



LOWER HUTT

COMMUNITY
CLIMATE CHANGE
RESPONSE

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

UNITING FOR CLIMATE ACTION

7 JULY 2021

HUTT VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HUTT CITY
TE AWA KAIRANGI

CREATIVE HQ

About this document

// *Business Climate Hui – Design Log*

This document outlines the insights, action and energy of the **Hutt Valley Businesses Spotlight on Climate Change**. It is not intended to be a comprehensive report but a visual capture of the work done during the workshop. We reserve the right to make corrections.

We are extremely grateful for all those who came to the evening and gave us so much of their time. It was a wonderfully energetic evening with a strong desire to implement action.

Lower Hutt Community Climate Change Response

**Aug
Update**

The climate crisis requires government and all individuals, businesses and communities across the country to take prompt action to do our part to limit global warming. This is a big task and will take huge effort from the whole of our community to make it happen. The community engagement hui have provided extensive insight through May and June 2021. Thank you for your continued support and leadership in the face of climate change. Keep the momentum going!

Video link:

www.climate-action.co.nz/video



Share the video



Spread the word



Get involved

Community insights and priority areas *(to date)*

Lower Hutt Community Insights

During April – June 21 over 300 community representatives across 18 climate hui engaged in the process. In July we will be ramping up engagement with mana whenua and the Lower Hutt Chamber of Commerce is co-hosting the business engagement.

This document captures the community's input and voice 'in their words'.

It identifies the priority areas of interest for this group. The information in this document informs part of the community insights synthesis which can be found at: www.climate-action.co.nz/insights



Te ao Māori
Principles



Community
Education



Connected
Community



Behaviour
& Mindsets



Leadership



Keep it Up!



Transport
Emissions



Electric
Vehicles



Public
Transport



Alternative
Transport



Active
Transport



Transport
Infrastructure



Natural
Environment



Renewable
Energy



Energy
Efficiency



Water
Efficiency



Waste
Managemen
t



Green
Economy



Urban
Design

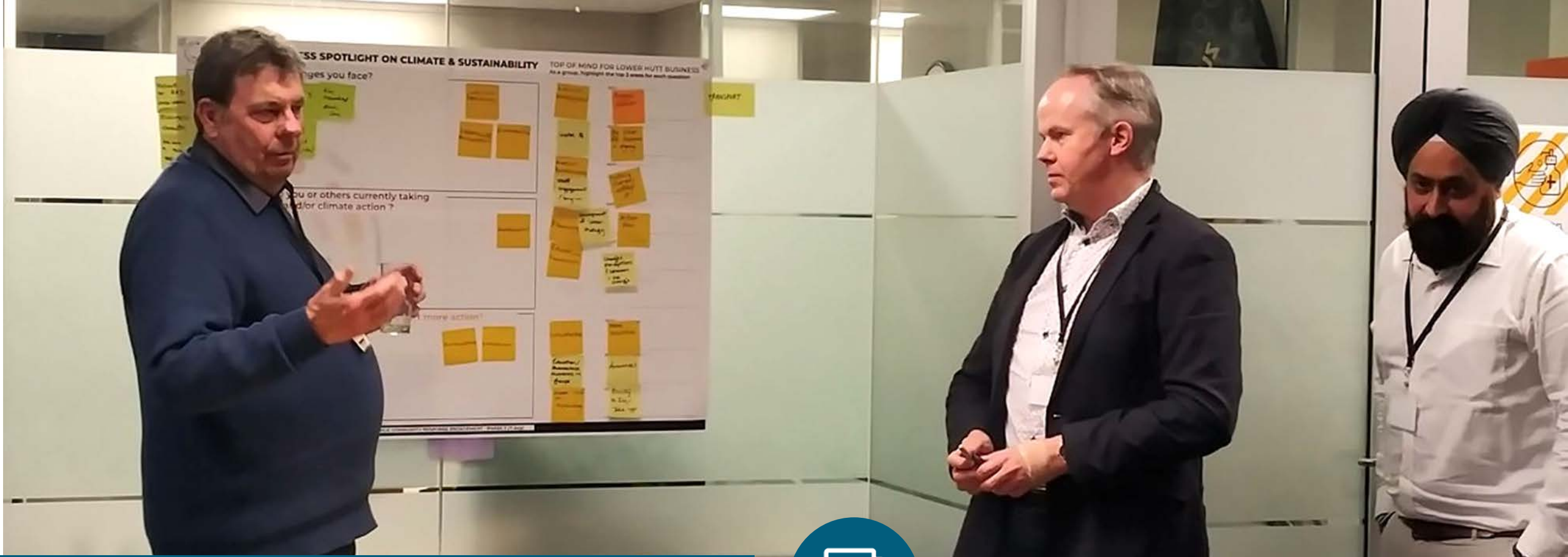


Climate
Resilience

What the Business community got up to!

We opened with a warm welcome and big thank you to Helen Down for hosting the evening at Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce. We began with a karakia and a showing of our Lower Hutt Climate Change Response video. We then outlined the process of our growing community action to help us reach the zero net carbon emissions by 2050.

- We talked about Lower Hutt's carbon footprint which is heavily skewed to transport and stationary energy and the impacts of climate change already manifesting in flooding and sea-level rise.
- We ran a poll to understand the climate change preparedness of those businesses present.
- We split the business communities into groups covering Governance, Waste, Energy Transition and Transport to discuss what actions they saw in the community, what needed to be done, what barriers presented challenges and what their key priorities were.
- We concluded with a discussion around how the business community wanted to build momentum going forward and where they saw spotlight opportunities to lead the change.



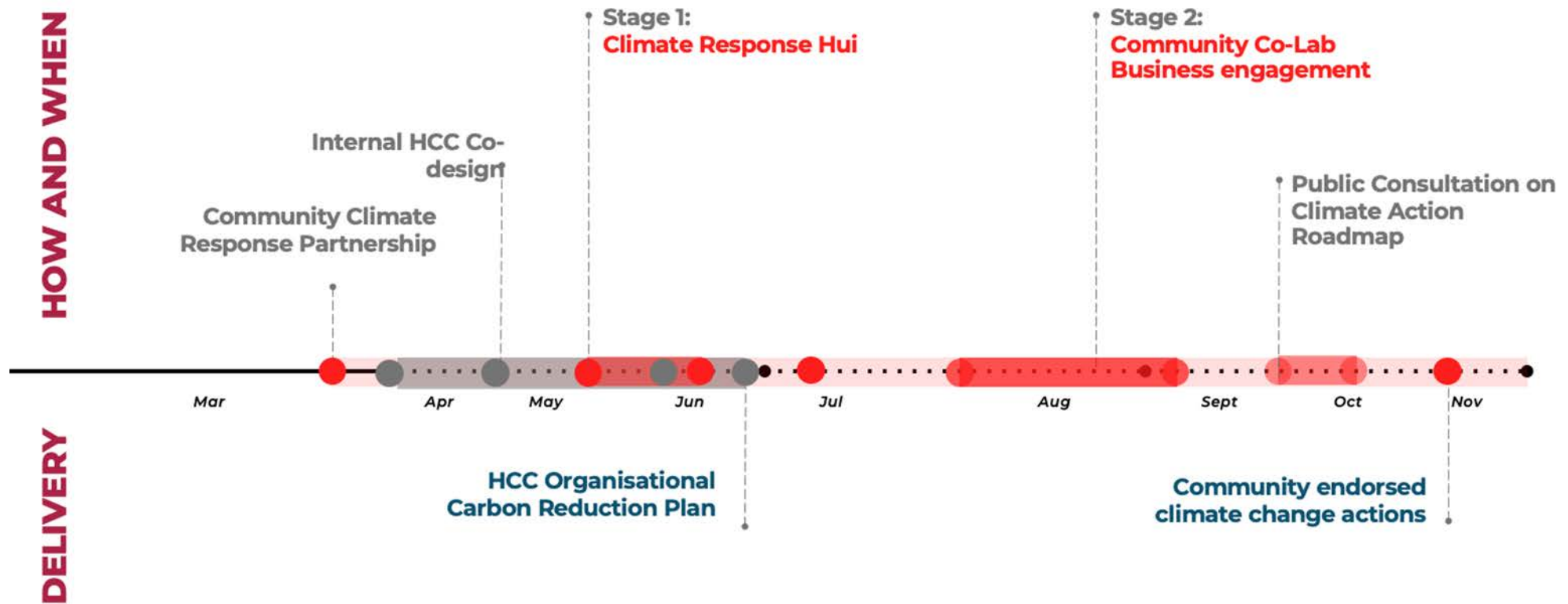
Starting with context

We shared with the business community a little about our programme and the challenge we face in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt around climate change



