

Residential Curbside Compost Pilot Program - Survey Results

For comments - see "comments" tab

1. My household is:

Answer	Responses	%
In the City of Napa	403	76%
In an unincorporated part of Napa County	128	24%
Total	531	100%

2. This household has a trash cart (gray cart) that is:

Answer	Responses	%
20 gallon (City only)	110	20%
35 gallon	308	57%
65 gallon	106	20%
95 gallon	18	3%
Total	542	100%

3. This household is home to:

Answer	Responses	%
1-3 people	470	83%
4-6 people	93	16%
7-10 people	2	0%
Over 10 people	1	0%
Total	566	100%

4. My household:

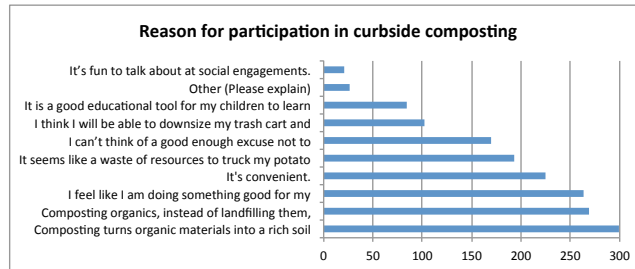
NOTE: if you answer "Not participating" to this question, you will skip to survey question

Answer	Responses	%
IS participating in the food compost pilot program	359	63%
IS NOT participating in the food compost pilot program	213	37%
Total	572	100%

5. My household is participating in the food compost pilot program because: (Choose all answers that are applicable.)

Answer	Responses	%
Composting turns organic materials into a rich soil amendment to be used right here in Napa County.	299	18.09%
Composting organics, instead of landfilling them, greatly reduces greenhouse gasses generated.	269	16.27%
I feel like I am doing something good for my community.	263	15.91%
It's convenient.	225	13.61%
It seems like a waste of resources to truck my potato peels and old lettuce to a landfill in another County.	193	11.68%
I can't think of a good enough excuse not to compost.	170	10.28%
I think I will be able to downsize my trash cart and save money.	102	6.17%
It is a good educational tool for my children to learn about conservation of natural resources.	84	5.08%
Other (Please explain)	27	1.63%
It's fun to talk about at social engagements.	21	1.27%
Total	1653	100.00%

26 comments



6. The brochure I received with my kitchen pail (shown above) clearly provided all the information I needed to participate in the pilot program.

Answer	Responses	%
Yes	326	95.32%
No	1	0.29%
I did not receive or did not read the brochure	15	4.39%
The missing information was:		
Total	342	100.00%

pet food

6 comments

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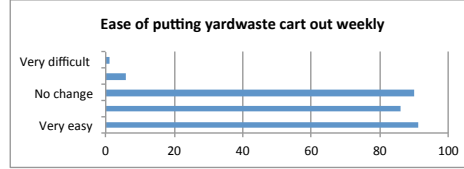
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7. If I put my yardwaste cart out weekly when I am including food, that is more frequent than I have done in the past.

Answer	Responses	%
Yes	101	28.77%
No	172	49.00%
I still do not put my yardwaste cart out weekly. (If this choice is selected you will skip to question #9.)	78	22.22%
Total	351	100.00%

8. Putting my yardwaste cart out every week because of the addition of food scraps and soiled paper is:

Question	Responses	%
Very easy	91	33%
Easy	86	31%
No change	90	33%
Difficult	6	2%
Very difficult	1	0%
Total	274	100%

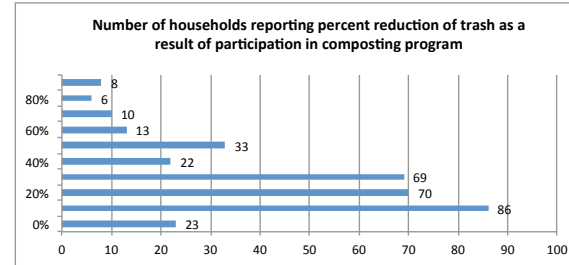


9. I put my trash cart out less frequently now that the food scraps and food-soiled paper are no longer going in the trash can.

Answer	Responses	%
Yes	69	20%
No	282	80%
Total	351	100%

10. I estimate that I have reduced the volume of material in my trash cart by the following percentage since I started the food compost program.

Answer - % trash reduced	Responses	%
0%	23	7%
10%	86	25%
20%	70	21%
30%	69	20%
40%	22	6%
50%	33	10%
60%	13	4%
70%	10	3%
80%	6	2%
90-100%	8	2%
Total	340	100%



11. I would consider downsizing to a smaller trash cart if I find I don't need the volume of my current trash cart.

Answer	Responses	%
Yes	181	52%
No	79	23%
I already use the smallest trash cart. (20 gallon in the City, 35 gallon in the County)	90	26%
Total	350	100%

12. I am satisfied with the performance of the kitchen compost pail. (Shown)

Answer	Responses	%
Yes	251	83%
No	15	5%
I do not use the pail that was delivered to my home. (If this choice is selected you will skip to question #15.)	35	12%
Total	301	100%

50 comments

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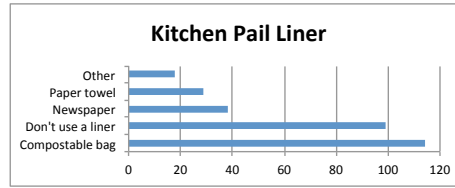
13. I use a liner in my kitchen compost pail.

Answer	Response	%
Yes	172	56%
No	129	42%
Not applicable	6	2%
Total	307	100%

14. I line my pail with:

Answer	Response	%
Compostable bag	114	38%
Don't use a liner	99	33%
Newspaper	38	13%
Paper towel	29	10%
Other	18	6%
Total	298	100%

11 comments

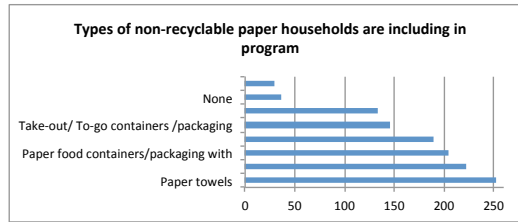


15. I put the following types of non-recyclable or food-soiled paper products in the kitchen compost pail.

(Choose as many as applicable.)

Answer	Response	%
Paper towels	253	21%
Napkins	222	18%
Paper food containers/packaging with food contamination	205	17%
Coffee filters	190	16%
Take-out/ To-go containers /packaging	145	12%
Paper coffee cups	134	11%
None	36	3%
Other	30	2%
Total	1215	100%

23 comments



16. I am a backyard composter but I now use the yardwaste cart for things that don't compost well in backyard bins, such as dairy, meat, soiled paper and compostable packaging.

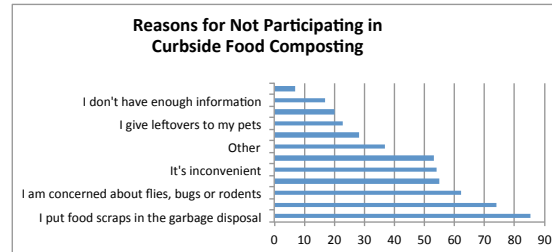
Answer	Response	%
Yes	70	21%
No	45	13%
I am not a backyard composter.	220	66%
Total	335	100%

6 comments

17. If you answered that your household is NOT participating (question #4) please check all the reasons that apply to your choice not to take part in the food compost pilot program.

Answer	Response	%
I put food scraps in the garbage disposal	85	17%
I'm concerned about odors	74	14%
I am concerned about flies, bugs or rodents	62	12%
I don't have enough yardwaste to mix/layer with food in my cart	55	11%
It's inconvenient	54	10%
I already compost in my backyard bin	53	10%
Other	37	7%
It seems dirty	28	5%
I give leftovers to my pets	23	4%
It takes too much time	20	4%
I don't have enough information	17	3%
I don't have room in my yardwaste cart	7	1%
Total	515	100%

26 comments



18. Whether or not you are participating, are you willing to talk to a member of the local media if they do a story about the pilot program?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	150	28%
No	377	72%
Total	527	100%

19. If yes, please enter your contact information. (150 responses)

20. Thank you for completing the survey. We'd like to get more feedback from you after the program has been in place for nine to 12 months, and we would like to save paper by sending you an email with a link to an online survey. If you are willing, please enter your email address below. (227 responses)

Note: The City and County of Napa will not use emails for any other purpose except to contact you about the food composting program.

Curbside Compost Survey Comments

Question 5 My household is participating in the food compost pilot program because:

(Choose all answers that are applicable.)

- 1 It gives me extra space to use for other things in my trash cart
- 2 Composting some organics reduces the BOD on the local Wastewater Treatment Plant, saving some power costs.

- 3 I'm pleased to participate.
- 4 We were invited to do so by the City of Napa.
- 5 It doesn't make sense to throw away items that can be recycled
- 6 We compost mostly to our own garden.
- 7 Just makes old-fashioned good sense to recycle the scraps.
- 8 We love the program.
- 9 Giving it a try.
- 10 Some of this organic waste goes in my compost.
- 11 Makes sense.
- 12 We were sent a pail.
- 13 Divert food waste from H2O-->I believe it will provide cleaner, higher quality, and more efficient water and water treatment system: I hate to use the disposer (sink) or see other do so!
- 14 We do not use the garbage disposal as much.
- 15 I'm grateful for the opportunity
- 16 We thought we would give it a try.
- 17 Our plants love the composted soil
- 18 I want my brown barrel picked up each week even if it is not full. Otherwise it smells bad after a week.
- 19 I buy compost from you.
- 20 To create soil for my vegetable garden.
- 21 Did not know it would attract animals, flies and ants.
- 22 I put mine into my own backyard compost, which enriches my garden soil.
- 23-26 It's the right thing to do

Question 6 The brochure I received with my kitchen pail (shown) clearly provided all the information I needed to participate in the pilot program.

- 1 Rough costs and location to purchase compostable bags
- 2 brochure was very good overall. wasn't guidance in how to keep clean
- 3 Issues with MAGGOTS! I began composting EVERYTHING allowed without a compostable bag. After two bouts with the buggers, resorted to using the bags. Problem solved; though I prefer not to use the bags due to plastic waste even if it is compostable.
- 4 There should be a food waste only can (small) for outside. I use my yard waste can for yardwaste. I don't like maggots.
- 5 Need more detail. composting cardboard boxes, old newspaper, etc.
- 6 I had to call to find out if pet food could be included and was told it could be.

Question 12 I am satisfied with the performance of the kitchen compost pail.

- 1 Emptying kitchen compost pail into yard waste bin means I have to clean the bin every time it is used. I use a paper bag and dump it into the bin.
- 2 It's great! Wish I had two.
- 3 must be kept outside because gets dirty and smelly
- 4 I wish the lid were easier to hold in a partial open position.
- 5 its not big enough -we have to have another bag for paper,boxes etc
- 6 No convenient place to locate it
- 7 its working well, but there are times we are putting compostables to waste because the pail is outside waiting to be cleaned
- 8 It is very well designed and keeps the smell in well.
- 9 Oh heck, it does not look great on my counter top. It does reduce smells and odors but it is not convenient to use.
- 10 Too big. I recycled it.
- 11 Needs some type of filter--smells
- 12 We have our own
- 13 Yes; I wish it was more attractive as it sits on my kitchen counter.
- 14 Don't have one.
- 15 Yes; a couple of gallons larger would be better for our household.
- 16 No; Paper bags = trees! No bags = washing pail or garbage cans waste of water. If don't then flies/maggots. Better to put waste in garge can--birds (seagulls) at landfill eat = best solution.
- 17 My compost pail has gone missing.
- 18 Yes; Great, fits under sink.
- 19 Yes; Like it! No odor!
- 20 No; I use a compostable bag, but if not removed almost daily, the bag begins to breakdown and leak. I don't want to wash every day, and don't want stinky pail in house.
- 21 Great pail--gave it to a friend to use since we always just put veg/fruit stuff right intou our bin (yadwaste cart), other scraps--bones, et. keep in carton in fridge or freezer until trash day.
- 22 Because I like to use paper bags as I don't have to clean them--I would like to see (find) a paper bag that fits in the kitchen pail.
- 23 I think it is disgusting to have this pail in the house full of food scraps. Just as easy to take it out to the yardwaste cart.
- 24 Yes, but it retains food particles and sometimes has a strong odor.
- 25 No; the pail lid is not very functional unless there's already weight in the pail. Also, small. We use a larger container with easy lift-off lid.
- 26 Yes; Nice pail. Odors are contained and easy to clean.
- 27 I just wrap it in newspaper nightly.
- 28 The lid gets stuck
- 29 No; wish it was a little bigger.
- 30 Please provide compostable trash bags to fit compost pail for free.

- 31 Smells and mold
- 32 Could be a little bigger
- 33 Yes; two would be better
- 34 At first i used the pail, but it takes yp too much counter space, so i bought a 10 gal rectangular shape step metal can with pail whih fits a weeks worth of food scraps plus soiled paper.
- 35 Yes and no.
- 36 Yes; We don't keep it in the house. we keep it in the garage by the door to the house.
- 37 It gets really gross really quickly. often too small
- 38 Yes; although I wish it were more attractive
- 39 I use a more stylish stainless steel container with a liner
- 40 Yes; It is difficult to line the pail with paper because of its shape.
- 41 I put it directly into the yardwaste bin.
- 42 I gave it to a friend as I have always included "clean garbage veg" in garden waste containers. Friend loves the pail and uses it. She is in the city limits.
- 43 It is ok.
- 44 Don't like it sitting at the counter, got ants.
- 45 Very convinient size. I found green bag liners at orchard.
- 46 I like the compost pail and it's very convenient to be able to put food waste in the yardwaste cart.
- 47 I've learned that putting food scraps and soiled paper under the yard clippings helps keep the smell down if you cover them up.
- 48 I am very impressed with the City of Napa for undertaking this waste recycle program, for providing the free pails in this pilot program. You've certainly made me more aware of how/why it is important to recycle. This is a great program, you should roll it out to thte rest of the Napa neighborhoods.
- 49 I gave extra pail received to friend - thanks.
- 50 I wish it was a little bigger. I sometimes have to dump it twice in a week and my neighbors complain about the smell.

Question 14 **I line my pail with:**

- 1 whatever I'm going to put in the pail anyway...napkin, used paper towel or paper bag
- 2 I use plastic bags that I then have to throw away after dumping the food scraps.
- 3 Coffee filters
- 4 Plastic bag
- 5 Newspaper and compostable bag.
- 6 Plastic bag (bag goes in trash)
- 7 Newspaper; compostable bag
- 8 Don't use a liner; have tried paper towel or liner--rinse with water is easy enough
- 9 Don'tuse a liner; wash the pail.
- 10 Don't use a liner; refer to question 12 for why we don't use a liner.
- 11 Plastic bags, then I empty into the yard cart and put the plastic bag in the trash can (compostable bags too thin)

Question 15 I put the following types of non-recyclable or food-soiled paper products in the kitchen compost.

- 1 Anything that cannot be put in my backyard compost - meats, etc
- 2 composting bags
- 3 put mostly fruit, vegetable, meat scraps, bones
- 4 Sometimes I put the food container & take-out containers in the recycle bin
- 5 Did not know that I could put in these items.
- 6 paper plates
- 7 My yard waste is so full I have three from weeds and clippings from my yard.
- 8 We hardly use any of the above items.
- 9 I put paper in my recycle bin.
- 10 Soiled paper plates
- 11 Respondent does not believe that the kitchen pail is large enough for take out containers.
- 12 None so far, but will try to change that.
- 13 Dryer lint
- 14 Everything I can
- 15 Kleenex
- 16 Seeds (avocado and others), shells from nuts, bones
- 17 food waste
- 18 Food Bi-product
- 19 Pet food - wet and dry
- 20-23 Tea Bags

Question 16 I am a backyard composter but I now use the yardwaste cart for things that don't compost well in backyard bins, such as dairy, meat, soiled paper and compostable packaging.

- 1 Yes; I stopped my backyard composting as this is much easier!
- 2 Tiny yard, so no room to compost
- 3 I am not a backyard composter; only coffee grounds and banana peels for under the roses
- 4 Used to be but it attracted rats
- 5 I backyard compost sometimes.
- 6 Yes

Question 17 If you answered that your household is NOT participating (question #4) please check all the reasons that apply to your choice not to take part in the food compost pilot program.

- 1 I didn't know about it
- 2 We started composting than we got maggots. It wasn't a good way to compost for us. A sturdier, larger container might be better, at least for us.
- 3 Don't want to be bothered.
- 4 I am elderly and have difficulty with lifting
- 5 Bones, crab shells, etc. go to trash cart.
- 6 Stopped doing--yard waste cans usually empty--food would just sit.
- 7 Too old to deal with this.

- 8 Did participate for a few weeks but: cost of compost bags and no reimbursement (discount on bill) made the composting too expensive to continue.
- 9 wood waste minimal, small household, a lot of travel
- 10 Don't have much waste.
- 11 Don't want kitchen pail on my counter. Unaesthetic. Ugly, don't get newspaper, so can't line bucket anyway.
- 12 I don't have space under my sink for the container and a garbage can.
- 13 We tried this for two weeks and had so many fruit flies we abandoned the effort. We have seen much better food composting containers that include a filter and contain the odor and fruit flies. We emptied the container daily.
- 14 Don't like the odors in the house
- 15 Don't want it sitting on my counter.
- 16 We do not have room to place the kitchen compost pail.
- 17 Can't be bothered.
- 18 no/minimal foodwaste
- 19 I don't cook very much
- 20 Our scraps are minimal
- 21 Gardener comes on Wednesday and my pickup is Thursday. Not enough time to do it properly.
- 22 I don't waste food.
- 23 Have less than 1 pound food waste per week
- 24 Have not heard about it but would like to
- 25 It gives me something else to wash.
- 26 No yard: ergo no yardwaste cart: no place for cart