

Community Survey

Summary Report





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1

Introduction

Span was awarded funding from the Recycling Victoria Communities Fund in Jun-2021 and entered into contract with Sustainability Victoria in Sep-2021 to deliver the proposed 12 month project. A part-time (0.4 FTE) Project Coordinator was engaged to manage and deliver the work.

The project objectives were articulated at a high level as part of the initial proposal, with the intent of refining and informing these further through engagement and consultation line with Span's commitment to community development.

Project objectives include:

- Expand and improve the existing food waste composting project
- Deliver workshops / events to engage and inform the community
- Set up new solutions to repair, reuse and recycle more materials

In establishing the project, Span formalised its partnership with local sustainability groups Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes and Transition Darebin who had been identified as valuable contributors to local repair, reuse and recycling efforts.

The project has been named the 'Span RRR Hub' with the by-line of 'Repair, Reuse, Recycle' clarifying the acronym as part of the immediate presentation.

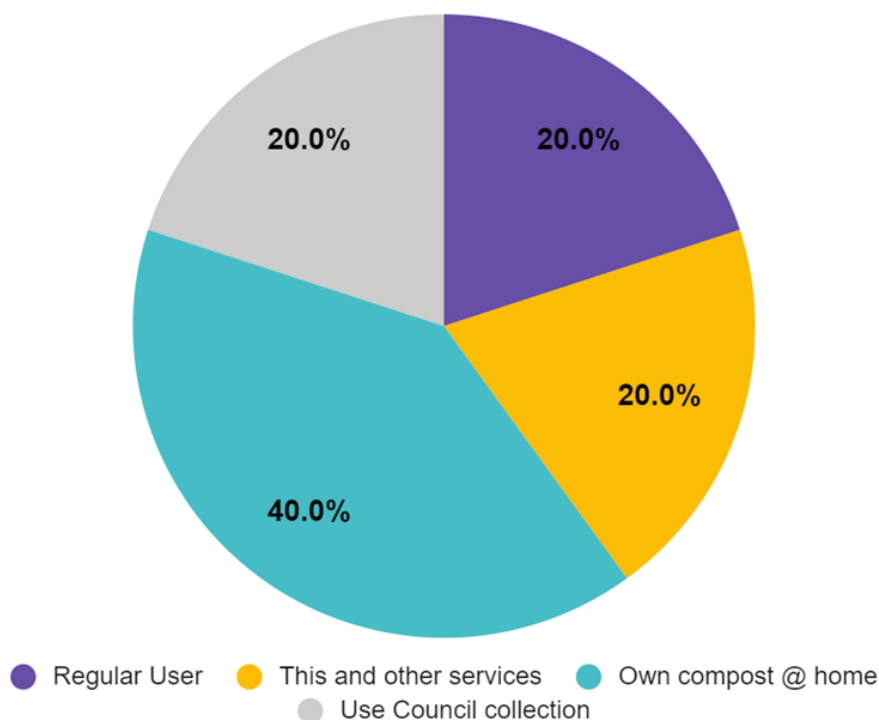
Elements of the project were tested as part of the community survey. This Summary will give an overview of the main findings relevant to the project approach developed.





2

Knowledge or use of the Span food waste composting program



Main Findings

- 40% - have their own home composting systems
- 20% - are regular users of the Span drop off system
- 20% - use the Span drop off and other services
- 20% - use the Darebin Council kerbside service

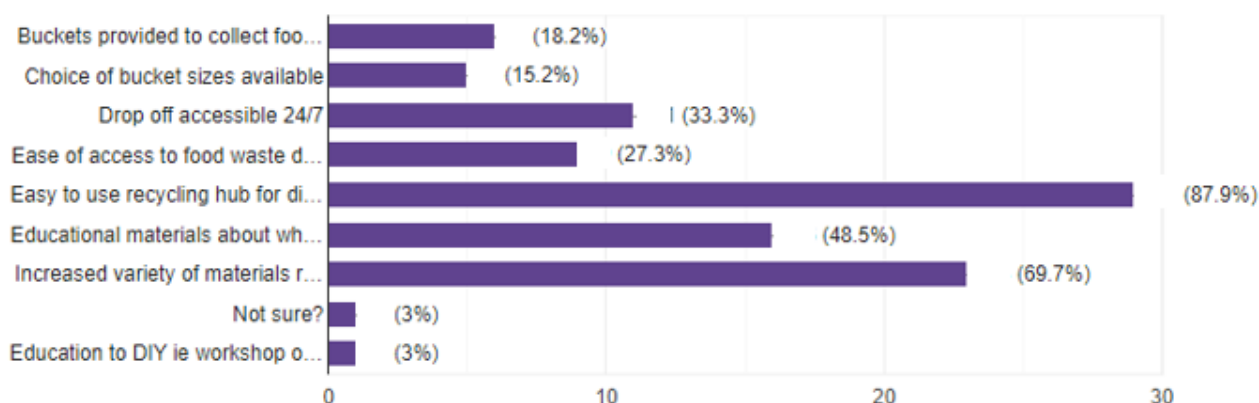
Considerations for Project

- Home composting is well used locally and some people are using the Council Green bin for food waste, but there is still a valuable role for the Span food waste system with regular users and partial users already engaged with the service.
- We know that ShareWaste is popular locally and we will register on there in early 2022 to expand our reach.



3

What is wanted from this kind of service by users



Main Findings

- 88% – keen on an easy to use recycling hub for different materials types
- 70% – want to have an increased variety of materials collected for reuse / recycling
- 48% – keen to have more educational info to help understand what to do and what not to do with different materials

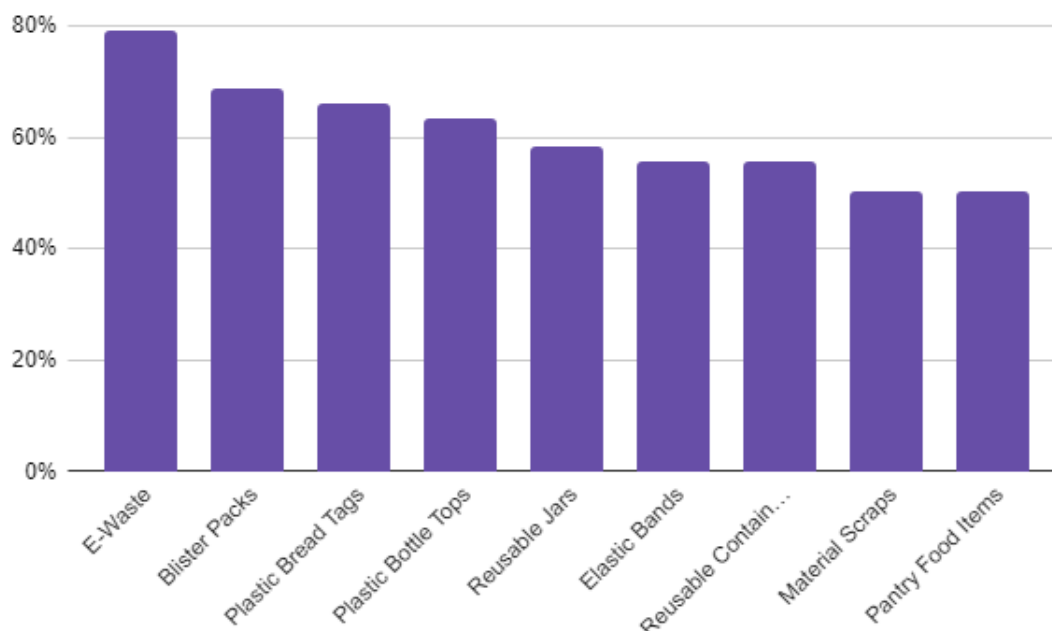
Considerations for Project

- The data indicates the desire for a better system for ease of use in collecting and separating more materials easily which supports the idea and intent of one of the main objectives of establishing an external collection hub to enable 24/7 access to be as convenient as possible for people.
- Nearly half of respondents are keen to understand more about waste and how to manage it better which the engagement and events elements of the project will work to address.



4

Understanding priority materials



Main Findings

- 79% – respondents wanted e-waste prioritised or considered
- 60% – over 60% respondents wanted blister packs, bread tags, bottle tops prioritised or considered
- 50% – over 50% of respondents wanted reusable jars, elastic bands, reusable containers and materials scraps prioritised or considered
- 50% – respondents indicated they were keen to contribute pantry food items for the Span food relief program

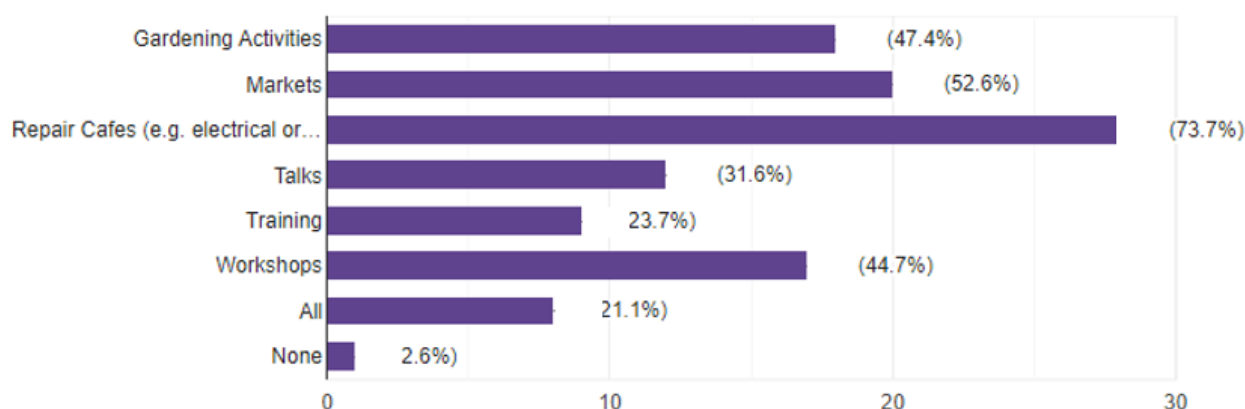
Considerations for Project

- Some priority materials such as e-waste, bread tags, bottle tops, elastic bands and material scraps are already collected at Span, but others are new or about to be introduced. Discussions are underway for improved reuse opportunities for bottle tops and elastic bands.
- Based on survey data and amounts collected at a recent Span event, blister packs are a clear priority for the community. The main solution for these has a cost associated with it so managing this will be considered as part of the project development.



5

Types of events people are keen to join



Main Findings

- 74% – respondents are keen on Repair Cafe events
- 53% – respondents are interested in markets
- 47% – respondents are interested in gardening activities
- 45% – respondents are interested in workshops

Considerations for Project

- Given the community interest in Repair Cafes and markets the project partnerships with Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes and Transition Darebin are a good fit and will help significantly with doing this well.
- Nearly half of respondents indicated interest in garden activities which is of interest to Span in terms of its existing Community Garden, the front garden improvements planned and some ideas about engaging some Span participants in gardening, urban food growing and nature based activities more broadly across the community.



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Topics or themes people are keen to learn more about



Considerations for Project

- A Word Cloud was generated to represent the range of feedback provided to this question and is represented here.
- The opportunity to engage in repairing / mending activities came through very strongly for people as did the opportunity to better understand waste and be more successful and sustainable in avoiding and managing waste, which lends itself well to the main objectives of the project.
- Connection to and sharing with community also came through very strongly which is pleasing to see and aligns well with Span's core purpose.

Further Information

For further information on this report please contact:

Julie O'Brien
Community Development & Sustainability Coordinator
Span Community House

PH - 03 9480 1364
EM - cd@spanhouse.org



RRR HUB
repair. reuse. recycle.