

Community & Stakeholder Engagement Phase 1 – Fall 2019 Summary Report



Community & Stakeholder Engagement Overview

Bellevue's Environmental Stewardship Plan serves as the roadmap for achieving the city's environmental sustainability goals. The plan covers five focus areas – climate, energy, waste, mobility & land use, and natural systems. For each focus area there are high level goals, numerical targets, and strategies for achieving those goals and targets.

Bellevue has a long tradition of engaging residents and stakeholders in planning for the future and public engagement is a key part of this process as well. Community engagement for the Environmental Stewardship Plan is spread over three phases.

- **Phase One: Refine Goals and Targets (fall 2019):** Understand key concerns & priorities and share progress under the last Environmental Stewardship Plan.
- **Phase Two: Develop strategies and actions (winter 2020):** Work with the community to explore key strategies and talk about the actions needed for the plan's success.
- **Phase Three: Review draft plan (spring-summer 2020):** Share the draft with residents and other stakeholders for comment.

Phase One kicked off in September 2019 with multiple opportunities for residents and stakeholders to engage – an online survey, 4 pop-up events, 3 presentations at local high schools, a Sustainability Leaders workshop, and a community workshop. Through these combined efforts we heard from over 400 people who shared their vision for environmental stewardship in Bellevue.

Overview of Outreach Findings

Both the public and key stakeholders view environmental stewardship as an important issue for the city to address. Major employers, small business, regional partners, and individual residents are all taking action and setting goals around sustainability. Key themes that were heard across all outreach activities include:

- **A desire for ambitious action.** Both the public and key stakeholders expressed strong support for Bellevue being a leader in sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- **Commitment to community.** Both the public and key stakeholders expressed that environmental stewardship is a cornerstone of healthy communities.
- **Leading by example.** The public identified the City as a leader in environmental sustainability and want to see the City pursue bolder action. Key stakeholders expressed a desire to collaborate and help the City achieve its goals.

Survey Findings

385 people took the survey both online and in-person at our pop-up events. Residents clearly care deeply about environmental stewardship and are looking for the city to lead by example.

- **92%** agree that Bellevue should be a leader in sustainability and environmental action.
- **87%** agree or strongly agree that environmental stewardship is good for the health and livability of their community.
- **88%** agree or strongly agree that climate change is an important issue to them personally.

More than half and up to two-thirds of respondents identified the following as high sustainability priorities:

- **Water quality** in streams and lakes
- **Recycling** and **composting**
- Access to **parks** and **green space**

Some respondents (about one-third) provided additional ideas about sustainability priorities. The key themes and takeaways from those ideas are below:

- Look at how tree canopy goals might conflict with infrastructure improvements and urban sprawl.
- Consider code improvements to improve energy efficiency and reduce heat loss from buildings.
- Ensure goals are impactful and achievable; implement new technology where possible.



Individual Action

Residents are incorporating environmental stewardship into their daily lives. Nearly all survey respondents do multiple things to promote sustainability. The top three actions include:

- Recycling or composting
- Using reusable containers, including reusable shopping bags
- Using energy-efficient lightbulbs or appliances, or participating in a Green Power program

City Action

Survey respondents are strongly in favor of seeing Bellevue set ambitious goals around environmental stewardship. More than 75% of respondents support a **Bold** or **Leading-Edge** level of commitment and approach:

- **48%** of respondents support a **Leading-Edge** approach.
- **31%** of respondents support a **Bold** approach.

Setting a vision and creating a plan

The survey included two open ended questions that invited people to share their vision for environmental stewardship and ideas to consider including in the plan. Key themes and ideas that emerged include:

- Engage youth and set long-term goals to plan for the future.
- Support sustainable urban growth and development that protects and supports natural systems.
- Take a balanced cost-benefit approach that prioritizes long-term benefits.
- Encourage businesses to take bolder action for sustainability to help Bellevue achieve its goals.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through updates to building codes and across sectors including industry, transportation, and more.
- Create more infrastructure and incentives for electric vehicles.
- Plan for the future of Bellevue.
- Help people make more sustainable choices through more education and engagement.
- Preserve trees and find ways to incorporate tree canopy into planning.

My vision for environmental stewardship in Bellevue is...

