



City of Saskatoon

2025 Waste & Recycling Survey

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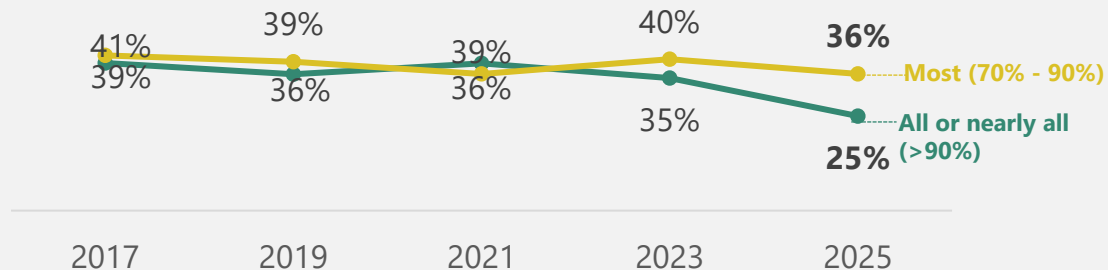


Executive Summary

Key Findings

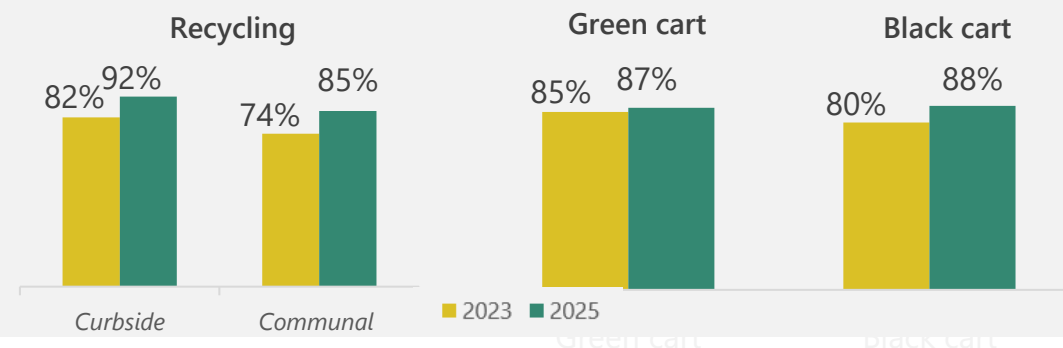
% Recycling Most or All Recyclable Items

Consistent recycling has been declining since 2023 with fewer residents recycling nearly all items.

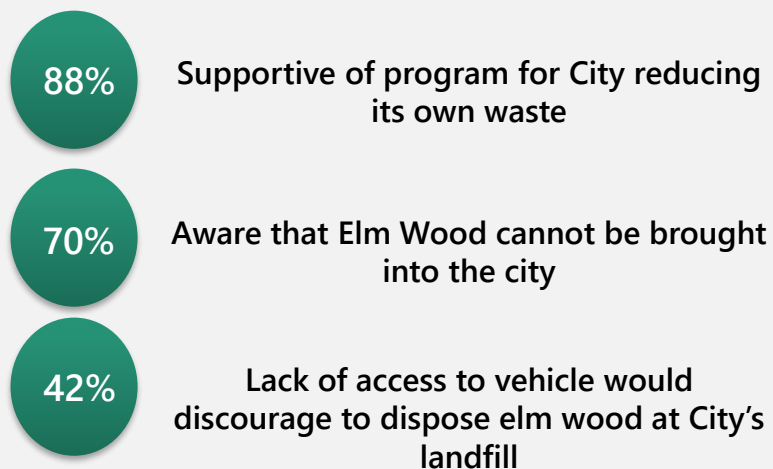


Satisfaction with overall quality of programs*

Resident satisfaction with overall program quality is higher in 2025 across all service types compared with 2023.



Residents Perceptions on New Programs



Resident Support for Potential City Waste Reduction Actions



*Netted satisfaction: Very + somewhat satisfied

Summary of Findings

Recycling Knowledge, Usage and Satisfaction



- While a majority of residents still report recycling most items (61%), the proportion of residents recycling all or nearly all items has declined further since 2023. Confusion about what goes where remains the leading barrier, especially among younger residents, renters, and low recyclers.
- Residents recycle common items correctly, but confusion remains for less familiar materials, leading to ongoing mis-sorting across waste streams.
- When recyclability is unclear, most residents default to the black cart, particularly among those with lower recycling participation, while more engaged recyclers are more likely to research first.
- Satisfaction with recycling services has improved since 2023, driven by strong perceptions of service quality and collection frequency.

Public Recycling Depots



- Most residents rarely or never use Saskatoon Landfill / Material Recovery Centre.
- Depot use remains infrequent, with fewer residents using the Landfill / Material Recovery Centre in 2025.
- Primary barriers: small amounts of material, disposal costs, travel time, and vehicle access.

Summary of Findings

Green Cart – Waste Diversion

- Green cart usage is well established among households with curbside service, with higher participation among older residents and homeowners.
- Motivations and barriers vary by usage level: high users are primarily driven by landfill diversion and environmental benefits, while lower users are more likely to cite deterrents such as odour, pests, cleanliness, and collection frequency.
- Awareness of compostable/certified compostable plastics remains inconsistent, contributing to uncertainty about what belongs in the green cart.



Garbage – Waste Diversion

- Satisfaction with garbage collection is high, driven by cart capacity and collection frequency.
- Customer service responsiveness is the weakest-performing service element.
- Overflowing carts are typically managed by storing waste until the next collection.
- Primary concerns cited about using green cart include odour specially among the young adult group followed by infrequent collection and cost.



Summary of Findings

Communication and New Programs

- Use of the Saskatoon Waste Wizard has increased; awareness gaps remain among renters and communal-service users.
- Residents most often recall education via mail-outs, social media, and outdoor advertising.
- Online waste information is generally considered easy to find, though not universally.
- Strong support exists for new services, including reuse/repair programs, bulky item collection, textile recycling, and food waste reduction.
- In public spaces and events, residents favour visible, practical measures over enforcement.
- Elm wood awareness is moderate; compliance barriers centre on cost, access, and process uncertainty.





Background & Methodology

Background

In August 2025, the City of Saskatoon (the City) contracted Inshtrix Research Inc. to conduct a quantitative study with its residents to understand waste and recycling program awareness, knowledge, motivations and behaviours.

Key Objectives include:

Waste and Recycling

- Assess resident awareness, understanding, and usage of City waste and recycling programs
- Measure current waste and recycling behaviours and service experience
- Identify key behavioural drivers and constraints influencing recycling and waste reduction

Organics

- Evaluate participation in and usage of organics diversion methods
- Assess perceptions of expanded organics services

Methodology

Mode: Online survey with Saskatoon residents.

Questionnaire: Similar studies were conducted in 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021 forming the basis of the 2025 questionnaire, with changes and additions incorporated to address current City research objectives.

Sample Source: Inshtrix SaskWatch Research® online consumer panel. Panel members randomly selected to participate in the research. Quotas were set by gender, age and Suburban Development Area (SDA) in an effort to achieve a representative sample of the population.

Field dates: In total, 1,003 Saskatoon residents participated in the study between Nov 11 – Dec 23, 2025, for an overall response rate of 16%.

Data Weighting: Given that the final demographic distribution varies somewhat from the initial quotas set, data have been weighted by gender and age to match the distribution of the Saskatoon population.

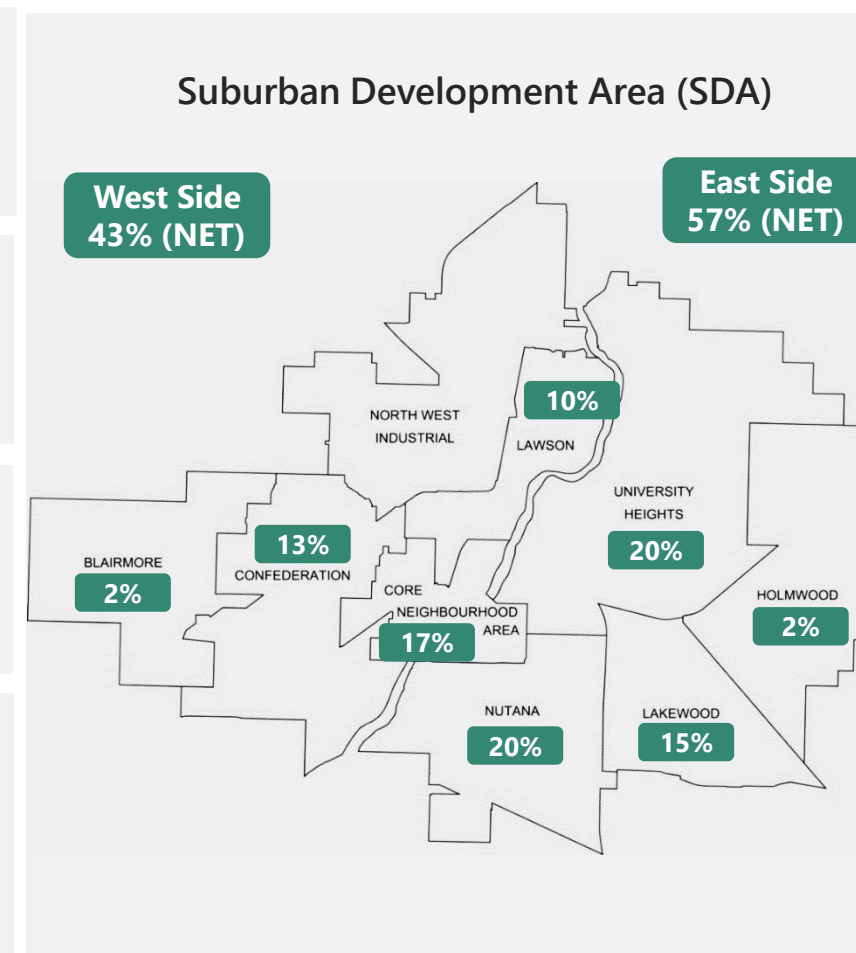
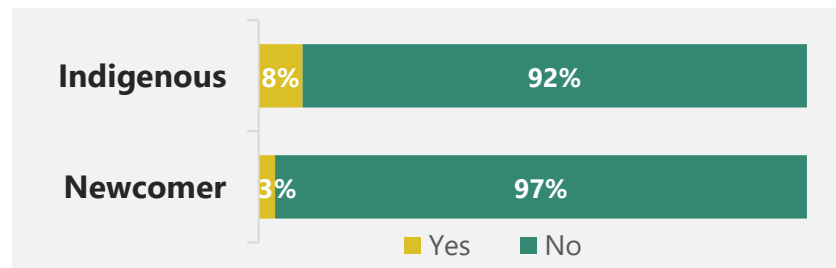
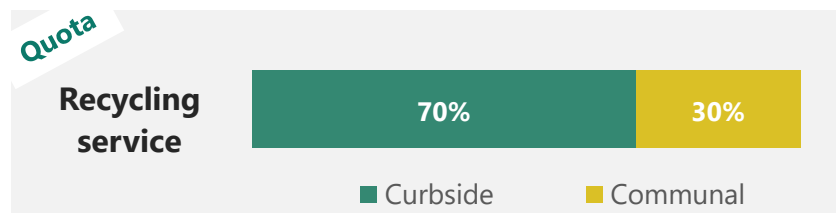
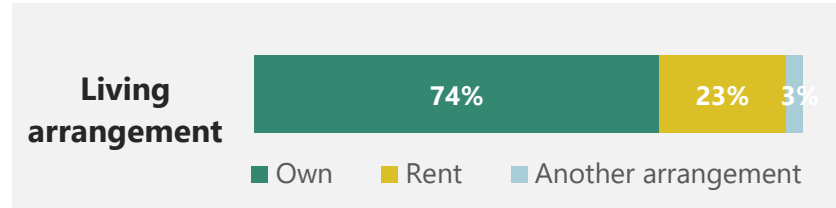
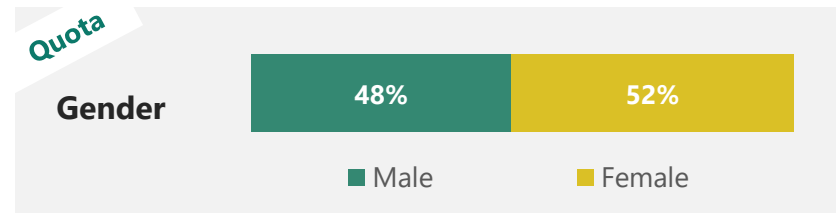
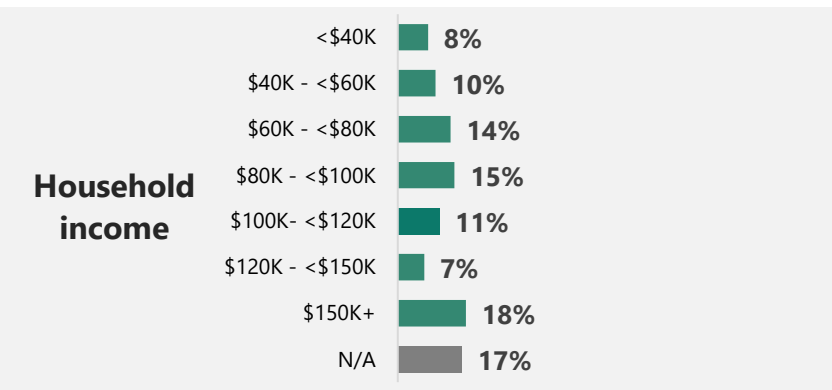
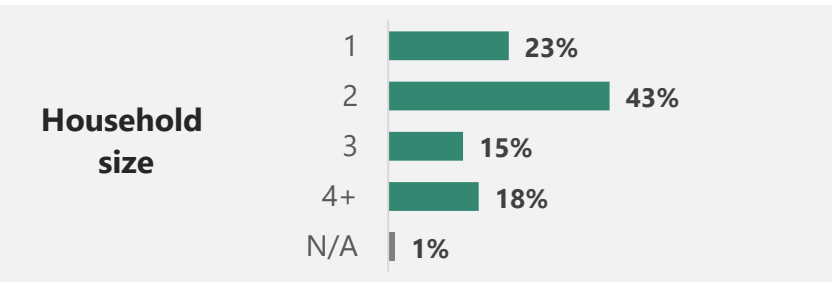
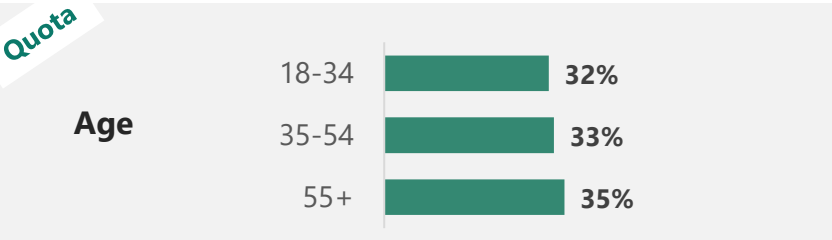
Reporting Notes

- Data have been rounded to zero decimal places; therefore, percentages may not add up precisely to 100% on some graphs.
- Open-ended questions have been themed and coded into categories. The percentages from individual codes could total more than 100%, as comments from each respondent could be relevant to more than one code.
- Questions that have multiple response options will result in percentages that could add up to more than 100%.
- Each survey question was analyzed by appropriate demographic variables, such as region, age, gender, etc. Significant differences have been highlighted in this report with a ▲ or ▼. A standard alpha value of less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant. This means there is a less than 5% chance that each difference marked with arrows is a false positive.
- Due to the fact that this study was completed online, margins of error are not applicable. This does not negatively impact the accuracy of results.
- Trend comparisons are provided where applicable. Questions introduced in this wave are labelled “New.” Questions that have been modified in wording or structure are labelled “Updated” and are not trended against previous waves to maintain data comparability.



Respondent Profile

Housing & Demographics



q46: How many people live in your home, including yourself? Base: All respondents, n=1003. q45: Do you rent or own your home? Base: All respondents, n=970; q1: In which of the following areas of Saskatoon do you live? All respondents, n=1003; q47: Indigenous people are those who identify themselves as First Nations, Métis, Non-status Indian, or Inuit. Do you self-declare as an Indigenous person under this definition? All respondents, n=1003; q48: Have you moved to Canada within the past five years? All respondents, n=1003. q3: Into which of the following age ranges do you fall? Base: All respondents, n=970; q44: Do you identify as...? Base: All respondents, n=970.



Study Results



Recycling Knowledge, Usage, & Satisfaction

Residents correctly recycle common items like paper and cans. Less familiar materials such as foil and plastic-lined paper are frequently placed in the garbage. Over half of residents also report recycling beverage containers through SARCAN.

