

Think Green, Act Green

Practical and Scalable
Solutions for Waste
Reduction:

A Virtual Toolkit for State
Agencies



Meet Our Team



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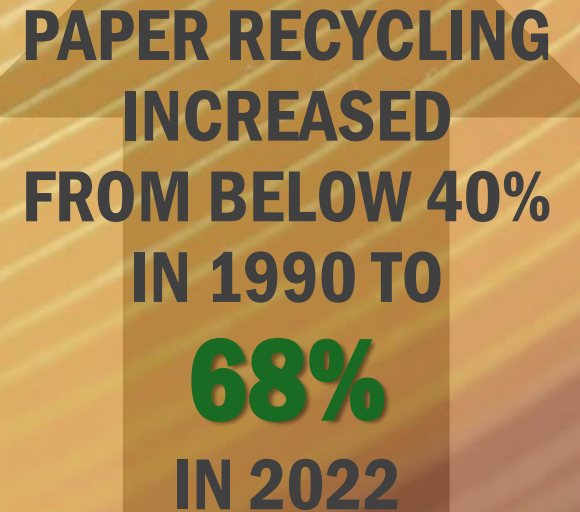
Dept. of Housing &
Community
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The Recycling Cycle



PLASTIC
IS THE MOST
UNDER CYCLED
MATERIAL WITH ONLY
6%
BEING RECYCLED IN
2022

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT
75% OF ALL WASTE
CAN BE RECYCLED,
BUT ONLY
30%
GETS RECYCLED



PAPER RECYCLING
INCREASED
FROM BELOW 40%
IN 1990 TO
68%
IN 2022

The average American throws away about

4.9 pounds of waste per day

That's nearly

1,800 pounds of waste per year!

