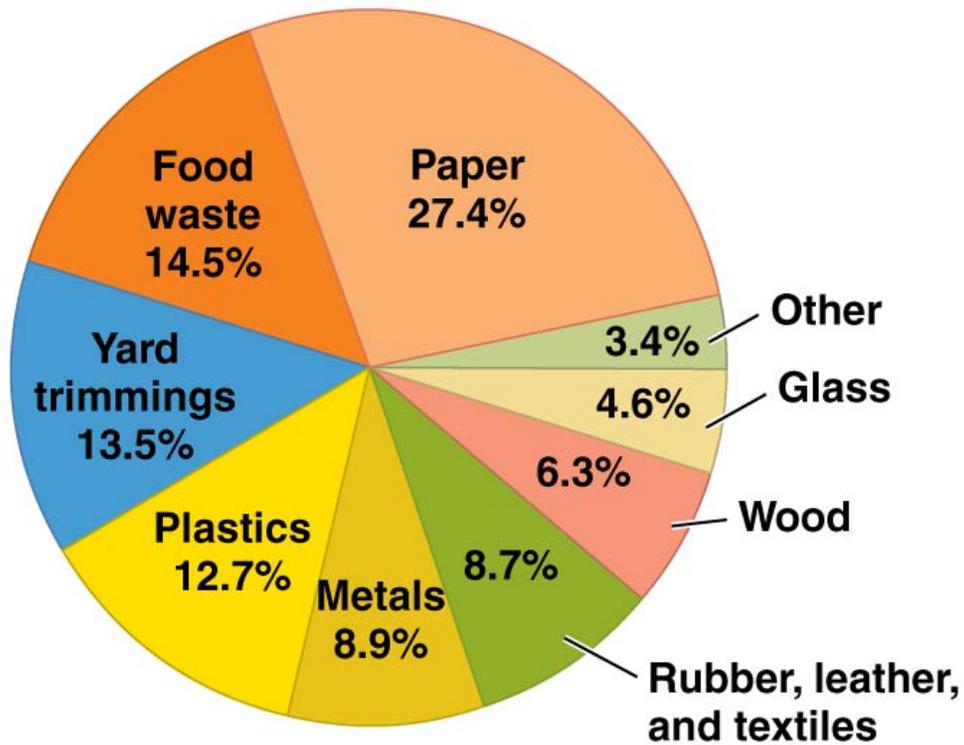


# Waste

Plastics and MSW

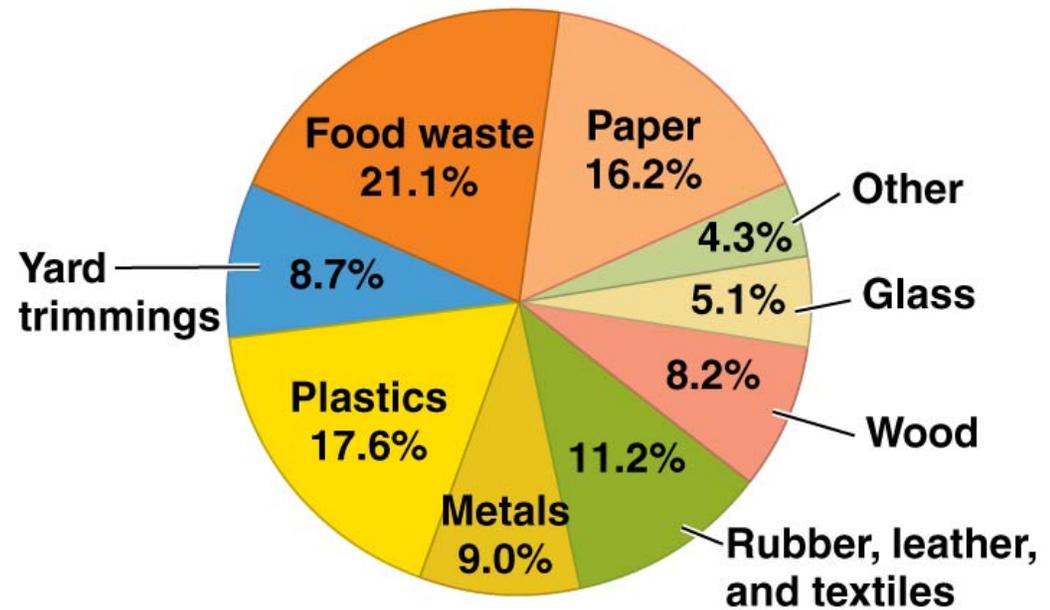




