

***THE BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES
OF
SOLID WASTE PLANNING
ANN ARBOR SWRMP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT***

Cresson Slotten, P.E., City of Ann Arbor – Public Services Area

Michigan Recycling Coalition Annual Conference

May 15, 2019



Ann Arbor Context

- Named *Most Educated City in US* by WalletHub (2018)
- A very engaged community
 - 35 different City Council appointed authorities, boards, commissions, committees and task forces
- Included in the City of Ann Arbor's organizational goals
 - "Integrate external engagement"
- Environmental focus is one of the community's values
 - Environmental Commission and Energy Commission among the City's several Commissions



Approaches to Materials Management

- Municipal Solid Waste
 - City staff has historically provided residential trash collection
 - Owned and operated City landfill until early 1990s
 - Commercial Franchise Contract with Waste Management
- Recycling
 - Recycle Ann Arbor
 - Grass roots organization began curbside recycling in late 70's
 - Contracted by City since early 80's for collections
 - City constructed MRF in early 90's
- Compost/Organics
 - City Compost Facility since mid-80's
 - Yard waste and food waste
 - Operated by WeCare Denali, LLC



City of Ann Arbor Services and Contracts

RAA = Recycle Ann Arbor
WM = Waste Management



SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

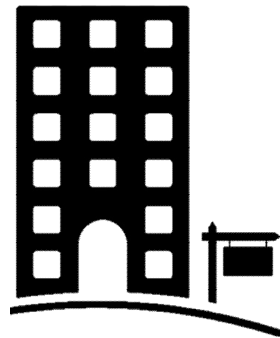
Trash: City



Recycling: RAA



Compost: City



MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

Trash: City or WM



Recycling: RAA or City



Compost: (Not offered)



BUSINESSES & INSTITUTIONS

Trash: City or WM



Recycling: RAA or City



Compost: (Not offered)



POST-COLLECTION Trash Advanced Disposal



Recycling
RAA / Rumpke



Compost
WeCare Denali



Solid Waste Resources Management Plan

- City's previous solid waste plan ran through 2017
- Washtenaw County Solid Waste Plan Amendment completed in 2017
 - City plan to be performed within the context of the County plan
 - Development of new regional authority key item for City's planning considerations
- Multiple needs related to the solid waste programs
 - Complex program with City staff and contractors (5 contractors through 9 contracts)
 - MRF no longer able to process recyclables
 - Challenges and pressures on downtown services
 - Requests for expanded services, but need for sustainable programming
 - Current costs exceed revenues
- Need strategic plan for programs with resource and implementation needs



SWRMP and Community Engagement

- Project Consultant Team
 - Prime consultant: APTIM
 - Engagement sub-consultant: Project Innovations
 - Financial sub-consultant: Bell & Associates
 - Survey sub-consultant: Lake Research Partners
- City Staff Team
 - Public Engagement staff member
 - Operations staff members
 - Financial staff member
 - Outreach staff member



SWRMP and Community Engagement

- 33 Separate Stakeholder Interviews, with over 40 participants
- Downtown Property and Business Owners Focus Group
- 3 meetings with the Environmental Commission
- 4 meetings with Advisory Committee
- Resident Phone Survey



Rethinking Waste

Ann Arbor's Course to a New Solid Waste Plan

Create a five-year plan to provide solid waste programs and services that are economically and environmentally sustainable that addresses:

- Compost/Organic Collection
- Residential/Commercial Recycling
- Solid Waste Collection
- Regional Coordination/Options

Review Existing Plan & Studies

May 2018

3 Environmental Commission Work Sessions

Cost of Service Analysis

33 Stakeholder Interviews

Peer Community Benchmarking

Resident Focus Groups

4 Advisory Committee Meetings



Commercial Focus Groups

Resource Needs Assessment



Final Strategy

July 2019

Public Survey

Options Analysis

This plan will advance our city's Zero Waste Vision, and drive Ann Arbor's Leadership in Solid Waste Resource Management through: benchmarking; best practice analysis; and collaboration with Washtenaw County.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

SWRMP and Community Engagement

Advisory Committee members providing many varied perspectives

- Environmental Commission reps
- City contractors
- Environmental groups
- Environmental consultant
- Downtown property & business owners
- Downtown Merchant Associations
- Institutions
- Agencies
- Residents
- Apartment owners
- Washtenaw Area Apartment Association
- City staff

