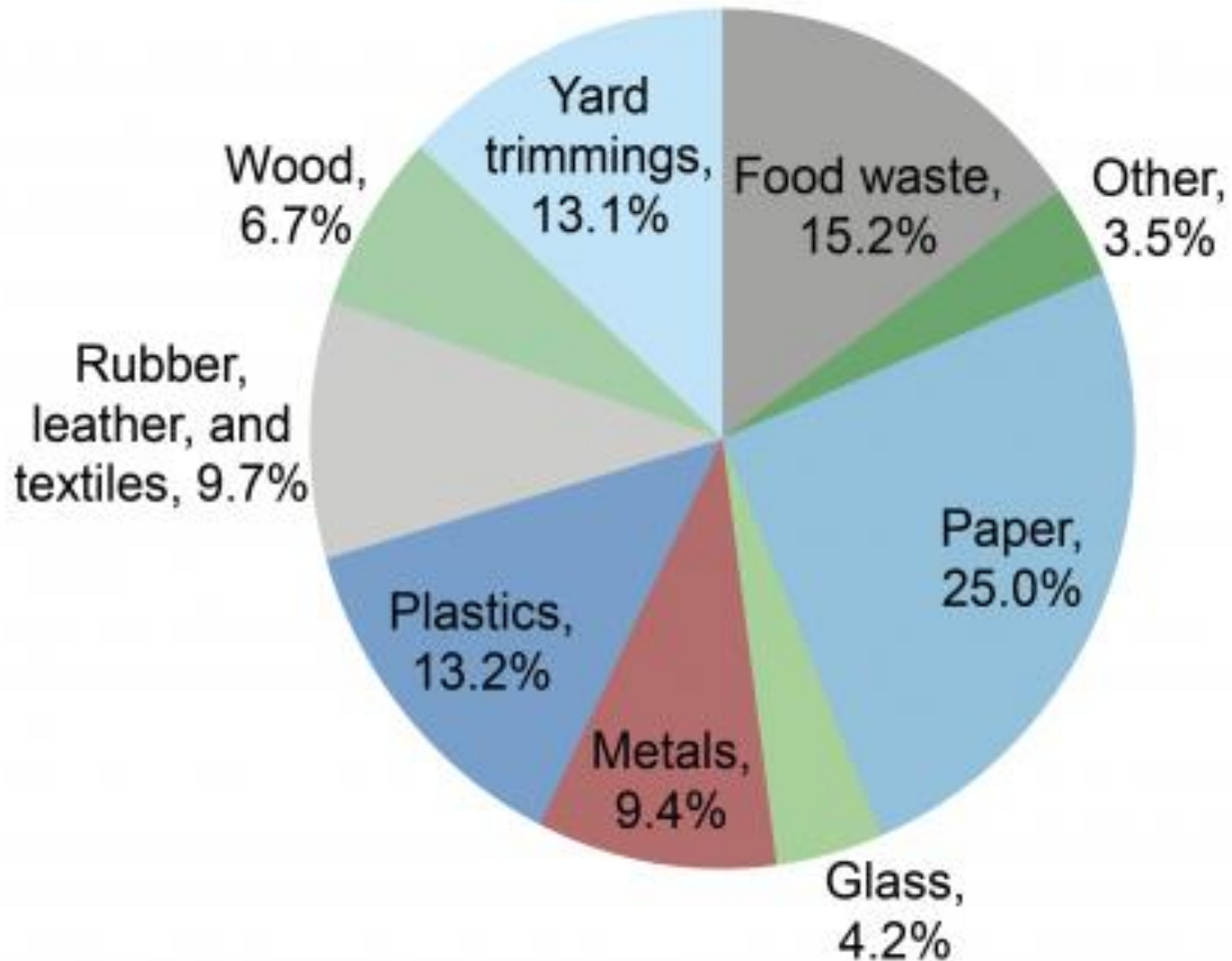


Reducing Solid Waste

U.S. MSW COMPOSITION, 2017





Reducing and Reusing

- ▶ What is something that you will use once before throwing it away?
- ▶ Until 1965, bottle we designed to be returned to stores to be cleaned and refilled. Now, the demand is for disposable bottles.
- ▶ Your buying habits influence the manufacture
 - ▶ Less packaging
 - ▶ Last longer
 - ▶ Less material

Recycling

- ▶ Recycling is the process of recovering and reusing materials from waste or scrap
- ▶ Making products from recycled materials usually saves energy, water, and other resources.
- ▶ Examples:
 - ▶ 95% less energy is needed to produce aluminum cans from recycled aluminum than from scratch
 - ▶ About 70% less energy is needed to make paper from recycled paper than from trees





Composting

- ▶ Compost is made from biodegradable waste
- ▶ More oxygen and moisture = more rapidly microorganisms with break down waste
- ▶ Rich in nutrients and used to enrich soil
- ▶ Efficient in reducing food and yard waste

Degradable Plastic



- ▶ 2 main types
- ▶ Photodegradable: Degrade in the sunlight
- ▶ Green Plastic:
 - ▶ Made from sugars
 - ▶ Production requires up to 50% less fossil fuel use
 - ▶ Decomposable
- ▶ The problem with degradable plastic is that it just breaks up into small pieces, not completely (plastic ash)