Starting with context

Community engagement 2021





Starting with context



-
- The impact of climate change **will be far reaching** – affecting public health, biodiversity, property, infrastructure, communities and the economy.
 - Aotearoa has committed to **net zero carbon emissions by 2050**. Achieving this target requires all individuals, businesses, communities and government taking prompt action to do our part to limit global warming.
 - “Science is clear: if we fail to meet these goals, the disruption to economies, societies and people caused by COVID-19 will pale in comparison to what the climate crisis holds in store.” UN Secretary-General António

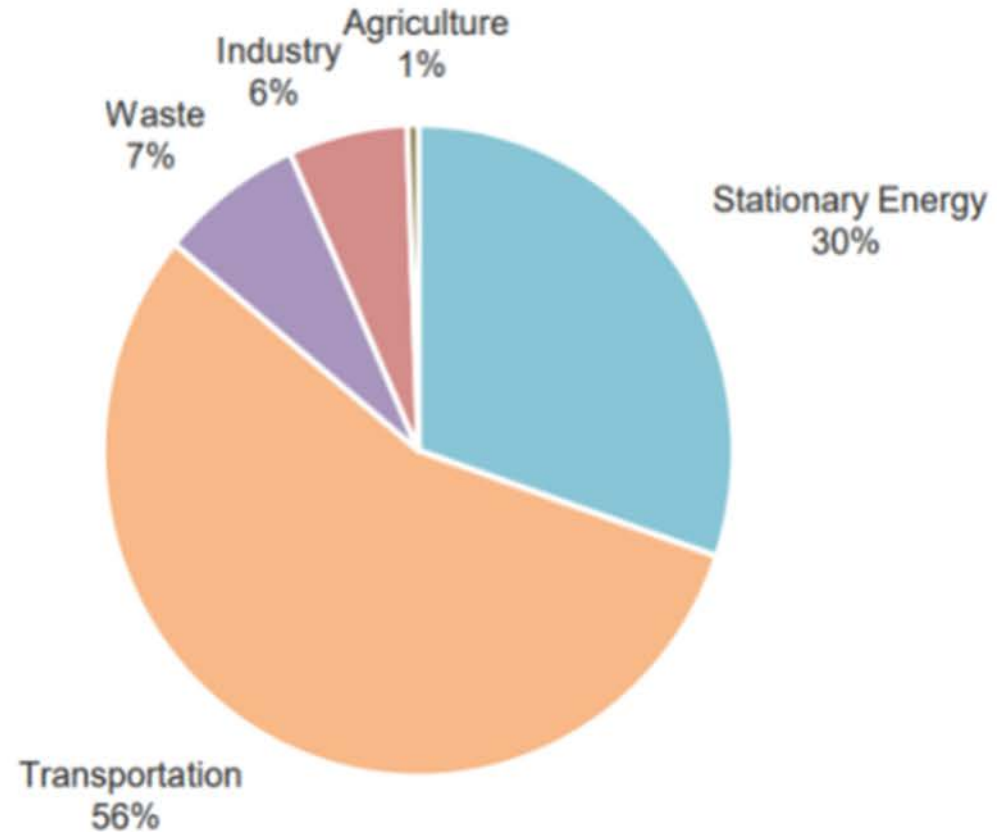
Guterres.



Starting with context

Lower Hutt's GHG Emissions

To achieve **net zero emissions by 2050**, Lower Hutt needs to reduce net emissions by an average of **16,589 tCO₂e per year** – which is around **3.4%** of current emissions.





Starting with context

Lower Hutt's changing climate



Flooding

- Lower Hutt city is located on the most densely populated flood plain in New Zealand.
- More intense storms (large waves and tides), heavier rainfall and flooding from sea-level rise.
- Flood protection – e.g. RiverLink (safeguard up to 3,000 homes, five schools and 600 businesses).



Starting with context

Transport

TRANSPORT

HOW WE TRAVEL TO WORK:



14%



66%



6%



4%



2%



1%

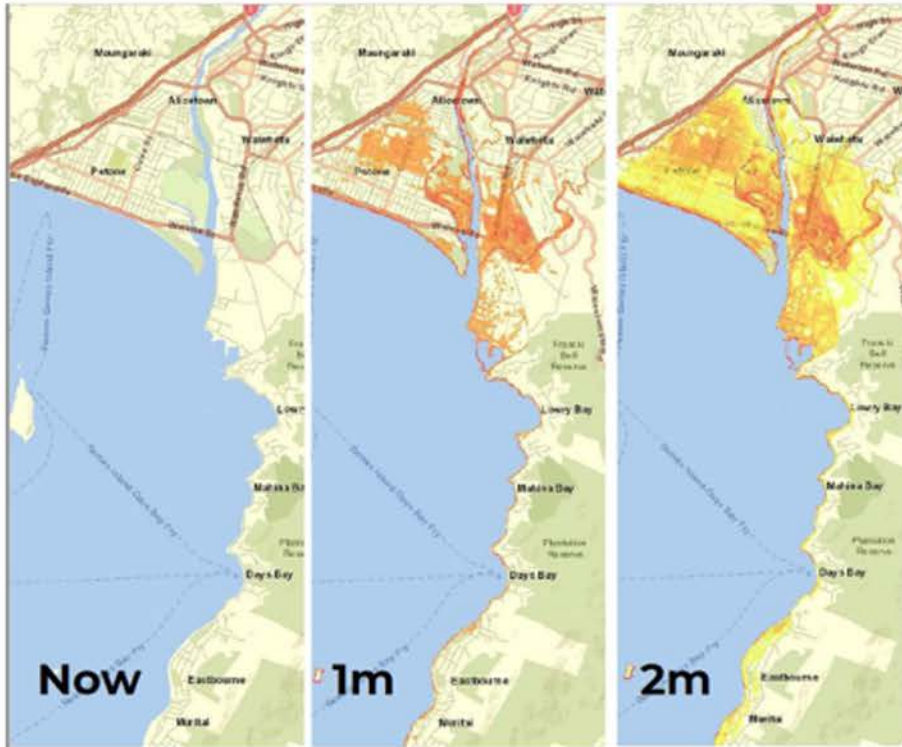


8%

work from home



Starting with context



Sea-level rise

- NIWA predicts between 40cm-1m sea-level rise by 2100.
- Two-thirds of New Zealanders live within 5 km of the coast.
- Nearly 178,000 people are potentially exposed to a one metre sea-level rise.
- Including Lower Hutt's low-lying coastal communities.

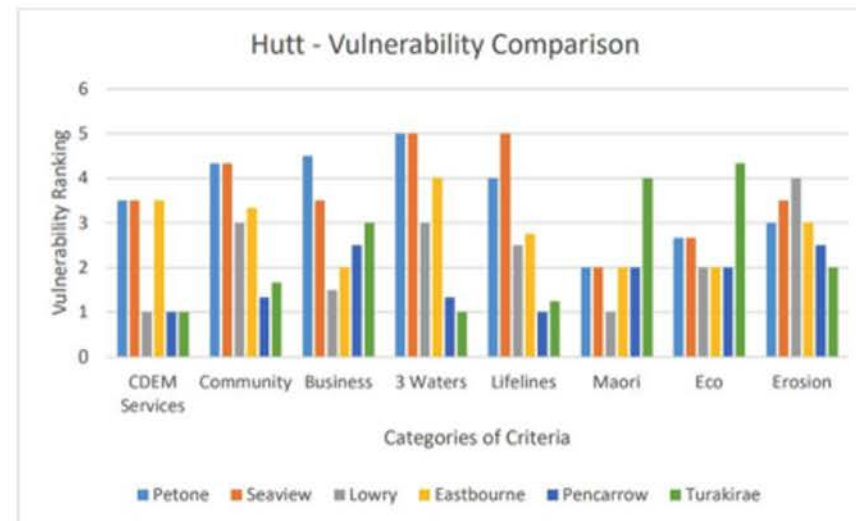


Starting with context

Lower Hutt's Coastal Vulnerability

1. **Seaview** is the most vulnerable coastal area.
2. Followed closely by **Petone**.
3. **Eastbourne** is the third most vulnerable coastal area.

(Mitchell Daysh report)



"Food waste is one area that a lot of people don't talk about- even though it is the biggest area that we've got to address"

"We need incentives, not penalties. We need to talk about compliance without the negative connotations."



"We need top-down, bottom up change."

"It is important to tell stories- to bring people along the journey with us."

