



Public Consultation Report on the Draft Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan 2021–2027



**DRAFT RESIDUAL MATERIAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**VIRTUAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION FROM
NOVEMBER 16TH TO DECEMBER 4TH 2020**

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**YOUR OPINION MATTERS TO US!
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**Participation prizes
to win!**

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January 2021

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List of Abbreviations

ELV: End-of-life vehicle

EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility

KRG: Kativik Regional Government

NL: Northern landfill

NV: Northern village

RMM: Residual Materials Management

RMMP: Residual Materials Management Plan

1. Introduction

As part of the review process of the Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan, the Draft Plan for 2021–2027 (hereafter “RMMP”) was the subject of a public consultation with the residents of Nunavik in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Quality Act (ss. 53.13 – 53.16). The goal of this public consultation report is to reflect the views expressed by organizations and community members during various public consultation activities. After considering all comments and suggestions, changes will be made to the Draft Plan before it is submitted to RECYC-QUÉBEC for a compliance analysis, which will be followed by the adoption of the final RMMP by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) Regional Council.

2. Public Consultation

2.1 The Consultation Process

The KRG Regional Council, through its mandated Executive Council, adopted the Draft RMMP on September 23, 2020, following its review. The Draft Plan and a notice announcing its adoption were then posted on the KRG website.¹ Public consultations began 45 days later for a three-week period from November 16 to December 4, 2020.

Since external stakeholders cannot travel to Nunavik and indoor gatherings are prohibited during this global pandemic, it was necessary to rethink and innovate public consultation activities while ensuring that the maximum number of people and organizations were reached. The results show just how successful this innovative approach has been.

2.2 Dissemination of Information

To facilitate communications regarding public consultations, a flyer was designed to illustrate and provide more information in articles posted on KRG's Facebook page and website.² The organized activities were announced on 12 Facebook postings, including reminders, between October 1³ and December 8⁴, on local radio broadcasts in the 14 Northern villages (NVs), and on Taqramiut Nipingat regional radio during the three weeks of public consultations. Comments under Facebook postings that promoted the activities were also gathered.

2.3 Public Consultation Materials and Activities

The public consultation was conducted in a number of ways to target as many people as possible in the context of the pandemic. These included releasing an explanatory video on the RMMP and a summary of the Plan, holding targeted consultations with the main regional organizations and businesses, conducting two one-hour remote public sessions, posting an online survey on residual materials management to obtain the opinions of Nunavimmiut, and inviting comments by e-mail and telephone to the KRG's Department of Renewable Resources, Environment, Lands and Parks.

¹ Public release on KRG's website: <https://www.krg.ca/en-CA/current-news/1039>

² See flyer on the cover page of this public consultation report.

³ Announcement of the publication of the Draft RMMP:

<https://www.facebook.com/kativikregionalgovernment/photos/a.471936623596399/789711745152217>

⁴ Announcement of draw winners and acknowledgement of participants:

<https://www.facebook.com/kativikregionalgovernment/photos/pcb.842186303238094/842185996571458/>

A total of 62 eligible participants from the two remote public sessions and the survey were entered into a draw to win twelve door prizes.⁵

Explanatory Video and Summary of the Plan

A 15-minute explanatory video outlining the Draft Plan was posted in English and Inuktitut on KRG's Facebook page and YouTube account. To make the 141-page RMMP more accessible to the public, a six-page summary was produced and translated from French to English and Inuktitut. The document was posted on the KRG website⁶ and Facebook page. It was also emailed to all organizations selected for targeted consultations.

