



Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

The Havering you want to be part of

www.havering.gov.uk

Name	The London Borough of Havering, Food Waste Survey Analysis
Version number	V1
Status	Appendix 8 to “Decision to implement domestic food waste collections, and delegate purchasing” report for Cabinet, January 2025.
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Date	16 December 2024

Food Waste Survey 2024

Website: <https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/environment/haverings-new-food-waste-collection>

Open Date: 9 October 2024

Close Date: 30 November 2024

How did you find out about this survey?	Survey responses	
	Number	Percent
Havering Council's e-newsletter	805	43%
Facebook	329	18%
Havering Council's website	326	17%
My local library	89	5%
Nextdoor	86	5%
X/(Twitter)	83	4%
Other	64	3%
From a friend or relative	46	2%
Councillor	18	1%
Newspaper	12	1%
Voluntary or community sector organisation	8	0%
Poster	2	0%
Total	1868	100%

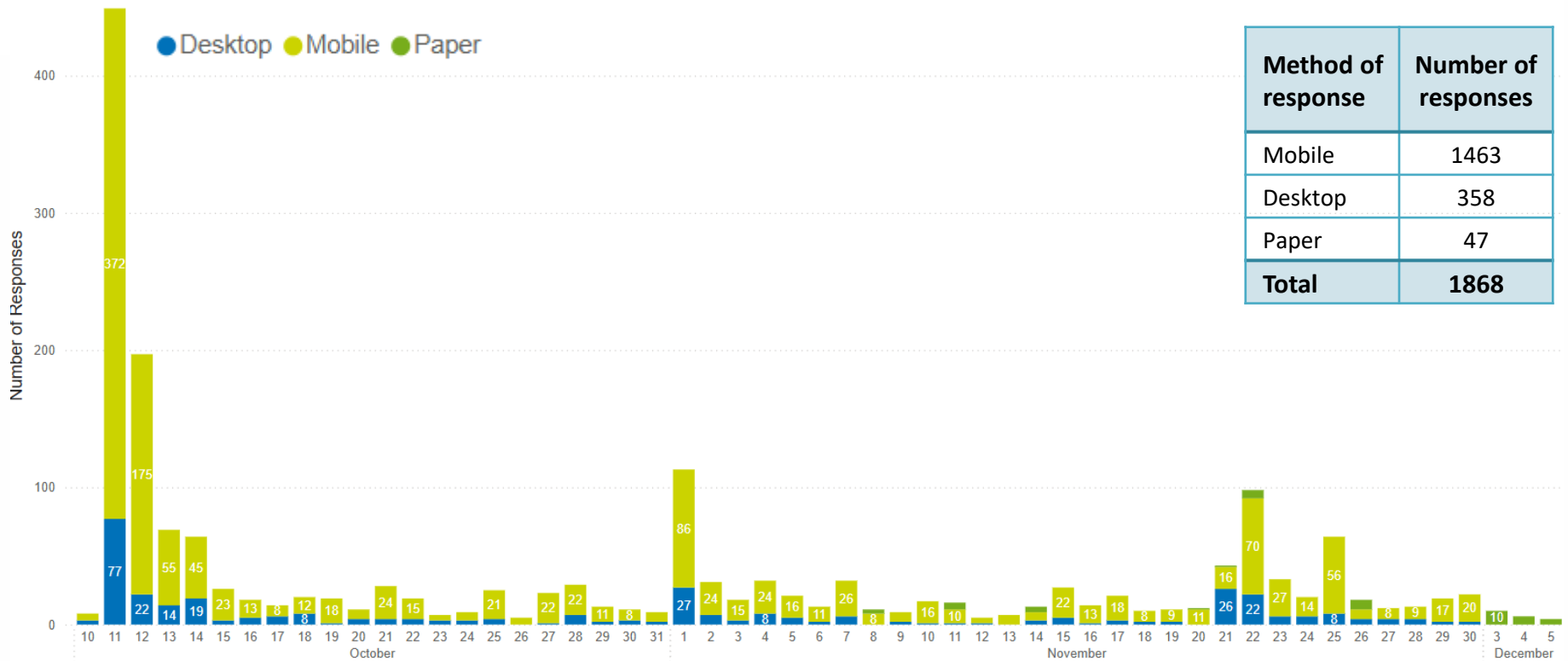
Method	Survey responses	
	Number	Percent
Online	1821	97%
Paper	47	3%
Total	1868	100%

805 residents (43%) found out about the food waste collection survey from the Living e-newsletter.

A further 18% found out from Facebook and 17% from the Council website.

