

CARVER COUNTY COMMERCIAL BUILDING RECYCLING REPORT



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Table of Contents

- Introduction..... 3**
 - Significant Findings 3
 - Recommendations..... 4
- Survey Results 5**
 - Figure 1 – Garbage Service Provider..... 5
 - Figure 2 - Shared Garbage Collection 5
 - Figure 3 – Recycling Service Frequency 6
 - Figure 4 – Recycling Facility Use 6
 - Figure 5 – Business Recycling Rate 7
 - Figure 6 – Materials Recycled 7
 - Figure 7 –Materials from Multi-Sort/Self Hauled Recyclables 8
 - Figure 8 – Volume of Garbage Collected from Businesses that Recycle 8
 - Figure 9 – Volume of Garbage Collected (No Recycling) 9
 - Figure 10 –Number of Materials Recycled 9
 - Figure 11 – Recycling Collection Service..... 10
 - Figure 12 – Access to Recycling Containers..... 10
 - Figure 13 – Business Recycling Assistance Results 11
- Appendices 12**
 - Appendix A - Cover Letter..... 12
 - Appendix B - Issued Survey..... 14

Introduction

The Minnesota Legislature has expanded recycling requirements in the Metro Counties to include commercial buildings, effective January 1, 2016. Businesses classified in sectors 42 to 81 under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), that contract for 4 or more cubic yards of weekly garbage service, will be required to divert at least 3 recyclable materials from their waste stream. Carver County acquired mailing addresses from the “Reference USA” database and taxpayer services, and mailed surveys to all businesses in the County in early March, 2015. The desired outcome of this survey was to:

- Gather information necessary for improving Carver County business recycling rates;
- Identify business owners that will be out of compliance when the new regulation begins;
- Identify Carver County businesses interested in receiving technical assistance to improve their current recycling practices.

Significant Findings

A total of 1,490 surveys were mailed to businesses throughout Carver County that fall within the NAICS classification. Of those, 323 businesses replied giving a response rate of 22 percent. The data gathered has been compiled and displayed as graphs on pages 5-11 showing survey results. Also attached are the cover letter and the survey questionnaire that was sent to each individual business.

Based on the survey results, 72 percent of businesses are serviced by Waste Management, Republic Services, or Randy’s Sanitation. The remaining businesses are serviced by smaller local haulers (Fig 1). Knowing which hauler each business currently uses is important in opening a dialogue between businesses and haulers for improving waste habits, and to define what recycling services are currently offered.

Of the 315 businesses who responded to the question “does your business recycle,” 14 percent responded they do not (Fig. 5). Of the group that does not recycle, 33 percent responded that they had 4 or more yards of weekly garbage service. This means they will be subject to the new recycling statute, but are not currently positioned to meet the requirement to recycle at least 3 recyclable materials. Based on the survey responses, staff estimates that 5.4 percent of Carver County businesses will not be in compliance with the new recycling requirements as of January 1, 2016.

The survey also included a section to identify businesses requesting technical assistance to increase their recycling rates. The results of this section shows:

- 58 business owners would like to receive some form of technical assistance such as information on cost effective recycling, financial assistance, on-site waste assessments, employee training, or materials to promote recycling efforts to employees and customers.
- 63 businesses expressed interest in participating in a County sponsored workshop focusing on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for waste reduction. The workshop will be held in the Fall of 2016, and will provide additional information on effective business recycling strategies.
- 94 businesses would like to receive a recurring Carver County business recycling e-newsletter.

Contact information from businesses who indicated interest in receiving technical assistance has been compiled, and they will be contacted.

Recommendations

Based on the results of this survey, staff recommends the following strategies to improve commercial business recycling rates.

1. Utilize the information gathered to expand outreach efforts to businesses through the County's business recycling assistance program.
2. Notify businesses whose current practices will not comply with the new recycling requirements.
3. Offer technical assistance and recommendations on effective strategies toward implementation of an effective recycling program.
4. Follow up with businesses that have indicated interest in receiving technical assistance from Carver County to improve and expand their current recycling efforts.

