

The State of Recycling Town of Queen Creek 2021

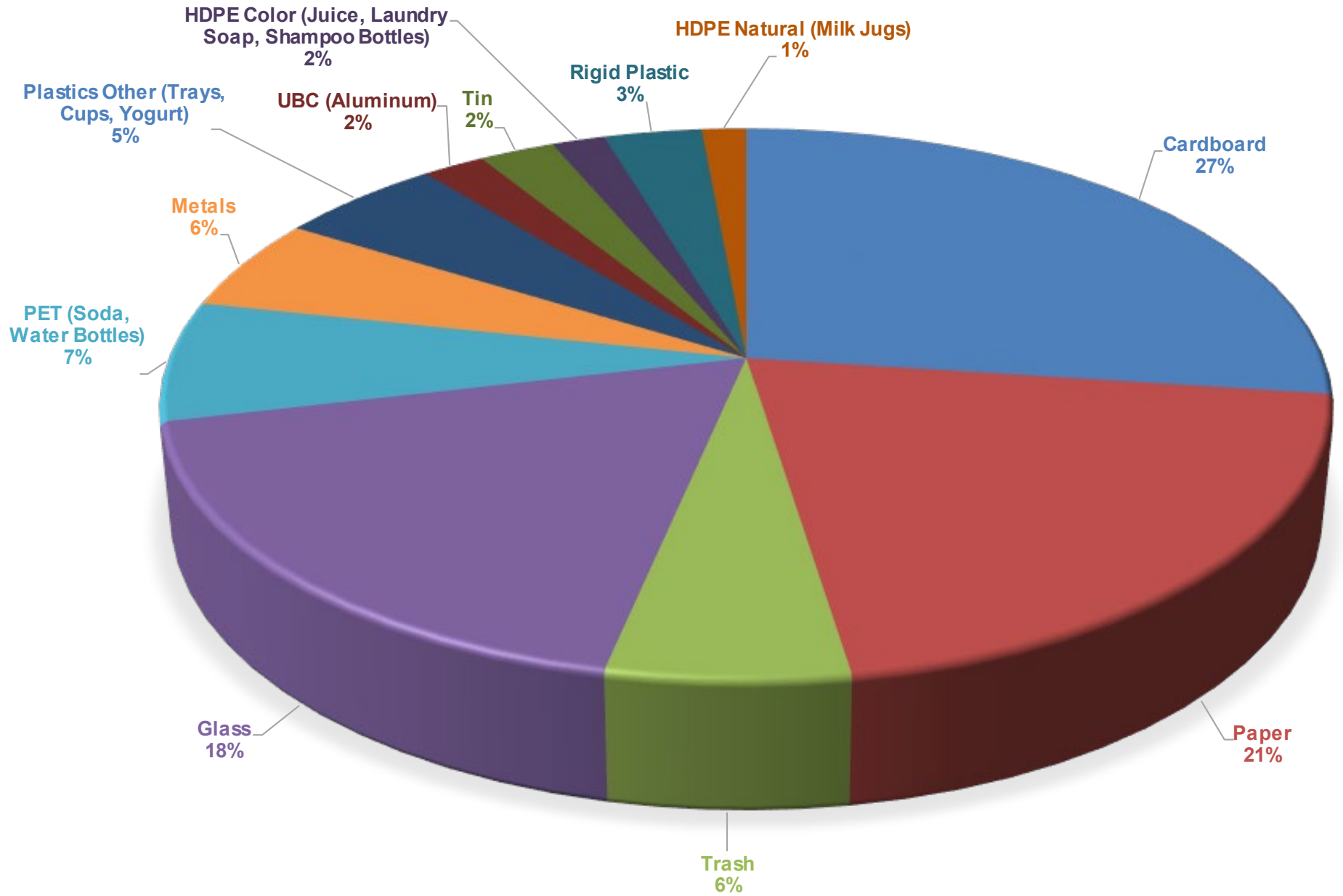


Town Council Session
October 20, 2021

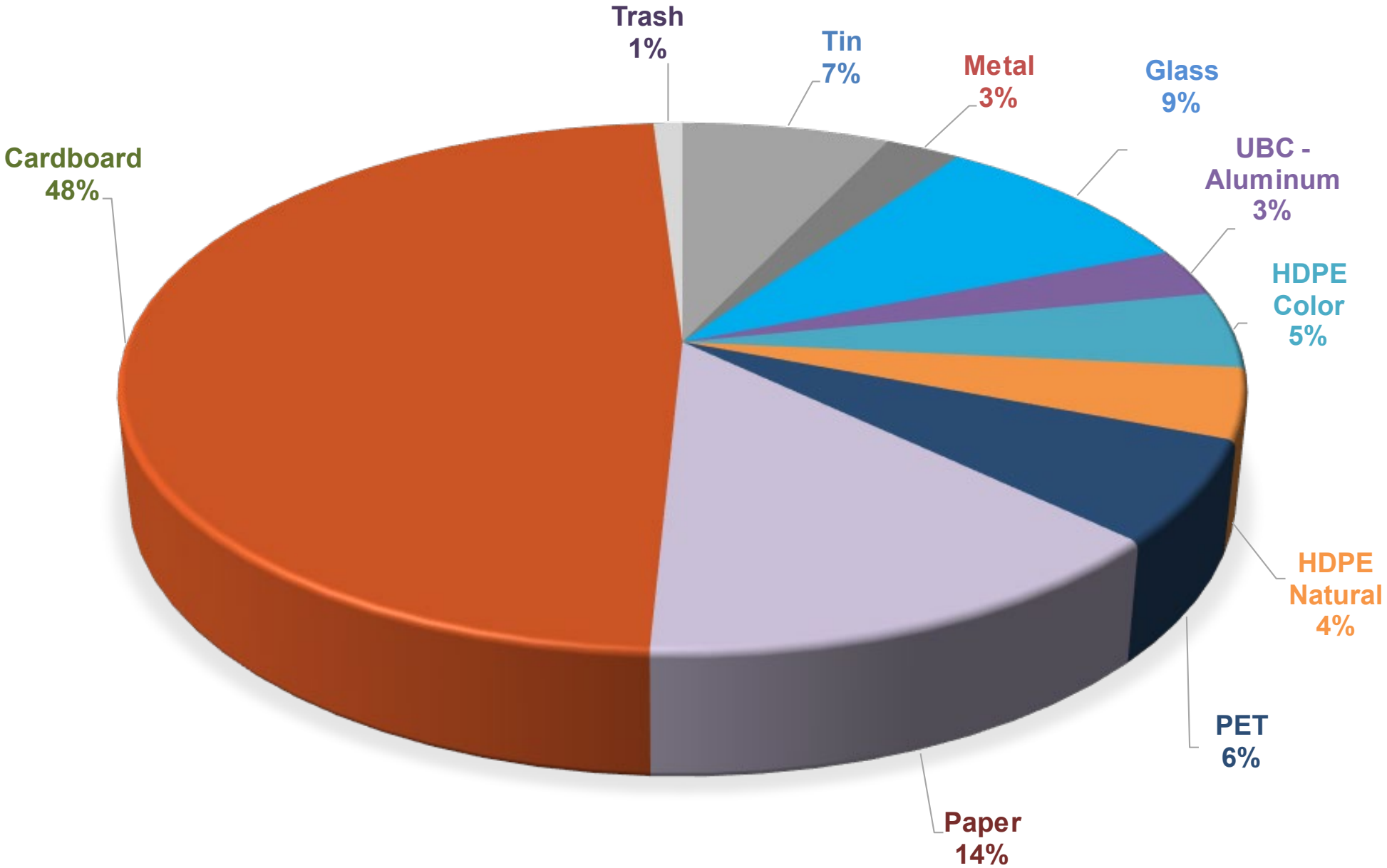
Ramona Simpson, Environmental Manager



RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING BREAKDOWN BY MATERIAL



RECYCLING CENTER MATERIAL BREAKDOWN



Key Recycling Challenges:



- ❖ **China Ban** on international recycling disposal. Material Recycling Facilities (MRF) have challenges finding recycling commodity destinations domestically.
- ❖ **Increased contamination during COVID.** Some communities have removed glass and other materials from their residential curbside program.