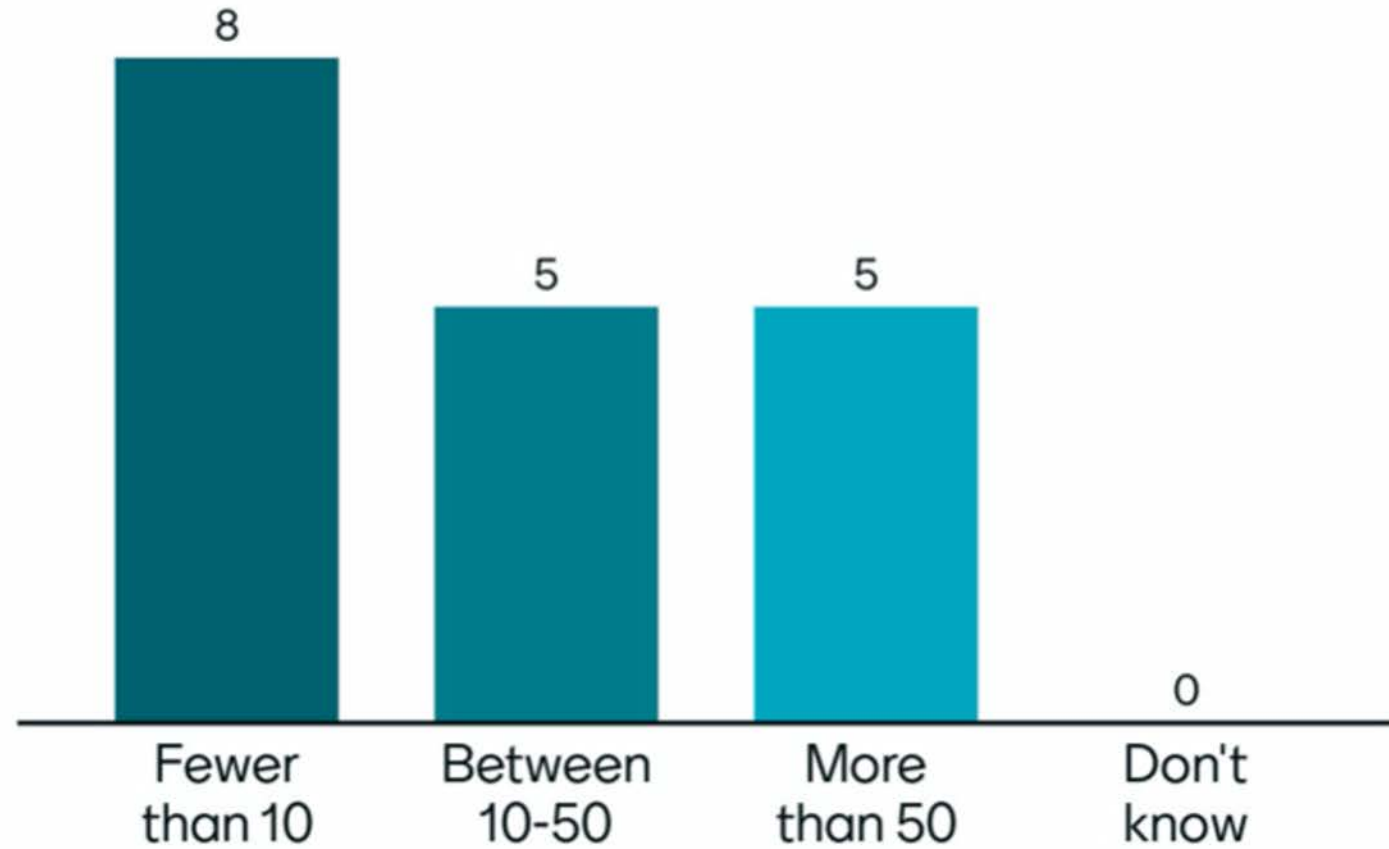


How is the business community addressing climate change?

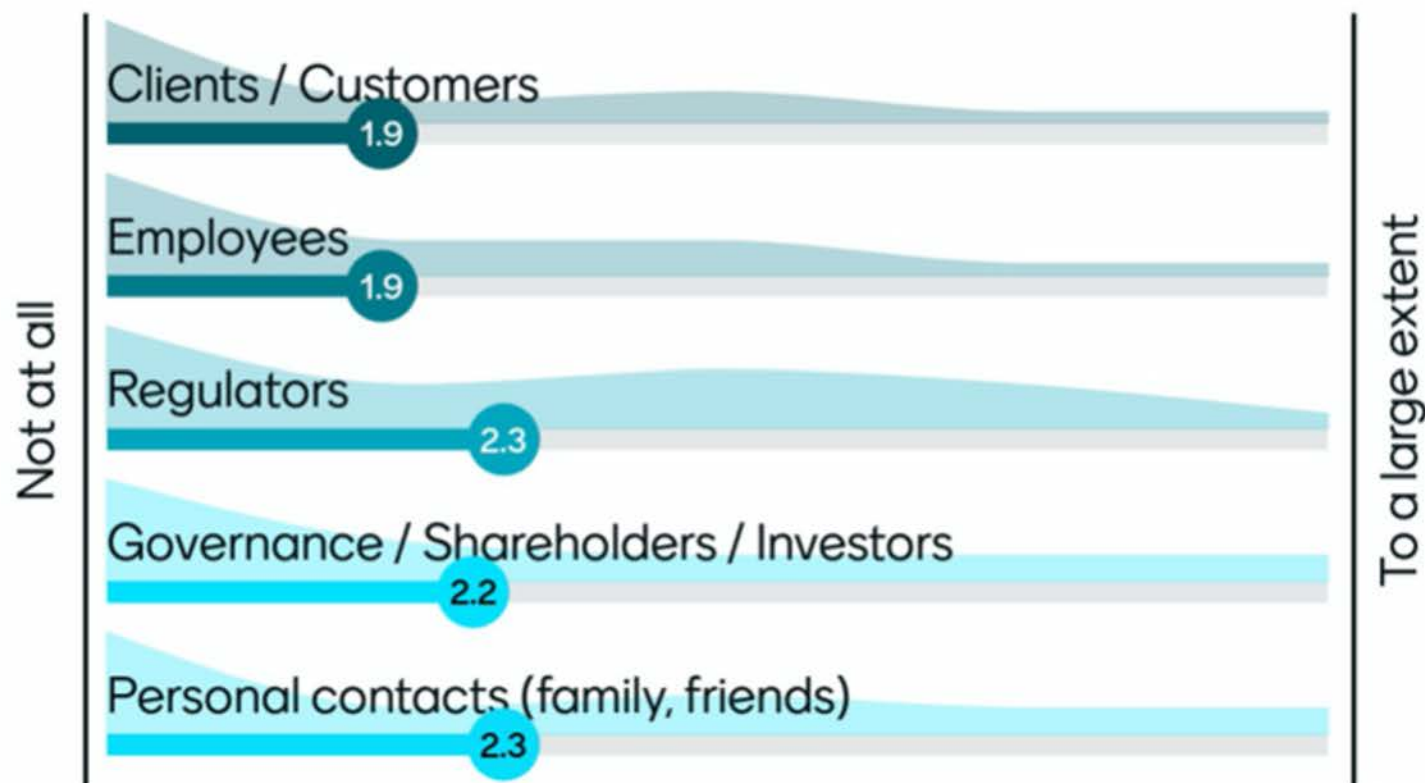


The business community participated in a Menti poll which gave us a better understanding of how businesses are currently responding to climate change.

