

Additional Public Engagement Information

The “Saskatoon Talks Trash: Curbside” engagement ran from February 12 - March 6, 2018. In that time, over 5,000 residents participated in a variety of engagement activities. The full results are available in the [Changes to Waste Management in Saskatoon – Engagement Results](#) report that was received by City Council at their regular business meeting on June 25, 2018.

Key findings regarding blue cart and recycling depot services included:

- A large majority of respondents preferred to maintain large carts collected bi-weekly when they were presented with a weekly collection scenario.
- The Recycling program was the 3rd most-liked feature of the existing curbside service, with 401 participants mentioning their appreciation. 145 respondents specifically mentioned the ease of use of a single-stream approach.
- Desire to include more materials, like Styrofoam.
- Concern about not accepting plastic bags and worry about whether glass will be excluded next.
- Concern about improper sorting, desire for more education about what goes where, suggestion to impose fines for improper disposal.
- Desire for additional collections around Christmas.

The Saskatoon Talks Trash: Multi-Unit engagement campaign ran from June 3 to June 22, 2018. In that time, 546 residents and 123 property managers participated in a series of engagement activities. The full engagement results are available in [the Multi-unit Residential Proposed Changes to Waste Management – Engagement Results](#) report that was received by the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services at their September 10, 2018 meeting.

Key findings regarding blue bin recycling and recycling depots included:

- Plastic Bags, particularly concern about how to address plastic bags and film being removed from recycling stream.
- Contamination and Low Participation including seeing contamination of recycling bin with garbage as well as people putting recyclable items in the garbage and not sorting their waste.
- Dumping & Bulky Items, including non-residents dumping waste at their buildings, including bulky items along with grass clippings, diapers, wiring, pipes, bicycles, and commercial waste, as well as residents that do not have transportation/vehicles to

move bulky items like furniture and electronics, may not be able to afford a hauling service, so often bulky waste is disposed of in available bins including recycling.

Every two years the City conducts statically representative residential surveys on waste and recycling services. The most recent [Waste and Recycling Survey](#) was completed in 2023, and found that 82% of curbside residents and 74% of multi-unit residents are satisfied with the overall quality of their recycling collection service. As a comparison, there was 80% satisfaction with overall quality of residential garbage service and 85% satisfaction with the overall quality of the new green cart service. For recycling, residents were most satisfied with the capacity provided, program convenience, and frequency of collection. The most significant barriers to residential participation in the recycling program include confusion regarding acceptable materials, grossness (such as smell of having to clean items), loss of trust that collected items are recycled, and safety issues (such as scavengers or hazardous items places in the carts/bins).