

# Nottingham City Council

## Carbon Neutral Consultation Report May 2020



Safer, cleaner, ambitious  
**Nottingham**  
A city we're all proud of



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

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## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Overall, there were 580 responses to the survey, with 10 responses received via email or letter and over 300 people were consulted in person at events across the city.
- This report outlines all the findings of the survey, engagement events and comments received as well as themes identified.
- The first step of this process was an eight-week citywide consultation, from January to March 2020, which gathered feedback on the draft Action Plan.
- Residents, workers, visitors, businesses and other organisations have provided their views on Nottingham's ambition of sustainable carbon neutrality, and the actions to deliver this.
- The consultation responses show some of the main ways local organisations are acting already:
  - Energy conservation initiatives (75%)
  - Corporate/board commitment to sustainability (75%)
  - Company travel plan encourage public transport, walking, cycling (71.4%)
- Citizens are contributing towards tackling the climate and ecological emergency by:
  - Recycling (98.4%)
  - Saving energy (88.2%)
  - Growing Plants at home (77.3%)
- The consultation found a high level of support (9 out of 10 respondents) for the Council's 2028 ambition, as well as the objectives and suggested actions to get there.
- The four objectives of the 2028 charter were supported with over 95% of respondents strongly agree/agree. Additionally, 90% (or over) of respondents strongly agree/agree with the objectives for:
  - waste and water
  - built environment
  - resilience and adaptation
- The 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan is a platform to build upon through ongoing engagement and co-creation towards a sustainable carbon neutrality Nottingham. This feedback will be used to strength citywide action and ensure that the Action Plan puts citizens at its heart.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- Nottingham City Council has already reduced city wide CO2 emissions by above 41% since 2005, surpassing previous carbon reduction targets. However, the city still emitted 1.17 million tonnes of CO2 in 2017, enough to drive the average car 6 billion miles!
- Nottingham must go further to reduce emissions and lower its carbon footprint to play our part in preventing a dangerously warmer world. The draft Carbon Neutral Action Plan builds on the Nottingham 2028 Carbon Neutral Charter by setting out high-level objectives in order to achieve a resilient and sustainable carbon-neutral Nottingham by 2028.
- An Action Plan has been devised to meet the 2028 target. This plan sets out where we in Nottingham need to go, and focusses on the actions the Council and others can start to take now. This provides an approach and platform to build on.
- People's views were sought on how the Carbon Neutral Charter and the action plan from 20 January to 15 March 2020, through an online survey, with paper surveys provided on request. A Toolkit was devised to use at range of engagement events throughout the city, with Councillors trained to use the toolkit to support in the delivery at a local level.
- A number of events and workshops were undertaken.

Science fun day – Aspley library	International Womans Day – Council House
Science fun day – Hyson Green Library	NTU Intergenerational Workshop X2
Science fun day – St Ann's library	Primary Parliament and Cabinet Autumn and Spring
Light Night – Cobden Café	Youth Council and Youth cabinet
Wollaton Park family fun day – Wollaton Hall day 1 and 2	Nottingham sustainability forum: Delivering a Carbon Neutral City

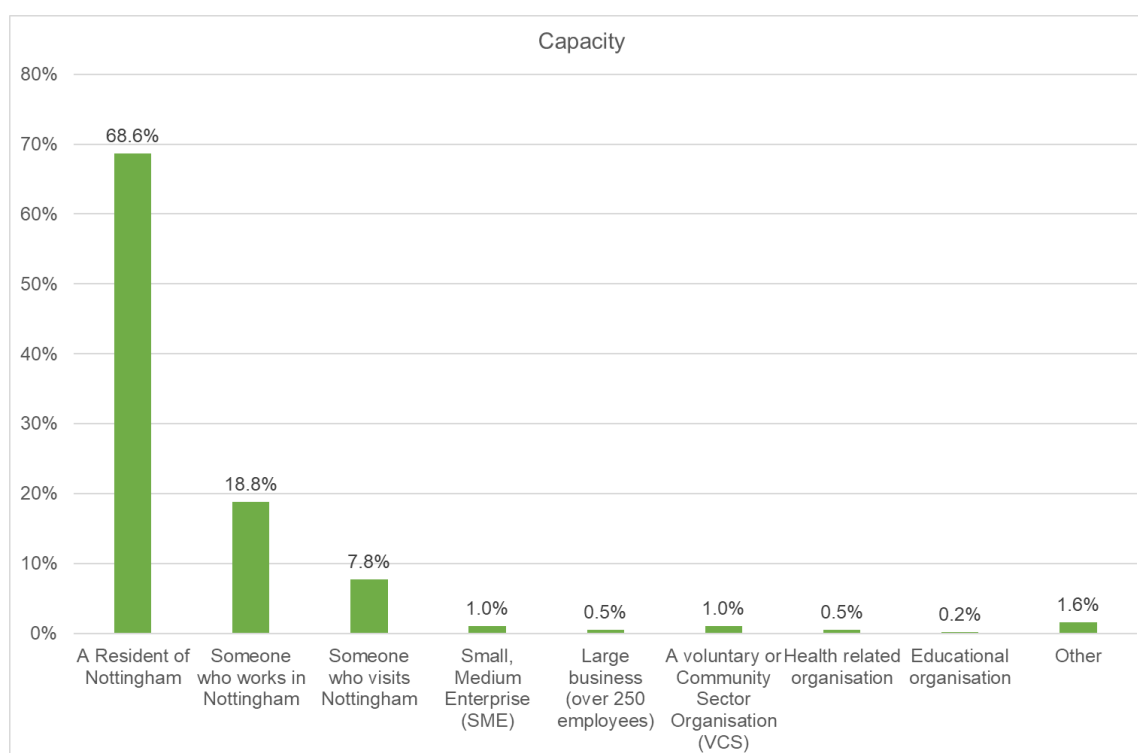
### 3.0 KEY FINDINGS

Overall, there were 580 responses to the survey, with 10 responses received via email or letter and over 300 people were consulted in person at events across the city.

This report outlines the main findings of the survey and where comments were received these have been coded into themes using thematic coding. Letters and emails received have been included in the main theming with the feedback from events themed separately. The comments in full can be found in Appendix A.

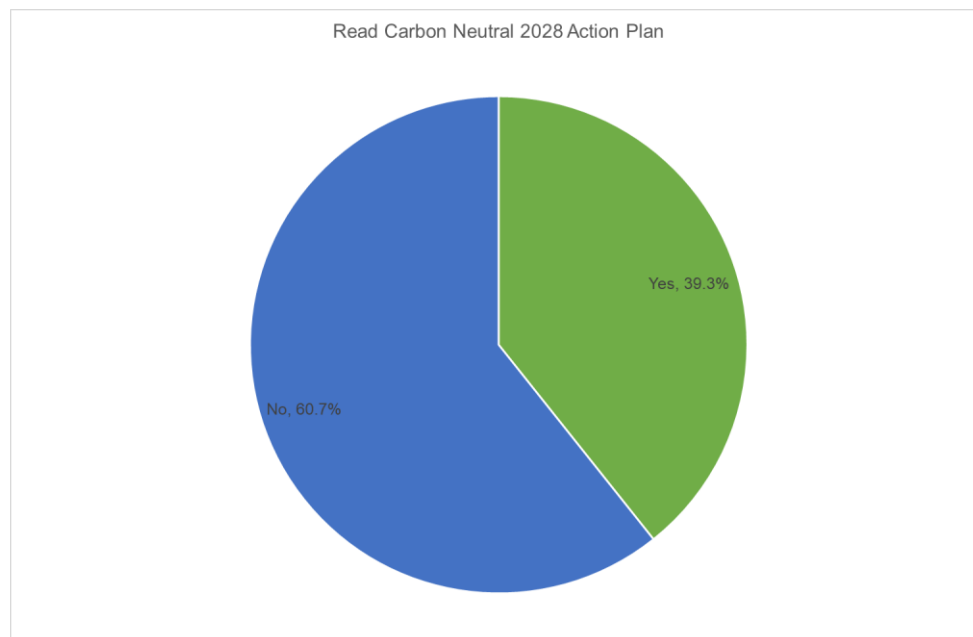
#### Capacity in completing the survey

The majority of the responses were from people who live in Nottingham (68.6%) with a small number of businesses responding.



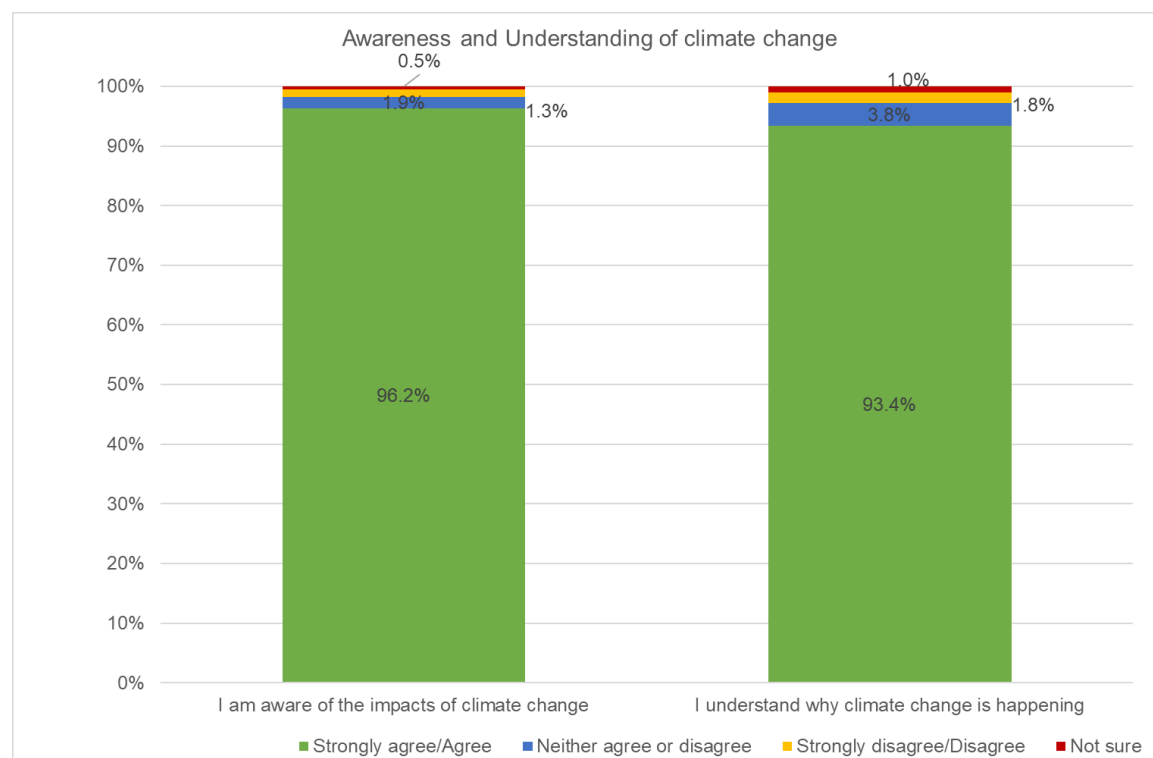
## Read the carbon neutral plan

Respondents were asked if they had read the Carbon Neutral Action Plan, 39.3% of respondents said they had read this.



## Awareness and understanding of climate change

Respondents feel they have a good awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change.



## Activities you are already participating in or aim to participate in the future.

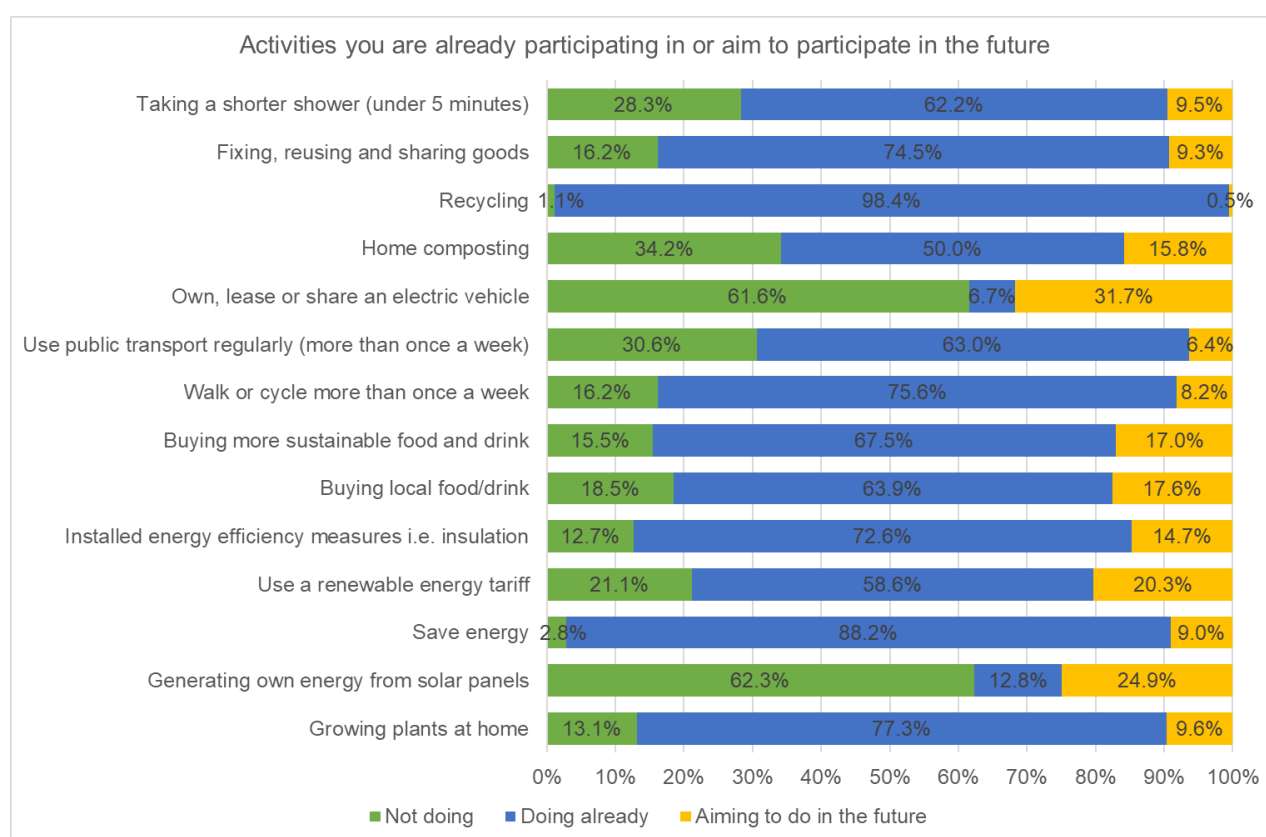
Respondents were asked what they are currently doing, plan on doing or not doing at present in their own lives. There are many respondents already proactively taking part.

Areas respondents are currently doing are:

- Recycling (98.4%)
- Save energy (88.2%)
- Growing Plants at home (77.3%)

Areas respondents are currently not doing are:

- Generating own energy from solar panels (62.3%)
- Own, lease or share an electric vehicle (61.6%)



Areas respondents are aiming to do are:

- Own, lease or share an electric vehicle (31.7%)
- Generating own energy from solar power (24.9%)
- Use a renewable energy tariff (20.3%)

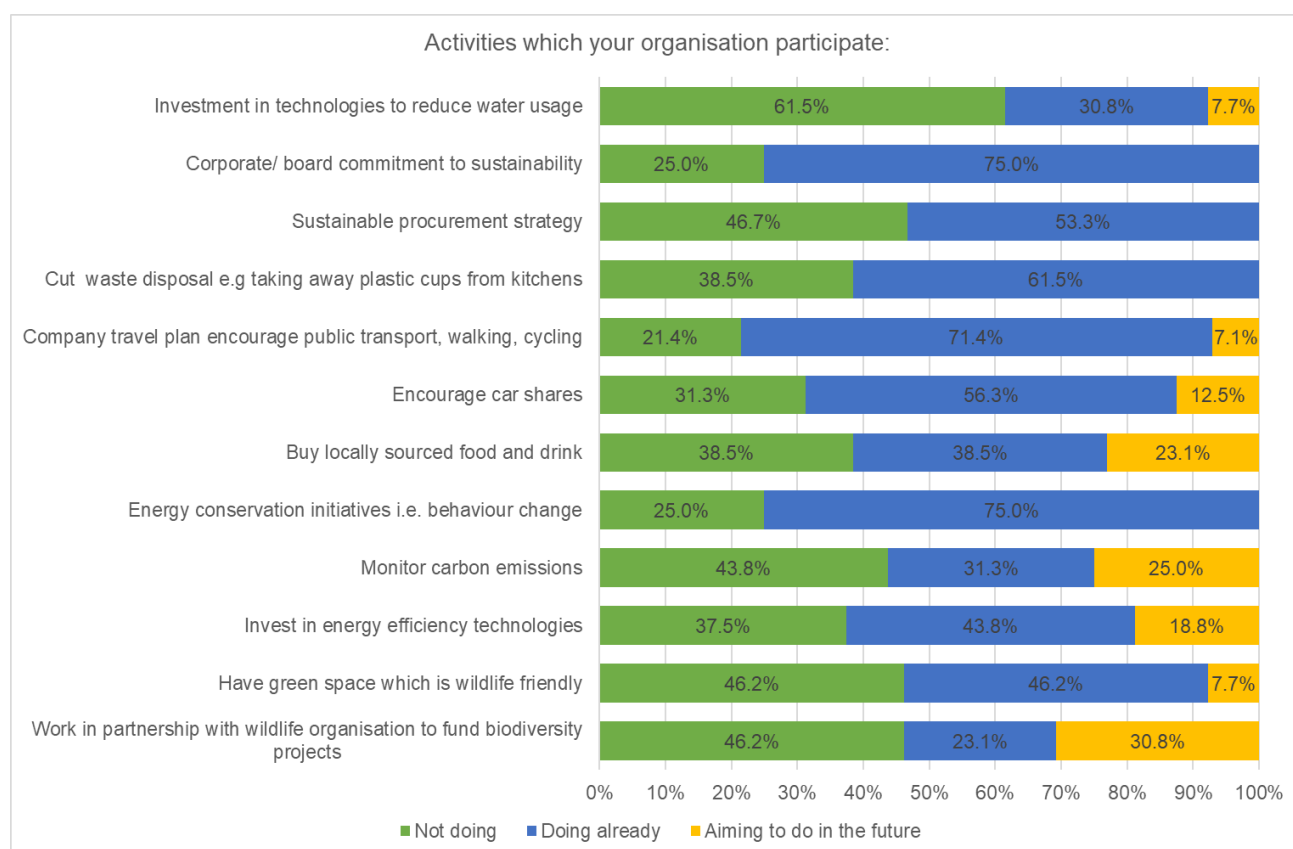
## Activities your organisation are already participating in or aim to participate in the future.

Areas organisations are currently doing are:

- Energy conservation initiatives (75%)
- Corporate/board commitment to sustainability (75%)
- Company travel plan encourage public transport, walking, cycling (71.4%)

Areas organisations are currently not doing are:

- Investment in technologies to reduce water usage (61.5%)
- Sustainable procurement strategy (46.7%)
- Have green space which is wildlife friendly (46.2%)
- Work in partnership with wildlife organisation to fund biodiversity (46.2%)



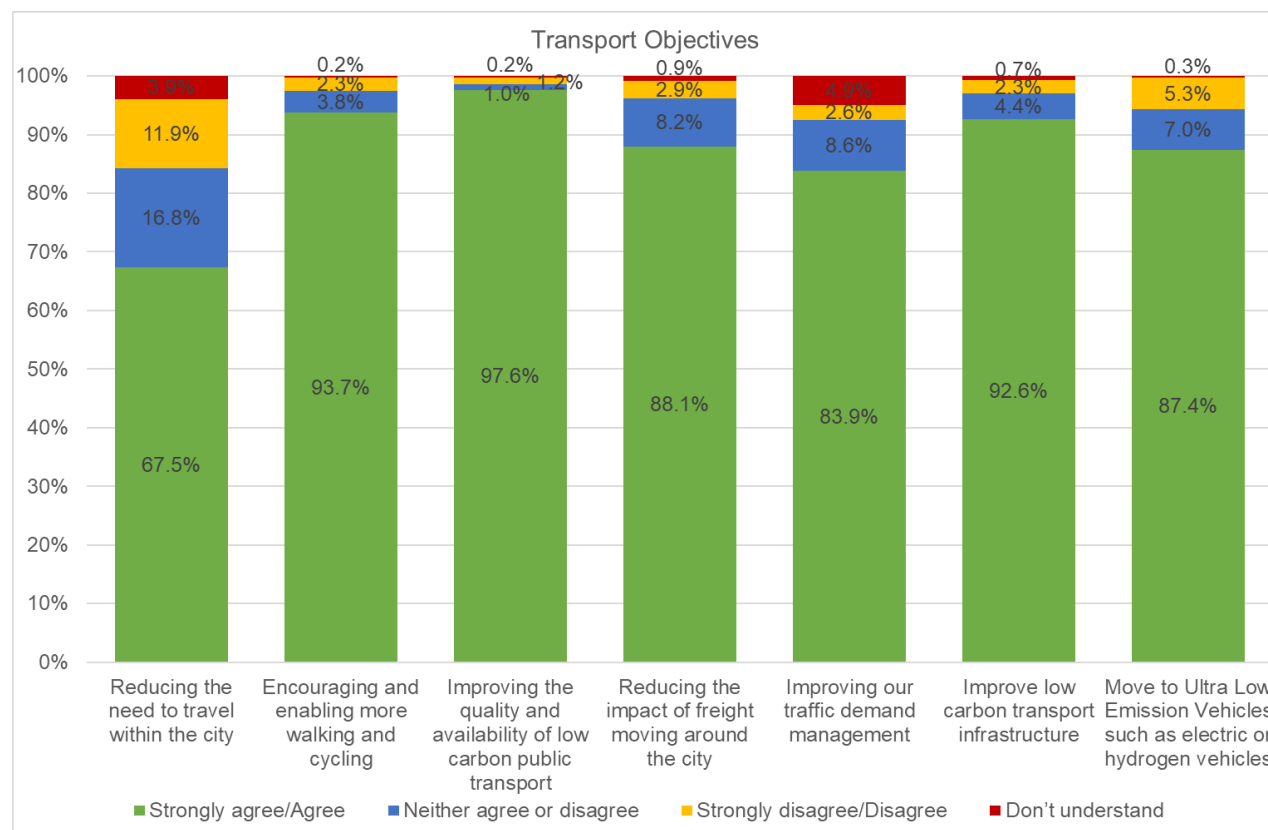
Areas organisations are aiming to do are:

- Work in partnership with wildlife organisation to fund biodiversity (30.8%)
- Monitor carbon emissions (25%)
- Buy locally sources food and drink (23.1%)



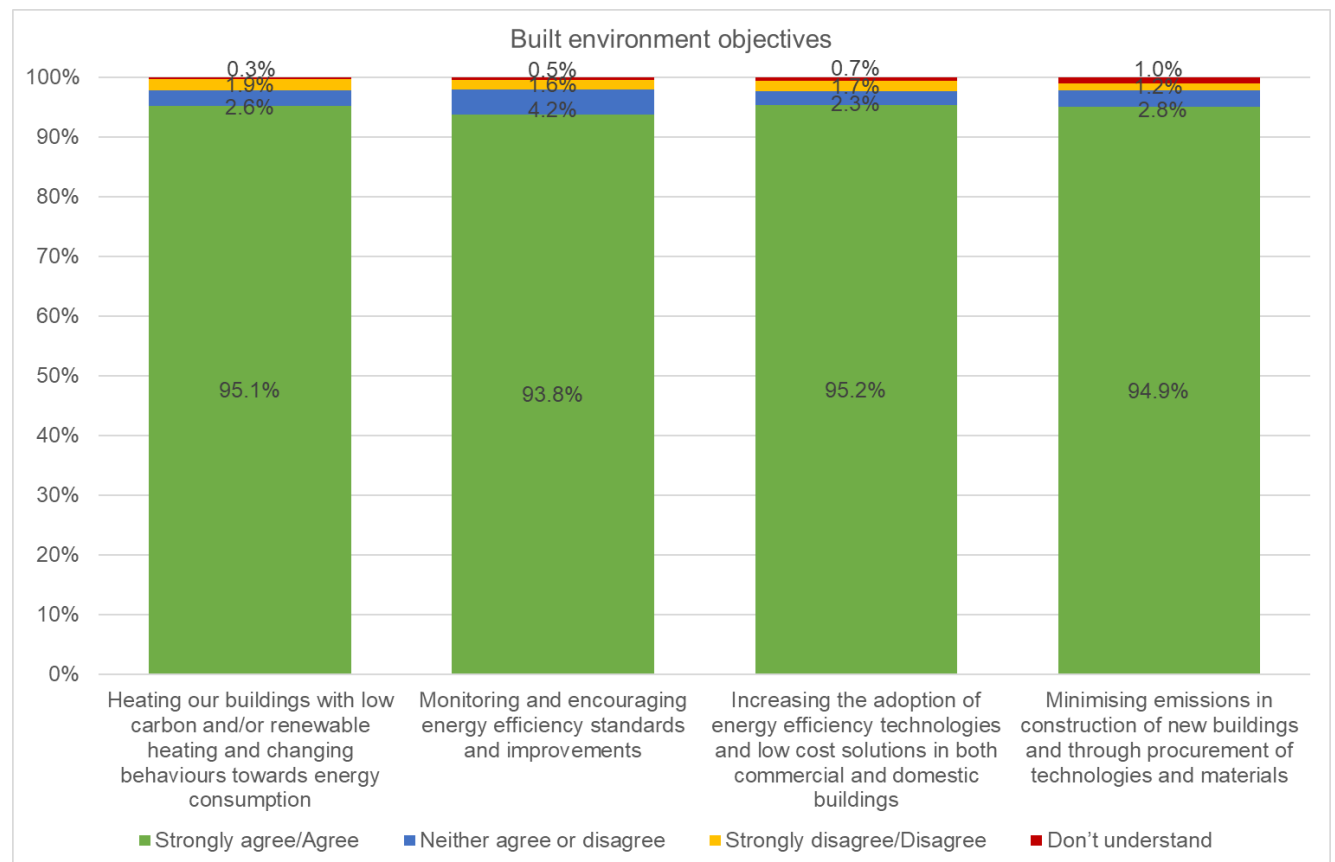
## Transport objectives

Respondents were asked if they agree or disagree with the objectives around transport. The majority of respondents agree or strongly agree with all areas. The area with least agreement is reducing the need to travel within the city (67.5%).



## Built environment objectives

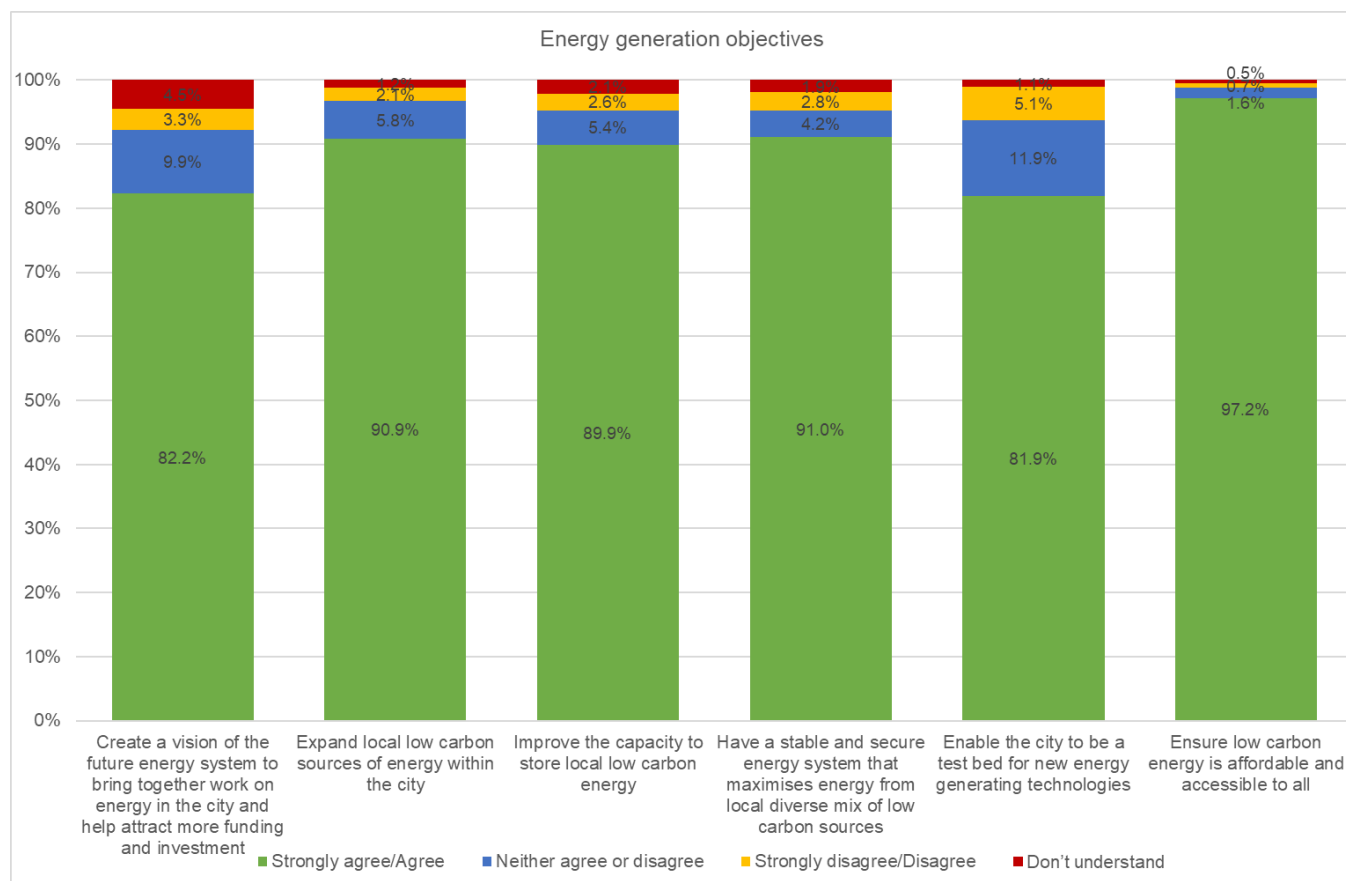
Respondents agree and strongly agree with all the objectives around the built environment.



## Energy generation objectives

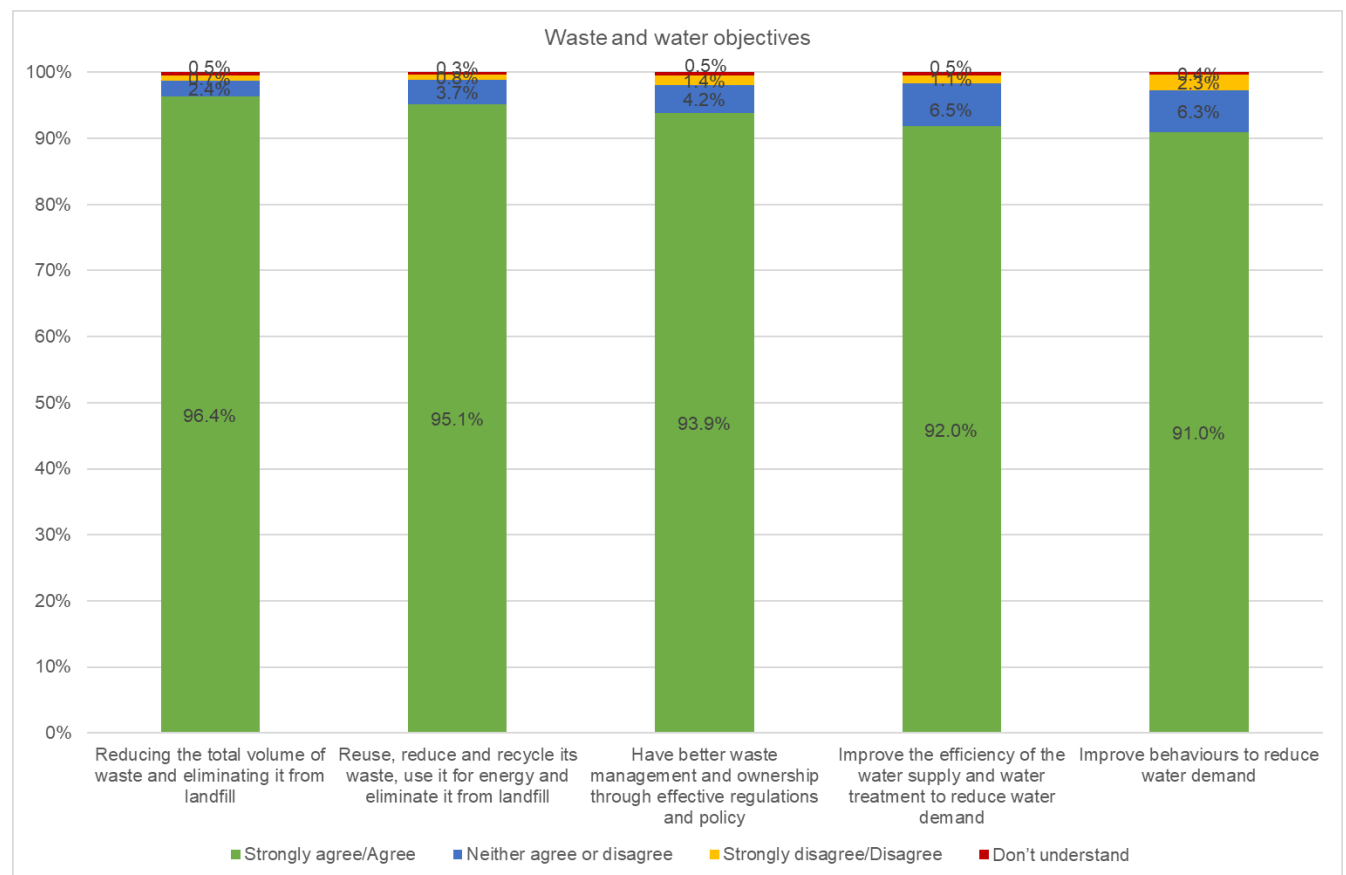
Overall, respondents agree and strongly agree with all the objectives around energy generation.

The two areas where there is less agreement are 'Create a vision of the future energy system to bring together work on energy in the city and help attract more funding and investment' (82.2%) and 'Enable the city to be a test bed for new energy generating technologies' (81.9%).



## Waste and water objectives

Respondents agree and strongly agree with all the objectives around waste and water.

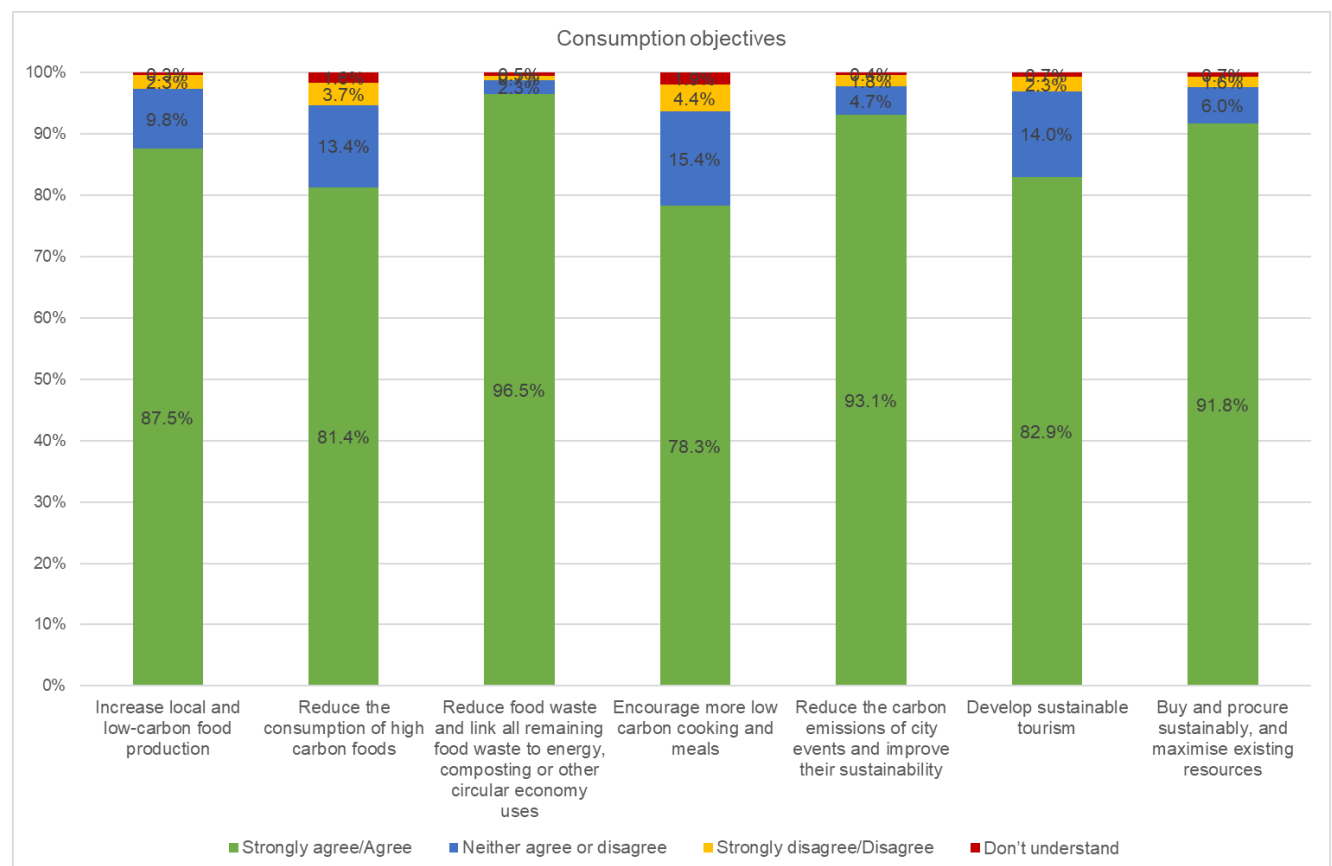


## Consumption objectives

When asked about the consumption objectives, overall there is a strong agreement with most areas, however these vary in the strength of agreement.

The objectives where the strength of agreement is not as high, are in the main related to carbon foods:

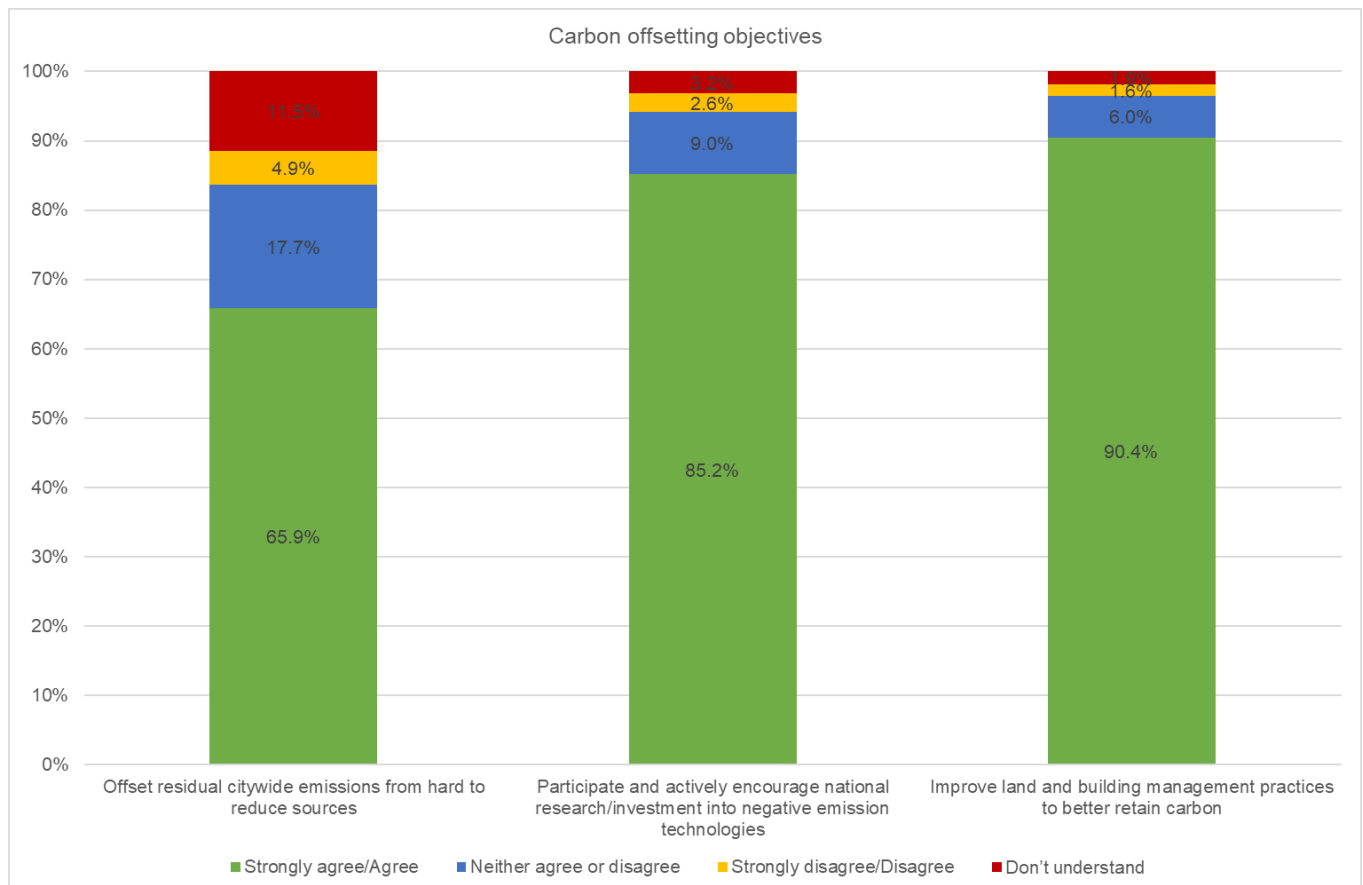
- Increase local low-carbon food production (87.5%)
- Reduce the consumption of high carbon foods (81.4%)
- Encourage more low carbon cooking of meals (78.3%)
- Develop sustainable tourism (82.9%)



## Carbon offsetting objectives

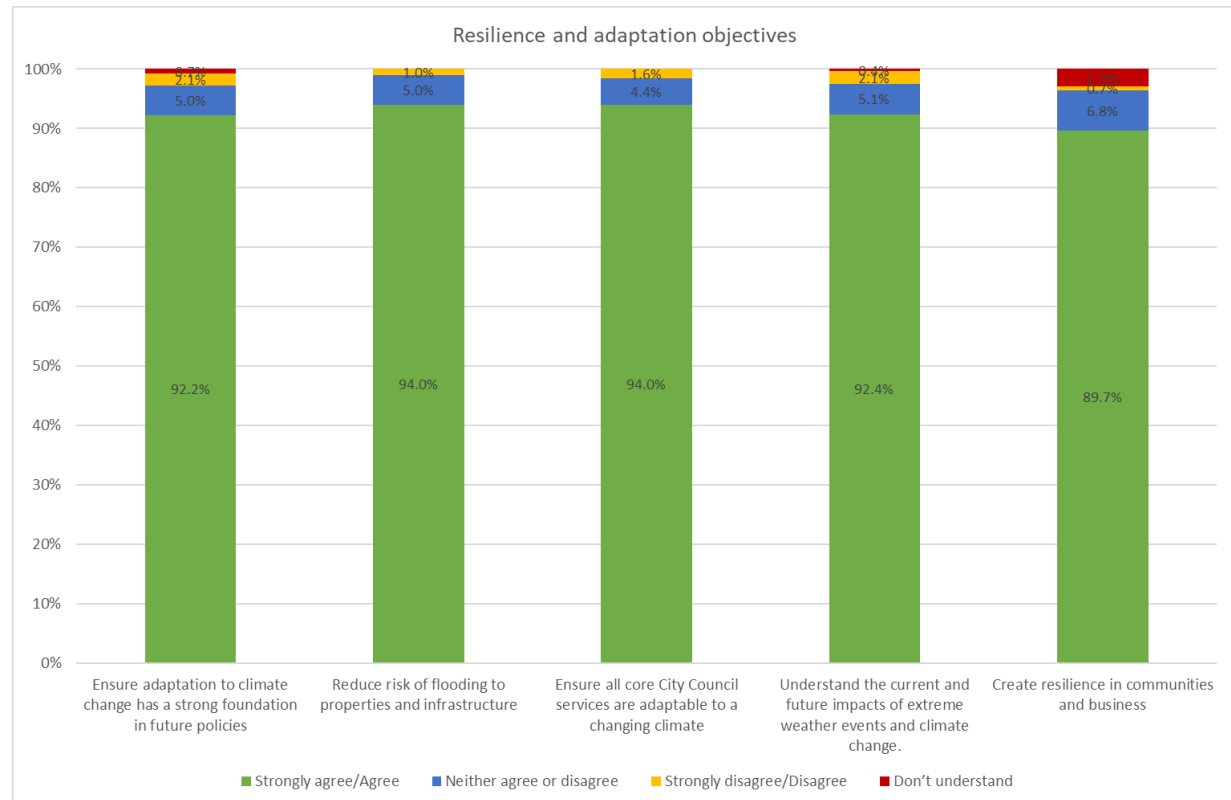
When asked about their agreement of carbon offsetting, respondents felt less knowledgeable about the objectives.

- 11.5% of respondents said they don't understand the object to offset residual citywide emissions from hard to reduce sources.



## Resilience and adaptation objectives

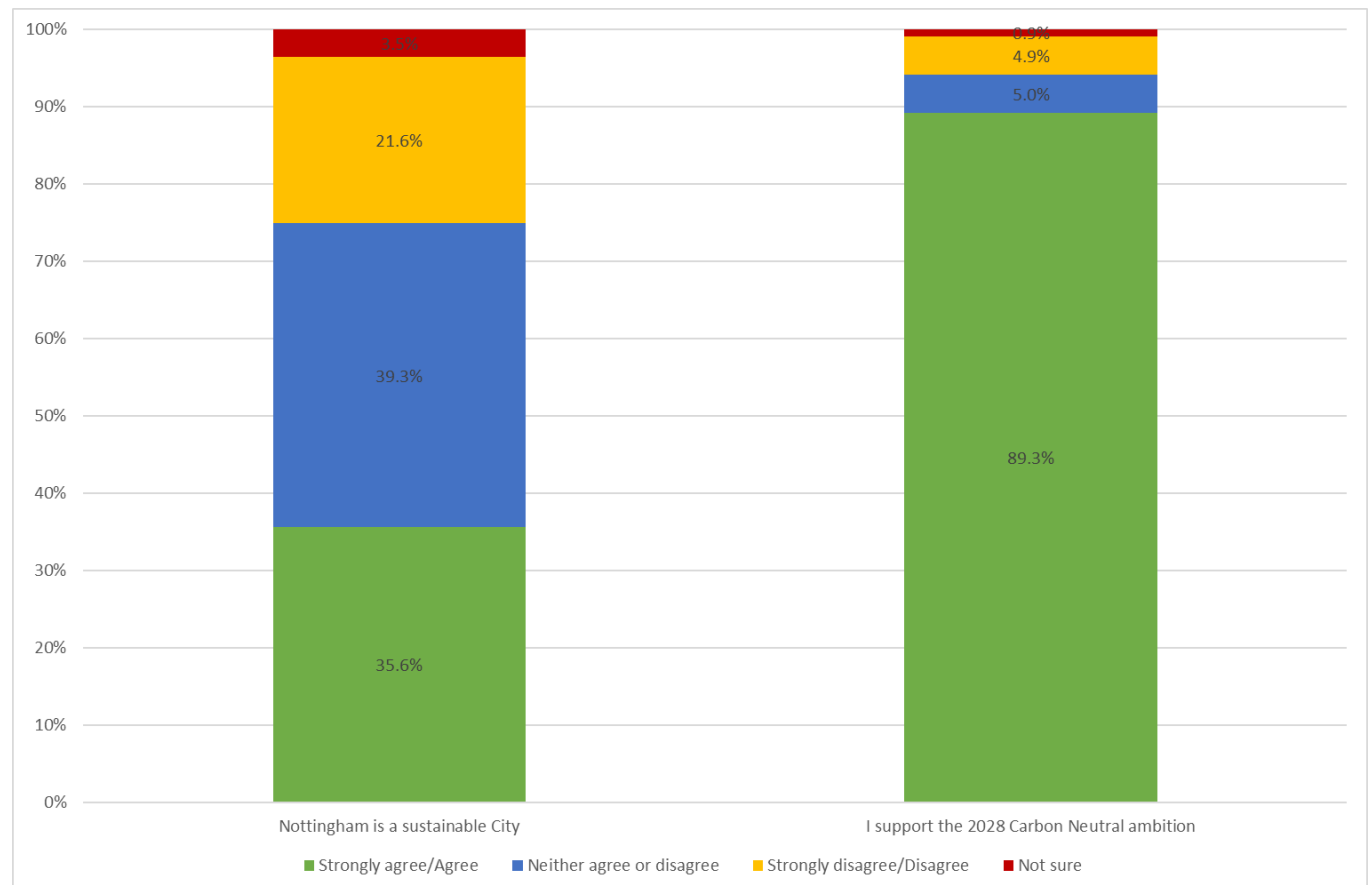
Overall respondents agree with all objectives around resilience and adaptation. However, there are a small number of respondents who don't understand the objective around creating resilience in communities and businesses.



## Nottingham as a sustainable city

Respondents were asked if they feel Nottingham is a sustainable city just 35.6% of respondents said they agree with 39.3% who neither agree nor disagree. 21.6% disagree with this.

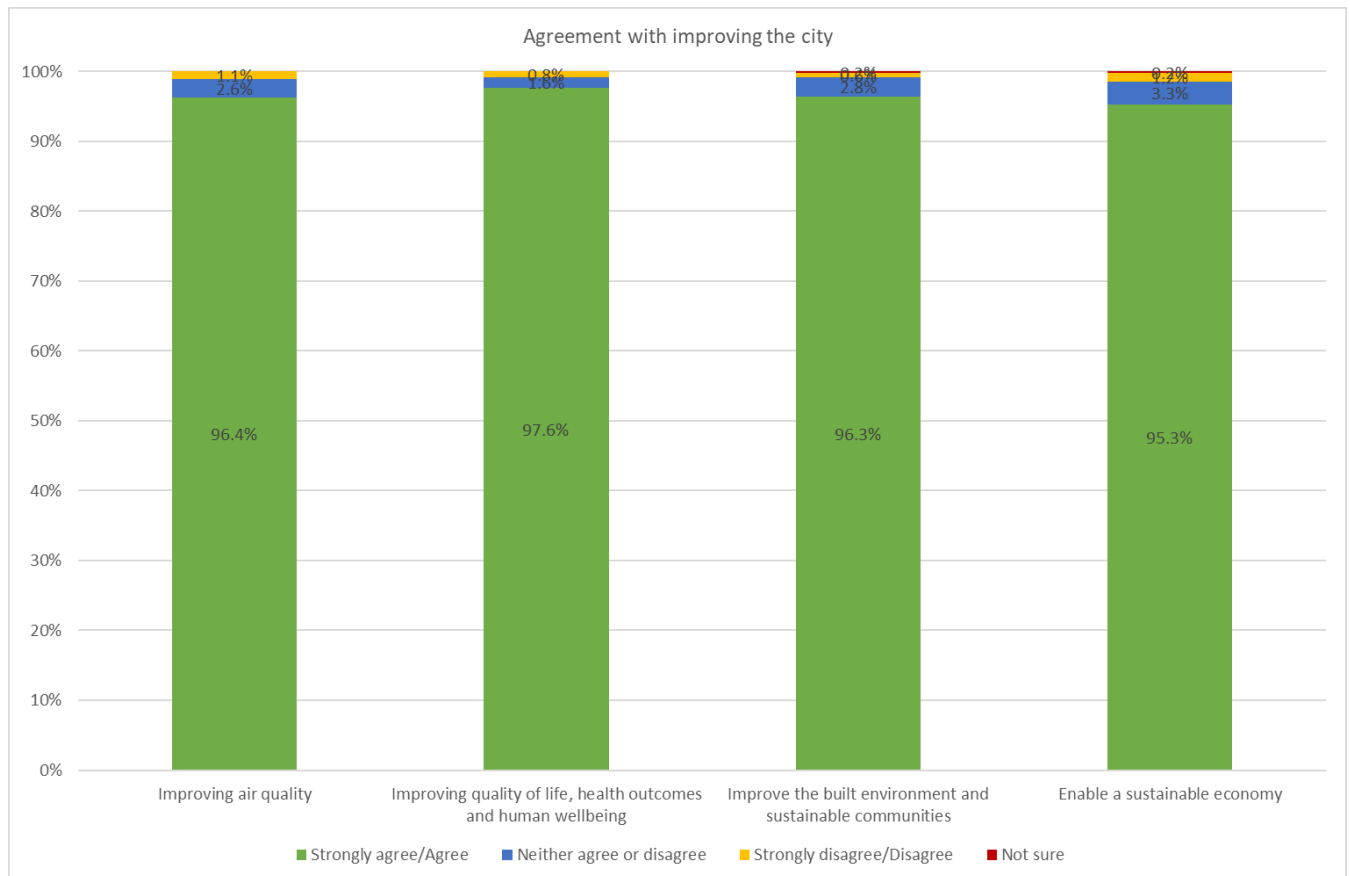
89.3% of respondents said they support the ambitions in the 2028 Carbon Neutral action plan with 4.9% who said they disagree.





## Improving Nottingham

When asked how strongly they agree or disagree with aspects of improving the city, respondents were supportive and agree with all of the areas in the action plan to improve Nottingham.



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## What actions are missing

Respondents were asked what they felt had been missed from the action plan. In total 213 respondents commented.

The comments have been coded below into themes and an example provided.

Transport planning	I want to see ambitious concrete targets for the reduction in private motor traffic in the city and consequent increases in public transport, cycling and walking.
Tree planting	Improve the 'greenness' of the city centre a lot of the tree planting is in existing woodland, which isn't bad, but more tree planting in the city centre would be great.
Education	Education - you've not said much about this. If you want to change people's behaviour, then you need to get into primary schools and change the way we think about EVERYTHING!
Affordability	The poorest people in our communities can't concentrate on sustainability when they haven't enough money to live on.
Recycling guidance	The recycling process is poor, mixed paper and plastics could be separated at home reducing costs. The recycling process should also allow to identify the people who don't recycle well and fine them if there's no improvement.
Partner involvement	Working with county and borough councils around environmental/land management and rural public transport.
Community gardening and shared space	Community engagement. Community workshops teaching people how to look after their neighbourhoods, community planting for pollinators, make DIY worm farms with communities, community street art days, community is the key here.
Non-food items such as clothes	There doesn't seem to be anything about reducing or changing consumption patterns of non-food products, e.g., clothing.
Car emissions	Take action against high emission vehicles and badly maintained older vans/lorries

## Barriers

Respondents were asked what they felt the barriers are to meeting the CN2028 target. In total 391 respondents commented.

The comments have been coded below into themes and an example provided. Cost and affordability were by far the largest barrier mentioned.

Affordability/cost/funding	Cost of improvements for many residents of Nottingham. Accessibility of low cost local food, currently it's so much cheaper to buy from likes of Aldi/Lidl than local organic veg would prefer.
Frequency, reliability and cost of public transport	Reliance on cars, plenty of parking in city for those who insist on driving £5 to park all day. Same price as Tram from park and ride?? Make parking very expensive but public transport very good and good value
Infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists – too focused on cars	Inadequate safe dedicated pedestrian and cycle lane provision. Poor cycle provision within the city centre.
Cars	There isn't enough pressure on people to stop driving into the city centre. Whilst driving a car into the city centre continues to almost equal the cost of travelling on public transport, people won't change their habits.
Education	Not enough or ongoing education regarding the reducing carbon emissions
Businesses being held accountable	Assuming that the city council can fix it all. It needs businesses to do so much
Changing habits and attitudes – what is the incentive	Sadly, it seems that even if people are educated on the easy changes they could make and on why such initiatives matter, getting them to act accordingly is a whole different matter. A lot of people seem to think that since their actions alone won't change things, there's no point making any effort. Maybe for actions that require public effort, gamifying or rewarding participation might be a good way to start out and get people to take that first step to changing their habits.
Ambitious	I think the wish list of carbon reducing methods is too ambitious and will create a negative reaction from the population
Changing behaviours	Resistance to change...doing the same things because that's how we have always done it!

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## The best way(s) for Nottingham to reduce carbon

Respondents were asked what they felt the barriers are to meeting the CN2028 target. In total 376 respondents commented.

The comments have been coded below into themes and an example provided.

More and safer cycle and pedestrian paths/lanes	Better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. This means proper pavements and cycle paths! And encouraging employers to adopt cycle to work schemes, and provide shower facilities for those who need them.
Better low emission transport systems, lower cost, better reliability and frequency	Increase frequency of public transport using low emissions or electric buses to reduce the need for cars. Perhaps extend tram lines to the east side of the city.
Make it affordable to be green, grants etc from the government?	Make renewable energy affordable for all households. Offer grants for electric vehicles. Enable easy accessible grants and tax reliefs to encourage the adoption of low zero carbon technology
Better recycling schemes	Introduce better recycling schemes to incorporate food waste, material waste, and difficult goods like electronics
Car free zones	Ban cars from the city centre and give cash incentives for people to cycle, try a car free Sunday?
Responsibility on businesses to become sustainable	Hold businesses accountable for their emissions.
Planting, green spaces	More green spaces/planting of urban trees

## 4.0 FEEDBACK FROM EVENTS

### Toolkit

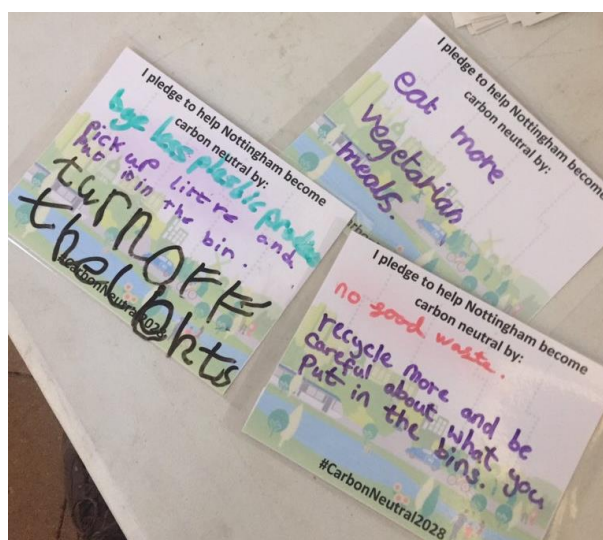
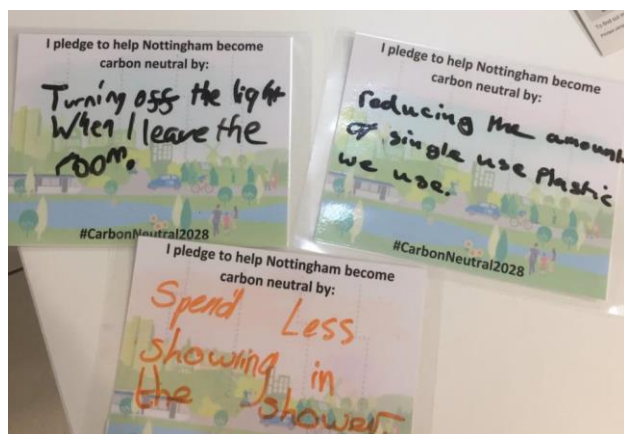
In order to support in undertaking engagement at events, the energy team devised a toolkit to be used to capture feedback and insight a conversation. This was designed to allow interaction for a few minutes or an hour with just one person or in a group. Engagement packs were created and included:

- 2028 Carbon Neutral Charter
- 2028 Carbon Neutral Action Plan
- 4 x Topic conversation starters
- Take home actions sheet
- 'Did you know' fact sheet
- Consultation feedback form to return for analysis

A training session was carried out with Councillors to allow them to attend their own meetings with residents in their ward, unfortunately the COVID-19 situation meant that these meetings could not go ahead. A further event planned on 14 March was also cancelled due to government advice.

However, the below events were carried out using the toolkit and provided engagement with over 100 people as well 30 pledges to support the action plan.

Science fun day – Aspley library	International Woman's Day – Council House
Science fun day – Hyson Green Library	Wollaton Park family fun day – Wollaton Hall day 1 and 2
Science fun day – St Ann's library	Nottingham sustainability forum: Delivering a Carbon Neutral City
Light Night – Cobden Café	



## **Feedback from events.**

All feedback from events where the toolkit was used has been analysed and themes. Overall there is support for the action plan, the themes of the feedback are outline below.

- **What makes sense/does not make sense (language & clarity)?**

The term 'Carbon neutral' was not understood by most people who were engaged throughout all of the events. The meaning of 'Consumption' also had to be explained at 2 of the events.

- **What are people already doing?**

People were proud and eager to share what they had been doing themselves to lower their carbon footprint. The main themes mentioned at every event were using public transport where possible, walking or cycling (weather permitting) and recycling &/or composting.

Participants said they were buying from second hand shops, litter picking, avoiding single-use plastic, using re-usable nappies, avoiding unnecessary water waste and installing solar panels.

The younger children who were engaged said they were learning about climate change at school and one school even made a bottle green house.

- **What barriers exist for taking action?**

Affordability was the main topic of concern when it came to barriers preventing people from achieving their own carbon neutral goals. This ranges from the price of public transport, the cost of buying eco-friendly products, the expense of electric vehicles and also renewable heat.

Participants also commented on the lack of cycle paths; people said they would ride their bike more often but didn't feel safe riding on the roads with cars.

Another theme highlighted is the lack of awareness/education around eco-friendly habits. A lot of adults still don't know what goes into a recycling bin or a compost bin.

Lastly the ease of non-eco-friendly activities/habits are an issue. The ease of single use plastics, highly packaged ready meals and getting the family in the car rather than venturing to a bus stop.

- **What would people like to see in the future (within the City – from the Council?) & for future engagement.**
- 4 themes were identified by participants that they want to see from the council;
  - Raising awareness. This includes more engagement with schools and within communities, making sure everybody knows how, what and where to recycle. Better awareness around communal growing and local food production was also sought after, with people wanting to know which business are doing their part to be Carbon neutral so that they could be prioritised. More awareness on renewable heat is also desired, with many wanting solar panels but not sure about the technicalities and cost of it. Grants/loans to incentivise people to make their homes/business' more eco-friendly was suggested.
  - Composting & tree planting. People at multiple events asked for community composting, or a compost/food waste pickup service. Community tree planting was also mentioned, with one person suggesting we should plant the fastest growing trees.
  - Many wanted a ban on cars in the city centre, having it completely pedestrianised.
  - Participants made the suggestion for occasional free days on public transport, for families to go out. Also for schools to be able to take children on public transport for free during school trips, with the hope of this persuading children to continue using public transport in later life.
- **Overall impression of people knowing what carbon neutrality/ climate change was?**

Most participants had some level of understand of what climate change/global warming was however Carbon neutrality was only understood by a small percentage. Almost all of the children had been learning about climate change at school so they had a good knowledge which made conversations easier to be had.

- Other themes where more communication is needed were mentioned:
  - Where people can make a difference themselves
  - What they can do to lower their carbon footprint
  - Raising the profile of NCC's Carbon neutral by 2028 pledge.

## Questions raised

Additional questions were raised as part of the events – this provides some catalyst for further communication and participation...

- If cars and heating switch to electricity, will we run out?
- Is bamboo environmentally friendly and will be run out?
- Are there local companies that use certain waste products? – concern of resource

- What does a green award for parks actually mean?
- What is the environmental impact of batteries for electric cars?
- Are the council doing anything on hydrogen?
- Are the council working on water pollution?
- #Refill is a great idea but some people don't know about it – could we advertise more?
- Why are we building a new car park?
- Can we make Festivals sustainable i.e. Pride, Splendour, Riverside Festival

### **Additional comments**

- Very ambitious with lots to do but then need to be with only 10 years to act
- Carbon calculator a great idea – a lot on interest from all respondents once aware
- Fly tipping increasingly an issue – particularly rubble
- Produce too much compost – interested to find a use
- Love the ease of the recycling bin – no separation required and free bulky waste collection
- Transport biggest problem – too many cars
- Carbon calculator a great idea – a lot on interest from all respondents
- Big ambition
- Going to think about consumption and where items come from
- Plan too long

### **Children and young people participation feedback**

#### **The One Nottingham/Youth Cabinet 2050**

Vision planning session was held on 17 February 2020. From this event 20 young leaders from Youth Cabinet, NTU, UoN and Pythian Club engaged in CN28 action plan. The main themes identified were:

- Sustainability is a core goal for CYP and will feature in engagement conversations for Vision 2050
- Young people need to find ways to connect with the sustainability agenda through activity and informal learning opportunities
- Jobs & training, securing better futures and community safety rank higher in young people's list of priorities, so sustainability/CN goals need to be linked to these to be relevant

Outcome: The sustainability goals and ways to get there will be featured in the Vision 2050 engagement with CYP.



### **Intergenerational event, NTU/Youth Cabinet/Age Friendly Nottingham/U3A/Notts CC Youth 18 February 2020**

The event led by Nottingham Trent University brought together participants from different ages to find common areas of agreement.

- Creating greener and cleaner space was an issue raised by those looking at creating safer streets and public spaces
- Opportunity to make built environment more sustainable and make a contribution to CN28 goals through co-creative work with Intergenerational Partnerships groups, city centre management and planning

Outcome: Dialogue continuing, will feature in next stage of engagement

### **Youth Council meeting, NCC Play & Youth teams 21 February 2020**

The Youth Council are an active group of young people and young adults who meet on a regular basis and participate in a wide range of engagement events. The main areas of feedback for action were:

- Focus on Consumption, including food waste and composting.
- Youth Clubs are good centres for informal education in healthier eating, reducing food waste, recycling and eliminating plastic waste.
- Each Council run Youth Centre can contribute to recycling and plastic reduction goals by introducing new policies and procedures, and changing procurement processes.
- Vegetable gardening, food waste composting and vermiculture can all be encouraged but need links to local gardening groups/allotments to help provide support and skills to young people and staff.

Outcome: 16 young people engaged in conversation about CN28 Consumption goals. Worm farm projects started in four youth centres. Youth worker links to Urban Worm project and Energy Behaviour Change officer for further engagement.

### **Primary Parliament, Nottingham City Primary schools 6 and 20 March 2020**

Primary Parliament has a regular engagement programme where young people in years 5 and 6 of primary school come along for the day. They take back their experiences to their schools to share what they have learnt.

- Focus on Consumption, including food waste and composting, and gardening.
- Schools keen to develop their growing projects, making worm farms to take back to school to stimulate interest in vermiculture and encourage schools to do more composting of food waste.
- Schools could incorporate this into their Eco-Schools activity, if part of the national network, as it will contribute towards the awards recognition system

- Schools are also keen to have better local networks for sustainability work, to enable them to sustain projects, access resources and expertise, or example by being part of wider school trust and voluntary sector partnership projects.

Outcome: 100 primary students engaged in conversation about CN28 Consumption goals. Worm farm projects started in 26 primary schools; teacher links to Urban Worm project and Energy Behaviour Change officer for further engagement. Input into Future Parks survey around using parks and green spaces as learning environments for CN28 goal activities, and supporting community sustainability activity. Canvass of schools interest in and capacity for Climate Crisis Champions project.

## 5.0 NEXT STEPS

- Feedback from the consultation and ongoing engagement will feed into future communications, events, actions and programmes. Proposed recommendations:
  - Create and design informative materials to help educate citizens and businesses to take action
  - Review the draft action plan and amend in line with comments and themes raised throughout the consultation
  - Create an ongoing engagement and communication plan with reference to suggestions in the consultation
  - Publish a summary of how the consultation has directly led to new actions and how comments have been considered
- The Action Plan is a document that will evolve in conjunction with Nottingham's stakeholders, through ongoing engagement and co-creation. It will be reviewed annually with multiple opportunities for input and ongoing dialogue.