

# Home Waste Audit

*New Year  
New Me!*



## Objectives:

1. Learn about the waste stream in the municipality where you live. i.e., learn what bins you have (e.g., recycling, landfill, organics) and what goes in each of them.
2. Decrease your waste footprint and divert waste away from your landfill bin by procuring and using products that you can reuse or that go into the other bins, e.g. recycling.

# Participants learned something new

Wooden chopsticks and compostable plastic items go in the garbage

That plastic cutlery is recyclable in Toronto

I did not remember that black plastic is not recyclable. As well as plastic cutlery

there is a site that accepts hazardous waste in my neighborhood, you can use any type of plastic bag for your organic waste

I learnt how items that we think can be recycled are usually lined with plastic and thus shouldn't be in the recycling bin.

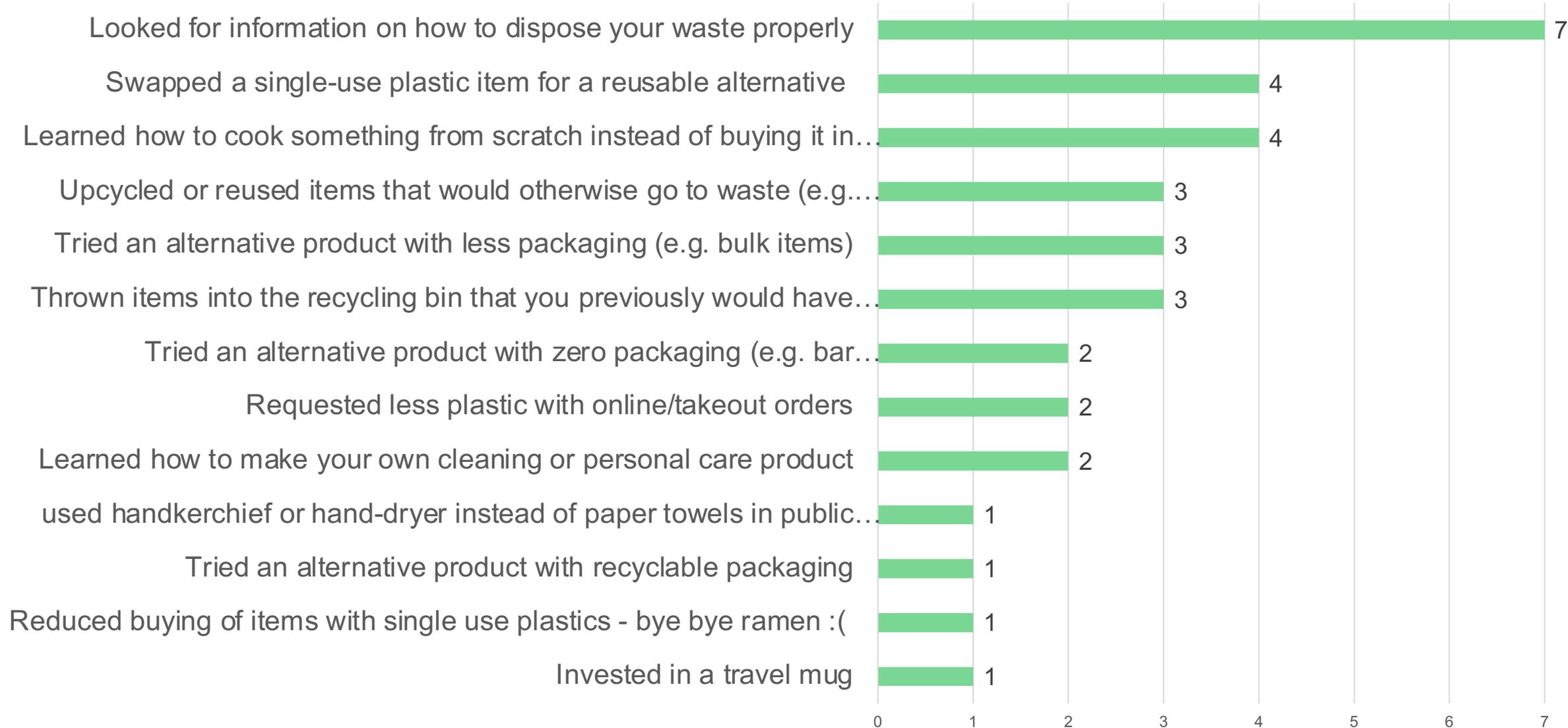
I didn't know that you couldn't compost wooden chopsticks/popsicle sticks and compostable plastic.

