

# **BLISS STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SURVEY RESULTS**

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## INTRODUCTION

Bliss Street is one of Beirut's best known streets, and is famous for its lively atmosphere. Its businesses are popular day and night with a wide variety of customers. Bliss Street is also AUB's front door to the city, and a popular destination of students, staff and professors who have an errand to run or want to have a quick coffee or snack.

But Bliss Street is not in the best condition. Its sidewalks are often blocked, broken, and slippery when wet. Pedestrians have to share the small sidewalks with motorcycles, and have no safe place to cross the street. Smelly garbage and overflowing bins create an unpleasant atmosphere.

In December 2013, professors, staff and students from AUB organized a meeting with Bliss Street businesses to begin a conversation about how we can improve our shared space. That meeting produced a brief report suggesting actions that AUB, the Municipality, the police, businesses and Sukleen might take to improve the street.

One recommendation for AUB was to conduct research to understand priorities, constraints and solutions for the street. To that end, in April, AUB students and their professor in the Domestic and Hazardous Solid Waste Management course in the Environmental Health Department conducted a survey of business managers on the street. They asked questions about waste management in particular, but also sought the opinion of managers on other issues they confront.

A total of 44 business managers or owners completed the survey. The questionnaire is attached in Appendix A. Later this summer AUB will invite all interested businesses, and representatives of Sukleen, the Ras Beirut Police Station, and the Beirut Municipality to a meeting to discuss these results and decide on next steps.

## RESULTS

Table 1 summarizes the nature of the businesses that were surveyed. The majority of the businesses provide food services; 25 percent are other business such as office supplies, retail stores, groceries, and a travel agency.

Type of business

Type	Frequency	Percentage
Sit-in-restaurant	12	27.3
Take away	6	13.6
Sit-in-restaurant and take away	15	34.1
Other businesses	11	25

Types of Waste: The majority of businesses generate food waste, plastics, cans, and paper and cardboard. In addition, about 16 percent generate waste metals and glass.

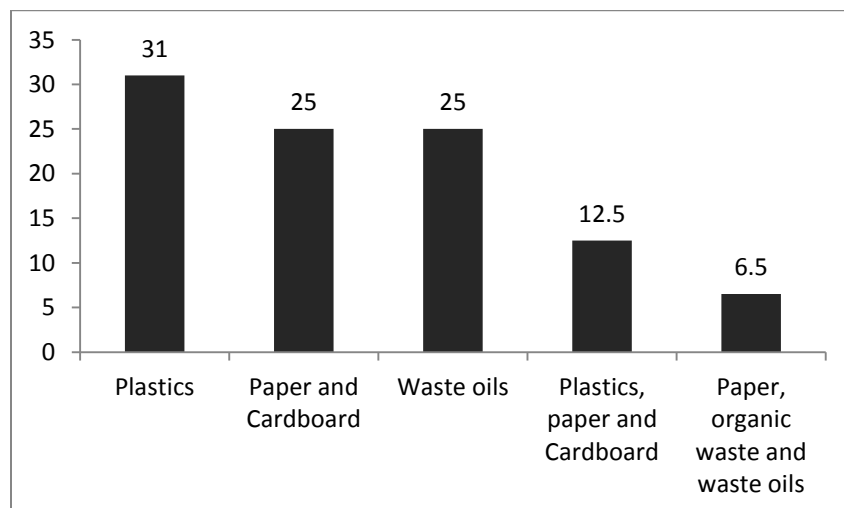
Waste Storage and Disposal: Bliss Street businesses do not store their waste in one particular location before disposing it. The majority dispose their waste in the Sukleen bins located on Bliss Street. Most businesses empty their waste bins between one and three times a day.

Recycling: About a third of respondents already practice recycling. The most common materials recycled are plastics, paper and cardboard, and waste oils. More than half would not add more bins on their premises for the separation of waste. However, many would participate in a drop off recycling program if it consists of large bins for recyclables on Bliss Street.

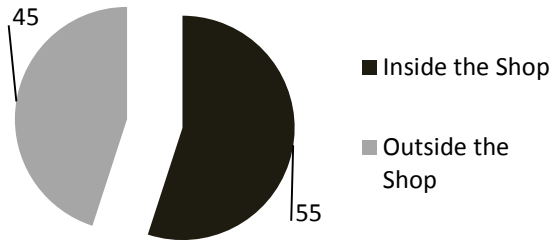
Waste Collection: The majority of businesses are willing to participate in a door-to-door solid waste collection program, preferably with collected waste mixed rather than separated. Many businesses were not interested in installing kitchen food waste grinders.

Bliss Street Issues: The survey ended with a question about the business owners' priorities for Bliss Street. The most commonly cited problems related to car parking and traffic.

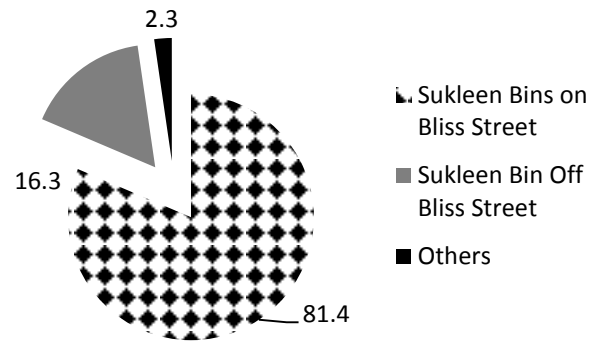
What kind of materials do you recycle? (%)



