



Environmental Services Update

2024 Update on Improvements,
Innovation, and Challenges

Ramona Simpson
Public Works Operations Manager-
Environmental/Fleet

do more  blue

shut your  lid



Average Curbside Collection

National avg:

4.9 lbs.
per household per day

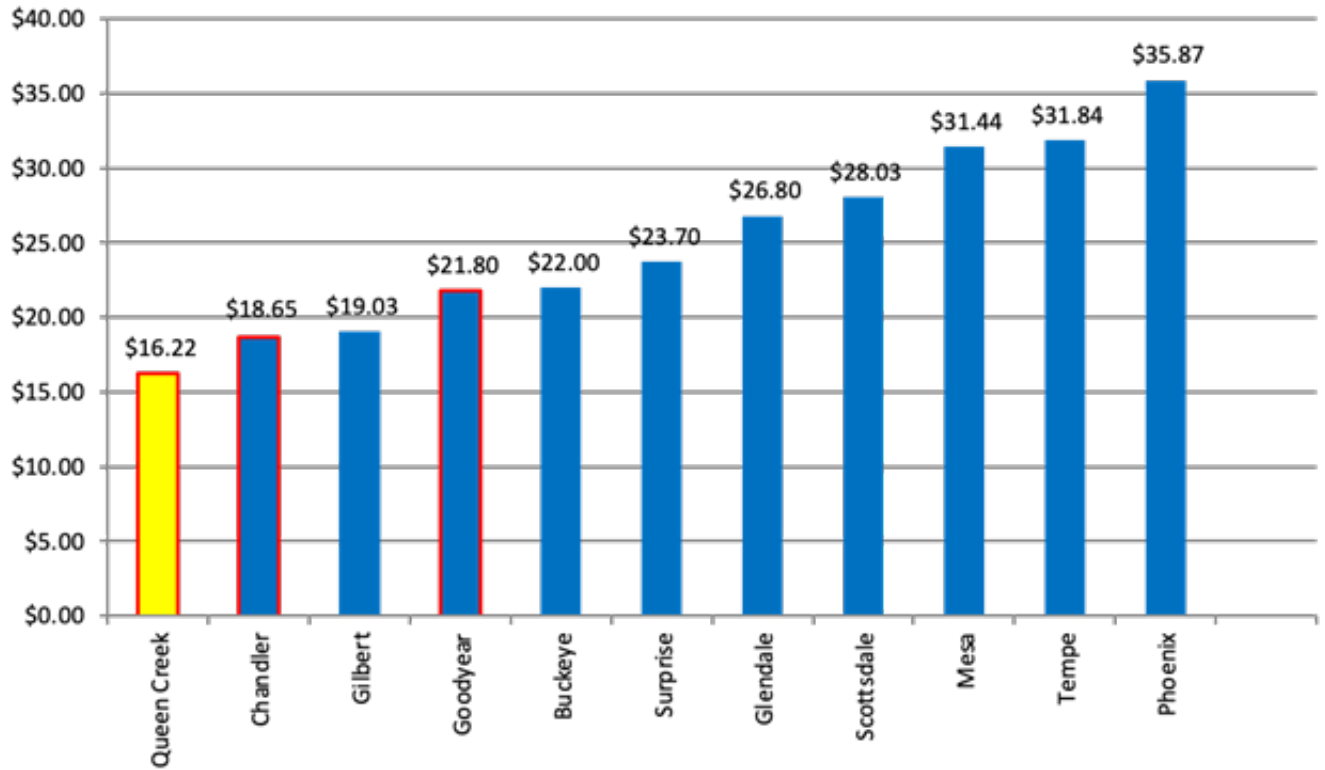
TOQC avg:

4.3 lbs.
per household per day

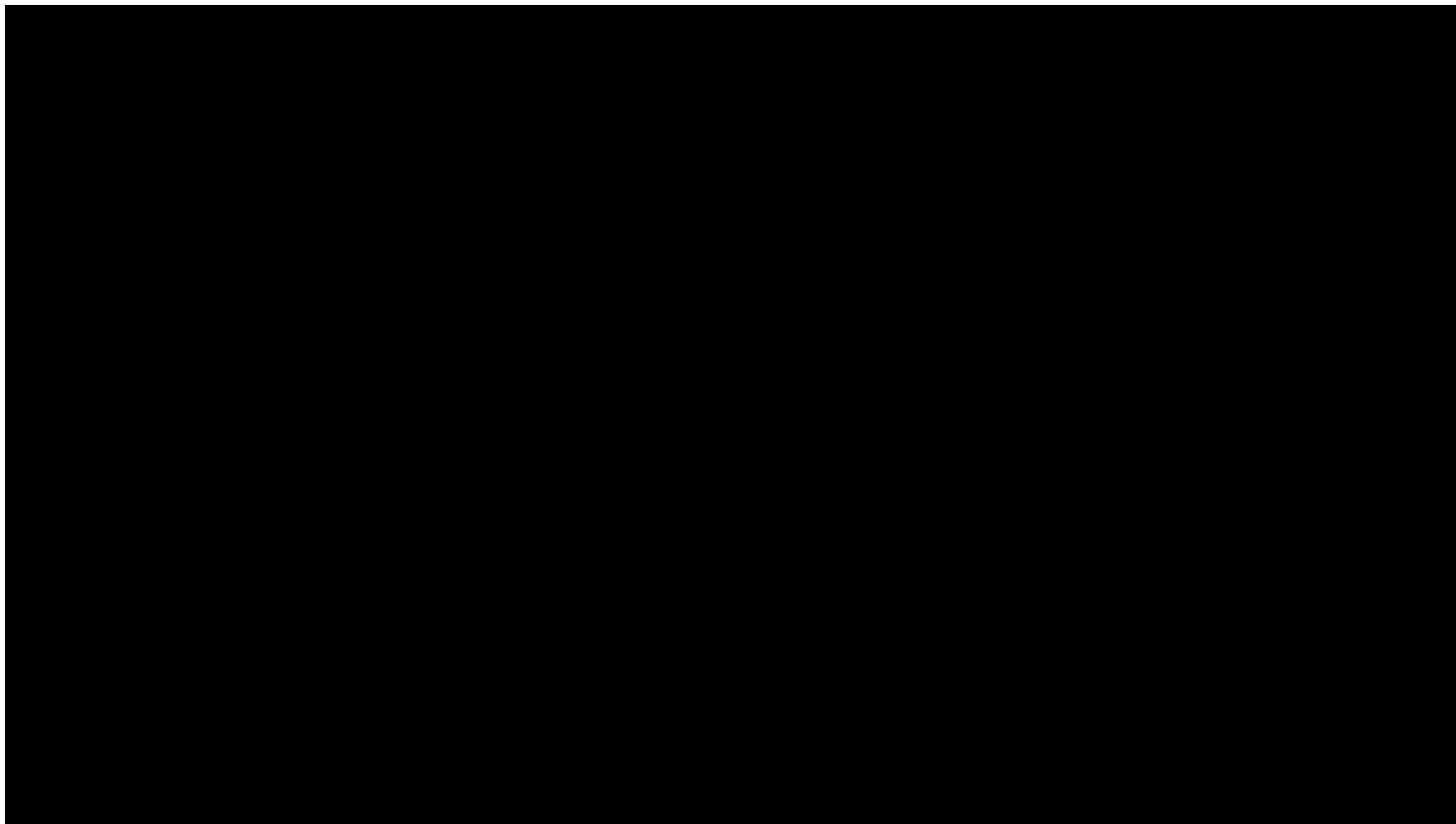




Municipal Trash & Recycling Collection Monthly Rate Comparison 2024



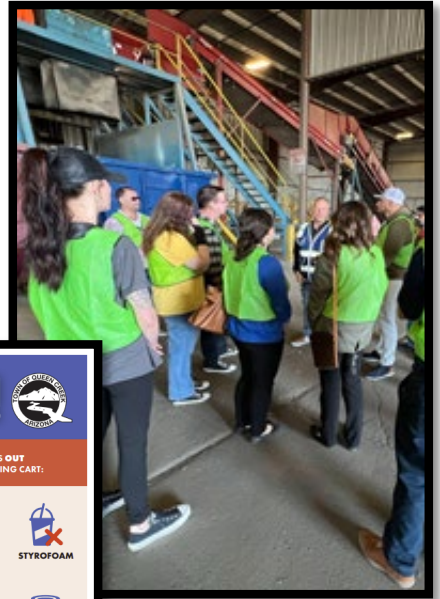
**Bars outlined in red denote contracted services.*



Encanterra Audit

- Top contaminants:
 - Solid waste
 - Plastic bags
 - Yard waste

• **6% contamination decrease**



CLI MRF Tour

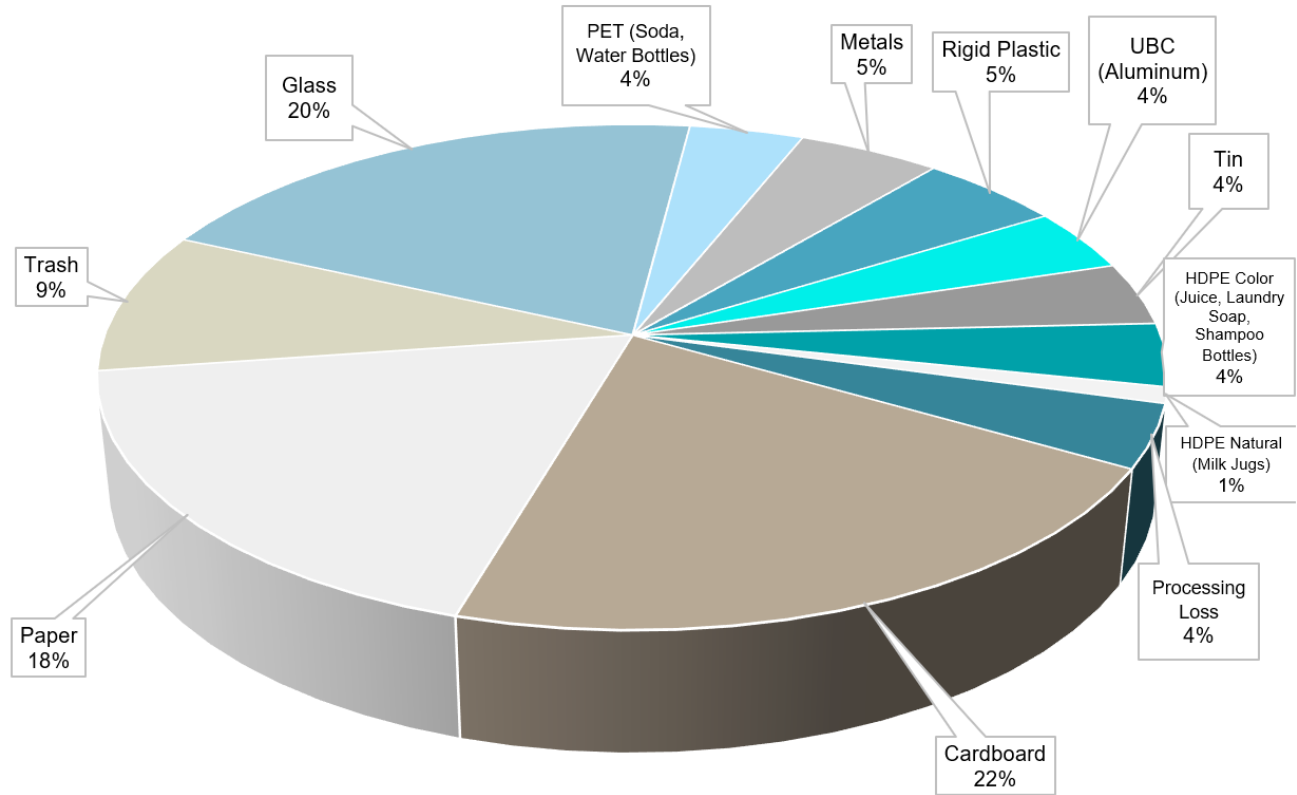
QC RECYCLES!

RECYCLE THIS

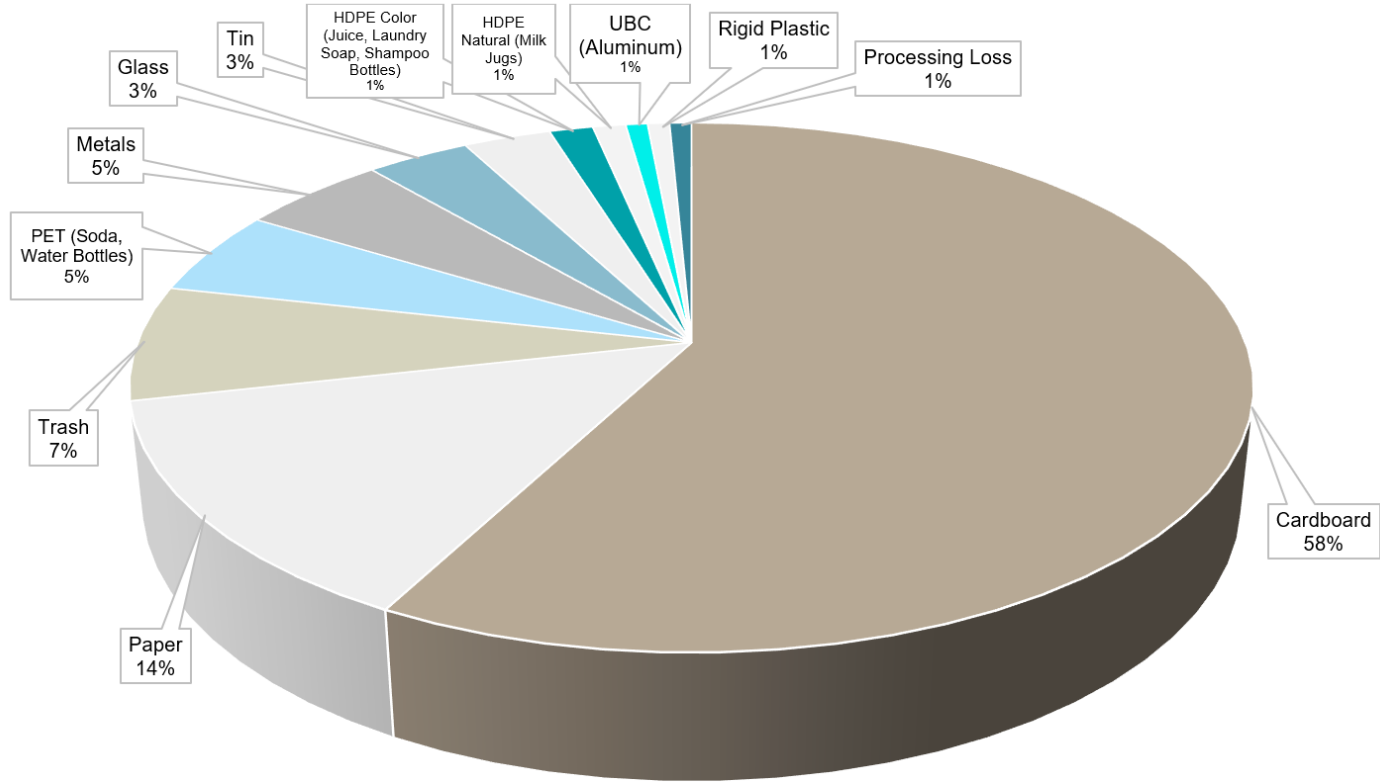
THESE ITEMS CAN GO IN YOUR RECYCLING CART:

RECYCLE THIS	THESE ITEMS CAN GO IN YOUR RECYCLING CART:	NOT THAT!	KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING CART:
 PLASTICS* Soda & Water Bottles Shampoo & Soap Bottles Milk & Laundry Detergent Jugs Peanut Butter & Mayonaisse Jars Plastic Toys & Microwave Dinner Containers Clear "Clamshell" Containers Plastic Egg Cartons	 CARTONS* Dairy & Substitutes (Milk, Soy etc.) Juice Cartons & Juice Boxes Egg Substitute Cartons Protein Drinks & Wine Boxes Soup and Bulk Cartons Juice Boxes • Tea Cartons Ice Cream Cartons	 PLASTIC BAGS & WRAP	 FOOD WASTE
 PAPER Brown Paper Bags Newspapers • Phone Books Paperboard • Carded, Shoe Boxes (remove plastic liners) Multilayer Paperboard Magazines & Catalogs (less than 2" thick) Printing Paper Mail including Window Envelopes • Brochures, File Folders, Card Stock, etc.	 ALUMINUM & METAL CANS* Food and Soda Cans Sewal Cans Tin Cans including Non-Hazardous Aerosol Cans No other metals are accepted.	 DIAPERS	 PIZZA BOXES
 GLASS* Food and Beverage Bottles and Jars No other glass is accepted.	 CORRUGATED CARDBOARD (remove packing materials and flatter bases)	 TUBES	 WRAPPING / TISSUE PAPER
 MOTOR OIL	 CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS	 METALS	 PAINT
 STYROFOAM	 YARD WASTE	 PAPER TOWELS / NAPKINS	 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Batteries Aerosols Light Bulbs Pesticides Medical Sharps
<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">*Empty all food or liquid and gently rinse Do Not Bag Recyclables.</p>		 RIGID PLASTICS Cans • Buckets Outdoor Furniture Food Storage Containers • Toys Large Volume Water Containers	

Residential Curbside Recycling Breakdown by Material



Recycling Center Material Breakdown





WHAT'S NEW?

QC Recycles events update

- **132.124 tons** collected so far this fiscal year at all QC Recycles events (most ever!)
- **566** vehicles through our October event (most ever!)
- Improved event flow with double lanes
- Addition of Stardust



Construction Materials Collection

- Stardust (nonprofit reuse organization) new partner of QC Recycles events
- Expanded resident offerings
 - Construction materials
 - Large furniture
 - Home remodeling- excess materials
- Increased diversion from landfill
- **8.5 tons** of construction materials collected since October



Glass Recycling Pilot Program

- Glass-only roll-off container at QC Recycling Center
- Taken directly to SMI for recycling
- **19.62 tons** of glass collected so far this fiscal year
- This reduced glass in the other containers by **60%**



Bigbelly Pilot Program Update

- Supply chain delays and multiple splash pad closures last season
- 2024 will be first full season to collect data
- Decreased observable contamination
- Positive feedback from Grounds and Parks and Recreation team members
- In the past six months:
 - **572 gallons** of recycling collected
 - **600 gallons** of waste collected

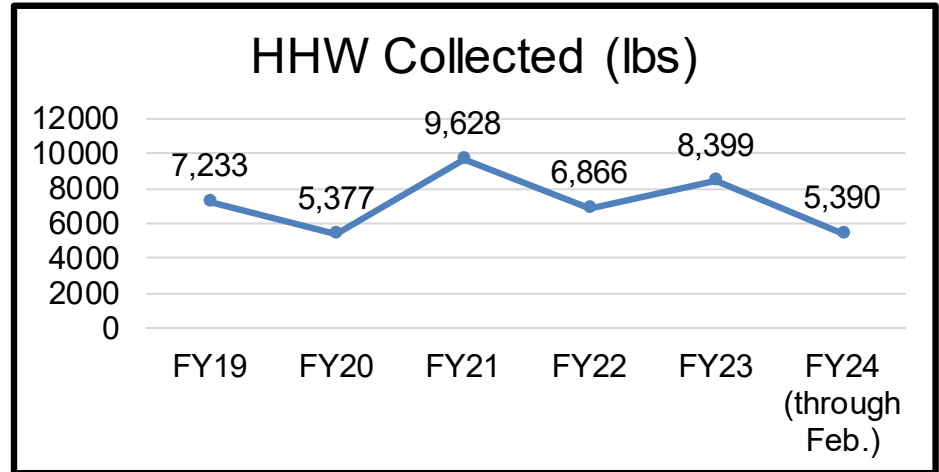


Household Hazardous Waste Collected

- IGA with Town of Gilbert
- Materials collected:
 - Batteries
 - Light bulbs
 - Antifreeze
 - Household cleaners
 - Pesticides
 - Pool chemicals
 - Oil-based paints
 - Motor oil

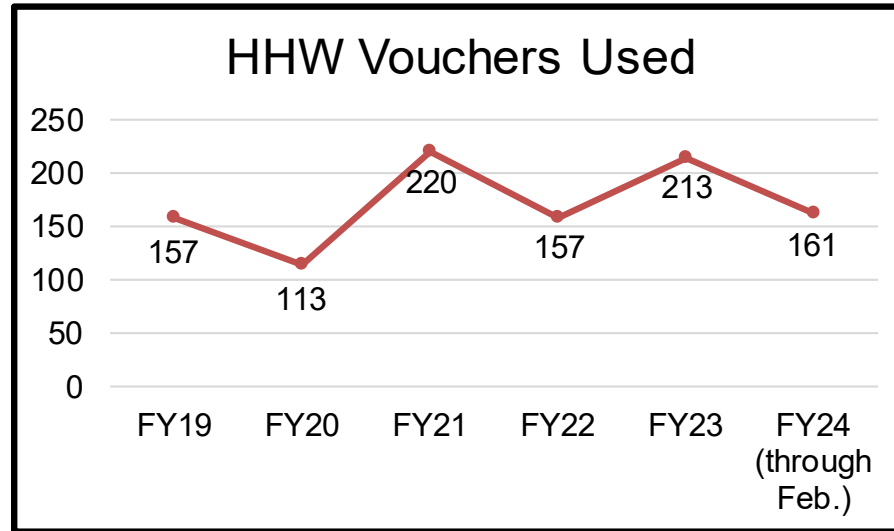


Swap Shop



Household Hazardous Waste Vouchers

- Increase vouchers available to Town of Queen Creek from 20 to **32 per month**





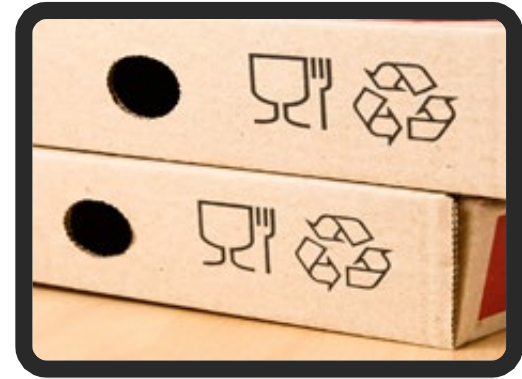
WHAT'S NEXT?

Key Recycling Emphases

Contamination



“Wish-cycling”



Focus on Top 5
Recyclables

TOP 5 RECYCLABLES
QUEENCREEKAZ.GOV/DOMOREBLUE

- CARDBOARD
- PAPER
- METAL CANS
- PLASTIC BOTTLES
- ALUMINUM CANS

do more blue



Air Quality and Stormwater

- Water bill insert and QC Current content
- Website information
- Social media outreach
- Classroom education



Earth Month is here!

- Earth Month Proclamation
- Activity calendar with stormwater pollution prevention, air quality, recycling, and other environmental content
- Online resources
- Cardboard Box Car “Drive-in” Movie this Friday
- April 20 QC Recycles event
- Social media campaign



More to come



ASU research for multi-family recycling



Bigbelly pilot results and next steps



Glass recycling pilot results and next steps



SOAR Conference



ASU partnership- corrugated plastics recycling



Questions?



Recycling Revenue by FY