City-Stream Household Disposal Methods

Most correctly placed



Recycling

	Blue recycling cart / communal recycling bin	Green organic waste cart	Black garbage collection cart or bin	A different method	Not applicable / I don't have this type of waste
Paper or cardboard products	95%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Cans, such as soup can or pet food tins	77%	1%	17%	4%	1%
Shredded paper in a bag	75%	3%	8%	2%	12%
Beverage containers	39%	0%	3%	58%*	1%
Aluminum foil, and foil containers or foil roasting pans	36%	0%	57%	4%	3%

Least correctly placed

Correct City-Stream Disposal Method

***Can be recycled at SARCAN.**

New q7. Where do you normally put the following items... In your... Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970

Many residents correctly dispose of garbage-only materials in the black cart; however, non-recyclable plastics (e.g., bags and containers), mixed materials, and Styrofoam are frequently misdirected to the blue cart; some residents also use SARCAN for disposal.

Household Disposal Methods



Garbage

Most correctly placed

Least correctly placed

	Black garbage collection cart or bin	Blue recycling cart / communal recycling bin	Green organic waste cart	A different method	Not applicable / I don't have this type of waste
Mixed material items	69%	23%	0%	4%	5%
Polycoat (plastic-lined) paper products	63%	30%	1%	2%	4%
Glossy or glittery paper	59%	29%	0%	3%	8%
Black-coloured plastics with or without a #1 to #7 and ♻️,	50%	40%	1%	4%	5%
Glass (lightbulbs, windows, or mirrors)	49%	9%	0%	30%	11%
Diapers, such as infant or adult	48%	0%	1%	1%	50%
Plastic containers with just a recycling symbol and no numbers	24%	66%	0%	7%	3%
Biodegradable bags	20%	15%	48%	5%	12%
Residential fire pit ash	12%	1%	15%	8%	64%

Correct City-Stream Disposal Method

New q7. Where do you normally put the following items... In your... Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970

Most residents correctly place organics in the green cart, while food-soiled paper and cooking fats/grease remain the most misunderstood and inconsistently sorted materials.

Household Disposal Methods – Curbside



Green cart

Most correctly placed

Least correctly placed

	Green organic waste cart	Black garbage collection cart or bin	Blue recycling cart / communal recycling bin	A different method	Not applicable / I don't have this type of waste
Yard waste or wood	94%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Vegetables and fruit	86%	10%	1%	4%	0%
Prepared food/leftovers	77%	19%	0%	2%	1%
Meat, seafood and dairy	72%	24%	1%	2%	2%
Food-soiled paper products	56%	32%	12%	0%	1%
Fats, cooking oils, and food grease	56%	30%	0%	9%	6%

Correct City-Stream Disposal Method

New q7. Where do you normally put the following items... In your... Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, 2025: n=705

Without access to a green cart, communal residents primarily dispose of organic materials in the black cart. In some instances, food-soiled paper products and biodegradable bags are misdirected to the blue recycling cart.

Household Disposal Methods – Communal



Green cart

	Green organic waste cart	Black garbage collection cart or bin	Blue recycling cart / communal recycling bin	A different method	Not applicable / I don't have this type of waste
Meat, seafood and dairy	0%	85%	2%	10%	4%
Prepared food/leftovers	0%	82%	2%	13%	3%
Food-soiled paper products	0%	77%	15%	7%	1%
Vegetables and fruit	0%	73%	2%	21%	4%
Biodegradable bags	0%	43%	22%	10%	25%
Yard waste or wood	0%	21%	3%	19%	57%

New q7. Where do you normally put the following items... In your... Base: Respondents who received communal service, 2025: n=265

Residents generally use alternative disposal methods for special items, though certain materials (clothing and construction materials) are more often misdirected to the black cart.

Household Disposal Methods

	 Special / Other	A different method	Black garbage collection cart or bin	Green organic waste cart	Blue recycling cart / communal recycling bin	Not applicable / I don't have this type of waste
Most correctly placed	Batteries*	75%	21%	0%	2%	3%
	Oil, paint, or paint products*	61%	18%	0%	1%	20%
	Clothing or other textiles***	47%	39%	1%	3%	10%
	Pressure filled containers or cans*	44%	20%	0%	3%	33%
	Scrap metal or tools*	41%	17%	0%	4%	39%
	Plastic or aerosol containers*	30%	54%	0%	7%	8%
	Large branches and tree stumps **	24%	3%	29%	1%	43%
	Plastic bags***	20%	52%	0%	22%	6%
	Renovation or construction materials*	19%	31%	0%	1%	49%
	Stretchy or Crinkly plastics***	16%	65%	0%	17%	2%
Least correctly placed	Styrofoam with or without a recycling symbol***	16%	60%	0%	19%	5%
	Soils, sand, and gravel*	15%	1%	27%	10%	48%
	Elm Wood such as branches, twigs, stumps*	13%	9%	22%	0%	56%

Batteries, Paint, Styrofoam, Plastic Bags, Stretchy/Crinkly plastics, and Styrofoam are accepted at SARCAN.

Correct City-Stream Disposal Method

*Accepted at City of Saskatoon MRC/Landfill (free or for a fee)

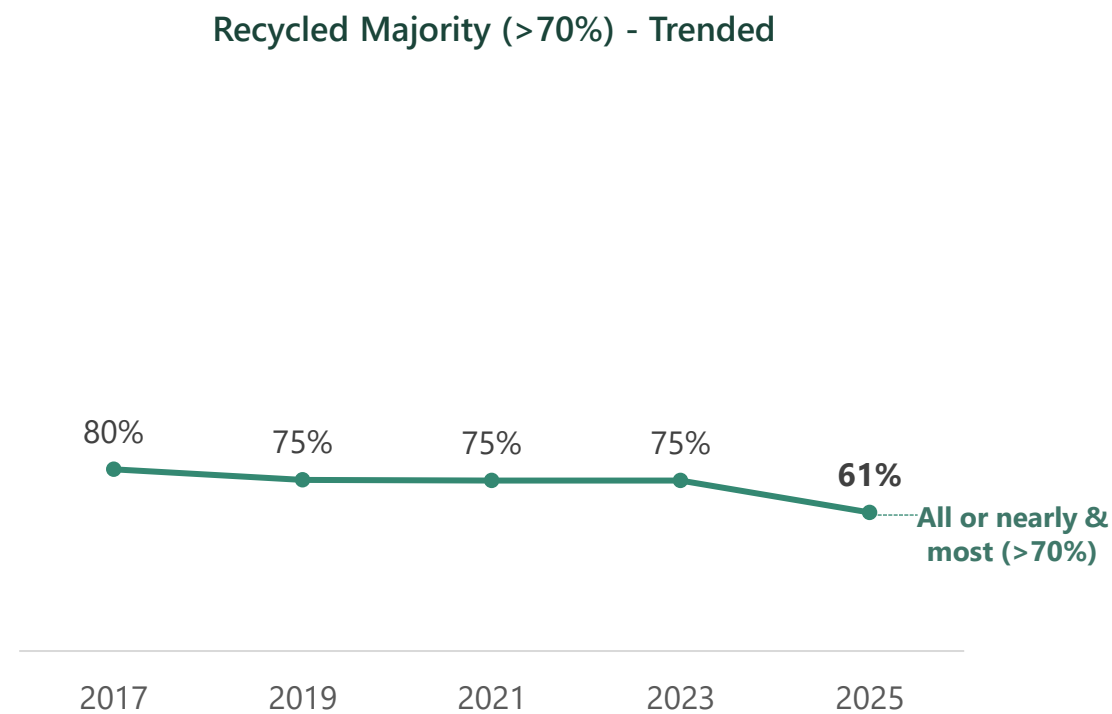
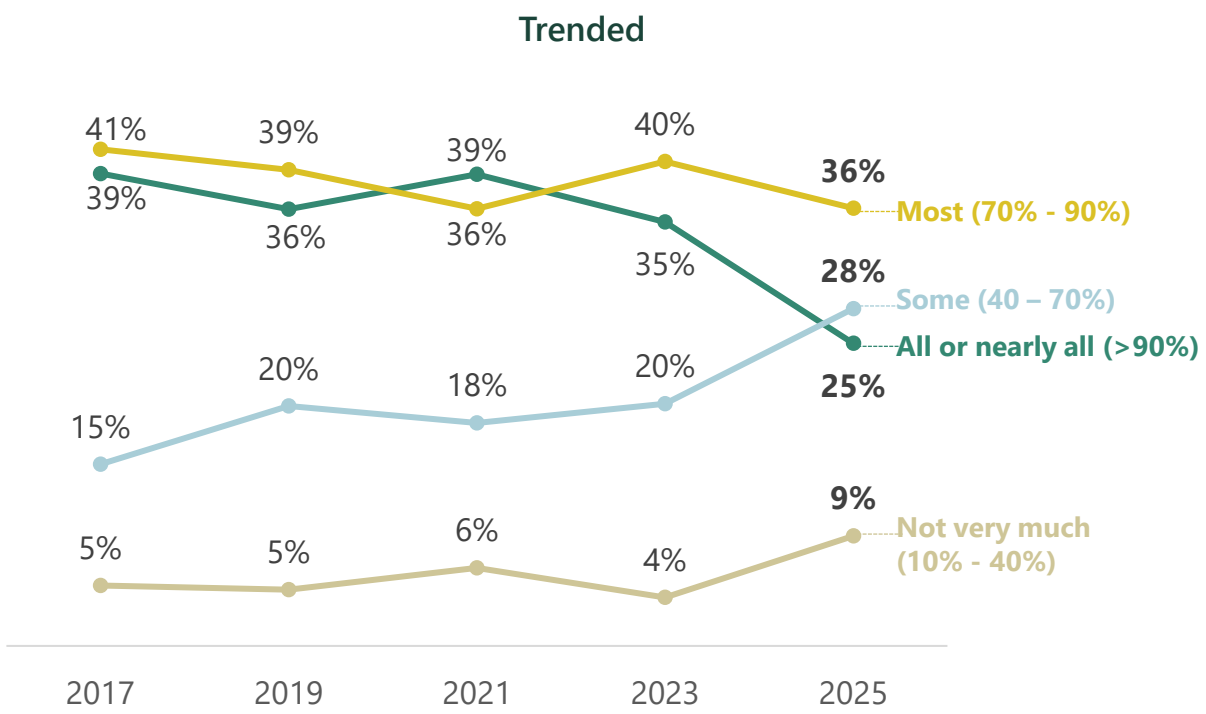
**Accepted at Saskatoon Compost Depot for free

***Accepted at various community locations for free

New q7. Where do you normally put the following items... In your... Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970

Overall, most residents continue to recycle most or all items. However, the share recycling all or nearly all items has declined since 2023, suggesting reduced consistency among the most engaged households.

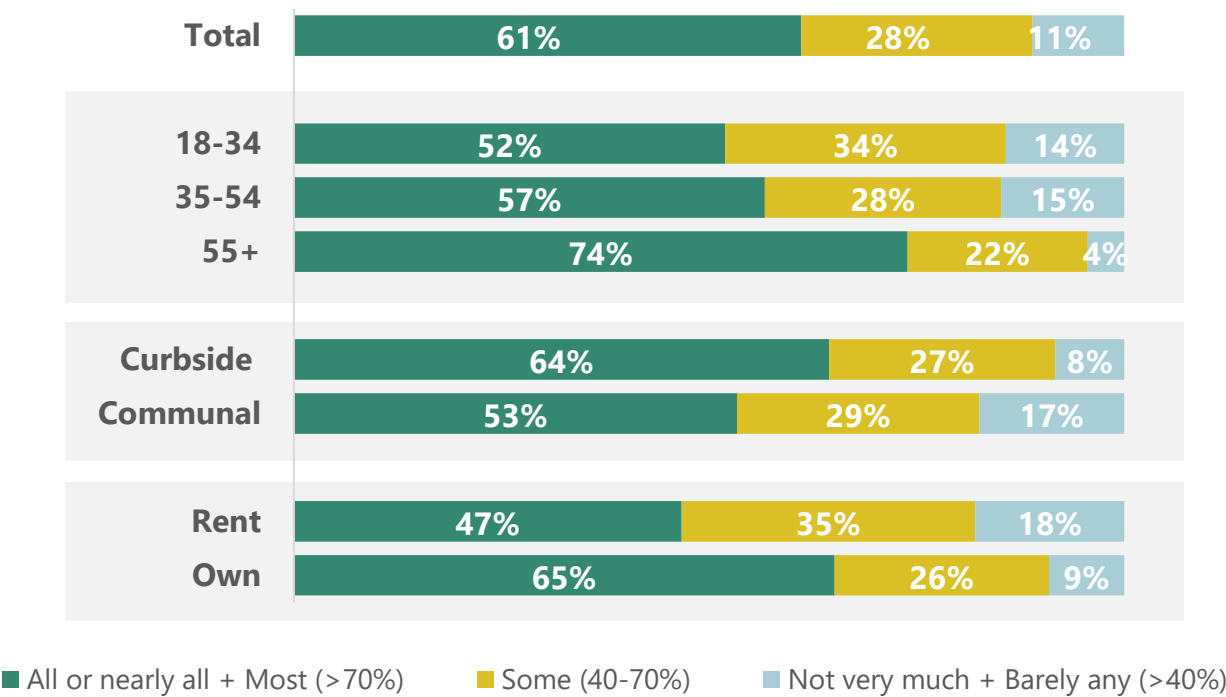
Self-Reported Recycling Participation Levels



q8. Broadly speaking, what proportion of your household's recyclable items do you recycle, either through your [blue recycling cart/communal recycling bin] or through other means? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970

Residents recycling through individual blue carts, homeowners, and those aged 55+ are most likely to recycle all or nearly all of their recyclable items.

Self-Reported Recycling Participation Levels by Demographics



q8. Broadly speaking, what proportion of your household's recyclable items do you recycle, either through your [blue recycling cart/communal recycling bin] or through other means? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970

When recyclability is unclear, residents typically default to the black cart. Communal service users are more likely to discard uncertain items, whereas curbside users are more inclined to research first.

How Residents Handle Items They Are Unsure Are Recyclable

By Recycling Services Received

		Curbside waste service	Communal waste service
Place the item the black cart/bin	60%	56%▼	68%▲
Research first before doing anything with the item	48%	50%▲	42%▼
Place the item in the blue cart/bin	11%	12%	9%
Take the item to a public or City Recycling Depot	7%	7%	6%
Use a drop-off recycling program	6%	6%	6%
Place the item in the green cart	1%	1%	0%
Other	1%	1%	2%
Nothing	1%	1%	2%
Not sure	1%	1%	1%

Updated q9. If you are unsure if an item is recyclable, do you normally... Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970.

When unsure about recyclability, low recyclers (<40%) are much more likely to discard items in the garbage, whereas medium and high recyclers are more likely to seek information first.

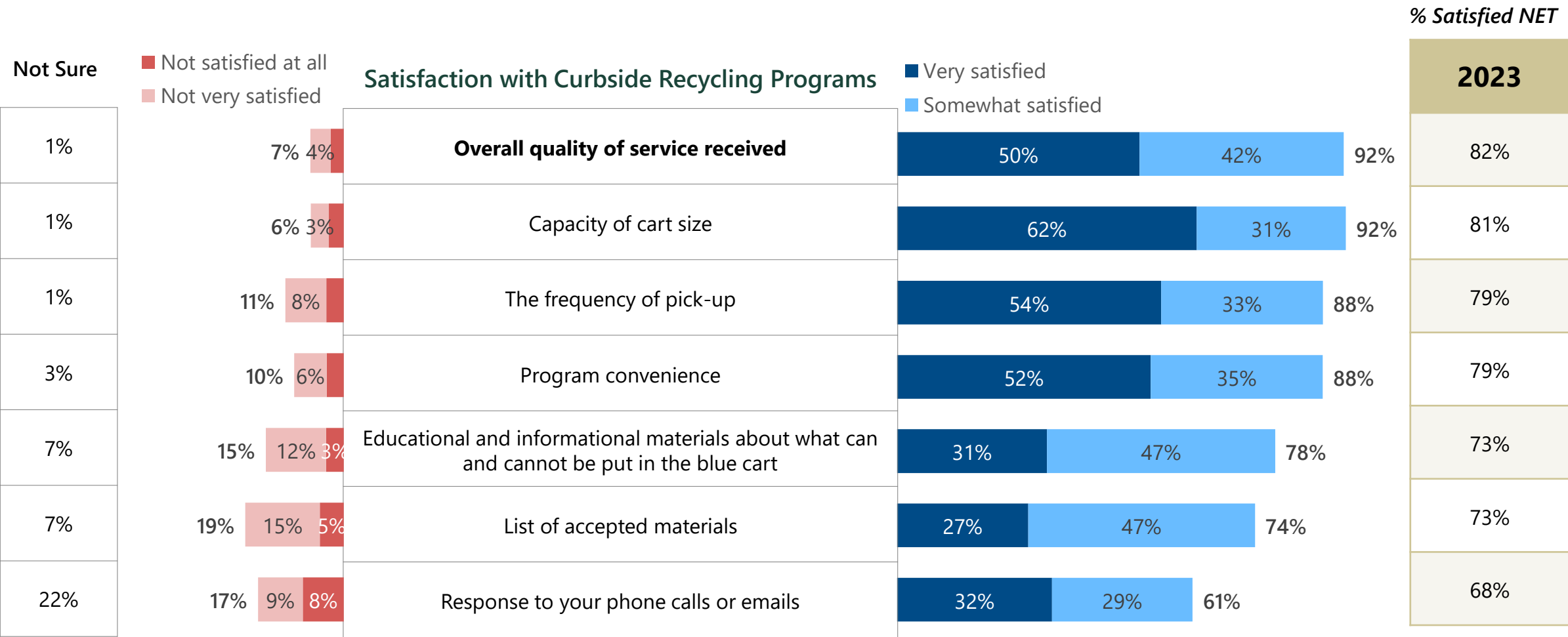
How Residents Handle Items They Are Unsure Are Recyclable, by Recycling Level

	Total n= 970	High (>70%) n= 599	Medium (40%- 70%) n= 266	Low (<40%) n= 105
Place the item the black cart/bin	 60%	 52%	 67%	 82%
Research first before doing anything with the item	 48%	 54%	 43%	 21%
Place the item in the blue cart/bin	 11%	 13%	 9%	 2%
Take the item to a public or City Recycling Depot	 7%	 9%	 3%	 3%
Use a drop-off recycling program	 6%	 8%	 5%	 1%
Place the item in the green cart	 1%	 1%	 1%	 1%
Other	 1%	 1%	 1%	 2%
Nothing	 1%	 1%	 0%	 3%
Not sure	 1%	 1%	 1%	 1%

Updated q9. If you are unsure if an item is recyclable, do you normally... Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970.

