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# Waste Classification:

*Using Neural  
Networks*



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# Why Garbage?

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- 292.4 million tons generated in 2018  
146.1 million ended up in landfills
- 4.9 lbs generated per person  
Up 33.8% from 3.3 lbs in 1980
- Global issue – land, water, air pollution  
Risk of contamination and toxins



# What Can Be Done?

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- Motivation: Create a deep learning model environmental and waste management industries can leverage to improve recycling efforts  
Waste Management & Republic Services



- Goal: Identify whether an object is organic or recyclable  
With high accuracy up from 67.5%



# Data & Methodology

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- Organic vs Recyclable

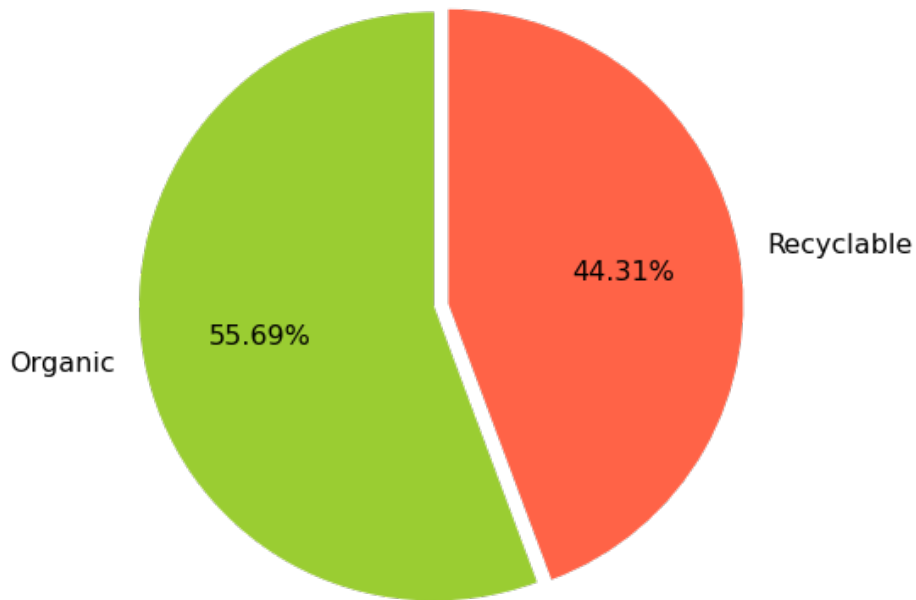
25K+ Total Images

22K+ Training

2500+ Test

- Various images & sizes

Width x Height x RGB



# Data & Methodology



Organic Waste



Organic Waste



Organic Waste



Organic Waste



Organic Waste



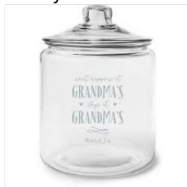
Recyclable Waste



Recyclable Waste



Recyclable Waste



Organic Waste



- Image Augmentation  
Rescale & Resize
- Reshape Input Values  
2D  $\rightarrow$  1D
- Train, Validation, Test  
Datasets



# Findings & Results

Model Type	Parameters	Accuracy	Loss
Non-Deep Learning Random Forests	-	62.5%	-
Non-Deep Learning Logistic Regression	-	62.5%	-
Feed Forward Neural Net	3,932,401	86.4%	37.5%
Convolutional Network #1	4,129,505	82.5%	56.7%
Convolutional Network #2	4,200,163	82.6%	40.8%

