

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY RESULTS

Final Report: November 6, 2020

INTRODUCTION

In 2019 a Climate Action Plan (CAP) was written for and adopted by the City of Northfield. It lays out strategies for how the Northfield community can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to become carbon-free by 2040. Solid waste, as a generator of GHG emissions, is one of the six strategy areas. Overall, waste reduction is achieved by preventing waste is the first place, recovering and reusing what is unwanted or overproduced, and recycling the rest. These same principles can be applied to reducing organic food waste. A top reason for reducing organic food waste from the landfill is to decrease the harmful GHG production of methane, but there can be benefits as well including social, economic, and environmental improvements. Reasons for what reducing food waste can accomplish are illustrated in such publications as *A Road Map to Reduce U.S. Food Waste*.

Much of the solid waste that still goes to landfills is recyclable, including organic waste – household food and compostable waste and yard waste. In Minnesota, organic waste (often called compost) creates, on average, 30% of the public waste stream going to the landfill. If diverted from the landfill, organic waste can make a valuable product (soil) and reduce air pollution caused by the harmful gas methane. Northfield's CAP sets a target for reducing solid waste, of which organic waste is a component, going to the landfill by 90% from 2020 levels to achieve a 100% reduction in carbon emissions from landfills by 2030.

To assist in achieving these waste reduction targets, the CAP recommends a zero-waste policy that sets a goal to “eliminate 100% of organic materials from the waste stream by 2025 through a robust composting program.” Wanting to understand the receptiveness of such a program, all Northfield households had the opportunity to complete a survey. The survey asked what they know about and what is their interest is in recycling, specifically household organic waste.

METHODOLOGY

To gauge the interest in various next steps for the City of Northfield to achieve their organic waste reduction goals in the Climate Action Plan, we mailed a survey invitation to all addresses in the City of Northfield. 6,340 households were mailed inviting participants to log on to an online survey or request a paper survey from City staff. 962 surveys were returned representing a 15.2% return rate.

In the survey itself, participants were shown a graphic image to help them understand the difference between organic household waste (such as food scraps) and other organic waste (such as yard waste). Then they were asked to self-identify how often they recycle their organic household waste: always, sometimes or never. The data were disaggregated among these three groups to gain a deeper understanding of what each group believes regarding household organic waste recycling.

Data from Northfield Curbside Composting, a local private company that collects household organic waste in Northfield via subscription, shows there are a total of 610 household subscribers in the City. 394 respondents of this survey indicated they participate in curbside recycling. This indicates this segment, especially the always respondents, is overrepresented in the raw results. Therefore, results for the population as a whole are weighted to adjust for this overrepresentation when appropriate. See Appendix E for a description of the weighting process and methodology. Results for individual segments (i.e. always/sometimes/not at all groups) are presented using the raw data.

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DEMOGRAPHICS

While distributed to all Northfield mailing addresses, the response indicated that some groups were more likely to participate in the survey than others. Specifically out of 962 respondents:

- 89% (855) of respondents were homeowners
- 63% (602) of respondents were female
- 81% (782) of respondents indicated they were white and another 11% (103) indicated they preferred not to answer their ethnicity
- Just seven responses used the Spanish language survey and 2% (21) of respondents indicated they were Hispanic/Latino. Therefore it appears likely that the Spanish speaking/Hispanic community is underrepresented
- 49% of all of the respondents (473/962) left their email contact information so as to be notified of the progress on this issue – 58% (276/479) of the always, 60% (72/120) of the sometimes, and 34% (125/363) of the never

FINDINGS

How many recycle

The majority of respondents (62.3% or 599) report they sometimes or always recycle their household waste and 78% (750) report they know someone who does.

How respondents recycle

For those respondents who report they always recycle their household organic waste, curbside recycling is used 76% (363/479) of the time. For those respondents who report they sometimes recycle their household organic waste, a backyard bin or heap system is used the majority (52% or 62/120) of the time.

Table 1

<i>Recycle Method</i>	<i>Always n=479</i>	<i>Sometimes n=120</i>
I have a backyard bin or heap system	24.20% (116)	51.70% (62)
I take it to community drop off sites	12.10% (58)	25.80% (31)
I have a curbside pick up service	75.80% (363)	25.80% (31)

*Note percentages do not add up to 100 as respondents could choose more than one answer

Convincing those who don't recycle

For those respondents who never recycle their household organic waste, more than half said they could be convinced to participate in recycling if either curbside service was easily available, or they were provided with collection material (bucket, bags, etc.). 20% (74/363) of the never respondents indicated nothing would convince participate in recycling their household organic waste. This non-participation number for the never respondents stays consistent throughout the survey and represents roughly 10% (74/962) of the surveyed population.

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Which recycling method do you use to recycle household organic waste?

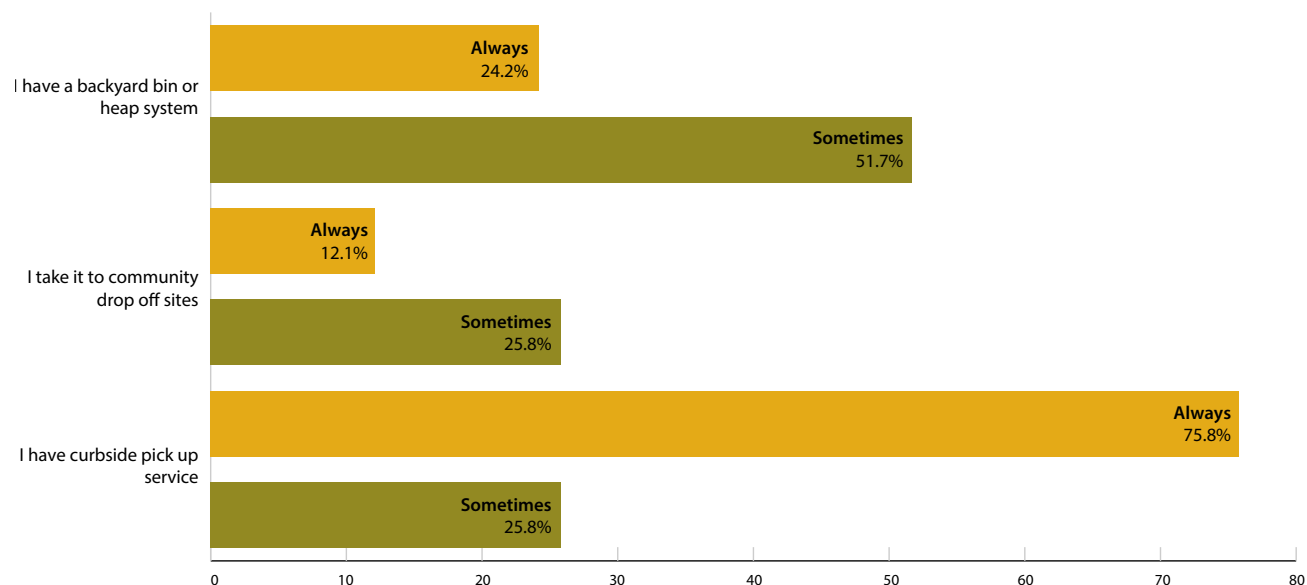


Table 2

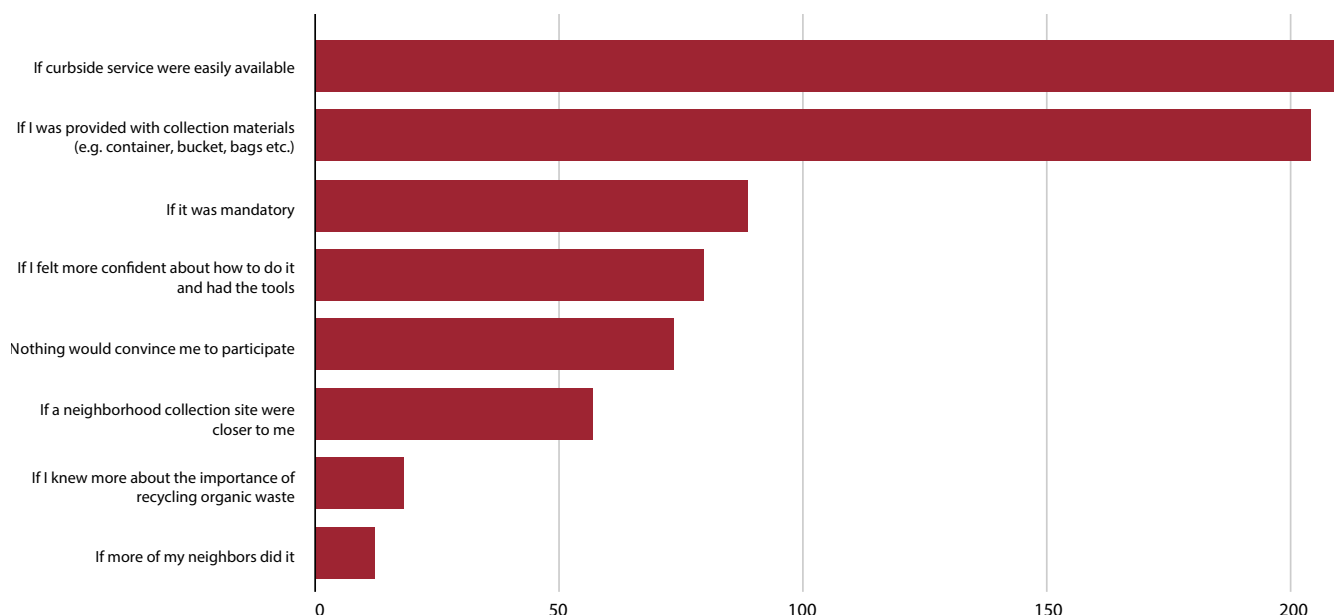
Question 10: Rank What, if anything, would convince you to participate in recycling your household organic waste? Check all that apply.		(NEVER Only) n= 363
1	If curbside service were easily available	58.40% (212)
2	If I was provided with collection materials (e.g. container, bucket, bags etc.)	56.50% (205)
3	If it was mandatory	24.50% (89)
4	If I felt more confident about how to do it and had the tools	22.00% (80)
5	Nothing would convince me to participate	20.40% (74)
6	If a neighborhood collection site were closer to me	15.70% (57)
7	If I knew more about the importance of recycling organic waste	5.00% (18)
8	If more of my neighbors did it	3.30% (12)

*Note percentages do not add up to 100 as respondents could choose more than one answer

Besides having curbside service easily available and being provided with collection materials (e.g. container, bucket, bags etc.), the *never* group posted several unique comments in open-ended questions. They felt they could be convinced to participate if it is easy, free, or at a very minimal cost; could be provided by the landlord for those who are renters; and was allowed for those in condos and homeowners' association. A few respondents suggest allowing the mixing of yard waste and food waste in the same bin (as a convincing and easy option) as other cities do, such as Seattle. This theme of free and easy is reiterated by others from all of the groups in other places in this survey.

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What, if anything, would convince you to participate in recycling your household organic waste?



Respondents from the *never* group – and all other respondents – are clear that they need more facts about how well the current general recycling program is going as well as more facts about what exactly recycling household organic waste will accomplish, especially a cost to benefit analysis before the City should take any action. One respondent captures this by saying:

"The city of Northfield wants to add an additional recycling program at increased effort, inconvenience and cost to taxpayers. At a minimum, I would want a FULL HONEST report on the current paper, plastic, metal recycling program . . . I feel proponents have no interest in being honest about the realities but want to pretend that recycling is 100 upside." (N129)

Barriers to recycling

All three groups of respondents felt top barriers are "It is/was dirty or unpleasant (included problems with bugs, odors or rodents)" and "It was/is difficult to take waste to a community drop off site."

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Table 3

Question 8:

What barriers did you have to overcome to initiate recycling your household organic waste?

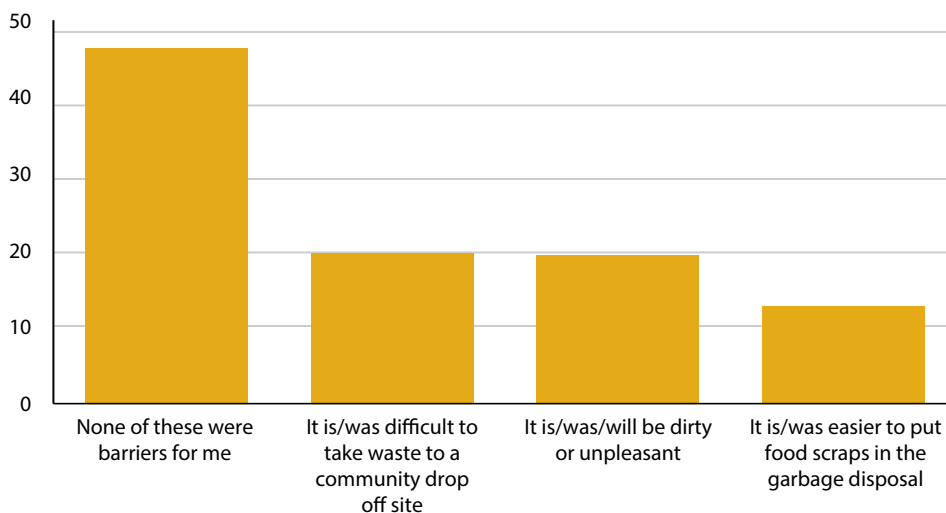
Rank	Always n=479	Sometimes n=120	Never n=363
1	None of these were barriers for me. 46.3% (222)	It is/was/will be dirty or unpleasant. 33.3% (40)	It is/was/will be dirty or unpleasant. 43.5% (158)
2	It is/was difficult to take waste to a community drop off site. 19.6% (94)	It is/was easier to put food scraps in the garbage disposal. 24.2% (29)	It was difficult to create the proper space. 34.2% (124)
3	It is/was/will be dirty or unpleasant. 19.4% (93)	"It was difficult to create the proper space." 23.3% (28)	It seemed I did not produce enough organic waste to make recycling it worthwhile. 27.8% (101)
4	It is/was easier to put food scraps in the garbage disposal. 12.7% (61)	It is/was difficult to take waste to a community drop off site. 21.7% (26)	It is/was difficult to take waste to a community drop off site. 27.3% (99)

*Note percentages do not add up to 100 as respondents could choose more than one answer

From there, the *always*, *sometimes*, and *never* respondents rank their barriers differently. Those who *always* recycle household organic waste, more frequently than other segments of the population, indicated there were no barriers to their participation at the highest rate (46% or 222). The *sometimes* and *never* groups felt, "It is/was difficult to create the proper space." A surprising answer from the *always* and *sometimes* groups is that "It is/was easier to put food scraps in the garbage disposal." Those who *never* recycle indicated they "... did not produce enough organic waste to make recycling it worthwhile."

What barriers did you have to overcome to initiate recycling your household organic waste?

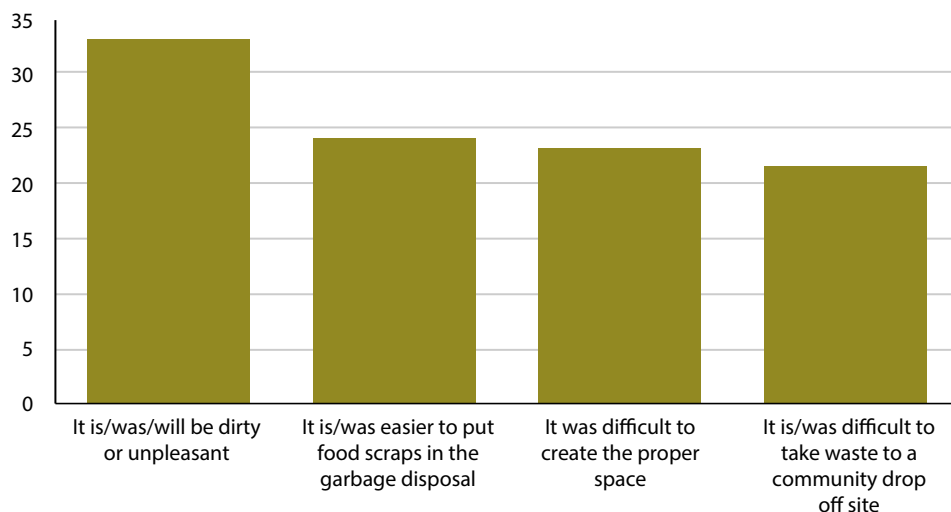
Always



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What barriers did you have to overcome to initiate recycling your household organic waste?

Sometimes



Never



How to overcome barriers

Respondents were asked to describe how they overcame or will overcome barriers to recycling household organic waste. 440 persons responded. Respondent comments were read and re-read to determine the theme of the comment. Each respondent's comment was placed into one of the 6 theme categories that emerged: Existing Curbside Service, Inconveniences of Composting, Need for Education, City's Role, Overcoming Barriers, and Backyard Composting. When a respondent spoke about more than one theme within the comment, the respondent's comment was placed into as many of the theme categories as was mentioned in the comment. This created 532 total comments that were each assigned to one of the 6 common themes. The entire list of comments of how respondents overcame or will overcome barriers can be found in Appendix A. Comments are organized by the 6 categories and group (Always, Sometimes, and Never).

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Barriers consistent within all groups

All groups (Always, Sometimes, or Never) overcame or will have to overcome the inconveniences associated with the unpleasantness of coping with decaying organic matter and finding the space and system that works. Most people did not have suggestions for how to overcome this barrier except to just accept it:

"It isn't as simple as I'd like it to be and we struggle with the yuk factor as I keep a bucket under the sink and then feed it into the main bucket for pick up. Since I have to do this a couple of times a week (the bucket under the sink is small) I have to deal with decayed organic waste dripping on my hands twice a week. I can deal with it but I don't really like it. That said, I want to do my part to reduce waste." (A221)

Another barrier (inconvenience) for all groups is the cost to either themselves or others:

"I think the cost is a barrier for some people to participate in composting. I wish it were free." (A106)

A final barrier all groups consistently cite is that for renters or those who live in a homeowner's association or a condo, recycling organics (and often backyard composting) is not allowed:

"Not supported by the landlord." (N 546)

"I live in a townhome association ... and if there were costs associated for the townhome association they would be opposed." (N531)

Always barriers

The *always* group most generally overcame their barriers (taking it to the drop off site, creating the space, and backyard composting) to recycling household organic waste when the local curbside service became available. After that, their next biggest barrier was figuring out how to incorporate the complexities of composting household organics into their own and other family members daily life: educating self and others and creating new habits takes work.

"For a long time, I didn't understand how food waste contributed to the climate crisis in landfills." (A271)

"I didn't recycle household organic waste until we signed up with a weekly pick-up service. The service makes it so much easier. Now the biggest problem is simply getting all the members of the household to remember to recycle instead of throwing things in the trash." (A376)

Sometimes barriers

Because the primary mode of recycling household organic waste for the *sometimes* group is a backyard compost system or taking it to the drop off site, it makes sense that these are also their barriers and inconveniences. Winter is especially hard as there is no place to drop off the compost, and the organic matter freezes in the backyard systems. Also, an inconvenience is that certain items cannot be added, such as meat and food-soiled paper, to a backyard system. Some in the *sometimes* group would simply like to improve their backyard system.

"Our biggest barrier was when the compost site in town closed for the winter." (A322)

"I can't use my backyard bin in the winter. Meat waste is a problem year-round." (S863)

"Maybe get a second bin so that more time could be allowed for the composting to finish." (S101)

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Never barriers

The primary barriers for the *never* group fall into the inconvenience category: cost, space issues, is a renter, don't generate enough waste. Many in the *never* group say they would participate (especially if there is not additional cost) but have a lot of questions. Some have no intention to recycle household organics, and; still others would participate "in a heartbeat."

"How do we get rid of it? I have no idea what to do with it. Are you going to pick it up? Will you provide a container? Is there a cost? If so, forget it." (N871)

"I probably won't overcome this barrier because, as I said, I don't care enough about recycling organic waste to put in the time to do it." (N441)

"If the opportunity and means were available to us, we'd do it again in a heartbeat." (N107)

Concerns about robust community-wide recycling

All groups have a good percentage of respondents that did not feel they had any concerns: Always 61.60% (295/479), Sometimes 44.20% (53/120), and Never 25.30% (92/363). All groups are at least some concerned about the cost, but the *always* group is concerned about the cost being a barrier for others, not themselves. The *always* group is concerned more about the amount of education that will be needed and the general lack of interest, whereas both the *sometimes* and *never* group are concerned about the unsightliness and smell, the cost to themselves, and having one more bin in the yard.

Table 4

Question 12:

What concerns do you have about having a more robust, community-wide residential household organic waste recycling program?

Rank	Always n=479	Sometimes n=120	Never n=363
1	None of these things is a concern for me. 61.60% (295)	None of these things is a concern for me. 44.20% (53)	The unsightliness and/or smell of organic waste. 44.90% (163)
2	The amount of education that will be needed. 15.70% (75)	It would cost too much. 28.30% (39)	It would cost too much. 43.80% (159)
3	Lack of interest. 12.50% (60)	The unsightliness and/or smell of organic waste. 18.30% (22)	Having one more bin in my yard. 27.00% (98)
4	It would cost too much. 12.30% (59)	Having one more bin in my yard. 15.80% (19)	None of these things is a concern for me. 25.30% (92)

*Note percentages do not add up to 100 as respondents could choose more than one answer

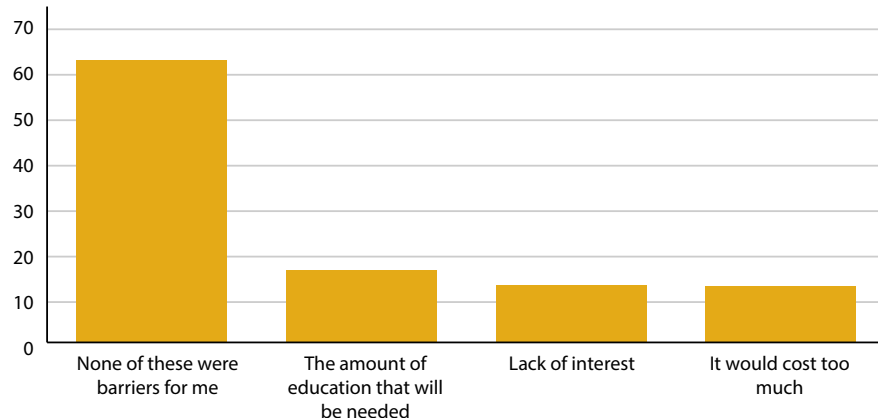
Respondents added 58 additional "concern" comments into the "other response" option for this question. A majority of comments came from the *always* group stating concern that an enhanced effort to recycle organics may put the Northfield Curbside Composting company out of business and urged the City to collaborate and work with them to make this effort work for all:

"We would like to continue with our current Northfield Curbside Compost pickup and would not like to see a different program displace or adversely affect them." (A203)

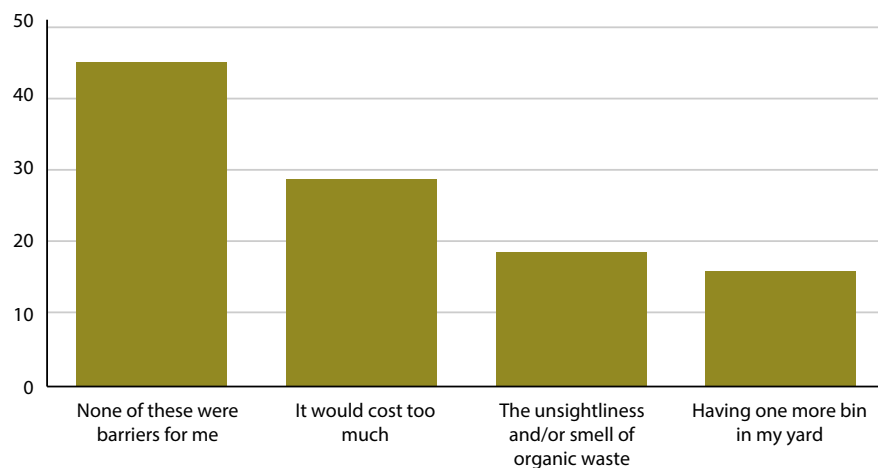
CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY RESULTS

What concerns do you have about having a more robust, community-wide residential household organic waste recycling program?

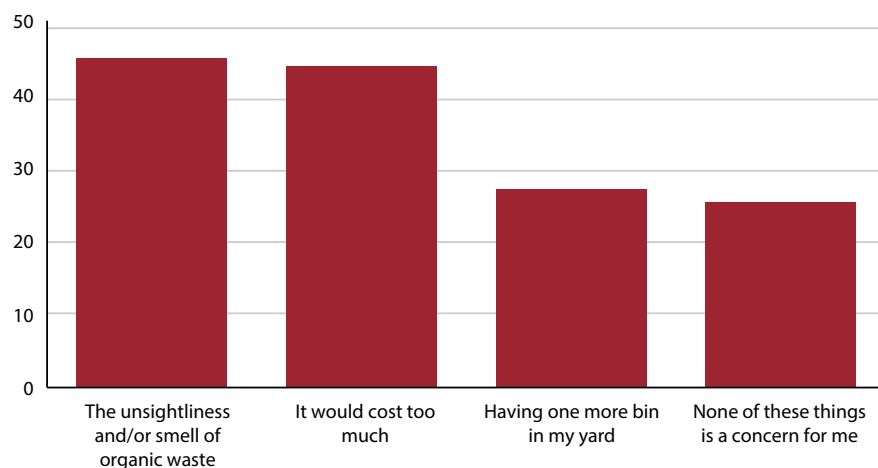
Always



Sometimes



Never



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This same concern is expressed again at the end of the survey when respondents had the opportunity to provide free responses to the question, “Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the topic of organic waste recycling?” One example:

“Hire the people from the existing compost collection service to be a part of any citywide program.” (S656)

Several other concerns were expressed that curbside service is currently not allowed or available to all resident types:

“I doubt my townhome association would ever consider this.” (N162)

Or the education that will be needed to make sure recycling organics is done correctly:

“Until everyone learns how to do it, I envision unattractive piles of garbage carelessly piled in certain places around the neighborhood, plus the possibility that some people will simply dump improper materials in the pile.” (S954)

And finally, that the cost to benefit of such a program needs to be clearly understood before implementing any program:

“The City really doesn’t understand the impact of organics recycling on the environment. The unintended consequences of additional containers, vehicles to pick up the waste and transport it, the methane quickly released during composting, etc. have not been adequately addressed.” And, “The benefits most likely are absolutely trivial. Please give us some convincing NUMBERS as to why we should do this. Being nice to mother earth isn’t an answer.” (N871)

Is there support for a curbside recycling program?

When asked directly what the City’s “best next step” to achieve the waste reduction goals of the CAP, 51.5% of the population (using the weighted results) supports creating enhanced optional curbside recycling program and 21.7% supports creating a *mandatory* curbside recycling program. (NOTE: Respondents could support both options and this should not be interpreted to mean over 70% of the population supports curbside recycling.) 19.9% of the population does not “believe the city needs to take any additional actions regarding organic household waste recycling at this time.”

