



**SAUGATUCK
TOWNSHIP**

**2020 ADVISORY TRI-COMMUNITY RECYCLING AD HOC COMMITTEE AGENDA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020 – 3:00 P.M.**

This public meeting will be held using Zoom video/audio conference technology due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2698572603>

Enter Meeting ID: 2698572603

or

Join by phone by dialing: **651-372-8299.**
Then enter "Meeting ID": **269 857 2603**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMIT 3 MINUTES)** *Use the "raise hand" button in the participants screen in the Zoom interface or enter *9 if you are calling in by phone to raise hand.*
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. **Review Recycling Survey Results**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
8. **NEXT STEPS**
9. **PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMIT 3 MINUTES)** *Use the "raise hand" button in the participants screen in the Zoom interface or enter *9 if you are calling in by phone to raise hand.*
10. **ADJOURN**

Tri-Community Recycling Survey Results - DRAFT

Introduction

In early 2020, the three local municipalities (City of Saugatuck, the City of Douglas, and Saugatuck Township) collaborated to form the Tri-Community Recycling Ad-hoc Committee (TCRC). The primary goals of the TCRC was to determine (1) residents' recycling knowledge, (2) the ease/difficulty of recycling, and (3) how recycling-related communication and education can be improved.

Current recycling activities in the tri-community area are limited to individual consumer commitment and constituent and/or business owner passion pertaining to recycling, and individual waste management contracts and that company's commitment and access to recycling. In short, the local recycling program is extremely limited.

However, given the environmental focus of the lakeshore community, residents and business owners are committed to ensuring that the local environment is a cleaner, conserving materials, saving energy and reducing the amount of garbage in West Michigan landfills. Tri-community residents and business owners recognize that recycling (1) reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators, (2) conserves natural resources, (3) increases economic security by tapping a domestic source of materials, (4) prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials, (5) saves energy, (6) supports American manufacturing and conserves valuable resources, and (7) helps create jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries. What is lacking is a clear determination of individual and business owner commitment to recycling and the sacrifice they are willing to make in order to implement and sustain a long-term, permanent recycling program.

The first measurable objective of the TCRC was to develop a survey instrument that would adequately gather recycling-related practices and relevant information from tri-community residents and business owners. Once the survey was developed, it was administered via electronic and hard-copy methodology, as well as through social media page postings.

By eventually implementing a clear and concise recycling-related communication and education plan, it is our hope to decrease waste and increase recycling in the tri-communities. Success will be measured by the completion of the survey and implementation of a clear and concise recycling education program.

Data analysis and summary reporting

Summary data will be reported in aggregate form and the survey results will be shared via public meetings to the respective municipalities, and by posting the summary report on the respective municipality web pages. The final objective will be to have a clear tri-community recycling-related communication and education plan of action.

Data are presented below in three parts: (1) resident survey responses (n=579), (2) business-owner responses (n=69), and a (3) resident and business owner comment section. The resident survey consisted to nineteen (19) questions that took approximately 6 minutes to complete. The business-owner survey consisted of twenty (20) questions with an identical response time.

General observations are that residents and business-owners feel confident in their knowledge of how and what to recycle, are passionate about recycling, would recycle on a weekly basis, but are not satisfied with the current recycling procedures that are in place. Resident sentiment remains unclear as

to whether or not the yellow bags are still to be used for recycling and have a lack of confidence that recycling materials are being processed correctly. A significant number of respondents indicated that they would like “reassurance that all eligible materials are actually being recycled. When responding to the questions regarding composting, the majority indicated that they do not currently compost and are not sure of they would use a compost site it one was available. In addition, the majority of respondents (468) indicated that they would “support the elimination of non-recyclable plastic bags, Styrofoam or non-recyclable plastic containers/utensils, in our community.” Lastly, residents are interested in receiving educational materials and updates regarding composting and recycling, through direct mail, social media, via the municipality webpage and, for business-owners, via the CVB and/or SDABA listservs.

Initial review and recommendations

An initial review of the data, and resident and business-owner comments suggest the following:

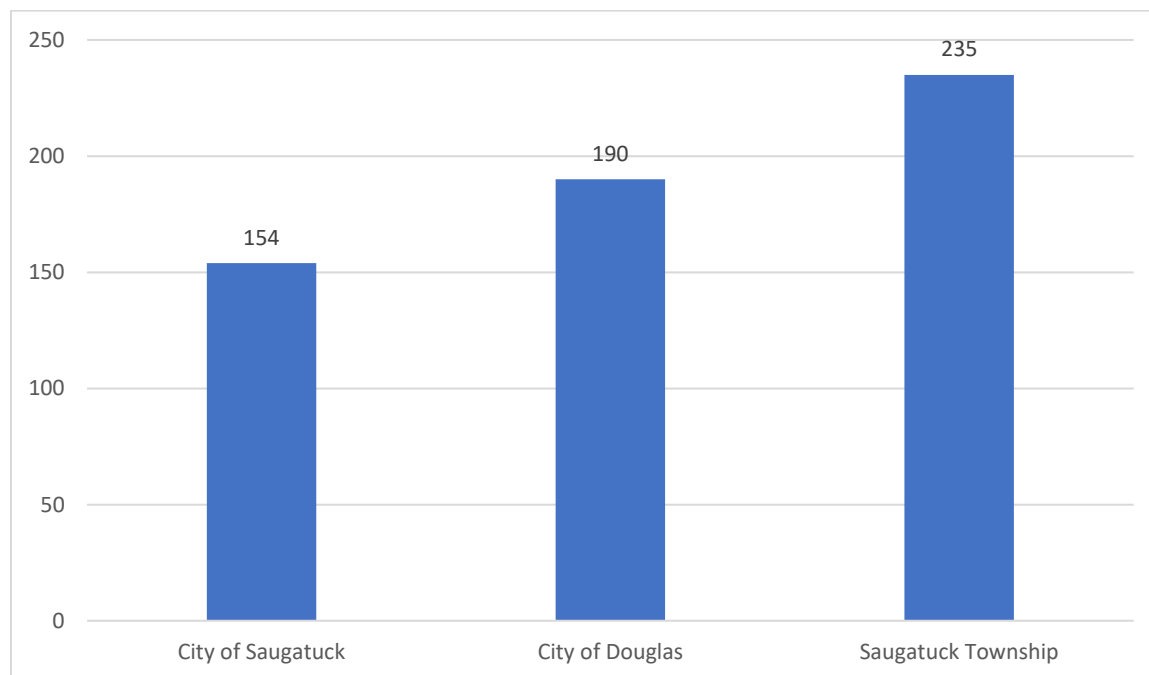
1. That the TCRC must address the continued use of the yellow bags, specifically in Saugatuck Township. Apparently, Republic Services is continuing to make the yellow bags available. This has lead to confusion and adds more plastic to our local landfills.
2. A “Back-to-basics” education initiative. The TCRC could provide educational materials to local residents and business-owners. Within this initiative, the TCRC would encourage residents and business-owners to ONLY recycle: cardboard boxes, paper, metal cans/pop cans, milk jugs, water and soda plastic bottles.
3. Resident-specific suggestions:
 - a. Create one-page mailer for residents of the tri-communities to inform them of the results of the Recycling Survey and the immediate Action Plan of the Recycling Committee. This flier would include ‘getting back to basics’ and how they can help support the effort. Note on this flier that information will be available online. Flier would include:
 - i. What Items Can Be Recycled (Specific items will be determined upon feedback from Republic, with a focus on items we know Republic has an interest in recycling as opposed to “wish-list” items. Critical piece in shifting publics’ expectations away from wanting to recycle everything to recognizing that increasing the volume of materials successfully recycled depends upon recycling only those materials capable of being recycled.
 - ii. How to Properly Prepare Material to be Recycled (Important follow-up piece to increase the likelihood that appropriate materials put into the recycling will be recycled and not rejected due to contamination.
 - iii. How to Compost at Home (Educate residents about how to compost at home and respond to misconceptions about composting as a means of reducing overall waste)
 - b. Create an easily accessible Facebook page for Saugatuck/Douglas Recycling where the above educational sheets can live and be easily accessed by residents and visitors.
 - c. Regular Column in the Commercial Record (Approach Scott Sullivan about having a semi-monthly article in the Commercial Record keeping the public informed about recycling trends, news, and developments in the Recycling Committee. We would need 2-3 contributing writers to create the articles to print. The TCRC could create an outline of all the articles we would like to cover in the year. Everything from single use plastics, composting, to ways we can recycle better.
 - d. Provide composting-related education through FB page, possible live stream demos, explaining the difference around backyard vs. industrial composting.
 - e. Connect with the Garden Club to see if they would be willing to host/manage a compost drop off site to then use in the gardens. Coordinate with school efforts around this as well.

4. Connect with Jim Yost and Kelly Roche to explore possible composting opportunities especially with respect to compostable materials most likely to be used by businesses that may require special processing.
5. Business-owner specific suggestions:
 - a. Determine business owner interest in group-buys for compostable materials.
 - b. Explore possibilities for food waste reduction: connect with local farmers to see if there is interest or need in utilizing unusable food for animal feed.
 - c. Explore opportunity to create branded, reusable bags to cut down on plastic bag use and generate funds for the Recycling Committee.
 - d. Discuss ways to eliminate single-use plastics and identify more sustainable options. Start discussions to eliminate plastic bags from retail stores in town for something more sustainable.
 - e. "Group Buy" of sustainable single-use packaging throughout the tri-community area.
6. General community-wide thoughts, for both residents and businesses:
 - a. Research the cost of household hazardous waste drop off & medical waste/pills events that includes all 3 municipalities.
 - b. Discuss options about a recycle drop-off location(s).
 - c. Research community composting location(s) and/or farmers.
 - d. Reach out to Saugatuck Public Schools to explore educational and program opportunities with the students and, subsequently, their parents/guardians.

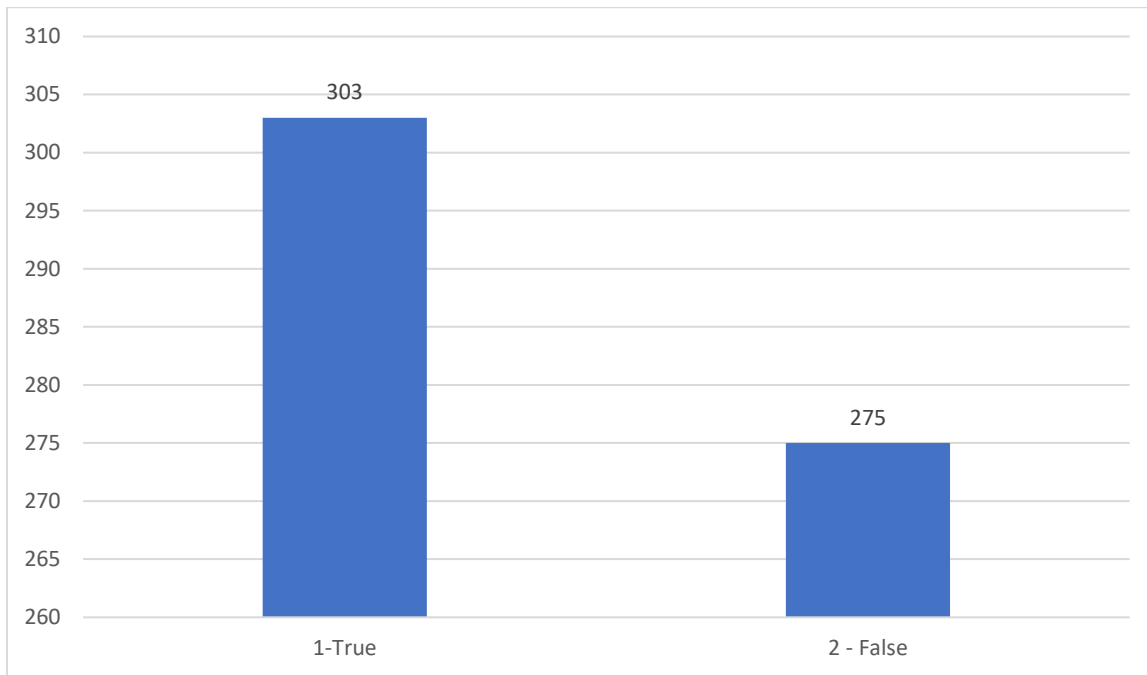
Resident survey responses

The TCRC made the survey available via electronic and hard-copy methodology, as well as through postings on numerous social media pages. A total of 579 responses were collected (154 from the City of Saugatuck, 190 from the City of Douglas, and 235 from Saugatuck Township) from a possible 4,760 residents, resulting in an overall response rate of 12.2%

Question 1 - Do you reside in:

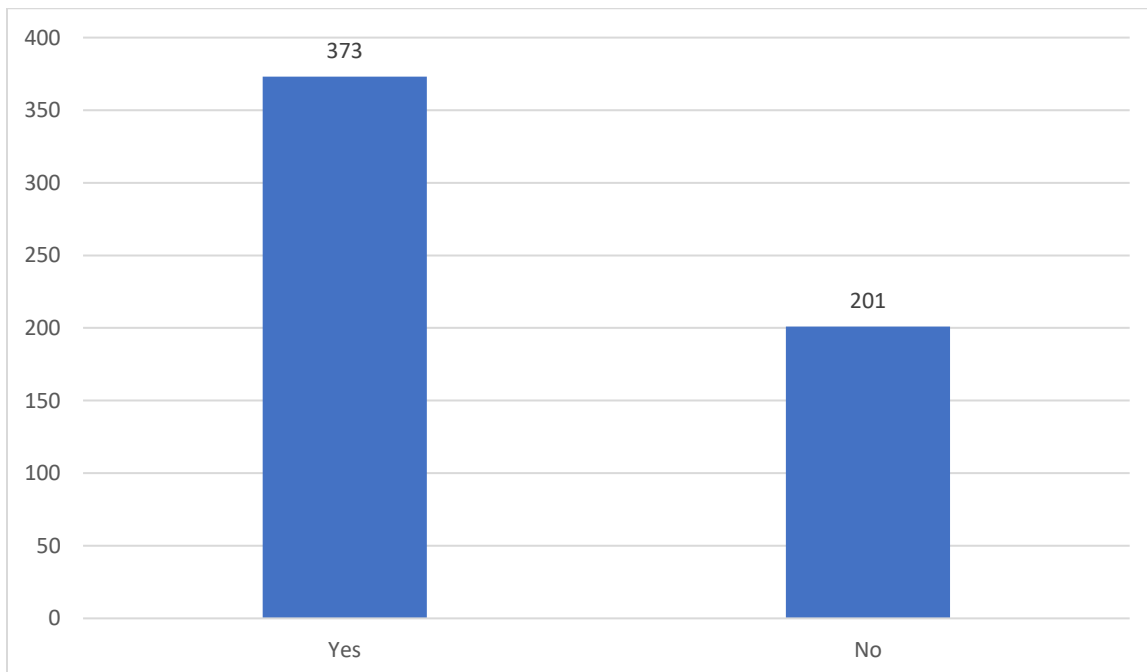


Question 3: True or False? I feel completely confident in my knowledge of how and what to recycle.

