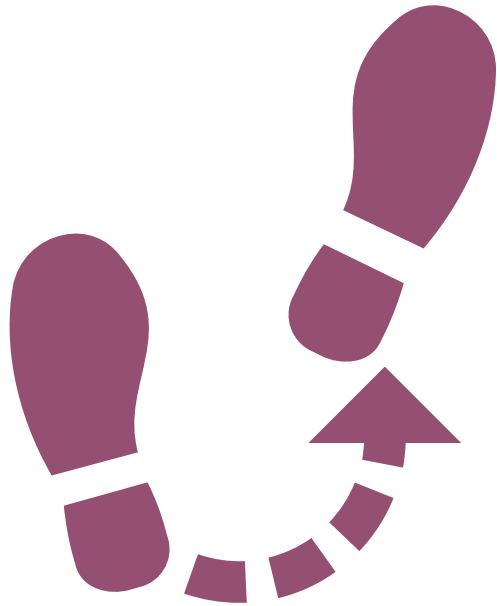




CITY OF HOUSTON LONG RANGE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, THE NEXT 20 YEARS -draft

Protecting and Enhancing Houston's Environment and
Providing Quality Service to the Community

Next steps taken since 6/1/20 Committee Update



Task Force Review and Comments



Public survey & comments



Final Plan to City Council



Council Actions to Fund and Implement

Project Initiatives Completed

- Drafted Long Range Solid Waste Management Plan with input from Mayor's Advisory Task Force.
- Conducted public engagement Fall 2020:
 - Launched project website with DRAFT Plan
 - Established dedicated email for written comments
 - Conducted virtual public meetings to receive community input/feedback
 - Online survey posted and completed: 9/25/20-10/31/20

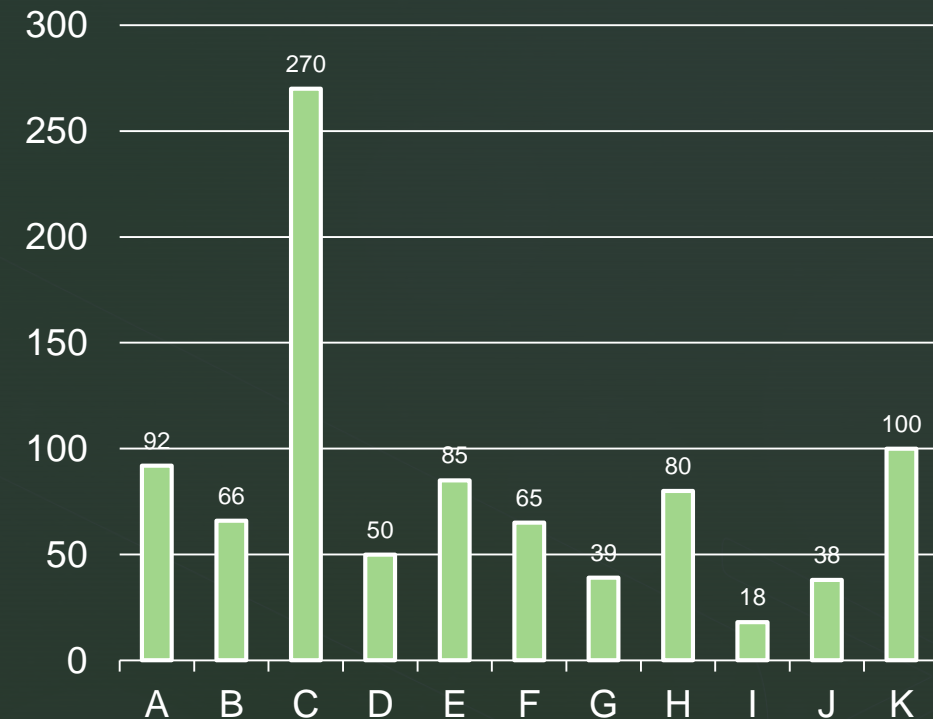
Public Outreach Meetings

- **Financial Sustainability:** *Achieve a sustainable funding model.*
- **Sustainable Materials Management:** *Increase reuse, recycling and diversion. Decrease environmental risks of waste disposal in landfills. Make Houston a zero-waste community.*
- **Quality Service:** *Provide services in a safe, equitable, responsive, and responsible manner with a customer service focus.*
- **Infrastructure for Materials Management:** *Ensure long-term disposal capacity and sustainable solid waste infrastructure.*
- **Beautiful City:** *Address illegal dumping and litter to improve the quality of the of the Houston community; protect the environment and protect public health.*

Public Engagement Participation

- Survey drafted as part of the City's long-term solid waste management planning process
- Issued through Survey Monkey, promoted through various media with Council Offices assistance
- Over 1000 responses from all over Houston

Distribution of Responses by Council District
(Total 903)





