

Survey on Recycling Services, Barre Town

1. What is the approximate furthest distance you consider convenient to drop off household recycling once a week? *Mark one.*

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----|------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | 3 miles | 54% | <u>TOTAL RESPONSES FOR Q</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> | 6 miles | 33% | 258 |
| <input type="radio"/> | 10 miles | 9% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | Other: | 3% | |

2. Is a household recycling drop-off service located a convenient distance from where you live?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | Yes | 81% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | No | 12% | 260 |
| <input type="radio"/> | I don't know | 7% | |

3. Is an electronics recycling drop-off service (for televisions, computers, keyboards etc.) located a convenient distance from where you live?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | Yes | 62% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | No | 17% | 257 |
| <input type="radio"/> | I don't know | 21% | |

4. Is a bottle and can redemption service located a convenient distance from where you live?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | Yes | 96% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | No | 3% | 257 |
| <input type="radio"/> | I don't know | 1% | |

5. You can currently drop off household hazardous waste, like cleaners and used motor oil, twice a year within the Barre-Montpelier area.

Would you prefer this service were available:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| <input type="radio"/> | At the current frequency | 22% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | Twice a year in Barre Town | 19% | 255 |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | Quarterly in Barre Town | 33% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | Monthly in Barre Town | 22% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | Weekly in Barre Town | 3% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | Other: | 2% | |

6. In 2020, it will be illegal in Vermont to throw food scraps into the trash. Would you use the following options? *Check yes or no for each option.*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Yes | No | | <u>YES</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bring to drop-off service | 57% 183 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Arrange for pick-up service | 56% 175 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Compost at home | 81% 211 |

Over →

7. In Vermont, some materials are only recyclable for a fee. Are you willing to recycle the following materials for a fee? *Check yes or no for each material.*

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Yes | No | | <u>YES</u> | <u>TOTAL RESPONSES FOR Q</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Home remodeling waste | 71% | 218 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tires | 79% | 223 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bulk metal (e.g. lawn mowers) | 68% | 217 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mattresses | 76% | 217 |

8. Think about the next time you'll need to dispose of any of the materials in the previous question. What is the farthest you'd be willing to drive to drop off it off for recycling? *Mark one.*

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | 6 miles | 64% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | 15 miles | 31% | 231 |
| <input type="radio"/> | 30 miles | 1% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | 45 miles | 0% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | 60 miles | 0% | |
| <input type="radio"/> | Other: | 4% | |

9. How much of your waste do you recycle?

- As much as possible
- Not as much as I could
- ↳ *If not as much as you could, why not? Check yes or no for each.*

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Yes | No | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I don't produce much waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | It's not convenient to sort |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | It's not convenient to store recycling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I don't know where to bring recycling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I don't know enough about what can be recycled |
| | | ↳ <i>If not know enough, would you like to:</i> |

POORLY WORDED OPTIONS
UNRELIABLE RESPONSES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Yes | No | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Receive a flyer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Visit a website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Call a Hotline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Talk to someone at a drop-off center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attend a workshop |

10. Please share any other comments you have about recycling services.

Name (optional): _____

Thank you for completing this survey!

Open-ended responses

Question 1. **What is the approximate furthest distance you consider convenient to drop off household recycling once a week?**

Other responses:

- 1 mile: 3 responses
- 5 mi: 1 response
- [pickup]: 5 responses

Question 8: **Think about the next time you'll need to dispose of any of the materials in the previous question. What is the farthest you'd be willing to drive to drop off it off for recycling? Mark one.**

- Home: 1 response
- 1 mile: 2 responses
- 2 miles: 2 responses
- 3 miles: 1 response
- 8 miles: 1 response
- Would be hard to do: 1 response
- [marked but no writing]: 1 response

Question 10. **Please share any other comments you have about recycling services.** [Categories by staff after the fact.]

