



**Effingham
Recycles**

Community Survey

November-December 2017

Survey Methods

- Four pages, including two open-ended questions, about 5 minutes to complete.
- Surveyed Effingham County residents on use of existing recycling services, what they want , and their feelings on environmental and waste issues within the community.
- More than 600 responses and 130 comments were collected in November and December

About the Respondents

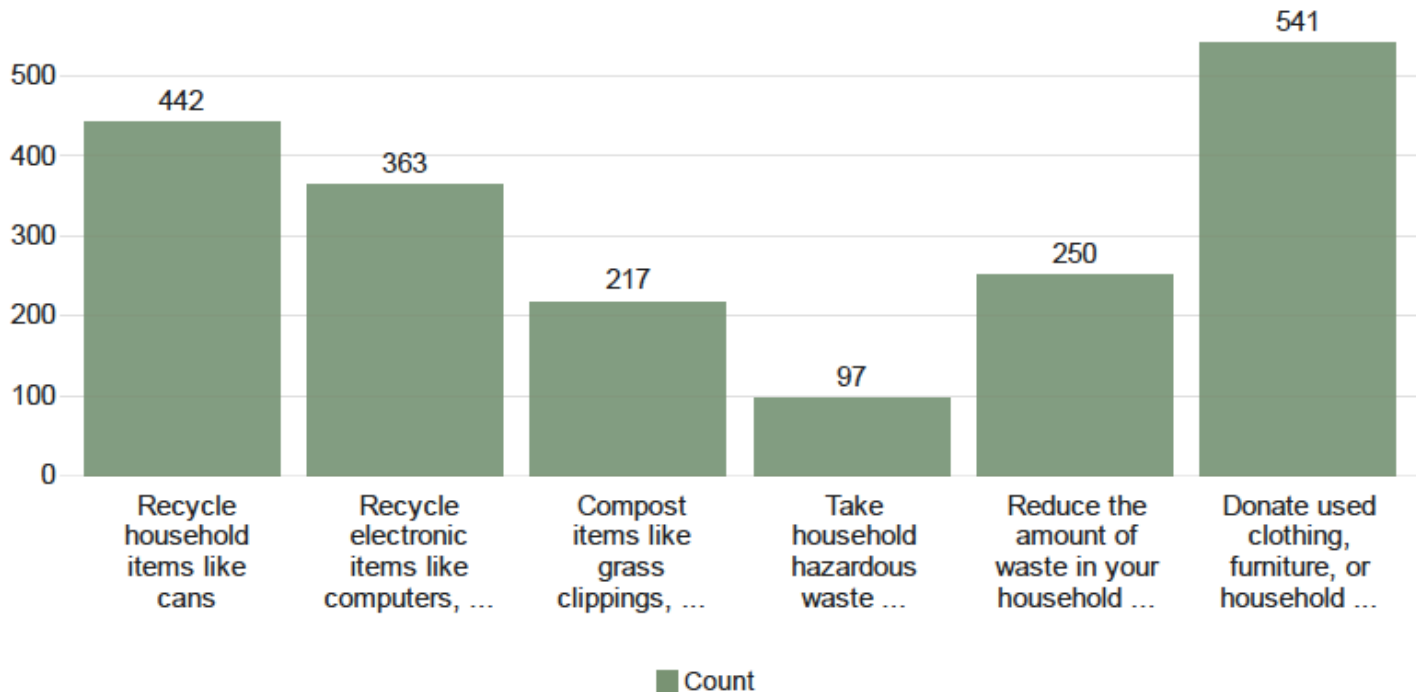
- 75% of responses came from women (COC's Life & Work survey was 73% female)
- Avg. length of residency was 28.54 years, likely higher (~100 answered the max, 50)
- 78% work in Effingham County
- Income and age were well-distributed
- 62.5% reported at least a Bachelor's degree (COC's was 48%)

Recycling Habits

Households avg. 2.69 bags of garbage weekly.

61.6% rated recycling as Extremely Important.

Q18 - 1. Do you or members of your household currently do any of the following? (check all that apply)



Community Concerns to Address

- 60% said the amount of garbage in the landfill is a serious issue in Effingham County.
- 78% said the amount of potentially recyclable materials ending up in the landfill is serious.
- 67% rated the lack of hazardous waste disposal options as a serious issue.
- 56.5% said a lack of community knowledge of recycling options was a serious issue.

Knowledge Gap

- Respondents rated their own knowledge of available services poorly.
- 23.25% said they do not recycle because they are not aware of recycling services available.

Q1 - 1. How familiar are you with Effingham County's recycling services?



Knowledge Gap, Cont.

