

SUPPLYING RUBBISH / RECYCLING CARTS FOR TOWN SERVICES



Planning Ahead – *The Train's Coming!*

- *Rubbish Disposal Contract (COVANTA)*
 - Contract expires June 30, 2025
 - New contract price expected to be significantly higher
- *Rubbish/Recycling Collection Contract (REPUBLIC SERVICES)*
 - Contract expires June 30, 2026
 - New contract price expected to be significantly higher
- *Purchasing carts now would lessen the financial impact on the Town when the new collection contract is bid in 2026 and would prepare for possible future automated rubbish/recycling collection.*
- *Carts would help mitigate rodents, rainfall issues, litter on windy days, and give better aesthetics for the Town.*

Current Rubbish and Recycling Services

- *COVANTA (RUBBISH DISPOSAL CONTRACT)*
 - 5-year contract: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025
 - FY23 tipping fee: \$95.48 per ton
 - FY24 tipping fee: \$98.35 per ton (3% increase)
 - Approximately 7,000 tons of rubbish per year
- *REPUBLIC SERVICES (R/R COLLECTION CONTRACT)*
 - On May 16, 2022, JRM was purchased by Republic Services
 - 10-year contract: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2026
 - **No change to our current contract:**
 - FY23 Contract: \$1,146,975
 - FY24 Contract: \$1,181,384 (3% increase each year for duration of contract)

Current Rubbish and Recycling Services (cont.)

- *BLACK EARTH COMPOST (CURBSIDE FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION)*
 - Current subscribers in Reading: 423
 - Estimated annual tonnage for CY2022: 111 tons
 - 4.3 gallons / household / week (avg.)
 - Current Weekly Plans:
 - \$13.99 monthly (weekly pick-up)
 - \$74.99 every 6-months (weekly pick-up)
 - Current Every Other Week Plans:
 - \$10.99 monthly (bi-weekly pick-up)
 - \$55.99 every 6 months (bi-weekly pick-up)
 - New residential subscribers receive a 13-gal. compost bin and their first roll of 13-gal. bags from the Town at no cost to the resident.

Who Does the Town Provide Rubbish / Recycling Services To?

- 1, 2, and 3 family residential – 6,902 **(74%)**
- 1, 2, and 3 unit apartment / condominium – 457
- Schools – 8 **(18%)**
- Municipal buildings – 7 **(8%)**

What Are the Benefits of Using Carts?

- Rodent Issues
 - Rubbish and recycling will be contained in covered barrels
- Rainfall Issues
 - Ensures that barrels do not fill with rain water, preventing rubbish trucks from spilling foul-smelling rubbish infused water on the roads
- Better containment of contents
 - Any loose rubbish or recycling prevented from blowing around neighborhoods on windy days
- Uniform container identity
 - Containers with uniform appearance, improves the aesthetics of the Town on collection days, and better allows the rubbish and recycling hauler to differentiate and identify rubbish versus recycling contents (recycling cart has different color lid)
- Carts would be purchased by the Town and would be property of the Town

What Are Reading's Peer Communities Doing For Rubbish and Recycling Collection Services?

- Comparable communities surveyed
- Size of carts
 - Rubbish (64 gallon)
 - Recycling (64 gallon if weekly, 96 gallon if bi-weekly)
- Quantity of carts per household
 - 1 rubbish cart (64 gallon)
 - Residents have option to lease 2nd cart annually
 - Residents can purchase overflow bags
 - 1 recycling cart (64/96 gallon)
- Bulk item disposal
 - 1 item per week (no charge) or unlimited (fee based via rubbish hauler)