Fig. 1

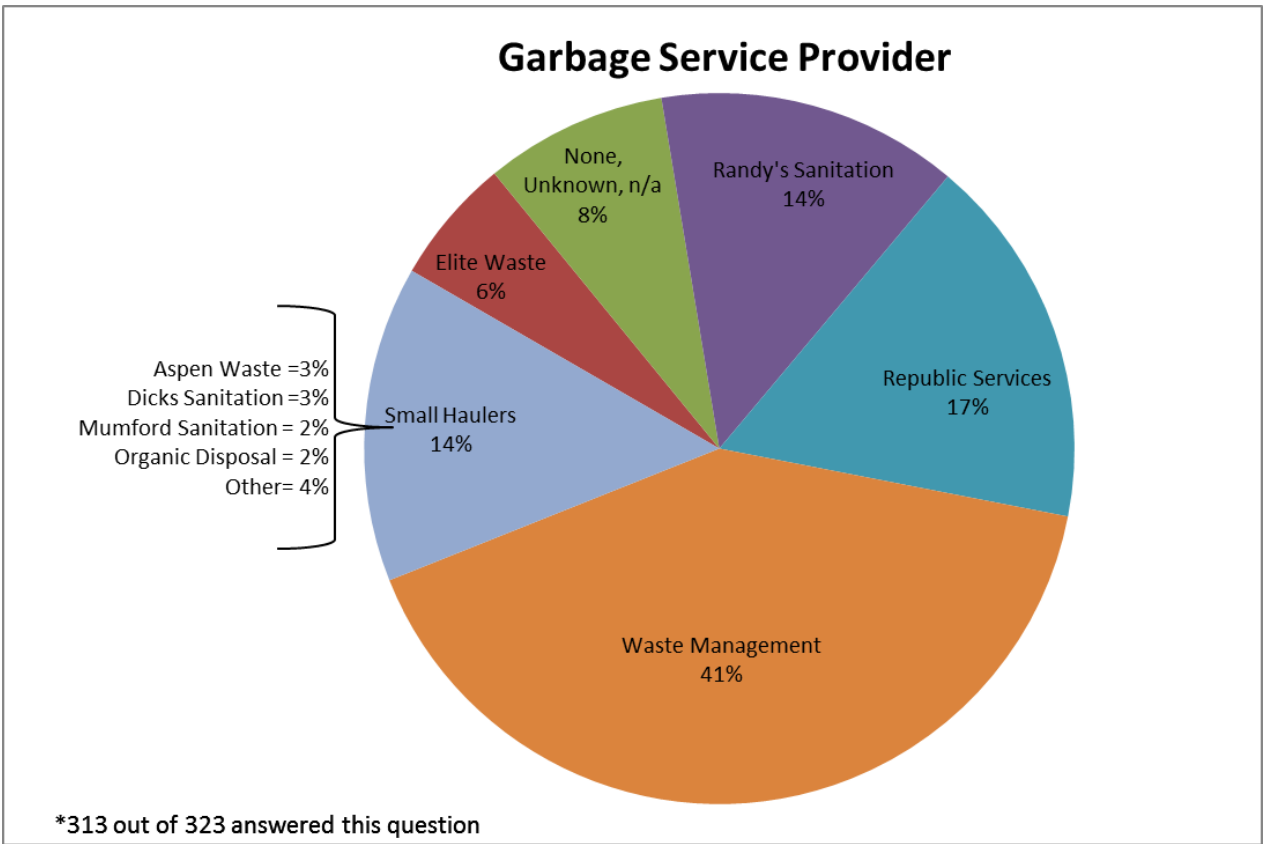


Fig. 2

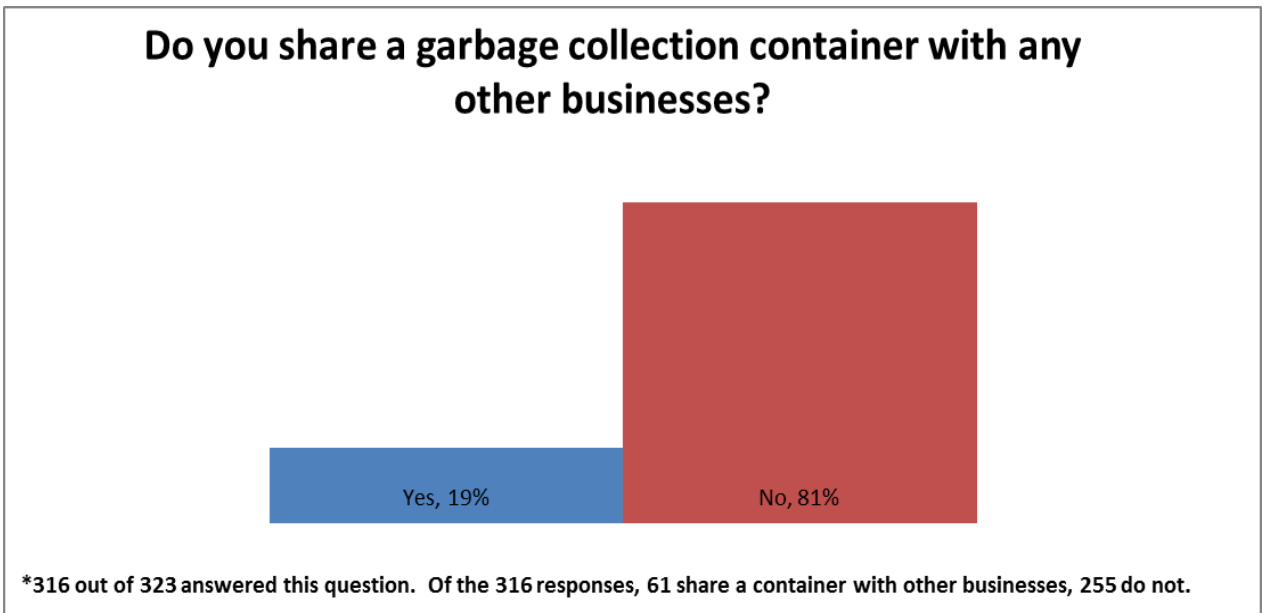


Fig. 3

