NYC's TRASH

Concept, Process and Project

NYC Generates a LOT of trash

3 million tons

of trash a year

Of this, only 16% is recycled

280 tons sent to Paper

215 tons sent to Metal, Glass, Palastic

The rest is sent to landfills

2.5 million tons

of refuse

But over 20% of landfill trash could have been recycled

- 260 thousand tons of refuse are actually MGP

- 300 thousand tons of refuse are actually Paper

Project

Defining Trash - Ideal vs. Reality

Defining Trash: Ideal vs Reality

Define Ideal: how should trash be categorized?

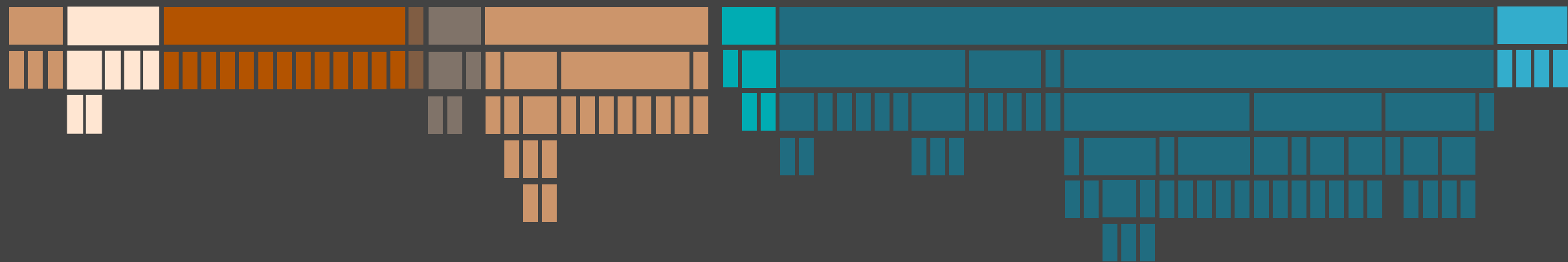**Define Reality:** how does NYC actually categorize their trash?

Ideal: how should trash be categorized?

From 2013 Waste Characterization Study:

Trash is divided into: Refuse and Targeted Recycling

Targeted Recycling is divided into Paper and MGP (Metal, Glass, Plastic)

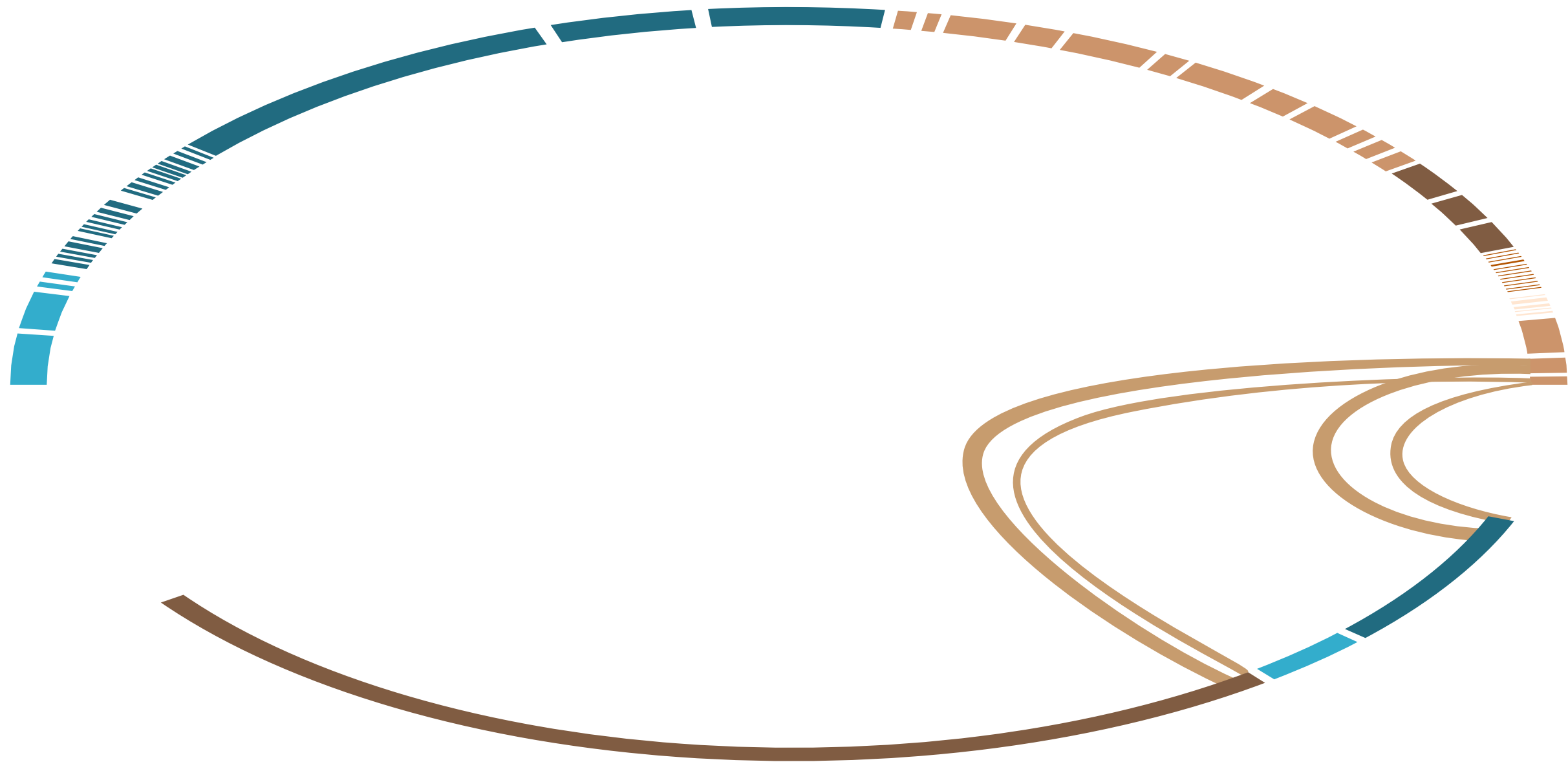# Ideal: In total, 80 different categories of trash

Size of square equal for each category

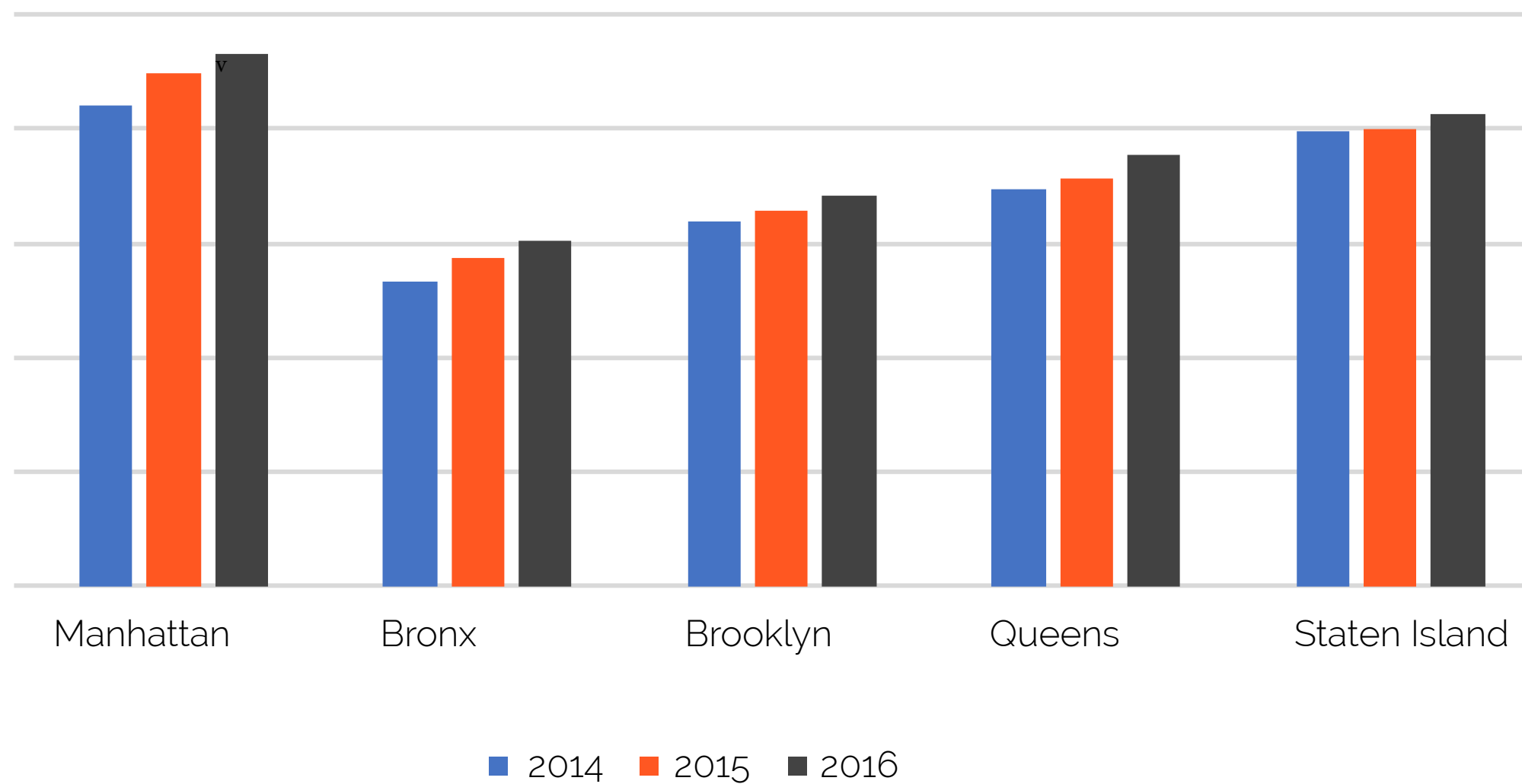# Not all categories are equally distributed.

Size of square dependant on number of tons of that category

Reality: how does NYC actually categorize their trash?

Forcast: Things Getting Better?

Diversion Rate (Recycling/Recycling + Refuse) by Borough

Manhattan   Bronx   Brooklyn   Queens   Staten Island

■ 2014   ■ 2015   ■ 2016

Forcast: Things Getting Better?

Diversion rate (from trash to recycling) increasing by 1% each year.

2013 Diversion Rate: 16%
2014: 17%
2015: 18%
2016: 19%

But... to get to Zero Waste to landfills will take another 80 years at this rate.

Forcast: Things Getting Better?

New programs already in place in NYC:
Organic Waste Pilot Program (Food is 31% of trash)
Electronics Recycling Program (E-Waste is 1% of trash)
Textile drop off (Textiles are 6& of trash)

Suggestions based on Reality Taxonomy?
Focus on:
    Rigid Plastic Containers/Packaging (11% or MGP and 83% miscategorized)
    #1 PET Bottles (10% of MGP and 54% miscategorized)
    Alumunum cans, foil, and other (6% of MGP and 79% miscategorized)