

'It is vital, when encountering a serious problem, not merely to try to solve the problem in itself but to confront and transform the processes that gave rise to the problem in the first place.'

*David Harvey. Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference*



# Putaruru Household Food Waste Collection Trial – The Data

Waste Management Institute of New Zealand  
Conference 2011, Rotorua

Presented by:

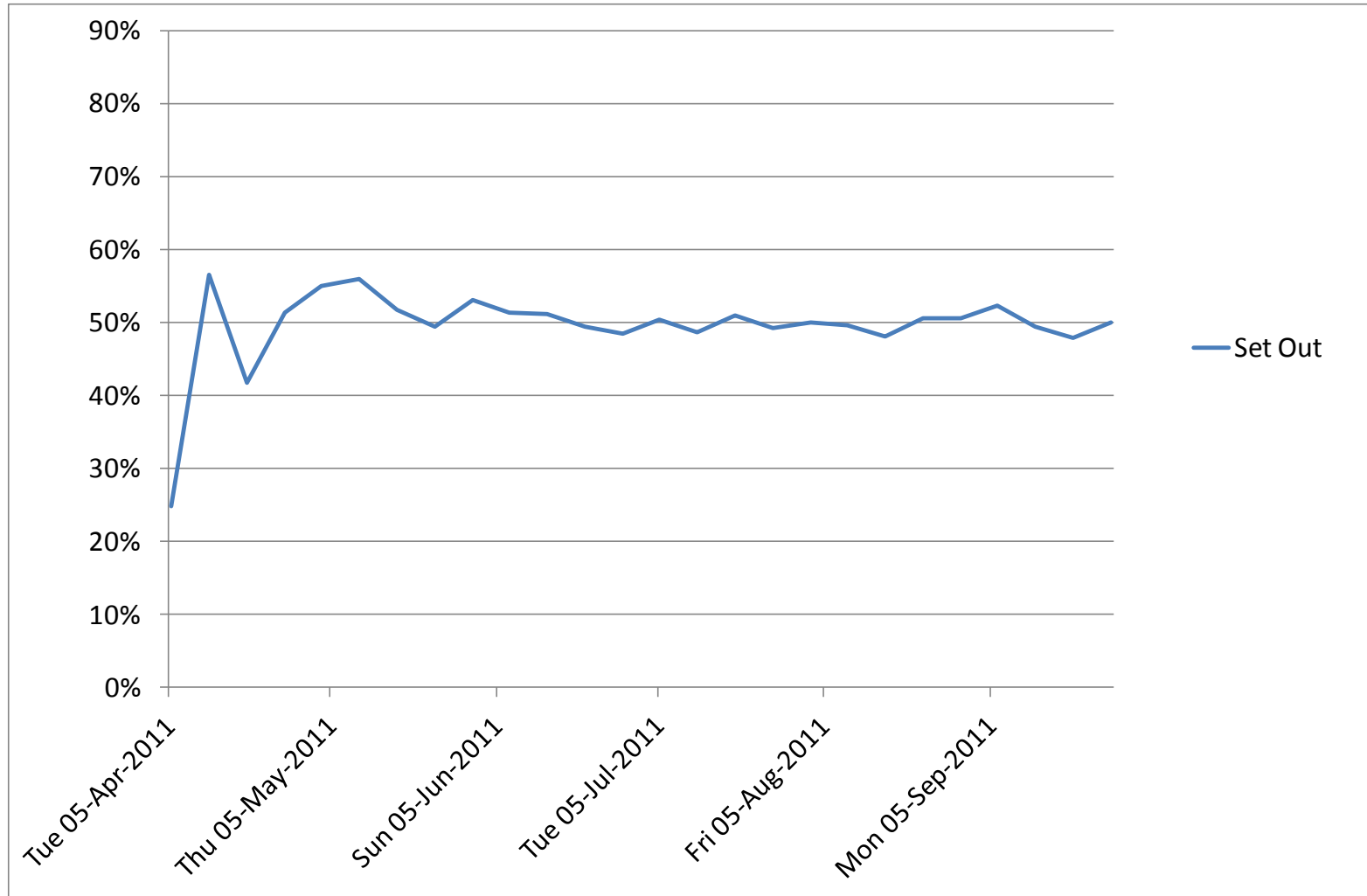
Duncan Wilson

# Introduction

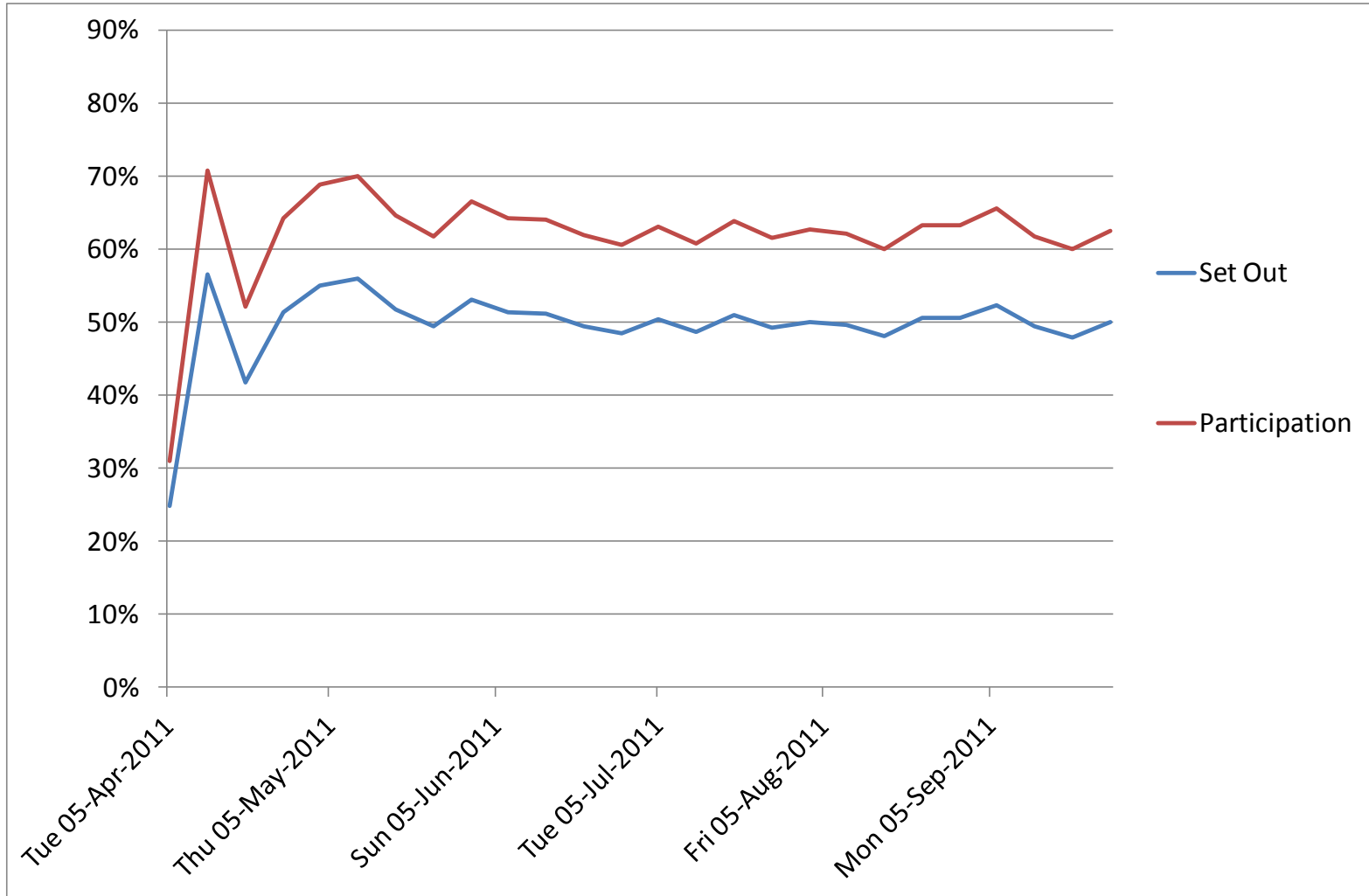
## Finally Some Actual Data...

- Originally presented at WasteMINZ 2010 but start of trial had been delayed – therefore had to make do with elaborate promises
- Trial been running for Six months
  - Not final report
  - But good interim numbers...

