The Mayor's Big Climate Chat

Engagement outcome report

Communities, Consultation & Engagement / July 2024

West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

Contents

1. Summary

During the main public engagement period from 16 October 2023 to 24 March 2024, 14,453 visits were made to the Mayor's Big Climate Chat Your Voice page: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/climate:

- 1,483 surveys were submitted – 1,482 online and 1 received by post
- 17 questions were asked through the Q&A tool
- 13 emails were received through the Your Voice email inbox

The lengthy, detailed survey (took approximately 15-minute survey to complete) was split into questions for those responding as a business and then for those responding as individuals - the majority of responses were from individuals.

Overall, a lot of respondents are worried about the climate and environment emergency (75%), and many are prepared to 'do their bit' to make improvements (80%). There are some key activities that the Combined Authority could lead on and support in different sectors:

- **Housing** – most respondents say cost is a barrier in reducing energy use / carbon emissions in the home (69%) and grant funds would help (65%)
- **Transport** – most respondents find that public transport doesn't take them to where they need to be (58%) and would like a more reliable bus service (47%) and rail service (40%)
- **Employment** – 19% of respondents would like training to help tackle the climate and environment emergency and 42% said energy efficiency support would help make their workplace more sustainable
- **Weather resilience** – the majority of respondents are worried about extreme weather (73%) and say the government needs to make nature flood defences a priority (84%)
- **Nature and air quality** – the majority find it is very important to connect with nature (71%) and 45% feel affected by air pollution, and are worried about the living environment for children (62%)

We also held four Community Conversation sessions, which were opportunities for people to feed back their concerns face-to-face or in online meetings. The groups involved in this work were young people from the Youth Work Unit, attended by Mayor Tracy Brabin. Groups from the voluntary and community sector attended online, chaired by Inclusivity Champion Fatima Khan-Shah. Different groups who work with nature and green spaces met online, as well as a meeting with climate conscious people who have previously signed up to be 'kept informed' via Your Voice, both chaired by Deputy Leader for Calderdale Council, Cabinet Member, Climate Action and Housing, Councillor Scott Patient.

Thoughts from young people were vital for a climate engagement, so we held a separate survey for 11- to 18-year-olds, co-designed with the Youth Work Unit. The survey was found at www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/ypc. We had 1,500 visits when the survey was live, between 14 February and 30 April 2024. We attended the Eco Schools Summit in April 2024 and attended New College, Pontefract via invitation. We received 384 responses.

Engagement results will inform the next Climate and Environment Plan for 2025, with consultation around the draft expected to take place in autumn 2024, and a new Behavioural Change Campaign.

2. Overview

2.1 Background

We (the Combined Authority and its partners) are working towards creating a net zero carbon region by 2038 at the latest, with significant progress by 2030. Achieving this ambition will require everyone to make fundamental changes to the way we work, live and travel. Households are responsible for around two-thirds of all harmful emissions, and therefore helping people to make positive changes will be crucial to achieving our net zero target.

The pledges made by the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, illustrate the commitment to tackling the climate and environment emergency, and how the environment is connected to everything we do:

- Create 1,000 green jobs for young people
- Bring buses back under public control, introduce simpler fares, contactless ticketing and greener buses
- Build 5000 sustainable homes including council houses and affordable homes
- Tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment

2.2 Aims

Prior to launching the Mayor's Big Climate Chat, we only had access to national data on attitudes and perceptions on climate and related issues. The Mayor's Big Climate Chat provides useful West Yorkshire data. The aim of this engagement was to get quality responses to a detailed set of survey questions (up to 42 questions in total, including 15 open questions, depending on respondents' answer choices).

The feedback will enable us create an evidence-based behaviour change campaign.

Also, it will inform updates to the Climate and Environment Plan and other projects such as Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) and our work on residential retrofit.

2.3 Timeline

The main action took place on the following dates:

- 16 October 2023: Main engagement opened
- 14 February 2024: Young People's survey opened
- 24 March 2024: Main engagement ended
- 30 April 2024: Young People's survey closed

The next iteration of the Climate and Environment Plan is due in 2025.

3. Engagement activity

3.1 Your Voice

The engagement was hosted on the Combined Authority's digital hub Your Voice at https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/climate. The page ensured that information on the proposals was readily available, easily accessible, and provided participants an opportunity to share feedback.

The following tools were used on Your Voice to provide further information or gather feedback:

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):** Provided further information about the engagement and signposted participants to other resources
- **Survey:** Participants could submit feedback via an online survey or download a printable version.
- **Ideas Tool:** People could give us an idea of how to make West Yorkshire cleaner, greener and more sustainable
- **Question & Answer:** People could submit queries for response by the policy team
- **Email:** Responses, questions or feedback were encouraged through the email address yourvoice@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
- **Community Conversations:** These online meetings were held where people could listen to a presentation and ask the policy team questions. A summary of the questions asked can be found in the Appendix 1. A youth-focused conversation was held face-to-face with members of the Youth Work Unit and the West Yorkshire Mayor
- **Post:** The freepost address (Freepost Consultation Team WYCA) was available, providing a further channel for people to submit feedback and pose questions to the consultation team in writing
- **Telephone:** MetroLine was publicised on materials to allow people to request printed copies and information in alternative formats

3.2 Marketing and promotion

The Mayor's Big Climate Chat was **promoted organically** up until the end of December, using the Combined Authority and Mayoral owned channels. A press release was issued on 16 November 2023, supported by a social media campaign. A toolkit was also produced for partners to promote it through their own channels. For example, it was featured in Bradford Council's climate e-news. It was also on the reception screens in Wellington House.

We promoted the Chat at events the Mayor attended, including the **COP28 Outcome Summit** with Chris Skidmore and the Mayor's Question Time events in early 2024.

From 2 January to 15 March 2024, **paid digital promotion** took place. We ran a targeted campaign across Meta (Facebook and Instagram), LinkedIn, TikTok, Google and Microsoft search. The adverts were seen 1,347,112 times and generated 20,634 clicks through to the survey.

Paid advertising was also displayed across West Yorkshire at **rail and bus stations**, on town/city centre **digital advertising boards** and across **local/regional radio** from 15 January to 4 February. The outdoor adverts were seen over 4 million times. The radio adverts were heard 1.6 million times (by an audience of 250,000 people).

A second **paid digital campaign** took place to promote the young person's survey from 11 to 24 March 2024. Adverts ran across TikTok and Snapchat were seen 652,027 times and generated 6,194 clicks and 1,162 active page visits.

The Chat was promoted to everyone registered on Your Voice, over 2,400 people, via five newsletters throughout the engagement period. And to target our business and skills audiences, via our SME newsletter.

The marketing activity greatly increased public awareness of the climate and environment emergency.

3.3 Community Conversations

We held events with some community groups to raise awareness of the engagement, inform attendees and encourage feedback into the next Climate and Environment Plan. Stakeholders and members of the public met members of the policy team and could ask any questions.

Young people; 14 February 2024; 1pm – 3pm

This event was held at the AND Digital building in central Leeds. It was hosted to gather young people's insights around climate and environment policies to help input in the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan 2025. We were joined by 16 members of a young people's organisation, The Youth Work Unit, the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin and policy officers from the Combined Authority's environment and place department.

The young people were given a power point presentation, summarising the climate and environment policies we are working towards, followed by an activity for the young people to think about how to implement policy and drive behaviour change campaigns.

Voluntary and Community Sector; 22 February 2024; 10.30am – 12pm

Groups across West Yorkshire met online, hosted by our Inclusivity Champion, Fatima Khan-Shah. Three questions were posed, whilst in break-out rooms, to the individuals who attended for discussion and ideas.

There were a total of 17 attendees representing organisations, including: Local Authorities, Community Interest Groups, Climate Friendly Community Groups, Academia, and Housing. The Mayor's Inclusivity Champion attended to help facilitate the conversations which were centred on the barriers of making sustainable choices when contending with the cost of living and energy crisis. It was agreed that it was vital that the Combined Authority continues to engage with groups that works within communities experiencing poverty, to ensure policy decisions are made carefully, and impacts that may disproportionately affect these communities are mitigated. It was also discussed that these groups are 'experts by experience'.

Many concerns were shared about the poor quality of housing, and a perceived lack of clear tools to take direct action that would save money and help contribute to a net zero West Yorkshire e.g. insulation. Travel and the barriers around an affordable public transport system was also an area highlighted – this makes it particularly difficult for people with young children to choose public transport over private car use.

The need to provide jargon-free, clear and accessible information was also discussed, as was the issues around individual changes made alongside larger corporations, which the group didn't always feel took action - and that this can sometimes feel futile.

Nature and Green Spaces; 28 February 2024; 10.30am – 12pm

On 28 February 2024, groups working in the nature and green spaces sector were invited to join a meeting online, hosted by Councillor Scott Patient. Attendees heard about the work the Combined Authority is doing and asked questions. They were then asked two questions to discuss in break out rooms: what are the biggest risks and barriers, and what are the solutions?

Discussion topics included how to overcome 'climate despair' and how the local districts could work more collaboratively. There were concerns about food, as in diet, processing and distribution. Also, how renters can access retrofitting and access to green spaces

Suggestions included ways to improve travel, such as solar lighting on cycle lanes, allow bikes on buses and connect more places and better buses. And how we can link together more often, to share best practice and solutions already happenings. And how to embed sustainable food, as food production accounts for 30% of carbon emissions.

There were questions over the divestment of fossil fuels and how we include faith groups in this work.

Climate-conscious groups and individuals; 14 March 2024; 10.30am – 12.30pm

On 14 March 2024, people who had previously signed up to be 'kept informed' on Your Voice – approximately 80 people – were invited to an online meeting, hosted by Councillor Scott Patient, to hear from the policy team. Two questions again were posed, while in break-out rooms, to attendees for discussion and ideas.

Integrated transport system and travel behaviour change was discussed, as well as myth busting and training for green skills. There were concerns that food doesn't appear in the current plan, and that councils should count how many trees are felled for new infrastructure. Grants could support home insulation, as well as training for reliable installers.

Resilience measures for flooding and food production is important, and there were concerns on air travel and Leeds Bradford Airport. Trains need huge improvements, and need to encourage more nature such as replanting pollinators. Also, to investigate CO_2 removal, food composting and sustainable housing.

3.4 Young People Engagement

Between 14 February and 30 April 2024, our survey especially for young people aged between 11 and 18-years-old was available. 1,300 people visited the Your Voice page and 383 surveys were completed. The questions are co-designed with the Youth Work Unit, and the questions focused on how people learn about the climate emergency and to find out what people understand by the term 'green job'. For more information and full results, see our Your Voice page: https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/ypc

The Consultation and Engagement team attended the following in-person events. We cannot know how many people attended the events as we went to specific events to advertise our engagement, however, all visitors were encouraged to provide feedback via the survey:

- **Workshop with the Mayor:** as mentioned above.
- **Eco-Summit, Leeds:** The event was held to promote sustainability in education. We held a stall among many others, which young people visited during their lunch break. We also presented QR codes which took the young people to the survey.
- **New College, Pontefract:** We were invited to New College, Pontefract after attending the Eco-Summit and meeting a senior member of staff. We attended at a lunch time and

set up a stall with QR codes for young people to scan. We approached tables and had conversations with young people about the climate emergency.

3.5 Your Voice engagement statistics

During the 23-week engagement period, 14,453 visits were made to the Your Voice consultation page by 13,882 visitors. The total number of visits is higher than the total number of visitors, because a single visitor may visit the webpage several times. Visitors can be divided into the following categories:

Aware (10,359 visitors): Visitors that we consider to be aware have made at least one single visit to the webpage. These people have seen the information, but not taken any further action by clicking on anything. The visitor count can have multiple counts of the same visitor, whereas the 'aware' visitor count will include the user only a single time, which is why the 'aware' number is lower.

Informed (279 visitors): These visitors have downloaded the paper version of the survey (38 downloads), read FAQs about the project (94 views), or viewed the privacy notice (20 downloads)

Engaged (1,500 visitors): Every visitor that contributes using a tool is considered to have actively engaged with the consultation.

- **1,483 surveys** were submitted – 1,482 online and 1 received by post
- **17 questions** were asked through the Q&A tool
- **13 emails** were also received through the Your Voice email inbox

The submissions can be viewed in full along with associated responses in the appendices.

Timeline of visits

The graph below shows the visiting trend to the Your Voice webpage throughout the engagement period. It shows a spike on 16 November 2023 when the press release was issued. The spike in January coincides with the paid digital promotion. The dip on 15 February coincides with the spring half term.
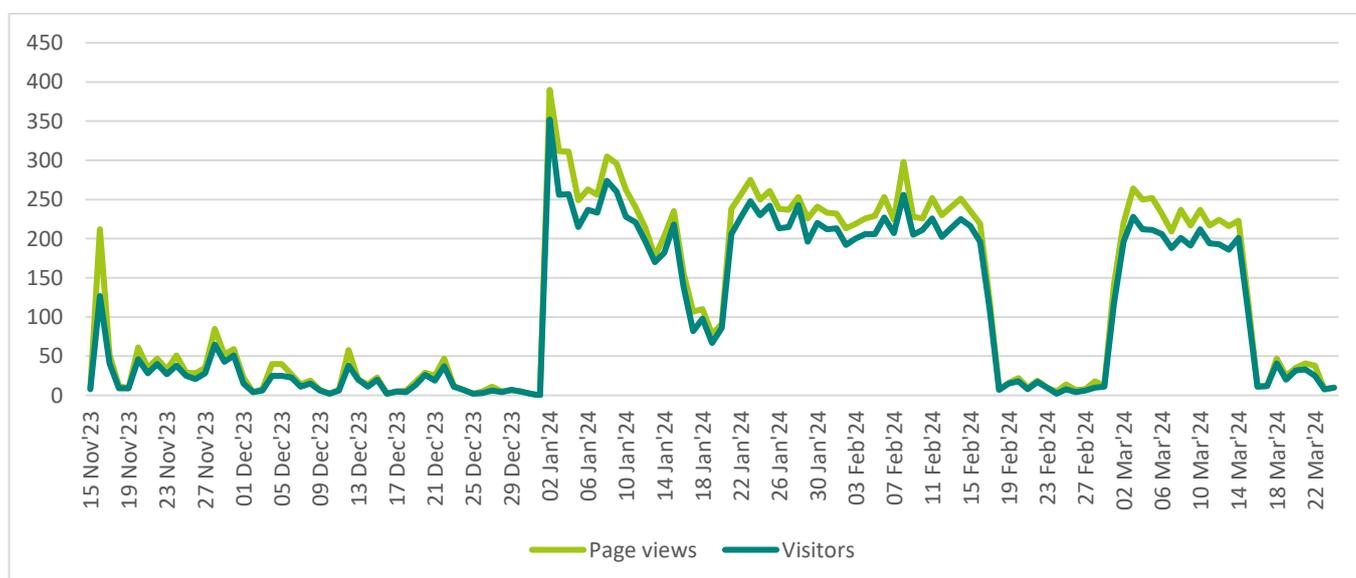
Traffic channels

The table below shows the different channels used to access the Your Voice webpage:

Site access routes	Number of visits
Direct: by typing the webpage directly or links within general emails	9,291
Referrals: re-directed to the site	1,817
Social media:	**1,779**
Facebook	1,161
LinkedIn	263
X (formerly Twitter)	127
YouTube	118
Instagram	110
Search engine: including Google, Bing, Internet Explorer etc	1,119
Email: through direct email campaigns using external email tools	259
.GOV sites: referrals from government websites	188

The number of visitors to the Your Voice page is higher than the number of respondents completing the survey. While there will be various reasons why visitors may not engage further, we assume that some do not have strong views and do not feel the need to provide feedback. While we aim to promote our consultation and engagements widely, the Consultation Institute reports there is rarely a formula that can be used to predict participation rates. Research suggests that even on important issues, participation rates of 1% of the affected population is normal. Less than 1% of the population of West Yorkshire clicked through to Your Voice (0.6%).

4. Engagement results

Overall, 1,483 people responded to our survey. Some questions have fewer responses because respondents could choose which questions they answered.

Closed (quantitative) data analysis: The closed responses were analysed using standard frequency counts and percentages. Figures that do not add up to 100% is due to computer rounding. Percentages are not used in multiple option questions. Views are shown in the charts and graphs, alongside summaries.

Open (qualitative) data analysis: Open text questions let respondents tell us more about their opinions. We analysed their comments by finding themes and grouping responses (or elements of responses) to these themes. We then counted common themes to understand respondents' thoughts, shown in tables below. The total count may be more than the total number of comments as some respondents raise multiple themes. Full verbatim responses can be found in our separate document of Appendices.

4.1 Overview of survey responses

Please find a summary of the results in this section, with the full results for each question in Section 4.2 Analysis of Survey Responses.

Out of 1,483 people, 1,475 chose to answer how they are responding to the survey. 1,438 said they are a member of the public, with 37 representing a business, organisation or charity.

4.1.1 Business, organisation or charity
- 35 gave the name of their business. 6 are from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, 3 are from manufacturing and 3 from education. 13 said 'other'.
- 34 manage their environmental impact, 1 doesn't (due to lack of interest) and 2 don't know.
- 18 would find energy efficiency support beneficial, and 18 would find sustainable procurement methods beneficial.
- Support with funding (24) and knowing what sort of training is available and how to access it (20) would improve the skills of their employees.
- The main reasons why their business would do more to tackle the climate and environment emergency are if the government did more (21) and if Combined Authority did more (18) to support businesses.
- 19 left their contact details to keep in touch.

4.1.2 About me (answering as an individual)
- 75% are very worried (54%) or worried (21%) about the climate and environment emergency. 14% are not at all worried.
- Most respondents do not think that sectors are doing enough to tackle the climate emergency:
    - 58% strongly disagree that the national government is doing enough
    - 31% disagree that their local council is doing enough
    - 25% disagree that the Combined Authority is doing enough
- Most respondents strongly agree that tackling the climate emergency and protecting nature is a priority:
    - 76% strongly agree (56%) or agree (20%) that tackling the climate emergency should be a priority for the Combined Authority
    - 74% strongly agree (52%) or agree (22%) that tackling the climate emergency is a priority for me
- 88% strongly agree (61%) or agree (27%) that protecting nature and wildlife should be a priority for the Combined Authority
- 88% strongly agree (59%) or agree (29%) that protecting nature and wildlife is a priority for me
    - 80% strongly agree (58%) or agree (22%) that I am prepared to do my bit

4.1.3 My home

- In terms of the barriers to reducing energy use and carbon emissions in your home, 69% says costs is prohibitive, 39% say lack of confidence in companies/tradespeople and 26% say level of disruption to the home.
    - When saying, 'other', respondents say have already implemented energy saving measures, home not being suitable and general climate denial comments.
- To overcome these barriers, 65% would like grant funding, 38% would like support with finding trusted contractors, and 36% would like independent advice to see how best to

improve your home.
  - o When saying, 'other', respondents say government intervention, landlords being required to make properties energy efficient and general climate denial comments.
- When considering different improvements in your home, 86% have already reduced energy use, 70% have already insulated, 50% have already replaced their old boiler with a more energy efficient model. 28% would consider a heat pump in 5 years' time (for 36% this would not be applicable / never), and 22% would consider installing solar panels in 5 years' time (for 36% this would not be applicable / never)
  - o When saying, 'something else', respondents say government intervention, landlords being required to make properties energy efficient and general climate denial comments.

4.1.4 How I Travel

Thinking about how you travel and how often, the most common answers were:
- 57% walk for at least 10 minutes, at least 4 days a week
- 33% travel as a car/van passenger, 1 to 3 days a week
- 42% drive, at least 4 days a week
- 19% catch a bus, 1 to 3 times a month
- 23% catch a train, 1 to 3 times a month
- 62% never cycle
- 37% travel by plane, once or twice a year

In terms of what actions you have already done to reduce transport emissions, 54% walk more, 45% drive less, and 33% fly less.

The barriers stopping you making changes to transport are that public transport doesn't take me to where I need to be (58%), convenience (53%) and my journeys would take too long (43%). 'Other' comments included public transport being unreliable, expensive, and not serving respondents' areas or getting them where they needed to be. 'Other' comments also included respondents denying climate change and saying they already do what they can.

In terms of future action, 38% would very likely walk more, 25% are likely to use the bus more and 28% would take the train more. But 33% are very unlikely to cycle more, 24% are very unlikely to share car journeys more and 26% are very unlikely to switch to an electric vehicle. 51% are very unlikely to give up their private vehicle.

Respondents would increase their use of public transport if there was a more reliable bus service (47%), if there were more reliable rail services (40%) and more frequent buses (35%). 'Other' comments included public transport serving the respondent's area and getting them to where they needed to be, being cheaper and more reliable. 'Other' comments also included respondents saying they did not want to change their transport behaviours and would not switch from their car.

4.1.5 My Employment and Skills

- 59% respondents are in full or part-time work, 7% are in voluntary or unpaid work and 34% are not currently in employment.
- 28% don't want any training to help tackle the climate and environment emergency and 23% have already had training. 19% would like training.
- 63% of respondents say their work manages its environmental impact
- 42% say energy efficiency support would help make your workplace more sustainable. 39% said changing to renewable energy and 34% say sustainable procurement methods such as using local suppliers
  - o 'Other' comments included suggestions of other support needed (114) such as behavioural change campaigns. Some comments said how business support is not applicable to them or that they already do what they can (99).

4.1.6 Changing Climate and Resilience

43% are very worried about extreme weather and 30% are quite worried.
In terms of what the government should invest in, the following are 'high priority':
- 84% – maintain and protect natural flood defences e.g. trees and green areas
- 72% – increase renewable energy production to provide greater national resilience
- 61% – improve building construction standards to better regulate temperature
- 59% – combat heatwaves by planting more trees for shade

4.1.7 Nature and the Environment

- 47% strongly agree with the statement, 'I feel connected to nature'
- 55% noticed nature in the past week all of the time
- 71% find it is very important to have opportunity to connect with nature
- 45% feel a little affected by air pollution
  - o 62% worry about the living environment for children
  - o 37% have felt irritation to eyes/nose/throat
  - o 'Other' comments included concerns over health and long-term health conditions such as asthma, and the impacts of transport particularly car fumes and living in built up areas. Also how they were affected by poor air quality and worried about this and the impact on nature, and the unseen impacts including smell and noise.

For 'anything else', the main comments included scepticism around the climate emergency. Conversely there were also many comments stating concern around the urgency of the issue and the need for policy and governmental change. There were also many comments around the need to prioritise nature, reduce fossil fuel use and improve energy efficiency of buildings. Further, transport was a common theme, with comments around improving and integrating the public transport offer.