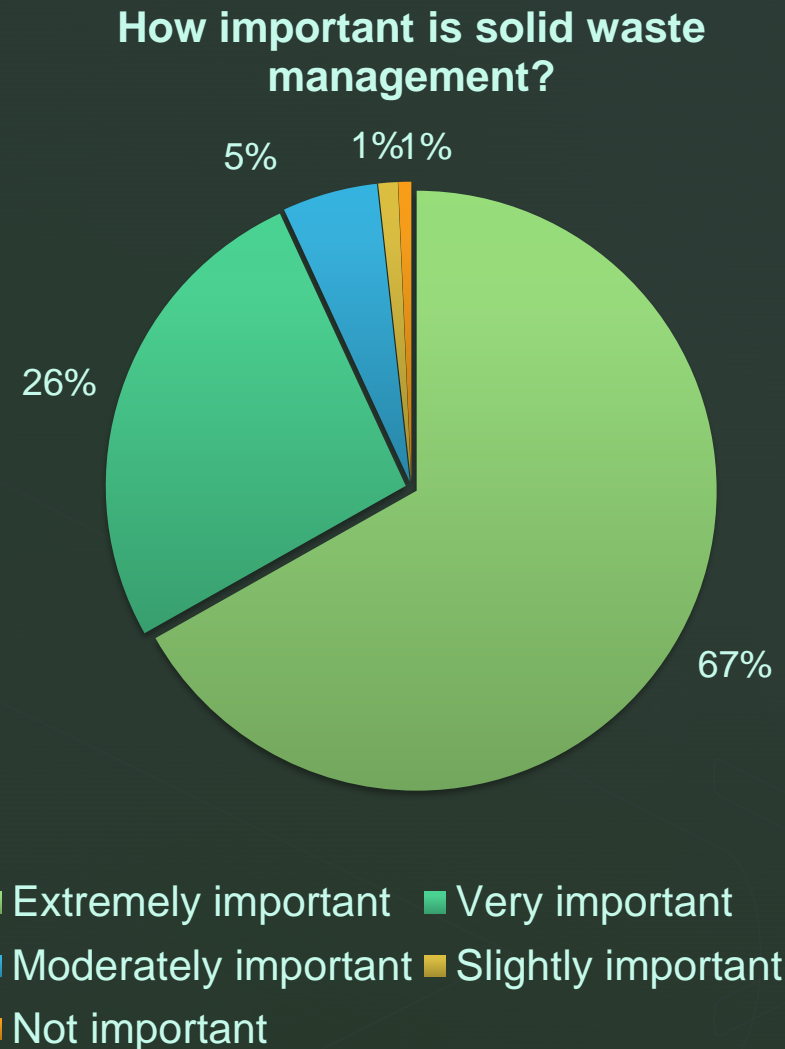
Other Plan Outreach

- ❑ One-on-one meetings with key stakeholders throughout the process which included the following:
 - Super Neighborhood Alliance
 - Super Neighborhood Council
 - Houston Apartment Association
 - Greater Houston Partnership
 - Second Servings Houston
 - Houston Building Association
 - Building Owners and Managers Association
 - Others

Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

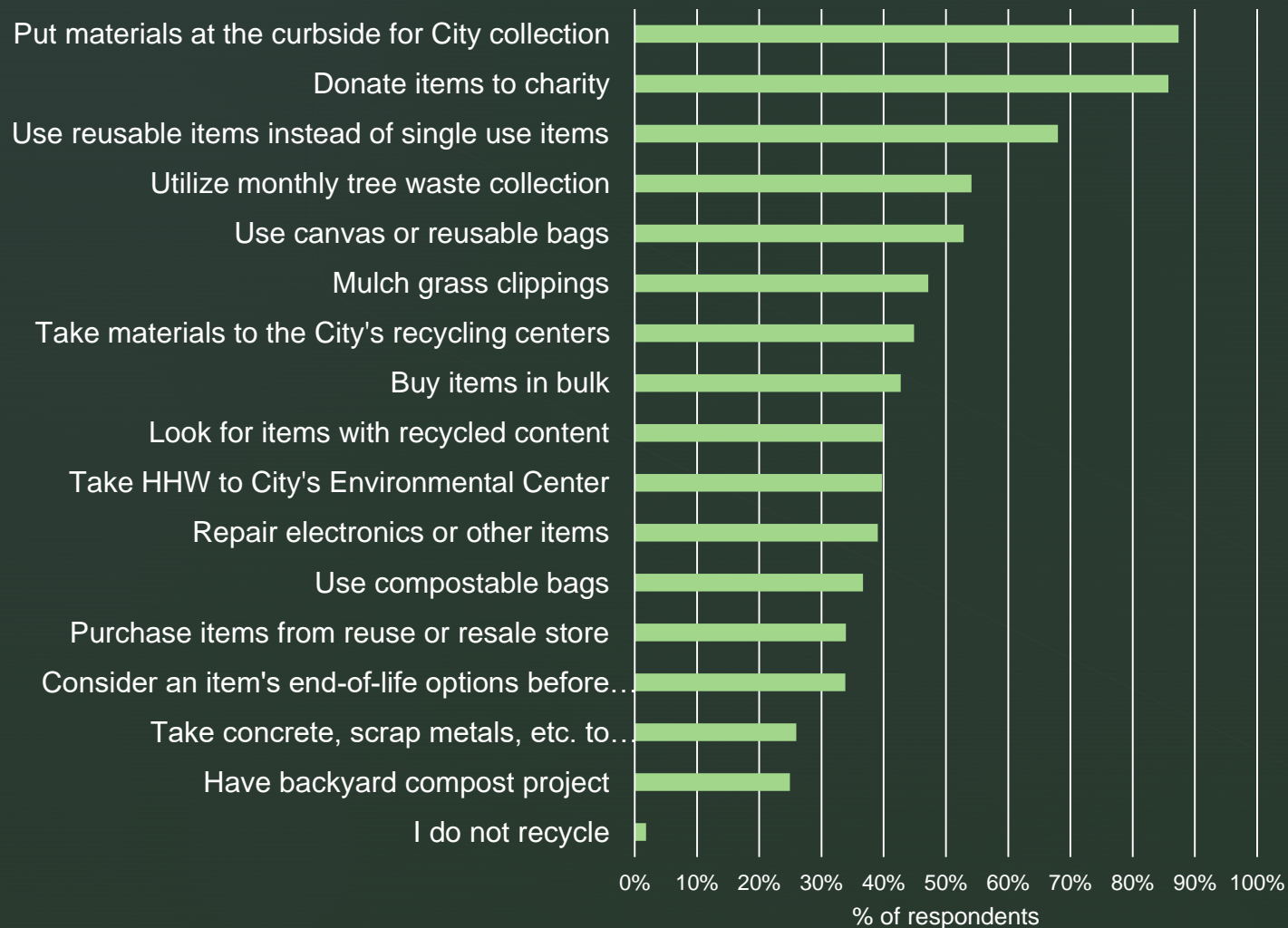
How important is solid waste management, waste reduction and recycling?

- **93% of respondents believe that solid waste management is either extremely or very important.**
- **Individuals responding to this survey are concerned about solid waste management issues.**



Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

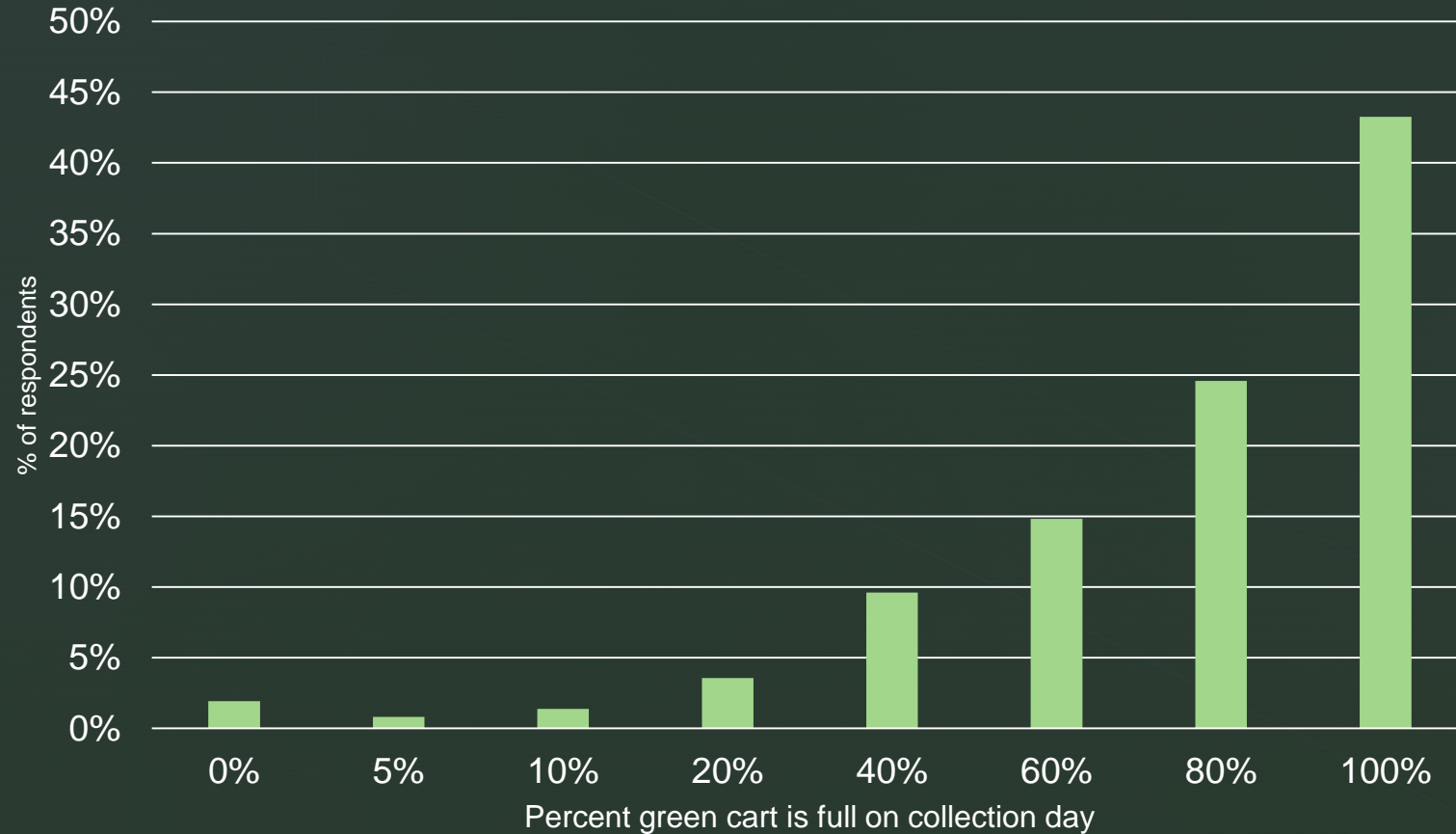
How do you reduce waste or recycle?