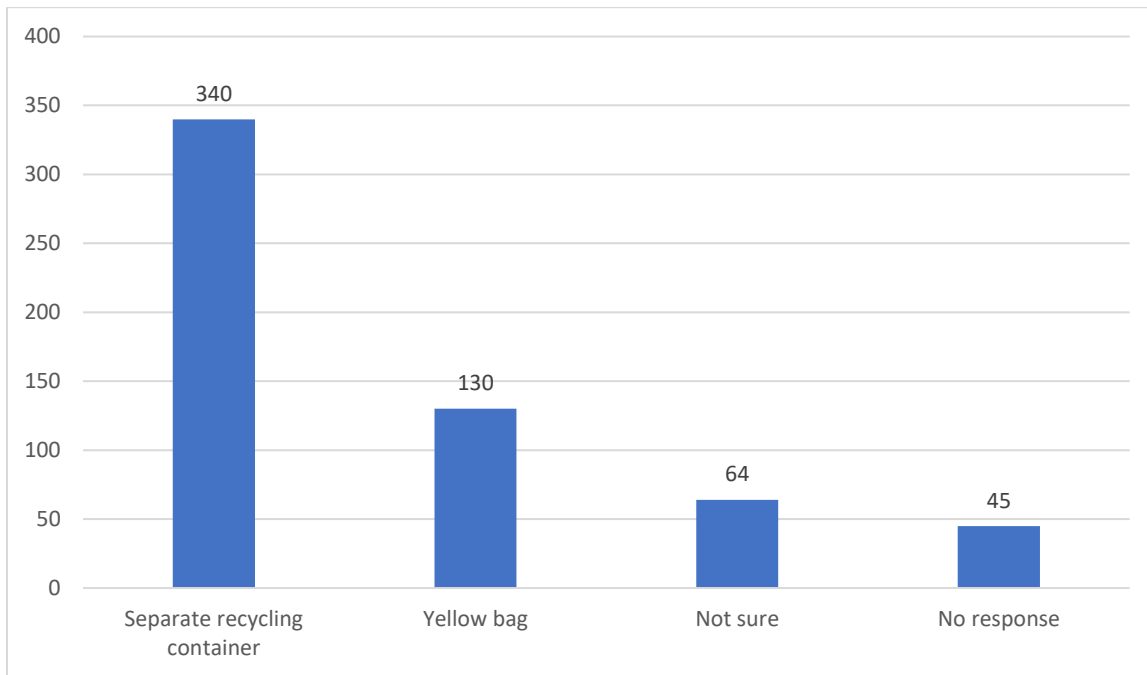


Question 4: When asked, “Who is your current trash provider?” The majority of responses were Republic Services (or Chef). It is important to note that the City of Saugatuck and the City of Douglas are under a single-hauler contract with Republic Services. Saugatuck Township does not currently have a contract. As a result, additional responses included: Thirty-three (33) “JJ Disposal” or “Jay’s;” ten (10) “Arrow Waste;” thirteen (13) “Not sure.” Other single responses included: Virg’s, Allied, Reliable, Lakeside Disposal, Everclean, and Jerry’s.

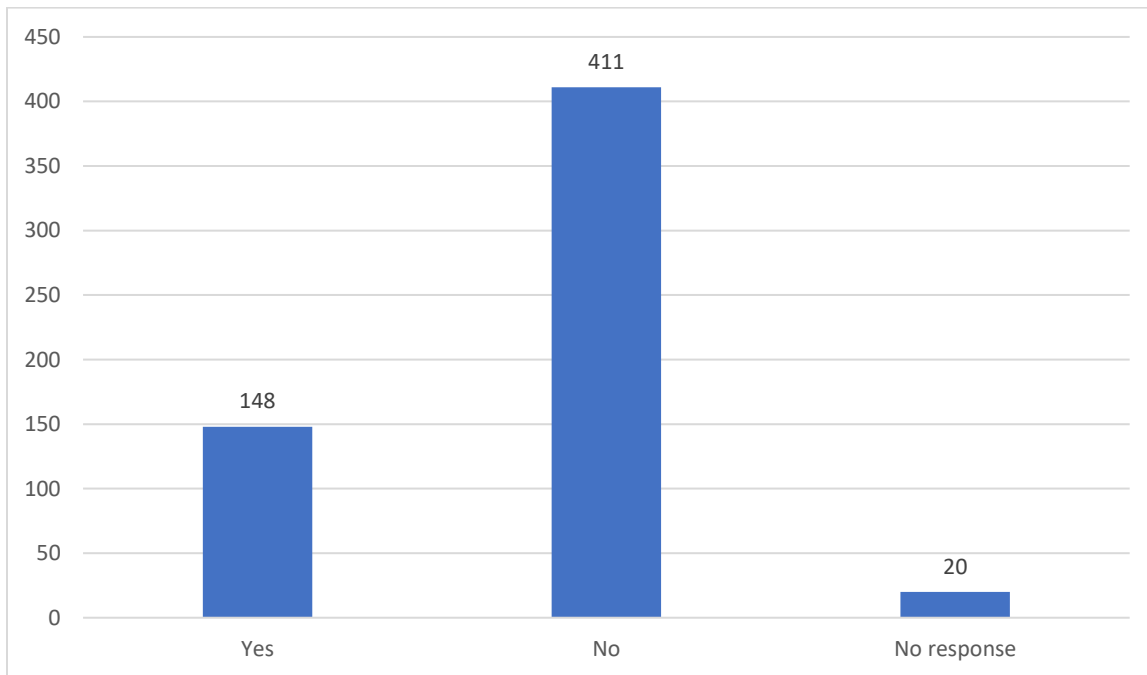
Question 5: Have you opted into your waste hauler’s recycling cart service?



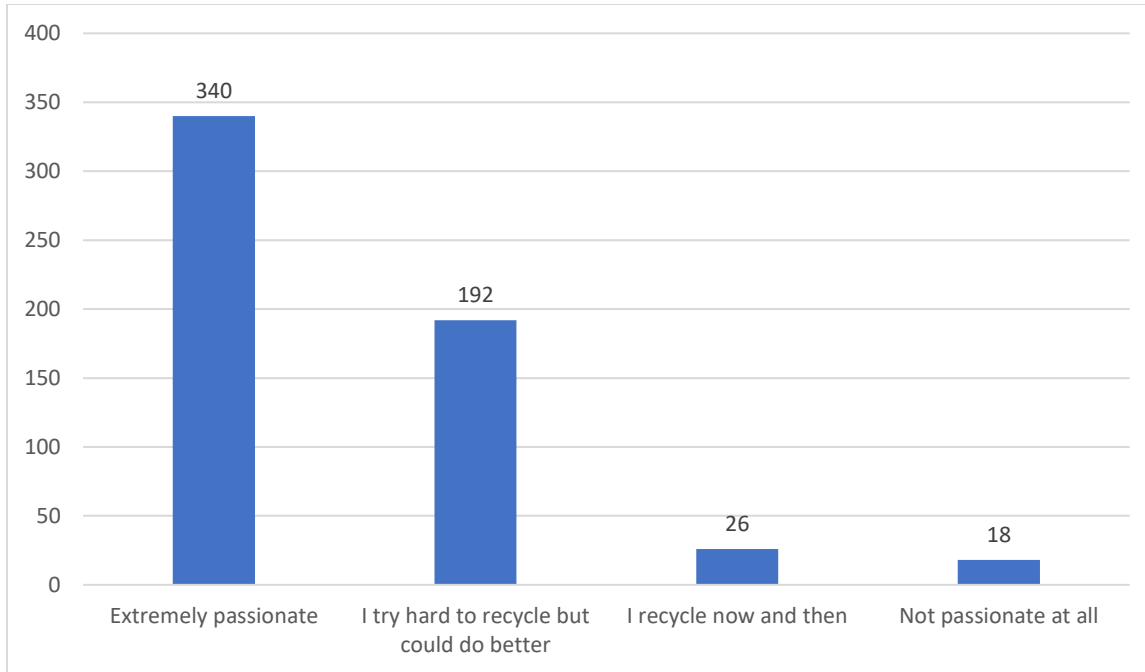
Question 6: What type of recycling container do you use?



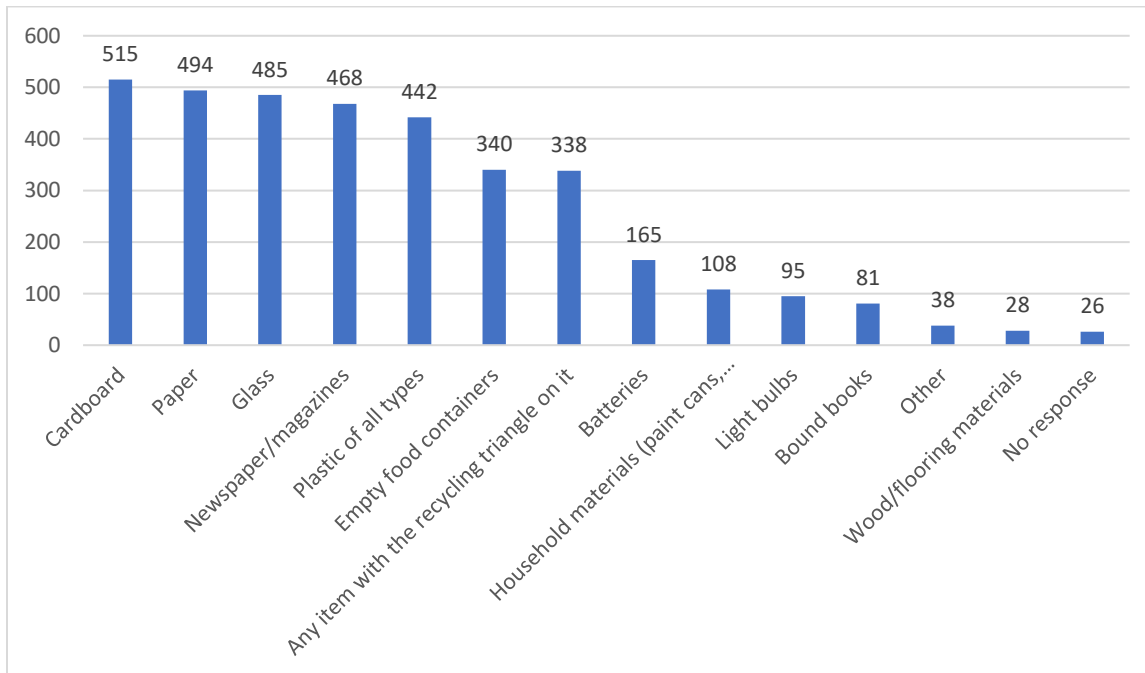
Question 7: Are you satisfied with the current recycling procedures in place?



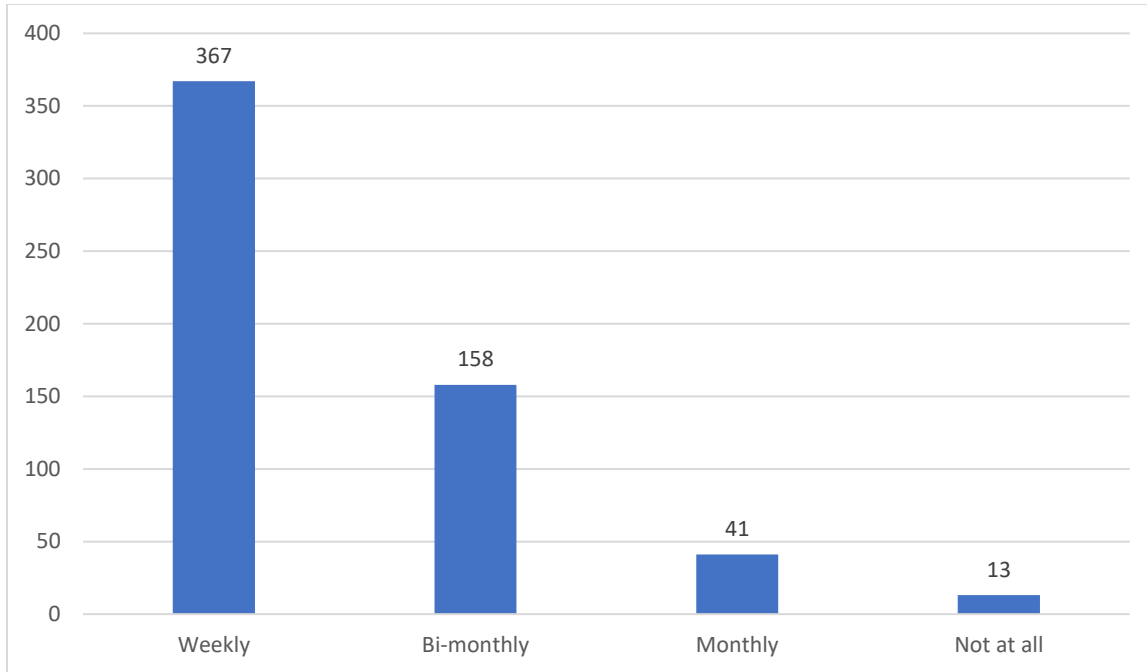
Question 8: How passionate are you about recycling?



