

**CHESTER COUNTY
CLIMATE
ACTION
PLAN**

Climate Change Actions - Preferences and Barriers

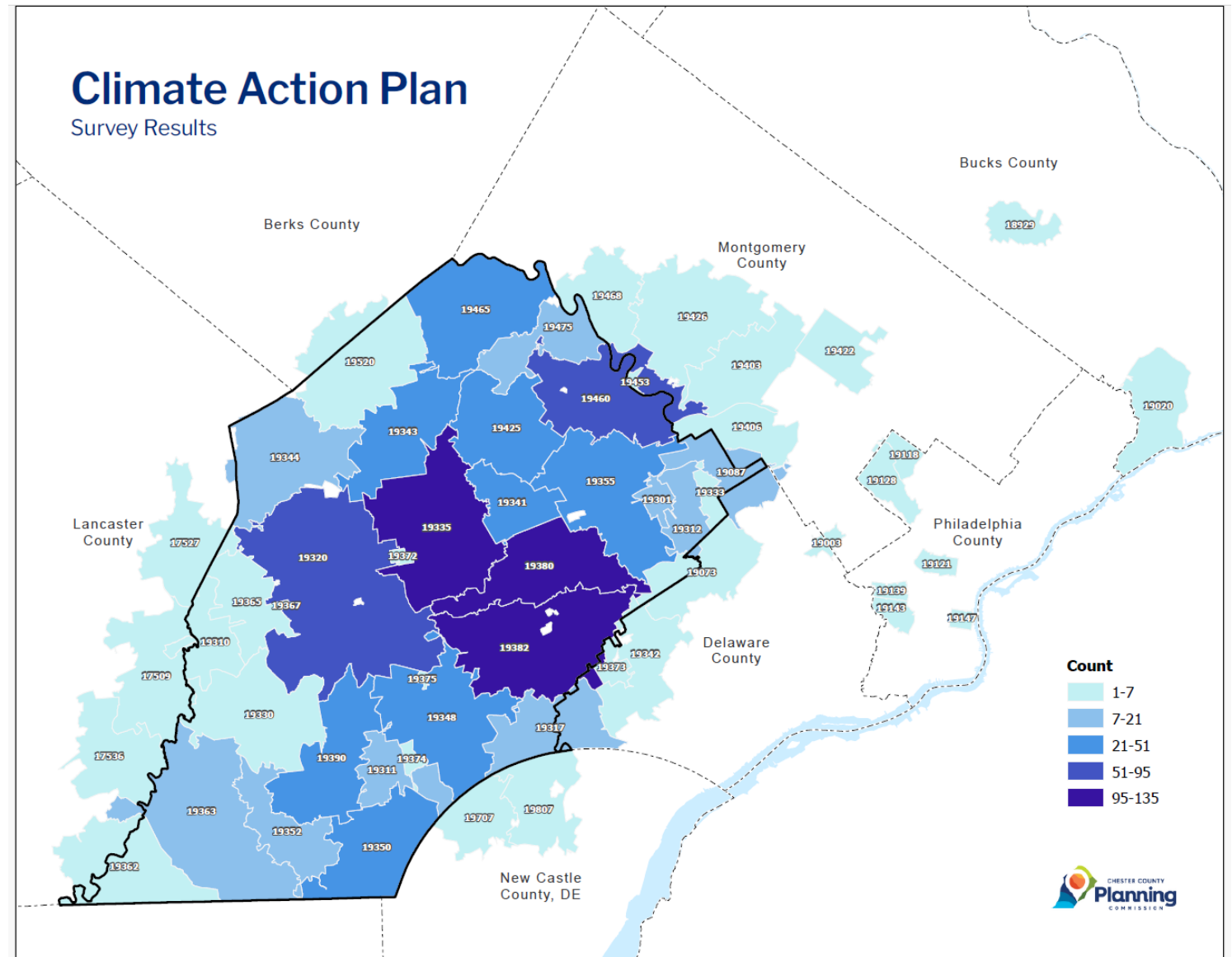
Survey Results

August 2026



Survey Overview

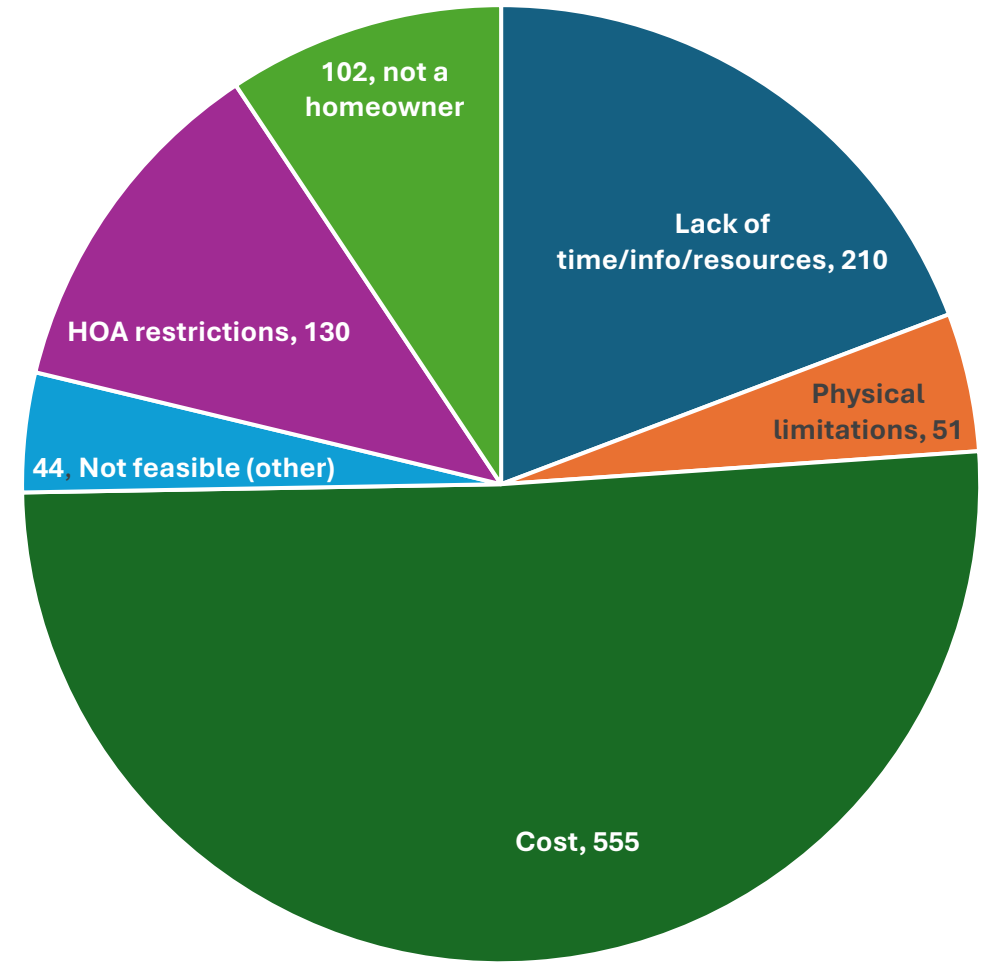
- 18 questions
- Survey 2 of 2
- ~1200 respondents
- Asked about both county-wide priorities and individual actions



Key Takeaways

- Many people are interested in taking more climate-friendly actions, but feel limited in their means to do so
- Residents need more resources both about educating themselves on what they can do/ who can help them, but also resources about where or when to volunteer
- Approx. 50% of respondents provided comments in favor of restricting data center development in the county