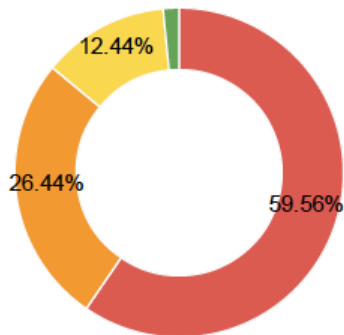
- Write-in comments mentioned a need for education and awareness 21 times.
- *“I think people need to know more about recycling....stress the importance and ease of doing it!”*
- *“Would like to be better informed of my options and where I can take my recyclables.”*

Action Item: Promote existing recycling drop-off locations and grow in a way that increases visibility to the community. Create educational opportunities on environmental topics.

Overreliance on Landfilling

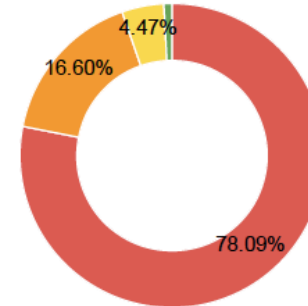
Nearly all respondents are concerned about the amount of trash in the local landfill, especially the amount of potentially recyclable material that ends up in the landfill.

Amount of garbage in landfills



■ Not a problem ■ Becoming an issue ■ Somewhat serious ■ Serious issue

Amount of potentially recyclable materials ending up in landfills



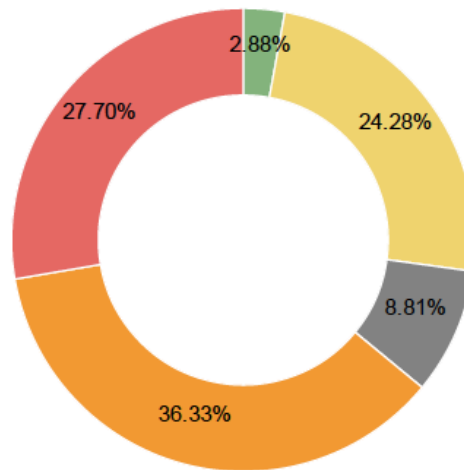
■ Not a problem ■ Becoming an issue ■ Somewhat serious ■ Serious issue

Landfilling Action Items

- **Implement tipping fee** to supplement recycling costs and disincentive landfilling waste. Collecting a tipping fee would put Effingham County in line with counties across the rest of the state.
- **Promote use of reusable items** rather than their disposable counterparts, such as travel mugs and reusable shopping bags.
- **Rethink** the packaged products we buy.

Dissatisfaction

Q22 - 5. How satisfied are you with the options you have to dispose of your recyclable materials?



Extremely dissatisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Somewhat satisfied
Extremely satisfied

“We take all of our recycling to Teutopolis. They have a very nice facility right by church.”

“I only know of the bins at the Methodist church. Those work great for us!”

