

**CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN  
PUBLIC SURVEY: WHAT YOU SAID**

AUGUST 2022

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

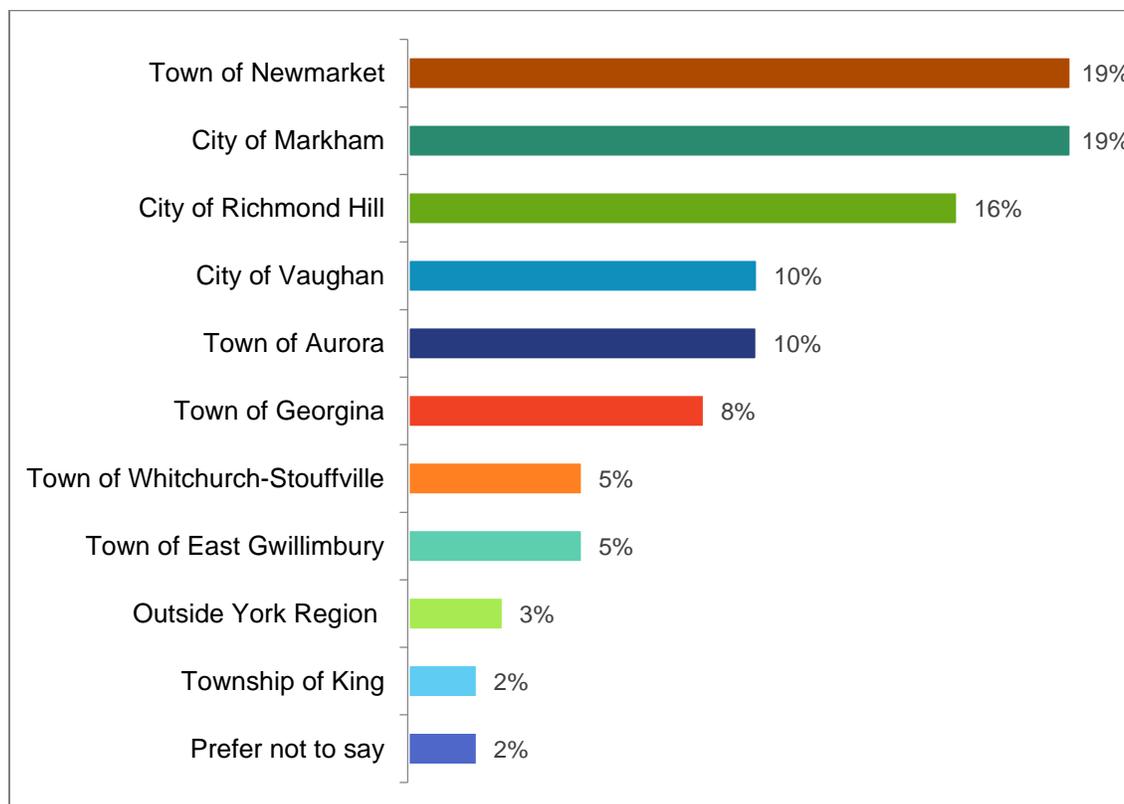
York Region invited input from residents on the draft Climate Change Action Plan through an online survey from February 28 to March 13, 2022. The purpose of the survey was to share information about the draft Plan and identify resident priorities and areas of concern to help inform implementation. Respondents were asked to review a list of proposed actions from the draft Action Plan and identify their top priorities. The survey was available on [york.ca/climatechange](http://york.ca/climatechange), and promoted through the Region’s social media platforms, e-newsletters and digital and print advertising.

This report summarizes the 401 survey responses received. The survey results informed refinement of the Climate Change Action Plan and will also inform future climate initiatives by the Region. Results aligned well with work currently underway in York Region, an indication that decision making related to climate change aligns with our communities’ priorities. Similar to feedback received from stakeholders, respondents would like to see more detail addressed in the Implementation Guide.

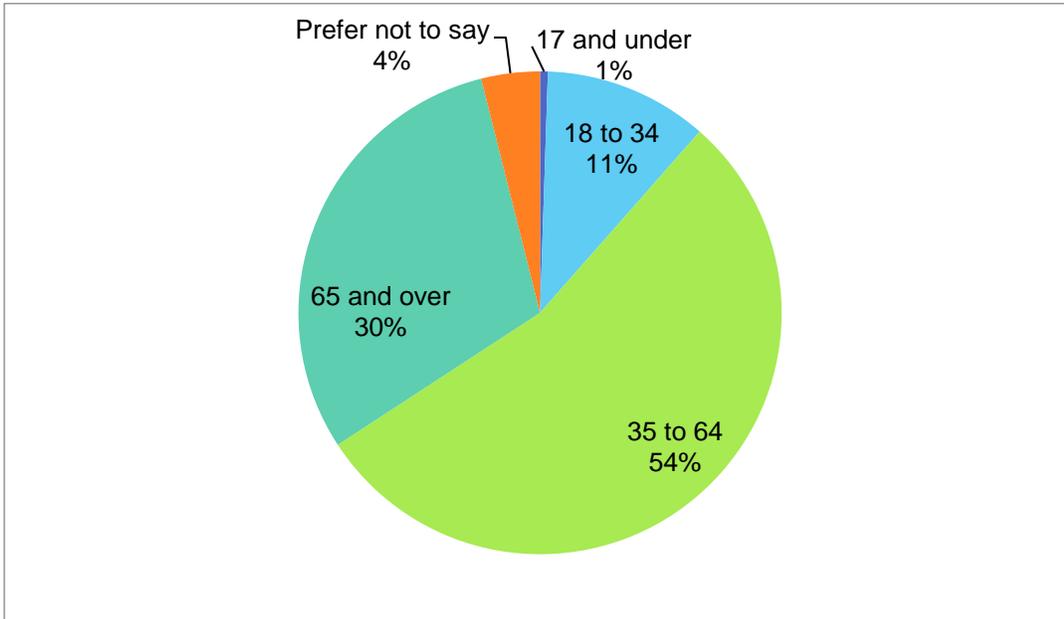
*\*Some survey questions were optional, and some percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number so may not equal 100%. Multiple questions allowed for more than one answer, therefore percentages may not equal 100% in some instances.*

## ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

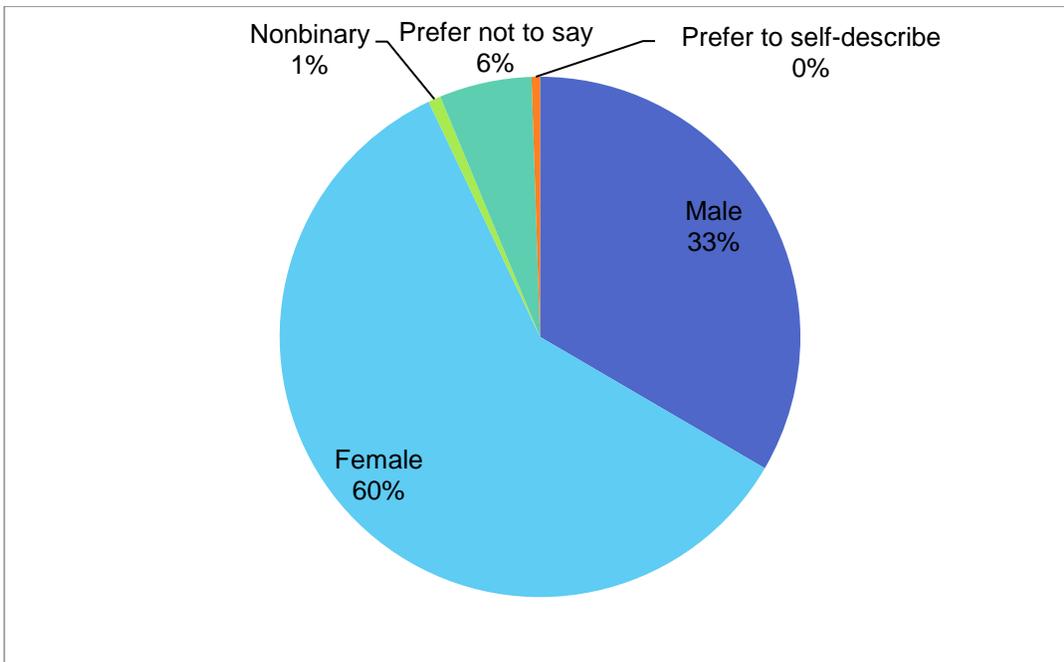
Where do you live?



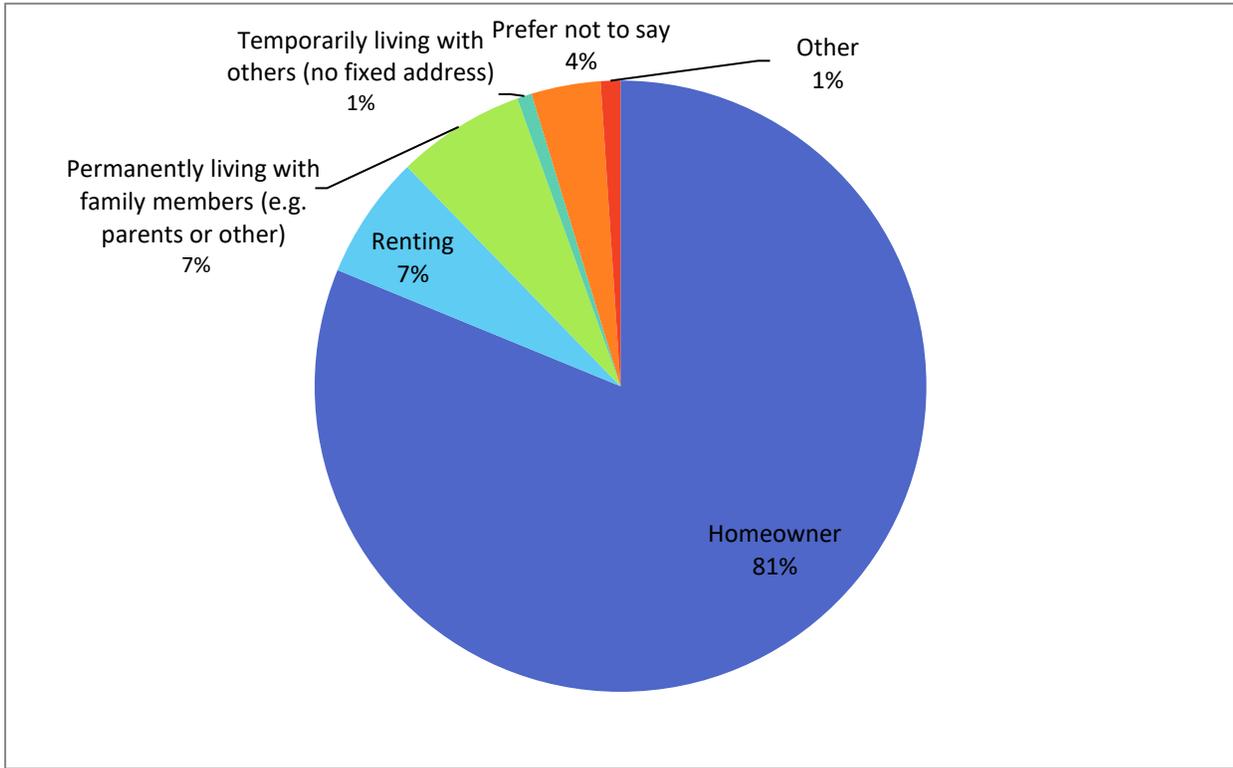
### What is your age range?



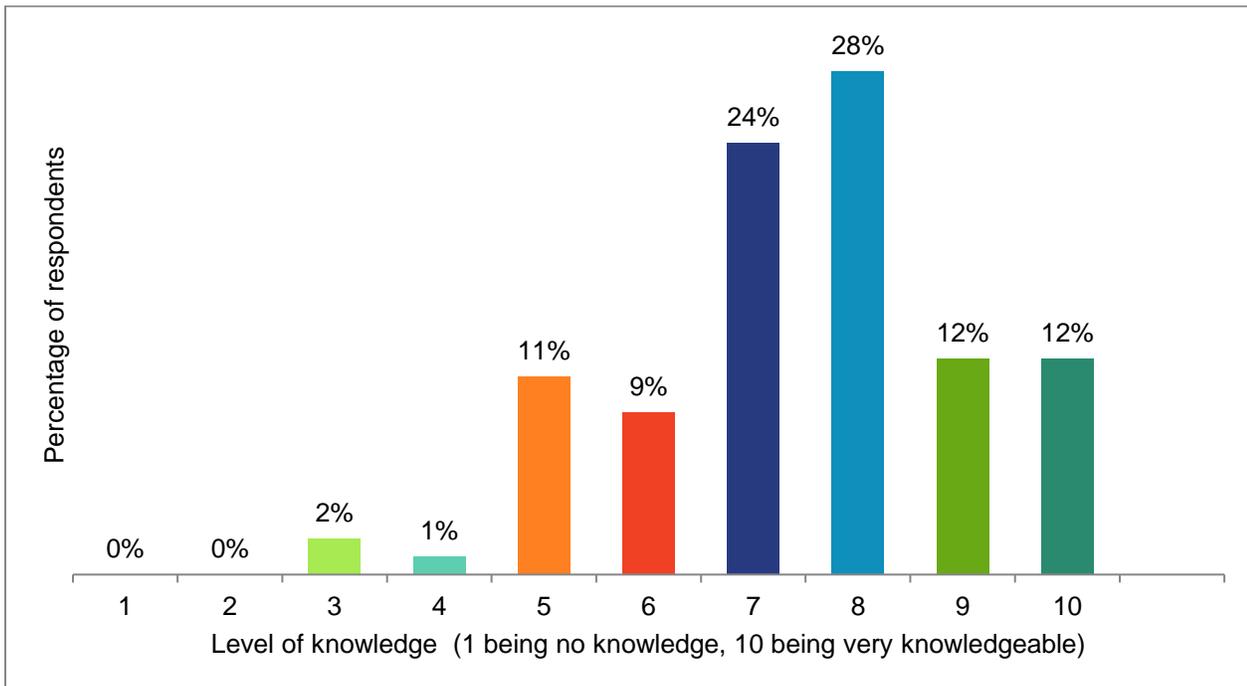
### What gender do you identify with?



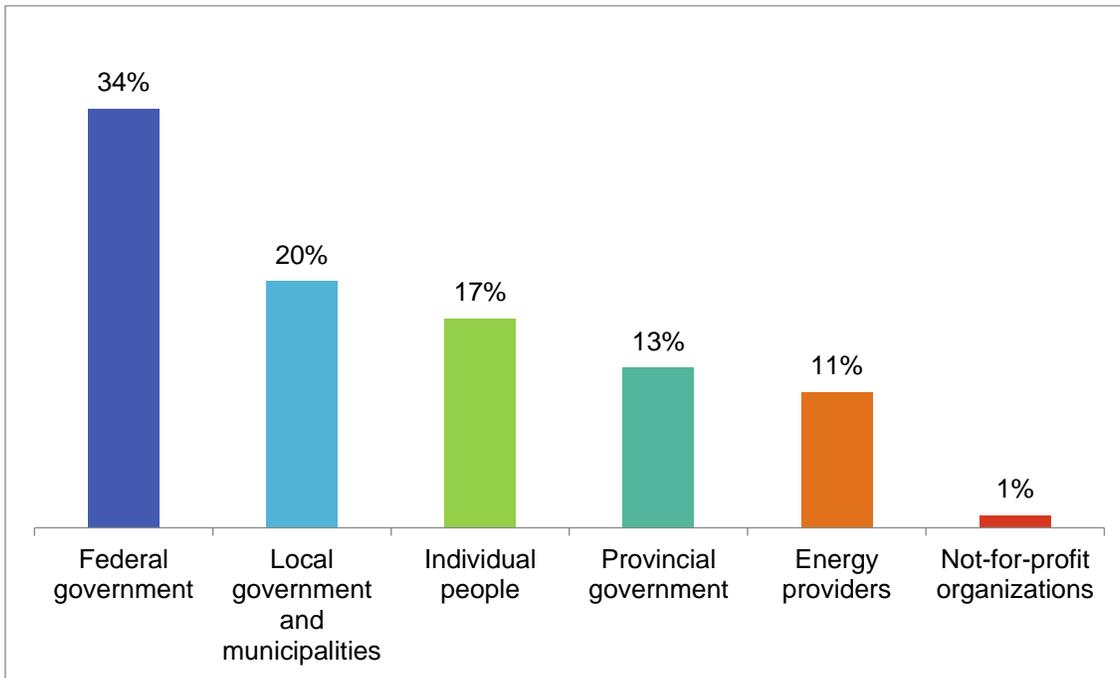
Please indicate whether you are...



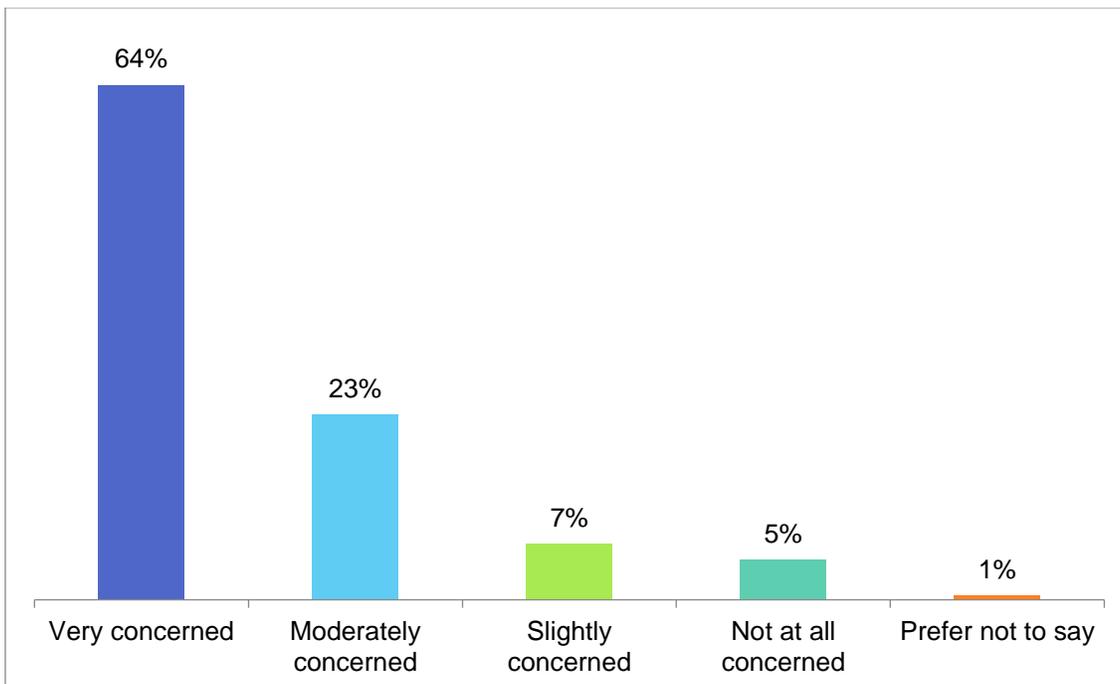
In general, how much do you know about climate change?



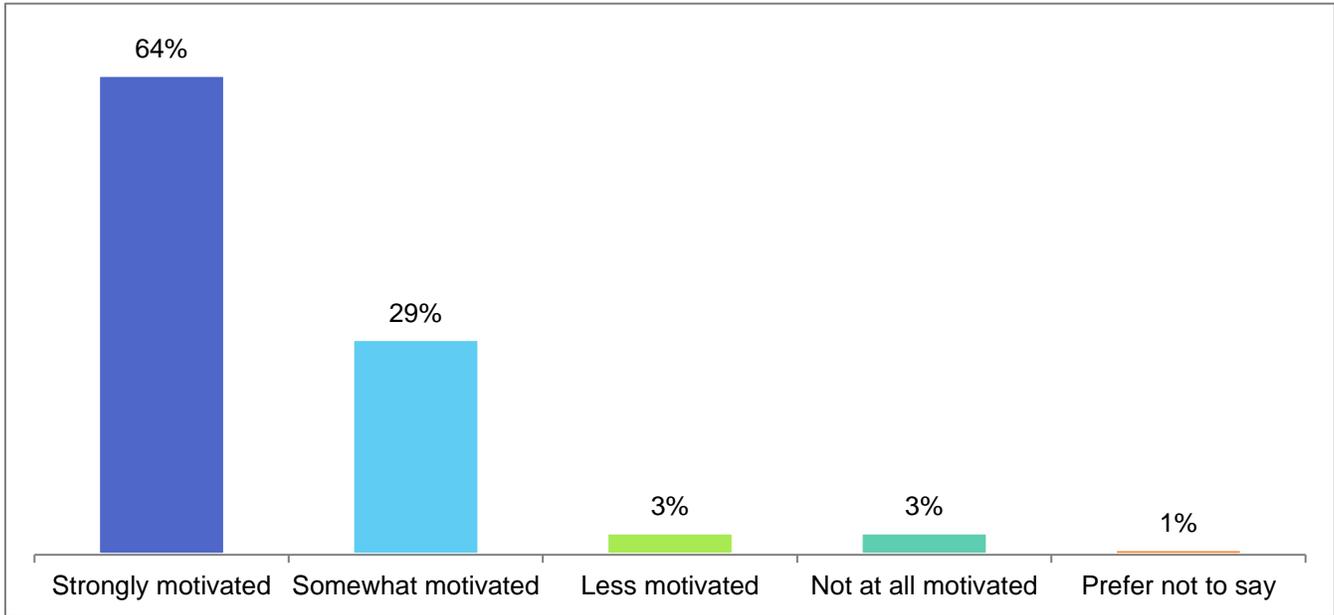
Who do you think can have the greatest impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in York Region?



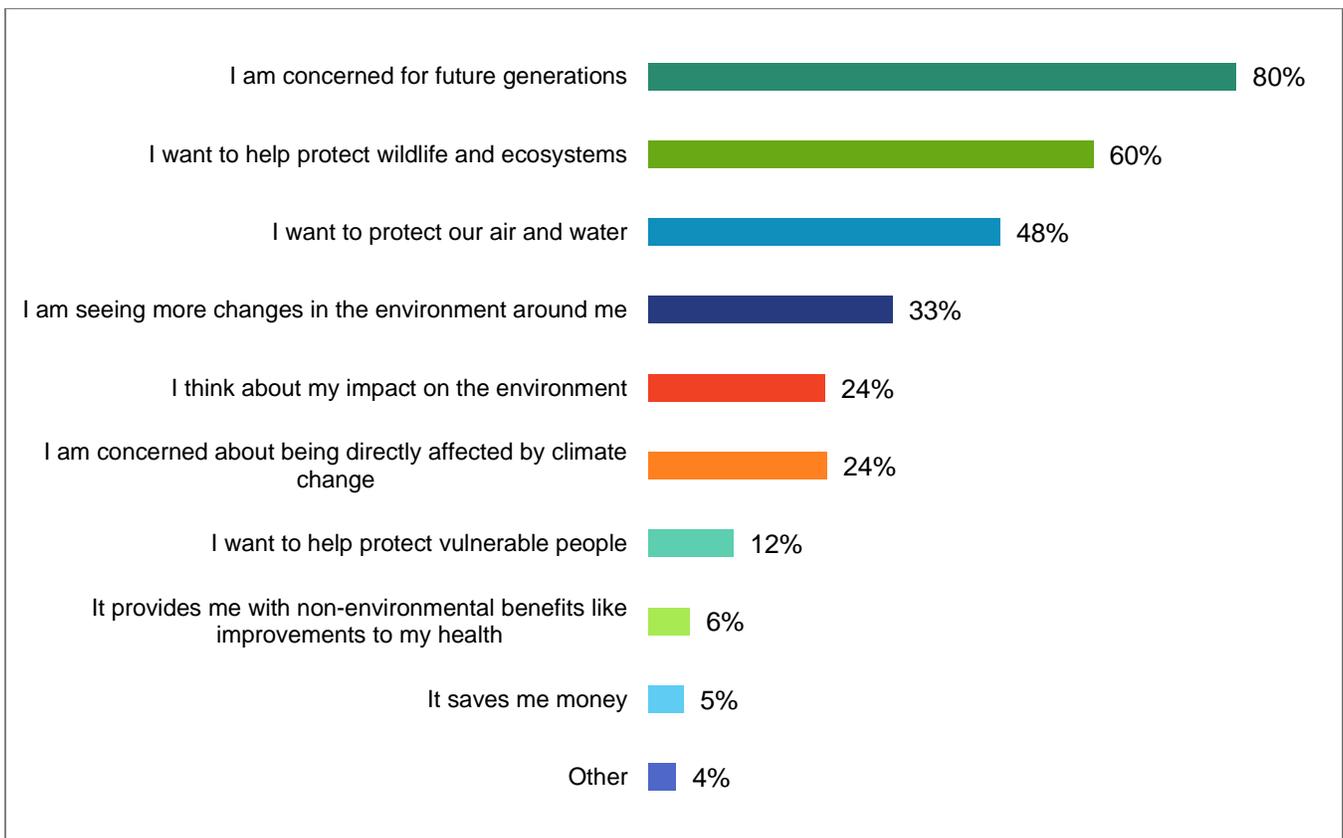
How concerned are you about the impact of climate change on you and your family?



How would you describe your level of motivation for taking action on climate change?



Please select the top three things that motivate you to take action on climate change. (Respondents who selected 'strongly or somewhat motivated'):

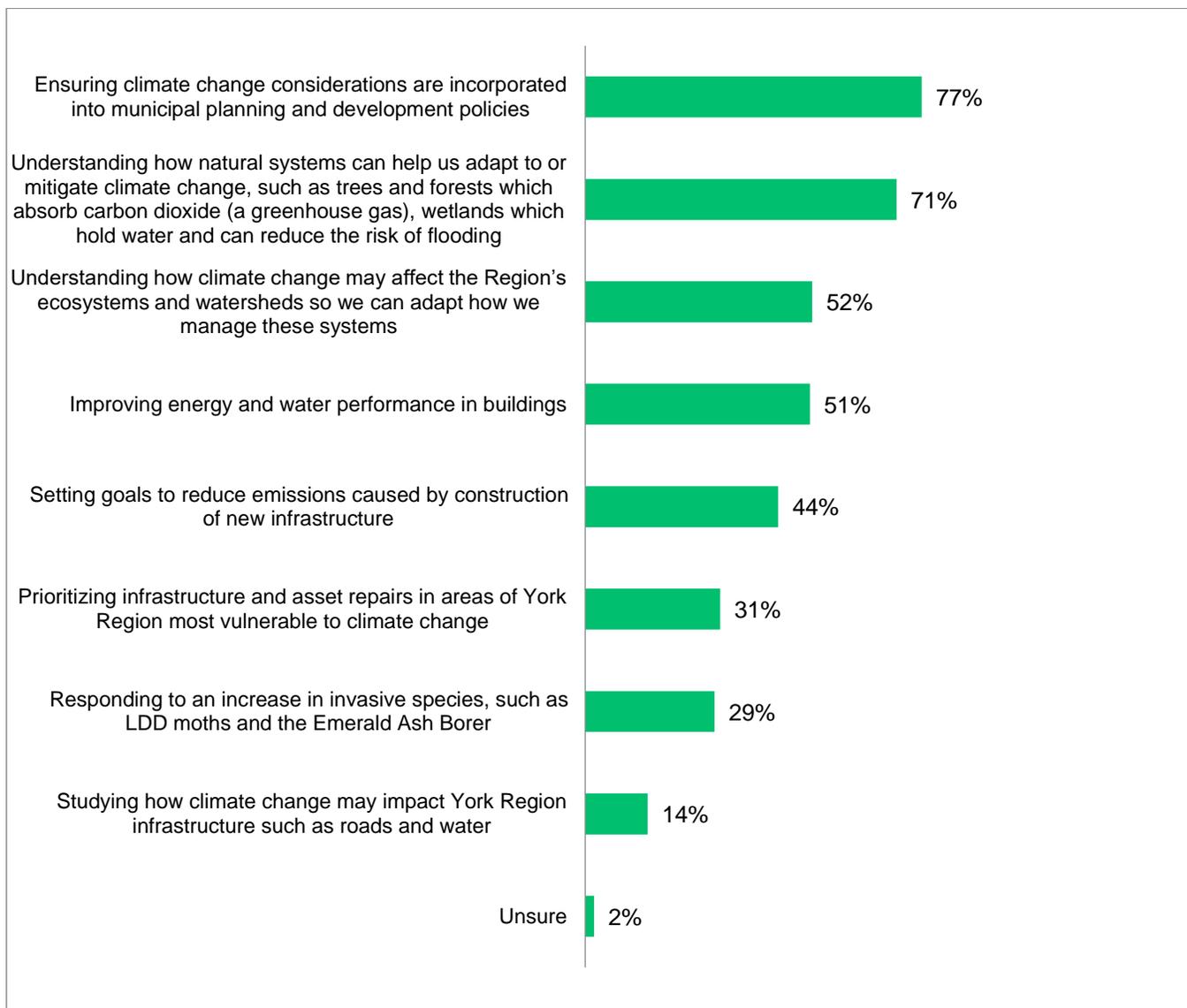


# SURVEY RESULTS

## Priority Area 1 – Resilient Communities and Infrastructure

In Priority Area 1, the action most important to respondents was **ensuring climate change considerations are incorporated into municipal planning and development policies.**

Q: Which actions in this area are most important to you? Select up to four.

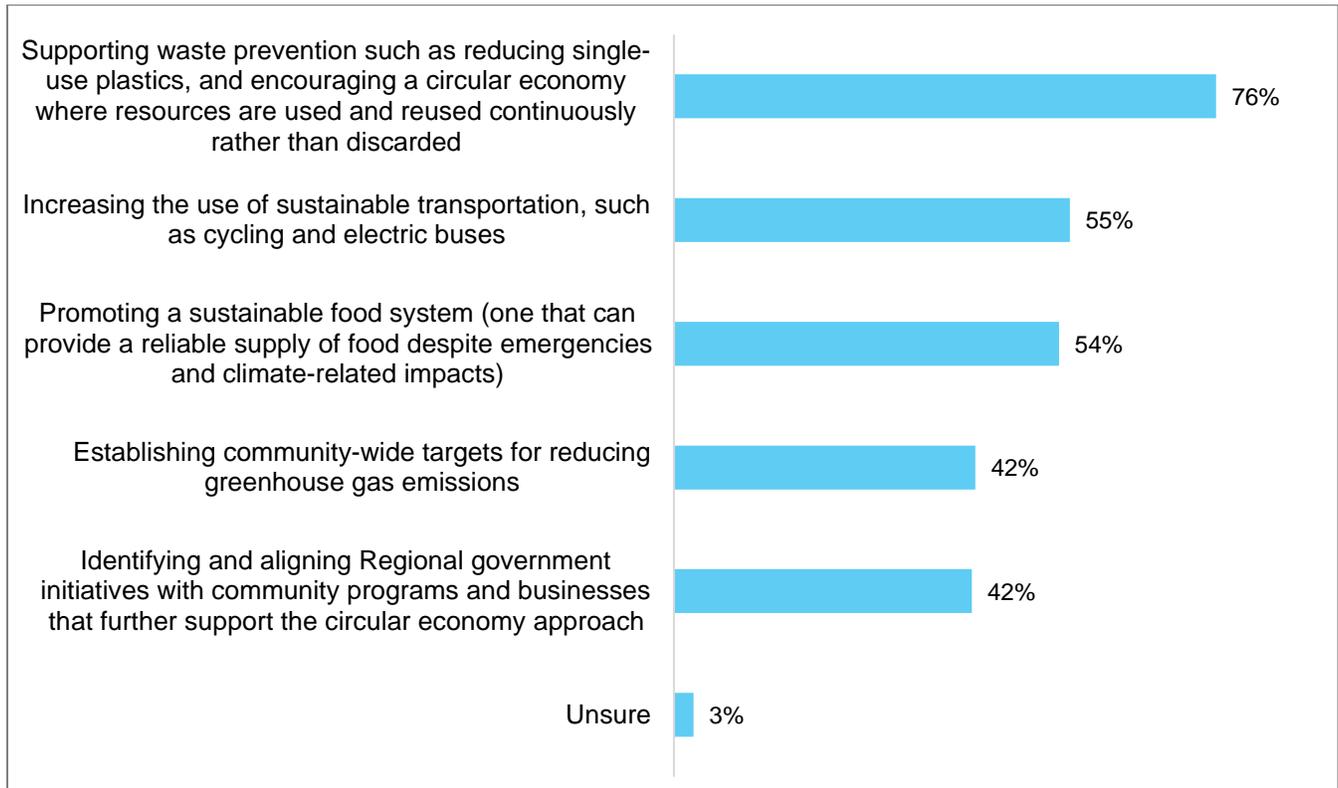


*“We must change the way we plan communities. Smaller, more nature-oriented, walkable/bicycle-accessible pathways and more dense communities that can support small local businesses.”*

## Priority Area 2 - Low Carbon Living

In Priority Area 2, the action most important to respondents was **supporting waste prevention practices such as reducing single-use plastics and encouraging a circular economy**.

Q: Which actions in this area are most important to you? Select up to three.



*“Introduce more programs to educate and promote growing food in your own backyard or balcony instead of having lawns.”*

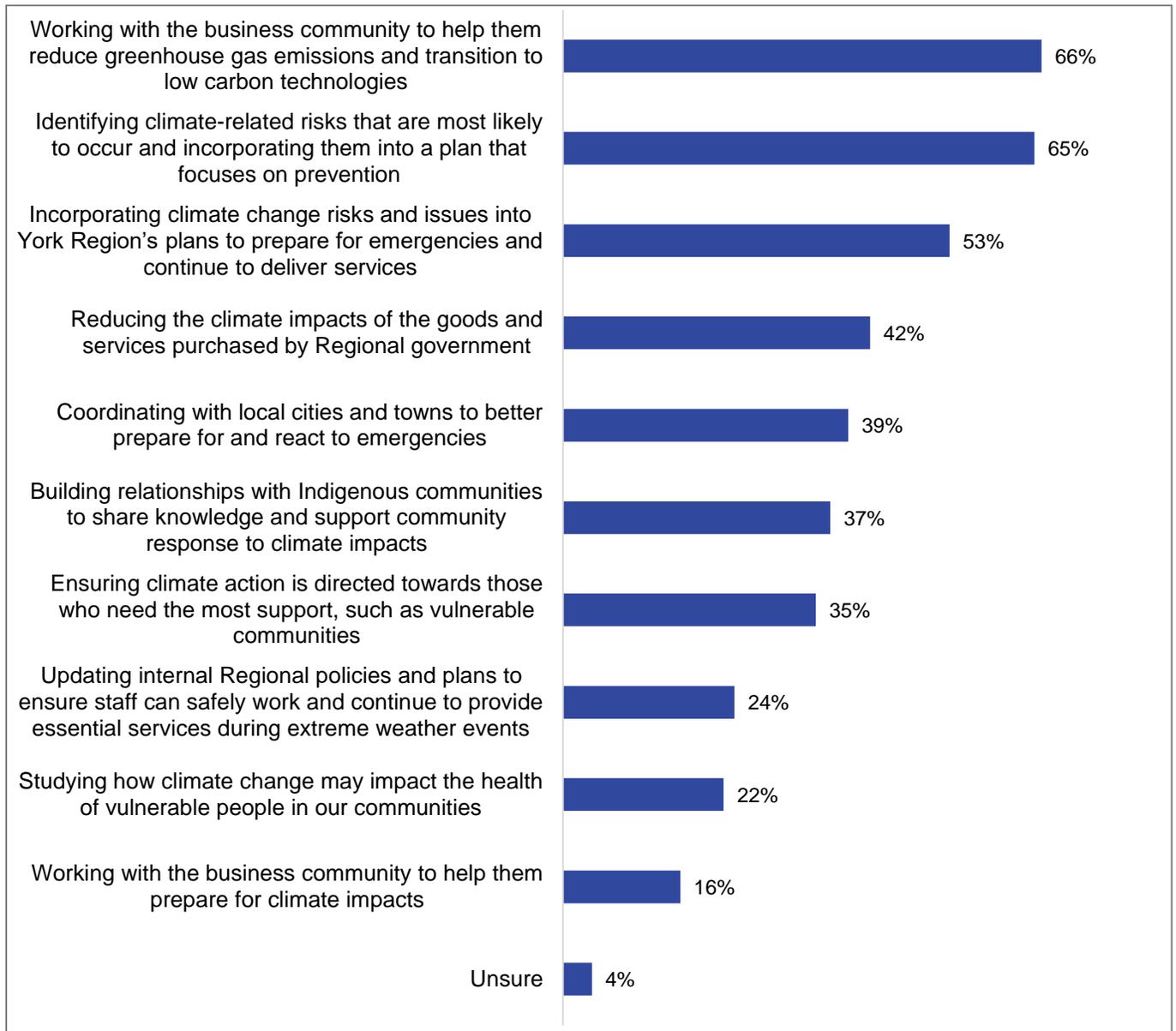


*“It’s important to move to a circular economy and hold manufacturers responsible for the complete life cycle of their products, especially those who currently manufacture single-use, disposable items that are harmful to the environment.”*

### Priority Area 3 – Supporting an Equitable Transition

In Priority Area 3, the action most important to respondents was **working with the business community to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to low carbon technologies.**

Q: Which actions in this area are most important to you? Select up to five.



“An equitable transition begins with genuine and deep consultation from the most vulnerable and expected to be affected - space needs to be made to seek out their perspectives and requirements, in their own words and through the agencies that best represent their needs.”

## Summary of Comments

Within each section of the survey, respondents were invited to provide feedback, resulting in the submission of 500 comments. The top themes were:

- **Implementation and accountability (20% of comments)** Respondents felt it was important for the Region to take immediate action on climate change, focus on areas within our control, incorporate targets into the plan and communicate progress with residents.
- **Planning policies, development, and buildings (17% of comments)** Respondents suggested development of more mixed-use, dense and walkable communities, protection of greenspace, agricultural land and watersheds from urban sprawl and low-carbon buildings.
- **Transportation (13% of comments)** Respondents wanted to see expanded public transit and active transportation options, as well as greater uptake of EVs by residents and in the Region's fleet.
- **Natural systems and greening (10% of comments)** Respondents suggested working towards an expanded tree canopy, conservation of the Region's natural heritage and agricultural lands and wildlife and an increase in community gardening.
- **Business and industry (10% of comments)** Respondents suggested that the Region should support, incentivize or even require businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.
- **Agriculture and food (7% of comments)** Respondents wanted to see greater protection of farmland, promotion of local agriculture and focus on food security.
- **Public education (6% of comments)** Respondents suggested providing more education and engagement about actions residents can take to support climate action.
- **Waste management (6% of comments)** Respondents pointed to the need to eliminate single-use items and improve waste enforcement.
- **Miscellaneous topics (11% of comments)** Respondents provided feedback on a variety of additional topics and ideas distinct from the themes identified above

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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