

SURVEY ABOUT CLOSING THE LOOP ON ORGANIC WASTE IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS



OMS/Minnesota Center for Survey Research
University of Minnesota
879 29th Avenue SE, Suite 103
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 627-4282

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We greatly value your input about your priorities, perspectives, and experience regarding household organics recycling. Your household was selected because your Hiawatha neighborhood has been participating in an organics recycling pilot program since 2010. “Organics” refers mainly to food wastes, paper towels, etc.

You are one of a small number of Hiawatha residents who are being asked to give their opinion on these matters. Participation is completely voluntary. With the City of Minneapolis beginning city-wide organics recycling service later in 2015, your opinions are extremely valuable and may improve the Minneapolis organics recycling program.

Please circle the number or letter that corresponds to the answer closest to your opinion, or write in the information requested. All individual responses will be confidential.

Q1. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Circle one answer for each statement)

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
a. Recycling organic materials is good for the environment.	1	2	3	4
b. My household’s recycling habits have an environmental impact.	1	2	3	4
c. Recycling organic materials is a cost efficient disposal method.	1	2	3	4
d. Recycling organic materials is a good thing for my household to do.	1	2	3	4
e. I am more environmentally aware than the average Minneapolis resident.	1	2	3	4

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
f. I am more involved in the community than the average Minneapolis resident.	1	2	3	4
g. Many of my neighbors participate in the organics recycling program.	1	2	3	4
h. I am more likely to collect organics for composting if my friends and family do.	1	2	3	4
i. My friends and family are aware of my recycling habits.	1	2	3	4
j. It is important to me to be seen as caring for the environment.	1	2	3	4
k. Collecting organic materials in my home is an easy thing to do.	1	2	3	4
l. There are many barriers to recycling organic materials.	1	2	3	4
m. I know which organic materials are accepted for composting in the city's organics recycling program.	1	2	3	4
n. I am satisfied with the City of Minneapolis organics recycling program.	1	2	3	4
o. Recycling organic materials is an appropriate role for government.	1	2	3	4

Q2. Has the curbside organics recycling program **increased** the amount of organics your household recycles? (Circle one answer)

1. Yes, significantly
2. Yes, somewhat
3. No

Q3. Should participation in a city-wide curbside organics recycling program be opt-in (households must request to participate) or opt-out (households are automatically enrolled unless they request **not** to be)? (Circle one answer)

- 1. Opt-in
- 2. Opt-out
- 8. Not sure

Q4. Would you be willing to pay **extra** in your waste collection bill for curbside organics pickup service? (Circle one answer)

- 1. Yes →
- 2. No

How much **extra** would you be willing to pay? (Circle one answer)

- 1. \$1/month
- 2. \$2 to \$5/month
- 3. \$6 to \$10/month
- 4. \$11 to \$20/month

Q5. Prior to the start of the organics recycling pilot program in 2010, which of the following offices had you contacted regarding organics recycling? (Circle one answer for each item)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Can't Remember</u>
a. Minneapolis City Council member	1	2	8
b. City of Minneapolis/Solid Waste and Recycling Division	1	2	8
c. Hennepin County	1	2	8

Q6. Are you recycling more **organic** materials now than when you first started participating? (Circle one answer)

- 1. Yes, I now recycle significantly more
- 2. Yes, I now recycle slightly more
- 3. No, I now recycle about the same amount
- 4. No, I now recycle slightly less
- 5. No, I now recycle significantly less

Q7. Does your household currently have a large (94 gallon) or a small (26 gallon) main **outdoor** garbage cart?

1. Large (94 gallon)
2. Small (26 gallon)



Did you downsize your main **outdoor** garbage cart (from 94 gallons to 26 gallons) after you started recycling organics?

1. Yes
2. No

Q8. How often does your household recycle other items, such as paper, glass, or cans? (Circle one answer)

1. Very frequently
2. Frequently
3. Sometimes
4. Not very often
5. Never

Q9. On average, how often does your household set out its regular recycling bin (for paper, glass, cans, etc.) for curbside collection? (Circle one answer)

1. Every week
2. Every other week
3. Once a month
4. Other (please specify) _____

Q10. Typically, how full is your regular recycling bin (for paper, glass, cans, etc.) when you set it out for curbside collection? (Circle one answer)

1. One-quarter full
2. Half full
3. Three-quarters full
4. Full

Q11. What size cart are you using for outdoor **organics** collection at your home? (Standard size garbage and recycling carts are 94 gallons)

1. Small organics cart (32 gallon)
2. Medium organics cart (64 gallon)

Q12. During a typical week, on how many days is your evening meal:

	NUMBER OF DAYS IN A TYPICAL WEEK								
a. Prepared mainly "from scratch", by mixing and cooking fresh ingredients?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
b. Prepared mainly by heating frozen or prepackaged dinners?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
c. Eaten at restaurants or ordered as take out?	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

Q13. Which of the following best describes your household's diet? (Circle one answer)

1. Traditional, including meat
2. Vegetarian, including eggs and milk
3. Vegan
4. Mixed (some members eat one type of diet and others eat another type)

Q14. Do you have a garbage disposal, or grinder, in your kitchen sink? (Circle one answer)

1. Yes, used daily
2. Yes, used sometimes
3. Yes, but not used
4. No

Q15. What organic materials do you think may be placed in your organics collection containers?
(Circle one answer for each item)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
a. Vegetable peels	1	2
b. Cat litter	1	2
c. Paper towels	1	2
d. Meat, bones	1	2
e. Dairy	1	2
f. Milk cartons	1	2
g. Paper products	1	2
h. Animal waste	1	2
i. Compostable plastics	1	2
j. Tissues	1	2
k. Q-tips and cotton swabs	1	2
l. Dryer lint	1	2
m. Hair	1	2
n. Yard waste (leaves, grass, etc.)	1	2

Q16. How large is your household's main **indoor** organics recycling container?
(Circle one answer)

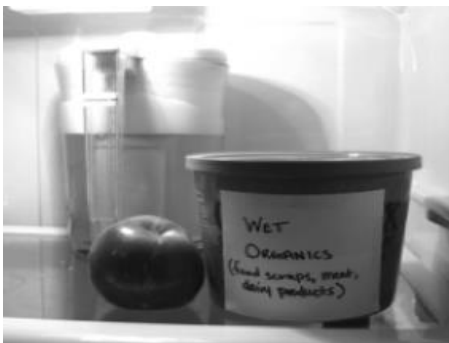
1. Less than ½ gallon
2. ½ gallon
3. 1-3 gallons
4. 4 gallons or more
5. No indoor collection container is used → (SKIP TO Q21 ON PAGE 9)

Q17. Which type of containers most closely resemble your **indoor** organics recycling containers?
(Circle all that apply)



a. Kitchen pail placed on countertop (similar to one above) with no changes to kitchen garbage can

b. 13-gallon container with smaller garbage can



c. Container placed in refrigerator



d. Container placed in freezer

Q18. Do you use a bag within your **indoor** organics recycling containers? (Circle one answer)

1. Yes, compostable plastic
2. Yes, paper bag
3. Yes, other (please specify) _____
4. No

Q19. Do your **indoor** organics recycling containers have a lid? (Circle one answer)

1. Yes, the lid is vented or has a filter
2. Yes, but the lid is not vented
3. Yes, other (please specify) _____
4. No

Q20. On average, how often do you empty your **indoor** organics recycling containers?
(Circle one answer)

1. Every day
2. Every other day
3. Twice a week
4. Once a week
5. Every other week
6. Other (please specify) _____

Q21. What sources of information regarding **organics** recycling would you most likely use if you wanted more information? (Circle one answer for each source)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
a. City website	1	2
b. Mailers delivered to your home	1	2
c. Newspaper	1	2
d. Neighbors	1	2
e. Friends	1	2
f. University Extension Service	1	2
g. Events	1	2

Q22. How concerned are you about each of the following factors that relate to recycling your household's organic materials? (Circle one answer for each factor)

	<u>Major Concern</u>	<u>Moderate Concern</u>	<u>Minor Concern</u>	<u>Not a Concern</u>
a. Lack of time for separating organic materials	1	2	3	4
b. Smell	1	2	3	4
c. Lack of space for indoor collection of organic materials	1	2	3	4
d. Outdoor organics container is unsightly	1	2	3	4
e. Family members do not participate	1	2	3	4
f. Family members may object	1	2	3	4
g. Spillage and cleanliness	1	2	3	4
h. Lack of knowledge about what can go into an organics recycling container	1	2	3	4
i. Pests and animals being attracted to organic materials stored indoors	1	2	3	4
j. Pests and animals being attracted to organic materials stored outdoors	1	2	3	4
k. Cost of compostable bags	1	2	3	4
l. Too little organic waste produced by household	1	2	3	4
m. Too much work	1	2	3	4
n. Other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4

Q23. Which of the following factors may motivate your household to recycle its organics more frequently? (Circle one answer for each factor)

	<u>Major Motivator</u>	<u>Moderate Motivator</u>	<u>Minor Motivator</u>	<u>Not a Motivator</u>
a. Free indoor collection container	1	2	3	4
b. Increased participation by friends	1	2	3	4
c. Increased participation by family	1	2	3	4
d. Ability to share outdoor organics collection container with a neighbor	1	2	3	4
e. Lower solid waste collection bill	1	2	3	4
f. More information available about my issues of concern	1	2	3	4
g. More detailed instructions about the program	1	2	3	4
h. Other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4

Please answer the following background questions about yourself. Remember that all individual responses will be confidential and your responses will not be associated with you in any way.

Q24. How many people are living in your household now, including yourself? _____

Q25. How many of the people in your household are in each of the following age categories?

- a. Under 18 years old _____
- b. 18 to 30 years old _____
- c. 31 to 45 years old _____
- d. 46 to 65 years old _____
- e. Over 65 years old _____

Q26. Which of the following do you consider yourself? (Circle one answer)

1. White/Caucasian
2. Hispanic/Latino
3. African American
4. Asian or Pacific Islander
5. American Indian
6. Other (please specify) _____

Q27. What was your total household income in 2014, before taxes? (Circle one answer)

1. Less than \$30,000
2. \$30,000 to \$49,999
3. \$50,000 to \$74,999
4. \$75,000 to \$99,999
5. \$100,000 to \$149,999
6. \$150,000 to \$199,999
7. \$200,000 to \$249,999
8. \$250,000 to \$299,999
9. \$300,000 or more

Thank you very much for your help with the survey.

Please return your completed survey in the postage-paid envelope provided to:

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