

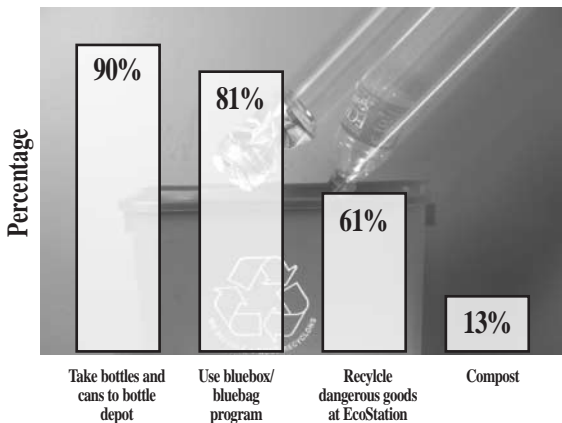
Edmontonians' **poll station**

By **Linda Banister**

From our lush river valley to our wide open parks, Edmonton is widely perceived as being a “green” city. But the City has another reason for this reputation: the dedication and pride of its citizens in caring for the environment both locally and abroad.

In this month's *Poll Station*, we asked Edmontonians about what they are doing to help the environment through their recycling practices at home and in the workplace.

WHAT RECYCLING ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO IN YOUR HOME?

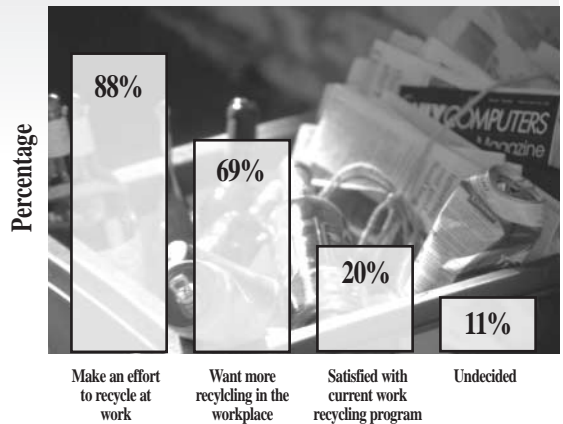


Respondents were asked if they partake in a number of recycling activities in their home. The vast majority indicated they take their bottles to the bottle depot (90 percent) and recycle with blue bags or blue boxes (81 percent). About six in every 10 respondents (61 percent) said they take hazardous items such as used oil and paint cans to the EcoStation, and 13 percent indicated that they use composters.

DO YOU RECYCLE AT WORK?

Next, respondents were asked a series of questions regarding recycling practices in the workplace. Of those respondents who work, 88 percent indicated they make a concerted effort to recycle at work. When asked if they would be in favour of expanding their work recycling program, more than two-thirds (69 percent) said they would like to see more recycling, while 20 percent were satisfied with the current level of recycling, and 11 percent were unsure.

Respondents were then asked how recycling programs in the workplace should be funded. Thirty-one percent felt they should be sponsored through a mix of City, employer and employee funding, and 21 percent said they should be funded by the employer only.



Sixteen percent felt workplace recycling programs should be funded with only City taxes, while 13 percent said other sources should be sought and 19 percent were unsure who should be responsible for funding such programs.

All respondents were asked how more employees could be encouraged to recycle in the workplace. Of those who provided a response, 31 percent felt that if more blue bags and boxes were made easily accessible, employees would be more likely to recycle. Additionally, 20 percent felt further information and education on recycling was necessary to promote the practice, and 15 percent felt more employees would recycle if they were paid or provided an incentive for doing so. Other suggestions included putting up signs or posters around the workplace (14 percent), increasing awareness and improving attitudes toward recycling (eight percent), and making recycling a company policy (five percent).

The *Poll Station* surveyed 100 City of Edmonton residents on the topic and, while the results of the research are not statistically reliable, they do provide a qualitative indication of what Edmontonians are thinking. ✓



Linda Banister is a certified management consultant and the owner of Banister Research & Consulting Inc., a full service provider of market research and program evaluation services. If you have a question you would like included in the Edmontonians Poll, contact

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