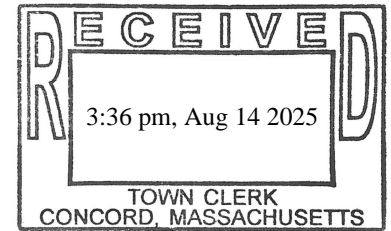


CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
Wednesday August 20, 2025
7:00 PM
MEETING AGENDA



Meeting Location:

- In person: Concord Municipal Light Plant Public Meeting Room, 1175 Elm Street
- Remotely, through the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89658925084?pwd=dqCN47QKgw07ZKlda071EnKYbbb1fk.1>

Meeting ID: 896 5892 5084

Passcode: 771884

Dial In Toll-Free: 888 475 4499

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Welcome – comments and announcements | [7:00] |
| 2. Meetings and minutes | [7:05] |
| a. Approval of July 16 minutes | |
| b. Posting process for documents from/for meetings | |
| c. Upcoming meeting and event dates:August/September | |
| d. Planning for Agriculture Day | |
| e. Planning for Sun Day | |
| 3. CAC Chair updates | [7:35] |
| a. New members, future recruitment | |
| b. State and federal government update | |
| c. Status updates on action items and old business from July 16 agenda | |
| d. Statements from DEI Commission | |
| 4. Deputy Town Manager's update (Written update attached) | [7:55] |
| 5. Climate Action and Resilience Plan update | [8:05] |
| a. RFP scope, full draft and next steps | |
| b. Evaluation Committee | |
| 6. Composting meetings, pilot | [8:30] |
| 7. Hanscom Taxiways E reconstruction and E5 construction | [8:40] |
| 8. Other Updates: | [8:50] |
| a. Networked Geothermal | |
| b. School solar projects | |
| 9. Public comments | [8:55] |
| 10. Adjourn | [9:00] |

Distribution:

Committee Members: Brad Dye (Chair), Kathryn Hopkins, Brad Hubbard-Nelson (Clerk), Shelly Karlin, Paul Kirshen, Bob Shatten

Town: Town Clerk, Wendy Rovelli (Select Board Liaison), Megan Zammuto (Deputy Town Manager), Shannon McAndrew (Management Specialist)

Local Groups: Mothers Out Front, ConcordCAN, League of Women Voters

1. Sustainability Project Update

- UV Installation – This summer the Recreation Division installed a UV filter in the Beede Center which will reduce water and sewer consumption. The system will enhance water quality and treatment efficiency while reducing chemical usage and lowering long-term maintenance costs. The project reinforces Recreation’s dedication to sustainability initiatives, ensuring responsible resource management and long-term environmental benefits.
- Acting Building Commissioner Kevin Pickering held a discussion group with builders, architects, and residents to discuss the Fossil Fuel-Free Bylaw, the Specialized Opt-in Energy Code and Accessory Dwelling Units.
- Staff are getting started on collecting green communities data for November reporting deadline

2. Composting Program Update for the Climate Action Committee

Overview of the Food Waste Drop-Off Pilot

- The Food Waste Drop-Off Pilot Program ended on July 29, 2025.
- Annual Cost: \$10,000 (36% of the Sustainability line-item budget)
- Survey Responses Collected: 187

Participation & Behavior Insights

- Most respondents live in 2–4 person households.
- Composting behavior:
 - Many do not use curbside composting.
 - A significant portion composts at home, using drop-off for harder-to-process materials (meat, bones, seafood).
 - Several have considered private pickup, but cite cost as a barrier.

Why Residents Used the Program

- Reduce landfill waste

- Support sustainability
- Free and convenient
- Cannot compost at home (e.g., due to rodents, lack of space, or apartment living)

Challenges Identified

1. Overflowing bins, especially before Tuesday pickups
2. Contamination from trash or non-compostables
3. High school site concerns: traffic, student misuse, limited access
4. Odor and mess: bugs, food splatter, bag issues
5. Accessibility: not convenient for all residents—especially seniors or those without vehicles

Suggestions from Residents

- Add more bins or sites
- Increase pickup frequency
- Improve signage and education to reduce contamination
- Explore staffed hours or supervised drop-off
- Consider means-tested or subsidized curbside options

Other Composting Options in Concord

- Backyard Composting: Supported through town education efforts and discounted bin sales (concordma.gov/449)
- Private Pickup Services: Available through regional vendors at approximately \$140–\$180/year, depending on weekly or biweekly pickup

Framing the Question

- Given budget constraints, is this the most effective use of \$10,000 to meet our Climate Action and Resilience goals?
- Could these funds be used for higher-impact strategies in our Climate Action and Resilience Plan?
- Or should we look at bringing back a version of this program, potentially redesigned to address operational challenges and equity concerns, within the existing budget?

