



Separate Recycling Pilot

Survey Results March 2022



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Table of Contents

ackground1
lethodology1
esults1
Please provide your postcode to allow us to more accurately pinpoint residents' views and needs by trial area:
Which of the following best describes your household type?2
Are you taking part in the separate recycling pilot?3
How satisfied are you with the separate recycling pilot?3
If dissatisfied, please tell us why:4
If you are not taking part in the separate recycling scheme, how are you disposing of these items?6
What does your household use for general (non-recyclable) waste?6
Do you fill your black bin/communal bin or use your full allowance of red striped bags each fortnightly collection?6
What do you think of the size of your blue sack for paper/cardboard?8
Do you think sacks are a suitable container for your paper/cardboard and packaging?8
If no, why not?9
How many blue (paper/cardboard) sacks do you have at your property?10
How often do you put your blue (paper/cardboard) sack out?10
How many blue sacks do you typically put out for collection every week?11
On average, how full is your blue sack when you put it out for collection?11
Are you happy with the colour of your sack?12
What do you think of the size of your red sack for containers/packaging?12
How many red (containers/packaging) sacks do you have at your property?13
How often do you put your red (containers/packaging) sack out?13
How many red sacks do you typically put out for collection every week?14
On average, how full is your red sack when you put it out for collection?14
Are you happy with the colour of your sack?15
Where do you store your sacks/caddy between collections?15
If somewhere else, please specify:15
How do you use your sacks/caddy at home?17
Based on the number of sacks you have at your property, is a weekly collection for all recyclables needed?

	Which sack do you feel could be collected less often?	18
	Do you put your blue caddy (glass bottles and jars) out every week?	19
	Have you noticed any issues with separate recycling collections?	19
	If yes, please specify:	20
	If 'Other', please specify:	20
	Do you have any other comments you'd like to make about the separate recycling pilot	
Αl	bout You	25
	What was your age on your last birthday?	25
	Are you?	25
	Do you identify as Trans?	25
	Do any children live in your household?	25
	Which of the following best describes what you are doing at present?	26
	Please tick any of the following that apply to you:	26
	Do you consider yourself to be Welsh?	26
	What is your ethnic group?	27

Background

We need to improve our recycling rate. Cardiff currently recycles 58% of its waste, and while this is a strong performance for a core city, we are the lowest performing council in Wales. We should be recycling a minimum of 64%, and Welsh Government has asked us to make immediate improvements.

The Council has recently undertaken a separate recycling collection pilot for 4,000 homes across Cardiff in an effort to improve the quality of material we collect for recycling. We are also taking action against the 24 million single use plastic bags we issue every year.

The separate recycling pilot asked residents to split their dry recyclable material into 3 separate containers. A red sack for containers/packaging, a blue sack for fibres (paper and cardboard) and a blue caddy for glass bottles and jars.

The views gathered in the survey will help us to understand how you have found using the new service.

Methodology

Households taking part in the pilot were sent a letter with details of the survey and asked to give their views and experiences of the scheme.

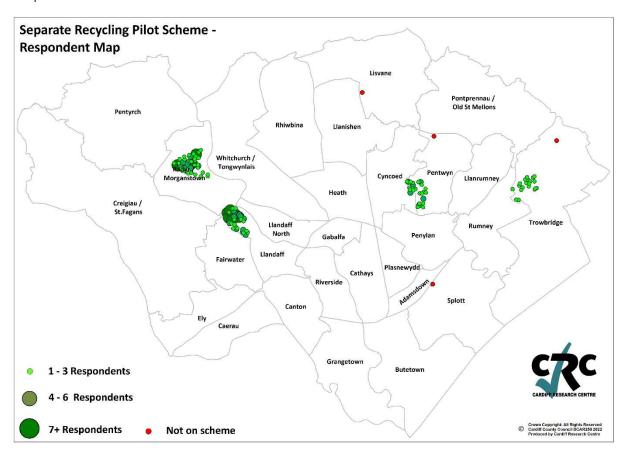
Links to the survey were also made available on the Have Your Say page of the Council's website.

Results

A total of 363 responses were received after data validation removed blank and duplicated responses. This number is too small to provide statistically robust data for sub-groups, so this provides the analysis of results overall.

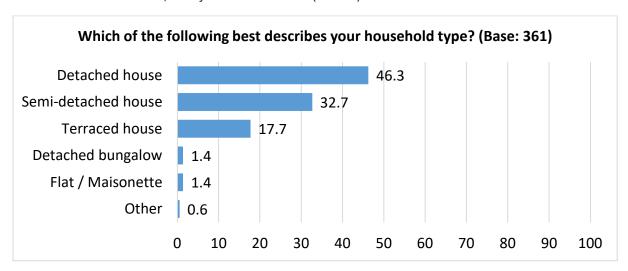
Please provide your postcode to allow us to more accurately pinpoint residents' views and needs by trial area:

Of those taking part in the survey, 332 provided their full postcode, which are shown in the map below:



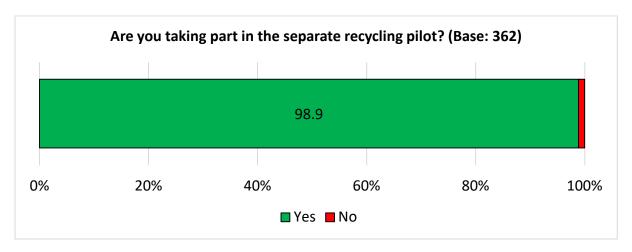
Which of the following best describes your household type?