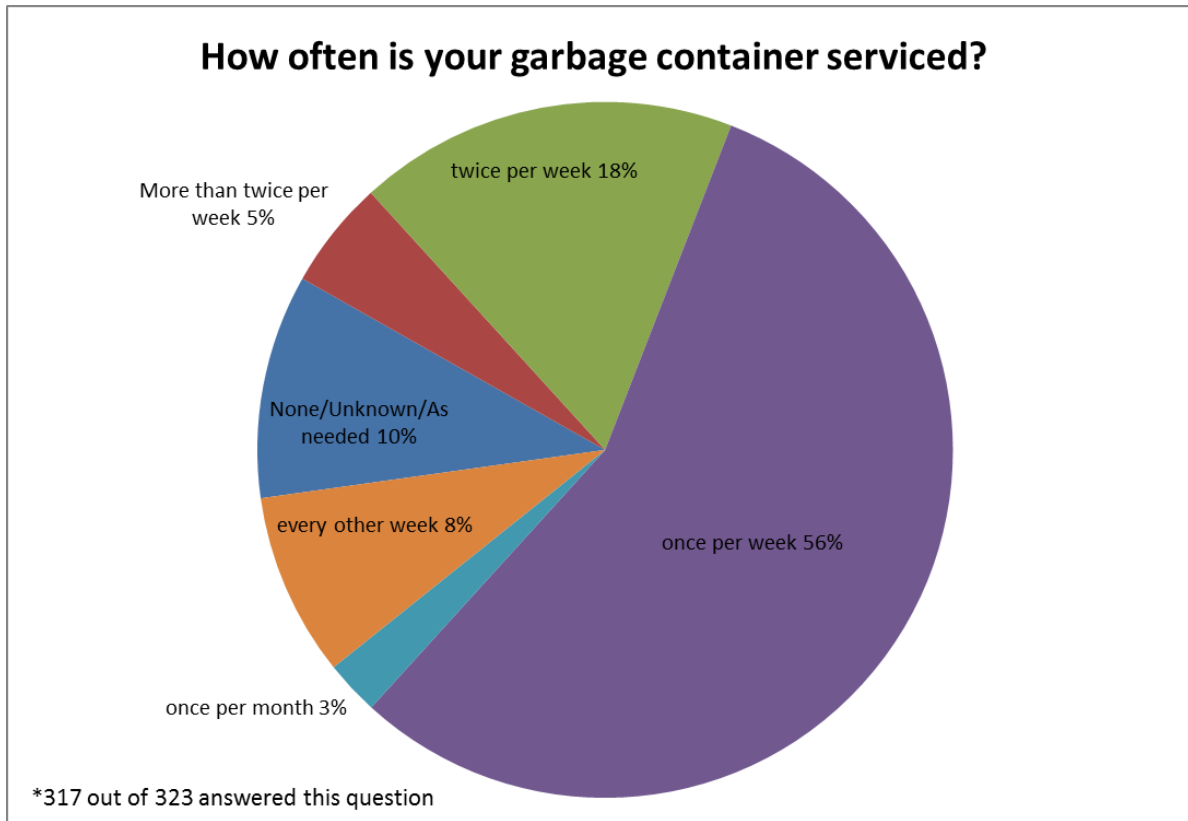


Fig. 4

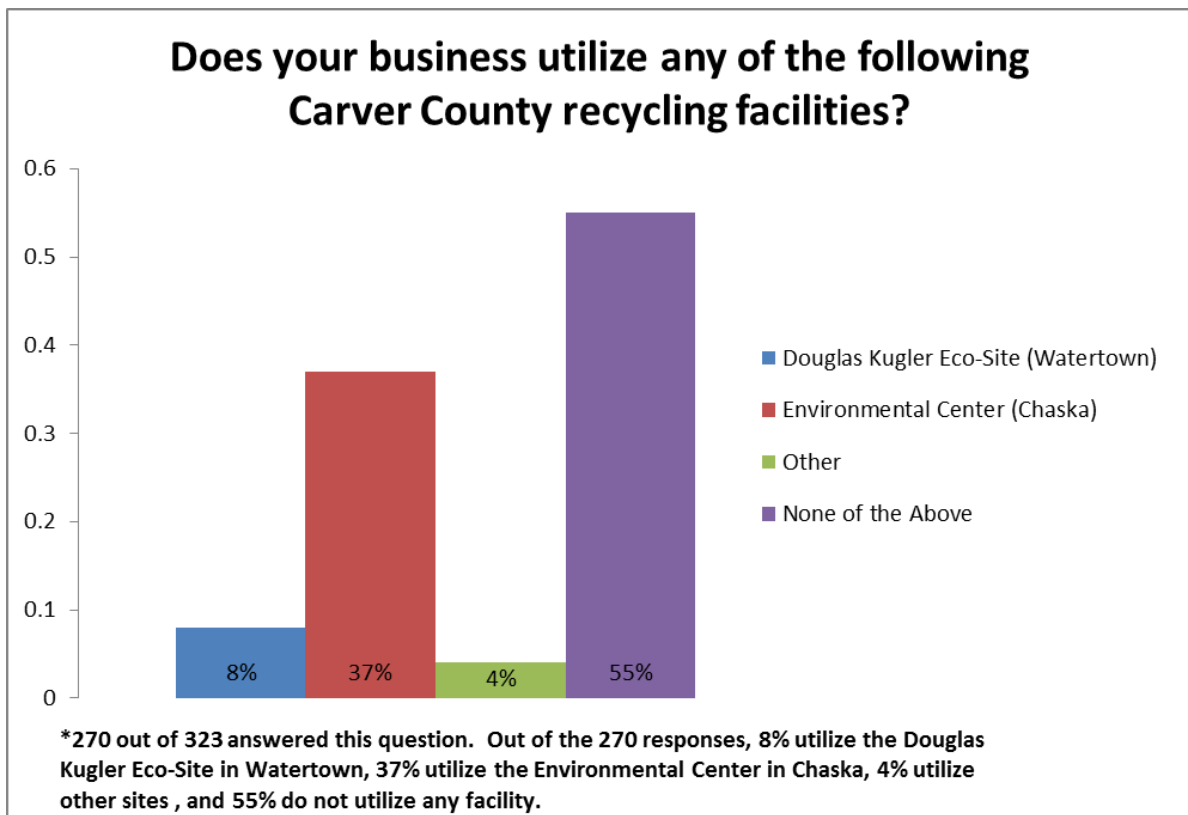


Fig. 5