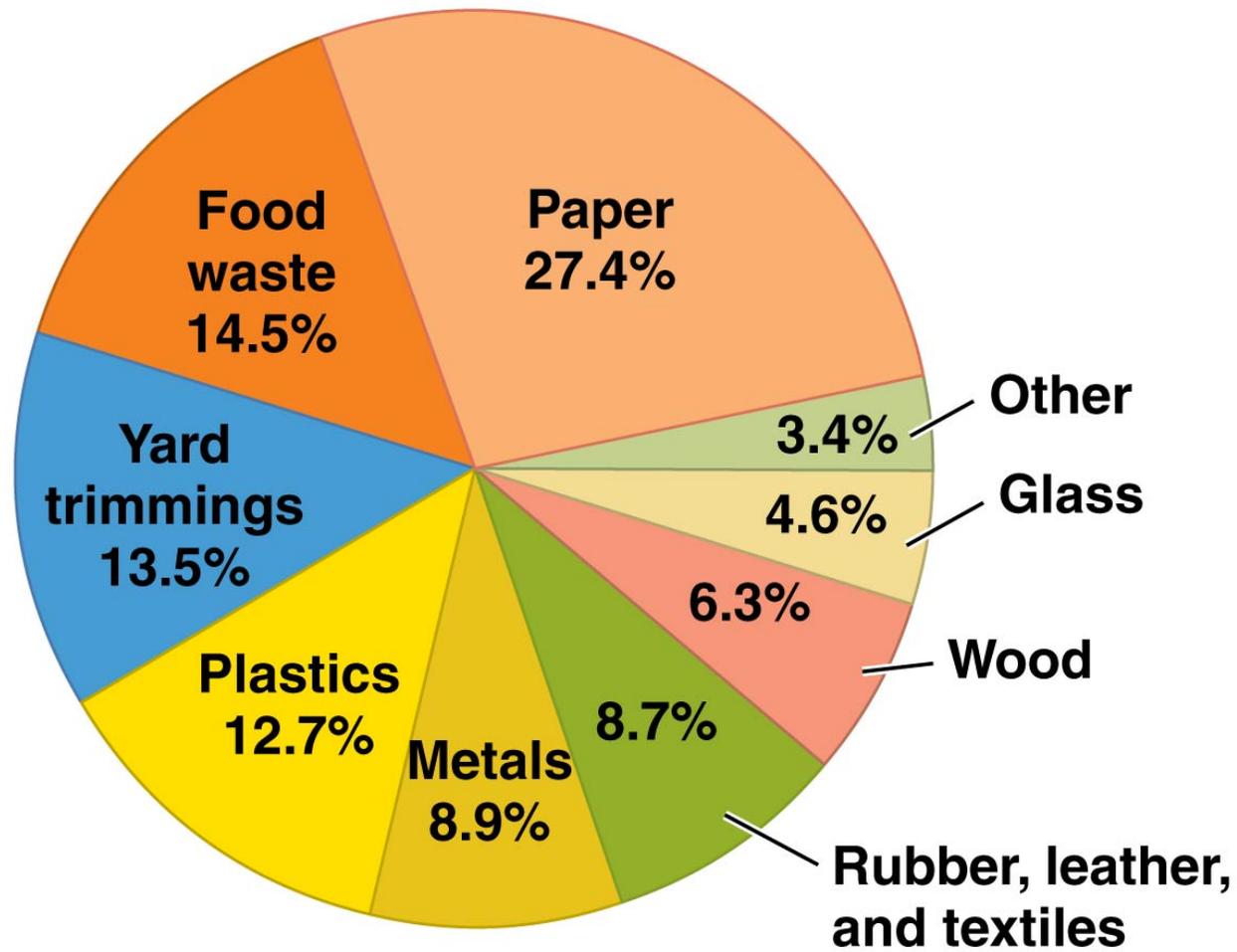


**(a) Before recycling