



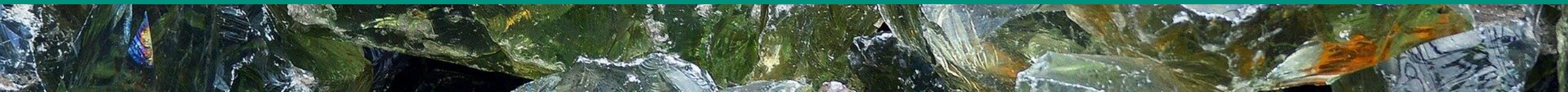
# Rethinking Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

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# Today's presentation

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- The environmental impacts of waste . . . and materials
- An abbreviated history of waste and recycling in the US
- Modernizing recycling in Oregon



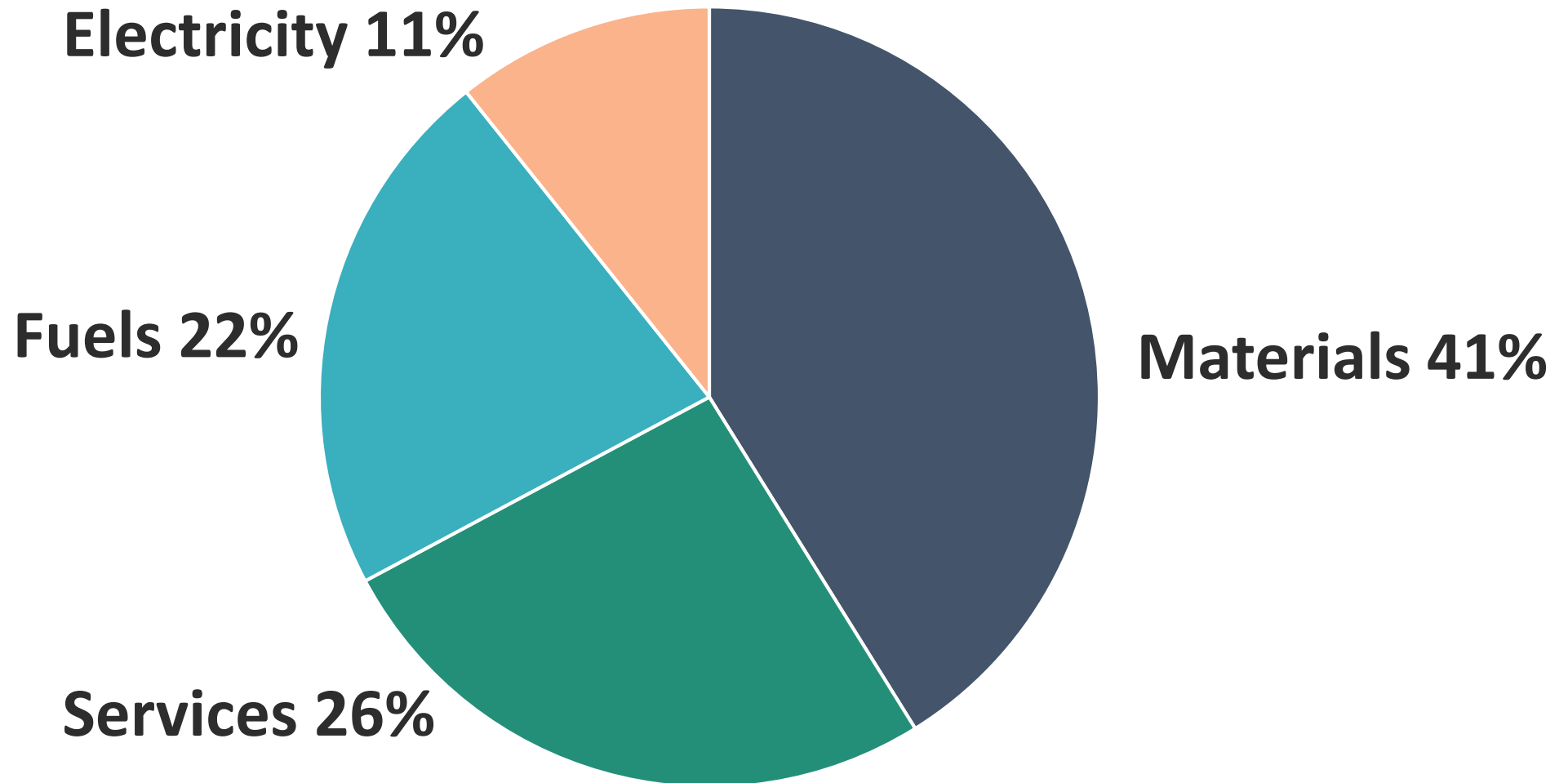


# Waste . . . or materials?

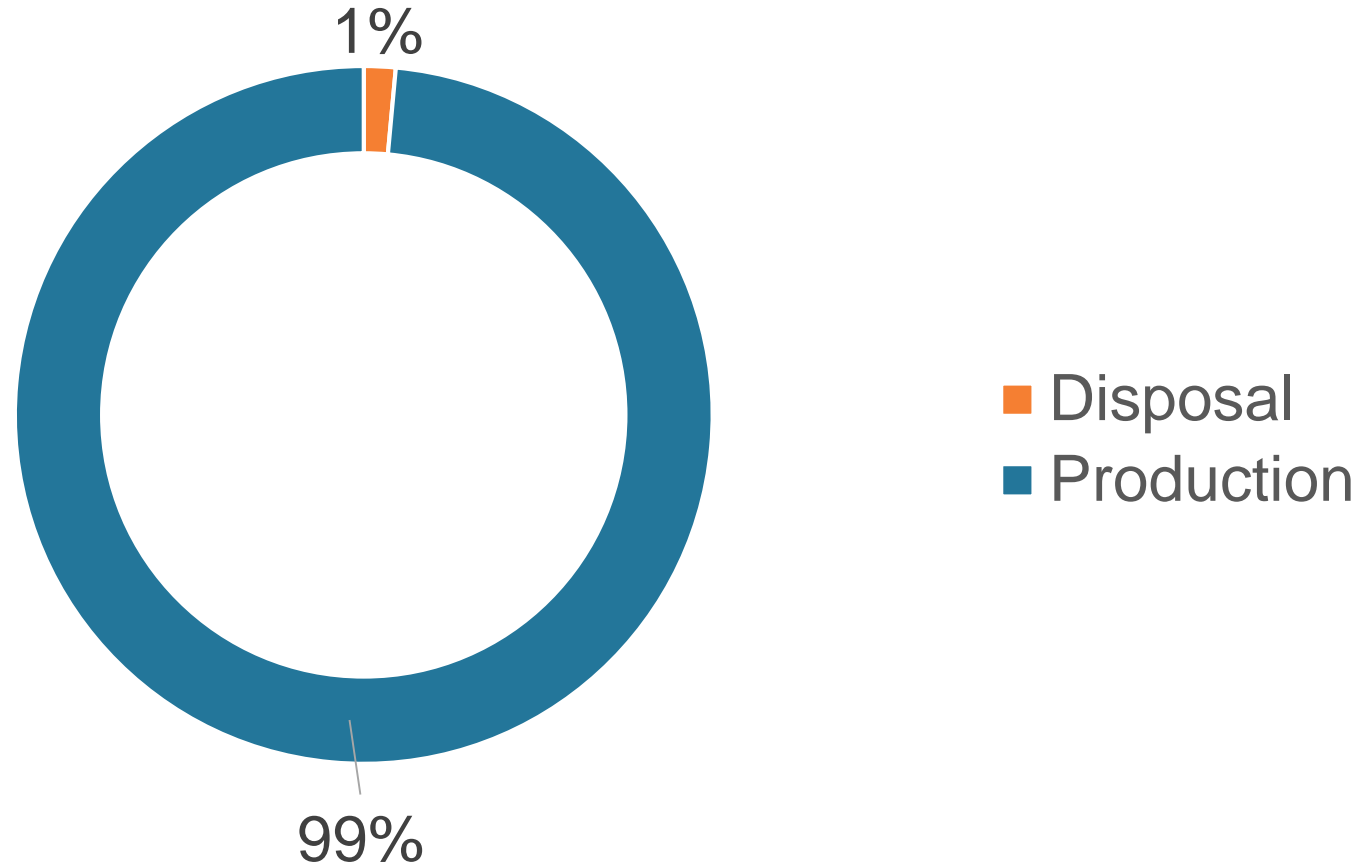


# Oregon's consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions (2015)

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# Oregon's consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions (2015) – materials only





