American Planning Association

Creating Great Communities for All

Planner Perspectives on Climate

An APA Divisions Council Survey

FINAL REPORT

of the

2023 APA Division Council Initiative

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March 2024

Partner Divisions:
Sustainable Communities Division (SCD), 2023 Divisions Council Initiative Lead
Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy Division (ENRE)
Federal Planning Division (FPD)
Food Systems Division (FSD)
Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Planning Division (HDMR)
Public Schools and Communities Division (PS+CD)
Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division (RIDP)
Transportation Planning Division (TPD)
Urban Design and Preservation Division (UDPD)
Women & Planning Division (WPD)

Authors + Collaborators

The Planner Perspectives on Climate Survey was generously made possible by APA National and supported as an organization-wide initiative by the APA Divisions Council. The intent of the survey and its findings is to furnish data and support to APA National and APA Divisions Council in their continued engagement in dialogue, discourse, and initiatives on climate change as it pertains to the planning profession and the communities planners serve. Ten APA Divisions and one APA interest group partnered together to support the development of this survey.

Partners

Sustainable Communities Division (SCD), 2023 Divisions Council Initiative Lead
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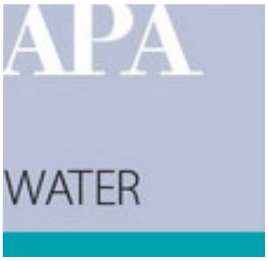
Transportation Planning Division (TPD)
Urban Design and Preservation Division (UDPD)
Water and Planning Network (WPN)
Women & Planning Division (WPD)



Supporting Members

This report, and synthesis of the data findings within, were prepared by Jessi Eidbo, Robert McHaney, and Alexander Brown. However, many others, including those names below, provided critical input in developing the survey, administration, and outreach to enhance survey engagement. Gratitude is extended to APA volunteers who stepped up to help administer and develop this survey:

Survey conceptualization, development and administration
Karla Ebenbach (SCD), Merrill St. Leger Demian (SCD), Jessi Eidbo (SCD), Molly Riordan (FSD), Stacy Wright (HDMR), Marcel Acosta (UDPD), Robert McHaney (TPD), Caroline Dwyer (WPD), Wayne Hausser (FPD), Dana Orkin (FPD), Saralee Morrissey (PS+CD), Ralph Willmer (RIDP), Jessica Conquest (ENRE), Rachel Z. Hertzman (PS+CD), Hodgin Serrullo (PS+CD), Adam Lubinsky (PS+CD), Mathew Palmer (PS+CD), Matt Bucchin (SCD), Scott D. Turner (SCD), James Riordan (ENRE), Chad Nabity (Divisions Council), Deborah Myerson (Divisions Council), Bill Cesanek (Water and Planning Network), Bethany N. Bella (SCD), Gabriella Baldassari (SCD), Jessica Young (SCD), Bonnie Johnson (AICP TF), Harriet Bogdanowicz (APA), Samantha Morse (APA), and Isabel Fitzsimons (APA). Special thank you to Caroline Dwyer (WPD) for technical support of the survey throughout its administration.

Survey analysis and synthesis of findings
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Jessi Eidbo, Em Hall, Karla Ebenbach

Outreach and engagement
Karla Ebenbach, Caroline Dwyer, Harriet Bogdanowicz, Samantha Morse, Roberta Rewers, Isabel Fitzsimons, Cynthia Currie, Meghan Stromberg, Jacquelyn Kirkwood, and partnering APA divisions and interest groups.

Sponsorship of survey prize drawing for five $100 Patagonia gift cards
APA Divisions Council
Drawing winners
Vanessa Balta, David Barboza, Anna Bury Carmer, Olivia Dorow-Hovland, and Mara Owen

Most importantly, gratitude is extended to the **993 planning professionals** who gave their time to participate in this survey and were willing to share their experiences and opinions.

Disclaimer: The findings from the survey did not seek to be (nor are they, due to a lower than expected response rate) statistically robust; participation in the survey was optional to all APA members, but the distribution of responding participants does not necessarily reflect the views of all APA membership, nor the APA Divisions Council or APA Board.

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Introduction

In 2020 and 2022, the APA Sustainable Communities Division surveyed members to generate insight on how the division could better support planning practitioners in helping integrate climate change into their daily practice. These surveys and their findings inspired the 2023 Divisions Council Initiative, which became a multi-division, APA-wide survey on climate perspectives that ultimately was named the Planner Perspectives on Climate Survey. The survey was officially launched on November 29, 2023, and closed on December 20, 2023. It was publicized through various APA and APA sub-component media.

