


Survey Results: Waste Collection

 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of Newburyport to the FlashVote community for Newburyport, MA.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

<p>936 Total Participants</p> <p>753 of 1066 initially invited (71%) 183 others Margin of error: ± 4%</p>	<p>Applied Filter: Locals only</p> <p>Participants for filter: 807</p>		<p>Started: Sep 26, 2023 11:06am EDT</p> <p>Ended: Sep 28, 2023 11:00am EDT</p> <p>Target Participants: All Newburyport</p>
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Q1 The City of Newburyport is negotiating a new trash and recycling collection contract. Right now, trash is collected weekly in Newburyport and recycling is every other week. Costs would be lower if trash were picked up every two weeks with recycling.

Which ONE of the following best describes your preference for trash collection?
(807 responses by)

Options	Locals (807)
I would prefer changing our trash pickup from every week to every other week (like recycling), with a somewhat lower cost to taxpayers	35.2% (284)
I would prefer keeping our trash pickup scheduled every week, with a somewhat higher cost for taxpayers	49.9% (403)
I would be fine with either of these options	13.1% (106)
Not sure/Not applicable	1.7% (14)

Q2 Looking ahead to the next trash contract, City residents will have to use standard containers for automated pickup of trash and recycling. Currently, residents have large recycling carts (64 gallons) supplied by the City. Residents buy their own carts for trash and generally either have small (35 gallons) or medium (48 gallons) carts.

Thinking of your household needs, which ONE of these specific options would you prefer for trash disposal?
(790 responses by)

Options	Locals (790)
Small trash cart (35 gallons) picked up every week	11.1% (88)
Medium trash cart (48 gallons) picked up every week	42.9% (339)
Large trash cart (64 gallons), but picked up every other week	37.5% (296)
Not Sure/Not applicable	8.5% (67)

Q3 Across New England, trash collection and disposal costs are rising, and Massachusetts has set aggressive goals to reduce waste disposal by 30 percent by 2030. The City aims to provide convenient and reliable service for residents while containing costs and aiming to reduce waste overall.

When it comes to negotiating the City's new trash contract, which of the following are most important to you? (You can choose up to THREE, if any)

(753 responses by)

Options	Locals (753)
Providing extra capacity options for large families and other high-volume trash users	19.1% (144)
Providing service that is as convenient as possible for residents	49.1% (370)
Encouraging residents to create less waste overall	47.1% (355)
Making it easier for more residents to do composting	40.8% (307)
Keeping the city clean and free of waste/litter	65.6% (494)
Keeping the overall service cost as low as possible for taxpayers	45.2% (340)
Other:	7.3% (55)



I would love to see recycling picked up weekly, despite additional costs that would likely incur.

We have tried composting but struggled over the summer with flies and a racoon who got into it.

Encouraging more recycling by having recycling pickup every week and enforcing recycling standards

Recycle pick up every week

Weekly trash pickup

We already have a rat problem in the South End. We need trash picked up weekly.

2 household here; 2 wk summer pickup will SMELL.

More recycling options

If we go to every other week we should be given the large containers it's too expensive

Weekly recycling pickup

Having trash pick up less than 1 time a week would provide a large burden on our household

Increase recycling to every week and move garbage collection to once every 2 weeks

Making it easier to dispose of exceptional trash. Maybe an app for on-line pay/label generation.

pay as you go - buy stickers or special bag?. H/W has compost&recycl ea/wk, trash every other.!!

I support pay-as-you-throw for trash & free curbside composting. This would incentivize recycling.

More recycling. My family of 5 runs out of room to hold recyclable materials well before 2 weeks

I would just like to note that we have one trash bag per week but we have much more recycling.

Get my scumbag corporate landlord to stop lying about trash services.

Trash pick up once a week. Recycle should be once a week to encourage more recycling.

Maybe you could get your survey pages not to slide over as soon as you make a selection.

Composting food waste is an excellent way to cut down on trash in landfills. It coul

If recycling is not actually happening, lets stop pretending we are doing it

Add recycling containers somewhere in city where residents can bring bottles, paper etc.

I would prefer recycling be picked up weekly. We have much more recycling than we do trash.

Keeping weekly pickup.

If the city is trying to encourage composting, the green bins should be a part of trash pick up

COMPOST! We need a weekly city wide composting program- reduce our waste and carbon footprint.

Price should be determined by the amount of trash the household generates.

Recycling once weekly!

More frequent recycling options

I wish my apartment management would let us recycle plastics. We can only recycle paper and cardboa

Will our taxes actually go down??!!!

I have to pay for my trash collection. I would like to receive the same benefit other tax payers ge

The ideas I see here are on track, but fail to account for weather emergencies for example.

Require customers to

Add black earth composting as mandatory

Any change to trash can size should include a program to recycle the "banned" szies

Push composting. Incentivize. Charge households more that don't. Comm contracts are based on weight

Charging for trash picup and making compost pickup free. This will reduce trash.

including all residents of newburyport, including the community Cottages at Port Place

Equal service for all residents including city trash and recycling for homes (Port Place, others)

encouraging maximum recycling

I collect (2x) recyclables per week than regular trash 64 gallon barrel if filled to capacity every

Newburyport should consider including the cottages at port place in the town services

Requiring businesses to compost to lower costs for homeowners

PICK UP RECYCLING WEEKLY

Please have free composting! It creates less trash and then I'd be fine with every other week !

Recycling every week

need to stop using plastic trash bags

Provide, free of charge, trash composting bins!