When asked to express how their own household would respond to having household organic waste picked up curbside similar to our current trash and recycling service, results were similar. Just over 50% of the population indicate they already or were likely to use curbside recycling and 24% said they were unlikely to use such a service:

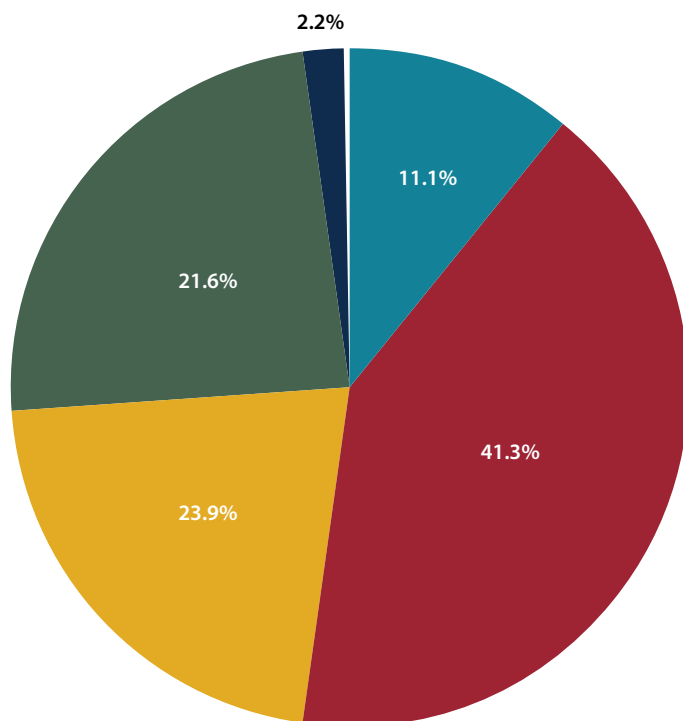
Table 5

How would your household respond to having organic waste picked up curbside similar to our current trash and recycling service? (percentages are weighted to reflect the population as a whole)

My household already uses this strategy to reduce my household organic waste	11.1%
My household would likely use this strategy to reduce household organic waste	41.3%
My household might use this strategy to reduce household organic waste	21.6%
My household would be unlikely to use this strategy to reduce household organic waste	23.9%
(Blank)	2.2%
Total	100.00%

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How would your household respond to having organic waste picked up curbside similar to our current trash and recycling service? (percentages are weighted to reflect the population as a whole)



- My household already uses this strategy to reduce my household organic waste
- My household would likely use this strategy to reduce household organic waste
- My household might use this strategy to reduce household organic waste
- My household would be unlikely to use this strategy to reduce household organic waste
- (Blank)

Other options for next steps, including community drop off sites and neighborhood compost hubs, received significantly less support.

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Table 6

Question 13:

As described at the beginning of this survey, the City of Northfield is exploring its next step to increase recycling for household organic waste and achieve the goals of the Climate Action Plan. Based solely on your own values and opinions, which of the following do you believe is the city's best next step to achieve these goals?

Rank	Always n=479	Sometimes n=120	Never n=363
First most supported option	Create an enhanced optional curbside recycling program. 55.3% (265)	Create an enhanced optional curbside recycling program. 59.20% (71)	Create an enhanced optional curbside recycling program. 49.90% (181)
Second most supported option	Create a mandatory curbside recycling program. 33.60% (161)	Increase education and outreach. 23.30% (28)	I do not believe the city needs to take any additional actions. 28.10% (102)
Third most supported option	Increase education and outreach. 30.10% (144)	Create a mandatory curbside recycling program. 19.20% (23)	Create a mandatory curbside recycling. 6.30% (67)

*Note percentages do not add up to 100 as respondents could choose more than one answer

Several respondents weighed in on the issue of an optional or voluntary versus mandatory curbside program through comments. Most felt that the community would not support a mandatory program:

"Anything mandatory, which will also mean mandatory additional costs, will not be welcomed – especially when money is tight for everyone – including the local government." (S714)

"I think if it's optional, the people who participate will do it correctly. Seems like lots of people still don't do regular recycling properly after all these years! (A653)

Some suggested a slow build up to a broader program:

"I think initially it should be voluntary, then you should provide incentives for households to use it, then when you've reached a tipping point of participation, fold into the regular refuse pickup program." A(743)

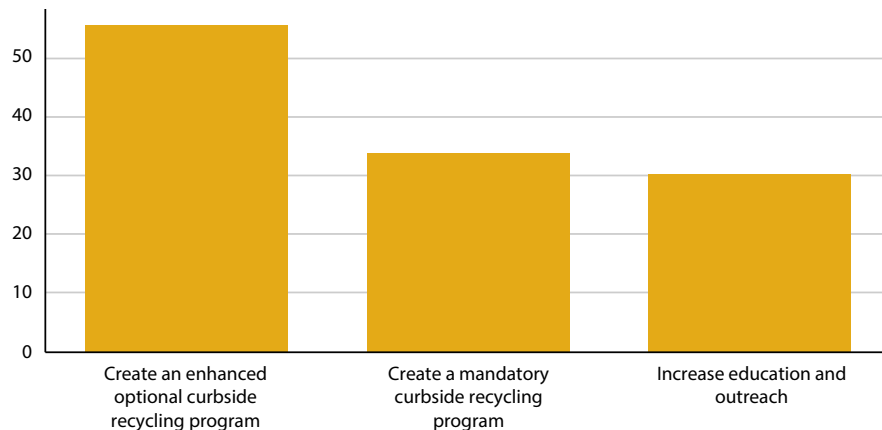
And a small portion felt a mandatory program is the only way to get all on board quickly.

"Creating a mandatory program would lower costs for all and encourage community adoption quickly." (A334)

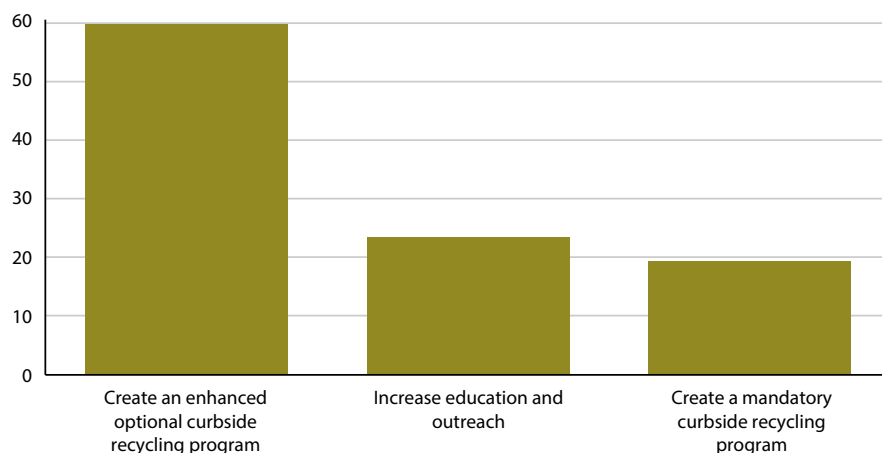
CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY RESULTS

Based solely on your own values and opinions, which do you believe is the city's best next step to achieve these goals?

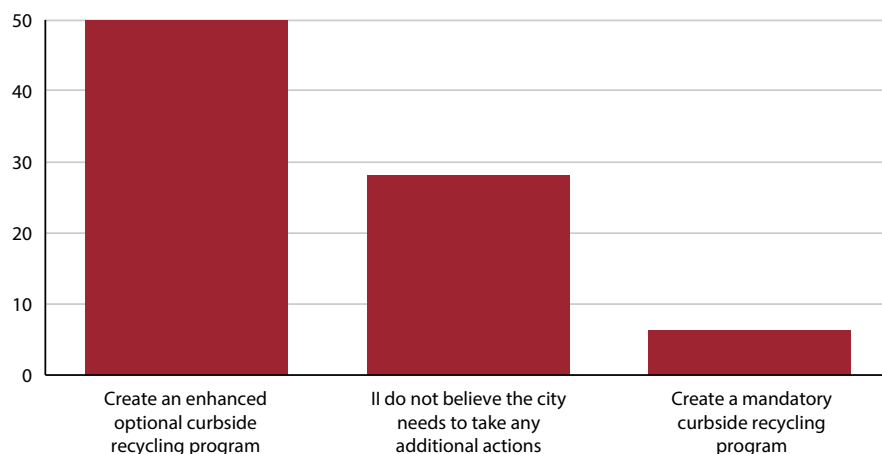
Always



Sometimes



Never



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ANALYSIS

There is support for the city moving forward with curbside recycling, particularly if this is optional. A consistent theme through the qualitative data indicates that those opposed to curbside options are most concerned with the cost and whether it will, in fact, make a meaningful impact. As one respondent said, “Please give us some convincing NUMBERS as to why we should do this.” (N871) Should the city move forward with a curbside program, consistent education and outreach should include compelling messaging about why this is important and how it will be funded.

Participants in the Northfield Curbside Composting program indicated support for the existing program and want to see the City partner with or otherwise engage with NCC.

Most households that currently do not recycle their household waste consistently indicate they are open to learning more and would participate in a curbside recycling program. Additional drop off locations were far less likely to be used.

There is a small but vocal segment of the population that does not support mandated or city-sponsored recycling efforts.

NOTES

Appendix A is the compilation of raw survey results.

Appendix B is a verbatim listing of comments related to overcoming barriers to recycling organized by the 6 categories and group (Always, Sometimes, and Never).

Appendix C is the entire list of “tell us more” comments organized by the 6 categories and group (Always, Sometimes, and Never).

Appendix D is a summary of all of the comments respondents have made throughout the entire survey. The comments are organized by the theme categories previously generated to provide constructive feedback and an array of intriguing, thoughtful suggestions especially highlighting what Northfield citizens feel is are the education that is needed, City’s role, and suggestions for how to overcome barriers to household, and backyard composting.

Appendix E includes a note about the methodology for the weighting process used.

Respondent quotes are numbered according to how the quote can be found in the Excel document ENGorganicrecyclingnorthfield20200922.xls. An A, S, or N also denotes from which group the respondents quote came from.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY

350 respondents (out of 962) “told us more” about what they think on the topic of organic waste recycling. Most comments were favorable toward working on this effort but some were not. Sifting through these comments common themes emerged. The respondents’ comments were grouped into the six categories previously determined: Existing Curbside Service, Inconveniences of Composting, Need for Education, City’s Role, Overcoming Barriers, and Backyard Composting. When a respondent spoke about more than one theme within the comment, the respondent’s comment was placed into as many of the theme categories as was mentioned in the comment. This created 406 total comments that were each assigned to one of the 6 categories.

- 89% (855) of respondents were homeowners
- 63% (602) of respondents were female
- 81% (782) of respondents indicated they were white and another 11% (103) indicated they preferred not to answer their ethnicity
- Just seven responses used the Spanish language survey and 2% (21) of respondents indicated they were Hispanic/Latino. Therefore it appears likely that the Spanish speaking/Hispanic community is underrepresented
- 49% of all of the respondents (473/962) left their email contact information so as to be notified of the progress on this issue – 58% (276/479) of the always, 60% (72/120) of the sometimes, and 34% (125/363) of the never

What they told us stays consistent with the themes seen throughout the survey.

1. Continue to work with the local existing curbside composting provider.

“I hope that the City of Northfield plans to work with her [Helen and the crew at Northfield Curbside Composting] efforts to create an enhanced curbside recycling program.” (S129)

2. Provide a lot of education, especially the facts, and make information widely available.

“I would like to see more data as to the relative effect of recycling household organic waste as opposed to putting it down the garbage disposal or in the garbage can.” (S427) And “... in addition to education and outreach, include a literacy campaign!” (A259)

3. Make it super easy and even free.

“It seems important to have easy-to-use and easy-to-access organic waste recycling options for all household situations (e.g. homes, apartments, etc.) (A820) And, “If this were free and curbside (most convenient) I am assuming that would be the best way to get the highest number of people to comply.” (A71)

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4. Know that not everybody will have the motivation to participate:

"I will continue to recycle/compost yard waste due to large seasonal volume of fall clean up. I won't participate in the household version. Stop controlling every move people make." (N583)

5. Most would embrace it:

"I thank you for investigating how this could be effective in our community. I think it is important." (S204)

The entire list of "tell us more" comments can be found in Appendix B. Comments are organized by the 6 categories and group (Always, Sometimes, and Never).

Appendix D is a distillation of all of the comments respondents have made throughout the entire survey. The comments are organized by the theme categories previously generated to provide constructive feedback and an array of intriguing, thoughtful suggestions especially highlighting what Northfield citizens feel is are the education that is needed, City's role, and suggestions for how to overcome barriers to household, and backyard composting.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX A

The appendix includes all qualitative responses to questions asking for open-ended or individual responses.

Survey Type

English	955	99.3%
Spanish	7	0.7%
Total	962	100.0%

1. Which of the following do you currently recycle?

I recycle only yard waste.	253	26.3%
I recycle only household organic waste.	99	10.3%
I recycle both yard waste and household organic waste.	473	49.2%
I don't recycle either of these.	137	14.2%
Total	962	100.0%

2. How often do you recycle your household organic waste?

Always	479	49.8%
Sometimes	120	12.5%
Not At All	363	37.7%
Total	962	100.0%

3. Do you know other family members, friends, neighbors, or colleagues who recycle their household organic waste?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
Yes	753	78.3%	449	93.7%	101	84.2%	203	55.9%
No	200	20.8%	24	5.0%	19	15.8%	157	43.3%
(Blank)	9	0.9%	6	1.3%	0	0.0%	3	0.8%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

4. When was the last time you were in a conversation with someone about recycling household organic waste?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
Within the last couple of weeks	268	27.9%	206	43.0%	24	20.0%	38	10.5%
Within the last couple of months	197	20.5%	124	25.9%	35	29.2%	38	10.5%
Within the last year	236	24.5%	108	22.5%	34	28.3%	94	25.9%
Not at all	255	26.5%	37	7.7%	27	22.5%	191	52.6%
(Blank)	6	0.6%	4	0.8%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

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5. How do you recycle your household organic waste? (Multiple Choice)

Always/Sometimes Only			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
I have a backyard bin or heap system.	178	29.7%	116	24.2%	62	51.7%	0	0.0%
I dig it straight into my garden.	28	4.7%	17	3.5%	11	9.2%	0	0.0%
I feed it to livestock or pets.	27	4.5%	19	4.0%	8	6.7%	0	0.0%
I have a worm (Vermicompost) system.	11	1.8%	5	1.0%	6	5.0%	0	0.0%
I take it to community drop off sites.	89	14.9%	58	12.1%	31	25.8%	0	0.0%
I have a curbside pick up service.	394	65.8%	363	75.8%	31	25.8%	0	0.0%
Other	9	1.5%	4	0.8%	5	4.2%	0	0.0%

6. Which of the following are important reasons why you recycle your household organic waste?

Always/Sometimes Only			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
I like to create my own compost for my garden or lawn.	148	7.2%	95	19.8%	53	44.2%	0	0.0%
It's convenient.	260	12.7%	227	47.4%	33	27.5%	0	0.0%
I can downsize my trash cart.	278	13.5%	235	49.1%	43	35.8%	0	0.0%
I don't like waste.	415	20.2%	335	69.9%	80	66.7%	0	0.0%
To save room in the landfill.	488	23.8%	408	85.2%	80	66.7%	0	0.0%
To decrease air pollution from organic waste in the landfill.	435	21.2%	370	77.2%	65	54.2%	0	0.0%
Other	30	1.5%	24	5.0%	6	5.0%	0	0.0%

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7. Now thinking of this same list, which would you say is the single most important reason you recycle your household organic waste.

Always/Sometimes Only			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
I can downsize my trash cart.	12	2.0%	5	1.0%	7	5.8%	0	0.0%
I don't like waste.	139	23.2%	105	21.9%	34	28.3%	0	0.0%
I like to create my own compost for my garden or lawn.	51	8.5%	29	6.1%	22	18.3%	0	0.0%
It's convenient.	23	3.8%	17	3.5%	6	5.0%	0	0.0%
Other	18	3.0%	15	3.1%	3	2.5%	0	0.0%
To decrease air pollution from organic waste in the landfill.	185	30.9%	157	32.8%	28	23.3%	0	0.0%
To save room in the landfill.	162	27.0%	143	29.9%	19	15.8%		
(Blank)	9	1.5%	8	1.7%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%
Total	599	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	0	0.0%

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8. What barriers did you have to overcome to initiate recycling your household organic waste?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
It was too much work.	90	5.0%	35	7.3%	14	11.7%	41	11.3%
It was difficult to create the proper space.	211	11.7%	59	12.3%	28	23.3%	124	34.2%
It was dirty or unpleasant (included problems with bugs, odors or rodents).	291	16.1%	93	19.4%	40	33.3%	158	43.5%
It took me some time to understand the value of recycling my organic waste.	58	3.2%	31	6.5%	2	1.7%	25	6.9%
It was difficult to understand what organic waste is and what can get recycled.	76	4.2%	27	5.6%	13	10.8%	36	9.9%
It seemed I did not produce enough organic waste to make recycling it worthwhile.	143	7.9%	28	5.8%	14	11.7%	101	27.8%
It cost too much.	95	5.3%	15	3.1%	6	5.0%	74	20.4%
It was difficult to take waste to a community drop off site.	219	12.1%	94	19.6%	26	21.7%	99	27.3%
It was easier to put food scraps in the garbage disposal.	170	9.4%	61	12.7%	29	24.2%	80	22.0%
It was easier to give leftovers to my pets or livestock.	32	1.8%	7	1.5%	9	7.5%	16	4.4%
It was difficult to gain the support of other family or household members.	38	2.1%	14	2.9%	11	9.2%	13	3.6%
It was not allowed by my landlord or the housing association.	33	1.8%	8	1.7%	3	2.5%	22	6.1%
None of these were barriers for me.	265	14.7%	222	46.3%	14	11.7%	29	8.0%
Other	86	4.8%	21	4.4%	27	22.5%	38	10.5%

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10. What, if anything, would convince you to participate in recycling your household organic waste?

Not At All Only			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
If curbside service were easily available.	212	27.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	212	58.4%
If I was provided with collection materials (e.g. container, bucket, bags etc.)	205	26.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	205	56.5%
If a neighborhood collection site were closer to me.	57	7.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	57	15.7%
If it was mandatory.	89	11.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	89	24.5%
If I knew more about the importance of recycling organic waste.	18	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	5.0%
If I felt more confident about how to do it and had the tools.	80	10.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	80	22.0%
If more of my neighbors did it.	12	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	3.3%
Nothing would convince me to participate.	74	9.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	74	20.4%
Other	30	3.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	30	8.3%

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11. There are many options to make collecting household organic waste for recycling easier for households. For each strategy listed, use one of the following descriptions to express how your household would respond to each approach.

Having household organic waste picked up curbside, similar to our current trash and recycling services.

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
My household already uses this strategy to reduce my household organic waste.	380	39.5%	358	74.7%	20	16.7%	2	0.6%
My household would likely use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	272	28.3%	41	8.6%	52	43.3%	179	49.3%
My household might use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	139	14.4%	32	6.7%	23	19.2%	84	23.1%
My household would be unlikely to use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	153	15.9%	41	8.6%	21	17.5%	91	25.1%
(Blank)	18	1.9%	7	1.5%	4	3.3%	7	1.9%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX A

11. There are many options to make collecting household organic waste for recycling easier for households. For each strategy listed, use one of the following descriptions to express how your household would respond to each approach. (continued)

Having community drop off sites for household organic waste.

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
My household already uses this strategy to reduce my household organic waste.	75	7.8%	61	12.7%	13	10.8%	1	0.3%
My household would likely use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	85	8.8%	39	8.1%	13	10.8%	33	9.1%
My household might use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	297	30.9%	143	29.9%	43	35.8%	111	30.6%
My household would be unlikely to use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	481	50.0%	223	46.6%	47	39.2%	211	58.1%
(Blank)	24	2.5%	13	2.7%	4	3.3%	7	1.9%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX A

11. There are many options to make collecting household organic waste for recycling easier for households. For each strategy listed, use one of the following descriptions to express how your household would respond to each approach. (continued)

Having a neighborhood compost hub within
a few blocks of my residence.

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
My household already uses this strategy to reduce my household organic waste.	17	1.8%	15	3.1%	1	0.8%	1	0.3%
My household would likely use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	249	25.9%	135	28.2%	37	30.8%	77	21.2%
My household might use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	324	33.7%	171	35.7%	45	37.5%	108	29.8%
My household would be unlikely to use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	348	36.2%	145	30.3%	33	27.5%	170	46.8%
(Blank)	24	2.5%	13	2.7%	4	3.3%	7	1.9%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX A

11. There are many options to make collecting household organic waste for recycling easier for households. For each strategy listed, use one of the following descriptions to express how your household would respond to each approach. (continued)

Having access to tools and resources to establish a backyard bin or heap system for organic waste.

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
My household already uses this strategy to reduce my household organic waste.	129	13.4%	85	17.7%	38	31.7%	6	1.7%
My household would likely use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	134	13.9%	60	12.5%	21	17.5%	53	14.6%
My household might use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	163	16.9%	85	17.7%	21	17.5%	57	15.7%
My household would be unlikely to use this strategy to reduce household organic waste.	507	52.7%	234	48.9%	36	30.0%	237	65.3%
(Blank)	29	3.0%	15	3.1%	4	3.3%	10	2.8%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX A

12. What concerns do you have about having a more robust, community-wide residential household organic waste recycling program?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
It would cost too much.	252	15.9%	59	12.3%	34	28.3%	159	43.8%
The unsightliness and/or smell of organic waste.	219	13.8%	34	7.1%	22	18.3%	163	44.9%
The amount of education that will be needed.	135	8.5%	75	15.7%	18	15.0%	42	11.6%
I want to have a choice about whether to recycle or not.	114	7.2%	17	3.5%	11	9.2%	86	23.7%
Lack of interest.	152	9.6%	60	12.5%	16	13.3%	76	20.9%
It may mean more truck traffic driving past my house.	77	4.9%	23	4.8%	4	3.3%	50	13.8%
Having one more bin in my yard.	140	8.8%	23	4.8%	19	15.8%	98	27.0%
Other	58	3.7%	26	5.4%	7	5.8%	25	6.9%
None of these things is a concern for me.	440	27.7%	295	61.6%	53	44.2%	92	25.3%

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13. As described at the beginning of this survey, the City of Northfield is exploring its next step to increase recycling for household organic waste and achieve the goals of the Climate Action Plan. Based solely on your own values and opinions, which of the following do you believe is the city's best next step to achieve these goals:

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
Create a mandatory curbside recycling program for household organic waste, similar to our current trash and recycling services.	251	18.3%	161	33.6%	23	19.2%	67	18.5%
Create an enhanced optional curbside recycling program for household organic waste, allowing households to opt in if these choose.	517	37.7%	265	55.3%	71	59.2%	181	49.9%
Create additional community drop-off sites for household organic waste.	118	8.6%	51	10.6%	20	16.7%	47	12.9%
Create new neighborhood compost hubs throughout the city for household organic waste.	122	8.9%	56	11.7%	21	17.5%	45	12.4%
Increase education and outreach to encourage people to utilize existing resources for recycling household organic waste.	231	16.8%	144	30.1%	28	23.3%	59	16.3%
I do not believe the city needs to take any additional actions regarding organic household waste recycling at this time.	133	9.7%	20	4.2%	11	9.2%	102	28.1%

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15a. Would you like to stay informed about the progress on organic household waste recycling or other waste reduction efforts in Northfield?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
Yes	504	52.4%	292	61.0%	74	61.7%	138	38.0%
No	444	46.2%	181	37.8%	46	38.3%	217	59.8%
(Blank)	14	1.5%	6	1.3%	0	0.0%	8	2.2%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

16. What is your age?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
18–29	48	5.0%	20	4.2%	5	4.2%	23	6.3%
30–39	125	13.0%	73	15.2%	13	10.8%	39	10.7%
40–49	156	16.2%	78	16.3%	27	22.5%	51	14.0%
50–59	178	18.5%	85	17.7%	30	25.0%	63	17.4%
60–69	208	21.6%	94	19.6%	25	20.8%	89	24.5%
70–79	162	16.8%	87	18.2%	12	10.0%	63	17.4%
80+	60	6.2%	32	6.7%	2	1.7%	26	7.2%
(Blank)	25	2.6%	10	2.1%	6	5.0%	9	2.5%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

17. What is your gender?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
Male	294	30.6%	133	27.8%	36	30.0%	125	34.4%
Female	602	62.6%	323	67.4%	74	61.7%	205	56.5%
Other	3	0.3%	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Prefer not to answer	52	5.4%	16	3.3%	8	6.7%	28	7.7%
(Blank)	11	1.1%	5	1.0%	2	1.7%	4	1.1%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

18a. Who is responsible for paying for waste pick up in your residence?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
I am	848	88.1%	433	90.4%	109	90.8%	306	84.3%
My landlord/homeowners association	84	8.7%	28	5.8%	8	6.7%	48	13.2%
Other	21	2.2%	14	2.9%	2	1.7%	5	1.4%
(Blank)	9	0.9%	4	0.8%	1	0.8%	4	1.1%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

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19. How many people live in your household?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
1	142	14.8%	47	9.8%	14	2.9%	81	16.9%
2	455	47.3%	233	48.6%	48	10.0%	174	36.3%
3	118	12.3%	65	13.6%	18	3.8%	35	7.3%
4	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
4+	236	24.5%	129	26.9%	39	8.1%	68	14.2%
(Blank)	11	1.1%	5	1.0%	1	0.2%	5	1.0%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

20. Do you rent or own your living space?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
Own	855	88.9%	436	91.0%	110	91.7%	309	85.1%
Rent	73	7.6%	29	6.1%	6	5.0%	38	10.5%
Prefer not to answer	22	2.3%	9	1.9%	3	2.5%	10	2.8%
(Blank)	12	1.2%	5	1.0%	1	0.8%	6	1.7%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

21a. How do you identify your ethnicity?

			Always	%	Sometimes	%	Not At All	%
Asian	4	0.4%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	3	0.8%
Black/African	11	1.1%	5	1.0%	0	0.0%	6	1.7%
Caucasian	782	81.3%	418	87.3%	95	79.2%	269	74.1%
Hispanic/Latinx	21	2.2%	9	1.9%	3	2.5%	9	2.5%
Pacific Islander	2	0.2%	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	25	2.6%	7	1.5%	5	4.2%	13	3.6%
Prefer not to answer	103	10.7%	31	6.5%	15	12.5%	57	15.7%
(Blank)	14	1.5%	6	1.3%	2	1.7%	6	1.7%
Total	962	100.0%	479	100.0%	120	100.0%	363	100.0%

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

Appendix B is a verbatim listing of all of the comments respondents made on the topic of overcoming barriers to recycling household organic waste. The Appendix is divided into three sections based on the frequency of recycling the respondent indicated: always, sometimes or never.

Respondents were asked to describe how they overcame or will overcome barriers to recycling household organic waste. 440 persons responded. Respondent comments were read and re-read to determine the theme of the comment. Each respondent's comment was placed into one the six theme categories that emerged: Joined a Curbside Service, Inconveniences of Composting, Need for Education, City's Role, Overcoming Barriers and Backyard Composting. When a respondent spoke about more than one theme within the comment, the respondent's comment was placed into as many of the theme categories as was mentioned in the comment. This created 532 comments that were each assigned to one of the six common themes.

The table below quantifies each group's comments and illustrates how much each group thinks about specific barriers: Inconveniences of Composting, Curbside Service, Need for Education, Backyard Recycling, City's Role, and Overcoming Barriers.

Barriers – Textual

	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total
Inconveniences of Composting	84	32	75	191
Curbside Service	92	9	1	102
Need for Education	51	9	28	88
Backyard Composting	30	16	6	52
City's Role	12	11	27	50
Overcoming Barriers	39	7	3	49
Row Totals	308	84	140	532

Barriers consistent for all groups are the inconveniences associated with the unpleasantness of coping with decaying organic matter and finding the space and system that works. Another barrier (inconvenience) all groups spoke about is cost. While cost was not a barrier for most in the always group, they thought cost could be a barrier for others. A final barrier all groups consistently cite is that for renters or those who live in a homeowner's association or a condo, recycling organics (and often backyard composting) is not allowed.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Responses from respondents who ALWAYS recycle their household organic waste

The always group most generally overcame their barriers (taking it to the drop off site, creating the space, and backyard composting) to recycling household organic waste when the local curbside service became available. After that, their next biggest barrier was figuring out how to incorporate the complexities of composting household organics into their own and other family members daily life: educating self and others and creating new habits takes work.

