



Environmental Review Commission  
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*Capacity of North Carolina Landfills - NCDEQ's Annual Report*

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Annual Report to the  
North Carolina  
General Assembly



**Division of Waste Management**

April 15, 2022

N.C. Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Waste Management  
<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management>

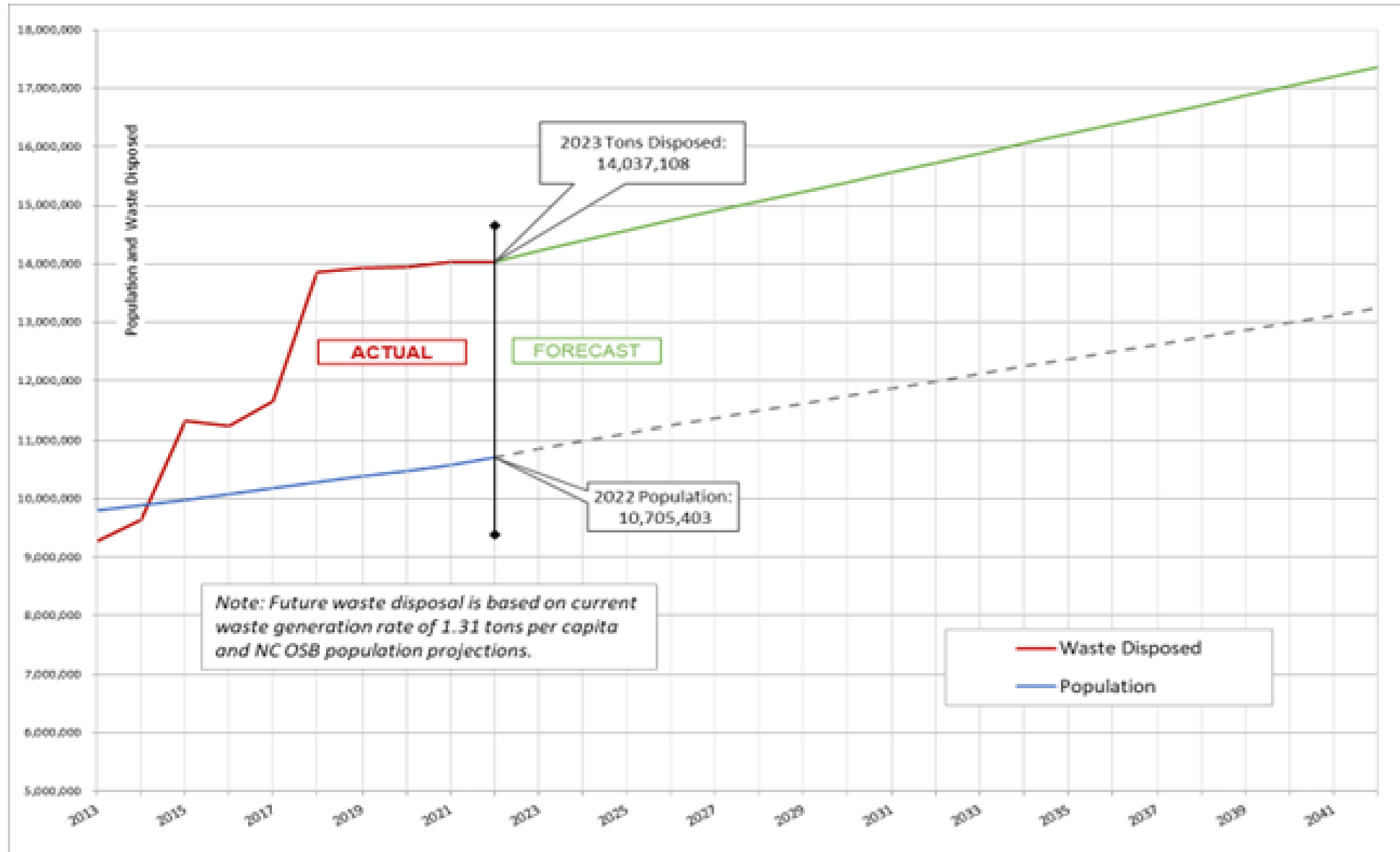
## ► Summary of Key Findings (FY22-23)

- North Carolina generated 14.04 million tons of waste.
- NC Landfills disposed 13.7\* million tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Construction & Demolition (C&D) solid waste (incl. imported out-of-state waste).
- MSW landfill remaining volume is 360 million cubic yards.
- Average MSW landfill life is approximately 28 years.

