

OUR CITY. OUR FUTURE.

Youth Engagement Panel

Survey Nine Results

WASTE AND RECYCLING

November 2022 – January 2023



ST. JOHN'S

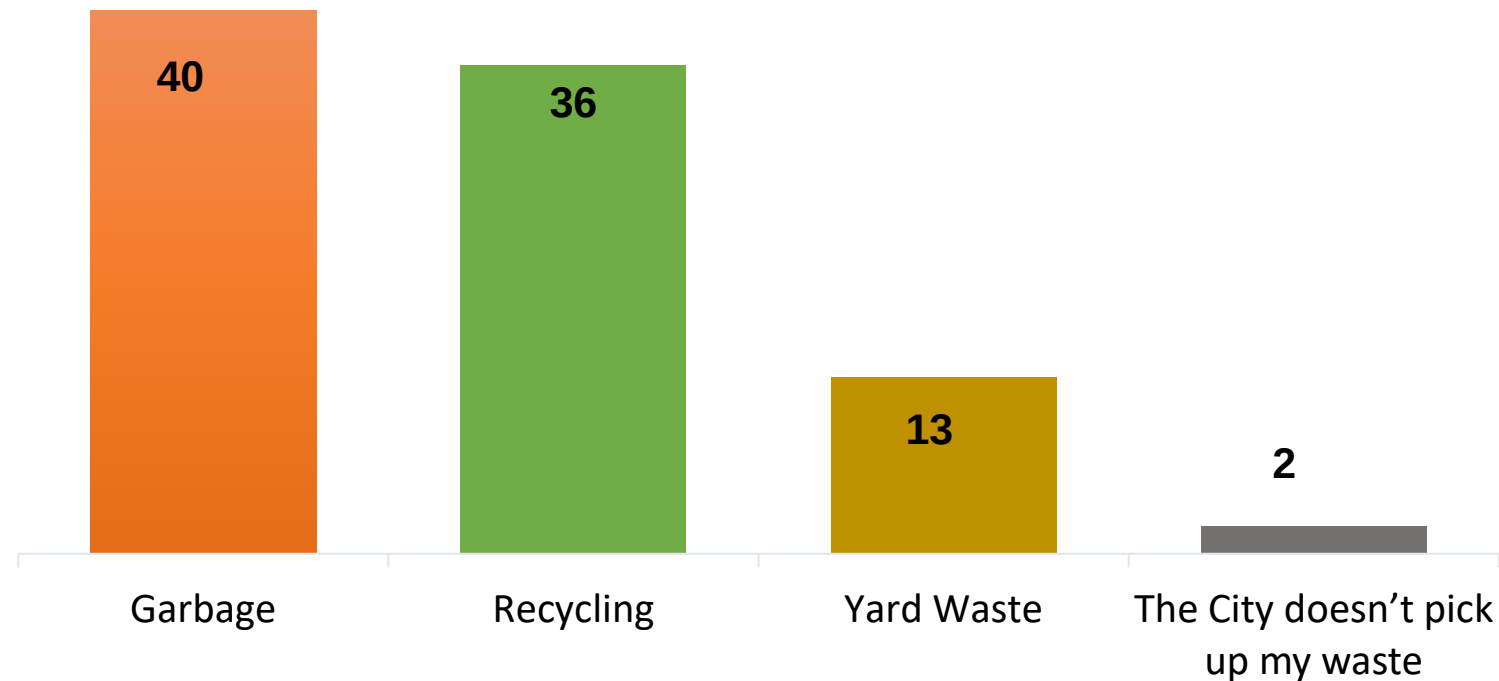
Waste and Recycling

In recent Youth Engagement Forums and through discussions with the Youth Engagement Working Group, there was a lot of conversation around challenges with waste and recycling and an interest expressed in exploring different options. The City developed four surveys to gather feedback from the Youth Panel:

- Waste and Recycling (9.1)
- Holiday Waste (9.2)
- Waste at the Curb (9.3)
- Waste Diversion (9.4)

Waste and Recycling – Survey 9.1 Results

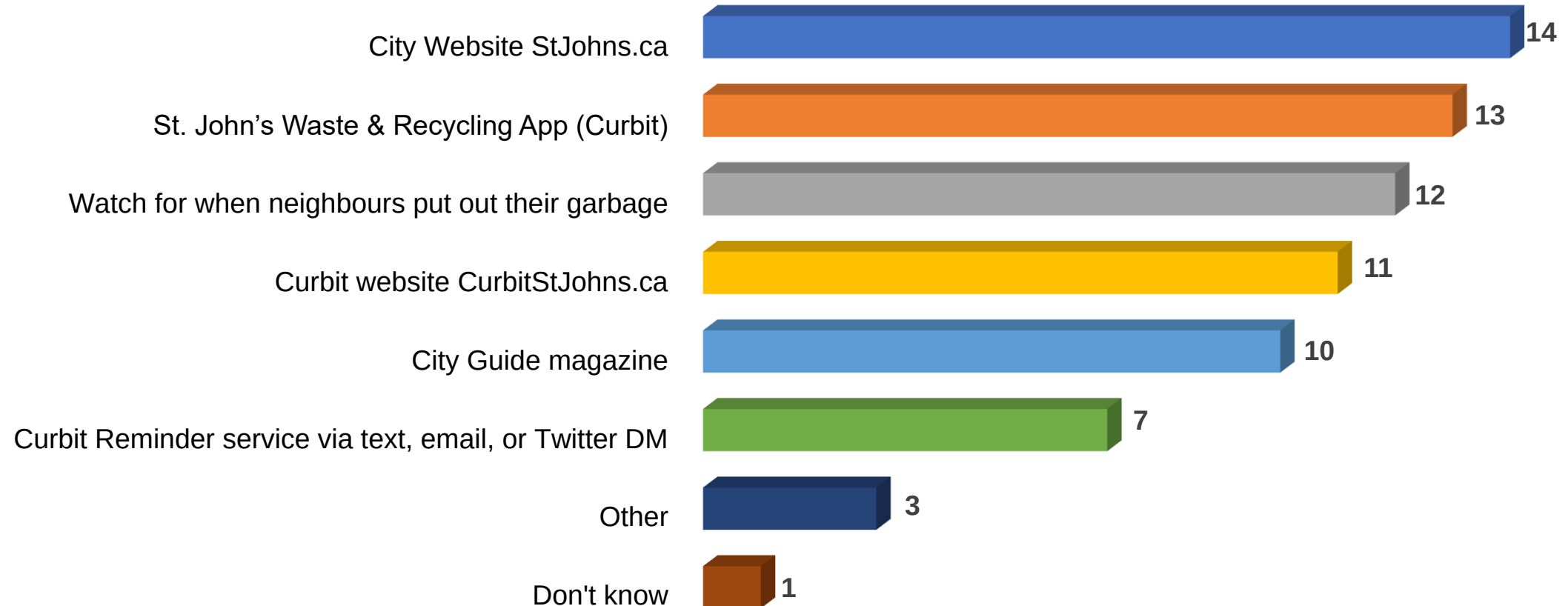
What waste does your household place at the curb for collection by the City of St. John's? (Select all that apply)



n = 42

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How do you learn about your waste collection schedule? (Select all that apply)

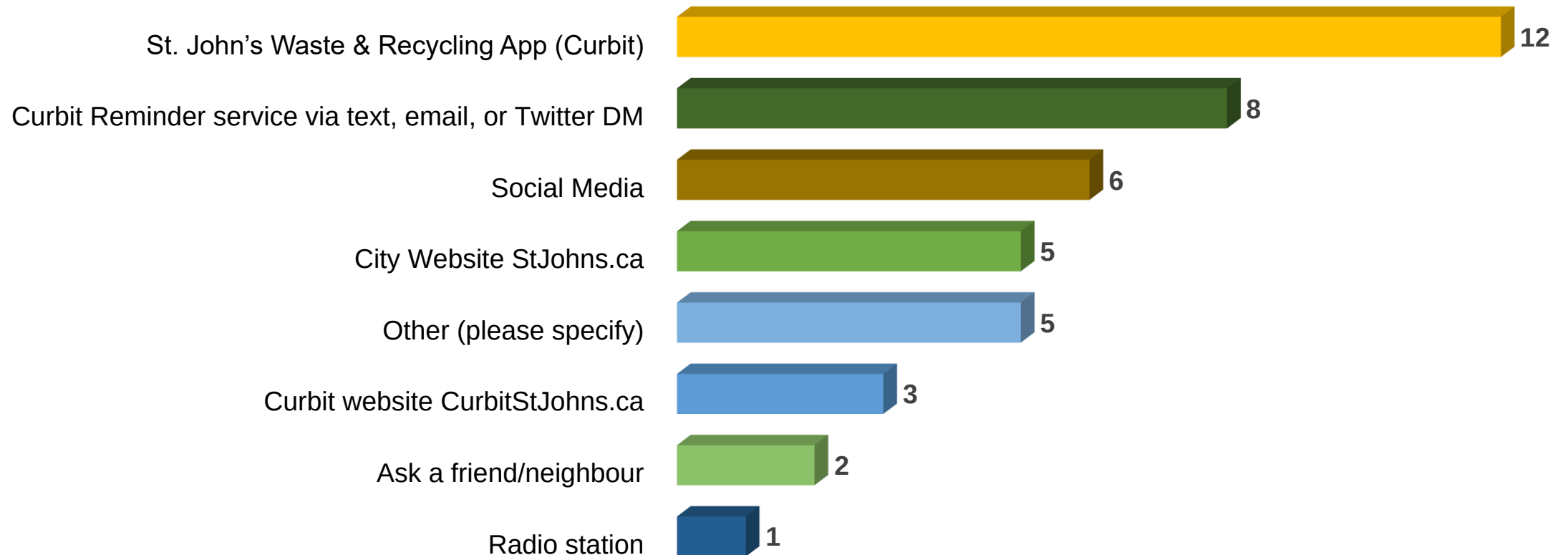


n = 42

Other = Landlord, condo board, calendar

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If the weather is stormy, where is the first place you check to learn whether your garbage day is cancelled?