Resident Options For Extra Rubbish

- ***Overflow bags (preferred option) – to be determined by Select Board***
 - Overflow bags would minimize administrative involvement by the Town.
 - Residents could purchase 30 gal. overflow bags to be placed with their rubbish cart.
 - Could be purchased at local grocery and convenience stores.
 - Retail cost: \$2 to \$3 per bag (est.); Purchase price by Town: \$0.38 per bag (est.)
 - WasteZero would monitor store inventory; Town would have no involvement with local stores.
 - Bags are made of a heavy-duty plastic (1.5 mil) and come customized with the Town seal etc.
- ***Resident Sign-Up for Black Earth Compost Pickup (preferred option)***
 - Residents could subscribe to Black Earth Compost curbside collection program to eliminate food scraps from their rubbish stream and reduce their weekly curbside rubbish volume.
- ***Additional Carts (less desirable) – to be determined by Select Board***
 - Creates logistical challenges for Town staff (storing and distribution) and payment management.
 - Each household could potentially obtain 1 additional rubbish cart (64 gal.) for an annual charge; an extra recycle cart (64 gal.) would also be an option.

Anticipated Questions

- ***How many carts would each household receive?***
 - Each household would receive (1) 64 gal. rubbish cart, and (1) 64 gal. recycle cart.
- ***How many carts will the Town need to purchase?***
 - The Town would have to purchase approximately 7,400 rubbish carts, and 7,800 recycle carts.
- ***How much will this cost, and how will it be funded?***
 - April (2023) Town Meeting would be asked to approve \$900k to purchase carts.
- ***Have grant opportunities been explored to fund this?***
 - Yes. Grant opportunities have been found for funding recycling carts (only).
 - MassDEP grant restricts the weekly household rubbish allowance to 35 gal. (Town is not eligible.)
 - Recycling Partnership grant – provides funding for purchasing recycle carts, and implementing recycling education/outreach efforts. Recycling Partnership is a national non-profit organization.

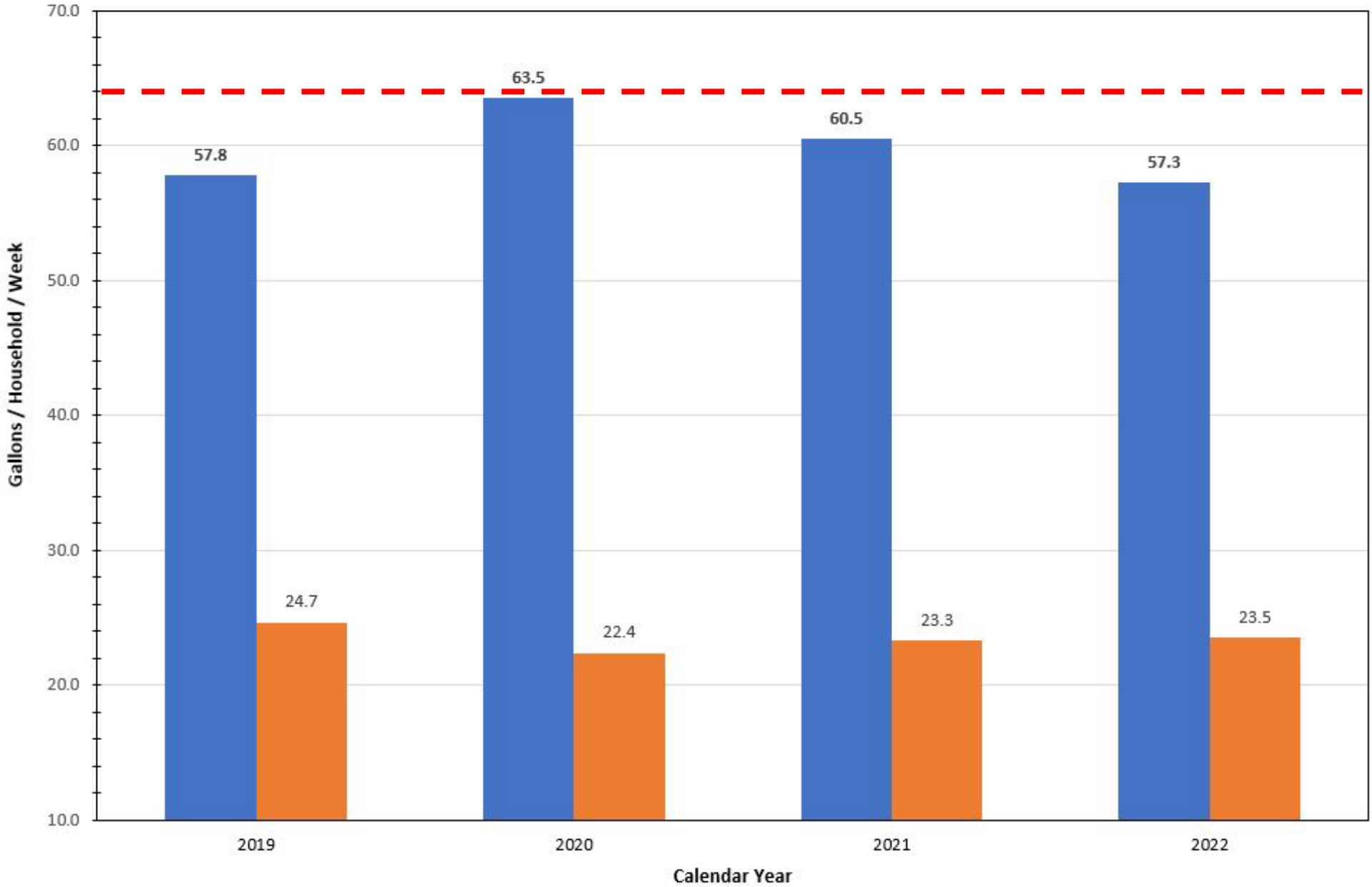
Anticipated Questions (cont.)