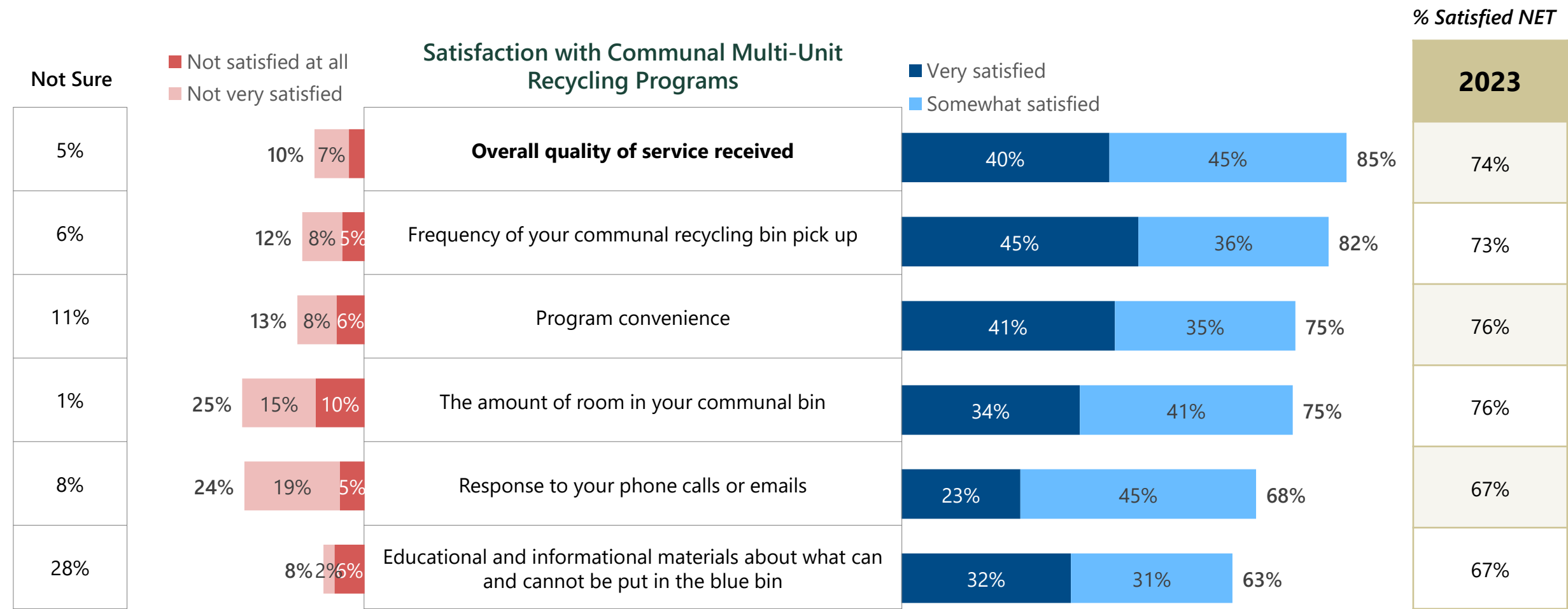
q8. Broadly speaking, what proportion of your household's recyclable items do you recycle, either through your [blue recycling cart/communal recycling bin] or through other means? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970

Satisfaction with the Blue Cart Recycling Program remains strong, driven by cart capacity, pick-up frequency, convenience, and overall service quality, all of which have improved since 2023.



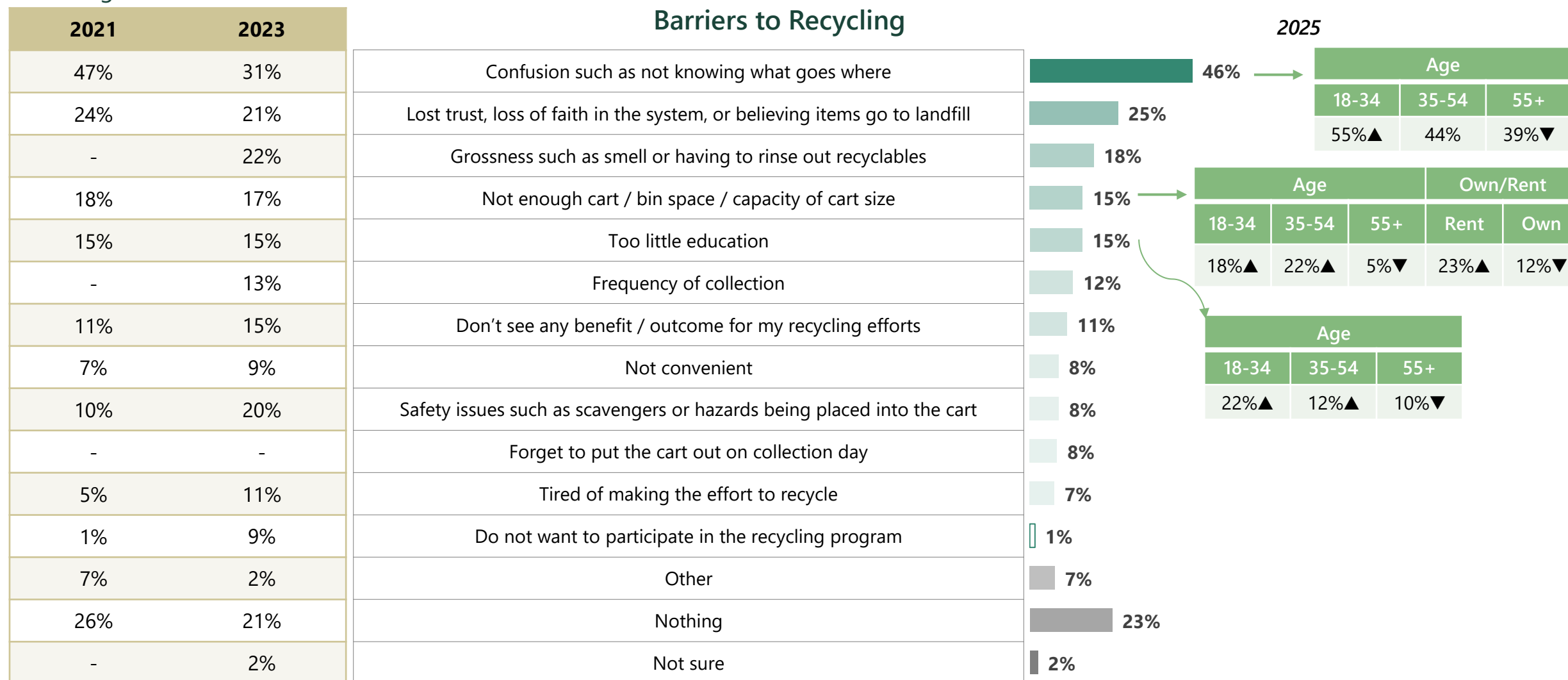
q10. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the blue cart recycling program? Base: All respondents excluding 'not applicable', n=229-704.

Satisfaction with communal multi-unit recycling programs is generally positive and has improved since 2023, particularly for pick-up frequency and overall service quality. However, lower satisfaction with educational materials, bin capacity, and responsiveness to inquiries highlights ongoing opportunities to enhance communication and resident targeted education.



q11. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the communal multi-unit recycling program? Base: All respondents excluding "not applicable", n=69-263.

Confusion about what goes where remains the primary barrier to recycling and is most pronounced among younger residents. Trust-related concerns and perceptions of cleanliness persist, while space constraints and limited education continue to hinder participation, particularly among younger and mid-aged households and those who rent a home.



q12. Which of the following things discourage or prevent you and others in your household from recycling or recycling more? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970.

Confusion is common across all groups, while low recyclers more often report skepticism about the system and practical barriers like inconvenience and effort.

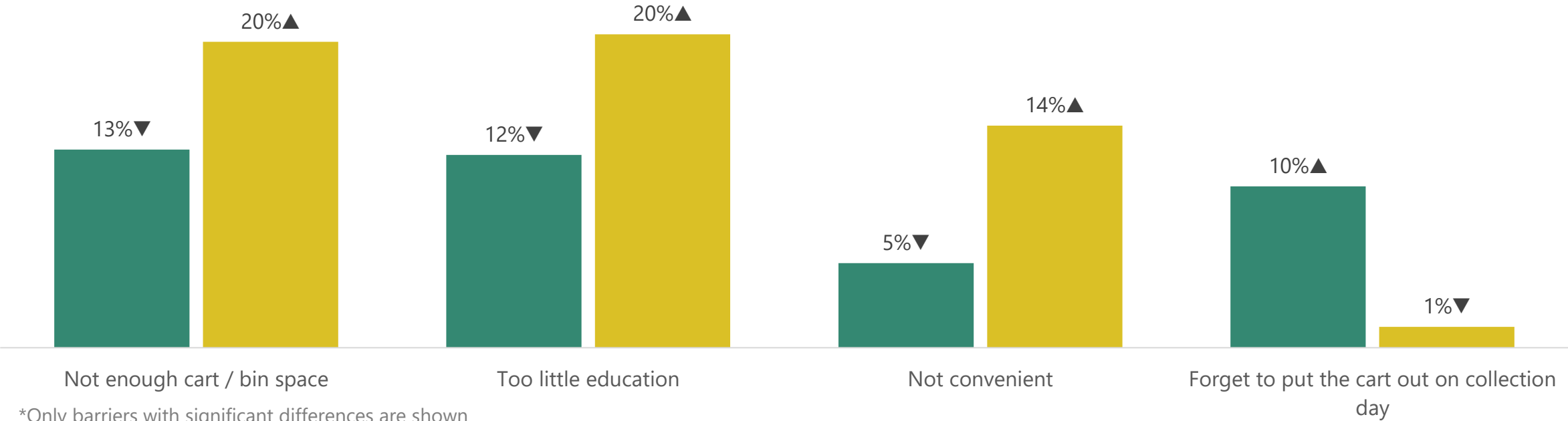
Barriers to Recycling	High (>70%) <i>n</i> = 599	Medium (40%- 70%) <i>n</i> = 266	Low (>40%) <i>n</i> = 105
Confusion such as not knowing what goes where	 44%	 49%	 47%
Lost trust, loss of faith in the system, or believing items go to landfill	 22%	 28%	 34%
Grossness such as smell or having to rinse out recyclables	 14%	 22%	 30%
Not enough cart / bin space / capacity of cart size	 13%	 19%	 18%
Too little education	 13%	 18%	 20%
Frequency of collection	 10%	 16%	 14%
Don't see any benefit / outcome for my recycling efforts	 7%	 11%	 28%
Safety issues such as scavengers or hazards being placed into the cart	 7%	 9%	 14%
Not convenient	 4%	 10%	 25%
Forget to put the cart out on collection day	 7%	 9%	 8%
Tired of making the effort to recycle	 3%	 12%	 18%
Do not want to participate in the recycling program	 1%	 2%	 5%
Other	 7%	 8%	 8%
Nothing	 30%	 14%	 9%
Not sure	 2%	 4%	 2%

q12. Which of the following things discourage or prevent you and others in your household from recycling or recycling more? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970.

Users of communal recycling bins are more likely to identify bin space, little education and convenience as barriers to recycling than blue recycling cart users.

Barriers to Recycling by Type of Service*

■ Curbside waste service ■ Communal waste service



q12. Which of the following things discourage or prevent you and others in your household from recycling or recycling more? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970.



Waste Diversion



Green Cart

Among households with curbside service, most dispose of uneaten food in the green cart reflecting strong organics participation. Garbage disposal remains common among younger residents and renters.

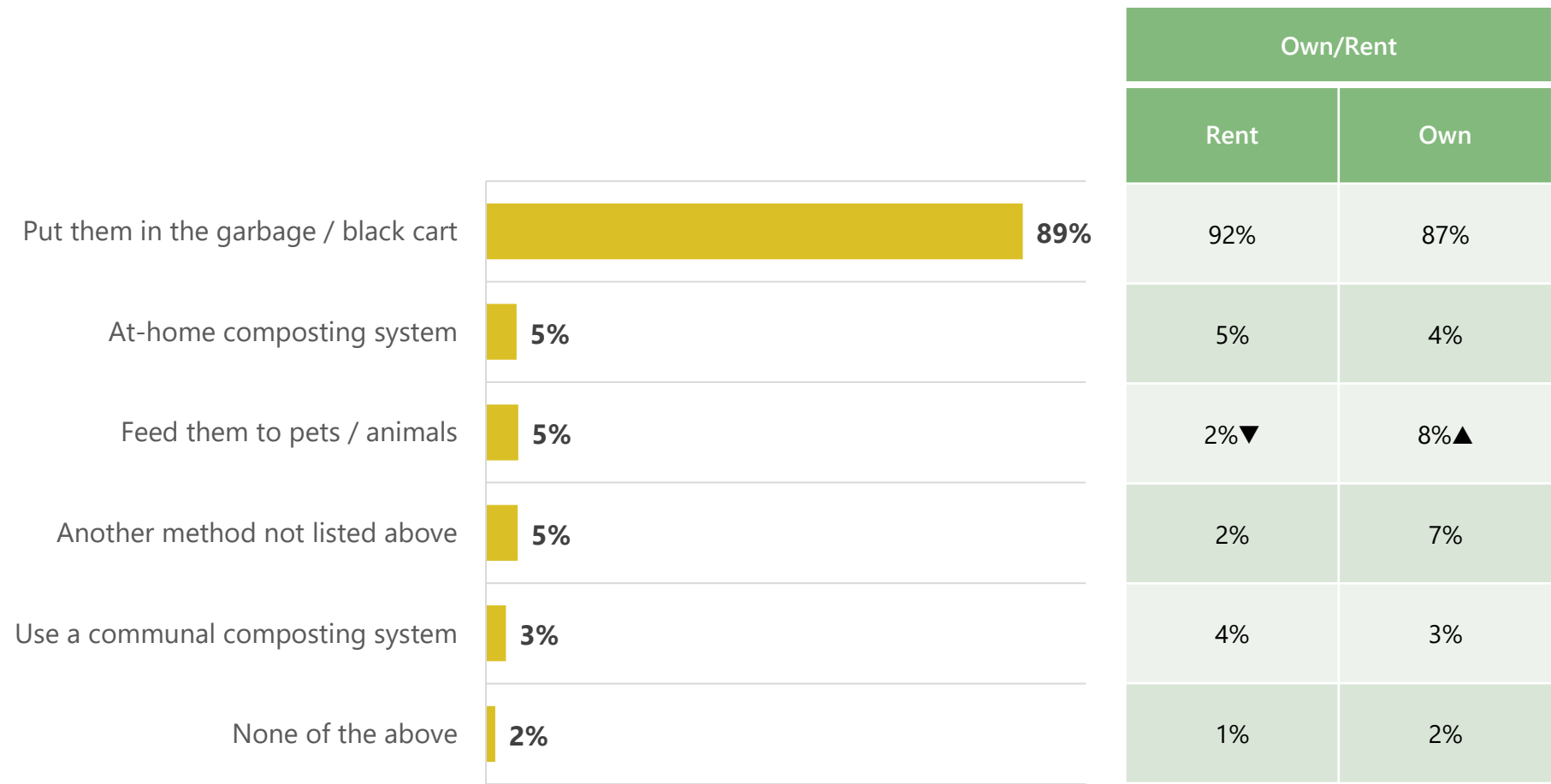
Household Methods for Disposing Uneaten Food – Curbside Service

		Age			Own/Rent	
		18-34	35-54	55+	Rent	Own
Put them in my green cart	73%	67%	73%	78%	63%▼	75%▲
Put them in the garbage / black cart	36%	43%▲	40%▲	28%▼	55%▲	33%▼
At-home composting system	13%	11%	12%	14%	12%	13%
Feed them to pets / animals	9%	11%	9%	8%	4%	10%
Another method not listed above	2%	2%	0%▼	4%▲	0%	2%
Use a communal composting system	1%	3%▲	0%	0%▼	0%	1%
None of the above	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%

q13. How does your household dispose of uneaten food? Base: Respondents who received curbside service, 2025: n=705.