○ **Activation**

ReLU & Sigmoid

○ **Loss Function**

Binary Cross-Entropy

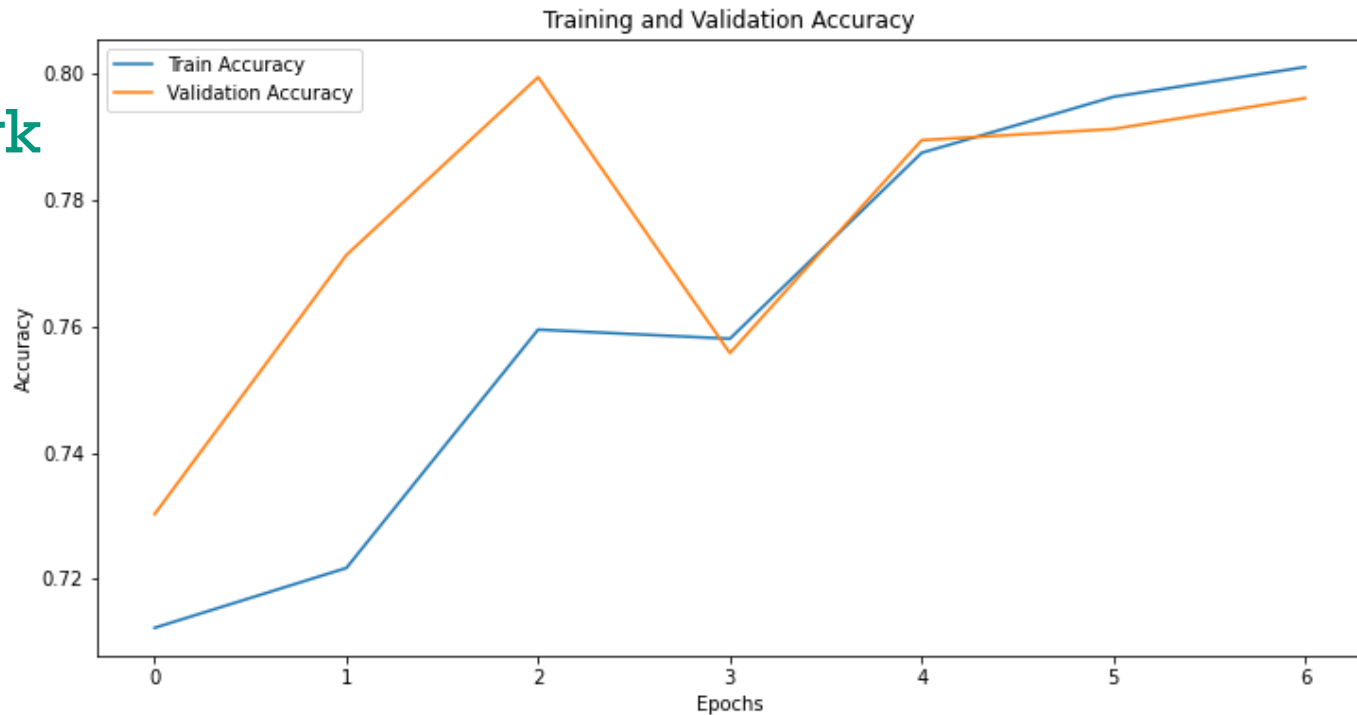
○ **Optimizer**

Adam



# Findings & Results

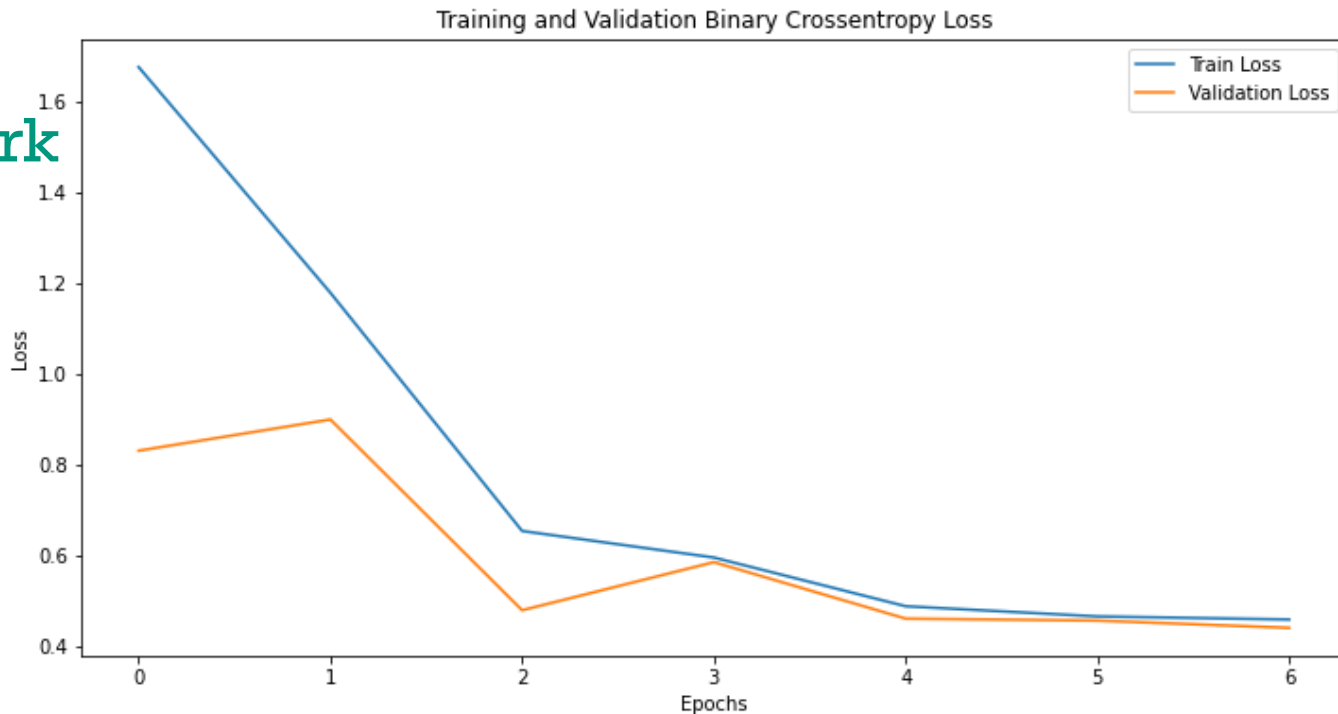
## ○ Feed Forward Neural Network Accuracy





