



Commercial Food Waste Survey

Date: September 2019

Job Reference: 375319

Co-funded by:



southern
waste region



eastern - midlands
waste region



connacht-ulster
waste region



Composting & Anaerobic Digestion
Association of Ireland



Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment



REDc

Research Details



What?

- Research was needed to assess attitudes & behaviours among businesses in relation to food waste disposal to feed into discussions around food waste legislation.
- RED C Research was commissioned to carry out the survey, funded by the below organisation.



How?

- Participants were sent a link to an online survey.
- A sample of members of the Restaurant Association of Ireland, the Vintners Federation of Ireland, Small Firms Association and IBEC took part in the survey.



How many?

- A sample size of 151 was achieved.



When?

- 15th - 30th August 2019.



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment

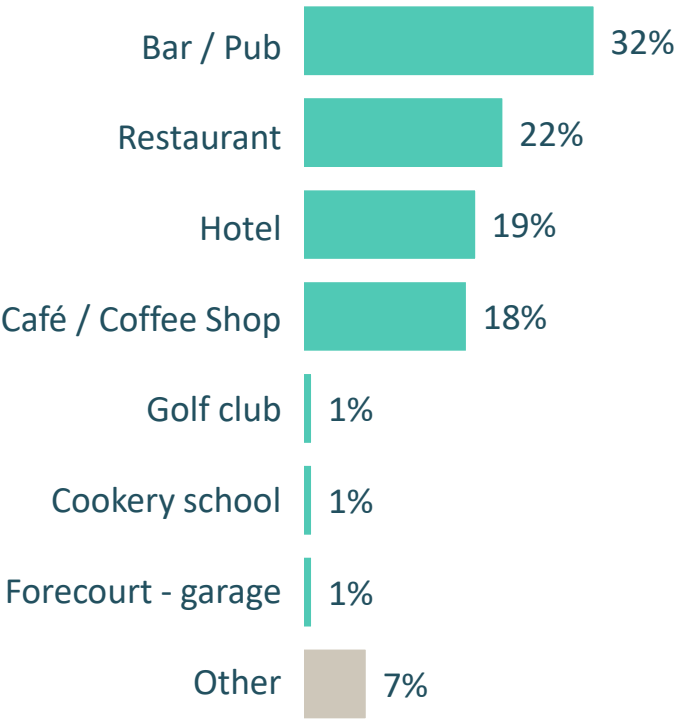


Profile Of The Sample

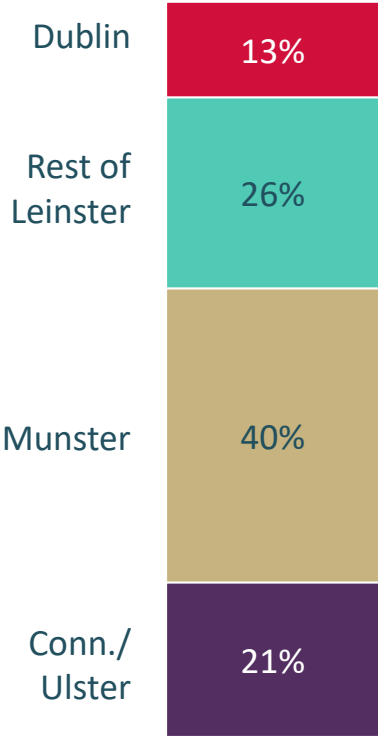
(Base: All Businesses; n= 151)



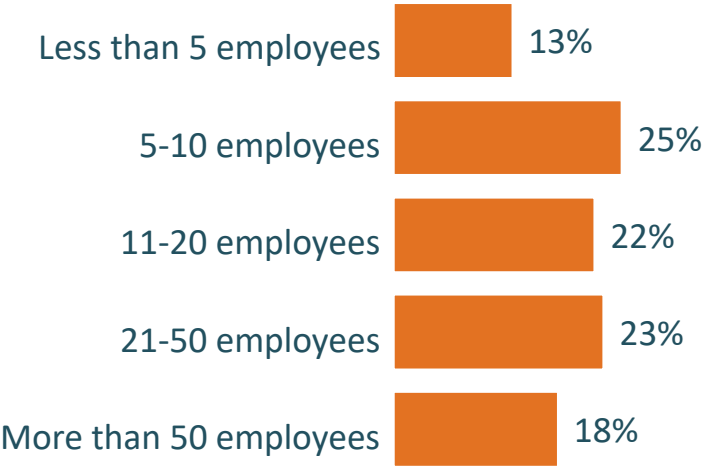
Type of Business



Region



No of Employees



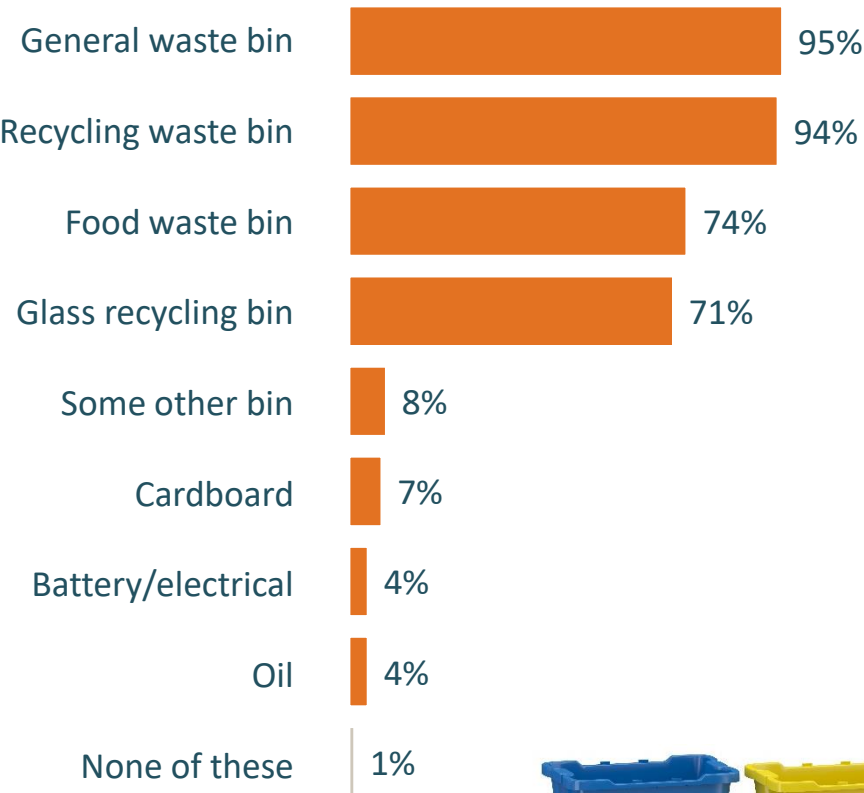
A mix of business types and sizes with a wide geographical spread was included in the survey.