- *A livable city with clean air and green spaces.*
- *Bellevue excels in combining sustainable solutions with growth and a high quality of life.*

Survey respondents

Community Workshop

On Tuesday, October 1, 2019 the city held a community workshop. Thirty-eight community members gathered to learn more about the Environmental Stewardship Plan and progress to date; discuss values and priorities around environmental sustainability; and provide input on how ambitious the city should be in setting goals.

- Top **personal values** that guide people's actions include duty to care for the earth, obligation to the future, and effectiveness/impact.
- Top **civic values** that attendees think should guide the city include effectiveness/impact, social justice/equity, and duty to care for the earth.
- Attendees want the city to pursue **leading edge strategies** when it comes to addressing climate change
- Attendees felt that the city's ability to successfully implement leading edge strategies would be helped by opportunities to collaborate with regional partners, emerging knowledge about best practices, and the residents' trust in the city to be a good manager of taxpayer resources.

Pop-Up Events & Presentations

To reach residents who may not otherwise know about opportunities to participate the city did pop-up events at the Downtown Library, Mini City Hall, and the Bellevue Farmer's Market. At these events we shared information about the plan, had paper versions of the survey available, and invited residents to take selfies.

The city also did intentional outreach to youth via presentations to the Youthlink Board and to Interlake High School's Green Team.



Nearly 1/3 of the total survey responses came from these in-person events.

Sustainability Leaders Workshop

To better understand how key stakeholder groups are addressing environmental stewardship the city invited representatives from the developer, business, and non-profit environmental communities; major employers; and regional partners. Thirty individuals gathered in Tuesday, September 17, 2019 to hear about the Environmental Stewardship Plan and provide input on targets for the plan, explore opportunities for collaboration. Thirty individuals g

Organization Alignment

Across industries and sectors there was broad alignment about the need to urgently address environmental sustainability. Key themes that emerged in discussion were:

- Almost all organizations have sustainability goals, particularly related to greenhouse gas emissions reductions and energy.
 - **Bellevue College** aims to be carbon neutral by 2050 and is incorporating sustainable development goals in their sustainability efforts.
- Two organizations have energy goals with accelerated timelines:
 - **T-Mobile**: 100% renewable energy by 2021
 - **Unico**: 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Electrification is not going to get us 100% to where we need to be. It's just a piece of what we need to do for the environmental and economic goals we need to achieve.

Sustainability Leader

- Organizations like **Vulcan** and **Unico** are focused on implementing greener, more energy-efficient buildings.
 - Existing buildings: 50% renewable energy by 2030.
 - New construction: 100% renewable energy by 2030.
- **Almost 10 organizations** have goals for Mobility & Land Use focused on commute trip reduction and/or increasing transit ridership for employees.
 - **King County Housing Authority** is buying property near transit hubs to help connect more people to more transit options as well as offering more telecommute options.
 - **Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Master Builders, and Built Green** are also focused on improving affordable housing with connections to transit hubs and/or that are closer to job centers.
 - **Bellevue Downtown Association** has policy positions that support commute trip reduction through multi-modal investments. Through TransManage, they encourage travel by bus, foot, bike, and carpool.
- With respect to Natural Systems:
 - **Vulcan** and **GLY** are Salmon Safe certified.
 - **King County Housing Authority** has goals to reduce stormwater and potable water use 50% by 2030.
 - **Bellevue School District** has a horticulture program to help education students about local agriculture and urban gardening.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Amazon*
- Arch
- Bellevue Brewing+
- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
- Bellevue College
- Bellevue Downtown Association
- Bellevue School District
- City of Bellevue
- Climate Solutions*
- ERIC+
- Ethnic Business Coalition*
- Forterra+
- Forth Mobility
- GLY
- Hopelink+
- King County Housing Authority
- King County Metro
- Master Builders/Built Green
- Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center*
- Microsoft+
- Puget Sound Energy
- REI*
- Sound Transit+
- Su Development
- T-Mobile
- The Nature Conservancy+
- Unico Properties
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network*
- Vulcan

*Accepted invitation but unable to attend
+Interested but declined invitation.

