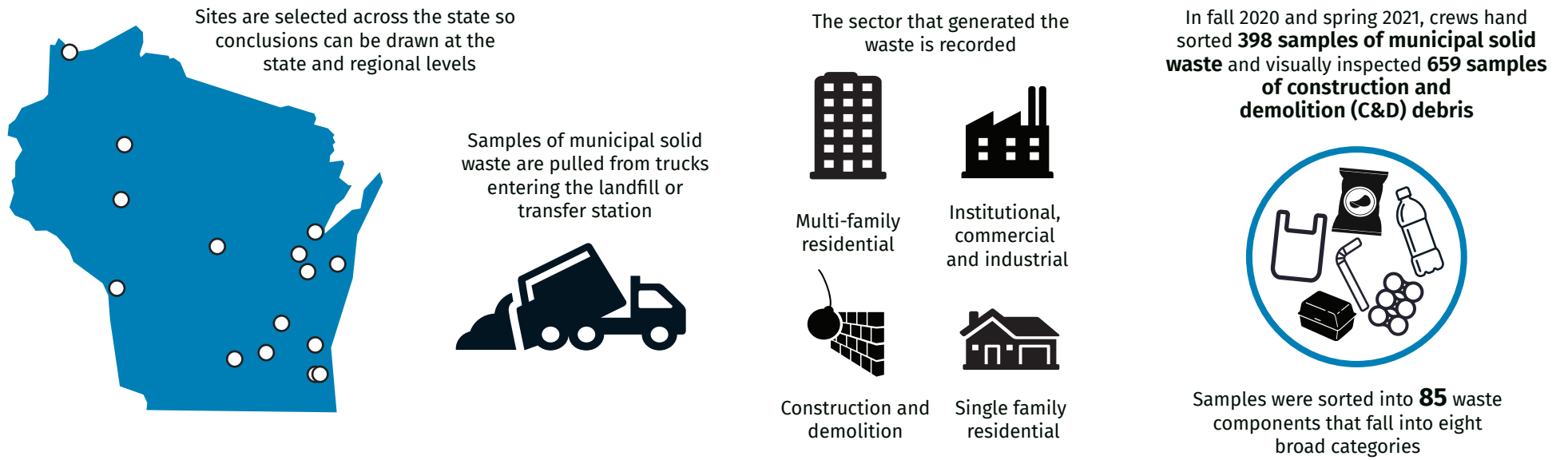


# What is ending up in Wisconsin landfills?

The DNR commissions statewide waste characterization studies to better understand what Wisconsinites are throwing in the trash. The most recent study occurred in 2020-2021. Prior studies were completed in 2002 and 2009. The results of these studies help guide waste reduction and diversion efforts at the state, regional and local level.

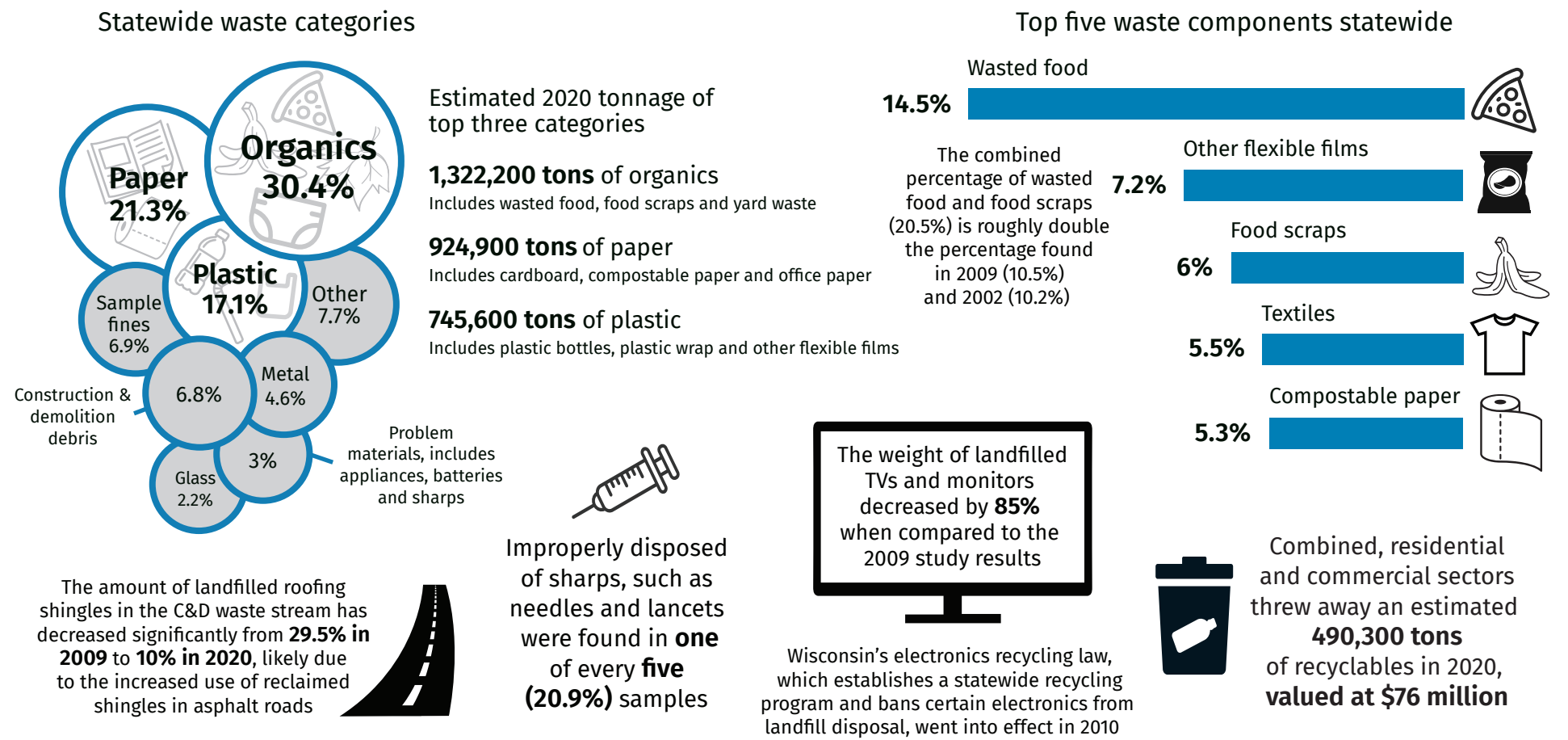
## How we study waste

Waste characterization studies are snapshots in time that reveal the composition and amount of landfilled materials



## What was discovered

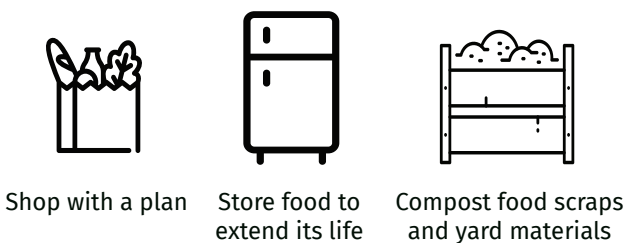
Analysis of the 2020-2021 data shows us that Wisconsinites are dedicated to waste reduction, but there is more we can do



## Reducing landfilled waste

Reducing what we throw away supports Wisconsin's economy, helps the environment and saves valuable landfill space

Organics make up roughly a third of the waste from single family and multi-family residences, meaning simple household practices can have a major impact on reducing the amount of organics in landfills



Using or composting the amount of wasted food and food scraps landfilled in 2020 would reduce as much greenhouse gas emissions as taking **592,035** passenger vehicles off the road for a year

Approximately **19%** of landfilled waste could be diverted by households, businesses and institutions taking full advantage of existing municipal recycling programs throughout the state



Go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "waste" to view waste reduction resources, access studies and reports and learn more about waste regulations in Wisconsin



Sources: Wisconsin Statewide Waste Characterization Studies, final reports published 2003, 2010 and 2021. This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Email [DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov) for more information.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Waste and Materials Management Program  
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707  
[DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov)

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