

City of Whitehall, Ohio

City Council Presentation – July 14, 2020

Zach Woodruff, Service Director



Standardized Cart Program

Proposed Program Design

- Standardized garbage and recycling carts
 - Homes have option of a 98-, 64- or 48-gallon garbage cart (can opt for more than one)
 - All homes given a 64-gallon recycling cart
 - Reduced fees for seniors still apply



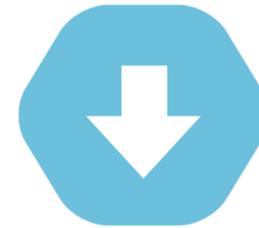
INCREASED
RECYCLING



COST
CONTAINMENT



AUTOMATED
COLLECTION



LITTER
REDUCTION

Standardized Cart Program

Proposed Program Design

- City purchases, owns and maintains garbage and recycling carts
 - City awarded recycling cart grant from the Recycling Partnership
 - Reduces recycling cart cost from \$43 to \$5.50 per home
 - Total cost (\$9,625) to be repaid to SWACO in 6 installments over three years

Standardized Cart Program

Consideration Timeline

- **Bid New Contract:** March–May 2020
- **Initial City Council Presentation:** May 26, 2020
- **Community Feedback**
 - **Community Survey:** May 28–July 10, 2020
 - **Cart Trials:** June 3– July 1, 2020
 - **Visual Garbage Audit:** May 13–July 1, 2020
- **Ordinance Introduction:** July 13, 2020
- **Ordinance Third Reading:** August 18, 2020
- **New Contract Period:** January 1, 2021–
December 31, 2025
- **Cart Rollout:** Spring 2021

