


# Reusable New England

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Committee Member

# The waste crisis

How did we get here?



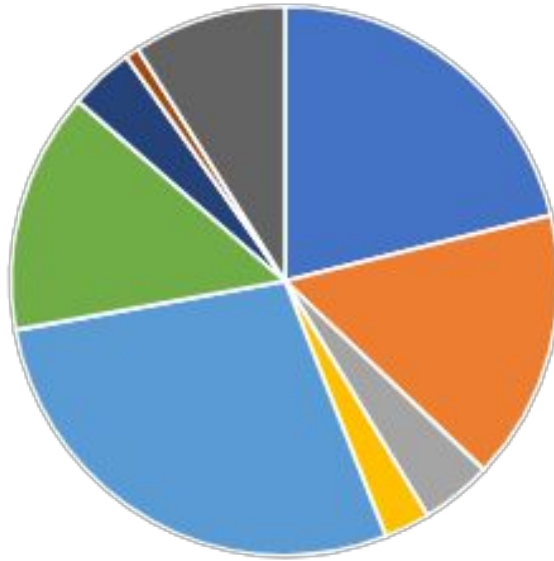
# 267.8 millions tons of trash generated in the US in 2017 alone

- Big corporations drive a single-use, convenience culture
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- No such thing as “away” for our trash



# Overall Waste Composition in Massachusetts

by Primary Material Category (2019)

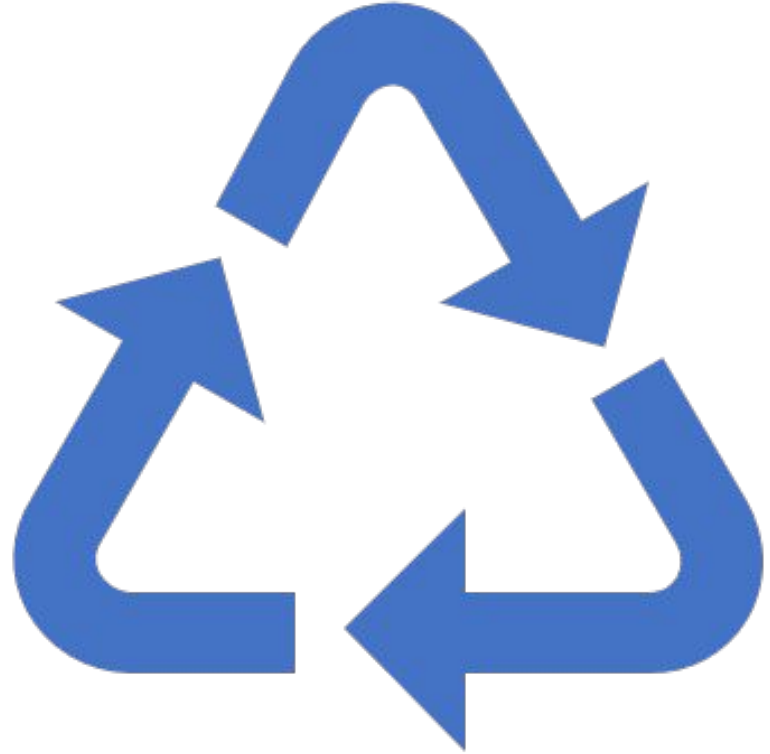


# Recycling alone is not enough

Only 9% of plastics have ever  
been recycled

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Many single-use plastics are  
not recyclable





# Plastic Pollution

- ▶ Plastic pollutes at every stage of its lifecycle
- ▶ Most is thrown “away” after one use
- ▶ Support policy that reduces plastic production

# Reusable New England

# A Reuse Coalition

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- Been working in partnership with Upstream since the start
- Officially launched last summer
- 20-25 active members from various sectors