Respondents' Barriers to Implementing Actions they're Interested In

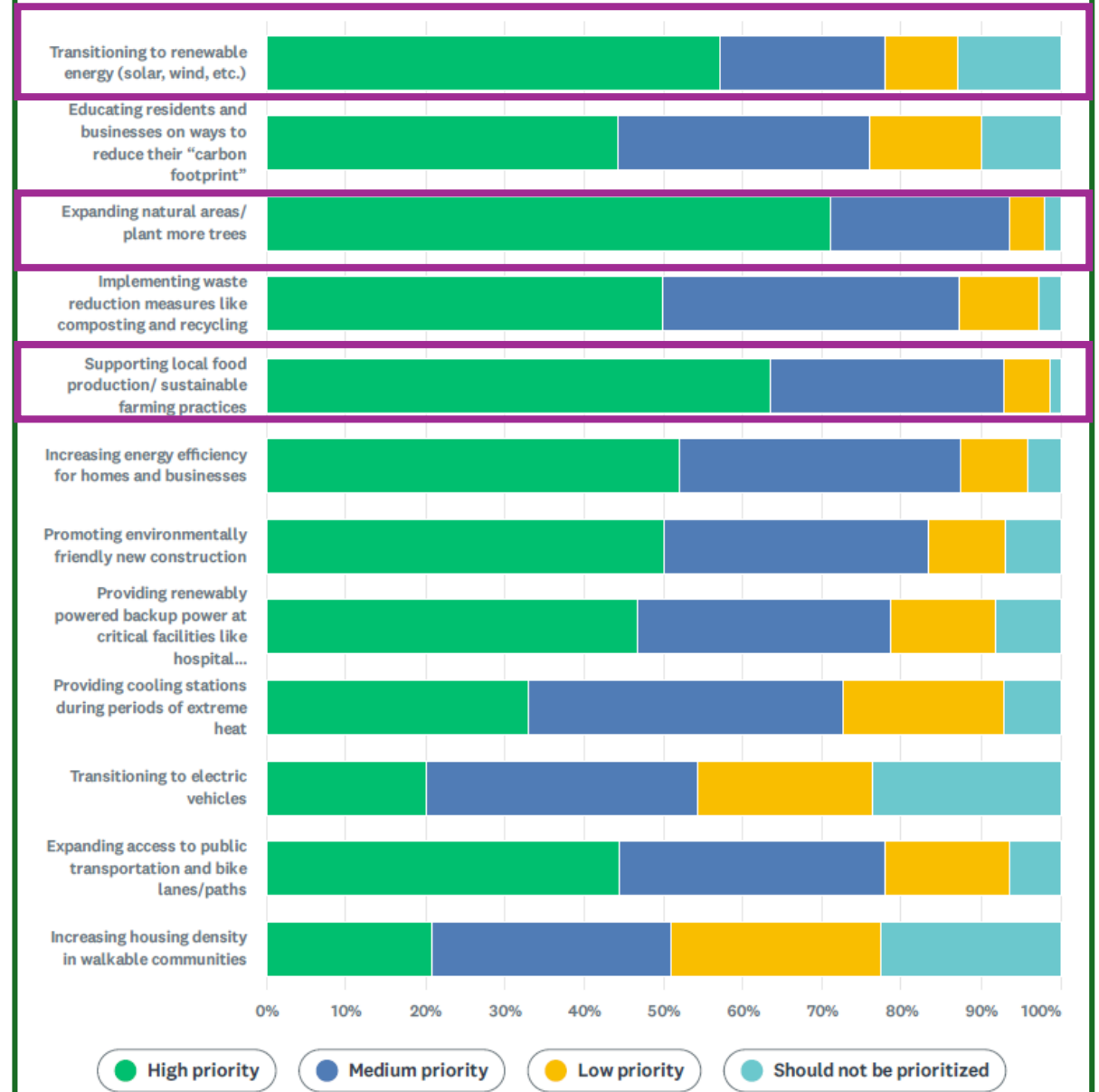


Reducing Emissions: General

Top 3 climate solutions:

1. Expanding natural areas and planting more trees
(Findings similar to Survey 1)
2. Supporting local food production and sustainable farming practices
3. Transitioning to renewable energy

There are many ways to reduce climate change-causing emissions and make our community more resilient to the impacts of climate change like heat and flooding. Please rank the options below in terms of how you feel they should each