# Recycling's benefits are largely upstream



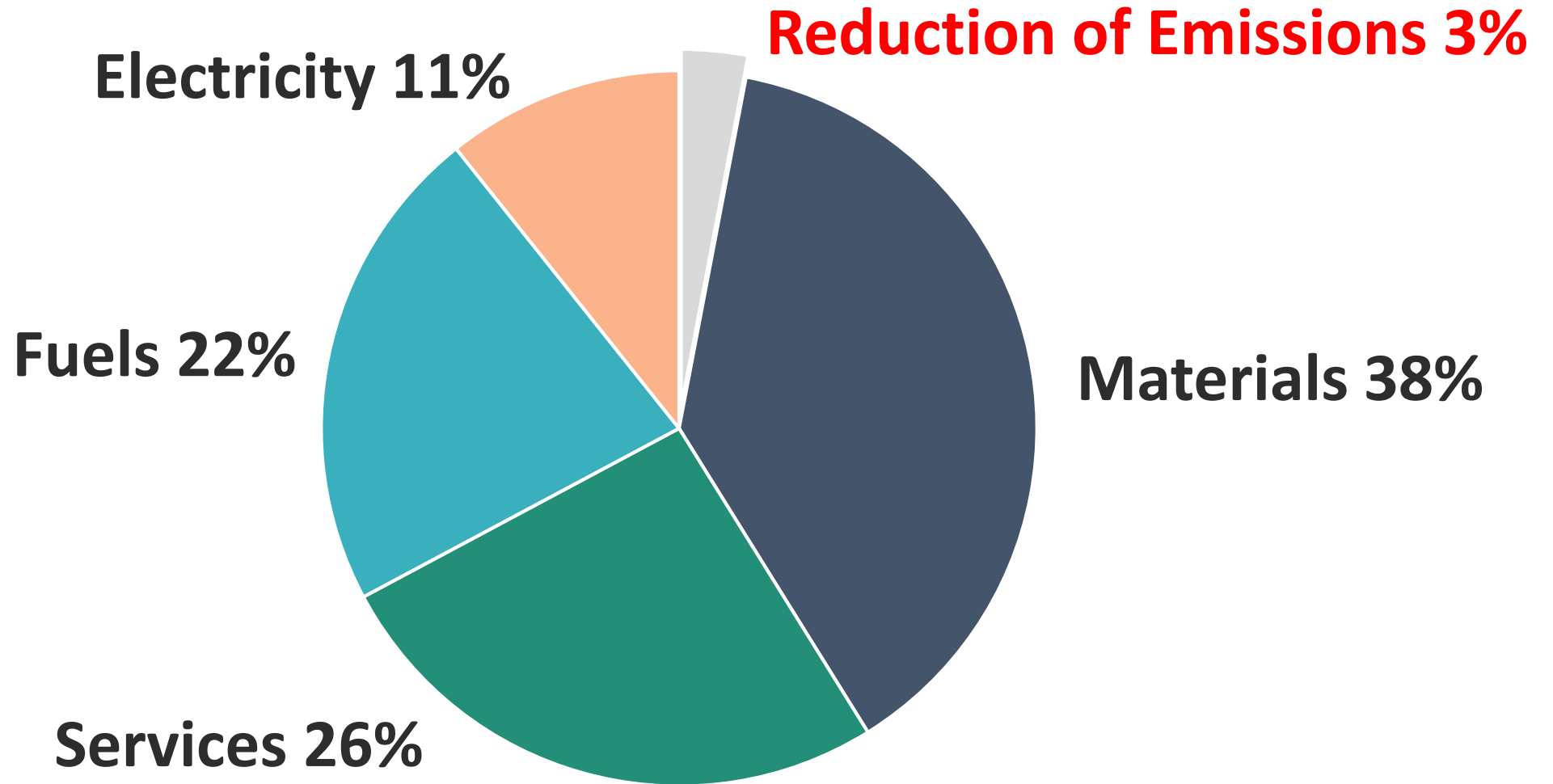


# Done poorly, recycling can harm people and the environment



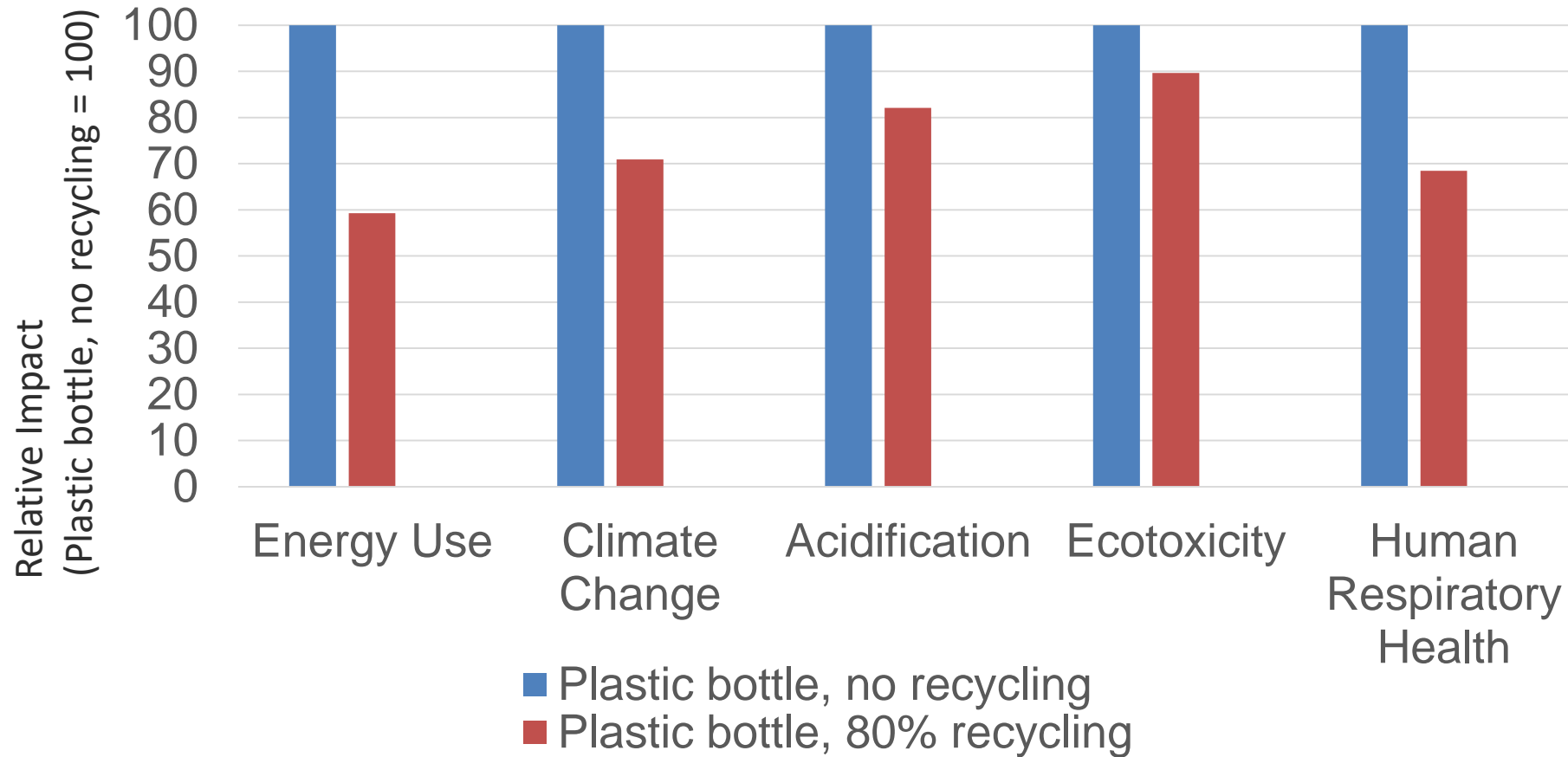