Always Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

Barrier: it was difficult to take to a community drop off site (and I didn't want to manage compost in my yard).
Solution: Northfield Curbside Composting provided a bucket, bag, and weekly curbside pickup services at a very affordable price. And added benefit I can support a local business run by young entrepreneurs.
Barriers still exist. It's ugly and messy. Attracts pests
Before I became aware of the curbside pickup service, I struggled to get to the community drop off site as I would have to walk over an hour to the site.
By learning more about how to handle bugs and keep my compost under control, I understood and now love composting
Compost site is quite a ways from my house and the hours it was open did not allow for convenient use. Overcame problem by using curbside pickup.
Critters becoming attracted to my pile.
Dealing with the odor was most unpleasant. I purchased a small Paula d compostable liners and trained family and friends about what can be composted.
Difficult to create the proper space. We have a small lot with no space for a compost pile.
Difficult to set up functional space. At our previous house we had a detached garage with poor doors, so the waste collection bucket couldn't be out there, and had to be on the screened porch near where we sat. Smells and mess were not nice there. Now we have a secure attached garage, so it is easy to keep the 5 gallon bucket out there.
Dirty, rodents
Drop off
Dropping it off on a regular basis. Curbside pickup fixed this
Dropping it off was a barrier but municipal recycling was started where I used to live and that made it super easy
Due to the severe winter weather we did not recycle our organic waste.
Establishing a place for the compost bin.
Family members. Overcame the barrier through nagging and yelling.
Finding a proper receptacle to store waste in before it got taken outside to the "mulch pit" was the only barrier.
Finding a proper spot. To appease my wife I use paper take out or paper grocery bags to and take out to the garage 5-gallon before it gets gross.
Finding time to take my compost to the community site was difficult (I live on the other side of town). Plus it is closed half the year. When I heard about Northfield Curbside Composting it was the perfect solution, and since they pick up year-round, I can compost my kitchen waste 52 weeks a year!
Finding time was the biggest factor
Having the proper space.
Home purchase
Household organic waste gets pretty smelly. I can't seem to properly manage the moisture that builds up in the bin so it quickly breaks down the bag which spills into the bin which attracts the buggers! But I do it because it matters:)
I didn't have space for a compost heap in my yard until I owned a house. I just recently started using worms indoors too but it attracted a lot of insects so now it's outside and I don't know if I'll be able to continue that through the winter. The worms also can't handle all the organic material I want for compost so I still need both them and the backyard heap.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

I didn't really have a barrier, however, I could fill a second bucket every week, but the cost is an issue.
I don't garden, so making my own compost didn't make sense, even though I realized the importance of composting. I had no ready space for composting, so that was a second detriment.
I found a good spot near the house; a fence shielded it from the neighbor's view.
As to the amount, yes it was small, but over time mounted up so that I had a reasonable amount of glorious, good-smelling, brown, crumbly compost.
I had to find a place for my compost bin that was sunny and out of the way.
I knew about the curbside pickup program, but felt I wouldn't have enough organic waste each week to make it worth it. My neighbor and I were talking about it and decided to try sharing a bucket and see how it goes. Between the 2 of us, we fill the bag every week! The only challenge I see is the moisture that builds up in the bucket then causes the bag to weaken/break open.
I live in a condo building and we have no compost options here, not yet, unfortunately. :-(
I think cost is a barrier for some people to participate in composting. I wish it were free.
I tried to deliver my own waste to the drop off site but could never find the time when it was open and often missed our chance to drop off. Often the compost got moldy or disgusting before I dropped it off. Finally I just paid for the service of pick up and am very appreciative!!!
I would say the space issue. Where to put a bucket inside and where to keep it outside. I didn't really want a third garbage bin nor did I want it near the house where it was ugly and might smell. At the same time I didn't want it far from the house because I thought it would be a pain to use. It isn't as simple as I'd like it to be and we struggle with the yuk factor as I keep a bucket under the sink and then feed it into the main bucket for pick up. Since I have to do this a couple times a week (the bucket under the sink is small) I have to deal with decayed organic waste dripping on my hands twice a week. I can deal with it but I don't really like it. That said, I want to do my part to reduce waste.
It cost too much
It has been difficult in the past, renting places to live, that don't have a yard, or room to compost., in a city that didn't offer household composting.
It smells and is messy. There's no solution--it'll always smell and be messy. It's worth it so far.
It was difficult to create the proper space. It took some effort to get compostable bags and a container to collect it in as well as a place to put it outside our home to store before dropping it off.
It was dirty and unpleasant and the compostable bags leak causing the pail to get dirty. I overcame it by just being committed to doing it.
It was dirty or unpleasant. I got a good container to place in my kitchen which controlled bugs and odor while being within handy reach for depositing household organics.
It was dirty or unpleasant. I purchased a counter-top compost bin for food scraps with compostable bags. The one I chose supposedly helped to keep odors at bay. So far, that has been the case. Plus, an easy purchase of a 5-gallon bucket with a lid made it easy to then put it in my garage and only have to visit the community site once every 2 weeks.
It was dirty or unpleasant. I was composting at home, but the work of maintaining the heap meant it broke down slowly and newly added material sometimes smelled. Now I store in 5 gallon pails until I can bring to the compost site to dump.
It was too much work – I tried composting and it didn't work well. I probably needed more practice. I didn't believe I could turn the food scraps into soil very easily.
It was too much work to do a proper job in my backyard so I switched to bringing it to the compost facility as part of my weekly routine. It's still a stinky job.
Just got over the bugs, the compost is outside anyways.
Knowing to ask about the private compost coop service.
Learning exactly what could and couldn't be composted
Living in rental house and don't have an area to do compost
My wife and I have been doing this for 25 + years, so there really have been no barriers. It does take some effort and willingness to deal with muck and a bit of smell, but these are minor matters compared to the world's need to reduce methane emissions, decrease landfill, and our own desire for good compost and fertilizer.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

My wife and I participate in the weekly compost pick-up operation by Northfield Curbside Composting. We collect the organic material in a sink-side, stainless container, transfer it daily to the bag-lined, 5-gallon bucket provided by Curbside and haul the bucket to the curb on Monday mornings. Curbside asks us to tie up the green bag in the 5-gallon bucket. That is a disagreeable task. The disposable bags are too thin and break readily when punctured by flower stems, bones, old celery, rhubarb, etc. The bags readily disintegrate, in the bucket, during warm weather and high humidity releasing decaying material into the bucket. The bucket then has to be washed-out after every pick-up. Via email exchanges with Curbside, we have been instructed to forget the bag tying during warm weather; but that still leaves a mess in the bucket that has to be cleaned out. The compostable material is sloppy, smelly, disagreeable stuff that freezes into the bucket during winter weather. We think the transfer of the waste from us to you in a more formal program is going to remain a large problem.
Odor & bug problems. Now I keep my bigger bin inside my mudroom in the summer so it doesn't get too hot (smelly). I have a smaller can on the counter for daily waste, to be emptied into the bigger bin as needed. Must keep lids on containers!! I am still frustrated by "cornstarch" bags to line compost bins as they really don't hold up well once they get wet/damp.
Odor. I put it outside immediately (rather than keeping it in the kitchen). Harder in the winter, as is the whole progress.
Organics bins often attract fruit flies and get smelly
Organizing a condo-wide process for recycling organic waste to avoid smells, pests, and other problems when all participants don't follow the proper procedures
Other household members were not onboard, once they saw how easy it was it was no longer an issue.
Other: Needed a curbside option (that was convenient and provided clarity around what can be composted from household organic waste).
Our association voted at our annual meeting to begin composting. The cost is paid by our association dues. The composting company picks up once a week, at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive.
Our house and yard are quite small, and we are a two-person household. We don't have a garden. It did not seem to make sense for us to set up our own compost system because we lacked space, we didn't produce that much organic waste, and we didn't have a use for it. We sometimes had to pay someone else to take yard waste to the city compost because our car is small. The Northfield Curbside Compost program is AMAZING!!! It solved all our problems and I am proud to participate. We are also thrilled that the city now picks up yard waste and have ordered a bin. THANK YOU!
Our landlord did not want compost of food products on our property because it attracts pests. However they have no issue with our weekly pickup service combined with neighbor chickens! A happy compromise.
Our largest barrier was getting the right ratio of carbon and household waste for it to heat to the proper temperature. We just did a ton of research and it was really trial and error. Now we seem to have it figured out.
Placing the bag of organic waste in the freezer during the summer. Keeping the waste in my unheated garage during the winter.
Probably the hardest part (which wasn't very hard) was to remember to put the appropriate items in the organic waste container, instead of the regular garbage. It took a few days to remember what should be composted, but once you got the hang of it, it was easy. My least favorite part of the process is handling the compost (I transfer it from my kitchen receptacle to the bigger bucket in my garage). But, it's not bad....
Putting food waste down the sink disposal is easy/convenient/clean/simple. We are ruining the planet. We have to do all we can do, including composting, to try to preserve a livable world.
Putting wet scraps in the compostable bags was a small problem for me because it began to break apart before it was full enough for me to take to the bin. Now I keep the bag in the freezer until I take it out.
Recycling and composting are easy. There is a local service (Northfield Curbside Composting) that is very efficient and inexpensive for composting. The local public recycling centers are close and accommodating. There are good small businesses available for composting and a city program is not needed. A city program would be more expensive and work against good small business, jobs and free enterprise ... much as city liquor stores do.
Smell
Space for food scraps in the house to save for the weekly pickup. I now put them in the freezer to avoid the smell. Bugs, and early decomposing before recycling day/
Started using curbside pickup because it was convenient.
Taking the time to recycle correctly, figuring out the best use of organic waste and should be used where.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

The attracting of bugs (mostly gnats.) We tried setting out traps. That didn't work. We put all the fruit in the refrigerator, and cleaned the cabinets with bleach.
The biggest barrier (prior to participating in Northfield curbside composting) was I didn't have a proper space to begin a compost. Plus, I didn't have time to manage it myself.
The difficulty getting to the community drop off site. Thank goodness for Northfield Composting!
The money.
The most difficult barrier was bringing it to a community drop off site. We purchased a large garbage can that we keep outside. We then take that to the community site when it gets about halfway full. However, the can gets heavy, dirty, smells and barely fits in our vehicle. It is too inconvenient for us to go any more frequently though.
The Northfield community compost site on Armstrong Road has hours that sometimes made it difficult for me to drop off organic waste as frequently as I like to. After seeing another drop-off site listed on the City of Northfield's website, I called the City and learned I can drop off organic waste at the City of Northfield's Street Shop on Riverview Drive. It's less than a mile from my home and I can drop off anytime.
There are always bugs and mice in a few areas, such as under the sink where garbage is kept until it is taken out to the bin in the garage. In the winter it is sometimes difficult to get through the snow out to the compost bin in the garden.
There are so many different paper packaging products with different amounts of plastic., such as shiny butter packages versus the inside butter wrap. Styrofoams ? Glad to see MacDonalds and other restaurants starting to use paper wrappers and boxes. We request "no lids, no straws" at Dairy Queen. How about take-out coffee cups? Some are paper, some plastic coated.
Is there still a kitchen compost bin at Yard Waste? Not enough advertising about it. Better design for their dump bin? Lower? Do people sort carefully or include a lot of trash? Open Hands Farm uses organic compostable green bags for fresh produce
Trying to get the waste to the proper location on a weekly basis.
Unpleasantness
We adjusted our budget to accommodate the extra cost of a private curbside service because we don't have the room to have a personal compost site here not to mention that with the curbside service we can recycle more organic waste than we could in our backyard.
We are only able to do this because my father who is retired takes a few trips to the compost a week. With a house of 7 we sadly have a lot of waste.
We had no barriers, only learning curves. We printed graphics to let us know what we can compost. We got into a cycle/pattern of emptying and cleaning and setting out for pickup (Northfield Compost). The cost is affordable to us, but I can understand how other families would not take on another expense when organics in the trash or disposal is still acceptable.
We pay about \$75/year for curbside pickup. We had to think about the expense but now think it is totally worth it.
We recycled our household organic waste before they had curbside pick up. Our biggest barrier was when the compost site in town closed for the winter and we would have to drive it to Rosemount. We over came that barrier when Northfield Composting started and we signed up for curbside service.
With curbside service offered, we were thrilled to sign up, and fortunately cost (nor anything else) was a barrier for us.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Curbside Service

A curbside pick up service became available in our community. Northfield curbside Composting.
As soon as Northfield composting became available, composting was a piece of cake. Never would have done it without them.
Barrier: it was difficult to take to a community drop off site (and I didn't want to manage compost in my yard).
Solution: Northfield Curbside Composting provided a bucket, bag, and weekly curbside pickup services at a very affordable price. And added benefit I can support a local business run by young entrepreneurs.
By signing up for curbside pick up
By using a curbside pickup that was weekly, I didn't have time for those problems to develop.
Compost site is quite a ways from my house and the hours it was open did not allow for convenient use. Overcame problem by using curbside pickup.
Composting requires the proper placement, equipment, techniques and practices. I had wanted to compost for some time, but never took the time to learn about it or the initiative to put it all together. I also did not have buy-in from my family. When the offer to have curbside pickup was offered, I jumped at the chance! It made it easy to do the right thing for the environment.
Curbside pick up overcame 2 of 3 and I then persuaded family members
Curbside pick up removed almost all barriers for our family.
Curbside pick-up
Curbside pickup
Difficulty take to drop off site was overcome by having Northfield Curbside Compost
Dropping it off on a regular basis. Curbside pickup fixed this
Dropping it off was a barrier but municipal recycling was started where I used to live and that made it super easy
Finding time to take my compost to the community site was difficult (I live on the other side of town). Plus it is closed half the year. When I heard about Northfield Curbside Composting it was the perfect solution, and since they pick up year-round, I can compost my kitchen waste 52 weeks a year!
Getting established with a recycling company and learning the compost site's schedule and rules. It turned out to be easier than I thought.
Having the curbside pick up each week made the difference for us.
I am happy to say I put out my organic waste each week that is picked up by Northfield Composting.
They made it simple to do at an economical price.
I applaud them for all their good work.
I didn't check any, because there really weren't any barriers. Our local compost company makes it all very easy. It's really just not that hard, and there should be no reason for everyone in the community to be doing this.
I didn't have any barriers. The Curbside pick-up is easy, convenient, and economical.
I didn't really have barriers. We used to throw compost in an area of the backyard but that presented problems for pets and other animals, so we were so happy to be able to purchase curbside pickup.
I didn't recycle household organic waste until we signed up with a weekly pick-up service. The service makes it so much easier. Now the biggest problem is simply getting all the members of the household to remember to recycle instead of throwing things in the trash.
I didn't select a barrier. The only barrier for us was until Northfield Curbside Composting was available, we didn't have an option. We probably could have created our own pile/bin, but didn't because we knew the curbside service was coming. We are huge proponents of the city providing this option!
I felt it was unpleasant and would attract bugs but now that I am doing it my fears have become unfounded. With Northfield composting picking it up every week, I have not noticed bugs at all.
I got the weekly compost pickup. It overcame the problem of raccoons messing with our backyard compost. I still compost some larger items (corn cobs) at home but love the ease of the weekly pickup.
I had no barriers to cycle my household organic waste. I use NorthfieldHouseholdComposting and they are very efficient and reasonably priced.
I had no problems recycling organic waste. When it was initiated here, we had to help people understand how and why to collect it, and as residents come and go, continued educating is needed, but we have had good participation.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Curbside Service

I initially tried doing my own composting but due to rodents decided to pay for curbside pick-up and I love it!
I needed/wanted a curbside pickup. I waited until Northfield Composting had a signup in my area and set a reasonable price.
I now have the curbside composting service that picks up the waste on the same day as the garbage is collected. It's great!
I really have loved composting from the start. It keeps the wet and stinky food scraps out of our kitchen garbage which doesn't have a cover and gets emptied once a week. Our kitchen compost bucket has a cover and gets emptied every day or two into the 5 gallon bucket from Northfield Composting. It's so simple and easy. They even supply the bags! Everyone in my family is on board and used the compost bucket for all their food scraps.
It was too much work to do a proper job in my backyard so I switched to bringing it to the compost facility as part of my weekly routine. It's still a stinky job.
It was too much work to turn it and my backyard pile always overflowed.
It was too much work. The service provided by Curbside Composting was just what I needed: the bucket, the Compostable bag to use, the super reliable pick up service. I'm lazy about household chores. This is what I needed. Works great!
Mostly, I did not have time to learn bout how it works.
My biggest barrier in yard waste was finding a vehicle that could transport it out to the compost site. I had to rely on my neighbors to help me get it out there and it could literally be bagged for weeks before they had the time to help me. My biggest barrier for organic compost was not being able to compost in the wintertime. I now have curbside service for both and that's resolved all of my barriers and makes it quite easy.
My household did not recycle organic waste until Northfield Composting began. Once their service started, it was easy and convenient. I would not have seriously considered it otherwise (despite the importance).
My kids were educated about recycling more than our cans and cardboard. Once they brought it up a couple of times, I decided to look up Northfield curbside compost. I learned that it is not expensive and is really easy to do. They even send a reminder email every week so that we don't miss a pick up!
No barriers once I could get curbside pick-up.
None were barriers. I had been composting in my yard to be responsible, but found it a hassle. I greatly appreciate the convenience of curbside composting.
None. Northfield Composting has made it easy & convenient to compost. I love doing it & encourage my friends to get on board.
Northfield Composting and its wonderful service!
Once it was offered curbside we enrolled
Once my husband built a compost box it has been very easy to recycle our household and yard organic waste on a daily basis.
Once Northfield Composting offered curbside pick up, the decision was easy
Once we decided to sign up for curbside pickup it was a lot easier to recycle our organic waste. We were more likely to do it because it was so convenient.
Other: Needed a curbside option (that was convenient and provided clarity around what can be composted from household organic waste).
Our association voted at our annual meeting to begin composting. The cost is paid by our association dues. The composting company picks up once a week, at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive.
Our house and yard are quite small, and we are a two-person household. We don't have a garden. It did not seem to make sense for us to set up our own compost system because we lacked space, we didn't produce that much organic waste, and we didn't have a use for it. We sometimes had to pay someone else to take yard waste to the city compost because our car is small. The Northfield Curbside Compost program is AMAZING!!! It solved all our problems and I am proud to participate. We are also thrilled that the city now picks up yard waste and have ordered a bin. THANK YOU!
Our landlord did not want compost of food products on our property because it attracts pests. However they have no issue with our weekly pickup service combined with neighbor chickens! A happy compromise.
Recycling and composting are easy. There is a local service (Northfield Curbside Composting) that is very efficient and inexpensive for composting. The local public recycling centers are close and accommodating. There are good small businesses available for composting and a city program is not needed. A city program would be more expensive and work against good small business, jobs and free enterprise ... much as city liquor stores do.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Curbside Service

Started using curbside pickup because it was convenient.
The biggest barrier (prior to participating in Northfield curbside composting) was I didn't have a proper space to begin a compost. Plus, I didn't have time to manage it myself.
The curbside pick up composting is SUCH a help to me. I fill up my bucket, they come and pick it up and make sure the waste is treated properly.
The curbside pick up took care of my problem because I did not want a compost outdoors here
The curbside service in Northfield has made composting super easy! It's hard to remember when we didn't compost.
The curbside service is inexpensive, convenient, and year around. Before the service was available, I had a heap in the backyard and really only composted spring-fall because of the frozen ground and getting out to the back my property through the snow. These are no longer issues with the curbside service.
The curbside service was gifted to us by a friend, and we've kept up with it for the last 4 years. It is now something I gifted to my parents to help them start the process. They are now big fans, too!
The difficulty getting to the community drop off site. Thank goodness for Northfield Composting!
The most difficult to overcome was the ease of putting food scraps in the garbage. However, when I was told about the Northfield curbside compost program I purchased a special bin that we keep in the kitchen and compost bags to put in it. Having a system in place makes it very easy then to follow through with composting household organic waste.
The Northfield Curbside Composting service helped me overcome all of my barriers by making clear what I could add to compost bins and by doing the leg work for me. I don't have a yard (I live in a townhouse), so I didn't have my own space to create a compost pile, etc. I'm delighted with the option and ease of that service, and would be thrilled if that option or one like it would continue to be available.
There are no significant barriers, we are happy to compost and so thankful it is picked up on our curb each week!
There was no barriers, it made no sense to throw food waste into the trash when it could be picked up by a curbside service, and turned into compost.
To do it properly with a compost bin/pile at home is not as easy as I would like. The option of curbside pickup removed that barrier and now it is very easy.
Until curbside pickup became available, we had nowhere to compost most food waste
Using the curbside pick up was, and is, not a problem for our household. We did purchase an attractive lidded container (with charcoal filter in the lid) for our kitchen countertop. The price for this was about \$30-40. We also purchased compostable liner bags for this container, about \$12 for a box of 100. This might be an financial obstacle for some.
We currently participate in the weekly curbside pick up service. If we didn't have this service, we would most likely not compost our kitchen waste, but we would still compost our lawn waste.
We did not compost until we found out about the Northfield Curbside Composting program, as we did not feel we had a good place on our property to do our own composting.
We moved to Northfield where we had curbside pickup
We pay \$85 for curbside pickup. When we lived in Minneapolis, it was a service the city provided, which was appreciated. In both case, though, we collect waste the same: we have a canister in the house that we empty in a larger one that gets picked up weekly. I grew up on a farm recycling compost in an ice cream pail and tossing it into our fields or to the pigs, so it was a pretty easy practice for me to get used to.
We pay about \$75/year for curbside pickup. We had to think about the expense but now think it is totally worth it.
We recycled our household organic waste before they had curbside pick up. Our biggest barrier was when the compost site in town closed for the winter and we would have to drive it to Rosemount. We over came that barrier when Northfield Composting started and we signed up for curbside service.
We started out with a backyard composter. We did not produce enough to use on our garden and yard and we found that we almost needed a second composter or needed to get a double composter to really make it work right. I did not like the bugs but it actually didn't smell. I loved how much it reduced our trash and kept doing it not to create compost for my gardens but just because it really made a difference in the landfill. When we realized we didn't need to keep the compost we got a service. We use two pails and could honestly use more.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Curbside Service

We started with an outdoor composting bin and it was stinky, hard to turn and keep at the right levels to do it's best composting – it also attracted rodents. It took my family some time to make the switch from our garbage disposal and the small amount of food that we could compost in our outdoor bin to the larger list of items that could be composted with the service we now use, but we are grateful for Northfield Compost.
We tried do-it-yourself home composting and that was not very successful, so we were very pleased that the private-sector curbside composting project started. It's simple, fast, reliable, and cheap.
We wanted to recycle organics in the winter as well as the summer but we didn't have a compost that was hot enough to do that nor did we have the community drop off point available in the winter. Also, just leaving it on the curb was the level convenience that we needed to make it very doable for a family.
We were fortunate to hire Northfield Composting to take our compost weekly.
We were happy when curbside compost pickup became an option in our neighborhood. Having a good countertop compost bin (with a lid you can lift one-handed) makes it as easy to scrape leftovers and trimmings into it as to put them down the disposal.
We're fortunate enough to be able to afford an organic waste service, but it would of course be wonderful if the City of Northfield offered this as we have our regular garbage and recycling services!
When curbside pickup became available, it became easier to recycle.
When curbside recycling started in Northfield I became a subscriber.
When I was made aware of an option (Northfield Composting), I signed up. I guess a barrier prior to that was no known alternative.
When we moved to Northfield there wasn't curbside compost pick-up. As soon as it was offered in our area we signed right up
Where we lived in Brooklyn, a friend told us we could drop it off weekly in the neighborhood for the City to pickup. When we moved to Northfield, we had our own bin and used it year round. When a rat moved in this spring, we emptied it out and started using the curbside pickup service to keep pests like that away.
With curbside service offered, we were thrilled to sign up, and fortunately cost (nor anything else) was a barrier for us.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Need for Education

By learning more about how to handle bugs and keep my compost under control, I understood and now love composting
Composting requires the proper placement, equipment, techniques and practices. I had wanted to compost for some time, but never took the time to learn about it or the initiative to put it all together. I also did not have buy-in from my family. When the offer to have curbside pickup was offered, I jumped at the chance! It made it easy to do the right thing for the environment.
Considering benefits of the whole is primary over personal focus. It's mindset. We designed a church service around Northfield Curbside Composting for this morning and produced a 5-minute video of what happens and who is behind the scenes. Effective!
Creating the habit is the biggest barrier. Focus on the benefits and it will happen. Don't charge people for composting and recycling and charge for garbage and habits will change.
Curbside pick up overcame 2 of 3 and I then persuaded family members
Dealing with the odor was most unpleasant. I purchased a small Paula d compostable liners and trained family and friends about what can be composted.
Does not apply. it is simple to do and one easily gets in the habit and one feels good about doing it to help the planet
Family members. Overcame the barrier through nagging and yelling.
For a long time I didn't understand how food waste contributed to the climate crisis in landfills. Now that I know, it's really the least I can do. It's also like free dirt! I feel good knowing how it will one day be rich soil, because the earth needs that. We also had to adjust to the container in our kitchen which takes up space. (We could keep it outside but that doesn't really work for winter, when it'd freeze). It would be awesome if the container could fit under the sink somehow but I just don't think there's room for trash, recycling and recycling all under our sink!
For my family to adjust to the new habit of separating trash.
And the biggest barrier for Hispanics is the lack of education and awareness about the importance of organic waste recycling.
Forming the habit of putting it somewhere other than the trash can or garbage disposal.
Have been composting for 20 years
Before that, I wasn't aware of the value
I didn't recycle household organic waste until we signed up with a weekly pick-up service. The service makes it so much easier. Now the biggest problem is simply getting all the members of the household to remember to recycle instead of throwing things in the trash.
I had no problems recycling organic waste. When it was initiated here, we had to help people understand how and why to collect it, and as residents come and go, continued educating is needed, but we have had good participation.
I had to educate others about the need to reduce methane and save space at the landfill. Talking about the benefits of compost and the use rather than burial of a resource was persuasive.
I keep thinking of myself/my waste as separate from the earth. I'm learning that that's not true and I'm discovering my role needs to be more in cooperation with nature than it is. Compost collection seems like the bare minimum now.
I needed more direct conversation, education about the value of composting to overcome my old habits. In the end i wanted to do my part in cleaning up our environment and caring for our earth.
I purchased a stainless steel container for the kitchen counter to collect waste that I can periodically can take outside to empty in the bucket my curbside service provides.
Also gave frequent reminders to family members attached to the habit of the garbage disposal.
I talked to others (friends and neighbors) who convinced me of the value of composting.
I've been composting organic waste for 40 years, so I cannot remember if there were barriers to get started. I am VERY interested in city-wide organics pick-up, since what can be composted is a much larger list than what individuals can compost in a bin at home.
Inertia was the most difficult to overcome. Once I finally requested the (curbside pickup) service and began composting, it was no big deal.
It has always worked to recycle. It is s mindset to save our earth.
It took time and just doing it.
it was a matter of simply changing our habits and learning what could go into the organic waste bucket.
It was difficult to get clear, NON-contradictory, consistent, and accurate information about EXACTLY what can be recycled and what cannot be recycled. "Official" sources seem unsure or unclear or contradicted one another.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Need for Education