Standardized Cart Program

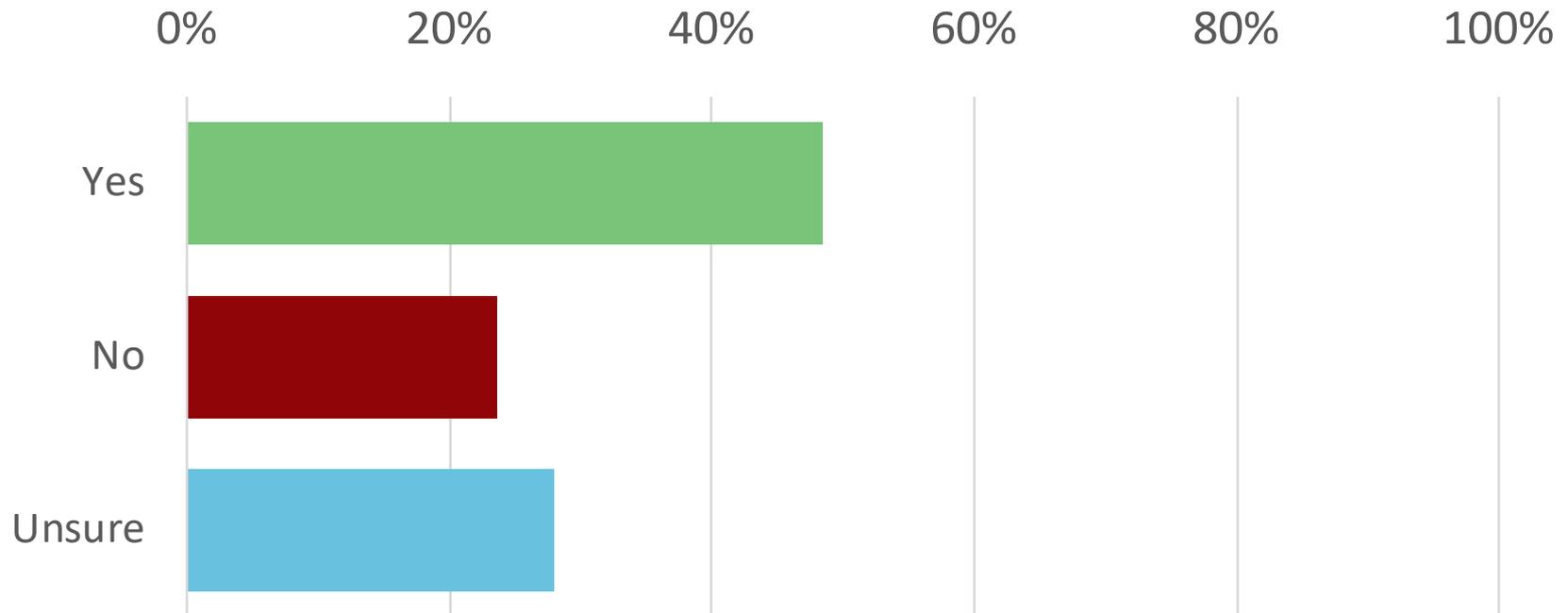
Community Feedback: Community Survey

- **Responses:** 355
- **Takeaways:**
 - Overall willingness to opt for a smaller cart to save cost (Approx. 50%)
 - Overall willingness to recycle more if given a cart versus 18-gallon tote (Over 75%)
 - Multiple questions surrounding cost, timing of the new program and cart ownership

Standardized Cart Program

Community Feedback: Community Survey

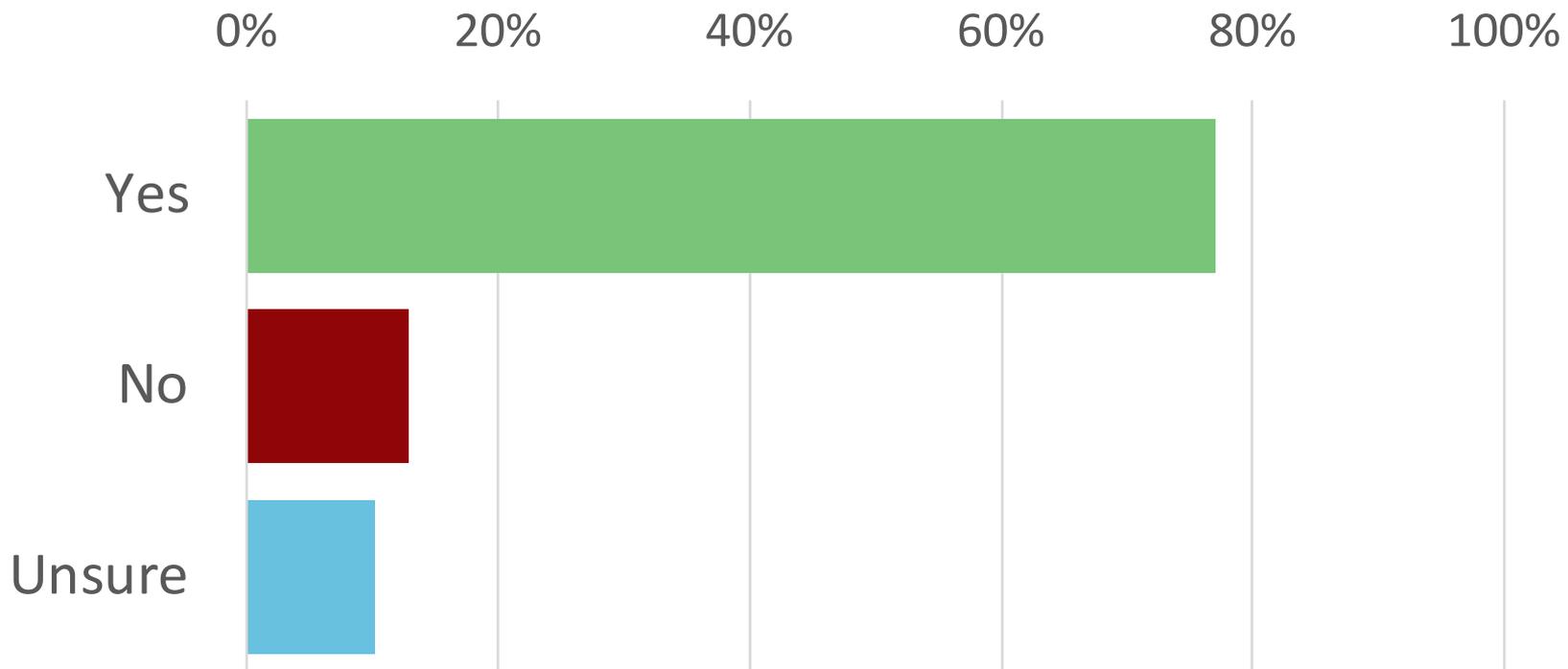
If the City moves forward with using standard-size carts, and offers a reduced fee for using a smaller sized cart, would you take advantage of that program?



