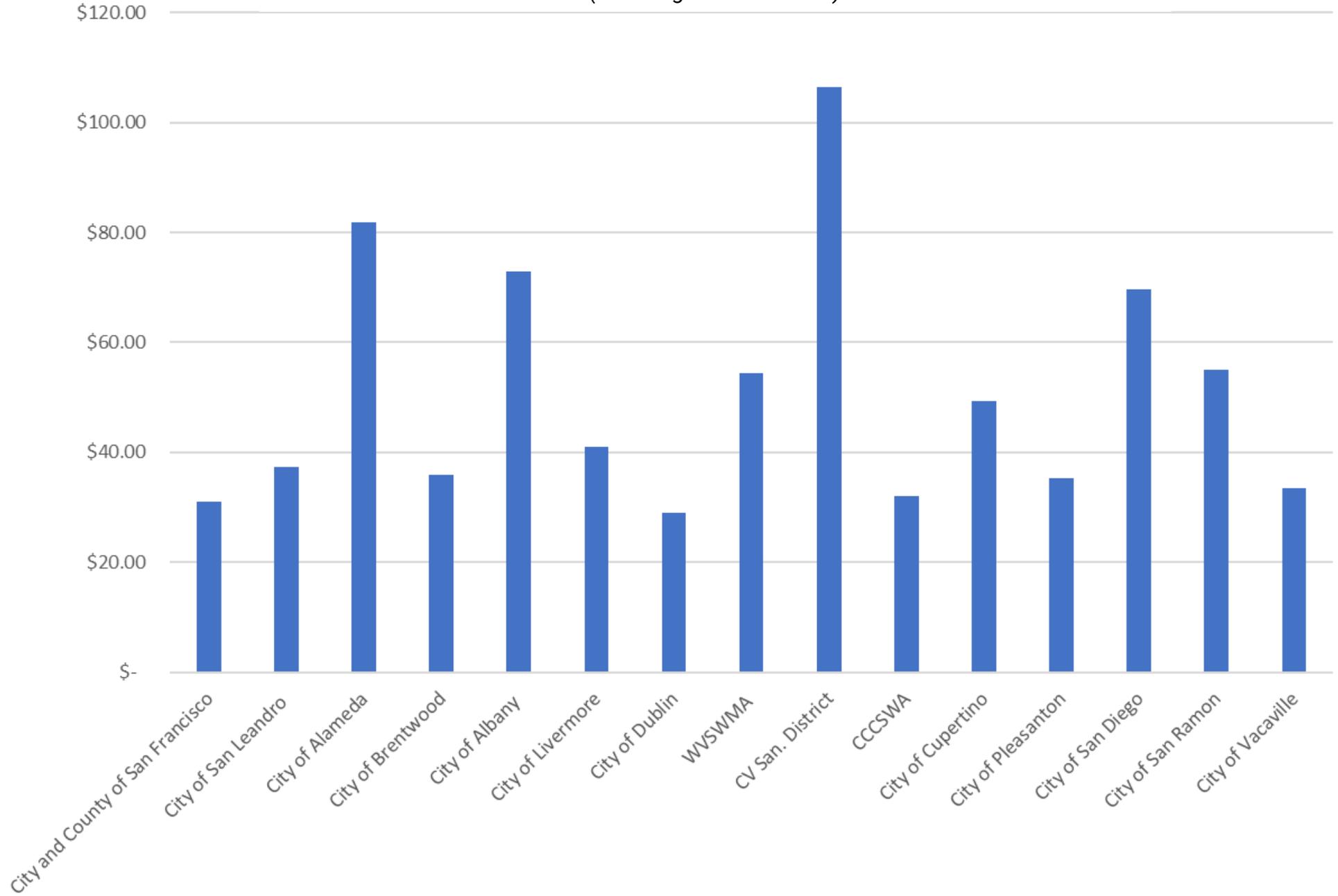
# Landfill RFP Analysis

Current Contract Term ends in ~  
April 2029

- Landfill costs will feed into the rates
- Incorporated 2023 audit findings into RFP
  - Changed contract term expiration
  - Included detailed reporting requirements
- Consultant provided industry guidance and expertise in developing RFP
- Refuse Rate Administrator reviewed draft and provided feedback



