

OAK PARK COMMUNITY COMPOST SURVEY



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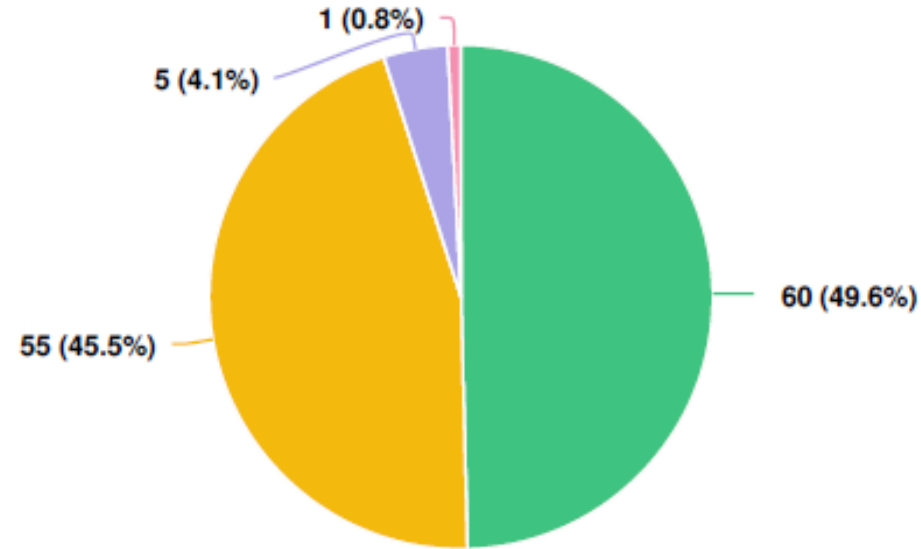
COMPOST SURVEY OVERVIEW



- The survey was live on EngageOakPark.com for 3 months (Nov 2023 – Jan 2024).
- We received 121 responses to the survey and 258 visitors to the website.
- The survey focused on the following topics:
 - Residential Curbside Compostable Program
 - Public Compost Drop-off Sites
 - Backyard Composting
 - Commercial Composting
- The goal of this survey was to obtain valuable community feedback and insights for improving compost programs, increasing participation, and informing the Village's future waste-related projects.

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

QUESTION 1: WHAT IS YOUR ZIP CODE?




Question options

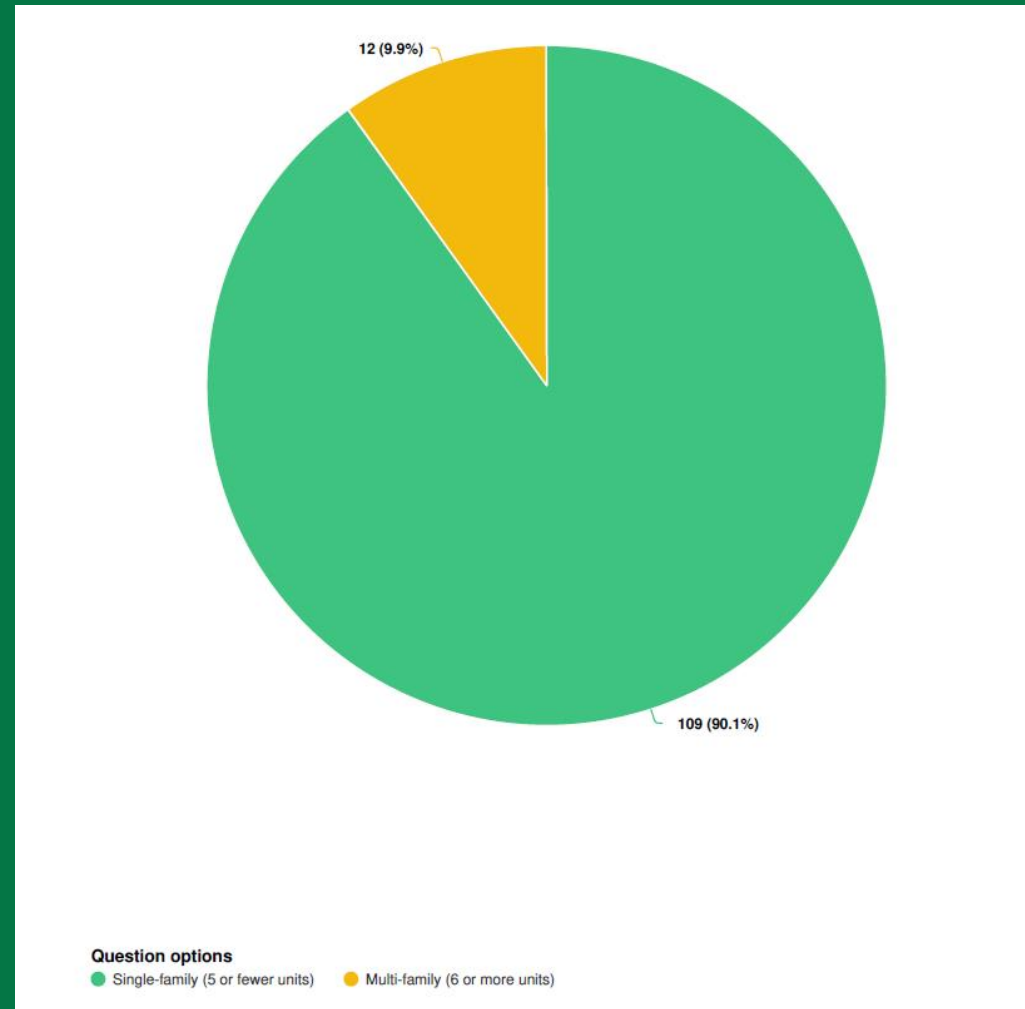
 Oak Park, IL 60302

 Oak Park, IL 60304

 Oak Park, IL 60301

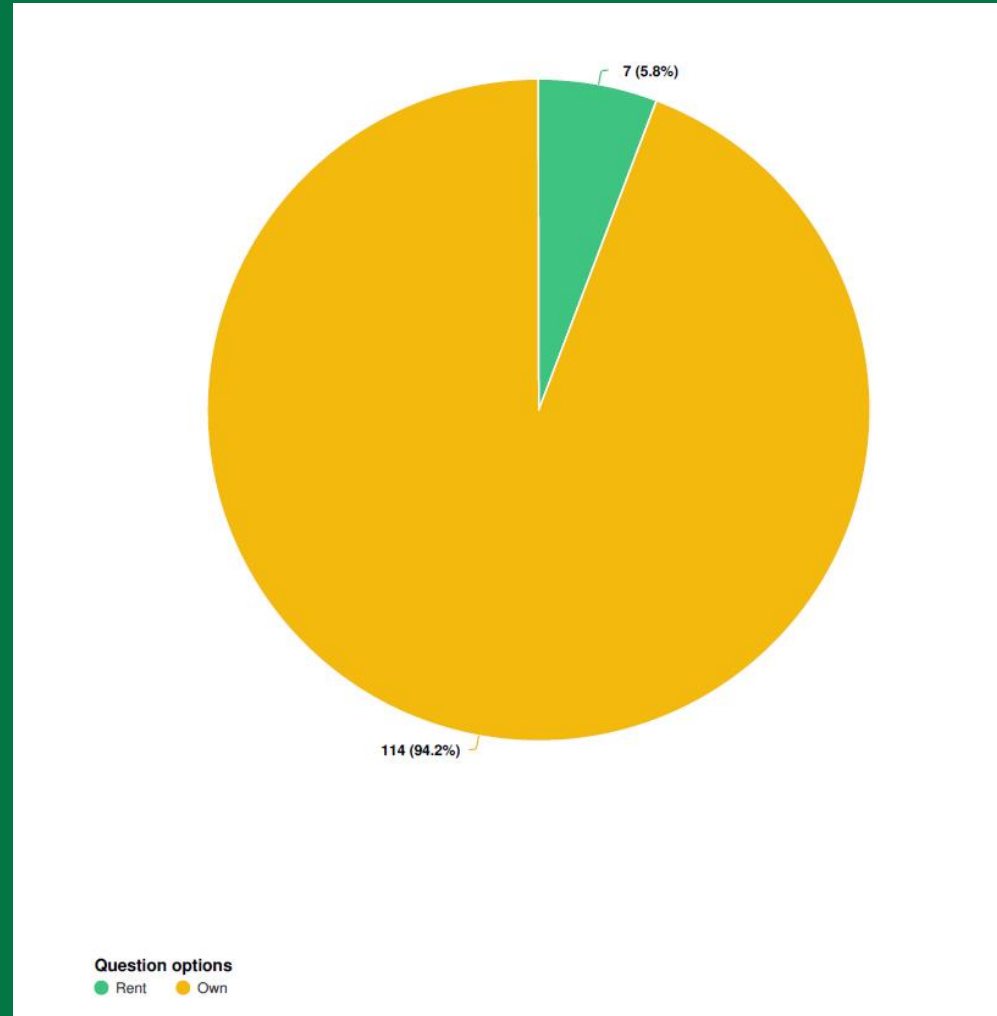
 Broadway Manchester, CA 90003

QUESTION 2: WHAT IS YOUR HOUSING TYPE?

