



UPDATE

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF REUSABLE BAGS BY BANNING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS



Stephanie Scafa-Zero Waste Analyst
Building and Permit Services-PDD



Overview of Presentation

1. History
2. Bring Your Bag Campaign
3. Update on Implementation
4. Discussion





Brief History

October 22, 2012: Council adopts Ordinance



May 1, 2013: Ordinance goes into effect



July 8, 2013: Council discusses the effect of the five-cent paper bag fee



November 13, 2013: Six-month evaluation of original ordinance





Bring Your Bag Campaign



Start the Habit
Keep Eugene Clean & Beautiful!

MARKETS / RETAILERS / GROCERIES / RETAIL / GIFTS
TOYS / HOME & GARDEN / CLOTHING
BOOKS
SHOES
RESALE
SPORT
SCHOOLS
PET / HARDWARE / WORK
CONVENIENCE STORES





Contact Us

Service Requests, Comments, and Concerns

Stay Connected

Email Updates and Newsletters Sign-Up

City Search

You are here: [Home](#) > [Departments](#) > [Planning and Development](#) > [Recycling and Solid Waste](#) > [Plastic Bags](#)

Informational Materials

Reusable Bag Resources

Plastic Bag Ban Background

Share

Contact Information

Waste Prevention and Green Building Program

Stephanie Scafa
Zero Waste Analyst
Atrium Building
99 W. 10th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401
Ph: 541-682-5652
Fx: 541-682-5593

[Email](#)

Plastic Bags in Eugene

Bring Your Bag, Eugene!

Eugeneans use an estimated 67 million single-use plastic carryout bags each year. Single-use plastic carryout bags may offer short-term convenience, but they have long-term costs in terms of litter and impact on wildlife and the environment. In an effort to promote reusable shopping bags and reduce litter, the City of Eugene will implement a ban on single-use plastic carryout bags in all retail establishments within city limits beginning May 1, 2013.

All retail businesses, including grocery stores, departments and clothing stores, convenience stores and local markets located within the Eugene city limits will be required to provide only recycled paper bags or reusable bags as carryout bags for customers.

Key elements of the ordinance are outlined in our [Retailer FAQ](#) and [Shopper FAQ](#).

Spotlight

Reusable Bag Events!



[Click here for more information](#)

Quick Links

- [Reusable Bag Ordinance](#)
- [Administrative Order](#)
- [Retailer FAQ](#)
- [Shopper FAQ](#)
- [File a Complaint](#)

[View All](#)



YOUR LOGO HERE



Start the Habit

Keep Eugene Clean & Beautiful!

New Eugene Bag Policy begins May 1



**CHOOSE
Reusable!**

Please bring reusable bags when you shop.



**Think before
purchasing.**

Stores are required to charge 5¢
for paper carryout bags



**Plastic bags
are gone.**

Lightweight plastic carryout
bags are no longer allowed.

Remember your reusable bags and keep them clean!

Beginning May 1, 2013. ALL retail businesses in the Eugene city limits will be required to provide only recycled paper bags or reusable bags as carryout bags for customers.

Remember Your Reusable Bags:

- ⇒ Always start your shopping list with "Bring Bags"
- ⇒ Keep a collapsible bag in your purse, backpack, or briefcase
- ⇒ Keep bags in your vehicle

Keep Your Reusable Bags Clean:

- ⇒ Cloth reusable bags should be washed in a washing machine using laundry detergent and dried in the dryer or air-dried.
- ⇒ Plastic-lined reusable bags should be wiped using hot water and soap and air-dried.
- ⇒ Check that both cloth and plastic-lined reusable bags are completely dry before storing them.
- ⇒ Always put raw meats into a disposable plastic bag before putting them in a reusable bag. When using reusable bags, keep meats, fresh produce, and ready-to-eat foods separated from other food products.
- ⇒ Clean any reusable bags used for carrying food before using for other purposes such as carrying books or gym clothes.

More information is available on the City's website,
www.eugene-or.gov/plasticbags, or by calling 541-682-5652.

MARKETS / RETAILERS / GROCERIES / RETAIL / GIFTS
TOYS / HOME & GARDEN / CLOTHING
BOOKS / SHOES / RESALE
SPORTS / PET / HARDWARE / WORK
SCHOOLS / CONVENIENCE STORES



Start the Habit
Keep Eugene Clean & Beautiful!



Eugene



MARKETS / RETAILERS / GROCERIES / RETAIL / GIFTS
 TOYS / HOME & GARDEN / CLOTHING
 BOOKS / SHOES / RESALE / SPORTS / SCHOOLS
 CONVENIENCE STORES



Start the Habit

Keep Eugene Clean & Beautiful!

New Eugene Bag Policy begins May 1





Media

Press
coverage



The Register-Guard

NEWS LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL NEWS

Eugene's plastic bag ban gets off to smooth start

For most businesses and the city, the new law causes few complaints



Business Information Sessions



50
retailers
reached
in two
sessions



Implementation





Implementation

- Business Hardship Exemptions: 17 exemption requests received – all have been approved
- Code implementation: One formal complaint received to date – follow-up with the retailer and concerned party





Does the ban on single-use plastic carryout bags encourage the use of reusable bags?