Waste Bin Usage & Collection

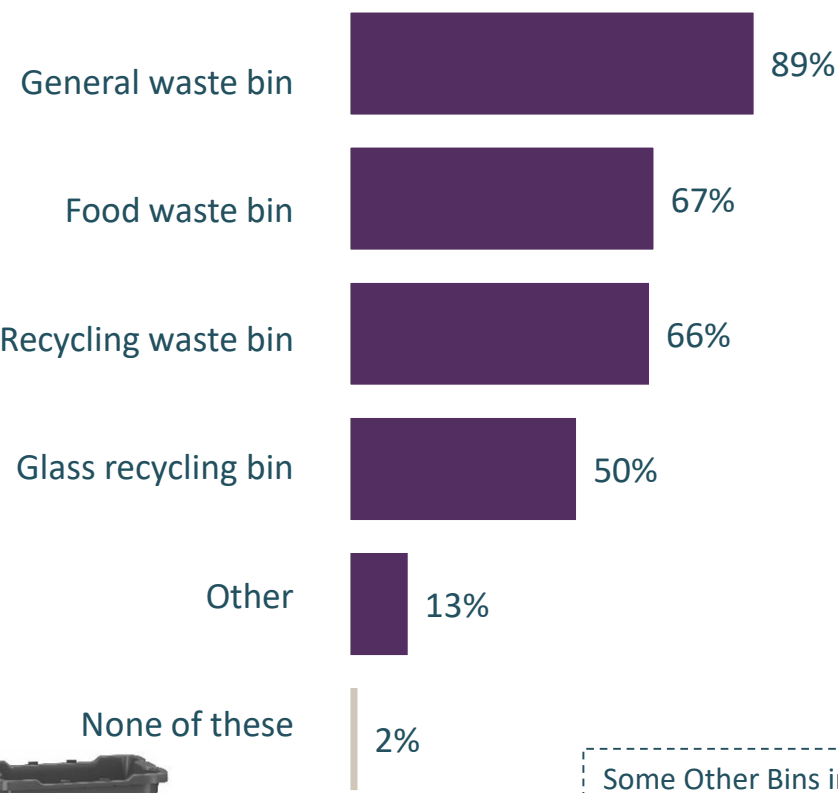
Types Of Bins On Premises

(Base: All Businesses; n= 151)



Types Of Bins Used For Waste

(Base: All Those With Each Bin Type; N= 150)



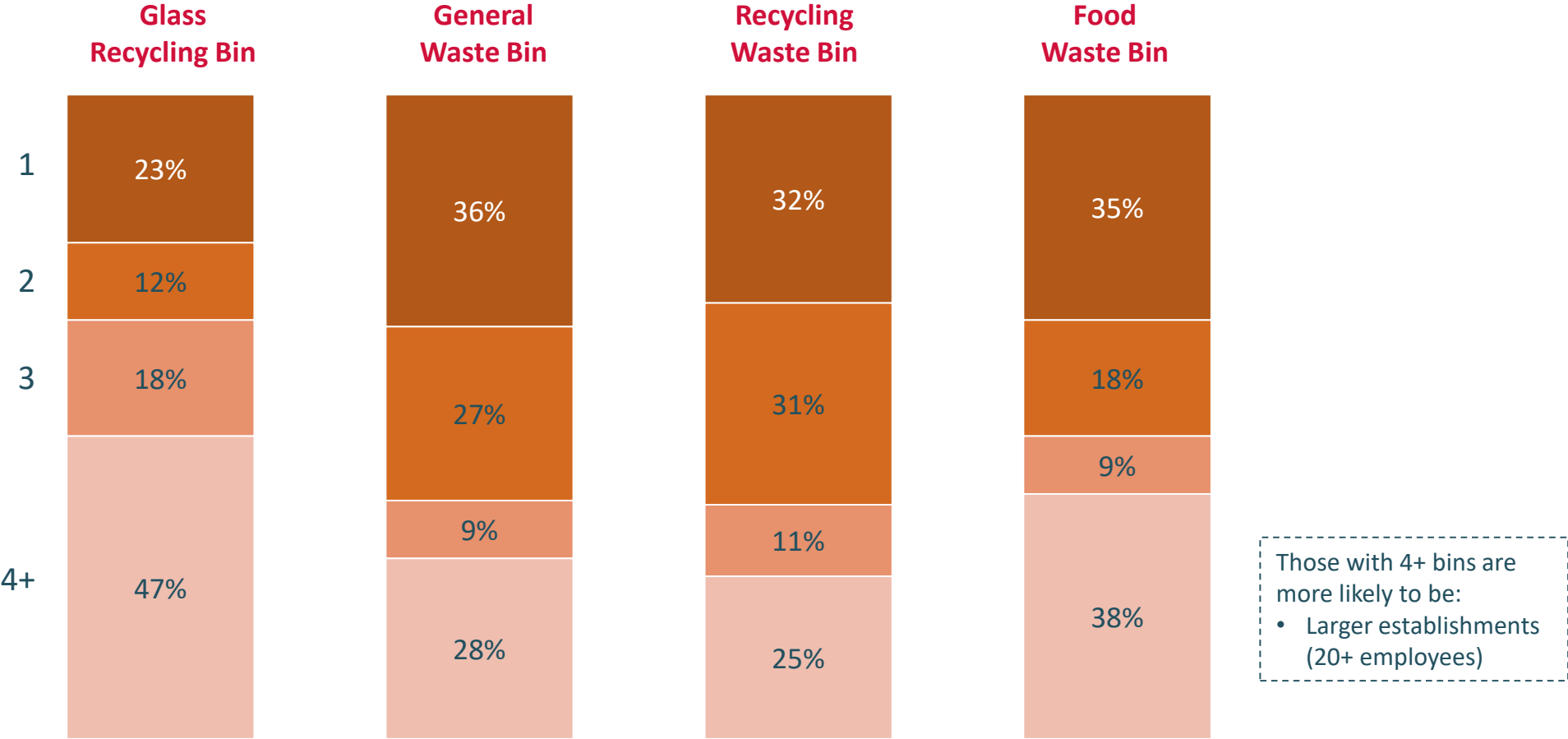
Some Other Bins include:

- compost bin
- bringing waste to a recycling centre

More than 9 in 10 businesses reported having a general and a recycling waste bin, however, only 89% and 66% of these said they use these bins for their waste respectively. Despite legislation requiring businesses to have a food waste bin, only 3 in 4 said they have a food waste bin and only 67% of these said they use these bins.

