



DEATH CARE OPTIONS

Your rights
Your choices
Their impacts



What you will learn today

- Funeral Education Foundation (FEF), Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA)
 - What we do
- Current Death Care Options
 - Available options and their environmental costs
 - Greener alternatives
- Local Green Burial Options
 - Existing and planned



ARE YOU GOOD TO GO?





FCA-San Mateo/Santa Clara

Funeral Consumers Alliance of
San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties (501c4)

Funeral Education Foundation (501c3)

www.fcapeninsula.org

www.funerals.org (national)

www.fca-calif.org (state)

Quiz - True or False?



Only a licensed funeral director is allowed to handle death care arrangements.



The law requires that a body be buried in a coffin or casket.



The law allows you to transport a body in your own vehicle.
(with proper paperwork)



In California, there are 3 legal ways to deal with human remains.
1-Burial 2-Cremation 3-Body donation



When conducting home funerals, it is required to refrigerate or embalm human remains after 24 hours

Only Four Requirements

when you die



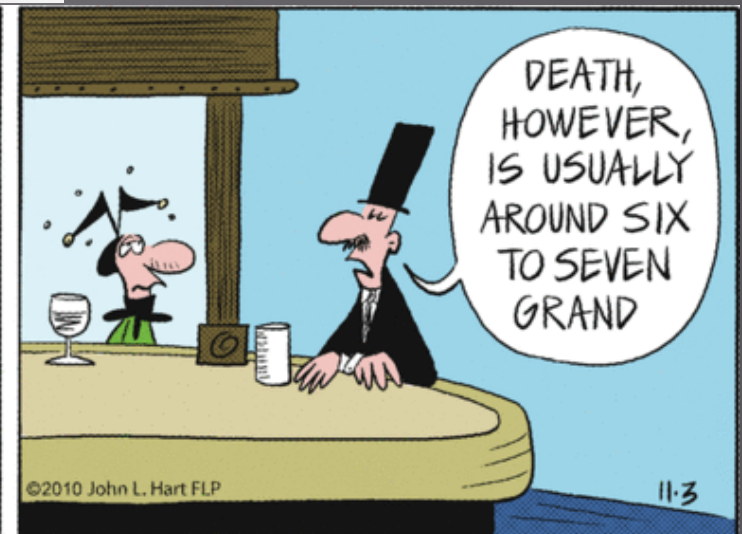
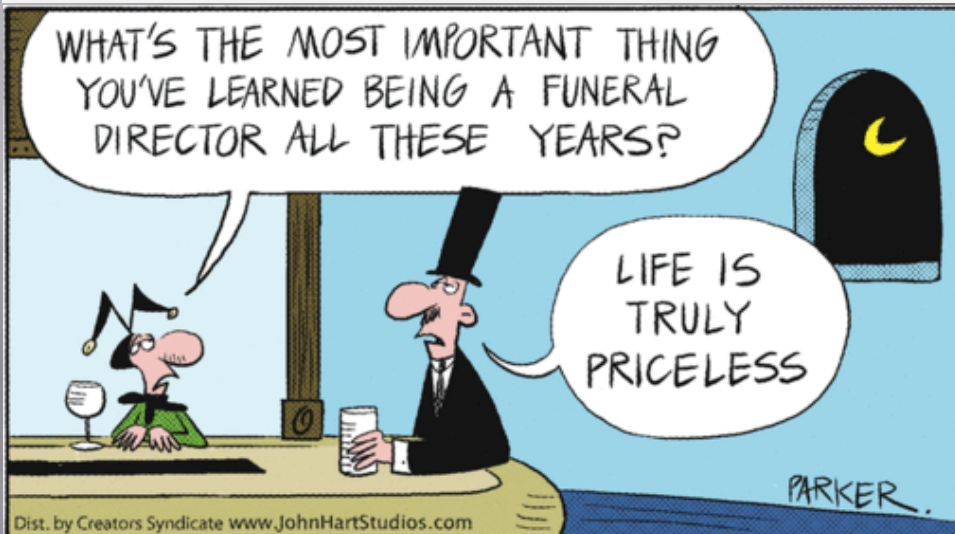
1. Regulatory paperwork
 - Death certificate
 - Disposition permit
 - Declaration of Disposition for Cremated Remains
2. Transporting the body
3. Disposition of body (burial, cremation, or donation)
4. **\$\$** Paying for it all **\$\$**
Everything else is

OPTIONAL

Priceless

Wizard of Id by Parker and Hart

November 03, 2010



Who We Are What We Do



FCA of San Mateo/Santa Clara Counties
Funeral Education Foundation

PO Box 60448

Palo Alto, Ca 9340

650-321-2109

www.fcapeninsula.org

We help you PLAN death care arrangements that are:

meaningful
dignified
affordable

We are the "Consumers Reports" of the funeral business—from national to local.