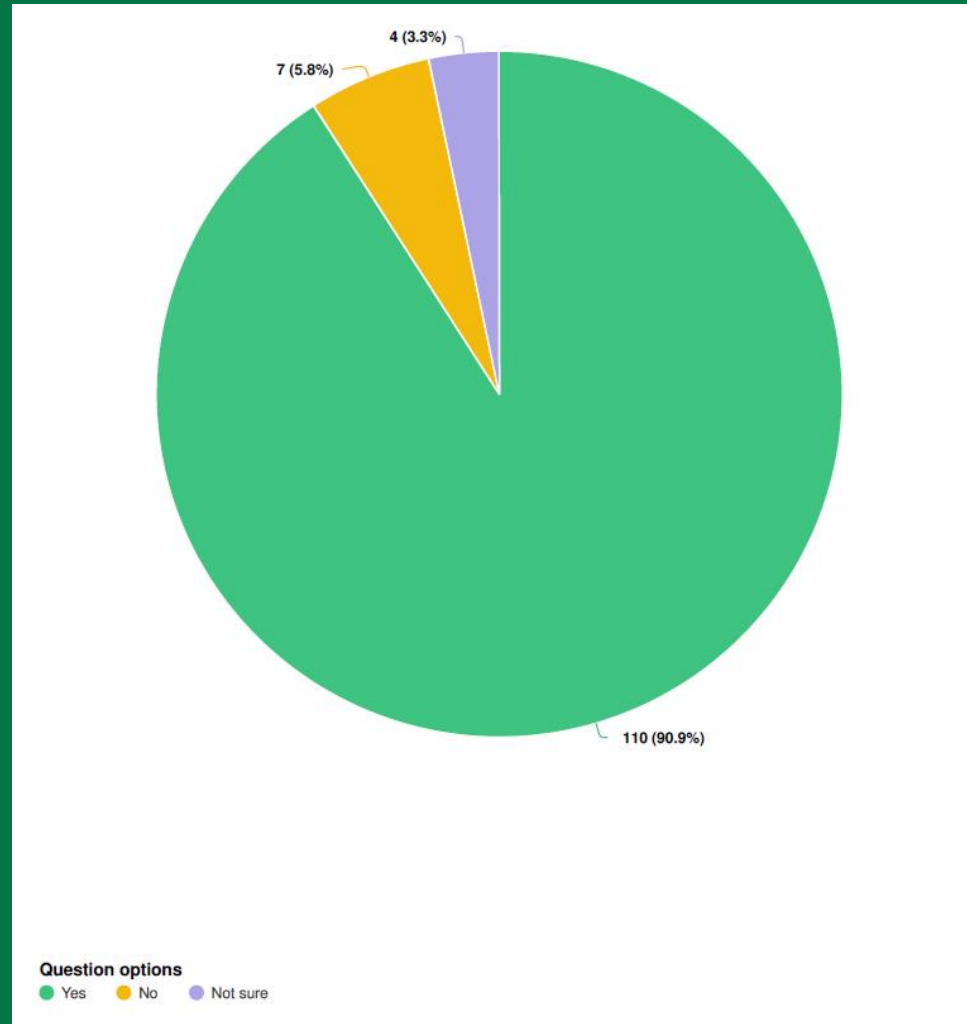




QUESTION 3: DO YOU RENT OR OWN?

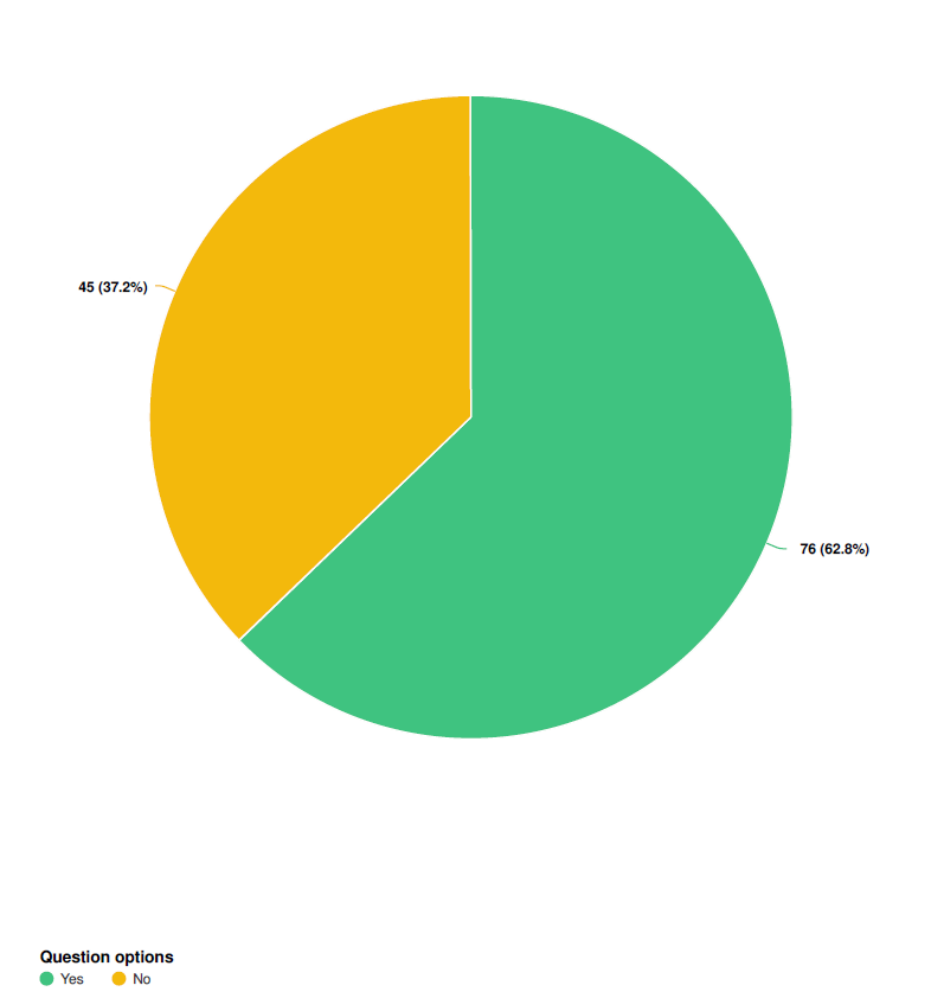


QUESTION 4: DO YOU DIRECTLY MANAGE THE WASTE STREAM IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?



CURBSIDE COMPOSTABLE PROGRAM

QUESTION 5: ARE YOU A CURRENT SUBSCRIBER TO THE COMPOSTABLE PROGRAM?