4.1.8 About you

Respondents could answer several demographic questions, the headlines of responses are below. We use regional data by the Office for National Statistics census 2021 to compare. Full

information of the demographics of the respondents can be found in <u>Section 4.2.8 About You</u> and a map showing postcodes of respondents (1,253 postcodes) can be viewed on page 49.

Sex and gender/gender identity
- Of 1,458 respondents, 48% are female which is proportionately less than West Yorkshire census data (51%). 45% are male which is proportionately less than the census data (49%). 7% chose not to say, which likely accounts for this gap between respondents and the census data. There was a roughly even split between male and female respondents, with slightly more women than men responding (3% more).
- Most respondents (90%) said the gender they identify with is the same as their sex registered at birth. 2% self-describe their gender in another way. 8% prefer not to say.

Age
- Of 1,465 respondents, the popular age category is 55-64 (23%), which is more than the population data for West Yorkshire which says that 11% of the population are 55-64. 13% are aged under 34, which is less than the population data (45%). Under 34s were less representative in the survey respondents than in the West Yorkshire population. But, young people aged 11-18 were invited to complete the young person's version of the survey. 6% are 75 and over (West Yorkshire population is 7%). 7% preferred not to say.

Ethnicity
- Of 1,456 respondents, the majority are white (81%) which is proportionally more than the local population data (77%). People from minority ethnic backgrounds were underrepresented in the survey respondents. 1% of respondents are Asian/British Asian, proportionally less than the local population data (16%). 1% of respondents have a mixed or multiple ethnic background, which is less than the population data of 3%. Less than 1% of respondents are Black, which is less than the census data which indicates that 3% of West Yorkshire residents are Black.

Disability
- Of 1,454 respondents, 29% have a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness, which is proportionately more than the West Yorkshire population data (18%).

Sexuality
- Of 1,422 respondents, the majority (74%) are heterosexual or straight, which is less than the West Yorkshire population of 89%. However, 17% of respondents preferred not to say which likely accounts for this difference. 3% of respondents identify as a gay man or gay woman / lesbian (similar to the population data of 2%), 3% identify as bisexual (similar to the population data of 1%). 3% self-describe their orientation in a different way.

Religion
- Of 1,434 respondents, 52% are of no religion, proportionately more than the West Yorkshire population (37%). 30% are Christian, less than the population data (41%). 1% are Muslim which is proportionately less than census data indicates (14%). 1% are Buddhist and 1% are Jewish, and West Yorkshire population data indicates that less than 1% of the population are Buddhist and Jewish.

Analysis of survey responses

Q1. Are you answering as a business or as an individual? (1,475 responses, 8 skipped)

1,438 answered as an individual. 37 answered on behalf of a business, organisation or charity.

3%

97%

■ An individual   ■ A business, organisation or charity
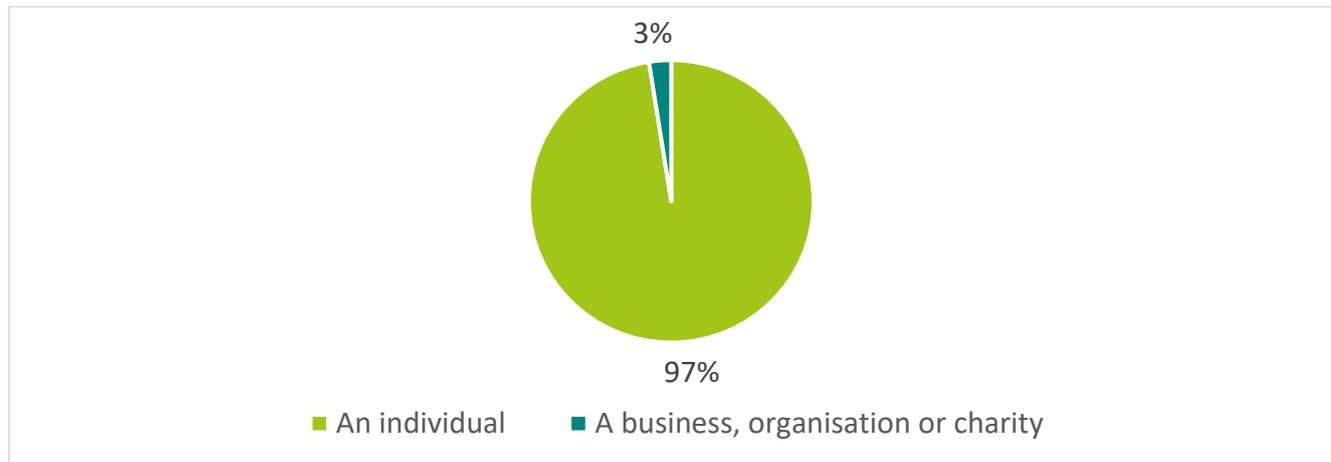
4.2.1 Businesses

Q2. Please provide the name of your business, organisation or charity that you are representing: (35 responses, 2 skipped)

Q3. Which sector is your business or organisation? (36 responses, 1 skipped)

The following graph shows us the following sectors: (1) Administrative & Support Services; (2) Agriculture; (2) Construction; (3) Education; (1) Financial, Insurance & Real Estate; (2) Information & Communication; (1) Local government; (3) Manufacturing; (2) Retail; (1) Transport and Storage; (6) Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise; (13) Other.

'Other' responses include: Climate / environmental (4); Creative, Media, Broadcast (3); Vehicle industry (2); Health and Safety Consultancy (1); After-school club (1); Property letting and services (1); Office park (1); Computer components (1).
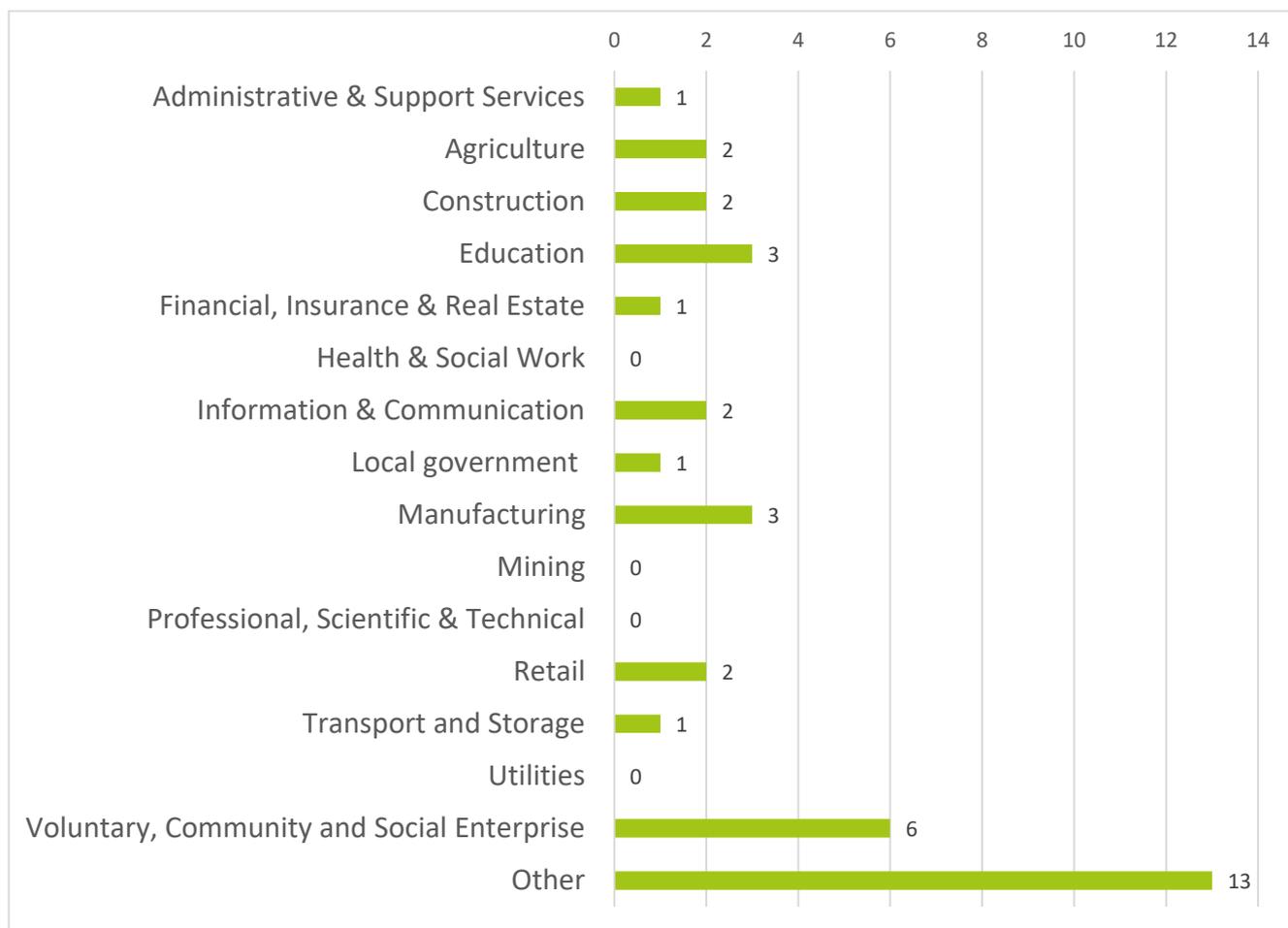
Q4. Does your business manage its environmental impact? (37 responses, 1 skipped)

34 said yes, 1 said no, and 2 said I don't know.

Q5. If not, can you tell us why?

Lack of interest (1)

Q6. What kind of support would be beneficial to your organisation? Please select all that apply. (37 responses, 0 skipped)

The most popular responses were energy efficiency / reducing use of resources (18), sustainable procurement methods (18) and changing to renewable energy (17).
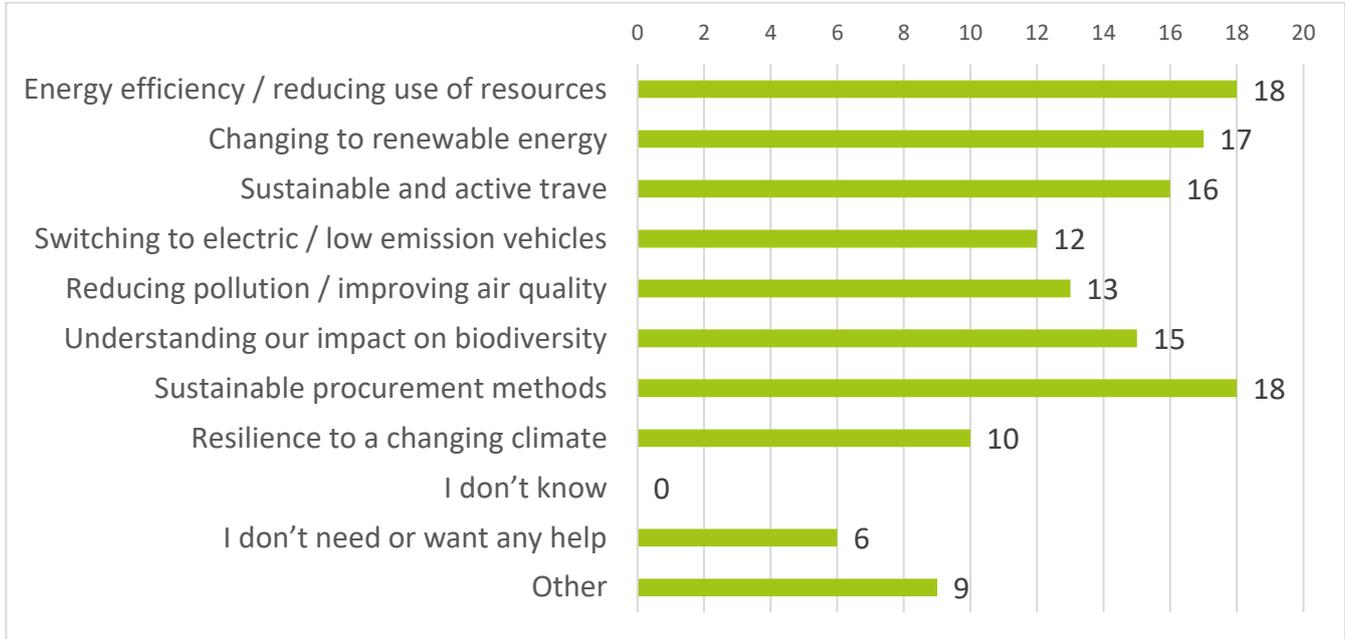
'Other' responses include: grants for renewable energy (2); help with how to access funding (2).

Q7. How would you like to improve the skills of your employees to enable your business to become greener? Please select all that apply. (2 skipped)

24 said support with funding, 20 said knowing what training is available and how to access it, and 13 said learning from other businesses.
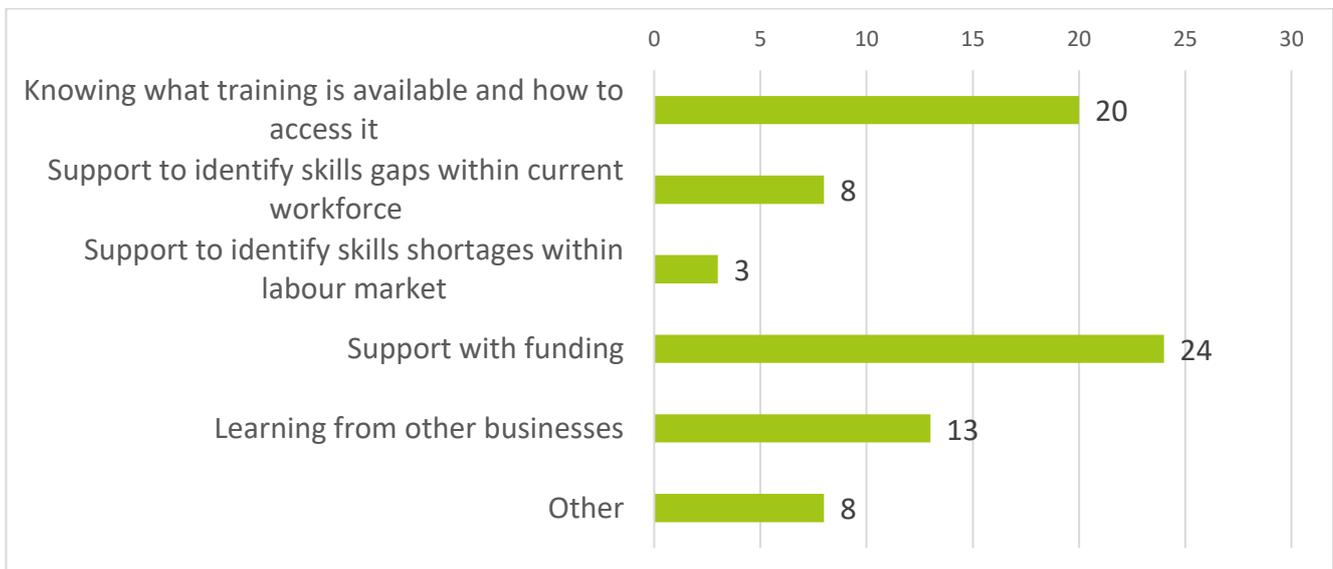
'Other' comments include: networking and case studies (2); access to local contractors (1); and industry specific training (1)

Q8a. My business would do more to tackle the climate and environment emergency if: Please select up to three options. (1 skipped)

21 said if the government did more to support businesses, 18 if the Combined Authority did more to support businesses, and 16 if solutions were more affordable.
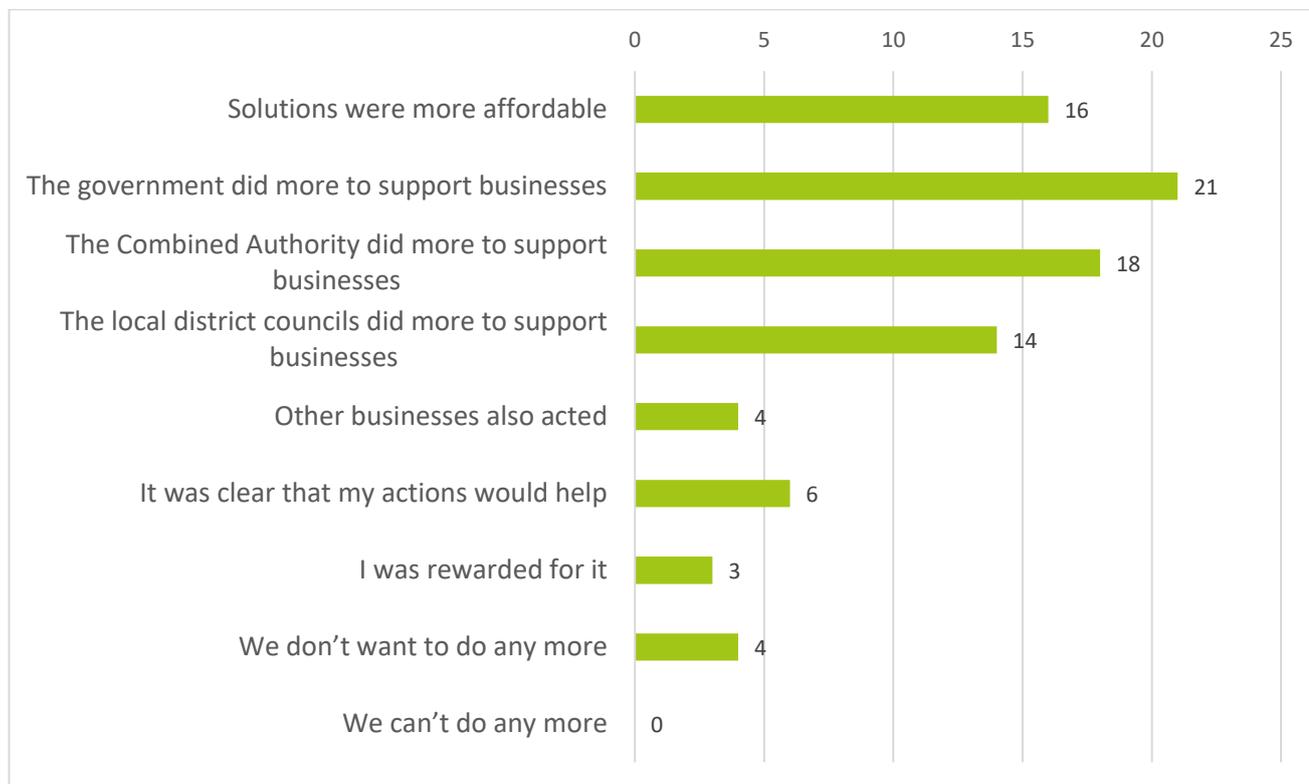
Q8b. If you would like to explain your answer, please use the box below: (23 responses)	
Theme	**Frequency**
How to access funding	2
Grants for renewable energy	2
We already campaign on these	1
Support for high schools	1
Resources to reduce litter / pollution in neighbourhoods	1
Promote us as a sustainable business	1
Local is not the solution	1
Insultation products minus VAT	1
How retrofit listed building	1
Case studies	1
Bring communities with us	1
Access to grid power	1

The most common theme we identified was support with costs to take action.

Q9. If you would like to be contacted to discuss how the Combined Authority can support your business or organisation, please add your email address here: (23 responses)

Contact details shared with Sustainable Business Team to get in touch to offer their support.

4.2.2 About me

Q10. How worried are you about the climate and environment emergency? (1,477 responses, 6 skipped)

54% are very worried, 21% are worried. 5% are not worried and 14% not at all worried. 6% neutral.
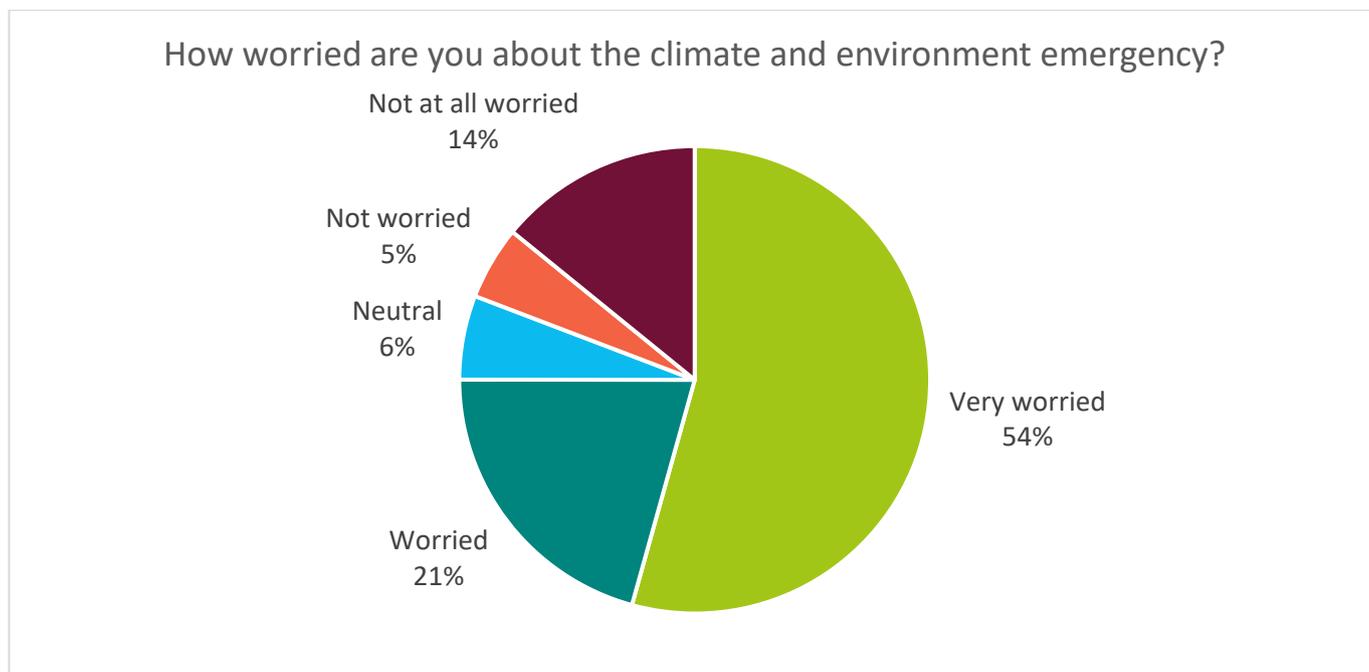
Q11. How much do you agree or disagree that the following are doing enough to tackle the climate emergency?

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree on a sliding scale to whether the following organisations were doing enough to tackle the climate emergency: national government, the local council, the Combined Authority, local businesses and the general public. Most responses disagree rather than agree, showing that most of the respondents did not think that organisations are doing enough.

