

# Organics Recycling in the City of Ramsey: Survey Results



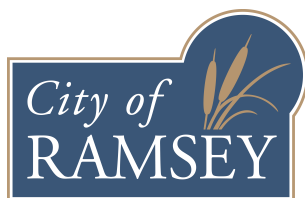
## Prepared by

Trevor Born, Erin Graney, Amanda MacPhail,  
Buck McKay, and Diane Timba

Students in PA 5712: Science To Action  
Instructor: Steve Kelley  
Humphrey School of Public Affairs

## Prepared in Collaboration with

Chris Anderson  
City Planner  
City of Ramsey



Resilient Communities Project

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

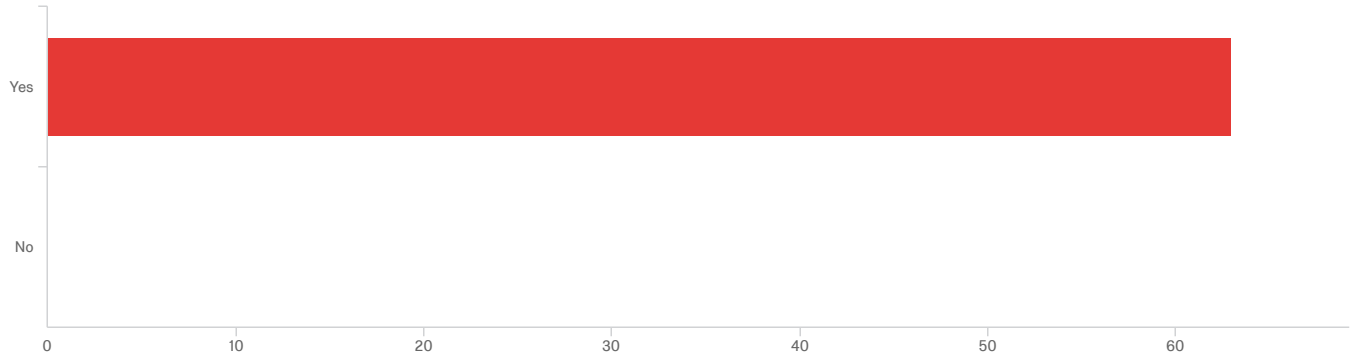
Building community-university partnerships for sustainability

# Survey Results

Ramsey Compost Project Survey

May 2, 2018 11:02 AM MDT

Q1 - Do you currently recycle (plastics/cardboard/paper)?

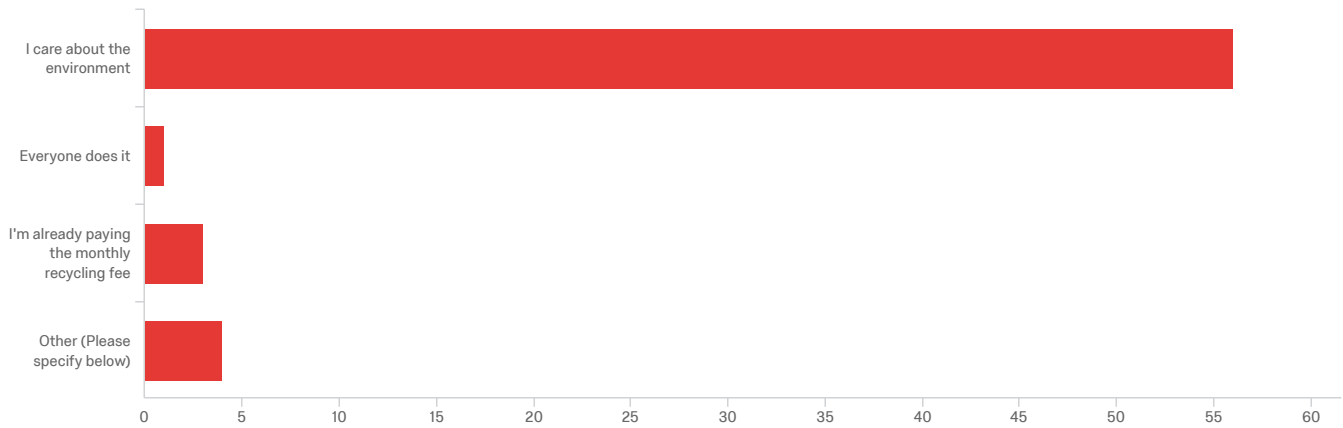


#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	100.00% 63
2	No	0.00% 0

63

Showing Rows: 1 - 3 Of 3

## Q1-1 - If yes, why do you recycle?



#	Field	Choice Count
1	I care about the environment	87.50% 56
2	Everyone does it	1.56% 1
3	I'm already paying the monthly recycling fee	4.69% 3
4	Other (Please specify below)	6.25% 4
		64

Showing Rows: 1 - 5 Of 5



■ I care about the environment ■ Everyone does it ■ I'm already paying the monthly recycling fee ■ Other (Please specify below)

## Q1-1\* - Other:

Other:

---

We have to realize that we cannot just continue to grow landfills...our environment is unable to sustain this model

Following what mom did back in the 60's when i was growing up.

It's super easy to do with commingled recycling. Wish they would pick that up weekly and garbage every other week.

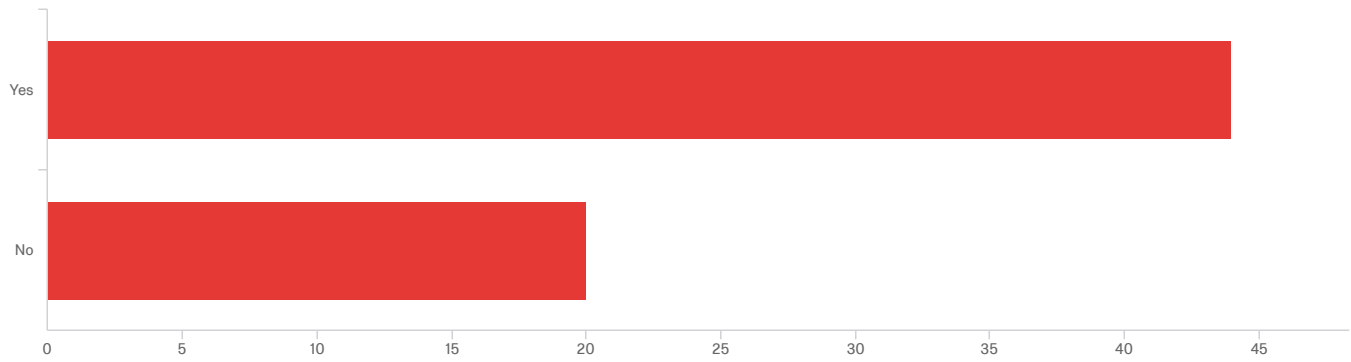
I care about the environment but if we can reuse we should then we can save on our natural resources. And cut down on landfill use.