- Almost all Houston residents are doing something to reduce waste or recycle.
- Yet, the City's residential generation rate is high compared to peer cities.

Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

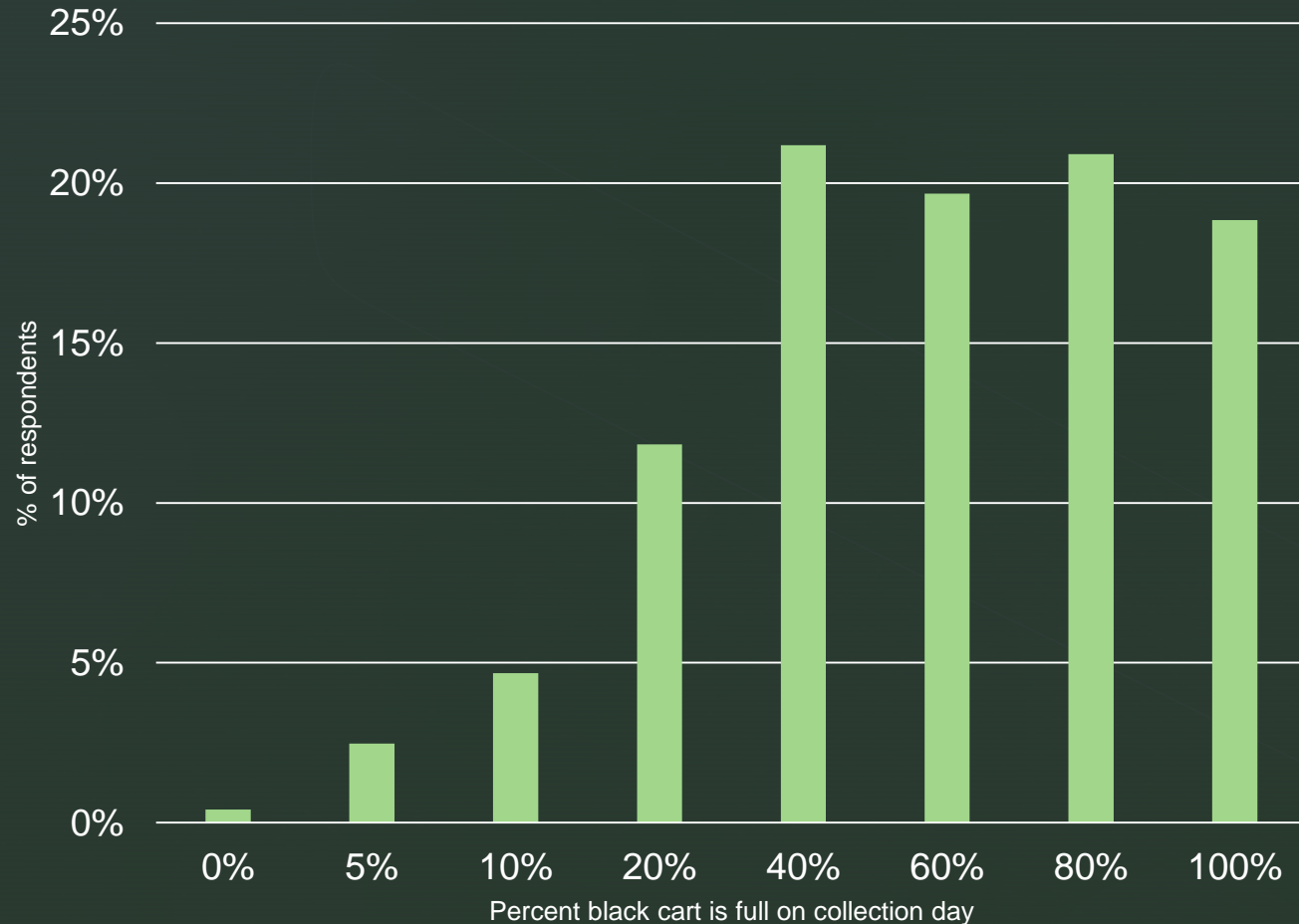
*How full is your green cart on collection day
(every two weeks)*



Almost 70% of residents' green carts are filled 80% or higher on the day of collection.

Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

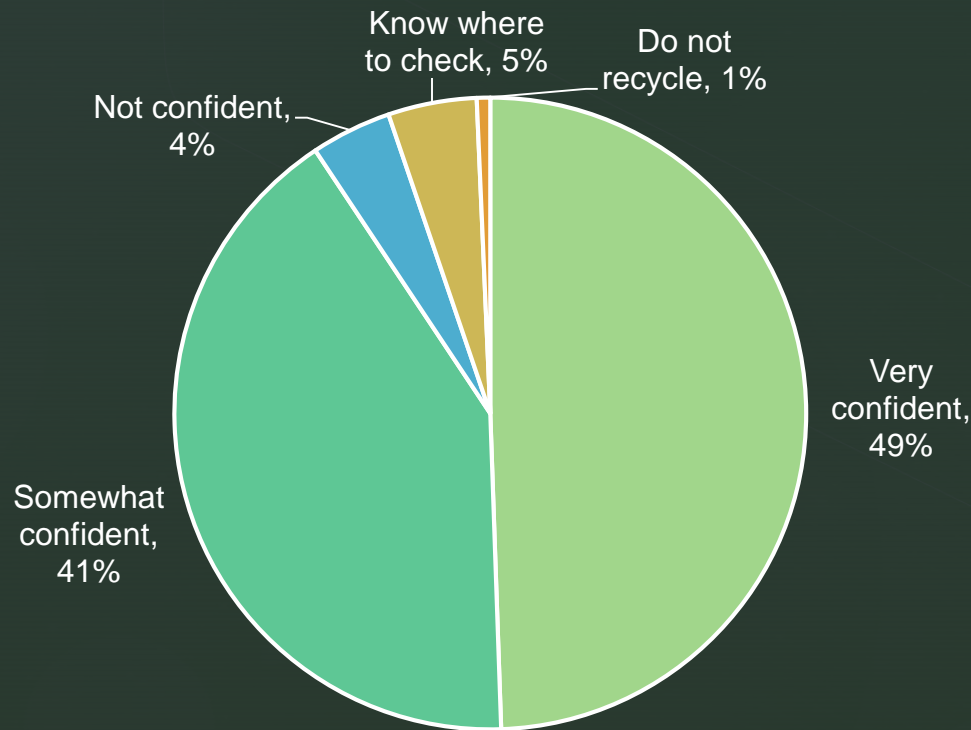
*How full is your black solid waste cart
(collection every week)*



- Approximately 40% of solid waste carts are 80% full on collection day.
- Black carts are collected once / week, green carts are collected every two weeks.
- On average, without recycling, 44% of residents' garbage carts would overflow every week.

Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

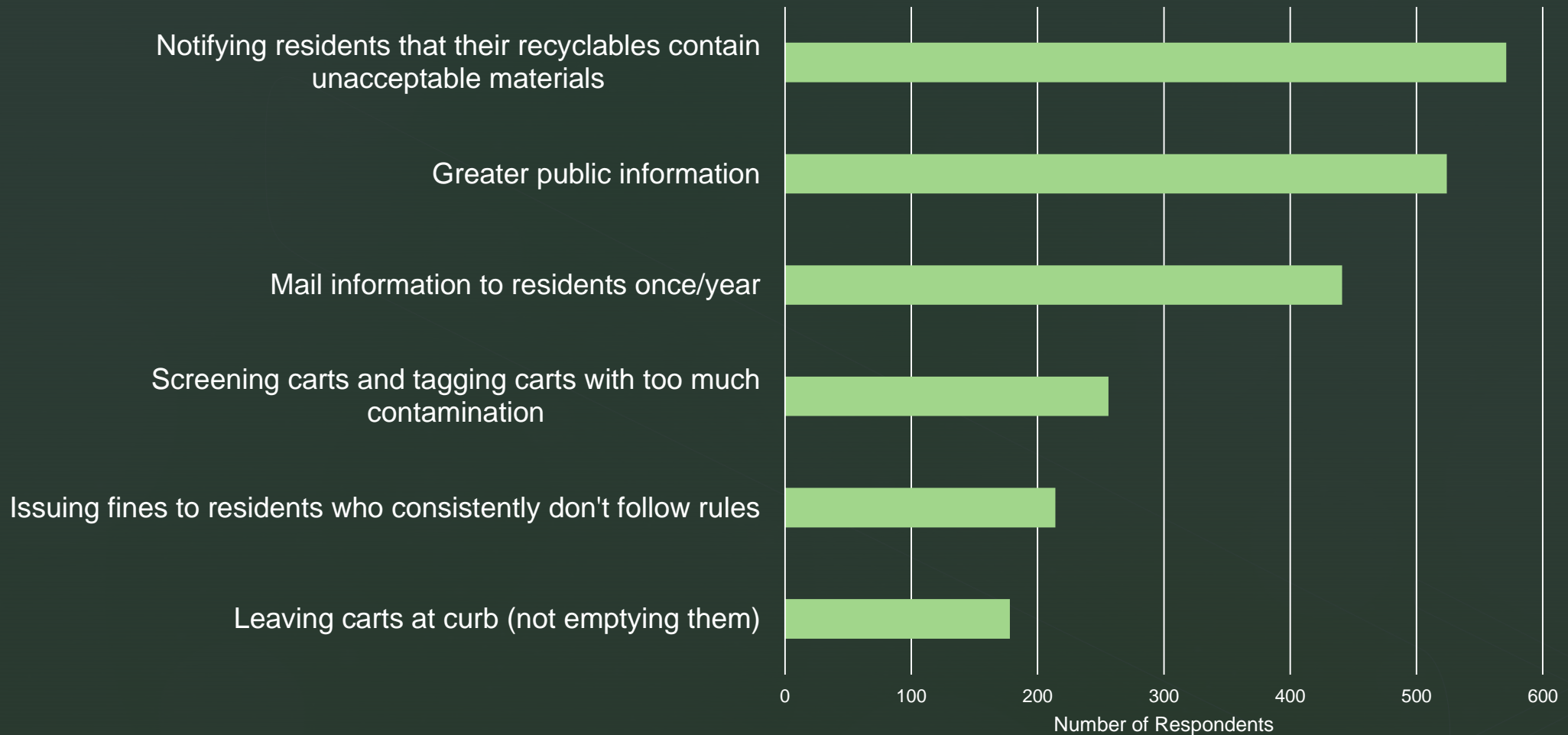
Know what to throw –
*How confident are you about
what should be recycled?*



- 90% say they are either very confident or somewhat confident about what should go in the recycling cart...however, contamination is a big problem for the City's recycling program – between 30% and 40% of material collected is contaminated.

Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

Thoughts on how to reduce contamination



Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

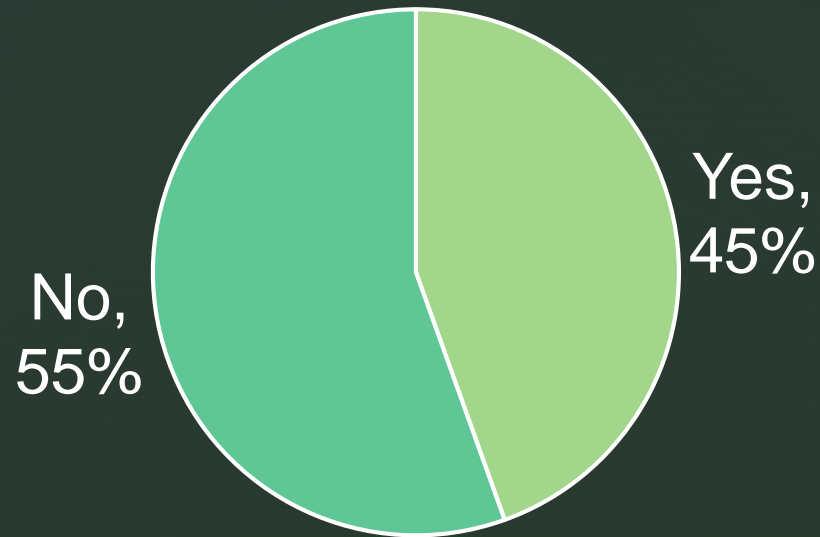
Residential recycling recommendations



Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

Majority of Multi-family housing units do not offer recycling services

Does your apartment provide recycling?



