

CLIMATE ACTION IN NL COMMUNITIES

Summary of outreach & engagement, Feb-Mar 2022

42 respondents

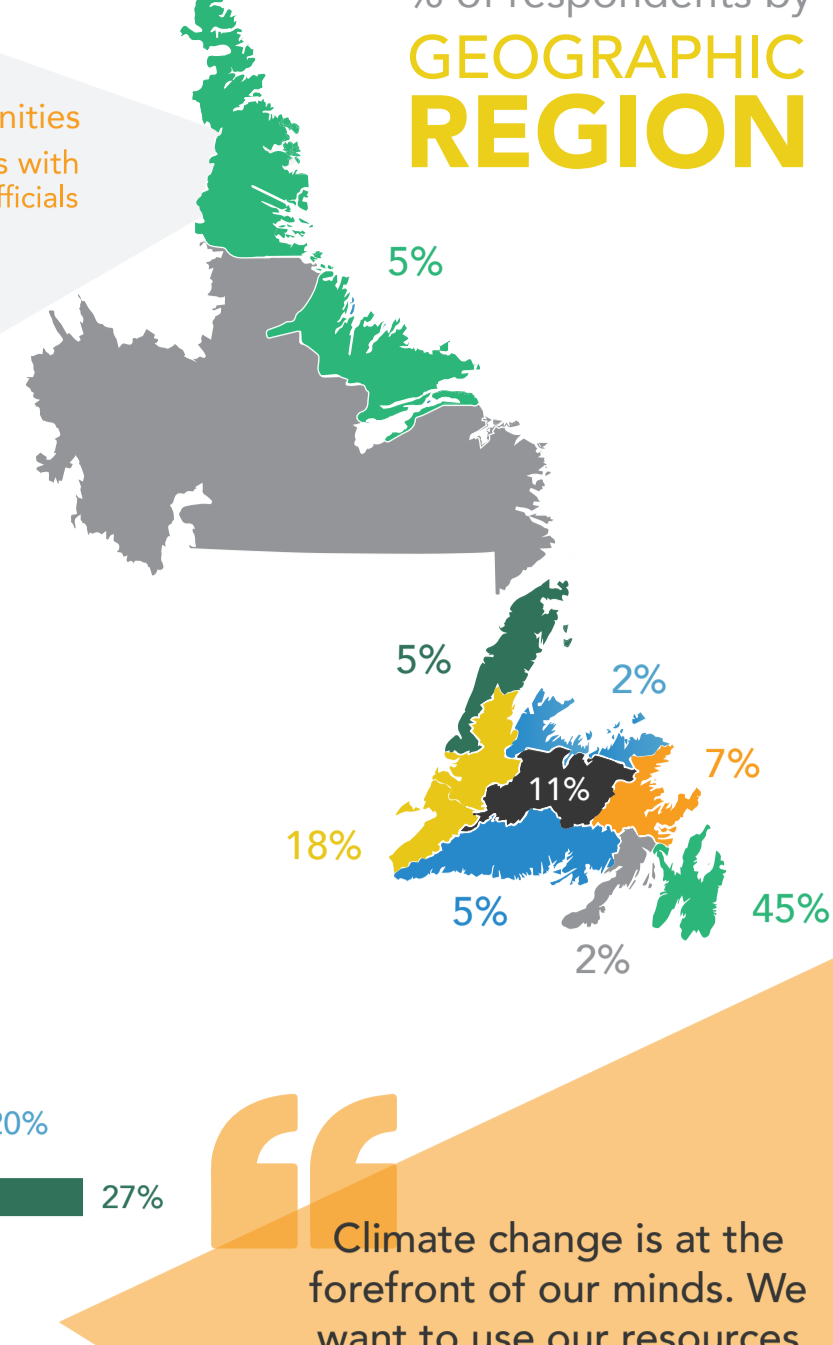
incl. **3** Indigenous communities & **19** one-on-one interviews with municipal staff & elected officials

