

# EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program

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# Sustainable Materials Management

Systemic approach to  
using and reusing  
materials more  
productively over their  
entire life cycles.



# SMM Strategic Plan

## Priorities

- The Built Environment
- Sustainable Food Management
- Sustainable Packaging

## Additional Emphasis Areas

- Sustainable Electronics Management
- Life Cycle Assessment and SMM
- International Efforts
- Overarching Measurement Efforts

**Fiscal Year  
2017 - 2022**

## **U.S. EPA Sustainable Materials Management Program Strategic Plan**



**October 2015**

# Sustainable Packaging

## Action Areas:

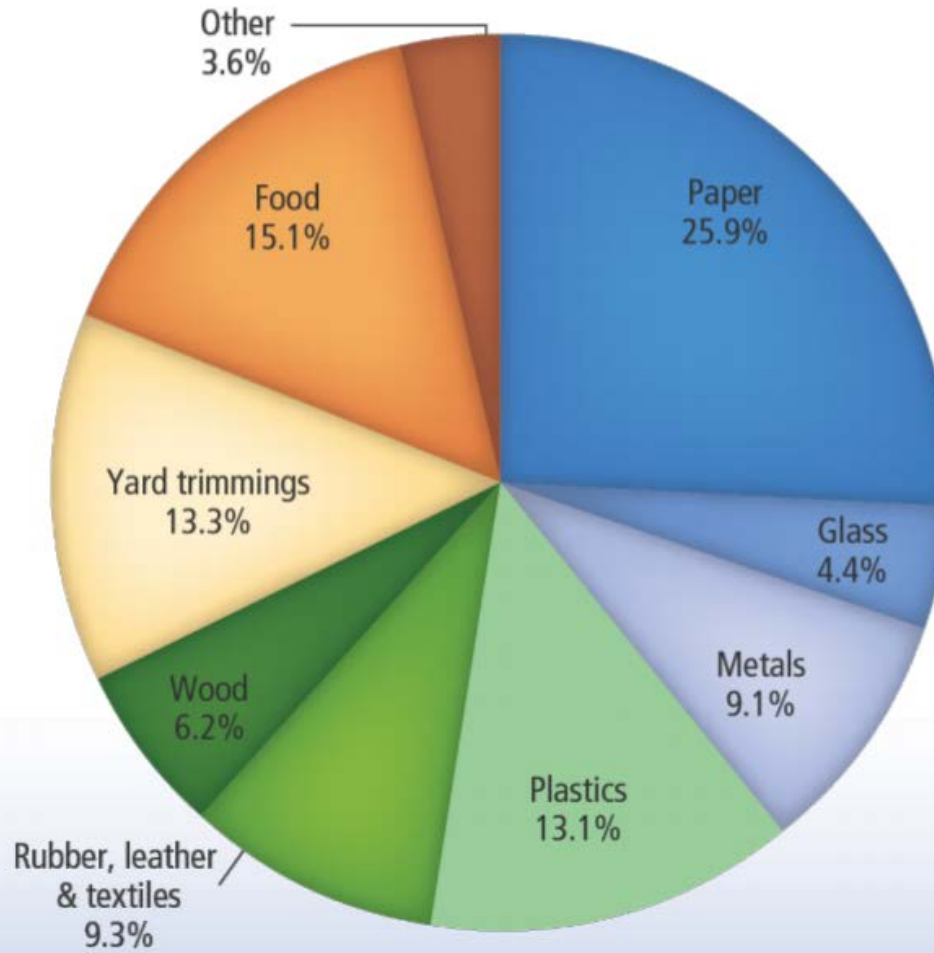
1. Convening and Partnerships: Infrastructure.
2. Work Across EPA and with Other Federal Agencies as Strategic Partners.
3. Research, Data, and Measurement for Packaging.

