

RECYCLING IN SEATTLE: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A Household Recycling Survey



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Your Opinion is Valuable!

Seattle has been selected as a test City for recycling research. Help us understand what residents in Seattle think about recycling! By completing this survey, you will be assisting policymakers and planners across the country in providing better services to the public.

- ✓ Regardless of whether you think recycling is a good idea or not, we need **your** opinions! Please take time now to complete your answers and return this booklet in the postage-paid envelope provided.
- ✓ There are no “right” or “wrong” answers - simply answer the questions to the best of your ability.
- ✓ Please answer every question in the survey so the results are complete.

Your answers are strictly confidential and anonymous. We do not provide any information to commercial interests or solicitors.

I. CURRENT RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

To understand the efforts households put into recycling, the following questions ask how much you recycle and how much time you spend on recycling activities. Some questions may be difficult to answer, but please give us your best estimate.

1. Paper, Cardboard, Plastics, Metals, and Glass

1a. Think about recyclable paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, and glass that you deal with in your home. What does your household *usually* do with these types of material items? (Check each box that applies.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Throw them away with the regular garbage | <input type="checkbox"/> Donate them to a charity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle them through the curbside (or alley) program | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle them for money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take them to a recycling and disposal (transfer) station | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |

1b. Of all recyclable paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, and glass that **could be recycled**, what overall percentage would you say your household **actually does** recycle? (Please check only one box.)

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0% | <input type="checkbox"/> 21-30% | <input type="checkbox"/> 51-60% | <input type="checkbox"/> 71-75% | <input type="checkbox"/> 86-90% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-10% | <input type="checkbox"/> 31-40% | <input type="checkbox"/> 61-65% | <input type="checkbox"/> 76-80% | <input type="checkbox"/> 91-95% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11-20% | <input type="checkbox"/> 41-50% | <input type="checkbox"/> 66-70% | <input type="checkbox"/> 81-85% | <input type="checkbox"/> 96-100% |



1c. Recycling these items may take extra time. Think about the efforts to (1) sort; (2) wash/clean; (3) temporarily store; and (4) carry recyclables to the curbside/alley or take them to a recycling and disposal (transfer) station.



About how many **extra minutes per week** does your household spend on recycling instead of throwing these items away? (Check only one box.)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 min/week | <input type="checkbox"/> 11-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> 41-50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 min/week | <input type="checkbox"/> 16-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 31-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> 51-60  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 36-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> more than 60 min/week |

2. Food Waste



2a. Think about the total amount of food waste that your household deals with in a typical week. What percentage of this food waste is handled by each of the following methods? (Please give your best estimate. The percentages should total 100%.)

Thrown in the regular garbage.....	_____ %	} = 100% of all food waste
Put down the garbage disposal.....	_____ %	
Composted (e.g. back yard, worm bin, etc.).....	_____ %	
Other method.....	_____ %	

2b. About how many minutes per week does your household spend on food waste composting? (Check one box. If your household doesn't compost, check "0 min/week".)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 min/week	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 41-50	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 min/week	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-60	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/> more than 60 min/week	

3. Yard Waste



3a. Of the total amount of yard waste generated by your household, what percentage is handled by each of these methods? (The percentages should total 100%.)

Taken to the curb/alley and picked up by the City...	_____ %	} = 100% of all yard waste
Taken to recycling and disposal (transfer) station....	_____ %	
Composted (in the back yard).....	_____ %	
Other method.....	_____ %	

We don't have a yard and/or yard waste.

3b. About how many minutes per week does your household spend on (back yard) yard waste composting? (Check one box. If your household doesn't compost, check "0 min/week".)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 min/week	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 41-50	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 min/week	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-60	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/> more than 60 min/week	

4. Recycling and Disposal (Transfer) Stations



4a. In the **last twelve months**, about how many times did you, or someone else in your household, make each of the following types of trips to a City (or other) recycling and disposal station?

TRIPS WITH...