Work collaboratively to develop truly recycled waste

Weekly recycle pickup so that residents can recycle more

64 gallon trash every week

Providing the ability to occasionally dispose of trash that exceeds the limit, even for a small fee

Q4 When it comes to other specific trash, recycling and composting service options, which of the following are TRUE for you, if any? (Choose all that apply)

(744 responses by)

Options	Locals (744)
I would pay more annually to have an extra trash cart	8.3% (62)
I would not need an extra trash cart	63.8% (475)
I would pay more annually to have regular curbside compost pickup	22.3% (166)
I would not use curbside compost pickup even if it were free	25.0% (186)
I would be more likely to support changing trash pickup from every week to every other week if the City also offered a composting service that is picked up weekly	36.2% (269)
I would not be more likely to support changing trash pickup from every week to every other week if the City offers a composting service that is picked up weekly	30.0% (223)
I would:	13.8% (103)



I already compost at home and will continue to do so. I usually fill a standard trash barrel a wk

love for the compost bins from Black Earth to be bigger because we sometimes fill it each week

Like recycling pu weekly and trash every other week

I already have black earth compost service

produce less trash if I could recycle more

support changing trash pickup to every other week IF recycling was offered every week

Offer free weekly composting and then lower trash pickup

Still use our own compost w/o meat. Put that in neighbors' compost pails w/their permission and/or

Recycle pick up every week

Want weekly trash pickup

hope that trash is picked up weekly. Serious rat problem in the South End.

I compost everything/love black earth! My trash is small; my recycle bin is full EOW.

Like recycling picked up weekly

Really like weekly recycling pickup

We are already composting and still need trash pickup weekly.

We are fine having an option to pay more and keep trash pick up weekly.

Like to see pay per use. Buy bags from this city

Prefer that trash be picked up every other week and recycling EVERY week.

already compost, so pls keep compost bins at yard and downtown!!!!!!

I already have Black Earth compost pick up. Would the city contract with them?

Like to stop having to pay for private trash pickup as residents of Newburyport paying full taxes

Like to have weekly recycling.

And a discount for us seniors trying to stay here in beautiful Newburyport please and thank you.

how much would composting pick up every week - or two - cost. I currently use Black Earth.

like to keep things as they are

DO NOT INCREASE COSTS OF ANYTHING, INFLATION IS OUT OF CONTROL.

composting is good - would have to see about every week or every other week dependent on smell

Educate now— beginning in the classroom our residents, our schools and city hall!

I already pay for composting pickup weekly thru a private contractor

Cancel my composting pick up if the city provided it.

I t

be more likely to support every other week trash pick up if we could have weekly recycling pick up

Upset if trash pickup was only every 2 weeks.

Like a system for special pick up of large or non-standard items even for a fee.

Like to keep the trash pick-up every week, and recycling every other week. Don't need a compost pi.

Like to see recycling every week

Request a free compost pickup every week. I already pay for the service now

I already pay for curbside composting

Prefer more recycling pick up over trash. Our trash is minimal, our recycling far outweighs trash.

Like to not put workers out of jobs with automated trucks

I already pay for composting; have little trash; would be fine with every other week

like recycling to be picked up every week

Support trash on recycle schedule with the largest trash receptacle regardless of curbside compost.

like for recycling to be picked up weekly and would then be fine with biweekly trash pickup

I don't generate much trash or compost. Virtually everything I discard is recycling

Like an additional recycling cart

At our house we compost veg, not meat

Prefer bi-weekly trash pickup with weekly composting - weight of trash greatly reduced w/composting

like to have a composting option. I'm ok with pickups every two weeks for all.

Fully support charging more to users to produce more waste

Larger households should pay more for the extra trash.

I would not use curbside compost pickup because I compost myself.

Prefer our taxes were lower and our services remain the same or better

Like more frequent recycling

We have a 64 gallon trash container that is full every week. We also compost.

Support bi-weekly trash pickup

Support an every other week trash pick up since we currently compost& minimal trash each week

I already pay for weekly composting so would do the same if it was offered through the city

like the city to reduce costs by using a mechanical arm on the waste truck rather than humans

compost if pickup were free.

Like to keep it the sam

Will our taxes actually go down??!!!

I currently use the Black Earth composting services

I want trash pick up every week - if we dont there will be trash dumping

Trash pickup weekly makes too much sense. Why do you want more trash hanging around for 2 weeks?

Could trash pickup be weekly during the hottest months and every 2 wks rest of yr?

need trash pick up every week. I feel to not have trash pick up each week is, frankly, ludicrous.

Like to keep things as they are

love to see Black Earth Compost, or some other entity, take up the challenge of composting diapers.

Like customers to purchase bags for trash.

Require that the city cost for composting was no higher than currently charged by Black Earth

Compost my own food waste

Continue paying for compost pickup

we are very happy with Black Earth composting service..more folks should use it..

Be willing to move to every other week trash pickup if I was provided the larger trash can

Help neighbors understand the importance of composting and impact weight has on trash contracts

Please disclose what happens to recycling waste, if it goes to a landfill, why do it at all

like a composting service with the every other week option

We already take our composting down to the business by the water treatment plant for free.

We do not need curbside compost pickup as we handle that onsite with a composting area

be disappointed if the town moved to every other week

do my own composting

Most of my waste goes in recycling. Prefer every other week pickup. Medium sized container

pay more annually to have recycling picked up every week

Restaurants & other stores downtown need weekly pick up. Unless the city could come up with an ince

Leave it the way it is presently if it works for everyone

would be ok with every other week trash pick up if the city gave

support composting service pick up every other week

Like to have an extra trash bin & composting option included

I'd Use free composting

Don' care about compost pickup, just drop it off ourselves. I don't like using plastic trashbags

I would support trash pickup every other week if there was free home compost bins!

like weekly recycling; I believe it would encourage less trash.

I have a larger family that generates at least 64 gallons of trash. Keep trash pick up weekly.

really love to see RECYCLING picked up every week. Then I could do garbage every two weeks.

support bi-weekly pickup if I had two containers instead of one

Be willing to make sacrifices to have 100%

Expect the city to do its job and pick up trash weekly. If the costs go up, reduce expenses elsewhere

Wont use compost pickup because I compost at home. Would love to see the city encourage

use conveniently located compost bins like the ones near the water treatment plant

I am already paying for private weekly compost pickup

Prefer weekly recycling pick up

Q5 Any other comments or suggestions about trash, recycling or composting in Newburyport?

