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NEIGHBORHOOD ATTITUDES TOWARD COMMUNITY COMPOSTING: CASE OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the spring of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created interest in home gardening as well as shortages in the availability of bulk and bagged compost at local garden centers and bagged compost at national retailers. Because of this shortage, several community groups organized four sites throughout the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, where residents could pick up compost at no cost. To assess the feasibility of long-term plans for community composting, a survey was conducted to determine community views on local composting. This report reviews the results of the survey sent out to neighborhood residents in Knoxville, Tennessee, between September 13, 2020, and November 3, 2020. The survey was solicited through text messages (from those who provided a phone number when they picked up compost) and the City of Knoxville Neighborhood Newsletter, asking for their views on community composting.

Survey results indicate:

- Most all respondents are supportive of having community compost in their neighborhoods.
 - Most all are willing to save home food scraps for community composting (94%).
 - Most would prefer the composting site to be within 1 mile (93%).
 - Respondents have a high willingness to volunteer at a community composting operation (78%).
- 29% of respondents are willing to pay for food scrap pickup, with an average amount willing to pay \$6.60 per week.
- A majority of respondents would like to deliver food scraps to community composting themselves (53%).
- Most would be willing to pay \$2-\$5 per 5-gallon bucket of finished compost.

In evaluating the compost giveaway in the spring of 2020, the survey indicated:

- Most participants traveled 1 to 5 miles to pick up compost (56%).
- Most participants using compost were experienced gardeners and would have gardened regardless of the availability of the free compost.

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INTRODUCTION

In response to the sudden increase in gardening demand and reduced access to compost due to COVID-19 shutdowns, several community partners (University of Tennessee, SEED, Beardsley Farm, Knoxville Botanical Garden and the City of Knoxville) rapidly organized and implemented community compost drop-sites in the spring of 2020. Aged compost from a nearby horse stable was delivered to nonprofit sites via City of Knoxville trucks, where citizens could pick up and load compost for home garden use. Four sites were established in April of 2020, and 100 cubic yards of compost were picked up by residents within one month and put into home gardens producing food for the season.

The intended purpose of the spring 2020 compost drop was to provide the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, residents access to compost to improve garden soils for growing vegetables at home. At the time, many garden centers selling bulk compost were closed due to COVID-19 shutdowns, and bagged compost at box stores was in short supply. Though available to all citizens of the city, the compost drop sites were established in lower-income areas of the city to facilitate better access to compost by people with fewer transportation resources (zip codes where compost was located are ranked in the 90th – 100th percentile of state and national low-income populations).³



Photo source: City of Knoxville

The compost source was depleted within one month, and partners are now discussing long-term options for generating and supplying compost to home gardeners and simultaneously reducing food waste. Community partners are investigating the feasibility of decentralized community compost locations within city neighborhoods where food wastes would be collected by households and composted within neighborhoods for return-use to participants' home gardens or urban farms.

As a first step in assessing the feasibility of community composting in Knoxville, we surveyed both participants of the spring 2020 compost giveaway and nonparticipating neighborhood members to gauge interest in, and concerns about, food waste collection and composting. The results of these surveys are presented in this publication.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY COMPOSTING?

Community composting can be defined as cooperative efforts where the organic materials and nutrients are cycled within a community (i.e., composted and used as a garden amendment to grow food within a small geographic location). Composting operations are kept small so they can be placed within close proximity to households, yet large enough so that a critical mass of materials can be collected to generate microbe-created heat to speed the composting process. Many community compost facilities run as nonprofits, but some are also run by municipal governments or are simply loose organizations of neighbors.⁴ Regardless of the operating structure, key principles of all community compost operations

³ United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2020 version. EJSCREEN. Retrieved: February 23, 2021, from <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

⁴ Bilsens Brolis, L and B Platt (2019) COMMUNITY COMPOSTING DONE RIGHT: A Guide to Best Management Practices, Institute of Local Self Reliance, March, <https://ilsr.org/composting-bmp-guide/>

are that, (1) they have the broad support of the community they serve, and (2) they engage neighbors to partake either as food waste collectors or volunteers to help run the facilities.

Community Composting has emerged over the past two decades in a few major cities, including New York, Philadelphia, D.C. and Baltimore. Recently, Nashville is going forward with community compost installations facilitated by Urban Green Lab's Nashville Food Waste Initiative.⁵ The compost facilities are often modular, rodent-proof bins that can be scaled by adding more bins at compost locations. We envision community-scale compost using similar methods as recommended by the Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR),⁶ but we have little knowledge of the willingness of Knoxville's citizens to participate, hence the need for this survey.

SURVEY METHOD

We surveyed Knoxville residents who received free compost and Knoxville residents who did not receive compost but received the City of Knoxville Neighborhoods newsletter on a weekly basis. Recipients of the free compost were reached via signage at the compost giveaway sites requesting them to respond via text if they used the free compost. We received 84 text responses, which provided a list of potential survey participants. During the compost giveaway, the main motivation was to distribute compost to gardeners; collecting contact information was of secondary importance and was inhibited by pandemic-related social distancing guidelines.

Starting in September 2020, a request to participate and a link to an online survey was sent to the 84 residents who texted that they had used the compost. The survey was created using QuestionPro survey research software with the purpose of determining (1) demographic information, (2) use of compost, reasons for gardening in 2020 and whether respondents are beginning or experienced gardeners, and (3) willingness to participate in an ongoing food scrap collection and neighborhood composting program. The full list of questions are listed in Appendix A. We received 14 completed surveys from this group of participants, for a response rate of 16.6%.

The survey was sent to a second group comprised of people who receive the City of Knoxville Office of Neighborhoods weekly newsletter on October 20, 2020, and November 3, 2020. The newsletter was sent to 904 people electronically, 30 through the mail and also posted on Facebook. The second group was asked if they had used the free compost in April 2020. If the responder had used the compost, they were asked all of the same questions as those who received the survey via text message. If they had not utilized the free compost, they were asked the same questions as the first on their willingness to participate in an ongoing food scrap collection and neighborhood composting program. We received 78 survey responses from this second group. Because of the use of social media in distributing the survey, it is not possible to determine how many people had access to the survey; because of this, response rate cannot be determined. Of the 78 who completed the survey sent through the newsletter, nine respondents had utilized the compost and 69 had not. Only questions one through four and 15-23 of Appendix A were asked to the non-user group. The respondents of both groups were not a truly random sample of the populations. It is possible that those who utilized the compost have an interest in community compost and that those who receive the neighborhood newsletter are also interested in community-centered programs. Therefore, our statistical results may be subject to strategic bias.

5 NRDC (2020) NRDC Launches Regional Food Matters Project to Reduce Food Waste in 5 Southeastern Cities, Press Release, September 9, <https://www.nrdc.org/media/2020/200909-0>

6 The Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR) is a national research and advocacy organization that aims to help local community economies meet their needs and thrive.

Table 1-1: Survey Respondents by Zip Code (N=88)

Zipcode	Did not Pick up Compost	Picked up Compost
37716	1	
37754		1
37777	1	
37803	1	
37849	1	1
37909	5	
37912		1
37914	8	1
37915	1	
37917	16	6
37918	7	1
37919	9	
37920	7	2
37921	2	1
37922	3	
37923	4	
37924	1	
37931	2	
37932	1	
37934	4	

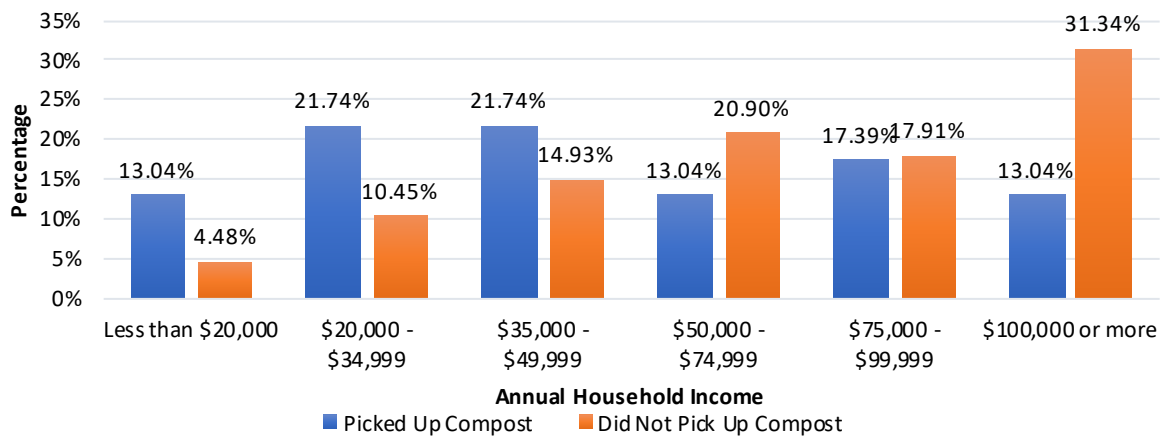


Figure 1-2: Annual Household Income of Respondents (N=90).

The percentage of household income groups for those who utilized the compost and those who did not is shown in Figure 1-2. Lower-income households were more likely to use the free compost than those who did not.

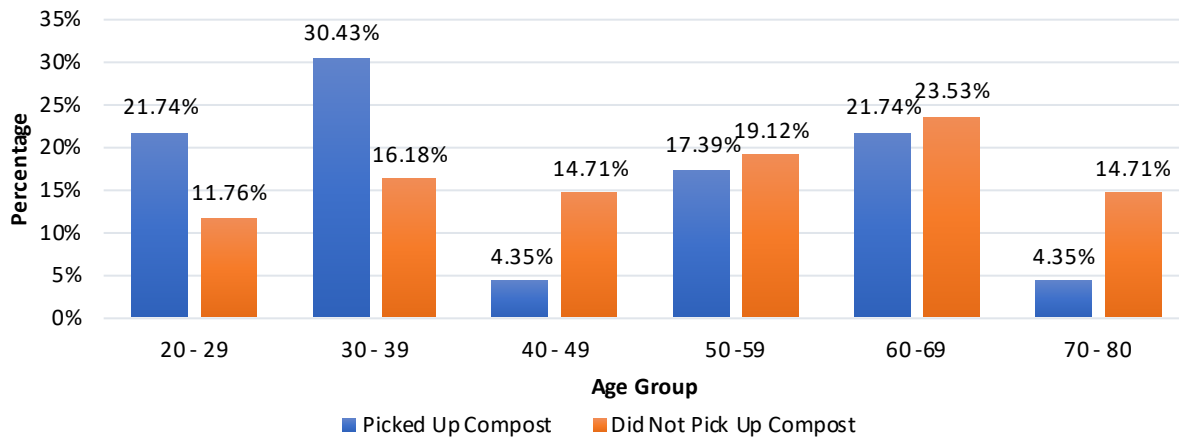


Figure 1-3: Age Group of Survey Respondents (N=91).

As shown in Figure 1-3, respondents who used the compost site tended to be younger than those respondents who did not utilize the compost sites. This suggests that readers of the neighborhood newsletter are typically older than those who responded to the survey requested through text messaging.

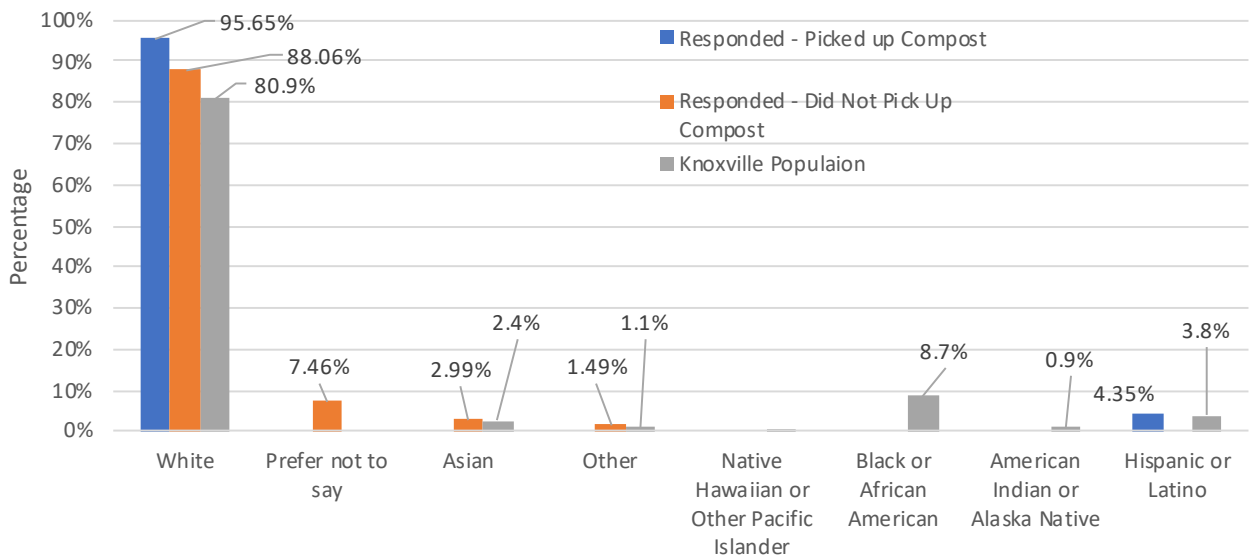


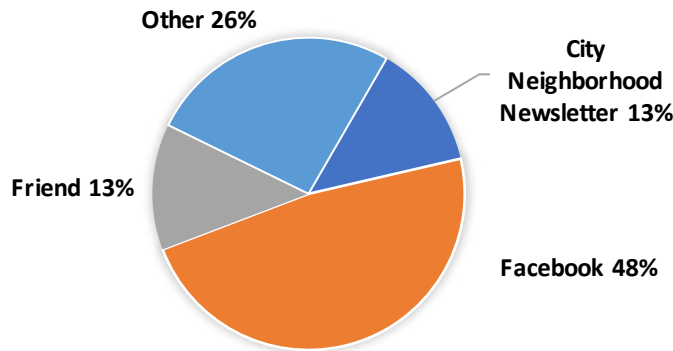
Figure 1-4: Ethnicity of Survey Respondents (N=90).

There is a large disparity between white and non-white participants in both survey groups. The survey respondents do not reflect a true sample of the ethnicity of the population, creating a sample bias in the survey results.⁷ For example, Figure 1-4 shows that although Knoxville is 8.7% African American,

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019: 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP05; generated by Brad Antone; using United States Census Bureau; <https://data.census.gov/> (30 March 2021)

we received no respondents from this demographic group. Additionally, “American Indian or Alaska Native” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” were possible selections; however, there were no respondents in those categories. One respondent marked “Other” and indicated “Biracial” in the text box entry.

USE OF SPRING 2020 COMPOST GIVE AWAY



Other responses - From work, Beardsley Farm Instagram, word of mouth

Figure 2-1: How Users Heard of Free Compost (N=23).

Almost half of the compost users were informed of the compost giveaway through Facebook, while others were informed through friends, neighborhood newsletters, work, Beardsley Farm Instagram and through word of mouth from the researchers.

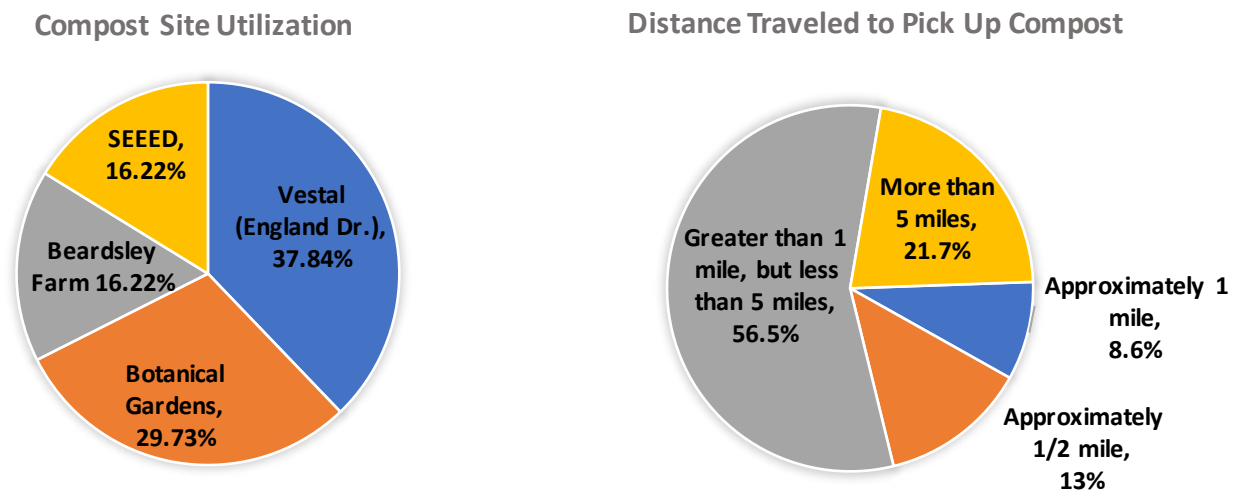


Figure 2-2: Compost Site Utilization (N=26) and Distance Traveled to Pick Up Compost (N=23).

The amount of compost delivered to and picked up from all sites was equal, but survey respondents were mostly from users that picked up at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Vestal. Of the respondents, more than half traveled between 1 and 5 miles to pick up compost.

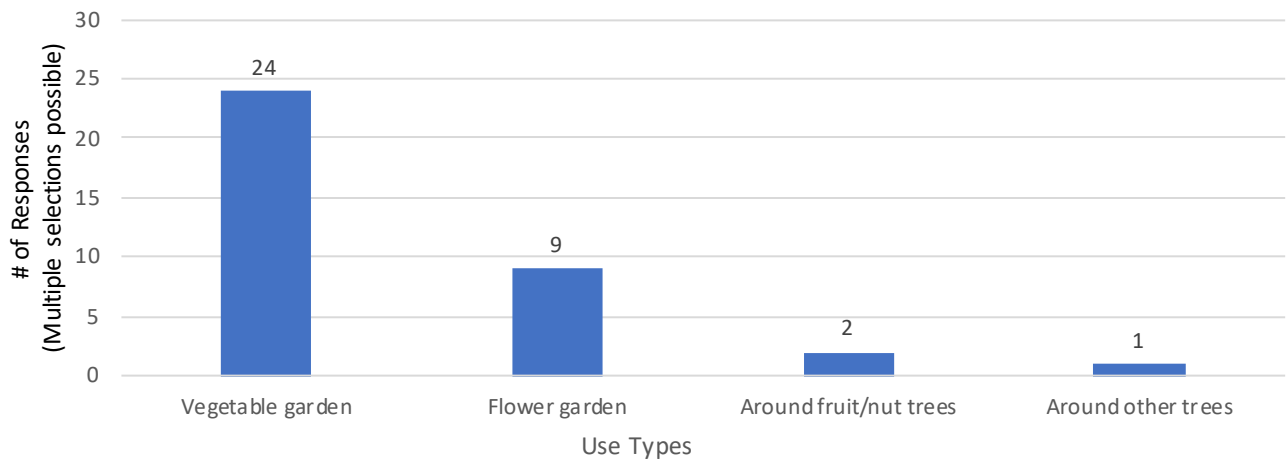


Figure 2-3: Compost Use in the Garden (N=24).

The vast majority of compost was used on household vegetable gardens. Respondents were asked to indicate all uses of the compost and select multiple options. All respondents indicated primary use in vegetable gardens, with secondary uses for flowers, fruit/nut trees and other trees. Because multiple selections could be made, number of responses is shown instead of percentage amounts.

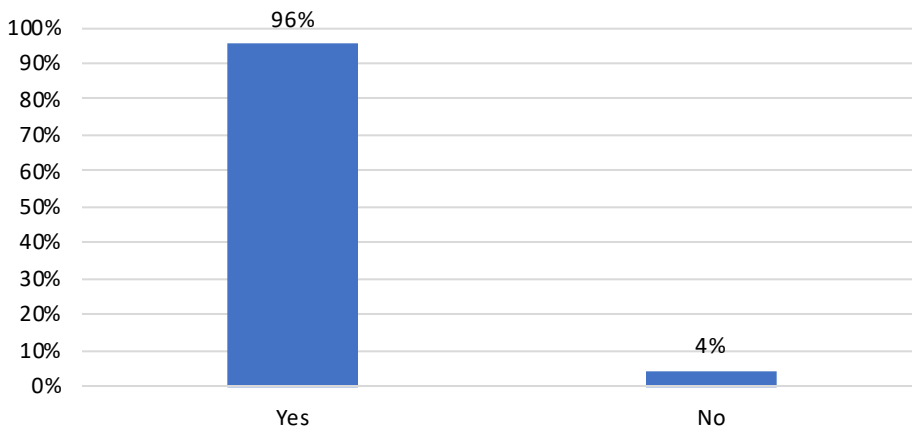


Figure 2-4: Respondents that Normally Plant a Garden (N=23).

Most all users of compost were experienced gardeners, with only 4% (one response) indicating they do not typically garden. The main motivation of the compost program was to encourage new gardeners, yet the survey results did not confirm utilization by new gardeners. This may be due to survey bias in that those who utilized compost were already interested in gardening and therefore followed or belonged to gardening groups on social media or in their personal network.

PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

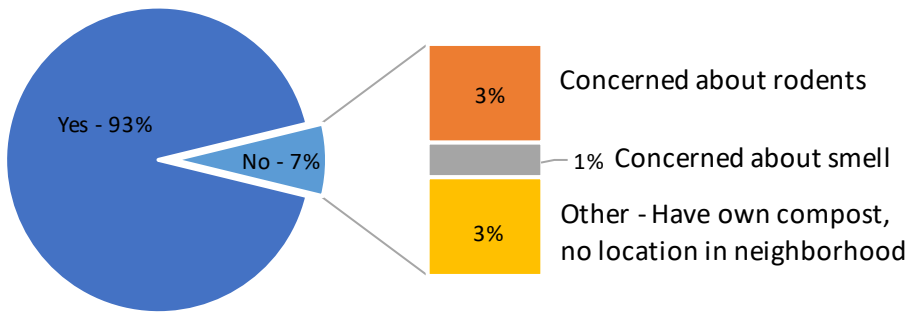


Figure 3-1: Desire of a Community Compost Site in Neighborhood (N=92).

A majority of survey respondents (93%) desire to have a community compost site located within their neighborhood. Of the 7% who do not, three respondents are concerned about rodents, and one is concerned about smell. Other reported reasons for not desiring community composting include respondents having their own compost bins and a lack of neighborhood locations available. Those 3% that indicated “Other” reasons provided explanations that would indicate they are not against having it but do not desire or believe there is room for it.

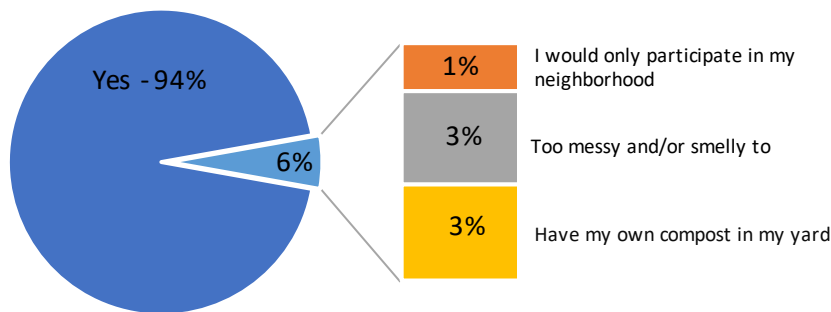


Figure 3-2: Willingness to Save Food Scraps and Reasons Against It (N=89).

Among survey respondents, a large majority are willing to save food scraps for community compost. Of the 6% that are not willing to save food scraps, two individuals indicated their reasoning as having their own compost, two indicated concerns with smell or the messiness of collection, and one indicated their willingness only within their neighborhood (which does indicate a willingness to save food scraps but is a survey response error).

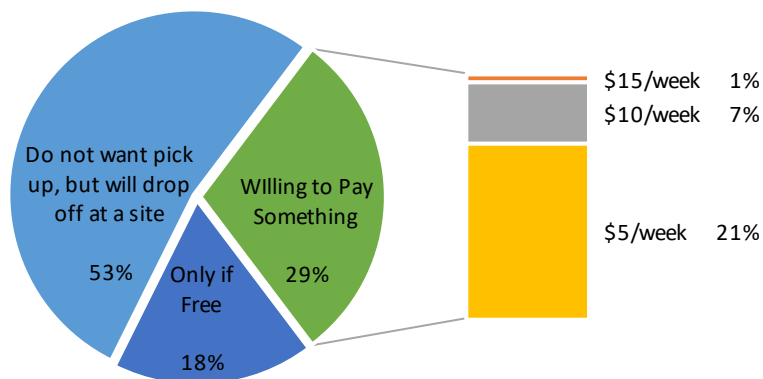


Figure 3-3: Amount Willing to Pay for Food Scrap Pick Up (N=85).

We asked individuals what they would be willing to pay (WTP) for food waste pick up, with options of \$15/week, \$10/week, \$5/week, “only if free” and “will drop off compost at sites.” A majority (53%) prefer to take compost themselves to a community compost site, and 18% will not pay for the service. Of the 29% who are willing to pay any amount, 21% would pay \$5 per week, 7% would pay \$10 per week and 1% would pay \$15 week, with a weighted average WTP of \$6.60. Currently, commercial compost pickup is available in the City of Knoxville at the cost of \$28.95/month for unlimited pickups or \$12 per individual pickup.⁸

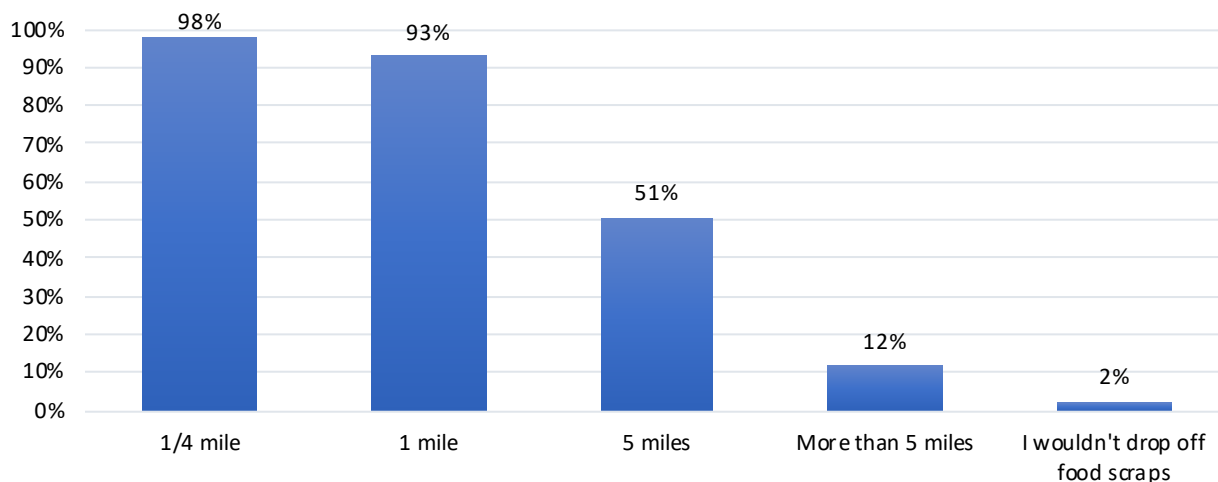


Figure 3-4: Distance Willing to Travel to Drop Off Food Waste for Compost (N=85).

⁸ Green Heron Composting, <https://www.greenheroncompost.com>

Ninety-eight percent of responders are willing to drive at least one quarter of a mile, 93% at least 1 mile, 51% up to 5 miles and 12% are willing to drive more than 5 miles to food waste receiving sites. Although 12% are willing to drive further to compost sites, it is unclear what their maximum driving distance is. Only two respondents (2.3%) were not willing to drop off food waste. In determining the distance respondents are willing to drive, we assumed that those willing to drive to longer distances are also willing to drive the lesser distances. Therefore the percentages shown include the responses of the longer distances of those willing to drive further (e.g., 12% of respondents were willing to drive more than 5 miles, so they were included in the percentages for 5 miles, 1 mile and ¼ mile).

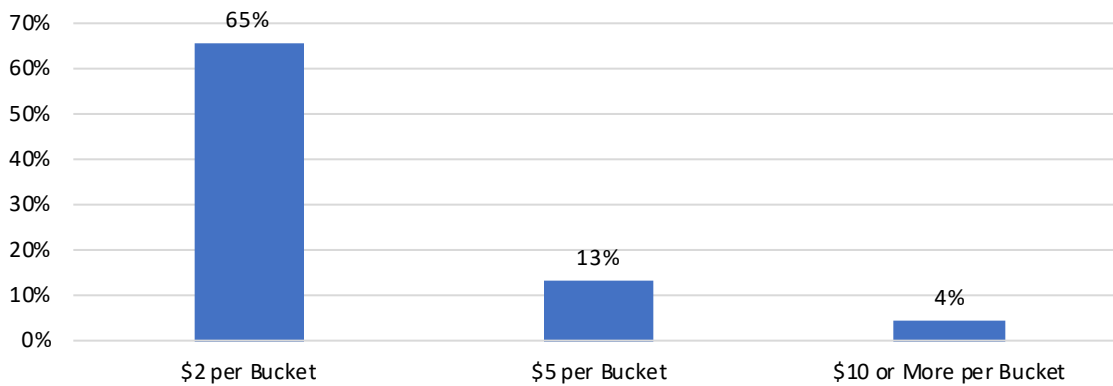


Figure 3-5: Willingness to Pay Per 5-Gallon Bucket of Compost Received (N=23).

Sixty-five percent of those who picked up compost would be willing to pay at least \$2/bucket for future compost of similar quality. Thirty-five percent indicated they would only use the compost if free. Of those willing to pay any amount, the average price is \$3/bucket. Including those who would not be willing to pay, the average price is \$1.96/bucket.

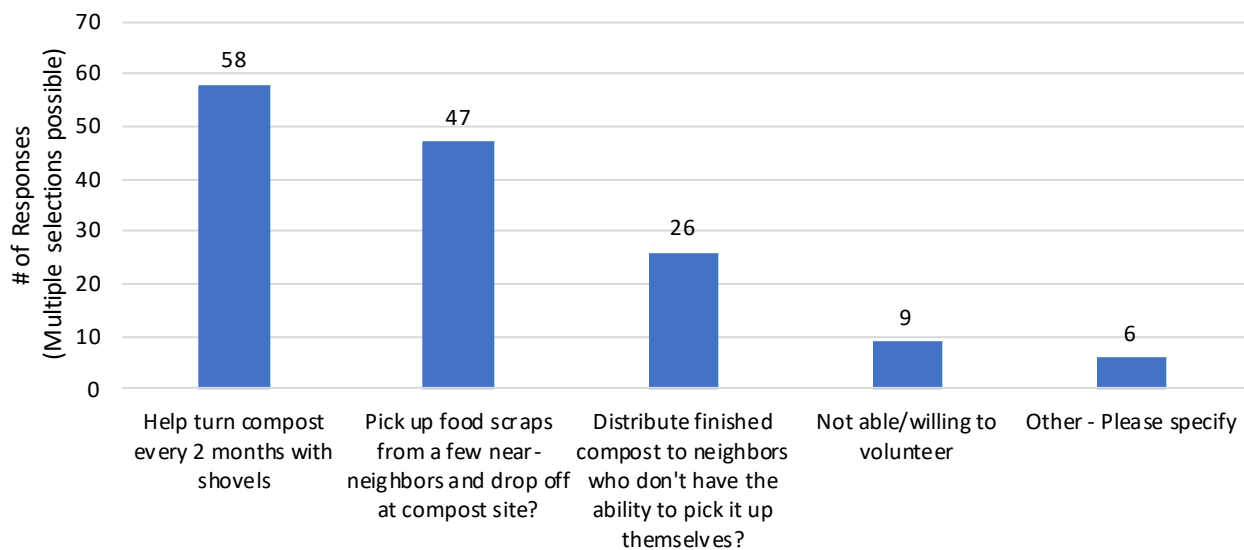


Figure 3-6: Participation Interest in Community Compost (N=74).

Respondents are very interested in being active participants in a community compost project. Figure 3-6 reports the results from a question in which the individual could select multiple ways of volunteering. The most frequently selected option was “help turn compost every two months.” Written responses to this question were “prefer to pick up compost and help when I drop off,” “Currently unable to volunteer due to COVID but would reconsider how I can support after the pandemic,” “Community outreach and education,” “My work-life balance does not usually allow time for additional volunteering, but if it does in the future, I would be happy to volunteer for several of these.” Because multiple selections could be made, number of responses is shown instead of percentage amounts.

We allowed for comments and suggestions at the end of the survey. Survey responder comments and suggestions are found in Appendix B. Personally identifiable information has been omitted to protect survey respondents’ confidentiality.

CONCLUSION

The survey indicated that almost all of the respondents (93%) are supportive of having community compost in their neighborhoods and are willing to save home food scraps for community composting (94%). Twenty-nine percent of respondents are willing to pay for food scrap pickup, with an average “willing to pay” amount of \$6.60 per week. The majority of respondents (53%) would like to deliver food scraps to community composting sites themselves and would prefer a composting site to be within 1 mile. Most would be willing to pay \$2-\$5 per bucket of finished compost. Respondents indicated a high willingness to volunteer in the work of community composting.

In evaluating the spring 2020 compost giveaway, the survey indicated that most traveled 1 to 5 miles to pick up compost. Most all were experienced gardeners, using the compost in gardens that they would have planted regardless of the free compost. One of the rationales for the compost giveaway was to motivate people who had not previously gardened to start a garden during the pandemic when they may be more motivated to produce food at home. The survey suggests that access to compost alone will not necessarily motivate gardening. It is also possible that those who were informed of the compost were individuals who already had social media ties to community and gardening groups because of their interests in gardening.

The true population of compost users is not known, and our survey respondents may not be representative of the true population. An equal amount of compost was located and picked up at all four sites, but respondents were mostly from the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Vestal locations, indicating that proportionally fewer users from the other locations did not participate in the survey. Compost pickup locations were mostly in minority neighborhoods, yet survey respondents were mostly white. It is unknown whether near neighbors used the compost but did not participate in the survey or whether the compost was mostly accessed by people traveling from more distant neighborhoods.

Most of the survey takers were a result of outreach through the City of Knoxville, Office of Neighborhoods newsletter. It is likely that the information gathered through the survey using this method is skewed towards people who already exhibit an interest in their community and events happening that affect them. We believe these participants are more likely to desire community-centered events and communal spaces to gather, which resulted in a high interest in participation.

LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS

The 2020 spring compost program was successful in distributing 100 cubic yards of compost to four locations that was picked up by residents within one month for use in home gardens. All host community organizations were happy with the project and the compost drop has been continued for spring 2021. The results of this survey do not conclusively indicate that compost was utilized by lower income residents or by new gardeners (two main motivations for the program). In 2020, notification of the compost was broadcast via the city's social media platforms, which may have biased participants toward those who monitor those platforms. In future years, efforts could be made to notify lower income households of the program; for example, host organizations could send out a notice through their own networks first rather than universal broadcast through the city's social media platforms.

Given the rapid use of the 2020 delivered compost, more locations could likely be added to meet demand, but supplies of compost are limited; currently, only one horse stable serves as the source for donated compost. Several other horse farms were asked if they could donate but all had other uses for their generated manure. This initial survey indicates that there is interest in community composting as a means to generate compost within neighborhoods themselves. We recommend further investigating individual neighborhood's interest in community composting through a more robust selection sample of the true population to eliminate biases.

We also recommend creating a design plan and implementing an economic feasibility plan for the design. Cities that have pioneered widespread community composting have utilized modular rodent-proof bins located on city-owned lands such as parks and community gardens^{9,10}. A feasibility analysis should evaluate the current status of these programs and consider their use/modification in Knoxville.

9 Urban Farm Plans, Knox Compost 3-bin system, <https://www.urbanfarmplans.com/portfolio/compost-knox/>

10 Kummer, Frank, "Philadelphia to launch city-wide composting network of up to 25 sites," *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Updated June 19, 2019. <https://www.inquirer.com/science/climate/philadelphia-compost-food-waste-20190619.html>

APPENDIX A

The following questions are used to collect demographic information about compost users.

1. What is your annual household income level?

1. Less than \$20,000
2. \$20,000 - \$34,999
3. \$35,000 - \$49,999
4. \$50,000 - \$74,999
5. \$75,000 - \$99,999
6. \$100,000 or more

2. How many people live in your household?

3. What age group are you?

1. Under 20
2. 20 - 29
3. 30 - 39
4. 40 - 49
5. 50 - 59
6. 60 - 69
7. 70 - 80
8. 81 +

4. How would you best describe yourself?

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Hispanic or Latino
5. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
6. White
7. Prefer not to say
8. Other

The following questions concern how you heard about and obtained the compost.

5. How did you hear about the compost pickup site?

1. Facebook
2. City Neighborhood Newsletter
3. Neighborhood group
4. Friend
5. Other _____

6. Which location(s) did you utilize to pick up compost? (Select all that apply.)

1. Beardsley Farm - 1741 Reynolds St
2. Knoxville Botanical Gardens & Arboretum - 2649 Boyd's Bridge Pike
3. SEED - 1617 Dandridge Ave
4. Vestal - 1015 England Dr
5. Don't know

7. How far did you travel to pick up compost?

1. Approximately 1/2 mile
2. Approximately 1 mile
3. Greater than 1 mile, but less than 5 miles
4. More than 5 miles

8. What kind of vehicle did you use to load compost?

1. My car
2. My truck
3. Another's car
4. Another's truck
5. Other _____

The following questions pertain to your gardening habits.

9. How are you using the compost? (Select all that apply.)

1. Vegetable garden
2. Flower garden
3. Around fruit/nut trees
4. Around other trees
5. Other _____

10. If gardening this year, do you normally plant a garden?

1. Yes
2. No

11. What motivated you to garden this year? (Select all that apply)

1. Concern about food availability due to COVID-19
2. Concern about visiting stores due to COVID-19
3. More time home due to COVID-19
4. I think it is enjoyable
5. Other _____

12. If the community compost was not available, what would you have done otherwise?

1. Purchased bagged compost from a store
2. Purchased compost from a garden center by the scoop
3. Purchased artificial fertilizer
4. Not fertilized my garden
5. Not gardened
6. Other

13. Approximately how much compost did you take?
1. One 5-gallon bucket
 2. Between two to five 5-gallon buckets
 3. Between six 5-gallon buckets and 1/2 truck load
 4. 1/2 pickup truck load
 5. More (Please approximate amount)

14. What would you be willing to pay for the compost you picked up? (Specifically, to support the operation of the facility.) Note - This question is intended only to gauge the perceived benefits of consumers and not to request any type of payment for the compost used.

1. I'd only pick up compost if it were free
2. \$2 per 5-gallon bucket of compost
3. \$5 per 5-gallon bucket of compost
4. \$10 per 5-gallon bucket of compost
5. More than \$10 per 5-gallon bucket of compost

Our idea is to have small community compost sites where neighbors can bring food scraps to be composted. It would be managed by a compost manager, and compost would be available to food-scrap contributors a couple of times a year. As you answer the following questions, please keep in mind that compost would be available to food-scrap contributors.

15. Would you want a community compost site in your neighborhood?

1. Yes
2. No

16. For which reasons would you not want a community compost site in your neighborhood? (Select all that apply.)

1. Concerned about smell
2. Concerned about rodents
3. Concerned about noise
4. Other _____

17. Would you be willing to save food scraps for a community compost site either in your neighborhood or not?

1. Yes
2. No

18. For which reasons would you not be willing to collect food scraps for a community compost site? (Select all that apply.)

1. Too messy and/or smelly to collect
2. I don't have time to drop off food scraps
3. Other (please specify) _____

19. If no, would you save food scraps if someone picked them up weekly from your residence?

1. Yes
2. No

As you answer these next questions, please keep in mind the idea is that you would have access to some amount of compost, as a contributor, a couple times a year.

20. How much would you be willing to pay for food scrap pickup (run by a local business)?

1. \$0
2. \$5 per week
3. \$10 per week
4. \$15 per week
5. I don't want my food scraps picked up but would drop them off at a compost site myself

21. Without a paid food scrap pickup service, how far would you be willing to travel to drop off your food scraps?

1. 1/4 mile
2. 1 mile
3. 5 miles
4. More than 5 miles
5. I wouldn't drop off food scraps

22. If a community compost site were established near you, would you be willing/able to volunteer to: (Select all that apply.)

1. Help turn compost every two months with shovels
2. Pick up food scraps from a few near-neighbors and drop off at compost site?
3. Distribute finished compost to neighbors who don't have the ability to pick it up themselves?
4. Not able/willing to volunteer
5. Other - Please specify

23. Do you have any final comments or suggestions on community compost sites?

Appendix B

Comments and suggestions on community composting.		General Interest/Comment	Participation/Community	Praise	Concerns	Suggestion
1	This sounds very interesting.	x				
2	I think I'd be able to deliver my own food scraps weekly or biweekly with my own vehicle, but I would be less able to pick up the compost for my garden. So, I think I'd be interested in compost delivery and paying for it. Thanks for pursuing this potential project!		x	x		
3	I think it is a great idea since I don't have room for a compost myself.			x		
4	Live in a condo. Always composted when we lived in a house.	x				
5	We already compost in our backyard but would be willing to participate if it means more people will be able to compost.		x			
6	Community compost sites will have a lot of enthusiasts in my historic neighborhood located close to downtown, where many residents grow vegetables, flowers and even fruit trees. The problem with individual compost bins is that not all of us know how to do it correctly and attract rats and other animals. I hope the community will be able to organize composting sites that can manage this and other nuisances.		x		x	
7	Conveniently and centrally located with easy in and out access.					x
8	I live in an apartment, so I don't really have a use for compost myself and, being only one person, I don't generate a lot of scraps but would be willing to save my produce trimmings and spent coffee grounds if that would help.	x	x			
9	I love the idea of them, especially for all the brush and leaves that we all have laying around. Of course, the city picks up a lot of that but probably not all that could be picked up. Having this initiative publicized would be good to get people thinking about how to cycle things in a healthy way. I think so many of us have forgotten that we could be reusing this stuff in the most natural way possible. Anyway, thanks for listening and I like this idea a LOT!	x		x		x
10	Please let me know if any wild animals are attracted to a potential compost site. Can you respond to xxxxxx@gmail.com? Thanks!	x			x	
11	This is a wonderful idea and much needed in Knoxville! I live on a private road and do not have leaf pickup, even though I pay city and county taxes, and I would be willing to take my fall leaves to a community compost site.	x	x	x		

Appendix B

12	I support any idea that helps bring the community together over a common goal! This sounds great to me.		X	X		
13	If people are driving, it negates the positive aspects of composting.	X			X	
14	Efficiency is a major factor. A lot of the curbside compost firms have buckets that are swapped out to reduce the burden on the consumer. There may be an opportunity to trade contributing scraps/labor for the end compost.		X			X
15	Thank you.	X		X		
16	I am the manager of xxxxxx Gardens: A Neighborhood Garden in xxxxx. Let me know if we can help. (Phone number omitted from report.)	X	X			
17	I LOVE THIS. Hope it can happen.	X		X		
18	I can't compost all of my food and yard waste fast enough, so community compost would solve a problem for me.	X	X			
19	Would love to be able to do this; absolutely zero knowledge or background as to how! Thank you for looking into this!	X	X	X	X	
20	I currently compost in my backyard to avoid unnecessary material going into a landfill, but I do not really use our compost. I would rather see it picked up for free and monetized through sales of finished compost and perhaps my considerable City taxes helping with collection like trash or recycling.	X				X
21	Help us with our own composition efforts. Need place and way of doing that is not costly or unsightly.	X	X			X
22	I compost for my own garden now but love the idea of having a community compost, and I would be willing to help in order to get others involved.		X	X		
23	Thank you for your service!			X		
24	Wonderful idea!			X		
25	I think it's a great idea. I normally saved mine for a friend who has chickens, but this year, she's decided not to carry them over the winter.			X		
26	Thanks!			X		
27	Just wanting it to be as simple as possible and incentivize community members to participate.		X			X
28	I would be willing to volunteer to the extent that doing so does not require interacting with others outside my household during the COVID-19 pandemic.		X		X	
29	1) It would be great if there was curbside, but I'm not sure Knoxville is ready to pull that off; 2) The program may need to provide standardized bins, even if for drop off, and make them small enough to carry in an auto safely (with a lid); 3) The state's permitting process is laborious and can be an issue (It's harder than it sounds to do composting right.); 4) Need to involve TDEC to assure that community scale in some way falls below a threshold; 5) if not, the permit holder needs to be very willing to adhere to all of the criteria and to pay for all of the permitting fees.	X			X	X

Appendix B

30	This is a great idea and I'm excited about it! What about using schools as the compost points, since so many families go to schools everyday (for pickup and drop-off) anyway? I'm sure Community Schools would be open to the idea :-)			X		X
31	My neighborhood - Very busy city street is not idea for a compost site... I would travel to KBGA, Legacy Park, UT site, Ijams, site for pick-up. I have the time to do this, not all people do. I cannot have a compost site literally in my backyard because of rodents, coyotes, etc... So, I would be thrilled to be a part of this. Thank You!		X		X	X
32	I think this is a great idea!			X		
33	My household composts at home but cannot produce the quality and quantity that is available with the refuse from a community farm and/or a cooperative compost location.	X				
34	The free compost is a great way to provide a necessary component for gardening to those who may not be able to easily afford purchased compost. The idea of neighborhood composting expands that access by reducing barriers to transport the compost. Most of my responses are based on my personal reality that I am short on time but have the financial means for other options. I probably would not have taken advantage of the free compost if it were not for the pandemic and my children being home 24/7. It was a way to keep them entertained one morning while also helping to supplement our home compost supply as we expanded our garden. They actually had a blast scooping compost to and from the truck.	X	X		X	
35	OMG please do it. I already save food scraps and compost in my backyard, but I don't have a good setup or tools for turning it. I think a lot of people would be into having their food scraps picked up by a service or a helpful neighbor if they realized how much less stinky it makes your trashcan and how much longer you can wait before you take your trash out! I think that should be pitched as an advantage of community composting. There's something in it for people who don't even care about composting that much.		X	X		X
36	Please continue them!			X		
37	Great idea. I have chickens and can provide manure if needed.			X		
38	Super excited about neighborhood compost. Since I compost at home and don't have a ton of extra money, I wouldn't be able to pay a lot but would be happy to turn compost and participate in other ways. Go compost!!!		X	X		
39	Appreciate the service.			X		
40	Thanks for the compost. It was both timely and helpful.			X		
41	If not already addressed, it would be great if grocery stores, restaurants and coffee shops could also contribute to community compost!	X				X



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