The Planner Perspectives on Climate Survey effort was spearheaded by the Divisions Council of APA. It was conceived and implemented through the collaboration of multiple divisions and other partners within APA to gain insights on how APA members currently understand and are impacted by climate change, as well as on the types of tools or resources currently available or lacking for professional planners.

Survey findings are intended to provide direction on how APA and divisions may serve members in meaningful ways, in part by illustrating how climate change impacts the daily work of practitioners within the planning community.

Survey Development

Representatives from across ten divisions, coordinated under leadership of the Sustainable Communities Division, developed the 2023 multi-division, national APA Planner Perspectives on Climate Survey. The partner divisions included the Sustainable Communities Division (SCD), who served as Divisions Council lead on the initiative, in collaboration with (in alphabetical order): the Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy Division (ENRE); the Federal Planning Division (FPD); the Food Systems Division (FSD); the Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Planning Division (HDMR); the Public Schools and Communities Division (PS+CD); the Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division (RIPD); the Transportation Planning Division (TPD); the Urban Design and Preservation Division (UDPD); and the Women & Planning Division (WPD). Volunteers crafting the survey instrument sought to follow survey development best practices, including both length and type of questions and aiming to employ plain language principles.

Survey Administration

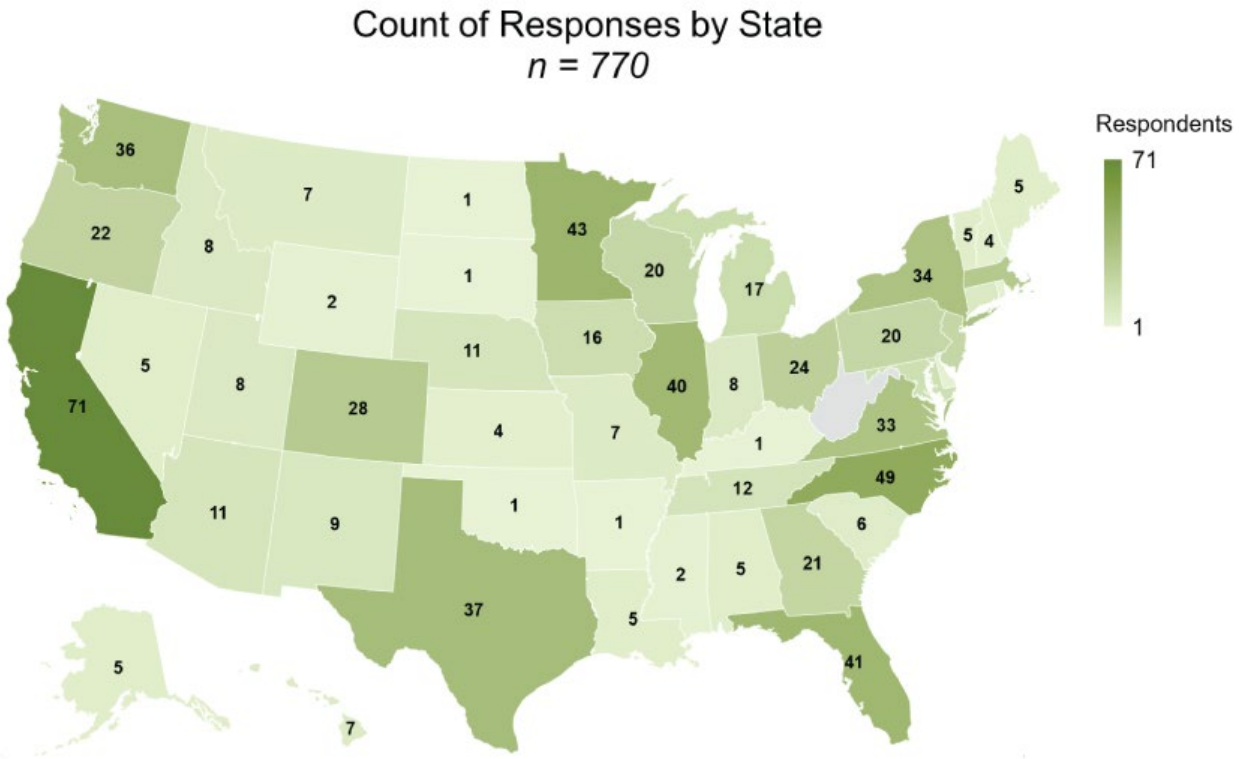
The survey was developed and conducted through SurveyMonkey, an online platform allowing custom question development in an intuitive user interface. The survey was open for 22 days, from Wednesday, November 29, 2023 through Wednesday, December 20, 2023. To incentivize participation, respondents were given the option to enter a drawing for one of five $100 gift card prizes to Patagonia, a climate-conscious outdoor clothing retailer. To qualify for the drawing, respondents had to supply a name and an email address but were not required to complete every question in the survey.