Almost half (46.3%) of respondents lived in a detached house, with around a third (32.7%) in a semi-detached house, and just under a fifth (17.7%) in a terraced house.



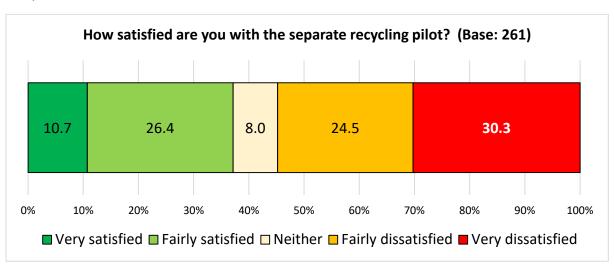
Are you taking part in the separate recycling pilot?

Just four respondents to the survey had not taken part in the separate recycling pilot scheme. Those answering 'No' to this question were not asked questions about the pilot scheme.



How satisfied are you with the separate recycling pilot?

Overall, 37.2% of respondents described themselves as satisfied with the separate recycling pilot, compared with 54.8% who felt dissatisfied. Three in ten respondents (30.3%) felt 'very dissatisfied'.



If dissatisfied, please tell us why:

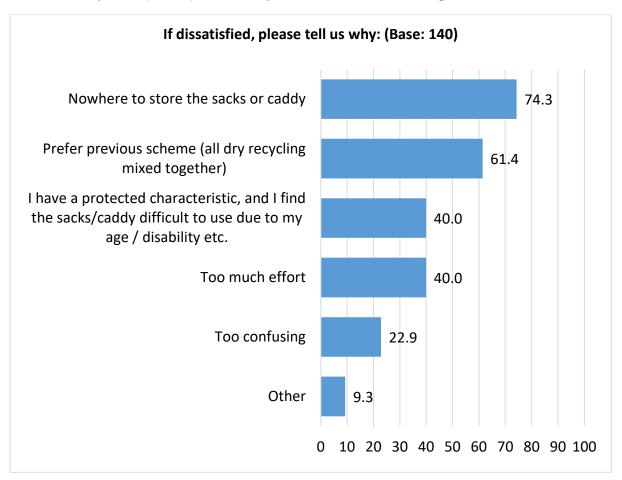
Respondents describing themselves as dissatisfied were asked to explain why.

Storage was the biggest issue, with three-quarters (74.3%) of respondents reporting they had nowhere to store the sacks or caddy provided for the pilot.

Three-fifths (61.4%) of respondents stated they preferred the previous scheme where all dry recycling was mixed together in a green bag.

Two-fifths (40.0%) of respondents found it difficult to use the sacks or caddy due to a protected characteristic such as age or having a disability. The same number (40.0%) found the separate recycling 'too much effort'.

Just under a quarter (22.9%) found the pilot scheme 'too confusing'.



Those answering 'Other' were asked to give further details – 53 comments were received, and grouped into the following themes:

Theme	No	%	Example Comment
Concerns around	35	66.0	 The recycling bags are poor quality, the weight
sack quality / design			used is insufficient to stop getting blowed down
			the road and the Velcro is difficult to use

Health & safety	28	52.8	 The bags blow about even in very light wind and then scatter litter The sacks don't close properly exposing the contents to rain. Also, flimsy and always have some paper and plastic items left inside after collection. Unsuitable, unfit for purpose plastic sacks The bags get put out and dogs urinate on them, which is disgusting. In Storm Eunice, traveling
			 around was a plethora of abandoned bags and boxes. Once emptied they blow onto the road causing a hazard to pedestrians and traffic alike. If anyone had done any sort of risk analysis on them, they would have realised that they are a health and safety issue. They blow around everywhere in bad weather, with everything spilling out, and smell of cat's urine when you bring them in.
Lack of specialist waste vehicles	12	22.6	 It is utterly stupid and ridiculous that the council makes the householder go through the separation of various dry waste products and then see the incredible sight of the bin-men dumping it all in the same truck!! It has been most disheartening after the effort we have made to segregate our recycling to see the contents of both red and blue sacks thrown together in the collection vehicle. It makes me feel I am wasting my time and wonder if I will bother in future.
Too awkward to use/store	7	13.2	 My mother is 96, lives on her own and is also part of this trial. She has always recycled but finds this separation beyond her. Too many bags/bins to carry down our long driveway - we now have six recycling bins with nowhere to put them in the house/garden - where are we supposed to store six bins? We are able to carry all six of the recycling bins now, but what about when we get older?
Other	4	7.5	 More waste is going in black bin as not deemed clean for the red bag. This is meaning users are either dropping the old green bags in areas that are not partaking in scheme or alternatively putting black bag waste in street bins!!! Your comments that the incorrect material recycling figures have improved will not correlate with the

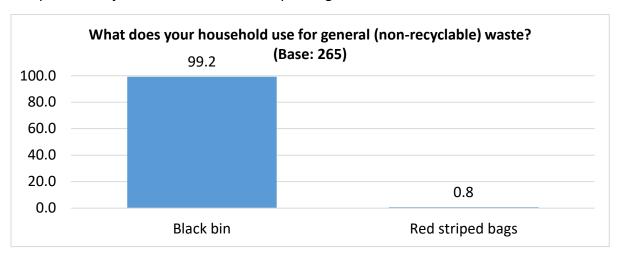
increase in rubbish / pressure put on local street bins in the area.