Photos: Megan Ponder

# Oregon's consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions (2015) with 90% recycling/composting



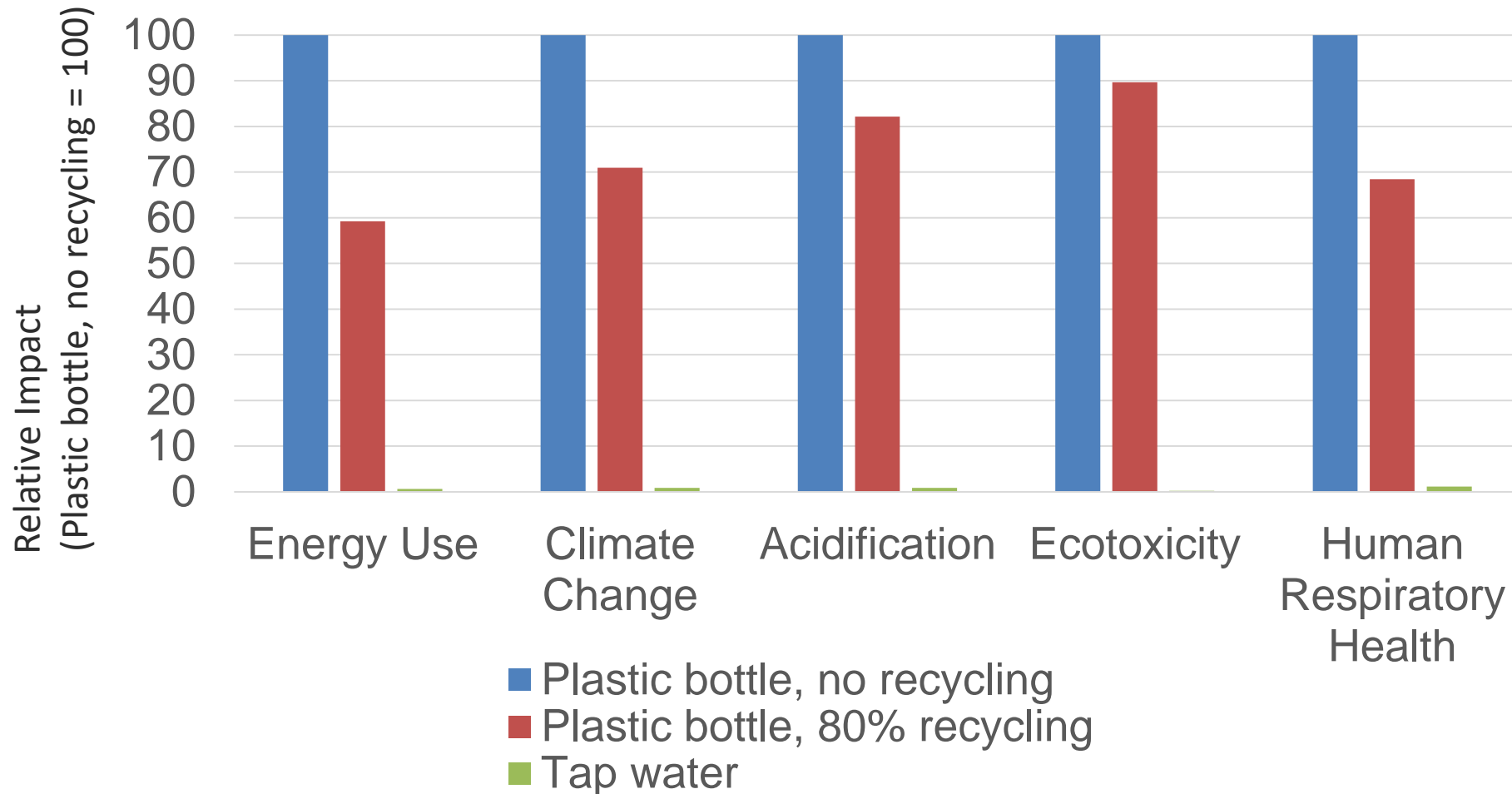


# Drinking water options: dispose, recycle, or reduce?



Source: Oregon DEQ

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Source: Oregon DEQ



# An abbreviated history of waste collection



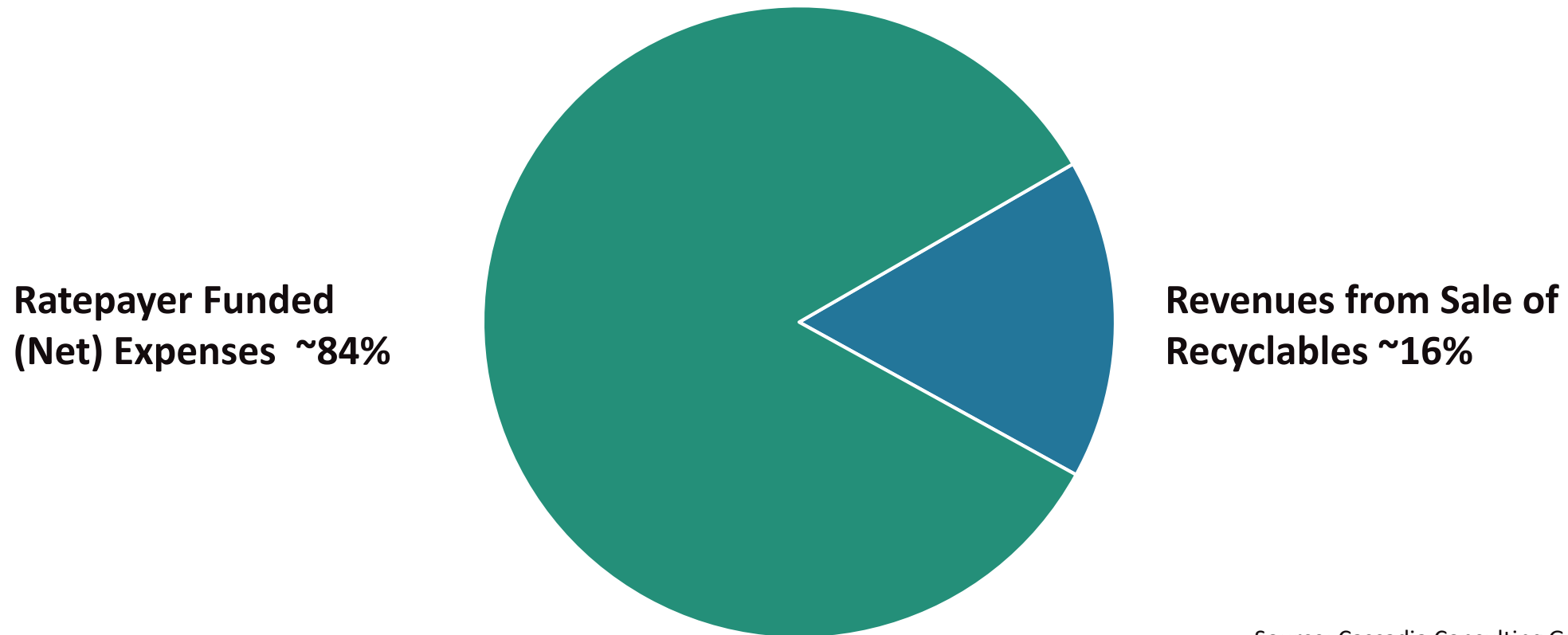
An early image of the sanitation department collecting trash, circa late 1890s. Photo courtesy DSNY.



Volunteers help sort recycling at the Arcata Community Recycling Center (ACRC) in the 1970s. Photo from the ACRC Facebook page.

# In Oregon, public recycling is primarily paid for by ratepayers

Estimated Oregon 2018 Public Recycling System Gross Expenses (in 2020\$): \$267 million



Source: Cascadia Consulting Group/Oregon DEQ



# Is recycling promoted to distract the public and policymakers from other solutions?



# Key challenges

- Public confusion and contamination
- Volatile and increasing costs
- Inconsistent collection opportunities
- Inadequate processing
- Social inequities in both benefits and burdens
- Loss of public trust and concerns over environmental damage

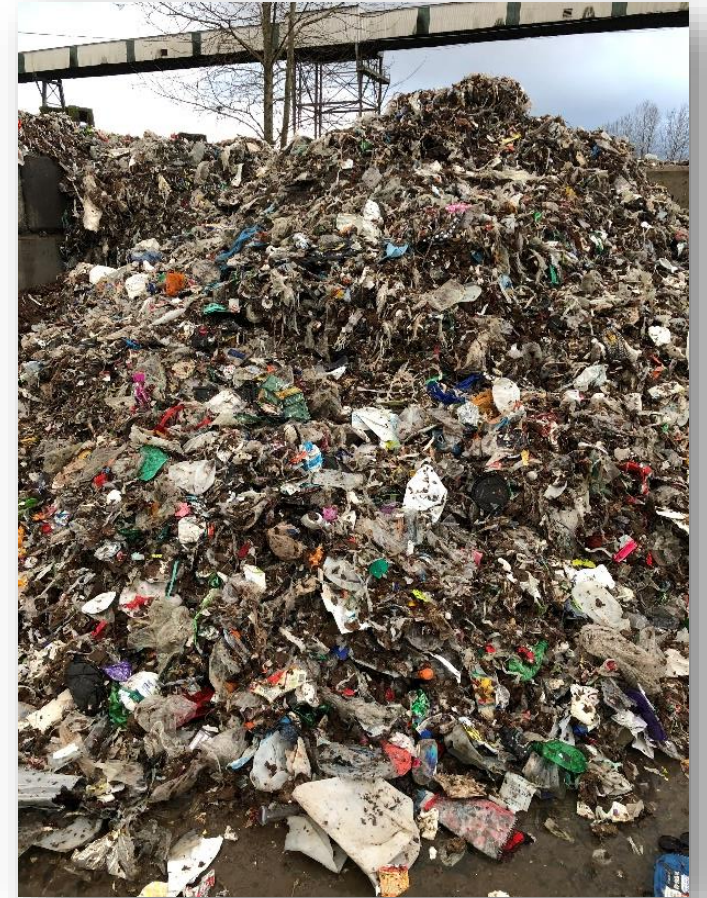


Photos: Megan Ponder



# Root causes

- Market prices don't reflect environmental benefits
- Oregon's laws are outdated
- Current producer actions are inadequate



# A proposed policy update for Oregon

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Oregon's Plastic Pollution  
and Recycling Modernization  
Act (SB 582A):

A unique, “shared  
responsibility” proposal







# Thank you

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