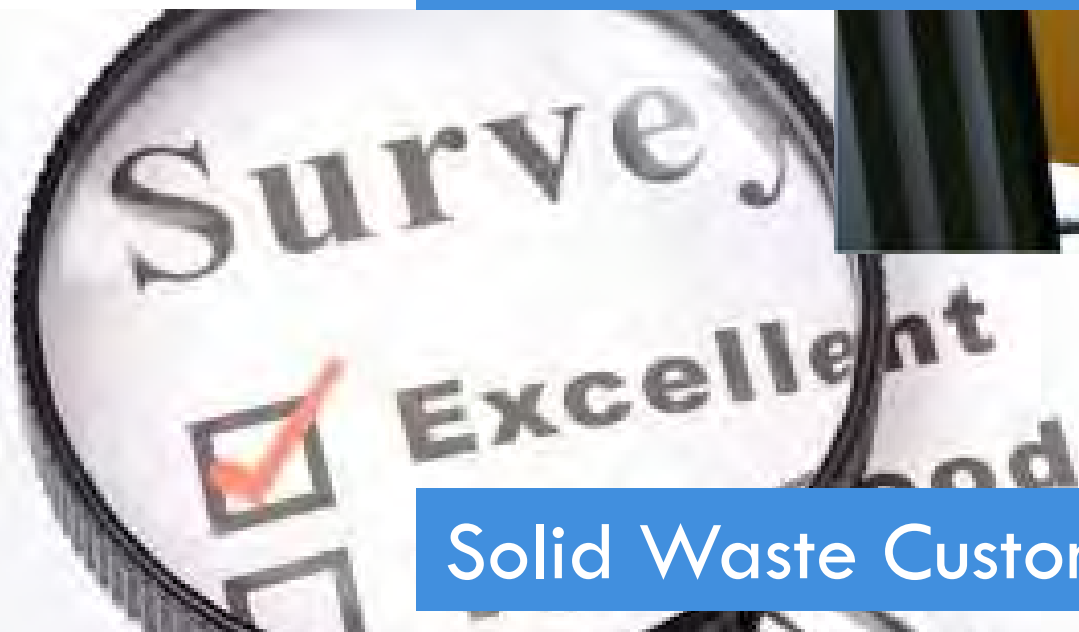




Consumer Intercept Survey



Retailer Conversations



Solid Waste Customer Satisfaction Survey



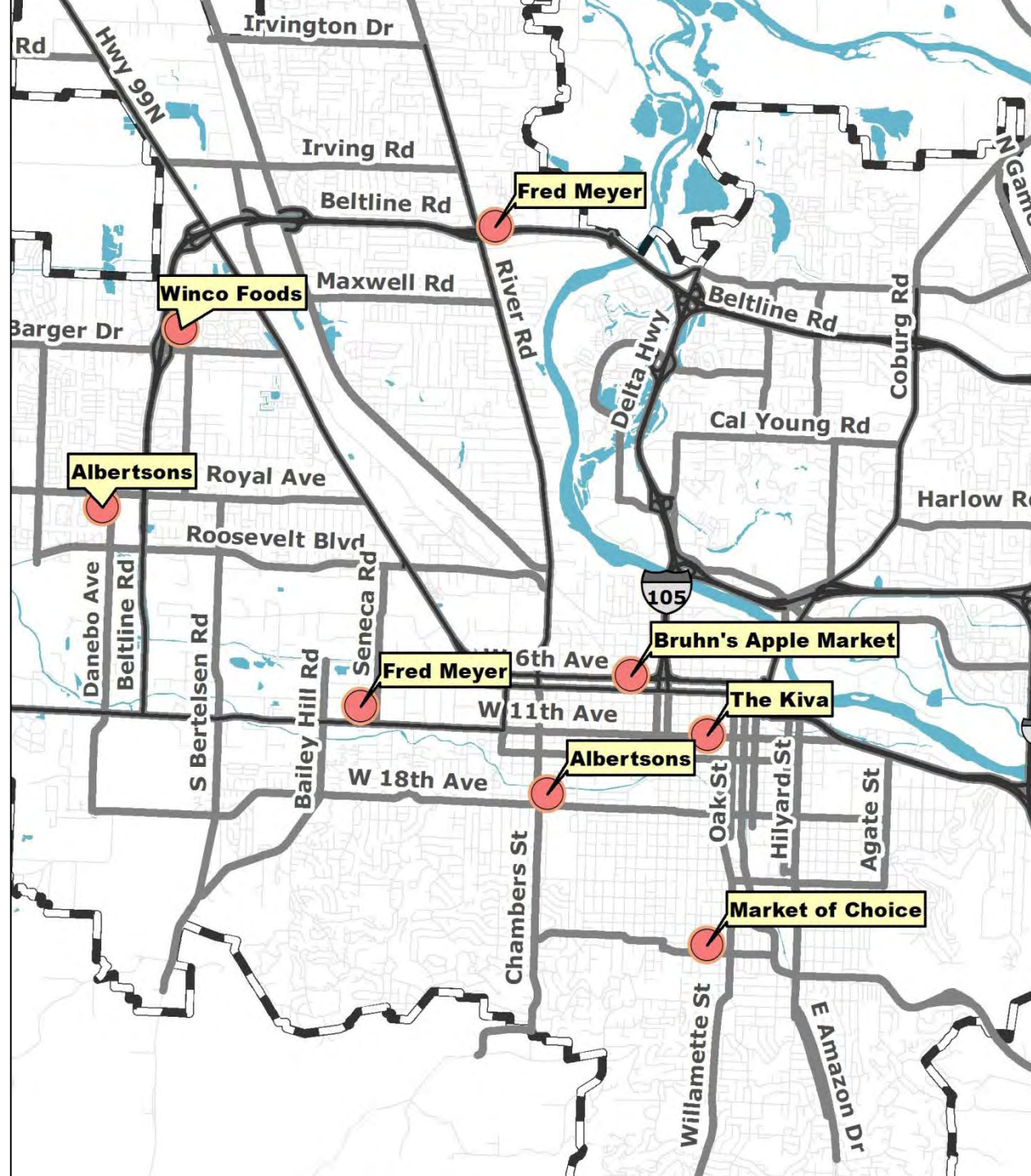
Implementation

Customer Intercept Survey



Eight locations chosen:

- Fred Meyer (Santa Clara)
- Winco Foods (Bethel)
- Albertsons (18th Avenue)
- The Kiva (Downtown)
- Albertsons (Royal Avenue)
- Market of Choice (29th Avenue)
- Bruhn's Apple Market (Whiteaker)
- Fred Meyer (West 11th)