We give educational talks, sponsor programs, do surveys and publish information

Your Rights



Per state & federal law, mortuaries

- Must give you a price list and the state booklet on funeral-buying
- Must give prices over the phone
- Must use your casket, even if you buy it somewhere else
- Must advise your family if they have your funeral plans on file

How FCA & FEF Help Everyone



FCA of San Mateo/Santa Clara Counties
Funeral Education Foundation

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Palo Alto, Ca 9340

650-321-2109

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- Give unbiased answers to your questions about death care
- Price surveys of local mortuaries & cemeteries
- Live phone help during office hours
- Informative website and brochures
- A "Before I Go" kit (\$10) for planning

Final Helpful Tip

Join, Donate, Volunteer
FCA and FEF



Application forms
and
helpful brochures
available here TODAY

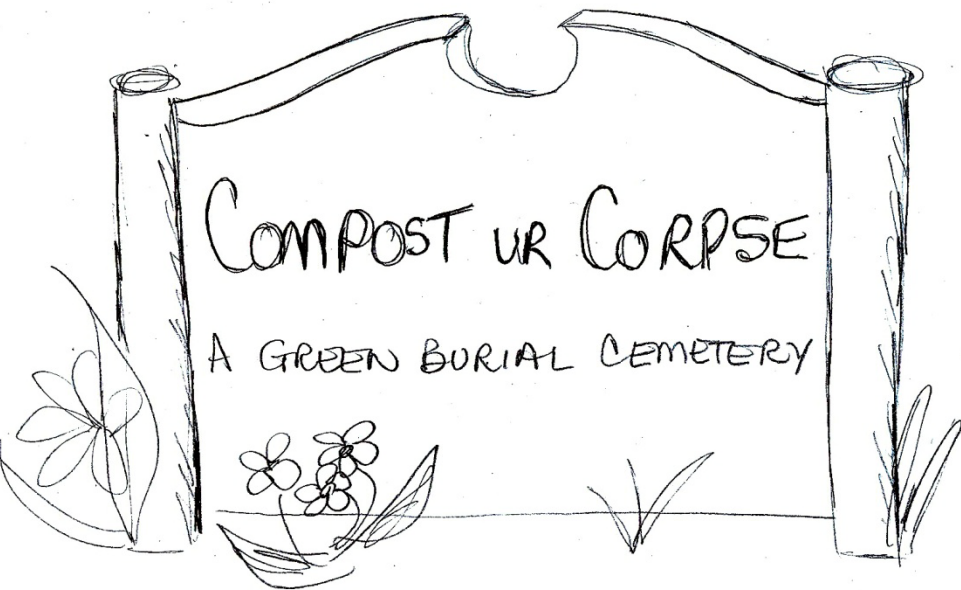
A scenic landscape with rolling green hills and a large, leafy tree in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

Green Burial:

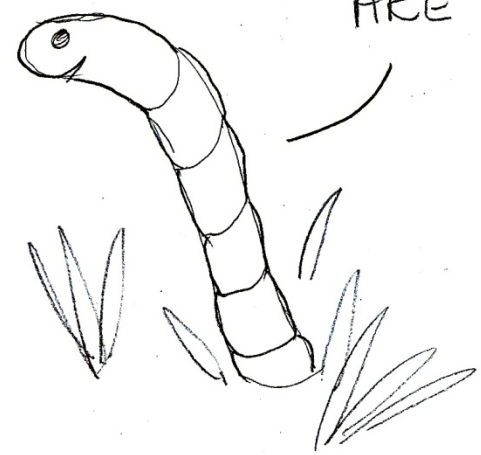
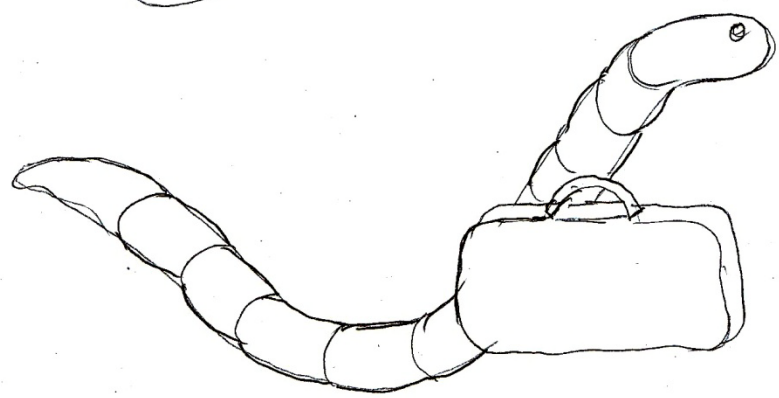
What?
Why?

