

2026

Pinellas County Residential Recycling Awareness Survey



Prepared for:
**Pinellas County
Solid Waste**

Prepared by:



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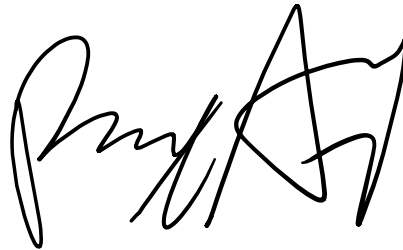
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CERTIFICATION

HCP ASSOCIATES, INC., hereby certifies that, except as otherwise noted in this report:

- 1. We have no present or contemplated future interest in the project that is the subject of this report.*
- 2. We have no personal interest or bias with respect to the subject matter of this report or the parties involved.*
- 3. To the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements of fact contained in this report, upon which analyses, opinions, and conclusions expressed herein are based, are true and correct.*
- 4. This report sets forth all of the limiting conditions (imposed by the terms of our assignment or by the undersigned) affecting the analyses, opinions, and conclusions contained in this report.*
- 5. The underlying assumptions are based on present circumstances and information currently available.*
- 6. Because circumstances may change and unanticipated events may occur subsequent to the date of this report, the reader must evaluate the assumptions and rationale of this report in light of the circumstances then prevailing.*
- 7. The 2026 research results detailed in the attached were obtained by HCP ASSOCIATES, INC. and are based on a telephonic survey of 800 interviews.*



Robert Allen, Vice President

May 29, 2026

Date

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Introduction

Pinellas County Solid Waste (PCSW) manages garbage as a resource at the County's Solid Waste Disposal Complex, which includes the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility and the Bridgeway Acres Landfill. PCSW also provides a variety of recycling and disposal programs and resources, including the annual [Recycle Guide](#) and the [Where Does It Go? Search Tool](#). In 2020, PCSW released its 30-year Solid Waste Master Plan with the goal of achieving "zero waste to landfill by 2050" (HDR, 2020). The plan proposed a series of strategies to expand commercial and residential recycling and waste reduction programs to help extend the lifespan of the County's landfill.

Pinellas County follows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Management Hierarchy to manage trash (Pinellas County, 2026). Pinellas County encourages residents to reduce the trash created and reuse materials when possible. In addition, the County educates residents on diversion to ensure that materials are properly disposed of, whether that means items are recycled, taken to the WTE facility, or taken to the landfill. This hierarchy is followed to maintain the lifespan of the county's only landfill, which has about 66 years of life remaining (Pinellas County, 2026). However, changes in policy, personal habits, or natural disasters could shorten that lifespan, forcing the County to manage garbage in other ways, which may increase costs to residents and businesses.

Two notable events also took place in Pinellas County since the last iteration of the residential recycling awareness survey that had, or may have, had an impact on recycling and disposal practices in the county.

In late September and early October of 2024, hurricanes Helene and Milton devastated areas across Pinellas County, particularly along the coast. The storms damaged or destroyed over 40,000 homes in the county (Pinellas County, 2025). This uprooted the lives of residents and created an enormous amount of waste that needed to be handled by waste facilities inside and outside of the county. Pinellas County Emergency Management (2024) reported that over 7,240,000 cubic yards of debris were cleared from across the county.

Pinellas County also saw a substantial decline in population, with a net loss of nearly 12,000 residents between July 2024 and 2025 (Hodges, 2026). This represented the second-largest population decline in the United States. Despite this decline, PCSW has enhanced efforts to inform residents about proper disposal of various materials, such as rechargeable batteries (Riggins, 2025) and other hazardous materials (Pinellas County, 2026).

The 2026 Pinellas County Residential Recycling Awareness Survey serves as an important tool to gauge and trend the recycling and disposal habits of Pinellas County residents during a time of change. The study maintained measures to understand current participation levels, reasons why residents abstain from recycling in total or for certain materials, and misconceptions about recycling. In addition, additions and changes were made to better understand residents' efforts in disposing of rechargeable batteries and the perceived effectiveness of recycling. In total, the 2026 survey showed some clear similarities and differences to previous surveys about recycling habits and knowledge amongst Pinellas County residents.

Methodology

The 2026 Pinellas County Residential Recycling Awareness Survey was conducted via phone calls to collect feedback from Pinellas County residents. The survey used random-digit dialing to ensure a random and

representative sample, with responses weighted to match the county's Census demographics for age, gender, race, and zip code.

The 2026 methodology, like 2020 and 2024, ensures that respondents have varying levels of knowledge about recycling and county government. In 2018, the survey utilized an online distribution system, which was distributed primarily through Pinellas County social media channels and the PCSW website. This means that the participants in 2018 were more aware of county initiatives and recycling. In addition to the Residential Recycling Awareness Survey, HCP and Pinellas County Solid Waste have also successfully conducted the Commercial Recycling Awareness Survey in 2021, 2023, and 2025.

As with previous iterations of the study, HCP and PCSW conducted a kickoff meeting to review the previous year's questionnaire and determine the 2026 action plan. Once PCSW approved the survey, it was programmed, tested, and following a successful test, deployed.

The calls were all performed by non-automated, trained professional survey interviewers working in a supervised CATI (computer-assisted telephone interviewing) facility. Survey responses are entered by the interviewers into an electronic database, to include both closed-ended categorical responses and open-ended verbatim responses. Interviewers varied the time of day and day of the week that calls were made to help ensure a diverse sampling of residents was collected, which reflects varying personal schedules.

The interviewers called Pinellas County residents from March 22, 2026, through April 23, 2026. There was a total of 800 respondents, whose demographics matched U.S. Census data as well as the geographic distribution of Pinellas County. The survey was completed with a $\pm 3.46\%$ margin of error for county-wide responses. The average time to complete the survey was about 15 minutes, an increase of about 3 minutes from 2024.

The survey questions have been categorized into four sections for reporting: respondent characteristics, recycling by housing type, recycling practices, and recycling awareness. Throughout the report, 2026 data are compared side-by-side with the 2018, 2020, and 2024 results, illustrating trends and shifts in sentiment. In the graphs featured in the report, the sample size is also included, denoted with 'n.' In instances where there are not 800 responses, the sample is reflective of those to whom the question was applicable and also how many answered the question.

Study Findings

The 2026 Pinellas County Residential Recycling Awareness Survey provides insight for PCSW on current recycling participation rates, reasons why residents abstain from recycling, misconceptions about recycling, and levels of awareness on topics related to disposal and recycling. In addition, this report details the trends identified through previous studies.

Respondent Characteristics

The survey captured a range of respondent demographics, including gender, geography, age, household income, race/ethnicity, and the presence of children in the household. Respondents were asked to confirm the municipality in which they live to ensure that the sample was evenly distributed across the county. Respondents were also asked whether they were full-time or seasonal residents, how long they had lived in Pinellas County, their highest level of education, and their current employment status. Responses to these demographic questions allow us to segment various groups of respondents and guarantee that the data is appropriately representative of the geographic and demographic makeup of Pinellas County. The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) data were utilized for reference and demographic comparison.

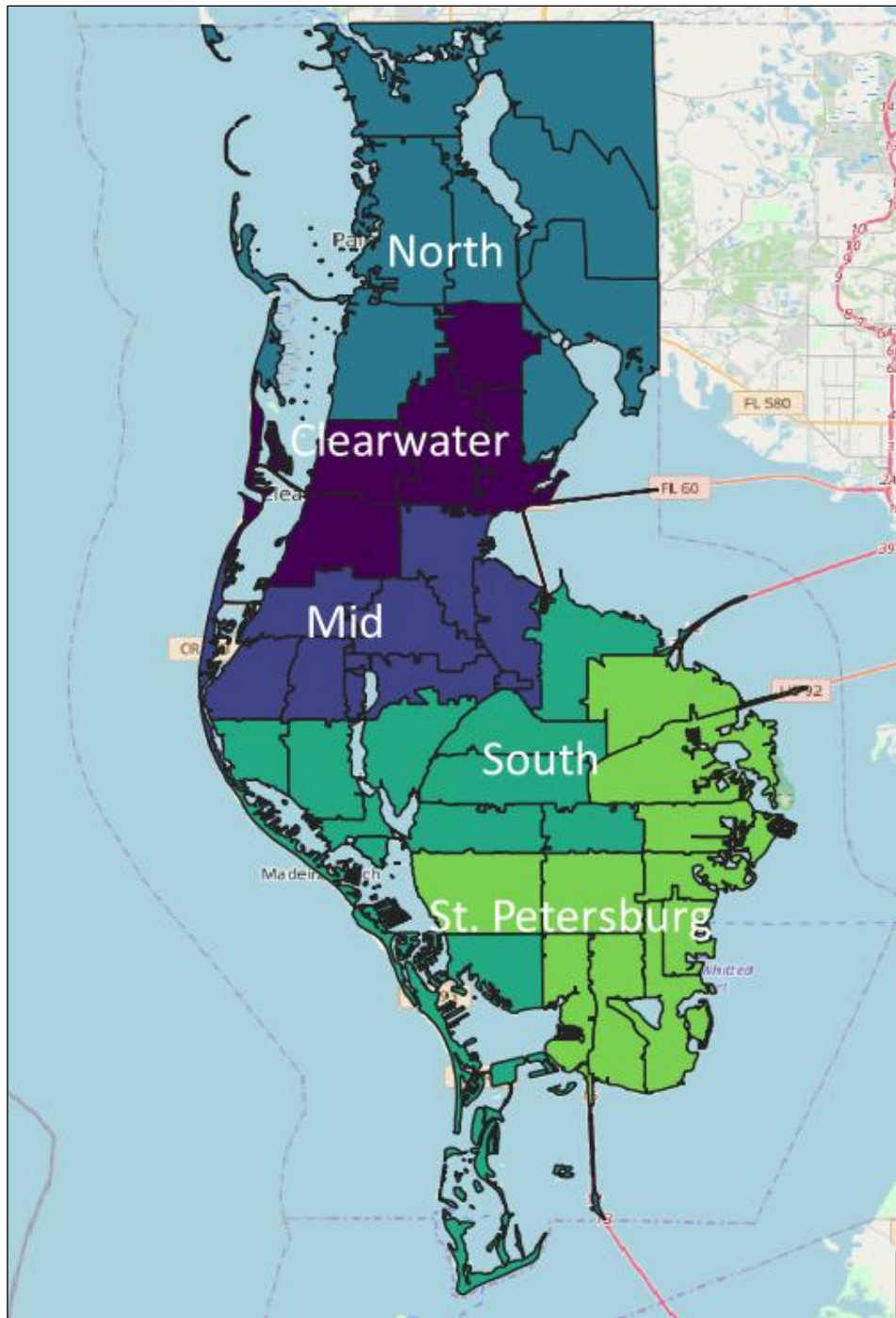
In 2018, the sample was gathered through an online survey, in which participants opted in after seeing a web link. As such, the geographic makeup of residents was not controlled for in the overall sampling process. In 2020, the methodology changed to ensure the sample represented residents in all areas of the county through zip codes. The 2026 survey maintained the same methodology established in 2020.

Understanding geographic differences in sentiments and behavior is important for policymakers in Pinellas County and its many municipalities. To understand whether location and sentiment correlate, the responses were divided based on location to create similarly sized groups. Due to a large portion of the respondent base living in Clearwater and St. Petersburg, each city comprises its own group. In contrast, the remaining respondents were segmented into North, Mid, and South County. A visual representation of the five regions is shown on the page below. It should be noted that zip codes and municipal boundaries do not perfectly align. Municipal boundaries may cross multiple zip codes. Below are the municipalities in Pinellas County and the region to which they belong for the purpose of this study.

North Municipalities: Oldsmar, Tarpon Springs, Safety Harbor, Dunedin

Mid Municipalities: Pinellas Park, Largo, Belleair, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Shore, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores

South Municipalities: St. Pete Beach, Treasure Island, Gulfport, South Pasadena, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Seminole, Madeira Beach, Kenneth City



Description: The map above divides survey participants into five different regions of the county. Zip codes are listed next to the respective geographical areas.

North: 34698, 34683, 34677, 34689, 34688, 34695, 34684, 34685, 34681

Clearwater: 33759, 33755, 33767, 33761, 33763, 33756, 33765

Mid: 33778, 33786, 33785, 33760, 33774, 33770, 33773, 33764, 33771

South: 33782, 33772, 33710, 33744, 33777, 33709, 33706, 33707, 33776, 33715, 33714, 33781, 33762, 33708

St. Petersburg: 33701, 33713, 33711, 33712, 33703, 33705, 33704, 33716, 33702

The table below compares the respondent demographics to those reported by the 2024 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. Also included in the table are the demographics from the 2024 telephonic survey, the 2020 telephonic survey, and the 2018 online survey.

The 2026 sample is representative of the three controlled demographics of the study: gender, age composition, and race/ethnicity. This means that the 2026 sample's demographics are within the margin of error compared to the 2024 ACS.

Demographic Categories	2024 ACS	2026 Survey (Phone)	2024 Survey (Phone)	2020 Survey (Phone)	2018 Survey (Online)	Representation
What is your gender?						
Male	48%	48%	48%	48%	44%	Representative within the margin of error.
Female	52%	52%	52%	52%	53%	Representative within the margin of error.
I prefer not to identify	n/a	0%	0%	0%	3%	Representative within the margin of error.
Which range describes your age?						
Under 25	7%	7%	8%	9%	8%	Representative within the margin of error.
25-34	14%	14%	14%	14%	10%	Representative within the margin of error.
35-44	14%	14%	13%	13%	15%	Representative within the margin of error.
45-54	14%	14%	15%	17%	17%	Representative within the margin of error.
55-64	19%	19%	19%	19%	21%	Representative within the margin of error.
65+	31%	32%	30%	28%	28%	Representative within the margin of error.
What is your race/ethnicity?						
Caucasian/White	71%	71%	72%	75%	73%	Representative within the margin of error.
Hispanic/Latino	11%	11%	10%	9%	10%	Representative within the margin of error.
Black/African American	9%	10%	10%	10%	9%	Representative within the margin of error.
Other	8%	8%	7%	6%	5%	Representative within the margin of error.
Refused	n/a	0.3%	0%	0%	3%	n/a

Other demographic variables, for which the sample was not controlled, are presented in the table below. During the planning phase, it was decided to expand the income category to break out households reporting an income of \$100,000 or more. In 2026, three additional household income categories, \$100,000 - \$149,999; \$150,000 - \$199,999; and \$200,000 or more, were added.

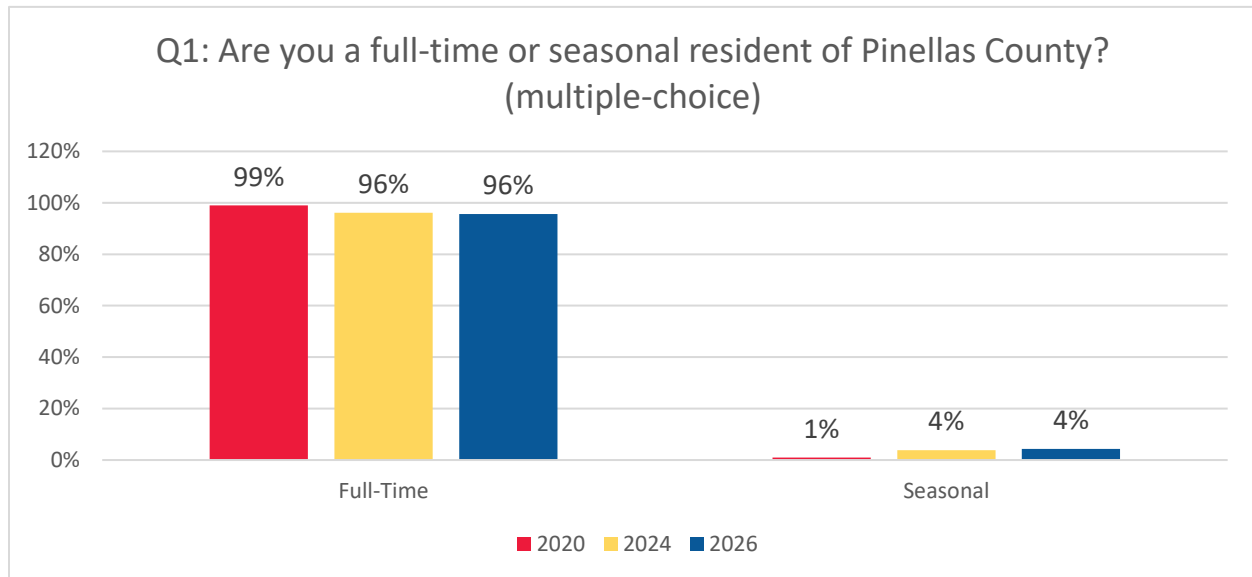
To maintain trend, the chart below shows the household incomes with these categories combined into the \$100,000 or more category. A detailed breakout of the reported household income levels for 2026 respondents compared to the 2024 ACS is provided on the next page. The study is over-representative of those with household incomes between \$50,000 and \$74,999, households with children, and English-only speaking households.

Demographic Categories	2024 ACS	2026 Survey (Phone)	2024 Survey (Phone)	2020 Survey (Phone)	2018 Survey (Online)	Representation
Do you live within a city's boundaries or in unincorporated Pinellas County?*						
City	72%	87%	88%	85%	69%	Overrepresented of residents living in a city.
Unincorporated	28%	12%	11%	11%	22%	Underrepresented of residents living in unincorporated Pinellas County.
I don't know	n/a	1%	1%	4%	9%	n/a
Which range describes your household income?**						
Under \$25,000	15%	5%	4%	9%	13%	Underrepresented of household incomes under \$25,000.
\$25,000 - \$49,999	19%	13%	17%	15%	22%	Underrepresented of household incomes between \$25,000 - \$49,999.
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17%	25%	24%	18%	18%	Overrepresented of household incomes between \$50,000 - \$74,999.
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12%	15%	17%	19%	15%	Representative within the margin of error.
\$100,000 +	36%	33%	20%	20%	25%	Representative within the margin of error.
Refused	n/a	10%	17%	19%	8%	n/a
Are there children aged 18 and under in your home?						
Yes	19%	35%	31%	29%	23%	Overrepresented of households with children.
No	81%	65%	69%	71%	77%	Underrepresented of households without children.
What is the primary language spoken among members of your household?						
English	87%	94%	92%	n/a	n/a	Overrepresented of English-speaking households.

Spanish	6%	5%	8%	n/a	n/a	Representative within the margin of error.
Other	7%	0.8%	0.1%	n/a	n/a	Underrepresented of other languages.
*University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) 2025 as the source rather than ACS.						
** In 2026, the household income categories were expanded to provide more granular information on household incomes \$100,000 and above. The chart above maintains a trend with previous surveys comparing household incomes. The table below provides the breakdown between the 2026 survey responses and the 2024 ACS Survey 5-Year Estimates.						

What is your household income?	2024 ACS	2026 Survey (Phone)	Representation
Under \$25,000	15%	5%	Underrepresented of household incomes under \$25,000.
\$25,000 - \$49,999	19%	13%	Underrepresented of household incomes between \$25,000 - \$49,999.
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17%	25%	Overrepresented of household incomes between \$50,000 - \$74,999.
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12%	15%	Representative within the margin of error.
\$100,000, \$149,999	17%	19%	Representative within the margin of error.
\$150,000 - \$199,999	9%	11%	Representative within the margin of error.
\$200,000+	11%	3%	Underrepresented of household incomes \$200,000 or more.
Refused	n/a	10%	n/a

The first question asked respondents whether they were full-time or seasonal residents of Pinellas County. Nearly all respondents reported that they were full-time residents (96%). Only 4% of respondents reported that they live in the county seasonally. This question was not asked in 2018.



Title: Q1: Are you a full-time or seasonal resident of Pinellas County?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of respondents who are full-time residents compared to seasonal residents. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Full-time 2020: 99 percent

Full-time 2024: 96 percent

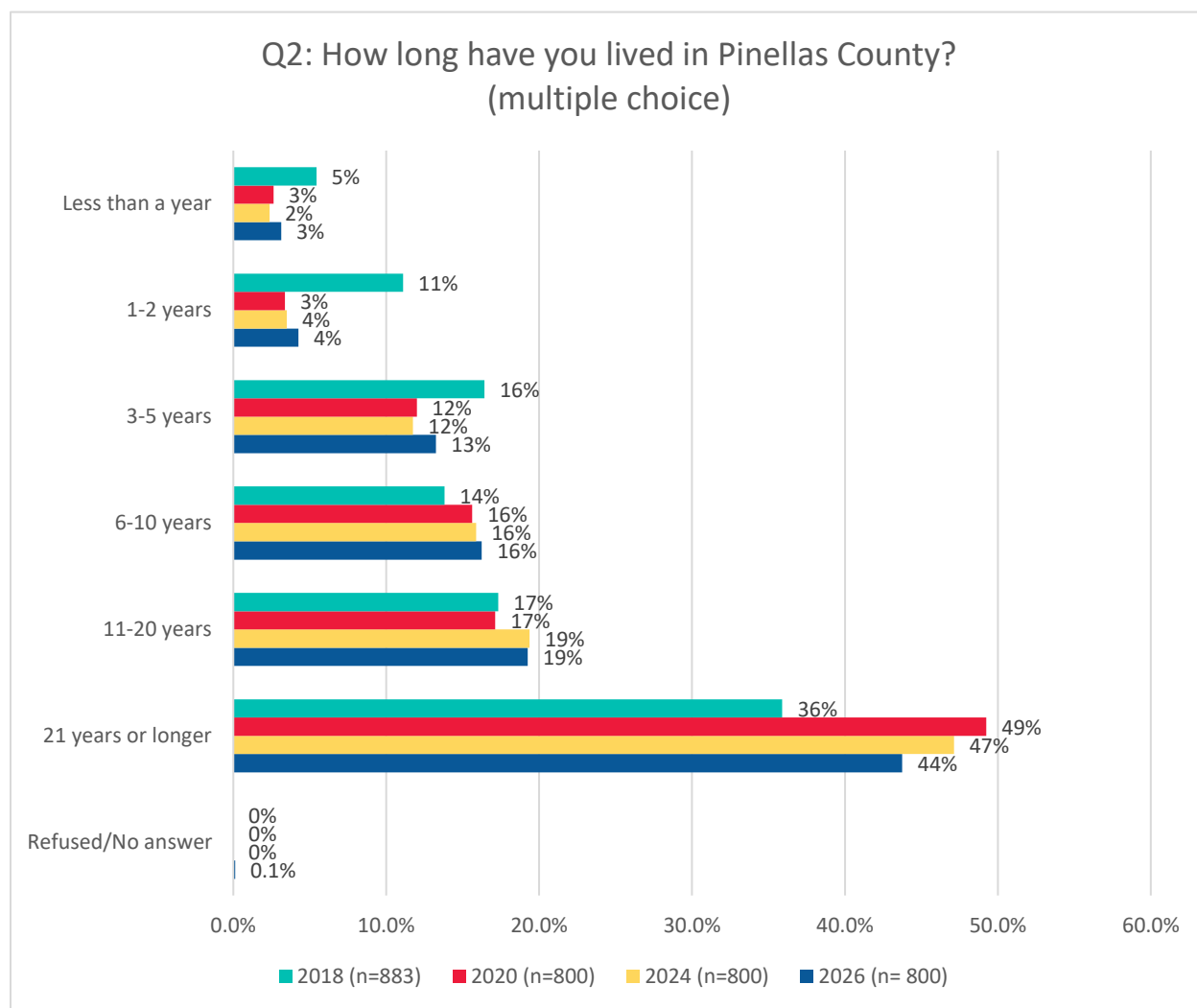
Full-time 2026: 96 percent

Seasonal 2020: 1 percent

Seasonal 2024: 4 percent

Seasonal 2026: 4 percent

In general, the length of residency has remained statistically similar between 2020, 2024, and 2026. The 2026 sample, like 2020 and 2024, contained more tenured residents of Pinellas County compared to the 2018 online survey. For example, 16% of the 2018 sample reported living in Pinellas County for two or fewer years. In contrast, only 7% of the sample in 2026 reported living in the county for two years or less.