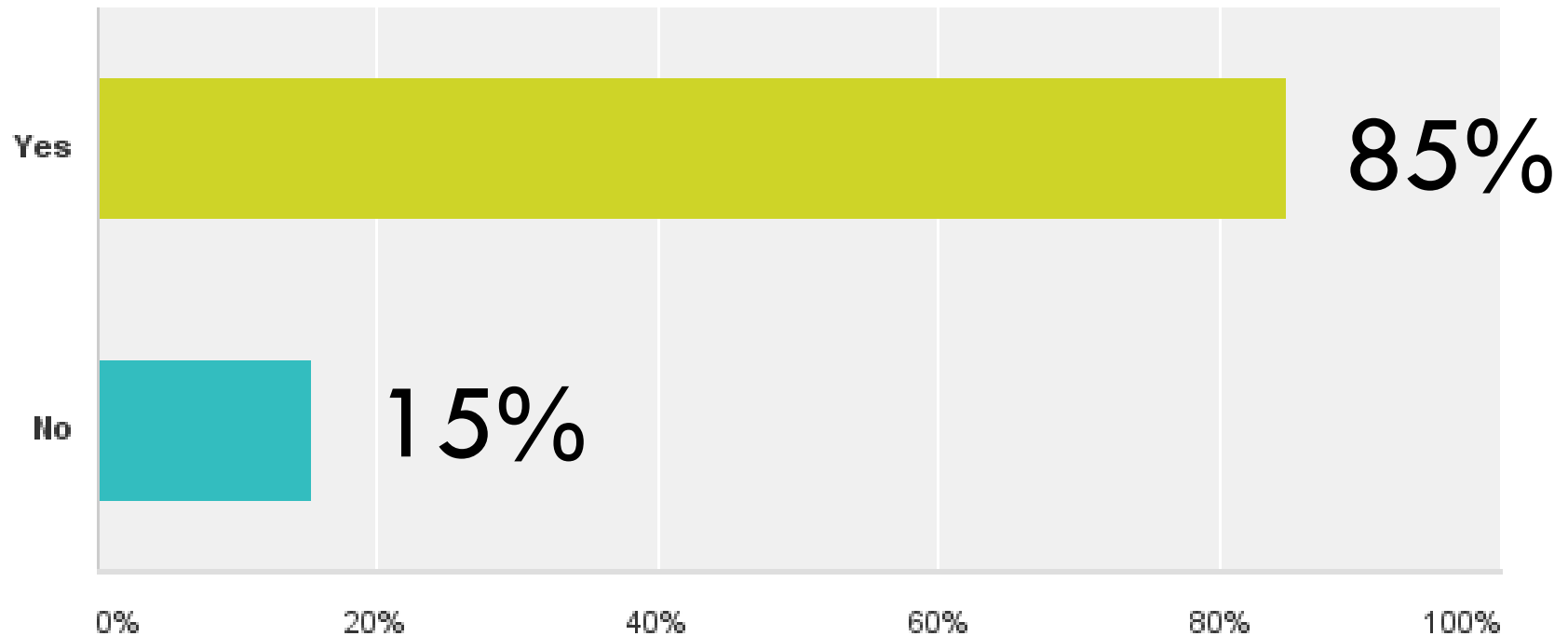


Findings from the Community



Were you aware of the plastic bag ban before it went into effect?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 4

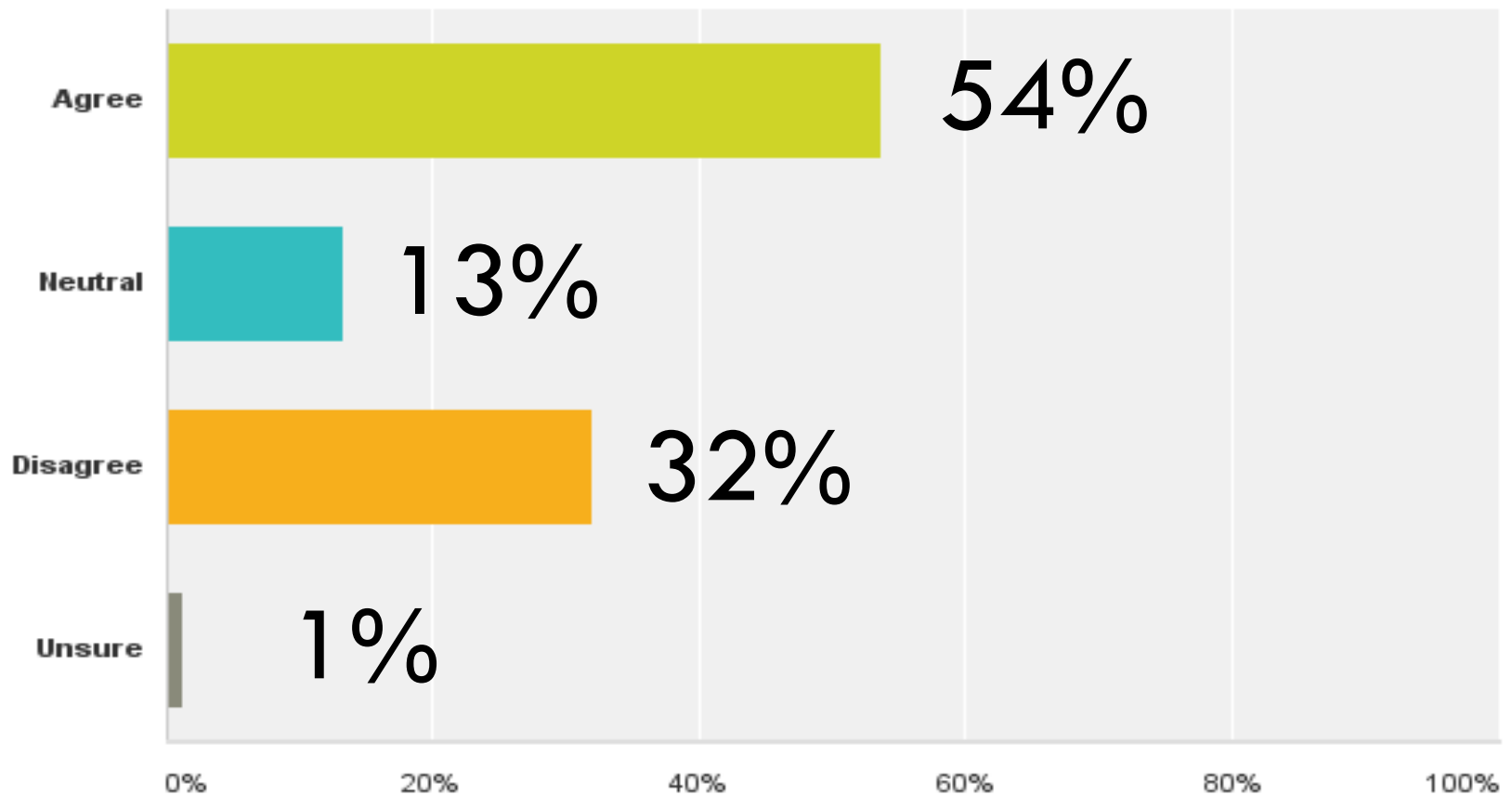




Findings from the Community

What is your opinion of the ban?

