

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee Agenda

March 4, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Location: Pokagon Band Community Center
27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047

- 1. Call to Order & Roll Call** Kalli Marshall, VBCD, Chair
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of February 4, 2026 Minutes**
- 4. Old Business**
 - MMP Public Survey Analysis Bekah Schrag, DPA
 - Recycling Goals Review Bekah Schrag, DPA
- 5. Hearings**
- 6. New Business**
 - Alternative Fuel Technology, LLC Bekah Schrag, DPA
- 7. Public Comment**
- 8. Miscellaneous**
 - Secretary Election
- 9. Adjournment**

*Next meeting will be held April 1, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at Pokagon Band Community Center,
27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047*

For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Bekah Schrag at (574) 312-9148 or by email at schragb@swmpc.org



Minutes

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Location: Pokagon Band Community Center

27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047

2026

Role	Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Solid Waste Facility Operator	Bob Kras	IP	E											
Hauler	Christopher Phillips (Vice-Chair)	A	IP											
Materials Recovery Facility Operator	Donovan Kelley	IP	E											
Composting Facility Operator	Adam Brent	IP	IP											
Waste Diversion, Reuse, Reduction Facility Operator	Sheila Bergen	IP	E											
Environmental Interest Group	Kalli Marshall (Chair)	IP	IP											
Elected Township Official	David Kuhn	IP	IP											
Elected City/Village Official	Deah Muth	IP	A											
Business that generates Managed Materials	Al Pscholka	E	A											
Regional Planning Agency	John Egelhaaf	IP	IP											
Sovereign Nation	Jennifer Kanine	IP	E											
Berrien County														
Elected County or Municipal Official	Dave Vollrath	IP	IP											
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Jeff Doroh	V	IP											
Cass County														
Elected County or Municipal Official	Michael Grice		IP											
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Amy Huser	IP	IP											
Van Buren County														
Elected County or Municipal Official	Kurt Doroh	IP	IP											
Business that Generates Managed Materials														
IP - Present in Person; V - Participating remotely; E- Excused absence; A - Unexcused absence; A blank spot means the position is														

Public Present

Plathe, Justin

Mandy Wallace

Jacqueline Terrill (V)

Madison Opperthausen (V)

Grant Poole (V)

Kate Schrank (V)

Chubb, Deb (V)

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Kalli Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Role call was taken, and it was established that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

John Egelhaaf requested the agenda be edited to say “February 4, 2026.” Dave Vollrath moved to “**ACCEPT THE AGENDA.**” Kurt Doroh seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Approval of January 7, 2026 Minutes

Dave Vollrath moved to “**APPROVE JANUARY 7, 2026 MINUTES.**” John Egelhaaf seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Old Business

MMP Draft Timeline Update

Schrag walked the committee through the timeline for the Materials Management Plan adoption process. To meet the deadline of submitting the approved plan to EGLE in August 2027, the draft plan would need to be approved by the MMPC in September 2026. This timeline does not include any additional time if the County Board of Commissioners have objections to the plan. Schrag said that despite being further in the planning process than other counties in the state, September 2026 is approaching quickly, and having an approved draft plan may be a lofty goal.

Schrag then talked through the process of the adoption process. This process includes a 60 day public comment period, a public hearing, a 60 day period for County BOCs to approve or reject the draft, and 120 days for any local municipalities to approve or reject the plan. Schrag stressed that the draft plan must be approved by 67% of municipalities that vote, otherwise EGLE would write the plan with little to no local input. She also stressed the need to get local municipalities engaged now in the process to help reduce the likelihood of the plan being rejected.

Questions were asked about what enforcement EGLE has if counties meet the deadlines, which Schrag said she is unaware of any. Discussion followed about the timeline and adoption process.

5. Hearings

None.

6. New Business

Organics Goals Consolidation Activity

Chair Marshall led an interactive activity to work through the draft organics goals.

First, the MMPC members had time to read through the existing draft goals and action items and note any changes, additions, rewrites, or consolidations. The MMPC then talked about prioritizing infrastructure goals before implementing access goals.

The committee then broke into small groups to discuss any changes, omissions, or consolidations. Once the committee came back together, discussions followed about how urban and rural areas have different solutions, private versus public ownership models, and challenges around planning for emergencies with regards to recycling.

Madi Opperthausen, a Recycling Specialist at EGLE provided input about planning for “what ifs” and provided resources for a webinar on plastics recycling and busting myths surrounding recycling.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Miscellaneous

None.

9. Adjournment

Dave Vollrath moved to adjourn the meeting. Kurt Doroh supported the motion. Chair Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 2:57 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

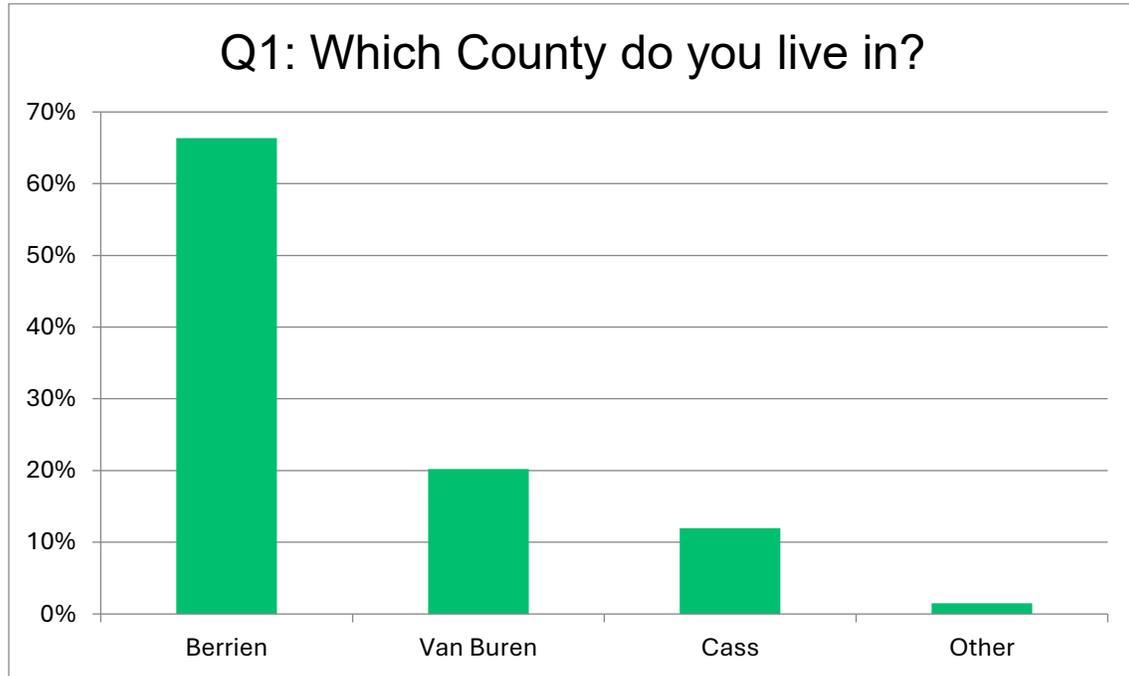
Submitted by:

Bekah Schrag

February 20, 2025

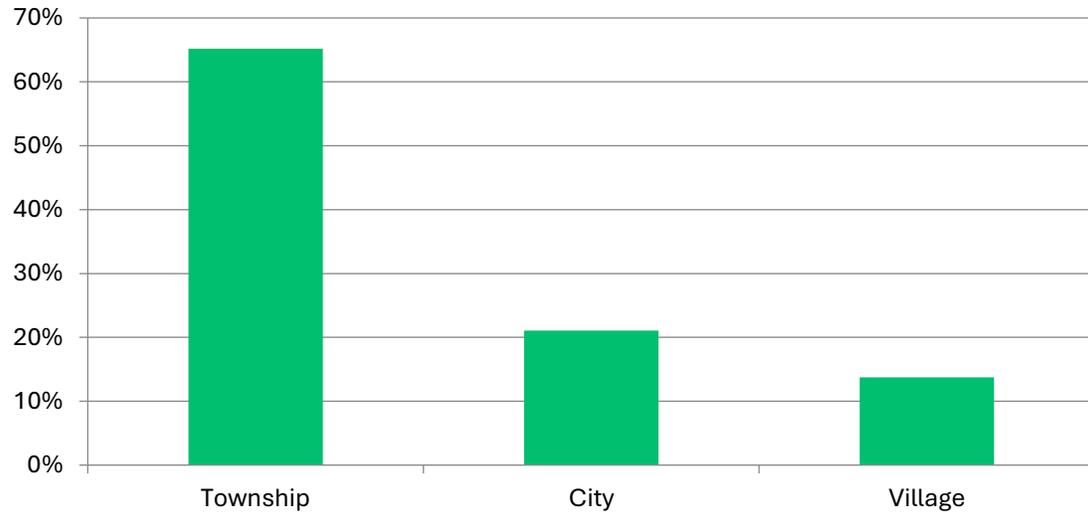
Southwest Michigan Materials Management Public Survey

Responses: 1014



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Berrien	66.34%	670
Van Buren	20.20%	204
Cass	11.98%	121
Other	1.49%	15
	Answered	1010
	Skipped	4

Q2: Which type of municipality do you live in?