1. Care about the environment 2. I already pay for it 3. It's easy, why not.

A combination of environmental and financial reasons.

Showing Records: 1 - 6 Of 6

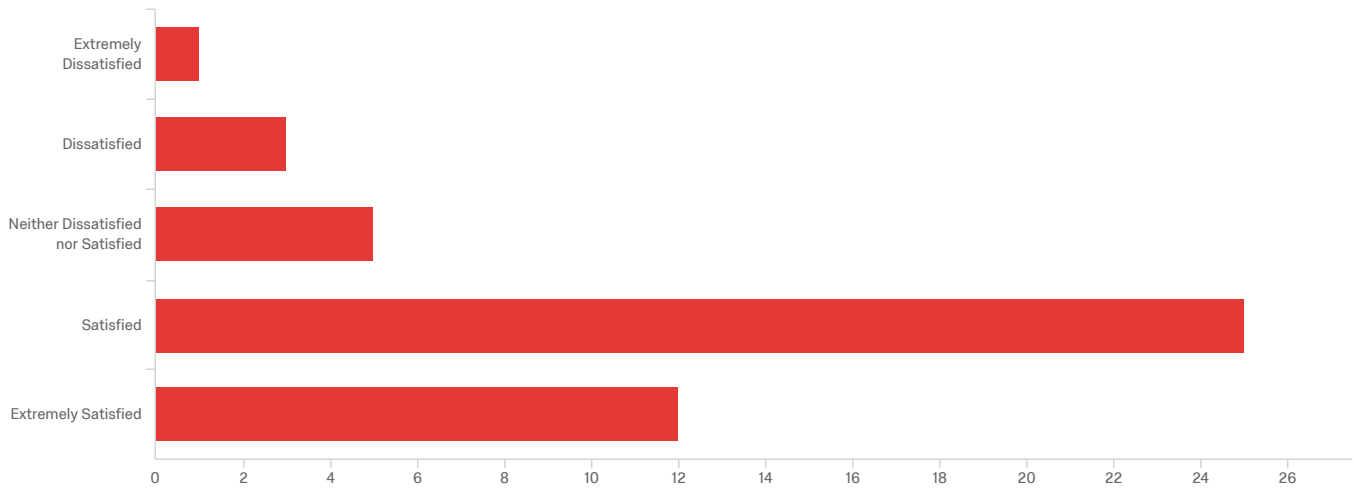
## Q2 - Are you currently participating in the organics recycling drop-off program?



#	Field	Choice	Count
1	Yes	68.75%	44
2	No	31.25%	20

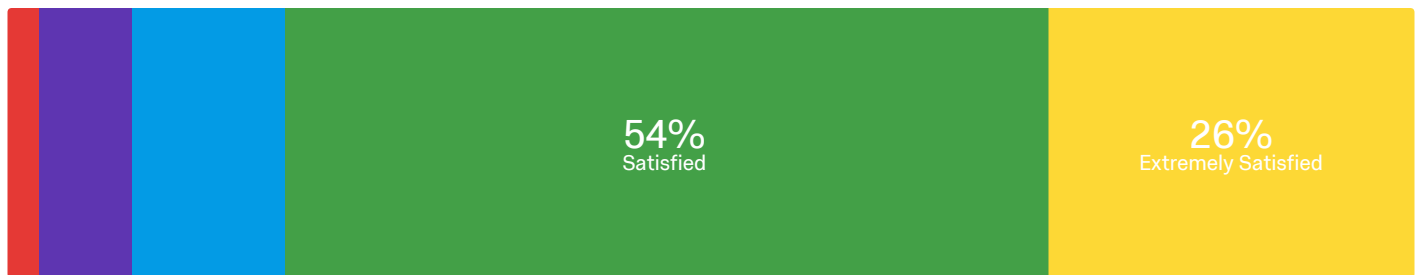
Showing Rows: 1 - 3 Of 3

## Q2-1.1 - If yes, how satisfied are you with the process?



#	Field	Choice Count
1	Extremely Dissatisfied	2.17% 1
2	Dissatisfied	6.52% 3
3	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	10.87% 5
4	Satisfied	54.35% 25
5	Extremely Satisfied	26.09% 12
		46

Showing Rows: 1 - 6 Of 6



■ Extremely Dissatisfied 
 ■ Dissatisfied 
 ■ Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied 
 ■ Satisfied 
 ■ Extremely Satisfied

## Q2-1.1\* - Could you briefly describe why you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the process of organics recycling drop-off program?

Could you briefly describe why you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the p...

Cuts down on trash, good for environment - nice to drop it off nearby and don't have the compost smell in my backyard

At this point it is kind of a hassle to store the product and then take it to the site. But it is good to be able to recycle the items that I can't put in my own compost bin.

I always felt guilty about putting coffee grounds, vegetables, egg shells, etc in the regular trash because I knew it could go to make compost.

People are putting non organics in the bins

Our waste is always less than our garbage, but has gone down again since the omission of organix recycling. I would like to see a financial incentive happen....the opportunity for a smaller garbage can and to pay slightly less....just another hand's on way for people to be encouraged to recycle rather than add to our landfills.

It's fairly easy to do

It wasn't what I expected it to be. Also, I would have to drop off multiple times a week or let it pile up in the garage and do a big drop off.

Sorry, I try to keep up with our local news but I'm not aware of the program.

I liked the starter kit and the collection point is very near my house.

It is closer than going to Coon Raoids

I'm very happy to be recycling organics, because it is making a helpful product. Saving our environment and making our garbage to only 1 or 2 small bags. I don't mind dropping it off, but would be much happier if it was picked up like our regular recycling. I will definitely keep on dropping it off. Thanks for letting us participate in this program.

I like the ease of the process. I would like to know what they do with the end product. I would like to have some for my gardening.

The drop off location is fairly close to my home. I would have been more satisfied if the starter container was a solid material instead of a basket. I had to upgrade to a stainless can to put under the sink to avoid leaks and attracting mice.

Very convenient, the organic bags are provided and the drop-off site is always open

I would rather someone come to my home to pick up the organic recycling. Also, the area where I drop off the organic recycling is not paved. May be muddy when I want to drop of the recycling. My husband says he does not want me to drive in mud!!!!

