

# Organics Diversion and RNG Production

PRESENTED BY:  
Richard Southorn, PE, PG



**SCS ENGINEERS**

# Circularity

*Practices that optimize resource use and minimize waste across the entire production and consumption cycle, emphasizing sustainability and economic efficiency.*

## What to do with Organic Waste?



## Diversion Circularity

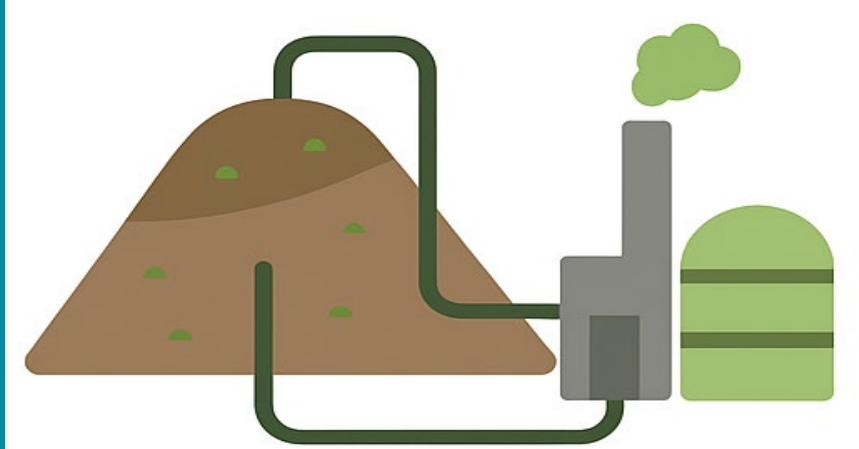


**COMPOSTING**



**ANAEROBIC  
DIGESTION**

## In-Place Circularity



**LFG-RNG  
PROCESSING**

Are they at odds with each other?

## RNG Market (2024 – LMOP Database)

- 123 Landfills with RNG projects – 540 Million cf LFG/day (375,000 scfm)
- 102 Projects Planned or Under Construction  
(320 Millions cf LFG/day)