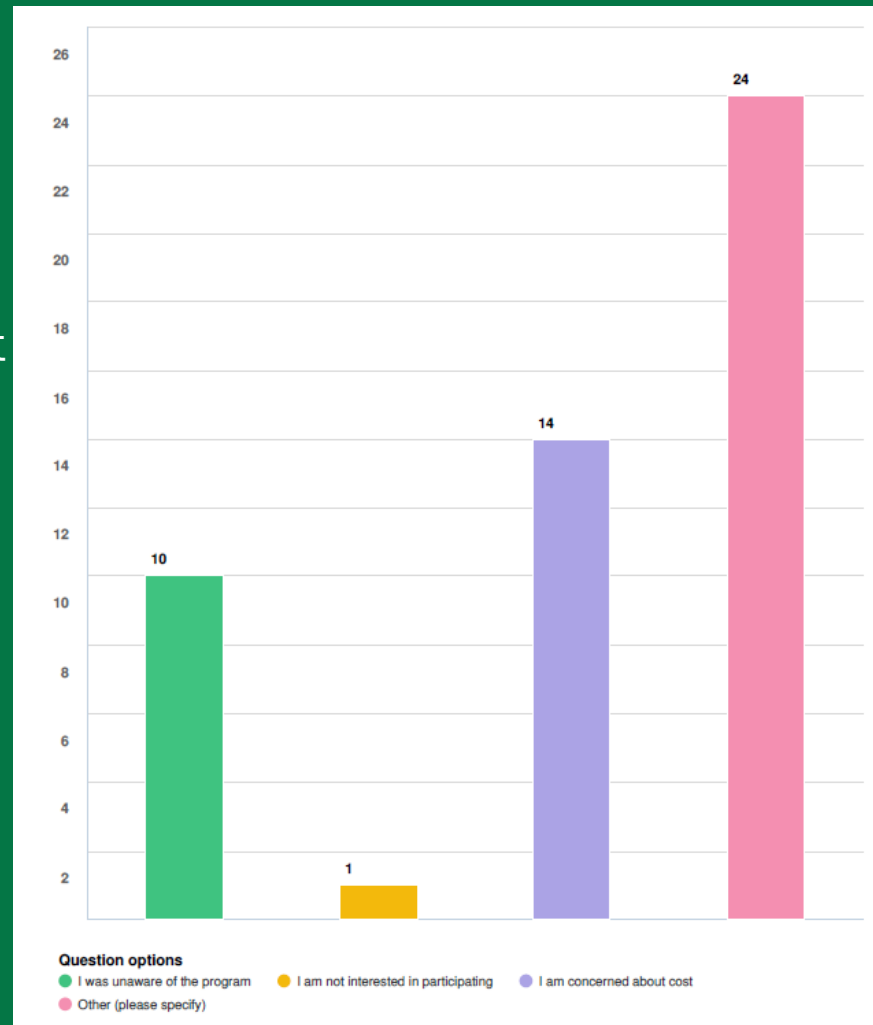




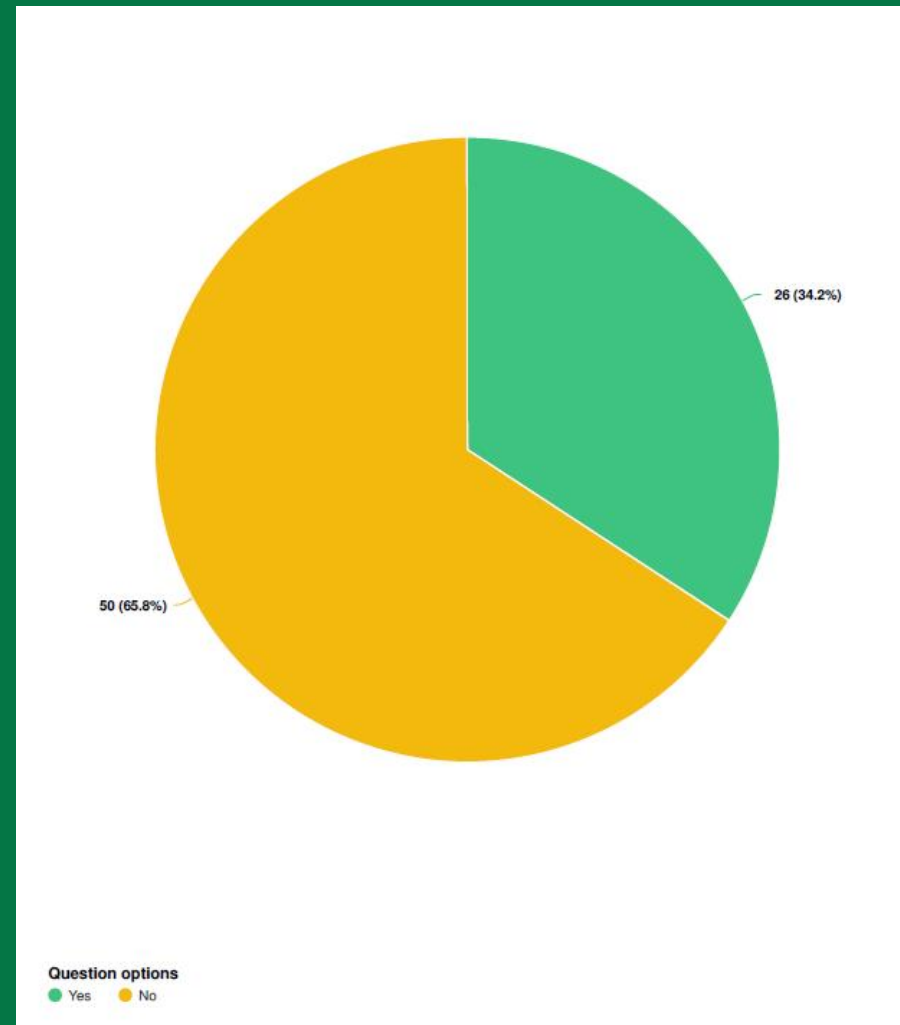
QUESTION 6: IF NO, WHY NOT?

Popular “Other” Responses:

- I compost in my backyard.
- I live in a multi-family building that is not eligible.
- My landlord doesn’t want to participate in the program.
- The outdoor compost bin is too large for our space/needs.
- Our household doesn’t produce enough organic waste.
- I am unofficially sharing my neighbor’s bin.



QUESTION 7: DO YOU SHARE YOUR COMPOST BIN WITH A NEIGHBOR?

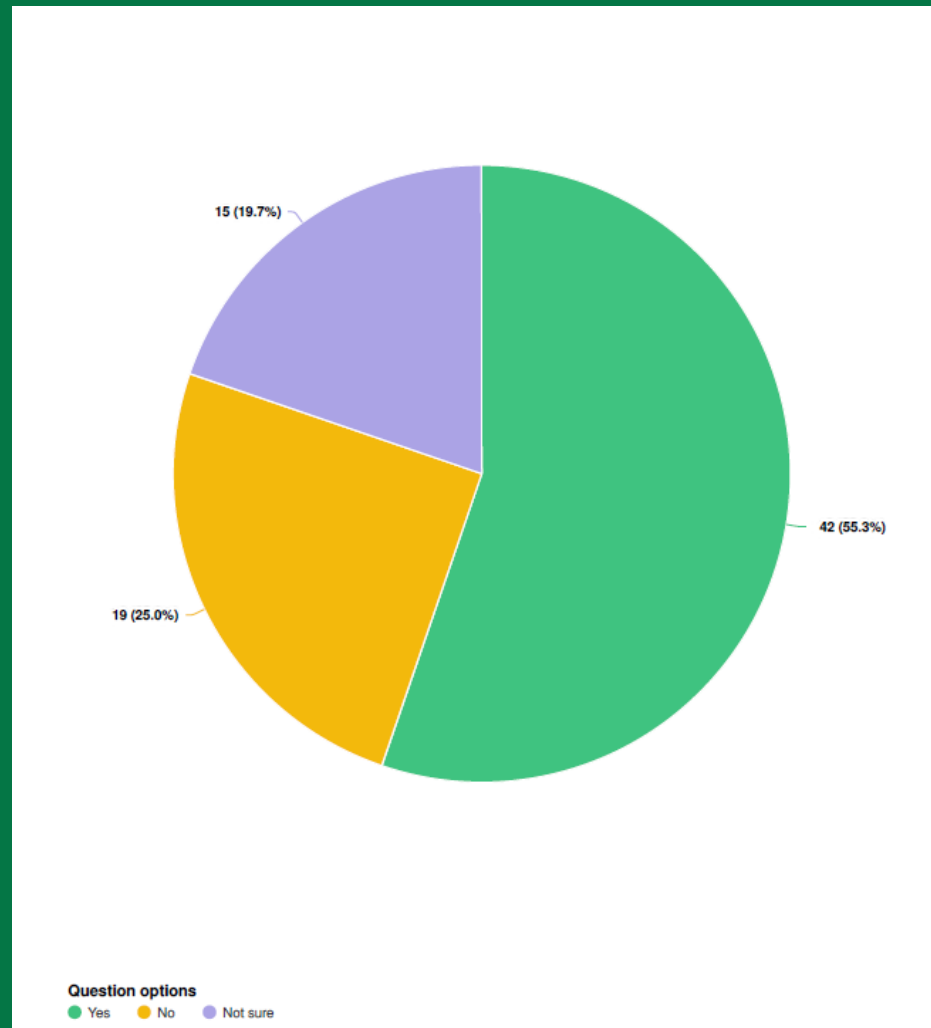


QUESTION 8: WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE COMPOSTABLE PROGRAM?