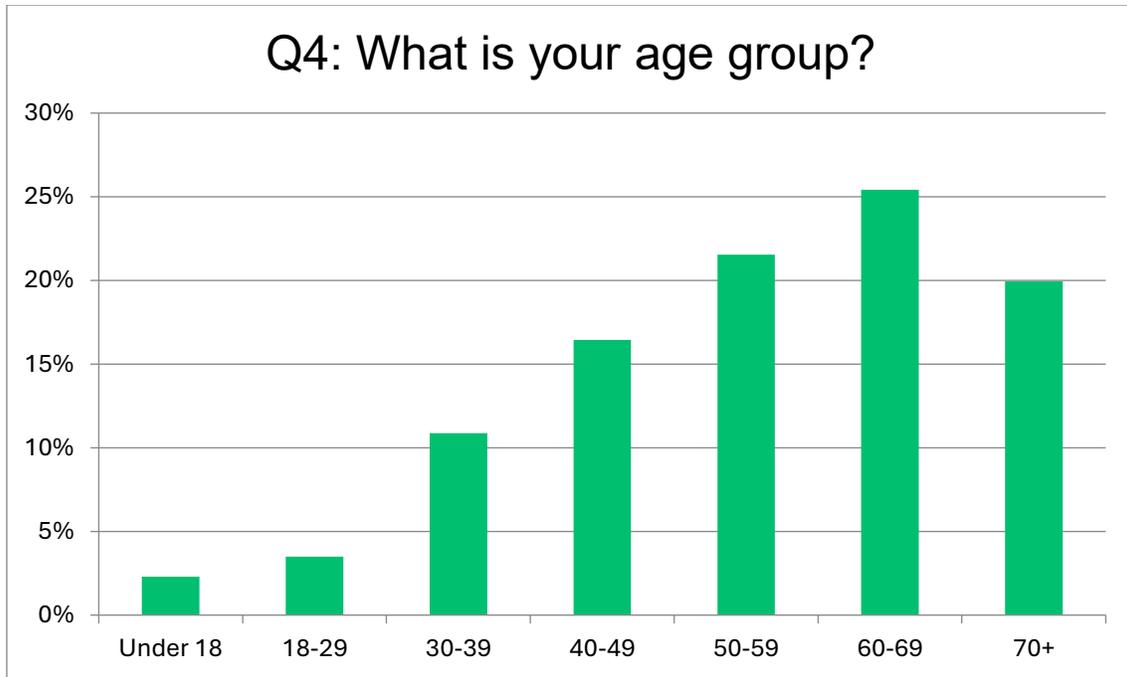


Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Township	65.21%	656
City	21.07%	212
Village	13.72%	138
	Answered	1006
	Skipped	8

Q3: Which municipality do you live in?

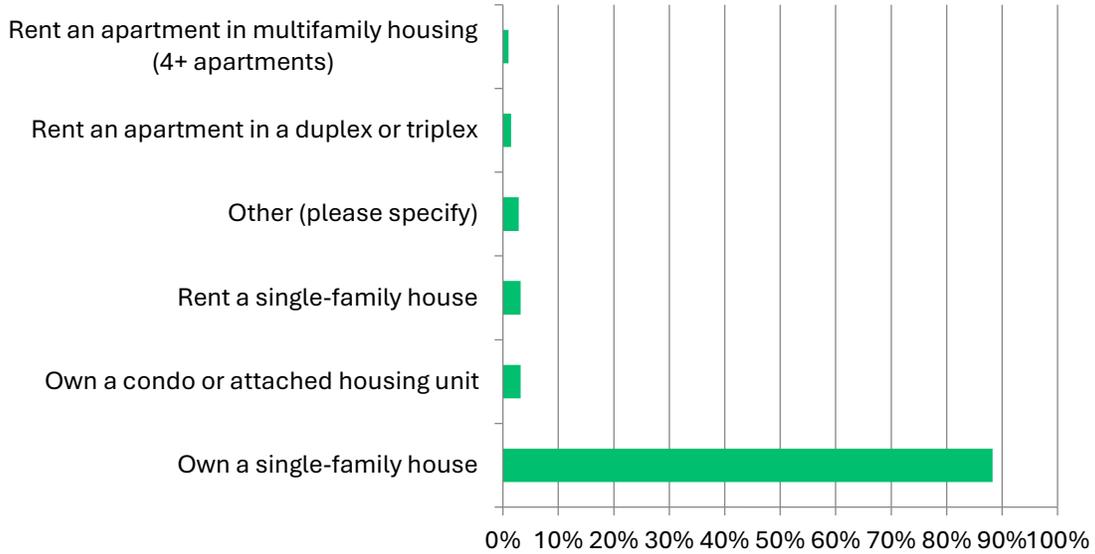
Count	Name
140	St. Joseph
75	Lincoln
52	Shoreham
36	Niles
36	New Buffalo
32	Benton
31	Buchanan
29	South haven
28	Porter
27	Paw Paw
26	Royalton
25	Chikaming
23	Three Oaks
19	Lawrence
18	Coloma
14	Stevensville
14	Antwerp
13	Berrien
12	Howard
12	Bridgman
11	Dowagiac
11	Baroda
10	Almena
10	Arlington

Other responses include municipalities such as: Hartford, Watervliet, Silver Creek, Pipestone, Hartford, Edwardsburg, Waverly, and more.



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Under 18	2.29%	23
18-29	3.49%	35
30-39	10.87%	109
40-49	16.45%	165
50-59	21.54%	216
60-69	25.42%	255
70+	19.94%	200
	Answered	1003
	Skipped	11

Q5: Do you rent or own your home?



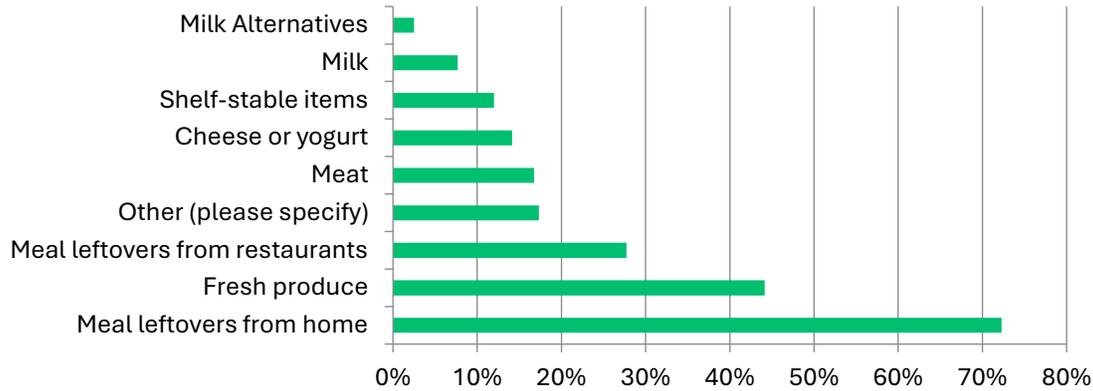
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Own a single-family house	88.29%	890
Own a condo or attached housing unit	3.17%	32
Rent a single-family house	3.17%	32
Other (please specify)	2.88%	29
Rent an apartment in a duplex or triplex	1.49%	15
Rent an apartment in multifamily housing (4+ apartments)	0.99%	10
	Answered	1008
	Skipped	6

Other responses include 13 responses for living with family members, and 5 responses for those living in mobile homes.