Motivators & Future Vision

Sustainability leaders shared what motivates their organization to be sustainable and their vision toward a more sustainable future. Their motivations and vision generally aligned with one (or more) of six themes:

- Community
- Climate change
- Economy
- Sustainable buildings
- Transportation
- Natural systems

Key organizational **motivators** included:

- sense of urgency
- ethic and sense of responsibility for environmental protection
- leading by example
- equity
- cost savings
- resilience
- behavior change

Attendees expressed desire to **work toward a future** with the following characteristics:

- low-carbon or carbon-neutral
- resource-efficient and zero-waste
- thriving economy
- healthy communities
- equitable

Perceptions of Environmental Stewardship and the City's Role

Attendees responded to four online polling questions:

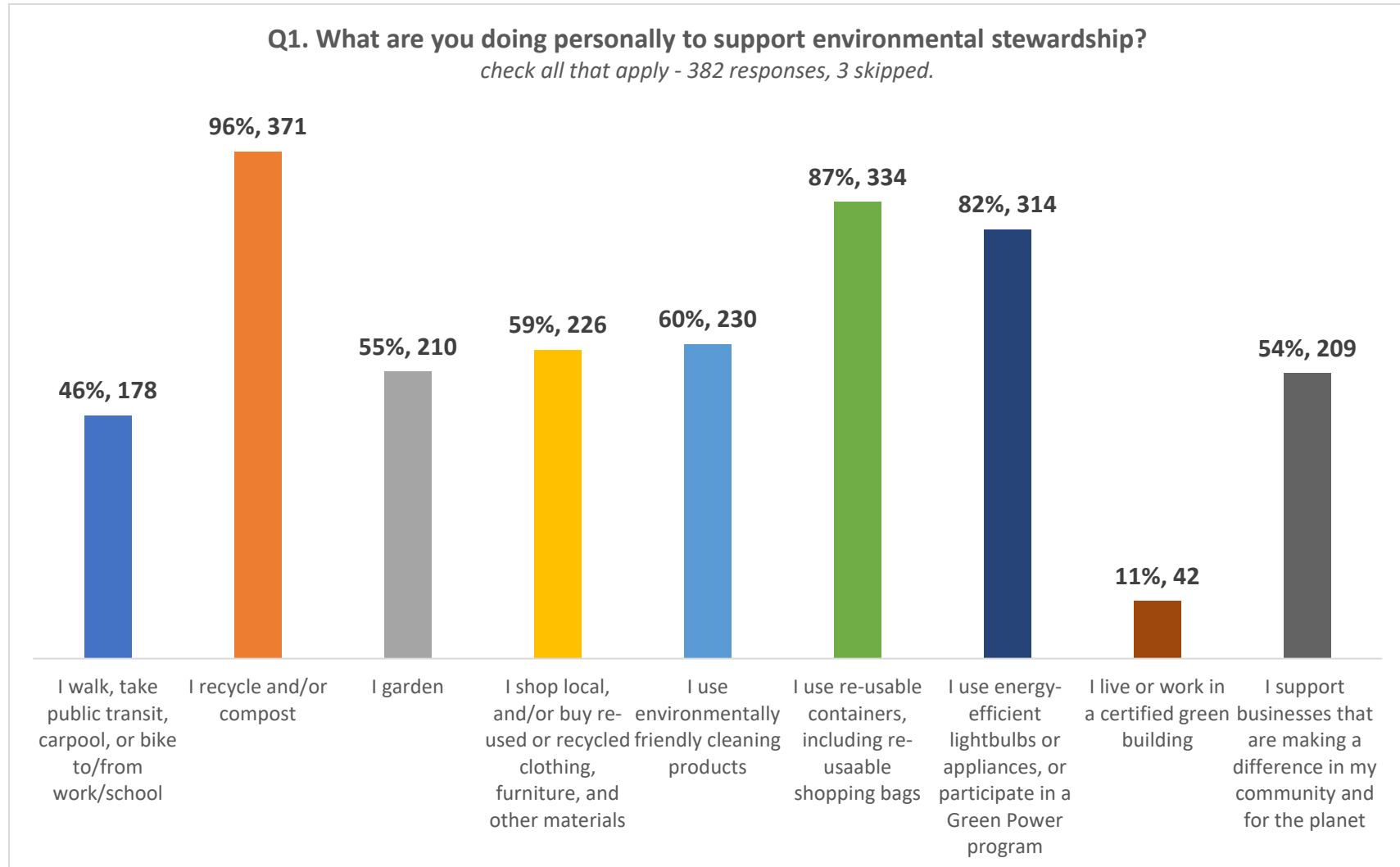
- All attendees strongly agreed that environmental stewardship is good for the **health and livability of their community**.
- The majority (71%) of attendees strongly agreed that environmental stewardship is **good for business in Bellevue**.
- The majority (68%) of attendees strongly agreed that **Bellevue should be a leader** in sustainability and environmental action.
- Attendees selected **four sustainability issues** the City of Bellevue should prioritize in the environmental stewardship plan: resiliency to climate change impacts, energy-efficient buildings, alternative transportation modes, and greenhouse gas emissions.