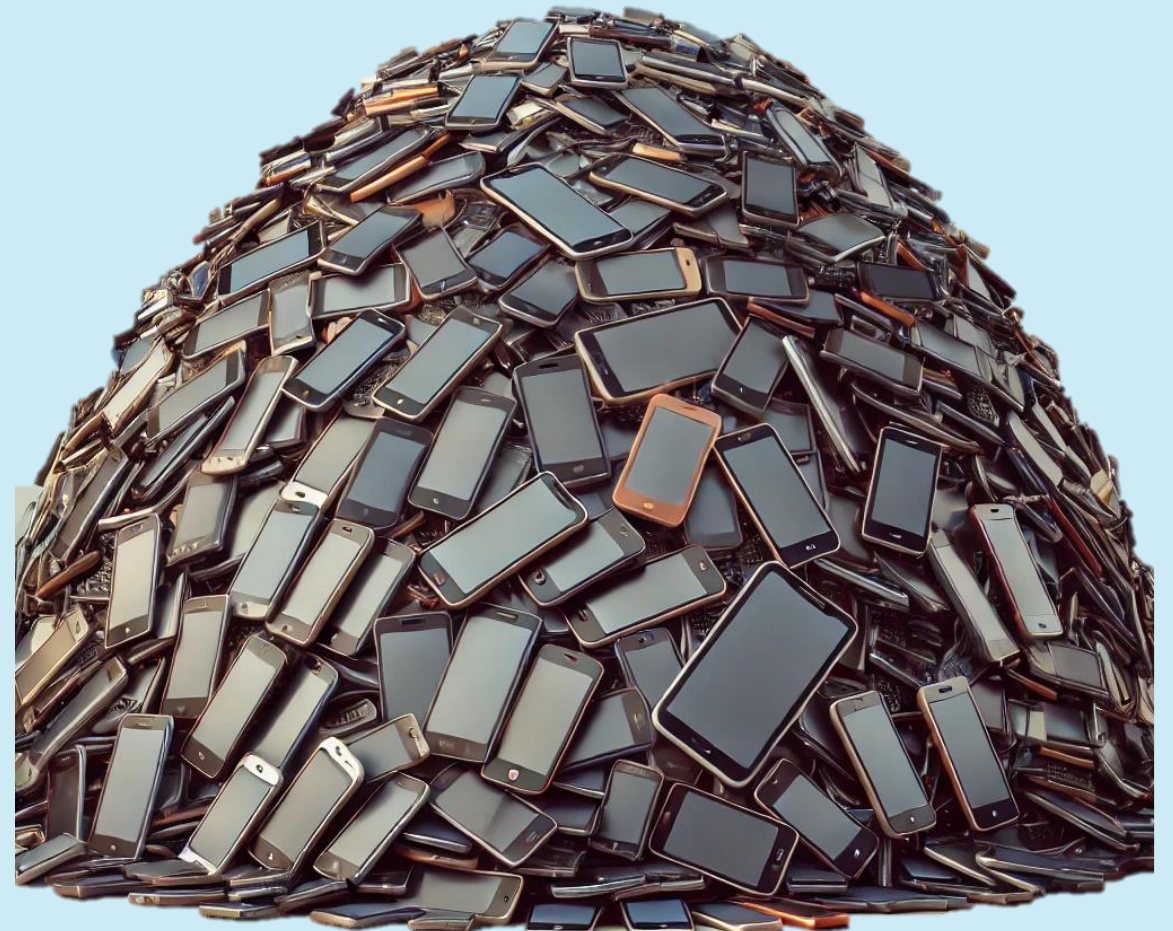


Your average cell phone weighs

½ a pound

It would take **4,364** cell phones to add up to the weight in pounds each person throws away each year

(1,800 pounds)





