
CHALLENGES FACED BY NEW YORK STATE MUNICIPAL RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE MUNICIPALITIES

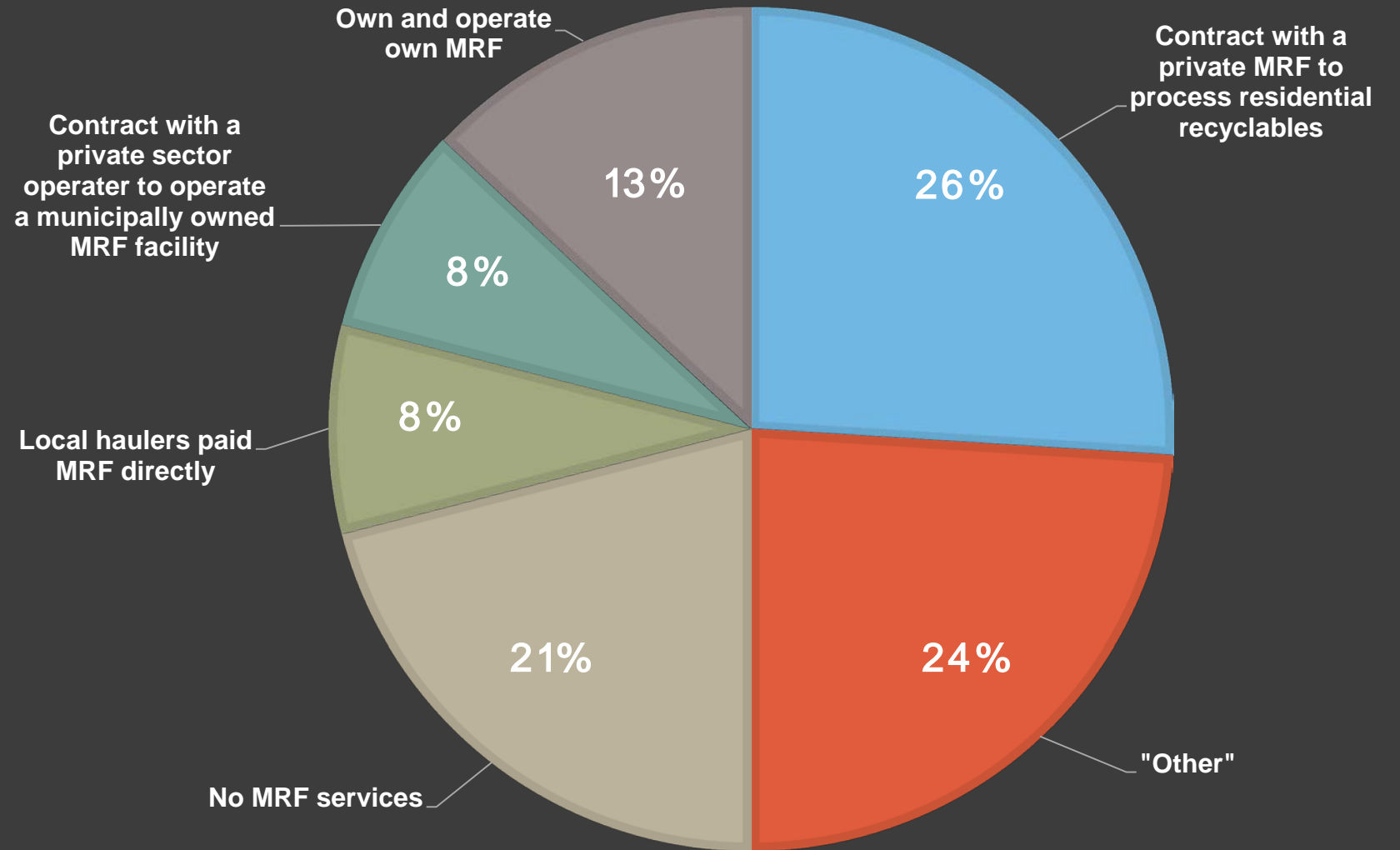
A PRESENTATION OF SURVEY
RESPONSES
NATASHA DURÁN, EIT



SURVEY

- Developed by the New York State Product Stewardship Council in 2020 (in collaboration with SWANA – NY, NYSASWM, and NYSAR3)
- Survey questions focused on four categories:
 1. Data related to waste and recycling collected, processed, and managed in the previous year.
 2. Risk associated with maintaining current programs.
 3. Policy related support for various waste and/or recycling initiatives and how or if they would benefit the respondent municipality.
 4. Electronic Waste Recycling.
- Total 38 municipality representatives responded.
- The responding municipalities serve approximately 73% of the state's population.

PROCESSING FACILITY



GENERATION

- MSW Generation: 0.01 to 2.68 tons/capita
- Residential Recycling Generation: 0.02 to 0.41 tons/capita
- Net MRF Processing cost: \$0/ton to \$118/ton
- Median statewide net cost of residential recycling processing: \$70/ton

41%

Predicted 2021 prices for their residential curbside recycling programs would increase from previous year's rates.

The median expected increase was by 12.5%.

38% were contracted with a private sector MRF facility to process residential recyclables.

PREDICTING 2021 COSTS

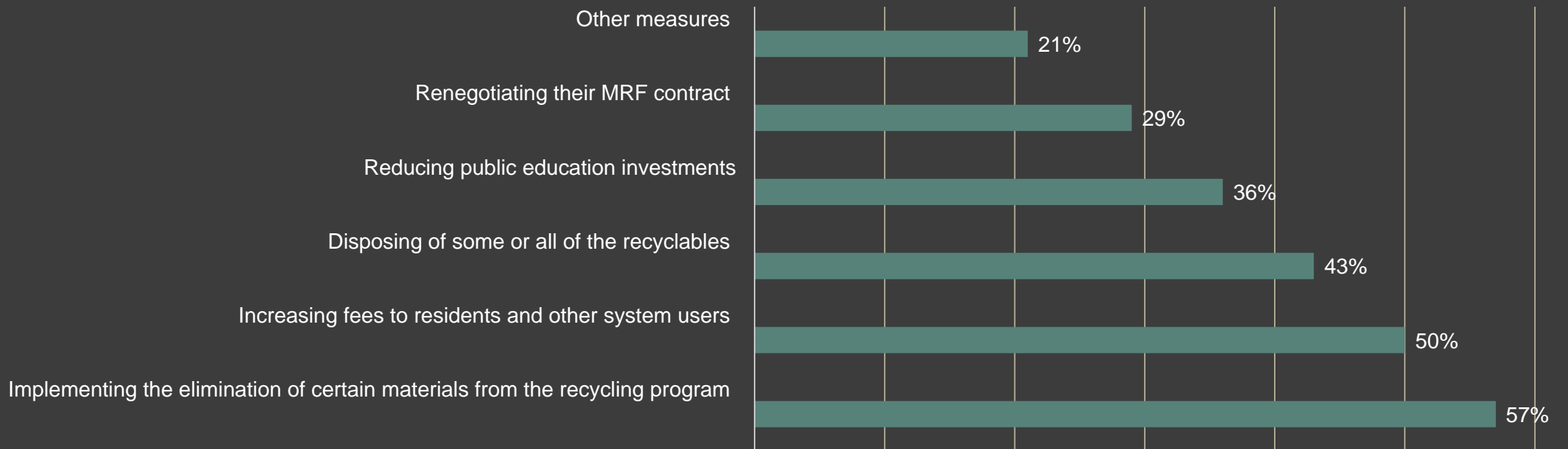
- 28% estimated their costs would remain steady.
- 13% were unsure the direction costs would take.
- 19% did not pay the MRF, rather private haulers paid directly.

ACCESSING RISK

- 44% of municipalities felt their residential recycling program were at financial risk.
 - Of these, 36% contracted with a private sector MRF facility to process residential recyclables.
 - 100% cited poor market pricing and insufficient outlets due to National Sword.
 - 50% cited a lack of municipal funds due to the COVID health crises.

RISK MANAGEMENT

To combat risk to their programs, municipalities were considering or had begun:



(n = 32)

SURVEY
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MATERIAL REMOVAL

29% of municipalities were considering removing materials from the recycling stream.



78% were considering the removal of glass.



78% were considering the removal of plastic containers.



22% were considering the removal of metal containers.



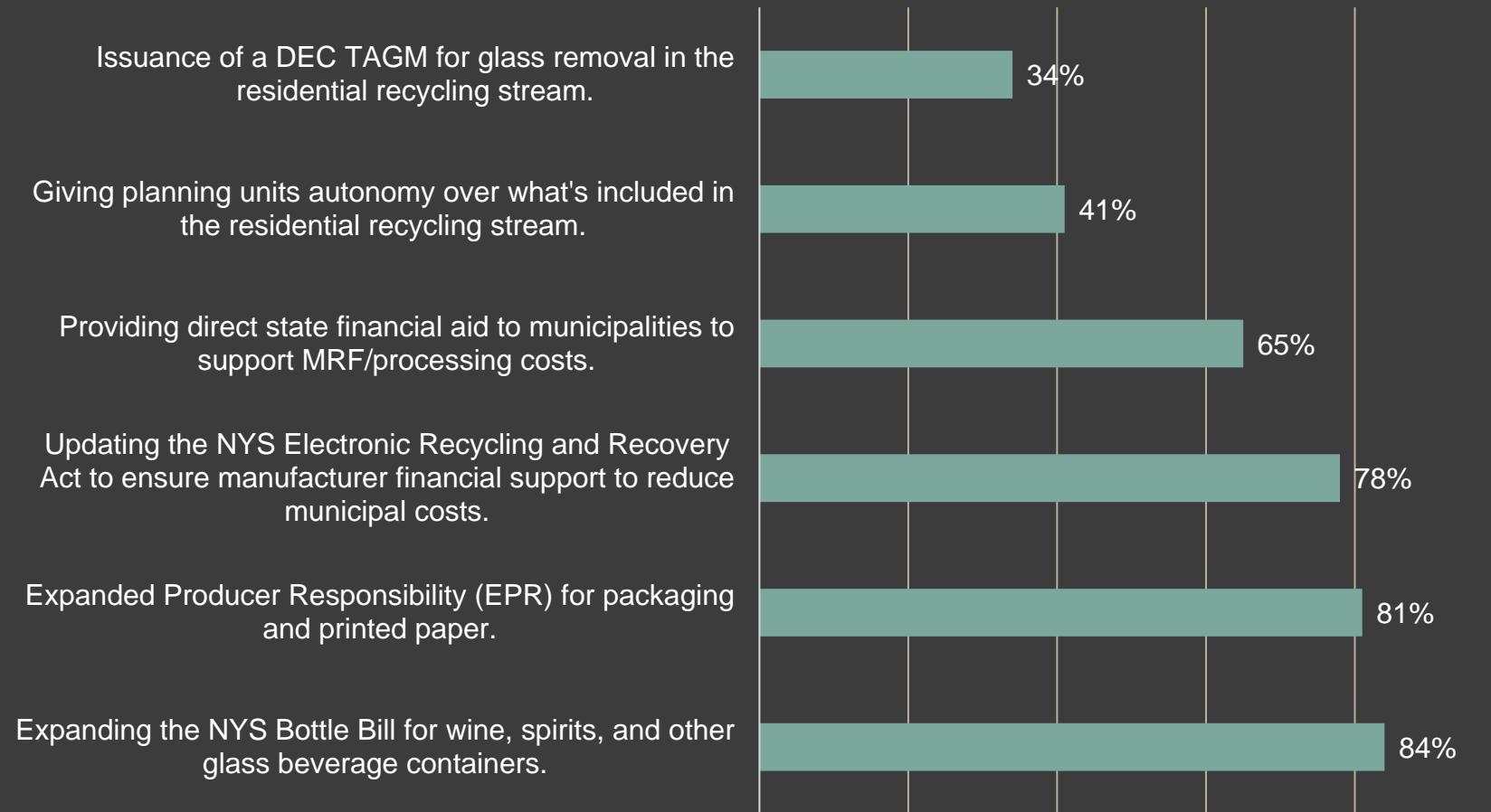
33% were considering the removal of "Other" materials.



11% were considering the removal of each of the following:

- Corrugated Cardboard.
- Mixed paper, including newspaper, magazines, and junk mail.

MITIGATING RISK THROUGH POLICY



SURVEY
RESULTS

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POLICY SUPPORT

01

Expand Producer Responsibility for packaging and printed paper.

02

Expand the NYS Bottle Bill for wine, spirits, and other glass beverage containers.

03

Update the NYS Electronic Recycling and Recovery Act.

ADDRESSING GLASS

- 63% of respondents supported the removal of glass from the residential recycling stream.
 - Of the 37% against the materials removal, 67% cited the material's potential application in other markets as the driving factor for its continued collection.
- 97% supported the expansion of the NYS Bottle Bill to include wine and spirit bottles, and non-alcoholic glass beverage containers.
- 72% supported the expansion of the NYS Bottle Bill to include all plastic beverage containers and all aluminum beverage cans, as well as glass beverage containers.

PROGRAM CHALLENGES

Challenges Faced

- Inadequate funds: 38%
 - This challenge was faced by both the municipalities servicing the largest and smallest populations.
- Managing volatility: 24%
- Protecting worker health and safety: 14%

(n = 29)

Efforts to Combat Challenges

- Instituting Pay As You Throw (PAYT): 32%
- Considering transition to private subscription model with direct residential customer payment to private sector hauler: 5%
- 70% were considering changes not presented as options.

(n = 23)

ELECTRONIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 87% of respondents collected electronic waste (e-waste).
 - E-waste collection cost ranged from \$0 to \$1000/ton with a median cost of \$192/ton.
- 80% of those municipalities that collected e-waste were charged by an e-waste vendor.
- The most common materials charged for were TV's, including flat panel displays/monitors, and Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT's)
 - 79% of municipalities were charged for CRT's.
 - 16% of municipalities were charged for all e-waste.

VENDOR FEES

- The average vendor fee: \$0.28/lb or \$560/ton.
- 55% of municipalities charged by vendors charged residents for the collection of e-waste materials.
 - The average per-unit charge was \$11.50.
 - Charges for TV's on an "each" basis were \$10 and could range from \$20 - \$30 if charging by size.

Material-specific fees were reported as:

- \$0.30/lb (\$600/ton) for broken CRT's
- \$0.50/lb (\$1,000/ton) for broken or bare electronics
- \$0.20/lb (\$400/ton) for TV's/CRT's/Monitors
- \$35.00 per Cathode Tubes

CONCLUSION

**INFORMATION
COLLECTED IS A
TOOL IN
WORKING
TOWARDS A
LARGER
SOLUTION!**

QUESTIONS?



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