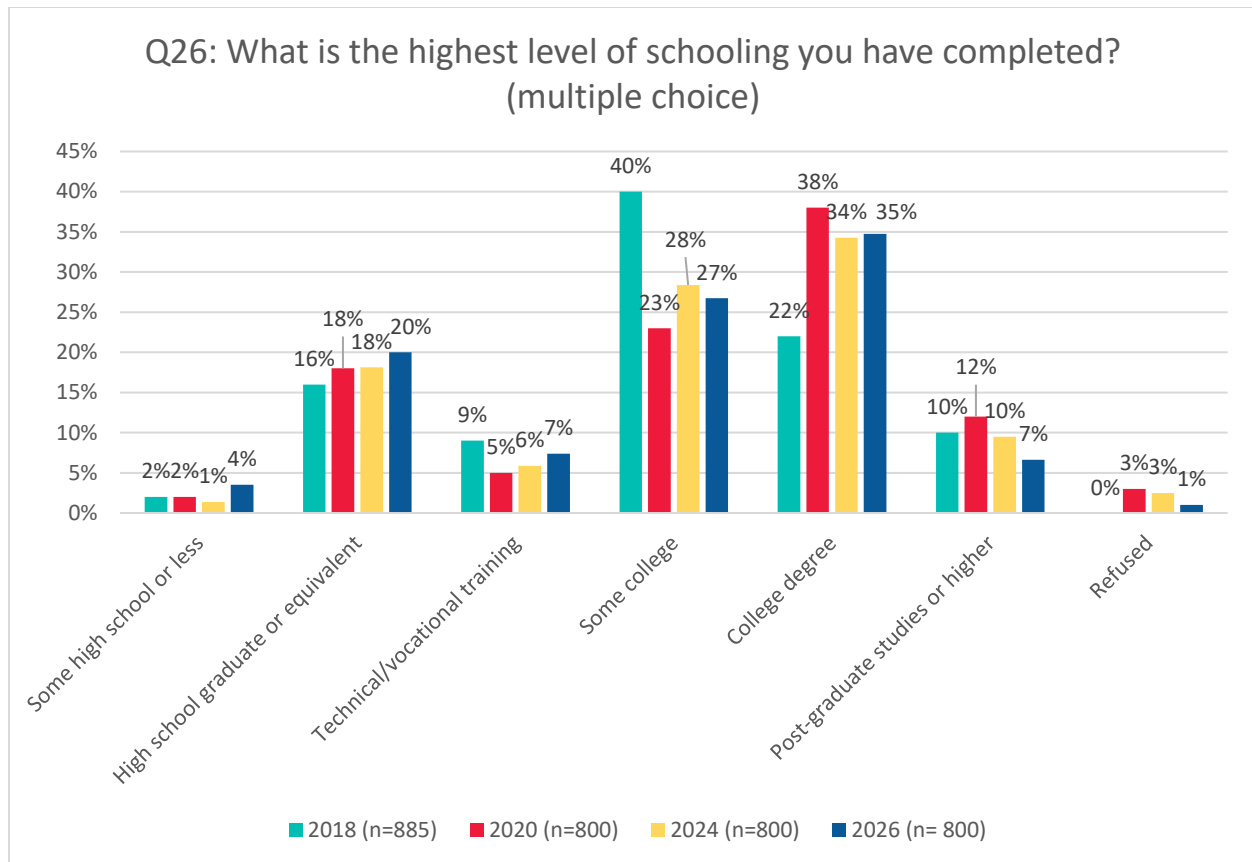
Title: Q2: How long have you lived in Pinellas County?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of the residents' tenure living in Pinellas County in 2018, 2020, 2024, and 2026. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

- Less than a year in 2018: 5 percent
- Less than a year in 2020: 3 percent
- Less than a year in 2024: 2 percent
- Less than a year in 2026: 3 percent
- 1 to 2 years in 2018: 11 percent
- 1 to 2 years in 2020: 3 percent
- 1 to 2 years in 2024: 4 percent

1 to 2 years in 2026: 4 percent
3 to 5 years in 2018: 16 percent
3 to 5 years in 2020: 12 percent
3 to 5 years in 2024: 12 percent
3 to 5 years in 2026: 13 percent
6 to 10 years in 2018: 14 percent
6 to 10 years in 2020: 16 percent
6 to 10 years in 2024: 16 percent
6 to 10 years in 2026: 16 percent
11 to 20 years in 2018: 17 percent
11 to 20 years in 2020: 17 percent
11 to 20 years in 2024: 19 percent
11 to 20 years in 2026: 19 percent
21 years or longer in 2018: 36 percent
21 years or longer in 2020: 49 percent
21 years or longer in 2024: 47 percent
21 years or longer in 2026: 44 percent
Refused/No answer in 2018: 0 percent
Refused/No answer in 2020: 0 percent
Refused/No answer in 2024: 0 percent
Refused/No answer in 2026: 0.1 percent

Respondents also reported the highest level of education they have completed. A plurality of respondents (41%) reported having a college degree or have completed some level of post-graduate studies. There was no significant difference in the education levels of respondents in 2026 and 2024. Differences ranged from -2.9% (Post-graduate studies or higher) to 2.1% (Some high school or less), which is within our margin of error of +/- 3.46%. Only 1% of the respondents refused to respond.



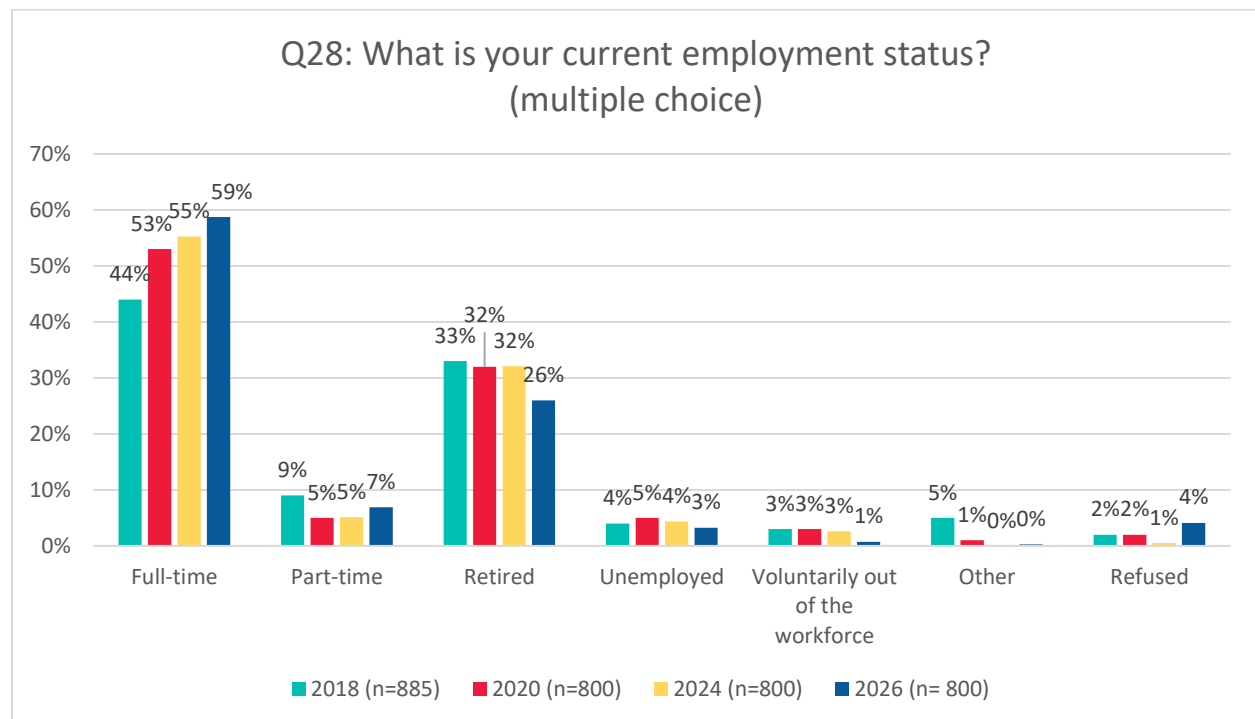
Title: Q26: What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of the residents' highest level of education they completed. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Some high school or less in 2018: 2 percent
 Some high school or less in 2020: 2 percent
 Some high school or less in 2024: 1 percent
 Some high school or less in 2026: 4 percent
 High school graduate or equivalent in 2018: 16 percent
 High school graduate or equivalent in 2020: 18 percent
 High school graduate or equivalent in 2024: 18 percent
 High school graduate or equivalent in 2026: 20 percent
 Technical or vocational training in 2018: 9 percent
 Technical or vocational training in 2020: 5 percent
 Technical or vocational training in 2024: 6 percent
 Technical or vocational training in 2026: 7 percent
 Some college in 2018: 40 percent
 Some college in 2020: 23 percent
 Some college in 2024: 28 percent

Some college in 2026: 27 percent
 College degree in 2018: 22 percent
 College degree in 2020: 38 percent
 College degree in 2024: 34 percent
 College degree in 2026: 35 percent
 Post-graduate studies or higher in 2018: 10 percent
 Post-graduate studies or higher in 2020: 12 percent
 Post-graduate studies or higher in 2024: 10 percent
 Post-graduate studies or higher in 2026: 7 percent
 Refused in 2018: 0 percent
 Refused in 2020: 3 percent
 Refused in 2024: 3 percent
 Refused in 2026: 1 percent

Most respondents (59%) reported being employed full-time. This is a slight, but significant increase in respondents from 2024 who are employed full-time. One-fourth (26%) of the sample stated they are retired, which is a statistically significant decrease in retired respondents between 2026 and 2024. Refusal rates for employment status remained low in 2026, with only 4% of respondents refusing to identify.



Title: Q28: What is your current employment status?

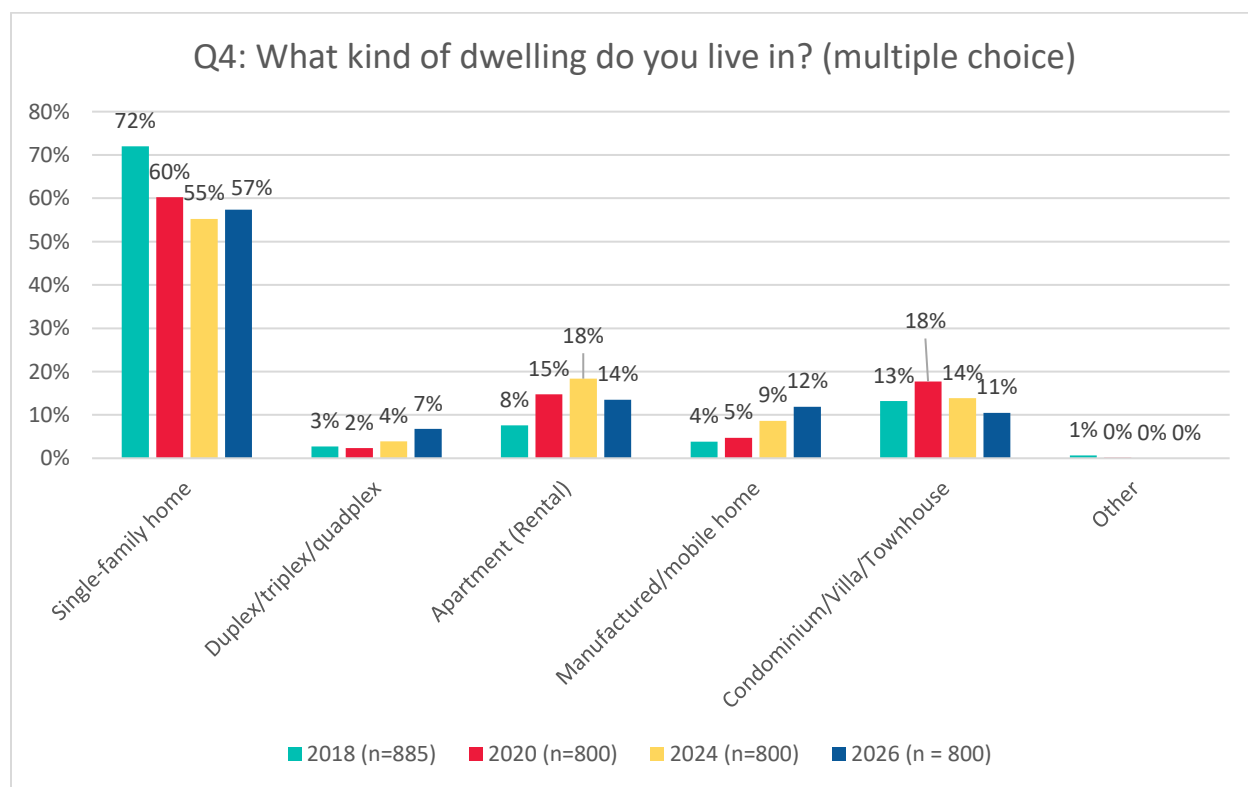
Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of the residents' current employment status. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Full-time in 2018: 44 percent
Full-time in 2020: 53 percent
Full-time in 2024: 55 percent
Full-time in 2026: 59 percent
Part-time in 2018: 9 percent
Part-time in 2020: 5 percent
Part-time in 2024: 5 percent
Part-time in 2026: 7 percent
Retired in 2018: 33 percent
Retired in 2020: 32 percent
Retired in 2024: 32 percent
Retired in 2026: 26 percent
Unemployed in 2018: 4 percent
Unemployed in 2020: 5 percent
Unemployed in 2024: 4 percent
Unemployed in 2026: 3 percent
Voluntarily out of the workforce in 2018: 3 percent
Voluntarily out of the workforce in 2020: 3 percent
Voluntarily out of the workforce in 2024: 3 percent
Voluntarily out of the workforce in 2026: 1 percent
Other in 2018: 5 percent
Other in 2020: 1 percent
Other in 2024: 0 percent
Other in 2026: 0 percent
Refused in 2018: 2 percent
Refused in 2020: 2 percent
Refused in 2024: 1 percent
Refused in 2026: 4 percent

Recycling by Housing Type

The next section of questions is segmented by housing type. Those who live in single-family housing answered questions about curbside recycling, whereas those who live in multifamily housing discussed recycling at their complex. To funnel residents to the appropriate questions, those who selected “single-family home” or “duplex/triplex/quadplex” proceeded to the single-family section. Residents living in the remaining housing types received questions from the multifamily section. Multifamily housing in this study included those living in a “condominium/villa/townhouse,” “apartment,” “manufactured/mobile home,” or “other.”

Single-family participation increased in 2026 (from 59% in 2024 to 64% in 2026) but was similar to single-family home participation in 2020 (62% in 2020 compared to 64% in 2026). In turn, multifamily participation slightly decreased in 2026 from 2024 (from 41% in 2024 to 36% in 2026).



Title: Q4: What kind of dwelling do you live in?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of the residents’ type of dwelling. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Single-family home in 2018: 72 percent

Single-family home in 2020: 60 percent

Single-family home in 2024: 55 percent

Single-family home in 2026: 57 percent

Duplex or triplex or quadplex in 2018: 3 percent

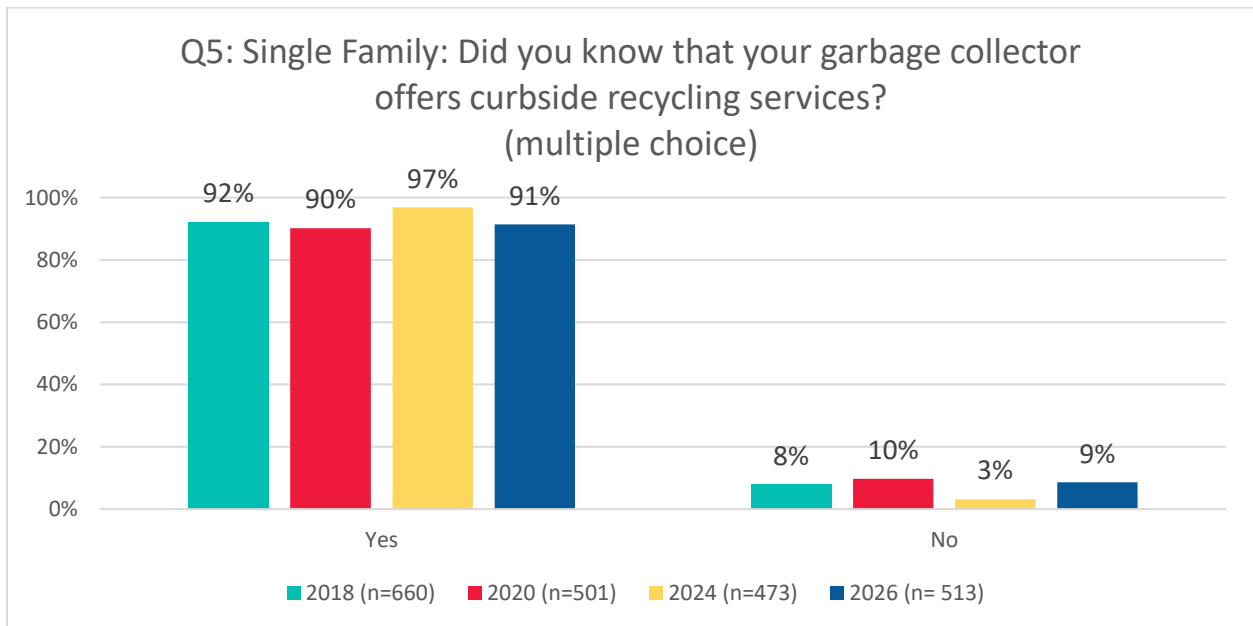
Duplex or triplex or quadplex in 2020: 2 percent

Duplex or triplex or quadplex in 2024: 4 percent

Duplex or triplex or quadplex in 2026: 7 percent
 Apartment (rental) in 2018: 8 percent
 Apartment (rental) in 2020: 15 percent
 Apartment (rental) in 2024: 18 percent
 Apartment (rental) in 2026: 14 percent
 Manufactured or mobile home in 2018: 4 percent
 Manufactured or mobile home in 2020: 5 percent
 Manufactured or mobile home in 2024: 9 percent
 Manufactured or mobile home in 2026: 12 percent
 Condominium or villa or townhouse in 2018: 13 percent
 Condominium or villa or townhouse in 2020: 18 percent
 Condominium or villa or townhouse in 2024: 14 percent
 Condominium or villa or townhouse in 2026: 11 percent
 Other in 2018: 1 percent
 Other in 2020: 0 percent
 Other in 2024: 0 percent
 Other in 2026: 0 percent

Single-Family

Those living in a single-family home or a duplex/triplex/quadplex, which represented 513 respondents, were first asked if they knew their garbage collector offered curbside recycling services. Nine percent of Pinellas County residents were unaware of this in 2026. While this is an increase in respondents being unaware between 2024 and 2026, it is in line with findings in 2020. This indicates that the vast majority of single-family households in Pinellas County are aware of the curbside recycling services.

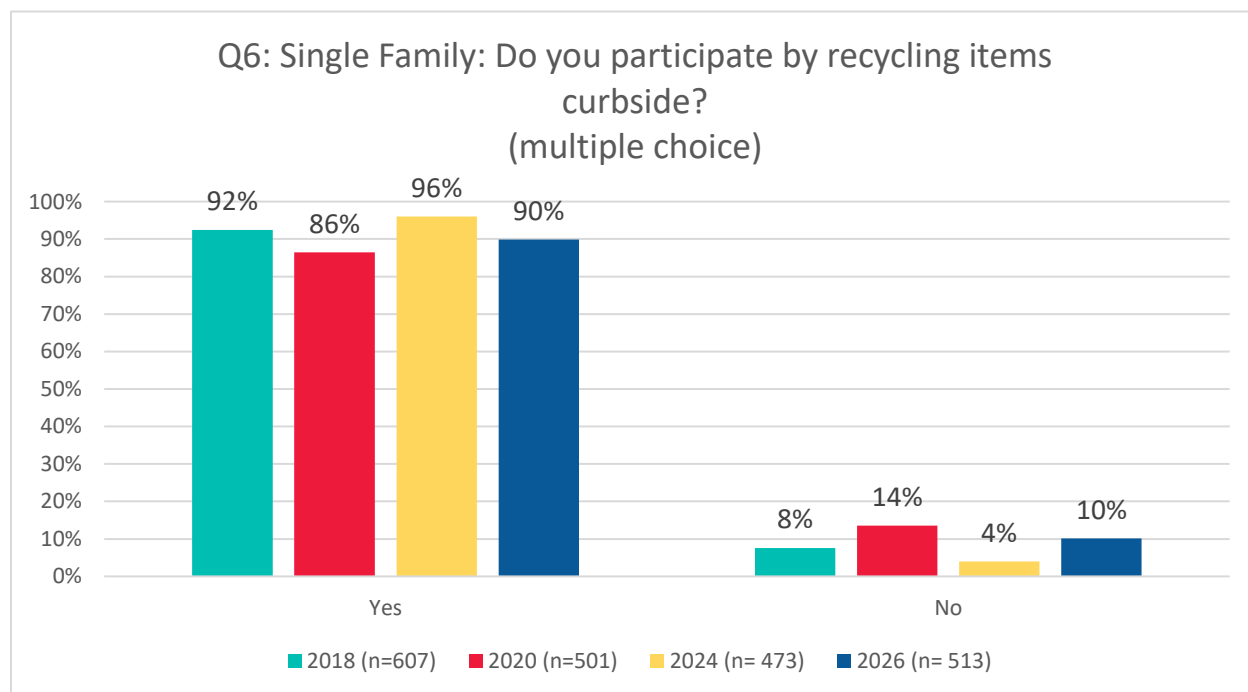


Title: Q5: Single-Family: Did you know that your garbage collector offers curbside recycling services?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of single-family housing residents who are aware that their garbage collector offers curbside recycling services. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Aware in 2018: 92 percent
Aware in 2020: 90 percent
Aware in 2024: 97 percent
Aware in 2026: 91 percent
Unaware in 2018: 8 percent
Unaware in 2020: 10 percent
Unaware in 2024: 3 percent
Unaware in 2026: 9 percent

While all single-family residents have recycling available to them, some residents still do not utilize the service. Overall, recycling participation has remained high since 2018, with about 9 in 10 single-family residents reporting that they utilize the service. In 2026, 90% of single-family respondents reported participating in curbside recycling. Conversely, only 10% of residents reported not participating in curbside recycling services. This represents a statistically significant decrease in curbside recycling participation between 2024 and 2026 (96% in 2024 compared to 90% in 2026) but is a slight increase from 2020 and statistically similar to 2018.