- ***What would be the benefit of switching to carts now?***
 - Having carts in place now would ensure a smooth transition if the Town decided to switch to automated collection when the current rubbish/recycle contract expires 6/2026, and would add flexibility in that the carts would not be tied to a change in collection contracts.
- ***If funding is approved, when could residents expect to see their carts?***
 - There is at least a 6 to 8 week lead time, allowing for possible delivery in Fall 2023.
- ***Is Republic Services on board if the Town switched to carts?***
 - Republic Services sees this as an improvement over our current process, no concerns.
- ***How will the cart program be rolled out?***
 - The vendor would perform the initial delivery of the rubbish and recycling carts to each household, and then the Department of Public Works would perform maintenance and deliverables as needed (10 – 12 year warranty on carts).

Anticipated Questions (cont.)

- ***Why would the Town only provide (1) 64 gal. rubbish cart to each household, when the current rubbish limit is 120 gal. per household?***
 - From surveying Reading's peer communities, providing (1) 64 gal. rubbish cart per household would align Reading with what our other peer communities are already doing.
 - Data shows that the average amount of rubbish generated by a single Reading household is less than 64-gallons per week.
- ***What options exist if a resident has more than 64 gal. of rubbish per week?***
 - Residents could purchase the 30 gal. overflow bags to be placed with their rubbish cart.
 - Residents could subscribe to the Black Earth Compost curbside collection program to eliminate food scraps from their rubbish stream and reduce their weekly curbside rubbish volume.
 - Residents can now purchase home composting bins from Public Works (\$30/each – limit of 2).
 - Each household could obtain 1 additional rubbish cart (64 gal.) for an annual charge; or an extra recycle cart (64 gal.) could be obtained.