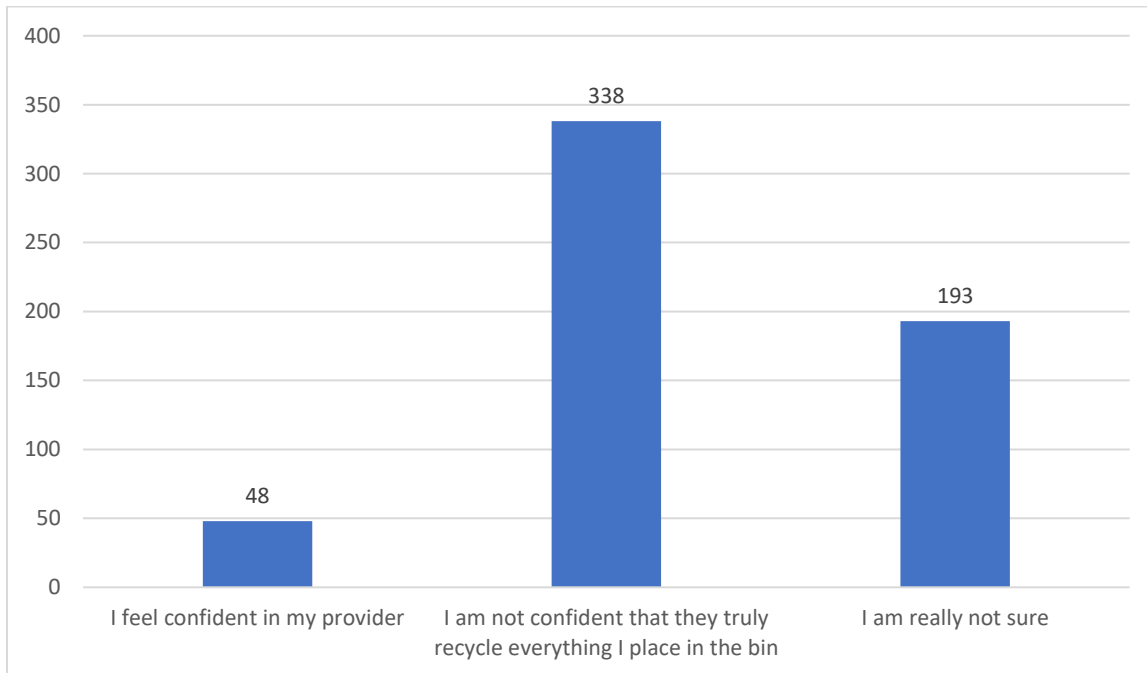
Question 9: What do you currently recycle (check all that apply).



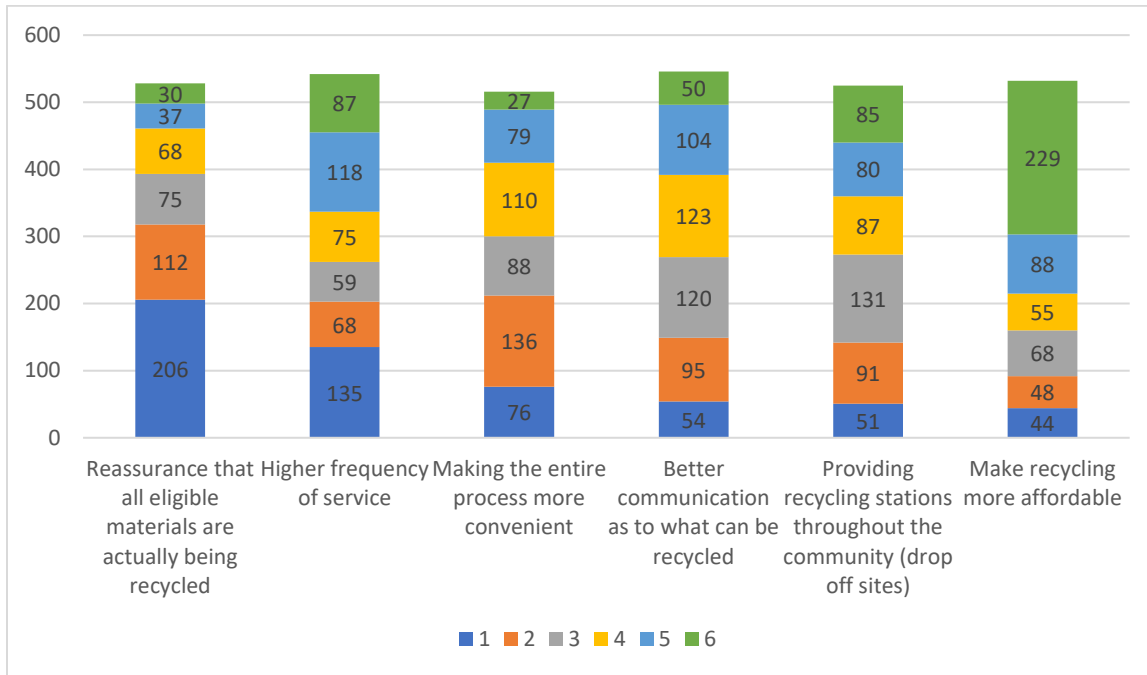
Question 10 - If I could, I would recycle:



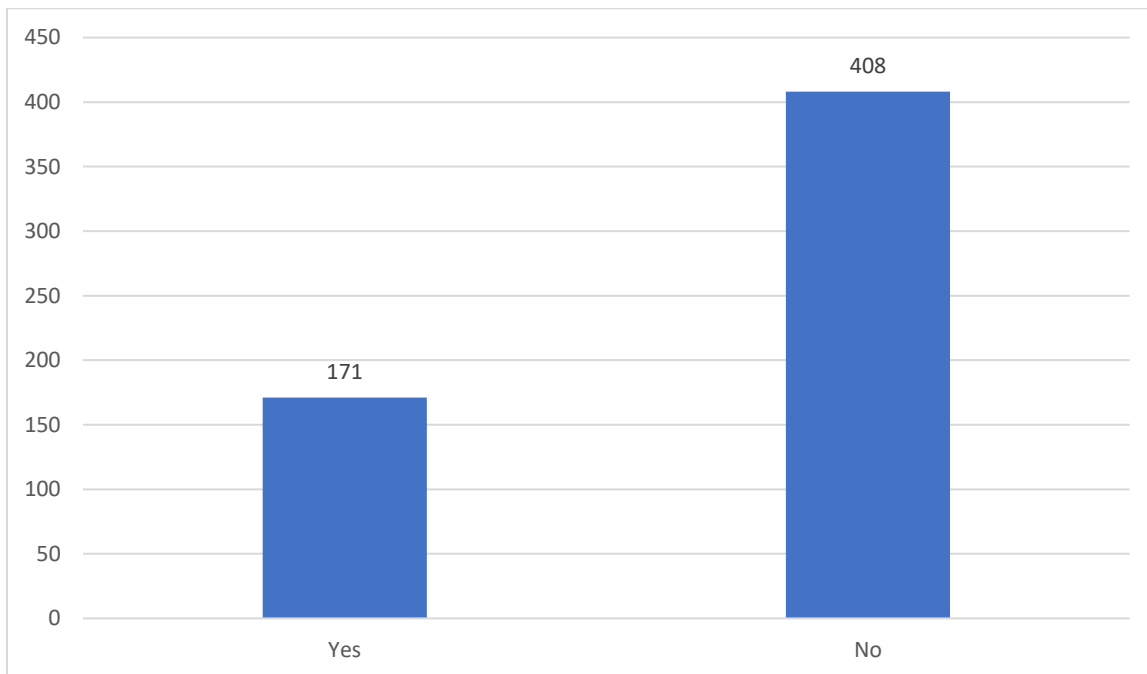
Question 11 – How much confidence do you have that your recycling is being processed correctly?



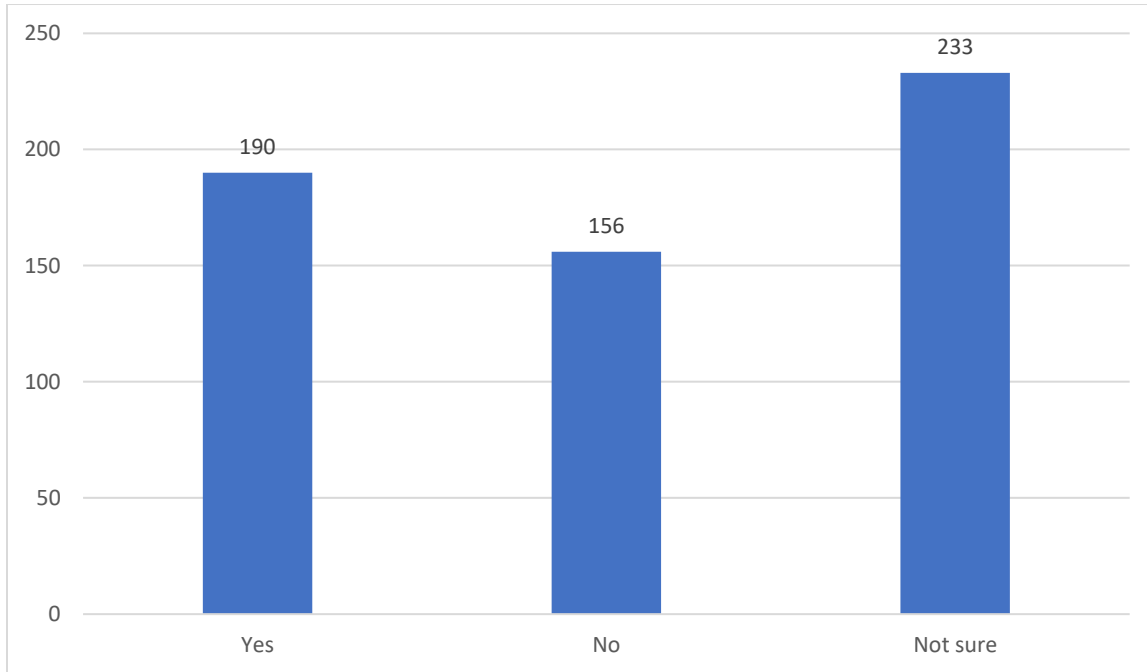
Question 12 – If we could help improve your current recycling experience, please rank what you believe is the most important, to the least important (1 being most important).



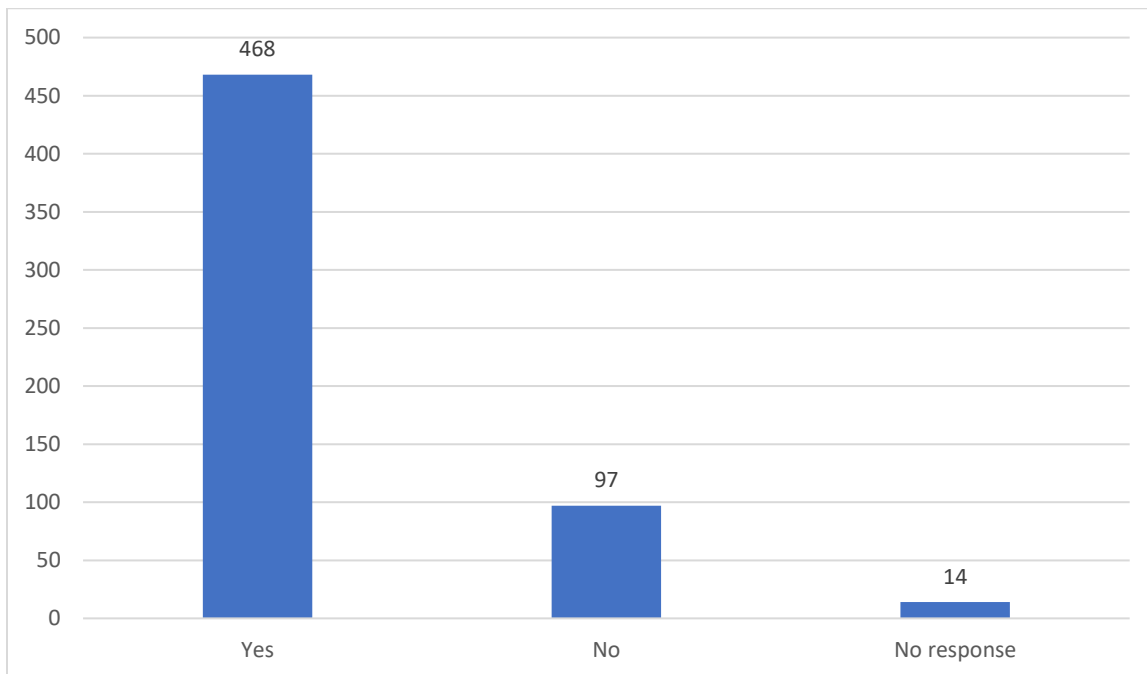
Question 13 – Do you compost?



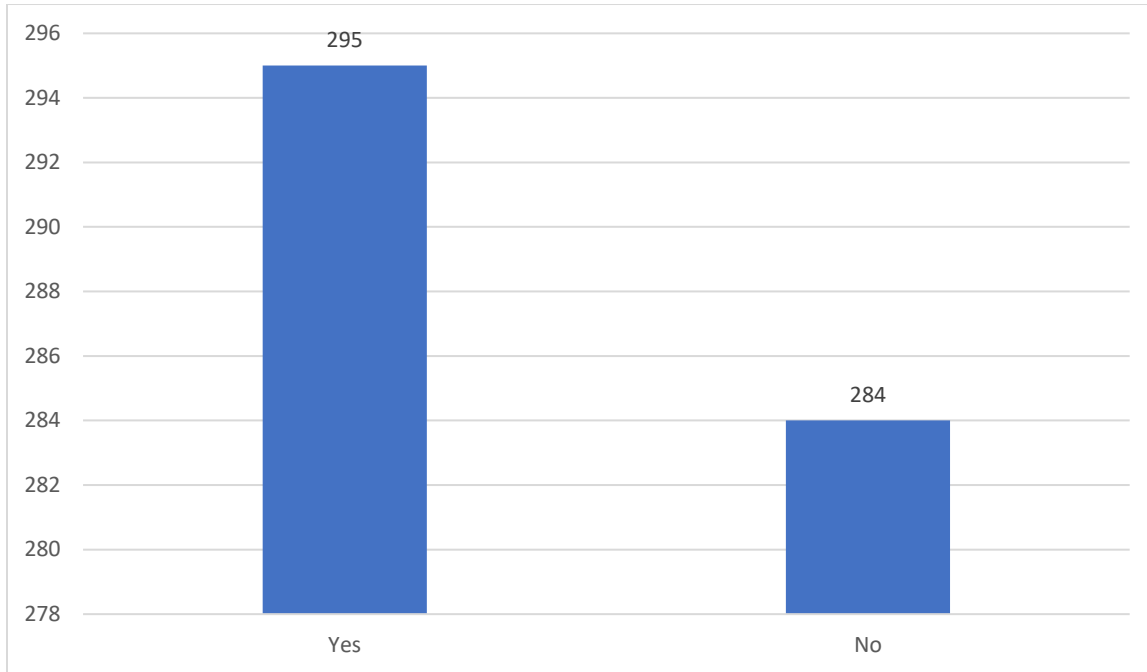
Question 14 – If a community compost site was available, would you use it?



