

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



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From 2013 Waste Characterization Study:

Trash is divided into: Refuse and Targeted Recycling



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



Metal

Glass

Plastic

(Paper designated as MGP)

Ideal: how should trash be categorized?

From 2013 Waste Characterization Study:

Trash is divided into: Refuse and Targeted Recycling



Refuse is divided into: Construction & Demolition E-Waste Special Waste
Plastic Bags Textiles Other Organics Suitable for Composting

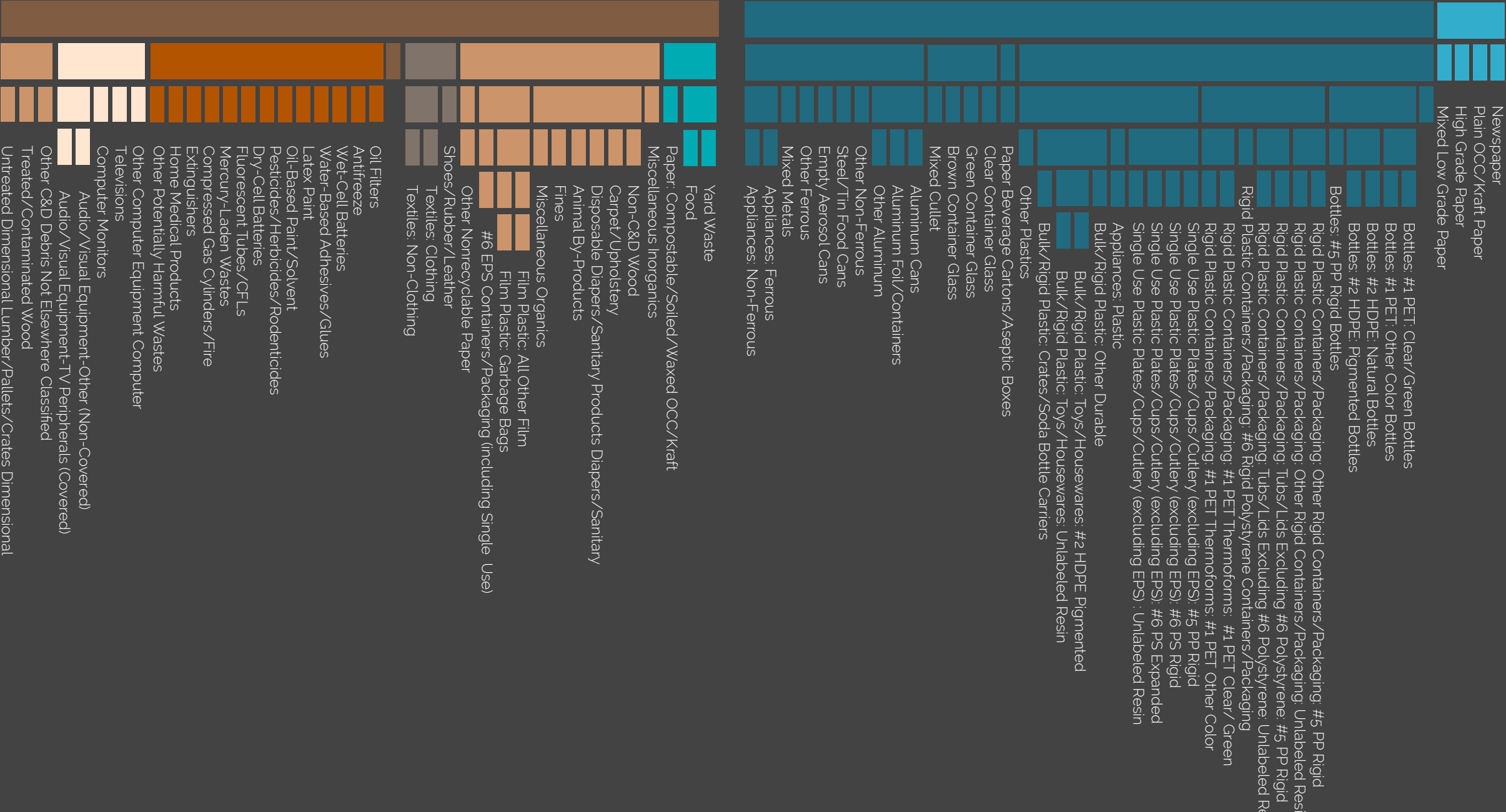


Ideal: In total, 80 different categories of trash



Size of square equal for each category

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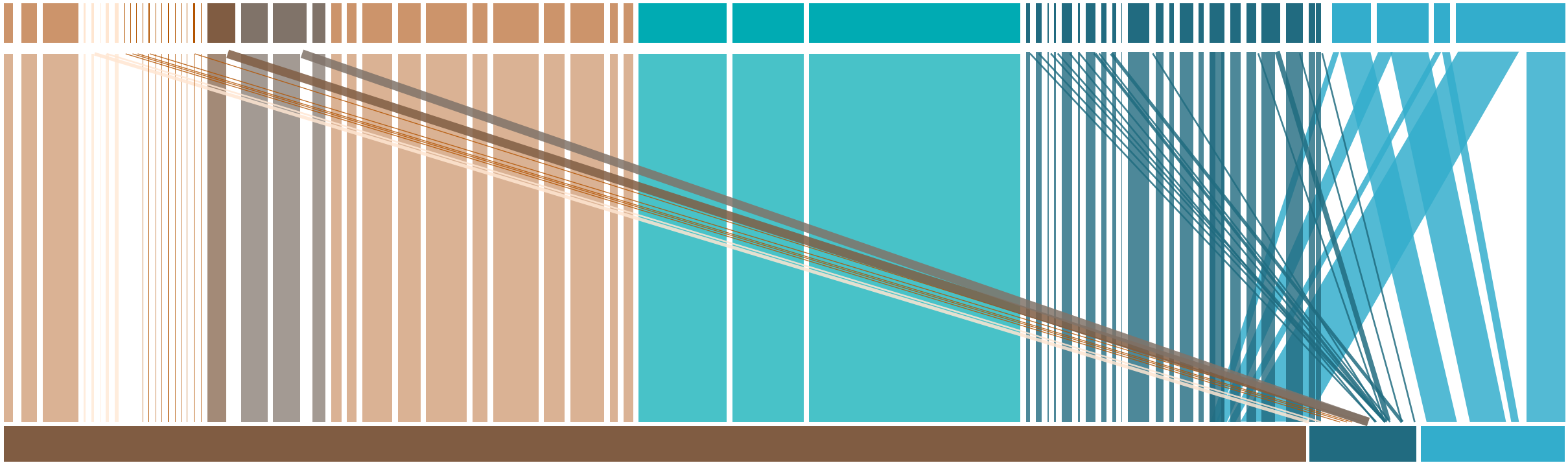


Not all categories are equally distributed.

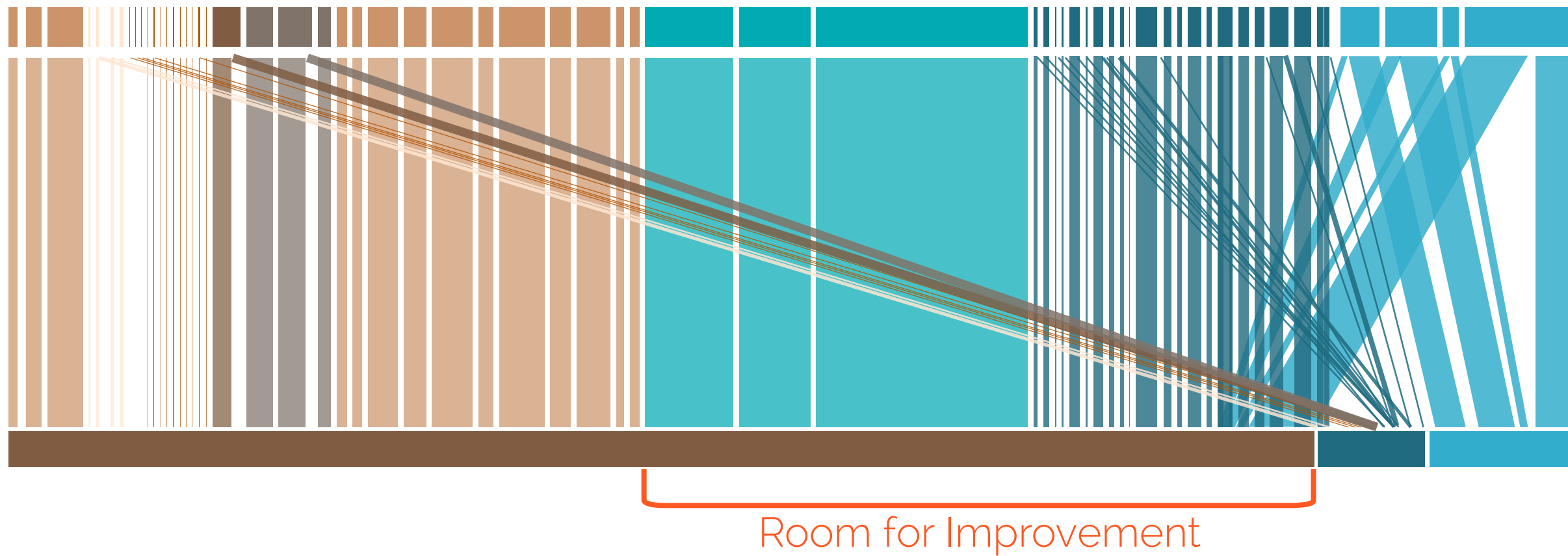


Size of square dependant on number of tons of that category

Reality: how does NYC actually categorize their trash?