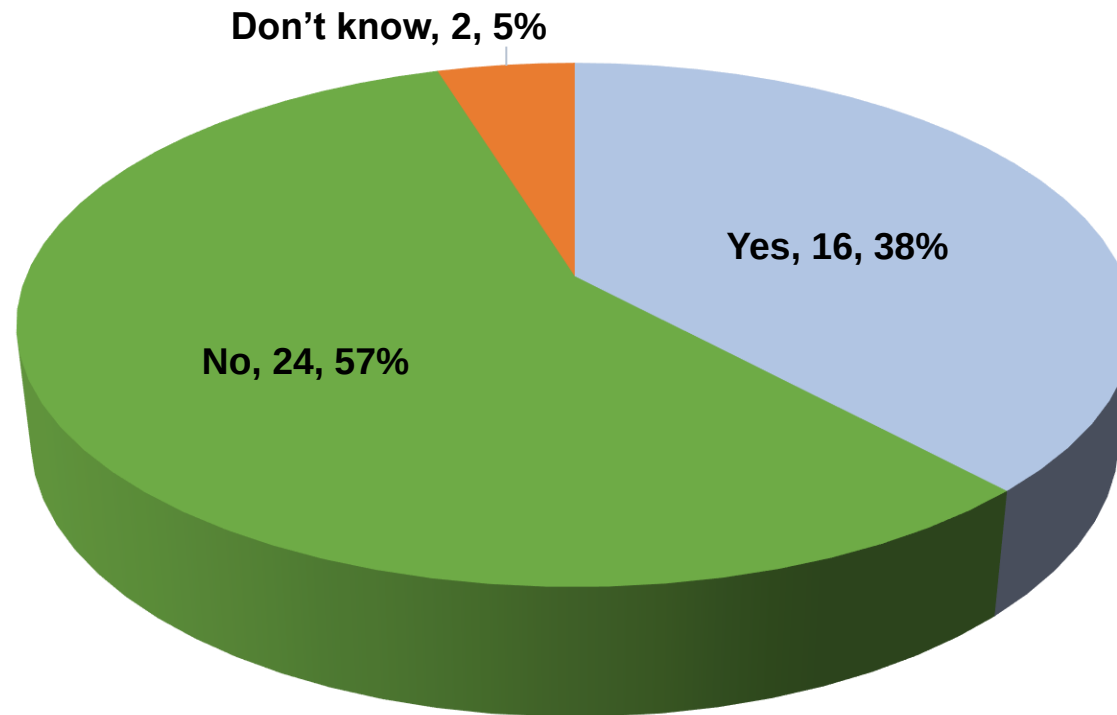


n = 42

Social Media = Twitter (2), Facebook (4); Other = Have dumpster (2), look to see if other bins are out (2), have private haulage (1); Radio = VOCM

A CONNECTED CITY

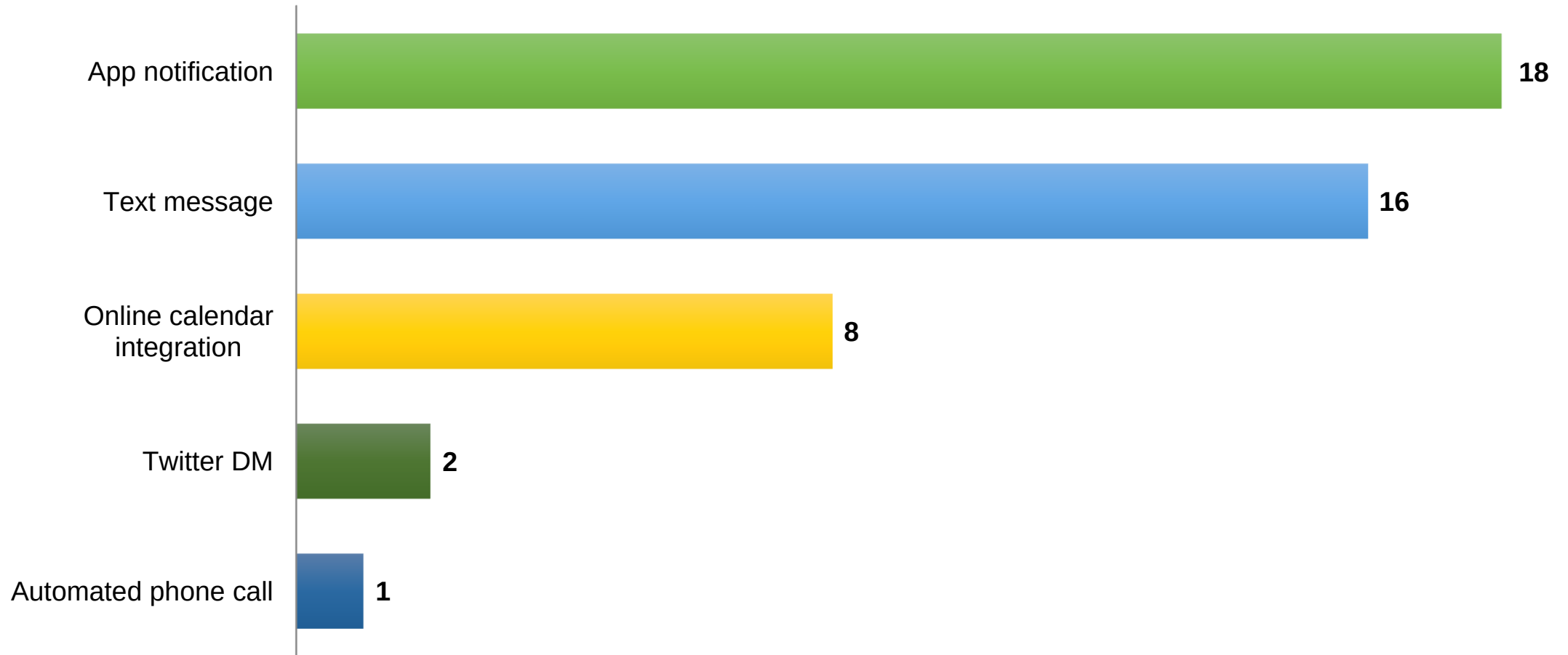
Are you subscribed to receive weekly notifications from the City about your waste collection?



n = 42

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How do you receive waste notifications? (Select all that apply)



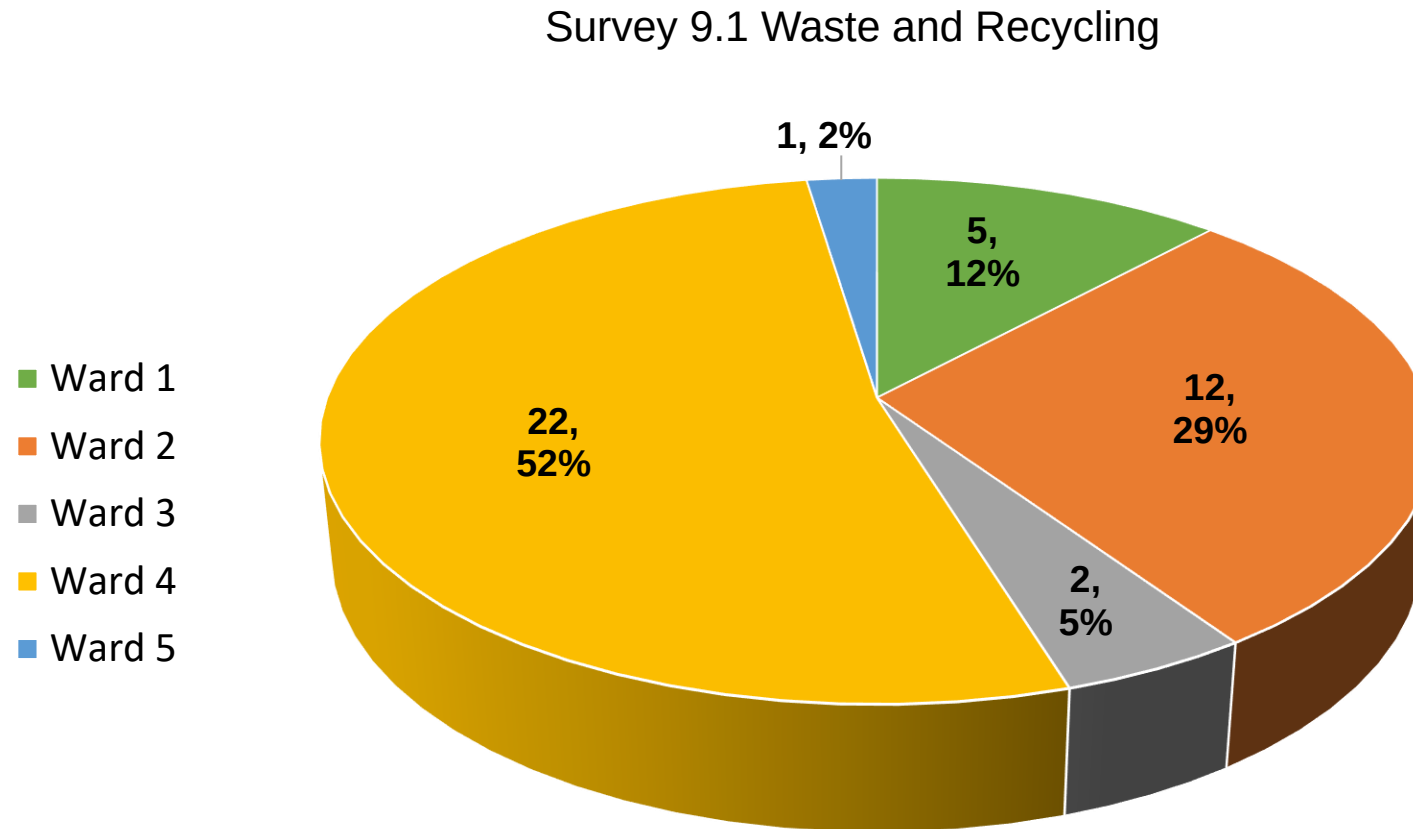
n = 42

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How can the City improve communication and notification about waste collection and cancellations?