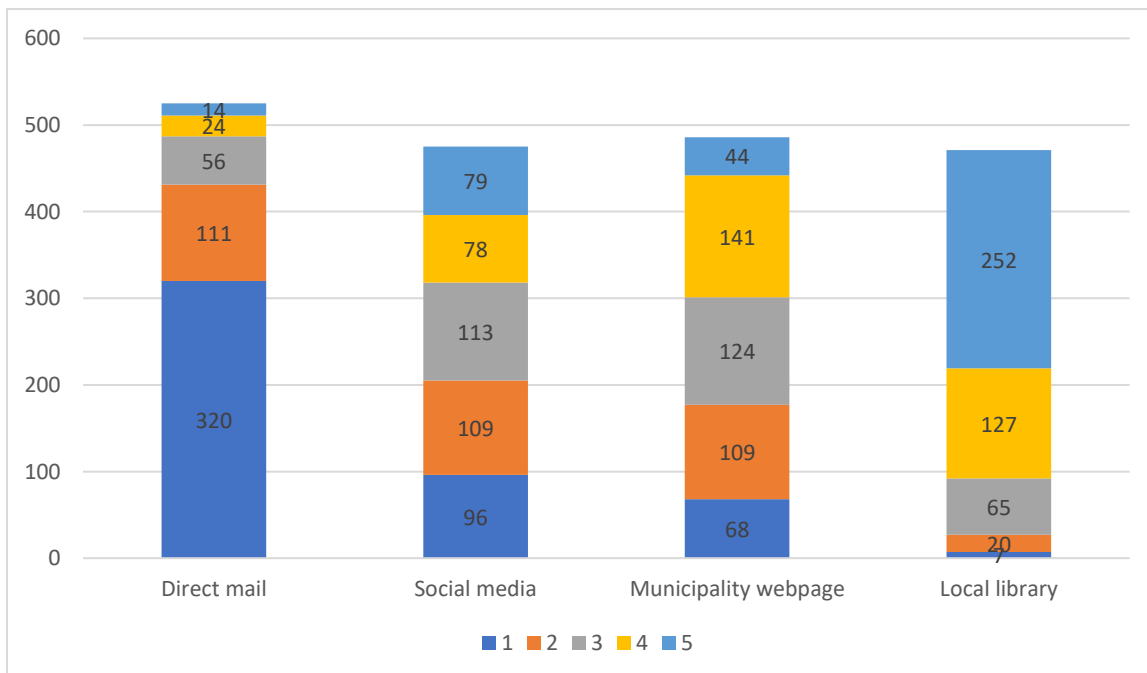
Question 15 – Would you support the elimination of non-recyclable plastic bags, styrofoam or non-recyclable plastic containers/utensils in our community?



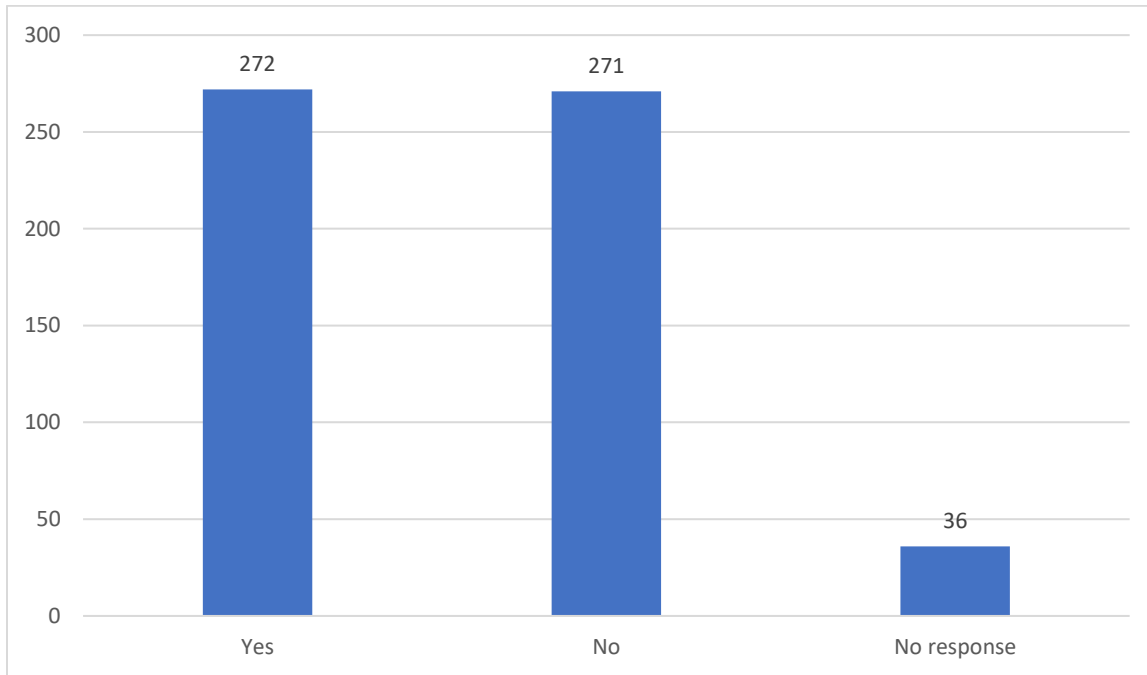
Question 16 – Are you interested in receiving educational materials regarding recycling and composting?



Question 17 – If the municipalities were to provide educational materials and updates regarding composting and recycling, what is the best way to communicate with you? Please rank the options with 1 being your most favorite.



Question 19 – Are you interested in being notified when your municipality’s trash contract comes up for renewal?

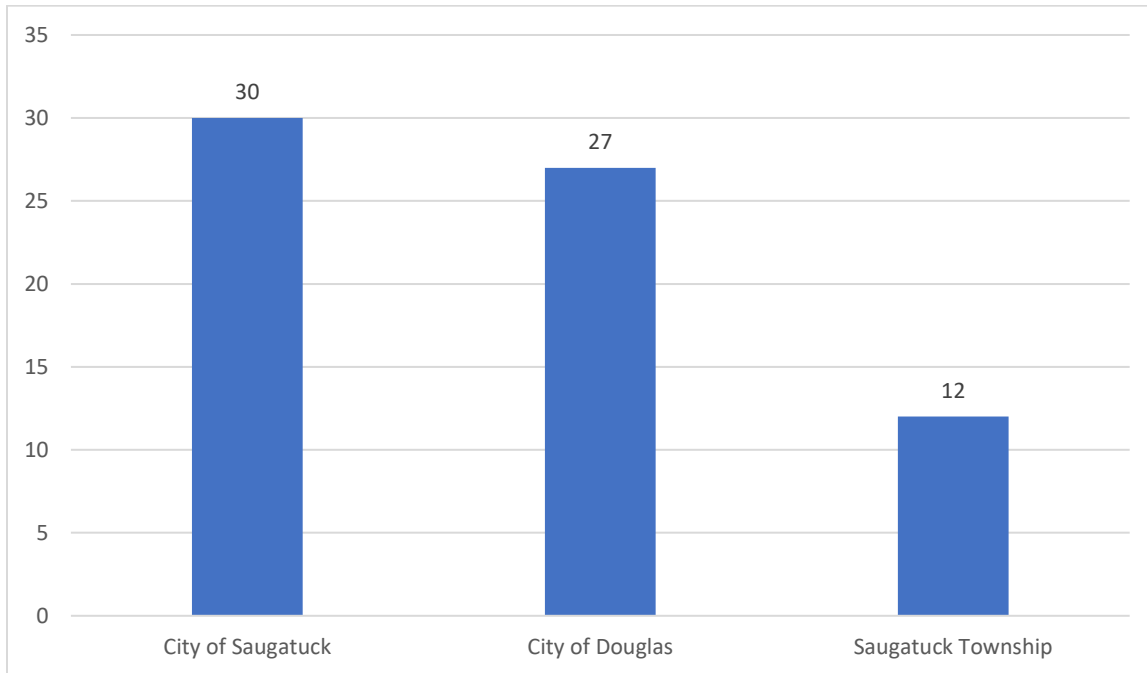


For resident recycling-related comments, see Appendix A.

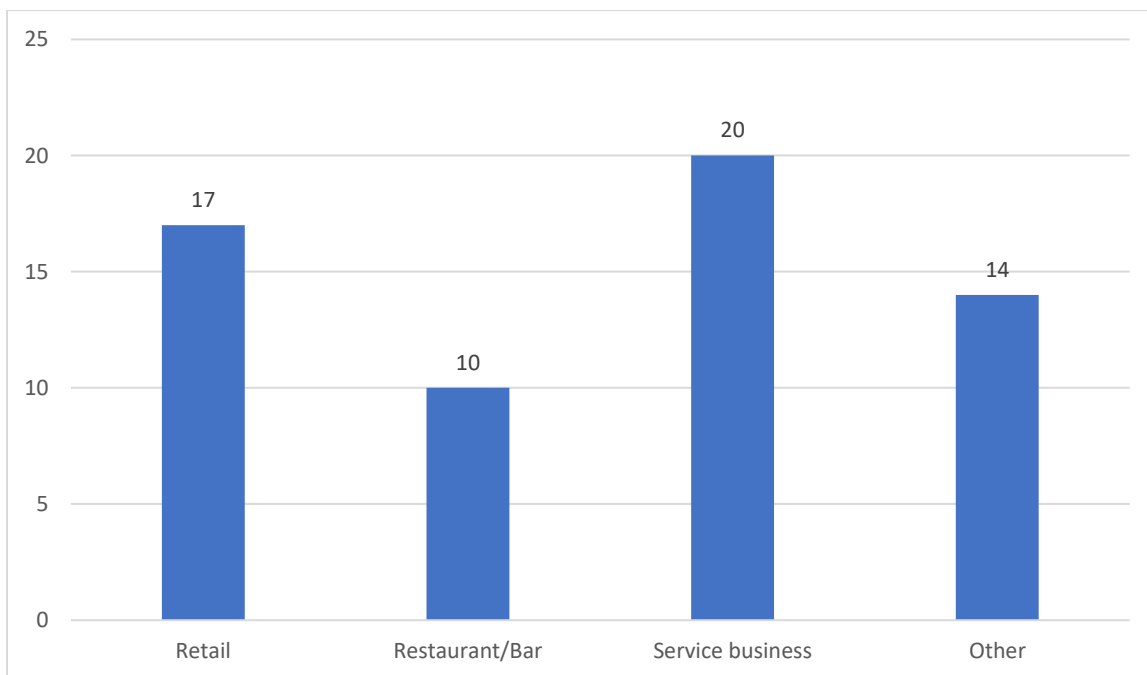
Business-owner survey responses

The business-owner version of the Recycling Survey was sent via individual emails sent to business owners; an e-blast to Convention and Visitor’s Bureau as well as Saugatuck-Douglas Area Business Association members; and through postings on numerous social media pages. A total of 69 business owners responded.

Question 1 – Is your business located in:

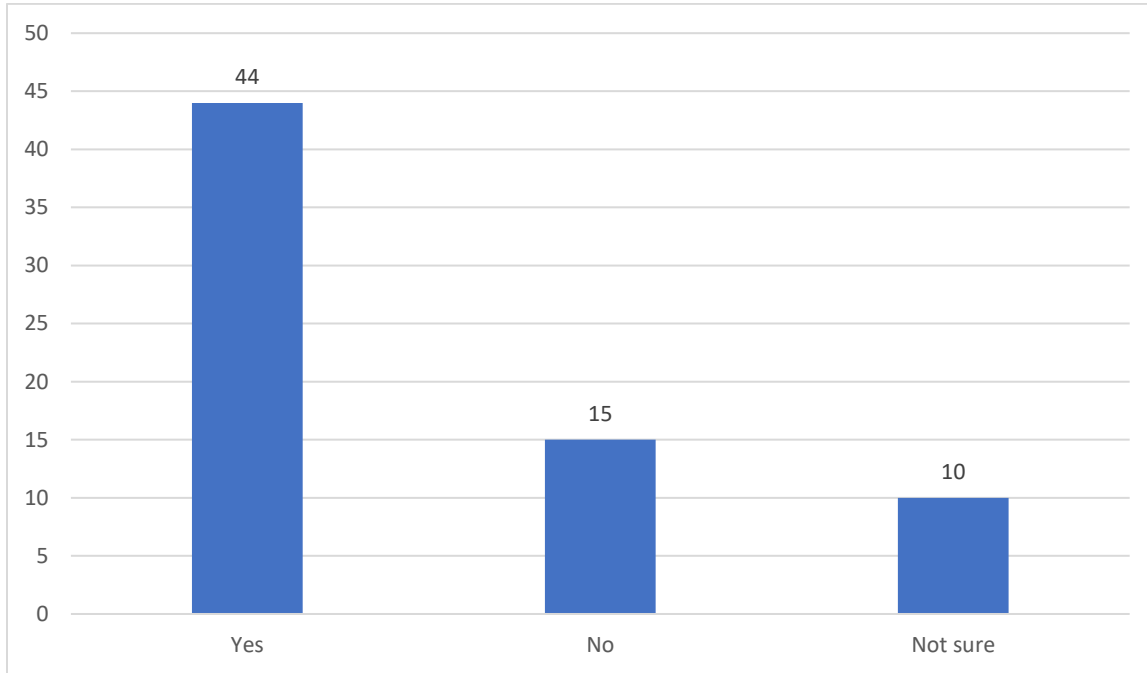


Question 3 – In what category is your business?