Deborah Meckler

February 2013



YEAH, LIFE IS GOOD HERE,
FREQUENT FOOD DELIVERIES
AND EVEN THE WRAPPERS
ARE TASTY





Terminology

- “Conventional” vs “Traditional”
- Traditional = according to cultural norms and customs
- Conventional = the current way of doing things

Traditional Death Practices

- Culturally dependent
- Buried with tools, food and weapons
- Mummified and “buried” in a pyramid
- Burned on a pyre
- Placed on elevated platforms for vultures
- Buried in plain wooden box, wooden marker



Conventional Burial

- As depicted in movies and on TV
- Polished wood coffin, lined with satin and ornamented with brass handles
- Embalmed bodies look as if they are peacefully sleeping
- Coffins lowered into concrete-lined holes
- Carved headstone or cast metal plaques
- Shoulder to shoulder graves



Green Burial

- Plain wooden box, biodegradable container, or shroud
- No embalming
- Buried directly in the earth—no concrete vault or grave liner
- Graves marked by
 - local fieldstones
 - a planting of trees/shrubs/flowers/grasses
 - GPS point
- Uninterrupted open spaces



From: <http://www.glendalenaturepreserve.org>

A landscape photograph showing a green hillside covered in trees and grass. In the foreground, a large, leafy tree stands prominently. The word "WHY?" is overlaid in large, semi-transparent, light-colored letters across the middle of the image. The sky is clear and blue.

WHY?

Costs

Death Care

- Resources

- in an average mine:
 - 90,272 tons of steel,
 - 2,700 tons of copper and bronze,
 - 1.6 million tons of reinforced concrete³
 - Over 30 million board feet of hardwoods¹
 - 827,060 gallons of embalming fluid²

- Environmental costs

- Energy Costs



1. From <http://thesoko.com/thesoko/article1301.html>
2. From <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eco-cemetery>
3. From <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/02/17/dying.green/index.html>