Q6: How many people live in your household?

Number of people in the household	Count
1	151
2	490
3	129
4	133
5	65
6	21
7	5
8	4
9	0
0	0
10	1

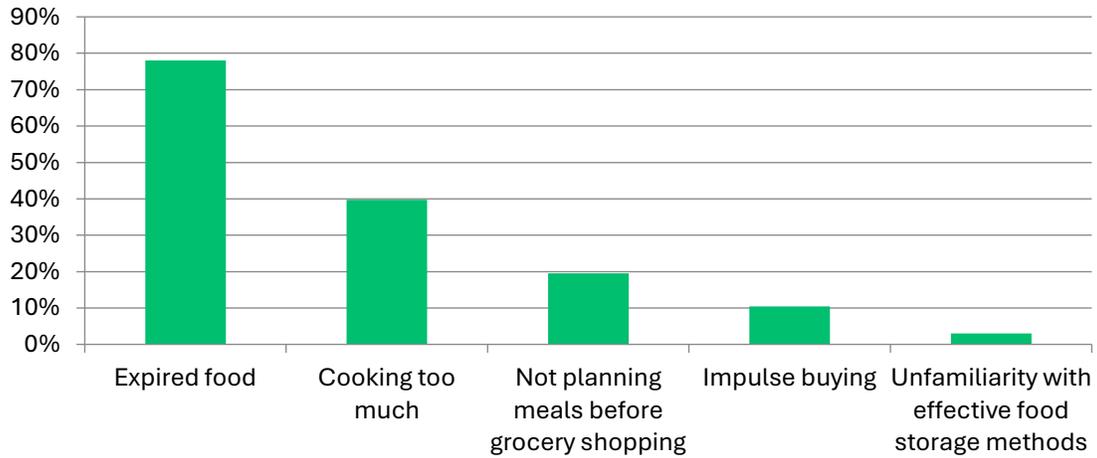
Q7: Thinking back over the last month, what types of foods most often end up in your garbage at home? (Select all that apply)



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Meal leftovers from home	72.29%	639
Fresh produce	44.12%	390
Meal leftovers from restaurants	27.71%	245
Other (please specify)	17.31%	153
Meat	16.74%	148
Cheese or yogurt	14.14%	125
Shelf-stable items	11.99%	106
Milk	7.69%	68
Milk Alternatives	2.49%	22
	Answered	884
	Skipped	130

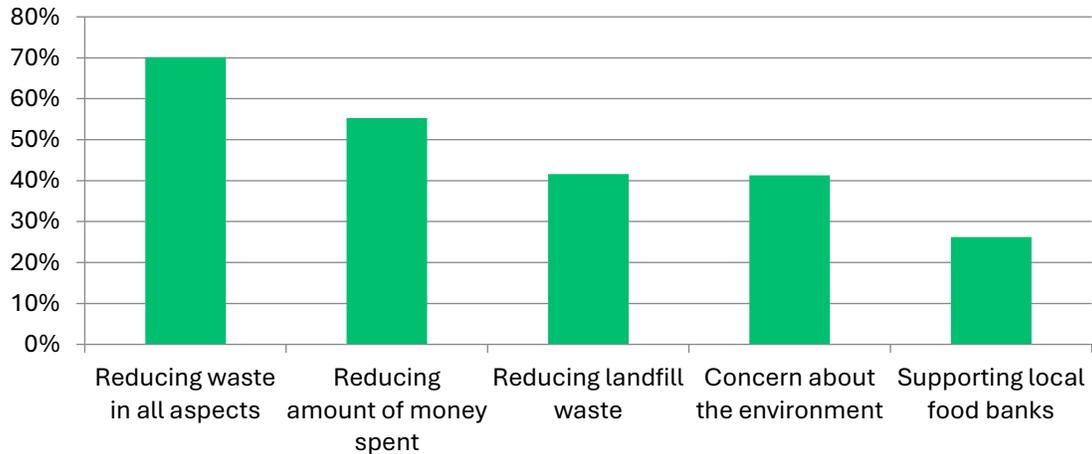
Overall, respondents report producing very little food waste, with many saying they throw away almost nothing and instead compost most scraps or feed them to animals. The most common materials mentioned are vegetable peels, coffee grounds, egg shells, and other prep scraps. When food is discarded, respondents noted that it is typically limited to spoiled or expired items, poor-quality produce, stale bread, or occasional meat scraps, bones, fat, or grease that aren't compostable.

Q8: Which of the following reasons contribute to food waste in your household? (Select all that apply)



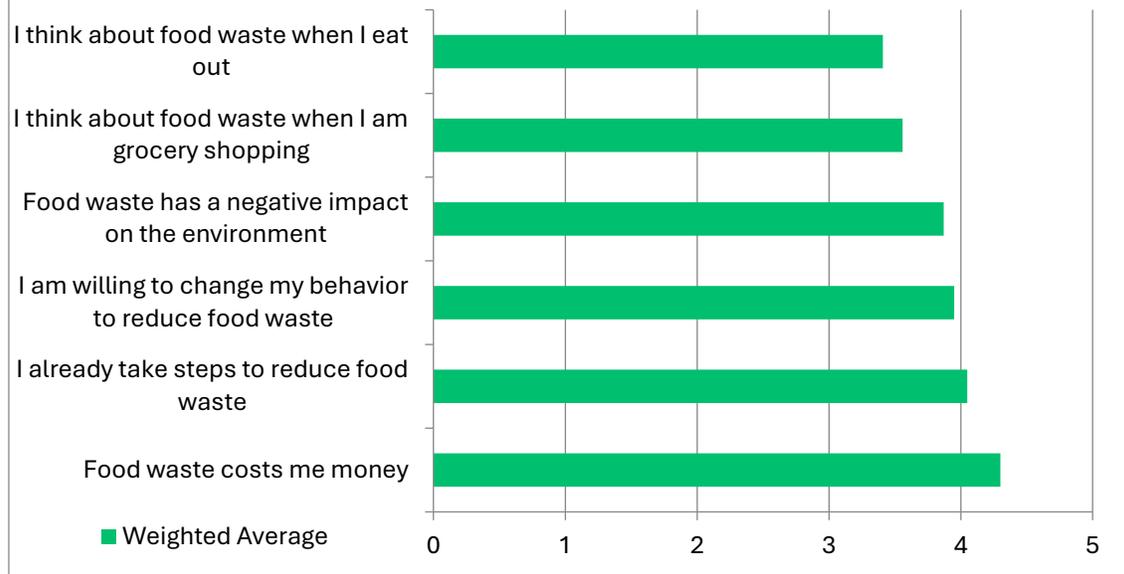
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Expired food	78.03%	650
Cooking too much	39.74%	331
Not planning meals before grocery shopping	19.57%	163
Impulse buying	10.44%	87
Unfamiliarity with effective food storage methods	3.00%	25
	Answered	833
	Skipped	181

Q9: Which of the following would motivate you to reduce food waste?
(Select all that apply)



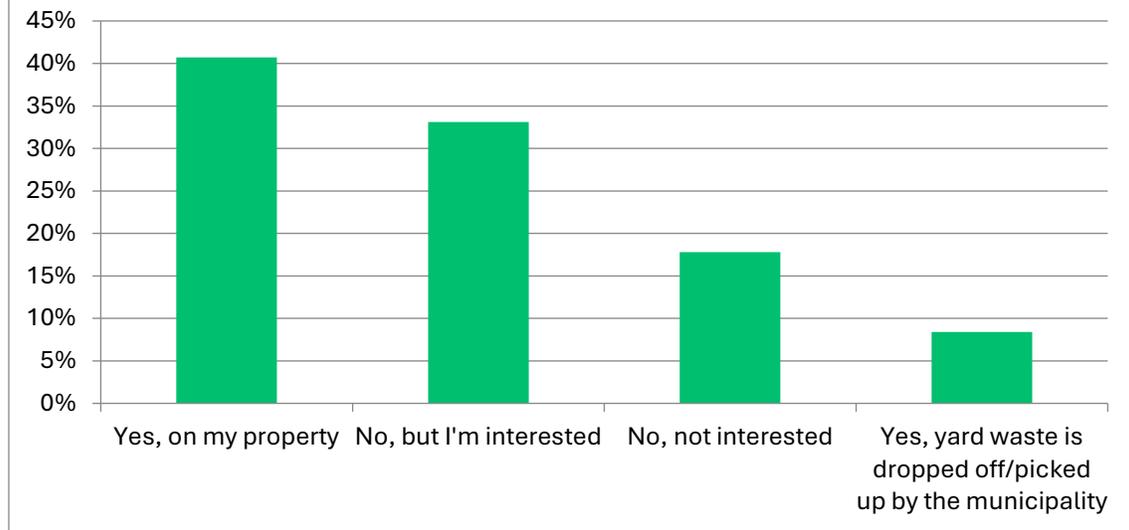
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Reducing waste in all aspects	70.14%	599
Reducing amount of money spent	55.27%	472
Reducing landfill waste	41.57%	355
Concern about the environment	41.33%	353
Supporting local food banks	26.23%	224
	Answered	854
	Skipped	160

Q10: Select your level of agreeance.