How Many Of Each Bin Types Do You They Have?

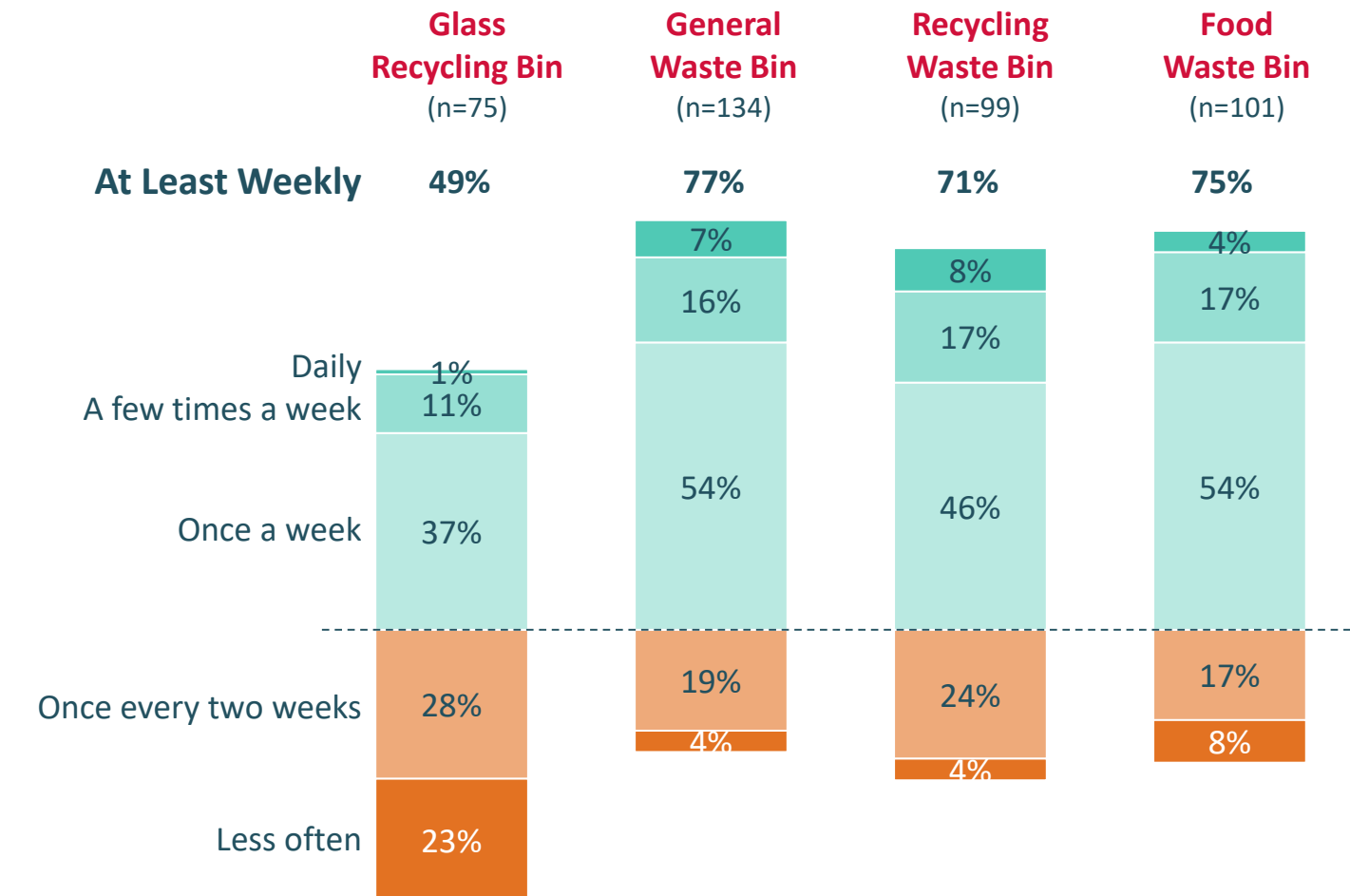
(Base: All These With Each Bin Type; n = 151)



Businesses tend to be more likely to say they have 1-2 general, food and recycling waste bins as opposed to close to half that say they have more than 4 glass recycling bin. This may be linked to frequency of collections, as general, food and recycling waste tends to be collected more frequently and as such doesn't accumulate as much as glass recycling might.

How Often Is Each Bin Collected?

