



# What are the best strategies to incentivize recycling participation within a high school, and educate a high school population?

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## Driving Question

What are the best strategies to incentivize recycling participation within a high school, and work to educate on recycling.



## Introduction

Within Innovation Academy there has been a roadblock as of right now into implementing a full-fledged recycling program, to make this program successful in the future there are steps and research that can be conducted to find valuable information that will make the later formation/creation of the program.

## Background

Scientists have long since been talking about the impact of humans on the Earth's environment and how it has, most notably, changed drastically over the past century. There have been many attempts by communities to find solutions/cures to this problem but none so more than recycling. Many studies have been done on groups and their likelihood to recycle (Folz, D. H. (1991). ), some even with highschoolers, most of which cover habits where those with knowledge of the impact of the environment and involved in communities are more likely to recycle (Cimen, O., & Yilmaz, M. (2016)).

## Methodology

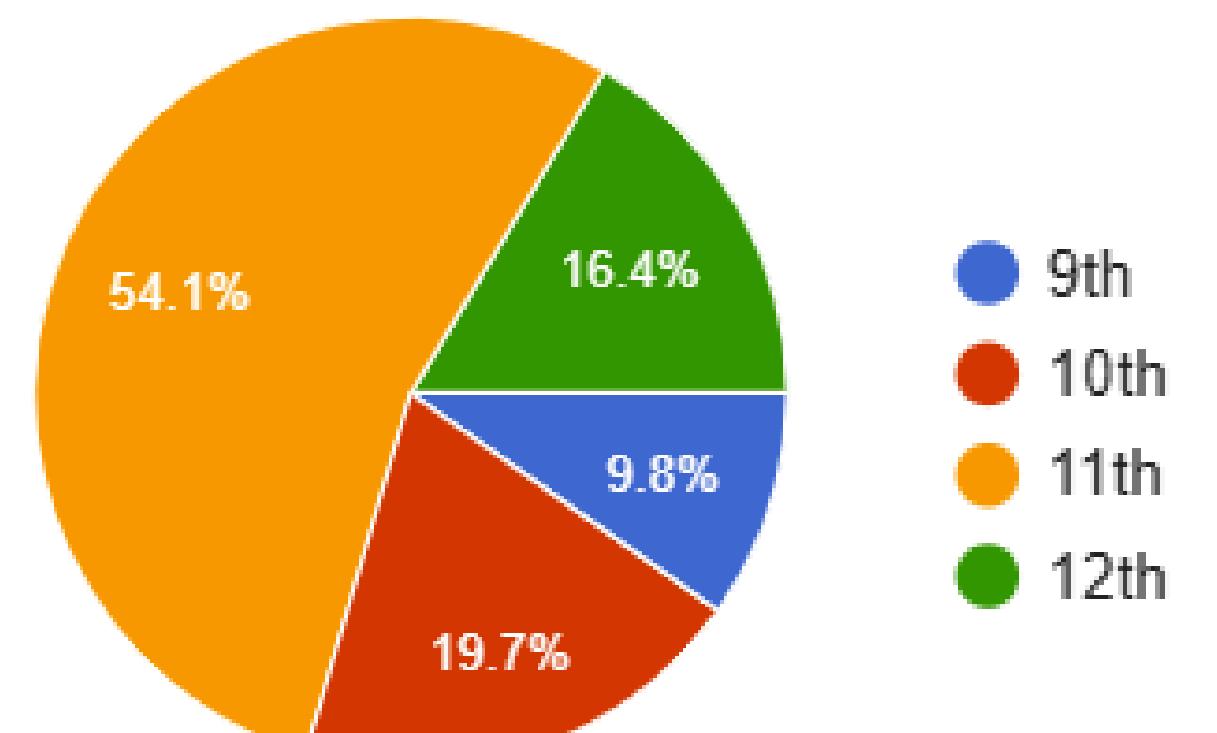
The first step is getting information and observations based on an institution's recycling and waste management programs. This includes documenting any troubles, history, and also getting accounts of custodial members along with administrations to understand a place's stance. It outlines if there is/was a recycling program at a school and if it failed why?

The next rounds of research requires sending out a survey to students grades 9-12, to get input on their habits and thoughts towards recycling. A form was pushed to students via a flyer and QR code.

