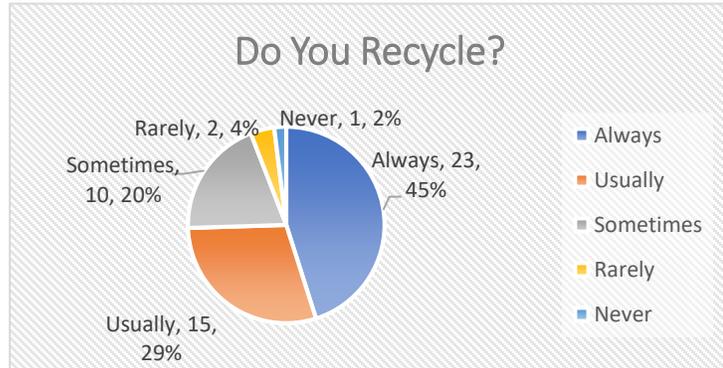


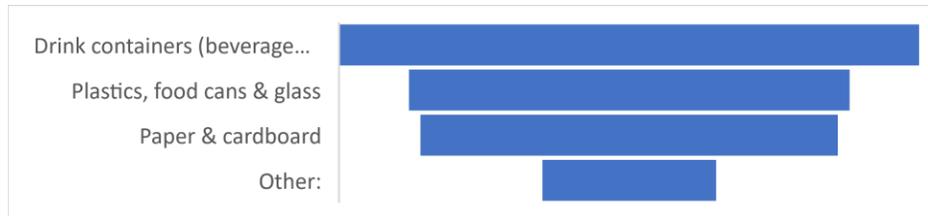
# Waste Diversion Survey Feedback

The Northern Rockies Regional Municipality wanted to find out how residents felt about waste diversion in the Northern Rockies. The 12-question survey took an average of 3 minutes to complete and garnered 52 responses. All respondents agreed that waste diversion is important.

## Question: “Do you recycle?”



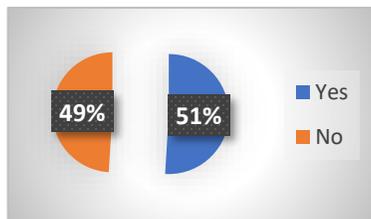
## Question: “What do you recycle?”



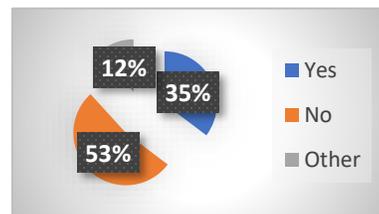
### “Other” items:

- Electronics
- Paint
- Oil
- Batteries
- Textiles (clothing & linens)
- Styrofoam
- Compostables (food scraps & yard waste)

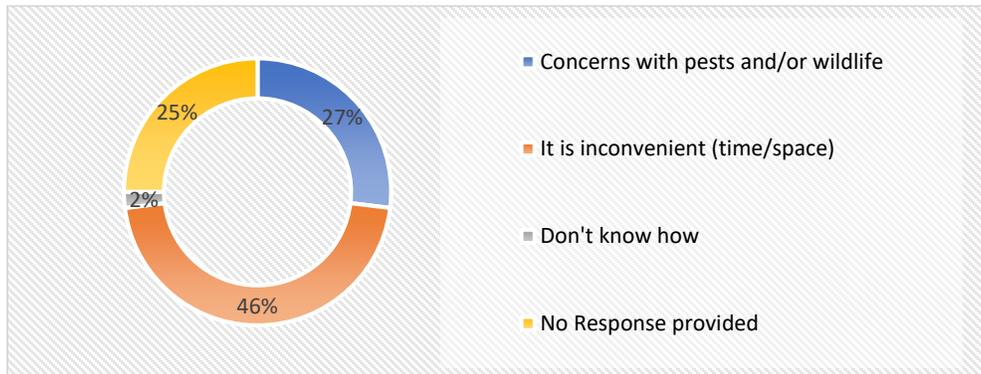
## Question: “Do you currently compost yard debris?”



## Question: “Do you currently compost food scraps? (fruit & vegetable trimmings, egg shells, coffee grounds, bones etc.)”



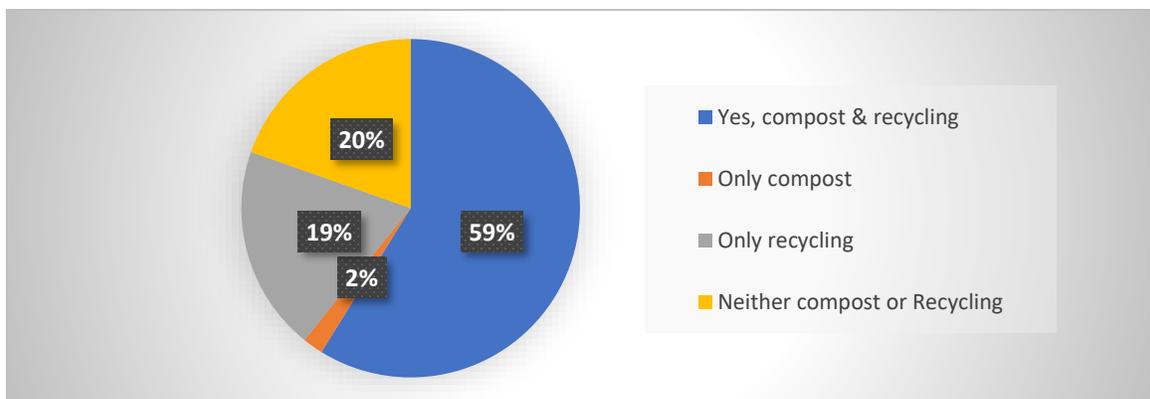
**Question: “What obstacles limit or prevent you from composting or recycling more?”**