Survey Outreach

Just under 40,000 APA members received an email announcing that the survey was live. For additional outreach, the survey was announced to the APA leadership community on APA Engage and through *Interact*, *First Friday Notes*, and *Planning Magazine*. Volunteers were encouraged to share the survey with their networks. Many divisions sent an announcement in their regular communications to division members, including by newsletter and additional, separate email outreach. There were also social media posts on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook.

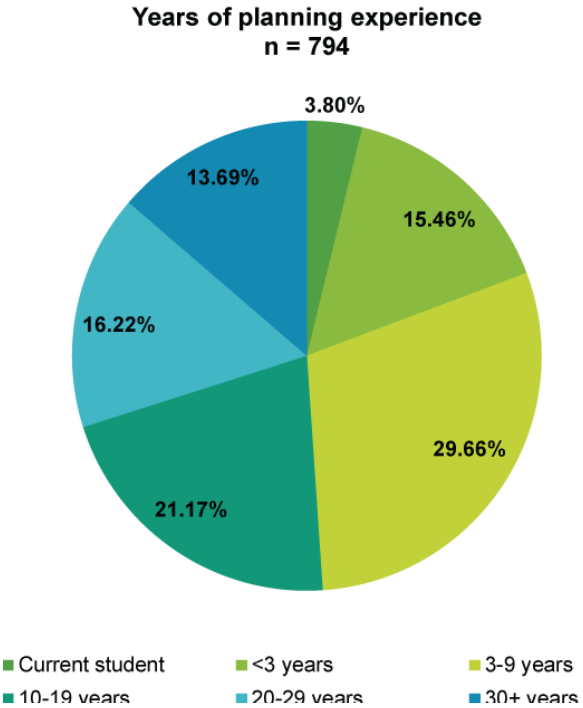
Participation Summary

In total, 993 members responded to the survey. Almost every single U.S. state was represented across the 993 respondents. However, of the 669 respondents who provided their state (67% of survey participants), the states with the highest rates of participation were California (71 respondents), North Carolina (49), Minnesota (43), Florida (41), Illinois (40), and Texas (37).



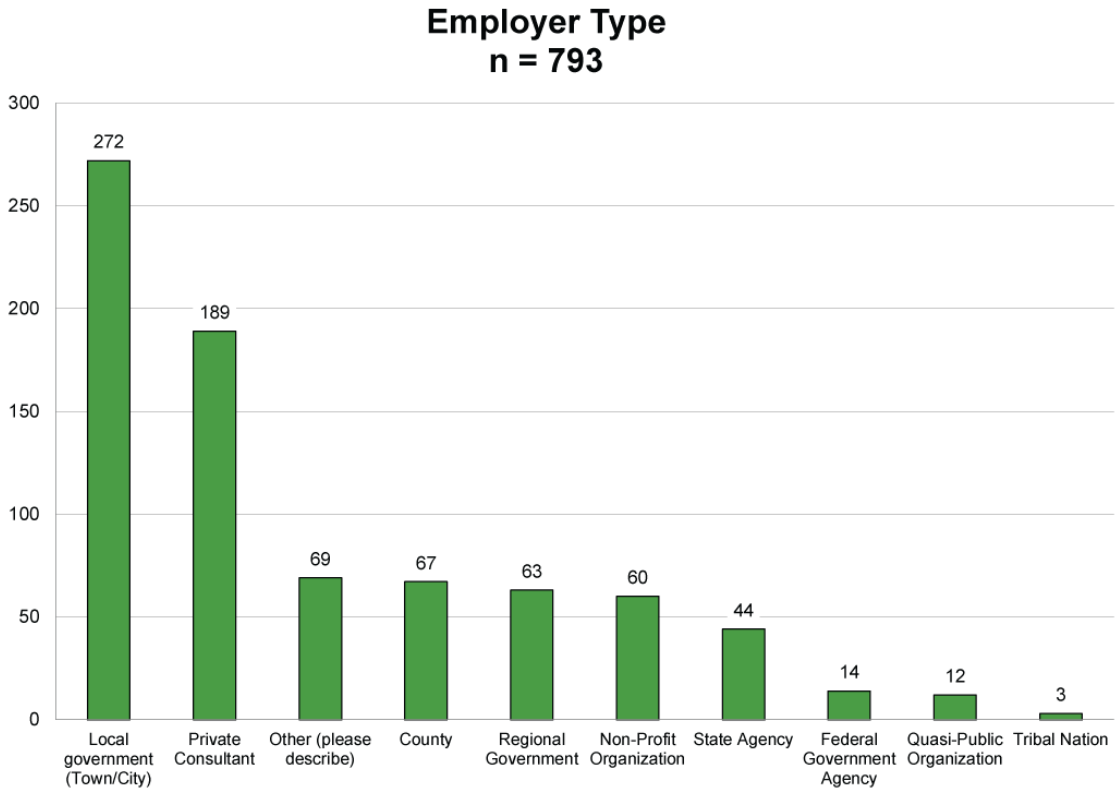
Tenure in planning.