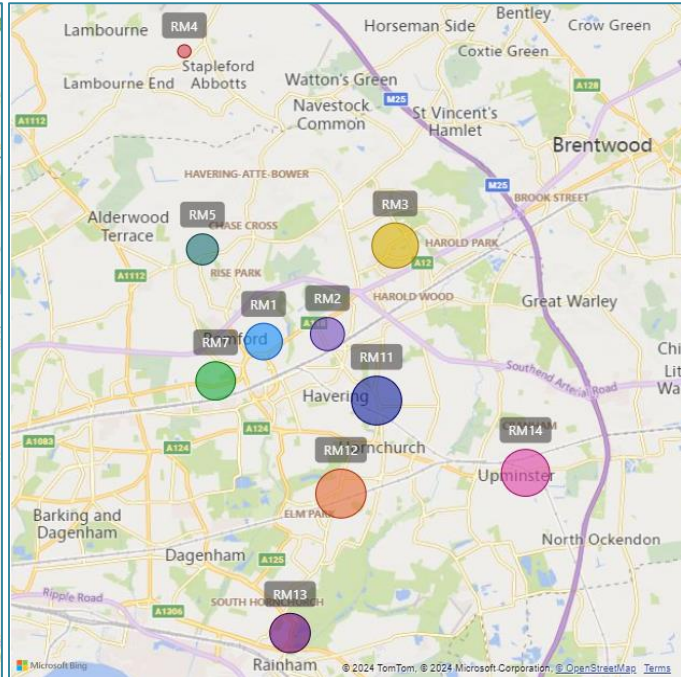
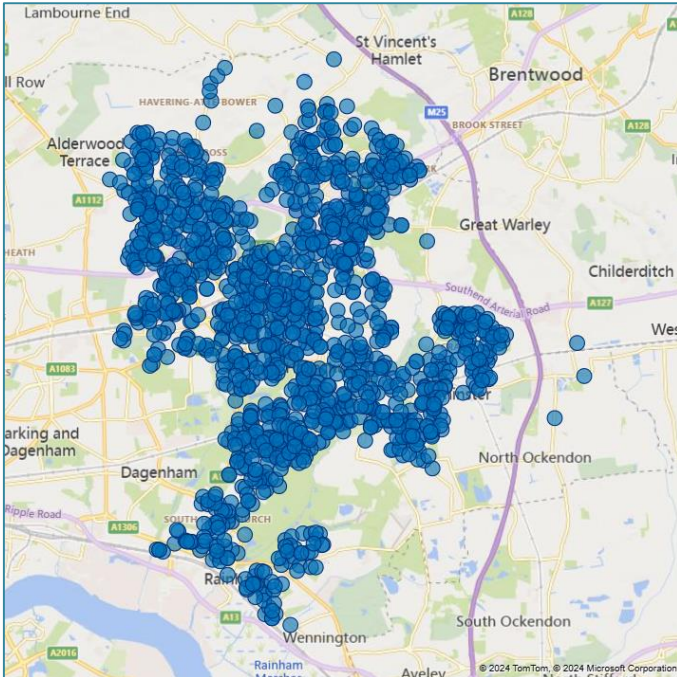
Response dates

Almost a quarter of responses (24%) were submitted on Friday 11th October, two days after the survey opened. There was an increase in responses on Friday 1st November, and Friday 22nd November, following reminder features in the Living in Havering e-newsletter. The most popular method of responding was online using a mobile device (phone or tablet). 47 paper copies were received before the closing date of the survey (20 of which were entered online between Dec 3-5).



Response postcode

The highest number of responses were from the RM12, RM11, RM14 and RM3 postcode areas.



Postcode	Survey responses	
	Number	Percent
RM12	298	16%
RM11	297	16%
RM14	272	15%
RM3	251	13%
RM13	184	10%
RM7	174	9%
RM1	154	8%
RM2	123	7%
RM5	105	6%
RM4	10	<1%
Total	1868	100%

How would you like to receive updates?

The most popular method of receiving updates is the Living e-newsletter, with almost two-thirds (61%) of respondents choosing this option. A further 43% of respondents would like to receive updates on the Havering website.

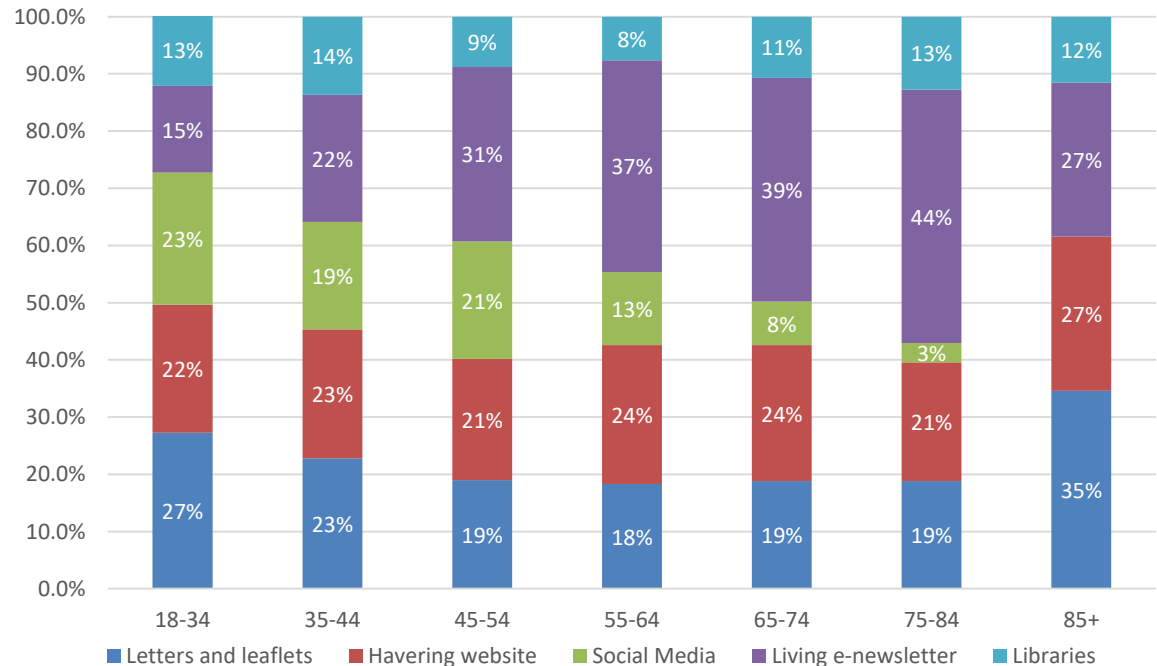
How would you like to receive updates?	Percentage of respondents *
Living e-newsletter	61%
Havering website	43%
Letters and leaflets	38%
Social media	26%
Libraries	20%
Billboard advertisements	7%
Community centres	7%
Places of worship / faith groups	4%
Radio advertisements	3%
Road shows	3%

How would you like to receive updates? – analysis by age group

The chart below shows the five most popular ways to receive updates, analysed by age group.

Letters and leaflets are the most popular choice for younger residents aged 18 to 44, and also the oldest residents aged 85+.

The Living e-newsletter is the most popular choice for residents aged 45 to 84.



*Respondents could select as many options as they wanted

N.B. Numbers may not always add up to 100% due to rounding

Gender

There were 1473 responses to this question, and 395 not answered.

Of those who provided a response, 70% were female and 23% male. A significantly higher proportion of female residents responded to this survey than the borough average (53%).

Gender	Survey responses		Havering average
	Number	Percent	Percent
Female	1035	70.3%	52.6%
Male	342	23.2%	47.4%
Another description (including non-binary and prefer not to say)	96	6.5%	Not available
Total	1222	100%	100%
<i>Not answered</i>	395	-	-

* Census 2021: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create>

Faith, religion, belief

There were 1428 responses to this question, and 440 not answered. Of those who provided a response, 51% were Christian, which is the slightly lower than the borough average. 32% had no religion, compared to the borough average of 29%. There were fewer responses from non-Christian religions (i.e. Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh) than the borough average.

Religion	Survey responses		Havering average
	Number	Percent	Percent
Buddhist	5	<1%	<1%
Christian	732	51%	55%
Hindu	16	1%	2%
Jewish	7	<1%	1%
Muslim	15	1%	5%
Sikh	8	<1%	2%
No religion	457	32%	29%
Other	26	1.5%	<1%
Prefer not to say	162	11%	5%
Total	1428	100%	100%
<i>Not answered</i>	440	-	-

Age

There were 1483 responses to this question, and 385 not answered. There was a significantly lower proportion of responses from younger age groups (18-24 and 25-34), and a significantly higher proportion of responses from older age groups (55-64, 65-74 and 75-84) than the borough average.

Age	Survey responses		Havering average (aged 18 and over only)*
	Number	Percent	Percent
18-24	1	<0.1%	9.5%
25-34	67	4.5%	17.8%
35-44	244	16.5%	18.0%
45-54	261	17.6%	16.5%
55-64	305	20.6%	15.6%
65-74	327	22.0%	11.8%
75-84	174	11.7%	7.4%
85+	21	1.4%	3.4%
Prefer not to say	83	5.6%	-
Total	1232	100%	100%
<i>Not answered</i>	245	-	-



*Census 2021: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create>

Ethnic origin

There were 1457 responses to this question, and 411 not answered. Of those who provided a response, 87% were 'White or White British', which is greater than the borough average of 79%. There were fewer responses from Asian / Asian British and Black / Black British residents than the borough average.

Ethnic origin	Survey responses		Havering average
	Number	Percent	Percent
Asian or Asian British	45	3%	10%
Black or Black British	26	2%	7%
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	24	2%	2%
Other ethnic group	4	<1%	2%
White or White British	1266	87%	79%
Prefer not to say	92	6%	-
Total	1457	100%	100%
<i>Not answered</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>-</i>	

Sexual orientation

There were 1443 responses to this question, and 425 not answered. Of those who provided a response, 86% were heterosexual.

There is no data available for a comparison with the borough average.

Sexual orientation	Survey responses	
	Number	Percent
Straight or heterosexual	1245	86%
Gay or lesbian	26	2%
Bisexual	24	2%
Another description	5	<1%
Prefer not to say	143	10%
Total	1443	100%
Not answered	425	-

* Census 2021: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create>

Disability

There were 1456 responses to this question, and 412 not answered. Of those who provided a response, 17% considered themselves to have a disability, impairment or health-condition. This is similar to the borough average.

Of the 314 residents declaring a disability, the most common disability was long-term illness, (44%) followed by sensory e.g. hearing or sight impairment (30%).

20 residents who responded to this survey currently receive an assisted collection.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability, impairment or health-condition?	Survey responses		Havering average
	Number	Percent	Percent
Yes	314	17%	17.3%
No	1044	56%	82.7%
Prefer not to say	98	5%	-
Total	1456	100%	100%
<i>Not answered</i>	412	-	

Description of disability* *respondents were able to select more than one description	Number of respondents	
	Number	Percent
Sensory	94	30%
Physical	82	26%
Mental illness	47	15%
Developmental or Educational	27	9%
Learning disability / condition	3	1%
Long-term illness	139	44%
Other	39	12%

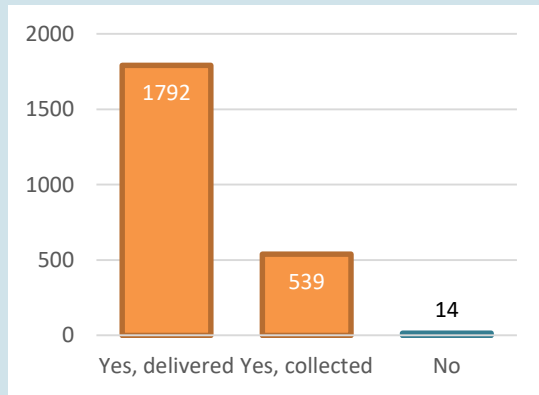
*Census 2021: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create>

Do you receive an assisted collection?	Yes	No / not answered
Survey responses	20 (1%)	1848 (98%)

How you recycle – Orange Sacks

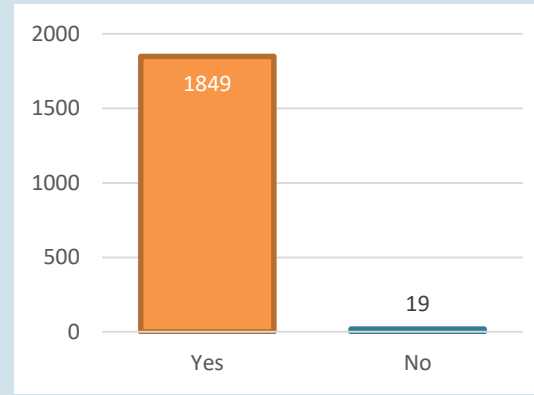
Have you received Havering orange recycling sacks in the past 6 months?

Respondents were able to select more than one option.



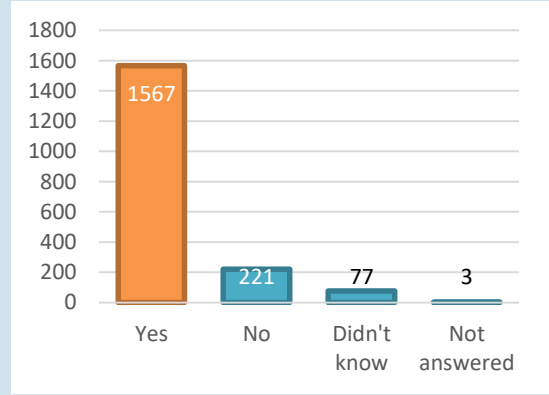
The majority of residents who responded to this survey had received orange recycling sacks in the past six months. Of these residents, 477 (27%) also collected additional orange sacks. 62 residents stated they did not have a delivery but they collected their orange sacks. There was no particular location which did not receive sacks.

Do you currently use the orange sack recycling service?



Almost all residents (99%) who responded to the survey currently use the orange sack recycling service.

Do you recycle your glass in the orange recycling sack?



84% of residents recycle glass in their orange sack.

If you answered "No", can you tell us why you don't use the orange sack recycling service?

Of the 19 residents who do not use the orange sack recycling service, the main reason was lack of space for storing their recycling.

11 residents provided a comment for this question. Of these, just under half (5) stated they do not receive enough orange sacks or they are not delivered frequently enough.

Why don't you use the orange sack recycling service?*	Survey responses	
	Number	Percent
No space for storage	11	58%
I don't receive sacks	5	26%
I don't believe it gets recycled	4	21%
Too much work	2	11%
I don't know what to recycle	2	11%
I don't produce recyclable waste	-	-
Other	1	5%

Opinions about recycling

How do you feel about recycling?

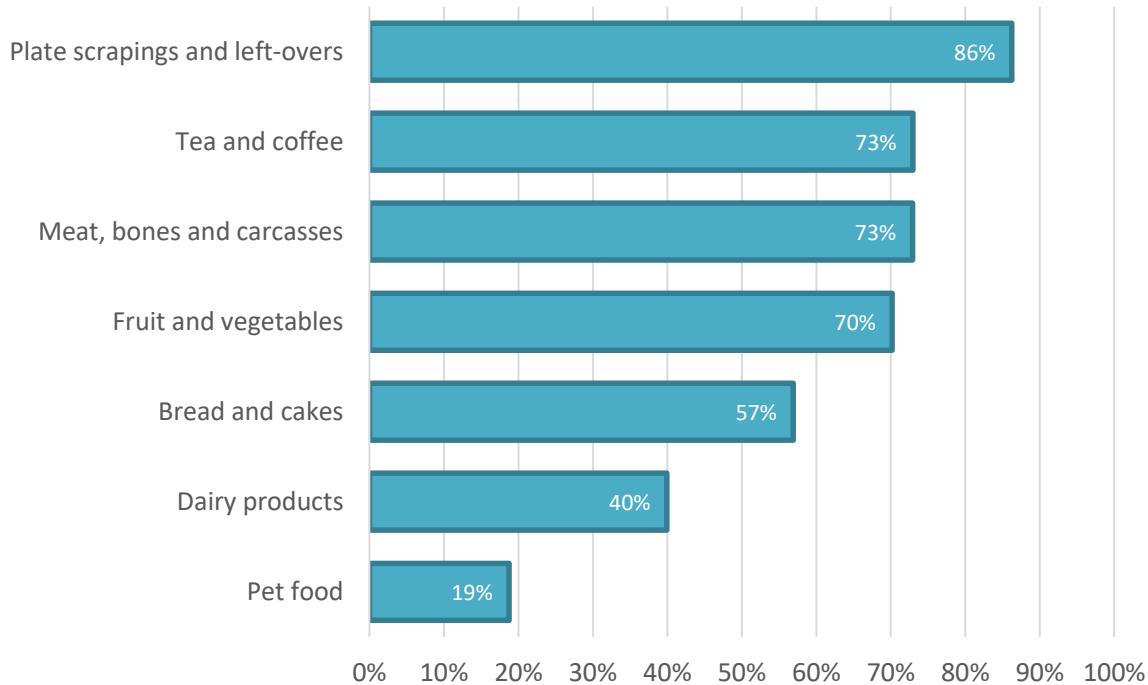
There was resounding agreement with all of the statements in the survey.

How do you feel about recycling?	Responses				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	No preference	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Residents should recycle as much as possible	79%	16%	4%	1%	<1%
It is important that the Council keeps the borough clean and tidy	92%	8%	<1%	<1%	<1%
The Council should make it easy for residents to recycle	87%	11%	2%	<1%	<1%
The Council should save money by reducing overall waste	71%	20%	7%	1%	1%
The Council should meet national recycling targets	63%	23%	12%	1%	1%

Please tell us the type of food waste you would normally throw away in your black sacks.

Respondents were able to select more than one option.

The most common type of food waste thrown away in black sacks is plate scrapings and left-overs.



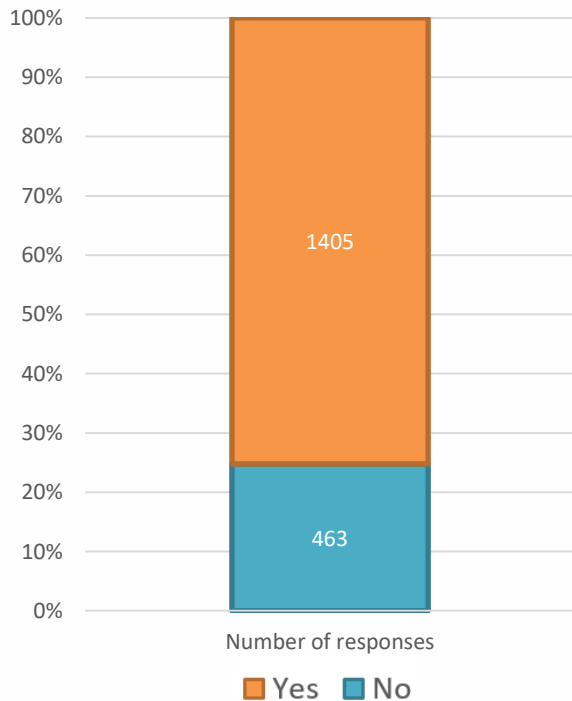
Do you currently compost any of your food waste at home?

Just over a quarter of residents who completed the survey currently compost their food waste.

Do you compost?	Survey responses	
	Number	Percent
Yes	486	26%
No	1147	62%
No, I am not able to	232	12%
Total	1865	100%
<i>Not answered</i>	3	-

Would you use a dedicated weekly food waste collection service?

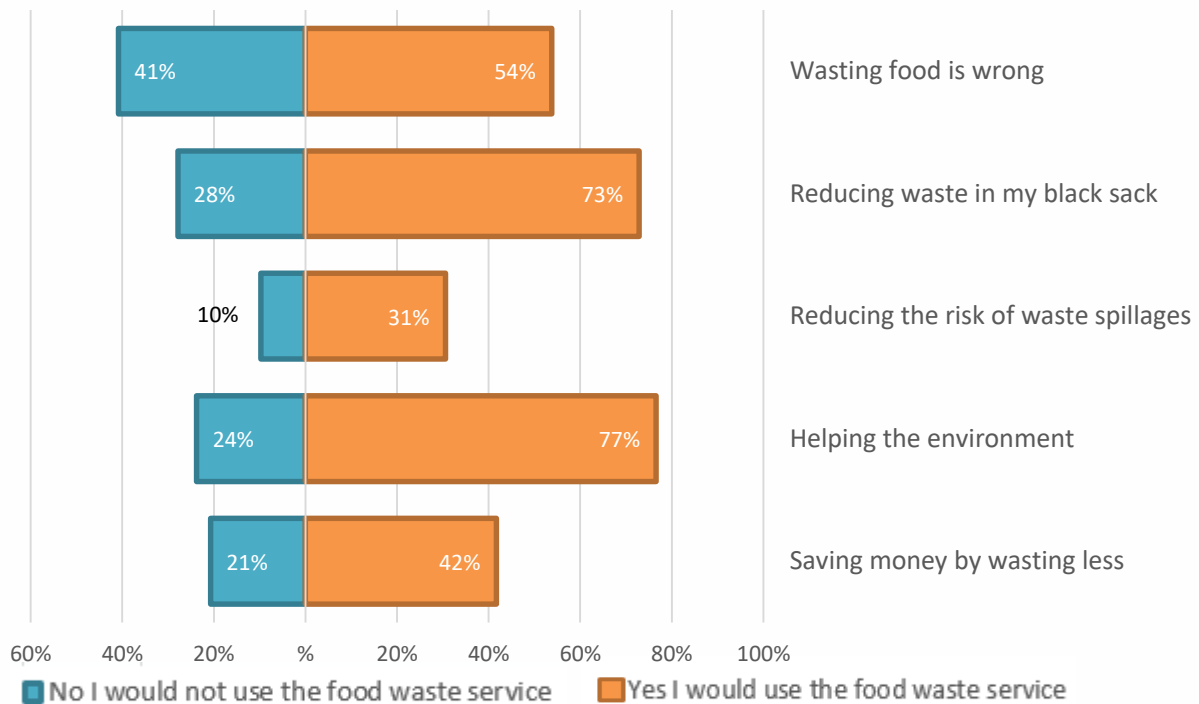
75% of residents who responded to the survey would use a dedicated weekly food waste collection service.



How would reducing food waste benefit you and your household?

Respondents were able to select more than one option.

The biggest benefits of reducing food waste to households were helping the environment and reducing black sack waste. Residents who stated they would not use the food waste service were less likely to perceive any benefits from reducing food waste than those who would.

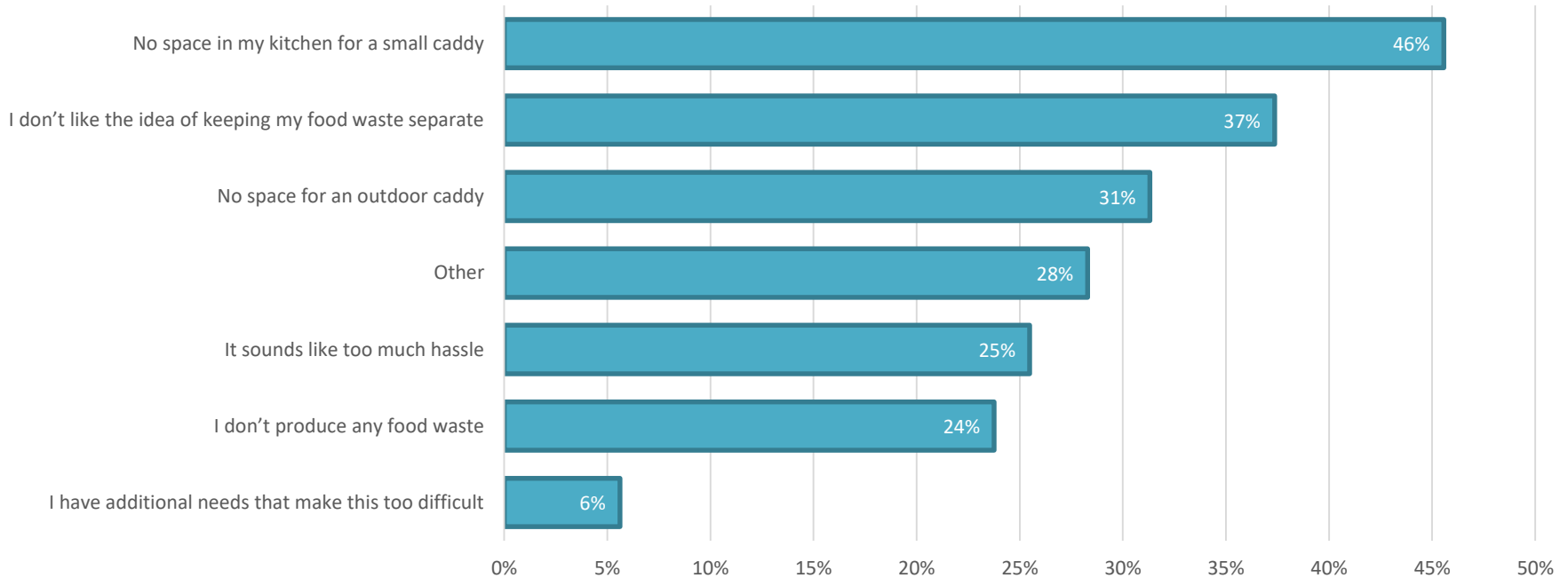


If you would not use the food waste service, what is stopping you?

Respondents were able to select more than one option.

The top reasons for not using the food waste service were lack of space indoors (46%) and outdoors (31%), and a dislike of keeping food waste separate.

A quarter of residents who would not use the food waste service, stated they do not produce any food waste.



If you answered “No” to using a dedicated weekly food waste collection, what would stop you from using this service? – “other”

174 residents who stated they would not use the food waste service provided an additional comment. The most common themes were:

Hygiene and smell issues (45)

Residents are concerned about the smell and hygiene of keeping food waste, particularly in the summer, which could attract flies, maggots, and other pests.

Vermin and pests (28)

There are significant worries about food waste attracting vermin such as flies, rats, mice, and foxes, which could lead to health hazards and increased pest activity.

Minimal food waste production (28)

Many individuals noted that they produce very little food waste, making a separate collection service unnecessary.

Existing waste management practices (30)

Many residents already use composting methods or waste disposal units, reducing the need for a separate food waste collection service.

Aesthetics, practicality and space (11)

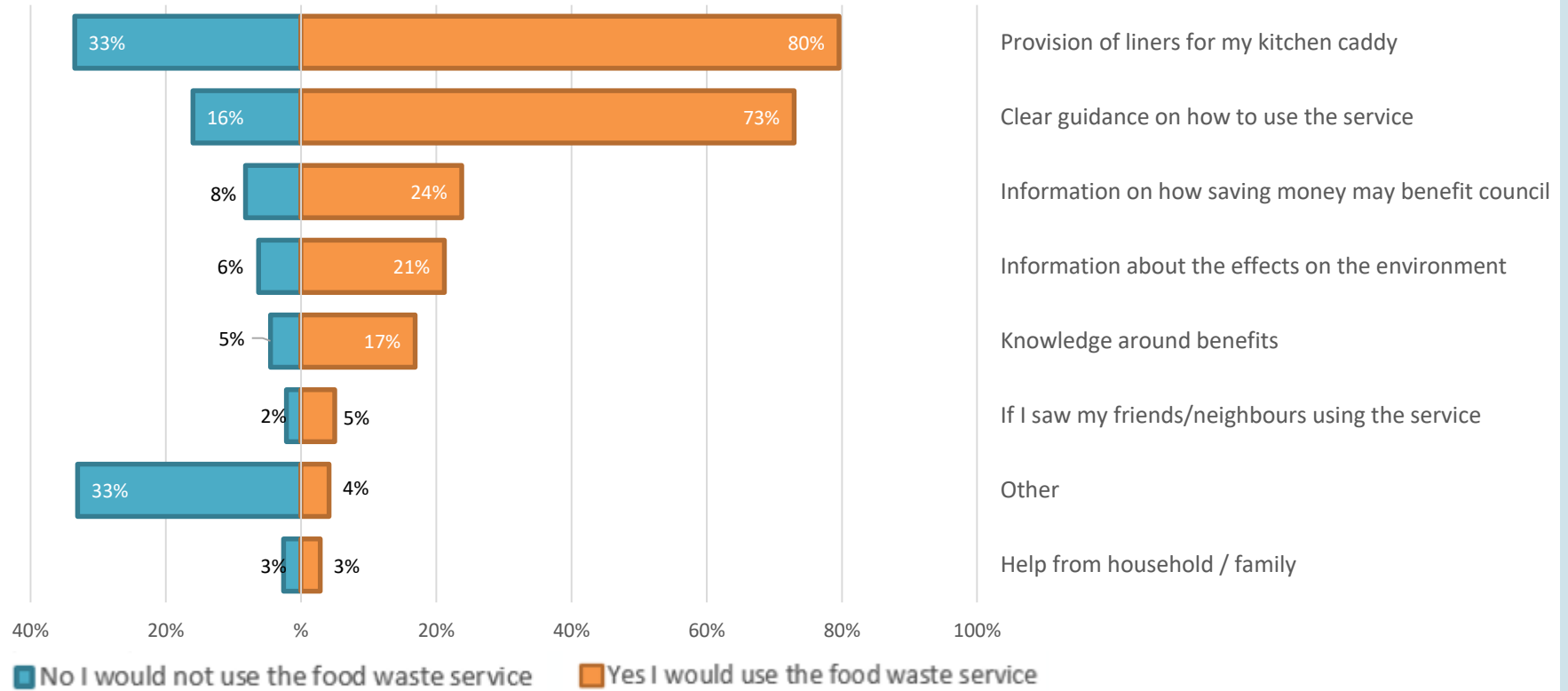
Concerns about having enough space for additional bins, living in a flat and the practicality of managing food waste collections were mentioned. There are also concerns that the food waste bins or caddies are not aesthetically pleasing and will be an eyesore either in the home or on kerbside.

Environmental and Financial Costs (18):

Some residents believe that the financial and environmental costs of implementing a food waste collection service outweigh the benefits.

What might encourage or enable you to use a designated food waste collection service?

Respondents were able to select more than one option.



What might encourage or enable you to use a designated food waste collection service? – “other”

175 residents who stated they would not use the food waste service, provided an additional comment. The most common themes were:

Nothing – refusal to participate (64)

64 residents said that nothing will encourage them to use the service.

Provision of containers (33)

There were 33 requests for the provision of appropriate containers, such as outdoor bins, caddies, and liners, to facilitate food waste collection.

Not required due to existing practices (31)

Several residents stated that they already compost their food waste (18) or have minimal waste (12) or use their green bin (1) and therefore do not need a separate collection service.

Concerns about pests (13)

Many residents expressed concerns about pests such as foxes and vermin, suggesting that secure, animal-proof containers are necessary.

Collection reliability (11)

Assurance of regular and reliable collection was a significant factor for many residents.

Financial incentives (7)

Some residents suggested that financial incentives, such as council tax reductions or discounts (6), and knowing the cost (1), would encourage them to use the service.

Environmental benefits (7)

Some respondents emphasized the importance of recycling food waste for environmental reasons and would use the service if it were available.

More information / education (5)

Education on the benefits of food waste recycling and how to properly use the service was suggested to increase participation.

Do you have any other ideas or suggestions about our proposals for a weekly food waste collection from households?

518 respondents provided a suggestion. The most common themes were:

Education and community involvement	Residents suggest using case studies, community meetings, and educational materials to encourage participation and inform about the benefits of the food waste collection service. Involving the community through educational programs, especially targeting schools and local businesses, was also suggested to ensure widespread adoption.
Updates and transparency	Residents requested regular updates on the program's success, including statistics on recycling rates and environmental benefits.
Concerns about containers, caddies and bins	Many residents express concerns about the durability and effectiveness of the provided caddy liners, as well as the need for secure, animal-proof containers to prevent messes.
Collection points and frequency / integration with current service	There are questions about where food waste containers will be placed, especially in communal areas, and the necessity of ensuring weekly collections to avoid odour and hygiene issues.
Costs	Suggestions include financial incentives for participating households and concerns about the potential costs of implementing the service, including the cost of liners and bins
Environmental and practical benefits	Highlighting the environmental benefits, such as reduced landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions, is seen as crucial for gaining public support.
Concerns about vermin	There are significant concerns about attracting vermin, such as rats and foxes, and the need for secure, lockable bins to mitigate this issue.
Opposition and Scepticism	Some residents are opposed to the initiative, citing concerns about its effectiveness, potential mess, and additional burden on households.

Overall summary of survey:

Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1868 residents responded• 43% found out about the survey from the Living in Havering e-newsletter• There was a low proportion of responses from younger age groups (18-24 and 25-34),• There was a high proportion of responses from older age groups (55-64, 65-74 and 75-84)
Communication Preferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letters and leaflets are the most popular communication choice for younger residents aged 18 to 44, and also the oldest residents aged 85+.• The Living e-newsletter is the most popular communication choice for residents aged 45 to 84.
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almost all residents (99%) who responded to the survey currently use the orange sack recycling service.• 84% of residents recycle glass in their orange sack.
Composting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just over a quarter of residents who completed the survey currently compost their food waste.
Food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 75% of residents who responded to the survey would use a dedicated weekly food waste collection service• The top reasons for not using the food waste service were lack of space indoors (46%) and outdoors (31%).• Another big concern was a dislike of keeping food waste separate, for hygiene reasons and concerns about pests.