Costs of Conventional Death Care

Environmental Cost

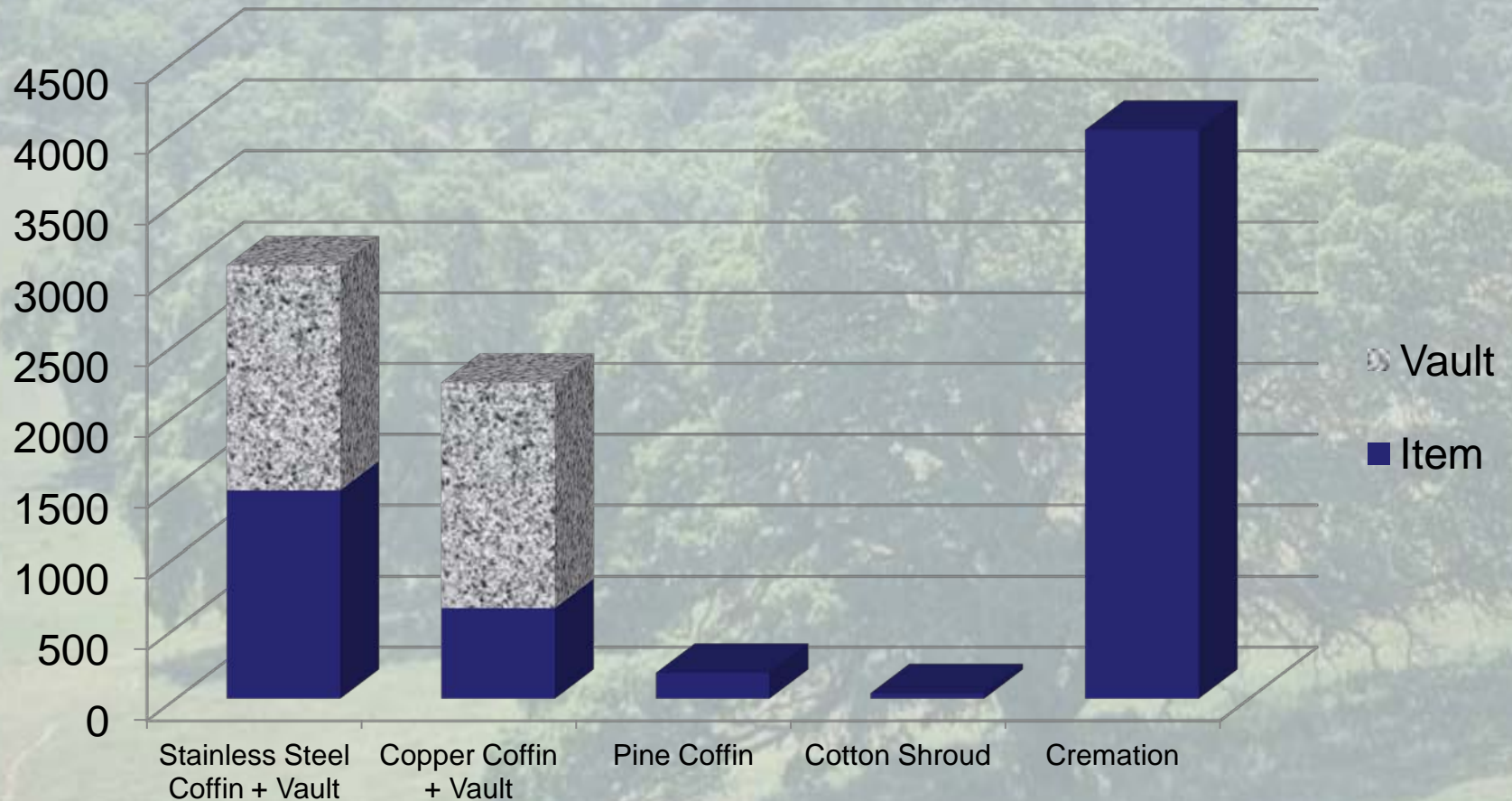
- Unsustainable wood harvesting
- Toxic varnishes
- Toxic metallurgy: mining, smelting, etc
- Toxic embalming materials
- Fertilizers, pesticides, mowing, watering
- Impacts to hydrology
- Nutrient cycling



Pictures from: www.modernburialsystem.com: a new way to get 1645 graves/acre



Death Care Choices in Megajoules



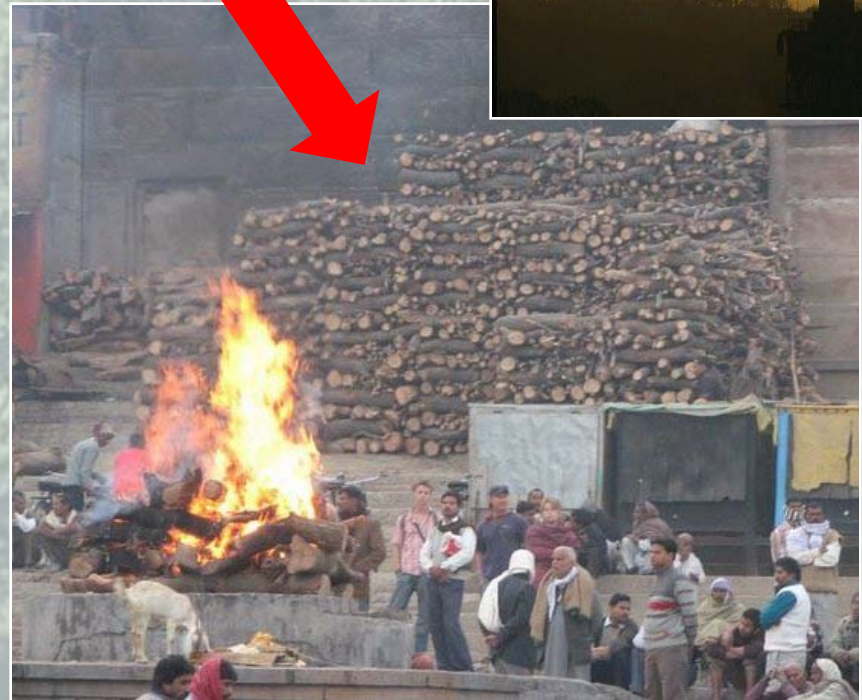
Death Care Choices as Miles Driven (in your SUV)

Miles Driven



Up in Smoke?

