

Solid Waste Management Options Committee Public Meeting

October 29, 2008



Agenda

- ▶ Introduction and Overview
 - Goals and Objectives of SWMOC
 - Progress to Date
 - Key Findings
 - What's Next?
- ▶ Questions and Comments

Goals and Objectives of SWMOC

Who is SWMOC?

- ▶ Solid Waste Management Options Committee
 - A town committee appointed by the Selectmen
 - Comprised of volunteer residents from the Town
 - Interested in learning more about the options
 - No preconceived solutions or answers
- ▶ Created as part of an agreement at Town Meeting '06
 - By vote at TM, the Selectmen agreed to create a committee to investigate solid waste options

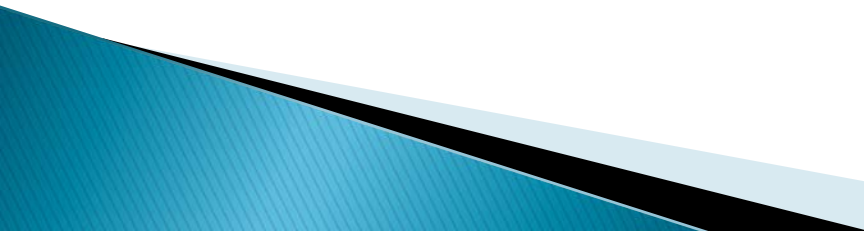
Mission Statement

“Provide a mechanism for the Board to be advised on options for Town residents in making solid waste disposal decisions. This new Committee will gather, study and evaluate information that will help the Board determine if an enhanced menu of solid waste disposal options can be created”

Mission Statement (cont.)

- ▶ Any proposals must meet the following criteria:
 - The Transfer Station will remain as a stand alone, self-supporting entity providing all the same services as it does today
 - All existing options remain in place and available to any resident
 - The ongoing cost of any proposed option would not be funded by the property tax.

Mission Statement (cont.)

- ▶ The end result of SWMOC is a report to the Selectmen containing “conclusions and recommendations.”
 - ▶ SWMOC has no authority to make decisions, only recommendations
 - ▶ The Selectmen will make any decisions about recommendations
 - ▶ Very likely any proposed program would have to be approved by Town Meeting
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Progress To Date

Survey of Similar Towns

- ▶ **Goal**

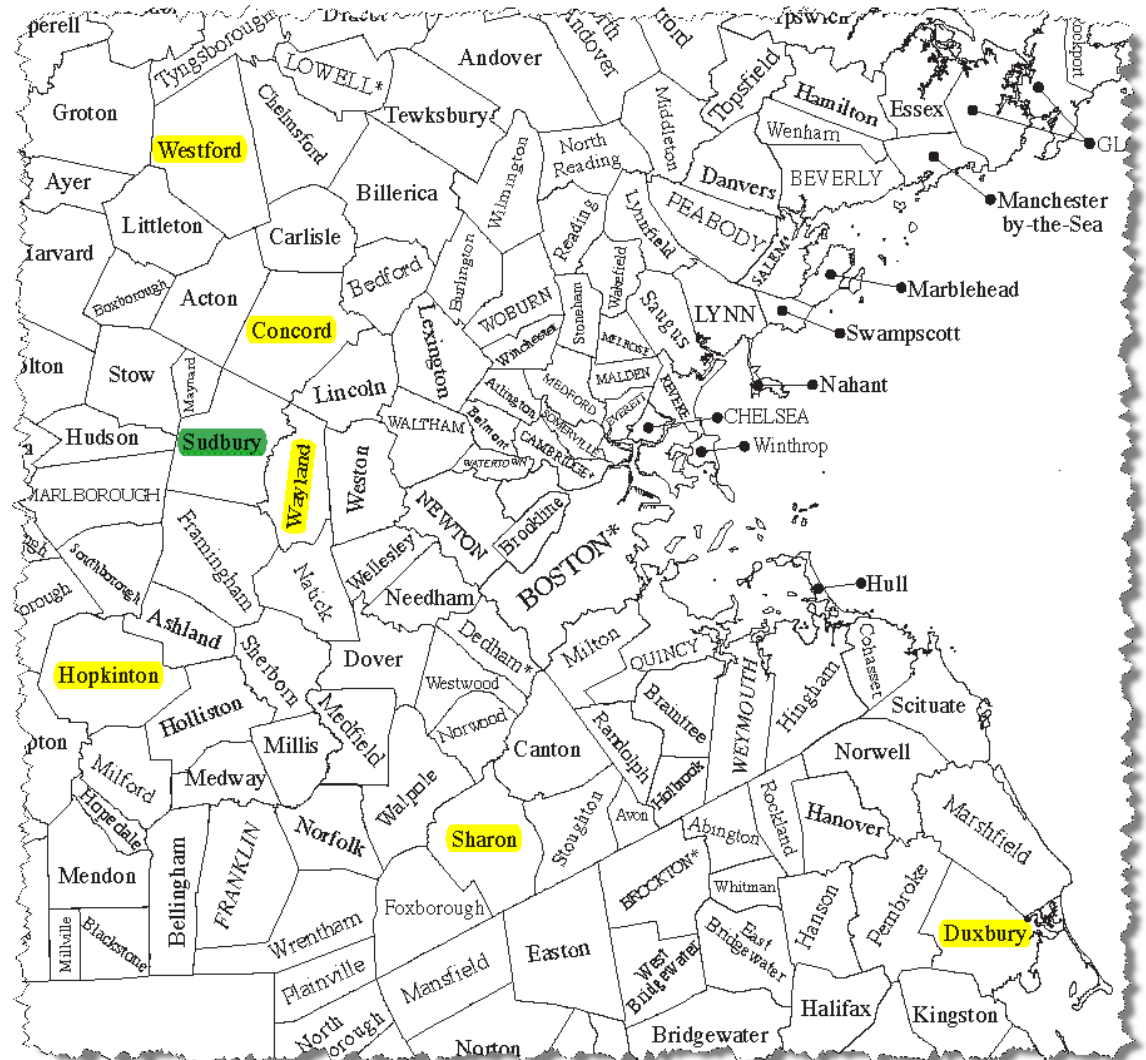
- Compare the solid waste practices of towns with similar demographics to Sudbury