33 unique communities self-identified
9 anonymous respondents

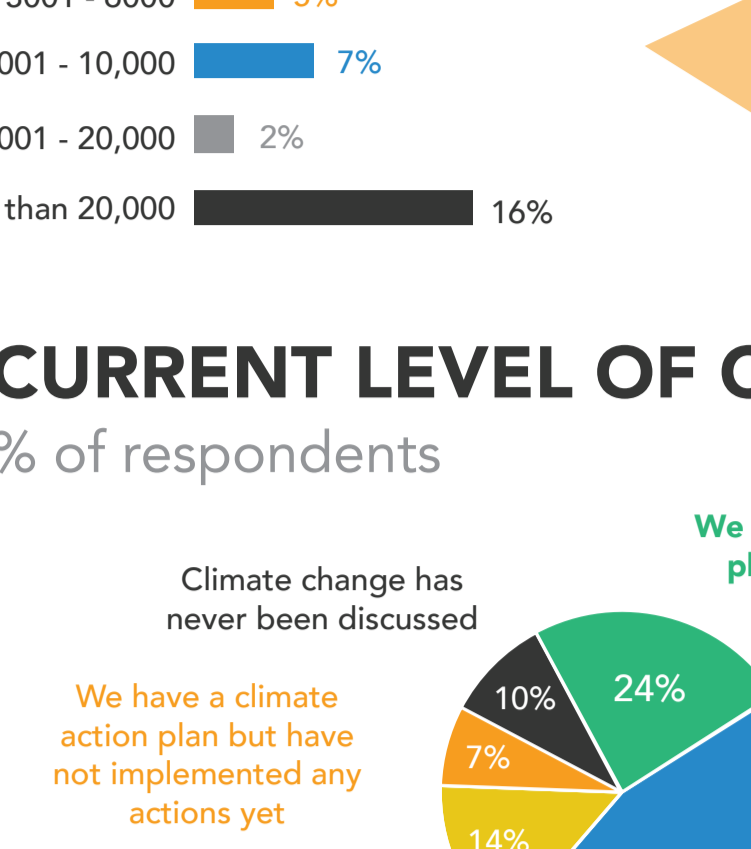
There are **276** incorporated municipalities in NL*
This survey sample captures **12-15%**

*<https://municipalnl.ca/about/>

% of respondents by **GEOGRAPHIC REGION**



% of respondents by **POPULATION OF COMMUNITY**

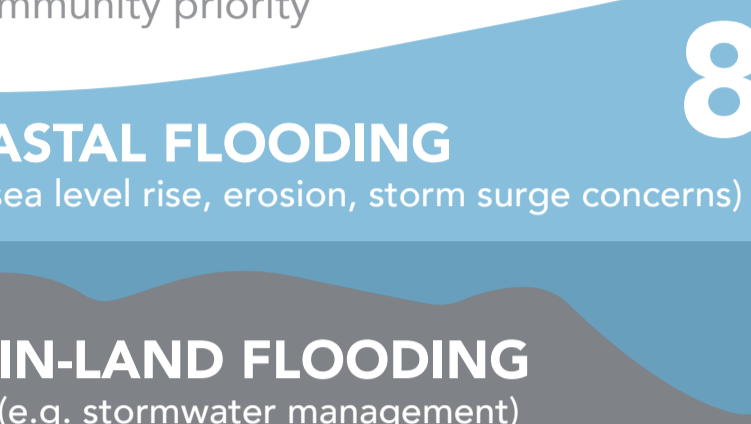


“Climate change is at the forefront of our minds. We want to use our resources efficiently and do things right, for the long term.”