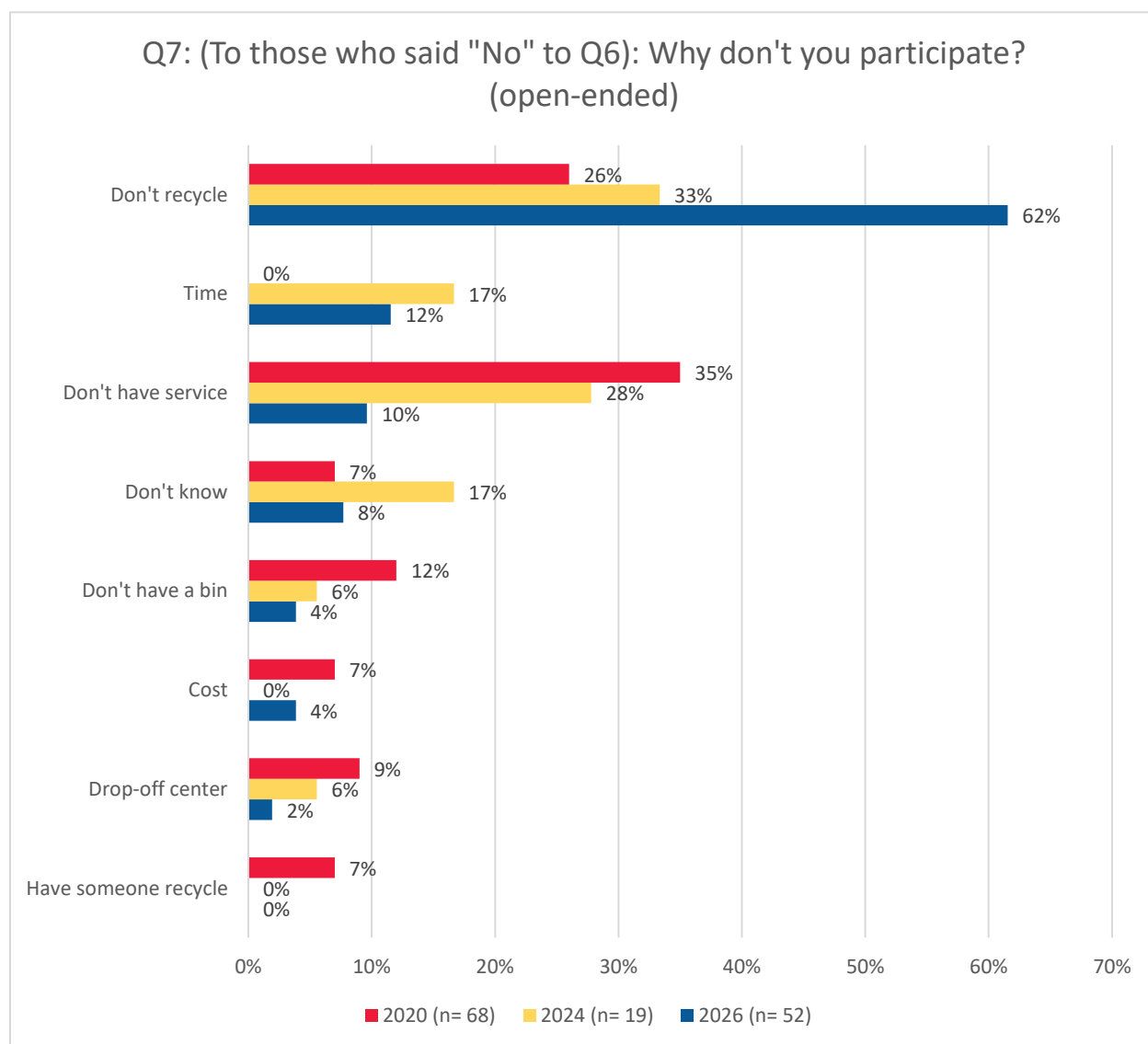
Title: Q6: Single-Family: Do you participate by recycling items curbside?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of the single-family household residents that participate in recycling curbside. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Recycle curbside in 2018: 92 percent
Recycle curbside in 2020: 86 percent
Recycle curbside in 2024: 96 percent
Recycle curbside in 2026: 90 percent
Do not recycle curbside in 2018: 8 percent
Do not recycle curbside in 2020: 14 percent
Do not recycle curbside in 2024: 4 percent
Do not recycle curbside in 2026: 10 percent

Respondents who do not participate in curbside recycling, which accounted for 52 respondents, were asked why they do not participate in recycling. Given that the sample for this question is significantly smaller than the overall sample of 800, the margin of error is higher, making it hard to draw statistically valid conclusions for this question between years. The question was open-ended and classified into different categories.

The most common reason cited as to why they do not participate is that they just do not recycle for some reason (62%). This included respondents who may have difficulty getting the bins to the curb or have no interest in participating. Ten percent of respondents stated they do not have the service available to them. Respondents also mentioned that they go to a drop-off center (2%), do not have a bin (4%), do not have the time (12%), or mentioned a cost constraint (4%). A full list of verbatim responses can be found in [Appendix C](#).



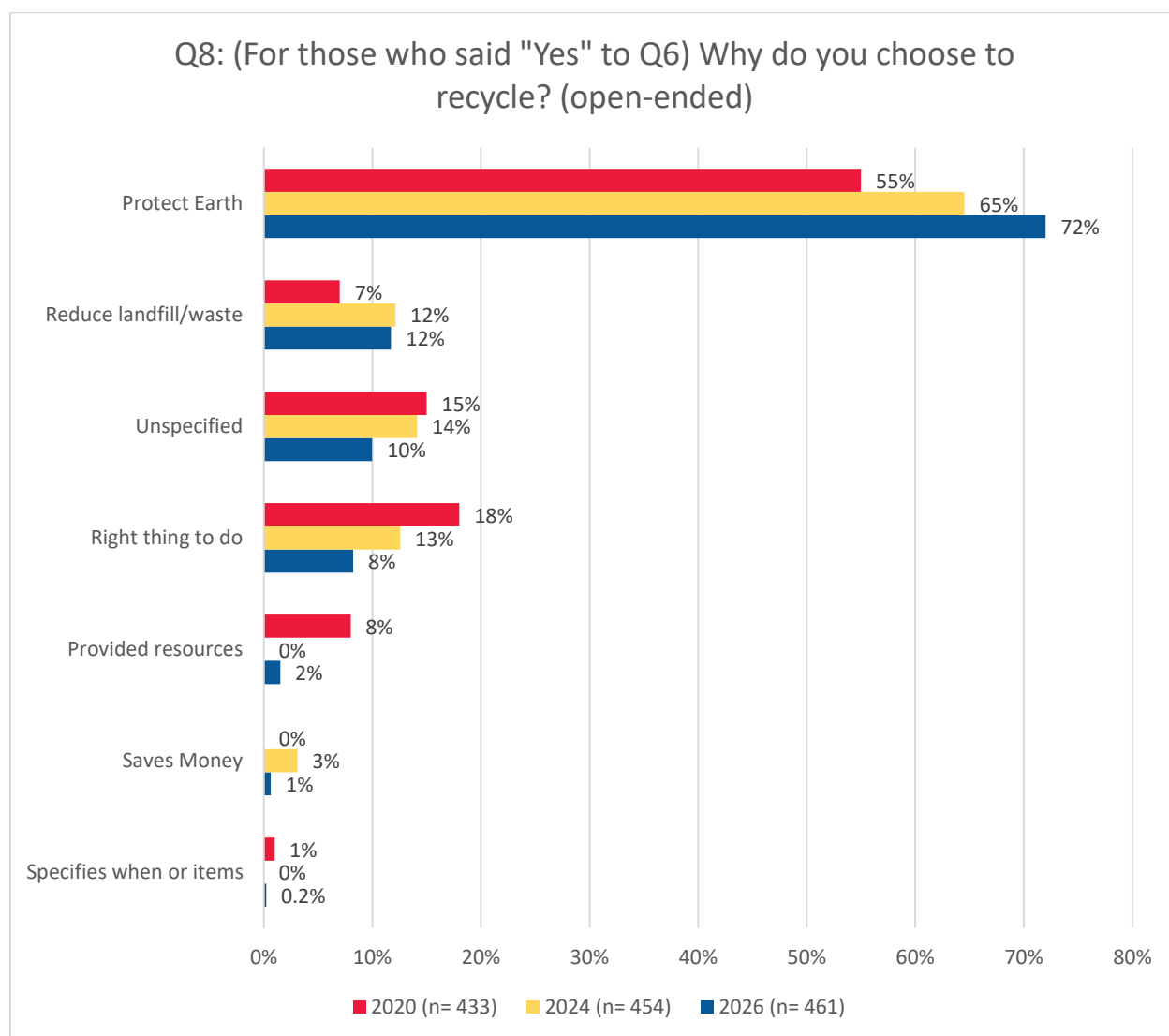
Title: Q7: Single-Family: (To those who said "No" to Q6): Why don't you participate?

Description: The bar graph above shows the percentage trending of single-family residents' reasons why they do not participate in curbside recycling. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Don't recycle in 2020: 26 percent
Don't recycle in 2024: 33 percent
Don't recycle in 2026: 62 percent
Don't have service in 2020: 35 percent
Don't have service in 2024: 28 percent
Don't have service in 2026: 10 percent
Time in 2020: 0 percent
Time in 2024: 17 percent
Time in 2026: 12 percent
Don't know in 2020: 7 percent
Don't know in 2024: 17 percent
Don't know in 2026: 8 percent
Drop-off center in 2020: 9 percent
Drop-off center in 2024: 6 percent
Drop-off center in 2026: 2 percent
Don't have a bin in 2020: 12 percent
Don't have a bin in 2024: 6 percent
Don't have a bin in 2026: 4 percent
Cost in 2020: 7 percent
Cost in 2024: 0 percent
Cost in 2026: 4 percent
Have someone recycle in 2020: 7 percent
Have someone recycle in 2024: 0 percent
Have someone recycle in 2026: 0 percent

Respondents who utilize curbside recycling services were asked why they recycle in an open-ended question. The responses were coded into categories in the graph below. The “unspecified” category includes general responses about why they recycle, such as to protect “the future” or “resources.” These responses are broader than protecting “natural resources” or protecting “the Earth.” A full list of verbatim responses can be viewed in [Appendix C](#).

“Protecting the Earth” was again the most cited reason for recycling and saw a significant increase year-over-year (55% in 2020, 65% in 2024, 72% in 2026). In contrast, fewer respondents in 2026 reported they recycled because it is the “right thing to do” compared to 2020 and 2024 (18% in 2020, 13% in 2024). There was also a small decline in the percentage of respondents providing an “unspecified” response. This suggests that respondents were being more specific about their motivation to recycle at home compared to 2020 and 2024. A nearly identical percentage of respondents in 2026 (12% in 2026 from 12% in 2024) mentioned they recycled to reduce what goes to the landfill or in their garbage bin.



Title: Q8: Single-Family: (For those who said "Yes" to Q6): Why do you choose to recycle?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of single-family residents' reasons why they participate in curbside recycling. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Protect Earth in 2020: 55 percent
Protect Earth in 2024: 65 percent
Protect Earth in 2026: 72 percent
Reduce landfill or waste in 2020: 7 percent
Reduce landfill or waste in 2024: 12 percent
Reduce landfill or waste in 2026: 12 percent
Unspecified in 2020: 15 percent
Unspecified in 2024: 14 percent
Unspecified in 2026: 10 percent
Right thing to do in 2020: 18 percent
Right thing to do in 2024: 13 percent
Right thing to do in 2026: 8 percent
Provided resources in 2020: 8 percent
Provided resources in 2024: 0 percent
Provided resources in 2026: 2 percent
Saves money in 2020: 0 percent
Saves money in 2024: 3 percent
Saves money in 2026: 1 percent
Specifies when or items in 2020: 1 percent
Specifies when or items in 2024: 0 percent
Specifies when or items in 2026: 0.2 percent

Curbside recyclers were then asked about the types of materials they recycle at home. Since 2020, at least 9 in 10 respondents reported recycling all the materials mentioned, an indication that residents are recycling what they can. Cardboard (99%) and plastic bottles and jugs (97%) were the most cited materials recycled. In 2026, there was a significant decline in respondents recycling paper compared to 2020 and 2024 (95% in 2020, 96% in 2024). No other reported decrease was statistically significant between 2020 and 2026.

Some respondents also mentioned they recycled some products and materials not mentioned in the chart. They included other light bulbs, different types of metal, and paint. A full list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).

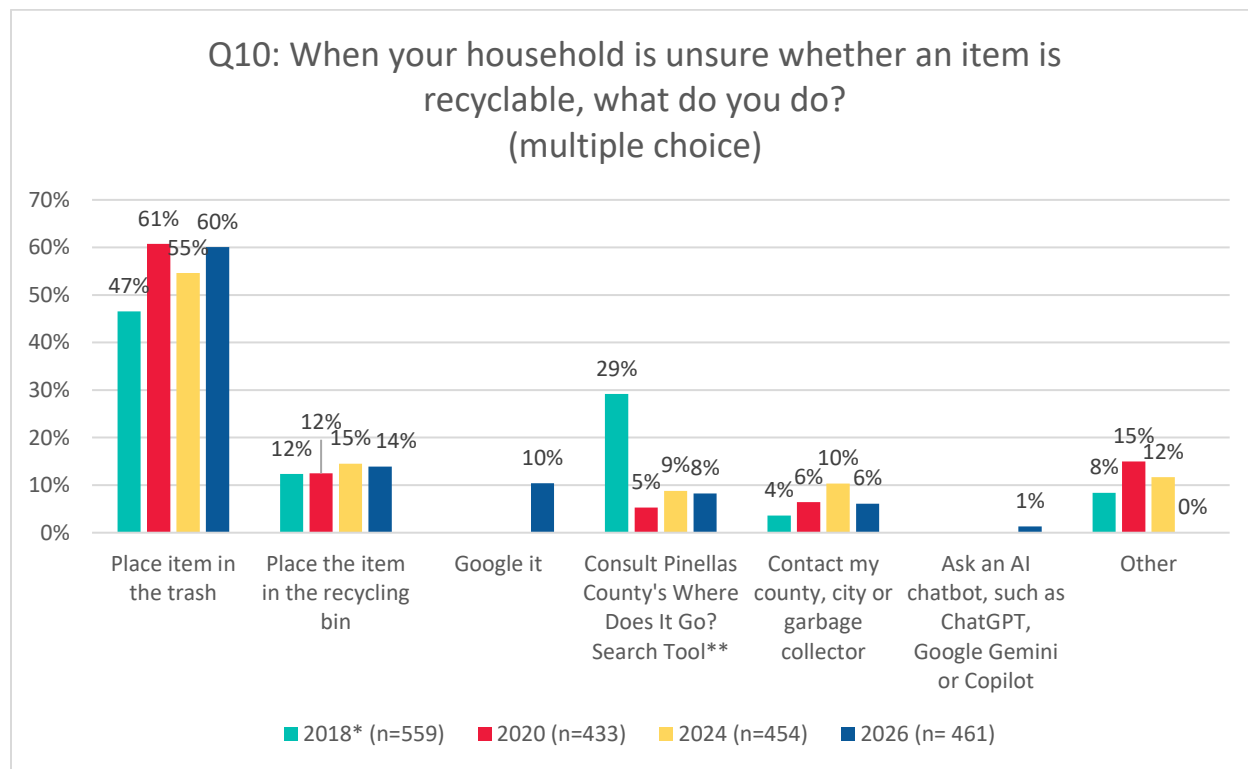
Q9: Single Family: Do you recycle the following items curbside?	2018 (n=561)	2020 (n=433)	2024 (n= 454)	2026 (n= 461)
Cardboard	92%	97%	97%	99%
Plastic bottles and jugs	91%	97%	98%	97%
Cartons	75%	94%	96%	96%
Metal cans* (Aluminum, tin, & steel cans in 2018)	91%	95%	96%	93%
Glass bottles and jars	87%	93%	94%	92%
Paper	90%	95%	96%	90%
Other items routinely recycled	11%	1%	1%	2%

Recycling correctly is just as important as recycling itself. Contamination “is any material that is not accepted in [the] curbside recycling program” and “can damage equipment, endanger staff, and make quality recyclables unusable” (Pinellas County). Single-family household recyclers were asked what they do with an item when they are unsure if it is recyclable. In 2026, two new categories were added to the question to better understand where Pinellas County residents look for recycling and disposal information. This included Googling it and asking “an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot.”

Like the last two studies, the majority (60%) stated that they place the item in the trash if they were unsure if it could be recycled. This was a significant increase from 2024, when 55% placed the item in the trash, but was in line with findings from 2020 (61% placed the item in the trash if they were unsure). The only other category that saw a statistically significant change was respondents contacting their garbage collector, which saw a 4 percentage-point decrease between 2024 and 2026. However, this was not significantly different from 2020.

Eight percent of respondents in 2026 reported consulting Pinellas County’s “Where Does It Go?” Search Tool. This was nearly identical to 2024, when 9% of respondents reported utilizing the search tool to determine recyclability.

In 2026, no respondent reported an “other” way of finding out if an item is recyclable. However, 10% of the 2026 sample stated that they Googled the question, while 1% stated that they utilized an AI chatbot to determine if an item was recyclable. This likely explains the difference between 2024 and 2026. A nearly identical percentage of respondents in 2026 reported one of the two online sources compared to “other” respondents in 2024 (11.67% for Other in 2024 compared to 11.71% for Google and AI chatbots in 2026).



Title: Q10: Single-Family: When your household is unsure whether an item is recyclable, what do you do?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of what single-family residents who recycle do if they are unsure about whether an item can be recycled or not. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Place item in the trash in 2018: 47 percent

Place item in the trash in 2020: 61 percent

Place item in the trash in 2024: 55 percent

Place item in the trash in 2026: 60 percent

Place item in the recycling bin in 2018: 12 percent

Place item in the recycling bin in 2020: 12 percent

Place item in the recycling bin in 2024: 15 percent

Place item in the recycling bin in 2026: 14 percent

Google it in 2018: Not asked

Google it in 2020: Not asked

Google it in 2024: Not asked

Google it in 2026: 10 percent

Consult Pinellas County's A to Z guide for recycling and disposal in 2018**: 29 percent

Consult Pinellas County's A to Z guide for recycling and disposal in 2020**: 5 percent

Consult Pinellas County's Where Does It Go? Search Tool in 2024: 9 percent

Consult Pinellas County's Where Does It Go? Search Tool in 2026: 8 percent

Contact my county, city, or garbage collector in 2018: 4 percent

Contact my county, city, or garbage collector in 2020: 6 percent

Contact my county, city, or garbage collector in 2024: 10 percent

Contact my county, city, or garbage collector in 2026: 6 percent

Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot in 2018: Not asked

Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot in 2020: Not asked

Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot in 2024: Not asked

Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot in 2026: 1 percent

Other in 2018: 8 percent

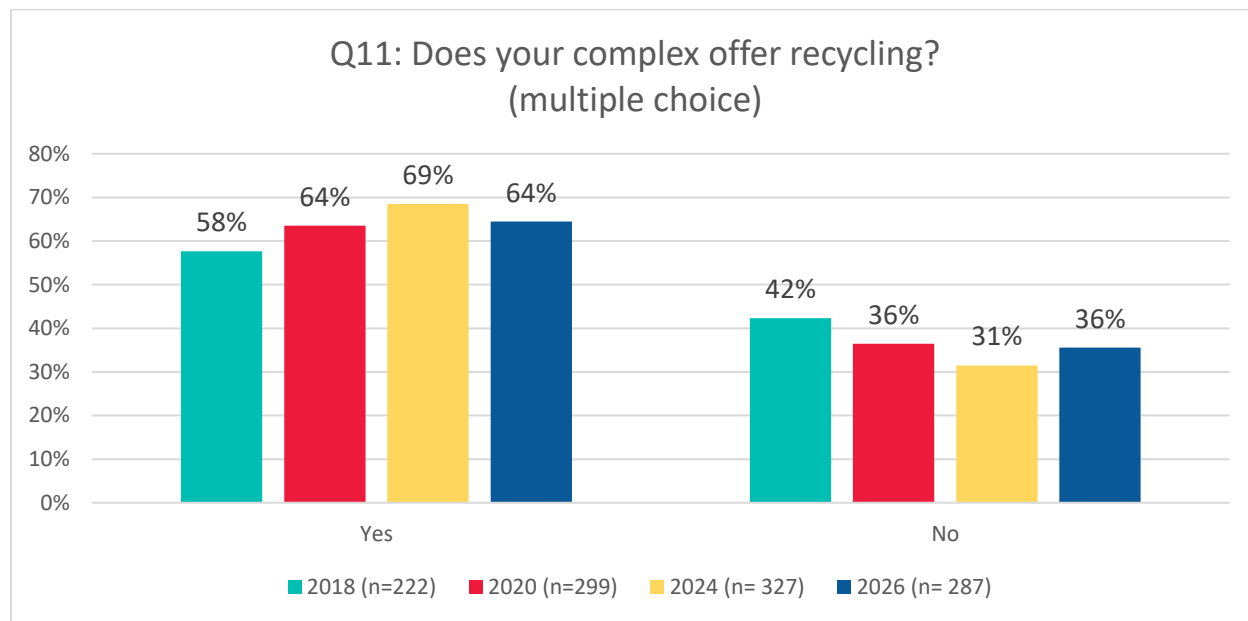
Other in 2020: 15 percent

Other in 2024: 12 percent

Other in 2026: 0 percent

Multifamily

Those who live in multifamily housing were asked a similar set of questions about recycling in their shared dwellings. Since 2018, the percentage of multifamily respondents who reported having recycling services at their complex has ranged from 58% (2018) to 69% (2024). More than 6 in 10 multifamily residents (64%) said that their complex or community offers recycling services in 2026. This represents a statistically significant decrease in those living in multifamily housing who have recycling offered to them compared to 2024, but is virtually identical to 2020.



Title: Q11: Multifamily: Does your complex offer recycling?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of multifamily housing residents who live in a complex that offers recycling. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Multifamily residences offering recycling at their complex in 2018: 58 percent

Multifamily residences offering recycling at their complex in 2020: 64 percent

Multifamily residences offering recycling at their complex in 2024: 69 percent

Multifamily residences offering recycling at their complex in 2026: 64 percent

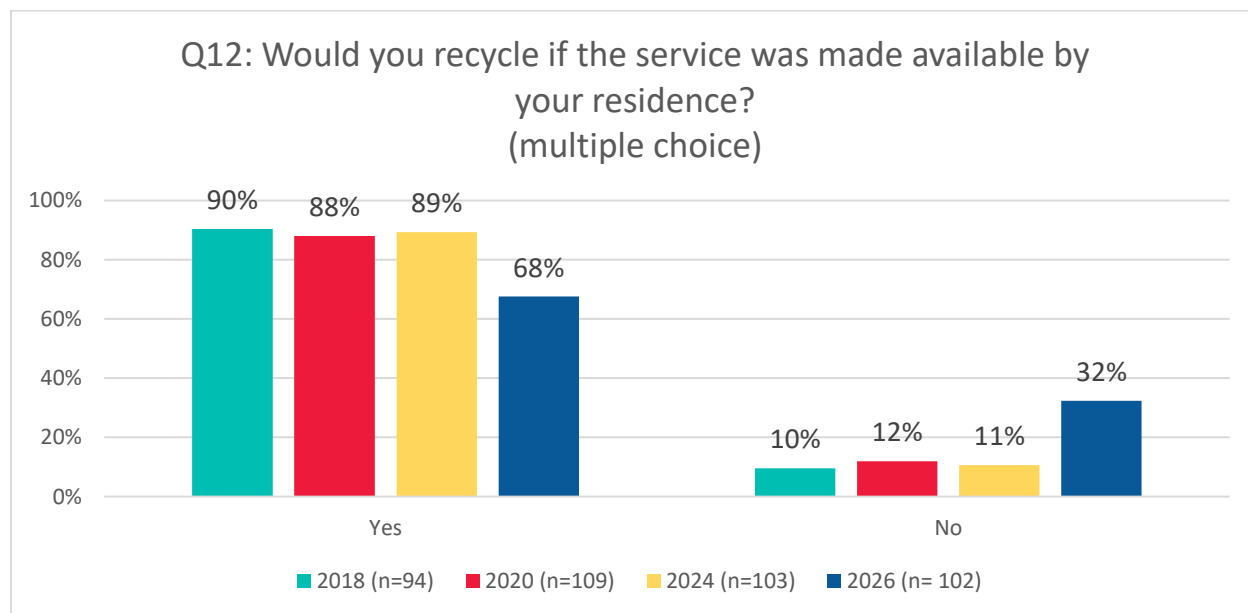
Multifamily residences that do not offer recycling at their complex in 2018: 42 percent

Multifamily residences that do not offer recycling at their complex in 2020: 36 percent

Multifamily residences that do not offer recycling at their complex in 2024: 31 percent

Multifamily residences that do not offer recycling at their complex in 2026: 36 percent

Multifamily residents who are not offered recycling at their complex (36%), which represented 102 respondents, were asked whether they would recycle if available. Interestingly, 68% of these respondents reported that they would participate if recycling services were offered at their complex. This is a sharp departure from previous studies, when interest was around 90%. Future studies may want to include a question asking why they would not want to participate to gain further insights.