- People, when **buried**, become soil, which fixes carbon.
- People, when **burned**, become 46 different chemical pollutants including:
 - Carbon monoxide
 - Nitrous oxides
 - Sulfur oxides
 - Mercury
 - Dioxin
 - Hydrogen chloride
 - Hydrogen fluoride
 - Cadmium
 - Chromium



Other Disposition Methods



Solar
Cremation

A greener way to go

- Traditional cremation releases greenhouse gases, smog-causing gases, mercury, dioxins and furans.
- Resomation emits no toxins or dioxins into the atmosphere and far less carbon dioxide.
- Energy used to cremate the average sized body is roughly equal to driving gasoline-powered vehicle 7,700 kilometres.



Resomation machine

SOURCE: Cremation Association of North America, Transition Science Inc.

Ecological comparisons

With resomation, metals and plastics in the body are easily retrieved, including mercury fillings, metal hips and knees, pacemakers.

PER BODY	RESOMATION	CREMATION
CO ₂ emissions (kg)	50	400
Natural gas used (cubic metres)	7	92
Electricity used (Kwh)	9	29

Alkaline
Hydrolysis



Promession



Composting



CIO, Center for Isotope Research
IVEM, Center for Energy and Environmental Studies

Master Programme Energy and Environmental Sciences

University of Groningen

Environmental impact of funerals

Life cycle assessments of activities after life

Elisabeth Keijzer

EES 2011-112 M

http://ivem.eldoc.ub.rug.nl/FILES/ivempubs/dvrapp/EES-2011/EES-2011-112M/ElisabethKeijzer_EES-2011-112M.pdf

Funeral “Parts”

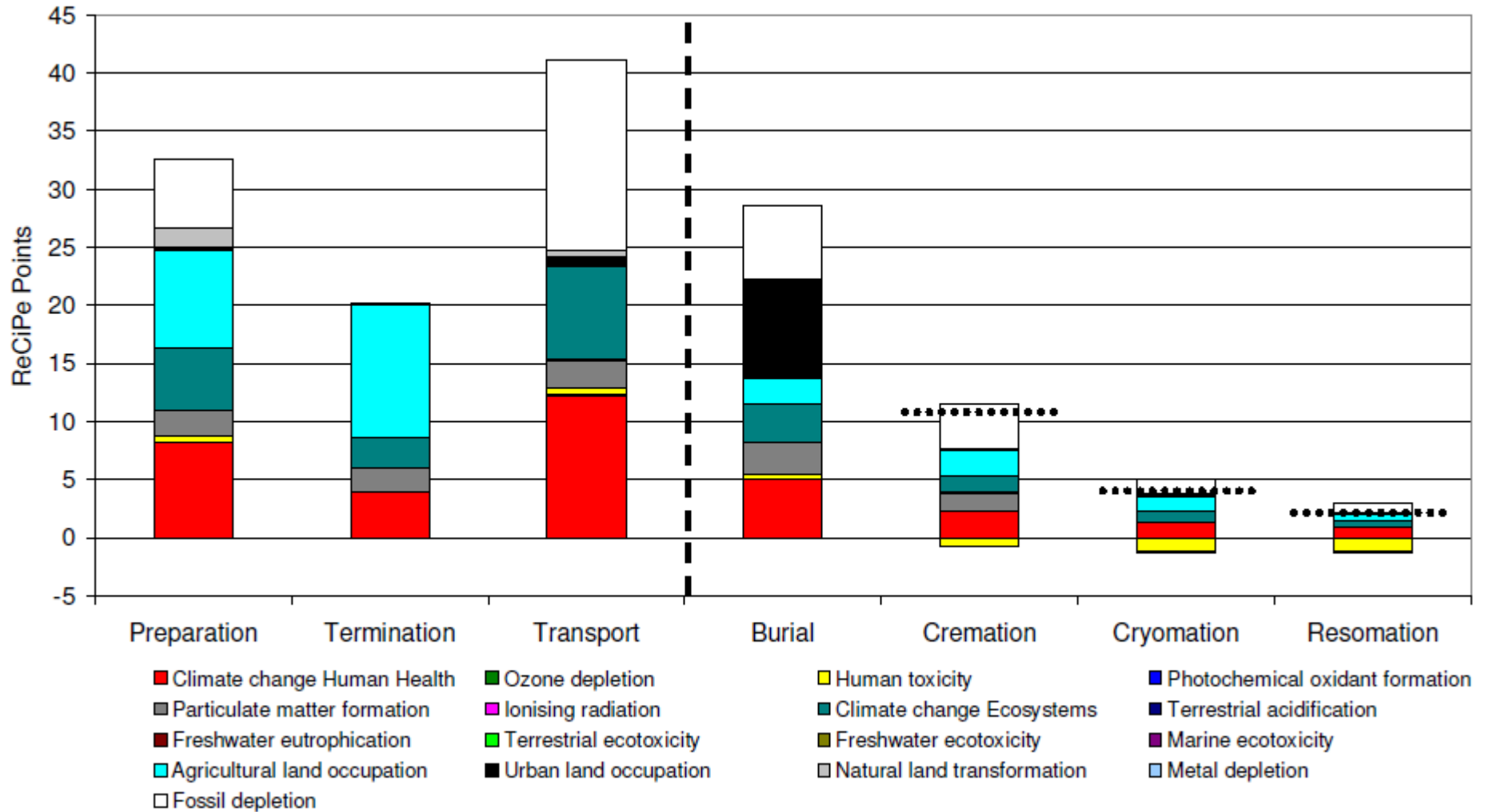
The Preliminary Part (logistical, ceremonial)

