



# FoodCycler™

## On-Site Organics Diversion Program

Prepared for:  
RM of East St. Paul  
March 15 2023

Presented by:  
Food Cycle Science  
Jessica Taylor

# About Us

- Canadian company based out of Ottawa, Ontario
- 100% focused on Food Waste Diversion Solutions
- Official Canoe Procurement Group of Canada approved supplier
- Recent Awards include:
  - Finalists in Impact Canada's Food Waste Reduction Challenge
  - Selected as one of the 2021 Deloitte Fast 50 CleanTech award winners
  - #137 on Globe & Mail's Canada's Top Growing Companies for 2022

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Municipal Partnerships ... and counting!



# Pilot Program Recap

○ With support from Impact Canada's Food Waste Reduction Challenge, a pilot program was run in East St. Paul that included 200 participating households.

○ Net cost to the Municipality was \$20,000 + Shipping + HST

○ Program ran from October 2022 to December 2022

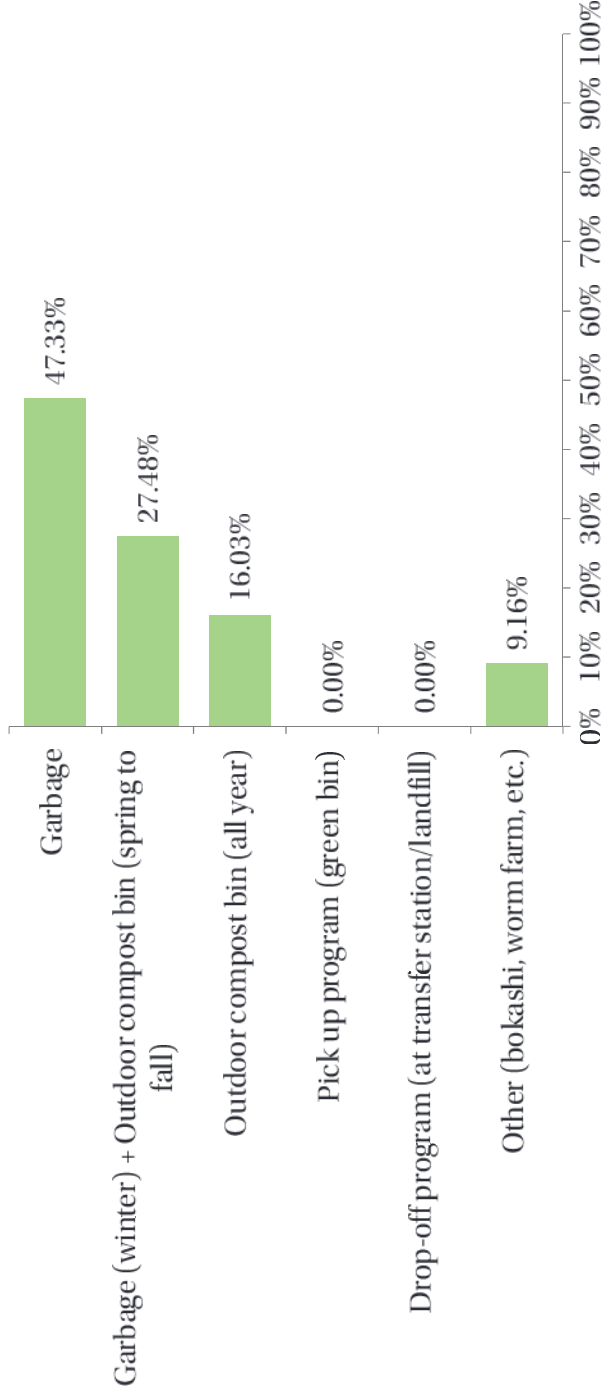
- Usage was tracked for 12 weeks to calculate total waste diversion.
- Participants completed a survey to provide data and feedback.



# Pilot Program Results

133 responses collected out of 200 participants (67%)

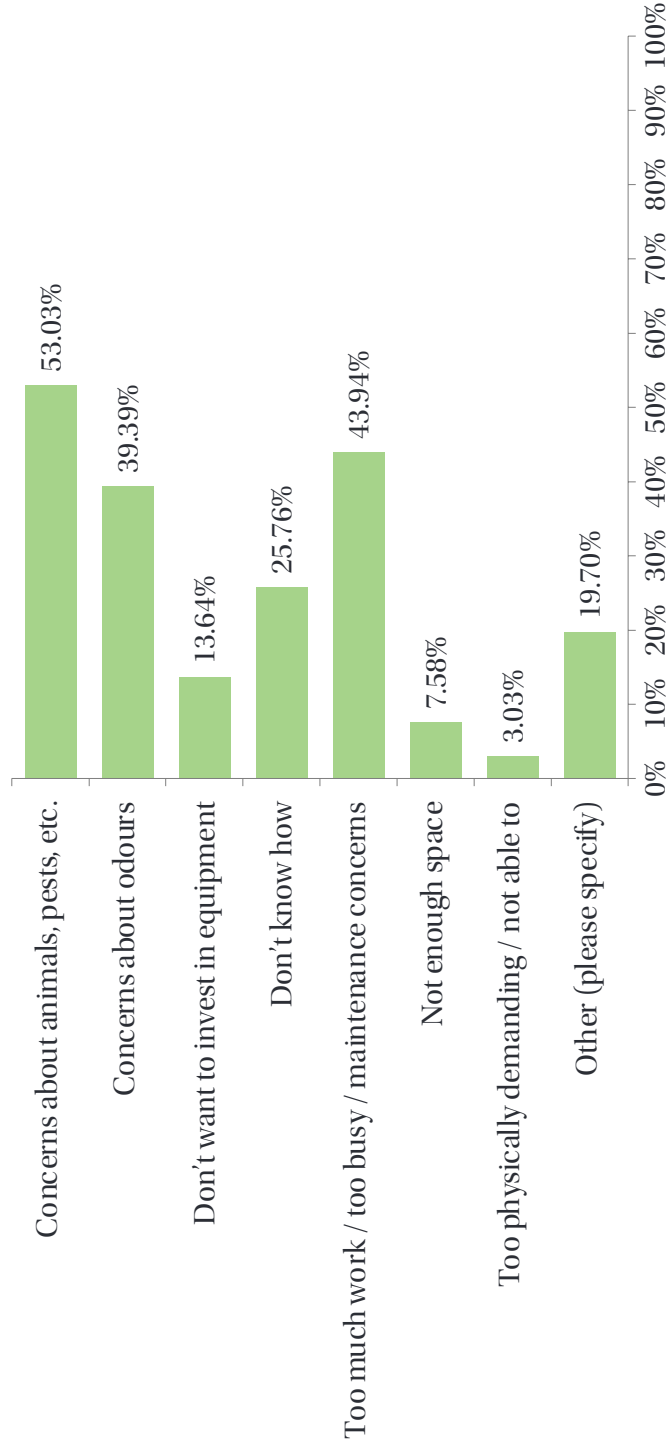
- How important is greenhouse gas reduction to you? 8.4/10
- How important is waste reduction to you? 9.0/10
- Where does your food waste currently go?



# Pilot Program Results



## Why don't you compost?



## Pilot Program Results

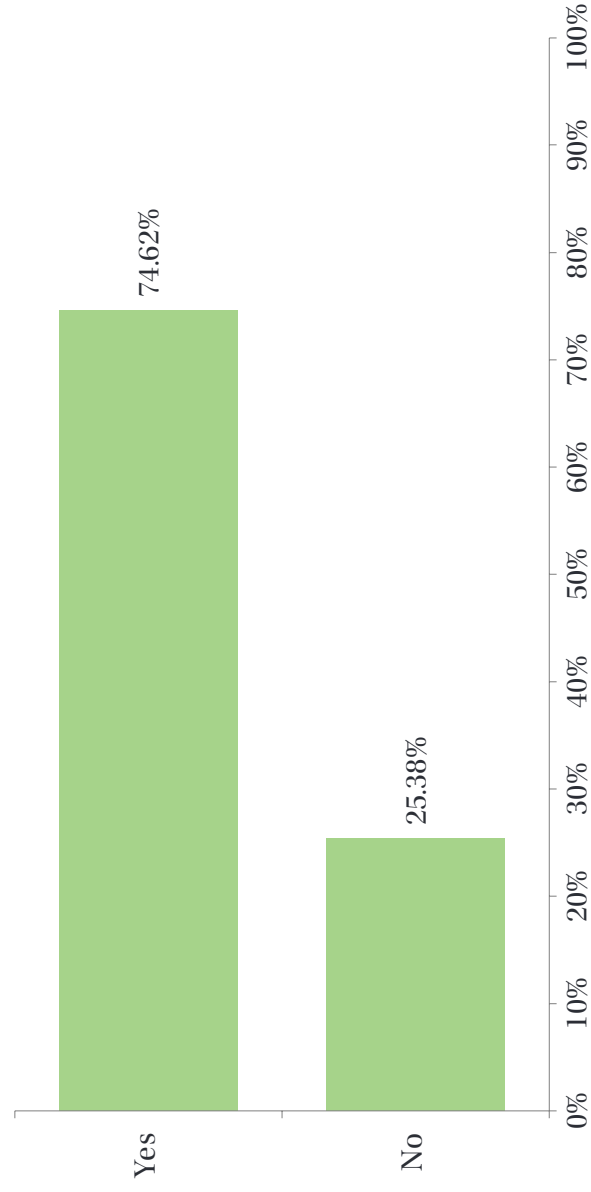
- Average of 4.3 cycles per week
  - Equivalent to ~224 kg/year/household
  - Total of 44.8 metric tonnes (MT) of food waste diverted from landfill/year from 200 FoodCyclers in use
  - Equivalent to preventing ~58.2 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e/year (compared to disposing of food waste in landfill)



# Pilot Program Results



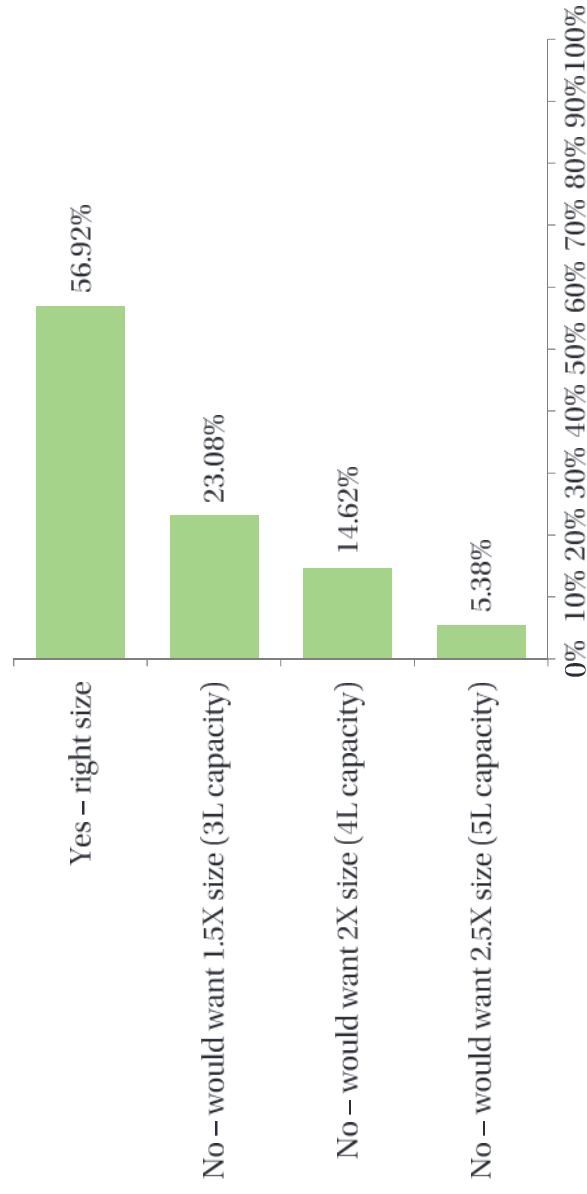
Did increased awareness of food waste motivate you to waste less food?





# Pilot Program Results

Was the FoodCycler sufficiently large for the quantity of daily food waste you generated?



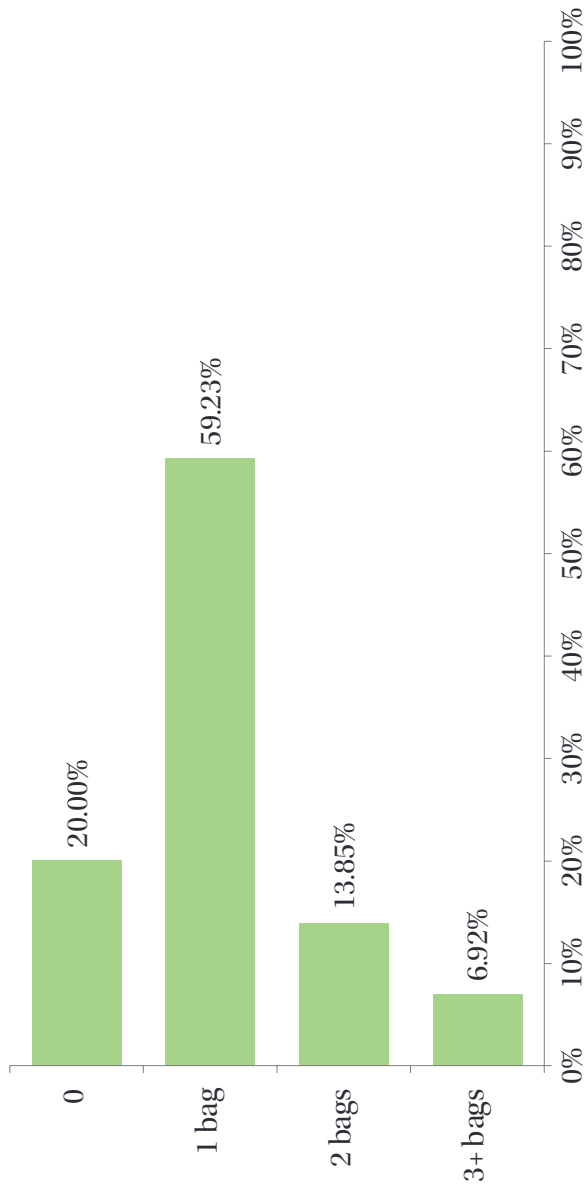
**Suggestions:**

- Spare bucket to double capacity
- Consider new FoodCycler Maestro with 5L capacity



# Pilot Program Results

Using your best estimate, how much did you reduce your monthly garbage production as a result of diverting your food waste?

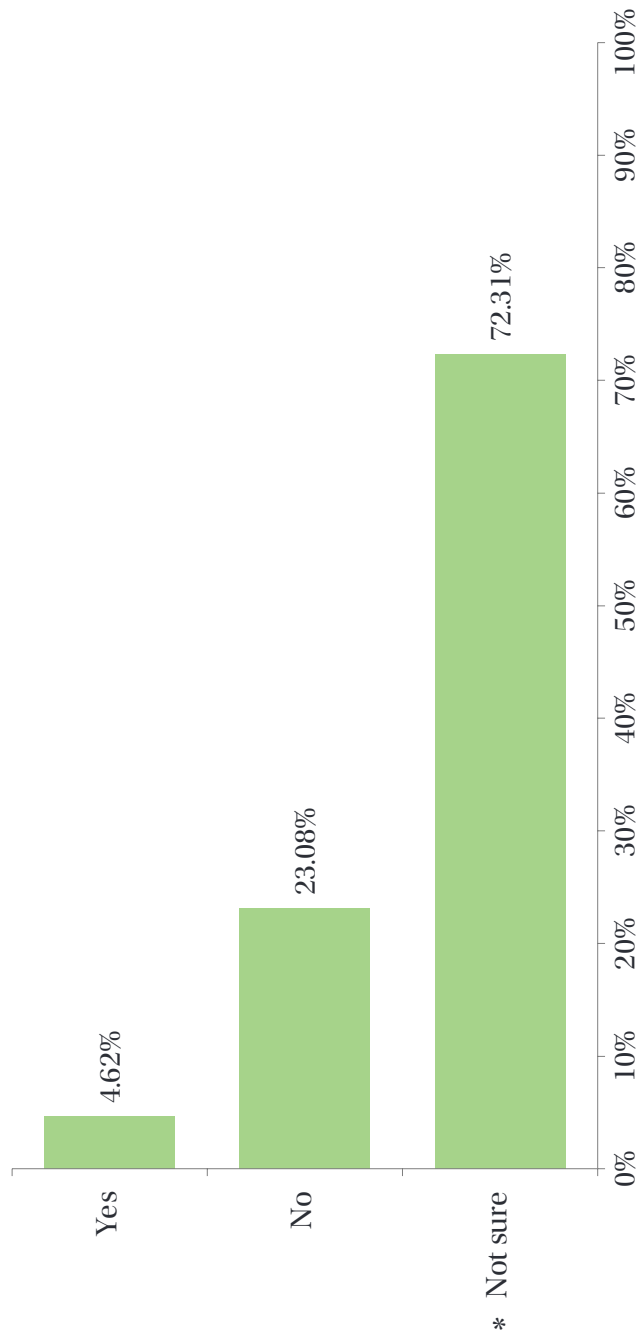


80% reported a notable reduction of monthly waste generation

# Pilot Program Results



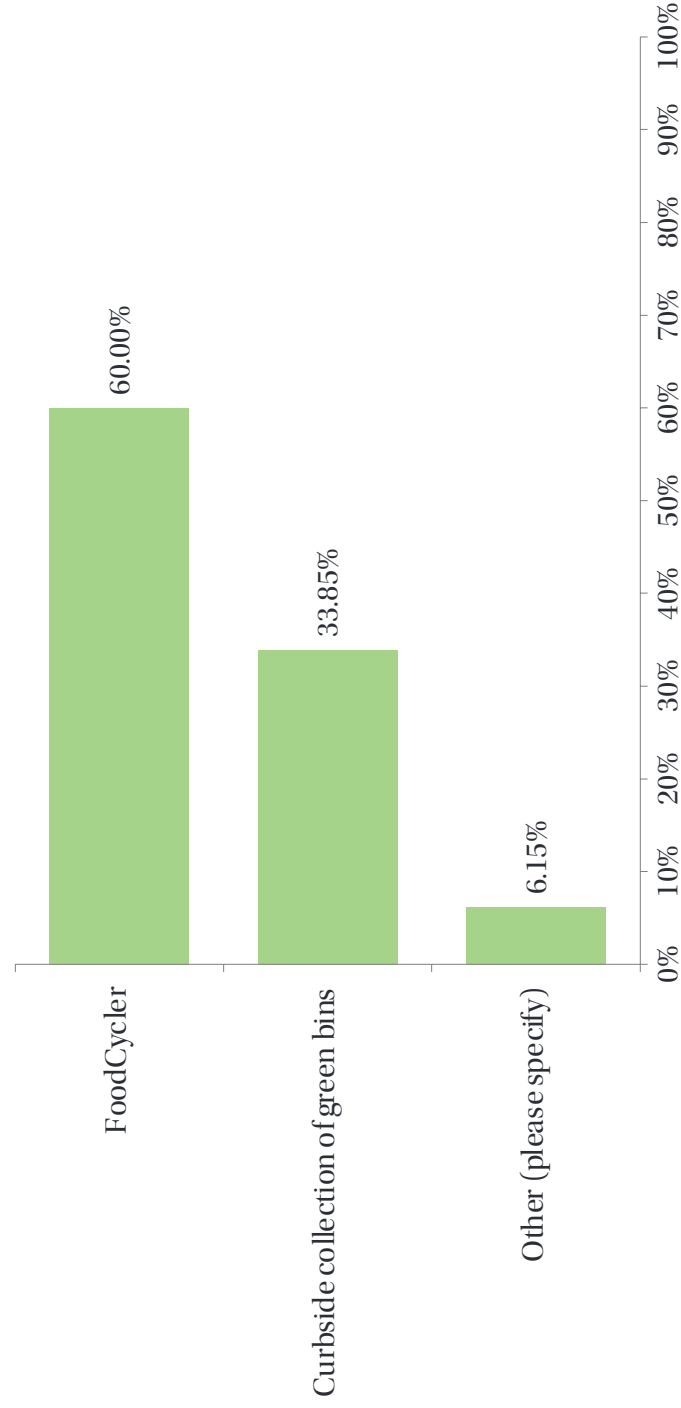
Did you see increased electricity costs during the time you used the FoodCycler?



\*Suggests that increased electricity costs are negligible/acceptable

# Pilot Program Results

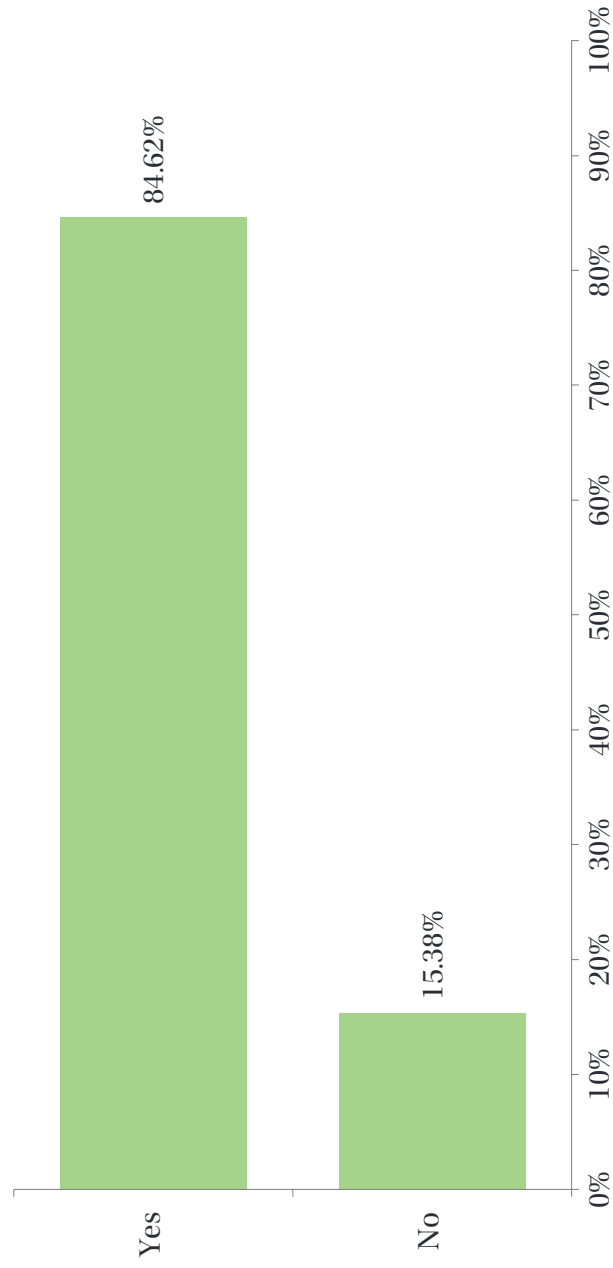
If the municipality were to implement a municipal service to divert food waste, please indicate your preferred method.



# Pilot Program Results

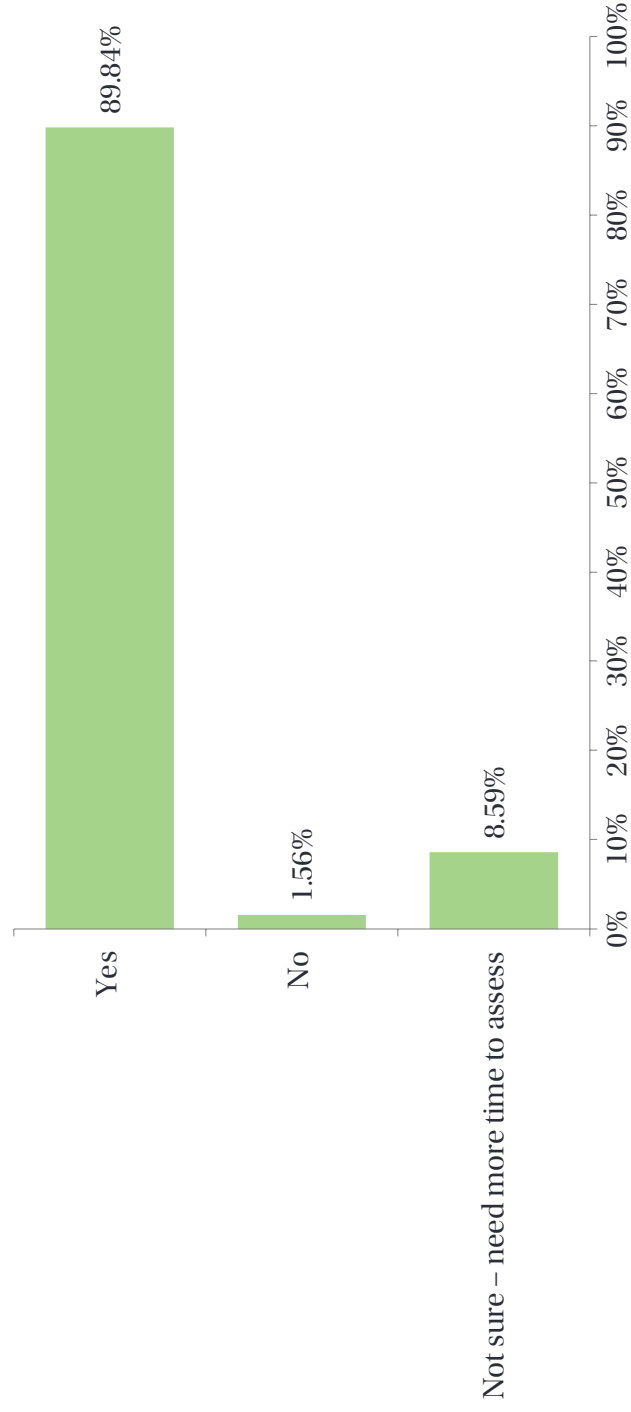


If the municipality continued to offer a FoodCycler to residents at no or low cost as part of a diversion program, do you think your friends / neighbours in the community would participate?



# Pilot Program Results

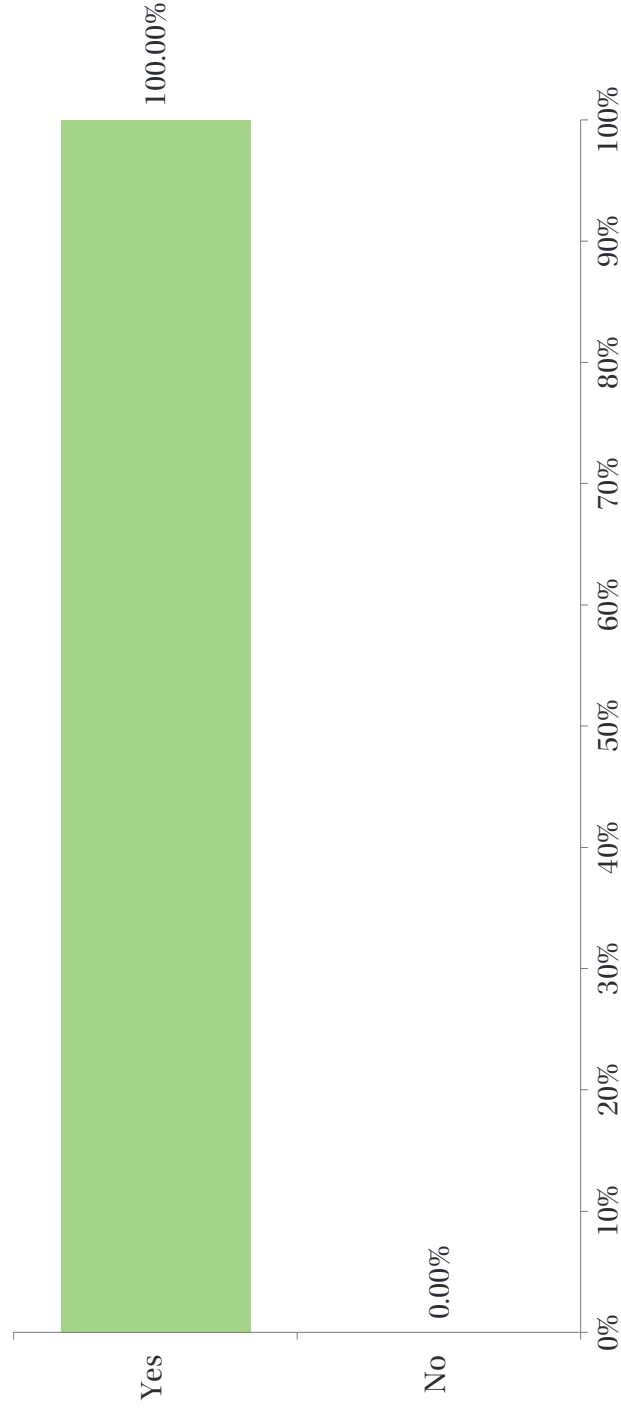
Would you recommend the FoodCycler to others?



# Pilot Program Results



Will you continue using the FoodCycler after this pilot?



# Pilot Program Results

Please rate the overall pilot project experience out of 5 stars.

Average rating: 4.66/5 Stars



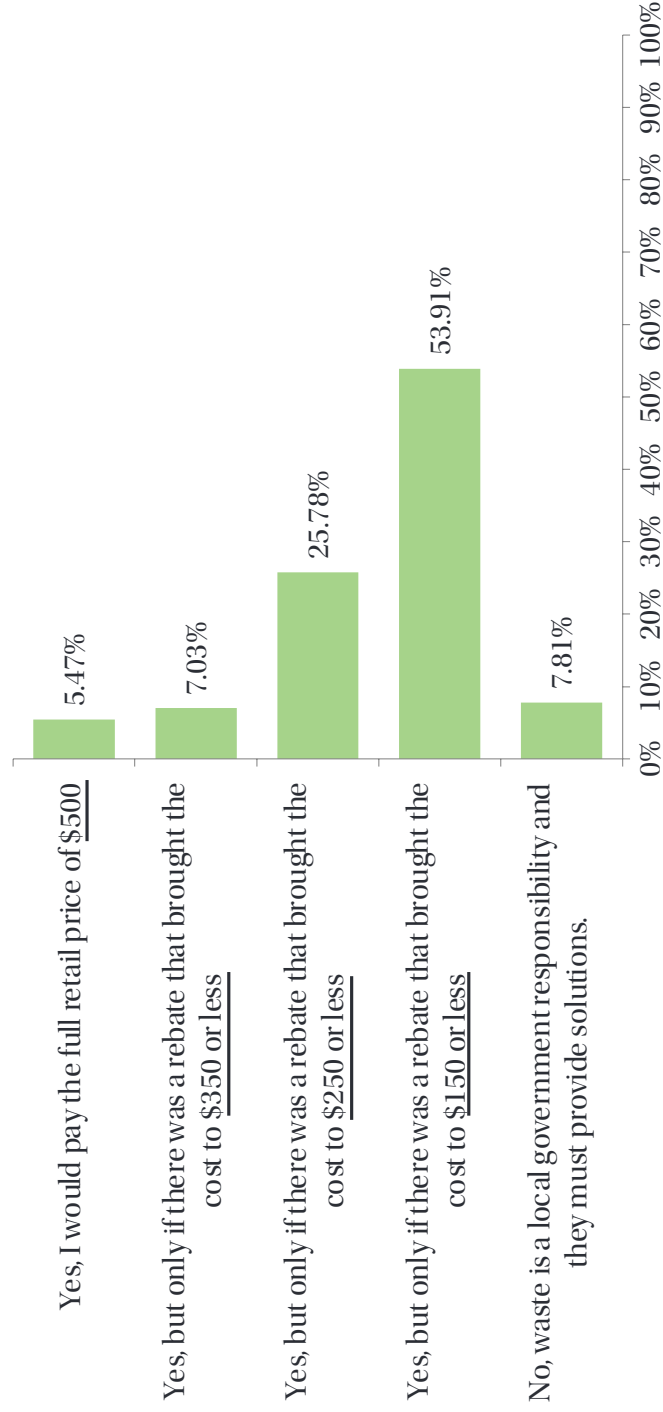
- 1 Star = 0%
- 2 Stars = 0%
- 3 Stars = 3%
- 4 Stars = 28%
- 5 Stars = 69%



# Pilot Program Results



If a municipal program was not available, would you consider purchasing a FoodCycler?



## Pilot Participant Comments

“I will use the FoodCycler in the winter when I do not compost. The FoodCycler would be a great option for people who cannot compost (as those who live in apartments or just not interested). It seems the rights size for a couple of adults. Families would probably need a bigger size.”\*

“Thank you! Would be perfect if the container were bigger because we a vegan household that does heavy cooking and baking! We fill up the bin very quickly and some days feels like it’s running constantly.”\*

*\*FoodCycler has just launched the FoodCycler Maestro with a 5L bucket making it twice the capacity of the original FC-30. For those with an FC-30, an extra bucket can be purchased from the online store to increase capacity.*

“FoodCycler is finicky in that larger items must be chopped down to smaller pieces. Hard items like flower stems don’t work.”#

*#The recommendations in the FoodCycler manual and resident guide should be followed to avoid any issues. Large foods and fibrous plants should be cut into smaller pieces.*

“The FoodCycler is a great start. It would require education for those who are not yet interested in the concept.”



## Pilot Participant Comments

“Depends how it is positioned. FoodCycler or increase in taxes for garbage for anticipated landfill costs”

“My biggest complaint relates to the replacement cost of the carbon filters. Ours needed to be replaced after about 11 weeks at a cost of \$42. This is a significant expense. Additionally, the filters cannot be recycled.”\*

*\*FoodCycler has just launched an online accessory store with exclusive discounts available to partner municipalities from which residents can purchase extra buckets, refillable filters, and carbon refill packets. The store also carries a conversion bundle for residents to swap out their current disposable filters and replace them with new refillable versions. East St. Paul residents now have access to this store.*

“We moved the food cycle to the garage, because of the noise and slight odor, we are fortunate enough to have a heated garage. Suspect most people do not. That could be an issue.”#

*#We recommend keeping the bucket on the counter or under the sink, but the FoodCycler can be stored anywhere indoors with access to a plug. Storing it out of the kitchen (for example the laundry room, basement, or heated garage) can help resolve issues with space and any noise it may make. Odour is best sign that the filters or carbon should be replaced.*



## Pilot Participant Comments

“I think this service should have been started years ago. I’m glad to have participated in this pilot program. I was surprised to realize how much of my garbage was food waste. The kitchen garbage bag weighs much less now. I’m interested to see the difference the compost makes in my gardens next year.

“I was so pleased that ESP offered this pilot program. We need to continue to explore new and innovative ways of reducing waste in our communities and making it easier for residents to do their part. This pilot has generated a lot of positive conversations about this issue and how we can all play a role in reducing waste in our landfills.”

“Loved the opportunity to participate in this program and love the FoodCycler. The RM should be looking more seriously into reducing the food waste of residents as it is part of a larger problem.”

“I really appreciate the opportunity to have the FoodCycler at a reduced cost. It was an awesome initiative! I’ve told everyone I know about these magical little machines!”



## Pilot Participant Comments

“Loved this experience and product! Will definitely use again and recommend to others.”

“We thought it was great. We were amazed at what it did and how it reduced waste to such small amounts. I would recommend this machine to anyone and have spoken about it to my friends and colleagues.”

“I think this is a viable option for our size community. It’s simple to use and a good way to compost during the winter months.”

“Would be great if every household had one”

“Convenient for me in that I cut down trips to the yard composted 12-fold. Product has little or no smell. Processing of waste was done quickly preventing rot and smell.”

“I loved my FoodCycler. It’s super quiet. I am looking forward to using the compost in our garden.”





## Recap and Next Steps

### Recap

- 44.8 MT of food waste diverted from landfill/year from 200 FoodCyclers in pilot program
- 80% of participants reported a noticeable reduction in waste generated
- 100% of participants will continue using the FoodCycler

### Next Steps

- Expanded pilot program
- Comprehensive program designed for you by Food Cycle Science
- Launch of the brand new FoodCycler Maestro with 5L capacity



# Funding Opportunities

Thanks to our early implementation partners and the overwhelming success of their FoodCycler pilot programs, Food Cycle Science has officially been named FINALISTS in the Impact Canada Food Waste Reduction Challenge!

## Federal Funding

- ✓ Semi-Finalists in Stage 1 received \$100,000
- ✓ Finalists in Stage 2 received \$400,000
- Finalists will compete in Stage 3 to win one of two Grand Prizes of up to \$1,500,000





**Thank you!**  
Any Questions?

Jessica Taylor  
Municipal Program Manager  
Email: [jessicat@foodcycler.com](mailto:jessicat@foodcycler.com)  
Phone: 613-601-6010