Concerns and comments:

1. Concerned that the cost of recycling and trash drop off has led to more illegal dumping
2. Disposal of food scraps currently health hazard
3. Unrealistic to expect 100% recycling unless everything is 0 sort
4. Lower fees=more usage

Want more aggressive measures:

5. Wishes recycling center to be open 4 days and take everything
6. We need to stop using plastic
7. Would love to see producers/distributors take back their recycles. Better enforcement of restaurants throwing away and not recycling
8. Would rather recycle anything than live near a land fill or incinerator
9. Zero sort!
10. S/B zero sort

Want more composting info:

11. Need educational material on composting prior to implementation
12. Need composting info
13. More info on composting. Composting discounts? Tax benefits?

Other:

14. Always recycle!
15. Good the way its run now
16. Thanks for the help
17. Thanks for doing this

Staff Comments

1. **Survey administration:** The paper survey (looked like the first page, without anything in green or red) was made available on general election day outside the exit from the Barre Town polling station beginning at 7:10am and ending at 1:30pm when staff ran out of surveys. The table was staffed between 7am-10:30am, and 11:30am-1:30pm by the Assistant Town Manager. Weather was clear, calm and between 50-60°F. The Assistant Town Manager asked anyone who was exiting the polling place whether they would take a survey on recycling services. Some people slipped by while she was talking to someone.
2. **Survey population:** The target population was walk-in Barre Town voters at the general election on 11/21/16, which was 53.54% of the Town's total population. No attempt was made to count the number who did not agree to take the survey. In the morning most who refused said they needed to get to work. Those who refused mid-morning did not give any indication whether they were for or against recycling in general. Of those who did stop, a small handful indicated they were supportive of recycling, suggesting that survey takers may have been slightly disproportionately in favor of recycling.
3. **Counts:** We received back a total of 260 surveys completed or mostly completed surveys. 12 respondents did not respond to the back side of the survey.
4. **Findings**
 - a. **Recycling and redemption drop off is located conveniently.** The vast majority of respondents currently have a recycling drop-off service and bottle & can redemption service located a convenient distance from where they live by their own definition. (Qs 1,2,&4)
 - b. **Targeted outreach on recycling drop-off locations in Barre Town may be warranted, but more info is needed in order to target.** 7% of respondents don't know where a recycling drop-off service is located. For some unknown portion of these people, it could be because they have pick-up. In the worst-case scenario, ~409 Barre Town residents (7% of the registered voters, of which our survey was representative) are not recycling because they do not know where a recycling drop off service is located. Some of these could have been members of the same household. This is a high enough number to be of interest if they could be targeted, but not enough information was obtained about this population in order to target outreach to them. They could be newer residents. (Q2)
 - c. **More outreach regarding ARCC e-Waste service is needed:** Although the majority of respondents did think an e-waste recycling service was located a convenient distance from where they live, a significant percentage of respondents – over 20% - did not know where one was located. (Q3)
 - d. **HHW should be more frequent.** 77% of respondents preferred more frequent HHW collection. More (33%) were in favor of quarterly collection in Barre Town, though less frequent options were not far behind: the current frequency of twice in the Barre-Montpelier area was marked by 22% respondents, and twice a year in Barre Town by 19%. Another 22% marked more frequent - monthly. Very few people marked 'Weekly' or 'Other'; and no open-ended responses were written in. (Q5)

- e. **Most Barre Town residents would compost at home, and probably need education.** A large majority (over 80%) would compost at home when trashing food scraps becomes illegal. Anecdotally, unknown portion of these people already do. Three of 17 the open-ended comments to Q10 were about wanting more information about composting. (Q6)
- f. **Respondents were willing to recycle all listed additional materials for a fee if drop-off was 6-15 miles away.** The percentage willing to recycle home remodeling waste, tires, bulk metal like lawn mowers, and mattresses were all high. Most people selected the shortest distance option, but only 6 people wrote in a shorter distance, suggesting that 6-15 miles is reasonable. Notably, nobody responded that they'd be willing to drop it off at the Williston distance of 45 miles, though the response ratios might have been different if place names were included in the choices. (Q7&8)
- g. **No findings for question 9.** Response behavior to Q9 suggested that it was poorly worded and that results could not be reliably interpreted; 97% of people said they recycle as much as possible. Unfortunately this resulted in insufficient respondents regarding why they don't recycle as much as they could (18 responses) and how they would prefer to receive information (7 responses) to be reliably interpreted.