Targeted Consultations

A total of 25 regional organizations and businesses, the 13 Landholding Corporations, and the 14 NVs were contacted with e-mails containing the Draft Plan summary and requests for one-on-one meetings to present the Draft Plan and obtain the comments and opinions of their representatives. Online or telephone sessions were held with 16 of the organizations who accepted a meeting, sometimes with more than one representative within the same organization, from different areas of operation (20 meetings of approximately one hour each):

- KRG — Operations Departments
- Canadian Royalties (Nunavik Nickel mine)
- Inuulitsivik Health Centre
- Ungava Tulattavik Health Center
- Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee
- Kativik Ilisarniliriniq School Board
- Desgagnés Transarctik Inc.
- Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund
- Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec (FCNQ) – departments: Stores Services and Petroleum and Transport Services
- Makivik (construction, Inukjuak greenhouse project, climate change)
- Northern stores
- Nunavik Parks
- Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (food waste project)
- Akulivik NV
- Kangiqsualujjuaq NV
- Umiujaq NV

These meetings were scheduled to present the Draft Plan (online using PowerPoint or over the phone using the RMMP summary that had been sent out previously), and to have discussions with the representatives. The measures for which these organizations had been selected as potential implementing partners were discussed to confirm their interest in making a contribution, and also to assess feasibility. Local plans were also presented to the Northern villages to ensure that they corresponded to their priorities.

⁵ To be considered eligible for the prize draw, session participants had to be actively involved by asking questions or making comments. Survey participants had to fully complete the survey and leave their contact information.

⁶ The link to the explanatory video, the summary of the Plan, the survey, and all events were posted on the KRG website: <https://www.krg.ca/en-CA/current-news/1042>

Remote Public Consultation Sessions

The first public consultation session was held on Monday, November 30, from 7 to 8 p.m., on Taqramiut Nipingat regional radio. This radio station broadcasts simultaneously to the 14 NVs. The first part consisted of presenting the Plan summary in Inuktitut, then in English. Listeners were then invited to call in. Although it was impossible to determine the total number of listeners, six people did participate by asking questions and offering comments.

The second session was organized through a Facebook Live event on Wednesday, December 2, from 7 to 8 pm. This time, the first part consisted of a presentation of the RMMP in English and then in Inuktitut, followed by a question period. Listeners were invited to give their opinions in the comments section of the Facebook post. Out of a total of 23 listeners of the live broadcast, five participated by writing a comment, and more than 300 consulted the posting afterwards (see Appendix 1 for statistics).

Residual Materials Management Survey

An online survey was sent out to obtain citizens' views on the Draft Plan and its measures. The survey consisted of 16 questions on a range of issues and was completed by 52 participants. The results of the survey are presented in detail in Appendix 1.

3. Summary of Opinions

The various opinions received were grouped into themes representing the main topics discussed. The themes are presented in order of importance, the most frequently discussed topics being first. The bullet points summarize participants' remarks, opinions, comments, and questions during the remote public sessions or from the survey, followed by a brief analysis where required. Comments gathered from organizations during the targeted consultations were also incorporated into the summary, unless they involved technical amendments to the RMMP, in which case they were excluded from this report to lighten the text.

Engage the Community Through Increased Awareness and Youth Involvement

- There is a need to increase awareness of available recovery programs, for example products covered by Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and returnable containers. According to the survey, over one-third of respondents never return their returnable containers, 50% are not aware of the existence of drop-off locations for EPR products, and almost 20% are not aware of any of the recovery activities mentioned in the plan.
- None of the respondents stated that awareness activities on RMM in Nunavik were sufficient. Virtually all survey respondents wanted more information on what to do with their waste.
- Several considered resistance to change to be a limitation to implementing the action plan.
 - These comments confirm the importance of carrying out measure 1 of the action plan to adequately raise the awareness of all stakeholders impacted by the measures calling for a change in practice, as well as measure 4 for local plans, "Carry out an awareness-building campaign for locally available residual materials management methods."
- Youth can be proactive in improving residual materials management (RMM) and should be invited to participate in RMM decision-making processes. For example, a young man from Salluit won an award at the Aboriginal Science Fair for an ecocentre project.
- Leadership on environmental issues, such as RMM, can be promoted by supporting the development of locally initiated projects, particularly by youth.
- Local RMM committees can be created, in addition to the Plan's monitoring committee, to encourage citizen and youth involvement in RMM at the local level.
- Responsibility for the management of residual materials was not fully accepted since 25% of survey respondents did not acknowledge that it was the duty of all Nunavimmiut.
 - Therefore, more information should be provided to convince all waste generators that residual material management is their responsibility.
- Community clean-up activities should be part of the Plan, as well as the installation of public trash bins.

