



YOUTH CLIMATE VOICES

YOUTH CLIMATE
JUSTICE SURVEY
2022

In conjunction with

spunout

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	PAGE 3
Who responded?	PAGE 4
Key findings	PAGE 5
Top areas young people felt were most important	PAGE 6
Thinking about climate change, young people felt...	PAGE 7
In what way do you feel personally impacted by climate change?	PAGE 8
Taking part to help the environment	PAGE 9
Support climate action	PAGE 10
Barriers faced	PAGE 11
Appendix	PAGE 12
About ECO-UNESCO & SpunOut	PAGE 29

INTRODUCTION

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the climate has been changing since pre-industrial times, human activities have caused approximately 1°C of global warming; at current rates, this would reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052. The world is already seeing consequences for people, nature and livelihoods. The impact of climate change is being felt in different ways by different people and these profound and drastic changes raise several questions for climate justice.

In November 2022 as part of the 'Youth Climate Justice Challenge', ECO-UNESCO in conjunction with SpunOut.ie, conducted an online survey with young people. The purpose of the survey is to highlight how young people of Ireland feel about climate change and climate justice, how they want to be involved in solving climate issues, the barriers faced when getting involved, areas they feel are most important to tackle climate change, areas they are interested in learning more about and what support organisations like ECO-UNESCO can give them. The survey which took place between October 25th and November 8th, 2022, also asked what a fair and greener world would look like. The survey included a range of multiple-choice questions alongside open-ended questions allowing for personalised responses.

This Project saw a significant response rate with over 1,053 participants. 95% of the participants were aged 16-25 years and more than 82% were students. 65% of participants were female, 30% male, 2.5% non-binary and 2.5% participants categorize themselves through self-identity and others. This survey was part of a larger project called 'The Youth Climate Justice Challenge', funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This project involved additional partners: Feachtas, The No Name Club; and the Young Irish Film Makers.

This report provides an analysis of the survey findings, highlighting how young people of Ireland feel about climate change and climate justice issues.

Answers to multiple-choice questions can be found in the appendix.

**SINCE PRE-INDUSTRIAL
TIMES, HUMAN ACTIVITIES
HAVE CAUSED
APPROXIMATELY
1°C OF GLOBAL WARMING.**

WHO RESPONDED?

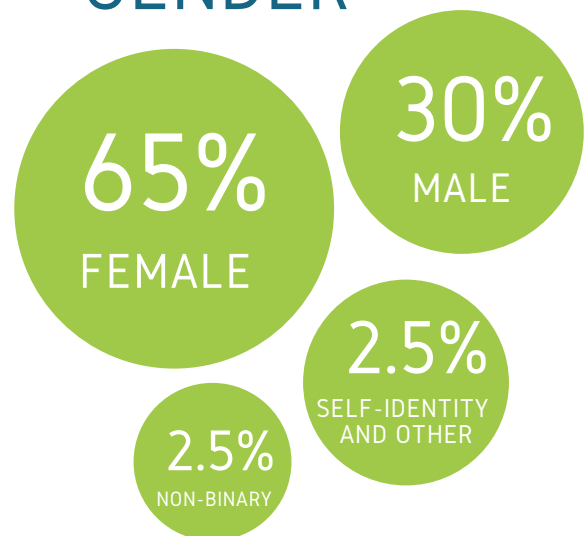
SURVEY RESPONSES



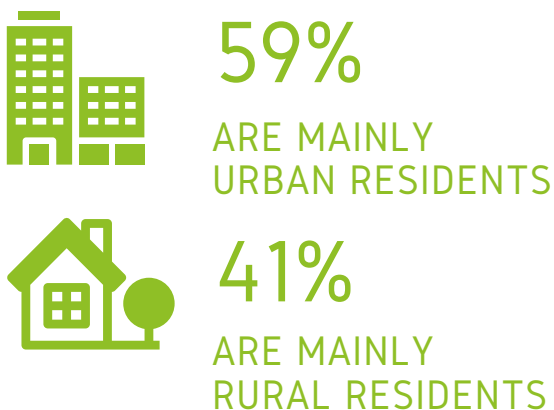
AGE



GENDER



LOCATION



OCCUPATION



KEY FINDINGS

97%

of young people feel concerned about climate change

47%

of respondents feel as though no one listens

84%

of young people are either involved or want to get involved with climate actions

57%

of young people think climate action has not been acted on enough globally

49%

of respondents want to see changes in big business and corporations

60%

of respondents feel like they have been personally impacted by climate change

34%

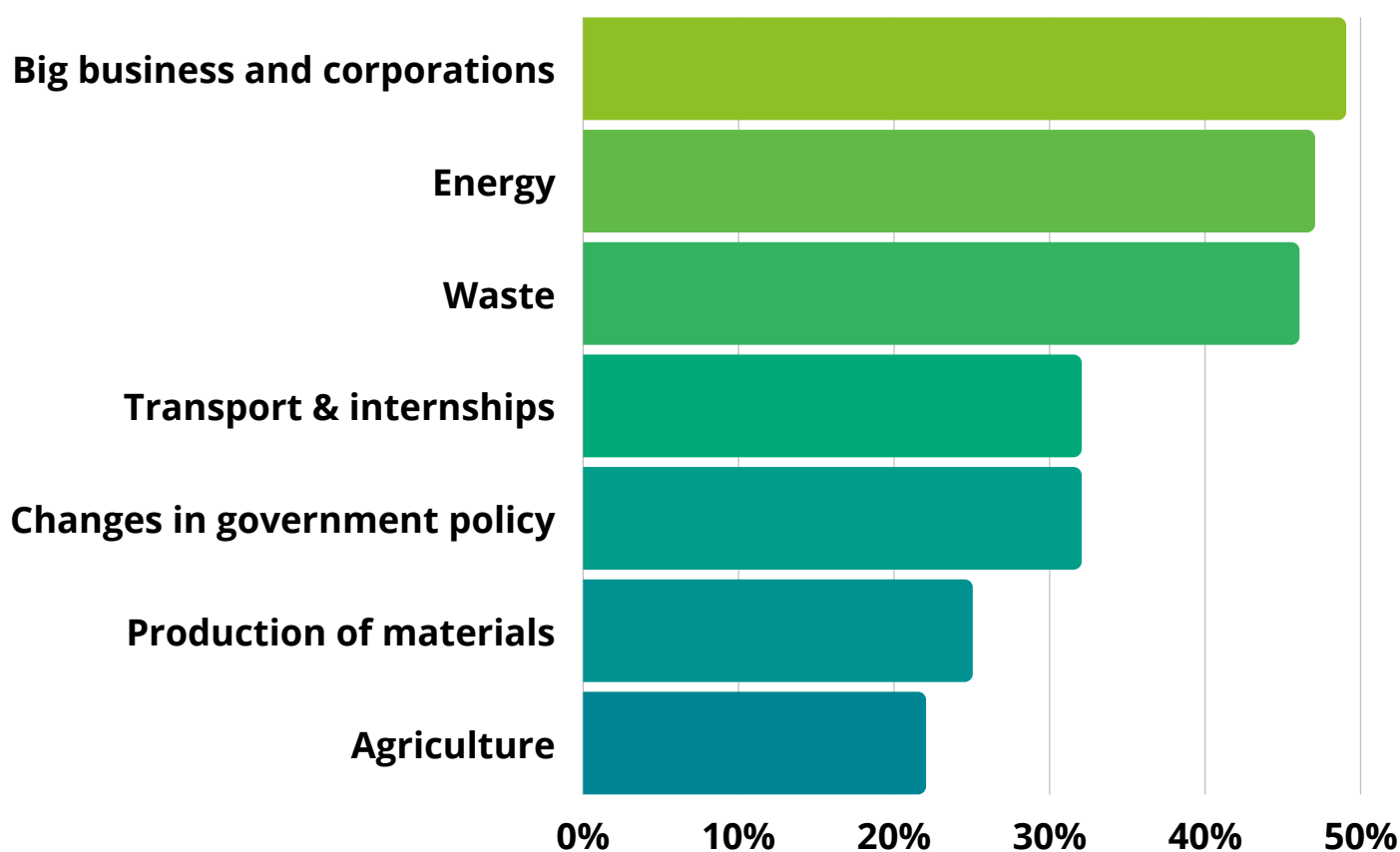
of young people feel like they do not have enough knowledge

32%

of young people feel they do not have enough skills

THE TOP AREAS YOUNG PEOPLE FELT WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

When young people were asked what was most important when it came to tackling climate change, their responses pointed to changes in big business and corporations as the biggest issue in the fight for climate action.



THINKING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

When young people were asked how do they feel when thinking about climate change, they feel mostly anxious, angry, fearful but also eager to act.