	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Weighted Average
Food waste costs me money	2.18%	1.72%	8.15%	39.95%	47.99%	4.3
I already take steps to reduce food waste	1.46%	3.15%	13.60%	52.25%	29.55%	4.05
I am willing to change my behavior to reduce food waste	1.47%	2.15%	20.59%	51.13%	24.66%	3.95
Food waste has a negative impact on the environment	3.98%	7.16%	18.98%	37.50%	32.39%	3.87
I think about food waste when I am grocery shopping	4.48%	12.67%	22.09%	43.61%	17.15%	3.56
I think about food waste when I eat out	5.03%	18.12%	25.17%	34.12%	17.56%	3.41
					Answered	897
					Skipped	117

Q11: Does your household currently compost food scraps or yard clippings?

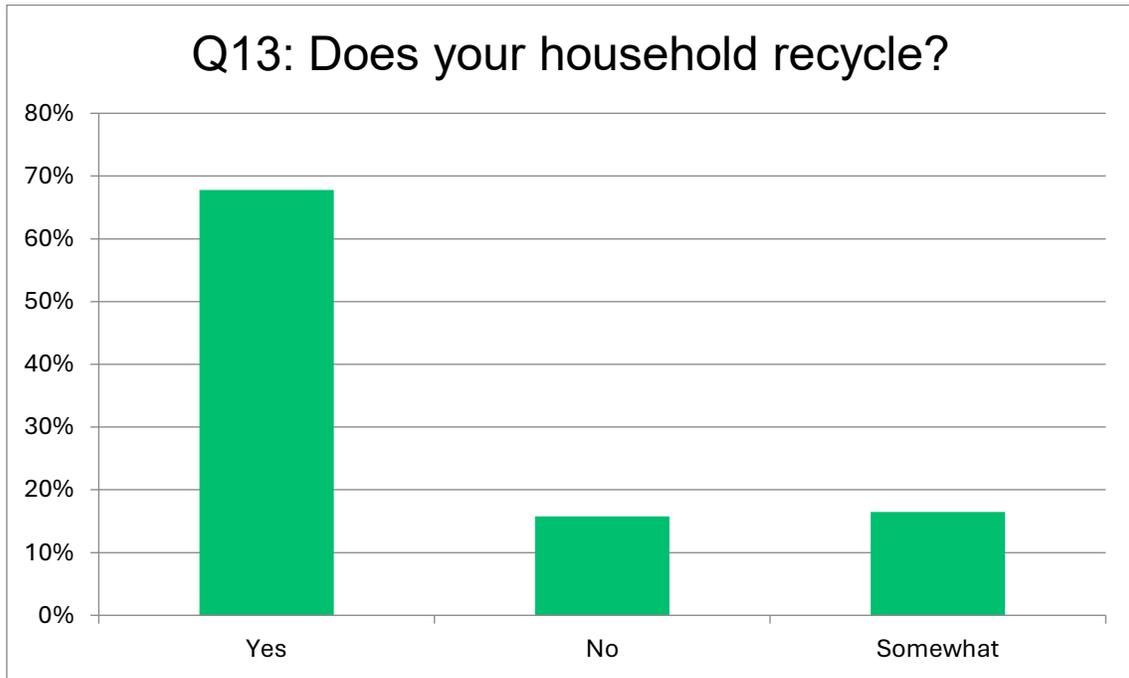


If no, why?

In these responses, people most often say they don't compost because of practical barriers rather than opposition: the biggest themes are lack of space (small lots, apartments, rentals, HOAs, city rules), lack of time, energy, or physical ability, and lack of knowledge or confidence about how to do it correctly. Many are concerned about smell, mess, insects, and attracting animals or rodents, especially in dense or rural/wildlife-heavy areas. Others mention cost, lack of equipment, or no local pickup/drop-off options, making it feel inconvenient or not worth the effort. A sizable group also says they have very little food waste anyway (they eat leftovers, use a garbage disposal, or feed scraps to animals), so they don't see a strong need.

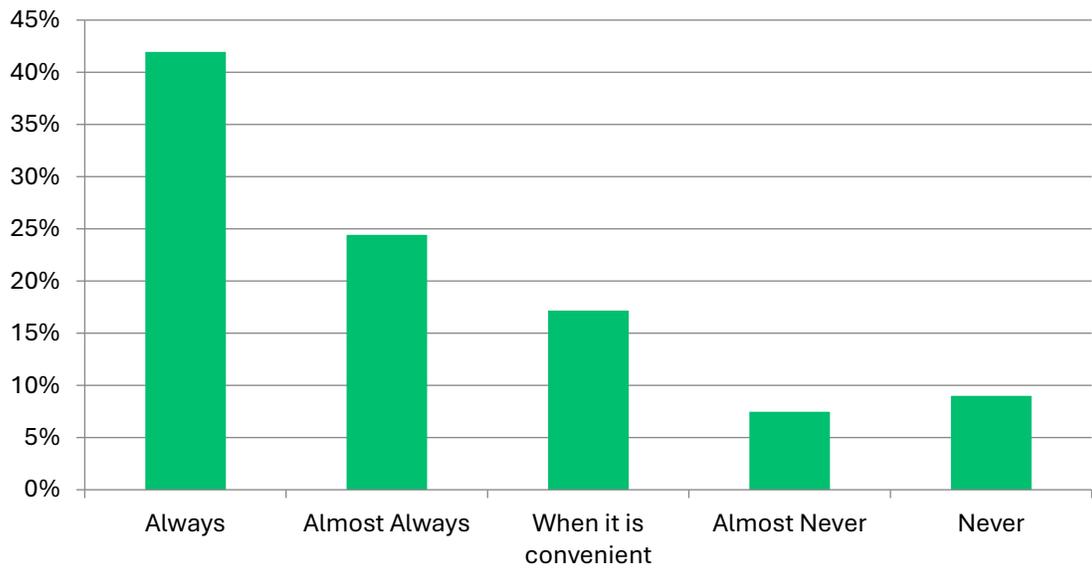
Q12: Additional Food Waste Comments

Across these comments, respondents show strong interest in reducing food waste and expanding composting, with many already composting at home, using paid services, feeding scraps to chickens, or using devices like tumblers, worm bins, or kitchen composters. A common theme is the desire for better infrastructure and support—including municipal or county compost pickup or drop-off, clearer recycling options, used cooking oil recycling, and more consistent recycling service—along with more education, workshops, and best-practice guidance. Many people say they already waste very little food and focus on prevention by buying less, eating leftovers, freezing food, or preserving it, while noting that portion sizes, bulk-only sales, packaging, and restaurant waste contribute significantly to the problem. There is also widespread concern about excessive plastic and non-recyclable packaging, with some respondents feeling packaging waste is a bigger issue than food waste itself. Overall, the feedback reflects high motivation, practical experience, and a clear call for community-wide systems, better policies, and accessible services to make composting and waste reduction easier and more effective.