# Greater Bay Area Cities Municipal Solid Waste Tipping Fee (without government fees)

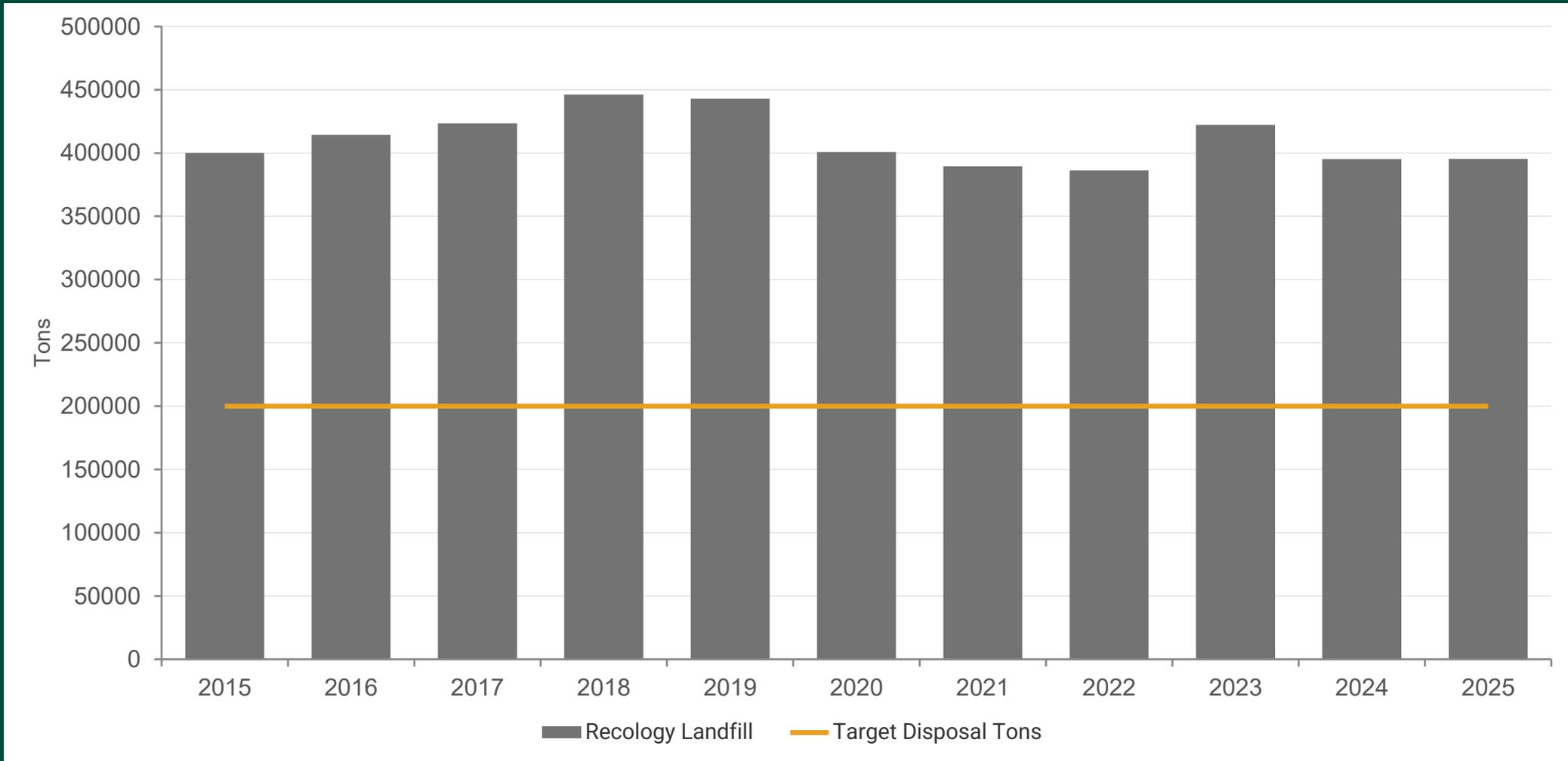




# Tentative Landfill RFP Timeline

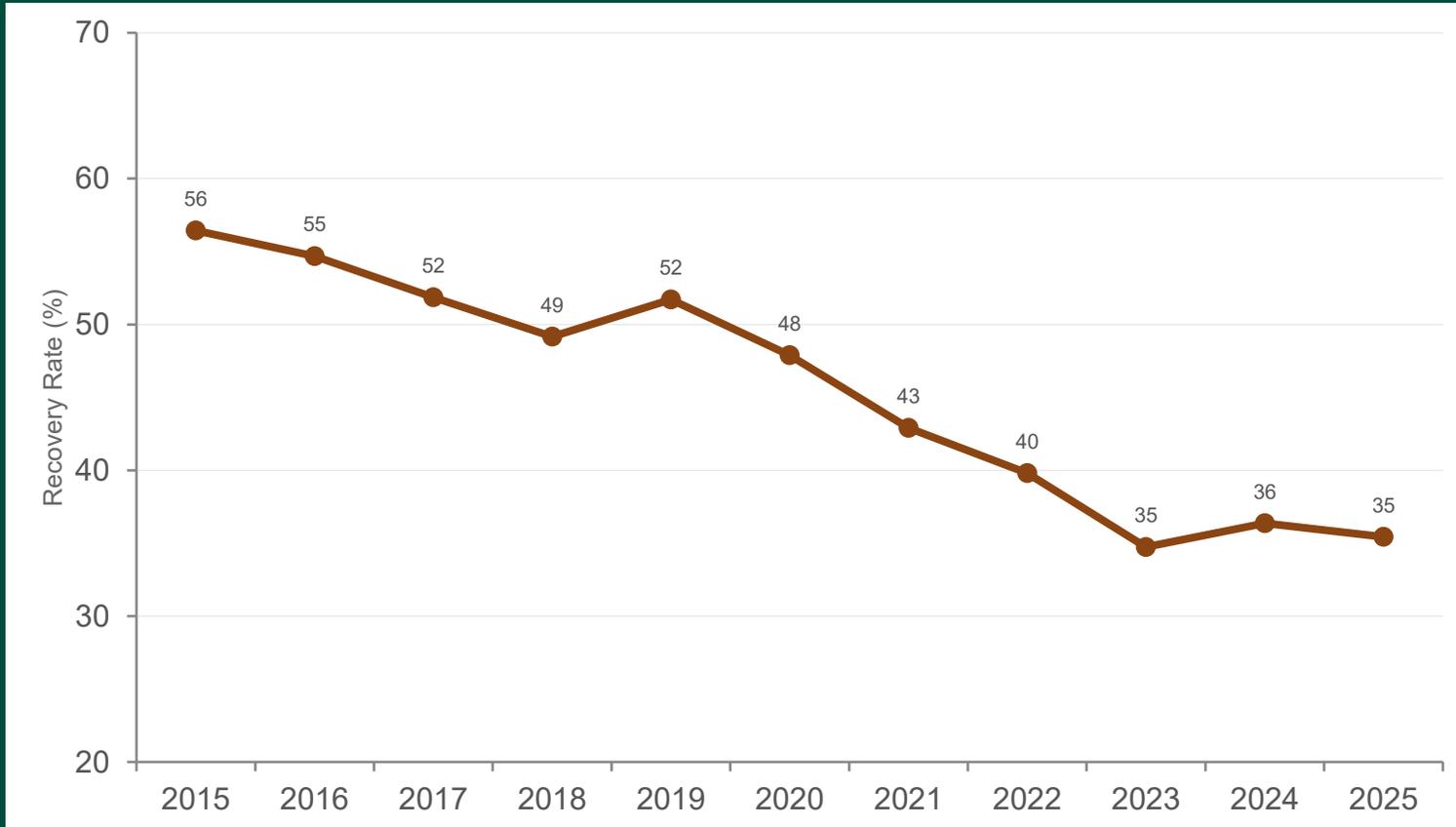
- March 2026: RFP released
- May 2026: Proposals due
- July 2026: RFP awarded
- September 2026: RFP finalized
- November 2026 : SFE Commission and Board of Supervisors Approval
- 2027 – 2028: CEQA Analysis
- 2028: Contract incorporated into Refuse Rates

# Trash Processing Feasibility Report



# Recology's Annual Tons to Landfill

# Recology Recovery Rate | 2015 - 2025



Year	Recovery Rate
2015	<b>56.4%</b>
2016	<b>54.7%</b>
2017	<b>51.8%</b>
2018	<b>49.2%</b>
2019	<b>51.7%</b>
2020	<b>47.9%</b>
2021	<b>42.9%</b>
2022	<b>39.8%</b>
2023	<b>34.7%</b>
2024	<b>36.4%</b>
2025	<b>35.4%</b>

# Trash Processing

## Cost and Recovery Potential Analysis

### Study Objectives:

- Demonstrate how technology-enabled trash processing will move SF closer to zero waste targets
- Compare processing facility costs, technologies and recovery potential
- Identify the system that produces the highest return on investment



# Ratepayer Model Analysis

## Objectives:

- Run example rate models where non-compliant accounts pay for trash processing
- Model a trash processing rate higher than source separate rate
  - Compliant accounts would be excluded from additional trash processing costs
- Identify cost savings opportunities
  - Recology operations cost savings
  - Landfill cost saving: tipping fee avoidance, reduced transportation

# Questions?

# Thank you.

Soko Made, Zero Waste Manager  
SFEnvironment.org



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