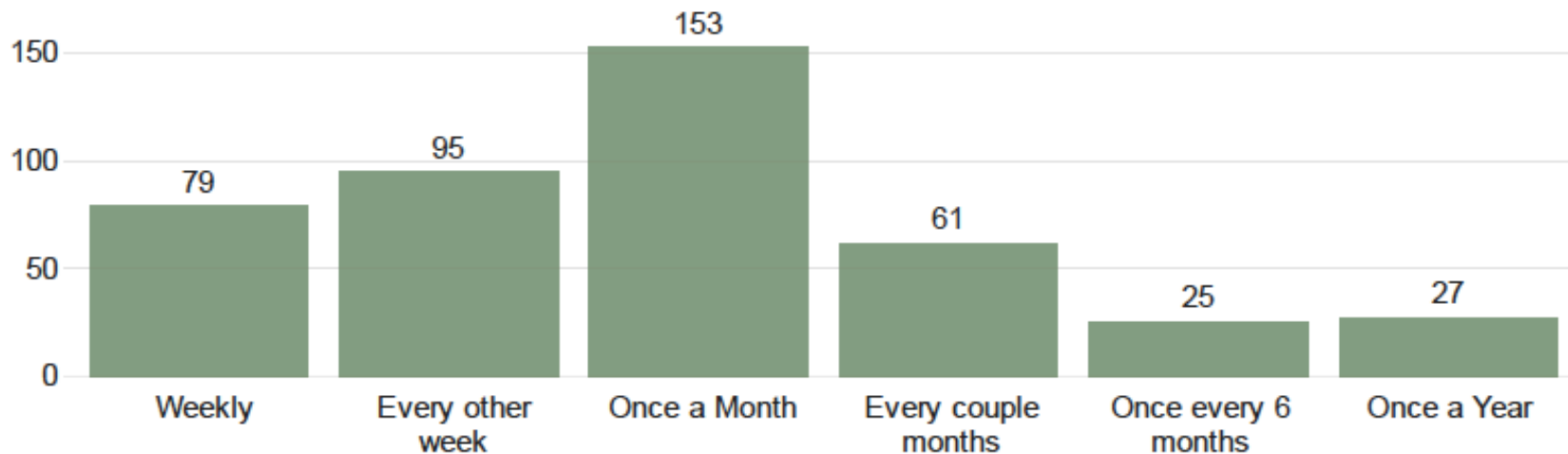
Curbside Service

- 83% said they would definitely use curbside recycling, and another 11.5% maybe would.
- Curbside was requested 39 times in the write-in comments and 42 times as the preferred drop-off location.
- *“We would prefer to recycle but having to take our recycling somewhere is inconvenient when curbside recycling could be utilized.”*
- *“Curbside is ideal, I have three little kids so it’s hard to make a special trip.”*

Curbside Service, Cont.

- \$9.50/mo. was the average price respondents said they would pay for curbside recycling.
- A plurality drop off their recyclables monthly.
- **Action Item: Create curbside recycling program for bi-weekly pickup**

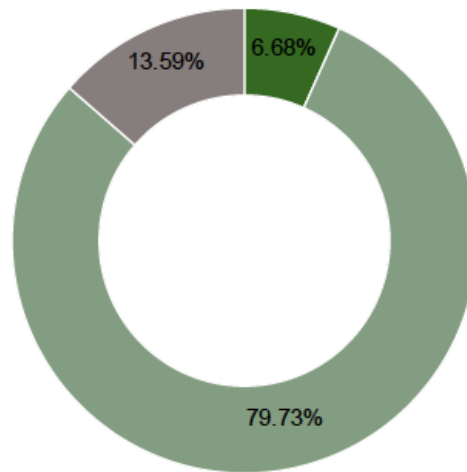
Q11 - 4. If applicable, how often do you use the available recycling services?



Who Is Responsible?

The vast majority of respondents believe the responsibility of providing recycling services to the public belongs to both private industry and the government.

Q32 - 5. In your opinion, whose responsibility is it to provide recycling services?



■ Entirely government ■ Mixture of private and government ■ Entirely private industry

Tipping Fee

The Illinois Solid Waste Management Act sets a hierarchy of preferences for managing waste:

- (1) volume reduction at the source;
- (2) recycling and reuse;
- (3) combustion with energy recovery;
- (4) combustion for volume reduction;
- (5) disposal in landfill facilities.

Local tipping fees were established to further this public policy. They divert waste and provide a revenue stream for recycling and reduction.

Glass

- Glass is a big driver in this dissatisfaction.
- The costs and risks associated with glass recycling make it difficult for a private industry to provide
- *“Curbside recycling is a dream. I would be happier with options if glass was possible...”*
- *“Effingham Co does not make it easy for recycling, especially glass products.”*
- **Action Item: Host semi-annual glass recycling drives.**

Hazardous Waste

- Only 97 respondents reported utilizing hazardous waste drives. 67% said the lack of hazardous waste collections is a serious issue.
- *“Effingham needs to provide glass recycling and more opportunities to get rid of hazardous waste.”*
- *“I would appreciate glass and chemical (paint) recycling in the county.”*
- **Action Item: Help the Health Department secure funding for hazardous waste drives.**

Compost and Yard Waste

- 40.28% said the lack of composting options was a serious issue.
- 217 reported composting yard waste at home.
- *“Effingham County *deperately* needs someplace to recycle yard/ landscape waste. The city's ban on burning 4 days a week is entirely too restrictive!”*
- *“It would be nice to have a place to get compost and dump off compostable items.”*
- *“We need a leaf/yard waste pickup option.”*
- **Action Items: Improve yard waste disposal options. Host an educational event on composting at home for Earth Day 2018.**

Underserved

Overall, our survey showed that Effingham County residents feel underserved for recycling services, that recycling has not been made a priority, and the time for improvement is now.

“A city the size of Effingham should absolutely develop a recycling program!”

Action Item Review!

- Implement tipping fee
- Promote reusable items and rethink packaging
- Create curbside recycling program.
- Host bi-annual glass recycling drives.
- Help the Health Department secure funding for hazardous waste drives.
- Improve yard waste disposal options.
- Educate, educate, educate.

THANK YOU!

Effingham Recycles thanks the Centenary United Methodist Church and St. Francis Church for generously providing recycling services to our community. We also thank the Effingham Public Library, whose support for this effort has been invaluable. We deeply appreciate everyone who took the time to complete the survey, as well as everyone who came tonight, especially local government officials who will be making policy decisions on this issue.

Save the Date!

Creative Learning Culture Lunch and Learn:
Community Surveys, March 22, 12p at EPL

Earth Day at the EPL: Monday, April 23.

4pm: Less is More with Composting

6pm: Composting 101

Electronics Recycling Drive and Shred Day

At the EPC, 9a-12p