

Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority Public Opinion Survey Results Report Executive Summary

June 2024



**Monongalia County
Solid Waste Authority**



Market and Opinion Research

This project was made possible by grant funding provided by the WV Department of Environmental Protection. The Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors and Director would like to thank the WV Department of Environmental Protection for the grant funds and support of this project.

For more information about Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority's 2024 Public Opinion Survey Results Reports contact the Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority by phone at (304) 292-3801 or by email at moncountyswa@gmail.com.

To view copies of this Executive Summary and reports online visit the Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority's website www.monongaliacountyswa.com or email moncountyswa@gmail.com for a copy if you are unable to download a copy from the website.

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Executive Summary of Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority 2024 Public Opinion Survey Results

The Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority was awarded funds from the WV Department of Environmental Protection REAP grant to hire a selected firm to conduct a public opinion research survey in Monongalia County. The plan was to obtain baseline data of residents' attitudes, behaviors, barriers, and opinions regarding reducing waste, and various disposal and recycling methods, and other local efforts, to divert waste going to the landfill. The Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority requested actionable and representative survey data to inform their 2025 Comprehensive Litter and Solid Waste Control Plan, guide collaboration with stakeholders to address issues, and to maintain or continue progress in successful areas. The Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority plans to repeat the process in 5-years to compare data to the baseline, evaluate outcomes, address issues of concern, maintain successes and continue to plan as needed.

The survey topics ranged from the Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority's collection events, educational information and residents' interests to importance of reducing waste to the landfill, other collection events within Monongalia County, non-curbside general recycling, willingness to pay for non-curbside general recycling and composting. Highlights from the topics covered are below. Details, and additional information, can be found in the Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority Public Opinion Survey Results Report. Detailed information related to cross-tabulation data can be found in the Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority Public Opinion Survey Results with Cross-Tabulations Report.

General Survey Findings

The top three most important environmental issue facing the resident's community today were Climate change/the environment/deforestation (17%), Recycling/properly disposing of waste (14%) and Littering/roadside dumping/too much garbage (13%) (Chart 1). Eighty-nine percent of residents say it is important that their household reduces waste that goes to the landfill with 67% of those residents saying it was very important (Chart 2). When asked how they would like to receive information regarding reducing waste, recycling, composting, disposing or other solid waste topics 32% said they would be interested in attending a virtual meeting (Chart 4). When asked how confident they are about the ways to properly prepare their recyclable items 80% indicated they were confident and among those 55% said they were somewhat confident (Chart 3). Forty-eight percent of residents said they would be interested in having a Community Composting area in their neighborhood or in the County (Chart 4).

Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority Collection Events

- 79% say Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority collection events are important for them to recycle or properly dispose of their hard to recycle or dispose of items, among them, 63% saying it was very important.
- 20% attended at least one Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority collection event in the last two years and reported the event was well organized (54%), event staff were helpful and professional (53%), and event was easy to find (53%).
- When asked about ways to improve the event residents said increase the number of times events are held (63%), have additional similar "hard to dispose of or recycle" opportunities (53%) and increase event notice (50%).
- 19% said there were *barriers* keeping them from attending Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority collection events with 55% citing not knowing when the events were scheduled, 28% couldn't make it on the date and 18% were not sure where to go.

Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority Education Materials and Residents' Interests

When asked what *topics* they were interested in learning more about residents said

- disposing of hard to dispose of items (52%)
- community general recycling (37%)
- recycling hard to recycle items (36%)
- household hazardous waste (31%)
- e-cycling (22%)

When asked about the *kind of information* they were interested in residents said

- where to dispose of hard to dispose of items (54%)
- where to recycle hard to recycle items (49%)
- how to reduce waste going to the landfill (34%)
- how to recycle properly to reduce contamination (32%)

17% reported having received or viewed Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority's articles, calendars, e-newsletter, or website with 86% saying they find the information they received valuable and among those finding the information valuable, 62% said very valuable.

Other Collection Events within Monongalia County Hosted by Other Organizations

- 22% attended a collection event in Monongalia County in the last year (hosted by other organizations).
 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event (16%)
 - Tire Collection (7%)
 - Paint Exchange (5%)
- 22% said there are *barriers* keeping them from attending Monongalia County collection events saying they didn't know when the events were scheduled (66%), couldn't make it on the date (23%) and not sure where to go (22%).
- 64% are interested in attending a Monongalia County event if they were held more frequently throughout the year.

Non-curbside General Recycling (aluminum, glass, paper, and plastic)

- 77% believe non-curbside Community General Recycling is important in their community.
 - Among those who said important, 66% said very important
- 56% are interested in non-curbside Community General Recycling of aluminum, glass, paper, and plastic.
 - Among those interested in non-curbside Community General Recycling, 28% cite convenient locations would help them begin recycling their general recyclable items.
- 22% would be interested in non-curbside Community General Recycling if there was a cost.
 - Among those interested in non-curbside Community General Recycling if there was a cost, 85% would be willing to spend less than \$10 a month.
- 83% say that it is important that their community works with neighboring stakeholders to increase non-curbside recycling.
- 55% of households currently recycle their general recyclable items.
 - Among those who currently recycle their general recyclable items, 63% curbside recycle and 37% use Monongalia County recycling sites.
 - Among those who currently recycle their general recyclable items, 35% cite not being able to go during operation hours as their top barrier.
- 21% described non-curbside Community General Recycling as convenient.

The results represent 600 participants from Monongalia County with residents completing the survey by phone or online during May 24 – June 2, 2024. The Survey Methodology details can be found on page 2 and the Demographics on page 44 of the Survey Results Report.



General Survey Findings Charts

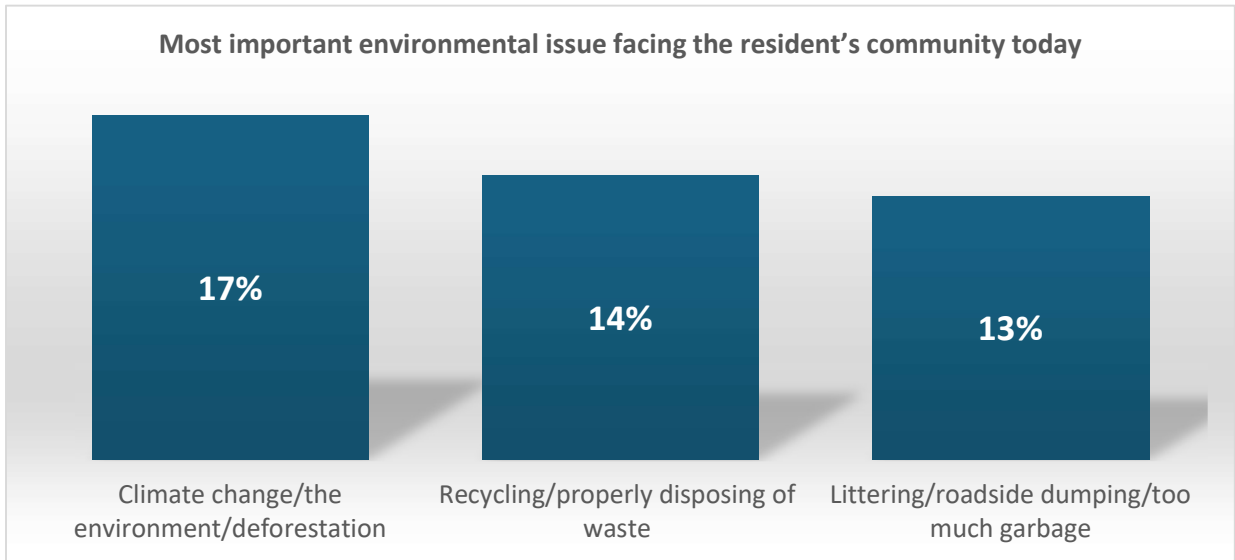


Chart 1

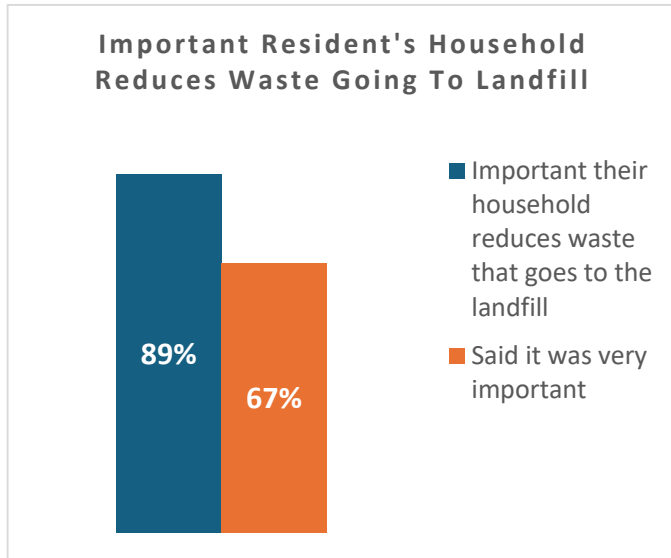


Chart 2

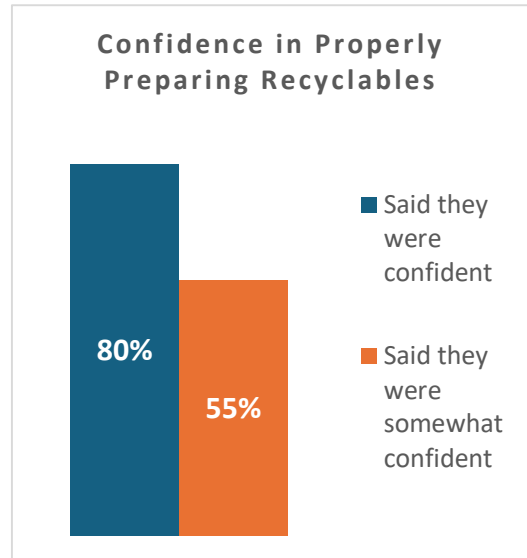


Chart 3

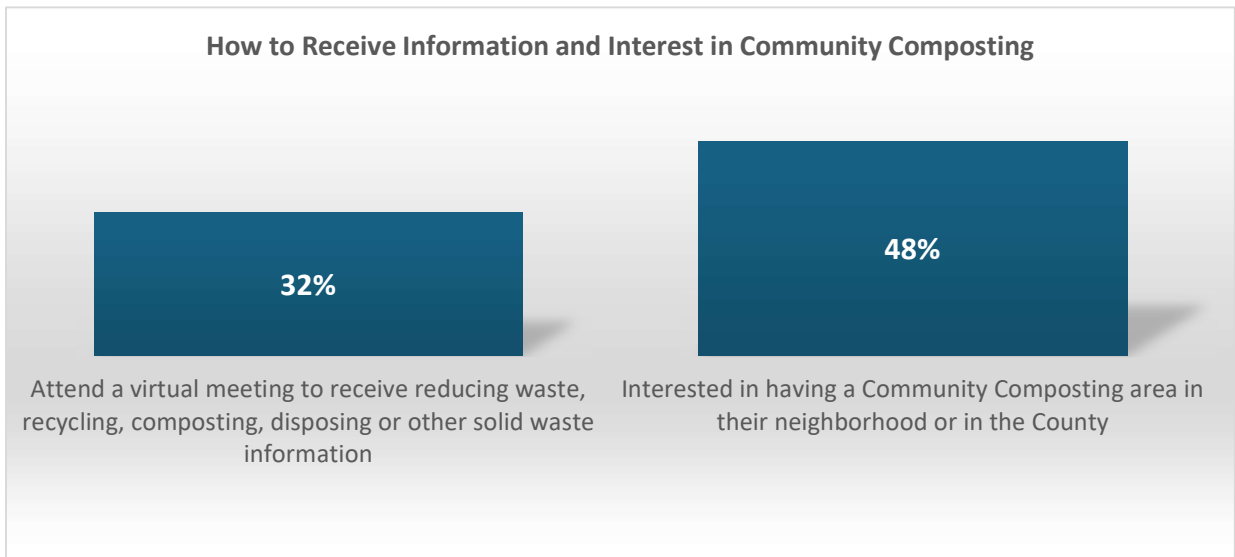


Chart 4



Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority

**For more information about Monongalia County Solid Waste Authority's
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