What's Next

The input gathered through these efforts will be used to help inform the goals and targets for the next Environmental Stewardship. The plan's goals will also incorporate research and analysis into best practices, feedback from other city departments, and careful consideration of existing resources and capabilities. And residents and stakeholders will continue to be involved in the development of the Environmental Stewardship.

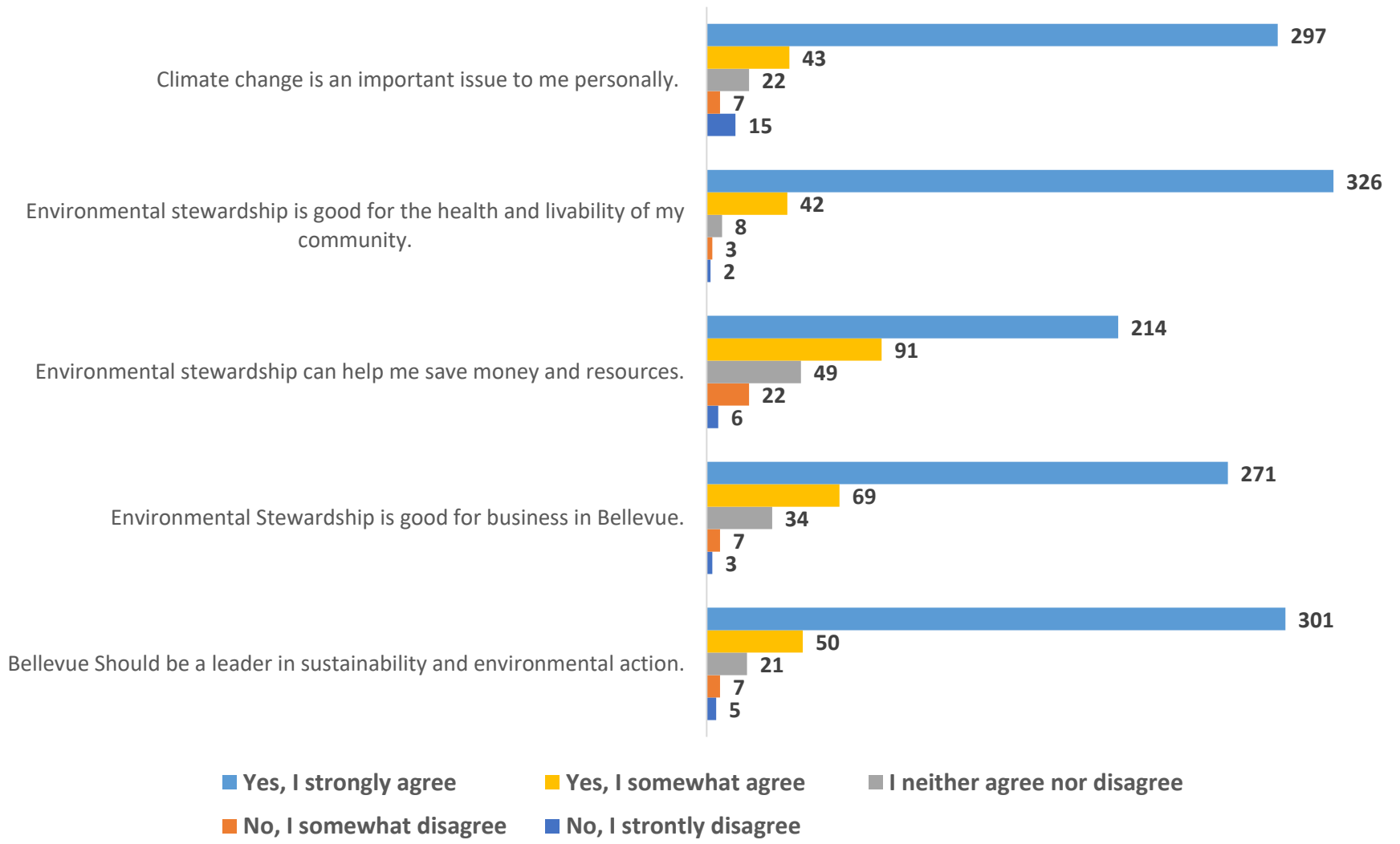
Appendix: Survey Results

The following section provides a summary of the results of the survey performed using engagingbellevue.com, which resulted in responses from 385 people.



Q2. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.

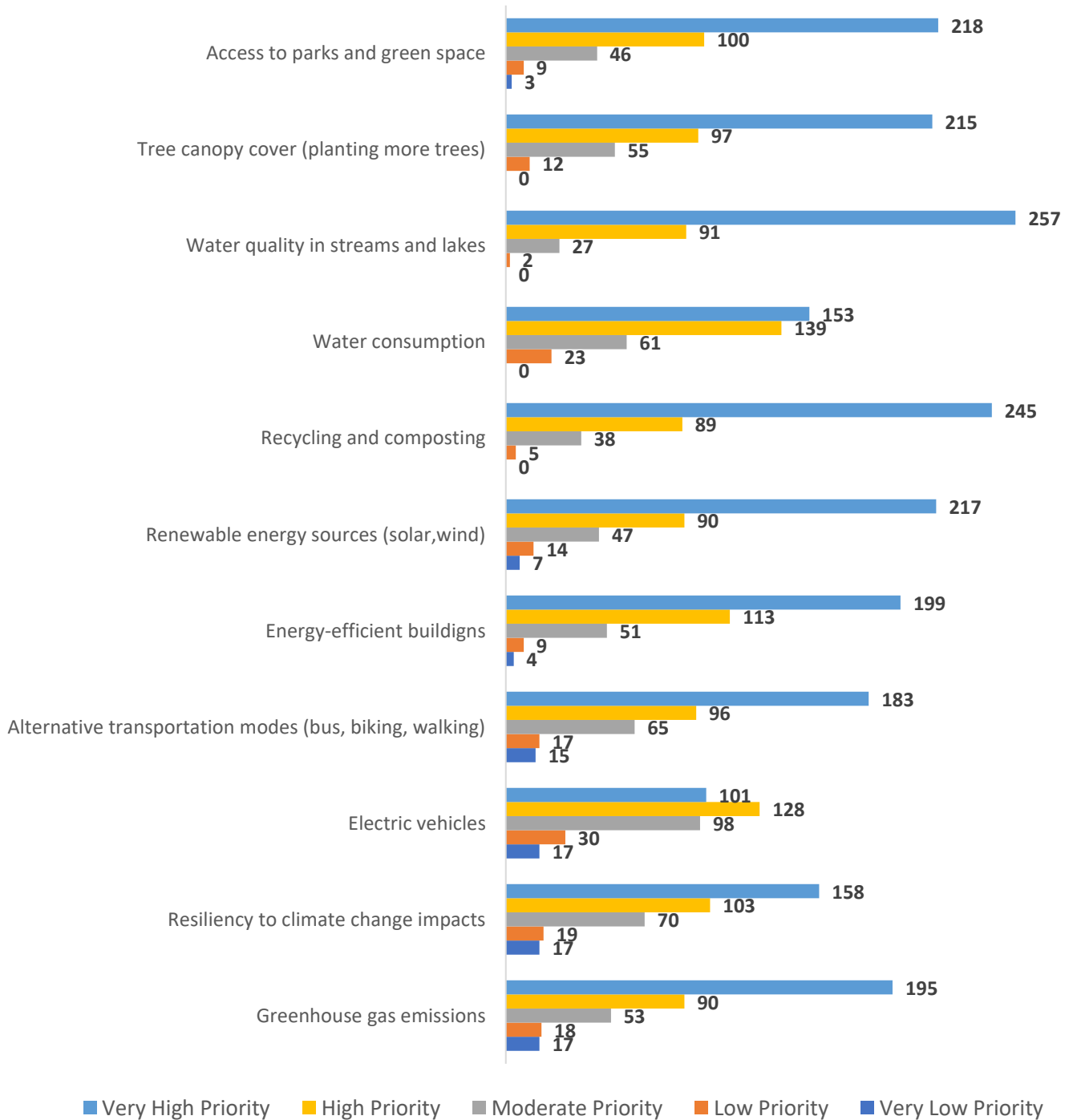
For each statement, please select the option that best matches your view. 384 responses, 1 skipped.