If you were to live to be
80 years old, that's
approximately

133

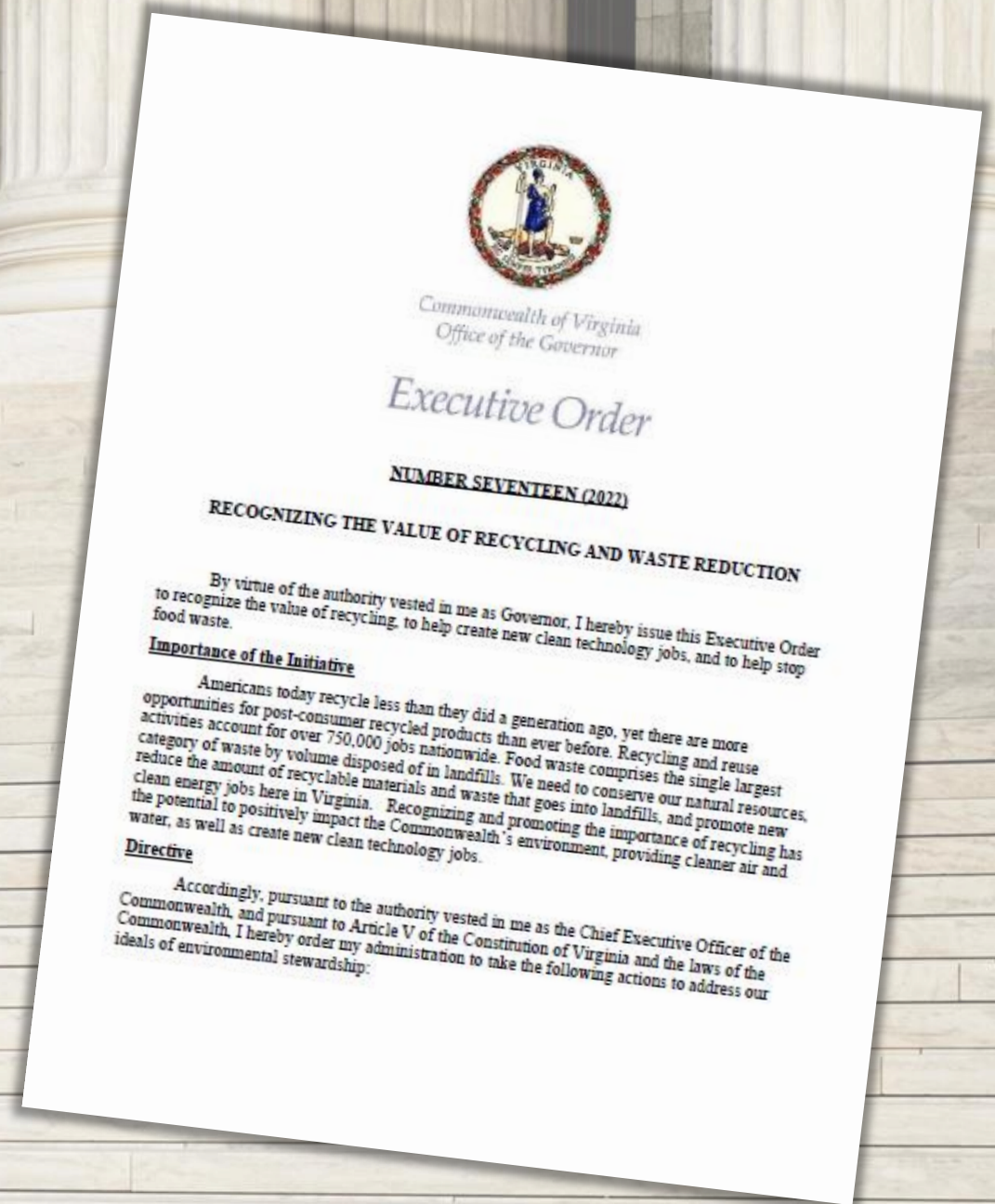
baby grand pianos

(80 tons)

Executive Order 17

Issued in 2017 to:

- Recognize and promote the value of recycling
- Create new clean technology jobs
- Reduce food waste



