

Local CLIMATE CHANGE Action Plan



What We Heard Report

April 2022

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This What We Heard Report was completed by the
Municipal Planning & Development Services Department
for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.



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Executive Summary

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's (MODL) Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) is a 10-year plan that will set the direction for reducing local greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and supporting a climate resilient, healthier, and lower-carbon future. Engagement for the LCCAP was conducted to gather community feedback on the 9 Main Categories and proposed climate actions. These draft actions will set forth a pathway for the Municipality to reduce its community GHG emissions and align itself with international efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Engagement activities for the LCCAP were undertaken from December 2021 until March 2022 and consisted of an online survey, two virtual engagement sessions, a discussion forum on EngageMODL project site, and internal and external stakeholder presentations. Participation in the various engagement opportunities represented people from throughout MODL and of various ages.

The feedback received from all engagement activities was largely in support of the proposed climate actions, with valuable input provided that will help shape the LCCAP development. The online survey offered an opportunity for broader public participation, with 174 people responding. Most respondents (72%) were somewhat to extremely informed of the impacts of MODL's changing climate. Top ranked climate action that received the most support is 'Purchase and/or accept land donations for the conservation of natural environment and protection of biodiversity', followed by 'Clean Energy Financing Program Expansion'. The top ranked climate action most received the most opposition is 'Create an anti-idling policy for the municipality'. Being able to assess the relative level of support for respective proposed climate actions is helpful in guiding efforts for the climate actions list refinement, exploring further implementation as well as added consultation considerations during the next phases of the LCCAP development and implementation.

The survey also collected 94 open-ended comments related to the proposed climate actions, while the virtual engagement sessions provided opportunities for in-depth discussion. Detailed feedback has been summarized within the following What We Heard Report.

Introduction

The climate of MODL is changing and the need to respond to climate change is urgent. In October 2019, the Municipality declared a climate emergency and committed to act on climate change by developing the LCCAP to identify ways to mitigate our GHG emissions and guide the Municipality towards a low carbon future. The Municipality has varying degrees of influence over diverse sources of emissions within its boundaries. If MODL is to succeed with its Local Climate Change Action Plan, leadership, and support from federal and provincial government, as well as actions from our community members including residents and homeowners, institutions and government organizations, local businesses, and neighboring communities, will be needed.

Local Climate Change Action Plan (2021-2030) is a 10-year plan that is being built around a central vision that MODL will be a low carbon community, with the long-term goal of becoming sustainable, climate resilient, and net-zero community. The Plan will outline a set of strategies, actions, and targets to guide the municipality and the community, to work together to reduce our GHG emissions, and increase our resilience to the changing climate. The plan will prioritize short-, medium-, and long-term strategies that have the potential to reduce our emissions and align MODL with global efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

The draft plan consists of 9 Main Categories and several key climate actions developed in consultation with MODL's Sustainability Committee. The engagement phase consisted of seeking input from the public as well as internal and key external stakeholders on draft proposed climate actions for refinement. The main goals that guided the community and stakeholder engagement activities were:

- To create awareness about the LCCAP
- To learn the public support for the respective proposed climate actions
- To identify champions and supporters in the community who would like to get involved in the activities of the proposed climate actions

The feedback received from all engagement activities will be helpful in guiding efforts for the climate actions list refinement as well as plan's development and implementation.

Summary of Engagement Activities

The Municipality conducted a series of engagement activities to ask for feedback from stakeholders and the community on the draft climate actions, which ran from December 2021 to March 2022. Opportunities to supply input included the following:

Online Community Engagement Survey

An online survey, which sought community feedback on the 9 Main Categories and proposed climate actions, was available on the project EngageMODL page from the beginning of 14th December 2021 to 28th February 2022. Survey questions asked respondents to show their level of support for proposed climate actions and share comments about the proposed options. Hard copy versions of the survey were made available at the main reception at Municipal Services Building, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, Nova Scotia.

Virtual Public Engagement Sessions

The Municipality hosted two virtual public engagement sessions on the LCCAP. The virtual engagement sessions featured a staff presentation on an overview of the project followed by a public Q&A with the project team. The engagement sessions were hosted via Microsoft Teams on 9th and 10th February 2022.

EngageMODL Online Platform

The EngageMODL online platform had project background information and provided the public with several engagement opportunities to provide their feedback on the draft climate actions. Opportunities to provide input included a discussion forum, an idea tool for the public to share their climate action ideas. Other project information on the online platform included an FAQ, a document library with all relevant project deliverables, and links to LCCAP focused resources.

Social Media and News Media

To advertise the draft LCCAP and encourage residents to contribute their feedback through the online community engagement survey, a total of 17 posts were shared on the Municipality's Facebook page during the engagement phase. News articles were published through various news media channels including MODL Messenger, Radio ads, and Carolyn's Corner in South Shore Breaker.

Sidewalk Signs

During the engagement phase, sidewalk signs on the LCCAP were placed at the following four locations: Rose Bay General Store, Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre, Indian Garden Farms, and New Germany Community Café.

Engagement Participation

This section summarizes the engagement activities conducted during the community engagement phase and their respective levels of participation.

Community Engagement	Social Media	EngageMODL Platform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 174 community engagement online survey respondents with 198 total open-ended comments • 34 attended 2 virtual public engagement sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook 17 posts reached 23,860, received 719 link clicks, 94 likes, 29 shares, and 27 comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 664 visited the site, 174 engaged on the survey, 2 contributed to ideas tool • 15 downloaded 'Infographic Climate Change Action Plan' and 7 downloaded 'MODL Community GHG Emissions Inventory 2019'

Engaged Groups

The list below outlines the internal and external stakeholders who were contacted to inform them about the project and encourage them to provide their input. Municipal staff presented to three neighbouring municipalities: Town of Bridgewater, Town of Mahone Bay, and Town of Lunenburg, to provide them with an overview of the project. The format of these presentations did not allow for formal feedback but there were constructive discussions and Q&A. Municipal staff also encouraged the stakeholders to share the online community engagement survey, project information and opportunities for feedback within their networks.

- All EV Canada
- Blue Rocks – Stonehurst Community Group
- Bluenose Coastal Action
- Broad Cove Community Association
- Building Inspection Services Manager
- Ecology Action Centre
- Kingsburg Community Association
- Lunenburg Regional Fire & Emergency Services
- Nova Scotia Power
- Oakland Indian Point Residence Association
- Region 6 Solid Waste Management
- Regional Emergency Management Organization
- Town of Bridgewater
- Town of Lunenburg
- Town of Mahone Bay

Results

This section summarizes the feedback received from stakeholders and community members on the draft climate actions through the various engagement activities. Engagement activities asked stakeholders and community members to provide their input on the 9 Main Categories and proposed climate actions.

Online Community Engagement Survey

An online survey, which sought community feedback on the 9 Main Categories and proposed climate actions, was available on the project EngageMODL page from the beginning of 14th December 2021 to 28th February 2022. Survey questions asked respondents to indicate their level of support for proposed climate actions and share comments about the proposed options. The online survey offered an opportunity for broader public participation, with 174 people responding. Most of respondents (72%) were somewhat to extremely informed of the impacts of MODL's changing climate. Top ranked climate action that received the most support is 'Purchase and/or accept land donations for the conservation of natural environment and protection of biodiversity', followed by 'Clean Energy Financing Program Expansion'. The top ranked climate action most received the most opposition is 'Create an anti-idling policy for the municipality'. Being able to find the relative level of support for respective proposed climate actions is helpful in guiding efforts for the climate actions list refinement, exploring further implementation considerations, or added consultation during the next phases of the LCCAP development and implementation.

There were 174 survey respondents from throughout the District of Lunenburg area. The Survey had a total of 21 questions and was divided into the four following sections:

Section 1 – Public Awareness of Climate Change

Section 2 – Feedback on Proposed Climate Actions

Section 3 – Residential and Transportation Sectors Specific

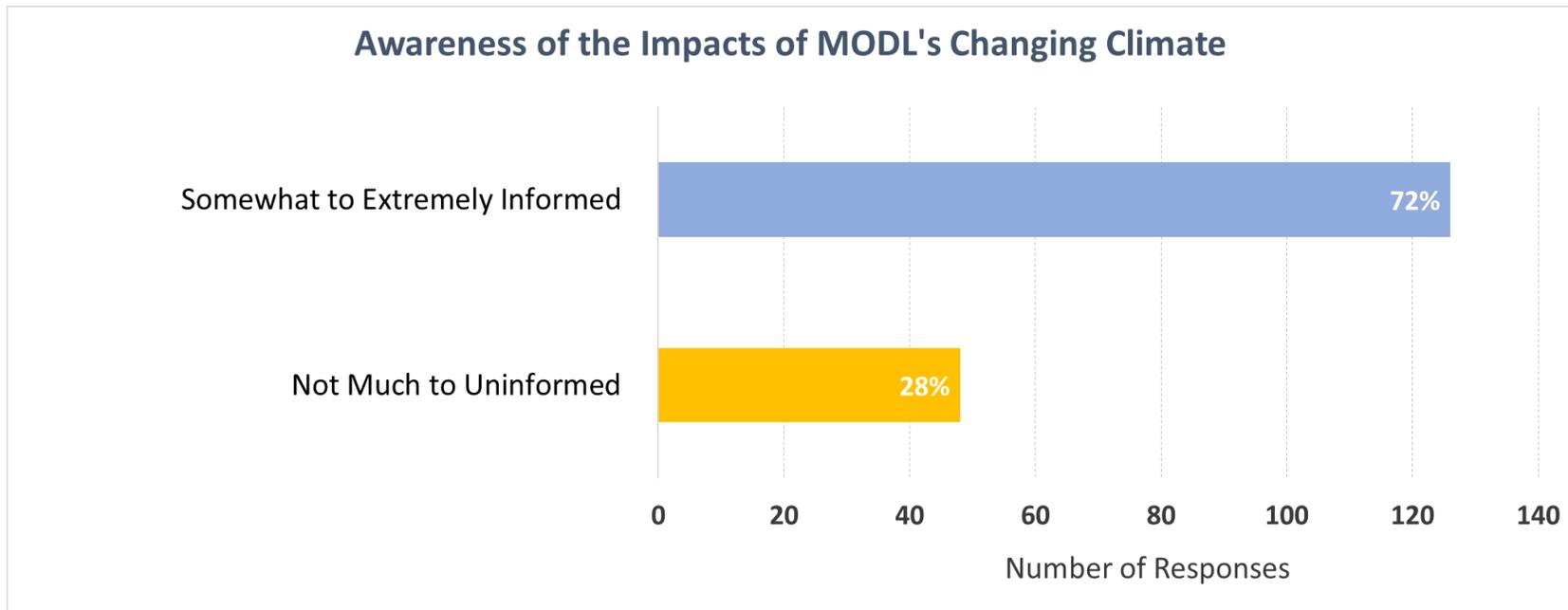
Section 4 – Community Climate Champions

Section 1 – Public Awareness of Climate Change

Section 1 – ‘Public awareness of climate change’ was designed to get insight into community awareness of the MODL’s changing climate, their level of concern and understand the degree of their involvement towards climate action. Section-1 had 4 mandatory questions and the responses are summarized below.