- Current system works fine (8)
- Facebook, Twitter (2), Social Media
- Radio (2)
- Current app (2). Wish more city services used it.
- Text messages (4) including for cancellations. Timing of messages, day prior to collection and after 6 p.m.
- Email newsletter
- Make people more aware of the platforms City uses/best place to get info (2)
- Provide options for timing of alerts, e.g. the evening before, or time when it is ok to put garbage out
- Make the call earlier (i.e., when there are delays)
- Instead of garbage collection by house/building, garbage collection by recollection spot
- Notifications posted across varying platforms
- A garbage truck tracker
- On days where pick-up is delayed, provide a time frame for when the pick-up will happen
- Allow for bigger bags of tree leaves to be collected
- Waste calendar available through the app like the city used to send out via mail
- Monthly garbage collection calendar, with back-up days marked for inclement weather
- Start a waste prevention campaign

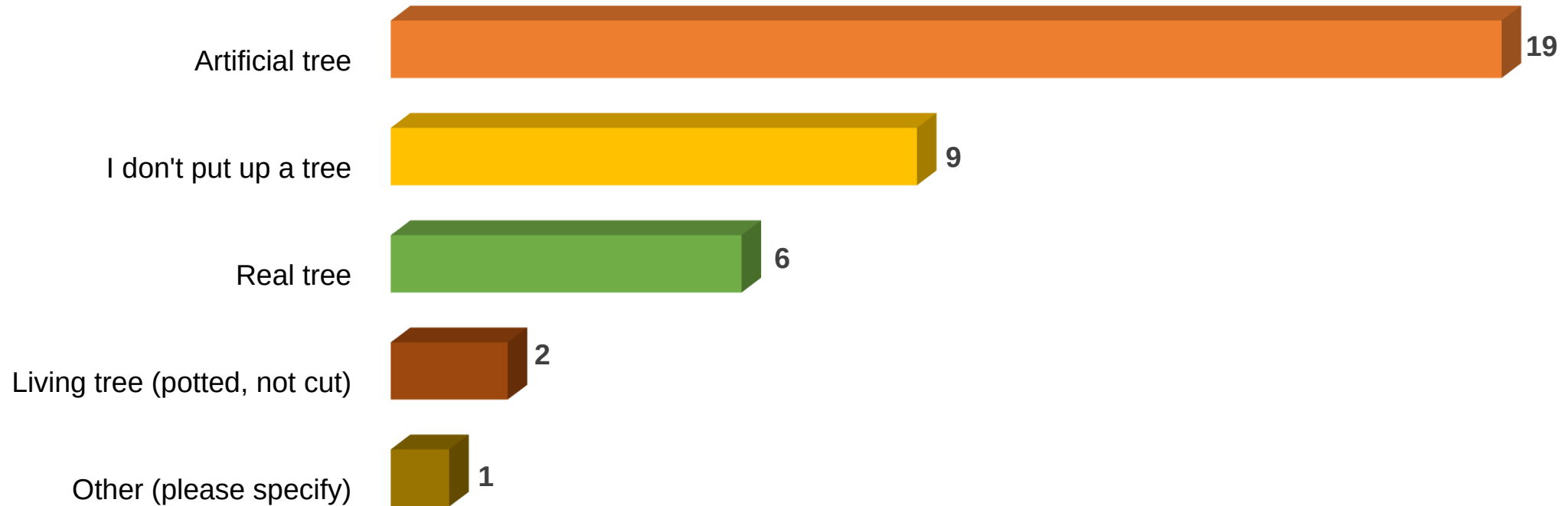
Survey respondents by city ward



n = 42

Holiday Waste – Survey 9.2 Results

If you put up a Christmas tree(s), what type of tree? (Select all that apply)



n = 34

Other = craft tree (glass)

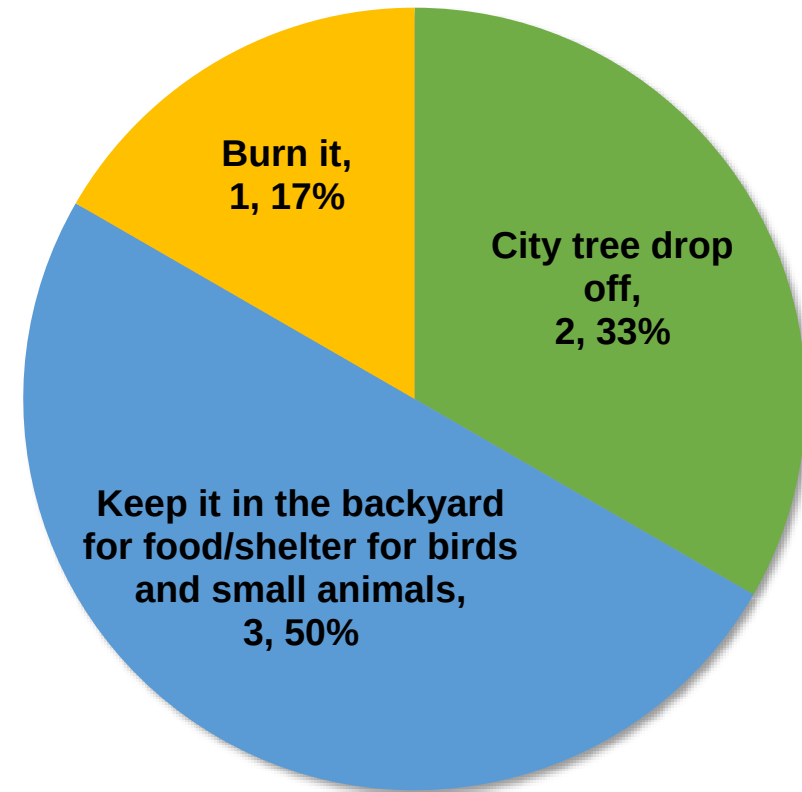
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Which type of real tree?



n = 6

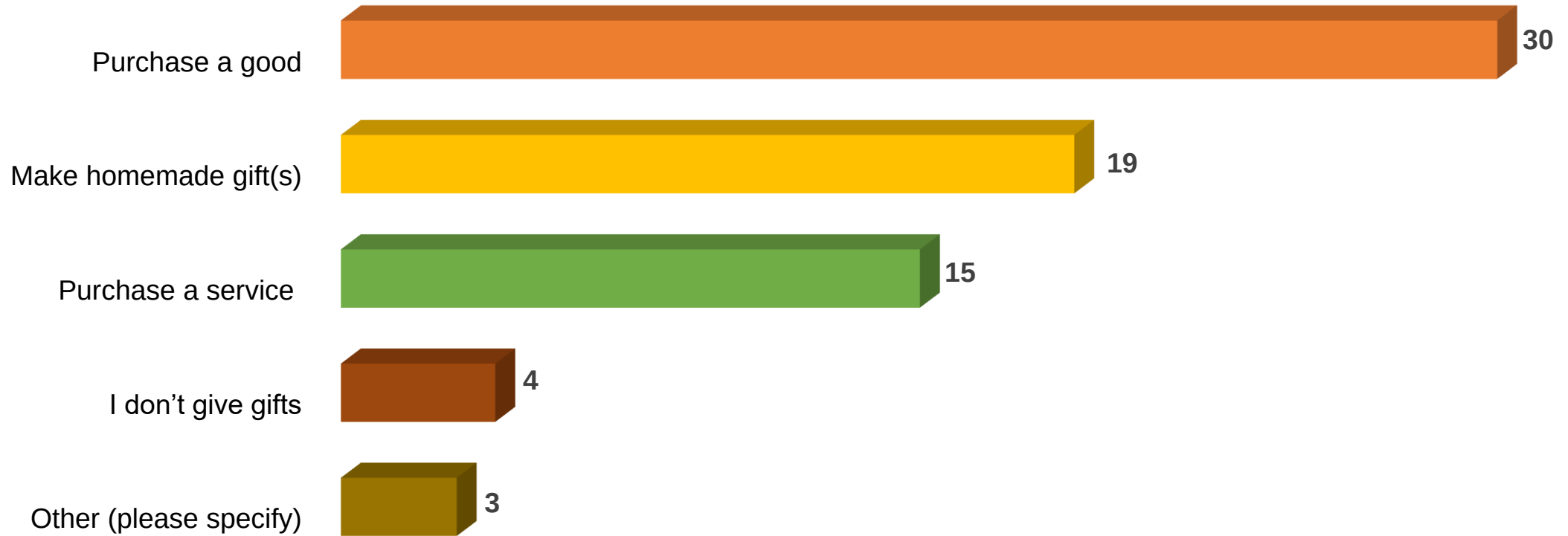
When you take down your real tree
how do you dispose of it?



n = 6

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When choosing gifts for family and friends, which of the following do you do?
(Select all that apply)

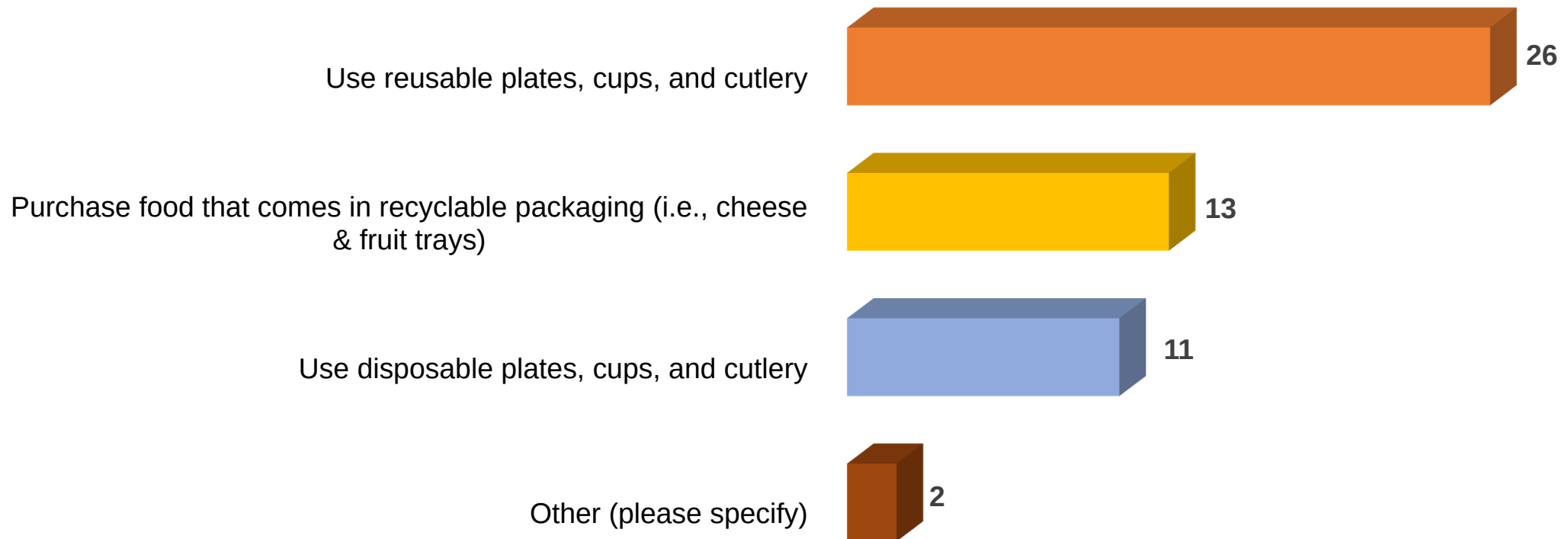


n = 34

Other = thrifted, re-gift, combination of all

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When preparing to host a gathering or party, which of the following do you do?
(Select all that apply)

