



ASSESSING ISSUES, PERCEPTIONS, AND BELIEFS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.

**2022 SURVEY RESULTS
TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In June 2022, for the first time in the history of The Town of North Hempstead, a survey was distributed to residents to identify key issues, perceptions, concerns, and priorities with respect to climate change. The survey was available in multiple languages, anonymous, and shared widely with outreach support from over fifty community stakeholders. We did this to help establish priorities, practices and policies as well as a benchmark from which the Town can measure progress in the Town's climate action planning.

Key findings:

The survey revealed that overall, most respondents (84%) feel climate change is an urgent problem that we need to prepare for.

Many have already felt unsafe from extreme storms and loss of power. They are worried about the impacts of climate change over the next five years, and even more concerned over the next generation. Politics and resistance to change are what respondents report are the biggest obstacles to solving the climate crisis.

Most respondents (82.8%) want to be part of the solution to climate change and 84% report making lifestyle decisions with sustainability in mind. Respondents however are divided as to whether they see their community as environmentally conscious.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Respondents report interest in the following climate actions:

- reducing waste and increasing recycling/composting
- sustainable landscaping (ex. water conservation, reduction in pesticides, planting native plants)
- tree protection and planting
- renewable energy education and incentives, including solar, and heat pumps (geothermal or air source)
- creating more walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented communities
- energy efficiency programs
- green infrastructure to mitigate flooding
- EV education and infrastructure
- support for green economy
- resiliency for flood prone areas

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Demographic profile of Respondents:

As shown in Section 3, the majority of respondents (82%) were 45+ in age and 98% report English as their primary language. The annual household income (HHI) reported was diverse among respondents, with 35% opting not to respond. Respondents are predominantly White/Caucasian (78%) followed by Asian/Pacific Islander (8%), Hispanic/Latino (4%) and Black/African (2%).

The survey achieved 489 responses from the following communities:

- Great Neck
- Manhasset
- Port Washington
- New Hyde Park/Mineola
- Willistons (East Williston & Williston Park), Albertson and Roslyn
- Westbury/Carle Place

Communities across the Town trended consistently in responses, with mild variation in a few areas.

Leadership Team



Town
Supervisor
Jennifer
DeSena



Council Member,
District 1
Robert J.
Trolano, Jr.



Council Member,
District 2
Peter
Zuckerman



Council Member,
District 3
Dennis J.
Walsh



Council Member,
District 4
Veronica
Lurvey



Council Member,
District 5
David A.
Adhami



Council Member,
District 6
Mariann
Dalimonte



Town Clerk
Ragini
Srivastava



Receiver of
Taxes
Charles
Berman

Elected Officials:

Jennifer DeSena, Supervisor
Mariann Dalimonte, Councilwoman
Veronica Lurvey, Councilwoman

Town Staff and Consultants:

Meagan Fastuca - Environmental Specialist;
Planning and Environmental Protection
Michael Levine - Commissioner of Planning and
Environmental Protection
Wes Sternberg - Planner; Planning and
Environmental Protection
Marshah-Reaff Barrett - Commissioner of Solid
Waste Management
Victor Thomas - Department of Public Works
Eileen Kraneberg - Executive Assistant to the Parks
Commissioner
Joseph Canzoneri Jr. - Plans Examiner, Building
Department
Mitchell Pitnick - Town Board Department
Mindy Germain - Project Consultant, Eco Leap, LLC
Sarah Oral-PE - LEED AP BD +C, Civil Engineering
Director Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP

Climate Smart Communities

Task Force Members:

Harriet Becker
Jean Celender
Stephen Cipot
Patrick Farrell
Jael Ferguson
Carol Frank
Patricia Katz
Rosemary Mascali

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Executive Summary..... 2

Leadership Team..... 4

Section 1: Introduction..... 6

Section 2: Survey responses..... 7

Section 3: Demographics of respondents..... 17

Section 4: Conclusions..... 22

1. INTRODUCTION

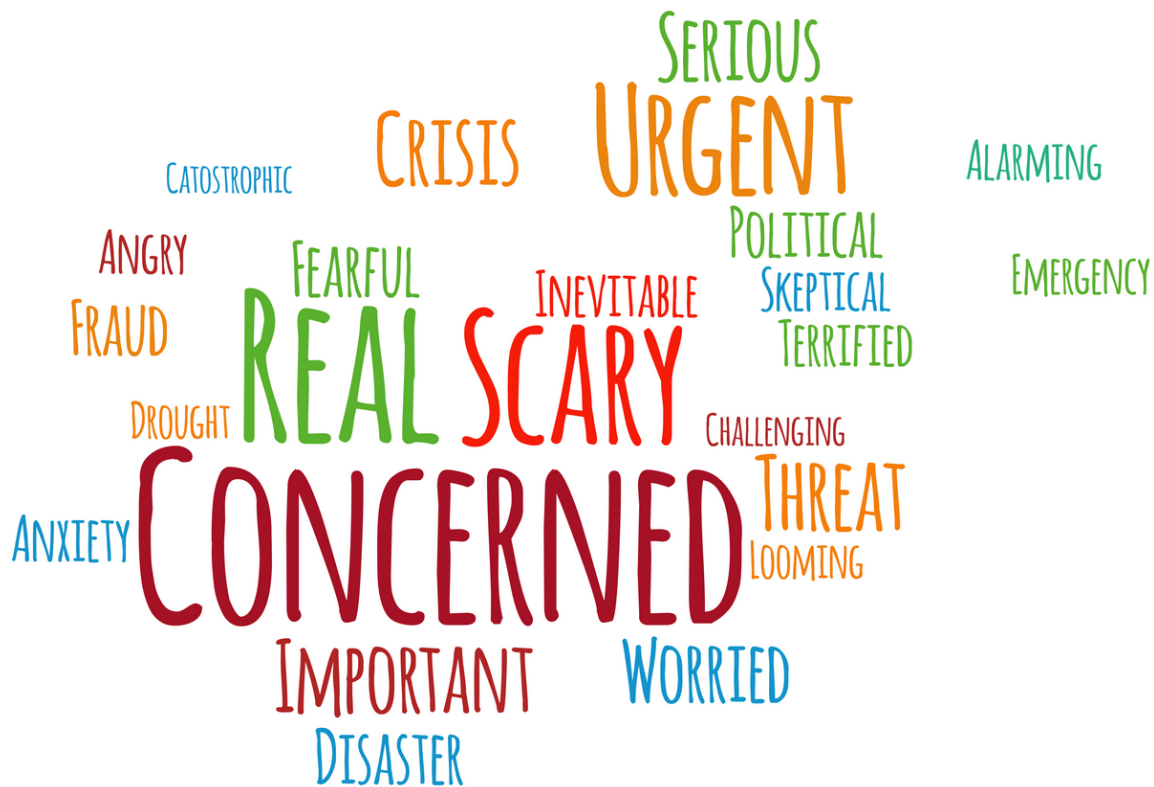
The Town of North Hempstead (ToNH) is working on a community Climate Action Plan (CAP) to help residents, businesses, government, and community stakeholders understand, adapt to, and thrive with a changing climate. The CAP will include actions to educate the community about the causes and effects of climate change, as well as recommend actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. This is an ongoing collective process that engages our entire community.

The Town released a survey in June 2022 to help identify key issues, perceptions, concerns, and priorities among residents with respect to climate change. The survey was available in multiple languages, anonymous, and distributed broadly with outreach support from over fifty community stakeholders. Four hundred and eighty-nine residents completed the survey.

Results of the survey serve as a benchmark from which the Town can measure progress and prioritize actions in the Town's climate action plan.