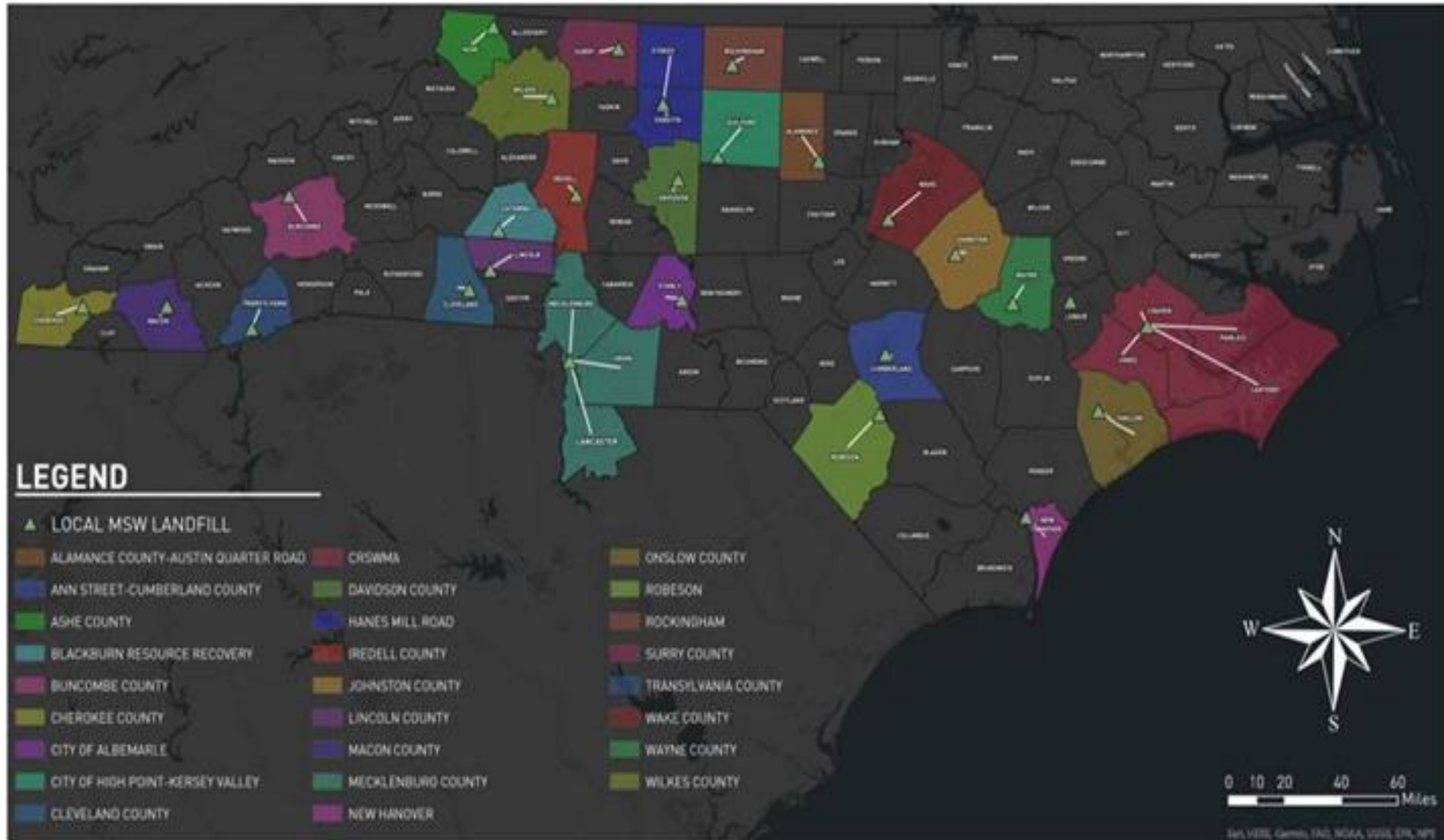
\* Exported Disposal totaled 0.48 million tons.