CURRENT LEVEL OF CLIMATE ACTION

% of respondents

45% We have a climate action plan and are actively implementing it



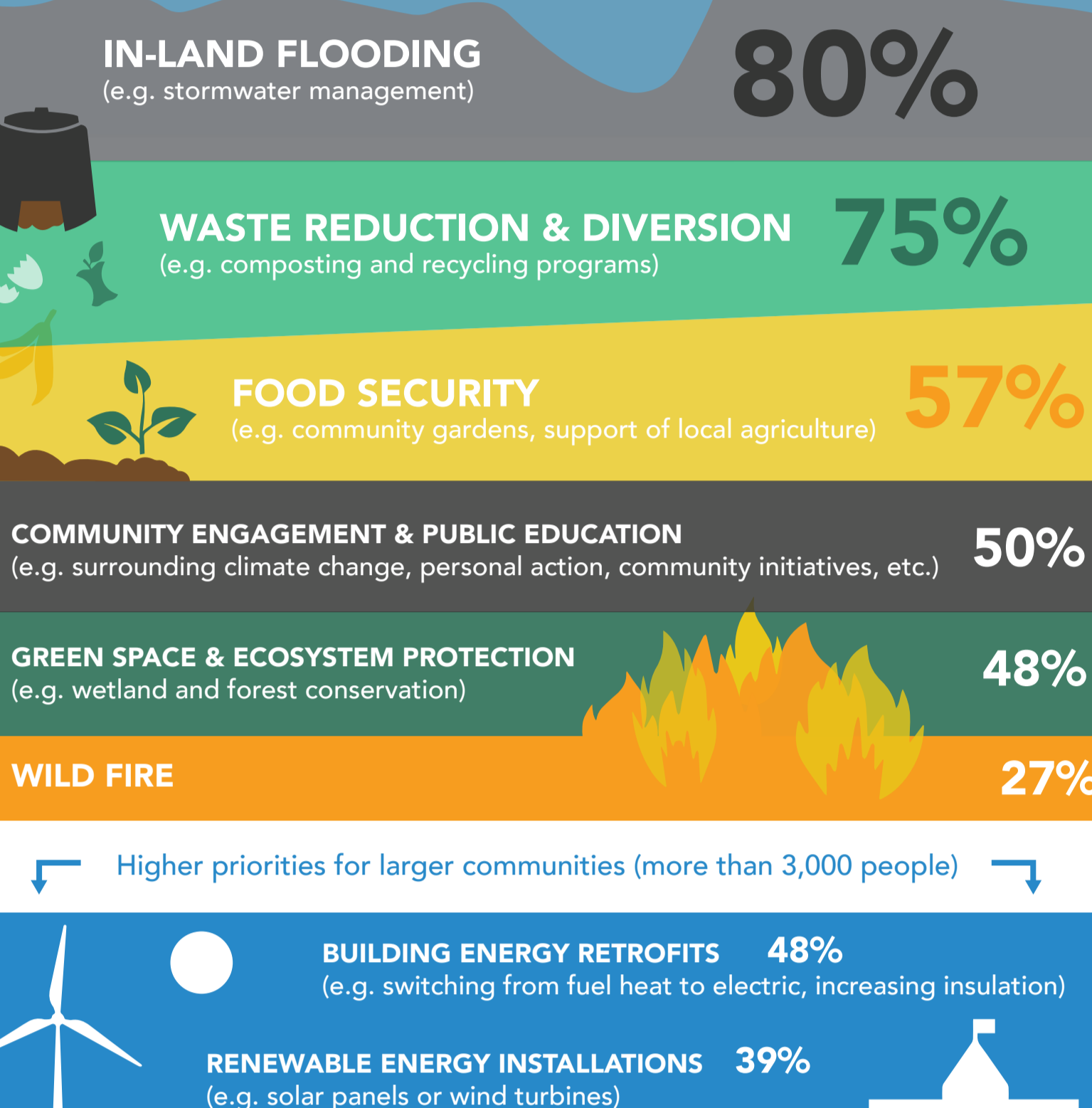
↳ Mostly larger communities (more than 6,000 people)