- ▶ **Outcomes**

- Understand available options and success of those
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Surveyed Towns

- ▶ Sharon
- ▶ Westford
- ▶ Duxbury
- ▶ Concord
- ▶ Hopkinton
- ▶ Wayland



Similar Town Findings

▶ Sharon

- Single town–contracted hauler for *all* residents

▶ Westford

- Single town–contracted hauler for *all* residents

▶ Duxbury

- Town–operated Transfer Station
- Independent 3rd party haulers

▶ Concord

- Town–run trash / recycling using PAYT bags/stickers

▶ Hopkinton

- Single town–contracted hauler for all residents
- In tax base

▶ Wayland

- Town–operated Transfer Station
- Independent 3rd party haulers

Interviews with Waste Haulers


▶ Goal

- Understand what is available to residents today
- Understand what is possible
 - Including new technological advances in collection and recycling

▶ Outcome

- Interview existing waste haulers in town
 - Waste Management
 - Allied Waste
 - Mr. Trashman
 - BP Trucking

Interview Findings


- ▶ Single-stream recycling
 - Improves convenience for resident by not requiring separation of recyclables
 - Increases recycling rates
 - ▶ Automated collection
 - Can potentially reduce costs of collection
 - ▶ Decreased costs for collection
 - If we band together, we can negotiate better rates than separately
 - The savings can be significant
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Town Resident Survey

