



Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Master Plan Executive Summary

SCS ENGINEERS



Shaping Broward's Waste Future: A Unified Path Toward Zero Waste

Broward County stands at a pivotal moment in its environmental and public service evolution. As one of the most populous and diverse counties in the State of Florida, we are both uniquely challenged and uniquely positioned to lead in the transition to a more sustainable, efficient, and equitable solid waste and recycling system. This Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Master Plan is not merely a strategic roadmap—it is a bold declaration of our collective intent to rethink how we value, manage, and ultimately reduce waste across all 31 municipalities, with 28 participating, along with Broward County, through our new Interlocal Agreement. The Master Plan also stands as a recognition that there were some important lessons learned after the expiration of the prior Resource Recovery System, most importantly, the benefits to working together rather competing against each other.

The creation of the Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County is a testament to the foresight and leadership of our elected officials and community stakeholders. After more than a decade of fragmentation, the formation of the Authority reestablishes a much-needed regional governance framework—one that allows us to leverage economies of scale, manage the variability of market conditions, coordinate investments in new infrastructure, harmonize policies, and speak with a unified voice when facing statewide and national policy challenges including preemption and circularity.

Historically, Broward County has embraced innovation, from early investments in recycling programs to public-private partnerships in disposal and processing. But those successes, while important, are no longer sufficient. Today's waste challenges are far more complex and far-reaching. Climate change, supply chain instability, limited public land, the rising cost of disposal, community interest in environmental impacts, and an urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions all compel us to act decisively. Landfill space is finite, and disrupting the status quo is required to meet the needs of our growing population and economy.

This Master Plan, developed in collaboration with expert consultants, technical advisors, and local stakeholders, reflects a comprehensive, data-driven vision for the next 40 years. It is centered around a singular but transformative goal: Zero Waste approach. Achieving that goal will require more than new technology or facilities. It requires a cultural shift toward minimizing waste at the source, maximizing beneficial reuse and recycling, and fundamentally rethinking how materials move through our economy—from product design to end-of-life.

To that end, the Plan outlines strategic actions across several key areas:

- **Reducing waste generation** through education, behavior change, procurement reform, and incentives for circular economy practices.
- **Expanding recovery and recycling** with source-separated organics, construction and demolition (C&D) recovery programs, and mandatory recycling ordinances.
- **Strengthening infrastructure** by optimizing existing assets while identifying new facility needs for transfer, processing, and disposal over the long term.
- **Improving governance and financial sustainability** via flow control mechanisms, assessment models, and regional policy harmonization.
- **Promoting environmental protection** to ensure historically burdened communities benefit from cleaner operations, improved access to services, and meaningful participation in decision-making.



Public outreach and stakeholder engagement were central to the development of this plan. Community feedback, environmental impact considerations, and an emphasis on multilingual, inclusive education efforts are embedded throughout the recommendations. We recognize that lasting transformation requires trust, transparency, and long-term collaboration across all sectors—government, private industry, non-profits, schools, and residents.

We also acknowledge that technology alone will not solve these challenges. Behavioral change—across households, businesses, and institutions—is essential. The system we envision empowers every resident and visitor to participate meaningfully, supported by consistent messaging, accessible services, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

This Master Plan is a living document. It will be regularly updated to reflect emerging trends, legislative changes, technological advancements, and lessons learned through implementation. But its foundational principles, environmental stewardship, operational excellence, regional cooperation, and public accountability—are enduring.

On behalf of the Solid Waste Authority's Executive Committee, staff, and consultant team, I extend sincere gratitude to the many individuals and organizations who contributed their time, ideas, and passion to this effort. Your input has made this plan stronger, more grounded in community values, and more responsive to the challenges ahead.

I invite you to not only read this Master Plan but to engage with it. The path to Zero Waste is ambitious, but it is attainable. Together, we can build a solid waste and recycling system that is cleaner, smarter, and more just — for today and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Todd Storti

Executive Director, Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County





Shaping Broward County: A Path To Zero Waste

Broward County stands at a pivotal moment in its environmental stewardship. As one of the most populous and diverse counties in the State of Florida, we are uniquely positioned to lead in the transition to a more sustainable and efficient solid waste and recycling system. The Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Master Plan outlines a bold strategy to manage and reduce waste generated by the residents, businesses, and visitors through the creation of the Solid Waste Disposal and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County (Authority).

The Authority engaged a consultant team comprised of SCS Engineers, Arcadis, Resource Recycling Systems, and Mercury to prepare the Master Plan to develop a strategy to meet the State's ambitious 75% recycling goal and to guide the Authority over a 40-year planning horizon.