Average Weekly Household Rubbish & Recycling Curbside Volumes



64-gal. cart

- Rubbish
- Recycling

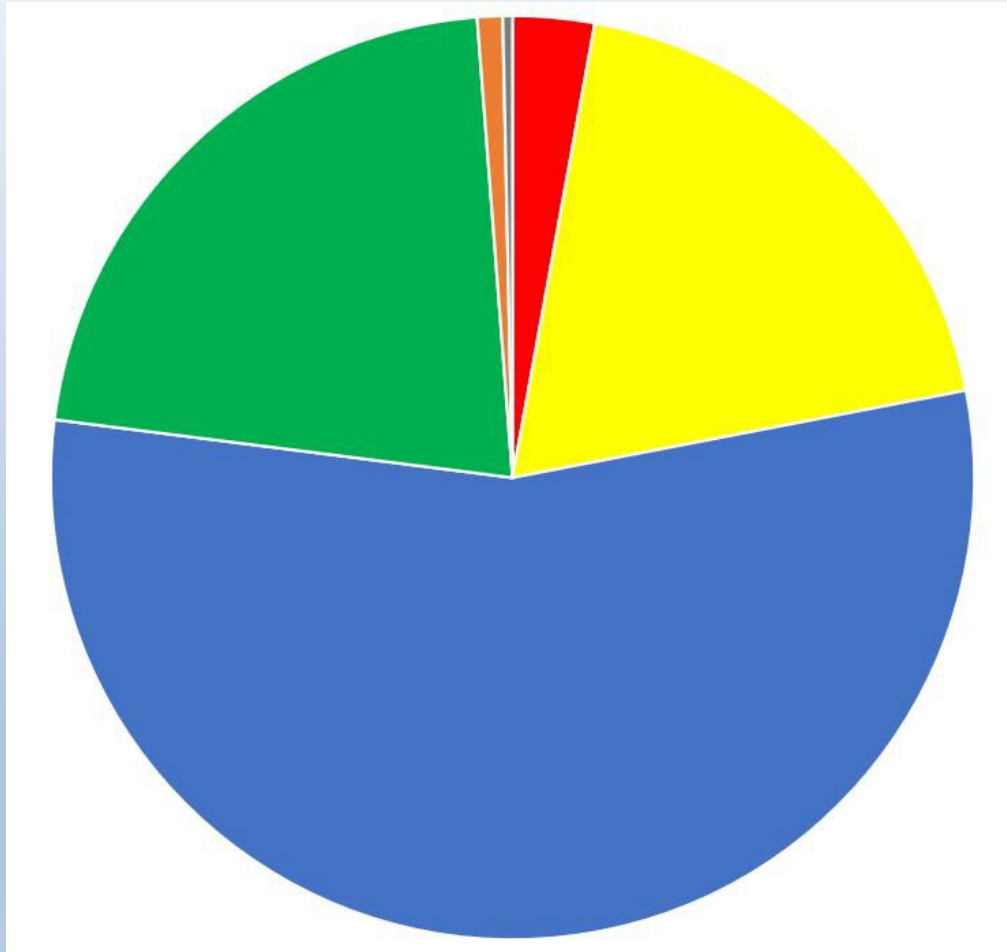
Anticipated Questions (cont.)

- ***What are the pros/cons of an overflow bag versus an extra cart?***
 - PRO: Bags are more economical when you might only have extra rubbish periodically.
 - PRO: Bags offer the least administrative alternative for the Town.
 - PRO: An extra cart gives the convenience of already having it on hand when it's needed.
 - CON: An extra cart would require additional storage for a household.
 - CON: Allowing an extra cart creates logistical challenges for Town staff, since the Town would be responsible for storing and distributing the extra carts, as well as managing resident payment options.
- ***How will residents dispose of bulk items?***
 - Residents would still be allowed to place 1 bulk item curbside per week with their rubbish. A bulk item is defined as a piece of furniture, toilet/tub, grill, lawnmower, countertop microwave, etc. (not over 60#)
- ***What can residents do with their old rubbish and recycle containers?***
 - The old red recycle bins make great storage containers.
 - Any plastic containers can be recycled at a rigid plastic collection event.
 - Any metal containers can be recycled through the curbside scrap metal collection held annually.