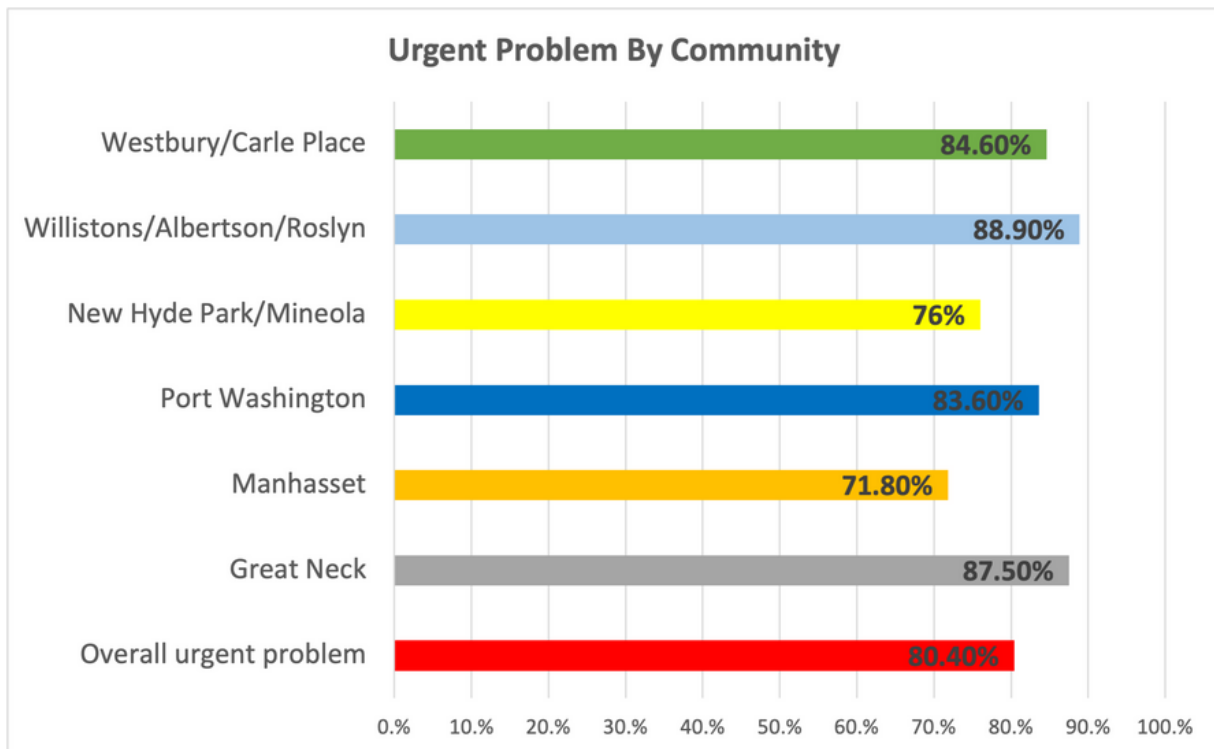
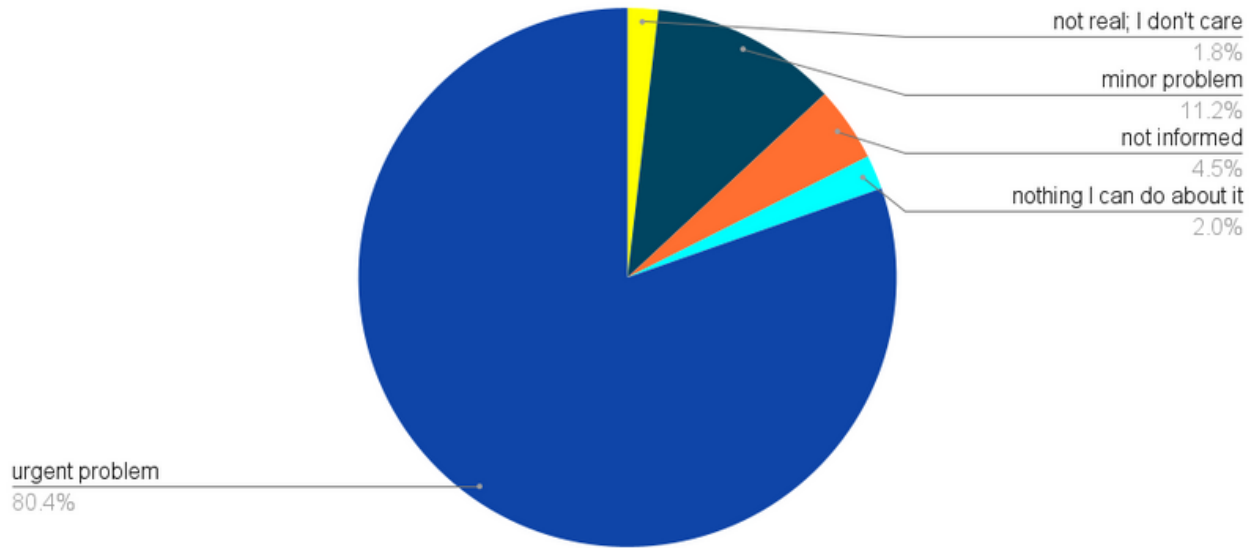
2. SURVEY RESPONSES

2.1 One word or phrase that best describes your feelings and understandings about climate change:

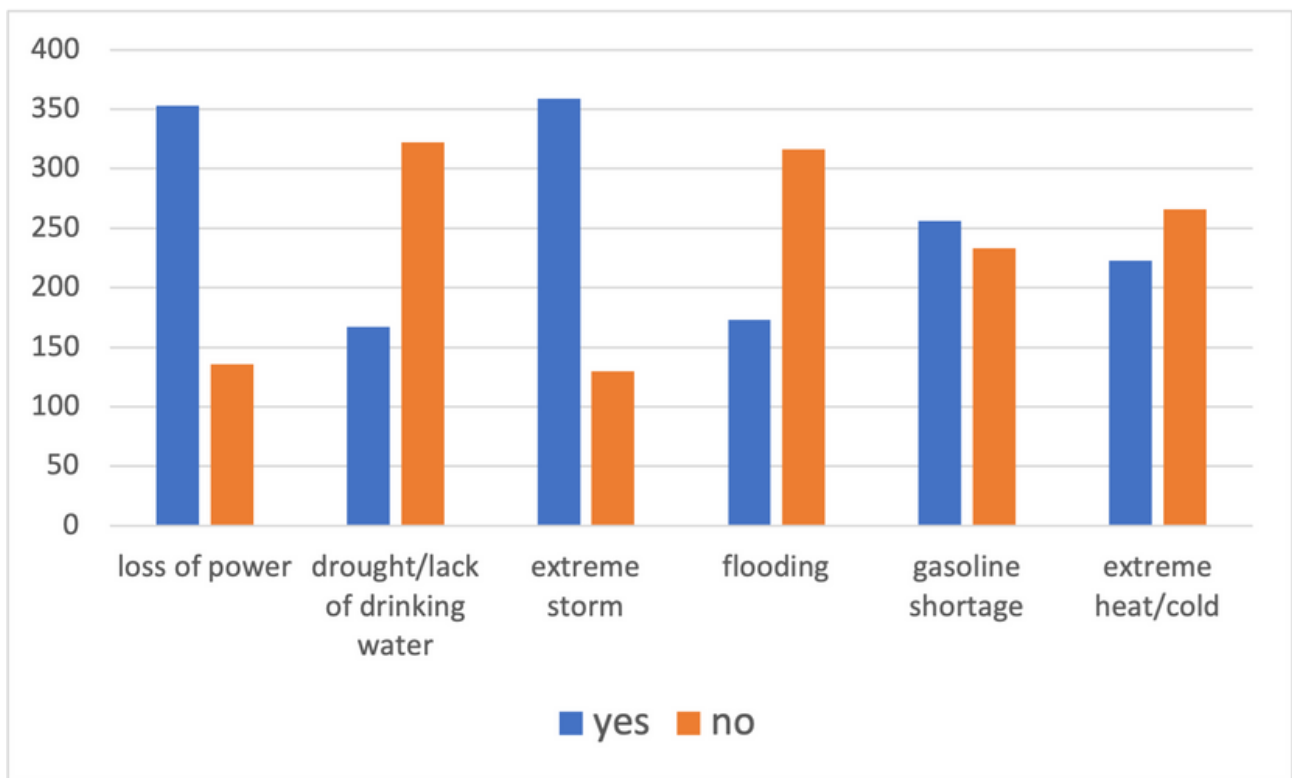


The word cloud shows that the larger the word, the more often it was reported. For example, 44 respondents used the word "concerned" to describe their feelings about climate change.

