

Strategic Plan Residential Questionnaire

1,010 Participants

What do you believe Scottsdale should do with the majority of its trash?

- 927 Recycle it
- 66 Take it to the landfill

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: My household could do more to recycle.

- 217 strongly agree
- 220 somewhat agree
- 205 somewhat disagree
- 158 strongly disagree
- 42 I don't know

Should the city establish a large-scale composting facility within Scottsdale, possibly at a facility near your neighborhood?

- 504 Yes
- 209 No
- 286 I don't know

How much of an increase would you be willing to pay on your monthly residential utility bill to support programs that would increase recycling throughout Scottsdale?

- 129 none
- 179 \$0.01 to \$1
- 320 \$1 to \$2
- 366 \$2 to \$3

What segment of our community should the city focus its efforts on in order to increase the percentage of waste recycled in Scottsdale? (You may select more than one answer.)

- 274 Residential customers
- 263 Retail
- 227 Tourism
- 289 Food services
- 249 Special events
- 690 All of the above

Would you support a one-time bill credit for businesses who implement recycling programs?

- 655 Yes
- 151 No
- 190 I don't know

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement: The city should adopt a law requiring residents and businesses to recycle, with associated enforcement and fines for those who don't.

- 310 strongly agree
- 298 somewhat agree
- 137 somewhat disagree
- 187 strongly disagree
- 60 I don't know

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The following comments were emails received in regards to the online survey:

It is not clear to me why the city would do a survey on this or any topic. I have become convinced, as evidenced by their behavior with the DDC, that Scottsdale's government is not interested in listening to the people and will do what it wants regardless.

This is not to be critical of you or this department, but to encourage you to let your "bosses" know that they are undermining their own credibility. I do not believe the City will follow the results of this survey, or any other. I hope I can be proven wrong.

So- I can never just click off the answers in a survey. I always think there should be room for me to comment because the world is never black and white.

What do you believe Scottsdale should do with the majority of its trash?

Recycle, reuse.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: My household could do more to recycle.

I could probably do more. I'm often not sure if something is ok to put in recycle or not.

I already compost everything from the kitchen. I compost little from my desert yard (it just doesn't rot down very well without grinding up and I don't have a grinder.)

Should the city establish a large-scale composting facility within Scottsdale, possibly at a facility near your neighborhood?

I think I need to more about this before I got all up in arms about it.

What are you composting?

Does this mean we could get free mulch or top soil from the place? Or at least inexpensive?

Would there be a lot of noise or dust?

In any case, I think the facility's location is going to be problematic because the best place for it (centrally located and close to the source of the product) is going to have a lot of people living there and relatively little open space on which to locate the facility.

I presume a study is underway to see if the people on the Reservation would be willing to host it at a price and possibly a last resort.

How much of an increase would you be willing to pay on your monthly residential utility bill to support programs that would increase recycling throughout Scottsdale?

1 to 2\$. Naturally, with the current city leadership I'd expect some sort of long range plan that would include making money off of this facility. If it started to be a profit center for the city, would this mean the fees would go away?

What segment of our community should the city focus its efforts on in order to increase the percentage of waste recycled in Scottsdale? (You may select more than one answer.)

All – Though I think a lot is already being done.

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Education is a key to reducing what goes into the waste stream in the first place. Reduced packaging, understanding of what can and what should not be put in the pink bins, and so on should be a part of this – though how you can get people’s attention to inform them I have no idea.

Would you support a one-time bill credit for businesses who implement recycling programs? Maybe. I’m not sure what this means exactly. The business has to pay for recycling pick up and one time it would be ‘free’? If so, yes if it would get them started.

Do businesses currently have recycle pick up from the city?

If not, it is offered to them?

If so, what is the cost?

Can they control the number of pick ups and the cost? (some small businesses may only have need of occasional pick ups)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement: The city should adopt a law requiring residents and businesses to recycle, with associated enforcement and fines for those who don't.

Hmm.

Ideally, we should start with the program being voluntary but if it is already voluntary and businesses are not participating, then Yes. But I’d like to see a cost analysis between yes and no before a law was written and implemented.

Businesses always want to not incur costs that don’t improve the bottom line.

Residential customers always want businesses to carry their fair share of the load and often are perceived as not doing so

This is a laudable goal and I approve of it, but to reach it you already know you will have to have both business and citizen buy in.

I found the question about whether my household could do more to recycle ambiguous. Do you mean are we recycling as much as currently possible [which I assumed], or do you mean that we see opportunities to recycle that are not currently available? Besides composting, which you obviously have on the radar, I would also encourage looking into recycling of alkaline batteries, which are considered hazardous waste in other communities, especially the San Francisco Bay Area. As you may have guessed, we have moved to Scottsdale from the Bay Area and I can say that our weekly trash was about the size of a small paper bag due to the vigorous recycling program, which included composting.

Thank you for taking the time to explore the opportunities for expanded recycling in the Scottsdale area, especially composting. I am very excited for what this may mean for our environment.

Pardon me, but the questionnaire seems to be written to extract the responses you seek.

And Scottsdale is full of residents who are also owners and operators of business so you must have a combined button of some type

The part about a landfill being established near “your” neighborhood—that is really low brow the way it is put together.

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I'm a native resident of Scottsdale. Born here in 1964.

Really feel like the growth in the last two years is a tragedy.

The City has SOLD OUT THE RESIDENTS seeking endless new revenue channels from multi-home building structures and tourist focused development.

And the neighborhood app is no longer friendly with the City agenda

My solution request would be to reduce waste by reducing the RAMPANT GROWTH and by smart planning with MAGA

Thank you for the information concerning the subject matter. I am glad that you are tackling the problem with what looks like a good solid approach.

Thought you should know I had to retry entering the image characters 5-6 times before it worked...the system was very frustrating. It may have been because I used my phone??

I hope this glitch won't have a negative impact on your return rate.

I only persisted because I believe that Scottsdale businesses in particular fall embarrassingly short on recycling.

Just completed the survey - you really did not give us enough information to accurately give an opinion on recycling in Scottsdale. We would like to see cost data to accurately evaluate the questions you asked. We are fine if it is cost neutral.

I fully support recycling and composting. Your electronic drop off is a huge success. There are cities that have community compost where residents empty containers on certain days with acity helper.

The survey's last point was unclear. While I totally support recycling and composting, it should be voluntary. When voluntary newspaper recycling started in Milwaukee in the 1970's every house had filled the bin and put it out once a month. Most people really care.

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I already filled out the survey, but had another thought on recycling. How about scrap metal, like old keys, little safety pins, broken slinkys, paperclips, etc? I hate just tossing them in trash and the recycling program in my old home town (San Francisco Bay Area) used to do scrap metal recycling.

Thanks very much

Thank you for having the online survey.

My husband and I have lived on McCormick Ranch since 1995. We try to recycle as much as possible and usually almost fill our tub each week.

Overall we are very pleased with the City's recycling services. But we have one complaint or recommendation. Please strongly consider increasing the number of days to recycle electronic and home hazardous waste. Since we only have those massive collection days a couple of times each year, a person is doomed to wait a few more months if one forgets or is out of town on the scheduled Saturday.

Folks don't want to keep that stuff laying around their garages for extended periods of time. That definitely discourages recycling of those items.

Please have mini-events once each month, e.g. the first Sat. each month, for both electronics and hazardous waste. Folks might get confused if it gets more complicated.

Have a collection point in south Scottsdale as well if the City really wants to increase the amount of recycling.

We still have some grass in our backyard. When we mow it, my husband refuses to keep the grass clippings for more than a week or two. It would be great to have the brush collection twice each month.

Thank you for asking!

Cheers

Thanks for sending the Recycling Questionnaire. Overall it is my belief that the city should be making recycling easy, not intimidating its customers (residents) with new laws and fines. If Scottsdale truly is the Most Livable City as it claims on the Welcome to Scottsdale signs, you should not even consider creating new laws and a Recycling Police department to bully residents into recycling.

Also, Waste Management seems to be making a profit recycling. If the city can't do the same maybe we should turn the whole thing over to WM.

Thanks for considering my thoughts and passing them along.

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I just completed the questionnaire for improved recycling and trash disposal for Scottsdale residents. While the questionnaire is a good start, it is by no means the best tool to really find out what residents think and need. I was extremely disappointed that there was not provided space for comments. As soon as I read about this questionnaire in yesterdays paper I tore out the section and put it on my computer desk.

I am grateful and thankful that the city has a decent recycle program but the trash pick-up needs to be overhauled. I live in a section of town that was developed and built in 1957 and every neighborhood has an alley running behind residences. This alley probably meets standards for 1957 trash pick-up, but it in no way can accommodate the enormous trucks that the city has "invented" and is constantly enlarging! I have lived in my home for almost 50 years and have spent enormous amounts of money constantly repairing and replacing my alley fence from being damaged by these trucks. Significant damage has occurred 4 times, 2 of those times I witnessed the garbage truck hit the fence and the driver (not the city) repaired the damage. The 3rd time the fence was almost flattened and that's when I completely replaced the fence. The latest incident (2014) I did not witness but immediately knew how it happened. I spent several hours photographing and documenting the damage and filed a report with the city. I had just spent almost \$6,000.00 completely replacing the fence and was almost reduced to tears to see the split post that was set in concrete and the gouges in the fencing lumber. Yes, it is a beautiful wooden fence built by hand board by board by a man who lives in Young, AZ and his son. I got an estimate from the builder for a repair and included that in my report. The estimate was \$960.00 including a ballard set in front of the post (the same positioned post that had been hit 3 times before).

I think you know by now what happened with that report...a short, cursory reply that "nothing could be proved that it was a city truck" and therefore the city was not liable. I know the alley is used by all kinds of vehicles and utility trucks, but none are as large and make the kind of turns the city garbage truck makes. After 50 years of observing alley traffic, I KNOW it was the city truck but since I did not witness it, according to the city, it did not happen.

My suggestion for trash pick-up in these alleys either be done with smaller trucks that can make the turns without constantly backing up and trying again or just simply barrel around the curve and be damned with what's in the way or move the trash pickup to the curb like neighborhoods that have no alleys.

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I just finished the recycling questionnaire. I was hoping to see questions on what should be recycled. I don't understand why cottage cheese and yogurt containers are recycled in Phoenix but not here. Also other plastics with the recycling symbols. I hate throwing them out. Can you explain why our recycling is so restrictive?

Thank you,
Heather Donnelly, Scottsdale resident

I am glad that you are looking into this issue more deeply because I think that many Scottsdale residents are grossly negligent in their waste management responsibilities. This is especially true regarding those areas that have back alleys, where "anything goes". People can be extremely inconsiderate, without care about how their disposal habits affect others. For example, they don't bag grass clippings and dog waste, then leave the can lid wide open so that the smell and breeding house flies pervade throughout the area. Leaving the lid open also feeds rats and feral cats. Some people who refuse to recycle will fill the common trash barrel with hundreds of beer cans and other recyclables every week... including old electronics, appliances, and large empty boxes that fill most of the available space. This happens all the time in every alley. Also, dumpers regularly fill the alley entrances with mounds of tree clippings and non-accepted material such as tires and construction debris. Usually, when someone has non-acceptable material, they won't place it behind their own home, but choose a different spot in the alley so that they won't be blamed. I woke up one morning to find a stack of bald truck tires stacked up outside my alley door. I would like to see more enforcement of the rules, combined with educational efforts to teach how much wasted resources and health hazards can result from their current practices.

It would be great if front curbside pickup could be implemented. However, I realize the down-side to that. Violators, such as the ones I alluded to above, will simply continue to use the alleys anyway, even if a front street pickup is mandated. So, there would need to be stronger enforcement and patrolling of the alleys in the absence of the alley solid waste management by the city.

Thank you,
Regards,
John Bush

Strategic Plan Business Questionnaire

35 Participants

1. What do you believe Scottsdale should do with the majority of its trash?
 - 31 Recycle it.
 - 2 Take it to the landfill.

2. Do you want to make your business more environmentally sustainable in regards to waste disposal?
 - 1 definitely not
 - 0 probably not
 - 0 I don't know
 - 4 probably will
 - 30 definitely will

3. Which of these factors keep you from recycling more now? (You may choose more than one)
 - 4 Cost
 - 9 Space
 - 4 Don't know how
 - 3 Tenants or customers aren't interested
 - 20 None of the above

4. How likely would you be to pay for recycling service in addition to refuse service if it made your overall monthly bill lower?
 - 24 very likely
 - 7 somewhat likely
 - 3 somewhat unlikely
 - 1 very unlikely

5. How likely would you be to participate in a voluntary incentive program where the city publicly recognizes businesses that meet recycling goals?
 - 27 very likely
 - 15 somewhat likely
 - 6 somewhat unlikely
 - 3 very unlikely

6. How likely would you be to help pay the cost for a public recycling drop-off point nearby for the use of your tenants or customers?
 - 26 very likely
 - 13 somewhat likely
 - 1 somewhat unlikely
 - 2 very unlikely

7. Would you support or oppose a local law requiring recycling at your business?
 - 20 strongly support
 - 10 somewhat support
 - 1 somewhat oppose
 - 3 strongly oppose