Answered: 166 Skipped: 7

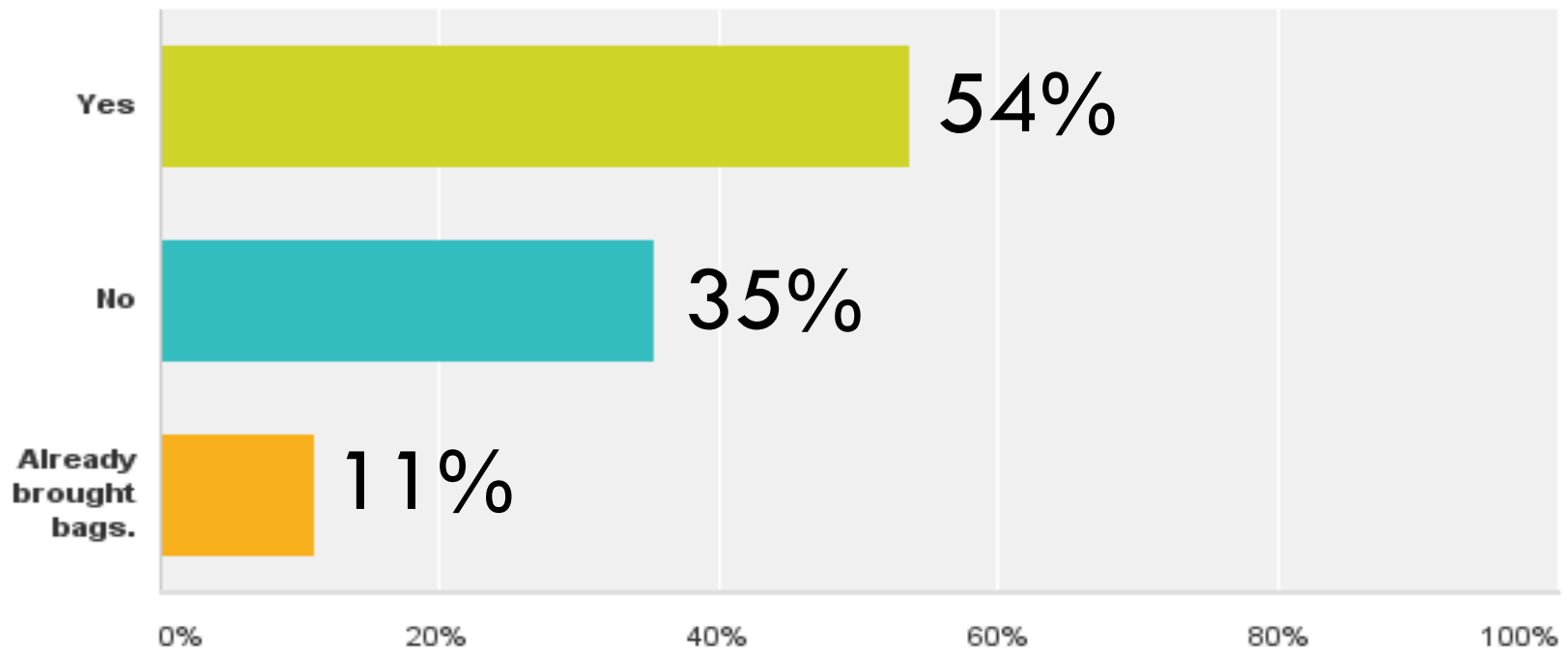




Findings from Community

Does the bag ban prompt you to bring your bag more often when you shop?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 3

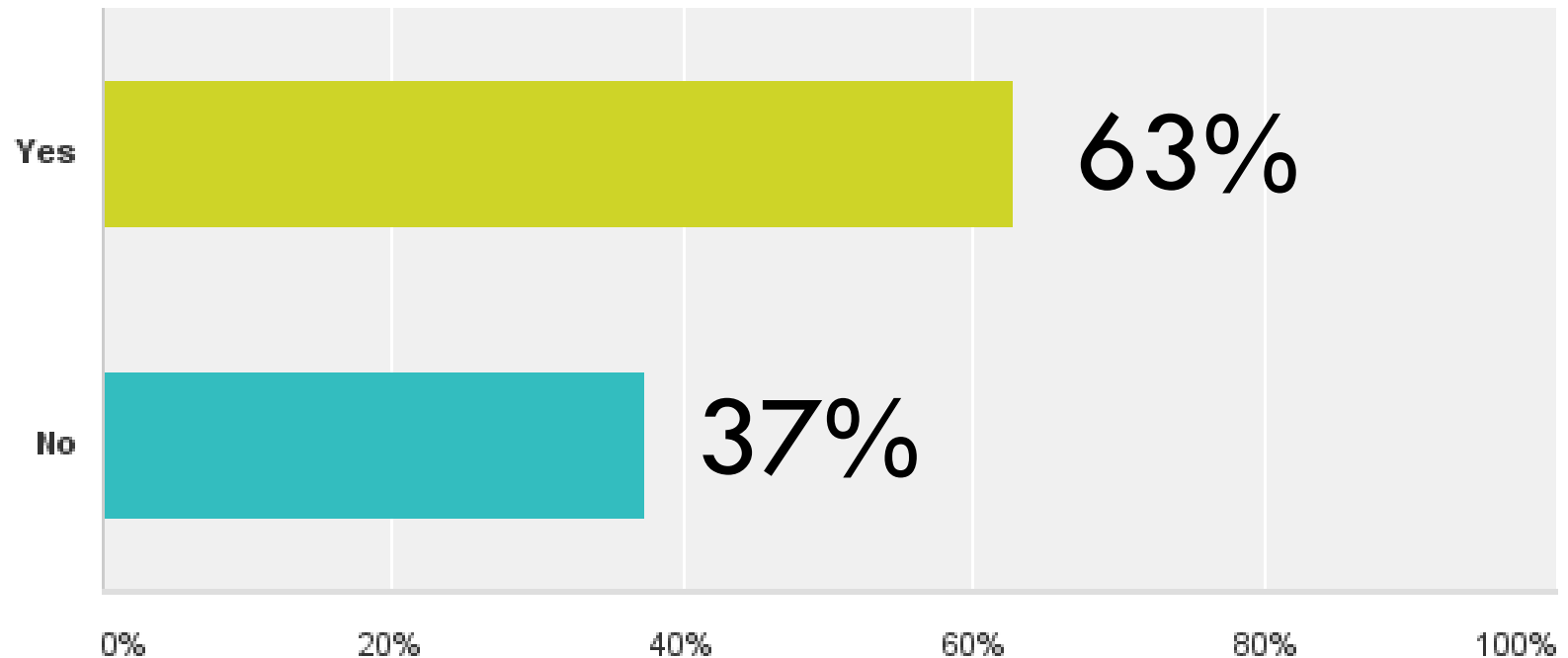




Findings from Community

In your opinion, does the five cent paper bag fee encourage people to bring their own bags to the store?

Answered: 171 Skipped: 2





Retailer Conversations

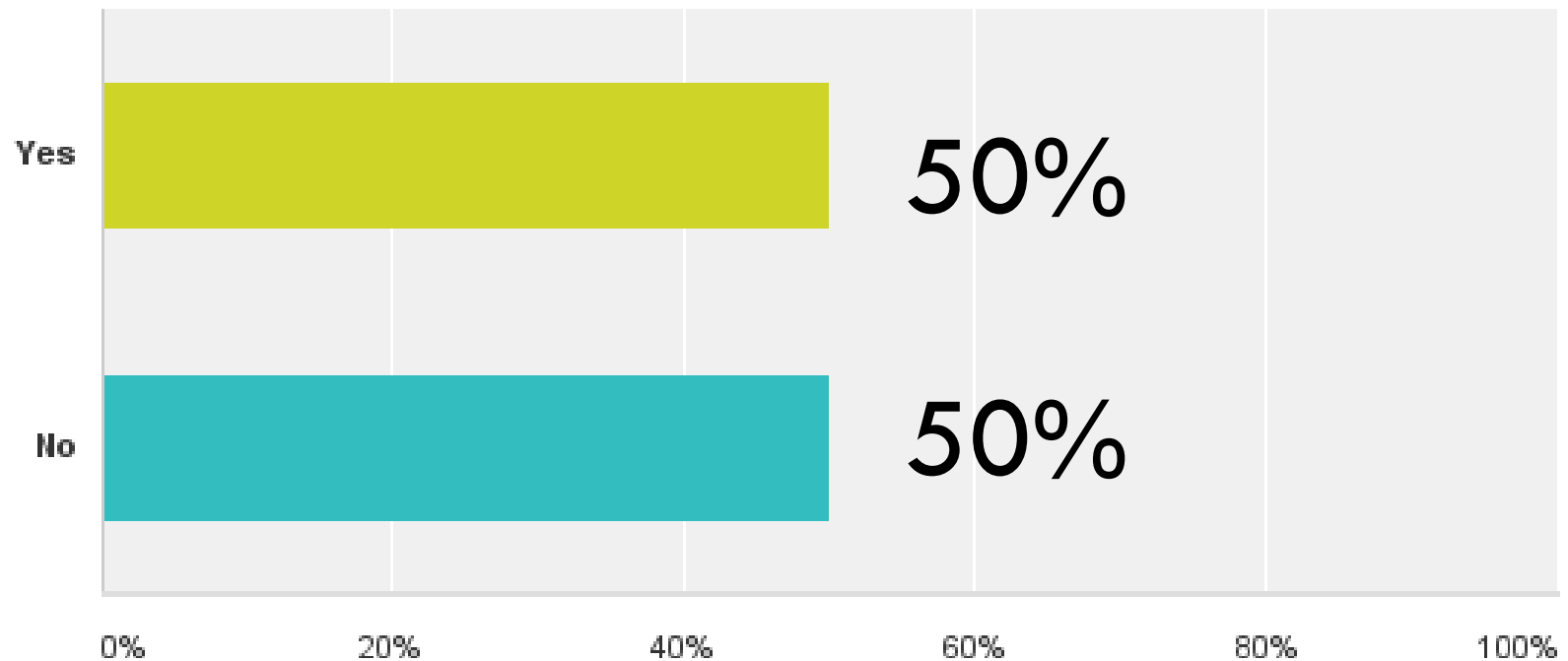




Findings from Retailers

Did you have concerns about the bag ban before it went into effect?

Answered: 150 Skipped: 1

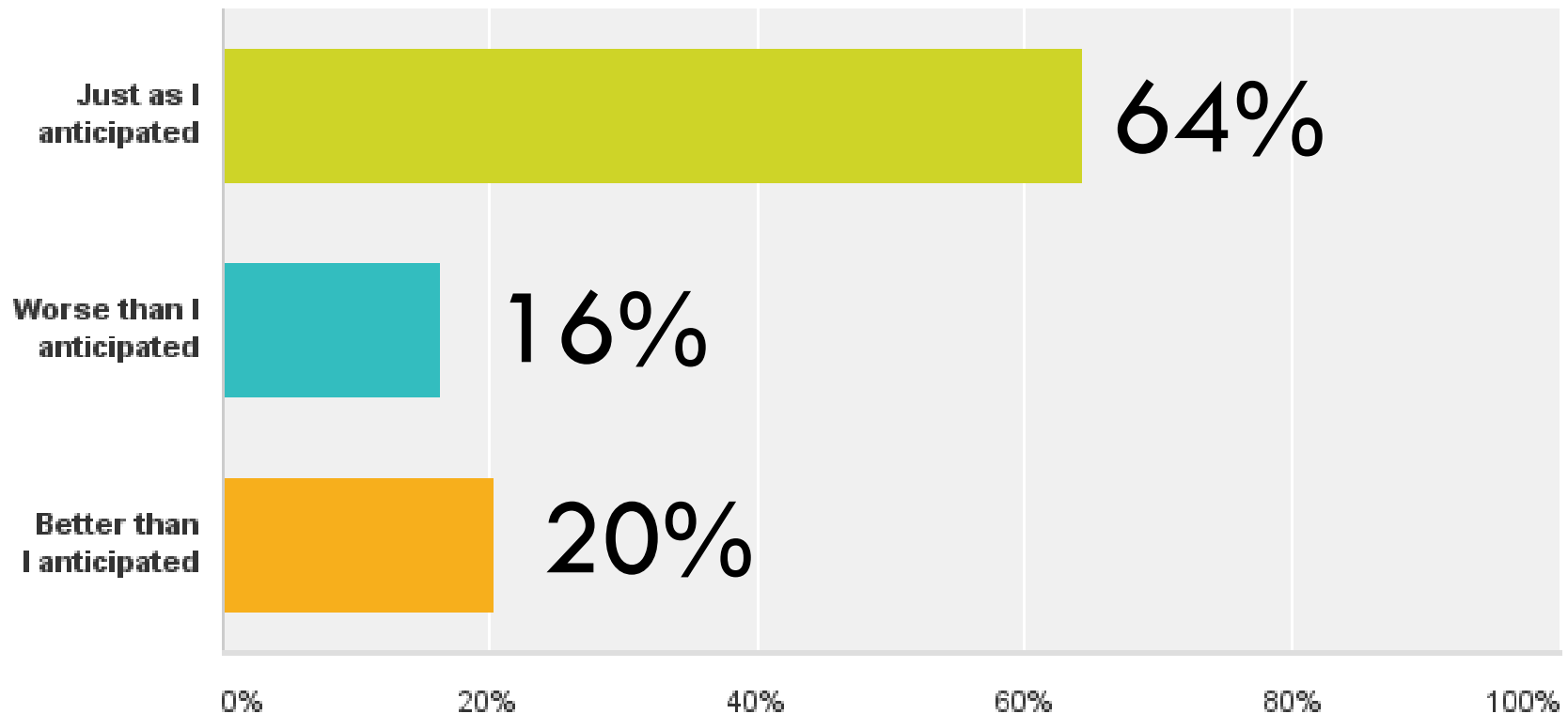




Findings from Retailers

Now that the ban has been in effect for six months, have you experienced those concerns?