2.2 Which statement best represents your thoughts and feelings about climate change?

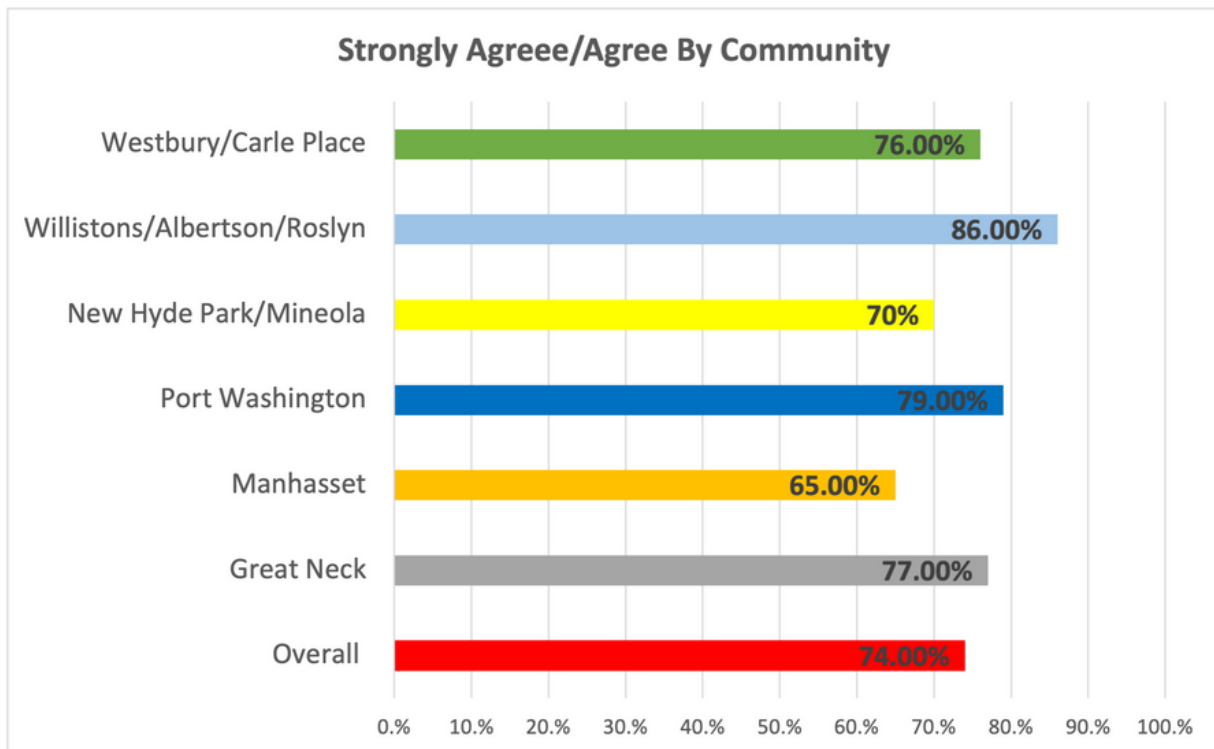
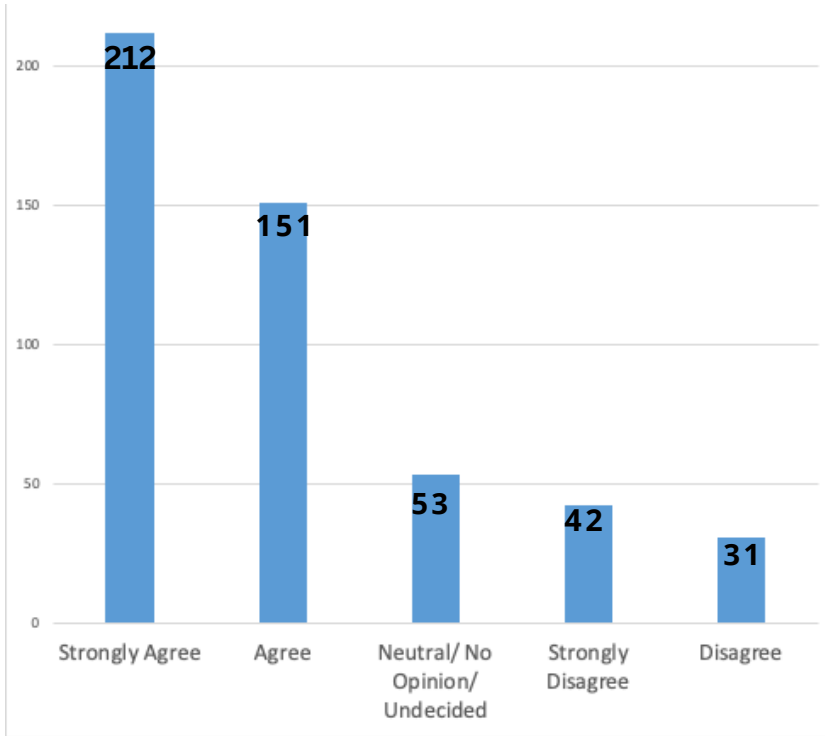