National government (1,467 responses):

- 7% strongly agree and 7% agree. 15% disagree and 57% strongly disagree. 11% feel neutral and 2% don't know.

My local district council (1,456 responses):

- 6% strongly agree and 11% agree. 31% disagree and 22% strongly disagree. 22% feel neutral and 8% don't know.

The Combined Authority (1,450 responses):

- 6% strongly agree and 10% agree. 25% disagree and 19% strongly disagree. 24% feel

neutral and 18% don't know.

Local businesses (1,448 responses):

- 6% strongly agree and 8% agree. 30% disagree and 20% strongly disagree. 23% feel neutral and 13% don't know.

The general public (1,450 responses):

- 7% strongly agree and 9% agree. 35% disagree and 22% strongly disagree. 23% feel neutral and 5% don't know.

How much do you agree or disagree that the following are doing enough to tackle the climate emergency?
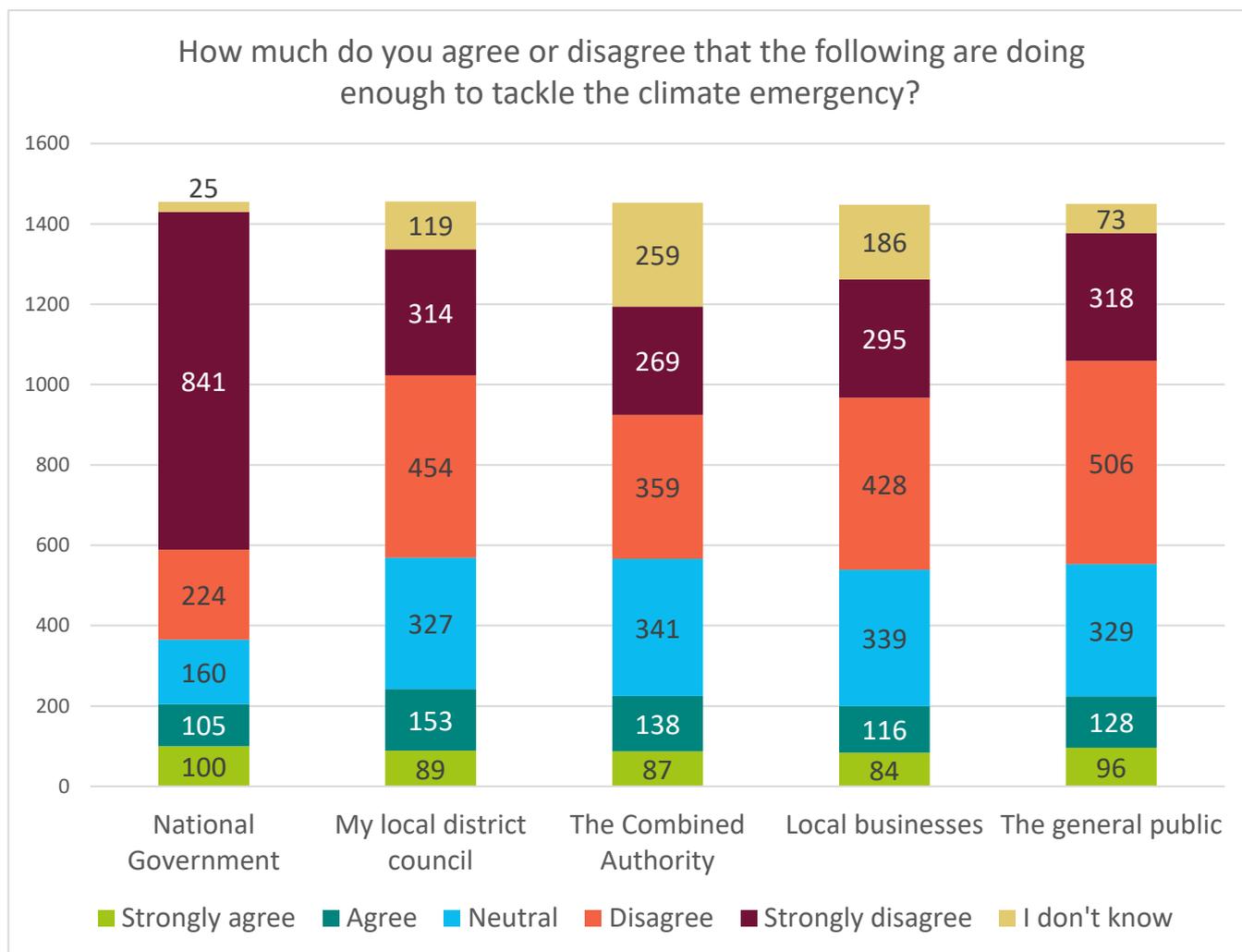
Q12. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Respondents were asked if tackling the climate emergency and protecting nature should be a priority for the Combined Authority as well as for themselves. The majority do agree that action should be a priority, and the majority are prepared to do their bit to take action.

Q12a. **Tackling the climate and environment emergency should be a priority for West Yorkshire Combined Authority** (1,469 responses, 14 skipped)

- 56% strongly agree, 18% agree, 4% neutral, 5% disagree and 16% strongly disagree.

Q12b. **Tackling the climate and environment emergency is a priority for me** (1,471 responses, 12 skipped)

- 52% strongly agree, 22% agree, 6% neutral, 5% disagree and 15% strongly disagree.

Q12c. **Protecting nature and wildlife should be a priority for West Yorkshire Combined Authority** (1,468 responses, 15 skipped)

- 61% strongly agree, 27% agree, 5% neutral, 4% disagree and 4% strongly disagree.

Q12d. **Protecting nature and wildlife is a priority for me** (1,467 responses, 16 skipped)

- 60% strongly agree, 29% agree, 7% neutral, 3% disagree and 3% strongly disagree.

Q12e. **I am prepared to do my bit to tackle the climate and environment emergency** (1,468 responses, 15 skipped)

- 58% strongly agree, 22% agree, 6% neutral, 2% disagree and 11% strongly disagree.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Legend: ■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ I don't know
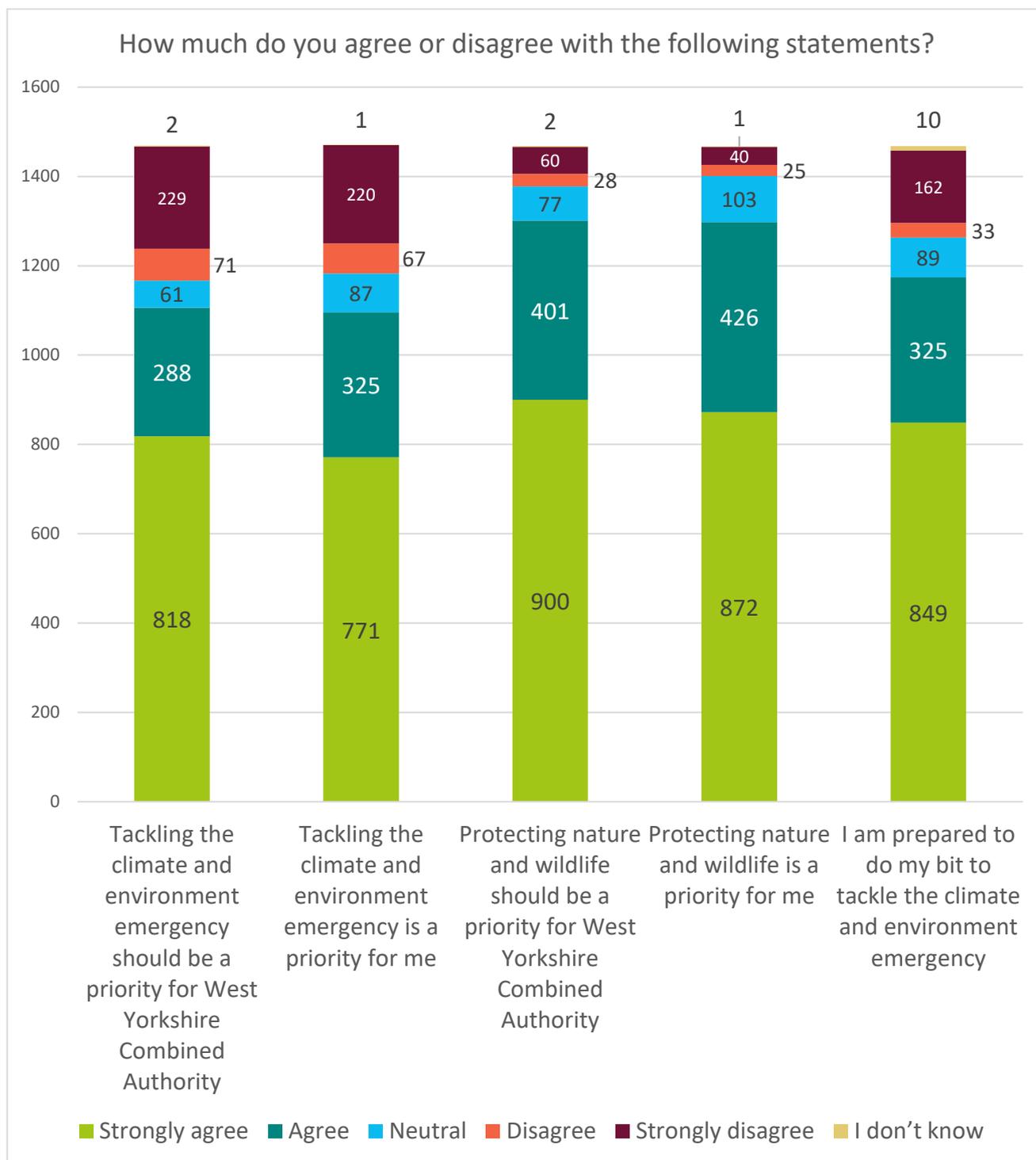
4.2.3. My home

Q13. What are the barriers to reducing energy use and carbon emissions in your home?
Please select all that apply. (1,462 responses, 21 skipped)

The main barriers that respondents selected were:
- Costs (69%)
- Lack of confidence in companies / tradespeople (39%)
- Level of disruption to the home (26%)

What are the barriers to reducing energy use and carbon emissions in your home?

Barrier	Value
Not sure how to get started/where to find information	281
Costs	1006
Level of disruption to the home	376
Lack of confidence in companies/tradespeople	567
Can't find anyone to do the work	135
Lack of DIY skills to do the work	250
Living in rented accommodation	144
Home is already very energy efficient	248
Not a priority at the moment	201
I don't have time	69
Other	277

Other, please state	
Renting Barriers	**18**
Housing association inadequacy	7
Landlord won't do work required	7
Landlord has to approve any work	4
Homeowning Barriers	**57**
High initial costs	36
Can't accommodate time needed for the job	8
Can't get planning permission	4
Too much in my home needs doing	4
Concerns about state of economy to justify investment in home	3
Just got new boiler, plans to invest greener in time	2
Barriers to General Energy Reduction	**162**
Lack of government/regional planning support	35
Mixed messaging about the effectiveness of heat pumps and retrofitting	23
Home not suitable	18
Lack of space for/home not suitable for heat pump	18
Not enough cash incentives	14
Don't know which options are best	11

Aren't enough retrofitting tradespeople	10
Modern solutions aren't always suitable for older/listed homes/conservation area	7
Poorly insulated new builds/need better building regulations	7
Barrier sot living in an apartment	7
Deemed waste of money	5
Heat pumps are too noisy	4
Happy with current gas appliances	3
Supportive Comments	**47**
Already taken energy and emission reducing measures	47
Climate Denial	**53**
Outright denial of the climate emergency	47
Other counties/other people should do more	11
Mockery of climate science	4
Wanting a 'balanced' argument	1

The most common theme we identified was barriers to general energy reduction. Within the theme the main barriers were 'lack of government/regional planning support' with 35 comments; 'mixed messaging about the effectiveness of heat pumps and retrofitting' with 23 comments; and 'home not suitable' and 'lack of space for/home not suitable for heat pumps', both with 18 comments. Other notable comments were 'high initial costs' with 36 comments in the homeowning barriers theme; people 'already taken energy and emission reducing measures' with 47 comments in the supportive comments theme; and 'outright denial of the climate emergency' with 47 comments in the climate denial theme.

Q14. What would help you overcome these barriers? The following options are support that the Combined Authority and national government can help with. Please select up to three options (1,394 responses, 89 skipped)

The top four options to help overcome barriers to reduce energy use and carbon emissions in the home selected by respondents were:

- Grant funding – 65%
- Support with finding trusted contractors – 38%
- Independent advice – 36%
- An attractive financial offer – 32%

What would help you overcome these barriers? The following options are support that the Combined Authority and national government can help with

Option	Value
Better understanding of the benefits (e.g. financial, health, improved resilience to climate change)	184
Support with finding trusted contractors	533
Guiding through the whole process	249
Independent advice such as an energy performance assessment to see how best to improve your home	506
Grant funding e.g. Government payment towards home improvement	908
An attractive financial offer (e.g. green mortgage or low-interest loan)	447
Other, please state	261
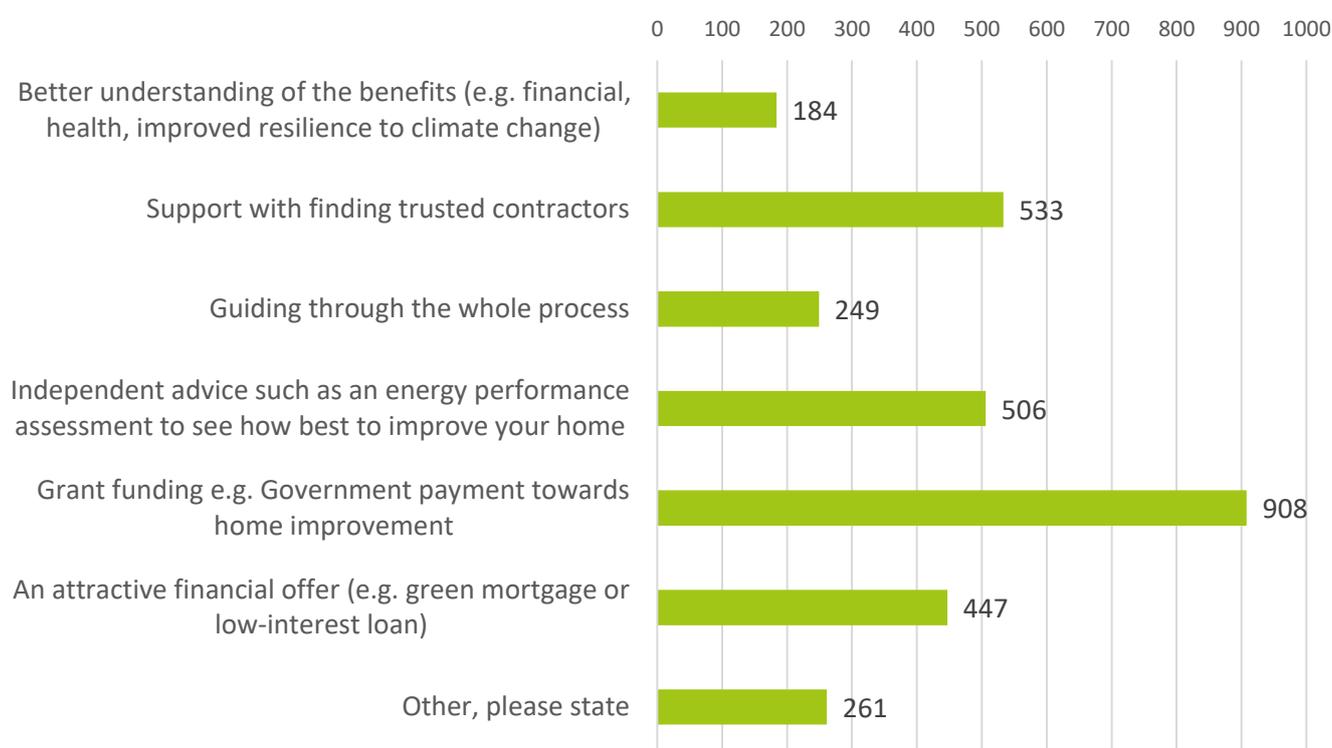
Other, please state:	
Overcoming Rental Barriers	**46**
Landlords required to meet energy efficiency standards	33
Ensure housing associations are green	6
Greater support for landlords	4
Allow renters to make modifications	3
Overcoming Homeowner/Building barriers	**27**
Better and affordable options for older houses	16
Homeowner/building financial support schemes	9
Allowed to do work in apartments	2
Overcoming General Energy Consumption Barriers	**105**
Better government planning	25
Better government assistance schemes	19
Ensure costs aren't too high	18
Companies need to take responsibility for their products and pricing	9
Make the process of making your home more energy efficient easier	8
Behaviour change campaigns	7
Street/neighbourhood development schemes	5
Clear messaging about how each type of product helps your home and finances	4
No VAT on green products	4

Copy other effective policy models (e.g. Ireland)	3
Use nuclear power	2
Ensuring new builds meet requirements	1
Supportive Comments	**12**
Already energy efficiency	12
Climate Denial/Scepticism	**72**
Outright denial of the climate emergency	68
Other counties responsibility	4
Lack of Interest	**65**
Nothing	35
Not interested	20
Not relevant	10

The most common theme we identified was overcoming general barriers to general energy consumption barriers. Within the theme the main barriers were 'better government planning' with 25 comments; 'better government assistance schemes' with 19 comments; and ensure costs aren't too high' with 18 comments. Other notable comments were 'landlords required to meet energy efficiency standards' with 33 comments in the overcoming rental barriers theme; better and affordable options for older houses with 16 comments in the overcoming homeowner/building barriers theme; and 'outright denial of the climate emergency' with 68 comments in the climate denial/scepticism theme.

Q15. Would you consider doing the following in your home?

Respondents were asked to put a time scale against which actions they were prepared to do in their home. Most respondents had already reduced their energy use, insulated, installed draught proofing, improved window glazing and replaced their old boiler with a more efficient model. Respondents are less likely to consider a low carbon heating system or solar panels.

The top three timescales for each measure is as follows:

Q15a. Reduce energy use e.g. turn down heating, take shorter showers, wash at lower temperatures, etc (1,448 responses, 35 skipped)
- 86% already done, 10% never / not applicable, 3% in 1 year

Q15b. Insulate e.g. loft, cavity wall (1,430 responses, 53 skipped)
- 70% already done, 15% never / not applicable, 10% in 1 year's time

Q15c. Draught proofing (1,339 responses, 84 skipped)
- 65% already done, 20% in 1 year's time, 9% never / not applicable

Q15d. Improve window glazing e.g. double/triple (1,428 responses, 55 skipped)
- 64% already done, 11% in 1 year's time, 11% in 5 years' time

Q15e. Replace old boiler with a more energy efficient model (1,422 responses, 61 skipped)
- 50% already done, 20% in 5 years' time, 14% never / not applicable

Q15f. Switch to a low carbon heating system e.g. heat pump (1,406 responses, 77 skipped)
- 36% never / not applicable, 28% in 5 years' time, 11% in 10 years' time

Q15g. Install solar panels (1,408 responses, 75 skipped)
- 36% never / not applicable, 22% in 5 years' time, 16% already done

Q15h. Something else, please state (424 responses, 1,059 skipped)
- 59% never / not applicable, 17% already done, 11% in 1 year's time
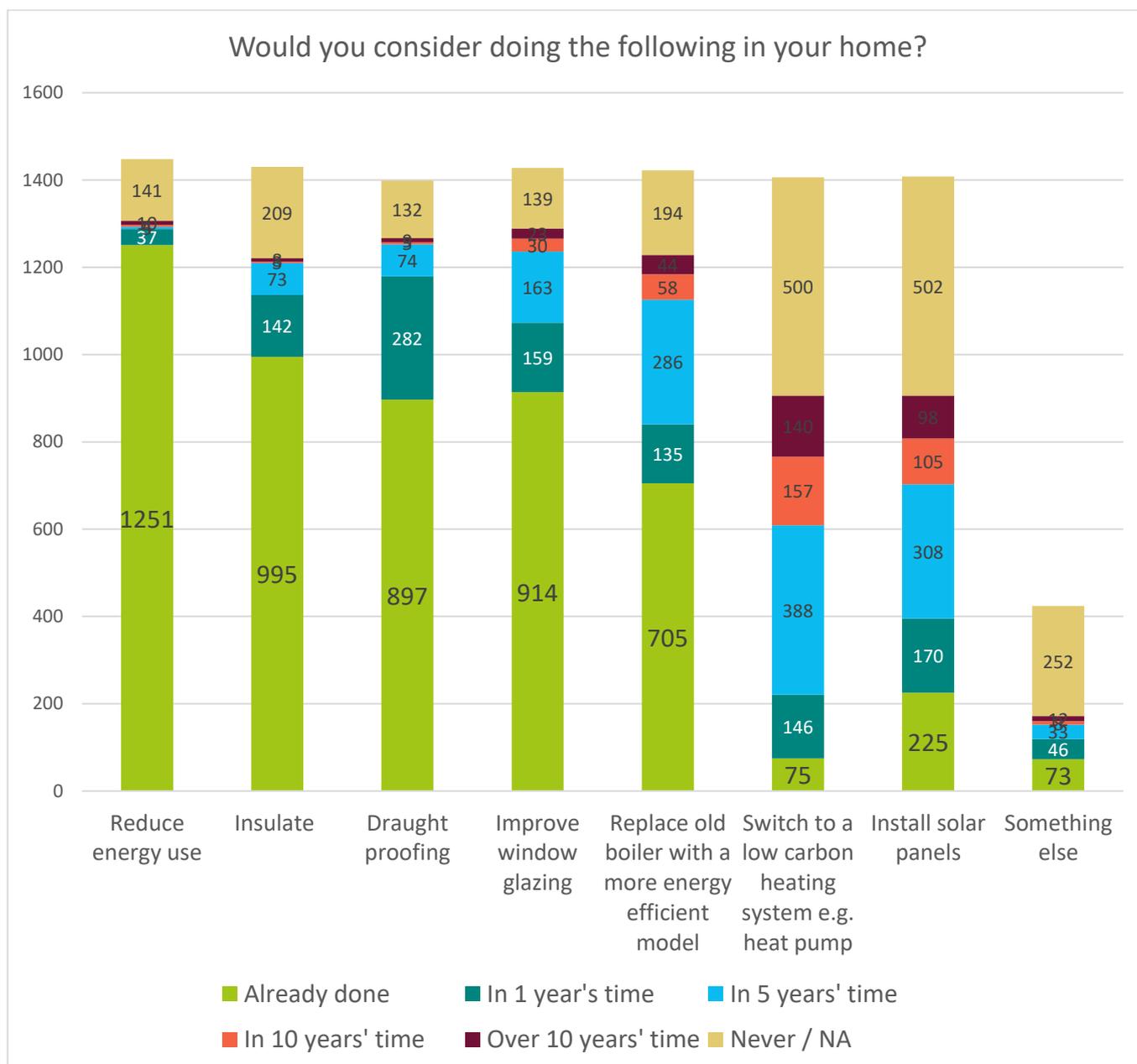
Something else, please state: (327 responses)	
Overcoming Rental Barriers	**39**
Limitations because of landlord	31
Housing association support	5

Want landlord to do more	3
Overcoming other general energy consumption barriers	**236**
Household solar batteries/solar thermal	36
Reduce costs	29
Internal/external cladding/insulation	27
Clean energy subsidies	22
Community energy projects	16
Electric vehicles	16
House too old/listed	14
Household wind power	12
Install a heat pump	8
Government intervention	8
Under floor installation	7
Better planning structures	6
General household infrastructure	6
EV charging points	5
Target corporate greenwashing and tax evasion	5
Diversity of plant life in garden/houses	4
Energy efficiency appliances	4
Reliable trades people	3
Triple glazing	3
Better/free public transport	2
Ethical green technology (not supporting cobalt from DRC etc)	1
Going plant based/reducing meat/fish/diary etc	1
Rainwater collection system	1
Supportive Comments	**19**
Already energy efficient	19
Climate Denial/Scepticism	**22**
Outright denial of the climate emergency	19
Other countries' responsibility	3
Lack of Interest	**1**
Nothing	1
Miscellaneous	**8**
Irrelevant comment	8

The most common theme we identified was overcoming other general energy consumption barriers. Within the theme the main barriers were 'household solar batteries/solar thermal' with 36 comments; 'reduce costs' with 29 comments; 'internal/external cladding/insulation with 27 comments; and 'clean energy subsidies' with 22 comments. Other notable comments were 'limitations because of landlord' with 31 comments in the overcoming rental barriers theme; 'already energy efficient with 19 comments in the supportive comments theme; and 'outright denial of the climate emergency' with 19 comments in the climate denial/scepticism theme.