Find Alternatives to Open-Air Burning

- Participants repeatedly brought up provincial regulations permitting open-air burning. Many see these as unjust to Nunavik since the practice was banned in southern Quebec many years ago. As Quebec taxpayers, they believe they should have the same privilege of enjoying a smoke-free environment as other Quebec citizens.
- Measure 4, aimed at exploring alternatives to open-air burning, is hailed by some who see it as a promising initiative, but criticized by others who argue that burning will still be allowed for the next seven years. The second group believes it is a major health and environmental risk and would like it to stop immediately. Still others believe that by sorting waste through RMMP—proposed measures, implemented in all NVs so that only the final residues end up at a northern landfill (NL), burning can continue for some time at a reduced frequency.
- More than half of the survey respondents believed that open-air burning must stop and that it is harmful to the environment. However, 30% of the responses reflect a concern that stopping the burning could have consequences.
 - Therefore, before stopping this practice, the issue must be studied in depth so that sustainable solutions can be found to improve the situation.
 - Most of the measures in the Plan are aimed at reducing the quantity of residual materials disposed, and therefore the amount of waste burned.
- On several occasions, individuals and organizations raised the idea of installing an incinerator with heat recovery, which would provide more controlled combustion, reduce toxic fume emissions from open-air burning, and decrease the need for fossil fuels for heating. The difficulty in financing such a project was also discussed.
- Many would like to see the waste buried rather than burned, as in other types of disposal sites in Quebec.
- Others would like all waste that cannot be composted or reused locally to be sent to southern Quebec.
- Fire hazards are another issue related to burning. At times, NVs must try to control fires that threaten to spread outside the NL.

Compost Organic Matter and Develop Greenhouse Projects

- More than 86% of survey respondents were in favour of implementing a local organic matter composting project.
- Several Northern villages have greenhouse projects or would like to develop one.
 - To do so, they need soil and soil amendments. A composting project can be perfectly coupled with a greenhouse project since it can fulfil its requirements, provided that: the inputs are of high quality, i.e. source separation is well done by the participants (individuals and organizations); the composting process is controlled; and the compost produced is analyzed before agricultural use.
- Since wildlife control is a recurring concern, composting methods that do not attract wildlife must be selected.
- Food self-sufficiency could be increased through home composting and creating mini greenhouses for home food production.

Recover Recyclable Materials

- Survey respondents overwhelmingly supported reducing the frequency of garbage collection to provide new management options, such as the recovery of recyclable materials.
- Several participants would like to see a system set up to collect recyclable materials, particularly plastics, because of the negative environmental consequences when they are disposed of and burned in the open air, or just dumped in the wild.
- Acquiring a metal press to recycle metal was brought up. Irritation with the accumulation of residual metal in villages and NLs was voiced several times.
- The challenge of shipping these recyclable materials, including returnable containers, is a major one. There are currently not enough shipping containers available to meet this need. Businesses say they cannot participate in all recovery programs under current conditions and have to make choices or develop new solutions (EPR—soon to include appliances, returnable items, collection of recyclable materials, other materials, etc.).

Develop More Storage Facilities

- The issue of lack of storage was raised several times in the consultations. Whether it is to store a surplus of new construction materials or residual materials to be shipped, there is a lack of storage facilities in all communities. The lack of available shipping containers and heated shelters to protect all recyclable building and residual materials leads to wastage.
- It is sometimes simpler for organizations to transport building materials that are individually packaged (in wooden boxes with metal straps, which generates additional waste) rather than in containers because of the lack of space to store the contents before use.

Encourage Reuse

- In a number of ways, the topic of reuse has emerged as a key factor in improving RMM in the region. In fact, everyone can reuse and divert several categories of materials from going to disposal.
- The lack of infrastructure is a major obstacle to reuse. The need to create a dedicated space, such as a thrift store for clothing and small items, and an ecocentre or resource recovery centre for larger items, was often mentioned in all communities.

Improve the Management of Disposal Sites

- Several participants emphasized the importance of assigning a municipal employee to manage the NL and be present during business hours, especially for charging disposal fees to businesses and organizations. However, housing for this employee must be planned in advance.
- The sorting of residual materials sent to the NL could be improved, particularly for household hazardous waste. Collection of this type of waste could also be introduced to reduce the quantity sent for disposal. Setting up a facility such as an ecocentre to facilitate sorting was also raised.
- The majority of survey respondents were in favour of taking steps that would improve management of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), currently stored throughout the region and at NLs, without draining their hazardous materials.

- Concerns about environmental contamination by NLs were raised. It was suggested that the soil surface beneath residual material storage sites be better sealed, particularly to prevent the infiltration of hazardous materials into the environment.

Construct or Expand Disposal Sites

- Since most NLs are filled to near capacity, the NVs interviewed emphasized the need to expand disposal sites or construct new ones. This need arises from: current disposal sites being too close to villages (which inconveniences residents on burning days or makes burning impossible); large quantities of metal waste limiting the space available for additional storage; or a combination of both. The space occupied by ELVs is of particular concern to NVs.

Repair Appliances Locally

- It was proposed to develop a service, like the one offered to communities by the travelling sewing machine repairman, to repair household appliances, increase their lifespan, and reduce household purchases of new appliances. This measure would also reduce the quantity of disposed materials, especially in NLs already saturated with residual metal.
- A social economy project could be developed to initially offer this repair service to one village.

Develop Circular Economy Projects

- A few participants mentioned the concept of a circular economy, where one person's waste becomes another person's resource, and where the generation of non-recoverable and end-of-life products and packaging is minimized. Projects based on this principle could be developed, for example, by using residual plastic in the manufacture of concrete or insulation materials.
- Some participants would like to have plants in Nunavik for recycling residual materials and creating products to be sold outside the region.

Reduce at Source

- The sale of bulk products in Nunavik businesses would reduce packaging at the source and lower purchase costs for residents.
- Food waste was seen as a major source of waste and should be taken into consideration in the Plan. It was recommended that preservation of food quality be addressed when implementing measure 14.

Hold Building Contractors Accountable

- Steps should be taken to make building contractors more responsible for their waste disposal in NLs. Tenders could contain clauses requiring contractors to return with any waste and surplus building materials that they cannot dispose of locally (without eliminating them).
- Several discussions focused on the implementation of measure 13 and its importance was reinforced. The committee examining this measure could choose from different alternatives, but the option of developing a web platform to locate and provide surplus building materials seems most interesting at first glance, as well as containerizing rather than packaging materials individually (measure 14).

Abolish Single-Use Plastic Shopping Bags

- Survey respondents overwhelmingly supported banning plastic bags in stores and, since the measure is already in effect in their community, some are already accustomed to it.

4. Conclusion

In total, 25 representatives from 19 organizations or departments within the same organization were met during the targeted consultations, 52 people responded to the survey, 6 called in during the public radio session, 5 commented during the Facebook Live public session and 23 attended. In addition, there were those who listened to the radio and viewed Facebook Live at a later time.

This high level of participation in the public consultations demonstrates a real interest in improving residual materials management by individuals and organizations in Nunavik. Although this report presents comments to make improvements, many positive comments were also received regarding the quality of the measures and the objectives pursued. The plan was described as well-structured and ambitious, but necessary. Several participants mentioned that they would like to be kept informed on the ongoing process and the progress in implementing the measures, which justifies the importance of measures 19 and 20 to ensure an accountable and transparent process.