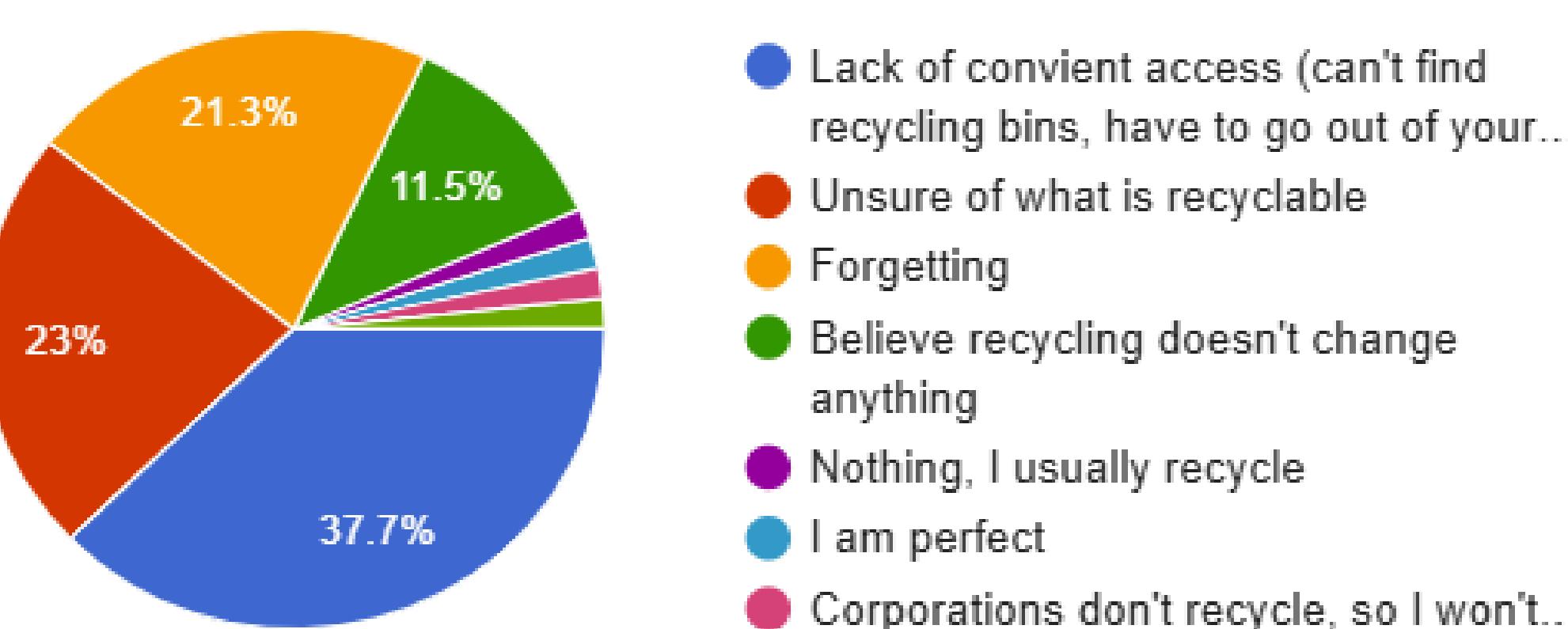
Data will be recorded and evaluated. The data collected from this project at Innovation Academy will be compared to various other studies that inspired and are closely related to this one. Conclusions will be drawn about what works best and further ideas for implementation will be drafted to find the most effective method for encouraging recycling if/when a recycling program develops at Innovation Academy.