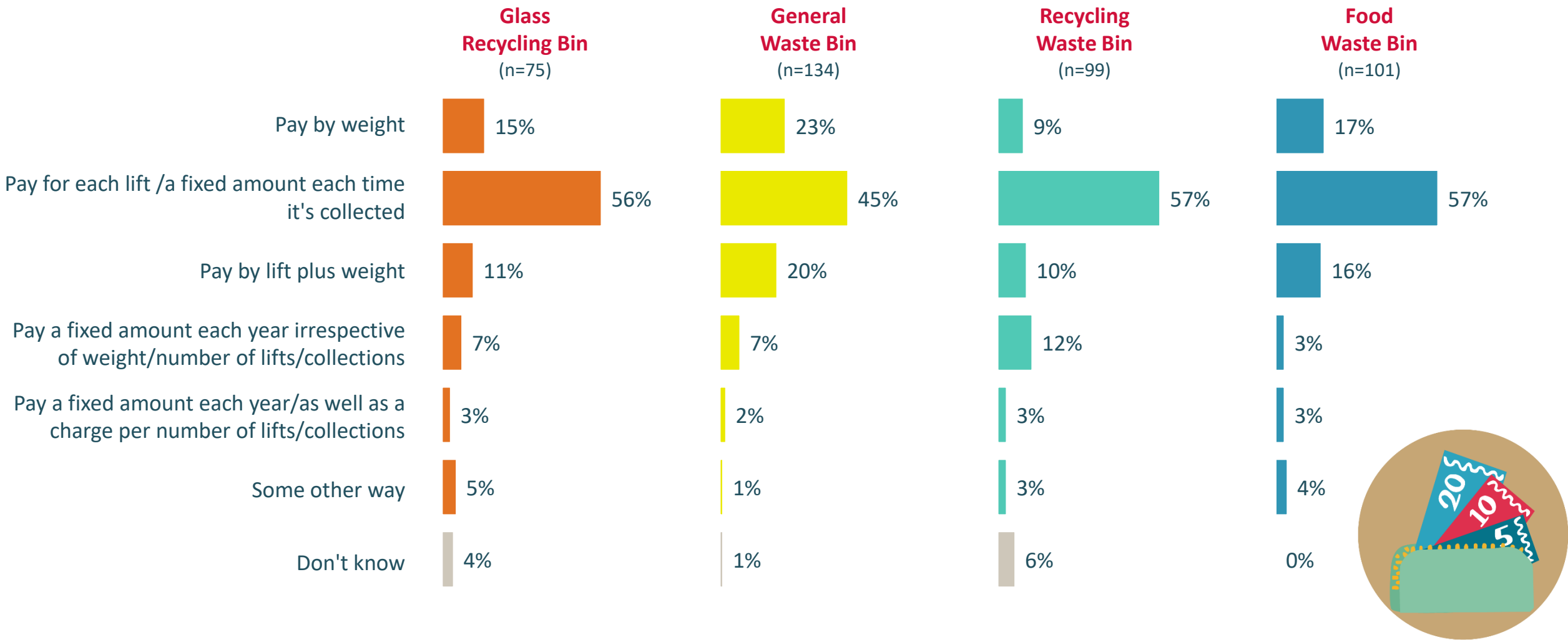
(Base: All These With Each Bin Type; n = 151)



Majority of the businesses have their bins collected at least weekly, with over 3 in 4 saying their general waste, recycling and their food waste bin are collected once a week or more often. Only half the businesses with a glass recycling bin have these collected on a weekly basis.

How Are They Charged For Bin Collections?

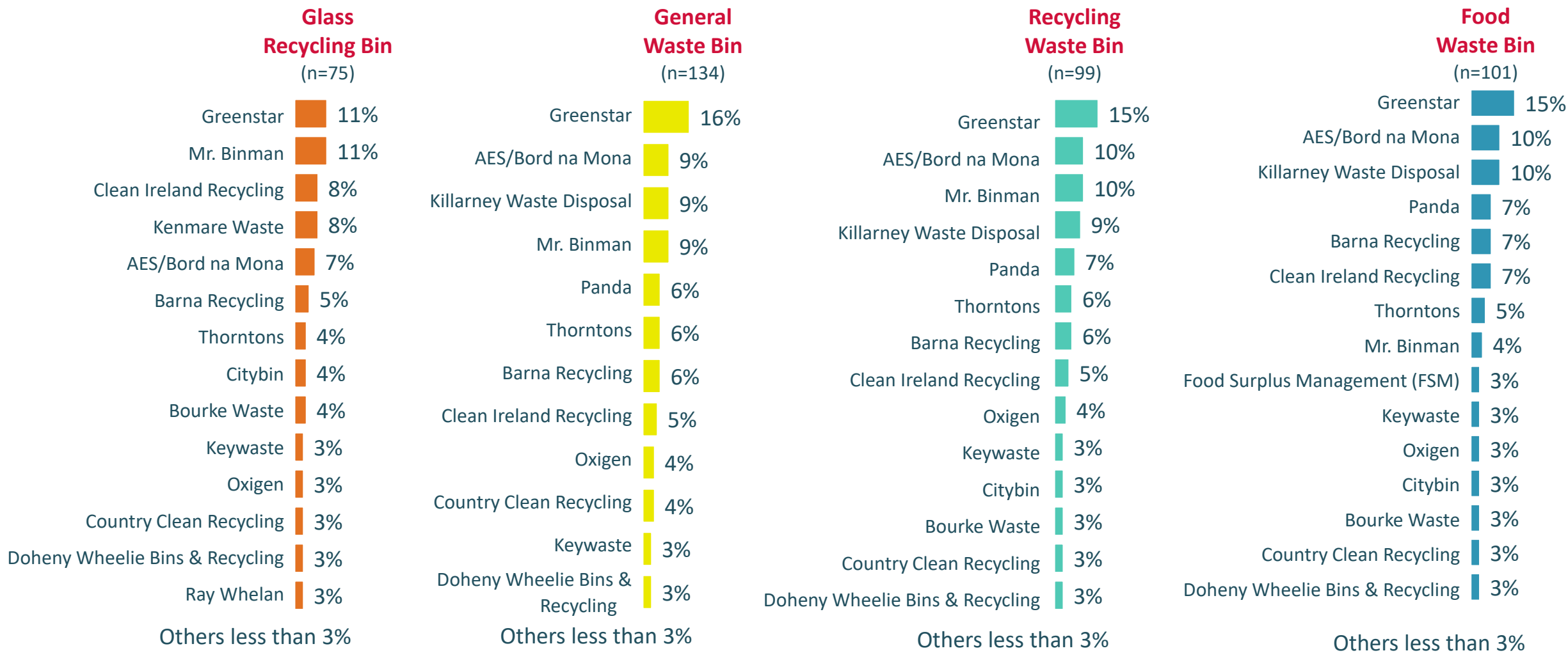
(Base: All Who Use Each Bin Type)



Paying per lift or per collection is the most popular mode of payment for waste collection among these businesses regardless of the type of waste.

Who Have They Employed To Collect Their Bins?

