

**Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS)  
Recycling and Product Stewardship Question Response Analysis**

**I. Attitudes on Product Stewardship, EPR, and Recycling Financing**

**Question:**

**18. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. Manufacturers should pay the cost of providing recycling services for the products they create.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. I would be willing to pay no more than 1% of retail price when purchasing a consumer product to ensure it is recycled.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Manufacturers of products containing lead, mercury and other hazardous chemicals have a responsibility to keep these chemicals out of the environment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. If it were free, I would bring leftover medications to a pharmacy for proper disposal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. If it were free, I would bring an old television or computer to a county recycling event or collection site instead of throwing it away.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. I would support laws obligating manufacturers to pay for recycling of products they create.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Local governments should not have to pay for the recycling of products that contain hazardous chemicals such as lead and mercury.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. The amount of money residents pay for waste collection should be based on the amount of waste they produce.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Summary of Responses:**

- **61%** of Nebraskans **agree or strongly agree** that mfrs should pay the cost of providing recycling services for the products they create.
- **51%** of Nebraskans **agree or strongly agree** that they would be willing to pay no more than 1% of retail price when purchasing a product to ensure it is recycled.
- **91%** of Nebraskans **agree or strongly agree** that mfrs of products containing lead, mercury, and other hazardous chemicals have a responsibility to ensure they stay out of the environment (**63.3% strongly agree**).
- **82%** of Nebraskans **agree or strongly agree** that, if it were free, they would bring leftover medications to a pharmacy for disposal.
- **82%** of Nebraskans **agree or strongly agree** that, if it were free, they would bring old electronics to a recycling event or facility instead of disposing it.
- **60%** of Nebraskans **agree or strongly agree** that they would support laws obligating manufacturers to pay for recycling of products they create.

- **53%** of Nebraskans **agree or strongly agree** that local governments should not have to pay for the recycling of products that contain hazardous chemicals such as lead and mercury
- **68%** of Nebraskans **agree or strongly agree** that the amount of money residents pay for waste collection should be based on the amount of waste they produce.

**II. Reported Factors in Participation in Recycling Programs**

**Question:**

**19. How important is each of the following attributes in determining whether you would participate in a recycling program?**

	<b>Extremely important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Slightly important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>Would not participate in recycling program</b>
a. Convenient collection as part of normal garbage service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Convenient drop-off sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. No cost to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Prevents damage to soil, air, and water quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Program was paid for by manufacturers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Saves landfill space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Can recycle a wide range of product types	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Protects fish and wildlife from toxic products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Prevents damage to human health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. The recycling program employs local residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Conserves natural resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Helps prevent climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Summary of Responses:**

The following factors were rated highly important in determining Nebraskans’ **participation** in a recycling program. Prevention of damage to human health was rated the most important factor by a significant margin. Figures in parentheses indicate the percent of respondents who selected “extremely important.”

1. Prevents damage to human health (**74%**)
2. Protects fish and wildlife from toxic products (**66%**)
3. No cost to participate (**65%**)
4. Convenient as part of normal garbage pick-up (**65%**)
5. Conserves natural resources (**63%**)
6. Prevents damage to soil, air, water quality (**62%**)
7. Can recycle a wide range of products (**60%**)

Nebraskans are less concerned in whether the program:

8. Has a convenient drop-off site (**56%**)
9. Saves landfill space (**54%**)
10. Employs local residents (**53%**)
11. Prevents climate change (**50%**)

Nebraskans would like manufacturers to pay for recycling, but it is not among their top concerns.

12. (**28%**)

### III. Access to Recycling for Specific Products

Question:

**20. Please indicate whether or not you have access to recycling services or take-back options in your community for each of the following items.**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
a. Newspapers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Mail, magazines, catalogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Aluminum cans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Tin cans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Fluorescent light bulbs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Plastic containers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Glass bottles and jars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Used motor oil	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Rechargeable batteries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Alkaline batteries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Lead-acid batteries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Computers and TVs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Tires	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Home appliances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Paint	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Pharmaceuticals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### **Summary of Responses:**

Overall, access or knowledge of access to recycling for surveyed products was mixed, with respondents two or three times more likely to be aware of options to recycle product categories like paper products and plastic containers as less common materials such as paint and pharmaceuticals. The following numbers represent the percent of Nebraskans who responded “yes” when asked if they had access to recycling services or take-back programs in their area for the given product:

- Aluminum cans: **87%**
- Newspapers: **81%**
- Plastic containers: **72%**
- Mail, magazines, catalogs: **74%**
- Tin cans: **69%**
- Glass bottles and jars: **54%**
- Tires: **33%**
- Paint: **33%**
- Home appliances: **31%**
- Rechargeable batteries: **28%**
- Computers and TVs: **28%**
- Pharmaceuticals: **24%**
- Alkaline batteries: **22%**
- Lead-acid batteries: **22%**
- Fluorescent light bulbs: **16%**

**Fluorescent lamps** is the category with the biggest need, based on knowledge data. Only **16%** of Nebraskans surveyed report having access to recycling options. **30%** do not have access, and the majority, **54%**, does not know whether they have access or not.