be prioritized county-wide (high priority, medium priority, low priority, should not be prioritized)

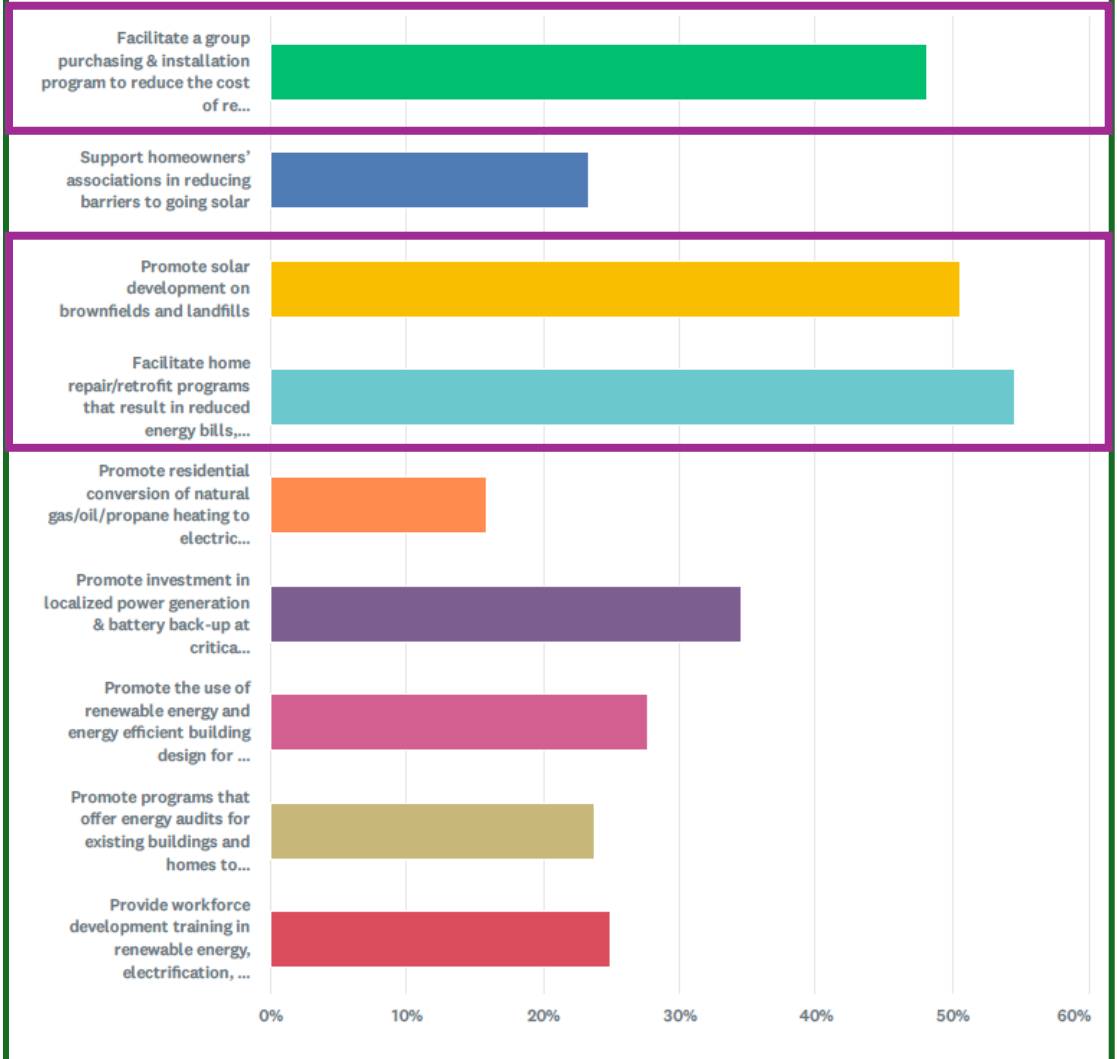


Energy: County Priorities

Top 3 energy-related actions:

1. Facilitating home repair/retrofit programs for low- to moderate-income homeowners
 2. Promote solar development on brownfields and landfills
 3. Facilitate a group purchasing and installation program to reduce the cost of residential solar panels and/or battery storage systems
- 233 suggestions for “other” priorities
 - No data centers (117)
 - Responsible development (62)