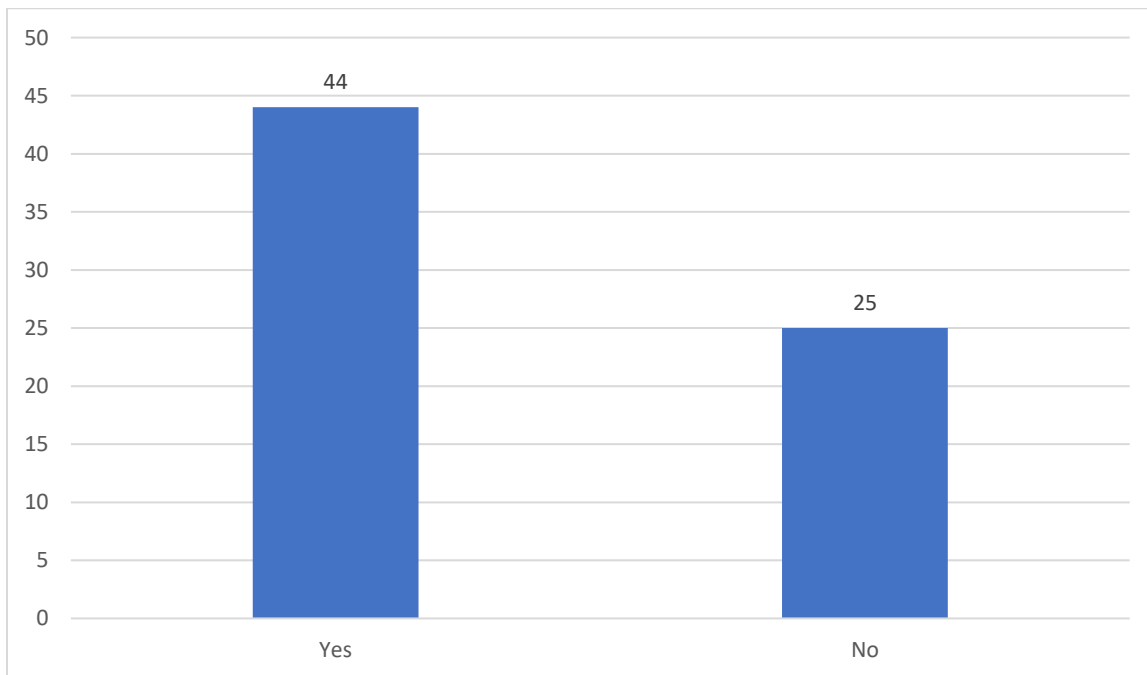


When asked, “Who is your current trash provider?” The majority of responses were Republic Services (also referred to as Chef). It is important to note that businesses are not included in the respective City of Saugatuck and the City of Douglas single-hauler contract with Republic Services, and Saugatuck Township does not currently have a contract. Additional responses included J’s Disposal, Reliable, “the City,” and “I take it home.” Five responded “I do not know.”

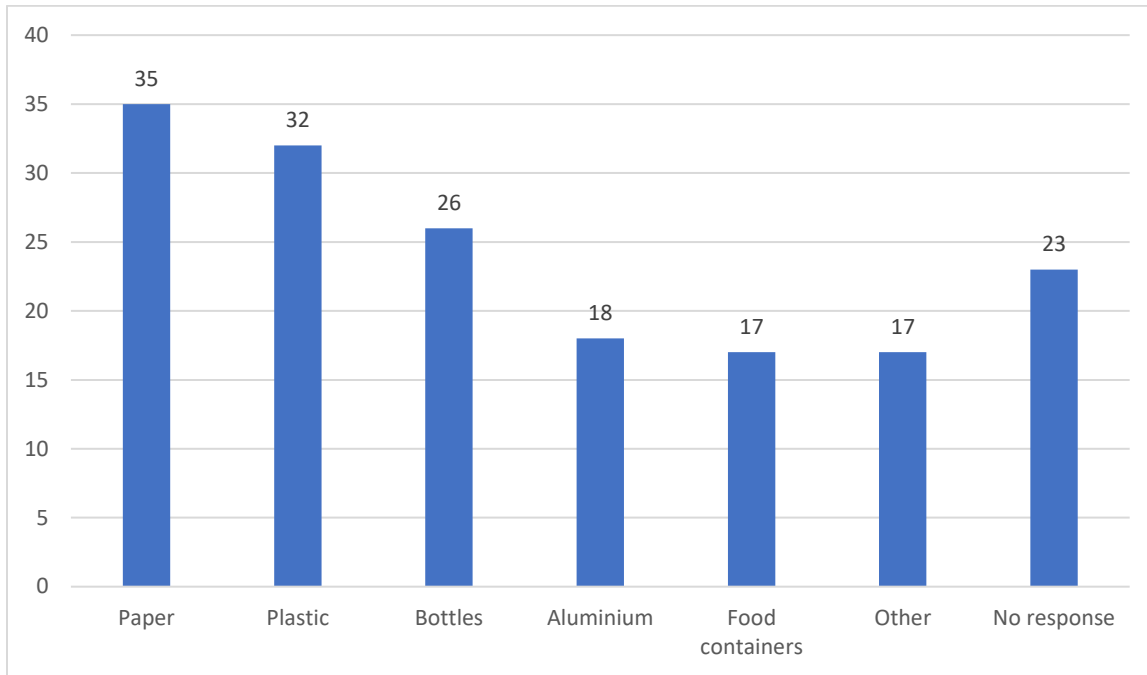
Question 5 – Does your trash provider also provide recycling?



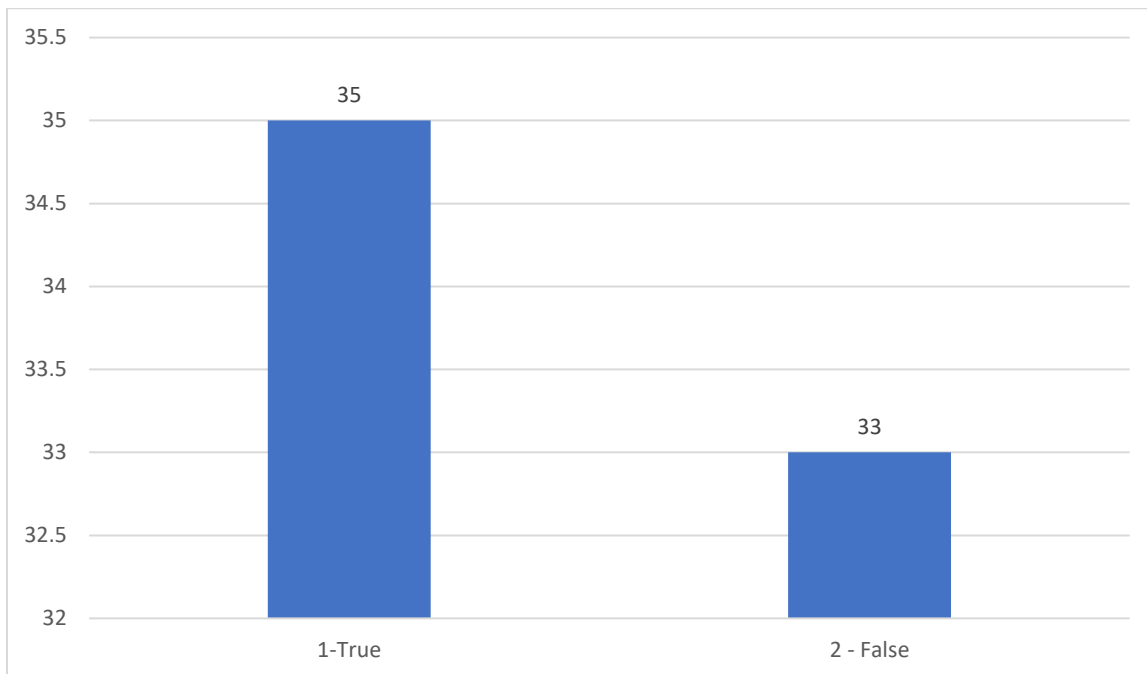
Question 6 – Do you recycle for your business currently?



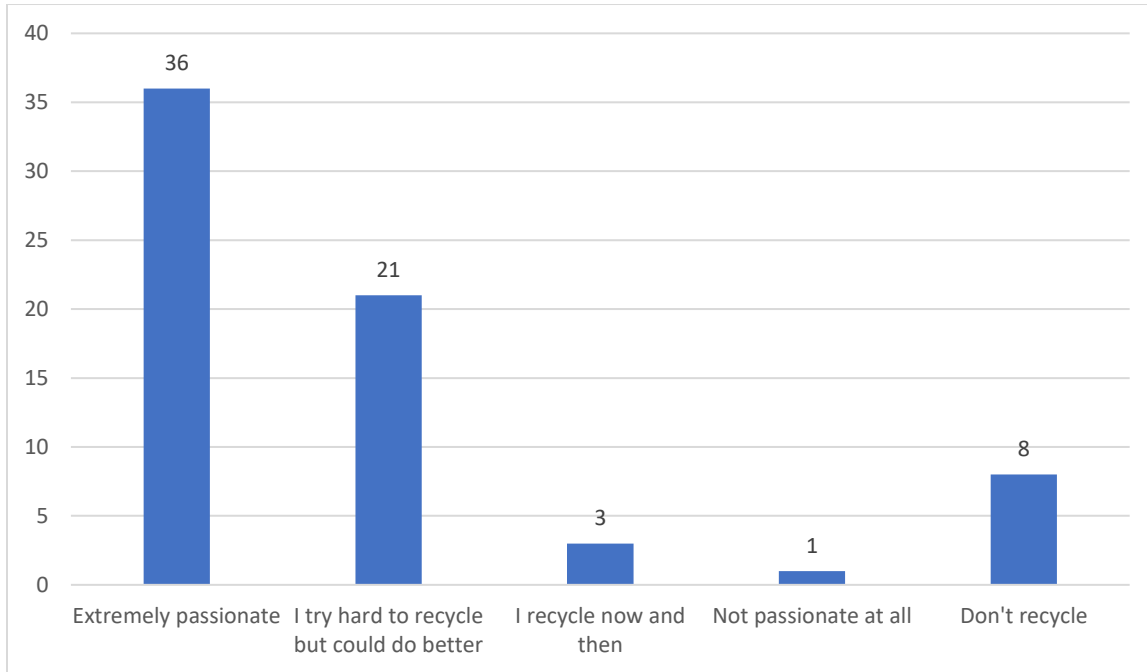
Question 7 – If yes to the question above, what products do you most frequently recycle? (Check all that apply.)



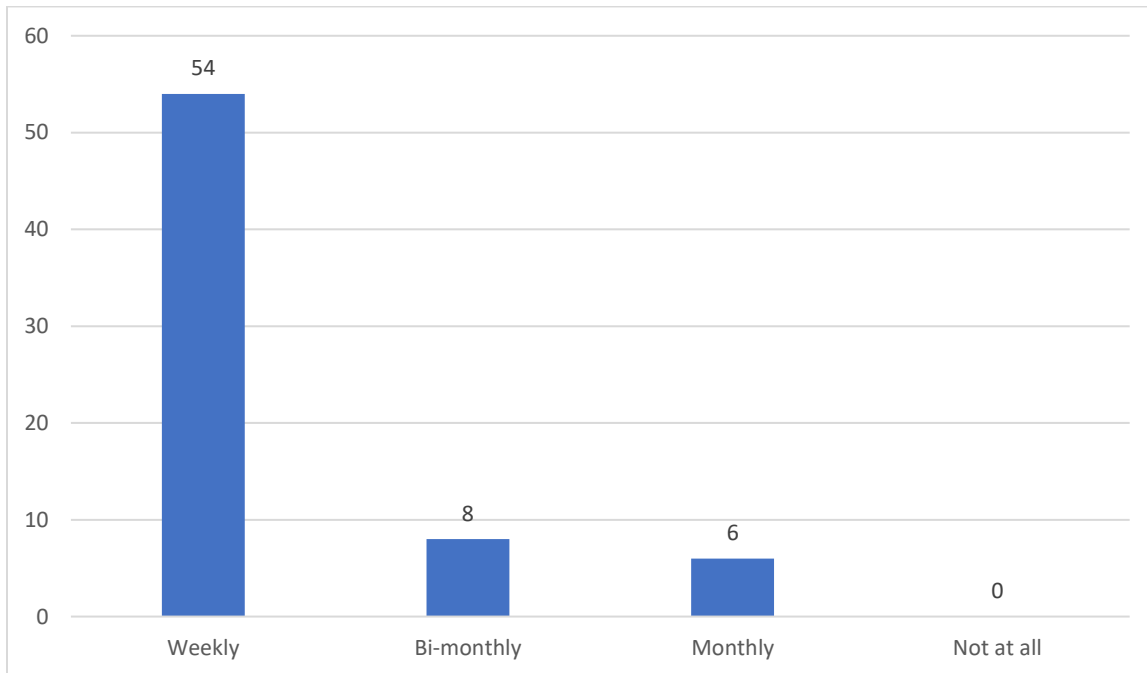
Question 8: True or False? I feel completely confident in my knowledge of how and what to recycle.



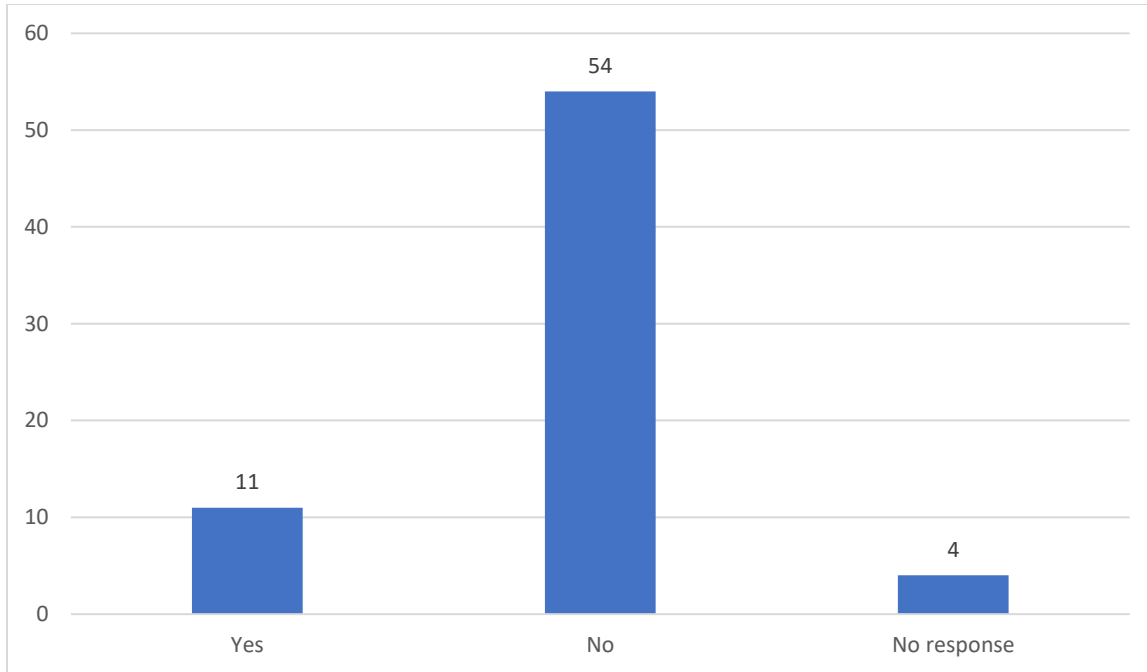
Question 9 – If you recycle, how passionate are you about recycling for your business?



