

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Recycling at the MRF

Richard Abramowitz

Waste Management Recycling Service

January 2011

Agenda

- ⊗ Current State of MRFs
 - ⊗ How Many?
 - ⊗ Who Owns Them?
 - ⊗ Service Areas Covered?
 - ⊗ What is being Collected/Separated?
 - ⊗ Plastics – Bottles Only vs All
 - ⊗ Glass – Included or not
 - ⊗ Newspaper only vs All paper, etc.
 - ⊗ Current Technology Spread (Hand, automated, Optical)
- ⊗ What is on the Technology Horizon?
 - ⊗ Currently available, but not widely used and why?
 - ⊗ How improve use of technology
- ⊗ Summary
 - ⊗ Opportunities currently missing
 - ⊗ Barriers to recycling more packaging
 - ⊗ Additional issues

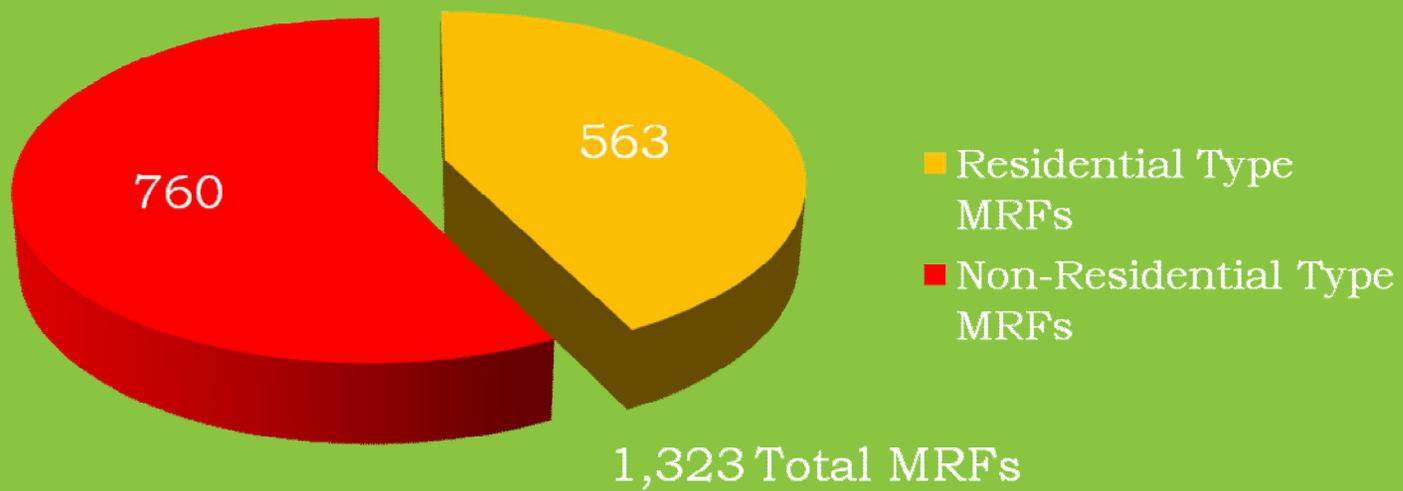
Acknowledgements

"Berenyi, Eileen Brettler. Materials Recycling And Processing In The United States: 2007-2008 Yearbook And Directory (Westport, CT: Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc.) ©2007.



How Many MRFs are There and Who Owns Them?

Total MRF's



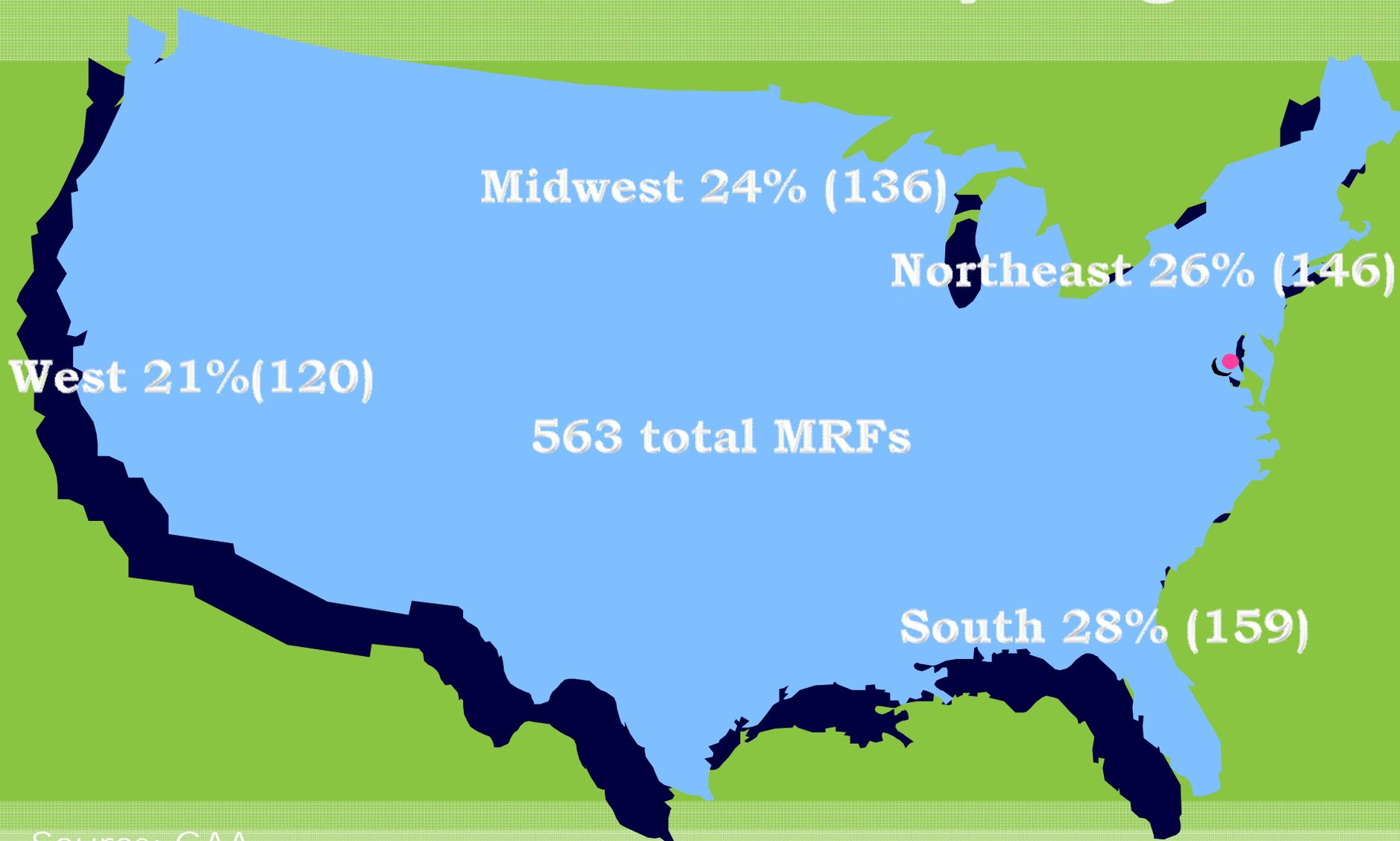
Sources: Governmental Advisory Associates and Waste Business Journal