Glass Contamination

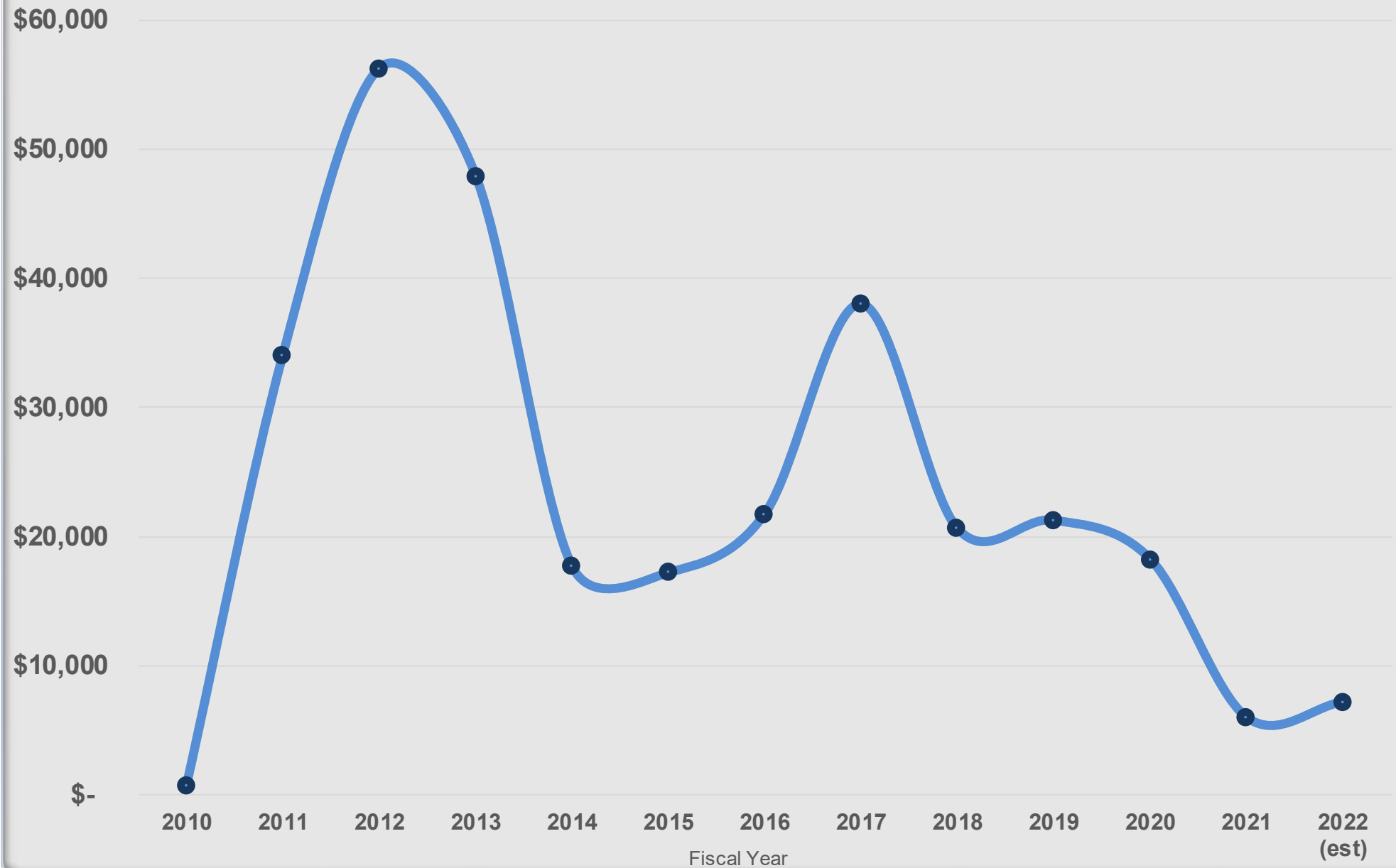
Impacts to Town of QC:

- ❖ **Recycling Cost.** The Town of QC has not seen a negative impact to our recycling program costs or recycling materials accepted.
- ❖ **Waste Connections/RAD** has been successful in procuring end users domestically (California, Texas, New Mexico).





Recycling Revenue Share By FY



Top 3 Glass Challenges



- *Glass shatters during collection, contaminating cardboard and paper, which is one of the highest commodity values.*
- *Glass shards decrease the value of other recycling material and are not accepted as a higher level commodity.*
- *Glass collection from Curbside Recycling is currently only "reused" as landfill cover or dust suppressant, which is not the best option.*



Some communities have removed glass and other material from their residential curbside programs due to contamination, and/or the MRFs do not have an end user commodity destination under contract.



NEXT STEPS:



- ✓ Staff will continue their research and conversations with Waste Connections on the issue of glass and contamination and possible options for maintaining recycling revenue share levels





Questions?