65%

ANXIOUS



56%

FEARFUL



39%

ANGRY



36%

EAGER TO ACT



IN WHAT WAY DO YOU FEEL PERSONALLY IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

“

As a farmer our growth has been drastically affected by climate change as we continue to try to feed the ever growing population

”

“

Flooding in my area

”

“

Extreme changes in weather are concerning

”

“

My career path is based on climate change

”

“

Rising temperatures, increased costs

”

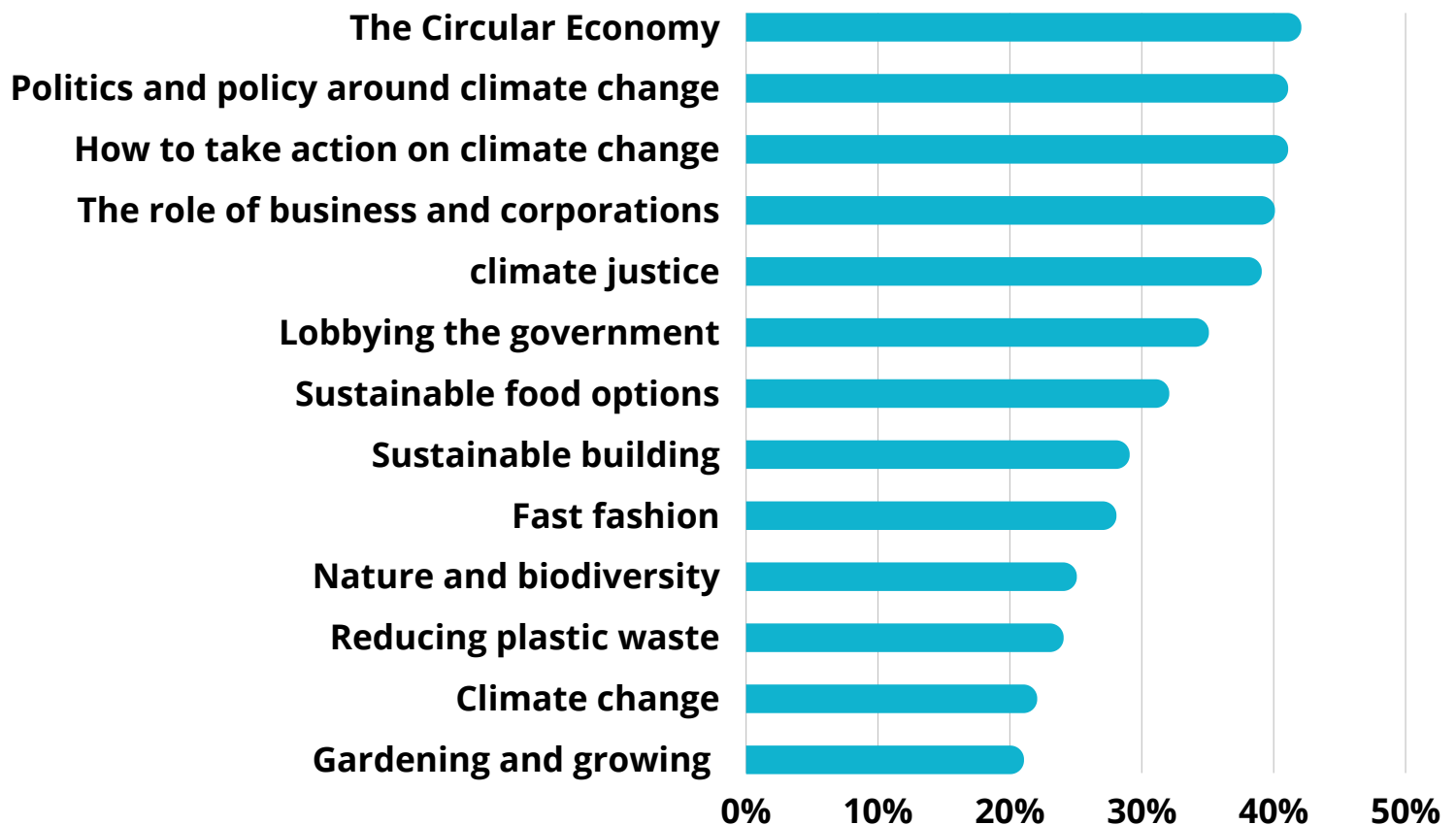
“

I feel already that we are entering into a somewhat hopeless future, as young people it is disheartening in general to know the kids we may have in the future or their children mightn't have a world to live in

”

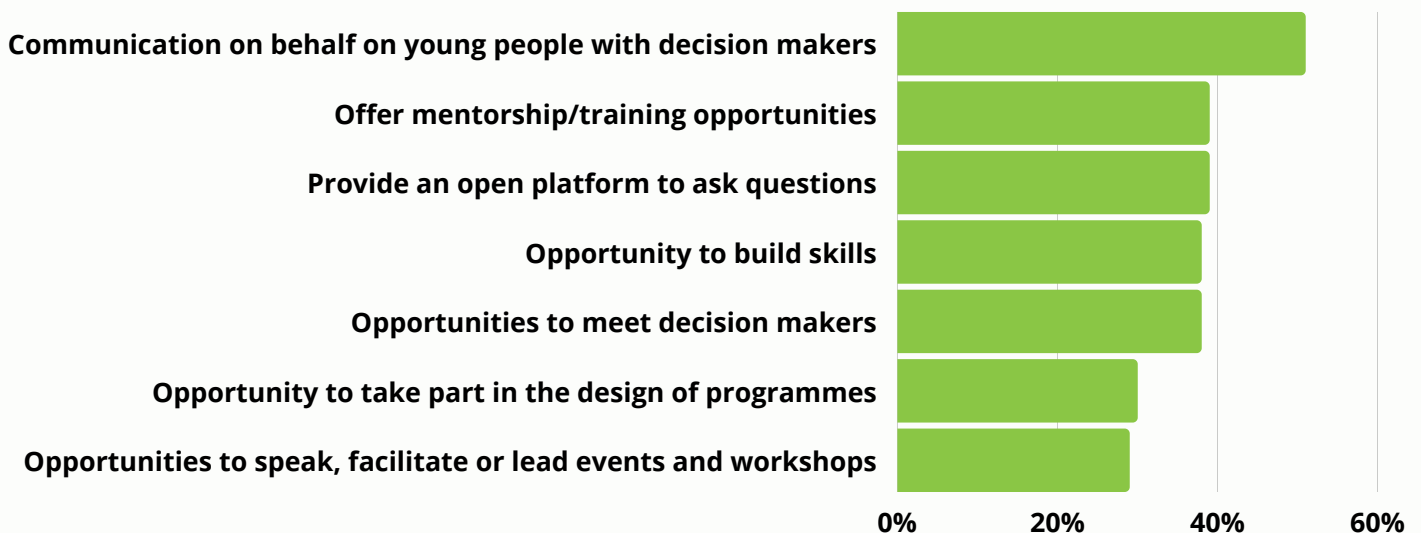
TAKING PART TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

When asked what areas they would like to learn more about, young people highlighted the circular economy, how to take action on climate change, politics and policies around climate change, the role of business and corporations in climate change and climate justice.

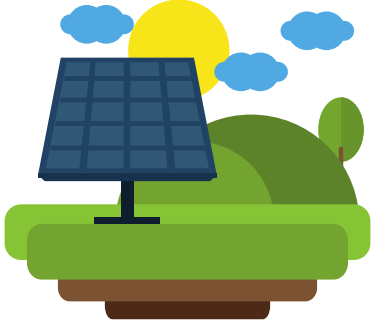


SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION

When asked what youth organisations like ECO-UNESCO could do to support young people in climate action, participants felt that communication on their behalf to decision makers was the most important way to support them. They also highlighted providing an open floor to ask questions, discussion and debate, provide an opportunity to build skills such as confidence, leadership and communication, alongside offering mentorship and training opportunities to assist with personal and career growth.



BARRIERS FACED



When participants of the survey were asked what barriers they faced when it comes to climate change, young people felt overwhelmingly that no one listens to them, followed by not having enough knowledge to feel they can make a difference.