Standardized Cart Program

Community Feedback: Community Survey

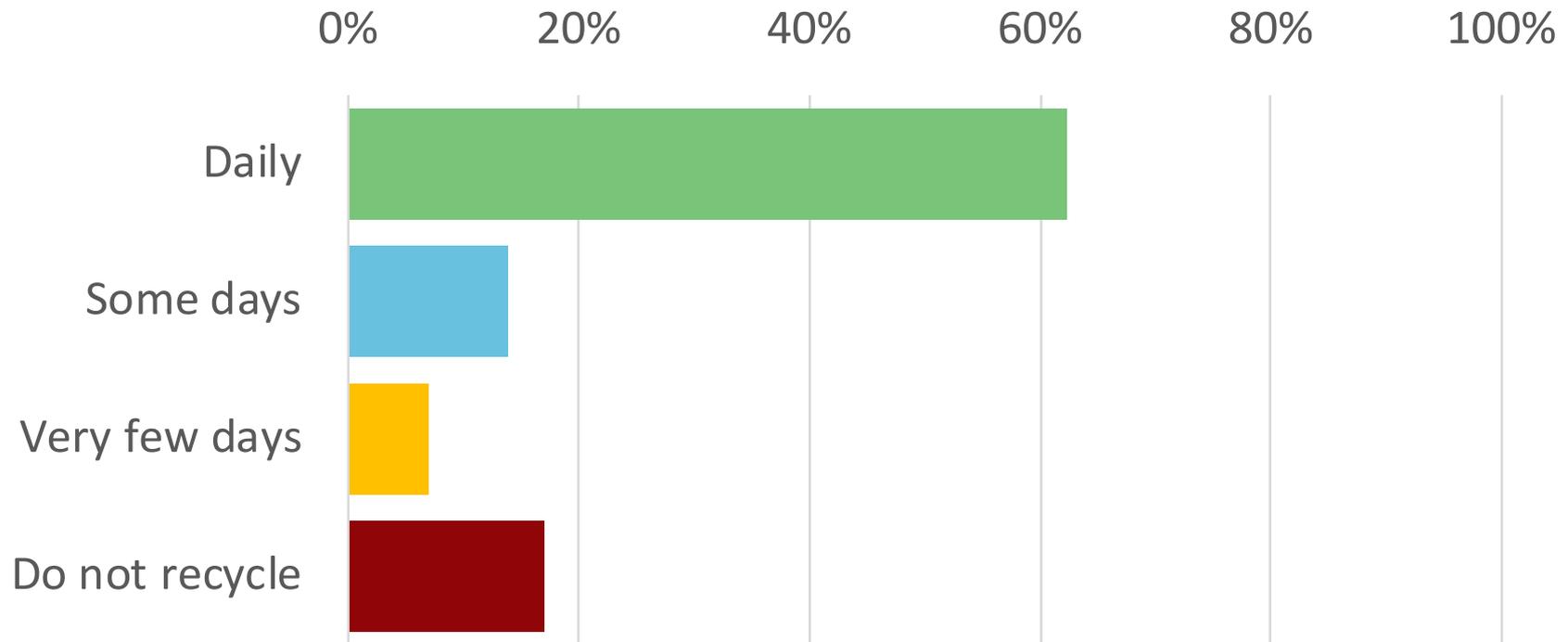
If you were provided a 64-gallon recycling cart at no extra cost, would you take steps to increase recycling efforts in your home?



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Community Feedback: Community Survey

How would you describe the recycling habits in your home?



Whitehall's Waste Diversion Rate: 13.9%

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Community Feedback: Cart Trials

Participants completed five-week trial with a 96-gallon garbage cart and 64-gallon recycling cart

Two groups:

- City Council and Elected Officials
- 10 Community Volunteers
 - Volunteer group completed an exit survey



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Community Feedback: Cart Trials

Exit Survey Takeaways *(Completed by 9/10 participants)*

- Increase from 55% of homes recycling daily before the trial to 88% recycling daily during the trial
- 22% of homes reported running out of garbage space during the trial; These homes indicated they would want two 96-gallon carts
- 33% of homes reported they would opt for the 48-gallon garbage cart if program is adopted

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Community Feedback: Visual Audit

- Service crews visually inspected five neighborhoods every other week from May 13-July 1
- **Goal: Inspect whether garbage set out by each home would be accommodated by 96-gallon cart (with no change in behavior)**

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Community Feedback: Visual Audit

- **Result:**
 - 9,257 total garbage set outs inspected
 - Over 90% of garbage set outs would fit into a 96-gallon cart
 - Does not account for increased waste diversion rates, once homes with excess garbage have an increased ability to recycle

Standardized Cart Program

Community Feedback: Common Questions

Common Questions:

- Cost
- Timing (Why now?)
- Bidding process
- Cart Ownership



Standardized Cart Program Q&A

The City is in the process of considering the pros and cons of a new standardized cart program. As we asked for feedback, you asked a number of great questions. Here are answers to your most popular questions:



- **Question: What would the cost be for the standardized cart program? Can we just keep the same service and not pay more?**
- **Answer:** The total quarterly fees are shown below. No matter if the City keeps the current program or moves to standardized carts, households will see a monthly fee increase (the cost of keeping everything the same is listed as “Status Quo” below). A rate increase was to be expected, as the last garbage and recycling collection fee increase in Whitehall was instituted over 10 years ago. Should the City move to a standardized cart program, Local Waste Services would offer lower monthly rates when compared to keeping the current program.

Service Level	Monthly Rate	Quarterly Rate	Billing Fee	Admin. Fee	Total Quarterly Fee	Quarterly Fee Change
Current Rate	\$13.75	\$41.25	\$0.50	-	\$41.75	
Status Quo Rate	\$19.20	\$57.60	\$1.80	-	\$59.40	+ \$17.65
96-Gallon Rate	\$18.20	\$54.60	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$58.65	+ \$16.90
64-Gallon Rate	\$17.20	\$51.60	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$55.65	+ \$13.90
48-Gallon Rate	\$16.20	\$48.60	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$52.65	+ \$10.90

Note: The current fee to rent a 96-gallon garbage cart or a 64-gallon recycling cart from Local Waste Services is \$2.50 monthly, or \$7.50 quarterly.

- **Question: Can't the City find a different garbage and recycling hauler to get households better rates?**

Standardized Cart Program

Common Questions: Cost Increase

Service Level/Cart Size	Monthly Rate	Quarterly Rate	Billing Fee	Admin. Fee	Total Quarterly Fee	Total Quarterly Change
Current	\$13.75	\$41.25	\$0.50	-	\$41.75	
Status Quo	\$19.20	\$57.60	\$1.80	-	\$59.40	+ \$17.65
96-Gallon	\$18.20	\$54.60	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$58.65	+ \$16.90
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Senior Discount: 10% off a month

Standardized Cart Program

Common Questions: Cost Comparison

- **Whitehall: No cost increase in last 10 years**
- **Rate Comparison: Unlimited Collection**
 - **Compared to:** Bexley, Gahanna, Reynoldsburg
 - Homes in these communities paid \$141 more per household over last five years for garbage collection, or an average of \$2.36 per month more, than Whitehall

Standardized Cart Program

Common Questions: Cost Comparison

- **Rate Comparison: Cart Contents Only**
 - **Compared to:** Mifflin Township and Washington Township

2021 Quarterly Rates	96-gallon	64-gallon	48-gallon
Washington and Mifflin Township	\$19.68	\$18.54	\$17.92
Whitehall	\$18.20	\$17.20	\$16.20

- Whitehall's rate is locked-in, with Washington and Mifflin Township rates increasing by over \$1/year

Standardized Cart Program

Other Common Questions:

- Why are we changing now?
- What would I pay upfront for the new carts?
- What do we do with our old carts?
- Why did the City bid the contract through the Solid Waste Agency of Central Ohio (SWACO)?
- What happens if there is another flooding event and we need to dispose of bulk items unexpectedly?