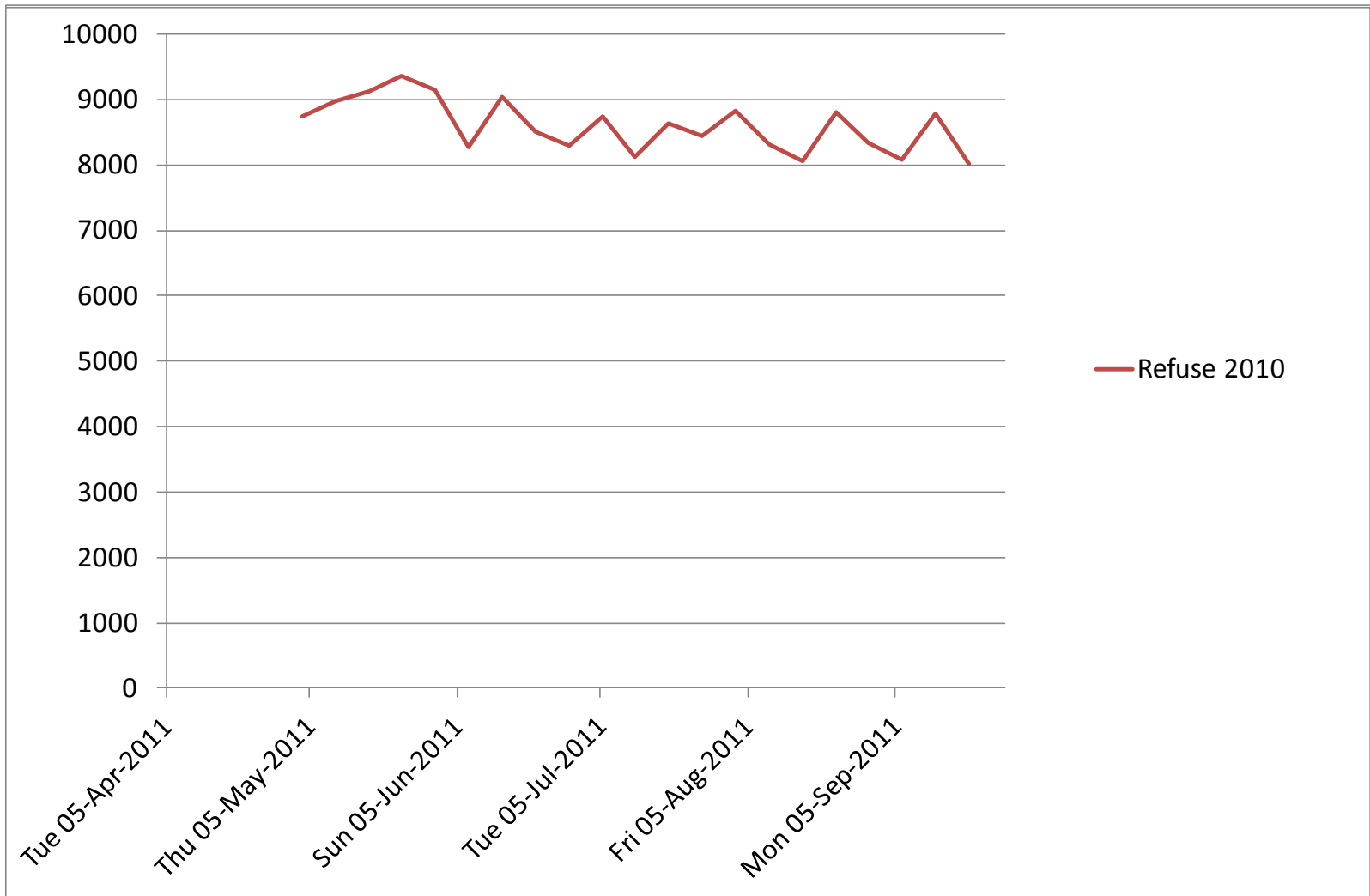
# Set Out and Participation



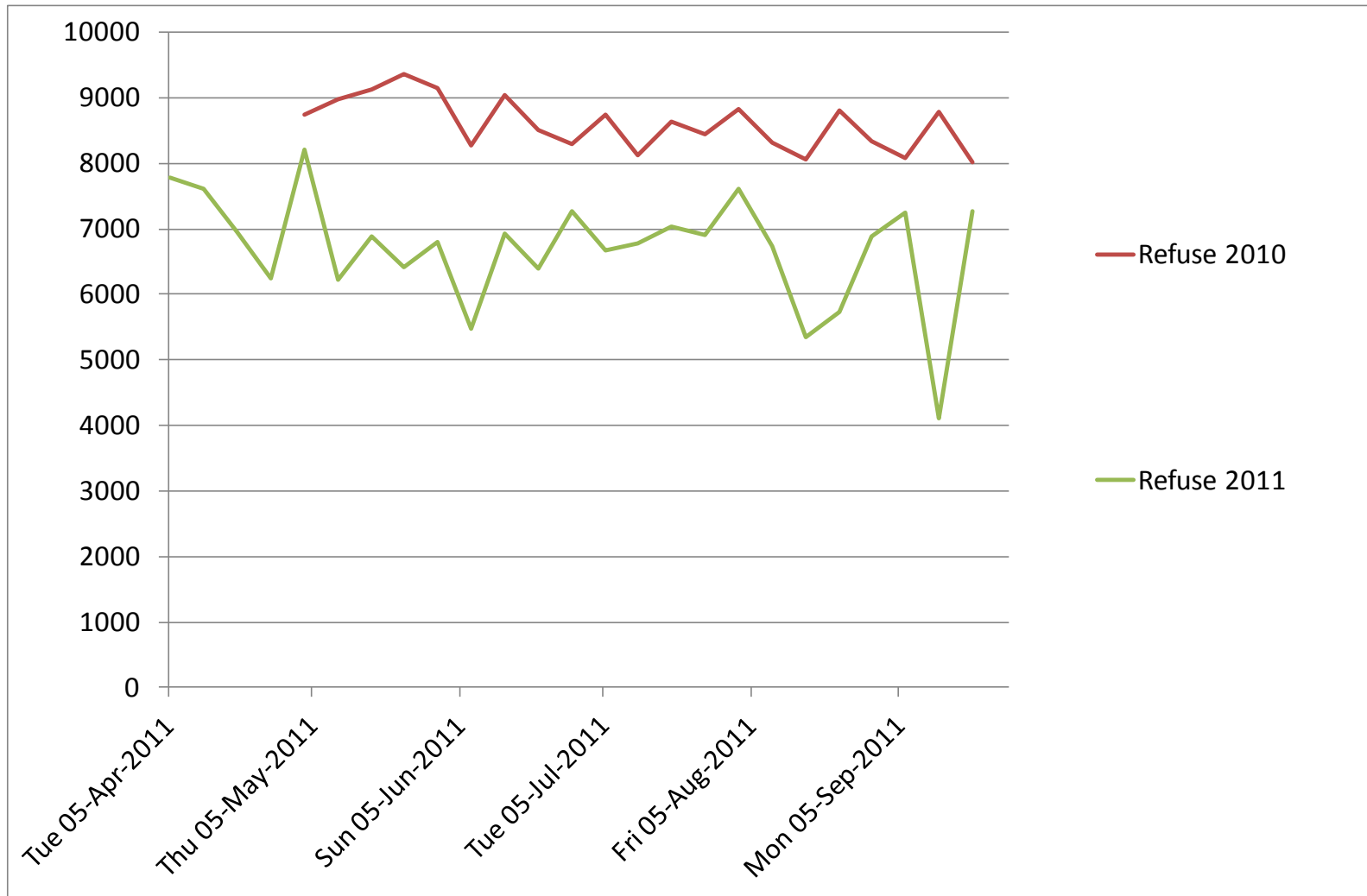
# Set Out and Participation



# Kilos Collected

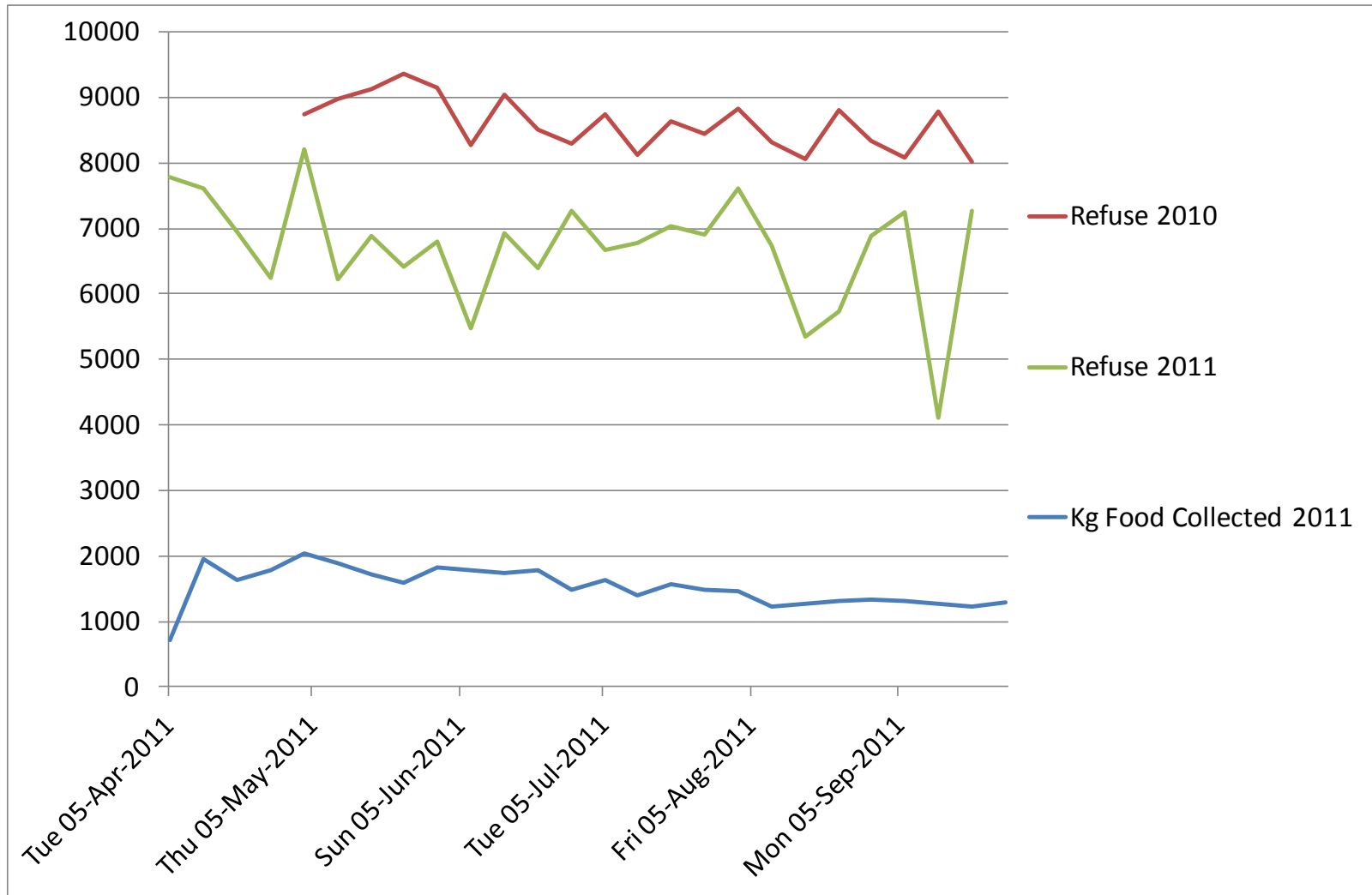


# Kilos Collected

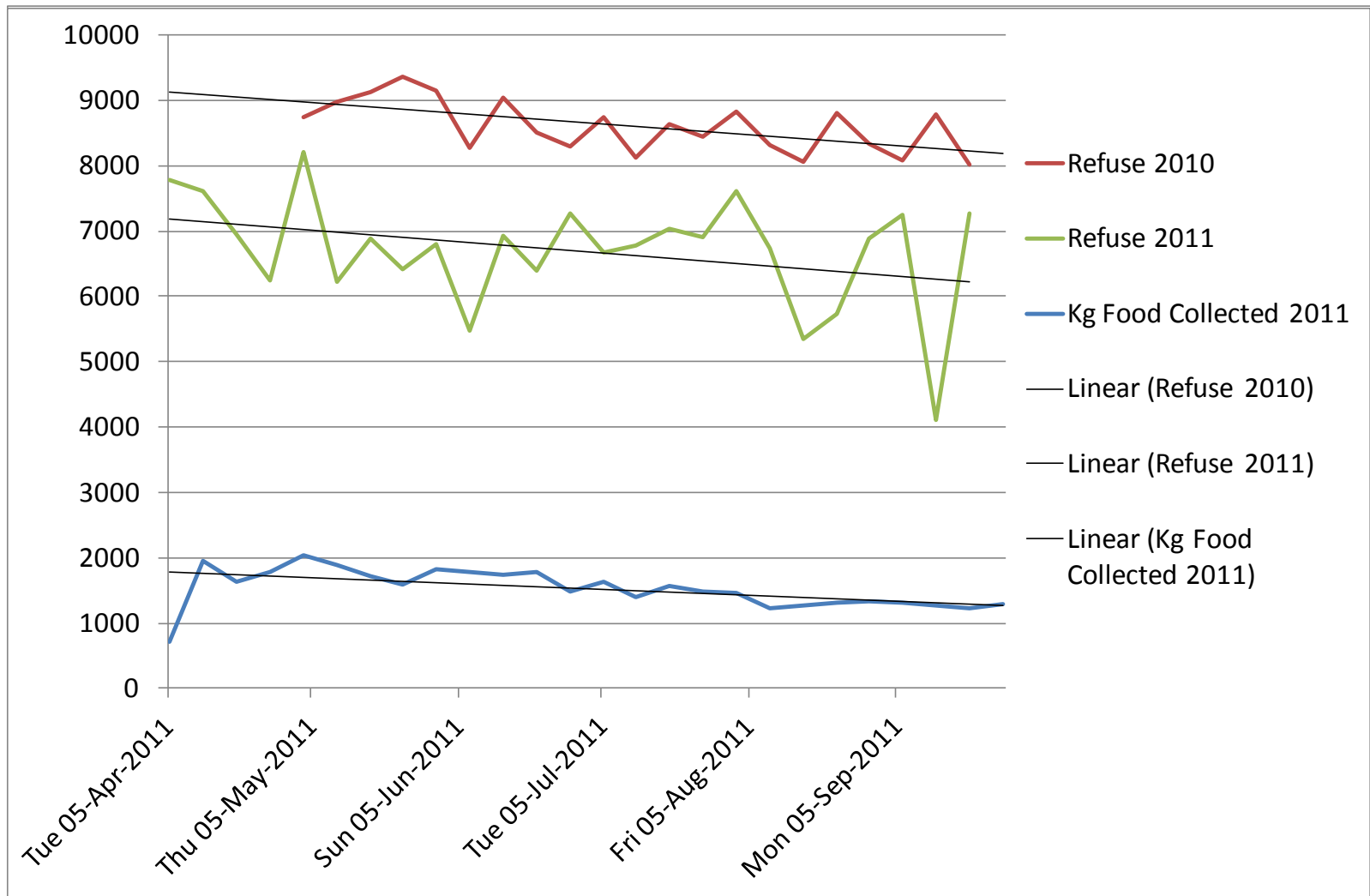




# Kilos Collected



# Kilos Collected



# Kilos Collected

## Summary

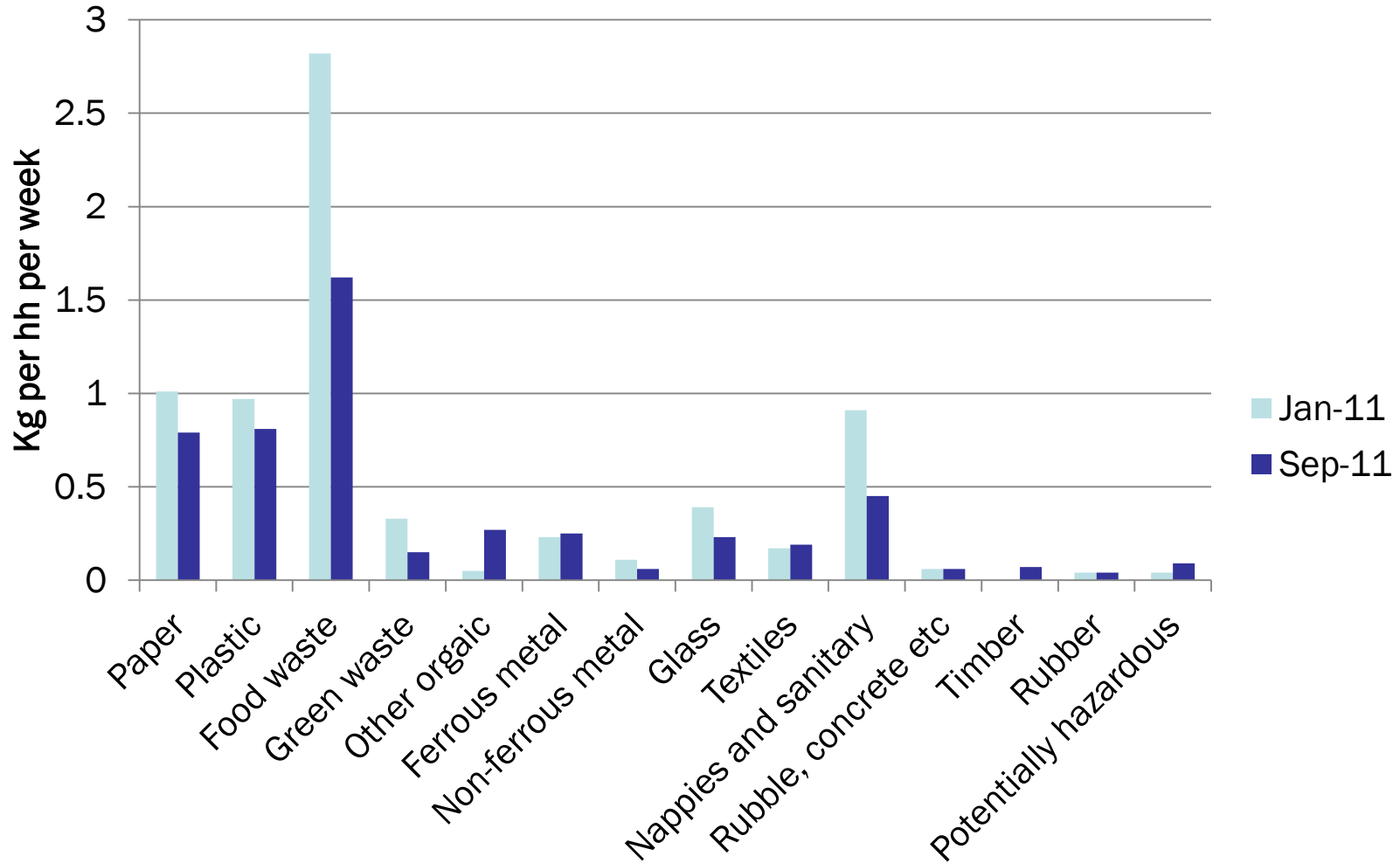
- 1569 kg food waste collected per week on average
  - 1767 first 3 months
  - 1363 last 3 months
- 2.19 kg per week per hh setting out (114kg/yr)
- 1.75 kg per week per participating hh (91kg/yr)
- 1.11 kg per week per hh served (58kg/yr)

# Kilos Collected

## Summary

- Refuse to disposal has gone down by more than the amount of food waste collected:
  - 8604kg      - average per week baseline
  - 6657        - average per week during trial
  - 1569        - average food collected
  - 379         - average amount 'missing'
- Waste reduction effect of 4.4%....
- Overall reduction in collected hh waste of 22%

# Composition Data



Source: Waste Not Consulting 2011

# Composition Data

## Food in the Residual

- Food waste reduced by 43%
  - Not as big a reduction as expected (expect at least equal to participation rate)
- Audited those setting out food waste and those not separately:
  - Not setting out = 2.13kg/hh
  - Setting out = 1.18kg/hh
- But small sample sizes. Most setting out had minimal food, but 4 big ‘freezer clearouts’ skewed data