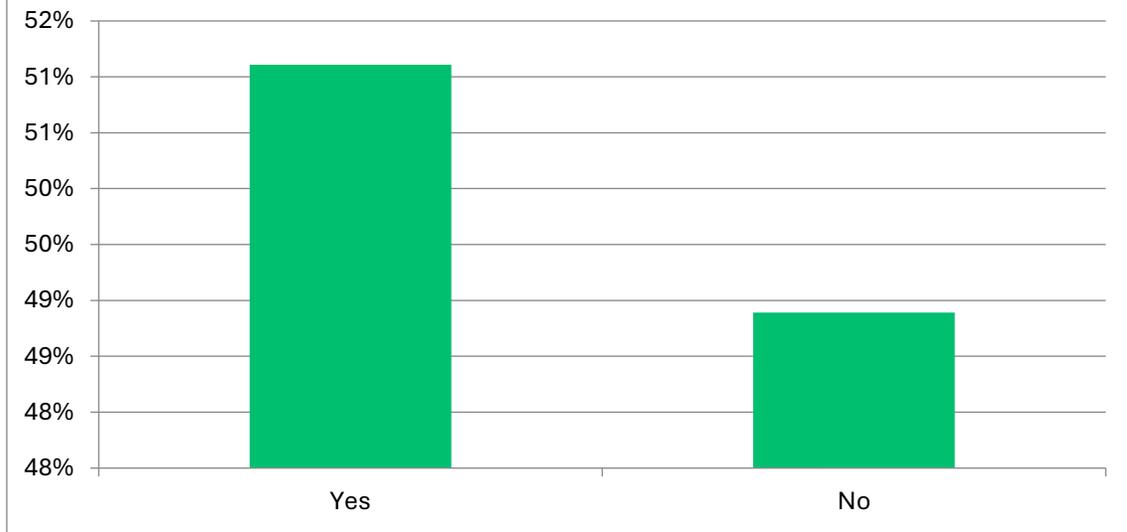
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Yes	67.76%	580
No	15.77%	135
Somewhat	16.47%	141
	Answered	856
	Skipped	158

Q14: How often do you recycle?



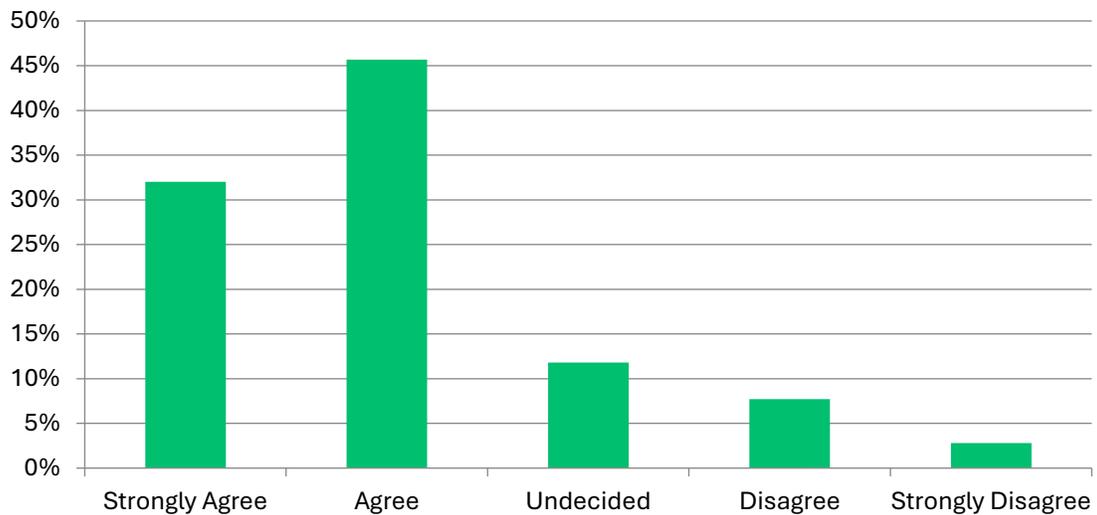
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Always	41.94%	359
Almost Always	24.42%	209
When it is convenient	17.17%	147
Almost Never	7.48%	64
Never	9.00%	77
	Answered	856
	Skipped	158

Q15: Do you currently have curbside recycling at your home?



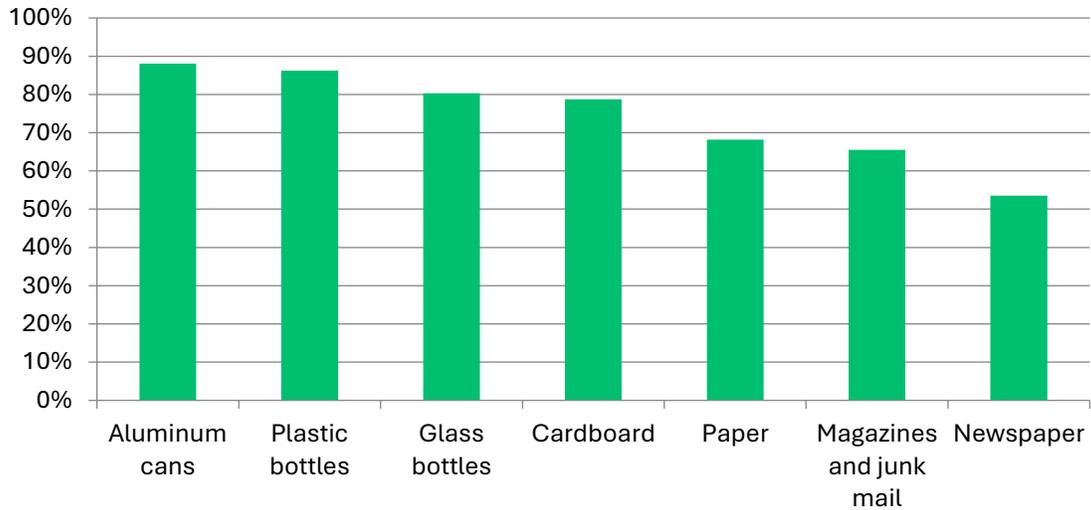
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	51.11%	438
No	48.89%	419
	Answered	857
	Skipped	157

Q16: You know what items are recyclable in your area.



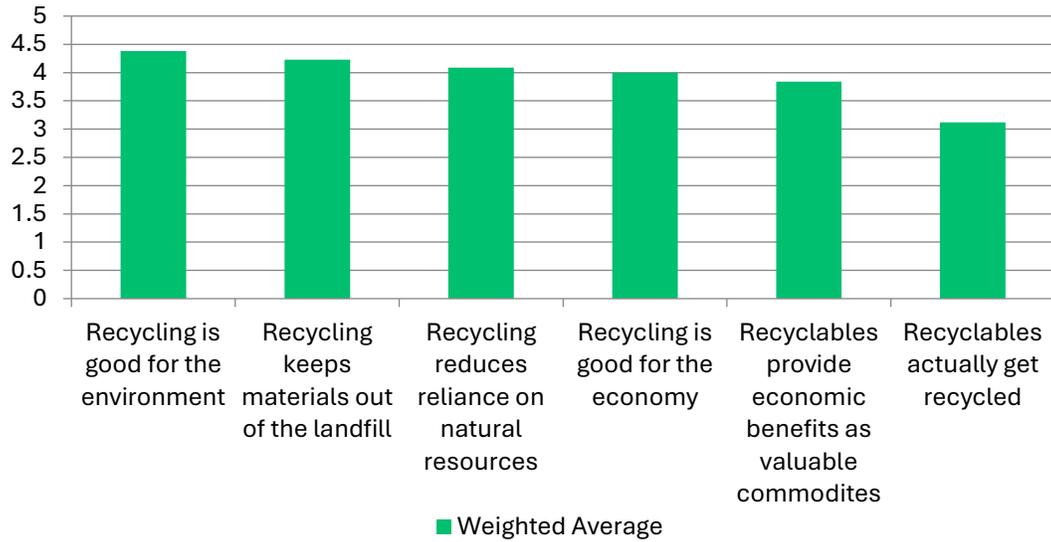
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Strongly Agree	32.01%	274
Agree	45.68%	391
Undecided	11.80%	101
Disagree	7.71%	66
Strongly Disagree	2.80%	24
	Answered	856
	Skipped	158

