

Green To Go Update

Public Works Department

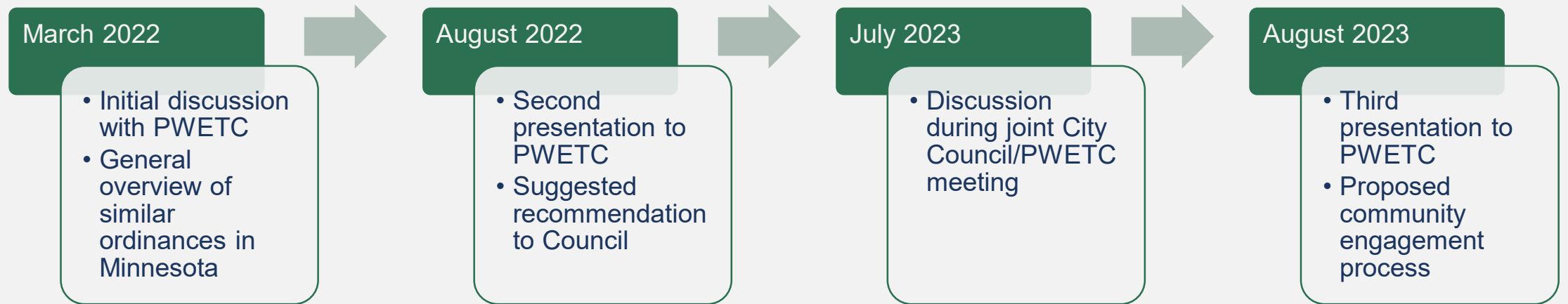
19-Aug-2024



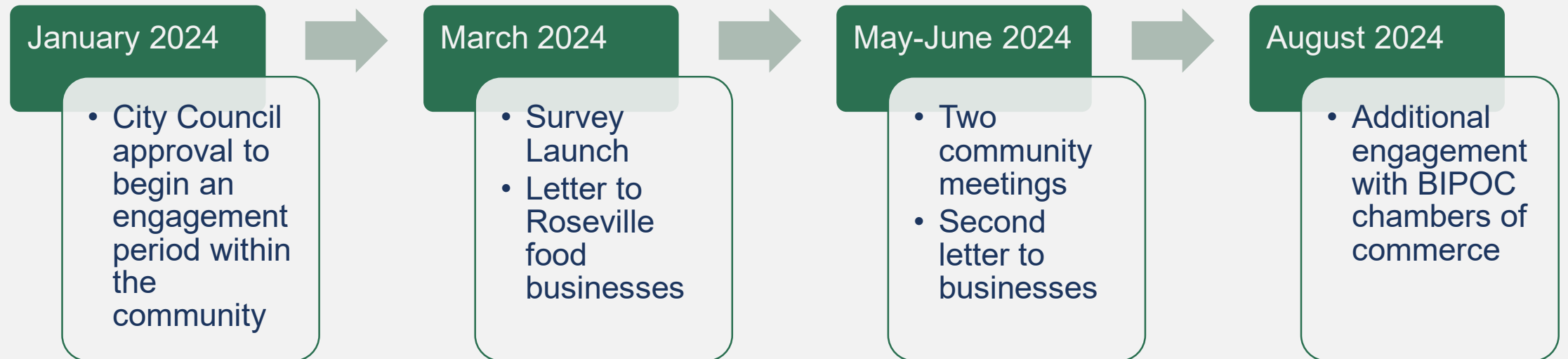
Green to Go - Overview

- History of discussion
- Why implement a packaging ordinance?
- Overview of engagement
- Survey results
- Implementation & enforcement recommendations
- Questions and discussion

Green to Go – Discussion History



Green to Go – History



Why Green to Go?

- Reduce use of Styrofoam packaging in food service
- Reduce PFAS in the waste stream
- Support MPCA's Solid Waste Plan and increase recycling rate
 - Goal: 75% recycling rate by 2030
 - Roseville's rate is approximately 46%
- Encourage composting materials with **Ramsey & Washington Counties' food scraps pickup program** coming sometime in 2026
- Adds consistency with other nearby communities and the newly passed **Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act**
- **Reducing waste is as important on a local scale as it is globally.**

Why Takeout Containers for Food?

- Two major solid waste issues:
 - **Plastic pollution & microplastics**
 - **Food waste**
- Food and packaging make up almost 45% of materials landfilled in the US
- Plastic production is at an all time high – 50% of all plastic ever produced has been made in the last 18 years.
- Rates of ordering food for takeout or delivery more than doubled during the pandemic, and 20-30% of restaurant sales are delivery.
- 4-10% of food purchased by food service businesses is thrown out before even reaching the consumer
 - **30% of food is wasted in total**
- By composting food waste scraps, we can turn them back into a useful material (compost).

Equity Considerations

- **Racial disparities in business ownership can present in lower overall earnings, growth, access to loans and other credit compared to white-owned businesses.**
 - Roseville staff must play a strong role in helping small businesses, especially those that are BIPOC-owned, navigate applications for financial and technical assistance.
- **Survey was offered online and only in English**
 - Business owners and residents who speak little or no English were unable to complete the survey
 - Someone without internet access could not have completed the survey
- **Low-income households are more likely to use delivery or takeout apps compared to higher-income households.**
 - The ordinance could have a regressive effect on low-income households if business owners raise prices in response
 - Race and income are closely linked – therefore BIPOC households could be affected.

Outreach Overview

Landing page on the City Website:

GREEN TO GO

We'd Like Your Feedback!

Survey for Roseville
Businesses

Survey for Roseville
Residents

Email Us!

The City of Roseville is considering an ordinance requiring food establishments to provide either recyclable or compostable single-use containers for to-go food packaging.

Packaging includes containers used to transport foods or beverages for immediate consumption such as serving trays, plates, containers, boxes, and cans. **It does not include bags.**

What are our goals with this ordinance?

- Reduce single-use plastic.
- Eliminate the use of Styrofoam.
- Increase awareness and usage of recycling and composting programs.
- Promote Ramsey County's upcoming food scraps pickup program.
- Decrease the volume of landfill waste and toxic byproducts of incineration.
- Achieve a 75% recycling rate as laid out by Minnesota State Statute by 2030.

What are we proposing?

Any food and beverages prepared for immediate consumption and are meant to be carried out must be in packaging that is:

- **Compostable** - materials must be certified by the [Biodegradable Products Institute \(BPI\)](#) or meet ASTM D6400 standards.
 - Note that compostable materials **are not recyclable**.
- **Recyclable** - materials that are accepted by the City's current recycling hauler.
- **Returnable/Reusable** - containers such as bottles, milk containers, growlers that can be returned to the distributor and used again.
 - Reusable containers must comply with Minnesota Statute § 4626.0295. BizRecycling and WasteWise can help with setup and compliance.

Noelle Bakken
Sustainability Specialist
[Email](#)
Phone: 651-792-7057

Community Conversations:

May 6 - 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
June 24 - 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Cedarholm Community Ctr
2323 Hamline Ave N
Roseville MN 55113

Documents

[Green To Go Brochure](#)

Council materials

[1/22/24 Presentation](#)

[Draft ordinance](#)

Other cities have implemented similar ordinances - click the links below to explore the cities' requirements:

[Edina](#)
[Minneapolis](#)
[St. Louis Park](#)
[Saint Paul](#)

Business resources

[BizRecycling](#) grants
[MNimize](#)
[Waste Wise](#)

Outreach Overview

- **Met with Hospitality Minnesota** to receive feedback on the proposal and outreach plan
- **Informational letters** sent in March and June to licensed food businesses in Roseville
- **Online surveys** for businesses and residents, open since March
- Two in-person **listening sessions** with staff from Visit Roseville, Twin Cities North Chamber, Ramsey County, and several packaging suppliers/distributors
- **In-person outreach** with restaurants to inform them about the initiative, survey, and funding options from BizRecycling.
- **Contacted professional organizations** – MN Grocers, MN Retailers, MN Food Trucks, etc. to inform them about the proposal

Survey Analysis – Businesses

19 total responses of 142 unique businesses (180 total locations) = 13% responded

Trends

- Cost is the biggest issue (11 of 19 replies)
- Most respondents are **unfamiliar** with BizRecycling (14 of 19 replies)
- **Getting connected with suppliers and funding resources** were rated most highly to be helpful to businesses, should we pass this ordinance.
- Almost all respondents carry 3 months or less of packaging supplies on hand, so the opportunity for a relatively short changeover exists.

Notable comments

- Multiple responses commented on **the lack of control they have over the packaging once it's in the hands of the consumer**
- Several comments about the **efficacy of the packaging with their food compared to other disposable options**

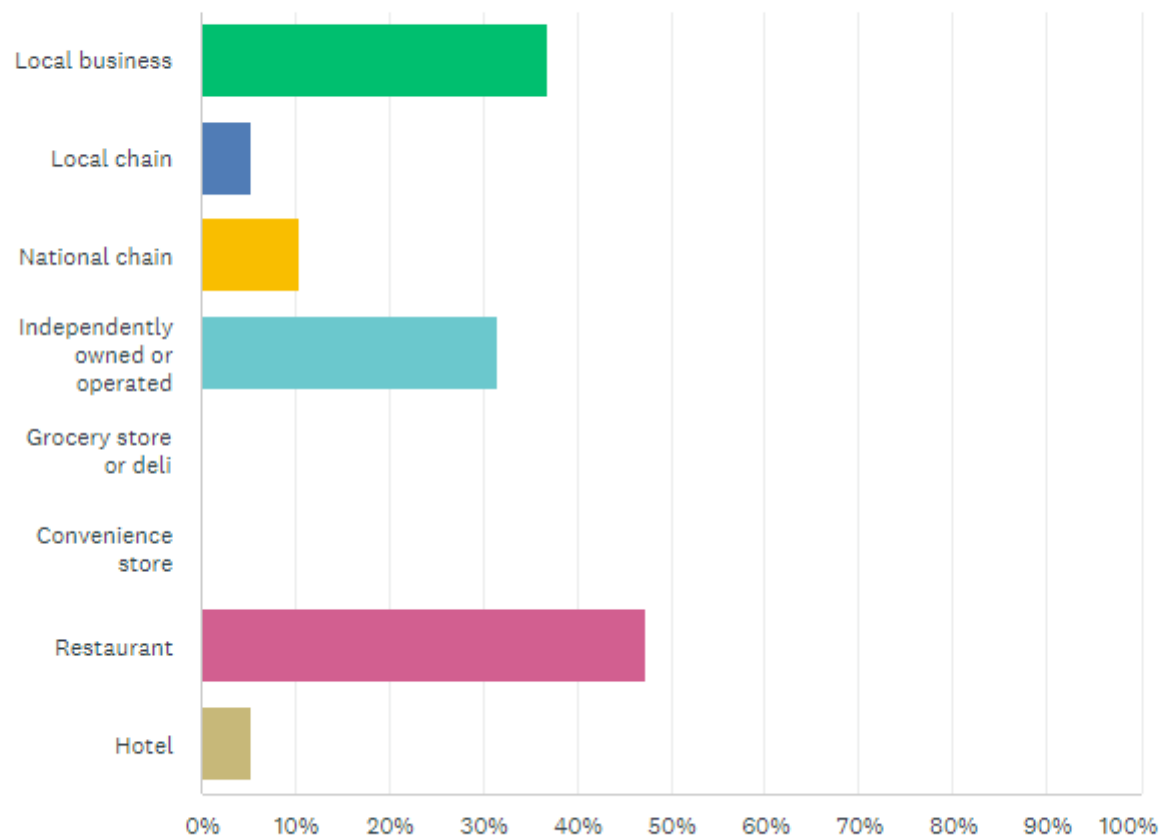
Biases

- Since the survey was online and in English, respondents that don't speak English as their first language may have had trouble with the survey or didn't open it
- An online survey is biased towards people with a smartphone and/or internet access.
- Majority of respondents were white

Survey Analysis – Businesses

Which of the following best describes your business (select all that apply)?

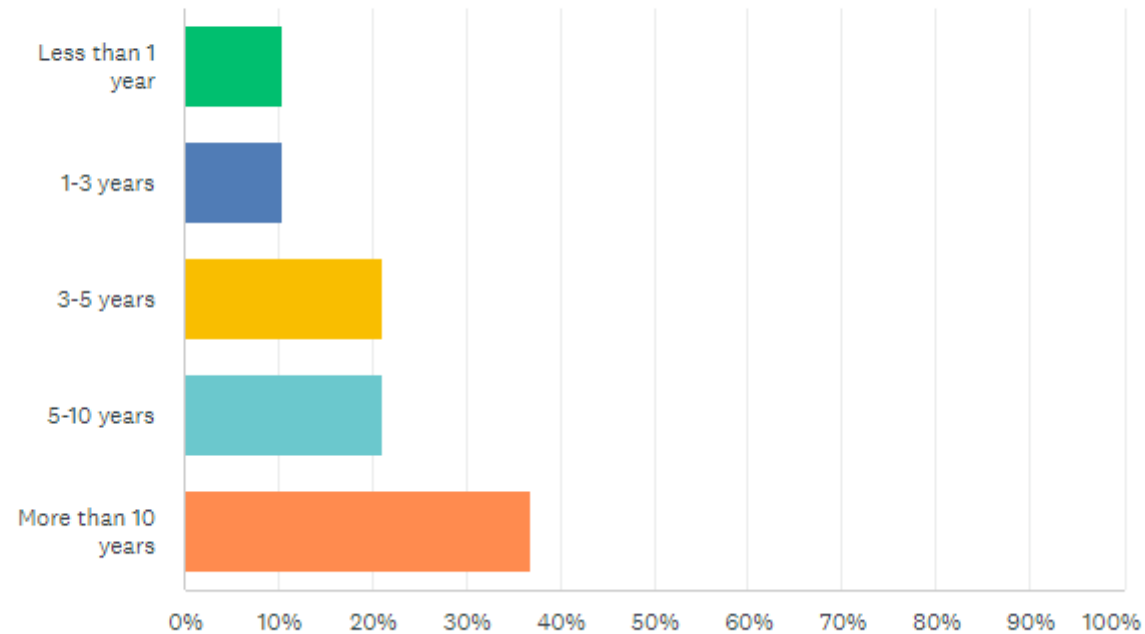
Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis – Businesses

How long has your business been open?

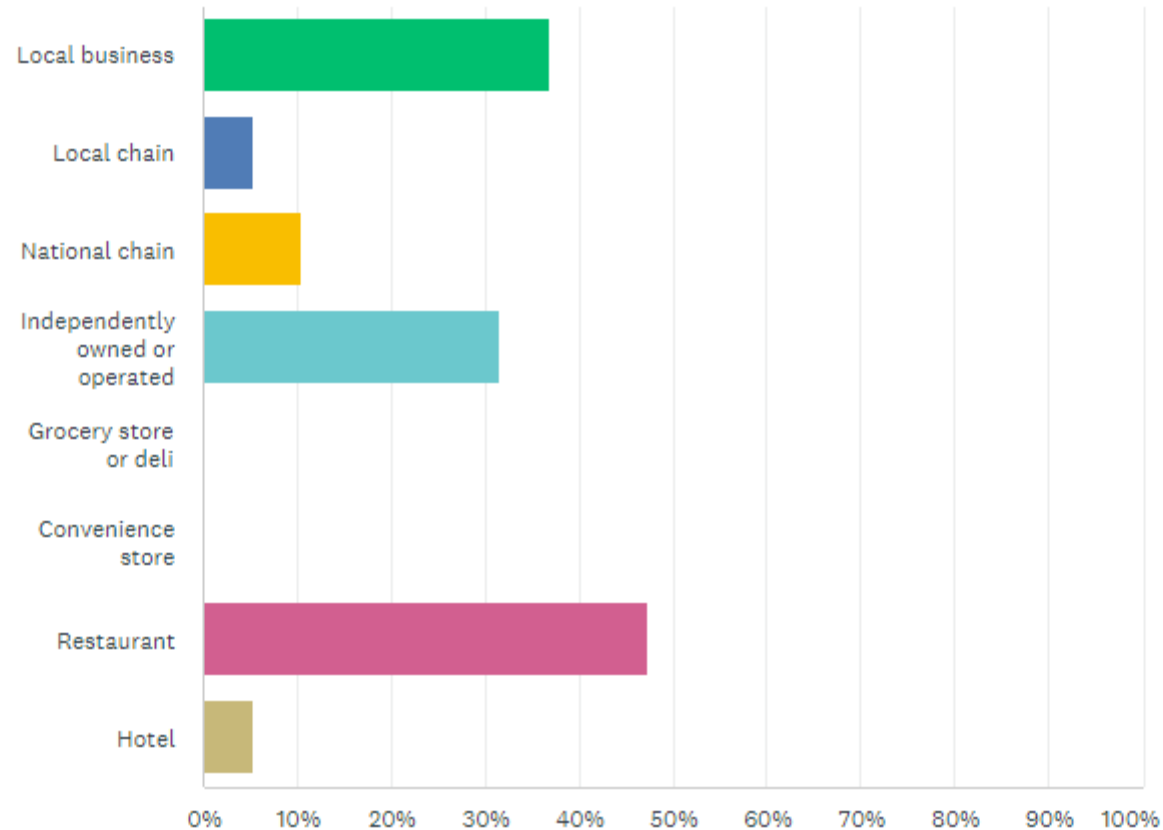
Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis – Businesses

Which of the following best describes your business (select all that apply)?

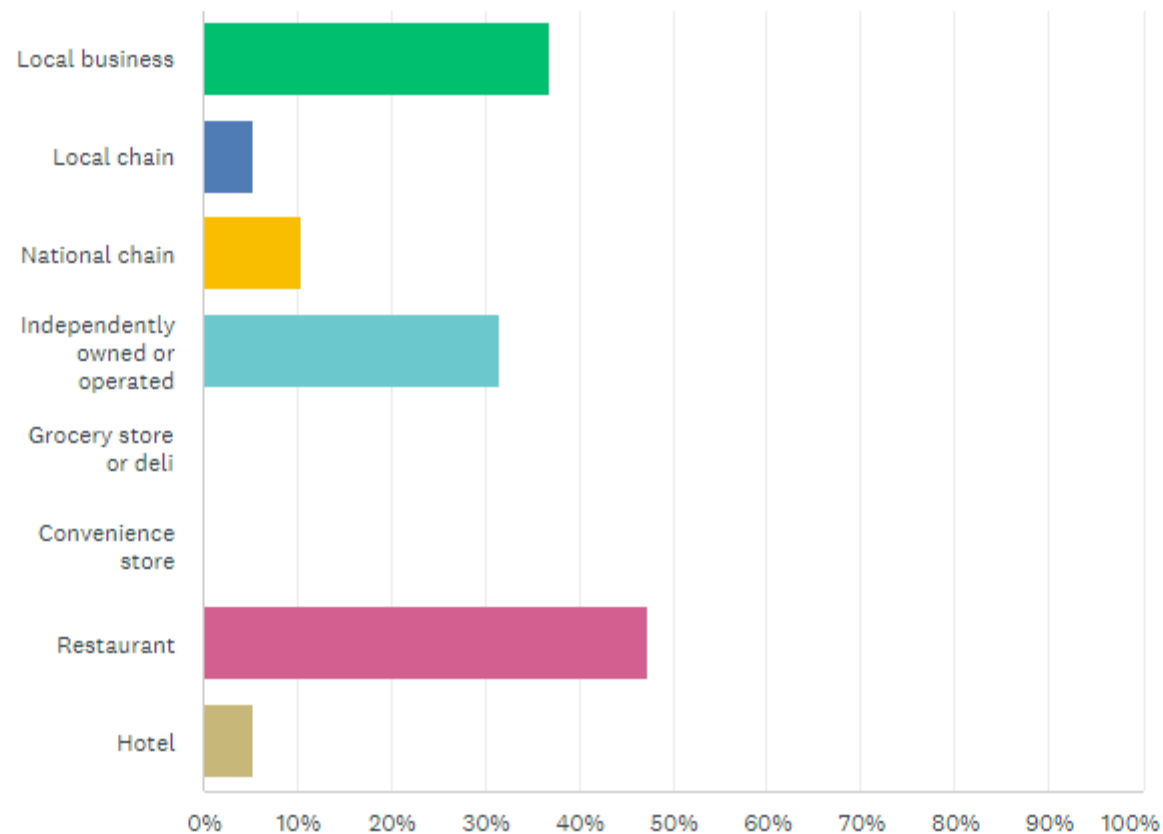
Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis – Businesses

Which of the following best describes your business (select all that apply)?

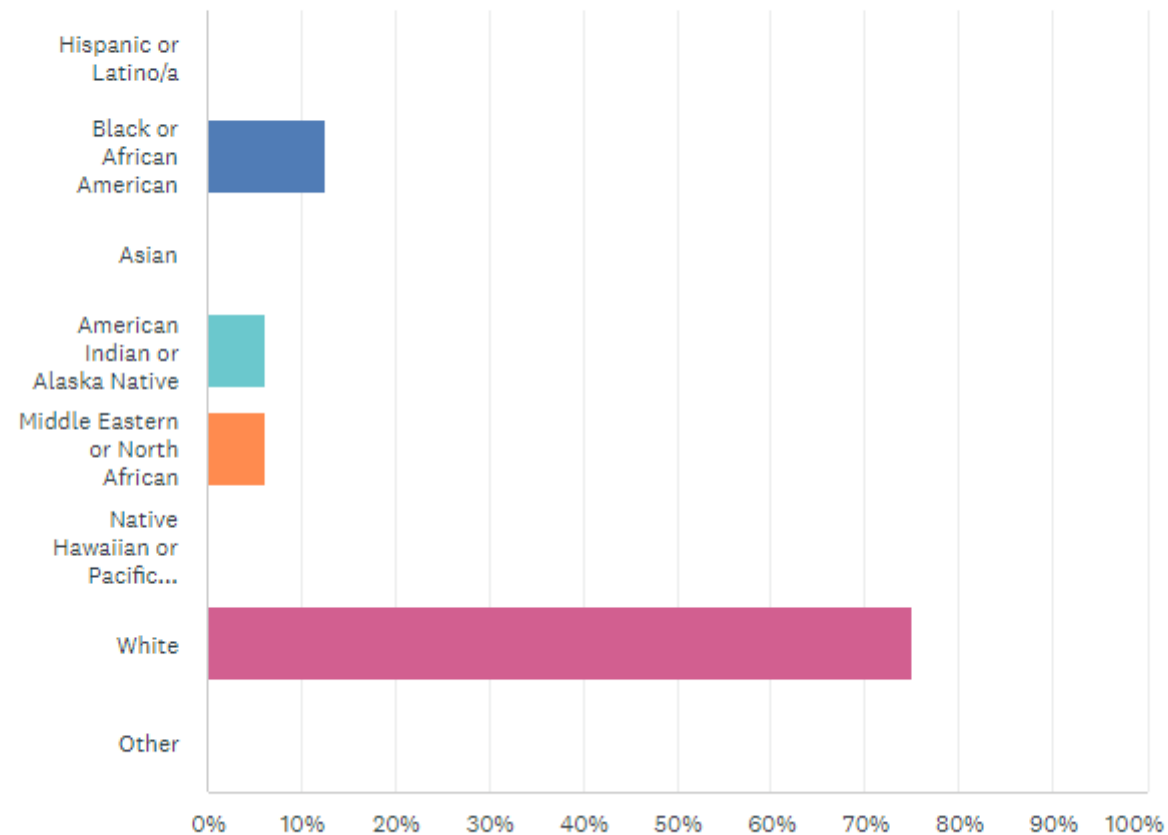
Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis – Businesses

(Optional) What is your race or ethnicity?

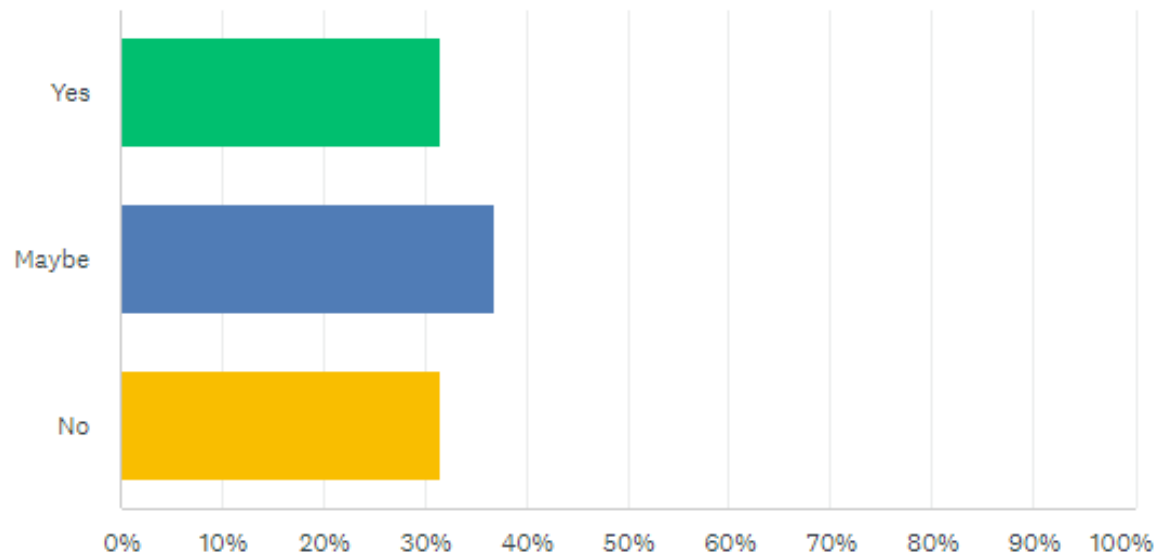
Answered: 16 Skipped: 3



Survey Analysis – Businesses (19 total responses)

Do you support an ordinance requiring takeout materials to be compostable or recyclable?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis – Businesses

*“They [the containers] are considerably more expensive (**sometimes twice the price**) and they are sometimes hard to get in a timely manner because they are usually special order.”*

“I would be open to using something sustainable that was more economical than what is currently offered. We have resisted raising our prices throughout the last 4 years, as we try to offer our services at an affordable price point which is very hard to find anymore.

Costs of goods, taxes and wages continue to rise making it hard for small businesses to remain profitable and worth the hard work it takes to operate a small business.”

“We have tried to educate our students on campus and they don’t seem to understand or care. They put recycling in the compost container therefore contaminating it.”

Survey Analysis - Residents

76 total responses

Trends

- Just under half of all respondents eat out once a week or more (49%)
- 24% said the takeout materials restaurants offer affect where they eat
- 76% would pay a small upcharge if the restaurant offered compostable or fully recyclable options (many said "depends how small").
 - An upcharge passes the cost to the consumer and could have additional negative impacts on low-income families
 - Some suppliers think approximately \$0.05 increase per item would be enough to cover the additional cost of supplies.
- **88% of respondents support a Green to Go ordinance**

Notable comments and themes

- Concerns about microplastics and non-recyclable plastic
- Concerns about different city/county recycling requirements - if someone from Anoka County purchases takeout, does it matter since they don't have composting?
- Perception that an ordinance is necessary for restaurants to change packaging materials.

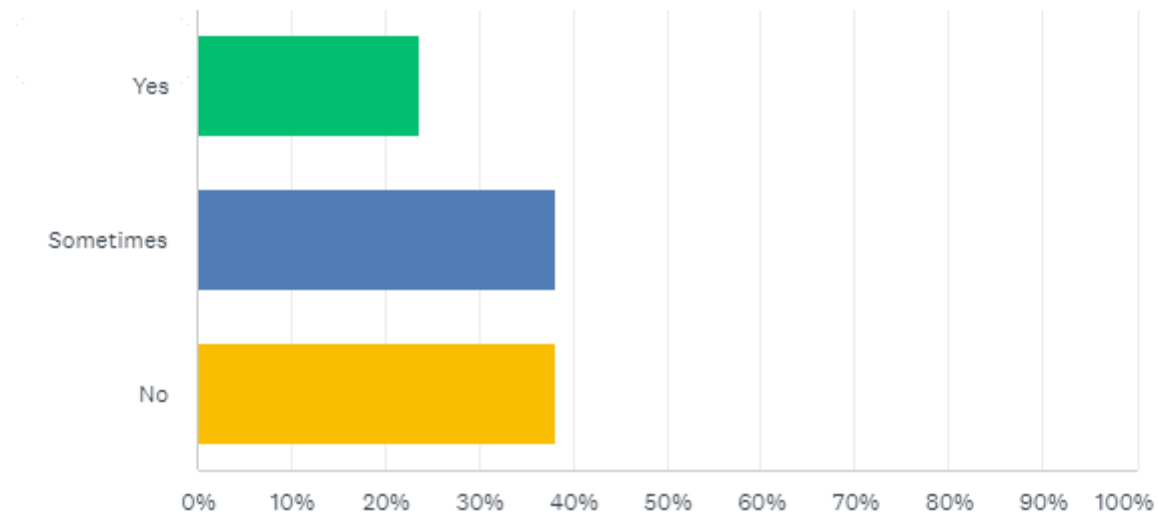
Biases

- Residents passionate or concerned about this issue are more likely to take time to complete the survey
- There is far less financial risk for the consumer compared to the business

Survey Analysis - Residents

Do the takeout materials offered by restaurants affect where you choose to eat?

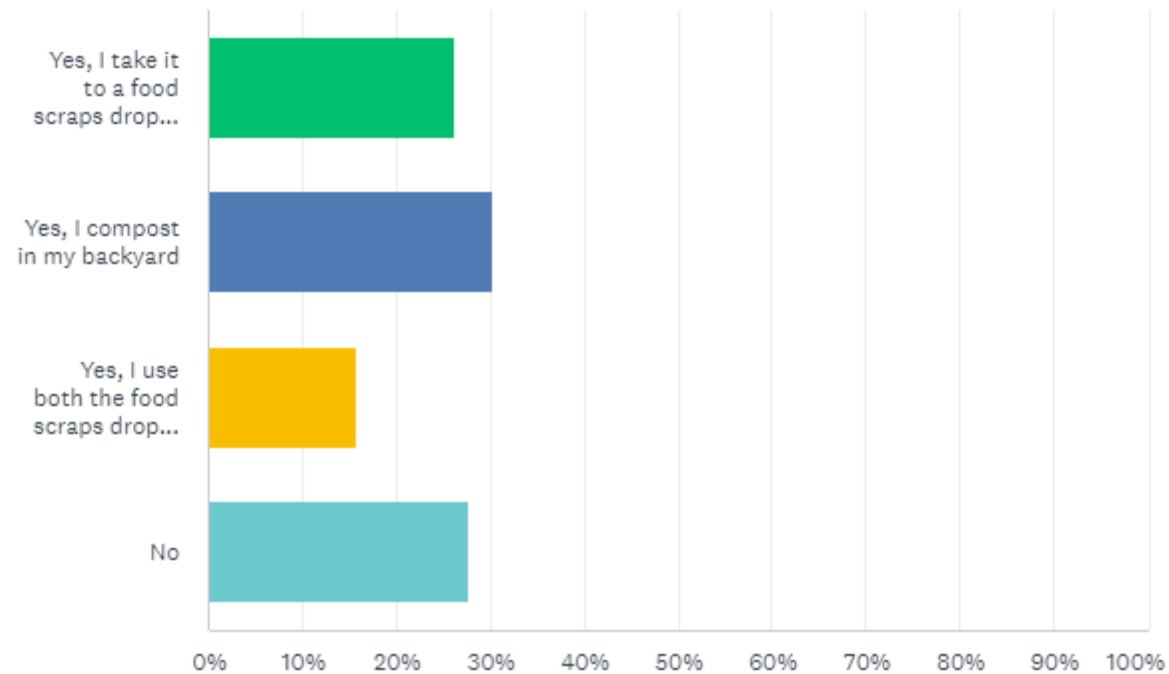
Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis - Residents

Do you separate your food scraps and compostable waste?

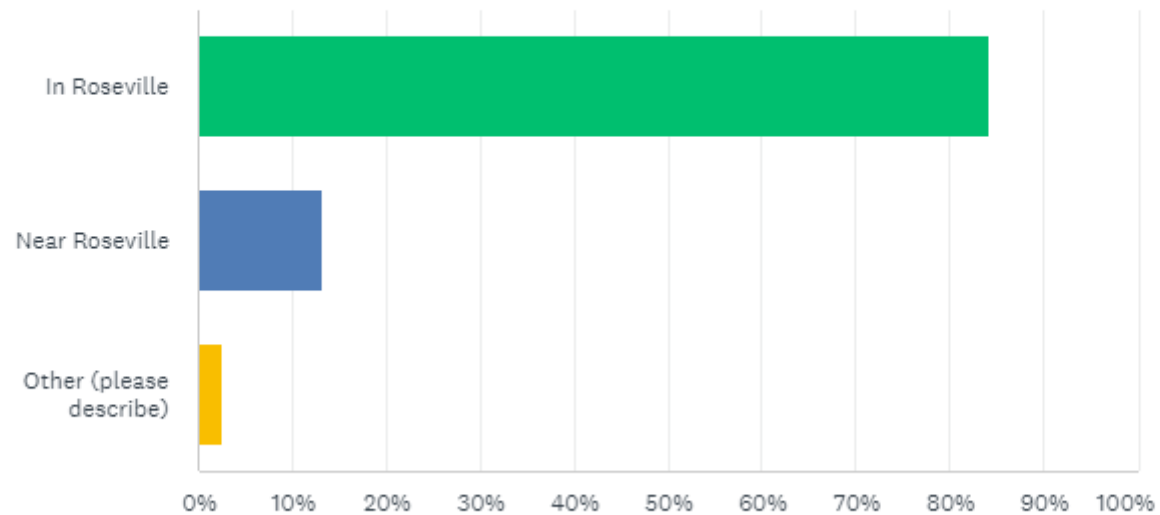
Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis - Residents

Where do you live?

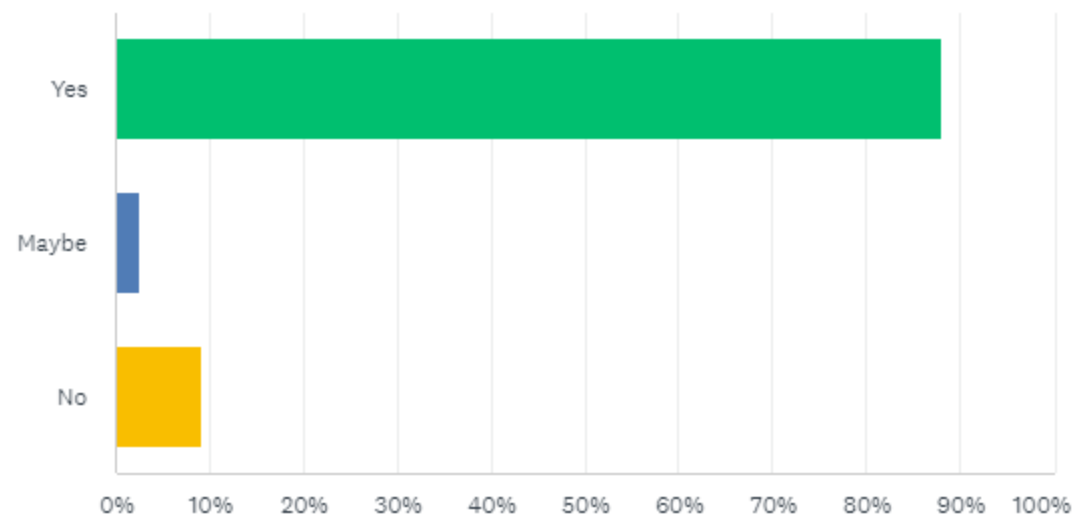
Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis - Residents

Do you support a city ordinance that requires restaurant takeout containers to be recyclable or compostable?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Survey Analysis – Residents

*“Everything depends on what people do with the recyclable / compostable containers after using them. **This ambitious effort is useless if the containers are just thrown into the trash.**”*

As busy parents it is difficult to do all we want to for the environment, so this kind of program is one we support whole-heartedly.

“I'd like to see Roseville reduce single-use plastics (e.g. utensils), and make it easier to recycle plastics (e.g. #4). Can't wait for Ramsey County to include us in the compost pickup project!”

“If a business wants to add this on their own, that's great. It should not be mandatory.”

Roseville-specific Implications

- Our food-related inspections are done by Ramsey County Environmental Health
 - **The county doesn't have regulatory authority to enforce local ordinances on our behalf**
 - Ramsey County has provided us with licensee contact information
 - Multiple regulatory parties can be confusing for restaurants
- Food trucks aren't inspected by Ramsey County
- Caterers – companies based in the city/county of inspection but may not necessarily be operating in that same city or county

Benefits

- Businesses diverting waste to recycling or compost can **save money on solid waste fees**
 - Ramsey County solid waste tax is 70%: 17% state tax, County Environmental Charge of 53%.
 - **Recycling and organics disposal do not receive this tax.**
- Waste is inefficient: a business **pays** for a product, **pays** to collect the product, **pays** to dispose of the left-over product, and **pays** a tax on the disposal.
- Businesses modeling recycling and organic waste separation at front of house **normalizes** the process for consumers.

Resources available for businesses

Support from BizRecycling & WasteWise

Technical assistance from MN Chamber of Commerce

- Evaluate hauler bills alongside arranging organics pickup
- Connect with suppliers
- Help finding products

Recycling grants

- Up to \$10,000
- Includes all containers and equipment, bin labels
- Can include switching to reusable ware
 - Dishwashers and sanitizers
- Enclosure builds/expansions
- Staff training
- Compostable containers (up to \$5000 or a 6 month supply)

Resources available for businesses

MNimize

Technical assistance program from MN Chamber of Commerce, Waste Wise, and Hennepin County

- Reduce single-use plastic in the restaurant industry
- Available to restaurants all over Minnesota
- Different tier statuses to promote continual growth
- \$1,000 rebate to reduce single-use plastic

ReThink Disposable

Program through the Clean Water Fund, MPCA, and Plastic Free Restaurants

- Focus on shifting to reusable serve ware for dining in
- Technical assistance to help with identifying areas to reduce waste and purchasing materials
 - Plastic Free Restaurants have grants to cover the cost of switching to non-plastic dine-in materials
 - Additional “mini-grants” for women or BIPOC-owned businesses

Green to Go Ordinance Recommendations

- Follow exemptions similar to other Minnesota cities:
 - Healthcare facilities
 - Licensed caterers
 - Foods prepackaged by manufacturer
 - Plastic films
- Determine other material exemptions as necessary based on restaurant feedback
- Enforcement based on annual visits to review packaging materials
 - 60 days to make necessary changes
 - Administrative fine if changes are not made
- Informational packets for new restaurants
 - Ordinance information
 - BizRecycling information

Recommended Next Steps (if approved)

- 12 month phase for education, adaptation
 - Packaging fair to connect restaurants with suppliers
 - Observe whether any material exemptions needed
 - Early adopters during this time frame receive recognition from City's Sustainable Steward award
- Post-12 month phase-in:
 - Annual site visits to restaurants to explain ordinance and check inventory and onsite recycling/organics collection.
 - St. Louis Park taking this approach
 - Informational packet for new restaurants
- Throughout:
 - Staff should connect frequently with small businesses to help them find technical assistance and grant programs.
- Staffing needs:
 - Intern or graduate fellow who is knowledgeable about these concepts and can help with business outreach, communications, and event organization.



Questions?



THANK YOU

Public Works Department