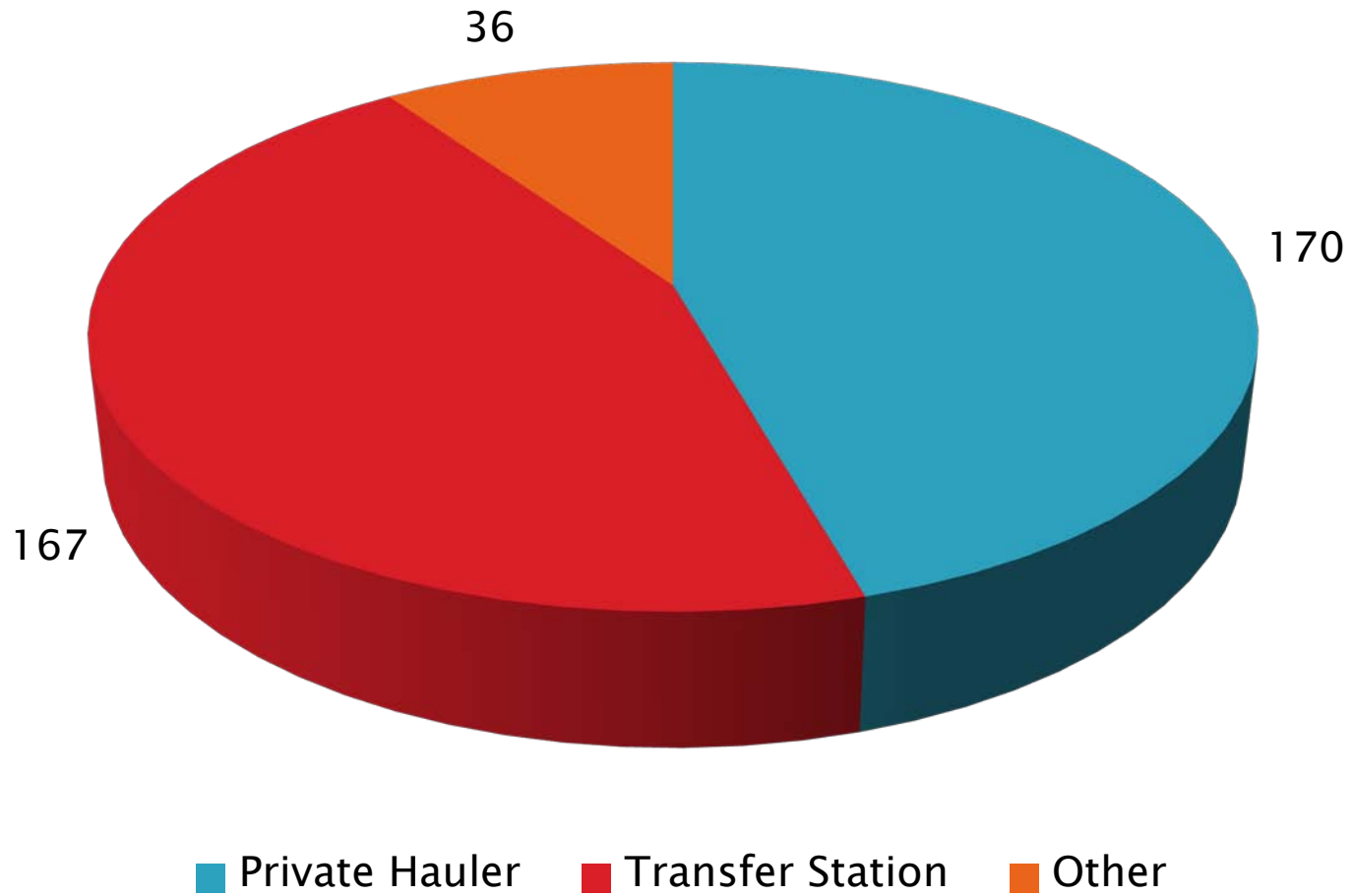
▶ Goal

- Understand the current options being used by residents
- Look residents' satisfaction with their current options
- Understand what residents want in a solution