Growth in Plants 1991 - 2006



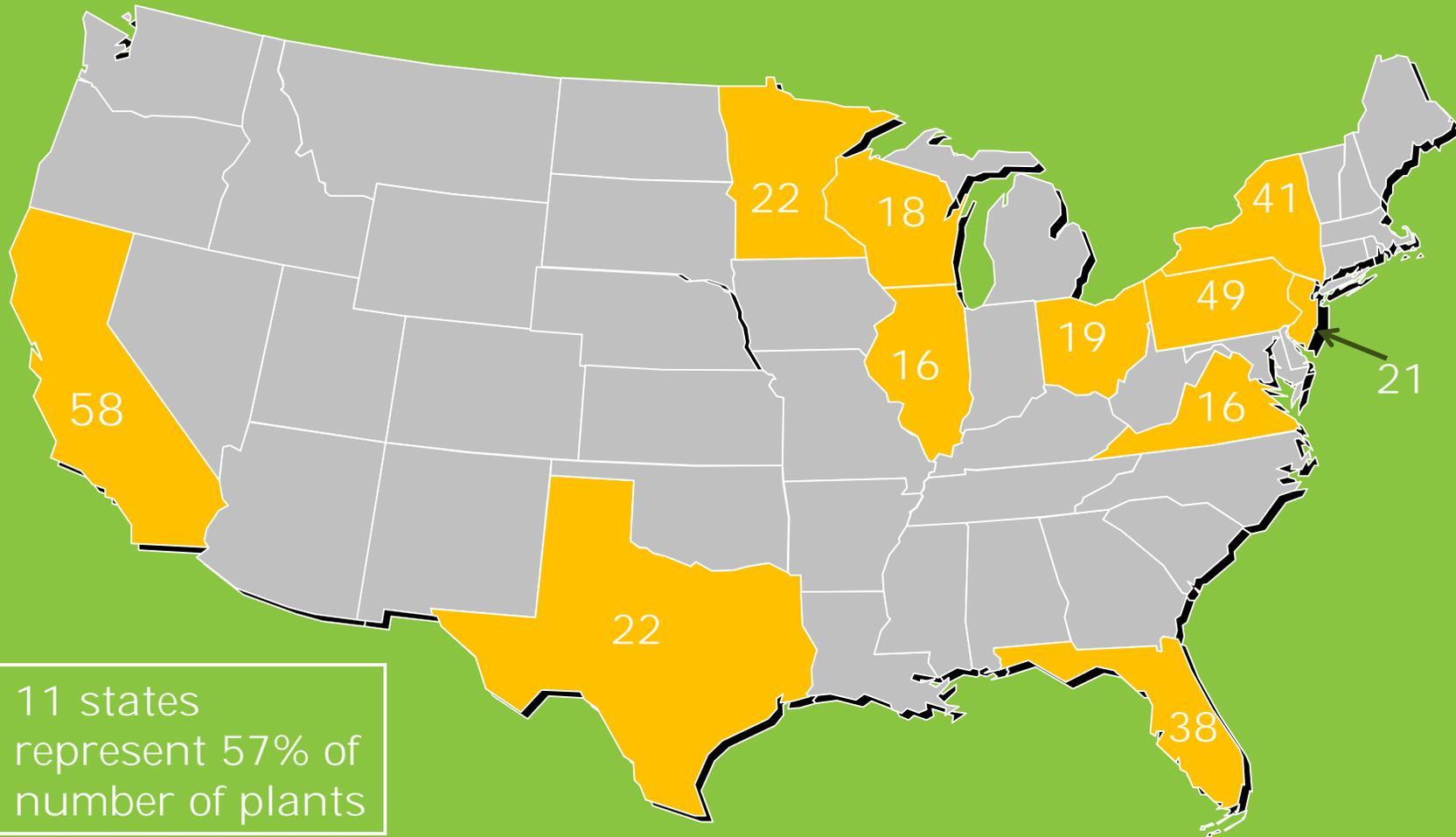
Source: GAA

MRF Distribution by Region



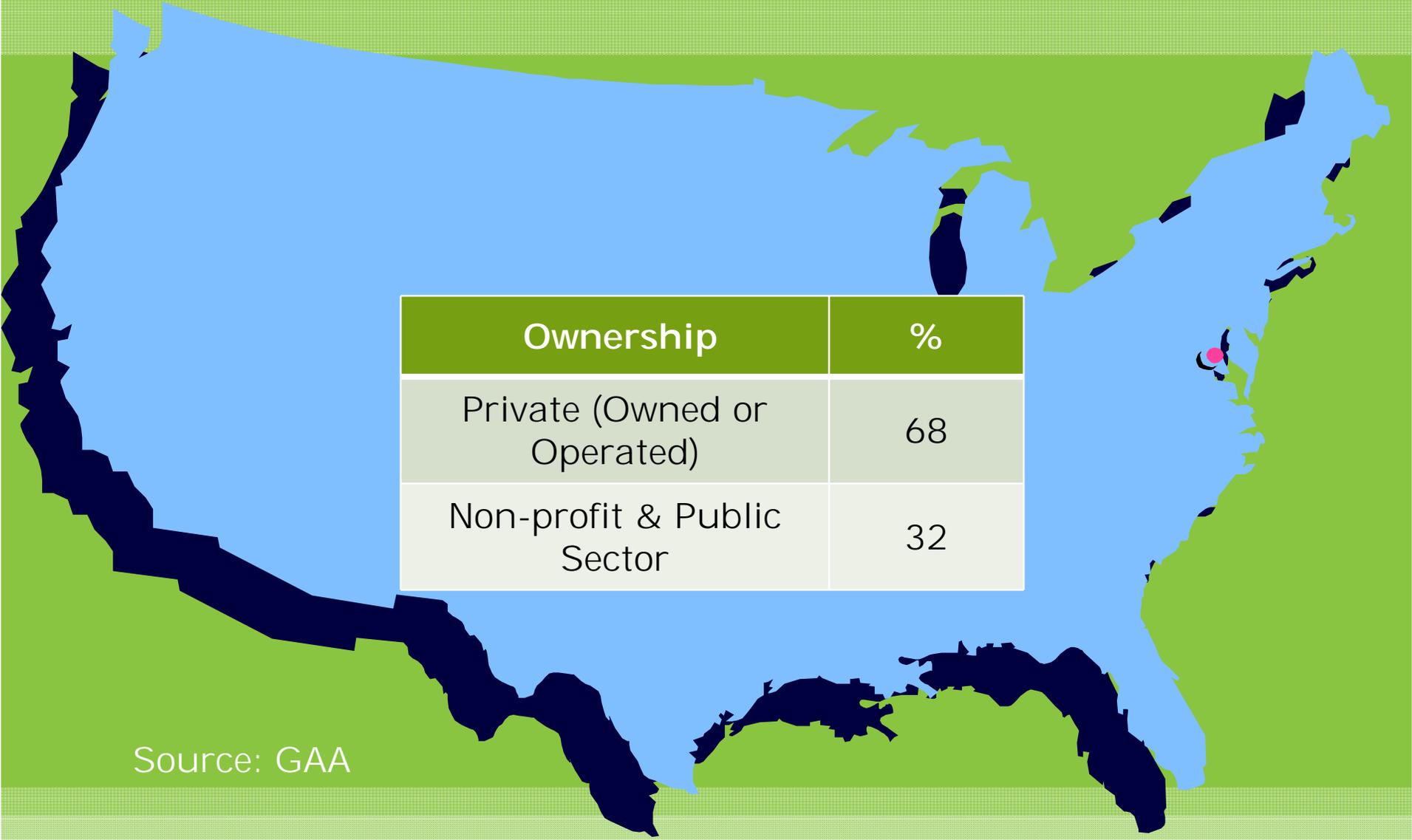
Source: GAA

States with the most plants



Source: GAA

Ownership of MRFs

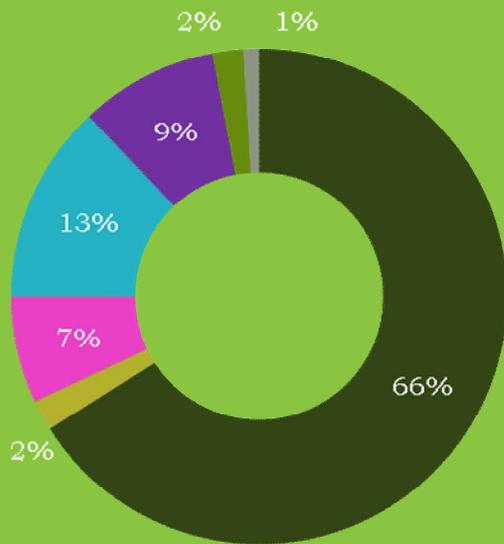


Ownership	%
Private (Owned or Operated)	68
Non-profit & Public Sector	32

Source: GAA

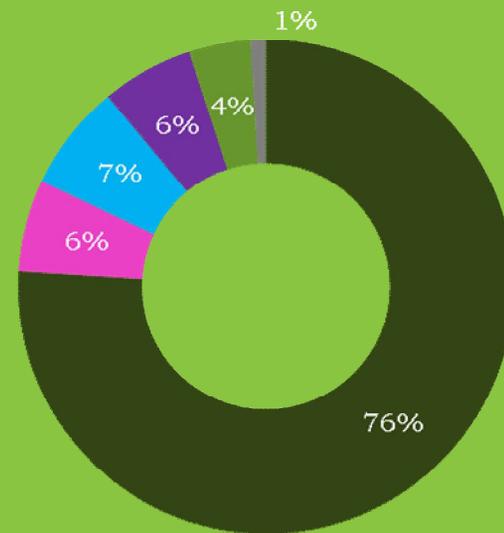
MRF Owners and Operators

Owners



- Private Firms
- City
- Public Authority
- Federal Government
- Joint Venture/Pvt Firm
- County
- Not-for-Profit

Operators



- Private Firms
- City
- Public Authority
- Federal Government
- County
- Not-for-Profit

Source: GAA

MS by Operator - Tons/Day

	Operator	TPD	Percent
1	Waste Management	19,023	23.0%
2	Republic	7,774	9.4%
3	Casella	3,935	4.8%
4	Smurfit-Stone	3,404	4.1%
5	SP Recycling	2,706	3.3%
6	Resource Management	2,650	3.2%
7	International Paper	1,825	2.2%
8	Greenstar	1,580	1.8%
9	City Carton	1,250	1.5%
10	Far West Fibers	1,075	1.1%
	Total Top Ten	45,222	54.4%
	Other Private Sector	34,358	41.6%
	Public Sector	4,688	5.6%

Source: GAA, WM, Waste Business Journal

Market Share by MRF Operator

	Operator	Plants	Percent
1	Waste Management	95	16.8%
2	Republic	40	7.1%
3	Casella	24	4.3%
4	SP Recycling	14	2.5%
5	Greenstar (2010)	13	2.2%
6	Smurfit-Stone	12	2.1%
7	International Paper	8	1.4%
8	Western Recycling	7	1.2%
9	Hudson Baylor	6	1.1%
10	Rumpke	6	1.1%
	Total Top Ten	225	39.8%
	Other Private Sector	235	41.6%
	Public Sector	112	19.8%