Resident Survey Results

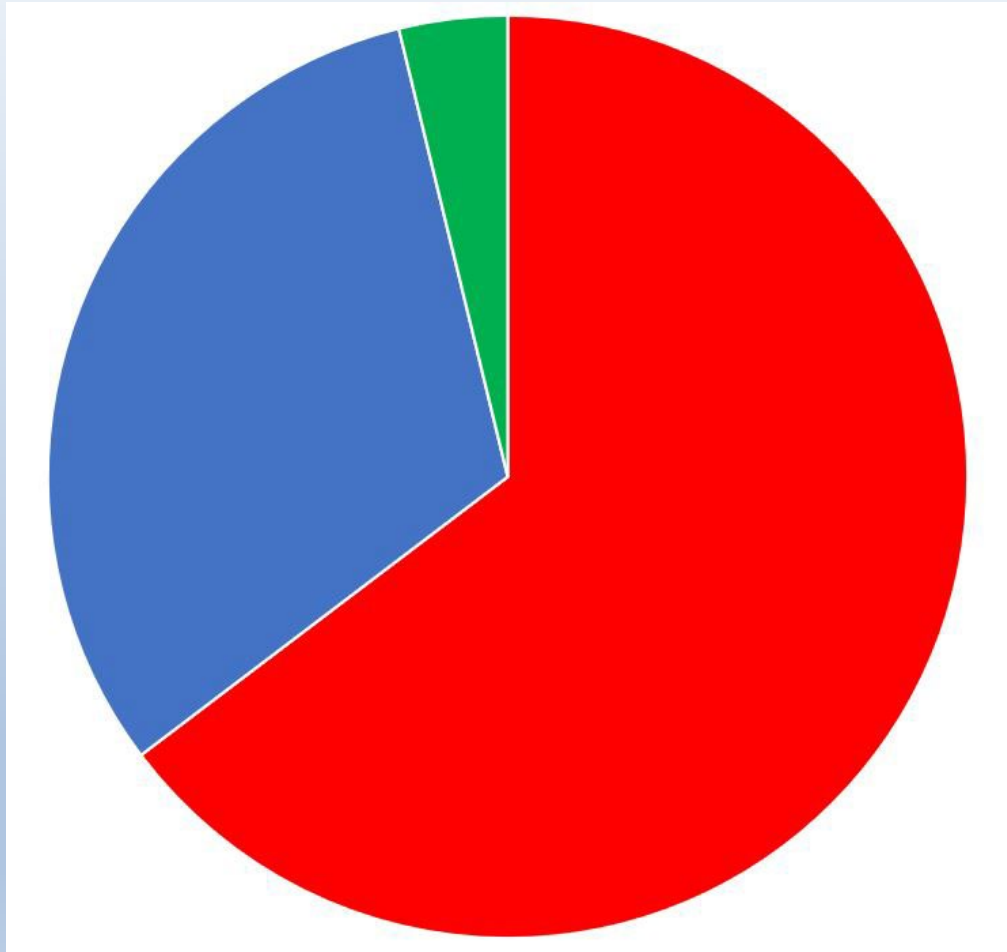
(1,470 participants)