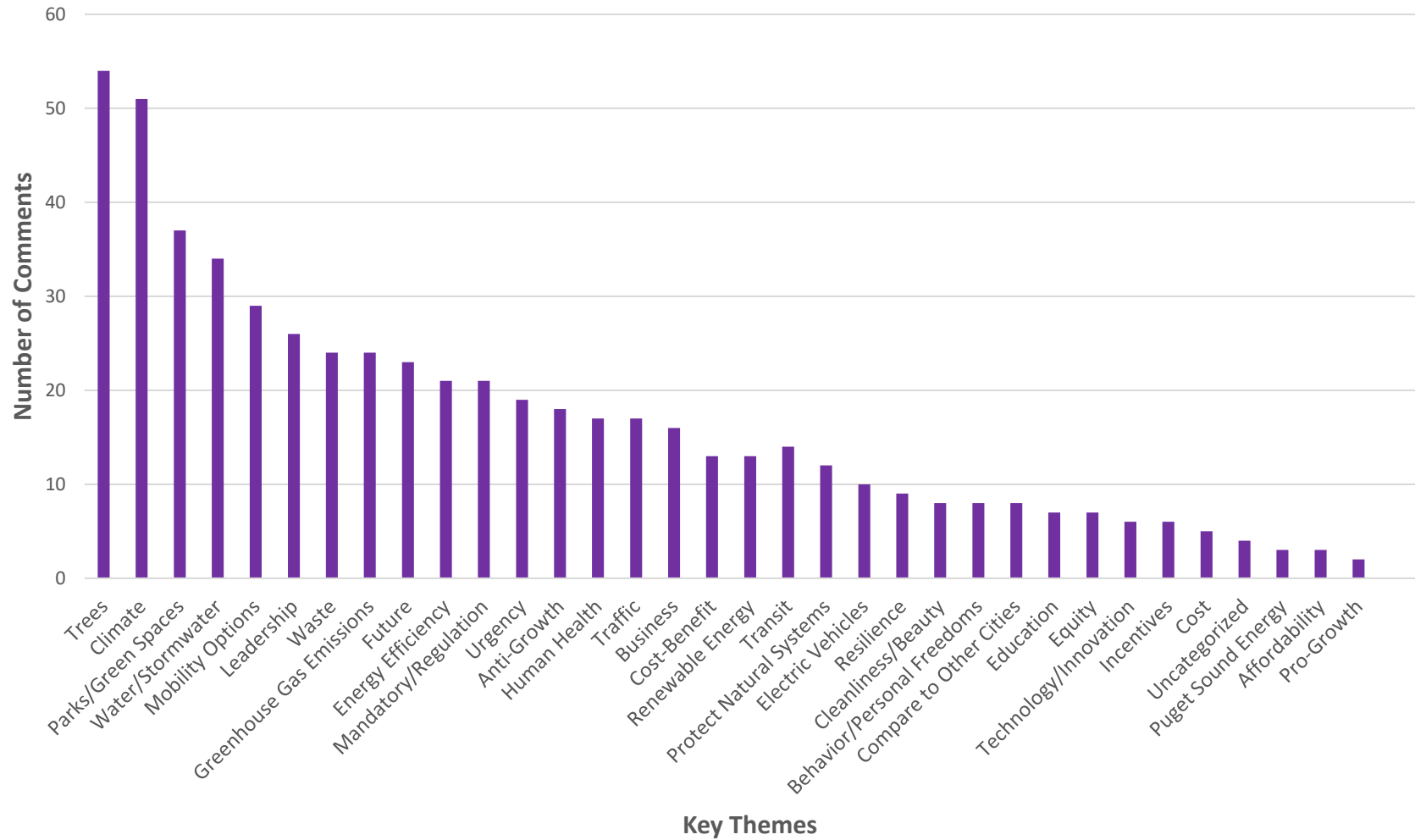
Q3. Please rate the extent to which you think the city of Bellevue should prioritize the following sustainability issues.