A Path To Zero Waste



39%

NOW

1. Behavior Change
2. Economies of Scale
3. Harmonize Services
4. Waste Diversions
5. Innovative Technologies

APPROACH



75%

GOAL

The Master Plan uses a Zero Waste lens to help Broward County meet or exceed Florida's 75% recycling goal. It emphasizes education and engagement to change behaviors to minimize waste generation, while maximizing the beneficial use of waste stream components to decrease the quantity of waste disposed in a landfill. Other success factors include: leverage economies of scale to increase bargaining power, harmonizing services to remove ambiguity and confusion, and adopting innovative technologies and approaches to optimize waste management practices. While Zero Waste is the long-term vision, success also depends on each waste generator to do their part to responsibly manage the more than 5 million tons of waste generated currently in Broward County.



Who We Are

Through an Interlocal Agreement (ILA), the Authority is comprised of Broward County and 28 of the 31 municipalities, and is represented with 29 Governing Board seats and 11 Executive Committee members.

Broward County SWA | Governance Structure Overview



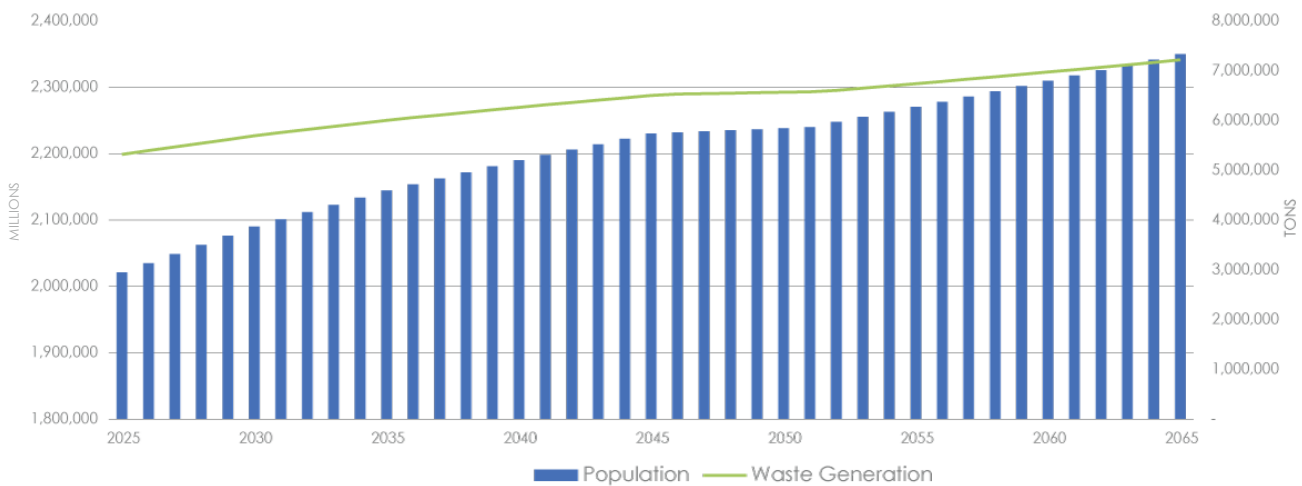
NOTE: The population estimates are based on the 2023 Broward County and Municipal Population Forecast and Allocation Model, published by the Broward County Planning and Development Management Division.