## Anticipated Outcomes by 2022:

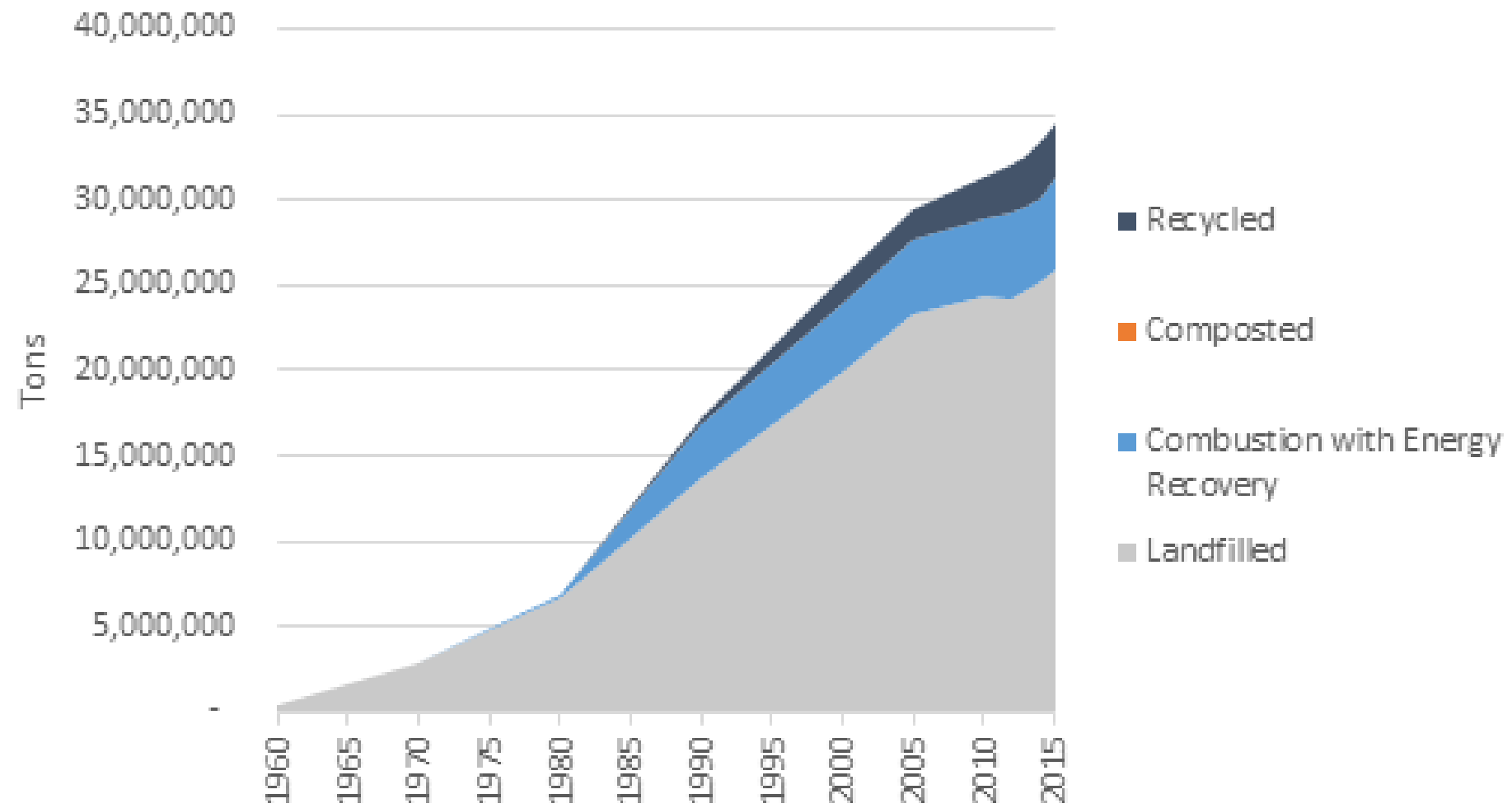
- Increase per capita quantity of recyclables collected.
- Increase yield rates of recyclables collected, processed and made available to the secondary materials market (quality).
- Increase average household lbs/year of recyclables collected.
- Increase access to and participation in recycling collection.



