



Recycle it *Forward*

Community Cleanup Events Survey Summary

City of Saint Paul

August 2013

BACKGROUND

The City of Saint Paul partners with local district councils to organize annual community cleanup events for residents to dispose of large refuse items, to recycle materials not collected in the curbside program, and to share usable goods with others. District council cleanup events are held May through October each year and are open to all Saint Paul residents.

The City of Saint Paul is committed to recycling and reusing as much of the materials collected at these events as possible. For example, tires, car batteries, appliances, scrap metal and electronics are recycled; Household goods, architectural salvage and bikes are collected for reuse and shared with charitable organizations and cleanup participants.

To gather feedback from residents who use the community cleanups, the City of Saint Paul conducted a short survey during the fall 2012 and spring 2013 events. A postage paid post card survey was given out to residents who participated to gain their feedback on costs, convenience, and value of the cleanup events as a city service. A total of 1,936 were distributed and 765 completed surveys were received. This document is a summary of the survey results.

COMMUNITY CLEANUP EVENT SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

This survey was distributed to people who were already participating in the community cleanups.

- 1,963 total surveys distributed
- 765 surveys returned (39% return rate; 29 returned on site, 736 returned through mail)
- 292 people indicated they bring items to the *spring* community cleanups
- 482 people indicated they bring items to the *fall* community cleanups
- 178 people indicated this was their *first time* participating in the community cleanups

Costs are:		
Too low	About right	Too high
8	652	48

Location is convenient:	
Yes	No
728	4

I also take bulky items to a transfer station:	
Yes	No
191	518

I also take electronics to other drop-off:	
Yes	No
323	362

If the cleanup events are no longer organized, would you use a coupon (for reduced fees) to take bulky items, electronics, etc. to a year round drop-off facility?		
Yes	No	Maybe
346	40	233

Do you bring items for reuse?		
Always	Sometimes	Never
147	359	136

Do you take items from reuse area?		
Always	Sometimes	Never
18	155	519

Representative sampling of comments:

- Staggered vehicle fee for # of items would be better. I paid \$10 for car fee for 1 small TV. I was not pleased the car fee wasn't waived. Flyer said no entrance fees.
- It is good to keep the neighborhood cleaned up of yard clutter
- Great service, Thanks!
- We all worked together in our alley. We take care of our elderly neighbors needs too!
This is great
- Thank you, it helps.
- Thank you - this event helps us to recycle and we appreciate it!
- Love this service!!! I think it prevents residents from throwing electronics in regular trash and keeps junk off the streets.
- Very well staffed with volunteers.
- This is a welcome and convenient event in our neighborhood. This year, not so much due to the rain.
- A fabulous service - thank you. Thank you to the volunteers!
- Terrific, well organized and helpful to us.
- Let's keep the neighborhood thing going. City is a great place to live.
- Cleanup is a wonderful municipal service!
- Tried to bring a couch for reuse but couldn't leave it due to heavy rain. Thanks for being out there in the rain.

For additional Recycle it *Forward* information and reports, visit:
www.stpaul.gov/recycleitforward.