↳ Climate change has been discussed, but no planning or action has been taken

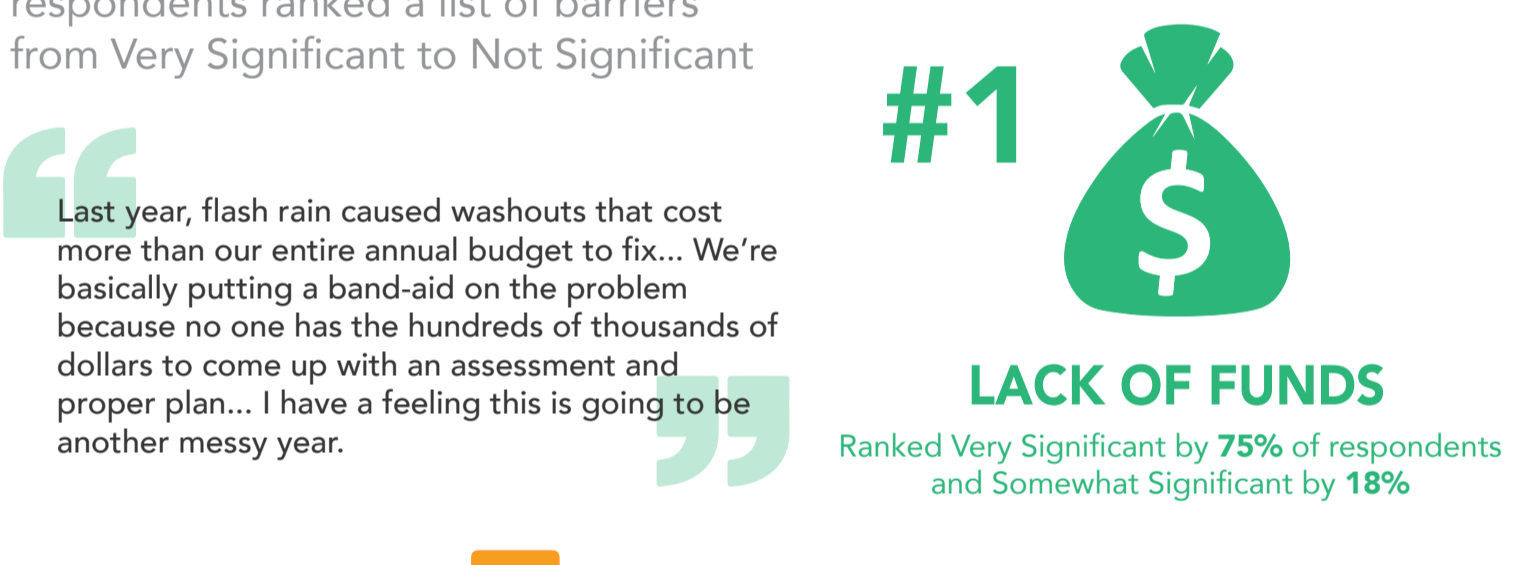