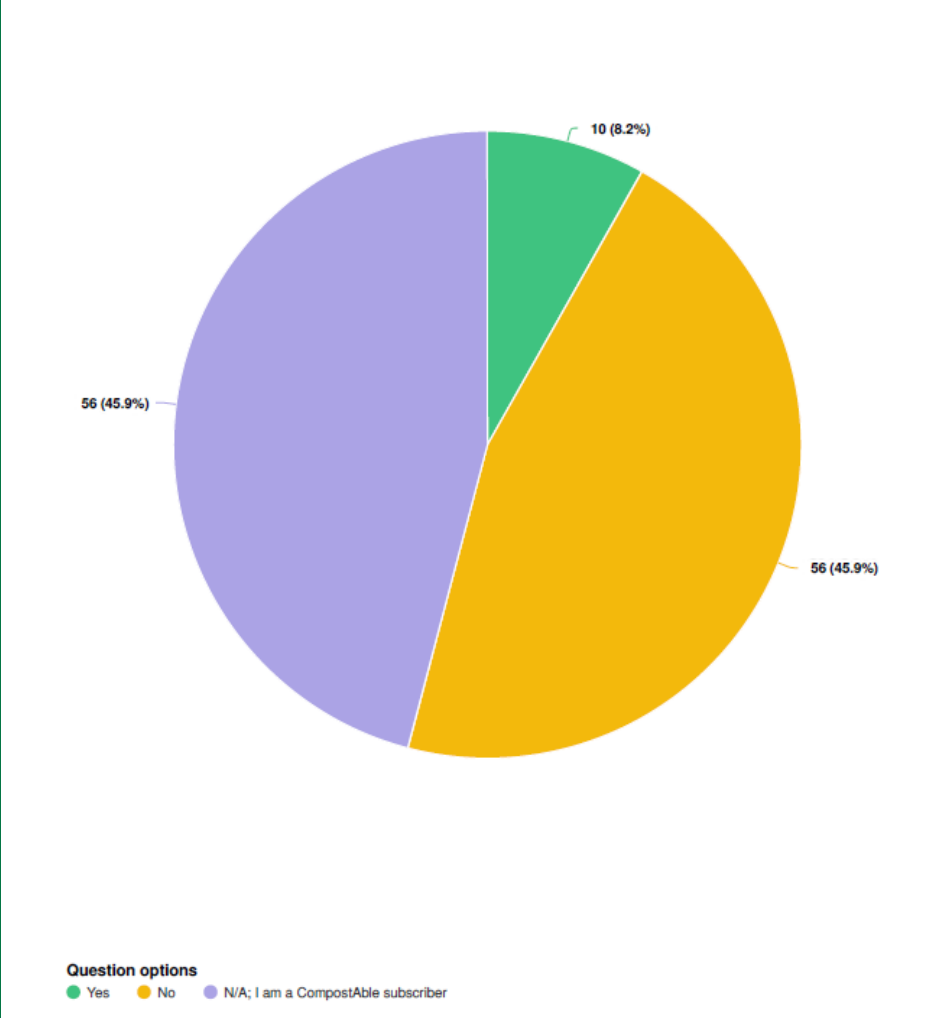
- Switch to an opt-out program instead of opt-in.
- Universal/mandatory compost services for all residents.
- More information about how and where the compost is processed after collection.
- Increased access to complimentary finished compost for Compostable subscribers.
- Reduced program fees.
- Bigger indoor kitchen compost pails.
- More frequent communication from the Village to Compostable subscribers.
- Smaller options for outdoor compost and garbage bins.
- More education about which materials are accepted and not accepted.

QUESTION 9: HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE YOUR GARBAGE SERVICES SINCE DIVERTING ORGANICS?



PUBLIC COMPOST DROP-OFF SITES

QUESTION 10: DO YOU UTILIZE THE FIVE PUBLIC COMPOST DROP-OFF SITES?