The KRG is sensitive to the issues raised and will attempt to incorporate them into the Draft Plan to produce an improved version, which will be forwarded to RECYC-QUÉBEC in the coming weeks for compliance analysis. As required by the Environment Quality Act, this consultation report is made public on the KRG site.

Appendix 1—Facebook Live Event Video Viewing Statistics

■ Couverture : Fans / Non fans
■ Clics sur la publication
■ Réactions, commentaires et partages

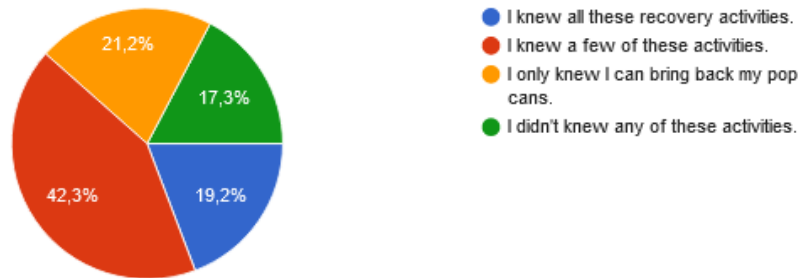
Publié le	Publication	Genre	Ciblage	Couverture	Interactions	Promouvoir
02/12/2020 19:01	 If you missed the facebook live, you can			628 <div> ■ Couverture : Fans / Non fans </div>	365 <div> ■ Clics sur la publication </div> 39 <div> ■ Réactions, commentaires et partages </div>	Booster la publication

Appendix 2—Results of the Online Survey (in English only)

Waste management in Nunavik

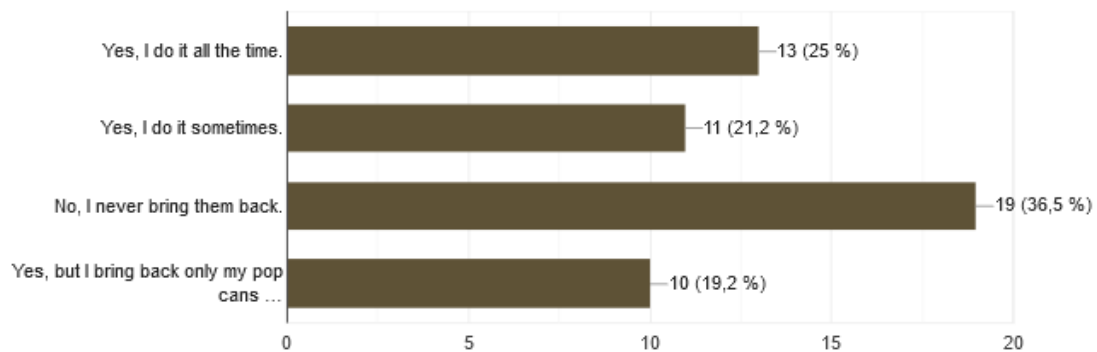
1. Did you know about the recovery activities mentioned in the Plan (returnable containers, car tires, used motor oil, car batteries, etc.)?

52 réponses



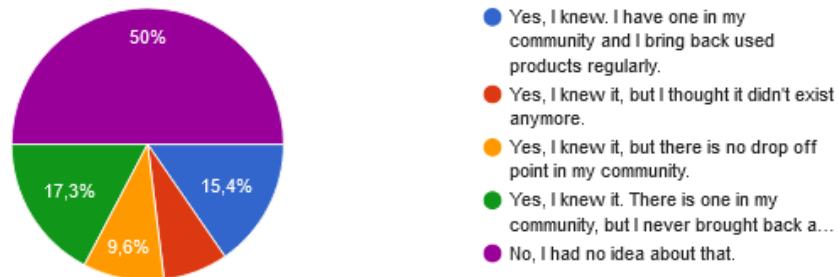
2. Do you bring back your returnable containers (pop cans, pop plastic bottles) (you can check more than one choice)