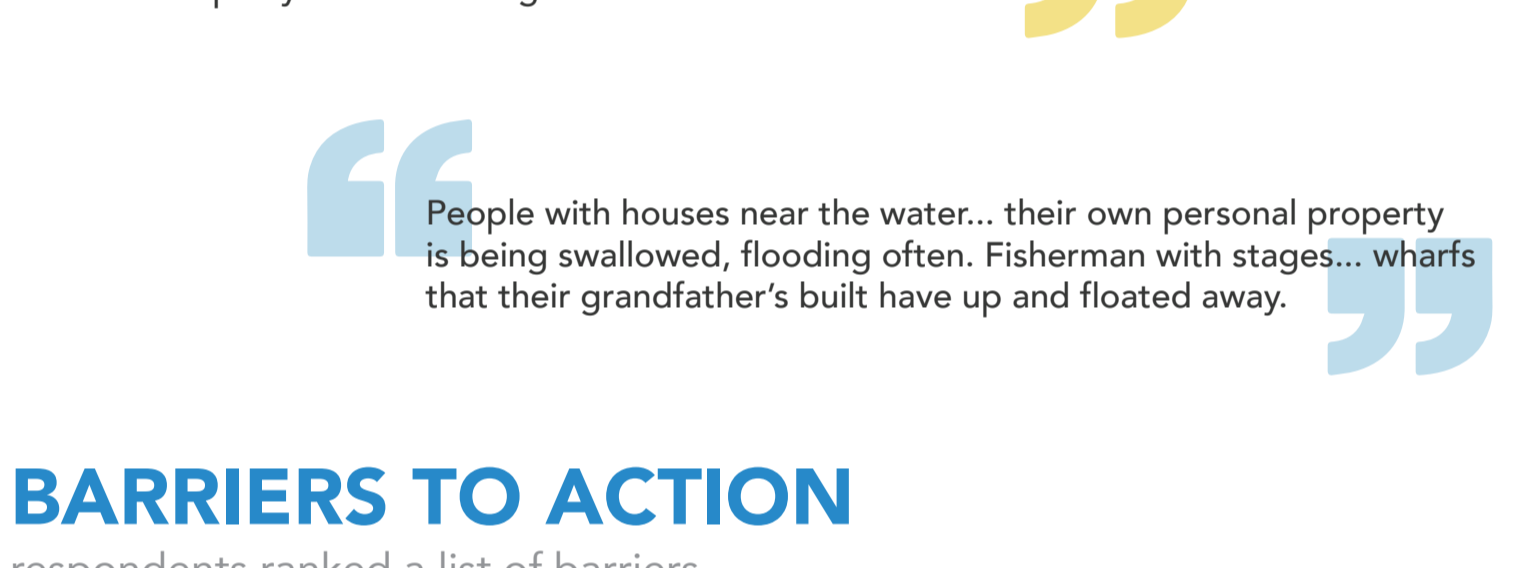
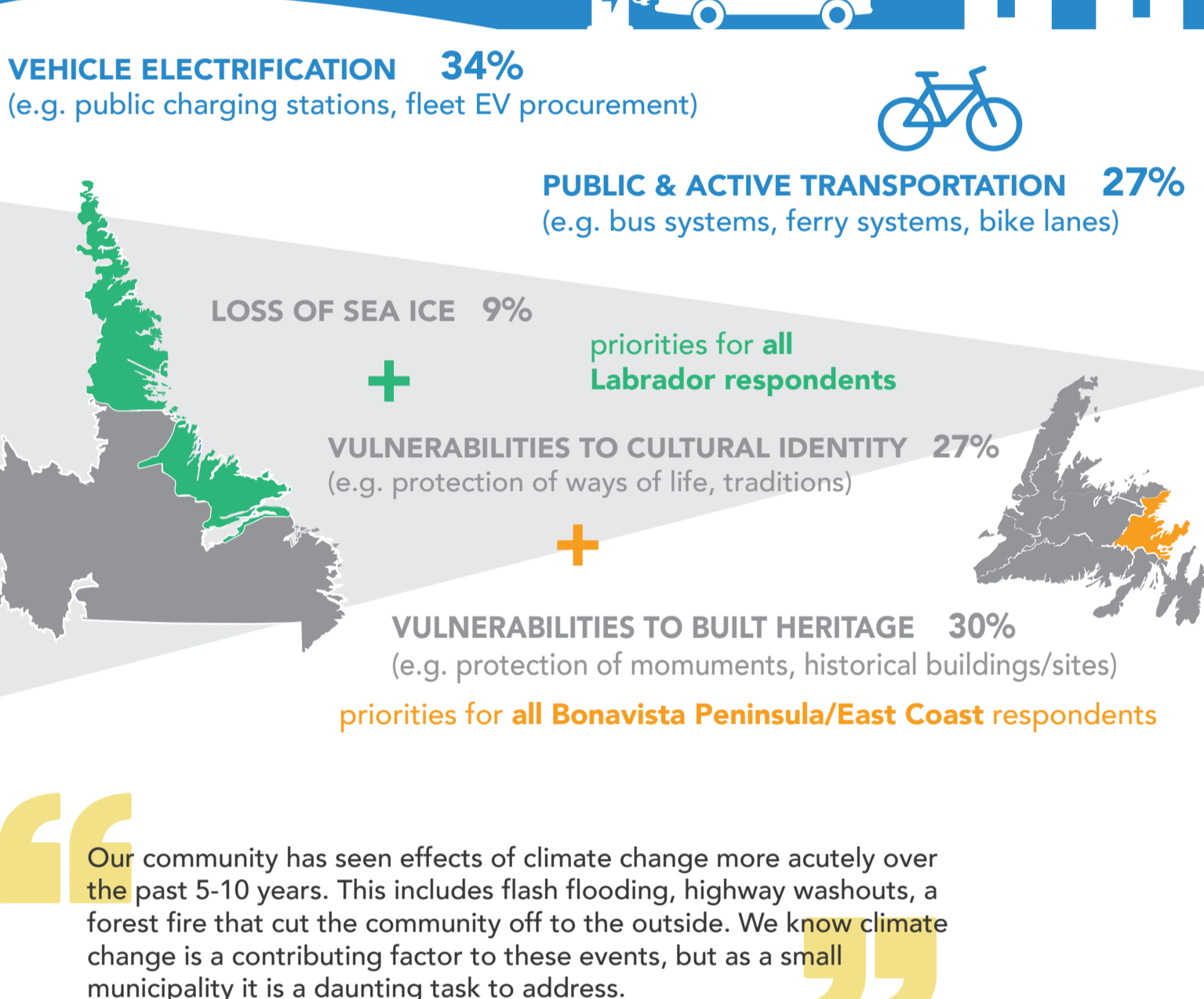
↳ Mostly smaller communities (less than 6,000 people)