(Base: All Who Use Each Bin Type)



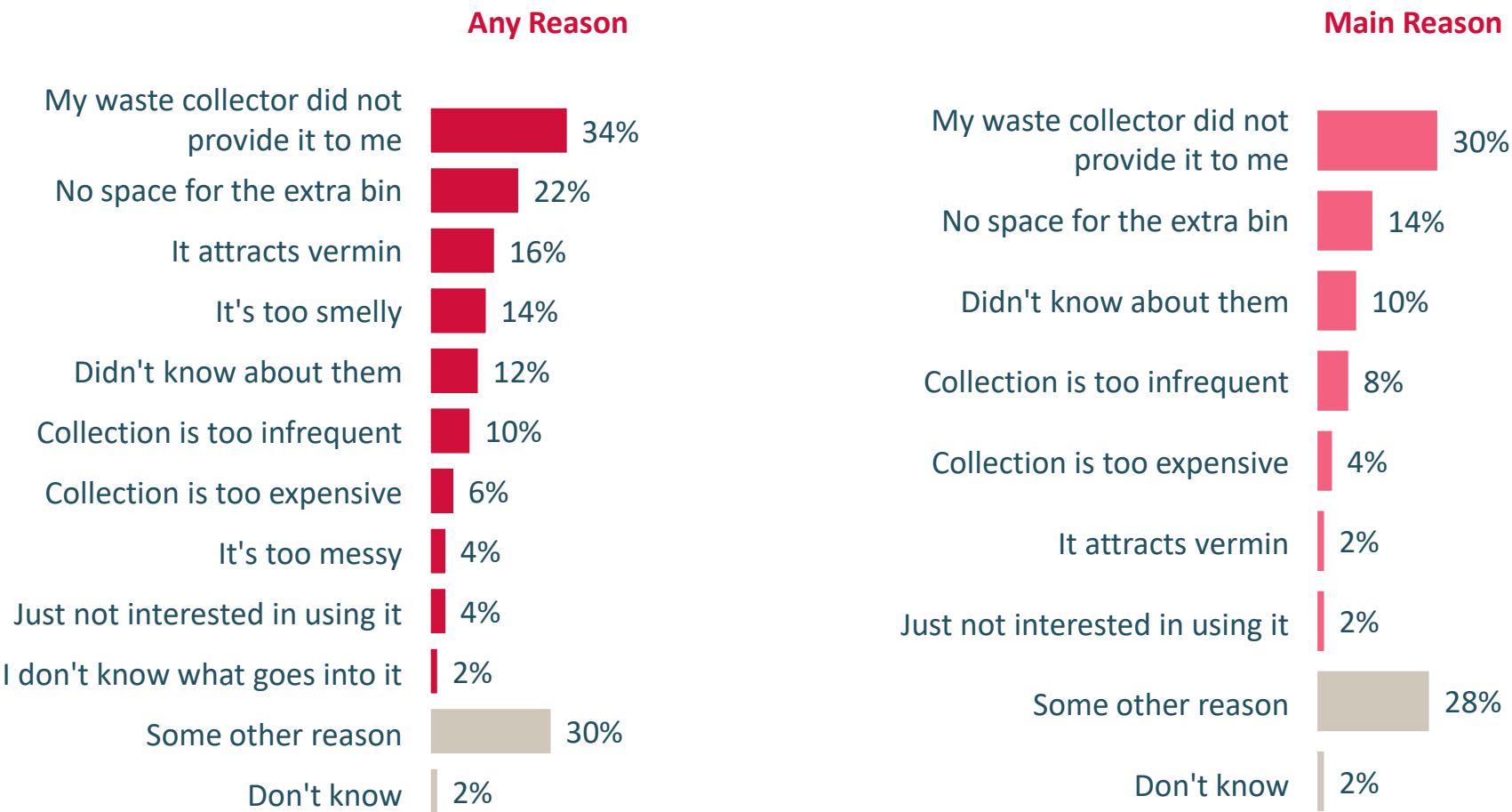
While Greenstar is the top mentioned waste collector across the different bin types, a wide mix of companies are employed to collect various bin types.



Attitudes Towards Food Waste Bin Usage

Reasons They Don't Have/Use A Food Waste Bin

(Base: All Who Don't Have/Use A Food Waste Bin; n= 50)



Other reasons included:

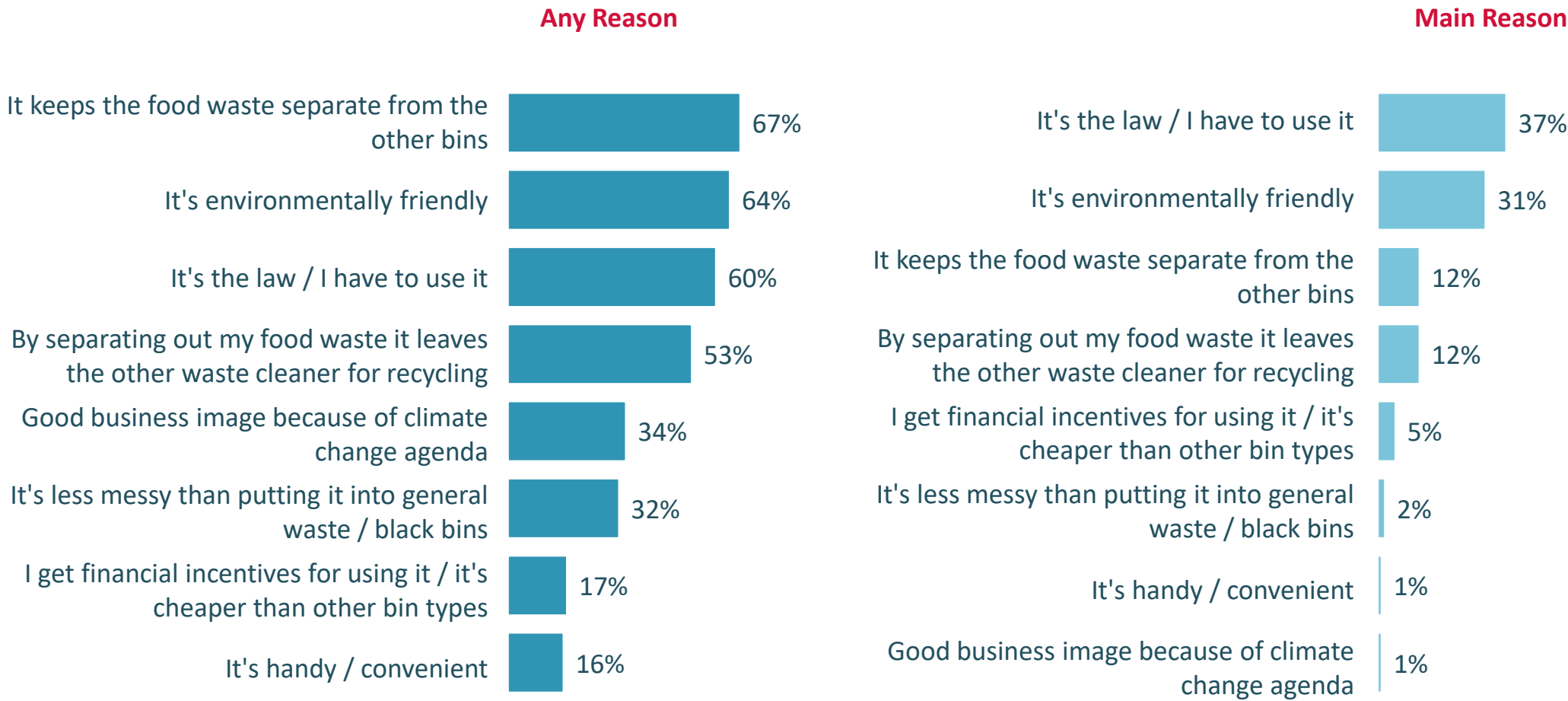
- Composting food waste
- Produce very little food waste
- Take food waste home/to farm
- Food waste collected by dog owners/ pig farmers



According to businesses, the main reason why they don't have or use a food waste bin is because it was not provided by their waste collector – this is despite the fact that legislation requires collectors and businesses to have and use a food waste bin. Not having the space needed for an extra bin and not knowing about food waste bins were also among the reasons cited.

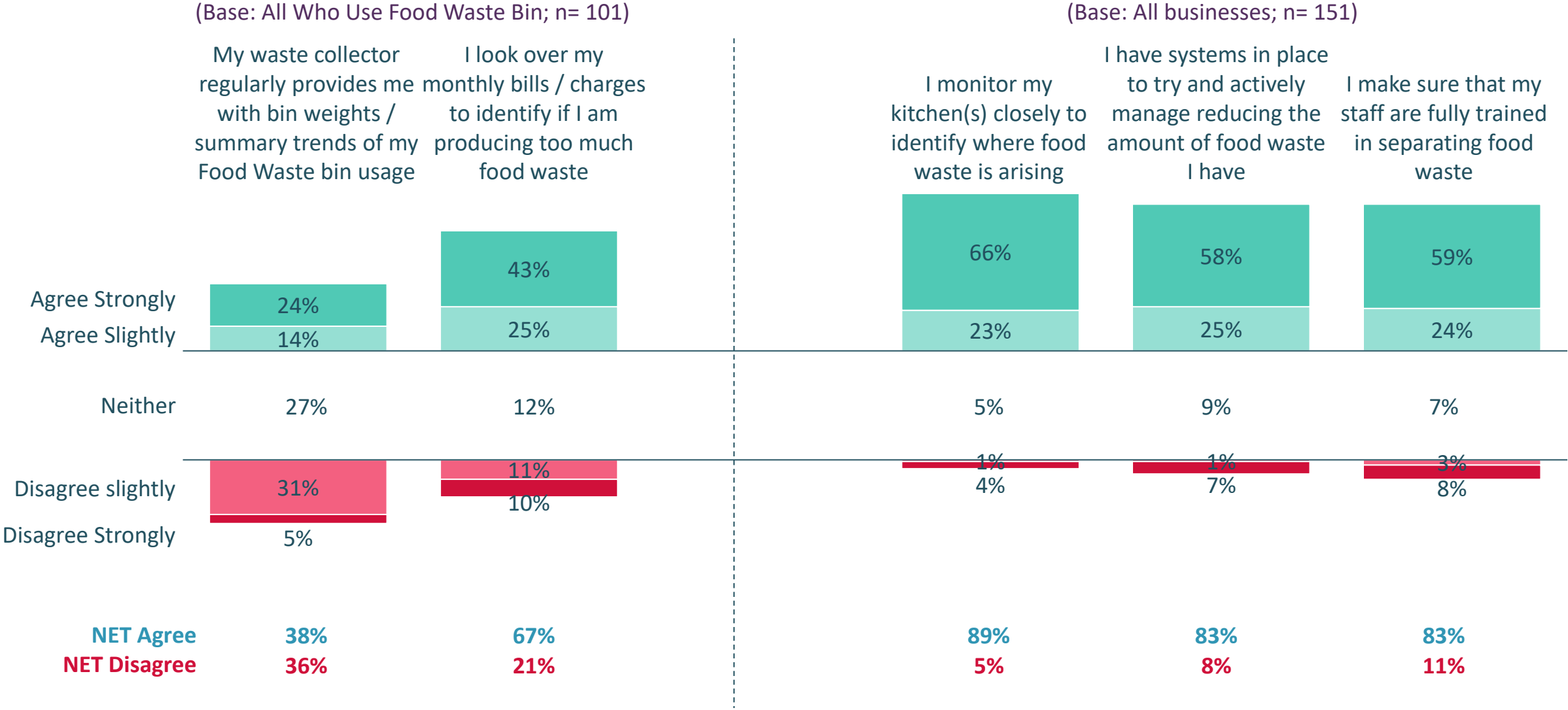
Reasons For Using A Food Waste Bin

(Base: All Those Who Use A Food Waste Bin; n= 101)



On the other hand, over a third of those who use a food waste bin say they do so because it's the law. A slightly lower proportion use a food waste bin because it's environmentally friendly, while a quarter of businesses say using a food waste bin keeps the food waste separate from other types of waste and leaves other waste cleaner for recycling.

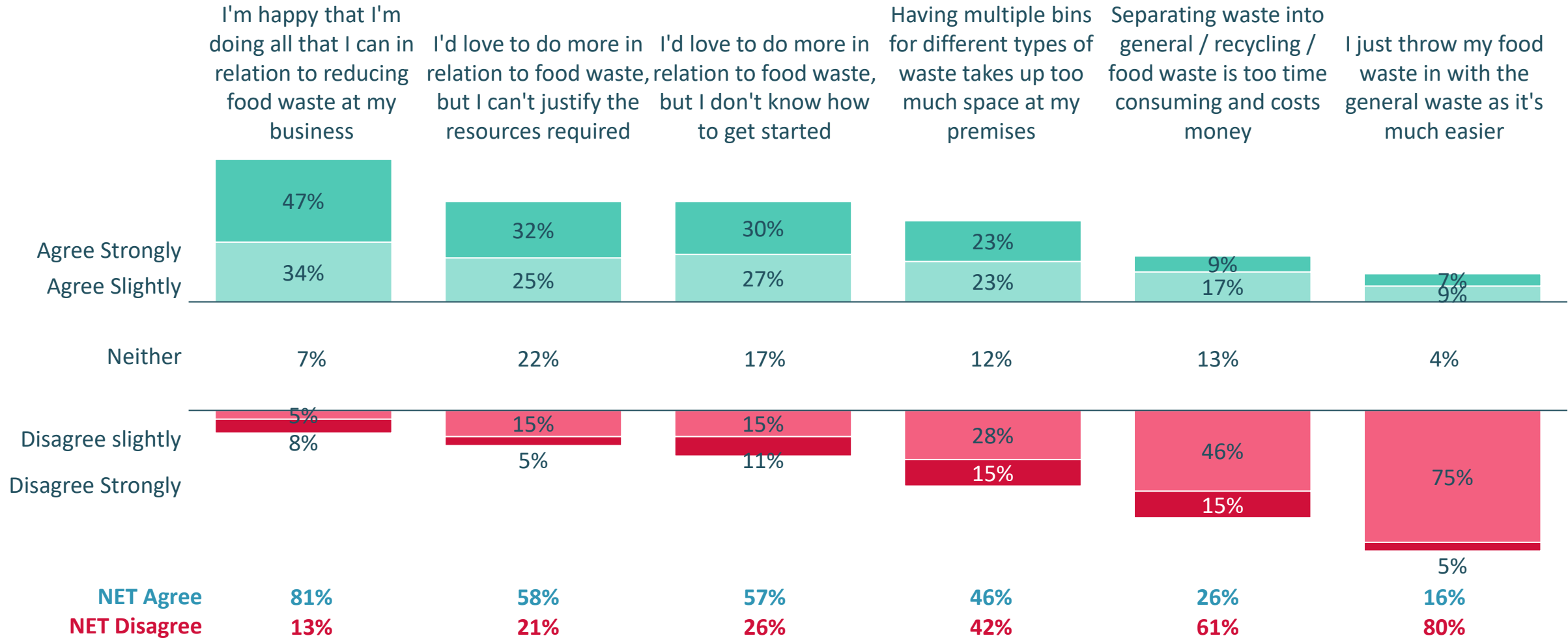
Attitudes Towards Food Waste Management



Just under 2 in 5 say they receive summary trends in relation to their food waste bin usage and 2 in 3 say they look over bills and charges to see if they’re producing too much food waste. Over 8 in 10 report monitoring kitchens, having systems in place to reduce food waste produced and train their staff in relation to separating food waste.

Attitudes Towards Food Waste Management

(Base: All Businesses; n= 151)



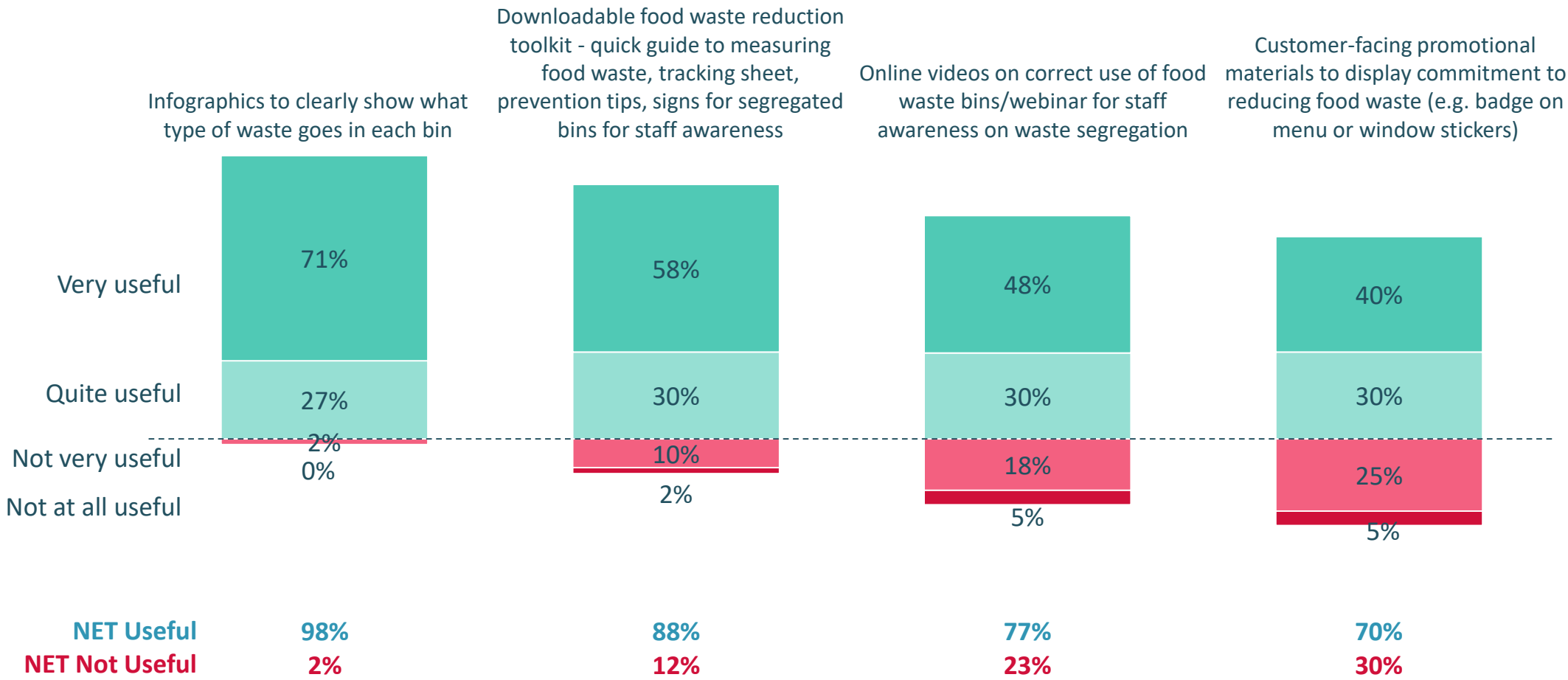
While 8 in 10 say they're happy they're doing all they can in relation to reducing food waste, just under 3 in 5 would still like to do more but say they either can't justify the resources required or don't know where to begin. Only 1 in 4 believe that separating waste is too time consuming and cost money, while only 1 in 6 report throwing their food waste with the general waste as it's easier.



Encouraging Food Waste Bin Usage

Useful Initiatives To Encourage Food Waste Bin Usage

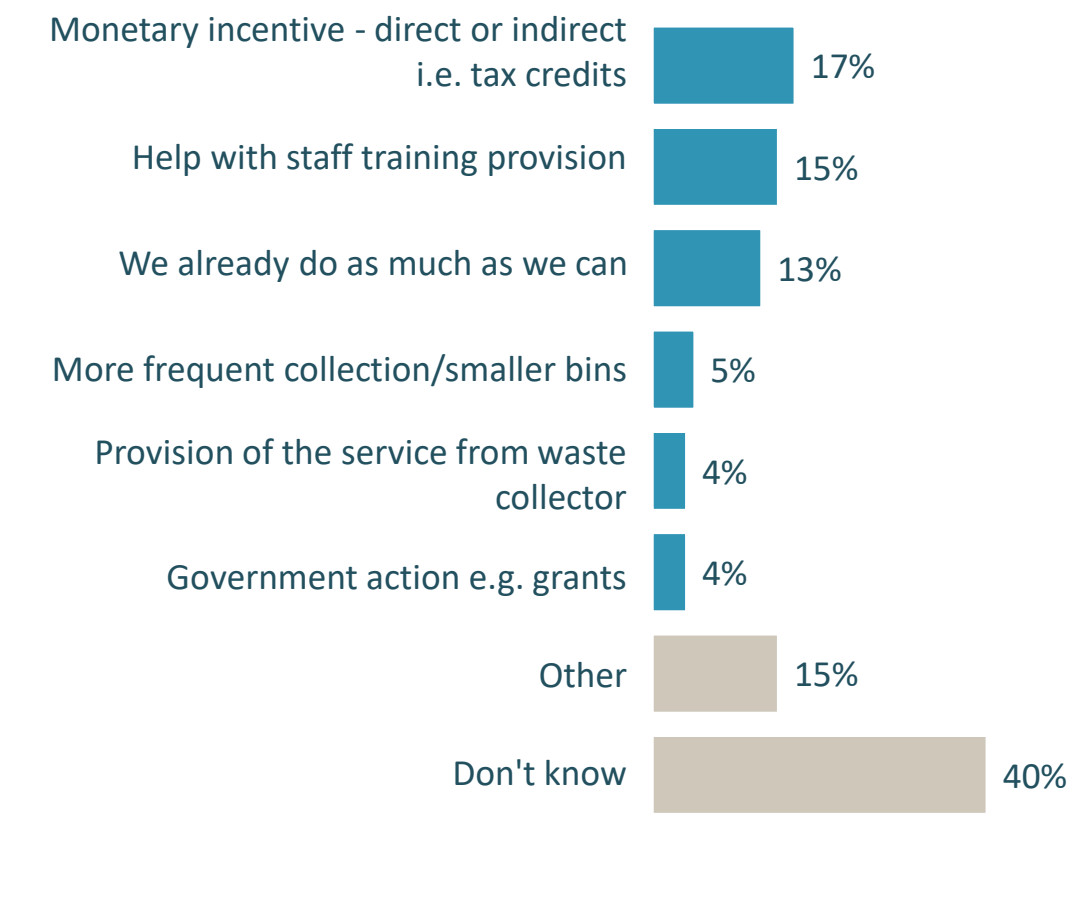
(Base: All Respondents; n = 151)



Infographics to show what type of waste goes into each bin proves to have universal appeal among businesses to help encourage them to use their food waste bin, while nearly 9 in 10 believe a downloadable food waste reduction toolkit is also useful. Over 70% would also think online videos and customer facing promotional material would be helpful in getting businesses to use a food waste bin.

What Can Be Done To Encourage Them To Use Food Waste Bins More Frequently

(Base: All Respondents; n= 151)



Food waste is expensive to dispose of as it's so heavy.

Education that food waste and biodegradable products such as paper napkins, paper towels can go together in food bins. Big education required in some premises to segregate waste.

Supply the Bin and have a low cost pick up service that incorporates a bin cleaning system

Not much more we can do. We're very proactive.

Incentivize the use of it. Make it free or very cheap relative to other bins to dispose of.

I believe we currently use the bin to a good degree but as is the case in a lot of circumstances staff may, in busy time need to be reminded.

Introduction of smaller bins which can be emptied in to large bins easily. So they are more convenient for all the team.

It would be more beneficial to have food waste collected more often. The summers bring a challenge with flies and other animals

Daily pick up of the waste. We do not have a space to store any bins so food waste bags will need to be pick up every day.

In order to justify the use of a separate Food waste bin it would need to be very competitively priced, as in our case we have very little food waste.

The cost of a small 100L bin is over €14 per bin And a 1000L bin is €70 Food waste collection should be in line or free, Compostable Ware is cups plates etc will fill a small bin with 2 bags!!! They end up in the general bin, Give a grant for onsite composting!

It would be nice if it was cheaper to have bins lifted. Information on where food waste ends up, how its processed, and what the benefits are might be motivating for staff

A standard training package available for all management and staff highlighting the advantages of minimizing and handling food waste correctly.

When asked to suggest what else can be done to encourage more frequent usage of food waste bins, businesses mention monetary incentives and help with staff training. In addition, 13% feel that they already do as much as they can regarding food waste.



Key Findings

Key Findings

1

The survey represents a good spread of business establishments and business sizes, spread across geographical locations around Republic of Ireland.

2

Overwhelming majority of businesses have general and recycling waste bins and use these. However, only 3 in 4 have food waste or glass recycling bins and there are gaps in whether or not these bins are used.

3

A good spread of waste collectors across businesses, with majority of waste being collected at least weekly. Most pay a fee per lift or per collection for their waste disposal, regardless of the type of bin.

4

Those businesses who don't have or use food waste bins say not being provided the bins by their collector or lack of space for an additional bin as the main reasons. While those who do use these bins cite the law and environmental concerns as the main reasons.

5

Businesses report analysing their bills in order to assess their food waste production and actively looking at ways to reduce this type of waste. They express an openness to initiatives that can help encourage food waste bin usage through toolkits and staff training aids.

THANK YOU

For any queries on this report, please contact:

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