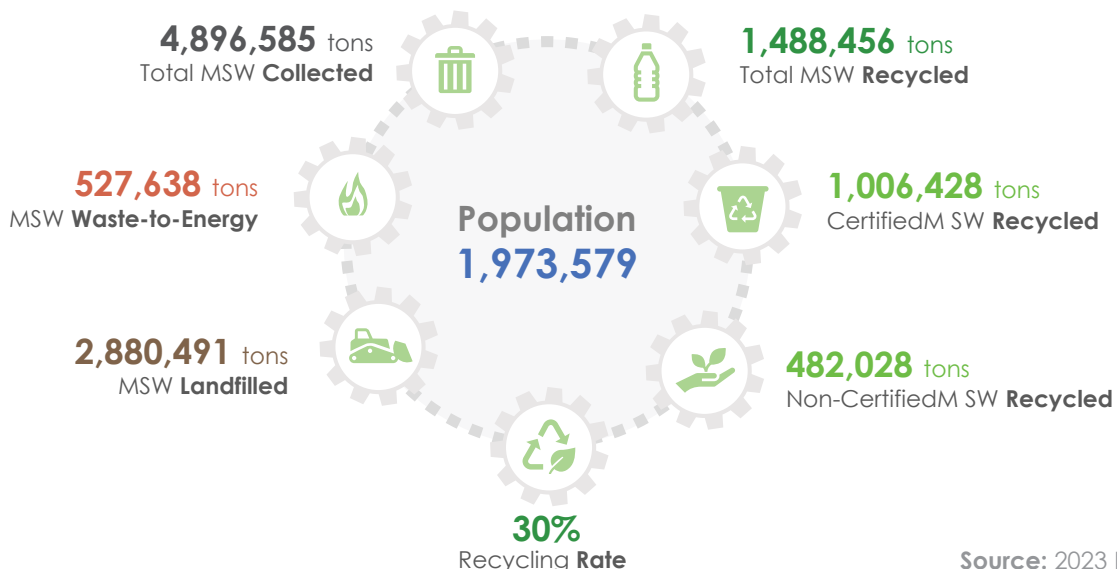
Population & Waste Generation

Broward County has a population approaching 2 million residents, which is expected to grow by nearly 20% to more than 2.4 million residents over the 40-year planning horizon. There is a direct relationship between population and waste generation, and in 2024, nearly 4.9 million tons of municipal solid waste was generated in Broward County, which is projected to increase by more than 33% to approximately 7.2 million tons of municipal solid waste over the 40-year planning horizon. In 2024, only 29% of the total waste stream was recycled—well below the state’s 75% goal. Most waste still ends up in landfills, with a smaller portion processed through a waste-to-energy facility. This highlights the urgent need for a more unified, efficient, and sustainable regional system.

Population & Waste Generation



Population & Disposition of Municipal Solid Waste (2023)



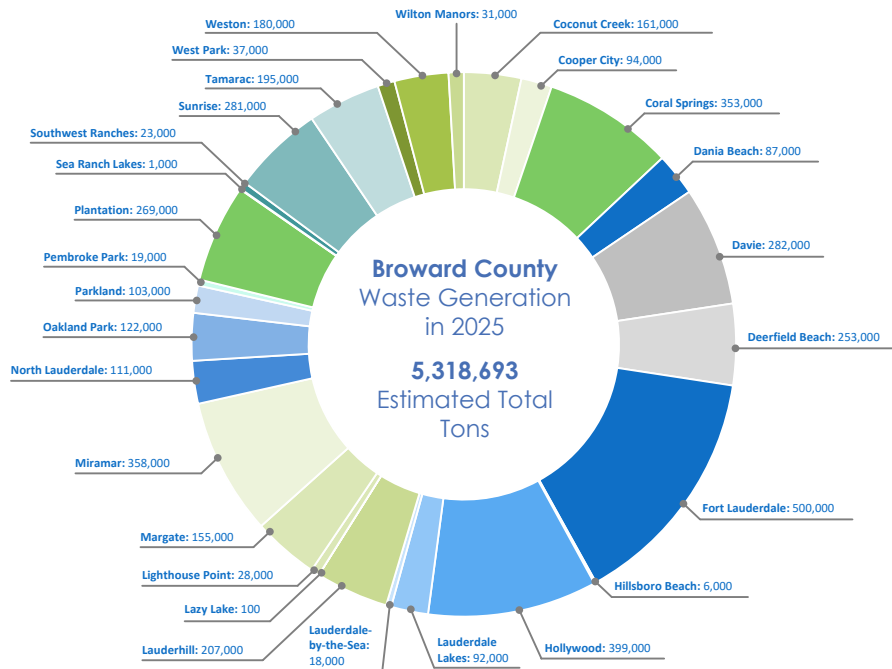
Source: 2023 FDEP Report
Final Disposition of Municipal Solid Waste