If you are not taking part in the separate recycling scheme, how are you disposing of these items?

Respondents not taking part in the separate recycling pilot were asked how they disposed of the items that were covered by the scheme. Three of the four responses received indicated these items were put in the green recycling bags for the co-mingled recycling collection; one respondent put them in their black bin or red striped bag.

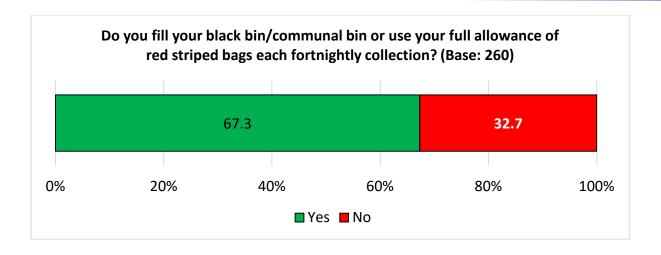
What does your household use for general (non-recyclable) waste?

Almost all respondents to this question (99.2%) used a black bin for their general waste, compared with just 0.8% who use red striped bags.



Do you fill your black bin/communal bin or use your full allowance of red striped bags each fortnightly collection?

Two-thirds of respondents (67.3%) stated they filled their bin or used their full allowance of red striped bags every fortnightly collection.

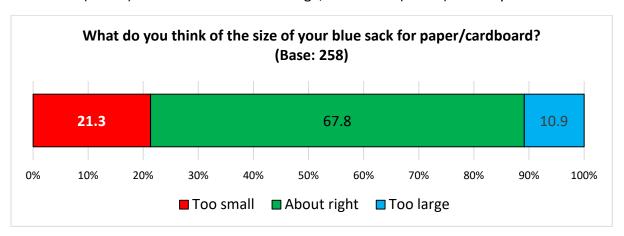


Paper and cardboard is collected in a blue, re-usable sack. The sack is 90L. A standard green recycling bag is 60L in comparison. The sacks are weighted at 500g, which is the standard weight used across Wales. The sacks also have a lid, which is secured by Velcro.

What do you think of the size of your blue sack for paper/cardboard?

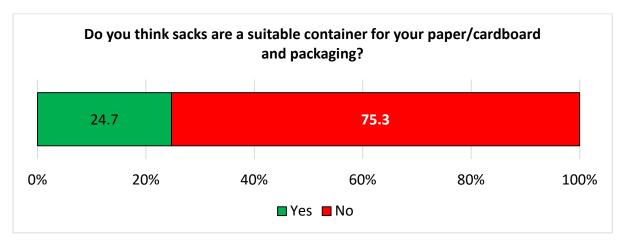
Typically, respondents were happy with the size of the blue sack used to recycle paper and cardboard, with 67.8% describing this as 'about right'.

One in ten (10.9%) felt the sacks were too large, one in five (21.3%) felt they were too small.



Do you think sacks are a suitable container for your paper/cardboard and packaging?

Just a quarter of respondents (24.7%) felt the sacks were a suitable container for paper and cardboard packaging.

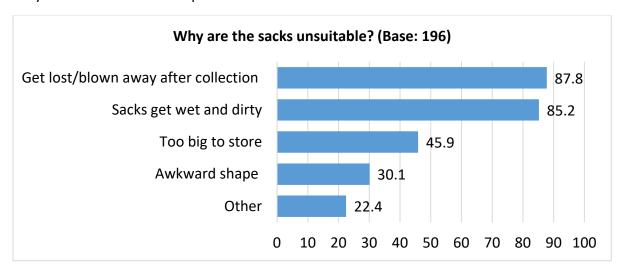


Those who didn't think the sacks were suitable were asked to explain why.

If no, why not?

More than four-fifths of respondents reported that the sacks get lost or blown away after the recycling has been collected (87.8%) and that the sacks get wet and dirty (85.2%).

Just under half (45.9%) found the sacks were 'too big to store' and three in ten (30.1%) felt they were an 'awkward shape'.



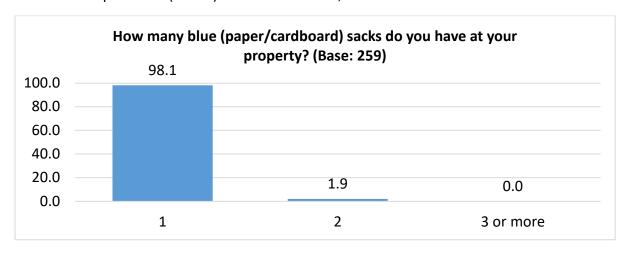
Those answering 'Other' were asked to give further details – 41 responses were received, and grouped into the following themes:

Theme	No	%	Example Comment		
Concerns around sack quality / design	28	68.3	 Shredded paper came out of the top in high winds and blew around. Container was quite heavy to lift when full The sacks are not waterproof so cannot be stored outside. The graphic showing what is not allowed is not clear - why not have only the paper pictures on the sack or cross out the unwanted materials with a much heavier line. Also, the sack is not marked with house number so difficult to retrieve correctly when the bags have blown around the street If it's raining the contents get wet as there is a gap at the sides of the handles. 		
Bags cause obstructions / Health & safety issues	14	34.1	 Once open wind takes it into roads and gardens. Very, very dangerous having to avoid them. We have had increase of contents in road and magpies, crows and seagulls making most of it Get dumped in the middle of the courtyard causing an obstruction. sharp materials can cause cuts to hands 		

Storage Issues	7	17.1	 Where are people supposed to store them, particularly when they are wet? we have now garbage blown all over the place because people do have nowhere to store these sacks
Heavy / Awkward	4	9.8	Too unwieldy for me as a disabled person to handle.Surprisingly heavy when full
Other	2	4.9	 Not suitable in any way, shape or form.