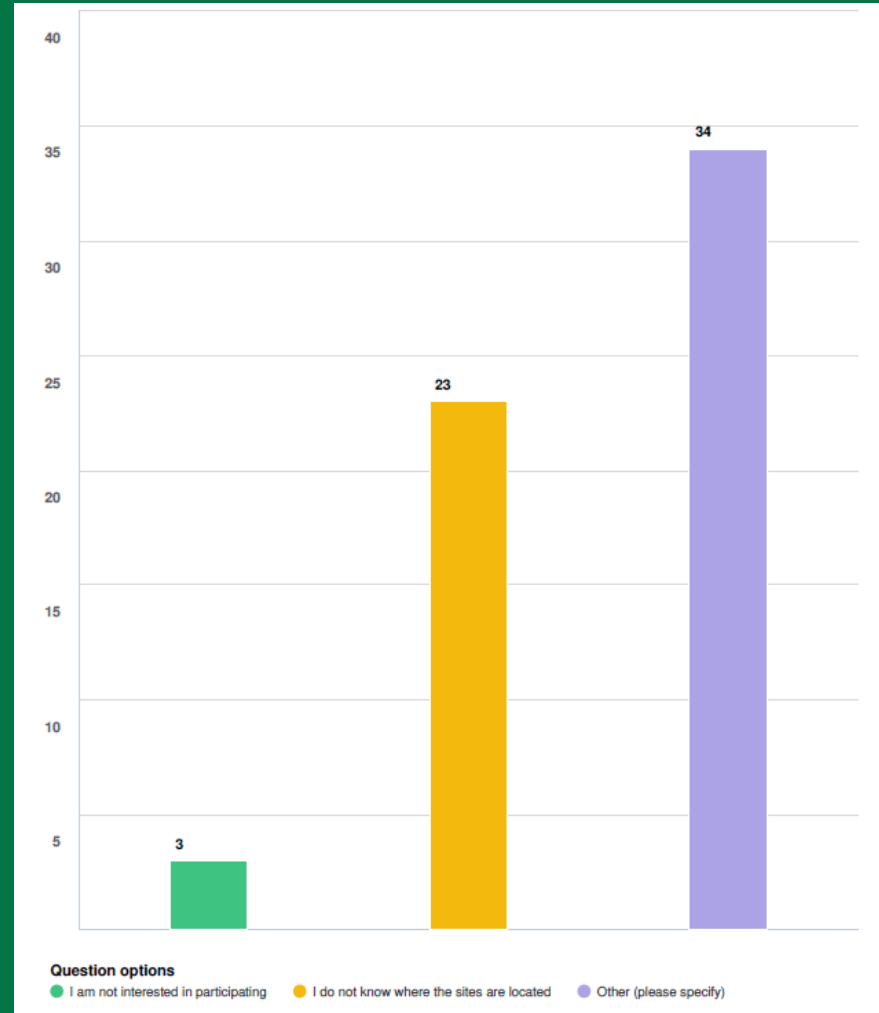




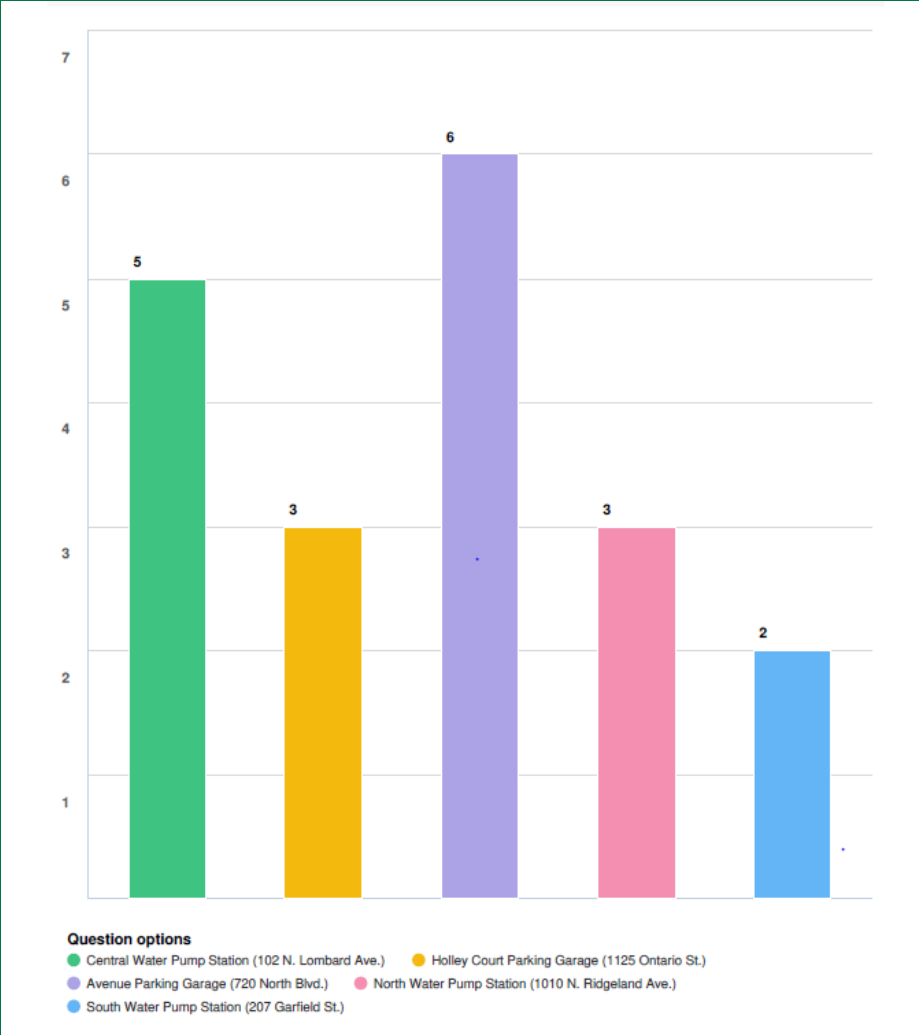
QUESTION 11: IF NO, WHY NOT?

Popular “Other” Responses:

- I did not know the Public Compost Drop-off Sites existed.
- I like having control of what goes into my compost bin.
- It is too inconvenient to transport my organics to the drop-off sites.
- I forgot about them!
- My building is not eligible for the Village’s curbside program, but we contract with another company for compost service and I don’t need them.



QUESTION 12: WHICH COMPOST DROP-OFF LOCATIONS DO YOU UTILIZE?

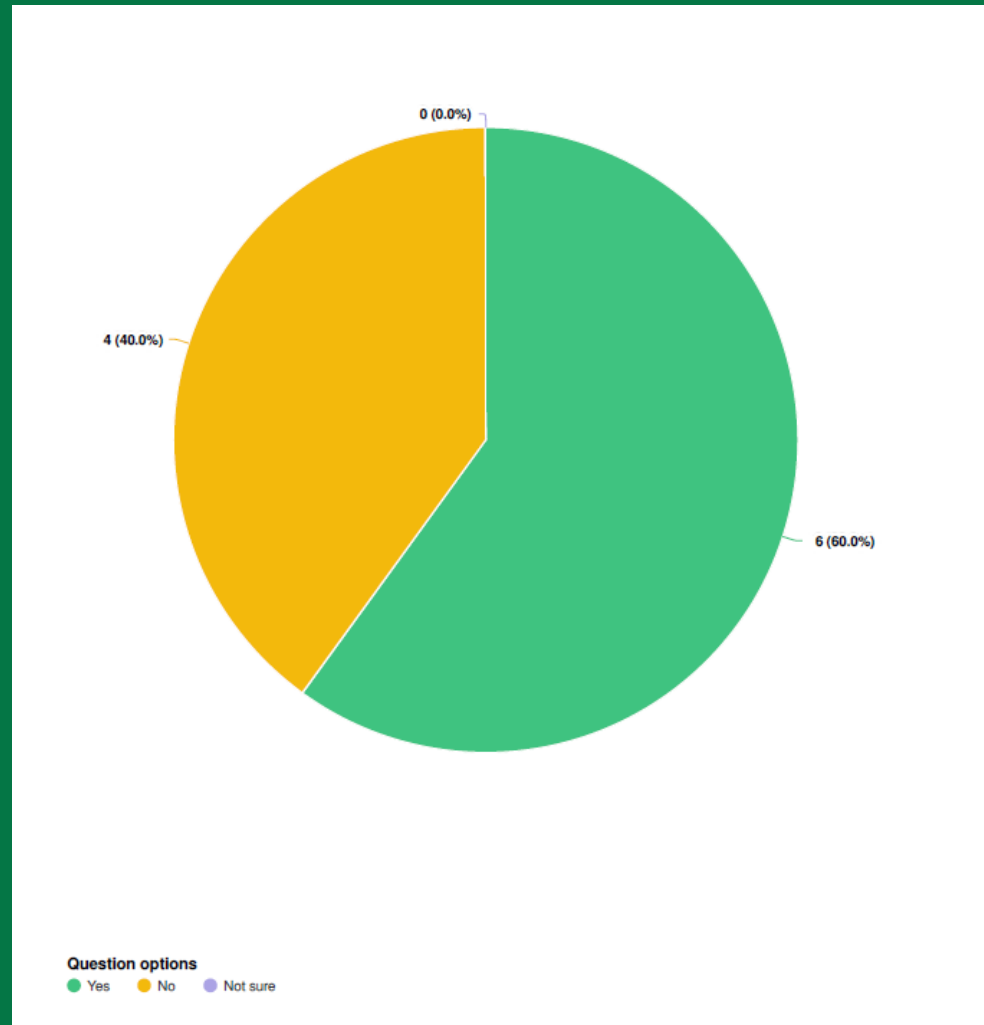


QUESTION 13: WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE COMPOST DROP-OFF SITES?



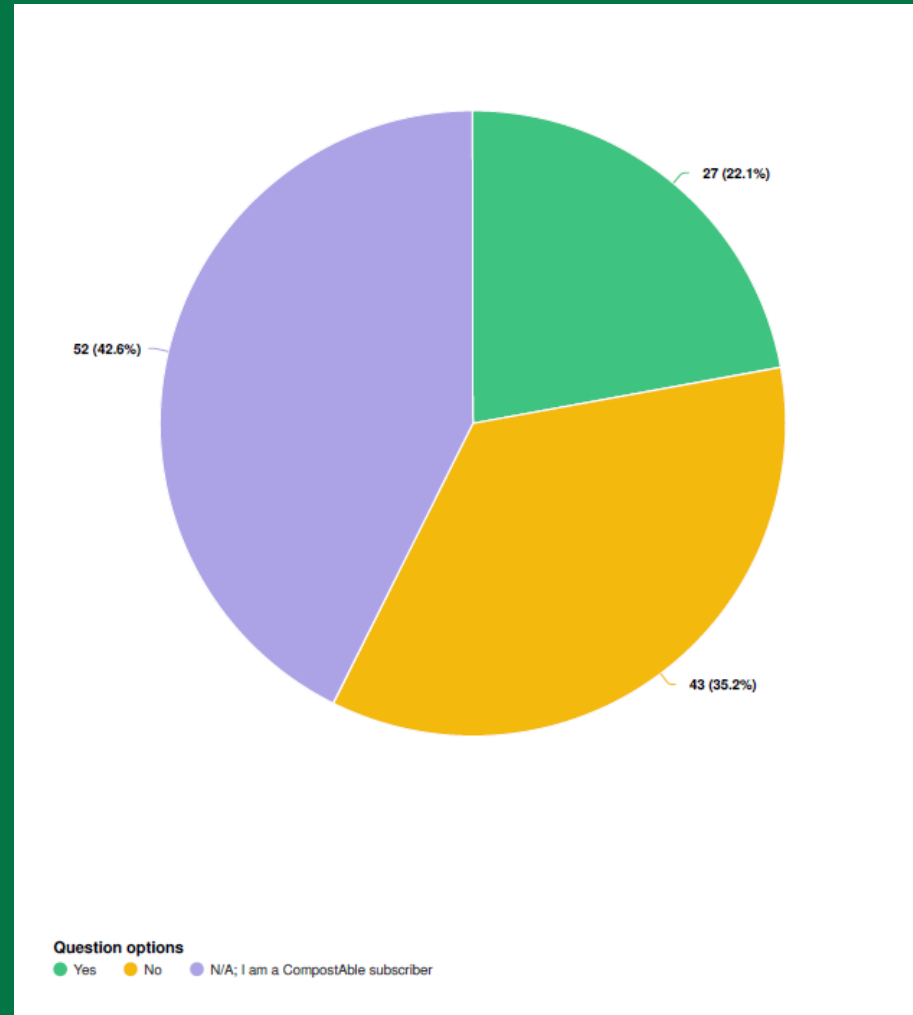
- Increase publicity/advertising about the drop-off sites.
- More drop-off sites located near blocks with high numbers of multi-family buildings.
- More educational signage to reduce contamination/fly-dumping at drop-off sites.
- More signage to make the drop-off sites easier to locate/identify.
- Make sure there is public parking near the drop-off sites.