CLIMATE PRIORITIES

% of respondents that selected as a community priority



↳ Higher priorities for larger communities (more than 3,000 people)

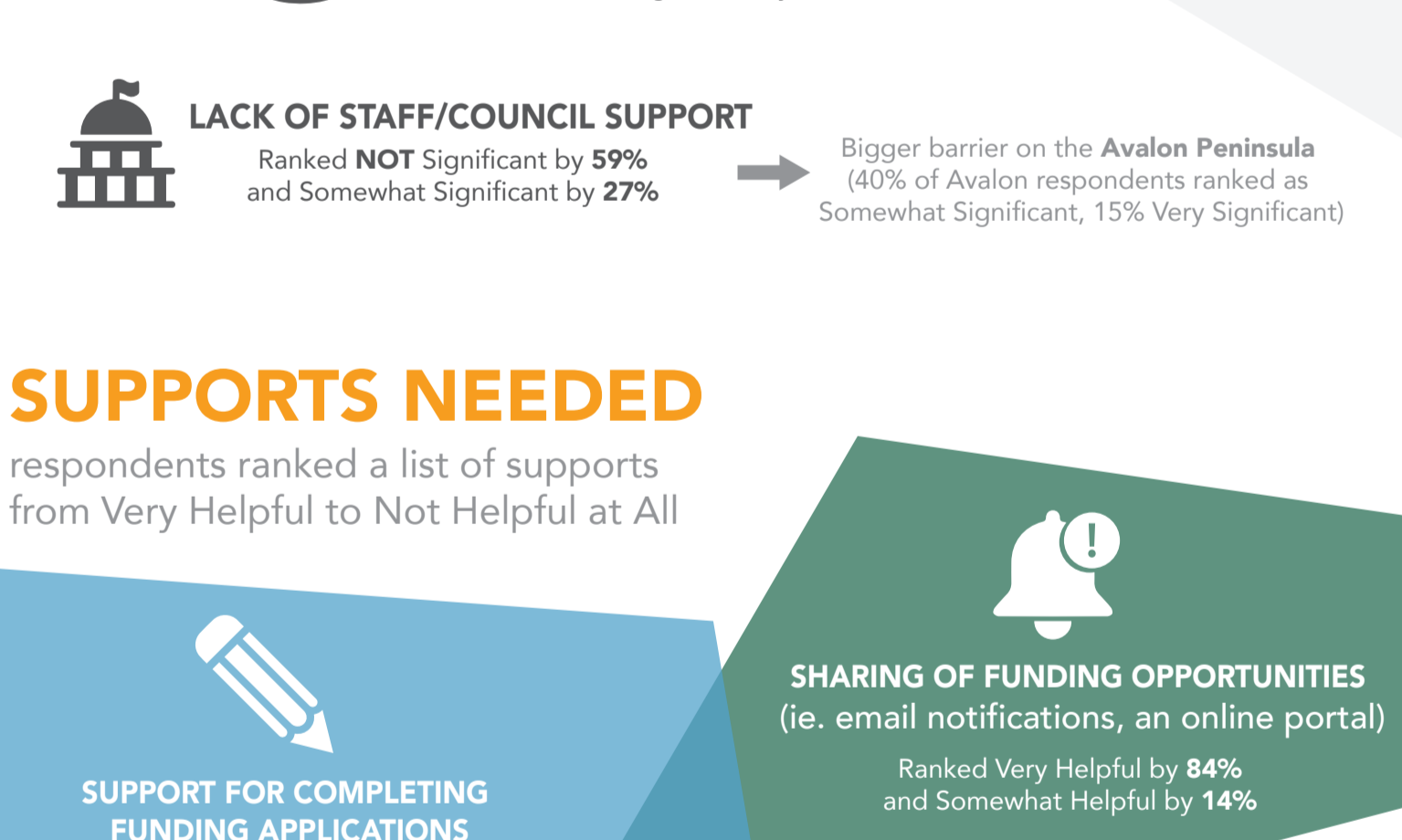


“Our community has seen effects of climate change more acutely over the past 5-10 years. This includes flash flooding, highway washouts, a forest fire that cut the community off to the outside. We know climate change is a contributing factor to these events, but as a small municipality it is a daunting task to address.”

“People with houses near the water... their own personal property is being swallowed, flooding often. Fisherman with stages... wharfs that their grandfather's built have up and floated away.”

BARRIERS TO ACTION

respondents ranked a list of barriers from Very Significant to Not Significant



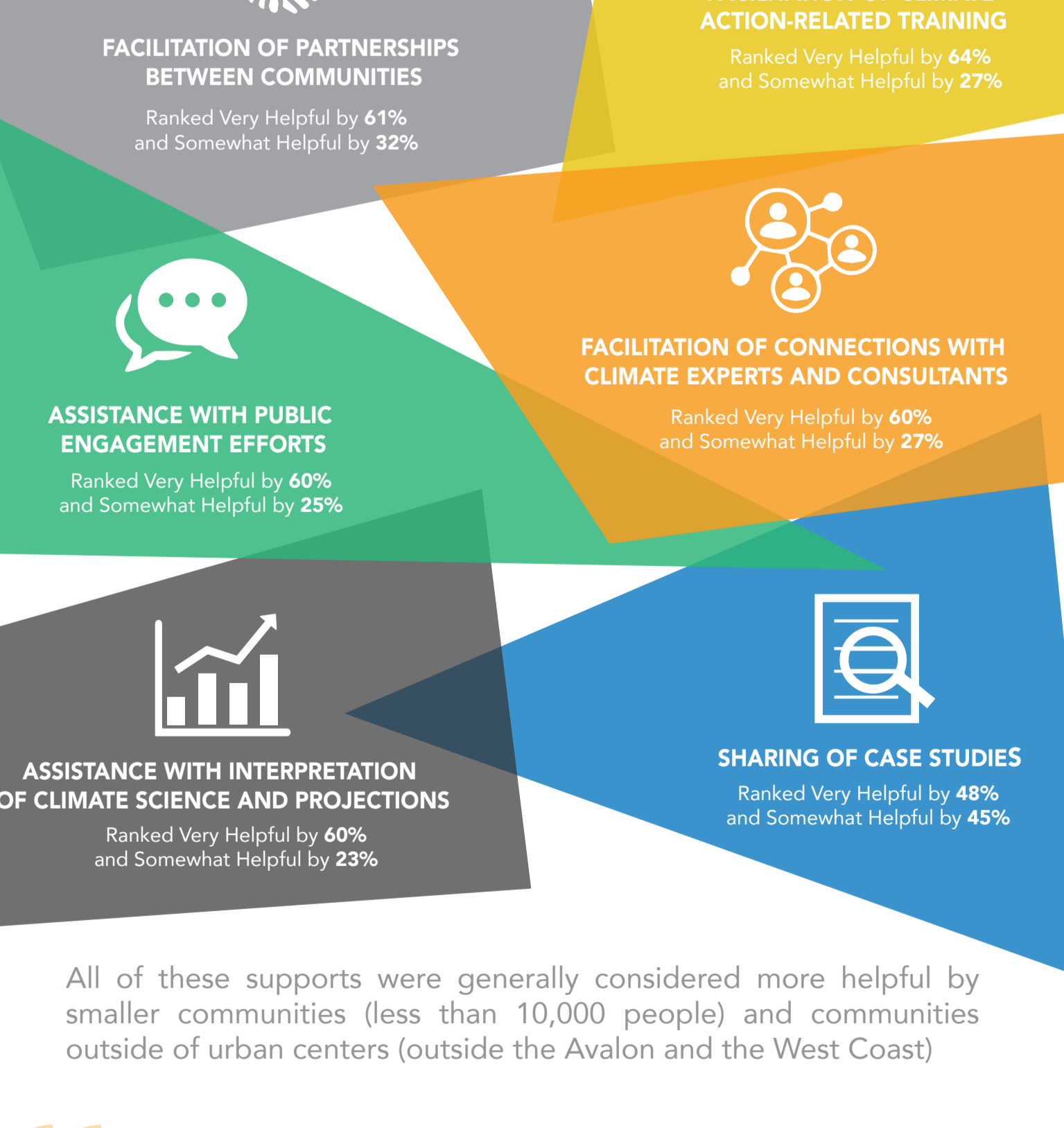
↳ Bigger barriers for smaller communities (less than 3,000 people)

“People generally agree that we have to take action on climate change, but there's a lack of understanding about exactly what that entails... the majority of the community seems to be afraid of change, especially if there's a cost involved.”

↳ Bigger barrier on the Avalon Peninsula (40% of Avalon respondents ranked as Somewhat Significant, 15% Very Significant)

SUPPORTS NEEDED

respondents ranked a list of supports from Very Helpful to Not Helpful at All



All of these supports were generally considered more helpful by smaller communities (less than 10,000 people) and communities outside of urban centers (outside the Avalon and the West Coast)

“If municipalities had a one-stop-shop to find all the federal, provincial, and private funding programs so we don't miss anything, that would be great.”

“Awareness and training is fantastic, but communities need planned actions and money to go after them. We can do studies forever, but what comes next?”

“Our existing relationship with econext and private partners has been super beneficial in moving the dial forward. Just providing a platform for getting involved and finding a support network has been enormously helpful.”

PROGRESS + DIRECTION

Respondents provided examples of projects they have completed, are working on, or would like to implement. For most of the projects listed, all three apply - a community has done it, another is trying, and another wants to.

- GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION INVENTORIES
- MUNICIPAL BUILDING ENERGY RETROFITS
- SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS TO RETROFIT HOMES
- SOLAR PV ON MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS
- SOLAR AREA LIGHTS
- WIND ENERGY
- GEOTHERMAL HEATING
- COMMUNITY GARDENS/GREENHOUSES
- COMMUNITY OR REGIONAL COMPOSTING
- MANDATORY RECYCLING
- WATER CONSERVATION
- COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS
- WATERSHED MODELLING
- ECO-ASSET MANAGEMENT
- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING
- COASTAL MONITORING & PROTECTION
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING
- WETLAND STEWARDSHIP
- FLEET ELECTRIFICATION
- BIKE LANES & TRAILS
- EV CHARGING STATIONS
- PUBLIC TRANSIT

“Municipalities have a very wide range of significant, urgent problems with hyper-constrained resources. But lots of problems means lots of opportunities for win-win-win solutions... Climate action can pursue multiple objectives at the same time.”