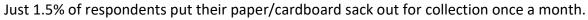
How many blue (paper/cardboard) sacks do you have at your property?

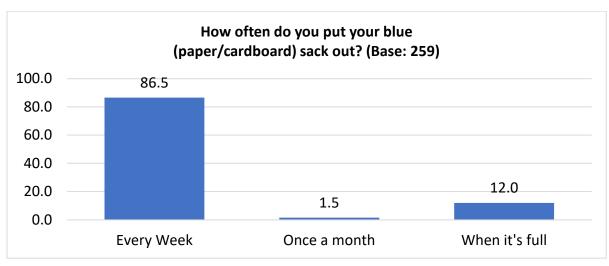
Almost all respondents (98.1%) had one blue sack; no-one had three or more.



How often do you put your blue (paper/cardboard) sack out?

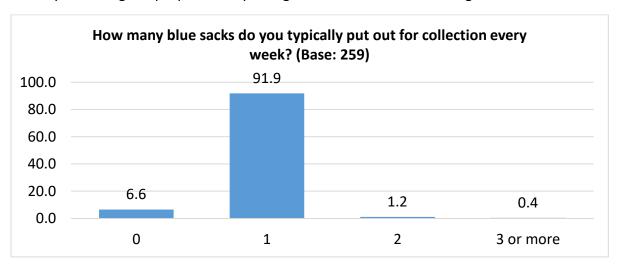
Around seven out of eight respondents (86.5%) put their blue sack for paper and cardboard out for collection every week, one in eight (12.0%) waited until the bag was full.





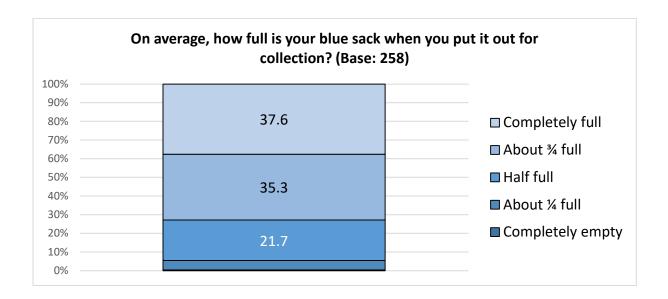
How many blue sacks do you typically put out for collection every week?

Nine in ten respondents (91.9%) typically put one blue sack out for collection every week, broadly reflecting the proportion reporting their household had been given one blue sack.



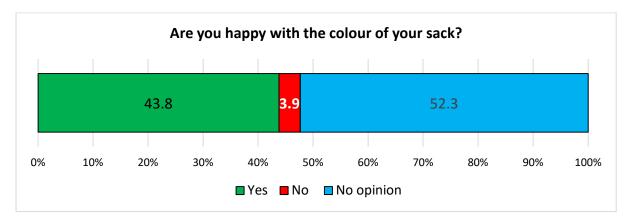
On average, how full is your blue sack when you put it out for collection?

Almost all respondents (94.6%) reported that their blue sack was at least half full when put out for collection, with more than a third (37.6%) stating that it was typically completely full.



Are you happy with the colour of your sack?

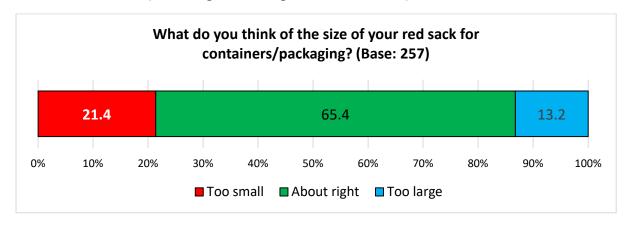
Over half (52.3%) had no opinion on the colour of the sack for recycling paper and cardboard; 43.8% were happy with the colour, whilst 3.9% were not.



Packaging (cans, tins and plastic bottles/tubs/trays) is collected in a red, re-useable sack. The sack is 90L. A standard green recycling bag is 60L in comparison. The sacks are weighted at 500g, which is the standard weight used across Wales. The sacks also have a lid, which is secured by Velcro.

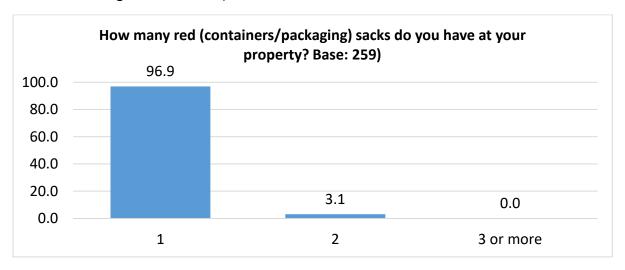
What do you think of the size of your red sack for containers/packaging?

