

# 2023 Teaneck Resident Survey Report: Trash Collection, Recycling, and Composting

In 2020, David Zatz, PhD, an instructor of the Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) graduate class Analytic Methods/Decision Making, was given permission to use Teaneck's trash pickup system, discussed at an open Teaneck Environmental Commission (EC) meeting, as a class project. (Dr. Zatz has 25 years of experience in surveys and data-based decision making.) His class conducted financial analyses and surveyed residents, who reported spending an average of \$34 per month on trash pickup. They found that Hackensack's municipal pickup cost \$18 and Roxbury's single-vendor contract cost \$18; and they estimated that Teaneck's system added hundreds of thousands of tons of extra carbon emissions per year.

In Fall 2023, the Teaneck EC asked Dr. Zatz if the current Analytic Methods/Decision Making class would update the 2020 information, adding recycling and composting questions. The new survey was publicized via Nixle town-wide emails, the Teaneck EC, League of Women Voters, several Teaneck social media groups, and Neighborhood Associations. There were 594 usable surveys, an impressive number since, due to time constraints, the survey was only open for 10 days, and was first issued on Election Day. Questions were skippable. The results exclude non-residents and 12 people who lived in apartments with central "dumpsters." A preview of parts of this report was delivered to the Teaneck Council by students Matthew Liddle and Matthew Liguori in November 21, 2023.

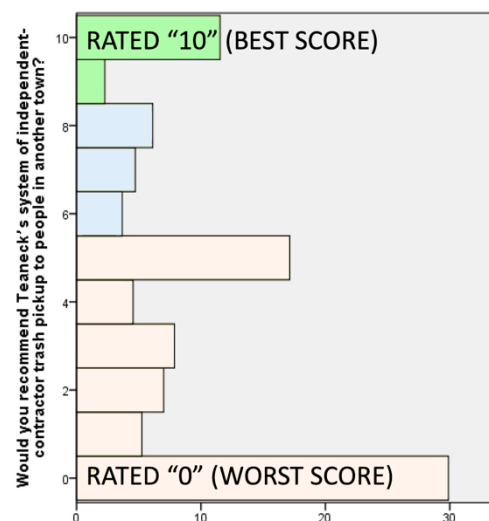
Of the 571 people who provided their age (in a multiple-choice format), 63% said they were 18-64 years old and 37% said they were over 64 (65 and up). Older people are often over-represented in surveys; in reality, 75% of adults in Teaneck were 18-64 and just 25% of residents were over 64 in the 2020 census.

## Trash pickup

**Satisfaction.** 75% of respondents would not recommend the current system to a friend, showing very low satisfaction. On a 0-10 scale, where 10 is most likely to recommend the system, the average score was just 3.9; 30% chose the worst score (0) and under 12% chose the best score (10).

Satisfaction was not significantly influenced by bulk trash pickup or by cost ( $p > 0.05$ ).

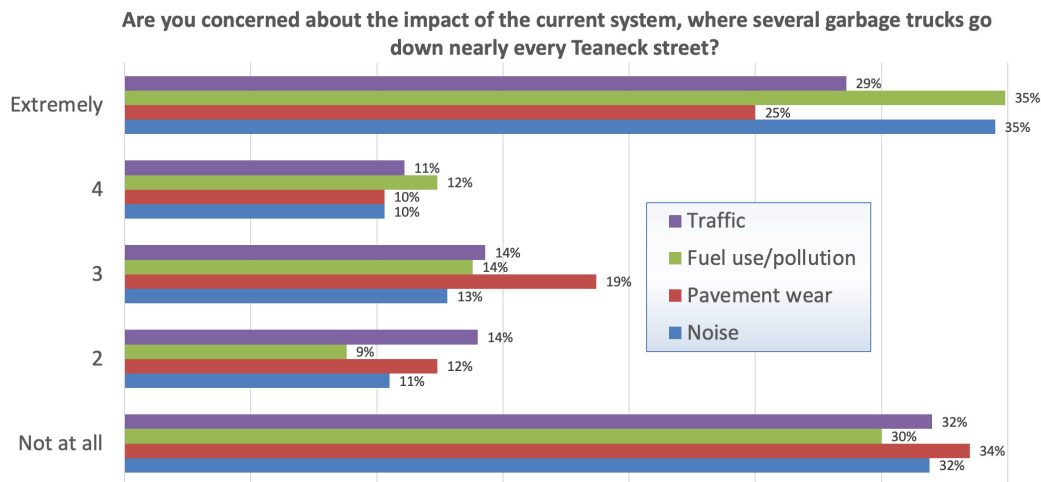
**Cost.** Teaneck residents pay a mean rate of \$44 per



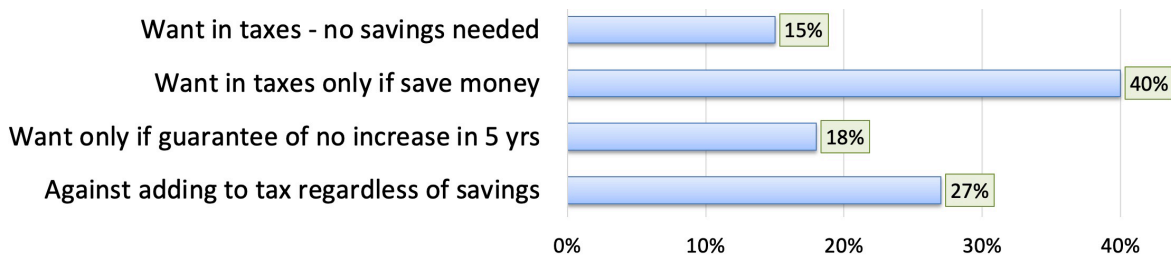
month, with a median of \$35/month. The town issued an RFP for single-vendor trash pickup as this project began. As the team expected bids to be shared, it did not explore costs at other townships but based on 2020 results expected considerable savings.

**Bulk pickup.** Only a fifth of residents had weekly bulk trash pickup; 10% had pickup monthly or every other week, while a third had it by arrangement only. Over a third (37%) had no bulk pickup at all; this group ironically paid the highest rates. Bulk pickup was a concern in the open-ended questions in 2020 and again in 2023.

**Concerns.** Of the concerns listed on the survey, the chief issue was fuel use / pollution. Comparing 1-2 star results against 4-5 stars (ignoring 3 star ratings), 55% expressed serious concern (4-5 stars) about fuel use/pollution, followed by noise (51%), traffic (46%) and pavement wear (43.5%). Over a third of residents were extremely concerned (five stars) about fuel use and noise. A full breakout for each concern is shown below.



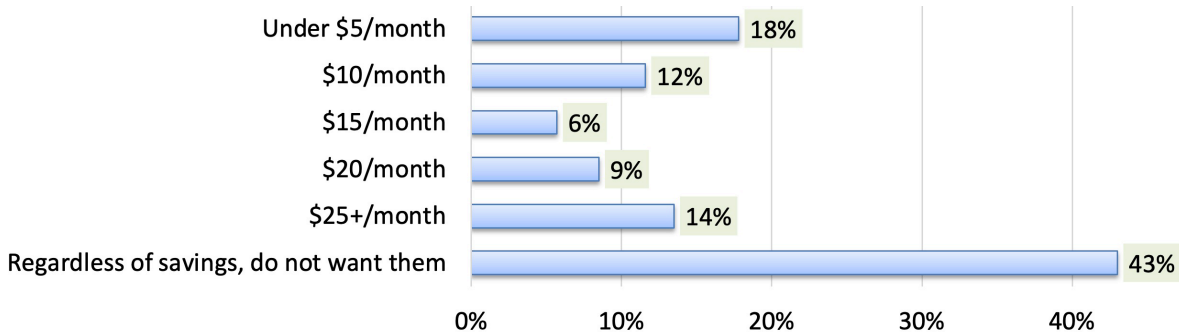
**Single payments.** One question asked if people wanted to have trash included their taxes, with options addressing concerns from 2020. Nearly three quarters wanted trash pickup in their taxes if there is a savings *or* a guarantee that costs will not rise. The open ends suggest that the main reason for those who do not want trash added to their taxes, regardless of cost, is a belief that the cost *must* go up if included in taxes; and, to a lesser degree, some confusion that pickup would go to every two weeks, or be curbside.