52 individuals have participated in at least 1 of the 3 meetings so far

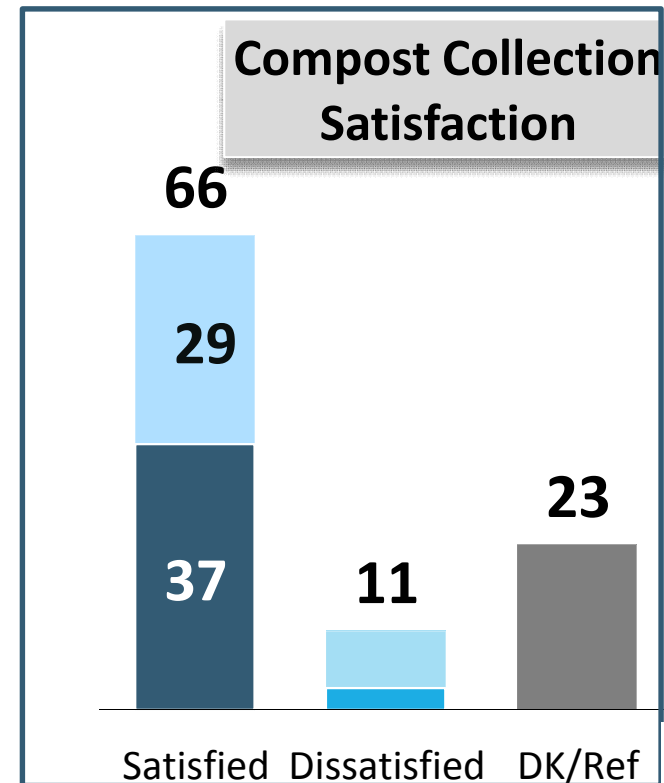
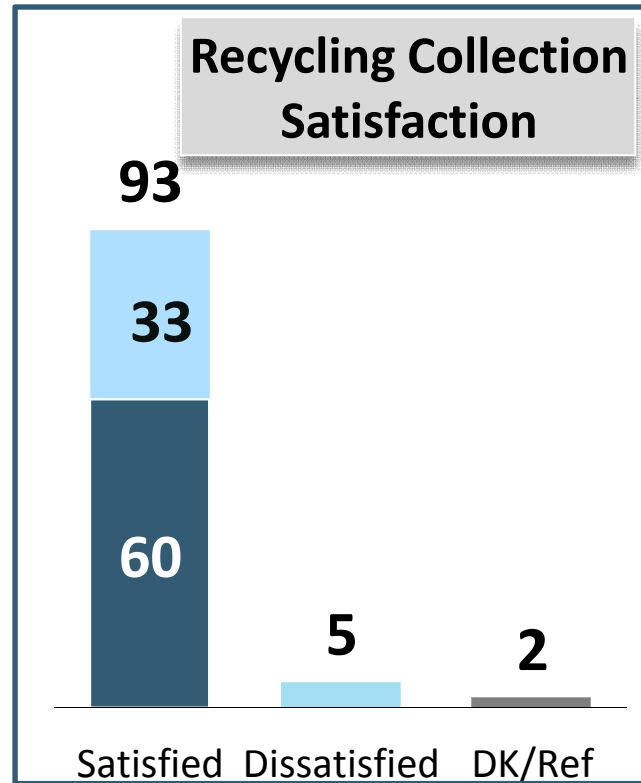
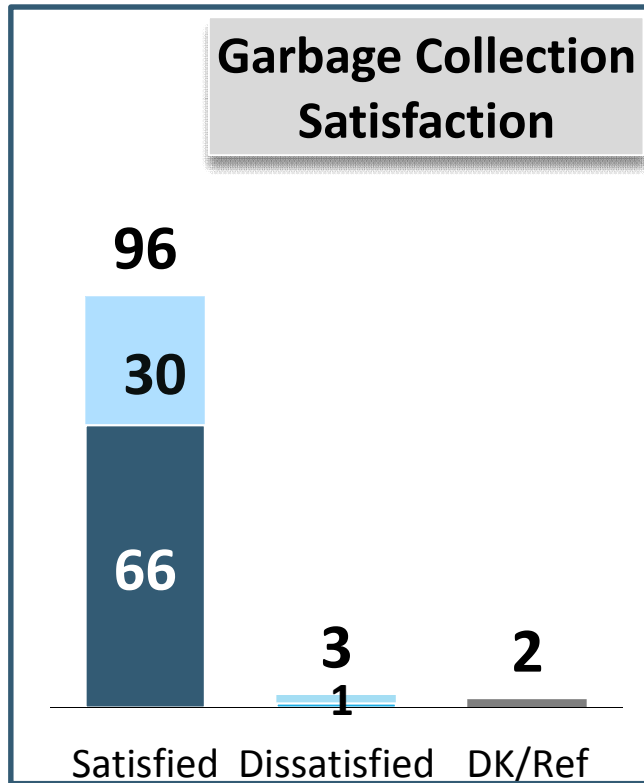


Scientific Resident Phone Survey

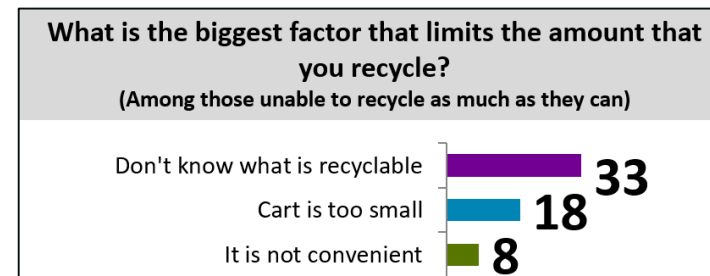
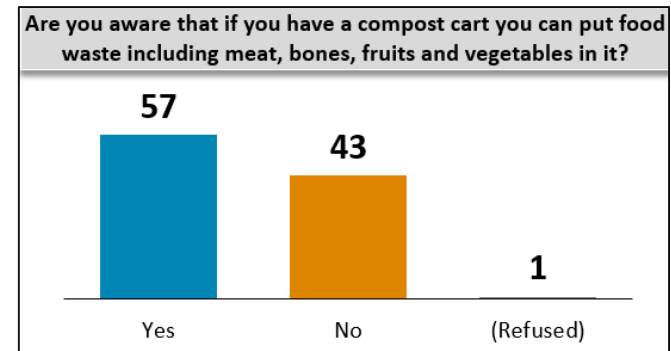
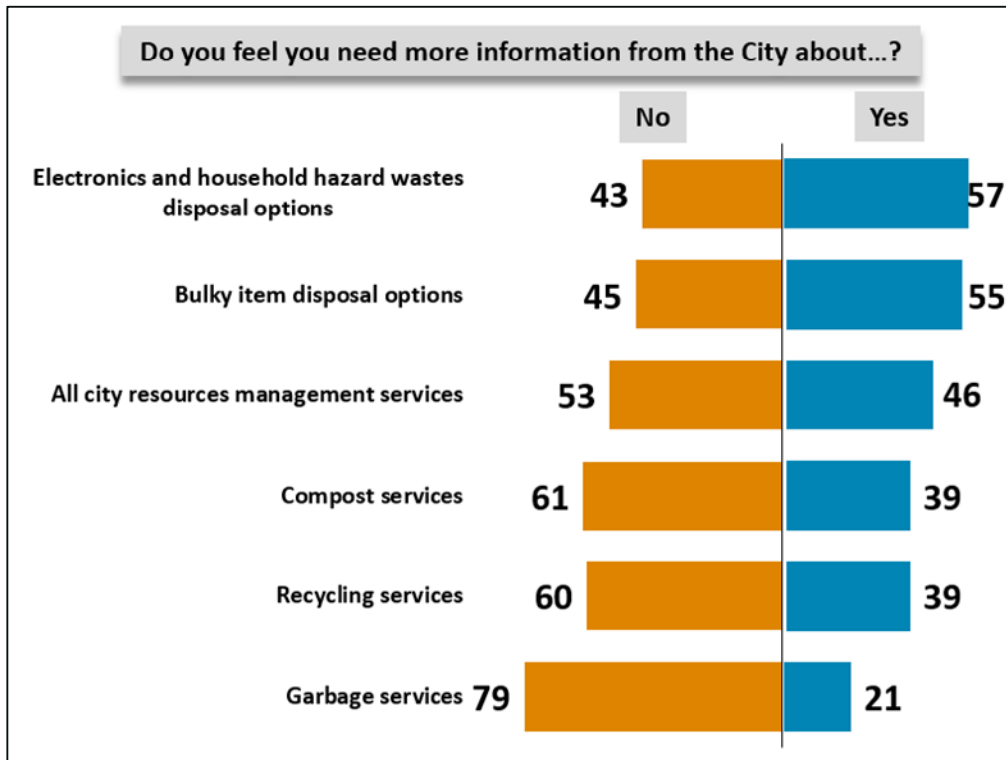
- Fifteen minute phone survey
- Obtained 400 responses
 - Both homeowners and renters
- 95% confidence level; margin of error +/- 4.9%
 - e.g., if 50% of respondents answered “yes” to a question, we are 95% confident the true percentage of the population’s response will fall within 45.1% to 54.9%
- Expensive to perform, but very valuable data
 - More than a satisfaction survey
 - Timed with development of preliminary options