Well since I really can't compost here at home and also I have cut my trash down to 1 bag every 2-3 weeks and instead of 1 bag every week. I also wrote and applied for a grant at the CLC I was interning at in St.Paul

Ramsey has made it easy to complete the task. Just need to collect the unwanted food, put it in a container that the city provided for me to take home and then just drop the drop off site. All Free

The only complaint I have is that is muddy around the drop off containers, if you aren't prepared wearing boots you would be a mess leaving there.

Would like to be able to get more bags for my containers Like ability to drop off 24/7

It would be easier for me if we had curbside pickup of organic recycled materials. It is the wrong direction for me to drive to the one drop off location.

I do this because I feel so strongly about recycling. However, I don't like having to fidget with the lock on the cans to deposit my organics. This winter has been nice not having to do that. Would love to do this with a can at my curb. Ooooooh, that would be so convenient!

The drop-off location is very convenient for us, though probably not for everyone. We've preferred the no-lock bins that we had during the winter, as sometimes the locks were a bit hard for us to open (hard to get the numbers to move on the combination lock). I love having an option to recycle the food and/or scraps that I would otherwise throw away. It's amazing how many fruit rinds, uneaten leftovers, stale bread, etc. that we dispose of but now we can recycle them. I have tried doing our own composting but we didn't have much success with that so much prefer this option.

The location is fairly accessible, the site is typically orderly and it's free

Because then it doesn't go in the landfill

its very easy and a great way to recycle our organics

The drop-off program was extremely easy to sign up for, provided everything I needed to get started and is simple to participate in.

Winter is REALLY tough. I found myself not doing it simply because I didn't want to travel outside to drop it off or go out in the garage to store it. In the summer it is great!

I'm glad Ramsey now has the option to recycle organics, easy location to drop off to but would be awesome if there was a pickup

We use to throw away so much spoiled food/ fruit and veggie peels/ tissues and paper towels. I like being able to recycle these items. I have noticed that we don't have as much garbage since starting organic recycling. My only issue is that Ramsey has their collection bins in the dirt part of the parking lot and when it is wet or raining, it is muddy around the bins

It is a convenient location. The county drop off location does provide additional compost bags at no cost, but that is an extra trip at a not convenient location.

I love being able to do this because I feel I am doing even more for the environment than doing just glass/plastic/paper recycling. However, especially in warmer weather, the green bags start decomposing rather quickly. It is somewhat inconvenient to run to the drop-off location every three or four days. I would LOVE every other week pickup like the current recycling.

If there was a way for pickup to option, I'd be more satisfied.

I love that they provided me with the necessary tools (bucket/collection bin/organic bags) to do the organic recycling. My only wish is that I didn't have to drive it somewhere to drop it off.

I like the fact that the barrels are available any time of day. I was in another program and the only dropoff time was when the recycle center was open and it had very limited hours on the weekends.

I feel good about recycling at this level. It takes a bit more effort, but I am willing to commit because I think a little more effort creates a better environment.

First, I compost all the greens, grounds, etc. It's just greasy stuff and meat that isn't composted. Second, the dropoff spot is quite a distance away. To make it worthwhile, I'd have to save the greasy stuff in the freezer until there was sufficient to make the trip worthwhile. I don't have that kind of space. The weekly quantity is trivial, less than a cubic foot.



I think it should be incorporated with the recycle pick-up program (maybe use separate container). Minneapolis doesn't make their residents drive to a drop-off, they pick it up at their homes. Ramsey should figure out this program too.

It's too hard. We have a family of 7 and the drop off site is out of our way, so I have to make a special trip. I have let the food waste sit far too long sometimes because I haven't run it out there. I was excited about the program, but it is too difficult.

Collecting my recyclable materials is not a big deal and dropping it off at the recycling facility every 2 or 3 weeks is no big deal either.

Good for the environment but we keep our organics recycling and use it in our garden.

I'm pleased to be able to have this type of recycling as an option. Obviously, pick up service would be wonderful. The drop off location is difficult to find and navigate in the dark, which is an issue in the winter, in particular. Very muddy in the spring too.

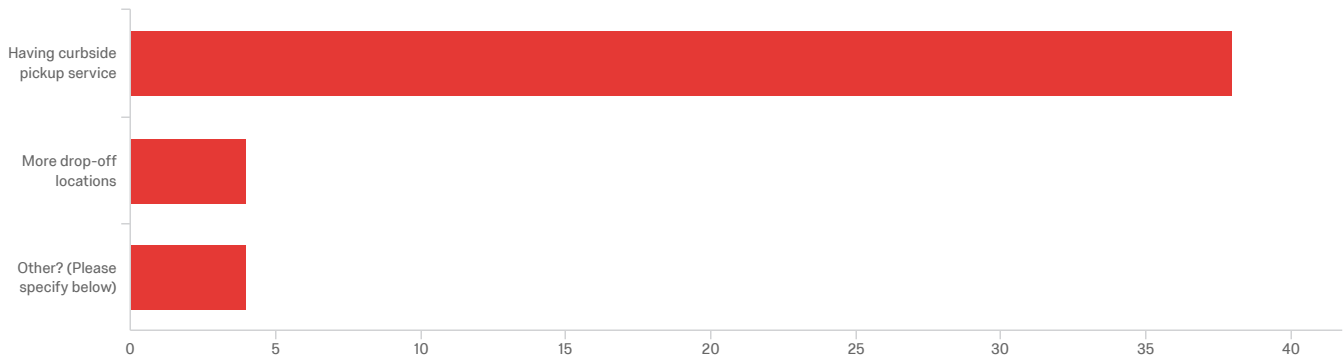
Its easy to do, from beginning to end. I tried to compost on my own but did not work out so good. I feel this is helping to recycle food waste

It's easy.

