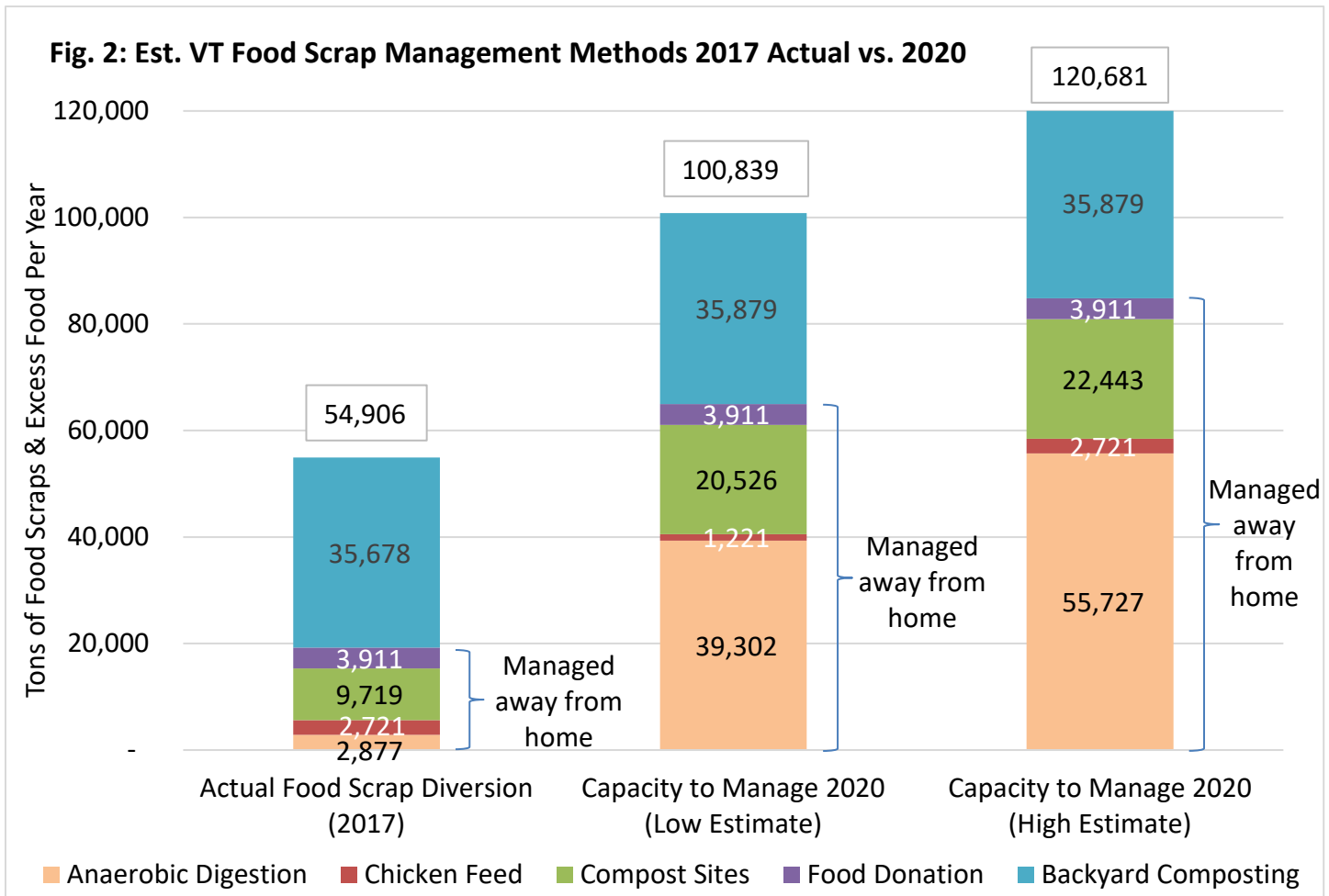
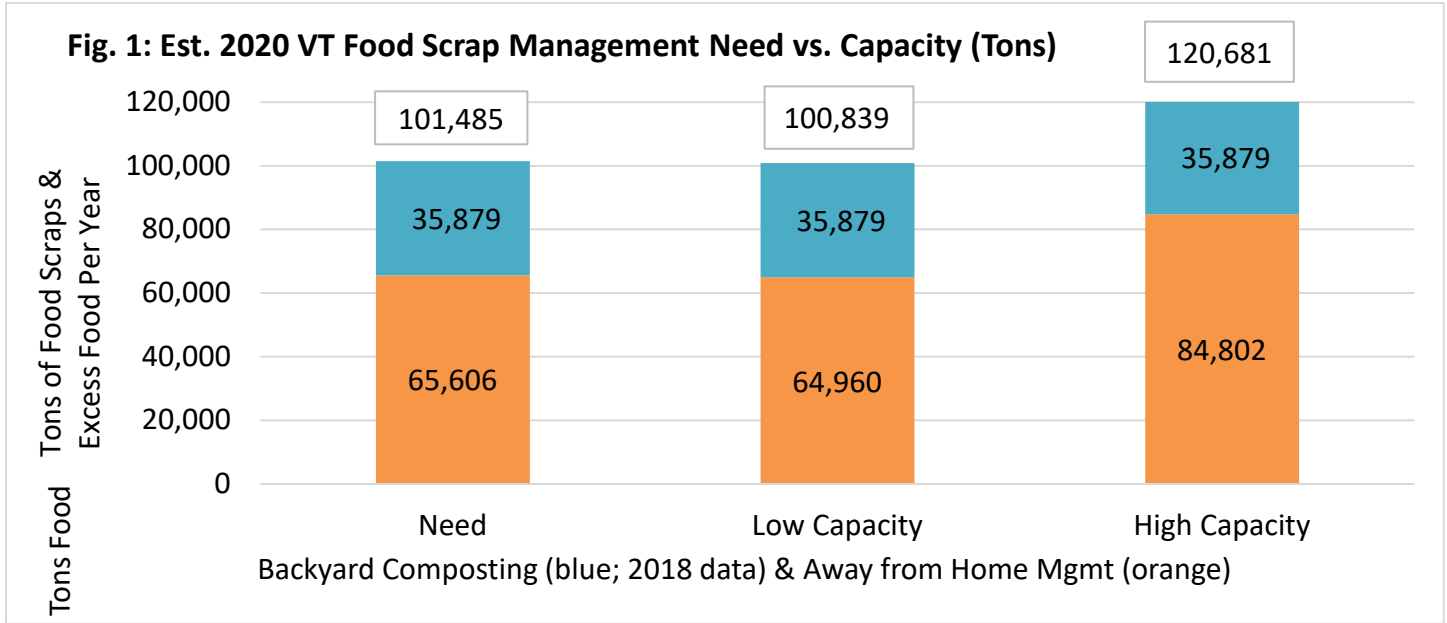