Scientific Resident Phone Survey



Scientific Resident Phone Survey



Scientific Resident Phone Survey

This question was included based on input from Community High School's Urban Planning Community Resource (CR) students working on a solid waste education and outreach project in collaboration with the City



Status/Outcomes

- Options developed based on input gathered
 - Stakeholder interviews
 - Environmental Commission discussions
 - Advisory Committee meetings
 - Citizen Survey responses
- Options reviewed by Advisory Committee and Environmental Commission
 - 4 Residential Sector Options
 - 5 Commercial Sector Options
 - 4 Downtown/Alley Options
- Input on options shaping draft recommendations
 - Meeting #4 with Advisory Committee (later this month)
 - Meeting #3 with Environmental Commission



Takeaways

- Not everyone is as “engaged” as Ann Arbor
 - But some people in your community are interested, and likely passionate about your programs
- You probably know who your stakeholders are
 - Include them in your planning process
 - Information gathering
 - Reaction/review of options and/or recommendations
 - Ask them who are other parties to include
- The more perspectives and views, the better your planning will be
 - Even younger ones!
- Resources are needed for implementation

THANK YOU!

Cresson Sloten, P.E.,
City of Ann Arbor – Public Services

csloten@a2gov.org

(734) 794-6000 ext. 43701



Theo Eggermont

Public Works Manager

THE BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES OF SOLID WASTE PLANNING



1. ITEM ONE: SOLID WASTE PLANNING



2. ITEM TWO: OUTCOME- Plan Implementation








3. ITEM THREE: OUTCOME- Form an Authority






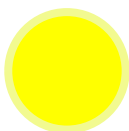
1. SOLID WASTE PLANNING: Process and Benefits



SOLID WASTE PLANNING:

-  Assess current situation
-  Engage and Collaborate with stakeholders
-  Create and agree upon goals
-  Strategize, develop recommendations
-  Create a method for accountability, progress

1. SOLID WASTE PLANNING: Guiding principles

-  **Access and Convenience**
-  **More Diversion and Recovery, Less Disposal**
-  **Education and Outreach**
-  **Data and Measurement**
-  **Funding**
-  **Coordination and Collaboration**

[View our Plan at:](https://washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/1306/Washtenaw-County-Solid-Waste-Management-Plan-2017-Amendment-PDF)
<https://washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/1306/Washtenaw-County-Solid-Waste-Management-Plan-2017-Amendment-PDF>

2. ITEM TWO: OUTCOME- Plan Implementation

Plan Implementation Advisory Committee

Composed of: municipalities, public, solid waste industry, generators, environmental groups

Charged with:

- Providing input, guidance, suggestions, recommendations, direction, and technical advice
- Reviewing and prioritizing programs and projects
- Evaluating resources and develop appropriate strategy for implementation
- In conjunction with the Washtenaw County Department of Public Works, develop metrics, action plans, strategic planning, and identify funding mechanisms

Subcommittees currently working on: metrics, education and outreach

3. ITEM THREE: OUTCOME- Form an Authority

Solid Waste Authority:

- **What is an Authority?**
- **Why form? Why not form?**
 - pros/cons
- **Different methods of forming an Authority**

3. ITEM THREE: OUTCOME- AUTHORITY ENABLING FACTORS

Funding

Human Capital

-legal counsel

-influencers

Non-member leadership

Common goals, similar mindset

3. ITEM THREE: OUTCOME- AUTHORITY BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

Document review by committee

Anticipating legislative communities concerns

Perceived loss of control

Time (25-30 hrs per month for 9mo + admin support staff time)



Thank you

Theo Eggermont

Public Works Manager

(734) 222-6864

eggermontt@washtenaw.org