52 réponses



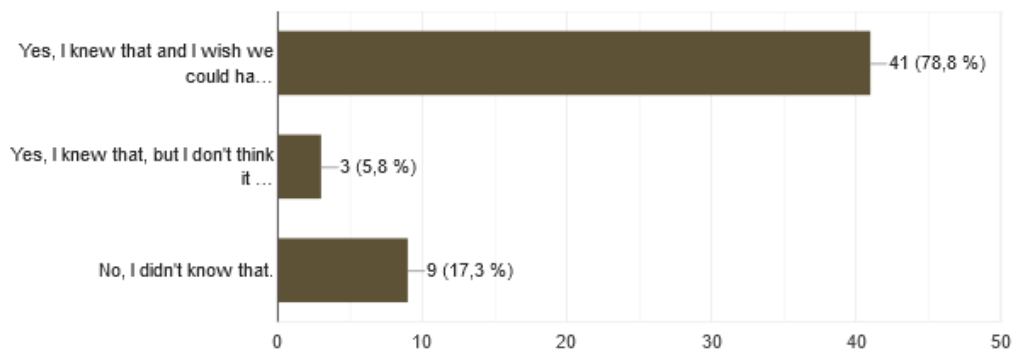
3. Did you know that you can bring back the products under Extended Producer Responsibility (motor oil, antifreeze and filters, lamps containing mercury, paints, batteries and electronics) to a dedicated drop off point in 6 communities?

52 réponses



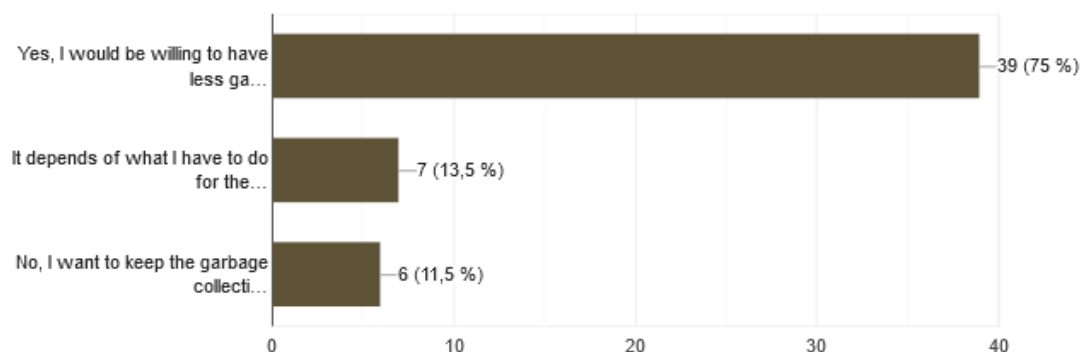
4. In the municipalities of southern Québec, waste is collected only once per week or once every other week. There is also a collection of recyclable materials and more and more municipalities have a collection of organic materials (compost). Did you know this information and do you think it could apply to Nunavik ?

52 réponses



5. In most Northern Villages, garbage is collected 5 times a week. If other management methods were offered in order to reduce the quantity of garbage to dispose of (for example composting, collection of recyclable materials, bringing dangerous waste to a drop-off point) : would you be ready to have less garbage collection (for example only once every two weeks) ?

52 réponses



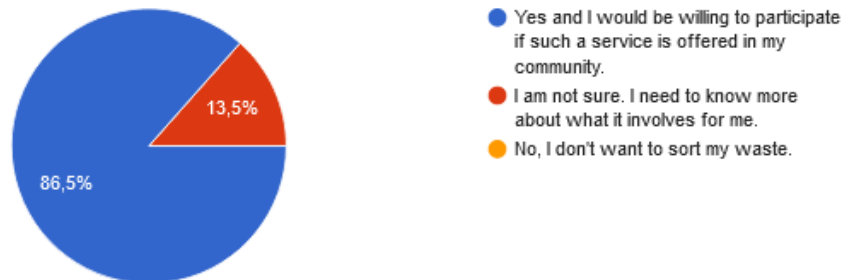
6. Concerning the waste inventory, are you surprised about the average waste production of 1.1 T/person/year?