QUESTION 14: HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE YOUR GARBAGE SERVICES SINCE DIVERTING ORGANICS?



BACKYARD COMPOSTING

QUESTION 15: DO YOU HAVE BACKYARD COMPOST AT YOUR HOUSEHOLD?



QUESTION 16: IF NO, WHY NOT?



- I live in a multi-family building and I am not allowed to have backyard compost.
- I don't have a backyard or enough space on my property.
- More materials can be composted through the Village's program at the industrial compost facility.
- I don't know how to do it/backyard composting is too difficult to maintain.
- I am concerned about backyard compost attracting rodents.

QUESTION 17: IF YES, WHY DO YOU HAVE BACKYARD COMPOST?



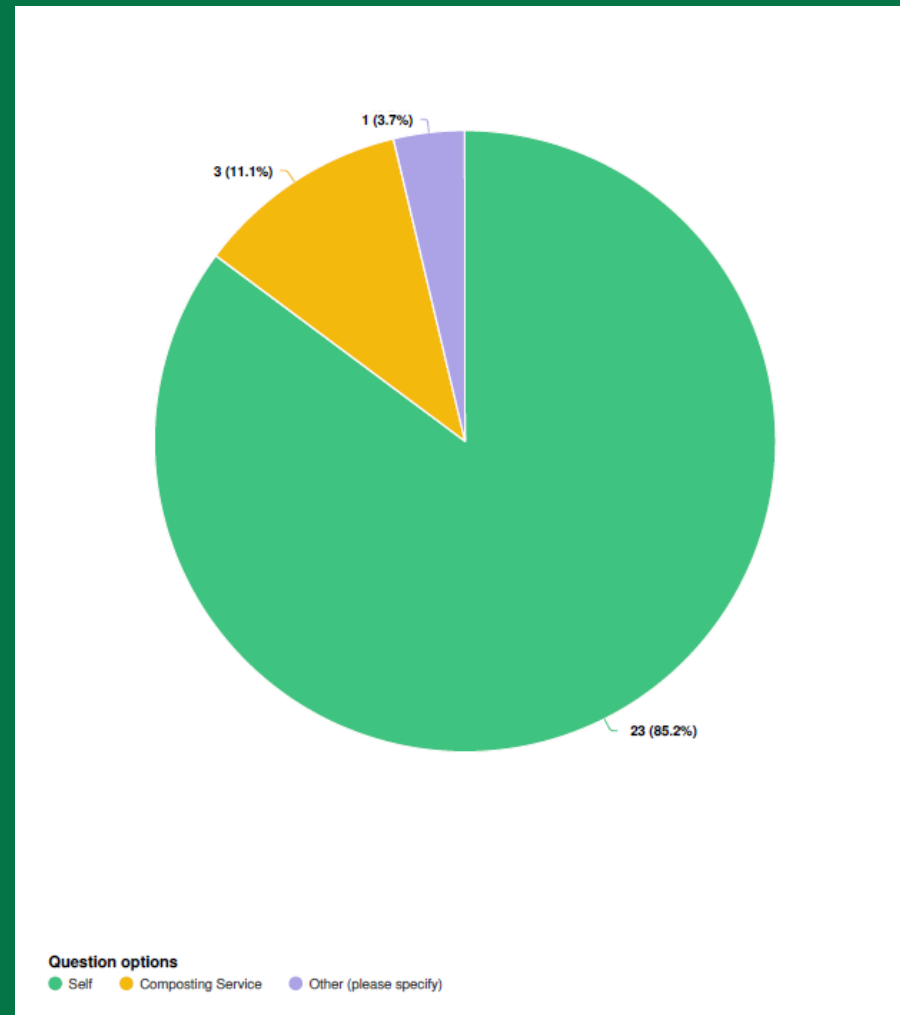
- To have convenient access to healthy soil for my garden.
- We wanted to divert our organic waste before the Compostable Program existed.
- I want to know exactly what does into my finished compost.
- Our chickens like it.
- It's a fun project.
- It's cheap!

QUESTION 18: HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR BACKYARD COMPOST?

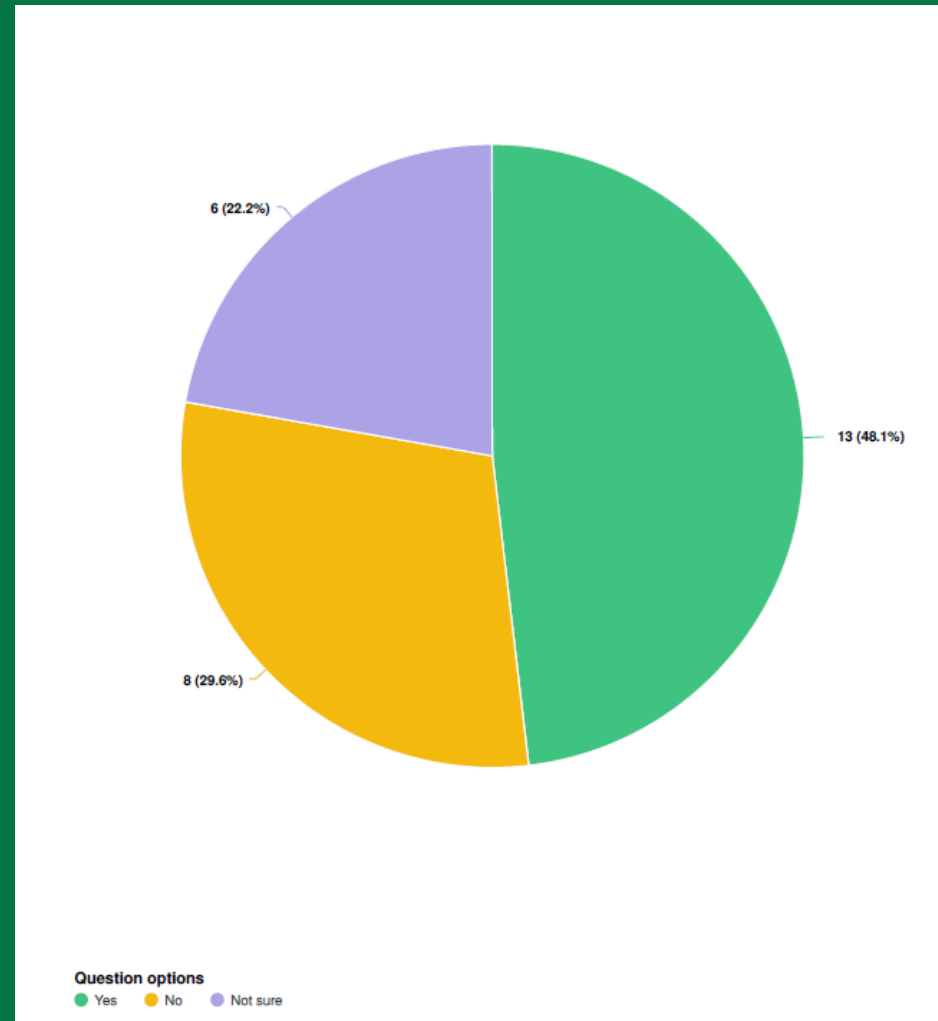


“Other” Response:

- Our chickens maintain it by continually digging it up.