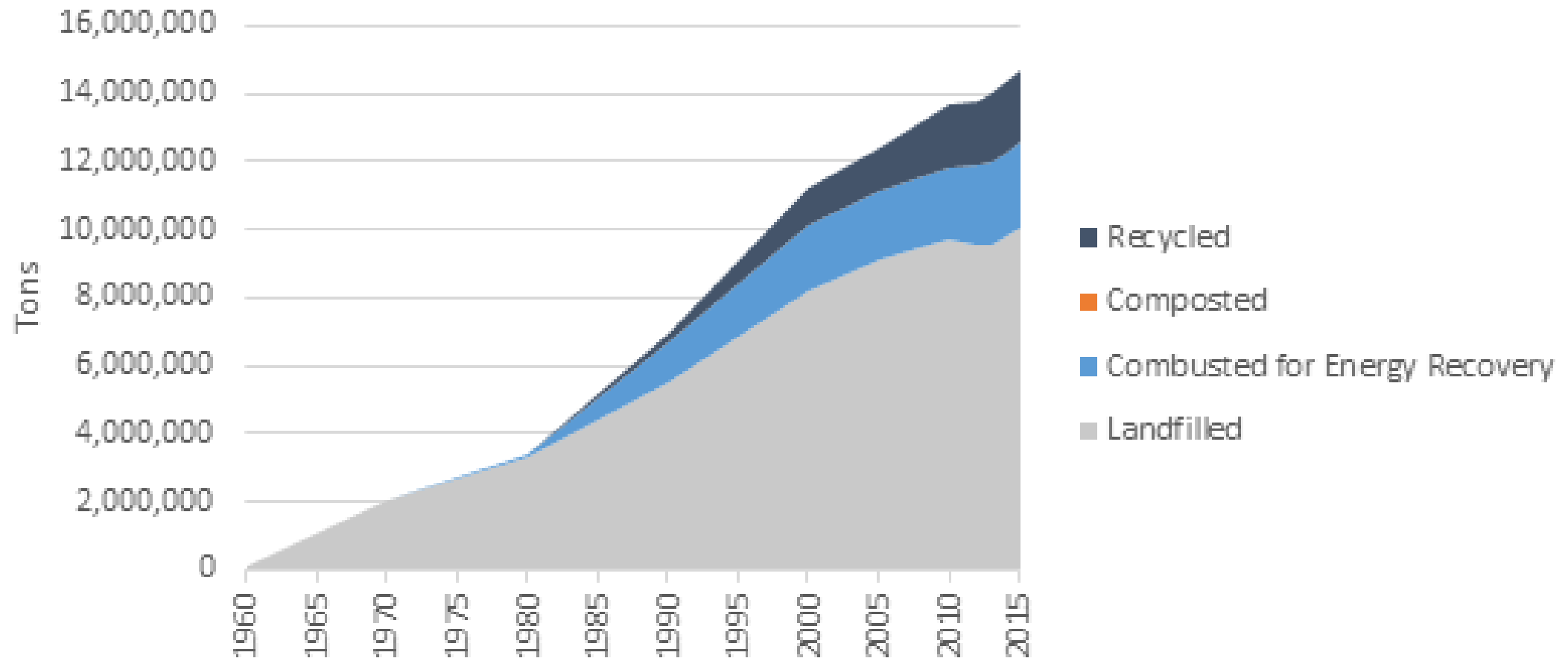
**Figure 4. Total MSW Generation (by material), 2015**  
**262 Million Tons**



## Plastics Waste Management: 1960-2015



## Plastic Containers and Packaging Waste Management: 1960-2015



# Current Challenges of the US Recycling System

- Contamination
- Changing markets for materials
- Evolution of materials





# EPA's 2018 ARD Summit

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# **AMERICA RECYCLES DAY 2018 PLEDGE**

**In recognition of this America Recycles Day, November 15, 2018, we, the undersigned, pledge to work together to build on our existing efforts to address the challenges facing our nation's recycling system and identify solutions that create a more resilient materials economy and protect the environment. Our signatures indicate the interest and willingness of our organizations to participate in an ongoing dialogue over the next year to identify specific actions that we can take collectively and within our respective organizations to improve the nation's recycling system.**

**[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)**



# US Recycling System Action Areas

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- Outreach and Education
- Infrastructure
- Material Markets
- Measurement



# Thank You

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