The comments suggest that if savings from a single-vendor program are clear and current pickup methods are preserved, many who are against single-vendor would change their

minds. Some said they preferred the current system because it had competition; the awarding of a single-vendor contract would be competitive during the award period. The comments provide insight into these and other objections.

**Curbside vs house-side pickup.** Teaneck has trash picked up from anywhere the homeowner wishes, but many towns require “wheelie bins,” larger trash containers with wheels, to be moved to the curb on garbage days. “Wheelie bins” do not require bags; and can also be used for recyclables, especially in single-stream towns. 43% do not want “wheelie bins” regardless of savings, but many would use them for a tradeoff in cost.



## Trash Collection: Open Ended Question

There was one open-ended question in this section: “Is there anything you’d like to add about the current garbage collection system, or possibly having the town arrange for a single-vendor system paid in taxes, most likely at a lower cost?” There were 313 comments. Of those related to single-vendor systems, 117 were “for” and 77 were “against.” With the caveat that a single comment might contain more than one theme, the top themes were:

1. Supports a single vendor system (59)
2. Does not want curbside pickup (38)
3. Need bulk pickup / more frequent bulk pickup (33)
4. Does not want changes to the current system (35)
5. Supports single vendor system if the price is lower (22)

The comments, listed in the appendix, can show why people answered as they did.

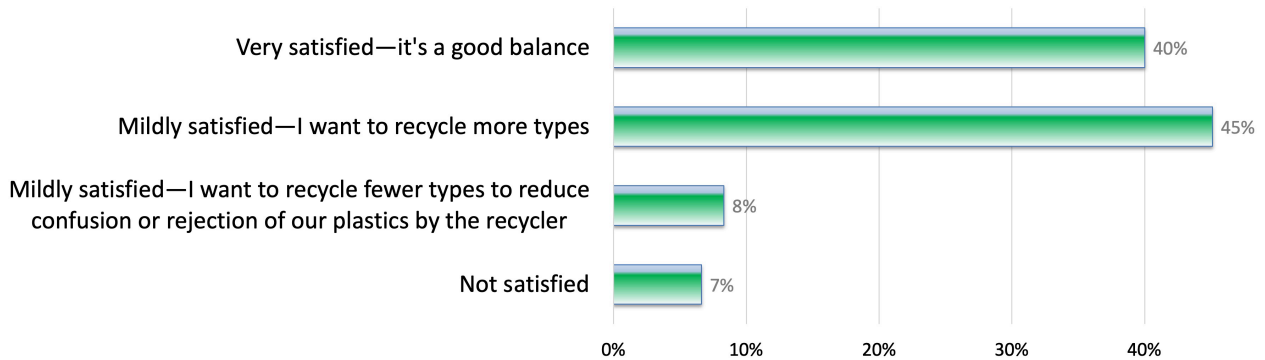
## Recycling

The recycling team’s goals were to explore weekly recycling pickup; and to find attitudes on a variety of topics related to recycling and composting. These were mostly achieved via the same survey.

The first question asked whether residents wanted to increase the frequency of recycling pickup from every other week to every week, knowing that the cost would rise. The majority of residents showed their preference to keep the current schedule.



Most residents were satisfied or mildly satisfied with the current recycling system. Nearly half of people (45%) wanted the town to pick up more types of material, while some (8%) wanted fewer types recycled to avoid confusion or rejection of the town’s plastics. Only 7% were dissatisfied overall, and 40% thought the town had a good balance.



Only 12 people provided a rationale for dissatisfaction. Of those few, 60% do not believe the town recycles (largely due to the co-mingling), and 20% claim the system is too difficult. Co-mingling of recyclables is a temporary measure, according to the town manager.



72% of residents were definitely or mildly interested in learning more about the recycling program (38% definitely interested, 34% mildly interested). Based on an open-ended question, the primary issues people want to learn about are how the town deals with the recyclables, where it takes them, and better ways to avoid rejection of loads. The team noted that other regions have successfully used a “when in doubt, throw it out” campaign.

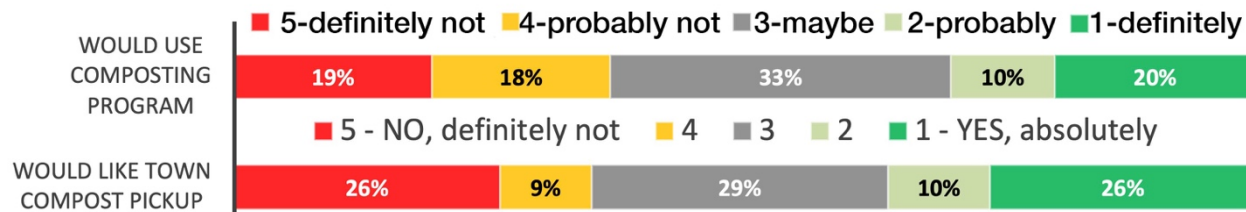
The town has links on its site to plastic recycling rules, residents wanted more ways to learn. When asked how they wanted to learn about recycling or composting, 491 people chose one or more of given list of options shown in random order.

- Email: 47% (230)
- Web sites: 47% (229)
- Town calendar pages: 40% (194)

Following these were social media (15%), meetings with Zoom options (12%), and in-person meetings (9%). 30 people selected other options, mainly “not interested.”

## Composting

When asked if they would use a town composting program, the most common answer, cited by a third of residents, was “Maybe – depends on what is involved” (coded as 3 on a 1-to-5 scale). Nearly two thirds of residents (63%) expressed possible interest in composting, with 20% saying they would definitely use a township program. This number could help set the scale of a pilot program.



When asked whether compost pickup would be desirable, 26% said “yes, absolutely” and 27% said “no, definitely not”—a nearly even split, which continued with 10% rating 2 (a soft “yes”), 9% rating 4 (a soft “no”), and 29% at a neutral 3.

While only 114 residents said *they* would definitely use a township composting program, 150 said Teaneck arranging for composting pickup would be desirable, suggesting that some want others to compost or that they might use a program if material was picked up.

When asked which issues would influence their household composting, 554 people selected at least one item, shown below (the options were presented in random order):

- Ease of storage, 23%
- Ease of separating material, 16%
- Ease of pickup, 15%
- Cost to the town (if any), 14%
- Ease of setup, 9%
- Environmental impact, 9%

15% (84) selected “other” and 38 described why. 46% of these were simply not interested; one fifth already compost, and 17% were concerned about rodents, bugs, or convenience.

Residents were asked if they wanted to learn more about composting, assuming no town program. From randomly ordered options, 190 selected “how to compost,” 152 selected “what can be composted,” 109 selected “how to use composted material,” and 104 selected “other.” For those who chose “other,” 45 provided specifics; around 60% selected variations on “not interested,” and around a third said they already composted.

Tenafly enacted a composting pilot program through neighborhoodcompost.com, with 100 households; this program runs from October 2023 through March 1, 2024.

## Appendix I: Open-Ended Questions by Category (Trash)

Themes with over ten responses were, not including “other”:

Wants a single vendor system (59)

Does not want curbside pickup (38)

Do not want changes to system (35)

[More / free] bulk pickup is needed (33)

Pickup should already be in taxes (27)

Supports single-vendor *if* price drops (22)

Dislikes waste of current system (20)

Recycling/composting comment (19)

Distrusts government (17)

Likes competition (15)

Many people had answers that could fit more than one theme. Except for recycling, comments are only listed once, so the numbers of comments in each section may not match the counts.

### Supports single vendor system

I have a particularly low cost vendor but I think it's awful that there are multiple trash collections taking place every day in every neighborhood. I would gladly support a single-vendor system. Also, I have no trouble bringing my trash to the street. I do it now because I prefer not to have someone on my property since I have a dog.

The only thing I want to avoid is having to go to using 2 smaller trash cans when I prefer my larger wheelie can for trash to keep it simple. If that means I have to move it to the street like Bergenfield does then so be it. They use an automated truck to do it which results in recycling every week as well. I think trash and recycling pickup should've been part of taxes years ago.

I like the idea of a single-vendor system to eliminate multiple vendors serving me and my neighbors on multiple days. That results in additional noise and pollution beyond the twice a week service I receive.