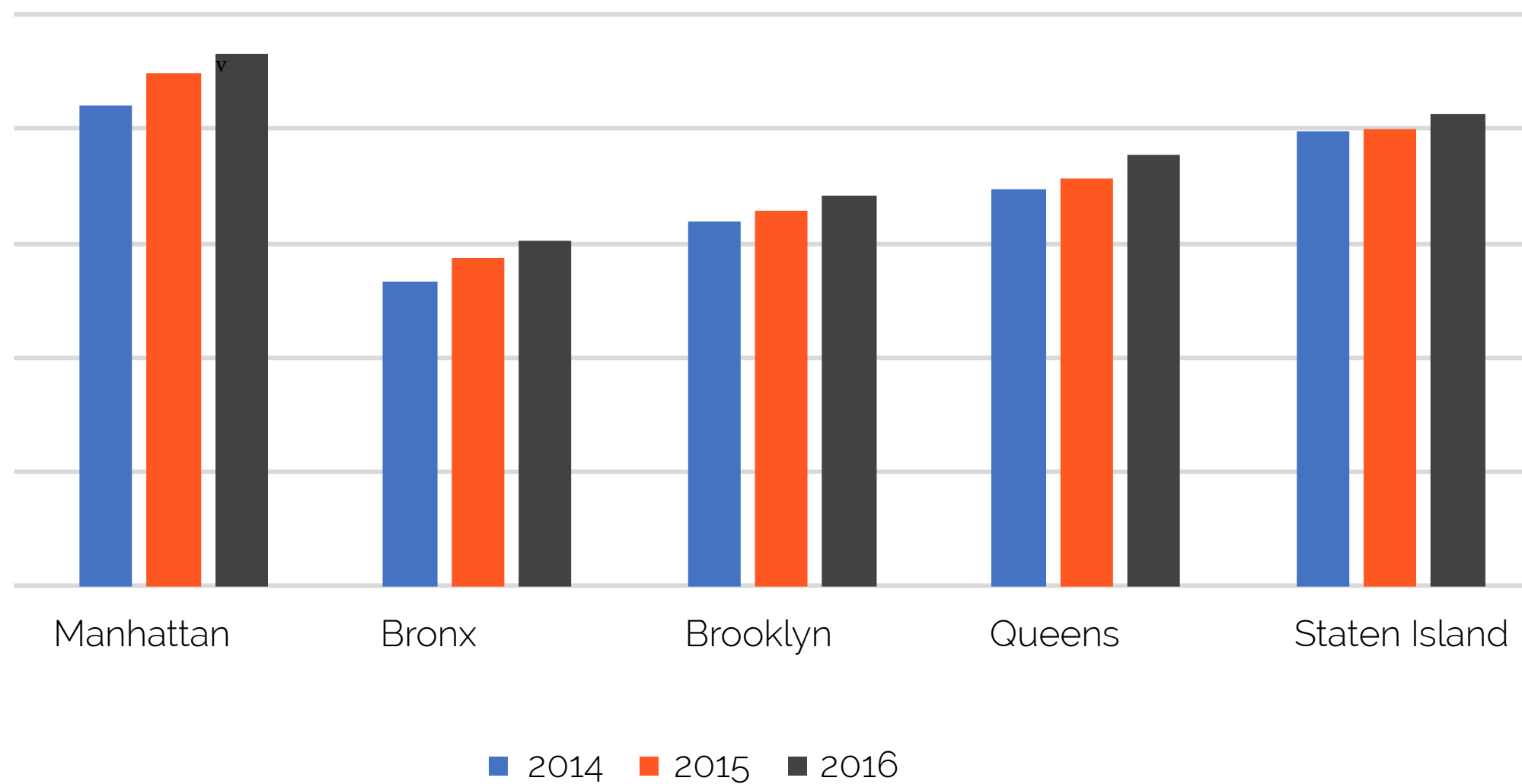


Reality: how does NYC actually categorize their trash?



Forecast: Things Getting Better?

Diversion Rate (Recycling/Recycling + Refuse) by Borough



Forecast: 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.

Forecast: 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% of MGP and 83% miscategorized)

#1 PET Bottles (10% of MGP and 54% miscategorized)

Aluminum cans, foil, and other (6% of MGP and 79% miscategorized)