A total of 94 survey participants indicated the years of planning experience they had (or 80% of respondents). The results showed good experience distribution across the various tenure steps, though very few respondents were current students (just under 4%). Just over 15% of respondents had less than three years of experience, while the most prominent group reported between 3 and 9 years of experience (30%). 21% of respondents reported between 10 and 19 years of experience, and 16% indicated between 20 and 29 years of experience. Just under 14% of respondents indicated over 30 years of experience. This distribution was exciting to see, providing the ability to discover insights into trends for planning professionals across years of experience.

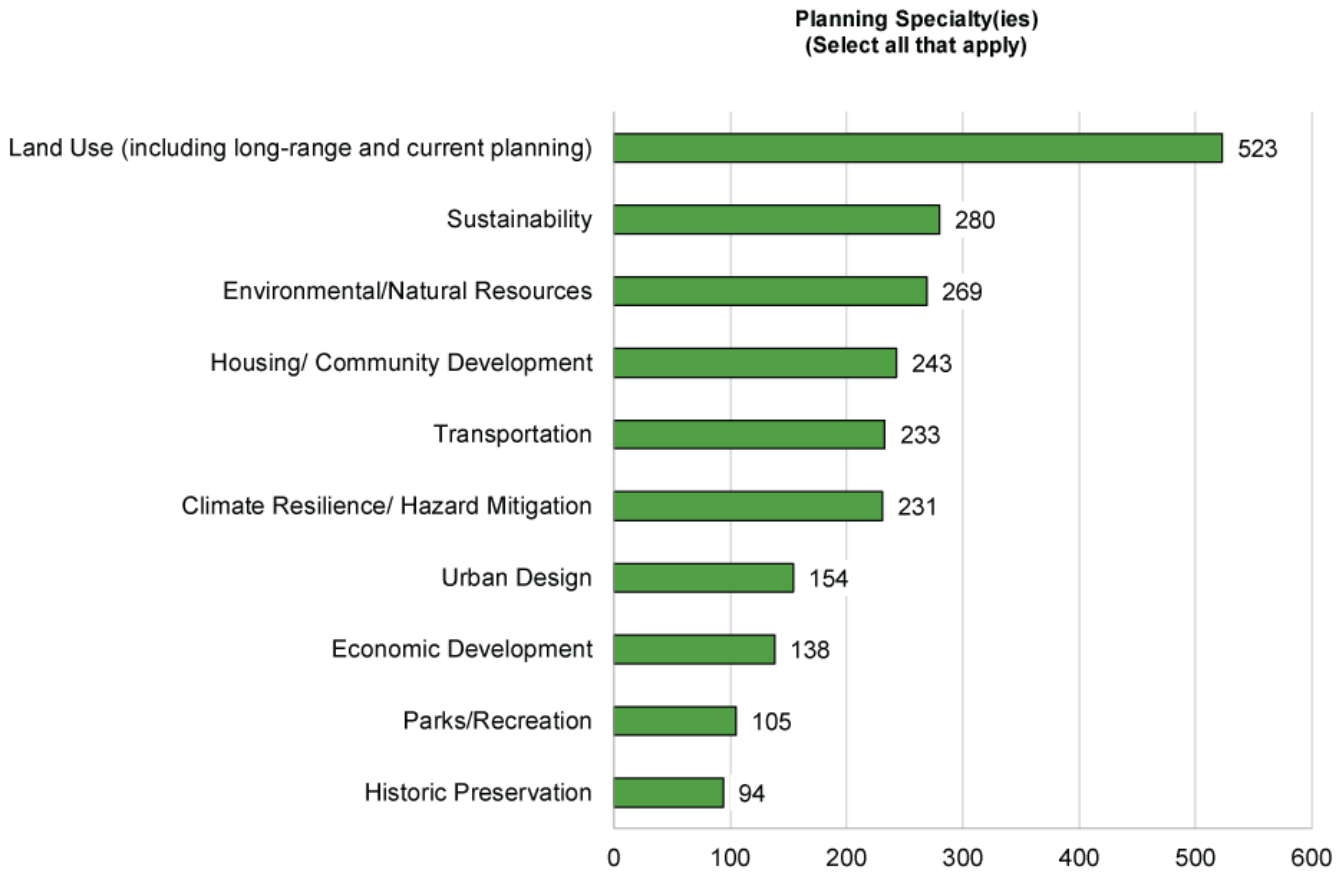


Employer type.

Of the respondents who elected to share (793 of 993, or 80%), the most common employer type was local government (272, or 34%), followed by private consulting (189, or 24%). The remaining respondents