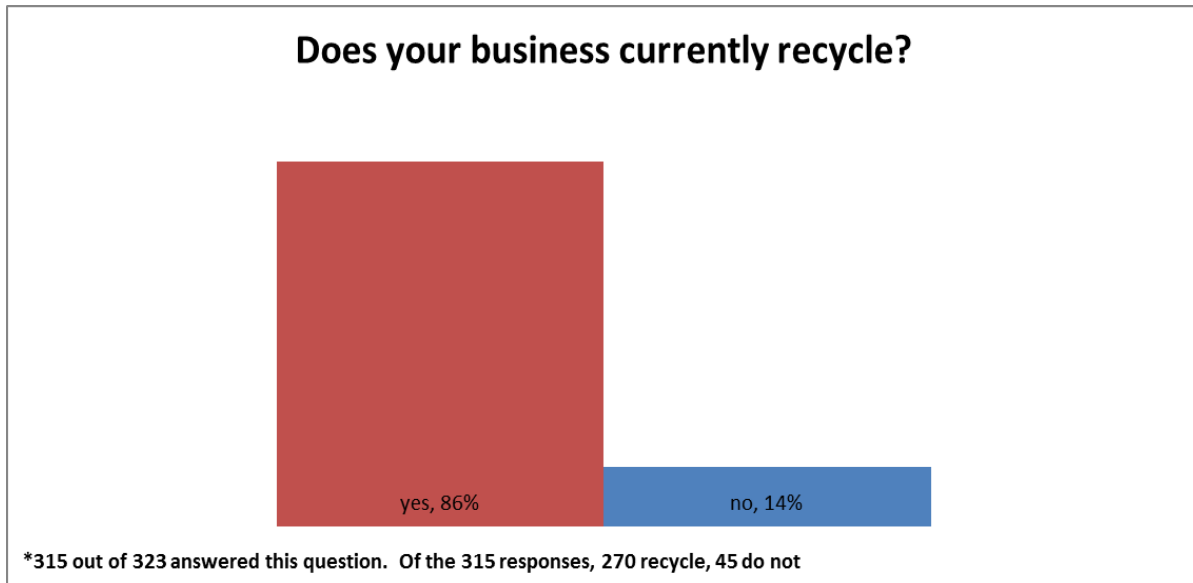


Fig. 6

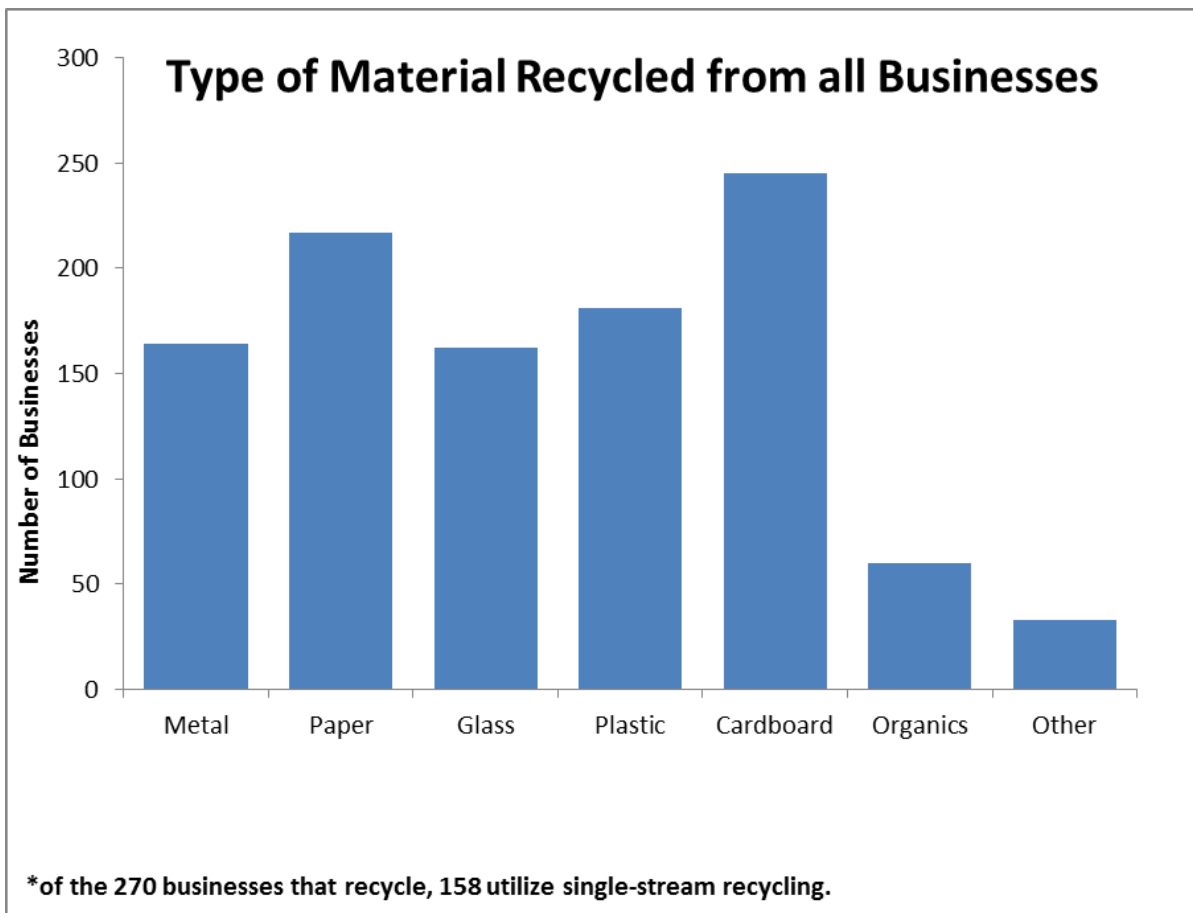


Fig. 7