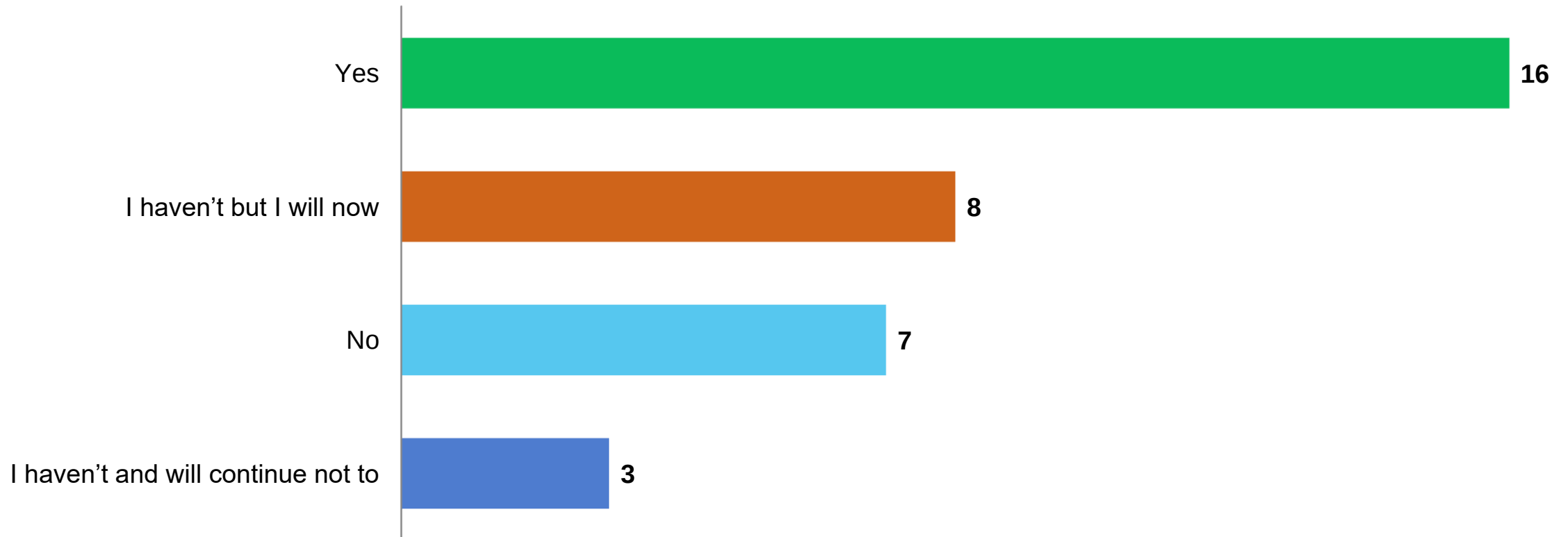


n = 34

Other = serve finger foods, purchase food that comes in disposable packaging

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When purchasing items for gifts or gatherings do you think about how it will be disposed of at its end of life?



n = 34

A CONNECTED CITY

When wrapping gifts, which of the following do you choose? (Select all that apply)

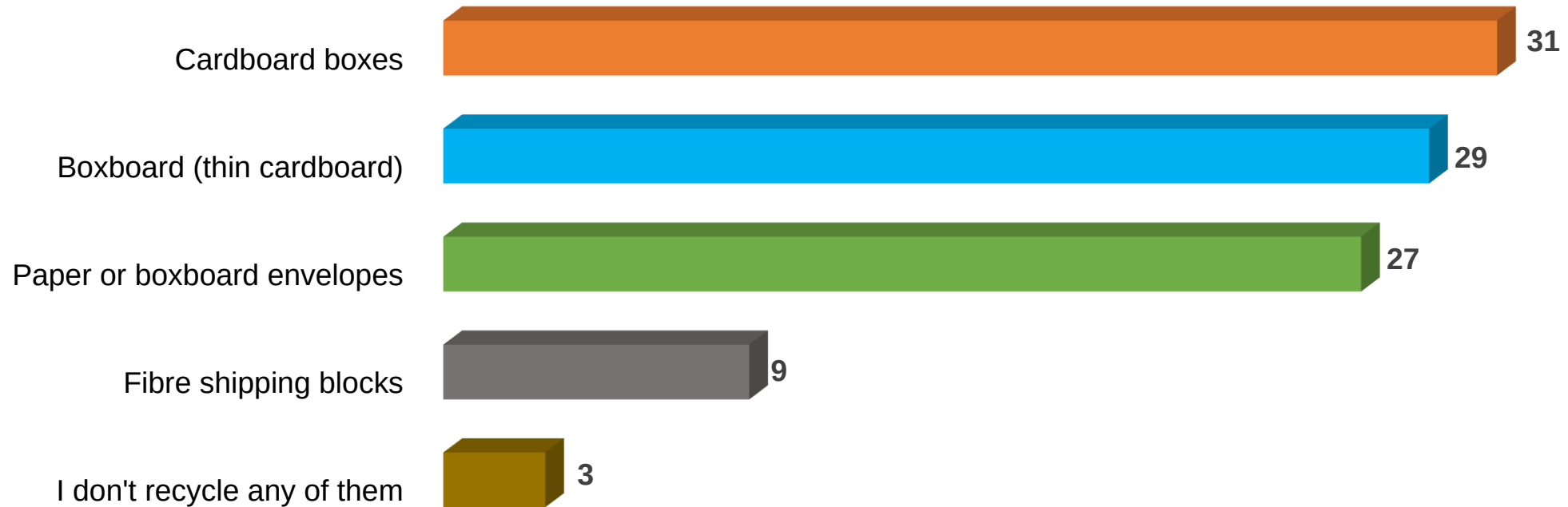


Other = newspaper

n = 34

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Gift wrap and bags, ribbons and bows, padded envelopes, and Styrofoam are not recyclable at the curb; however, the packaging that gifts are shipped in may be recyclable. Which of the following packing materials do you recycle? (Select all that apply)



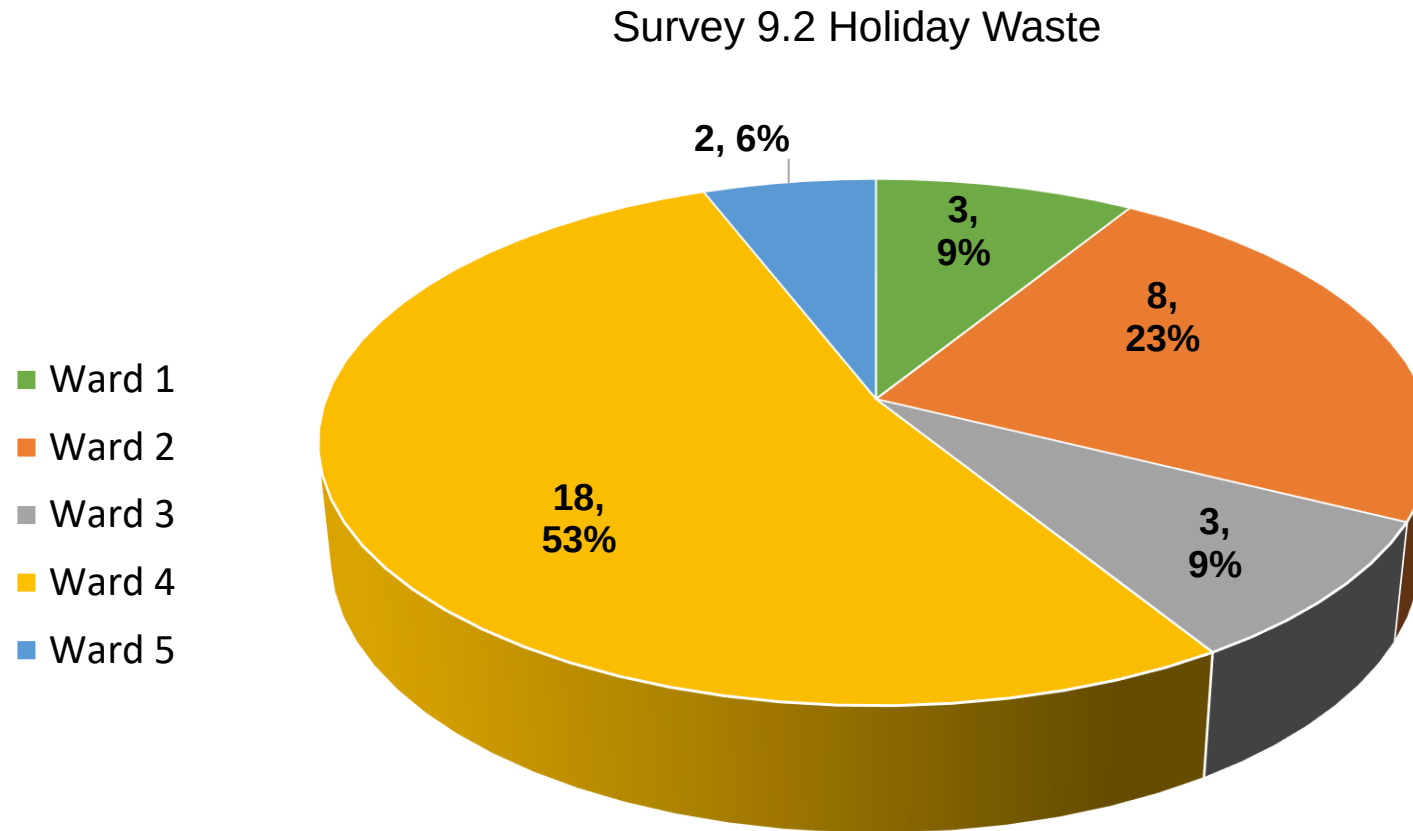
n = 34

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Do you have any other feedback about holiday recycling?

- Calling plastic 'recyclable' is a misleading tactic promoted by plastic (oil) producers. Glass and metal jars/cans are much more recyclable/reusable, but these are falling out of fashion since plastic is cheaper on a per-unit basis
- I reuse paper and wrapping as much as possible and am shifting to brown wrapping paper
- People should be encouraged to use brown paper as wrapping paper so it can be recycled
- We should be able to recycle these things, the earth needs our help
- I wish that recycling was collected more often than garbage during waste-generating seasons
- I wish wrapping materials stated more explicitly whether it can be recycled or not
- Pickup recycling every week.
- The city should work to increase awareness that traditional wrapping paper is not recyclable while brown paper, which can also be decorated is.
- I've always reused gift bags. We need to revisit the gift packaging discourse to emphasize this type of reuse. Also, some independent artisans make recyclable wrapping paper - we should incentivize this
- Find a way to be able to recycle wrapping paper

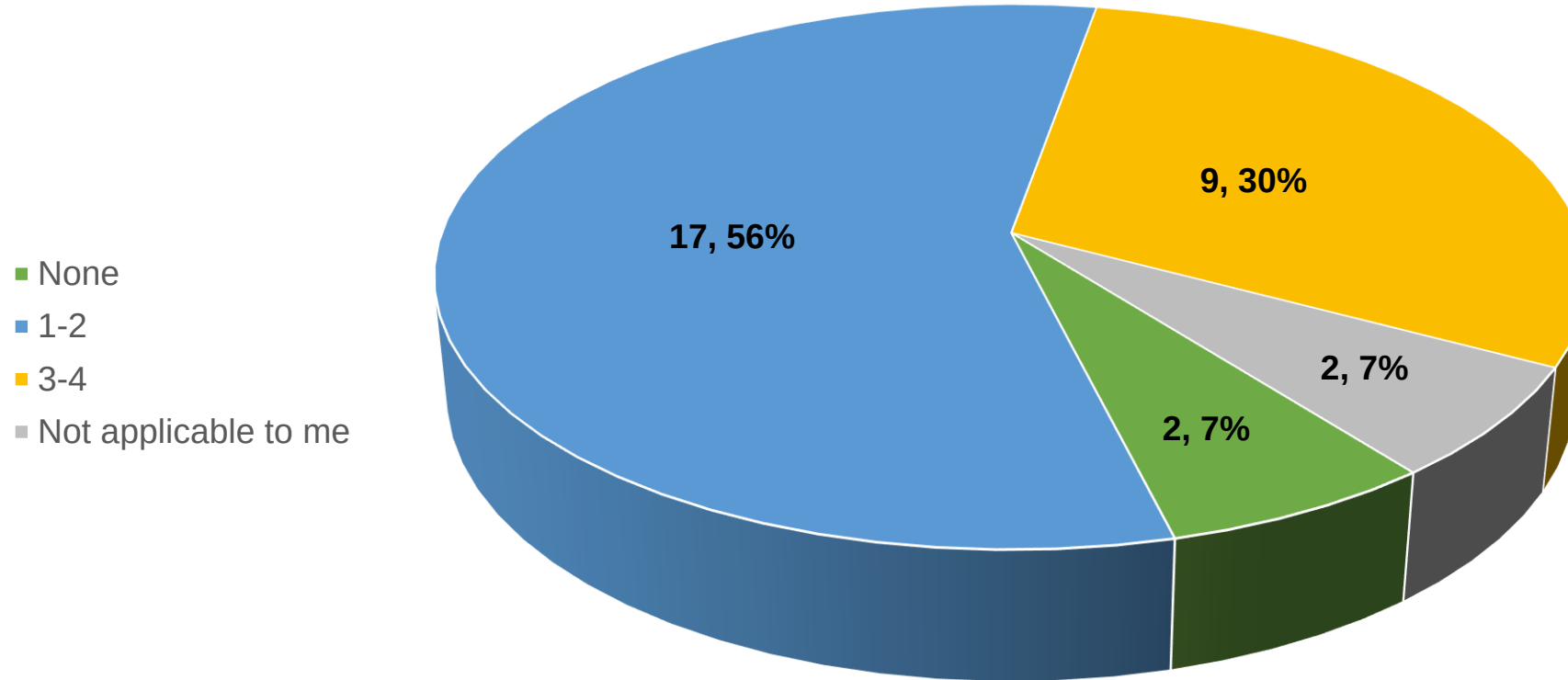
Survey respondents by city ward



n = 34

Waste at the Curb – Survey 9.3 Results

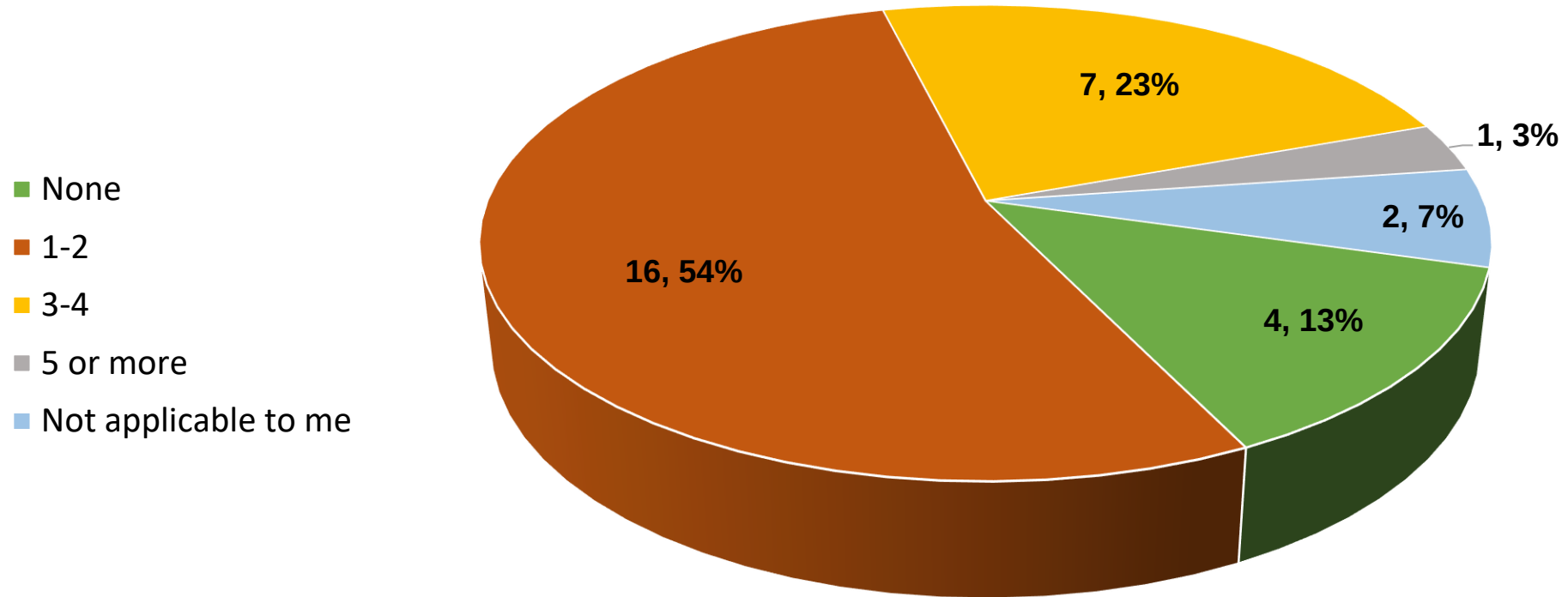
How many bags of garbage does your household typically put at the curb each week?



n = 30

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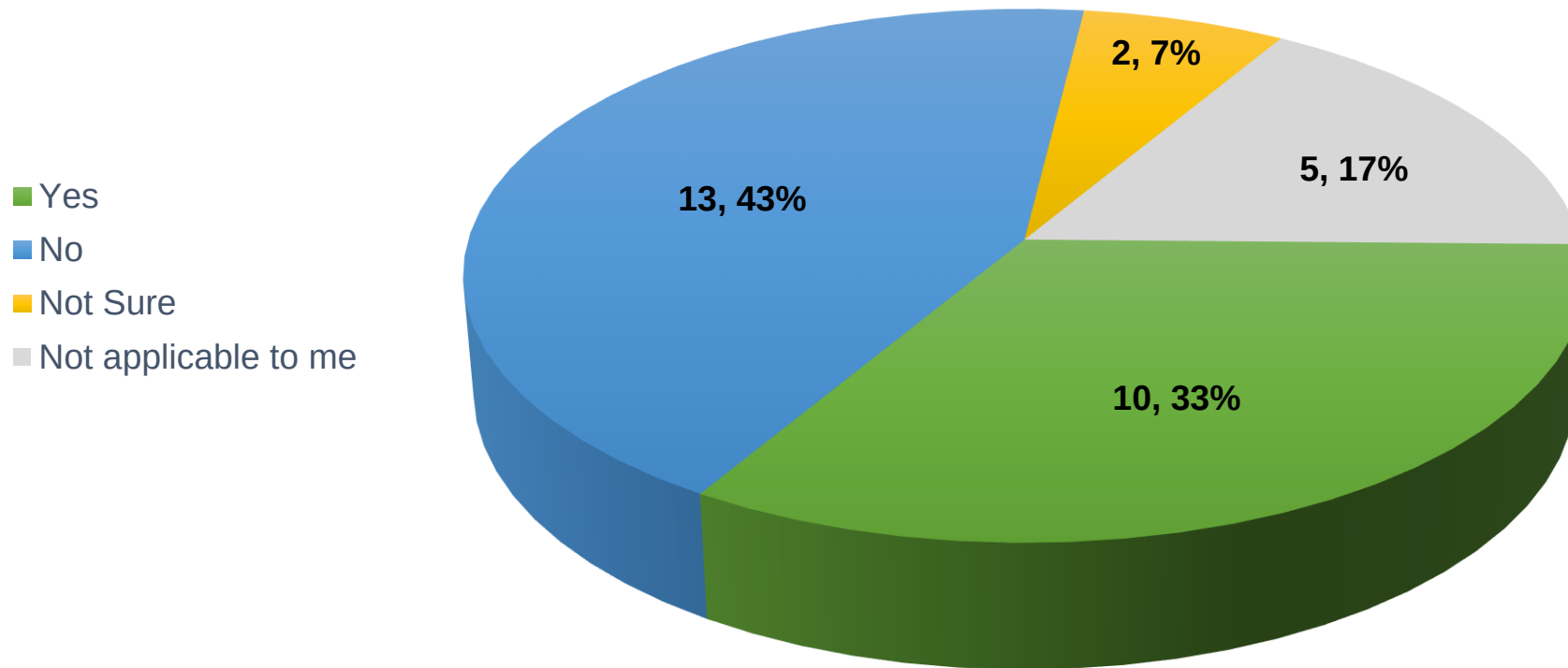
There is no limit to the number of blue bags of recycling put at the curb. How many bags of recycling does your household typically put at the curb every other week?



n = 30

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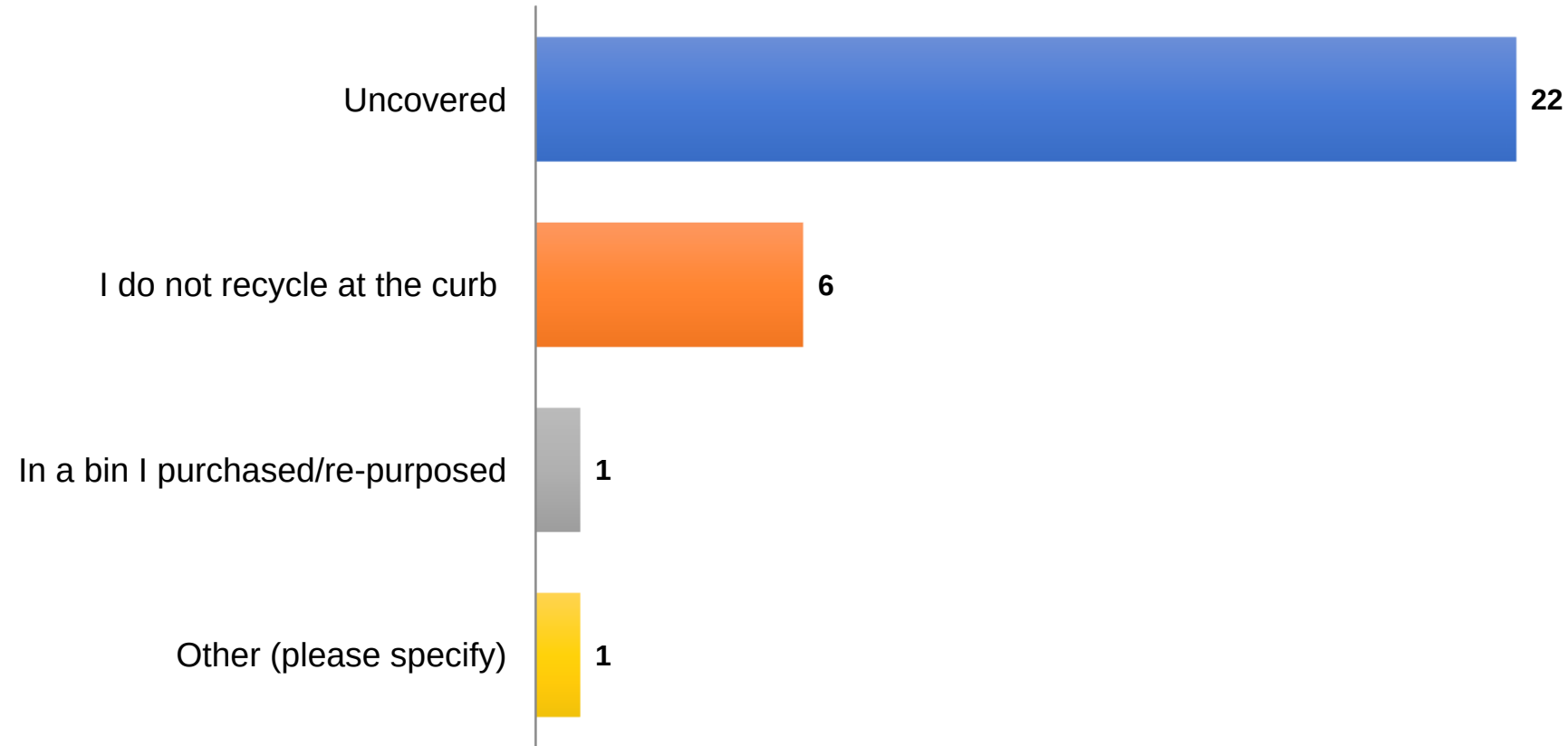
Are you putting more blue bags of recycling at the curb now than you were 2 years ago?



n = 30

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How do you put your recycling blue bags at the curb?

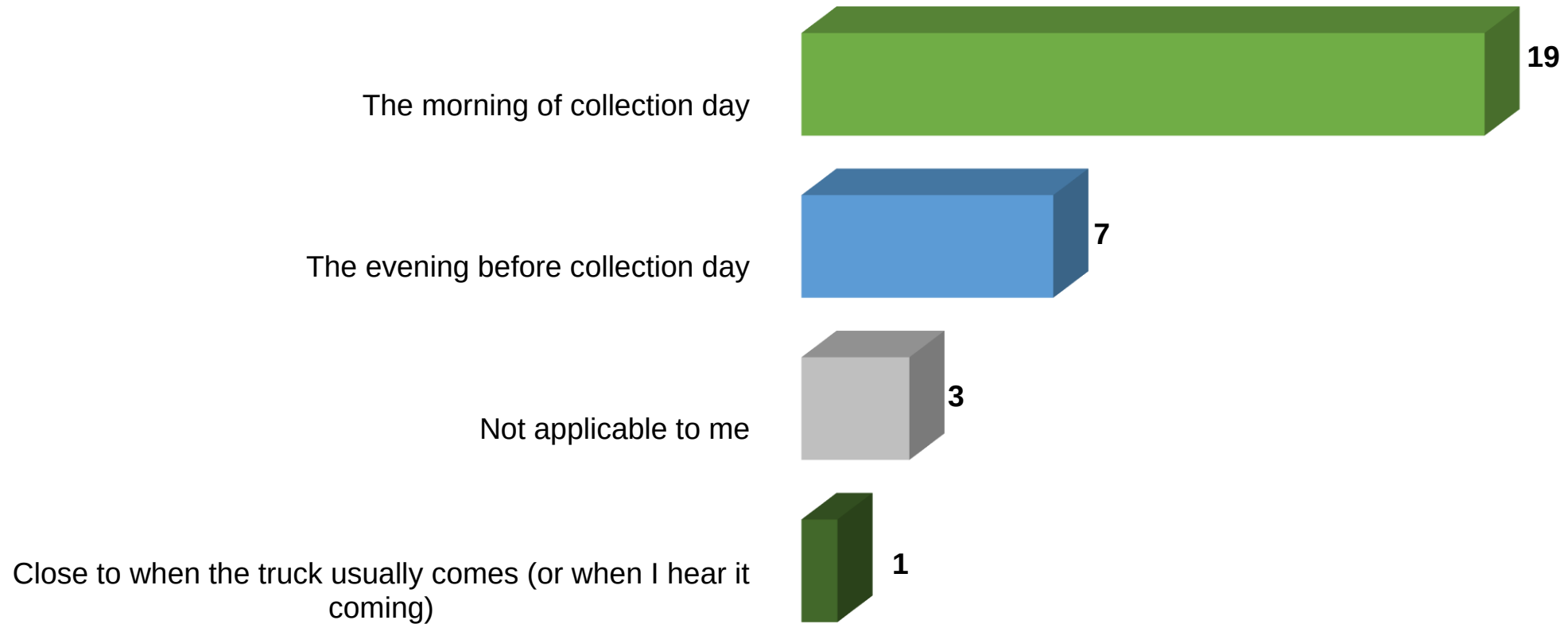


n = 30

Other = apartment building with no recycling

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When do you put your garbage and recycling at the curb?

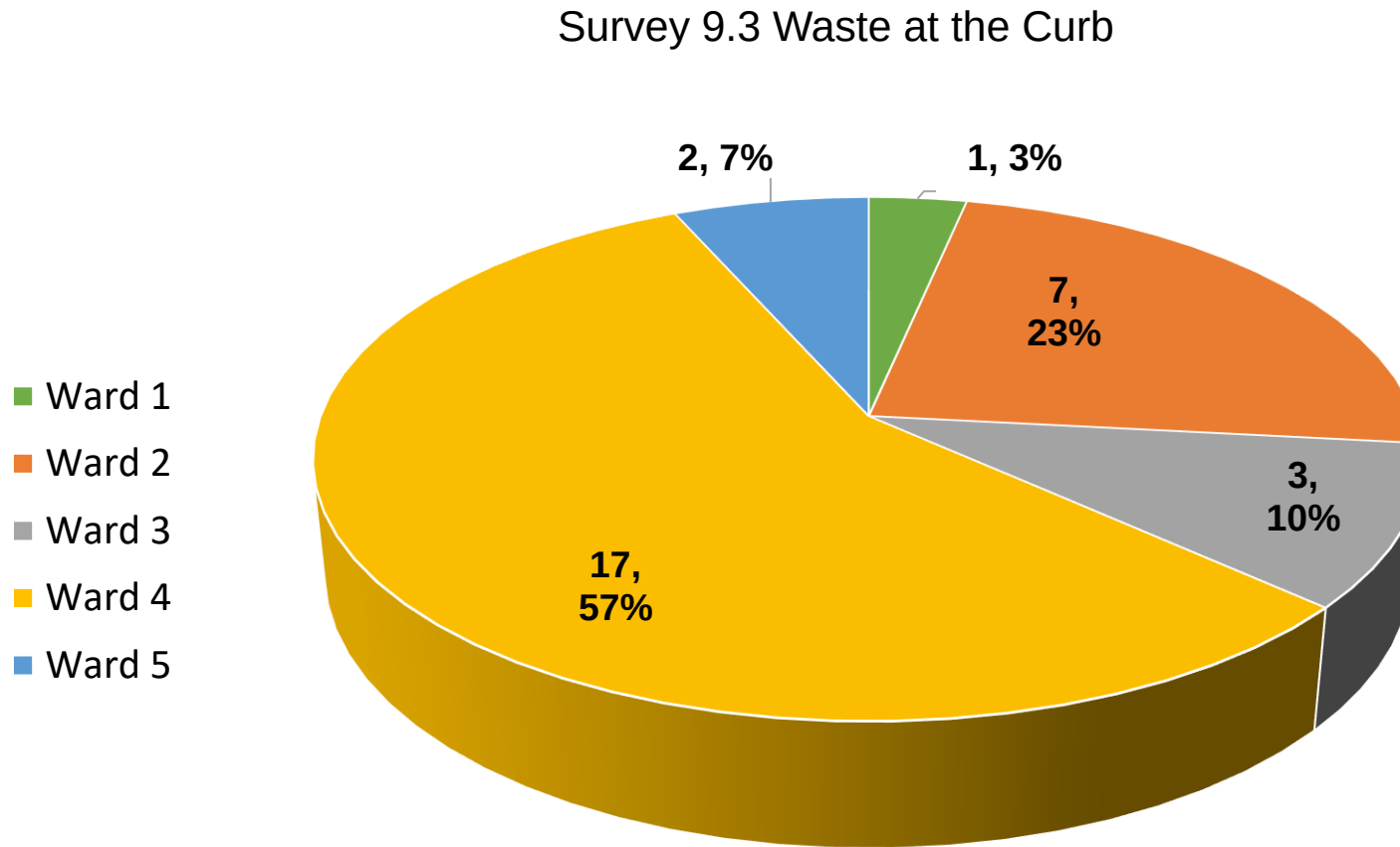


n = 30

Anything else you want to tell us about your recycling experience?

- Greater expansion of recycling and composting services to apartments (3)
- A city-wide compost service (2), composting at the curb (1)
- Communicate what plastic types (number inside the recycling logo) are accepted
- Provide blue bins (3)
- Concerned about recycling blowing away on windy days
- Larger garbage bins
- Curbside pickup for glass once a month in a separate box
- Somewhere to bring recycling on non-collection weeks
- Wildlife tear at bags, creating litter
- Difficult to remember when to put out recycling

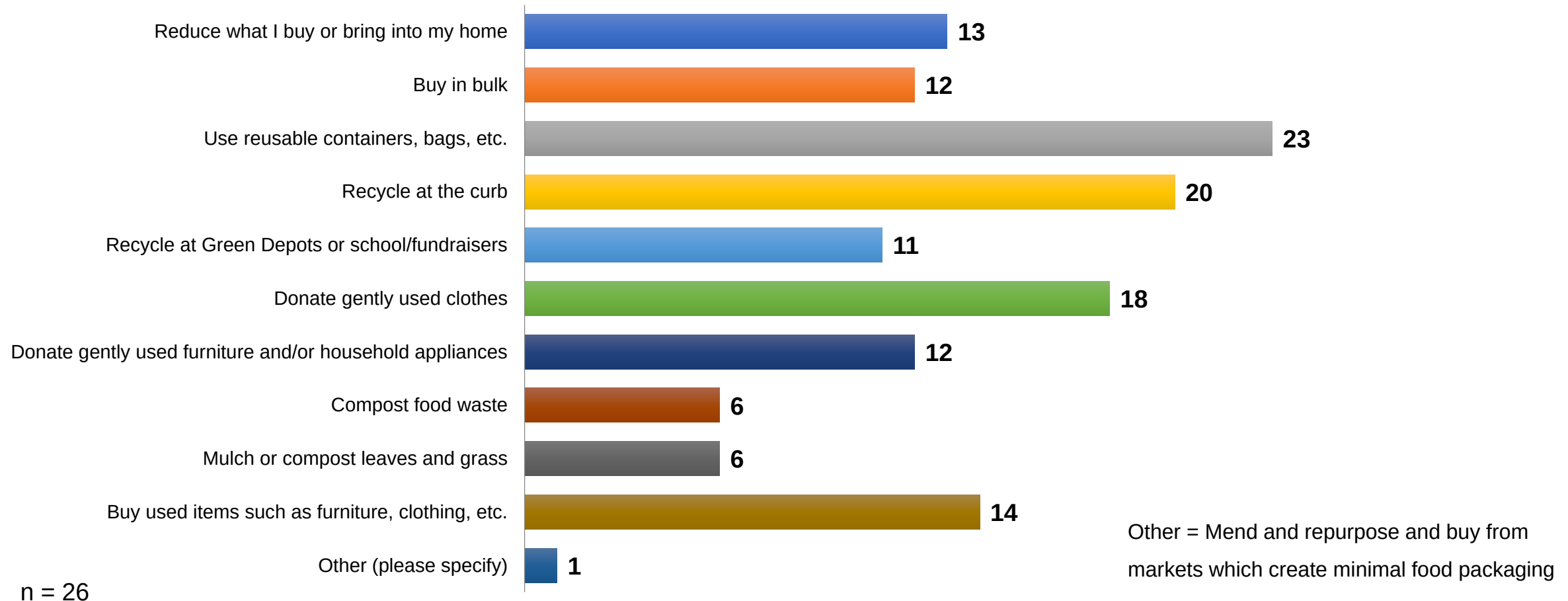
Survey respondents by city ward



n = 30

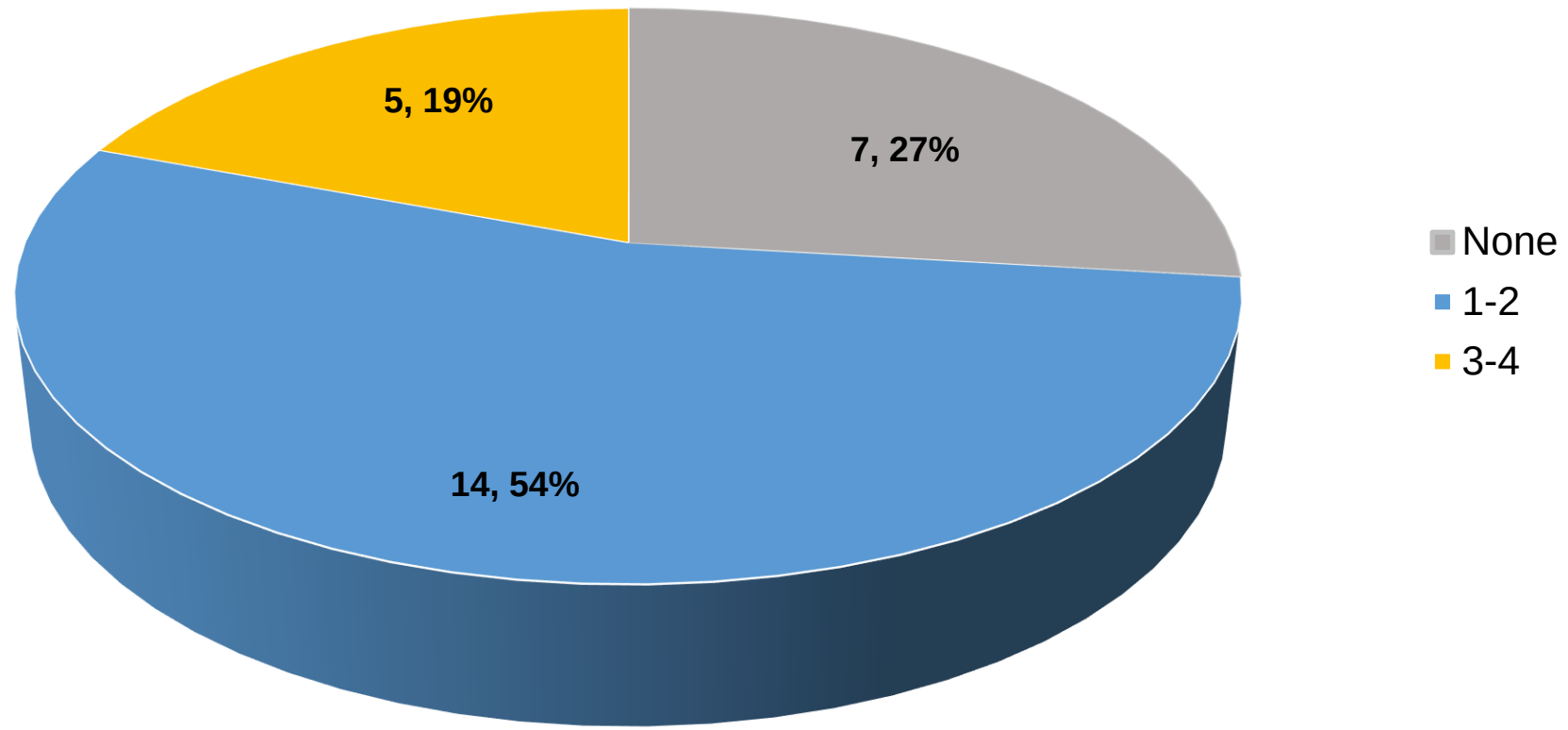
Waste Diversion – Survey 9.4 Results

Which ways do you aim to reduce your household waste? (Select all that apply)



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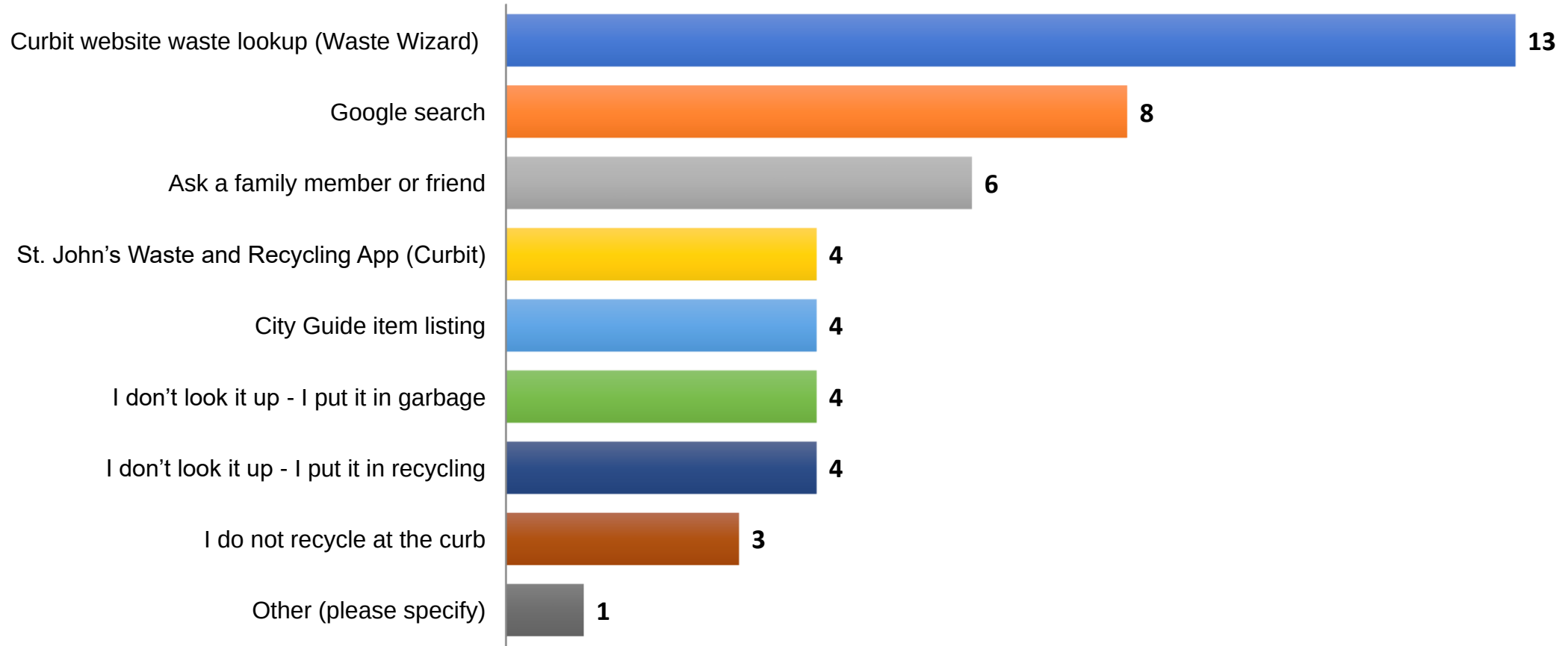
There is no limit to the number of blue bags put at the curb for collection – how many bags of recycling does your household typically put at the curb every second week?



n = 26

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If you are wondering if something is recyclable in blue bags, where do you learn if it is recyclable? (Select all that apply)

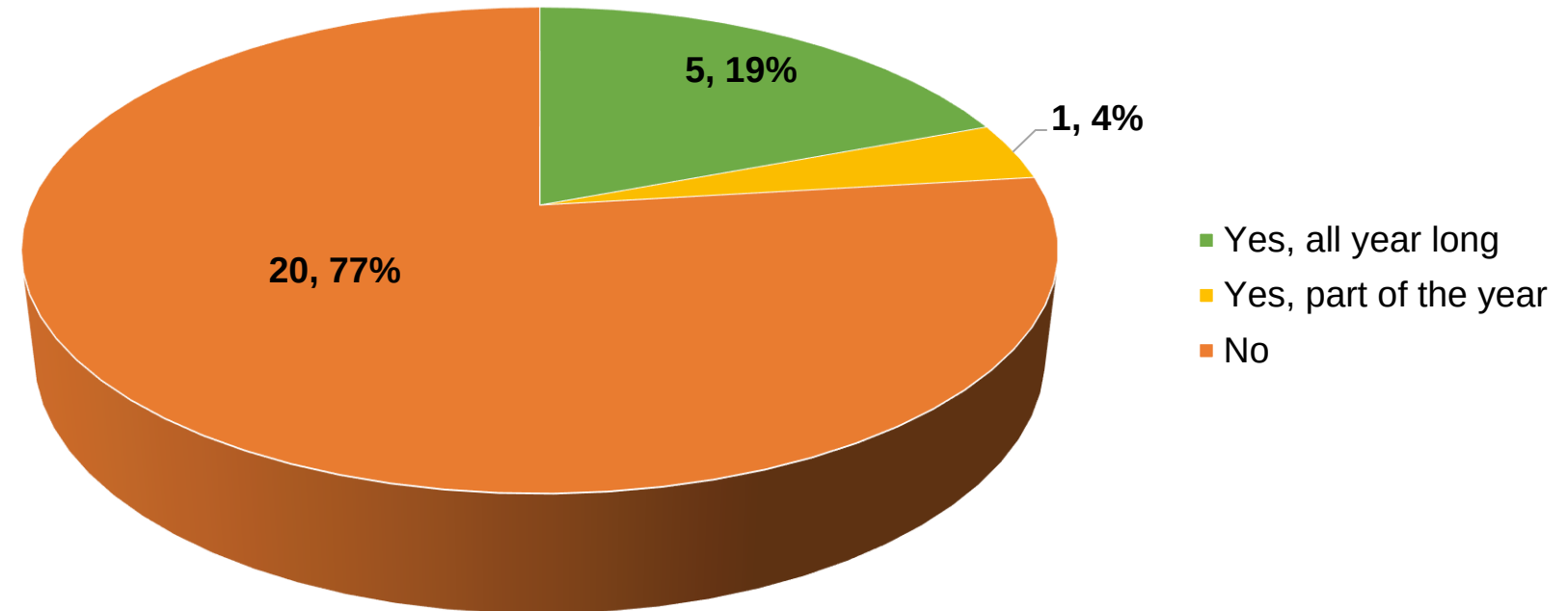


n = 26

Other = Recycleathomenl.ca, Rethinkwastenl.ca

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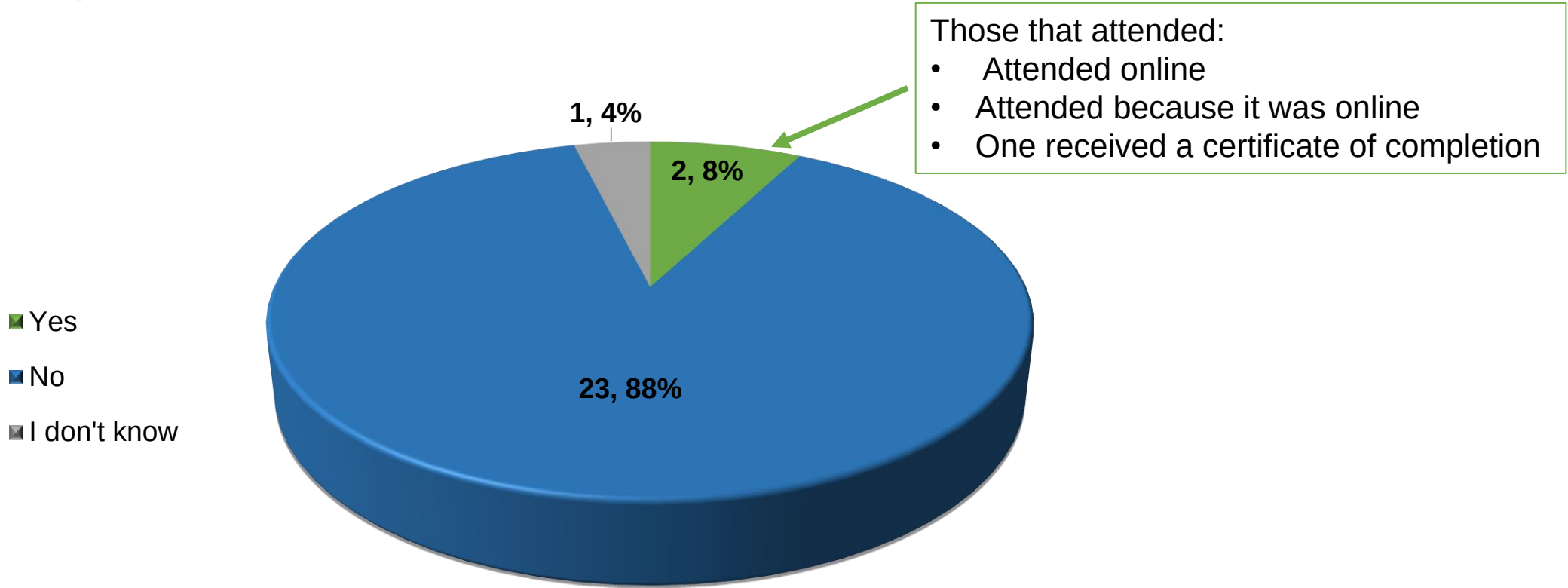
Do you compost at home?



n = 26

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The City of St. John's has partnered with the MUN Botanical Garden to provide free backyard composting information sessions. Have you attended any of these composting sessions?



n = 26

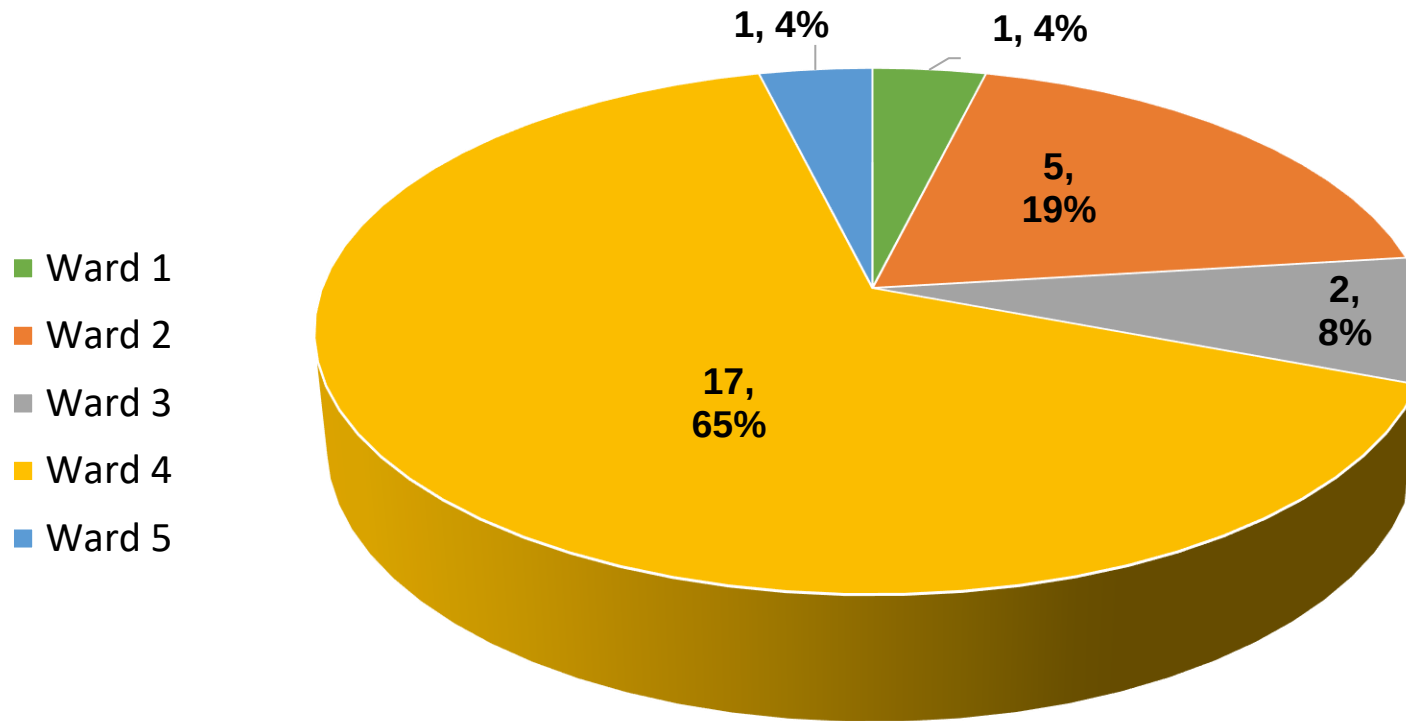
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Is there anything else you want to tell us about this topic?

- As an inner-city renter, I have no backyard. I would use a communal composting location if available.
- The online composting course should be promoted more. It is so easy.
- My landlord won't let me compost because they say it will attract rodents.
- Increased resources and support for people in apartment buildings would be appreciated.
- Bins should be more accessible, cost is prohibitive.
- Focus efforts on reduce/reuse, and less on recycling.
- As a renter it is difficult for me to compost here.
- City-wide compost service as a lot of folks don't have space to do it.
- Have a city-wide compost service, or incentives for buildings to have composters.

Survey respondents by city ward

Survey 9.4 Waste Diversion



n = 26

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New surveys and survey results will be published monthly. Check out the details from previous [surveys.](#)

