

CARVER COUNTY MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING REPORT



September 28, 2015

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Introduction

The Minnesota Legislature has expanded recycling requirements in the Metro Counties to commercial buildings, including multi-unit residential buildings, effective January 1, 2016. Multi-unit buildings that contract for 4 or more cubic yards of weekly garbage service will be required to divert at least 3 recyclable materials from their waste stream. Carver County staff acquired mailing addresses from the County Assessor and taxpayer services, and mailed surveys to property managers in August, 2015. The desired outcome of this survey was to:

- Gather information necessary for improving Carver County recycling rates;
- Identify and assist property owners/managers that will be out of compliance when the new regulation begins;
- Identify Carver County multi-unit managers interested in receiving technical assistance to improve their current recycling practices.

Significant Findings

A total of 278 surveys were mailed to property managers throughout Carver County. Of those, 63 managers replied giving a response rate of 23 percent. The data gathered has been compiled and displayed as graphs on pages 5-9 showing survey results. Also attached are the cover letter and the survey questionnaire that was sent to each property manager.

Based on the survey results, 64 percent of buildings are serviced by 3 large haulers. The remaining buildings are serviced by smaller local haulers (Fig 1). Knowing which hauler each multi-unit residential property currently uses is important in opening a dialogue between property managers and haulers for improving waste habits, and to define what recycling services are currently offered.

Of the 63 property managers who responded to the question “does your building currently recycle,” 26 percent responded they do not (Fig. 3). 19 percent of the group that does **not** recycle responded that they had 4 or more yards of weekly garbage service. This means they will be subject to the new recycling statute, but are not currently positioned to meet the requirement to recycle at least 3 recyclable materials. Based on the survey responses, staff estimates that 4.9 percent of Carver County multi-unit residential properties will not be in compliance with the new recycling requirements as of January 1, 2016.

The survey also included a section to identify managers requesting technical assistance to increase their recycling rates. The results of this section shows:

- 31 property managers would like to receive some form of technical assistance such as financial assistance, on-site waste assessments, employee training, materials to promote recycling efforts to tenants, or free reusable recycling totes (Fig. 10).
- 9 property managers expressed interest in participating in a County sponsored multi-tenant residential recycling workshop focusing on getting the most cost effective services from haulers, keeping cleaner premises, and effectively managing move outs. The workshop will be held in the Fall of 2016, and will provide additional information on effective multi-unit residential recycling strategies.
- 15 property managers would like to receive a recurring Carver County recycling e-newsletter.

Contact information from managers who indicated interest in receiving technical assistance has been compiled, and they will be contacted.

Recommendations

Based on the results of this survey, staff recommends the following strategies to improve multi-unit recycling rates.

1. Utilize the information gathered to expand outreach efforts to property managers through County recycling programs.
2. Notify property managers whose current practices will not comply with the new recycling requirements.
3. Offer technical assistance and recommendations on effective strategies toward implementation of an effective recycling program.
4. Follow up with managers that have indicated interest in receiving technical assistance from Carver County to improve and expand their current recycling efforts.