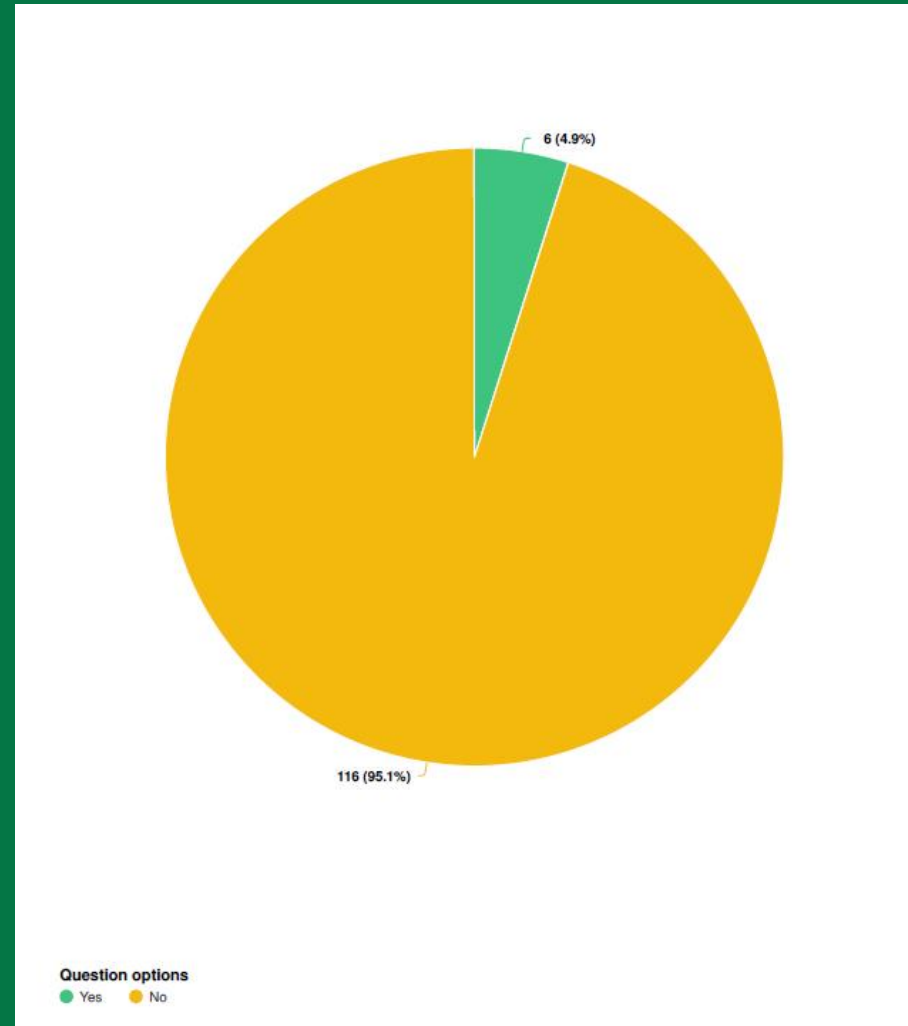


QUESTION 19: HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE YOUR GARBAGE SERVICES SINCE DIVERTING ORGANICS?

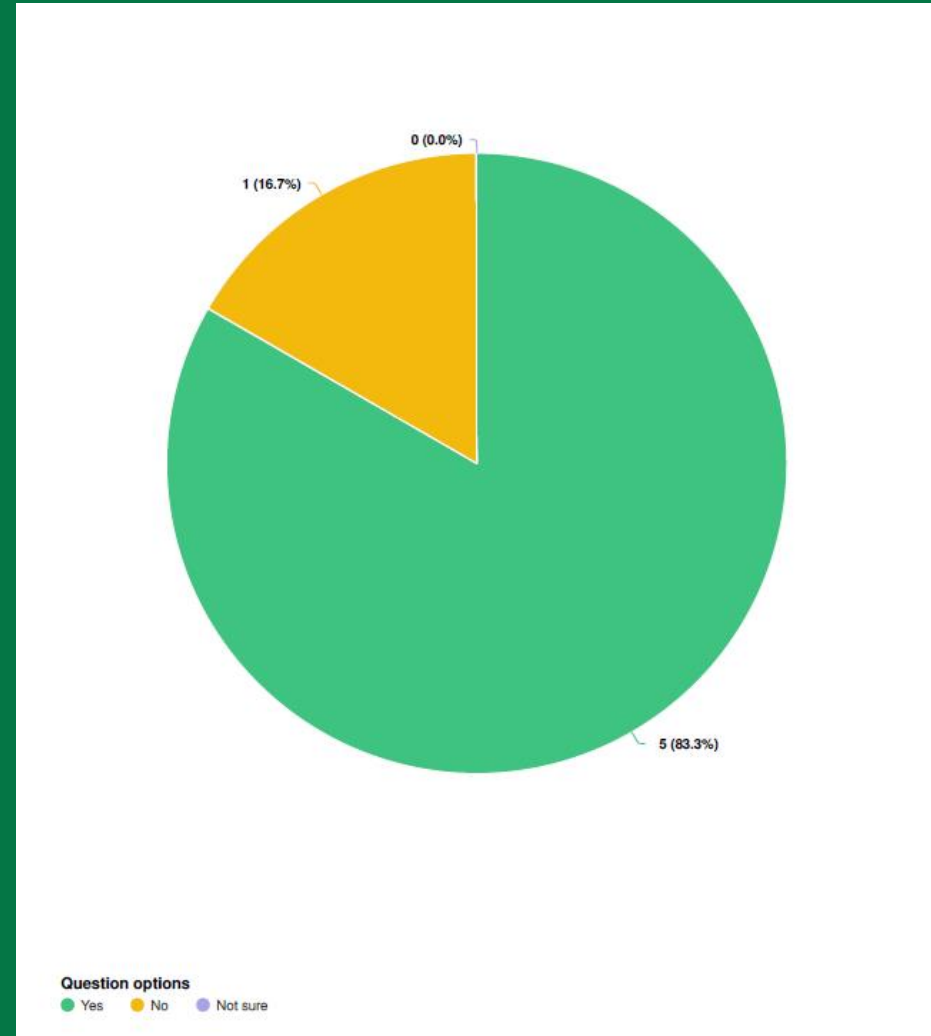


COMMERCIAL COMPOSTING

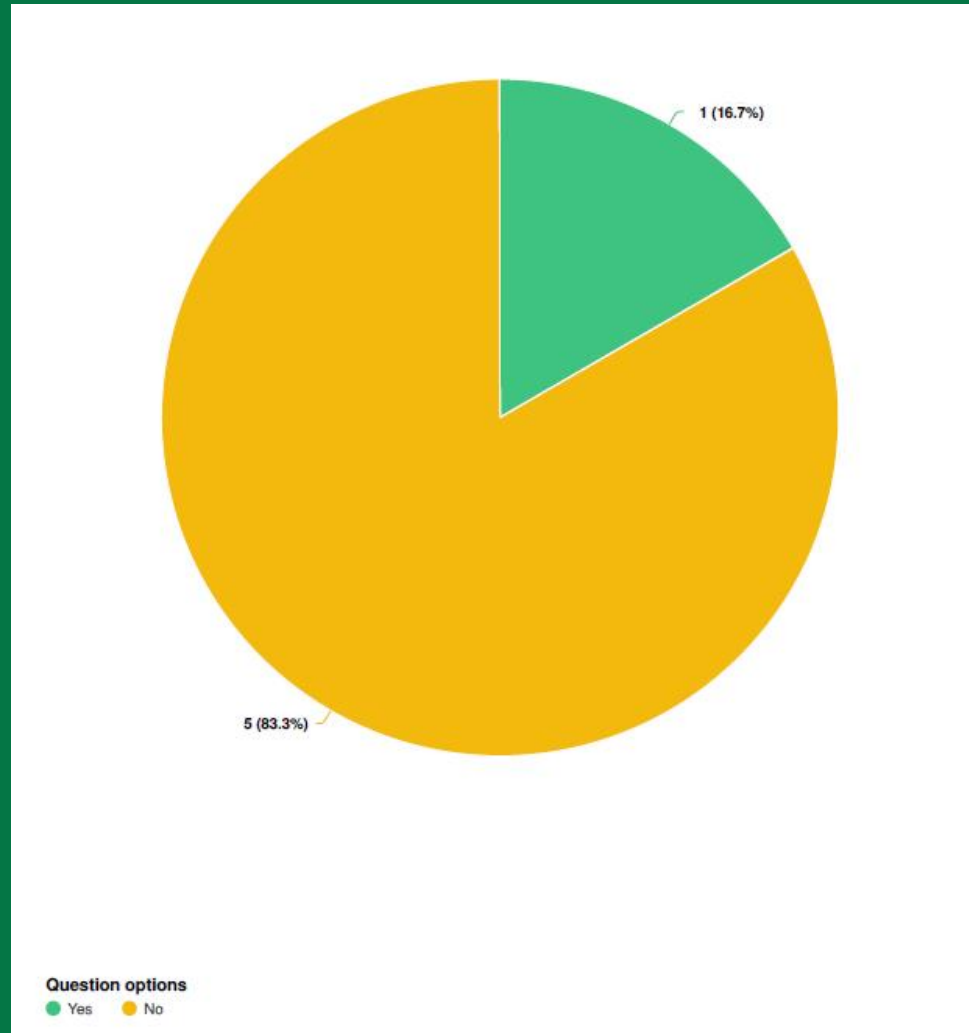
QUESTION 20: DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS IN OAK PARK?