# Composition Data

Mean wt/ household set out	January 2011 Before food waste collection trial	September 2011 During food waste collection trial - all samples combined	Reduction since January 2011
<b>Recyclable materials</b>			
Paper - recyclable	0.83 kg	0.65 kg	- 22%
Corrugated cardboard	0.05 kg	0.03 kg	- 40%
Recyclable plastics <sup>1</sup>	0.89 kg	0.76 kg	- 15%
Steel cans	0.19 kg	0.16 kg	- 16%
Aluminium cans	0.04 kg	0.03 kg	- 25%
Glass bottles/jars	0.38 kg	0.21 kg	- 45%
<b>Total recyclable</b>	<b>2.39 kg</b>	<b>1.83 kg</b>	<b>- 23%</b>
<b>Compostable materials</b>			
Organic - kitchen waste	2.82 kg	1.62 kg	- 43%
<b>Total compostable</b>	<b>2.82 kg</b>	<b>1.62 kg</b>	<b>- 43%</b>
<b>Total divertible</b>			
<b>Total divertible</b>	<b>5.21 kg</b>	<b>3.45 kg</b>	<b>- 34%</b>
<b>Total refuse per set out</b>	<b>7.14 kg</b>	<b>5.07 kg</b>	<b>- 29%</b>

Source: Waste Not Consulting 2011

# Household Survey

## Telephone Survey July 2011

- 268 households
- Randomly selected
- Surveyed to gain information on perceptions of the trial and areas for improvement
- Responses coded according to whether stated they are participating in trial or not



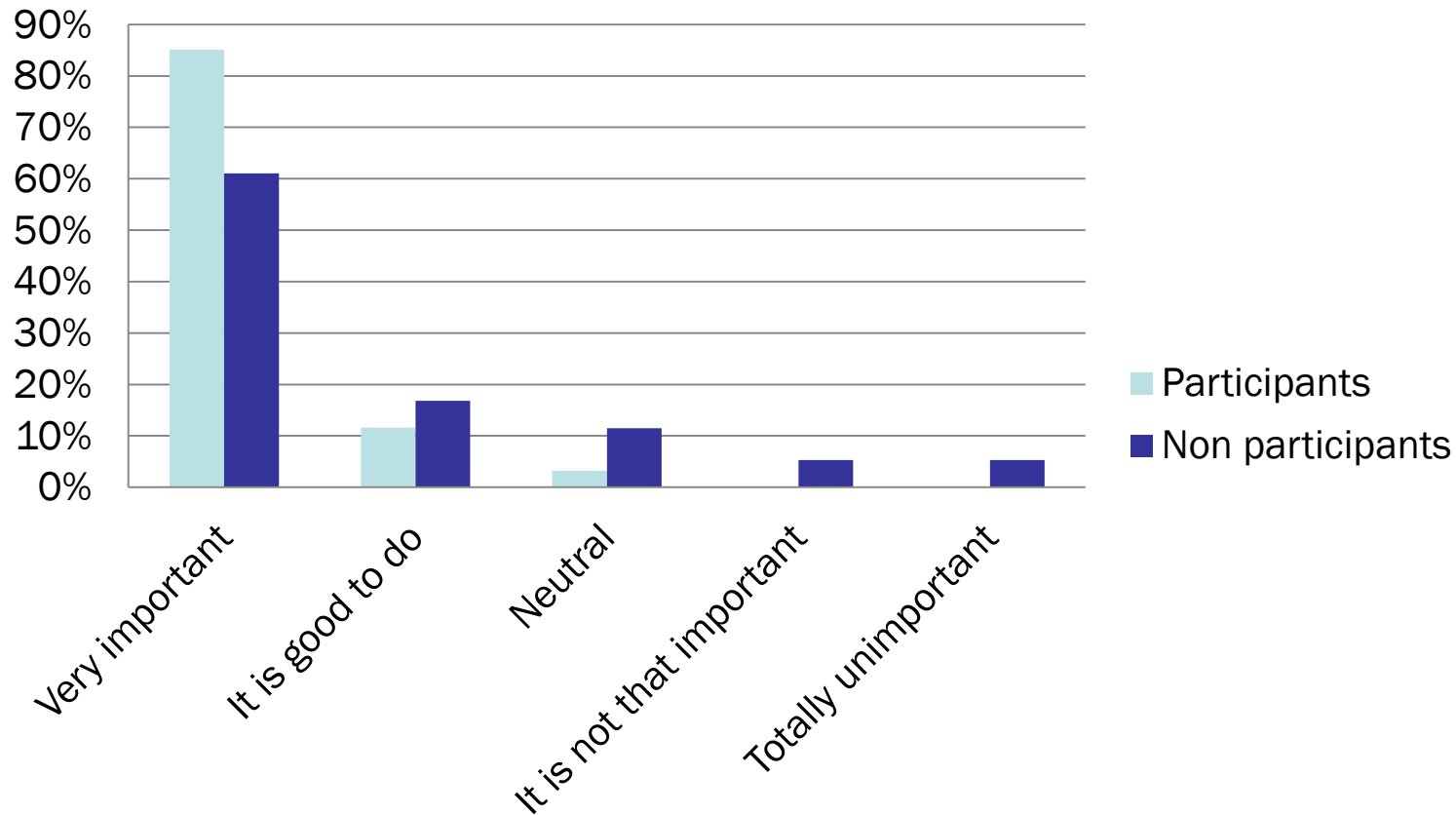
# Household Survey

## Telephone Survey July 2011

- 155 of 268 respondents say participating (58%)
- Reasons for participating:
  - It will help reduce my waste 56%
  - It will help the environment 63%
  - I will not have to put my rubbish out so often 25%
  - It will help save me money on my rubbish bags 19%
- Reasons for not participating:
  - Already home compost 42%
  - Do not have enough food waste 19%
  - Food waste goes to chickens/pigs etc 19%
  - Cant be bothered/waste of time 11%
  - Use an insinkerator 8%