# Findings & Results

## ○ Feed Forward Neural Network Loss





# Conclusion

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- Best performing model:  
Feed Forward Neural Network
- What does this mean?  
Additional modeling required as  
CNNs are expected to perform better

# Potential Future Work

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- CNN Optimization  
VGG-16, Inception, ResNet
- Transfer Learning  
ImageNet
- Autoencoders, Transformers,  
Reinforcement Learning, GANs



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A yellow sun is partially obscured by a grey cloud on the right side. Several other grey clouds of various shapes are scattered across the upper half of the slide.

# Thank You Questions?

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The bottom of the slide features a row of green hills. On the left, two wind turbines are visible. On the right, two more wind turbines are visible. The hills are in shades of green and teal.

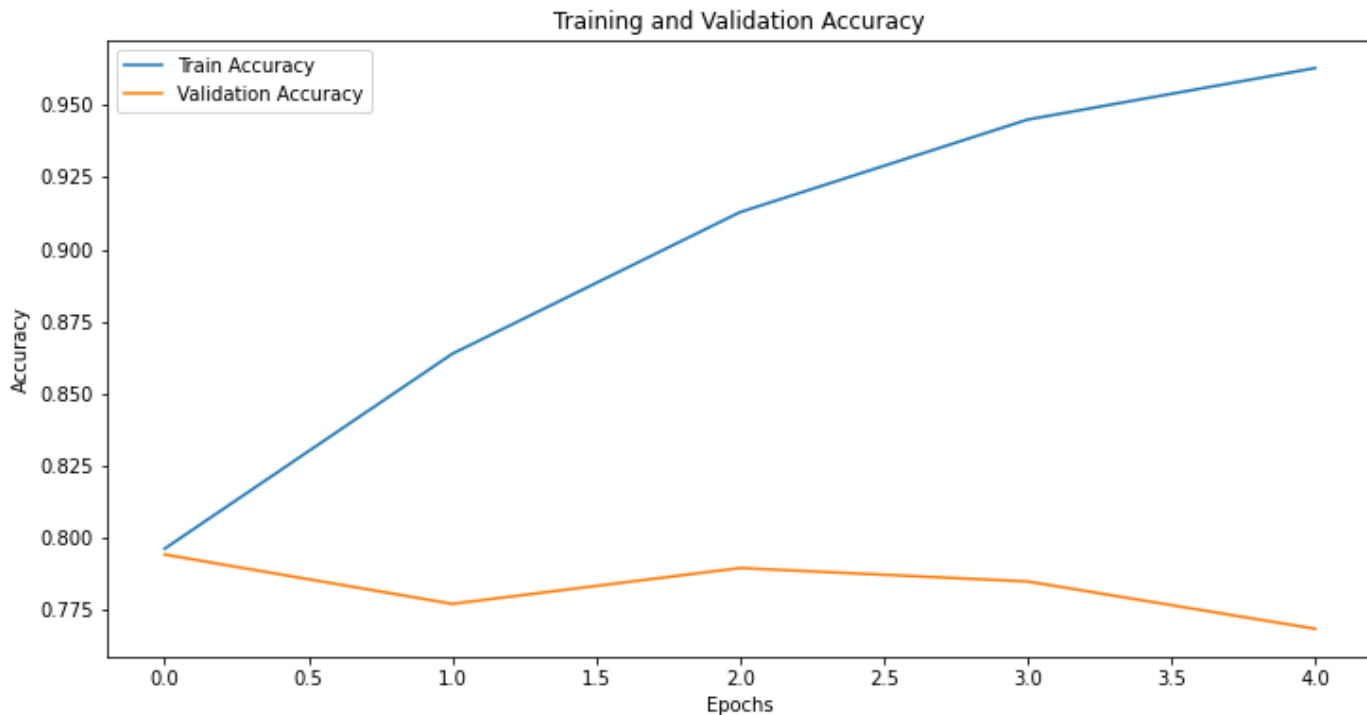
metis 2022 sep

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# Appendix

## ○ CNN #1 Accuracy





# Appendix

○ CNN #1  
Loss





# Appendix

## ○ CNN #2 Accuracy





# Appendix

○ CNN #2  
Loss