Question 1 - How well informed are you about the impacts of MODL’s changing climate? Choose one.

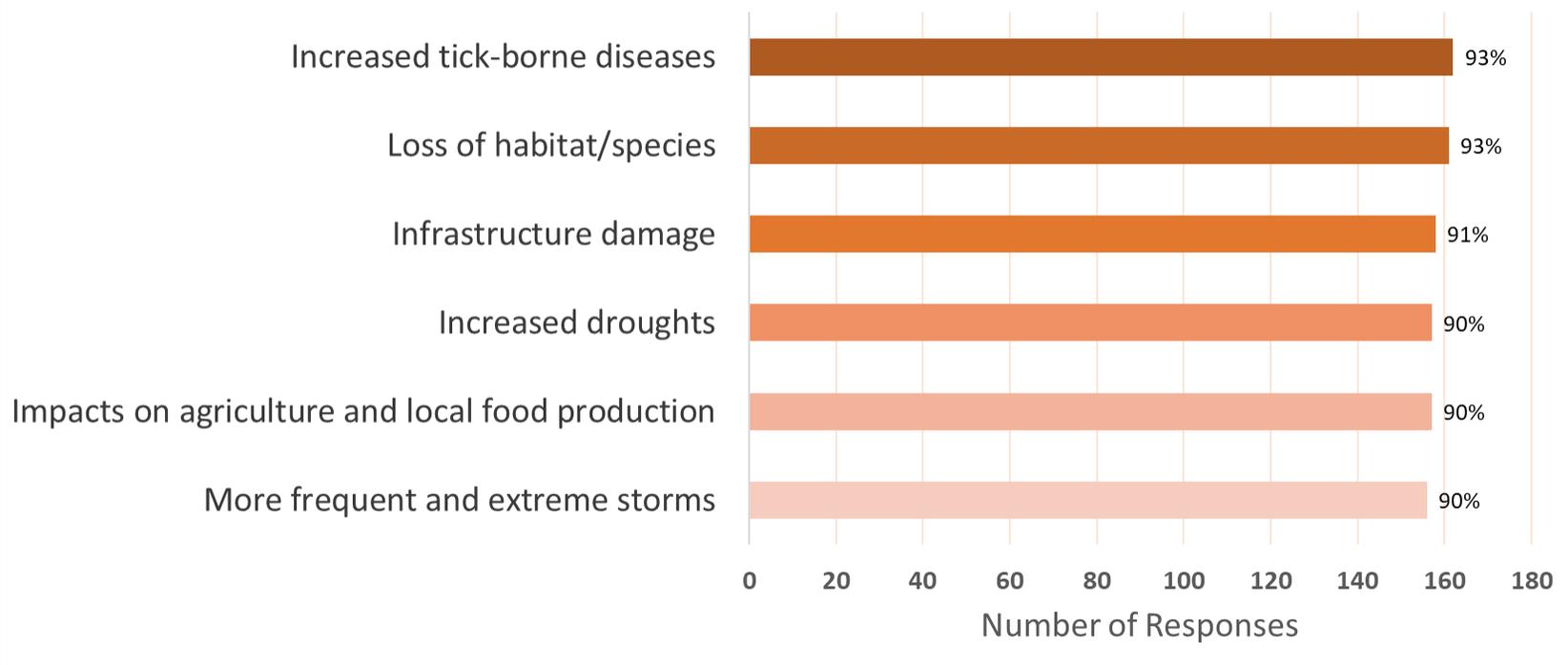
This question was designed to understand the level of community awareness about the impacts of MODL’s changing climate. Most of the respondents, 72% of the total 174 respondents, are somewhat to extremely informed about the impacts of MODL’s changing climate.



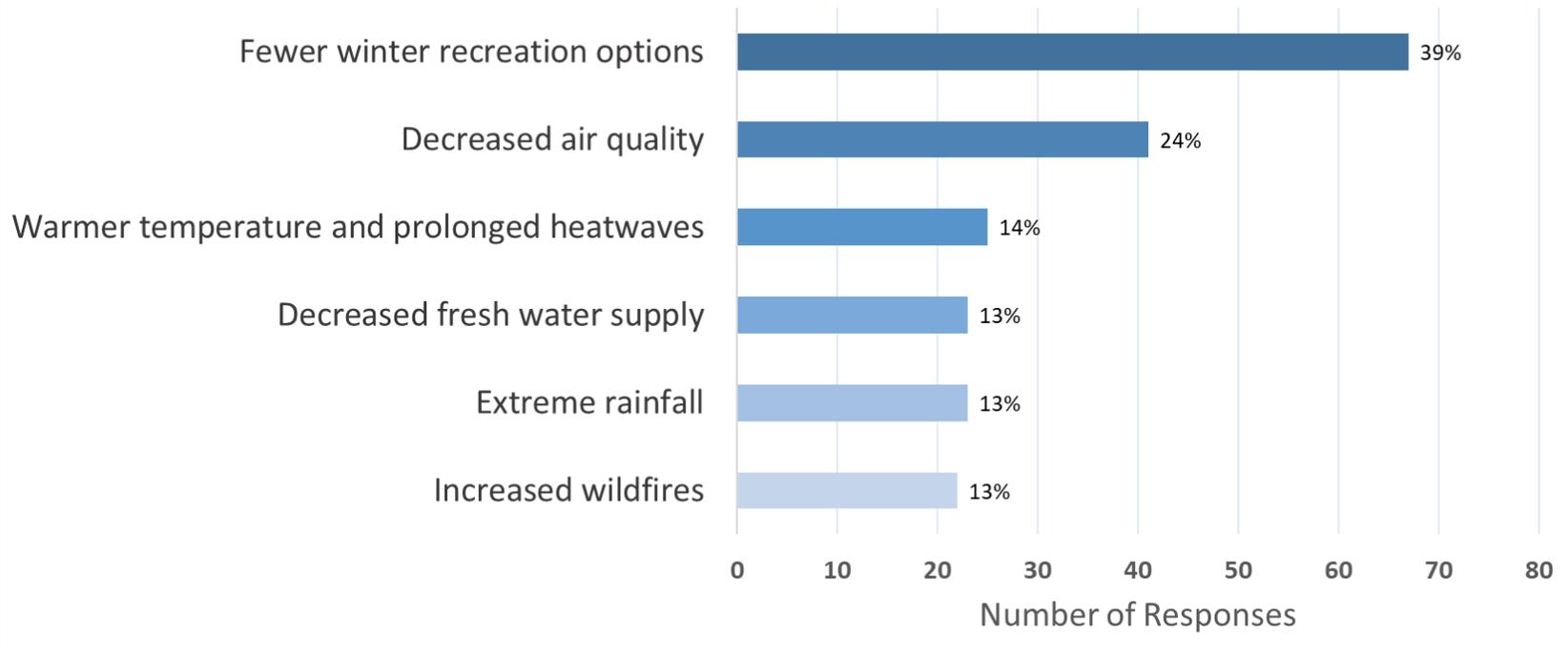
Question 2 - Please rank each consequence of MODL’s climate change, with your level of concern.

This question was a Likert scale question which asked the respondents to rank the identified 13 expected consequences of MODL’s changing climate with their level of concern. For the analysis, the responses of ‘somewhat concerned’, ‘moderately concerned’ and ‘extremely concerned’ for the respective consequences were combined for the assessment of most concerning consequences. Similarly, the responses of ‘slightly concerned’ and ‘not concerned at all’ for the respective consequences were combined for the assessment of least concerning consequences. The results are summarized in the two bar graphs below. Graph 1 illustrates the top six most concerning consequences of climate change. Out of the total respondents, 93% were concerned about ‘Increased tick-borne diseases’ and ‘Loss of habitat/species’ due to the changing climate. Graph 2 illustrates the top six least concerning consequences of climate. Most respondents were least concerned about fewer winter recreation activities.

Graph 1 - Most Concerning Consequences of Climate Change



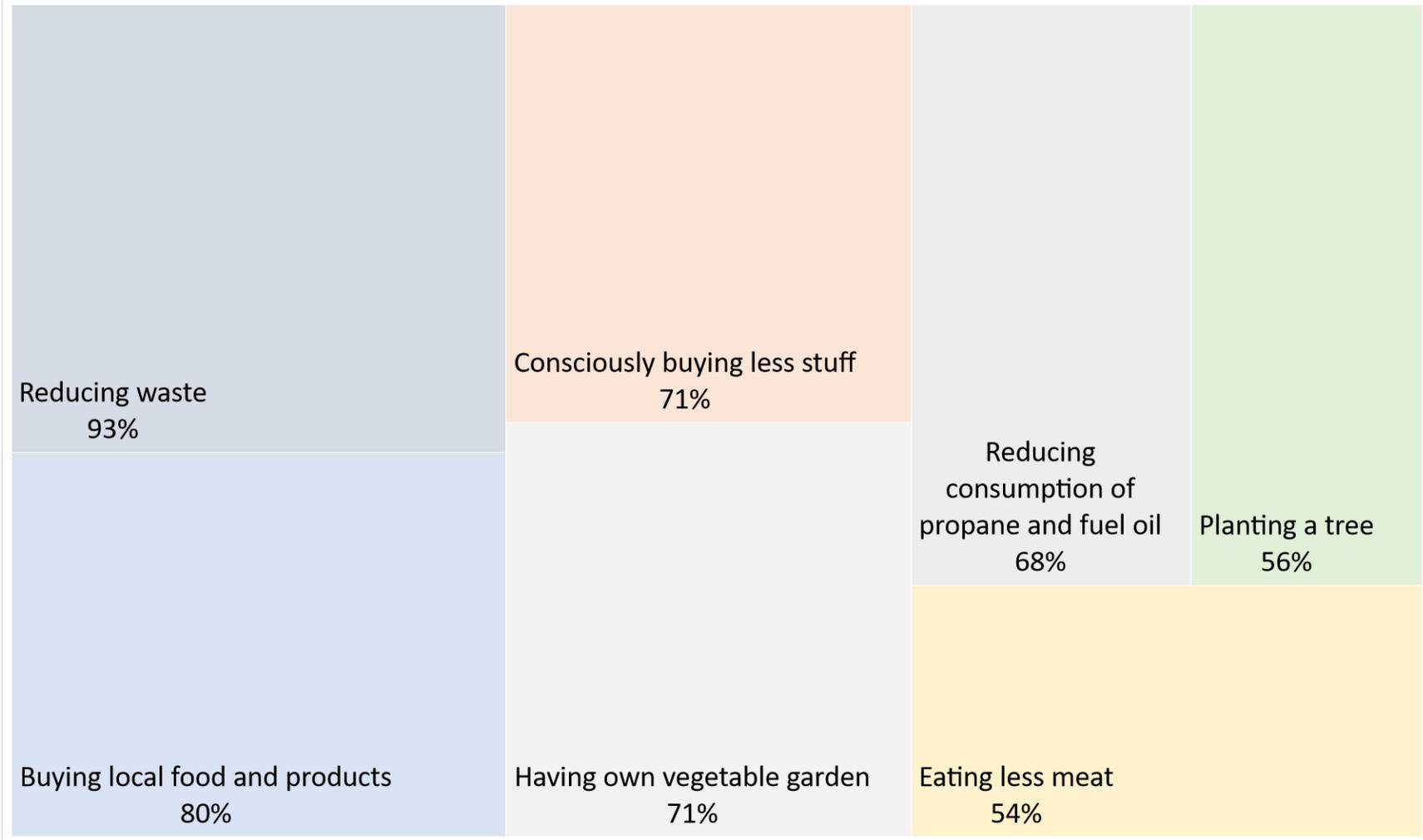
Graph 2 - Least Concerning Consequences of Climate Change