2.3 Have you ever felt unsafe due to any of the following?

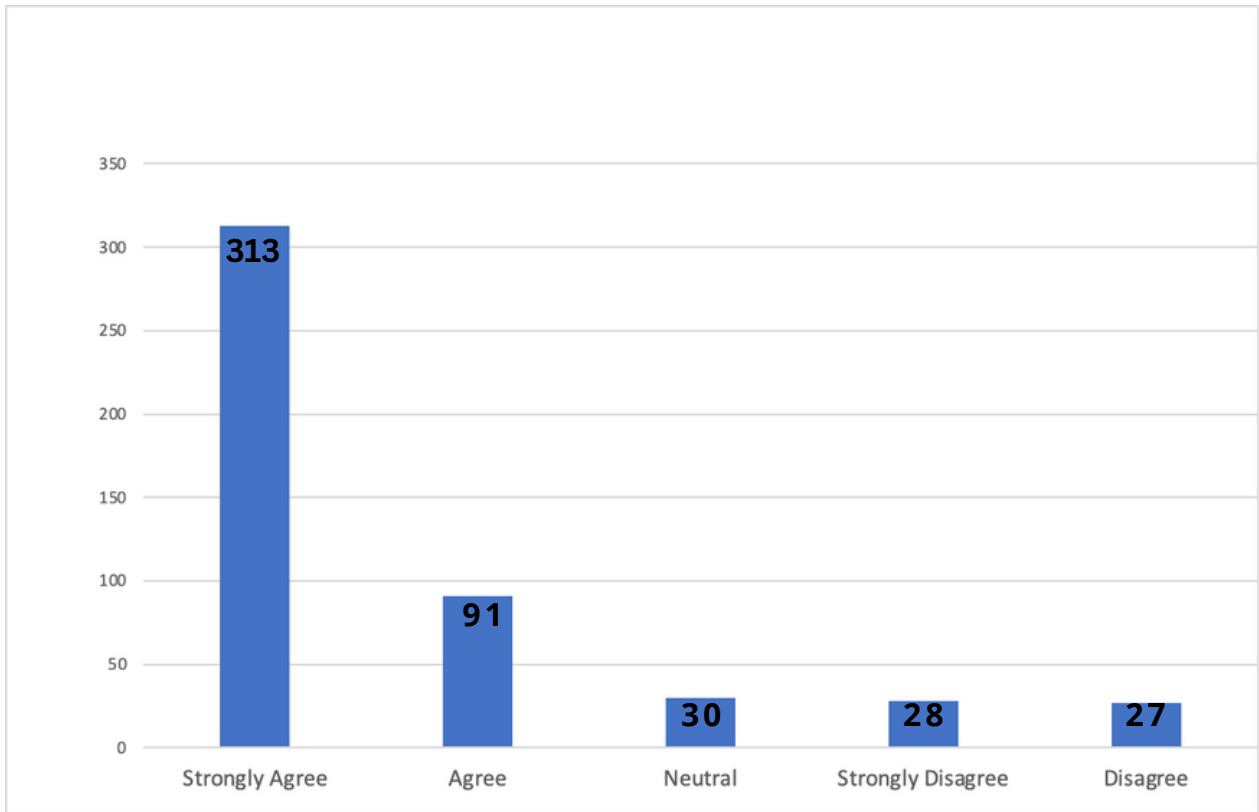


Respondents most answered that they felt unsafe from "loss of power" and "extreme storms."

2.4 "I am worried about the impacts of climate change on my community over the next five years."

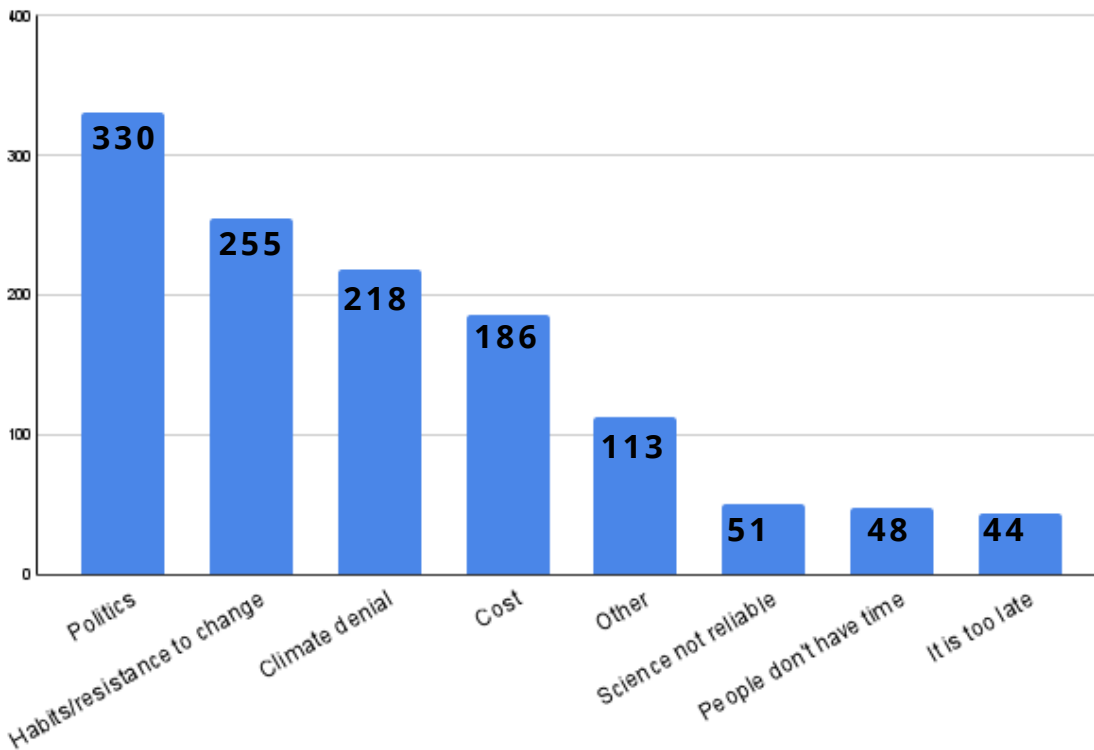


2.5 "I am worried about the impacts of climate change on my community over the next generation."



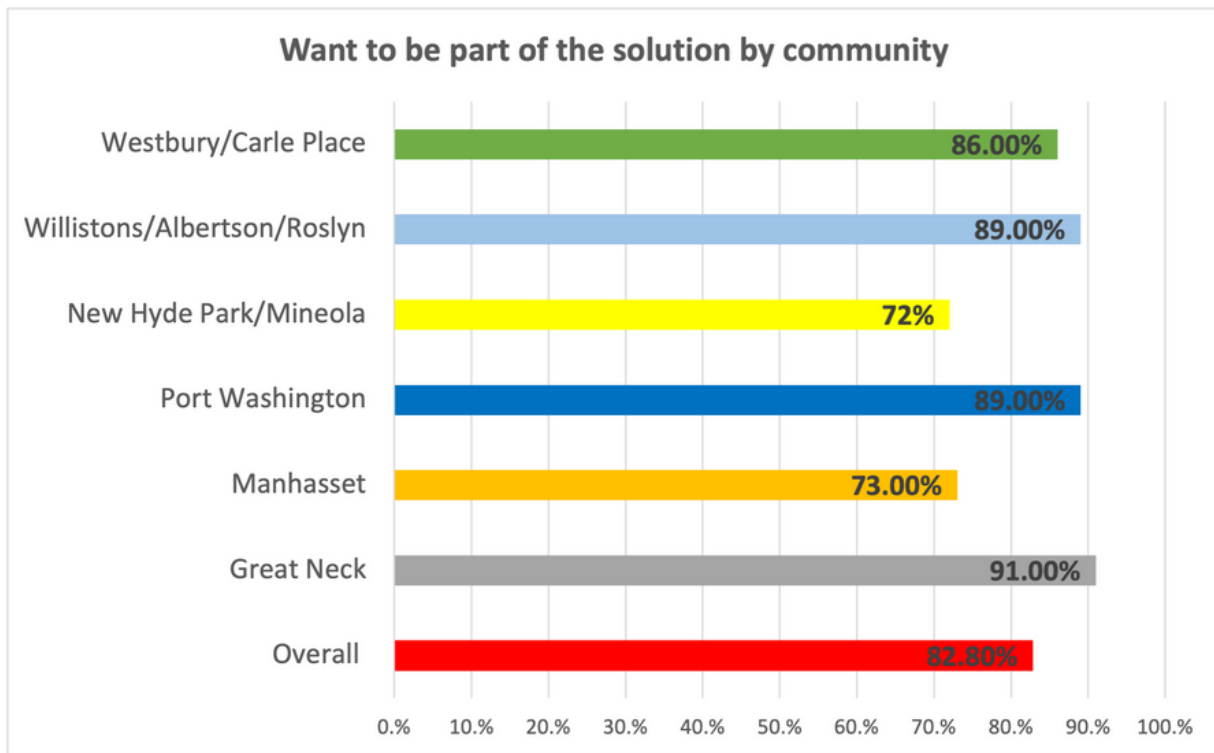
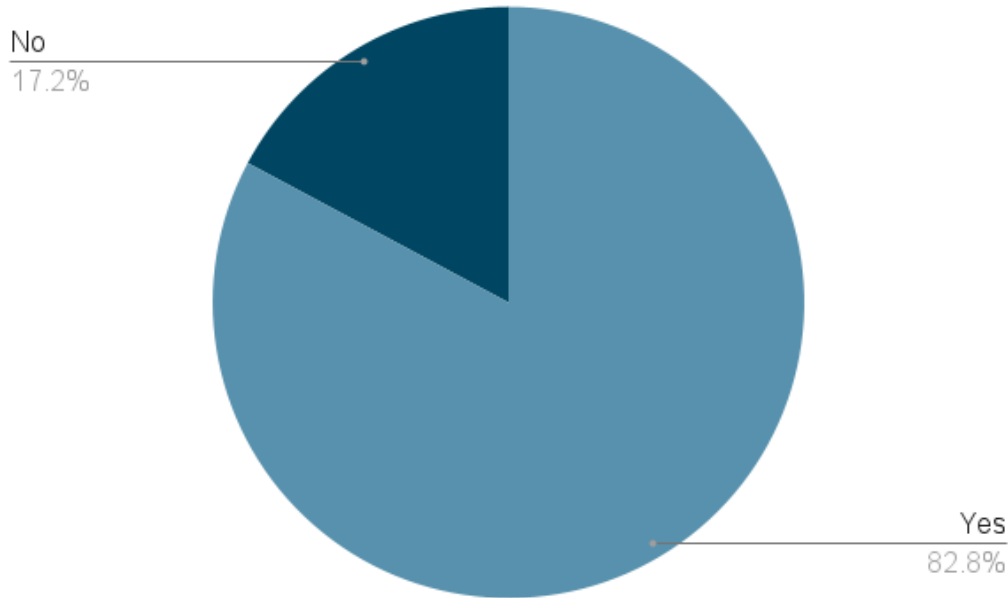
Even more respondents (82%) are worried about the impacts of climate change over the next generation.