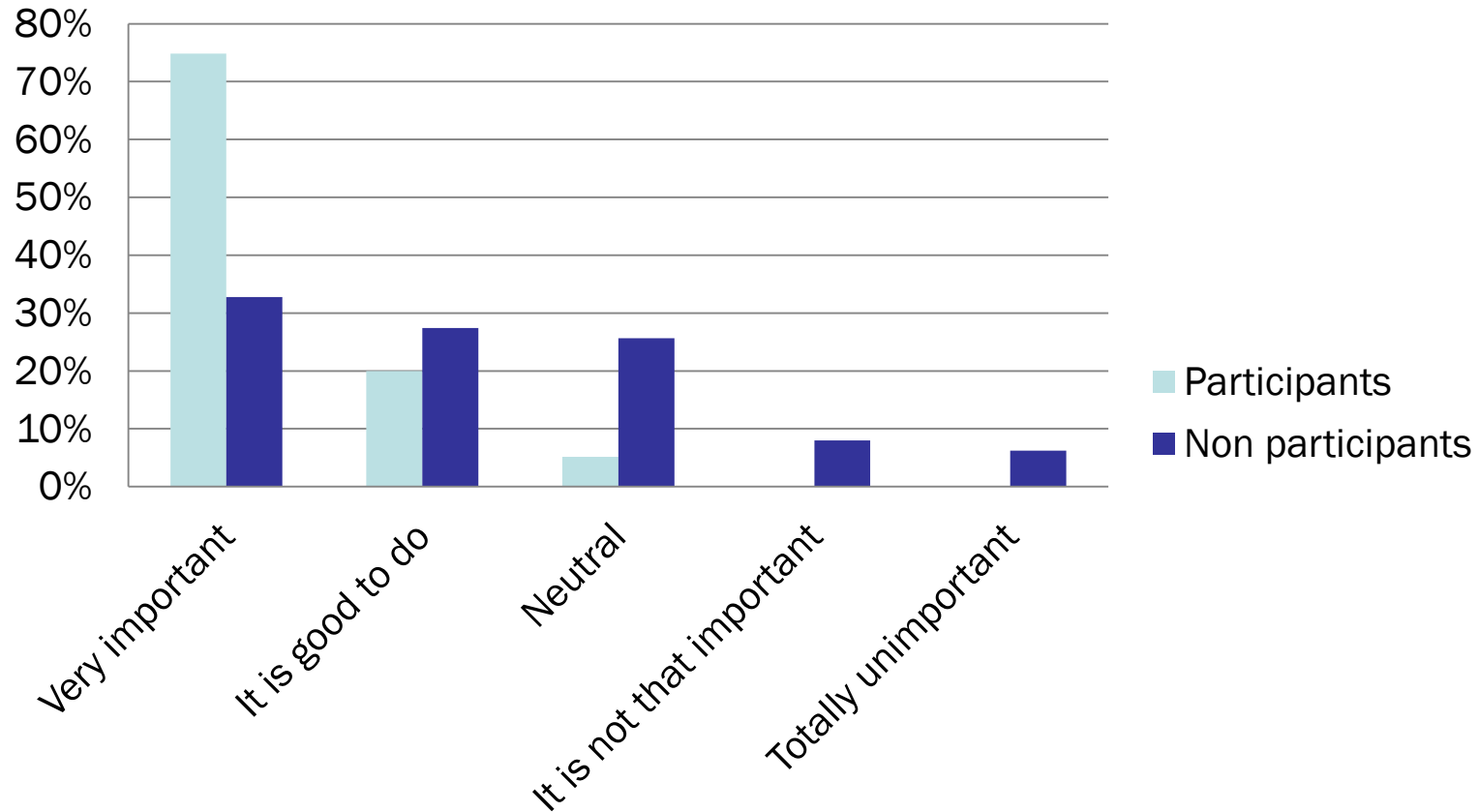
# Household Survey

'How important is it that we reduce the amount of waste going to landfill?'