3. Climate Action and Resilience Plan – Request for Proposals (RFP)

- The draft RFP is available for CAC member feedback. I am seeking feedback on the entirety of the document, but also call out a few specific areas in the track changes/comments for the committee's consideration. My proposed timeline has this RFP posted in early September with proposals due back in mid-October.

4. Additional Information

- **Civic Concord Podcast** - Regular episodes highlight topics of interest on current projects, initiatives, and services. Find it on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#). Could be a good tool when we are soliciting input on the Climate Action and Resilience Plan!
- **Concord Currents** bi-monthly e-newsletter - [sign up to receive news and information](#)
- **MAPC Climate Resilience Playbook** - will launch September 10th with a webinar to learn more about the resource [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

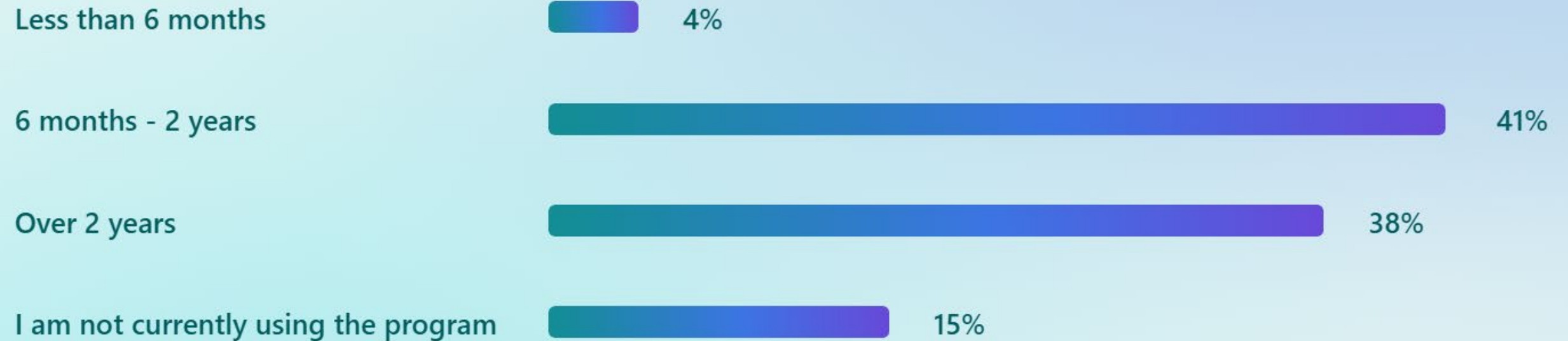
Composting Survey Response Data

8.13.25

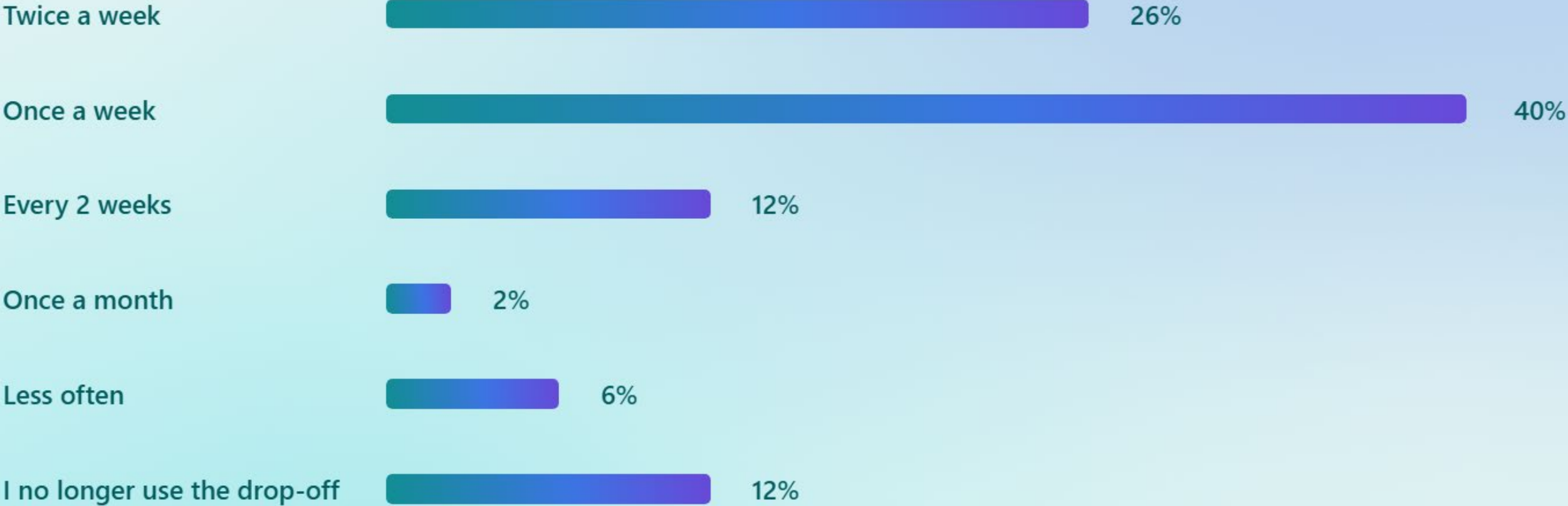


187 responses submitted

How long have you been using the community compost drop-off program?



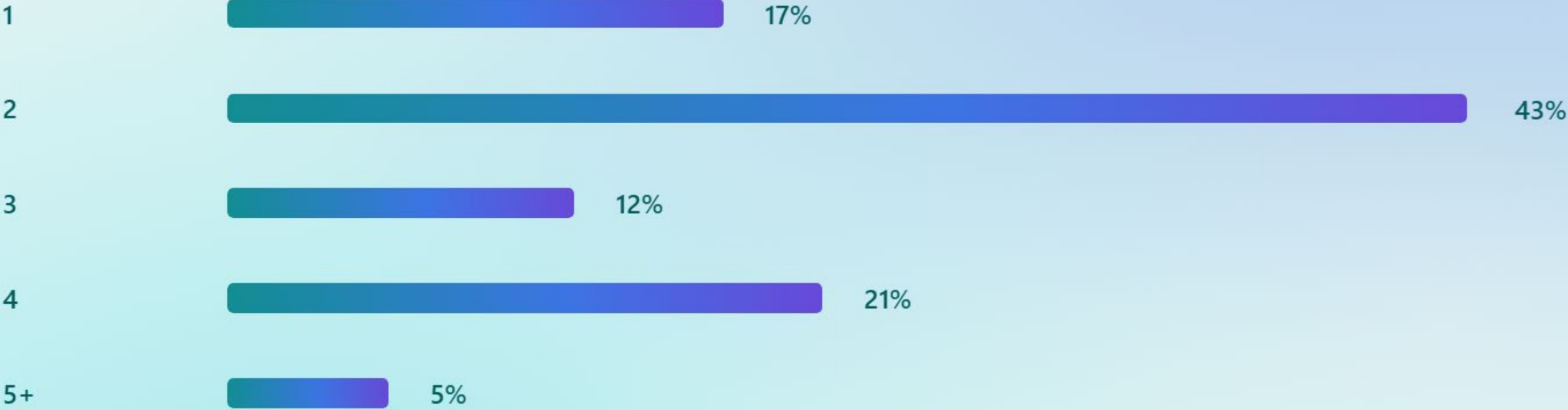
How frequently do you drop off your compost?



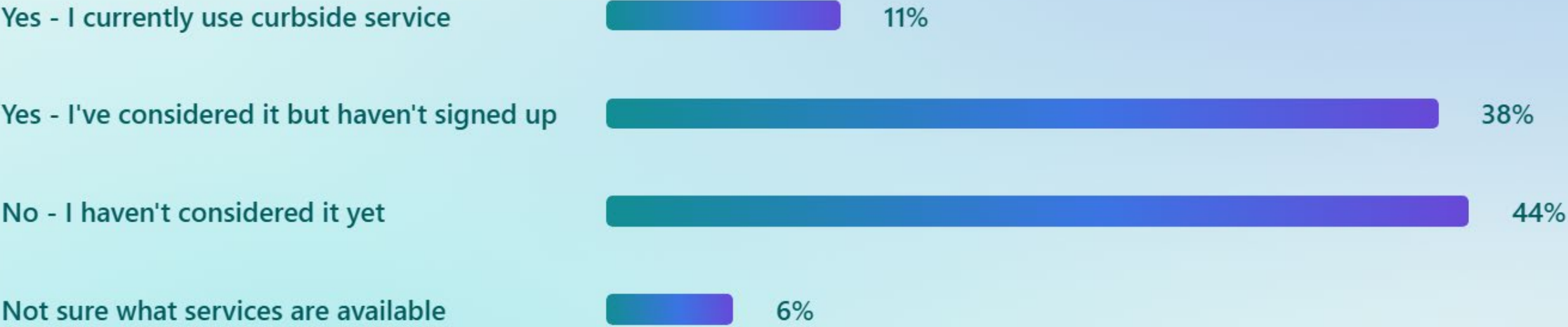
Which drop-off location do you primarily use?



How many people are in your household?



Have you ever considered using a curbside compost pickup from a private hauler?



Why did you use the drop-off program? (Select all that apply)



What type of residence do you live in?