and composting**

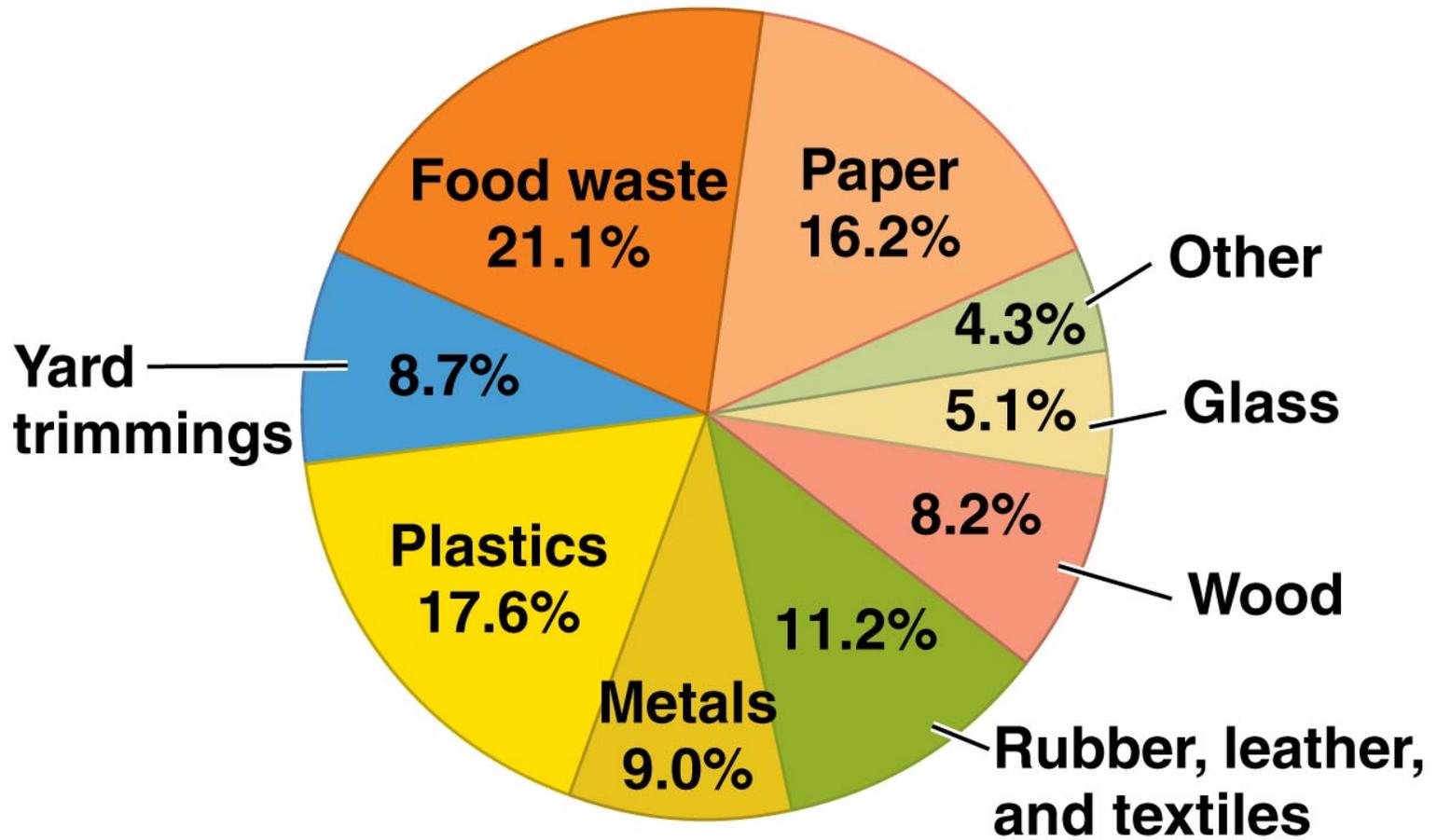
© 2015 Pearson Education, Inc.