Question 3 - If any, what actions are you currently taking to reduce the impacts of climate change? Check all that apply.

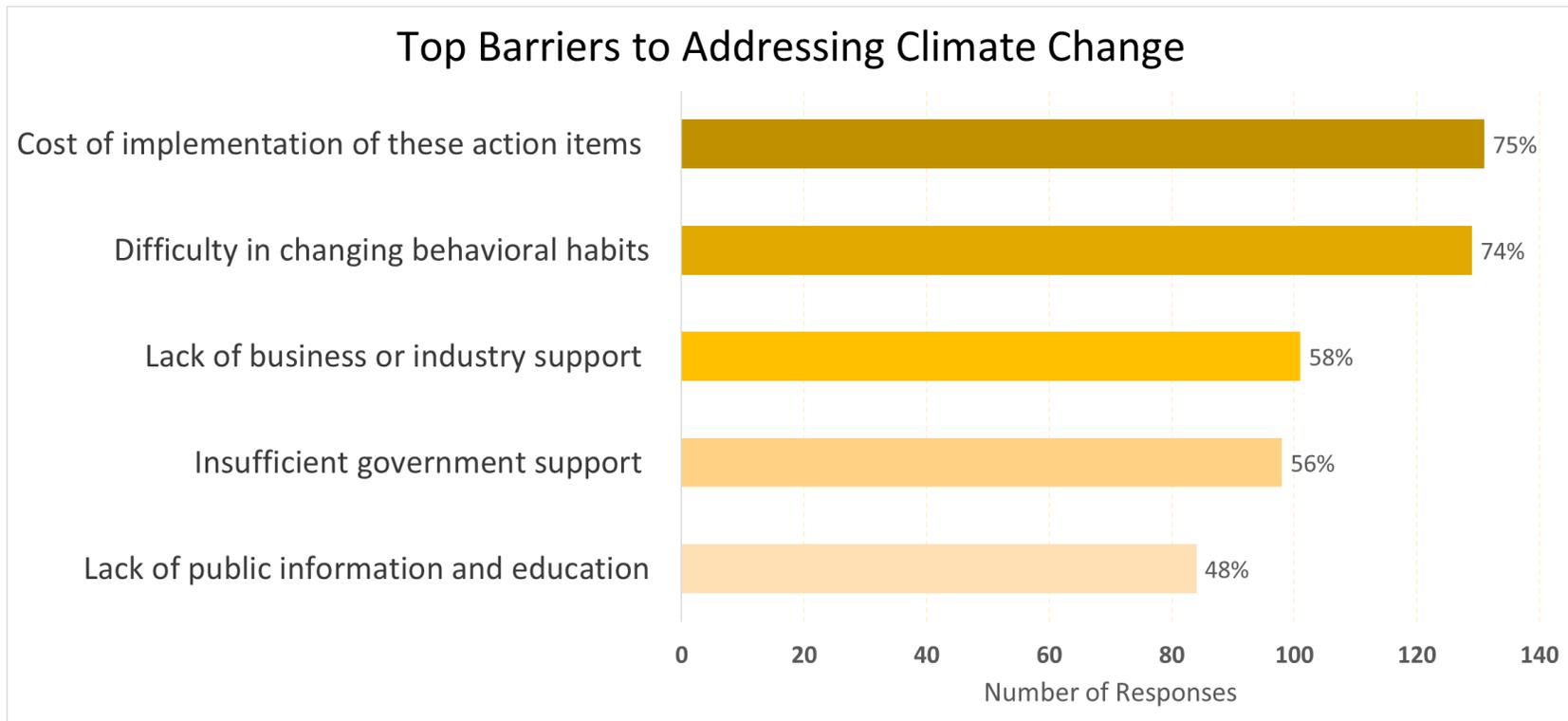
Question 3 was a mandatory multiple-choice question. This question was designed to learn about the actions, if any, community members are taking at individual levels to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The question provided the respondents with total of 10 options to pick from including 'none of the above' and 'other (please specify)'. The tree map below (on next page) shows the top seven actions being undertaken by the community members at individual levels. Most respondents (93% of the total 174 responses) are 'reducing waste' to reduce their carbon footprint and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Top Actions taken by Community to Mitigate Climate Change



Question 4 - If you think there are barriers to addressing climate change, what are they? Choose all that apply.

Question 4 was a mandatory multiple-choice question. This question was designed to recognize the barriers that community members think exist to addressing climate change. The question provided the respondents with total of 9 options to pick from including 'I don't see any barriers' and 'other (please specify)'. The bar graph below shows the top 5 options selected by the respondents. Most community members think that 'cost of implementation of these action items' and 'difficulty in changing behavioral habits' are the top barriers to addressing climate change.

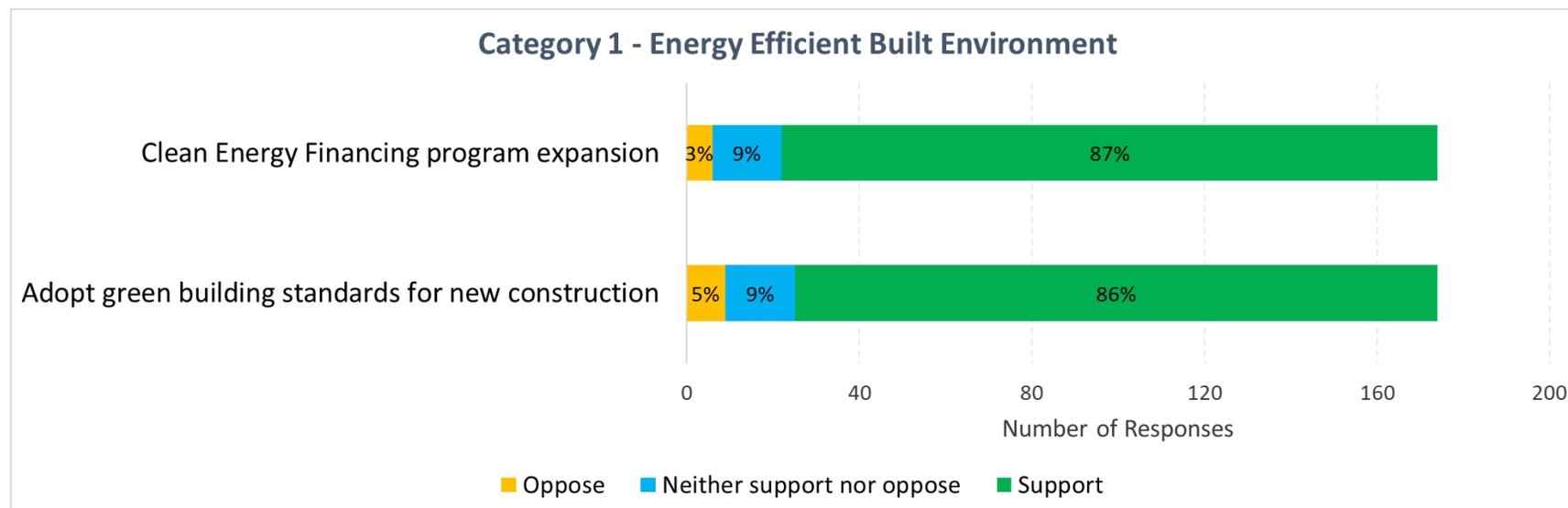


Section 2 – Feedback on Proposed Climate Actions

Section 2 – ‘Feedback on Proposed Climate Actions’ was designed to get feedback from the community members on the proposed 9 Main Categories and several key climate actions for the draft LCCAP. This section 2 had 9 mandatory questions (from question 5 to 13) for the respective proposed 9 Main Categories and climate actions, and one optional open-ended question (question 14) to ask for more information and useful contextual feedback from the respondents on the proposed climate actions. In all the 9 mandatory questions, respondents were asked to rate the respective proposed climate action with their level of support by picking any one of the following three options: ‘Support’, ‘Neither support nor oppose’, and ‘Oppose’. To analyze the data and better understand, open ended comments received in question 14 have been summarized and arranged by each Main Categorial question below. Below is the summary of the responses received for this section 2.

Question 5 - Category 1: Energy Efficient Built Environment

Most of the respondents were in support of both the climate actions proposed in category 1 as can be seen in the bar chart below.



Summary of 16 comments on Category 1 – Energy Efficient Built Environment

Respondents suggested that Municipality should offer grants to financially support homeowners with older homes for installation of modern wiring, home batteries and rooftop solar installation. Properties which undergo retrofits and solar installation should be exempt from property tax as the earning savings achieved from solar panels installation can be eroded by increased property values after retrofitting. Few expressed concerns over the Nova Scotia Power's limitation on power generation to 90% of that being used in a home. Some criticized the Clean Energy Financing program's credit check requirement and remarked that rebates exclude poor people who may have poor credit.