- just recyclables (paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, glass), nothing else...	_____	} = Total trips to a recycling and disposal station
- just yard waste.....	_____	
- just garbage (or construction debris).....	_____	
- just oil, appliances, tires, batteries, and/or wood waste.....	_____	
- Combination of different material types.....	_____	

5. Who Recycles and Composts in Your Household?



5a. Think about the total time that your household spends recycling and composting. Please, give us your best estimate of the percentage of this time contributed by each member of your household:

Recycle (paper, cardboard, plastics, etc.)

Yourself..... _____ %
 + Spouse or domestic partner..... _____ %
 + Other household members..... _____ %
 = Total Household Recycling..... **100 %**

Doesn't apply.

Compost (food waste and/or yard waste)

Yourself..... _____ %
 + Spouse or domestic partner..... _____ %
 + Other household members..... _____ %
 = Total Household Composting..... **100 %**

Doesn't apply.

6. Garbage Collection Services



6a. What **trash can size** (collection service level) does your household *currently* use? (Check the appropriate box below.)

Micro (12 gallon)	Mini (20-gallon)	1-Can (32-gallon)	2-Can (64-gallon)	3-Can (96-gallon)	Other subscription	Don't Know
						
\$10.05/month	\$12.35/month	\$16.10/month	\$32.20/month	\$48.30/month		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Note: Images are for illustration purposes and may not match exactly your household's current style of garbage can.

7. Perception of Other People's Recycling Behavior

7a. When you think about **other people that you know personally**, what is your impression of how much of their **recyclable** paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, and glass they recycle?

My best guess would be that they recycle about...

- 0% 21-40% 61-70% 81-85% 91-95%
 1-20% 41-60% 71-80% 86-90% 96-100%

7b. Still thinking about the same group of people, **what percentage of these households** would you guess do home composting (e.g. in their back yard)?

I would guess that _____% of them compost food waste,
 and _____% of them compost yard waste.

7c. When you think about the **general Seattle population**, would you say that **your household** recycles *more*, *less*, or *about the same* percentage of recyclables, as the "average" Seattle household?

- More Less About the Same Don't know

II. NEW RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN SEATTLE



Background:

Seattle is currently recycling 40% of all waste generated by households and businesses. The City's long term goal is to increase the overall recycling rate to 60%.

We would like to learn how you would value two programs that could achieve the 60% recycling goal and how much money or time you might be willing to contribute towards this goal.

Program 1



This program would increase the recycling rate from 40% to 60% by:

- ✓ Expanding recycling opportunities to local businesses (and their customers and employees) and organizations (and their members).
- ✓ Creating a facility where recyclables still left in the trash gets separated from the rest of the waste collected from households and businesses.

This program would be financed by adding a surcharge to the utility bills of ALL businesses and households. **No additional effort from households would be necessary.** In answering this question, carefully consider the effect the program would have on the money your household has available for other uses.

1. Would your household be willing to pay **\$10** per month for program 1? (Please check YES or NO below and follow the arrows.)

- YES \implies If YES..... Would you pay **\$25** per month? YES
 NO \searrow NO
If NO..... Would you pay **\$5** per month? YES
 NO

Program 2



An **alternative** way to increase the recycling rate from 40% to 60% is to encourage additional recycling efforts by households and businesses alike. Program 2 would achieve the recycling goal by offering curbside recycling of additional materials (e.g. textiles, contaminated paper, food scraps, and so on). This requires more household time for activities such as sorting, and placing materials on the curbside.

In answering this question, consider carefully the reductions in the time your household would have available for other activities.

2. Would your household be willing to spend an extra **20 minutes** per week recycling under program 2? (Please fill in the blank.)

- YES \implies If YES.... Would you be willing to spend **40** minutes per week? YES
 NO \searrow NO
If NO..... Would you be willing to spend **10** minutes per week? YES
 NO

III. MORE ABOUT YOUR PREFERENCES FOR RECYCLING PROGRAMS

In this section, we would like you to rate the current recycling system in Seattle. *We also ask your opinion about five alternative programs adopted in other US communities.*

The Current Seattle Recycling System

This describes Seattle’s current services:



About 40% of all Seattle waste is recycled instead of going to landfills.

- ✓ Garbage is collected weekly for monthly fee based on size and number of trash cans.
- ✓ Bi-weekly curbside collection of recyclables (paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, and glass).
- ✓ Glass must be separated from the other recyclable items.
- ✓ Yard waste is not permitted in the garbage can, but households can subscribe to yard waste collection.

1. What is your overall opinion of this recycling system? From “Very Unfavorable” to “Very Favorable”, please indicate your overall opinion by checking one of the boxes below.

Very Unfavorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	About Neutral	Somewhat Favorable	Very Favorable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Some Alternative Recycling Programs

The table on the next page describes five alternative recycling programs (*first column*) – and asks you to rate them relative to the current Seattle system. Each program differs in how much it would cost and how much recycling it would achieve, **if it was adopted in Seattle.**

DEFINITION OF KEY PROGRAM FEATURES:



Projected Seattle-Wide Recycling Rate: The percentage of all Seattle waste that would be recycled instead of going to landfills (*second column*).



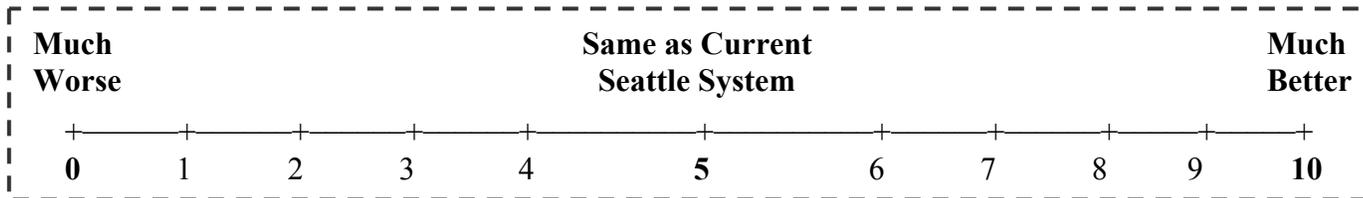
Estimated Monthly Fee per Household: The dollar amount that would be added to (or subtracted from) your household’s utility bill (*third column*).

Also, in rating the programs, take a moment to think about how each alternative program would affect your household indirectly through:

- The types and quantity of materials that can be recycled, and, therefore, what **size garbage can** your household would need.
- The amount of **time** your household would have to spend on **recycling activities**.

LET’S RATE!

2. What do YOU think of programs 1-5 in the table? On a **0-10** rating scale, with the **current Seattle system given a score of 5**, please provide your rating score for each alternative program, in the **last column** of the table.



RATINGS HERE

RECYCLING PROGRAMS	FEATURE 1:  Seattle-Wide Recycling Rate	FEATURE 2:  Fee To Your Household	 Your Rating (0 to 10)
The Current Seattle Recycling System	40%	No Change	5
 PROGRAM 1: Seattle System with One Container for Recyclables ...same as current system PLUS glass items can be put in the same container as paper, plastics, metals.	41%	\$2 / month	<input type="text"/>
 PROGRAM 2: Seattle System with Ban on Recyclables in the Trash ...same as current system EXCEPT recyclables are prohibited from the regular trash.	46%	\$1 / month	<input type="text"/>
 PROGRAM 3: Seattle System with Curbside Food Waste Collection ...same as current system PLUS bi-weekly curbside collection of food waste.	45%	\$3 / month	<input type="text"/>
 PROGRAM 4: Seattle System with Extended Non-Residential Recycling ...same as current system PLUS more recycling opportunities for businesses and local organizations.	50%	\$4 / month	<input type="text"/>
 PROGRAM 5: No Residential Curbside Recycling ...same garbage and yard waste services as the current system. But no curbside recycling of paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, and glass.	32%	-\$3 / month	<input type="text"/>



3. Your Garbage Can under Alternative Programs

Programs 2, 3, and 5 may cause you to change your level of garbage collection service, since they affect the types and amounts of materials you can recycle. Please give us your best estimate of what garbage can size you would use under each of these programs.

3a. What **garbage can size** do you think your household would need under **Program 2: Seattle System with Ban on Recyclables in Trash?** (Check one box.)

Micro (12-gallon)	Mini (20-gallon)	1-Can (32-gallon)	2-Can (64-gallon)	3-Can (96-gallon)	Other subscription	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>						

3b. What about **Program 3: Seattle System with Curbside Food Waste?**

Micro (12-gallon)	Mini (20-gallon)	1-Can (32-gallon)	2-Can (64-gallon)	3-Can (96-gallon)	Other subscription	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>						

3c. What about **Program 5: No Residential Curbside Recycling?**

Micro (12-gallon)	Mini (20-gallon)	1-Can (32-gallon)	2-Can (64-gallon)	3-Can (96-gallon)	Other subscription	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/>						



4. Time Spent Recycling under Alternative Programs

The time you spend recycling may change under Programs 1, 2, 3, and 5. We realize that this may be difficult to estimate, but please just give us your best guess.

4a. How do you think the **time your household spends recycling** would change under **Program 1: Seattle System with One Container for Recyclables?** Check one box (and fill in the blank).

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase _____ minutes/week	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease _____ minutes/week	<input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
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4b. What about **Program 2: Seattle System with Ban on Recyclables in Trash?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase _____ minutes/week	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease _____ minutes/week	<input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
--	--	--	-------------------------------------

4c. What about **Program 3: Seattle System with Curbside Recycling of Food Waste?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase _____ minutes/week	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease _____ minutes/week	<input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
--	--	--	-------------------------------------

4d. What about **Program 5: No Residential Curbside Recycling?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase _____ minutes/week	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease _____ minutes/week	<input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know
--	--	--	-------------------------------------

IV. ABOUT YOU

To make sure this survey reflects the general Seattle population, the next questions are for classification purposes only. Questions 8, 9 and 10 ask about your employment status so that we can understand how different people divide their time between different activities. This information is kept strictly confidential. Only summary results, compiled over all participants, are reported.

1. What is your gender? MALE FEMALE

2. What is your age? I AM ____ YEARS OLD.

3. About how many years of schooling have you completed (please circle one number)?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
(Elementary) (Jr. High) (High School) (College) (Graduate or Professional)

4. Including yourself, how many people currently live in your household?..... ____

4a. Of these people, how many are children 0-5 years old?.. ____

4b. How many are children 6-18 years old?..... ____

4c. How many are 19-21 years old?..... ____

5. Do you own or do you rent the house you currently live in? OWN RENT

6. How many people in your household, **including yourself**, work to earn income? ____

7. Which of these categories most closely describes your total annual household income before tax?

<input type="checkbox"/> UNDER \$25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45,000-\$54,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$94,000-\$119,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000-\$34,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55,000-\$74,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120,000-\$149,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000-\$44,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000-\$94,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000 OR MORE

8. Which of the following would describe **your employment status**? (Check any box that applies.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Employed full-time	<input type="checkbox"/> Student (part- or full time)
<input type="checkbox"/> Employed part-time	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporarily unemployed
<input type="checkbox"/> Part- or full time telecommute (work from home)	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed (part- or full time)	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled and unable to work
<input type="checkbox"/> Homemaker (part- or full time)	

9. About how many hours per week do **you** spend on household “maintenance” activities - cooking, cleaning, gardening, child care, and so on (including recycling, but excluding recreational time)?

I SPEND ABOUT ____ HOURS PER WEEK ON SUCH ACTIVITIES.

10. About how many **hours per week** do you typically **work to earn income**?

I WORK ABOUT ____ HOURS PER WEEK. → **Please continue to 10a-10d**

Does not apply to me/don't work to earn income → **Please go to section V**

10a. Do you receive an hourly **wage** or do you receive a **salary** (such as per week or month)?

AN HOURLY WAGE A SALARY

10b. Do you work a **fixed schedule** (such as 9-5 Monday-Friday) or are you **free to choose** when and how long to work?

- FIXED HOURS FREE TO CHOOSE

10c. If you answered “FIXED HOURS” in 10b, would you be willing to work fewer hours for a proportionally lower salary, in order to have more free time?

- YES NO Does not apply

10d. Approximately, which of the following categories most closely describes **your earnings per hour worked**, before taxes and other deductions? (Please check only one box.)

- UNDER \$5 per hour \$15-19.99 \$30-\$34.99 \$45-\$49.99
 \$5-\$9.99 per hour \$20-\$24.99 \$35-\$39.99 \$50 or more per hour
 \$10-14.99 \$25-\$29.99 \$40-\$44.99

V. SOME MORE ABOUT YOU

1. On a scale of **1-5** with **1** meaning “strongly disagree” and **5** meaning “strongly agree”, please indicate the extent to which you disagree or agree with the following statements. (Please check the box under the number that best describes how you feel.)

STATEMENTS :	Strongly Disagree	About Neutral		Strongly Agree	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
The <i>ecological crisis</i> facing humankind has been greatly exaggerated.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Plants and animals have as much right as humans to exist.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Human resourcefulness will insure that we do not make the earth unlivable.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The earth has very limited room and resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of industrial nations.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Contributions to community organizations rarely improve the lives of others.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The individual alone is responsible for his or her well-being in life.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
It is my ethical duty to help other people when they are unable to help themselves.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My responsibility is to provide only for my family and myself.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My personal actions can greatly improve the well-being of people I don't know.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. What **motivates** you to recycle? On a scale of 1-5 with **1** “strongly disagree” and **5** “strongly agree”, please indicate the extent to which you disagree or agree with the following statements.

STATEMENTS: I recycle because...	Strongly Disagree	About Neutral		Strongly Agree	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
..It saves me money since I am able to use a smaller garbage container.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
..I want to be a socially responsible person.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
..I want other people to think of me as a responsible person.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
..Regardless of what other people might think, I feel it is my ethical duty.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
..I find it to be a pleasant activity in itself, compared to other ‘everyday’ chores.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
..It is a good way to contribute to preserving environmental quality.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
..It is a good way to contribute to conserving scarce natural resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
..I feel it is expected of me.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

3. What makes you less motivated or hesitant to recycle? On the same scale as before, please indicate the extent to which you disagree or agree with the following statements.

STATEMENTS:	Strongly Disagree	About Neutral		Strongly Agree	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
I don't think recycling benefits me personally.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I don't think recycling provides benefits to the community/society.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
It is often difficult to know what items can or cannot be recycled.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
It takes too much time.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I don't have enough recyclables.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
It is difficult to find room/space for temporarily storing recyclable items.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other people are not doing enough.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

4. Seattle Green Power is a City Light program wherein households and businesses can voluntarily contribute money to the development of **clean energy** with zero greenhouse gas emissions. Households can choose to make voluntary monthly payments of \$3, \$7, or \$10 via their utility bill.



Have you heard about **Seattle Green Power** before?

YES (please go to 4a) NO (please go to 4c below)

4a. Does your household currently participate in the Green Power program? YES NO

4b. Do you know of anyone (other than your own household) participating in the Green Power program? YES NO

4c. How likely is it that your household would participate in this program in the near future?

Highly unlikely Somewhat unlikely Somewhat likely Highly likely

5. On a scale from 1-5 with **1** being “never” and **5** being “regularly”, please indicate how often you, or anyone else in your household, does any of the following:

ACTIVITY	Never				Regularly
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Carpool or take public transportation.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Buy organic food items or locally grown produce.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Give preferences to products marked as <i>environmentally friendly</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Give preferences to products that are not tested on animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Use a bike as a mode of transportation (not for recreation).	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Donate money to an environmental group or cause.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Donate time to an environmental group or cause.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