Around two-thirds (65.4%) of respondents felt the red sack was about the right size, compared with 67.8% for the blue sack; 13.2% felt the red sack was too large, whilst 21.4% felt it was too small (reflecting the findings for the blue sack).



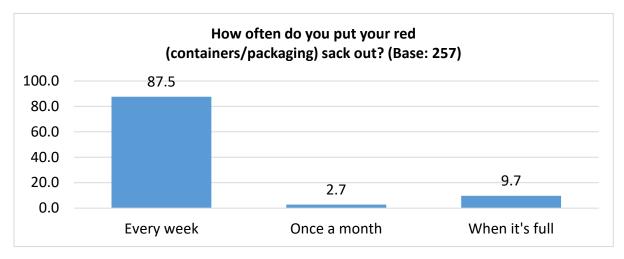
How many red (containers/packaging) sacks do you have at your property?

Most respondents (96.9%) had one red sack for their household, 3.1 had two (compared with 1.9% having two blue sacks).



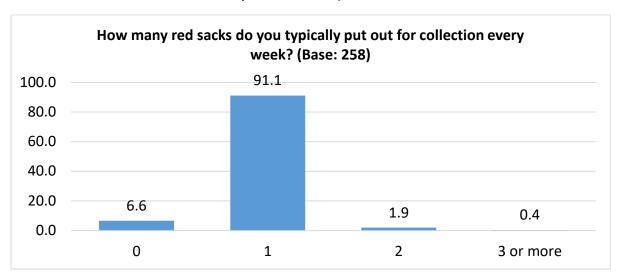
How often do you put your red (containers/packaging) sack out?

Seven out of eight respondents (87.5%) put their red sack of containers/packaging out for recycling collections every week (on a par with the 86.5% for the blue paper/cardboard sack), 9.7% waiting until it is full, and 2.7% once a month.



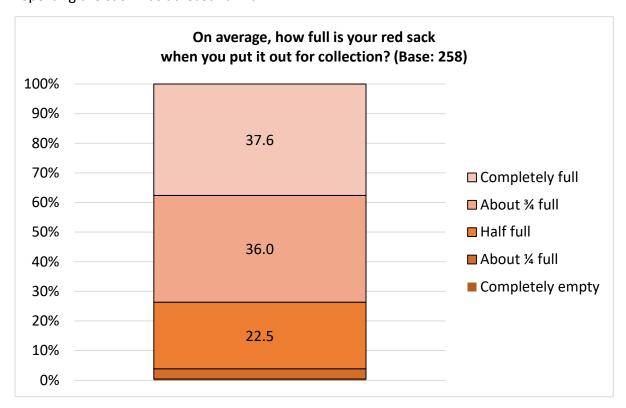
How many red sacks do you typically put out for collection every week?

The proportion of red sacks put out for collection every week matched that for the blue sacks, with over nine in ten (91.1%) putting one sack out every week (again reflecting the number of sacks each household reported to have).



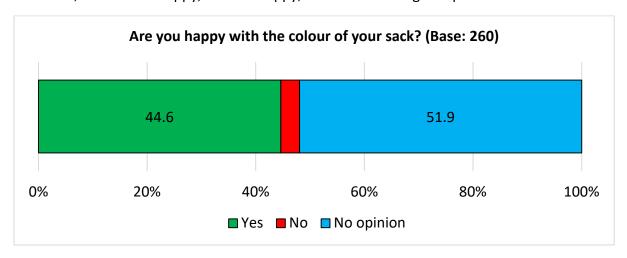
On average, how full is your red sack when you put it out for collection?

Again, the findings for the use of the red sack matched that of the blue sacks, with just over a third (37.6%) reporting it was 'completely full' when put out for collection, and 96.1% reporting the sack was at least half full.



Are you happy with the colour of your sack?

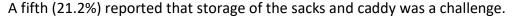
Again, the findings for happiness with the colour of the red sack reflected that seen for the blue sack, with 44.6% happy, 3.5% unhappy, and 51.9% having no opinion.

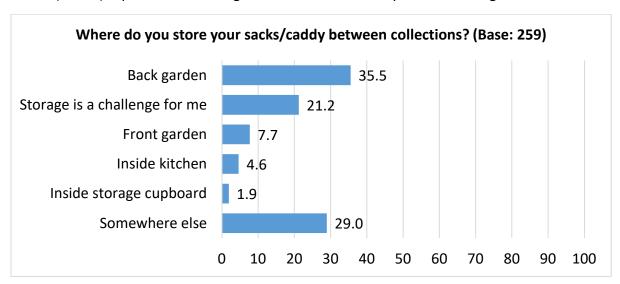


Where do you store your sacks/caddy between collections?

Respondents were given a list of options, and asked which they used to store their sacks and caddy for the separate recycling pilot.

Most respondents reported storing the sacks and caddy used for separate recycling in their back garden (35.5%), with a further 7.7% using their front garden, and 6.6% storing them inside.