It was dirty and unpleasant and the compostable bags leak causing the pail to get dirty. I overcame it by just being committed to doing it.
It was hardest to just simply get used to putting items in my compost bucket rather than down the garbage disposal. I'm so used to it now that it's an automatic action.
Just educated myself on the value of composting
Just figuring out which system to use, purchasing compost bin and setting it up.
Just got over the bugs, the compost is outside anyways.
Knowing to ask about the private compost coop service.
Learning exactly what could and couldn't be composted
Mostly, I did not have time to learn bout how it works.
None. Northfield Composting has made it easy & convenient to compost. I love doing it & encourage my friends to get on board.
Once I understood there were more things than I thought could be recycled it was easier to convince my husband to do the same. Have to coach as he's lazy to do even though north composting bucket is right outside the door going to garage. In warmer months I compost food waste to my own compost bin as I like to have some compost of my own to add to my many garden bins. I do believe you have to educate public more about separating waste and hoe easy it is , just changing a few habits. Maybe city should impose fee for those who don't attempt to do this, but I don't know how you would enforce. I love having option of private company to pick up those items that can't go in my own bin. Great improvement, great for them to start up to reduce more waste.
Organizing a condo-wide process for recycling organic waste to avoid smells, pests, and other problems when all participants don't follow the proper procedures
Other household members were not onboard, once they saw how easy it was it was no longer an issue.
Probably the hardest part (which wasn't very hard) was to remember to put the appropriate items in the organic waste container, instead of the regular garbage. It took a few days to remember what should be composted, but once you got the hang of it, it was easy. My least favorite part of the process is handling the compost (I transfer it from my kitchen receptacle to the bigger bucket in my garage). But, it's not bad....
Taking the time to recycle correctly, figuring out the best use of organic waste and should be used where.
The curbside service was gifted to us by a friend, and we've kept up with it for the last 4 years. It is now something I gifted to my parents to help them start the process. They are now big fans, too!
The Northfield community compost site on Armstrong Road has hours that sometimes made it difficult for me to drop off organic waste as frequently as I like to. After seeing another drop-off site listed on the City of Northfield's website, I called the City and learned I can drop off organic waste at the City of Northfield's Street Shop on Riverview Drive. It's less than a mile from my home and I can drop off anytime.
The only real barrier was bad habits of just tossing compost ales in the garbage
There are always bugs and mice in a few areas, such as under the sink where garbage is kept until it is taken out to the bin in the garage. In the winter it is sometimes difficult to get through the snow out to the compost bin in the garden.
Truly understanding the VALUE
Trying to get the waste to the proper location on a weekly basis.
Understanding what can be composted – still don't compost food-soiled containers, tissues, and animal waste, for example.
Understanding: There are items which surprise me can be composted, but I do like the "rule" the Northfield Curbside Composting Service uses: If it was grown, it can probably be composted.
Value of recycling – by looking at all the other barriers I realized that the values far outweighed the problems. Our Homeowner's Association made it an easy option.
We adjusted our budget to accommodate the extra cost of a private curbside service because we don't have the room to have a personal compost site here not to mention that with the curbside service we can recycle more organic waste than we could in our backyard.
We started with an outdoor composting bin and it was stinky, hard to turn and keep at the right levels to do it's best composting – it also attracted rodents. It took my family some time to make the switch from our garbage disposal and the small amount of food that we could compost in our outdoor bin to the larger list of items that could be composted with the service we now use, but we are grateful for Northfield Compost.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Backyard Composting

Where to dispose of waste
Dropping off organic yard waste was difficult. I did not know at first I had to purchase tags to leave it by the curb, then once I learned that I didn't know pickup was only for a couple months. It was not until I bought an SUV that I was able to take my yard waste to the composting site myself.
Hard a hard time initially sorting food waste from yard waste (including walnut tree leaves) into good useable garden soil. Curbside pick up for yard waste has been fabulous and it makes it easier to turn food waste into soil in our bin.
I ATTENDED A WORKSHOP IN ST. PAUL ON COMPOSTING AT HOME, AND PART OF THAT INCLUDED A COMPOST BIN TO TAKE HOME AND SET UP IN MY YARD, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR DRIVING TO A COMMUNITY SITE.
I built a compost bin, following plans I found online, with extra barriers to keep rodents from getting inside
I found a good spot near the house; a fence shielded it from the neighbor's view.
As to the amount, yes it was small, but over time mounted up so that I had a reasonable amount of glorious, good-smelling, brown, crumbly compost.
I had to purchase a compost bin for my backyard.
I really wasn't sure how my small amount of organic waste made a difference in keeping it from the landfill. I started my own compost site in the back yard for a while, and realized over time that it did amount to quite a bit of weight to turn over for decomposition. That was before the community offered a compost site.
I'm not very handy, but I eventually constructed a compost bin from wood and wire mesh.
I've been composting organic waste for 40 years, so I cannot remember if there were barriers to get started. I am VERY interested in city-wide organics pick-up, since what can be composted is a much larger list than what individuals can compost in a bin at home.
In our co-op housing building, we had to figure out a way to handle the household organics. Once we did that, most of our residents/members have started recycling this waste. We use Northfield Curbside.
In the previous question, I did not check barriers that you overcame to recycle your household organic waste.
I recycle only yard waste
It was difficult to deal with my own compost pile – properly secure it in the yard so animals don't get in, remembering to do it everyday, using the compost that I produced.
It was dirty or unpleasant. I was composting at home, but the work of maintaining the heap meant it broke down slowly and newly added material sometimes smelled. Now I store in 5 gallon pails until I can bring to the compost site to dump.
It was too much work – I tried composting and it didn't work well. I probably needed more practice. I didn't believe I could turn the food scraps into soil very easily.
It was too much work to turn it and my backyard pile always overflowed.
Just figuring out which system to use, purchasing compost bin and setting it up.
Maintaining the compost pile is difficult – turning the soil and mixing in the new waste. I was able to overcome the problem by finding other household members to do the work!
My biggest barrier in yard waste was finding a vehicle that could transport it out to the compost site. I had to rely on my neighbors to help me get it out there and it could literally be bagged for weeks before they had the time to help me. My biggest barrier for organic compost was not being able to compost in the wintertime. I now have curbside service for both and that's resolved all of my barriers and makes it quite easy.
My neighborhood is not one where many people do have compost places, so I was very careful to make my bins part of the landscape.
None of the barriers have been difficult to overcome. Most difficult was finding an affordable, high-quality compost bin. Sadly, we left a nice compost bin at our previous home, and bin purchase options in Northfield aren't great. Please consider facilitating (as Madison WI does) homeowners' purchases of high-quality compost bins by buying nice bins in bulk, and passing savings on to Northfield residents. (Madison's one-day sale event is scheduled at a time and place so bins can be sold right off the delivery truck.) Also, please consider offering more recycling options at the community drop off site: Styrofoam, metal, plastics, etc. Please note that Fitchburg, WI offers great recycling options at its drop off site. THANKS1

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Backyard Composting

Once I understood there were more things than I thought could be recycled it was easier to convince my husband to do the same. Have to coach as he's lazy to do even though north composting bucket is right outside the door going to garage. In warmer months I compost food waste to my own compost bin as I like to have some compost of my own to add to my many garden bins. I do believe you have to educate public more about separating waste and hoe easy it is , just changing a few habits. Maybe city should impose fee for those who don't attempt to do this, but I don't know how you would enforce. I love having option of private company to pick up those items that can't go in my own bin. Great improvement, great for them to start up to reduce more waste.
Once my husband built a compost box it has been very easy to recycle our household and yard organic waste on a daily basis.
Our house and yard are quite small, and we are a two-person household. We don't have a garden. It did not seem to make sense for us to set up our own compost system because we lacked space, we didn't produce that much organic waste, and we didn't have a use for it. We sometimes had to pay someone else to take yard waste to the city compost because our car is small. The Northfield Curbside Compost program is AMAZING!!! It solved all our problems and I am proud to participate. We are also thrilled that the city now picks up yard waste and have ordered a bin. THANK YOU!
Our largest barrier was getting the right ratio of carbon and household waste for it to heat to the proper temperature. We just did a ton of research and it was really trial and error. Now we seem to have it figured out.
To do it properly with a compost bin/pile at home is not as easy as I would like. The option of curbside pickup removed that barrier and now it is very easy.
We built a compost bin at the back of our lot years ago and have used it every since. Originally we built it with the neighbor who lot abutted the rear of ours but they moved after several years and current neighbors don't seem to be the recycling type.
We collected food scraps in a container under the kitchen sink and it was a challenge to keep this container free of bad odors. Since we started feeding food scraps to our chickens daily and composting the other organic waste in an outdoor bin, we haven't had as much of an issue with the bad odors. Since the chickens consume a majority of the organic waste, the volume to "turn over" in our outdoor bin is much more manageable.
We could only do this once we bought a house (not everyone is able to do so) and would be able to drive to a compost site (not everyone has a car and/or the time to dedicate to this chore). I do worry about the neighbors not enjoying the smell of our freshly dumped compost in our backyard bins, but overall it works out OK for us!
We started with an outdoor composting bin and it was stinky, hard to turn and keep at the right levels to do it's best composting – it also attracted rodents. It took my family some time to make the switch from our garbage disposal and the small amount of food that we could compost in our outdoor bin to the larger list of items that could be composted with the service we now use, but we are grateful for Northfield Compost.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – City's Role

Where we lived in Brooklyn, a friend told us we could drop it off weekly in the neighborhood for the City to pickup. When we moved to Northfield, we had our own bin and used it year round. When a rat moved in this spring, we emptied it out and started using the curbside pickup service to keep pests like that away.
Although there were no barriers to starting curbside pick up with Northfield Composting, we could have started a year or more earlier if the city had insisted it be part of the garbage pick-up plan.
Before we got our curbside pickup bucket, there was no place to put organic waste.
Creating the habit is the biggest barrier. Focus on the benefits and it will happen. Don't charge people for composting and recycling and charge for garbage and habits will change.
Hard to find out what options were available to me when I moved to Northfield. But I discovered compostable plastic bags and the drop-off site available for them. Now it's not too bad.
I've been composting organic waste for 40 years, so I cannot remember if there were barriers to get started. I am VERY interested in city-wide organics pick-up, since what can be composted is a much larger list than what individuals can compost in a bin at home.
It was too much work to do a proper job in my backyard so I switched to bringing it to the compost facility as part of my weekly routine. It's still a stinky job.
Knowing to ask about the private compost coop service.
My wife and I participate in the weekly compost pick-up operation by Northfield Curbside Composting. We collect the organic material in a sink-side, stainless container, transfer it daily to the bag-lined, 5-gallon bucket provided by Curbside and haul the bucket to the curb on Monday mornings. Curbside asks us to tie up the green bag in the 5-gallon bucket. That is a disagreeable task. The disposable bags are too thin and break readily when punctured by flower stems, bones, old celery, rhubarb, etc. The bags readily disintegrate, in the bucket, during warm weather and high humidity releasing decaying material into the bucket. The bucket then has to be washed-out after every pick-up. Via email exchanges with Curbside, we have been instructed to forget the bag tying during warm weather; but that still leaves a mess in the bucket that has to be cleaned out. The compostable material is sloppy, smelly, disagreeable stuff that freezes into the bucket during winter weather. We think the transfer of the waste from us to you in a more formal program is going to remain a large problem.
None of the barriers have been difficult to overcome. Most difficult was finding an affordable, high-quality compost bin. Sadly, we left a nice compost bin at our previous home, and bin purchase options in Northfield aren't great. Please consider facilitating (as Madison WI does) homeowners' purchases of high-quality compost bins by buying nice bins in bulk, and passing savings on to Northfield residents. (Madison's one-day sale event is scheduled at a time and place so bins can be sold right off the delivery truck.) Also, please consider offering more recycling options at the community drop off site: Styrofoam, metal, plastics, etc. Please note that Fitchburg, WI offers great recycling options at its drop off site. THANKS!
Once I understood there were more things than I thought could be recycled it was easier to convince my husband to do the same. Have to coach as he's lazy to do even though north composting bucket is right outside the door going to garage. In warmer months I compost food waste to my own compost bin as I like to have some compost of my own to add to my many garden bins. I do believe you have to educate public more about separating waste and how easy it is, just changing a few habits. Maybe city should impose fee for those who don't attempt to do this, but I don't know how you would enforce. I love having option of private company to pick up those items that can't go in my own bin. Great improvement, great for them to start up to reduce more waste.
Recycling and composting are easy. There is a local service (Northfield Curbside Composting) that is very efficient and inexpensive for composting. The local public recycling centers are close and accommodating. There are good small businesses available for composting and a city program is not needed. A city program would be more expensive and work against good small business, jobs and free enterprise ... much as city liquor stores do.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD

COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Overcoming Barriers

There are so many different paper packaging products with different amounts of plastic., such as shiny butter packages versus the inside butter wrap. Styrofoams? Glad to see McDonalds and other restaurants starting to use paper wrappers and boxes. We request "no lids, no straws" at Dairy Queen. How about take-out coffee cups? Some are paper, some plastic coated.
Is there still a kitchen compost bin at Yard Waste? Not enough advertising about it. Better design for their dump bin? Lower? Do people sort carefully or include a lot of trash? Open Hands Farm uses organic compostable green bags for fresh produce
Adopted a two bucket system; one small bucket inside emptied into a larger bucket stored outside regularly.
After consulting with friends, we purchased a covered bucket that fit under our sink that can be emptied periodically into the composting bucket in the garage. It works great.
Clean it regularly.
Coming up with a system for setting aside organic waste inside our house ... we decided on a countertop container
Compost storage in the kitchen. I had to find a sealable bin to prevent odor and bugs.
Difficult to set up functional space. At our previous house we had a detached garage with poor doors, so the waste collection bucket couldn't be out there, and had to be on the screened porch near where we sat. Smells and mess were not nice there. Now we have a secure attached garage, so it is easy to keep the 5 gallon bucket out there.
Finding a system that works for us took some time. We ended up with a plastic bowl to collect organic waste that we keep in our freezer, and then every day or 2 we empty it into our organic recycling container that we keep outside.
Food products bucket tends to smell. But keep the lid on!
For a long time I didn't understand how food waste contributed to the climate crisis in landfills. Now that I know, it's really the least I can do. It's also like free dirt! I feel good knowing how it will one day be rich soil, because the earth needs that. We also had to adjust to the container in our kitchen which takes up space. (We could keep it outside but that doesn't really work for winter, when it'd freeze). It would be awesome if the container could fit under the sink somehow but I just don't think there's room for trash, recycling and recycling all under our sink!
I didn't really have a barrier, however, I could fill a second bucket every week, but the cost is an issue.
I don't think it cost too much but it took a bit to convince myself that it was worth it to pay for curbside pickup. I think cooking more during the pandemic made me more aware of my food waste so I did it this summer. I didn't cook nearly the amount of food before the shut down than I do now. It seems more reasonable since I have more waste.
I knew about the curbside pickup program, but felt I wouldn't have enough organic waste each week to make it worth it. My neighbor and I were talking about it and decided to try sharing a bucket and see how it goes. Between the 2 of us, we fill the bag every week! The only challenge I see is the moisture that builds up in the bucket then causes the bag to weaken/break open.
I purchased a stainless steel container for the kitchen counter to collect waste that I can periodically can take outside to empty in the bucket my curbside service provides.
Also gave frequent reminders to family members attached to the habit of the garbage disposal.
I rearranged my kitchen to accommodate the compost system and started with the Northfield community compost program for weekly pick ups.
I was afraid that it would be unpleasant, but we got a stainless steel container with compostable liner, and all is well. We put the recycling out in the mudroom to make room for the compost.
It is a little extra work to bring the bins to the street for the curbside collection and keep the buckets cleaned out. I have 2 buckets and they get filled each week (especially in the summer).
It was difficult to get clear, NON-contradictory, consistent, and accurate information about EXACTLY what can be recycled and what cannot be recycled. "Official" sources seem unsure or unclear or contradicted one another.
It was dirty or unpleasant. I purchased a counter-top compost bin for food scraps with compostable bags. The one I chose supposedly helped to keep odors at bay. So far, that has been the case. Plus, an easy purchase of a 5-gallon bucket with a lid made it easy to then put it in my garage and only have to visit the community site once every 2 weeks.
It was dirty or unpleasant. I was composting at home, but the work of maintaining the heap meant it broke down slowly and newly added material sometimes smelled. Now I store in 5 gallon pails until I can bring to the compost site to dump.
It was too much work to do a proper job in my backyard so I switched to bringing it to the compost facility as part of my weekly routine. It's still a stinky job.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Overcoming Barriers

It wasn't really a serious barrier – I just had to measure the compost bucket to make sure it would fit in my garbage-recycling bin shed, and purchase a small, carbon-filtered compost bucket for the kitchen.
Mostly you just get used to the smell. And if you can develop a consistent system, then it manages the bugs and smell. We started using small sealed containers in the house that we would fill before taking them to a larger bucket later.
My wife and I participate in the weekly compost pick-up operation by Northfield Curbside Composting. We collect the organic material in a sink-side, stainless container, transfer it daily to the bag-lined, 5-gallon bucket provided by Curbside and haul the bucket to the curb on Monday mornings. Curbside asks us to tie up the green bag in the 5-gallon bucket. That is a disagreeable task. The disposable bags are too thin and break readily when punctured by flower stems, bones, old celery, rhubarb, etc. The bags readily disintegrate, in the bucket, during warm weather and high humidity releasing decaying material into the bucket. The bucket then has to be washed-out after every pick-up. Via email exchanges with Curbside, we have been instructed to forget the bag tying during warm weather; but that still leaves a mess in the bucket that has to be cleaned out. The compostable material is sloppy, smelly, disagreeable stuff that freezes into the bucket during winter weather. We think the transfer of the waste from us to you in a more formal program is going to remain a large problem.
NO BARRIERS, I have done this in Minneapolis as the pilot project when I lived in the Seward neighborhood. It is easier to do this when you get used to it, then disposing as regular waste.
About 15 years ago, I remember the hardest thing was having the right organic waste bag. The larger bag usually did not hold the weight or content of organics. The bottom would fall out sometimes all over the kitchen floor or back yard on way to organic bin. I learned to use smaller bags.
No barriers. We compost most organic waste.
No real barriers. I purchased a small countertop container and compostable bags. These bags are placed in the collection bucket provided by our vendor.
None of the barriers have been difficult to overcome. Most difficult was finding an affordable, high-quality compost bin. Sadly, we left a nice compost bin at our previous home, and bin purchase options in Northfield aren't great. Please consider facilitating (as Madison WI does) homeowners' purchases of high-quality compost bins by buying nice bins in bulk, and passing savings on to Northfield residents. (Madison's one-day sale event is scheduled at a time and place so bins can be sold right off the delivery truck.) Also, please consider offering more recycling options at the community drop off site: Styrofoam, metal, plastics, etc. Please note that Fitchburg, WI offers great recycling options at its drop off site. THANKS!
Odor & bug problems. Now I keep my bigger bin inside my mudroom in the summer so it doesn't get too hot (smelly). I have a smaller can on the counter for daily waste, to be emptied into the bigger bin as needed. Must keep lids on containers!! I am still frustrated by "cornstarch" bags to line compost bins as they really don't hold up well once they get wet/damp.
Placing the bag of organic waste in the freezer during the summer. Keeping the waste in my unheated garage during the winter.
Putting wet scraps in the compostable bags was a small problem for me because it began to break apart before it was full enough for me to take to the bin. Now I keep the bag in the freezer until I take it out.
Space for food scraps in the house to save for the weekly pickup. I now put them in the freezer to avoid the smell. Bugs, and early decomposing before recycling day/
Using the curbside pick up was, and is, not a problem for our household. We did purchase an attractive lidded container (with charcoal filter in the lid) for our kitchen countertop. The price for this was about \$30-40. We also purchased compostable liner bags for this container, about \$12 for a box of 100. This might be an financial obstacle for some.
We bought two containers to swap out and keep cleaner.
We had no barriers, only learning curves. We printed graphics to let us know what we can compost. We got into a cycle/pattern of emptying and cleaning and setting out for pickup (Northfield Compost). The cost is affordable to us, but I can understand how other families would not take on another expense when organics in the trash or disposal is still acceptable.
We have a household covered bucket near our sink to put food scraps in, which we transfer to our pickup bucket when full. This makes it easy to do for us.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Always Barriers – Overcoming Barriers

We make sure to cover our compost at all times.
We pay \$85 for curbside pickup. When we lived in Minneapolis, it was a service the city provided, which was appreciated. In both case, though, we collect waste the same: we have a canister in the house that we empty in a larger one that gets picked up weekly. I grew up on a farm recycling compost in an ice cream pail and tossing it into our fields or to the pigs, so it was a pretty easy practice for me to get used to.
We started out with a backyard composter. We did not produce enough to use on our garden and yard and we found that we almost needed a second composter or needed to get a double composter to really make it work right. I did not like the bugs but it actually didn't smell. I loved how much it reduced our trash and kept doing it not to create compost for my gardens but just because it really made a difference in the landfill. When we realized we didn't need to keep the compost we got a service. We use two pails and could honestly use more.
We were happy when curbside compost pickup became an option in our neighborhood. Having a good countertop compost bin (with a lid you can lift one-handed) makes it as easy to scrape leftovers and trimmings into it as to put them down the disposal.

Responses from respondents who SOMETIMES recycle their household organic waste

The sometimes group most often talks about the barrier of inconveniences to their current backyard or drop off systems. Winter is especially hard as there is no place to drop of compost, and it freezes in the backyard systems. Also, an inconvenience is that certain items cannot be added – meat and food soiled paper – to a backyard system. Some would simply like to improve their backyard system. The sometimes group seems more open to participating in recycling household organic waste and/or considering moving beyond backyard composting if the City provides it for very little cost, with clear guidelines and education, and makes it easy. One barrier all groups consistently have is if they are renters or live in a homeowner's association or condo, where recycling organics is not allowed.

Sometimes Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

A year round drop off site that will accept organic waste
Again – winter is the limiting factor
Better storage container. My garage is much too hot in the summer to store the compost. The compost bag breaks down before weekly drop off.
Biggest barrier is uneven production of household organic waste. My curbside pickup provides an 8 gallon bag, but sometimes that isn't enough space & I end up throwing the rest in the trash b/c I don't have a good place/way to store it. Food products break down the compostable bags after a few days, creating holes & a big moldy mess. A good solution would be compost pickup twice a week.
Cost.
Creating the proper space – we need a separate bin for organic waste. We have a small one, which works, but I wish we had one outside that was easy to recycle in. Right now it's a bit of a hassle. We have to put the compostable garbage bag in the bin provided for us by the recycling company (5 gal bucket) and then put our bag from the bin in the house inside the bucket. It's just a lot of steps. It would be easier if it was just a large bin like a regular garbage bin outside.
Dirty/unpleasant
Ease of disposing of it
Ease of throwing bin, so if a separate bin was available that would great.
Easier to put food scraps in the garbage disposal. Having a convenient container near sink would be helpful.
Finding the right Space is an issue with Animals out in the country.
Have suitable, convenient place close to kitchen, and inaccessible to bugs, etc.
I had switched the service to our new residence – but we had to move back to the old one and rent the new one, so I left the service there but did not order additional service for the old house. So it's mostly a matter of availability and cost. And just our weird circumstances. I would totally compost ALL the time given fewer barriers.
I have no problem with vegetable matter that will turn into compost. However, I can't use my backyard bin in the winter. Meat waste is a problem year around.
I live in an apartment and it has been very difficult to find biodegradable waste bags.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Sometimes Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

I need somewhere to take it in the winter. I would recycle ALWAYS if there were curbside.
I would need to pay for curbside pickup from the private vendor and I am against that when the City of Northfield could support this and get many more people involved.
Improve a compost site in our yard or have curbside pick up available, especially during winter months
It is inconvenient because my housing association doesn't currently do it. If we had it here in the building, I would do it all the time.
It's hard during the summer if we are 6 days from pickup because of the smell and heat. In winter the materials can freeze into place and make hard to remove.
Paying for recycling of animal food waste, room in my kitchen to separate the various types of waste and concern over the odor.
Same as above: dog gets some and pokey things get tossed to save the compost bag
Seasonality makes it difficult – getting an easily accessible (but not particularly accessible to animals) winter setup is the biggest barrier.
Storing compost in a 5 gallon bucket in my garage is problematic. It does get stinky and outdoors I am concerned animals will get into the bucket.
The amount of waste is less than a cup a week so easier and more time efficient to just put in garbage. My small garbage can is never full. I could probably go a month between garbage pick up and a lot of weeks I don't put garbage out
Transferring decomposing food to compost container on my counter and the subsequent decaying in my container makes it difficult to transfer to bucket on Tuesday. And the plastic bag will deteriorate if filled before Tuesday
Unpleasant, smelly... need a convenient outside container. I currently put banana peels, coffee grounds and filters with my weeds in the garden. I won't be able to do this during the winter.
We only recycle sometimes because we have very little waste. As I observe the number of "household recycle pails around Northfield I question do the do gooders saving the world think about all of the plastic bags they use each week and the number of plastic buckets that get ruined and replaced. I have also observed some of the pails tipped over by animals and opened leaving a mess.
We will probably never collect the waste to drive to a community drop-off site. We have considered a curbside service for when our bin is full and for over the winter. We might take a bin to a drop-off site within walking distance, especially if we could trade the full/dirty bin out for a clean one.
Winter extreme cold
Winter weather often makes driving difficult.
Winter, sometimes just don't want to tramp through the backyard snow in subzero weather to the composter.

Sometimes Barriers – Curbside Service

Curbside composting is simpler. Sometimes taking out compost seems like too much trouble.
I believe the Northfield Curbside Composting weekly service will allow me to more easily compost every week.
I don't put paper products (like pizza boxes or tissues or compostable cups) in my yard compost, just vegetable matter. I don't want my home compost to look like a garbage pile, so only vegetable matter, yard waste and eggshells go in. The paper products are of such a small quantity that I throw them into the garbage instead of collecting them for municipal composting. Don't want to store them.
I had switched the service to our new residence – but we had to move back to the old one and rent the new one, so I left the service there but did not order additional service for the old house. So it's mostly a matter of availability and cost. And just our weird circumstances. I would totally compost ALL the time given fewer barriers.
I need a close-to-the-house, but outside the house system that will be animal-proof (rodents, raccoons, opossums, pets, etc.) that I don't need to turn (as I would a compost pile.) It seems like Northfield Composting has a good system.
I need somewhere to take it in the winter. I would recycle ALWAYS if there were curbside.
Previously, I lived in an area where I was not able to access composting pickup. Now that I live in Northfield proper, I am very interested in compost pickup. Will this kind of thing also be available in Dundas?
Storing compost in a 5 gallon bucket in my garage is problematic. It does get stinky and outdoors I am concerned animals will get into the bucket.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Sometimes Barriers – Need for Education

We work hard to compost via NFLD Curbside Compost. We love their service! I run out of space in my can though and don't want to pay for two. Most of the things we currently don't recycle are nail clippings, hair, tissues, etc. The harder to collect from each individual family member type items.
Easier to put food scraps in the garbage disposal. Having a convenient container near sink would be helpful.
Family support
Gaining support of other household members would be my most difficult to overcome. Maybe they would be more willing to bring organic waste to a community drop off site if they saw a benefit to them like free compost in return.
I think the dirty or unpleasant nature of it. This could be overcome with a dedicated bin (probably with a good seal against bugs and odors) in the garage that would get picked up like regular trash or recycling. Also, it would need clear guidelines about what to include.
It provides no benefit to the environment and actually is harmful as it burns more fuel
Running yard waste around.
Second, Northfield has a great System right now for yard waste and I don't want to change it so politicians can feel good about themselves by coming up with more rules and regulations.
It seems to us that in our attempts to recycle we may be recycling the wrong items and that would create another issue.
Maybe if it was made very clear on what is allowed to be recycled and what is not the situation would then turn into a beneficial habit.
Not having a proper household disposal or storage bin to keep food waste in between collection times.
Not knowing all the items are considered compostable and having a consistent container and pickup for them. Would appreciate more education on all items that are compostable.
Some waste facial tissue, cotton balls, swaps are items that contain germs and especially during a time of COVID issues where it should be disposed in a less hazardous manner than composting when sanitary conditions of composting are iffy at best for spreading germs and disease.

Sometimes Barriers – Backyard Composting

I have a backyard-composting tumbler, however that is a hassle to use and maintain, therefore it has fallen into disuse and disfavor. I recycle organic waste such as coffee grounds and eggshells, easy things such as these.
I have a small compost heap and a dog in my yard, so I do not put meat, breads or other food in there that my dog might eat.
I have no problem with vegetable matter that will turn into compost. However, I can't use my backyard bin in the winter. Meat waste is a problem year around.
I hesitate to put meat or other processed food products in my compost bin as I don't want to attract rodents. I would welcome a place where I can drop off those types of items along with cardboard, etc., that I don't like to recycle into compost bin since I use it directly in my very large vegetable garden.
I'm not sure my yard based compost bin would handle food stained paper products adequately.
If you came by everyone's house to pick up organics I would put my soiled paper and chicken bones out but not my veggie scraps and coffee grounds.
Improve a compost site in our yard or have curbside pick up available, especially during winter months
It is difficult to create the proper space. My backyard composter fills quickly when I include paper products. Inside the house, my sink side container fills quickly, starts to smell or gets fruit flies. I don't compost meat, bread, bones, sauces/pasta (usually because there's meat in the sauce). If I could find a larger container that also filtered smell/flies I could empty it less often. If there was the availability of a compost starter (it's the good poop layer that makes it work-and I don't have a source for that) my backyard one might fill less quickly. If curbside was included in my normal pick up that might help, too. But I haven't tried the curbside pickup that is currently available.
Maybe get a second bin so that more time could be allowed for the composting to finish.
Not all waste is readily composted in our bin – sometimes we have too much food waste
and not enough or the right type of yard waste to balance it out. We do take weeds and branches to the city compost site.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Sometimes Barriers – Need for Education

Soiled take out paper products and meat and bones draw critters so I throw them away in the garbage. When I had chickens I could also dispose meat and bones.
Unpleasant, smelly... need a convenient outside container. I currently put banana peels, coffee grounds and filters with my weeds in the garden. I won't be able to do this during the winter.
We don't put high fat or protein by-products in the backyard bin...
We need more than one compost bin to accommodate the amount of time it takes the food scraps to break down and be useable. Turning the compost bin is not an enjoyable task.
We will probably never collect the waste to drive to a community drop-off site. We have considered a curbside service for when our bin is full and for over the winter. We might take a bin to a drop-off site within walking distance, especially if we could trade the full/dirty bin out for a clean one.
Winter, sometimes just don't want to tramp through the backyard snow in subzero weather to the composter.

Sometimes Barriers – City's Role

Creating the proper space – we need a separate bin for organic waste. We have a small one, which works, but I wish we had one outside that was easy to recycle in. Right now it's a bit of a hassle. We have to put the compostable garbage bag in the bin provided for us by the recycling company (5 gal bucket) and then put our bag from the bin in the house inside the bucket. It's just a lot of steps. It would be easier if it was just a large bin like a regular garbage bin outside.
Frequent pick up
I think the dirty or unpleasant nature of it. This could be overcome with a dedicated bin (probably with a good seal against bugs and odors) in the garage that would get picked up like regular trash or recycling. Also, it would need clear guidelines about what to include.
I would need to pay for curbside pickup from the private vendor and I am against that when the City of Northfield could support this and get many more people involved.
If it was offered by the city.
Improve a compost site in our yard or have curbside pick up available, especially during winter months
Large enough receptacles for all my waste, for having it picked up.
Need large containers, picked up by trash service, hauling to privately run composting facility.
The amount of waste is less than a cup a week so easier and more time efficient to just put in garbage. My small garbage can is never full. I could probably go a month between garbage pick up and a lot of weeks I don't put garbage out
To many containers in my garage and odor
We have no means to get rid of; we don't produce enough to make sense for any extra charges.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Sometimes Barriers – Overcoming Barriers

A larger bin than Northfield composting. Would then add a lot of paper products and pizza boxes etc. Would be good to have same day as recycling and garbage. Would help to have an indoor container provided
Better storage container. My garage is much too hot in the summer to store the compost. The compost bag breaks down before weekly drop off.
Gaining support of other household members would be my most difficult to overcome. Maybe they would be more willing to bring organic waste to a community drop off site if they saw a benefit to them like free compost in return.
Have a backup container
It is difficult to create the proper space. My backyard composter fills quickly when I include paper products. Inside the house, my sink side container fills quickly, starts to smell or gets fruit flies. I don't compost meat, bread, bones, sauces/pasta (usually because there's meat in the sauce). If I could find a larger container that also filtered smell/flies I could empty it less often. If there was the availability of a compost starter (it's the good poop layer that makes it work-and I don't have a source for that) my backyard one might fill less quickly. If curbside was included in my normal pick up that might help, too. But I haven't tried the curbside pickup that is currently available.
Same as above: dog gets some and pokey things get tossed to save the compost bag
We work hard to compost via NFLD Curbside Compost. We love their service! I run out of space in my can though and don't want to pay for two. Most of the things we currently don't recycle are nail clippings, hair, tissues, etc. The harder to collect from each individual family member type items.
Need large containers, picked up by trash service, hauling to privately run composting facility.
The amount of waste is less than a cup a week so easier and more time efficient to just put in garbage. My small garbage can is never full. I could probably go a month between garbage pick up and a lot of weeks I don't put garbage out
To many containers in my garage and odor
We have no means to get rid of; we don't produce enough to make sense for any extra charges.

Responses from respondents who NEVER recycle their household organic waste

The primary barriers for the never group fall into the inconvenience category (cost, space issues, is a renter, don't generate enough waste). Many in the never group would participate (especially if there is not additional cost) but have a lot of questions; some have no intention to recycle household organics, and; still others would participate in a "heartbeat."

Never Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

An adequate container, in a suitable place, that could be dealt with simply each week would probably get us out of park and into gear.
As new residents of Northfield (December 2019) we have been learning about the options available to us with regard to recycling household organics. If there was a simple, easy to follow system, with designated containers for our use and regular pickup, then we would be able to integrate it into our daily routine.
Bugs, rodents, etc.
Buying a composting system is out of my budget.
Cost
Cost
Cost
Cost- if this recycling was included in our waste/ recycling cost as it stands, we would absolutely recycle our household organics.
Ideally, it would also be picked up curbside on garbage days.
Cost. Frankly, every little expense adds up and unless it's very affordable, it is not an attractive option.
Cost. I can't justify paying extra for this service. The garbage service is expensive enough.
Curbside is expensive. Would need a drop off site to be effective.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Never Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

Finding the proper storage solution that is large enough and convenient.
Finding the time to drop off waste
For recycling on my property, rodents would be the biggest issue. We live in an area with a lot of mice, and this would only attract more. In regards to curbside pick up, the waste would become really smelly by the end of the week. However, it's certainly doable, but the cost to implement and maintain would not be cheap. Besides, organic waste would easily decompose in a landfill anyways. I would prefer to see recycling for more plastics such as bags, which most people just throw in the garbage (does not easily decompose and takes up landfill space).
Getting a place to put it in my apartment complex
Getting the container to the curb.
Getting to the end of my driveway in winter
Give me the right tools (containers), pick up at my home regularly, and don't charge more to recycle organic material and I'm in. Paying to keep a bucket of rotting organic material in my house for two weeks, then hauling to the street can't compete with wheeling out the trash every week.
Have a space in/near my home that is easy to access and have someone pick it up weekly.
HAVE TO CHECK WITH LANDLORD
Having a process, container, and place to dispose of organic waste is the most difficult hurdle. There is a curbside pickup service I have heard about but I don't know who they are or how to contact them.
How do we get rid of it? I have no idea what to do with it. Are you going to pick it up? Will you provide a container? Is there a cost? If so forget it, I already bag my food garbage, but just send it out in my regular garbage collection. I would need some training and specific containers to gather organics. I also don't want to increase garbage collection costs.
I do not have space in my kitchen for a third container for recycling / garbage. I do not put organic waste down my disposal, but in the garbage.
I do not own a car, so transporting organic waste myself is difficult. A community drop-off site within two blocks might be close enough to walk to, but further is impractical. A pick-up / curbside service would greatly help.
I do not produce enough organic waste to make recycling worthwhile. There is no way to overcome this other than intentionally wasting food.
I do not produce enough. I am only one person in my home.
I don't believe I create enough organic waste to justify the cost of it. If the cost was lower and it need only be collected every other week, then I might be interested.
I don't have the space in my kitchen to "Store it".
I don't intend to compost or recycle household organic waste unless it is made very easy and at no, or very low cost to me.
I don't know how to create the space to keep the organic recycling
I don't need to pay for another container in my garage.
I don't want a pile of compost in my backyard...Rodents and other critters I would have to deal with...
I don't want to add another cost to my garbage expenditures. If it was included in the current cost, I would do it. But I am one person and I don't have a lot of waste, organic or otherwise.
I don't know how to recycle organic waste easily or where I would bring the household organic waste. I could do it with proper education... watching YouTube clips of examples and the how that would help. I worry about the added financial cost but know there is a cost to the environment. So back to education.
I have limited kitchen space which I do not want to designate to a smelly compost bucket.
I have wanted to compost but it is hard to find the time and space to build compost bins. Time and energy to turn the compost has also been a roadblock to motivate to create a compost spot in my yard.
I live at the Northfield Manor at the Northfield Retirement Community. Tenants have no way to recycle organic waste. We just put it in the trash.
We do have a convenient collection system for non-food recyclables, however. Plastic, glass, paper, and metal are recycled.
I live in a townhome association which is primarily senior citizens and the townhome board is conservative and if there were costs associated for the townhome association they would be opposed. If it were an individual household decision they would not care.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Never Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

I live in a townhome governed by an association, which does not have a lot of outdoor space where a composting or recycling site would fit. If a spot could be identified, unless it would be in an enclosed building secure from pests, it would attract raccoons and rodents. To minimize pest problems, the compost container would have to be removed/emptied frequently, perhaps twice a week and as noted, be in a strong, secured building. If the HOA would be responsible for building the structure, perhaps a property tax rebate would help reduce the financial burden.
I live in a townhouse. I can not keep a can for this outside and do not have space in my garage
I live in Greenvale apartment complex. When I approached management about just separating recycling like we had been in the past (we had a change in management a few years back) I was told it would be very problematic, for a number of reasons. (None of the examples held out at the time were very convincing at all.) So our buildings don't even separate recyclable items. Although the containers are provided and clearly marked they are ignored. The management team is not at all interested in complying with even this "green" option.
I really don't think any of it would be difficult. I've learned something just from the above graphic on what all is included in the term "organic waste." There is a garbage disposal in my home, and I use it – but haven't informed myself on what potential problems there are from using it.
I visualize a space in your yard to perform this recycling. I'm in a townhouse development with no yard space and an HOA that would not allow it.
If my apartment building had a bin on site next to the trash and recycling outside, I would 100% do this. The easier it is for people the more likely they'll do it. And a lot of people I know don't recycle at all purely because they don't understand what is and isn't recyclable and find it stressful. Or they have mental health or physical disabilities and it makes taking out multiple bins stressful. So basically the only reason people I know don't recycle is stress related to the process. If we could find ways to make it insanely easy I think we would see a shift in attitude about it!
In looking at your list of Household Organics, I would have egg shells (eat 6 eggs per week), coffee grounds (drink 1 cup per day), nail clippings (from toes and fingers a couple times a month), wooden sticks from eating corn dogs (average once per week), paper towels (1 or 2 a month), Kleenex (1 per day from blowing my nose), and egg cartons (1 "cardboard" carton every 2 weeks). That's not much, but I'd be happy to do what I can to help.
In my last conversation with our landlord, it wasn't likely to be allowed (apartment living). If that position could change, I'd love to find a way to do it. I am not opposed to continue the conversation though.
It is difficult to create the proper space because we live on a steep hill and weather is a factor. When I lived in San Mateo, CA I had a composter in the backyard and made the most beautiful black compost using food scraps and yard waste. But I grew older and the process became difficult to manage. Then the city started a compost program. Every residence received a cart for yard waste and a small plastic bucket with a cover and handle. We collected food waste in the bucket, then dumped it in yard waste cart which was picked up once a week along with garbage and recyclable items. It was easy. Here we won't have yard waste in winter but the buckets could still get dumped.
It is difficult to create the proper space. I would need a receptacle located outside to store the organic waste that would not be affected by bugs, odors or rodents.
It is difficult to take waste to a community drop off site.
It is dirty or unpleasant – odors, bugs, rodents – not sure how to overcome this.
It is dirty, unsanitary
It is unpleasant: I would consider doing it more if I had proper containers that didn't have odors or gross things and did not attract pests. I would also appreciate someone outside of my household collecting it.
It's dirty & unpleasant.
No safe space and unpleasant smell
Not allowed at association
Not supported by landlord.
Odor and messy.
Organic containers here are often spilled out and very smelly. raccoon feasts.
Pick-up is the largest barrier. If there were available, we would make it work, although the second largest barrier is finding space for another collection container in our small kitchen.
Right now we don't have a way to do this. In a previous home we composted everything we could in our own compost bin. If the opportunity and means were available to us, we'd do it again in a heartbeat. Our homeowner's association was working on a solution when the pandemic hit and the effort is currently stalled.
Space and smell

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Never Barriers – Inconveniences of Composting

Storage of the organic waste. Providing a storage bucket and providing timely pick-up would overcome the barrier of not recycling.
The cost, the cost, the cost!!!! I cannot justify it. I am a minimalist in a single person household and I barely generate any garbage other than a small amount of organic. It is likely the city will not allow me to go without a garbage can while only using an organic waste bucket which theoretically should cost much less to dispose.
The ease of putting food scraps in the garbage disposal.... solution: an attractive, covered, comfortable-handled (for carrying) scraps container.
The local compost collection agency is difficult to access.
The most difficult is taking waste to a community drop off site.
The smell
The smell and animals. As sealed as you make a pail, I have animals gnawing at my garage door trying to get in, causing damage to the house.
The two of us do not generate much household organic waste because of our careful shopping methods. That would not change.
Too much work. Needing to identify and sort and then store until pick-up time. It would get smelly and dirty.
Town homes have to keep it inside garage, which is already to small for the trash and recycle bins. Makes odor, attracts insects And rodents
We were using Northfield Organic Compost Service when we had 3-4 people in our household but dropped when we are now 2 people. We don't seem to have enough waste to make it worthwhile now.
With a container that would take care of the smell.
Money/ease of recycling (SP)

Never Barriers – Curbside Service

We were using Northfield Organic Compost Service when we had 3–4 people in our household but dropped when we are now 2 people. We don't seem to have enough waste to make it worthwhile now.
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Never Barriers – Need for Education

How do we get rid of it? I have no idea what to do with it. Are you going to pick it up? Will you provide a container? Is there a cost? If so forget it,
I already bag my food garbage, but just send it out in my regular garbage collection. I would need some training and specific containers to gather organics. I also don't want to increase garbage collection costs.
I am new to the community and I would love to recycle but I don't know who to contact.
I could talk to someone who knows how to recycle organic waste and do what they do
I don't know what the proper type of container for collecting it is. I've considered signing up with the private compost pick-up service here in town. Didn't look into it, wasn't convinced the cost would be worth it.
I don't know how to do it or how to sign up for it.
I don't know how to recycle organic waste easily or where I would bring the household organic waste. I could do it with proper education... watching YouTube clips of examples and the how tihat would help. I worry about the added financial cost but know there is a cost to the environment. So back to education.
I have wanted to compost but it is hard to find the time and space to build compost bins. Time and energy to turn the compost has also been a roadblock to motivate to create a compost spot in my yard.
I haven't taken the time to come up with a process of how to recycle household organic waste.
I really don't think any of it would be difficult. I've learned something just from the above graphic on what all is included in the term "organic waste." There is a garbage disposal in my home, and I use it – but haven't informed myself on what potential problems there are from using it.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Never Barriers – Need for Education

I really don't know anything about this
I recently moved into the City of Northfield and do not know the process for recycling organic waste.
I see the vehicle driving around town and picking up organic waste that people have put out on the curb. I find it hard to believe the little bit of organic waste that is collected offsets the fuel used to drive all over town to collect it.
I would like to see the amount of fuel used by pick up vehicles to drive all around town vs. the value in recycling.
I would need some knowledge and tips regarding the handling and packaging of organic waste.
If my apartment building had a bin on site next to the trash and recycling outside, I would 100% do this. The easier it is for people the more likely they'll do it. And a lot of people I know don't recycle at all purely because they don't understand what is and isn't recyclable and find it stressful. Or they have mental health or physical disabilities and it makes taking out multiple bins stressful. So basically the only reason people I know don't recycle is stress related to the process. If we could find ways to make it insanely easy I think we would see a shift in attitude about it!
Is it "Carbon footprint" effective when all sources of carbon are included, for instance transportation carbon?
Also – what is the "carbon footprint" of wastewater? That is, why don't we all use garbage disposal to carry organics to a central processor? If central processor is not a low methane process – why not?
It is true that every little bit counts, however the largest collectors of organic waste is the grocery and eating establishments. Make it a goal to involve them to take part in the program. Secondly educate the public in how to purchase produce. Good looking is not the only quality of a product. Third, there should be some way to tell the consumer the length of time a product is good and how best to store it for maximum use.
It's too difficult. Mainly because my spouse doesn't care as much as I do and doesn't like smells of old food
Lack of community support, lack of defined recycling process
Learning how to get started. I suppose I could Google it.
Live in the country and not sure where would store where safe but pets can't get into it.
No where to drop off organic waste
Not enough to bother though I didn't realize the food soiled products fell under compost.
Not having a residential pick up system
Organic waste can break down at a landfill and have the same results as having a specific company that handles just organic waste. Seems like we could be putting taxpayer dollars towards a better purpose.
For example like expanding our middle school, since it is at full capacity already, or offer free Wi-Fi throughout the city. I think we need to prioritize what actually is going on now.
The fact that I don't care enough to do it. I probably won't overcome this barrier because, like I said, I don't care enough about recycling organic waste to put in the time to do it.
We only produce about a gallon of organic waste a week. I thought it breaks down in the landfill with the other garbage.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Never Barriers – Backyard Composting

I live in a townhome governed by an association, which does not have a lot of outdoor space where a composting or recycling site would fit. If a spot could be identified, unless it would be in an enclosed building secure from pests, it would attract raccoons and rodents. To minimize pest problems, the compost container would have to be removed/emptied frequently, perhaps twice a week and as noted, be in a strong, secured building. If the HOA would be responsible for building the structure, perhaps a property tax rebate would help reduce the financial burden.
I use some in my own garden
We are already planning and discussing how to build a frame... no difficulty at all (except finding the time).
We had laying hens and were avid composers at home, where we moved from one month ago. We currently live in a rental home and no longer own chickens. If a green waste bin was made available, through our waste management provider, we'd gladly comply.
We maintain our own compost bins
I have wanted to compost but it is hard to find the time and space to build compost bins. Time and energy to turn the compost has also been a roadblock to motivate to create a compost spot in my yard.

Never Barriers – City's Role

Buying a composting system is out of my budget.
Choose a space in my yard to start a compost pile and buy a bin for organic waste to keep in the house
Cost – if this recycling was included in our waste/ recycling cost as it stands, we would absolutely recycle our household organics.
Ideally, it would also be picked up curbside on garbage days.
For recycling on my property, rodents would be the biggest issue. We live in an area with a lot of mice, and this would only attract more. In regards to curbside pick up, the waste would become really smelly by the end of the week. However, it's certainly doable, but the cost to implement and maintain would not be cheap. Besides, organic waste would easily decompose in a landfill anyways. I would prefer to see recycling for more plastics such as bags, which most people just throw in the garbage (does not easily decompose and takes up landfill space).
I am not going to do this
I am not going to waste my time with recycling.
If passed, I'm sure someone will sue the city, and I will join them in their lawsuits.
I do not own a car, so transporting organic waste myself is difficult. A community drop-off site within two blocks might be close enough to walk to, but further is impractical. A pick-up / curbside service would greatly help.
I don't intend to compost or recycle household organic waste unless it is made very easy and at no, or very low cost to me.
I don't want to begin to recycle my household organic waste
I don't want to, and the City of Northfield "CAP" is just another example of the radical leftist agenda being pursued by our elected city officials. It is scaremongering, and another example of how the radicals of the political left try to use a "crisis" to infringe upon our basic freedoms. So-called "Global Warming" is among the least of our problems right now.
I live in Greenvale apartment complex. When I approached management about just separating recycling like we had been in the past (we had a change in management a few years back) I was told it would be very problematic, for a number of reasons. (None of the examples held out at the time were very convincing at all.) So our buildings don't even separate recyclable items. Although the containers are provided and clearly marked they are ignored. The management team is not at all interested in complying with even this "green" option.
I really don't know anything about this
I recently moved into the City of Northfield and do not know the process for recycling organic waste.
I think it's a waste of my taxes to even be having a discussion/survey on this topic. Those who want to recycle already do so. The rest of us don't want to. Let's focus our efforts on increasing the tax base in Northfield so that my taxes can go down. Not stupid things that will increase my taxes.
I would have to transport household organic waste to a different location. I would do it if it was available for curbside pickup in a container.
I would like to have a separate garbage pickup for compostable waste.
If I had an easy way to drop it off or have it picked up, I'd do it for sure.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX B

Never Barriers – City's Role

If I had that Northfield Composting service. Or if Northfield provides an outlet for compost along with recycling and garbage.
If the city provided a container and a pickup day, I would happily recycle.
It is true that every little bit counts, however the largest collectors of organic waste is the grocery and eating establishments. Make it a goal to involve them to take part in the program. Secondly educate the public in how to purchase produce. Good looking is not the only quality of a product. Third, there should be some way to tell the consumer the length of time a product is good and how best to store it for maximum use.
It should be our decision to do this, not the cities. When we lived in the country We had a compost pile. If a critter ate some, fine with us. We made good use of the compost for gardening. Here, if you compost outside we would be more of a destination for raccoon, fox etc. than we are now. Let freedom ring!
Just the additional cost of using an organization outside of our regular city of Northfield bill.
Organic waste can break down at a landfill and have the same results as having a specific company that handles just organic waste. Seems like we could be putting taxpayer dollars towards a better purpose.
For example like expanding our middle school, since it is at full capacity already, or offer free Wi-Fi throughout the city. I think we need to prioritize what actually is going on now.
Pick-up is the largest barrier. If there were available, we would make it work, although the second largest barrier is finding space for another collection container in our small kitchen.
The easier it is to recycle household organic waste, the better! My family already hauls garbage and recycling to the curb on Fridays and yard waste to the curb on Mondays. I don't look forward to having another day to remember to haul stuff to the curb. If the household organic waste could be combined with our yard waste or, if it can't be combined, at least picked up on the same day, the better response you're likely to have from the community.
We had laying hens and were avid composers at home, where we moved from one month ago. We currently live in a rental home and no longer own chickens. If a green waste bin was made available, through our waste management provider, we'd gladly comply.
We would recycle household organic waste if the city offered curbside pick-up. We are unable to compost on our property.

Never Barriers – Overcoming Barriers

It is difficult to create the proper space because we live on a steep hill and weather is a factor. When I lived in San Mateo, CA I had a composter in the backyard and made the most beautiful black compost using food scraps and yard waste. But I grew older and the process became difficult to manage. Then the city started a compost program. Every residence received a cart for yard waste and a small plastic bucket with a cover and handle. We collected food waste in the bucket, then dumped it in yard waste cart which was picked up once a week along with garbage and recyclable items. It was easy. Here we won't have yard waste in winter but the buckets could still get dumped.
None. Our should be doing this! I have been meaning to contact the small company doing organic pick up now!
The easier it is to recycle household organic waste, the better! My family already hauls garbage and recycling to the curb on Fridays and yard waste to the curb on Mondays. I don't look forward to having another day to remember to haul stuff to the curb. If the household organic waste could be combined with our yard waste or, if it can't be combined, at least picked up on the same day, the better response you're likely to have from the community.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

TELL US MORE

Appendix C is a verbatim listing of all of the comments respondents when asked to share any additional comments they had about the survey topic. 350 respondents (out of 962) “told us more” about what they think on the topic of organic waste recycling. Most comments were favorable toward working on this effort but some were not. Sifting through these comments common themes emerged. The respondents’ comments were grouped into the six categories previously determined: Existing Curbside Service, Inconveniences of Composting, Need for Education, City’s Role, Overcoming Barriers, and Backyard Composting. When a respondent spoke about more than one theme within the comment, the respondent’s comment was placed into as many of the theme categories as was mentioned in the comment. This created 406 total comments that were each assigned to one of the six categories.

The table below quantifies each group’s comments and illustrates how much each group commented in the categories: Inconveniences of Composting, Curbside Service, Need for Education, Backyard Recycling, City’s Role, and Overcoming Barriers.

Tell Us More

	All n=350	Always n=189	Sometimes n=48	Never n=113
City’s Role	123	58	20	43
Curbside Service	69	63	5	1
Need for Education	58	26	7	23
Inconveniences of Composting	57	19	11	26
MISC Comments	48	27	4	17
Overcoming Barriers	45	19	8	18
Backyard Composting	6	6	0	0
Row Totals	406	218	55	128

No’s, none’s and N/A’s deleted from the list.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Responses from respondents who ALWAYS recycle their household organic waste

Always Tell Us More – City's Role

Again, if the city could make curbside composting an opt in, for a fee, but contract with a company already working in this area, then I would be in favor. Northfield Curbside Composting is already doing what you are proposing. However, it would be nice for them if they had a local composting location. I believe they have to take the compost up to the cities somewhere.
Creating a mandatory program would lower costs for all and encourage community adoption quickly
Friends of ours live in Delano and they have been doing the citywide organic composting for years. They love it.
I am of a divided mind over whether a curbside program for compost should be mandatory. Without building community awareness and creating a sense of investment over time, I fear a mandatory program would generate controversy and even foment resistance to climate-related goals if implemented too quickly.
I definitely think that having curbside compost for the entire city would be beneficial, because it would provide opportunity for a culture shift so that all people understand the benefits of composting. We are in full support. That being said I think a lot of education is needed for the city to get behind it as a whole.
I hope the city can make a "go" of organic waste recycling.
I lived in San Francisco where there's mandatory curbside and it was great
I support a mandated city system because similar to recycling, we now understand the negative impacts of throwing away organics and everyone should be participating in keeping them out of the landfill. Also organics have value and can be used to make compost.
I think if it's optional, the people who participate will do it correctly. Seems like lots of people still don't do regular recycling properly after all these years!
I think initially it should be voluntary, then you should provide incentives for households to use it, then when you've reached a tipping point of participation, fold into the regular refuse pickup program.
I think that the city should work towards mandatory organic waste recycling, but should start with expanding the number of households using optional methods.
I think that you should offer a reduced fee for trash service if people opt-in to the compost program. As a regular composter, I only need trash pickup about once/month, but I pay for the weekly service because there aren't any other options.
I wanted to choose mandatory program in the last question but I realize there may be households that can't participate due to disabilities. My ideal option would be mandatory with exclusions for those with barriers. However, cost should not be a barrier and the city should subsidize the cost for those unable to pay for the service. Also, this survey is really confusing. No one who composts talks about "organic waste recycling". It's important to establish shared language around behavioral change and common language already exists. Adding "recycling" into the vernacular is only confusing because people associate recycling with paper and plastic, not with household food waste. That said, in addition to education and outreach, include a literacy campaign! Props to you for promoting and having the survey in Spanish also!
I was disappointed that the original trial for recycling 10 or 12 years ago was dropped. In fact, several of us met with the EQC to encourage them to take up the matter again. Of course, this failed, but the young entrepreneurs, including a former member of the EQC started an alternative program. We need to educate Northfielders about this need and make it available citywide. Larger cities, e.g. Seattle, make it mandatory!
I would be excited if there was a citywide composting program. Making it mandatory would be meaningful to me, but I understand that people are hard to convince. Creating a number of options seems like the most reasonable way to reach the goal and get the largest number of people on board.
I would be VERY EXCITED for the city to start a curbside compost collection.
I would definitely like to keep my curbside service. Transporting recycling to a neighborhood hub or citywide center poses some problems that yard waste recycling typically doesn't because compostables are messier, smellier, and wetter. Backyard composting is harder to manage in the winter. But I imagine that many won't want a mandatory approach, so perhaps a choice of solutions will end up being needed.
I would prefer to make the program mandatory, but I think residents would balk at that. I'd recommend an optional program to begin. I love this initiative. I hope you are doing everything possible to learn from/cooperate with the fantastic people at Northfield Composting.
I would really like a Northfield to work with Northfield Curbside Composting if they offer a citywide program. Their service is excellent, inexpensive and local. The organic composting that Dick's Sanitation provides has far inferior Customer service and much more expensive.
Ideally there would be one community drop of location for people to drop themselves and for the current curbside pickup service to utilize.