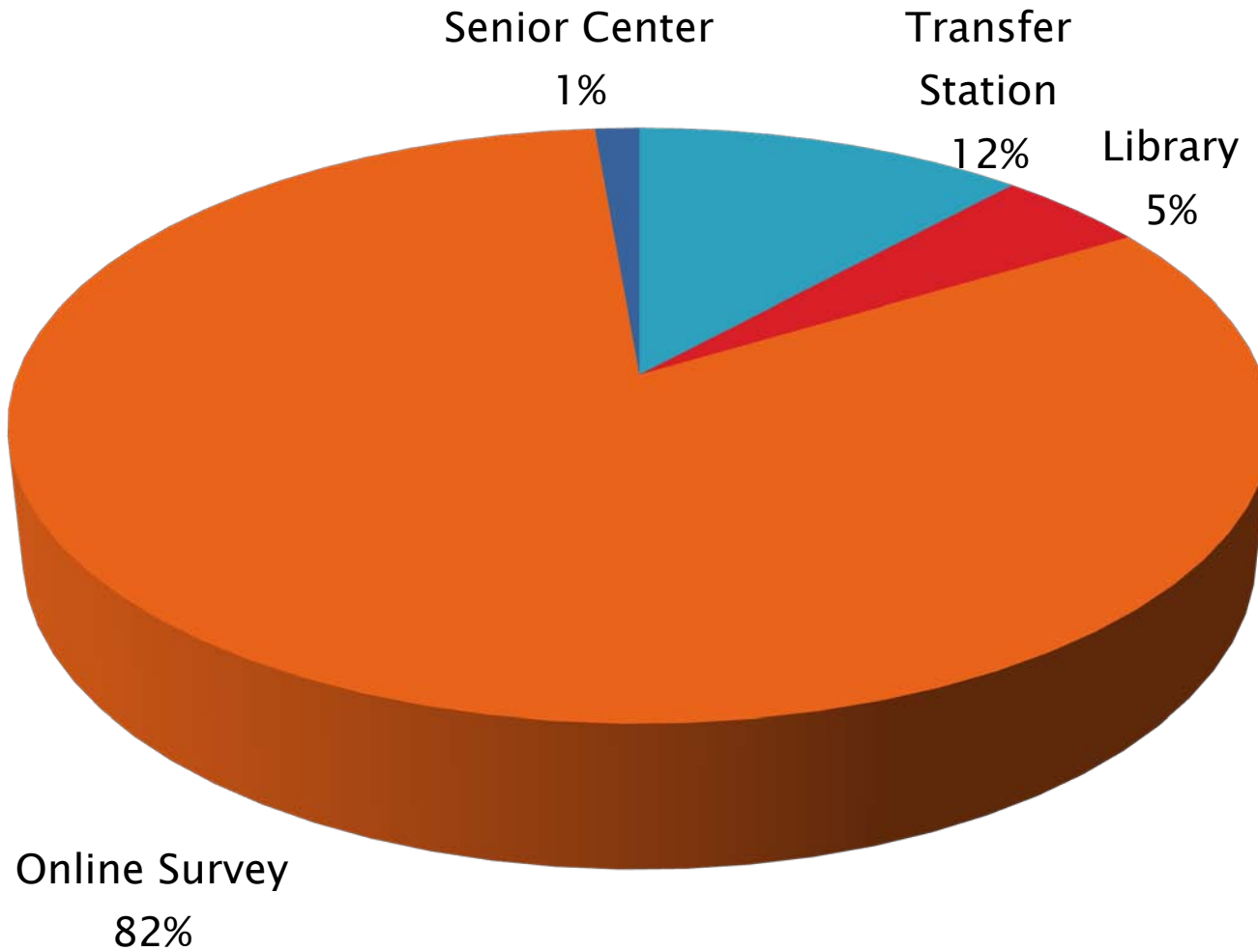
▶ Outcomes

- Town-wide survey
 - Distributed both electronically and via paper
 - Used a number of different distribution mechanisms
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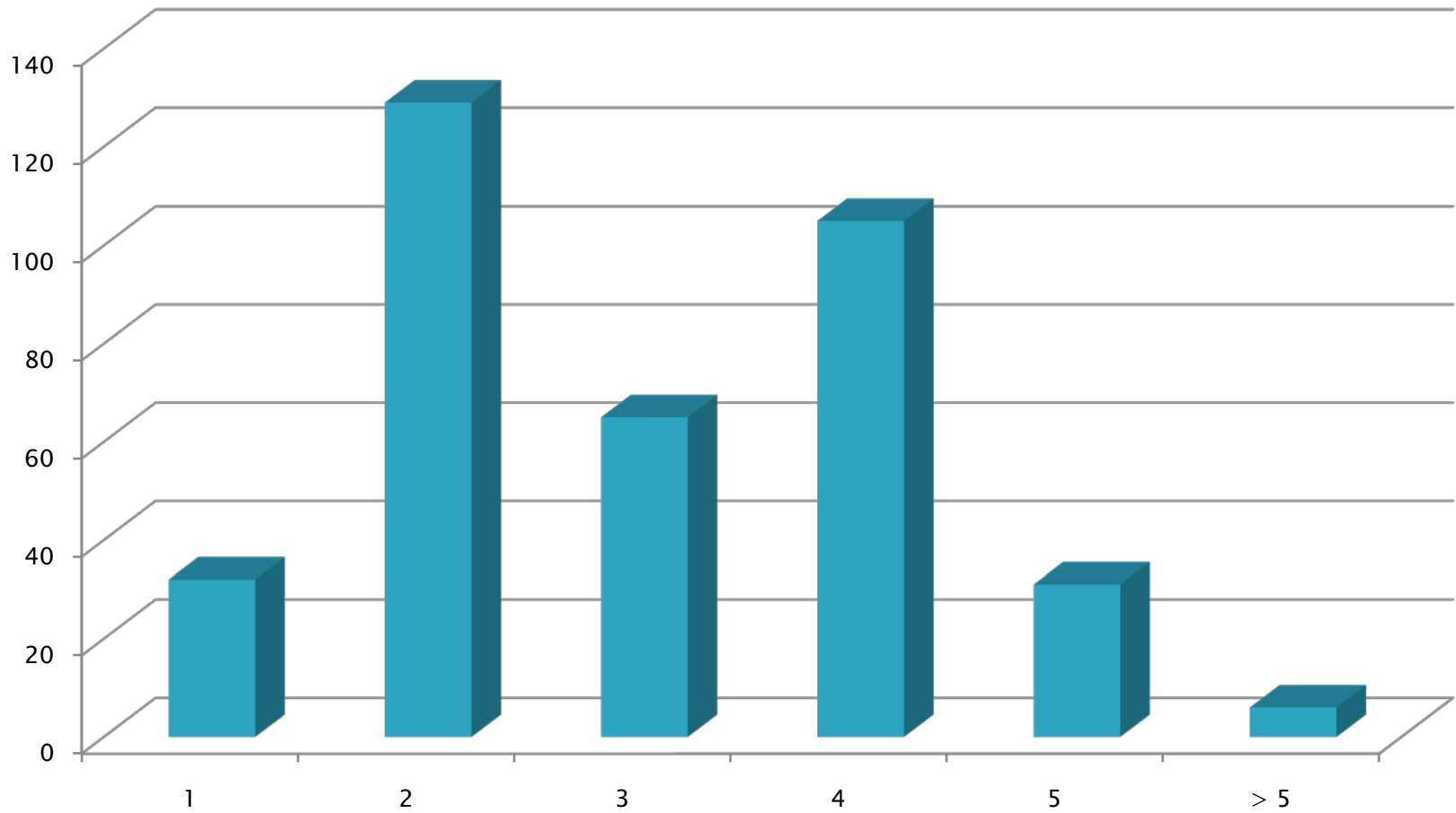
Reponses