Answered: 123 Skipped: 28



Findings from Retailers

What shifts have you seen in your customers' use of bags?
(Retailers marked all that apply):

86% reported that people are carrying items out of the store without bags

60% said that more people are bringing their own bags

40% stated that more customers are buying paper bags for five cents

23% said that more people are buying reusable bags

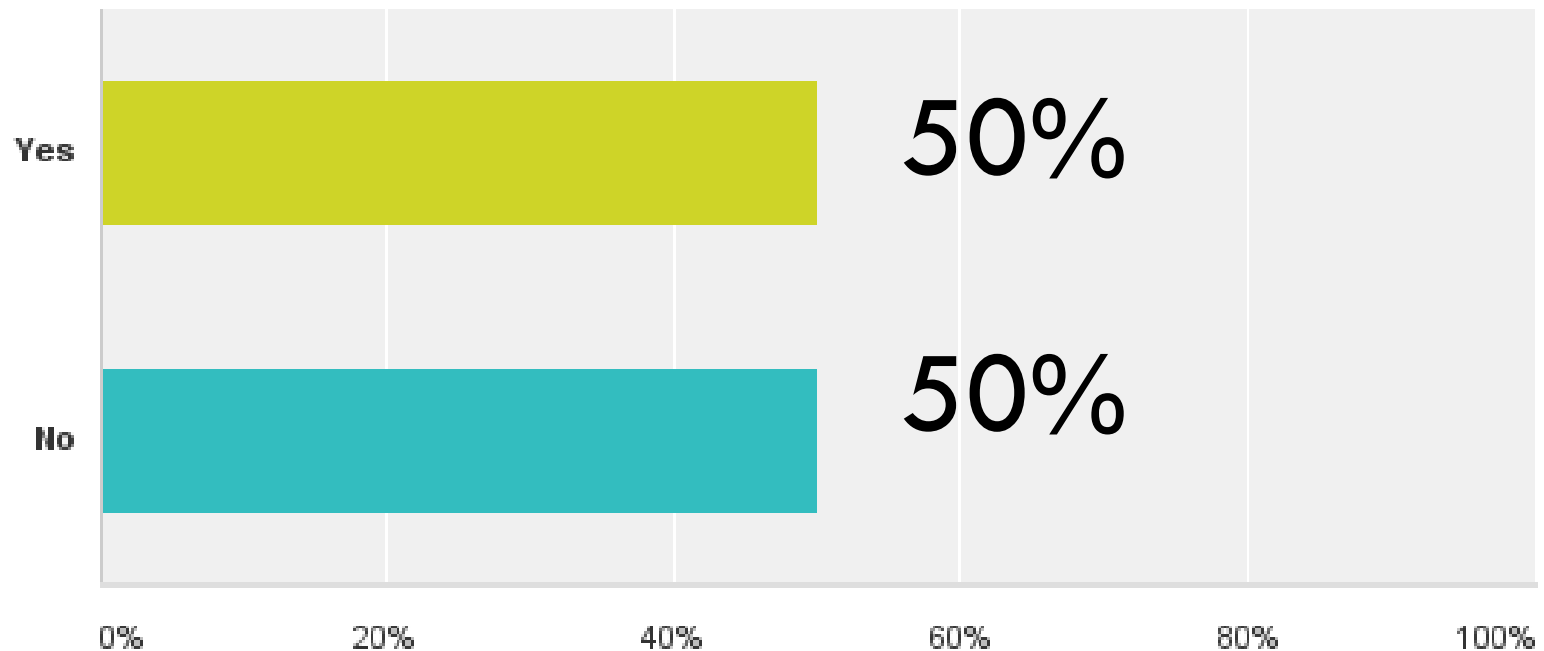




Findings from Retailers

In your opinion, does the five cent fee encourage people to bring their own bags to the store?

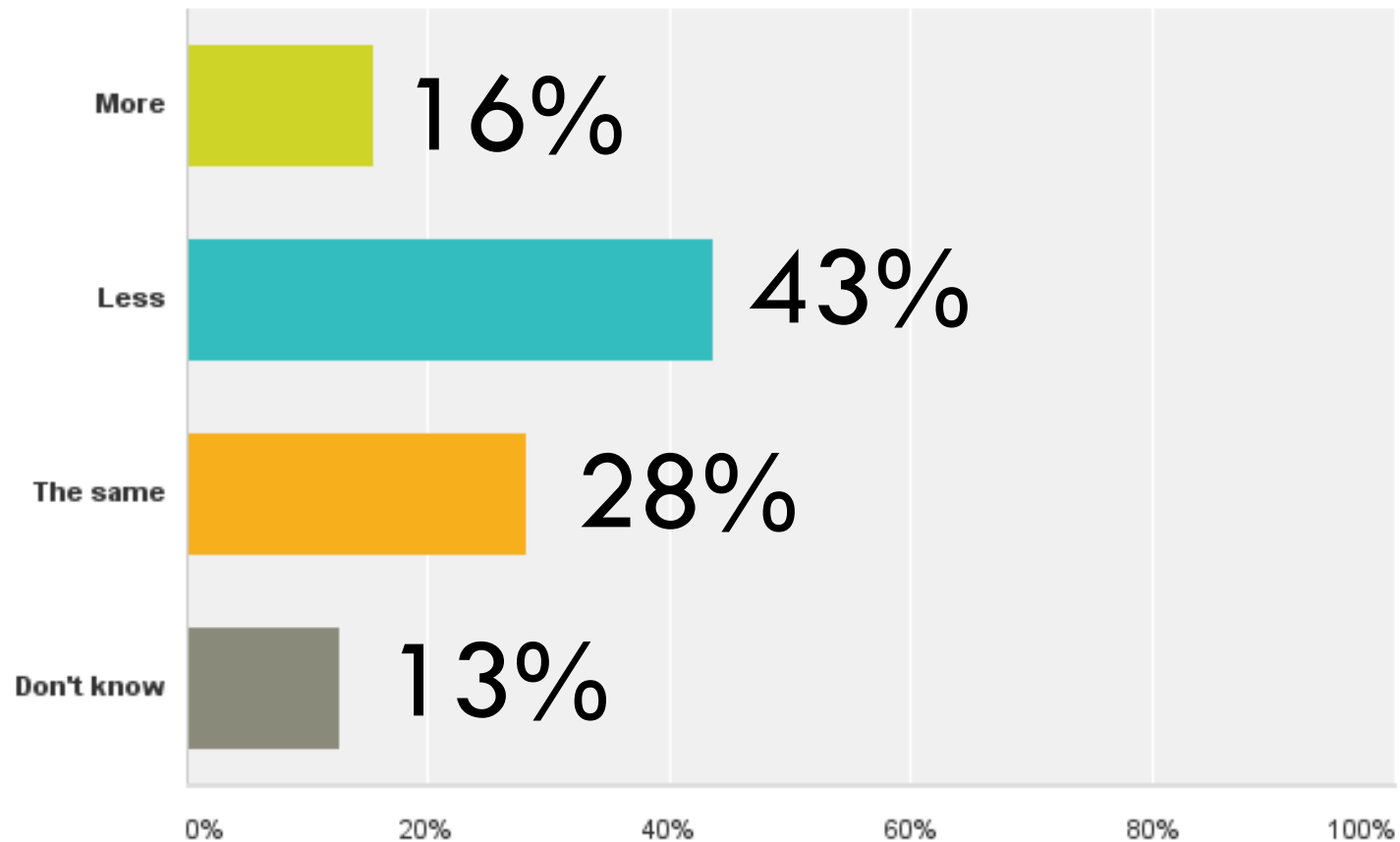
Answered: 144 Skipped: 7



Findings from Retailers

Do you spend more, less, or the same amount of money on bag orders since the ban was implemented?