47%

FELT LIKE NO ONE LISTENS

37%

THERE ARE NO PROTESTS OR EVENTS
IN MY AREA

34%

FELT THEY DONT HAVE ENOUGH
KNOWLEDGE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

30%

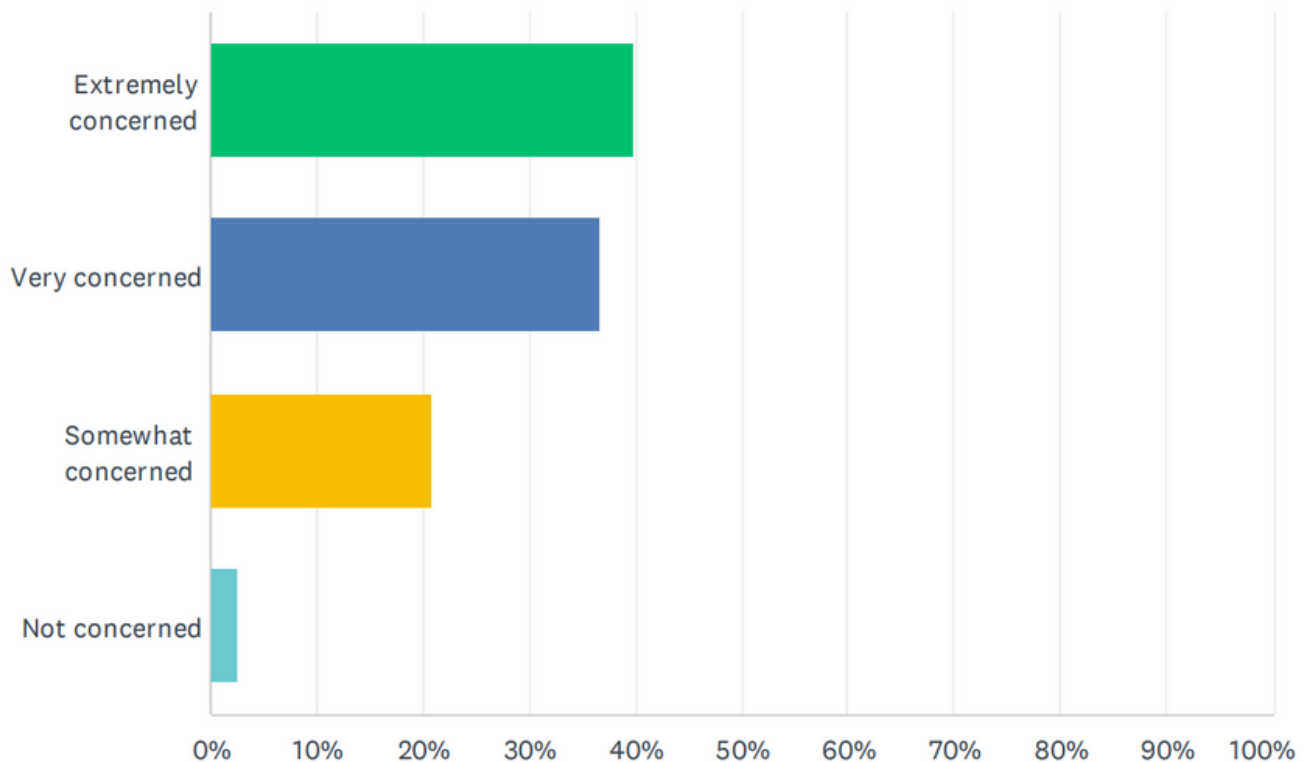
FELT THEY DIDNT KNOW HOW TO
GET IN TOUCH WITH POLITICIANS

APPENDIX

These are young people's closed answers. Open ended responses are not included.

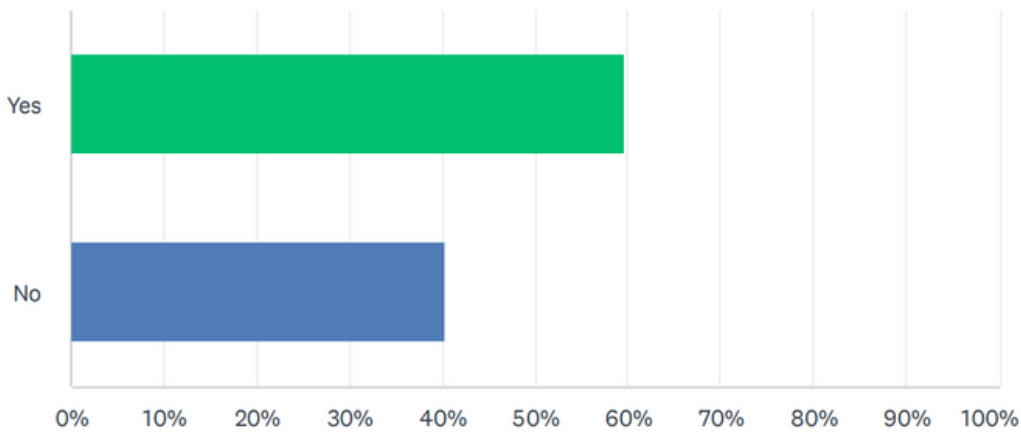
Q1 How concerned do you feel about climate change?

Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 0



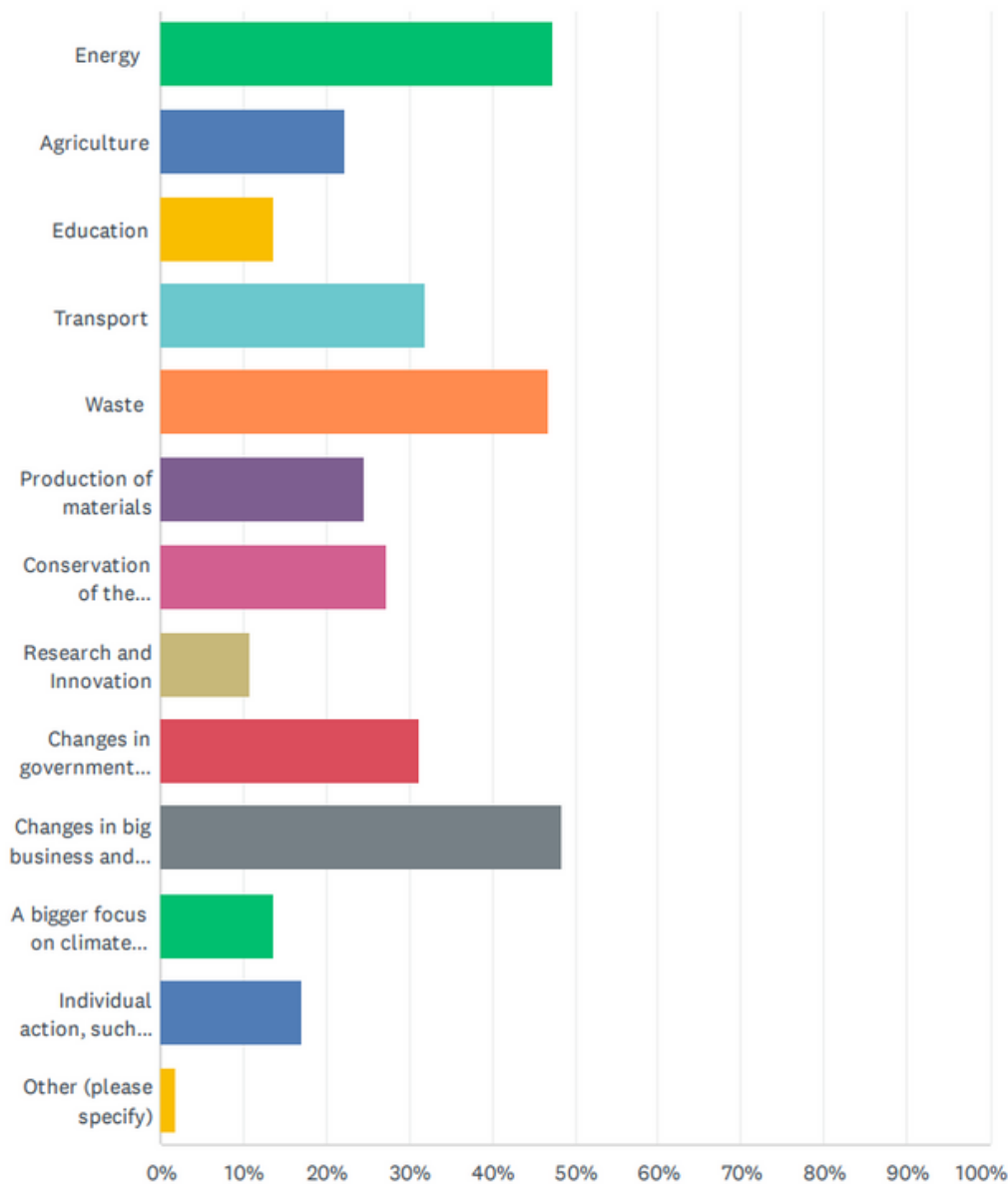
Q2 Do you feel like you have been personally impacted by climate change?

Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 0



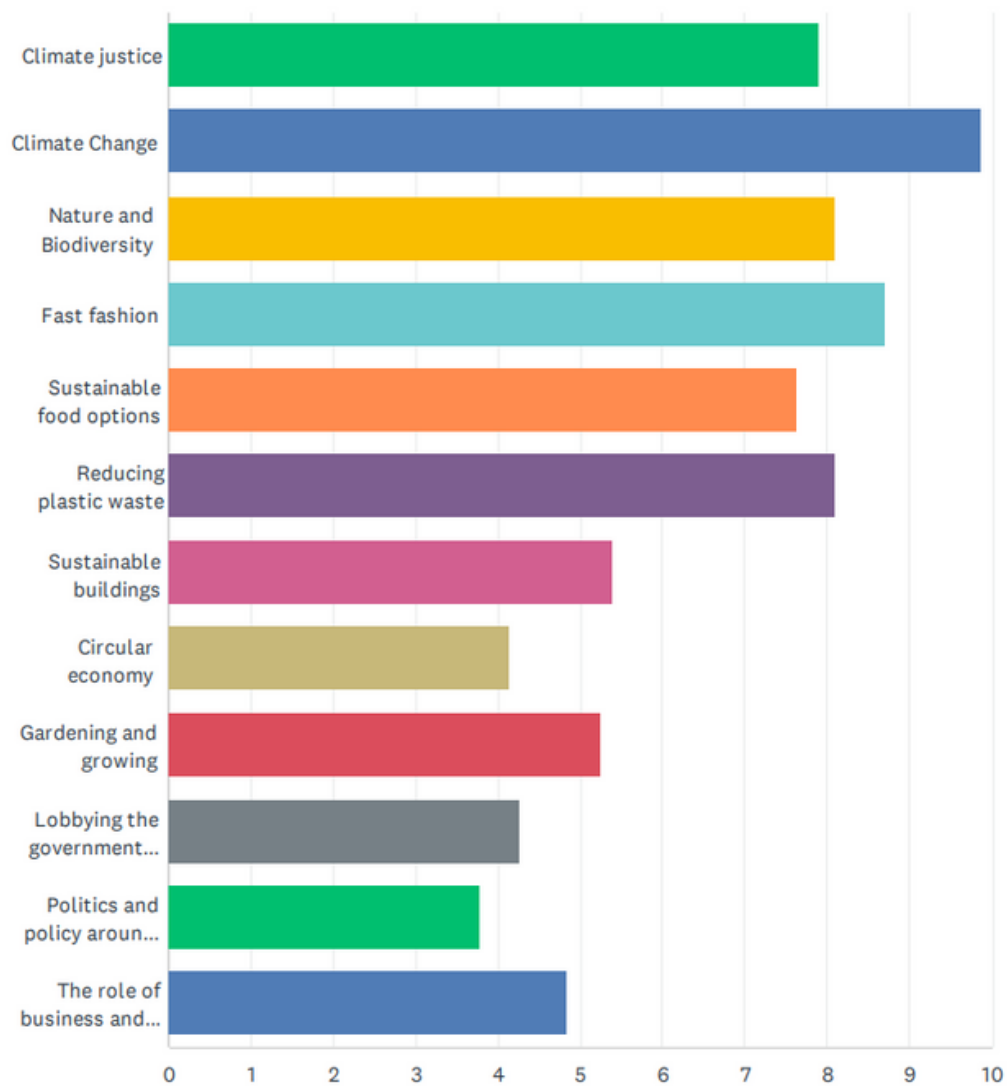
Q4 Please select top three areas do you feel are most important when it comes to tackling climate change?

Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 0



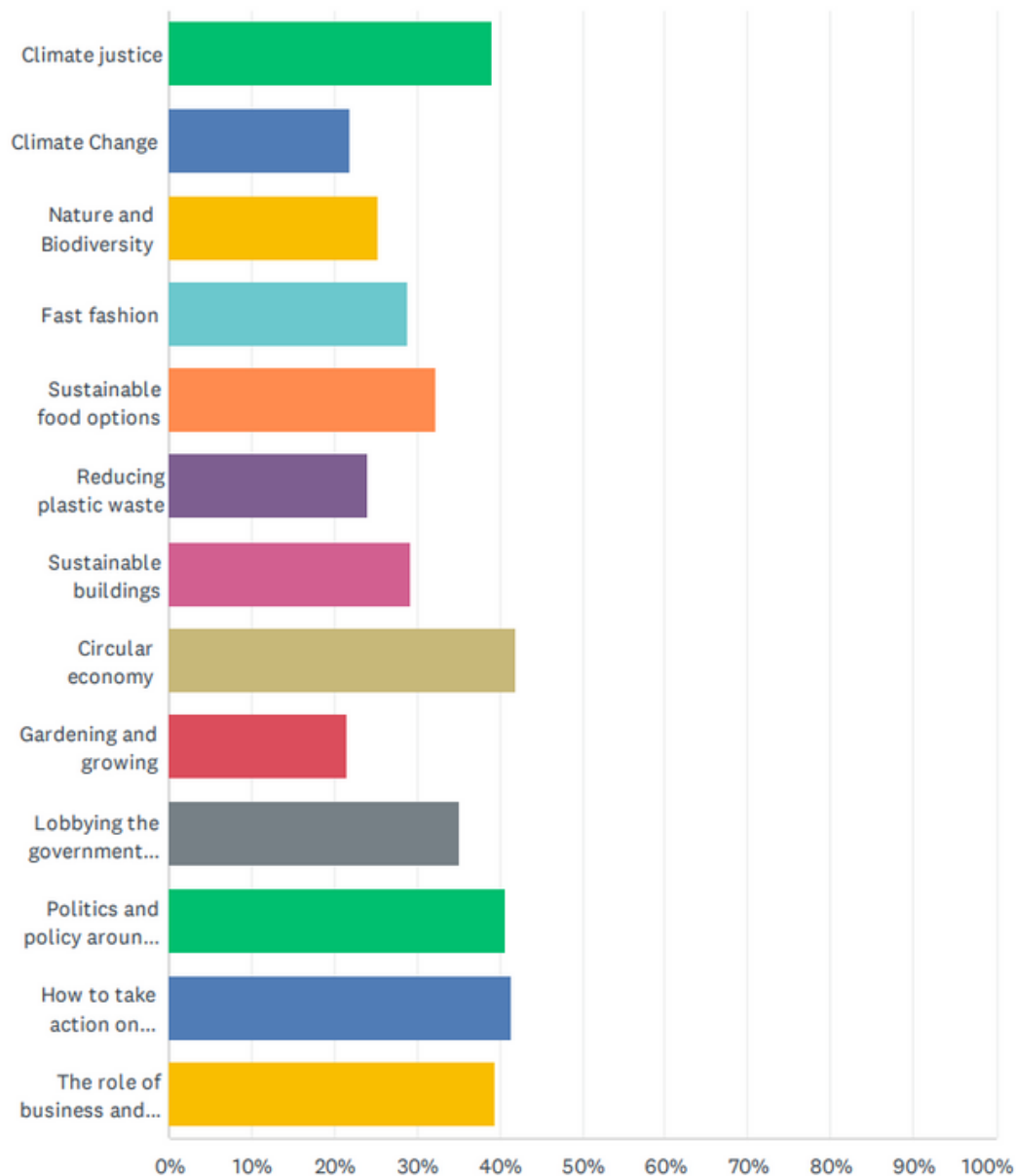
Q5 Rate your current knowledge on the following areas from highest to lowest

Answered: 1,101 Skipped: 2



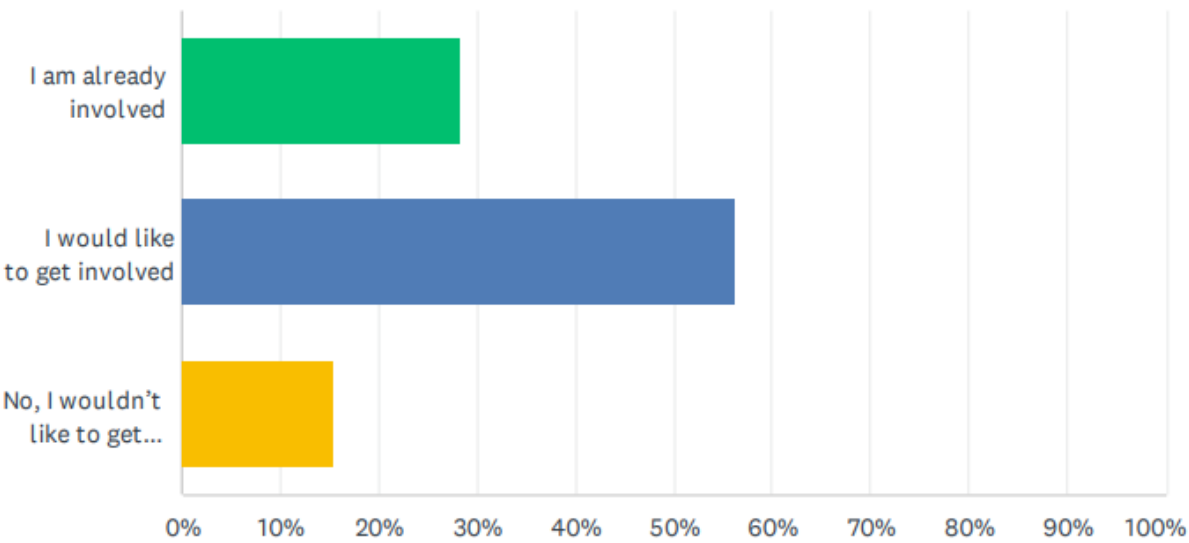
Q6 What areas would you like to learn more about?(Select as many options as you want)