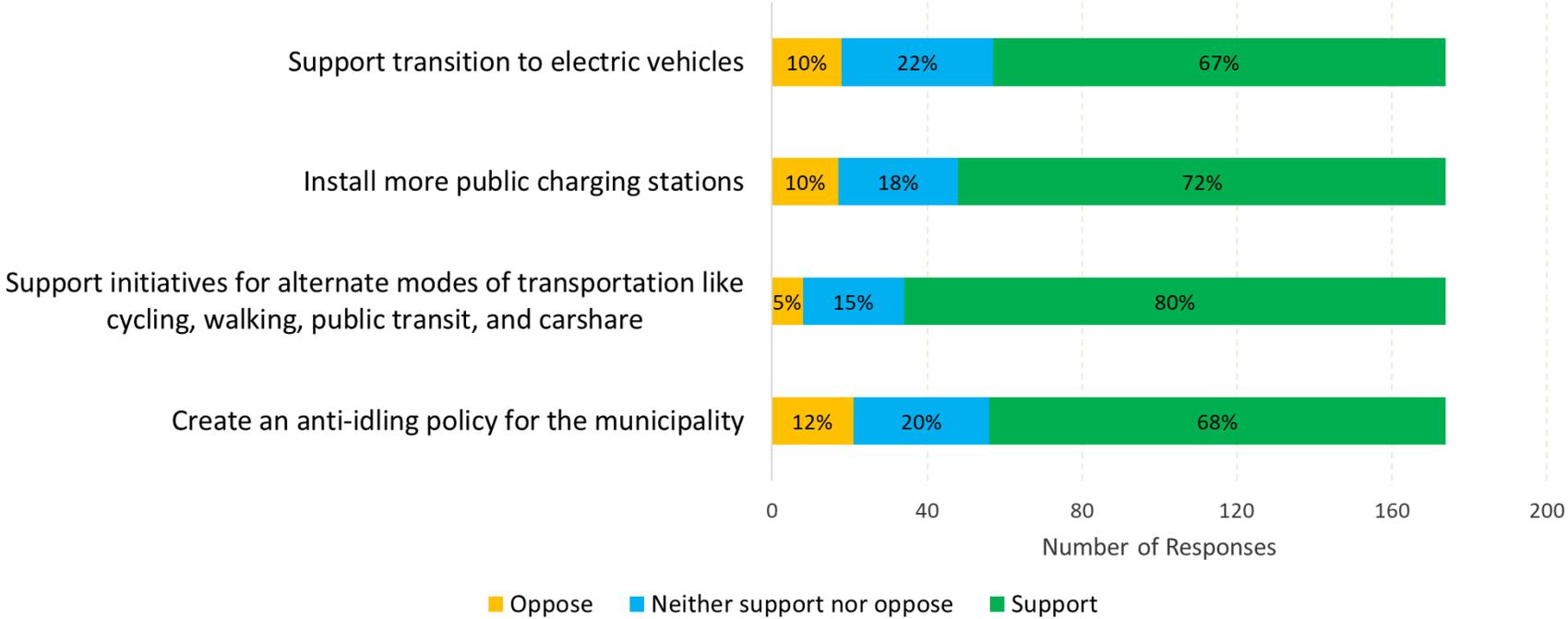
Question 6 - Category 2: Sustainable Low-Carbon Transportation

Most of the respondents (80% of the total 174 responses) supported climate action to take support initiatives for alternate modes of transportation like cycling, walking, public transit, and carshare. While on the other hand, climate actions to support the transition to electric vehicles and to create an anti-idling policy for the municipality received relatively lower support of only 67% and 68% respectively. The responses are compared in the bar chart below (on next page).

Summary of 13 comments on Category 2 – Sustainable Low-carbon Transportation

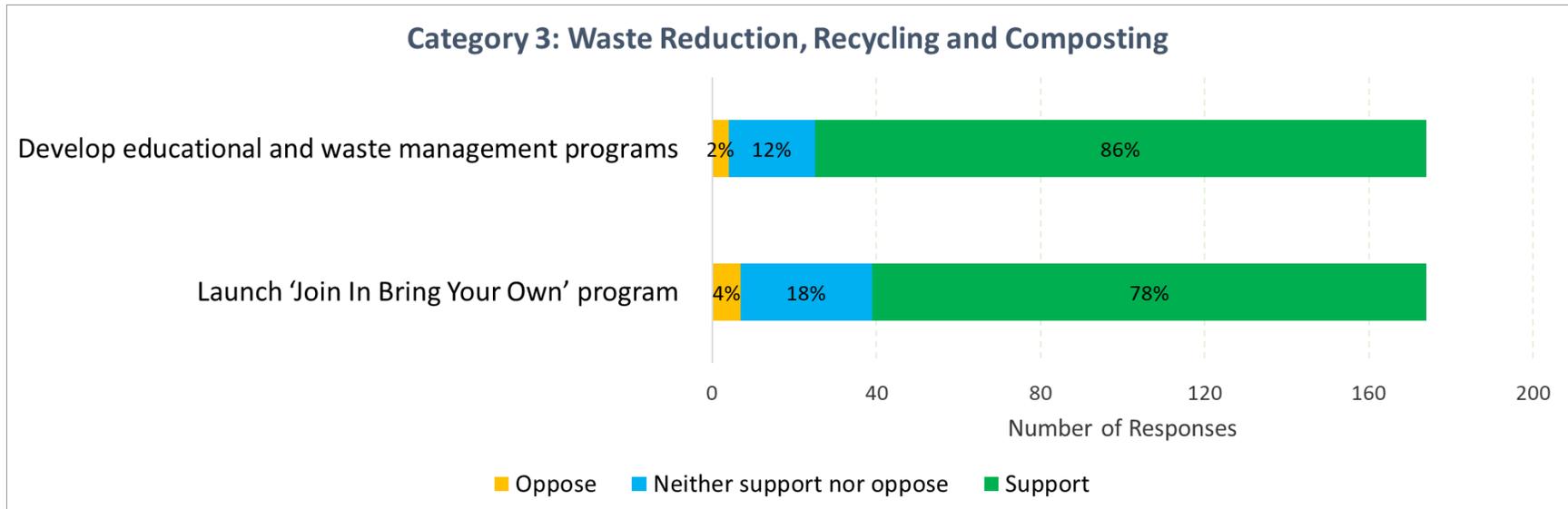
Respondents suggested prioritizing active transportation and transit over electric vehicles while electric vehicles still being a priority. Few commented on creating more hiking and cycling opportunities, as well as adding more bicycle lanes to the highways. Emphasized on the need to have carpools and community rideshare which can help senior citizens as well as people without cars. Criticized on transitioning to electric vehicles by arguing that it will have negative impacts on other countries where mining of associated minerals occurs. One recommended creating a ride sharing policy for Municipal staff, Council, and residents.

Category 2 - Sustainable Low-Carbon Transportation



Question 7 - Category 3: Waste Reduction, Recycling and Composting

Most of the respondents (86% of the total 174 responses) supported climate action to develop educational and waste management programs. While another climate action to launch 'Join In Bring Your Own' program received relatively lower support (78% of the total 174), both the actions were opposed by very few respondents. The responses are compared in the bar chart below.

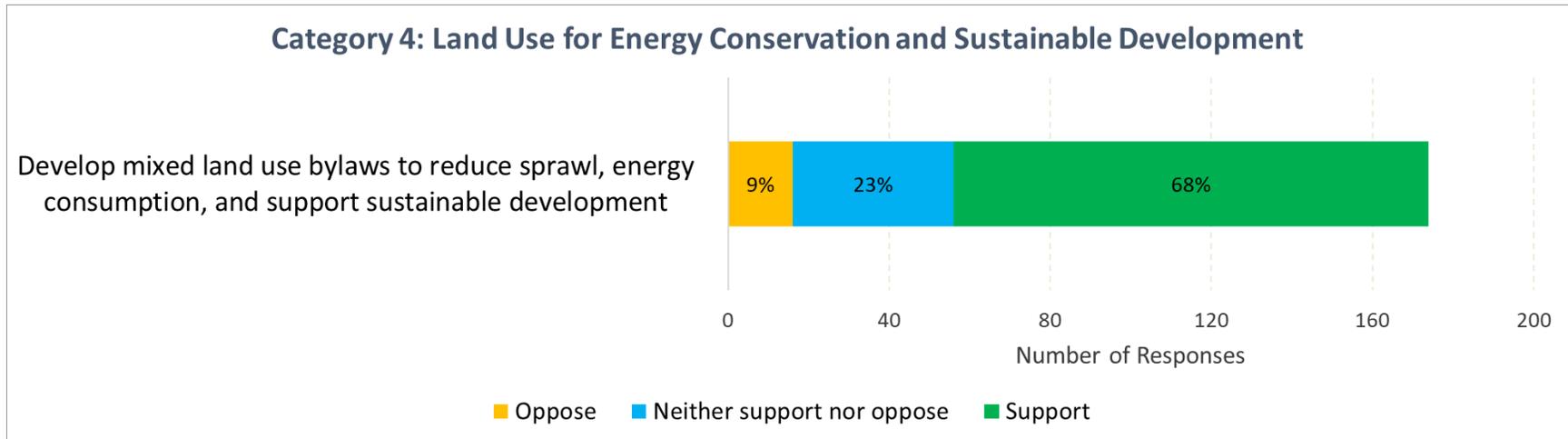


Summary of 4 comments on Category 3 – Waste Reduction, Recycling and Composting

Respondents suggested that reducing (rather than just recycling or reusing) should be a priority of the programs. Recommended to advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility that will put pressure on the industries to produce less packaging/plastic and allow better management of single use plastic waste. One suggested organizing repair fairs and community swap events to reduce community waste. Recommended that food retailers use compostable single serve packaging instead of single use plastics. Recommendation the Municipality to develop policy/bylaw to reduce single use plastic waste in the community.

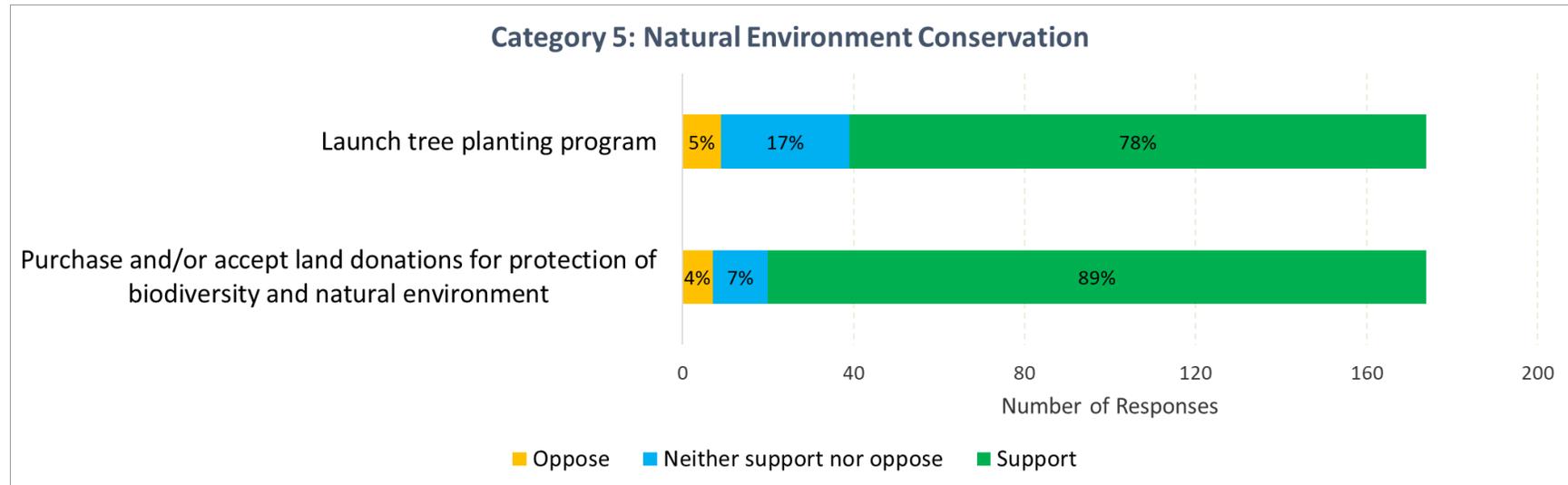
Question 8 - Category 4: Land Use for Energy Conservation and Sustainable Development

Category 4 – Land use for energy conservation and sustainable development received a fair level of support of 68% as can be seen in the bar chart below. This category did not receive any comments from the community members.



Question 9 - Category 5: Natural Environment Conservation

Climate action to purchase and/or accept land donations for protection of biodiversity and natural environment received the maximum support (89% of the total 174 responses) in comparison to the proposed climate actions. The responses are compared in the bar chart below.

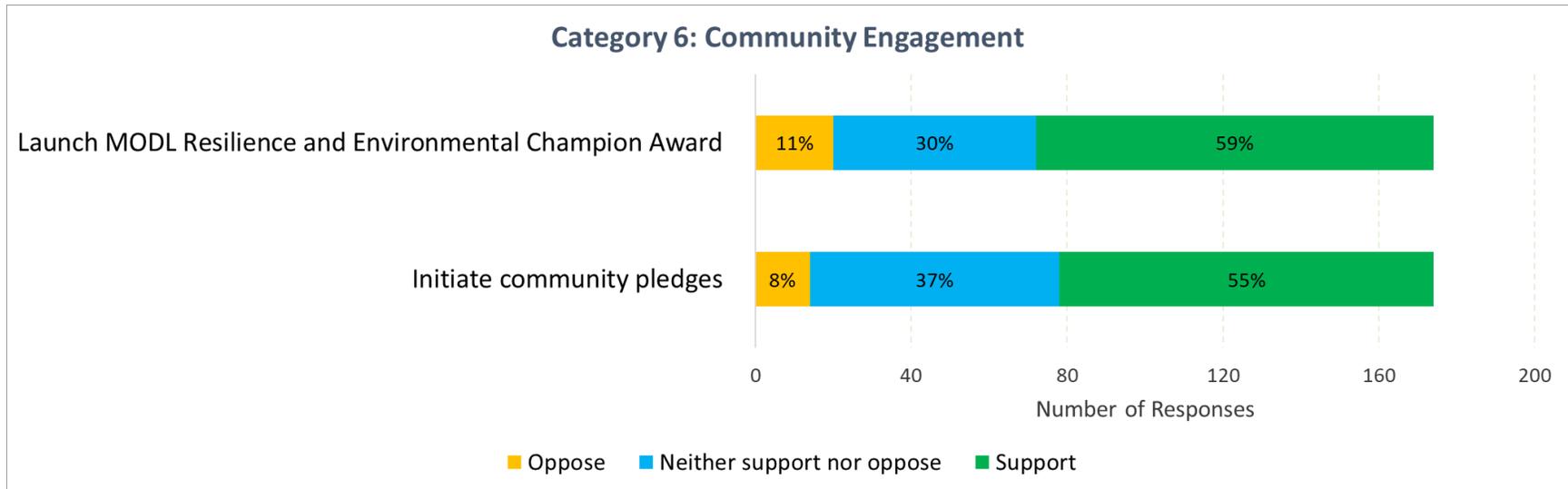


Summary of 17 comments on Category 5 – Natural Environment Conservation

This category received the most comments and support. Respondents suggested that the tree planting program should include planting fruit and nut trees instead of just a tree planting program. While supporting tree planting, respondents recommended being mindful of species of the trees that will be planted and the location where they will be planted. Some suggested natural plantations on coastline can help in coastal erosion control and climate change adaptation. Many expressed concerns over clear cutting and emphasized setting up regulations that prohibit clear-cutting and support sustainable forests management. Respondents also shed light on the ongoing biodiversity crisis and the continuing species extinction along with the climate crisis. Recommended to better manage forests and natural assets while prioritizing the protection of natural habitats in the LCCAP and Municipal Planning Strategy.

Question 10 - Category 6: Community Engagement

Both the climate actions proposed in the category 6 – community engagement received the least support from the respondents in comparison to all the proposed climate actions of LCCAP. The comparison of the responses can be seen in the bar chart below.

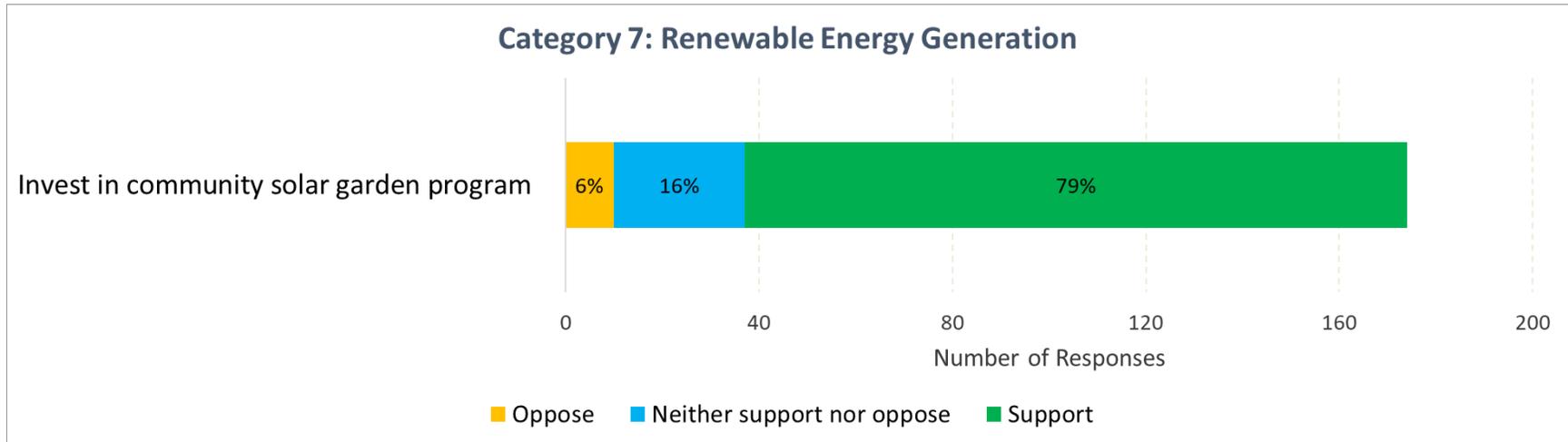


Summary of 3 comments on Category 6 – Community Engagement

One respondent emphasized the need to have an increased focus on community involvement, engagement, and education. Another suggested having programs that educate and aid homeowners in the development or conversion to carbon emissions reducing and carbon sequestration technologies. One suggested promoting climate actions that can be undertaken at individual levels such as air drying on suitable weather days and using of one-washer load dryer on wet/chilly weather days.

Question 11 - Category 7: Renewable Energy Generation

Most respondents (79% of the total 174) were supportive of proposed climate action to invest in community solar gardens.

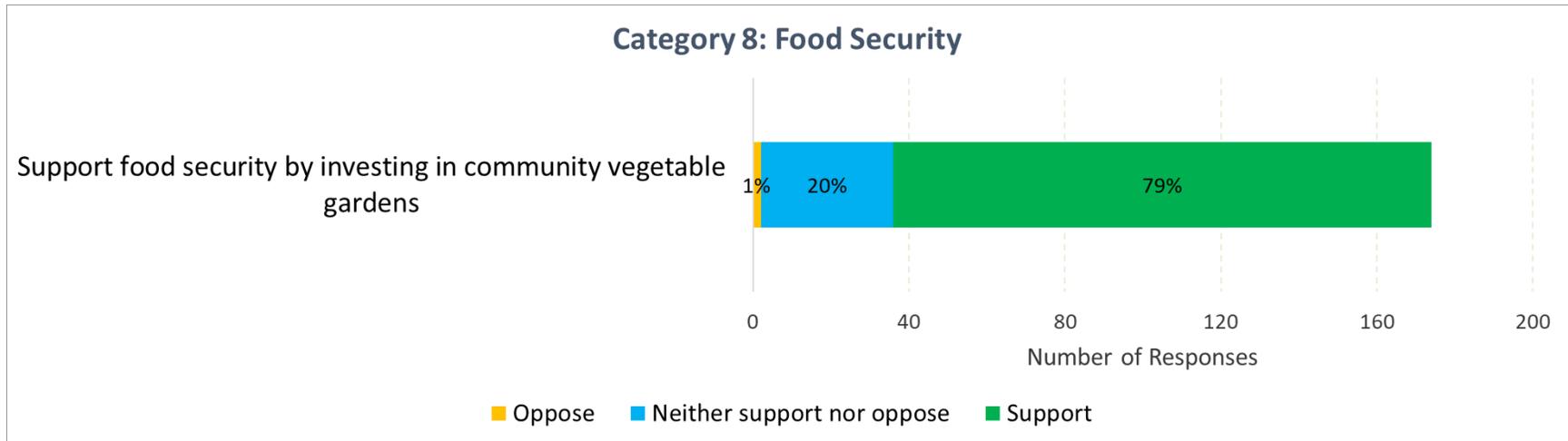


Summary of 7 comments on Category 7 – Renewable Energy Generation

Respondents expressed support for residential solar, community solar and wind, and large-scale battery storage solutions. One suggested that Municipality should allow tax credits on net metering for non-resident homeowners. Recommended to establish standards for construction of wind farms. Most of the comments supported investing in solar and wind energy while one expressed apprehension on allowing industrial wind turbines.

Question 12 - Category 8: Food Security

Most of the respondents (79% of the total 174) were in support of the climate action to support local food security by investing in community vegetable gardens. This climate action received the least opposition from the respondents in comparison to all the proposed climate actions.

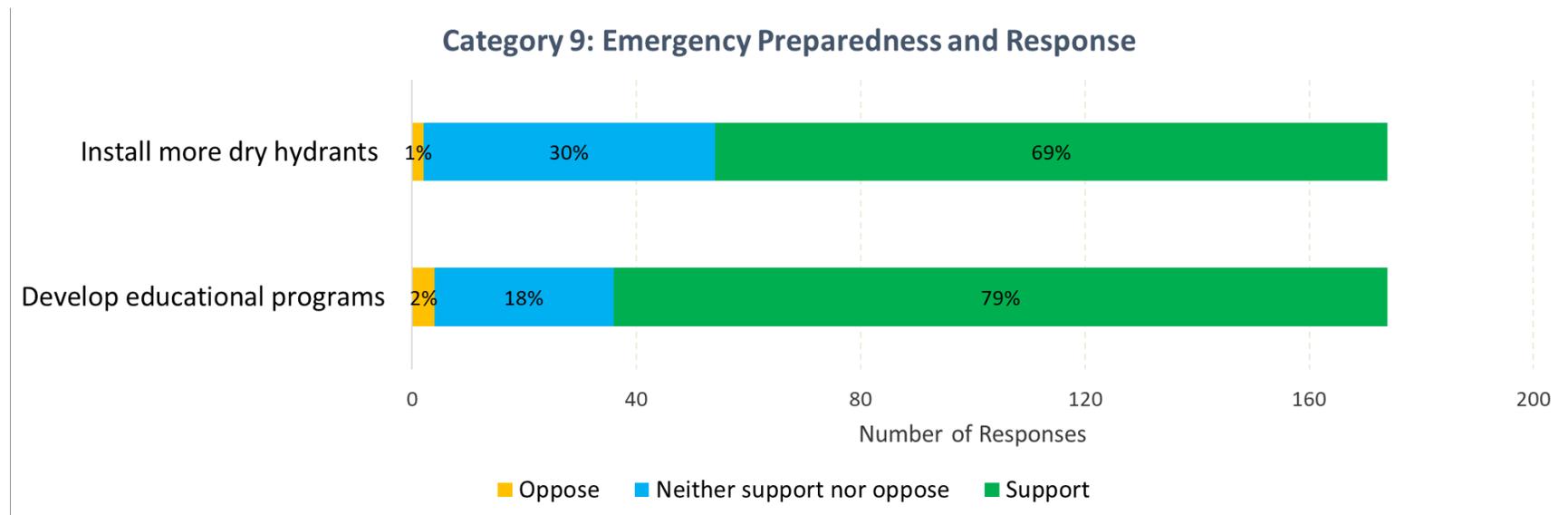


Summary of 11 comments on Category 8 – Food Security

Supportive comments suggested to encourage and support permaculture gardening. Expressed that several residents in the region are looking for leadership and networking opportunities on living less impactful lives. Instead of community gardens for the towns and villages suggested aiding farmers in developing their land for suitable food crops and local food production. Recommended to launch government grants to help agricultural businesses grow and expand so they can supply more local food and hire more locals. Recommended supporting local farmers market gardeners to secure healthy local food production. Emphasized on building community greenhouses and ‘vertical garden’ that can supply year-round fresh produce locally for each community in the Municipality as well as create opportunities to export excess produced.

Question 13 - Category 9: Emergency Preparedness and Response

In category 9 – Emergency preparedness and response, climate action to develop educational programs received the most support (79% of the total 174 responses). While the climate action to install more dry hydrants in the Municipality received relatively lower support (69% of the total 174 responses), it received the lowest level of opposition (1% of the total 174 responses) in comparison to all the proposed climate actions. The responses are compared in the bar chart below.



Summary of 10 comments on Category 9 – Emergency Preparedness and Response

Respondents suggested that more time should be invested in informing citizens about the importance of adaptation and resilience in response to extreme weather events. Recommended to educate community members to reduce their energy consumption and create social accountability around it. Suggested that emergency preparedness should address floods and rising sea levels while focusing on stopping infill projects and excessive construction projects along the ocean. Expressed caution that some of the public roads by the ocean and along the river will be at the mercy of rising water levels or storm surges which makes it crucial to find alternate routes ahead of time for the affected communities.

Table 1 below captures the respective level of support from the community members for all the proposed climate actions.

Table 1 - Proposed Climate Actions Ranked with the Level of Support		
Proposed Climate Actions	Number of Responses	Percentage in Support
Purchase and/or accept land donations for the conservation of natural environment and protection of biodiversity	154	89%
Clean Energy Financing program expansion	152	87%
Adopt green building standards for new construction	149	86%
Develop educational and waste management programs	149	86%
Support initiatives for alternate modes of transportation like cycling, walking, public transit, and carshare	140	80%
Support food security by investing in community vegetable gardens	138	79%
Develop educational programs	138	79%
Invest in community solar garden program	137	79%
Launch 'Join In Bring Your Own' program	135	78%
Launch tree planting program	135	78%
Install more public charging stations	126	72%
Install more dry hydrants	120	69%
Create an anti-idling policy for the municipality	118	68%
Develop mixed land use bylaws to reduce sprawl, energy consumption, and support sustainable development	118	68%
Support transition to electric vehicles	117	67%
Launch MODL Resilience and Environmental Champion Award	102	59%
Initiate community pledges	96	55%

Table 2 below captures the respective level of opposition from the community members for all the proposed climate actions.

Table 2 - Proposed Climate Actions Ranked with the Level of Opposition		
Proposed Climate Actions	Number of Responses	Percentage Opposed
Create an anti-idling policy for the municipality	21	12%
Launch MODL Resilience and Environmental Champion Award	20	11%
Support transition to electric vehicles	18	10%
Install more public charging stations	17	10%
Develop mixed land use bylaws to reduce sprawl, energy consumption, and support sustainable development	16	9%
Initiate community pledges	14	8%
Invest in community solar garden program	10	6%
Launch tree planting program	9	5%
Adopt green building standards for new construction	9	5%
Support initiatives for alternate modes of transportation like cycling, walking, public transit, and carshare	8	5%
Launch 'Join In Bring Your Own' program	7	4%
Purchase and/or accept land donations for protection of biodiversity and natural environment	7	4%
Clean Energy Financing program expansion	6	3%
Develop educational programs	4	2%
Develop educational and waste management programs	4	2%
Install more dry hydrants	2	1%
Support food security by investing in community vegetable gardens	2	1%

Question 14 - Is there any action item that you don't see in the questions from 5 to 13, but you would like it to be included in the plan? Please mention it below.

This question was an optional open-ended question that was designed to ask for more information and useful contextual feedback from the respondents on the proposed climate actions. To analyze the data and better understand, open ended comments received in question 14 have been arranged by each Main Category and summarized respectively within questions 5 to 13 above. This question received a total of 94 comments. Most of the comments received were directed at one or other proposed climate actions. Very few comments were received that suggested other climate actions to be included in the plan that were not already proposed. Below is the summary of those comments:

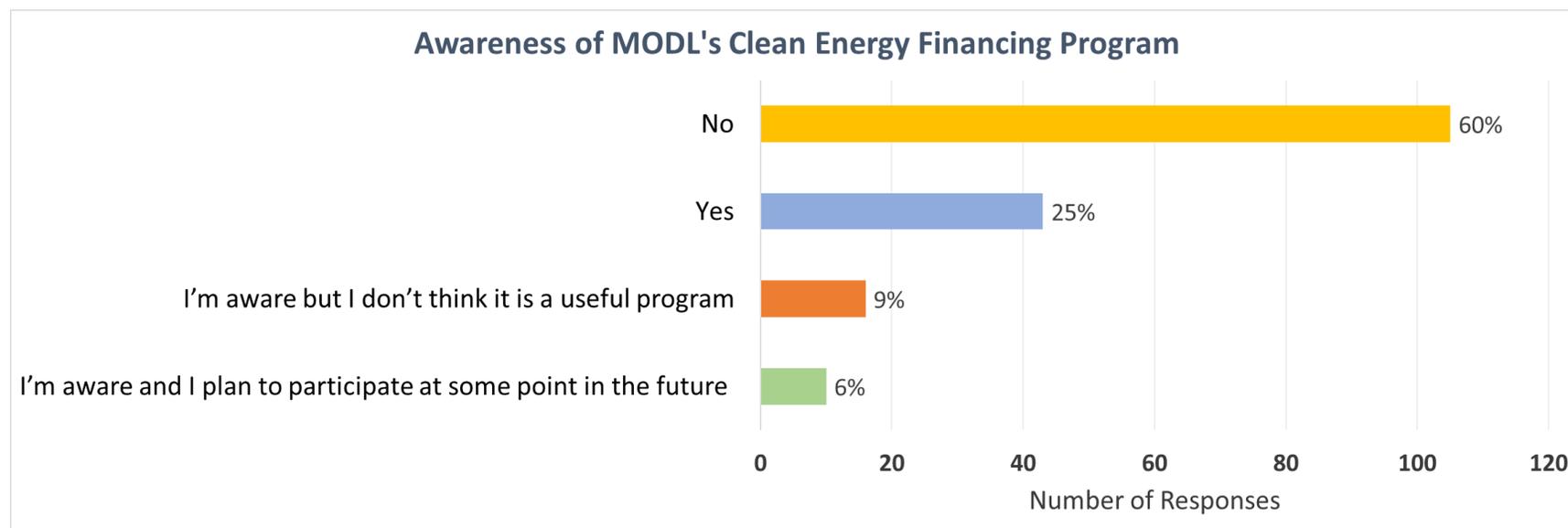
- Expressed concerns that growing wealth disparity in MODL owing to growing non-resident ownership of expensive homes and short-term rentals is deteriorating the quality of lives and the natural resources.
- Land conservation should include protecting areas such marshlands and eel grass meadows which are natural carbon sinks that offsets carbon while increasing community resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Offer property tax credits for solar installations.
- An Emergency Response Fund should be set up for extreme weather events preparedness and response.
- Suggested to supply financial support, if possible, to local businesses, developers, and non-profits that develop programs and/or infrastructure including affordable energy efficient housing that can reduce energy consumption and associate greenhouse gas emissions.
- Amend Municipal bylaw to favor residents who raise chickens or build beehives on their properties, and support permaculture gardening.

Section 3 – Residential and Transportation Sectors Specific

Section 3 – ‘Residential and Transportation Sectors Specific’ was designed around residential and transportation sectors as both the sectors together account for 80% of the total community greenhouse gas emissions. This section 3 had 4 mandatory questions (from question 15 to 18) and the responses are summarized below.

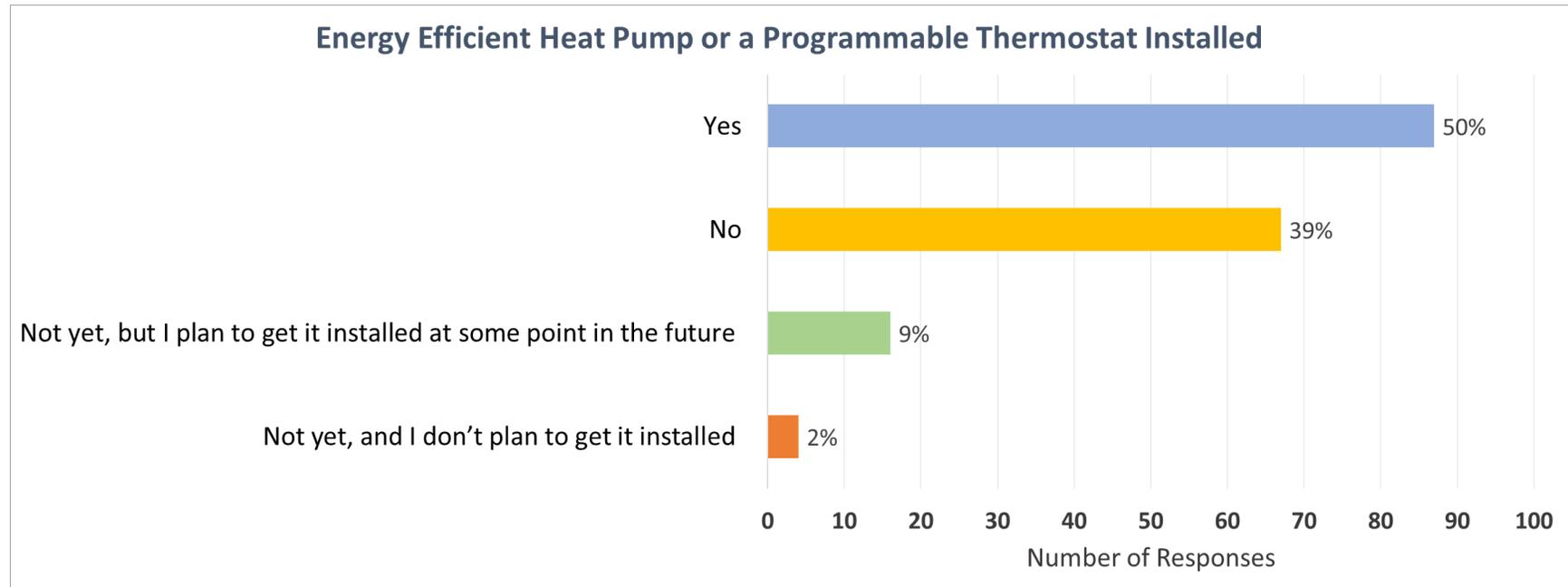
Question 15 - Are you aware of the MODL’s Clean Energy Financing program for the energy efficiency retrofits in your homes?

This question was designed for the Municipal Clean Energy Financing (CEF) program to understand the level of awareness of the program and public belief about the program. Most of the respondents (60% of the total 174) were not aware of the MODL’s CEF program that has been up and running for the past 6 years. One-fourth of the respondents were aware of the program while 9% of the respondents were aware but don’t think it is a useful program. The feedback to this question will be helpful in guiding efforts for CEF program improvement, expansion, and promotion in future.



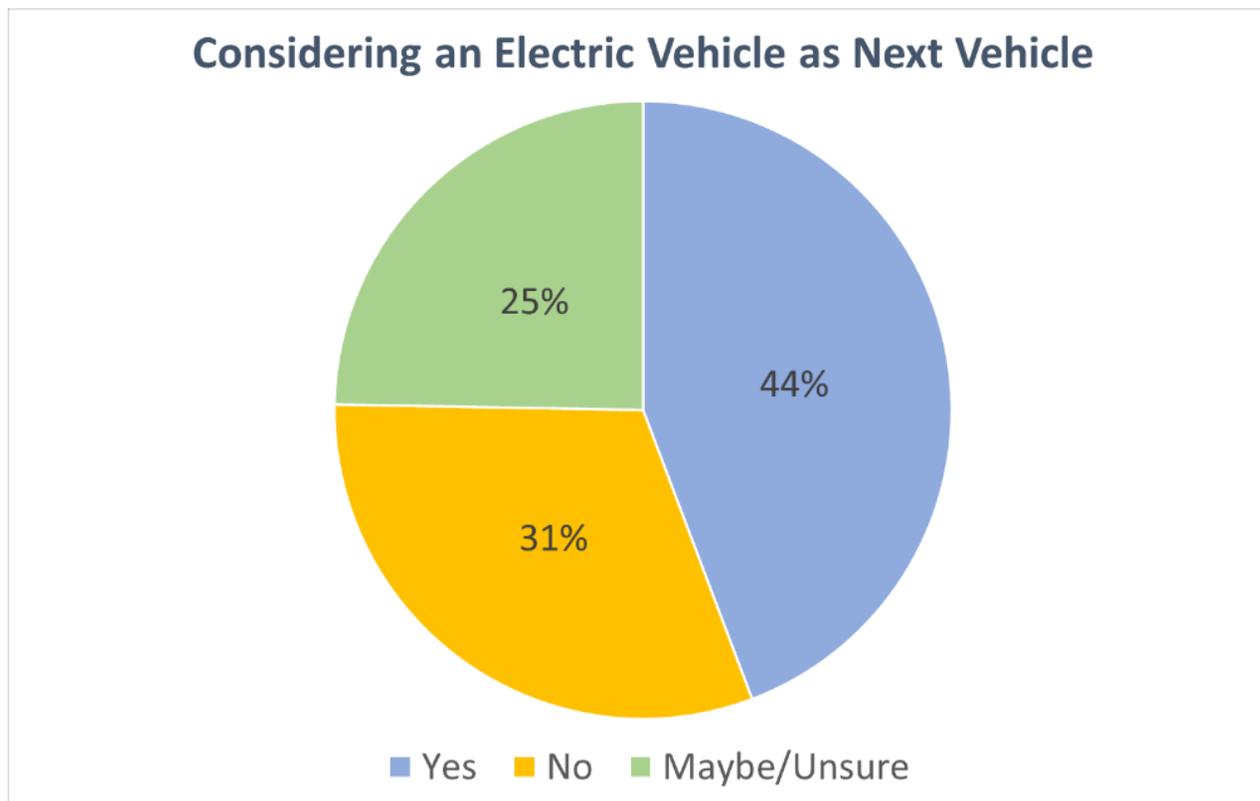
Question 16 - Do you currently have an energy efficient heat pump or a smart/programmable thermostat in your home?

This question was designed to get insight into how many residents in the Municipality have an energy efficient heat pump or a smart/programmable thermostat installed in their homes. More than 50% of the respondents either already have an energy efficient heat pump, or a programmable thermostat installed in their homes or plan to get it installed at some point in the future. On the other hand, more than 40% of the residents do not have an energy efficient heat pump, or a programmable thermostat installed in their homes and do not plan to get it installed in the future.



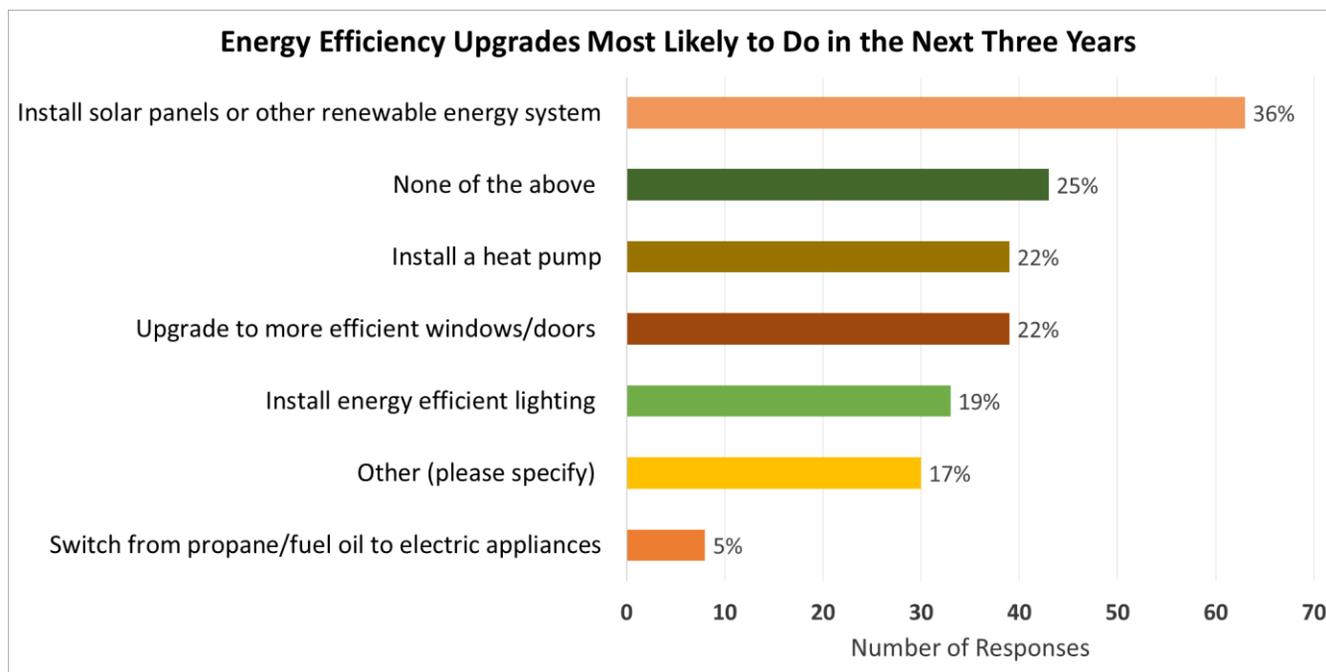
Question 17 - Are you considering an electric vehicle as your next vehicle?

This question was designed to learn more about the public considerations of buying an electric vehicle as their next vehicle. There is a mixed level of willingness amongst the public to consider buying an electric vehicle as their next vehicle. Of the total 174 responses, 44% indicated they would consider an electric vehicle as their next vehicle. Around one-third of the total responses opposed considering an electric vehicle while 25% of the respondents were unsure of their choice.



Question 18 - Which energy efficiency upgrades are you most likely to do in the next three years? Select all that apply.

This question was a mandatory multiple-choice question designed to learn about the level of community interest in performing respective energy efficiency upgrades to their homes in the next three years. The question was provided with 7 options to pick from including 'none of the above' and 'other (please specify)'. Responses showed that respondents were generally less likely to undertake energy efficiency upgrades to their homes. Most of the respondents (36% of the total 174) indicated that they are likely to install solar panels or other renewable energy systems in their homes. One-fourth of the respondents indicated 'none of the above'.



Out of the total respondents, 30 of them (17% of the total) selected 'Other (please specify)' option and provided their comments. The comments received for this option are summarized below:

- Respondents are likely to install on demand water heating system, solar hot water heater, or an energy efficient water tank.
- Expressed concerns over high upfront costs of installing solar panels or performing these upgrades.
- Few were tenants who needed landlord's permission to perform these upgrades
- Many respondents indicated that they have already undertaken these upgrades

Section 4 – Community Climate Champions

Section 4 – ‘Community Climate Champions’ was designed to identify champions and supporters in the community who would like to get involved in the activities of the respective proposed climate actions. This section 4 had three optional questions (from question 19 to 21) and the responses are summarized below.

Question 19 - For this plan to be successful, the involvement of community members is essential. If you would like to be connected to like-minded community members, choose the degree with which you’d like to be involved with each of the below mentioned actions: Champion (e.g., advocate, organizer, lead), Supporter (e.g., take community pledge, create climate awareness) or Be informed (e.g., add to the email list)

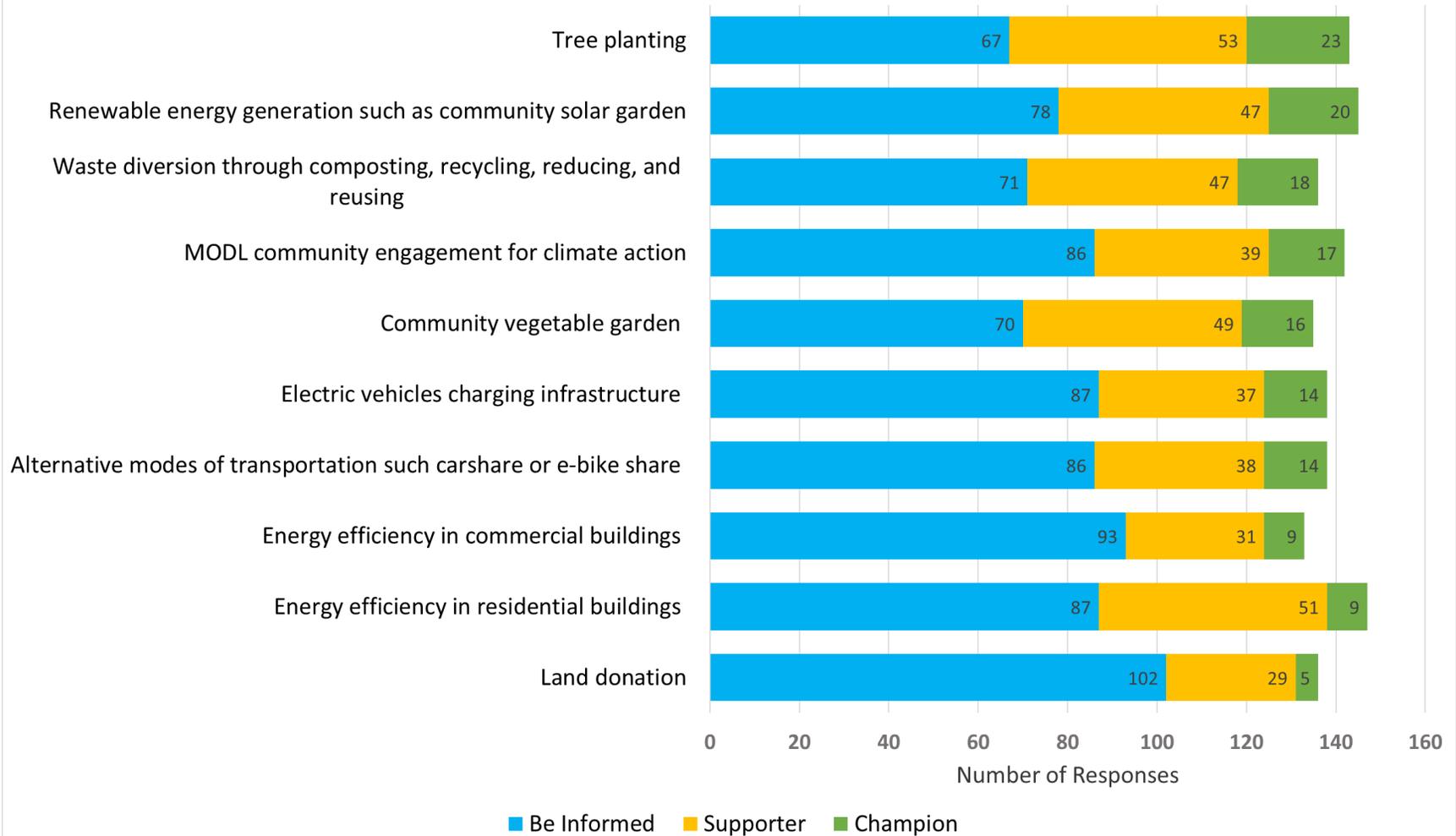
This question was a Likert scale question which provided the respondents with three options to pick from: ‘Champion’, ‘Supporter’, and ‘Be informed’ for each of the corresponding climate action to express the degree with which they would like to be involved. The responses can be seen in the stacked bar chart below (on next page). Out of the total 174 respondents, 156 responded to this question while 18 skipped this question.

Most of the respondents choose to ‘Be informed’ for the respective climate actions. Most respondents indicated they would like to be informed about ‘Land donation’ climate action.

With respect to ‘Champion’, majority of the respondents (23 out of the total 156) volunteered to be champions for the ‘Tree planting’ climate action while on the other side, the lowest number champions (5 out of the total 156) were identified for the ‘Land donation’ climate action.

With respect to ‘Supporter’, the responses were like the Champion option. Most of the respondents (53 out of the total 156) volunteered to be supporters for the ‘Tree planting’ climate action and conversely the lowest number supporters (29 out of the total 156) were identified for the ‘Land donation’ climate action.

Community Champions, Supporters and followers



Question 20 - If you'd like to be involved with any of the action items mentioned in question 19 above, please provide your contact information, so that the municipality is able to engage with you for the respective action items. Name: Email/Phone no:

This question was optional. Since the survey responses were completely anonymous, this question was designed to gather respondent's contact information who indicated in the question 19 above that they would like to volunteer to be champions, supporters, or followers for the respective climate actions. A total of 60 respondents gave their contact information. This information provided by the volunteers will allow the Municipality to be able to engage with them in the future for the respective climate actions.

Question 21 - Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

This optional open-ended question was asked at the end of the survey to allow respondents to provide any added comments or suggestions, if they have any, about the overall project and Municipal climate action initiatives. This question received 50 comments.

Below is the summary of the comments:

- "Very happy to see this level of concern by the municipal governments."
- "Thank you for undertaking this large but very necessary initiative(s)."
- "Glad to see this initiative underway. We need to move quickly to make changes in response to the climate emergency we face."
- "This is a great initiative!"
- "The plans appears well thought out. Hopefully the majority of MODL citizens will be on board."
- "Thank you ❤️"
- "Thank you for taking this seriously."
- "I'm willing to be a champion in my own community (Broad Cove and environs)"
- "Thank you. Please proceed post haste. Time is very much of the essence."
- "I am really pleased at the work being done on this matter."
- "thanks for doing this very important work!"
- "Thank you for this opportunity. Exciting times ahead!"

Virtual Public Engagement Sessions

The Municipality hosted two virtual public engagement sessions on the Local Climate Change Action Plan. The virtual engagement sessions featured an overview of the project followed by a public Q&A with the project team. Virtual engagement sessions were hosted via Microsoft Teams on 9th and 10th February 2022.

Summary of the comments

- Attendees suggested Municipality should commit to the international level of 30%, instead of the provincial goal of 20% to protect land use. Build using local materials to foster wealth and talents while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sector.
- LCCAP being closely related to the neighbouring municipalities in Lunenburg district, attendees suggested that all municipal units in the Lunenburg district should work together on important policies and bylaws including land use intensification. This can include setting up one planning committee for the whole district.
- Few expressed concerns over NS Power's barrier to solar installation and suggested that municipality incentivize those not eligible from the provincial subsidy such as businesses intending to convert renewable energy. Efficiency NS program can be helpful for commercial owners.
- Concerns over clearcutting were expressed and recommended the need to uphold the Lahey Report.¹ Recommended adopting green building efficiency standards that require new construction to be energy efficient. Staff responded that the National Building Code 2020 will address that as the code will introduce a tiered system for minimum efficiency standards.
- Suggested to consider setting a specific target for growing food and energy locally in the Municipality. Mayor responded that this is the goal of public engagement to understand the level of support and incorporate the feedback into setting specific targets and goals.

¹ Lahey, W. (2018, August). An independent review of Forest Practices in nova scotia.

Next Steps

The LCCAP development is nearing completion.

- Next steps include presenting this What We Heard report to Sustainability Committee and Municipal Council in May 2022
- If the Council and Sustainability Committee agrees to go ahead, staff will prepare a report incorporating the feedback received from public engagement to recommend the final list of climate actions and a community emissions reduction target for approval, and present the report to Sustainability Committee and the Council in June 2022
- Staff will make revisions based on the Council and Sustainability Committee's feedback, conduct a final internal staff review, prepare the revised LCCAP, and present it to Sustainability Committee and the Council for final review and adoption in July 2022