Answered: 149 Skipped: 2

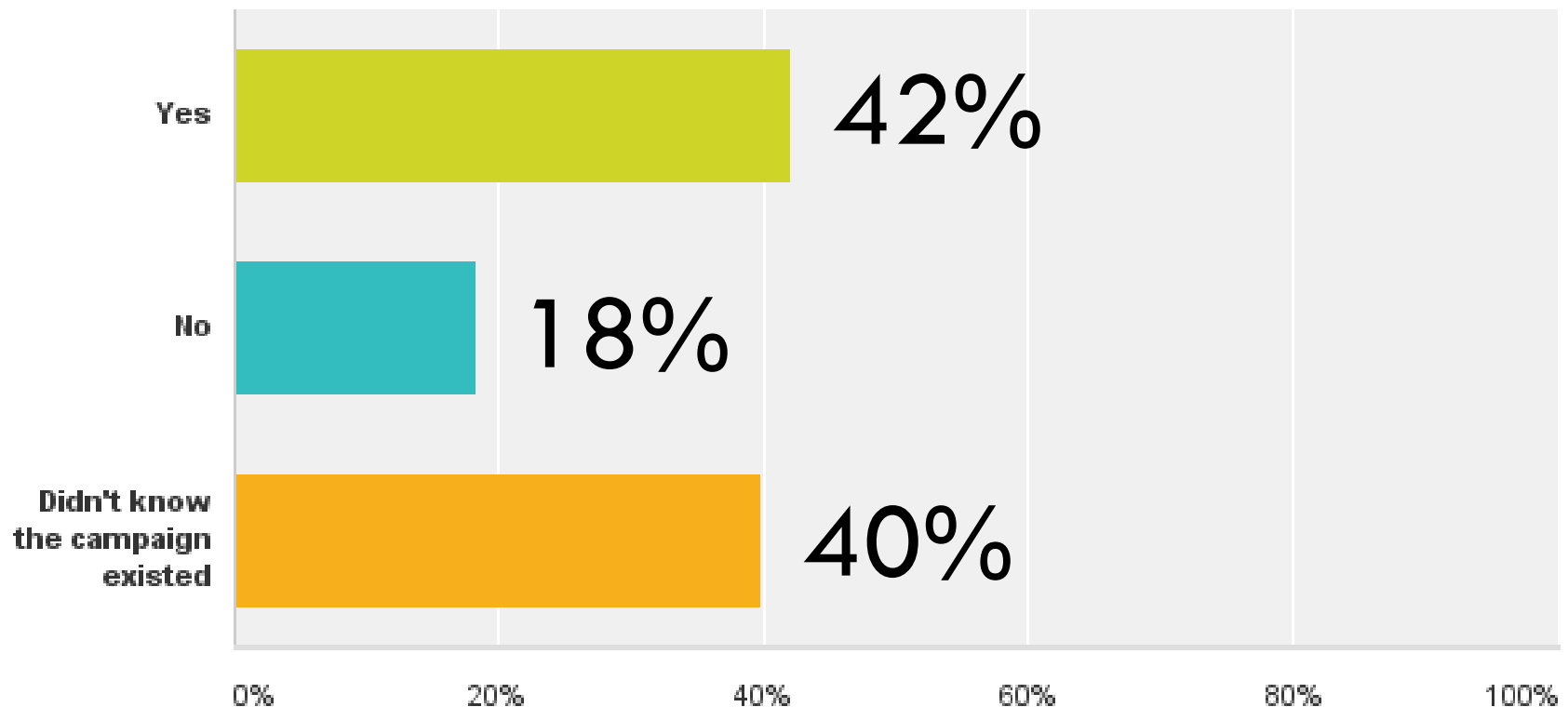




Findings from Retailers

Did you find the City of Eugene Bring Your Bag informational campaign and educational outreach materials helpful?

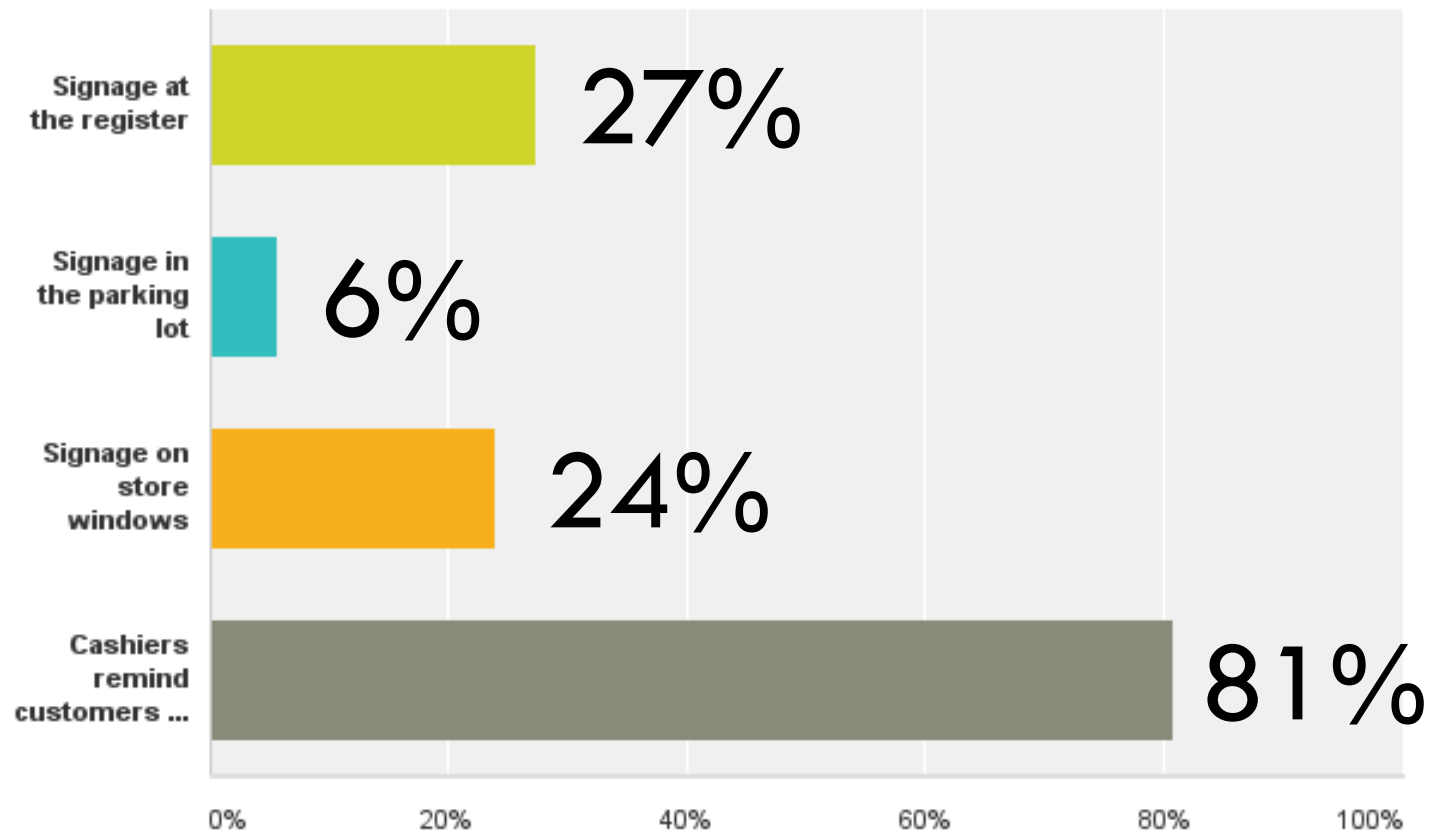
Answered: 148 Skipped: 3



Findings from Retailers

How does your business help customers remember to bring bags when they shop? (Mark all that apply)

Answered: 88 Skipped: 63





Top Themes from Retailers

- ❑ Good program/support
- ❑ Customer complaints/irritation
- ❑ Do not support the nickel charge
- ❑ Product issues re: protection, size, etc.
- ❑ Inconvenience for retailer and/or customer
- ❑ Loss of customers
- ❑ Should be voluntary, not mandatory
- ❑ Theft/loss prevention/shoplifting
- ❑ Higher cost of paper bags

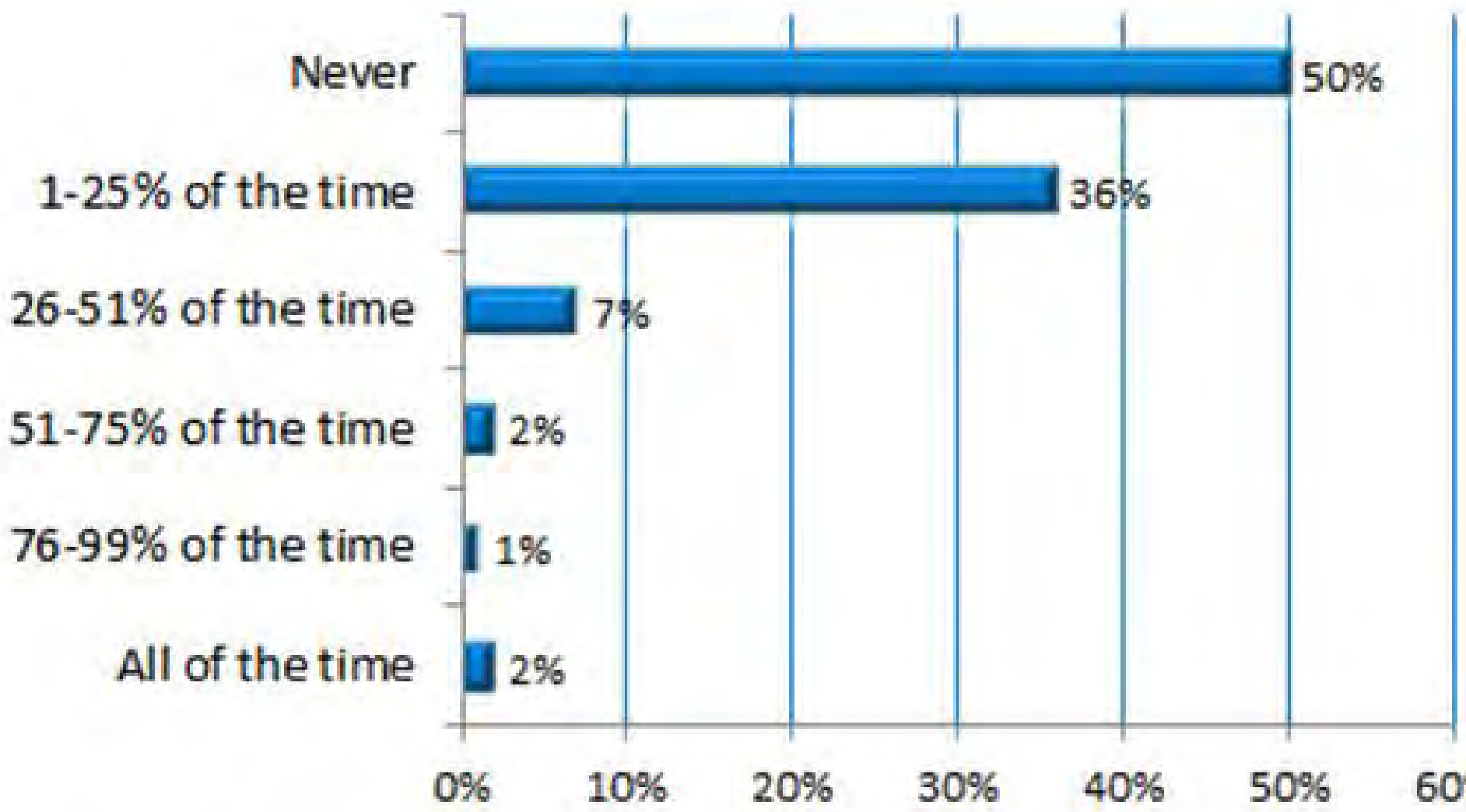




Solid Waste Customer Satisfaction Survey



Frequency of Purchasing a Bag When Shopping:





Does the ban on single-use plastic carryout bags encourage the use of reusable bags?





Final Thoughts





Discussion





Findings from Retailers

Have the number of complaints increased or decreased since the May 1 implementation date?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 63