4.2.4. How I Travel

Q16. Thinking about how you travel, how often do you to the following?

The most common answers for ways of travel and how often were:

Q16a. Walk for at least 10 minutes to get somewhere (34 skipped this question)
- 57% said at least 4 days per week, 29% said 1 to 3 days per week and 8% said 1 to 3 times per month

Q16b. Travel as a car or van passenger (67 skipped this question)
- 33% 1 to 3 days per week, 24% 1 to 3 times per month, 19% at least 4 days per week

Q16c. Drive a car or van (33 skipped this question)
- 42% at least 4 days per week, 34% 1 to 3 days per week, 15% said never

Q16d. Catch a bus (40 skipped this question)
- 19% 1 to 3 days per month and 19% said never. 18% said 1 to 3 days per week

Q16e. Use a taxi (47 skipped this question)
- 24% said once or twice a year, 22% every 2 to 3 months. 15% 1 to 3 times per month

Q16f. Catch a train (40 skipped this question)
- 23% 1 to 3 times per month and 23% every 2 to 3 months. 18% once or twice a year

Q16g. Travel by cycle (44 skipped this question)
- 62% said they never cycle. 7% said 1 to 3 days per week and 7% said 1 to 3 times per month

Q16h. Travel by motorbike or motor scooter (52 skipped this question)
- 93% said never. 2% said 1 to 3 times per month and 2% said less than once a year

Q16i. Travel by plane (37 skipped this question)
- 37% said once or twice a year. 31% less than once a year and 25% said never

Thinking about how you travel, how often do you to the following?
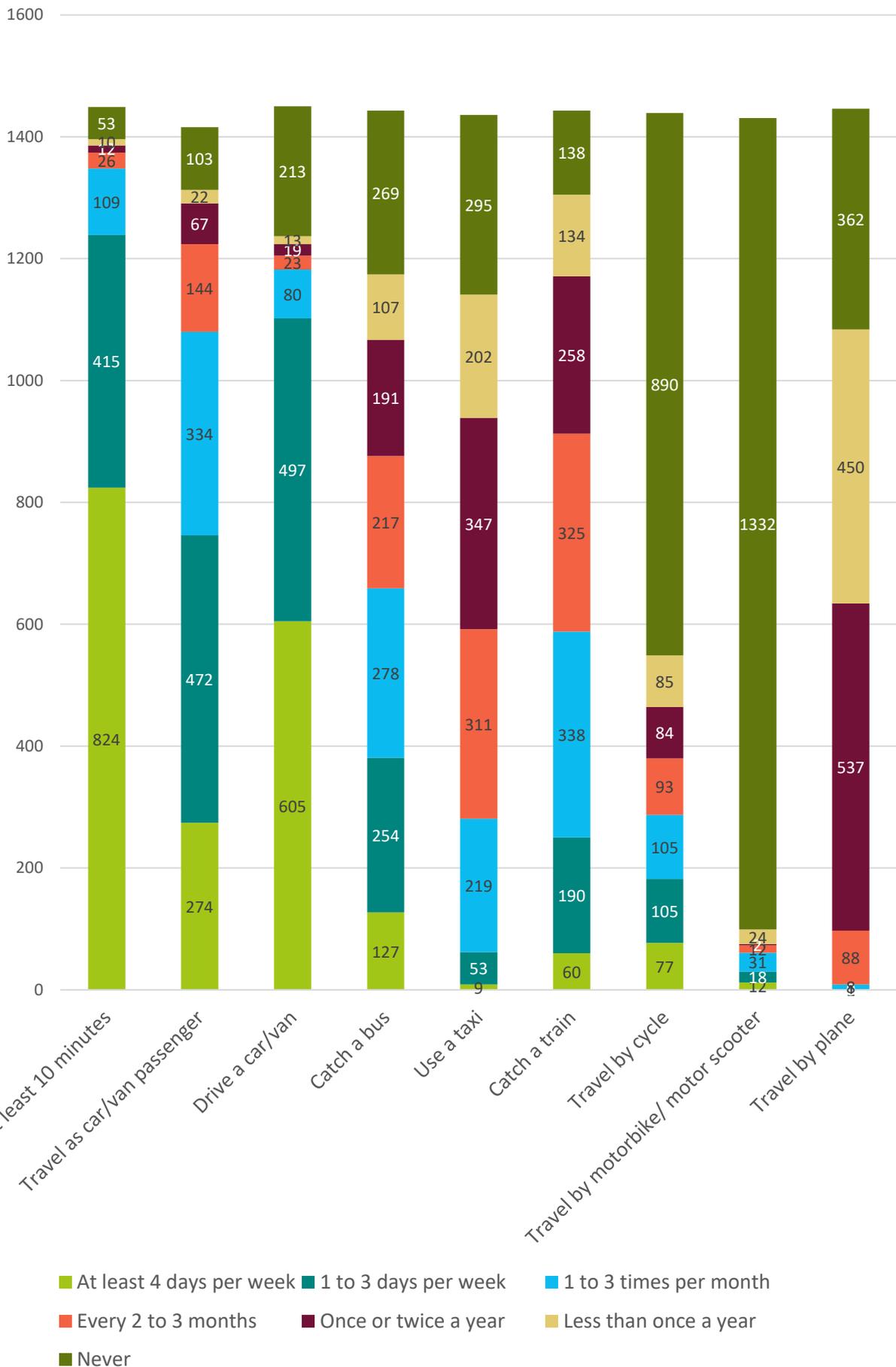
Q17. Which of the following actions have you already taken to reduce your transport emissions? Please select all that apply. (1,470 responses, 13 skipped)

The top three selected are:
- I walk more - 54%
- I drive less - 45%
- I fly less - 33%

Which of the following actions have you already taken to reduce your transport emissions?

Action	Value
Switched to an electric or hybrid vehicle	250
I drive less	655
I gave up my own vehicle and use a car club	12
I gave up my vehicle	100
I use the bus more	423
I take the train more	434
I walk more	793
I cycle more	232
I share lifts more	193
I work from home more	464
I fly less	480
I haven't made any changes	321

Q18. What are the barriers to you making more changes to your transport use, to reduce transport-related emissions? Please select all that apply. (1,416 responses, 67 skipped)

The top three selected are:
- Public transport doesn't take me to where I need to be - 58%
- Convenience - 53%
- My journeys would take too long - 43%

What are the barriers to you making more changes to your transport use, to reduce transport-related emissions?

Cost	538
Convenience	748
Lack of alternatives	555
Safety concerns	250
Health	151
My journeys would take too long	606
Public transport doesn't take me to where I need to be	828
Other, please state	344
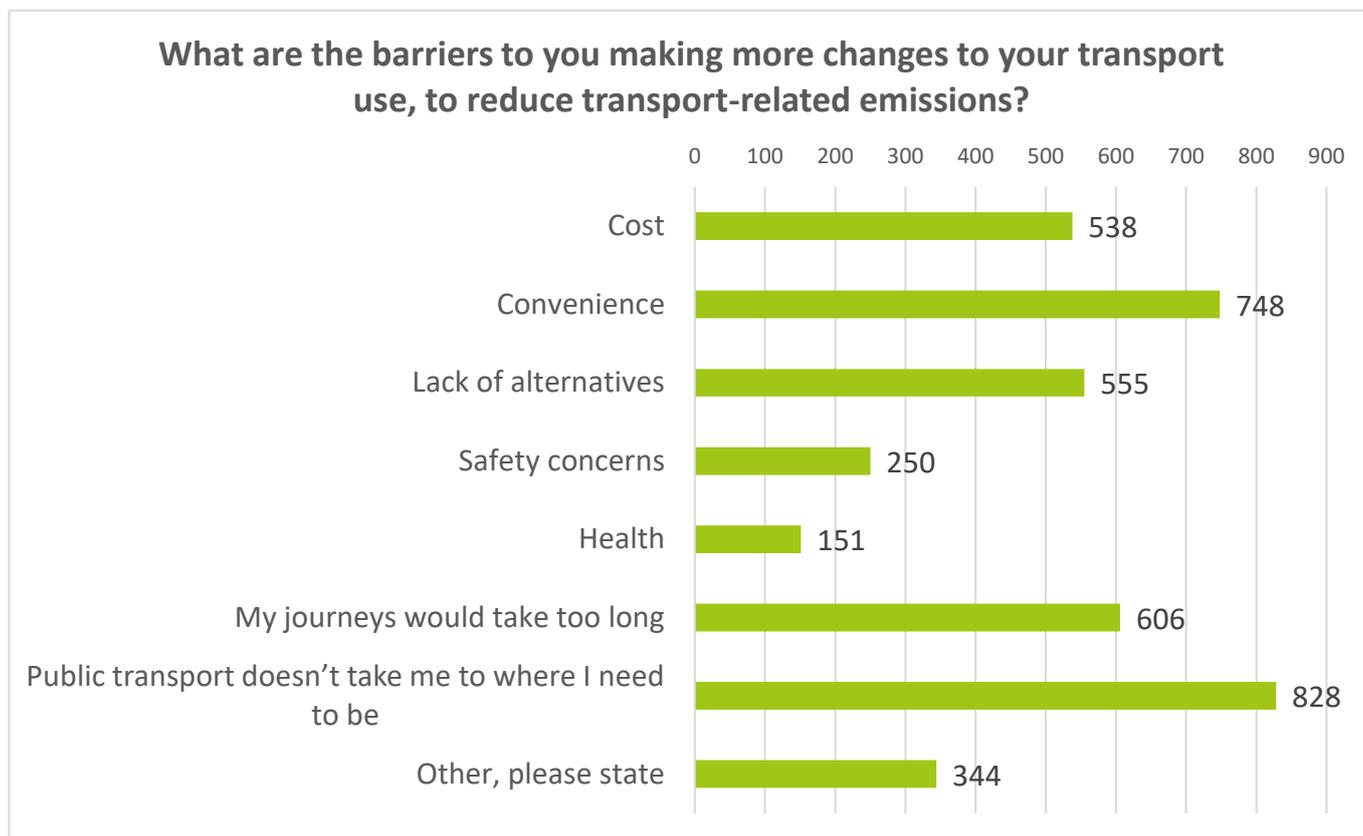
Other, please state	
Public transport	**208**
Public transport is unreliable	129
Public transport is expensive	44
Public transport doesn't get me where I need to be / doesn't serve my area	42
Public transport is infrequent	34
Public transport doesn't run at times I need	20
Public transport is too slow	19
Poor interconnection between services	14
Public transport is overcrowded	7
Inadequate public transport infrastructure	7
Public transport is unclean	5
We need mass transit / trams	5
Public transport is unsafe / antisocial behaviour	4
We need better / integrated ticketing	2
We need bus franchising / public ownership	2

Poor customer service	2
Unclear timetables / travel information	1
No barriers / not a priority	**135**
Denies climate change	45
I already do what I can	39
Nothing / I don't want to	33
Critical of decision makers	12
Concerned about air travel	6
Driving	**113**
I have to drive for work / to get to work	31
Issues with EVs (cost, infrastructure, don't support them)	29
I won't switch from my car	16
I need to be able to carry / transport things	14
Driving provides more freedom / convenience	11
Issues with road access / parking for motorists	7
I prefer using my EV	3
Driving is safer	2
Accessibility	**64**
I am disabled / face accessibility barriers	30
I travel with / care for children / my family	23
My age	11
I feel unsafe as a pedestrian	9
I travel with pets	2
Cycling	**34**
Lack of cycling infrastructure	16
Cycling is unsafe	16
Weather / terrain	4
Lack of support to take up cycling	2
Miscellaneous	**2**
Miscellaneous / N/A	2

The open text responses of participants who chose 'other' have been coded in the table above. Respondents raised a variety of barriers that they face in changing their transport use and reducing their transport-related emissions. Generally, many of these comments provided further detail on the options provided in the question, such as about cost, convenience, health, journeys taking too long, and public transport not being reliable.

The most common topic raised in these open text comments was issues related to public transport. Within this theme, 129 respondents suggested that the unreliability of public transport was a barrier to changing their transport use. Some other common issues raised about public transport were that it is expensive (44 comments), doesn't serve the respondents area or doesn't get the respondent where they need to be (42 comments), and is infrequent (34 comments).

Overall, 135 comments suggested that there were no barriers to changing transport use, or that the respondent felt this was not a priority. Within this broader theme, 45 respondents denied climate change, 39 said they already do what they can to reduce transport-related emissions, and 33 said they did not want to change anything about their transport use or faced no barriers. 113 comments related to driving. The most common issue raised about driving was that respondents said they had to drive for their job or to get to work (31 comments). 29 respondents also raised issues relating to electric vehicles, for example the cost of purchasing and running an electric vehicle, and feeling that they are not a good solution to transport-related emissions.

64 comments related to accessibility, with 30 respondents saying that accessibility problems and/or their disability means they cannot change their transport use. 23 respondents also raised that they travel with or need to care for family members, including children, which can result in issues with changing travel use.

34 comments raised issues with cycling, with respondents suggesting barriers to cycling or cycling more. 16 respondents said that lack of cycling infrastructure was a barrier, and 16 said that cycling feeling unsafe was a barrier.

Q19. How likely are you to do the following to reduce your transport-related impact?

More respondents are inclined to walk more (61%) than any other method of travelling. But the least amount of respondents would give up their own vehicle (6%) or use a car club (5%).

- **Walk more** (60 skipped)

61% said likely, 14% neither likely nor unlikely and 16% said unlikely. 5% said n/a.

- **Cycle more** (108 skipped)

25% said likely, 10% said neither likely nor unlikely and 41% very unlikely. 17% said n/a.

- **Use the bus more** (74 skipped)

42% said likely, 19% neither likely nor unlikely and 34% unlikely. 5% said n/a

- **Take the train more** (81 skipped)

45% said likely, 18% neither likely nor unlikely and 31% unlikely. 7% said n/a.

- **Work from home more to reduce travel** (105 skipped)

35% said likely, 11% neither likely nor unlikely and 19% unlikely. 37% said n/a.

- **Drive less** (77 skipped)

42% said likely, 17% neither likely nor unlikely and 27% unlikely. 14% said n/a.

- **Share car journeys** more (113 skipped)

38% said likely, 16% neither likely nor unlikely and 39% unlikely. 17% said n/a.

- **Switch to an electric or hybrid or vehicle** (102 skipped)

32% said likely, 11% neither likely nor unlikely and 36% unlikely. 21% said n/a.

- **Give up my own vehicle and use a car club** (113 skipped)

5% said likely, 8% neither likely nor unlikely and 67% unlikely. 21% said n/a.

- **Give up using a private vehicle** (112 skipped)

6% said likely, 7% neither likely nor unlikely and 70% unlikely. 17% said n/a.

- **Fly less** (86 skipped)

35% said likely, 18% neither likely nor unlikely and 28% unlikely. 20% said n/a.

How likely are you to do the following to reduce your transport-related impact?
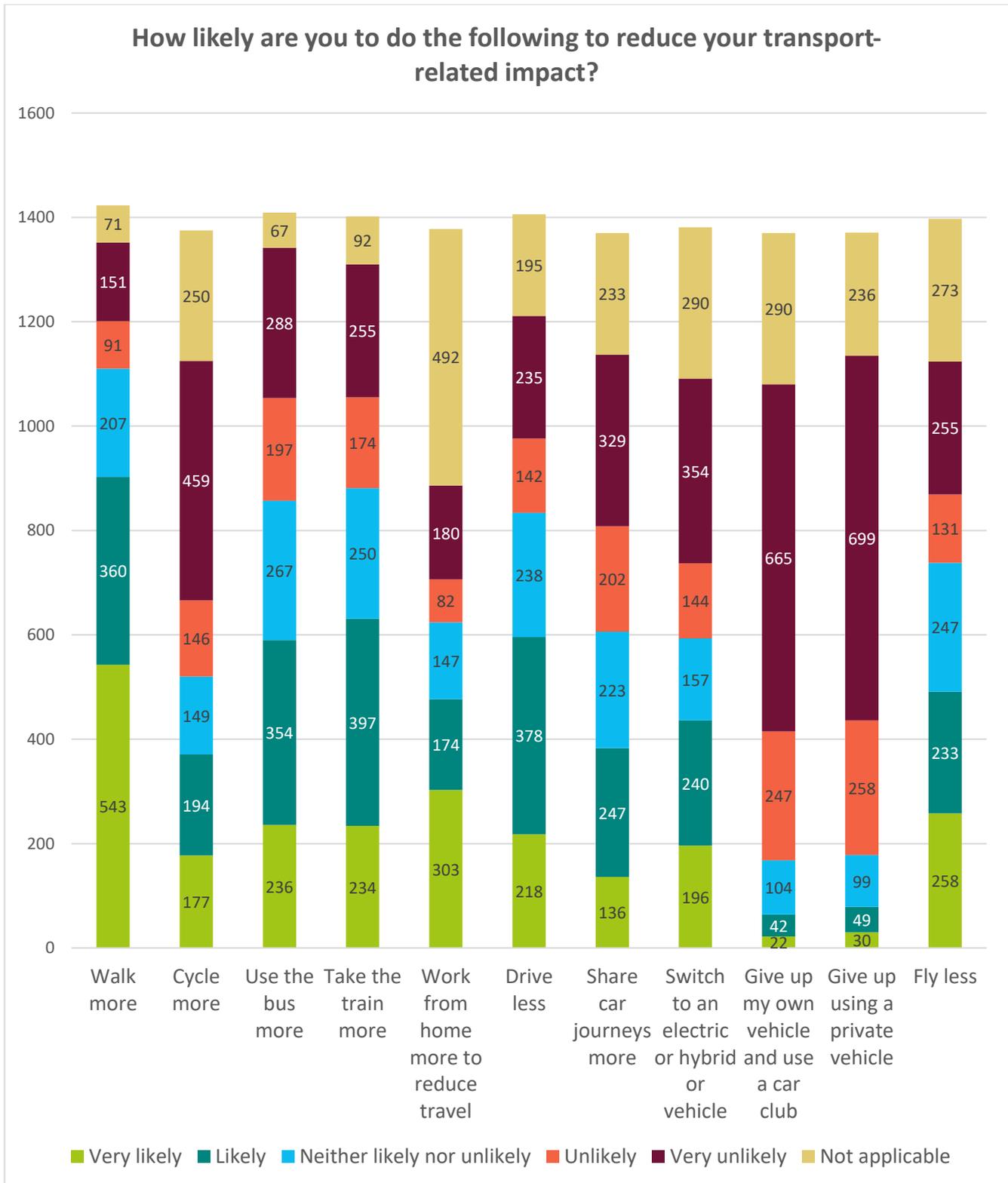
Q20. Which of the following would be most likely to increase your use of public transport e.g. bus, rail? Please select up to three options. (1,424 responses, 59 skipped)

The majority of respondents would like to see a more reliable bus service (664) and a more reliable rail service (567).

The fewest number of respondents chose 'easier way to buy tickets' (42).

Which of the following would be most likely to increase your use of public transport e.g. bus, rail?

Option	Value
More frequent buses	494
More frequent trains	236
More reliable bus services	664
More reliable rail services	567
Lower bus fares	226
Lower rail fares	459
Easier way to buy tickets	42
Easier to connect between buses, between trains, and between rail and bus	401
A mass transit / tram line in my area	339
Other, please state	234

Other, please state	
Public transport	**187**
Public transport getting me where I need to be / serving my area	53
Cheaper public transport	22
More reliable public transport	21
Safer public transport / less antisocial behaviour	18
Public transport running at times I need	14
More frequent public transport	10
Better / integrated ticketing	9
Mass transit / trams	7
Cleaner public transport	6
Different types of public transport	6
Better timetables / travel information	4
More direct services	4

Bus franchising / public ownership	4
Faster public transport journeys	2
Nothing	**102**
Nothing / I don't want to	76
Denies climate change	9
I already do what I can	9
Critical of decision makers	6
I don't want mass transit / trams	2
Driving	**40**
I won't switch from my car	21
I have to drive for work / to get to work	9
If driving became the less convenient option	4
Improvements to road access / parking for motorists	4
More EV infrastructure	2
Accessibility	**30**
Better access for disabled people	10
My disability / health means I can't use public transport	9
Receiving senior bus pass / retiring	5
My age means I can't use public transport	3
Being able to take pets on public transport	2
Travelling with children is difficult	1
Cycling	**14**
Being able to take a bicycle on public transport	9
Better cycling infrastructure	5
Miscellaneous	**28**
All of the above	23
Miscellaneous / N/A	5

The open text responses of participants who chose 'other' have been coded in the table above. Respondents raised similar themes in their open text responses to this question and the question above about transport barriers.