Showing Records: 1 - 43 Of 43

- I like the ease of the process. I would like to know what they do with the end product. I would like to have some for my gardening.
- \*Drop-off site is unpaved and muddy ("if you aren't prepared wearing boots you would be a mess leaving there.")
- The drop off location is fairly close to my home. I would have been more satisfied if the starter container was a solid material instead of a basket. I had to upgrade to a stainless can to put under the sink to avoid leaks and attracting mice.
- Would love to do this with a can at my curb. Ooooooh, that would be so convenient!
- I have noticed that we don't have as much garbage since starting organic recycling.
- \*People want curbside pick up for shorter travel distance, decomposition of green bag problem, and conveniency in general.
- \*people like about the open hour of the site
- I think it should be incorporated with the recycle pick-up program (maybe use separate container). Minneapolis doesn't make their residents drive to a drop-off, they pick it up at their homes. Ramsey should figure out this program too. -- most strong request

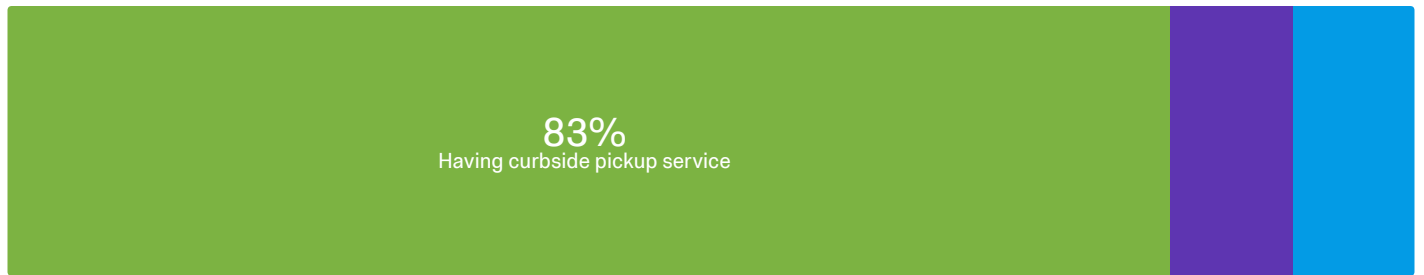
## Q2-1.2 - What could be improved?



#	Field	Choice Count
1	Having curbside pickup service	82.61% 38
2	More drop-off locations	8.70% 4
3	Other? (Please specify below)	8.70% 4

46

Showing Rows: 1 - 4 Of 4



Having curbside pickup service More drop-off locations Other? (Please specify below)

## Q2-1.2\* - Other?

Other?

Better education on what is organic

As stated above, a financial incentive

nothing

A better solid container for the kitchen.

I am just wondering if we are composting it back into Ramsey?

All good so far

No locks on the bins, or locks that are easier for clumsy & arthritic hands to use.

I would like recyclable bags to be more convenient. I drive to the Anoka County drop off station to get them.

I would utilize a lot more if someone picked up. However, I would not pay for it.

Start a commercial organics program with pick up service.

curbside pickup would be great!

Curbside would be nice, but in the meantime drop-off works. Just I fill the standard issue 5 gallon pail so quickly. I think more sealable pails, bigger pails or alternate containers to transport less frequently would be helpful.

I would be happy with either!! If there was a pick-up station along 47 that would be a big help!! Of course curbside service would be the best.

I'd be happy with either option!

pick up would be nice but also cost. As it is now drop off location is very convenient for me

Showing Records: 1 - 15 Of 15

- Better education on what is organic
- A better solid container for the kitchen
- Where is the end product going? (one person would like to have the compost for the garden, one wonders if we are composting it back into Ramsey)
- having a curbside pick up would be nice!
- easier access to the bags

## Q2-1.3 - What made you decide to join the program?

What made you decide to join the program?

reduce waste, why not

We like to recycle as much as possible

see above

I want to lessen my contribution to landfills

To reduce landfill waste and to use the organic matter to be used to enrich our land, not to destroy it.

I wanted to help reduce the waste tonage

I care about the environment and it's a plus to not have a smelly garbage can when organic foods or being disposed of at above drop off site

I hated throwing away all of my compostables.

That is most of my garbage.

Wanted to help our environment.

I have always composted and am unable to do so on my own right now.

I want to eliminate as much waste going into the garbage can as possible. The drop off location happens to be close enough.

I started to do organic collection for my garden long time ago, but it just too much of it, I can not use them all. Having this program is great and it is very good for the environment

I started recycling in Andover when I heard about it about 2 years ago. It just sounds like the right thing to do. Then I heard that Ramsey had a drop off site.

I guess I am just an environmentalist and I am concerned with our earth. Did a powerpoint on the great pacific plastic pile, I would like to buy a used ocean liner and start recycling the plastic that is just floating around the sea. I would like us to put a value on the plastic bottles like we had in glass bottles years ago.

I really wanted to care for the environment for my children.

I recycle everything I can. I do believe more people would take part in the program if we had curbside pick up. Having to bring it to the drop off site is not convenient.

I believe anything that can be recycled should not go in trash

My sister participates in organic curb side recycling in St. Louis Park. I like how convenient it is for her and I'd like that same service in Ramsey.

Feeling strongly about recycling.

I like the fact less waste goes into landfills and it gets repurposed.

Hate throwing food into the garbage bag/bin that finds its way into a landfill.

I think composting is important and I don't want to compost in my yard in the winter

I wanted to do this for the environment. First I registered with the county and when I read the city was doing it, I registered there. The drop off point is much closer

Because I do not like throwing stuff in the garbage that could be recycled.

we jumped at the opportunity to compost, don't want to throw away all those great vitamins and minerals that could help to grow new plants

I care about how much waste from my home is going into landfills and if my food waste can be used by the community, I wanted to contribute.

It is a great idea. It seem pretty simple. I want to be a part of helping the world.

It's good for the environment

We use to throw away so much spoiled food/ fruit and veggie peels/ tissues and paper towels. I like being able to recycle these items.

I have been a strong proponent of recycling and composting for a long time. I was using a drop off at my employment location prior to retiring and my retirement coincided with Ramsey beginning their local drop off service.

Wanting to do even more for the environment than we were. I knew we threw away a lot of food scraps that could be composted. My husband will not allow us to have a compost pile/bin. Also, there are things that can be composted through this program that you couldn't normally put in a home compost.

Having it as an option

A friend of mine was doing it, and it made me realize how much food we throw in the garbage that could be going somewhere else.

I have a small compost bin at home, but it doesn't always have room, and it's frozen in the winter

Wanted to be part of the pilot program. It makes sense to do this and I have the time and desire to do it as well.

I didn't join. No idea where you got that idea.

I compost myself on our property, however, some food items I'd rather not put in an open compost situation of which would attract a lot of unwanted animals. Therefore, I started with the Andover facility for composting. The difference between the two are distance of course and Andover offers free bags whereby Ramsey does not. Why not?

I care about the environment and wanted to reduce the waste I send to the landfill.

I was interested in how the program worked and wanted to see if was an easy or difficult thing to do. Plus, I figured it was only a matter of time before it was a requirement anyway.

Good for the environment and we have an organic vegetable garden because of it.