If somewhere else, please specify:

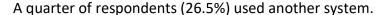
Those who said their store the sacks and caddy somewhere else than this list of options provided were asked for further details – 73 comments were received, and grouped into the following themes:

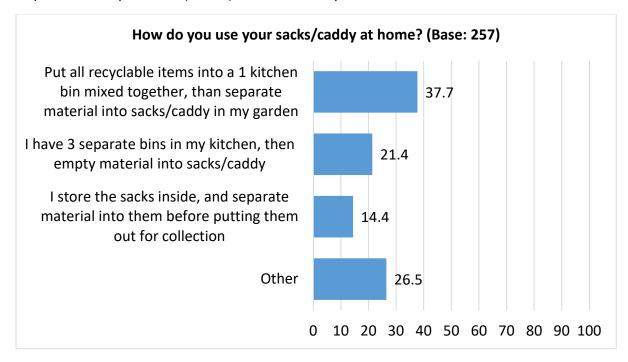
Theme	No	%	Example Comment
Garage / Shed	46	63.0	 I am fortunate to have a garage. I feel sorry for those that do not and have to have this clutter in their houses. In connected garage. Not a problem as they sit where the bins I used to use for green bags Garage, nowhere to keep them in the house too bulky Shed
Inside House	9	12.3	 In the house as I have nowhere else to put them. In cupboard under stairs
Inside another bin	7	9.6	 folded down inside black bin when not in use-take up too much space otherwise Inside green wheelie bin & sort recycling night before collection
On drive/parking space	5	6.8	Parking space at back of gardenEnd of drive near side garden gate
External Alleyway / Passageway	3	4.1	 In an undercover alleyway around the side of our property.
Garden	2	2.7	 Back garden for blue caddy
Other	5	6.8	 Storing is a challenge. Store in a number of locations to help dry/clean them out after each collection, before re-using. I hate putting any bins or caddies or sacks inside the house, even inside the garden. I was lucky enough to find a corner behind a wall, but no other house will be as lucky as I was. It is not clean to store any of these inside the home. Yuk.

How do you use your sacks/caddy at home?

Just over a third of respondents (37.7%) used a single receptacle to store all of their recycling in their kitchen, before separating the contents into the separate containers for collection, while a fifth (21.4%) used separate storage in their kitchen before moving the contents into the sacks/caddy for collection.

One in seven (14.4%) stored the sacks inside, using them to separate the materials as they went along, before putting each out for collection.





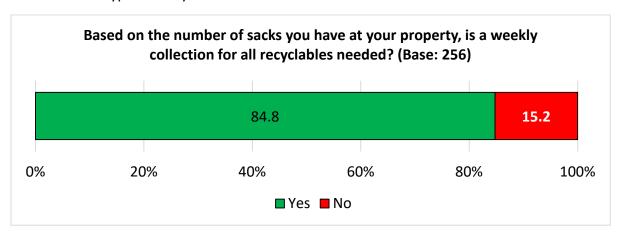
Those answering 'Other' were asked for further details – 64 comments were received, and grouped into the following themes:

Theme	No	%	Example Comment
Take out separated items immediately	35	54.7	 Take items directly to the garage and place in the appropriate sack. I put each item in the correct sack as i go but i find this really frustrating. Items straight into sacks Make numerous trips to the garden to put items in the bags. We just sort it as we go.
Collect indoors then transfer to bags	19	29.7	 I use my recycling bin in house for containers which I empty into red bag once a week It gets piled up in my conservatory, mixed, until it reaches a point where I need to put the rubbish into its respective bag. I do this maybe twice or three times a week.

			_	Put all in a green bag and then sort which is time consuming and inconvenient particularly in winter - dark and inclement weather
Other	13	20.3	_	All waste goes now into the black bin I have stopped recycling completely this pilot so off putting Plastics, tins and paper is inside but glass is outside, but I have a large house. Most houses won't have room to separate recyclables indoors. Recycling bags kept outside in a box (which I bought as they are too flimsy)

Based on the number of sacks you have at your property, is a weekly collection for all recyclables needed?

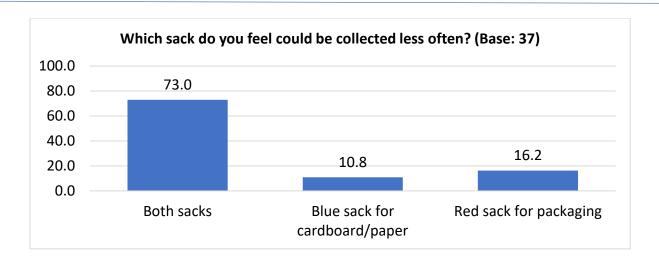
Around six out of seven respondents (84.8%) were satisfied that a weekly collection was needed for all types of recyclables.



Which sack do you feel could be collected less often?

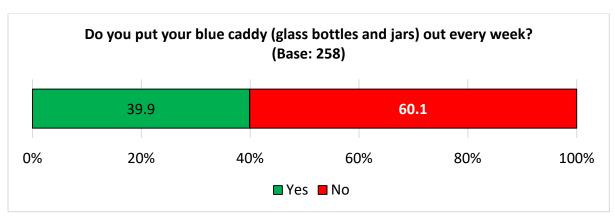
Those who felt a weekly collection was not needed were asked which needed to be collected most often.

Of the 37 responses received, almost three-quarters (73.0%) felt both sacks could be collected less often, 16.2% felt the red sack used for packaging required less frequent collections, whilst one in ten (10.8%) felt the blue sack for paper/cardboard could be collected less than once a week.



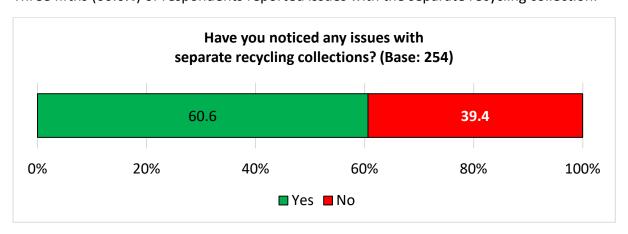
Do you put your blue caddy (glass bottles and jars) out every week?