Fig. 1

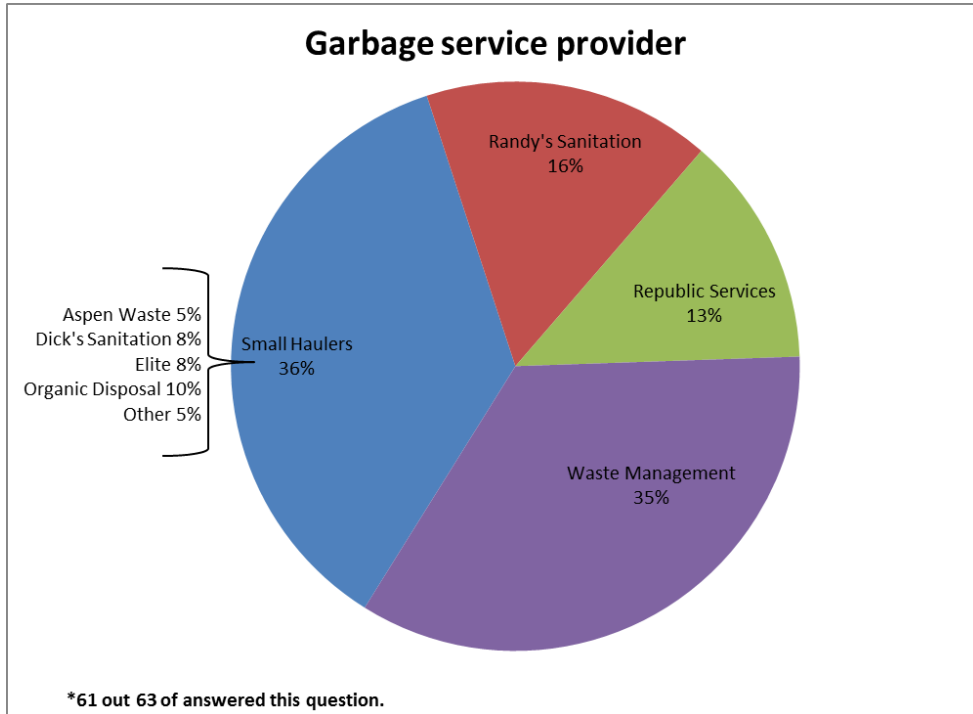


Fig. 2

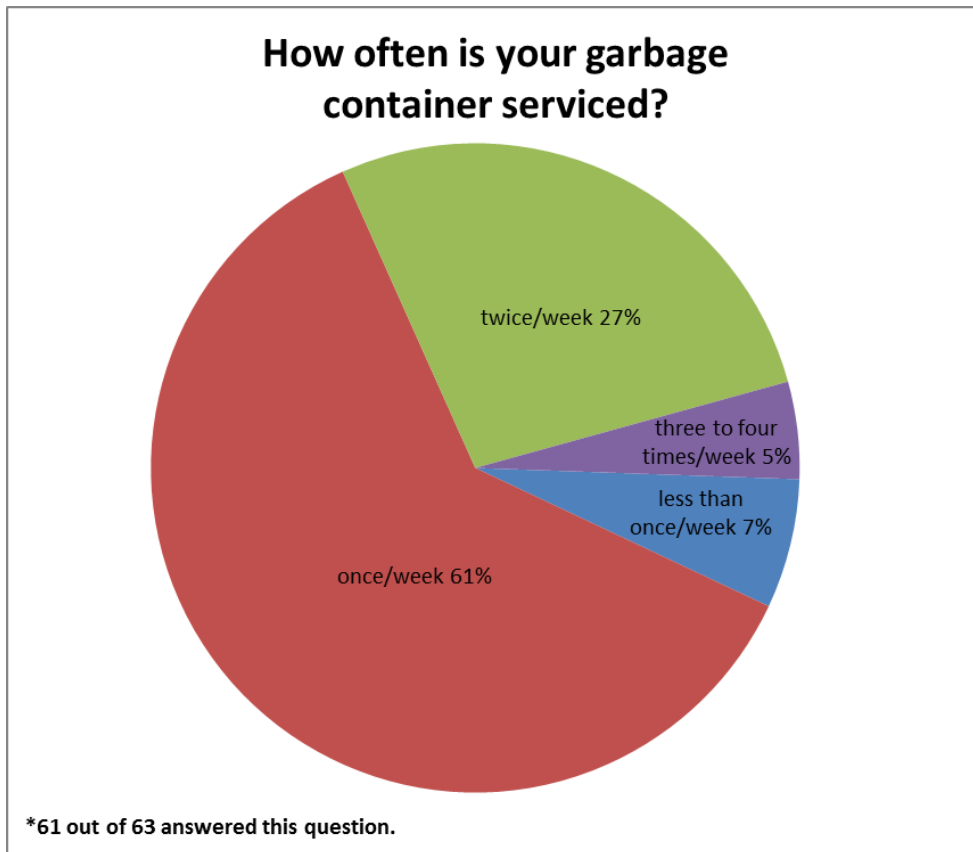


Fig. 3

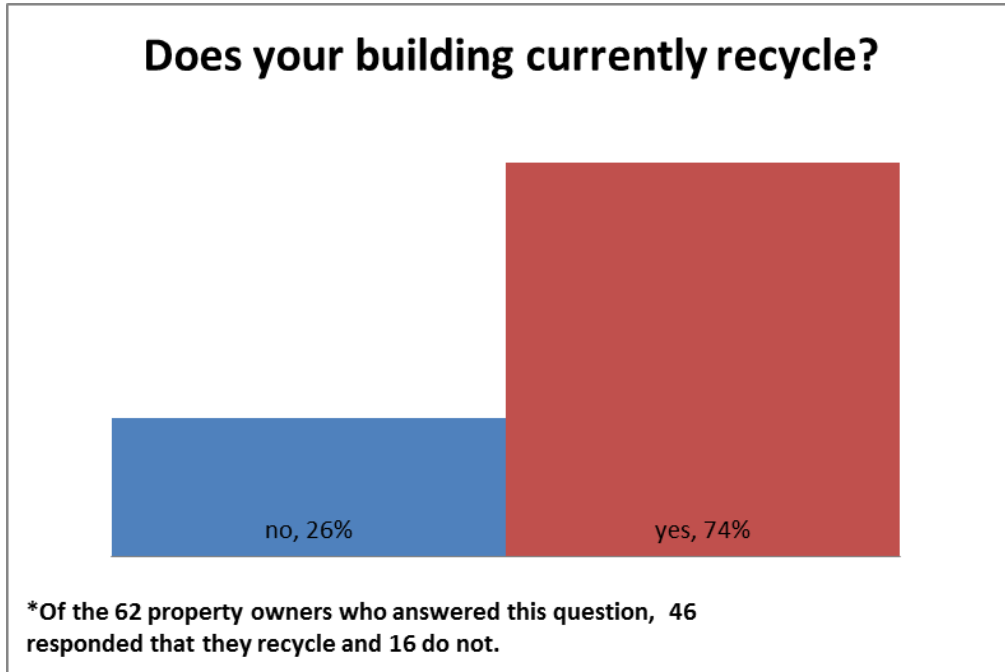


Fig. 4

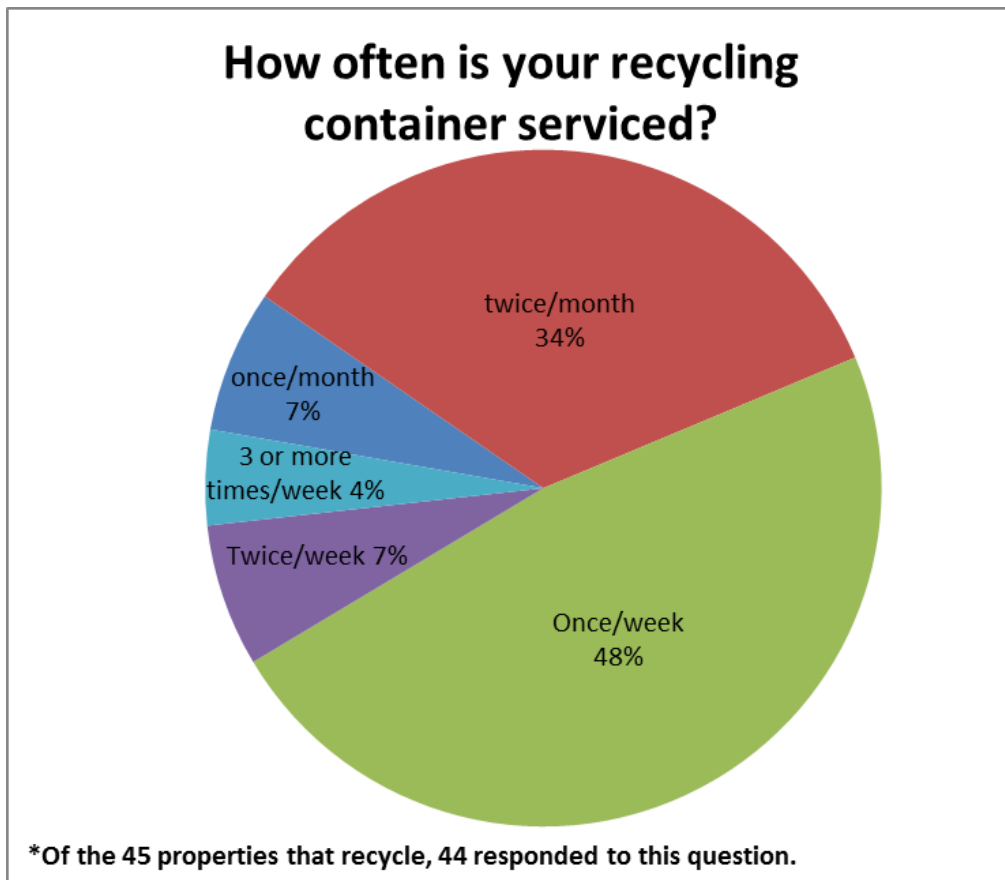


Fig. 5

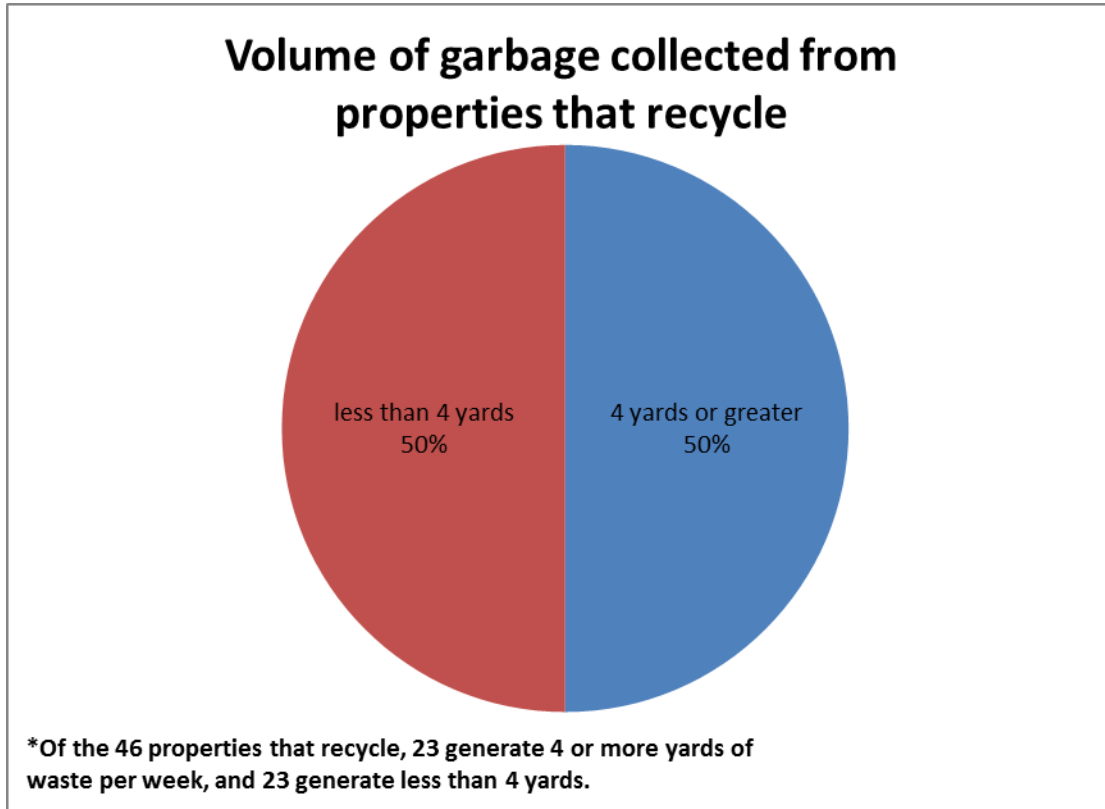


Fig. 6

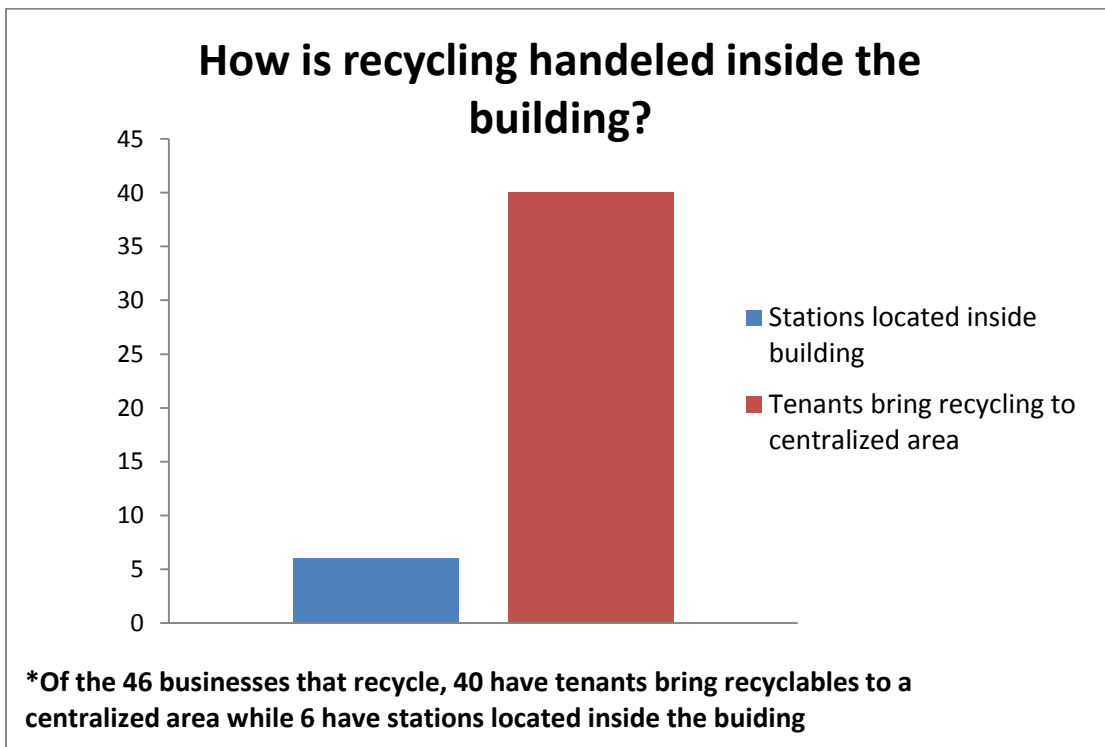


Fig. 7

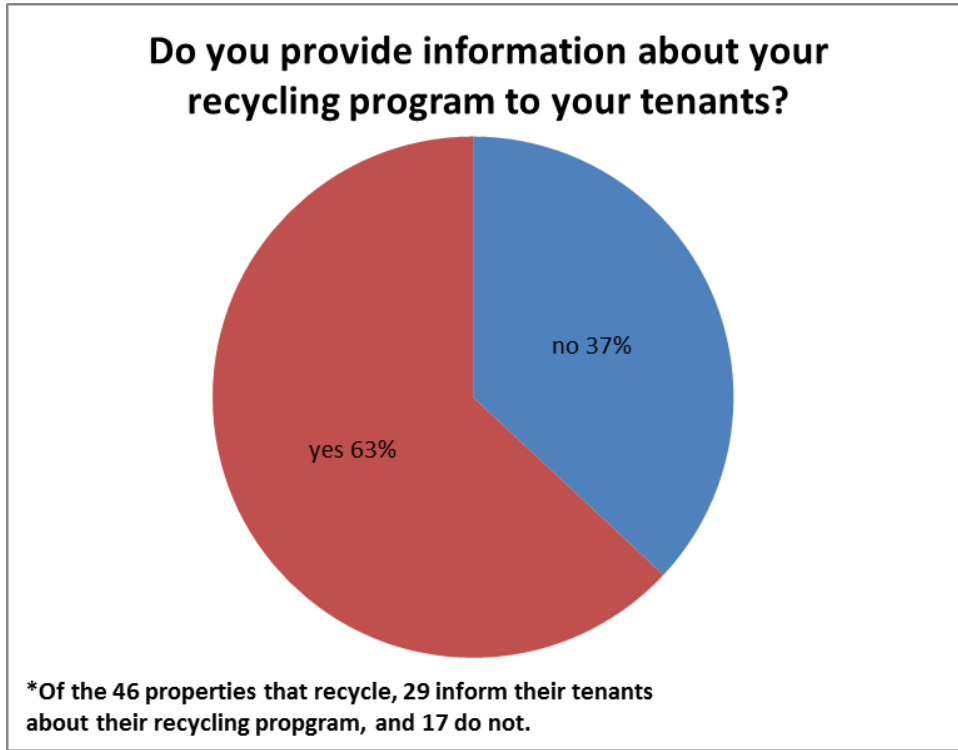


Fig. 8

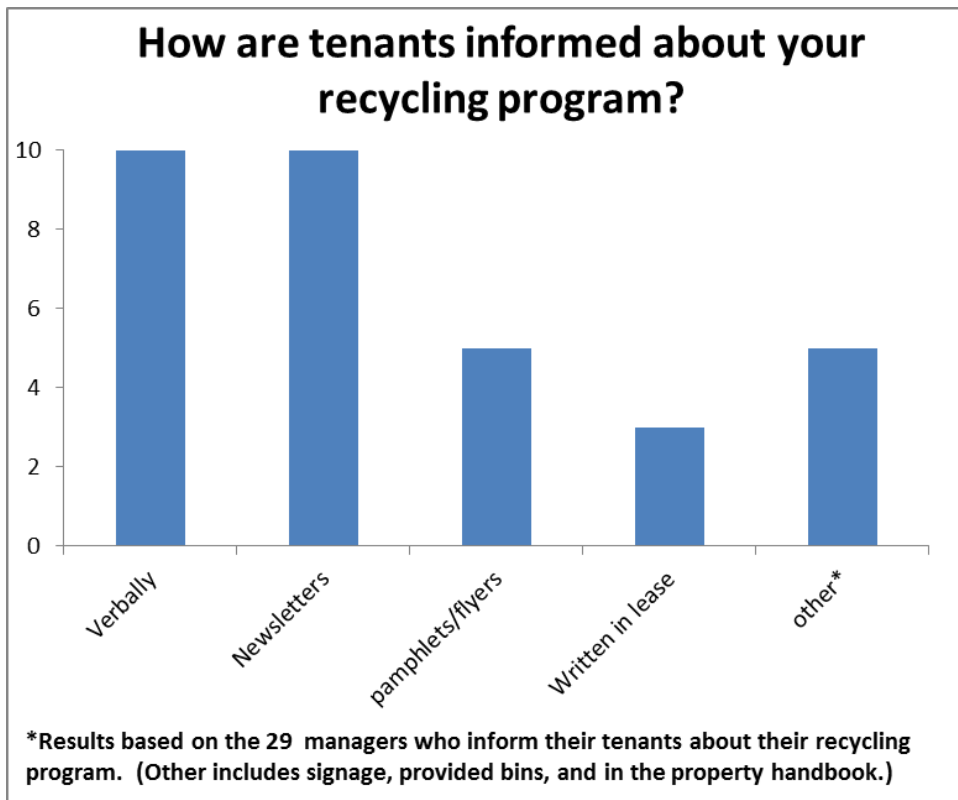


Fig. 9

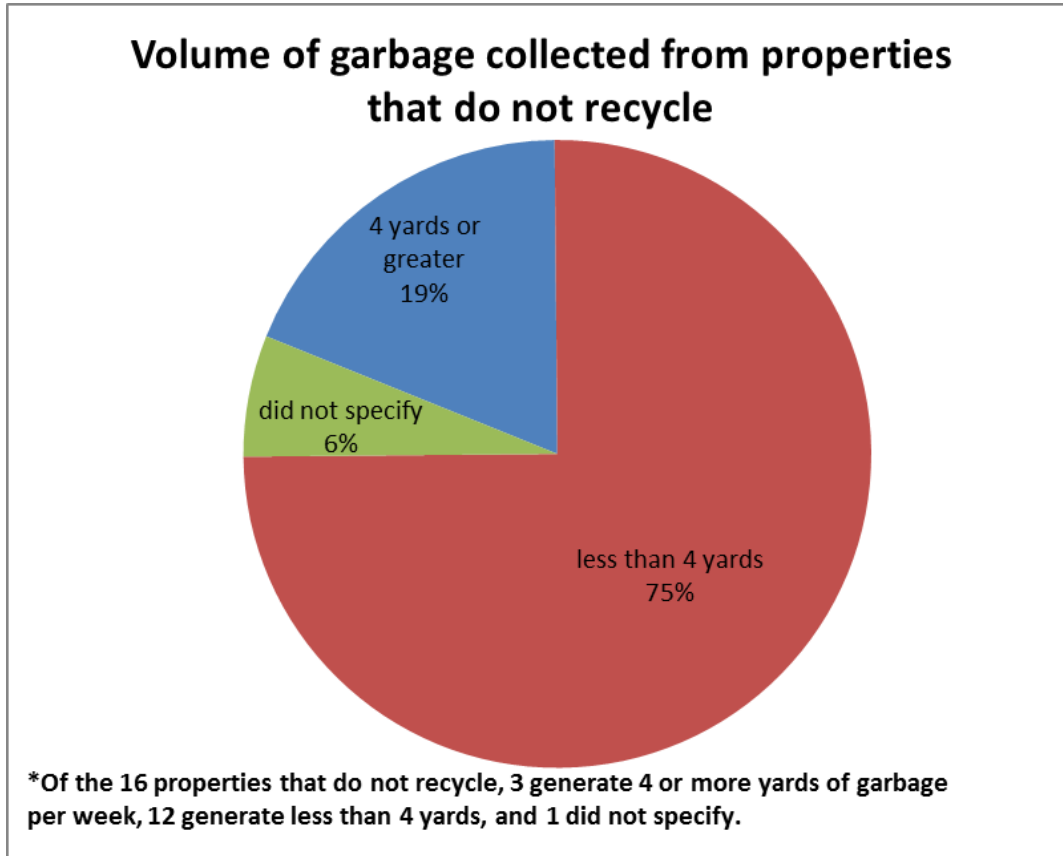
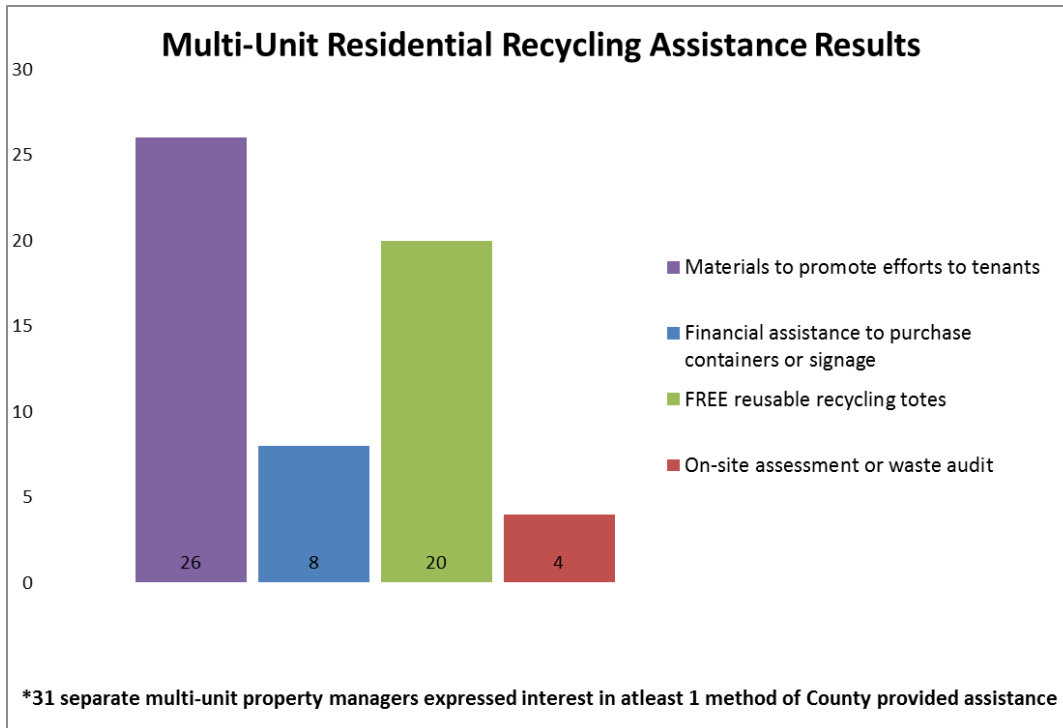


Fig. 10



APPENDIX A

July 22, 2015

Dear Building Managers,

The Minnesota Legislature recently expanded recycling requirements to commercial buildings, including multi-unit residential buildings, **effective January 1, 2016**.

Are you affected? Your building must have recycling collection if it meets the following criteria:

1. Multi-unit buildings, such as apartments and condos, with 4 or more units.

AND

2. Contracts for four cubic yards or more per week of trash collection

Carver County Environmental Services is contacting all multi-unit building managers within the County that may meet these criteria. We are reaching out to inform building managers of the new rules and offer assistance with compliance. To start, we are conducting a survey to help establish baseline data. The information gathered will be used to help expand the County's multi-unit building recycling assistance program.

Please complete and return the attached survey by Friday, August 28 , 2015.

If you manage more than one complex, please fill out a separate survey for each building.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in completing the survey. It is our goal to assist property managers to gain compliance with the new rules. Based on survey results, Carver County intends to provide additional support including informational workshops, tenant resources and financial assistance.

More information on the new recycling requirements can be found on the back of this letter. If you have any questions regarding the new requirements for commercial recycling or the attached survey, please call Jake Duame at (952) 361-1891 or email jduame@co.carver.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Marcus Zbinden

Carver County Environmental Services

Multi-Family Residential Recycling Requirements Additional Information

What must be collected?

- A minimum of three recyclable materials must be collected. Possible material types include, but are not limited to: paper, glass, plastic, metal and organics (food and non-recyclable paper).
- Single-sort recycling (collecting multiple recyclable types in one container) meets the requirement, as long as three (3) or more materials are included in the collection.

Getting started

Know your waste stream, every business will be different.

- What types and volumes of material are currently generated and disposed of in your building?
- Which of those materials could potentially be recycled?
- Where in your building would recycling containers best serve your tenants, staff and customers?

Making recycling convenient will have a great impact on your recycling program. Pair recycling bins with trash receptacles, and place collection containers in easily accessible areas with clear signage. Considering best management practices such as these will help divert the most material to recycling and provide the greatest potential to save on solid waste costs.

Take this opportunity to contact your hauler to discuss “right-sizing” your service. By increasing your recycling, you may be able to reduce the container size or frequency of trash collection, and save on both state and local solid waste taxes that are only applied to trash, not recyclables.

Resources

Carver County provides information on recycling and waste management. www.recyclecarver.org

“Like” RecycleCarver on Facebook for Carver County updates. www.facebook.com/recyclecarver

The MPCA has created a page with resources and answers to specific questions you may have about the new requirement. www.pca.state.mn.us/dyw6vry

Recycle More Minnesota has resources to help your business recycle. www.recyclemoreminnesota.org

Rethink Recycling has a comprehensive Business Recycling Guide. www.rethinkrecycling.com

[Free downloadable signs and labels for recycling, organics and trash containers. Select a pre-designed sign or customize your own.](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com/businesses) www.rethinkrecycling.com/businesses

APPENDIX B

**CARVER COUNTY
MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDING
GARBAGE/RECYCLING SURVEY**

Please complete and return this survey by Friday, August 28, 2015

Questions? Please contact Jake Duame at 952.361.1891 or Jduame@co.carver.mn.us

There are two convenient ways to complete the survey:

- Complete the survey for each complex you manage online at www.recyclecarver.org/online-survey.
- Fill out a survey for each complex you manage, and return in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

General Information

1. Contact Information

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Units per Building (Complex): _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

About Your Garbage Service

2. Which hauler provides garbage service to your building (complex)? Hauler's name: _____

3. What size garbage container(s) does your building (complex) utilize? (Refer to your garbage bill)
(check all that apply)

- Roll out cart (100 gallon or less) 1 ½ yd dumpster 2 yd dumpster 3 yd dumpster
 4 yd dumpster 6 yd dumpster 8 yd dumpster Other _____

4. How often is your garbage container serviced? (check one)

- Once/week Twice/week Three times/week Four times/week Five times/week
Other (please specify) _____

About Your Recycling Program

5. Does your building (complex) currently recycle?

- Yes No (if no, skip to question 12)

6. What size recycling container does your building (complex) utilize? (check all that apply)

- Roll out cart (100 gallon or less) 1 ½ yd dumpster 2 yd dumpster 3 yd dumpster
 4 yd dumpster 6 yd dumpster 8 yd dumpster Other _____

7. How is recycling handled inside?

- Tenants bring recycling to centralized area Recycling chutes Stations located inside building

8. Are containers marked and easily identifiable as recycling?

- Yes No

9. How often is your recycling container serviced? (check one)

- Once/week Twice/week Three times/week Four times/week Five times/week
 Other (please specify) _____

10. What materials are currently recycled? (check all that apply)

- Commingled recycling (plastic, metal, glass, paper, etc)
 Organics (food and non-recyclable paper) Other (please specify) _____

11. Do you provide information about your recycling program to your tenants?

- Yes No

If yes, how? (check all that apply)

- Written in lease Newsletters Pamphlets or flyers
 Other (please specify) _____

Technical Assistance

12. What barriers inhibit your recycling program or prevent you from recycling? _____

13. What resources/assistance would you like to receive for your recycling program? (check all that apply)

- Financial assistance to purchase containers or signage (recycling, trash, organics)
 On-site assessment/Waste audit
 FREE reuseable recycling totes
 Materials to promote efforts to tenants
 Other (please specify) _____

14. Would you be interested in receiving a recurring Carver County recycling e-newsletter?

- Yes No

15. Would you be interested in participating in a **FREE**, County sponsored, multi-tenant residential recycling workshop focusing on getting the most cost effective services from your hauler, keeping cleaner premises, and effectively managing move outs?

- Yes No