General trash pick up needs to be at least weekly. And trash containers need to be vermin proof - including against raccoons. Also how to manage trash pick up if you are away on the allotted day and don't want trash sitting uncollected for several weeks. Be good if there can be some recycling element to it - but without having to sort our trash into several extra categories. But generally would be for the township doing it - the current recycling pick up works well.

Teaneck should offer trash pickup, and recycling pick up weekly. My current vendor picks up trash 2x per week, not just once.

Would like it included in taxes.. would like no commingling paper and bottles and cans

I would prefer to have the town provide it through taxes as does every other town around here. It should lower the cost considerably since it would be a town wide contract. I don't think taxes should increase for this, we pay enough already.

Absolutely prefer a single vendor system paid in taxes at lower cost, with bins that we take to the curb.

i'd like town wide system paid in taxes.

Have the town arrange for a single-vendor system paid in taxes, most likely at a lower cost?

I absolutely want the town to provide trash pickup.

I am for having the town arrange for garbage pickup. it's more uniform

I did not say above that I'd prefer to pay less in taxes, but I hope that "regardless of cost" wouldn't mean paying much more.

I do like that vendors go up the driveway to get our bags but it would be more reliable of a service and easier to pay if it were a municipal service

I don't need to save \$20/month to want trash pickup handled by the town, but that was the lowest available choice. Even for \$5/month savings, I would want trash pickup handled by the

town. I would also like the town to include bulk pickup. Thank you.

I grew up in Leonia where trash pickup is included and they have bulk pickup every 2 weeks. I also spent a decade in Hoboken where they include trash multiple times a week and bulk every single week. I was annoyed when the local cost went from \$20/mo to \$30 as a single person that compost at home and only produces about 1 kitchen bags worth of garbage every 2 weeks. They charged me \$20 to take 1 twin sized mattress as no bulk is included. I cancelled my trash pickup and dispose of my 2 bags a month elsewhere. I think it's egregious the amount we pay in taxes and trash/garbage pickup is not included. Especially since I don't have children and bear the weight of public school taxes that are not a resource I use. My opinion is the town should include trash pickup and at least 2 bulk days a month at a cost of no more than \$20/mo.

I never understood why it didn't happen in Teaneck -

I think the town as a whole can get a better deal (and much simplified logistics!) by going to single-vendor system. However, I understand that there is concern about harming the livelihood of smaller vendors or stifling competition if the town switches to one vendor. My recommendation would be to have each vendor bid on a multi-year (2 or 3?) contract, with defined rates (by house or approximate number of persons served, etc.). Teaneck could then award different zones to different vendors with the intent that overall we will still save money, but that the vendors will still have to compete both on a cost and performance basis to ensure that they will be selected the following contract cycle. We will keep more vendors in business, and make sure they are serving the community at competitive rates.

I totally hate the current system. I moved from a town that collected our trash, recycling, and bulk pickup twice a year. I thought that is how it is everywhere. Only to move here and have to deal with this trash situation. I feel that between the high priced houses & taxes. The least we can get is our trash taken care of.

I would absolutely love a single town-wide garbage collection system, it's been something I complain about to anyone I know thinking of moving to the town.

I would like one system of pickup through a bids conducted by the town.

I would like to have the town to either arrange a single vendor or to provide garbage pick up.

I would prefer the town to arrange a single vendor

I wouldn't mind a slightly higher cost if post pickup waste is disposed of or processed in an environmentally friendly way, assuming such services have a proven track record.

I've never been a fan of having to pay separate for garbage pick up. It actually made me think twice about moving to Teaneck because of the additional money owed for garbage pick up. I moved from a town where recycling, garbage and bulk pick up was included in our taxes by the town. I'm completely fine with having to move the garbage street side if that's what needs to be done. But if Teaneck does make the switch I would hope our taxes won't increase due to this, because then what's the point.

I'd be ok at sane or lower cost. I currently have 1 can twice a week. I believe I have a bulk pickup option but can't recall ever using it

It seems like that having a single vendor regulated by the town would make the most common sense. We pay soo much already in taxes that garbage pick should absolutely be included at a reasonably affordable rate

It would be preferable for the town to provide a single-vendor system, paid in taxes.

It's ridiculous that for the amount of taxes we pay, we have to pay separately for trash pickup. It makes great sense on many levels for the town to pick up the trash.

My trash company doesnt have online payment so I have to mail a check, which is the only check I write on a regular basis. I have to drive to another town to mail it because Teaneck's post office is too risky. Very inconvenient. People in other towns cannot believe we have private trash pickup. It's crazy and expensive.

Our current garbage collection system is terrible, and it is different from everywhere else I have lived and every other town in bergen county I am aware of. The lack of municipal garbage collection leads to dumping all over town, contractors who randomly upcharge and perform terrible service, and various other environmental and quality of life problems. I know many people



in teaneck who literally drive their garbage to other towns; it is an embarrassment and a black mark on our town. I would definitely vote for anyone who seriously proposed to change the system.

PLEASE DO IT. Current system makes no sense. I am a single person with an average of 3 single garbage bags a month, averaging over \$25 for each bag picked up!!!! This is the very definition of crazy

Please please please scrap the current system and switch to town trash collection.

please provide single vendor paid in taxes

Should be town responsibility.

Should be included as part of town services

Single vendor town paid will be cheaper, easier and provide better service. There is no reason to continue with the current system.

Sounds like a great idea to do town garbage.

Stop wasting tax money, start saving money, and add services like trash pickup for residents. That's my message to the Township. Stop giving our tax money to private schools and use it for better services for residents. NJ state has so far given \$152 million to private schools. Stop this.

The Penny Smart dollar stupid way that the township has been ran for over 10 years needs to change. Bring back garbage pickup by township employees. Stop the continued hate on public workers and stop the blatant downsizing of services

The wheelie bins would be great for the environment due to the lack of plastic bags. The concern is the amount of wildlife Teaneck is experiencing, deer, skunks, etc. and their ability to knock over the bins to get to the loose garbage. I would love to have town wide trash pickup (and once a week, not twice a week) like we receive for recycling.

this system is stupid and needs to be changed.

Trash collection should be a municipal service paid for by taxes. It should not be private. And it should be free (i.e. included in taxes!)

We are in favor of paying through the town, and would prefer to save money to do so, but would be in favor even if there was not savings. Negotiate savings of course, if you can!!

Willing to pay slightly more for bulk pickup

## ***Single vendor and dislike current system's waste***

single vendor system is the normal thing to do. it goes up for bidding at regular intervals. the town can be divided up into sectors as already done with recycling (like that also the existing vendors do not all get forced out). most municipalities in the world use some sort of a system like that. it is ridiculously wasteful to do what teaneck does. i have no problem wheeling my garbage to the curb. it is actually what i already do now. people have no problem bringing their recycling to the curb. i would also be ok with a weekly solution for garbage. i would also suggest the reevaluation of plastic recycling.

I would love to have the town pick up my garbage if the price was reasonable. I hate the noise from all the garbage trucks everyday up and down the street.

I'd like to see a single vendor system. The current system is ridiculous! We have diesel garbage trucks going up and down our streets - from different companies. The pollution is horrible and actually dangerous to our health.

It's horrible and ridiculous to have to pay privately for garbage it should be a town wide service included in your taxes like every other town. Multiple garbage trucks everyday is a nuisance. Certain parts of town seem to have the garbage taken out of their yards but not where I live I take the garbage to the curb as well as all my neighbors. It's ridiculous!!! So much of our tax dollars go to things some of us don't or never utilized and I don't mind paying towards these things but everyone has garbage and that should come out of your tax dollars. What about seniors they deserve a break not another monthly bill?

Thank you for this survey. Present system is CRAZY. The amount of noise pollution - starting as early as 5 a.m. on a regular basis (I'm not exaggerating) as well as air pollution are not justifiable. I am not sure why these are not considered serious health concerns by the Town because of sleep disruption and the well-known hazards to humans and the environment of fossil fuels. The trucks sometimes block traffic. All of these things can be drastically reduced by having ONE trash collector (the Town).

Having a half dozen different garbage trucks coming down one street makes no sense.