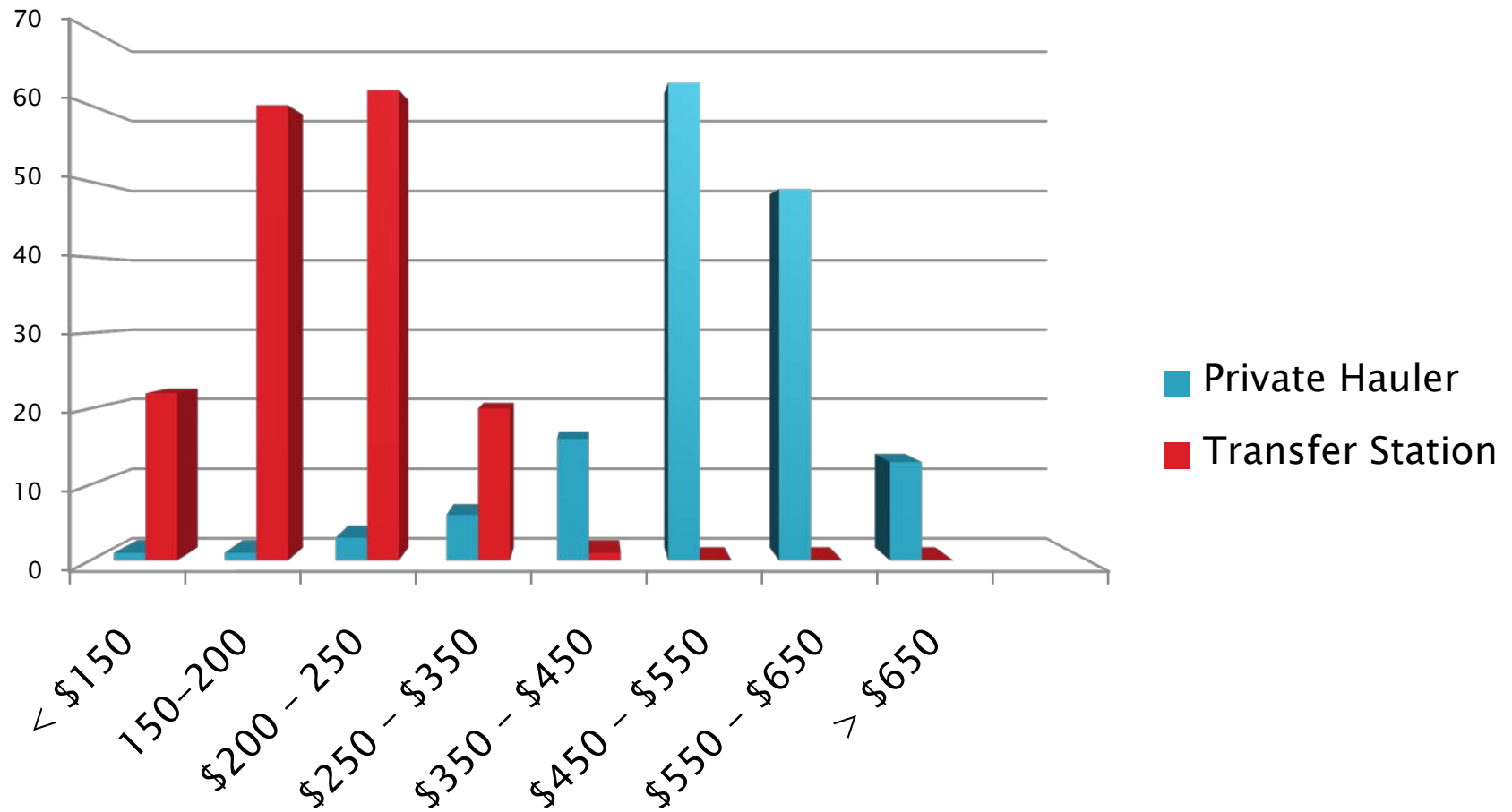
Response Sources



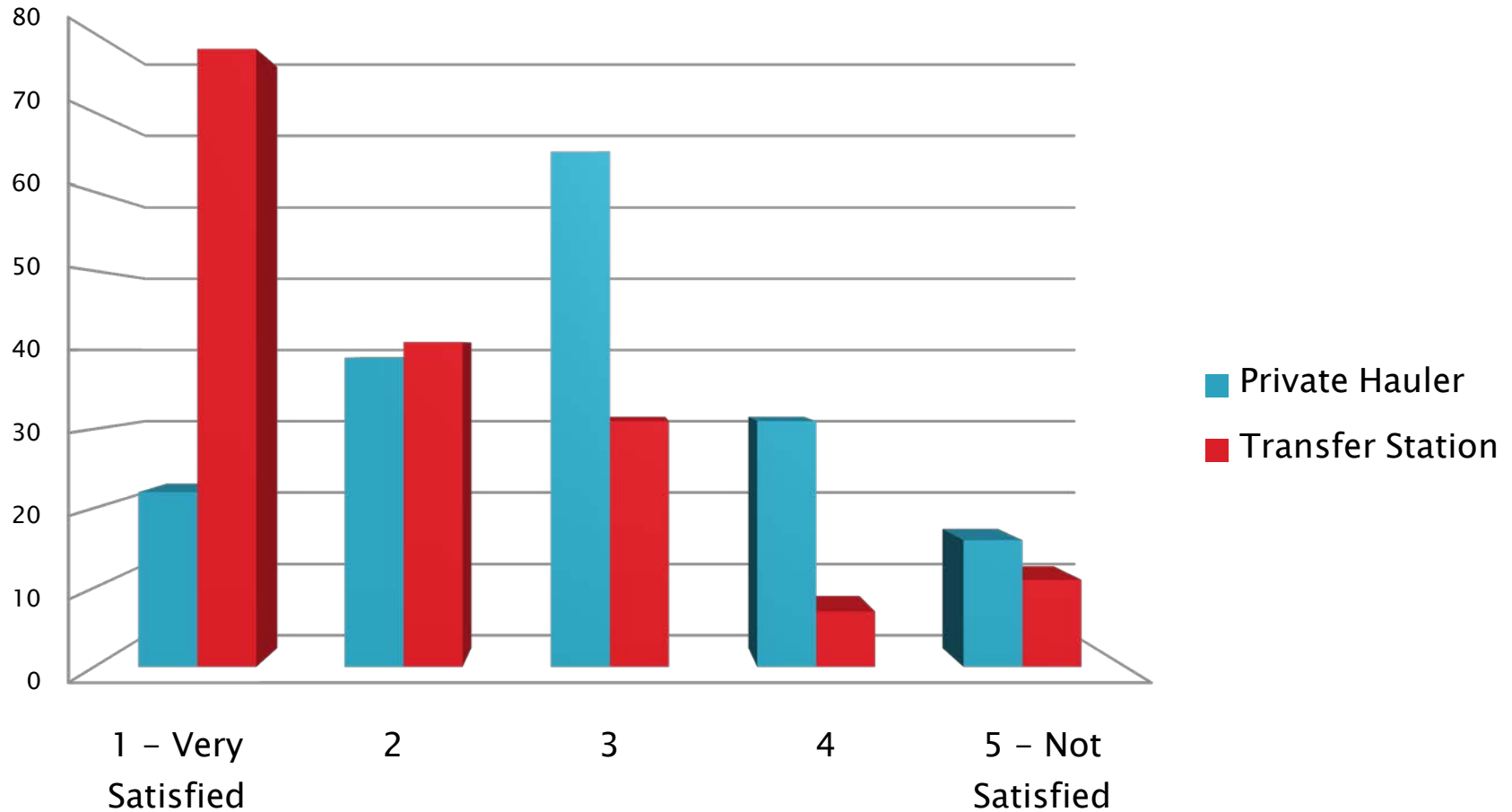
Household Size



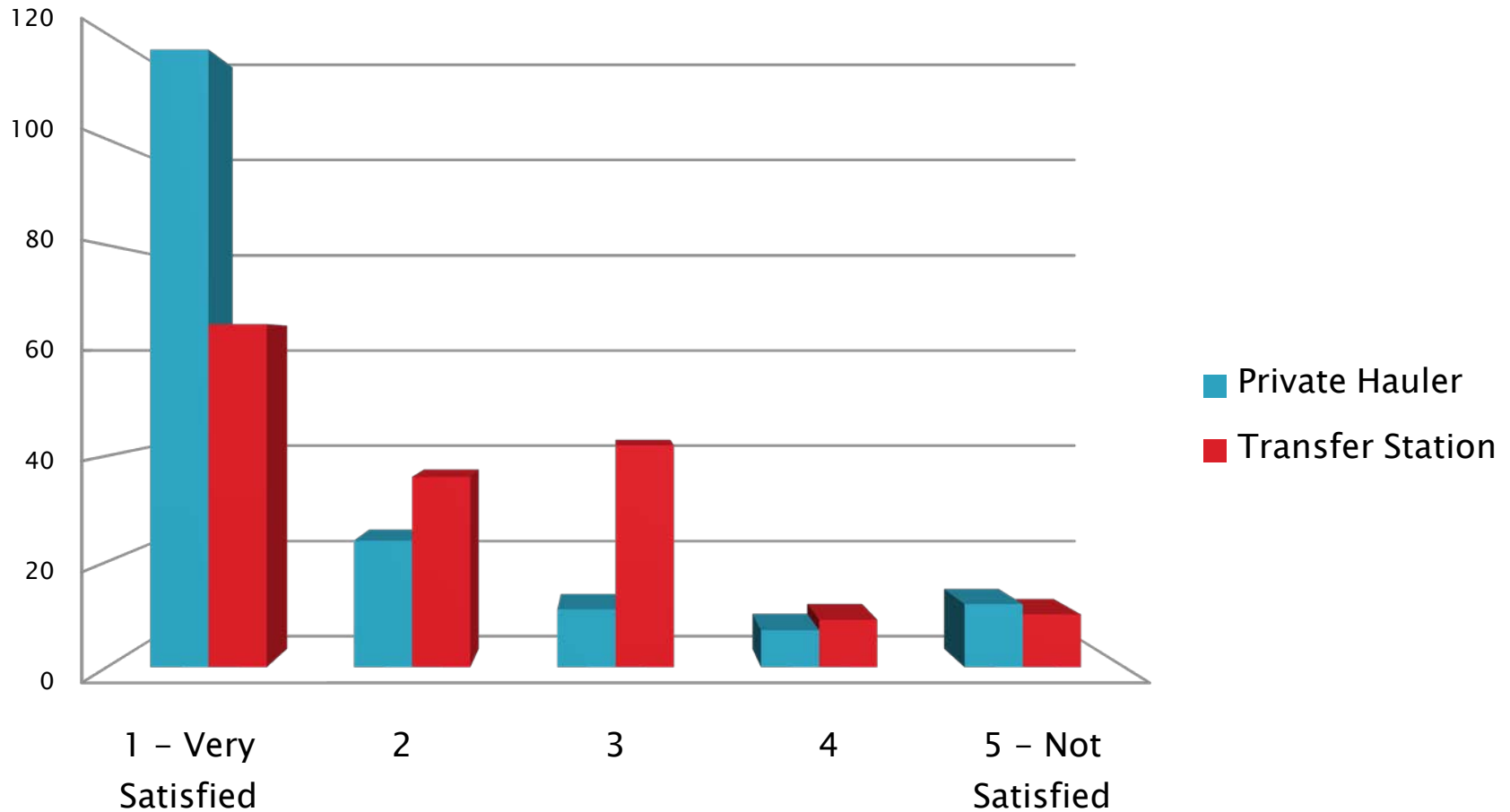
Annual Cost



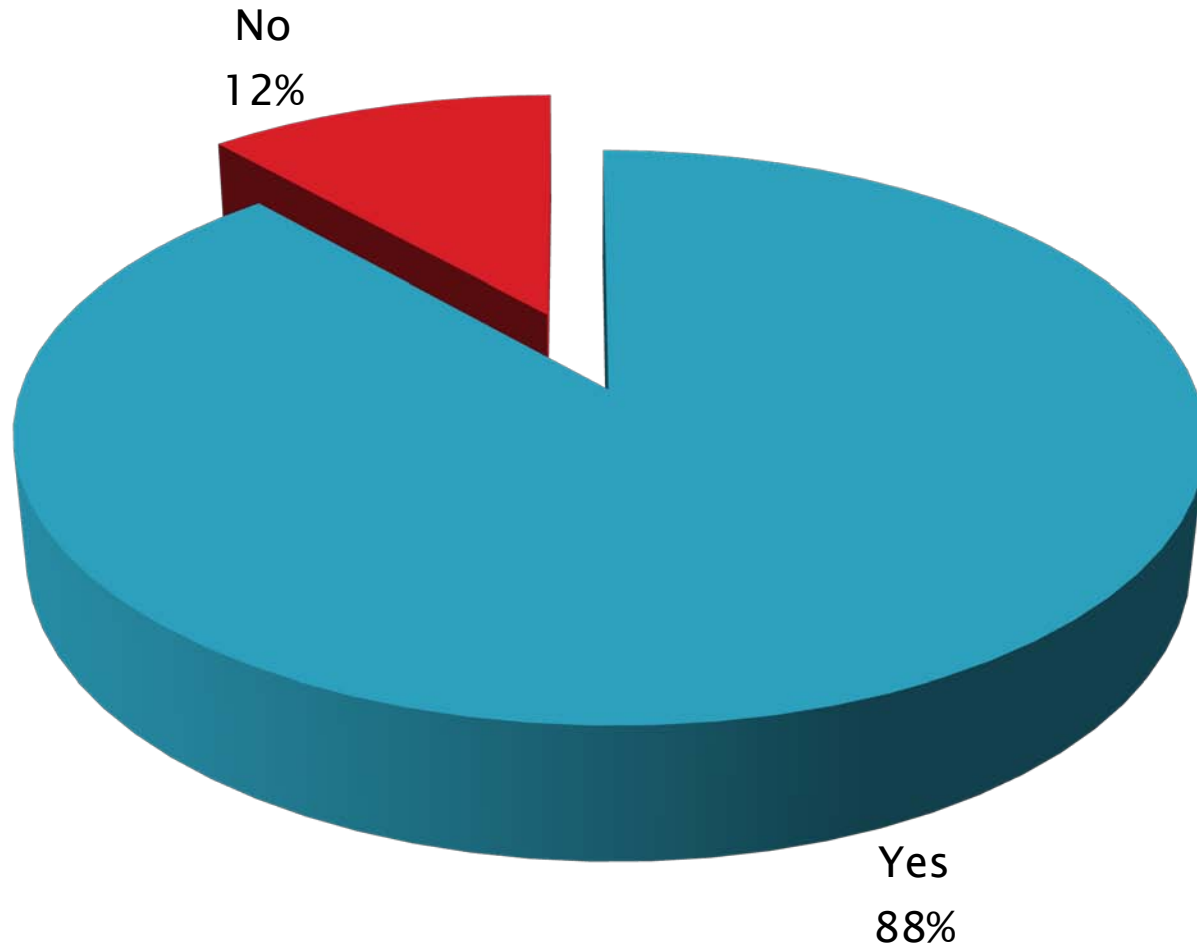
Satisfaction on Cost



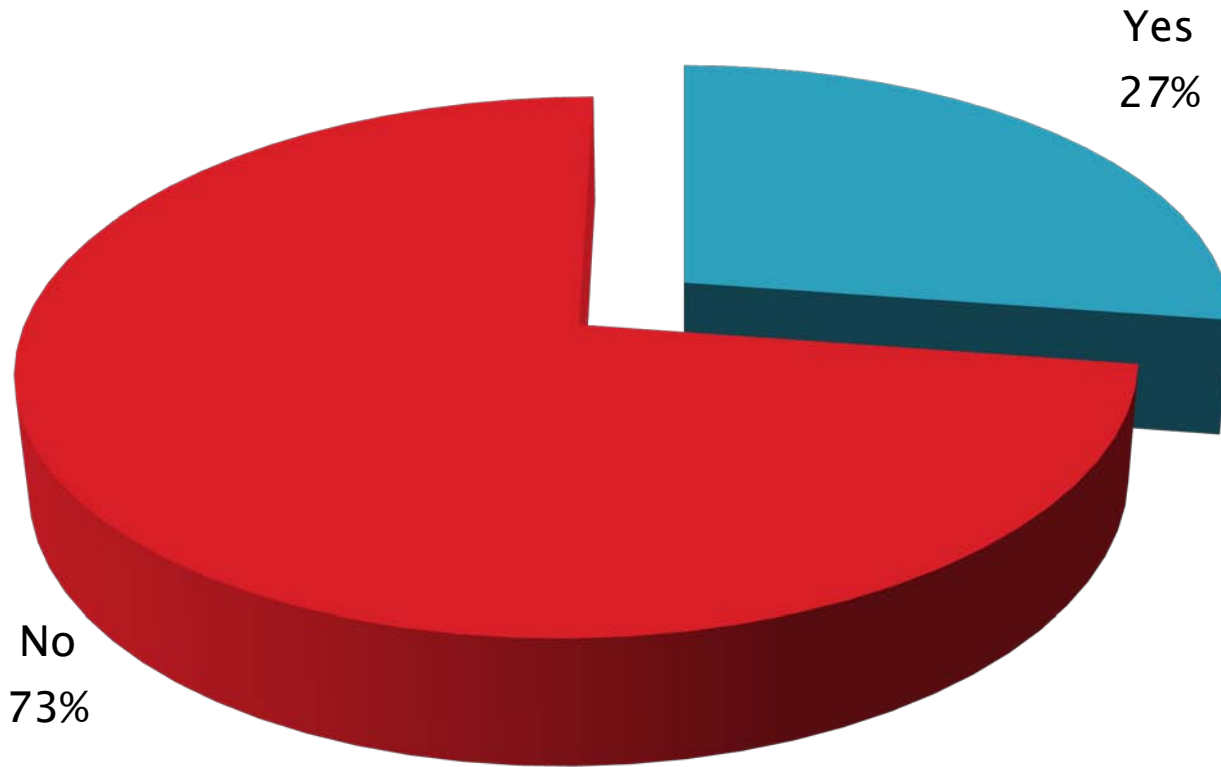
Satisfaction on Convenience



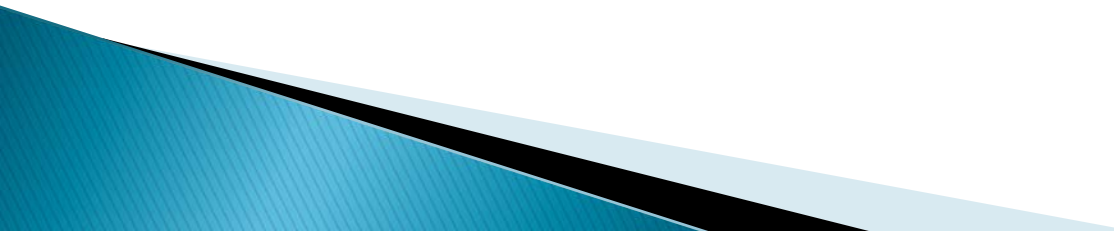
Would You Participate (Private Hauler Users Only)



Would You Participate (Transfer Station Users Only)



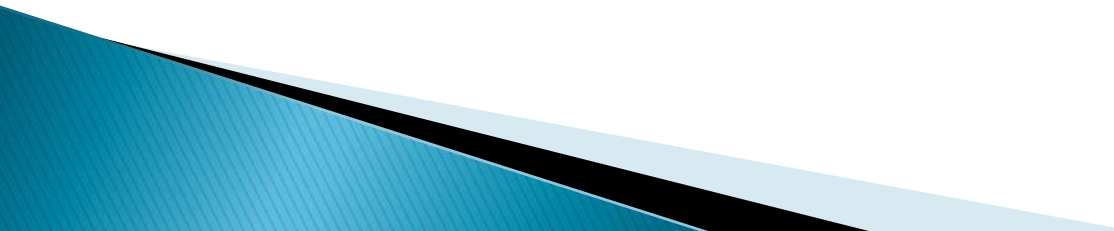
Summary of Comments

- ▶ Hazardous waste collection is a valuable service appreciated by residents