52 réponses



7. According to the inventory, the majority of the residential and ICI (industries, businesses, institutions) waste are biodegradable and potentially compostable. Do you think sorting your organic waste (animal and vegetable residues, paper and cardboard) to produce compost should be part of the solution to improve waste management?

52 réponses



8. The action plan presents a series of implementation issues (funding, equipment and human resources, CRD residues and sea transportation). Are you aware of other issues that would complicate the implementation of the plan?

44 réponses

no
No
Yes
Lack of circular economy initiatives in Nunavik, Lack of supervision at the landfill regarding ICI's wastes.
Yes.
Funding
lack of public interest in protecting the environment
No.
Protection of the compost from animals eg stray dogs, raven etc. Find a way to make it easy and safe eg collection of compost in closed plastic containers.

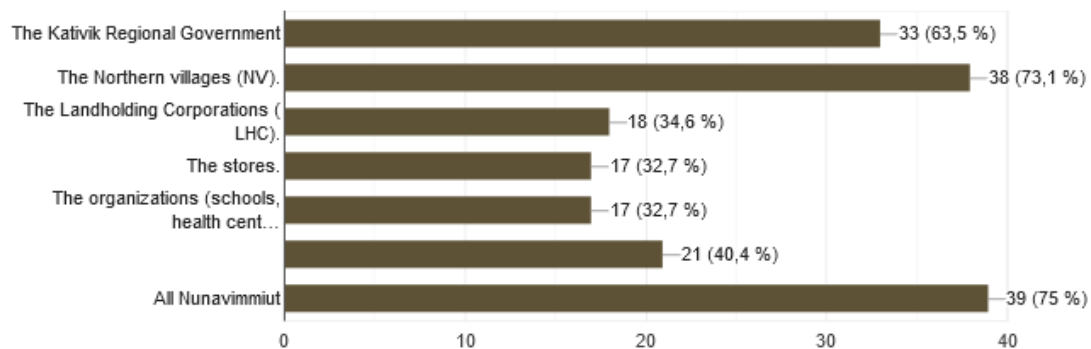
9. Do you think there is enough awareness raising activities about waste management in Nunavik?

52 réponses



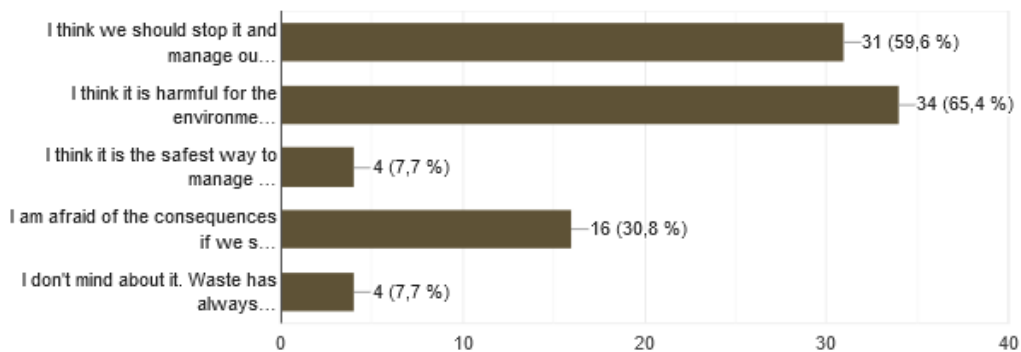
10. According to you, who is responsible of managing the waste in Nunavik? (you can check more then one choice)

52 réponses



11. What is your opinion about open-air burning of waste? (you can check more then one choice)

52 réponses



12. According to you, what are other possible ways to manage waste in Nunavik beside open-air burning?

48 réponses

recycle

The burying of waste or the incineration of non-biodegradable matters. The goal would be to avoid particulate matter and volatile organic compounds to be released. The plastic should have the priority to be burned in the incinerator. It would be interesting to look into using the incinerator to heat a building.

Recycling

Not too sure. It would be nice to see what is being done elsewhere in isolated areas.

I don't know how to call it, but when you capture the energy from burning. As well as recycling and composting.

We should recycle and ship back to industries in the south. Generating income for some peoples and getting paid for our recyclable waste instead of burning it. Compost and open more green houses.

Incinerator and investing in recycling/ upcycling and innovative solutions that focus on reusing our waste to produce something else. For example, plastic for making roads or creating new building material.

13. Do you have other comments or alternative ideas about open-air burning of waste?

42 réponses

No

It would be interesting to look into circular economy initiatives to value the plastic locally. Like making insulation for buildings with it.

I'm glad we're looking into this. I will support any initiative that will enable us to better manage our waste while protecting the environment.

What is the next step, will you update the population and what are your goals ?

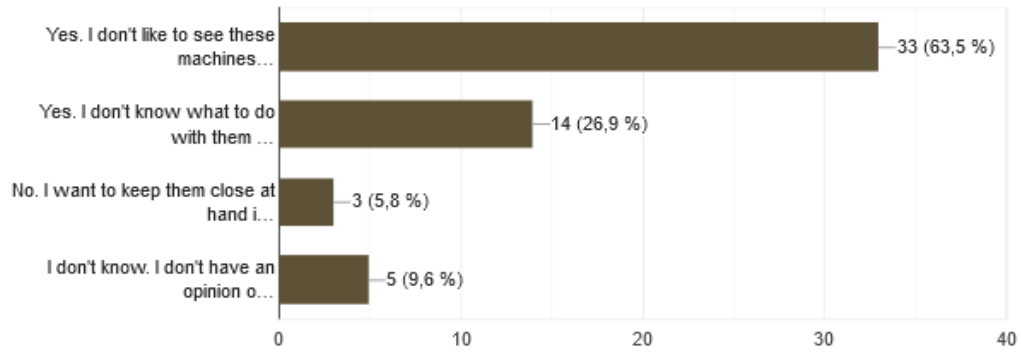
Create recycling plants in every village. Something that can produce byproducts that can be bought by industries in the south. \$\$\$

Teaching households about composting at home. Worm compost and also helping people build small greenhouses that they can grow food in and also make soil from their compost!

No.

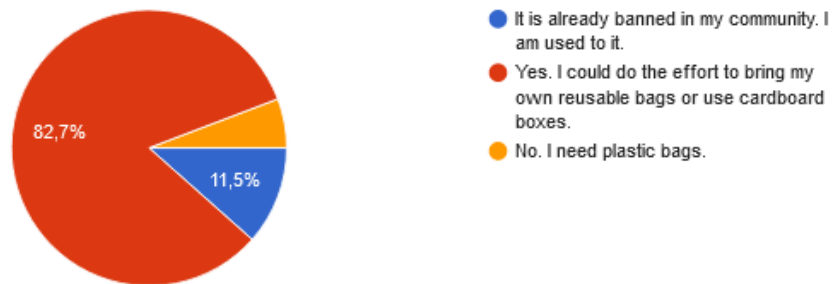
14. Used vehicles and other motor machines abandoned on the territory are a major source of contamination. Would you be willing to participate in a new procedure to manage them on a safest way?

52 réponses



15. Would you be willing to stop using single-use plastic bags to do your grocery?

52 réponses



16. Are you satisfied about the Draft Plan? Is there anything you would have like to add or modify to the plan? Do you any other comments?

39 réponses

No	^
Yes	
no	
It would be interesting to install a waterproof basin under the dangerous waste and the mixed garbages. It would be interesting to have metal crushing installations in the landfills.	
I'm satisfied. Nothing else to add.	
It would be good if the draft plan had a community clean up portion to it. More awareness and community involvement needs to be done and also jobs for cleaning up should be made. Communities should have public garbage bins and people should be encouraged to use them.	
yes	
I'm excited to know things will change.	v