The current system is such a waste



I cannot stand garbage trucks coming through at 6 am; nor can I stand several of them coming through every weekday except Wednesday (in addition to the multitude of private landscapers which block the streets and make more noise than the garbage collectors). I believe that if the town collected the trash or controlled its collection, the town could force better compliance with recycling regulations (like the town of Wyckoff does by levying fines for recyclables in the trash). We recycle more materials than we dispose of via the trash (and have done so for over 30 years). Our household produces 1 - 2, and very rarely 3 of the old ShopRite type plastic bags of trash per WEEK.

including it will simplify things and help the environment

Let's get this done. It's absolutely ridiculous to have so many different vendors driving through the town and creating so much pollution.

Our current system is lousy. Nonsensical that I have four different garbage companies serving my block

Our system makes no sense. It adds layers of waste and pollution for no good reason. Also, I like wheelie bins. I've used them and it's nice to dump in bulk trash without worrying about bags.

the current system is not sustainable

Using a single vendor or better yet the Township assuming this service will be environmentally responsible and allow for a much-streamlined service.

When we moved to Teaneck, the town collected our trash and there was a monthly (I think) bulk collection. When they switched to independent it seemed wasteful and we had to shop around for a company.

For the 30+ years I have lived in Teaneck, I have been very satisfied by the service and cost of the service I receive from my local trash collector. HOWEVER, I am disturbed by the waste and inefficiency of having multiple companies serving the same streets. I used to own a property where the town limited trash collection to 2 different companies, whose collection days were staggered.

### ***Single vendor and curbside pickup***

Ok adding to town as long as backyard pickup is included like our current garbage vendor

Open to it if backyard pickup is included like our current garbage collection

I like that the garbage is pick by my house and not by the curb. It is pick twice a week from my two containers. I wish though it would include bulk item pick up. I do think I would like my taxes to go up if it exceeds my current cost or I am paying for everyone in the town garbage.

I like the idea of a single-vendor system to eliminate multiple vendors serving me and my neighbors on multiple days. That results in additional noise and pollution beyond the twice a week service I receive.

General trash pick up needs to be at least weekly. And trash containers need to be vermin proof - including against raccoons. Also how to manage trash pick up if you are away on the allotted day and don't want trash sitting uncollected for several weeks. Be good if there can be some recycling element to it - but without having to sort our trash into several extra categories. But generally would be for the township doing it - the current recycling pick up works well.

Teaneck should offer trash pickup, and recycling pick up weekly. My current vendor picks up trash 2x per week, not just once.

Would like it included in taxes.. would like no co mingling paper and bottles and cans

Good idea to save money with single vendor system as long as quality of service is upheld and bulk pickup can be included.

I recommend that Teaneck uses a single-vendor system included in our taxes and it should include a weekly bulk pick-up. With the amount of customers, it should reduce the cost to the taxpayer.

I would like bulk trash to be included at no extra cost, however that would be achieved, including by a single-vendor system paid in taxes.

I'm all for town pickup as long as bulk is included at least weekly

Town trash is best but weekly bulk pickup included needs to be part of the deal

I would not have a problem with the town taking over garbage collection IF it included NOT having me bringing the trash cans you the curb

The town should provide this service but we cannot wheel the bin to the curb. We would prefer

the trash collection to pick up where the bin is located.

Way too many trucks (companies) coming on the same day. Do prefer they pick up from house not curb. Garbage at curb gets unsightly and bins blow around. (As seen on recycling days.)

### ***Single vendor and bulk pickup***

Good idea to save money with single vendor system as long as quality of service is upheld and bulk pickup can be included.

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### ***Single vendor if prices are lower***

I'm satisfied with the current system but would welcome lower cost service. I do not want to have to put the garbage at the curb.

There are questions in which I wish I could say other. I don't want to pay more for trash collection unless it is improved, for example if composting is included. It is odd that Teaneck has private collection but I have lived here for over 30 years so I am used to it. I don't particularly prefer public or private although we are fortunate that we don't have to bring our cans to the curb. Obviously, if I could save money with the same service I would welcome that.

Would like lower costs and keeping pick up at back of house

Only if lower cost. Competition keeps costs lower.

I would be for a single vendor system paid in taxes but it should be cheaper and should include bulk pickup.

With the economies of scale, it would have to be at a lower cost than a private company. It should also include weekly bulk retrieval.

If the cost is reduced to \$20 per month and quarterly or semi-annual bulk pick up, I would be

interested especially because of the environmental impact in our community. We have too many trucks passing through our streets.

Hate the noise before 7 am. Needs to be an economic saving of and include free weekly bulk items otherwise its an inferior Service.

I would agree for the town arrange for a single-vendor system paid in the taxes at a lower cost

I would not mind an independent contractor only if it saves me money. I am a senior citizen and looking to save money.

I would prefer a lower cost. We used to use Waste Management but their costs went up considerably over the years. I would prefer to have trash pick up included in property taxes as long a the trash pick up is reliable and the cost is either the same or less.

I'm fine with town garbage collection if it costs me a lot less.

If Teaneck can provide a single vendor at a "lower cost" via taxes or payment by me, I'm all for it.

If the town can do it cheaper, I am all in.

Lower cost would be extremely helpful!

Lower costs would be nice but a more efficient system would be better

Single vendor at lower cost

There would need to be transparency about pricing. Our taxes are astronomical as it is, and this would need to show a real cost-savings to make it worthwhile.

we were paying \$25 a month until this quarter when went up \$5 to \$30 a month. Would only do for same service and price savings

We would have to be allowed to put out at least two large 50 gallon or more size cans or unlimited for it to be worth it. Can't to limited to one garbage can. Right now we get 2cans per 2 days a week for \$28. It needs to be either the same or better.

Would like garbage included in taxes at lower cost.

The costs have escalated to the point of paying over \$1,000. A year. It doesn't matter to me if I have to bring the container back up the driveway. We all put the garden debris and recycling out, this is one more thing.

## Should already be in taxes

*This category has **some** overlap with desiring a single vendor system. These comments were not coded as indicating desire for a single vendor system.*

Taxes are too high already and there shouldn't be an additional fee for garbage collection

A lot of people will be angry if taxes go up. We pay enough and should have garbage collection already.

For the amount of taxes we already pay, the current garbage collection system is appalling (compared to the prior state where we lived). It should already be automatically included as part of our services, and I'd be happy to pay for new trash cans that can be compliant with the system as a one-time cost.

For the taxes we pay garbage should be included in our taxes without any increase

Teaneckian pay enough property tax to get trash picked without an increase in Taxes. Try tearing down that monstrosity you call the board of education building if you need revenue

Garbage collection should have been collected by the town along without a tax increase. Town has new garbage trucks and for what certainly not to collect our garbage which they should.

I ALREADY PAY HIGH TAXES!!! TRASH SHOULD BE PICKED UP BY THE TOWN LIKE OTHER TOWNS DO!!

I don't understand why taxes are so high and Teaneck does not already have garbage pickup included. Smaller towns like Bogota already have this. Another town is Bergenfield and many others. Teaneck tax burden is equal to or more than these neighboring towns.

I would like my garbage included in my taxes at no additional cost. I pay a fortune in taxes here. Growing up, I lived 20 minutes outside of Washington DC. My parents paid a fraction of what I pay in taxes and had garbage included and recycling. I don't understand where my tax money goes

I would prefer that the Township pickup our trash as well. However, our taxes are high enough so this should not be added to our taxes.

I would prefer the town arrange a vendor however I feel I pay enough taxes to have it included without further increasing my taxes.

It's absolutely ridiculous that this isn't already included. This town is what, 130 years old? Only town I've ever heard of not doing this. Oh and by the way, considering how much Teaneck charges in taxes we shouldn't have to pay for this service at all. Why don't you use the difference in tax reassessment funds to cover this cost instead of finding another way to get me over \$13k in taxes. Don't get me wrong, I want this service, but don't feel like I currently get anything tangible for my tax money. Would totally leave if I didn't work in NYC.

It's ridiculous that garbage pick up is not included in our already high taxes

Most other townships cover the cost of trash and recycle pick-up so why Teaneck, which is known as having one of the highest taxes in ALL of NJ doesn't already cover this is beyond me. The streets are appalling, you don't cover sidewalk repair, and traffic is not monitored along Cedar Lane so what, exactly, are our exorbitant taxes going toward?