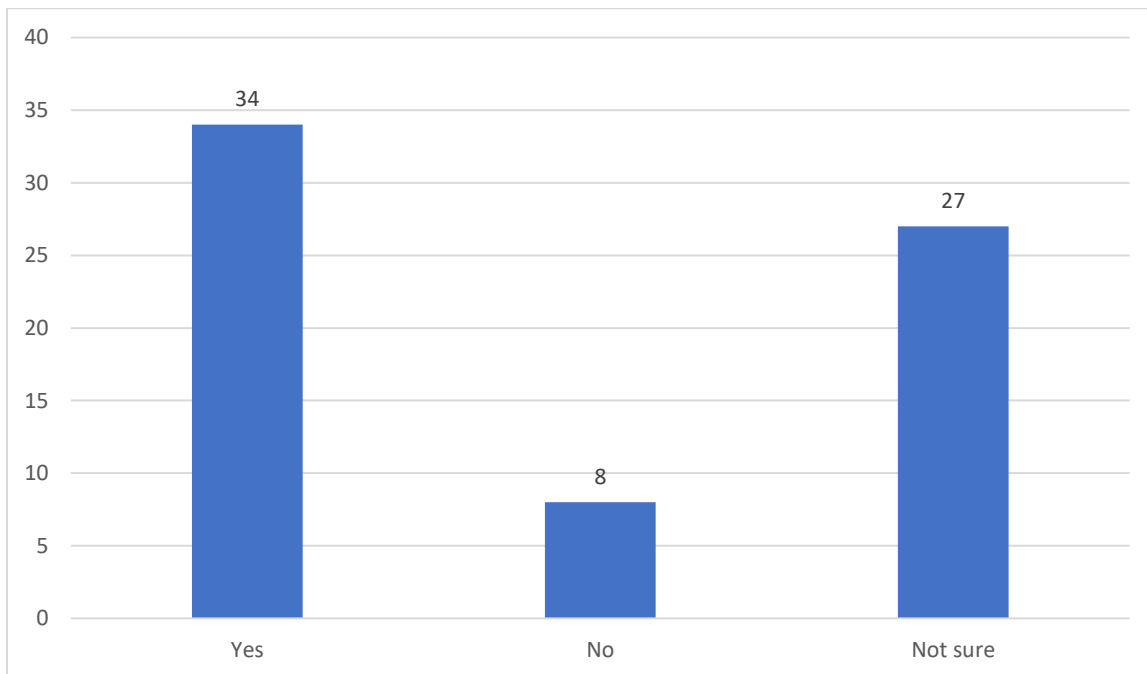
Question 10 – If money were not an object, our business would recycle:



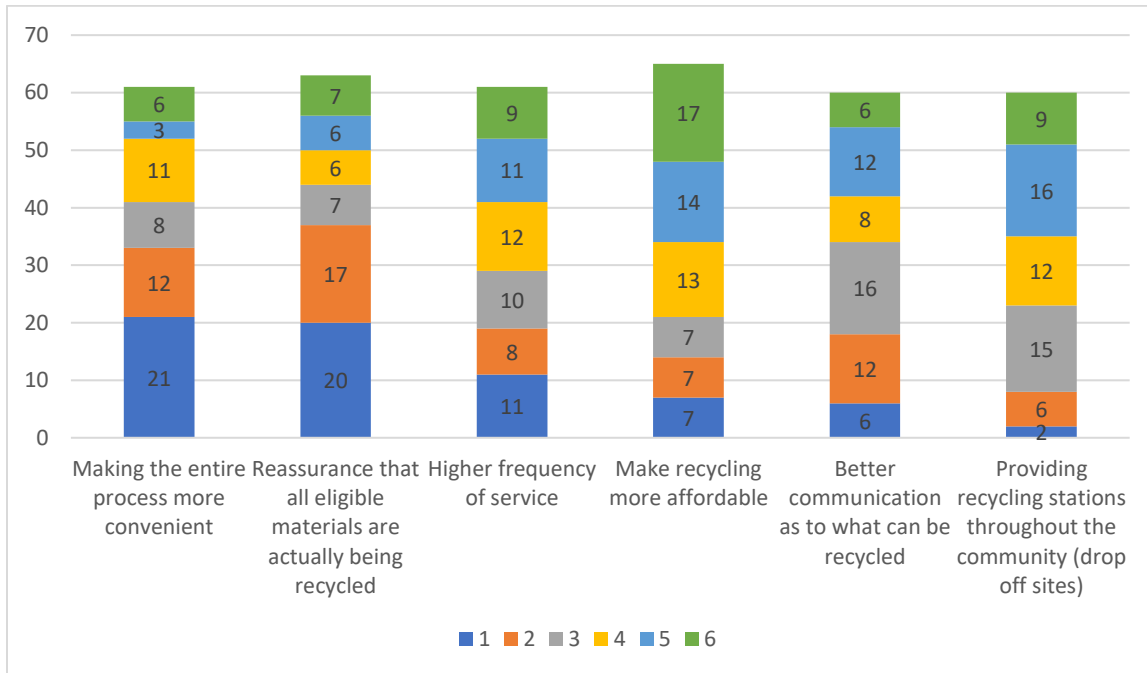
Question 11 – Are you satisfied with the current municipal recycling procedures in place?



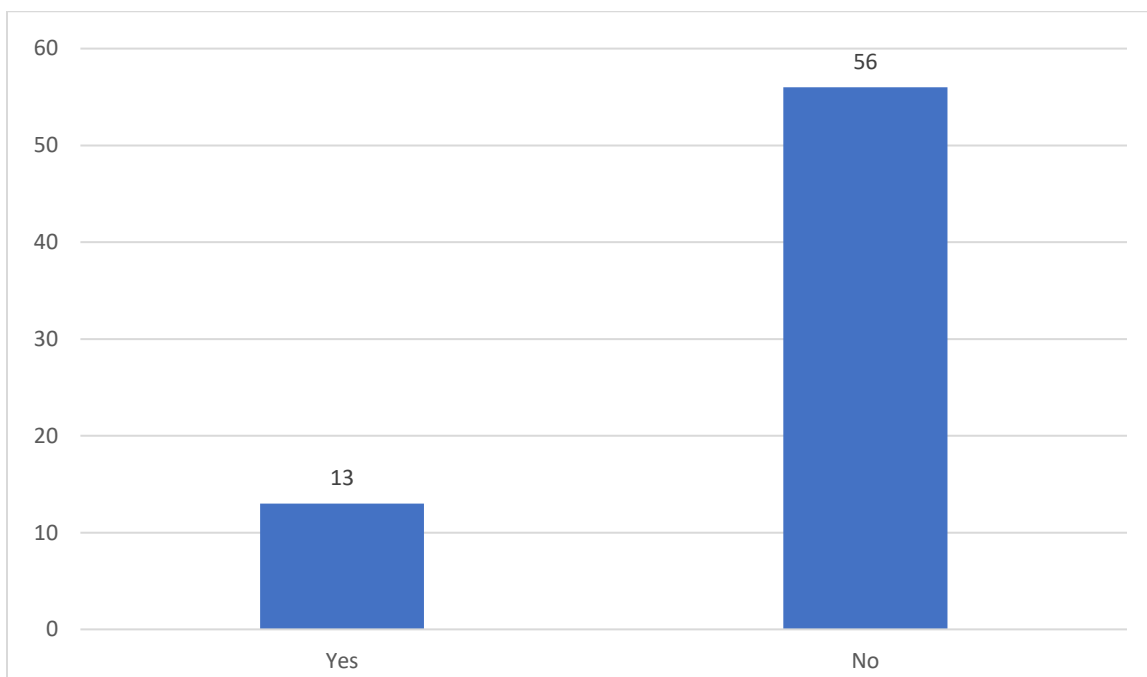
Question 12 – If the municipalities offered a bi-annual hazardous waste drop off, for a fee, would you be inclined to participate?



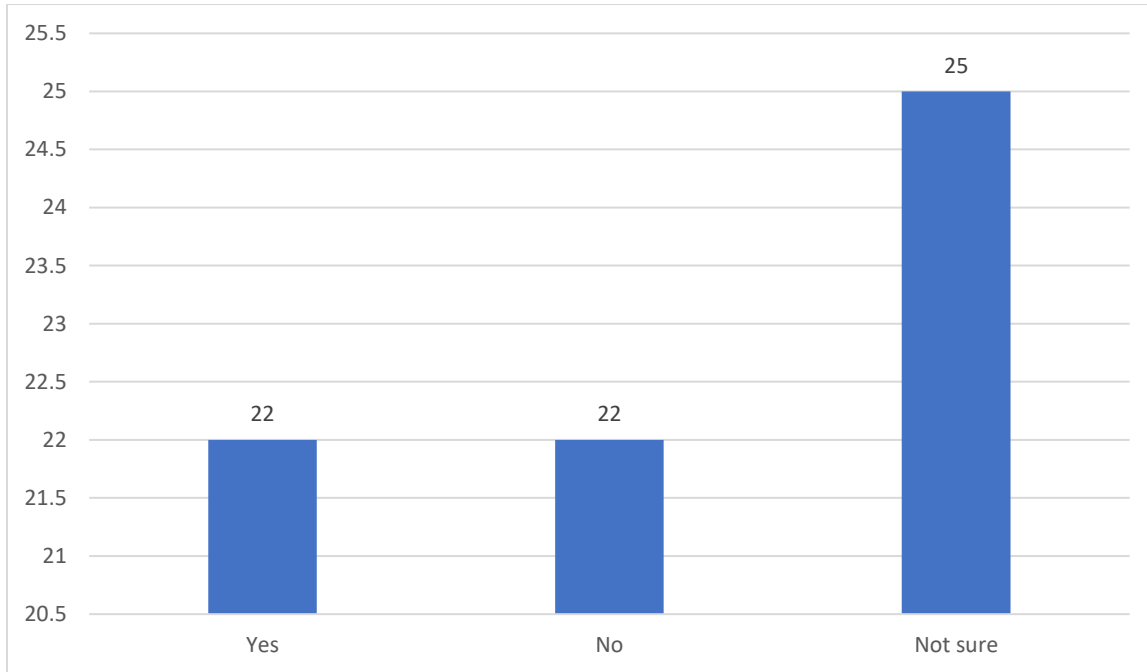
Question 12 – If we could help improve your current recycling experience, please rank what you believe is the most important, to the least important (1 being most important).



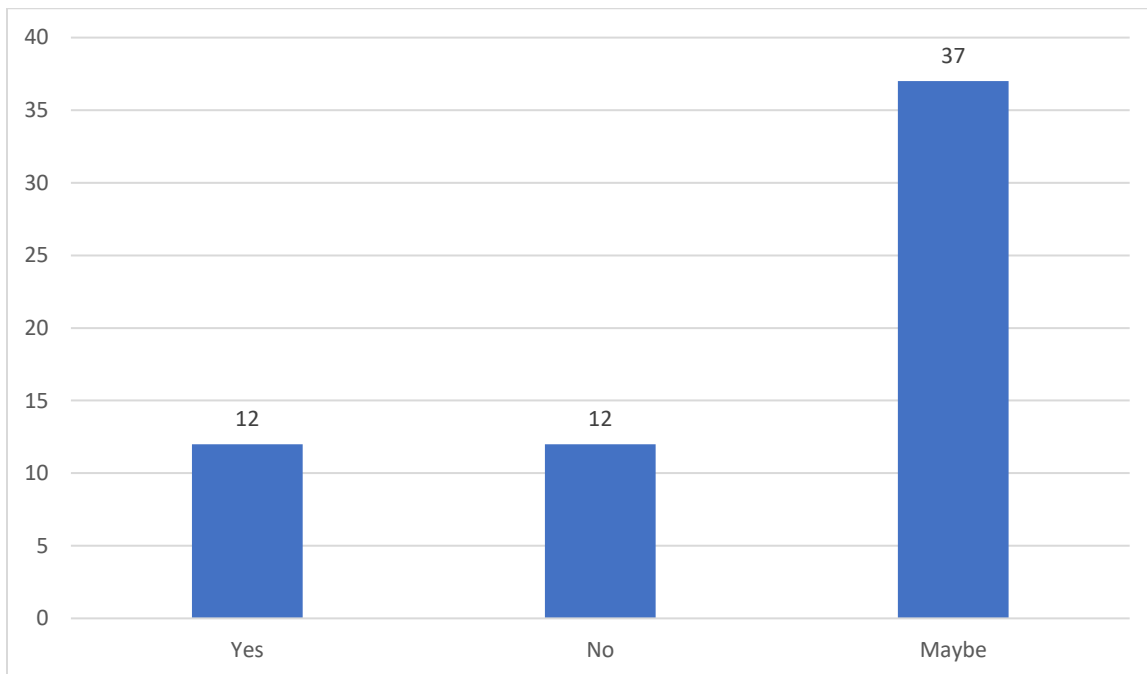
Question 14 – Do you compost?



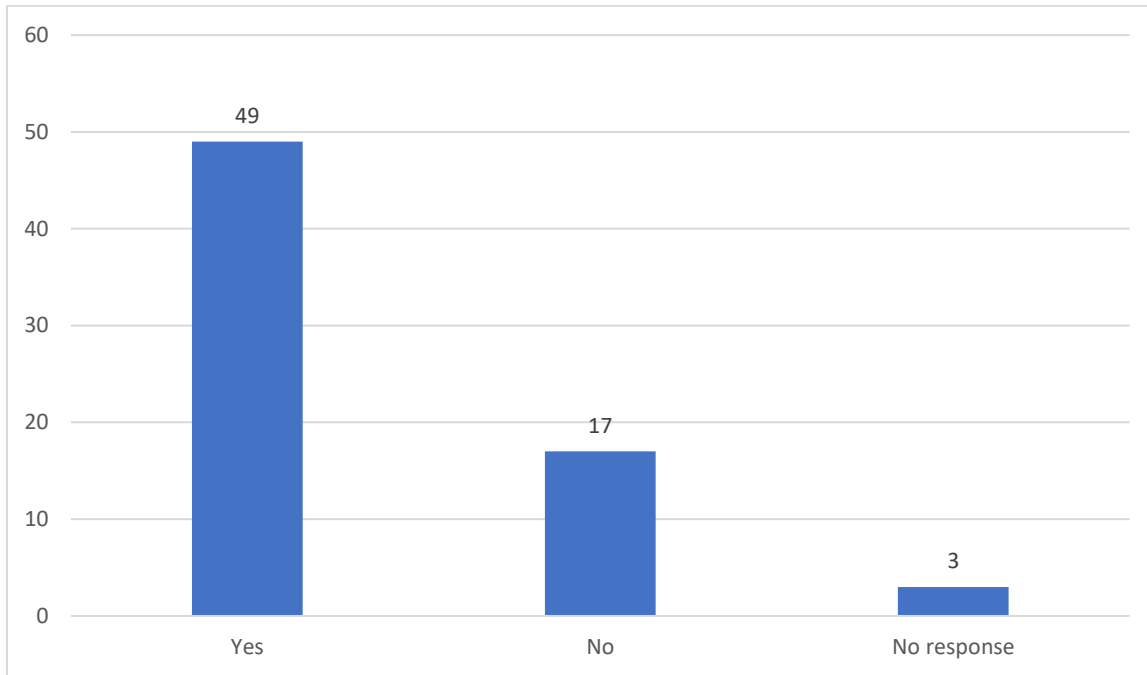
Question 15 – If a community compost site was available, would you use it?



