



Presque Isle County Materials Management – Student Survey (Grades 6–12)

Presque Isle County is developing a Materials Management Plan, and your input will help shape it. The plan is required by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to help communities better manage waste and materials, reduce landfill use, and expand recycling and reuse options. This short survey asks about food waste, recycling, and composting. Your feedback will help us understand the views of our community's young people regarding what's working, what isn't, and where we should focus next.

Return this survey to ldamer@nemcog.org or mail to L. Damer, NEMCOG, P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734. Thank you for being part of the process.

1. What grade are you in? 6–8 9–10 11–12
2. Where do you recycle? Home School Public places I don't recycle
3. How confident are you that you know what can be recycled?
 Very confident Somewhat confident Not confident
4. What makes recycling hard for you? (Check all that apply)
 Not enough bins Not sure what goes where It takes too much time My family doesn't do it
 I forget I don't think it matters Nothing — it's easy
5. Where did you learn most of what you know about recycling?
 School Family Friends
 TV or online videos Social media I haven't learned much about it
6. How often do you throw away food?
 Every day A few times a week Once a week Rarely Never
7. Why do you think food gets thrown away most often?
 Food goes bad Took too much food Didn't like the taste Forgot about leftovers
 Expired date No time to eat it Other: _____
8. Do you think food waste is a serious problem? Yes No Unsure
9. What would help reduce food waste?

10. Composting is the process of turning food scraps and yard waste, like fruit peels, vegetable leftovers, and leaves, into rich soil. Compost can be added to gardens to help plants grow better.
Does your family compost? Yes No Unsure
11. Would you compost if it were easy to do? Yes No Unsure
12. What would make composting easier for you? (Check all that apply)
 A bin at home A bin at school Clear instructions
 Reminder signs Incentives/rewards I'm not interested
13. Do you want to learn more about composting? Yes No Unsure
14. Who has the most responsibility for reducing waste?
 Individuals Families Schools Businesses Government Everyone equally
15. Are you interested in learning more about reducing waste? Yes No Unsure

Continued on other side

16. How much do you agree with these statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Recycling helps the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Composting is important.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can make a difference in reducing waste.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My actions don't really affect the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools should do more to reduce waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. What would motivate you most to reduce waste?

- Helping the environment Saving money Community service hours Friends doing it Nothing

18. What ideas do you have to improve recycling or reduce food waste in your community?

19. What do you do with your trash when at school? Put everything in one bin Separate recycling
 N/A – I home school (skip to #24)

20. Where are recycling bins located at your school?

- Cafeteria Outside Hallways Classrooms Unsure
 My school does not have recycling bins. (Skip to #24)

21. Are recycling and trash bins clearly labeled at your school?

- Yes, very clear Somewhat clear Not clear I haven't noticed

22. Have you ever been confused about which bin to use? Often Sometimes Rarely Never

23. What would most motivate you to sort waste correctly:

- Signs were clearer Bins were closer Friends were doing it` Nothing

24. How often do you use single-use plastic items (water bottles, utensils, individually wrapped snacks)?

- Every day A few times a week Once a week Rarely

25. How often do you use a reusable water bottle? Always Sometimes Never

26. What would help you reduce single-use plastics? (Check all that apply)

- Free reusable items Water refill stations More information Nothing
 Other _____

27. Where do you get most of your information about recycling and waste issues?

- School Social media Family News Friends Nowhere

28. How concerned are you about waste reduction?

- Very concerned Somewhat concerned Slightly concerned Not concerned

29. Have you ever wanted to recycle or compost but couldn't? Yes No

If yes, why? _____

30. If your friends care about recycling, does that affect you? A lot Some A little Not at all

31. Would you speak up if you saw someone throwing recycling in the trash? Yes No Unsure

32. Would you use an app that helps you know what can be recycled? Yes No Unsure

33. Do you believe your personal actions make a difference?

- Yes, a big difference A small difference Not much difference No difference