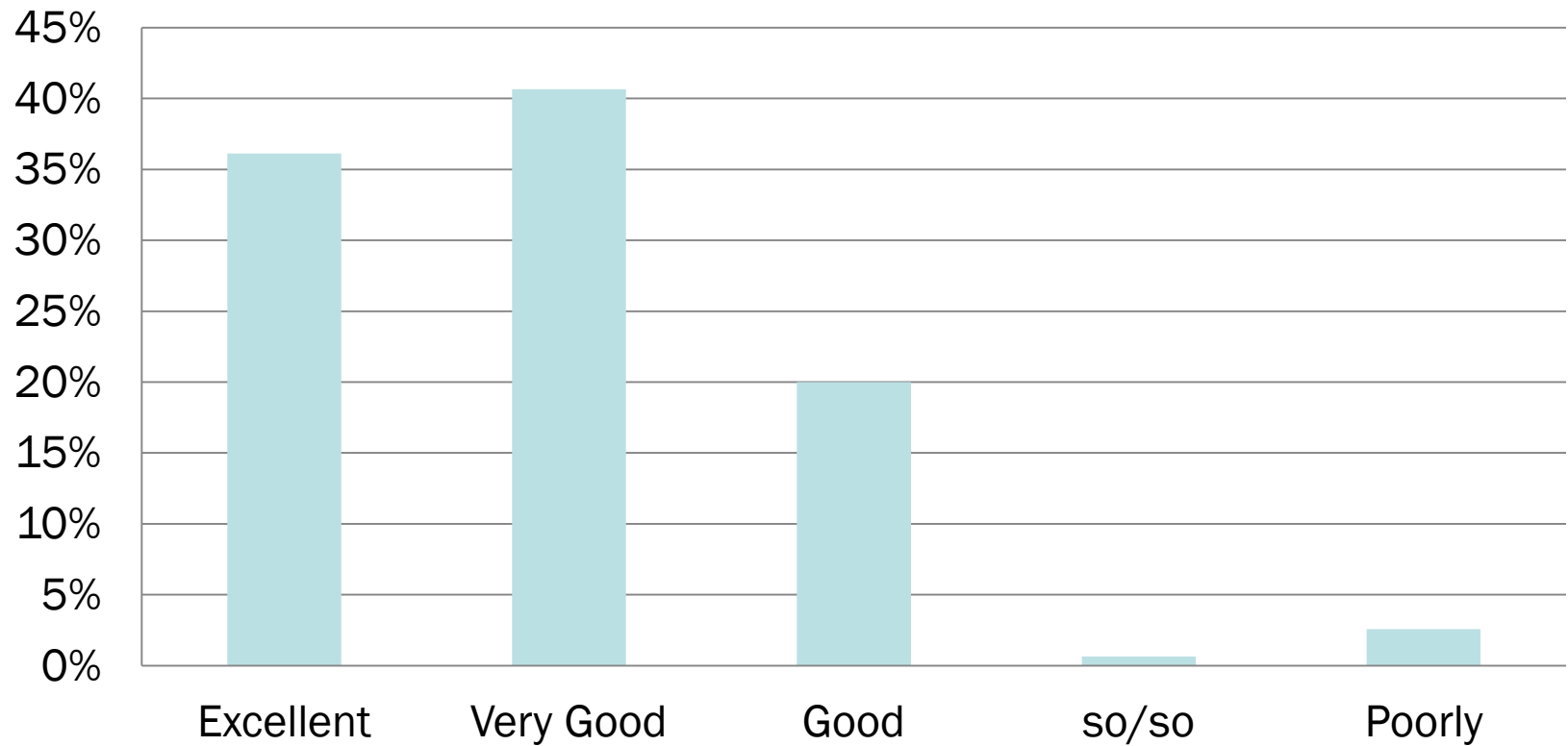
# Household Survey

'How important is the Putaruru Food Waste Trial?'



# Household Survey

How do you generally feel the food waste trial is going?



# Household Survey

**'Good to use. Love it'**

'I notice everyone is taking part.'

**'I like how easy it is to get rid of food waste'**

‘

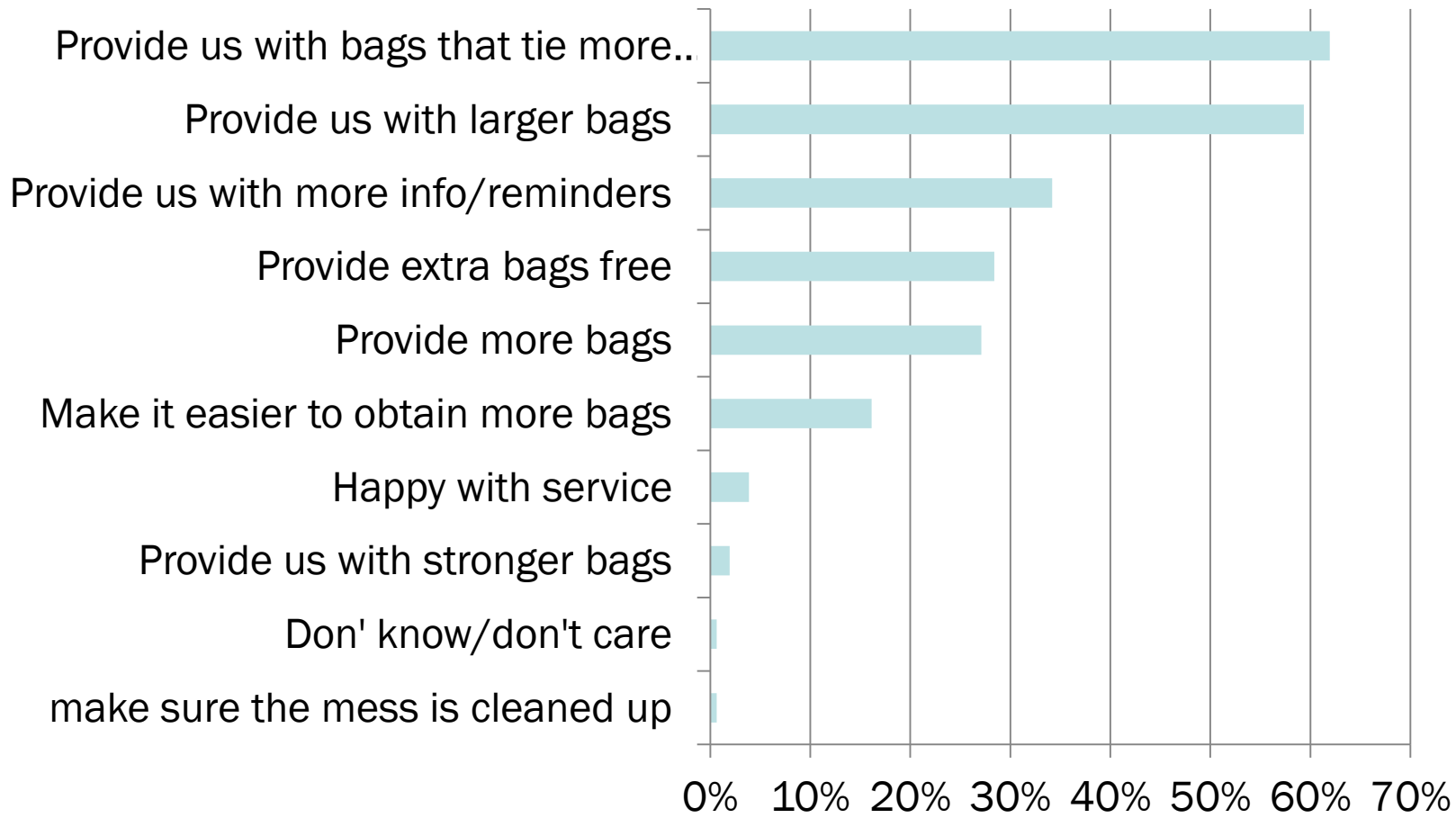
Saves a lot rubbish bin space, it's clean, tidy and quick. Very pleased.’

‘

**My rubbish doesn't smell any more'**

# Household Survey

## What could we do to make the trial more effective?



# Summary & Conclusions

## Collecting Kitchen Food Waste

- Trial has so far matched expectations
- Waste reduction effect appears significant
- More food waste in residual than expected however – but high margin of error
  - Full user-pays or fortnightly refuse collection would further improve capture
- Feedback has been positive

 thank you



# Contact Details

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