QUESTION 21: DO YOU DIRECTLY MANAGE THE WASTE STREAM AT YOUR BUSINESS?



QUESTION 22: DO YOU HAVE COMPOST SERVICE AT YOUR BUSINESS?



QUESTION 23: IF NO, WHY NOT?



- My business is home-based and part of the Village's residential compost program.
- My business is agricultural and we have backyard compost on-site.
- Compost service is not available from my commercial hauler.

QUESTION 24: IF YES, WHO IS YOUR CONTRACTED HAULER?



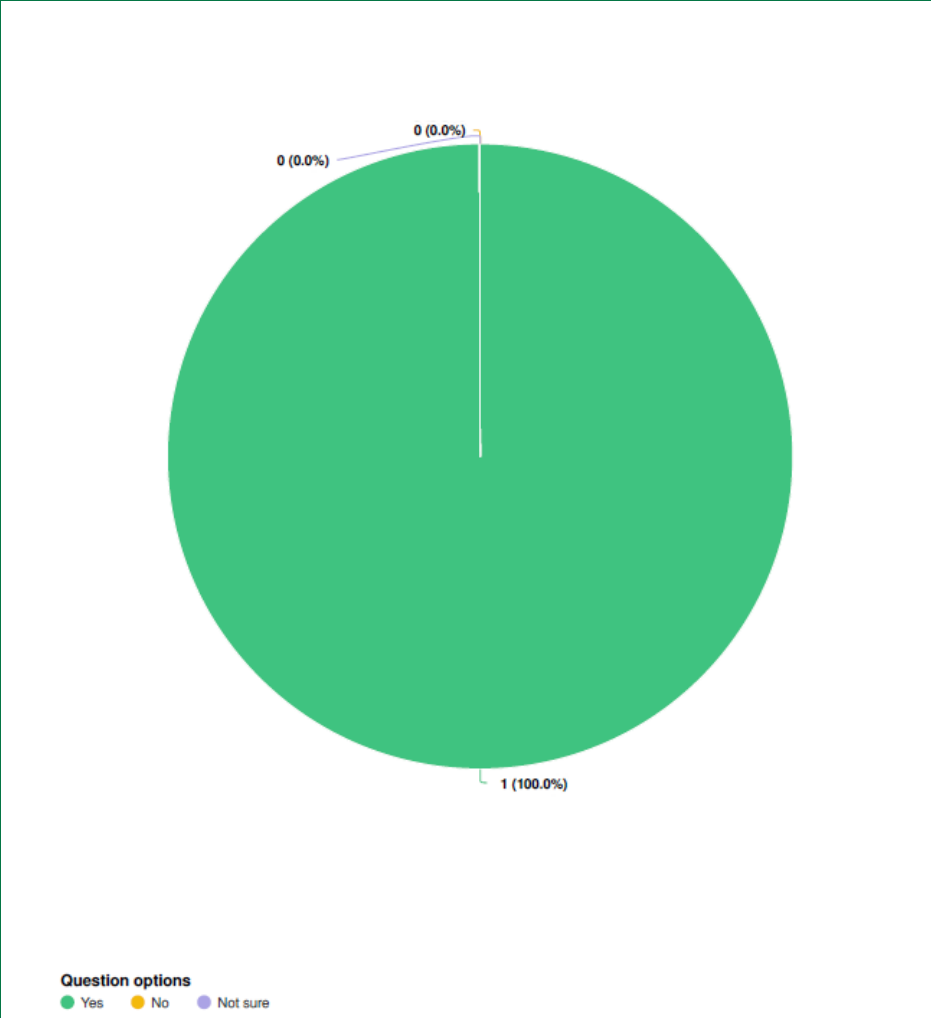
- The business owner with commercial compost service did not provide this information.

QUESTION 25: HOW OFTEN IS YOUR COMMERCIAL COMPOST PICKED UP?



- The business owner with commercial compost service did not provide this information.

QUESTION 26: HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE YOUR COMMERCIAL GARBAGE SERVICES SINCE DIVERTING ORGANICS?



SHORT-TERM ACTION ITEMS



Oak Park Compost Drop-Off Sites

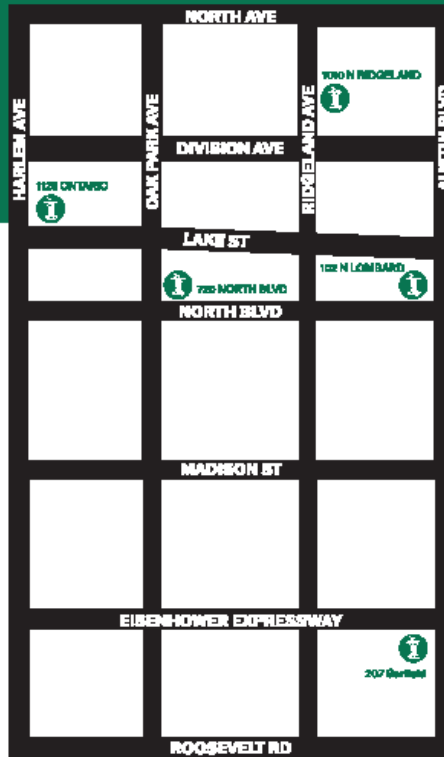


YARD WASTE/COMPOST

Look for the gray carts and food-scrap compost drop off sign at all five locations

- 1 1010 N. Ridgeland Ave. North Water Pump Station near the corner of Ridgeland and Berkshire
- 2 1125 Ontario St. Holley Court Parking Garage at the Marion Street entrance/exit near the bicycle racks
- 3 720 North Blvd. Avenue Parking garage near the main entrance
- 4 102 N. Lombard Ave. Adjacent to the Central Water Pump Station
- 5 207 Garfield St. Adjacent to the South Water Pump Station

Kitchen compost pails are now available for purchase at the Village Hall cashier's window for \$10



- Increase outreach and engagement efforts to multi-family residents about the Village's Public Compost Drop-off Sites and Kitchen Compost Pail Program.
- Add directional signage to the drop-off sites to make them easier to locate.
- Continue offering technical assistance to multi-family property managers and business owners to contract with haulers for compost services.
- Begin sending 2024 communications to Compostable subscribers via mail instead of previously emailed newsletter.
- Obtain a quote from LRS for additional loads of finished compost at Rehm Park.
- Develop and share educational content about compostable materials and where/how Oak Park's organics are processed after collection.

LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS



- **Perform Case Studies and Research**

- Investigate refuse program models in municipalities that are similar in size and demographic to Oak Park. Compile information and compare to the Village's current programs.
- Identify and begin collecting metrics/data needed for a consultant to perform a Waste Characterization Study and a Refuse Rate Study.

- **Develop a Broader Solid Waste-Related Community Survey**

- Create separate surveys and outreach plans for residential vs commercial solid waste.
- Focus on all materials and services, not just compost.

- **Oak Park Waste Characterization Study**

- Contract with a consultant to collect samples, sort materials, calculate compositions, and analyze the residential waste stream.
- Consultant develops a report with recommendations and resources to further reduce/divert waste and improve the Village's refuse programs.
- The report will help to inform a Refuse Rate Study.

- **Oak Park Refuse Rate Study**

- Contract with a consultant to audit the Village's refuse rate structure and provide recommendations for increasing waste reduction/diversion while ensuring affordability and equity.

Thank you!

