

# Community Solar Survey

## Results Summary

for

## the Town of Monterey



Photo Credit: *Town of Monterey*

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Completed using the *Community Planning for Solar* Toolkit available at  
<https://ag.umass.edu/solarplanning>

UMass**Amherst**

Clean Energy Extension

## Background

### Purpose

Residents in the town of Monterey were surveyed regarding their opinions, attitudes, and preferences regarding solar photovoltaic installations, as part of solar planning efforts conducted through the *Community Planning for Solar* process. The survey will inform development of a *Community Solar Action Plan* to guide future solar development in town.

### Methodology

This survey was mailed out to all residents on April 18<sup>th</sup>, with a cut-off date for returned surveys of June 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition, a link to an electronic version of the survey was promoted in the Monterey Newsletter on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The whole town has access to the Monterey Newsletter outlet. The electronic version of the survey was closed on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

The survey was also distributed via paper copies of the survey and dropboxes made available at heavily trafficked locations, such as the Public Library, Community Center and Transfer Station.

## Survey Responses

### Responses Received

A total of 48 responses were received and analyzed, including 17 electronic responses and 31 paper surveys.

### Demographics & Respondent Characteristics

Below is a comparison between the demographics of Monterey as estimated by the 2020 U.S. Census and the demographics of survey respondents. This analysis is important to understanding how representative survey respondents are of the overall Monterey population.

Age	Percentage of Eligible Survey Takers	Survey Respondents
18-24 years	8%	0%
25-39 years	4%	0%
40-54 years	15%	20%
55-69 years	28%	31%
70-84 years	23%	43%
85+ years	22%	6%

Monterey has an older population; however, the data still appear skewed. As shown, younger residents were underrepresented in the survey, with no respondents under age 40, despite 18 to 39-year old residents comprising 12% of the adult population. According to the census, 85+ residents represent nearly one-quarter of the population, but they were also under-represented in the survey. The 70 to 84-year old group represented 43% of respondents despite only comprising 23% of the adult population.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Percentage of Eligible Survey Takers</b>	<b>Survey Respondents</b>
Male	48%	42%
Female	52%	58%

Men were slightly underrepresented in the survey compared to the population as a whole.

<b>Home Status</b>	<b>Percentage of Eligible Survey Takers</b>	<b>Survey Respondents</b>
Owner-occupied	97%	90%
Renter-occupied	4%	10%

The survey skewed somewhat towards renters as opposed to homeowners.

<b>Race</b>	<b>Percentage of Eligible Survey Takers</b>	<b>Survey Respondents</b>
White alone	99%	84%
Black or African-American	0%	0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0%	0%
Asian	0%	0%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0%	0%
Some other race alone	1%	13%
Two or more races	0%	3%

Four out of the 32 respondents who chose to answer this question selected “Other,” a larger percentage than in the town overall.

<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Percentage of Eligible Survey Takers</b>	<b>Survey Respondents</b>
Less than \$15,000	2%	7%
\$15,000-\$24,999	8%	3%
\$25,000-\$34,999	10%	14%
\$35,000-\$49,999	7%	3%
\$50,000-\$74,999	6%	17%
\$75,000-\$99,999	13%	10%
\$100,000-\$149,999	13%	3%
\$150,000-\$199,999	7%	10%
\$200,000 or more	35%	31%

The household incomes of survey respondents matched fairly closely with the town overall.

The employment rate of survey participants (47%) was very close to the census estimate for the town as a whole (48%).

According to Monterey's Infrastructure Report, there are 883 housing units and 43 residential (<25kW) solar arrays. Therefore, roughly 5% of households in Monterey have solar panels. Among survey participants, however, 21% indicated that they had solar installed at their home.

Overall, this suggests those with solar installed, and therefore likely a more positive view of solar, were more likely to answer the survey. In general, those with very strong opinions about solar, whether positive or negative, were probably more likely to respond to a survey about solar. Older adults were also more likely to answer the survey than those under 40, which is not particularly surprising, given that they may be more likely to have time available to do so. Those over 85 were under-represented, which could be related to the infirmaries of older age, or inaccurate estimates in the census. The fact that renters were over-represented could be related to the fact that mailings were sent to in-town Monterey addresses, and not to owners with permanent addresses in other states. This could have missed some summer residents.

It is important to note that the findings summarized below may therefore not be entirely representative of the opinions of Monterey residents as a whole. (However, year-round residents and those with more time due to retirement, may be more likely to participate in town government, and those with stronger opinions, positive or negative, may be more likely to participate in specific permitting, planning, or zoning processes related to solar – so it is possible that the survey represents well the perspectives of those most likely to participate in solar planning.)

## Survey Results

### Overview/General Findings

A majority of Monterey residents are motivated to combat climate change, and most residents are supportive of solar development. Based on the *Community Solar Survey*, of the 40 respondents who answered the question, 90% of residents are “extremely” or “moderately” concerned about climate change, and 90% reported they have a “positive” or “very positive” attitude towards solar energy.

87% of respondents indicated that they would support expanding solar capacity to reach a goal of community self-sufficiency, and 80% supported meeting the regional energy goal. A majority (67%) also supported development sufficient to help support a statewide energy goal.

Monterey residents are most supportive of solar development on already developed spaces like former landfills or brownfields - 89% indicated support for the development of large ground mounted solar in those indicated spaces. Many of the residents were also very supportive of large ground-mounted solar if the installations were to provide the following benefits: reduced electricity rates for residents (96% support), backup power to the school and emergency buildings (91%), and jobs for residents (91%). 65% of respondents feel that plans for the development of large scale solar should be shared at public meetings, and 79% believe that they should be allowed to review and comment on future plans. Monterey residents are also concerned about conservation of undeveloped natural and agricultural lands within town and showed little support for developing these landscapes for solar – 82% oppose large ground mounted solar near any waterbodies, 86% opposed the development on any priority wildlife habitats.

### Municipal Solar

Monterey residents showed strong support for solar development on municipal buildings and properties. In the *Community Solar Survey*, 82% of residents indicated they felt the town should invest in solar development on municipal buildings and parking lots to meet municipal needs. An additional 11% of residents were supportive of municipal development, dependent on certain factors. Some of the factors cited included aesthetic concerns regarding solar arrays, a desire not to cut down forests to develop solar, and the availability of grants or other incentives to avoid municipal solar projects leading to increased taxes. In addition, 80% were supportive of municipal investment in projects to support community electricity needs.

### Residential Solar

In the *Community Solar Survey*, Monterey residents indicated support for solar development on residential roofs and in residential yards – 74% felt “positive” or “very positive” about solar installed in these locations, although 11% felt negative about these types of systems, largely due to aesthetics and safety concerns.

Of residents who did not currently have a solar array installed at their home, a large percentage were open to the possibility: 45% of respondents said they were interested in having solar panels installed at their home, 39% were not sure, and only 16% were not interested. The sizeable percentage of respondents who said they didn’t know enough

about their options or weren't sure if they wanted to install solar panels indicates that outreach is important to increase knowledge of residential solar.

Major reasons residents cited for not already having a system installed were high upfront costs (37%), distrust of solar developers (37%), not knowing enough about their options (32%), and having a shaded property (27%).).

### **Business/Institutional Solar**

Residents expressed support for businesses who utilize solar energy: 62% of respondents said that they would feel more positively towards an organization that uses solar power, and 15% of respondents indicated that they are more likely to purchase goods from that organization. Only 32% of respondents indicated that their views were not affected.

### **Solar on Farms**

Monterey residents were somewhat opposed to traditional ground-mounted solar development on pastureland (48% oppose/20% neutral/33% support), and opposed more strongly ground-mounted development on land used for fruit or vegetable production (70% oppose/10% neutral/20% support), but did respond more favorably to certain types of solar facilities installed on farms. In particular, 73% supported converting agricultural land that is not currently being farmed into solar.

**Note:** Two types of agricultural land were accidentally left off of the electronic version of the survey, but will be tallied for the paper version and results will be added here.

### **Large, Ground-Mounted Solar Development on Private Land**

In the *Community Solar Survey*, Monterey residents expressed support for large ground-mounted solar in their town: 71% felt "positive" or "very positive" towards the development of large ground-mounted solar in general, and 65% felt positive about development in Monterey specifically. There was strong majority support for development to support local needs (87%) and regional needs (80%), which would necessitate limited development of ground-mounted solar, including some development on undeveloped land.

In terms of where ground-mounted projects should be located, residents indicated a strong preference for siting on electricity transmission line corridors/powerline right-of-ways (84% support) and former landfills and brownfields (89%). Residents had mixed views on development in forest regularly harvested for timber (33% support, 26% opposed), meadowlands or shrublands (36% support, 36% opposed), and small areas of new-growth forest (16% support, 46% opposed). For all other types of forested habitats, more than two thirds of respondents voiced opposition to development.

In another portion of the survey, residents also indicated support for development along major roads (50% support, 24% neutral), which in Monterey would presumably focus along Route 23. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (73%) also favored solar projects in low elevation areas or otherwise hidden by trees.

### **Municipal Bylaw and Permitting Processes**

Based on the *Community Solar Survey*, residents provided the following information regarding their preferences for town permitting policies and processes relative to solar:

- Residents are interested in having a voice in permitting decisions regarding large solar development projects. 85% stated that they wanted information on new solar development to be discussed at town meetings, with 79% saying that residents should have the opportunity to review and comment on the site and design. At minimum, preparation for these projects could include a high level of advertising prior to public hearings regarding specific solar projects as well as proposed solar bylaw changes so that all interested residents are able to attend and participate in the discussion.
- Residents prefer that large solar projects provide economic value to the community. Economic benefits of interest could include favorable PILOT agreements that provide revenue to town coffers, displacing residential property taxes, or projects that provide reduced electricity rates for residents. Each of these options garnered upwards of 85% support from survey respondents. The survey did not address what the property tax or electricity rate reduction would need to be for residents to be supportive of a particular project.
- Although we are not aware of an existing precedent for this kind of permitting mechanism, 65% of residents expressed interest in having an ability to vote on proposed large solar projects regarding whether they should or should not proceed. Even if non-binding, proposed projects could be included as warrant articles at town meeting.

### **Perspectives of Under-Represented Demographics**

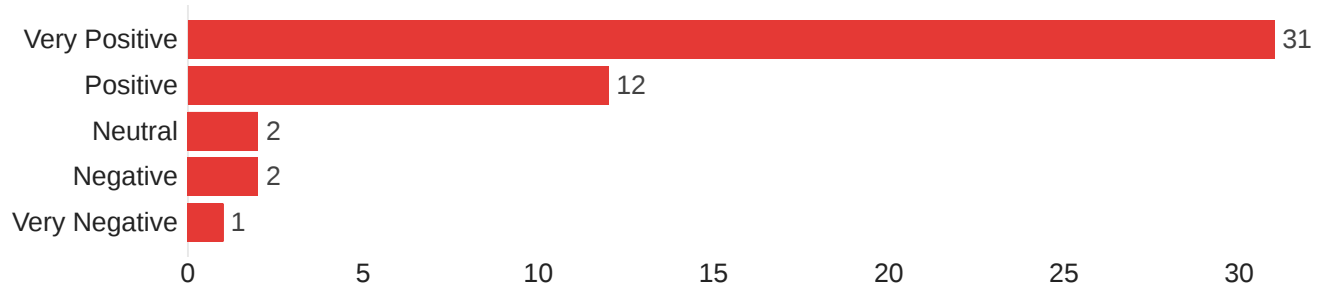
Unfortunately, because the sample size of respondents who answered demographic questions is low, it is difficult to separate out the perspectives of under-represented groups. There were no younger respondents who indicated they were under 40, so their perspectives may not be reflected in survey results. There were only two respondents over age 85, so it is difficult to analyze any differences in their responses statistically. Similarly, renters were statistically over-represented, but because only four respondents identified as renters, it is difficult to meaningfully interpret any differences in survey responses from the the general pool of respondents.

## Appendix A: Complete Survey Results



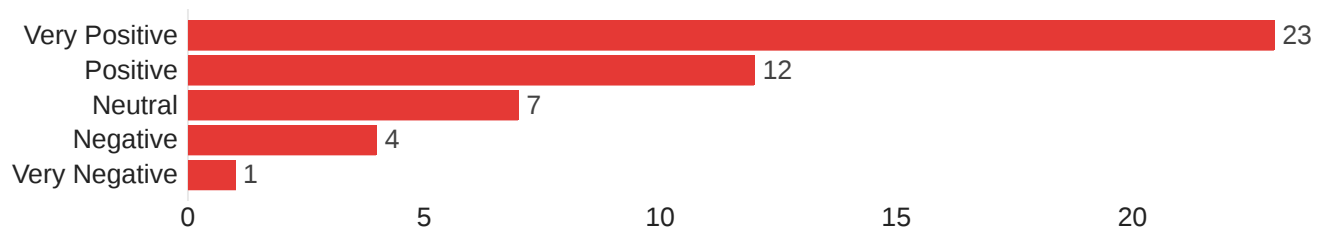
## Detailed Survey Responses

### Q1 - What is your general attitude toward solar energy?

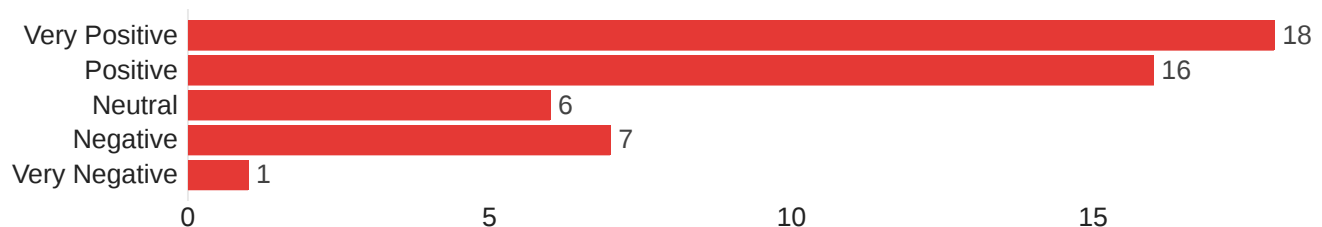


## RESIDENTIAL SOLAR

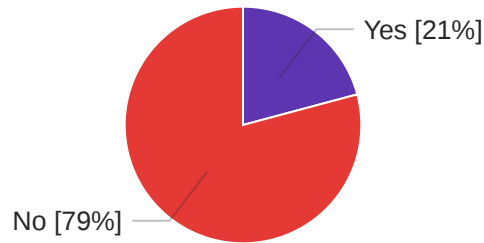
### Q2 - What is your attitude toward solar energy that is installed on house rooftops?



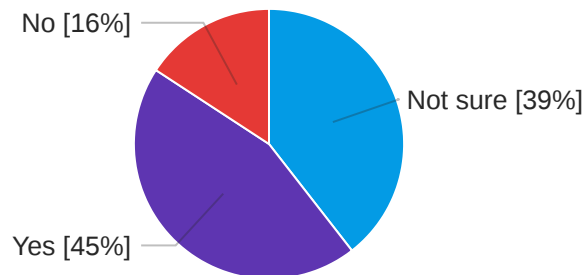
### Q3 - What is your attitude toward solar energy that is installed in a residential yard to serve that household's electricity needs?



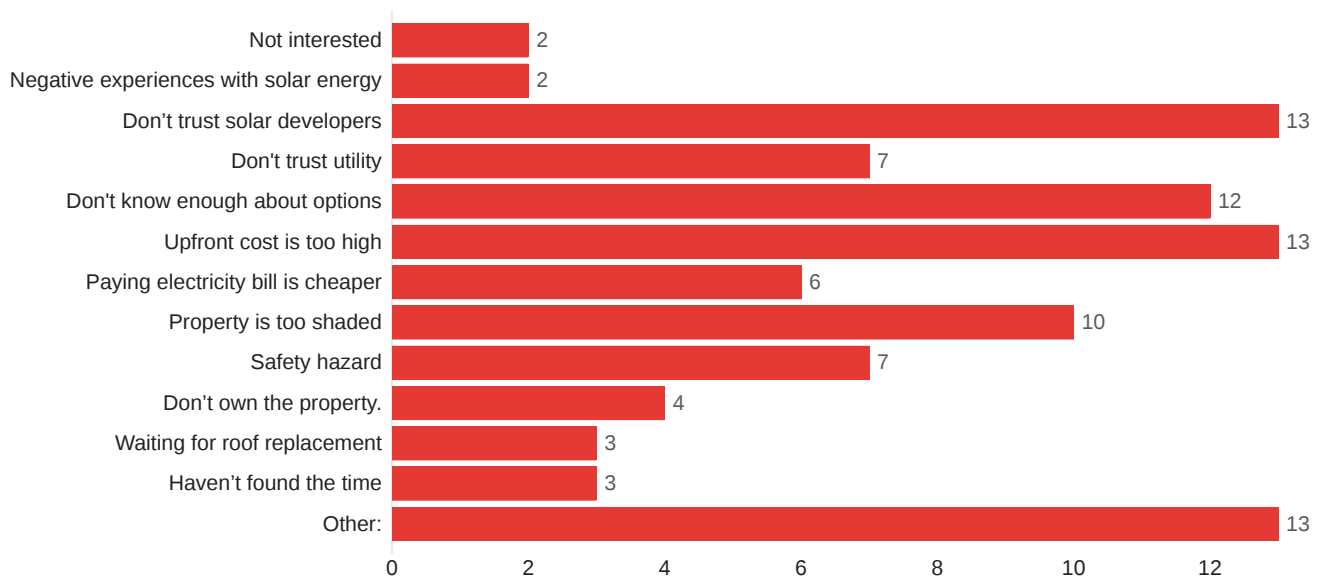
Q4 - Do you have solar panels installed at your home?



Q5 - Are you interested in installing solar at your home?



Q6 - Please indicate the reason(s) you do not have solar installed at your home.



Other:

I live in a condo – would like to get others on board

metal roof, would have to go in yard

Damage roof/ future cost, how long systems last

I think the above is true, but would like a second opinion

I have heard that the cost is very high, and that value of property could be negatively affected

It's an eyesore, made from petroleum products, an unethically sourced resource. MADE IN CHINA.

My house is on the north side of a hill. shaded

I hate the look on roof or in yard

I live in a condo- other owners do not want solar

I don't want panels on my roof

Not Sure-Property too shaded

I rent.

metal roof, not sure about shading

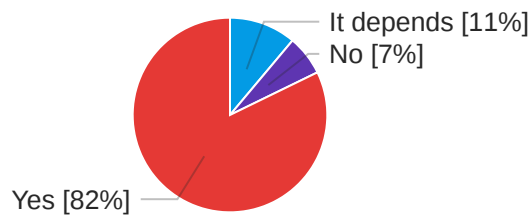
## BUSINESS/INSTITUTION SOLAR

Q7 - Does knowing a business or institution uses solar energy affect your attitude towards that organization?

Field	Choice Count
No, it does not affect my attitude towards that organization.	15
Yes, it makes me feel more positively towards that organization.	29
Yes, it makes me more likely to purchase goods or services from that organization.	7
Yes, it makes me feel more negatively towards that organization.	1
Yes, it makes me less likely to purchase goods or services from that organization.	0
Other	0

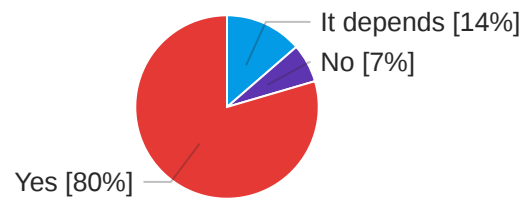
## MUNICIPAL SOLAR

Q22 - I think our town should invest in solar projects on municipal buildings or parking lots to meet municipal electricity needs.



It Depends:  
buildings too small  
available grants

Q23 - I think our town should invest in solar projects to meet community resident electricity needs.



It depends:

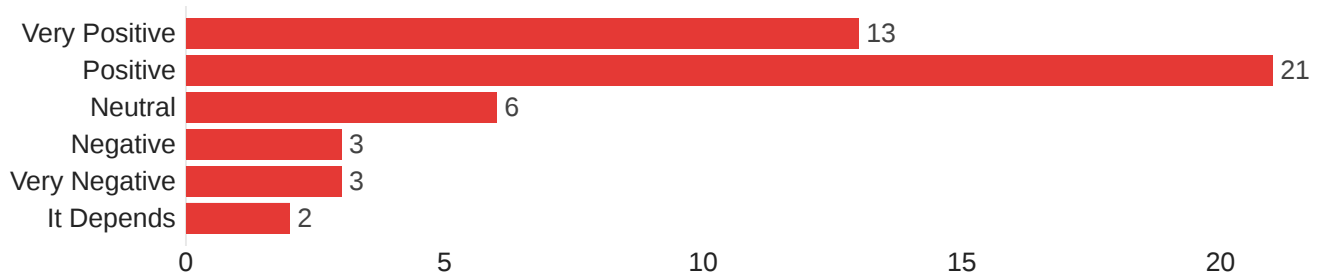
FORGET ABOUT THE KAYAK RACKS, UPGRADE PLAYGROUND, ETC, INVEST IN SOLAR

on owner wishes

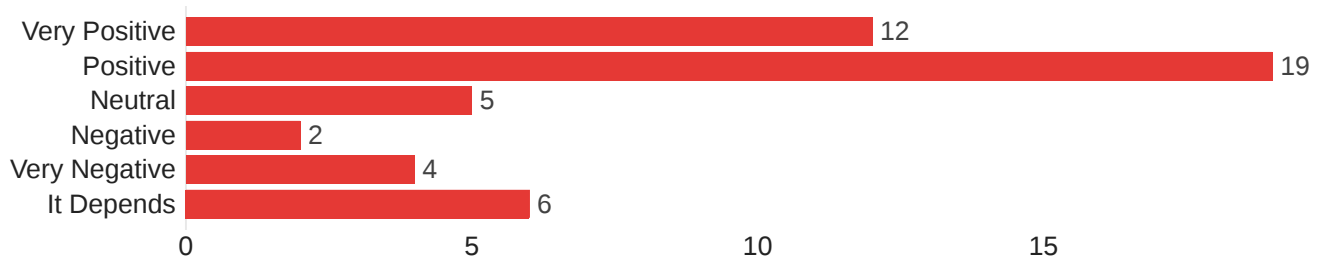
On where they are placed

## LARGE, GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR

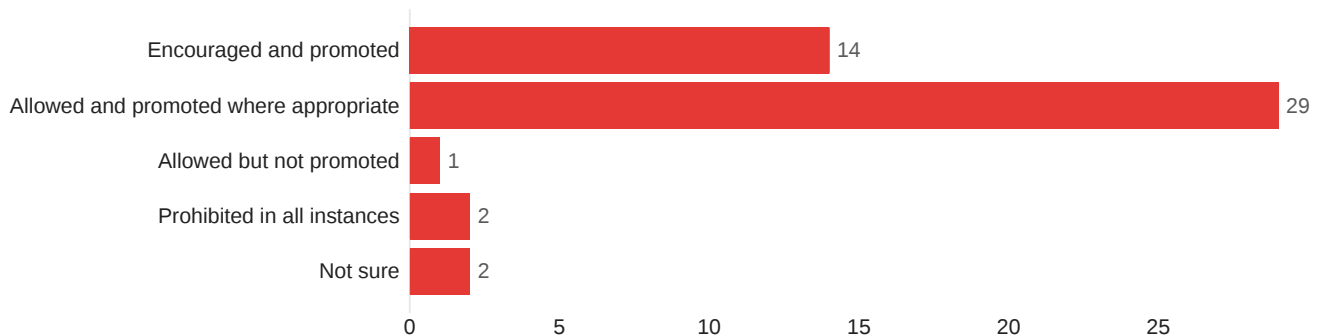
Q8 - What is your attitude toward large, ground-mounted solar energy in general?



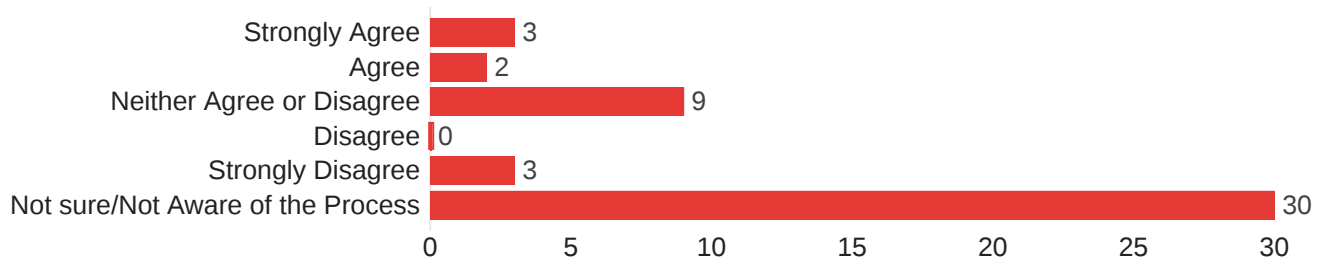
Q9 - What is your attitude toward large, ground-mounted solar energy in your town?



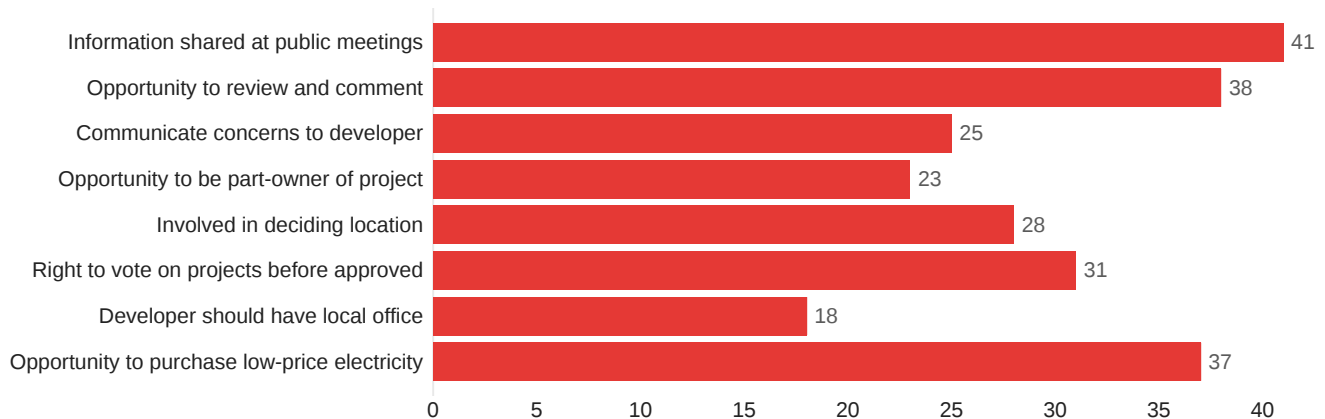
Q10 - In general, do you believe development of large, ground-mounted solar energy should be:



Q11 - To what extent do you agree or disagree that the process of large, ground-mounted solar energy development in your town has been fair?



Q12 - Which of the following types of community involvement would you like to see if a large-scale solar energy project was being planned in your town?



## FUTURE SOLAR CAPACITY

### Solar Capacity Options

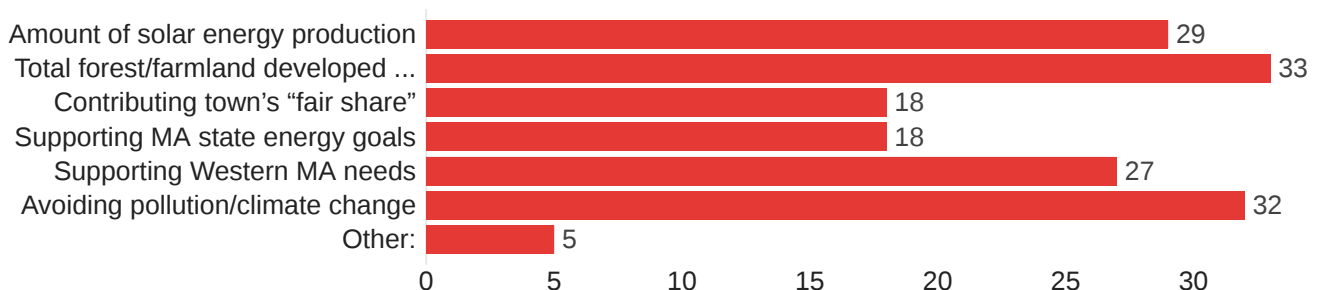
Here are some different options for how much solar development could be planned for your town in the future.

- Status Quo: “Ad-hoc” development, town does not plan for an increase in solar; individual landowners may choose to develop solar.
- Developed Spaces: Moderate increase: roofs, parking lots and disturbed land would be developed.
- Community Self-Sufficiency: Town generates 100% of community energy needs from solar.
- Regional Energy Goal: All Western MA municipalities develop 1.25% of their land area for solar to meet the four-county regional energy needs.
- Statewide Energy Goal: All MA municipalities develop 4% of their land area for solar to meet statewide solar energy goals.

### Q14 - What is your attitude towards the capacity options described above?

Field	Very Positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very Negative
Status Quo	6	5	9	16	7
Developed Spaces	16	19	7	1	1
Community Self-Sufficiency	21	18	2	2	2
Regional Energy Goal	13	22	2	5	2
Statewide Energy Goal	16	14	7	6	2

### Q15 - Which attributes were most important in considering your attitude towards each solar capacity option?



Note from above - Community self sufficiency is easier for Monterey to achieve due to no real industry so our load is almost entire town/residential

Other:

Lets not destroy natural land with solar farms



maybe- supporting MA state energy goals

There are some very wealthy second home owners in this town and we should use their land for public benefit.

**Q16 - Indicate the percentage (of the maximum possible) solar energy you would choose to be installed on various sites in your town, the technical potential is listed.**

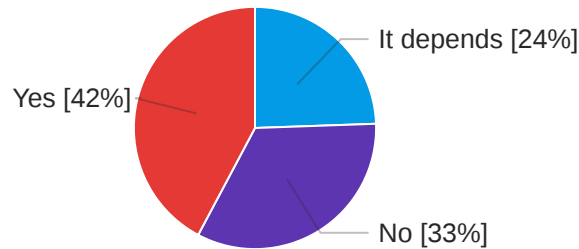
Field	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Responses
Residential roofs and yards (up to 2.5 MW)	10	100	76	100	31
Large rooftops (barns, schools, businesses) (up to 1.5 MW)	10	100	82	100	29
Parking lots (up to 1 MW)	0	100	85	100	24
Landfills (up to 3 MW)	0	100	84	100	28
Agricultural land (up to 345 MW)	0	100	54	50	20
Natural lands (forests, meadow) (up to 700 MW)	0	100	45	30	22

## ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Q13 - How likely would you be to support large, ground mounted solar energy in your town if the project provided the following benefits to your community?

Field	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Very Likely	Not Likely at All
Reduced electricity rates for residents	33	13	0	2
Reduced electricity rates for low-income residents	29	15	1	2
Direct payments that reduced property taxes	29	10	3	3
Direct payments that supported town budget needs (e.g. school funding, fire or police vehicles)	27	12	3	3
Jobs for local residents	29	11	1	3
Back-up power to the school, emergency shelter, or senior housing in case of power outage	30	12	1	3
Offered local ownership for residents who can't put it on their houses	22	16	3	4

Q20 - Would you be willing to pay more on your monthly electricity bill for solar energy projects located on roofs, parking lots, and landfills/brownfields rather than on farmland and forests?



*"It Depends" Responses:*

as a senior, my income is limited and my bills exorbitant

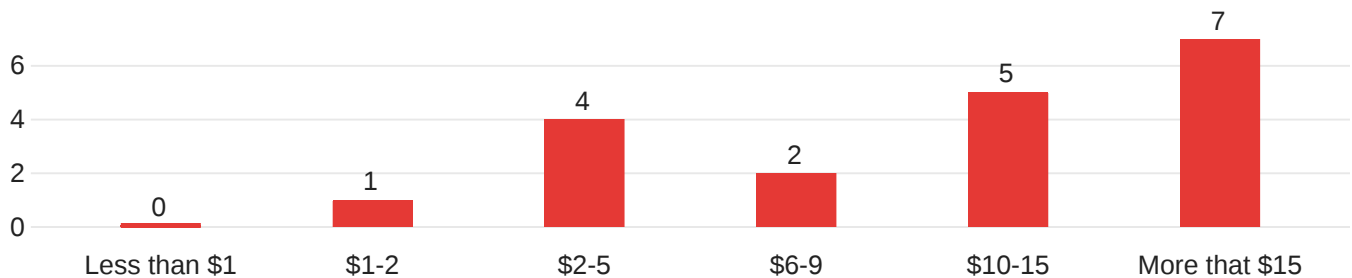
if it eventually reduces my bill. If not why would I pay more to make someone else's pocket riches?

if other taxes decrease or stay level

The goal would be to lower energy costs, but if there was no other option, I'd support it.

Yes, but the wealthy should pay more.

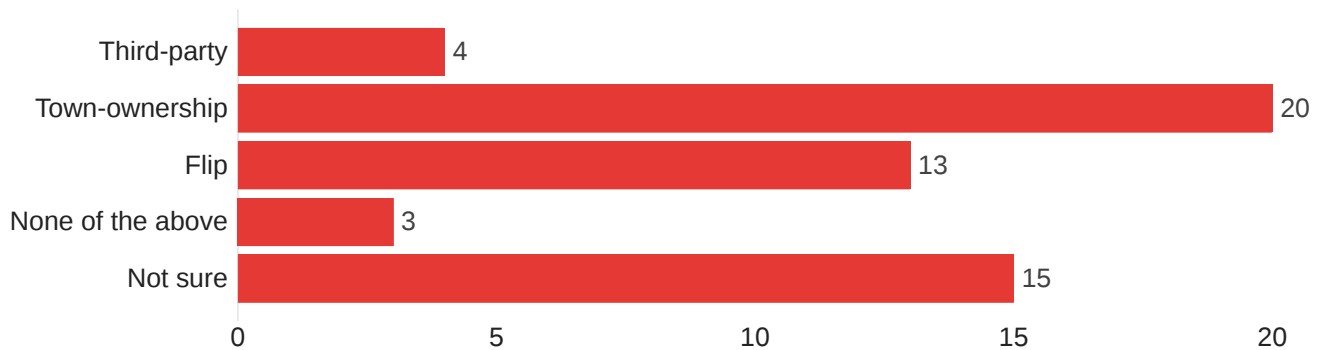
Q22 - How much more would you be willing to pay per month on your electricity bill?



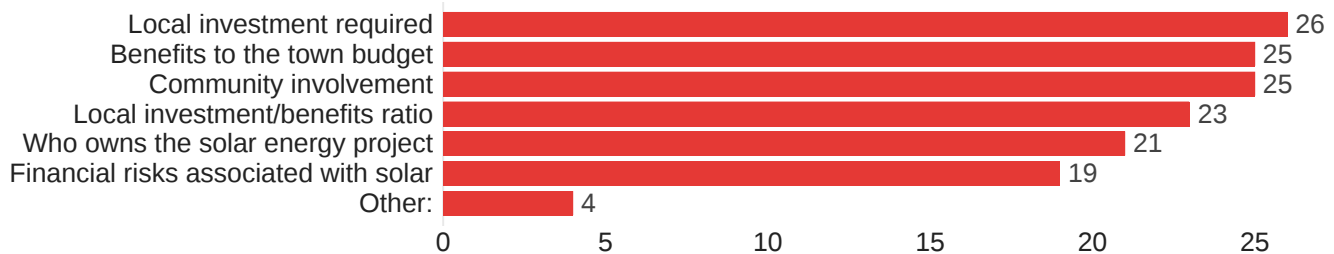
## Q24 - Which ownership approaches to large, ground-mounted solar do you think could be appropriate for your community?

There are different levels of financial involvement and ownership that towns can consider taking in large, ground-mounted solar energy projects. Each has its own set of economic benefits and risks.

- **In the third-party development approach** an out-of-town company finances, develops, and owns the project for its entire lifespan. All investments, risks, and maintenance are the responsibility of this developer. The local community receives some revenue in the form of PILOT payments to the town and lease payments to the landowner but most revenue (90%) flows to the developer. This approach is simple for the town but involves relatively little community involvement in decision-making.
- **In the town-ownership approach** the town finances, develops, and owns the project for the entire 30 years. The town must invest significant funds (at least \$1.5 million) to install the project. All investments, risks, and ongoing costs are the responsibility of the town. 100% of project revenues flow to the town, roughly equal to double the investment (\$3 million). Decision-making is local.
- **In the "flip" model approach** an out-of-town company finances, develops, and owns the project for the first 6 years. The town then purchases the project at fair market value (at least \$500,000). Responsibility for any costs and risks switches from the developer to the town at the time of sale. Local revenues are approximately \$2 million. There is a greater role for the community in decision-making.



## Q25 - Which attributes were most important in considering your attitude towards solar ownership approaches?



Other:

environmental concerns

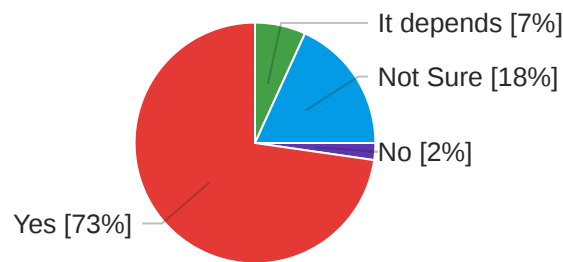
what happens after 30 years?

too expensive, short life span, too little energy won

Better to plant trees!

## ENERGY STORAGE

Q26 - In an earlier section, you indicated your preferences for siting solar energy projects in various places in your community, including previously disturbed land, undeveloped land, parking areas, agricultural land, etc. When considering the siting of large energy storage projects (1 acre or more in size), are your preferences for location similar to the preferences you identified regarding locations of large solar energy facilities?



● It depends ● Not Sure ● No ● Yes

It depends:

What kind of storage: battery, pumped hydroelectric, etc.

OnHealth impact of neighbors

Q27 - What questions, concerns, or preferences do you have about energy storage that you would like your local and state representatives to know?

How elec. storage and creation impact human (+other) health.

I have read very little about commercial/industrial-scale storage, but I understand at how they'd help balance grid load.

fixed income senior. No upfront investment.

Are the environmental advantages of solar energy negated by the environmental costs of producing panels + batteries for storage?

batterie use unethically sourced minerals everything comes from china

I feel confused by the options, pricing & tax rebates available for house solar heat pump!

Would be concerned about any safety issues. I've heard anecdotally that fires are very difficult to extinguish there. I would be concerned about any safety issues

Location of panels. Cost to town compared to benefit

Environmental hazards or potential hazards. Cost to renew storage systems

I think subsidies of practical solutions will be necessary to spur storage technology to the point where it is economical

Double click to edit

## Q28 - What is your perspective on installing charging stations for electric vehicles in Monterey? What questions, concerns, or preferences would you like your municipal leaders to know?

What is your perspective on installing charging stations for electric vehicles in Monterey? What questions, concerns, or preferences would you like your municipal leaders to know?

I think it's critical to support the necessary electrification of the state

Perhaps worth installing near general store (once it's a functional store), roadside store or Town Beach (where persons charging may be entertained/occupied while waiting).

parking, elec, transmission.

against

I disagree with the electric vehicle charging. The vehicles are not developed enough for practical function on a wide scale, making it only accessible to the elite.

Would benefit 2nd home owner mostly.

in favor

safety.

for it, those who use it pay a fee

cost. Will charging stations be available for non-tesla vehicles. - i.e. compatible to all mfgs.

IT'S A VERY GOOD IDEA.

the town is too small to warrant the expense. charge at home

placed in other larger towns but not in Monterey

There are none- not needed now until more electric vehicles are produced. Probably within 5-7 years

SAFETY, LIFE SPAN

I support it

good idea- at community center, lake, library,

I don't foresee our town becoming big enough to warrant municipal charging port. The building inspectors need to make it easier for home installation

We should have a few as should all towns

should be installed along with community solar for the needed electricity. Maybe roadside store and library and/or p.o.

## Q29 - Are there any other areas in Monterey which you believe could benefit from solar development? Are there any businesses, institutions, or municipal buildings which you think could benefit from solar energy?

Are there any other areas in Monterey which you believe could benefit from solar development? Are there any businesses, institutions, or municipal buildings which you think could benefit from solar energy?

Gould Farm + It's wastewater management areas Transfer Station building + on ranch over the waste bin areas.

- Gould Farm's new building - Country Store - Art Gallery at old mechanic shop

The old Leaside Lodge lot that sits empty would be a great location for solar panels. It would give the geese shade..oh except it would be fence in and unreachable for the wild life that enjoys that space.

Community center, historical buildings

Tear down Monterey school and make it a solar site. Community Center Property.

Gould Farm

NO

no.

library, town hall

community center, all barns (where owners agree), all public buildings, buildings at transfer station, skating rink

Agrivoltaics at Gould Farm and elsewhere. Large ground mounted solar at Gould Farm gravel pit possibly spreading a little into adjacent hay field

Town Library

Gould Farm, Hume Camp, Tryon Farms



## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Q30 - Are there any additional questions, concerns, or preferences about solar energy that you would like your local and state representatives to know?

Should we consider more pumped storage of water around the state using excess daytime solar production + nighttime hydro? (No nuclear or co2 waste)

Are there resources to help low income?

My concern is always that these large solar fields disrupt all wildlife in the area. The one is Sheffield at Holmes Rd + Country Rd stopped all the incredible wildlife I would see there on a daily basis, hunting, resting, playing, and just passing through.

Safety? Future Cost.

Cost + where are funds coming from

NO

tell me why we should pay more \$, have less electrical stability, destroy natural land with plastic and create ugliness instead of buying cheaper, more reliable power from coal or gas?

how rentals would work in paying fees

MARKET DRIVEN NOT GOVERNMENT DRIVEN DON'T SEND OUR TAX DOLLARS ON A DREAM UNTIL IT WORKS

Is the state spending money in Monterey to pay for vehicle charging stations

Q31 - Are there solar energy topics that you would like to see your town learn more about?

Geothermal options. Is small-scale hydropower off the table? Need to integrate solar fields with native planting and/or grazing

More attractive ones, but that is way down the list! We have to save our planet and keep people and animals safe.  
not

What is the future of solar technology? When panels get smaller + more efficient, when does it get more efficient + need dependent charging stations in 5-10 years what happens then? Look at how quickly technology changes

After 30 years do you have some replacement costs?

NO

Where do the solar panels come from? How much Do they Cost? What is their lifespan? What happens to the solar panels + batteries after they are taken down?

I would like an in-person, easy guide to installing solar, heat pump, etc. Like a Jackson-Hewitt does for taxes!  
agrivoltaics

As a household with solar on the roof, it seems important to get the word out as to the benefits of roof top solar.

Newer, more efficient and flexible solar panel tech

Q32 - Use this space to share additional comments or questions.

Why are we limiting ourselves to solar and not including wind power options that may be available to the town?  
consider set aside parcels for solar panels

I have to be convinced it [solar] is not damaging to the plants or wildlife

Thanks for the opportunity to give opinion.

the local full time residents do not have expensive electronic vehicles. Second home owners are capable of creating their own charging stations at home, public charging stations currently take 2 hours for a full charge, what will these people do while waiting? Maybe put the charging stations at the town beach or at the town library or community center. This will give them something to do so they don't trespass on private property while looking for something to do.

Solar grants are available but what about future costs. Need to be self maintaining. I don't think solar panels are any worse looking then utility poles + wires.

I am very supportive of alternative energy. I have driven a prius since 2005. I would love to have solar panels just as a retired single woman at age 80 the cost, the initial deposit of money seems to be out of my reach. The best I can do is take advantage of passive solar (which I do, and have always done)

I ALREADY AM A MEMBER OF A SOLAR FARM. IS THAT A POSSIBILITY FOR MONTEREY?

Is there an environmental assessment plan for the potential harm they cause to wildlife ? Habitat? What are the solar panels made from? What is the cost set up over more traditional energy methods?

I would consider solar energy in my back yard once the initial cost decreases or there are govt. subsidies for the project. my issue with solar energy is strictly aesthetics. when driving along a rural road and I come upon one of these installation, I am always taken back. the me is pause after is on Country Rd in Sheffield...

Thanks for the survey!!

None at this time, thanks.

## LOCATIONS

Q17 - To what extent do you support or oppose large, ground-mounted solar energy near various types of community features?

Field	Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Alongside waterbodies – streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, wetlands (e.g., Lake Buel, Lake Garfield, Konkapot River)	1	3	4	20	17
Adjacent to public recreation areas	6	8	15	11	5
Adjacent to the town center	6	13	14	9	3
Adjacent to historic buildings or properties	3	8	12	20	3
Adjacent to residences	6	12	12	12	3
Along rural roads	8	14	10	11	4
Along major roads (e.g., Route 23)	10	13	11	9	3
Areas visible from scenic vistas or other high elevation locations	4	6	11	12	12
Areas hidden by forest or other low elevation sites not visible	11	21	7	2	3

## Q18 - To what extent do you support or oppose large, ground-mounted solar energy...

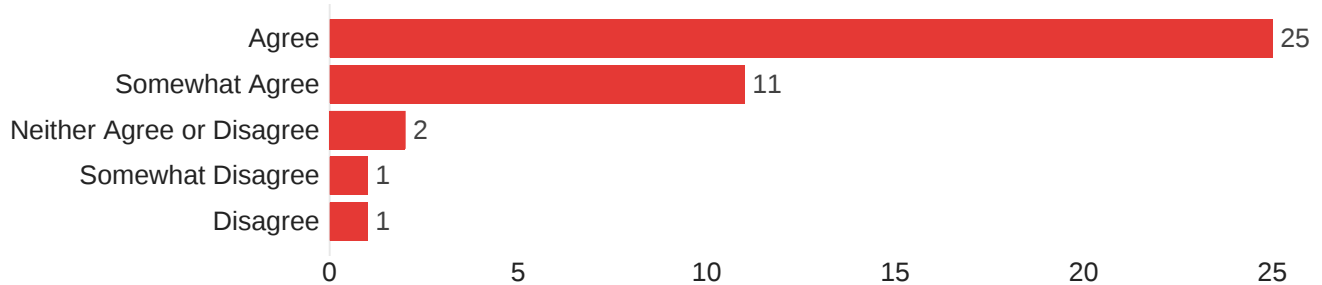
Field	Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Active hayfields or pastureland converted to solar	3	10	8	9	10
Agricultural land currently used for vegetable or fruit production converted to solar	1	7	4	15	13
Agricultural land not currently being farmed converted to solar	9	21	4	5	2

## Q19 - To what extent do you support or oppose large, ground-mounted solar energy...

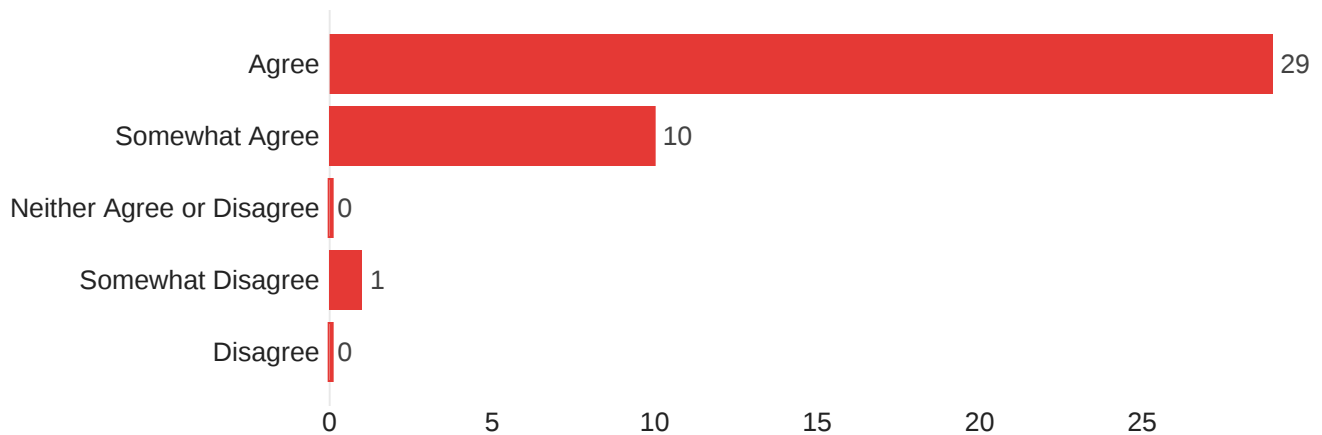
Field	Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Former landfills and brownfields	22	18	3	1	1
Priority wildlife habitat	1	1	4	17	20
Large tracts of mature forest	1	1	5	17	19
Large tracts of forest regularly harvested for timber	4	10	18	6	5
Small patches of mature forest	1	3	9	17	12
Small patches of new growth forest, small trees and saplings	2	4	16	13	6
Meadows or Shrublands	4	11	12	8	7
Electricity transmission line corridors/powerline right-of-ways	18	19	1	5	1

## GENERAL OPINION/DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

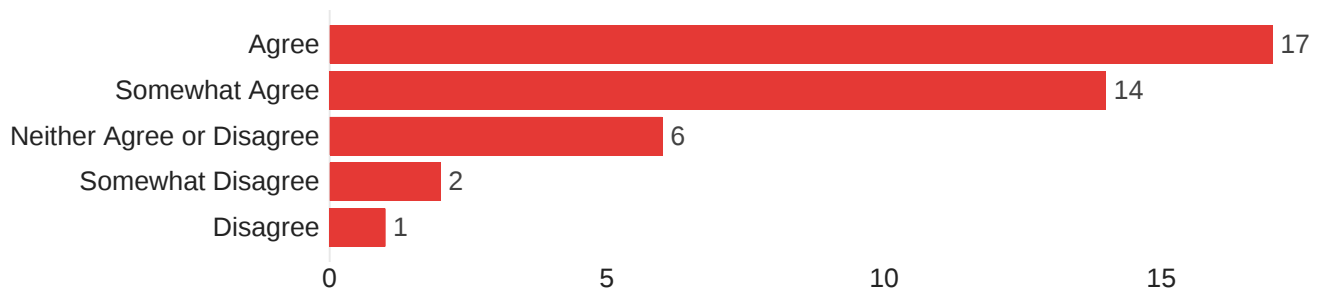
Q48 - I feel attached to my town.



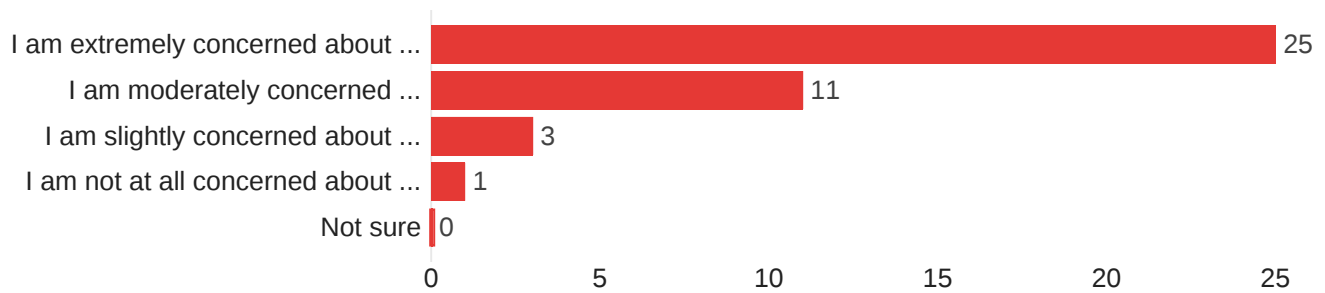
Q49 - I feel attached to Western Massachusetts.



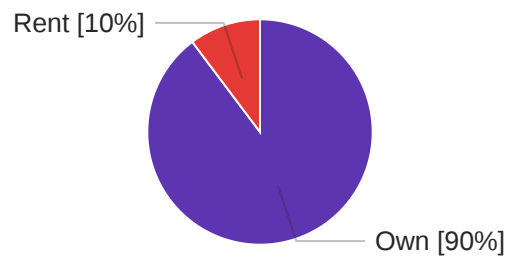
Q50 - I feel attached to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



### Q51 - What is your personal level of concern about climate change?



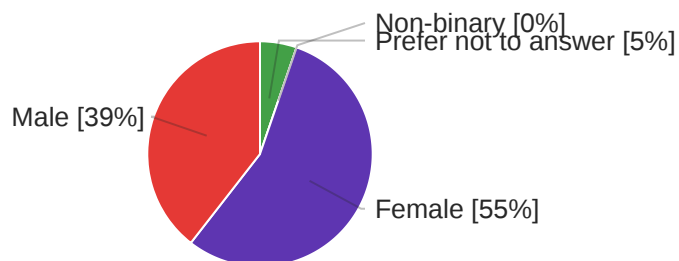
### Q52 - Do you rent or own your current residence?



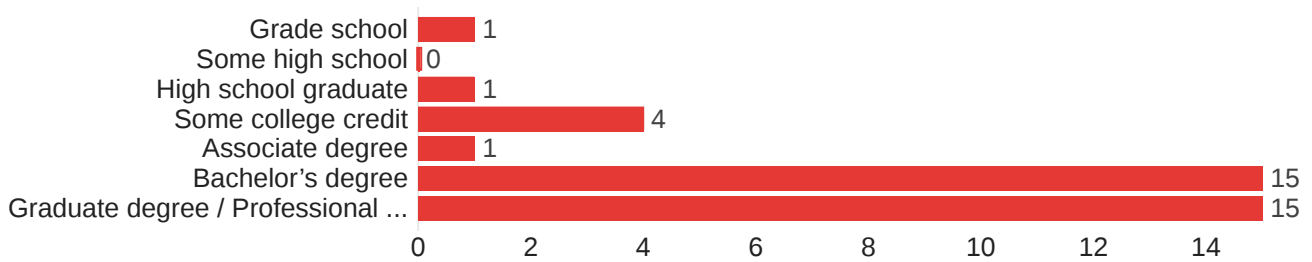
### Q53 - What is your age?

Field	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Responses
What is your age?	40	90	67	69	13	35

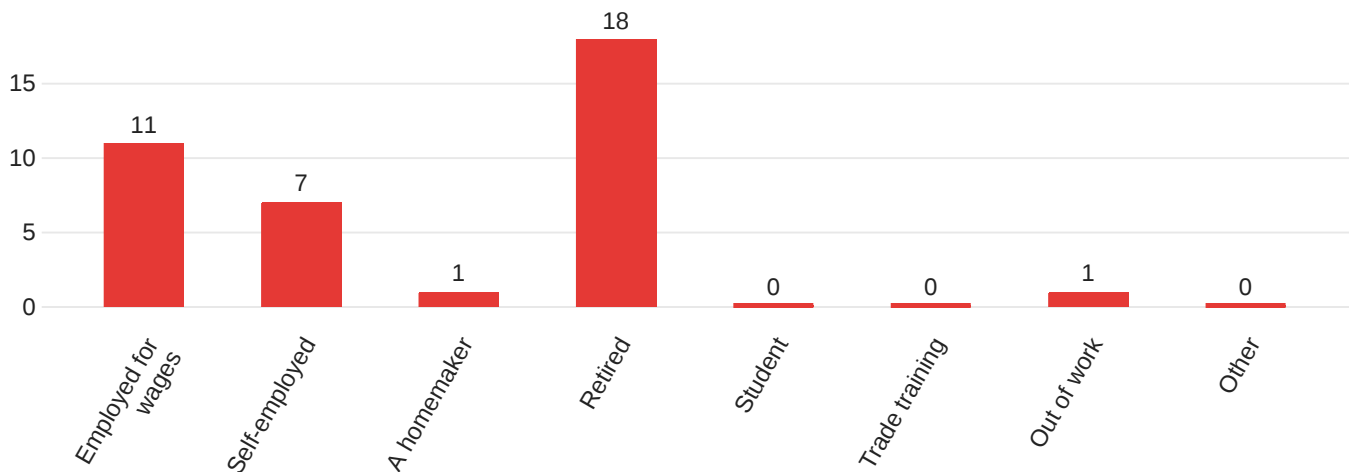
### Q54 - Are you male or female, or non-binary?



Q55 - What is the highest degree or level of school that you have completed?



Q56 - What is your current employment status?



Q57 - Which category best describes your household income (before taxes) in 2022?

Field	Choice Count
Less than \$15,000	2
\$15,000-\$24,999	1
\$25,000-\$34,999	4
\$35,000-\$49,999	1
\$50,000-\$74,999	5
\$75,000-\$99,999	3
\$100,000-\$149,999	1

\$200,000 or more	9
\$150,000-\$199,999	3

Field	Choice Count
Less than \$15,000	2
\$15,000-\$24,999	1
\$25,000-\$34,999	4
\$35,000-\$49,999	1
\$50,000-\$74,999	5
\$75,000-\$99,999	3
\$100,000-\$149,999	1
\$200,000 or more	9
\$150,000-\$199,999	3

### Q58 - What is your race/origin? Check as many as apply. - Selected Choice