Deeply surprised to learn that soft stretchy plastics can be recycled; I have forever thought that if it wasn't rigid, it wasn't recyclable. Produce bags are the largest surprise, though I hope to buy reusable ones soon.

I didn't know how much the city of Toronto could recycle! I'm from the US and a lot of these items are not actually recyclable where I grew up so it's good to know.



# What changes did you make to your usual waste habits throughout the home waste audit?



# What was the most difficult change you made throughout the the home waste audit



7 responses



# Why was this the most difficult change?

I find it kind of difficult to avoid some single use plastics, such as soft plastic food packaging, though I've avoided mixed foil + plastic products more. Produce bags I've limited by simply putting onions, potatoes, peppers, etc. in my basket directly, but for green onions I still use them (I'm currently looking at purchasing reusable cloth produce bags).

Purchasing groceries with no packaging or less packaging was difficult at my local grocery store.

Single plastics are just easier to use overall, so I often find myself gravitating towards them.

Some items packaged in recyclable materials were much more expensive than the alternatives.

Because we are attached to prepared meals. We cook home but it takes us a lot of time and we sometimes choose to buy prepared meals that come in plastic (pizza, ham...)

Packaging and single-use plastics are on everything and they are very hard to avoid.

I realized that I had the urge to buy more packaged food for convenience during high-stress periods such as midterm season.

It was difficult to find foods and other things that are without any packaging, especially considering COVID and cleanliness.



# Favourite waste reduction tip

Switching to re-usable products, like substituting kitchen tissues with reusable wipes can heavily reduce the amount of tissues you use.

To go loose-leaf on the tea! I'm still going through old tea bags purchased prior to the audit, but all future tea purchases will be loose leaf. I also like the idea of beeswax alternatives to cling wrap, though for now my alternative is just reusable glass food containers.

The "eat me first" bin in the fridge. This has helped me reduce my food waste.

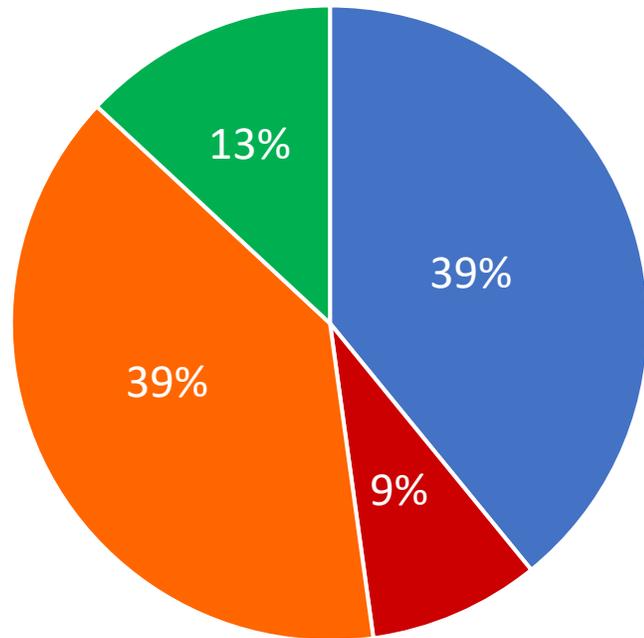
We can find stores that can help us win time and still live a zero waste life style. We are stronger together :-)

How to conserve fruits and vegetables for longer. For example, my mom and I have learned how to store salad for a longer time so that it doesn't go to waste. This is done by placing it in a reusable container with a paper towel on top of it and that prevents it from shrivelling up sooner.

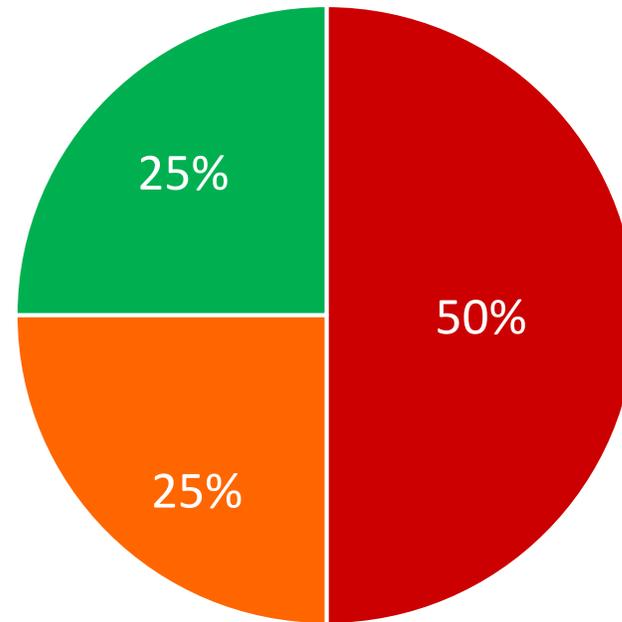
Carry around a handkerchief to avoid paper towels and napkins!



# How many items of trash did you really throw away in one week?



Survey Responses

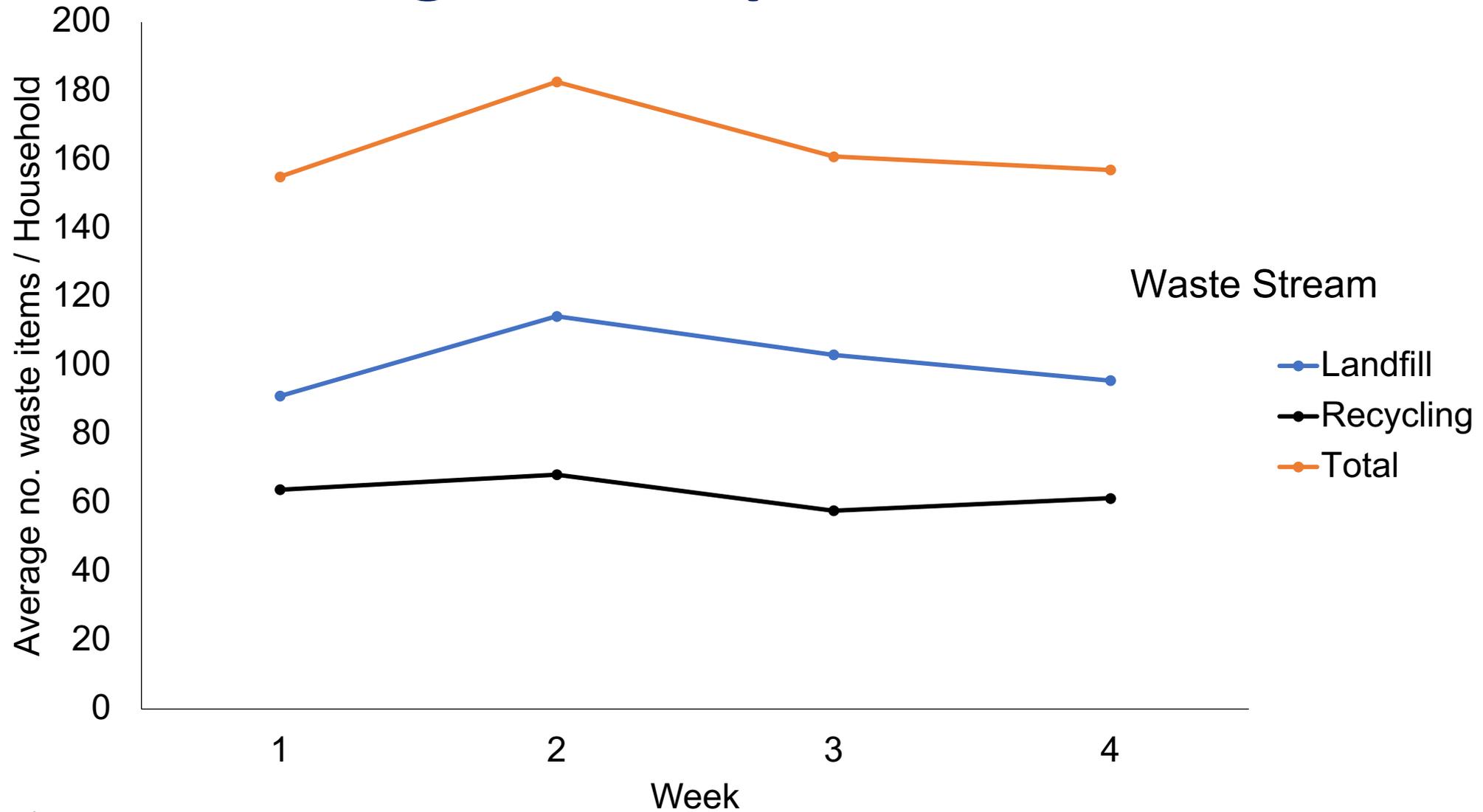


Waste Audit Data

- 0-50 items
- 51-100 items
- 101-150 items
- Over 150 items

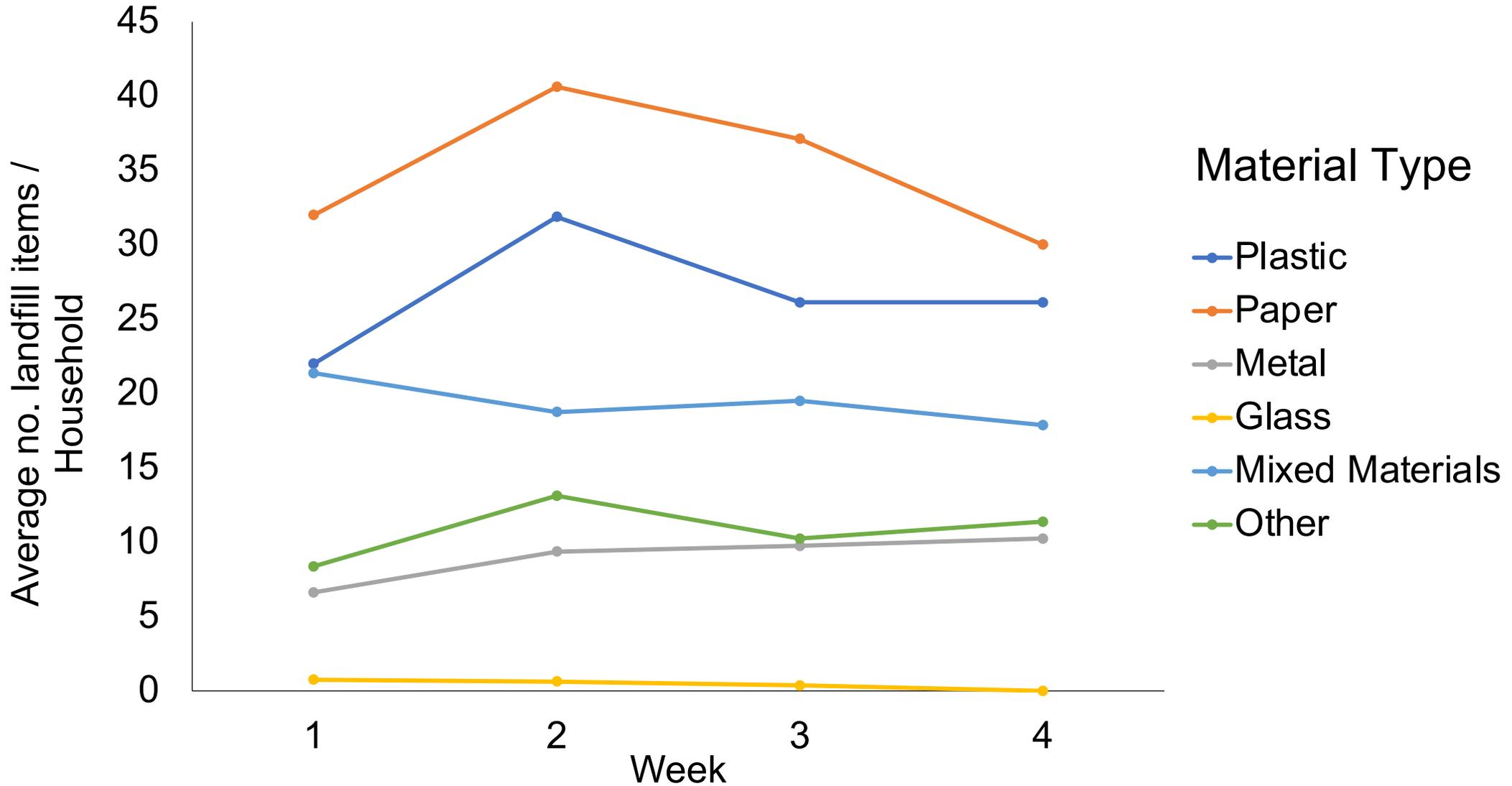


# Average waste per household

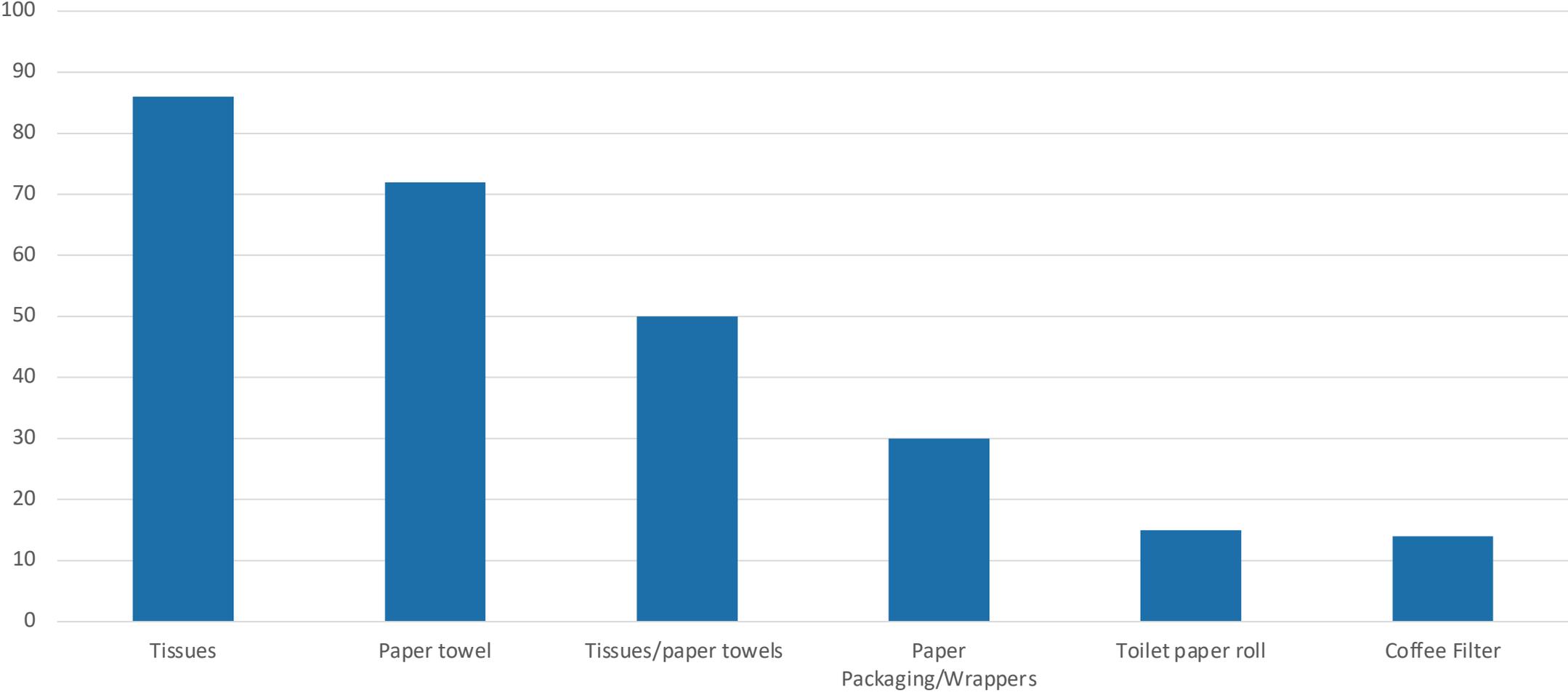


8 Participating Households

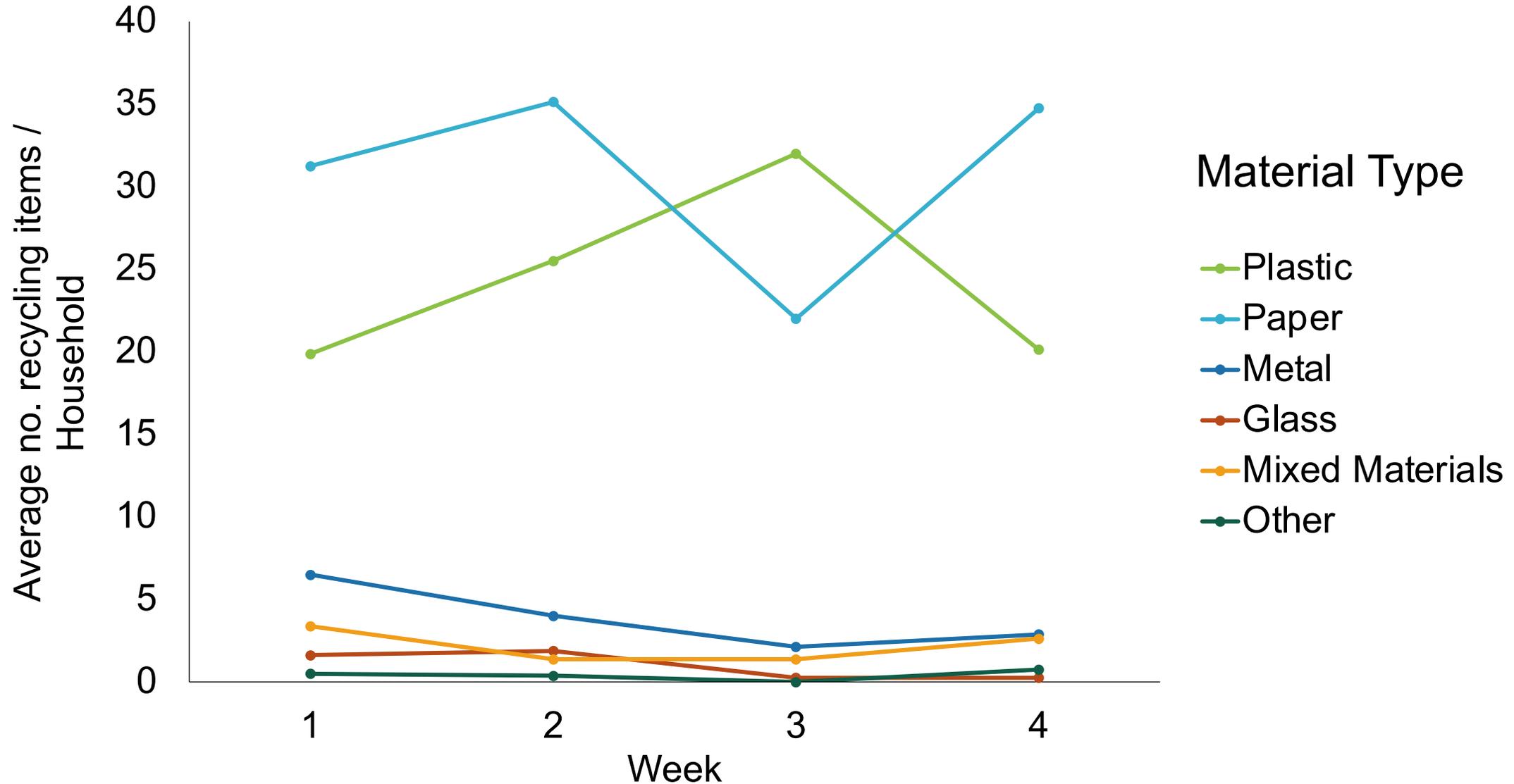
# Landfill waste by material type



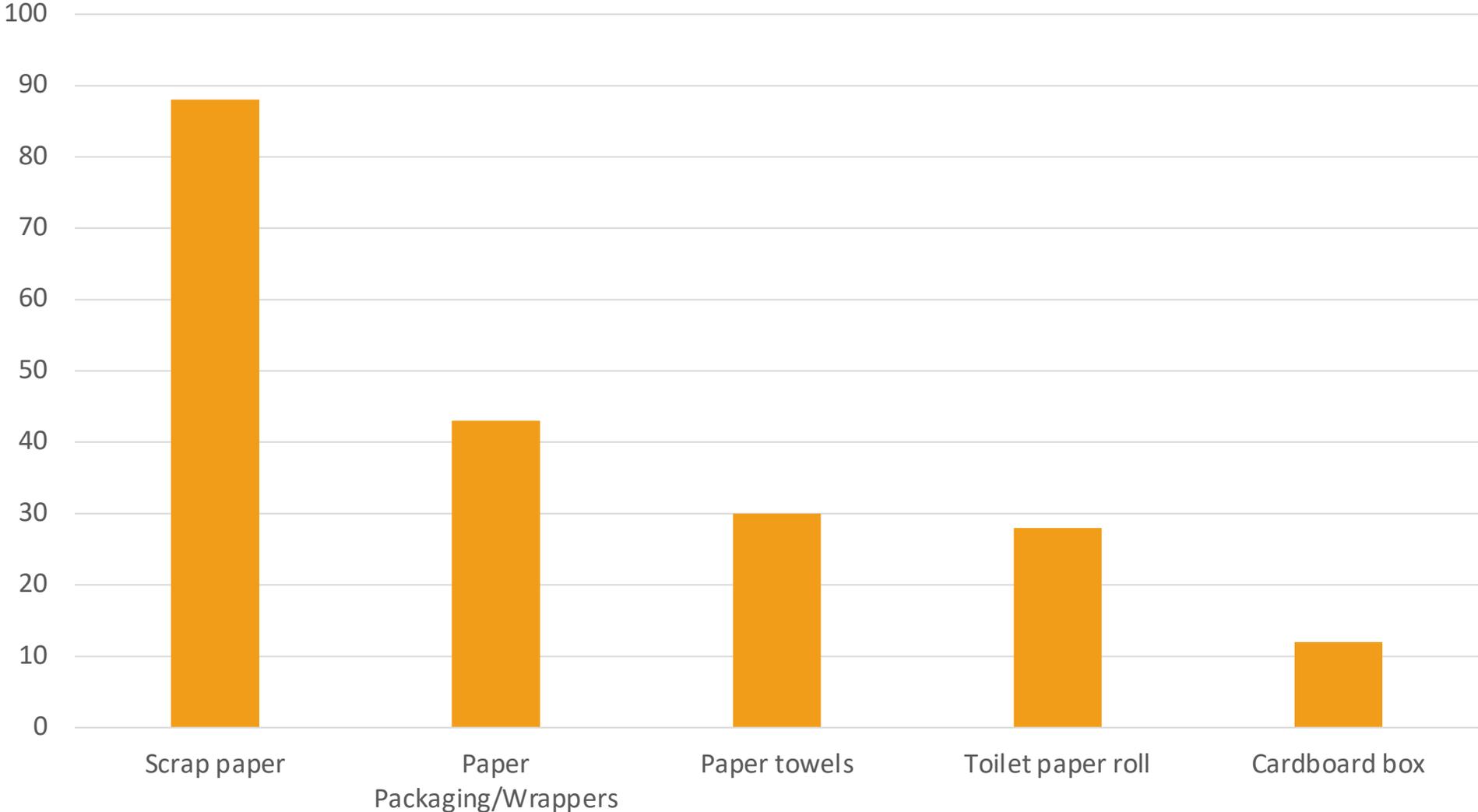
# Most common paper materials in Landfill Waste



# Recycling waste by material type



# Most common paper items in Recycling Waste





# Home Waste Audit

*New Year  
New Me!*



## In summary:

- Participants felt like they learned something new!
- Learning the waste streams and reusing materials was simple; buying products with less packaging is tough
- Overall, average waste generation remained similar throughout the 4-week audit
- Information learned can help us continue to decrease our waste footprint in the long term!