## Future RNG Fuel Supply Question:

**How may organics diversion impact landfill gas supply for the RNG fuel processing?**



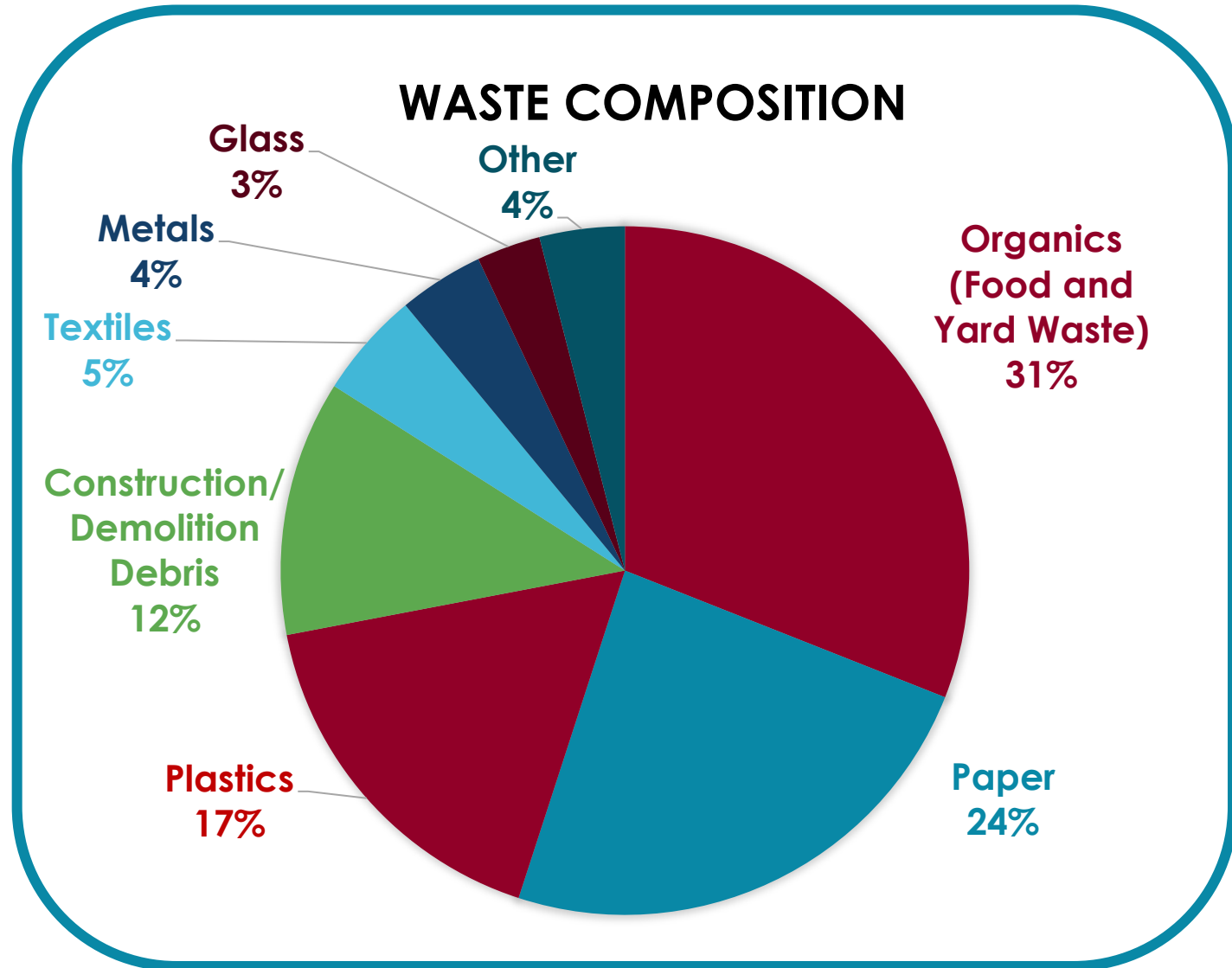
# SCS Non-Regulatory Landfill Gas Recovery Model

- Focuses on landfill gas (LFG) recovery rather than generation
- 30 years of research developing an empirically-calibrated LFG model
- Database of >2,580 years of flow data from 345 modeled landfills