Answered: 1,100 Skipped: 3



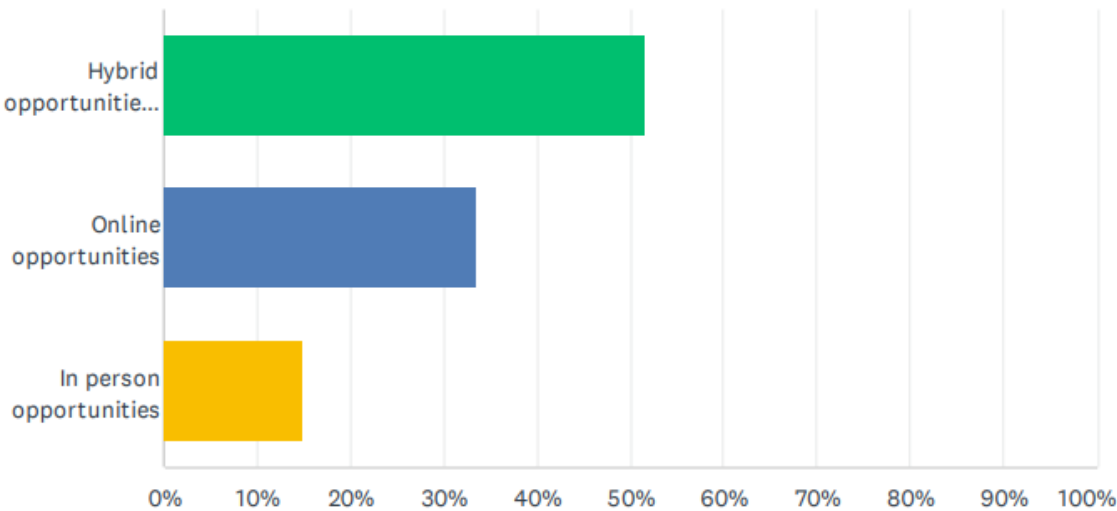
Q7 Are you interested in getting involved in climate action?

Answered: 1,099 Skipped: 4



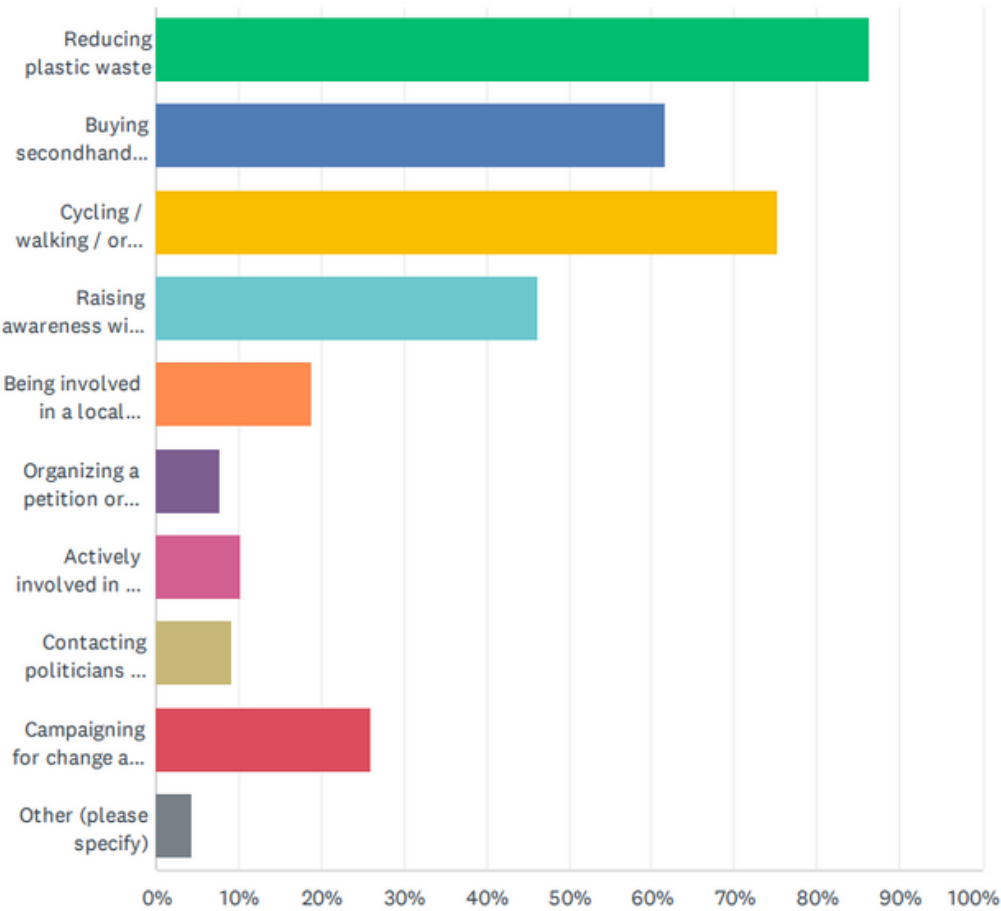
Q8 How would you like to get involved in climate action?

Answered: 619 Skipped: 484



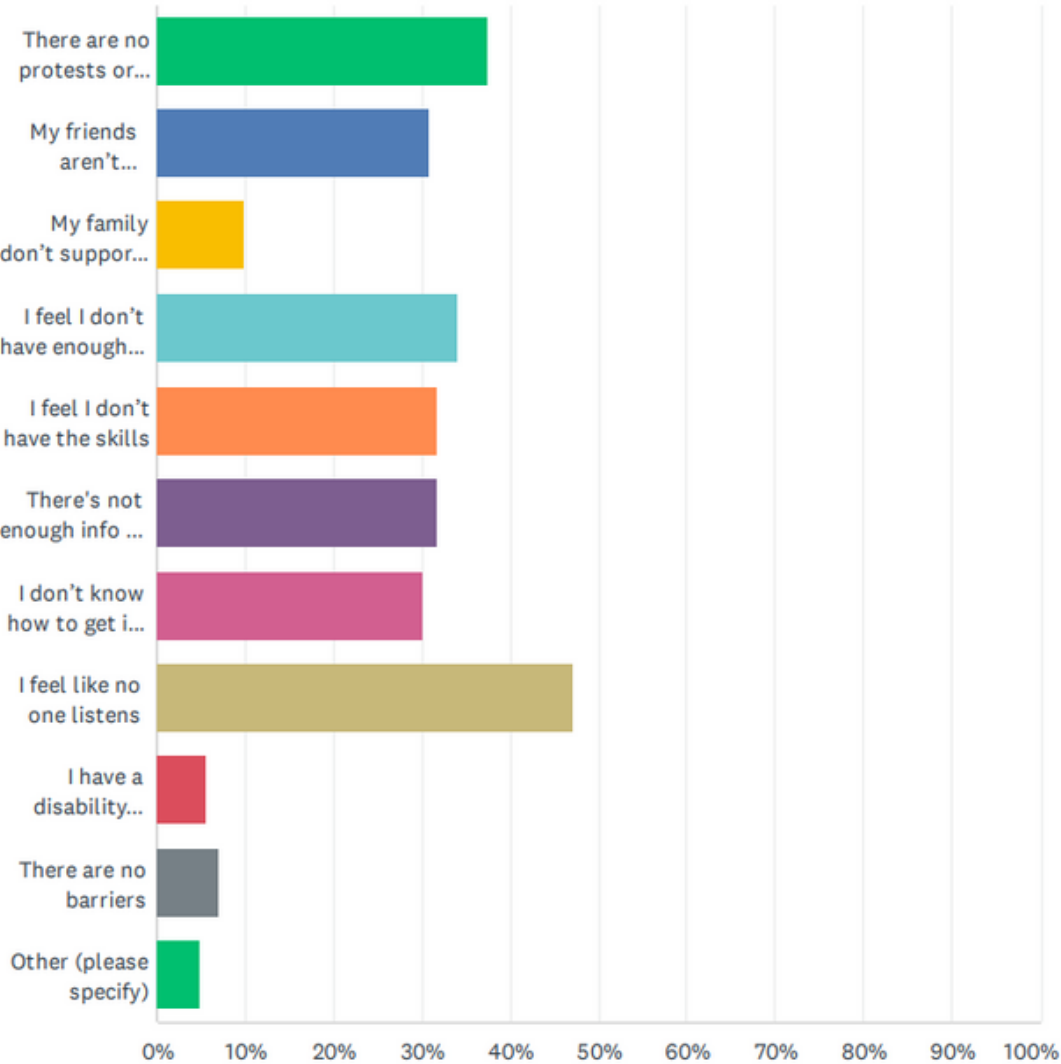
Q9 What action, if any, have you taken on climate change? (Select as many options as you want)