indicated employer types ranging from county or regional government, academia and universities, non-profit organizations, state or federal agencies, quasi-public organizations, and Tribal Nations.



Planning specialties.

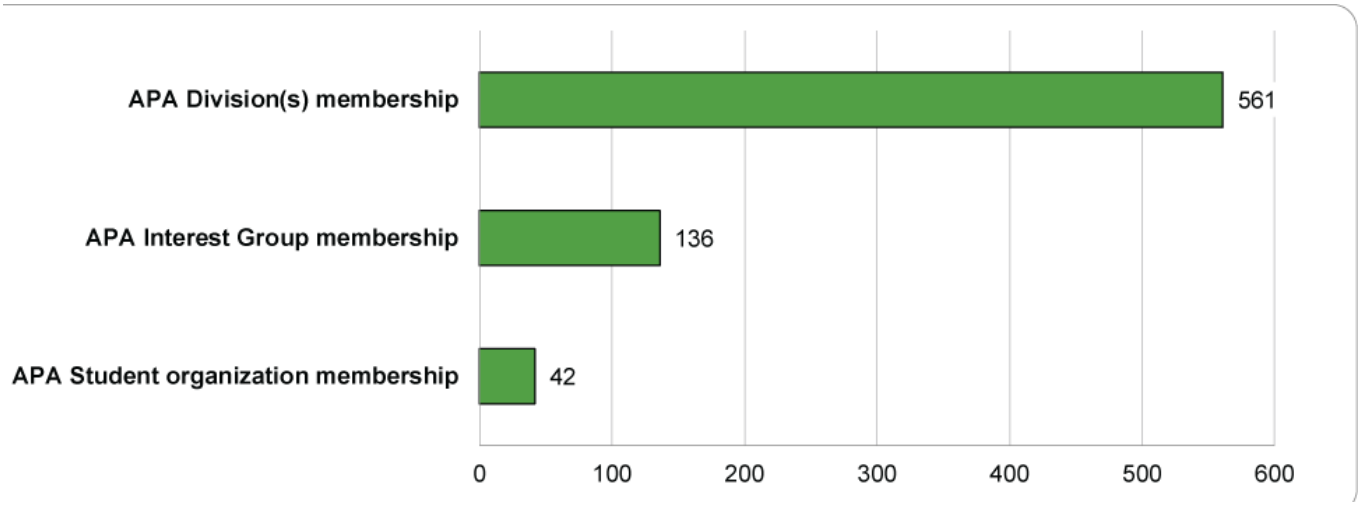


Respondents were also asked to provide their planning specialty or specialties; a handful of typical planning specialties were provided, in addition to an "Other" response. Respondents were encouraged to indicate all specialties that applied to them. The most common specialty was land use planning, for which 523 of the 993 indicated it as a specialty (or 66%). This was followed by sustainability planning (35%), environmental and natural resource planning (34%), housing and community development (31%), transportation (29%), and climate resilience or hazard mitigation planning (29%). Less common specialties included urban design (19%), economic development (17%), parks and recreation planning (13%), and historic preservation (12%).