I think we all need to reduce our garage output.

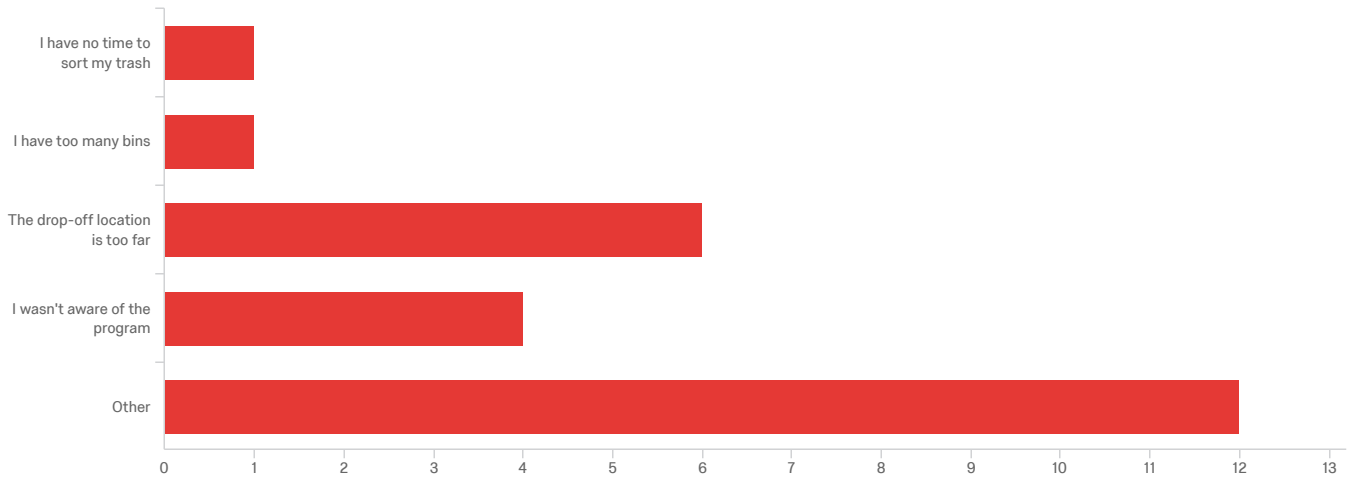
noticed how much food waste we had in our family . with no garbage disposal this seemed like a more environment friendly was to recycle food garbage

I care about the environment.

Showing Records: 1 - 44 Of 44

- wanted to reduce waste going into the landfill and help the environment
- That is most of my garbage.
- hard to compost on their own
- I really wanted to care for the environment for my children.
- I do believe more people would take part in the program if we had curbside pick up. Having to bring it to the drop off site is not convenient.
- Having it as an option
- I compost myself on our property, however, some food items I'd rather not put in an open compost situation of which would attract a lot of unwanted animals. Therefore, I started with the Andover facility for composting. The difference between the two are distance of course and Andover offers free bags whereby Ramsey does not. Why not?

Q2-2.1 - If you're not participating in the Organics Recycling Drop-off program, what has prevented you from participating?

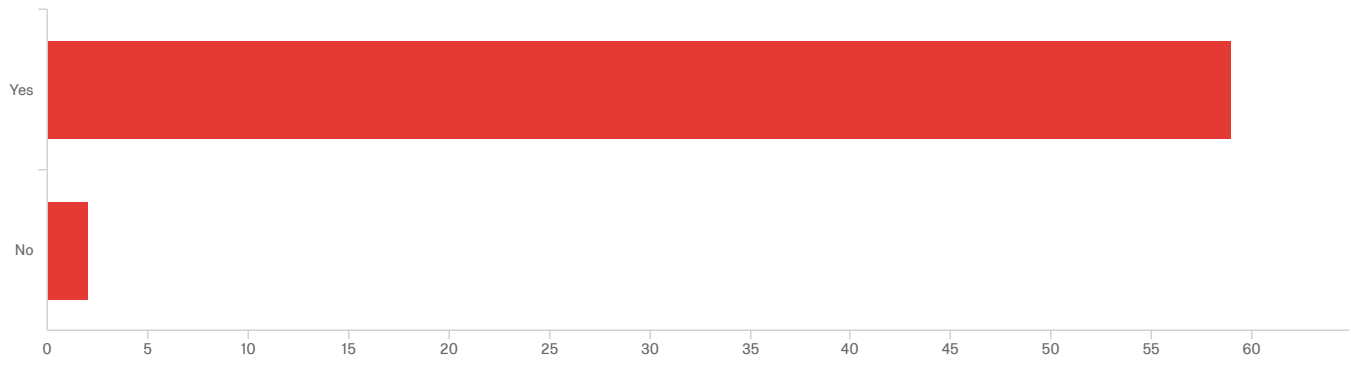


#	Field	Choice Count
1	I have no time to sort my trash	4.17% 1
2	I have too many bins	4.17% 1
3	The drop-off location is too far	25.00% 6
4	I wasn't aware of the program	16.67% 4
5	Other	50.00% 12

24

Showing Rows: 1 - 6 Of 6

## Q2-2.2 - Do you know what organics recycling is?



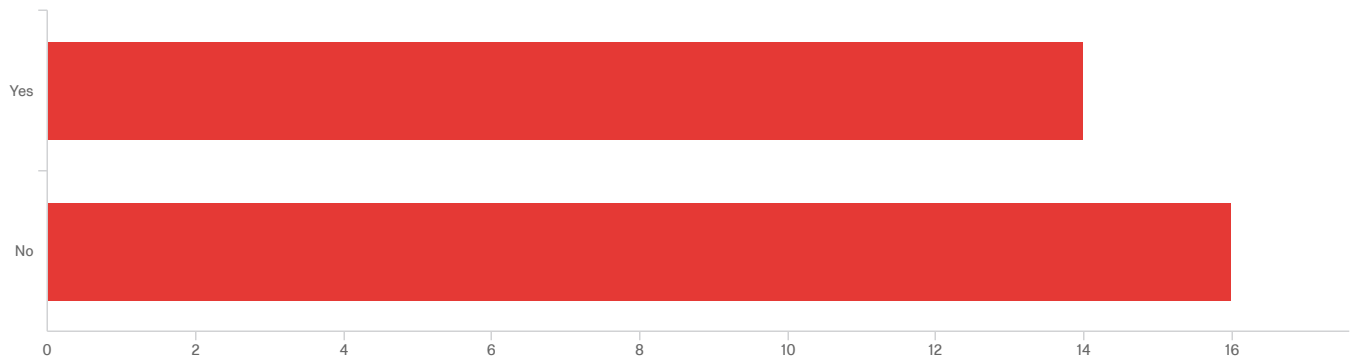
#	Field	Choice	Count
1	Yes	96.72%	59
2	No	3.28%	2

61

Showing Rows: 1 - 3 Of 3



Q2-2.2\* - If no, in short, Organic Recycling is the process of collecting biodegradable organic material and recovering it into a reusable product such as compost instead of dumping it in the landfill or incinerating. Currently, the City of Ramsey is providing Organics Recycling Drop-off service where you can drop off your organics to one of the four carts located at the Public Works Campus (14100 Jasper St. NW). Based on the description above, would you be willing to start participating now?

