



**MEDIA RELEASE  
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### **94% OF ANN ARBOR RESIDENTS RECYCLE FROM HOME**

#### **Ann Arbor Citizen Survey: Recycling is “essential” quality of life issue**

**Ann Arbor, MI** – More than 90 percent of Ann Arbor residents are recycling at the curb, according to the National Citizen Survey™ recently conducted in the City of Ann Arbor. The survey provided Ann Arbor residents with the opportunity to rate city services, safety, quality of life, and the priority of various city investments. In January, more than 1,100 City of Ann Arbor residents responded to the National City Survey. Results were presented to the city on April 3.

Recycle Ann Arbor, a national leader in recycling and waste programs, has provided curbside recycling services for residents in the City of Ann Arbor since 1978. According to the National Citizen Survey, 94 percent of residents have recycled from home at least once in the past year. Eighty-two percent indicated they recycle curbside more than once a month.

Recycling services were rated the highest (76 average rating) of all utility services by respondents. Other services rated included garbage collection (74 average rating), yard waste pickup (68), storm drainage (59), drinking water (66), and sewer services (68).

“This level of curbside recycling participation is world-class, and clearly demonstrates that conserving resources and the environment is a high priority for the Ann Arbor community,” said Recycle Ann Arbor CEO Melinda Uerling.

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“However, we are still faced with the challenge of encouraging six percent of Ann Arbor residents to start recycling,” Uerling added. “And we know that recycling participation for businesses in Ann Arbor could be much higher.”

When residents were asked how important a variety of investments was for the City of Ann Arbor, recycling ranked second only to public safety areas (specifically, law enforcement and fire protection). Forty-five percent of respondents rated public safety as “essential,” compared with 40 percent rating recycling as essential.

Residents were also asked to rate the importance of various quality of life issues in Ann Arbor, including bike paths, availability of alternate transportation, recycling programs, traffic speed patrols, increased police presence, code enforcement, neighborhood parks, and historic district preservation. Of all of these issues, “recycling programs” received the highest rating (37 percent) in the “essential” category, followed by alternate transportation (28 percent responding essential) and neighborhood parks (24 percent essential).

The National Citizen Survey is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association. The NRC’s database includes the results from citizen surveys conducted in more than 450 jurisdictions in more than 40 states, which allows local results to be compared with national norms.

When compared with national responses received from 180 jurisdictions throughout the United States, the quality of recycling services in Ann Arbor was ranked in the 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile, or 16<sup>th</sup> overall out of the 180 jurisdictions. The ranking for quality of recycling services was the highest rank received by any of the utility services that were measured in the Ann Arbor survey. The complete survey results are available on the City of Ann Arbor’s Web site, [www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org).

Founded in 1977, Recycle Ann Arbor is a leader in the recycling industry, offering easy and convenient recycling for the home and workplace. As a private nonprofit organization, Recycle Ann Arbor is dedicated to providing education and innovative services in the collection, processing and distribution of recyclable materials.

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Recycle Ann Arbor started Michigan's first curbside recycling program in 1978, and currently operates the state's largest community drop-off center, the ReUse Center, the Environmental House green building resource center, the Ann Arbor curbside recycling program, and Calvert's Roll-Off Containers.

For more information about Recycle Ann Arbor, please call (734) 662-6288 or visit Recycle Ann Arbor on the Web at: [www.recycleannarbor.org](http://www.recycleannarbor.org).

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