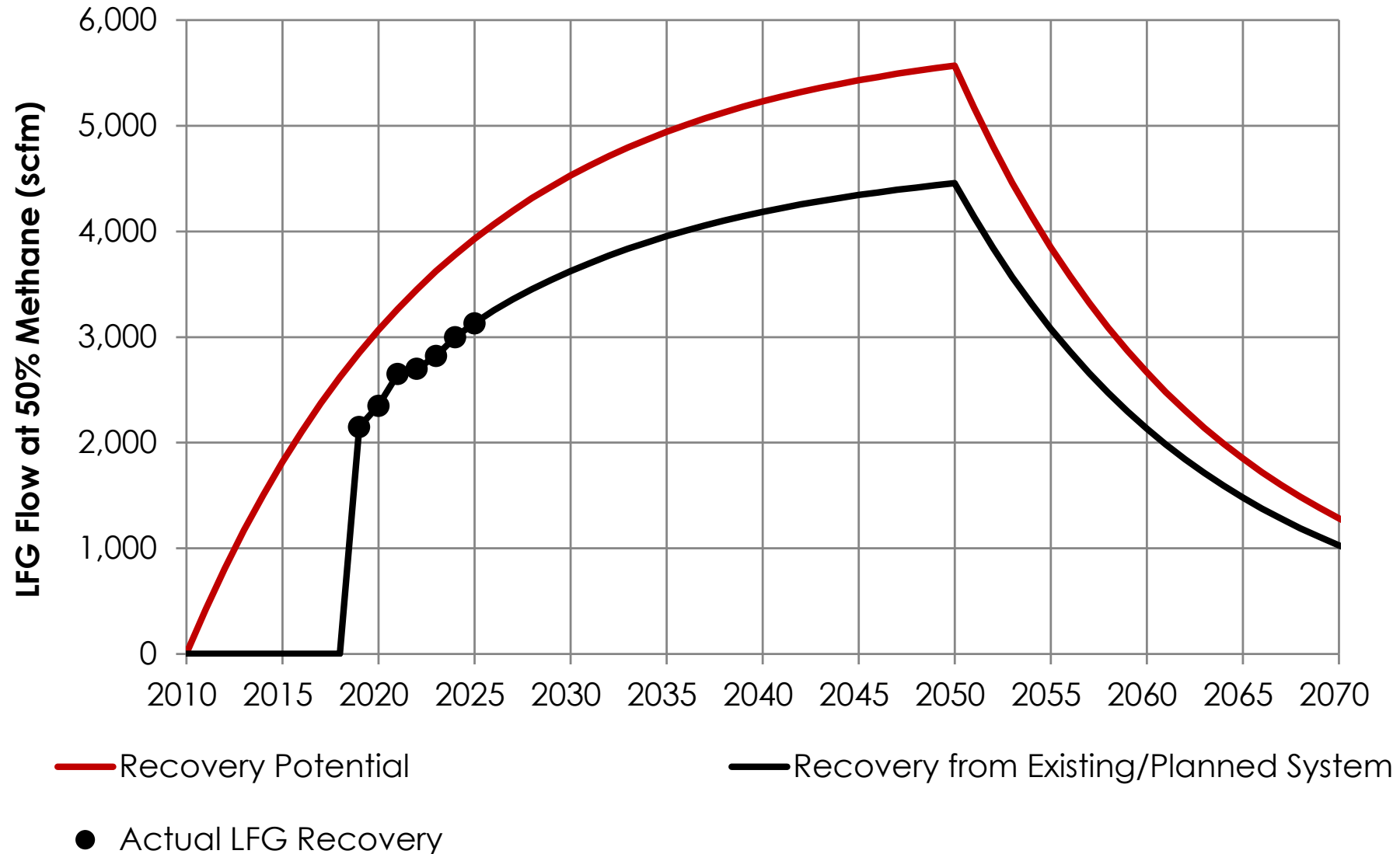


# Anytown Landfill, IL

- 30 Million CY Disposal Capacity
- 4,000 Tons/Day
- 600,000 tons/year
- 40 Years of Disposal