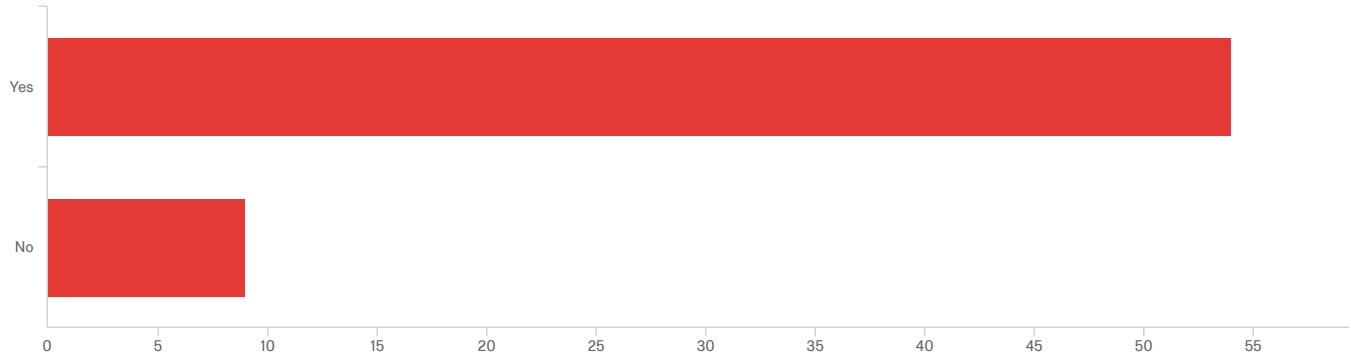


#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	46.67% 14
2	No	53.33% 16

30

Showing Rows: 1 - 3 Of 3

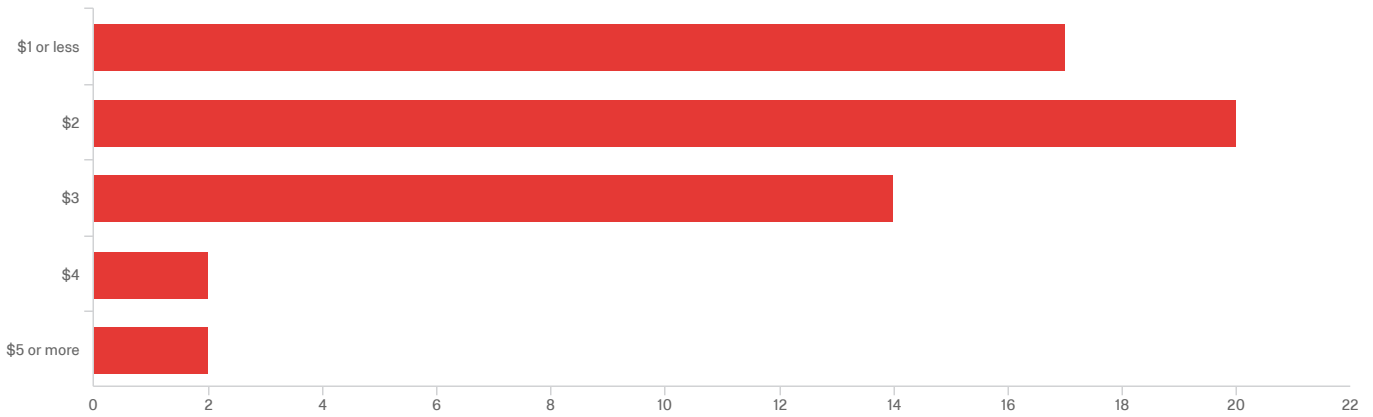
Q3 - If the city of Ramsey provides a curbside organic waste collection service (just like the regular recycling collection), would you be willing to participate?



#	Field	Choice	Count
1	Yes	85.71%	54
2	No	14.29%	9
			63

Showing Rows: 1 - 3 Of 3

Q3-1 - If yes, how much would you be willing to pay in addition to the existing monthly recycling fee of \$2.95 per month for this service?



#	Field	Choice Count
1	\$1 or less	30.91% 17
2	\$2	36.36% 20
3	\$3	25.45% 14
4	\$4	3.64% 2
5	\$5 or more	3.64% 2

55

Showing Rows: 1 - 6 Of 6

## Q3-2 - If you wouldn't participate in the curbside organic waste collection service, please provide a brief explanation as to why not.

If you wouldn't participate in the curbside organic waste collection servic...

We farm and garden so want to compost all our own stuff.

I think I could give it a try. However, this is all new to me.

Those willing to do organic recycle are doing it now for only what it costs to drive there.

I don't live in Ramsey

It doesn't cost me anything to drop off my organic recycling.

The additional cost is too much.

Well I sort of like it the way it is now and really wouldn't want a stinky large container around attracting varmants.

We have our own composting system and use the compost in our vegetable garden so there is no need for us to have organics picked up.

I started to do the organic compound waste program but living in a apartment with no balcony and outside portal the smell was too much to take. If my apartment had a place for the organic bins I would be willing to rejoin or start back up.

Our garbage bill is already steadily climbing

Sounds like a hassle to sort out the waste stream and keep it sanitary until pick up

Our family recycles our own organic material in our own compost recycling bins and use the resulting material in our garden. It is important to us to control the quality of material used in the process.

I would rethink participation in curbside if it cost me more than \$100 annually. ??? I really do not mind driving it to the site.

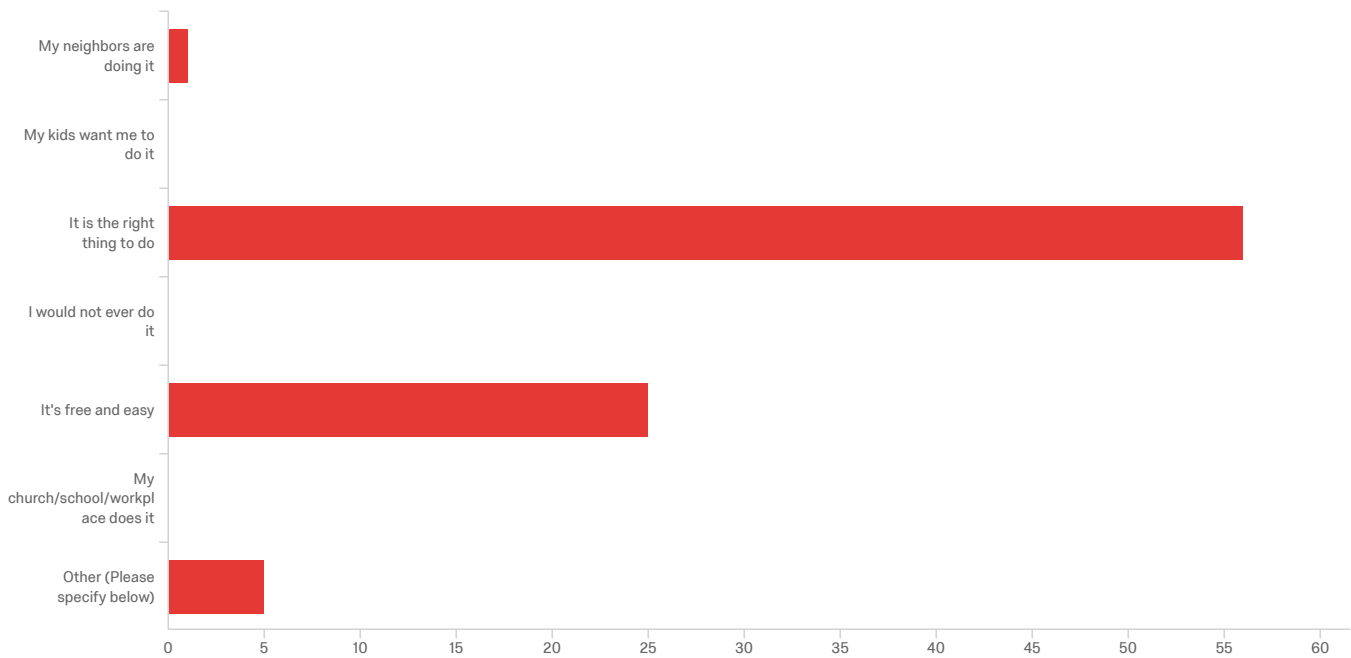
The very small quantity makes it impractical. My wife wants to use our other compost for gardening. If that doesn't work out, we would certainly participate. I'm not overly concerned about the cost.

We keep our scraps and keep it in a bin for a year then turn into the garden.

Showing Records: 1 - 15 Of 15

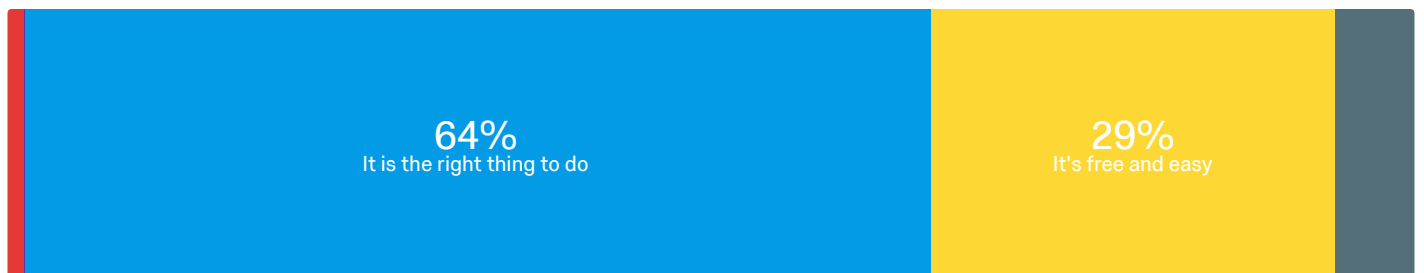
- We farm and garden so want to compost all our own stuff.
- I think I could give it a try. However, this is all new to me.
- It's free - the only cost is driving.
- If the additional cost is too much -- cost is the most concerning factor for some.
- Well I sort of like it the way it is now and really wouldn't want a stinky large container around attracting varmants.
- I started to do the organic compound waste program but living in a apartment with no balcony and outside portal the smell was too much to take. If my apartment had a place for the organic bins I would be willing to rejoin or start back up.
- Our garbage bill is already steadily climbing

## Q4 - What factor(s) would influence you the most with regard to organics recycling?



#	Field	Choice Count
1	My neighbors are doing it	1.15% 1
2	My kids want me to do it	0.00% 0
3	It is the right thing to do	64.37% 56
4	I would not ever do it	0.00% 0
5	It's free and easy	28.74% 25
6	My church/school/workplace does it	0.00% 0
7	Other (Please specify below)	5.75% 5
		87

Showing Rows: 1 - 8 Of 8



My neighbors are doing it  My kids want me to do it  It is the right thing to do  I would not ever do it  It's free and easy

My church/school/workplace does it  Other (Please specify below)

## Q4-1 - Other:

Other:

---

I don't have a good location for a compost bin. I try to compost as much as possible but it's more difficult in the winter.

I think it is our duty to recycle or in 50 years we will be wondering where our resources have gone.

If, for some reason, we stopped composting ourselves, we would certainly use an organics pick-up service. I doubt, though, that we would bring daily organics somewhere.

I would value regular curbside pickups so the organic wouldnt get stinky

Saving money on curbside garbage disposal!