Answered: 1,100 Skipped: 3



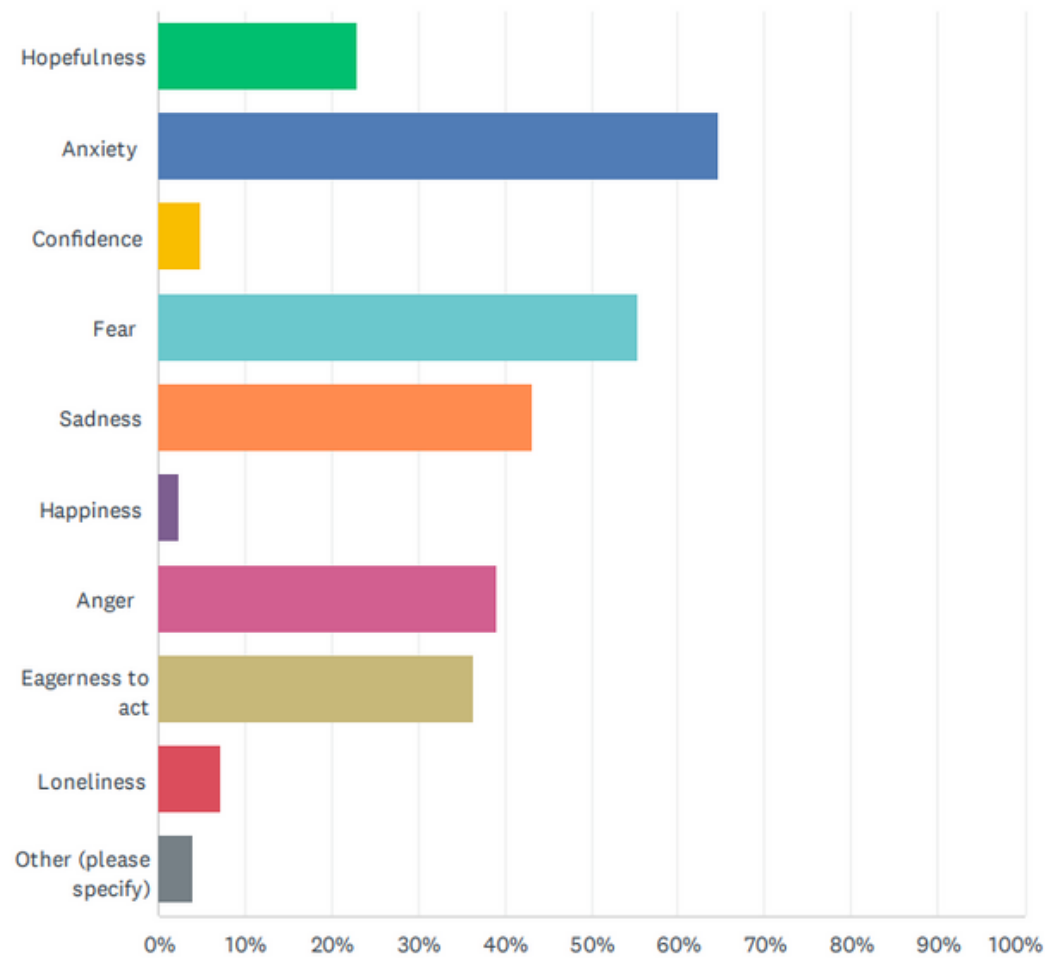
Q10 What barriers do you see with taking action on climate issues?

Answered: 1,102 Skipped: 1



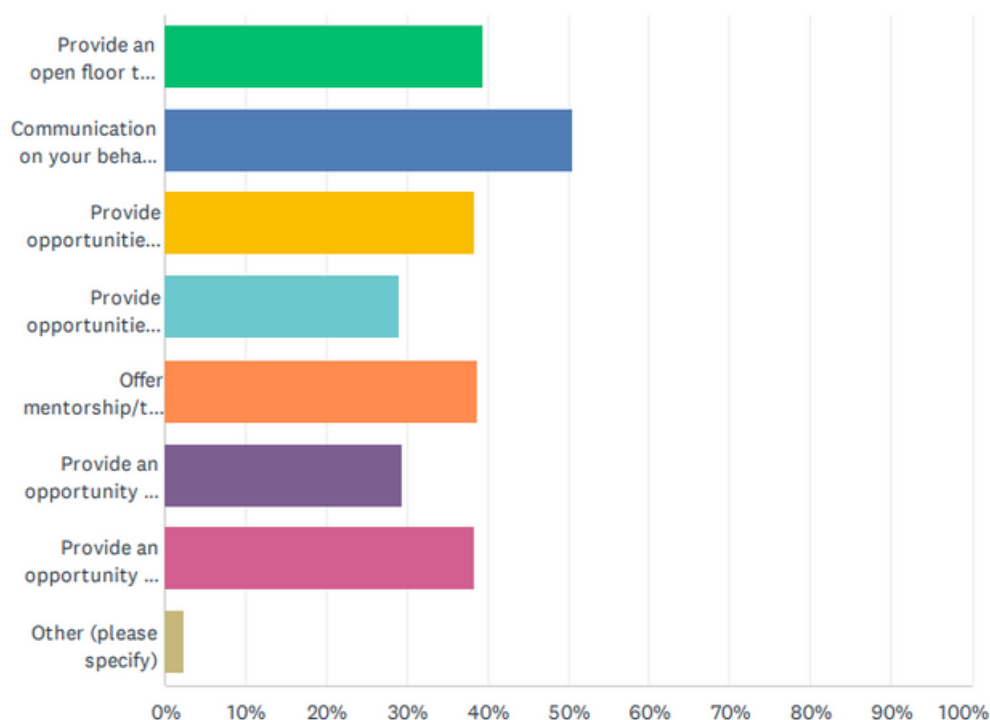
Q11 What feelings do you relate with the most when you think about climate change?(Select up to three)

Answered: 1,102 Skipped: 1



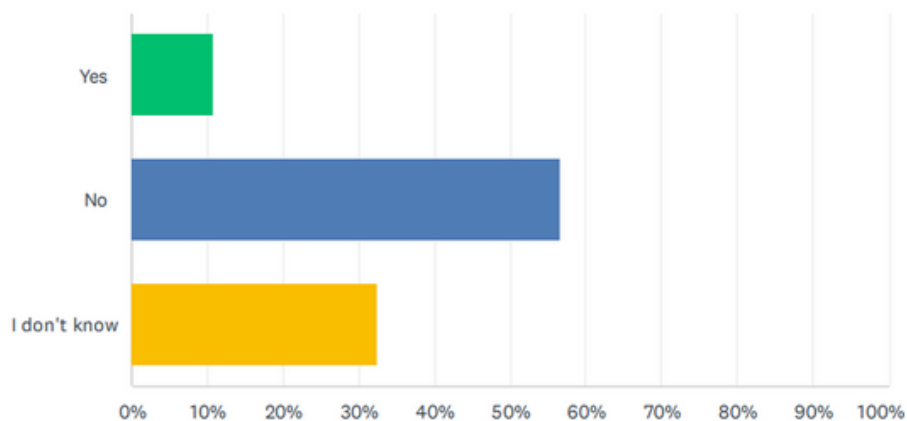
Q12 What can youth organisations like ECO-UNESCO do to support you in your climate action?(Select your top three)

Answered: 1,097 Skipped: 6



Q13 Climate Justice is a term that recognises climate change as an ethical and political issue, rather than one that is purely environmental or physical in nature. Do you feel like climate justice is acted on enough globally?

Answered: 1,100 Skipped: 3



Q14 If answered no, how do you think this could be improved? (Open ended question)

**“
More
knowledge
on social
media
”**

**“
Meeting goals,
rather than
making them for
show
”**

— “ —

**“
More laws need
to be imposed
on bigger
companies.
”**

**Keeping the
promises made to
support climate
action
” —**

**“
Raise more
awareness
”**

Q15 Describe what a fairer, greener world would look like to you.

— “ —

**More plants, less
plastic, more
organic food
options**

— ” —

“
**Less reliance on
fossil fuels**
”

“
**One where big companies are
held accountable for their
actions and anyone can
access clean water and food**
”

“
**Abundant
clean energy**
”