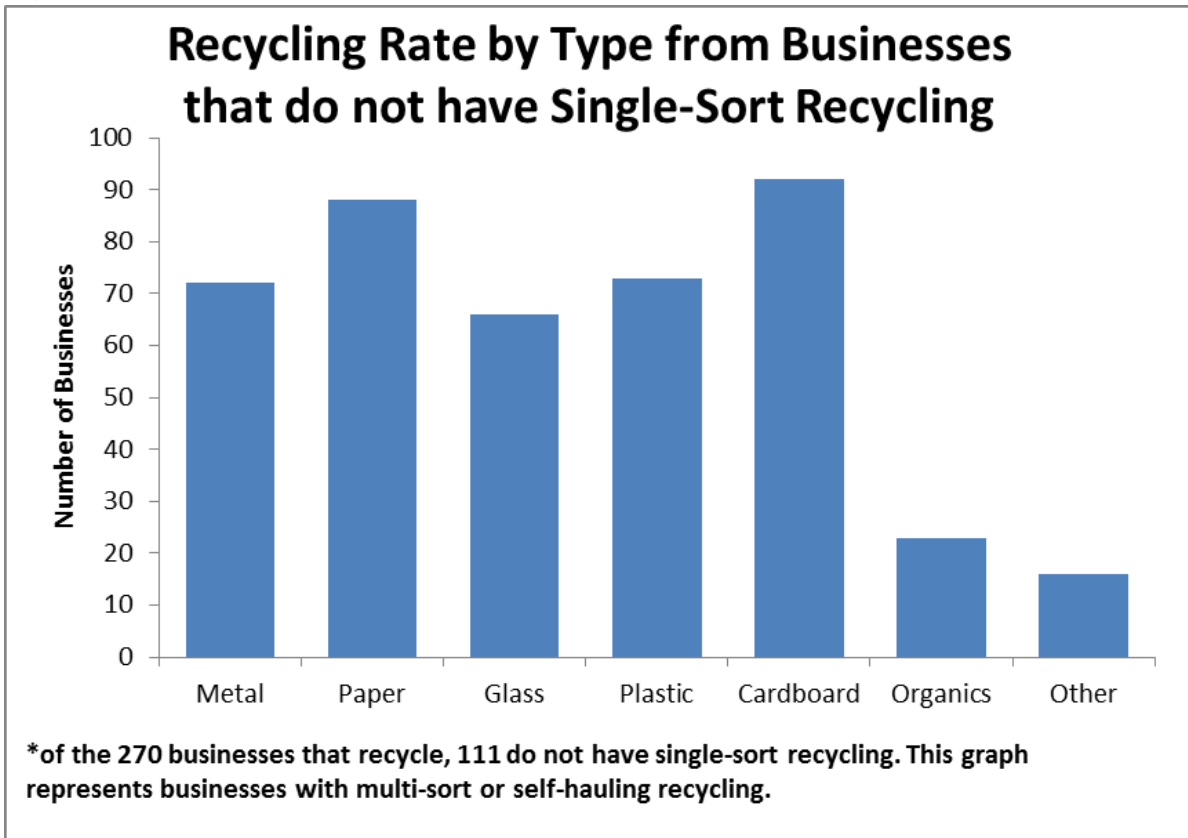


Fig. 8

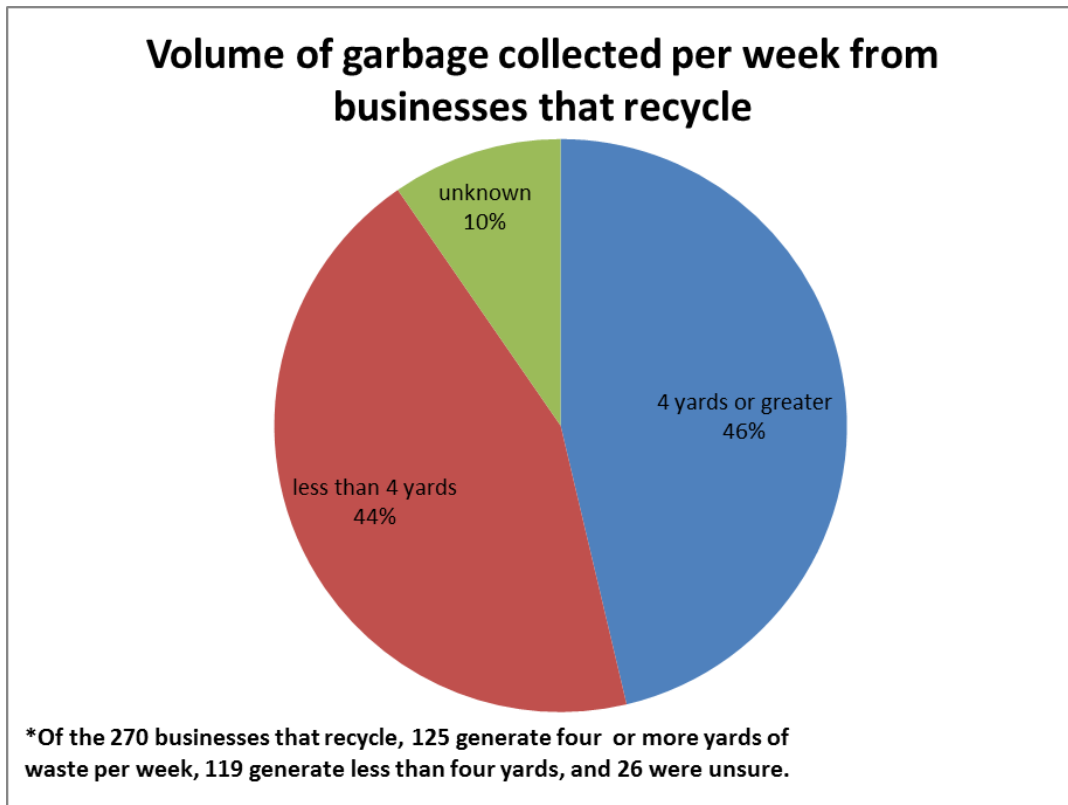


Fig. 9

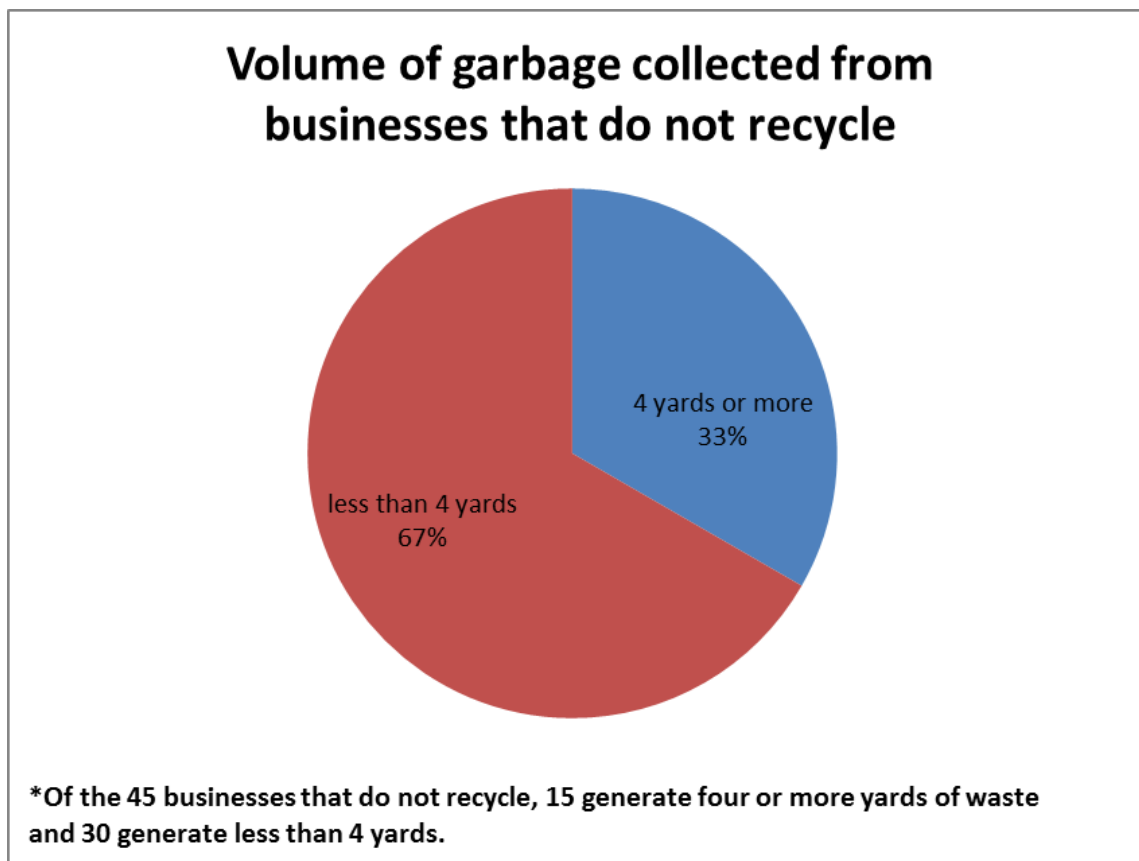