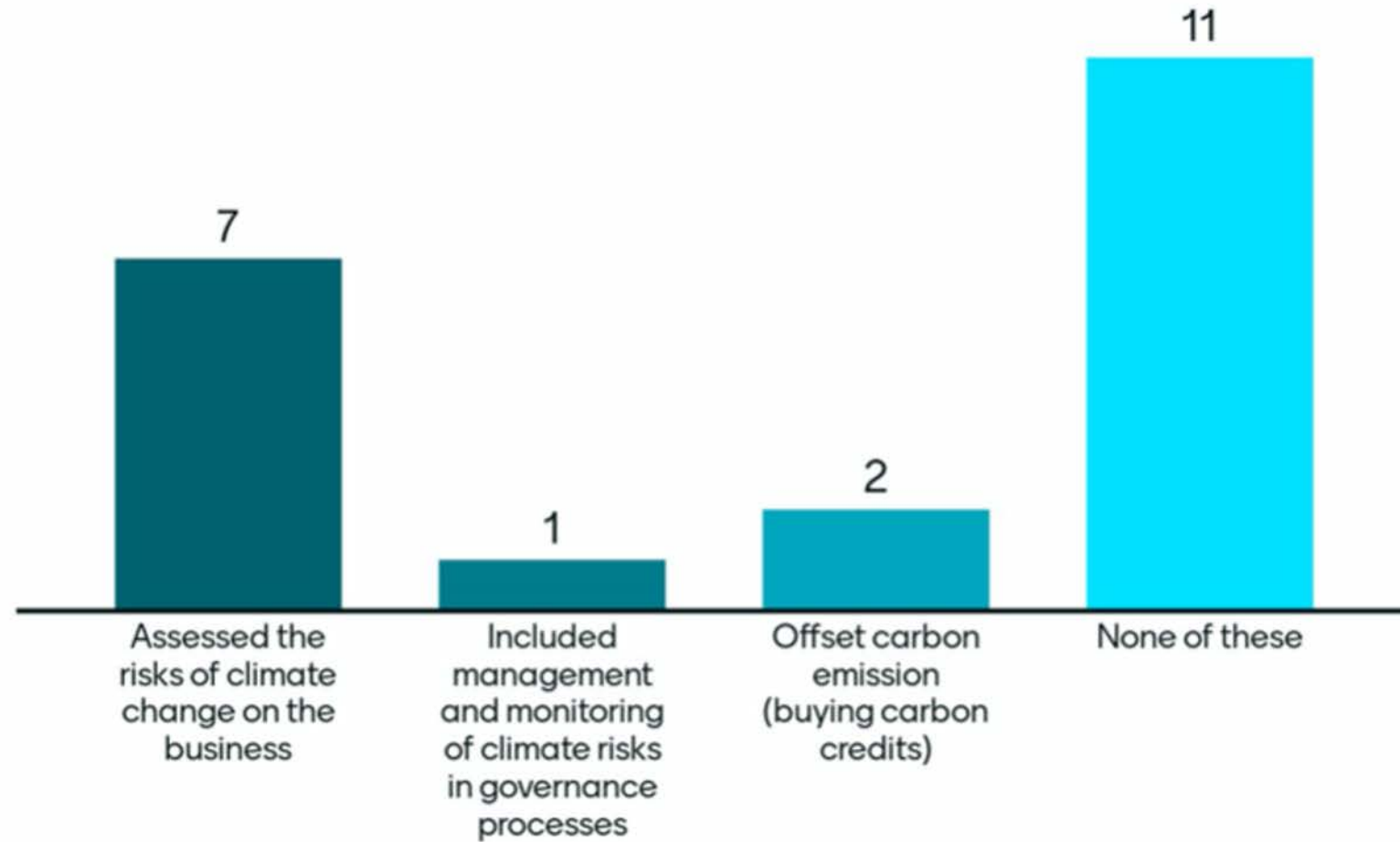
A bit about you. How many employees are there in your business



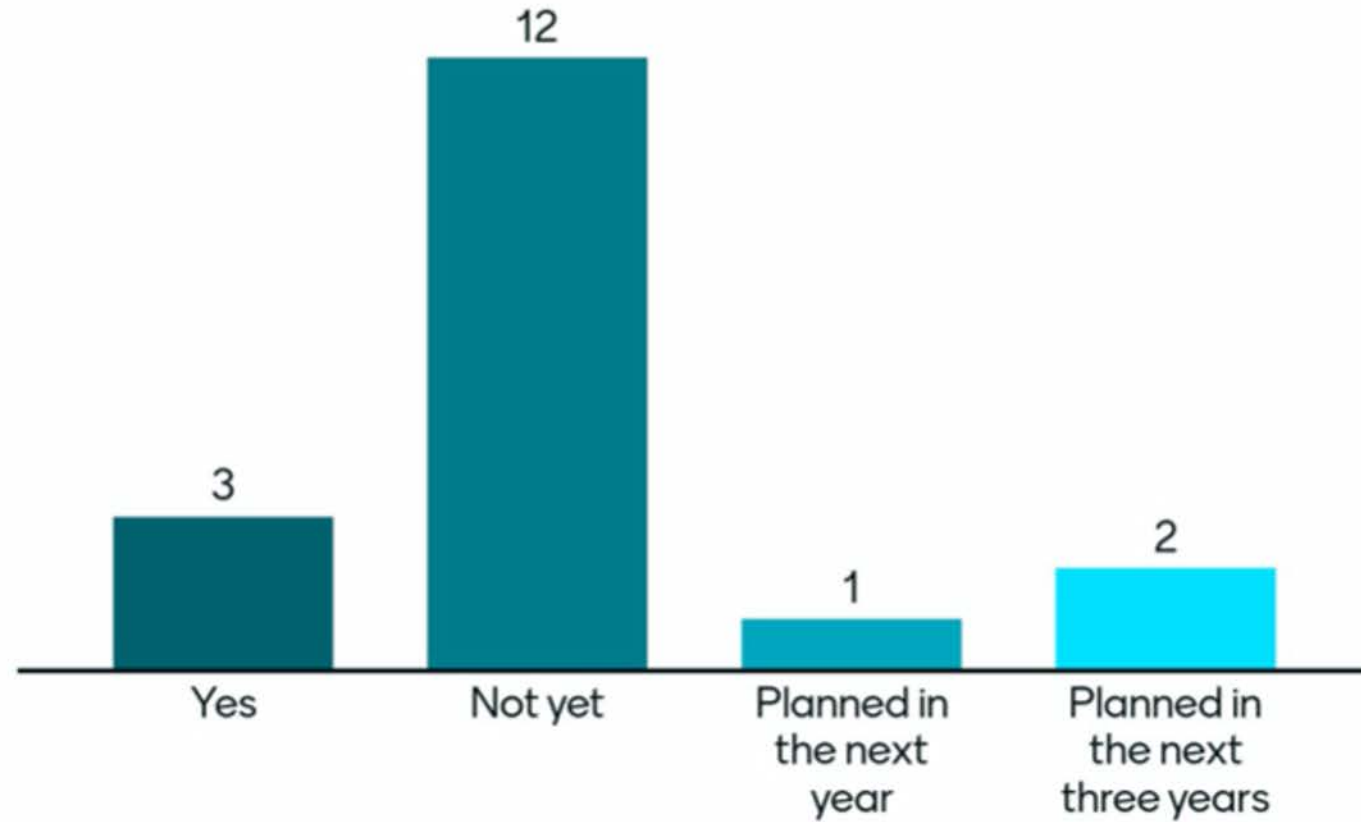
Are you feeling pressure to act on climate change from any of the following:



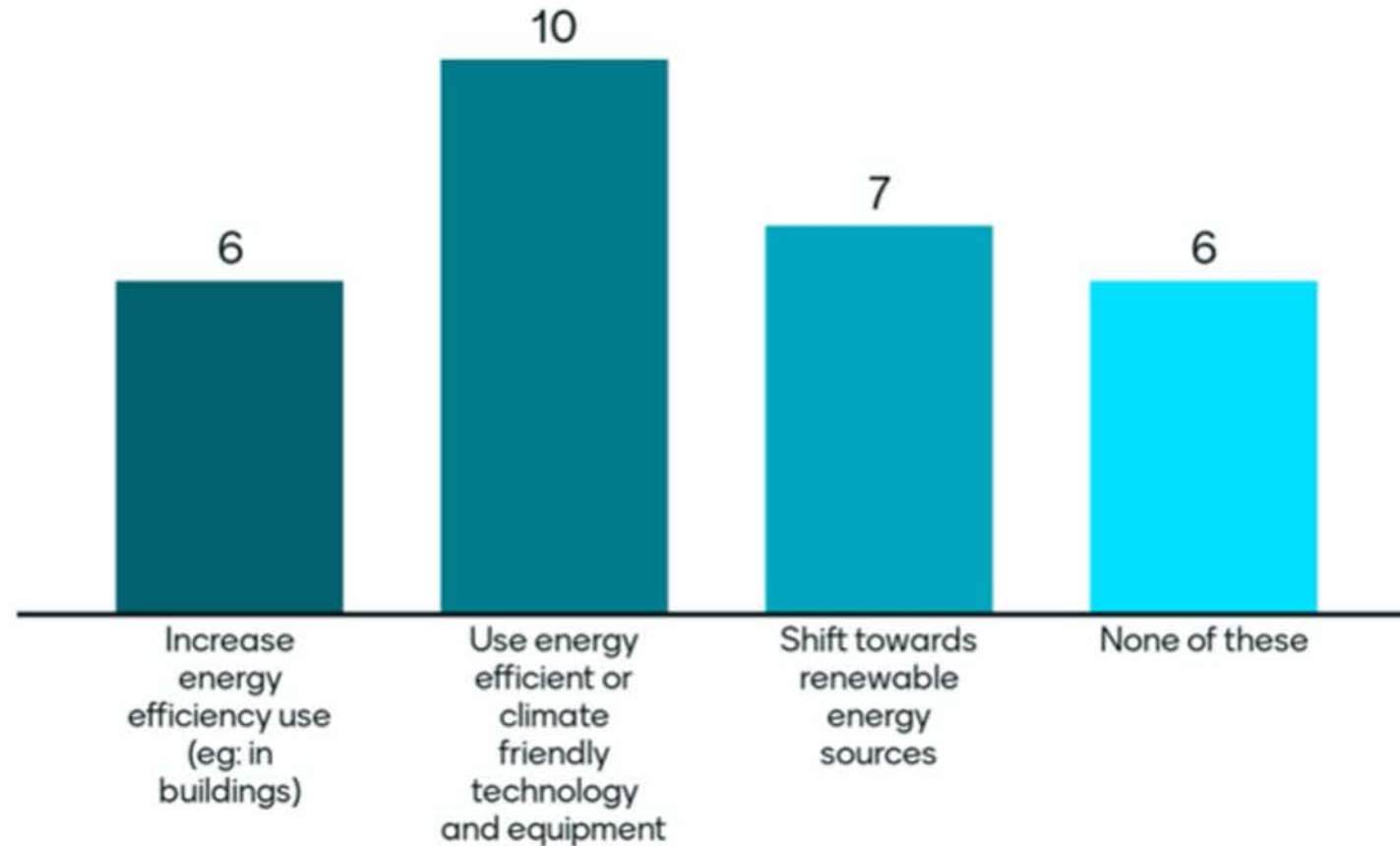
Governance: Has your business



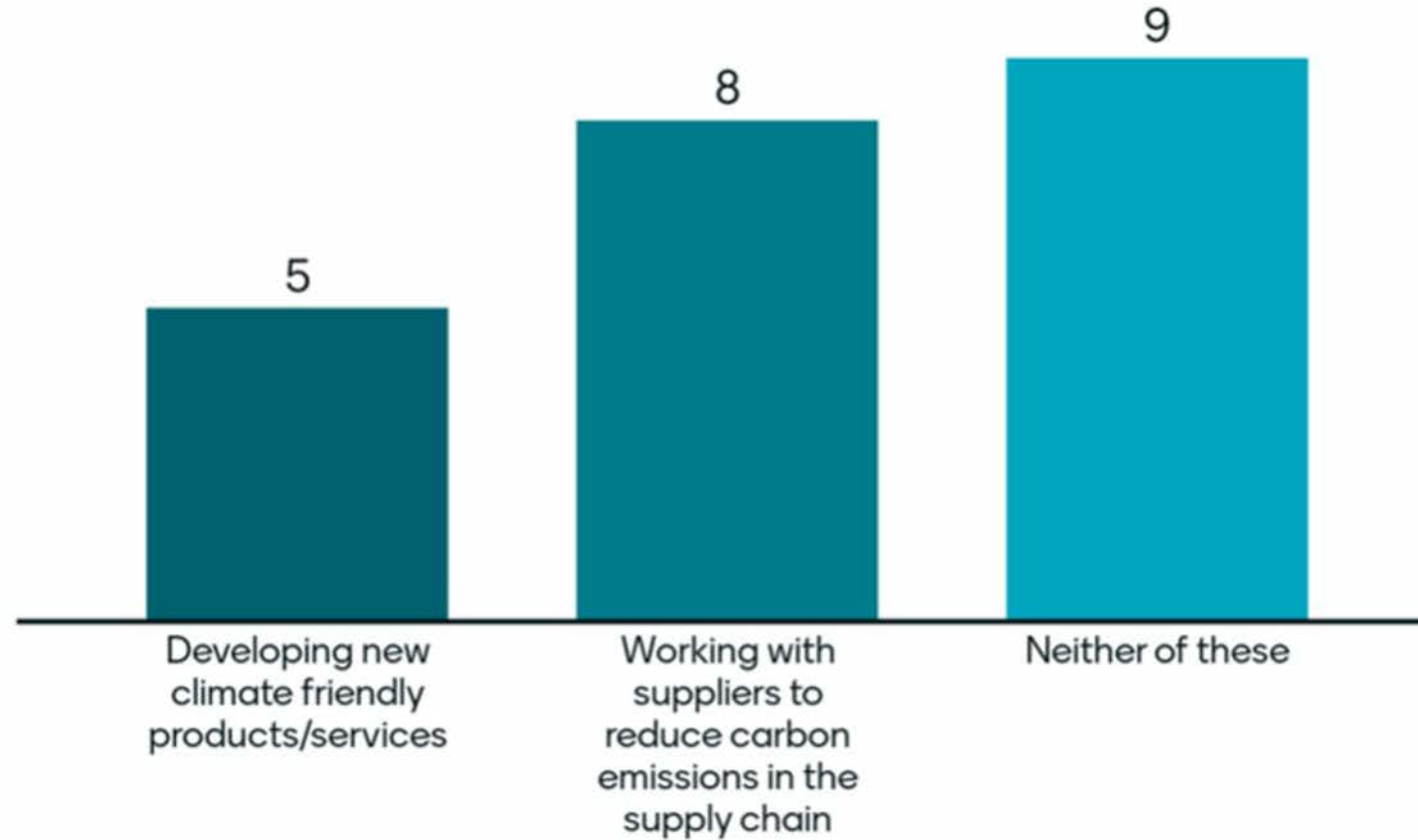
Has your business put in place emissions reduction targets?



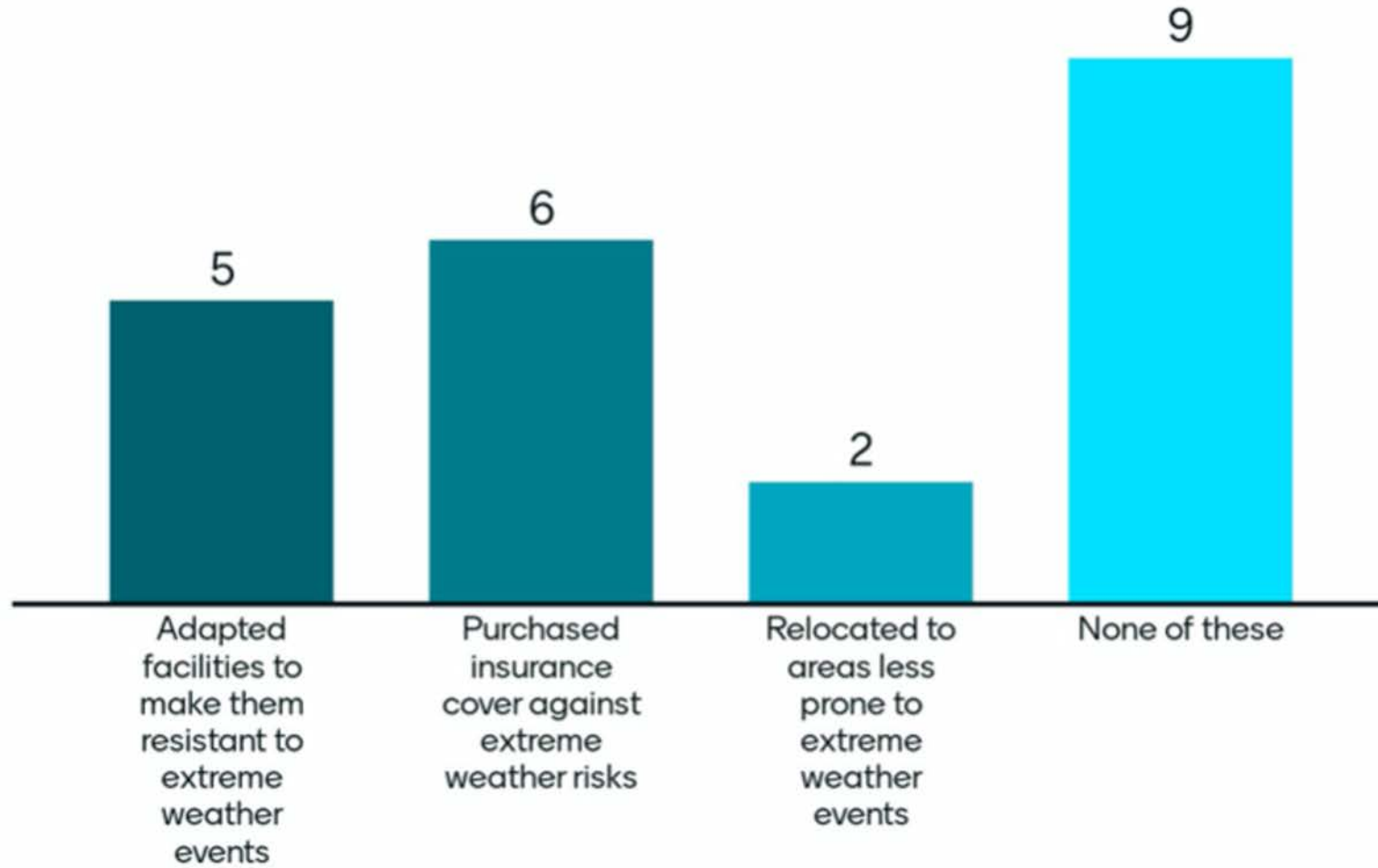
Energy: Is your company taking, or about to take, any of the following measures.