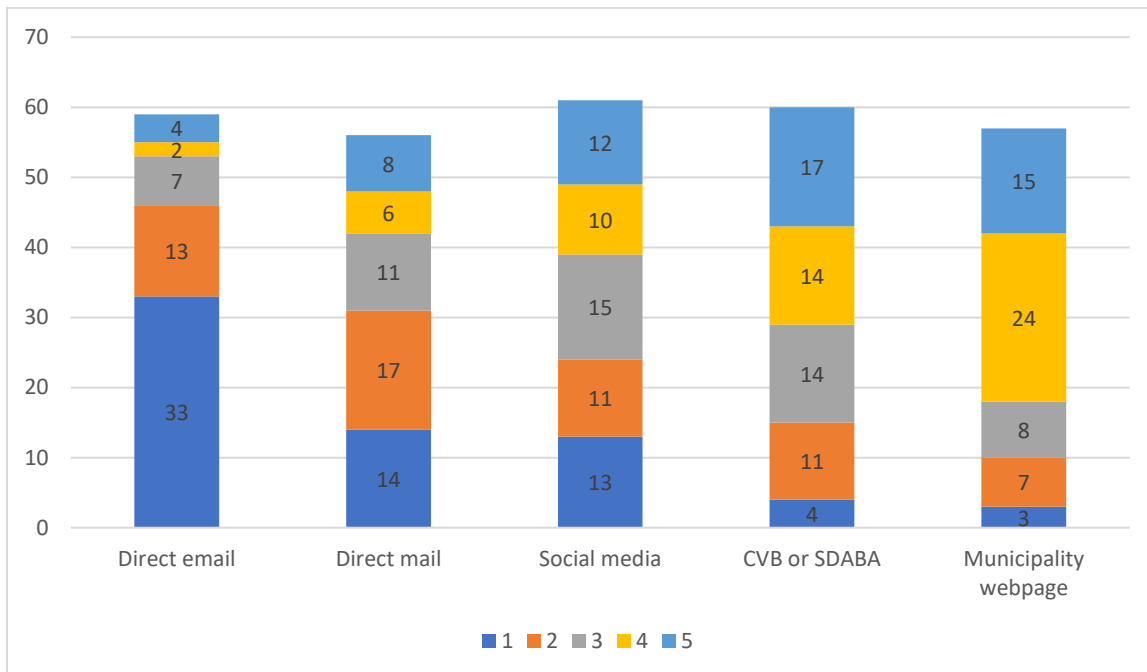
Question 16 – Would you be interested in group discount purchasing for recyclable products for your business?



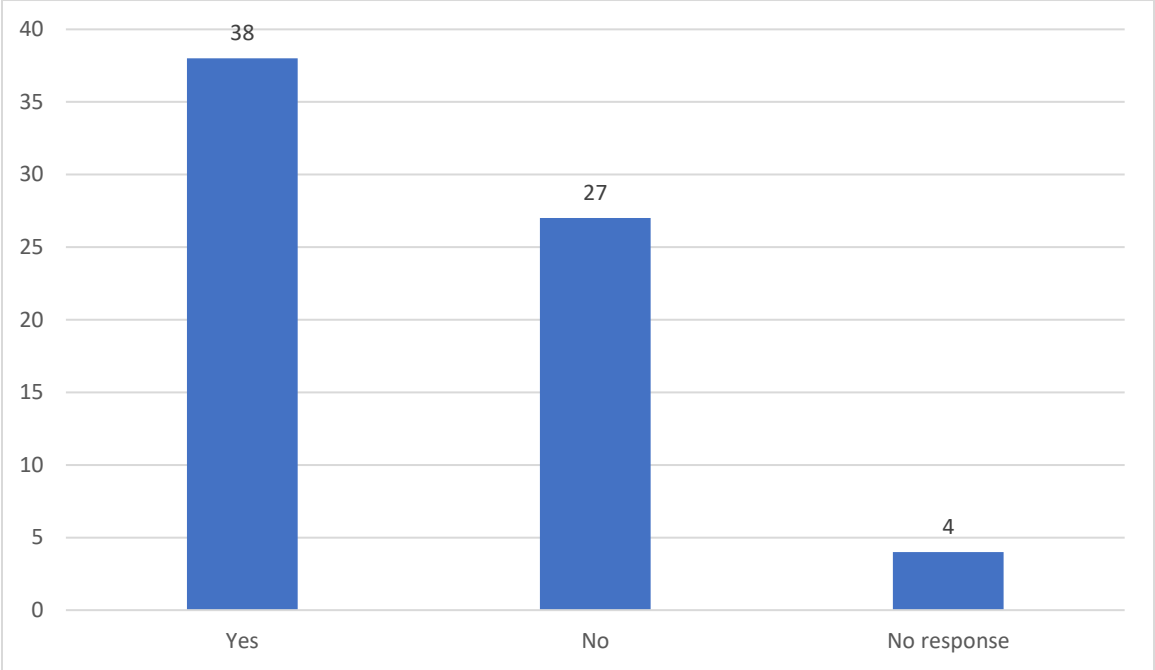
Question 17 – Would you support the elimination of non-recyclable plastic bags, styrofoam or non-recyclable plastic containers/utensils in our community?



Question 18 – If the municipalities were to provide educational materials and updates regarding composting and recycling, what is the best way to communicate with you? Please rank the options with 1 being the best way.



Question 19 – Are you interested in receiving educational materials regarding recycling and composting?



For business-owner recycling-related comments, see Appendix A.

Appendix A Resident recycling-related comments

Do you have any other recycling-related comments that you would like to share with the committee?

There should be an added fee to residents that use waste pick up but DO NOT use the recycling service provided by the community.

Let's get things going now! People want & need to recycle!

Just that once per month pick-up is insufficient.\

Provide a bin

What to do with light bulbs & especially how to discard batteries

I'm glad that we moved away from the yellow recycling bags to recycle bins as you can now separate easier and recycle more. But again, recycle bins should be a weekly pick on the same day that trash is picked up.

Better communication on where to take items that cannot be recycled and where to take them.

Thanks for the interest.

The yellow plastic bags worked best to place all recycle materials to then be placed in dumpsters.

I do not like having to use Republic Services at all and wish that we could go back to using our own companies.

I really want to be able to get rid of household waste through the county. I can't even pay a small fee to recycle with the county. I had to use a friend from a different township to recycle electronics, batteries, old cleaning products, and other household waste. To recycle this through republic is very expensive!

We are serious recyclers in our household. However, we see renters not doing the same and that makes us sick! It would be great to have rental properties make it easy for renters to recycle while they are enjoying our community.

Would love to have a community drop off spot.

Recycling educational programs at the library.

Residents must be educated of need. Service must be part of basic trash removal contracts and included in cost.

Drug takeback collection site or collection day. Leftover or unused medications should be disposed of properly.

Thank you for doing this. Our earth depends on our wise choices.

I would love to know how and where to recycle things such as batteries, light bulbs, aerosol cans and appliances.

We need weekly pickup.

It would be nice to have a drop off for cardboard boxes. Between UPS and FedEx boxes from online purchases we need to be recycling 100%.

What are we supposed to do with electronics, building or remodeling material that the contractor does not take, batteries, - We want to recycle as much as we can but there is so much we do not know.

I eat out most meals.

Would love to see recycling receptacles throughout the area (next to garbage cans, for example).

With All the Money We Pay in Taxes--this should have been set-up in the 80's. WAY before the Library, or that bike-path.

It would be helpful to have ONE location with designated hours that took everything, sorted it and distributed it to the appropriate processor.

Let's keep the momentum going!

I support any efforts to help our community become more educated on this subject.

Why are we paying for recycling through our garbage bill when nothing is being recycled. Why was this not communicated to the constituents of your community.

I'm appalled that Republic picks up recycling 1X/ month. It's irresponsible.

I am pleased that at least some recycling service is available here. If there were a transfer station available to Douglas residents, I would use it.

An accessible recycle center in the community.

Thank you for looking into this important topic.

Easier and/or more frequent opportunities to recycle the harder items: batteries, light bulbs, paint, household cleaner/solvent. Maybe some TerraCycle drop-off days for damaged/unusable clothing, wine corks, e-waste, the options are numerous.

Recycling is inefficient and merely serves to make people feel better about themselves.

Republic needs competition, we should have more than one choice of providers.

We need a way to recycle household batteries. To my knowledge, there is no local place to bring these items.

Please explore how private homeowners associations work or don't work with the municipalities' recycling program.

We should have access to free recycling even in a condo as we are taxpayers wanting to do the right thing for the environment. Make it easy! Thank you!

Thanks for survey I'd like to see more recycling downtown areas.

We need to find a way to get the rental houses to comply.

I support installing bottle filling sites at drinking fountains to reduce plastic and research/development of more glass recycling.

When Chef container used the yellow bags that was very convenient way to recycle If there were a drop-off site I would use it.

I am so excited about having better recycling options!

We would like to recycle but it's not very convenient in Saugatuck Township. We support improving current situation.

I always loved the recycle center we had at Demonds lot Separate slots for glass paper cardboard etc. so would be willing to cart to a community center.

I certainly want to be able to "opt out" if the Tri-Community dictates one recycler. Recycling of small appliances has been a problem since the Allegan County options were eliminated.

Our current recycling through Republic does not accept any glass. There is a drop-off for glass in Fennville. If we could do more and get information out about recycle glass would be great. Also, have our local business's get in involved in recycling.

Leave it the way it was!

What are we supposed to do with the leaves? I'm in the township! They don't pickup out here?

It seems like hazardous material deposal is non existent - except for a place in Plainwell Can this be improved?

If you are looking for community members as a possible advisory group, I would be interested in helping out.

Everyone I've talked to here feels unsure about the recycling program. We are willing to sort and clean, but nothing is clear, so it's very discouraging.

PLEASE LET ME CHOOSE MY OWN TRASH HAULER.

Many municipal recycling contracts have an "economic out" clause. They get paid to collect materials - but are not required to actually recycle if current economics are not favorable. Would be good to know if that is in place so we cannot waste money and time in process and collecting materials in more expensive fashion if they are actually landfilled at the conclusion of the process.

We were always able to recycle before Republic came along. I understand other condo complexes are having the same problem. That's a lot of people that can't recycle!

Community drop bins work the best - there can be numerous bins so citizens sort the items themselves into the correct bin. The only plastic that might be recycled is bottles, so we should stop pretending and not accept anything else - feeling the pain of putting it all in the trash will increase self-responsibility.

We need to have more options for cardboard boxes in particular.

Since the township rejected the recycle millage, I have no way to recycle paint, tires, old satellite dishes, batteries etc.

I'm happy that you are working on this. Thank you.

If it was part of regular trash service at no additional cost, it would be utilized.

I would like to see recycling brought back to the township.

Mostly, I just want to know what actually can be recycled in more detail.

Thank you to the three communities for coming together to make recycling and composting work better for all of us. Figuring this out will make this a more attractive community!

Biggest problem I see across all 3 communities is uncertainty regarding what happens to their waste/recycling...Which leads to reduced recycling compliance. Also being a resort community, with beaches (full of trash and plastics) we need to make education of visitors a priority. That only YOU put the Pure in Pure Michigan, do your part. Recycling bins need to be available routinely alongside public space garbage cans. Even if people don't want to bother over a dime for a returnable, we need to capture it as a recyclable vs landfill. I know restaurants who do NOT recycle cans in their own operations...just straight into the garbage.

Need easy and accessible place to recycle batteries, paints and other toxic materials.

We need more local options for hazardous waste, electronics recycling, household waste recycling.

Would prefer to return to the yellow bag method.

We can and should be doing much better in this community. Lack of action is a lack of leadership and foresight. We should be leaders in the state.

I think text message should be considered as a means of communication as well.

Cardboard - shipping- boxes are the issue for us, partners during pandemic. Just not enough capacity to handle these and other recycling with only once per month pickup.

I'd like to be part of the solution but our current provider makes it rather challenging. Looking forward to other options!

Improve your recycling pick up program without increasing the cost.

Just to encourage everyone to recycle. Make it free! Discourage excess use of plastic bags etc.

I realize recycling has become less profitable and more difficult for companies since China and others no longer buy our recycled items. I have hope that the problem will be solved and we can work to save our environment through better recycling once again.

We are anxious to see what will happen in Douglas with the new committee working on updates and support their recycling efforts for our community.

We are in an association and have communal trash and would appreciate republic offering a communal bin to recycle.

We need separate recycle bins at no additional cost.

I would like more publicity and information about hazardous waste drop-off sites and would like them available on a regular basis, say once a quarter or at least semi-annually. If that is happening, I'm not aware of it.

Yellow bags need to be bigger and stronger and need assurance their contents are being recycled as well as separate bin.

It would make a huge difference if our condo could have recycling services again!

I would like to know if they are indeed recycling or just putting recyclables in a different land fill??

I hope it continues weekly.

No place will accept batteries or paint.

Thank you!!!! Single provider for recycling makes sense to me.

I would love to see local drop off sites for recycling. We are great at sorting, but as mentioned in the survey, I don't have confidence that Republic is actually recycling my materials. Even if the drop off sites are just for paper and cardboard, that would be great. I'd also like to see/hear about household item recycling. If it's something that happens locally, I'm unaware. I have items like light bulbs and small electronics that I don't know what to do with.

We need to be serious about recycling, not continue to throw out some quasi-solution which doesn't really address the issue.

The city MUST address the frequency in which our recycling is picked up. As a full-time resident, it is completely necessary. We are literally throwing away items that can be recycled because our recycling bin is picked up so infrequently.

