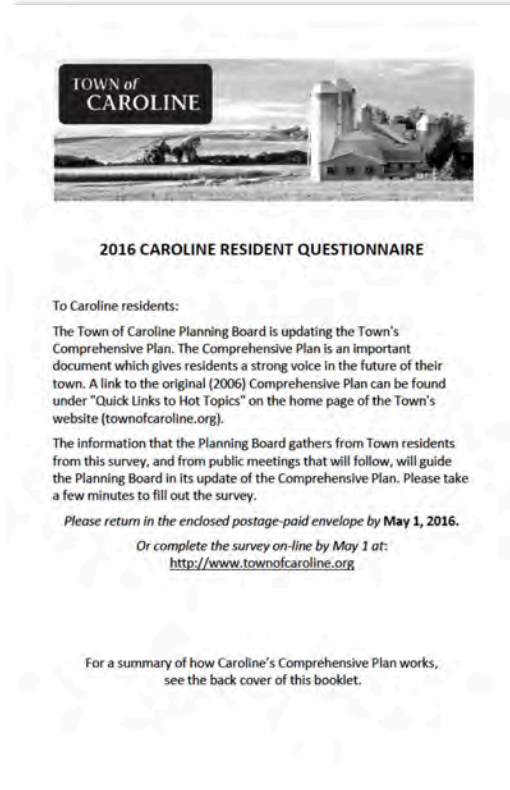


2016 CAROLINE RESIDENT SURVEY



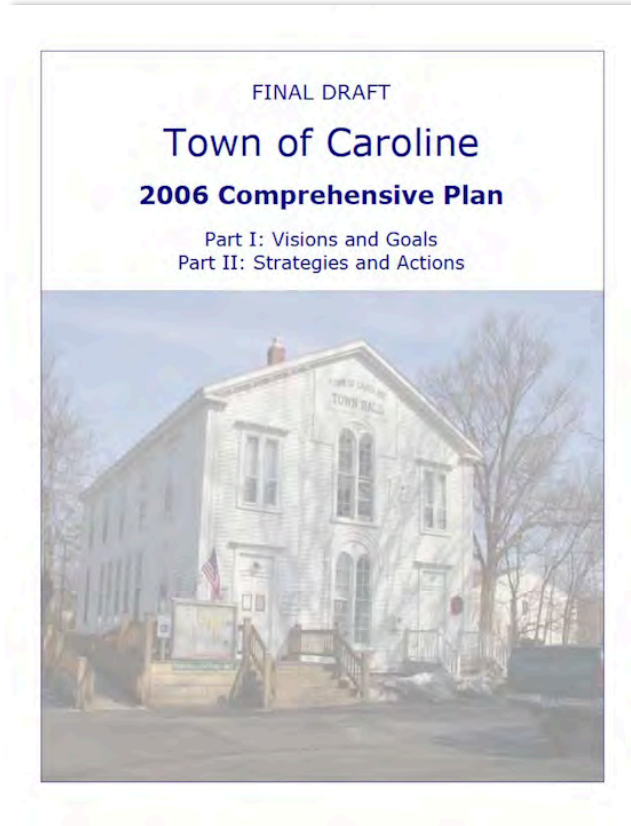
About the Survey

- The following is a summary of the Caroline Resident Survey results as prepared by the town Planning Board. It was first presented in a public meeting in early November 2016.



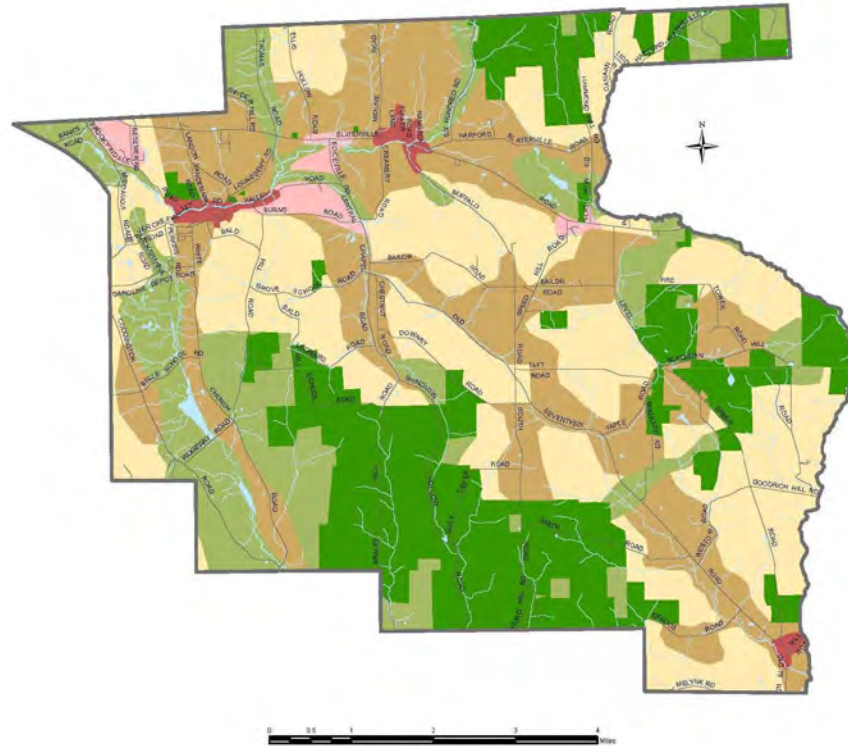
About the Survey

- The survey results are intended to guide the Planning Board as it updates the 2006 Caroline Comprehensive Plan.



About the Survey

- The survey was sent by mail to approximately 1400 households in the town. The Planning Board received nearly 380 mail-in and on-line responses, a greater than 25% response rate.



About the Survey

• **Part 1** of the survey asked residents to rate eleven plan areas as **very important, somewhat important, less important, least important, or don't know or no opinion**. These plan areas were selected from the 2006 Comprehensive Plan and from the Community Cafes that were held in 2015 by the Planning Board. The results in Section 1 will be used by the Planning Board to confirm appropriate area inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan update. The Planning Board refers to these areas as Master Plan areas.

PART 1. MAIN PLAN TOPICS

LOCAL AGRICULTURE

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Promote new ways to farm big and small
- Promote the growth of locally grown food & wood products
- Preserve high quality woodlands & agricultural lands
- Promote regeneration & sustainable forestry
- Promote agricultural practices that protect the quality of land, streams, and wildlife
- Promote appropriate infrastructure for farming and forestry enterprises to ensure adequate sources of supplies and strong markets for agricultural and lumber products

Comments/Suggest Other LOCAL AGRICULTURE Examples:

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Fields, meadows, wetlands, marshes, streams, ponds, forests
- Clean air and water; preservation of water quality and quantity and protection against environmental degradation
- State Forests/nature preserves/hiking trails; open public spaces and recreational resources
- Preserve a healthy balance between developmental growth and preserving natural resources

Comments/

Suggest Other ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES Examples:

LOCAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Support local business, retail stores, and home-based enterprise
- Increase local employment opportunities
- Support opportunities for new small and home-based businesses, central to continued viability of the town
- Promote economic development in hamlets compatible with other long-term goals
- Enhance infrastructure that supports small business enterprises

Comments/Suggest other LOCAL BUSINESS & ECONOMY Examples:

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, & RESOURCES

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Food Pantries, Clothing and Household Goods donations
- Ambulance Service
- Youth Services
- Town Historian, History Room and Historical Sites
- Library
- Seniors Programs
- School Programs
- Farmers' Markets
- Recreation Programs, Youth and Adult
- Community Center activities, festivals and other community-wide social activities

Comments/Suggest Other COMMUNITY Examples:

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Develop strategies for dealing with growth, housing, business, recreation
- Concentrate development in hamlets and away from environmental sensitive areas.

Comments/Suggest Other LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT Examples:

HOUSING

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Support community programs for weatherization, repairs, energy conservation
- Support energy-efficient building and renovation practices
- Preserve historic buildings

Comments/Suggest Other HOUSING Examples:

INFRASTRUCTURE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Roads - maintenance and snow removal
- Stream stabilization and stormwater management
- Maintenance of Town buildings & equipment
- Large item trash and recycling pickup
- Local recycling facility

Comments/

Suggest Other INFRASTRUCTURE/MUNICIPAL SERVICES Examples:

TRANSPORTATION

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Bus Service; secure bike/car parking at bus stops
- Ride Sharing
- Bike paths and lanes

Comments/Suggest Other TRANSPORTATION Examples:

OPEN SPACE

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Maintain abundance of open/undeveloped space: fields, woods, hills, wetlands, scenic views – public & private
- Promote opportunities to use outdoor spaces: trails, skiing, snowmobiling, biking, birding, observing wildlife, hunting, fishing, hiking
- Protect important natural features and open spaces such as Unique Natural Areas (UNAs) and Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs).

Comments/Suggest Other OPEN SPACE Examples:

TOWN-WIDE COMMUNICATION

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Broadband internet service
- Landline, cell and DSL phone service
- Community newsletters and listserves, Town website
- Government and Community News; Other community outreach

Comments/

Suggest Other TOWN-WIDE COMMUNICATION Examples:

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Less important
___ Least important "Don't know" or "No opinion" leave blank

Examples:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Apply sustainability principles where possible
- Foster energy-efficient communities and lifestyles
- Direct efforts and investments toward efficiency and renewable energy
- Promote cost-effective measures to make our community resilient to expected climate-change impacts

Comments/Suggest Other ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE Examples:

OTHER SUGGESTED PLAN TOPICS:

About the Survey

- **Part 2** of the survey asked residents to rate their **top three important areas** of the eleven areas. These results will help the Planning Board select specific areas that are the most important to the town and to be emphasized in the Comprehensive Plan update. The Planning Board refers to the top areas to be of significant importance and to be included in the Strategic Plan areas of the update.

PART 2. YOUR TOP PRIORITIES

In your own words tell us YOUR top three topics/concerns/actions that you believe should be Town priorities:

NOTES/COMMENTS

Please share with us any other ideas or comments you have.

If you would like to help with the Plan update, and/or be informed of upcoming meetings, please provide your contact information here.

ABOUT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

What is the Comprehensive Plan? It's a collaboration of the town's citizens on their vision for the proper direction and development of the town. It's a living document, updated every few years to keep pace with changing times.

Why do we need a Comprehensive Plan? A Comprehensive Plan is a tool with which the town can steer the future of Caroline, in keeping with the direction, needs and wants of its citizenry. The Plan needs the help of all Caroline citizens so that tomorrow and the future will continue to hold what the town sees as the most important aspects of life in Caroline.

How does it work? Through this survey and public meetings that follow, the Comprehensive Plan identifies the main aspects of life in Caroline that the Town can affect in positive ways through the actions of its government and people. It identifies priorities, goals and actions to preserve, protect, and improve.

Outside agencies interacting with the town — governmental, commercial and others — are obliged by law to take the Plan into consideration in their decisions impacting the town.

SECTION 1 RESULTS

LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	245	67
Somewhat Important	89	24
Less Important	17	5
Least Important	10	3
Don't know or No opinion	4	1
TOTAL	365	100

Examples:

Promote new ways to farm big & small

Promote the growth of locally grown food & wood products

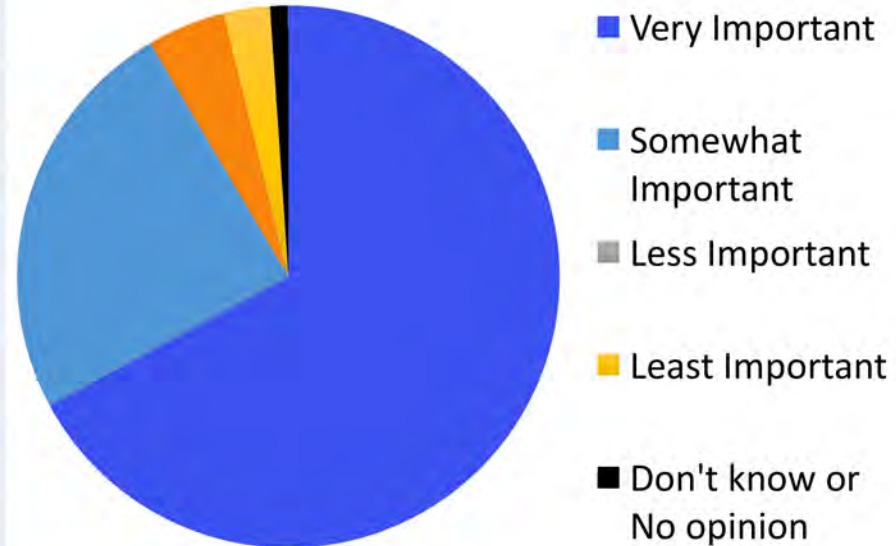
Preservation of high quality woodlands & agricultural lands

Promote regeneration & sustainable forestry

Promote agricultural practices that protect the quality of land, streams, and wildlife

Promote the preservation of the Town's most viable agricultural land

Provide appropriate infrastructure for farming and logging enterprises to ensure adequate sources of supplies and strong markets for agricultural and lumber products



ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	277	76
Somewhat Important	57	16
Less Important	15	4
Least Important	10	3
Don't know or No opinion	3	1
TOTAL	362	100

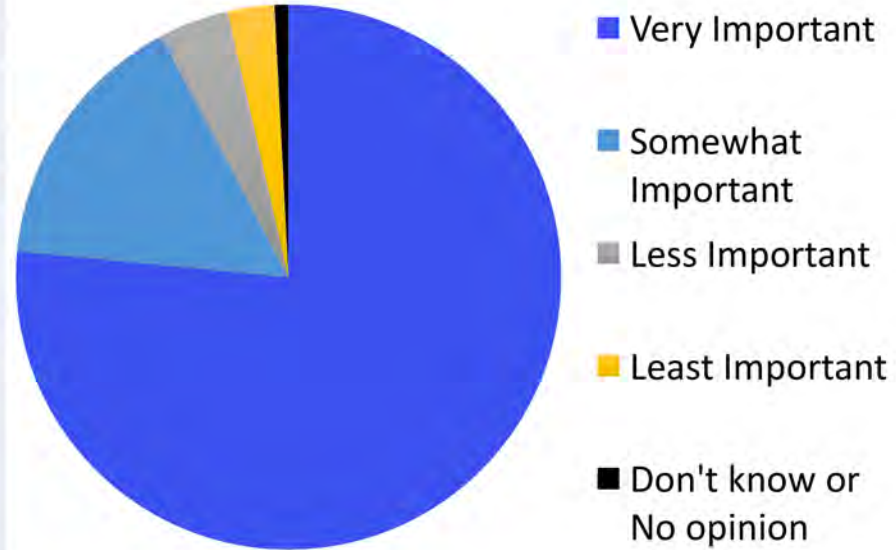
Examples:

Fields, meadows, wetlands, marshes, streams, ponds, forest

Clean air and water; preservation of water quality and quantity

Protect against environmental degradation

State forests/nature preserves/hiking trails; open public spaces and recreational resources; healthy balance between developmental growth and preservation of natural resources



LOCAL BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	176	49
Somewhat Important	116	32
Less Important	49	14
Least Important	19	5
Don't know or No opinion	0	0
TOTAL	360	100

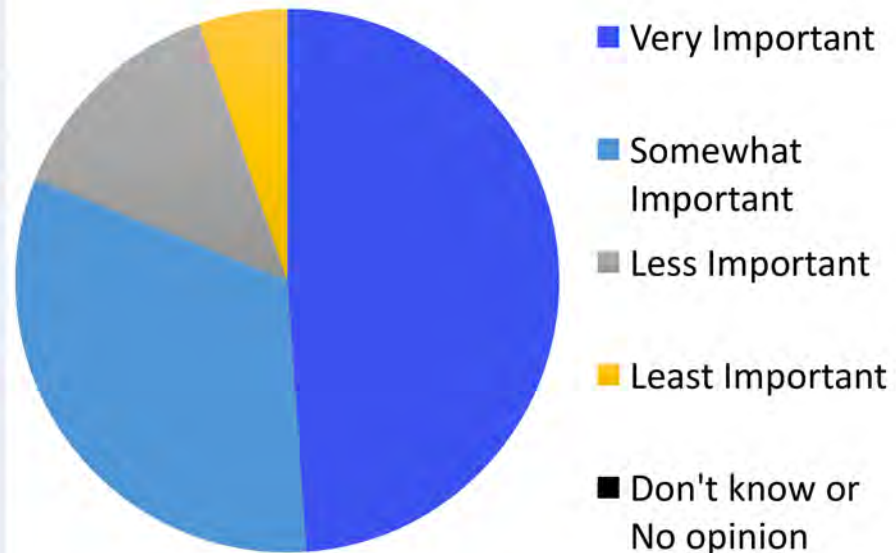
Examples:

Support local business, retail stores, and home-based enterprises

Increase local employment opportunities

Support opportunities for new small and home-based businesses

Promote economic development in hamlets compatible with other long term goals; enhance infrastructure that supports small business enterprises

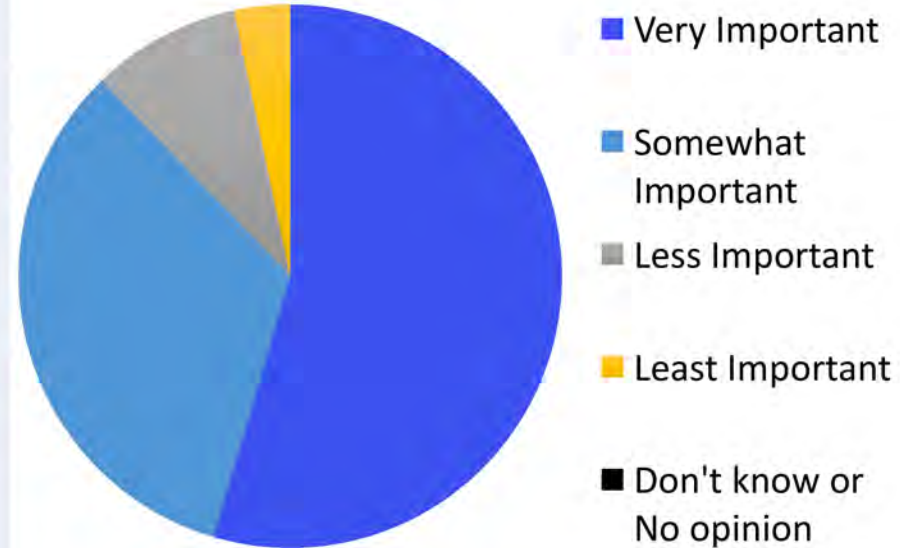


COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, & RESOURCES

Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	197	55
Somewhat Important	120	33
Less Important	32	9
Least Important	12	3
Don't know or No opinion	0	0
TOTAL	361	100

Examples:

Food pantries, clothing, and household goods donations for those in need
Ambulance service
Youth services
Town Historian, history room, and historical sites
Library
Seniors programs
Farmers' markets
Recreation programs, youth and adult
Community Center activities, festivals, and other community-wide social activities



LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

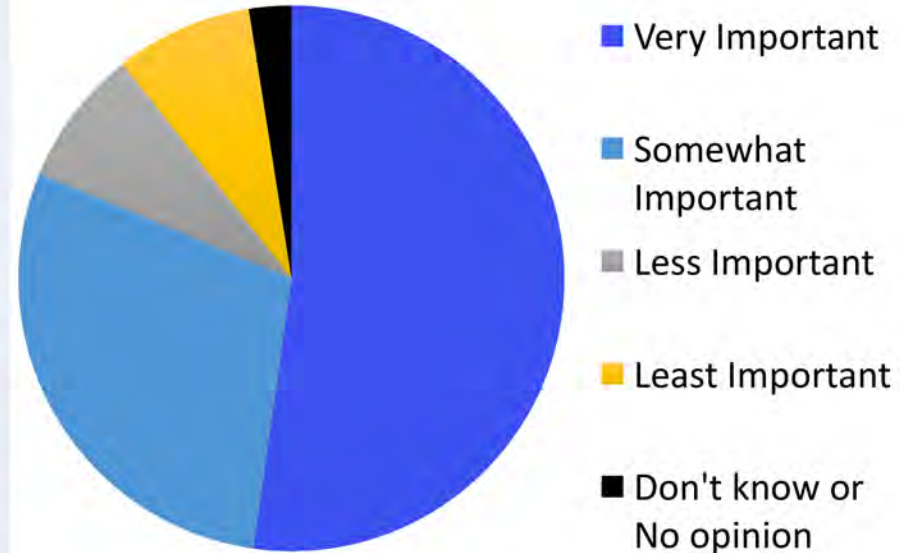
Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	187	52
Somewhat Important	104	29
Less Important	29	8
Least Important	29	8
Don't know or No opinion	9	3
TOTAL	358	100

Examples:

Develop strategies for dealing with growth, housing, business, and recreation

Concentrate development in hamlets and away from environmentally sensitive areas, such as Unique Natural Areas

Provide recreational opportunities on protected public open space consistent with designated uses



HOUSING

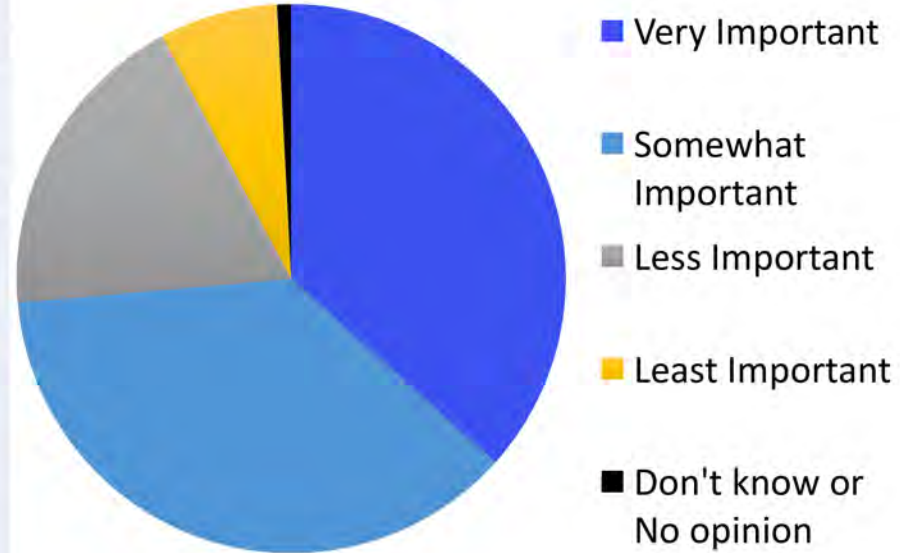
Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	132	37
Somewhat Important	133	37
Less Important	67	19
Least Important	25	7
Don't know or No opinion	3	1
TOTAL	360	100

Examples:

Support community programs for weatherization, repairs, energy, and energy conservation

Support energy-efficient building and renovation practices

Preserve historic buildings



INFRASTRUCTURE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	233	65
Somewhat Important	86	24
Less Important	33	9
Least Important	5	1
Don't know or No opinion	2	1
TOTAL	359	100

Examples:

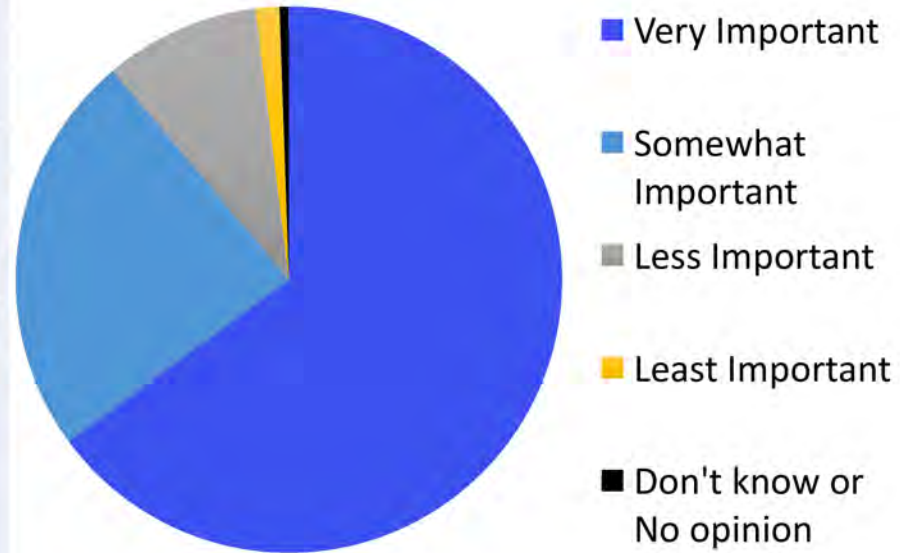
Roads — maintenance and snow removal

Stream stabilization and stormwater management

Maintenance of Town buildings and equipment

Large item trash and recycling pickup

Local recycling facility



TRANSPORTATION

Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	126	34
Somewhat Important	119	32
Less Important	66	18
Least Important	55	15
Don't know or No opinion	5	1
TOTAL	371	100

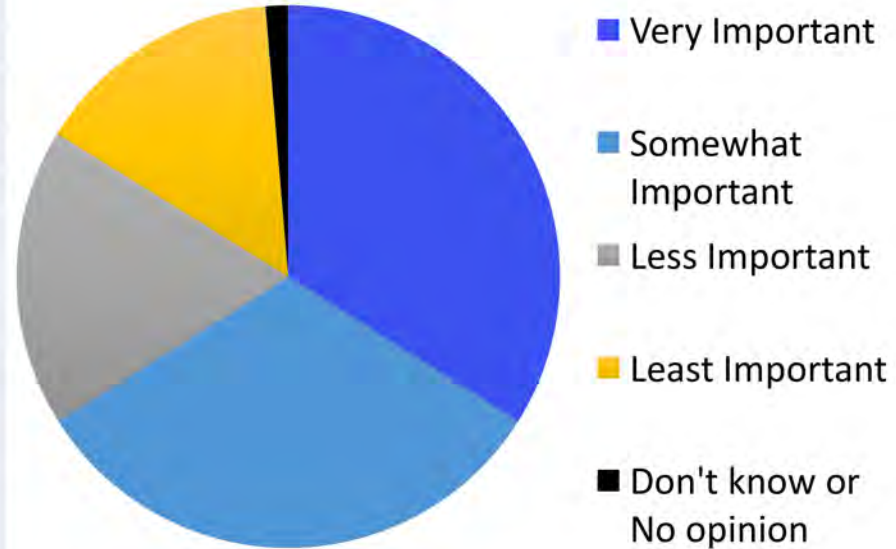
Examples:

Bus service

Ride sharing

Bike paths and lanes

Secure bicycle/car parking at bus stops



OPEN SPACE

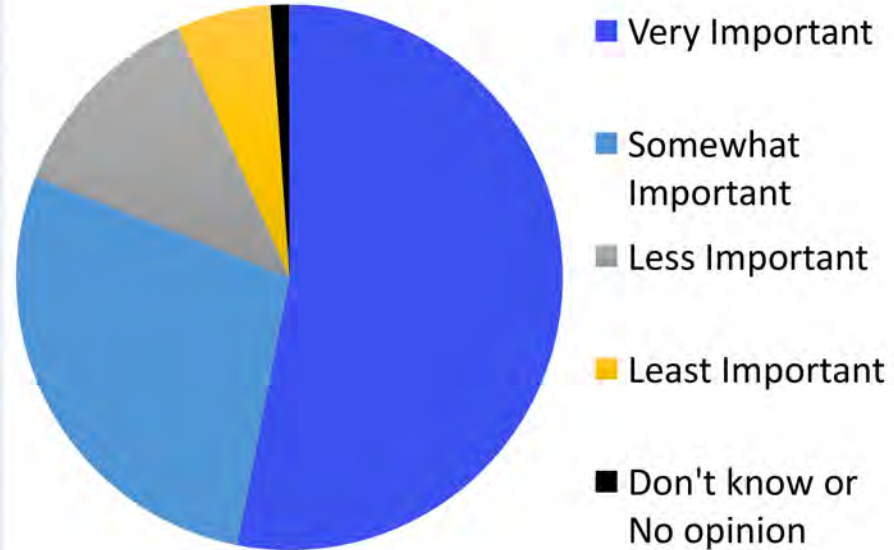
Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	190	53
Somewhat Important	100	28
Less Important	44	12
Least Important	20	6
Don't know or No opinion	4	1
TOTAL	358	100

Examples:

Maintain abundance of open/undeveloped space: fields, woods, hills, wetlands, scenic views

Promote opportunities to use outdoor spaces: trails, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, biking, birding, hunting, fishing

Protect important natural features such as Unique Natural Areas (UNAs) and Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs)



TOWN-WIDE COMMUNICATION

Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	168	47
Somewhat Important	121	34
Less Important	43	12
Least Important	26	7
Don't know or No opinion	3	1
TOTAL	361	100

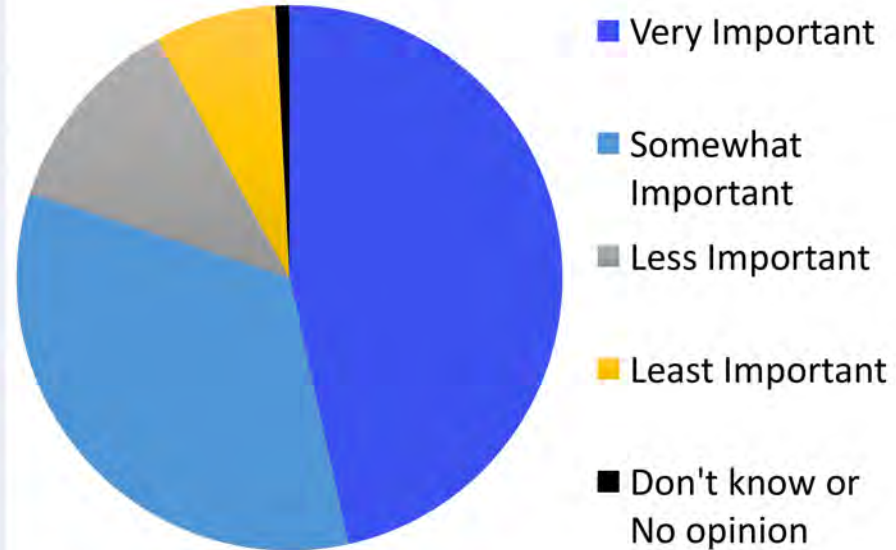
Examples:

Broadband internet service

Landline and DSL phone service

Community newsletters and listserves, Town website,
Government and Community news

Other community outreach



ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Answer Options	Total Count	%
Very Important	177	50
Somewhat Important	78	22
Less Important	39	11
Least Important	55	15
Don't know or No opinion	6	2
TOTAL	355	100

Examples:

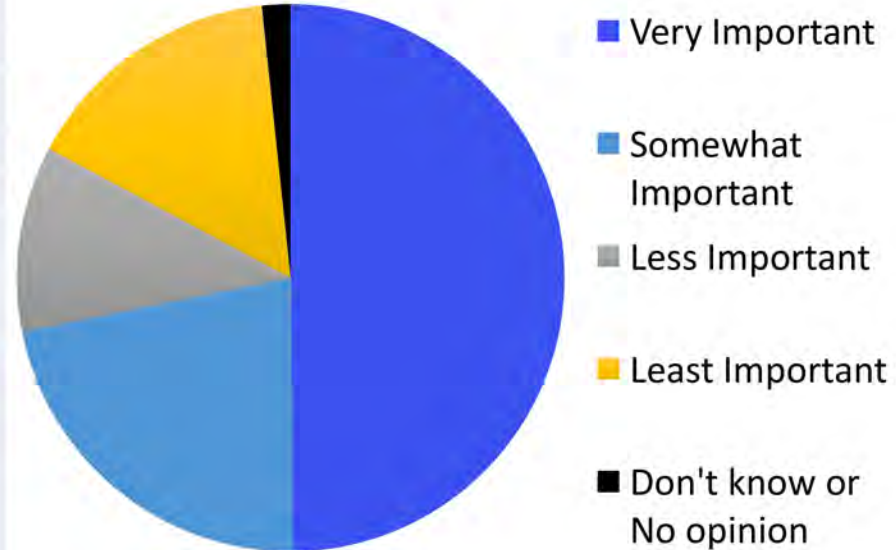
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Apply sustainability principles where possible

Foster energy-efficient communities and lifestyles

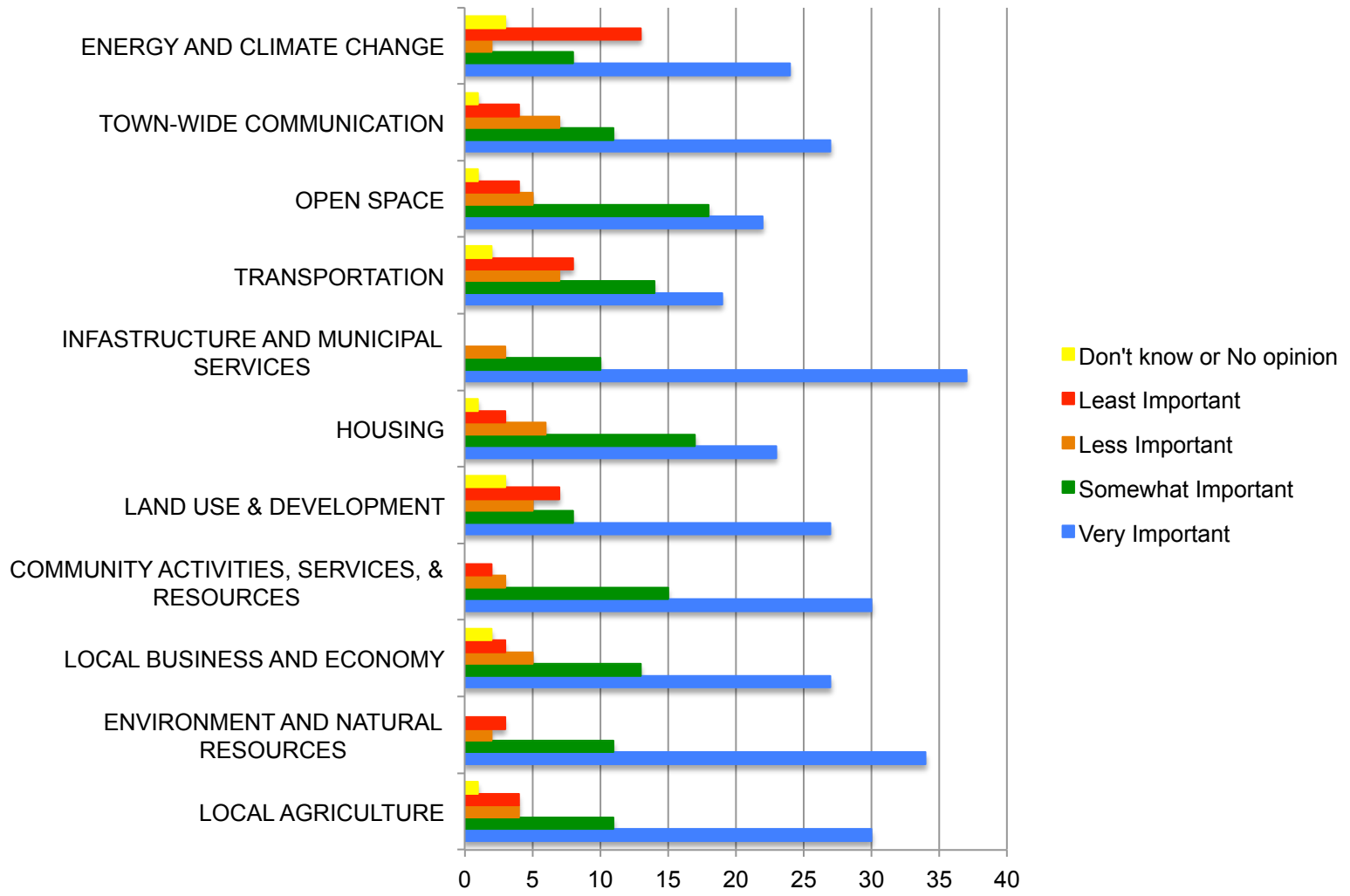
Direct efforts and investments toward efficiency and renewable energy

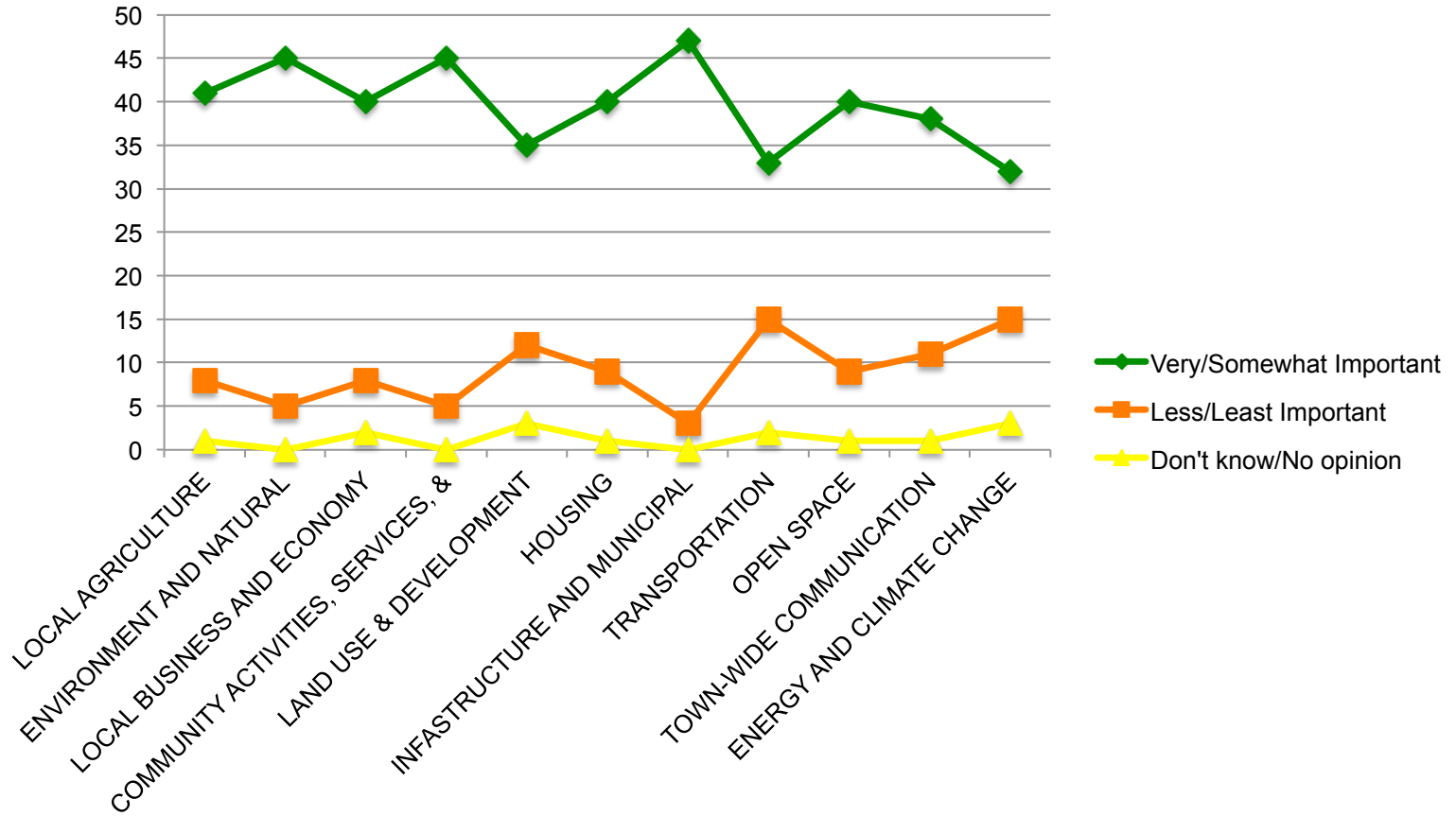
Promote cost-effective measures to make our community resilient to expected climate change impacts



TOPIC AREA	PERCENT FAVORABLE*
TRANSPORTATION	66.0
ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE	71.8
HOUSING	73.6
TOWN-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS	80.1
OPEN SPACE	81.0
LOCAL BUSINESS & ECONOMY	81.1
LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT	81.3
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SERVICE, & RESOURCES	87.8
INFRASTRUCTURE & MUNICIPAL SERVICES	88.9
LOCAL AGRICULTURE	91.5
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES	92.3

Percent Favorable = Percent Very Important + Percent Somewhat Important





SECTION 2 RESULTS

Percent Favorable vs. Top Three Priorities

Topic Area	Percent Favorable*	Top Three Priorities**
HOUSING	73.60	10
TRANSPORTATION	66.00	21
ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE	71.80	36
LOCAL BUSINESS & ECONOMY	81.10	37
TOWN-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS	80.10	38
OPEN SPACE	81.00	40
INFRASTRUCTURE & MUNICIPAL SERVICES	88.90	54
LOCAL AGRICULTURE	91.50	55
LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT	81.30	55
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SERVICES & RESOURCES	87.80	63
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES	92.30	90

* Percent Favorable = Percent Very Important + Percent Somewhat Important

** Number of times survey area was mentioned in one of the Top Three Priority categories

Percent Favorable vs. Top Three Priorities