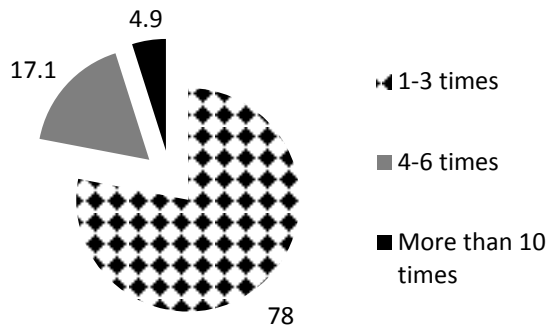
Where do you store your waste? (%)



Where do you dispose your waste? (%)



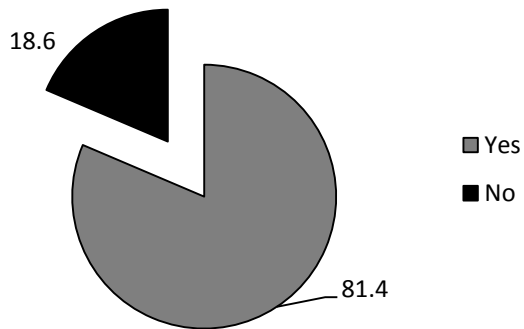
How many times do you empty your waste? (%)



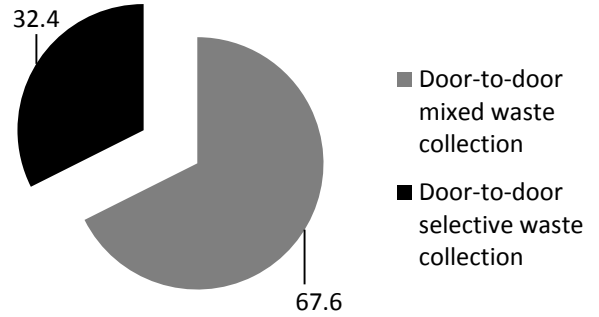
Can you add more bins for selective waste collection? (%)



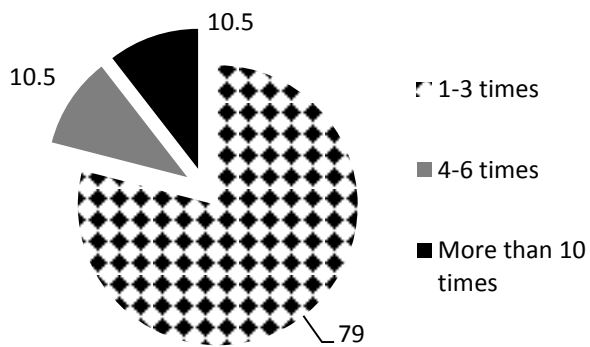
Are you willing to participate in a door-to-door solid waste collection program? (%)



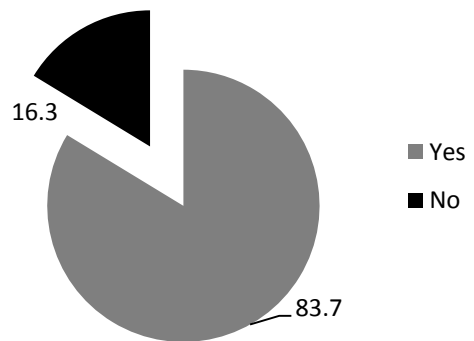
Which door-to-door waste collection system do you prefer? (%)



How many times a day do you think door-to-door collection should be done? (%)



Are you willing to participate in a drop-off recycling program on the street? (%)



# APPENDIX A

## Bliss Street Improvement Project Waste Management Questionnaire

**Name of the Institution:**

**Nature of the activity:**      a. Sit in restaurant      b. Take away      c. Other business

**Name of interviewed person:**

**Position:**

**Contact details:**

1- What type of waste do you generate from your daily activities?

- a) -Food waste/organic waste
- b) -Plastics
- c) -Cans
- d) -Paper and Cardboard
- e) -Metals
- f) -Glass
- g) Waste oils

2. Where do you store your waste?

- a) -Inside the shop
- b) Outside the shop

3- Do you have bins for the collection of waste inside/outside your shop?

If yes, please indicate the following

	Bin 1	Bin 2	Bin 3	Bin 4	Bin 5
Type					
Volume					
Number of Emptying/day					

If not, indicate the number of waste bags you generate per day along with their volumes?

- a) -Number of bags
- b) -Volume of bags

4- Where do you dispose of your waste?

- a) -Sukleen bins on Bliss Street
- b) -Sukleen bins off Bliss Street
- c) -Curbside on Bliss Street
- d) -Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many times/day do you empty your waste bins or bags?

- a) 1-3 times
- b) 4-6 times
- c) 6-9 times
- d) more than 10 times

6. Can you add more bins for selective waste collection, i.e., 1 bin for organic waste and 1 or 2 bins for recyclable items?

- a) Yes
- b) No, indicate reason

7. Do you practice any kind of waste recycling? If yes, please indicate quantities and who is your customer?

- a) Plastics
- b) Metals
- c) Paper and Cardboard
- d) Glass
- e) Organic waste
- f) Waste Oils

8- Are you willing to participate in a door to door solid waste collection program managed by Sukleen, in case Sukleen provides the necessary bins?

-If yes, indicate which system do you prefer?

- a) Door to door - mixed waste collection
- b) Door to door - selective waste collection

-If not, what are the constraints? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How many times do you think door to door collection should be done?

- a) 1-3 times
- b) 4-6 times
- c) 6-9 times
- d) more than 10 times

10. Are you willing to participate in a Drop off recycling program on the street (large bins for recyclables)?

- a) Yes

b) No, indicate reason

11. Are you willing to install a food waste grinder in your shop to reduce the volume of organic waste?

a) Yes

b) No, indicate reason

12. So far the questions have focused on waste and recycling. Could we now ask you to list the other problems that you think must be addressed in order to improve Bliss Street?

Priority

And whose responsibility is it to solve?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.