192 respondents suggested changes to public transport. The most commonly raised changes were public transport serving the respondent's area or getting them where they need to be (53 comments), being cheaper (22 comments), more reliable (21), and being safer or there being less antisocial behaviour on public transport (18).

Overall 102 comments suggested that nothing would increase the respondent's use of public transport, with 76 respondents said they didn't want to use public transport or that nothing would change their public transport use. 40 comments also raised comments related to driving, with 21 respondents saying that they would not switch from using their car to public transport. 30 comments made suggestions relating to accessibility, with 10 respondents saying that improved accessibility for disabled people would increase their public transport use. Others (9 comments) said that their disability meant that they would not increase their public transport use. 14 comments also related to accessibility for cyclists on public transport, with 9 suggesting that being able to take their bicycle on public transport would increase their public transport use.

4.2.5. My Employment and Skills

Q21. Are you currently in employment? (1,474 responses, 9 skipped)

59% said yes (full or part-time), 7% said voluntary or unpaid, and 34% said no.
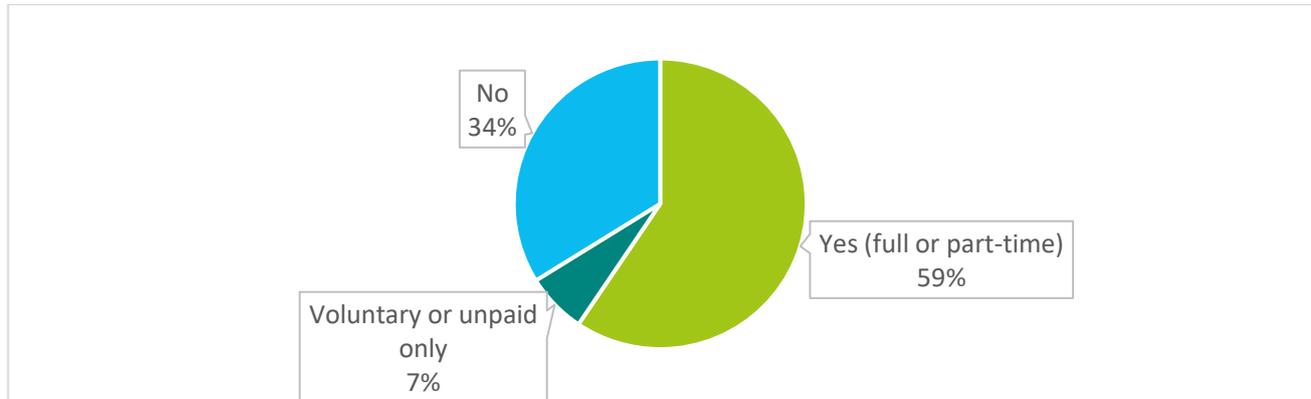
Q22. Would you like more / any training to be offered through your job to help tackle the climate and environment emergency? (965 responses, 508 not asked, 10 skipped)

- 32% said yes, they would like training and 24% said already have / had training

- 28% said no, they do not want any training and 9% feel they can't learn through their job.

- Yes, I would like some training – I would like to learn how I can reduce my place of work's environmental impact
- Yes, I would like more training – my role impacts the climate and environment

- Yes, my role does not currently offer this kind of training but I would like some

- No, I have already had / am currently getting training on how to tackle the climate and environment emergency
- No, I don't feel that I am able to learn about how to tackle the climate and environment emergency through my job
- No, I don't want any training

- I don't know

Q23. Does your place of work manage its environmental impact? (961 responses, 508 not asked, 14 skipped)

601 respondents said yes, 149 said no and 211 said they didn't know.

Does your place of work manage its environmental impact?

22%
15%
63%

■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know
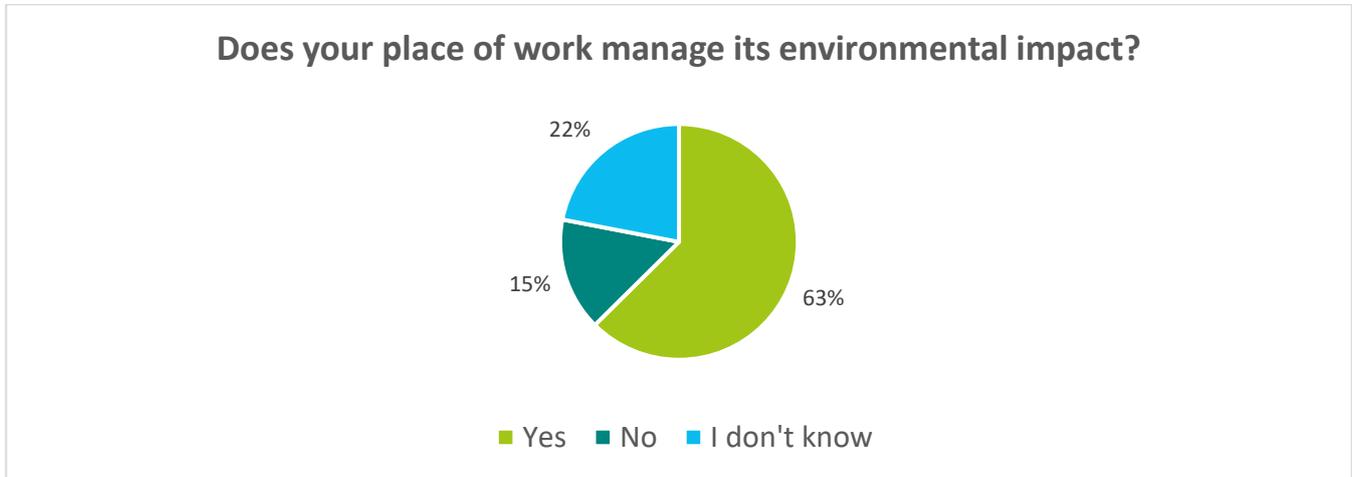
Q24. What kind of support could make your workplace more sustainable and environmentally friendly? Please select all that apply (1,421 responses, 62 skipped)
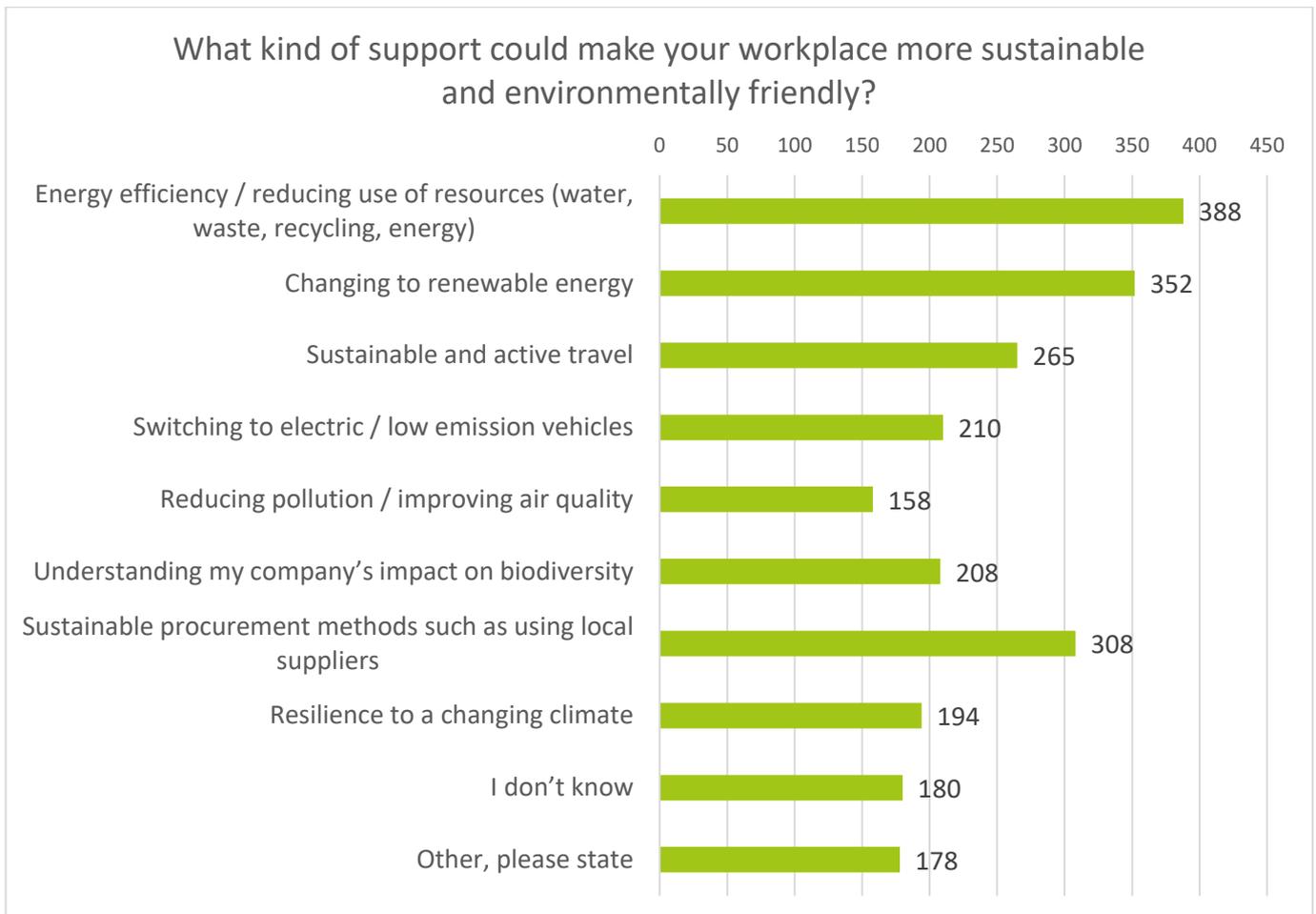
The most popular answer was energy efficiency / reducing use of resources (27%), support to change to renewable energy (25%) and support with sustainable procurement methods (22%).

What kind of support could make your workplace more sustainable and environmentally friendly?

Category	Value
Energy efficiency / reducing use of resources (water, waste, recycling, energy)	388
Changing to renewable energy	352
Sustainable and active travel	265
Switching to electric / low emission vehicles	210
Reducing pollution / improving air quality	158
Understanding my company's impact on biodiversity	208
Sustainable procurement methods such as using local suppliers	308
Resilience to a changing climate	194
I don't know	180
Other, please state	178

Other, please state	
Suggestions of support needed	**114**
Support for behavioural change campaigns	**35**
Encourage more working from home	7
Behavioural campaign for employees in businesses	6
Change diet e.g. reduce meat, diary, fish	3
Sustainability roles within organisations	3
Measure emissions / power usage	2
Access to shared vehicles/ car/ van clubs	2
Hold [accessible] events	2
Simple visible messages within the workplace	2
Culture change	2
How to use less plastic	1
Reduce single use plastics	1
Support behavioural change with students / teachers	1
Discourage flying	1
Clients to care more	1
Stop using poisonous chemicals	1
Improvement in policies and government	**18**
Fossil fuel divestment	5
Educate decision-makers	3
Need government change / lobby parliament	3
Local council needs to take action	2
Government policy to decarbonise homes	1
Worker voice	1
Change listed building regulations	1
Help from council on environmental projects	1
More action by the Environment Agency	1
Quicker response to renewable planning requests	1
Support with funding	**15**
Need improved grants funding / funding for green projects	5
Cost is the main prohibitor to change	4
Loans for electric / hybrid cars	1
It's costly to improve listed buildings	1
Free parking for community health workers	1
Fund climate change research	1
Improvement to buildings / heating / cooling	**15**
Solar panels	5
Insulation	4
Low carbon heating	3
Heating recycling	1
Retrofit - to protect against heatwaves	1
Fix buildings quicker e.g. hospitals	1
Improve recycling / reduce packaging	**12**
Encourage more businesses to reuse and recycle [packaging]	5

|	
Encourage recycling / have better recycling facilities	4
Improved carbon emission controls on waste disposal	1
Ban plastic packaging	1
Rainwater for toilets	1
Improve public transport	**7**
Improve public transport connections, make real alternative to the car	5
Calder valley line electrification	1
Subsidise public transport	1
Support for schools and hospitals	**6**
I work in a hospital / NHS	3
Support for schools to waste less energy	2
General support for NHS buildings / employees	1
Support with sustainable procurement	**4**
Sustainable procurement	2
Sustainable investment model	2
More EV / hydrogen	**2**
Electric vehicle charging points	1
Hydrogen filling stations	1
No support needed / possible	**99**
Not applicable to me	**69**
Does not believe in climate change	15
I am self-employed / WFH	13
None	9
I don't care	8
Not applicable	7
I am retired	5
Self employed	3
Rent the premises	3
No point	3
Not needed	2
Waste of money	1
Already taken action	**30**
We already do as much as we can	24
I work for a sustainability company	6
Concerns about different approaches	**7**
Local suppliers not always the most sustainable	1
Concerned about losing money in CAZ	1
Concerned that electric vehicles are not the solution	1
Concerned about job losses	1
Concerned 'carbon offsetting' is not the solution	1
Concerned adds more burden to businesses	1
Concerned about using AI	1
Miscellaneous	**7**
Miscellaneous / comments not answering the question	7

The most common answers in the 'other' open text section were suggestions where the Combined Authority could help businesses (35), such as supporting people to have the option to work from home (7) and behavioural change campaigns (6). Some respondents want to see improvements to policies and from the government (18) and some want help with funding (15) and to improve buildings (15). Some respondents felt there is no climate emergency and therefore no action needed (15). Some already feel that they have taken as much action as they can (24).

4.2.6. Changing Climate and Resilience

Q25. How worried are you about extreme weather?

This could include heatwaves, flooding, drought, and heavy rain. (1,474 responses, 9 skipped)

640 respondents said very worried, 444 said quite worried. 79 said not worried and 208 said not at all worried. 103 felt neutral.
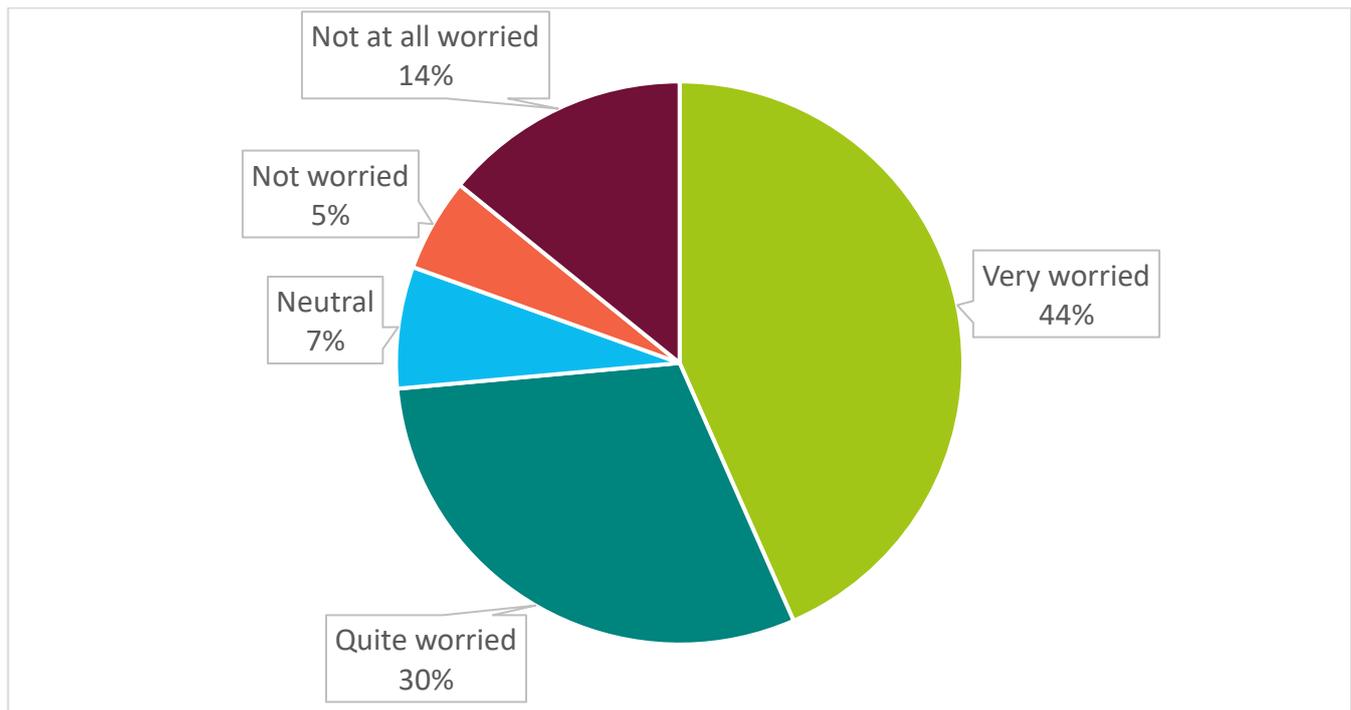
Q26. Extreme weather events linked to the climate and environment emergency may include heavy rain/flooding, heatwaves, storms/stronger winds, and drought.

Which of the following would you like government to invest in or develop stronger policies on?

All of the options listed were considered high or medium priority by the majority of respondents. Comparing the options with each other, to 'maintain and protect natural flood defences e.g. trees and green areas' had the most priority (84% said high priority) but 'building more flood defences' was considered to have the least priority (36% said high priority).

Q26a. Build more flood defences (1,365 answered, 118 skipped)

- 36% high priority, 41% medium priority, 19% low priority, 4% no opinion

Q26b. Maintain flood defences and drainage systems (1,412 answered, 71 skipped)

- 67% said high priority, 25% medium priority, 6% low priority. 2% no opinion

Q26c. Maintain and protect natural flood defences e.g. trees and green areas (1,437 answered, 46 skipped)

- 84% said high priority, 12% medium priority, 3% low priority. 1% no opinion

Q26d. Combat heatwaves by planting more trees for shade (1,414 answered, 69 skipped)

- 59% said high priority, 23% medium priority, 15% low priority. 3% no opinion

Q26e. Improve building construction standards to better regulate temperature (1,411 answered, 72 skipped)

- 61% said high priority, 23% medium priority, 13% low priority. 3% no opinion

Q26f. Install more heat pumps in buildings including homes to better regulate temperature (1,412 answered, 71 skipped)

- 42% said high priority, 25% medium priority, 27% low priority. 5% no opinion

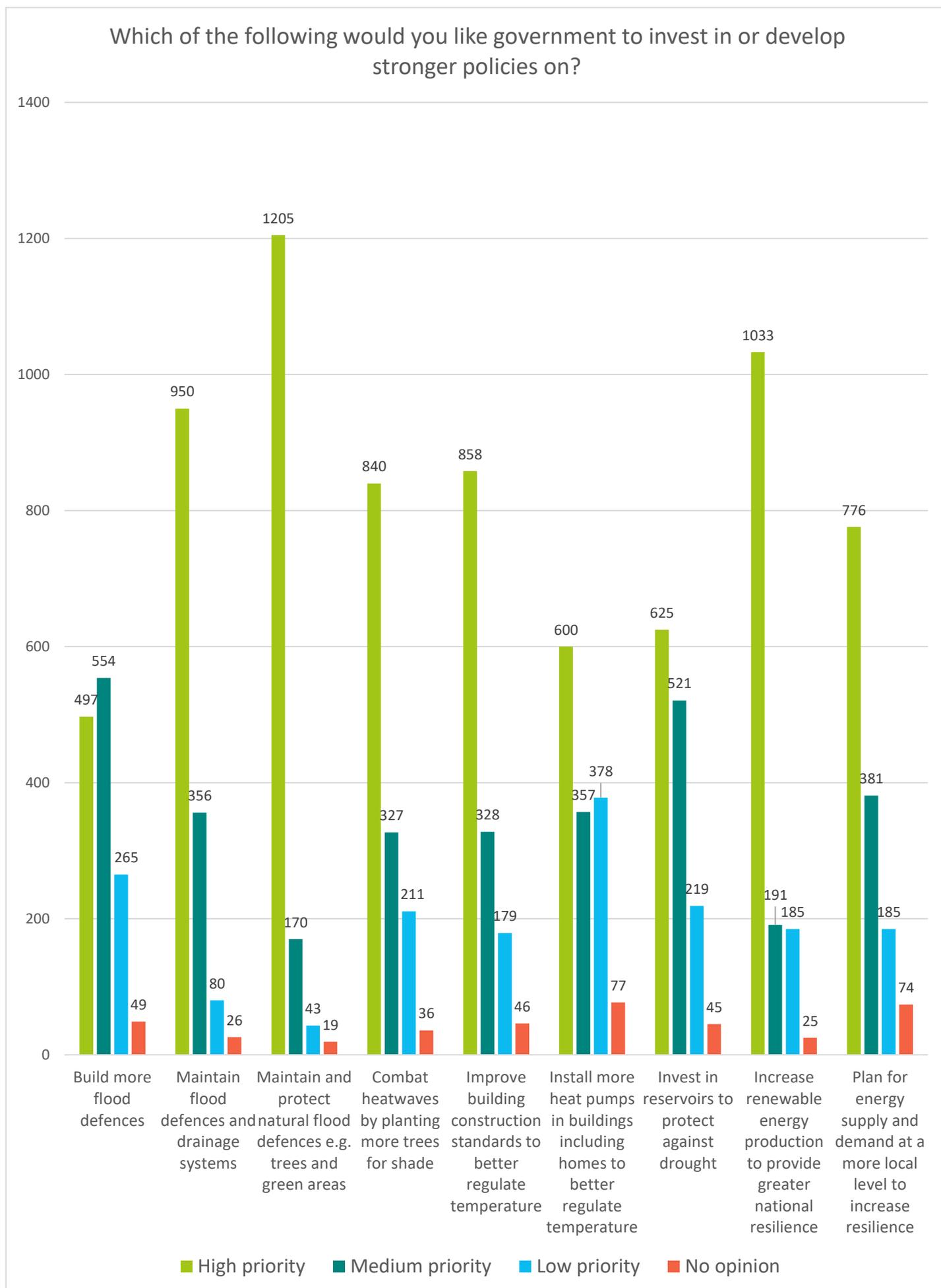Q26g. Invest in reservoirs to protect against drought (1,410 answered, 73 skipped)

- 44% said high priority, 37% medium priority, 16% low priority. 3% no opinion

Q26h. Increase renewable energy production to provide greater national resilience (1,434 answered, 49 skipped)

- 72% said high priority, 13% medium priority, 13% low priority. 2% no opinion

Q26i. Plan for energy supply and demand at a more local level to increase resilience (1,416 answered, 67 skipped)