## Organizational Structure

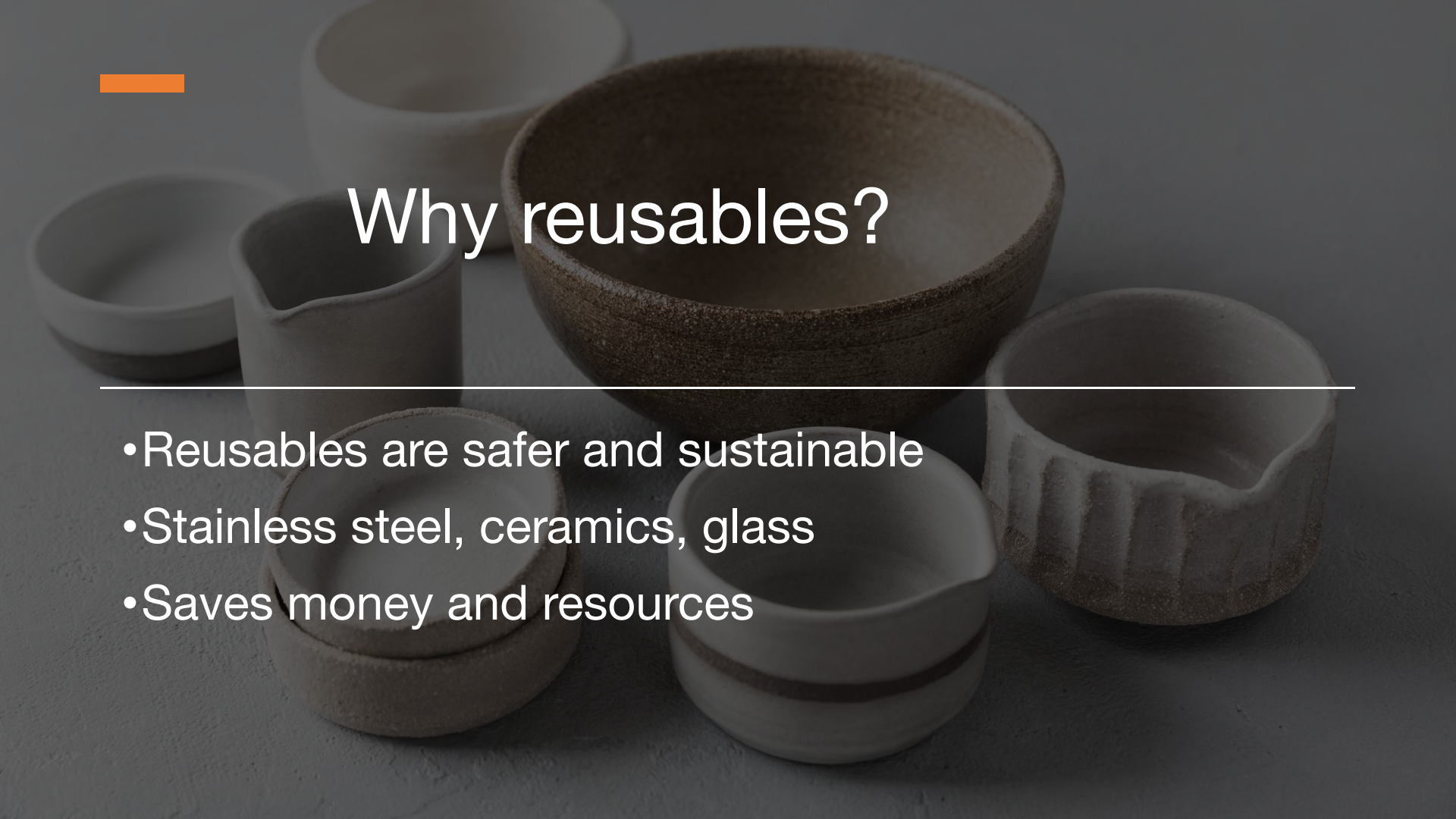
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- Organizing Committee leads RNE
- Four subcommittees
- General membership



# Normalizing Reusables

A sustainable solution



# Why reusables?

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- Reusables are safer and sustainable
- Stainless steel, ceramics, glass
- Saves money and resources

# More than single-use bans

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- What do we replace single use plastics with?
- Replacing with other single-use products doesn't reduce waste
- Goal = implement reusables as the norm

# Reuse Policy

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- Skip the Stuff- citywide ordinance for single-use plastics in restaurants
- Reusables for indoor dining
- Reusables in schools, college campuses, and workplaces

# Reuse in business

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Start-ups that make reuse easier

From coffee cups, take-out containers, and pizza delivery boxes

Makes reusables more accessible to businesses

# Local Reuse Efforts

- RNE is a hub of resources and support for reuse advocacy in the region
- World Refill Day- June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Skip the Stuff campaign



# Long Term Goals

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- Reuse as the norm in New England from cups to utensils to containers
- Reuse policy implemented on local levels
- Reuse becomes accessible and safe for more people to participate in

# Get Involved

General monthly meetings  
on Zoom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2  
PM

Join the Reusable Blitz on  
and around June 16<sup>th</sup>

Check out  
[reusablenewengland.com](https://reusablenewengland.com)

# Questions?

Contact me! [lfernandez@clf.org](mailto:lfernandez@clf.org)