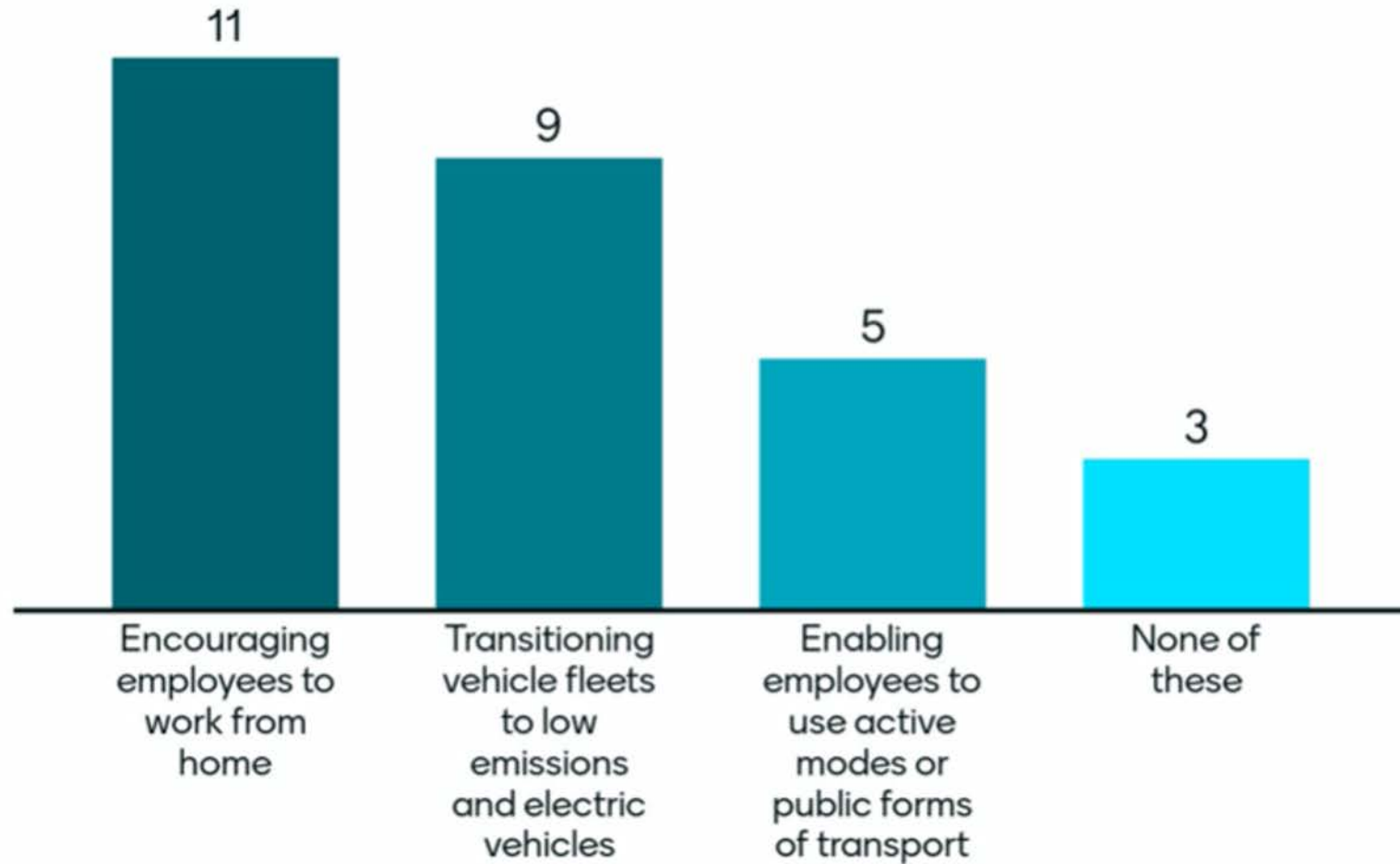
Products and services. Is your business



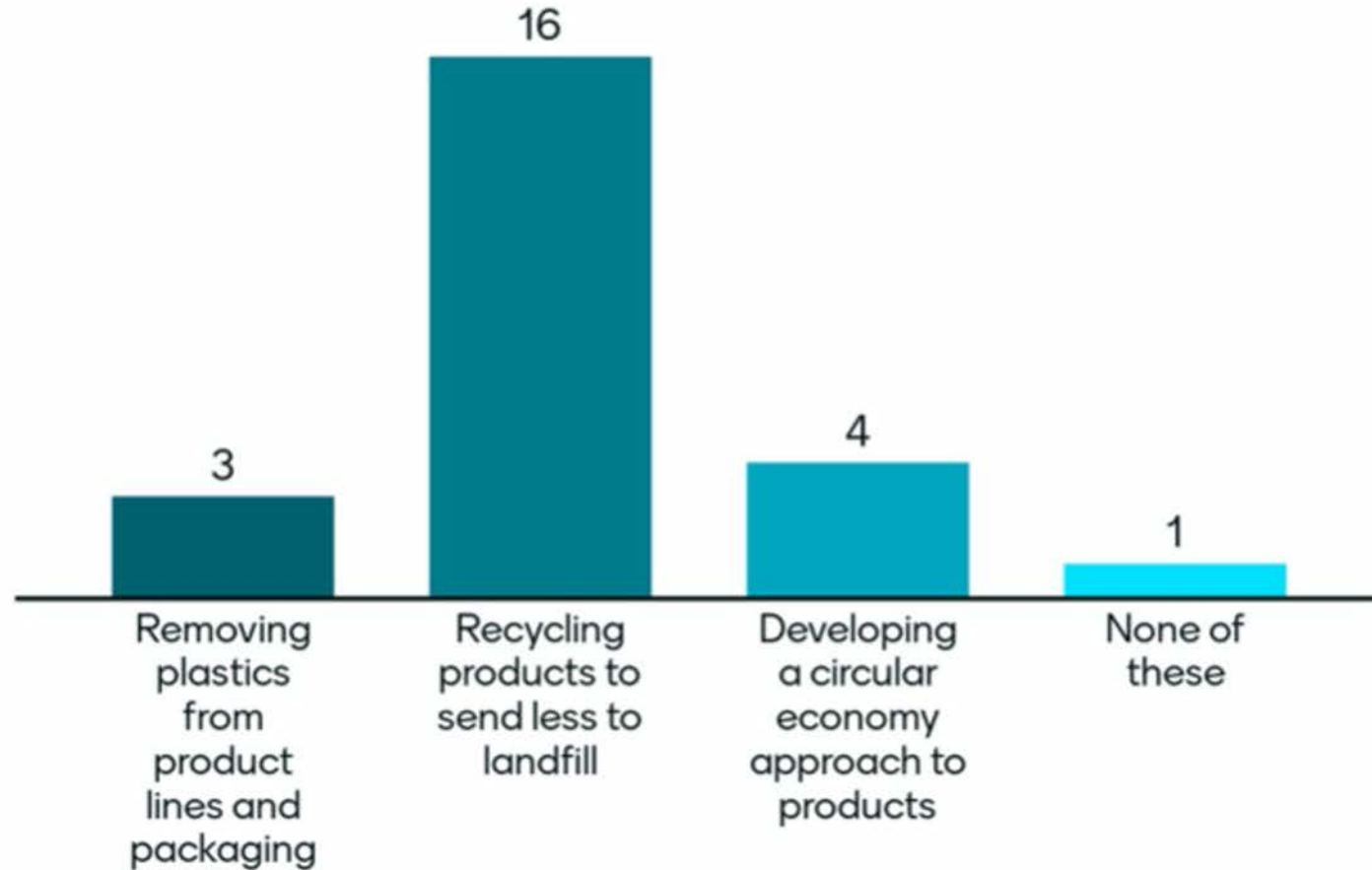
Extreme weather protection. Has your business



Transport: Is your business considering



Waste: Is your business reducing waste in any of these ways?



What else are you doing to manage or mitigate climate change?

Using video rather than travel

Sadly A little bit slow to get started on this.

Following environment policy and waste reduction

Getting more informed

Change materials used in production to renewable materials

Going out of gas, increasing use of experts in this field

Considering reforestation to add carbon credits

Thinking of relocating out of Hutt River Valley.

Zoom meeting

Development of carbon strategy

Not enough other than developing a conscienciousness

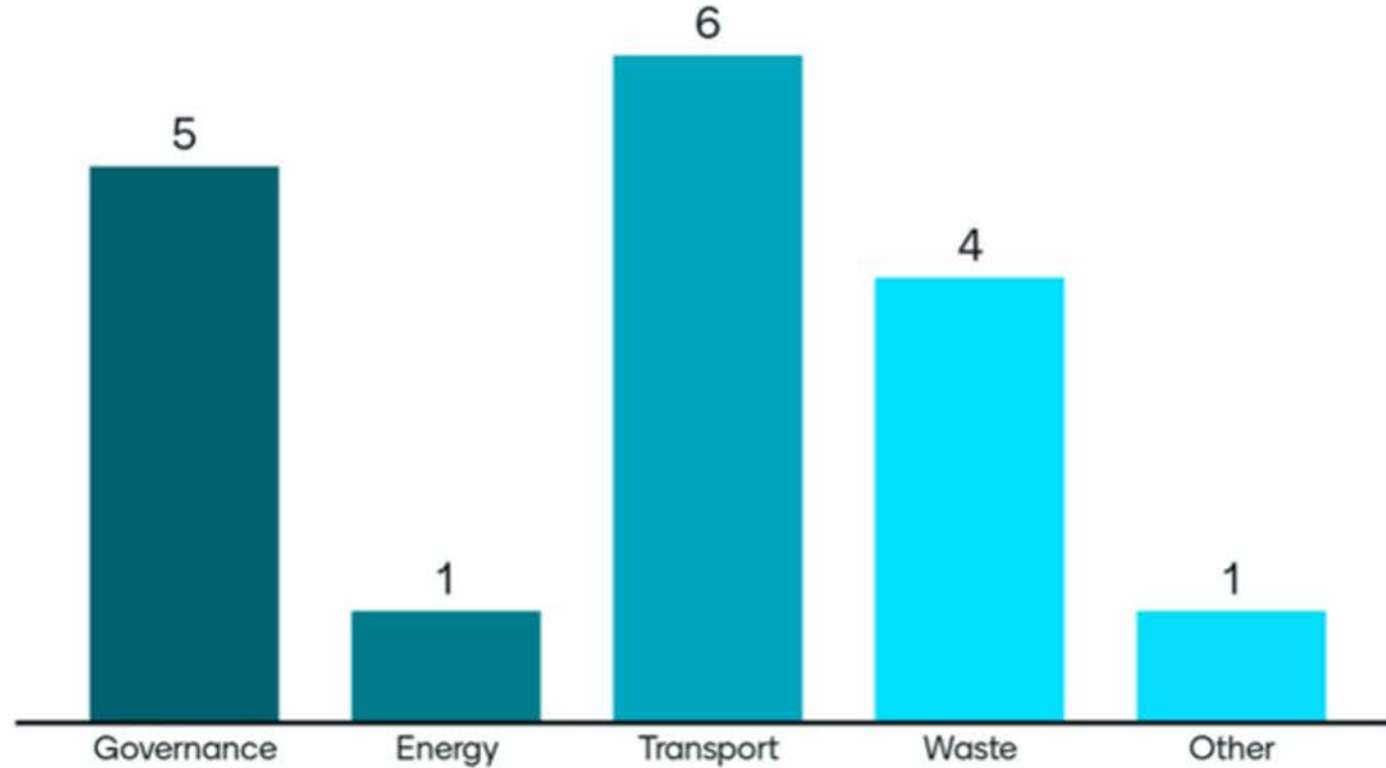
Providing service based solutions to enable organisations to develop and execute strategies to achieve optimised outcomes.

Considering replacing petrol vehicles with EV vehicles in next 3 years

Started discussions with council in regards to development subsidies to reduce dev costs and implement future proof buildings/houses

Encouraging recycling

Which of these areas would you most like to focus on tonight?



Key Focus Areas

BUSINESS COMMUNITY



What challenges do you face?



What actions are you or others taking on sustainability? What change would you like to see to support action?



Where will we have the biggest impact? What are the overarching hui themes?



What else? How does the community want to build momentum going forward?



Action spectrum

Participants explored three focus questions in relation to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050:

- What challenges do you face?
- What actions are you or others currently taking on sustainability and or climate action?
- What change would you like to see to support more action?

Individual reflections enabled participants to capture their views and then share through table discussion.



Governance

What challenges do you face?

Getting the story consistent: the story, the object, the method

Navigating the avalanche of 'data' to figure out what is really valid

Our facility location (next to a stream)

Knowledge- we have no plan

Having consistency in reporting to governance committees

Community governance/buy-in

Commitment to making a change

Getting shareholders and some staff to change

(continued)

Aligning the incentives to other corporate objectives

Infrastructure to support change

Adapting to the effects of climate change

Feelings of powerlessness or helplessness

Legislation

'She'll be right' - the establishment of status quo

Old school mentality

What actions are you or others currently taking on sustainability and or climate action?

Communicating risk

Minimising waste and looking for recycling opportunities

Reducing waste overall to reduce landfill- working with sustainability trust

Moving vehicle fleet that is more sustainable

Mindful commuting- encouraging sustainable and transport

Talking about it with team

Listening to young people/Rangatahi

Completing a number of initiatives but over time

(continued)

Creating a sustainability plan to measure performance and time

Adding the plan and performance to the organisation strategic objectives



Governance *(continued)*

What change would you like to see to support more action?

Governance including climate change in risk plans

Training or directors- compliance for directors

Guidance: case studies, webinars, website info, mentoring

Consistent measures of performance across organisations

- Control of government policy and guidance
- Help to identify what we need to focus on

More advocacy for the little guys and local businesses to do their bit

Help to identify what we need to focus on

(continued)

Clear agreement of mitigation options e.g. exotic versus native trees

Raise awareness



Waste

What challenges do you face?

Overpackaging

Food waste distribution

Accessing renewable consumables

Knowledge of what can be recycled

Customer awareness

Recycling printer toner cartridges

Casual attitude

Need practical systems for managing, recycling and reusing waste

Food waste has strict compliance

(continued)

Lack of confidence towards recycling gets recycled

Everyone understanding the regulation

Lack of advocacy

Some eco-waste has hidden costs

Rapidly changing needs that supply systems can't adapt to

Lack of waste infrastructure to sort rubbish

What actions are you or others currently taking on sustainability and or climate action?

Sending paper shredding to undertakers

Storytelling

Minimising packaging

Peer pressure- emulating the wins

Exploring education options

Exploring affordability-solutions are expensive

What change would you like to see to support more action?

Education of what a circular economy looks like and whether or not it is achievable

Top down, bottom up change

Funding of initiatives that reduce waste

More green/food waste systems

Identifying new business opportunities to improve waste

Disincentives to maintaining status quo

Businesses to see results of climate action



Energy Transition

What challenges do you face?

Not enough power generation

Transmission problems if we want central generation

Perception that gas is better for cooking and heating to residential

What actions are you or others currently taking on sustainability and or climate action?

Started discussion with HVRC re dev subsidies to lower implementation cost of future following

Getting out of using natural gas for heating

Discussions with vendors around passing costs to purchasers

EV transitions

What change would you like to see to support more action?

Discounts and subsidies from local and national government to lower current costs- local schemes to help

Business closing e.g. Tas Mill Refinery

Local government rules e.g. plastic bags

Regulations to follow- some people don't know/understand/prioritise/care

Local Govt leadership- combine massive infrastructure with energy savings or cogen



Transport

What challenges do you face?

Disposal of existing petrol vehicles (future value)

Cost:

- KM travelled each day
- Finding fast chargers
- Disposing of existing PVs

Topography in Wellington region

Funding fast chargers (location)

Cost of new EVs

Limited feasibility

Stakeholder alignment

Disconnection

(continued)

Climate deniers in business

Reliance on R&D overseas

Business growth

We are a technology taker

What actions are you or others currently taking on sustainability and or climate action?

Enablement

Looking to purchase a new EV for 2 in the next 3 years

Sustainability programme

What change would you like to see to support more action?

More and easily accessible fast chargers

Decreased cost of EVs

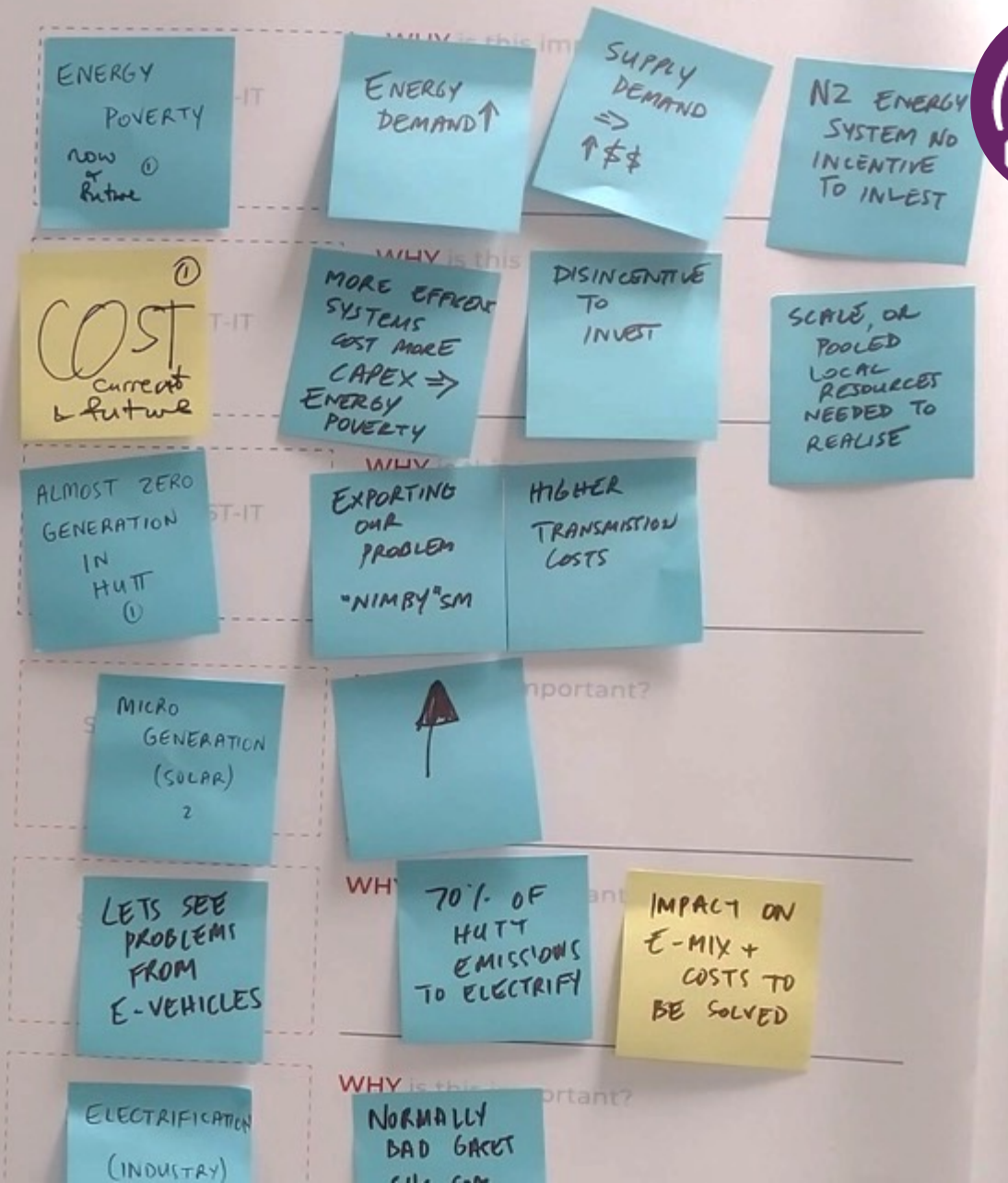
Effective and just transition

Integration

Leadership

TOP OF MIND FOR LOWER HUTT BUSINESS

As a group, highlight the top 3 areas for each question



Where will we have the greatest impact?

We asked participants to choose their top 3 activities that would have the most impact on climate change for each of the three areas:

- What challenges do you face?
- What actions are you or others currently taking on sustainability and or climate action?
- What change would you like to see to support more action?



What challenges do you face?

GOVERNANCE



Establishing Sustainable Solutions

We need to find an achievable solution- without a viable option, we cannot build a plan



Knowledge around the Problem

We need knowledge in order to get a better understanding of our key problems. We need this to be able to move toward solutions.



Geographic Resilience

We need to understand the impact of insurance costs on operations such as insurance and planning

WASTE



Inefficient Waste Policy

We need relevant and accessible policy language in order to create understanding of regulations across communities



Understanding Food Waste

Food waste is more than the end product. It is from 'the gate to the plate'- waste across the whole chain.



Advocacy

We are not currently showing success through telling our stories

Impact Areas

TOP 3 BY TEAM



What
challenges
do you face?

ENERGY TRANSITION



Energy
Poverty

There is currently a large energy demand and supply cost. There is little incentive to invest in Aotearoa's energy system currently.



Cost

More efficient systems cost more capital expenditure, increasing energy poverty. Scaled or pooled local resources are needed.



No Local Energy
Infrastructure

We are currently exporting our problem, highlighting NIMBYism as an issue. This has resulted in higher transmission costs.

TRANSPORT



Lack of
Leadership

This could be our biggest enabler



Capital
Expenditure

This is a significant and ongoing issue for businesses.



Mindset
Behaviours

We need staff engagement and buy-in- nothing changes without it.



What actions are we currently taking?

GOVERNANCE



Sharing the Journey

Increase learning and discussions around developing an action plan. We want to act as connectors and raise awareness.



Alternative Transport Modes

Considering our carbon footprint in future product design



Reduce Waste

The 'low-hanging fruit' of governance. We are transitioning our infrastructure

WASTE



Behaviour Change Policies

Changing the work culture in order to meet targets. We need policy buy-in.



Training and Education

Education enables awareness around waste management



Reduce Emissions

Minimising waste reduces emissions which in turn lowers our carbon footprint.

Impact Areas

TOP 3 BY TEAM



What actions are we currently taking?

ENERGY TRANSITION



Solar

Micro-Generation

Building resilience and solutions out of our own backyard



Understand impacts of Electric Vehicles

70% of Hutt emissions are in need of electrification. We need to understand the impact and cost



Electrify our Industry

Transitioning from using harmful gases such as CH₄ and coal

TRANSPORT



Planning and Development

Creating a carbon strategy or a roadmap to achieve goals



Education and Awareness

Changing perceptions and behaviours that lead to real change



What change would you like to see to support more action?

Impact Areas

TOP 3 BY TEAM

GOVERNANCE



Education and Training

A mandate from leaders that is more than a knowledge pathway. There needs to be funding behind change.



Government Leadership

There needs to be funding behind resourcing change in the fields of public transport and recycling



Action Strategy

There needs to be a recommended action plan for businesses to reduce emissions

WASTE



Incentives, not Penalties

Compelling ROI for businesses are needed. It has to be affordable.



Local and Global Leadership

Why reinvent the wheel? There are global and local models we can utilise to improve our business as usual.



Government Leadership

The government needs to support 'green' drive-by workshop and resources. This is crucial.



What change would you like to see to support more action?

ENERGY TRANSITION



Decrease Costs

Establishing discounts and subsidies from local and national government to lower current costs.



Local Government Leadership

We need local government to put regulations in place. Some people don't know, don't understand or don't care,



Local Government Innovation

Local government needs to show leadership. We need to combine massive infrastructure with energy savings.

TRANSPORT



Public Infrastructure

We need to increase accessibility



Education

We want to see an increase in awareness



Decrease technology Cost

This enables an increase capacity and uptake for problem-solving



Summary of hui themes - Business Spotlight

Government Leadership

- Government funding and resources
- Establishing credibility and relationships
- 'Best practice' models
- Innovation

Behaviour Change

- Workplace culture change
- Attitude and mindset change
- Incentivising, not penalising
- Bring people along the journey
- Encouraging stakeholder and staff buy-in

Infrastructure

- Localising and internalising processes
- Subsidise technology
- Explore local options and capacity

Education

- Establishing accessible policy language
- Knowledge credibility
- Understanding key problem areas
- Planning toward solutions
- Sharing success stories

HOW DO WE BUILD MOMENTUM IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY?

- Reliable Information.
- Chamber of Commerce Email network
- Overcome financial barriers & 'too hard' mindset.
- MFE leadership.
- SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES
 - Financial & time cost can be a challenge for us.
 - establish 'credible' leadership
 - relationship building
- Stories that are more than high level advice. We need details & practical actions
- Accessible policy summaries.
- Council to take a different approach to reading
- accessible risk analysis.
- animation in storytelling e.g. - Video Clips.

M.B.



What else?

How does the community want to stay in touch?

At the end of the hui, we discussed what our unanswered questions were and how we might engage better with the Business community moving forward.

- How can we build momentum in the Business Community?
- Where are the spotlight opportunities?



How can we build momentum in the business community?

Increase access to reliable and succinct information

- Communication through official channels, such as through Chamber of Commerce
- Create accessible policy summaries
- 'Best Practice' examples - taken in small steps to lead people along the way
- Create accessible risk analyses

Establish practical solutions

- Establish workshops on topics such as governance frameworks
- Utilise international resources that fit local relevance
- Create a simple document outlining 'what you need to do now' for businesses
- Explore a governance framework around climate change
- Explore affordability- if it's not affordable, it's not possible

(continued)

Council Leadership, especially MBIE and MFE

- Leadership will Increase trust in local government and credibility as reliable sources
- Local government are enablers for progress such as making recycling easier
- Businesses need good 'clearing houses' for ideas
- Establish templates for businesses such as plan, climate risk analysis and carbon emission strategies

Share the journey

- Share stories of success that encourage and inspire
- Support small businesses
- Innovate how we tell the story to make it easier to share, e.g. through video clips and visual communication

Where are the spotlight opportunities?



- We need to share our stories - that show it can be done
- 'List of 10 Actions' approach - what can be done today that is practical?
- Governance Cookbook- accessible risk analysis models that lead the way for businesses
- Best BOA groups - led by HCC and Local Government
- Global Leadership- let's not reinvent the wheel. There are already international examples and models that we can look to



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WILL THANK YOU FOR

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LOWER HUTT

COMMUNITY
CLIMATE CHANGE
RESPONSE

THANK YOU

UNITING FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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