Fig. 10

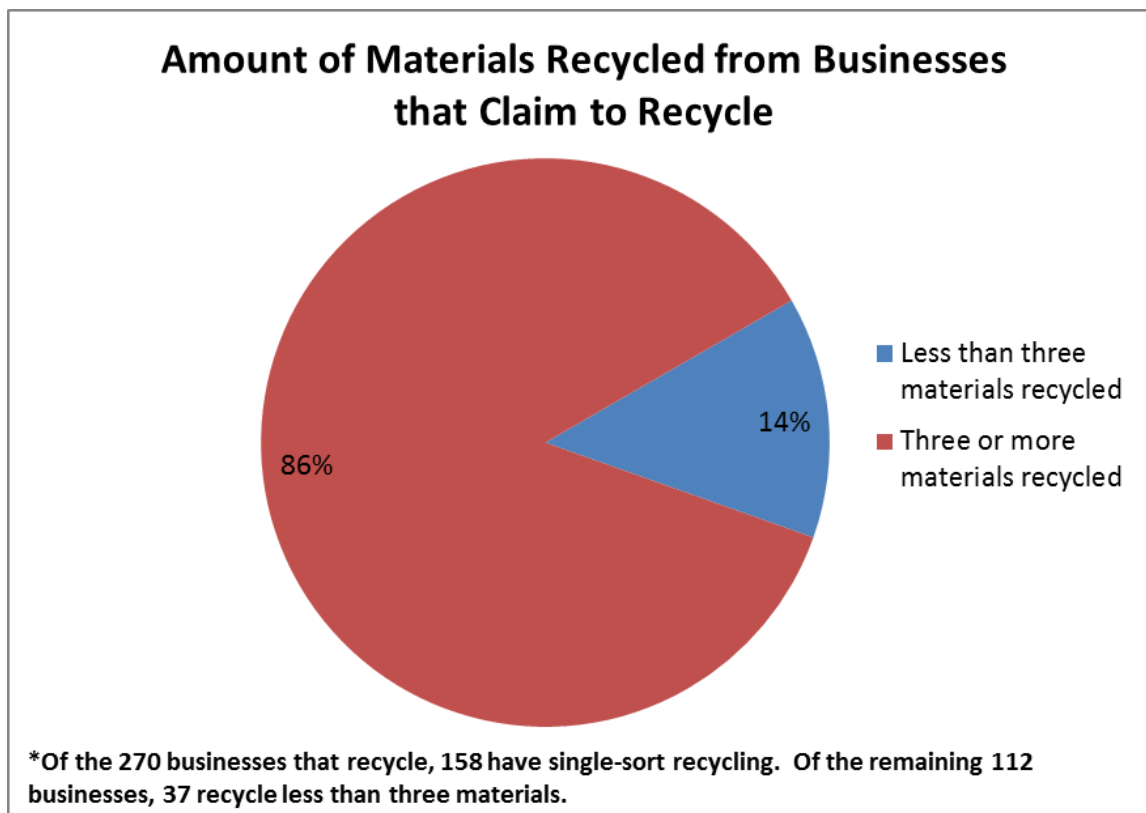


Fig. 11

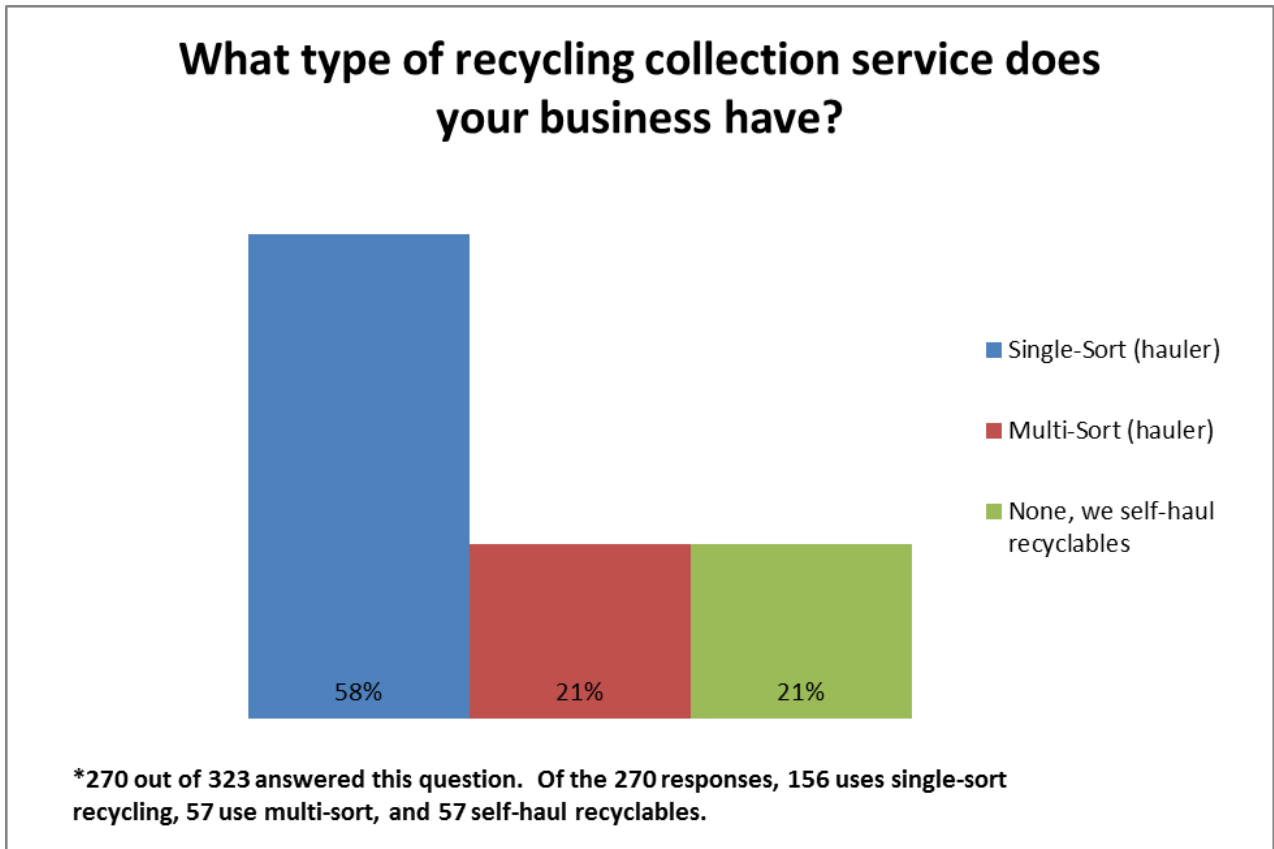