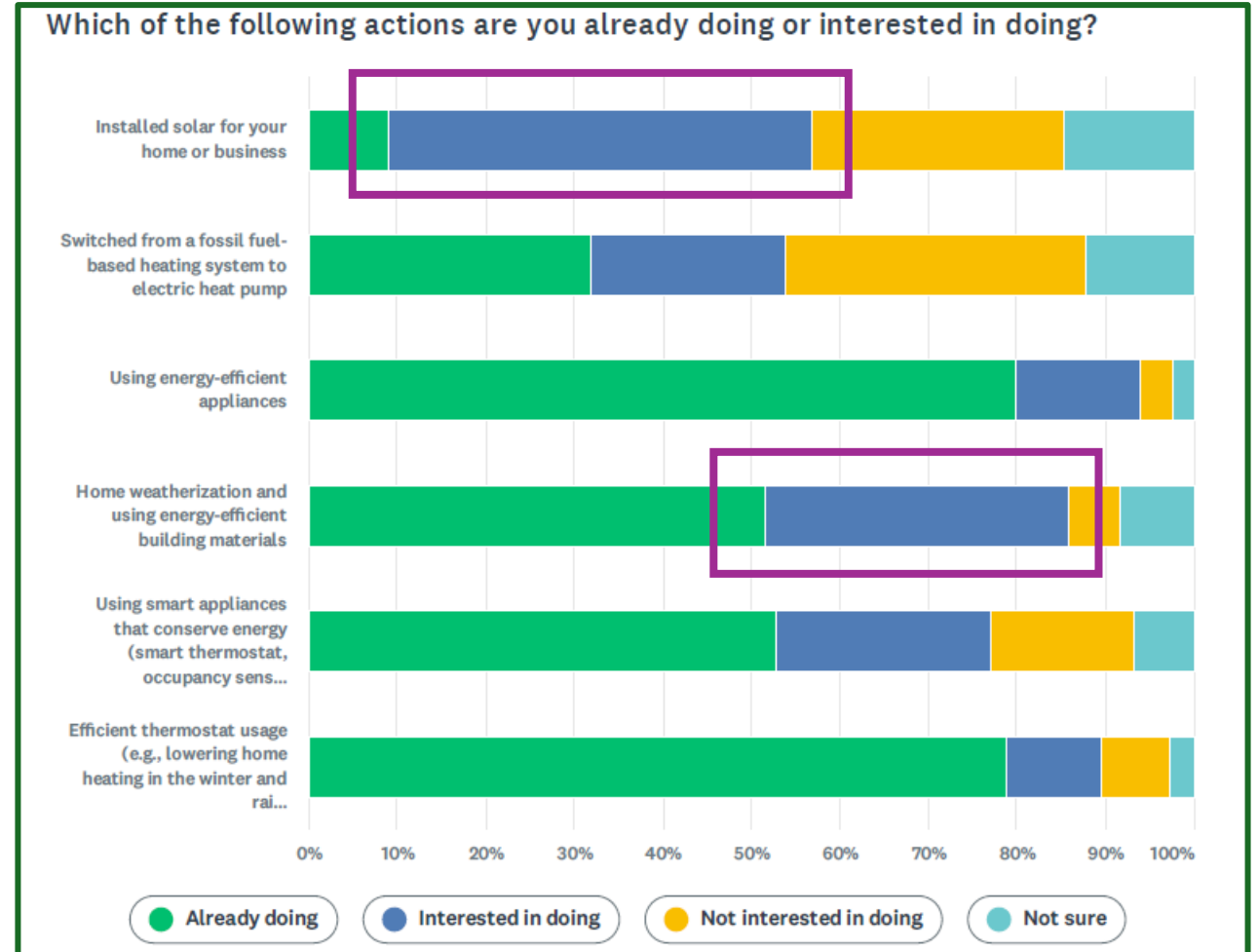
The energy that buildings use for heating, cooling and power account for over half of climate change-causing emissions in the county. Please choose the top three actions you think the county should prioritize to address this issue.



Energy: Preferred Individual Actions & Barriers

Barriers to individual action:

- Many people expressed interest in solar panels, but that they lacked the knowledge and resources to start the process
- Renter
- Tree cover
- Heat pumps not effective in PA
- 732 “Other” barriers to action

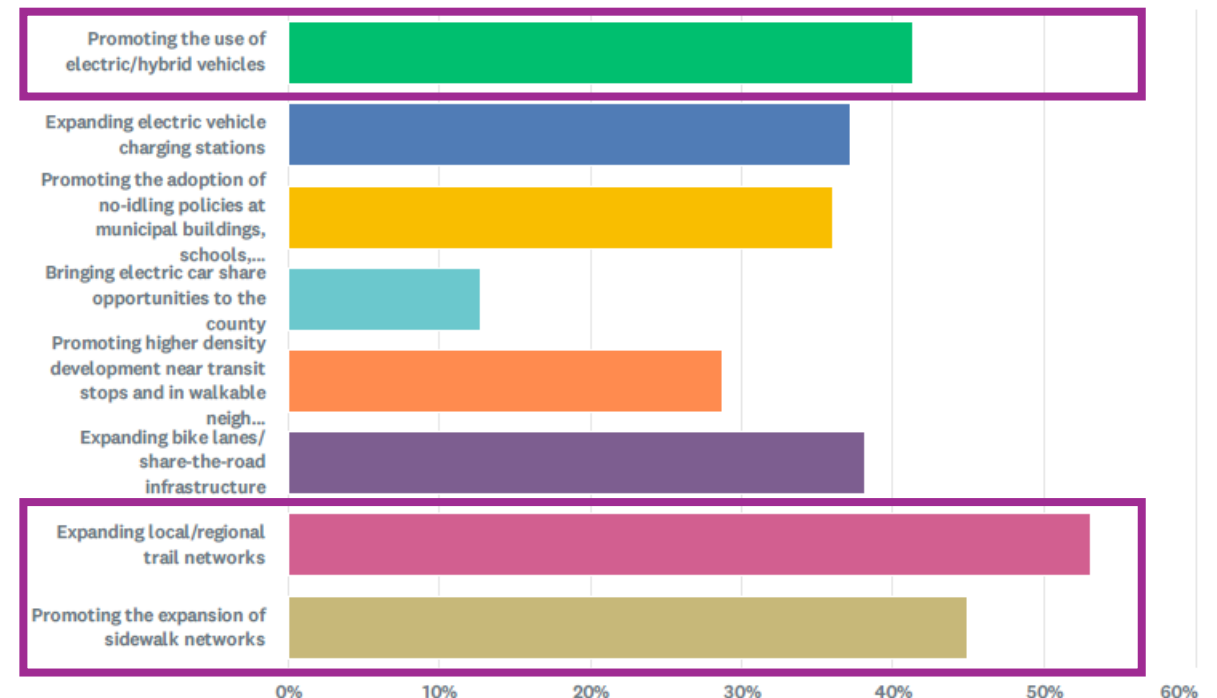


Transportation: County Priorities

Top 3 transportation-related actions:

1. Expanding local and regional trail networks
2. Promoting the expansion of sidewalk networks
3. Promoting the use of hybrid/ electric vehicles

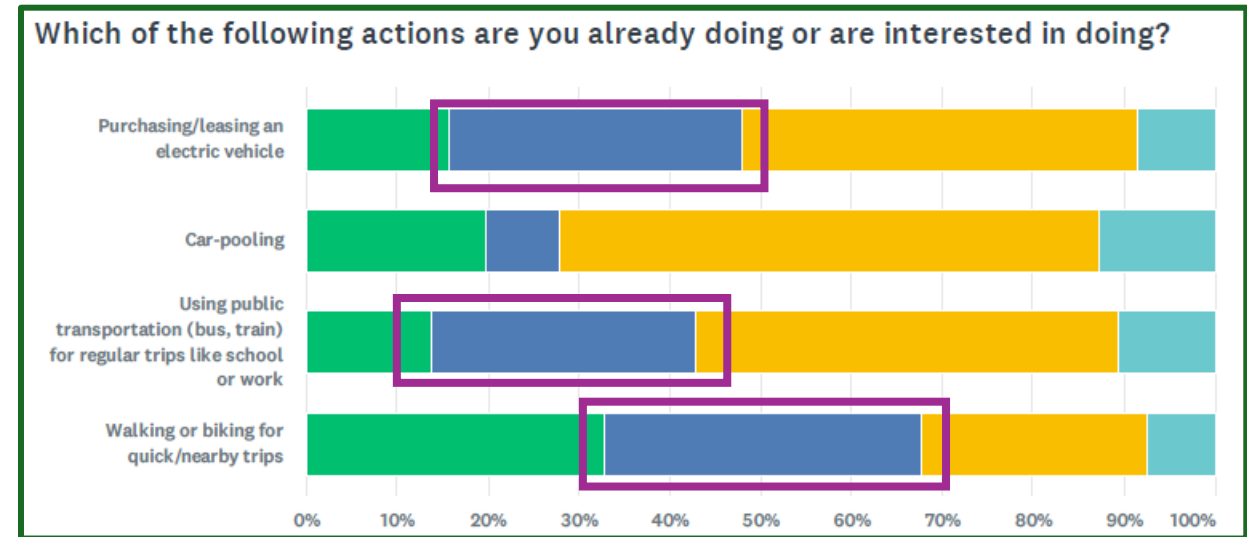
Emissions from cars, trucks, buses, trains, and planes in Chester County contribute to climate change and reduce our air quality. Transportation-related emissions account for about one-third of the total county-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Please choose the top three actions you think the county should prioritize.



Transportation: Preferred Individual Actions & Barriers

Barriers to individual action:

- Many respondents feel limited by the high cost of EVs and worry about a lack of charging stations
- Public transportation is insufficient
 - Either not available or not convenient for where they need/ want to go to make it feasible
- Complaints about bike and trail/ sidewalk infrastructure
- Numerous responses that biking and walking feel unsafe



Agriculture and Forests: County Priorities

Top 3 agriculture and forest-related actions:

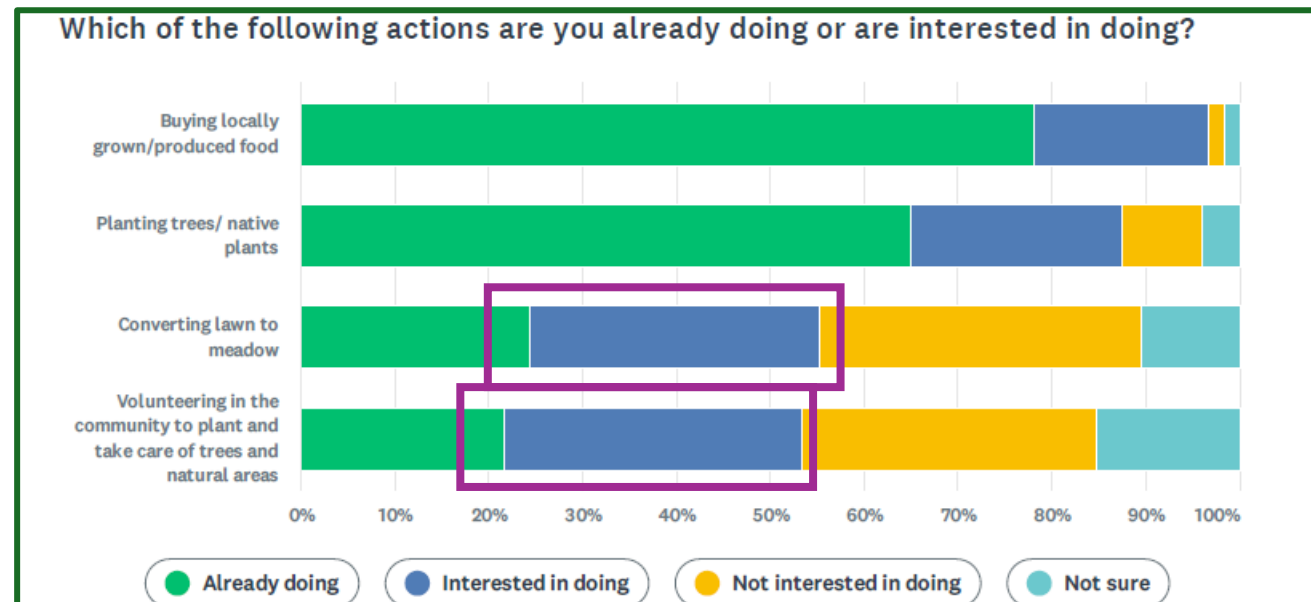
1. Continue open-space preservation programs, and prioritize protecting woodlands
2. Promote tree planting along streams
3. Promote tree planting in urban areas/
lawn-to-meadow programs



Agriculture and Forestry: Individual Preferred Actions & Barriers

Barriers to individual action:

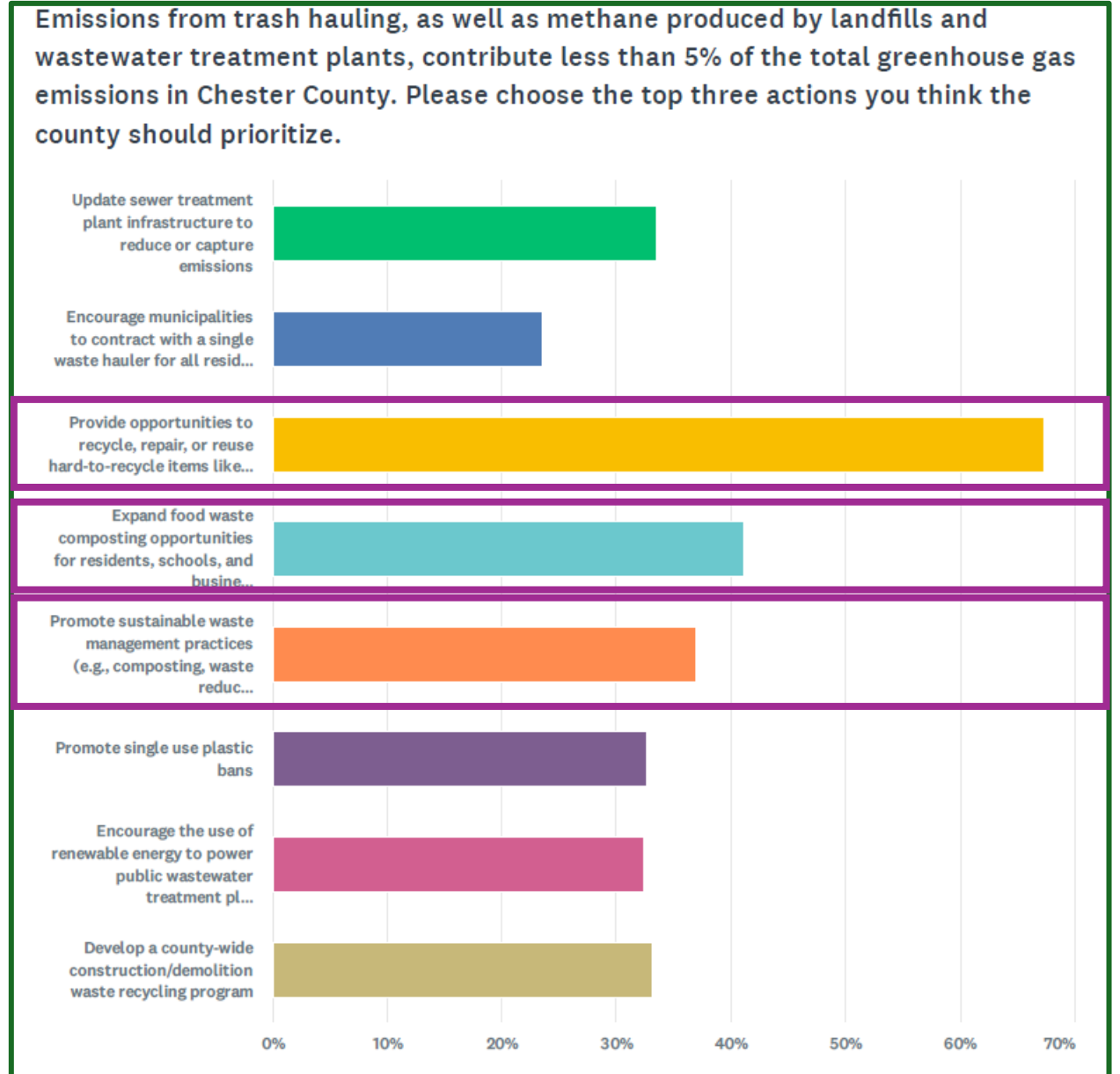
- Cost, especially for local food
- A lack of time, followed by a lack of info/resources
 - Misconceptions about lawn-to-meadow conversions
- Some respondents discussed wanting to volunteer but not knowing where/how