A mixture of, it is the right thing to do and it's free and easy

Curbside pick up

Showing Records: 1 - 7 Of 7

Q5 - If you would like to win a \$50 Visa gift card, please provide us your name and contact information

Name:	Postal Address:
Jenell Gilman	14790 Potassium St NW Ramsey, MN 55303
Jim Boyke	15,000 Zeolite St. NW. Ramsey, MN 55303
Betty Pearson	14821 Bowers Dr NW Ramsey
Mickey Adams	15313 Tungsten St. NW Ramsey 55303
Michelle Marotte	16360 Nowthen Blvd NW Ramsey 55303
Lauren Doyle	15109 Helium St. NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Colleen Anderson	5639 157th Ave NW
Jillian Parsons-Hang	14451 Fluorine Ct NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Susan Anderson	15840 Juniper Ridge Drive Ramsey, MN
Tom Stodola	14190 Xenon St NW #8 Ramsey, MN 55303
Kathy Dague	14727 Waco St NW Ramsey mn 55303
Jeff & Mary Zabel	14300 Tungsten St NW
Mike Valentine	9030 160th Lane NW, Ramsey MN 55303
Kathy Provance	4981 150th LN NW, Ramsey
Lisa Thurston	7378 Bunker Lake Blvd Ramsey MN 55303
Suzanne Lawson	7530 151st Ave NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Jenny McReynolds	14325 Tungsten St. NW Ramsey
John Niederhaus	14701 Quicksilver St N.W. Ramsey, MN 55303
Jordanna Dombrovskis	14641 Hematite St NW
Kim Olson	7631-178th Lane NW, Ramsey MN 55303
Bev junghans	15351 Marmoset st nw Ramsey Mn 55303

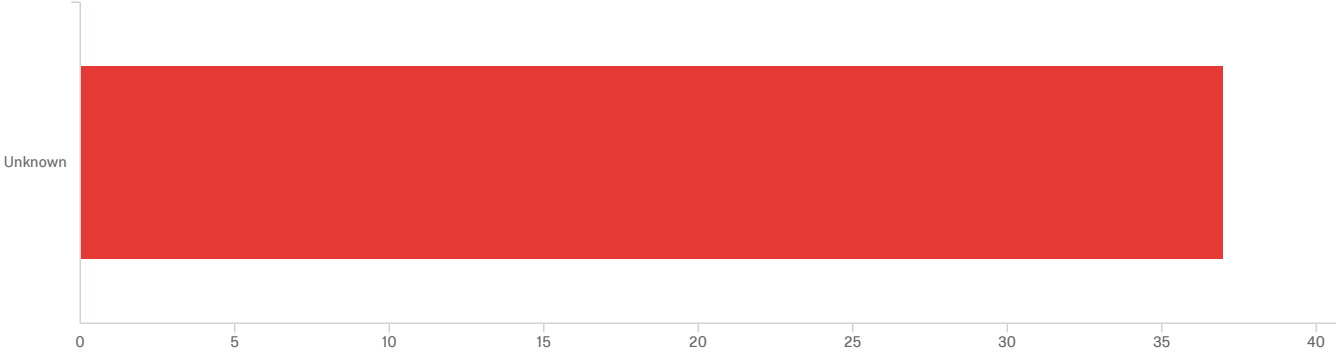


Brandon Sis	7214 167th Ter NW Ramsey
Ralph Brauer	14419 Waco
Wendy Tuominen	14184 Barium St NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Ellen Aho	15001 Bison St NW Ramsey MN 55303
Kayla Lebaron	7750 sunwood dr nw apt 310 Ramsey Mn 55303
Jan Lokken	14140 Junkite St NW, Ramsey 55303
Alyssa Prokott	14583 Bowers Dr NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Lorena Palm	6194 147th Ave NW, Ramsey, 55303
Janice Perry	5510 152nd Ave NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
rose belille	17351 Unicorn street nw ramsey mn 55303
Chris Ouellette	16872 Limonite Ter NW Ramsey, MN 55303
Olsen Anderson	5639 157th Ave NW
Missy luck	7888 149th ave Ramsey mn 55303
Andrew Andrusko	7066 139th Ave Nw, Ramsey, MN, 55303
David Strobush	5409 149th Lane NW
Todd Embury	9041 159th Lane Ramsey 55303
Randy Bauer	14600 Iodine Ct NW, Ramsey MN 55303
Patty McGerr	8990 162nd Ln NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Dara Grimmer	15931 Xenon NW, Ramsey 55303
Sonja Ahlquist	6065 158th Lane NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Lynnette Olson	6191 144th Lane NW, Ramsey 55303
John LeTourneau	jrlet@comcast.net
Rod Kuehn	17836 Sodium St NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Bruce Anderson	14892 Bison St NW, Ramsey, Mn

Peggy Sorenson Parks	6531 170th Ave. N.W.
Charlotte Kaplan	16172 Lithium Ct NW Ramsey MN 55303
Carol Sullivan	15060 Cobalt St NW Ramsey N 55303
Jennifer Leistico	15790 Neon St NW, Ramsey MN 55303
Carol Kociscak	6980 137th ave Ramsey, MN 55303
Bob Sibilski	7240 166th Ave NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
Joan Horkey	7334 Bunker Lake BLvd, Ramsey, MN 55303
Russ Bayer	9500 Ermine Boulevard NW Ramsey, MN 55303

Showing Records: 1 - 53 Of 53

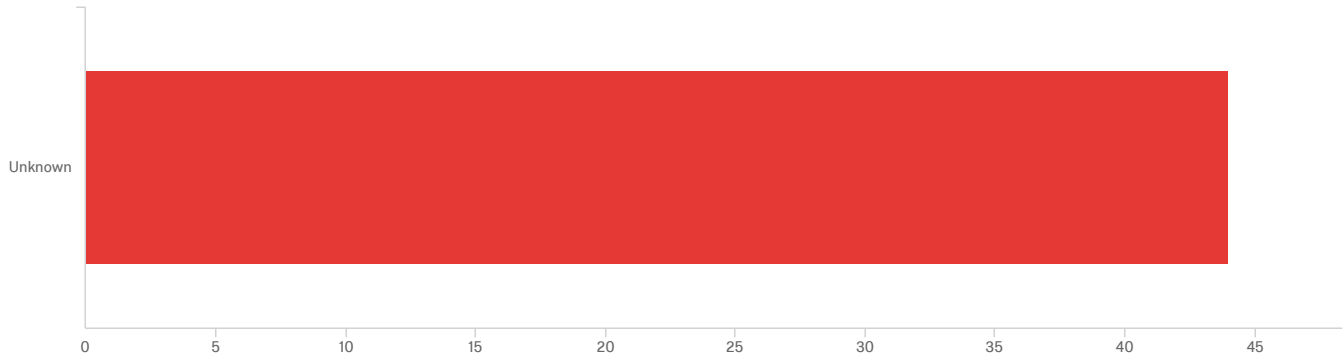
# Q2-1.3 - Topics



#	Field	Choice Count
1	Unknown	100.00% 37

Showing Rows: 1 - 1 Of 1

## Q5\_1 - Topics



#	Field	Choice Count
1	Unknown	100.00% 44

Showing Rows: 1 - 1 Of 1

**End of Report**