Fig. 12

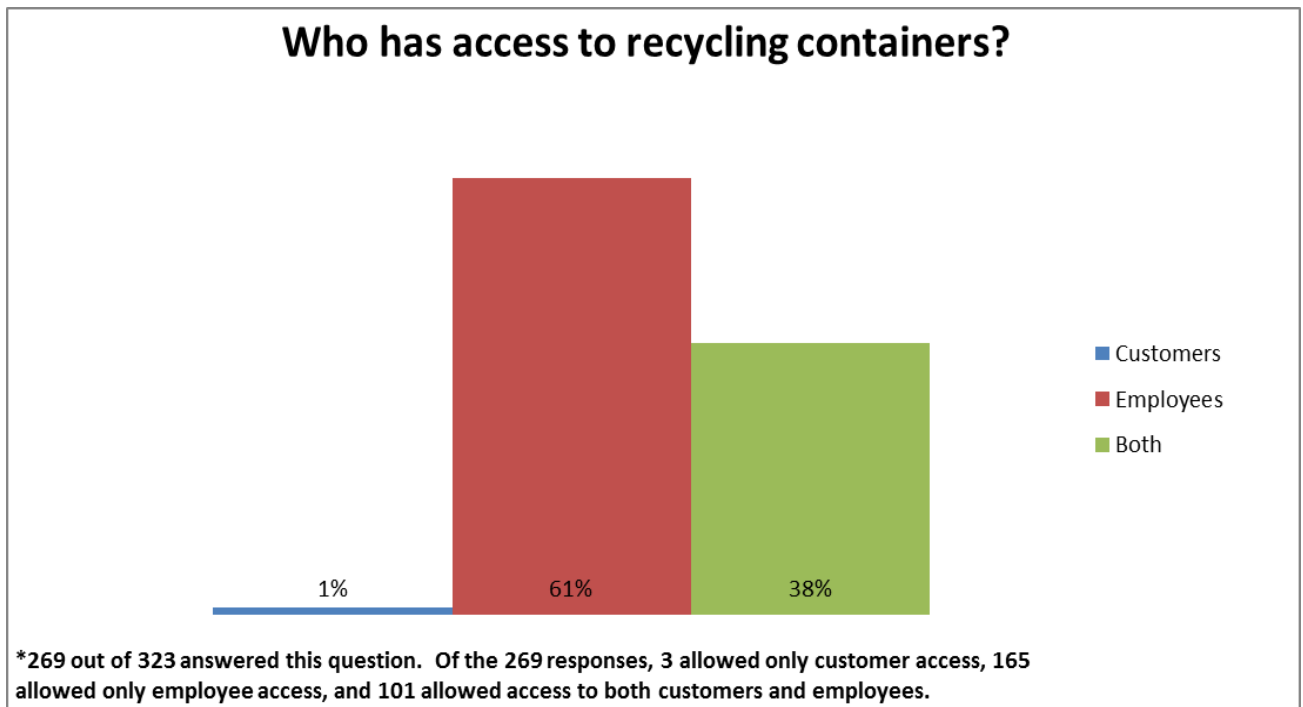
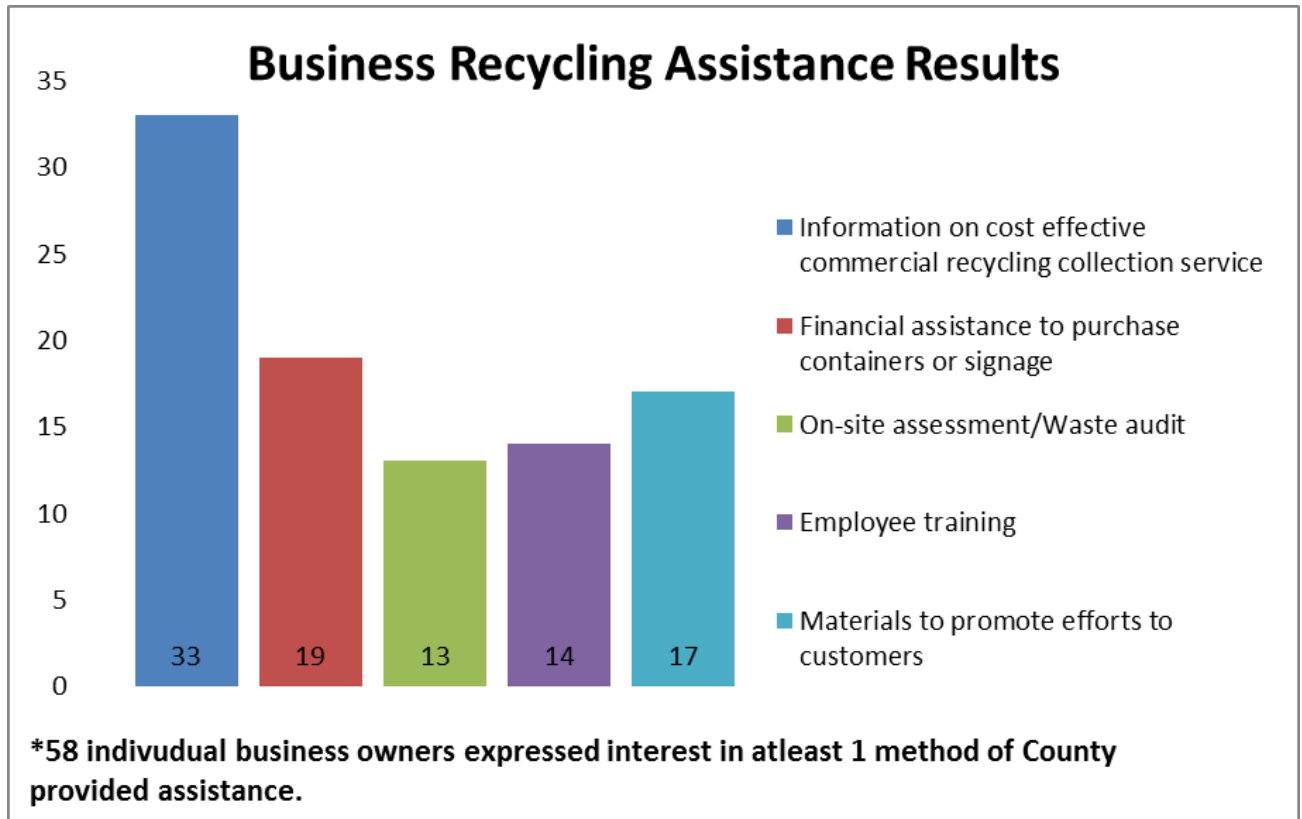