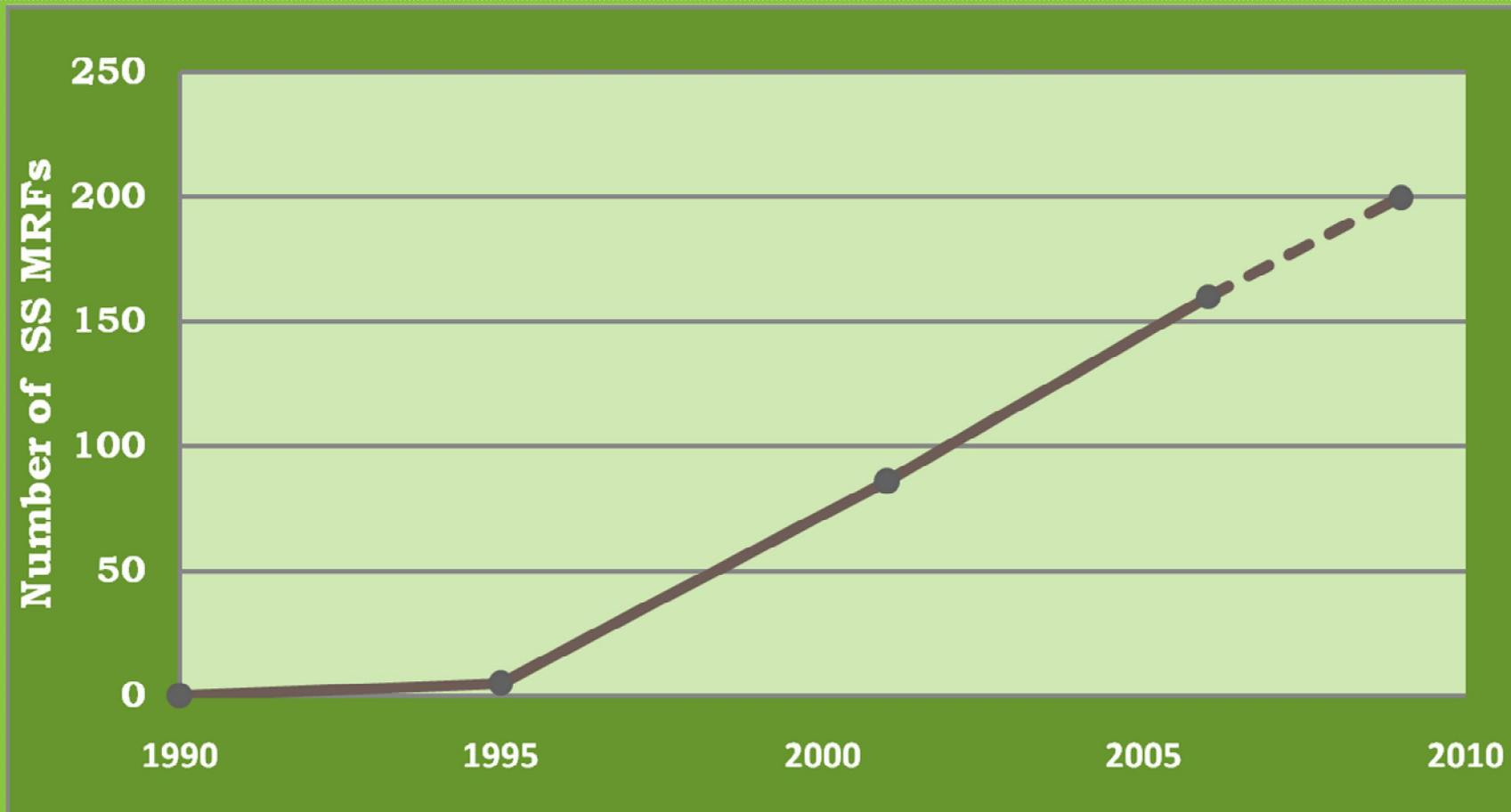
Source: GAA, WM, Waste Business Journal

Highlight of Study

	TPM	Cost/Ton
PUBLIC	2,731	\$ 83.56
PRIVATE	4,777	\$ 44.56
WM RECYCLE AMERICA	7,819	\$ 43.17

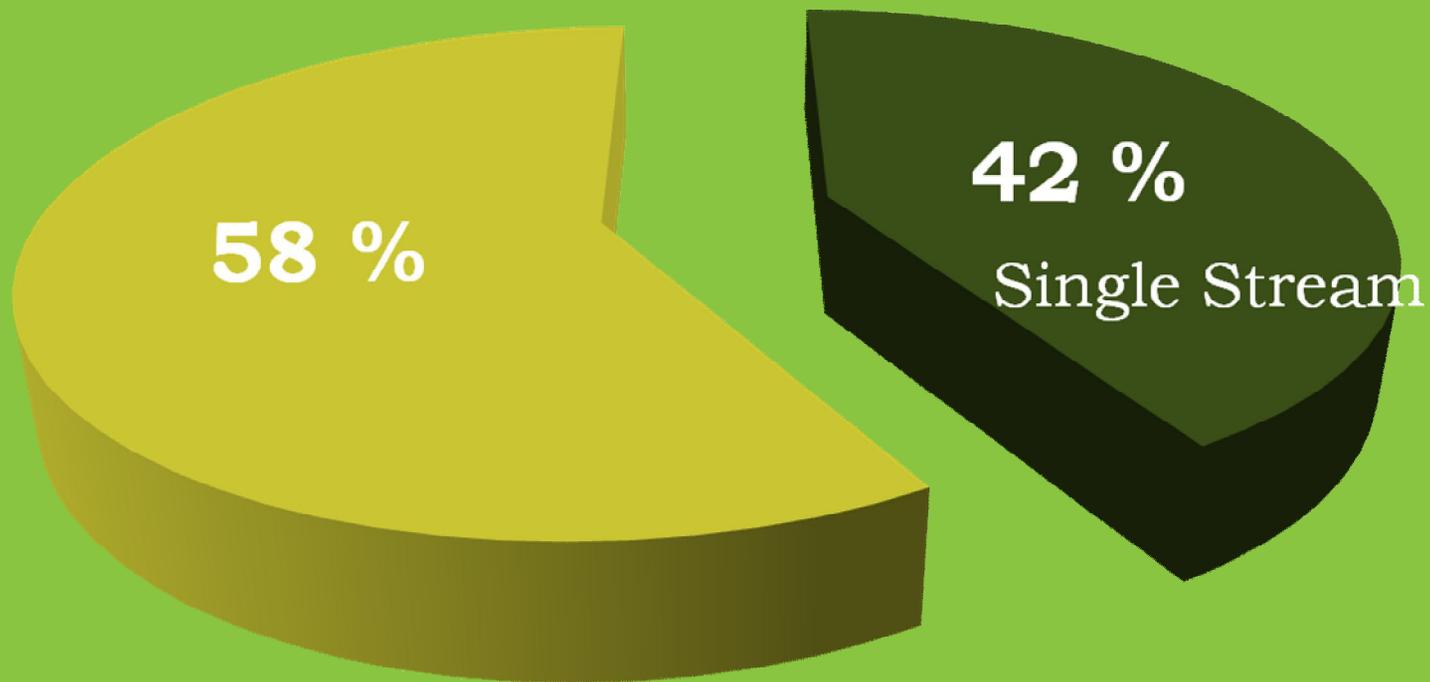
Source: Moore & Associates

Increase in number of SS MRFs since 1990



Source: GAA and Columbia University

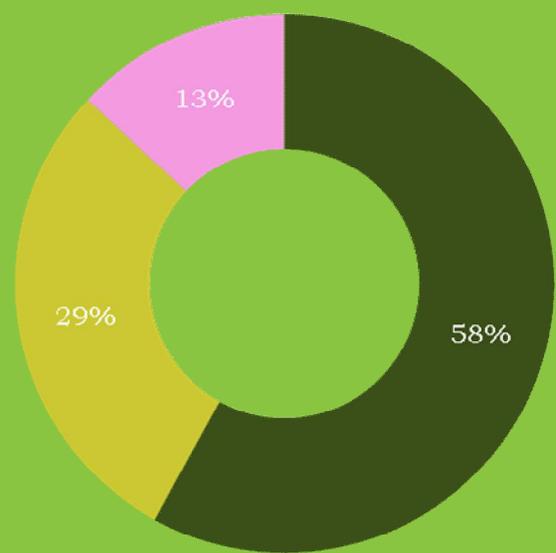
SS versus other MRFs



22.1 Million Tons of Total MRF Capacity

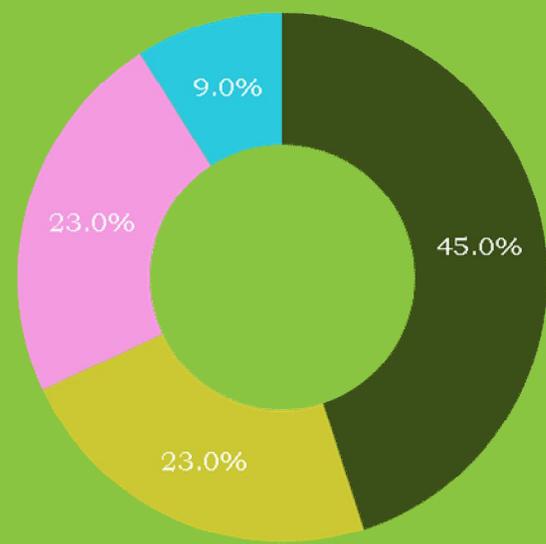
Single Stream by Region

2001



■ West ■ South ■ Midwest

2006



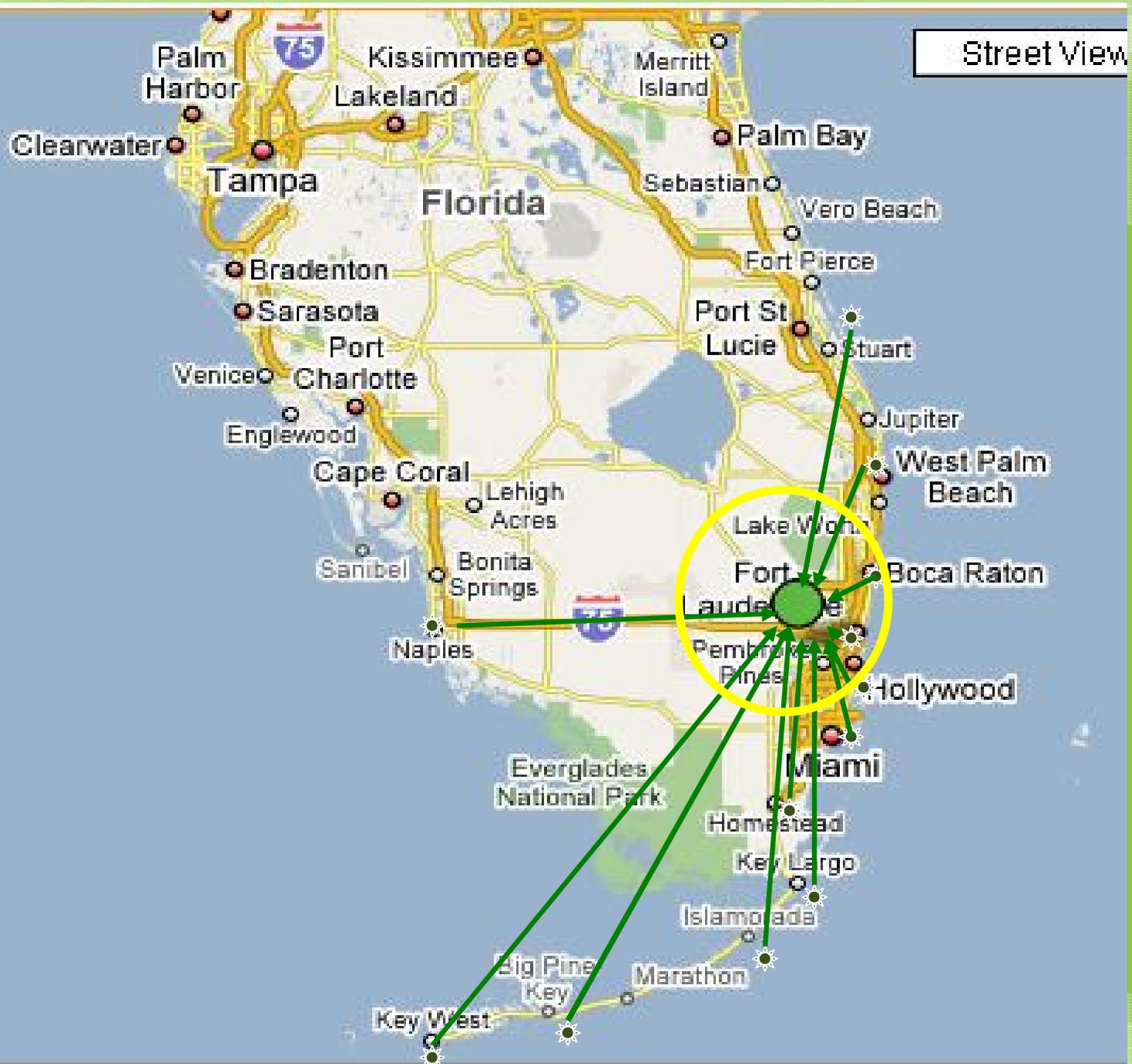
■ West ■ South ■ Midwest ■ Northeast

Source: GAA

Equipment Capital costs of SS and DS MRFs

MRF	Average MRF Capacity (tons/day)	Average Equipment Capital Cost	Capitol
DS MRFs	152	\$4,907,000	\$105,690
SS MRFs	206	\$7,551,000	\$66,630

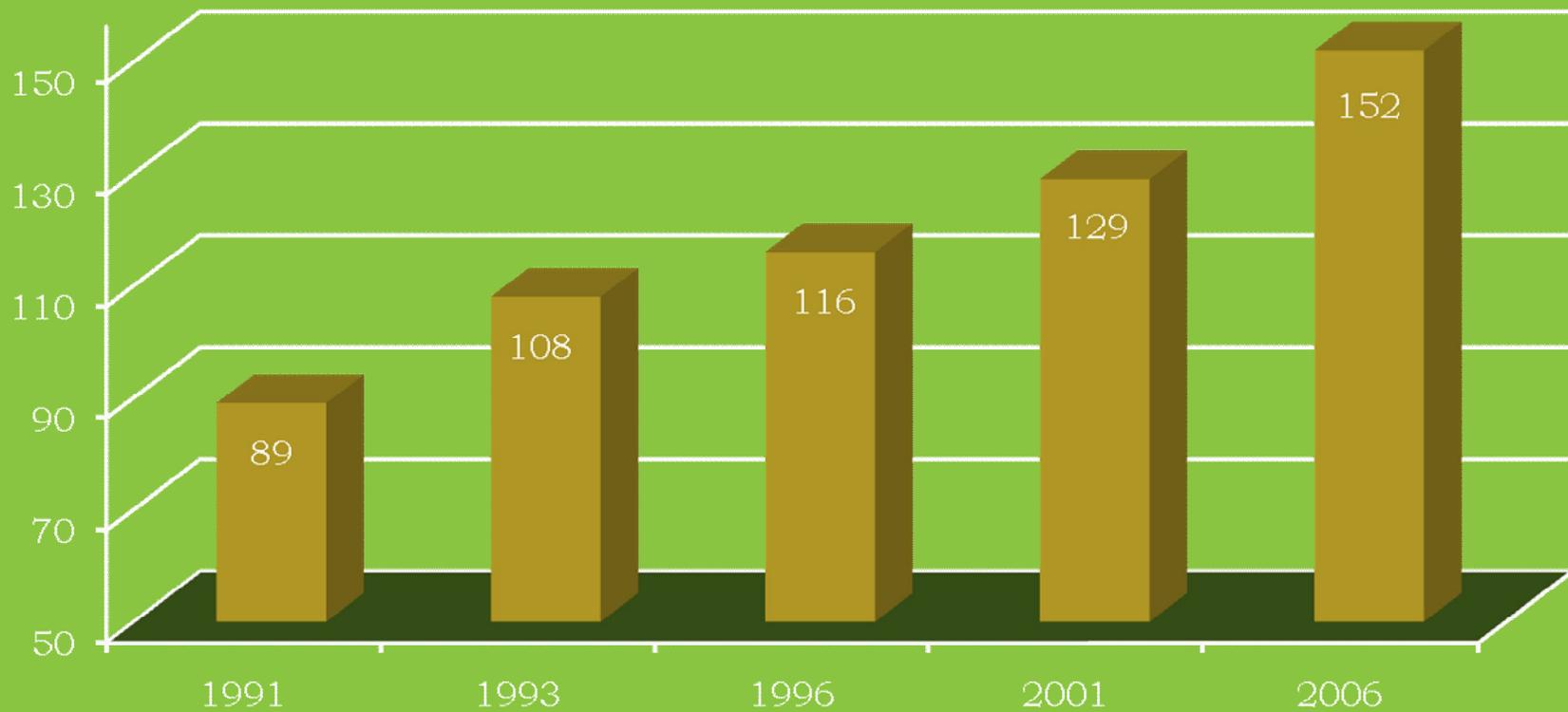
Source: GAA & Columbia University



What is Being Collected/Separated

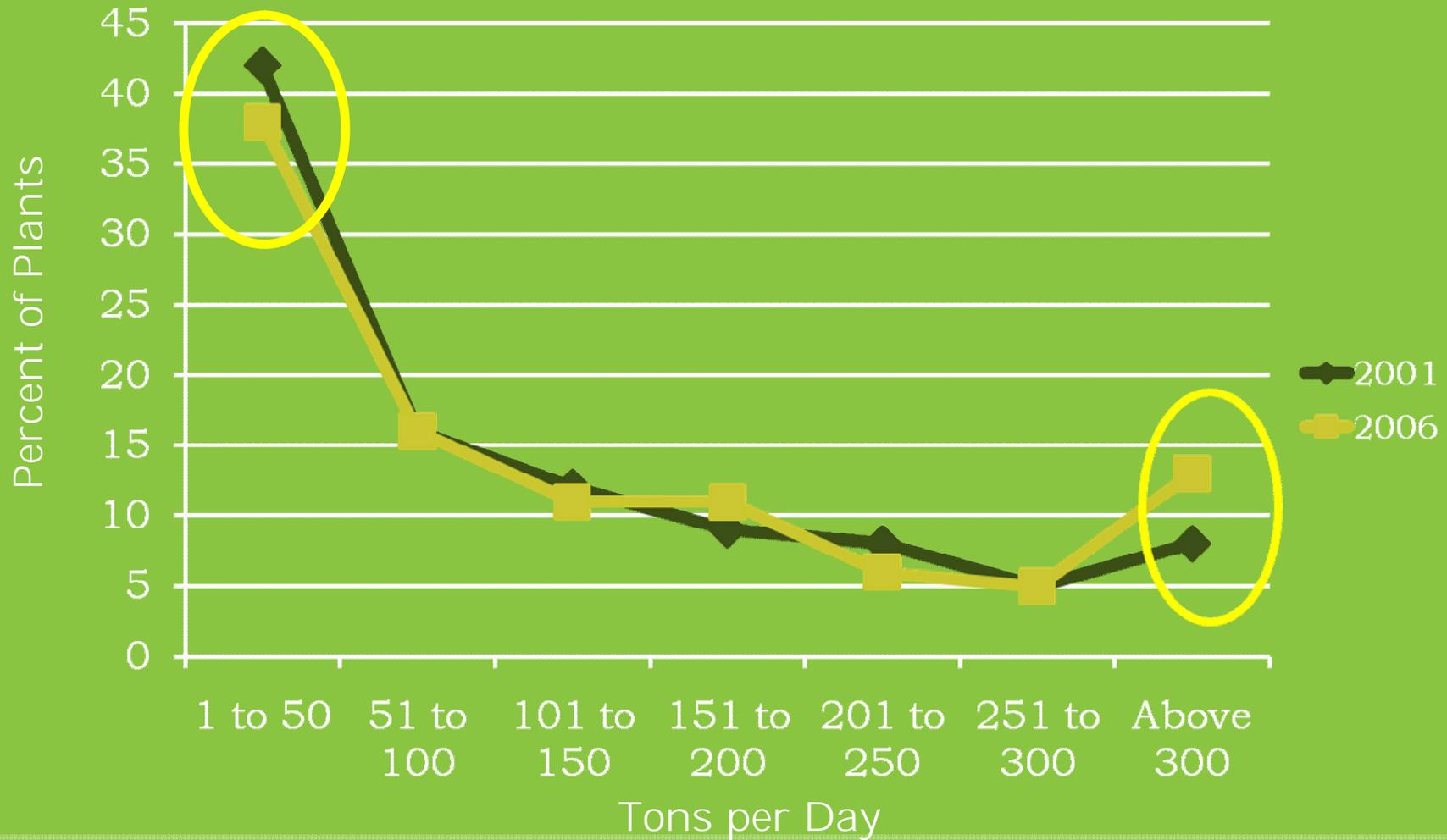
Tons Processed per Day

Avg Daily



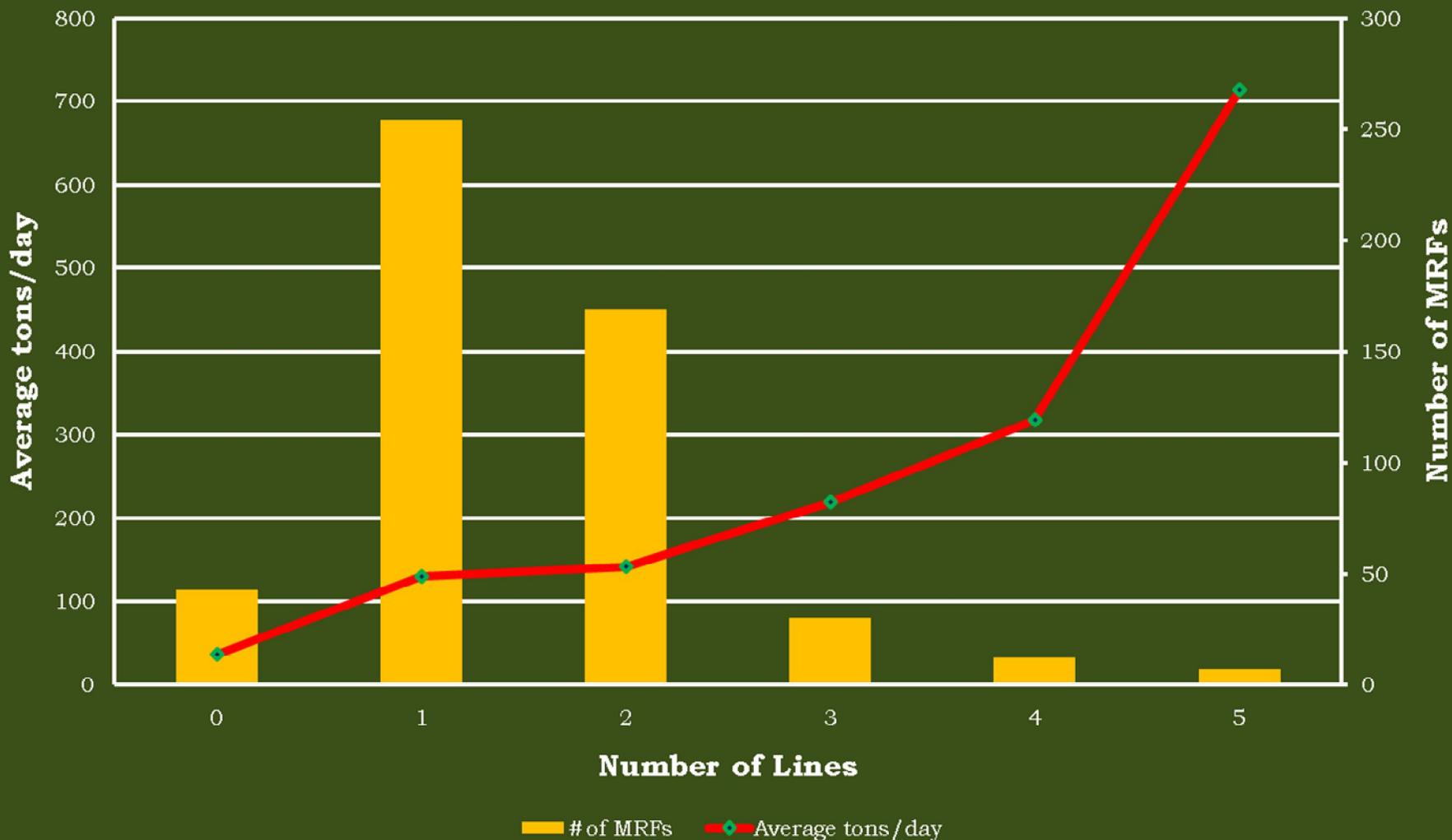
Source: GAA

Tons per Day 2001 and 2006



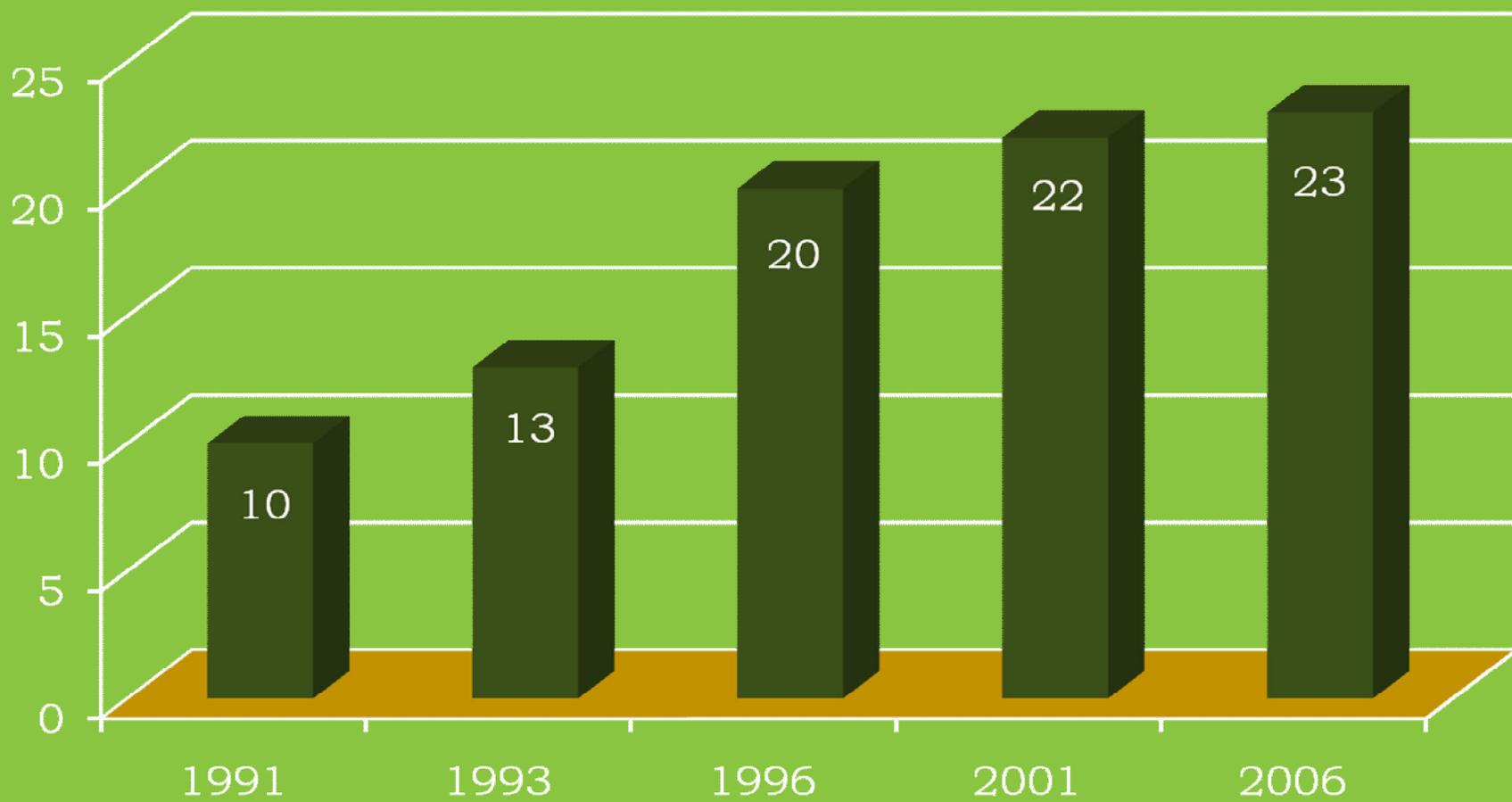
Source: GAA

Number of Lines by Facility with Average TPD



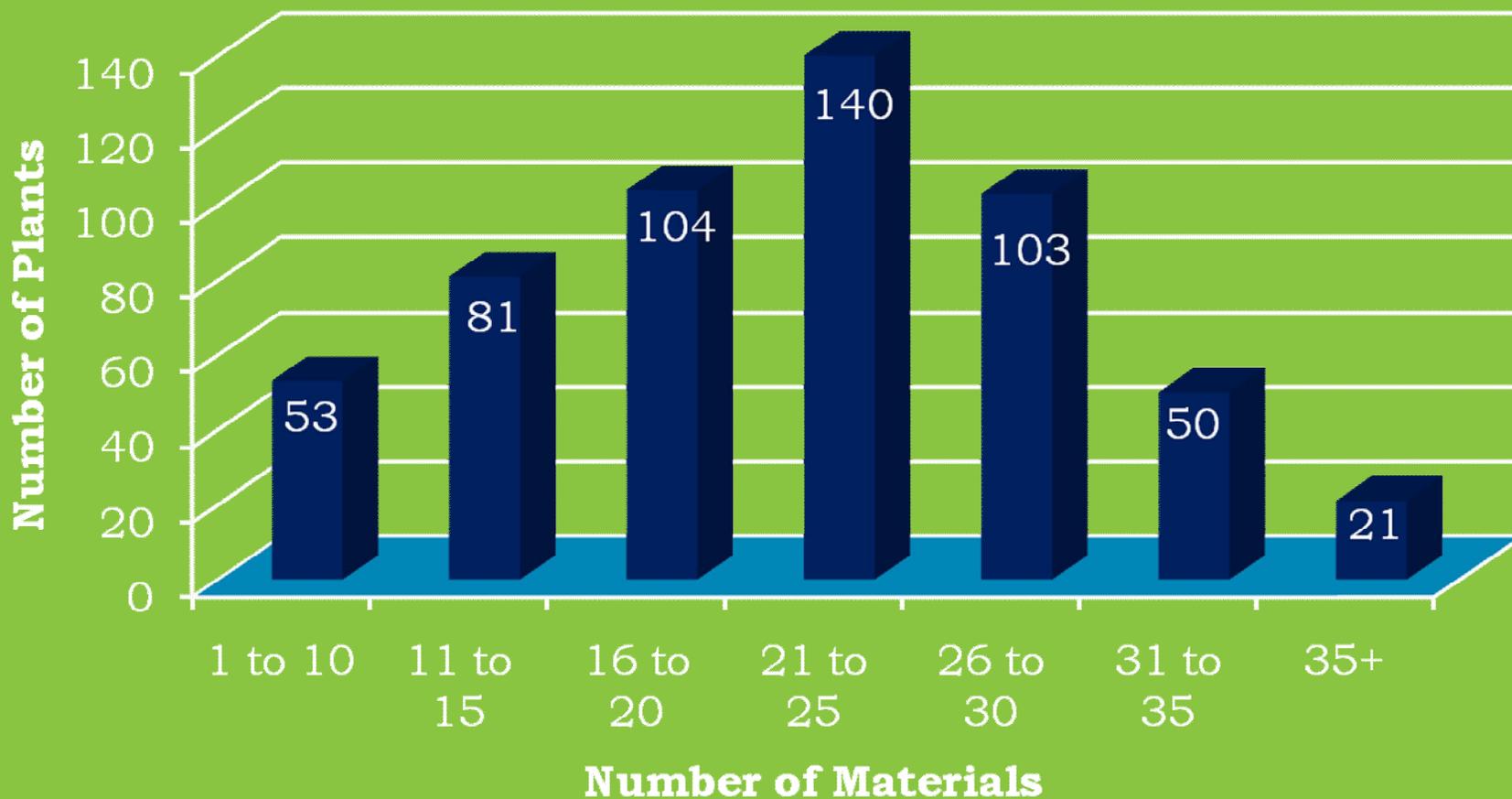
Source: GAA

Average Number of Materials Processed



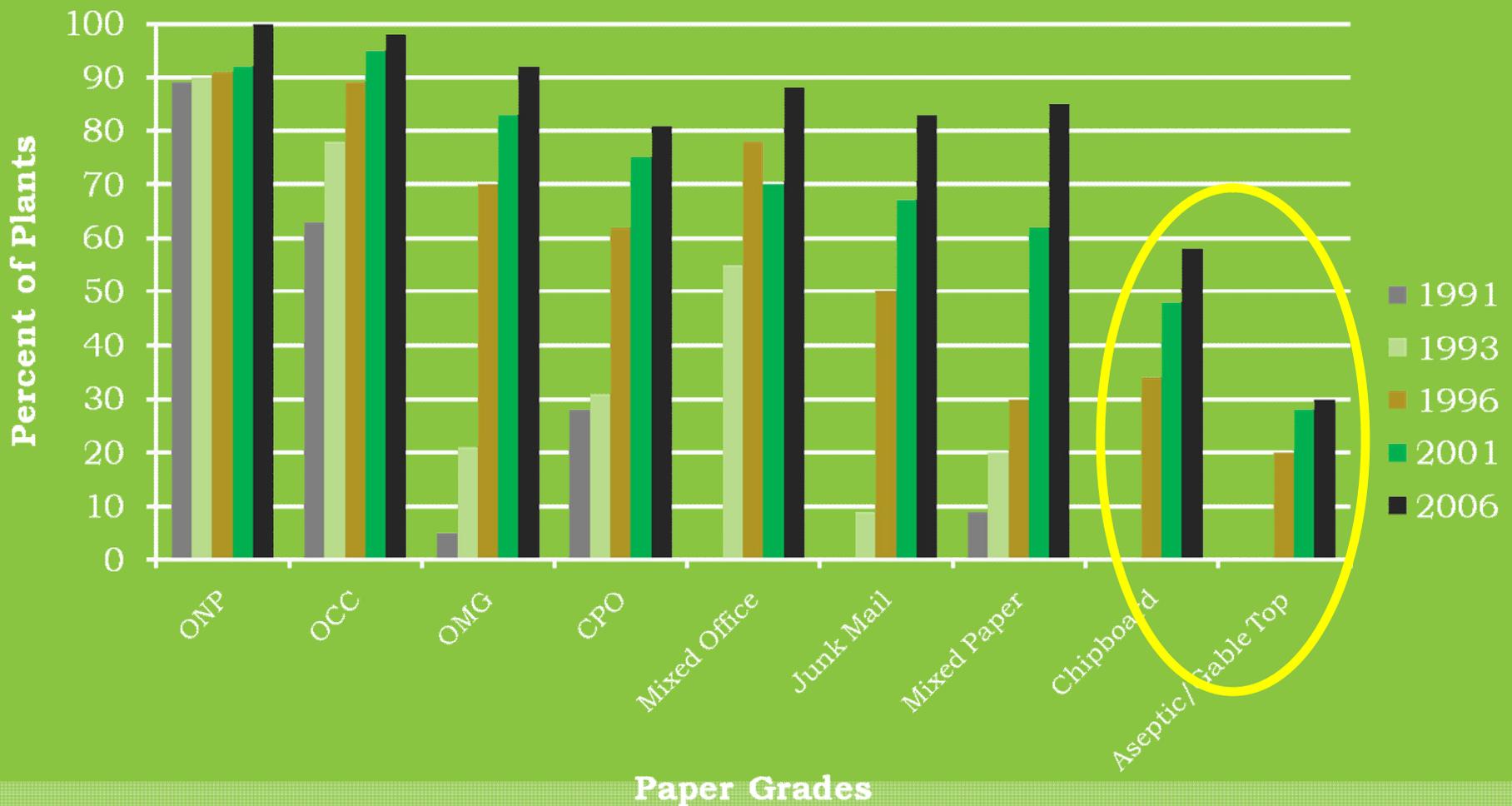
Source: GAA

Number of Materials Processed by MRFs



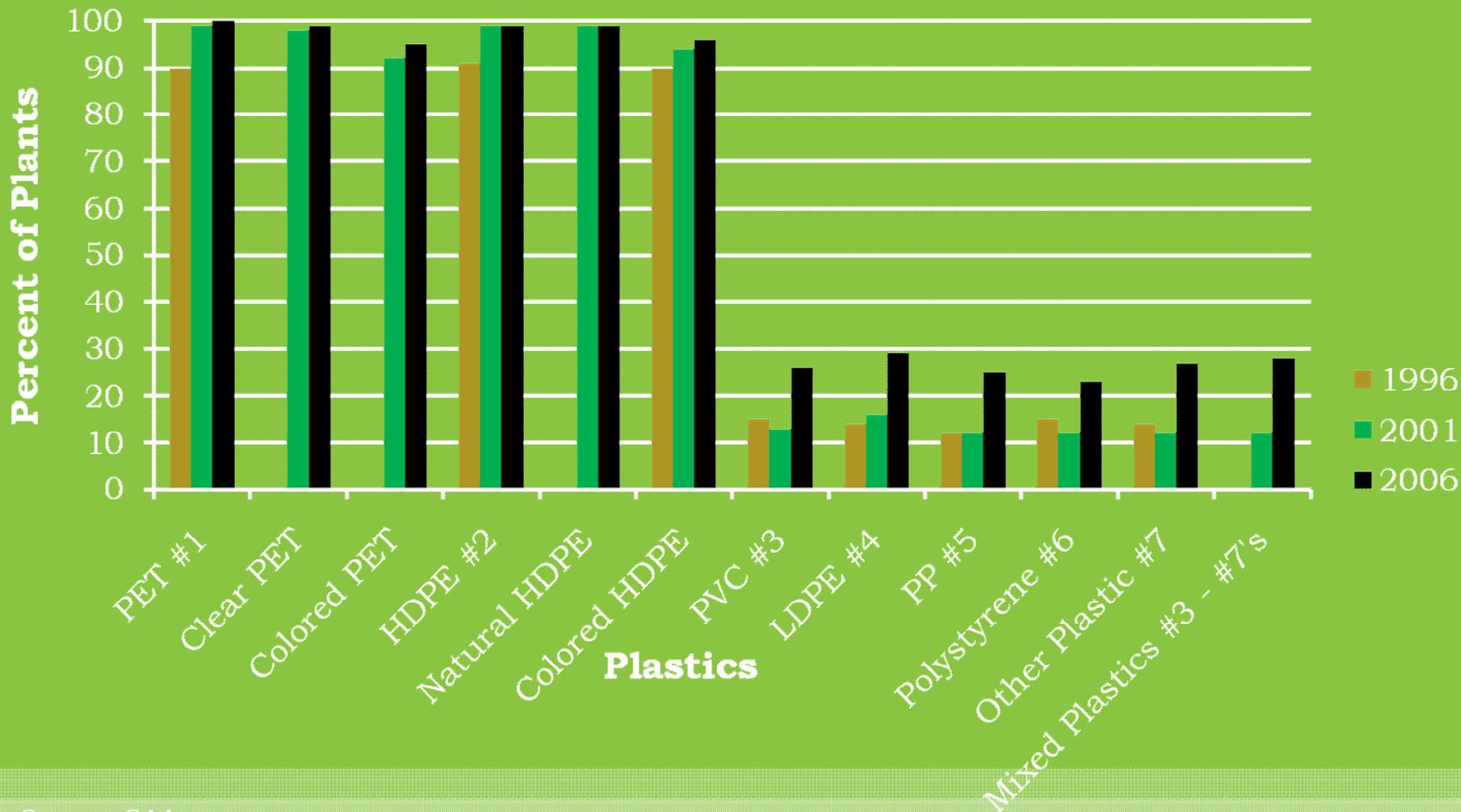
Source: GAA

Percent of Plants Recovering Various Paper Grades



Source: GAA

Plastic Recovery in MRFs 1996 - 2006



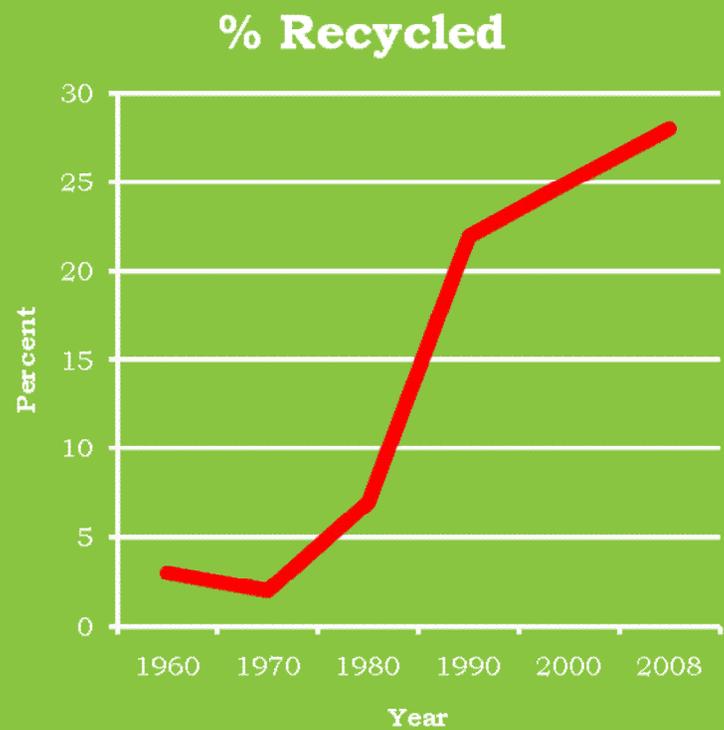
Source: GAA

What Plastics are being recycled?



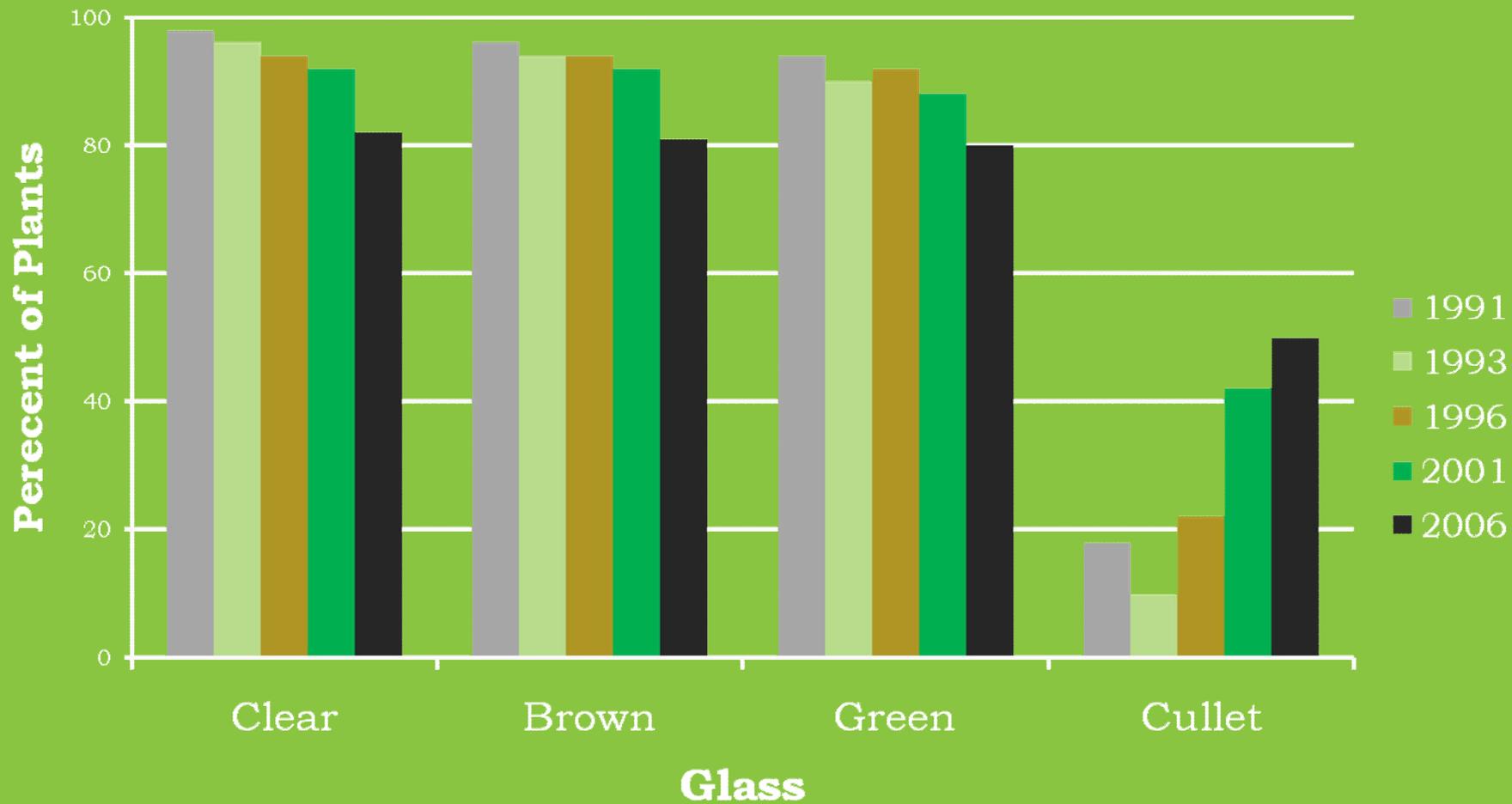
Source: NYC Dept of Sanitation

Glass Containers MSW & Recycled



Source: WasteAge.com

Glass Recycling Trends

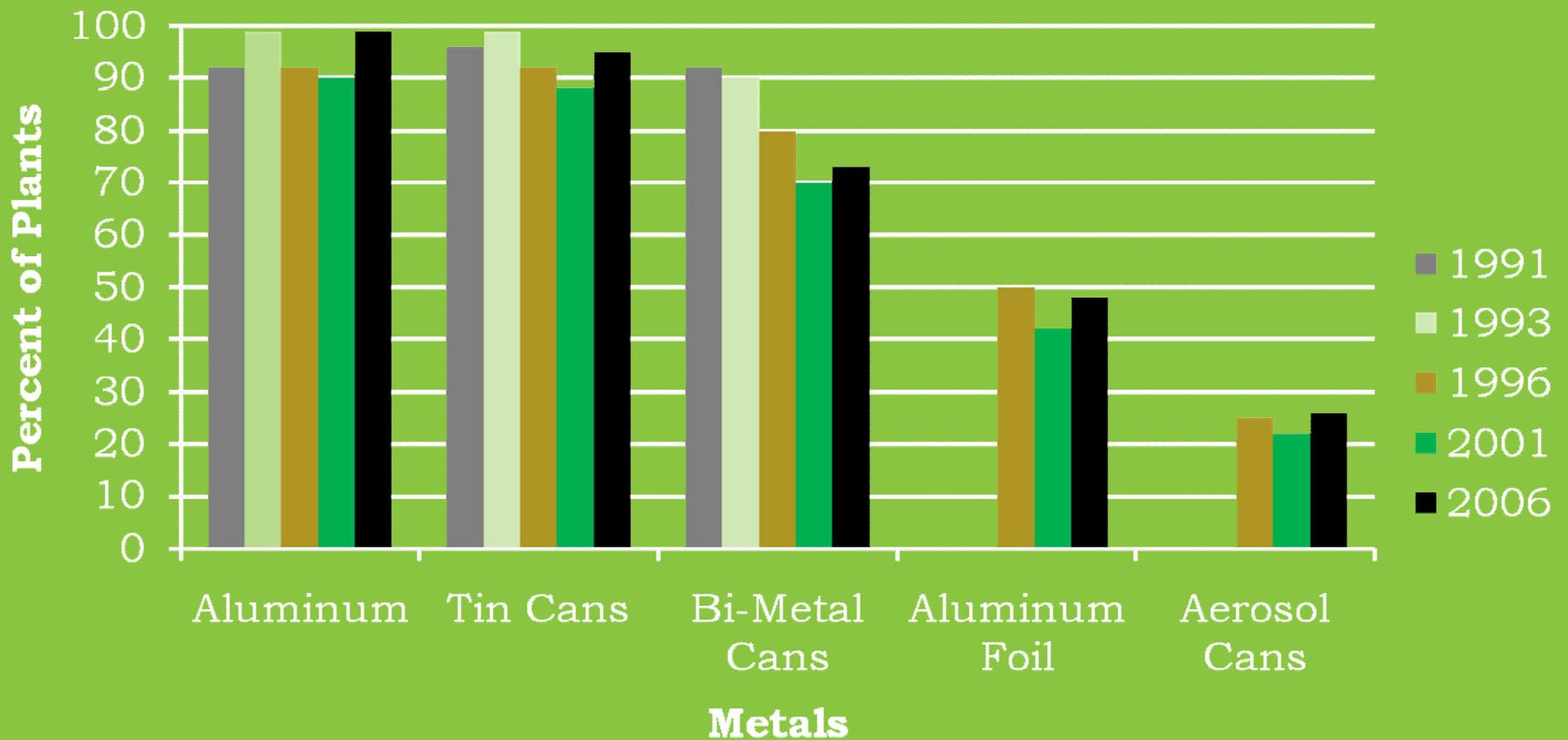


Source: GAA

Glass Recycling

- ⚙ Recent resurgence in demand for glass cullet – Supply is becoming issue
 - ⚙ Fiberglass industry
 - ⚙ Bottle industry
- ⚙ 5 Years ago Strategic Materials had zero Optical Sorters, today they have over 100.
- ⚙ Planning on 5 new plants in 2011 all that include optical sorting.

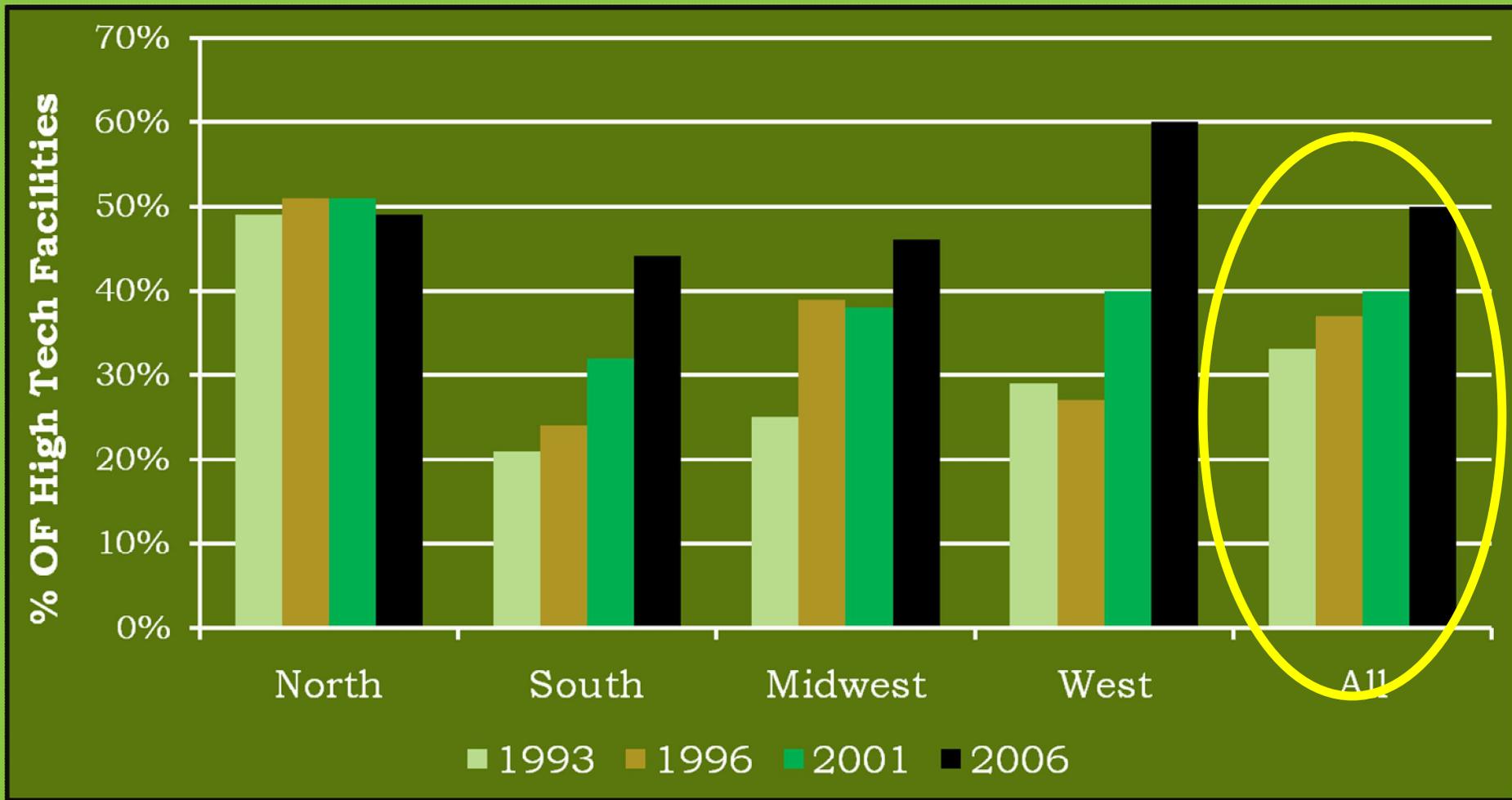
Metals Recovery at MRFs 1991-2006



Source: GAA

What is on the Technology Horizon?

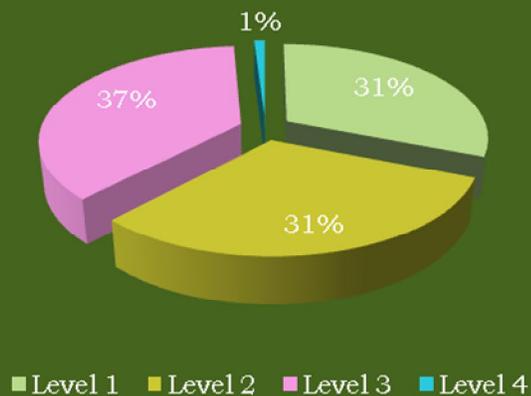
% Hi-Tech MRFs by Region



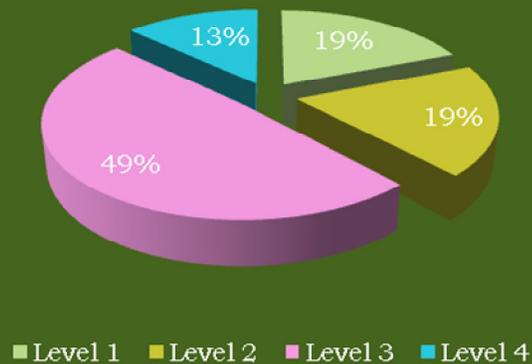
Source: GAA

Levels of Mechanization in SS Plants

2001 - Levels of Mechanization



2006 - Levels of Mechanization



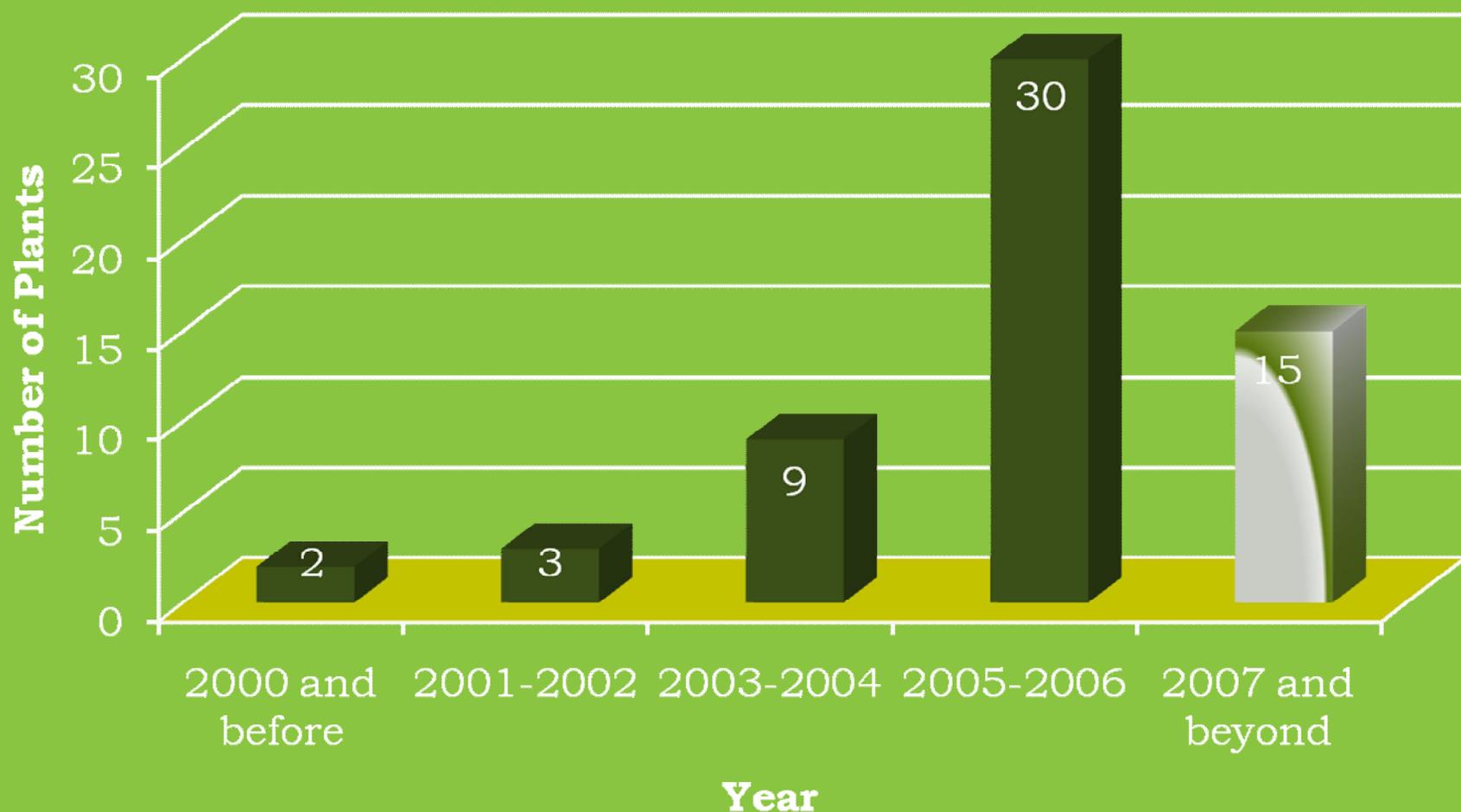
Source: GAA

Technology used to separate PET

Technology	Description	Key Players
Near-Infrared (NIR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensor uses an infrared beam to identify the plastic type by recognizing a light intensity reading unique to each polymer 	Titech, Pellenc, MSS, NRT, RTT, S+S, Rofin, Eveready, Buhler, EagleVizion
Laser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referring to an impurity's spectrum, i.e. its physical "fingerprint," is able to detect and separate it from the product flow 	Unisensor, Best
X-Ray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguishes waste based on density • Useful for detecting additives • Two types: x-ray and x-ray fluorescence 	NRT, Binder+Co, Best
Color Sorting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separates shades of color seen by the human eye for mixed bottles or flake • Use vision technology (cameras) or spectroscopy 	Titech, Pellenc, MSS, NRT, RTT, S+S, Rofin, Eveready, Buhler, EagleVizion, Satake, Best
Density Separation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flakes sink or float based on relative density to a fluid • Different fluids in succession to separate many materials • New waterless technology using air 	Eurohansa, TLT Turbo Lamiare Treantechnik, John Brown Machines, Sorema

Source: Waste Management

Installation of Optical Sorters by Year in SS Plants



Source: GAA

What is on the Technology Horizon?

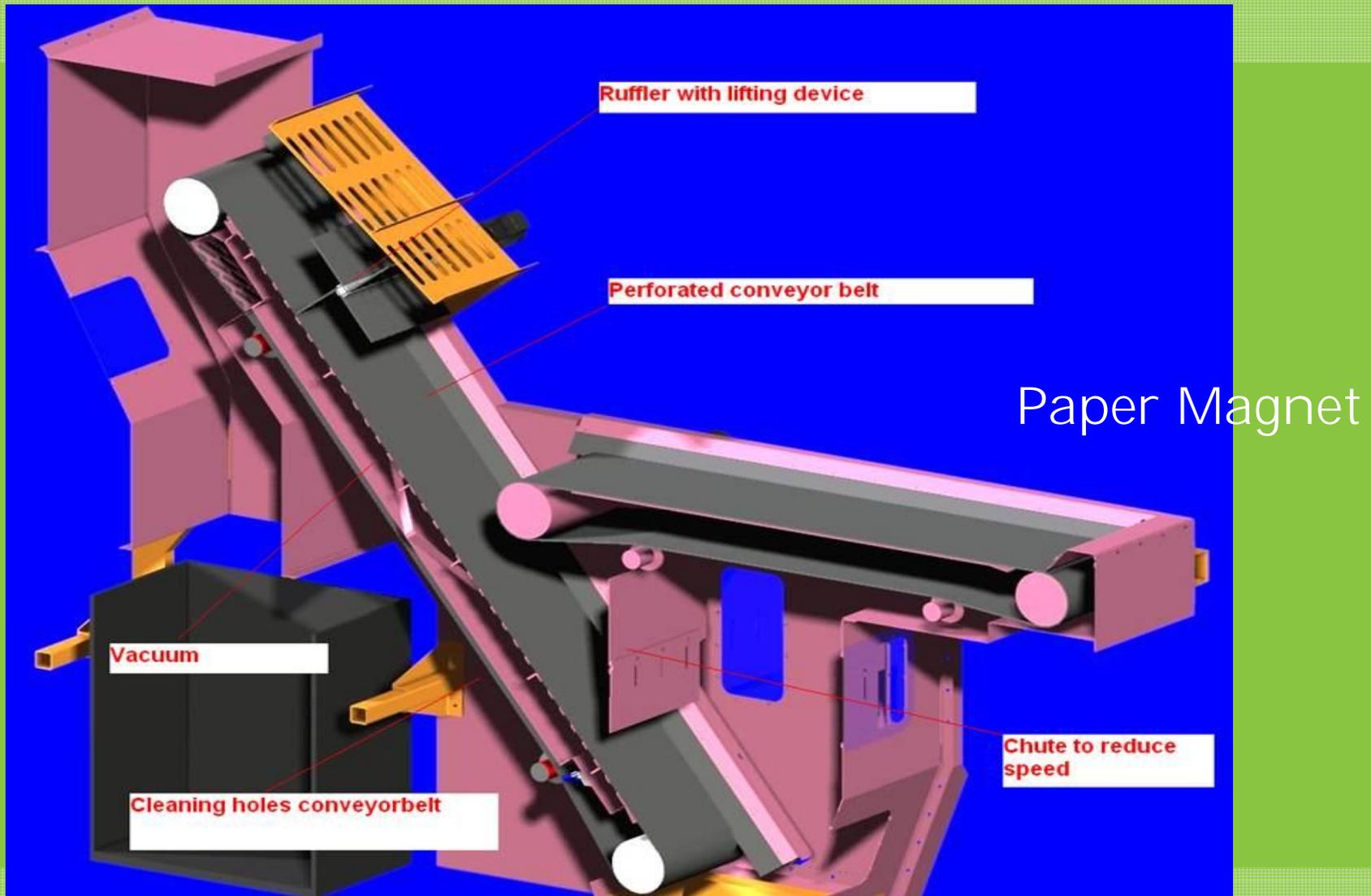
New Technologies being deployed



PAPER SPIKE

Source: VanDyk Baler

New Technologies being deployed



Source: VanDyk Baler

Summary

Opportunities missing
Barriers to recycling more packaging
Additional issues

Summary

- ⚙ Summary
 - ⚙ MRFs are becoming more complex and to a great extent less flexible
- ⚙ Barriers to recycling more packaging
 - ⚙ Efficiency and cost
 - ⚙ Outlying material types with not enough volume or markets
- ⚙ Additional Issues
 - ⚙ Increased amount of Lead in Glass in recent years

Questions?

Richard Abramowitz

Director of Public Affairs

Waste Management Recycling Services

713-328-7003

r Abramowitz@wm.com