 - ▶ Wheeled totes are important for curbside collection
 - ▶ Residents question the recycling practices of haulers
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Key Findings



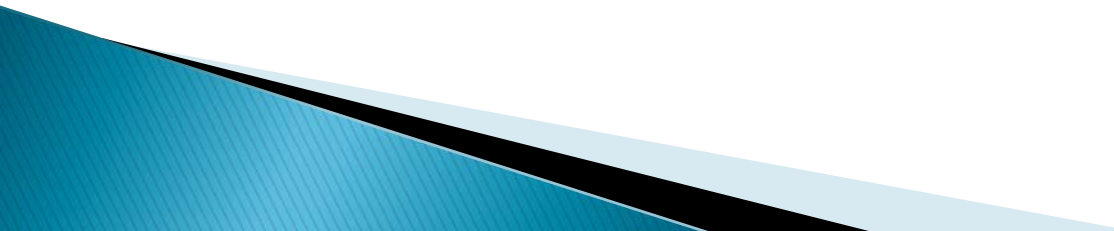
The 4 Cs

- ▶ **Cost**
 - How much does it cost a resident for trash disposal and recycling?
 - ▶ **Convenience**
 - How convenient is the option?
 - ▶ **Conservation**
 - How does the option increase recycling?
 - ▶ **Community**
 - How does the option affect our sense of community?
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There are options available

- ▶ Single-stream recycling
 - Improves convenience for resident by not requiring separation of recyclables
 - Increases recycling rates
- ▶ Automated collection
 - Can potentially reduce costs of collection
- ▶ Decreased costs for collection
 - If we band together, we can negotiate better rates than separately
 - The savings *can* be significant

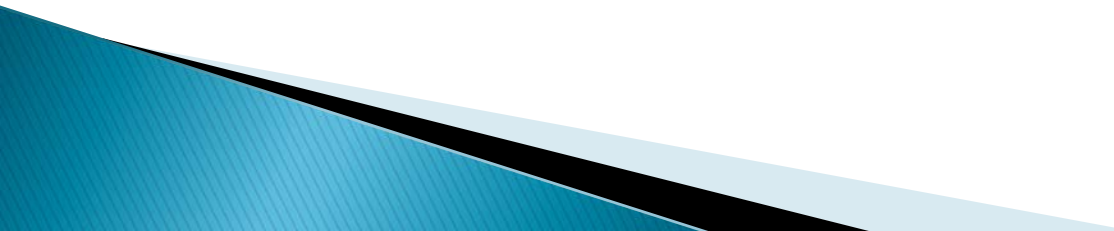
Household Participation is Key

- ▶ It *is* possible to find a town wide curbside option that offers *significant* savings compared to existing private hauler rates
 - ▶ Participation thresholds must be met
 - If more than 70% of households participate, there are significant savings
 - If less than 60% of households participate, this option isn't financially viable
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What's Next?



Where do we go from here?

- ▶ Solicit feedback from the public
 - ▶ Prepare a report for the Selectmen with our recommendations
 - ▶ Any substantive changes would have to be approved at Town Meeting
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Questions & Comments



Thank You!

- ▶ If you have any additional comments, please send them to:

swmoc@sudbury.ma.us