Common themes in responses:

- Concerns regarding attracting wildlife and/or pets.
- Composting is challenging to maintain at home due to unpleasant odors and inadequate space.
- Pandemic precautionary measures at recycling facility present additional barriers to what some feel is an already time-consuming process.
- There are seasonal challenges with decomposition of green waste over cold months.
- Green waste recycling/composting is only available during open hours of landfill.
- Inadequate space to compost yard debris efficiently.
- Household food waste is diverted to pets/farm animals.
- More could be accepted for recycling in the NRRM.
- Cut grass is left to decompose (grasscycling).

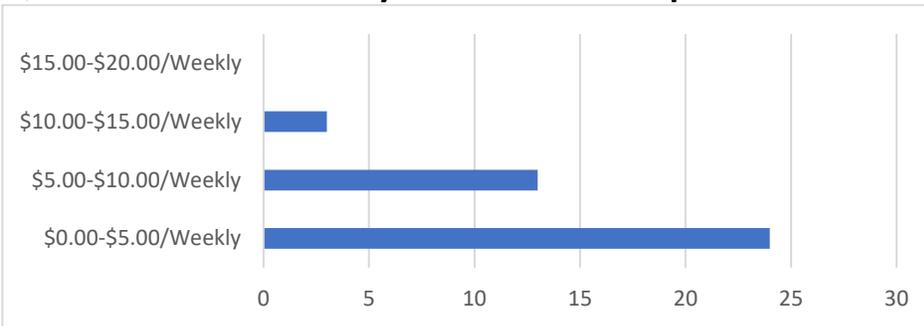
**Question: “Would you be willing to pay for weekly compost or recycling collection services by an independent business provider? Note this is not a service provided by the NRRM at this time.”**



Respondents noted:

- Concerns with budgeting for additional services on top of existing garbage collection.
- Additional efforts to educate the public could be made regarding green recycling opportunities and the tipping of organics at the landfill.
- Home-based composting should be encouraged.
- A feeling of payment for the same thing twice when including the deposit fee paid at the time of purchasing goods.
- Green waste collection services should be included in waste collection charges instead of as an additional charge.
- Prepaid and/or flat rate garbage collection charges discourage waste diversion.

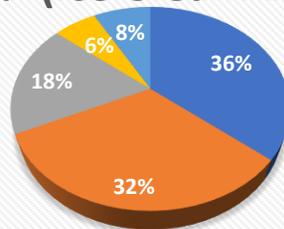
**Question: “What would you consider a fair price for collection services?”**



Respondents offered the following suggestions:

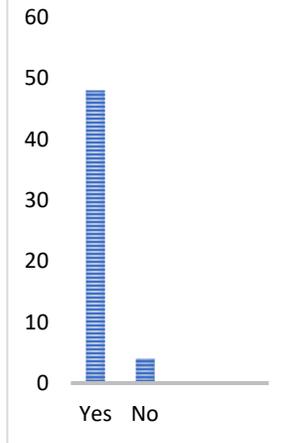
- Less frequent pickup options for smaller households should be considered.
- A review of garbage collection billing should be undertaken to use funds to improve access to existing recycling and composting facilities.
- Garbage collection costs could be reduced to accommodate costs for recycling/composting collection.

**How much food waste does your household create in a week? (Ice Cream Bucket = 4 Litres)**

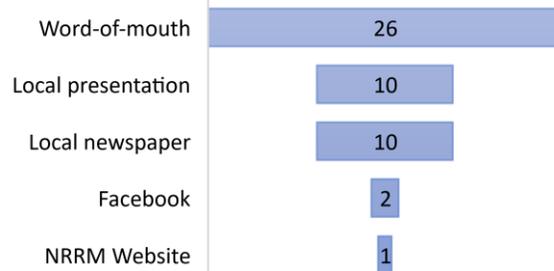


■ 0-4 Litres ■ 4-8 Litres ■ 8-12 Litres ■ 12-16 Litres ■ 16 + Litres

**Question: “Are you aware of the local vermicomposting project located at the Fort Nelson landfill?”**



**Question: How did you hear about the vermicomposting project?**



Many respondents indicated that they learned about the project through all of the above options.

**Question: “Do you have any other thoughts or ideas to share about waste diversion in the Northern Rockies?”**

Respondent feedback included:

- The NRRM could do more to be a community leader in utilizing this service including full diversion of paper/cardboard and organic waste.
- Convenience of curbside pickup is valuable, and many households would benefit from this service.
- There is great opportunity for educating the public on local waste diversion opportunities.
- Public education opportunities could be explored through individualized school and work place visits.
- The vermicomposting project is recognized as a great accomplishment which could be enhanced with more public education.
- Waived tipping fees for green waste is positive, improving access to organics bins would further the waste-reduction initiatives.
- Opportunities to utilize worm castings should be explored and could provide incentive to encourage more people to contribute to vermicomposting.
- The NRRM should explore ways to make it easier for residents to get involved with waste diversion, including through improved access, and communicating tips/strategies to make the process easier for those who are new to the process.
- A desire to see cardboard drop-off bins in central locations in the community.
- Opportunities to reduce waste before it is created, such as eliminating single-use containers should be explored.
- The current garbage collection system reduces the incentive to recycle, where paying for the quantity of garbage produced would encourage less garbage production.