Q17: Which of the following items do you recycle regularly? (Select all that apply)



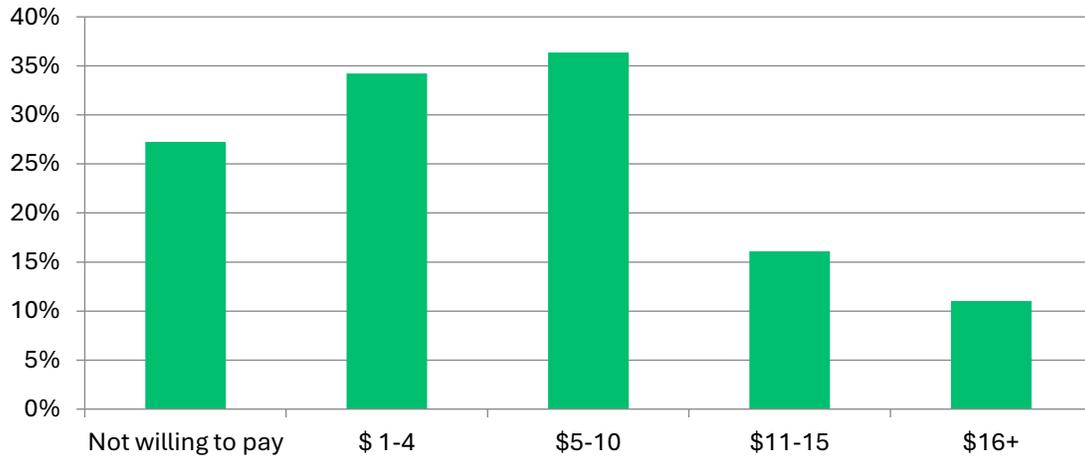
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Aluminum cans	88.03%	684
Plastic bottles	86.23%	670
Glass bottles	80.31%	624
Cardboard	78.76%	612
Paper	68.21%	530
Magazines and junk mail	65.51%	509
Newspaper	53.54%	416
	Answered	777
	Skipped	237

Q18: Select your level of agreeance



	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Weighted Average
Recycling is good for the environment	1.76%	1.05%	7.26%	37.24%	52.69%	4.38
Recycling keeps materials out of the landfill	1.76%	3.16%	9.13%	41.92%	44.03%	4.23
Recycling reduces reliance on natural resources	1.53%	2.24%	18.77%	40.73%	36.72%	4.09
Recycling is good for the economy	1.18%	2.12%	26.00%	36.59%	34.12%	4
Recyclables provide economic benefits as valuable commodities	1.41%	3.18%	31.45%	38.28%	25.68%	3.84
Recyclables actually get recycled	6.55%	20.58%	33.68%	32.98%	6.20%	3.12
					Answered	857
					Skipped	157

Q19: I would be willing to pay any of the following monthly fee for curbside recycling collection: (Select all that apply)

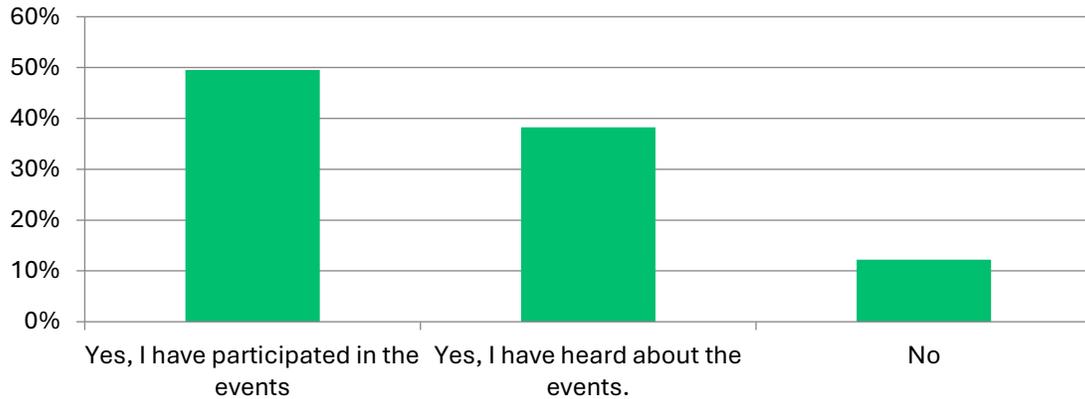


Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Not willing to pay	27.25%	227
\$ 1-4	34.21%	285
\$5-10	36.37%	303
\$11-15	16.09%	134
\$16+	11.04%	92
	Answered	833
	Skipped	181

Q20: Additional Recycling Comments

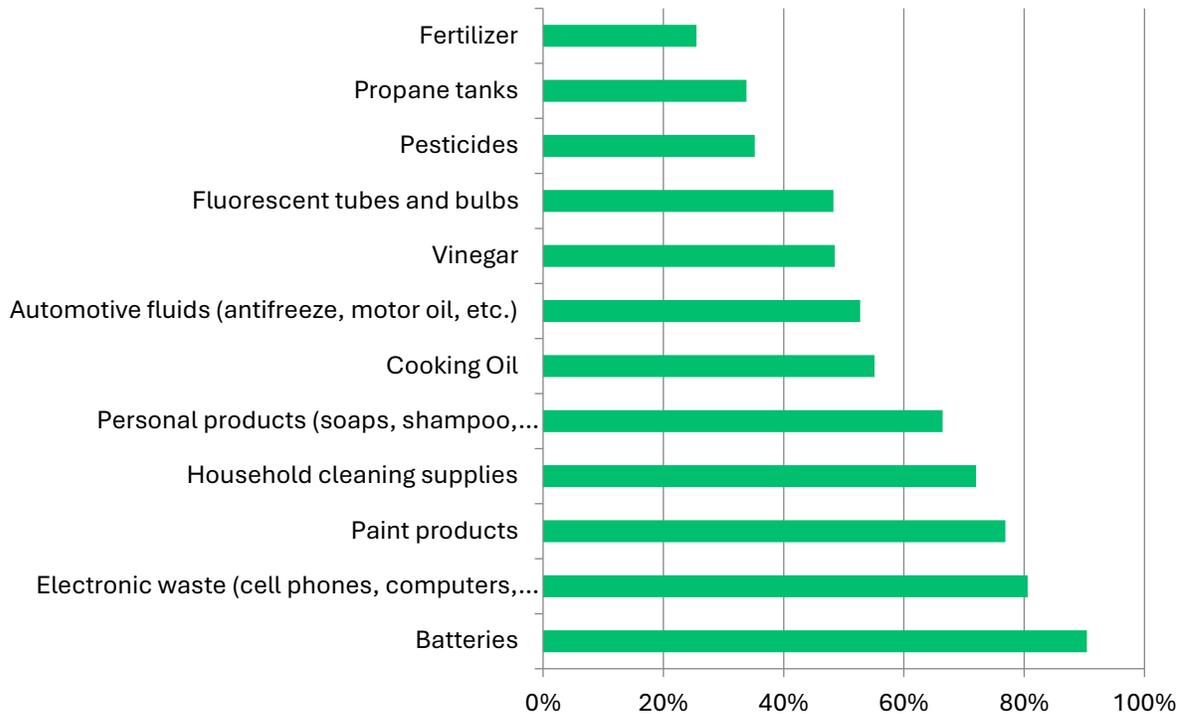
Overall, respondents strongly support recycling but are frustrated by inconsistent access, rising costs, and the loss of curbside service in many areas after waste hauler changes. Many already pay for recycling through taxes or trash bills and are unwilling to pay more, especially on fixed incomes, while others would participate if it were free, affordable, or conveniently available via curbside or nearby drop-off centers with more frequent (ideally weekly) pickup. A dominant concern is lack of trust and transparency—people widely question whether materials placed in recycling are actually recycled or sent to landfills, and many ask for clear reporting, third-party verification, and better communication about what gets recycled and where it goes. Respondents also call for more education on what can and can't be recycled, how to prepare items, and less contamination in bins, along with expanded options for hard-to-recycle items like Styrofoam, plastics, electronics, batteries, textiles, and scrap metal. In short, the comments show strong pro-recycling attitudes paired with demands for reliable service, affordability, convenience, clearer rules, and honest accountability to rebuild confidence and increase participation.