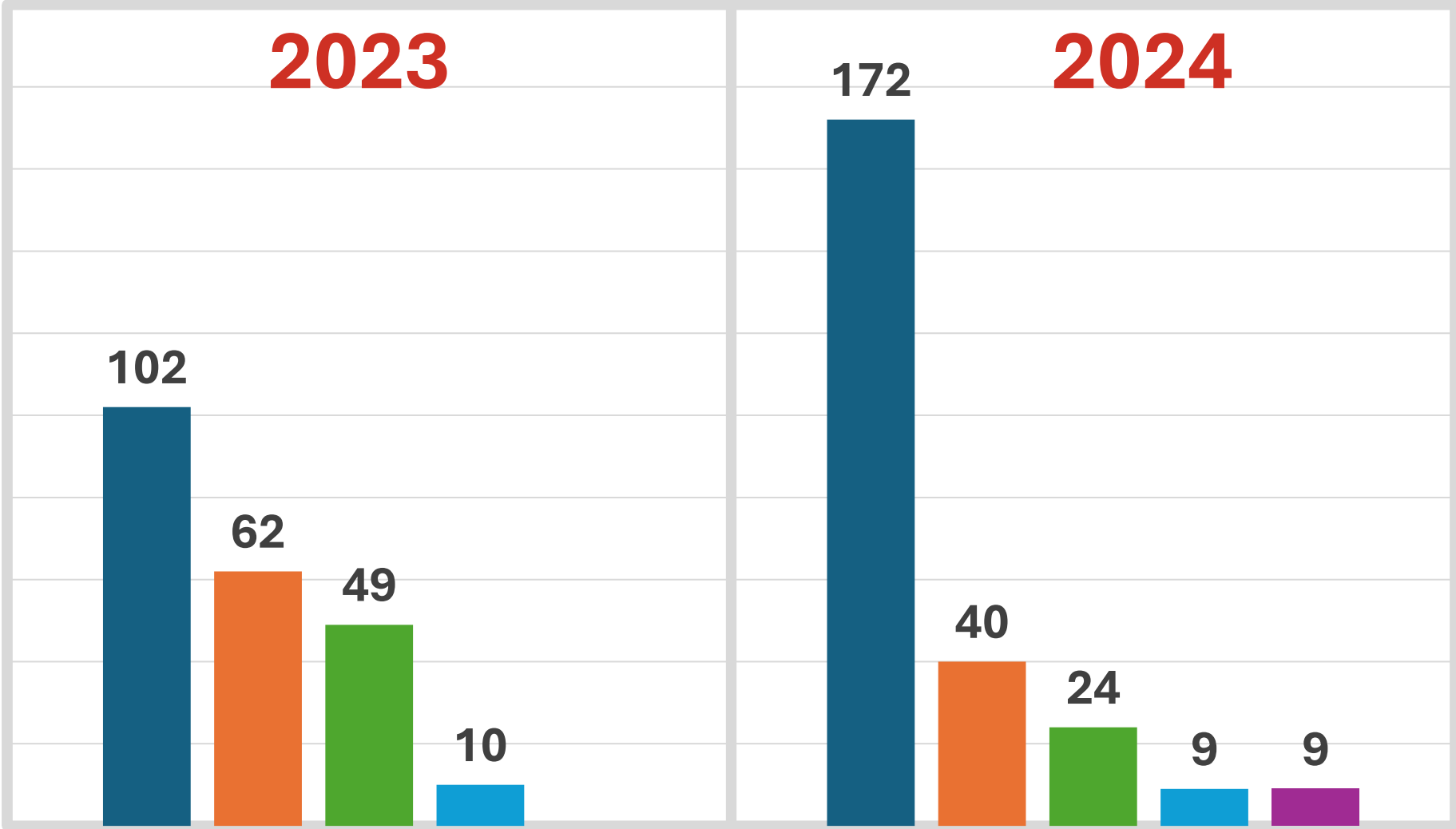


NEED FOR INCREASED **AWARENESS** OF
EO 17 AND **ACTIONABLE RESOURCES** TO
GUIDE WASTE REDUCTION EFFORTS

The Problem:

DGS Reports

- Total agencies surveyed
- Responded to Survey
- Reported having a plan
- Aware of weight of items recycled
- Plan included in new employee onboarding



Agency Priorities



When asked to rank agency priorities for recycling, the top two were:

1. More resources dedicated to recycling (ex. recycling bins or containers, incentives, higher level of priority and ingrained as a part of the agency culture)
2. Educational materials and signage regarding recycling in Virginia

Executive Order 17 Directives



Value of Recyclable
Materials



Increase
Transparency



Stopping Food
Waste



New clean
Technologies

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a smartphone. The person is wearing a dark blue, patterned button-down shirt. On their left wrist, they have a black and silver watch. On their right wrist, they have a gold-colored beaded bracelet. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Solution:
VIRTUAL TOOLKIT

How Can the Toolkit Assist?

1

Create standardized recycling awareness state-wide

3

Increase participation in recycling programs

5

Standardize waste reduction efforts across agencies

2

Create effective recycling programs, waste reduction, education and training

4

Provide necessary training and resources to implement recycling programs

6

Provide best practices for waste reduction

Where the Grass is Always Greener on BOTH Sides

A Virtual Toolkit for Sustainable Recycling Practices



Where to Start?

Practical steps to implement recycling, composting, and waste reduction protocols



Waste Audits and Calculators

Templates and tools to measure and track waste, identify inefficiencies, and set improvement goals



Sustainable Purchasing

Checklists and standards for sustainable purchasing to minimize single-use materials



Directory

Local and national recycling partners and technologies to support waste reduction programs



Resources and Guides

Educational infographics, videos, and quick reference guides to help spread awareness around recycling and its importance

Benefits



Standardization



Actionable



Measurable Impact:



Engagement

Call to Action

Locate and use recycling bins

Don't trash your soda can – recycle it

Reuse resources when possible

Save shipping boxes for future shipping needs

Be mindful of waste

Reuse non-confidential paper for notes



Participate

Call to Action



**Promote
Awareness**

Ask about your agency's recycling program

Share with staff and colleagues

Host workshops or lunch-and-learns

Explore ways to expand current programs

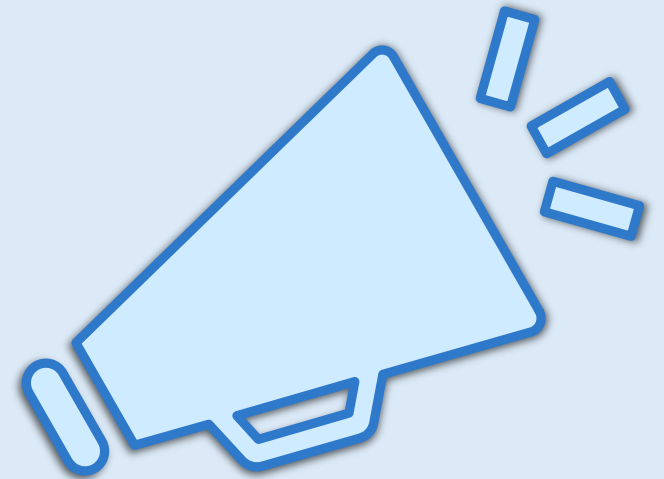
Call to Action

Share this presentation

This can get your agency started on creating or enhancing their recycling program

Share the link to the toolkit

Be on the lookout for when it goes live



Share

The background features a repeating pattern of colorful speech bubbles in shades of orange, yellow, pink, and white, each containing a blue question mark. The bubbles are scattered across a light blue background.

Questions

Appendix

[Executive Order
17 \(2022\)](#)

[2023 Progress
Report to EO 17](#)

[2024 Progress
Report to EO 17](#)