Two-fifths of respondents (39.9%) reported that they put their blue caddy to recycle glass bottles and jars out for collection every week.



Have you noticed any issues with separate recycling collections?

Three fifths (60.6%) of respondents reported issues with the separate recycling collection.



If yes, please specify:

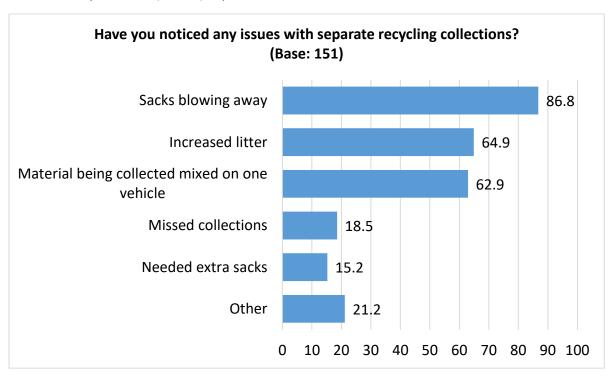
Those noticing issues were asked for further details, and were given a list of potential problems, as well as the option to add comments in their own words.

The biggest issue reported was that of sacks blowing away, with 86.8% of respondents answering this question highlighting this issue.

Over three in five respondents noted an increase in litter (64.9%), or that separated materials were then mixed on the vehicle collecting the recycling (62.9%).

Just under one in five (18.5%) reported missed collections, whilst 15.2% needed extra sacks.

A fifth of respondents (21.2%) reported other issues.



If 'Other', please specify:

Those answering 'Other' were asked for further details – 31 comments were received and grouped into the following themes:

Theme	No	%	Example Comment
Concerns around Collection	9	29.0	 Time of collections is spread too widely through day and night. If we had a 3 hour window the bags and contents would be less likely to spill/ be blown around Shredded paper in blue sacks when being emptied, is haphazardly done, with loads of paper waste falling on the road and No effort made by THE BIN MEN TO CLEAR UP THE MESS THEY HAVE CREATED.

Concerns around sack quality / design	8	25.8	_	Sacks not waterproof, paper gets soaked If you are going to ask people to separate refuse into different waste streams, then the containers must be as user friendly as possible. The bags are completely useless
Bags cause obstructions / safety issues	5	16.1	_	There are so many bins and bags in the courtyard that they cause obstructions, and our elderly neighbours find them a hinderance Now so many separate bins that pavements are blocked in many places causing safety issues
Concerns around reclaiming correct bags	3	9.7	_	Bags in road, very dangerous, trespassing on properties to retrieve lost bags
Other	5	16.1	_	It is a waste of time and resources and will make next to no difference to the final outcome. Please revert to what we had before, i.e., green bags, as many as we need to put out. I now have a black bin, a green bin, a brown caddy, a blue glass caddy, a red bag and a red bag 6 in total. It appears that residents are now expected to carry out Cardiff's recycling program despite paying the local authority to carry this out on our behalf. If it is decided to roll out this scheme and residents do the recycling for the local authority, I will certainly expect a reduction in my community tax.

Do you have any other comments you'd like to make about the separate recycling pilot?

Respondents were invited to leave any comments they felt had not been covered elsewhere in the survey. A total of 177 comments were received, and grouped into the following themes:

Theme	No	%	Example Comment
Concerns around bag design / quality	161	56.1	 The bags are too light and are blown away when empty. I have to locate my bags as they are often in the road or in a neighbour's garden. I have a large piece of wood that the refuse collectors place on the bags to stop them blowing away. The plastic glass caddy can be heavy to move too. The blue and red bags blow around in high winds. The sacks are not fit for purpose as they get wet inside and blow away. Your hardworking staff throw the emptied bins anywhere on the pavement. As they are not numbered, I worry that my bin could get mixed up with any of my neighbours who may have any disease or dirt ridden contents in their bag. The red and blue sacks need to be numbered and made of recycled plastic like the blue ones The woven material is difficult to clean, and the sacks are not waterproof or sturdy enough to store outside but by far the biggest problem is them blowing around the street which can be dangerous. It is not always easy to put recycling into the red sacks. Usually I have to stand on part of the bag, rip the Velcro open with one hand and put recycling in. Sometimes if I try to post things through the gap at the top, things fall out the other side. I love recycling but not sure about the sacks.
Storage	79	27.5	 Storage of sacks an issue. No room inside for so many receptacles and a struggle to find room in the garage. They need spreading out to dry after time kerbside after collection. I can't be lugging sacks through my home. Although the concept is grand the practicality is a different matter - it takes a great amount of space either inside or outside your property to store the bags and bins and most properties are not designed for them. It's too much to store in the small garden we have it's taking over on is unsightly.
Increased litter / Mess / Vermin	55	19.2	 Support recycling and separation of material but very unhappy with these blue and red sacks which