- 55% said high priority, 27% medium priority, 13% low priority. 5% no opinion

Which of the following would you like government to invest in or develop stronger policies on?

| Category	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	No opinion
Build more flood defences	497	554	265	49
Maintain flood defences and drainage systems	950	356	80	26
Maintain and protect natural flood defences e.g. trees and green areas	1205	170	43	19
Combat heatwaves by planting more trees for shade	840	327	211	36
Improve building construction standards to better regulate temperature	858	328	179	46
Install more heat pumps in buildings including homes to better regulate temperature	600	357	378	77
Invest in reservoirs to protect against drought	625	521	219	45
Increase renewable energy production to provide greater national resilience	1033	191	185	25
Plan for energy supply and demand at a more local level to increase resilience	776	381	185	74

4.2.7. Nature and the Environment

Q27. How much do you agree with the following statement? 'I feel connected to nature' (1,468 responses, 15 skipped)

687 strongly agree, 549 agree, 182 feel neutral, 33 disagree and 17 strongly disagree


I feel connected to nature
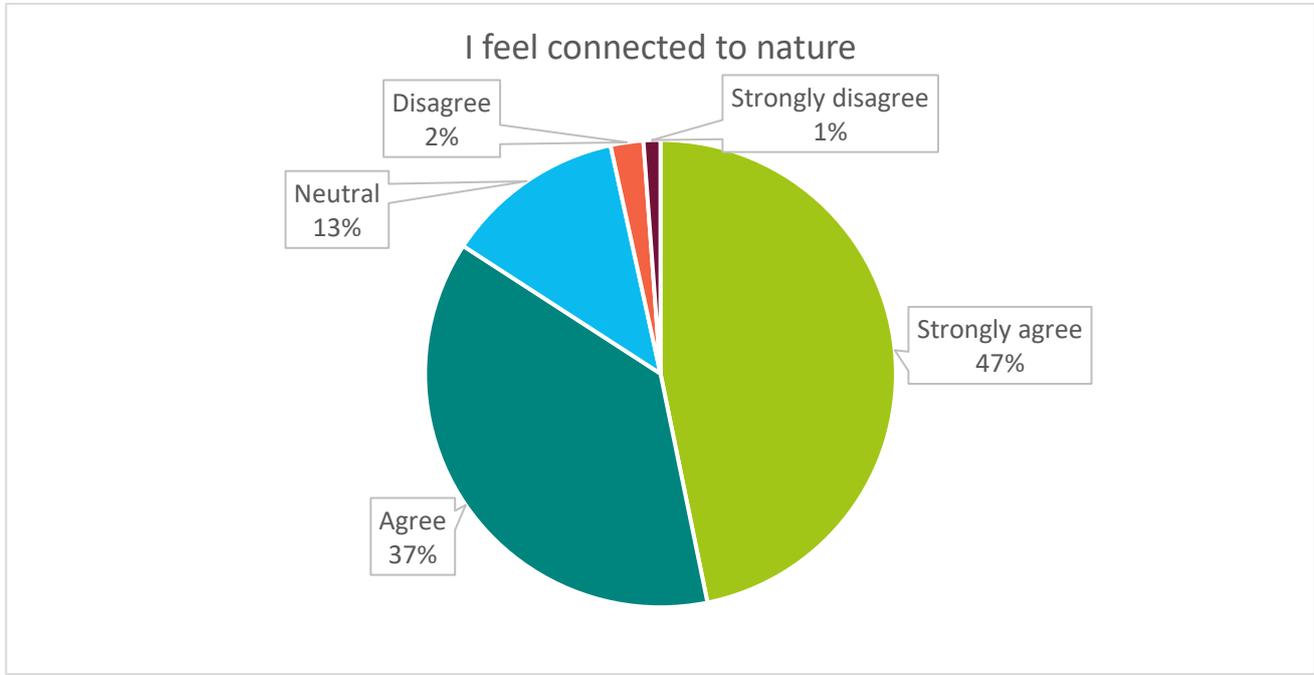
Q28. How often have you noticed nature in the past week? (1,474 responses, 9 skipped)

808 said all of the time, 447 said often, 170 said some of the time, 39 said rarely, 7 said never and 3 said not applicable (I haven't been outside or been around nature).


How often have you noticed nature in the past week?
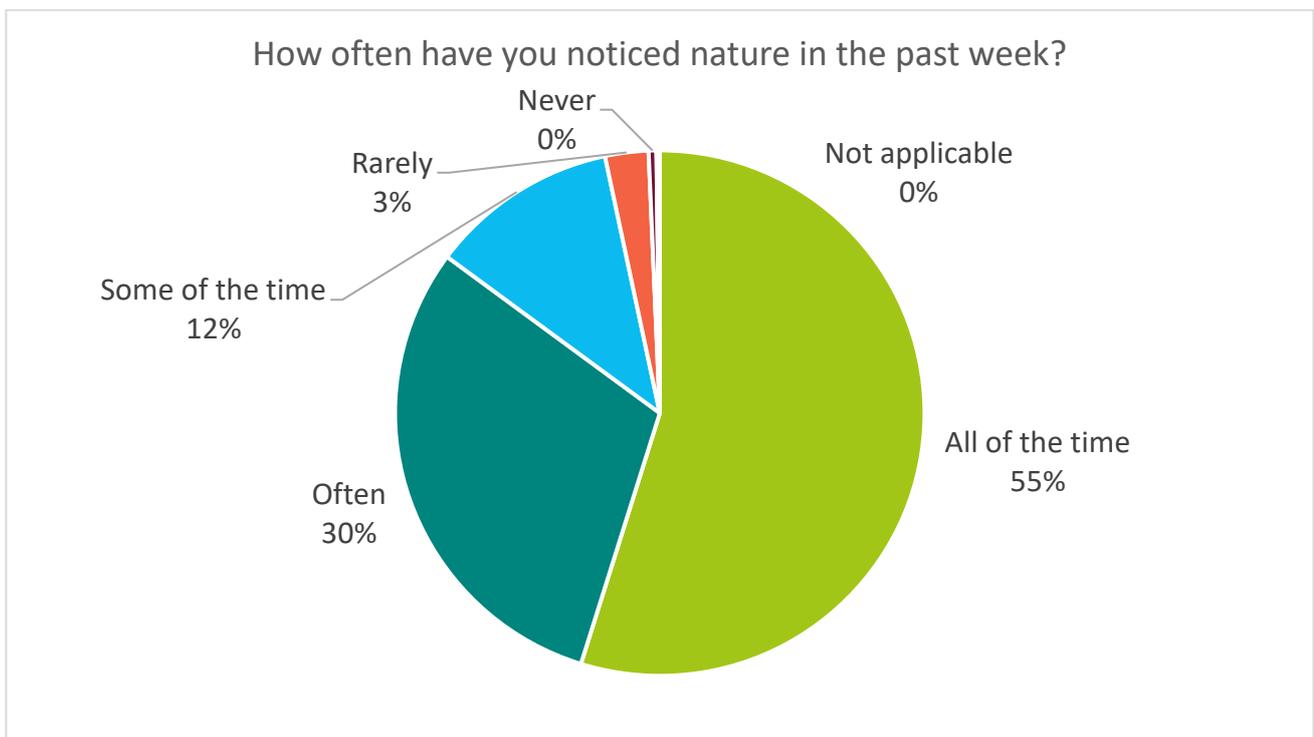
Q29. How important is it for you to have opportunities to connect with nature? (1,472 responses, 11 skipped)

The majority (1,312) said opportunities to connect with nature is very important (1,052) or important (260). 134 said moderately important. 22 said slightly important and 34 said not important.

How important is it for you to have opportunities to connect with nature?

- 71% Very important
- 18% Important
- 7% Moderately important
- 2% Slightly important
- 2% Not important

■ Very important ■ Important ■ Moderately important ■ Slightly important ■ Not important
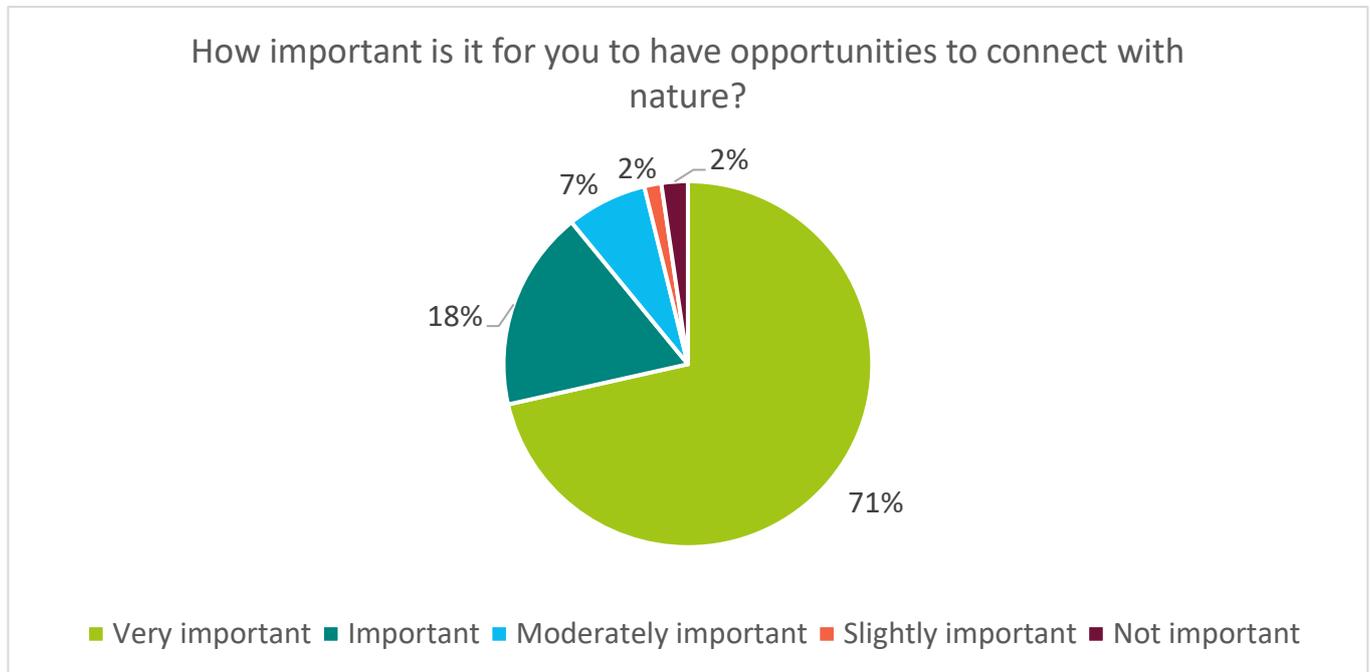
Q30. To what extent do you think you are affected by air pollution? (1,478 responses, 5 skipped)

289 said very much affected, 671 said affected a little, 518 said not affected at all.

To what extent do you think you are affected by air pollution?

- 20% (Very much affected)
- 45% (Affected a little)
- 35% (Not affected at all)

■ Very much affected ■ Affected a little ■ Not affected at all
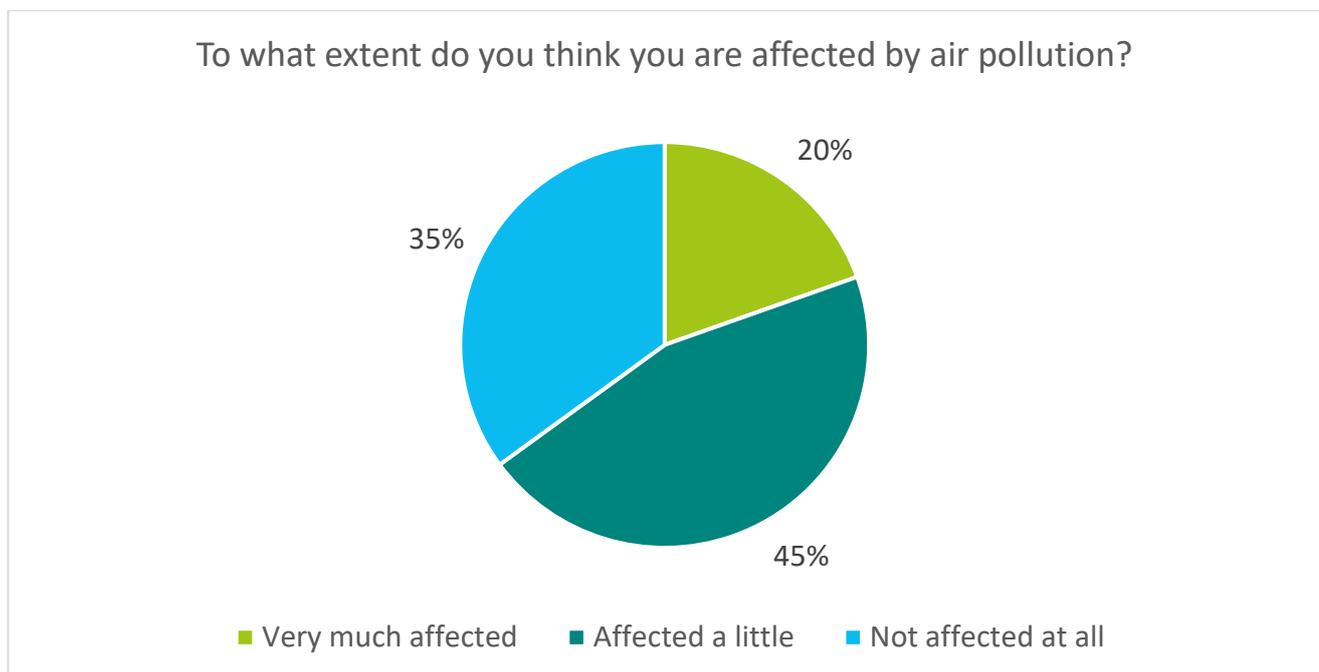
Q31. In which of the following ways are you affected? (943 responses, 523 not asked, 17 skipped)
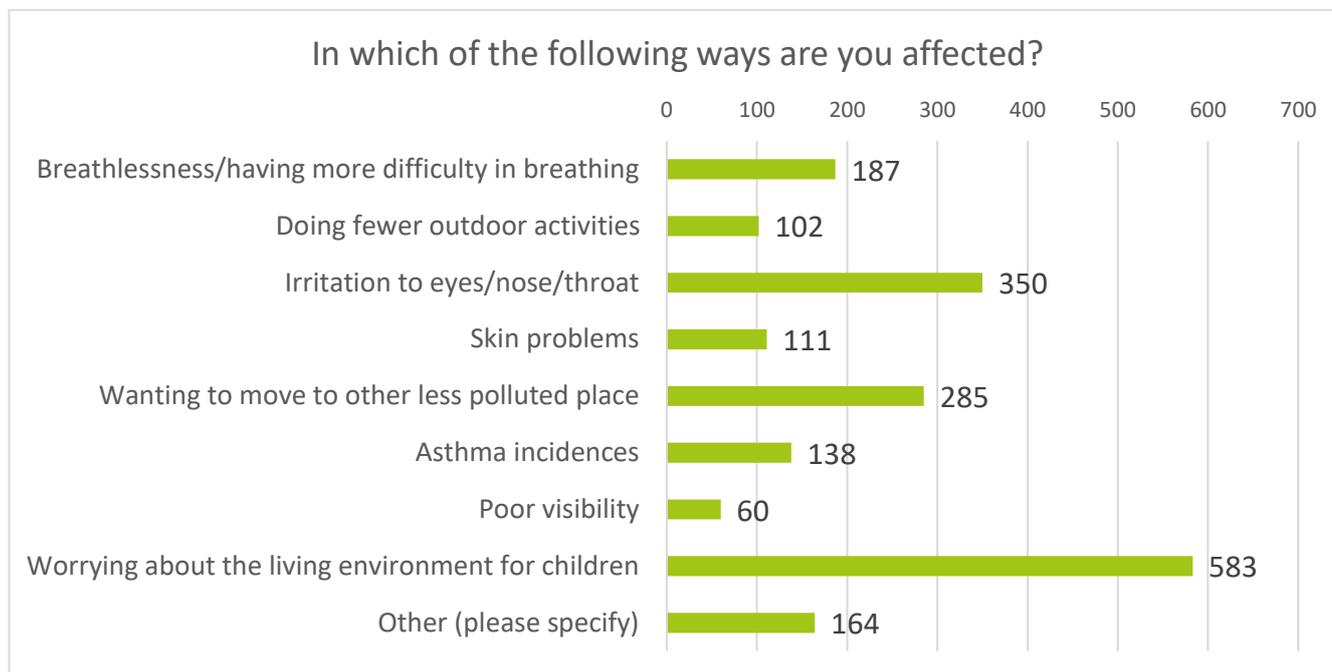
Other, please state (208 replies)	
Impacts	**92**
Poor air quality	28
Emotional/mental worry of situation	21
Negative impact on nature	14
Poor smell	12
Unseen impact	10
Transport	**79**
Car fumes	37
Impacts walking/cycling	19
Living close to a motorway / busy road	16
Airport pollution	5
Speed reductions needed	2
Health	**74**
Poor overall health	41
Long term health impacts	32
Smoking / second hand smoke	1
Processes	**45**
Complaint	17
Stop log burners	13
Processes should be banned	11
Feels things have improved	2
Litter	2

The most common concern around impacts on the natural environment was descriptive statements of the types of impacts perceived. The highest stated impacts were around poor air quality, and the mental/emotional worry of this, with respondents stating concerns for their health, worry over idling cars and being in polluted environments. The impacts from transport were also very prevalent amongst respondents, with the effect of cars, traffic and idling cars commonly stated as a concern. Respondents also stated that this affected their ability or desire to partake in active travel such as walking and cycling. The impacts on health were also a clear concern for respondents, with high levels of responses around concern for overall health or long-term health conditions such as asthma. There were also several concerns around processes that respondents raised, many were around complaints made about the government or council approach to managing pollution, prioritising nature and policies. This also included comments against the use of log burners and wanting to prohibit certain processes such as building incinerators.

Q32. Please use this space for any other comments you wish to make on the climate and environment emergency:

Please state (301 responses)	
Transport	**60**
Need to improve – cheaper, more reliable	20
Integrate transport	12
Discourage private car use	10
Comment on EV cars	8
Change public perception of public transport	5
Suggestion of specific improvement	5
Nature	**113**
Prioritise nature	44
Poor energy efficiency of buildings / homes	20
Lack of awareness / understanding of nature loss	19
Stop fossil fuels / use alternatives	18
Build on brownfield sites	7
Challenges to access nature	3
More allotments	2
General Concerns	**211**
Scepticism	81
Urgency of issue	41
Governmental change / policy change needed	39
Need for collective action	18
Thinks minimal impact / impact of other countries greater	13
Funding / cost issue	11
Requires long term impact	8
Lifestyle	**20**
Whole system change needed	9
Move towards sustainable living (shopping/cooking)	5
Change to low/no meat diet	3

Specific request for a change locally	3

The largest theme from respondents stated to this question was a comment of scepticism about climate change. There were also many comments surrounding the urgency of the climate emergency and how action should be taken as soon as possible. Further, many comments were around governmental change and a need for a change in action and policies.

Many respondents commented on the need to prioritise nature in plans and actions, such as maintaining and improving biodiversity. Many respondents also commented on a lack of awareness and understanding of nature loss. The need for reducing fossil fuels and using renewable energy was also a key theme, as well as improving the energy efficiency of homes and buildings to mitigate poor environmental outcomes. Transport was also a key theme amongst respondents, with many commenting on the need to improve transport to become cheaper, more reliable and frequent, and to better integrate different transport options. Lifestyle changes was also a theme noted amongst respondents, who discussed needing whole systems change and a move towards more sustainable living such as shopping locally and eating less meat.

4.2.8. About you

Q33. What is your postcode? (1,253 responses)

A heat map showing where our respondents live by using their postcode is shown on the next page:

Big Climate Chat

West Yorkshire Districts

Big Climate Chat Responses

- 1 - 2 Responses
- 2 - 3 Responses
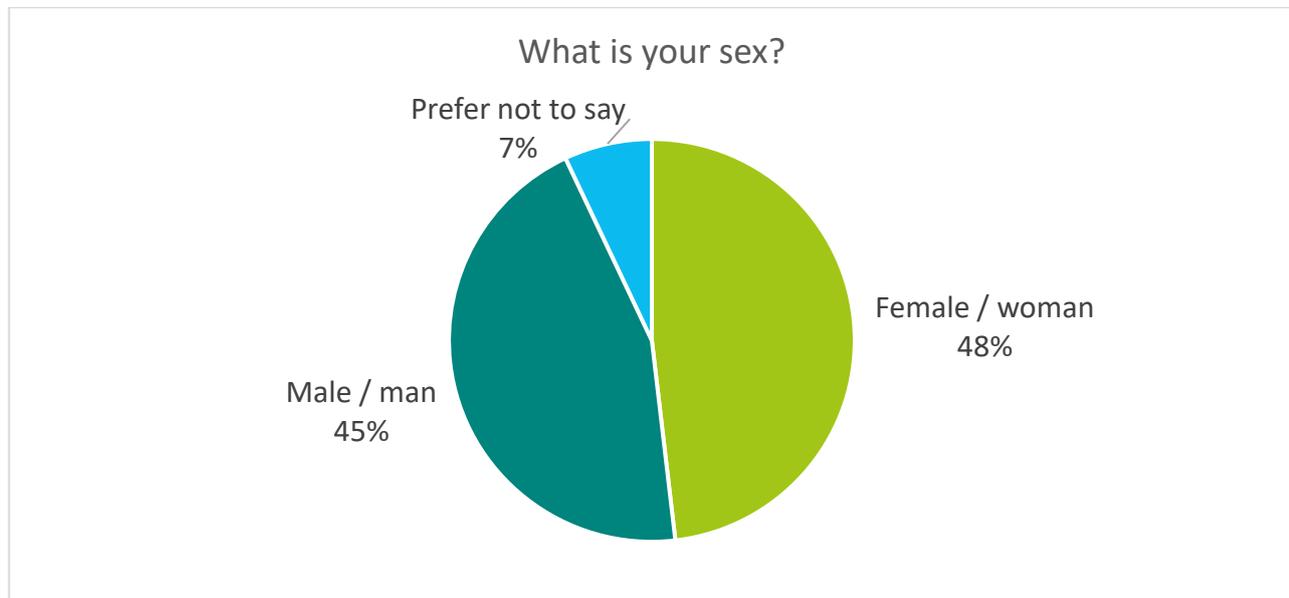- 3 - 5 Responses
- 5 - 7 Responses
- 7 - 17 Responses

West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

1:180,000

49

Q34. What is your sex? (1,458 responses, 25 skipped)

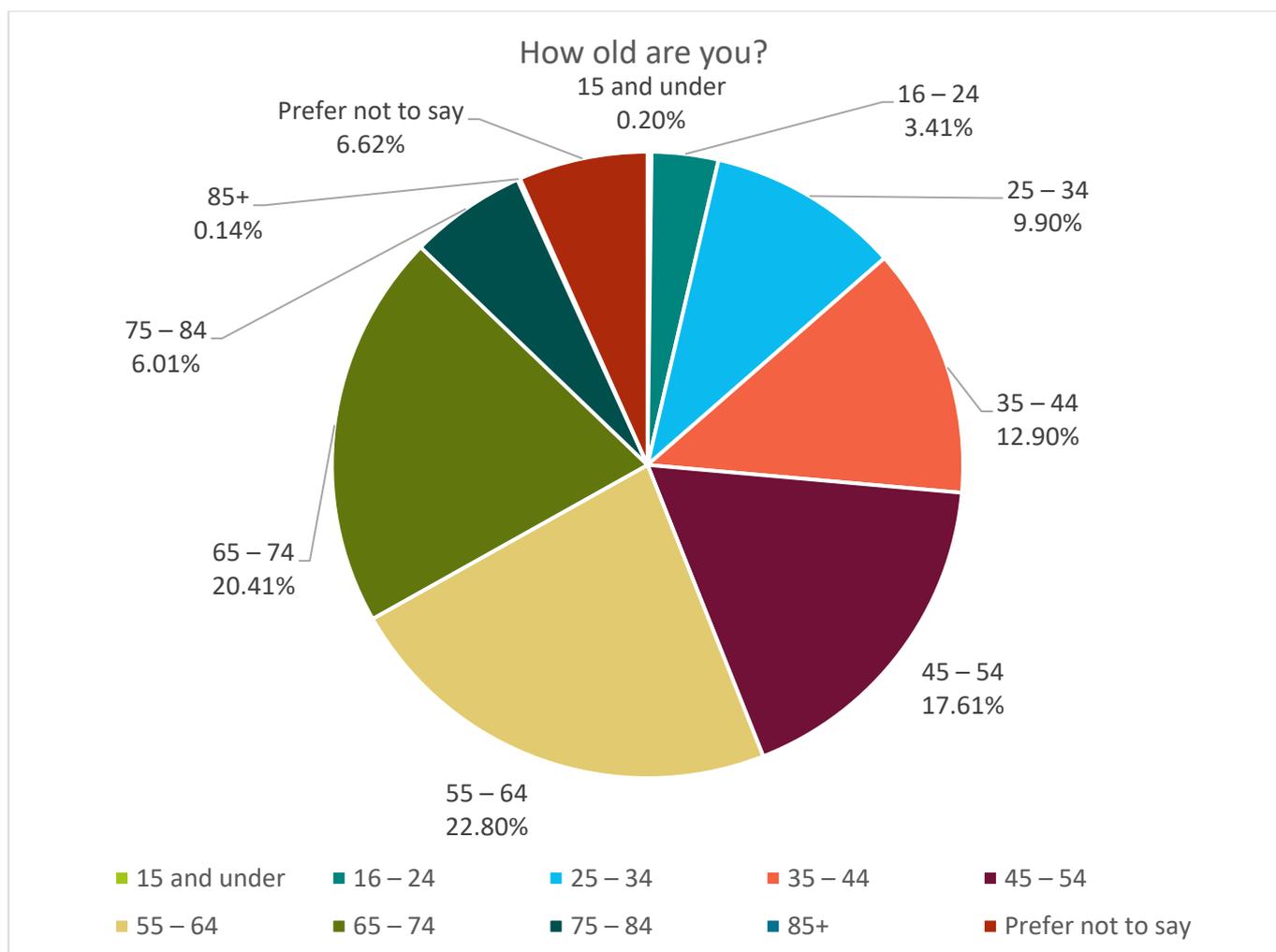702 said female, 654 said male and 102 preferred not to say.

Q35. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? (1,423 responses, 60 skipped)

274 said yes, 7 said no, 34 selected, 'I self-describe my gender identity'. 108 preferred not to say.
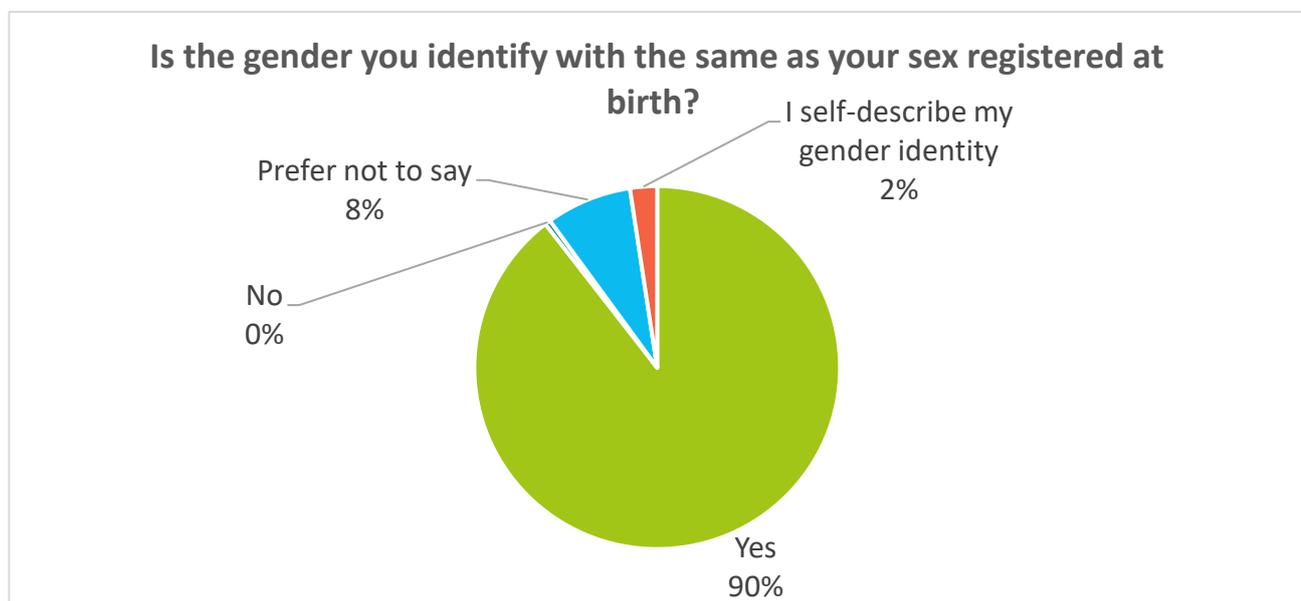
Q36. How old are you? (1,465 responses, 18 skipped)

- 23% respondents are aged 55 – 64
- 20% respondents are aged 65 – 74
- 18% respondents are aged 45 – 54
- 13% respondents are aged 35 – 44
- 10% respondents are aged 25 – 34

How old are you?

15 and under 0.20%
16 – 24 3.41%
25 – 34 9.90%
35 – 44 12.90%
45 – 54 17.61%
55 – 64 22.80%
65 – 74 20.41%
75 – 84 6.01%
85+ 0.14%
Prefer not to say 6.62%

Legend: 15 and under, 16 – 24, 25 – 34, 35 – 44, 45 – 54, 55 – 64, 65 – 74, 75 – 84, 85+, Prefer not to say

Q37. How would you describe your ethnicity or ethnic background? (1,456 responses, 27 skipped)

The majority of respondents said White (87%). 2% said Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups, 1% said Black, Black British, African, Caribbean, and 1% said Asian, Asian British. 9% prefer not to say.

Ethnicity or ethnic background	Number	Percentage
Asian, Asian British	**20**	**1%**
Indian	9	1%
Pakistani	5	0%
Bangladeshi	2	0%
Chinese	3	0%
Any other Asian background	1	0%
Black, Black British, African, Caribbean	**5**	**0.5%**
African	3	0%
Caribbean	1	0%
Any other Black, African or Caribbean background	1	0%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	**23**	**1.5%**
White and Black Caribbean	4	0%
White and Black African	3	0%
White and Asian	8	0.5%

|		
Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background	8	0.5%
White	**1,261**	**87%**
English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	1,183	81%
Irish	18	1%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0%
Roma	0	0%
Any other White background	60	4%
Other	**147**	**10%**
Arab	0	0%
Any other ethnic group	9	1%
Prefer not to say	138	9%

Q38. Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? (1,454 responses, 29 skipped)

The majority of respondents (876) said no. 428 respondents said yes. 150 prefer not to say.

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

10%

30%

60%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer not to say
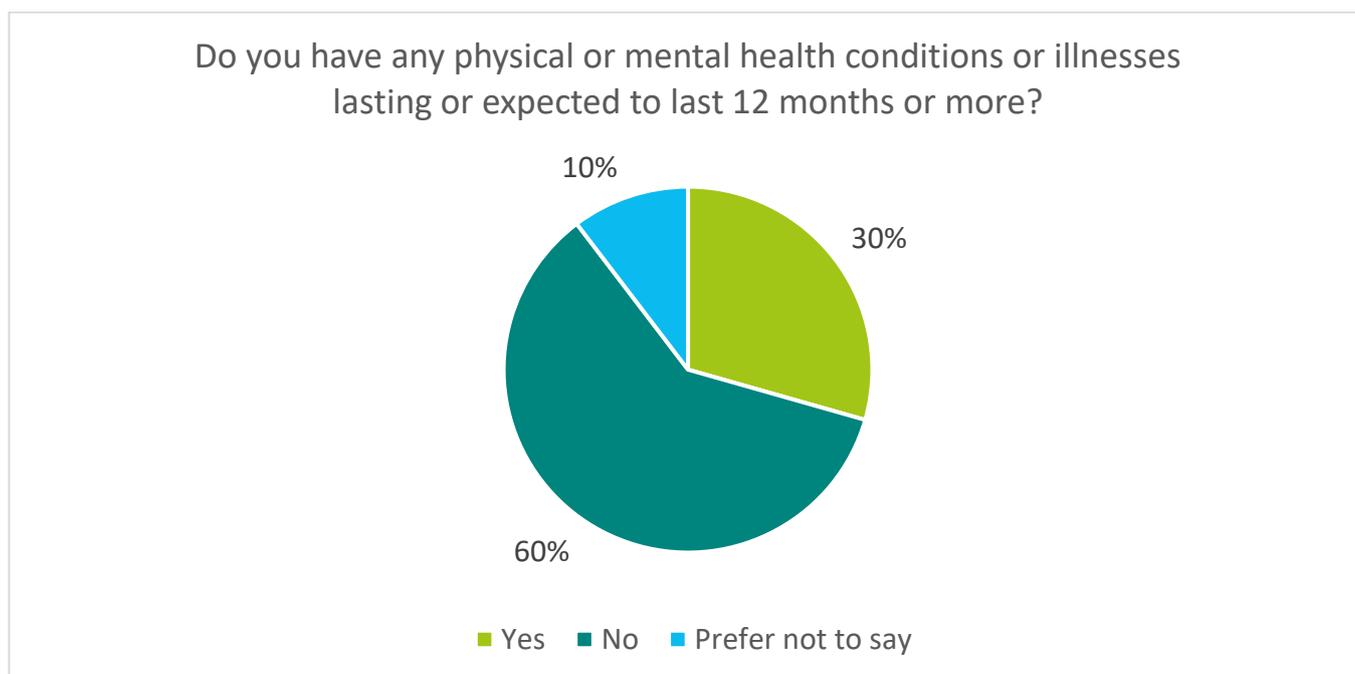
Q39. Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities? (1,436 responses, 47 skipped)

959 respondents said no, they don't have any conditions or illnesses that reduce their ability to carry out day-to-day activities. 277 said yes, they are limited a little. 67 said yes, they are limited a lot. 133 prefer not to say.
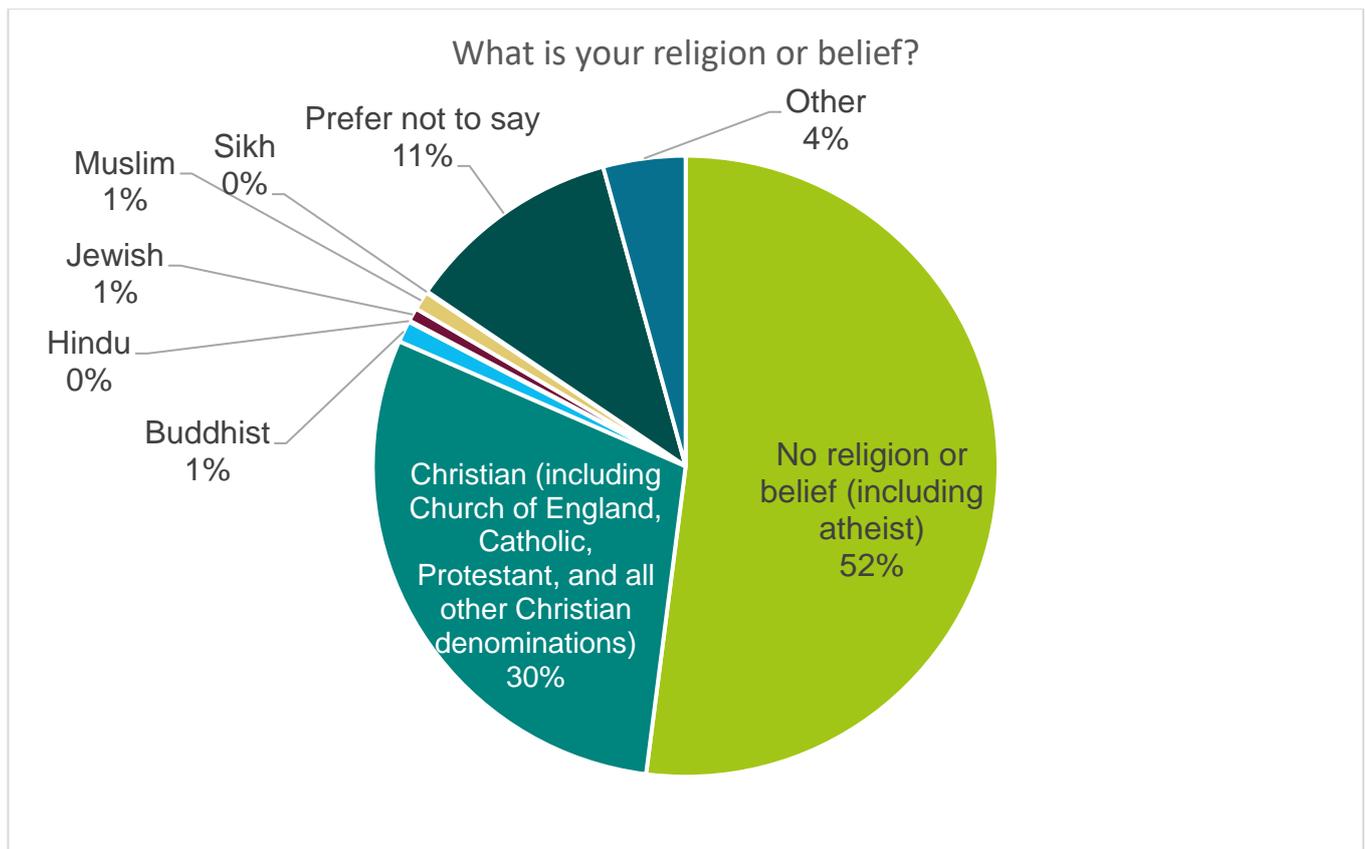
Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

9%   5%

19%

67%

- Yes, limited a lot
- Yes, limited a little
- No
- Prefer not to say
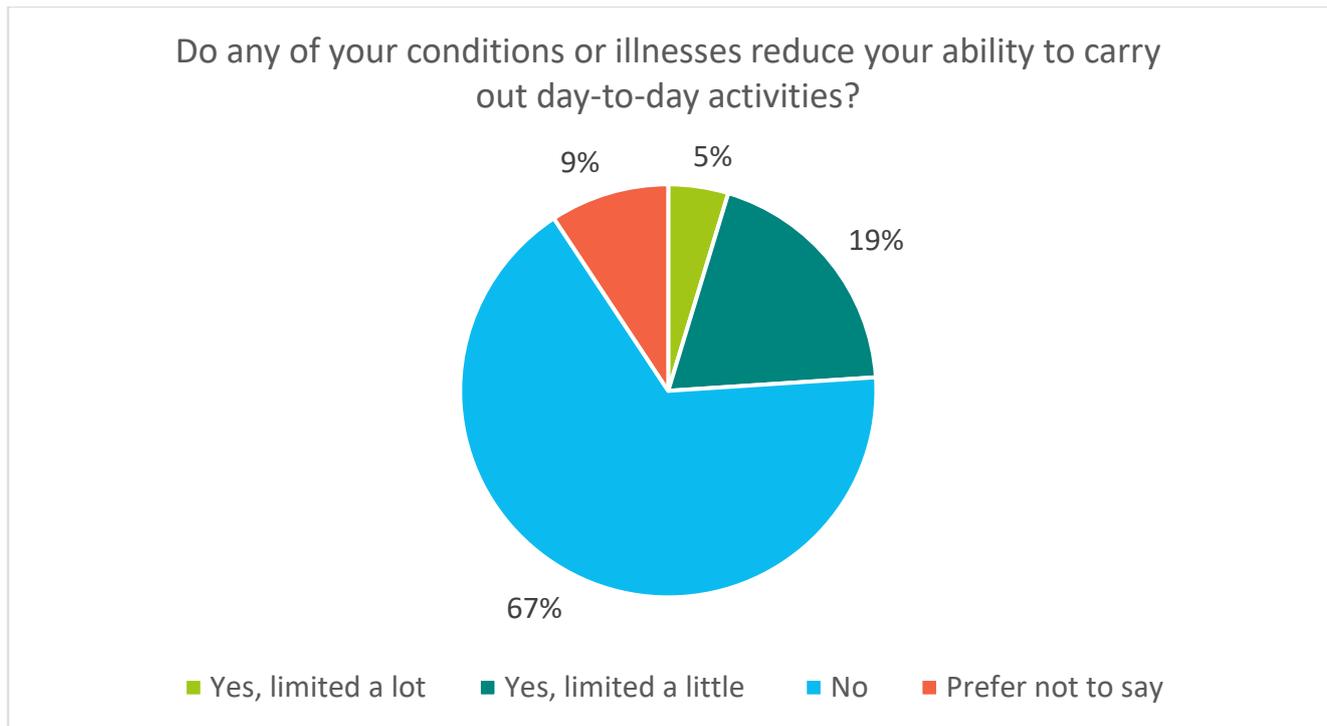
Q40. How would you describe your sexual orientation? (1,422 responses, 61 skipped)

1,058 said heterosexual or straight, 44 said gay man or gay woman / lesbian, 46 said bisexual, 237 preferred not to say and 37 self-described.

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

3%

17%

3%

3%

74%

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay man or gay woman / lesbian
- Bisexual
- Prefer not to say
- I self-describe my sexual orientation
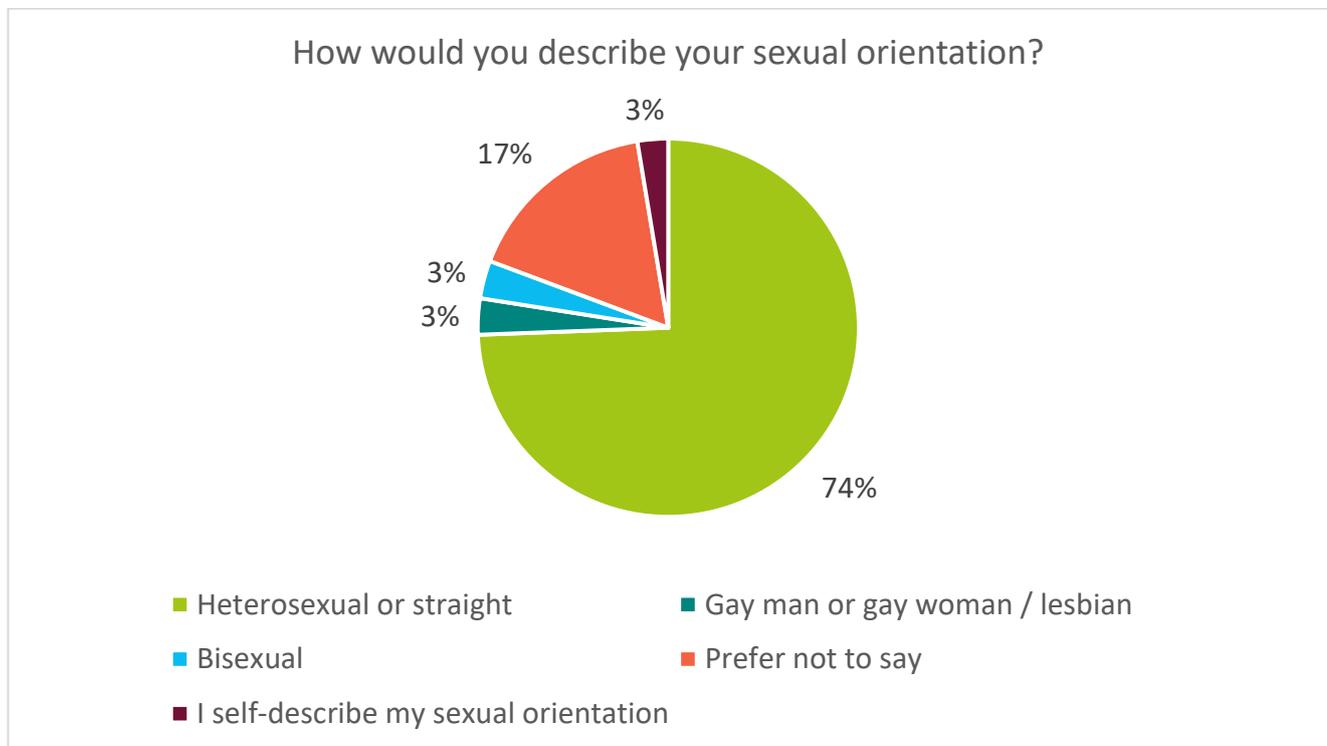
Q41. What is your religion or belief? (1,434 responses, 49 skipped)

The majority said no religion (52%). 30% said Christian, 1% Buddhist, 1% Jewish, and 1% Muslim. 11% preferred not to say.

What is your religion or belief?

Pie chart showing religion or belief responses:
- No religion or belief (including atheist): 52%
- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant, and all other Christian denominations): 30%
- Prefer not to say: 11%
- Other: 4%
- Buddhist: 1%
- Hindu: 0%
- Jewish: 1%
- Muslim: 1%
- Sikh: 0%

4.3 Equity, diversity and inclusion informed analysis

We have a statutory duty to demonstrate that we have considered the impact our projects may have on members of the public and to identify changes we can make to reduce/remove any negative impacts. Our equality impact assessment identified a number of key groups we should particularly consider and engage with as a result of this proposed scheme.

As part of our engagement, we received feedback from people from the below communities, as identified in the equality analysis.
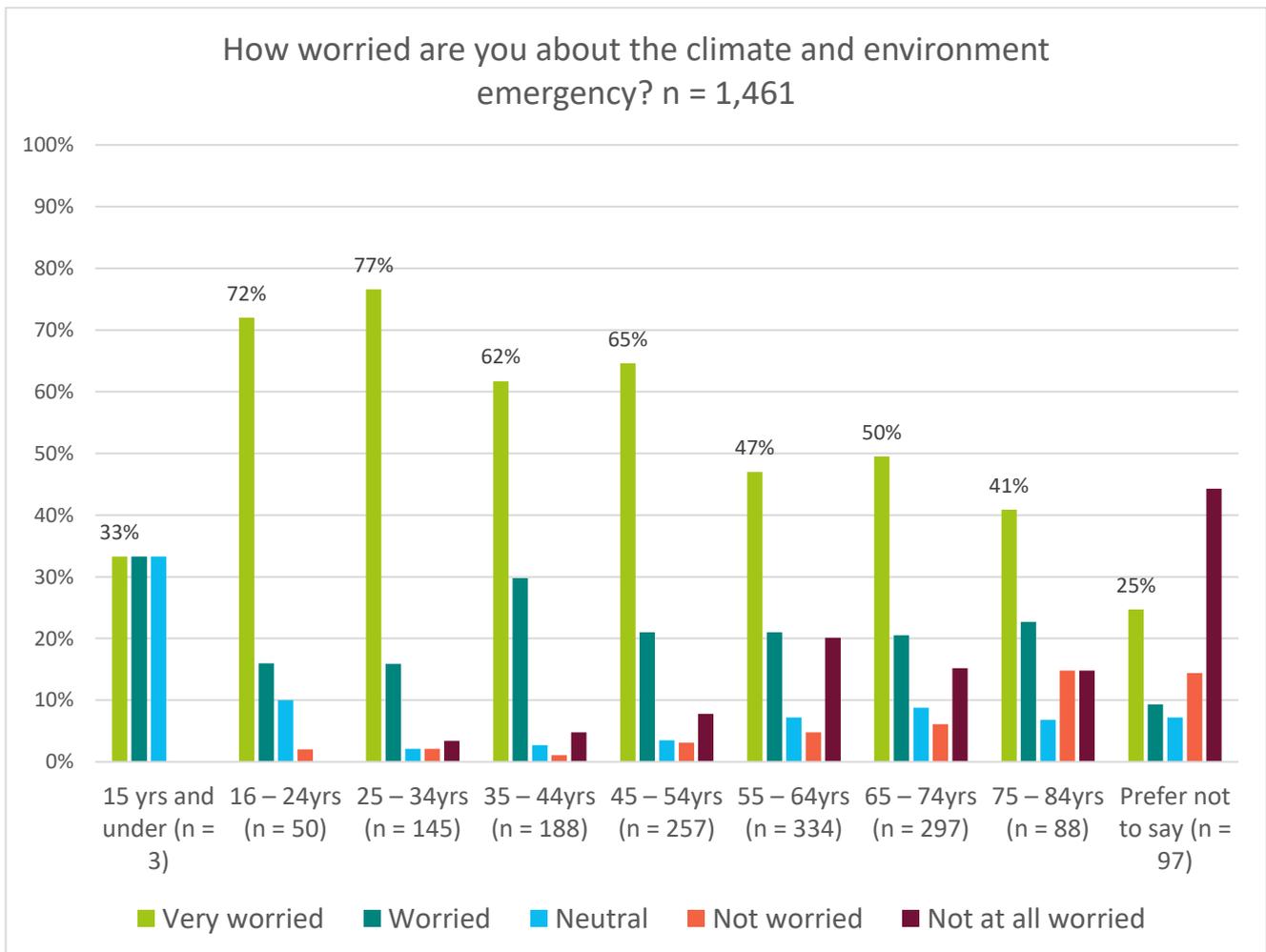
The summary below displays the results of the engagement of each of these demographics in comparison to borough-wide demographic data from the 2021 census.

Age

The age group which provided the most responses was 55 – 64-year-olds, followed by 65 – 74-year-olds and then 45 – 54-year-olds. All these age groups are over-represented when comparing against the 2021 census data for West Yorkshire. Younger people (those under 25) are under-represented when looking at the 2021 census data for West Yorkshire.

Respondents by age group compared to 2021 census data

Census 2021 (%)   Big Climate Chat (%)
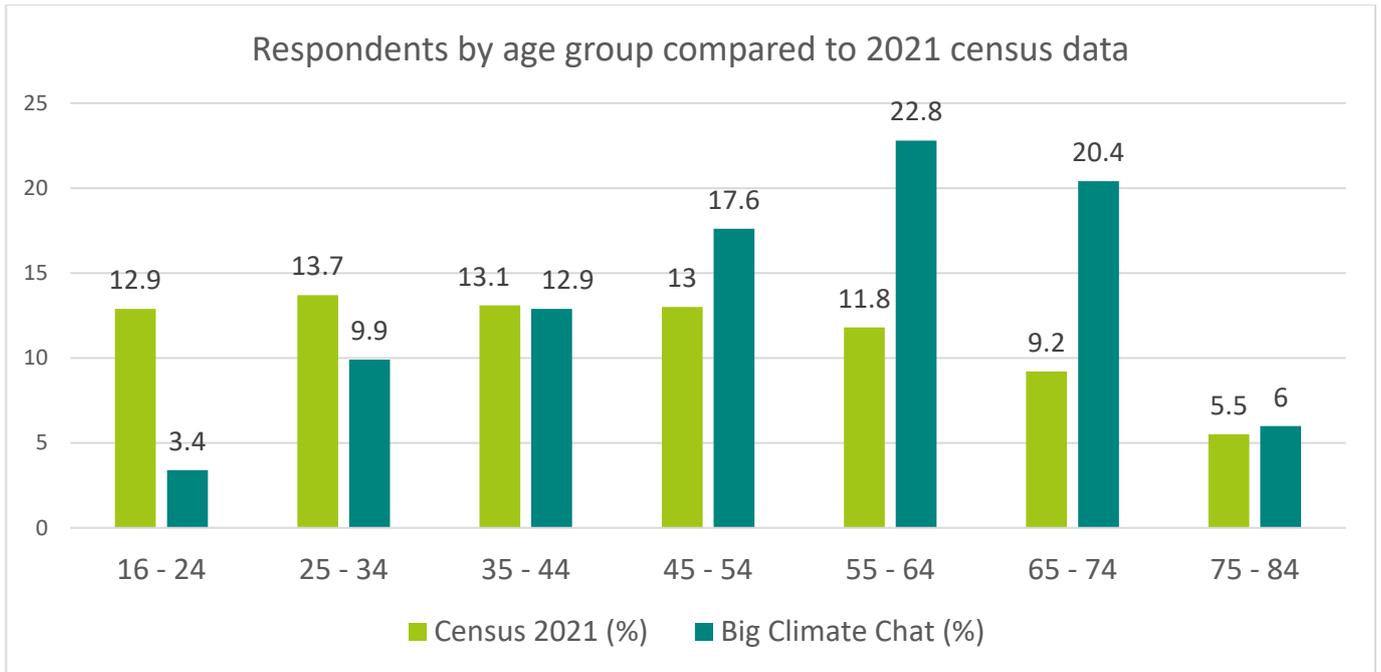
The following graph breaks down the answers to the question, 'how worried are you about the climate emergency' by age category:

How worried are you about the climate and environment emergency? n = 1,461

Very worried   Worried   Neutral   Not worried   Not at all worried

Disability (physical and mental health)

In terms of the question, 'do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?', our respondents said 29% yes, compared to 19% of the West Yorkshire census 2021.

5% of respondents said yes, limited a lot, to the question, 'do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?', compared to 8.5% of the 2021 Census. 19% of our respondent said yes, limited a little, compared to 10.5% of the West Yorkshire Census 2021. 67% said they are not limited, compared to 81% classed as not disabled under the Equality Act. 9% of our respondents said prefer not to say.
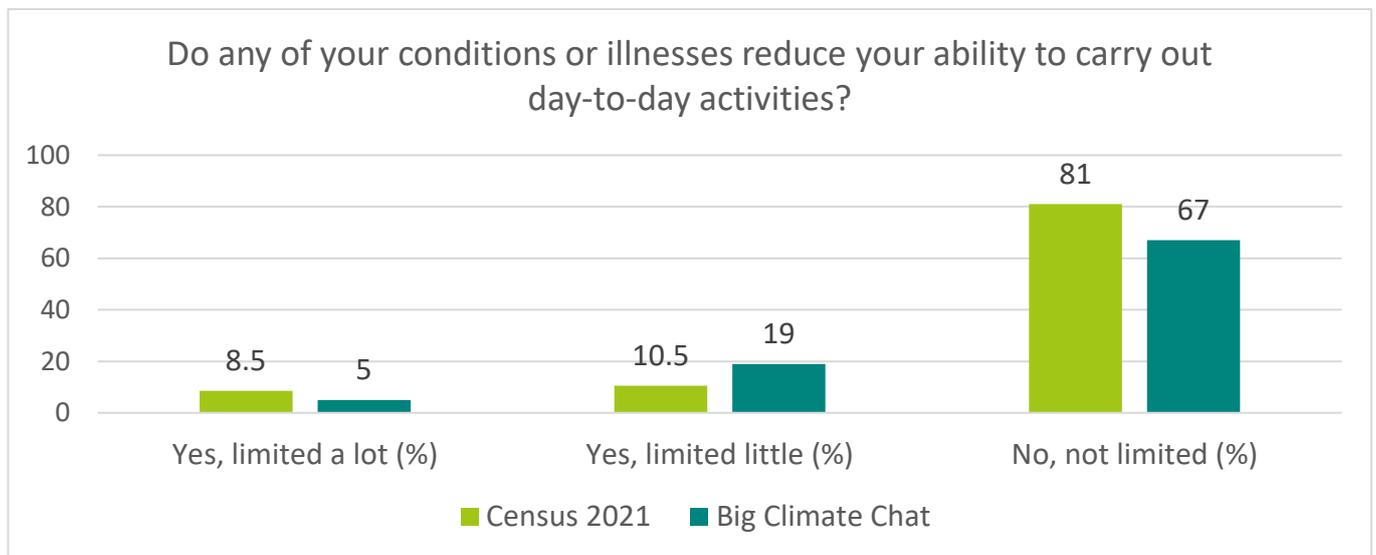

Out of 425 respondents who have a physical or mental disability expected to last 12 months or more, 77% are 'very worried' or 'worried'. This is similar to the 75% of all respondents.
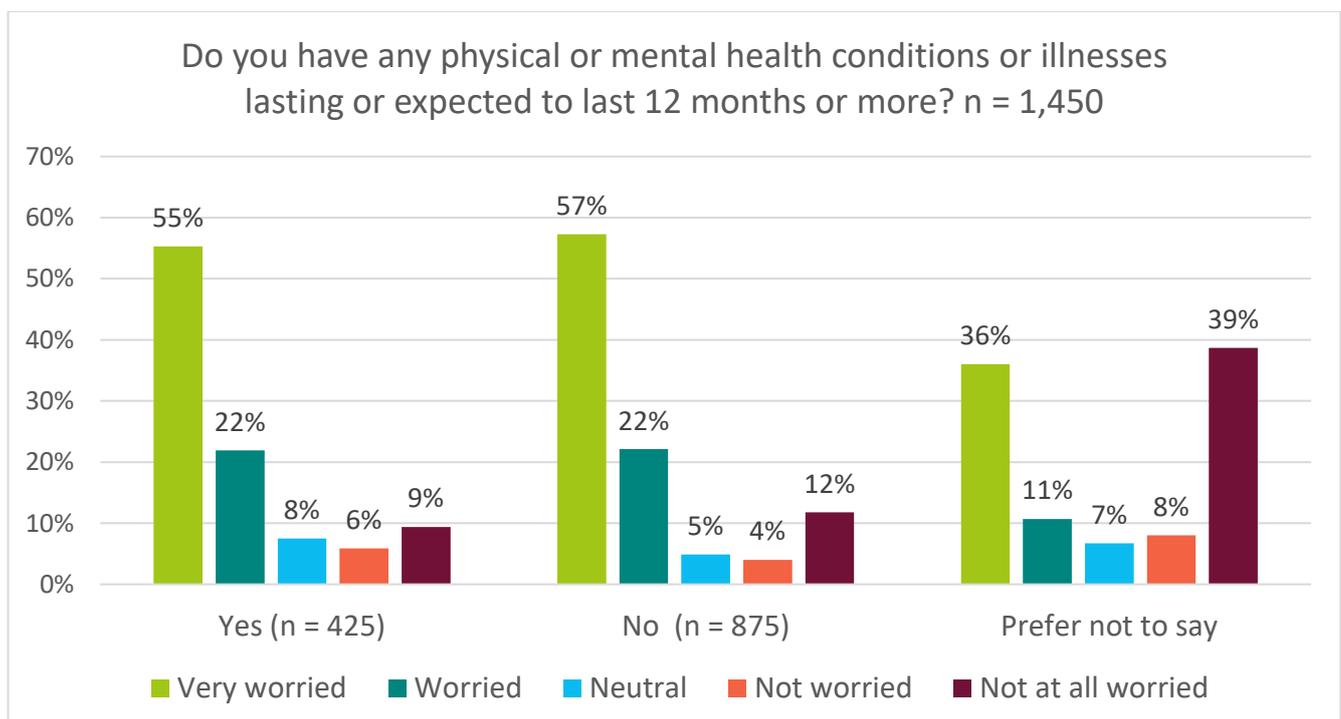
Out of 1,432 respondents to the question, 'do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?', 67 said yes, limited a lot. 62% of those respondents said they were worried or very worried about the climate emergency, slightly less than the 75% overall.

Out of the 275 respondents who said yes, they are limited a little, 77% said they are worried or very worried, so similar to the 75% overall. And the 958 respondents who said no, 80% said they are worried or very worried, slightly more than 75% overall. The answers were more mixed from the people who preferred not to say about their conditions or illnesses.

Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities? n = 1,432
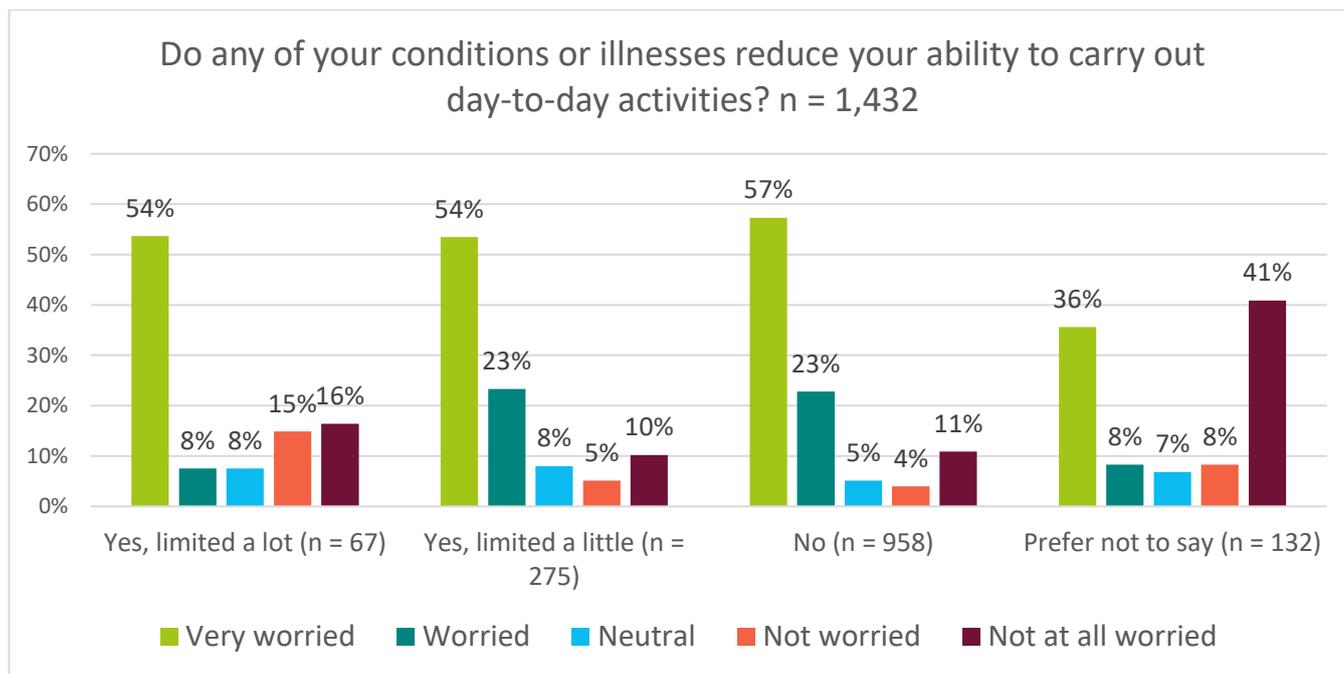
Ethnicity

At the time of the 2021 Census, 23% of the population of West Yorkshire identify as being from an ethnic minority (all categories excluding White). 87% of respondents stated that their ethnicity was white, this is over-represented compared to 77% in the 2021 Census. 0.5% of respondents stated their ethnicity was black, lower than the 2021 Census (4.2%). Respondents who stated they were Asian were under-represented in the survey at 1% compared to 15% in the 2021 Census.
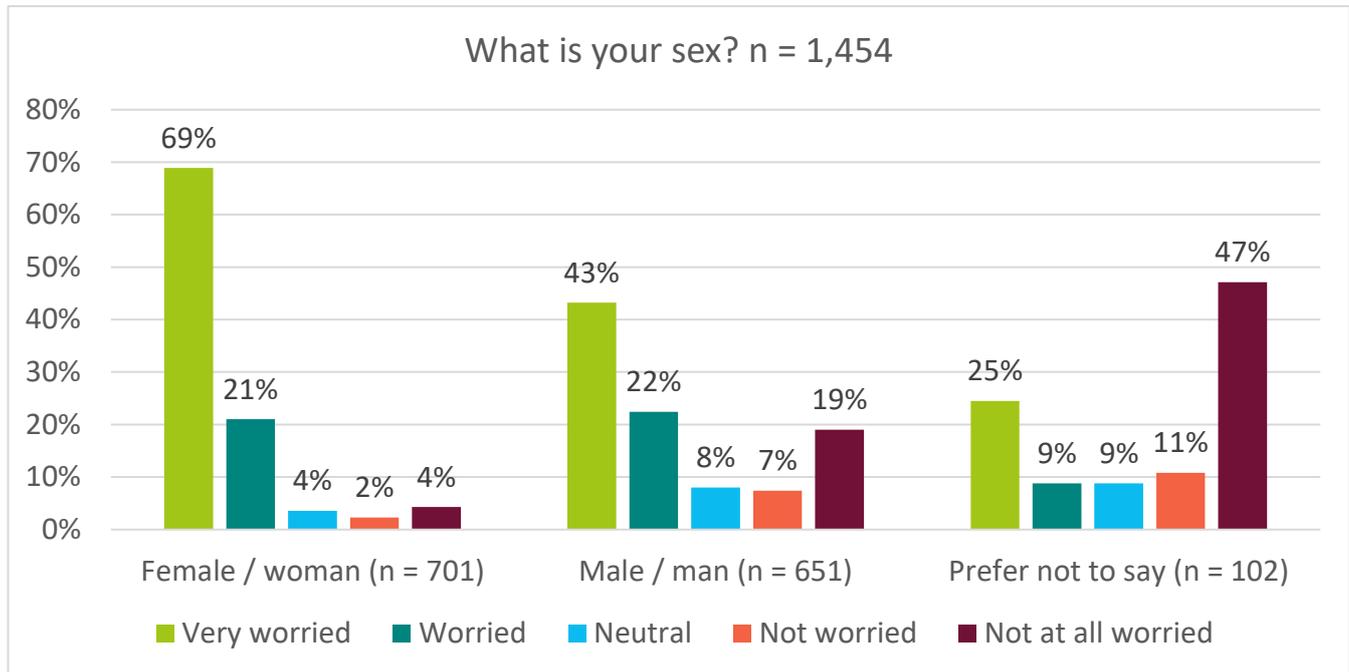
We will use our demographic data to ensure we reach those under-represented groups in further engagement.

Sex / Gender

At the time of the 2021 Census, 51% identify as female and 49% male. 48% of our respondents identify as women (702) and 45% as men (654). 7% preferred not to say (102).

The respondents who are women are more worried / very worried (630 = 90%) than men (427 = 66%). Only 46 women said they are not worried / not at all worried (7%), compared to 172 men

(25%). This shows that more women are worried (90%) compared with the sentiment from all respondents (75%).

What is your sex? n = 1,454

	Very worried	Worried	Neutral	Not worried	Not at all worried
Female / woman (n = 701)	69%	21%	4%	2%	4%
Male / man (n = 651)	43%	22%	8%	7%	19%
Prefer not to say (n = 102)	25%	9%	9%	11%	47%

5. Next steps

Our next step is to use your feedback to inform policy and programme development in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. This includes using the findings of the survey to inform:

- The next version of the Climate and Environment Plan. We will consult on a draft of the next Plan during Autumn 2024

- The Local Nature Recovery Strategy, we will develop this Strategy over the year ahead 2024/2025

- Our Local Transport Plan

- Our plans on residential retrofit including the design of a One Stop Shop, our business case development process has started

- Our investment programmes and projects relating to housing, energy, resilience (including flood) and transport

- An informed behaviour change campaign focusing on areas highlighted by the survey, and promoting the support available from the Combined Authority and our partners to help people and businesses achieve net zero

- Our future skills and business support programmes including our work with schools
  - Working with schools to promote awareness of green industries, skills and careers
  - Supporting people from all backgrounds to access green careers
  - Commissioning adult skills courses to support progression into green jobs
  - Supporting employers to create a pipeline of talent

- Our Corporate Environmental Plan with the potential for employee engagement/training

Find out more
westyorks-ca.gov.uk

West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Wellington House
40-50 Wellington Street
Leeds
LS1 2DE

All information correct at time of writing

West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire