



*Select Board Regular Session Minutes
Swampscott High School
200 Essex Street, Room B129
September 20, 2023, 6:45 PM*

Received by Town Clerk
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David Grishman, Chair
Katie Phelan, Vice Chair
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Peter A. Spellios
Douglas Thompson

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SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVID GRISHMAN, MARY ELLEN FLETCHER, KATIE PHELAN, PETER SPELLIOS, DOUG THOMPSON

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: SEAN FITZGERALD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, MR. PETE KANE, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WAYNE SPRITZ, EMILY WESTHOVEN AND KATHY MIKK, ALIX SMULLEN

MEETING OPENED AT 7:19 PM

A. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- i. VISITED THE MARBLEHEAD COUNSELING CENTER WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE JENNY ARMINI AND REQUESTED A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND OFFERINGS FOR SWAMPSCOTT RESIDENTS. TA FITZGERALD WILL MEET WITH REGIONAL POLICE, HEALTH, SENIOR CENTER AND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT HEADS TO DISCUSS NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH & THERAPEUTIC SERVICES.
- ii. THE BOAT LOTTERY HAS BEEN CANCELLED THIS YEAR BUT TA FITZGERALD IS LOOKING INTO ALTERNATIVE STORAGE SITES.
- iii. TOURED THE GLOVER PROPERTY WITH STAKEHOLDERS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PROPERTY IS IN POOR CONDITION DUE TO WATER DAMAGE. TA FITZGERALD IS WAITING FOR A REPORT FROM THE ARCHITECT TO SEE IF ANY OF IT IS SALVAGEABLE.
- iv. TOWN STAFF ARE WORKING WITH THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF RELOCATING THE PITMAN HOUSE.
- v. MET WITH GENERAL ANDREA GAYLE-BENNETT AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND TOURED THE VFW AND 12-24 PINE STREET TO DISCUSS THE PINE STREET VETERANS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT AND HOW THE DAV AND STATE VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS CAN PARTNER IN THIS ENDEAVOR.
- vi. THE FINANCE TEAM IS BUSY COORDINATING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS. THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROJECTS IS SEPTEMBER 30TH. ONE CLEAR PROJECT FOR THE SELECT BOARD TO DISCUSS IS THE NEED FOR A NEW DPW FACILITY. HEIDI WHEAR AND BOB POWELL ARE PROPOSING FUNDING FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO ADVANCE A SENIOR CENTER COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER.
- vii. AS ALWAYS, THE LIBRARY HAS A NUMBER OF THINGS GOING ON. THE TEEN ROOM IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN 9/23 AND LIBRARY HOURS HAVE BEEN EXPANDED. JONATHAN NICHOLS IS WORKING ON OCTOBER EVENTS INCLUDING ANOTHER ESCAPE ROOM AND AUTHOR MEET & GREETs.
- viii. MAYOR NICHOLSON AND I HAVE DISCUSSED THE LACK OF RESPONSE BY THE DEP. THE MAYOR WOULD LIKE TO DO A TRIAL FOR THE UV SYSTEM TA FITZGERALD IS ON BOARD FOR THE UV SYSTEM AS WELL BUT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ADVANCE THE OUTFALL PIPE TO EGG ROCK.
- ix. THE SENIOR CENTER HOOD BIDS ARE IN. THERE MAY BE SOME TWEAKS BUT MAX KASPER IS READY TO MOVE FORWARD. THE TOWN HALL GARAGE REPAIR IS WELL UNDERWAY; THE FIRE STATION SPRINKLER BIDS ARE DUE BACK NEXT WEEK. HE WILL BE ASKING FOR \$100,000 IN CAPITAL FOR DPW GARAGE IMPROVEMENTS.
- x. IT'S BEEN A BUSY WEEK IN DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE POLICE UNION. THE SCREENING AND SELECTION PROCESS HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A 40 DAY SCHEDULE. WE'VE REACHED A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT THAT CANDIDATES WHO ARE HIRED AND COMPLETE FIELD TRAINING WILL RECEIVE A \$1,000 BONUS. THIS WILL SAVE THE TOWN OVER \$30K IN TRAINING AND OVERTIME FOR FIELD TRAINING. LASTLY, I THANKED CHIEF QUESADA AND CAPTAIN KABLE FOR THEIR RECENT FORUM ON HATE AT THE FIRST CHURCH. I URGED THEM TO HOLD ANOTHER ONE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR AND INCLUDE STUDENTS.

- xi.** HUMAN RESOURCES IS BUSY INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS.
- xii.** RECREATION HAD A BUSY SUMMER AND HAS SWITCHED GEARS TO FALL PROGRAMMING. THE ANNUAL CAR SHOW WILL BE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH.
- xiii.** THE HIGH DOSE FLU VACCINE CLINIC FOR PEOPLE OVER 65 IS THURSDAY, 9/28 AT THE SENIOR CENTER; THE 2ND ANNUAL TIRE COLLECTION EVENT AT THE DPW YARD IS 9/30. LASTLY, CVS IN VINNIN SQUARE IS ADDING AN URGENT CARE.
- xiv.** THE FIRE DEPT. HELD A 9/11 CEREMONY AT THE STATION. I HAVE ASKED THE CHIEF TO COORDINATE A CEREMONY AT TOWN HALL NEXT YEAR SO SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN CAN ATTEND. THE NEXT ROUND OF HIRING HAS BEGUN.
- xv.** REACH ARTS WILL BE VACATING THE BURRIL STREET PROPERTY AND TERMINATING THEIR LEASE. I WILL BE MEETING WITH STAFF TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FUTURE USES.
- xvi.** AMY SARRO IS BUSY COORDINATING THE START OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT WITH SEVERAL PROPOSED ARTICLES.
- xvii.** DUE TO THE UPCOMING WEATHER, TA FITZGERALD NOTED THAT SWAMPTOBERFEST NEEDS TO BE CANCELED. HE WOULD LIKE IT RESCHEDULED, BUT DUE TO OTHER EVENT SCHEDULES THIS IS PROVING DIFFICULT.

MS. FLETCHER DISCUSSED THE BOAT STORAGE LOTTERY. SHE FEELS THE NOTICE SHOULD HAVE GONE OUT EARLIER THAN SEPTEMBER TO GIVE BOAT OWNERS ENOUGH TIME TO FIND STORAGE. SHE ALSO ASKED IF IT WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE PEOPLE BROKE THE RULES OR IF FEES ARE TOO LOW (TA FITZGERALD: STORING BOATS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE TOWN TO USE THAT PROPERTY FOR OTHER PURPOSES, THERE'S A GENERAL LIABILITY ISSUES, THE STORAGE FEE IS TOO LOW AND ISN'T OFFSETTING THE EXPENSE TO THE TOWN FOR THOSE 12 BOATS). 2) SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CAPITAL PLAN ON A FUTURE AGENDA AS NOT EVERYTHING WAS DETAILED AND SHE WOULD LIKE THE BOARD'S INPUT ON REQUESTS BEFORE IT COMES TO TOWN MEETING. MR. GRISHMAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT ON THE OCTOBER 18TH AGENDA. MR. SPELLIOS FEELS OCTOBER IS TOO SOON AS THE CAPITAL PLAN HASN'T BEEN VETTED ENOUGH TO BRING TO THE BOARD. MS. FLETCHER DISCUSSED HAVING PERCENTAGE OF CAPITAL GOING TO RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE. MR. SPELLIOS SUGGESTED HAVING A POLICY DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE CAPITAL PLANS. 3) SHE IS HAPPY TO SEE A 49 DAY POLICE HIRING PROCESS. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE HIRING PROCESS, THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVITY AND LOOKING AT A THIRD-PARTY TO HIRE POLICE, CASTING A WIDER NET TO ATTRACT MORE CANDIDATES.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT: MAURA LAU, 15 OUTLOOK RD, STATED SHE HAD HOPED TO SPEAK ABOUT THE HADLEY RFP AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING INCLUDING: HADLEY RFP SHOULDN'T BE VOTED ON IN A REMOTE SESSION AND THAT THERE WASN'T PUBLIC COMMENT ON IT, THE 1ST AND 2ND READING DOCUMENTS WEREN'T AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE (MORE AWARE), THE SELECT BOARD WENT AHEAD AND "FORGED A SPECIFIC PATH", A ROOFTOP STRUCTURE WOULD CHANGE THE HISTORIC NATURE OF THE BUILDINGS, LOSS OF OPEN SPACE AND A PLAYGROUND IF A GARAGE IS BUILT, "BOUTIQUE" SOUNDS EXCLUSIVE – WILL THE PUBLIC BE BANNED FROM THE PROPERTY? SHE SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE A PLAN FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS AND MEETINGS.

C. NEW & OLD BUSINESS:

- 1.** PRESENTATION OF CITATIONS TO GIRL SCOUT TROOP: THE BOARD READ & PRESENTED PROCLAMATIONS TO GIRL SCOUT TROOP 70539 FOR STENCILING "DO NOT DUMP" AT TOWN SEWER DRAINS. HANNAH EXPLAINED THE PROJECT. THE BOARD THEN INVITED EACH GIRL SCOUT UP TO RECEIVE THEIR CITATION. THE BOARD THEN TOOK A GROUP PHOTO WITH THE SCOUTS. GIRL SCOUTS RECEIVING CITATIONS ARE: ADDIE STERN, ALICE GENTRY, CHARLOTTE WALGER, CLARA HENRY, ELEANOR BASSOFF, EMMA CREHAN, GRACE CREHAN, HANNAH HOCKERT, MADELYN DUPUIS, MAEVE WILSON, REAGAN KENCH, SAVANNAH SCHULTZ, MARY DiLISIO, PAIGE SHANAHAN
- 2.** HOLCIM-NER (AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES – NORTHEAST REGION) ANNUAL EARTH REMOVAL PERMIT: PUBLIC HEARING
UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY MARY ELLEN FLETCHER, SECONDED BY KATIE PHELAN, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:30 P.M.: ALL IN FAVOR: YES. ANY OPPOSED: NO. **MOTION CARRIES.**

TONIGHT'S DISCUSSION IS FOR EXTENDING THE PERMIT UNDER THE EXISTING TERMS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: HOLCIM-NER HAD NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

MS. FLETCHER PROPOSED AN EXTENSION FROM DEC 30TH TO THE END OF JAN. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION AS TO WHY THE BOARD KEEPS GIVING HOLCIM SHORT EXTENSIONS RATHER THAN A LONGER ONE LIKE 6 MONTHS. MR. GRISHMAN NOTED

THERE'S AN EXISTING LAWSUIT. MR. SPELLIOS STATED THAT A LONGER EXTENSION CAN BE DONE BUT THAT THE BOARD IS TRYING TO BE SENSITIVE TO ERAC AND A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY MARY ELLEN FLETCHER, SECONDED BY KATIE PHELAN, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO EXTEND HOLCIM-NER'S ANNUAL EARTH REMOVAL PERMIT TO MARCH 31, 2024: ALL IN FAVOR: YES. ANY OPPOSED: NO. MOTION CARRIES.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY PETER SPELLIOS, SECONDED BY KATIE PHELAN, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO CONTINUE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT UNTIL OCTOBER 4, 2023, 7:00 PM: ALL IN FAVOR: YES. ANY OPPOSED: NO. MOTION CARRIES.

3. READING OF THE NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION: THE BOARD READ & SIGNED THE PROCLAMATION.
4. SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) PRESENTATION OF SURVEY RESULTS: SWAC CHAIR, WAYNE SPRITZ, GAVE SOME BACKGROUND ON THE SURVEY THAT WAS DONE BY THE COMMITTEE. MS. WESTHOVEN AND MS. MIKK REVIEWED THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSED THE WORK THEY'RE DOING ON THE PLASTIC/STYROFOAM BYLAW. MS. FLETCHER SUGGESTED THAT WHEN SWAC HAS THE PUBLIC HEARING, THEY HAVE THE TOWN MODERATOR SEND OUT THAT MEETING INFORMATION TO TOWN MEETING MEMBERS.
5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE RELATING TO SETTLEMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A NATIONAL GRID V TOWN, ESSEX COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT NO. 2177CV01194: ITEM TO BE RECONVENED UNTIL OCTOBER 4, 2023.

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE BOARD APPOINTMENTS OF NEW MEMBERS:
 - a. LAURYN HART, OPEN SPACE & RECREATION
 - b. DANIELLE LEONARD, RECREATION COMMISSION
2. DISCUSSION AND VOTE FOR ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SWAMPSCOTT YACHT CLUB, 425 HUMPHREY STREET, FOR SWAMPTOBERFEST, SATURDAY, 9/23/23, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM (RAIN DATE SUNDAY, 9/24/23, 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM)
3. VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF 9/6/23 & 9/11/23

MS. PHELAN REQUESTED TO HAVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 AND THE BOARD APPOINTMENTS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA. BOARD MEMBERS WILL SEND EDITS TO THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 MINUTES TO MS. MARCHESE AND WILL REVIEW ON OCTOBER 4, 2023.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY MARY ELLEN FLETCHER, SECONDED BY KATIE PHELAN, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO APPROVE THE ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE SWAMPSCOTT YACHT CLUB/SWAMPTOBERFEST AND THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2023: ALL IN FAVOR: YES; ANY OPPOSED: NO. MOTION CARRIES.

MR. THOMPSON EXPRESSED CONCERN THERE WAS A MISSING RESUME (INDIVIDUAL HADN'T PROVIDED IT) AND THAT THE HANDBOOK STATES THAT THE BOARD IS SUPPOSED TO INTERVIEW PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS. TA FITZGERALD NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE TIME CONSUMING FOR THE BOARD TO INTERVIEW EVERY CANDIDATE BUT MR. THOMPSON SAID HE ISN'T LOOKING TO DO THAT. MS. FLETCHER WANTS THE PROCESS TO BE RE-EVALUATED AND HAS SOME IDEAS. MR. THOMPSON SUGGESTED THE HANDBOOK SHOULDN'T INCLUDE THAT THE BOARD NEEDS TO INTERVIEW THE VOLUNTEERS AND THAT THEY JUST NEED TO RELY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR. MS. FLETCHER DOESN'T WANT TO HOLD UP THE TWO CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY PETER SPELLIOS, SECONDED BY KATIE PHELAN, IT WAS **VOTED** TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND SET FORTH IN THE AGENDA.: ALL IN FAVOR: YES - 4 (FLETCHER, SPELLIOS, PHELAN, GRISHMAN). ANY OPPOSED: 1 (THOMPSON, AS HE FEELS THE PROCESS IS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE HANDBOOK; THIS IS NO REFLECTION OF THE CANDIDATES). MOTION CARRIES.

E. SELECT BOARD MEMBER TIME:

MS. FLETCHER: 1) THE ASSESSORS ARE WORKING WITH PATRIOT NOW; 2) THE SENIOR CENTER HAS A TRIP SATURDAY BUT IT MIGHT BE CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER; 3) THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITY IS RUNNING AGAIN. THEY'LL BE LOOKING TO FILL A VACANCY SOON; 4) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS HAS ALSO STARTED MEETING.

MR. GRISHMAN: NOTHING TO ADD.

Ms. PHELAN: NOTHING TO ADD.

Mr. SPELLIOS: DISCUSSED RECENT ZONING BOARD MEETINGS WHERE THE CHAIR DISCUSSED THE LACK OF DECORUM BY PETITIONERS, INCLUDING A PHONE CALL HE RECEIVED FROM SOMEONE ACCUSING A ZBA MEMBER OF NOT BEING A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC BUT IS AFFILIATED WITH THE TOWN. HE WANTS TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT THEY DON'T MAKE THE RULES, THAT THEY FOLLOW AND ENFORCE THE RULES AND FOR PETITIONERS TO SHOW GRACE, KINDNESS AND PATIENCE.

Mr. THOMPSON: NOTHING TO ADD.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY DOUG THOMPSON, SECONDED BY PETER SPELLIOS, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO ADJOURN AT 9:06 P.M.: ALL IN FAVOR: YES. ANY OPPOSED: NO. MOTION CARRIES.

TRUE ATTEST,

Dianne Marchese

DIANNE MARCHESE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR & SELECT BOARD

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD ON OCTOBER 4, 2023

ATTACHMENTS:

TA REPORT

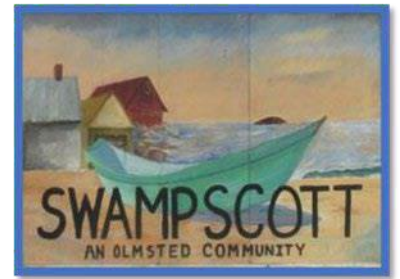
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTATION

NATIONAL HISPANIC MONTH PROCLAMATION



Town of Swampscott

Office of the
Town Administrator
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22 Monument Avenue Swampscott, MA
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Sean R. Fitzgerald

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Swampscott Select Board
Town Administration
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RE: SEPTEMBER 20TH REPORT TO THE SELECT BOARD

Dear Select Board:

I am pleased to be able to offer the following report on programs and initiatives that are on-going in the Town of Swampscott, as well as some updates on a variety of things that have happened since my last report.

MARBLEHEAD COUNSELING CENTER

I attended a meeting last week at the Marblehead Counseling Center with Representative Armini and had a very productive discussion with them. There are a number of Swampscott residents and students on a waiting list for services.

Marblehead is supporting the center with an annual appropriation of \$52,000 and the Town leases the building to the center. I requested a proposal to expand some offerings for Swampscott as well as a follow-up meeting with the regional Police, Health, Senior Center & School Department heads to discuss the needs and opportunities to meet the expanding demand for mental health and therapeutic services.

I plan to follow back up with them next week to start planning for a Social Service Summit for Swampscott, Nahant & Marblehead.

BOAT STORAGE LOTTERY

We sent a notice to a few dozen boat owners that we are eliminating the Boat Storage Lottery.

It is upsetting to some, but the time has come to eliminate this service as the broader use of this property is encumbered by boats and trailers. The deal for the price of storage is way below market rates for private storage and I feel it is only a matter of time before the Town faces complaints with the state Ethics Commission that we are using public property for private gain.

A quick survey of regional boat storage fees shows that we are cosmically lower than all storage lots. Swampscott has charged \$10/ft for commercial fishermen and \$15/ft for town residents to store their boats. Some lots in the region charge \$140 per month to store your boat. We can only store 12 boats each year but every year we have folks who illegally store their boats. Last year, six boats were stored illegally.

Keep in mind that there are additional costs incurred to the Town, including insurance, policing, DPW maintenance, etc.. Last year we needed to install jersey barriers to bring attention to the violators.

Lastly, I am looking at other Town property that could be used for boat storage. There is a minimal area behind the cemetery that could be utilized for the recreation boats but this would not be suitable for more vessels.

GLOVER

At long last, we conducted the Glover site walk last week. It was delayed due to the initial request to post a \$10M liability insurance policy and this simply was not achievable. We settled at \$5M and while we were able to evaluate the property with Structures North staff, the visit was a bit bleak.

The property has been so water damaged it looks totally lost. With this, we will await the report from Structures North and discuss what the cost assumptions are for a possibility of a preservation in place, a salvage of some of the home in place, or a fitting memorial for General Glover as one of our Nation's greatest citizens and heroes.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Town staff are working with the Affordable Housing Trust to discuss the logistics of relocating the Pitman House. This initiative is complicated and there are some extraordinary efforts being put into coordinating this affordable housing project.

VETERANS HOUSING FOR PINE STREET

I met with Undersecretary of the Executive Office of Veteran's Affairs and General Andrea Gayle-Bennett to discuss pulling together DAV and state veterans' organizations to discuss the Pine Street project on Tuesday. We toured the property with Commanders from Several Swampscott Veterans Groups, Swampscott, Lynn and Nahant Veterans Agents, and key staff from Soldier On, a veteran's housing group.

CAPITAL PLAN

Amy & Patrick are busy meeting with Dept. heads and getting their capital projects in order. The deadline for them to submit their requests is 9/29. As always, I've asked that they dream big and dream 10 years down the road.

One clear project that we need to discuss is the dilapidated DPW facility. This needs to be a priority and I suggest we schedule a site visit to the property over the next few weeks so we all may all see firsthand the facility that our critical DPW first responders are provided.

Heidi Whear and Bob Powell have met with me numerous times over the last few weeks to discuss their efforts to advance a senior center community life center. They have revised the proposal from a direct ask for funding to a \$100K capital project to advance a feasibility study that includes a needs assessment.

LIBRARY

As always, the library is abuzz! There are a number of community programs being planned, including:

- Opening of the new teen room on Saturday at 10:30 AM. This includes a dedication of a plaque for Sandy Moltz.
- Last weekend saw an increase in hours. Jonathan has received emails thanking him.
- In October, they are planning "thriller Thursdays" with horror authors, Monday night adult crafts and an Escape Room.
- Jonathan has wrapped up the strategic planning process and is waiting for Trustee approval to submit.
- He is finalizing a space needs study and is eager to advance a capital project to move forward to develop a 21st century space.

KING'S BEACH

I connected with Mayor Nicholson this week and discussed the lack of response to our letter from a few weeks ago about accelerating the timelines. I have suggested we contact the state and federal delegation and urge them to take the lead at driving a critical path of progress.

The Mayor is very eager to do a trial for the UV—something I would prefer not to advance due to costs and a lack of focus on the outfall pipe. However, I do want to work with him to help put pressure on DEP, the EPA, CZM, and the Army Corps. I am meeting with Dave Peterson next week to prepare a public presentation to help explain why IDDE, while important to advance, will NOT help us see this beach brought back to

productive use in the near term and squander millions inefficiently as we fail to coordinate these repairs with our road surface management plan.

Additionally, I have asked Gino Cresta to spray paint a warning on the Seawall in English and Spanish warning of Danger after a rain event.

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Per Max Kasper, the Senior Center hood bids are in. There may be a few tweaks to the original design but he is about ready to move forward with this much needed project. In other Facilities news: The Town Hall garage is on its way to being completed. The first slab has been poured. Max and Danielle will work together to get the shelving installed.
- The Fire Station sprinkler project is out to bid.
- He is asking for \$100,000 in capital to support DPW garage improvements.
- Has met with the School Committee to update them on their capital projects as well as the RFP for design at the Clarke School (administration & pre K currently at the Middle School will be moving to the Clark).

POLICE

A busy week of discussions and negotiations with our Police Union. As you saw with the email from the Union President, we made some progress with outlining a condensed screening and selection process.

I pledged to share that the SPD is working to help advance these goals and 3 of the last 4 hires have been Hispanic officers. However, I do expect that, even though we are significantly condensing the process, we will make DE&I a cornerstone for how we hire.

Here is the timeline and some of the financial incentives that I will need to discuss with the SB in Executive Session as they will require a signed Memorandum of Understanding between the SB and Union E-Board:

- September 23 PT Test @SHS
- October 2-5th Oral board interviews on that day set for: October 2-5 one per hour (7 interviews per day) background packets given to applicant.
- October 10th Background packets returned to SPD.
- October 16 Background are initiated to investigators (only two investigators available)
- October 30th Initial background investigations to be completed by SPD or another PD.
- By November 10 Background Packets and Candidates presented to TA (Appointing Authority)

We have a tentative agreement that candidates who are hired and complete the field training program receive a \$1,000 bonus as an incentive. Additionally, I am recommending any certified lateral who is hired receive a \$10,000 bonus after completion of probationary status (both are my strong recommendations from Chief Quesada and myself). This will save the Town over \$30K for training at the academy and overtime for field training. While these negotiations are acrimonious, replete with pounding on tables and longstanding frustration for the concessionary bargaining, as they say, this too shall pass, and I am hopeful that we are on a better path.

I also met with Chief Quesada and Captain Kable to express my appreciation of the Department's forum on Hate at the First Church. I urged them to coordinate more at the Middle and High Schools in the fall to pull parents and teenagers into this conversation. 80% of hate crimes are committed by individuals under 18.

HUMAN RESOURCES

HR is busy conducting interviews to cover positions in the Fire Dept., Library and Community Development and will be participating in the next North Shore Mass Hire event, 11/8, with representatives from Police & Fire.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Rec. Dept. has switched gears from summer programming to fall and winter programming. September 23rd is going to be full of no-cost/low-cost events including Swamptoberfest, Reach Arts' annual Porchfest and the Town's annual Town-wide Yard Sale! Fingers crossed for a nice day & evening to bring people out & about!

The annual car show will be Sunday, October 8th. Danielle and Jackie are working on celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day.

HEALTH DEPTMENT

Per Jeff Vaughan, COVID protocols for staff are the same as they were in the fall of 2022: if test positive, stay home for 5 days and end isolation if improving/tested negative but remain masked for an additional 5 days. Staff must also notify their immediate supervisor and the Health Department. There is an Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices meeting to discuss a new COVID booster which should be available soon.

- The first high-dose flu vaccine clinic for individuals 65+ will be held on Thursday, 9/28, 4:00-6:00 PM at the Senior Center. Sign-up information will be forthcoming.
- The 2nd annual tire collection event is Saturday, 9/30, 8:00-noon, in conjunction with the monthly Styrofoam drop-off and metal recycling events.
- CVS in Vinnin Square is adding an urgent care.

FIRE

Thank you to the SFD and Board members who attended this year's 9/11 memorial. I did want to share that, at my direction, I moved the ceremony two years ago to Town Hall. There were complaints as it has always been a ceremony at the Fire House.

With this, I have urged Chief Archer to help coordinate another event later in the day on 9/11 at 5 or 6PM and invite school age children to attend and hear more about public service and civic service and why dedicating your life to these careers is honorable. There was a memorial event last Saturday at 10AM at the SFD to honor two recent deaths of SFD members that have been connected to line of duty.

We are moving onto the next round of hiring and currently have two vacancies. We will be interviewing next week to fill one vacancy and will meet soon to fill the second one.

REACH ARTS

Unfortunately, Reach Arts is vacating the property and terminating their lease. I will be meeting with Reach Arts Board members as they would like to continue leasing some space in the building. I will also be meeting with Max Kasper, Marzie Galazka and Pete Kane to strategize future uses for this property.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Amy is busy coordinating the start of the Special Town Meeting warrant with several proposed articles. We will select a date soon.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean R. Fitzgerald
Town Administrator



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION BY THE SELECT BOARD

WHEREAS: EACH YEAR AMERICANS OBSERVE NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BY CELEBRATING THE HISTORIES, CULTURES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHOSE ANCESTORS CAME FROM SPAIN, MEXICO, THE CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA; AND

WHEREAS: FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR TOWN'S HISTORY, WE RECOGNIZE HISPANIC PEOPLE HERE AND ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES, AS WE PAY RESPECT TO THE CULTURES AND POPULATIONS AND CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL HISPANIC PEOPLES TO THE CULTURE OF DIVERSITY, INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE THAT HAS HAD AN INDELIBLE IMPACT ON THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AND UNITED STATES; AND

WHEREAS: THE OBSERVATION STARTED IN 1968 AS HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK UNDER PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON AND WAS EXPANDED BY PRESIDENT RONALD REGAN IN 1988 THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CONGRESSMEMBER ESTEBAN TORRES OF CALIFORNIA TO COVER THE PERIOD AT WHICH IT IS CELEBRATED TODAY; AND

WHEREAS: NEARLY 480 YEARS AGO, THE RECORDED HISPANIC HERITAGE HAS BEEN A PART OF THE DNA OF AMERICAN CULTURE WITH UNDENIABLE INFLUENCE IN EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULINARY ARTS AND GOVERNANCE; AND

WHEREAS: IN THE WORDS OF CESAR CHAVES "PRESERVATION OF ONE'S OWN CULTURE DOES NOT REQUIRE CONTEMPT OR DISRESPECT FOR OTHER CULTURES" AND THUS CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ROBUST HISPANIC DIASPORA; TO INCLUDE SPAIN, PUERTO RICO, COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, EL SALVADOR, BOLIVIA, CHILE, COLUMBIA, ECUADOR, PARAGUAY, PERU, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA; AND

NOW, THEREFORE: ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE SELECT BOARD, WE DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 15TH THROUGH OCTOBER 15TH, 2023, AS

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

IN THE TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS AND ENCOURAGE ALL FAITH BASED AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO ACKNOWLEDGE, HONOR, VALUE AND CELEBRATE HISPANIC PEOPLES HISTORIC AND CURRENT CONTRIBUTIONS LOCALLY AND BEYOND, WHILE ALSO RECOGNIZING THE ONGOING AND INTERCONNECTED STRUGGLES OF ALL HISPANIC COMMUNITIES LOCALLY AND BEYOND.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT, MASSACHUSETTS, THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.

SWAMPSCOTT SELECT BOARD

DAVID GRISHMAN
CHAIR

CATHERINE PHELAN
VICE CHAIR

MARY ELLEN FLETCHER

PETER SPELLIOS

DOUGLAS THOMPSON

SEAN FITZGERALD
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR



Solid Waste Survey

Presentation of Highlights and Recommendations to the Swampscott Select Board

Wednesday, September 20th, 2023



Survey Purpose & Data Points

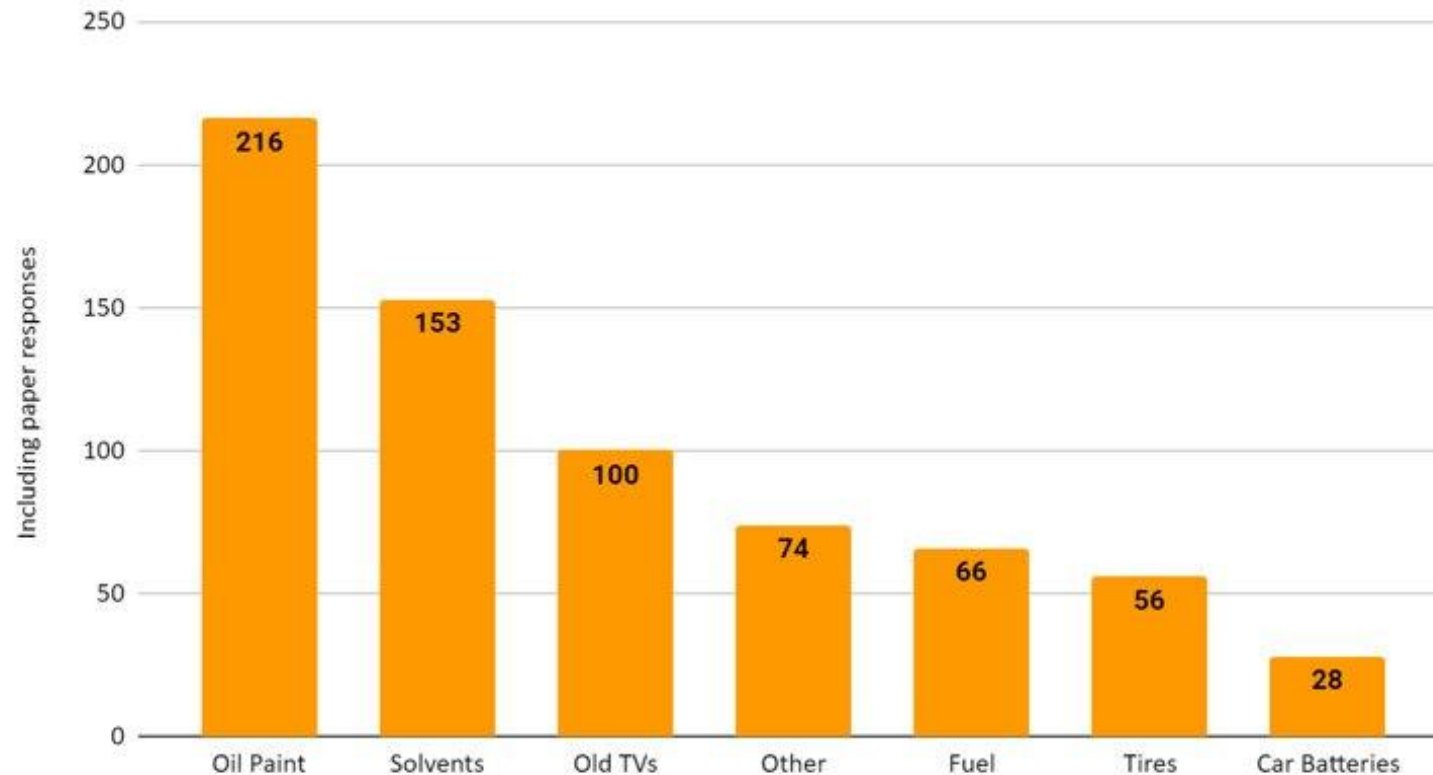
- The Swampscott Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) sought to:
 - Better understand residents' awareness of and participation in town and other waste removal and recycling programs
 - Collect resident feedback on these programs
 - Determine the need for better information on the DEP 30% by 2030 solid waste reduction requirements
- Survey consisted of 12 multiple choice + 1 open-ended + 3 demographic questions and at the same time provided information and "tips" to residents
- Responses were collected from October 26th through December 10th, 2022
- Total of 920 individual online responses and 11 paper responses received
- Most questions allowed for multiple answers and only demographic questions were mandatory

Survey Results: Highlights

- **Trash Barrels:** In the comment portion of the survey, the town's trash barrels received the highest number of distinct comments out of any topic addressed in the comment section
- **Blue Bags:** More than half of all respondents indicate *minimal* use of blue bags (never or only once or twice over the course of 12 months); 20% reported *regular* use of blue bags (at least **twice a month or more**)
- **Blue Bags:** Large households (4+ residents) represented almost all of the responses indicating regular use of blue bags (every week); however, the number of respondents from large households reporting that they never used a blue bag was even higher
- **Composting:** Majority of respondents reporting regular/heavy use of blue bags or respondents reporting "trash barrels are too small" in comments, also reported that they do not compost
- **Specialty Waste Programs:** Monthly metal recycling and Styrofoam drop-off is widely used; other town programs/drop-offs were reported to be less widely used or known

Recommendation 1: Additional Recycling and Waste Events & Education

Do you have specialty waste that you currently need help disposing of?

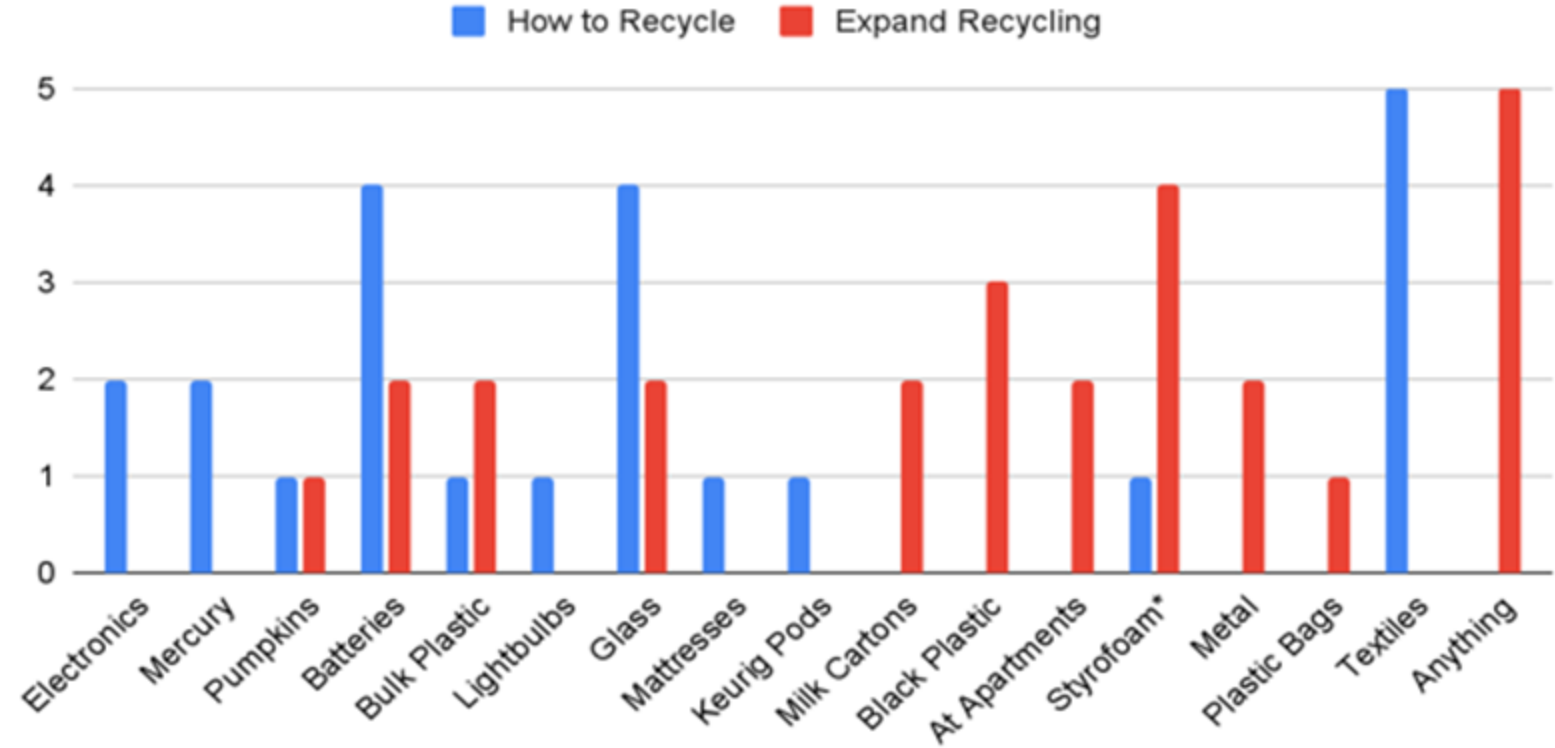


Responses to survey question 12, shown here, indicate a need for additional waste & recycling collection events.

In addition, not shown here, survey question 11 asked people where they recycle electronics; 367 indicated "don't know."

Recommendation 1: Additional Recycling and Waste Events & Education

How to Recycle and Expand Recycling



In response to the open-ended question, some residents indicated other items that they either did not know how to recycle or wished the town would provide more opportunities to recycle.

Recommendation: Additional Disposal Opportunities & Events

- **Hazardous Waste Disposal Days**

Since the cancellation of Hazardous Household Waste Collection through Republic Services, there is a new collaboration with Marblehead. This requires promotion and the cost burden should be reduced to increase participation.

- **Tire Collection Days**

Work with the Mass. Mosquito Control Agency to offer free tire collection day

- **Electronic Recycling Event**

Turning in electronic items to retailers is typically limited to a few items per drop-off. An electronic recycling day would help residents to dispose of e-waste in bulk.

- **Bulky Rigid Plastics Recycling**

Many residents do not know how to dispose of large plastic items.

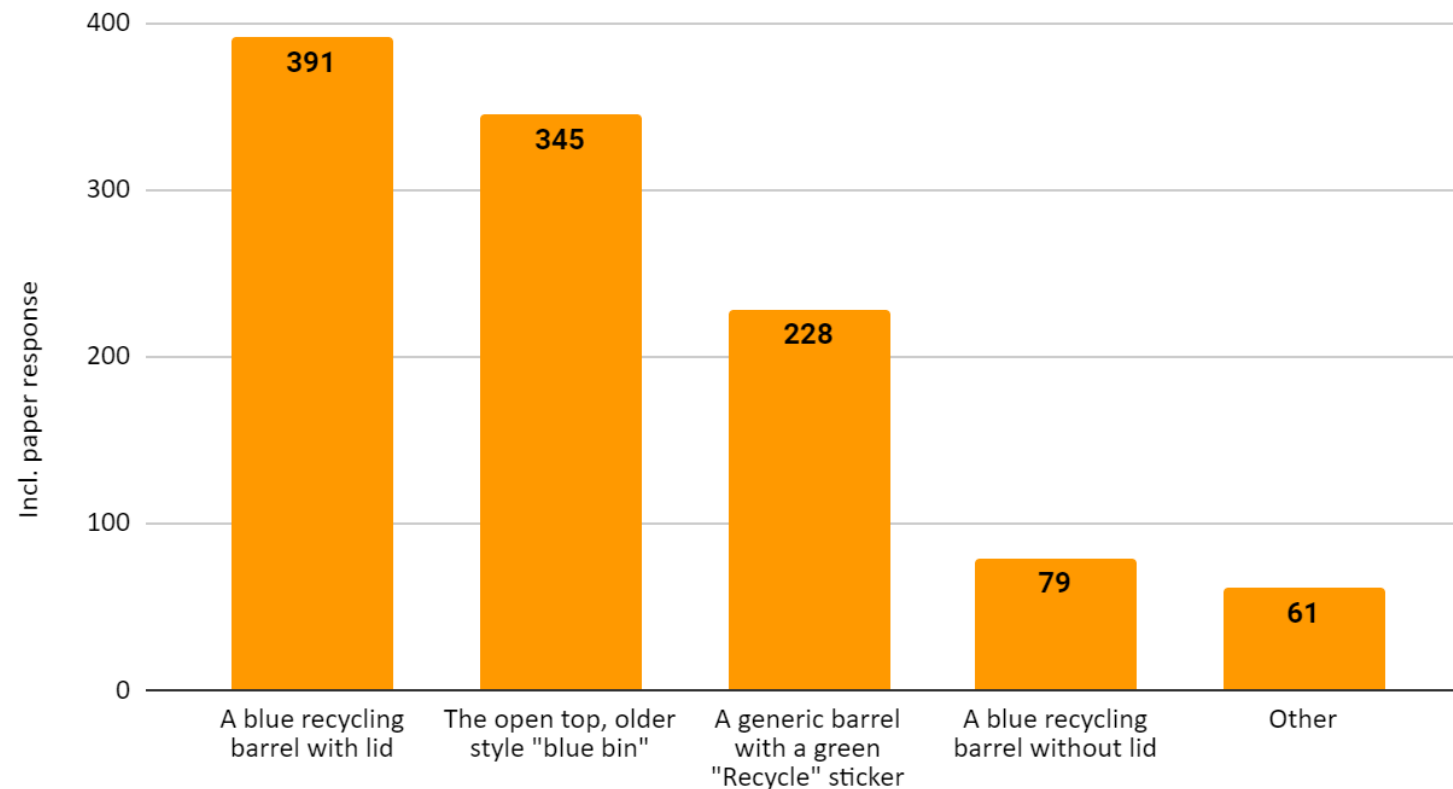
Also: **add more Public Composting Opportunities**

Recommendation: Additional Education and Information

- **Push Communication:** Announce special waste and recycling events always or as often as possible via the Town's phone and email system and through social media
- **Pull Communication:** Ensure that the "Trash & Recycling" page on the Town's Web site always features the most up-to-date dates and information and provides information on disposing of *all* types of items in a searchable and user-friendly way
- **Trash & Recycling Ambassadors:** Continue to offer in person information about waste reduction, diversion and recycling at public events in Swampscott, i.e., Earth Day, Farmers Market, Town Meeting; continue to monitor and respond to resident comments/questions/concerns on Social Media as they arise (SWAC)
- **Focus Groups:** Conduct focus groups/interviews with residents of households with high/regular usage of blue bags to identify root cause of this usage and whether more education or support is needed to engage in alternative waste/recycling/reuse channels. (SWAC)

Recommendation 2: Use Recycling Barrels with Lids

What kind of barrel/bin do you use to put your recycling on the curb?



Responses to survey question 3 show 424 residents use a recycling barrel without a lid.

This leads to recycling blown about on windy days and heavier, more costly recycling on rainy days when uncovered paper and cardboard recycling get wet.

Recommendation 2: Pollution Reduction: Use Recycling Barrels with Lids

- 16 commenters requested that the town provide either recycling bins or recycling bins with lids. Of the 16:
 - One requested that the town provide recycling bins that match the trash barrel
 - Two wanted larger barrels
- One commenter stated they never use a lid because it is never put back on securely
- One commenter stated that recycling should be able to be put into bags
- Three commenters recommended implementing a bylaw that requires covered recycling bins.

Recommendation: Encouraging Use of Recycling Barrels with Lids

- **Information campaign:**
Develop a special targeted information campaign to inform residents about the need for using recycling receptacles with lids.
- **Existing barrels:**
Residents can use their own barrels with lids as long as they are labeled for recycling; provide more opportunities for sticker pickup.
- **Discounted new barrels:**
Offer residents to purchase discounted barrels through the Town.

Full results of the survey

**Full results of the survey will be uploaded to the SWAC page
on the Town's Web site**

**[https://www.swampscottma.gov/solid-waste-advisory-
committee](https://www.swampscottma.gov/solid-waste-advisory-committee)**

Solid Waste Survey Results

August 2023



The following slides include the complete (raw data) and analyzed results of all 12 survey questions.

Purpose as stated on the survey

The Swampscott Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) would like to better understand residents' awareness of and participation in town and other waste removal and recycling programs, as well as collect feedback on these programs.

The survey also seeks to understand whether there is a need to provide residents with better information to reduce solid waste (trash) by 30% by 2030 as required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Information on Trash

& Recycling: <https://www.swampscottma.gov/health/pages/trash-related-info>

Information on SWAC: <https://www.swampscottma.gov/solid-waste-advisory-committee>

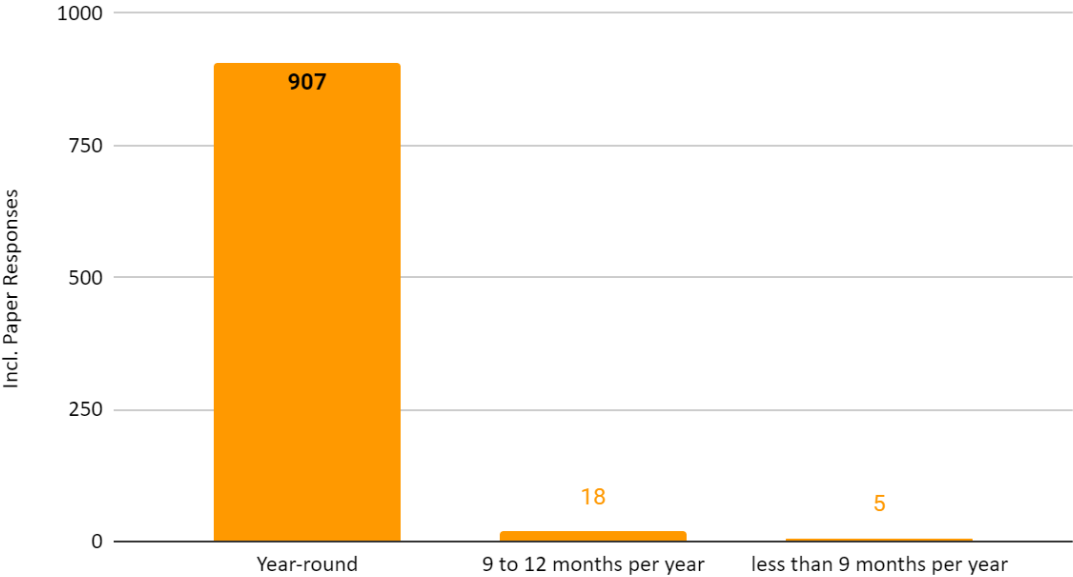
SWAC on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SWACSwampscott>

Survey Data Points

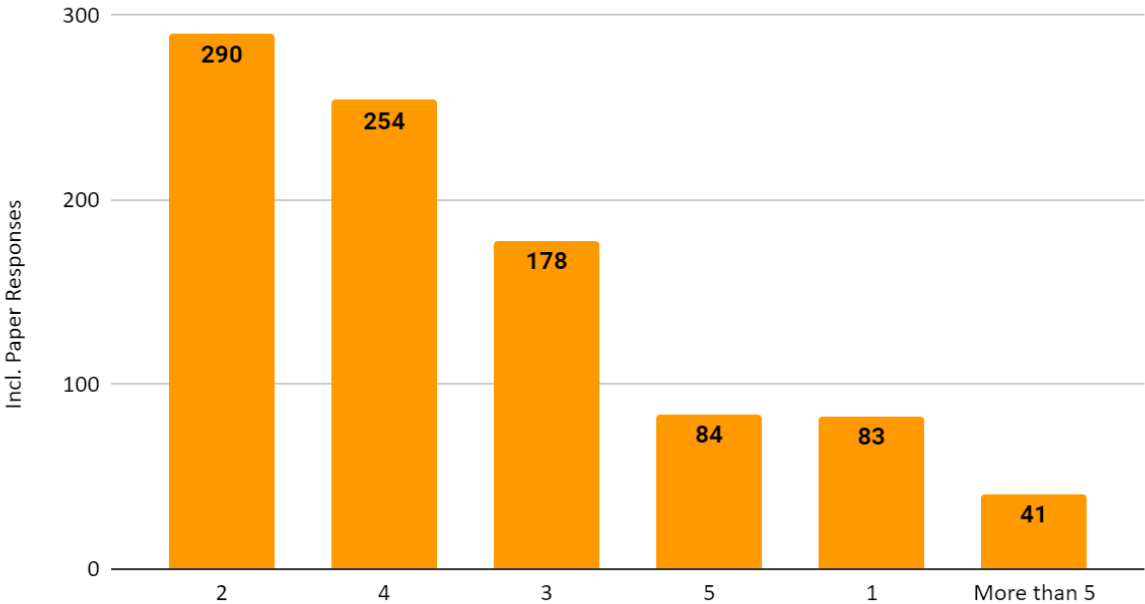
- Collection methods: Microsoft Forms (online) & Paper Surveys
- Questions:
 - Cooperatively developed with input of all committee members
 - 12 multiple choice + 1 open-ended + 3 demographic questions
 - Survey also intended to inform residents and provide "tips"
- Survey Promotion:
 - Posted on Town Web Site and automatically emailed to subscribers
 - Included twice in Town Newsletter (November and December editions)
 - Posted and shared several times on Facebook Page and into Facebook groups
 - Publicized during December 5th Town Meeting
 - Publicized on Swampscott Patch and Swampscott Reporter week of December 5th
- Collection time
 - Responses collected from October 26th through December 10th, 2022
- Responses
 - Total of 920 individual online responses and 11 paper responses
 - Most questions allowed for multiple answers ("check all that apply")
 - Only demographic questions were mandatory questions

Demographical Information from Respondents

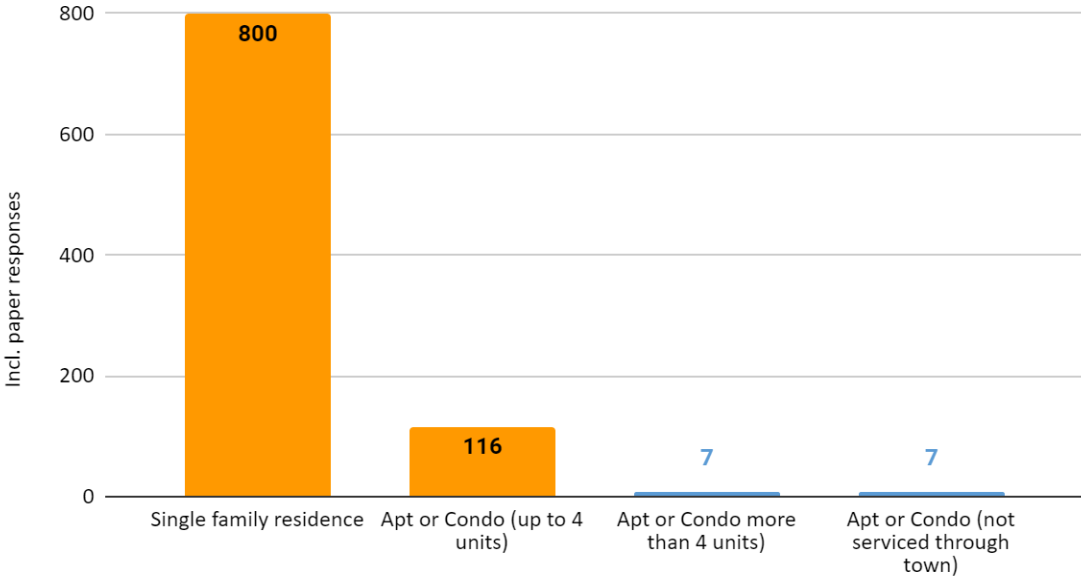
Do you live in Swampscott



How many people live in your household including you?



What type of residence do you live in?

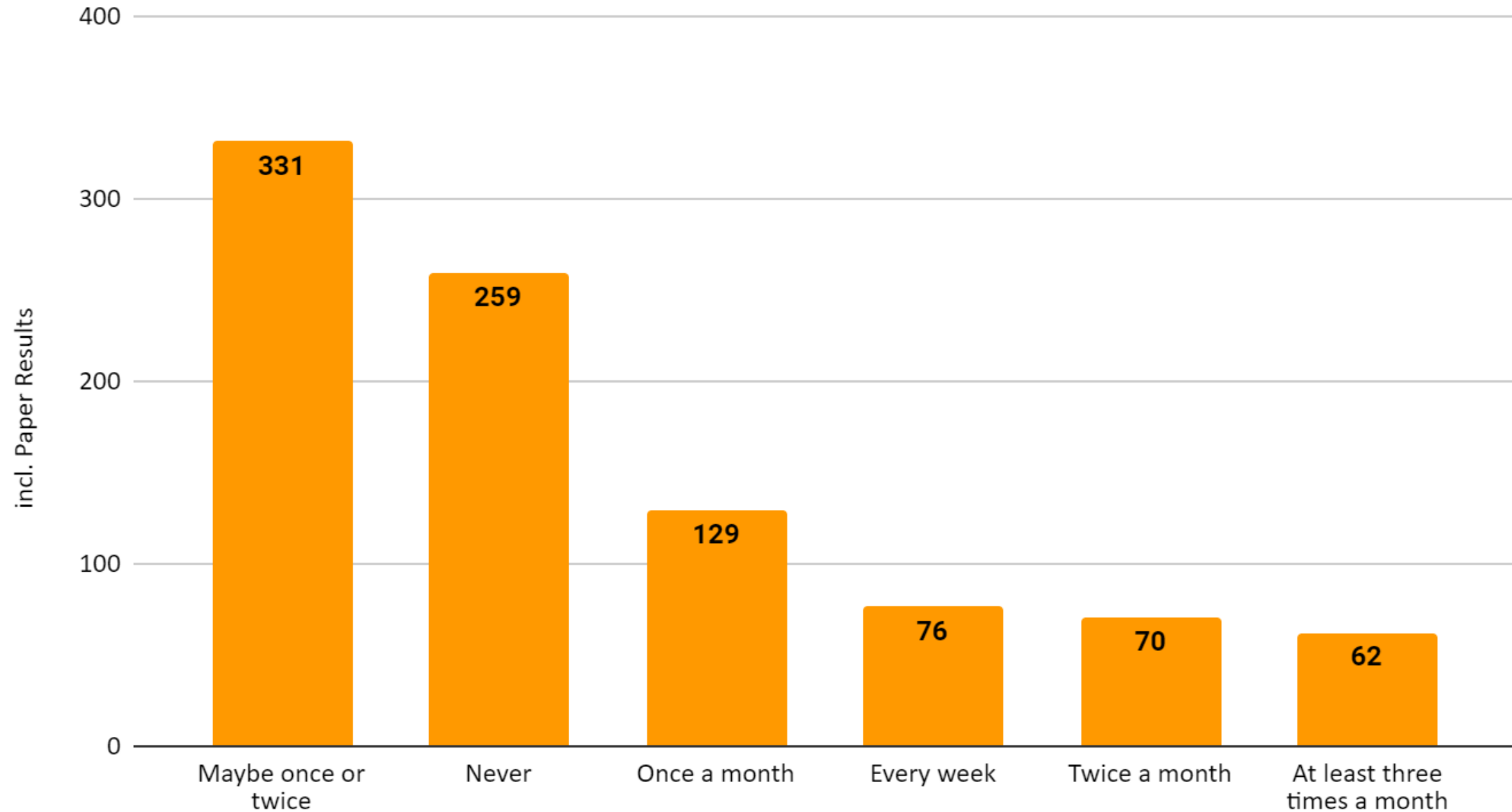


Learnings

- Overwhelming majority of respondents live in single-family residences (86%)
- 12% live in apartments or condos (up to four units within one building)
- Very few of those who responded to this survey live in larger apartment complexes (some of those are not service by the town)
- 60% of all respondents live in households with at least 3 people
- 13% of all respondents indicated that there are at least five or more household members living there.

In the last 12-months, how often did you use at least one overflow "blue bag"?

1



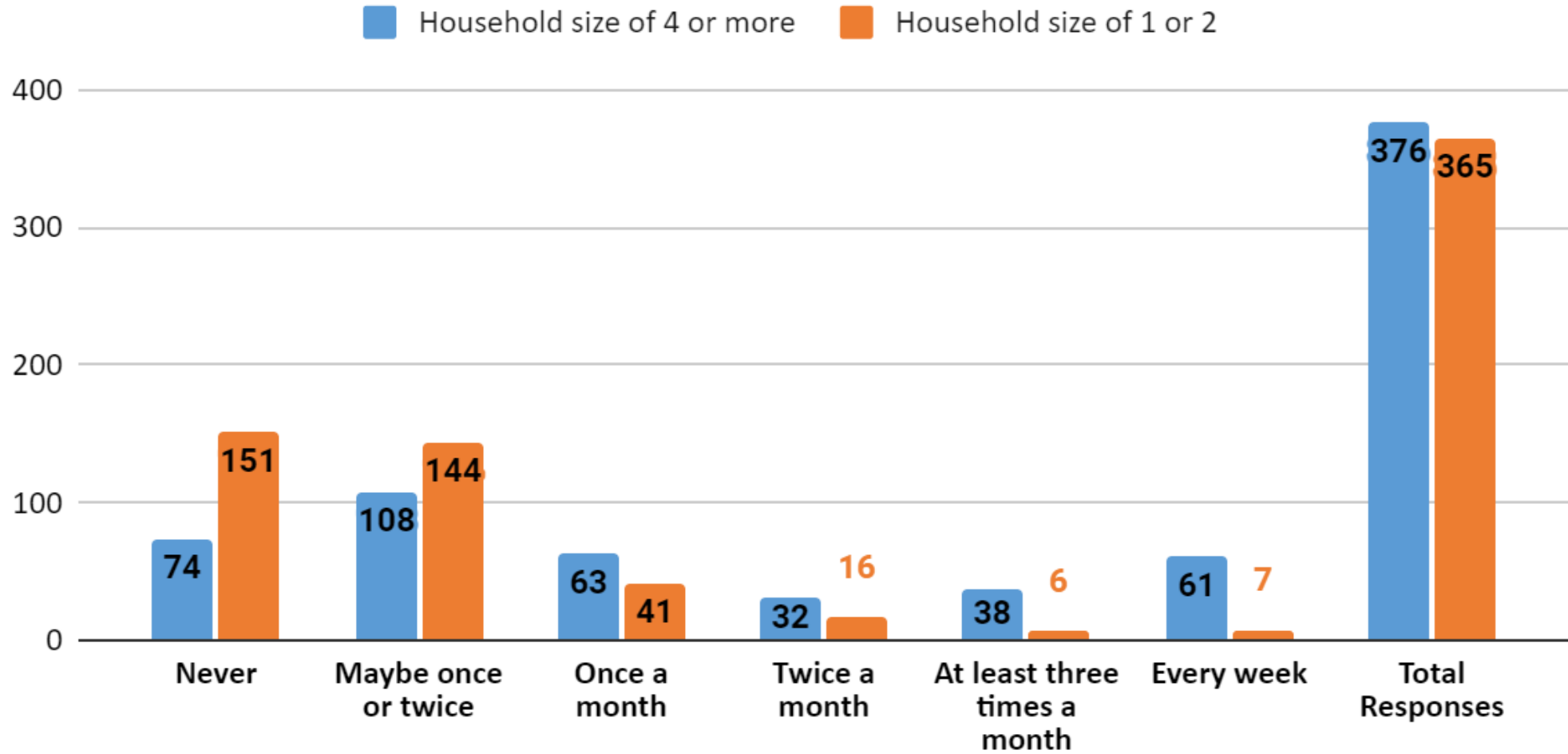
Learnings

- Almost **one third** of all respondents indicate **no use** of blue bags over the last 12 months
- **More than half** of all respondents indicate **minimal use** of blue bags (never or only once or twice over the course of 12 months)
- Approximately **one fifth** of all respondents are **regular blue bag** users (at least 2x/month and more)

What else should we look at?

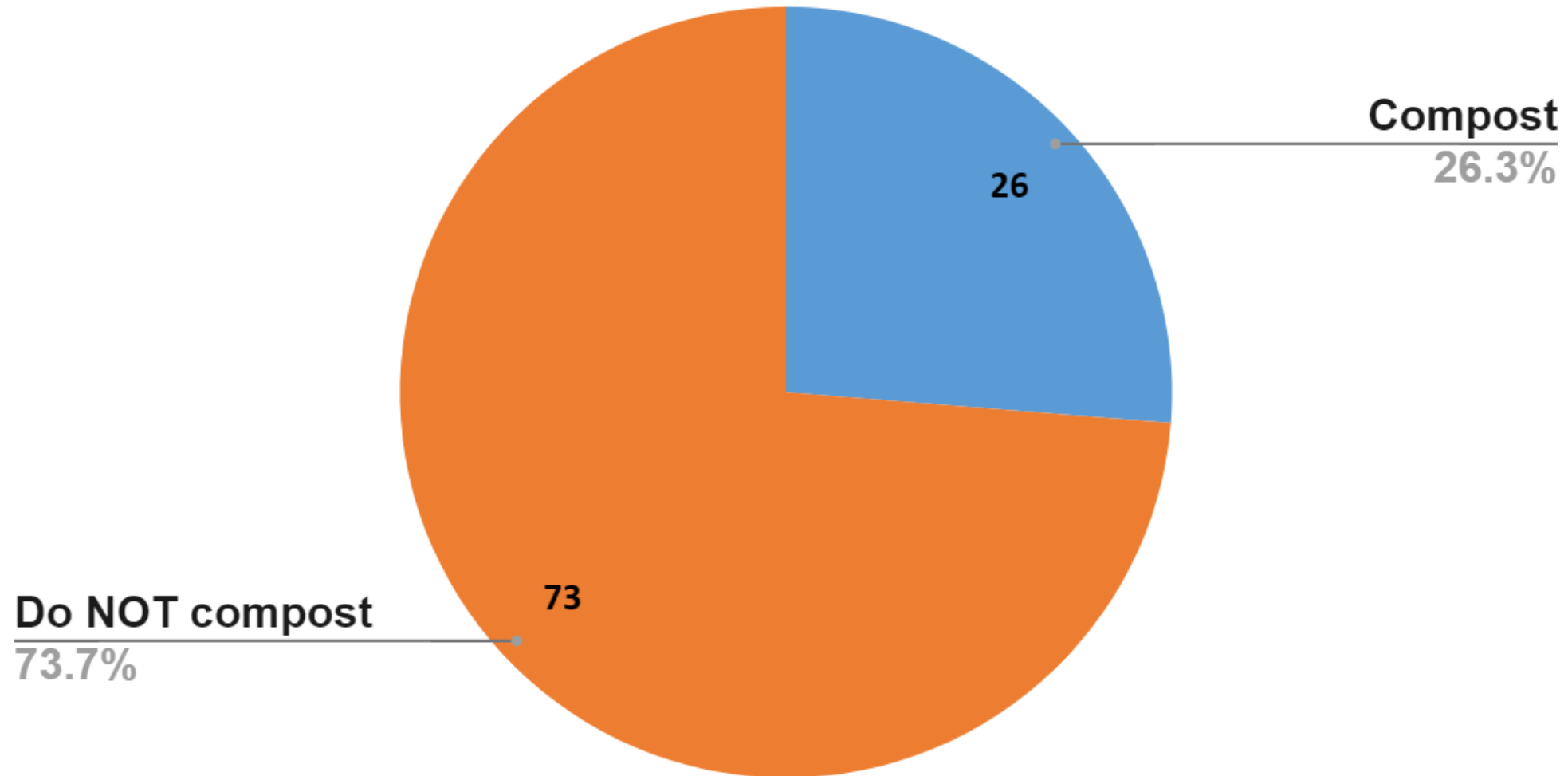
- How does blue bag usage correlate to household size?
- How does regular/heavy blue usage correlate to whether residents indicated that they are also composting or not?

Use of overflow bags comparing large versus small households



In the last 12-months, how often did you use at least one overflow "blue bag"?

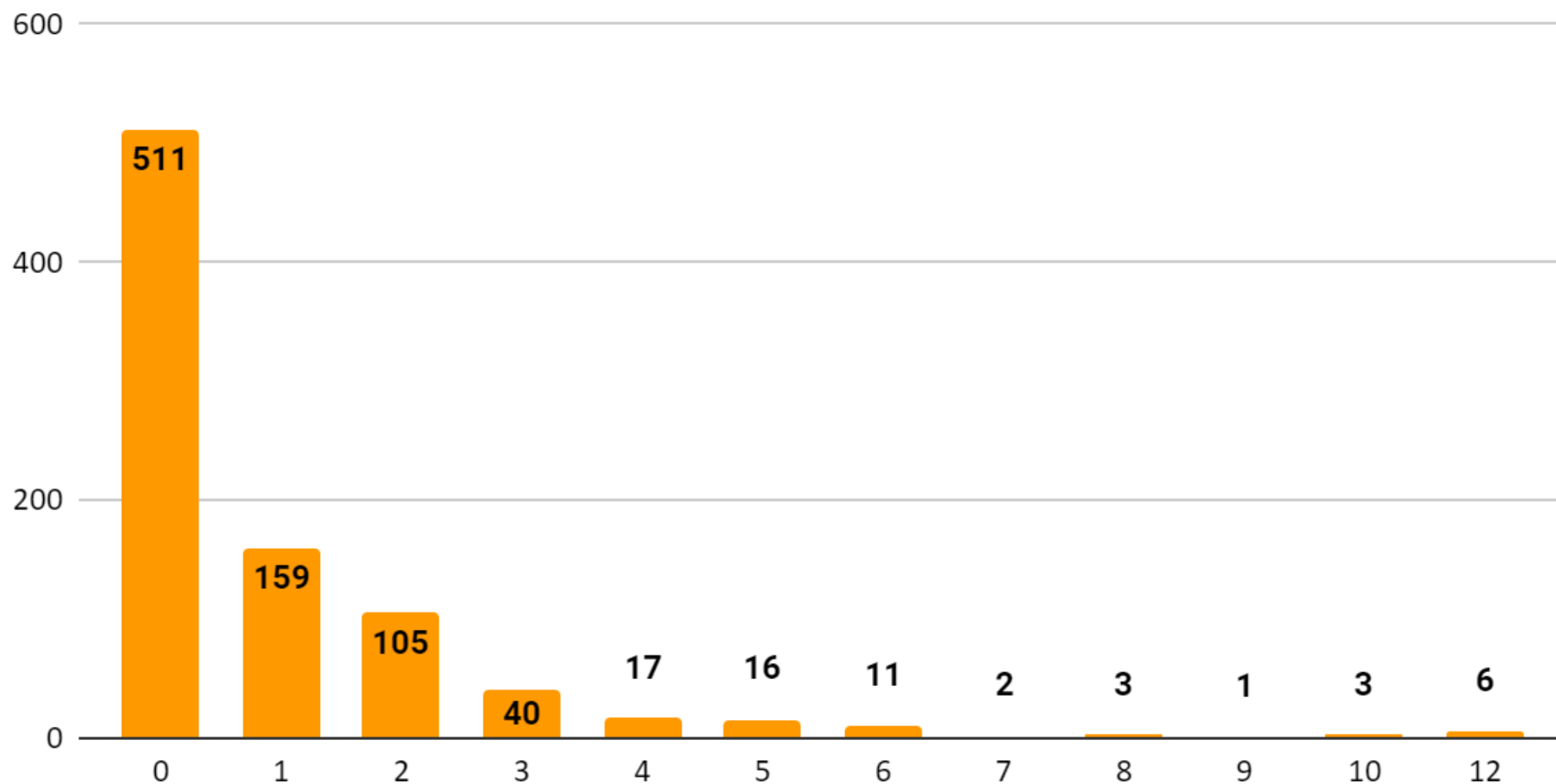
Households with heavy blue bag usage (at least 3 times/month or more) that indicate they compost to dispose of food waste



What do we learn by correlating blue bag usage with composting practices?

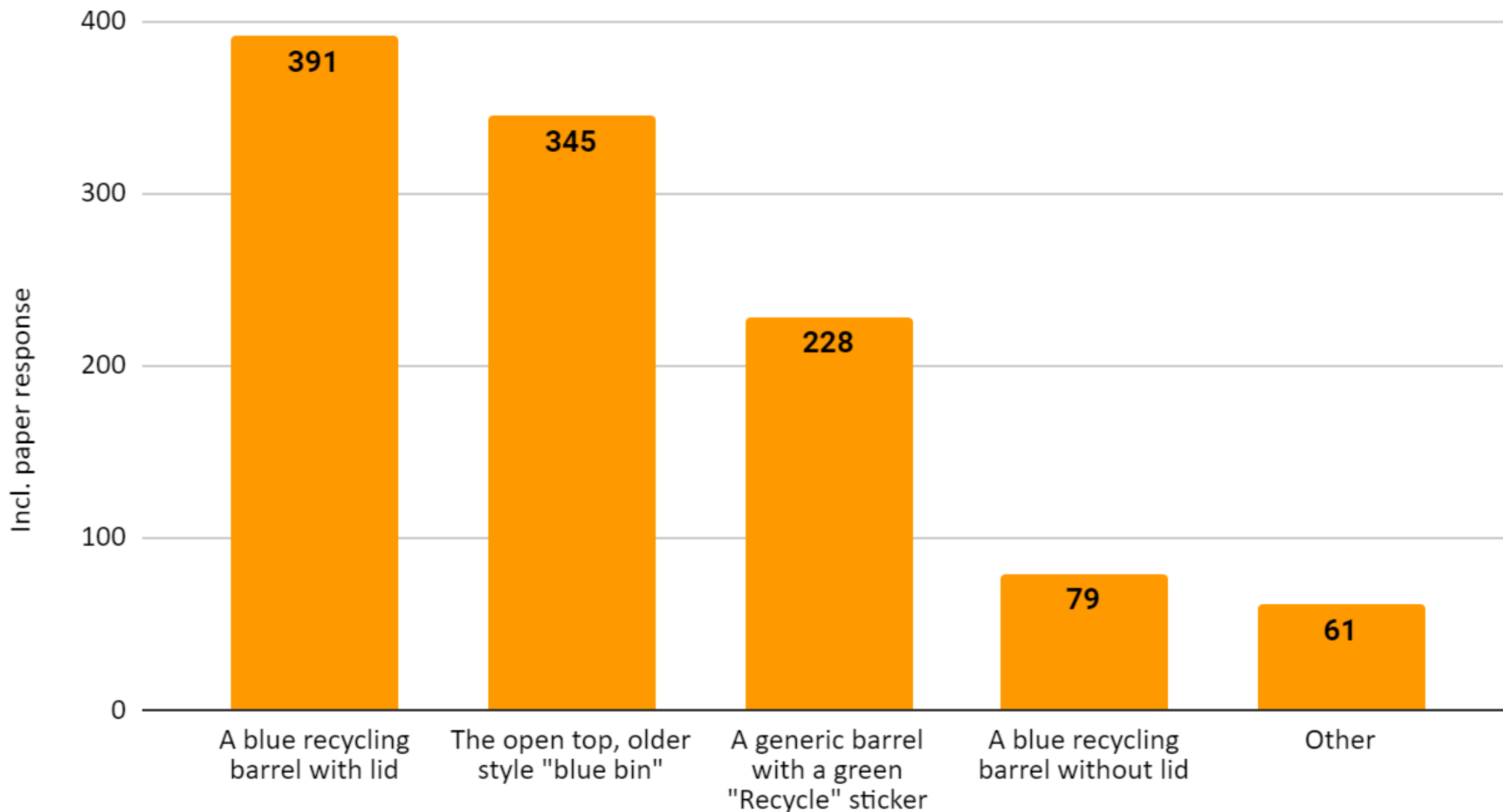
- The majority of heavy/regular blue bag users indicate they are NOT composting
 - Food waste can take up a considerable amount of solid waste (according to public numbers up to 30%).
 - Adding composting in households with heavy blue bag usage could reduce the number of blue bags needed
 - Further research about how blue bag usage can be reduced should be done (i.e. conduct focus groups)

In the last 12 months, how often have you purchased a bulk/large item sticker?



What kind of barrel/bin do you use to put your recycling on the curb?

3

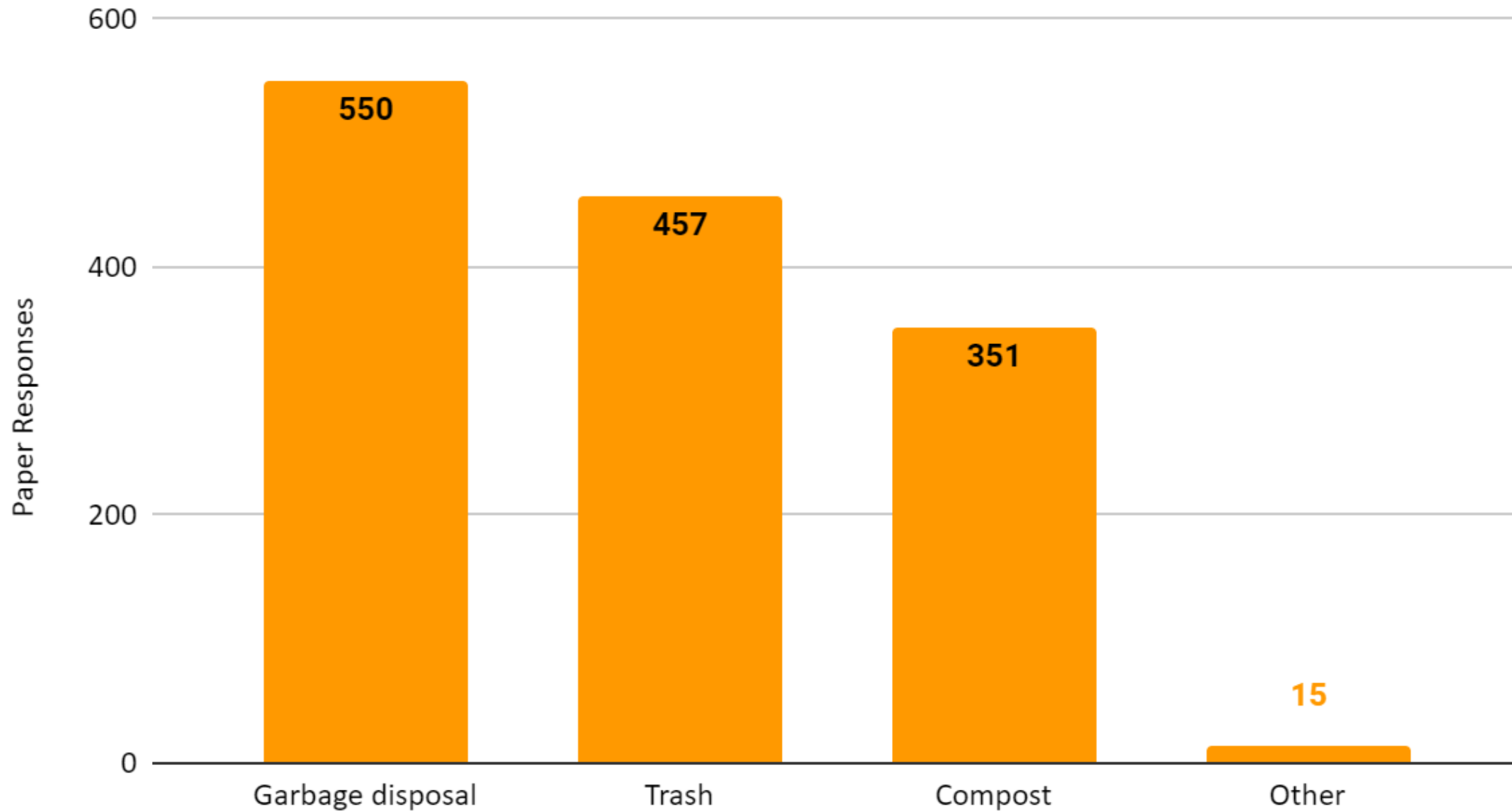


Learnings:

- A large number of households indicate they are using recycling barrels without lids or the older style open bins that were available for purchase through Town Hall in prior years
- The use of barrels with lids is recommended or should be required
 - to avoid the collection of rainwater on rainy days which adds weight to the recycling, in particular paper and cardboard
 - to prevent contents of the recycling container blowing onto the street, curb, or nearby parks or beaches etc. on windy days

How do you dispose of your household food waste?

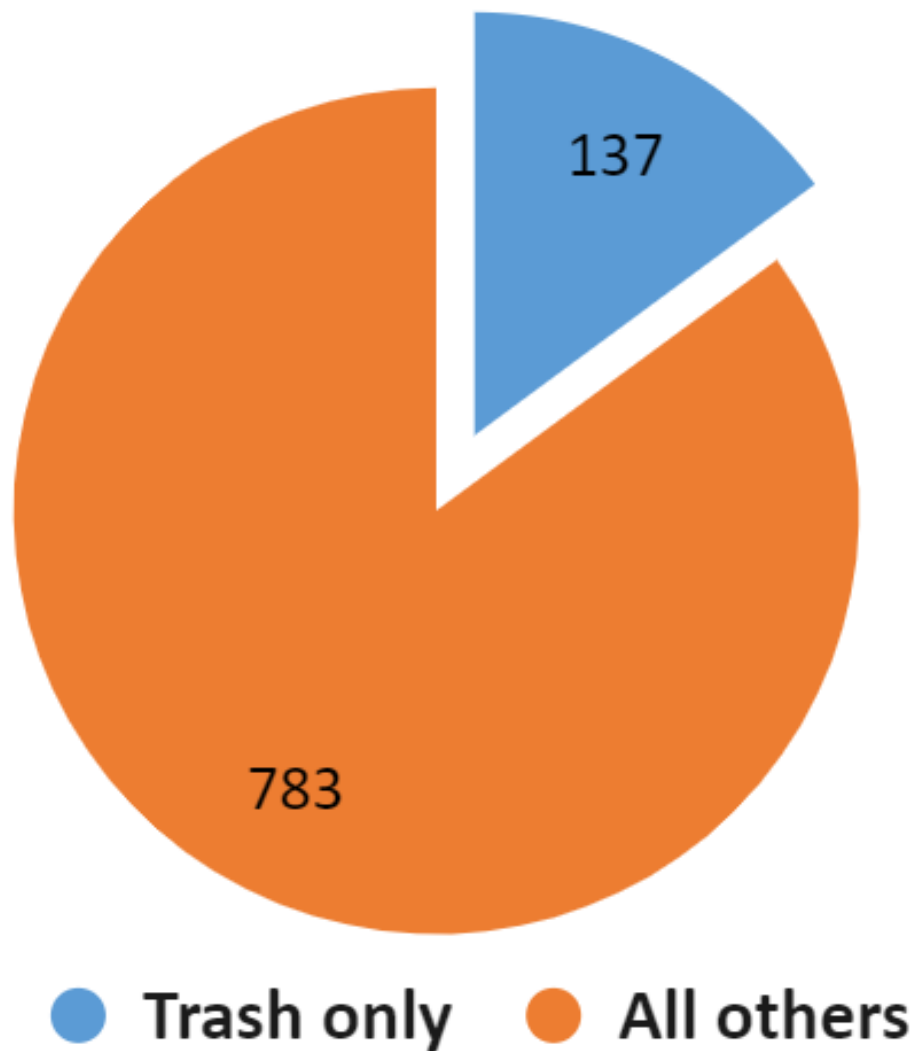
4



Learnings:

- Many households are already taking advantage of composting food waste
- In this question, multiple answers were allowed, and many residents indicated that composting was one way of disposing of food waste
- Garbage disposal is the most used way of disposing of food waste
 - The assumption is that not all food waste is disposed of in the garbage disposal
- The number of households who could compost could be much higher

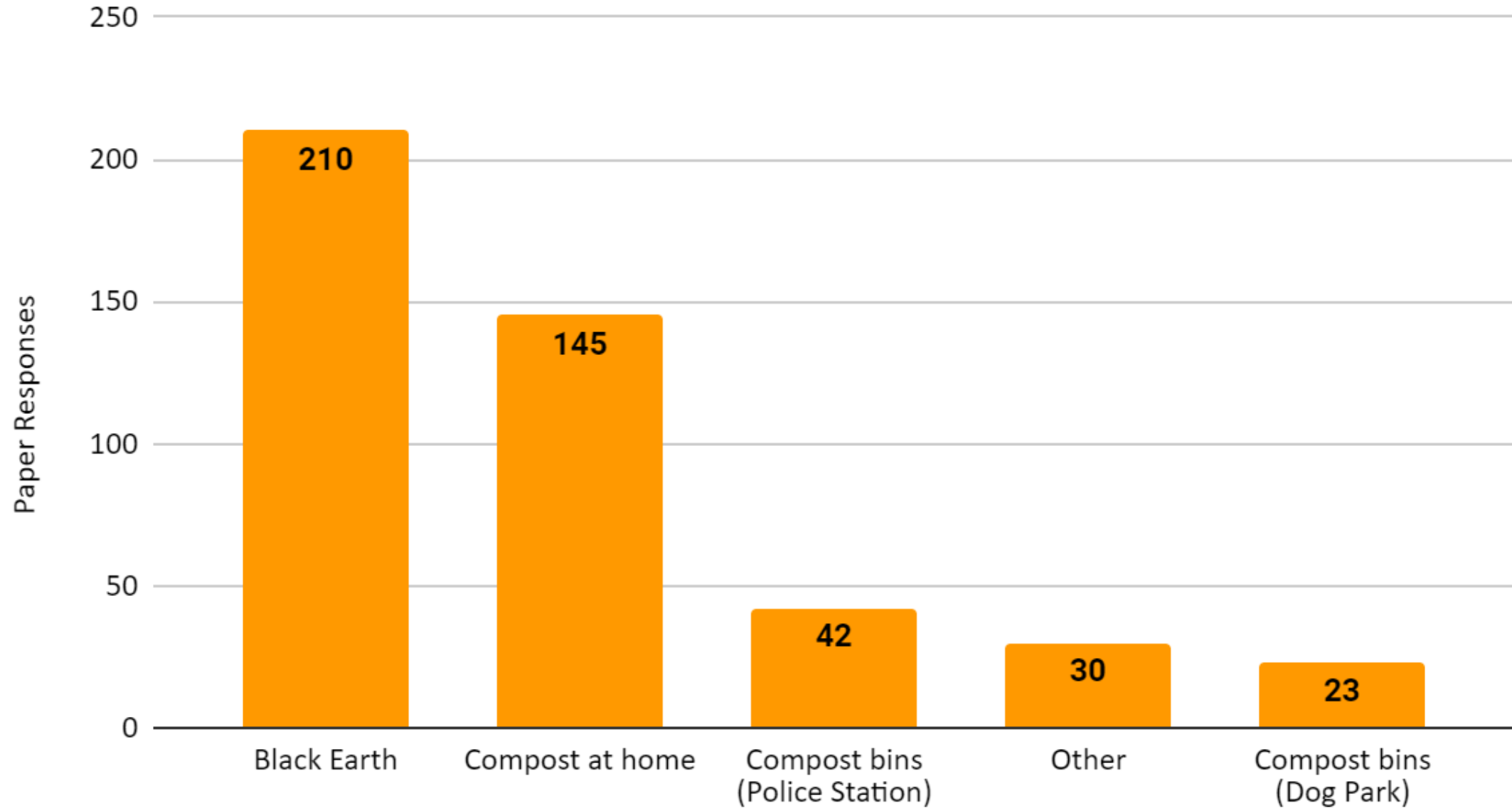
Households that dispose of food waste in trash and not otherwise
in garbage disposal and/or compost



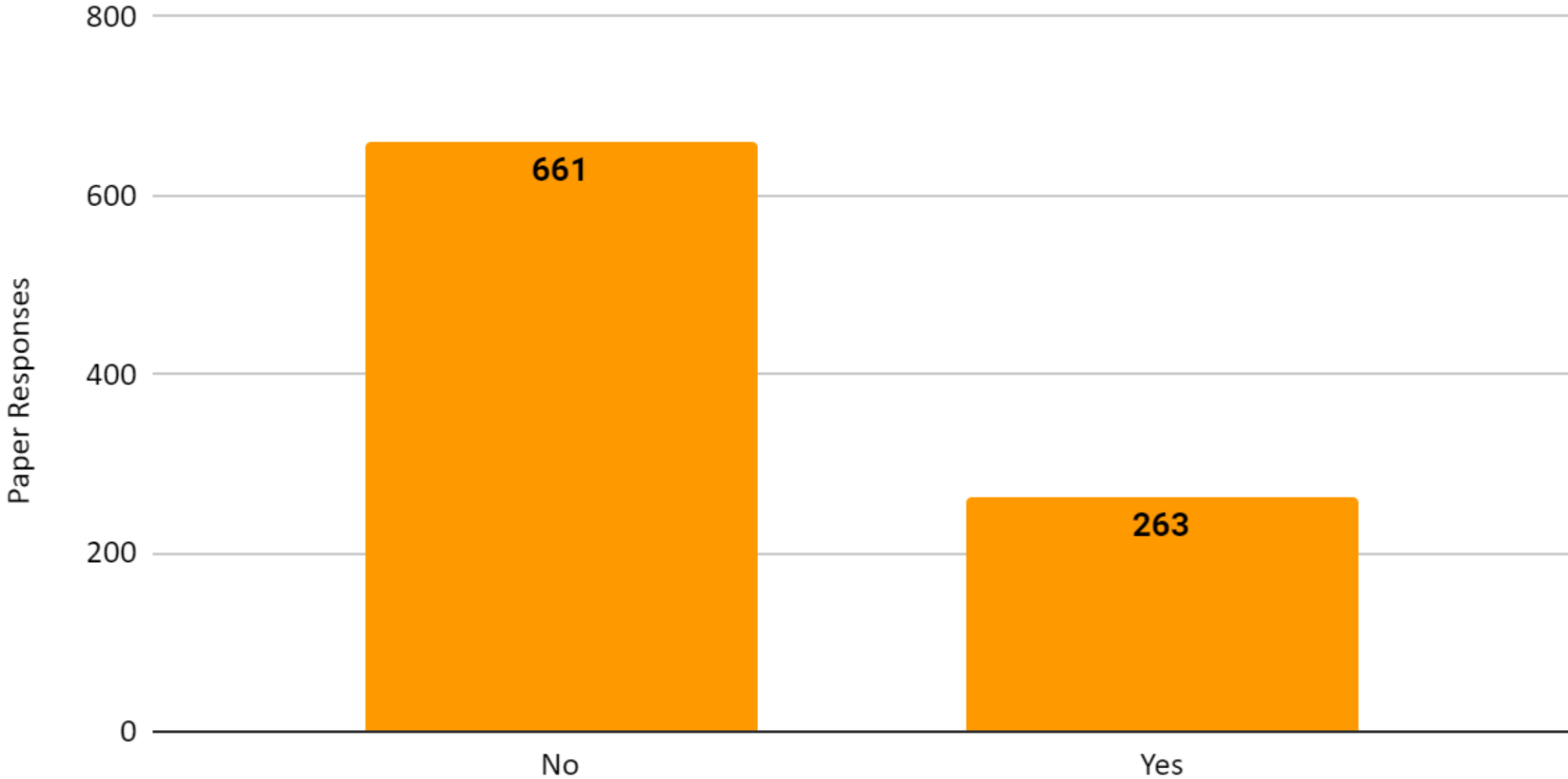
Learnings:

- 15% of all of respondents (137 households) indicate they are disposing of food waste in trash only
- Of 137 households, 25% (=34 households) indicate that they are regular blue bag users (at least 3 times/month)
 - Composting could reduce their blue bag usage

If you compost, do you use any of the following:

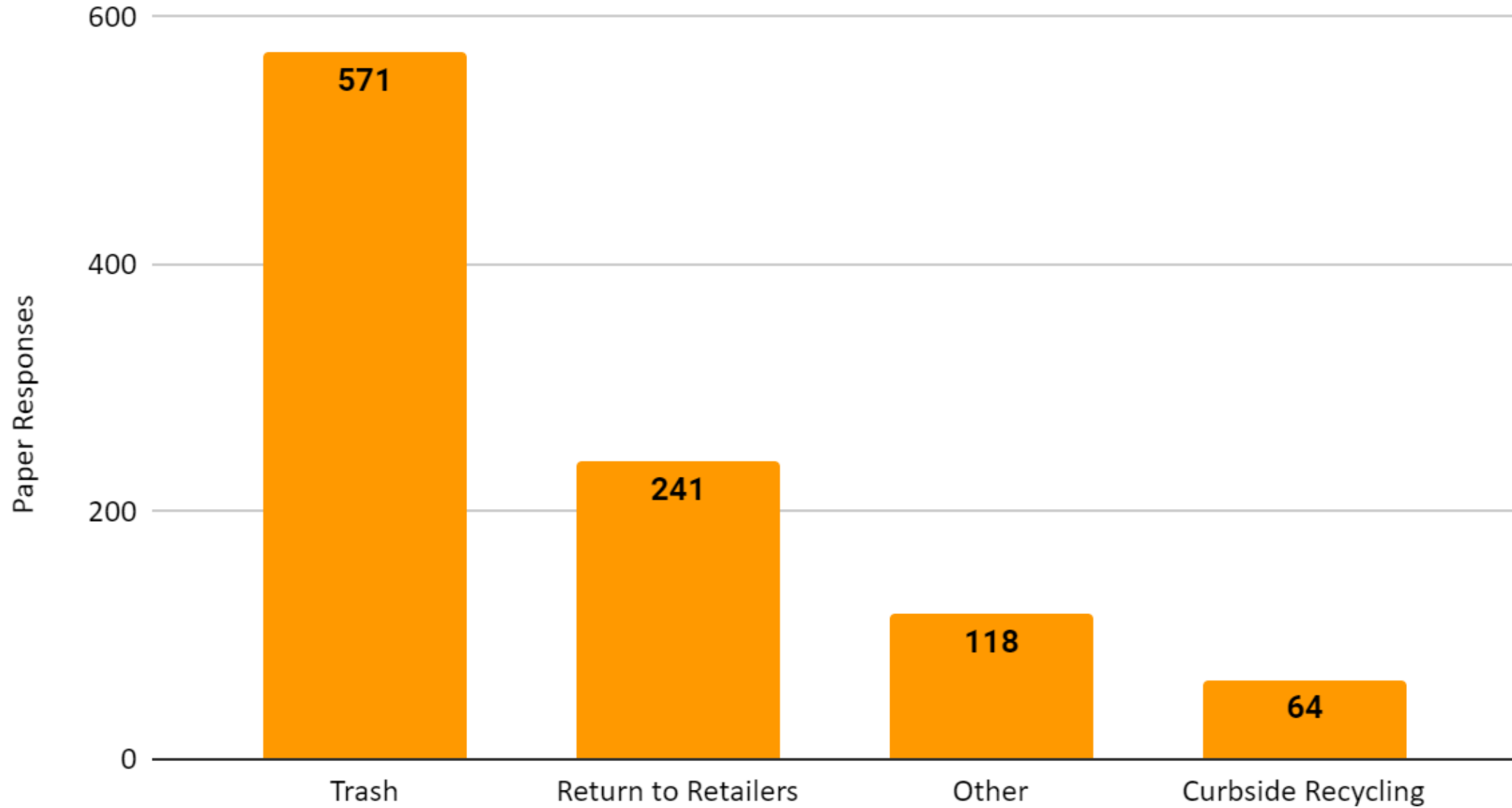


Do you bring your returnable bottles (5-cent redemption) and cans to a store or redemption center?



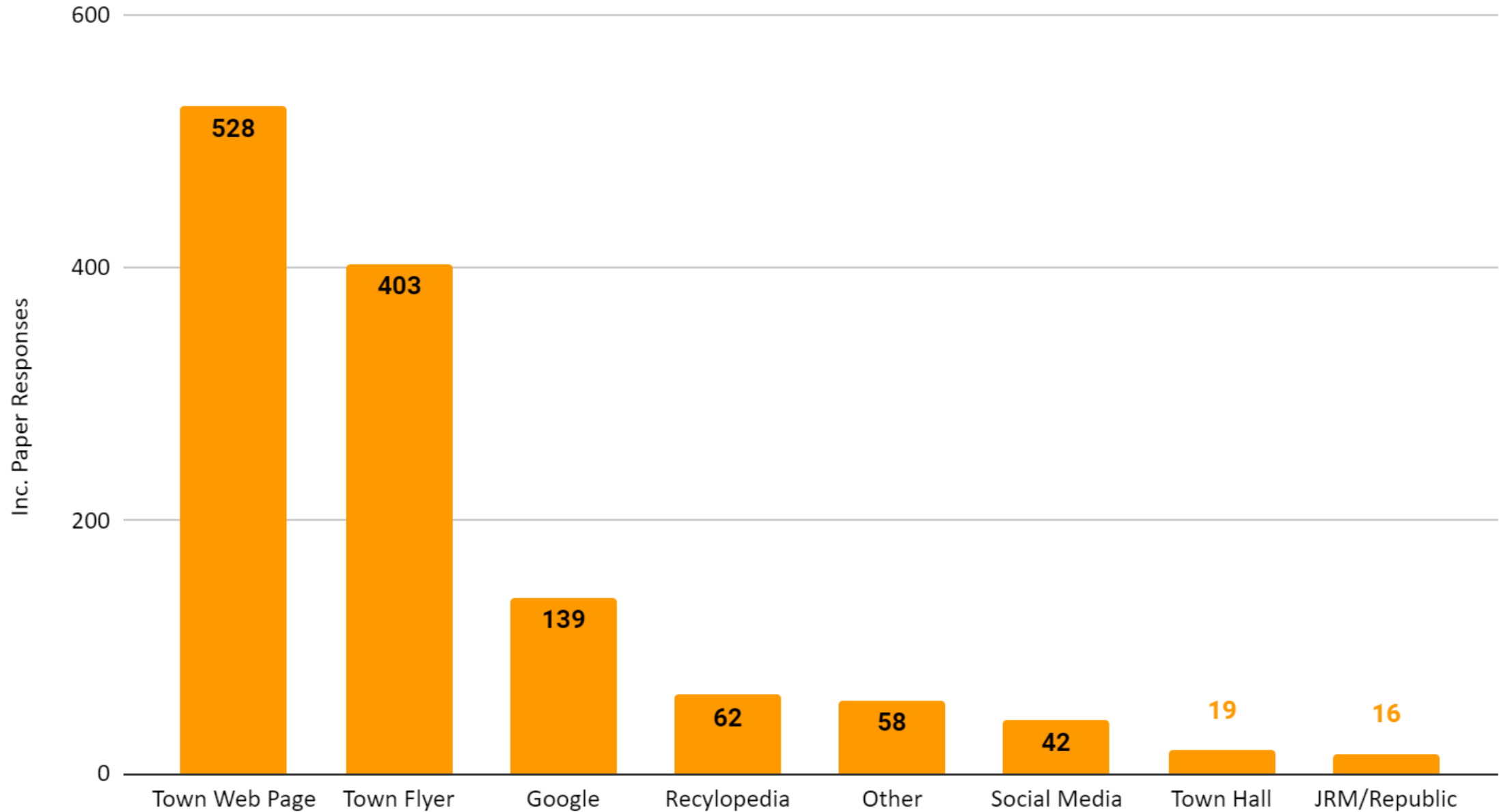
Where do you dispose of plastic bags?

7

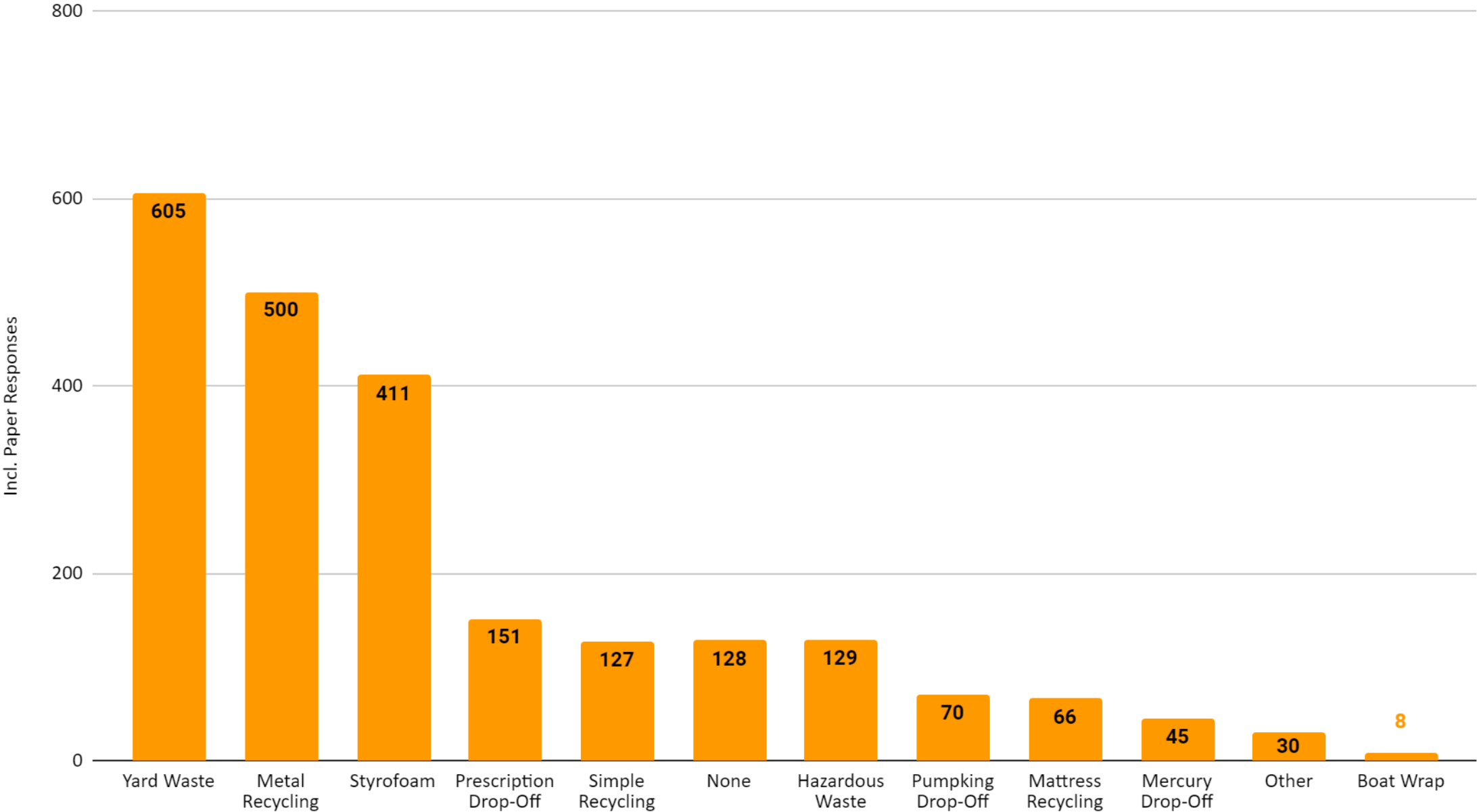


Where do you look for information whether an item belongs into the recycling bin?

8

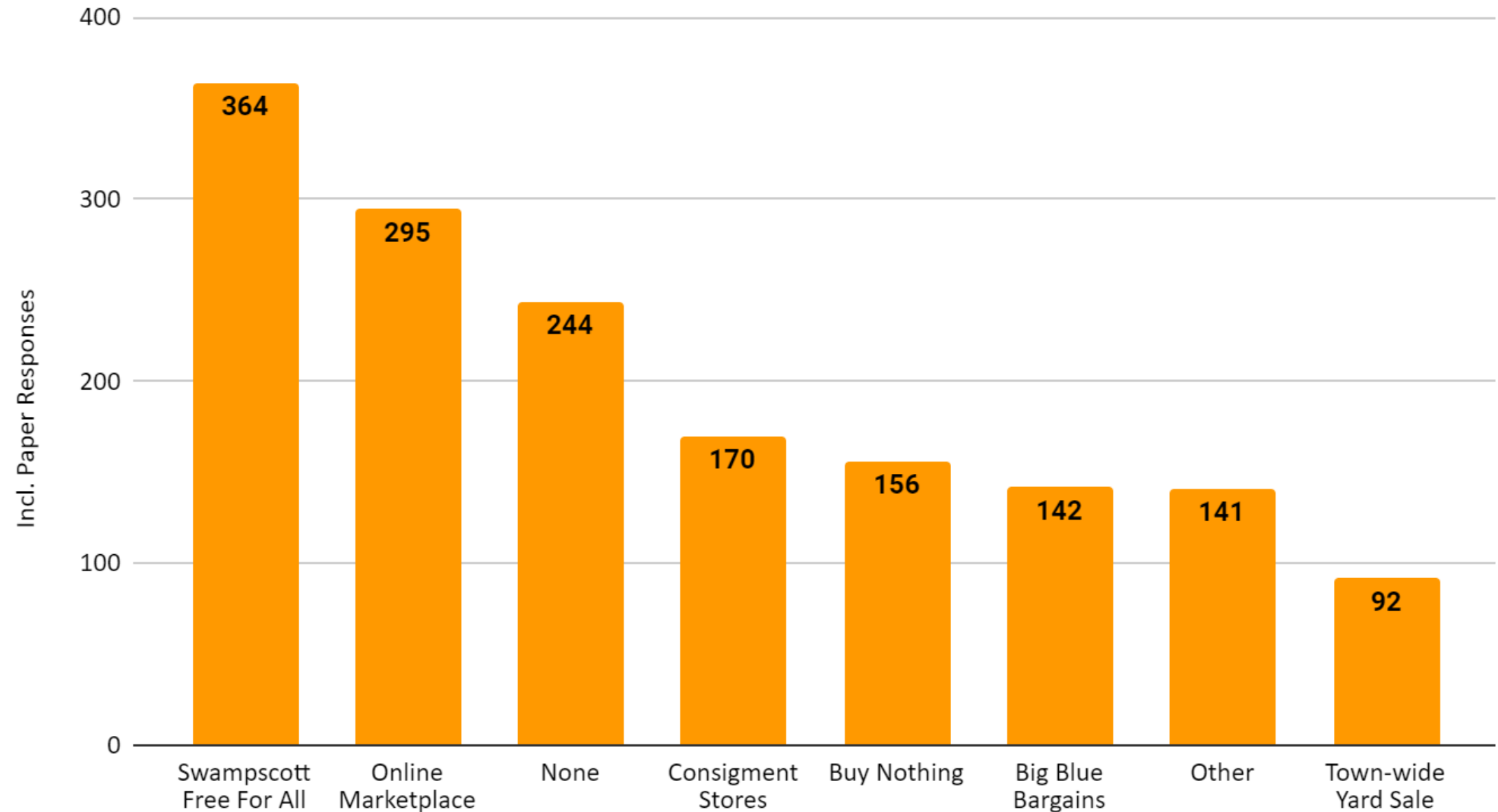


In the past 12 months, have you used any of these Town programs at least once:

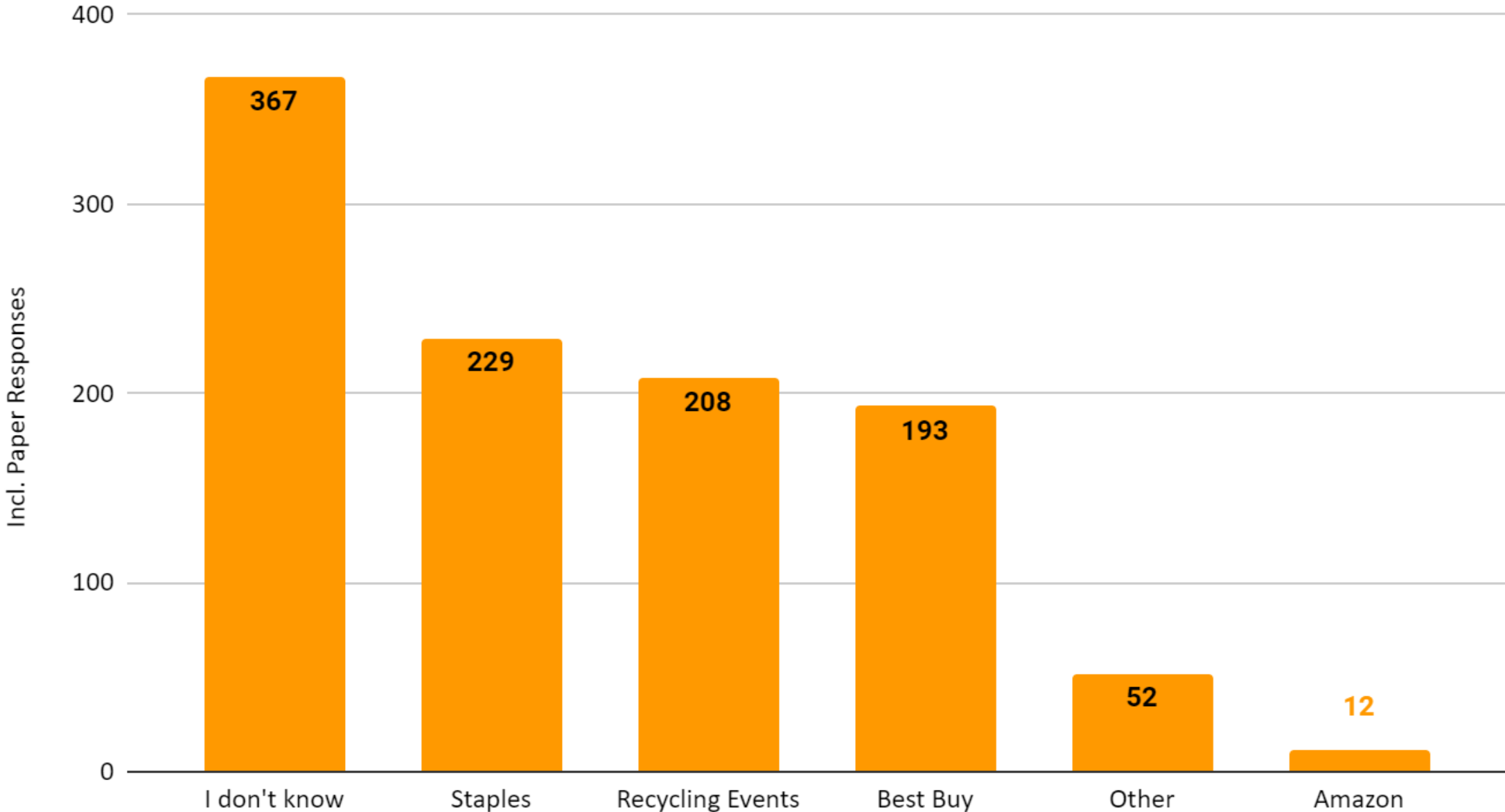


Have you used any of the following to give away, sell or purchase used items?

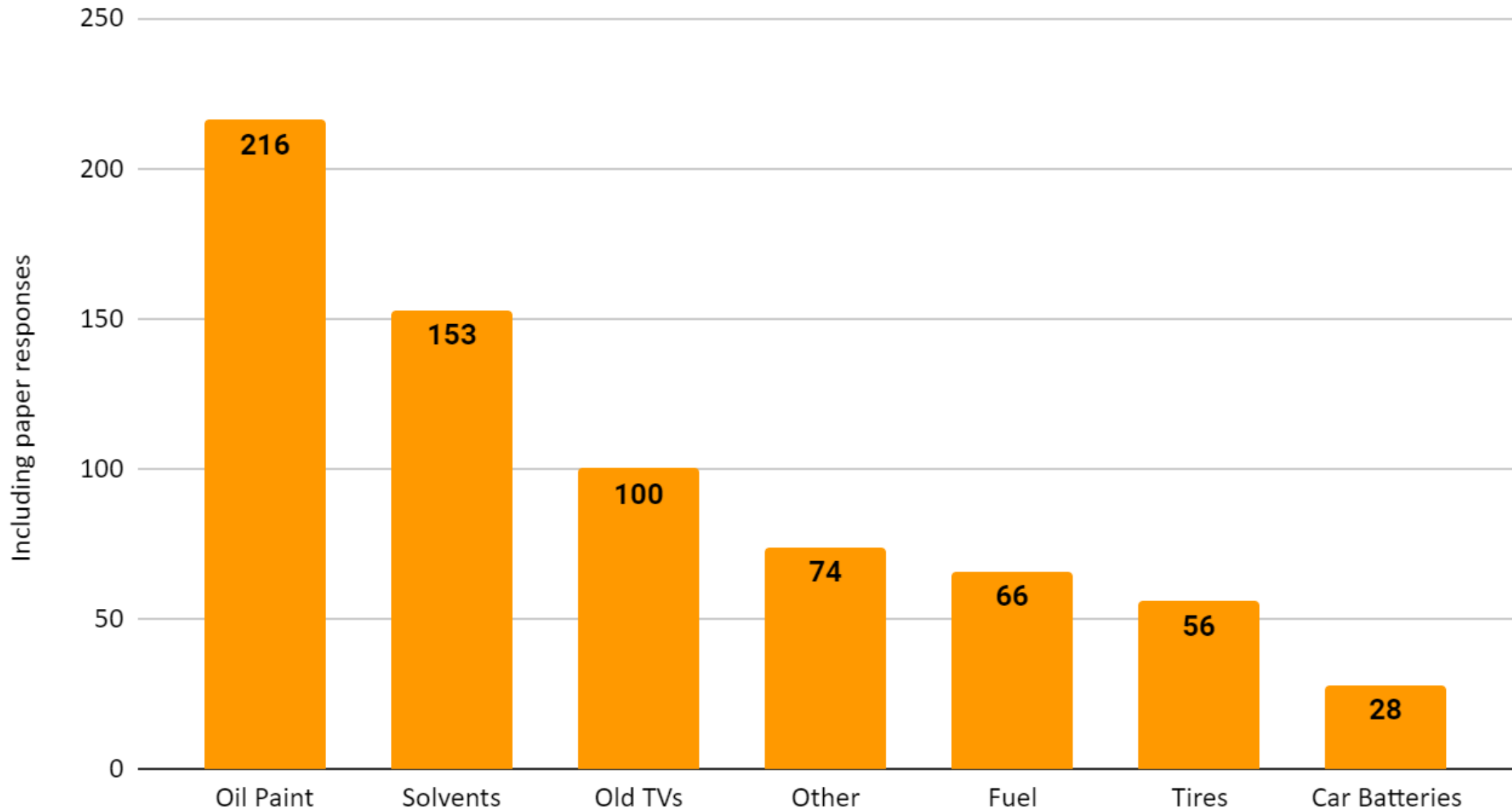
10



Where do you take electronics to be recycled?



Do you have specialty waste that you currently need help disposing of?



Public Comment Submissions

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
August 31, 2023



Summary of Survey Comment Submissions

- 920 surveys submitted
- 381 surveys contained entries in the open-ended request for feedback
- Often one entry in the open-ended request for feedback contained multiple comments, feedback, or suggestions.
 - In these cases, each comment was treated as a distinct comment or idea, and so one individual may have provided more than one comment in the open-ended comment section.
- Number of comments received on a specific topic or idea is represented following the statement by the number in parentheses.

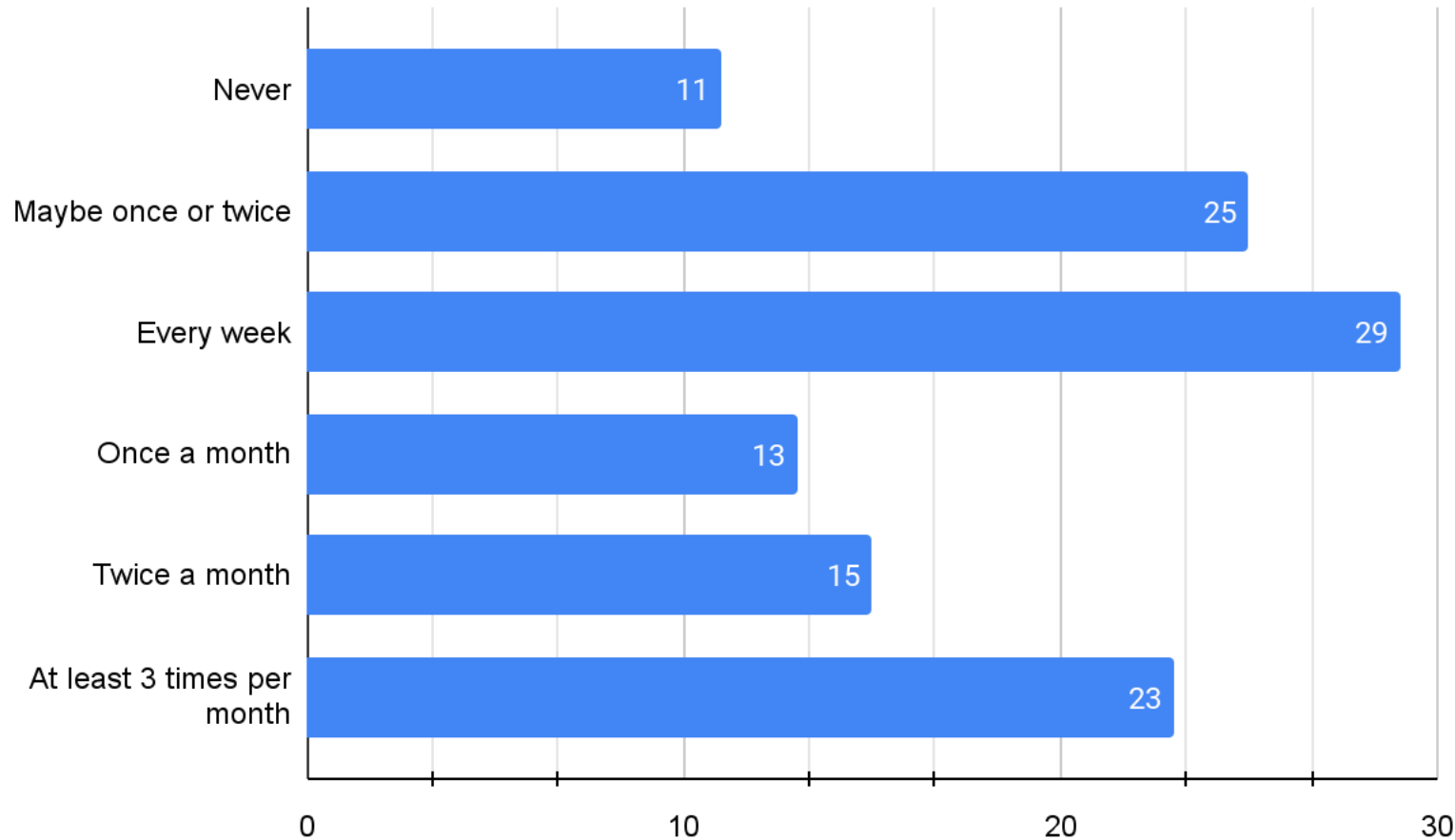
Trash Barrels



Public Comment: Trash Barrels

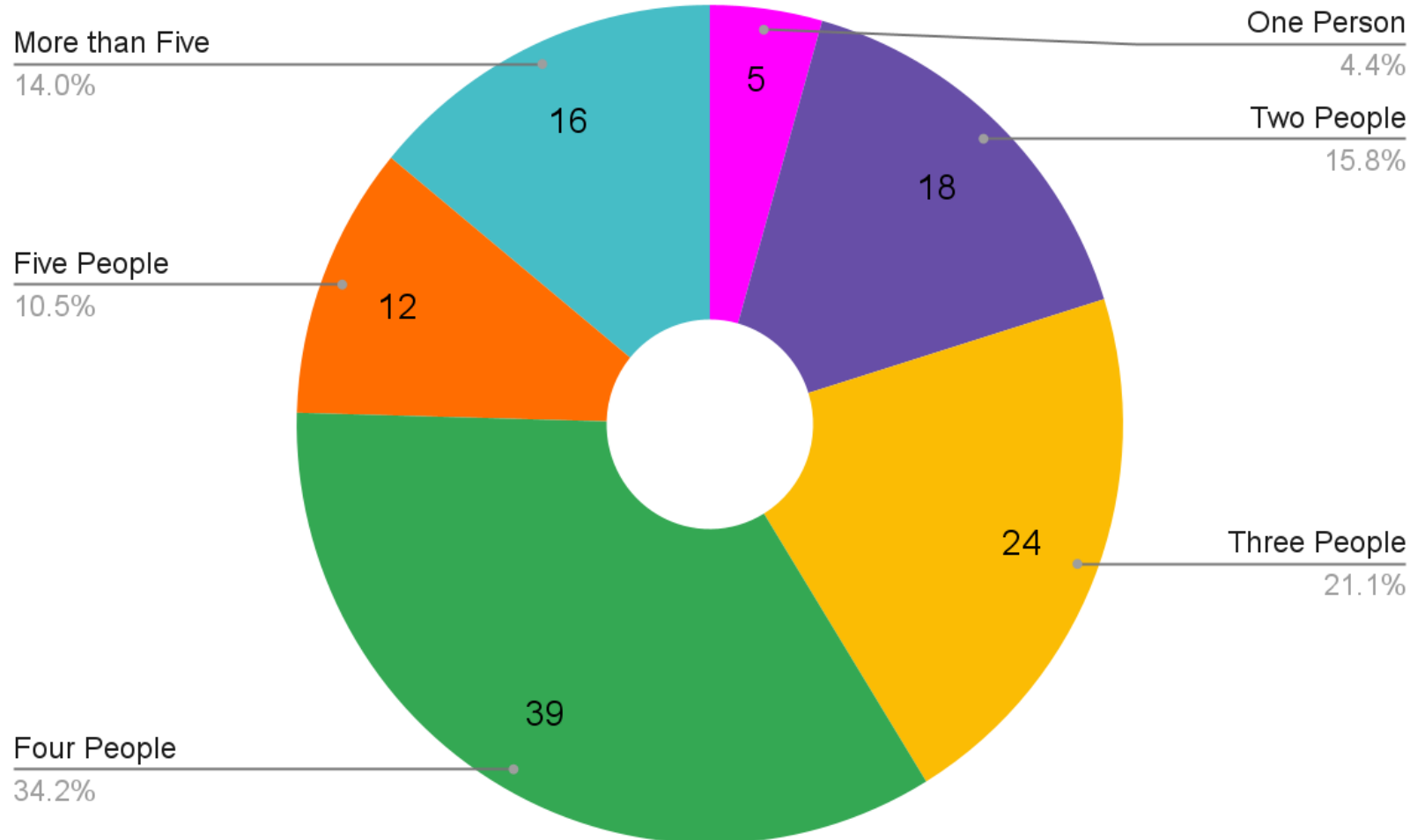
- The town's trash barrels received the highest number of distinct comments out of any topic addressed in the open-ended comment section
- 120 comments specifically stated that the trash barrels are too small
- Other comments raised issues with the construction or quality of the barrels, noted that animals easily obtain access to the barrel contents, and offered alternatives to the current policy
- Comments characterized the trash policy as infantilizing (1), punitive to seniors (1), based on bad data (1), and frustrating (1).

Trash Barrel Size: Use of Overflow Bags



Of the 120 comments that stated the barrels are too small, many of the same individuals reported frequent use of overflow bags.

Trash Barrel Size: People in the Household



Of the 120 comments specific to small trash barrel size, more than half of the commenters who identified household size were from households consisting of 3 or 4 people.

11 comments stated that the barrels are not sufficient for families with children in diapers.

Trash Barrel Size: Composting

Of the 120 commenters who stated the trash barrels are too small, the majority who indicated a response to the survey question that asked *How do you dispose of your household food waste* did not report composting...

31 reported composting as one method of disposing of food waste

87 did not report composting as a method they used to dispose of food waste

Trash Barrel Size: Commenter Requests and Recommendations

- The town should provide another trash barrel (8), or the town should allow residents to pay for a second barrel (8) or a larger one (3)
- The number of trash barrels provided should be proportional to the household size (7), or provide one barrel for every two people (1)
- Several commenters suggested that the new barrel size/trash policy is contributing to an increase in dumping (6) including at the middle school baseball fields, on corners, and all over town.
- Some commenters bring trash elsewhere, like to work or family. (4)
- Two commenters requested reverting to the old policy. Another suggested switching to pay to throw to stop subsidizing residents who generate more trash.

Trash Barrels: Other Comments (1/2)

Quality or sturdiness of the barrel:

- Animals are able to get into town-provided barrels (10) and the town should replace barrels damaged by animals (1)
- The small barrels contribute to the expanded rodent population because landlords don't provide blue bags (1)
- Lids don't close well (2); lids should be able to be secured (3)
- One commenter recommended bungee cords to secure the lid
- The town-provided barrels are flimsy (2)

Barrels are not easy to use:

- Too hard to manage in ice and snow (1)
- Too heavy, bulky, and hard for the trash collectors to pick up (1)
- Odd shape keeps trash from fitting (2)

Policy was implemented poorly or unfairly:

- General dissatisfaction (3)
- Policy was illegally enacted (1) and has not been revisited as promised (1)
- Households convert to illegal two-families to game the system (1)
- Households adding in-law apartments are denied second barrels (1)

Trash Barrels: Other Comments (2/2)

Positive Feedback

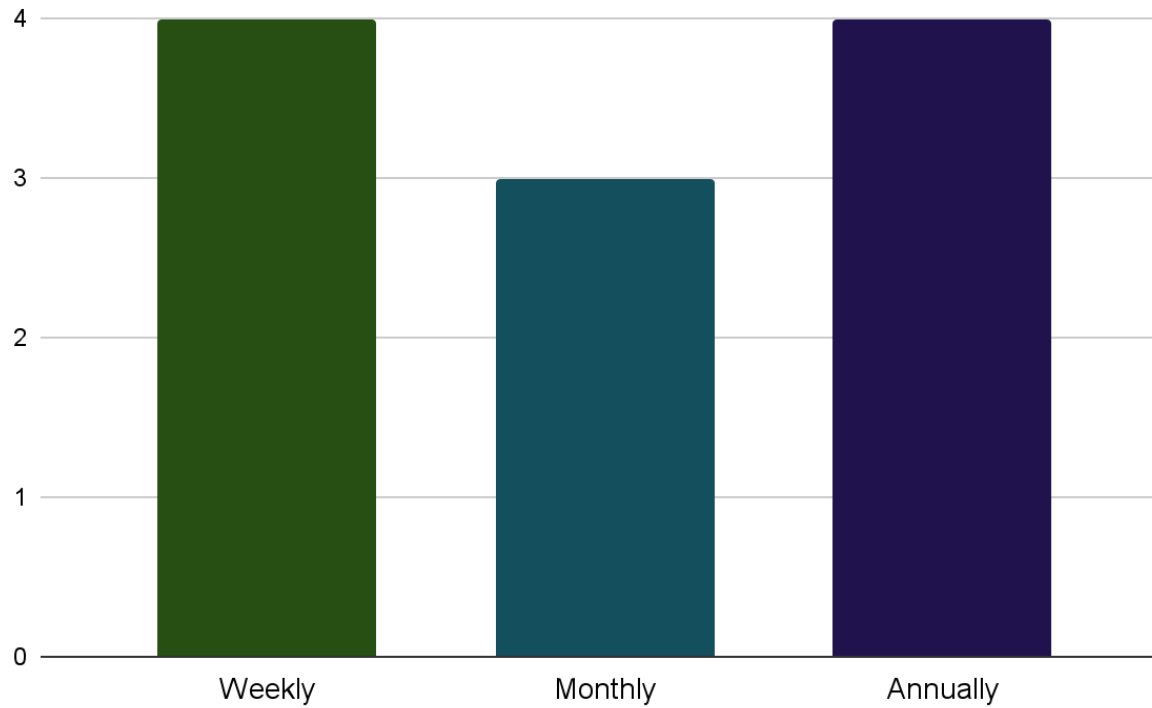
- The barrel has generated good conversations about waste and recycling (4)
- Happy with the barrel size (5)
- Happy with the barrel generally (3)

Recommendations:

- Provide information on how residents can dispose of old trash barrels (1)
- Offer special trash allowances over holidays (2)
- Provide information on how to put out barrels so JRM does not decline a pickup (lid open (1) or too heavy (1))
- Allow new homeowners to purchase or be given a new barrel instead of using one inherited from previous owners (1)

Overflow and Bulk

Overflow and Bulk: Comments on Cost



Multiple commenters asked for regular free bulk item disposal, though suggested different intervals

16 comments stated that the overflow/bulk program is too expensive; two of these commenters stated that the program is too expensive for low-income residents and seniors.

3 comments stated that the overflow program only pushes cost to the taxpayer and does not serve to reduce waste.

Overflow and Bulk: Concerns

- Blue bags are flimsy (4) and/or easily torn by wildlife (2)
- There is confusion about how or when to put blue bags out for collection:
 - Blue bags should be put out in a barrel (3) or not left outside overnight (1)
 - Blue bags are not picked up when placed in barrels (2)
- Comments expressed feelings that the program is inconvenient and/or inefficient (2) or disliked (2); some commenters stated they refuse to use it (6).
 - Some commenters who refuse to use the program reported bringing bulk items for disposal elsewhere (e.g., work or family out of town)
- 8 commenters stated that it is hard to dispose of, or they do not know how to dispose of, large or bulky items such as mirrors, built-in shelves, and building materials

Overflow and Bulk: Recommendations

Several comments expressed that the program should be kept as is (2) or that the program works as it should and is reasonable (1). Recommendations for improving or replacing the current overflow/bulk system were:

- Pay a flat fee for trash or for a larger barrel instead (2) or an annual flat fee for unlimited overflow items (1)
- Bring back the “green sticker” system (1)
- Overflow stickers should be for all items (2) and not limited to certain types, especially those small items that don’t fit in blue bags.
- Blue bags should be compostable (1) or should be labeled with information about recycling and composting (1)
- Use a tiered system that accounts for bulk items that are not as big as couches but are too big for the blue bags (1)
- Create a dump (5)

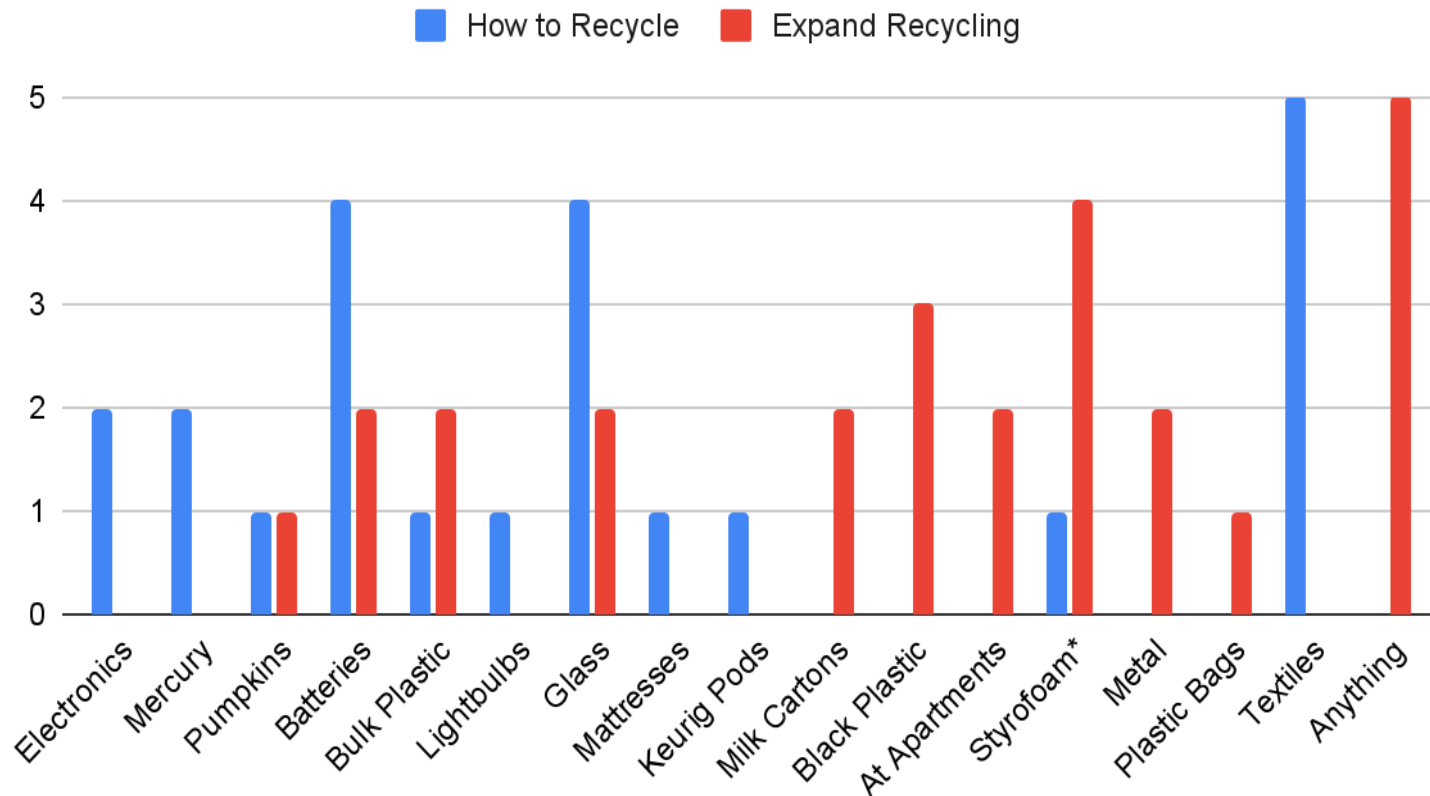
Recycling

Recycling: Comments/Requests About Bins

- 16 commenters requested that the town provide either recycling bins or recycling bins with lids. Of the 16:
 - One requested that the town provide recycling bins that match the trash barrel
 - Two wanted larger barrels
- One commenter stated they never use a lid because it is never put back on securely
- One commenter stated that recycling should be able to be put into bags
- Three commenters recommended implementing a bylaw that requires covered recycling bins.
- One commenter stated that animals get into their recycling.

Recycling: Questions and Recommendations

How to Recycle and Expand Recycling



Multiple comments recommended expansion of recycling to include specific items or asked how to recycle items.

One commenter noted that dry cleaners will take back metal clothes hangers.

Recycling: Other Questions and Ideas

Questions:

- Six commenters asked why they should bother recycling and if what is put in the bin is really recycled/what happens to it. One commenter asked what happens to the styrofoam dropped off at the DPW yard.
- Three asked how to prep items for recycling; three others expressed it is hard to recycle. One recommended instructing residents to break down boxes.

Ideas:

- The mailer with the schedule is helpful and should be updated with what currently can and cannot be recycled (4). One commenter stated that the Smart Cycle website is a helpful resource about what and how to recycle.
- The town should offer a redemption center (3) or a sorting facility (2), perhaps in the DPW yard. 2 commenters said sorting recycling should be mandated.
- The town should not only require recycling of everything but should pick up everything, too. (2)
- While recycling is important, emphasis should also be on reusing. (1)

Recycling: Comments on Specific Materials

Metal

- Offer a “metal” sticker to put on a curbside barrel (1)
- Provide more reminders about metal drop-off days (1)

Electronics

- Add a curbside pick-up option (1)
- Town should get a grant to offer quarterly electronics collections (1)

Styrofoam

- 1 commenter asked for drop-offs to stop, since it doesn't reduce waste and isn't being recycled
- 2 commenters asked for curbside pick-up, weekly or otherwise.
- Provide more reminders about styrofoam drop-off days (1)

Textiles

- Add a textile drop-off bin/drop box in town (1)
- Permit throwing away of textiles that cannot be donated (1)

Yard Waste

Yard Waste

Two commenters stated they appreciate the yard waste program and think it is working well. Many comments requested more of it, such as increasing the frequency of yard waste pickup:

- Provide more yard waste pickups in general (26)
- Provide more pickups in the spring (1), summer (1), and fall (3)
- Provide an annual yard waste pickup that also takes soil (1)

Others requested improvements to the regularity of yard waste pickup:

- Monthly (2) or more evenly spaced out with scheduled pickups (2)
- Yard waste pickup is too sporadic (6) and doesn't come on scheduled days (3)
- Town should provide more communications about yard waste pickups (1)

Other comments included requests for more yard waste options (2) and:

- Provide an option to drop off yard waste somewhere (4), ideally for free (1)
- Appreciation expressed for the Christmas tree pickup (1) and requesting yard waste bags be picked up with Christmas trees (1)

Compost

Compost: Concerns and Recommendations

Some commenters reported finding composting challenging:

- There are too many rules (1) and it is hard for families with small children (1)
- Composting is messy, smelly, and/or attracts animals (3)
- Black Earth trucks leave food in the street (1)

Others requested more town support for composting:

- Provide composting as a service or a free service (11) or provide compost units to residents (2); make it available to condo unit residents (1)
- Add more public bins (2) and provide free compost for gardens from what is picked up in the public bins (2)
- Mandate composting (1 comment) and provide education on getting started (1)
- Provide education on the differences between composting and using a garbage disposal (2); also commenter did not know what to do with spoiled food too heavy for JRM to take. (1)

Waste Disposal Service Provider

Waste Disposal Service Provider: Comments

Commenters reported mixed experiences with the waste disposal service provider:

- Employees are polite, friendly, and clean (2)
- Employees are careless/rough with barrels (4) and messy (2)
- The trash trucks block traffic (1)
- Yard waste is picked up with regular trash (1)

Others stated that pickups are missed or inconsistent:

- Trash has been skipped numerous times (1)
 - Trash is left on the ground and not picked up if the bags are sticking out of the barrel/the lid isn't closed (2) or the barrel is heavy (1)
 - Bulk item removal is ignored/the service provider is nonresponsive to outreach (1)
-

Other Waste Comments and Recommendations

Cost of waste services:

- Waste services are generally too expensive for people (1)
- Taxes are too high for inadequate trash services (11)
- 1 commenter stated it is unfair to require additional fees of large families with larger houses and who pay more in taxes
- 3 said it is unfair to condos because they pay property taxes but do not benefit from the services; if they are not going to receive services, their property taxes should be lower

Other comments:

- Some commenters need more education on the options to dispose of different items. (1). The extensiveness of options can be hard on seniors. (1)
- Waste services are inadequate generally (3), and make it hard to keep the house clutter-free.
- Waste services are working well (6)
- 2 requested single-stream waste and one requested curbside pickup of everything.

Other Waste Comments and Recommendations

Other Towns/Regional Collaborations

Other Towns/Regional Collaborations

Commenters sometimes compared Swampscott's waste policies to other towns:

- Other towns have bigger barrels (1)
- Other towns take everything with trash pickup (1)
- The trash trucks block traffic (1)

Others recommended or requested opportunities to collaborate:

- Obtain Swampscott resident access to the Marblehead transfer station (6)
- Partner with Lynn (1 comment), Salem (1), or Marblehead (1) for yard waste disposal
- Explore best practices in use in other towns (1)
- Collaborate with other towns to improve contracting leverage (1)
- Evaluate Lexington's waste program which allows disposal of bulk items with regular trash (1); 2 commenters mentioned bringing overflow trash to two unnamed towns without limits

Suggestions and Recommendations

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Host swap events	Host freecycles	Return the town thrift store
Offer Terracycling programs	Paper shredder at the Farmer's Market	Offer a repair cafe
Establish a reuse store for detergents, shampoo, etc.	Town book swaps	Special collection for plastic bags
Recycle event for old trash barrels	Find a nonprofit replacement for Simple Recycling	Designated space at DPW for all things that can't be collected curbside
Discourage people from producing waste	Make survey information available to the town	Create a task force in charge of keeping the beaches clean
Less expensive hazardous waste pickup	Schools should partner with donation drop-off containers	Ban single use plastics
Ban plastic bags	Pass a bylaw imposing Extended Producer responsibility	Make SWAC website less confusing by putting information in one place
Increase the size of town-wide trash barrels and add lids	Increase beach trash enforcement	Increase trash enforcement generally at homes and in public places