Food Scraps & Excess Food Management in Vermont

Diversion from Landfills

After the July 1, 2020 landfill ban on food waste, ANR estimates that Vermont will need to manage about 100,000 tons of food scraps and will have the capacity to manage between 100,000-120,000 tons of food scraps and excess food per year. Note caveats on the second page.



2017 Backyard Composting estimate calculated with 2018 updated Home Composting Survey methodology (see 2018 D&D Report for details).

Caveats to these estimates:

- 1. New/expanded management capacity could be significant.** Several anaerobic digester (AD) projects in and out of state were not part of this analysis. More pre-processing options may be available soon.
- 2. Food waste reduction could reduce the amount of material that needs management.** An Oregon study recently found that ~70% of food composted or thrown away at home could have been eaten (if eaten before it went bad). Businesses save money when they reduce waste and more are focusing on measuring and reducing waste.
- 3. Food donation capacity could increase.** Donations of excess food to the VT Foodbank almost tripled from 2014 to 2017. The actual amount of excess food donated to the VT Foodbank in 2018 was used to estimate 2020 capacity rather than an assumed increase.
- 4. It is difficult to quantify the amount of food scraps fed to animals** because there is no reporting of what's being fed to animals to ANR or other agencies.
- 5. Home composting and community composting are underestimated.** The 2020 capacity estimates use the 2018 estimate of actual home composting, so the capacity is likely higher, but hard to estimate.
- 6. Small farm composting is underestimated and has increased in recent years.**
- 7. 60% diversion is optimistic.** The [2013 Systems Analysis](#) estimated that 60% of previously disposed food scraps would need processing in 2020, however study authors acknowledge this is “an extremely aggressive diversion rate and that despite the ban, significant quantities of food residuals and other organics will still be going to the landfill”.