Q21: Have you ever participated in or heard of your county's waste collection events for household hazardous waste, tires, batteries, etc.?



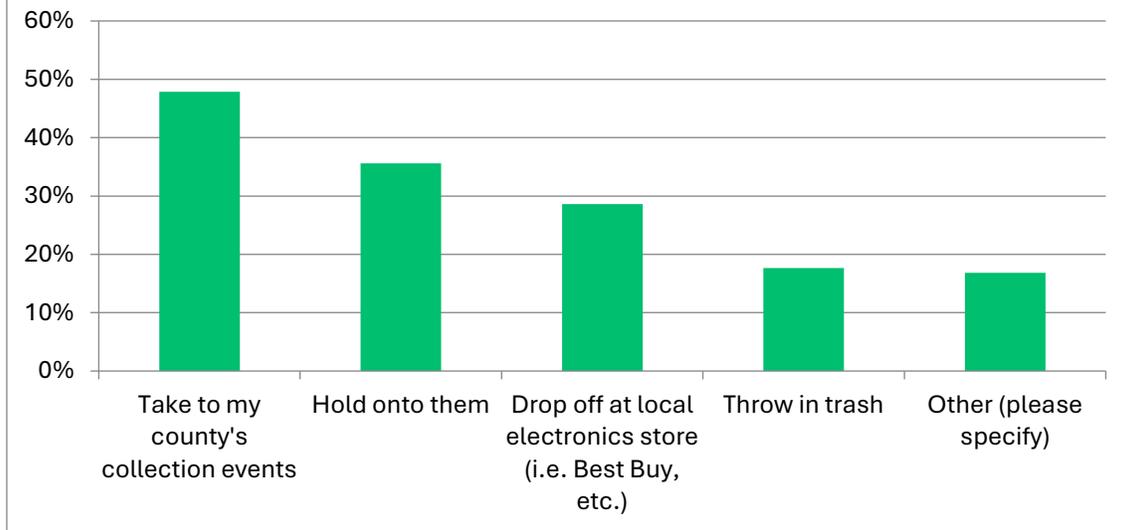
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Yes, I have participated in the events	49.52%	409
Yes, I have heard about the events.	38.26%	316
No	12.23%	101
	Answered	826
	Skipped	188

Q22: Which of the following household hazardous waste items are present in your home? (Select all that apply).



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Batteries	90.42%	727
Electronic waste (cell phones, computers, microwaves, TVs)	80.60%	648
Paint products	76.87%	618
Household cleaning supplies	72.01%	579
Personal products (soaps, shampoo, cosmetics, etc.)	66.42%	534
Cooking Oil	55.10%	443
Automotive fluids (antifreeze, motor oil, etc.)	52.74%	424
Vinegar	48.51%	390
Fluorescent tubes and bulbs	48.26%	388
Pesticides	35.20%	283
Propane tanks	33.83%	272
Fertilizer	25.50%	205
	Answered	804
	Skipped	210

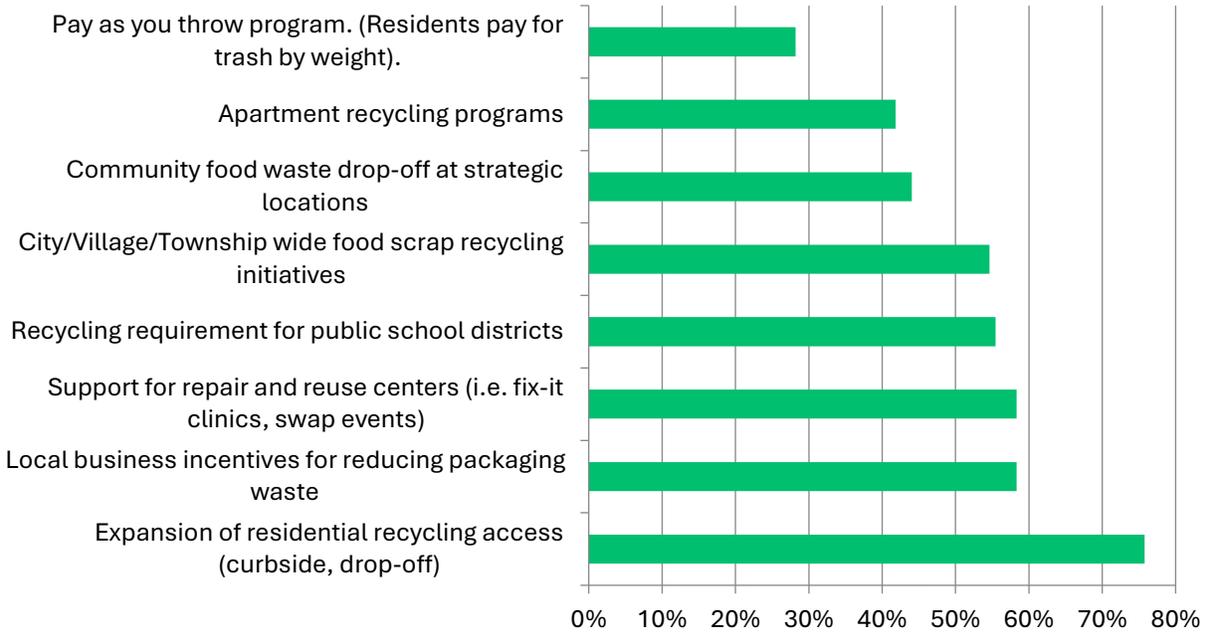
Q23: How do you currently dispose of electronics? (Select all that apply)



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Take to my county's collection events	47.85%	390
Hold onto them	35.58%	290
Drop off at local electronics store (i.e. Best Buy, etc.)	28.59%	233
Throw in trash	17.67%	144
Other (please specify)	16.81%	137
	Answered	815
	Skipped	199

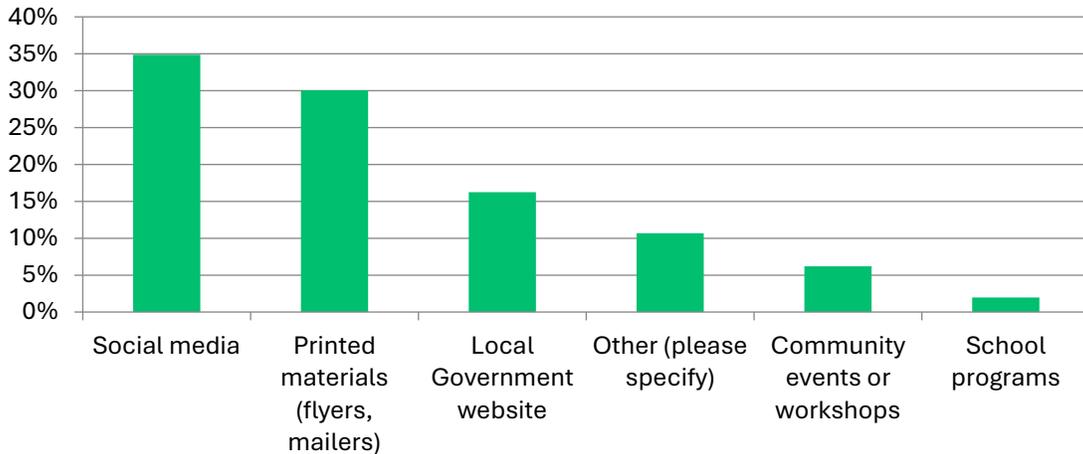
Most respondents handle old electronics, batteries, and appliances by dropping them off at specialized recycling centers, especially Green Earth Electronics in St. Joseph (37 responses), along with other local options like senior centers, thrift shops, county collection events, scrap yards, and hazardous waste facilities. Many also use workplace or employer drop-offs, manufacturer or phone-company take-back programs, or donate, sell, or give away items that still work. A smaller group sets items at the curb for pickers, scraps them for metal, or occasionally takes them to the landfill, while some admit they are unsure where to go or wait for collection events.