For each issue, please select the option that best matches your view.

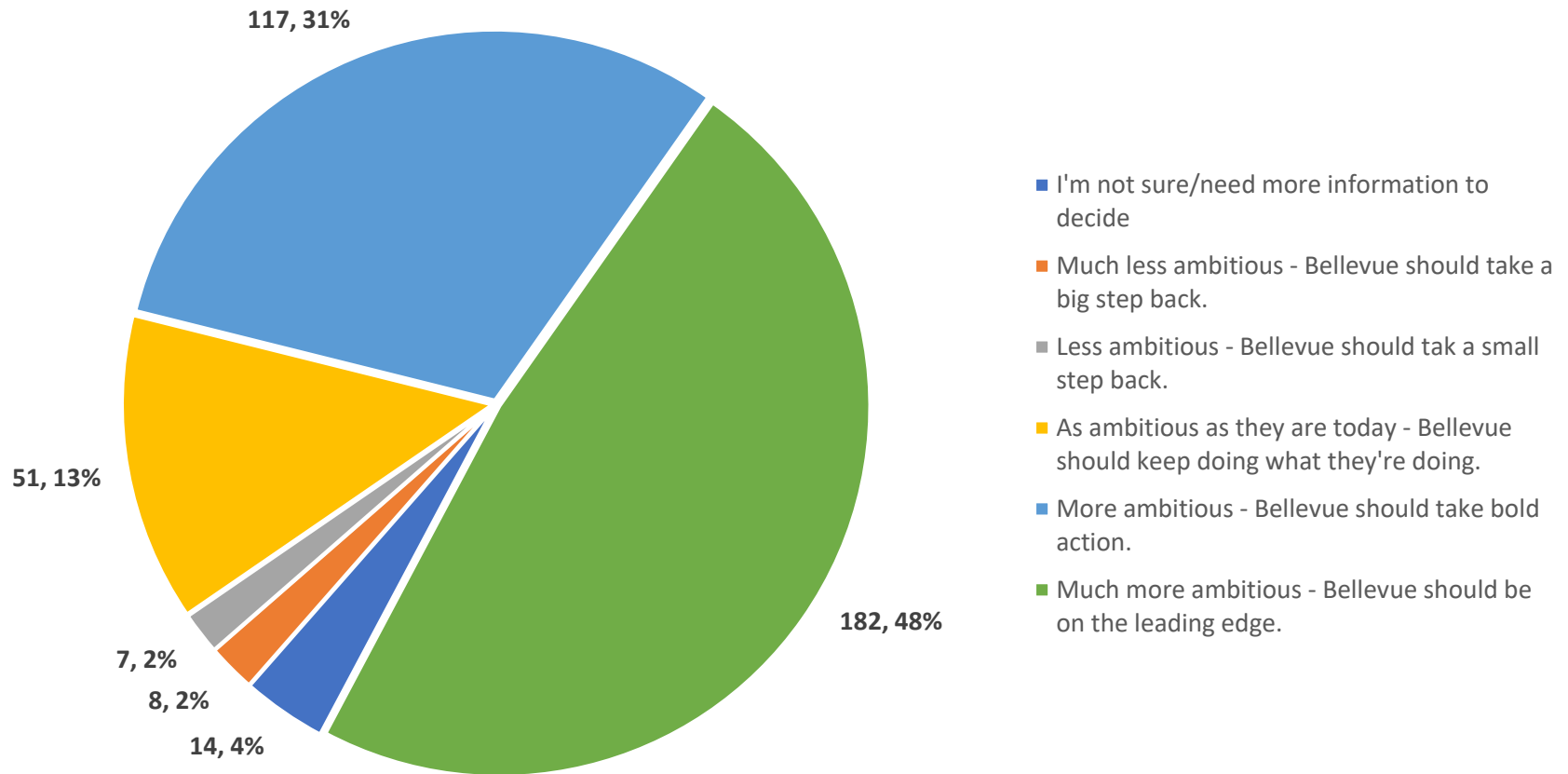
382 responses, 3 skipped.



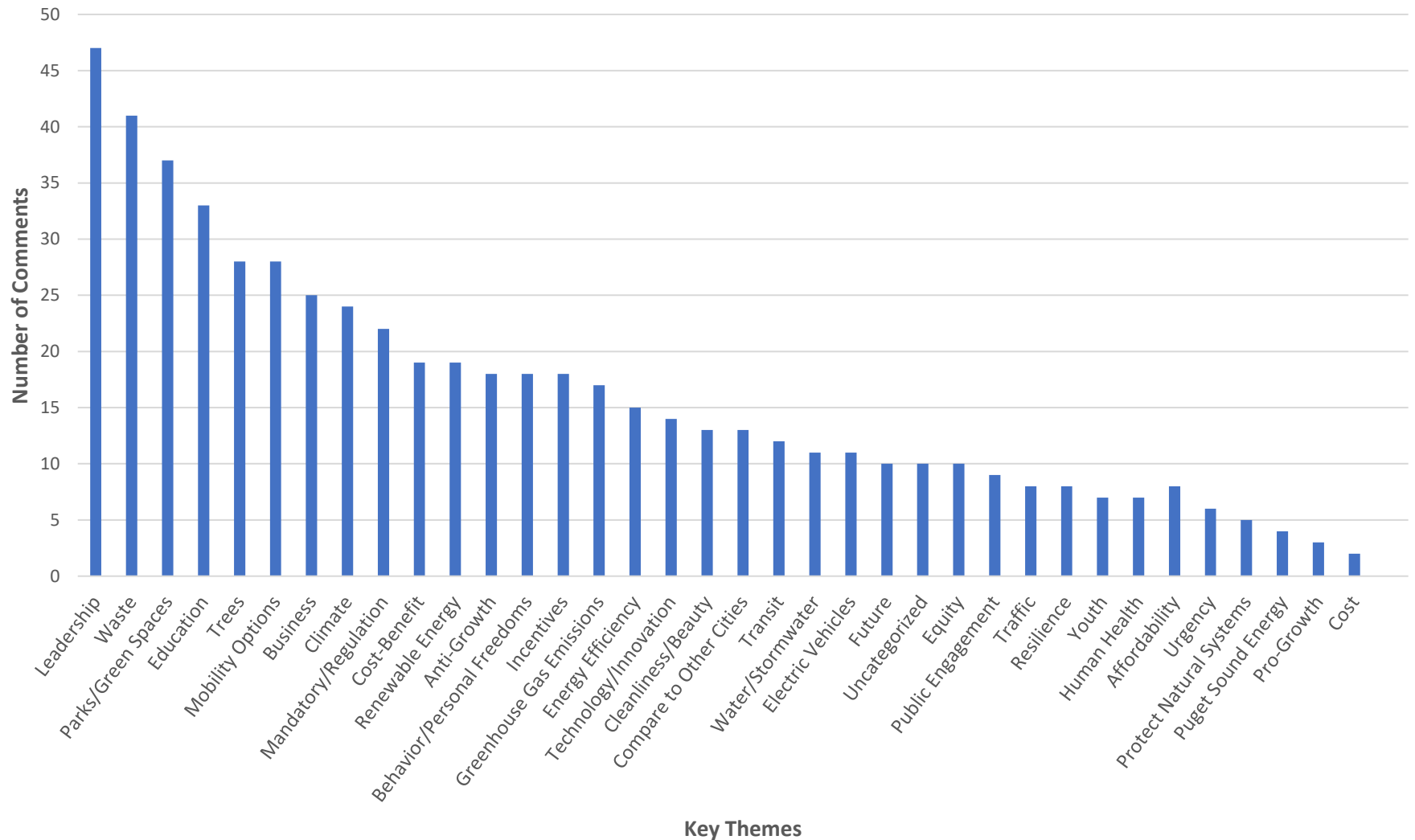
Q4. Please tell us more about the issues you ranked as very high priority
198 comments covering the following themes



**Q 5. When you think about taking action on sustainability,
how ambitious do you want Bellevue to be?**
379 responses, 6 skipped



Q 6. My vision for environmental stewardship is...
 230 total comments covering the following themes



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What should we consider as we develop the Environmental Stewardship Plan?

178 comments covering the following themes