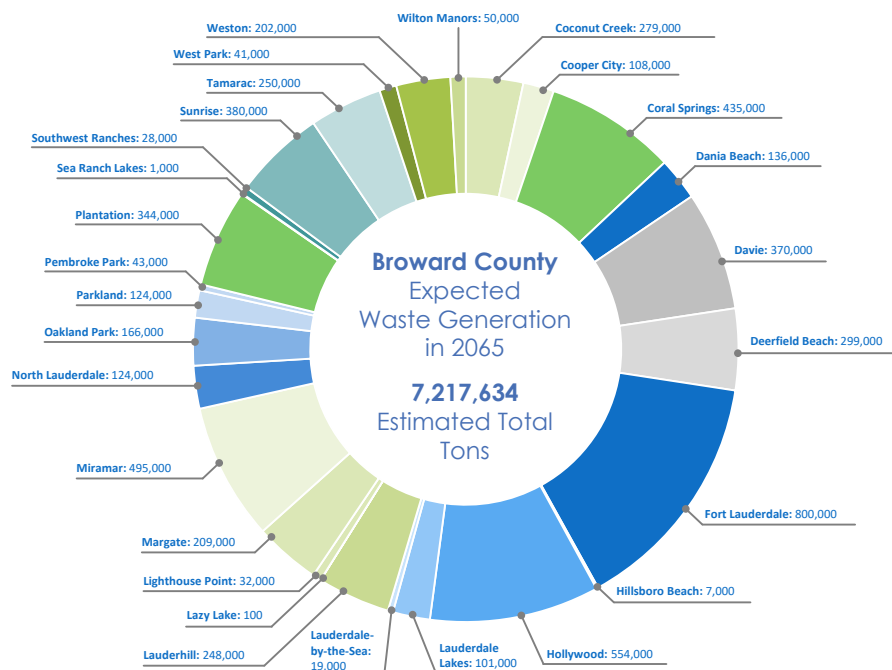
Population & Waste Generation

The following charts present the projected waste generation tonnage contributed by the County and each municipality in 2025 and in 2065.

Waste Generation in 2025



Expected Waste Generation in 2065

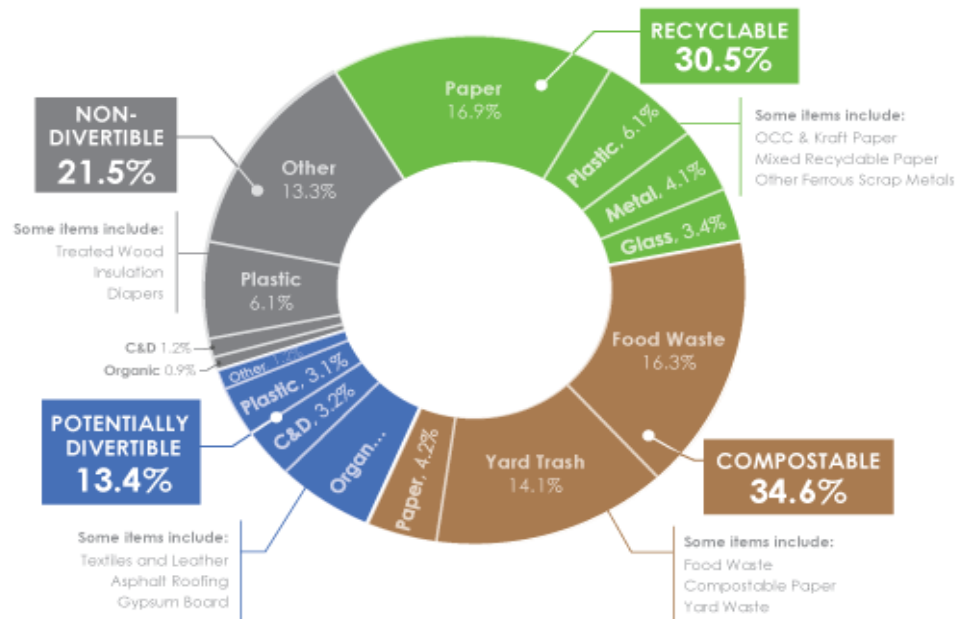


Solid Waste Classification by Material

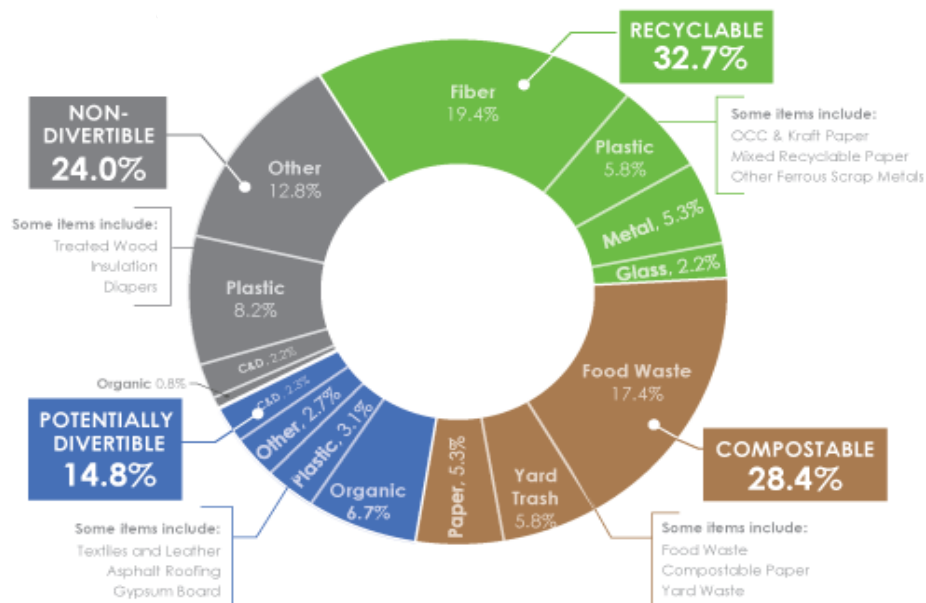
In 2023, Broward County conducted a waste characterization study of the residential and commercial sectors. The study revealed that a majority of the waste generated can be recycled or beneficially used with increased public participation, innovative programming, and existing technology—well below the state’s 75% goal. Despite this, most waste generated today ends up in landfills, with a smaller portion processed through a waste-to-energy facility. This highlights the urgent need for a more unified, efficient, and sustainable regional system.