**Q24: Which of the following new materials management programs would you support?
(Select all that apply)**



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Expansion of residential recycling access (curbside, drop-off)	75.75%	578
Local business incentives for reducing packaging waste	58.32%	445
Support for repair and reuse centers (i.e. fix-it clinics, swap events)	58.32%	445
Recycling requirement for public school districts	55.44%	423
City/Village/Township wide food scrap recycling initiatives	54.65%	417
Community food waste drop-off at strategic locations	44.04%	336
Apartment recycling programs	41.81%	319
Pay as you throw program. (Residents pay for trash by weight).	28.18%	215
	Answered	763
	Skipped	251

Q25: What is the best way for you to receive information about waste diversion?



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Social media	34.86%	281
Printed materials (flyers, mailers)	30.02%	242
Local Government website	16.25%	131
Other (please specify)	10.67%	86
Community events or workshops	6.20%	50
School programs	1.99%	16
	Answered	806

Most respondents indicated that email is the preferred method of communication, with many specifically mentioning email notifications, newsletters, or direct messages from local governments, counties, or waste service providers. In addition to email, text messaging, local news outlets (including radio, television, and newspapers), social media, and community or county websites were frequently cited as useful ways to receive information.

Q26: Additional Comments

Respondents frequently emphasized the need for greater education, transparency, and accessibility in recycling and waste management programs. Many expressed uncertainty about what can be recycled and where materials go after collection, with some questioning whether items are truly recycled or simply sent to landfills or overseas. There was strong interest in clearer information, such as comprehensive lists of recyclable materials, more public data on recycling outcomes, and expanded outreach through schools, community groups, and events. Participants also highlighted the importance of waste reduction and reuse, suggesting initiatives like repair programs, tool libraries, composting education, and policies to reduce single-use plastics. Several respondents noted that education should come from multiple sources and include hands-on or face-to-face engagement to effectively change behavior.

At the same time, many comments focused on convenience, affordability, and system improvements as key barriers to participation. Respondents widely support expanding curbside recycling, increasing the number and flexibility of drop-off locations and hours, and making disposal of large or hazardous items easier and less expensive. Concerns were raised about illegal dumping, high costs, and inconvenient access—particularly in rural areas—along with calls for more consistent services such as food waste collection, yard waste programs, and recycling at businesses and public institutions. While some supported mandates or incentives to increase participation, others cautioned about costs and government involvement. Overall, there was strong support for improving local recycling systems, with a clear message that programs must be easy, trustworthy, and accessible to encourage widespread use.

Goal	Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Potential Partners	
Goal 1: Build a Culture of Recycling and Waste Reduction Through Education, Engagement, and Outreach	Objective 1.1 Support recycling education in schools and institutions	Promote existing toolkits for schools and businesses to implement recycling education programs.	Counties, ISDs,	Infrastructure, Staffing, Funding,	Michigan Green Schools	
		Establish a regional recycling coordinator to lead recycling education and outreach in schools.	Counties, ISDs,	Materials, Staffing, Funding	Project Learning Tree, MRC	
	Objective 1.2 Promote Recycling Education to businesses	Encourage retailers to recycle the products they sell and support waste reduction efforts	Counties	Infrastructure, Staffing, Funding	Economic Development Agencies,	
		Highlight examples of retailers and businesses who successfully promote recycling and waste reduction through certifications.	Counties	Staffing, Funding, Certification Program	EGL, Market Development Agencies	
	Objective 1.3 Develop a regional education campaign with physical and digital media on what, where, and how to recycle and reduce waste.	Share programs, goals, and successes.	Counties	Marketing Firm, Staffing, Funding	LUGs, Businesses, Clubs & Organizations, Schools	
		Educate on waste reduction initiatives.	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding, Marketing Firms,	ISDs, Community Colleges	
		Education on why recycling works and address myths	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding	MRC, MRF	
		Create and promote tools on what, where, and how to recycle	Counties, MMPC	Materials, Staffing, Funding, Marketing Firms	MRC	
	Objective 1.4 Create outreach strategies for rural, urban, and hard-to-reach populations.	Utilize AI contamination technology to deliver targeted, audience-specific recycling messages.	Counties, LUGs	Staffing, Funding	Haulers, The Recycling Partnership	
		Engage partners to share recycling information and events.	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding	Economic Development Agencies,	
		Host public events related to recycling and waste reduction	Counties	Staffing, Funding		
			By 2026: Ensure 90% of single-family dwellings in urban areas have curbside service (min. twice/month).	LUGs, Counties,	Template contracts/ordinances/agreements, GIS, Staffing, Funding	Haulers,
			By 2028: Ensure 90% of single-family dwellings in municipalities >5,000 residents have curbside service.	LUGs, Counties,	Template contracts/ordinances/agreements, GIS, Staffing, Funding	Haulers,

Goal 2: Expand and Improve Recycling Infrastructure and Access	Objective 2.1 Expand Curbside Recycling Services, Ensuring Minimum Requirements are Met.	Minimum Requirements for all curbside recycling services: consistent materials accepted (plastics, cans, cardboard, paper, cartons, glass), recycling is picked up at least twice per month, education regarding acceptable materials is provided often, access to recycling infrastructure is available to everyone in the county at an affordable cost.			
	Objective 2.2 Ensure Equitable Drop-Off Access, Ensuring Minimum Requirements are Met.	Use GIS Mapping to establish four comprehensive drop-off sites per county	Counties, LUGs	Staffing, Funding, Real Estate	SWMPC, Community Colleges, Logistics Companies, Economic Development Agencies
		By 2032: Counties <100,000 residents → 1 site per 10,000 residents without curbside. Counties ≥100,000 residents → 1 site per 50,000 residents without curbside. Minimum Requirements: Sites must offer collection of plastics, cans, cardboard, paper, cartons, glass; the site must be open to the public for at least 24 hrs/month; the site must offer at least some evening/weekend hours; the site must be manned.	Counties,	Real Estate, Infrastructure, GIS, Staffing, Funding	LUGs,
	Objective 2.3 Make Recycling Cost-Effective and Transparent	Develop coordinated logistics with haulers to ensure adequate equipment, hours, and materials handling capacity.	Counties, Haulers	Staffing, Funding	LMC,
		Encourage single-hauler contracts in cities/villages to provide universal recycling access at consistent costs.	Counties, LUGs	Template contracts/ordinances/agreements, Staffing, Funding	Haulers,
	Objective 2.4 Improve Diversion of Hard-to-Recycle and Hazardous Materials	Implement at least one collection event annually within each County that accepts tires, HHW, batteries, and electronics.	Counties	Partnerships, Funding, Staffing	
		Educate the public on hazardous materials and the need to keep them out of landfills.	Counties, Haulers	Staffing, Funding	

Goal 3: Develop Policies and Funding Mechanisms to Support Recycling	Objective 3.1 Advance Waste Reduction Through Policy and Incentives	Enact a county ordinance that requires haulers to obtain a license to operate within the county, and require haulers offer curbside recycling access to any household with curbside trash pickup and publish pricing for transparency.	Counties	Online license application, Staffing, Funding	
		Enact a County resolution/ordinance requiring all county buildings and county sponsored events to use recyclables/compostables materials and provide recycling and composting services on site	Counties	Infrastructure, Staffing, Funding	
Goal 4: Divert Materials From Landfills Through Diversion Improvements and Market Development	Objective 4.1 Foster Local Markets and Economic Development	Establish or incentivize a glass recycling facility in the tri-county area.	Public/Private Partnerships	Funding, Partnerships, Staffing	MSU
		Partner with local economic development agencies to attract companies to the region that utilize recycled materials.	Counties, LUGs	Staffing, Funding	EGL, MSU
		Encourage public private partnerships to increase recycling	Counties	Education & Outreach, Staffing, Funding	
		Investigate models to make recycling cheaper than disposal, including subsidies, fee restructuring, or incentives.	Counties, State, MMPC	Legal expertise, Staffing, Funding	
	Objective 4.3 Utilize resources to support and expand the circular economy in Southwest Michigan	Support Extended Producer Responsibility legislation to incentivize producers to use easier-to-recycle packaging and help fund recycling programs throughout the state by submitting letters of support.	Counties, Elected Officials	University Research, Staffing, Funding	
		Utilize State programs to promote a circular economy (EG Nextcycle, Materials Marketplace)	Counties	Materials, Staffing Funding	Libraries, Conservation Districts,