Title: Q12: Multifamily: Would you recycle if the service was made available by your residence?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of multifamily housing residents who do not have recycling at their complex and were asked if they would participate if it were available at their residence. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Would recycle if service made available in 2018: 90 percent

Would recycle if service made available in 2020: 88 percent

Would recycle if service made available in 2024: 89 percent

Would recycle if service made available in 2026: 68 percent

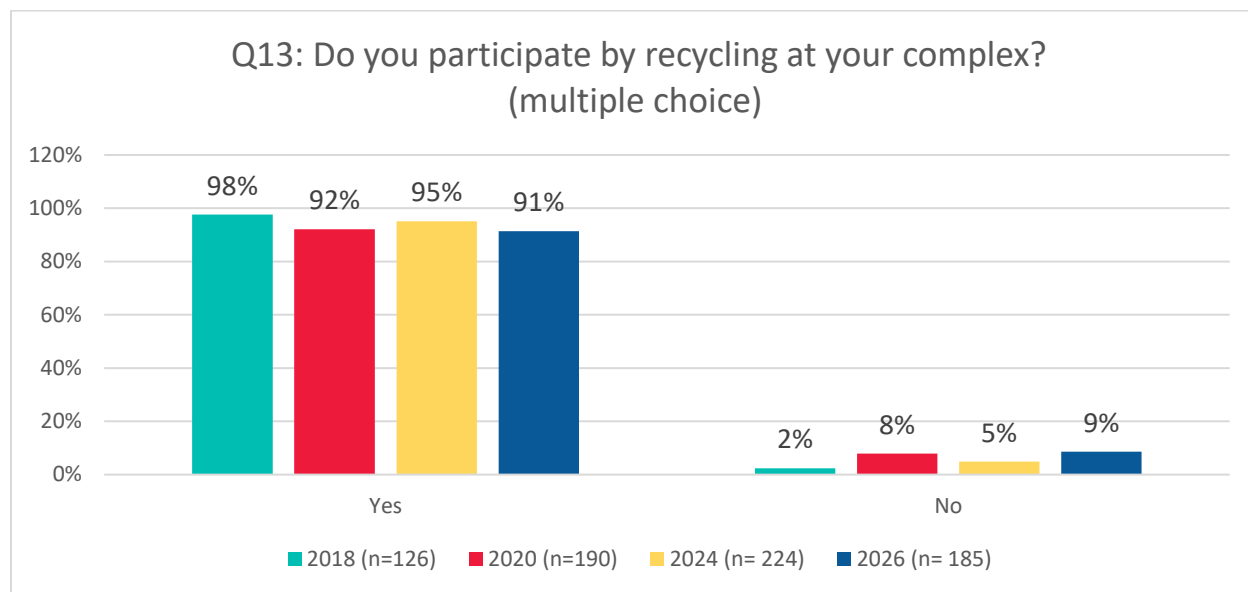
Still would not recycle if service made available in 2018: 10 percent

Still would not recycle if service made available in 2020: 12 percent

Still would not recycle if service made available in 2024: 11 percent

Still would not recycle if service made available in 2026: 32 percent

Respondents able to recycle at their multifamily residence (64%), representing 287 respondents, were asked whether they participated. Like previous iterations of the survey, participation was high, as more than nine in ten (91%) reported recycling at their multifamily residence in 2026. This did represent a small but significant decrease from 2024. However, as seen throughout this survey, this is nearly identical to the finding from the 2020 survey.



Title: Q13: Multifamily: Do you participate by recycling at your complex?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of multifamily housing residents that recycle. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Recycle at complex in 2018: 98 percent

Recycle at complex in 2020: 92 percent

Recycle at complex in 2024: 95 percent

Recycle at complex in 2026: 91 percent

Do not recycle at complex in 2018: 2 percent

Do not recycle at complex in 2020: 8 percent

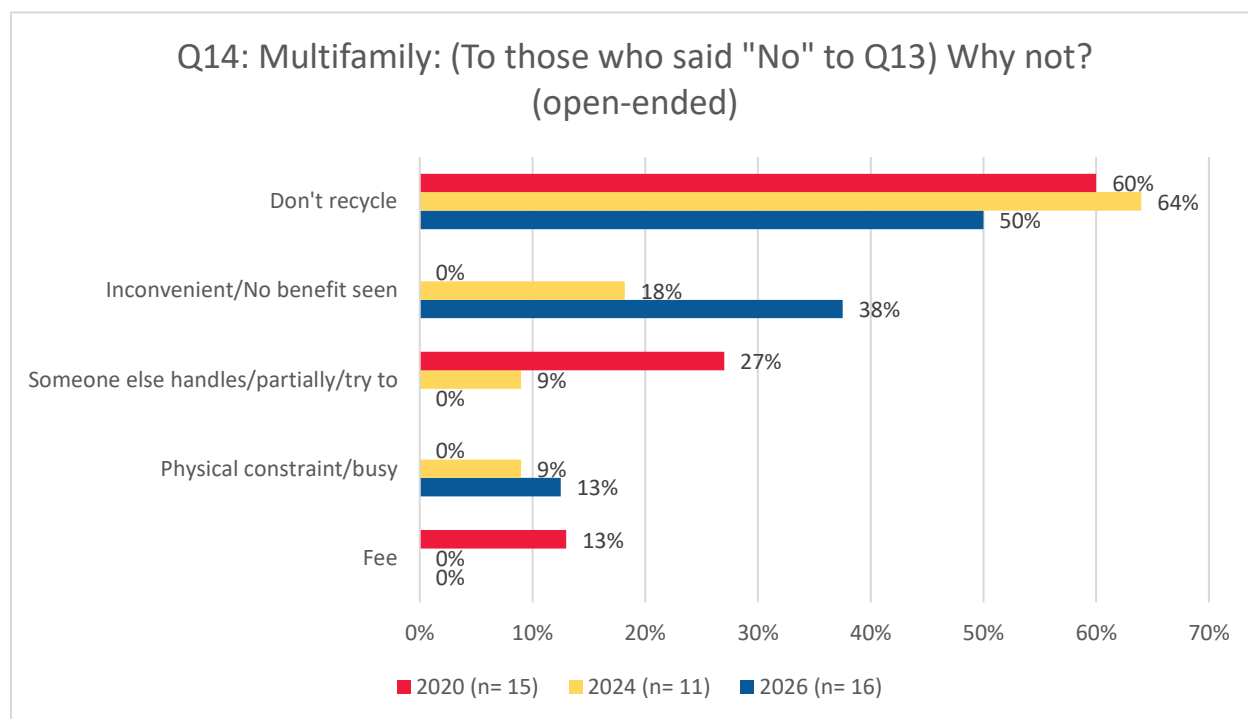
Do not recycle at complex in 2024: 5 percent

Do not recycle at complex in 2026: 9 percent

Multifamily housing residents who were offered recycling but did not participate answered an open-ended question to understand further why they did not participate. This represents a very small set of respondents in each study, making it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions for this question.

The majority (50%) did not provide any specific reason for not recycling. However, there was a notable increase in respondents who mentioned that recycling was inconvenient or that they saw no benefit to participating. This could provide another explanation for respondents who said they would not participate in question 12; how respondents have to dispose of trash and recyclables may be more difficult at various complexes, lessening interest in participating in the service.

A full list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).



Title: Q14: Multifamily: (To those who said "No" to Q13) Why not?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of multifamily housing residents' reasons for why they do not recycle. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

- Don't recycle in 2020: 60 percent
- Don't recycle in 2024: 64 percent
- Don't recycle in 2026: 50 percent
- Inconvenient/No benefit seen in 2020: 0 percent
- Inconvenient/No benefit seen in 2024: 18 percent
- Inconvenient/No benefit seen in 2026: 38 percent
- Physical constraints/busy in 2020: 0 percent
- Physical constraints/busy in 2024: 18 percent
- Physical constraints/busy in 2026: 13 percent
- Someone else handles/partially/try to in 2020: 27 percent

Someone else handles/partially/try to in 2024: 9 percent

Someone else handles/partially/try to in 2026: 0 percent

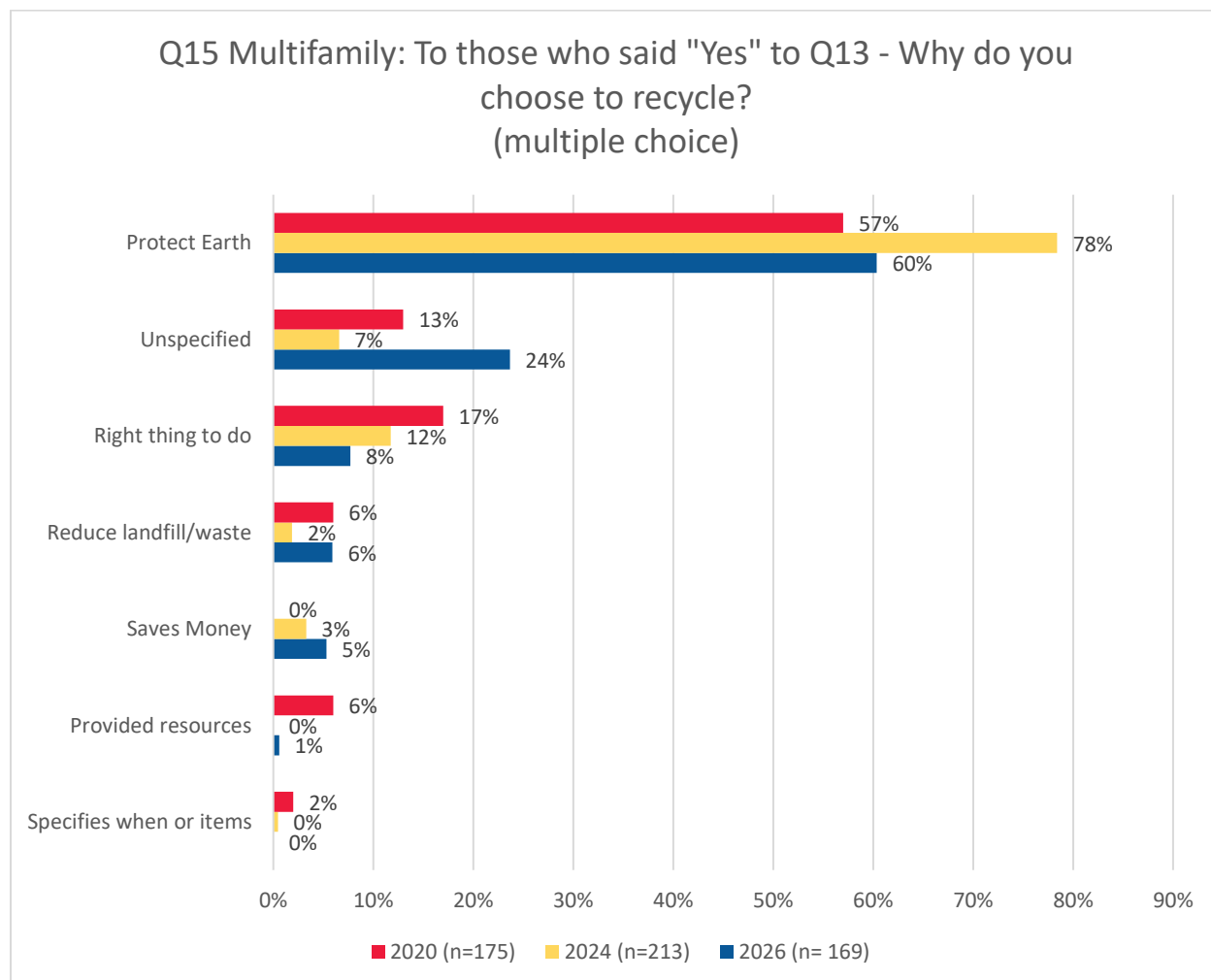
Fee in 2020: 13 percent

Fee in 2024: 0 percent

Fee in 2026: 0 percent

For multifamily housing residents who have recycling services offered and participate, an open-ended question asked why they chose to recycle. Like single-family housing residents, multifamily residents most often cited protecting the Earth (60%) as the primary reason to recycle. Protecting the Earth was cited as the primary reason for recycling, similar to 2020, but was significantly less than in 2024 (78%). Subsequently, more respondents in 2026 did not provide a specific answer as to why they recycle compared to 2020 and 2024. Other respondents noted that recycling was the right thing to do (8%), that recycling reduced what went to the landfill (6%), that recycling helped save money (5%), or that they were provided the resources to recycle (1%).

A full list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).



Title: Q15: Multifamily: (Those who said "Yes" to Q13) Why do you choose to recycle?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of residents that live in multifamily housing's reasons for why they recycle. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Protect Earth in 2020: 57 percent
Protect Earth in 2024: 78 percent
Protect Earth in 2026: 60 percent
Unspecified in 2020: 13 percent
Unspecified in 2024: 7 percent
Unspecified in 2026: 24 percent
Right thing to do in 2020: 17 percent
Right thing to do in 2024: 12 percent
Right thing to do in 2026: 8 percent
Reduce landfill or waste in 2020: 6 percent
Reduce landfill or waste in 2024: 2 percent
Reduce landfill or waste in 2026: 6 percent
Saves money in 2020: 0 percent
Saves money in 2024: 3 percent
Saves money in 2026: 5 percent
Provided resources in 2020: 6 percent
Provided resources in 2024: 0 percent
Provided resources in 2026: 1 percent
Specifies when or items in 2020: 2 percent
Specifies when or items in 2024: 0 percent
Specifies when or items in 2026: 0 percent

Multifamily residents who participate reported which materials they recycle at their complex. Nearly all multifamily residents who have recycling reported recycling all the materials mentioned in the table below. There was no significant change in reported recycling from 2024 to 2026. For some materials, such as metal cans; cartons; and glass bottles and jars, there was a significant increase between 2020 and 2026.

Only 1% offered an “other” response. This represented two respondents. Both mentioned recycling their grocery bags by taking them to their local store. One also mentioned taking their electronics to a local drop-off site, though they did not specify the location. The verbatim responses are available in [Appendix C](#).

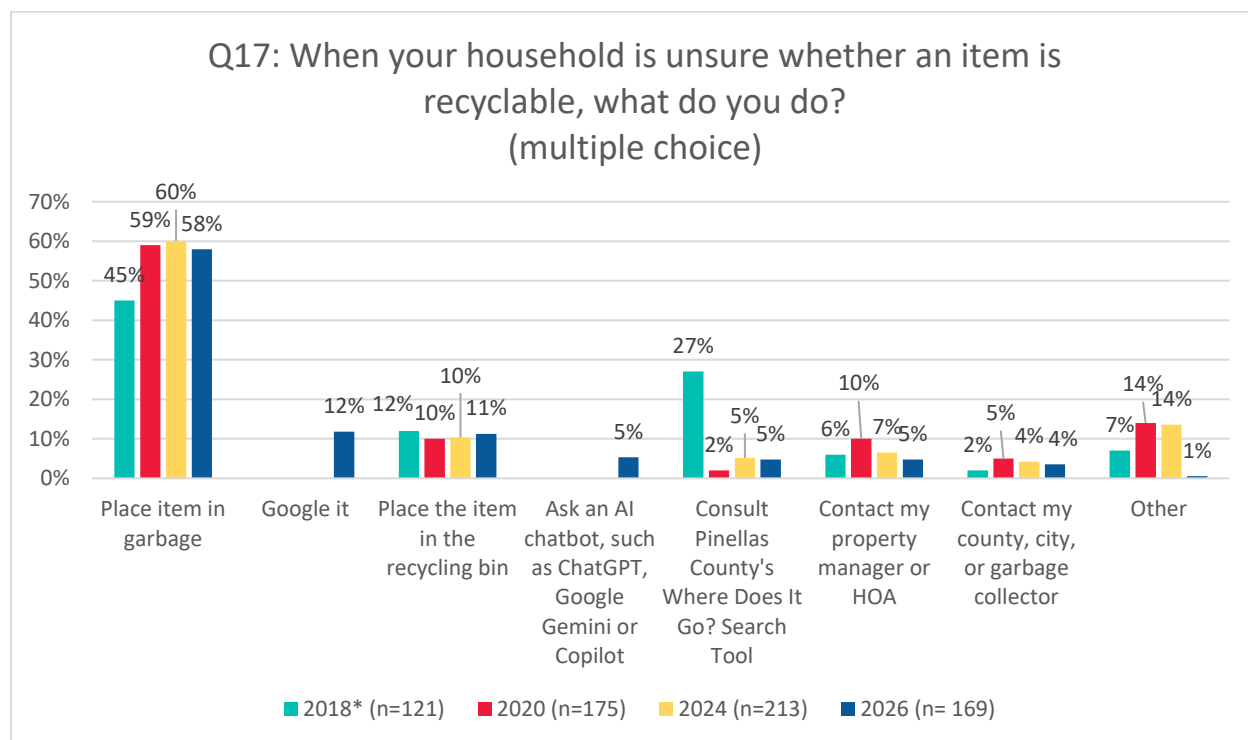
Q16 Multifamily: Do you recycle the following items at your complex?	2018 (n=123)	2020 (n=175)	2024 (n=213)	2026 (n= 169)
Metal cans (Aluminum, tin, & steel cans in 2018)	84%	93%	99%	98%
Cardboard	89%	95%	100%	98%
Paper	85%	95%	99%	98%
Plastic bottles and jugs	84%	97%	100%	98%
Glass bottles and jars	82%	89%	99%	98%
Cartons	73%	91%	99%	96%

When asked what they do with an item when they are unsure if it is recyclable, most multifamily households reported placing the item in the trash (58%). This is statistically similar to 2024 (60%) and 2020 (59%). About one in ten (11%) mentioned that they recycle the item, which is nearly identical to all previous surveys. These figures are very similar to those in single-family housing, further supporting that the residency type does not affect that decision.

Multifamily housing respondents were just as likely to Google (12%) whether an item was recyclable as single-family housing respondents (10%) in 2026. However, multifamily residents (5%) were more likely to query an AI chatbot compared to single-family residents (1%).

A similar percentage of respondents were likely to contact their property manager or HOA (5%), consult Pinellas County's Where Does It Go? Search Tool (5%), and contact their county, city, or garbage collector (4%). There was no significant difference in any of these three categories from 2024 to 2026.

Only 1% offered an "other" response. This represented one respondent, who reported that they looked at the item. The verbatim response is available in [Appendix C](#).



Title: Q17: Multifamily: When your household is unsure whether an item is recyclable, what do you do?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of what multifamily residents who recycle do if they are unsure about whether an item can be recycled or not. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Place item in the trash in 2018: 45 percent

Place item in the trash in 2020: 59 percent

Place item in the trash in 2024: 60 percent

Place item in the trash in 2026: 58 percent

Google it in 2018: Not asked

Google it in 2020: Not asked
Google it in 2024: Not asked
Google it in 2026: 12 percent
Place item in the recycling bin in 2018: 12 percent
Place item in the recycling bin in 2020: 10 percent
Place item in the recycling bin in 2024: 10 percent
Place item in the recycling bin in 2026: 11 percent
Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot in 2018: Not asked
Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot in 2020: Not asked
Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot in 2024: Not asked
Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Copilot in 2026: 5 percent
Contact my property manager or HOA in 2018: 6 percent
Contact my property manager or HOA in 2020: 10 percent
Contact my property manager or HOA in 2024: 7 percent
Contact my property manager or HOA in 2026: 5 percent
Consult Pinellas County's A to Z guide for recycling and disposal in 2018: 27 percent
Consult Pinellas County's A to Z guide for recycling and disposal in 2020: 2 percent
Consult Pinellas County's Where Does It Go? Search Tool in 2024: 5 percent
Consult Pinellas County's Where Does It Go? Search Tool in 2026: 5 percent
Contact my county, city, or garbage collector in 2018: 2 percent
Contact my county, city, or garbage collector in 2020: 5 percent
Contact my county, city, or garbage collector in 2024: 4 percent
Contact my county, city, or garbage collector in 2026: 4 percent
Other in 2018: 7 percent
Other in 2020: 14 percent
Other in 2024: 14 percent
Other in 2026: 1 percent

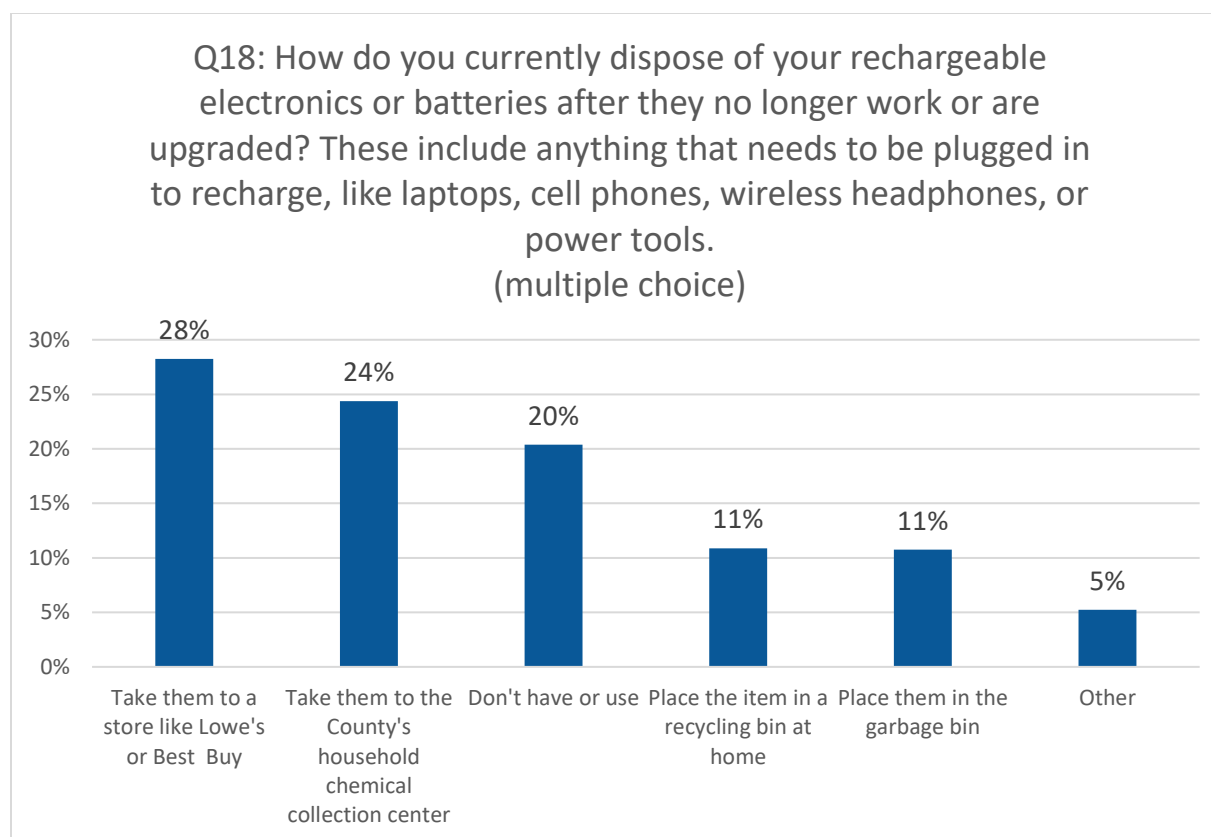
Recycling Practices

All respondents – single- and multi-family residents – were asked questions about their specific recycling practices. This means that the sample for these questions between 2020 and 2026 is 800 respondents, unless otherwise noted.

Electronics and batteries are a common item in society, as the average American has 24 devices per household (EPA, 2021). However, rechargeable batteries and electronics require proper disposal to ensure they do not pose a danger to workers or the environment (Pinellas County, 2026). Since 2020, respondents have been asked what they do with old rechargeable batteries in an open-ended question. While this captured a range of behaviors, it also produced mixed and, sometimes, unclear results. In 2026, the question was changed, providing respondents with five categories and an “other” option to provide more structure and insights. Moreover, the question wording was altered to provide more clarity about what items are included.

Respondents were split on what they do with rechargeable electronics or batteries once they no longer work or are upgraded. The largest share of respondents (28%) reported that they take them to a store like Lowe’s or Best Buy. Another fourth (24%) stated they take them to a Household Hazardous Waste collection program. However, one in five (20%) respondents also reported they do not have or use rechargeable electronics or batteries, a sign that there is still a gap in awareness. To mitigate this awareness gap, Pinellas County may want to consider a future study focused solely on rechargeable electronics and batteries. This would allow Pinellas County Solid Waste to uncover more insights into specific items of interest, better understand how residents in the county are handling these items, and create different educational opportunities.

About one in five respondents also reported placing rechargeable electronics and batteries into their recycling bin at home (11%) or placing them in their garbage bin (11%). On the surface, this appears to be a positive decline from 2024 on recycling, as 36 percent of respondents in 2024 stated they recycle these items. However, respondents were vague in the 2024 survey on how they recycled these items, which did not mean they were putting them into the recycling bins at home. The percentage of respondents who reported they disposed of rechargeable electronics and batteries, however, did not change significantly between 2024 (8%) and 2026 (11%). This suggests continued opportunities to engage and educate the public about proper rechargeable electronic disposal.



Title: Q18: How do you currently dispose of your rechargeable electronics or batteries after they no longer work or are upgraded? These include anything that needs to be plugged in to recharge, like laptops, cell phones, wireless headphones, or power tools.

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage of how residents dispose of their rechargeable electronics and batteries that no longer work or need to be upgraded. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Take them to a store like Lowe's or Best Buy: 28 percent

Take them to the County's household chemical collection center: 24 percent

Don't have or use: 20 percent

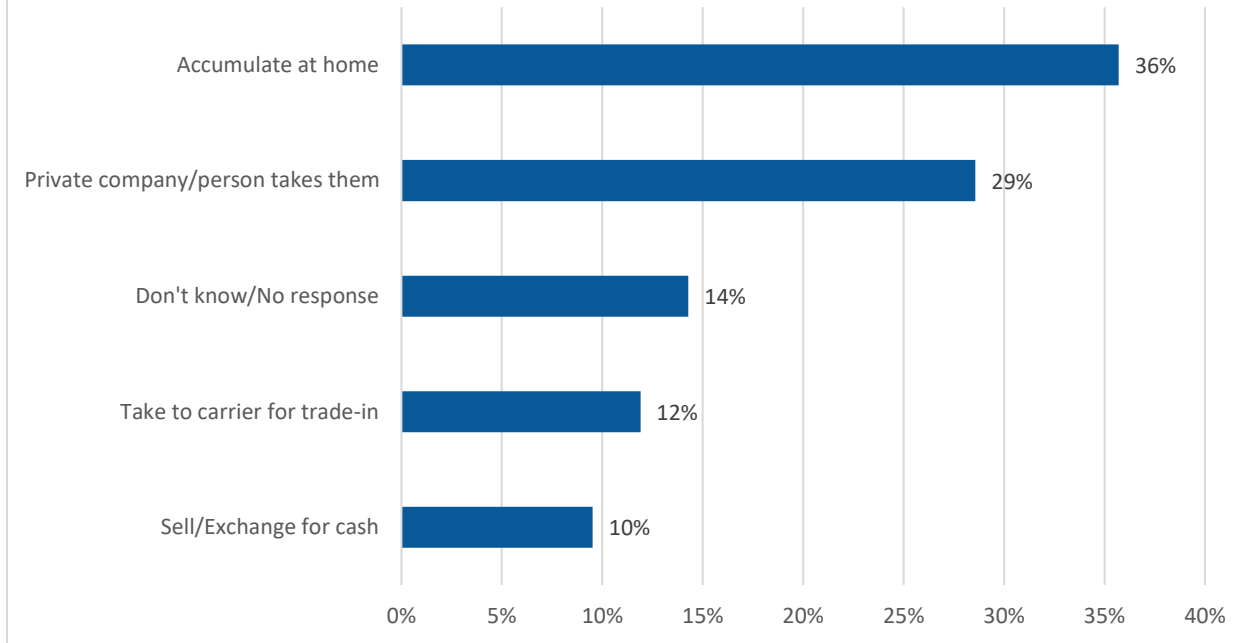
Place them in the recycling bin at home: 11 percent

Place them in the garbage bin: 11 percent

Other: 5 percent

Five percent of respondents offered another way that they dispose of rechargeable electronics and batteries. Some of the common alternative disposal methods mentioned included private companies or other individuals taking them, exchanging old phones for cash, taking old phones back to the cell phone carrier when they upgrade their device, or just accumulating these devices at home. A full list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).

Q18: How do you currently dispose of your rechargeable electronics or batteries after they no longer work or are upgraded? These include anything that needs to be plugged in to recharge, like laptops, cell phones, wireless headphones, or power tools.: Other



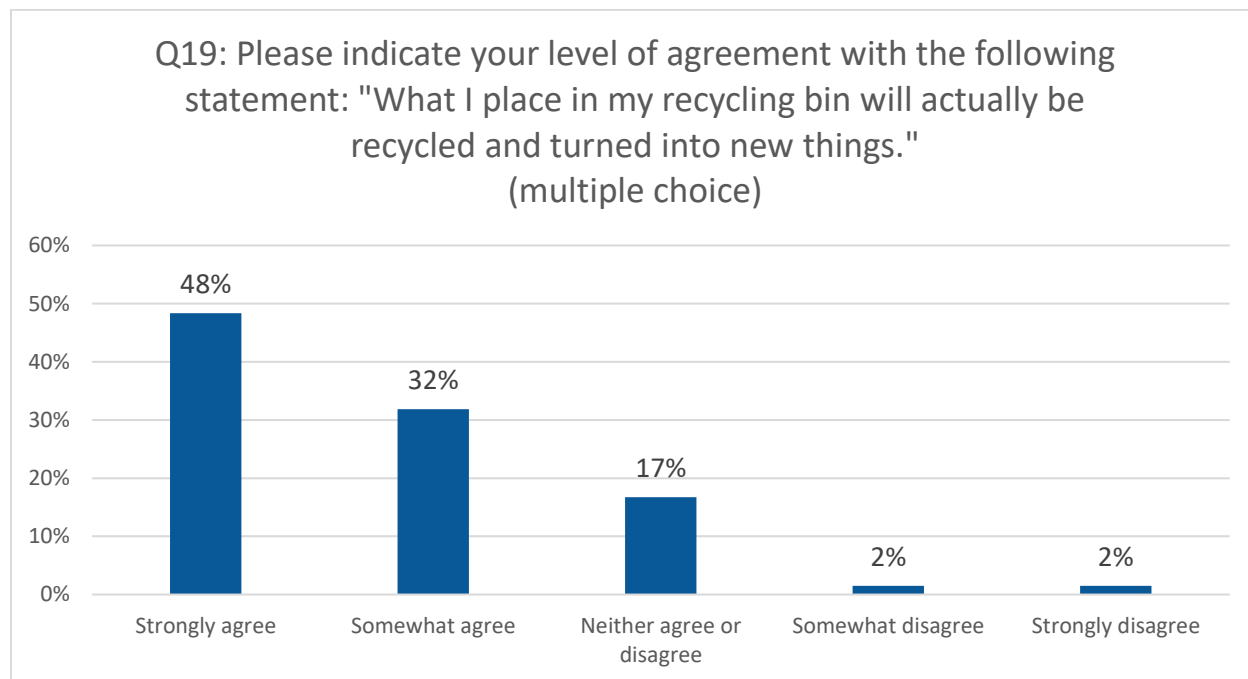
Title: Q18: How do you currently dispose of your rechargeable electronics or batteries after they no longer work or are upgraded? These include anything that needs to be plugged in to recharge, like laptops, cell phones, wireless headphones, or power tools.: Other

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage of residents who answered “Other” in Q18 as how they disposed of their rechargeable electronics and batteries that no longer work or need to be upgraded. This represents 42 of the 800, or roughly 5 percent, of respondents. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Accumulate at home: 36 percent
 Private company/person takes them: 29 percent
 Don't know/No response: 14 percent
 Take to carrier for trade-in: 12 percent
 Sell/Exchange for cash: 10 percent

A new question was asked in the 2026 survey to understand the perceived efficacy of recycling amongst Pinellas County residents. Respondents were asked to what level they agreed with the statement “What I place in my recycling bin will actually be recycled and turned into new things.” Respondents were given a five-point Likert scale that ranged from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree.”

Just under a majority (48%) of Pinellas County residents surveyed strongly agreed that what they place in their recycling bin is actually being recycled and turned into new things. Very few respondents somewhat disagree (2%) or strongly disagree (2%) with the statement. When looking at the strength of responses, or the degree to which people hold their belief, we see that half (50%) of respondents report a soft response (includes “somewhat agree,” “neither agree nor disagree,” and “somewhat disagree”). This suggests that this group’s opinion can fluctuate depending on new information, creating an educational opportunity for Pinellas County Solid Waste to show the public the department’s efforts.



Title: Q19: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: “What I place in my recycling bin will actually be recycled and turned into new things.”

Description: The bar chart above shows the level of agreement with the statement: “What I place in my recycling bin will actually be recycled and turned into new things.” The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Strongly agree: 48 percent

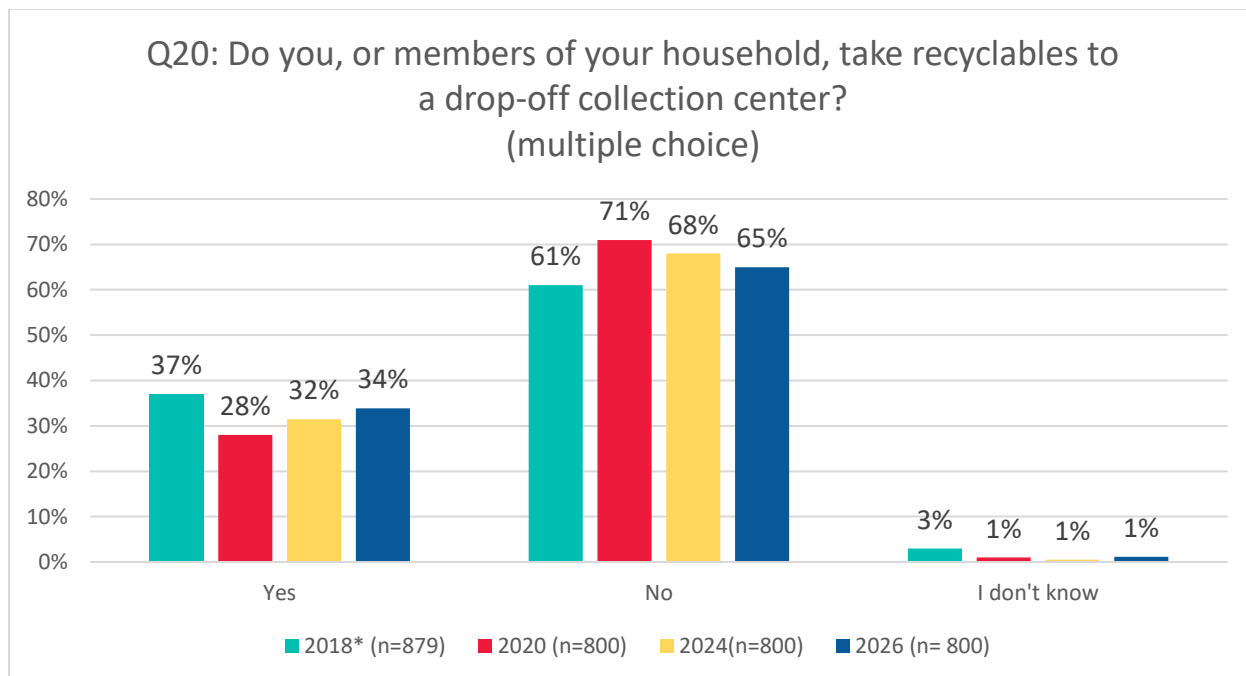
Somewhat agree: 32 percent

Neither agree nor disagree: 17 percent

Somewhat disagree: 2 percent

Strongly disagree: 2 percent

The County provides free recycling drop-off collection centers located throughout the county, including unincorporated areas as well as within municipalities, where residents may go to recycle items typically accepted at a multifamily dwelling or a curbside program. Respondents were asked if they or a member of their household utilized these drop-off centers. About one in three (34%) have utilized the county’s drop-off collection centers, while just about two in three (65%) do not. The remaining 1% were unsure. This is nearly identical to the reported drop-off collection center usage seen in 2024 (32%) and a small, but significant increase from 2020.

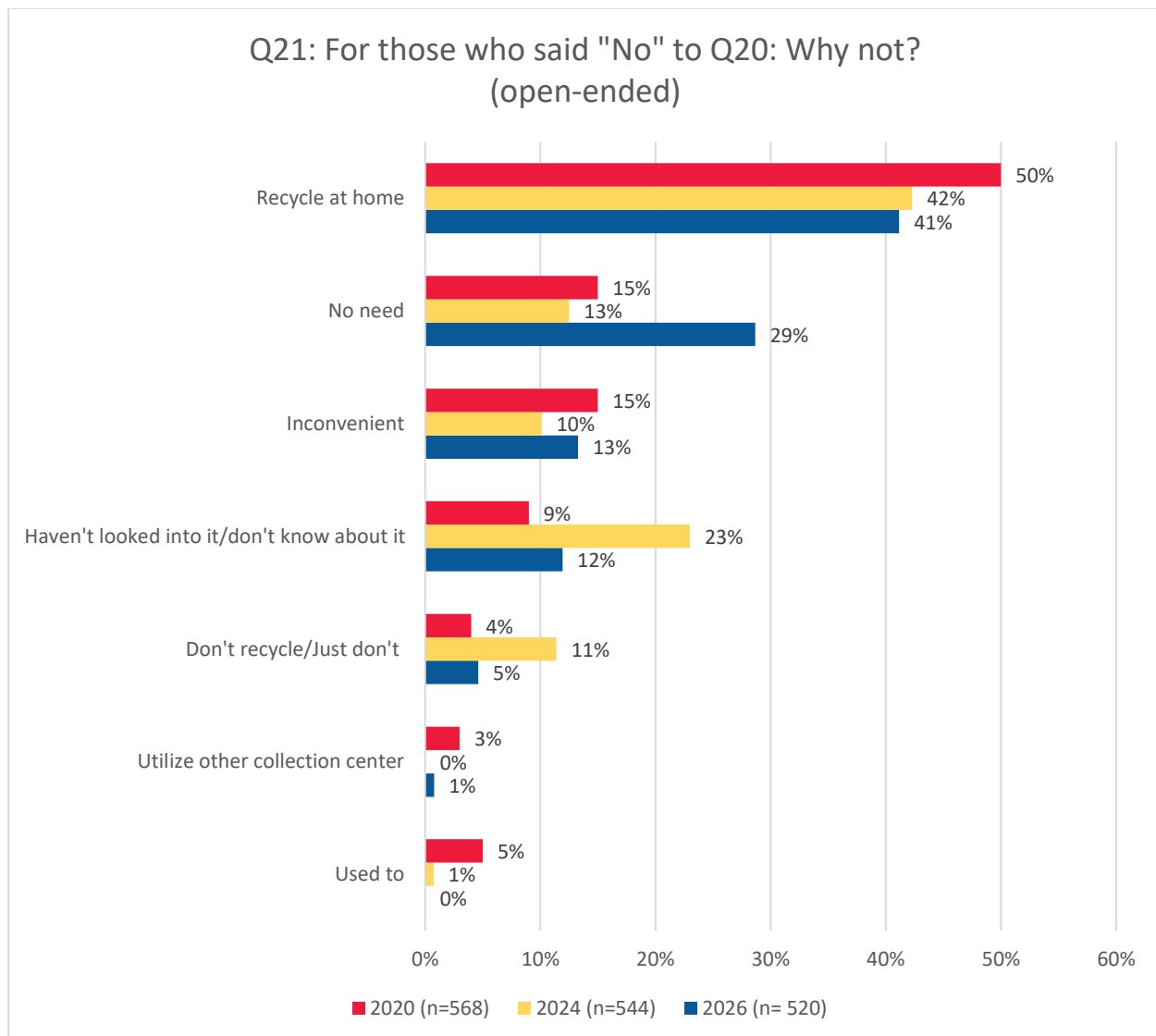


Title: Q20: Do you, or members of your household, take recyclables to a drop-off collection center?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of the residents who have utilized a drop-off collection center. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Yes in 2018: 37 percent
 Yes in 2020: 28 percent
 Yes in 2024: 32 percent
 Yes in 2026: 34 percent
 No in 2018: 61 percent
 No in 2020: 71 percent
 No in 2024: 68 percent
 No in 2026: 65 percent
 I don't know in 2018: 3 percent
 I don't know in 2020: 1 percent
 I don't know in 2024: 1 percent
 I don't know in 2026: 1 percent

Those who have not utilized the drop-off centers were asked a follow-up question on why they do not. The plurality (41%) of respondents stated that they do not use the drop-off centers because they recycle at home. This was also the most cited reason in 2020 (50%) and 2024 (42%). In a departure from previous surveys, 29% indicated they did not use the drop-off centers because they had no need. This is a significant increase from 2024 (13%) and 2020 (15%). In contrast, only 12 percent of respondents stated they were unaware of the drop-off centers. About one in eight respondents (13%) perceived it to be inconvenient, while 5 percent stated they do not recycle. Only 1% reported utilizing other collection centers. A full list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).



Title: Q21: Those that do not take recyclables to a drop-off center: Why not?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of the residents' reasoning on why they do not utilize drop-off collection centers. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Recycle at home in 2020: 50 percent

Recycle at home in 2024: 42 percent

Recycle at home in 2026: 41 percent

No need in 2020: 15 percent

No need in 2024: 13 percent

No need in 2026: 29 percent

Inconvenient in 2020: 15 percent

Inconvenient in 2024: 10 percent

Inconvenient in 2026: 13 percent

Haven't looked into it or don't know about it in 2020: 9 percent

Haven't looked into it or don't know about it in 2024: 23 percent

Haven't looked into it or don't know about it in 2026: 12 percent

Don't recycle or just don't use in 2020: 4 percent

Don't recycle or just don't use in 2024: 11 percent

Don't recycle or just don't use in 2026: 5 percent

Utilize other collection centers in 2020: 3 percent

Utilize other collection centers in 2024: 0 percent

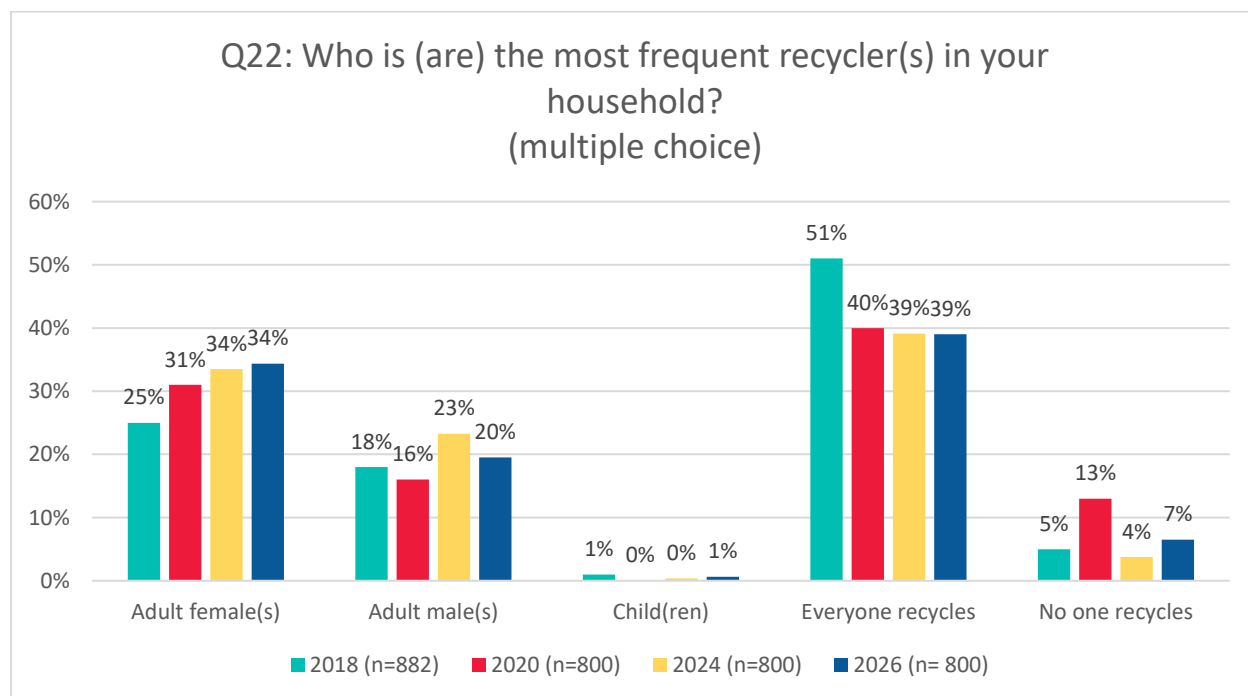
Utilize other collection centers in 2026: 1 percent

Used to in 2020: 5 percent

Used to in 2024: 1 percent

Used to in 2026: 0 percent

Respondents were asked which member(s) of their household engaged with recycling the most. The plurality of respondents (39%) stated that everyone participated. Thirty-four percent stated that the most frequent recycler was adult female(s). One in five (20%) stated that the most frequent recycler in their household were men. Only 7% say no one recycles, while 1% stated that children were the most frequent recyclers. There was no statistically significant change in any category.



Title: Q22: Who is (are) the most frequent recycler(s) in your household?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of the most frequent recyclers per household. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Adult female(s) in 2018: 25 percent

Adult female(s) in 2020: 31 percent

Adult female(s) in 2024: 34 percent

Adult female(s) in 2026: 34 percent

Adult male(s) in 2018: 18 percent

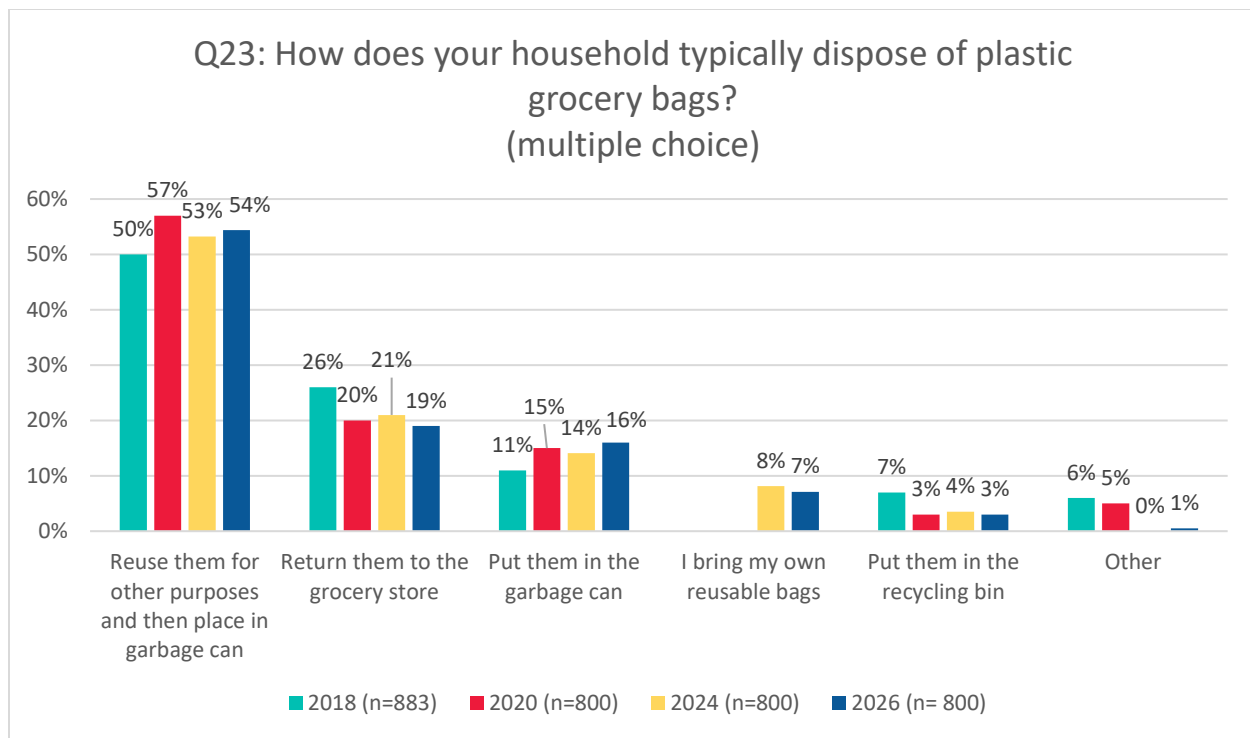
Adult male(s) in 2020: 16 percent

Adult male(s) in 2024: 23 percent
Adult male(s) in 2026: 20 percent
Children in 2018: 1 percent
Children in 2020: 0 percent
Children in 2024: 0 percent
Children in 2026: 1 percent
Everyone recycles in 2018: 51 percent
Everyone recycles in 2020: 40 percent
Everyone recycles in 2024: 39 percent
Everyone recycles in 2026: 39 percent
No one recycles in 2018: 5 percent
No one recycles in 2020: 13 percent
No one recycles in 2024: 4 percent
No one recycles in 2026: 7 percent

Plastic grocery bags are a common item in United States households, with the average family using 60 bags over four supermarket visits (Beyond Plastic, 2026). Moreover, less than 10 percent of plastic bags used in the country are recycled (Environmental Protection Agency, 2018), creating more waste that ends up in landfills across the country. Though single-use plastic bags have several environmental impacts, they can also create issues when not disposed of properly. Plastic grocery bags easily get tangled in recycling equipment, causing them to slow down or stop a facility's recycling operations. Respondents are asked what they do with them to better understand how Pinellas County residents dispose of plastic grocery bags.

Overall, there was no significant change between 2020, 2024, and 2026 in how respondents disposed of their plastic grocery bags. Only 3% of respondents in 2026 reported that they dispose of plastic grocery bags in the recycling bin. Like previous studies, the majority (54%) reuse their plastic grocery bags before placing them in the garbage bin. Sixteen percent placed them in the garbage can, while about one in five (19%) returned them to the grocery store. Less than one in ten respondents (7%) stated they brought reusable bags.

One percent of respondents reported an "other" way of disposing of their plastic bags. A list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).



Title: Q23: How does your household typically dispose of plastic grocery bags?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of how residents dispose of plastic grocery bags. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Reuse them for other purposes and then place in garbage can in 2018: 50 percent
 Reuse them for other purposes and then place in garbage can in 2020: 57 percent
 Reuse them for other purposes and then place in garbage can in 2024: 53 percent
 Reuse them for other purposes and then place in garbage can in 2026: 54 percent
 Return them to the grocery store in 2018: 26 percent
 Return them to the grocery store in 2020: 20 percent
 Return them to the grocery store in 2024: 21 percent
 Return them to the grocery store in 2026: 19 percent
 Put them in the garbage can in 2018: 11 percent
 Put them in the garbage can in 2020: 15 percent
 Put them in the garbage can in 2024: 14 percent
 Put them in the garbage can in 2026: 16 percent
 I bring my own reusable bags in 2018: Not asked
 I bring my own reusable bags in 2020: Not asked
 I bring my own reusable bags in 2024: 8 percent
 I bring my own reusable bags in 2026: 7 percent
 Put them in the recycling bin in 2018: 7 percent
 Put them in the recycling bin in 2020: 3 percent
 Put them in the recycling bin in 2024: 4 percent
 Put them in the recycling bin in 2026: 3 percent

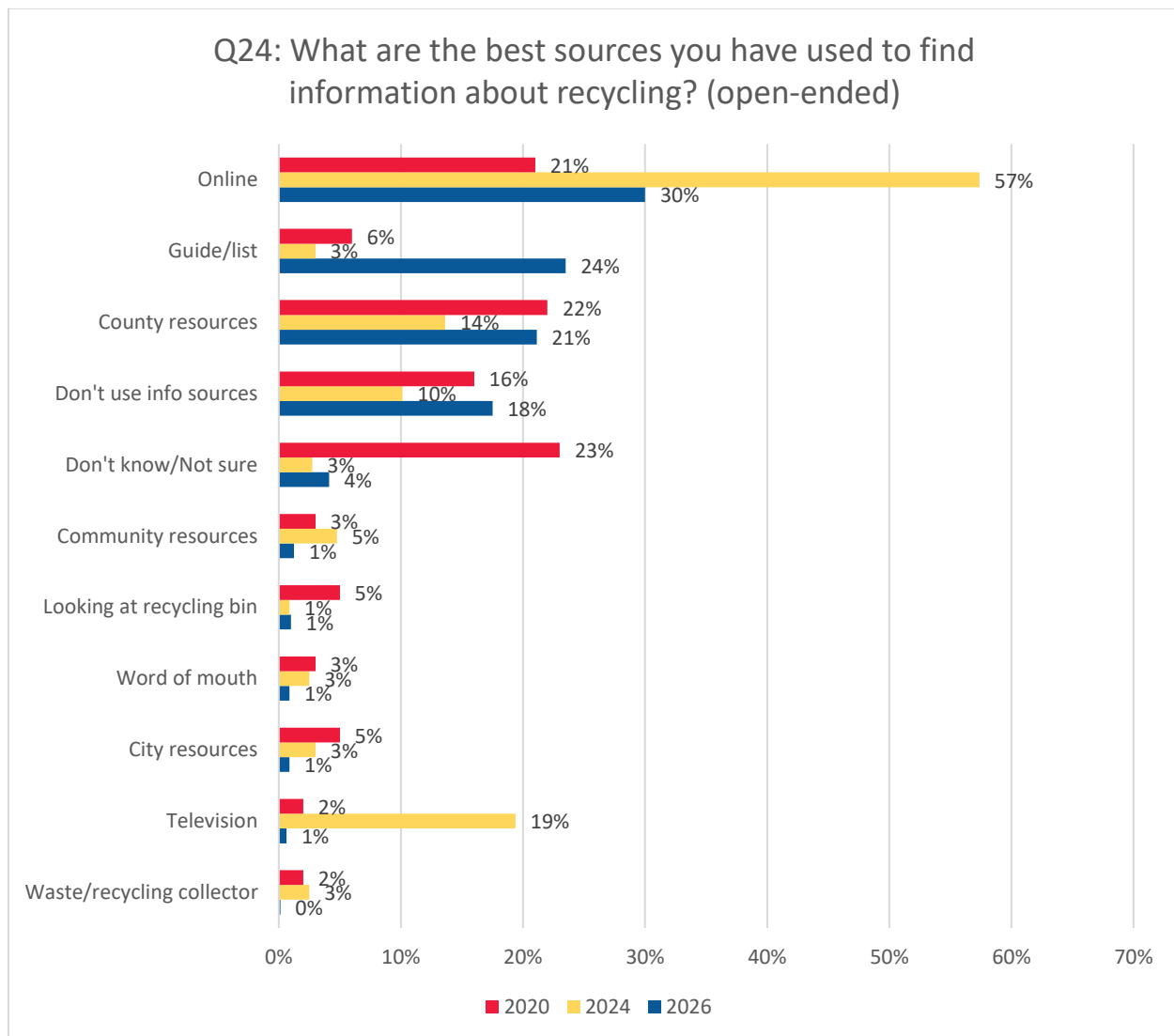
Other in 2018: 6 percent
Other in 2020: 5 percent
Other in 2024: 0 percent
Other in 2026: 1 percent

All respondents were asked about their preferred sources to find information about recycling. Three in ten (30%) respondents preferred online sources to find information about recycling. These included generic references to the Internet, as well as mentions of Google, recycling websites not associated with Pinellas County, and social media channels. However, this is a clear departure from 2024, when 57% of respondents referenced an online source for information but higher than in 2020 (21%). In contrast, there was a substantial increase in respondents citing guides and lists, particularly Pinellas County's annual Recycle Guide in 2026 compared to 2020 and 2024.

Another fifth (21%) cited County resources as their preferred source of information for recycling information, which included contacting the Solid Waste department, utilizing the department's website, and the "Where Does It Go?" Search Tool. Unlike the annual Recycle Guide, references to the "Where Does It Go?" Search Tool remained below 1%. Contrary to 2024, when more residents were utilizing generic online resources to access recycling information, respondents turned more towards a guide that was accessible in both digital and print form.

Only two other categories saw a significant and meaningful change from 2024 to 2026. Television was only referenced by 1% of respondents as their preferred medium compared to 19% in 2024. However, 2026's finding is in line with the 2020 survey. Another 18% reported that they do not use sources to find information about recycling. Again, this is a significant change from 2024 (10%), but it is statistically similar to 2020 (16%).

A list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).



Title: Q24: What are the best sources you have used to find information about recycling?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of where residents find the best sources of information about recycling. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Online in 2020: 21 percent

Online in 2024: 57 percent

Online in 2026: 30 percent

Guide/list in 2020: 6 percent

Guide/list in 2024: 3 percent

Guide/list in 2026: 24 percent

County resources in 2020: 22 percent

County resources in 2024: 14 percent

County resources in 2026: 21 percent

Don't use info sources in 2020: 16 percent

Don't use info sources in 2024: 10 percent

Don't use info sources in 2026: 18 percent

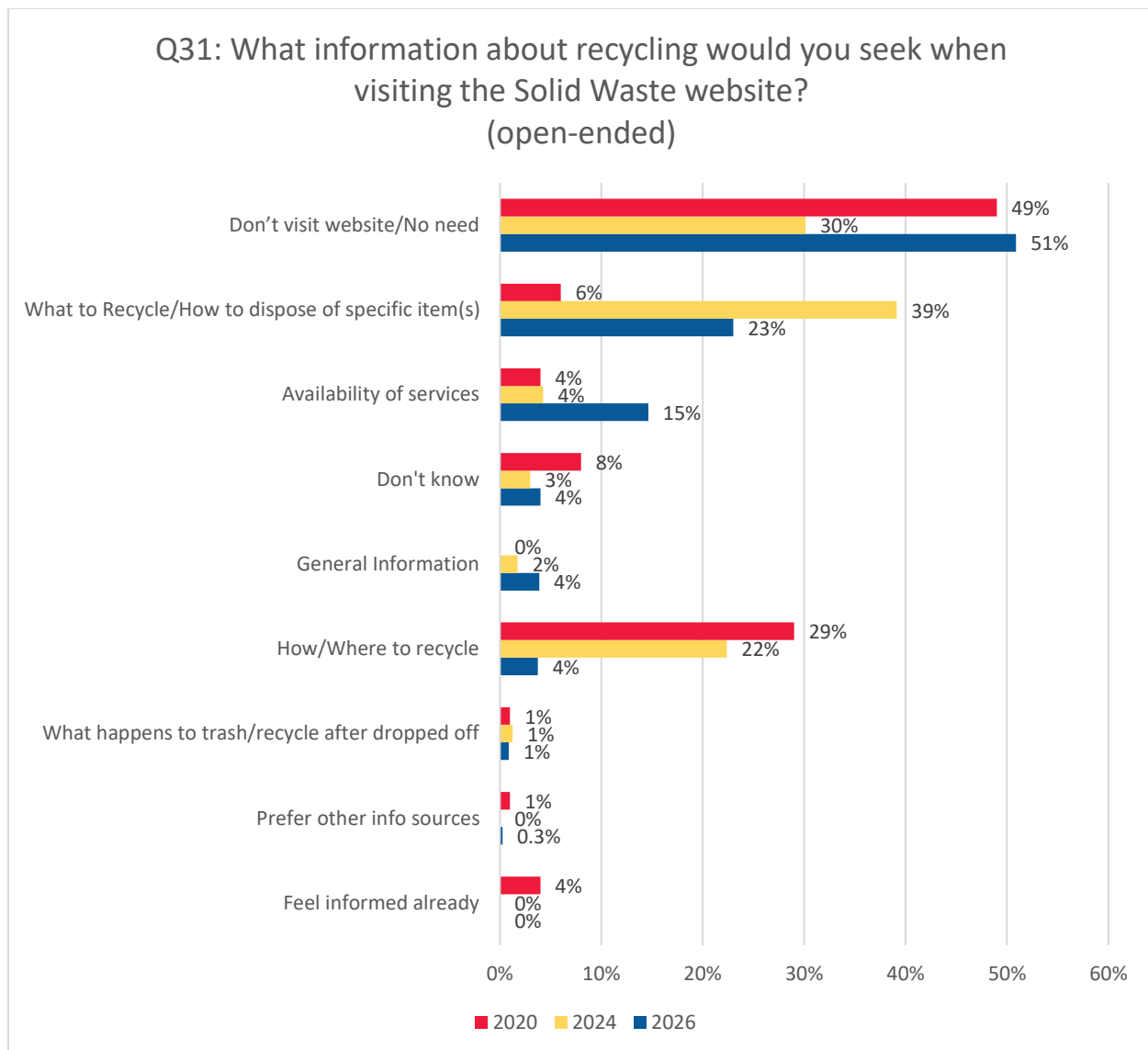
Don't know or not sure in 2020: 23 percent
Don't know or not sure in 2024: 3 percent
Don't know or not sure in 2026: 4 percent
Community resources in 2020: 3 percent
Community resources in 2024: 5 percent
Community resources in 2026: 1 percent
Look at recycling bin in 2020: 5 percent
Look at recycling bin in 2024: 1 percent
Look at recycling bin in 2026: 1 percent
Word of mouth in 2020: 3 percent
Word of mouth in 2024: 3 percent
Word of mouth in 2026: 1 percent
City resources in 2020: 5 percent
City resources in 2024: 3 percent
City resources in 2026: 1 percent
Television in 2020: 2 percent
Television in 2024: 19 percent
Television in 2026: 1 percent
Waste/recycling collector in 2020: 2 percent
Waste/recycling collector in 2024: 3 percent
Waste/recycling collector in 2026: 0 percent

All respondents were also asked about the information they would seek when visiting Pinellas County's Solid Waste website, with the responses coded in the graph below. A full list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).

Half of respondents (51%) in 2026 said they have not visited or have not had a reason to visit the department's website. This is a significant increase from 2024 but similar to 2020 (30% in 2024; 49% in 2020). About one in four (23%) reported they sought information related to what to recycle or how to dispose of a specific item, such as hazardous materials, electronics, and paint. This is a significant decline from 2024, when 39 percent reported using the website for this purpose.

Fewer respondents reported using the Solid Waste website to look for how or where to recycle (4% in 2026 compared to 22% in 2024). However, more respondents in 2026 looked for information on the availability of services, such as yard waste and bulk item pick-up schedules (15% in 2026 compared to 4% in 2024). One potential explanation for these shifting reasons for visiting the website may be related to hurricanes Helene and Milton. The storms, which occurred after the 2024 survey was completed, may have made residents more aware of how to recycle or where to recycle since that information may have been more salient. Even if a household was not directly impacted by flood waters, they may have had disruption to collection services that made them seek out this information.

Small percentages of respondents reported visiting the website to find general information (4%) and what happens to items after they are dropped off (1%). Four percent (4%) did not know and less than 1% (0.3%) stated they preferred or utilized other information sources.



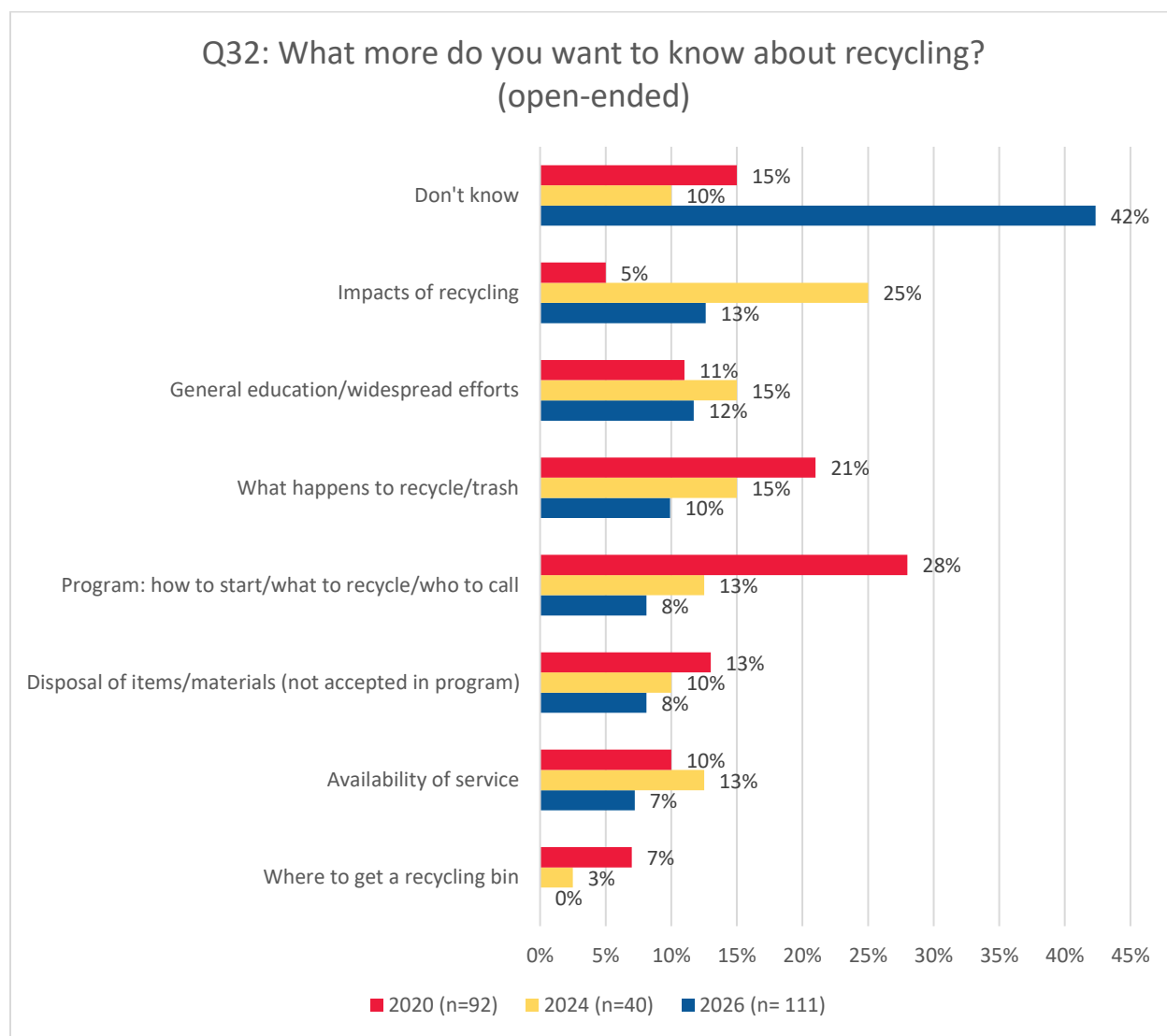
Title: Q31: What information about recycling would you seek when visiting the Solid Waste website?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of what information residents are looking for on PCSW’s website. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

- Don’t visit website or no need in 2020: 49 percent
- Don’t visit website or no need in 2024: 30 percent
- Don’t visit website or no need in 2026: 51 percent
- What to recycle/How to dispose of specific item(s) in 2020: 6 percent
- What to recycle/How to dispose of specific item(s) in 2024: 39 percent
- What to recycle/How to dispose of specific item(s) in 2026: 23 percent
- Availability of services in 2020: 4 percent
- Availability of services in 2024: 4 percent
- Availability of services in 2026: 15 percent
- Don’t know in 2020: 8 percent
- Don’t know in 2024: 3 percent

Don't know in 2026: 4 percent
General information in 2020: 0 percent
General information in 2024: 2 percent
General information in 2026: 4 percent
How/Where to recycle in 2020: 29 percent
How/Where to recycle in 2024: 22 percent
How/Where to recycle in 2026: 4 percent
What happens to trash or recycling after dropped off in 2020: 1 percent
What happens to trash or recycling after dropped off in 2024: 1 percent
What happens to trash or recycling after dropped off in 2026: 1 percent
Prefer other information sources in 2020: 1 percent
Prefer other information sources in 2024: 0 percent
Prefer other information sources in 2026: 0.3 percent
Feel informed already in 2020: 4 percent
Feel informed already in 2024: 0 percent
Feel informed already in 2026: 0 percent

In an open-ended response question, respondents were asked what more they wanted to know about recycling. More than eight in ten respondents (86%) answered “nothing.” The graph below depicts the remaining responses that named something specific respondents would like to know. It is compared to responses from 2020 and 2024, but given the same sample, it should not be inferred that there are any differences between the three studies for this question. In general, a plurality (42%) of this group was unsure of any information they wanted more knowledge of, followed by being interested in the impacts of recycling (13%), general information (12%), and what happens to trash and recycling after it is picked up or dropped off (10%). A full list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).



Title: Q32: What more do you want to know about recycling?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of what residents want to know about recycling. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Don't know in 2020: 15 percent

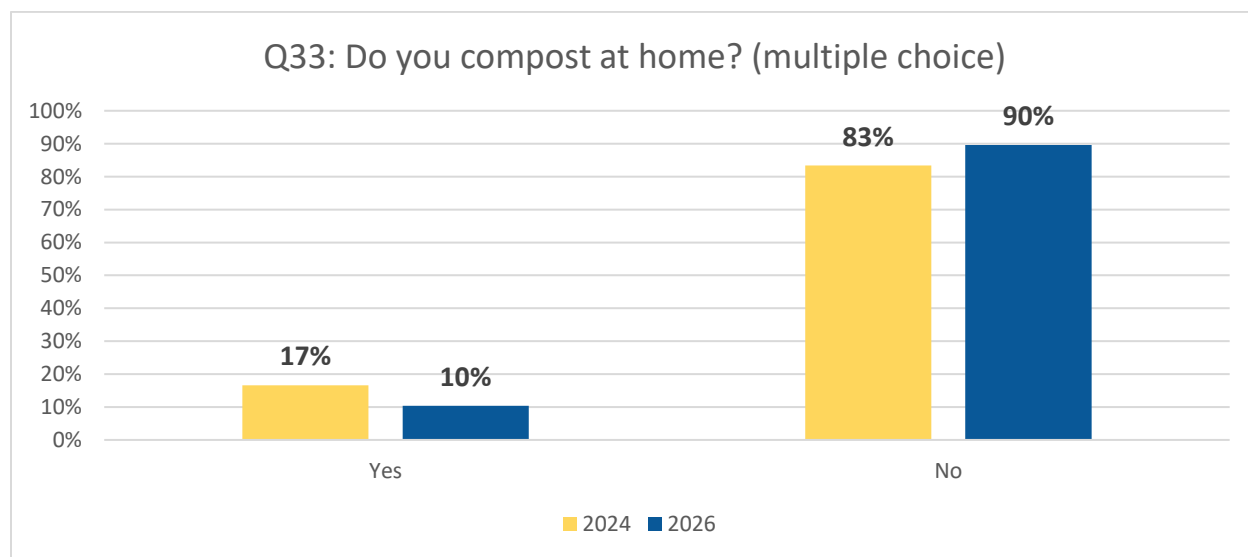
Don't know in 2024: 10 percent

Don't know in 2026: 42 percent

Impacts of recycling in 2020: 5 percent
 Impacts of recycling in 2024: 25 percent
 Impacts of recycling in 2026: 13 percent
 General education and widespread efforts in 2020: 11 percent
 General education and widespread efforts in 2024: 15 percent
 General education and widespread efforts in 2026: 12 percent
 What happens to recycling or trash in 2020: 21 percent
 What happens to recycling or trash in 2024: 15 percent
 What happens to recycling or trash in 2026: 10 percent
 Regarding recycling programs in 2020: 28 percent
 Regarding recycling programs in 2024: 13 percent
 Regarding recycling programs in 2026: 8 percent
 Disposal of items or material in 2020: 13 percent
 Disposal of items or material in 2024: 10 percent
 Disposal of items or material in 2026: 8 percent
 Availability of services in 2020: 10 percent
 Availability of services in 2024: 13 percent
 Availability of services in 2026: 7 percent
 Where to get a recycling bin in 2020: 7 percent
 Where to get a recycling bin in 2024: 3 percent
 Where to get a recycling bin in 2026: 0 percent

Composting

In 2026, respondents were also asked if they composted at home. There was a significant decline in respondents reporting that they composted in 2026 compared to 2024 (10% in 2026 compared to 17% in 2024).



Title: Q33: Do you compost at home?

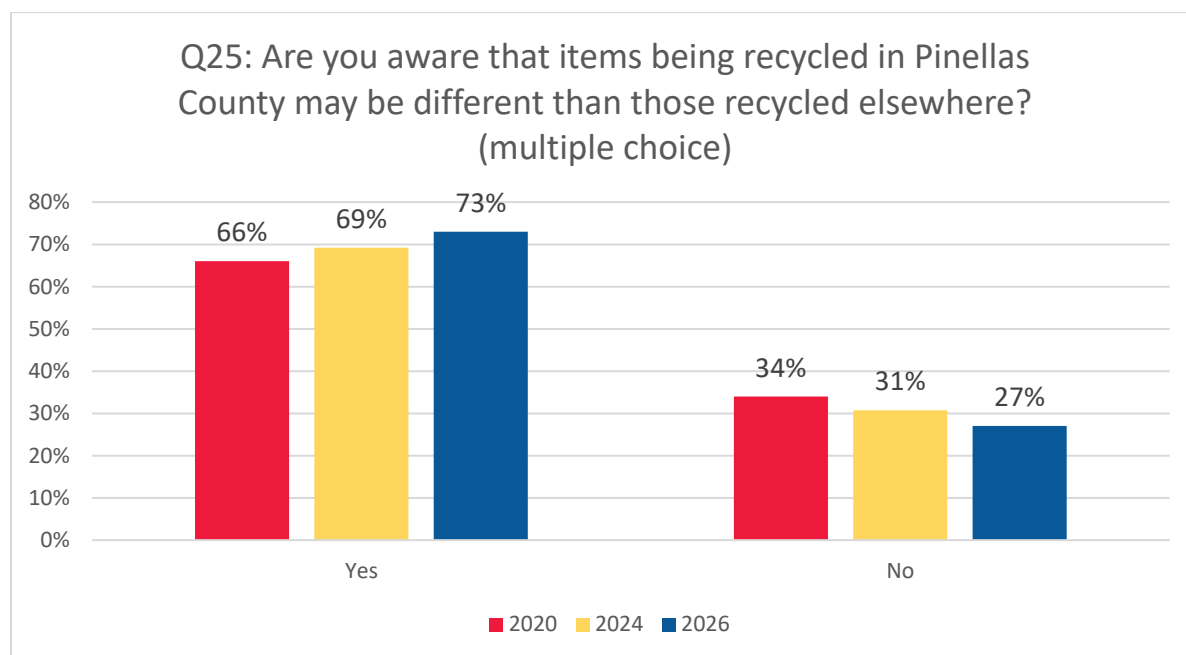
Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of residents who compost at home. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Yes in 2024: 17 percent
Yes in 2026: 10 percent
No in 2024: 83 percent
No in 2026: 90 percent

Recycling Awareness

The last set of questions focused on respondents' knowledge about proper recycling and disposal habits and which information sources would be most helpful.

The first question gauged whether Pinellas County residents knew that recyclables could vary across different recycling programs. About three in four respondents (73%) stated they knew that recyclable materials could differ by area. This continues a trend of small, but statistically significant increases from study-to-study (66% in 2020; 69% in 2024).

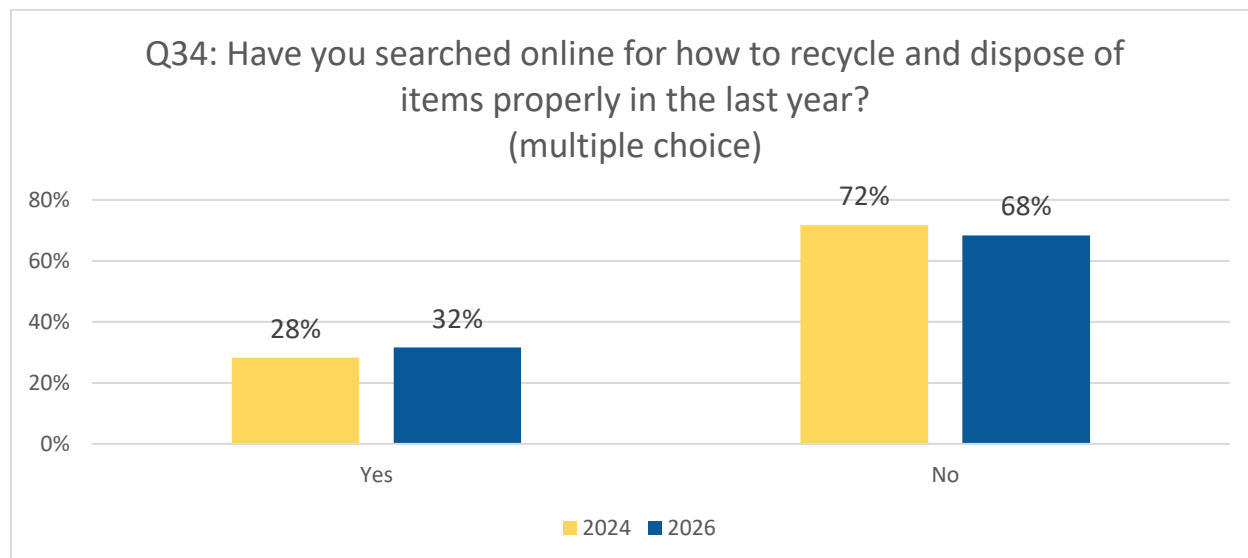


Title: Q25: Are you aware that items being recycled in Pinellas County may be different than those recycled elsewhere?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of residents aware that items that can be recycled in local programs may differ from those recycled elsewhere. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Yes in 2020: 66 percent
Yes in 2024: 69 percent
Yes in 2026: 73 percent
No in 2020: 34 percent
No in 2024: 31 percent
No in 2026: 27 percent

Respondents were also asked if they had searched online for information on how to properly recycle and dispose of items in the last year. In 2026, about one in three (32%) respondents said they had searched online for how to recycle and dispose of items properly in the last year. This is a small increase from 2024 (28%), but the value falls within our margin of error (margin of error = +/- 3.46%; 3.38% difference between 2024 and 2026), so this increase is not statistically significant. However, this remains a strong sign that online sources remain an important tool used by residents in Pinellas County to find recycling and disposal information



Title: Q34: Have you searched online for how to recycle and dispose of items properly in the last year?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of residents who have searched online for how to properly recycle and dispose of items in the last year. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Yes in 2024: 28 percent

Yes in 2026: 32 percent

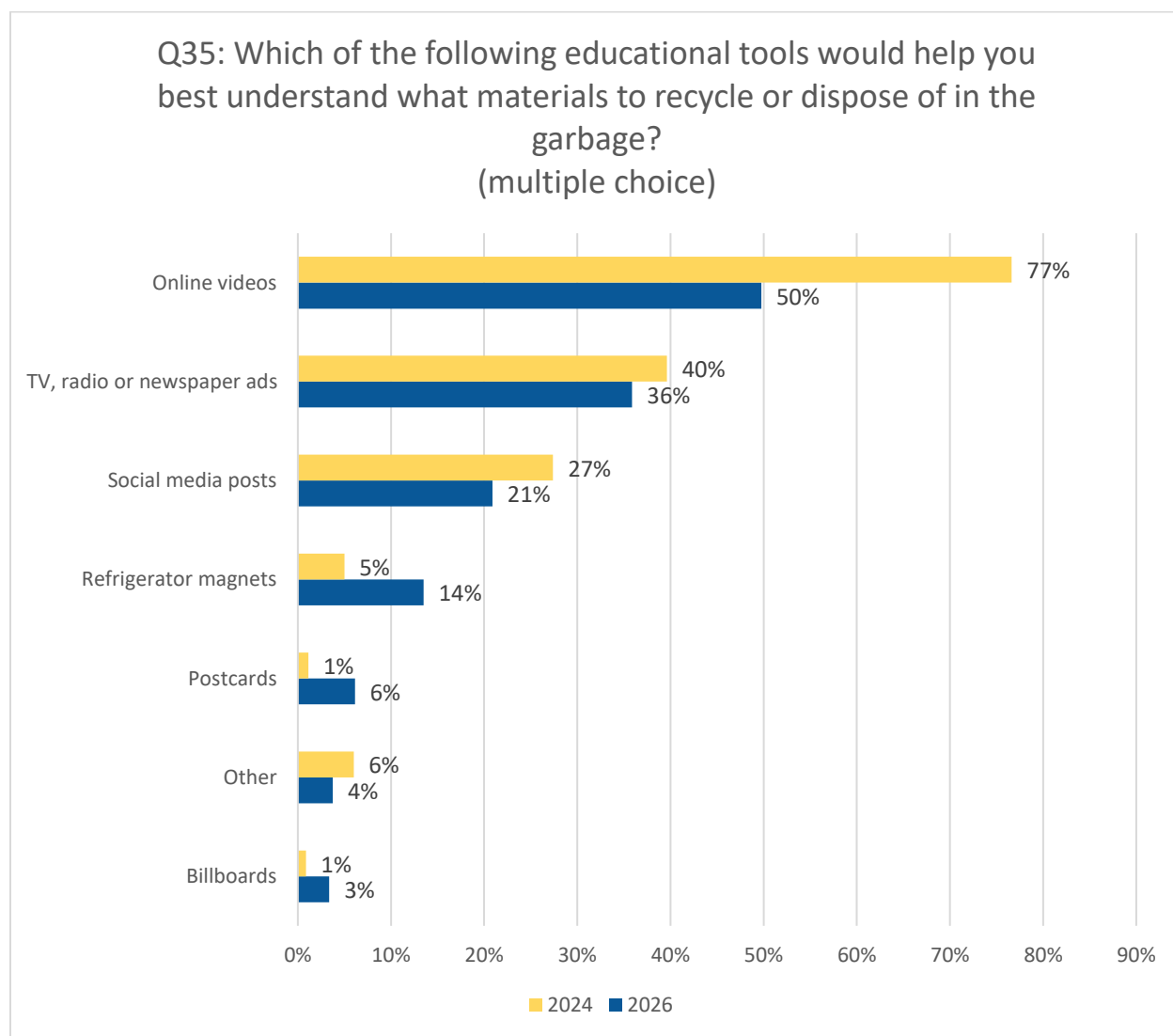
No in 2024: 72 percent

No in 2026: 68 percent

Residents also provided which educational tools would best help them understand what materials are recyclable or should be disposed of in the garbage. Respondents could select more than one tool, so the percentage adds up to more than 100 percent.

Half of the respondents (50%) stated online videos were the best tool to learn this information. However, this was a notable decline from 2024, when about three in four (77%) stated online videos were the best educational tool. Despite this change, online videos remain the most sought-after content. Future studies may want to expand on what types of online videos would be best if PCSW explores video creation. In this study, online videos could be short-form content designed for platforms such as YouTube Shorts and Instagram, or they could be longer-form videos ideal for YouTube or available on the Solid Waste website. Thirty-six percent of respondents reported that television, radio, or newspaper ads are a preferred educational tool, followed by social media posts (21%) and refrigerator magnets (14%). Refrigerator

magnets saw a significant increase in mentions in 2026 compared to 2024, suggesting that respondents may be looking for a tool that is easy to access and provides clear instructions from a county resource. About one in five (21%) reported that social media posts are helpful. Only a small percentage of residents reported that postcards (6%) and billboards (3%) were the best educational tools. For the 4% who identified “other” media, most stated they did not know or were unsure (73%), or the PCSW website (23%). The only other tool mentioned in “other” was a flyer to be put in a cabinet (3%). A list of verbatim responses is available in [Appendix C](#).



Title: Q35: Which of the following educational tools would help you best understand what materials to recycle or dispose of in the garbage?

Description: The bar chart above shows the percentage trending of residents who state the following media are the best educational tools that would help people best understand what materials to recycle or dispose of in the garbage. The percentage value for each category is as follows:

Online videos in 2024: 77 percent

Online videos in 2026: 50 percent
 TV, radio, or newspaper ads in 2024: 40 percent
 TV, radio, or newspaper ads in 2026: 36 percent
 Social media posts in 2024: 27 percent
 Social media posts in 2026: 21 percent
 Refrigerator magnets in 2024: 5 percent
 Refrigerator magnets in 2026: 14 percent
 Postcards in 2024: 1 percent
 Postcards in 2026: 6 percent
 Other in 2024: 6 percent
 Other in 2026: 4 percent
 Billboards in 2024: 1 percent
 Billboards in 2026: 3 percent

The final question in the 2026 Residential Recycling Awareness Survey tested residents' knowledge about specific recycling information. Respondents answered a series of five true or false questions. These questions were first asked in 2024, allowing us for the first time to measure changes in knowledge on these topics. One question was removed between the two surveys and is not reported in the table on the next page. The table shows the percentage of residents who answered true in 2024 and 2026 and the change in the true percentage in the last column.

Ninety-two percent of respondents correctly identified that rechargeable batteries should never be placed in the garbage. Though this remains very high, it does represent a significant decline from 2024, when 97% correctly answered the question.

Nine in ten respondents were aware that they could reference the county's Recycle Guide for universal disposal guidelines (94%) and that residents could dispose of their recycling at drop-off centers in the county for free (93%). Neither of these questions showed any statistically significant changes in knowledge.

Knowledge gaps were persistent for two questions. First, about 23% of respondents were unaware that plastic bags should never be put into the recycling bin. Second, about 34% of respondents were unaware that rechargeable batteries should never be placed in the recycling bin. While these knowledge gaps continue to present an opportunity to further educate residents in the county, both questions saw small but significant increases in knowledge between 2024 and 2026. This suggests that efforts by PCSW are working to better inform the public about proper disposal of these items and that this work should continue efforts to raise awareness and, hopefully, reduce improper disposal of plastic bags and rechargeable batteries.

Q36: Please state whether the following responses are either true or false. Percentage of True Responses	2024	2026	Change between 2024 and 2026
You can reference the County's recycling guide for universal disposal guidelines	91%	94%	3%
Residents can dispose of their recycling at drop-off centers in the county for free	92%	93%	2%
Rechargeable batteries should never be placed in the garbage	97%	92%	-5%
Plastic bags should never be put into the recycling bin	72%	77%	5%
Rechargeable batteries should never be placed in the recycling bin	62%	66%	5%

Conclusion

Recycling remains a critical component for Pinellas County to achieve zero waste to landfill by 2050. The findings from this survey show that county residents largely participate in recycling. Both single-family and multifamily residents recycle nearly all available materials through the mixed recycling service.

A slight majority of residents are also disposing of rechargeable batteries through proper channels, such as taking them to a Household Hazardous Waste collection program or taking them to certain big box stores as listed in the “Where Does It Go?” Search Tool. However, there remains a notable portion of residents who are improperly disposing of their rechargeable battery devices in the garbage and recycling can. There also remains a sizeable knowledge gap when it comes to placing rechargeable batteries in the recycling bin. To better understand how residents dispose of rechargeable batteries, a future study solely focused on the topic should be considered. This would allow Pinellas County Solid Waste to test this subject more directly.

Interestingly, more respondents in the survey reported wanting physical information sources to understand specifics about recycling in the county. While residents continue to largely rely on online sources to find information about proper recycling and disposal practices, there was a significant increase in respondents who reported utilizing the PCSW Recycle Guide, and significantly more respondents stated that refrigerator magnets and postcards were educational tools that would help them understand what materials to recycle or dispose of in the garbage.

The impact of AI, while not largely tested in this survey, should be something PCSW should continue to monitor. Since the last study, generative AI tools have proliferated in usage across all age demographics, with 70 percent of U.S. adults reporting they have used an AI tool or chatbot (Gallup, 2026). PCSW should continue to publish online articles and materials emphasizing information to ensure that their results rank high in search results and are visible as the public engages further with these technologies. Though only a handful of respondents explicitly stated using one of the chatbots to find recycling information, AI is being further embedded into search engines and other online information sources. The authority of Pinellas County Solid Waste may be a crucial factor that helps get this information in front of residents in media channels.

Overall, the 2026 Residential Recycling Survey results on recycling participation suggest Pinellas County residents remained engaged with recycling, but that educational efforts need to continue. PCSW should take pride that residents across the county participate and generally understand important information about recycling. Residents viewed recycling as good for the planet and the community. Knowledge gaps around the disposal of plastic grocery bags and rechargeable batteries remained, but they did show positive movement. This is a sign that efforts by PCSW have started to work. Moreover, a larger percentage of residents in 2026 reported knowing about materials produced by PCSW that provide information about recycling and disposing of garbage. Increased community engagement by the department, in addition to maintaining current educational efforts, should help to close prevailing knowledge gaps and enhance recycling practices in Pinellas County.

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Appendix A: Survey Instrument

2026 Residential Recycling Awareness Survey

Hello, I am calling on behalf of the Pinellas County Solid Waste Department. We are conducting a survey about recycling and garbage disposal. This information will allow Pinellas County to better understand where improvements can be made in recycling efforts. The survey will not take longer than 10 minutes and all responses are confidential.

Introduction

1. Are you a full-time or seasonal resident of Pinellas County? *[Read all options]*
 - a. Full-time
 - b. Seasonal
 - c. I don't live there **[terminate]**
2. How long have you lived in Pinellas County? ***[Respondent provides a number, surveyor puts the response into the appropriate bucket]***
 - a. Less than 1 year
 - b. 1 – 2 years
 - c. 3 – 5 years
 - d. 6 – 10 years
 - e. 11 – 20 years
 - f. 21 years or longer
3. Do you live within a city's boundaries or in unincorporated Pinellas County? *[Read all options]*
 - a. City
 - b. Unincorporated
 - c. I don't know
4. What kind of dwelling do you live in? *[Read all options]*
 - a. Single-family home **[go to "Single Family Home/Duplex/Triplex/Quadplex Residents" section]**
 - b. Duplex/Triplex/Quadplex **[go to "Single Family Home/Duplex/Triplex/Quadplex Residents" section]**
 - c. Apartment (rental) **[skip to "Multifamily Residents" section]**
 - d. Manufactured/Mobile home **[skip to "Multifamily Residents" section]**
 - e. Condominium/Villa/Townhouse **[skip to "Multifamily Residents" section]**
 - f. Other **(DO NOT READ: record what respondent says for "other") [skip to "Multifamily Residents" section]**

Single Family Home/Duplex/Triplex/Quadplex Residents

5. Did you know that your garbage collector offers curbside recycling services? *[Read all options]*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

6. Do you participate by recycling items curbside? *[Read all options]*

- a. Yes **[skip to Q8]**
- b. No **[go to Q7]**

7. Why don't you participate? **[skip to "Recycling Practices" section once answered]** *[Open-Ended]*

8. Why do you choose to recycle? *[Open-Ended]*

9. Do you recycle the following items curbside? *[Read all options]*

Item	Example	Yes or No?
9a. Metal cans	Aluminum soda can or soup/food can	
9b. Cardboard	Flattened box	
9c. Cartons	Milk carton or drink box	
9d. Glass bottles and jars	Beverage or food jar	
9e. Paper	Mail, office paper, newspaper, empty cereal box	
9f. Plastic bottles and jugs	From the kitchen, laundry room or bathrooms	
9g. Other items routinely recycled (DO NOT READ: record what respondent says for "other")		

10. When your household is unsure whether an item is recyclable, what do you do? *[Read all options except Other]*

- a. Place item in the garbage
- b. Place the item in the recycling bin
- c. Consult Pinellas County's Where Does It Go? Search Tool
- d. Contact my county, city, or garbage collector
- e. Google it
- f. Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or Copilot
- g. Other **(DO NOT READ: record what respondent says for "other")**

****Once completed with Q10 skip to "Recycling Practices" section****

Multifamily Residents

11. Does your complex offer recycling? *[Read all options]*

- a. Yes **[skip to Q13]**

b. No **[go to Q12]**

12. Would you recycle if the service were made available by your residence? *[Read all options]*

a. Yes **[skip to “Recycling Practices” section]**

b. No **[skip to “Recycling Practices” section]**

13. Do you participate by recycling at your complex? *[Read all options]*

a. Yes **[skip to Q15]**

b. No **[go to Q14]**

14. Why not? **[skip to “Recycling Practices” section once answered]** *[Open-Ended]*

15. Why do you choose to recycle? *[Open-Ended]*

16. Do you recycle the following items at your complex? *[Read all options]*

Item	Example	Yes or No?
16a. Metal cans	Aluminum soda can or soup/food can	
16b. Cardboard	Flattened box	
16c. Cartons	Milk carton or drink box	
16d. Glass bottles and jars	Beverage or food jars	
16e. Paper	Mail, office paper, newspaper, empty cereal box	
16f. Plastic bottles and jugs	From the kitchen, laundry room or bathrooms	
16g. Other items routinely recycled (DO NOT READ: record what respondent says for “other”)		

17. When your household is unsure whether an item is recyclable, what do you do? *[Read all options except Other]*

a. Place item in the garbage

b. Place the item in the recycling bin

c. Consult Pinellas County’s Where Does It Go? Search Tool

d. Contact my county, city, or recycling collector

e. Contact my property manager or HOA

f. Google it

g. Ask an AI chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or Copilot

h. Other **(DO NOT READ: record what respondent says for “other”)**

Recycling Practices

18. How do you currently dispose of your rechargeable electronics or batteries after they no longer work or are upgraded? These include anything that needs to be plugged in to recharge, like laptops, cell phones, wireless headphones, or power tools. *[Read all options except Other]*
- Place them in a recycling bin at home
 - Place them in the garbage bin
 - Take them to the County's household chemical collection center
 - Take them to a store, such as Lowe's or Best Buy
 - Don't have or use
 - Other **(DO NOT READ: record what respondent says for "other")**
19. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: "What I place in my recycling bin will actually be recycled and turned into new things." *[Read all options]*
- Strongly agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Strongly disagree
20. Do you, or members of the household, take recyclables to a drop-off collection center? *[Read all options]*
- Yes **[skip to Q22]**
 - No **[go to question Q21]**
 - I don't know/NA **[skip to Q22]**
21. Why not? *[Open-Ended]*
-
22. Who is (are) the most frequent recycler(s) in your household? *[Read all options]*
- Adult female(s)
 - Adult male(s)
 - Child(ren)
 - Everyone recycles
 - No one recycles
23. How does your household typically dispose of plastic grocery bags? *[Read all options except Other]*
- Put them in the garbage can
 - Put them in the recycling bin
 - Reuse them for other purposes and then place in garbage can
 - Return them to the grocery store
 - I bring my own reusable bags

- f. Other (**DO NOT READ: record what respondent says for “other”**)

24. What are the best sources you have used to find information about recycling? *[Open-Ended]*

25. Are you aware that items being recycled in Pinellas County may be different than those recycled elsewhere? *[Read all options]*
- a. Yes
 - b. No

Demographics

26. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed? *[Read all options]*
- a. Some high school or less
 - b. High school graduate or equivalent
 - c. Technical/vocational training
 - d. Some college
 - e. College degree
 - f. Post-graduate studies or higher

27. What is your household income? *[Read all options]*
- a. Under \$25,000
 - b. \$25,000 - \$49,999
 - c. \$50,000 - \$74,999
 - d. \$75,000 - \$99,999
 - e. \$100,000 - \$149,999
 - f. \$150,000 - \$199,999
 - g. \$200,000 or more

28. What is your current employment status? *[Read all options]*
- a. Full-time
 - b. Part-time
 - c. Retired
 - d. Unemployed
 - e. Voluntarily out of the workforce
 - f. Other (**DO NOT READ: record what respondent says for “other”**)

29. What is the primary language spoken among members of your household? *[Read all options]*
- a. English
 - b. Spanish
 - c. Other (**Record**) _____

30. Are there children aged 18 and under in your home? *[Read all options]*
- a. Yes
 - b. No

Final Thoughts on Recycling

31. What information about recycling would you seek when visiting the Solid Waste website?
[Open-Ended]

32. What more do you want to know about recycling? *[Open-Ended]*

33. Do you compost at home? *[Read all options]*

- a. Yes
- b. No

34. Have you searched online for how to recycle and dispose of items properly in the last year?
[Read all options]

- a. Yes
- b. No

35. Which of the following educational tools would help you best understand what materials to recycle or dispose of in the garbage? *[Read all options except Other]*

- a. TV, radio, or newspaper ads
- b. Online videos
- c. Social media posts
- d. Billboards
- e. Refrigerator magnets
- f. Postcards
- g. Other

36. Please state whether the following responses are either true or false. **[ROTATE Q36A – Q36E]**
[Read all options]

The final section will be true/false knowledge questions		
	True	False
36A. Plastic bags should never be put into the recycling bin.		
36B. Rechargeable batteries should never be placed in the garbage.		
36C. Rechargeable batteries should never be placed in the recycling bin.		
36D. Residents can dispose of their recycling at drop-off centers in the county for free.		
36E. You can reference the county's recycling guide for universal disposal guidelines.		

Closing Statement: Thank you for completing this survey and helping Pinellas County reach our vision of zero waste to landfill by 2050. You can learn more about recycling and waste disposal in Pinellas County by visiting [Pinellas.gov/Recycle](https://pinellas.gov/Recycle).

Appendix B: Trending Questions

The table below features the questions asked in 2026 and indicates whether the question was asked in the previous surveys.

2026 Survey Instrument	2016	2018	2020	2024	2026
Are you a full-time or seasonal resident of Pinellas County?			X	X	X
How long have you lived in Pinellas County?	X	X	X	X	X
Do you live within a city's boundaries or in unincorporated Pinellas County?	X	X	X	X	X
What kind of dwelling do you live in?	X	X	X	X	X
Single-Family					
Did you know that your garbage collector offers curbside recycling services?		X	X	X	X
Do you participate by recycling items curbside?	X	X	X	X	X
Why don't you participate?		X	X	X	X
Why do you choose to recycle?		X	X	X	X
Do you recycle the following items curbside? a. Metal cans b. Cardboard c. Cartons d. Glass bottles and jars e. Paper f. Plastic bottles and jugs g. Other items routinely recycled		X	X	X	X
Why do you not recycle glass bottles and jars?				X	
When your household is unsure whether an item is recyclable, what do you do?		X	X	X	X
Multifamily					
Does your complex offer recycling?	X	X	X	X	X
Would you recycle if the service was made available by your residence?		X	X	X	X
Do you participate by recycling at your complex?		X	X	X	X
Why not?		X	X	X	X
Why do you choose to recycle?		X	X	X	X

2026 Survey Instrument	2016	2018	2020	2024	2026
Do you recycle the following items at your complex? a. Metal cans b. Cardboard c. Cartons d. Glass bottles and jars e. Paper f. Plastic bottles and jugs g. Other items routinely recycled		X	X	X	X
Why do you not recycle glass bottles and jars?				X	
When your household is unsure whether an item is recyclable, what do you do?		X	X	X	X
Recycling Practices					
	2016	2018	2020	2024	2026
How do you currently dispose of your rechargeable electronics or batteries after they no longer work or are upgraded? These include anything that needs to be plugged in to recharge, like laptops, cell phones, wireless headphones, or power tools.				X	X
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: "What I place in my recycling bin will actually be recycled and turned into new things."					X
Do you, or members of the household, take recyclables to a drop-off collection center?	X	X	X	X	X
Why not?		X	X	X	X
Who is (are) the most frequent recycler(s) in your household?		X	X	X	X
How does your household typically dispose of plastic grocery bags?		X	X	X	X
What are the best sources you have used to find information about recycling?		X	X	X	X
Are you aware that items being recycled in your local program may be different than those recycled elsewhere?			X	X	X
Demographics					
What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?	X	X	X	X	X
What is your age category?	X	X	X	X	X
What racial or ethnic group describes you best?		X	X	X	X
What is your household income?		X	X	X	X
What is your current employment status?	X	X	X	X	X

2026 Survey Instrument	2016	2018	2020	2024	2026
What is the primary language spoken among members of your household?				X	X
Are there children age 18 and under in your home?		X	X	X	X
What is your gender?	X	X	X	X	X
Final Thoughts on Recycling					
What information about recycling would you seek when visiting the Solid Waste website?		X	X	X	X
What more do you want to know about recycling?			X	X	X
Do you compost at home?				X	X
Have you searched online for how to recycle and dispose of items properly in the last year?				X	X
Which of the following educational tools would help you best understand what materials to recycle or dispose of in the garbage?				X	X
True/False Section					
Plastic bags should never be put into the recycling bin.				X	X
Rechargeable batteries should never be placed in the garbage.				X	X
Rechargeable batteries should never be placed in the recycling bin.				X	X
Burning waste to generate electricity is a form of recycling.				X	
Residents can dispose of their recycling at drop-off centers in the county for free.				X	X
You can reference the county's annual recycling guide for universal disposal guidelines.				X	X

Appendix C: Open-Ended Responses

Question 7: Single-family | Why don't you participate?

- Can not get the bin to the curb
- Can't take the stuff out
- Charges more
- Disabled can not take out the trash or recycling
- Don't feel like it's worth my time
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't offer service
- Don't want to
- Don't want to
- Don't want to
- Don't want to
- Don't want to bothered with it all
- Hard to keep up with it
- Hardly ever home
- Have two garbage cans to take down already
- I don't believe they're recycling it all just goes in the landfill.
- I don't have much trash to do all that
- I don't have time
- I don't know
- I don't know. I just haven't done it.
- I don't take care of the trash
- I go to recycle center
- I just can not get it to the curb
- I just don't have time to sort it
- I just don't want to
- I live alone and have barely any trash
- I live near the beach, I try to recycle but its hard enough trying to keep my yard clean from the beach area and tourists.
- If I have something I can't throw away in normal trash, I will take it where it needs to go to recycle it
- It all goes to the same place
- It's mostly food scraps
- Just don't recycle
- Just never bothered with it.
- Never cared to separate it from my regular trash
- Never really gave recycling any thought
- No bins
- No desire to do extra work
- No desire to take two cans out
- No particular reason
- No particular reason
- No recycle bins
- No service as far as I know
- No time
- They don't offer
- To lazy
- Too ill
- Too much to bother with
- Travel a lot
- We don't have it here.
- We don't have it.
- We live in the county so if we want to recycle we have to pay a private company.
- We throw all trash in one can

Question 8: Single-family | Why do you choose to recycle?

- Always have recycled don't know why other than helping save the sea turtles and helps with pollution
- Because it helps conserve our natural resources it reduces pollution and saves energy.
- Because it helps our environment.

- [illegible]

- I do it for the environment.
- I do it to preserve wildlife habitats and to save our environment.
- I have for years
- I just always have
- I just do
- I just want to do my part for our planet.
- I just want to help for our environment.
- I like doing so
- I like how clean the home feels recycling and keeping my home clean and organized
- I like recycling
- I like separating it
- I like to
- I like to do it
- i try but sometimes i forget
- I try to be mindful about it
- I try to do my part
- I want to do my part for the earth
- I want to for the environment
- if something can be reused it should be
- Im just being a responsible adult
- I'm trained to protect the earth
- It can reduce water and air pollution.
- It conserves natural resources.
- It has always been something I enjoy
- It helps pollution and saves energy.
- It helps pollution and saves on energy.
- It helps with pollution.
- It helps with water, and air pollution.
- It makes a difference for the planet
- It reduces landfill waste.
- It reduces pollution
- It reduces pollution and helps save energy.
- It reduces pollution and helps the environment.
- It reduces pollution and saves energy.
- It reduces pollution and saves energy.
- It reduces pollution and saves on energy it also saves our natural resources.
- It reduces pollution and saves on energy.
- It saves energy.
- It saves on money.
- It saves on pollution and our resources.
- It saves on waste.
- It saves our environment
- It saves room in my regular trash can
- It's a good habit
- It's a good thing to do
- It's an easy thing to do
- It's better for the environment.
- Its environmentally friendly
- It's free
- Its good for all concerned
- It's good for our environment.
- It's good for our environment.
- It's good for the environed.
- It's good for the environment
- Its good for the environment
- It's good for the environment.
- It's good for the environment.
- It's good for the environment.
- It's good for the environment.
- It's hopefully keeping our landfill from filling up.
- Its just taking the trash to the curb
- Its normal to recycle
- It's part of discarding the trash
- Its part of the trash
- Its the right thing to do
- It's the right thing to do for the environment.
- It's the right thing to do.
- Its the trash we put the recycle in its own dispose can
- Less litter
- Limit the pollution
- Makes me feel good about saving the earth
- Makes me happy to help
- More room in the trash can
- Mother earth deserves for us to love her

- Much cleaner
- Much cleaner
- My mom taught us to do so it always continued
- Nice and neat
- No reason
- Normal thing to do
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Plastic bottles, paper and cardboard
- Plastic takes decades to break down
- Plastics in one trash in other
- Pollution
- Recycling generates electricity
- Recycling is good
- Reduce our waste
- Reduce pollution
- Reduce pollution
- Reduce the amount of waste
- Reduces pollution
- Reduces pollution
- Right thing to do
- Right thing to do
- Right thing to do
- Right thing to do
- Right thing to do
- Right thing to do
- Right thing to do
- Sanitary reasons
- Save our oceans
- Save our sea turtles
- Save room in cans
- Save the animals
- Save the earth
- Saves energy
- Saves money, environment and it is good for all concerned
- Saves space
- Saves space
- Saves space

- Saves space
- Saves space
- Saves space in my regular trash
- Saves trees
- Saves trees
- So the landfill doesn't fill up.
- So the plastic wont end up in the ocean
- That stuff doesn't belong in our landfills
- The can is there
- The environment
- To be a good human
- To conserve energy, and to conserve our natural resources.
- To conserve on natural resources, and energy.
- To conserve our natural resources.
- To extend the life of the only landfill we have here.
- To fit in with the other
- To help do something good
- To help love mother earth
- To help our earth
- To help our environment.
- To help our environment.
- To help out to save the environment.
- To help reduce pollution and save energy.
- To help reduce pollution and save energy.
- To help reduce pollution and save room in the landfill.
- To help reduce pollution and save space in the landfill.
- To help reduce waste
- To help save our planet.
- to help save the environment
- To help save the environment.
- To help save the environment.
- To help save the planet and to help keep the animals safe
- To help save the planet.
- To help save the sea turtles

- To help save wildlife habitats and save on energy, also to save space at the landfill.
- To help stop pollution.
- To help stop the littering
- To help the environment.
- To help the environment.
- To help the planet
- To help the planet.
- To help try to save the environment
- To help with pollution, and to save on energy.
- To help with saving our environment.
- To hopefully stop the landfill from filling up.
- To keep the only landfill from filling up.
- To preserve our natural resources
- To preserve wildlife habitats and save space in the landfill.
- To preserve wildlife habitats and to reduce pollution.
- To preserve wildlife habitats, save energy and hopefully save space in the landfill.
- To protect our wild life and to limit pollution.
- To protect our wildlife habitats and reduce pollution.
- To protect the earth.
- To protect the wildlife habitats reduce pollution.
- To reduce landfill waste.
- To reduce pollution and preserve wildlife also it saves energy.
- To reduce pollution and save energy.
- To reduce pollution and save our natural resources.
- To reduce pollution and save space at the landfill.
- To reduce pollution and save the environment.
- To reduce pollution and save the space in the landfill.
- To reduce pollution and save the wildlife habitats.
- To reduce pollution and to save room at the landfill.
- To reduce pollution and try to save space at the landfill.
- To reduce pollution and try to save the environment.
- To reduce pollution preserve wildlife habitats and save space in the landfill.
- To reduce pollution save on energy and save space in the landfill.
- To reduce pollution save on energy and save space in the landfill.
- To reduce pollution, save on energy and preserve wildlife habitats.
- To reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.
- To save energy and reduce pollution.
- To save energy.
- To save money, and energy.
- To save our earth.
- To save our natural resources and save on pollution.
- To save our natural resources, and to reduce pollution.
- To save our natural resources.
- To save our natural resources.
- To save our natural resources.
- To save room at the landfill and to protect wildlife.
- To save room in our landfill reduce pollution and save on energy.
- To save room in the landfill and preserve wildlife habitats.
- To save room in the landfill.
- To save space in the landfill and help the environment.
- To save space in the landfill reduce pollution and save energy.
- To save space in the landfill.

- To save space in the landfill.
- To save space in the landfill.
- To save space in the landfill.
- To save space in the landfill.
- To save the environment and reduce pollution.
- To save the environment.
- To save the environment.
- To save the environment.
- To save the environment.
- To save the environment.
- To save the environment.
- To save the natural resources, the environment.
- To save the planet.
- To stop pollution.

- To try and save our natural resources.
- To try and save the environment.
- Try to be a good influence for the kids in the neighborhood
- Trying to make the world a better place.
- We drink a lot of soda pop and that's a lot of plastic.
- We just want to do our part.
- We just want to help clean up our planet.
- We live in a fragile echo system
- We're just trying to do our part.
- Who would not want to turn trash into something new, it is actually a pretty incredible cycle.
- Why not
- Why not

Question 9: Single-family | Do you recycle the following items curbside?: Other

- Bags
- Clothing and light bulbs.
- Copper, motors, cans, brass
- Egg containers
- Egg containers
- Foam
- Foam
- I choose to burn my mail so I don't recycle that but I do recycle aluminum and also copper
- Old paint, light bulbs.
- Steel and plastic bins

Question 14: Multifamily | Why not?

- Don't care to do it
- Don't really have an answer
- Don't want to
- I have no legs I can not
- I have not gotten into it
- I just don't.
- I just throw everything in one pail
- I put it all in one can
- I'm disabled I cant
- No need
- Too much extra work for me
- Too much extra work with a whole family
- Too much for me to take out two trash cans
- Too much to take to the dumpster
- Too much work
- Why bother most of it if not all of it goes to the landfill.

Question 15: Multifamily | Why do you choose to recycle?

- It helps the environment.
- It helps with air, and water pollution.
- It helps with pollution.
- It helps with pollution.
- It helps with pollution.
- It saves energy, and money.
- It saves money, and energy.
- It saves money, and energy.
- It saves money, and helps with water pollution.
- It saves money.
- It saves on money, and pollution.
- It's a good thing to do
- It's an easy thing to do
- It's an important thing to do
- It's eco friendly
- It's good for our planet.
- It's important for our environment
- it's normal
- It's part of the trash
- It's so much more sanitary
- it's the right thing to do
- it's very helpful in the long run
- It's what us older people do, less trash
- keeps trash from filling up so fast
- Make things easier for mother earth
- Makes me happy to help
- My father asked me to
- My neighbor told me to
- My wife makes me
- No reason for plastic to be put into our earth
- Normal thing to do
- Normal thing, I don't know what to say
- Normal to recycle
- Not sure
- Not sure
- Not sure other than save the planets
- Organization
- Recycling allows for cleaning more organized disposal of the trash
- Reduces pollution
- Right thing to do
- Save mother earth
- Save the earth
- Save the sea creatures and trees
- Save the trees
- Saves energy and helps stop pollution
- Saves money
- Saves space in my regular trash
- Saves space in trash bins
- Saving a sea turtle I'm hoping
- Saving the turtles
- Seems like the thing to do
- Takes years and years for plastics and other things to ever break down
- The right thing to do
- To be proud
- To conserve natural resources.
- To feel clean
- To help keep our area clean
- To help save our planet.
- To help save our planet.
- To help save the environment.
- to help save the planet
- To help the cause
- To help the environment
- To help the environment.
- To help the environment.
- To help the environment.
- To help with pollution, and save energy.
- To help with the environment.
- To help with the pollution, and natural resources.
- To make the world a better place
- To protect the environment.
- To recycle my trash instead of putting it in the landfill
- To reduce pollution and save space in the landfill.
- To save energy.
- To save money, and energy.
- To save on energy, and stop pollution.
- To save on energy, and stop pollution.
- To save our environment.
- To save our environment.
- To save our natural resources.

- To save our natural resources.
- To save our planet.
- To save room in the trash and to help save the planet
- To save space in the landfill, reduce pollution and save energy.
- To save the environment.
- To save the environment.
- To save the environment.
- to save the oceans
- To save the trees
- To try and insure we save our natural resources.
- We do it for the environment.
- We want to help save the environment.
- Who doesn't
- Why not, every bit helps

Question 16: Multifamily | Do you recycle the following items at your complex?: Other

- I recycle my grocery bags at my local store
- I take all my electronics to this local drop off and put my garbage bags (grocery bags) to Publix in the big green box

Question 17: Multifamily | When your household is unsure whether an item is recyclable, what do you do?: Other

- Look at the actual carton

Question 18: How do you currently dispose of your rechargeable electronics or batteries after they no longer work or are upgraded? These include anything that needs to be plugged in to recharge, like laptops, cell phones, wireless headphones, or power tools.: Other

- After they accumulate I have a person that picks them up.
- Cell box at Walmart
- Cell phones will go back to the cell phone company as a trade in.
- Give them to my neighbors and then they take them somewhere.
- I don't currently dispose of them they just accumulate in my garage.
- I don't dispose them they just kind of accumulate.
- I don't know.
- I don't really have that problem
- I don't.
- I don't.
- I don't.
- I don't.
- I don't.
- I exchange my old phones for cash
- I have a box that i just toss them in and keep them there, I have had it since the 90s and if it gets full I just post and sell on marketplace
- I have a company that picks them up after they accumulate.
- I haven't done anything with them.
- I haven't done anything with them.
- I haven't done anything with them.
- I haven't done anything.
- I just keep them.
- I just keep them.
- I just keep them.
- I just take my old cell phone back to my carrier when I'm upgrading.
- I only have my cell phone and I just take it back to my carrier when I need another phone.

- I save them and I have a guy that I give them to and he reuses them for parts
- I save them then I take to this machine in the Wesley Chapel Walmart. they give me cash for the old items.
- I still have a lot of that kind of stuff laying around
- I take my cell phone back to my cell phone company.
- I take them somewhere
- I trade in my phones
- I usually keep stuff like that just in case
- I'll take them some where once I have too many
- Junk drawer

- Keep them in a box or sell them or throw them away
- Requested a special pick up
- Salvation Army
- Take them to my office and they have recycling there.
- There is a place I take them to
- They are in a drawer until I call Ecyclepros to pick them up.
- They get saved until I can properly dispose of them
- They just kind of lay around in drawers.
- We have a private company that picks them up.

Question 21: Why not?

- Because I do it at home.
- Because I do it at home.
- Because I do it at home.
- Because I do it at home.
- Because I do it at home.
- Because I do it at home.
- Because I do it at home.
- Because I do it at home.
- Because I do it here at home.
- Because I do it here at home.
- Because I don't believe anything is really being recycled and I'm sure most of it is contaminated.
- Because we do it here at home and have a private company that picks up our old laptops, batteries and things like that.
- Because we do it here at home.
- Because we do it here at home.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.

- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because we do it here where we live.
- Because why bother when I don't believe they're recycling much of anything.
- Cause we do it at home.
- Cause we do it at home.
- City picks up
- City picks up
- City picks up
- City picks up
- Curbside
- Curbside service
- Didn't know they were around
- Disabled
- Disabled
- Don't get around to it
- Don't have the need to.
- Don't know where it is
- Don't want to
- Freedom of choice
- Have curbside
- Have curbside
- Have curbside pickup
- Have no information on any of this
- Haven't had a need
- Haven't had to

- Haven't needed to
- Haven't needed to
- Haven't needed to
- Haven't needed to
- I always get confused when it comes to what can and cant be recycled. its complicated
- I am unsure
- I can't
- I can't get to places like that easily
- I do all my recycling at home
- I do all my recycling at home
- I do all of it here where I live.
- I do it all here where I live
- I do it at home
- I do it at home.
- I do it at home.
- I do it at home.
- I do it here at home.
- I do it here at home.
- I do it here at home.
- I do it here at home.
- I do it here at home.
- I do it here at home.
- I do it here at my home.
- I do it here where I live.
- I do it right here at home.
- I do it right here at home.
- I do it right here at home.
- I do it right here at home.
- I do not drive
- I do not have a car
- I do what I can at home.
- I do what I can at home.
- I do what I can at home.
- I do what I can here at home.
- I do what I can recycling here at home.
- I do what I can recycling here at home.
- I don't believe they are being recycled.
- I dont have the means
- I don't have to
- I dont know
- I don't know where one is
- I dont know where one is located
- I don't know where there is one.
- I don't know where to take them.
- I don't know where to?
- I don't know.
- I don't need to
- I don't need to
- i dont need to
- I don't really know why not
- I dont recycle and the other items I take to that machine, I cant remember the name of it but its white and green
- I don't recycle.
- I dont want to
- I give aluminum to scrap yard
- I have it here at home.
- I have no need to, I recycle here where I live.
- I have no need to.
- I have no need to.
- I have no need to.
- I have no need to.
- I have them picked up .
- I haven't done any recycling.
- I haven't had anything I needed to do that with
- I haven't recycled.
- I just do it at home.
- I just don't know much about it.
- I just recycle at home
- I live in the county, backwoods. I'm all about helping the environment but I drive a big diesel truck and it would waste more in gas then do me any good
- I need to learn about it.
- I put in can
- I put it in the trash
- I recycle at home.
- I recycle at home.
- I recycle at home.
- I recycle at home.
- I recycle at home.
- I recycle at home.
- I recycle at home.

- [illegible]

- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
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- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do curbside
- We do it all here at home.
- We do it at home

Question 23: How does your household typically dispose of plastic grocery bags?: Other

Question 24: What are the best sources you have used to find information about recycling?

- [illegible]

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| • The garbage collectors. | • TV talks about recycling |
| • The garbage company. | • Website |
| • The HOA | • Website |
| • The internet | • Website |
| • The internet. | • Website |
| • The list of approved | • Website |
| • The newsletter we get annually. | • Website |
| • The postcard magnet | • Website |
| • The recycle number on the side of the can | • Website |
| • The web | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website | • Website |
| • The website. | • Website |
| • The website. | • Website |
| • The where does it go toolbar. | • Website |
| • Their own website | • Website |
| • Their website | • Website |
| • Their website. | • Website |
| • There are multiple websites | • Website |
| • There are so many ways to find out about recycling. Some people (younger one) use Facebook and Tiktok. I use this site (www.epa.gov) | • Website |
| • There is a group on face book famous for recycling | • Website |
| • There's a billboard near my house on a bench | • Website |
| • They send out flyers and that goes on my wall in the laundry room. | • Website |
| • TV | • Website |
| • TV | • Website |
| • TV ads | • Website |
| • TV and YouTube videos | • Website |

- Website
- Website
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- Website

- Website
- Website
- Website
- Website and annual guide.
- Website or the annual guide.
- Websites, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram
- When i get the house up and running i would like to start to recycle for my kids to get in the habit of doing better
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube
- YouTube and Google

Question 29: What is the primary language spoken among members of your household?:
Other

- Arabic
- Arabic
- Creole
- English but my daughter is deaf so we use a lot of sign language
- French
- Korean

Question 31: What information about recycling would you seek when visiting the Solid Waste website?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of things • About furniture • Acceptable and non acceptable • All of it • All sorts of things • Allowance and pick up days • Are cans recycling approved for the bins as well • Basic things • Basics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery drop off centers • Call the waste depart • Can glass be recycled • Can old cell phones be put in the bin • Can you put cans in the bins • Can you put wire in the bins to recycle • Can you recycle cleaning supplies • Can you recycle glass • Can you recycle glass in the bins |
|---|---|

- [illegible]

- [illegible]

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Not sure |
| • None | • Nothing |
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| • None | • Nothing |
| • None at this time | • Nothing |
| • None at this time | • Nothing |
| • None at this time | • Nothing |
| • None at this time | • Nothing |
| • None at this time | • Nothing |
| • None at this time | • Nothing |
| • None at this time | • Nothing |
| • None because I don't use the internet | • Nothing |
| • None I can think of | • Nothing |
| • None I have not been on a recycling website | • Nothing |
| • None really | • Nothing |
| • None really | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |
| • None right now | • Nothing |

- What to recycle and where do they go
- What you can recycle
- What you can recycle
- What's accepted
- What's eligible
- What's recyclable, and what isn't.
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When they pick up yard waste
- When we first moved in this house there was a lot of bulk items left so I went on there to see what could be done with them
- Where and what to take certain items.
- Where are you located
- Where it goes
- Where to dispose of hazardous materials
- Where to dispose of old paint
- Where to dispose of stuff
- Where to drop off cans and glass and chemicals
- Where to drop off chemicals and old cell phones
- Where to drop off hazardous cleaning supplies
- Where to put certain items
- Where to recycle glass
- Where to recycle old phones
- Where to take batteries.
- Where to take certain bulk items
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take certain things
- Where to take hazardous materials
- Where to take hazardous materials
- Where to take hazardous materials and schedule's for yard waste
- Where to take hazardous waste
- Which items are compatible
- Which items can be recycled
- Will they take appliances
- Yard waste
- Yard waste
- Yard waste
- Yard waste
- Yard waste
- Yard waste days.
- Yard waste pick up schedules.
- Yard waste schedules
- Yard waste schedules

Question 32: What more do you want to know about recycling?

- A list of do and don'ts
- A very itemized list
- About hazardous items
- All of it.
- All the info for all the drop offs
- Any updates for what's acceptable
- At the time not right now
- Can i think on that
- Can't think of anything
- Collection agencies in the area

- [illegible]

- [illegible]

- Nothing more right now
- Nothing right now
- Nothing that I know of right now.
- Quite a lot
- The basics
- The percentage of stuff that actually gets recycled.
- The percentage of things that are actually getting recycled.
- Think it would be pretty unique to have photos of what they remake with the recycled plastics
- Thought about taking a tour of the Pinellas recycling center
- What cannot be recycled
- What happens if you dont rinse them out
- What happens to materials after collection and drop off options.
- What is accepted
- What should be recycled
- What specifically can be recycled to reduce contamination.
- What their schedule is
- What to do about getting rid of hazardous liquids
- Whatever I need to know.
- When will more things be included
- Where can i take electronics to recycle them properly
- Where do i put electronics
- Where do they take it
- Where does it go
- Where the stuff actually ends up
- Where to take big pieces of Styrofoam
- Who is buying the materials
- Why is it not more available
- Why they don't come every week
- You know I was raised growing up how to recycle to make better ways for the earth and planet. If I Haven't learned it by now I will not learn it ever

Question 35: Which of the following educational tools would help you best understand what materials to recycle or dispose of in the garbage?: Other

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can't think of anything off hand• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Don't know• Maybe something to put in my cabinet
on the door• Not sure• Website• Website• Website• Website• Website• Website |
|---|--|