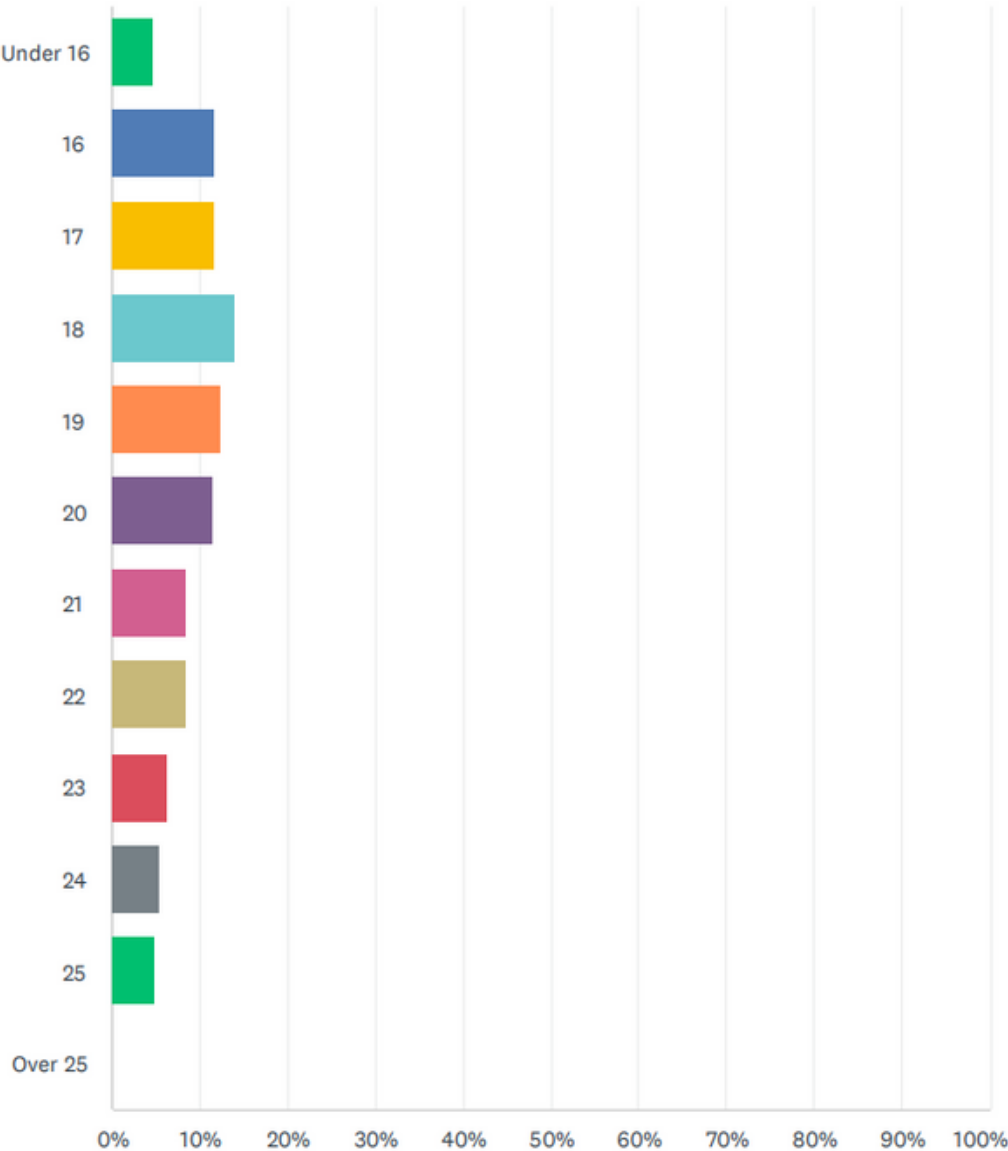
— “ —

**One where
humans and
nature can live in
harmony together**

— ” —

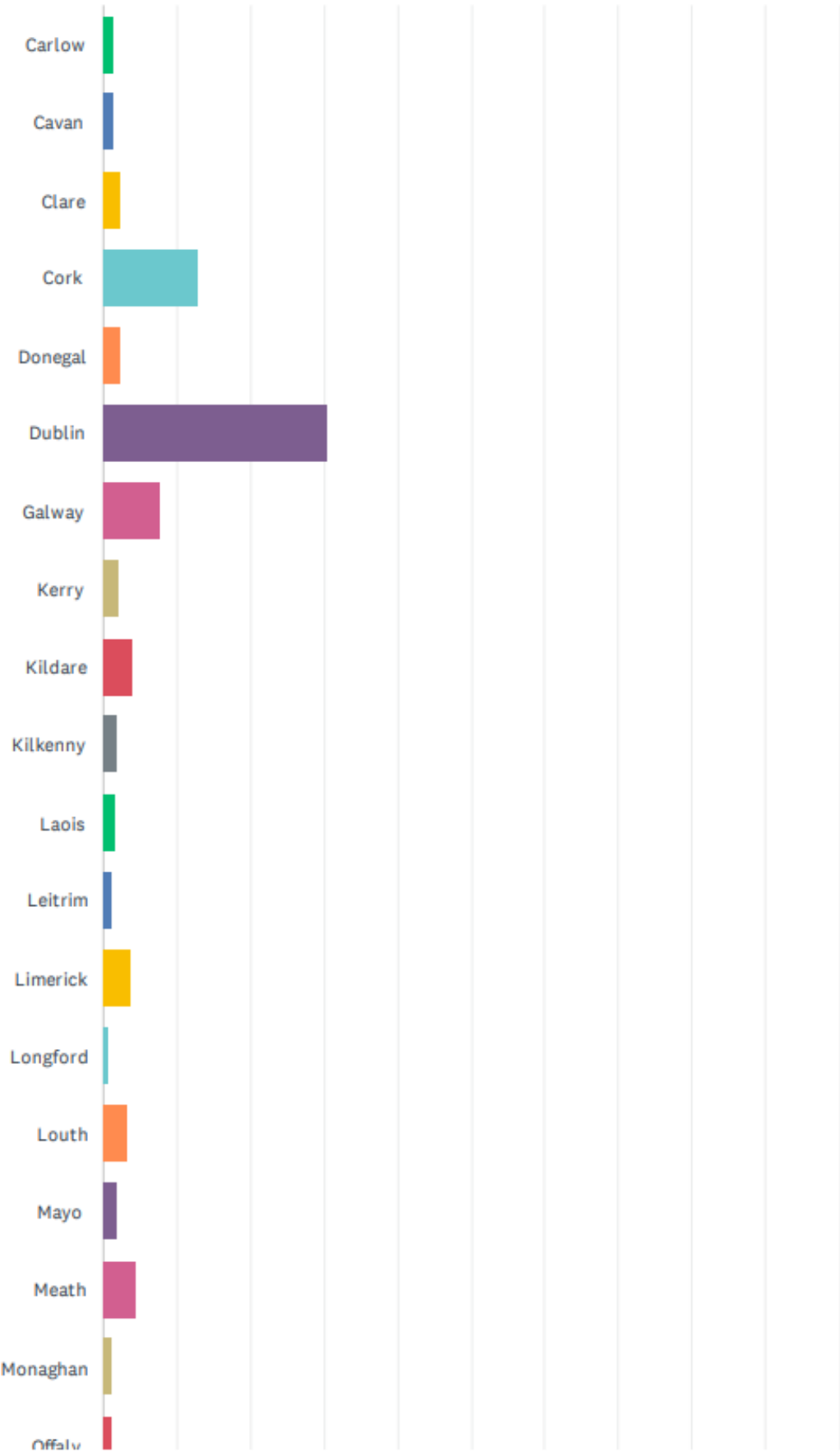
Q16 What age are you?

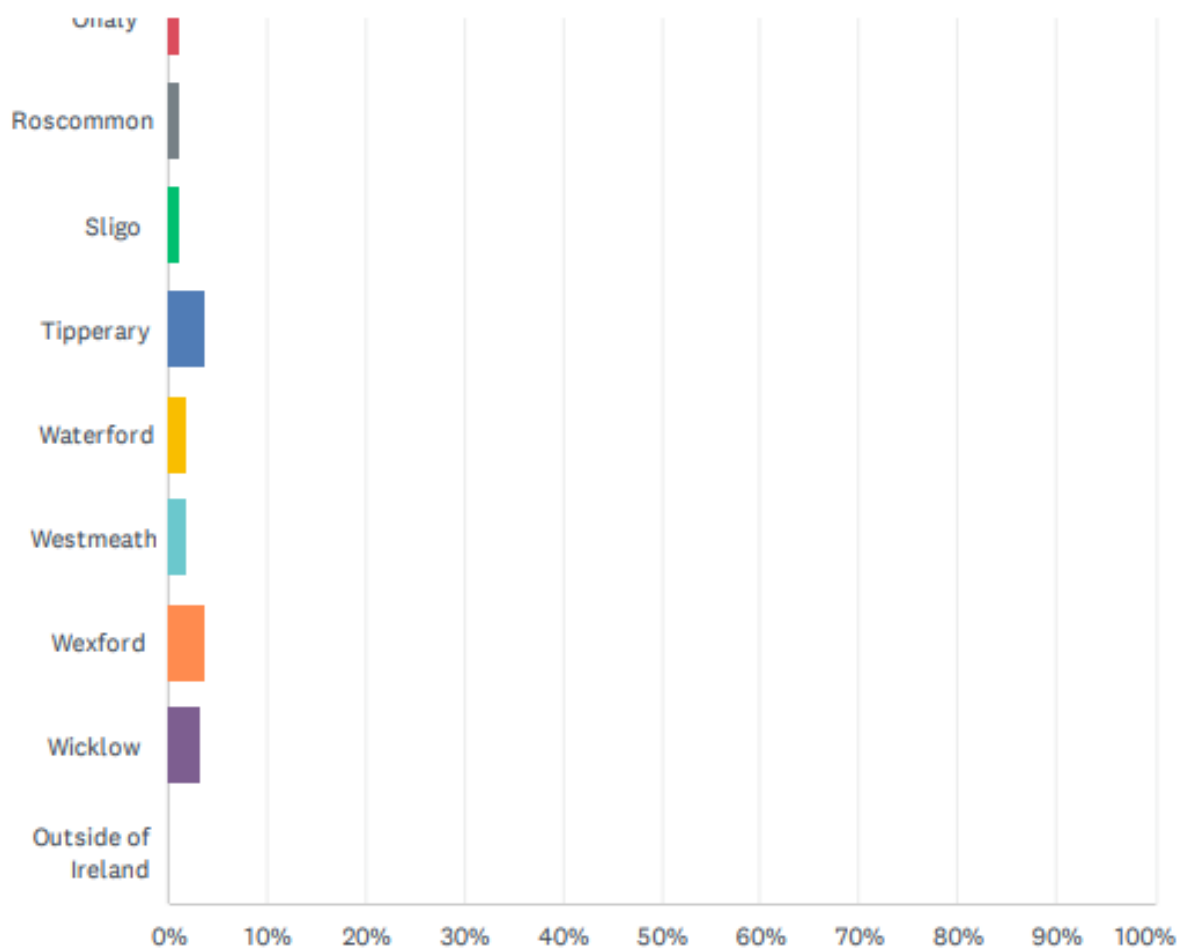
Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 0



Q17 Where do you live?