**(b) After recycling and composting**

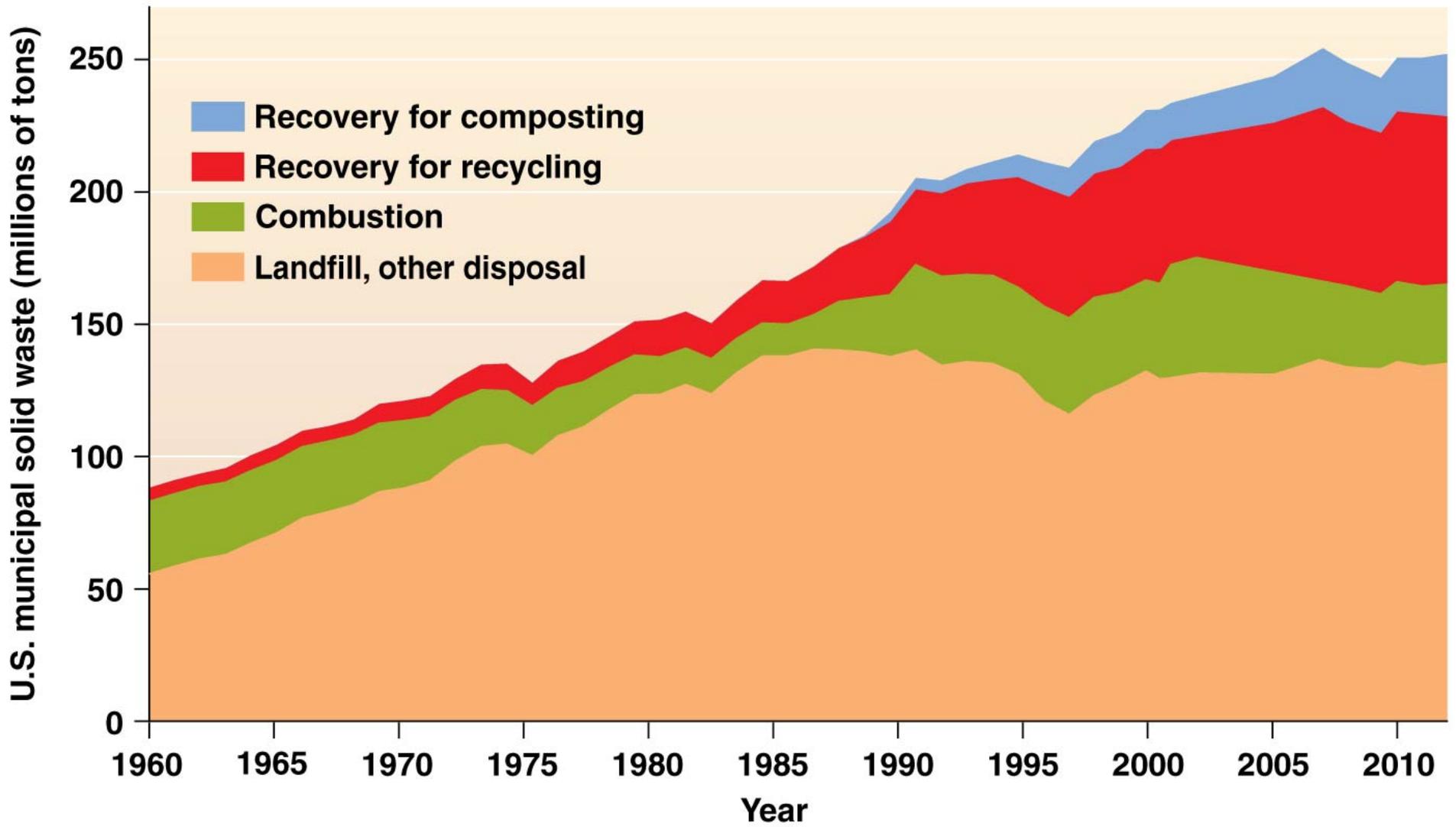


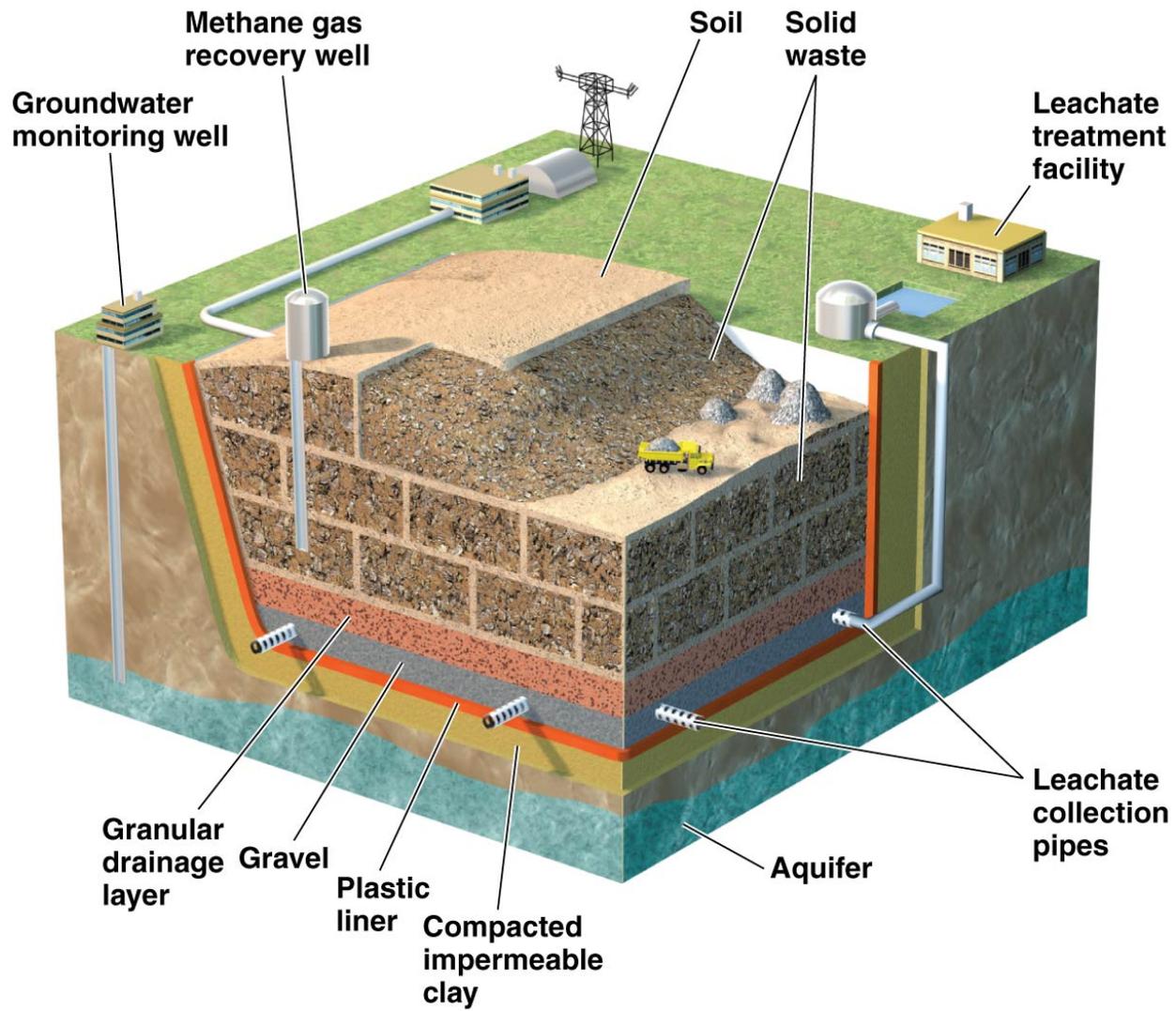
**(a) Before recycling and composting**



**(b) After recycling and composting**







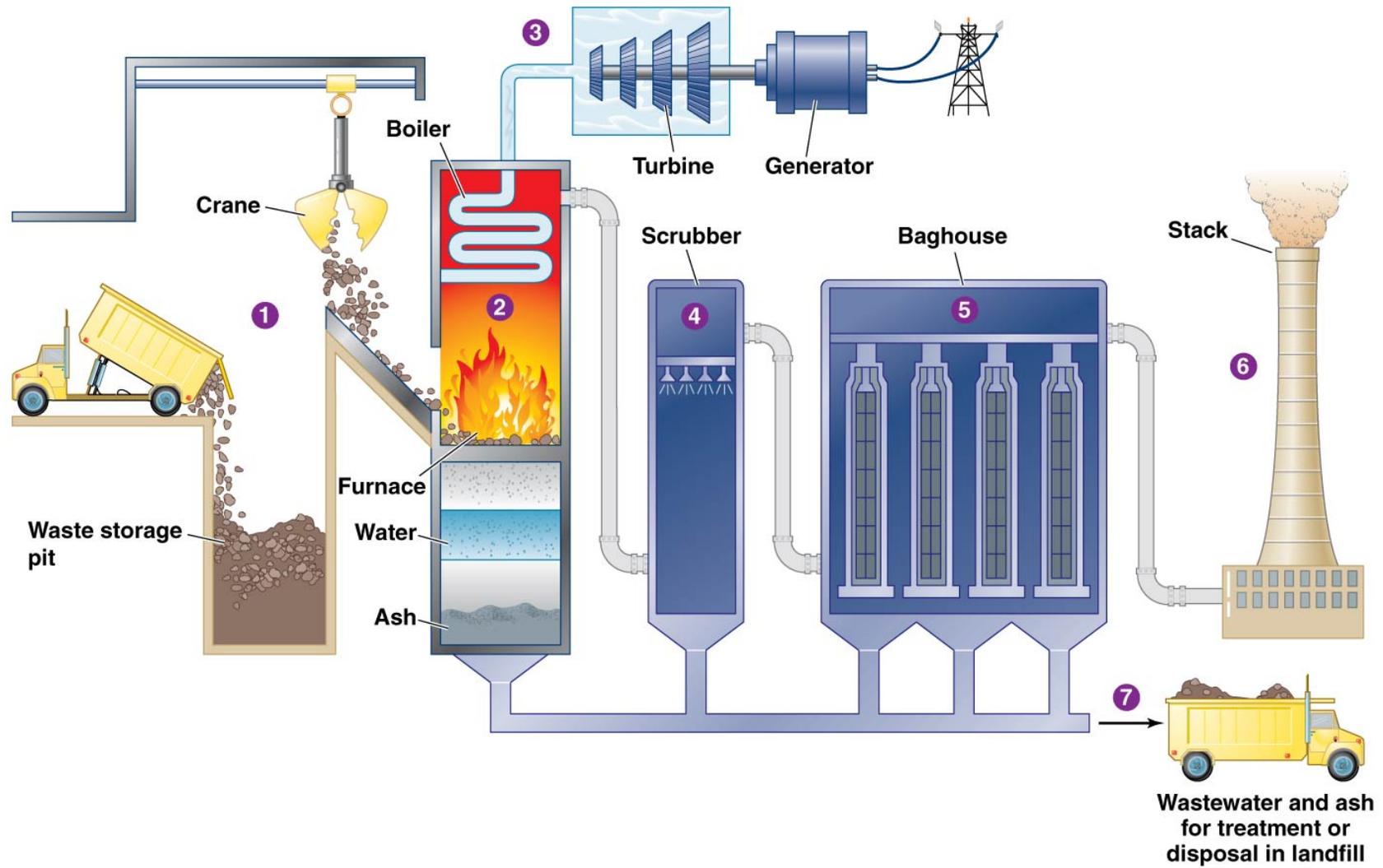




**THEN: Fresh Kills Landfill in operation**



**NOW: Fresh Kills Landfill site today**



**TABLE 17.1** Some Everyday Things You Can Do to Reduce and Reuse

- Donate used items to charity
- Reuse boxes, paper, plastic wrap, plastic containers, aluminum foil, bags, wrapping paper, fabric, packing material, etc.
- Rent or borrow items instead of buying them, when possible . . . and lend your items to friends
- Buy groceries in bulk
- Bring reusable cloth bags shopping
- Make double-sided photocopies
- Keep electronic documents rather than printing items out
- Bring your own coffee cup to coffee shops
- Pay a bit extra for durable, long-lasting, reusable goods rather than disposable ones
- Buy rechargeable batteries
- Select goods with less packaging
- Compost kitchen and yard wastes
- Buy clothing and other items at resale stores and garage sales
- Use cloth napkins and rags rather than paper napkins and towels
- Tell businesses what you think about their packaging and products
- When solid waste policy is being debated, let your government representatives know your thoughts
- Support organizations that promote waste reduction

*Adapted from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

© 2015 Pearson Education, Inc.

**1**  
Collection and processing  
of recyclable materials  
by municipalities  
and businesses



**3**  
Consumer  
purchase of products  
made from recycled  
materials

**2**  
Use of recyclables  
by industry to  
manufacture  
new products

**TABLE 17.2** Recovery Rates for Various Materials in the United States

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE THAT IS RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED</b>
Lead-acid batteries	96
Newspapers	70
Paper and paperboard	65
Yard trimmings	58
Aluminum cans	55
Glass containers	34
Total plastics	9

*Data are for 2012, from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