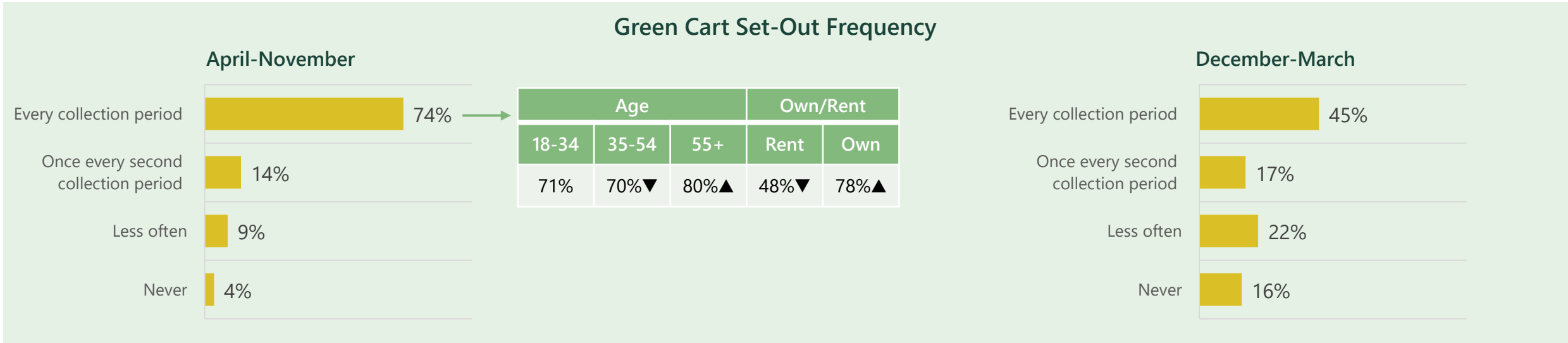
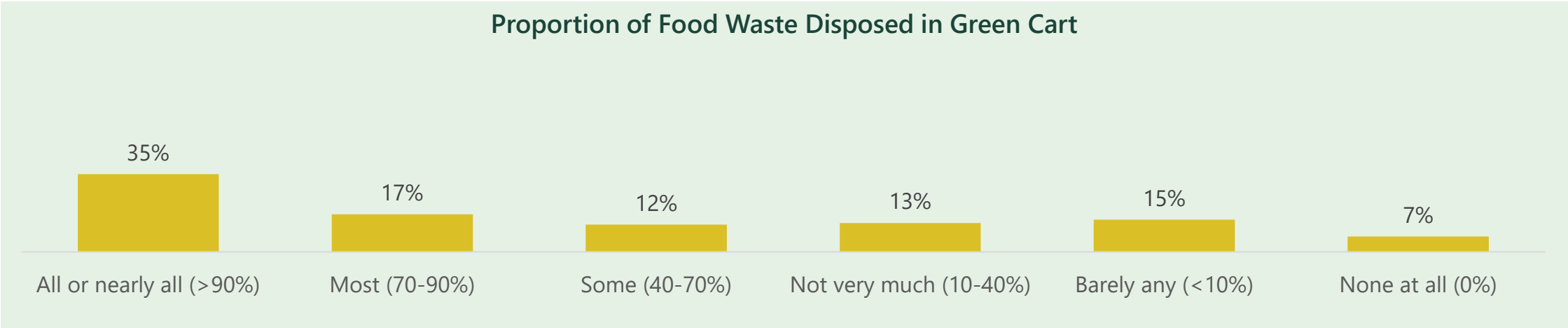
Majority of households receiving communal service, dispose of uneaten food in the garbage.

Household Methods for Disposing Uneaten Food – Communal Service



q13. How does your household dispose of uneaten food? Base: Respondents who received communal service, 2025: n=265.

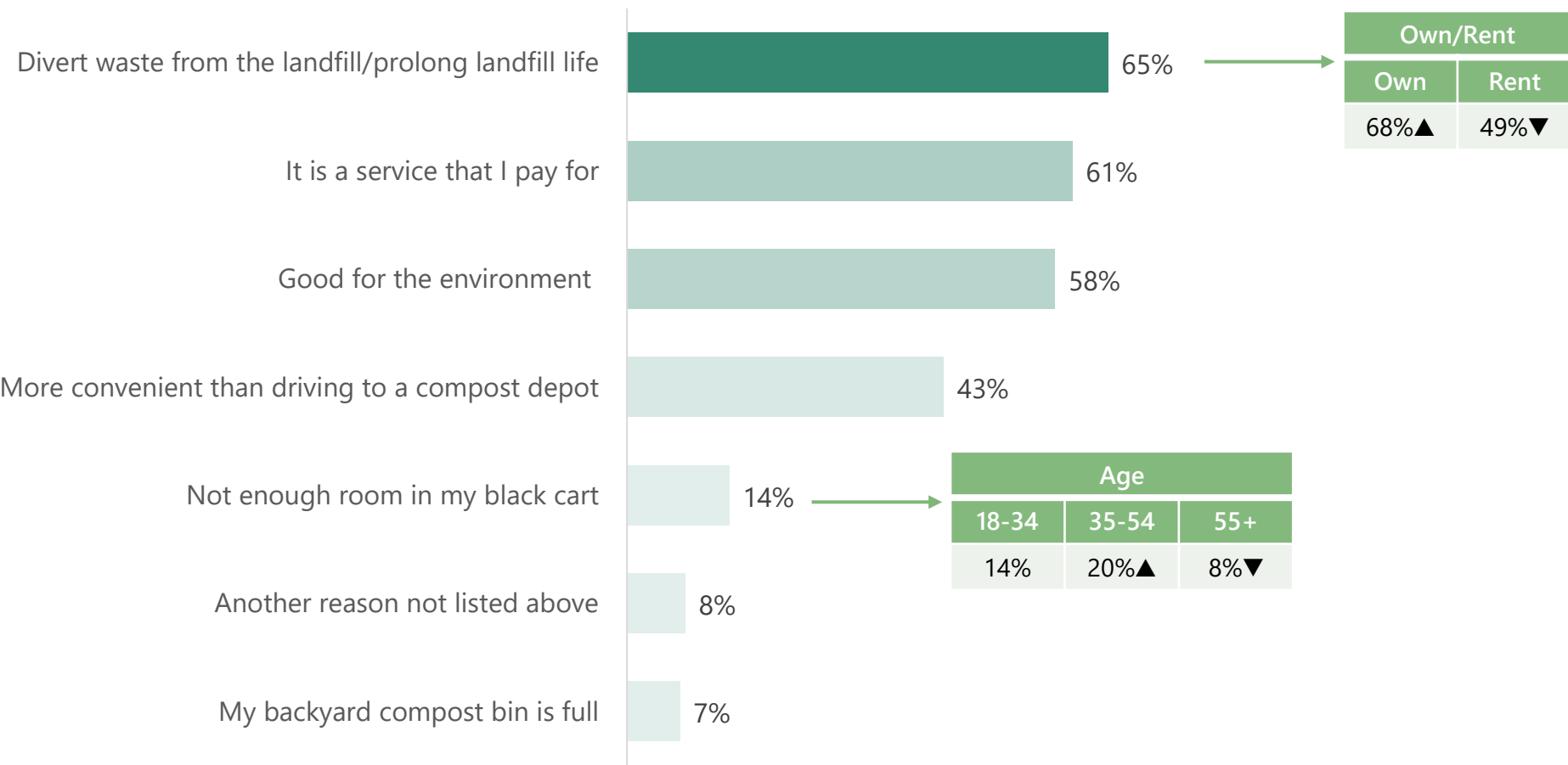
Green cart use is well established, with over half of households diverting most or all of their food waste through the program and relatively few reporting no use. Set-out rates are strong during April–November, especially among older residents and homeowners, but decline in winter months.



q14: Broadly speaking, what proportion of your household’s organic / food waste do you dispose of in your green cart? Base: All respondents, 2017: n=1006, 2019: n=1,005, 2021: n=998, 2025: n=705.
 q17: How often do you typically put your green cart out for pickup April - November? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=705. q18: How often do you typically put your green cart out for pickup December - March? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=705

Participation in the Green Cart program is primarily driven by landfill diversion and perceived value for a paid service, alongside environmental benefits. Homeowners are more likely to cite landfill diversion, while space constraints in the black cart are a motivator particularly among mid-aged households.

Primary Motivations for Participating in the Green Cart Program



q19. What are the primary reasons your household participates in the Green Cart program? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705.

Participation in the Green Cart program is primarily driven by landfill diversion, service value, and environmental benefits. These motivations are strongest among high and medium users, while low users are less likely to cite environmental or diversion-related reasons.

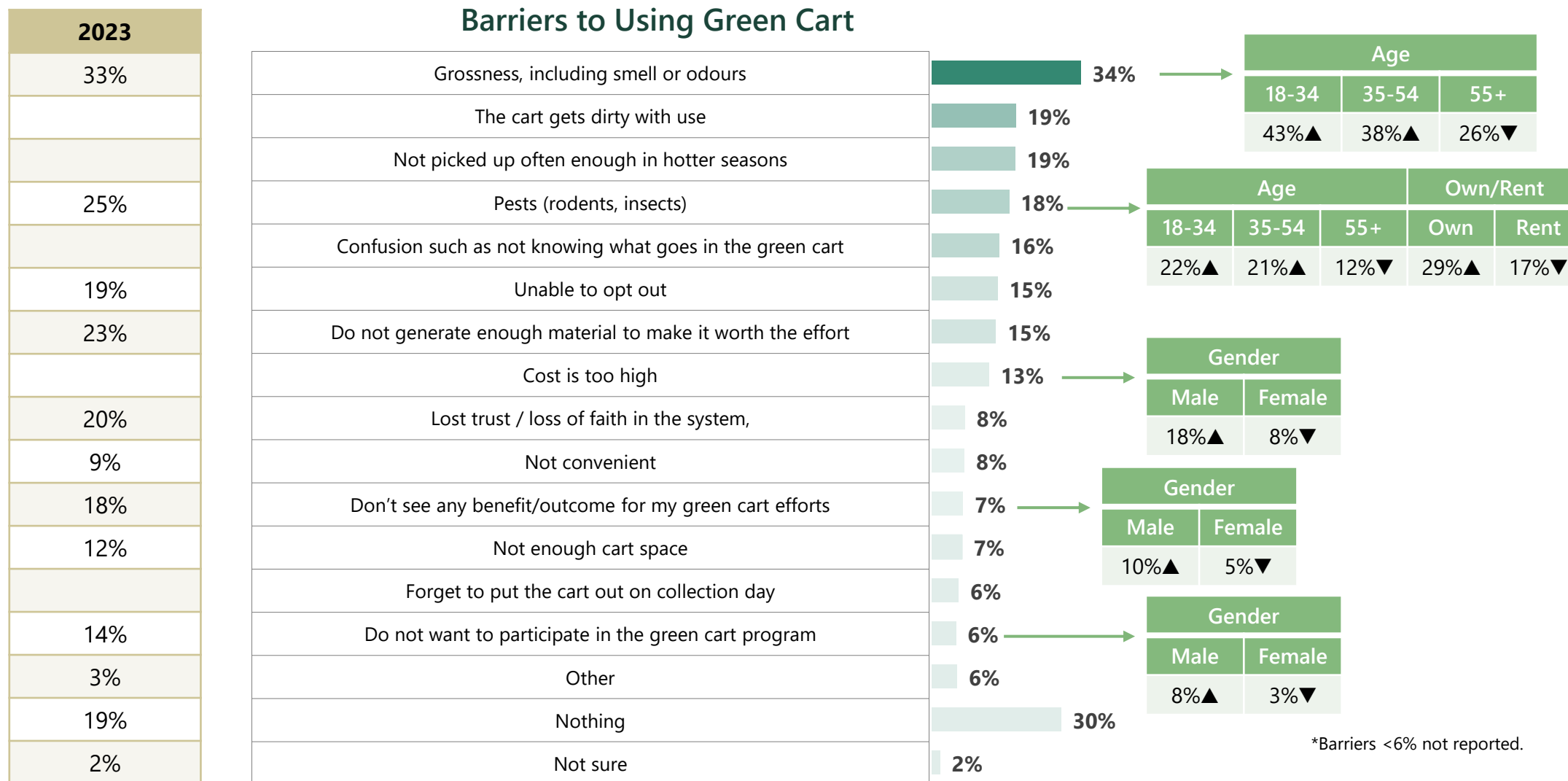
Primary Motivations for Participating in the Green Cart Program – By Disposal Level

	High (>70%) <i>n</i> = 377	Medium (40%- 70%) <i>n</i> = 88	Low (<40%) <i>n</i> = 240
Divert waste from the landfill/prolong landfill life	68%	68%	38%
It is a service that I pay for	59%	59%	61%
Good for the environment	57%	57%	32%
More convenient than driving to a compost depot	44%	44%	28%
Not enough room in my black cart	13%	13%	16%
Another reason not listed above	3%	3%	12%
My backyard compost bin is full	11%	11%	8%

q19. What are the primary reasons your household participates in the Green Cart program? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, *n*=705.

q14: Broadly speaking, what proportion of your household's organic / food waste do you dispose of in your green cart? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, *n*=705.

The most common barriers to using the Green Cart relate to odours, cleanliness, and collection frequency during warmer months, particularly among younger residents. Confusion about acceptable materials and perceptions of limited benefit persist, while cost and convenience are less frequently cited.



q20. Which of the following things, if any, discourage or prevent you and/or others in your household from using your green cart or using your green cart more? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705.

Low users are most likely to cite odours, and pests, along with feeling they do not generate enough material. In contrast, high users report few barriers, indicating that addressing practical and perception-based concerns is key to increasing participation among lower users.

*Barriers <6% not reported.

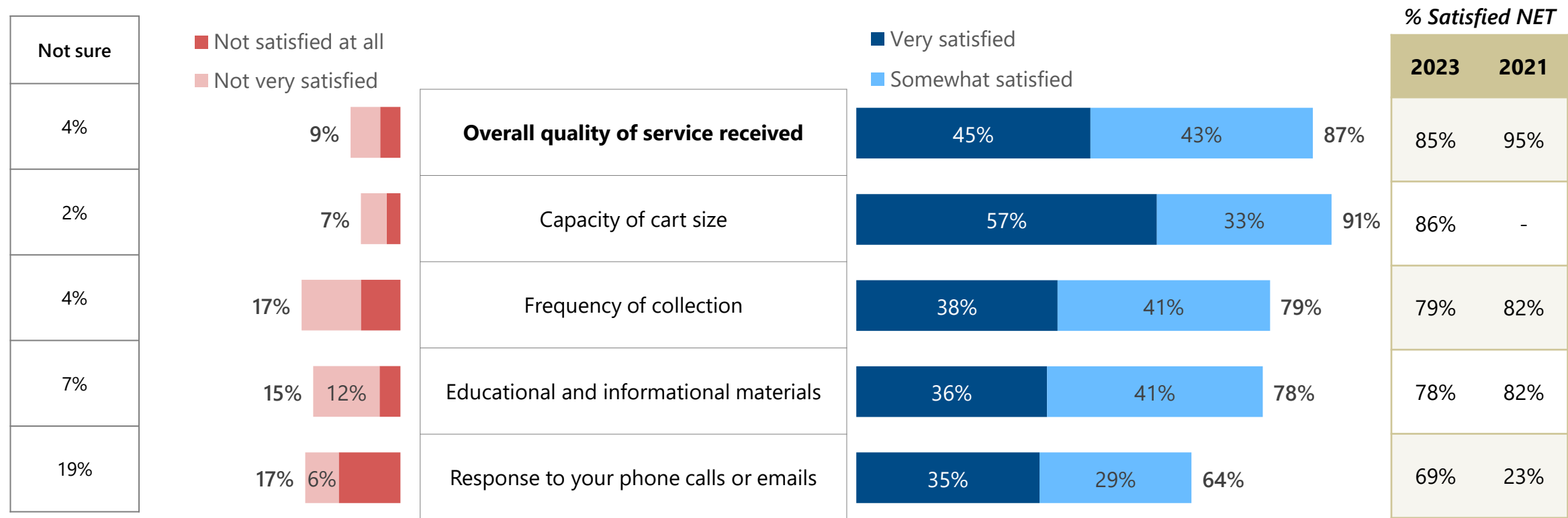
Barriers to Using Green Cart – By Disposal Level

	High (>70%) <i>n= 377</i>	Medium (40%- 70%) <i>n= 88</i>	Low (<40%) <i>n= 240</i>
Grossness, including smell or odours	 22%	 44%	 49%
The cart gets dirty with use	 15%	 20%	 26%
Not picked up often enough in hotter seasons	 17%	 15%	 24%
Pests	 9%	 25%	 29%
Confusion such as not knowing what goes in the green cart	 12%	 24%	 18%
Unable to opt out	 6%	 14%	 29%
Do not generate enough material to make it worth the effort	 5%	 7%	 32%
Cost is too high	 7%	 15%	 22%
Lost trust / loss of faith in the system,	 6%	 6%	 10%
Not convenient	 2%	 14%	 14%
Don't see any benefit/outcome for my green cart efforts	 2%	 7%	 14%
Not enough cart space	 9%	 4%	 5%
Forget to put the cart out on collection day	 5%	 10%	 6%
Do not want to participate in the green cart program	 1%	 3%	 13%

q20. Which of the following things, if any, discourage or prevent you and/or others in your household from using your green cart or using your green cart more? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705. q14: Broadly speaking, what proportion of your household's organic / food waste do you dispose of in your green cart? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705.

Satisfaction with the Green Cart Program is strong for cart capacity and overall service quality, remaining stable compared with prior years. Satisfaction has drastically declined for customer service responsiveness, highlighting clear opportunities to improve communication and service support.

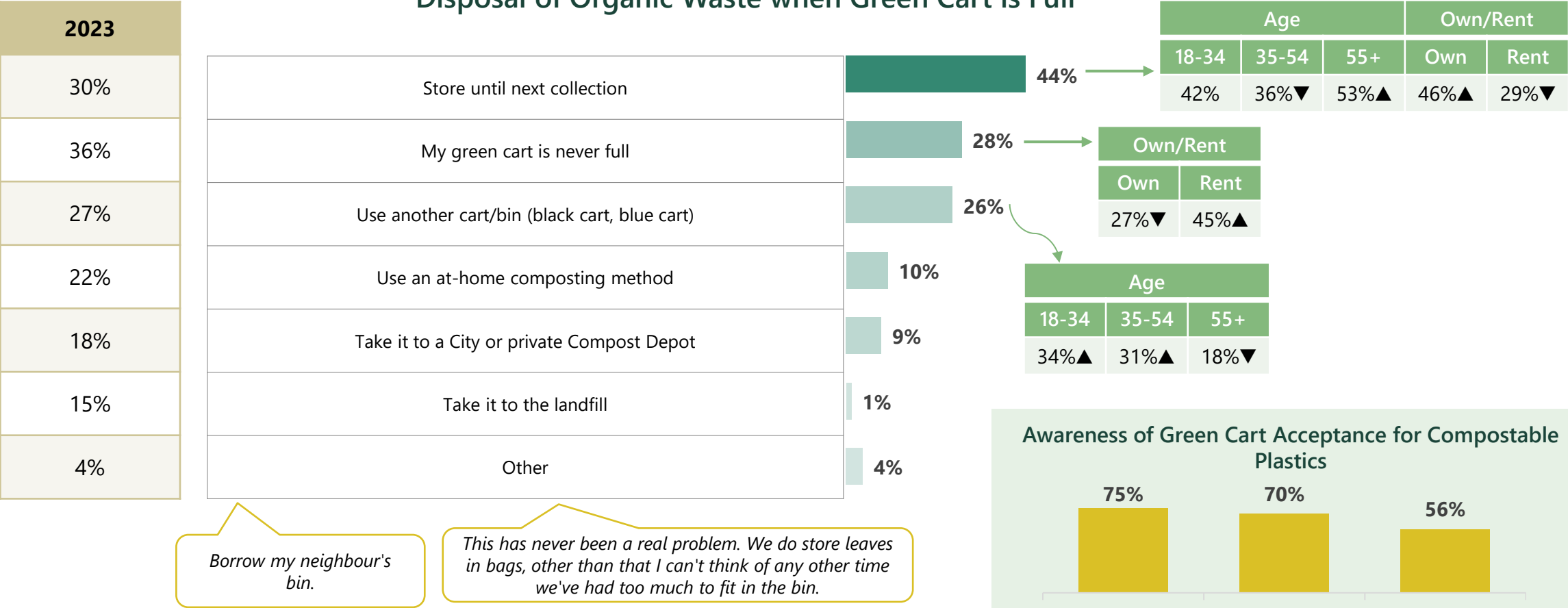
Satisfaction with the Green Cart Program



q21. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the green cart program? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service excl "Not applicable", n=204-688.

When the green cart is full, most households store organics until the next collection. Nearly three in ten report that their cart is rarely full. Young adults are more inclined to use other bins. Awareness that compostable-labelled plastics can go in the Green Cart is highest for items labelled “compostable” or “biodegradable”.

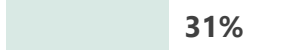
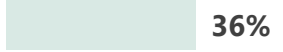
Disposal of Organic Waste when Green Cart is Full



q22. What do you do with your organic waste if the green cart is full? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705.
q23. To the best of your knowledge, can the following items be put in your Green Cart? Plastic packaging and single-use items labelled as... Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705.

When the green cart is full, high users are most likely to store organics until the next collection, while medium and low users are more likely to divert material to other carts, including garbage or recycling. Low users are also more likely to report their cart is never full.

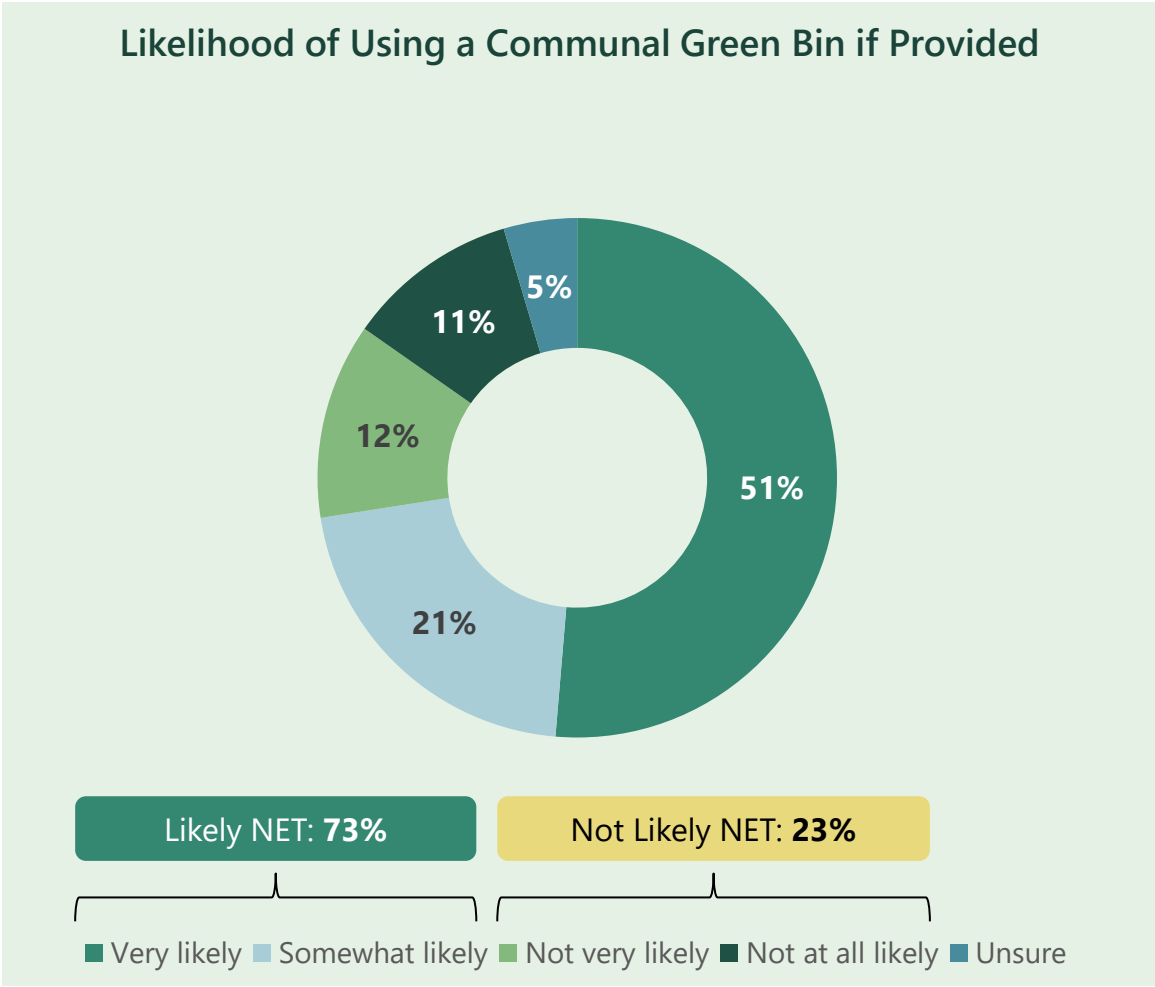
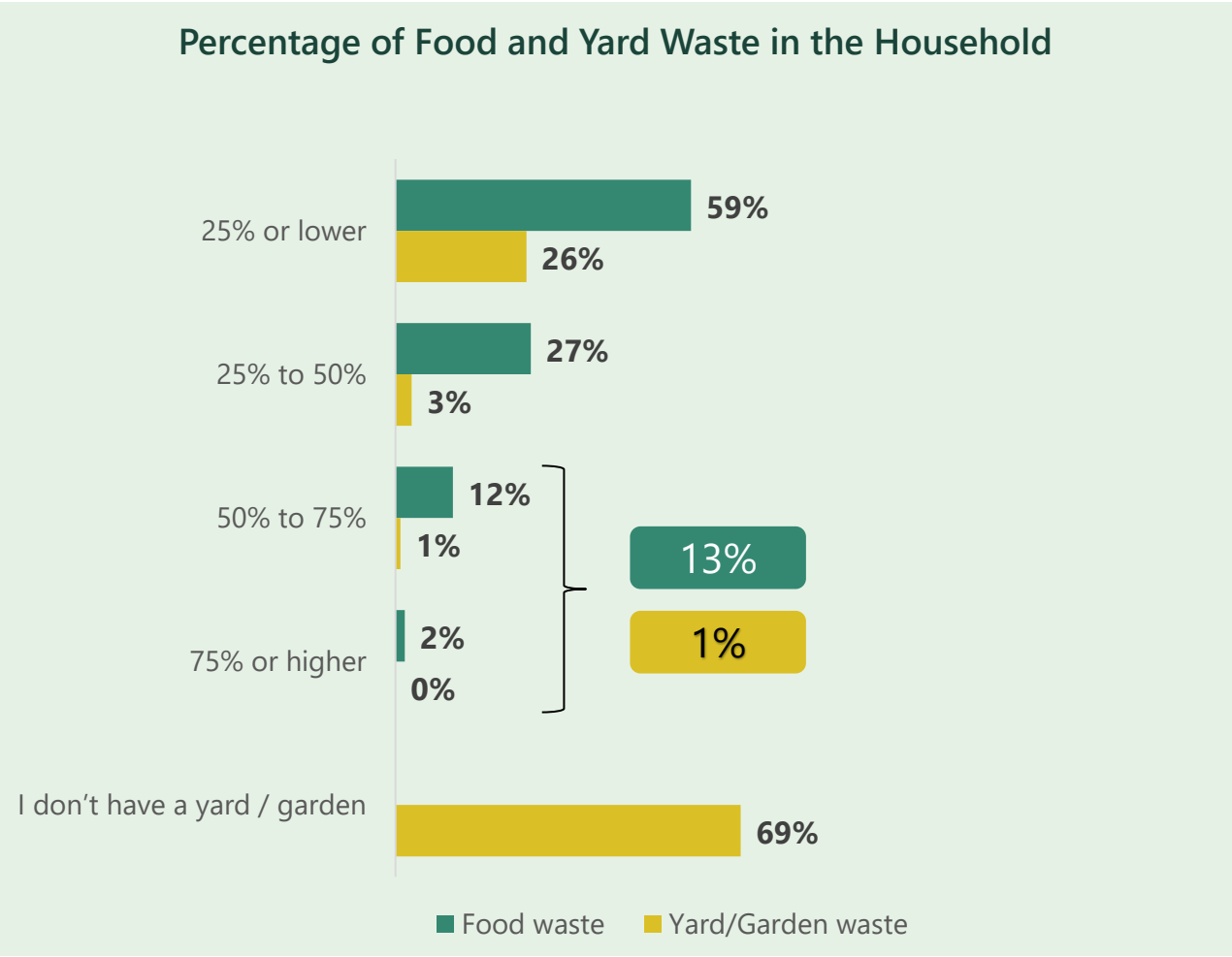
Disposal of Organic Waste when Green Cart is Full – By Disposal Level

	High (>70%) <i>n= 377</i>	Medium (40%- 70%) <i>n= 88</i>	Low (<40%) <i>n= 240</i>
Store until next collection	 53%	 44%	 31%
My green cart is never full	 24%	 28%	 36%
Use another cart/bin (black cart, blue cart)	 18%	 31%	 37%
Use an at-home composting method	 13%	 13%	 6%
Take it to a City or private Compost Depot	 11%	 10%	 5%
Take it to the landfill	 1%	 1%	 1%
Other	 5%	0%	 4%

q22. What do you do with your organic waste if the green cart is full? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705.

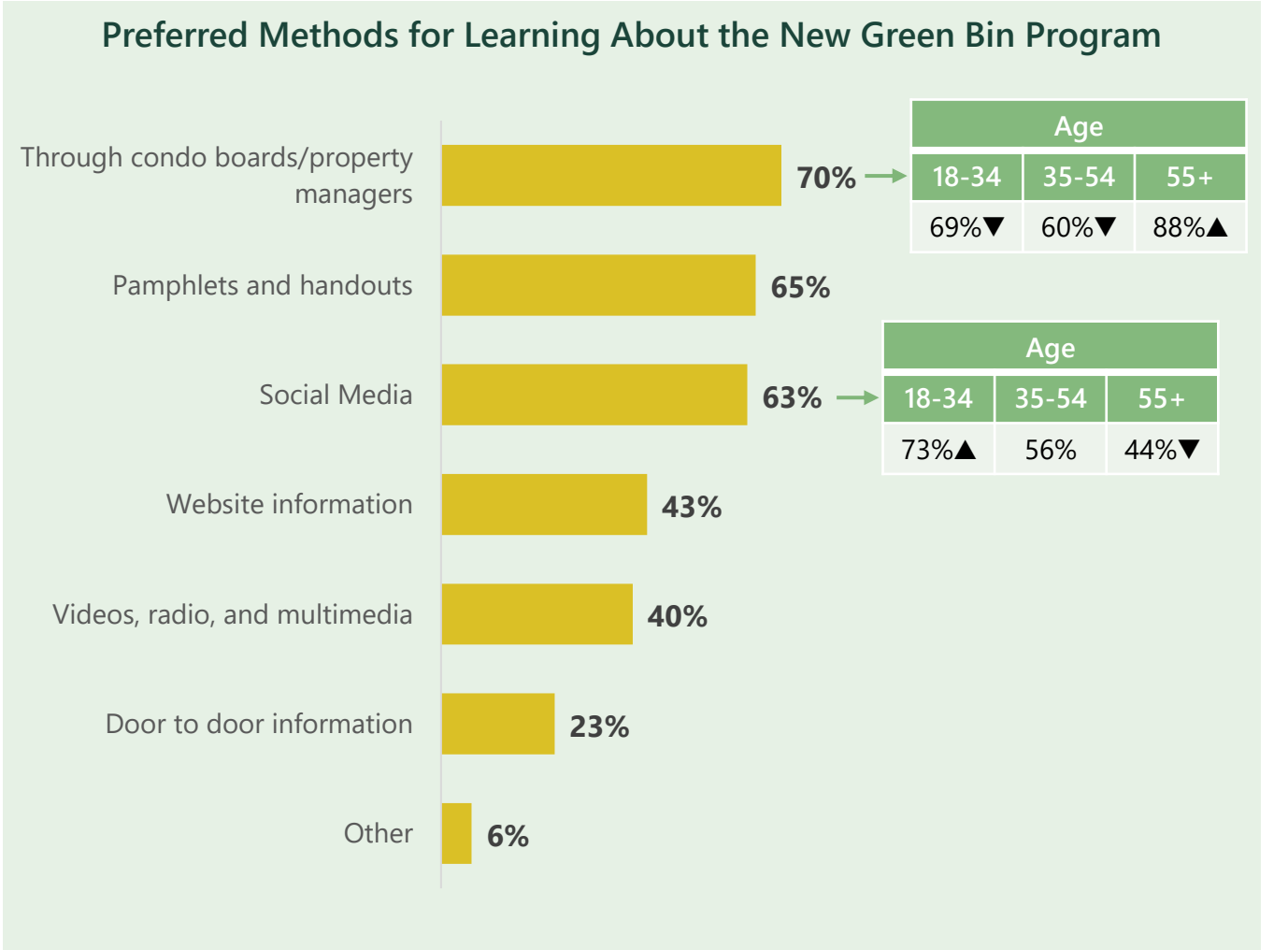
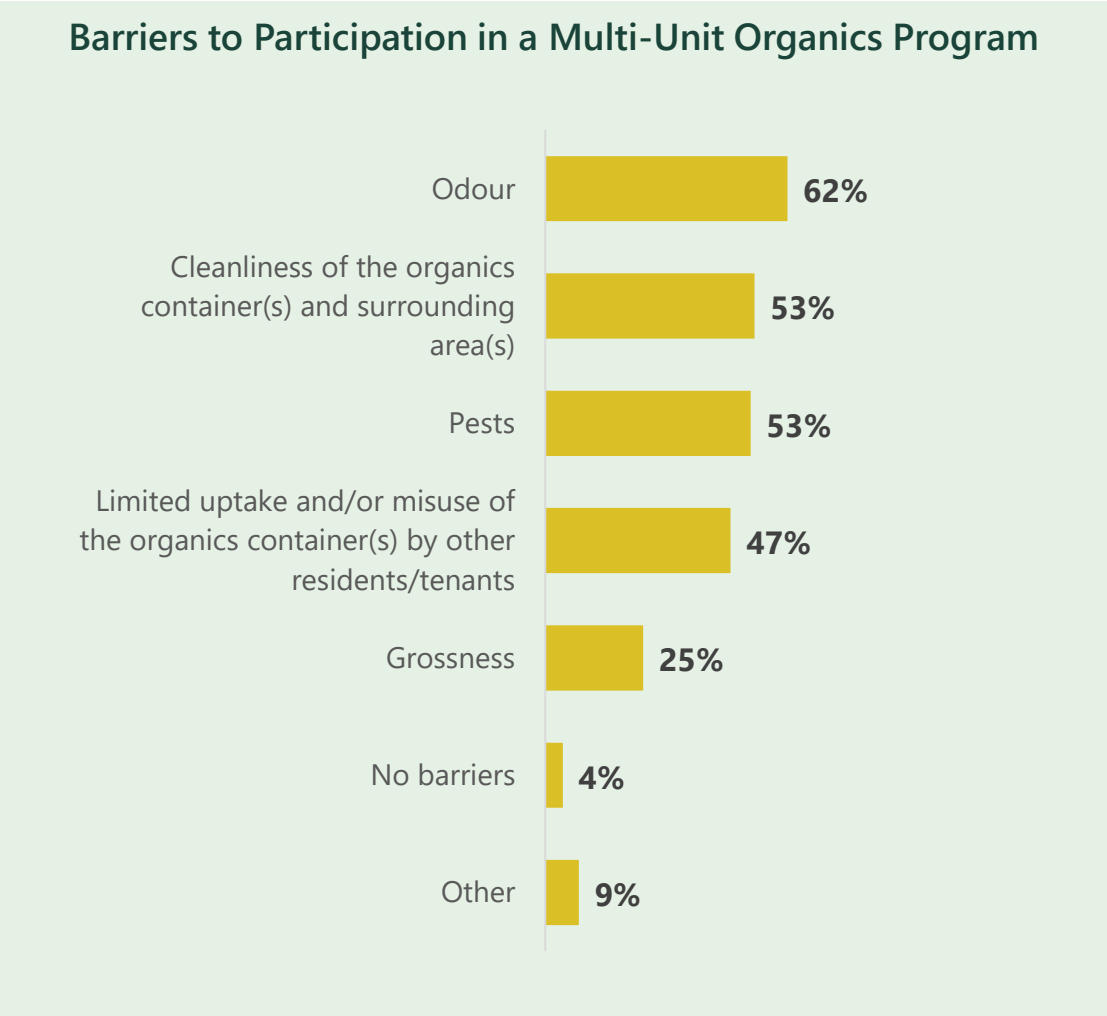
q14: Broadly speaking, what proportion of your household's organic / food waste do you dispose of in your green cart? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705.

Most households estimate that food waste makes up a relatively small share of their total waste, while yard and garden waste is less common due to limited access to yards. If provided, nearly three-quarters of residents indicate they would be likely to use a communal green bin, suggesting strong potential uptake for a building-level organics program.



q24: On average, what percentage of your household waste do you think is food waste? Base: All respondents who receive communal service, n=265.
 q25: On average, what percentage of your household waste do you think is yard or garden waste? Base: All respondents who receive communal service, n=265.
 Q26: If your building was provided a green bin from the City that accepted all food waste and yard/garden waste, how likely are you to use it? n=265.

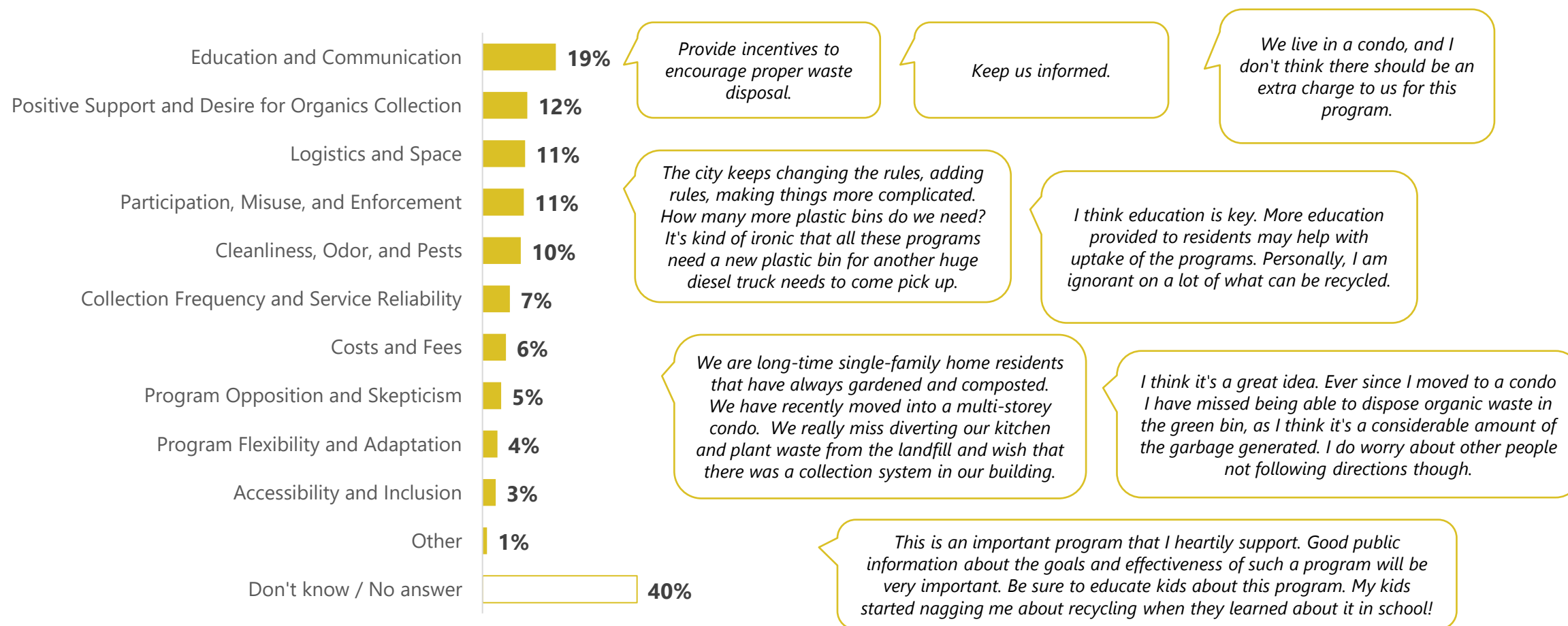
Concerns about odour, cleanliness, and pests are the primary barriers to participation in a multi-unit organics program. To support adoption of the new green bin program, residents prefer education delivered through condo boards or property managers, printed materials, and social media, with clear variation in preferred channels by age group.



q27. In the past we have heard from the community that a multi-unit organics program could be challenging for them for numerous reasons. From the list of barriers below, please identify the top three barriers that you feel could impact you/your family the most. Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=265. q28. Which of the following methods should the City use to educate participants about the new green bin program? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=265

Feedback for the pilot program centred on the need for clear education and ongoing communication, alongside practical considerations such as space, logistics, cleanliness, and enforcement. While many residents express support for organics collection, concerns around cost, misuse, and consistent service delivery highlight key areas to address to support successful implementation.

Feedback for the Pilot Program



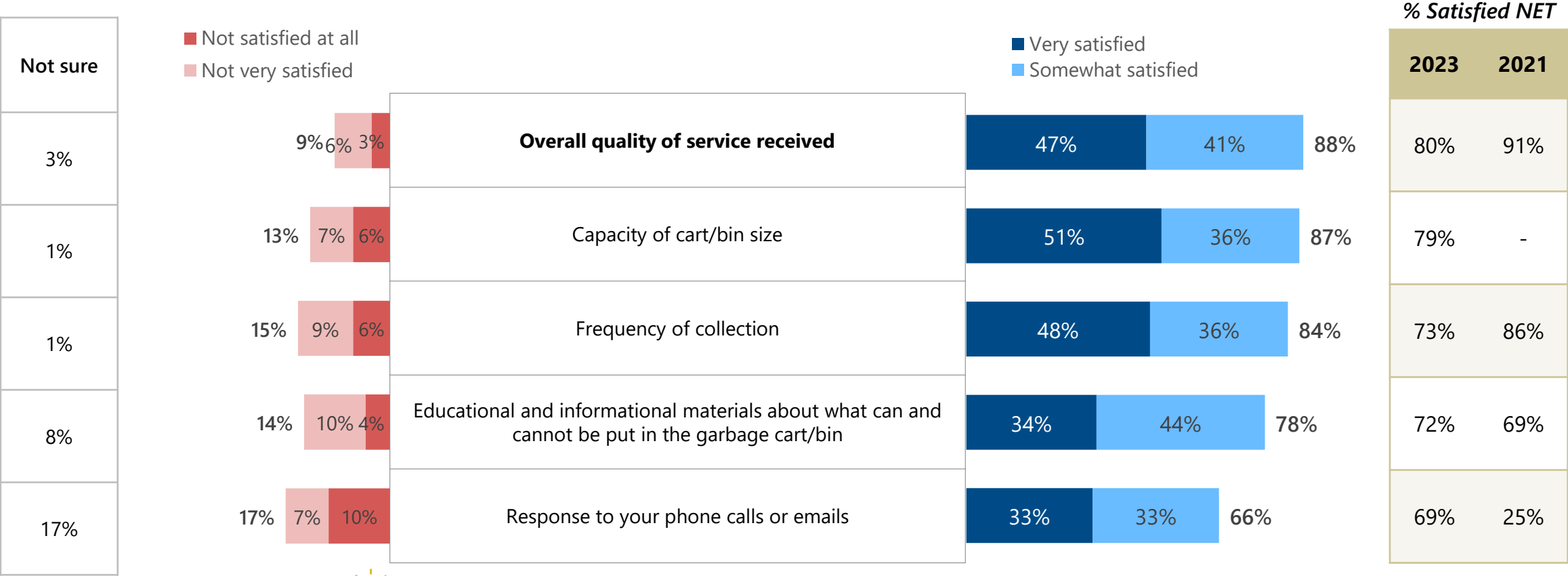
q29: Is there any advice you have for us or additional comments you would like us to consider as we move forward with the pilot program? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=265



Garbage

Satisfaction with the garbage collection program is generally high, particularly for cart capacity and collection frequency, compared to last two years.

Satisfaction with Garbage Collection Program

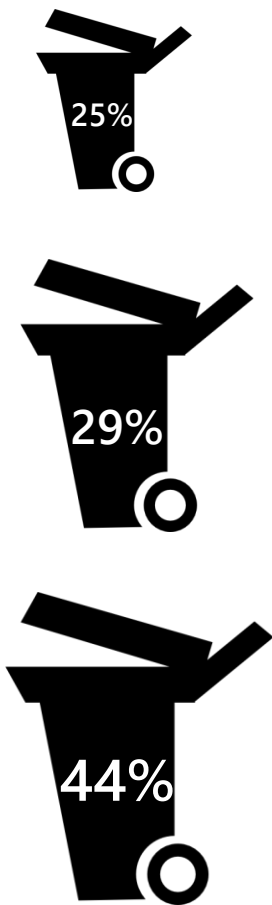


Segment Insight: Residents receiving *curbside* pickup report *higher satisfaction* with the *educational materials* compared with those using communal service.

q30. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the garbage collection program? Base: All respondents excl "Not applicable", n=323-959.

Larger carts are more common among renters and residents particularly among young-mid aged population.

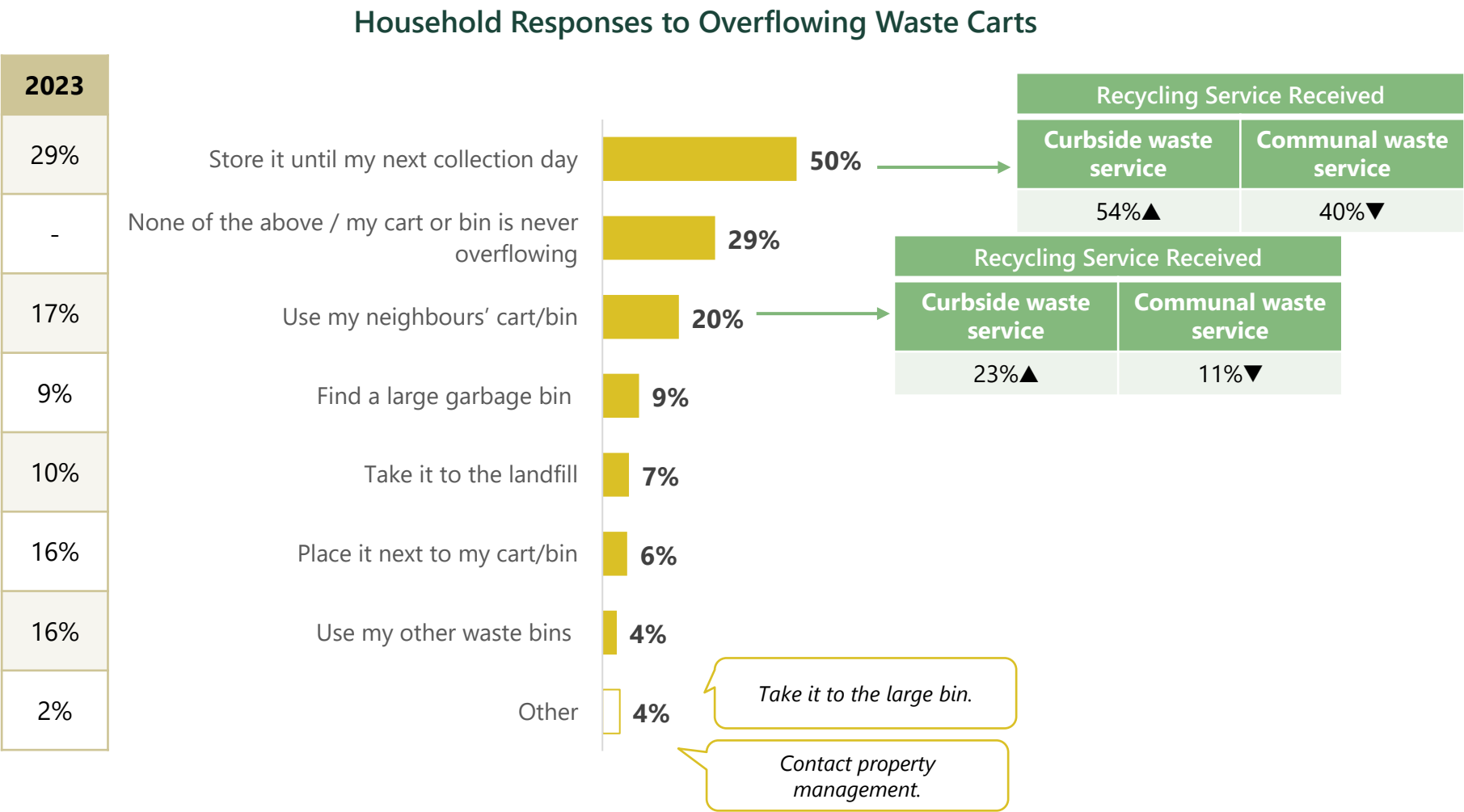
Size of Black Garbage Cart



	Age			Own/Rent	
	18-34	35-54	55+	Own	Rent
Small	17%▼	18%▼	34%▲	26%▲	12%▼
Medium	37%	20%▼	35%▲	30%	23%
Large	43%▲	60%▲	30%▼	42%▼	59%▲

q31. What size of black garbage cart do you have? ? Base: All respondents who receive individual blue bin service, n=705

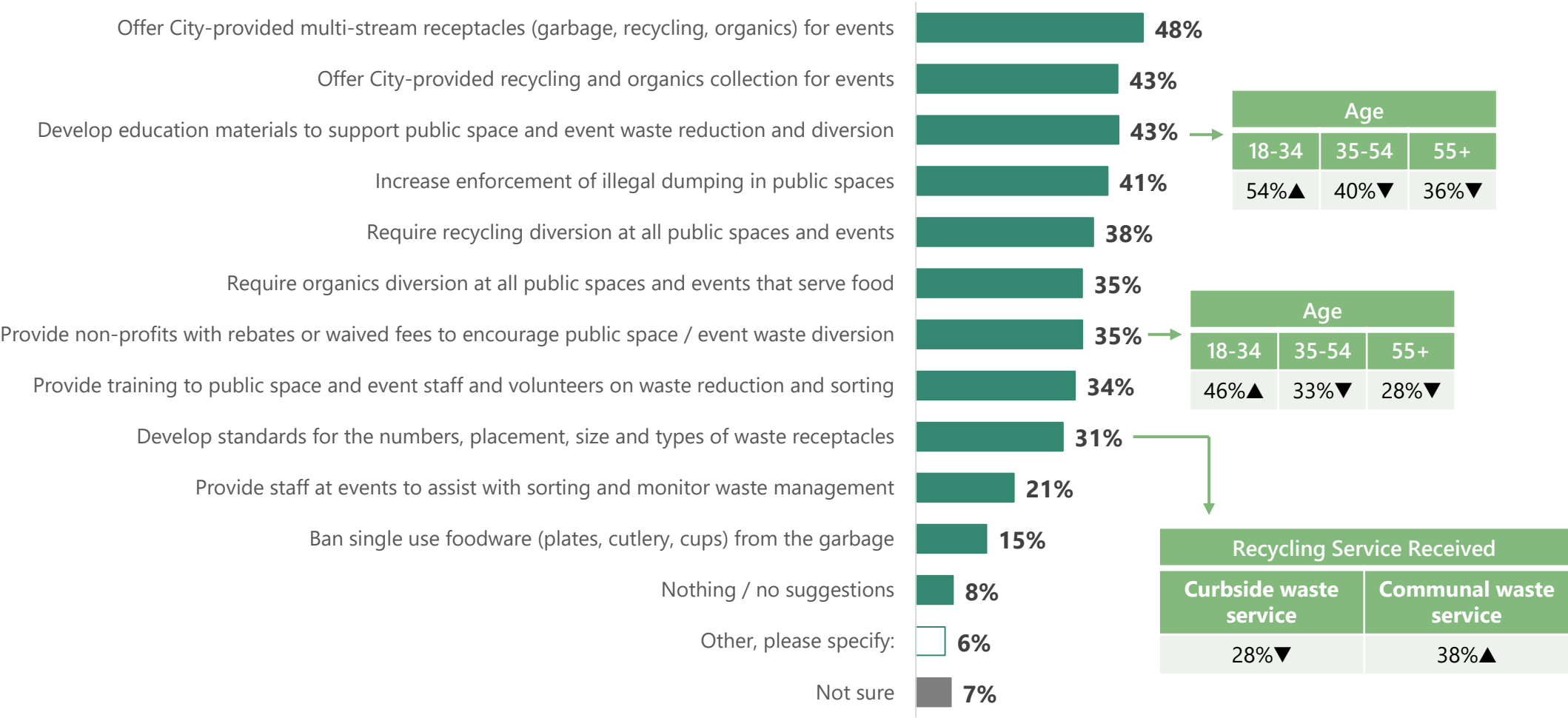
Most households manage overflowing carts by storing excess waste until the next collection day. Compared with 2023, fewer residents report placing waste beside the cart or using other bins, suggesting a move toward holding overflow waste until pickup.



q32. When your cart/bin is overflowing, what do you do with the excess waste? Base: All respondents, n=970.

Residents most strongly support practical waste reduction measures in public spaces and at events, particularly providing multi-stream receptacles, collection services, and educational materials. Younger residents are especially supportive of incentive-based actions, such as providing rebates or waived fees to help non-profits improve waste diversion at events.

Resident Support for Potential City Waste Reduction Actions



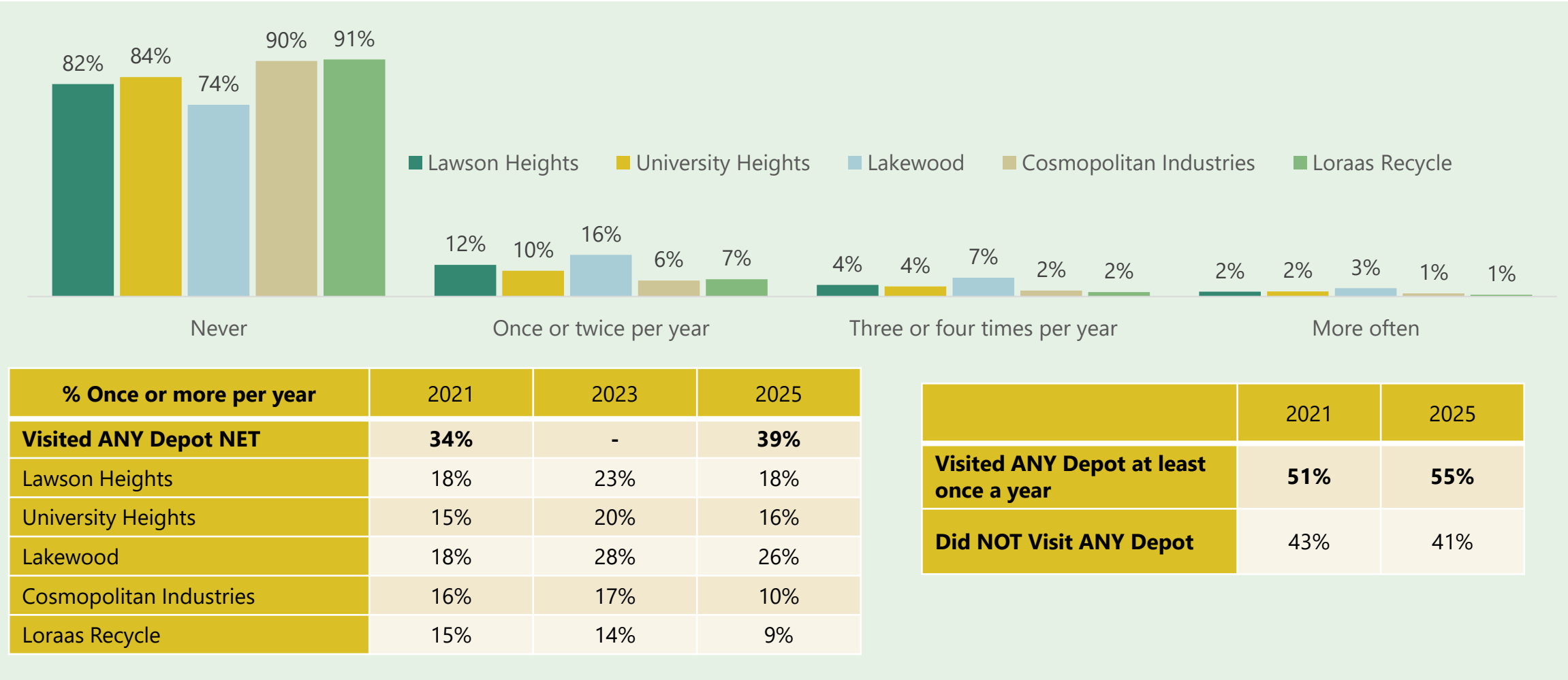
q34. The following is a list of potential actions the City could take to reduce and divert waste in public locations and at events? Which actions would you be supportive of the City taking? Base: All respondents, n=970.



Public Recycling Depots

Use of City of Saskatoon recycling depots remains infrequent, with the majority of residents reporting they never visit these locations across all sites.

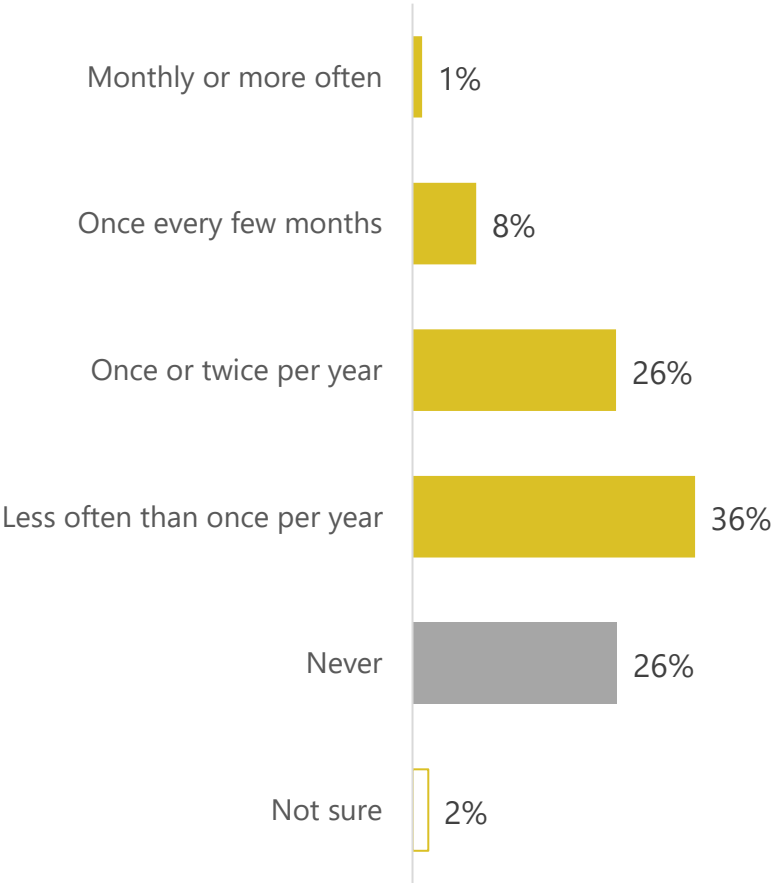
Frequency of Use of City of Saskatoon Recycling Depots



q35. How often does someone from your household drop items off at each of the following City of Saskatoon recycle depots or private waste collectors? Base: All respondents excl 'Not sure', n=928-933.

Household visits to the Saskatoon Landfill or Material Recovery Centre are infrequent. Frequent use is more common among larger households and those receiving curbside waste service.

Frequency of Visits to the Saskatoon Landfill or Material Recovery Centre



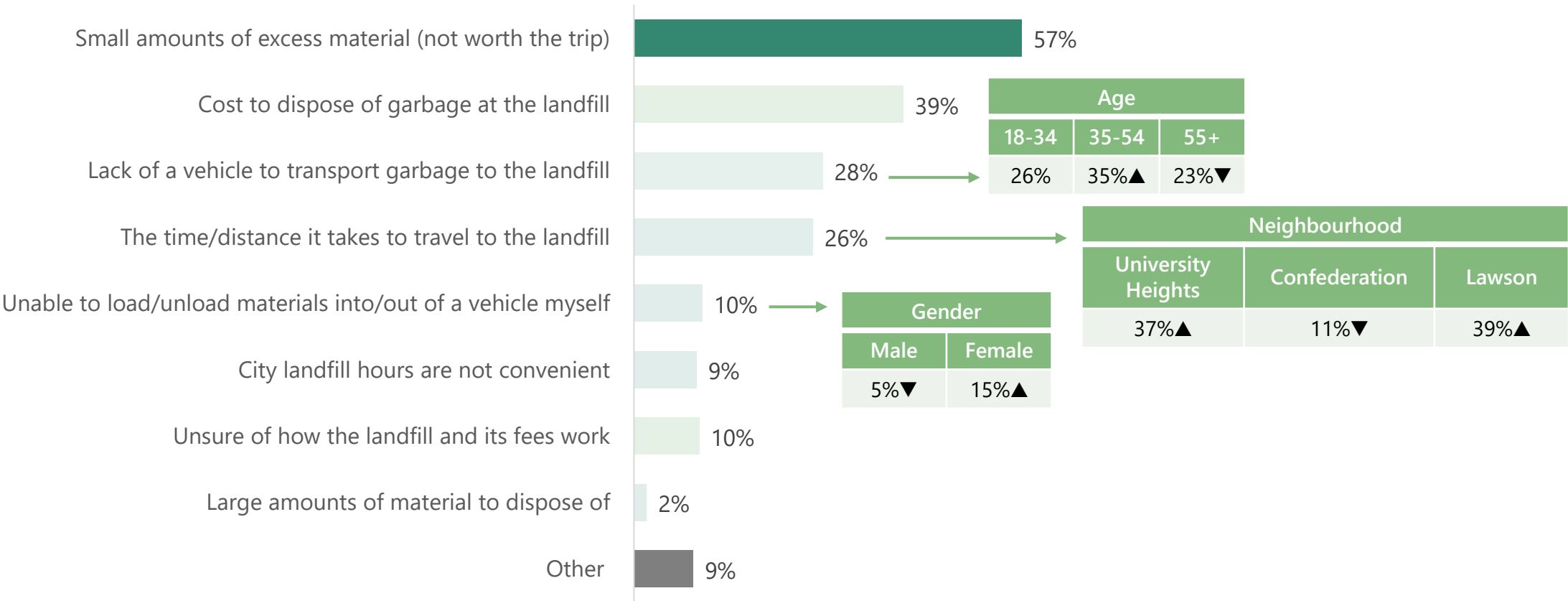
% Once every few months		
People living in home	1	2%▼
	2	10%▲
	3	8%
	4+	13%▲
Recycling Service Received	Curbside waste service	10%▲
	Communal waste service	5%▼

Statistically significant variances denoted with a ▲ or ▼ are compared within categories (i.e., People living in home, Recycling Service Received).

q36: How often does someone from your household drop material off at the Saskatoon Landfill or Material Recovery Centre? Base: All respondents, 2025: n=970.

Use of the Saskatoon Landfill and Material Recovery Centre is most often limited by small amounts of excess material and disposal costs. Transportation, travel time, and physical effort further reduce use, underscoring convenience and cost as the primary barriers to more frequent visits.

Barriers to Using the Saskatoon Landfill and Material Recovery Centre



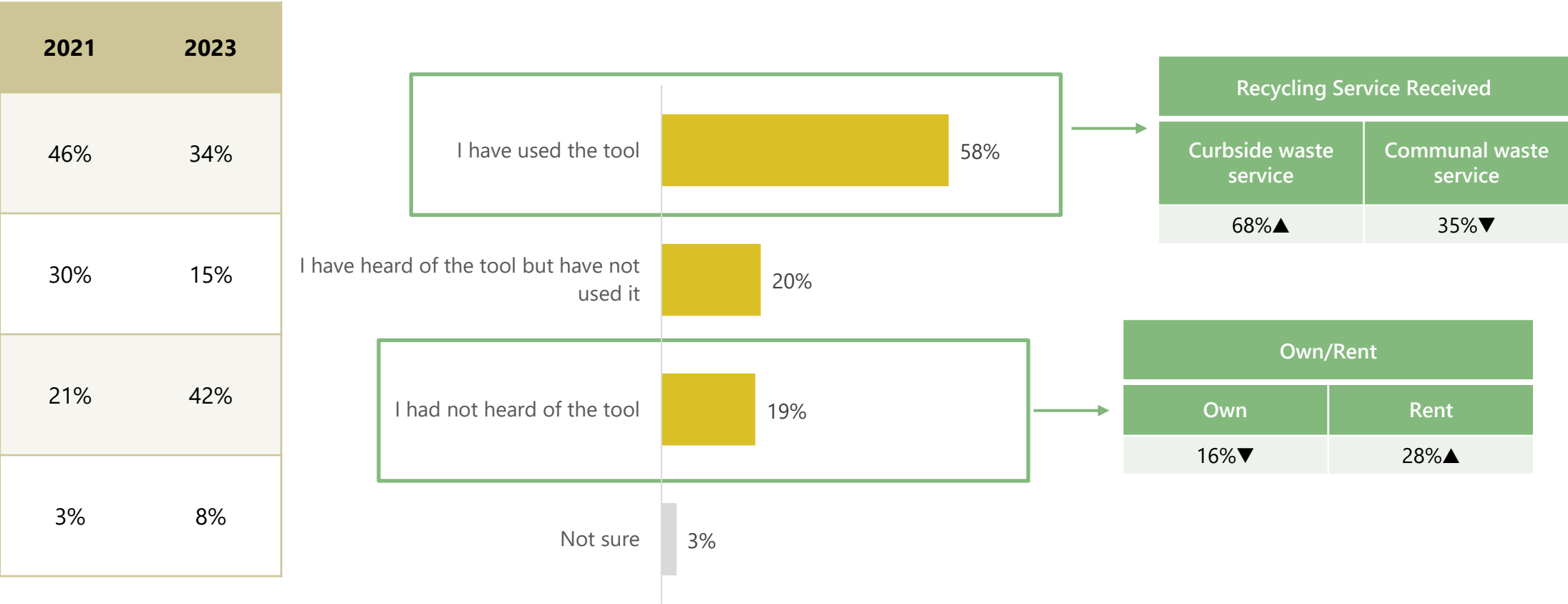
q37. Do any of the following prevent your household from using the Saskatoon Landfill and Material Recovery Centre more often? Base: All respondents excl those who never drop material off at Landfill and Recovery Centre, n=714.



Communication

Awareness and use of the Saskatoon Waste Wizard have increased since 2021, with six in ten residents report using the tool. Usage is significantly higher among households receiving curbside service, while lack of awareness remains more common among renters and those using communal waste services, indicating targeted outreach opportunities.

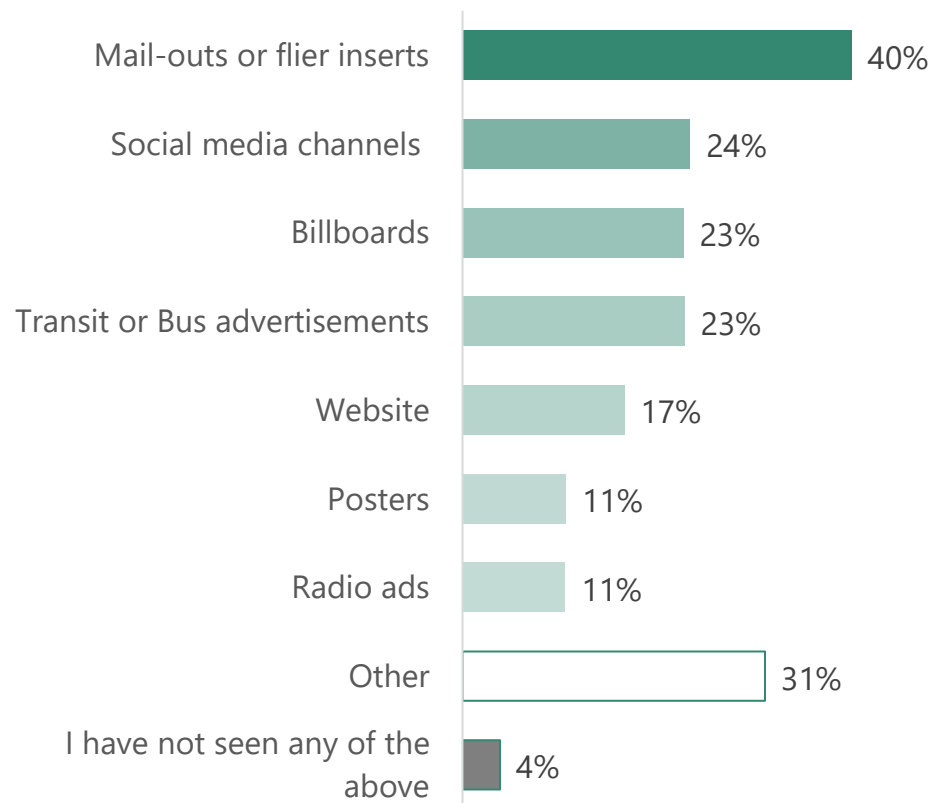
Awareness of the 'Saskatoon Waste Wizard'



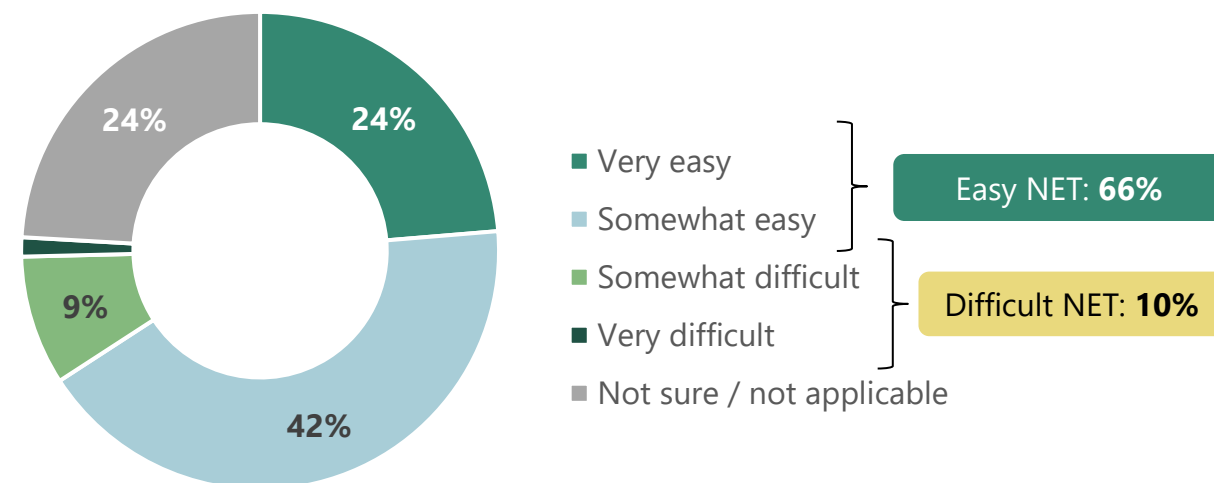
q38. Have you heard of or used the waste collection reminder and recycling search engine tool called the 'Saskatoon Waste Wizard' through an app or website? Base: All respondent, n=1003.

Two in five recall seeing City recycling education through mailed materials followed by social media, and outdoor advertising, while fewer report encountering information directly on the website. Overall, residents find online waste and recycling information easy to access.

Educational Materials the City has Produced on Recycling
(% Seen Within the Last Year)



Ease of Accessing City Waste and Recycling Information Online



q39. Have you seen any of the following educational materials the City has produced on recycling within the last year? Base: All respondents, n=970.

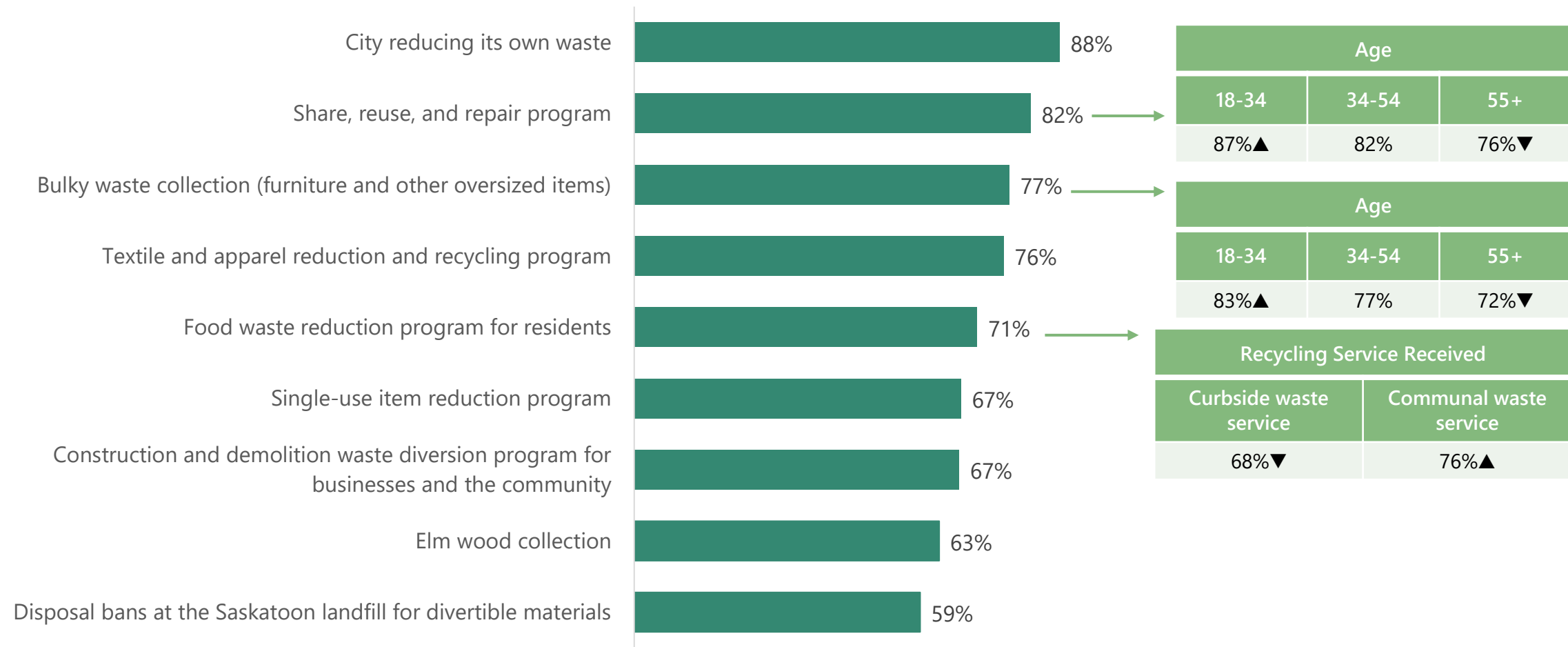
q40: How easy is it to find information related to waste (garbage, recycling, organics) on the City's webpages? Base: All respondents, n=970.



Special Programs

Support for new City waste services is strong across all initiatives, led by City-led waste reduction, reuse and repair programs. Younger residents and those using communal waste services tend to show higher support for several initiatives, indicating broad readiness for expanded and preventative waste diversion efforts.

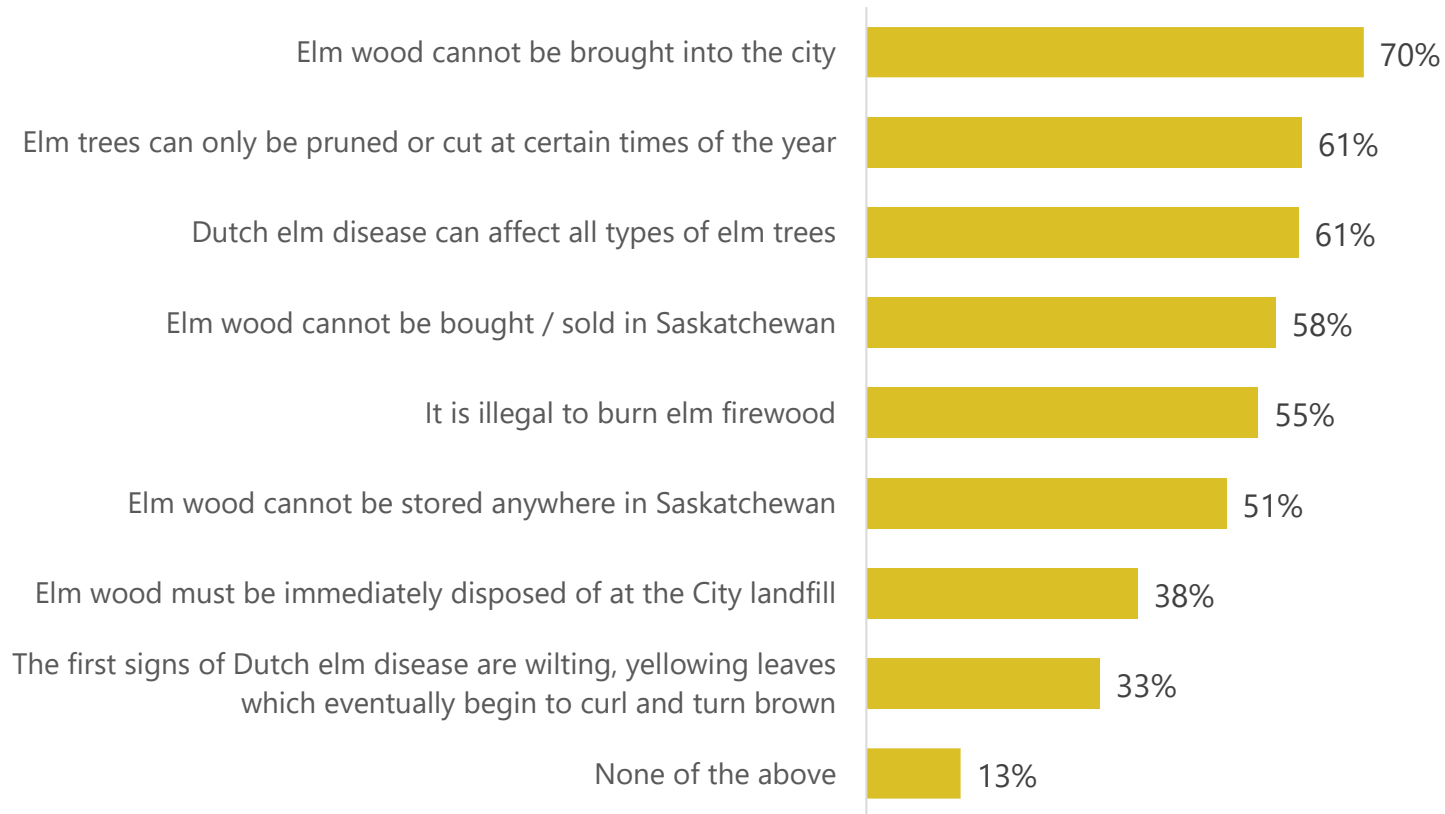
Resident Support for Potential New City Waste Services (%Supportive NET)



q41. Thinking about what you know about waste issues and the City of Saskatoon's waste services, please indicate your level of support for the development of the following new services? Base: All respondents, n=970.

Awareness about elm wood regulations is moderate overall, with understanding being the strongest around restrictions on bringing it to the city. Knowledge is consistently higher among older residents and those receiving curbside waste service.

Awareness About Elm Trees and Elm Wood

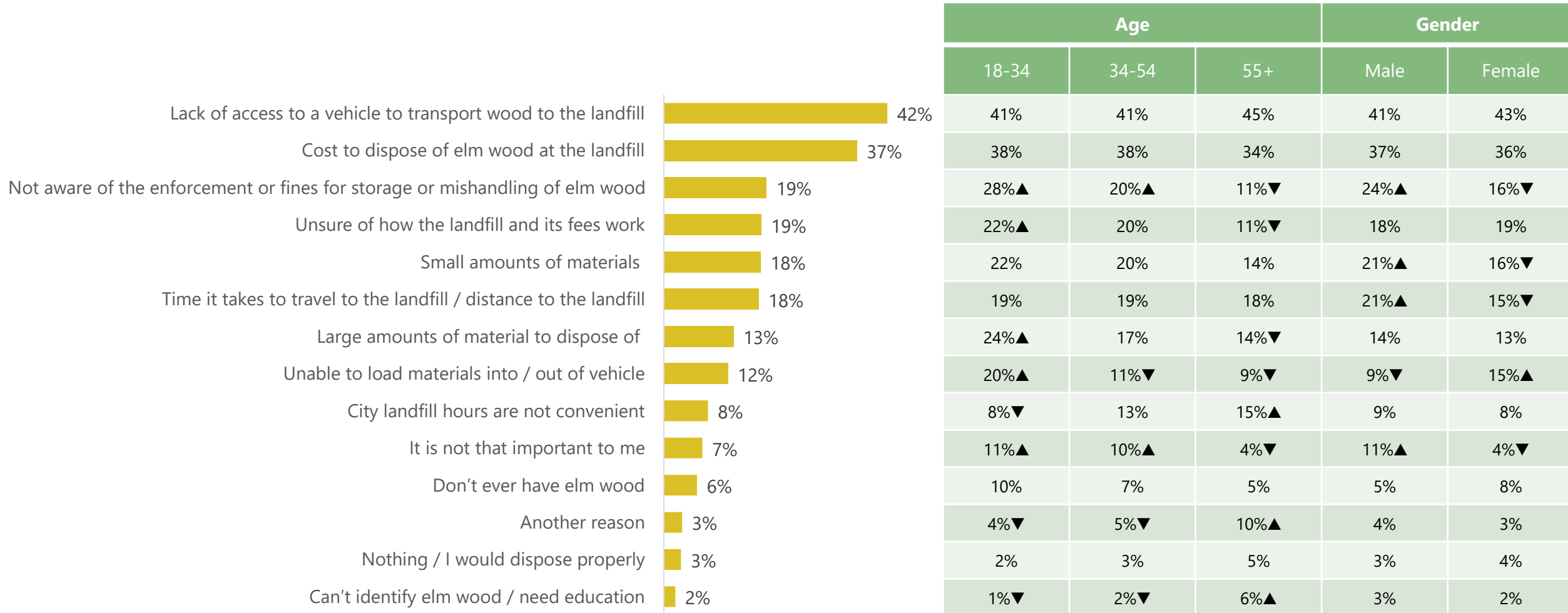


Age			Recycling Services Received	
18-34	34-54	55+	Curbside waste service	Communal waste service
64%▼	65%▼	80%▲	72%▲	65%▼
43%▼	59%▲	81%▲	67%▲	49%▼
65%	59%	59%	60%	63%
51%▼	53%▼	69%▲	61%▲	51%▼
50%▼	50%▼	65%▲	58%▲	49%▼
44%▼	48%▼	60%▲	54%▲	44%▼
32%▼	36%▼	46%▲	41%▲	31%▼
28%▼	28%▼	42%▲	35%	29%
17%▲	18%▲	6%▼	12%	17%

q42. Before now, did you know that... Base: All respondent, n=970.

Barriers to proper elm wood disposal are driven primarily by access and cost, with lack of a vehicle and landfill fees cited most often. Awareness gaps related to enforcement and disposal processes are more commonly cited by males and younger residents.

Barriers to Elm Wood Disposal at the City Landfill



q43. If you were in possession of elm wood, which of the following would be likely to discourage you from following the requirement to immediately dispose of elm wood at the City's landfill? Base: All respondent, n=970.