(268 responses by)



Make trash pickup workers make sure they don't let trash fall into the streets

I have ZERO interest in composting

Can recycling be picked up every week?

THE best way to reduce is at the source.

Keep the same and offer overage bags at an additional cost. The city brings in more revenue than projected and spends less than anticipated. You can figure out how to maintain the status quo. I would like to see weekly recycling pick up.

I think the adding of composting is an excellent idea, especially since it is food waste in the trash which attracts raccoons and flies (and maggots! Gross!)

The challenge with every other week pickup is that if you miss one (due to being away from home) the amount of trash or recycling that has accumulated (and sometimes smells from the trash) are far worse than if you only miss one week.

Please do not change what is working so well today. The trash pickup in Newburyport is far superior to other towns in MA.

Honestly if recycling was weekly and trash bi weekly would work

Consider providing recycling pickup weekly and trash pickup every other week.

I use Black Earth for composting and it literally cuts trash in half.

My family composts via Black Earth. We have very little trash. We have too much recycling. More recycling pick-up would be beneficial. Less trash pick up would maybe influence people to recycle and compost more.

I think adding more recycling pick up (not necessarily compost) will encourage people to recycle more. I'd also like to see more community wide recycling events for large items, electronics, etc

I would do trash every other week if there was a composting option or even recycling pick up every week. As a family of 5 it would be hard to change this without other support

Need to realize the needs are different for single person households and a family of 4+.

I would be more open to trash collection very other week if there was an option to drop off our own trash and recycling in case we're traveling and miss a week.

I'd like to see composting made mandatory. We do it through Black Earth and it significantly reduces our trash.

Recycling should be offered every week. The city needs to do more to encourage recycling. Recycling standards should also be clearly communicated and enforced. Composting should also be offered free of charge and weekly. Then you can restrict trash pickup to every other week.

We really appreciate the trash and recycling collection as in place now. A great service!!!

Again, nothing here applies to people in large apartment buildings --- with no control whatsoever --- except that less frequent pick up probably means we'll find fewer empty (after pick-up) containers blown into the middle of the street by heavy winds.

Offer free composting to be picked up weekly and then lower trash pickups to every 2 weeks.

Non-monetary awards for young people who pick up street trash.

Leave everything the same

We would rather recycle be picked up weekly and trash every other

Want weekly trash pick up

We put two full recycling bins out every two weeks. We could definitely work with every other week for trash pick up

Strongly support every other week pickup if the cost savings could be used to offer compost pickup. It's currently off-putting for many to compost due to the extra out of pocket charge.

I really appreciate the investment is making in promoting composting, & reducing trash. Getting rid of single use plastic, and overall use/reliance on plastic should also be promoted.

Weekly recycling pickup

I would be happy for EOW pickup for trash as long as compost is weekly. Recycling needs UPDATED LABELING - on bottom: RECYCLE then designation: plastic, paper, etc. PLUS marked on items of what is not recyclable. Encourage eliminating large laundry bottles!!!

The impact of not taking strong actions now on future services and costs is an important consideration.

Newburyport managers need to understand that everyone who lives here are not wealthy- increasing taxes and costs - it seems like a strategy to eliminate the moderate to low middle class. Not have any children one of the few city services we use is trash pick up.

We have more recycling then trash every week. We try to recycle as much as possible, but with recycling pick up every other week it does not allow us to and recycling just ends up in the trash. Our recycle barrels are full every week and if their pick up was changed to weekly then the trash would be less.

I often take advantage of the Newbury transfer station. Extra trash can be taken here for a fee. Also, they collect recycling three times a week. We already pay annually for weekly compost pickup.

I don't think most people are aware how easy it is to compost. We use Black Earth and don't mind paying for that service. However, switching to every-other-week trash pickup would not be good for our family. On the contrary, as much as we try to reduce our trash output, we need more frequent recycling pickup.

Weekly recycling and compost and bi weekly garbage

If the city picked up the cost for composting reducing organically in our trash, would that impact the overall cost of trash pick up? Have other incentives been looked at? If you compost free trash barrels? Etc

With limited storage, it would be a huge burden to have trash pick up less than 1/week. While cost should be a consideration, waste collection needs to be kept the same. We are a family family of 6 and typically have 2 trash bins weekly and 3 recycling bins every 2 weeks. Between celebrations, holidays and get togethers, i can not imagine if we only had trash picked up every 2 weeks...

Composting is CRITICAL for reducing waste. Making weekly compost pickup available as a city service would be my top priority.

We generally have MORE recyclables than we do trash. Frankly, recycles should be picked up weekly - this might encourage more folks to recycle more!!!

The city needs more trash cans throughout the city so folks can dispose of litter, pet poop etc. Trash cans are not readily available, which causes people to litter

The trash and recycling company you contract with now does an amazing job! They pick up anything that get spilled, place the containers back correctly, and are very careful to be helpful not an annoyance. Please think twice before choosing another company.

I never have a full bag of trash weekly. We need to encourage more people to compost to cut down on waste, especially heavy food waste. Please move to biweekly trash pick up and use the savings to encourage compost by providing free starter kits and bringing down the annual cost.

The options should be easy to implement and abide by. When visiting Nantucket who is very conscientious about waste removal, almost every resident had a bin for tin cans, metal, aluminum, trash and cardboard with very clear directions on how to implement. They weren't restricting on a volume basis, but took out a lot of cost when it came to separating. Just need to better understand where the costs lie and how to reduce it more upstream by better organization, etc. Do our contractors give all the examples of how to control costs or is it just a volume thing?