My taxes are already exorbitant and we see no benefit from them. Roads are crumbling in this town. Perhaps consider taking some of the \$13000 a year I already pay on taxes and redistribute them to trash pickup. Don't know what you're actually spending it all on already.

Other towns that have lower taxes receive garbage collection. This should not need to be an added expense in our taxes.

There are at least 5 garbage pickup companies that cross our streets 2 times weekly. In addition, one company charges \$49 monthly, another at \$30 monthly...all for the same service. Get us one provider at a low cost & do NOT increase our property taxes! Property taxes in Teaneck are one of the highest in the state. For what?

Trash pickup cost has gotten very expensive. my taxes are very high. It would be nice to have no increase and have the town pick up the trash

Trash should be included but at no extra cost. Taxes in Teaneck are one of the highest around.

We pay exorbitant taxes in Teaneck. Our taxes should cover trash removal without an increase in cost. I've never had to pay a private company in any of the many places around the country in which I've lived before I moved to Teaneck.

We pay the highest taxes across the state and in most of the country. It is ridiculous that garbage is not included for all homeowners.

Why do we still pay for garbage pickup?

With the high taxes we pay, the garbage collection should be included, not an additional cost.

With the taxes we pay in this crummy town, this service should be free. It is an absolute joke you are asking if this should be added to our taxes. This town offers no incentive to live here other than its proximity to NYC.

Would be amazing for us to get services that neighboring towns get as our taxes are already extremely high

## **Opposed to changes**

I don't think that I can save money. I pay only \$23 per month for pick up 2 times per week. I prefer not to drag a wheelie to the curb. The survey did not state how often the town would pick up garbage. Would the town take bulk trash?

I like the current system. Teaneck had many years ago. Teaneck had a single carrier. But we paid on our own, with no choice. The current system is good for competition and keeping the price down.

I am concerned you will not be saving our streets. Noise, etc as much as you think. It might not be as efficient as you think and services will not be as good.

The only drawback to having the private pickup is the high cost of bulk pickup. What are you trying to change. The system is not broken!

I do not want Teaneck garbage pick up at all. I have been using my collection service company for years and then about 20 years prior to that before they sold to another company. The local township cant even pick up grass clippings and recycle properly, so now they want to do trash pick up? no thank you. They dont even put the lids on the cans nor do i want to take my trash out to the street every time. please do not get involved with my trash pick up.

I do use and prefer Waste Management but I do not want to force residents to use a more expensive service if they can't afford it. Also, I would feel bad if this forced the non-chosen service provider to go out of business.

I don't see it possible to have in our taxes and Payless. I think it's fine as is.

I don't want the town to start a single vendor system at all. It is good now.

I have lived in Teaneck for 50 years and have no interest in changing our trash pickup

I like that my current trash guys "TAKE EVERYTHING". I don't want my trash to be scrutinized and left behind like the DPW has done in the past.

I like the curent system and do not want the town to arrange for a single-vendor system.

I like what we do, please don't take away our ability to choose to continue it.

I prefer to keep my current garbage collection system.

I think the current system is fine.

I will keep my garbage collector.

I've been living in Teaneck for over 47 years and have not had any problems with the garbage collection system currently in place.

I'm content with my current situation

It ain't broke. Don't fix it!!!

It would be much better if we had one garbage carrier once a week in each neighborhood. Currently the noise and pollution and garbage that is left in the street, is terrible. Since I am 82, the garbage being taken from my alleyway is best. However, if I we cut down on cost, noise, truck traffic, pollution and garbage left in the street, I wouldn't mind curb pick-up. Also, street sweeper is waste of time and equipment cost. Also, recycling system is a joke.

Our system is good. Please don't mandate anything different.

Please do not change something that works

Please don't change our system! It works!

Please leave it as it is now.

The current system is good, I do not like the idea of the town arranging a single vendor system.

The current system is ideal. I do not want the town to change ir.

The system is good as it is thanks. I do not like these alternative ideas.

This system has worked well here for years. There is no reason to change it

Waste of time and effort. Zfree enterprse working well. Keep ourTownship out if it. They have enough to do

We have lived in Teaneck for 45 years and are happy with the present system.

We need 2x/week year round We are VERY happy with the current situation!!

### ***Doesn't trust the government***

I used to live in a town that had the Borough pick up the trash twice a week, then they went and bid out for one company to do the Borough's trash pick up and our taxes went up each year, we were conned into them saying we would be "saving money in the long run." It was nothing but lies! Every other year they raised our taxes "due to costs for refuse pick up" which was another lie because with a contract with a refuse company towns usually have more than a one year contract. NO THANK YOU, I RATHER PAY THE GARBAGE COMPANY EACH MONTH AND HAVE NOTHING ADDED TO MY TAXES AND NOT HAVE TO BUY EXTRA TRASH CANS THAT MOST OF US HAVE DURING CERTAIN TIMES. LEAVE THE SYSTEM ALONE!!!

Since there is, and will be no guarantee that even after five years there will be no increase in our taxes for garbage pickup, and no mention of including weekly bulk item pickup, I much prefer to keep the independent contractor system in place as is. Putting the service out for bid by the Township seems to me to be a textbook opportunity for corruption and rigged bids. I also do not want to have to bring the garbage can(s) to the curb, especially in winter, by "wheelie" or no.

It will not be at a "most likely" lower cost. It is a terrible idea to force a resident to pay what the town thinks is a fair price. I do not wish to have my free choice taken away. Right now when it is recycling day, everyone on the block puts their cans in the street. The cans take up all the parking spots. I also do not want to pay more for pickup if my neighbor has more garbage than me. Right now we pay on amount. I don't worry about anything. The new system maybe be cheaper at first but then it will go up and up.

When companies have to compete, the service is better (most importantly that bins don't have to be brought to the curb), prices remain lower, and

they are responsive to issues and complaints. Government service is always worse, and will without any doubt whatsoever eventually be more expensive (note that even the survey only mentioned keeping costs down for five years).

Companies competing for customers will always provide better cheaper service than a government contract.

Do not trust the town council not to raise the taxes over the course of several years that trash will eventually cost more.

I don't trust the current teaneck govt. It feels like you keep trying to move costs from one side of town to the other. I have no issues with my current garbage pickup. You are trying to set us up to "save money" but you will end up costing us in the long run. No confidence at all and don't think you are honest people.

I have no problem with the current system because I have control over it not some elected official.

If it aint broke don't fix it. The current system works great and there is no way Government can do it as efficiently and at the same or lower price point then a private contractor.

If it could be less per month that would be great. As it is I don't usually have it picked up twice a week. I don't make a lot of trash. I don't want to pay more because a family needs more picked up. It will never be cheaper if paid in taxes.

It is a falsehood to believe that the government can do a better job than private contractors. Aside from the fact that it is much cheaper and will always be cheaper to have a private contractor versus the government, the current system is extremely easy on homeowners.

It will not be at a lower cost. You will ruin it for everyone who is paying less. You will award contracts to "favorites" taking the business away from the little companies. Taxes will go up and up. Just because a small percentage of people are not happy right now doesn't mean you have to change it.

Leave it alone. Over time the taxes will grow and grow even if there were savings initially.

Most towns are experiencing huge increases with their single vendor companies. It's also suggested that the single vendor bidding process can lead to collusion and bad service.



The government can never do anything at a cheaper cost point. The cheapest rate in town is \$35 per month. If you can't beat that, don't get into the trash business.

This municipality fails in so many areas already. Adding another item to their agenda is not needed and cost of paying for my own garbage is not that significant.

Transparency in the quotes and decision process

### ***Prefer competition***

I like the system we have now. I do not want to drag my trashcan to the curb and have it left there all day if I'm not home. If I have a problem with my trash collector, I'm free to change services. I do NOT want to change this.

allowing one contractor to monopolize the town would be bad. we should allow as many vendors as possible, but they must qualify and follow town rules and regs.

Competition among waste companies is good. I am not sure I would trust a single vendor to be responsible to keep the price low and maintain the service I am getting.

Competition is good for the consumer. I'm most worried about the same larger garbage company taking over several smaller companies in the last 2 years and raising rates for customers while operating with massive inefficiencies since they didn't re-do any of the existing routes.

Current home owner can choose garbage collection contractor the price varies widely. I prefer to do my own negotiations to meet my household needs.