Go back to yellow bags or give us a station to take things in. We would willingly separate paper, glass, tin and plastic if need be.

Just need somewhere to go or a better service offered.

Currently we have one bag of trash per week and our recycling bin is nearly full. So trash pick up every other week and recycling every week would be ideal.

No good place to recycle styrofoam, old paint.

I have styrofoam that I receive medications in and I don't know what to do with it. I don't want to throw it in the garbage because it will end up in a landfill.

Please bring back the inexpensive recycling that were paid once a year with property taxes. The twice monthly pickup and price were really nice.

Thank you for the survey. Community compost!

Let us get this resolved.

Thank you for your effort.

We've been very frustrated that we haven't been able to recycle anymore.

I don't believe the contents of the yellow plastic bags are recycled at all. I have better confidence in the large containers and like the \$3/ month price, but wish they were picked up more frequently than 1 x month. I have two containers and they are full in two weeks.

Reducing is better than recycling, so banning limited use plastic bags and such is best.

Firm believer in Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Protect our environment.

If the city isn't going to provide curbside pick up to condo associations, then there should be a recycling center to drop off our recyclables.

Frankly, to get the vast majority of people to recycle it needs to be financially cheaper. I believe if it was possible we should charge those who do not recycle more than those who do.

Need to recycle.

We need special services too -- we must have a way of disposing of hazardous materials - specifically mercury in light bulbs. And we need at least an annual event to dispose of electronic waste.

Drop off a post Recycling is best for individual needs and wusnito which varies each week.

Fix the frequency of pick up!

Thank you for your efforts. Too much plastic making our beaches a mess.

I lived in a town with a community recycle center. It was in a building with a loading dock. Workers were always there to help and keep things sorted and moving. People pre-sorted and brought their recycling as often as they needed. It was free. But trash was only collected in a certain city trash bag that was 1.50 per bag. This encouraged everyone to recycle whatever they could!

I appreciate you doing this!

Last time there was a recycling (zoom) meeting the notice did not go out until just before the meeting. I wanted to attend but did not get the email until too late. Every other meeting held by the city I get at least a day's notice. Why is this not consistent? Please mention to city staff.

Need to be able to easily dispose of large items, electronics, hazardous materials on a monthly basis in one location.

I work for a non-profit that does some environmental education and can assist with information.

If recycling isn't as easy as it is now with the yellow bag, i would just put everything in the garbage.

Love the initiative to focus on this. Thank you!

Make available, a way to recycle everything (like plastic bags, plastic wrappers, batteries, electronics, etc.) from your house.

Thanks for doing this!

Already paying way more than when done with township pickup.

I think we need a place to bring old Paint, Electronics, etc.

If what I read on social media is true...and Republic does not really recycle what we pay them extra to pick up every other week, then they should be prohibited from charging for a fraudulent service.

I just wish we had the ability to recycle in our complex. The amount of recyclable items that our just thrown in our complex's big Trash bin is substantial.

Thank you for working on this!!! We not only need better recycling and "green" policies, but this could energize Saugatuck/Douglas as a green, pristine destination and environmentally conscious place to live, too. Good for us and this world we live in. Bravo for tackling this!

Glad this is being prioritized. It's important.

Impressed that you are doing this. Thank you!

Go back to the county program, that was a good program.

How can we get more people to recycle?

The sooner the better for the life of the planet.

Need to be able to recycle acid free batteries and electronics.

Yes, basically I am sure the City of Douglas practices good environmental standards. Perhaps to a point! I have sent prior correspondence to the City regarding the dumping of roots, tree stumps, back fill materials, removed old concrete and other materials on the old MIRO golf course by the factory. I have extensive experience in managing many major construction projects throughout the country, as well as issues relating to contaminated soil testing, removal and disposal to properly tested and approved sites to dump these materials by the EPA and other state agencies. These sites must be approved and the

materials that are dumped need to be tested for contaminants into the soil. Some of these removed materials are from contaminated locations. From my understanding this process has been ignored, and proper testing procedures have not been established to ensure that these dumped materials are free of contaminated substances. This is not a simple procedure or outcome based on what you see. Also an abandoned old restaurant that is a potential environmental problem and safety hazard is still in a rapidly deteriorating condition for many months. A factory which has an environmental record of leaching chemicals and perhaps other contaminated materials into the soil in the field on the west side. From my knowledge not cleaned up and contaminated soils removed and this should be required by the City and the owner of the Factory has this responsibility as well. So in conclusion any recycling program is a positive. Unless I am incorrect you have a few other more Major Issues to resolve as well, that impacts all of us environmentally!

We need to recycle all eligible materials that are placed in the bins.

It would be better to innovate and create a bolder recycling initiative rather than try to fit with what currently exists. Finding both financial and convenience incentives is key. Those of us who are already passionate about recycling will recycle but what we want is to try to get a higher level of the most people recycling and learning. The companies that contract with us to handle recycling need to be more transparent with the communities they serve - as their customers we should all have a very clear understanding about how often/why materials are either actually recycled or added to a landfill when not recycled. Confidence is essential.

I appreciate that our community is involved

I would like to minimize the pounding of our subdivision roads needlessly. Trucks should be one source and truck size should take its weight into consideration by you! One provider should handle areas exclusively.

Please leave trash and recycling up to the individual owners. We do not want to be forced into a single hauler like the cities are. My money, my choice!!!

Yes. Please amend the ordinance. We should have a choice in recycling companies 2 companies not just one

Thank you for addressing this issue and for making it a priority.

Recycling is long overdue in Saugatuck Township. A look at how other communities have successfully initiated recycling (e.g., Petaluma, CA and Boulder, CO) could provide some good models for Saugatuck's plan.

I have been recycling for as long as I can remember, here and where we lived before...up until two months ago, because of distrust in the system.

Thank you for doing this!

Pick up more often please.

Glad there is an effort to improve recycling rates in our community. Thank you!

I think it's odd (and a little disappointing) that, based on an earlier question in this survey, this committee did not appear to know that plastic bags are not only recyclable, but there are nearby drop-off sites conveniently available.

Great job.

Don't we have more important things to worry about?

Wish we could use the yellow bags instead of one large blue trash bin. It was more convenient.

Until this spring when Republic said they would no longer supply the yellow bags (and I understand why they had to do it), I have recycled for over 30 years; now I can't recycle and I find it very disturbing.

Don't spend a lot of the Township's money on this topic.

How can the condo complex recycle?

My previous community provided large composting bins. It reduced my trash to half a small bin every two weeks. Compost bin collected every two weeks.

Build a recycling plant and use the latest technologies from all over the world.

Also need to encourage pre-recycling, making good purchasing choices.

It should go beyond individuals but pushing to the restaurants and such add cost at a time they are struggling with COVID changes. I still support it being beyond residential though. Love to see at least Douglas be an example city for all Michigan in this regard. Others will follow suit if a culture change can be made.

We need to find a way to "hook in" young people to recycling. I think we over-amplify recycling as something for homeowners, home renters and landlords. What about all those kids who live on college campuses.

Economically, it might work to have a two-tiered system so the waste from avid recyclers, who sort carefully and produce high-value recyclables, is not mixed with other household that don't have the time or capacity to follow every rule.

The Republic bins are not branded clearly at all. The blue bin that Republic dropped off is stenciled with "Trash" on the lid, so I use that for trash. My recycling bin is the old 'Chef' branded bin- nothing branded on the bin (a recycling stencil, or green lid or...?) to make it abundantly clear this bin is for recycling. I think I moved in right after the yellow bag requirement was lifted, which of course would have made it clear which bin was which. But perhaps a rebranding initiative would at least help to make it entirely clear for community visitors where the recycling goes.

More information regarding how to prepare items for recycling, i.e., is it necessary to remove paper labels from tin cans?

How about hazardous materials 4 times a year?

Place in township to recycle wood, carpet, larger household items.

Nearly anything can be recycled, from cigarette butts to commercial food waste. In the past when I inquired of my local government as to where I could recycle household batteries and styrofoam I was told "Government can't do everything for you". Great attitude towards its citizenry.

I would like to see recycling bins placed downtown and around parks/public spaces, so empty cans, bottles, etc. can be recycled rather than thrown in the trash.

Due to the fact that our road has a minimum of 5 trash trucks come down it each week we would like to see the township have one trash/recycler/yard waste hauler for all residents so that there is less wear and tear on the roads and not to have to look at trash bins all the time. Another consideration for the committee is that bins not be stored in view of the street as some store theirs in their driveway but next to the street where they are visible and often overflowing.

Would like community recycling program with bins that is affordable every two weeks . Currently spend \$140+ annually to recycle.

I believe it should be mandatory for everyone to recycle.

Make it weekly same day as garbage, not too expensive, easy with stickers for cans of what can be recycled.

Please make it user friendly.

Republic is far too large to be able to give the kind of service we deserve. I believe we should be using a smaller local hauler.

Weekly recycling.

Attaboy on the efforts. Thank you.

Let's get started soon.

Bring back the yellow bags (or equivalent).

Less junk mail that is not easy to determine if it is recyclable or not. I know that's out of our hands, though. :-{

We like to be able to drop off shipping bubble wrap and peanuts to a recycle Center. They are not allowed to be placed in our recycle bin.

It can be very short sighted to simply ban materials in a community this small. Would be better at county or state level. Look forward to more info on composting . Would also be refreshing to see the 3 very small communities do something collaboratively for once.

I think we can do better! I know there are a lot of other things going on right now, but we have so much room for improvement in this area!

I'm glad to see this survey.

I used to live in a community that had a "town dump." It was very convenient to be able to go over and leave things when you needed to.

Need a place to recycle batteries.

No survey addressed concerns. Need to know what qualifies, need more frequent pickup. Most green towns have frequent recycling compost pick up & limited garbage pick up . Community recycling needs to happen in town w number of tourists.

Once a month is not enough especially during the summer season.

Vacation rentals, if they have the most current & updated recycling info, could also participate.

Thank you! We need this and I am so thankful you have stepped up!

Happy to be part of this team! Looking forward to moving our communities forward on this initiative.

Appendix B
Business-owner comments

Thank you for doing this survey.

SPS would like to be part of a regional recycling solution. I envision a model similar to colleges and universities, where we engage students and teachers in separating materials during the day and have an efficient and cost-effective solution for removing the sorted recyclables from our buildings.

Go back to the way things were 5 years ago.

Thank you for working on this issue.

MORE MORE MORE

Appreciate your efforts in making this a priority. Thank you.

Please publish results. Alternatively, educational articles about recycling could be included in the Commercial Record.

This survey was too long and cumbersome. If the whole system in Saugatuck didn't irritate me so much, I would not have stuck with it. WHY ISN'T THERE INCENTIVE FOR RECYCLING VERSUS A CHARGE????HARDLY ANY OF MY NEIGHBORS RECYCLE. THE WHOLE EFFORT SEEMS HALF-ASSED.

I think there is a lot of confusion about recycling. There doesn't seem to be one place to find out the facts and you tend to hear a lot of people say "well I heard it was this way". People want to do the right thing. They just need help figuring out what that is. Thanks for doing this.

It seems ridiculous that our community does not have an effective way of managing recycling. I live in the Township and pay for once a month recycling service (not convinced it actually works). We are a progressive community!

Thank you for your work on making this an easier, more inclusive resource in our community!
Let us try to do something that doesn't make our town look like a trash heap.

Thanks for asking!

Please leave the option to me as the vendor I choose to haul my waste and recycling. I do not want anything from Republic's horrible service!!

Thanks for doing this!

No, all set. Thanks for asking.

Appendix C
Presentation to the three municipalities

Proposal for Tri-Community Recycling Committee Survey

The cities of Saugatuck and Douglas, and Saugatuck Township, are collaborating to educate constituents about recycling and waste reduction. The three municipalities formed the Tri-Community Recycling Ad-hoc Committee (TCRC) to “identify and address critical recycling issues, and to provide better education and processes to enhance and maximize recycling activities in the most cost effective manner to the public.” The goal of the TCRC is to (1) determine residents’ recycling knowledge, (2) ease/difficulty of recycling, and (3) how recycling-related communication and education can be improved. Using survey results, the TCRC will develop a sustainable recycling solution for the tri-community area.

Quick re-cap of the committee’s progress thus far:

1. Resolution initiated to form the Tri-Community Recycling Ad-Hoc Committee
2. Municipality members selected/finalized – March 31, 2020
 - a. City of Saugatuck: Garnet Lewis, Berry Johnson, Linda Escott
 - b. Village of Douglas: Cathy North, Ronna Alexander, Demetrhea Terrian
 - c. Saugatuck Township: Daniel DeFranco, Patrick Stewart, Mark Epstein
3. April 14, 2020 – 1st meeting of the committee
 - a. Chairperson selected: Garnet Lewis
 - b. Vice Chairperson selected: Demetrhea Terrian
 - c. Recording Secretary volunteer: Cathy North & Monica Nagel
4. April 24, 2020 – 2nd meeting
 - a. Presentation by Ken Freestone, GreenMichigan.org Director & Co-Founder, Residential Energy Advisor for the City of Holland
 - b. Discussion of committee goals and outcomes
5. May 18, 2020 – 3rd meeting
 - a. Reviewed City of Saugatuck and Village of Douglas Republic Services contracts
 - b. Discussed Recycling Survey
 - c. Introduction to EGLE Recycling Grant
6. June 23, 2020 – 4th meeting
 - a. Special guests Kerry Rattinger and Jack Brown, Republic Services
7. August 12 – 5th meeting
 - a. Special Guest: Rosemary Graham, Allegan County Resource Recovery and Recycling Program
 - b. Draft survey reviewed and edited

Recycling Survey Proposal

1. Survey administration
 - Online in Survey Monkey
 - One per household
2. Two surveys – each take approximately 6 minutes to complete
 - Resident
 - Business owner
3. Online versions available:
 - a. Resident – sent via
 - Municipality email list serve
 - Municipality web page
 - Social media
 - Other?
 - b. Business owner
 - SDABA list serve
 - CVB list serve
 - Social media
 - Other?
4. Hard copy of survey available upon request. Copy should be requested directly from the respective municipality.
5. Time frame: one month
 - September 8 – online version available to business owners
 - September 9 – online version available to residents
 - September 17 & 18 – reminders posted
 - September 25 – surveys closed
 - October 2 – data analyzed and comments summarized
 - October 9 – draft report of findings completed
6. Cost per municipality:
 - Survey administration & analysis – gratis
 - Hard copy printing – paid for by the respective municipality
7. Publicize via
 - Commercial Record article
 - Press release to relevant sources
 - Morning Grind
 - Fliers