Waste: County Priorities

Top 3 waste-related actions:

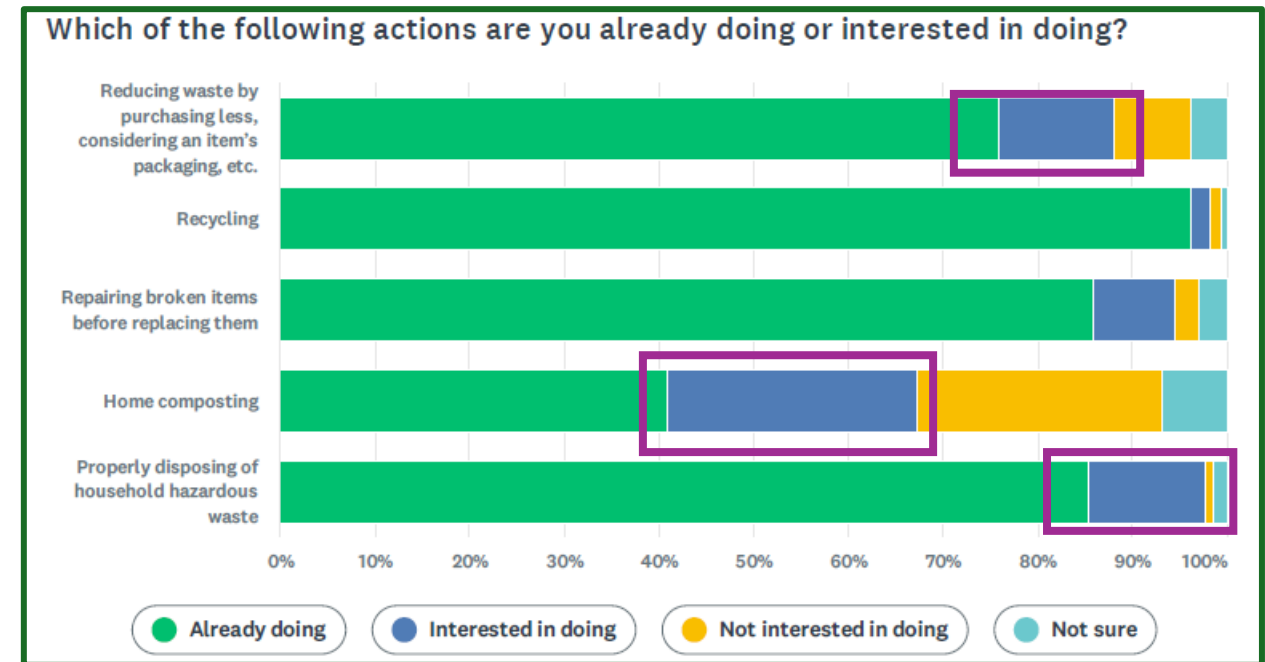
1. Providing opportunities to recycle, repair, or reuse hard to recycle items
2. Expanding opportunities for composting/ food waste
3. Promote sustainable waste-management practices



Waste: Individual Preferred Actions & Barriers

Barriers to individual action:

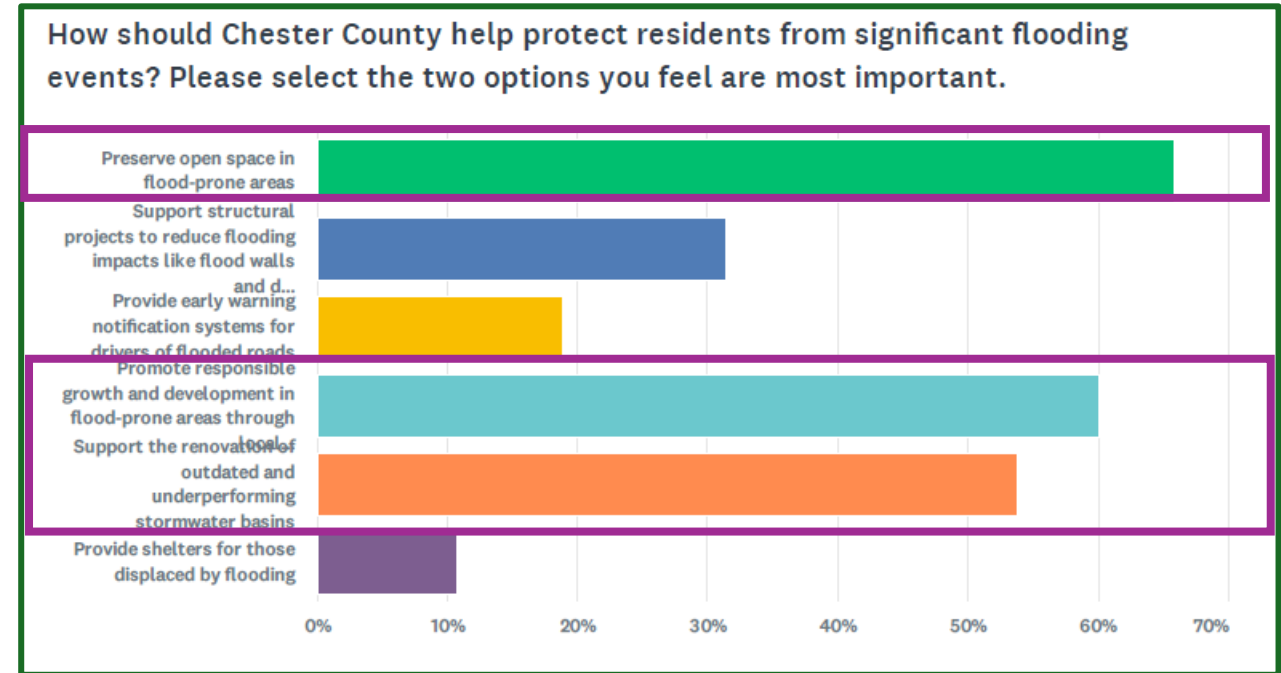
- Knowledge → people not knowing what/where to recycle special items, or how/where to repair them
- More accessible disposal days/ better communication for events
- Greater access for waste/ special disposal sites (59)
- Greater access or knowledge regarding composting/ managing food waste (40)



Flooding: Priorities for county-wide action

Top 3 priorities:

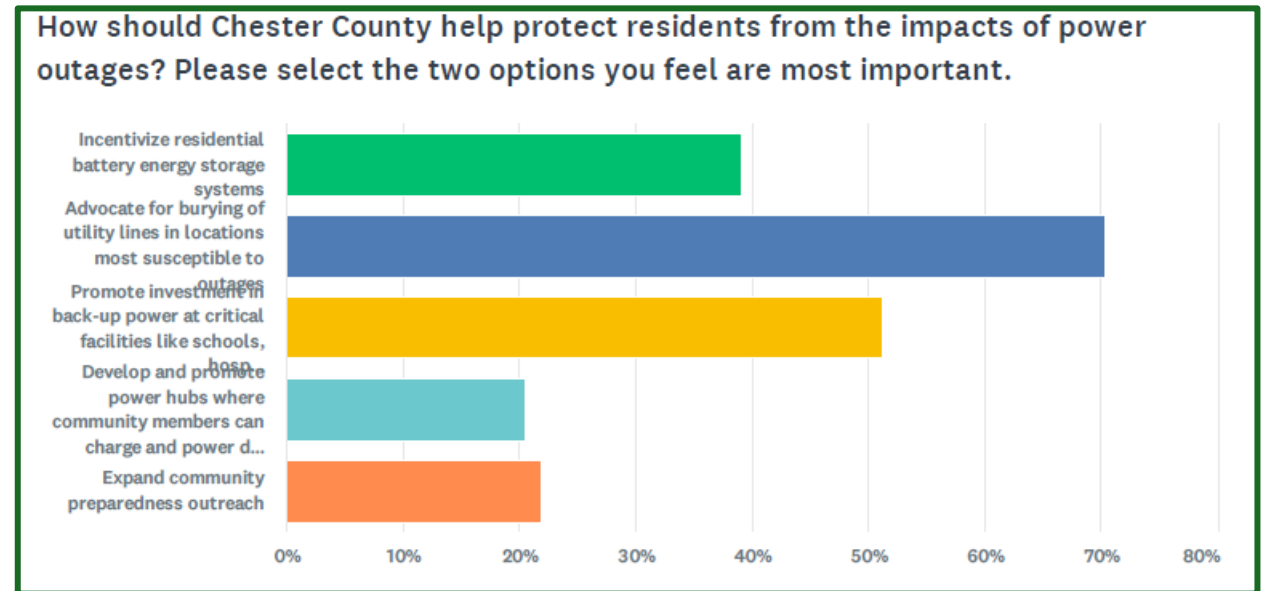
1. Preserving open space in flood-prone areas
2. Promote responsible growth and development in flood-prone areas through local development codes
3. Support renovation of outdated/underperforming stormwater basins



Power Outages: Priorities for county-wide action

Top priorities:

1. Advocate for burying utility lines in areas susceptible to outages
 2. Promote investment in back-up power at critical facilities like schools, hospitals, and prisons
- “Other” actions (111)
 - Stop overdevelopment
 - Trim trees threatening lines
 - People suggested libraries and senior centers as other places for back-up power



Extreme Heat: Priorities for county-wide action

Top priorities:

1. Promote construction practices that reduce heat from building surfaces like cool roofs and light-colored pavement
 2. Support efforts to expand the tree canopy in urban areas
- “Other” actions (76)
 - Similar to other sections (opposition to overdevelopment, wanting more trees and green spaces, support for banning data centers)

