

2016

Caroline Resident Survey

The Survey

- This is a summary of the Caroline Resident Survey results prepared by the Planning Board.
- The survey results will guide the Planning Board as it updates the Caroline Comprehensive Plan.
- The survey was sent by mail to some 1400 households in the town. The Planning Board received nearly 380 mail-in and on-line responses, a greater than 25% response rate.

The Survey – Section 1

- 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 last year 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.

The Survey – Section 2

- In the second section of the survey residents were asked 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.

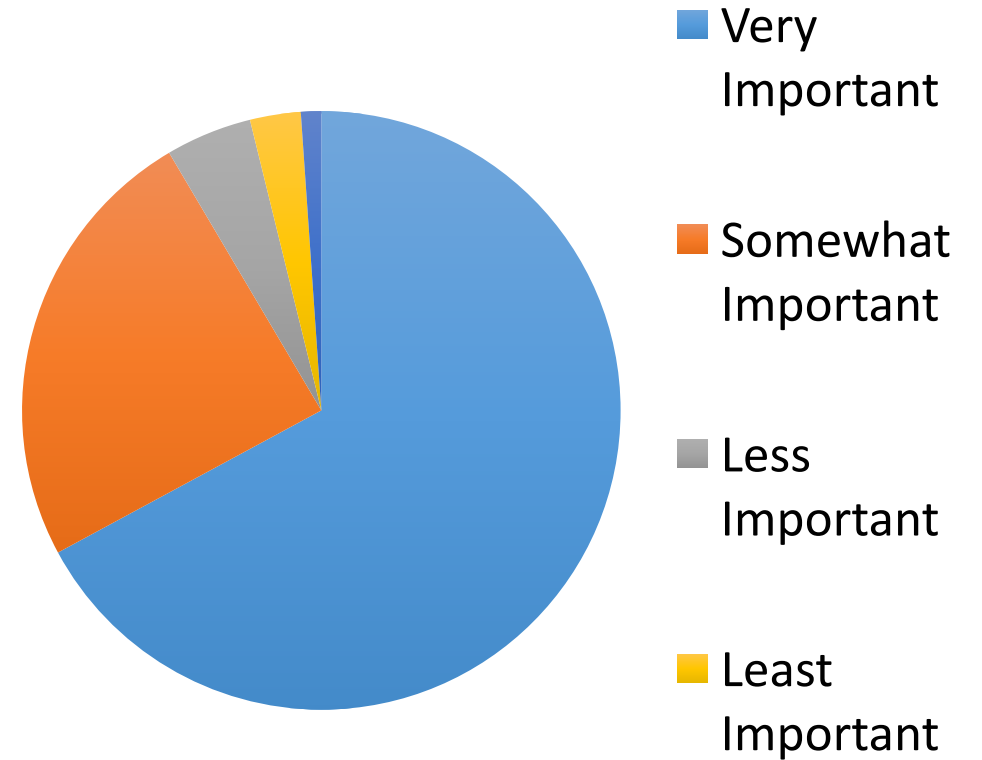
Section 1 Results

LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Answer Options	Total Count
Very Important	245
Somewhat Important	89
Less Important	17
Least Important	10
Don't know or No opinion	4
TOTAL	365

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 AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Answer Options	Mailing Count
Very Important	277
Somewhat Important	57
Less Important	15
Least Important	10
Don't know or No opinion	3
TOTAL	362

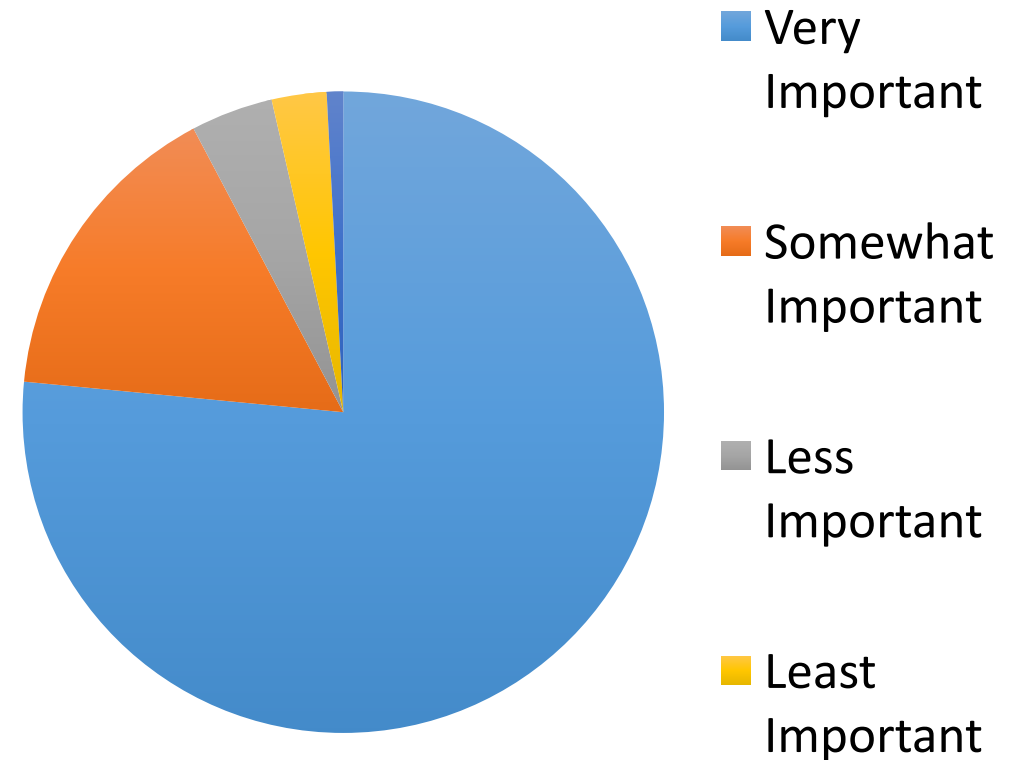
Examples:

Fields, meadows, wetlands, marshes, streams, ponds, forests

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 AND ECONOMY

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

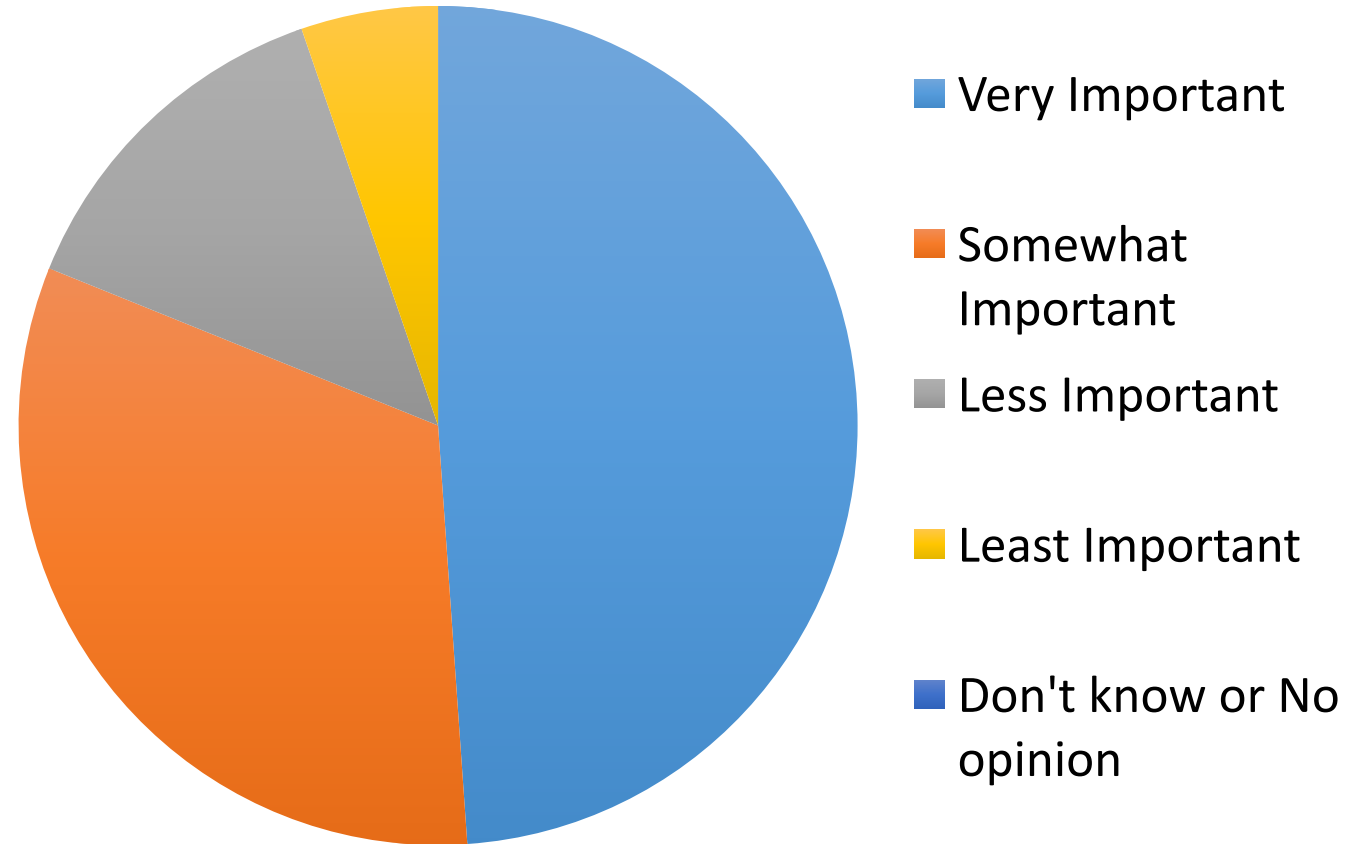
Examples:

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
Somewhat Important	120
Less Important	32
Least Important	12
Don't know or No opinion	0
TOTAL	361

Examples:

Food Pantries, Clothing and Household Goods donations for those in need

Ambulance Service

Youth Services

Town Historian, History Room and Historical Sites

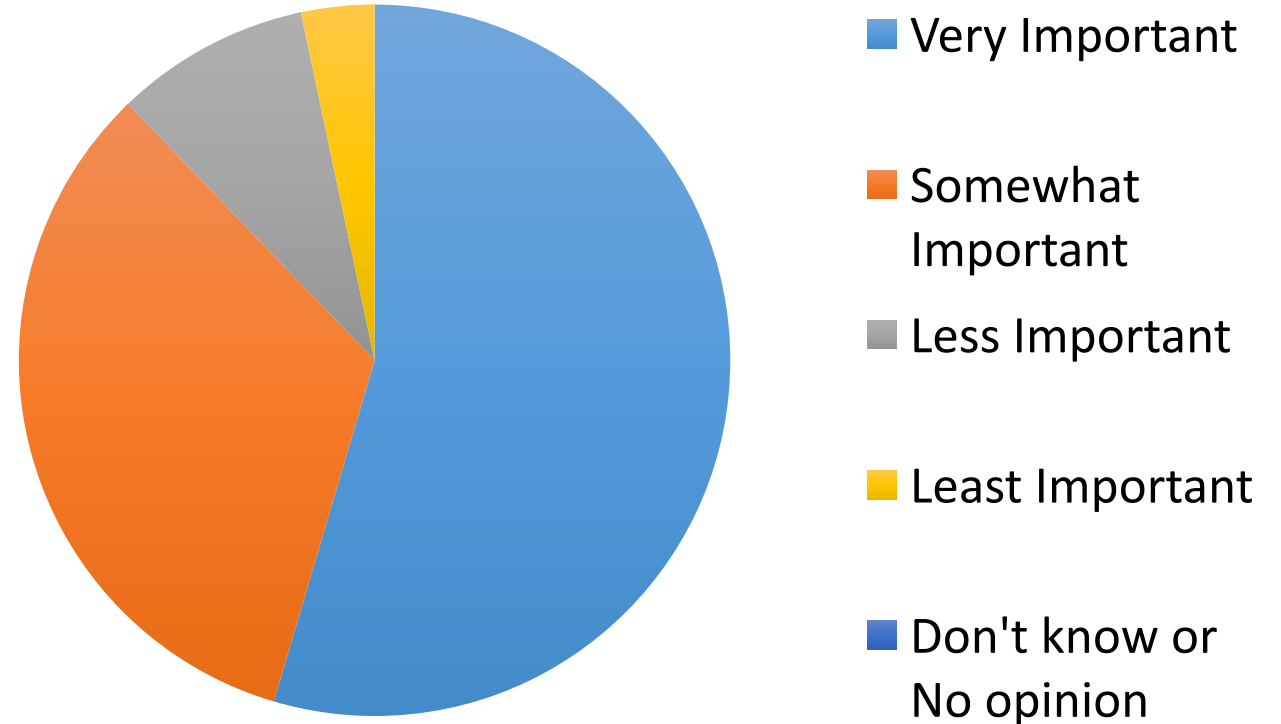
Library

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
Somewhat Important	104
Less Important	29
Least Important	29
Don't know or No opinion	9
TOTAL	358

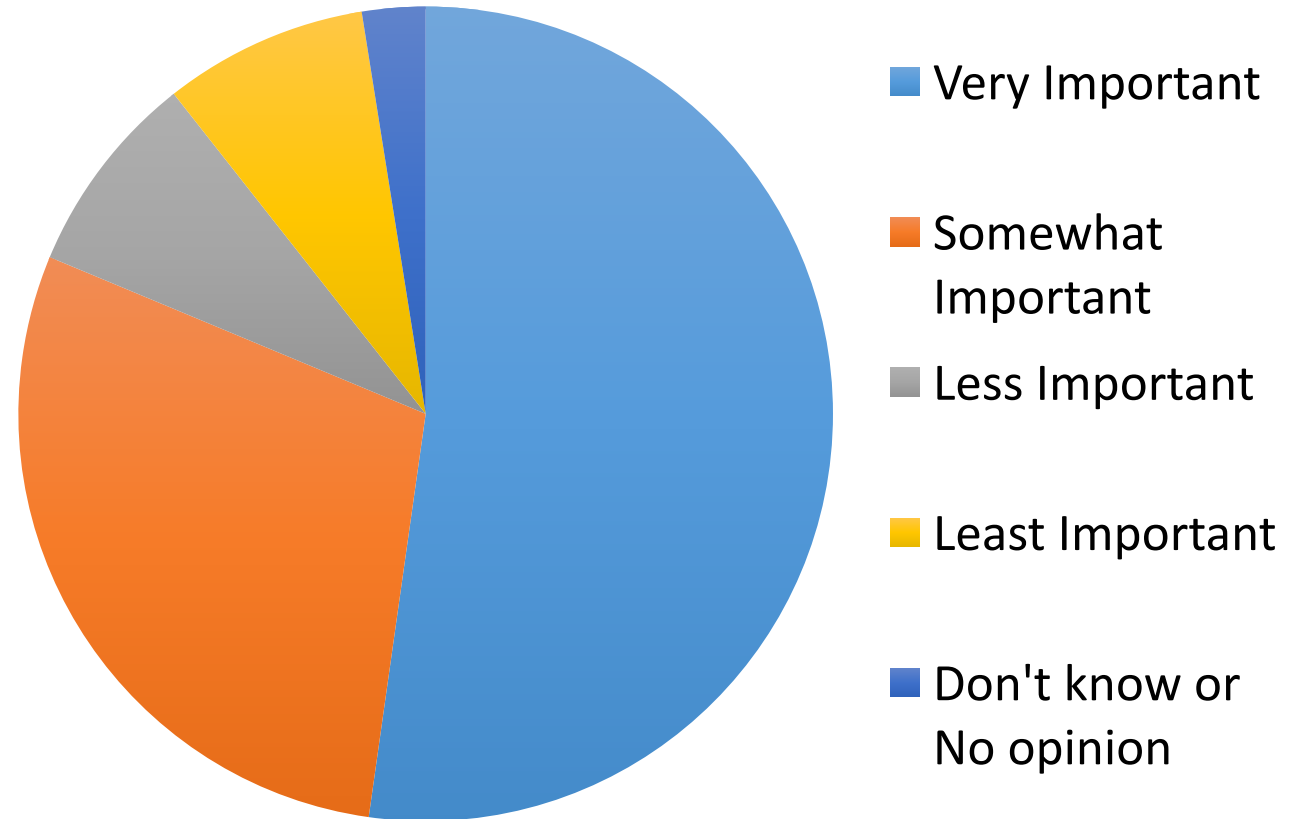
Examples:

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

Concentrate development in hamlets & away from environmentally sensitive areas, such as Unique

Natural Areas

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



HOUSING

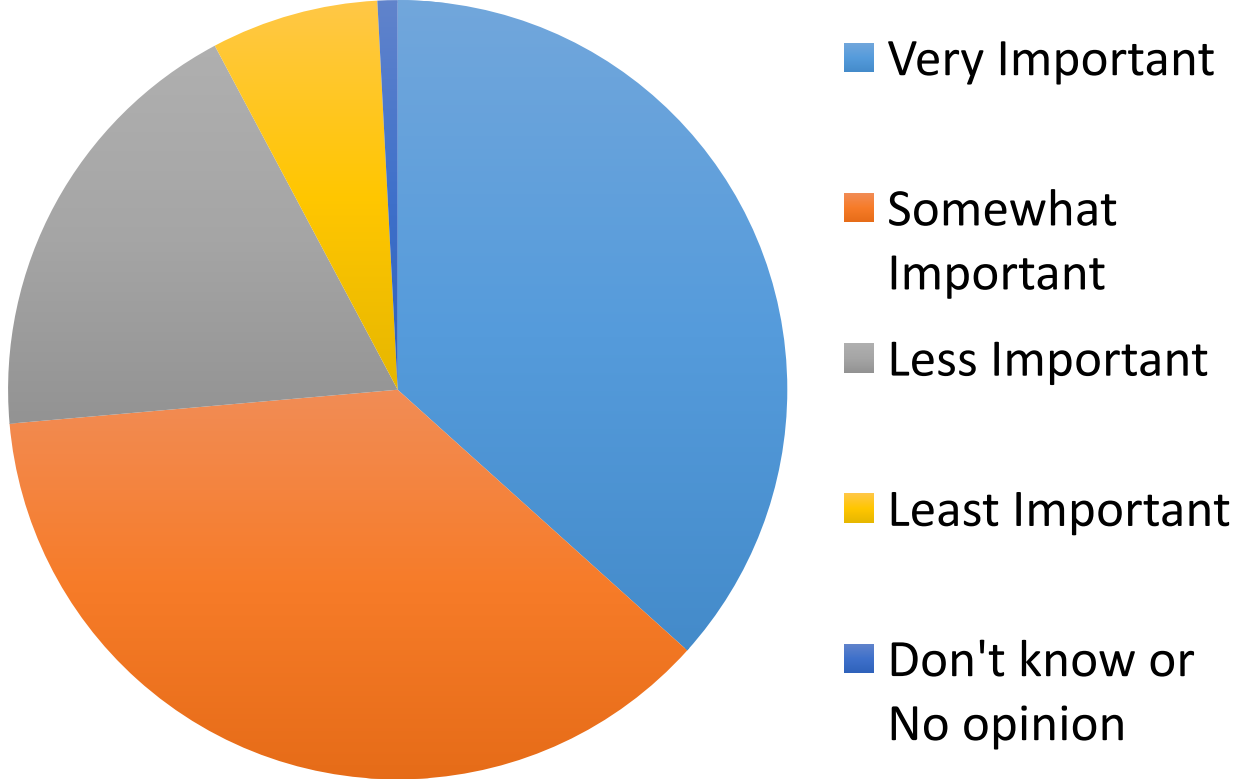
Answer Options	Totalg Count
Very Important	132
Somewhat Important	133
Less Important	67
Least Important	25
Don't know or No opinion	3
TOTAL	360

Examples:

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

Support energy-efficient building and renovation practices

Preserve historic buildings



INFASTRUCTURE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Answer Options	Total Count
Very Important	233
Somewhat Important	86
Less Important	33
Least Important	5
Don't know or No opinion	2
TOTAL	359

Examples:

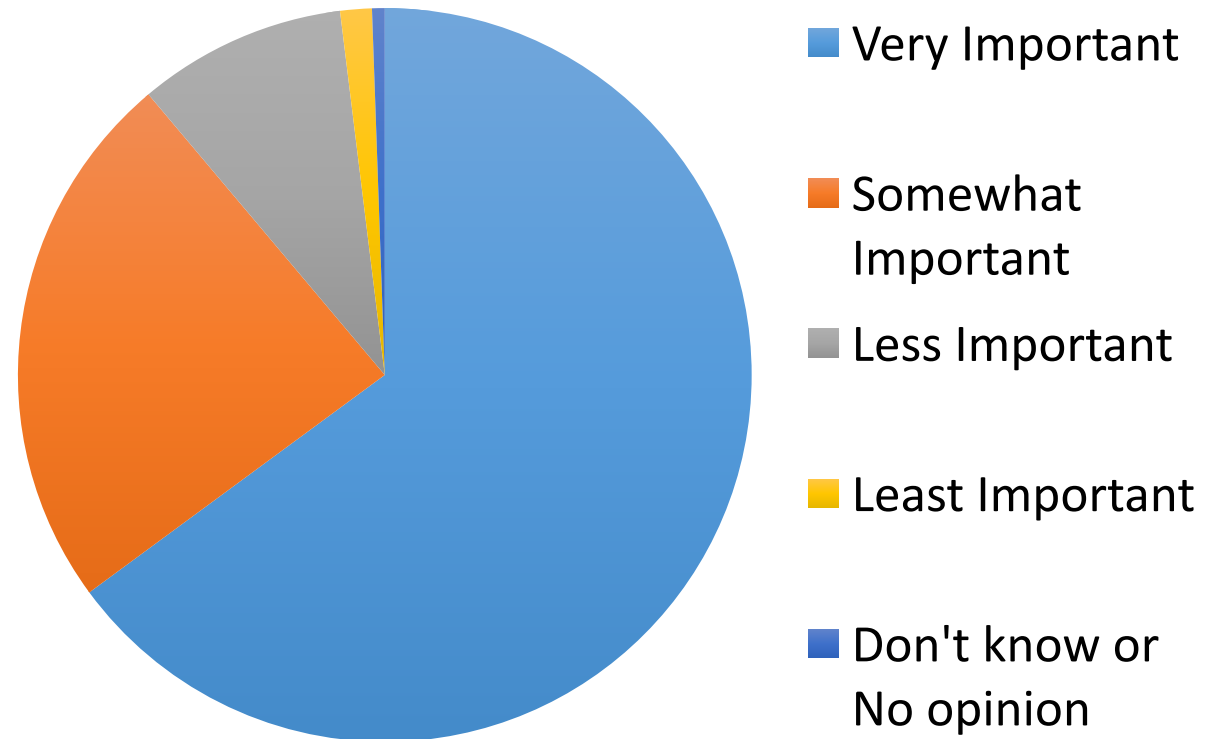
Roads - maintenance and snow removal

Stream stabilization and stormwater management

Maintenance of Town buildings and equipment

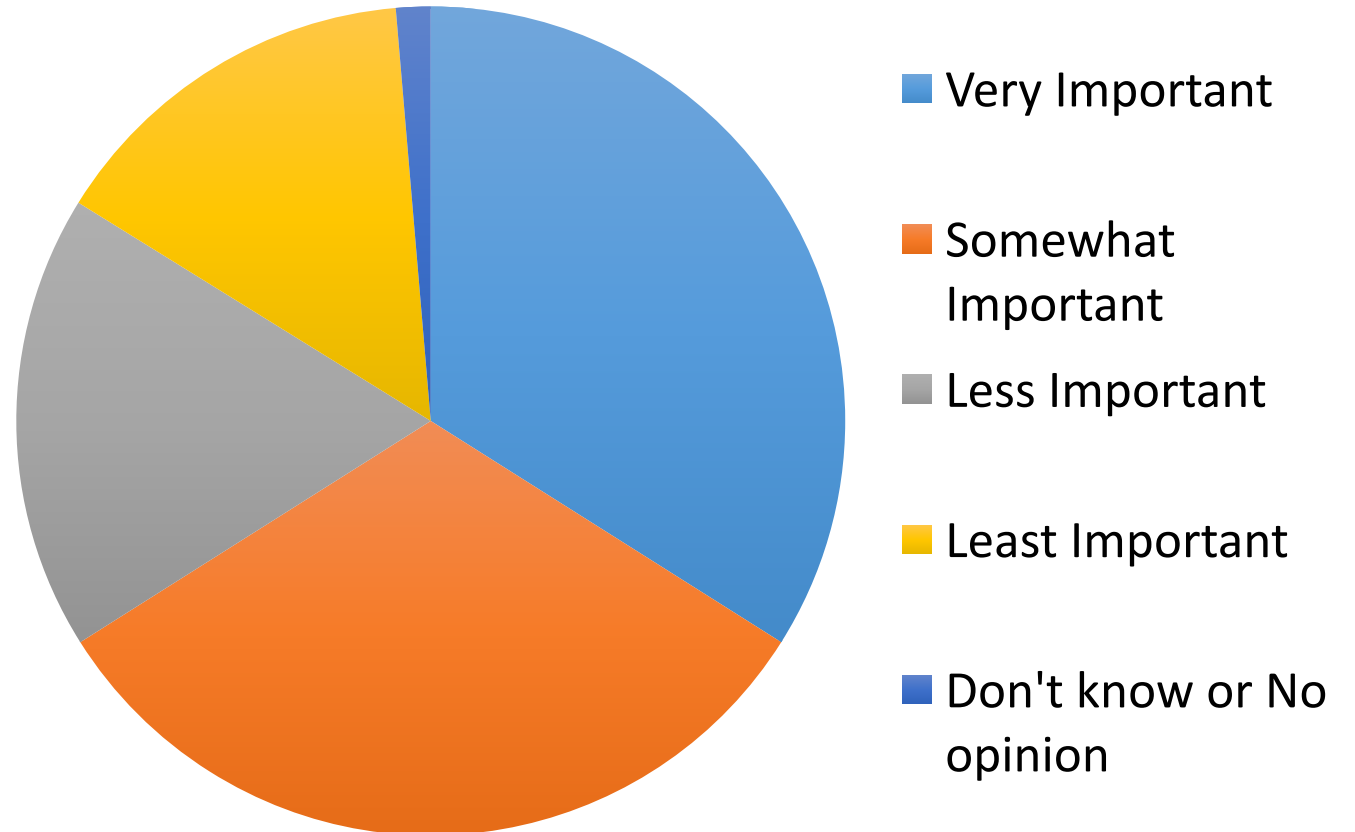
Large item trash and recycling pickup

Local recycling facility



TRANSPORTATION

Answer Options	Total Count
Very Important	126
Somewhat Important	119
Less Important	66
Least Important	55
Don't know or No opinion	5
TOTAL	371
Examples:	
Bus service	
Ride sharing	
Bike paths and lanes	
Secure bike/car parking at bus stops	



OPEN SPACE

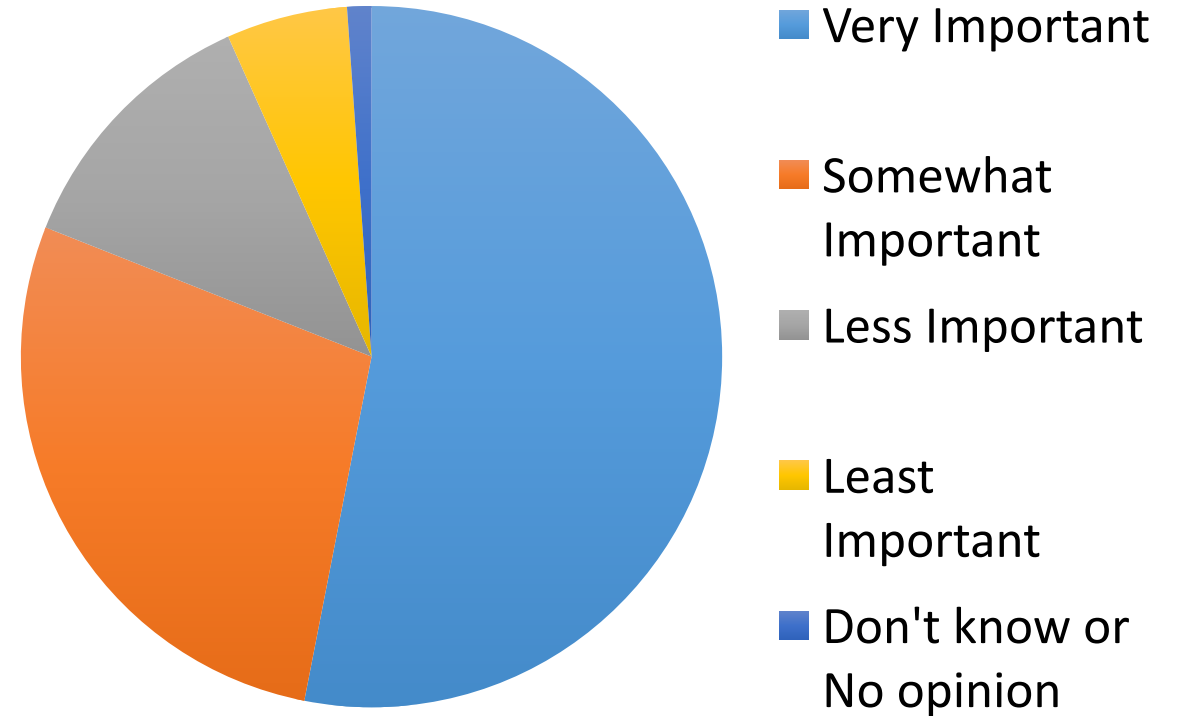
Answer Options	Total Count
Very Important	190
Somewhat Important	100
Less Important	44
Least Important	20
Don't know or No opinion	4
TOTAL	358

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
Somewhat Important	121
Less Important	43
Least Important	26
Don't know or No opinion	3
TOTAL	361

Examples:

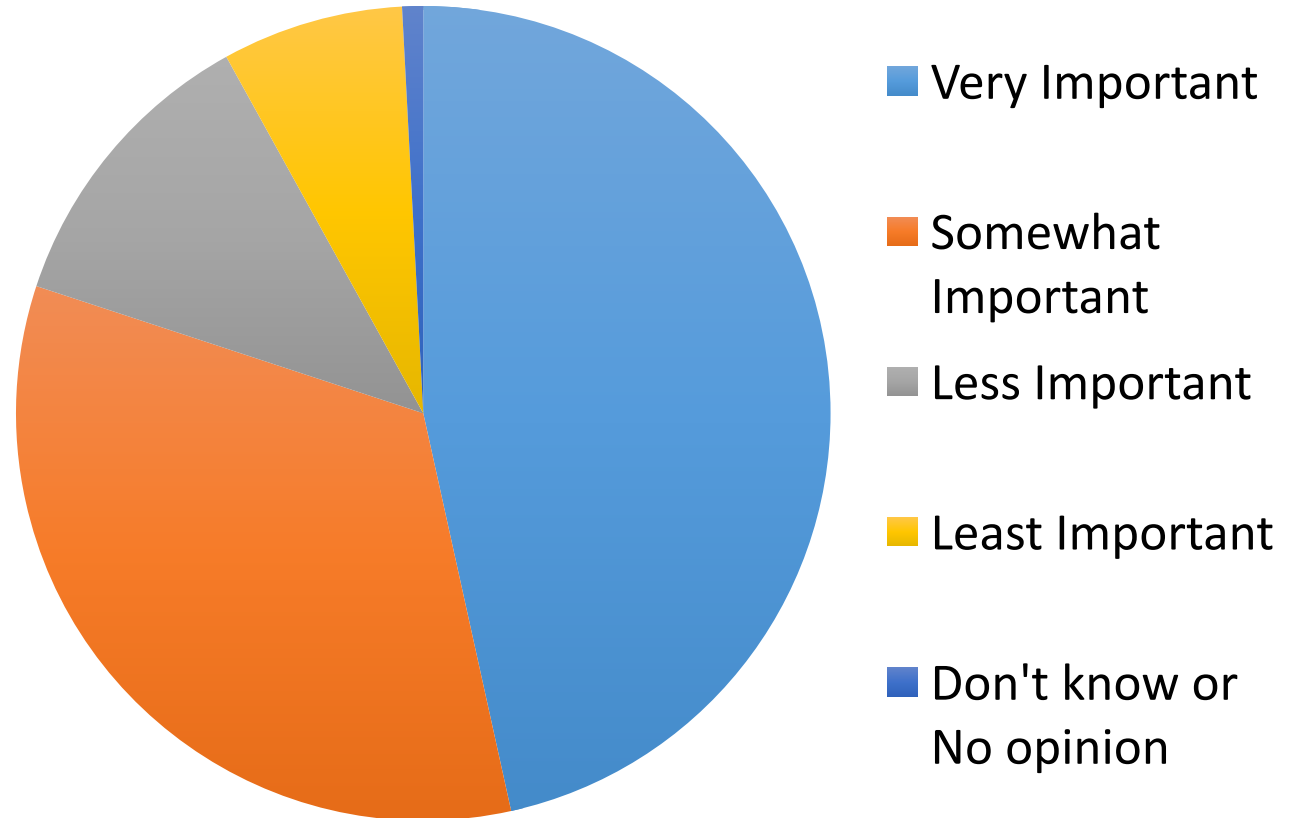
Broadband internet service

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
Somewhat Important	78
Less Important	39
Least Important	55
Don't know or No opinion	6
TOTAL	355

Examples:

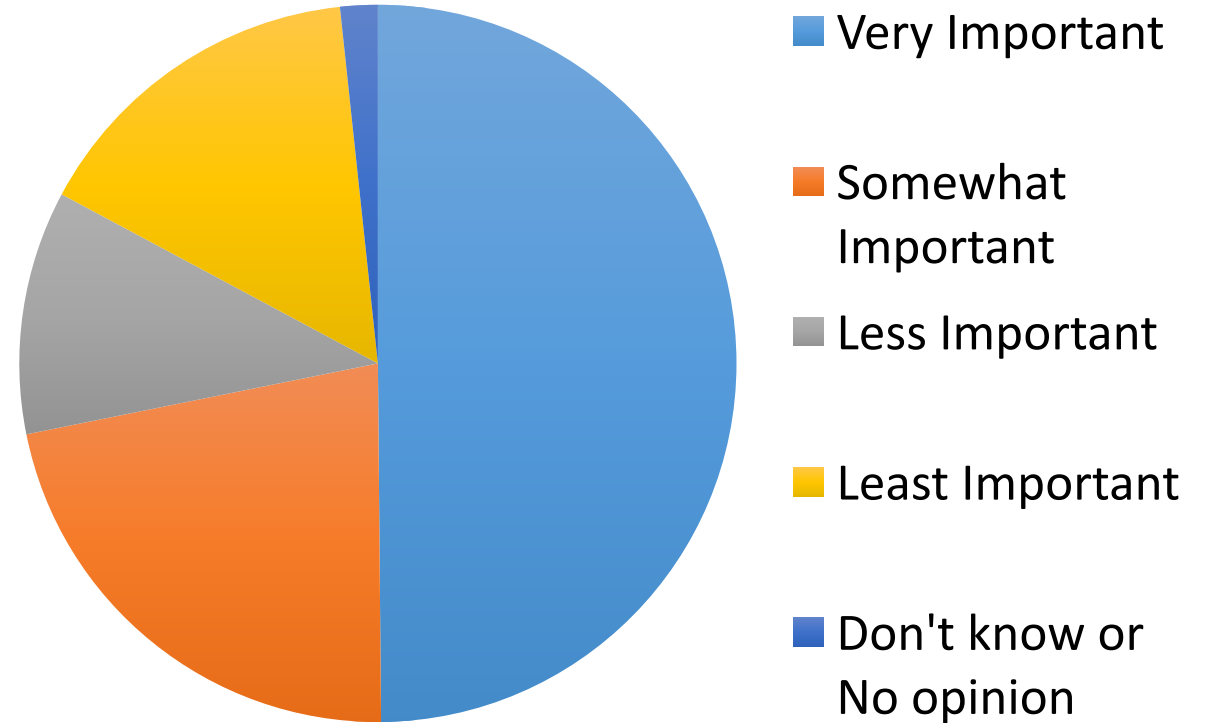
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Apply sustainability principles where possible

Foster energy-efficient communities and lifestyles

Direct efforts and investments toward efficiency and renewable energy

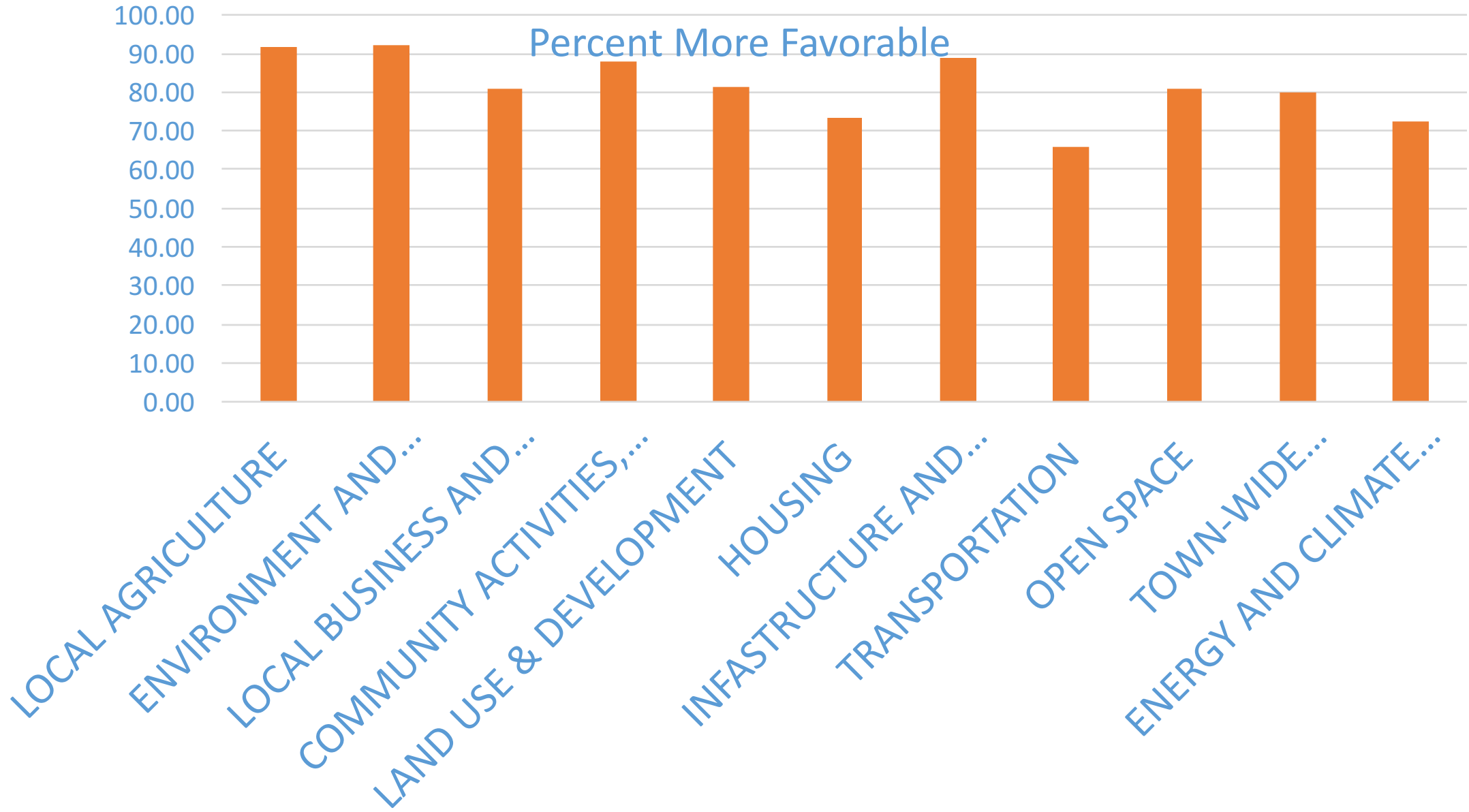
Promote cost-effective measures to make our community resilient to expected climate change impacts



Percent Favorable

Topic Area	Percent Favorable*			
HOUSING	73.60			
TRANSPORTATION	66.00			
ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE	71.80			
LOCAL BUSINESS & ECONOMY	81.10			
TOWN-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS	80.10			
OPEN SPACE	81.00			
INFRASTRUCTURE & MUNICIPAL SERVICES	88.90			
LOCAL AGRICULTURE	91.50			
LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT	81.30			
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SERVICES & RESOURCES	87.80			
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES	92.30			

* Percent Favorable = Percent Very Important + Percent Somewhat Important



Section 2 Results

Top Three Priorities			
Topic Area		Top Three Priorities*	
HOUSING		10	
TRANSPORTATION		21	
ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE		36	
LOCAL BUSINESS & ECONOMY		37	
TOWN-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS		38	
OPEN SPACE		40	
INFRASTRUCTURE & MUNICIPAL SERVICES		54	
LOCAL AGRICULTURE		55	
LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT		55	
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SERVICES & RESOURCES		63	
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES		90	

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

TOP THREE PRIORITIES
AND FAVORABILITY

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