# LANDFILL GAS CURVE – BASELINE (No diversion)



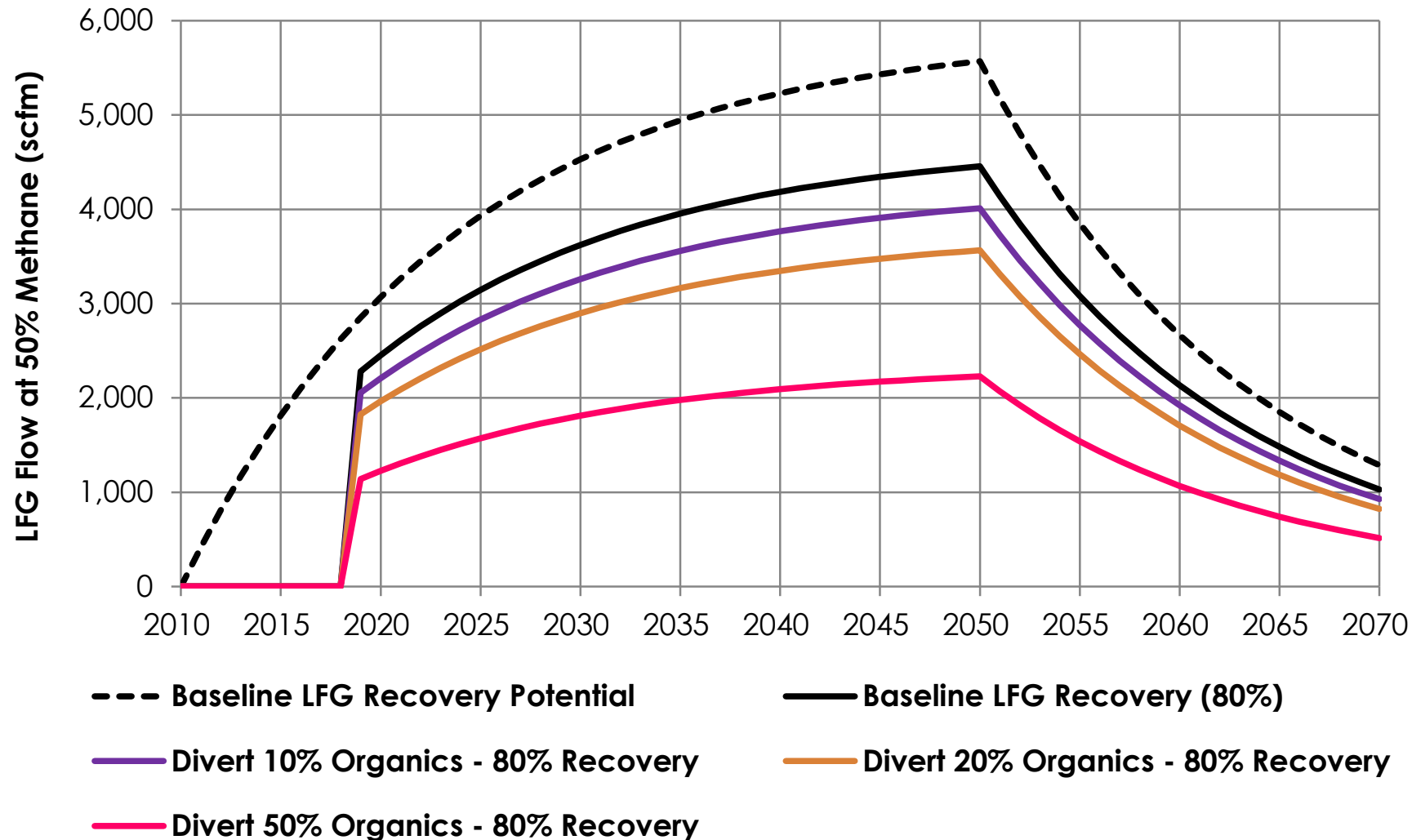
**What happens if we reduce organics through the life of the landfill?**