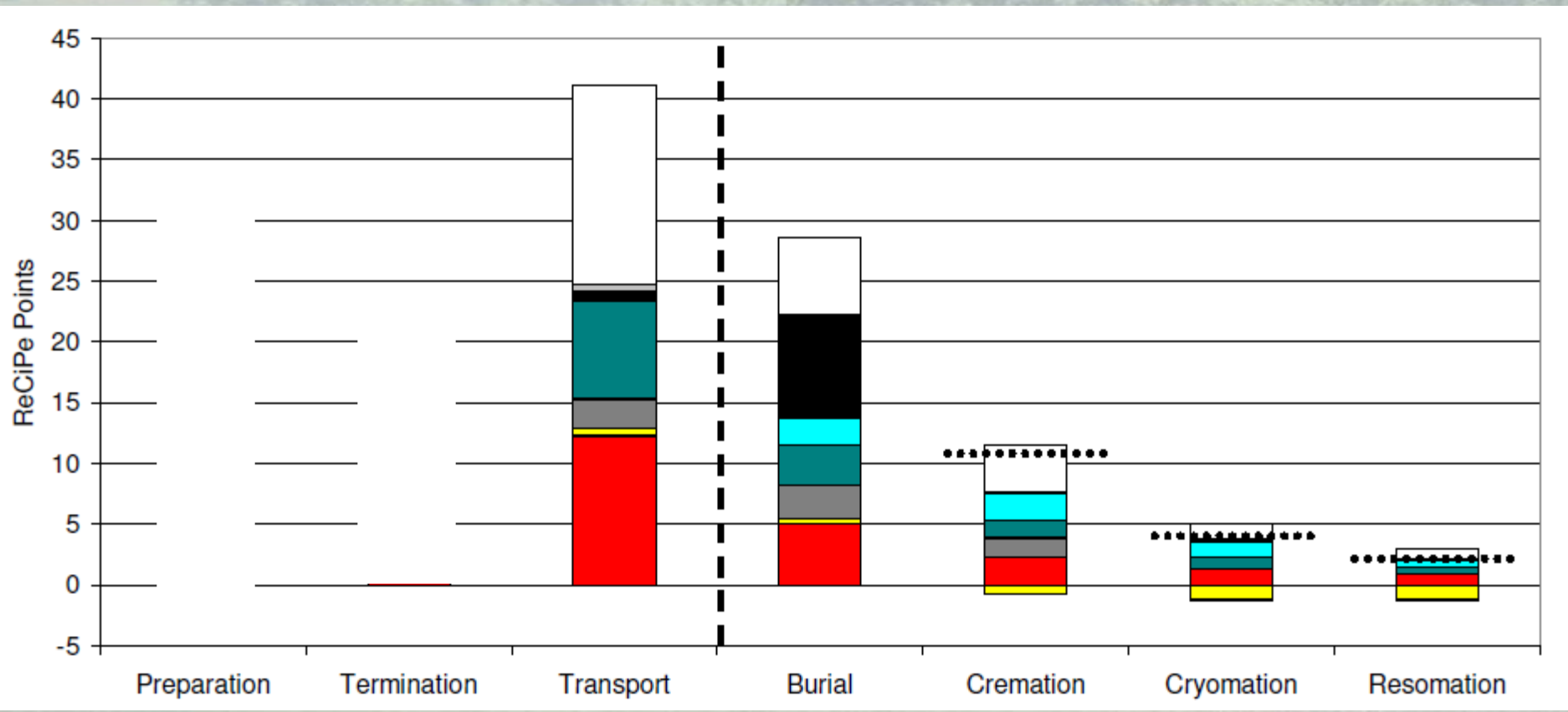
- Production of coffin, death announcements, food for ceremony
- Flowers
- Cooling the body
- Transport of friends and relatives to ceremony
- Transport of body

The Final Part (dealing with the remains)

- 4 methods of body disposition
 - Burial (conventional)
 - Cremation
 - Cryomation (Promession)
 - Resomation (alkaline hydrolysis)

Life cycle analyses of all funeral parts - with ReCiPe





Death by the Numbers for San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties

Death rate per year:	~6 per 1000
Number of deaths/year:	15,000
Acres of grave space per year if everyone is buried: (using 4'x8' grave plots)	11
Pounds of CO ₂ released per year if everyone is cremated:	8.1 million
# of households whose annual energy needs could be met from cremation energy used:	312



Local Options

- Fernwood, Mill Valley
- Soquel
- Skylawn (date unknown)
- Half Moon Bay (2 – 3 years away)





Cemetery Authority License
Cemetery Endowment Initial Deposit
Cemetery Fidelity Bond
Fire Review Fee
Public Hearing for Coastal Development Permit
Department of Public Works Review Fee
Environmental Review: Initial Study and Negative Declaration
Planned Agricultural Permit
Public Notice for Planned Ag Permit
5% Legal Council Surcharge for above
Flora/fauna inventories
surveying
habitat management/restoration plan
hydrology assessment
signs--entrance
signs--interpretive
grade/gravel parking lot for 20 vehicles
tree cutting and wood chipping
stump grinding
install pit toilets (optional)
picnic tables
goats













THANK YOU



Funeral Consumers Alliance™
of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

and Funeral Education Foundation

Your financial support
helps us help you.

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Welcome

The **Funeral Consumers Alliance*** of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, and its affiliate, the Funeral Education Foundation (FEF), comprise the local chapter of a national nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the right to choose meaningful, dignified, affordable death care.

To accomplish that goal, this FCA/FEF chapter:

- offers information on
 - FCA [cooperating mortuaries](#) where FCA members receive discounts on a number of [plans](#)
 - Retail prices for mortuaries in the following counties:
 - Alameda County
 - San Francisco County
 - San Mateo County
 - Santa Clara County
 - 2012 Mortuary & Price info for [Sonoma County](#), courtesy of Novato Community Hospital Palliative Care Unit
 - local cemeteries,
 - [how to care for your own dead](#) without using a mortuary
 - [green burial](#)
 - [hospices](#)
 - [monument dealers](#)
 - [body donation](#)
 - provides [pre-need planning](#) assistance and materials
 - provides [at-need assistance](#) in finding death care providers and [resources](#)
 - through FEF, provides speakers at no charge to groups wishing to learn about death care planning and options.
 - helps to monitor local funeral industry trends and practices
 - serves as a consumer advocate for legal and regulatory reform, giving advice on or lobbying for necessary changes locally, state-wide, or



Mission

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the right to choose meaningful, dignified, affordable death care, and to providing information to help make these choices.

NEWS

[Board Opening for
TREASURER](#)

[Do you shop at
MOLLY STONE'S?](#)

www.fcapeninsula.org