Residents of multi-family households generate 627,000 tons of waste in Houston

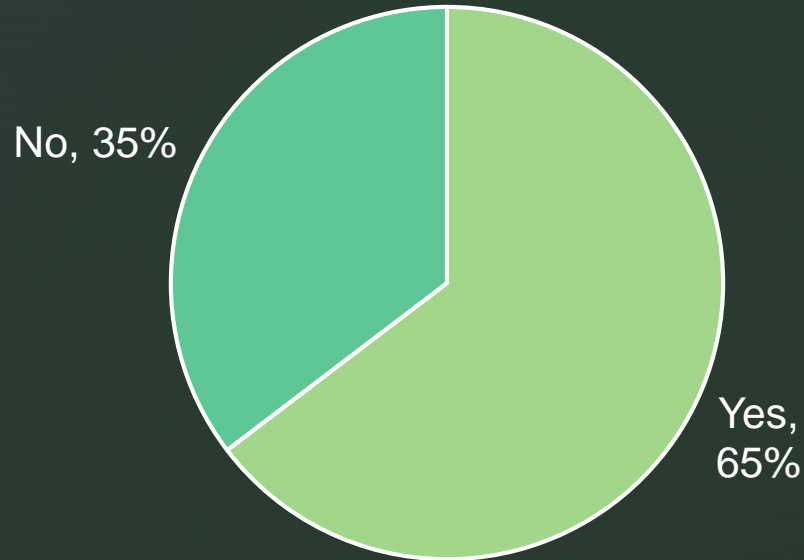
90% of those that do not have recycling services believe all residents should have access to recycling



Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

Workplace Recycling

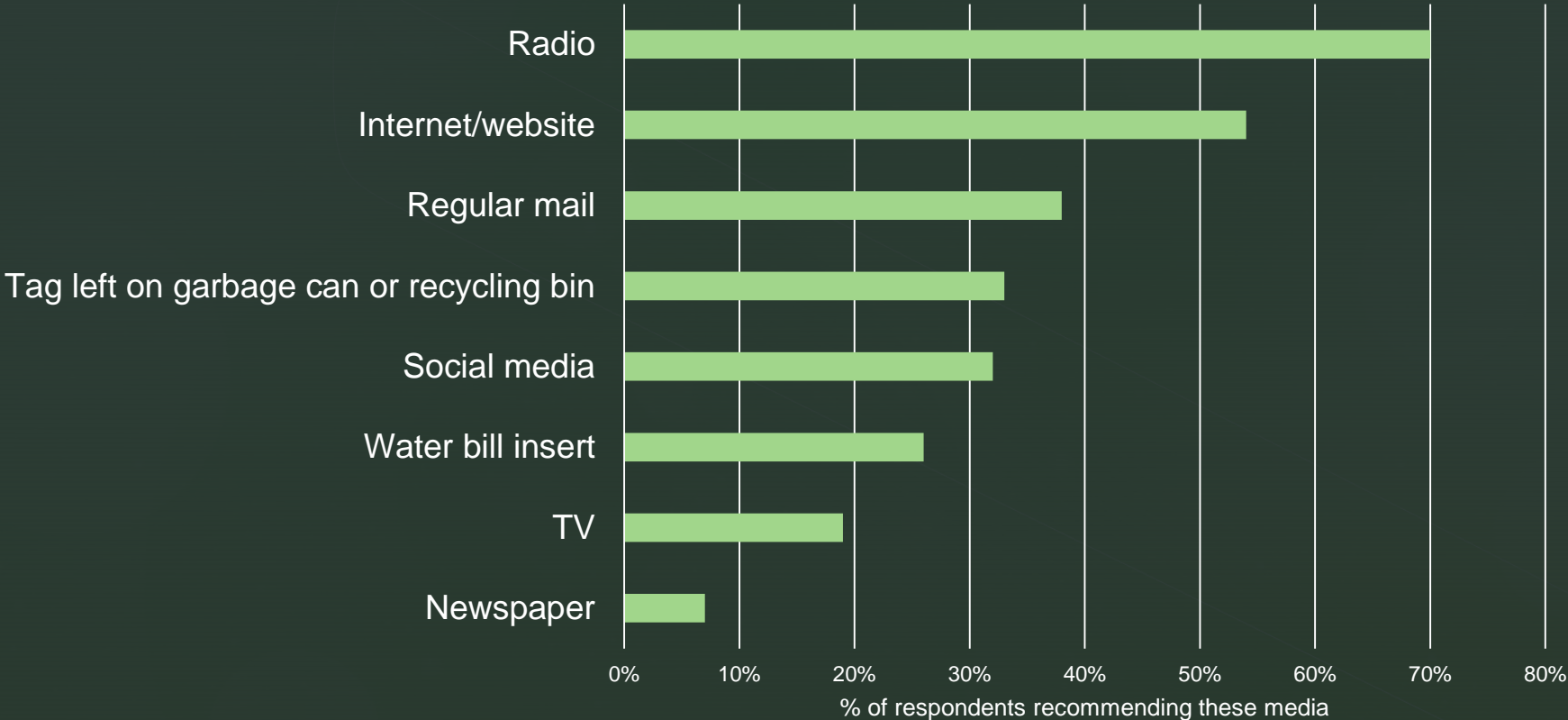
Does your place of employment have a recycling program?



