Supplement:
Kaskaska County Materials Management County Engagement

March 1, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Working together with Networks Northwest and member communities, RRS completed a comprehensive set of tasks that fulfills the objectives of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Materials Management Community Engagement (MMCE) grant and lays the groundwork for regional collaboration in materials management planning among member communities.

The MMCE grant process is intended to help counties in the transition to materials management and begin to identify partnership within regions and counties, understand current materials management deficiencies and opportunities, highlight future changes to the planning process, and outline steps that can occur now at the county and regional levels to assist with the development of future materials management programs and infrastructure.

Key improvements and recommendations for counties within Networks Northwest are found in the respective sections in the report. RRS identified forty (40) recommendations that are categorized into seven areas which form the basis for a robust materials management system:

- Community Access
- Facilities and Infrastructure
- Robust Markets, including Materials of Focus
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Supportive Policy
- Education and Outreach
- Regional Planning

Specific to Kalkaska County and as required by the EGLE grant, RRS identified the top five needs and the top three materials management projects that Kalkaska County should consider.

TOP FIVE NEEDS:
1. Engagement across the county
2. Consistent education and outreach
3. At least one Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM)
4. Hub-and-spoke collections for key materials
5. More frequent household hazardous waste collection opportunities

TOP THREE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PROJECTS:
Based on the top five needs above, RRS recommends Kalkaska County focus on three projects that could have significant impact on accessibility, awareness, and sustainable funding for programs and services.
1. Engage County and municipal leaders in conversations about materials management solutions in light of changes in state law.
2. Evaluate the funding and infrastructure needed to collect additional materials, including more frequent household hazardous waste events, mattresses, food waste, and other difficult to recycle items regularly or periodically.
3. Develop consistent recycling outreach materials in partnership with the hauler, the processor, the mills, and, as appropriate, the region.

STAKEHOLDERS

A stakeholder list was developed in collaboration with each county recycling contact to determine priority county, municipal, and other invested stakeholders. Perspectives were sought from either direct interview (in person or via phone) or through a set of questions distributed via email. Emails were sent at least twice seeking feedback.

First	Last	Organization	Primary stakeholder Type	Contact Type
Deb	Hill	Kalkaska County	Kalkaska County Clerk	Call; emails
Mark	Bevelhymer	GFL/American Waste	General Manager	in-person
Todd	Harland	Republic Services	Northwest MI Business Unit	email
Jill	Reynolds	Waste Management	Community Relations	email
Chris	Wood	Bay Area Disposal	hauler	Contact not confirmed
Dave	Brown	Builders Waste	hauler	Contact not confirmed
Sarna	Salzman	SEEDS	community organization	in-person
Ann	Rogers	Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council	community organization	email
		Bear Lake Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Blue Lake Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Boardman Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Clearwater Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Coldsprings Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Excelsior Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Garfield Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Kalkaska Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Oliver Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Orange Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Rapid River Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
		Springfield Township	municipal official	Contact not confirmed

|		Village of Kalkaska	municipal official	Contact not confirmed
Truman	Bicum	Kalkaska County	County Commissioner, District 1	Contact not confirmed
Bob	Baldwin	Kalkaska County	County Commissioner, District 2	Contact not confirmed
Kohn	Fisher	Kalkaska County	County Commissioner, District 3	Contact not confirmed
James	Sweet	Kalkaska County	County Commissioner, District 4	Contact not confirmed
David	Comai	Kalkaska County	County Commissioner, District 5	Contact not confirmed
Craig	Crambell	Kalkaska County	County Commissioner, District 6	Contact not confirmed
Katina	Banko	Kalkaska County	County Commissioner, District 7	Contact not confirmed

KALKASKA COUNTY - GAPS
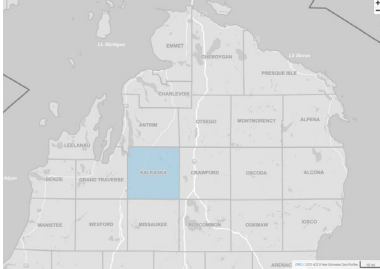
Community Access: Every household and business in a community needs convenient access to effective programs. This access can be through curbside collection, drop-off site locations, or a combination of the two. Material diversion and recovery needs to be as convenient as waste disposal as a first step sustainable materials management.

- There are three (3) recycling drop-off stations in Kalkaska County, amounting to one every 186.5 square miles (1:186.5)
- Curbside recycling is not available in Kalkaska County.
- One household hazardous waste collection is offered each year.
- There are no food waste collection points in the county.

Processing Facilities: The material collected at the home and business needs to be processed before reaching the end market. It is crucial for the County to own or have access to processing facilities conveniently located, technologically advanced, and with enough capacity to handle the population's current and future material streams. These facilities act as the "middleman" between the local government and the end market.

- There is one construction and demolition debris processing facility in the county.

Population:	17,939
Square Miles of Land Area:	559.7
Households:	7,173
Employer Establishments:	330
Countywide Curbside Trash:	NO
Countywide Curbside Recycling:	NO
Countywide Curbside Organics:	NO
Countywide Drop-off Trash:	NO
Countywide Drop-off Recycling:	YES
Countywide Drop-off Organics:	NO
Countywide Drop-off HHW:	YES
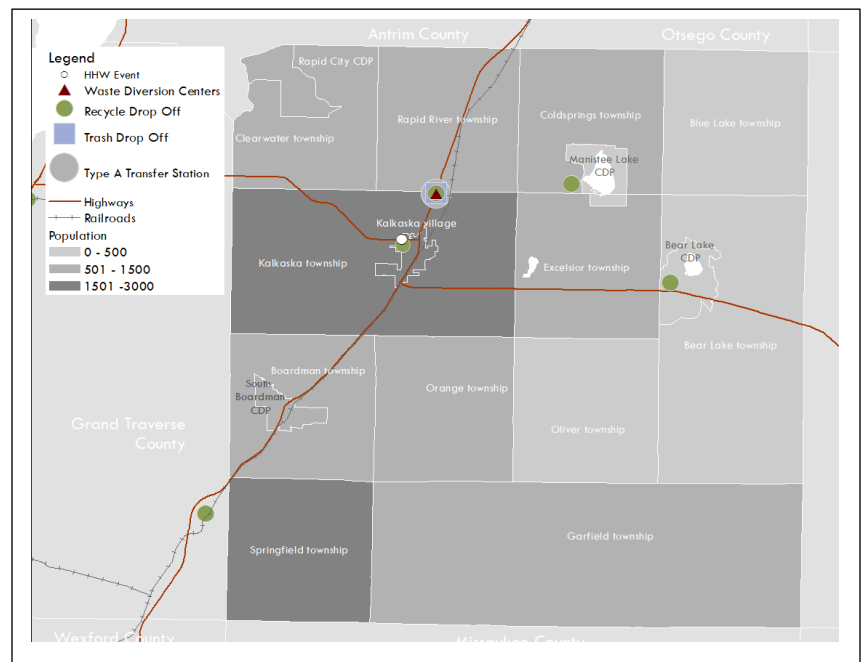
Robust Markets: The success of end markets that receive the recyclables that are collected leads to success in growing a sustainable circular economy that ultimately allows material to be diverted from landfills over the long term. By increasing demand, Networks Northwest creates a 'pull' for additional materials that in turn, drives supply.

- No end markets were identified in Kalkaska County.

Public/Private Partnerships: The business community and Networks Northwest will need to work closely together to find success. These partnerships can be found through funding opportunities with private companies, shared owner/operator agreements for MRFs and composting facilities, marketing and educational campaigns, and everything in between. Many retailers and packaging companies are realizing that local governments are responsible for the end of life for their products, thus leading to the sustainability of their product. Therefore, the benefits of public/private partnerships are becoming more apparent and accessible.

- No public/private partnerships were identified in Kalkaska County.

Supportive Policy: To reach high landfill diversion goals, policy will need to be crafted to ensure responsible recovery of material is the standard practice throughout the community, not just the best practice. A variety of policy approaches can be explored for Networks Northwest that have found success in other parts of the country and the globe.

- Kalkaska County funds recycling programs through a millage.

Education and Outreach: Once a strong infrastructure is in place, all citizens and businesses will need to know how to handle material in their home and at work. Recycling systems continue to evolve as material composition changes and technologies change. Thus, information needs to be put in front of the citizens of your community on a regular basis in many different ways to feed MRFs and end markets with good quality material, while continuing to decrease the material buried in landfills.

- There is no consistent recycling message used throughout the county.

SURVEY

Over 1,650 individuals across the Networks Northwest region took the survey that included questions about current participation in recycling-related activities as well as future needs and demographic information to inform trends. Seven (7) people from Kalkaska County participated in the survey.

This survey was not intended to meet statistical minimums. Rather, it was intended to be a snapshot to inform the current usage and future needs of the region. The set of questions that were asked was purposefully restricted to reduce the chance of survey fatigue, wherein participants close the survey prior to completing it.

The survey was intended to take no more than 10 minutes to complete, with participants being told in the introduction that it should take no more than 5-8 minutes. The survey was distributed by community recycling coordinators and Networks Northwest via social media and press release. Survey logic was built into the flow of questions to ensure that the appropriate type of question was asked based on previous responses. As such, participation rates in each question varied. The majority of survey respondents are current recyclers and is the result of the way the survey was distributed. Further studies to understand reasons for non-participation may be needed.
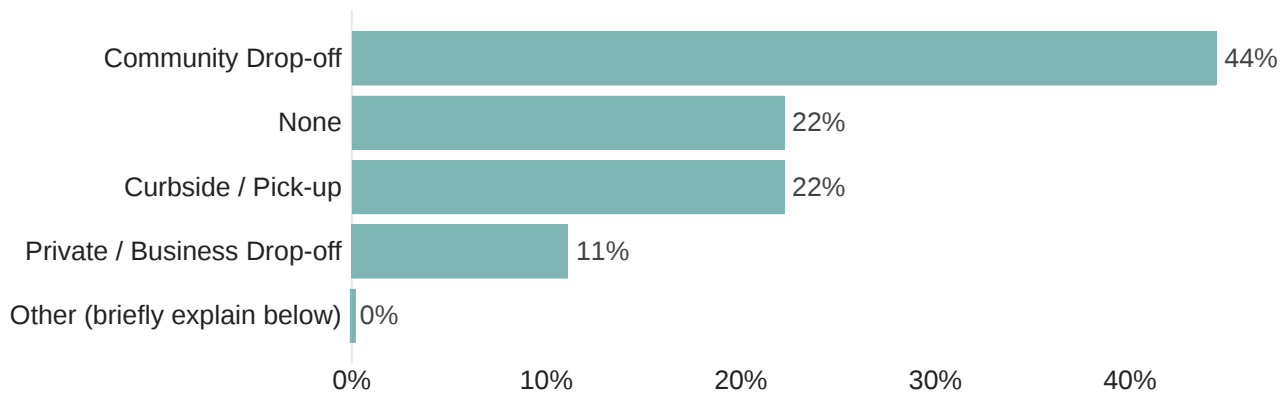
The full survey results for Kalkaska County are on the following pages.

MMCE Networks Northwest Survey Results Summary (Kalkaska County)[*]

Q1 - What recycling services are available in your area? (select all that apply)

SUMMARY - Athough 44% of Kalkaska Country residents have access to Community Drop-off recycling services and 22% to Curbside Pick-up recycling services, 22% does not have access to any recycling service.

7 Responses

Community Drop-off — 44%
None — 22%
Curbside / Pick-up — 22%
Private / Business Drop-off — 11%
Other (briefly explain below) — 0%

Q1 - "Other" text responses
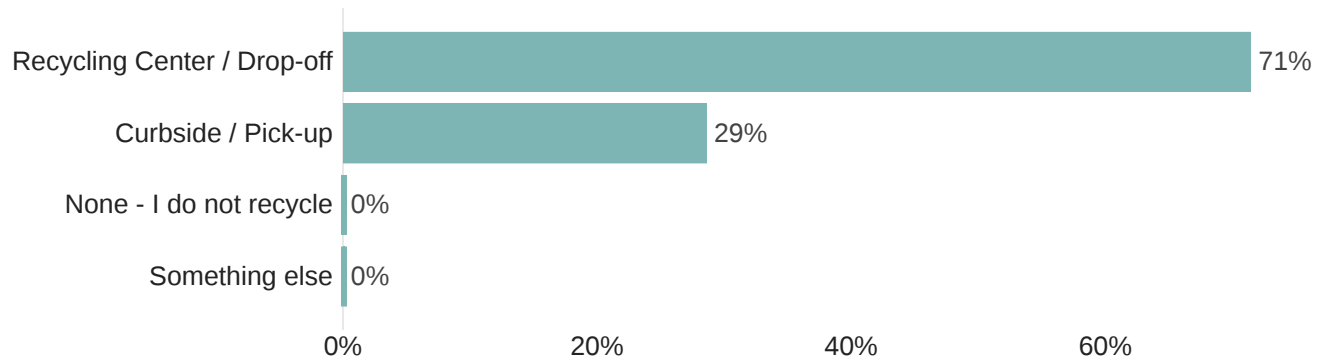
No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!

[*]Very low base size (n<30) for county. With only 7 responses, please do not consider data representative of the county and instead use only for its qualitative insights. Grey boxes stating, "No data found - your filters may be too exclusive," indicate questions with without responses from respondents as a result of low base size and/or non-required survey questions.

Q2 - What type of recycling services do you most often use, not including bottle returns?