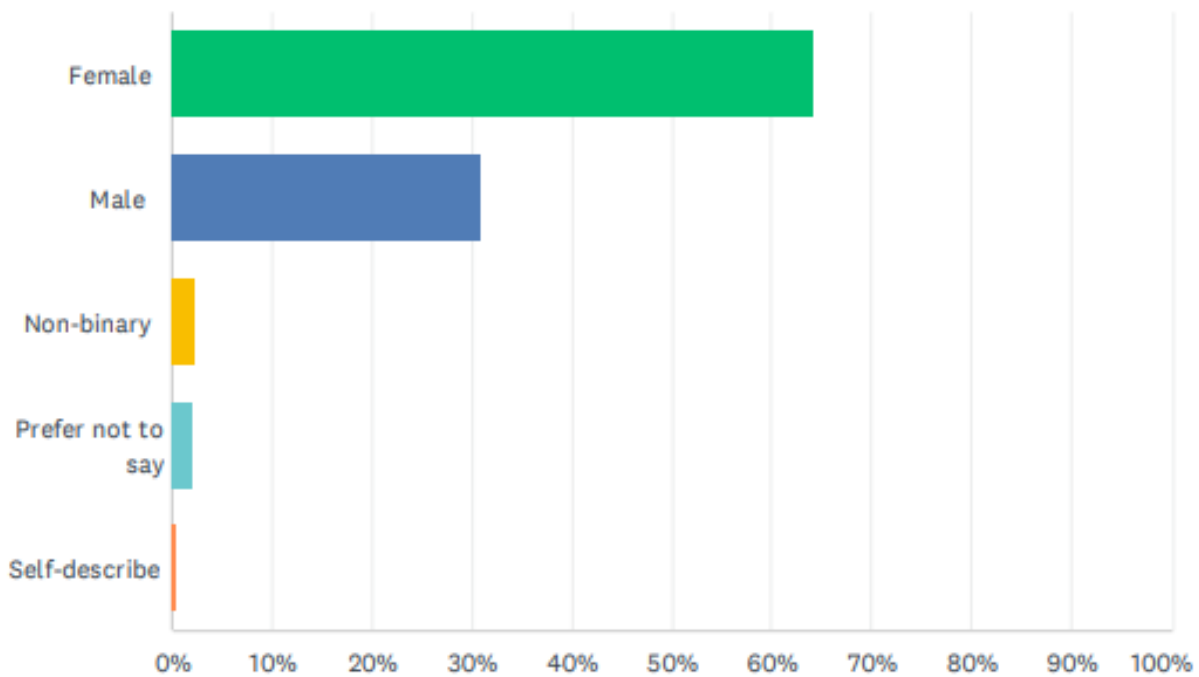
Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 0





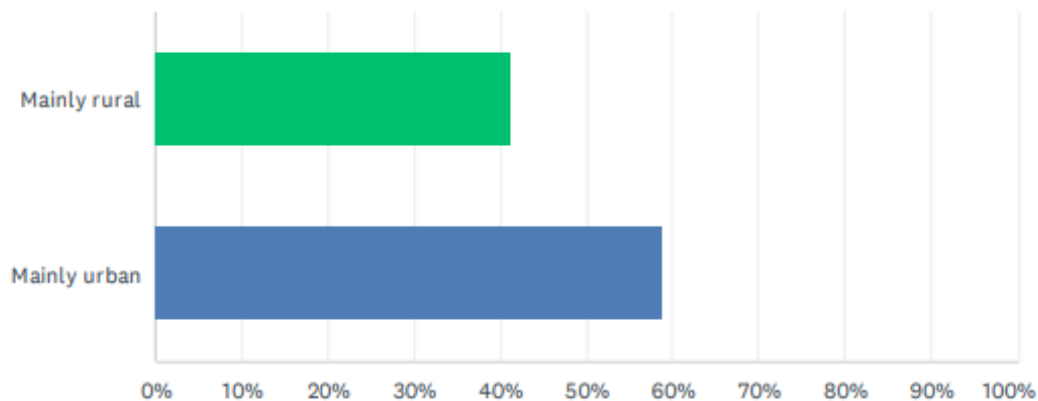
Q18 What is your gender?

Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 0



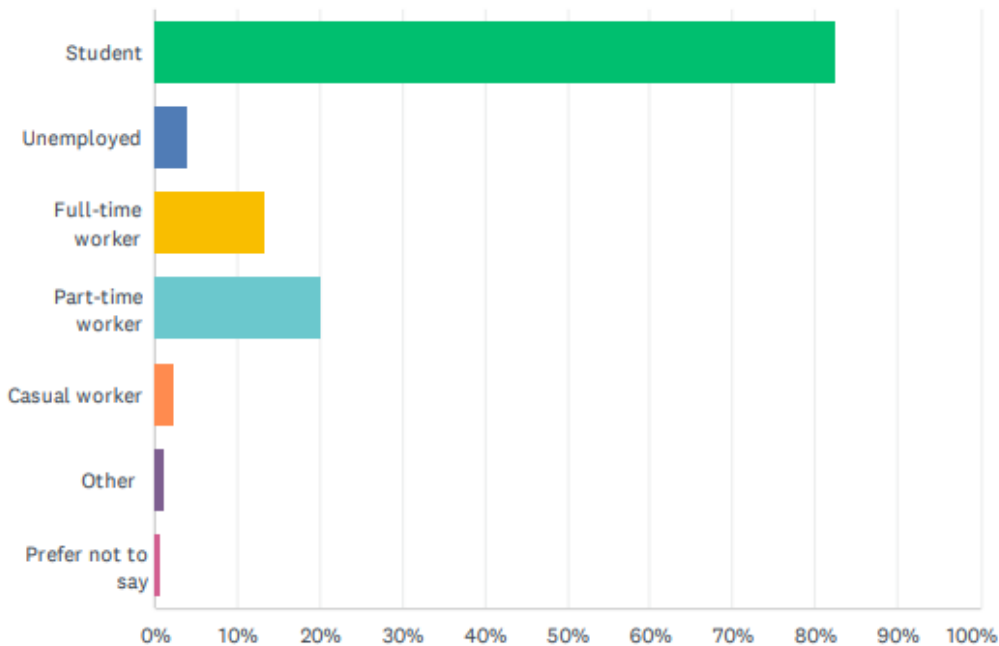
Q19 How would you describe the place where you spend the majority of your time?

Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 0



Q20 Which of these options best describes your current occupation? You can select multiple answers

Answered: 1,103 Skipped: 0



ABOUT ECO-UNESCO



ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation that works to empower young people and conserve the environment. We are a key partner of UNESCO's Global Action Programme on ESD and is a QQI accredited training centre.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

ECO-UNESCO works with young people, educators and youth leaders on environmental projects across Ireland, helping to protect and conserve the environment. Each year our programmes, workshops, events and training programmes inspire environmental action at a local level amongst young people, their peer groups, communities and beyond.

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Through our innovative peer education programmes and youth-led events, ECO-UNESCO continuously strives to better achieve our mission of using environmental education as a means of empowering young people and supporting positive personal development.

For more information visit www.ecounesco.ie

ABOUT SPUNOUT

SpunOut.ie is Ireland's youth information website created by young people, for young people.

They provide information to more than 180,000 active readers each month. Established in 2005, their vision is to help create an Ireland where young people aged between 16 and 25 are empowered with the information they need to live active, happy, and healthy lives.

SpunOut aims to educate and inform their readers about the importance of holistic wellbeing and how good health can be maintained, both physically and mentally.

They believe we should have easy access to relevant, reliable, and non-judgemental information and they are proud to provide their readers with a dynamic, responsive website full of up-to-date, factual information, free of any shame or bias.

For more information visit www.spunout.ie



ECO-UNESCO
9 Burgh Quay
Dublin 2
Ireland

t: 00 353 1 6625491
w: ecounesco.ie



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



This survey was part of the Youth Climate Justice Challenge 2022, a project led by ECO-UNESCO in conjunction with Feachtas, No Name Club and the Young Irish Filmmakers and was funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth. The survey was carried out with the assistance of Spunout.ie.

In conjunction with
spunout