No, Competition is good.

Please don't change anything. I prefer having my own choice as to who picks up our garbage and when my garbage is collected.

Prefer current system being able to choose the garbage company & having pickup twice a week and large item pickup once a week.

We need competition for garbage service. The old Mafia style single company gives us no choice of the incumbent is incompetent

While there are disadvantages with the current system, I like being able to choose what works for my household. For example, if I am away I can suspend collection. And I don't have to worry if I

am not home one night about wheeling the garbage to the sidewalk.

With private sanitation, you have the luxury of changing vendors, if not satisfied.

If not a single-vendor, a system like recycling by zone rather than individual collection to also illuminate noise and traffic. Allowing competition to keep pricing down.

### ***Quality concerns***

I think you are putting a finger on the scale here in predicting that a single tax supported vendor would be a lower cost. Garbage collection is inexpensive enough and flexible to my needs. I expect having it covered by the town would lead to a reduction in quality of service and that cost control would be more challenging.

I'm afraid a single vendor doesn't care to do a good job because we are forced to accept them as our provider. I prefer the system where we get to choose the providers and if we are unhappy with one then we can switch to another.

The service from the independent contractors has been very good. They do a good job and fairly responsive. If you don't like the service there are other options. Having the town arrange for a single-vendor means that if you are dissatisfied there is little recourse, which can be frustrating. Any action to address issues would be very slow in that situation.

The town makes a mess of recycle pick up. What about large items I can now put at the curb once a week and get picked up for my regular monthly fee? no interest in having the town take this on!!!!

The town run recycling frequently do not pick up our recycling (they either skip the block or skip our house) and so we constantly need to call to get our recycling picked up. It is very frustrating. If the town took over regular garbage pickup I would need assurances that the garbage will actually be picked up (without needing to constantly call and complain before it gets picked up).

While I understand that people want their utilities rolled up into one, my concern for it to be switched is that in the end there will not a savings and quality of services goes down.

### ***Does not want curbside pickup***

*Excluding those already listed under the "Supports single vendor" section*



i like having my trash picked up at the side of my house. not having to remember the day, & drag the bins back & forth is very convenient. the recycling at the curb is unsightly, and our bins get thrown around, roll into the street & lids go missing.

Garbage should not be collected before 9am. What is the allowed starting time? That should be publicized, and changed if necessary. The wheelie bin approach can lead to traffic delays on narrow two-way one-lane roads.

I like the back door pick up but I really need bulk pick up and amount of trash I throw out shouldn't be limited to 1 or 2 bags a week

What will the bulk pick up policy be, and will we need to bring our cans to the curb. That's honestly my main issue with town arranged service. I absolutely hate bringing my cans to the curb or having to walk my children and dog past them.

I love my independent collector. I am too old to drag my garbage to the curb. I can hardly get it outside of my garage. Plus I'm on a steep hill.

Don't want the price of what I pay a month to go up. Having to take the garbage to the curb is inconvenient. Ideally I would like the cost to be included in what I'm already paying for in taxes.

Bringing trash to the curb for pickup should be a non-starter. Currently the company I use picks up the trash from the side of my house having to bring it to the curb like we do for recyclables would be a horrible inconvenience.

Do not want a system where I have to move my trash cans to the curb. In addition to the pain to do that, the cans will stay there or off curb all day and early evening until I get home and will be damaged etc.

dont want to have to wheel my garbage cans to the sidewalk. Like when its picked up at my side door, as I am a senior citizen. Hard enough to have to put my recyclables on the curb every two weeks.

Having trash picked up behind my house is a plus for me especially as I am getting older

I don't know what you mean by "wheelie bin" but I know I prefer not to have carry anything to the curb.

I have lived in Teaneck for 45 years. If having Teaneck collect my trash would save me money that would be appreciated but I am adamantly opposed to changing the system if it would mean

that I would have to bring the cans to the street even if they had wheels, and cans without bags would be a disaster! I'm sure there would be garbage all over the street.

I like not having to bring my cans to the curb, that is a value worth keeping the current system in my opinion. I also believe that the current system incentivizes a strong second hand economy in town, which also saves people money and keeps goods in the use stream for longer.

I like that the collectors will come to where my garbage is, and I don't have to bring it to the street.

I prefer pick up at side of house

I would only consider town arranged system if I do not need to bring to curbside

It is impossible for the town to run its own garbage collection, but if the town management negotiates with several of the larger companies to cover neighborhoods and cap those costs to be included in future tax payments, then I am for a change. Otherwise, leave the system as it is, backyard pickups are an advantage to many (especially the elderly or infirm still living in their homes).

Current system provides convenience of pickup on my property as opposed to bringing it to curb; also bulk pickup whenever needed as opposed to once per month; also quantity of bags allowed for pickup twice per week

Current system works fine...only way we could use the town's help is to negotiate for better rates.

Have never had an issue in the decades I've lived in Teaneck. The town gave me wheelie bins for recycling a few years ago. Have only seen town manually empty the bins into garbage truck as they are not mechanical. Why bother?

I feel that we have greater negotiability with smaller companies. I like giving the locals a chance.

Love the convenience of backyard pick up

My house is in hell I would not want to have to work a wheelie bin up and down my front stairs.

My main concern about switching to a proposed system by the township which would use wheelie bins is: (1) I may forget to put the bins out in the street before collection mornings and it may be difficult to move them out there in the snow & ice;

and (2) Wildlife/animals will most likely get into or knock over the wheelie bins when they are out in the street. I foresee this as a big problem and the town will not clean up the mess the animals make rooting through the trash bins, especially with no trash liner bags being used - the smell will be even more attractive to the Teaneck wildlife.

Not having to bring the cans back and forth to the curb

only problem with plan is the need to bring the trash to the curb. this is difficult for recycling already - hard for those who are older or differently abled.

Single vendor would not lower cost as vendors would increase cost to start. I need back door pickup. Please give senior citizens consideration unable to get to curb for pick up.

The fact that our garbage collectors come to the side of the house to pick it up, rather than having to bring it to the curb is very valuable to me.

The saving increments are too high. The lowest increment is \$20 which is half the \$40 I pay and I know people who pay \$30/month who might consider a \$10 reduction a savings. It should also be a question of how much the overall savings for residents rather than what each would save individually. Property taxes are based on assessed value and those with higher assessments may wind up paying more though the average is reduced significantly. Also it is not the use of wheelie bins that is the problem, it is the switch to curbside pick up I would consider problematic. It will result in garbage cans on the street all the time.

Currently trash is picked up directly from the yard. No trash at the curb means no garbage blowing around the streets and no animal issues. The current system works fine.

### **No trust that cost will fall**

I do not believe it will be lower cost at the same or better value

I don't trust that a single-vendor will result in sustained lower cost.

My previous vendor weighed my bulk items and charged me. I doubt adding this service to my taxes will be advantageous. Costs and taxes will eventually increase.

No proof it will be lower cost.

### **Bulk pickup**

*These comments exclude those already listed above.*

I have never received any written information from my trash vendor about my rights regarding bulk trash and I have no way of knowing how to compare vendor to vendor. If there is anything on Teaneck's website I haven't found it.

If we move to a single vendor system, I would want the annual ( or quarterly) cost listed on tax bill as a line item so it is clearly identified. I would also like to see bulk item or "other" items pickups biweekly or at least monthly. I would also like garbage to be picked up twice per week.

I wish there were options available that included bulk pick up free even if it's only several times per year. Also, an updated list on companies that I can use. The one on the website is very outdated. Cost is ridiculously high. No bulk pickup provided.

Bulk pickup is very necessary

Bulk trash collection like other townships

I am fine with a private company but I would like to see a requirement for bulk pickup

I don't care if it's part of our taxes or not AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T COST ME ANY MORE THAN \$30 month AND that I can still call for a FREE BULK PICKUP of ANYTHING!

I grew up in Teaneck, We used to have a 2x per year household garbage pickup of anything you no longer needed. Most towns still do and I think it is an extremely important thing for towns to have. WE SHOULD HAVE ONE AT LEAST ONCE, IF NOT TWICE A YEAR.

I have lived in surrounding towns all my life. This is the first time I live in a town that doesn't include trash pick and you have to pay/outsouce a private contractor. I currently reside in an apt building and the town only provides 1 recycling bin for the 4 unit building I'm in. Also we do not have bulk service. This is the worst garbage service/experience I've had to live through. Please get with the times and follow towns like Hackensack and Bergenfield that offer their residents garbage service through tax payments. We currently have to dispose of our recycling at my spouse's employment in a different town just because Teaneck doesn't offer me a free recycling bin and won't take my recycling if it's not

in a town issued recycling bin. We desperately need bulk pick up. Bergenfield offers their resident bulk pick up 4 times a year/every 3 months. Something so simple should not be so difficult.

I need to know more about how bulk pickup would factor into the cost. Teaneck used to have an annual pickup at no cost to residents.

I think having bulk pickup at least once a month is important to include in any town-wide contract. It is ridiculous the amount of effort we have to go through to get rid of bulk trash.

I want a bulk pick up free of charge

I would like bulk items to be picked up on some regular basis if the town were handling trash pickup.

I would like to see bulk pickup. It's impossible to dispose of non food trash in this town

I'd like to see curbside bulk debris pickup added several times a year.

If town does not include weekly bulk pickup then not interested

Include bulk pickup/dropoff days.

It should include bulk pickup weekly

Need bulk pick up

regular bulk pick up would be helpful.

Currently big pick up is very limited and extremely expensive with the current vendor. Previous contractor did not limit amount to be picked up and fees were more reasonable. Need a better system for removing junk and unwanted items.

## Recycling (and any other topic)

*These comments have been edited to remove references to other topics, if relevant.*

Teaneck should offer trash pickup, and recycling pick up weekly.

would like no co mingling paper and bottles and cans

...the recycling at the curb is unsightly, and our bins get thrown around, roll into the street & lids go missing.

... Garbage at curb gets unsightly and bins blow around. (As seen on recycling days.)

Composting

I would like to see compost picked up along with household trash.

I would like to see composting added to our pickup. Not sure how that will work but willing to give it a try

I'd like to see us do more to encourage recycling and discourage dumping everything in the trash. Many people do a terrible job of recycling.

Include recycling

More recycling!!!

Please add composting options. I think we can save money even though I indicated I'm fine if we don't.

Recycling!

...We recycle our bottles, cans and paper for town pickup.

...Meanwhile I really need recycling MORE than every two weeks. I generate MUCH more recycling than garbage.

I think Teaneck could very easily add several compost collection sites and use the compost around the town. This also cuts down on household garbage output.

.... Also, street sweeper is waste of time and equipment cost. Also, recycling system is a joke.

## All other comments

*Relatively minor themes included liking the current company (6); fear of increases with a single-vendor system (5); curbside pickup being acceptable (5); not wanting price hikes (4); not wanting any sort of tax increases for any reason (4); and preferring to pay for trash in taxes (4).*

I live alone and am overpaying for twice weekly pickup - there are no other options. Meanwhile I really need recycling MORE than every two weeks. I generate MUCH more recycling than garbage.

If Teaneck taxes weren't already so crazy high I might care more but the employees with our trash provider are very nice and conscientious. They never leave our cans in the street

I've lived in Teaneck for 38 years! At first I resented paying a separate bill for garbage, but as time has passed, my garbage bill has been

reduced & my township taxes have skyrocketed. I do not want MORE taxes! The costs for the town to build a whole sanitation dept - trucks, personnel, wheelie bins, etc will be enormous!!! Unless, someone's pockets will be getting lined by starting this initiative, there's no reason to change the current system. Teaneck taxes are too high already - & I have no doubt they'll go up after the damn appraisal!! Now you are considering adding something else to raise taxes???? Please consider the residents who live here - taxes on top of taxes.....is not the way to go. For once, be looking out FOR us, and not looking to rape us. Thank you.

If it means paying higher taxes, I against it.

If Our taxes will go up to pay for garabage pickup, don't do it

According to the email this survey was about recycling and did not mention garbage pickup

Efficient consistency and timeliness.

For town garbage pickup to be acceptable, there would have to be guarantees of reliability, responsiveness, and customer service levels, including the ability to reach the vendor by phone. There would also have to be town personnel to promptly address problems, who can be reached by phone. Performance would have to be a lot better that the town recycling pickups. This survey is of limited value because it is clearly biased in favor of town-provided garbage collection. The survey questions do not address reliability, responsiveness, and customer service.

Garbage needs to be picked up twice a week.

Honestly (and concerning pollution and noise) I think there's a much greater negative impact from school buses, and their continued use of diesel in our neighborhoods. They should be at the heart of any discussion on reducing noise and pollution in Teaneck, esp. on our secondary roads.

How will taxes break down a per household cost structure instead of a tax rate structure without adding to costs through personnel?

I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN ON A FIXED INCOME AND FEEL WE PAY HIGH ENOUGH TAXES AS IS AND WOULD NOT LIKE ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ADDED TO MY TAXES UNLESS EXTREMELY MINIMAL.

I am content with my current vendor but just had to switch due to an insane price hike. There are

other vendors who were used by my neighbor who would idle in front of my house while servicing the nearby blocks causing a massive racket for an excessive period of time. I've also had houses near me that were vacant and the landlord hired contractors who didn't realize that because we didn't have town wide pick up whatever they left would be remaining at the curb until there were new tenants, the landlord/ real estate agent HAPPENED to drive by or someone contacted the health department which is absolutely ridiculous.

I am very concerned about the hazardous driving by many of the truck drivers (particularly IWS) who make it a habit of backing up streets instead of going around the block. Backing up in the dark with kids walking to school busses should not be happening. If I backed up a street I would be ticketed for reckless driving.

I do not want garbage pickup added to my taxes. I use steel garbage cans as the raccoons and other wildlife get into any other type of can.

I get 2 pick-ups a week with my garbage vendor. It is hard to calculate the cost between my service and who the township would contract. It is not comparable.

I had to call my vendor this week. They were dramatically overcharging me and reduced the fees by half.

I only pay \$33 a month for 2 cans plus free weekly bulk. If I have to pay a penny more for a monopoly chosen by Teaneck I will see you in court

I used to know the garbage collectors. (I've lived here 30 years.) In 2020, my collector sold the business to a larger organization. I do not know these people at all. Rarely do I see the same person twice. I do try to make pick up as easy as possible.

If possible, it would be good to have a one bin or two bin option for collection to give a less expensive option to those of us that have relatively little trash. In my household, we barely fill 1/2 a bin in our regular pick-up and therefore I currently only pay for one a 'one bin pickup'.

If there will be any increase in my taxes and no savings realized I am NOT in favor of changing from independent pick-up to township service.

if town had a single vendor system, how would houses that need more than 1 can achieve that?

It does not provide a solution for having to dispose of paint and waist purchased from the big chain home supplies companies.

It would be nice for the trucks to be taken care of so that they don't drop garbage water on the streets. Sometimes my block smells bad for 2 days after a garbage truck goes by, especially during warmer months.

Lower cost than what? I pay for only 1 barrel twice a week. Would I be paying taxes assuming 2 barrels?

not everyone participates in paying for garbage pick up so adding it to taxes spreads the cost around. additionally, some garbage companies start pick up before the 7am time requirement.

Objections above

Previously neighborhoods used same vendor which avoided some issues in last question

Seniors, empty nestors should pay less than households with lots of trash. Specificly, my quarterly trash cost doubled in a few short years. I was getting a senior friendly price then Buldo took over, raised the cost to \$90/month for 2x weekly pickup. I dont need 2x weekly pickup and rarely have more than 1 garbage bag. There should be tiered pricing for Seniors, small households vs large households w greater puckup needs.

Since there is one large garbage collection company that has eaten up several smaller companies, I would recoment to THEM that they consolidate their pick-ups. so THEIR trucks don't come down the street every day!

Single home owners lose no matter what. I do not have enough trash for pickup twice a week. Should be by the bag a it was in the past. I only have two small bags of trash a week.

Taxes are way too high for someone who's never received any benefits from any of its current programs.

Teaneck property taxes are too high. Current drain on property taxes... schools, religious organizations and hospital.

The garbage needs to be in a bag if not they do not pick up example I put a mop head and broomstick ans they left it

the trash would need to be picked up frequently than the current recycling schedule. we would

need trash picked up a minimum of 2 times a week.

The workers have no regaqrd for the bins. Seems they have a game to see how far they can throw them or destroy them

There is no current garbage collection!

There needs to be a choice. Not mandatory and not one size fits all. Paramus has free garbage pick up and free bulk pick up.

This is a poorly designed survey I pay for one can and others pay for more

Two bags no weekly, weighing 50 pounds is not enough for a large household like mine

We have the distinction of being the only town in Bergen County that has to pay for trash pickup!

We pay a lot of taxes now for no service. I hope this is better without costing me more money

We recently switched to a new vendor and save a significant amount over our past cost.

What justifies this sentence's ". . . most likely at a lower cost?"

When I first moved to town, having to figure this out and arrange it was another item on an already overwhelming to-do list. Now that I'm set up it's not such a big deal, but at the time it would have been welcome.

You have one job, picking up the garbage. Get it working already!

Switch should be to automated trucks that can pickup and empty the cans without human intervention (except when needed).

Garbage pickup should be done by the town. With private pickup, there is noise and traffic everyday of the week at varying times due to the many private companies offering this service.

I don't like the fact that the same garbage provider charges different prices. I know that I pay more than my neighbor for the same garbage provider. Definitely not right or fair

Taxes are already higher than other towns that include garbage pick in their taxes. Keep it how it is or find a way to incorporate trash pick up in the current budget. Cut the budget on TREES. we have too many tree in Teaneck and you can't maintain the trees or yearly clean up that goes along with it.

Taxes are high enough here. Bergenfield residents do not pay extra for trash collection and their tax threshold is lower than Teaneck. I'd rather pay a garbage company than give this town another dollar for anything!

Current garbage collection companies are a rip off. Raising prices every month

It's a complete scam. Prices are increased every month!

Been living in same house 39 years and my garbage pickup is twice weekly. Former company sold to new company and I'm more pleased because new company will pickup old doors, chairs left on curb unlike former. Former was by appointment only and charged extra unlike current company

In 5 years of living in Teaneck, I have paid up to \$67 in the past for a hit or miss service. Today,

I'm paying JCS \$35 now for service that doesn't fail and is reasonable. That's what I want, reliable and reasonable service.

Because I am a VERY mindful and green shopper, I have almost no trash. A grocery bag's worth or month usually. Almost everything gets recycled or composted. I would like to have taxes pay for trash pick up BUT AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF PRESENT TRASH COLLECTORS EMPLOYMENT/LIVELIHOOD

From my perspective, as long as the cost increase in my taxes is comparable to the \$115/month that I'm paying now, I'd definitely want the town to use a single vendor and cover the cost in my taxes.

Our family strives towards zero waste, so to us a "pay as you throw" method to incentivize people seems ideal.



## Appendix II: Recycling Questions by Category

There were 56 answers to the question, "Is there anything you'd like to tell us about recycling or composting?" These could be divided into the following themes. Comments with overlap were placed in both themes, with an ellipsis (...) showing that another part of the comment is shown elsewhere. The most popular themes were:

- General recycling concerns (22)
- General recycling (not concerns) (8)
- Composting: opposed to town program (9), composting now (7), want program (6), concerns (6)

### General recycling concerns

Even though we separate plastic & glass from paper, when picked up, the men throw it all in same truck all mixed together..

Excited for improvements to the Recycling system...

I find most people do not know about the plastic number categories. This education should be happening now

I participate in the recycling program because I consider myself a good citizen. However, I'm suspect because cardboard and plastics are collected together so I'm not sure what the value of separating into blue and yellow bins is.

I take care to separate paper from plastic, glass and aluminum only to have it dumped into the same truck. Why separate???

Judging by what I see in cans or at the depot, I'd bet a lot of our recycling gets rejected. I wish we all knew better and followed procedures.

Recycling compliance must be improved including recycling opportunities in nonresidential establishments in town. The garbage cans and dumpsters near food establishments are overflowing with recyclable materials.

Since a last year both the plastics and paper are being taken by the same truck - I have doubts if they are being recycled at all

Single stream recycling should be utilized as it usually is deposited into the same truck

The guys who pick up often leave things in the street

The town looks a mess. People leave cans out all the time or they put out before 6pm rule. It's not enforced. We pay taxes to enforce the rules and it's not done. Now you want more taxes and the town looks trashy even more.

Why do we separate plastics and paper only to have the recyclers dump everything into the same truck?

Why does recycling pickup comingle plastics and paper?

Why is my apartment not recycling

### *Recycling Frequency*

I'm happy with the recycling pick up the town does, but wish it would happen more then once every other week. ...

It's very hard to recycle when pickup is only twice a month. I fill up my bins very week

More frequent recycling pickup (hopefully at least weekly) would be fantastic.

ridiculous that recycling is only every other week, and that we would be charged for additional pickups. I grew up in Oregon, recycling is easy and makes money for the township. I lived in Skokie and Northbrook Illinois and those townships also make money on recycling. It is amazing to me how inefficient Teaneck is and how much money it spends, when it could be generating.

### General recycling (not concerns)

(1) I don't like having to search every plastic item for a code number. I'd like to just put all plastic in the recycling. (2) Seeing paper and cardboard being put in the same truck makes me suspicious about whether it is really being recycled at all.

I go to the town recycling depot every weekend with our plastics, paper, and cardboard recycling. The staff there are very nice/helpful.

I like to recycle and I hope we can make it more universal for people and simpler to do.

Is recycling still cost effective? An NPR piece a few years ago claimed it was a waste of time/money.

The more convenient recycling is, and the more often recycling comes, the less frequently people will dispose of recyclables in the garbage

We must figure out how to recycle all our plastic waste. There really isn't any alternative.

We should all be able to get rolling recycling bins

Yeah, I remember the old town newsletters bragging about how much they made off our recycling monthly.

Maybe you can reimburse me for my garbage collection with that fund.

## **Opposed to town composting program**

Composting is a terrible idea.

Composting seems go along with gardening, so it's more of an individual issue.

I compost my own organics. No need for another program

I'm against composting as we have enough vermin and wild animals running through our neighborhoods, and we cannot guarantee that all residents will compost correctly.

I'm all for recycling responsibly however composting will attract more wildlife and create a messy smelly environment

It's more to do. Unless pickup price goes down, not interested

No interest in composting. Why can't composters do it on their own property

No interested in javing rotting food stored on my property

Recycling and composting should not be forced on residents

## **Already compost**

I already compost in my backyard; it's pretty easy

I already to it at home

I compost already

[duplicated in prior section] I compost my own organics. No need for another program

We already compost and recycle anything possible, we would like town trash pickup.

We compost at home

we have composted our vegetable waste for years and it's easy and free

## **Supporting town composting program**

Composting is great for any garden & helps lessen trash. I used to compost for my garden in my former town because I had a large lot for my garden.

Composting would be AMAZING. Also, NYC has terrific new containers operated by smartphone. That

might be option -- placed in business areas and/or parks -- rather than pickup which, sadly (and based on seemingly pathetic recycling participation) would likely cost a lot for little return.

Excited for improvements to the Recycling system, would definitely be interested in a Composting setup

I definitely want to see Teaneck composting.

Please begin town composting—personally, our trash disposal would fall to almost nothing if composting is available and moderately easy to do. We've considered composting on our property, but we do not have a large yard and have not tried it yet. Would much prefer a town-based compost program.

The township can offset the costs of garbage collection by charging a fee for garden compost

## **Composting concerns (not pro/con)**

Composting can draw critters (rats, raccoons) so storage would need to be secure.

I like composting in theory but worry about attracting rodents

I would live this program but only if the pick up can be respectfully accomplished. The current recycling pickup frequently leaves my bins in the street when they're done blocking my sidewalk and access to parking until I've left my car idling in the middle of the street to correct it

Is there a smell of the rotting food?

Need to avoid messes and attracting vermin including raccoons, possums and squirrels/rats/mice etc

...As far as composting, I may be interested if I had more info on what to include and how to store it until pick up day.

## **Other**

Amateur survey should have got a professional

Follow state guidelines

it is horrible

Stick to the current program

The plastic shopping bag rule is dumb. You have to buy plastic bags for garbage??? What's the point. All that does is help the grocery check out clerks.