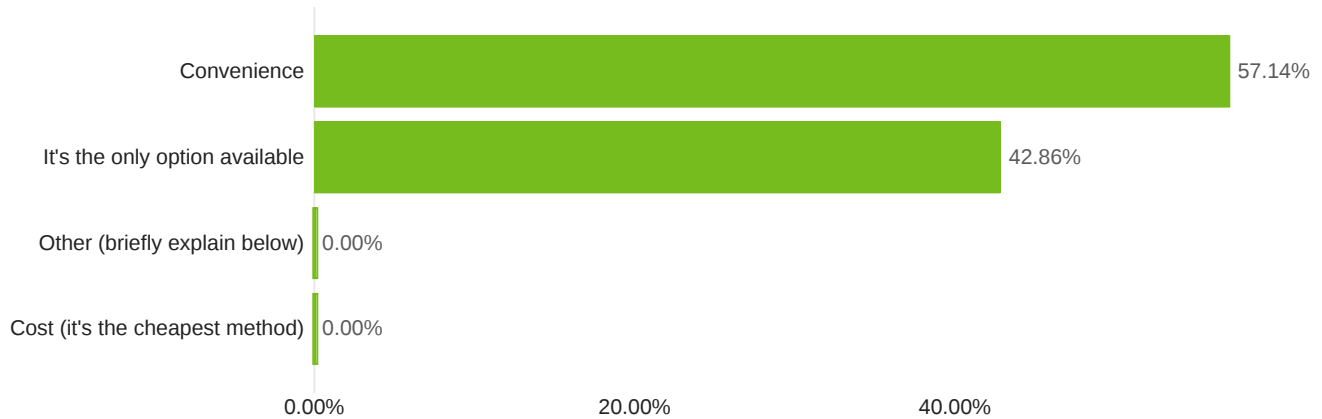**SUMMARY -** Most use Drop-off recycling services.

7 Responses

Q2 - What type of recycling services do you most often use, not including bottle returns? Text responses

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!

Q3 - What is the most important reason you choose to recycle this way?

SUMMARY - Over half of Kalkaska residents chose their method of recycling because of convenience.
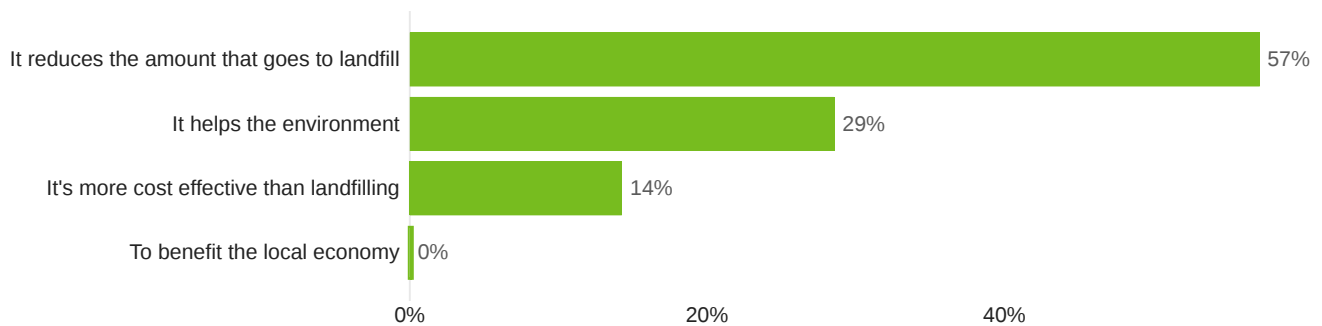
7 Responses

Category	Percentage
Convenience	57.14%
It's the only option available	42.86%
Other (briefly explain below)	0.00%
Cost (it's the cheapest method)	0.00%

Q4 - Why do you recycle?

SUMMARY - 57% recycle as a means to reduce the amount of waste headed to landfills. 29% do so for environmental reasons.
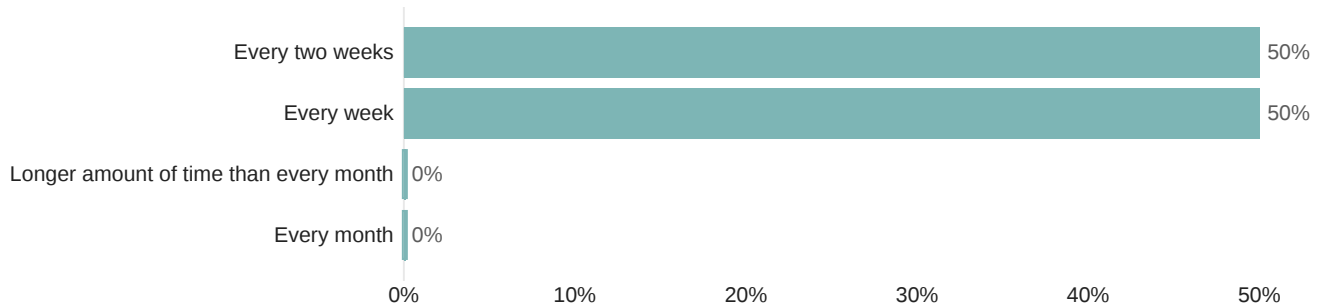
7 Responses

Category	Percentage
It reduces the amount that goes to landfill	57%
It helps the environment	29%
It's more cost effective than landfilling	14%
To benefit the local economy	0%

Q5 - How often do you recycle using curbside / pick-up?

SUMMARY - Of those who are offered Curbside Pick-up services, one uses the service every week while the other uses it every other week.
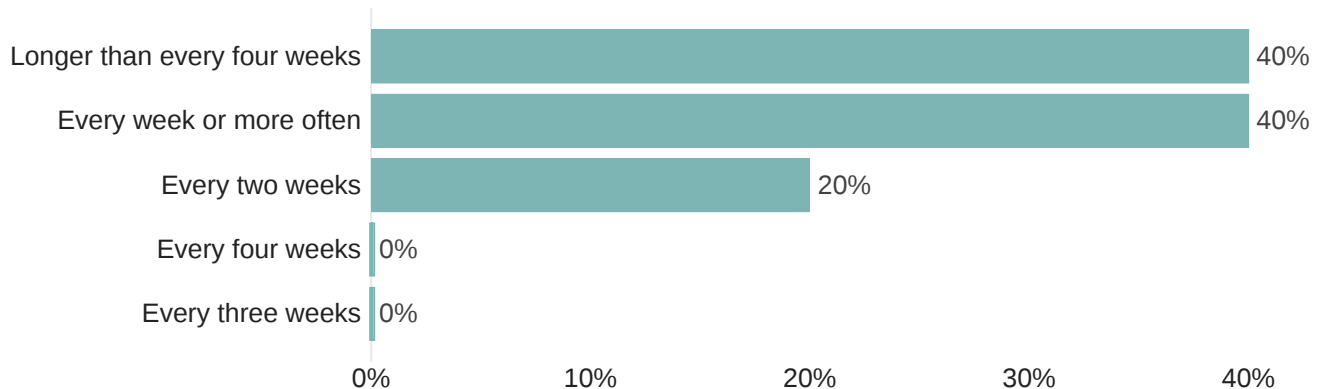
2 Responses

Every two weeks	50%
Every week	50%
Longer amount of time than every month	0%
Every month	0%

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%

Q6 - How often do you recycle using a Recycling Center or drop-off?

SUMMARY - Those with access to Drop-off recycling services to are likely to use the service either every week or more often or longer than every month.

5 Responses

Longer than every four weeks	40%
Every week or more often	40%
Every two weeks	20%
Every four weeks	0%
Every three weeks	0%

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%

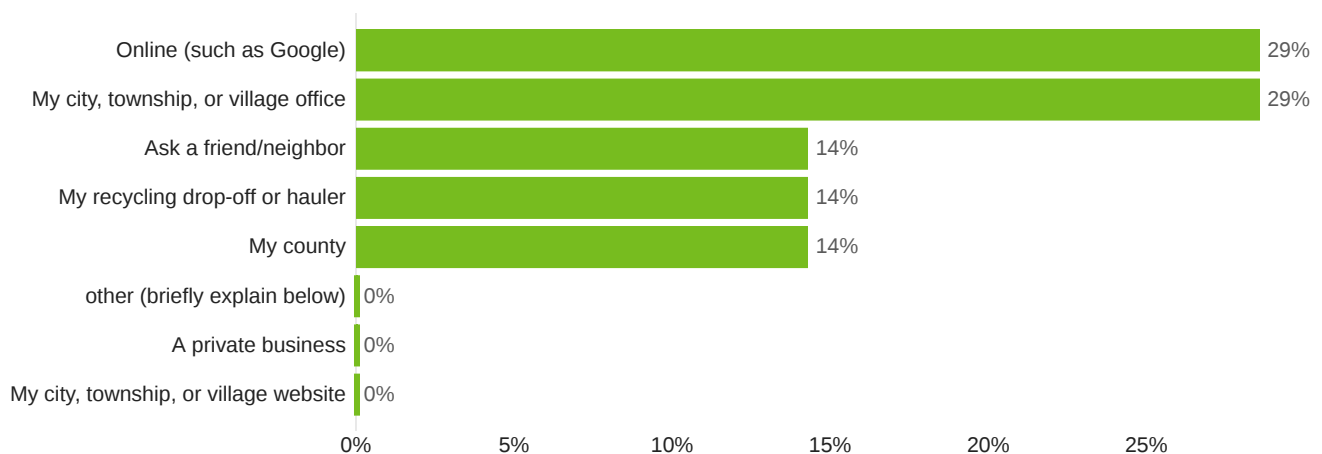# Q7 - What is the most significant reason you do not recycle?

SUMMARY - N/A - no responses.

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!

Q8 - If you had questions about recycling, where would you first seek out information?

SUMMARY - 57% first look towards their municipality and recycling providers to answer questions about recycling. 43% seek information from Google or friends.
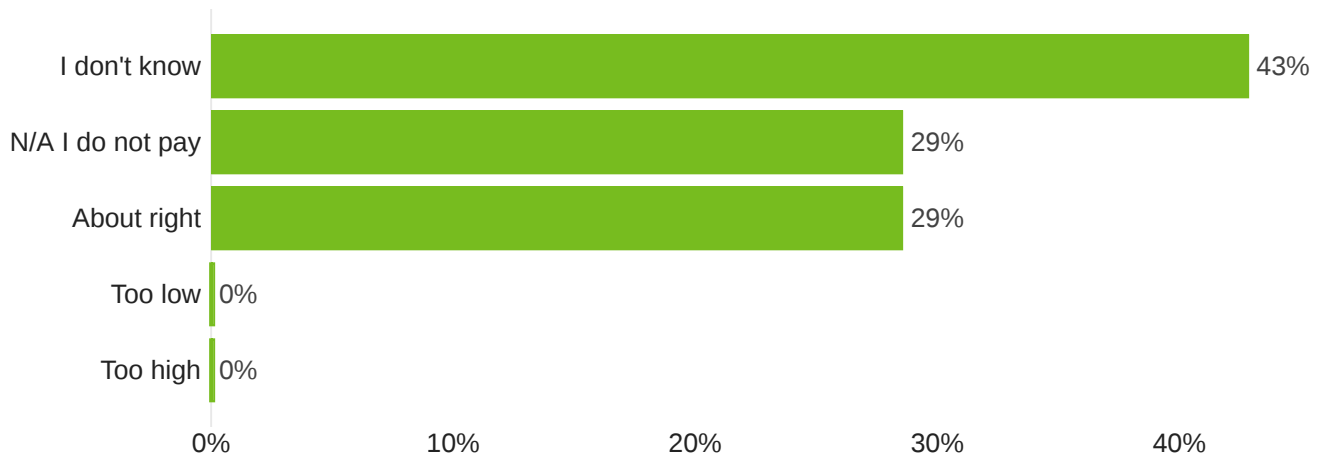
7 Responses

Category	Percentage
Online (such as Google)	29%
My city, township, or village office	29%
Ask a friend/neighbor	14%
My recycling drop-off or hauler	14%
My county	14%
other (briefly explain below)	0%
A private business	0%
My city, township, or village website	0%

Q9 - Do you think the cost of recycling is too high, about right or too low? Please respond even if you do not recycle.

SUMMARY - 29% do not pay for recycling. While 43% feel that they do not know the appropriate cost of recycles. NOTE: One potential problem with this question, is that the survey did not capture whether the respondent knows if the cost of recycling is bundled into the cost of their trash pickup.
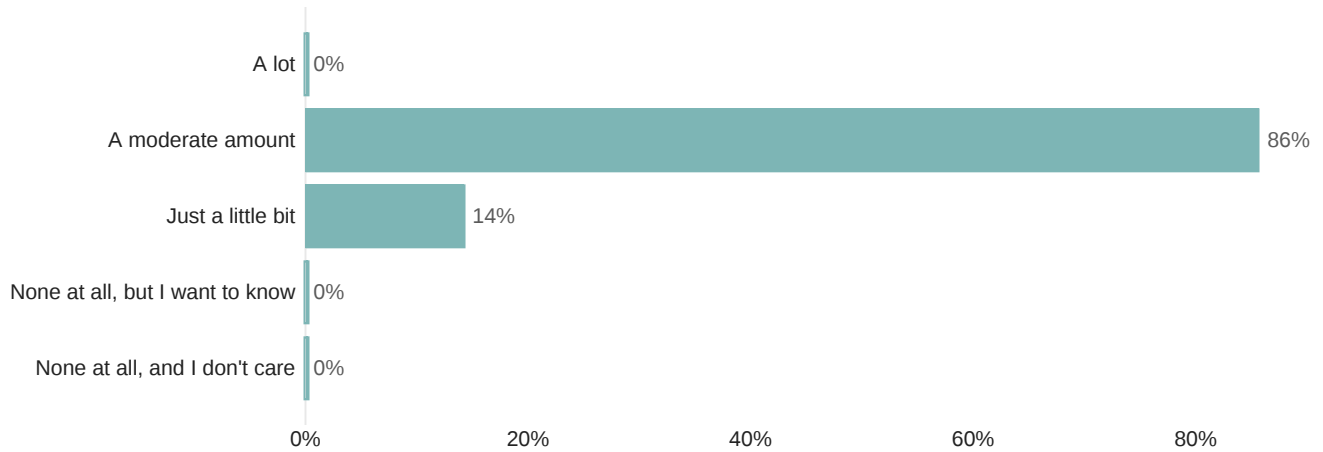
7 Responses

Q10 - How much do you know about recycling, generally speaking?

SUMMARY - A majority feels that they know a moderate amount about recycling. Whereas no one feels that they know a lot.
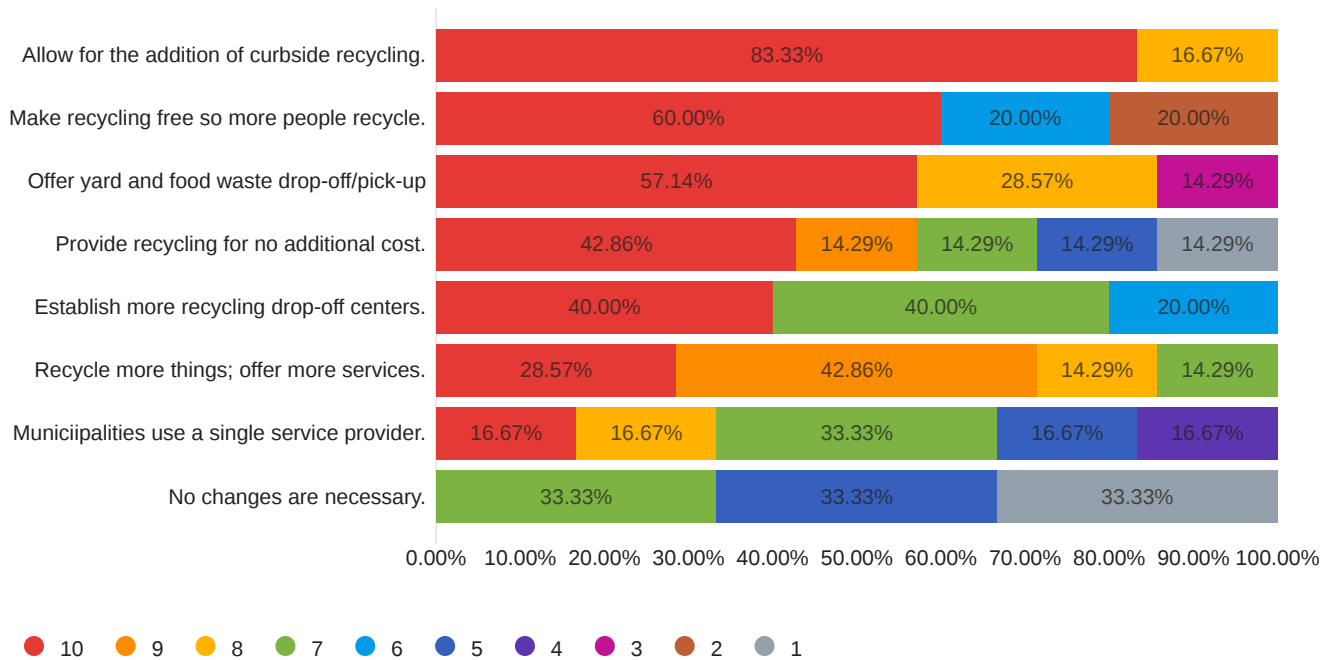
7 Responses

Q11 - Leaders in Northwest Michigan are exploring ways to improve recycling and other waste management services offered to residents and businesses. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being VERY IMPORTANT and 0 being NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT, how important are each of the following potential improvements to you? If you already have access to an option, select 'not applicable'

SUMMARY - To Kalkaska residents, it is most important that the county offer curbside recycling. They are also interested in free recycling services to allow for greater accessibility and participation from more people.

7 Responses

Category					
Allow for the addition of curbside recycling.	83.33%			16.67%	
Make recycling free so more people recycle.	60.00%		20.00%	20.00%	
Offer yard and food waste drop-off/pick-up	57.14%		28.57%	14.29%	
Provide recycling for no additional cost.	42.86%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%
Establish more recycling drop-off centers.	40.00%	40.00%		20.00%	
Recycle more things; offer more services.	28.57%	42.86%	14.29%	14.29%	
Municipalities use a single service provider.	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	16.67%	16.67%
No changes are necessary.	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%		

0.00% 10.00% 20.00% 30.00% 40.00% 50.00% 60.00% 70.00% 80.00% 90.00% 100.00%

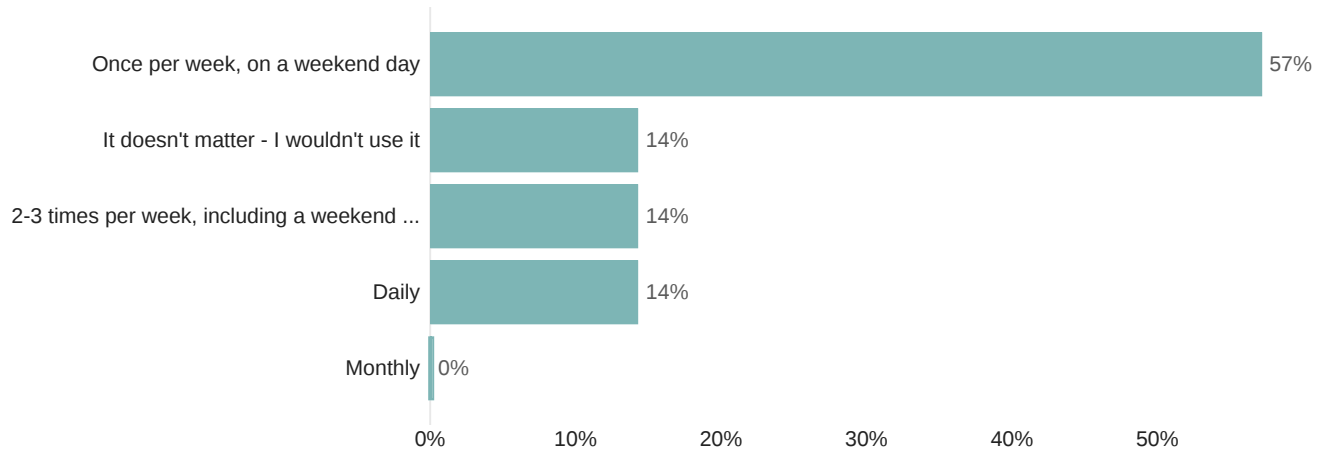● 10 ● 9 ● 8 ● 7 ● 6 ● 5 ● 4 ● 3 ● 2 ● 1

Select a field

Q12 - If a convenient recycling or food waste drop-off site were available close to where you live, how often would you want it open?

SUMMARY - 71% of people would like a Drop-off site open at least once per week on the weekend day. While 14$ would not use a drop-off site regardless of when it was open and 14% would use it daily.
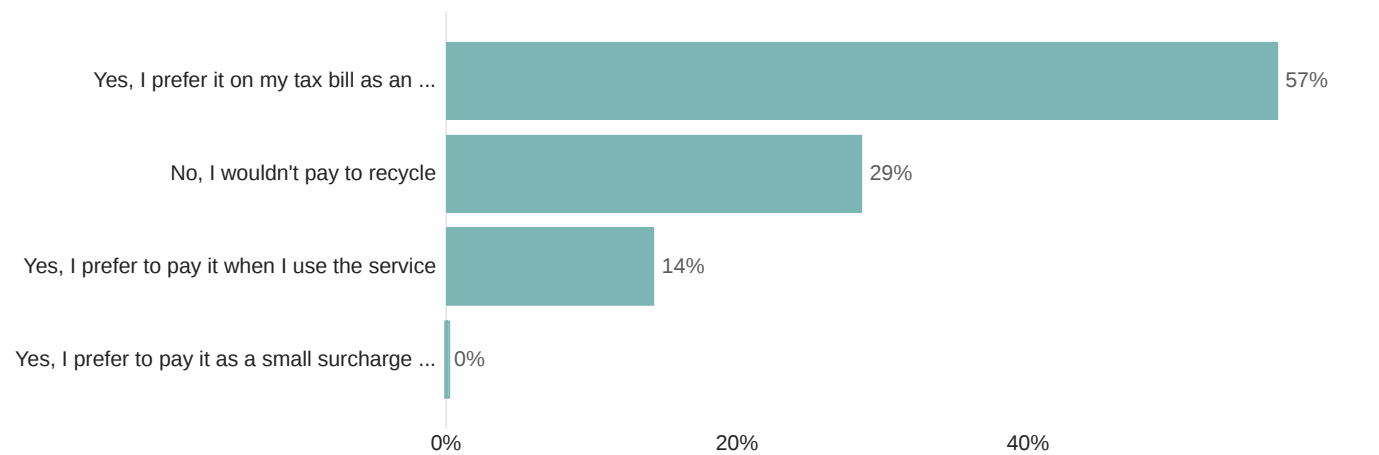
7 Responses

Q13 - Would you be willing to pay a small fee to have convenient access to recycling or food waste collection?

SUMMARY - Slight more than a quarter of residents express a disinterest in paying for recycling. Instead, most prefer to have an assessment or fee on their tax bill.

7 Responses

Q14 - What would you be willing to spend to get convenient access to recycling or food waste collection?

SUMMARY - Of those willing to pay for recycling or food waste collection, 60& want to pay $6 or less a month for recycling or food waste collection. However, 40% are willing to pay between %7-8 per month.
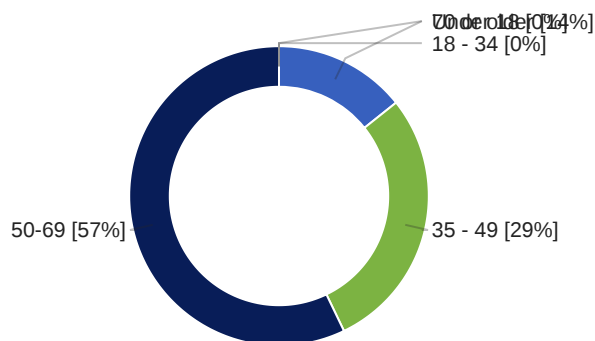
5 Responses

Category	Percentage
$1-2 per month	20%
$3-4 per month	20%
$5-6 per month	20%
$7-8 per month	40%
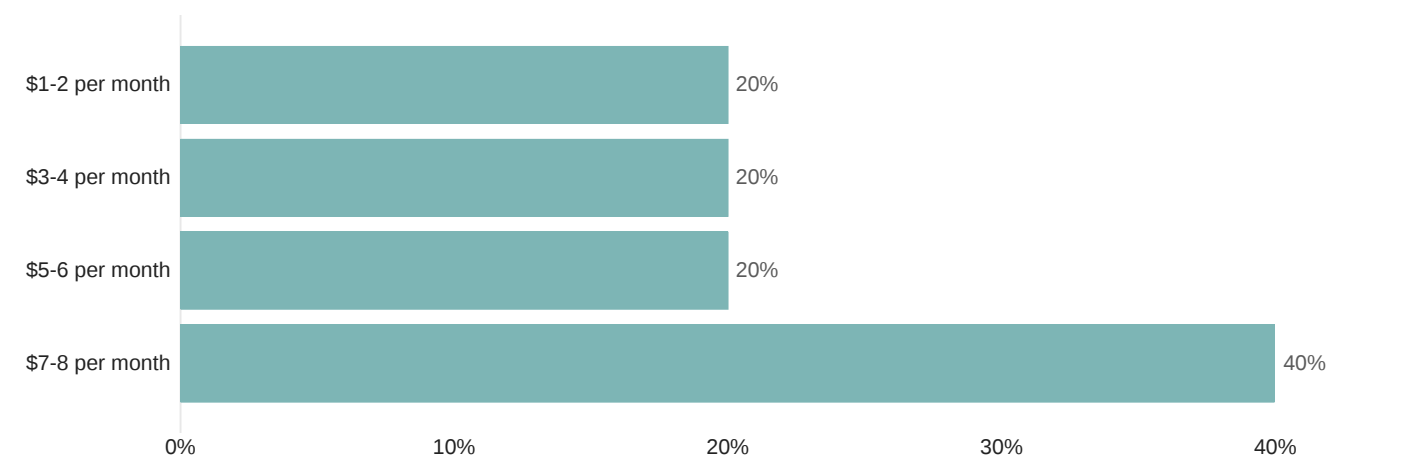
Demographics and Background of Respondents

SUMMARY:

- Respondents are primarily between the ages 35-69.
- Respondents are predominately female.
- 86% have some college education or higher.
- 86% of respondents own the home that they live in.
- 86% live in Kalkaska County year around.
- Unsurprisingly, because of the higher age range of our respondents, 71% do not have children living at home who are school age or younger.
- 86% of respondents are white with little representation of other racial or ethnic groups.
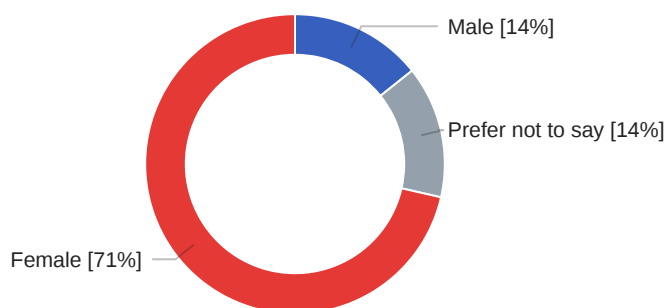- Median yearly household income falls around $50,000 - $75,000 per year.
- N/A - no responses.
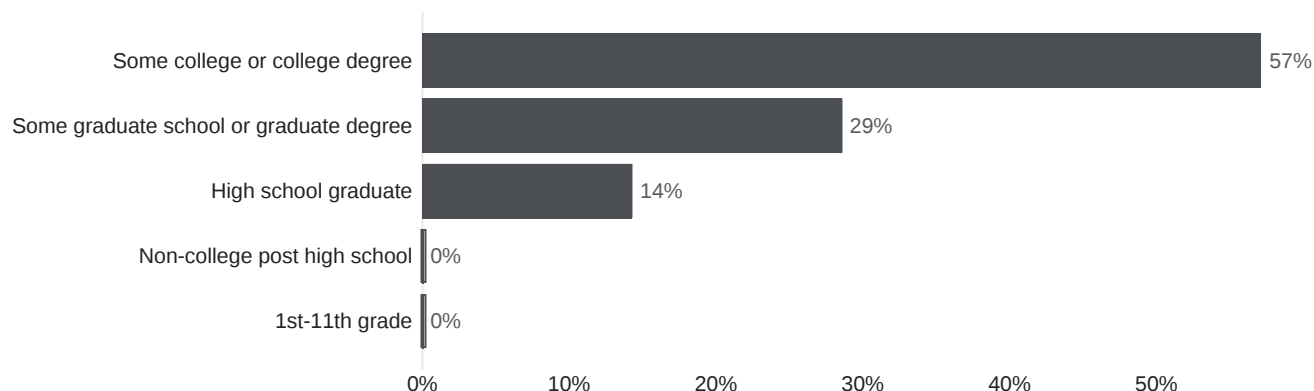
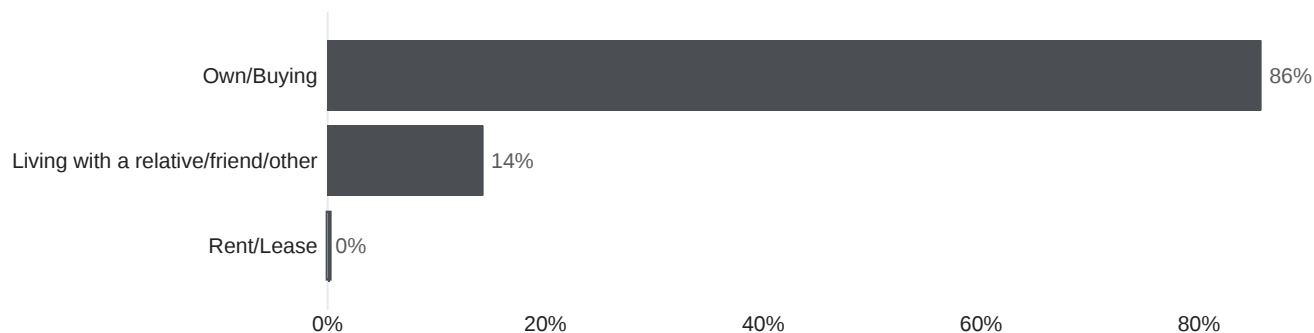## Q16 - Which of these best fits your age?

7 Responses

70 or older [0%] Under 18 [14%]
18 - 34 [0%]
50-69 [57%]
35 - 49 [29%]

Q17 - What is your gender?

7 Responses

Male [14%]
Prefer not to say [14%]
Female [71%]

Q18 - What is the last grade or level of schooling you completed?
7 Responses

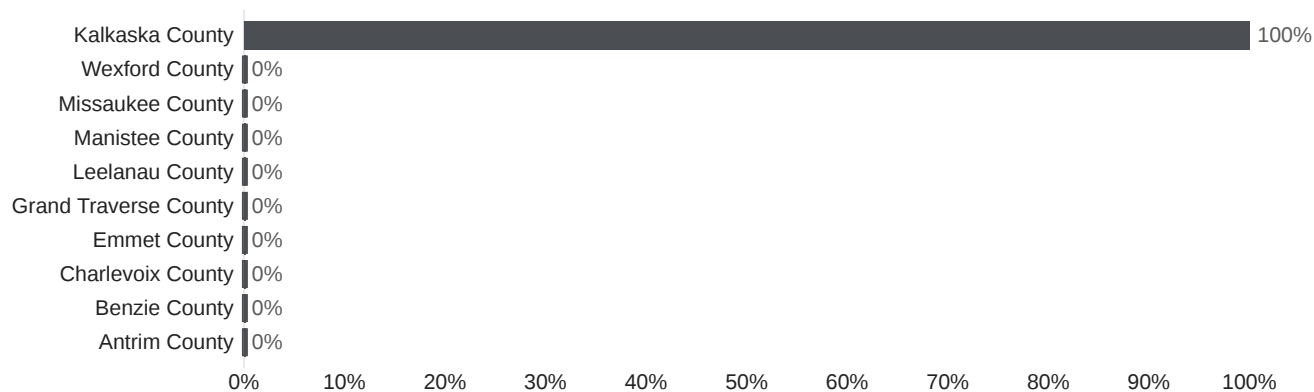| Response	Percentage
Some college or college degree	57%
Some graduate school or graduate degree	29%
High school graduate	14%
Non-college post high school	0%
1st-11th grade	0%

Q19 - Do you own your own home, are you buying a home, or do you lease or rent where you live?
7 Responses

Response	Percentage
Own/Buying	86%
Living with a relative/friend/other	14%
Rent/Lease	0%

Q20 - County
7 Responses

County	Percentage
Kalkaska County	100%
Wexford County	0%
Missaukee County	0%
Manistee County	0%
Leelanau County	0%
Grand Traverse County	0%
Emmet County	0%
Charlevoix County	0%
Benzie County	0%
Antrim County	0%

Q21 - How much of the year do you live in this county?

7 Responses

Category	Percentage
All year long	86%
Part of the year	14%
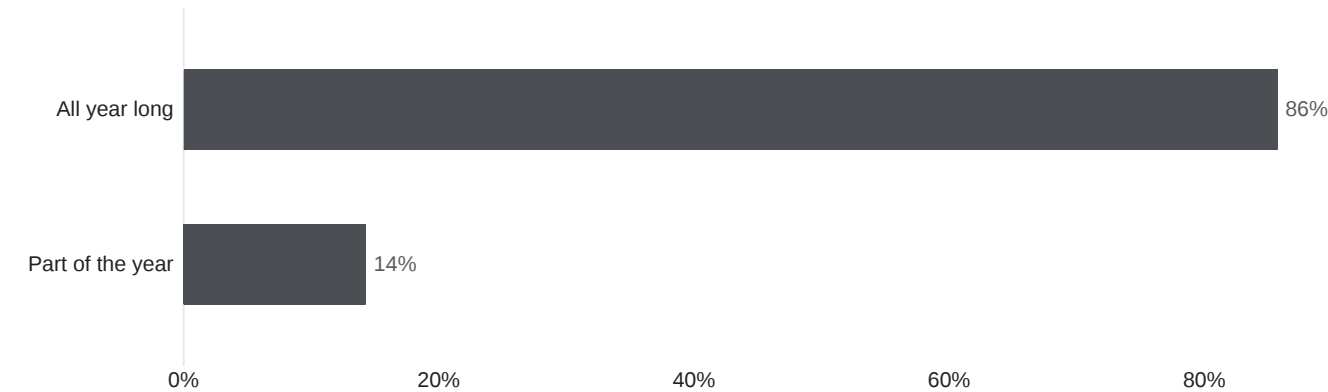
Q22 - Do you have children living in your home who are school age or younger?

7 Responses

No 71%

Yes 29%

0%   20%   40%   60%
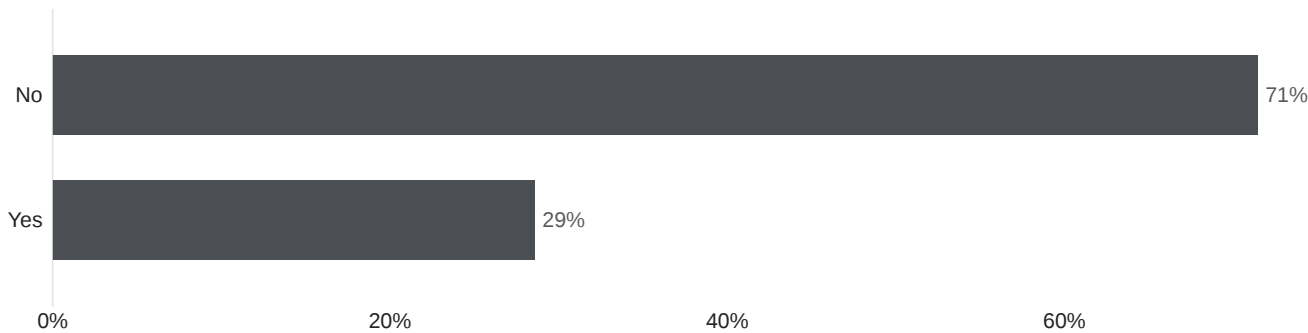
Q23 - Which racial or ethnic group best describes you?

7 Responses

White 86%

Black or African American 14%

Other 0%

Arab American or Middle Eastern 0%

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0%

Asian 0%

American Indian or Alaska Native 0%

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%   60%   70%   80%
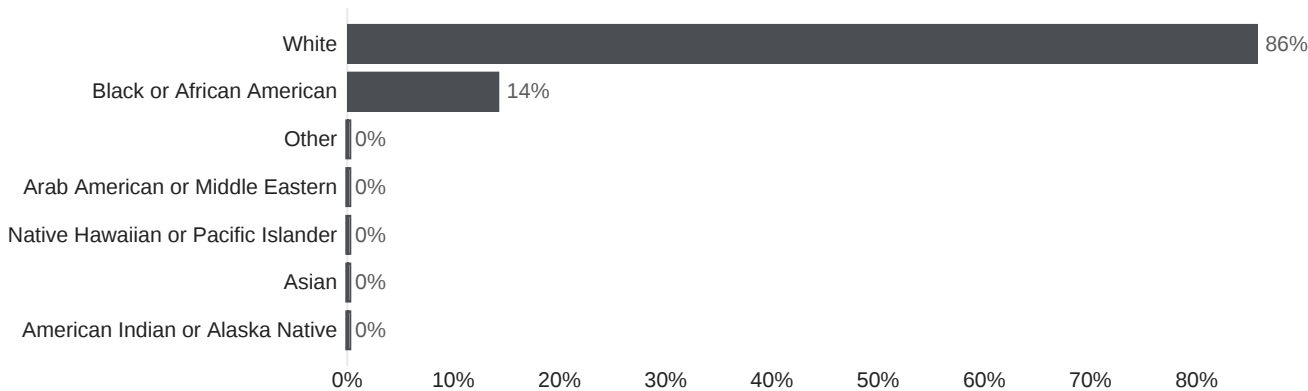
Q24 - In which of the following categories does your total yearly household income fall, including everyone in the household? If retired, please select an income category based on retirement income.

7 Responses

Under $25,000 per year	14%
$25,000 - $50,000 per year	29%
$50,000 - $75,000 per year	14%
$75,000 - $100,000 per year	14%
$100,000 - $150,000 per year	14%
$150,000 - $200,000 per year	0%
over $200,000 per year	14%

0%   5%   10%   15%   20%   25%
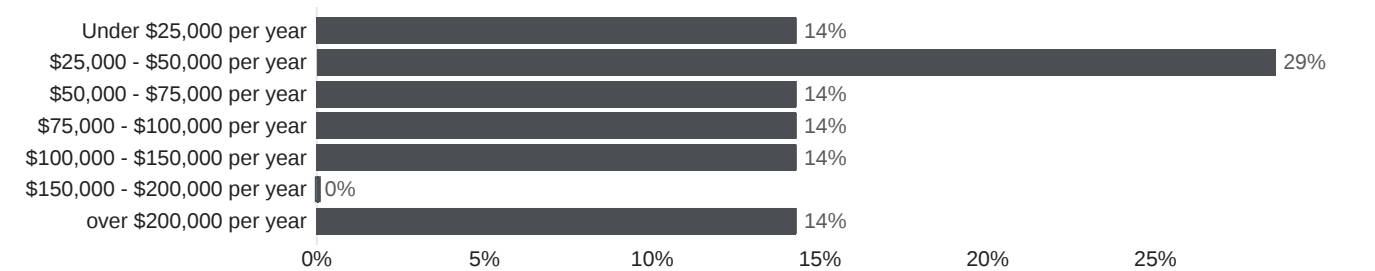
Q27 - As a renter/lessee, do you have recycling available on the property where you live?

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!