## Findings

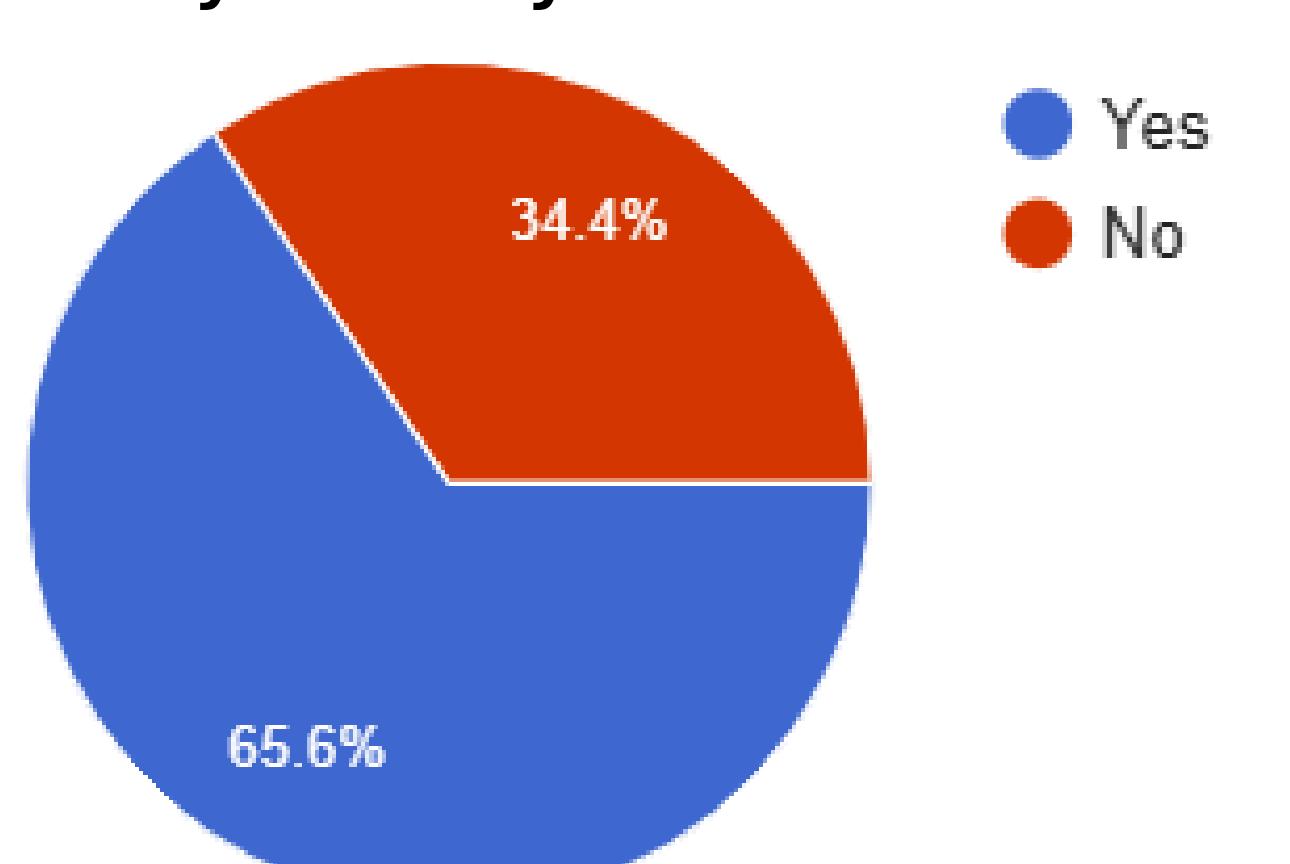
### What grade are you in?



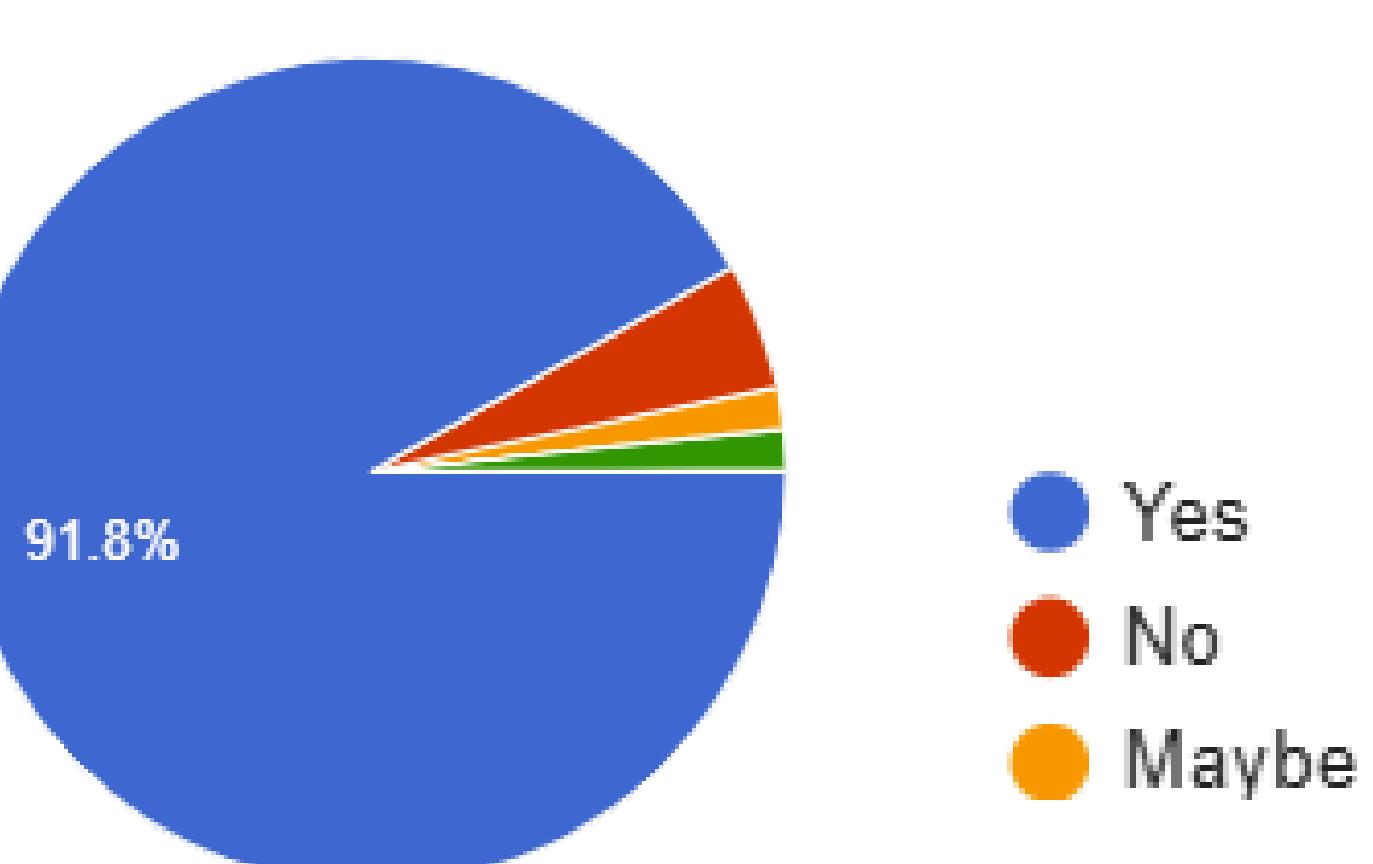
### What discourages you the most from recycling?



### Do you recycle at home?



### If IA implemented recycling, would you participate?



## Conclusions

Barring the grades responses were from and the interest in recycling if implemented at the school, most responses were generally close. Recycling at home versus the interest in recycling didn't have much impact, even when broken down into original responses. Although those who recycled at home were the only ones who responded with having no interest in recycling at school. While lack of access was the biggest barrier to recycling, lack of knowledge of what is recyclable and outright forgetting were not far behind. In further iterations, having a multi-select option may clear up just how much the different reasons for not recycling overlap. This data highlights that there generally needs to be a complete overhaul in recycling programs, whether it's starting them, marketing them, or re-arranging how they run.

## Limitations

Due to the running of the school, the timing of the project, and communication between the custodian teams, the project was not able to reach its full scope with testing in rooms.

## Next Steps

Next steps look at planning for the future, open communication with Waste Management and its faults in the Alpharetta area are necessary, but also communication within the school and custodial team. The findings from this research can be used to design a plan for implementation with clear steps and complying to boundaries and needs from all involved parties.

## Citations

Cimen, O., & Yilmaz, M. (2016). *Predictors of Behavior Factors of High School Students Against Recycling*. Ebsco.com. <https://research.ebsco.com/c/pqqduh/search/details/mgaerrivdz?db=ehi>

Folz, D. H. (1991). Recycling Program Design, Management, and Participation: A National Survey of Municipal Experience. *Public Administration Review*, 51(3), 222–231. <https://doi.org/10.2307/976946>