Fig. 13



APPENDIX A

March 4, 2015

Dear Carver County Business,

The Minnesota Legislature recently expanded recycling requirements to Commercial Buildings, **effective January 1, 2016**.

Are you affected? You will need to have recycling collection if you are the owner of a commercial building that meets the following criteria:

- Contains one or more businesses classified in sectors 42 to 81 under North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). For a complete list of NAICS codes please refer to www.pca.state.mn.us/dyw6ryy.

AND

- Contracts for four cubic yards or more per week of trash collection

Carver County Environmental Services is contacting all businesses within the County that may meet these criteria. We are reaching out to businesses to help inform them of the new rules and offer assistance with compliance. To start, we are conducting a survey to help establish baseline data. The information gathered will be used to help expand the County's business recycling assistance program.

Please complete and return the attached survey by Friday, March 28 , 2015.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in completing the survey. More information on the new recycling requirements and additional resources are on the back of this letter. If you have any questions regarding the new requirements for commercial recycling or the attached survey, please call (952) 361-1806 or email mzbinden@co.carver.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Marcus Zbinden
Environmentalist III
Carver County Environmental Services

Commercial Building Recycling Requirements Additional Information

What must be collected?

- A minimum of three recyclable materials must be collected. Possible material types include, but are not limited to: paper, glass, plastic, metal and organics (food and non-recyclable paper).
- Single-sort recycling (collecting multiple recyclable types in one container) meets the requirement, as long as three (3) or more materials are included in the collection.

Getting started

Know your waste stream, every business will be different.

- What types and volumes of material are currently generated and disposed of in your building?
- Which of those materials could potentially be recycled?
- Where in your building would recycling containers best serve your tenants, staff and customers?

Making recycling convenient will have a great impact on your recycling program. Pair recycling bins with trash receptacles, and place collection containers in easily accessible areas with clear signage. Considering best management practices such as these will help divert the most material to recycling and provide the greatest potential to save on solid waste costs.

Take this opportunity to contact your hauler to discuss “right-sizing” your service. By increasing your recycling, you may be able to reduce the container size or frequency of trash collection, and save on both state and local solid waste taxes that are only applied to trash, not recyclables.

Resources

Carver County provides information on recycling and waste management. www.recyclecarver.org

“Like” RecycleCarver on Facebook for Carver County updates. www.facebook.com/recyclecarver

The MPCA has created a page with resources and answers to specific questions you may have about the new requirement. www.pca.state.mn.us/dyw6yry

Recycle More Minnesota has resources to help your business recycle. www.recyclemoreminnesota.org

Rethink Recycling has a comprehensive Business Recycling Guide. www.rethinkrecycling.com

“Coming Soon” Free downloadable signs and labels for recycling, organics and trash containers. Select a pre-designed sign or customize your own. Available in March 2015. www.rethinkrecycling.com/businesses.

CARVER COUNTY COMMERCIAL BUILDING GARBAGE/RECYCLING SURVEY

Please complete and return this survey by Friday, March 28, 2015

Questions? Please contact Marcus Zbinden at 952.361.1806 or mzbinden@co.carver.mn.us

There are three convenient ways to complete the survey:

- Complete the survey online at www.recyclecarver.org/online-survey.
- Fill out the survey below and return in the self-addressed stamped envelope.
- Fax the completed survey to Carver County Environmental Services at (952) 361-1828.

General Information

1. Contact Information

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

About Your Garbage Service

2. Which hauler provides garbage service to your business?

Hauler's (Name) _____

3. What size garbage container does your business utilize? (circle one) (Refer to your garbage bill)

Cart 1 ½ yard 2 yard 3 yard 4 yard 6 yard 8 yard Other _____

4. How often is your garbage container serviced? (circle one)

Once/week Twice/week Three times/week Four times/week Five times/week

Other _____

5. Do you share a garbage collection container with any other businesses?

Yes No

About Your Recycling Program

6. Does your business currently recycle?
- Yes No (if no, skip to question 11)
7. Who has access to recycling collection containers?
- Customers Employees Both
8. What materials are currently recycled? (check all that apply)
- Metal Paper Glass Plastic Cardboard
 Organics (food and non-recyclable paper) Other (please specify) _____
9. What type of recycling collection service does your business have? (circle one)
- Single-Sort (hauler) Multi-Sort (hauler) None, we self-haul recyclables
10. Does your business utilize any of the following Carver County recycling facilities? (check all that apply)
- Environmental Center (Chaska)
 Douglas Kugler Eco-Site (Watertown)
 Cologne
 Mayer
 Norwood Young America
 None of the above

Technical Assistance

11. What assistance would you like to receive for your recycling program? (check all that apply)
- No assistance needed
 Information on cost effective commercial recycling collection service
 Financial assistance to purchase containers or signage (recycling, trash, organics)
 On-site assessment/Waste audit
 Employee training
 Materials to promote efforts to customers
 Other (please specify) _____
12. Would you be interested in receiving a recurring Carver County business recycling e-newsletter?
- Yes No
13. Would you be interested in participating in a **FREE**, County sponsored, business workshop focusing on waste reduction best management practices?
- Yes No