of Members in the Household



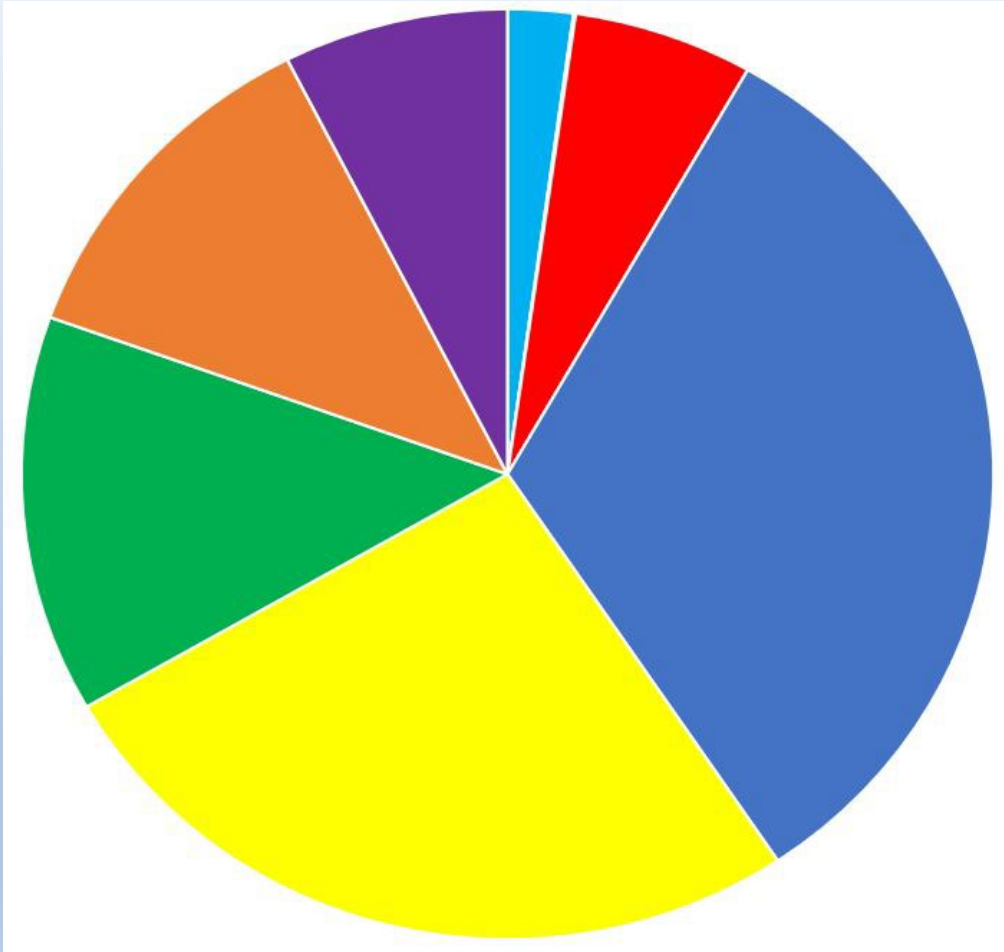
- 1: 3%
- 2: 19%
- 3 to 4: 55%
- 5 to 6: 22%
- 7+ : 1%
- Other: Less than 1%

Children Under 18 in the Household



- Yes: 65 %
- No: 32%
- Prefer Not to Answer: 3%

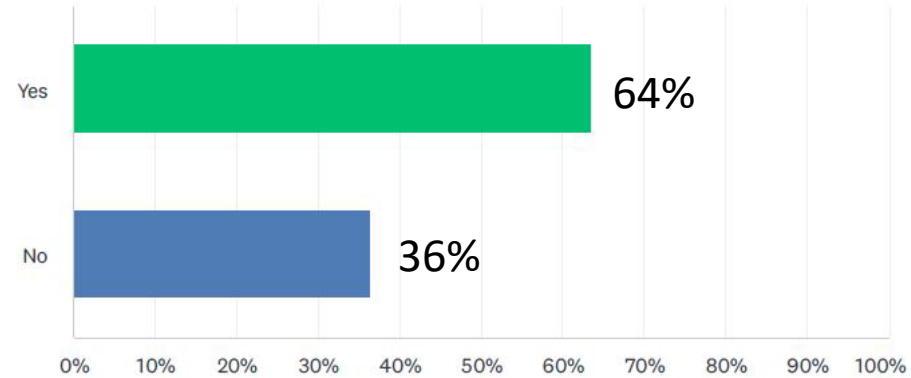
Age Demographic



- Under 18: 2%
- 18 to 24: Less than 1%
- 25 to 34: 6%
- 35 to 44: 32%
- 45 to 54: 26%
- 55 to 64: 14%
- 65+: 12%
- Prefer Not to Answer: 8%

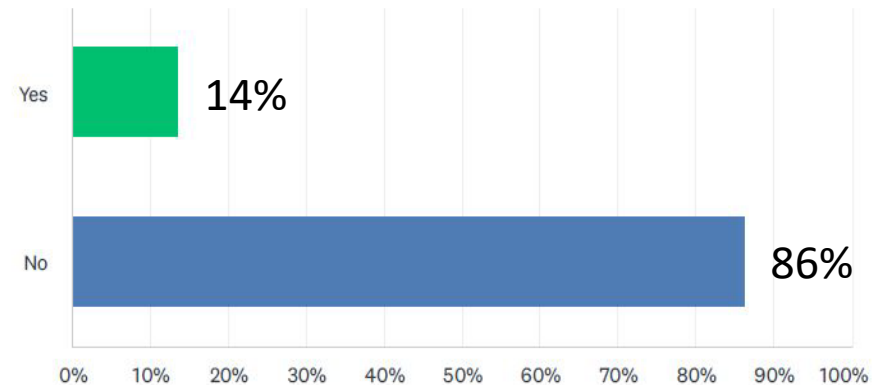
Q1 Would one (1) 64-gallon cart be sufficient for your weekly household RUBBISH?

Answered: 1,470 Skipped: 0



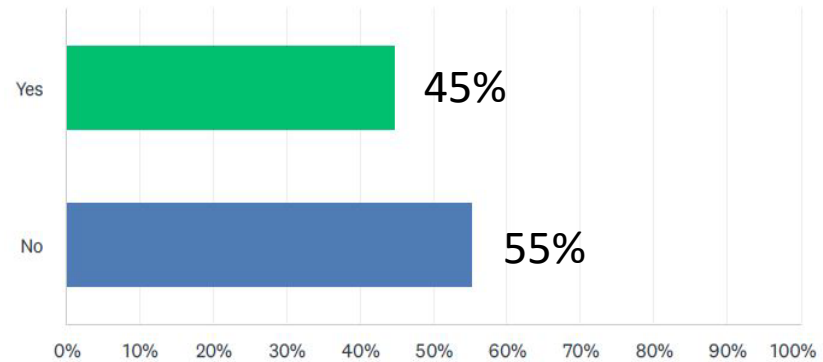
Q2 If a 64-gallon cart is not sufficient, would you consider leasing a second 64-gallon cart for an annual fee (estimated between \$150-\$200)?

Answered: 1,470 Skipped: 0



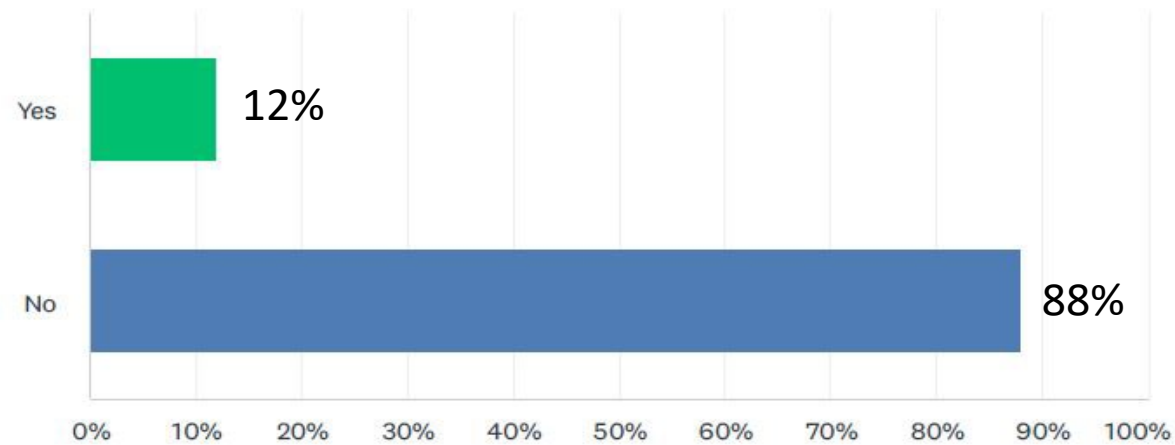
Q3 If a 64-gallon cart is not sufficient, would you consider using 30-gallon overflow bags that can be purchased at a local retail establishment when needed (bags are priced about \$2-\$3 each).

Answered: 1,470 Skipped: 0



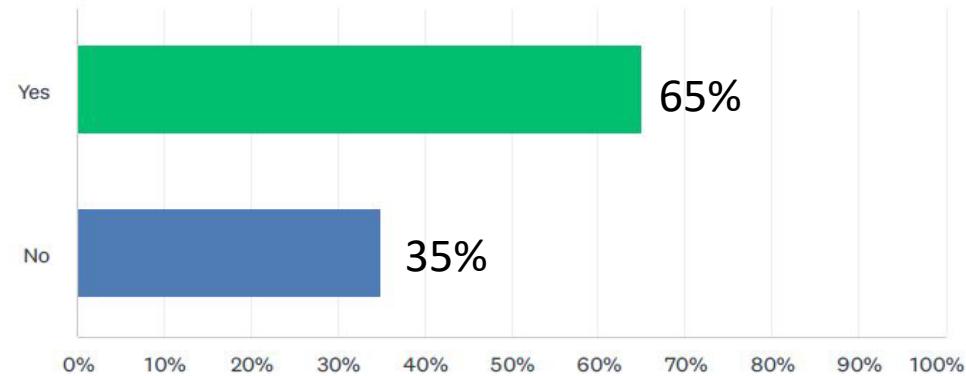
Q4 Would you prefer a cart smaller than 64-gallons for your weekly household rubbish?

Answered: 1,470 Skipped: 0



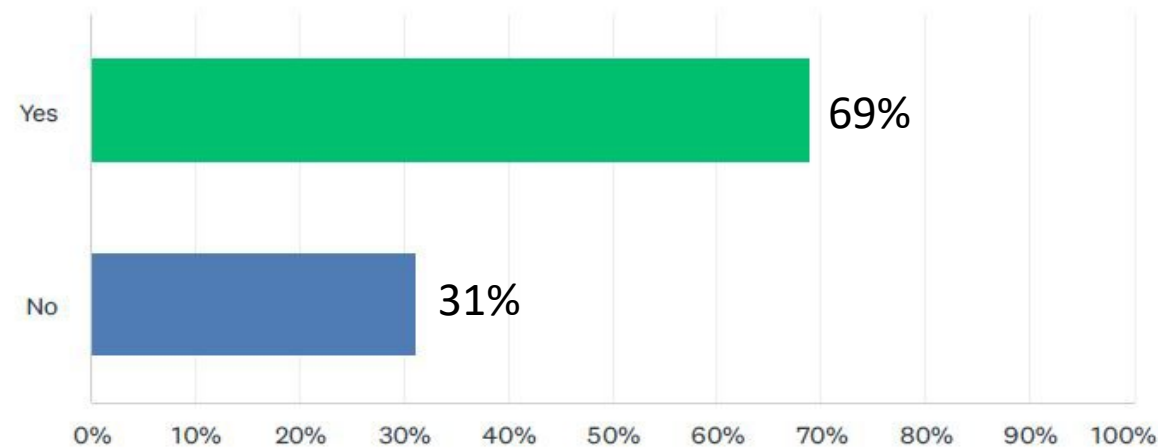
Q5 Would one (1) 64-gallon cart be sufficient for your weekly RECYCLING?

Answered: 1,470 Skipped: 0



Q6 If one (1) 64-gallon recycling cart is not sufficient, would you be interested in the Town providing you with a second 64-gallon cart?

Answered: 1,470 Skipped: 0



Summary

- While all survey data may not fully align with the Town's proposal, Town staff firmly believe that the Town's proposal will be best financially and logistically for both Reading residents and Town staff, in preparing for the future.
- ***Summary of Town's proposal:***
 - (1) 64-gal Town supplied rubbish cart per household.
 - (1) 64-gal Town supplied recycling cart per household.
 - Smaller rubbish / recycling cart options for households on a case-by-case basis.
 - Town Meeting asked to approve \$900k for the purchase of these carts – funded through debt (FY-25).
 - Resident options of purchasing overflow bags or annual lease of 2nd rubbish cart for rubbish volumes greater than 64-gal. will be voted on by the SB at a later date.

ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS??