



Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan

Public Engagement Summary

The results of this engagement process, alongside the research of the CAP committee of volunteers and advisors, as well other stakeholder engagement feedback, will form the basis of the Island's updated Climate Action Plan.

Land Acknowledgement

This public engagement took place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Cowichan, BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin), Halalt, MÁLEXEL (Malahat), Penelakut, SȚÁUTW (Tsawout), Stz'uminus (Chemainus), WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum) peoples. We acknowledge and respect the living historical relationship of Indigenous First Peoples to the land, culture, and spirit of this place that continues to this day.

Introduction

In the past months, the world has been faced with overwhelming challenges that have been both unsettling and at times, uplifting. These times have also brought to light a sense of resilience and unity in our community.

We hope that through this engagement process we were able to capture the ideas, imagination and thoughts of all of the diverse and amazing residents of our community in a plan that will lead to real change; a plan that transcends divides and finds a way forward on climate that leaves no one behind.

A major theme that came through in this engagement process is the importance of considering the impact on people and social issues in the context of healthy ecosystems. What is also just as important is finding ways to address the interconnected issues of how we work and live on this island, how we prepare for and adapt to the changes that we will be experiencing and how all of those things can and should be looked at through a lens of resiliency, security and livability for all.

The goal of reducing Salt Spring Island's greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from 2020 levels by 2030 (which was estimated at approximately 35,000 tonnes) was based on the latest UN recommendations and on the fact that both Islands Trust and CRD have declared climate emergencies. While the target here was focused on local

emissions as opposed to broader "life cycle" and global emissions, the Climate Action Plan, as a living document will continue to develop and grow in the years to come.

An additional goal of this engagement was to help make the 'Plan' actionable and realistic, which means that actions had to be prioritized by what community members thought could and should be done but also there had to be a limit or a 'maximum difficulty level'. It'd be great if we could just say: "Yes, let's do everything." But if we try to do everything all at once, we will fail.

If it is too difficult, we will fail. And perhaps most importantly, if we do not take everyone into account we will also fail. Issues around people's abilities to be part of this plan are extremely important. In some cases that has to do with affordability, in some cases it has to do with jobs and how people support their families and in some cases it has to do with capacity; in other words, to quote a couple of local comments:



“I have three kids and we don’t have enough money to do a lot of this stuff. What should I do?”

“The forest on my property is part of how I earn a living. It isn’t fair to say I can’t cut down my trees.”

“I can’t grow a garden because I have to keep moving.”

These kinds of comments are just as important as the comments from people who are ‘all in’, ready to go, driving EV’s and electric bikes and eating nothing but local food. We need to find solutions to these problems because if we don’t, we are all going to be in trouble. And, we need to find the solutions in ways that are equitable and don’t destroy lives in the process.

It was encouraging to see that there were people that participated in this engagement that, while not on board with some options, were nevertheless on board with others. Some people had very different opinions about the ways in which we should reduce our emissions and also a whole bunch of people had really great ideas of how to solve these problems. And while no process will ever form a 100% unanimous agreement, our community has been able to come up with a range of choices that take a lot of these issues into account.

These results are widely supported by a broad cross-section of community members and the options that were chosen can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40,688 tonnes per year by 2030 - much more than the minimum of 35,000 tonnes that equals 50%. And, while difficult, it is achievable overall.

What follows is a report of the five policy options with the biggest potential for greenhouse gas reduction, ranked in order of the level of support given by community participants. Overall, these options were supported by 82% of participants.



Community Consensus

Over the next pages you will find the most broadly supported greenhouse gas reduction strategies among the community members who participated. All of this feedback will be incorporated into the **SSI Climate Action Plan 2.0**.

856

community members
voted in the public
engagement process.

40,688 tonnes

of greenhouse gas could be reduced with this set of options. A 50% reduction by 2030 would be 35,000 tonnes.

difficulty score of 4.71

out of 10. This plan is considered difficult, but achievable overall.

2,200

community members
answered some (but not all) of the
engagement questions.

Level of Support

The level of support is the number of people that would support the details of this plan. The distribution of support shows how happy people are with the plan overall. People on the right-hand side are happy. If there were any people on the left, they would represent unhappiness and a potentially divisive plan.

THIS PLAN HAS

82%

SUPPORT.



OPPOSE

SUPPORT

At a Glance: All Policy Options

Community members voted on eight other options for reducing GHGs. These additional options cut fewer emissions than the top five options, but still had high levels of support.

| POLICY OPTION | LEVEL OF SUPPORT | LEVEL OF REDUCTION SUPPORTED | GHGS REDUCED |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Electrifying Personal Vehicles | 75% | 50% | 12,900 tonnes |
| Halting Forest Clearing | 73% | 75% | 12,000 tonnes |
| Electrifying Ferries | 71% | 50% | 8,850 tonnes |
| Reducing Freight Emissions | 75% | 50% | 1,350 tonnes |
| Retrofitting Electric-Heated Homes | 75% | 50% | 1,536 tonnes |
| Reducing Tourism Vehicle Emissions | 74% | 50% | 1,050 tonnes |
| Retrofitting Oil/Propane Homes | 70% | 75% | 975 tonnes |
| Retrofitting Wood Stove Homes | 74% | 50% | 761 tonnes |
| Increasing Composting | 74% | 75% | 491 tonnes |
| Increasing Cycling Infrastructure | 65% | 75% | 360 tonnes |
| Increasing Bus Routes | 73% | 50% | 255 tonnes |
| Electrifying School Buses | 66% | 100% | 90 tonnes |
| Electrifying Public Buses | 68% | 100% | 70 tonnes |
| | | | 40,688 tonnes |

Participant Comments

There were over **5000 comments** recorded over the course of the engagement. Below are a snippet of some of the suggestions that community members left for reducing GHGs on Salt Spring Island.

“

“I have been considering getting an e-bike for some time as it is more in my transportation budget than an e-car. I find the roads on SSI dangerous. and would love to see safe pedestrian and bike paths extend along all the main roads. This may enable more people to ride bikes into work from outside of Ganges.”

“**More seats for people waiting for the bus. Disability doesn’t just affect walking; it also makes standing very difficult while waiting for a bus.**”

“I think delivery services should be considered essential to convert to electric. They are ever increasing and post-COVID maybe even more so.”

“I think CSA programs could become more commonplace among local residents. A tool that we need urgently is a publicly accessible website with an online, searchable database where local farms can post what they have and where you can buy it.”

“I feel strongly that we need to add new, affordable, multi family housing at higher density in our existing villages. This housing can demonstrate best practices in climate-friendly

construction, while making more housing options for all kinds of workers and families.”

“**As a renter, how can I encourage my landlord to install energy efficient equipment?**”

“Encouraging people to have composting toilets and grey water systems should be a focus - perhaps a workshop to let people know it is allowed in the code and to demonstrate simple DIY systems.”

“**Do everything we can to support our young farmers and their families - subsidize their efforts and prioritize food security.**”

“We have an aging demographic on this island and properties can sometimes be neglected as their owners age and cannot physically or financially manage to maintain. Maybe a grant system/ youth employment program could address those issues?”

“Perhaps we could have tax breaks similar to farmers for stewarding forests. There could be a system similar to the ‘environmental farm plan’ which would include a workbook with best practices that is used to create a forest plan. Then these properties would be eligible for forest tax break incentives.”

“Give retirees an incentive to take their money out of offshore funds. Community bonds could help build recreation facilities, composting facilities, bike lanes, housing and more, plus the community buy in goes through the roof when locals are actually co-investing in it with their local governments.”

“I support public transport and other means of fuel use reduction. However, these means do not apply directly to myself as I am a farmer, and the use of my vehicle for work (food production) cannot be replaced by public transport.”

There must be a balance in the local economy. It needs to be more diversified so we do not rely on tourism so much. Tourists are on holiday and tend to use more water, drive the roads, environmentally they create more demands on the environment.

“An expanded bike path network is needed. Making Ganges a pedestrian only zone would also be a good idea.”

“We should subsidize and incentivize fire-smarting, both by individual owners and in public areas. I am very concerned about losing my house

to forest fire. We are too complacent about the risk.”

“[There could be] a water consumption tax paid by every non-resident at point of entry. Tough to implement, but may make non-Islanders think about their water usage when here.”

“Subsidies for retrofitting older homes for more efficient homes is a great idea and should be explored.”

“An improved cycling network to connect the town to neighborhoods and the ferries is both beneficial in terms of emissions reduction and tourism.”

“If people of colour, people with lower incomes and people who know nothing about climate change because no one has ever reached out to them are never in the room where the decisions are being made we are going to continue to have two different worlds and two different realities. I think we need to give people the opportunity to participate in their future, give them ownership over it and give a real voice to the voiceless.”



Electrifying our vehicles.

When asked, “How many gas vehicles do you think we can and should replace with electric vehicles in the next 10 years?”

Community members said:

50% of gas vehicles should be replaced by electric vehicles by 2030. That’s 4,450 vehicles replaced over 10 years.

75% of participants supported this plan. This was the **most supported** and **least polarized** option.

12,900 tonnes of greenhouse gas would be reduced as a result.



OPPOSE

SUPPORT



Less noise
pollution
⋮

Year 5 goal:
2,225 vehicles replaced
(6,450 tonnes)

Better air
quality
⋮

2020

2025

2030

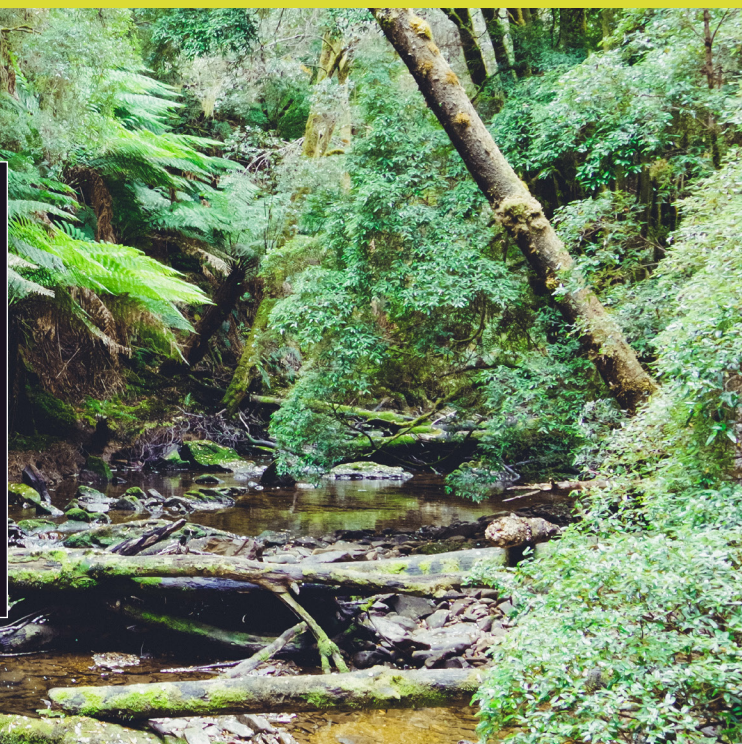
Year 1 goal:
445 vehicles replaced
(1,290 tonnes reduced)

Year 10 goal:
4,450 vehicles replaced
(12,900 tonnes)

Healthy forests.

When asked, “What percent of trees should and can we stop from being cleared over the next ten years (if 110 hectares is 100%)?”

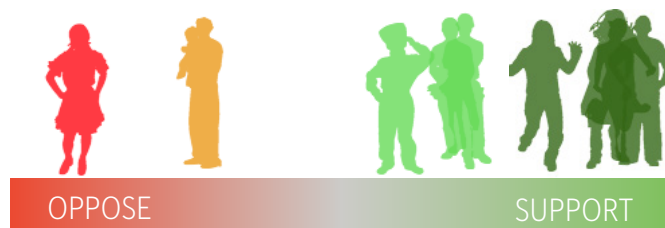
Community members said:



75% of forest clearing to be reduced by 2030. That's 83 hectares fewer being cut down over 10 years.

73% of participants supported this plan, distributed below:

12,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas would be reduced as a result.



Water retention increased in soil



Year 5 goal:
41.5 fewer hectares cut
(6,000 tonnes reduced)

Lower risk of fires, droughts and floods



2020

2025

2030

Year 1 goal:
8.3 fewer hectares cut
(1,200 tonnes reduced)

Year 10 goal:
83 fewer hectares cut
(12,000 tonnes reduced)

Electrifying our ferries.

When asked, “What percent of our ferries do you think we can and should replace with electric vessels in the next 10 years?”

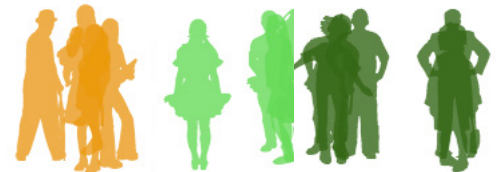
Community members said:



50% of our ferries should be replaced with electric ferries. That's ...

71% of participants supported this plan, distributed below:

8,850 tonnes of greenhouse gas would be reduced as a result.



OPPOSE

SUPPORT



2020

Year 1 goal: Advocating for infrastructure prep and construction throughout process

Year 5 goal:
1 ferry route converted
(4,450 tonnes of GHGs)

2025

Quieter seas for endangered orcas

Cleaner oceans

...

2030

Year 10 goal: Secondary route converted (total of 8,850 tonnes)

Reducing Freight Emissions.

“What percent of commercial transport emissions on Salt Spring do you feel could be decreased over the next ten years?”

Community members said:



50% of commercial transport and freight emissions should be reduced by 2030.

1,350 tonnes of greenhouse gas would be reduced as a

75% of participants supported this plan, distributed below:



OPPOSE

SUPPORT



More support for the local economy



Year 5 goal:
675 tonnes reduced

Cleaner air



2020

2025

2030

Year 1 goal:
135 tonnes of GHGs reduced from freight

Year 10 goal:
1,350 tonnes reduced

Retrofitting our homes.

“How many electrically-heated homes can or should we retrofit in the next ten years?”

Community members said:

Pictured: Heat pump.

50% of our homes should be retrofitted with heat pumps or energy-efficient equipment by 2030.

75% of participants supported this plan.

1,536 tonnes of greenhouse gas would be reduced as a result.



OPPOSE

SUPPORT



Warmer, drier homes
⋮

Year 5 goal:
1,150 homes retrofitted
(768 tonnes reduced)

Long-term
cost-savings
⋮

2020

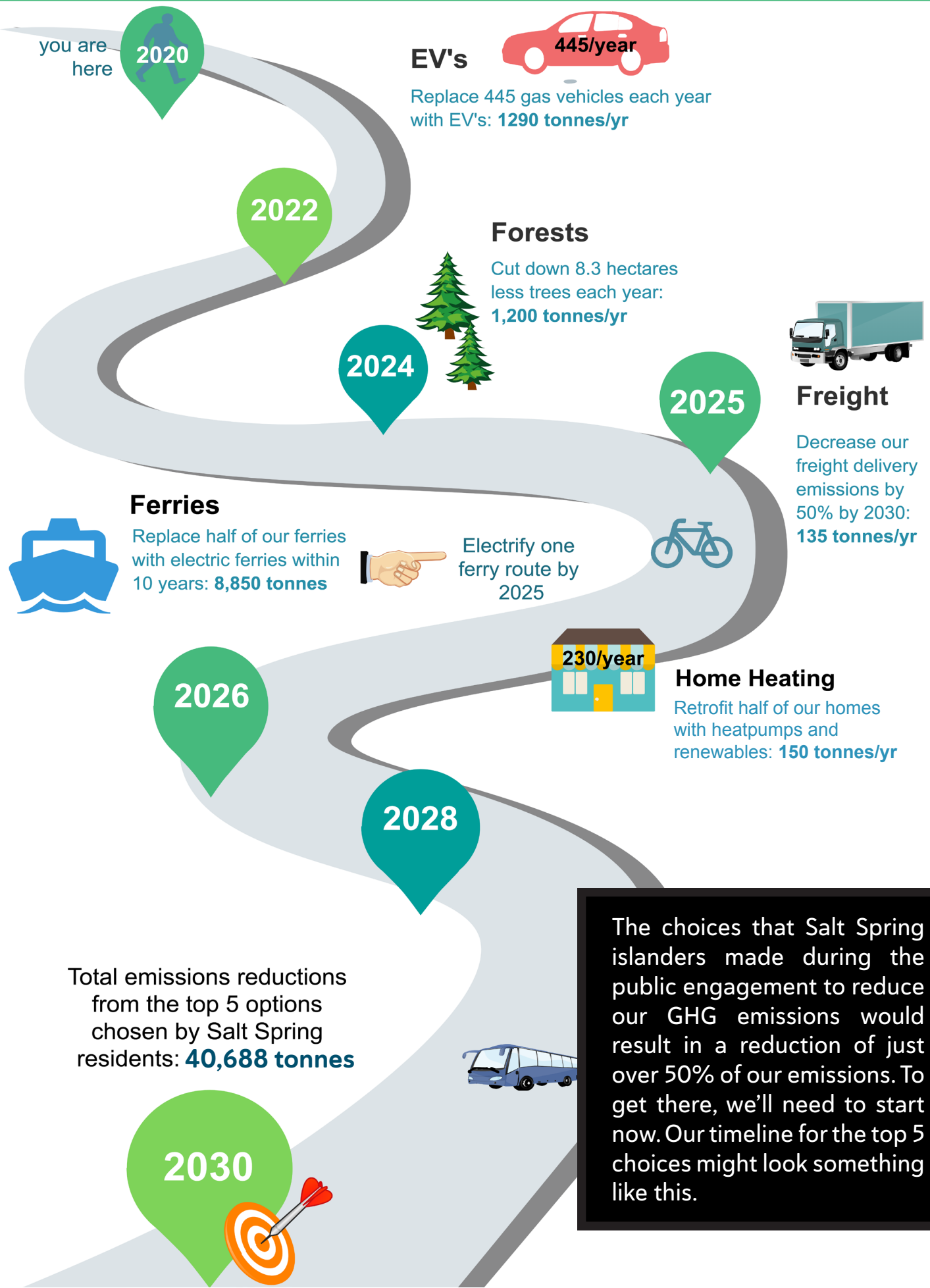
2025

2030

Year 1 goal:
230 homes retrofitted (154
tonnes of GHGs reduced)

Year 10 goal:
2,300 homes retrofitted
(1,536 tonnes reduced)

Top 5 public engagement choices which will be used to inform the Climate Action Plan



The choices that Salt Spring islanders made during the public engagement to reduce our GHG emissions would result in a reduction of just over 50% of our emissions. To get there, we'll need to start now. Our timeline for the top 5 choices might look something like this.

2020

2021: 1 YEAR GOAL

An approximate 10-year timeline for the rest of the choices could look something like this (keeping in mind that there will be more community emissions identified and profiled in the soon-to-be completed CAP 2.0, as well as more detailed dives into our life cycle and personal emissions):

2022

By Year 1, 105 tonnes of emissions are reduced from tourist vehicles.

11 cars are replaced through increased cycling infrastructure (**36 tonnes reduced**)

7.5% of our oil/propane-heated homes are retrofitted (**97 tonnes reduced**).

We have advocated for improved bus service and have begun planning routes.

2023

150 wood stoves are upgraded (**190 tonnes reduced**).

1 school bus is replaced with electric (**9 tonnes reduced**).

2024

Composting is increased by **10%** (**49.1 tonnes reduced**).

1 public bus is replaced with electric (**7 tonnes reduced**).

5 YEAR GOAL: 2025

By Year 5, 210 tonnes of emissions are reduced from tourist vehicles.

56 cars are replaced through increased cycling infrastructure (**180 tonnes reduced**)

2026

37% of our oil/propane-heated homes are retrofitted (**487 tonnes reduced**).

40 cars are replaced as a result of 3 improved bus routes (**128 tonnes reduced**).

2027

300 wood stoves are upgraded (**380 tonnes reduced**).

5 school buses are replaced with electric (**45 tonnes reduced**).

2028

Composting is increased by **50%** (**245.5 tonnes reduced**).

3 public buses are replaced with electric (**35 tonnes reduced**).

2029

10 YEAR GOAL: 2030

40,688 tonnes of GHGs reduced.

By Year 10, 1050 tonnes of emissions are reduced from tourist vehicles.

112 cars are replaced through increased cycling infrastructure (**360 tonnes reduced**).

75% of our oil/propane-heated homes are retrofitted (**975 tonnes reduced**).

80 cars are replaced as a result of 5 improved bus routes (**255 tonnes reduced**).

600 wood stoves are upgraded (**761 tonnes reduced**).

All 10 school buses are replaced with electric (**90 tonnes reduced**).

Composting is increased by **75%** (**491 tonnes reduced**).

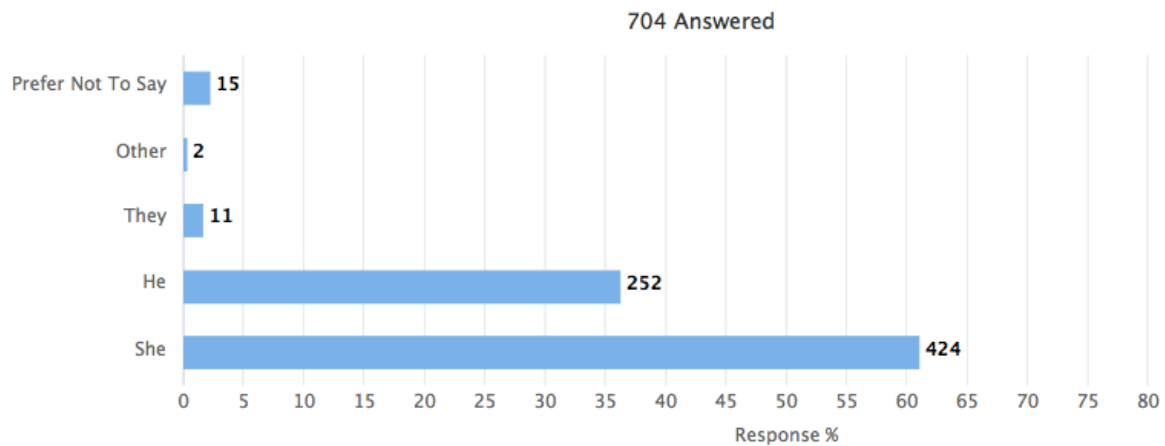
All 5 public bus are replaced with electric (**70 tonnes reduced**).

Salt Spring Climate Action Plan Public Engagement

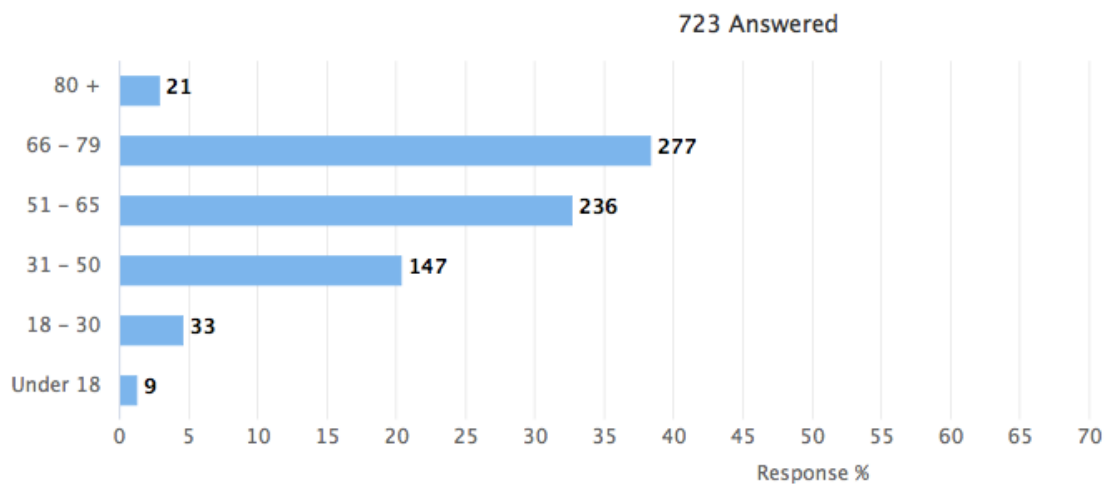
Survey Questions

About You

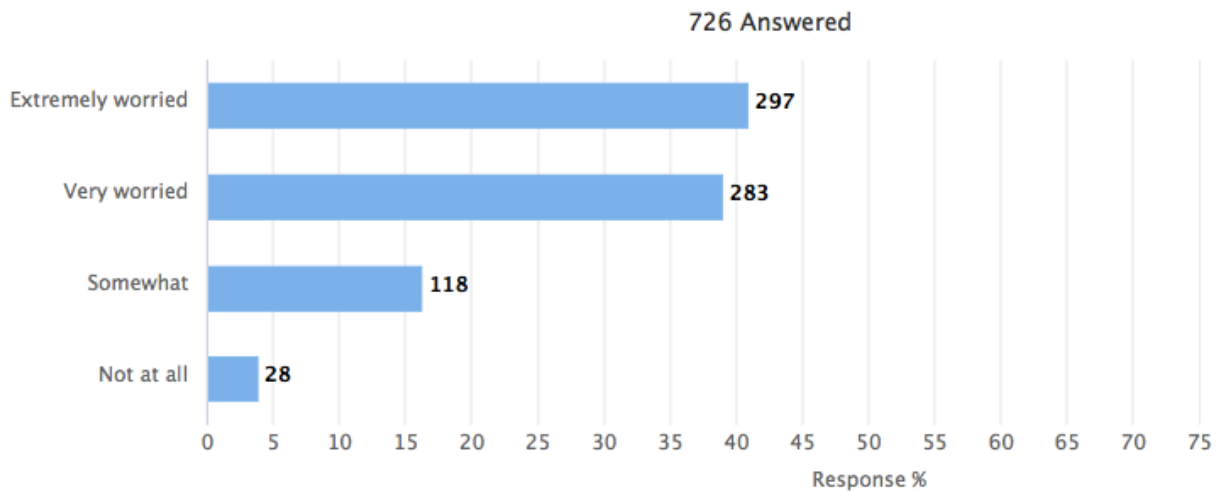
Gender Pronoun



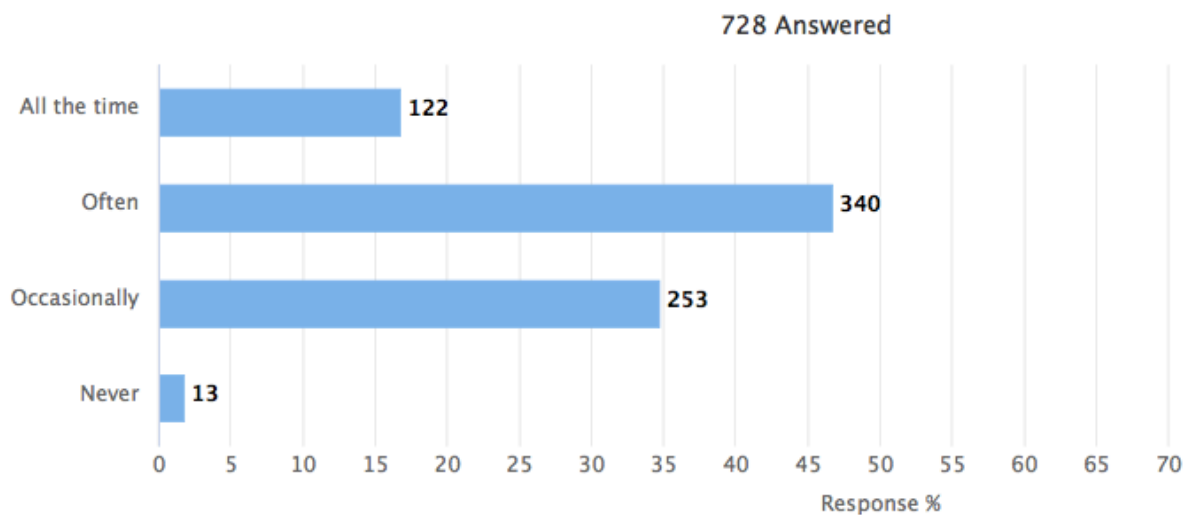
Your Age (if you don't mind us asking)



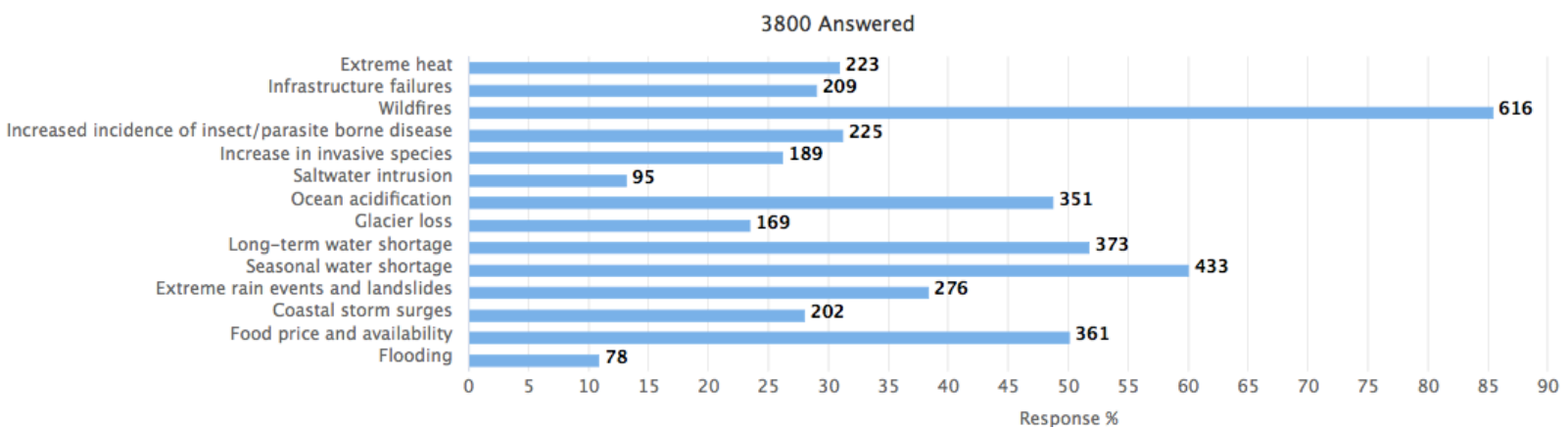
How worried are you about climate change?



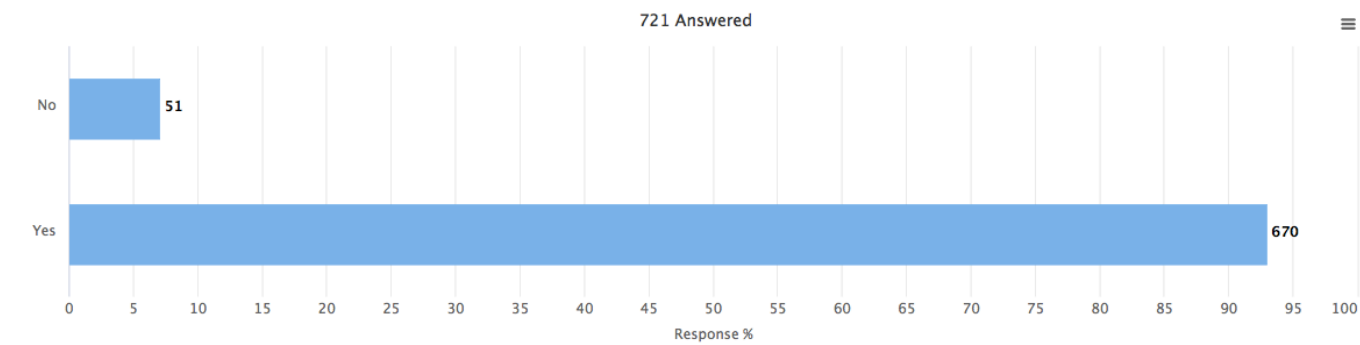
How often do you talk to your family, friends or neighbours about it?



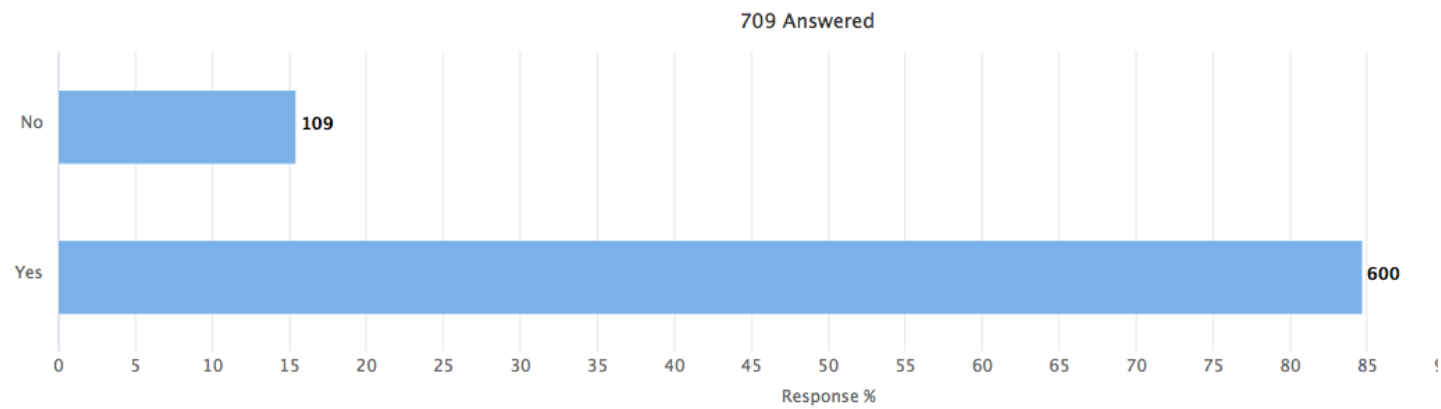
Considering impact, likelihood and Salt Spring's strengths and vulnerabilities, which climate event(s) are the ones that concern you most?



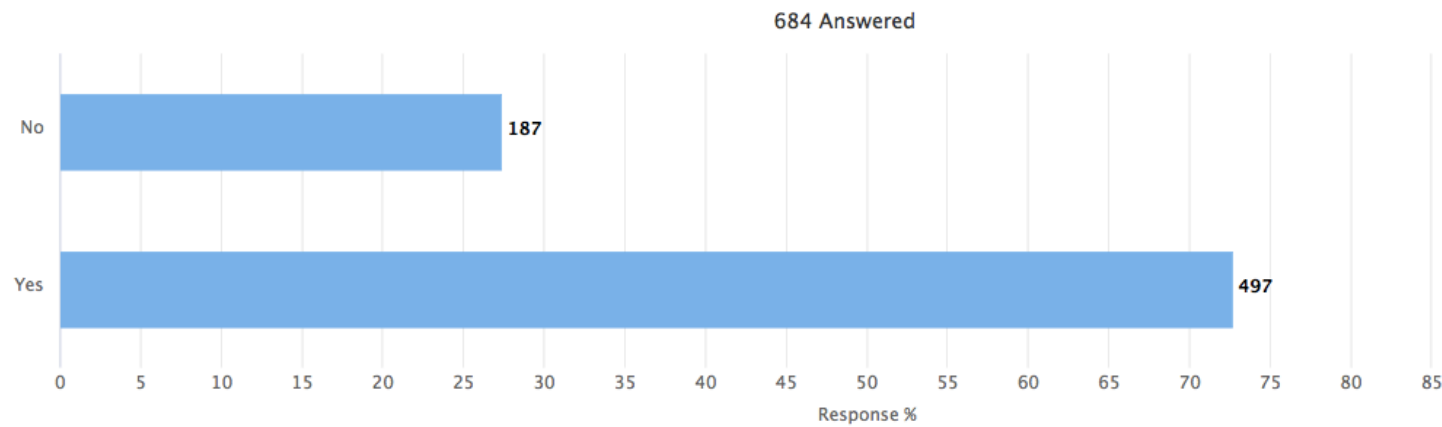
Do you think that climate change will personally affect you?



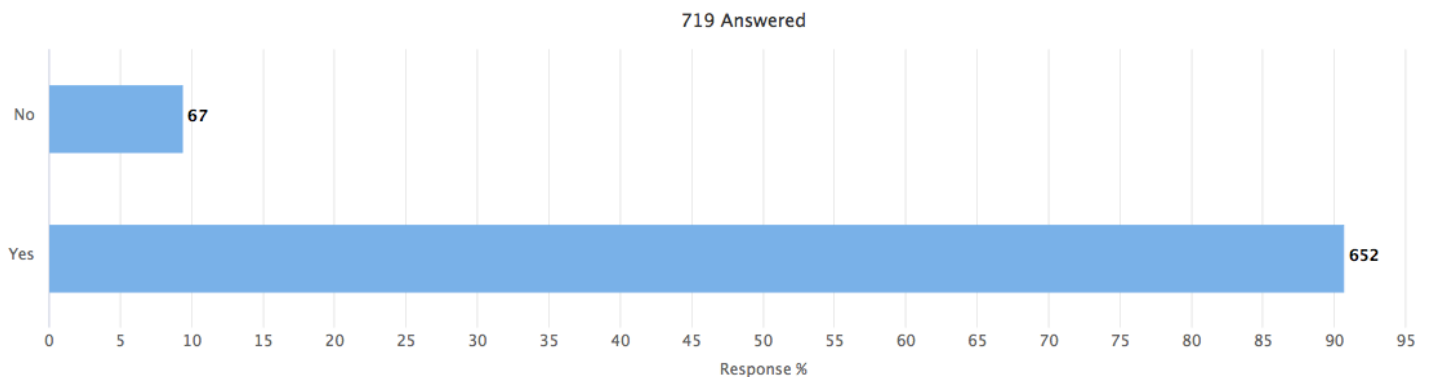
Do you shop based on climate issues?



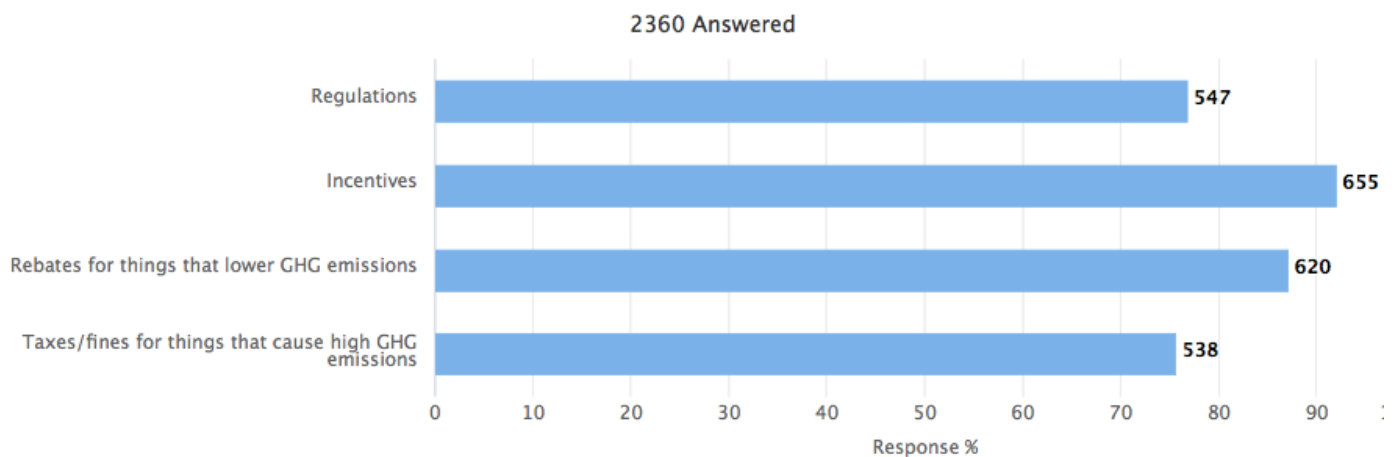
Do you invest based on climate issues?



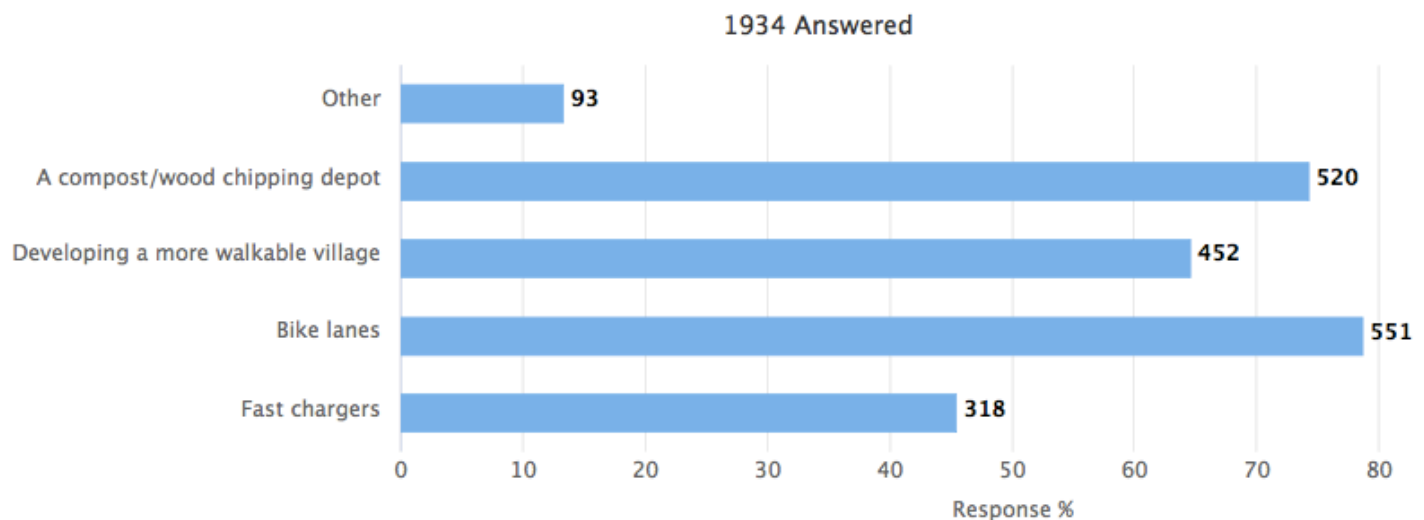
Do you vote based on climate issues?



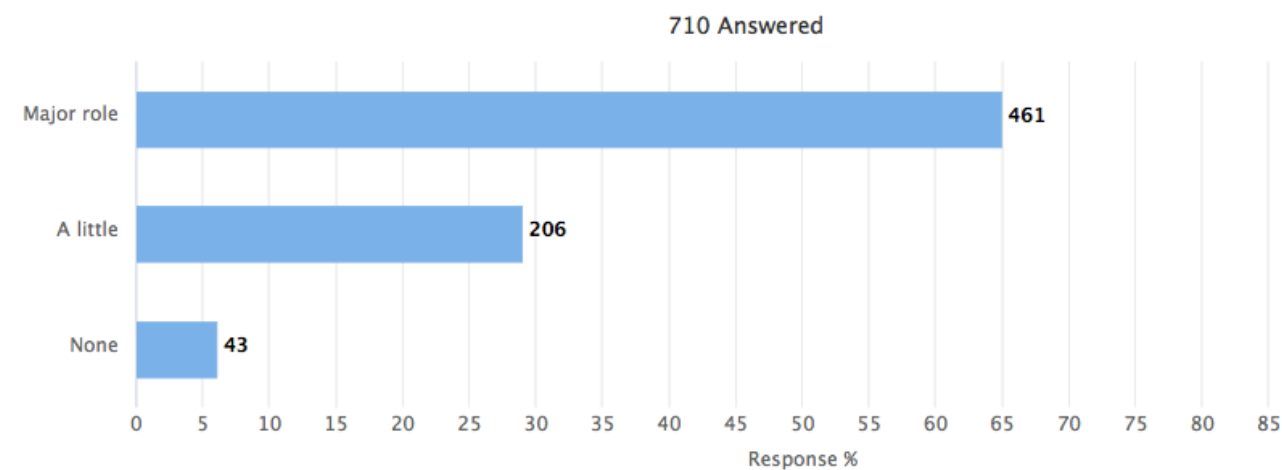
What kind of a role should the government play?



Should we use our tax/gas tax dollars or other senior government transfers or grants for:

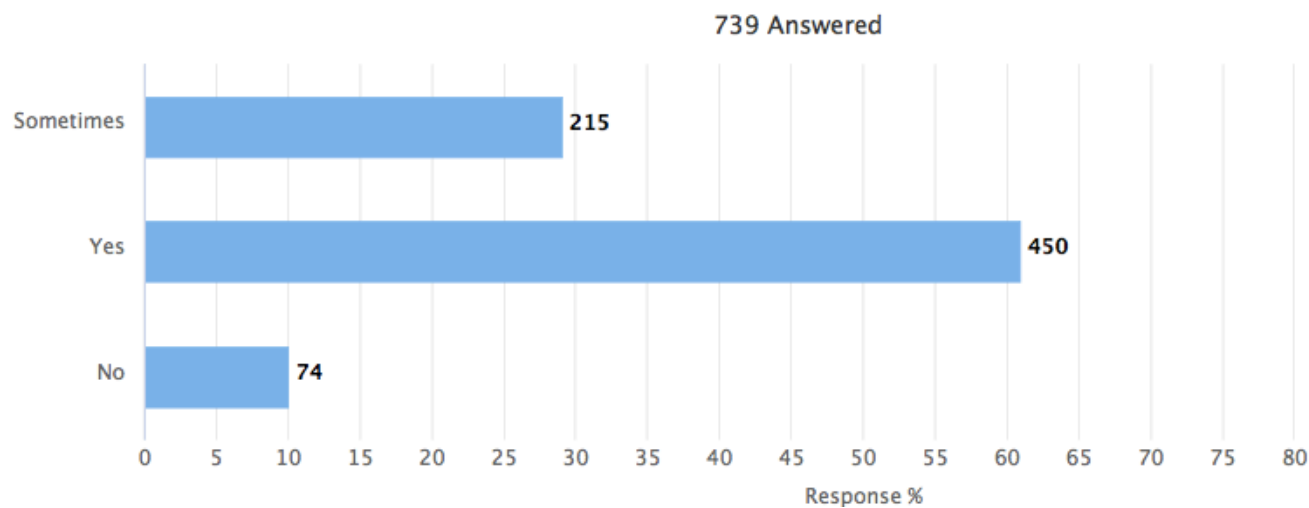


Knowing that we will not reach our goals if we only rely on the things that governments can do, how much of a role do you think the government should play in our individual choices?

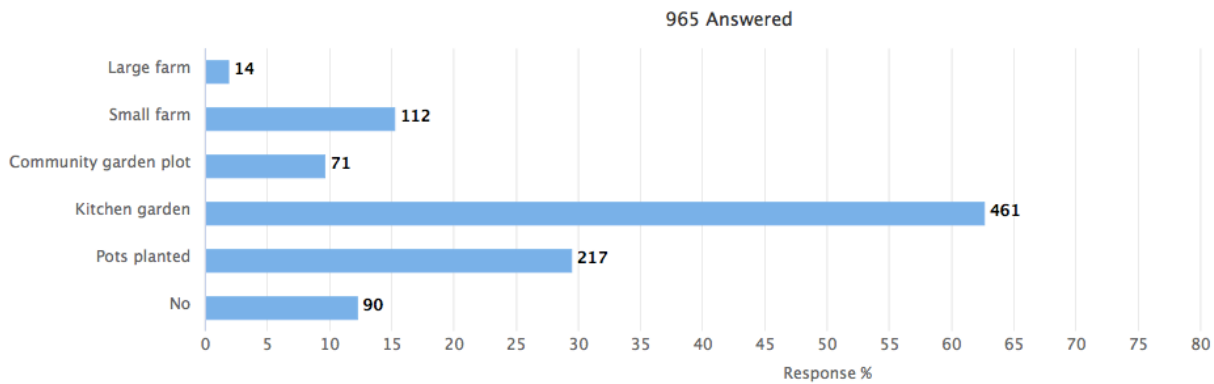


Food and Agriculture

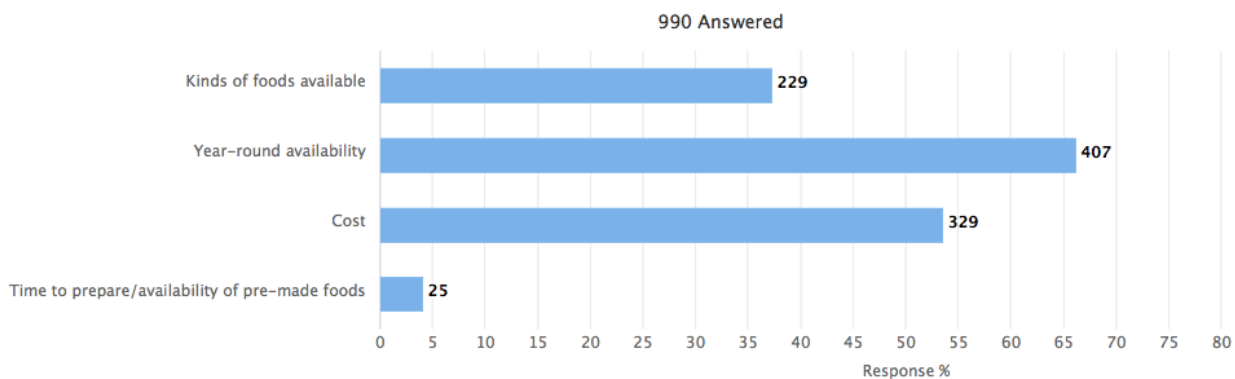
Do you consider your GHG footprint when shopping for food?



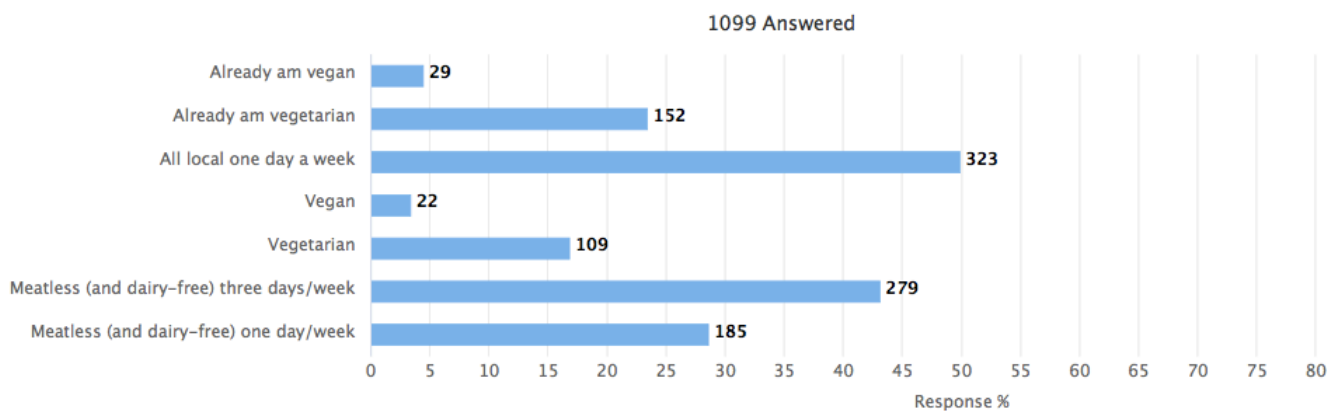
Do you grow food?



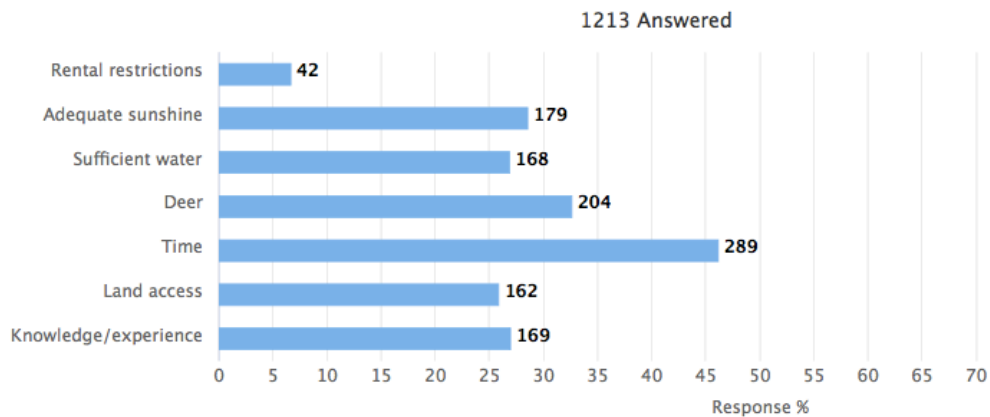
What are the barriers for you for buying more of your food locally?



Would you consider changing your family's diet by doing any of the following?

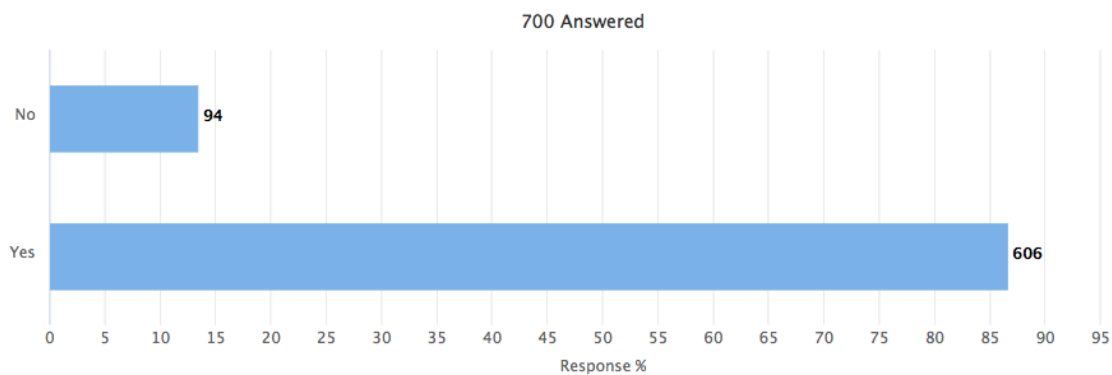


What are the barriers for you to grow more of your own food and increase local food production?

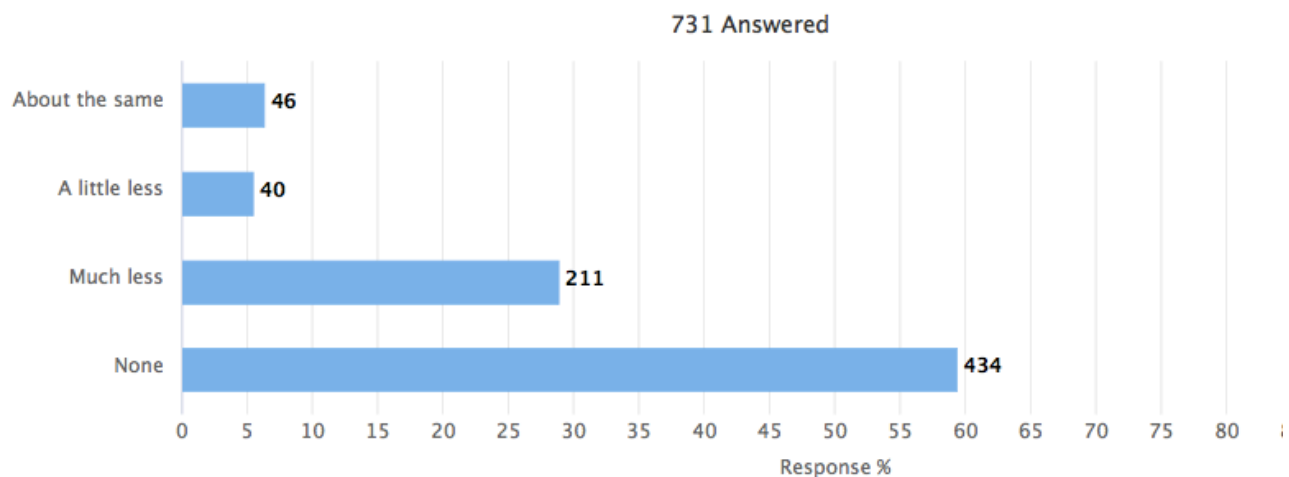


Forests

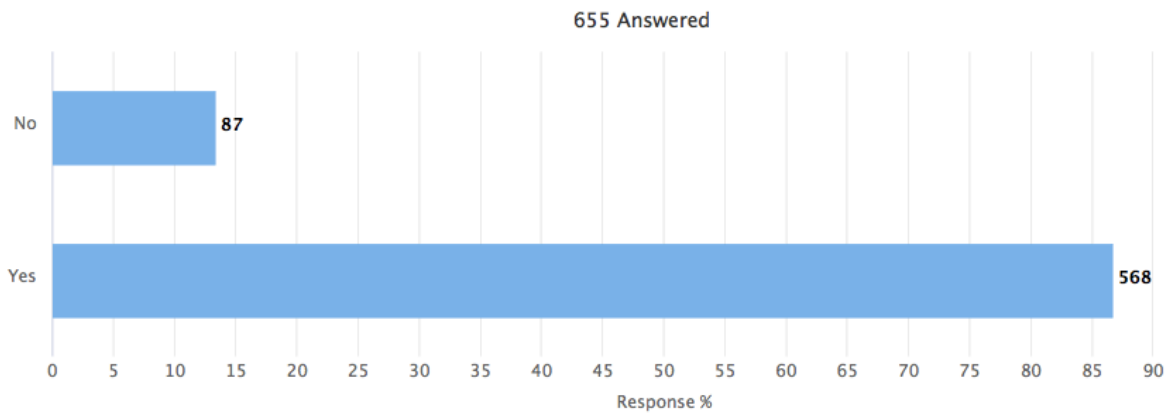
Do you think Salt Spring should stop slash burning?



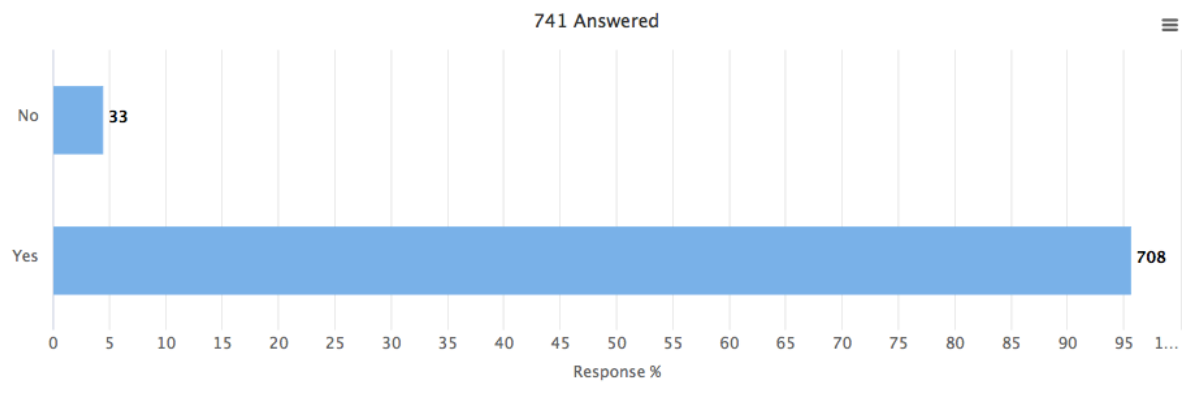
Given the role of forests in storing carbon and protecting water, how much clear cut logging do you think should occur on SSI?



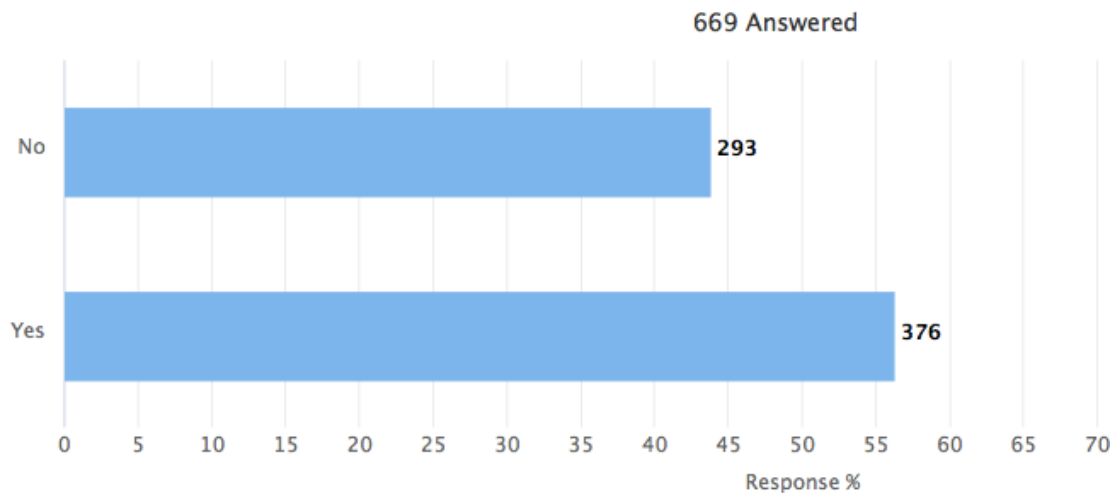
If you would like to restore a forest on your property, would you be interested in knowing more about what native plants/trees are fire resistant as well as which are best suited to the changing climate?



Would you support a community wood chipper program?

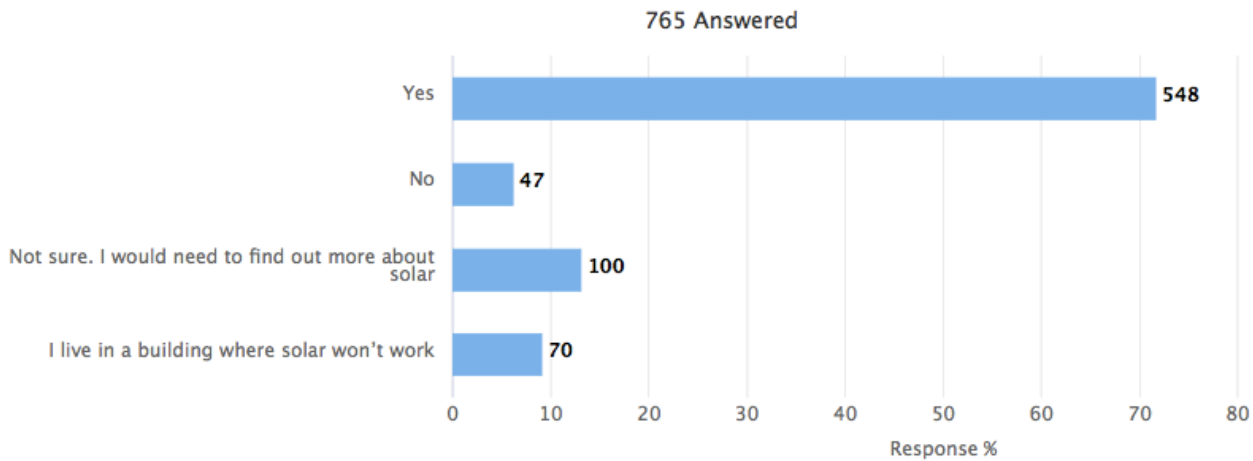


Would you be interested in incentives to restore a forest on your property?

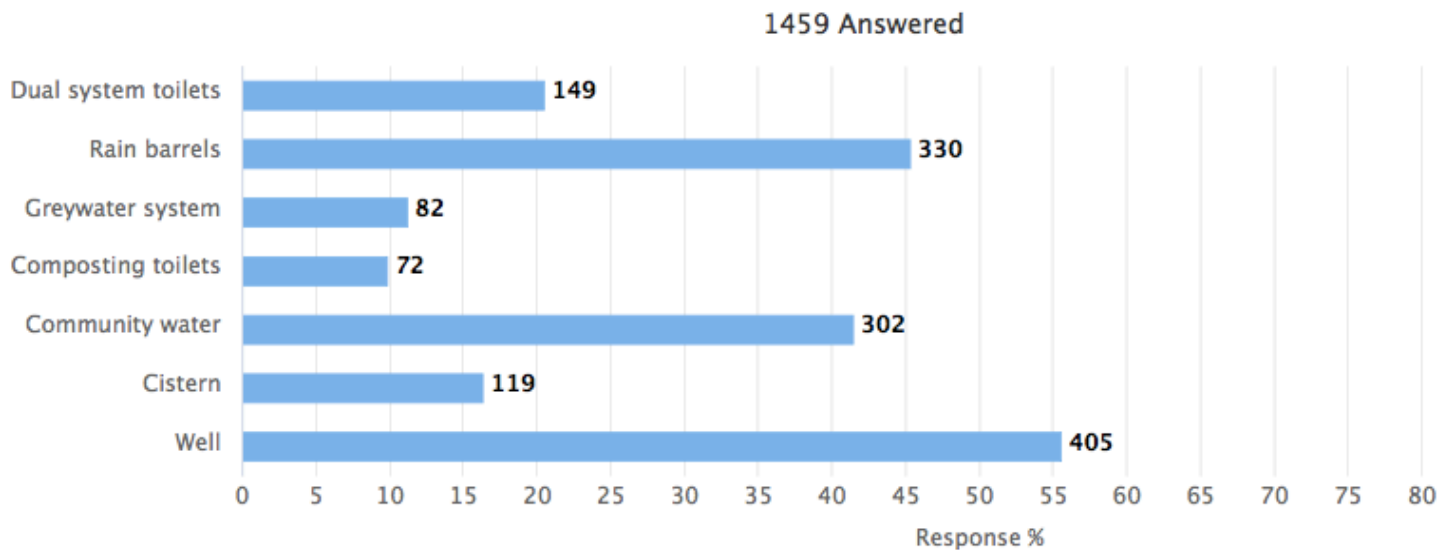


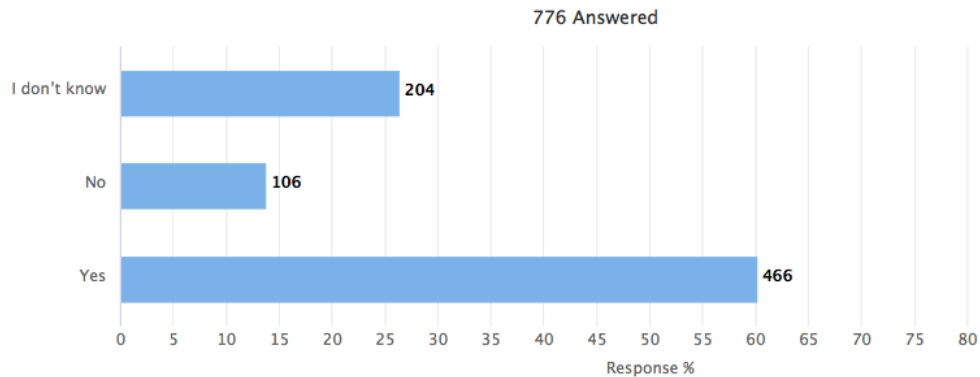
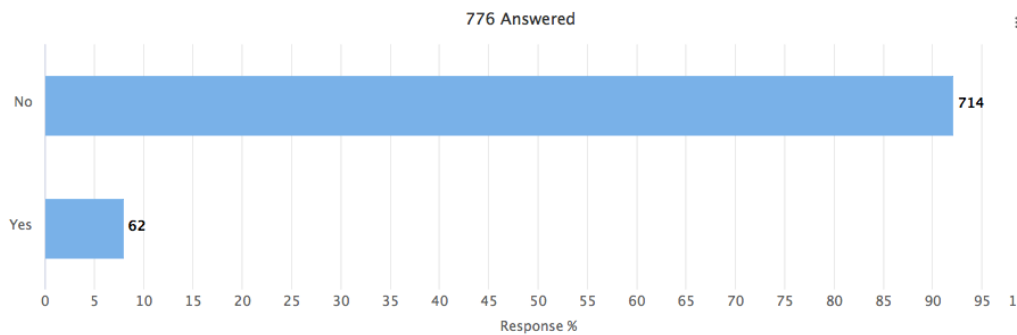
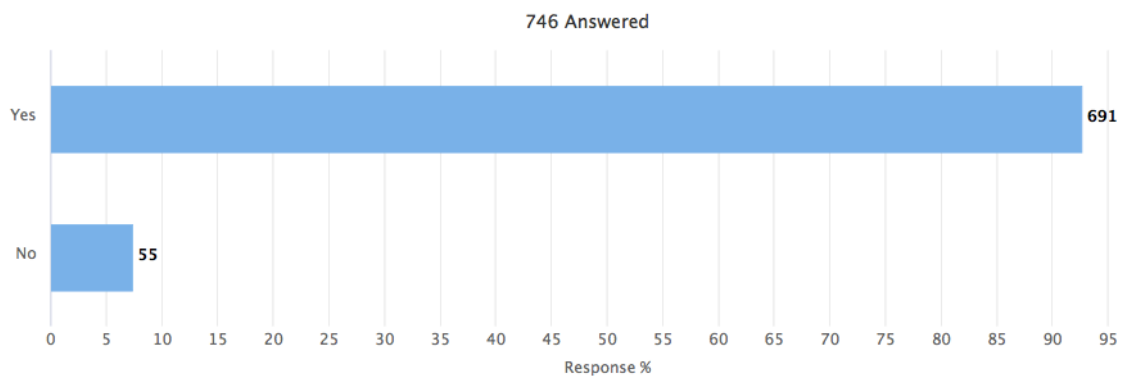
Homes and Buildings

If there were an incentive offered for solar would you consider putting solar or solar hot water on your roof?

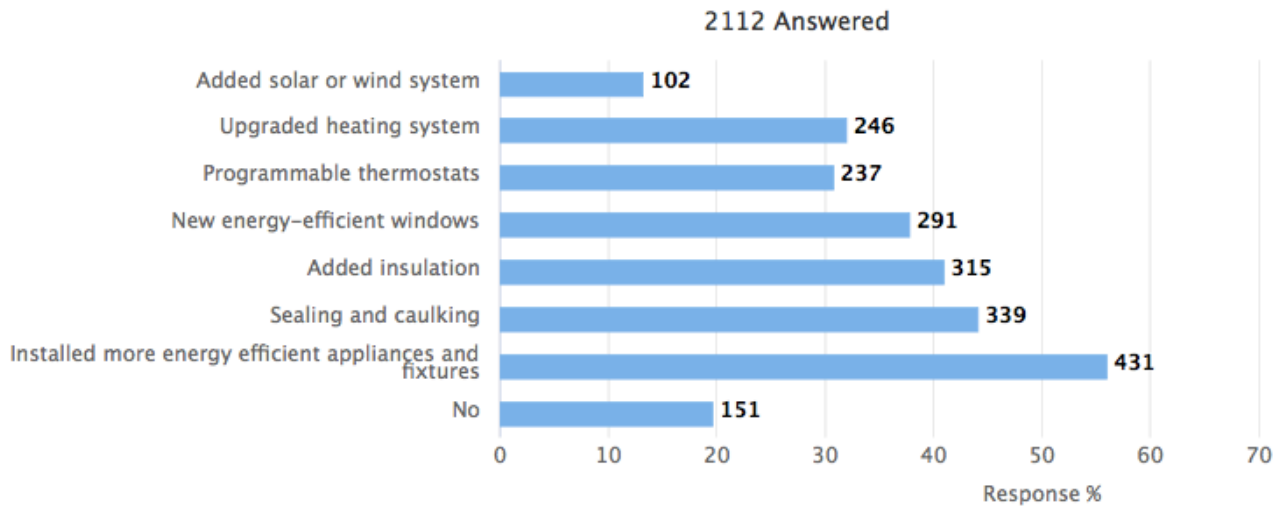


Do you have any of the following?

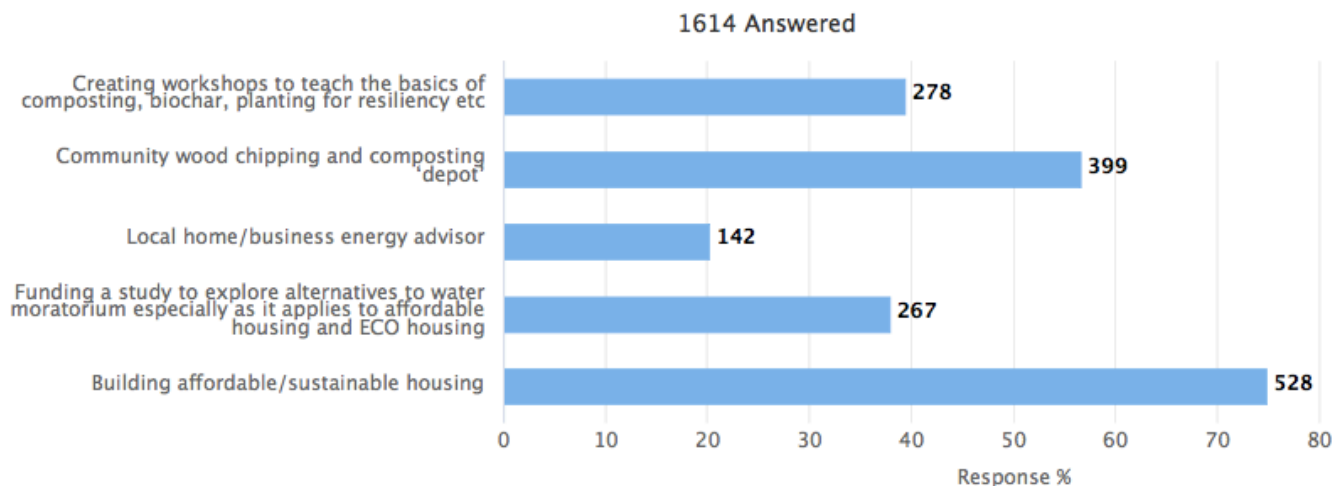


Are you in a neighbourhood with an active POD emergency system?**Do you ever find that you run out of water?****The BC government has a program in place to replace old energy inefficient wood stoves with new efficient ones. Would you support the CRD or community groups applying to have that program brought to Salt Spring?**

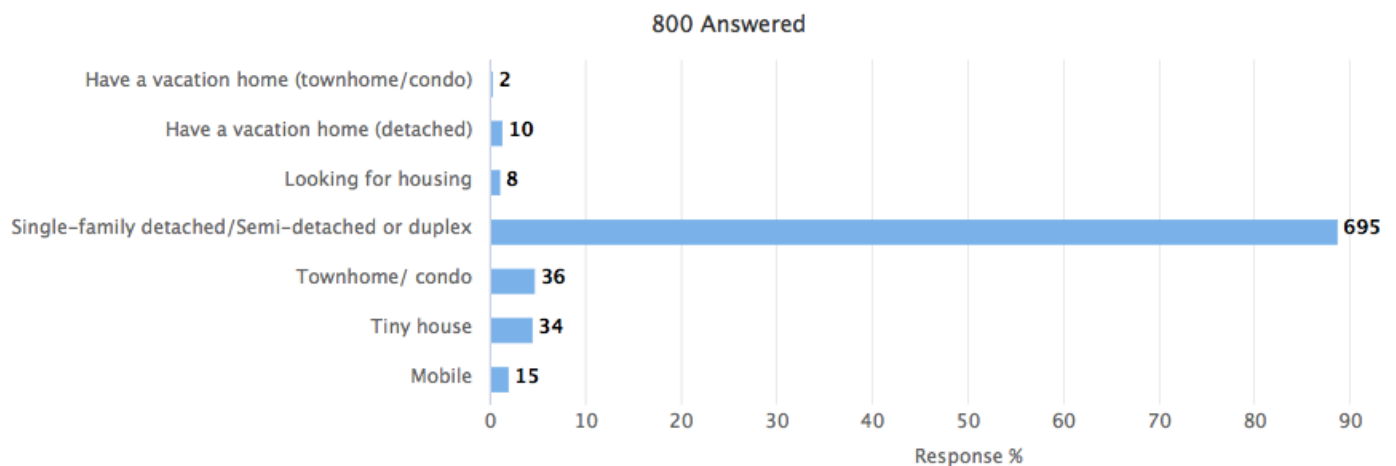
Have you done anything to make your home more energy efficient?



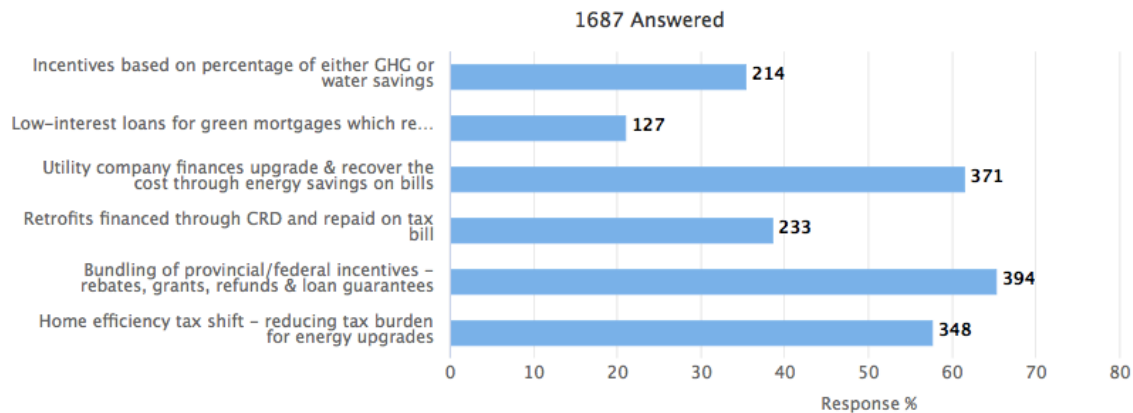
If we were able to utilize a speculation/empty home tax or other available tax monies, would you like to see the money used for any of the following:



What kind of home do you live in?

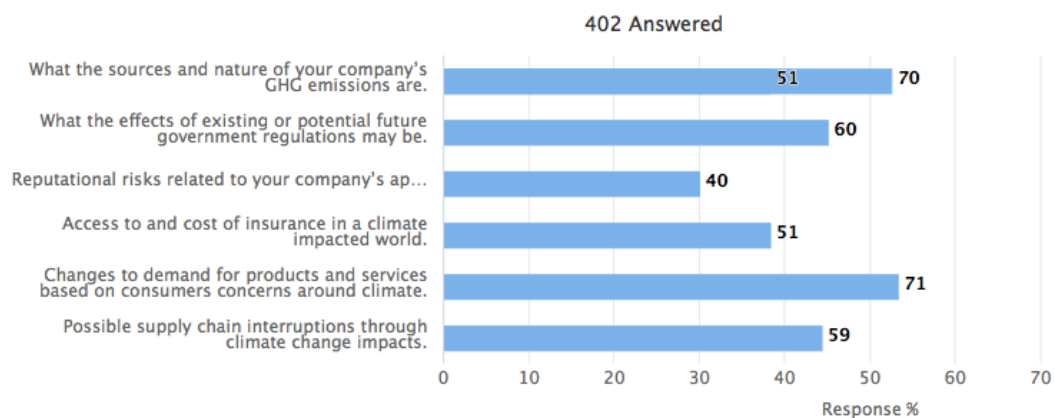


Would any of the following financing options help you decide to make your home more energy-efficient or add water saving features to your home?

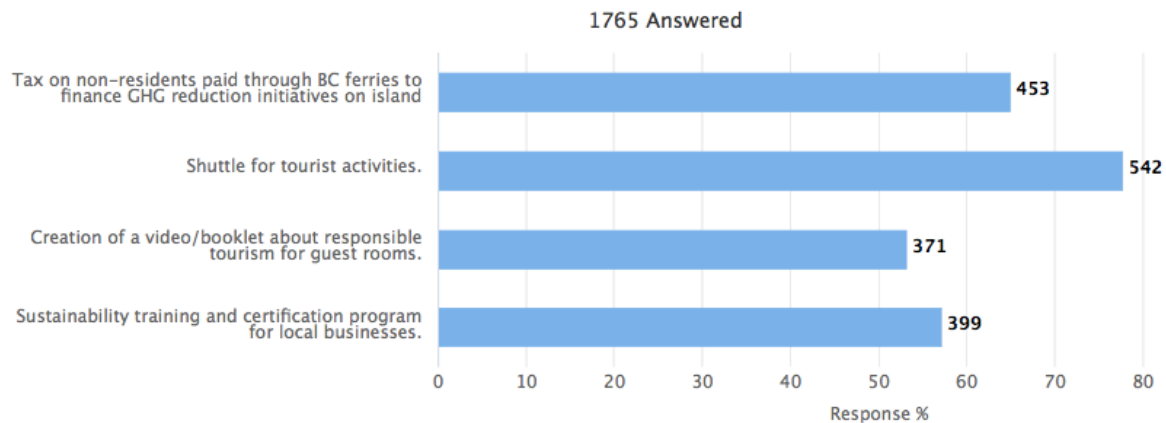


Tourism and Commercial

If you own a business do you consider any of the following in your decisions?

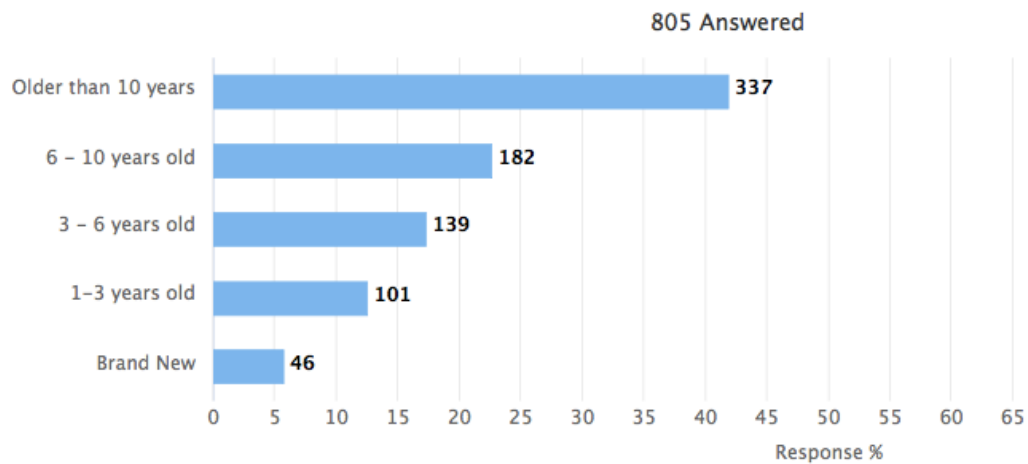


Which of the following options would you support?

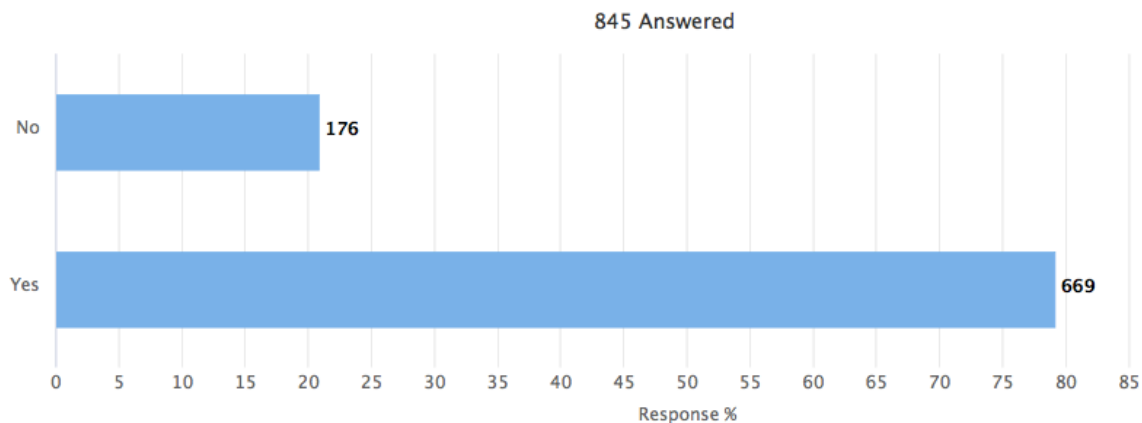


Transportation

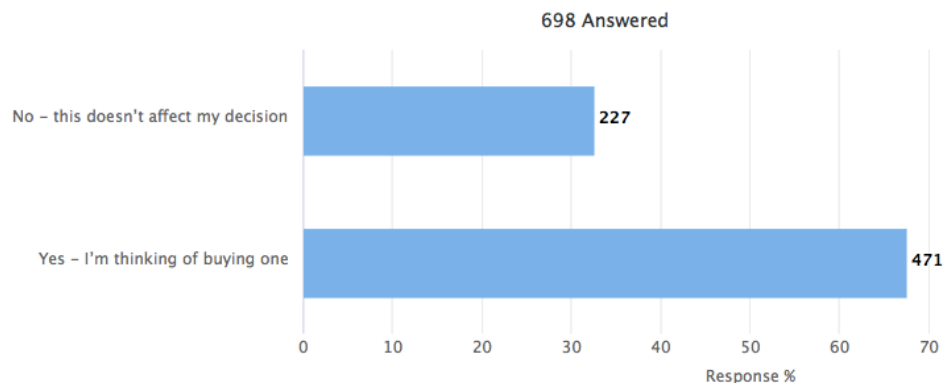
If you own a car - How old is your car?



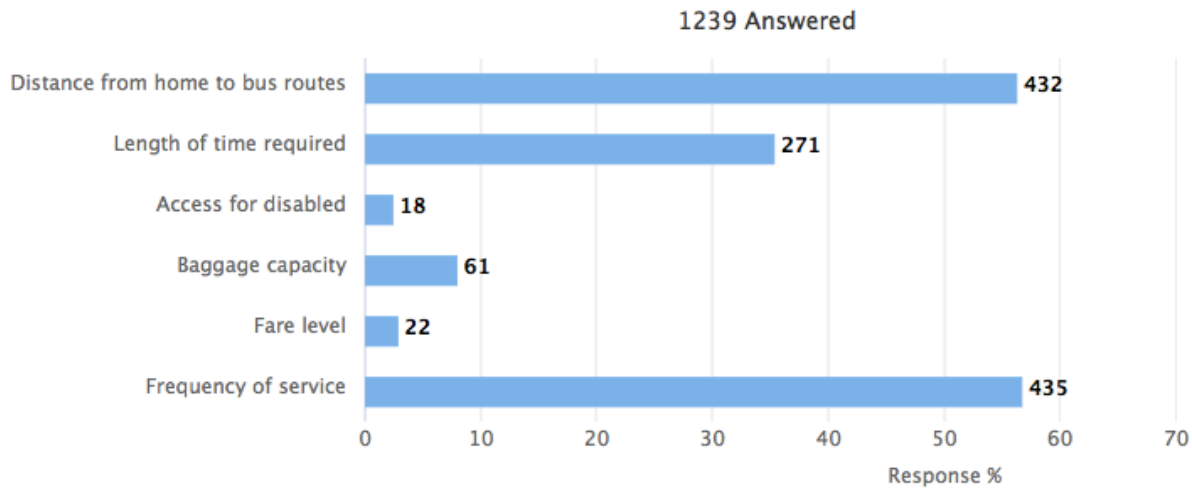
Most of us don't realize that driving slower actually cuts emissions and reduces pollution. Would you support reduced speed limits to cut GHG emissions?



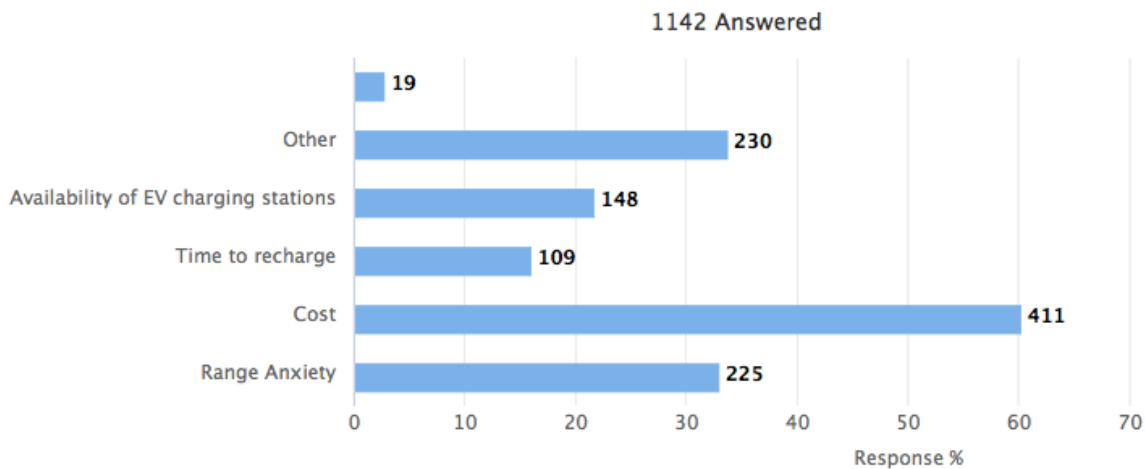
Right now, there are approximately \$8,000 in government subsidies for EV's which brings the price of many EV's in line with the price of gas cars. Does this incentive help you consider an EV?



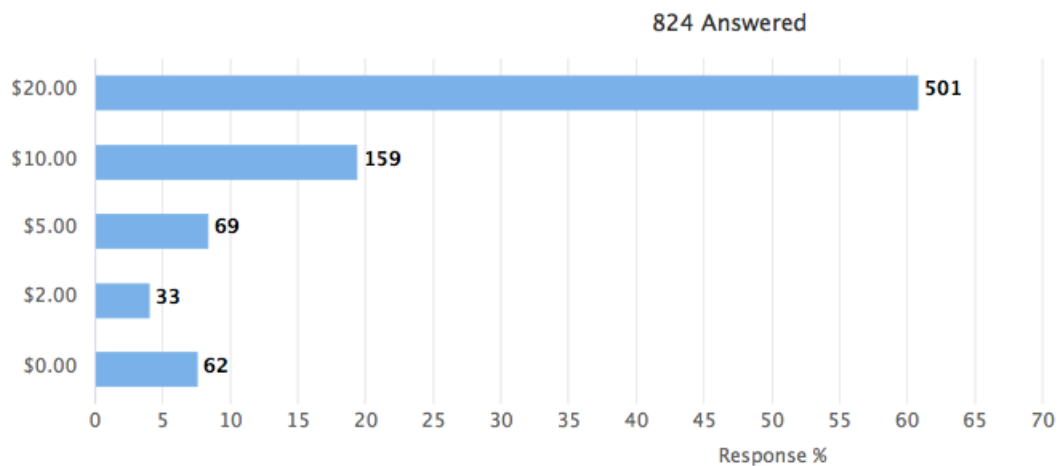
What are the major barriers for you around public transportation?



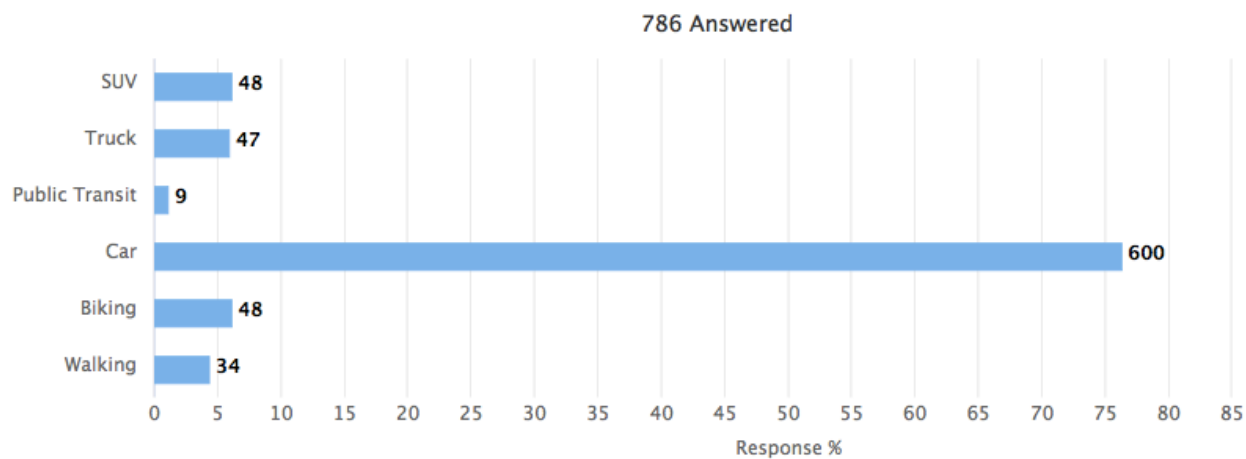
What are your barriers to buying an EV? (You can skip this if you own an EV)



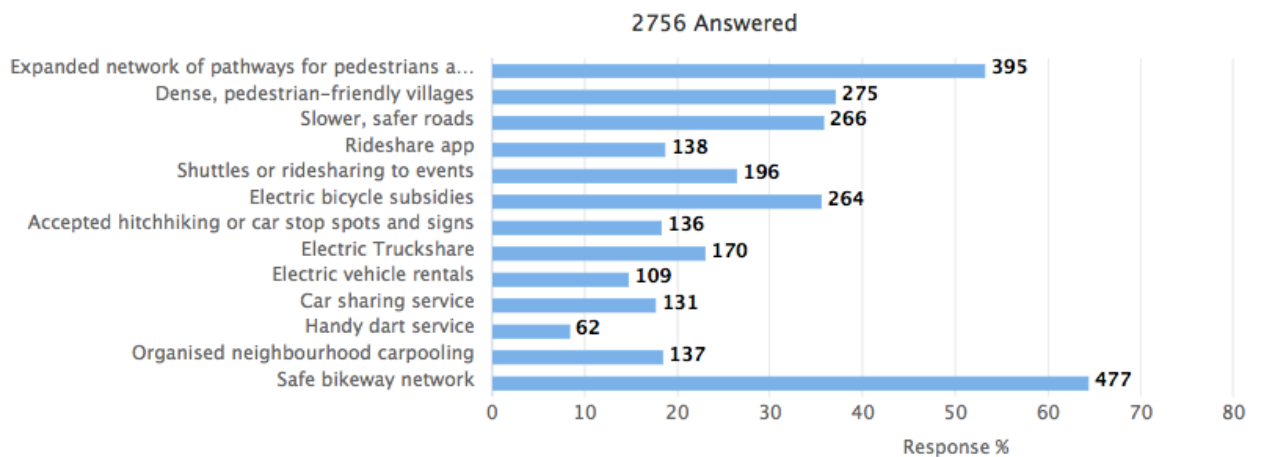
What is the maximum tax increase per year you would support to improve bus frequency and expanded routes?



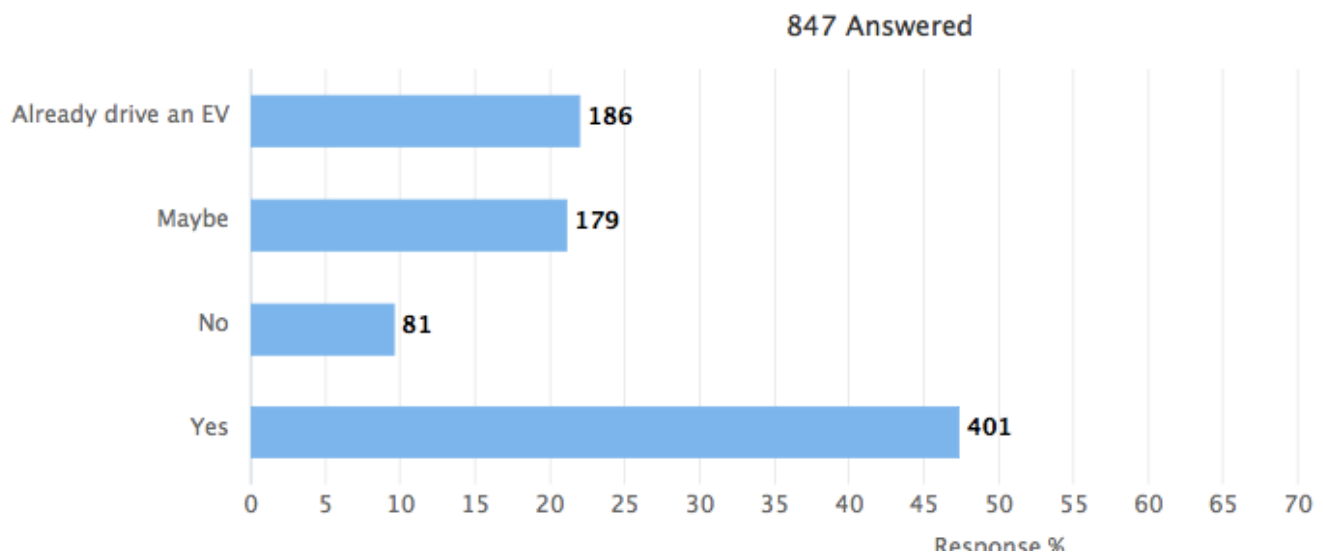
What is your main mode of transportation currently?



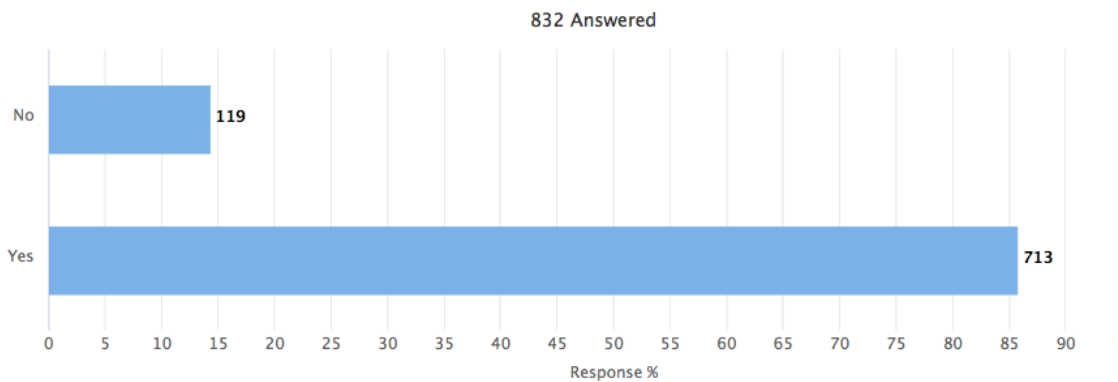
What would help you drive less, or for your family to own one less car or truck?



Would you consider buying an electric vehicle as your next vehicle?

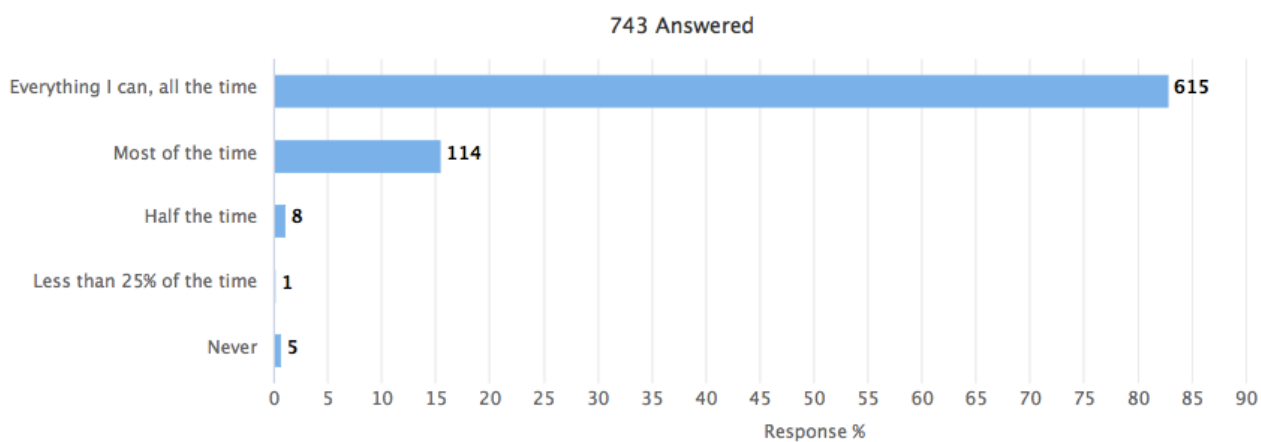


Would you support a residence card that allows SSI residents to ride the bus for a lower fare than non-residents?

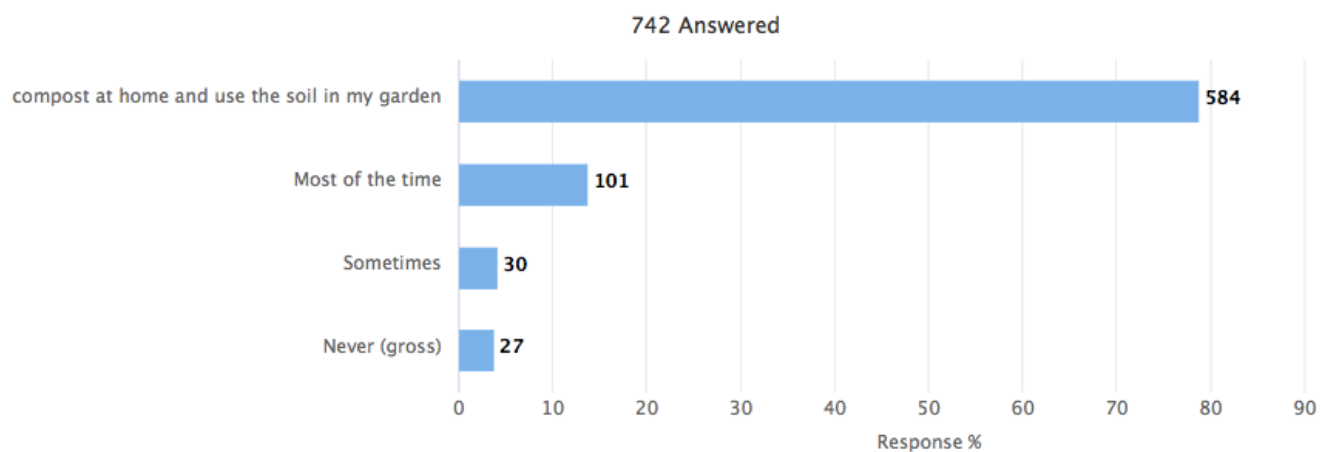


Waste

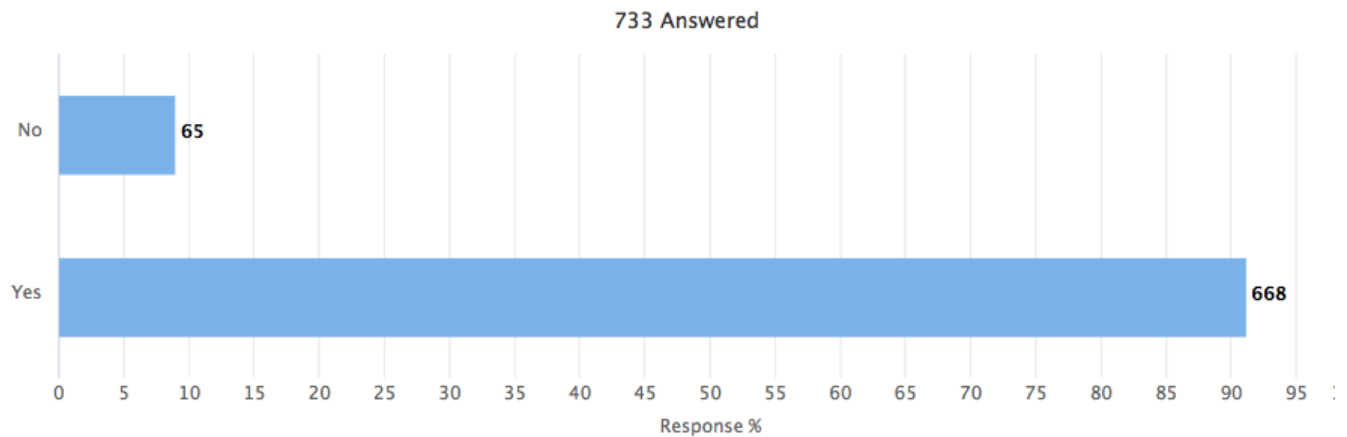
How often do you recycle?



How much do you compost?



Would you support a community compost and wood chipping facility where you could drop off wood waste for chipping, drop off food waste for composting and collect compost?



If you answered yes, how do you think we should pay for it?