# MSW Disposal Trends in Landfills



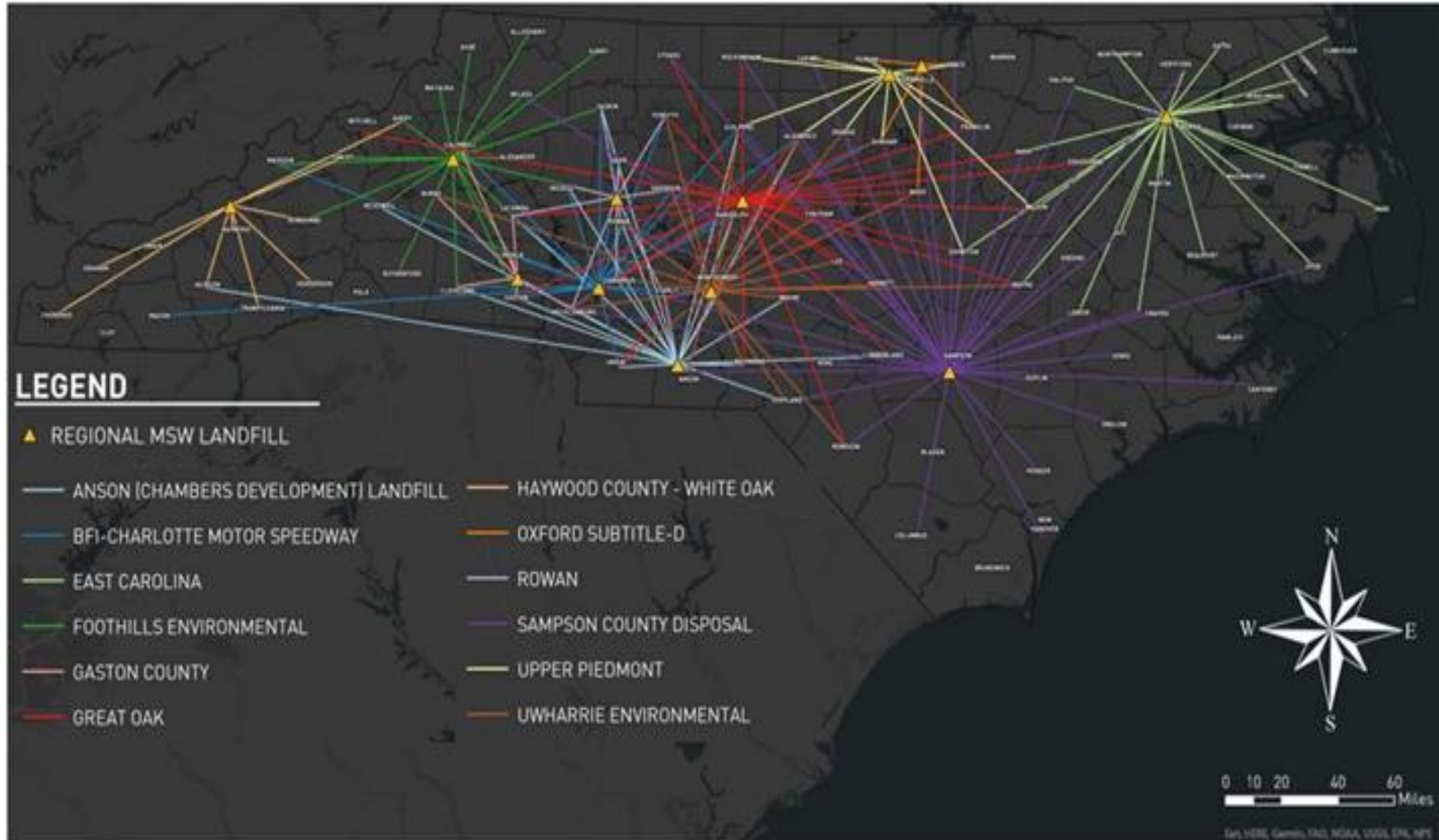
# Local Landfills Service Area



\* Four (4) landfills permitted as a "Regional" landfill that accept waste from one (1) county.



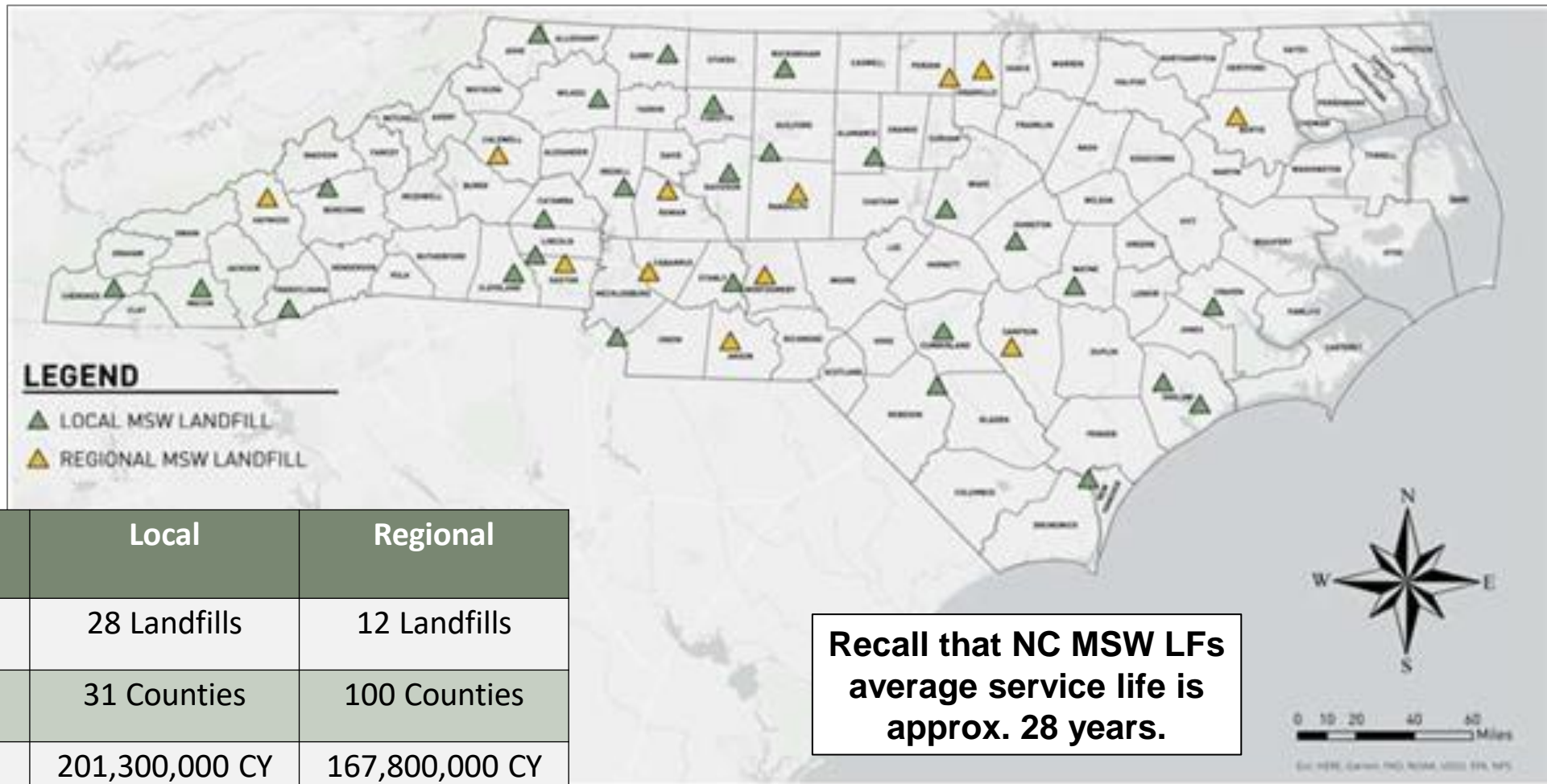
# Regional Landfills Service Area



*\*Not all landfills may accept waste from all 100 counties. Regional LF's as a whole may serve all NC.*

# Statistics of Local and Regional Landfills

Average Age of a NC MSW is 25.6 years.



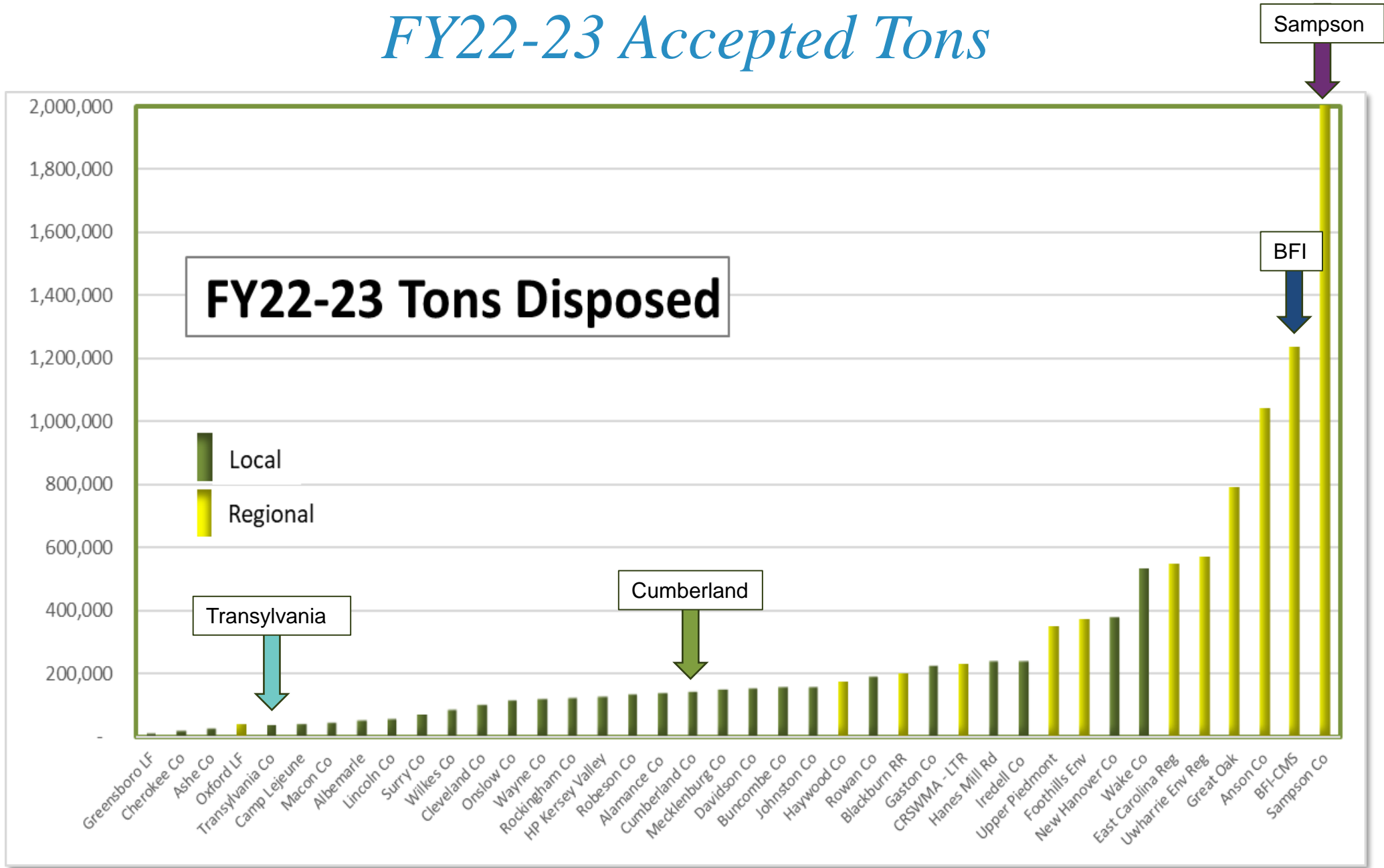
	Local	Regional
Quantity	28 Landfills	12 Landfills
Service Area (NC only)	31 Counties	100 Counties
Remaining Capacity	201,300,000 CY	167,800,000 CY
FY22-23 Waste Acceptance	4,022,000 TN	7,558,000 TN

\*Closure timelines assume FY22-23 reported acceptance (i.e., straight-line).

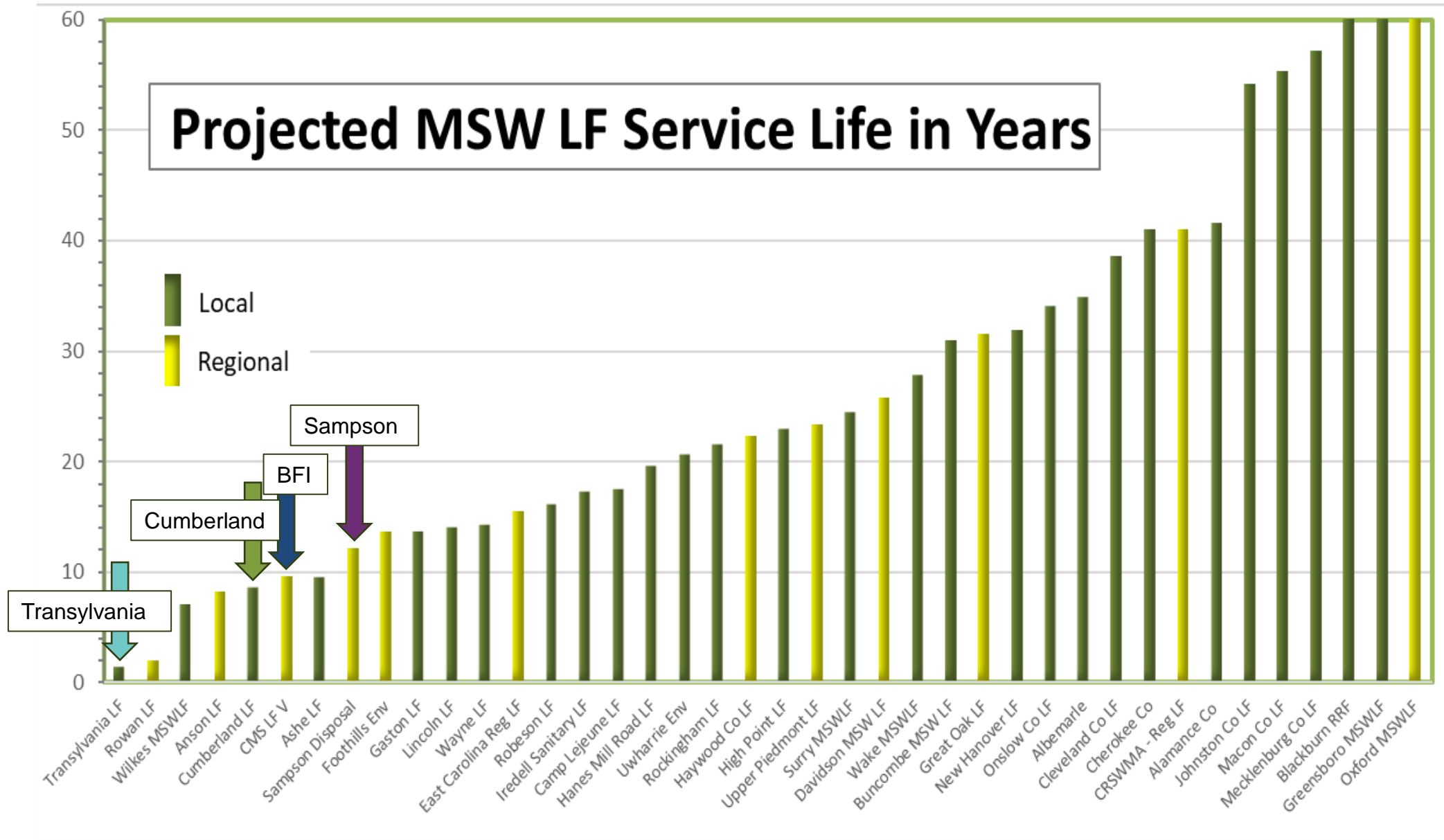
\*\*Remaining capacity does not include Lenoir, White Street, or Camp Lejeune.



# FY22-23 Accepted Tons



# MSW Landfill Projected Service Life







# *Landfill Size and Life*

- The impact of size and life is difficult to project.
  - i.e. Sampson County accepts 15% of the state's waste. Where does it go when they are done?
- All landfill service areas and life are a function of local government approval/franchise.
- Significant capacity is controlled by local governments that choose not to accept out-of-county waste
- Numbers will be affected by changes in C&D volumes and life or other changes.
- Landfill capacity is currently an economic driver but could quickly become the Achilles heel in certain parts of the state.



## *Next Steps*

- 10-Year Solid Waste and Material Management Plan will focus on obstacles to landfill expansion.
- Plan will address other waste management options like composting, increased diversion for recycling, or waste-to-energy.
- The Department continues to monitor the capacity and seeks to be an early alert to looming capacity issues.
- A waste diversion goal with meaningful ramifications is recommended.
- Local governments should increase waste diversion and disposal planning.



*Questions?*

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