2.6 What do you think the biggest obstacles are to solving the climate crisis?

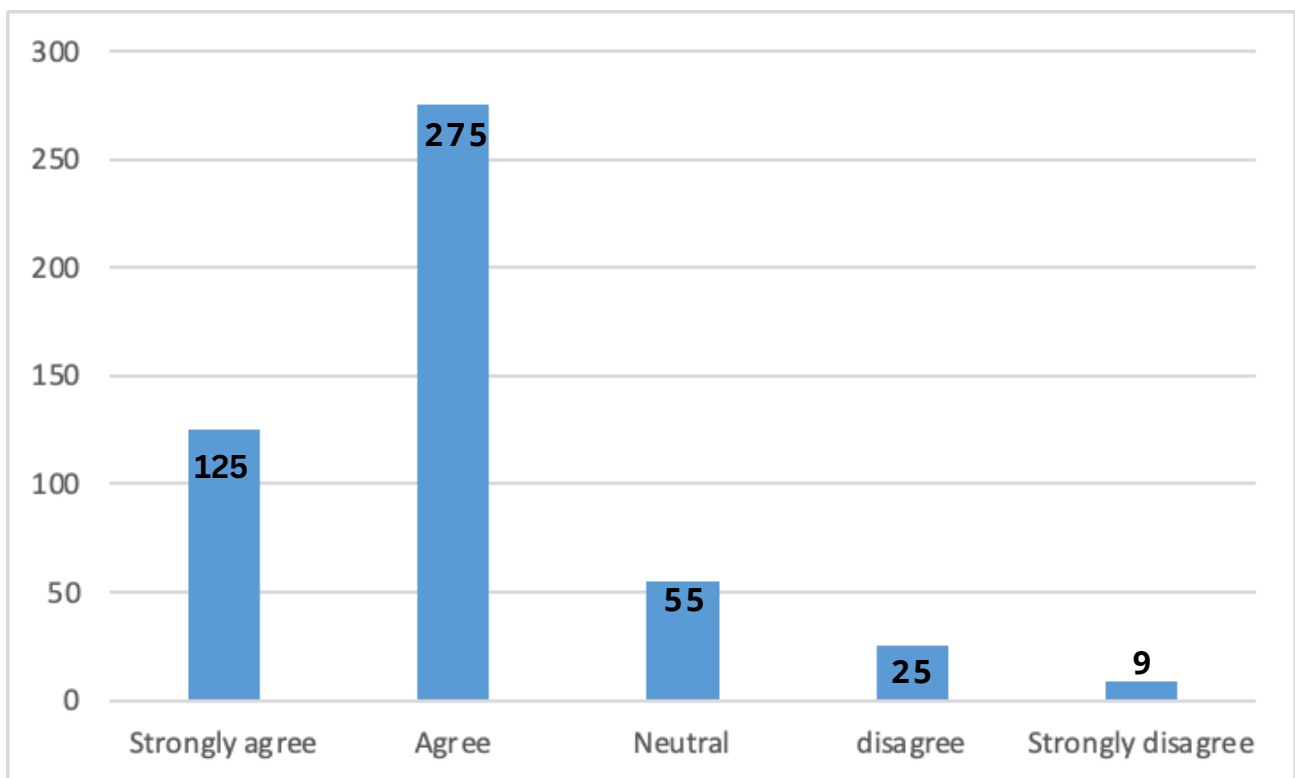


Respondents report "politics" and "habits/resistance to change" as the biggest obstacles to solving the climate crisis.

2.7 Do you have interest in being part of the solution to climate change?

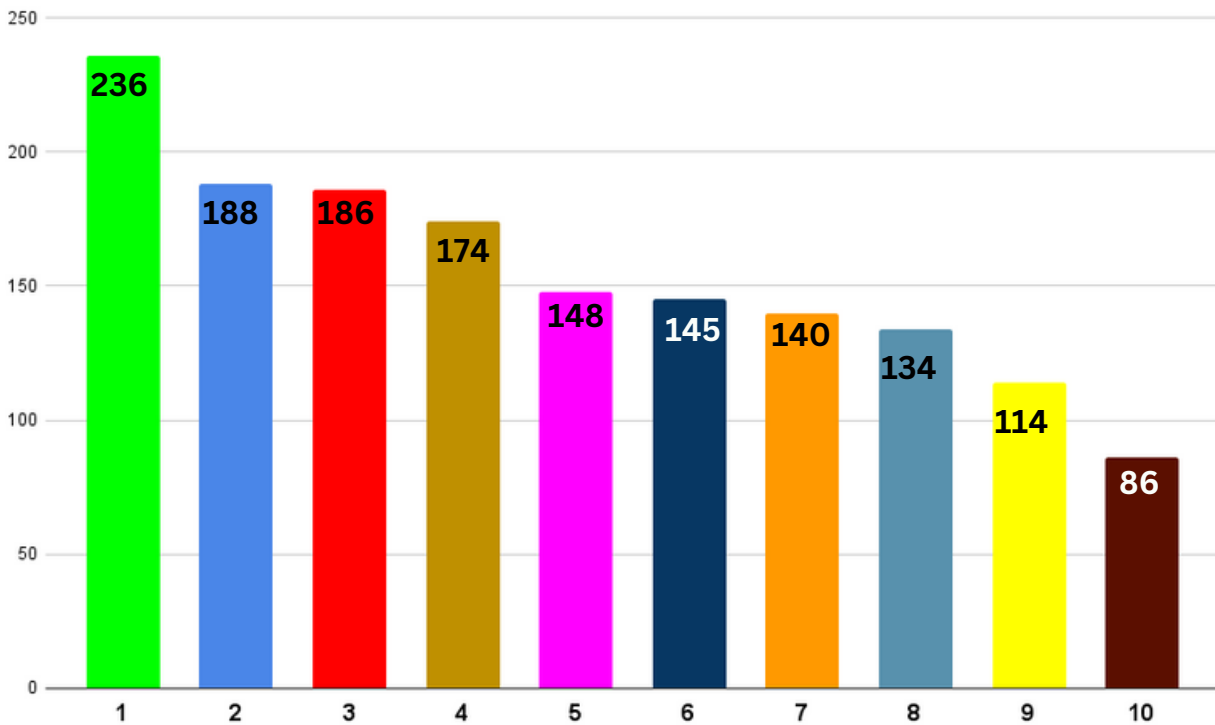


2.8 "I make lifestyle decisions with sustainability in mind (what I eat, drink, buy, discard, recycle, travel, etc.)"



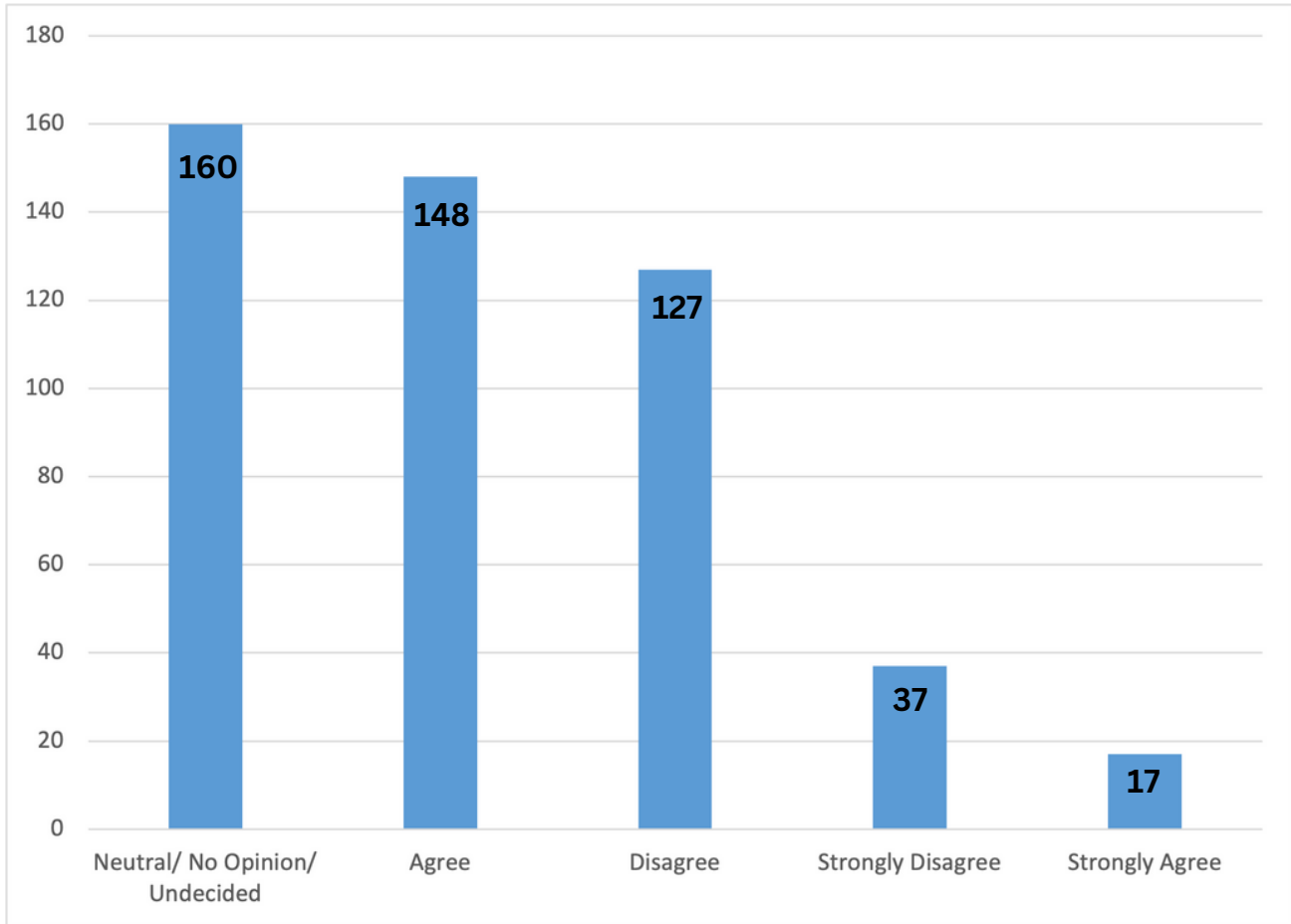
Sustainability tends to impact lifestyle decisions among 84% of respondents.

2.9 If you want to be part of the solution, which Town programs would you most likely be interested in?



● 1. Reduce Waste/recycling/composting	● 6. Energy efficiency programs
● 2. Sustainable landscaping	● 7.Green infrastrucure to mitigate flooding
● 3. Tree protection and planting	● 8. EV education and infrastructure
● 4. Renewable energy	● 9. Support green economy
● 5. Creating more walkable, bikeable, transit oriented communities	● 10.Resiliency for flood prone areas

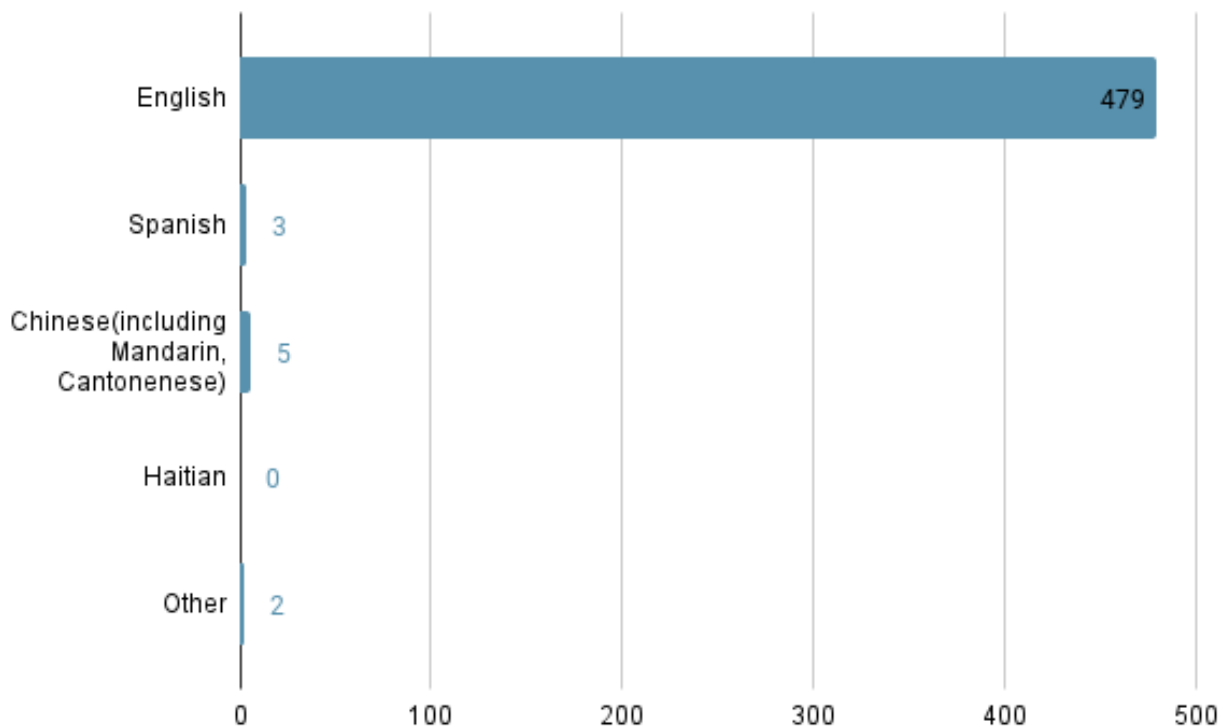
2.10 "My community is environmentally conscious"



Respondents are divided on perception of their community being environmentally conscious.

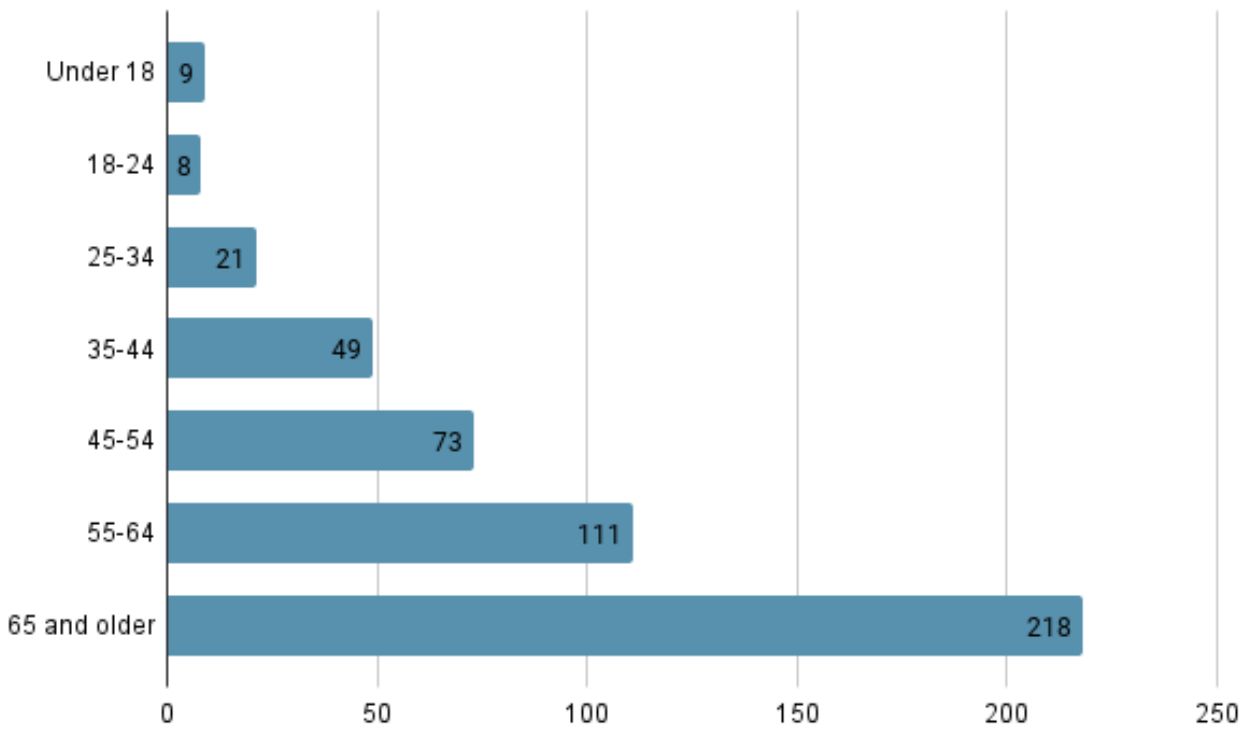
3. DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

3.1 Language



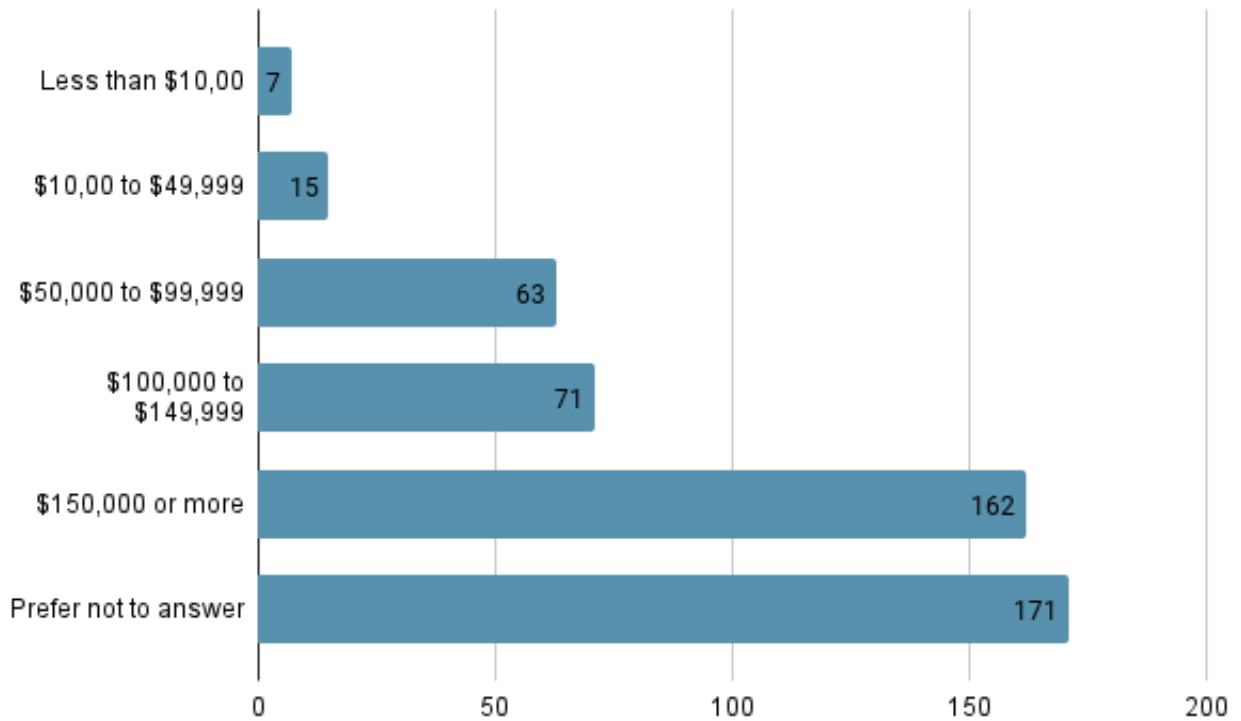
Most respondents (98%) report English as their primary language.

3.2 Age



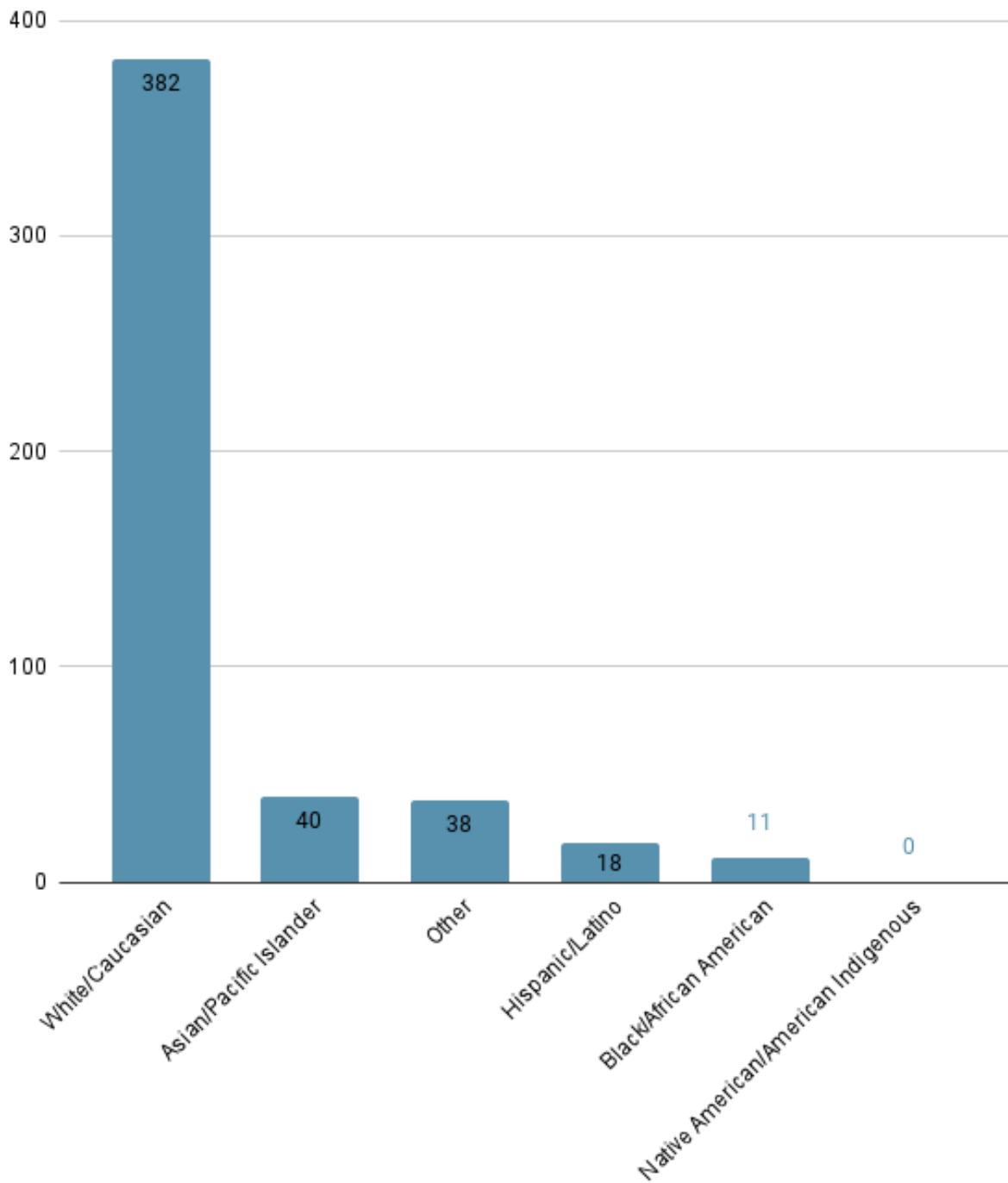
The majority of respondents (82%) are 45+ years of age.

3.3 Income



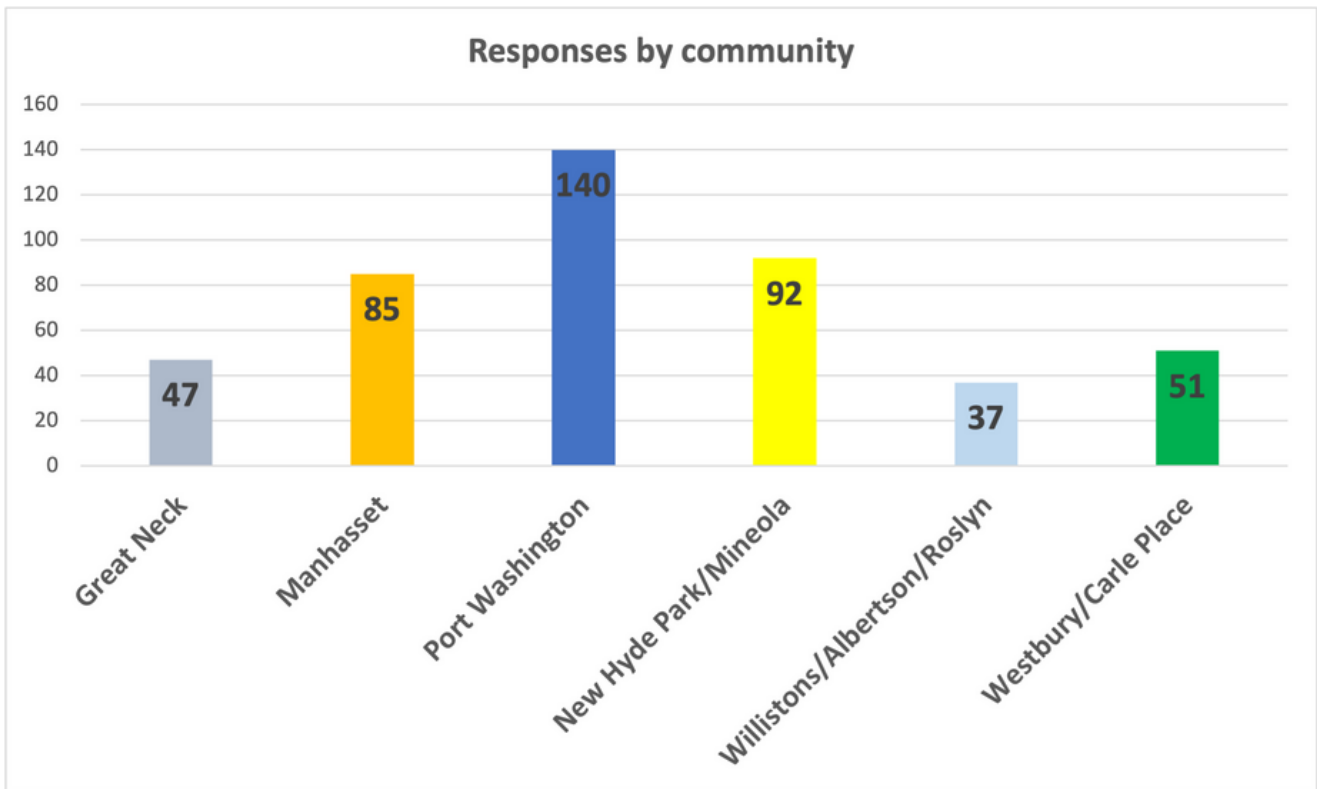
Total annual household income (HHI) reported was diverse among respondents, with 35% choosing not to report income.

3.4 Ethnicity



Respondents are predominantly White/Caucasian followed by Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino and Black/African.

3.5 Responses By Community



4.0 CONCLUSIONS

This survey confirmed residents of North Hempstead feel climate change is an urgent problem that we need to prepare for. Many have already felt unsafe from extreme storms and loss of power. Residents are worried about the impacts of climate change over the next five years, and even more concerned over the next generation. Politics and resistance to change are what respondents report are the biggest obstacles to solving the climate crisis.

Residents want to be part of the solution to climate change and report making lifestyle decisions with sustainability in mind. However, residents are divided as to whether they see their community as environmentally conscious. It is unclear if respondents were referring to neighbors or their local government.

Survey results reinforce the need for the Town to prioritize climate action and engage residents in projects and programs involving:

- reducing waste and increasing recycling/composting,
- sustainable landscaping (ex. water conservation, reduction in pesticides, planting native plants)
- tree protection and planting
- renewable energy education and incentives, including solar, and heat pumps (geothermal or air source)
- creating more walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented communities
- energy efficiency programs
- green infrastructure to mitigate flooding
- EV education and infrastructure
- support for green economy
- resiliency for flood prone areas