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Ideally, I would like to see it citywide. We are in our 3rd year with Northfield Composting. Whatever happens, I hope it is in the mix. These young entrepreneurs work hard, dependable & deliver a good product! I want to encourage their business growth.
If there is going to be a mandatory curbside program, I think it's really important to educate people about how this is helping our community and environment prior to implementation: address concerns about bugs, smell, and the easiest way to do this. Also why it doesn't have to be a huge time consumer.
If possible, more than flyers; is there some way social media can be used, a YouTube production...? Other ideas? For those that want a little more in depth information.
It might be worth offering options like curbside and/or community hub?
In order to encourage more participation, the city will need to subsidize the curbside composting option to make it affordable and easy for all. Or it could be a combination of this and neighborhood compost hubs.
Information to us and let us be adults. Nothing mandated please
Is there research on the efficacy of mandatory curbside pickup of organic waste versus enhanced optional curbside pickup? Please do what will bring about the most use of curbside pickup.
My sense is that if each household is provided a container, similar to or garbage cans, people will begin to use them. Furthermore, if people are given the option to request a bin to use for curbside pickup of organic waste, I do not believe all people will request them.
Give us the bins, and I believe there will be some social pressure in neighborhoods to participate. People want to conform.
It seems like the curbside compost program is very individualized at the moment. I wonder if there is value in connecting with various apartment buildings to create "group systems" which could be incentivized by cutting the member costs to make the the program more appealing for low income families. I think this could also translate to cul-de-sac systems around town, duplex/side by side homes, etc. Perhaps reaching out to the new eye soar of an apartment building being constructed and partnering with them. Similar to the recycle and trash systems around town, having compost sites that are clearly marked. And working with restaurants to help with marketing campaigns since, when the food is bussed, patrons don't know what happens to that waste. It could be cool to learn about how restaurants are recycling and/or reusing other leftovers. For example Imminent's doggy treats, the buns at Tanzenwald, etc.
Leave us alone. Have a cup of coffee and cash your check. Let the people live their own lives.
Making it mandatory will turn people off; no one likes to be told what to do. I believe educating people so they understand the benefits and they can imagine what the practical day-to-day system would look like in their home will help to increase interest.
Many of us who already compost use it in our gardens. I would not want a mandatory program that means I cannot retain my compost.
Neighborhood hubs for household organic waste are a sure-fire magnet for critters. People won't take advantage of drop-off sites for organic household waste--they'll see it as too much work. A mandatory program for recycling household waste will result in griping, resistance and a fair amount of stubborn non-compliance by those who don't understand the need for recycling household waste and who see it as the government "forcing one more thing" down people's throats. If it's a sizable volume of noncompliance, it will defeat the wonderful purpose of recycling household waste. Increasing participation through an enhanced optional curbside program with some sort of incentive, such as a slight reduction in rates, is a gentler way of getting people to cooperate/participate appropriately. Many people don't see the advantages of curbside compost waste recycling--we didn't prior to doing it--but we are sold on the concept. You get more flies with honey than with vinegar!
Pay tax on organic waste recycling if people don't do it. It's very bad for pollution in landfill!!!!
Stop wasting resources, aka: my tax money, on these types of green plans that are nothing more than a warm fuzzy for a very small section of the population. Those people will recycle same as the rest of use, but their is no reason for any addition to this type of city service, ESPECIALLY if you try to make it mandatory.
Thank you for looking into the possibility of citywide organic recycling.
We are way too wasteful and to see pictures of plastic waste swirling around in our oceans makes me sad and angry.
The choice for education above is only if it is not exclusive of curbside composting in some form. If the option is only to do one of the above next steps, either curbside option would be our recommendation.
The City could encourage organic waste recycling by reducing trash collection fees for those who do organic waste recycling. The system otherwise punishes people who do organic waste recycling (I don't the small trash bin can set apart those who do organic waste recycling and those who don't). People should pay for NOT recycling.

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In addition, I don't think the current trash collection service fee is proportional to the amount of landfill trash household generates. With the organic waste recycling service I use, the City's recycling service and taking plastic bags to Target, my household of three fills a 13-gallon trash bag every 2–3 weeks, sometime every 4 weeks. It makes sense to consider not only trash bin size but also service use frequency in the fee structure.
This needs to be implemented by our city. Way to much goes in the "trash"
We believe it is important for the city to mandate this for the good of all.
We have been using Northfield Composting for curbside recycling for 2 years now and it is great and it is really exciting that the city sees the value in doing this citywide.
We have two good companies that handle household compost. Why does the city need to get involved in this process? Leave it to free enterprise and it will work so much more efficiently!
We use and love the current program and would happily opt into a community-wide program similar to what is now offered.
We used to recycle both yard waste and household organic waste in a two-bin open top backyard compost system. (At the back of our lot on a main west side residential street) We quit when we realized it, and neighbors similar piles and bins, were attracting rats. I'm ok with raccoons or opossums, but drew the line at rats. They were impossible to trap, and there were too many dogs and cats to consider poison. Rats were a bad, persistent, and unexpected result of backyard composting, and a big argument in favor of secure centralized recycling of some sort.
We would love an integrated organic household waste recycling program to go with our garbage and recycling service. As long as it's comparable in price to our curbside service we will participate.
While I answered we "might" participate in any of the options above that could be chosen by the city – besides curbside, to be honest with you, our fullest participation will likely come with curbside pickup. We LOVE the current curbside service. It's one of the things I love about living in Northfield. I wavered on the question about re: making it mandatory or an opt-in program. I guess I don't have strong feelings, knowing there may be good reasons some people would want the service to be optional (cost?), but as these things go over all, it seems the more participation we can assure across the community, the better the results. Thank you.
Please do it!
Please for all things holy stop controlling what the entire city needs to do and pay for. We have and do compost why would I want to have another line on my city bill. Please just stop!
It was vital in order to save money, to provide business opportunity, to help the environment and help prevent climate change. It is the necessary future. Other countries are ahead of us. What's the delay for?
Not sure what "mandatory curbside" program means in the above question. I wouldn't dispose of waste curbside, as I want my own compost pile.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The goal of the City's Climate Action Plan is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses from sources in Northfield. The managed, composting process, itself, likely results in the accelerated release of CO₂ to the atmosphere, compared to the slow decomposition of the material in a landfill. You are being somewhat dishonest in failing to explain that outcome of your proposed, enhanced, collection program. 2. Some research indicates that organic materials placed in properly constructed landfills may not decompose to methane at all, or will do so over a very long time that is outside the time window when we need to solve climate change. This research is not explained or re-buffed in your promotional materials. 3. Some utilities, with environmentalists, are advocating the production and pipeline use of renewable natural gas; i.e., methane from landfills and composting of manures. Your promotional materials fail to disclose that it may actually be helpful to convert household waste to methane for home and industrial use rather than convert it to CO₂ and dirt. 4. Will your proposed, enhanced, composting program include the capital funding necessary to build facilities for stirring and cooking the collected, organic material back to CO₂ or methane? If not, who is going to provide the composting facility to take your hoped-for, increased, volumes of organic waste to be collected in Northfield? Is the City proposing to solve only a small part of the organic waste problem, not the complete environmental cycle from food production back to dirt?
Bi-weekly pickup of recycled materials is not an option if organic materials are added. The recycle containers are consistently overflowing with twice a month pickup schedule. Trash haulers need to be a part of this discussion. How will these issues be addressed: smell, flies, raccoons, dogs while materials are waiting for pickup.
I think the city should purchase one site for the curbside pickup service to drop of organic waste and allow city residents to use too if they would rather transport their own organic waste to the site, similar to the way we handle yard waste.
If there is space available, create opportunities to recycle several more types of waste (including but not limited to household organic waste) at the Armstrong Road drop off location.
A survey is not the way to decide what to do. "The City" already tried organic waste recycling on the west side. It was too expensive and hard to participate. Why are we doing a survey? To prove the empirical evidence was wrong?

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I believe the city has many other things to worry about and change. Traffic, erratic driving & Speeding. Foolish spending of Our money! BUMP OUTS!!! I could go on & on!
Strongly encourage households to use a convenient curbside recycling. Encourage persons who are considering to do so to talk with persons such as myself and learn why and how we do it.
The City's CAP includes this goal: "Establish a zero-waste policy to be achieved by 2030 and eliminate 100% of organic materials from the waste stream by 2025 through a robust composting program." This survey asks for preferences without information about what action is needed to meet the CAP goal, what the approximate cost could be, and what the cost of not acting will be. Further, the choice architecture for this project matters – for example, asking people to opt in to a program or making participation the default unless people opt out. Really, this survey suggests that if enough people don't like the idea, the CAP will not be implemented.
The whole nonsense of humans trying to control the climate is madness
We do it and it's up to other people to do what they want.
My main concern is the cost. As it is, I pay too much for weekly trash pickup. When I do so well at reducing waste, the trash bin is often less than 1/4 full.
And, frankly the discount for the smaller bin is simply laughable. If you are going to implement a community wide strategy or reducing household waste, it would be more appealing if it meant a reduction in overall cost of waste disposal.
Thank you so much for pursuing this! We know it's a lot of work, but the savings to our environment would be great. One thing that I'd love to know is what the city will do with all of the generated compost, and also how much of a savings that will be?

Always Tell Us More – Curbside Service

After using the currently available curbside compost pickup, I have found this to be pretty simple and it is also good to reduce total garbage for pickup...AND it eliminates smelly garbage sitting in the bin inside. You can fill a counter top bin with organic waste and take it on a daily basis to the compost container in the garage – which, kept covered, does not smell. It seems like a small, simple way to reduce garbage to the landfill and recycle food back to the soil. We need to do it as a community!
Again, I've been doing this for years and it is second nature.
Please offer this to Northfield residents. I am so grateful for Northfield's Curbside Composting service.
It is simple and common sense for our environment.
Again, if the city could make curbside composting an opt in, for a fee, but contract with a company already working in this area, then I would be in favor. Northfield Curbside Composting is already doing what you are proposing. However, it would be nice for them if they had a local composting location. I believe they have to take the compost up to the cities somewhere.
Again, unless you are going to work with Northfield Composting, I feel like additional efforts/costs are not worth the time/effort.
Don't put the present small company out of business. (Northfield Curbside Compost)
Some people may not be able to afford it. (presently about \$7 a month)
Happy to hear there will be a partnership with the current composting system.
I am a little reluctant to have the City compete with Northfield Curbside Composting, the compost service currently offered by a group of young people. But if they view their operation more as a service than as a business, that removes my concern.
From my small-household perspective, the current Northfield Curbside Composting is just fine for household organic waste. If the City included yard waste in the service, that would be a big plus.
I am so proud of the kids that got it started. City should too.
I appreciate the service Northfield Compost provides. I hope any plans Northfield decides upon will not decrease their business.
I don't want the city to put the current Northfield private compost pick up service we use out of business. I would hope the city would give them the contract.
I fully support the current group that initiated curbside and do not want them to lose their business.

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I hope that a more robust citywide approach would work with the existing curbside composting cooperative to envision how to scale up composting, rather than compete with it. Maybe the billing and greater publicity can be the city's role but they can contract with them to provide the service.
Also, I love having reduced garbage output that doesn't smell or attract bugs!
I hope that if the city moves forward with curbside service, the private company currently providing that service would be consulted/involved. They do a great job.
I hope that if the city moves forward with curbside service, the private company currently providing that service would be consulted/involved. They do a great job.
I just wanted to let you know that I really support Northfield Curbside Composting and so if there was a way for the City to work with them as a vendor or somehow support them, I'd appreciate that.
I like the company that is currently collecting my recycling. They gave us the bucket, the bag each week and they pick it up in a timely fashion. They also send out emails every week to remind us to put the bucket out.
I like the curbside pick up I have now. I do both the yard waste and the compost. I don't like that I get charged monthly for yard waste when it is not picked up all year
I love Northfield Composting which picks up our compost waste every week.
I love the current curbside composting – it would be wonderful to see the project expand to more members of our community.
I love the weekly curbside pickup. I'm elderly, we live in a difficult climate, for these reasons I want curbside pickup as provided by the great people of Curbside pickup now. I will NOT walk or drive over my organic waste to a neighbor hub. Idea dead on arrival, I think. Who in their 60s would do that in cold or heat??? Or busy young people with jobs and kids? Who has time for that? Curbside is the way to make this work.
I would be extremely disappointed to lose curbside pick up and have to return to either backyard composting or taking it somewhere. Please do not undermine a curbside option either by city or a continuation of Northfield Composting service.
I would be very disappointed if the present curbside pickup business was not allowed to continue.
I would definitely like to keep my curbside service. Transporting recycling to a neighborhood hub or citywide center poses some problems that yard waste recycling typically doesn't because compostables are messier, smellier, and wetter. Backyard composting is harder to manage in the winter. But I imagine that many won't want a mandatory approach, so perhaps a choice of solutions will end up being needed.
I would hope that the city would work with Northfield Composting who has a great program in place already.
I would like for the city to acknowledge the tremendous initiative that Northfield Curbside Compost has taken to make all season composting possible in Northfield. I hope that curbside is provided to all residents and I hope that NCC is given that contract.
I would like for the city to acknowledge the tremendous initiative that Northfield Curbside Compost has taken to make all season composting possible in Northfield. I hope that curbside is provided to all residents and I hope that NCC is given that contract.
I would prefer to make the program mandatory, but I think residents would balk at that. I'd recommend an optional program to begin. I love this initiative. I hope you are doing everything possible to learn from/cooperate with the fantastic people at Northfield Composting.
I would really like a Northfield to work with Northfield Curbside Composting if they offer a citywide program. Their service is excellent, inexpensive and local. The organic composting that Dick's Sanitation provides has far inferior Customer service and much more expensive.
Ideally, I would like to see it citywide. We are in our 3rd year with Northfield Composting. Whatever happens, I hope it is in the mix. These young entrepreneurs work hard, dependable & deliver a good product! I want to encourage their business growth.
Love the curbside compost pickup group here in Northfield.
My family has been using Northfield's curbside Compost Service for the past two years. We believe it's important to recycle organic waste and will continue to do so. Thank you for looking into this!
Northfield Compost must be part of the conversation and solution. I would not accept a city solution that does not include them.
Northfield curbside compost already works to educate and collect compost. I'd suggest consulting them with whatever composting plans the city has.
Northfield Curbside Composting https://www.northfieldcompost.com is doing a great job, and I am happy with their services. I hope that their company can be included in this initiative, since they have done a lot of education and leg work in the community to get more of us composting. (I did not compost until I saw their signs and learned how it works.)
Not a big fan of mandatory. Also, I currently support the Northfield Curbside Composting Worker Co-op. How would the proposed changes by the city complement, rather than replace, what is already happening in the community? I hope you all are talking to the young folks that have been leading this effort for the past few years. Could you contract with them?

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Our household is 100% in favor of the city moving in this direction and as part of the pilot years back really appreciated the convenience it provided.
When the city didn't choose to move forward with Dick's Sanitation, young climate-minded entrepreneurs started their own compost pick-up business and met the needs of interested community members. In the interest of supporting small businesses, I want to be cognizant that what I champion (to reach a greater audience) doesn't eliminate the local small business or create a competition that they aren't able to sustain.
I hope city officials are engaging Northfield Compost in conversations throughout this process and in the end can find a win-win-win for climate action, the Northfield community, and Northfield Compost.
Please include Nfld. composting in the discussions.
Since I order a personal service for compost pick up, which I like, I am concerned about apartment buildings and landlords.
However, I think with a proper plan in place for large buildings that the residents would enjoy the service.
The city should partner with the folks who are running the current organic compost program.
The convenience is hard to beat with the curbside pickup program. I'd hate to lose it!
The curbside pick-up has transformed our household (and business) in many positive ways. We no longer have the burden of turning and managing our own compost – which was also useless in the garden due to nearby walnuts. The 5-gallon container is clean, easy, convenient and a perfect size for one week's worth of waste.
The curbside recycling program has worked very well for us, largely because the people who do the pick-up have been unfailingly reliable and efficient.
The current program runs great for us. Very reliable.
The service I use is easy once a week pick up takes anything that was once alive and has been a reliable service for me
The system we have with Northfield Compost had worked very well for us. The buckets are the right size for out family of 4, only having excess weeks that watermelon or corn is had at home. They are easy to bring to the curb and small enough or store in the garage. I would no like any receptacle larger than that. They do require a rinse each week and a scrub a few times a year.
If city funds are to be used, I'd love to see it invested in these people. They need a bigger truck, probably additional ones, and funds to pay employees. A campaign to enroll residents would help with funding. And perhaps the city can supplement some of the annual fee for residents if they enroll.
Use Northfield Compost!
We are subscribers to the existing Northfield Compost Company and think their service is stellar. With one exception, the bucket is too small. I don't want them to go out of business and so please contract with them for the citywide pickup. They are great.
We have appreciated using Northfield Compost and having our bucket picked up each week.
We have been surprised and so grateful to have Northfield Compost service. We tried backyard composting for many years, but were never able to compost as many items as we can now. The service has allowed us to decrease our trash bin, be more conscious of our food waste, and it is easy and convenient. We plan to stick with Northfield Compost as long as this service is available.
We have been using Northfield Composting for curbside recycling for 2 years now and it is great and it is really exciting that the city sees the value in doing this citywide.
We have been using the Northfield composting service already in place since it started. I believe it would be great for the whole city to get on board with it. My only concern is that the young individuals who did all the hard work to get the program started will have the option for expansion or input on the city's program and be compensated.
We have really appreciated Northfield Curbside Composting and all their work with this. I support a broader reach for composting in Northfield, but I would prefer some solution that doesn't put these lovely folks out of business!
We love our curbside pickup service and have used it since moving to town in 2018. We moved to town from Minneapolis; the single greatest thing we missed about the city was curbside organics pickup by the City, so we were grateful to find Northfield Composting.
We use the weekly compost service from Northfield Composting. It is easy and convenient. Love it!
We've composted our kitchen scraps for 17 years and use all of our compost in our garden, so we wouldn't participate in curbside compost pickup. But I think it's a great way for families who don't use compost to reduce their waste! By the way, we currently participate in curbside yard waste recycling and we love it. Super convenient and way easier than transporting the stuff ourselves.

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Always Tell Us More – Curbside Service

While I answered we "might" participate in any of the options above that could be chosen by the city – besides curbside, to be honest with you, our fullest participation will likely come with curbside pickup. We LOVE the current curbside service. It's one of the things I love about living in Northfield. I wavered on the question about re: making it mandatory or an opt-in program. I guess I don't have strong feelings, knowing there may be good reasons some people would want the service to be optional (cost?), but as these things go over all, it seems the more participation we can assure across the community, the better the results. Thank you.
Why does the city want to compete with what the private sector is already doing? If anything, the city should be partnering with Northfield Curbside Composting, not competing against them which would most likely put them out of business.
Yes – I am in favor of universal composting, but I'm very happy with the current local business model (as distinguished from trash and recycling) started by young people in Northfield, Northfield Composting, and I would hope that they could be brought into this discussion.
Yes. I currently have curbside recycling and I do not want to see you run these good people out of business. But I think everyone needs to do mandatory recycling in the city.
You should support the existing Northfield curbside composting program financially
I wouldn't want to put the current Northfield composting out of business. It would be great if you could find a way to work with them for a win win.
I'd really love to see municipal organics recycling. I hope there would be a way to hire or contract with the existing local compost coop, so this doesn't put them out of business.
Also, I'd like to note how important it is to us that municipal organics recycling is much more powerful than backyard compost, in terms of the heat produced and therefore the types of things that can be composted. I love that I can compost bones, pizza boxes, and any number of citrus peels. In backyard models, it's too hard to create a really healthy balance and unlikely we'd ever get it cooking enough to be able to process bones.
Now live in the Village on the Cannon where curbside is offered all residents.
When we were in a house, we composted in the yard; been doing it for nearly 50 years.
Don't have personal yard waste; weeds et al. are all composted.

Always Tell Us More – Need for Education

"...which of the following do you believe s the city's best next step..." To me, "best" means only one, so I chose the optional curbside recycling program. Had you said to check all that applied, I would have also checked "Increase education..."
1. The goal of the City's Climate Action Plan is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses from sources in Northfield. The managed, composting process, itself, likely results in the accelerated release of CO2 to the atmosphere, compared to the slow decomposition of the material in a landfill. You are being somewhat dishonest in failing to explain that outcome of your proposed, enhanced, collection program.
2. Some research indicates that organic materials placed in properly constructed landfills may not decompose to methane at all, or will do so over a very long time that is outside the time window when we need to solve climate change. This research is not explained or re-buffed in your promotional materials.
3. Some utilities, with environmentalists, are advocating the production and pipeline use of renewable natural gas; i.e., methane from landfills and composting of manures. Your promotional materials fail to disclose that it may actually be helpful to convert household waste to methane for home and industrial use rather than convert it to CO2 and dirt.
4. Will your proposed, enhanced, composting program include the capital funding necessary to build facilities for stirring and cooking the collected, organic material back to CO2 or methane? If not, who is going to provide the composting facility to take your hoped-for, increased, volumes of organic waste to be collected in Northfield? Is the City proposing to solve only a small part of the organic waste problem, not the complete environmental cycle from food production back to dirt?
Education and proof of easiness will go a long way in getting people on board
Education to the positive impact that recycled compost provides in making fuel!
I already do curbside recycling and it is easy. To get more people on board they probably need more education about how to do it and how easy it is.
I definitely think that having curbside compost for the entire city would be beneficial, because it would provide opportunity for a culture shift so that all people understand the benefits of composting. We are in full support. That being said I think a lot of education is needed for the city to get behind it as a whole.

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I didn't realize how much food we were throwing away until we started composting our food-scrap. It has lessened the amount of garbage we send to the landfill each week (maybe 1 kitchen bag a week now versus a full bin). Plus, I didn't realize how really easy it would be for us to change our habits and start bringing our food compost to a community site. It takes a little extra effort but feels worth it. Education on this could be really helpful.
I think anything that will make it easier for people to recycle is wonderful!! Education is so important as well!! I am concerned about the possible cleanliness & insect/ rodent issues of compost hubs/drop off sites. Thank you!!
I think education is the most important factor in implementing a composting program. People have a lot of misconceptions about composting (smell, rodents, etc.) that could be dispelled by running community classes and teaching people how to do it correctly. There needs to be some serious education about the financial and environmental benefits of composting as opposed to using chemical fertilizers, too. I live on a street where probably 50% of people hire lawn care services to manage their yards. Not only is that expensive, but all of the pesticides and fertilizers applied to the grass wreak havoc on the flora and fauna in their yard, and then they get washed into the Cannon River to do further damage. Composting can reduce that damage and cut lawn care costs. Plus, reducing waste can cut trash removal costs, too. Even people who don't care about the environment could probably be incentivized to participate if they see the program will save them money.
I think many people are interested, they need education and encouragement. I think the recycling in schools helps get the word out to more young people who can encourage their families to participate.
I think most people don't understand what organization recycling is nor how ancient the practice actually is. There are a lot of people who think it's hippy liberal crap. Good luck.
I think organic waste recycling is an excellent idea. My family has been doing it for years and I would like to see more households doing it. But it will need to be made easy and affordable for people to participate. And people will need to be educated about the importance of doing it so they will voluntarily participate.
I think that increased education and outreach is an important step, followed by increased curbside and/or neighborhood compost hubs, etc.
I wanted to choose mandatory program in the last question but I realize there may be households that can't participate due to disabilities. My ideal option would be mandatory with exclusions for those with barriers. However, cost should not be a barrier and the city should subsidize the cost for those unable to pay for the service. Also, this survey is really confusing. No one who composts talks about "organic waste recycling". It's important to establish shared language around behavioral change and common language already exists. Adding "recycling" into the vernacular is only confusing because people associate recycling with paper and plastic, not with household food waste. That said, in addition to education and outreach, include a literacy campaign! Props to you for promoting and having the survey in Spanish also!
I was disappointed that the original trial for recycling 10 or 12 years ago was dropped. In fact, several of us met with the EQC to encourage them to take up the matter again. Of course, this failed, but the young entrepreneurs, including a former member of the EQC started an alternative program. We need to educate Northfielders about this need and make it available citywide. Larger cities, e.g. Seattle, make it mandatory!
I'm frankly surprised Northfield doesn't have this already. Yes, it requires a little education but it greatly reduces household waste and also makes you more aware of food waste which I think becomes motivation to waste less food.
If there is going to be a mandatory curbside program, I think it's really important to educate people about how this is helping our community and environment prior to implementation: address concerns about bugs, smell, and the easiest way to do this. Also why it doesn't have to be a huge time consumer.
If possible, more than flyers; is there some way social media can be used, a YouTube production...? Other ideas? For those that want a little more in depth information.
It might be worth offering options like curbside and/or community hub?
Just educate residents to use what is currently available to them. Do not need more infrastructure to handle waste, it is reusable, just do it!
Making it mandatory will turn people off; no one likes to be told what to do. I believe educating people so they understand the benefits and they can imagine what the practical day-to-day system would look like in their home will help to increase interest.
One of the great features of Northfield is the yard waste site--thank you for maintaining this incredibly valuable resource. Also thank you for introducing yard waste pick up.
I think as much education and information on this topic would be great, and I think in particular letting folks know the difference it makes locally, statewide, etc.
Please continue educating people about recycling and organic waste recycling. I'm often confused and wondering whether some items, especially plastics, should go in the trash bin or the recycling bin. The organic waste is actually an easier decision.
The City's yard waste site is a wonderful resource. Backyard composting works for those who know how and are willing to do it. To mandate that would be heavy-handed. Encouraging and educating folks to compost in their backyards may require a longer time frame. There is some effort to maintaining a working compost pile and then applying the compost to one's garden and plants.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Always Tell Us More – Need for Education

The unpleasantness of storing organic waste, even for a week between pickups may be a detriment for many. Educating people on how to store organic waste to minimize smell, bugs, etc. would be helpful.
This is so important!! Organic waste can be used and should NOT be wasted. I would be very willing to help with education and outreach to expand organic recycling!
I'd really love to see municipal organics recycling. I hope there would be a way to hire or contract with the existing local compost coop, so this doesn't put them out of business.
Also, I'd like to note how important it is to us that municipal organics recycling is much more powerful than backyard compost, in terms of the heat produced and therefore the types of things that can be composted. I love that I can compost bones, pizza boxes, and any number of citrus peels. In backyard models, it's too hard to create a really healthy balance and unlikely we'd ever get it cooking enough to be able to process bones.
Why can't yard waste and compost be mixed?
It seems like having additional vehicles driving around to pick up organic waste would add to the carbon footprint cancelling any benefit of a curbside program.

Always Tell Us More – Inconveniences of Composting

Don't put the present small company out of business. (Northfield Curbside Compost)
Some people may not be able to afford it. (presently about \$7 a month)
Having hubs in the neighborhood doesn't resolve the barrier for people who don't have vehicles with which to transport. And likely they will simply be dumping sites much like the household Drop sites in various parking lots all over town. The cost of yard compost is distributed over a 12 month period of time and I have an a large empty been sitting in my garage for six months that's not usable. The one thing the city would have to work on is making it affordable and therefore attractive to most households.
I am very thankful that my condo building has organic waste recycling. I wonder if the cost of bags might be a deterrent to some people.
My son's family does composting in their back yard yielding lovely garden dirt.
I live in an apartment and do not have yard waste to recycle, but I do recycle my household organic waste (food and compostables). Since I live in an apartment, it would not be possible for me to keep an organic waste bin in my yard since I don't have one. It seems important to have easy-to-use and easy-to-access organic waste recycling options for all household situations (e.g. homes, apartments, etc.)
I never compost until it was curbside. It is expensive, so that may be a reason why many people don't use it. If this were free and curbside (most convenient) I am assuming that would be the best way to get the highest number of people to comply.
I think anything that will make it easier for people to recycle is wonderful!! Education is so important as well!!! I am concerned about the possible cleanliness & insect/ rodent issues of compost hubs/drop off sites. Thank you!!
I think having I've (a bin) been similar to recycling and garbage would be the easiest to get more people on board. It's so important to utilize our scraps and have a positive impact on the environment.
I think it is very important to do but there may be households where it is just too much to make the effort.
I think it's a hard sell to get people to take smelly garbage somewhere else, or store it and have it picked up weekly. Possibly, though, something that made it easier for people to have *compost* picked up, or put them in touch with people who do more gardening and would like it, would be useful?
I think organic waste recycling is an excellent idea. My family has been doing it for years and I would like to see more households doing it. But it will need to be made easy and affordable for people to participate. And people will need to be educated about the importance of doing it so they will voluntarily participate.
I wanted to choose mandatory program in the last question but I realize there may be households that can't participate due to disabilities. My ideal option would be mandatory with exclusions for those with barriers. However, cost should not be a barrier and the city should subsidize the cost for those unable to pay for the service. Also, this survey is really confusing. No one who composts talks about "organic waste recycling". It's important to establish shared language around behavioral change and common language already exists. Adding "recycling" into the vernacular is only confusing because people associate recycling with paper and plastic, not with household food waste. That said, in addition to education and outreach, include a literacy campaign! Props to you for promoting and having the survey in Spanish also!
In order to encourage more participation, the city will need to subsidize the curbside composting option to make it affordable and easy for all. Or it could be a combination of this and neighborhood compost hubs.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Always Tell Us More – Inconveniences of Composting

Most of the people living in this 54-unit condo building would be open to recycling organic waste. That is, if the logistics could be worked out. We could add an additional bin or two in our garbage collection room in the two garages that would have to be picked up regularly by the city or Waste Management folks.
My main concern is the cost. As it is, I pay too much for weekly trash pickup. When I do so well at reducing waste, the trash bin is often less than 1/4 full.
And, frankly the discount for the smaller bin is simply laughable. If you are going to implement a community wide strategy or reducing household waste, it would be more appealing if it meant a reduction in overall cost of waste disposal.
Please for all things holy stop controlling what the entire city needs to do and pay for. We have and do compost why would I want to have another line on my city bill. Please just stop!
Since I order a personal service for compost pick up, which I like, I am concerned about apartment buildings and landlords.
However, I think with a proper plan in place for large buildings that the residents would enjoy the service.
We would love an integrated organic household waste recycling program to go with our garbage and recycling service. As long as it's comparable in price to our curbside service we will participate.
We've composted our kitchen scraps for 17 years and use all of our compost in our garden, so we wouldn't participate in curbside compost pickup. But I think it's a great way for families who don't use compost to reduce their waste! By the way, we currently participate in curbside yard waste recycling and we love it. Super convenient and way easier than transporting the stuff ourselves.
What will happen to the compost that is created? I'm not going to pay to have my scraps picked up and then pay again to get the finished product...

Always Tell Us More – Miscellaneous Comments

...Nothing you don't already know and understand about the value and necessity of going so, I am sure.
Regarding the question about the most important reason for why I compost my organic waste, I find that not putting organic waste in the landfill either to save space or reduce air pollution both give the same result.
A program like this would have been great a couple of years ago- we support it, but just already have our backyard system set up!
Anything we can do to reduce waste and pollution and global climate change is fine with us.
Composting is important! Great to see the city investing in this area!
I have had my own vermiculture system and now have curbside pickup, which is easier and more convenient.
I really appreciate that Northfield is taking this option seriously and want to support the climate action plan.
I think I would take out the word MANDATORY but combine the cost of garbage, recycling and compost into one so that Everyone shares the cost of helping the environment. People may be more likely to give composting a try knowing that they are helping to pay the cost regardless.
I've had curbside composting for years and LOVE it. Everyone should be doing this!
If I had more faith in people I would have selected the first option above. It would be wonderful if everyone recycled their organic waste.
It is a very good idea. Thanks for considering it. I hope we can come up with a successful program.
It is way past time.
The submit your email part is cumbersome.
It needs to happen. We as a society need to take ownership of our waste. All of it!
It was much easier than we thought. It would be great to have access to the finished composted material.
It's like Duh.
It's easy!
My neighbor's garbage already smells and is unpleasant. Perhaps if they had to compost the smell would be better controlled.
Please. Encourage recycling for all if us!
Thank you for your leadership!!
Thank you so much for pursuing this! We know it's a lot of work, but the savings to our environment would be great. One thing that I'd love to know is what the city will do with all of the generated compost, and also how much of a savings that will be?

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Always Tell Us More – Miscellaneous Comments

Thank you- it's time!
Thank you! I think this is SO important!
Thank you!!
Thanks
Thanks for this survey!
This is an important issue and we are grateful for the community effort.
This is an incredibly overdue and welcome step; thank you very much!!!
We think this is an important issue. Thank you for pursuing this.

Always Tell Us More – Overcoming Barriers

1. The goal of the City's Climate Action Plan is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses from sources in Northfield. The managed, composting process, itself, likely results in the accelerated release of CO2 to the atmosphere, compared to the slow decomposition of the material in a landfill. You are being somewhat dishonest in failing to explain that outcome of your proposed, enhanced, collection program.
2. Some research indicates that organic materials placed in properly constructed landfills may not decompose to methane at all, or will do so over a very long time that is outside the time window when we need to solve climate change. This research is not explained or re-buffed in your promotional materials.
3. Some utilities, with environmentalists, are advocating the production and pipeline use of renewable natural gas; i.e., methane from landfills and composting of manures. Your promotional materials fail to disclose that it may actually be helpful to convert household waste to methane for home and industrial use rather than convert it to CO2 and dirt.
4. Will your proposed, enhanced, composting program include the capital funding necessary to build facilities for stirring and cooking the collected, organic material back to CO2 or methane? If not, who is going to provide the composting facility to take your hoped-for, increased, volumes of organic waste to be collected in Northfield? Is the City proposing to solve only a small part of the organic waste problem, not the complete environmental cycle from food production back to dirt?
I have been able to keep my organic material that will be recycled on Thursdays in the freezer until each Tuesday morning when they will be picking it up sometime that day. It doesn't get smelly that way unless it gets real late when it is picked up.
I love the weekly curbside pickup. I'm elderly, we live in a difficult climate, for these reasons I want curbside pickup as provided by the great people of Curbside pickup now. I will NOT walk or drive over my organic waste to a neighbor hub. Idea dead on arrival, I think. Who in their 60s would do that in cold or heat??? Or busy young people with jobs and kids? Who has time for that? Curbside is the way to make this work.
I think anything that will make it easier for people to recycle is wonderful!! Education is so important as well!! I am concerned about the possible cleanliness & insect/ rodent issues of compost hubs/drop off sites. Thank you!!
I was amazed, when I began to compost, as well as recycling, how little garbage I had at the end of the week. Our composting service only allows one 10-gallon bag, and I fill that in about five days. I would love to have the ability to compose ALL my food and soiled paper waste.
I would definitely like to keep my curbside service. Transporting recycling to a neighborhood hub or citywide center poses some problems that yard waste recycling typically doesn't because compostables are messier, smellier, and wetter. Backyard composting is harder to manage in the winter. But I imagine that many won't want a mandatory approach, so perhaps a choice of solutions will end up being needed.
I would use an organic waste facility, but wish there was a different alternative to the 5-gal pail
If there is going to be a mandatory curbside program, I think it's really important to educate people about how this is helping our community and environment prior to implementation: address concerns about bugs, smell, and the easiest way to do this. Also why it doesn't have to be a huge time consumer.
If possible, more than flyers; is there some way social media can be used, a YouTube production....? Other ideas? For those that want a little more in depth information.
It might be worth offering options like curbside and/or community hub?
In order to encourage more participation, the city will need to subsidize the curbside composting option to make it affordable and easy for all. Or it could be a combination of this and neighborhood compost hubs.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Always Tell Us More – Overcoming Barriers

Neighborhood hubs for household organic waste are a sure-fire magnet for critters. People won't take advantage of drop-off sites for organic household waste – they'll see it as too much work. A mandatory program for recycling household waste will result in griping, resistance and a fair amount of stubborn non-compliance by those who don't understand the need for recycling household waste and who see it as the government "forcing one more thing" down people's throats. If it's a sizable volume of noncompliance, it will defeat the wonderful purpose of recycling household waste. Increasing participation through an enhanced optional curbside program with some sort of incentive, such as a slight reduction in rates, is a gentler way of getting people to cooperate/participate appropriately. Many people don't see the advantages of curbside compost waste recycling – we didn't prior to doing it – but we are sold on the concept. You get more flies with honey than with vinegar!
The biodegradable bags provided are too flimsy, particularly when organic waste is relatively wet, and fall apart.
The curbside pick-up has transformed our household (and business) in many positive ways. We no longer have the burden of turning and managing our own compost – which was also useless in the garden due to nearby walnuts. The 5-gallon container is clean, easy, convenient and a perfect size for one week's worth of waste.
The system we have with Northfield Compost had worked very well for us. The buckets are the right size for our family of 4, only having excess weeks that watermelon or corn is had at home. They are easy to bring to the curb and small enough to store in the garage. I would not like any receptacle larger than that. They do require a rinse each week and a scrub a few times a year.
If city funds are to be used, I'd love to see it invested in these people. They need a bigger truck, probably additional ones, and funds to pay employees. A campaign to enroll residents would help with funding. And perhaps the city can supplement some of the annual fee for residents if they enroll.
Use volunteers to monitor neighborhood or hub sites. Include nearby small trash bins. Set hours. No volunteers – no bins. Lots of single households, and people living in apartments. Work with restaurants who might use volunteers. Establish a local volunteer Corp, like Peace Corp.
We are subscribers to the existing Northfield Compost Company and think their service is stellar. With one exception, the bucket is too small. I don't want them to go out of business and so please contract with them for the citywide pickup. They are great.
We currently use the five gallon buckets for curbside composting. I find the buckets cumbersome and not big enough. I would want a cart similar to a trash cart to put out weekly like trash and recycling.
We wouldn't need a bin the size of our trash can. A bucket slightly larger than five gallons would be nice.
Again, if the city could make curbside composting an opt in, for a fee, but contract with a company already working in this area, then I would be in favor. Northfield Curbside Composting is already doing what you are proposing. However, it would be nice for them if they had a local composting location. I believe they have to take the compost up to the cities somewhere.
The community should have an option to use the compost generated by the City.

Always Tell Us More – Backyard Composting

Having hubs in the neighborhood doesn't resolve the barrier for people who don't have vehicles with which to transport. And likely they will simply be dumping sites much like the household Drop sites in various parking lots all over town. The cost of yard compost is distributed over a 12 month period of time and I have a large empty been sitting in my garage for six months that's not usable. The one thing the city would have to work on is making it affordable and therefore attractive to most households.
I am very interested in the yard waste pickup also.
One of the great features of Northfield is the yard waste site-thank you for maintaining this incredibly valuable resource. Also thank you for introducing yard waste pick up.
I think as much education and information on this topic would be great, and I think in particular letting folks know the difference it makes locally, statewide, etc.
The addition of the large rolling cart for yard waste is my single favorite thing the city has created in the last year. I also use both a backyard compost setup and the curbside pickup program. The next best thing for me would be the return of finished compost at curbside, but that might be asking for too much.
The City's yard waste site is a wonderful resource. Backyard composting works for those who know how and are willing to do it. To mandate that would be heavy-handed. Encouraging and educating folks to compost in their backyards may require a longer time frame. There is some effort to maintaining a working compost pile and then applying the compost to one's garden and plants.
Having hubs in the neighborhood doesn't resolve the barrier for people who don't have vehicles with which to transport. And likely they will simply be dumping sites much like the household Drop sites in various parking lots all over town. The cost of yard compost is distributed over a 12 month period of time and I have a large empty been sitting in my garage for six months that's not usable. The one thing the city would have to work on is making it affordable and therefore attractive to most households.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Responses from respondents who SOMETIMES recycle their household organic waste

Sometimes Tell Us More – City's Role

Anything mandatory, which will also mean mandatory additional costs, will not be welcomed – especially when money is tight for everyone – including the local government. This also continues the theme of local government which is "we know what is good for you and you (citizens) don't" which is not appropriate or welcome. One has to have buy in from a majority in the community before the program would be/is successful this community is known for forcing the views and desires of the minority upon the rest of the community
I haven't heard of "neighborhood compost hubs" before, so I don't know what that is. Might be a good thing – I just don't know.
I think this is an important, responsible move, but I imagine it would be difficult to mandate.
I like the idea of optional but would like to see it be an opt-out program rather than opt-in, so that the default is participating.
I think the best option would be an enhanced optional curbside recycling program that provides households with the service by default and allows them to opt-out if they choose.
Include the cost with general garbage pickup to encourage organic recycling since everyone would be paying for it anyway.
I warmed to the idea of a neighborhood hub while taking this survey. It seems like a good option for my family – we can compost when we have room in our bin, which I like because I can use the compost in the garden – but when the bin is full, we can still recycle the food waste at the hub. If we want to pay for curbside pickup, we already have an option for that.
Needs to be operated by private sector. Government does a poor job running these types of operations.
What is the cost to benefit ratio?
What is point, when most in household are only 2, not a huge family? The benefit wouldn't truly be worth the extra cost, cause if you push this idea, could be recalled, opt-in then maybe worth it.
I would love to see curbside organic composting in Northfield but I'm afraid it won't catch on because most people don't care enough or are too lazy to bother. Hopefully educating people would get them to care more.
I would like to see a combined organic waste and recycling education/re-education – we need to look at the whole waste stream and how we can more effectively compost and recycle.... we're already not recycling well, to add on compost without dealing with our recycling failures doesn't make sense. We need a comprehensive approach with more monitoring and consequences for lack of compliance [with current recycling]...until we can do that adding another element with organic waste won't be successful.
There are still the issues of people dumping unacceptable trash in the cardboard/paper dumpsters bins at the grocery stores – our home has also had other people passing by putting their trash in my trash can at the street at my house – so what is going to keep the compost hubs or other community drop-off sites from becoming places for trash to be dumped?
We have many more important issues than this one.
Why are you even wasting the time and money on this subject which only a few would consider to be a problem? If this was an issue which had support you would place it to a vote. If it's such a good idea why will be forced upon the residents.
As again we observe the same people that are trying to save the planet are the same ones that were going to stop pollution to our streams and rivers but these are the same people that shoot grass clippings and leaves in the streets where there are washed into our drain water sewer systems thus polluting. Enforce the laws already on the books regarding polluting before making new laws. Looking forward to the day when we move out of Northfield to an area where the administrations have more common sense instead of trying to save the World with no rhyme or reason.
I would love curbside pick up – but I do believe that in the warm months it would need to be weekly as the smell, flies and bees can be terrible if it goes longer than a week.
In the future, let's get into composting toilets – their legality in residential construction, management, use, etc.
It's great this is FINALLY happening. Now, just do it and don't waste time and money studying
PLEASE include a strategy for pet waste! See https://envirowagg.com/
Stop spending money on needless activities
To reiterate, our household would be willing to participate in curbside pickup of household organic waste that is not accepted for paper recycling and are items I don't want to put into our household compost heap. Our household compost heap also takes much of our yard waste, excluding brush and undesirable weedy plants.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Sometimes Tell Us More – Curbside Service

Hire the people from the existing compost collection service to be a part of any citywide program.
I like supporting Helen Forsythe's business called Northfield Curbside Compost. I hope that the city of Northfield plans to work with her efforts to create an enhanced curbside recycling program.
I would love to see the current curbside compost system be involved in this. They are doing a great job!
It would be great to see the City support the current Northfield Compost group in expanding their operations to serve all residents.
If you go to a community-composting program, what will it cost taxpayers? How will this be funded? Would current programs see less funding in order to fund community composting? There is a lot to consider here as you know or you wouldn't be doing this research. I applaud the efforts of CAP. But like I said – don't put a small business out of business to attain the composting goal. I hope you're working closely with NCC. Also, I am surprised to see meat and fish are allowed in the composting efforts. I admit I don't know how the composting works here, but if you want to reduce smell and rodent/animals – meat and fish should never be put in with other organic materials.

Sometimes Tell Us More – Need for Education

I didn't know there was a community drop off sites or where they are at!
I think more publicity and education could go a long way.
I would like to see a combined organic waste and recycling education/re-education – we need to look at the whole waste stream and how we can more effectively compost and recycle.... we're already not recycling well, to add on compost without dealing with our recycling failures doesn't make sense. We need a comprehensive approach with more monitoring and consequences for lack of compliance [with current recycling]...until we can do that adding another element with organic waste won't be successful.
I would like to see more data as to the relative effect of recycling household organic waste as opposed to putting it down the garbage disposal or in the garbage can. For the case of yard waste I can see that large amounts are generated and that composting has a significant effect but my feeling is that the amount of household waste is relatively insignificant, based on my use of the city compost site as compared to the amount that I compost at home.
User friendly and accessibility is key
Education a must.
Awesome
I would love to see curbside organic composting in Northfield but I'm afraid it won't catch on because most people don't care enough or are too lazy to bother. Hopefully educating people would get them to care more.
There are still the issues of people dumping unacceptable trash in the cardboard/paper dumpsters bins at the grocery stores – our home has also had other people passing by putting their trash in my trash can at the street at my house – so what is going to keep the compost hubs or other community drop-off sites from becoming places for trash to be dumped?

Sometimes Tell Us More – Inconveniences of Composting

I know that an extra bin and pick up is likely more expensive but getting a refund or credit for composting/recycling would be a better way to get buy in than an extra cost for those who want to do it. Paying more to do more work seems like a double penalty. (Except for the obvious environmental benefits)
I love the idea of it but am concerned about the cost primarily. We already pay plenty of taxes in Northfield. While the school district is a big part of it, so is our current city council.
If you go to a community-composting program, what will it cost taxpayers? How will this be funded? Would current programs see less funding in order to fund community composting? There is a lot to consider here as you know or you wouldn't be doing this research. I applaud the efforts of CAP. But like I said – don't put a small business out of business to attain the composting goal. I hope you're working closely with NCC.
Also, I am surprised to see meat and fish are allowed in the composting efforts. I admit I don't know how the composting works here, but if you want to reduce smell and rodent/animals – meat and fish should never be put in with other organic materials.
People are lazy, critters are real. Make it as simple as possible!
People living in apartment buildings would need a centralized place to store their organic household waste. This would require everyone in the complex to abide by the rules for storing organic waste. That would be a big challenge unless there is some incentive for them to do so

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Sometimes Tell Us More – Inconveniences of Composting

The city's option cannot cost more than what is currently available and neighbors will need to be able to share a plan or subscription. I think composting is very good for the environment and other areas but I am not going to be hauling my compost mess anywhere. If it doesn't come to my house I am not doing it. I will just put way more down the sink disposal and throw the rest away in the trash like I did pre composting
User friendly and accessibility is key
Education a must.
Awesome
While I am in favor of an opt-in (or available to all) curbside program, I wouldn't want it to be an additional cost, because I think that deters participation. Even if it requires added funding, I think those costs should be looped into the overall garbage costs so that people don't choose to NOT participate as a way to save a few bucks.
Tooooo many taxes now
My taxes went up by \$2400 a year
People need to be responsible for their own actions not another government program to solve their issue of the month
I am glad that the idea is being explored. I am 82 years old. Currently have no problem taking vegetable waste to the compost bin in the yard next to mine. As I age, the task might get more difficult for me.
I did organic waste recycling through the weekly trash collection. Just a separate bin. When I lived in Mexico City 15 years ago. It was easy to do and I felt good about it. Smell is an issue, but it would be easier in MN where we are frozen for part of the year,

Sometimes Tell Us More – Miscellaneous Comments

I hope it becomes more common place, a good tool for working with, instead of against, nature.
I thank you for investigating how this could be effective in our community. I think it is important.
I would be more into a drop-off or neighborhood hub if I lived in a "neighborhood" – we're rural, so it doesn't make much sense for us. I would particularly like another composting option (curbside or whatever) for non-plant-based compost; it would be great to further decrease what we send to the landfill.
Thank you to our City for putting a CAP in to place! Best wishes and I look forward to seeing the progress.

Sometimes Tell Us More – Overcoming Barriers

Compost hubs would be ideal, if the structures were modern, automated and clean...great idea.
Question; how is the St Olaf organic Recycling facility working...why is so far from campus...tell us of it's success and failures. There has to some strengths and weakness to that "Hub" design.
Have the he city donate household composting bins for individual yard composting and also offer weekly curbside pick up
I know that an extra bin and pick up is likely more expensive but getting a refund or credit for composting/recycling would be a better way to get buy in than an extra cost for those who want to do it. Paying more to do more work seems like a double penalty. (Except for the obvious environmental benefits)
I like the compost hubs idea – it might also help with those who are just now taking on gardening in that it would be an easy supply of good soil [eventually]. It would give the city of Northfield workers one more thing to do, however, unless people could be put in charge of maintaining it.
I warmed to the idea of a neighborhood hub while taking this survey. It seems like a good option for my family – we can compost when we have room in our bin, which I like because I can use the compose in the garden – but when the bin is full, we can still recycle the food waste at the hub. If we want to pay for curbside pickup, we already have an option for that.
When I was in Dakota county I used to drive my waster to one of two drop off sites once a week. Getting in the car to drive to drop off waste seemed very counterproductive to environmental concerns.
City sponsored composting could involve the high heat processing that would allow for a wider range of materials to be composted. This is a huge advantage over household composting systems and should be emphasized.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Sometimes Tell Us More – Overcoming Barriers

There are still the issues of people dumping unacceptable trash in the cardboard/paper dumpsters bins at the grocery stores – our home has also had other people passing by putting their trash in my trash can at the street at my house – so what is going to keep the compost hubs or other community drop-off sites from becoming places for trash to be dumped?

While I am in favor of an opt-in (or available to all) curbside program, I wouldn't want it to be an additional cost, because I think that deters participation. Even if it requires added funding, I think those costs should be looped into the overall garbage costs so that people don't choose to NOT participate as a way to save a few bucks.

Sometimes Tell Us More – Backyard Composting

No comments.

Responses from respondents who NEVER recycle their household organic waste

Never Tell Us More – City's Role

1. Would the material in the collection sites freeze during the winter and smell during other seasons?

2. Be careful about requiring people to do something, especially if they then have to pay for it.

How about directing some effort to pay as you throw.

I do not feel this should be mandated

I do not recommend making it mandatory.

I believe that people will voluntarily participate (and feel good about it) if the city provides educational know-how to residents and provides bags and curbside buckets for collection. The in-house containers can be provided by the resident as each household will need to determine their own space requirements.

In other words, the city could provide education and encouragement for the private company that is already collecting the composting.

I don't know what kind of relationship the city has with the current group that is collecting organics at the curb. I would hope the city can work with incorporating their employees if the city offered its own service.

think the city should try an option of organic collection that seems most cost effective and generates the most interest by residence. Curbside is easiest but may be the most expensive. Offering several drop off locations may be a good option to get started.

I like the idea and would participate if the barriers were removed. I would not care if you made it mandatory, if there was curbside pickup. But, unfortunately I believe there are enough citizens of Northfield, that would object that the project might get scuttled. If you get a majority of citizens to participate voluntarily for a couple of years, the ones who don't may be inclined by peer pressure, to comply willingly if it was made mandatory after they get accustomed to the idea as mainstream ideology.

I think it's an important issue and I hope the city follows through on educating it's citizens about the "how, when and where" of organic waste recycling, and develops programs to make widespread organic waste recycling possible and feasible.

I would support the idea and practice of organic waste recycling, but this is yet another cost and financial strain for the residents of this city that already pay too much in property taxation.

I'm concerned about mandatory service I will have to pay for. I opted into the yard waste pickup because I knew I would use it. I would be happy to use a compost bin but would not be happy if my bill were increased to cover citywide pickup when my volume is minimal.

If a significant percentage of households are against a mandatory program we would be in favor of an optional program with increased education with the hope that participation rates would increase over time.

If the City Council creates a mandatory recycling program ... while I believe in recycling ... I would say, "Screw you!" I am a believer in recycling, consider myself relatively progressive, and have dumped some of my food waste in a compost bin. However, don't tell me what I have to do – that's where I lean a bit libertarian. Any council member that votes for a mandatory program ought to be voted off of the Council in my mind ... even though I don't disagree that people SHOULD recycle waste.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Never Tell Us More – City's Role

Just another way for this crazy people on the council to spend money and increase our taxes
Mandatory? If it was such a good idea you wouldn't have to make it mandatory and charge my because someone else thinks it's a good idea.
Organic waste recycling is fine but it must not cost anything additional to the household taxpayer. We already pay too much for regular garbage/recycling hauling. Also, if this initiative becomes mandatory how is the city going to get renters in multifamily housing to comply. The owners of this property type should be required to pay a similar cost per unit as a single-family homeowner.
Please don't force your liberal agenda on society. Those who wish it, already participate. Stop wasting my taxpayer money to FORCE your agenda on others.
Please don't just pass this i.e. closing of Bridge Square lanes and roads, without public input.
Please stop wasting time and money on things that are not important, focus on reducing the tax burden
Stop wasting our tax dollars on stupid projects like this.
There are hundreds of apartments in Northfield and I routinely see people throwing inappropriate items into the recycling bin. If people cannot even sort glass, metal and plastics into recycling, I cannot imagine what it would take to get apartment dwellers to care enough to participate in organic recycling. When I lived in a house, I appreciated curbside pick-up, but I was the only person on my block that cared enough to subscribe. People are predominantly lazy and think the earth can just absorb our waste. That's why I say it should be mandatory along with A LOT of education, along with compliance measures. Landlords need to require better adherence to recycling of all kinds.
This climate action plan is very unrealistic and I'm tired of the city having the same discussions over and over. I'd like to know how much \$ is being spent on all this. How many bike signs are needed on Prairie St? Major overkill!
We disagree with much of your climate plan As stated in one of the above questions, we do not feel that the city should be dictating what citizens should do about composting, leaving it up to citizens to do what is best for them.
I do not want this. I have absolutely NO interest in doing this. I DO NOT want to pay for this. I DO NOT want to be forced into paying for this. We are already over taxed and zero say in what we chose for trash/recycling services. I'm tired of it. Stop forcing the wants of the few on the many Northfield!!!!
Can you focus on recycling every week as well? This seems silly that you want to do organic waste but aren't focused on reducing recycling waste.
I'm more concerned about the pollution from people and the city fertilizing their yards and killing weeds with chemicals. Why would you start anything like this while still polluting with chemicals and paying to do it.
My husband is opposed to it because he thinks it takes more energy to drive the truck around to pick up the organic waste Then the benefit obtain by composting.
Show me the data that it has some bang for the buck
There are hundreds of apartments in Northfield and I routinely see people throwing inappropriate items into the recycling bin. If people cannot even sort glass, metal and plastics into recycling, I cannot imagine what it would take to get apartment dwellers to care enough to participate in organic recycling. When I lived in a house, I appreciated curbside pick-up, but I was the only person on my block that cared enough to subscribe. People are predominantly lazy and think the earth can just absorb our waste. That's why I say it should be mandatory along with A LOT of education, along with compliance measures. Landlords need to require better adherence to recycling of all kinds.
This is foolishness. Currently a garbage truck comes by each week to collect a 5-gallon bucket of household waste on our block. Good for the environment when you consider fuel costs and exhaust?
We already keep most of our organic waste in a separate container in the fridge that we eventually combine with the trash. I'm not confident it's sorted correctly, but I'd love to learn especially if it didn't rely on me having to go do one more separate drop-off in between a busy work/commute schedule. It would also be great if there was a closer Tech Dump location in THIS county as well. Seems that there should be an upfront tax on electronics that allows recycling of technology to be "free" instead of assuming people will pay to properly dispose of their electronics. It gets hard to keep up with where to take paint in, where to recycle batteries, and so on, especially when it's often difficult to find in this county OR only during certain time frames. Thanks!
When the City can provide proper maintenance of current city infrastructure in a costly manner, then consider adding new programs. Some of these streets are so filled with uneven grades and potholes; it feels like horseback riding when driving through town. Why keep adding additional programs when you can't maintain what is currently existing.
I believe strongly in recycling plastics and aluminum etc.
I absolutely opposed to be taxed for one more thing.
This is way over the edge with a few paying for These initiatives
I will continue to recycle/compost yard waste due to large seasonal volume of fall clean up. I won't participate in the household version. Stop controlling every move people make.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Never Tell Us More – City's Role

I personally think, in this time we are in, we should be more concerned about a free or reduced internet for all program. Versus organic waste, this topic of organic waste seems usual, but now is not the time. Let's make sure our kids have an education, like we had the opportunity to do, versus being a sheep and following every CDC guideline to a T.
I was charged \$6000 last year for new asphalt in front of my house. The previous damage to this road was due mostly to the garbage and recycling trucks passing by every week. I am concerned about even more damage to the roadways if more heavy trucks are passing by each week.
The acceptance of the importance of organic waste recycling is predicated on belief in the Climate Action Plan. I do not believe in the CAP.
There is no need for this.
This is a waste of the City's resources, time and money when there's no demonstrated problem or harm being done with the current methods. Especially during the Covid 19 era when the City's budget and resources are very strained, this CAP should be shelved.
This should be less of a concern than increased recycling for a greater number of plastics which sit in landfills for decades. The investment in plastics recycling would be worth the cost and would save the environment in a much better way.
Waste of money and time. More tax burden for citizens already overtaxed!
If this is on your agenda, it's implemented anyway. Why do you keep paying for surveys that you don't listen to homeowners.
Environmental issues are important but NOT the top priority.
Even is required I would not be participating at my home.
Don't do it!

Never Tell Us More – Curbside Service

I don't know what kind of relationship the city has with the current group that is collecting organics at the curb. I would hope the city can work with incorporating their employees if the city offered its own service.
I think the city should try an option of organic collection that seems most cost effective and generates the most interest by residence. Curbside is easiest but may be the most expensive. Offering several drop off locations may be a good option to get started.

Never Tell Us More – Need for Education

Besides the classic backyard bin style of composting, does anyone have experience with the rolling barrel style, which is more compact but also more expensive, i.e., https://www.amazon.com/Envirocycle-Beautiful-Composter-Assembly-Composting/dp/B0121B5474/ref=sr_1_6?crid=3S9BSEF1818JW&dchild=1&keywords=composter%2Btumblers&qid=1598361879&sprex=composter%2C198&sr=8-6&th=1
Education (bilingual) is the key. Those who will do it already do, or will if the opportunity is there. People need to know that it is easy and doesn't stink if done right. And if curbside pickup is done efficiently, it will keep costs and noise down as well.
Education and outreach also important. Hosting an outdoor booth at Riverwalk Market Fair, DJJD, or between El Triunfo and Quarterback club could also be an outreach option if safe due to the pandemic.
I do not recommend making it mandatory.
I believe that people will voluntarily participate (and feel good about it) if the city provides educational know-how to residents and provides bags and curbside buckets for collection. The in-house containers can be provided by the resident as each household will need to determine their own space requirements.
In other words, the city could provide education and encouragement for the private company that is already collecting the composting.
I think it's an important issue and I hope the city follows through on educating its citizens about the "how, when and where" of organic waste recycling, and develops programs to make widespread organic waste recycling possible and feasible.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Never Tell Us More – Need for Education

I think the general topic of waste management (not the company) is not well understood. What the garbage you throw away really looks like – what gets buried at the landfill, why organic waste should not be in the landfills and why.
I used to have a compost pile when I lived on an acreage and loved it, but I think I was the only one in my acreage subdivision that did it. People are lazy and don't understand how easy it is. Now that I live in town I feel the same.
I'm 1) not sure I know enough to have a firm opinion on the topic and 2) given my ignorance, I'm still stuck between the 1st and 2nd options. If it's not just good for the environment but also cost effective in the long run, then we should just do it. I don't even know what the current rules are; do households have to have their trash picked up or can they opt out? What would you still pick up? Styrofoam and other forms of packing?
If a significant percentage of households are against a mandatory program we would be in favor of an optional program with increased education with the hope that participation rates would increase over time.
Is there already a drop off location? If so, I was unaware.
Please give us some dollars and cents numbers telling us why you are pursuing this. We don't mind separating it for you BUT is it really worth the effort?
Specific instructions for what is accepted, bucket, bag, lid and weekly pickup.
There are hundreds of apartments in Northfield and I routinely see people throwing inappropriate items into the recycling bin. If people cannot even sort glass, metal and plastics into recycling, I cannot imagine what it would take to get apartment dwellers to care enough to participate in organic recycling. When I lived in a house, I appreciated curbside pick-up, but I was the only person on my block that cared enough to subscribe. People are predominantly lazy and think the earth can just absorb our waste. That's why I say it should be mandatory along with A LOT of education, along with compliance measures. Landlords need to require better adherence to recycling of all kinds.
There are only two of us, we use garbage disposal. Seems more important for food businesses like restaurants.
We already keep most of our organic waste in a separate container in the fridge that we eventually combine with the trash. I'm not confident it's sorted correctly, but I'd love to learn especially if it didn't rely on me having to go do one more separate drop-off in between a busy work/commute schedule. It would also be great if there was a closer Tech Dump location in THIS county as well. Seems that there should be an upfront tax on electronics that allows recycling of technology to be "free" instead of assuming people will pay to properly dispose of their electronics. It gets hard to keep up with where to take paint in, where to recycle batteries, and so on, especially when it's often difficult to find in this county OR only during certain time frames. Thanks!
We have taken classes and read books on the subject, and support the idea. Our hurdles have been implementation. We are not in a position to turn and monitor compost as it converts into soil, but we would love to see our household waste cycle back into soil emendation. Aside from curbside pick-up, clear guidelines on what is and what is not allowed to be composted (a card for the refrigerator, perhaps) would be useful to educate all household members and to serve as a quick reminder as decisions are being made in the kitchen.
When I was a kid recycling was a thing I considered to be for financially well off families who lived in big houses. It would be much more realistic for low-income families if it was included outside with the trash and recycling for townhouses, apartments, etc. It would be very helpful if people had clear, descriptive imagery symbols or stickers on each of their personal bins to remind them of what can and cannot go in. Having access to a reminder to tape on my bins and access to free curbside receptacles right outside my home is how I finally became comfortable with recycling.
I am a recycler and am hearing my recycling is winding up in landfills or shipped on barges to foreign countries to make it their problem. Is there a use for all the organic waste or are we essentially paying to recycle what nobody will use. Will we end this if there is no market?
My husband is opposed to it because he thinks it takes more energy to drive the truck around to pick up the organic waste Then the benefit obtain by composting.
There are hundreds of apartments in Northfield and I routinely see people throwing inappropriate items into the recycling bin. If people cannot even sort glass, metal and plastics into recycling, I cannot imagine what it would take to get apartment dwellers to care enough to participate in organic recycling. When I lived in a house, I appreciated curbside pick-up, but I was the only person on my block that cared enough to subscribe. People are predominantly lazy and think the earth can just absorb our waste. That's why I say it should be mandatory along with A LOT of education, along with compliance measures. Landlords need to require better adherence to recycling of all kinds.
This is foolishness. Currently a garbage truck comes by each week to collect a 5-gallon bucket of household waste on our block. Good for the environment when you consider fuel costs and exhaust?
I am a recycler and am hearing my recycling is winding up in landfills or shipped on barges to foreign countries to make it their problem. Is there a use for all the organic waste or are we essentially paying to recycle what nobody will use. Will we end this if there is no market?

CITY OF NORTHFIELD

COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Never Tell Us More – Inconveniences of Composting

1. Would the material in the collection sites freeze during the winter and smell during other seasons?
2. Be careful about requiring people to do something, especially if they then have to pay for it.
Free
I am in a HOA that would not allow composting bins within the HOA common spaces because of odors and pests that would likely result. However, if options were available for organic waste recycling that would not impact property values or enjoyment of outdoor spaces they would be of definite interest.
I am working with my homeowners association to implement a composting/organics diversion program across the facility.
I do not want to see this mandated and cost us more money. The city of Northfield seems to love big government lately, wanting to put more and more rules on people all the time. The city is on this climate kick, which I think will cost us money and The rules and regulations could deter business from coming to town. Our city alone is not going to save the planet! Do we know that an extra truck picking up organic recycling, if it were curbside, isn't going to undo any positive climate benefit? And are we sure organics don't need some presence in a landfill to break down other trash?
I like the idea and would participate if the barriers were removed. I would not care if you made it mandatory, if there was curbside pickup. But, unfortunately I believe there are enough citizens of Northfield, that would object that the project might get scuttled. If you get a majority of citizens to participate voluntarily for a couple of years, the ones who don't may be inclined by peer pressure, to comply willingly if it was made mandatory after they get accustomed to the idea as mainstream ideology.
I think if you do not charge for this service, you will get MANY more participants. Although many feel it is better for the environment, in these tough financial times, this would not be an expense many households could afford.
I would support the idea and practice of organic waste recycling, but this is yet another cost and financial strain for the residents of this city that already pay too much in property taxation.
I'm concerned about mandatory service I will have to pay for. I opted into the yard waste pickup because I knew I would use it. I would be happy to use a compost bin but would not be happy if my bill were increased to cover citywide pickup when my volume is minimal.
I'm not too keen on the neighborhood compost hub idea, especially outside of the downtown area/going north and south where the houses are farther apart. This would likely mean we'd have to lug it by car or by foot which could just get gross. Also, using a car would just add more carbon to the atmosphere that we're trying to get rid of. I've been on board with this idea for years but since I'm a college student living with my family for the time being, they want it to be easier than harder.
If I compost I throw less trash. Are you going to lower garbage rates?
Information about cost is needed.
My household would definitely compost our organic waste if it were easier for us to just have it picked up/be able to drop it off somewhere CLOSE to our house.
Organic waste recycling is fine but it must not cost anything additional to the household taxpayer. We already pay too much for regular garbage/recycling hauling. Also, if this initiative becomes mandatory how is the city going to get renters in multifamily housing to comply. The owners of this property type should be required to pay a similar cost per unit as a single-family homeowner.
Please think about how to make this accessible to renters.
The city needs to get its shit together with the disaster they have caused with bicycle lanes and dangerous intersections they have created. Once this is taken care of, then they could consider this. I am not interested in paying more for garbage, and I do not want more trash bins in my neighborhood. Focus on something else
The Northfield taxes and fees are all ready high enough. We do not need a city service that results in more "fees". This includes adding a fee to our existing garbage service.
This does not work for high density housing with a association. We don't own the ground around our homes. This is association property
We are happy to do this if you make it easier.
We belong to a townhouse association. We cannot have any bins in our yard.
We live in a townhouse area. There are rules that prohibit us from keeping bins outside... too unsightly. The thought of keeping (and smelling!) another container in the garage is not appealing.
Will this lower my garbage rate?
Would it lower my garbage rate?
Would it reduce my garbage rate?

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Never Tell Us More – Inconveniences of Composting

There are hundreds of apartments in Northfield and I routinely see people throwing inappropriate items into the recycling bin. If people cannot even sort glass, metal and plastics into recycling, I cannot imagine what it would take to get apartment dwellers to care enough to participate in organic recycling. When I lived in a house, I appreciated curbside pick-up, but I was the only person on my block that cared enough to subscribe. People are predominantly lazy and think the earth can just absorb our waste. That's why I say it should be mandatory along with A LOT of education, along with compliance measures. Landlords need to require better adherence to recycling of all kinds.
Concerns about raccoons and other animals getting into recyclables

Never Tell Us More – Miscellaneous Comments

I appreciate being asked for input.
Please share survey results.
I believe the majority of people who want to recycle organic waste could do so in their own backyards.
I lived in Switzerland for three years, from 2009 to 2012. Switzerland has long been a leader in recycling. Each household/apartment had its own small wastebasket-sized bin for organic recycling, which we took town to a central composting bin. These were typically behind an apartment building, in a basement garbage/recycling room of an apartment building, or within a block or two. The larger containers could also take plant / yard waste. Recycling was mandatory. Very little ended up in trash. Communities varied as to whether the bio garbage could include eggs and meat but I believe most did not allow it. That reduced the animal pest problem.
I think this is a great idea.
I think we should recycle as much as possible.
I'm glad to see this being addressed! Organic recycling is a worthwhile step towards a zero-waste future.
I'm very excited for this! The other options available are very cumbersome! This is great!
It's the least we can do to reduce the threat of intolerable climate change for future generations.
Thank you!
It's great! We used to have a big pile in our backyard and I still feel weird not using it. It got too big and yucky.
It's important
Not at this time.
Regarding the question of having access to tools and resources to establish a backyard bin or heap system for organic waste, we do not have a backyard. Otherwise this would be my most preferred option.
This is bullshit.
We live in Waterford. Would these services extend to townships?
Why on God's green Earth would you even consider legislating behavior? While you're at it, maybe you can offer rewards to people for ratting out their non-composting neighbors. That will build a stronger community.
Wonderful! I am so proud to live in a progressive community where our environment is a priority!
Have seen organic waste recycling in action in Germany - works well and produces positive effects.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX C

Never Tell Us More – Overcoming Barriers

Add charge to water bill
Education and outreach also important. Hosting an outdoor booth at Riverwalk Market Fair, DJJD, or between El Triunfo and Quarterback club could also be an outreach option if safe due to the pandemic.
I don't believe that household organic waste is a problem that needs a solution. The amount of organic household waste generated by my family and others in Northfield is too little to justify the cost, hassle, and smelly, bug-ridden mess that would be required to recycle it. I think that this issue represents a case of overreach by environmental advocates. The best way to handle household organic waste is to put it in the garbage or down the disposal; there is plenty of sewage and landfill capacity available, and if we run out, we can expand the existing facilities.
I would consider taking my organic waste to a neighborhood compost hub as a way to reduce the cost of the program and reduce truck traffic on the city neighborhood roads.
I'm not too keen on the neighborhood compost hub idea, especially outside of the downtown area/going north and south where the houses are farther apart. This would likely mean we'd have to lug it by car or by foot which could just get gross. Also, using a car would just add more carbon to the atmosphere that we're trying to get rid of. I've been on board with this idea for years but since I'm a college student living with my family for the time being, they want it to be easier than harder.
If the city offered a package where I could purchase a beginner kit for composting including proper receptacle(s), instructions, supplies, etc. I would purchase it (depending on final price) and I know many others who would purchase also.
If the recycling program turns the organic waste into quality soil, that could be a product that the program returns to the community. If people receive a share of soil as an additional benefit to participating in waste collection, that would be great! And a wonderful benefit for home gardeners who want to compost but can't. But! You wouldn't be able to compost invasive plants because the seeds would just come back. Hmm.
In the winter would the waste freeze in the container and not be emptied without a lot of effort. Also, any reusable container will need to be cleaned after each use or else the residue will smell and mold in the summer. We put our organic waste in a separate container before adding to the dry garbage every week and the stuff on the bottom gets moldy and some always sticks in the container so that it needs to be thoroughly washed after each use.
It works great. I have seen how cities use the ready compost for parks and landscaping or giving back to the community.
Look at Seattle WA's allowing mixed yard/food waste. But if you decide on a separate bin, please use easy open bins similar to current garbage cans.
Maybe there should be an incentive for those reluctant to begin organic waste composting. Maybe a price/drawing for participants. Price(s) could've simple, a organic gardening book? A gift voucher for a local farmer's market? Composting tools?
Minneapolis offers kits that residents can purchase to compost on their own property. It would be great if Northfield offered that for people who are not handy or do not have time to build compost bins.
Post promotional videos around waste recycling via FB or other media platforms.
Provide resources to help people learn to compost on their own
The small bucket plan was hard for us to navigate on wet and ice on our driveway, particularly ice and snow. A larger more mobile container would make it easier for us. If it is gathered every other week or even once a month, we could store in garage in winter without a problem due to smell, etc. We have mobility issues due to age and need safe way to do this. We definitely want to participate, but can't be hauling it ourselves. So far we do grass and outside brush because the summer makes it easier. Hats off to you for taking this on!
We already keep most of our organic waste in a separate container in the fridge that we eventually combine with the trash. I'm not confident it's sorted correctly, but I'd love to learn especially if it didn't rely on me having to go do one more separate drop-off in between a busy work/commute schedule. It would also be great if there was a closer Tech Dump location in THIS county as well. Seems that there should be an upfront tax on electronics that allows recycling of technology to be "free" instead of assuming people will pay to properly dispose of their electronics. It gets hard to keep up with where to take paint in, where to recycle batteries, and so on, especially when it's often difficult to find in this county OR only during certain time frames. Thanks!
When I was a kid recycling was a thing I considered to be for financially well off families who lived in big houses. It would be much more realistic for low-income families if it was included outside with the trash and recycling for townhouses, apartments, etc. It would be very helpful if people had clear, descriptive imagery symbols or stickers on each of their personal bins to remind them of what can and cannot go in. Having access to a reminder to tape on my bins and access to free curbside receptacles right outside my home is how I finally became comfortable with recycling.
Containers both personal and community need to be properly sealed, etc. otherwise we all will have bug, pest, rodent issues.

Never Tell Us More – Backyard Composting

No comments.

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX D

Summary of Comments

Appendix D is a summary of all of the comments respondents have made throughout the entire survey. The comments are organized by the theme categories previously generated to provide constructive feedback and an array of intriguing, thoughtful suggestions especially highlighting what Northfield citizens feel are the education that is needed, City's role, and suggestions for how to overcome barriers to household, and backyard composting.

THEME: NEED FOR EDUCATION

The need for additional education is reiterated several times throughout the comments. Respondents indicated a need for clear, non-contradictory, consistent, and accurate information about exactly what household organic waste can be recycled and what cannot be recycled. Respondents recommended having clear, descriptive symbols on each bins to remind them of what can and cannot go in.

Items to consider include:

1. Make sure to use the common language associated with waste reduction. Make sure it is bilingual.
2. Need to incorporate general waste reduction principles into all education. Include information about waste from grocery and restaurants.
3. What is the community already doing? Highlight how restaurants are already recycling and/or reusing other leftovers for example: Imminent's doggy treats, the buns at Tanzenwald, etc.
4. What are the benefits of the current recycling (glass, paper, plastic) program? Why can't we have recycling every week?
5. What are the benefits of a household organic recycling program?

Respondents shared other questions that indicate opportunities for additional education about recycling:

1. Will attempts to recycle household organic waste create another issue if we recycle the wrong items?
2. What will the city will do with all of the generated compost? Can we have access to the end product?
3. What if we don't make enough waste?
4. Other cities allow mixing yard waste and household organic waste in the same bin. Why can't yard waste and household organic waste be mixed?

THEME: CITY'S ROLE

This theme centered on what the appropriate role of the city is in addressing this topic. Specifically, respondents want to see more facts data about the benefits, costs and return on investment for creating additional city programming.

Items to consider include:

1. What is the cost to benefit ratio? Especially the unintended consequences of additional containers, vehicles to pick up the waste and transport it (fuel emission and wear and tear on the roads) and the managed, composting process itself.
2. Is there a use and market for organic waste?
3. What is the relative effect of recycling household organic waste as opposed to putting it down the garbage disposal or in the garbage can?

CITY OF NORTHFIELD COMPOSTING SURVEY: APPENDIX D

4. Show me why the alternatives (waste to energy, methane capture) are not better than recycling household organic waste.
5. How much of a savings will an organics recycling program be?

Respondents also shared many suggestions for implementation options. Some suggestions included:

"I hope that a more robust citywide approach would work with the existing curbside composting cooperative to envision how to scale up composting, rather than compete with it. Maybe the billing and greater publicity can be the city's role but they can contract with them to provide the service."

"If you get a majority of citizens to participate voluntarily for a couple of years, the ones who don't may be inclined by peer pressure, to comply willingly if it was made mandatory after they get accustomed to the idea as mainstream ideology."

It would be great to have access to the finished composted material."

Respondents had ideas about the fee structure for expanded recycling service:

Items to consider include:

1. Fee structure – don't charge people for composting and recycling and charge for garbage and habits will change.
2. Fee structure – Include the cost with general garbage pickup.
3. Fee structure – subsidize the cost.
4. Fee structure – pay as you throw.
5. Fee structure – trash collection service fee that is proportional to the amount of landfill trash household generates. Consider bin size, frequency in fee structure. Might have more participation if less waste means less waste disposal cost to household.
6. Fee structure for renters – The owners of rental property should be required to participate and pay for their renters to participate.
7. Fee structure for renters – connect apartment buildings to create "group systems" which could be incentivized by cutting the member costs.

Respondents indicated the desire to have a choice of options regarding drop off. There was a consistent desire to have several community drop-off locations for people to drop themselves and make the current curbside pickup service widely available. Make sure all options are available to all residential types.

Items to consider include:

1. Current recycling program (glass, paper, plastic, metal) needs to be available every week. "...only picking up every other week ... causes families to throw away recycling."
2. Consider offering more recycling options at the community drop off site.
3. Consider more city sponsored compost drop off sites.
4. Consider a carefully planned trial neighborhood compost hub with an assigned overseer.
5. Drop off – need a year round drop off site that will accept organic waste.
6. Curbside pickup – would like it to be on the same day as garbage pickup.

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7. Curbside pickup – some need more frequent pickup or a bigger bucket.
8. Curbside pickup – make sure the largest collectors of organic waste – the grocery and eating establishments – have access (are required) to recycle organic waste.
9. Curbside pickup – can it allow mixing yard waste and food waste in same bin?

Respondents shared multiple comments and suggestions regarding communication. Suggestions included:

1. The curbside service isn't (clearly) noted anywhere as part of the overall waste pickup information.
2. Host outdoor booths.
3. Use social media.
4. Create YouTube clips.
5. Work with restaurants on marketing campaigns so patrons know what happens to that waste.

Finally, some respondents added commentary about compliance and other topics. Items consider in this area include:

1. Update rental code to require landlords to provide service for renters.
2. Enforce current recycling program in Northfield.
3. "PLEASE include a strategy for pet waste! See <https://envirowagg.com/>"
4. "Let's get into composting toilets."

THEME: OVERCOMING BARRIERS

This theme included suggestions and ideas for how to make recycling successful.

Respondents shared commentary about the use of buckets to collect recycling materials:

1. The buckets are hard to open.
2. The 5-gallon pail is often not big enough for all our waste. Don't want to pay for 2 buckets.
3. Those who consume less share a subscription (bucket) with a neighbor.
4. The compostable bags disintegrate when they get wet. Some use smaller bags.
5. Clean out the bucket often.
6. Consider a bigger, rolling bin.

Respondents shared suggestions about over coming odor and insect problem:

1. Keep the bag of organic waste in the freezer during the summer.
2. Keep the waste in my unheated garage during the winter.
3. Keep the lid on!
4. Use smaller sealed containers.
5. Use a lidded container (with charcoal filter in the lid) on the kitchen countertop.
6. Wash out the bucket after every pick-up.

Finally, respondents shared ideas for creating space to recycle successfully:

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1. Collect the organic material in a sink-side, stainless container, transfer it daily to the bag-lined, 5-gallon bucket.
2. Collect the organic material in small sealed containers in the house then add to larger bucket later.

THEME: BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Some respondents had experience and expertise to share regarding backyard composting.

Representative comments included:

1. "With the curbside service the list of organic waste items that we can recycle is larger than what we can put into our backyard."
2. City could consider providing information on types of backyard composting systems available and best practices for what and how to compost in the backyard.
3. City could consider facilitating bulk buying high-quality compost bins for homeowners or have one-day sale event so bins can be sold right off the delivery truck.
4. City could consider providing compost starter (manure).
5. Issue with backyard composting if wrong materials are composted: "Rats were a bad, persistent, and unexpected result of backyard composting, and a big argument in favor of secure centralized recycling of some sort."

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Weighting Methodology

As noted in the body of the report, we detected a significant over-representation of survey participants who already recycle their household organic waste using existing curbside recycling. Data from Northfield Curbside Composting, a local private company that collects household organic waste in Northfield via subscription, shows there are a total of 610 household subscribers in the City. 394 respondents of this survey indicated they participate in curbside recycling. This indicates this segment, especially the always respondents, is overrepresented in the raw results. Therefore, results for the population as a whole are weighted to adjust for this overrepresentation when appropriate.

A relatively simple explanation of the weighting technique can be found [online](#). Since we know the percent of the Northfield population that already uses a curbside recycling service and we know the proportion of our sample that uses a curbside recycling service, we are able to make a weighting adjustment that better reflects the population as whole.

Households in Northfield (2019 Census Data):	6340
Northfield Curbside Composting Participants:	610
% of all households who currently use curbside recycling:	9.62%
Number of survey respondents who use curbside recycling:	394
Number of total survey respondents:	962
% of surveys returned who currently used curbside recycling:	40.96%

Therefore, for those data that are presented to reflect the population as a whole, responses from curbside recyclers were weighed 0.234 (population/sample = 0.096/0.409) and the responses from non-curbside recyclers were weighed 1.532 (population/sample = 0.904/0.590).

No other variables were used in the weighting.

Most data was reported and analyzed by the subgroups based on their existing recycling habits (always, sometimes and never) and these data are unweighted.