			_	are unfit for purpose - causing major littering which is very demoralising. Locally noticed a marked increase in dumping of green sacks and general household waste in the locality directly impacting on wildlife and general environment. Council staff collecting the waste trying to empty the blue caddy into a moving vehicle. This resulted in broken glass all over the road which needed to be cleaned up by torchlight as it was dark at the time of the collection. This was not acceptable as children play in the street and numerous cars using the road could incur punctures.
Collection Concerns	50	17.4	- - -	Why bother to separate when all go into one container? I would like to know what happens at the depot. Until the council have the correct vehicles for collection this is a pointless exercise. What is the point of us separating everything when they just get put together in the truck.
Alternative suggestions / ideas	28	9.8	_	I am a household of only 1 so obviously not accumulating as much waste as a family of 4 so weekly collections maybe required. Propose a wheely sized bin with colour coded draws to store items in or stackable plastic containers. Why do a pilot in easy areas? If you want to do a trial, do it somewhere congested or a busy road.
Generally, against the scheme	25	8.7	Ξ	Abandon it.
				Awful scheme.
Time / energy taken to separate the recycling	21	7.3	_	Makes it more difficult to recycle as need to resort waste. I really don't have the time or energy once I come home from work to go through and separate all my items into these bags, I'm finding if I'm too tired or the weather is too bad to separate, I leave until the following week to put out which is leading to a huge amount of rubbish backing up. I much prefer the green bags, so much easier to put out. I am finding it really stressful.
Positive Comments	20	7.0	-	Very happy with pilot, hopefully this will become permanent. I think it is a much needed scheme to reach the city's goals for recycling.
Concerns around amount and size of bags / caddies	19	6.6	-	How many caddies can one house have? Come Christmas time they will all be full when each house has around 6 green recycling bags and the council have trouble collecting on time.

				I now have a total of six bins - black, glass, paper/card, food, plastic/tins and garden - it's unmanageable! I understand the need to recycle and support it but not in this format, it seems that it's more about making the council workers lives easier but the general public's harder. I'm fed up of having to stand in the pouring rain every week to separate my recycling. The bags are not fit for purpose and in my opinion - unhygienic. The time it takes me to sort my rubbish out every week has tripled. Surely there is a better way?!
Revert back to green bags	17	5.9	-	Go back to the green bag collection service. the problems caused by the pilot will then cease. Please go back to the original way of using green sack for all recycling waste. Also, it's very difficult to put shredded paper in the blue sack.
Black bin waste has increased	12	4.2	_	Black bin waste has doubled as many items now not able to be placed in sacks e.g. certain plastics, kitchen roll paper.
Waste of taxpayers' Money	11	3.8	_	It's wasted taxpayer money from beginning to end. It disrespects me as a human and my need for health and safety.
More needs to be done around soft plastics / Tetra packs / films	9	3.1	_	As stated earlier, we are very committed to recycling, and want more to be done to make recycling percentage higher but feel that it needs to be made more accessible for people and for less reasons for people not to recycle. also feel that some items should be able to be recycled at home (like tetra packs). to reduce use of single use recycling bags is great, but surely one hard multi use plastic bin, like black and garden waste bins, would make recycling simple and keep percentages higher.
Increased recycling awareness	5	1.7	_	Generally working well and helping to educate people on what should be in the sacks.
Other	35	12.2	-	We've had to purchase additional waste bins for inside the house. My main concern is that when the sacks are full there will be financial implications for residents, i.e. having to pay for extra collections or having to travel to a recycling centre. I've still got the original blue box for glass bottles etc, must have been very expensive to issue new ones for this second pilot scheme.

About You

What was your age on your last birthday?

	No	%
16-24	1	0.4
25-34	28	10.7
35-44	43	16.4
45-54	49	18.7
55-64	66	25.2
65-74	53	20.2
75+	16	6.1
Prefer not to say	6	2.3
Total	262	100.0

Are you...?

	No	%
Female	226	63.3
Male	125	35.0
Prefer not to say	6	1.7
Total	357	100.0

Do you identify as Trans?

	No	%
No	239	95.6
Prefer not to say	10	4.0
Other	1	0.4
Total	250	100.0

Do any children live in your household?

	No	%
No children	166	64.3
Yes, under 5 years old (pre-school)	28	10.9
Yes, aged 5 - 11 (primary school)	46	17.8
Yes, aged 11 - 16 (secondary school)	27	10.5
Yes, aged 16 - 18	22	8.5
Total	258	-

Which of the following best describes what you are doing at present?

	No	%
Working full time (30+ hours per week)	118	45.4
Working part time (less than 30 hours per week)	33	12.7
Permanently sick or disabled person	5	1.9
Wholly retired from work	84	32.3
Looking after home	4	1.5
Other	13	5.0
Caring for a child or adult	3	1.2
Total	260	100.0

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

	No	%
Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing	10	12.3
Mental health difficulties	13	16.0
Learning impairment/ difficulties	2	2.5
Visual impairment	4	4.9
Wheelchair user	1	1.2
Mobility impairment	13	16.0
Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)	30	37.0
Prefer not to say	26	32.1
Other	7	8.6
Total	81	-

Do you consider yourself to be Welsh?

	No	%
Yes	168	69.4
No	74	30.6
Total	242	100.0

What is your ethnic group?

(Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these).

	No	%
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	232	88.9
White - Irish	2	0.8
White - Any other white background	7	2.7
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups	2	0.8
Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British	3	1.1
Asian/Asian Welsh/British	6	2.3
Other	1	0.4
Prefer not to say	8	3.1
Total	261	100.0