- **By 10%**
- **By 20?**
- **By 50%**

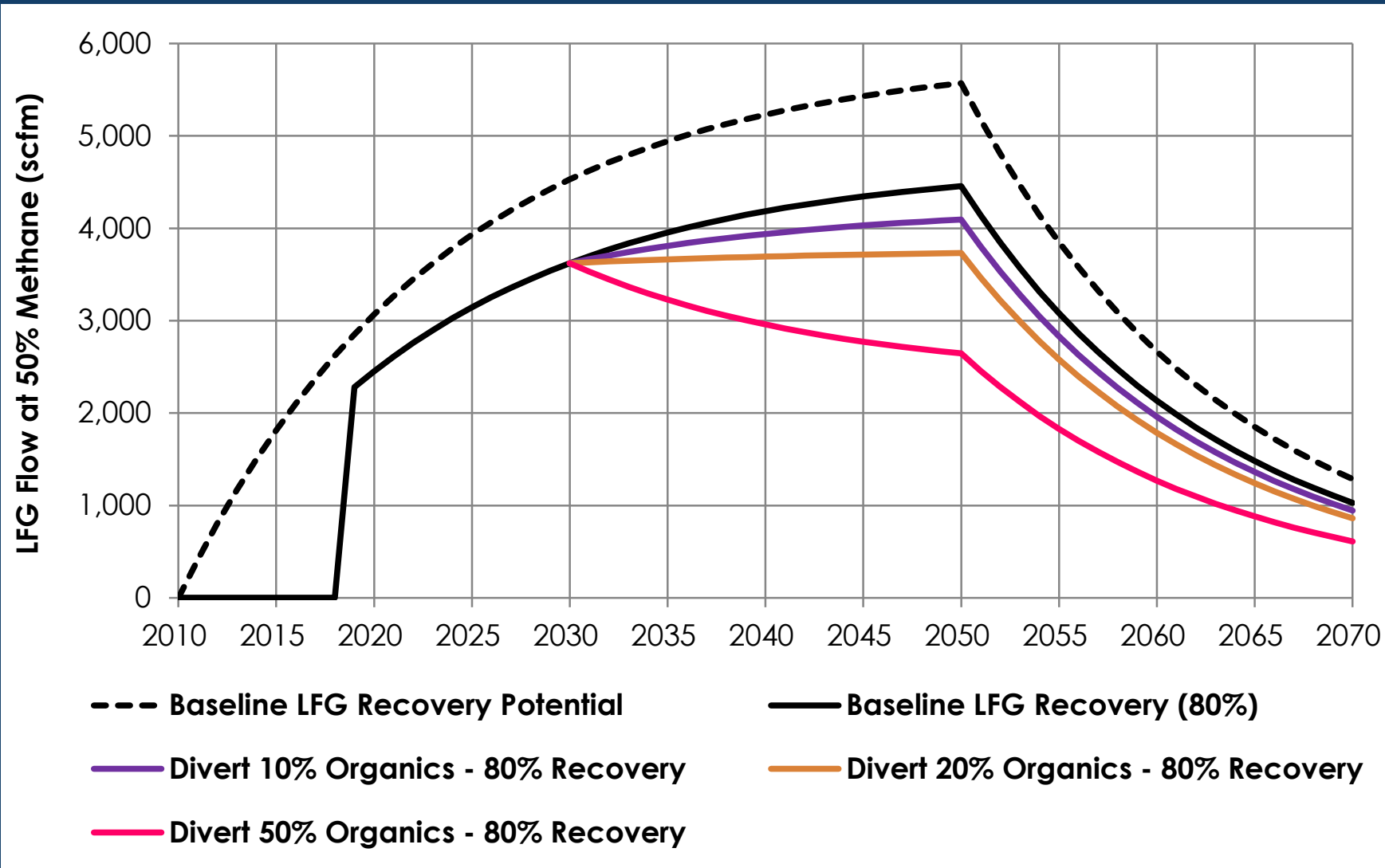
**What happens if we reduce organics at an existing landfill midway through its operation?**



# LANDFILL GAS RECOVERY – EFFECTS OF DIVERSION OVER A 40-YEAR DISPOSAL HISTORY



# LANDFILL GAS RECOVERY PROJECTIONS – EFFECTS OF DIVERSION STARTING YEAR 20 OF 40

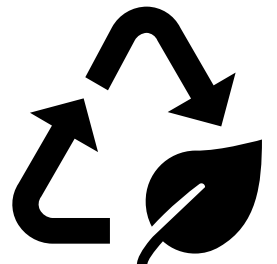


## 10,000 ft View



- Waste Diversion is Circularity in Practice:
  - Maximizes Resource Recovery
  - Minimizes Disposal
  - Extends Landfill Life
  - Reduces Long-Term Emissions
- Composting and Anaerobic Digestion create value from the end use of organics

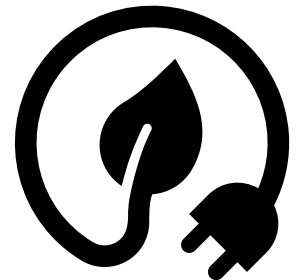
But.....



## 10,000 ft View



- Significant volumes of landfill gas will always be generated, even with organics diversion
- RNG is also Circularity in Practice:
  - Turns the gas into a resource
  - Reduces dependencies on other fuel sources
  - Offsets carbon footprint of the waste industry





# Summary



- Organics Diversion and RNG Processing are complementary strategies.
- Diversion tackles upstream organics and material recovery
- RNG processing tackles downstream energy recovery.

Together, they maximize environmental benefits.