



Solving the problem: Debris Management in Louisiana

LRA Environmental Committee

Sponsored by
Advocates for a
Greenzone Task
Force

All Congregations Together
Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East
Louisiana Environmental Action Network
National Resource Defense Council
Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club
Mercy Corps
Alliance for Affordable Energy

Hurricane Debris

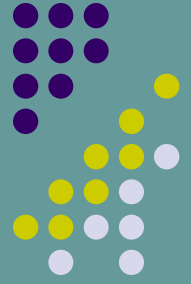
- FEMA estimates 30,000 houses just in New Orleans need to be demolished or substantially rebuilt.
- Army Corps of Engineers estimate 12.5 million cubic yards of debris left for demolition

**What are our
options?**



Let's look at what is
happening now.

Current debris management practices



Bury Construction and Demolition Debris in Landfills.

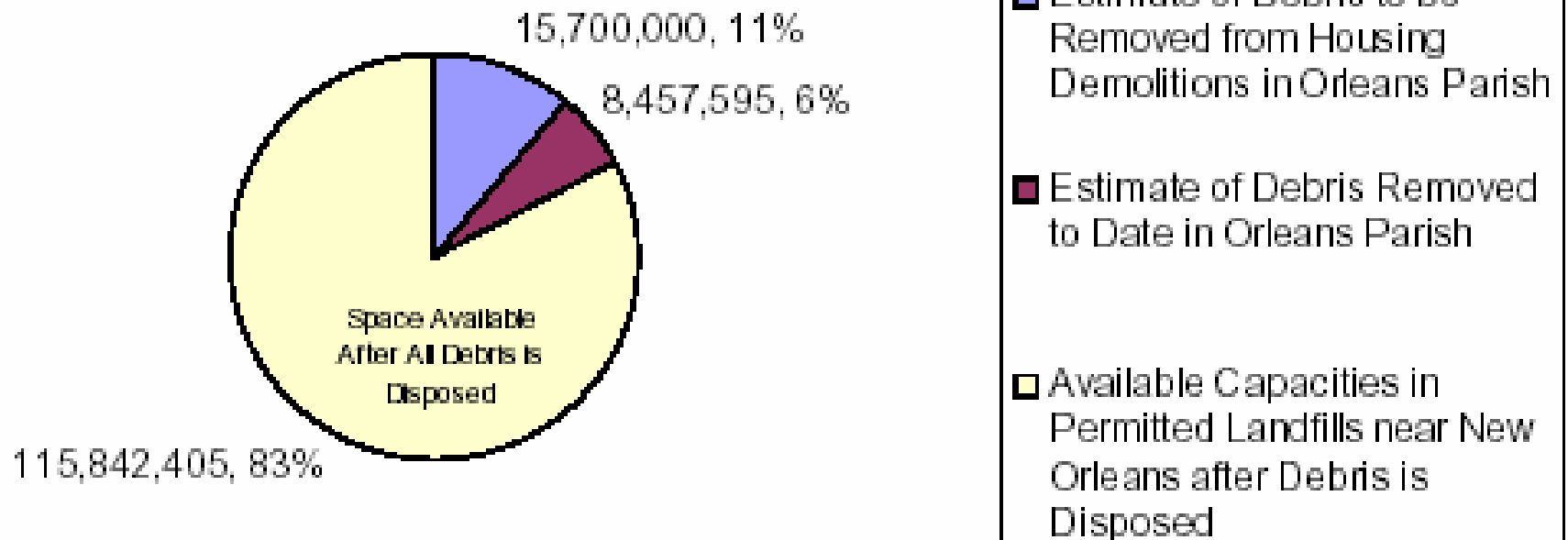
Burn organic waste.

Grind organic waste.

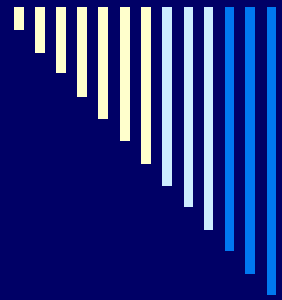
Current debris management:

Includes opening new landfills, yet capacity in existing was never an issue

Capacities in Permitted Landfills near New Orleans (cubic yards)



Pros and Cons
of
the current
debris
management
practices.



Pros

- Clear out the neighborhoods quickly
- Landfill owners will receive large fees



Cons

- ❑ Landfill capacity for region fills up
 - ❑ Does not provide living wage jobs
 - ❑ Dust from demolition endangers health of neighborhoods
 - ❑ No clear separation of hazardous materials
 - ❑ More illegal dumps (23 in New Orleans to date)
 - ❑ Recycling industry jobs and tax revenue lost
 - ❑ Opportunity for progressive change lost
-

Opportunities are
being missed to
generate revenue

Separation of Debris Versus Whole House Demolition

- Allows better control over hazardous materials
- Encourages reuse of materials
- Will benefit our region

Deconstruction

- Deconstruction- process of dismantling structure with intent of extracting reusable materials
- These include
 - bricks
 - cinderblock
 - metals from roofing and appliances
 - copper wire and piping
 - asphalt roofing
 - clean lumber and woody debris
 - plastic
 - glass
 - ceramics
 - concrete

Deconstruction Benefits

- Benefits to deconstruction process:
 - Create new job market: six living wage jobs compared to one demolition worker
 - Diverts as much as 50% to existing landfills
 - Generates revenue to local economy by providing affordable rebuilding materials, sales tax revenues
 - Provides safe identification and removal of hazardous materials

New Construction Debris Recycling Is Not A New Field

- Comprehensive guidelines have been created for major municipalities across the country
- Contractor saves money by conserving materials
- Savings passed on to Homeowner
- Debris is recycled and used to build other homes (sheet rock, aggregate, wood)

Recycling Demolition and New Construction Debris


Required by law in other states
Encouraged by the EPA since 1995

Green Matter Composting

- Protects against methane build up in landfills
- Provides a public service of picking up landscape debris and some household food waste
- Returns useable compost that can be used to restore wetlands, neighborhood parks, plant neutral grounds and help residents re-landscape their properties.

Alternative fuel

Cutting edge industry
Converting Bio-waste to Fuel

A person wearing a white lab coat and a white cap is working in a laboratory. They are holding a piece of equipment, possibly a pipette or a small container, and are looking down at it. The background is slightly blurred, showing other laboratory equipment and a clean, professional environment.

Curbside Household Recycling

- Reduces landfill waste
- Produces jobs and revenue
- Benefits neighborhoods
- Makes sense

The background of the slide features a pattern of stylized autumn leaves in various shades of brown and orange, set against a darker brown gradient background. The leaves are scattered across the frame, with some showing detailed vein patterns.

What can the LRA do to help put Louisiana on a progressive path?

Help from LRA

- Encourage the Governor to create a blue ribbon panel that would include industry, government, legislative, environmental non profits and citizen groups to develop a state-wide comprehensive debris plan with a short term goal to address the hurricane recovery issues of demolishing and rebuilding.

The Panel's Mandate

- Make “waste” management a state priority for recovery and to plan for the future.
- Create rewards for parishes and municipalities to divert a percentage of their waste to recyclers instead of landfills
- Create tax incentives for recycling industries to be created in Louisiana
- Create incentives for homeowners and contractors to recycle worksite debris