- The commercial sector is a major source of waste in Houston – approximately 60% of all waste generated by the City.

Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

What is the best way to inform the public?



Survey responses help guide SWMD's future public information programs.

Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

*Have you used a City drop-off facility?
Was it a satisfactory experience?*

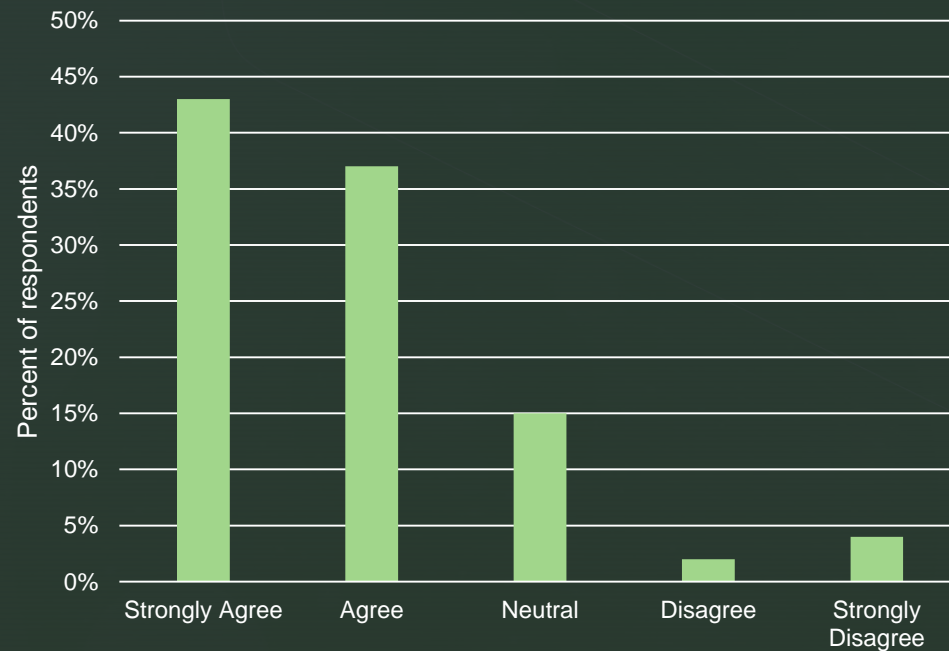


- 73% of respondents have used a City solid waste or recycling facility.
- Only 38 of 1000 responded they were unaware of them.

*Need drop-off sites (7)
District C District G
District E (2) District I
District F District K

Key Questions and Input from Public Meetings

Waste disposal (landfills) will be needed in the future and the City should proactively plan for future needed service.



Landfill Planning

- 80% of residents agree that the City should proactively plan for future needed services.
- Landfill projects take between 10-15 years to complete.
- H-GAC's disposal is decreasing each year, especially given population growth taking place.

Financial Sustainability

Do you support a fee?	Agree	Neutral	Agree + Neutral	Disagree
A fee is needed to improve SWMD's overall economic health	34%	30%	64%	36%
A fee should be allowed to do Pay as You Throw	45%	23%	68%	33%
A fee is needed to support expanded and improved service	48%	20%	68%	31%
A fee ensures that the system is properly sized as the City grows	37%	28%	65%	34%
Recycling costs the City money so residents who want to have recycling services should pay for them	22%	19%	41%	60%
Residents should be able to recycle food waste for an additional fee	33%	34%	67%	33%
A solid waste fee is needed to increase recycling and waste reduction programs	35%	29%	64%	36%

Financial Sustainability



Greatest level of support is for a fee to expand and improve services provided, or to implement Pay-as-You-Throw.



Opposition to a fee was 31% to 36% with most residents preferring one all inclusive fee rather than multiple fees.



60% of residents opposed making people pay for recycling services.



For most issues, one-third agreed, one-third were neutral, and one-third opposed.

Observations

- Individuals responding to the survey acknowledge solid waste management issues are an important issue for the future of Houston.
- People are participating in the City's recycling program and think they are doing it correctly. Actual data indicates opportunities to improve material quality.
- Respondents have visited the City's solid waste facilities and in general are very satisfied with the facilities.
- Respondents are generally pleased with the services provided. However, residents gave varying feedback in open comments regarding SWMD's collection services. The Plan does recommend that there be metrics for collection service be maintained.
- People would like to see services improved based on appropriate funding levels.

Thank you!

Questions?