I'm unclear on which plastic can be recycled, so some ends up in the trash, which is ok if it would be trashed anyway at the recycle center. The guidance seems broad for what I understand may actually be recyclable. If we have a container big enough to store trash, frequency isn't an issue for us. The less gas used by the trucks, the better.

Composting is necessary. Make this more prevalent.

I'd rather see the city spend less on removing popular parking spaces along the waterfront to build more green space and keep our trash service as is. Why should our trash service suffer? Also, plum island already pays a disproportionate amount of taxes into the city, and across almost any metric, sees less favorable terms from the city. Not excited to see that the new administration, who won on the back of plum island residents, is exploiting the island's tax Levy yet again.

Pay per use options. Buy bags from the city and use them. Light users would pay less, heavy users would pay more. I put trash out only about every 4 - 6 weeks. I live by myself and don't create a lot of trash. I compost at my house and recycle what I can. I am a light user of trash disposal in the city. I don't know how it is calculated but if I pay the same as a family of 4 or more, it would be unfair because they would likely create more trash than myself.

Clarity on the availability of recycle bins. The wheel broke off of mine, and the city said I was responsible to get my own bin and gave me a recycle label.

Really important to get the barrels that are auto lifted regardless of changes to contract.

I lived in H/W when they moved to this model due to cost and strong recycling committee. It worked fine until the loud voices caused re-institution of weekly trash. How long are babies in diapers? I object to more trucks on the streets, which adds to air and noise pollution. Also pick up days have to all be the same, not different for compost as the paid service is. ThaNKS!!!!!!

People need easier access to information that makes it clear what can and can't be recycled. People need easier access to information about how easy it can be to compost (e.g. collect food waste in paper bags in freezer until pickup time, or how food waste can easily be dropped off at the bins at the Tannery). There should be more locations where food waste/compost bins are located so people can easily walk to/get to them to drop off their own food waste (and not have to pay for curbside).

Current service is great. My recycling always fills up every other week. My trash never fills every week and we do not compost

Happy to see this survey. As mentioned in my earlier response. I think pay-as-you-throw would incentivize both composting and recycling.

I already pay \$8.99/month for biweekly compost pick up - if city-provided compost was about the same expense via taxes I would support that

My concern with going to a trash pick up every other week is that most of our residents do not compost. That will mean more food waste left for 2 weeks in a trash can attracting vermin. We compost and are diligent about keeping food waste secure and yet we have already had to deal with rats in our yard. I would prefer to pay more for waste services and less for pest services!! Compost should be mandatory. It has made a huge difference to the amount of trash we produce to separate the food waste. It's easy to do and so much better for the environment. I feel like the US is so far behind other countries when it comes to waste management. If composting isn't mandatory it should be encouraged as much as possible.

see previous comment

Happy overall with Mello

It would be great to have a full time recycling center for everything rather than have separate hazardous waste collections only once a year. Same goes for mattresses, and any other items.

It would be nice if the city actually provided trash carts. We just bought a house and don't have a recycling bin or trash bin and had to go buy our own for \$200-\$300.

I am in favor of every other week. I don't need a large container. Small or medium. Really just small. Recycle is most of my trash.

Have more open hours for the Crow Lane recycling center

See many neighbors putting EVERYTHING into the trash and recycling when there are other means to dispose of things. Folks are just lazy!

Would be great if the recycling facility on Colby was open more

As I mentioned earlier, we have between one and two trash bags per week but our recycling fills up much faster. I think we recycle about %75 of our waste and the use of compost greatly reduced our trash output.

please do not require everyone to trade in or upgrade their household bins - this would result in a significant amount of waste.

I would favor larger trash bins if it would help larger families in the city (every household gets one) or bill people who need larger or more containers on a yearly basis. Maybe the city could put a large container at the composting center not recycling center (not open often enough) for people to dispose of additional trash on a regular basis. Add the cost to provide this service to the cost of the barrels.

What is most difficult is having the rules keep changing.

The only issue with every-other week trash pickup is the smell, not the volume. Coposting would help or possibly a weekly pickup only during the summer months.

You cannot reduce trash at the point of collection, you reduce trash at the point of inception. Adding additional fees, reducing pickup schedules or any of these ideas is just going to drive people to burn their trash, illegally dump it or throw it in dumpsters/parks. Much like fire or police protection this is a BASIC service from the city and we just need our trash picked up. I am not in favor of anything that adds fees for larger containers or moves services to bi-weekly. Simply put, you gotta take out the trash. It's just that simple and I will absolutely vote based on this.

A composting service is long past due.

Because I currently recycle and subscribe to a compost service, my trash pickup needs have declined to a small 15 gallon bag per week. An option for 35 gallon pickup every other week would be fine. I currently put my trash out every other week, and my recycling once a month. It would be more convenient to offer the service every week, and just have people place trash/recycling when convenient. If I am out of town for every other week pick up, the trash could pile up too much between pickups.

Our household already uses Black Earth compost, paying a modest yearly fee. We are rewarded with a bag of composted soil used for our gardening purposes. Out of approximately 20 residents on my street we and o e other neighbor support black earth. More PRis needed in addition to the questionnaire considerations. Our Earth needs help!

Every other week pickup for trash should be more than sufficient. If anything, I would rather have weekly recycling and compost pickup to encourage people to create less waste

Please do not even think about adding expenses to taxpayers right now with the state of the economy. We should be cutting costs not adding costs.

Some food waste ends up in the trash, like milk cartons and meat trays. These will not hold up well to being collected biweekly in the summer. May attract pests.

My main concern with trash pickup going to every other week is the accumulation of pet waste and odor. I don't believe that it can be placed in compost bins.

Trash pick up needs to be once a week. Recycle should move to once a week to encourage more recycling

We already pay for Black Earth pick up and support paying that amount to the City. Also, have said for years that to encourage people to reduce waste, Recycling (and compost) should be picked up EVERY week, and Trash every other week.

Some of your selections seem to overlap or are not mutually exclusive. They don't seem to be completely thought through from the perspective of the end user.

Composting is key to reducing trash in landfills

The current system isn't broken, keep it as is

Whatever we do, keep it reliable and consistent.

Leave as is + free compost

It seems to be common knowledge that most materials that are recycled are not actually being recycled due to costs. If that is the case, and single stream recycling is just a farce, then we should stop pretending that we are recycling.

I would prefer a once weekly compost and recycle pickup and a bi monthly trash pick up. We pay privately for compost pick up now. It would be great if the city provided that as a service.

Have central location where citizens can drop off paper, plastic, glass. Portland Maine used to have in parking lot of hanneford. Have at side behind old Kmart. Higher local seniors and kids to oversee.

City councilors should be 100% behind any measure that will induce more residence to do the right thing— and doing something good for our community and Commonwealth at large. What other option do we have? Composting should be made free for all citizens. It wasn't ancient history when compost pickup was a part of the City offerings (many of us remember in our childhood, the pails in the ground for City pickup). City needs to take a bold stand on this. Inconvenience experience by residence will be short lived and will turn into a feeling of control. Why put this off— ?

I presently use the food waste bin in Cushing Park - this has been great & doing so has really reduced my trash size. I can easily handle a 2 week trash pick up but I am single & I think an exception. You could try offering a choice of trash frequency - every week pick up being assessed extra.

private composting (which we currently have) is very cost effective for residents to take on privately. Recycling and trash pick-up are better negotiated by the city and in my opinion should remain frequent and city funded.

Keep trash every week and allow "heavy trash households" to pay extra for multiple containers.

Compostable matter has a resale value so find a provider that can do this at net neutral cost to the city

I do my compost at a garden space I use. The City might consider offering Garden allotments to its residents on city owned property where compost could be used as part of cultivation

From what I ready recycling is not really cost effective any more. Does it save us money or is it just to feel good?

How about Newburyport being a leader in Massachusetts and going back to multi-stream recycling. Single stream recycling does not work.

none

Update transfer station so they can collect variety of trash (including electronics and construction, etc) and make it easy to use

Please add more recycling containers around town. And make it clear what items can be added to the containers (and/or what can't).

I use Black Earth and it is relatively inexpensive and if they were part of the city service more people would use it

Stop building roundabouts, unused parking garages and other foolish uses of our tax dollars.

please push for composting- i do it weekly and it's easy. this should be a city wide program and would resolve these trash related issues significantly.

Like I said, recycling is a much bigger problem than trash.

I am currently paying for composting - happy to transfer that. Is there a self-service option for residents (for times of excess) - much like we have the yard/waste facility that is extra permit \$\$\$ - could the service provider offer a drop day 1x a month at Newburyport designation or at their facility I will say the current contract provider does an excellent job overall

I like the larger city supplied trash bin along with a separate recycling. I would pay more if compost was also included. I would also pay more to guarantee daily trash removal and clean up of the down town area. It has been a mess this past summer. Charge a municipal fee for all trash/recycling/compost pickup/downtown maintenance. Please open the recycling center at least twice per month for drop off all recycling materials. Add a second date for hazardous materials and paper shredding. Happy to pay to get rid of them. We need more designated boxes for cloth recycling...including pillows.

city supplied trash buckets trash gets stuck in bottom due to design offer a filler plate

The current trash collectors are a terrific group of people. They are always courteous and appear committed to their job.

Better information about hours at the recycling center

There needs to be much more visible recycling efforts in downtown Newburyport. The vast majority of trash cans in the busy areas are trash only with no recycling next to to, meaning everything ends up in trash. I've also seen many restaurants have a single trash system where they throw, for example, all the plastic cups. There are ordinances in NBPT requiring recycling, you need to enforce them and make it easier for residents/businesses/tourists to comply

Sometimes I am out of town that first Saturday to drop off at the recycling center; it'd be nice if there were other open times. Thanks for asking my opinion.

Changing to biweekly pick up will create huge issues with smelly trash attracting rats/racoons/skunks. Our trash volume also varies greatly depending on whether we have our college kids or guests visiting. And if we have any party/celebration, we certainly could not wait two weeks for trash pickup. Also, please don't change container sizes. We need the space of a 64gal can, and it would be very wasteful and create massive amounts of plastic garbage for everyone to toss their large cans to replace w/ smaller new ones. Seniors and those w/ babies toddlers often have voluminous trash due to diaper/pad usage. They need space. Sanitation is a basic function of government. Our home values/taxes keep increasing...so why are we being asked to have fewer services? Surely, some of the "feel good" budget items can turn to private funding so that city taxes are focused on basic services like trash, sewers and roads. I say all this as someone who is composting and trying to reduce my trash.

Composting is essential.

Nope.

I would like recycling picked up every week

I would like to see recycling offered weekly .. personally my trash has diminished considerably since recycling. The only negative to biweekly trash pickup would be the compost piece.

I have little trash, but recycle many acceptable items. I'd love to have weekly compost pickup!

I'm concerned that pickup every other week will create more dumping of trash in public waste barrels.

It's not broken so please don't try to fix it.

I think composting should be free. I think that households should be given a specific amount of trash that would be collected for free, and anything beyond the amount would be charged. I believe that would help people be more mindful of the amount of trash they produce and encourage recycling and composting. Thank you for asking!!!

I didn't see any option to increase recycling pick up to weekly as many other areas have. If we're trying to encourage recycling, that could help.

What happens if we have more trash than will fit in a given size trash barrel? The city should offer residents the ability to bring that trash to the transfer station in Georgetown at no extra cost.

At the end of the week most people's trash smells....can't imagine after 2 weeks!

In the city's parks and on the trails, it would be great if trash bins were supplied for doggie waste and emptied regularly, which might deter folks from allowing their dogs to poop wherever they wished or from leaving poop bags along trails. I noticed a trash barrel at a spot along the Ghost Trail in Amesbury that was being emptied by one of the trash collection companies. I think the sign on it stated that this was being done voluntarily as a service to residents. Major kudos to them!

How often goes any city employee follow random "recycling" trucks to see if they go to a recycling depot. I've heard the trucks rarely if ever go to a recycling depot. Maybe attach gps units to random "recycling" trucks every quarter?

Recycling items are often much more bulky and can't be reduced (ie plastic milk jugs, etc) therefore the recycling is often overflowing when picked up every other week. We often find ourselves having to throw recycling items in the regular trash due to space issues. We are a family of 5, there is not much we can do to reduce this volume. An additional recycling cart would be much more beneficial than an additional trash cart. Or picking up recycling every week.

N/A

Quit the nonsense. For the property taxes we pay, weekly trash pickup is table-stakes. No excuses.

Don't change anything

Current company crew does a great job. Some days I am amazed how much they take in despite brutal weather (hot and cold).

I would be ok with every other week trash pickup during all seasons but summer. In the summer, even though we compost veg brown paper/ cardboard, etc & have limited trash, the trash contents get smelly & unsanitary if not picked up weekly.

I'm not in favor of trash pickup ever 2 weeks.

Colby Ln. is a gem. Well kept up. Well run. Both places are great. Thsnkmyou.

One person household who recycles and does her own composting. My trash is extremely minimal. Would not want to pay more to support others with lots of trash.

It's fine the way it is.

I have been amazed at the weight/volume difference in my trash since subscribing to Black Earth composting every year. Could easily wait 2-weeks for regular trash pickup but would need weekly compost pickup as I have now.

Whatever happened to the "pay as you throw" idea from a couple of years ago. Those households that generate more trash should be paying for that extra trash. It also encourages people to recycle more if they have to pay more to have their trash picked up.

I am SO glad the City is seriously considering every other week trash pickup AND making composting free to all residents.

Like the present level of service - do not support an increase in taxes

Pick up recycling every week! My trash would be reduced by default!!

We need to Encourage more composting. Greenearth is awesome and has reduced our trash significantly.

More frequent recycling

Being a senior citizen living alone, I don't have any real concerns about trash pickup, but living on a fixed income, I would like the city to do its best to get the best contract. Could there be "levels of service"? I don't want my bill to increase so larger families can get a better service. I wouldn't mind every two weeks for both!

The men who pick the trash and recycling do an excellent job on our street.

I am all for reducing waste and having a larger fee for those that exceed a certain amount.

As a single resident, I have very little household trash. Every other week would be fine. I would actually rather NOT have a large barrel. I would try composting as well.

All of this needs to happen weekly, trash, recycling, compost. I currently have multiple 64 gallon recycling bins and i should not need to store all of that for 2 weeks.

More community reach out and education is needed on the costs and what we can do in households to mitigate waste.

It was not clear in the survey if the new contract was going to limit the number of trash containers we were able to use. I have two 32 gallon containers at present, and have a large family.

Composting should be compulsory. It would help everyone in the long run. Thanks !

I appreciate the service we do currently have from Mello - not an easy job for them here in the South End, but they are reliable and hard working!

Feel weekly trash pickup is necessary for sanitation reasons especially for food waste that can not be composted

I'm a big supporter of composting and would love to see the City do more here. I'd like to see the City limit trash per household to one bin, with residents buying bags for extra trash beyond a single bin. This is in line with a significant number of other MA communities. I'd also like to see the City extend recycling and composting in public areas, buildings and in all the schools.

Some of the questions were worded awkwardly. I am in favor of trash and recycling pickup every other week. I rarely have enough regular trash for weekly pickup. However, i'd have trouble downsizing my recycling bin

As a senior on a fixed income I do not support raising taxes to pay for trash and recycling pickups, nor do I feel trash pickup only every other week is at all reasonable, especially in the warmer months. I would gladly compost if pickup were free but cannot justify the expense even though the options available are relatively inexpensive for dual income wage earning households.

Every week trash pick up only especially in the summer warm months. (Stinky) Keeps the pests away too.

I think residents should be required to bring in their empty bins by 6pm the day of their pick up. Residents on Water Street leave their trash bins blocking the sidewalks for DAYS!

We currently pay for composting service. I don't want to put that company out of business but want it to be easier for more people to compost.

Having pets and no garbage disposal in my house spurs my desire for weekly pickup. Used kitty litter and old meat get smelly fast.

i compost on my property so dont need the composting offering

I would prefer to keep trash pickup every week and recycling every other week.

I would like to not have to pay for my trash like other taxpayers in town

We should have weekly trash and recycling for the city and our high taxes should cover it if we can pay for trees and sidewalks with bumpouts and signs in the street to tell people to slow down

We are a family of 4 with two children in diapers and we don't need to take our trash out weekly with a small container. We are composting.

If we move to every other week I think it would be necessary to have a drop off location for those weeks where you have extra trash or maybe the ability to request an extra pickup (allow 3 a year or something). Everyone has an occasional week where you have more than usual trash. Example: when you are planning to move or clean out or renovation project etc.

Since the survey seems to say in so many words... get ready for trash pickup every 2 weeks... every time there is a major storm its gonna be more trash that goes everywhere. Yall know how much trash gets in the snow... in the drains... or maybe ya dont. Go talk to the people who actually clean the streets. The same time... yall spend money on something dumb and tell us we need to spend more on trash... I'm sure you can see where I'm going with this. LEAVE THE OFFICE AND GO TALK TO PEOPLE!

It might be helpful to know how much the savings would be rather than the words "some what". Also may be helpful to have information on how much composting lowers the cost of trash pick up and how much it helps the environment.

I feel very strongly that trash is picked up every week. I cannot imagine having an every other week cycle.

Would like backyard composting to continue to be recognized as a key element in waste reduction.

I fully support all efforts to increase composting options and access. I think it is CRITICAL we add in pay as you throw and have some options for larger families. I also think it is critical to increase recycling options and access for the apartments in our community.

I need weekly recycling

Our household generates more recycling than trash. Also how does picking up trash every two weeks reduce the amount of waste??

I like the every-other-week pickup for trash, we barely have any, not enough for every week pickup.

I am paying taxes in Newburyport but I have to pay additional fees to get trash pickup because the city refuses to include ALL taxpayers in providing services that we pay for.

We could easily do every 2 weeks but it would be difficult for some families. We do compost which has significantly cut down on trash. But compost is picked up weekly and we do fill the bin

Current city services are pretty good. Bi-weekly trash works for two adults. Composting reduces trash considerably.

Any savings from the trash contract MUST go to lowering property taxes.

If the city provided a 64 gallon trash cart, I would vote to every other week garbage collection ONLY, if it were at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

Keep it as is.

I use Black Earth composting now and I am surprised at how few people do.

Everyone needs to reduce their trash. I don't want to pay more for others irresponsibility!

Living near where the trashmen meet in the am. They are there at 6 am. Please be respectful that neighbors are sleeping. Also I feel like after a snow storm you must shovel your walk way, I feel trash bins should be brought in by that evening. Not left out

I support mandatory compost pickup.

Black Earth is very inexpensive perhaps the city could add them to their contracts to get more people to compost

Odd to me that we would be required to use standardized carts for trash when the the current company doesn't use mechanized pickup for recycling, even though recycling carts are all standardized.

We need to do something about all the trash in the river, it's honestly embarrassing. I'm not talking about run off or sewage, I'm talking about regular old trash.

Just wondering: Don't businesses elsewhere have to arrange their own trash pickup? It seems that downtown Newburyport is overflowing with trash bins from businesses that would see to be being paid for by taxpayers and/or landlords...

The need in our house is for recycling to be picked up every week, not every other week. I'd rather see trash pickup go to every other week if we can get weekly recycling pickup.

City supplies trash containers

Our trash is being trucked out of state and contracts are based on weight — composting solves this and creates of benefits. We need to be more accountable as a community. No excuses!

My understanding is that recycling goes into a landfill anyway and they were charging more to pick it up, so what is the point? Just because recycling leaves Newburyport don't think you're doing the environment any good if it just goes to a landfill. Be thoughtful if you're going after this subject again.

I live alone, so less frequent is fine for my needs, but would like an included composting option for convenience if it could be negotiated. I tend not to do it as I don't want to pay extra for the little I have, and inconvenient to take it to the bins for the small amount I have

There needs to be more composting and recycling we have very little garbage. There does need to be a way to get rid of Styrofoam it's just sad to throw in the trash.

Garbage AND recycling each week.

Weekly trash pickup is essential in a densely populated area. We should of course encourage people however possible to reduce waste. But especially in warmer weather months, trash should not sit for 2 weeks. As well though the city does a good job with so many things, I think there should be better trash receptacles in the downtown area that are covered with side windows or sliding for garbage to be placed by Shoppers or visitors. Open trash cans just are sloppy. Many villages and small cities in Long Island New York have moved to alternate type of downtown trash receptacles which contain the trash better, avoid overflowing during busy times, and the trash can itself oftentimes sits within a recycled Stone and resin type of basin that has attractive appeal for a coastal downtown community

Reducing household trash volume is an important goal. Unfortunately I don't see that charging for trash will be effective. I have no control over the amount of packaging used by grocery stores etc. There are not "options". We already produce very little food waste (and have a compost heap) so city-provided composting would not reduce our trash volume.

Changing trash collection from weekly to bi-weekly would be a big change for all residents, thus we should be made aware of such a proposal well ahead of time, with a way to respond, such as contacting the City Councilor for your ward.

One bulky item per household should be allowed per week free of charge

We recently became empty nesters so 2 week trash pickup would be fine.

recycle every week

Trash pickup every other week would create a public health hazard. Please keep it to once a week.

The recycling seems to be an issue, at least in my neighborhood of townhouses. Overflowing recycle bins every pick up day. Since it's autoloading on the truck, stuff falls off and other pieces that are alongside the bins gets left there. I realize every additional service comes with a cost, but we could use either bigger recycle bins or some manual assist from the company on recycle pick up day. Thank you for asking.

Weekly trash and compost

Strongly feel encouraging composting is the right thing to do. It reduces waste, saves on trash costs, and is good for the environment. Inclusion in the city offerings will lead to more homes adopting this practice.

We live in the Portplace neighborhood...Duffy Dr and we need to pay separate for Trash pickup. Our street neighborhood has 35 homes that pay taxes. Our trash pick up should be included or our taxes should be reduced to offset this cost

thanks for asking these questions to taxpayers!

Every other week with medium sized container for trash. Most of my waste goes into recycling or composting.

It would be great if the City did offer composting options for residents, i.e., a composting bin that is picked up on a weekly basis.

(1) I collect more than 2-3x the amount of recyclable items per week than normal trash. (2) Collection of regular trash per week is necessary due to perishables / composting materials during the summer months. If regular trash not collected weekly, there is opportunity for creating unpleasant odors and increasing the risk of attracting unwanted varmints.

Restaurants downtown will still need weekly trash pick up. I live downtown and I see how fast it accumulates. Maybe the city could do an incentive to restaurants with leftover food from the day (ie. Bagels, bread, etc) have it dropped off daily to a shelter? Just an idea. Thank you :)

I live in a condominium in Newburyport that pays for its own trash collection.

Keep costs low

Composting should be mandatory but affordable for everyone.

I use a lot of fresh vegetables and fresh fruit, and we definitely need compost bins! Since there are only few compost bins in the downtown area, I just throw everything in my weekly trash pickup.

Retaining trash for two weeks would cause trash to smell and rot and very likely lead to rats. and attract other animals, even if in containers. In addition there would be a build up of the volume of trash that would be unsightly. I strongly oppose a two week schedule for trash collection.

One of the things I love about living in a city is the trash pick up weekly.

Need to get trash containers with lids that do not blow away (attached on hinge).

Please pick up recycling every week! That would encourage more recycling

It's a stretch to have recycling every other week - I'd love that weekly too. Have the city seek a grant to provide composting services to all families!

Free composting please! It creates a lot less trash but as a family, it adds up to pay on our own. Would like to pay more in taxes to incentivize everyone to do it and then do every other trash pick up!

We should have city wide composting included in city trash negotiations probably weekly pick up. It would greatly reduce trash and make it easier to move to trash pickup every 2 weeks. I would be fine with my tax money paying for weekly compost pick up and reducing trash pickup to every 2 wks

People have small yards and do not want trash piling up. We waste money on redoing our already gorgeous park, yet want to have trash collected less often? No. Even environmentalists don't want their properties smelling and trash filled.

I pay for composting in nbpt now. would you offer that service instead of current service?

More recycling availability

Weekly trash pickup works because my trash bin (large) is full by end of week for my family of 5. Every other week would require a second trash bin. I would like the city to provide larger trash bins (for a fee) like they do with recycling if there is a move to every other week.

Set up a Swap Shop where people can exchange items in good condition. Very popular in other communities.

Recycle is needed weekly, trash could be twice a month if more people recycle.

Probably use a traffic light so someone doesn't get killed coming out of Crow Lane onto Low St.

I think recycling should be picked up every week as well as the trash. Many of us have far more recycling now than trash. Thank you.

I would be more likely to support changing trash pickup from every week to every other week if the City also offered free home composting bins!

I want to keep my old blue bin. I do not want to deal with any kind of cart...no place to keep it.

We have a medium size trash can and only put it out every other week, that option was not available. You need to consider the environment impact of converting to a different container. I hate the idea of thousands of trash cans becoming trash themselves

The current system works for us. Any less of a service could be problematic.

Pick up recycling every week in addition to trash being picked up every week. Focus on telling people how to recycle properly. It will create less waste.

Pickup my trash every week like normal

Move away from Mello

I would be more likely to support every other week trash collection if recycling was picked up every week

Keep trash pick-up once a week. Would prefer to have recycling every week too.

To me, the biggest issue to resolve is recycling being picked up on a weekly basis. At this point, we output much more recycling than garbage and I know this is also true for my neighbors.

Make composting mandatory. It will save money, reduce processing at the wastewater treatment plant, reduce waisted to the landfill. It's a win-win.

Encourage proper disposal of hazardous items at Crow Lane by not charging fees and normalize those costs to all taxpayers. Otherwise people dispose of those items elsewhere (like off Plumber Spring Road near our drinking water!)

I moved to a condo with 4 family units. Trash service was paid through taxes. When the condos grew to more than 09 units we had to pay for our own service but we are still paying taxes to the town for this service, why?

Keep up the good fight!

Is the recycled material really handled differently or just the same as all other trash?

Recycling should be moved to weekly, and garbage to bi-weekly. A citywide ban on single use plastics.

We live in a townhouse and our association pays for trash pickup. Our household has been with Black Earth Compost since its inception in Newburyport. I would love to see some sort of incentive plan to get more residents to recycle their organics. I use only one large kitchen trash bag every 7-10 days for household trash since I joined Black Earth.

I support changing trash pickup to 2 weeks, but I still would not need a 64 gallon bucket. Could residents select small or large?

Difficult to answer these questions without numbers (i.e., pay or save how much more)

We end up with much more recycling than trash each week. I would much rather have recycling picked up every week than move trash to every other.

Recycling needs to be every week. Easy composting (I don't need it because I compost on my own)

We should get guarantees that our recyclables are actually getting recycled. We should be separating recyclables by type, if Europe can do it, why can't we?

A composting option would be great

My concern about every other week trash pick up, is if we happened to be away one pick up day and didn't put the trash out, then it would be a month between pick ups. Would there be some system to get a pick up scheduled out of order?

Would hope that the business district downtown would be considered separately as the merchants might need weekly collection even if residential areas do not.

Trash needs to be weekly. No waybare people going to want to have trash out in summer for two weeks. That will be a nightmare.

The Trash/recycling folks do a fantastic job

Houses with apartments/multi family need to have it weekly due to the high volume of waste.

recycling every week instead of every 2

Our recycling bin is regularly over filled. I would advocate for WEEKLY recycling pick up. Also, I've noticed that the recycling is now picked up by regular garbage trucks and compressed in a similar fashion. Are we even recycling anymore?

Would love to see Newburyport offering free weekly composting!

The first two questions in this survey somewhat conflict with each other.

Just noting that I do already pay for a composting service. If it were free though that would be great!

Compost. Compost. Compost. Also put a trash can by cvs or make the company pay for it. It's ridiculous.

We have a garbage disposal and otherwise compost in our backyard and have no need for a community compost. Seems costly to me. We are a small household and we always have more recycling than trash so an every other week pickup is fine for us unless we miss a pickup and have to wait a month.

Concerned about switching to trash pick up every other week during hot weather, odor, flies. As a suggestion could trash pick up be switched to every other week, but convert to every week during the summer months?

We need to reduce waste as the highest priority!

We currently pay for Black Earth Composting and are pleased with it. After composting and recycling, we hardly generate any trash so a less frequent trash pickup would be fine.

There needs to be more community awareness and education programs about composting

We tend to need extra bins for our recycling on the two week pick up schedule. How can we know our plastics are being recycled?

We need an adequate volume of trash pickup to keep our city clean. We have many shops and restaurants that could not tolerate an every other week pickup.

[Additional survey reports](#)