Residential



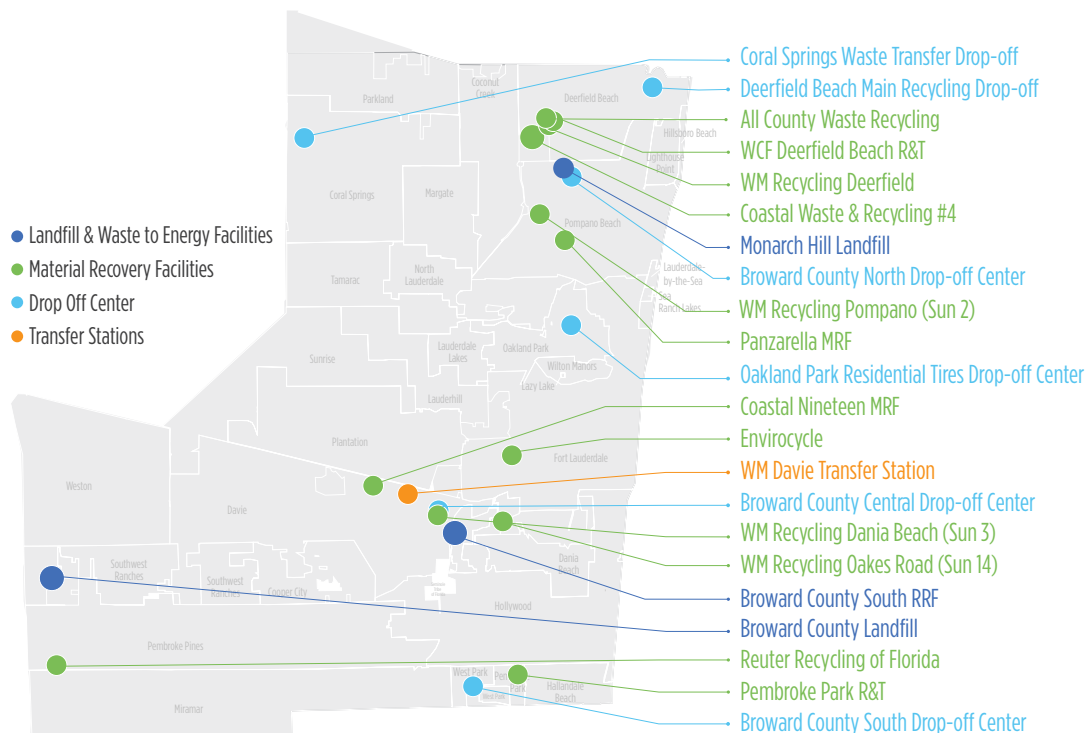
Commercial





Existing Facilities | Type & Locations

Existing County, municipal, and private solid waste processing and disposal facilities located throughout Broward County make up the current solid waste system. The name, general location of each facility, and waste stream materials accepted for processing and/or disposal are presented below. There is ample existing infrastructure for the Authority to leverage to better manage the waste generated within the County. However, there is limited in-County disposal capacity.



Materials Accepted

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Coral Springs Waste Transfer Drop-off																	
Deerfield Beach Main Recycling Drop-off																	
All County Waste Recycling																	
WCF Deerfield Beach R&T																	
WM Recycling Deerfield																	
Coastal Waste & Recycling #4																	
Monarch Hill Landfill																	
Broward County North Drop-off Center																	
WM Recycling Pompano (Sun 2)																	
Panzarella MRF																	
Oakland Park Residential Tires Drop-off Center																	
Coastal Nineteen MRF																	
Envirocycle																	
WM Davie Transfer Station																	
Broward County Central Drop-off Center																	
WM Recycling Dania Beach (Sun 3)																	
WM Recycling Oakes Road (Sun 14)																	
South Broward Resource Recovery Facility																	
Broward County Landfill																	
Reuter Recycling of Florida																	
Pembroke Park R&T																	
Broward County South Drop-off Center																	

NOTES: "Class I Waste" means solid waste that is not hazardous waste, and that is not prohibited from disposal in a lined landfill under rule 62-701.300, F.A.C. "Class III Waste" means yard trash, construction and demolition debris, processed tires, asbestos, carpet, cardboard, paper, glass, plastic, furniture other than appliances, or other materials approved by the Department, that are not expected to produce leachate that poses a threat to public health or the environment.



Guiding Principles



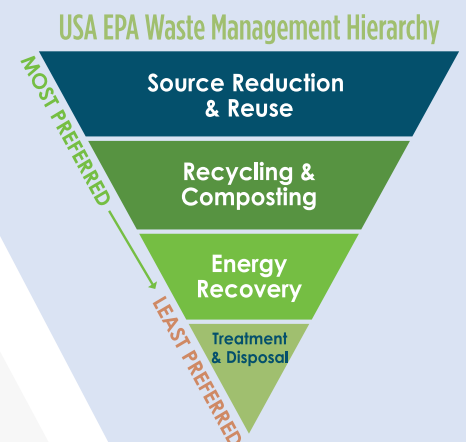
The following guiding principles were developed to frame the analysis. With the exception of “Control Your Solid Waste Management Destiny”, which was prioritized to reflect the importance of collaboration, leveraging innovation, and shared investment to achieve long-term stability, the others are presented in no particular order.

- 01 Control Your Solid Waste Management Destiny
- 02 Zero Waste Focus
- 03 Environmental & Growth Management Compliance
- 04 Long-term Disposal Solution
- 05 Commercially-Proven Technologies
- 06 Operational Excellence
- 07 Harmonization of Services County-wide
- 08 Best Value Service

Key Policies

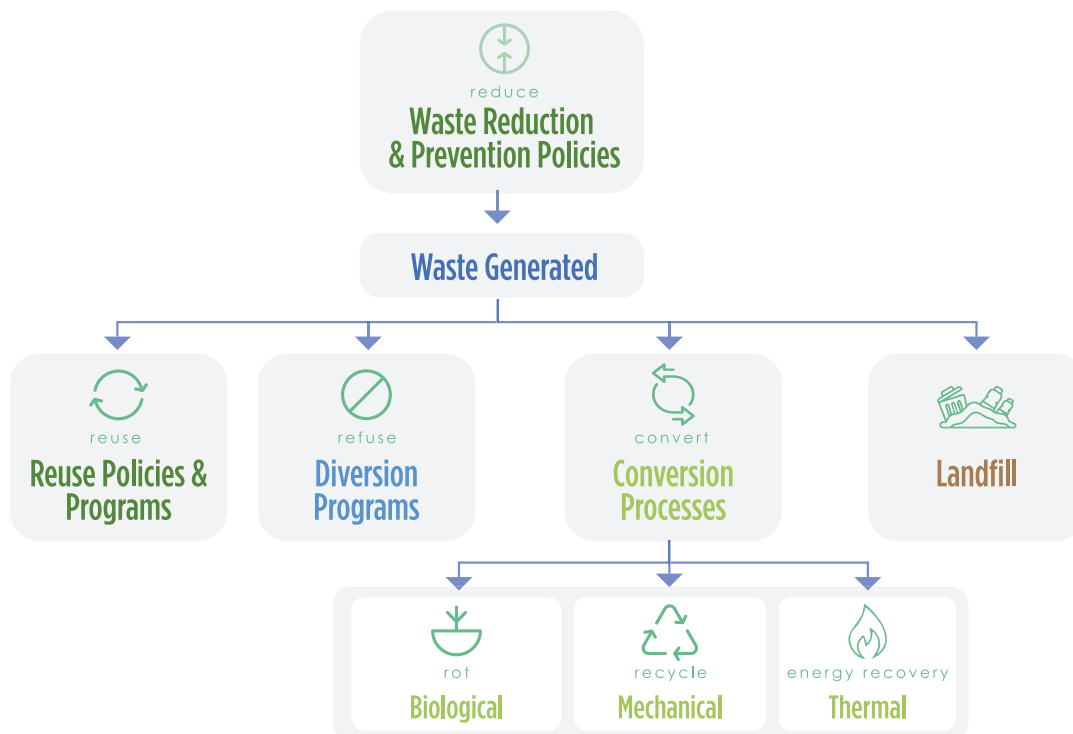
The Executive Committee established the following policy direction to guide the development of the Master Plan.

- 01 40-year planning horizon
- 02 Maximize use of existing infrastructure
- 03 Enact annual assessment to recover the full cost of services
- 04 Apply reasonable buffers from residential properties
- 05 Consider mandatory approaches to commercial recyclables and construction and demolition debris



Future Needs and Options

As part of developing the Master Plan, the consultant team evaluated and modeled the composition and volumes of waste estimated to be generated over the planning horizon and evaluated the types of commercially-proven technologies that could manage the waste stream towards achieving the 75% recycling goal. While a range of options and scenarios were explored, the Authority selected Scenario A which prioritizes waste reduction and prevention, maximizes the beneficial use of waste stream components, and leverages existing public and private waste management infrastructure within Broward County as a starting point. The following framework serves as the foundation for the recommendations outlined below.





Strategic Priorities For Advancing The Master Plan

Through the development of the Master Plan, the following four strategic priorities emerged as critical success factors.

Behavior Change

- Develop an education and outreach plan that supports behavior change.
- Set clear, measurable milestones and standardize reporting across municipalities.
- Build consensus and execute a communications strategy for residents and businesses.

Economies of Scale

- Leverage regional collaborations to reduce costs and improve service delivery.
- Streamline operations for more predictable and efficient waste management.
- Pursue joint procurement and shared services to maximize savings.

Leverage Existing Infrastructure

- Maximize the use of and upgrade existing facilities to support new technology.
- Increase residential drop-off centers for hard-to-recycle and hazardous materials.
- Expand beneficial recovery of construction debris, yard trash, and food waste.

Harmonize Services

- Standardize minimum curbside collection practices and services across municipalities to increase access and participation.
- Build consensus among ILA members to align services with the Master Plan goals.
- Develop regional service standards that ensure quality efficiency, and accountability.





Selected Scenario

Implementing the Master Plan focuses on a robust education program to reduce the amount of waste generated while improving solid waste resources management following collection. Scenario A initially calls for utilizing existing infrastructure, and the future integrated solid waste management system may require building or expanding recycling centers, organics processing sites, drop-off centers, and transfer stations, along with securing new landfill capacity for materials that can't be recycled and to enhance resiliency when faced with natural disasters. Any new facilities identified in Scenario A are envisioned to be developed to meet an emerging need over the next 20 to 40 years, and are essential to increase recycling from the current 39% to a projected rate of 62%.

	Projected Diversion Rate	62%	Scenario A
	Tons Left to Send to Landfill in 2045	2,700,000	
Transfer Stations			3
Landfills			1
Single-Stream MRFs (Materials Recovery Facility)			2
Organics Processing Campus			2
Mulch			2
Biochar			1
Drop-Off Centers			8
C & D (Construction & Demolition) Recovery Facilities			2

Programs

- Restore Curbside Recycling Services to all Broward County Communities
- Add segregated Curbside Yard Trash Collection
- Add Food Waste Drop-Off Events
- Add Permanent Household Hazardous Waste/Electronics/ Recycling Drop-Off Sites
- Add reduction, reuse, and diversion programs and policies
- Harmonize collection services to increase efficiency

Additional Facility Needs and Capacity of Each Facility – Tons Per Year (TPY)

- 3 Transfer Stations (North, South, Central Broward County)
- 1 Landfill/Long-term Disposal
- 2 Single- Stream Material Recovery Facilities (250,000 TPY each)
- 2 New Organics Processing Campuses with:
 - 2 Mulch/ Colorizing Operations (175,000 TPY each)
 - 1 New Biochar Pyrolysis operation (30,000 TPY)
- 8 Permanent Drop-Off Centers (2,400 TPY each)
- 2 C&D Recovery Facilities (450,000 TPY each)



Recommendations

In addition to the Facilities and Programs included in Scenario A, the Master Plan recommends a range of policies and legislative actions, education, outreach, and communication strategies, innovative technology adoption, and organics management initiatives to unify communities, engage the residents, businesses, and visitors.



Policies and Ordinances:

- **Harmonize minimum** curbside waste collection set-out standards.
- **Expand single-stream** recycling access.
- **Require yard trash** to be recycled.
- **Enact a mandatory C&D recycling** ordinance.
- **Enact a mandatory commercial recycling** ordinance.
- **Develop additional residential drop-off centers** for hard-to-recycle and hazardous materials.
- **Explore food waste collection** options and impacts.
- **Implement supporting policies and actions.**

Education, Outreach, and Communications Plan:

- **Invest in a sustained** communications and outreach program.
- **Become the trusted voice** to deliver waste and recycling-related information.
- **Partner with a wide range of stakeholders** to increase engagement with their networks.
- **Communicate with the community** in multiple ways via a combination of approaches.
- **Utilize existing and emerging technology** to better engage with residents.
- **Set clear, achievable milestones and develop uniform reporting.**
- **Leverage future authority facilities** as outreach hubs.





Innovative Technologies Adoption:

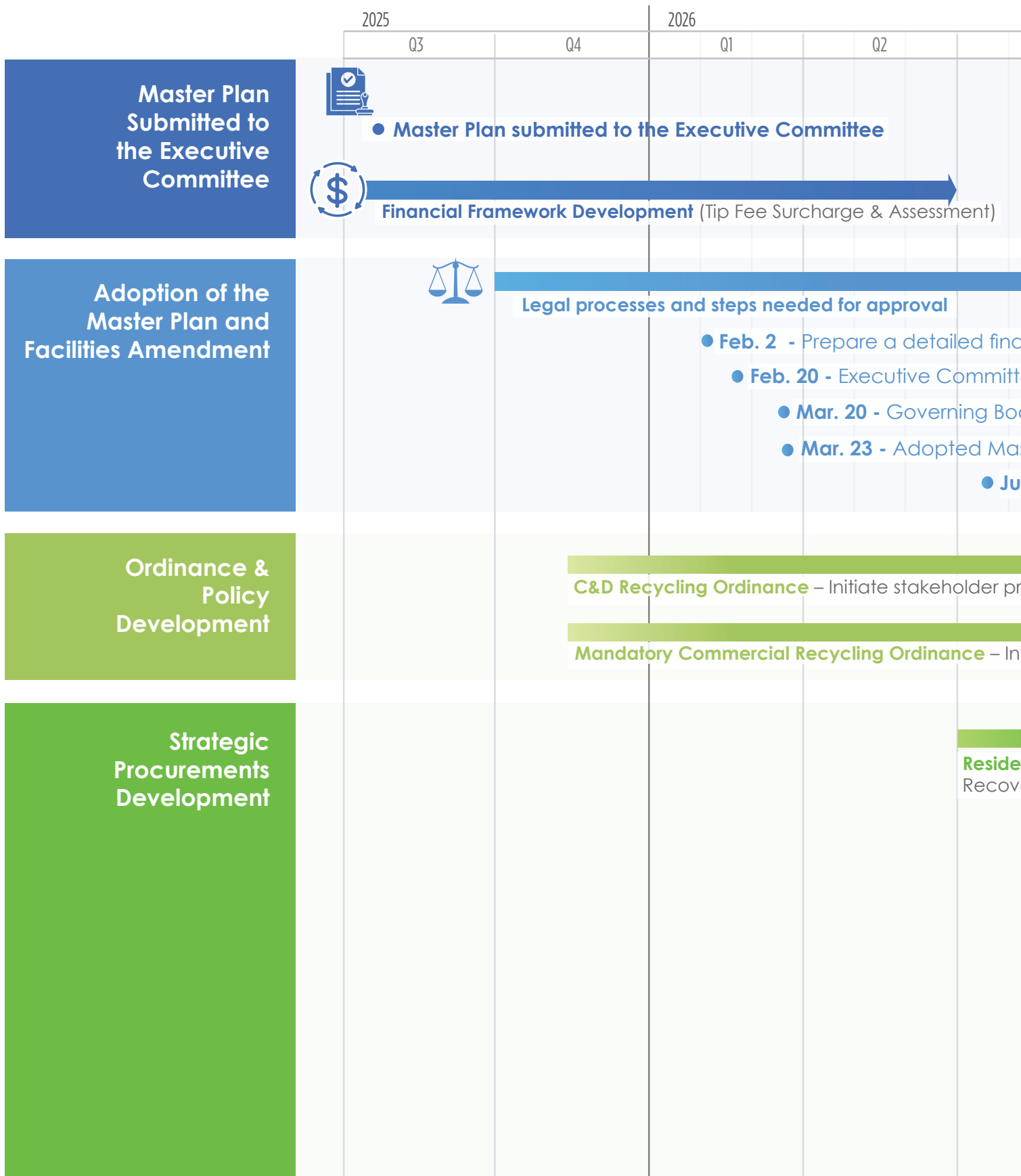
- **Develop overarching strategies** for new technology implementation within the Authority's control.
- **Adopt a preference for autonomous processes and continuous improvement utilizing** AI, blockchain, Web 3.0, and Internet of Things (IoT).
- **Implement a management system** that utilizes a common network of tools that maximizes cross-platform compatibility, reporting, and connectivity.
- **Establish a Technology Needs Committee** to research and provide recommendations on overarching strategies, technologies to pursue, and schedule of implementation.

Organics Management

- Deploy guidance to all ILA Members to **require clean residential yard trash separation** and delivery to a facility for beneficial processing. (i.e., mulching, composting)
- Develop requirements and regulatory underpinnings for the **beneficial use of yard trash and eventually food waste**.
- **Work with ILA Members, Authority committees, and community stakeholders** on future residential and commercial food waste diversion programs.



Next Steps for the Master Plan | Key Actions Timeline Q3 2025 – Q1 2028



The following near-term next steps include to accept the Master Plan, further develop the financial framework, develop and adopt key policies and ordinances, secure flow control, and develop solicitations to uniformly manage and beneficially use valuable portions of the waste stream.