The 10% of respondents who elected to identify another specialty via the "Other" response choice shared numerous specialties, ranging from infrastructure planning to GIS to zoning administration to regulatory law, justice, and equity. However, as a whole, this spread of responses provided for planning specialties may indicate that the body of survey respondents skewed toward the specialties represented in the divisions supporting and disseminating this survey.

Photo from U.S. BLM Flickr, BLM Artist-in-Residence Painted Mountains Tour at the Lower Deschutes Wild & Scenic River, open source (2024)

American Planning Association (APA) affiliations.



The survey also asked whether respondents had any additional APA affiliation(s). Six hundred twenty-five survey participants provided a response to this question for a response rate of 63%). Of those, 90% indicated they were also members of at least one APA division, and 22% indicated they were members of an APA interest group. Another 7% stated membership of an APA student organization.

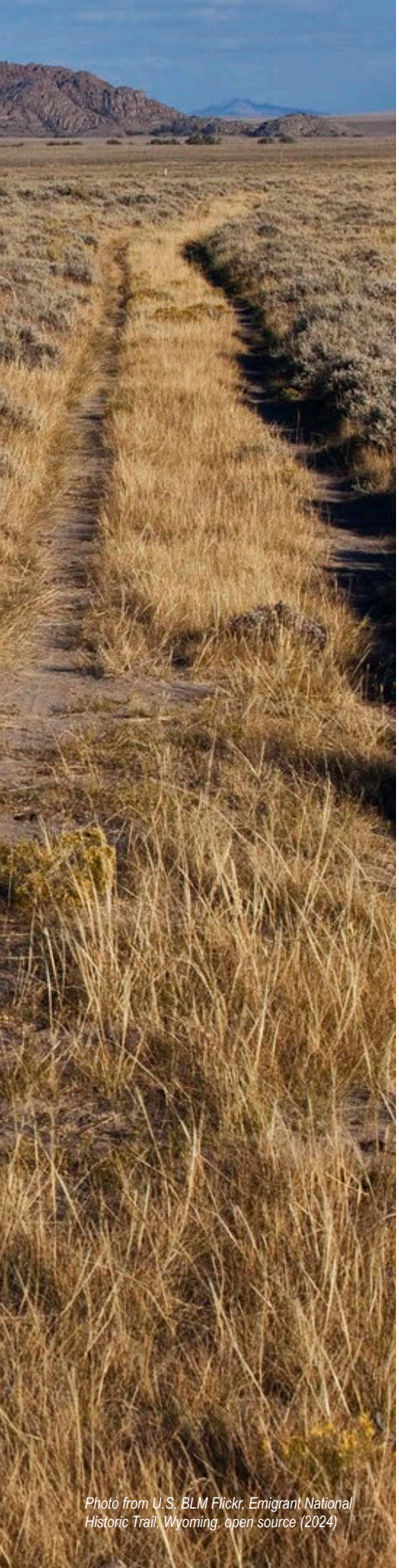


Photo from U.S. BLM Flickr, Emigrant National Historic Trail, Wyoming, open source (2024)

Survey Findings

Key Findings

1. **Planners are aware of the impacts of climate change.** Over 80% of respondents acknowledged that climate change has a moderate or severe impact on their communities right now, and 93% agree that it will continue to get worse before it gets better.

2. **Perspectives on climate held by individual planning practitioners do not always find an outlet in day-to-day work.** Although respondents understood the impacts of climate change and the need for action, many constraints and challenges exist as planners strive to integrate and consider the impacts of climate change in planning initiatives.

3. **Planners face financial, political, and organizational barriers to planning for a changing climate.** There is clear need for resources to assist planners as they try to fund climate actions and increase capacity to undertake this work.

4. **Planners are crucial to advancing climate action in their communities.** Whether it be through land use planning, securing funding and implementing infrastructure improvements, public education, navigating socio-political landscapes, or advancing preparedness within government agencies, planners have a place in the collective action needed to face the climate crisis.

5. **There is opportunity for APA and its divisions to provide resources to support practitioners and enable them to engage in effective climate action work.** Of participating respondents, when asked whether there were gaps in resources, tools, or technical assistance, most respondents identified at least one need. Planners are seeking strategies for communicating and engaging with the public on climate issues, breaking down silos, collaborating with other departments and agencies, and expanding their local networks, as well as seeking many more tools necessary for effective climate action.

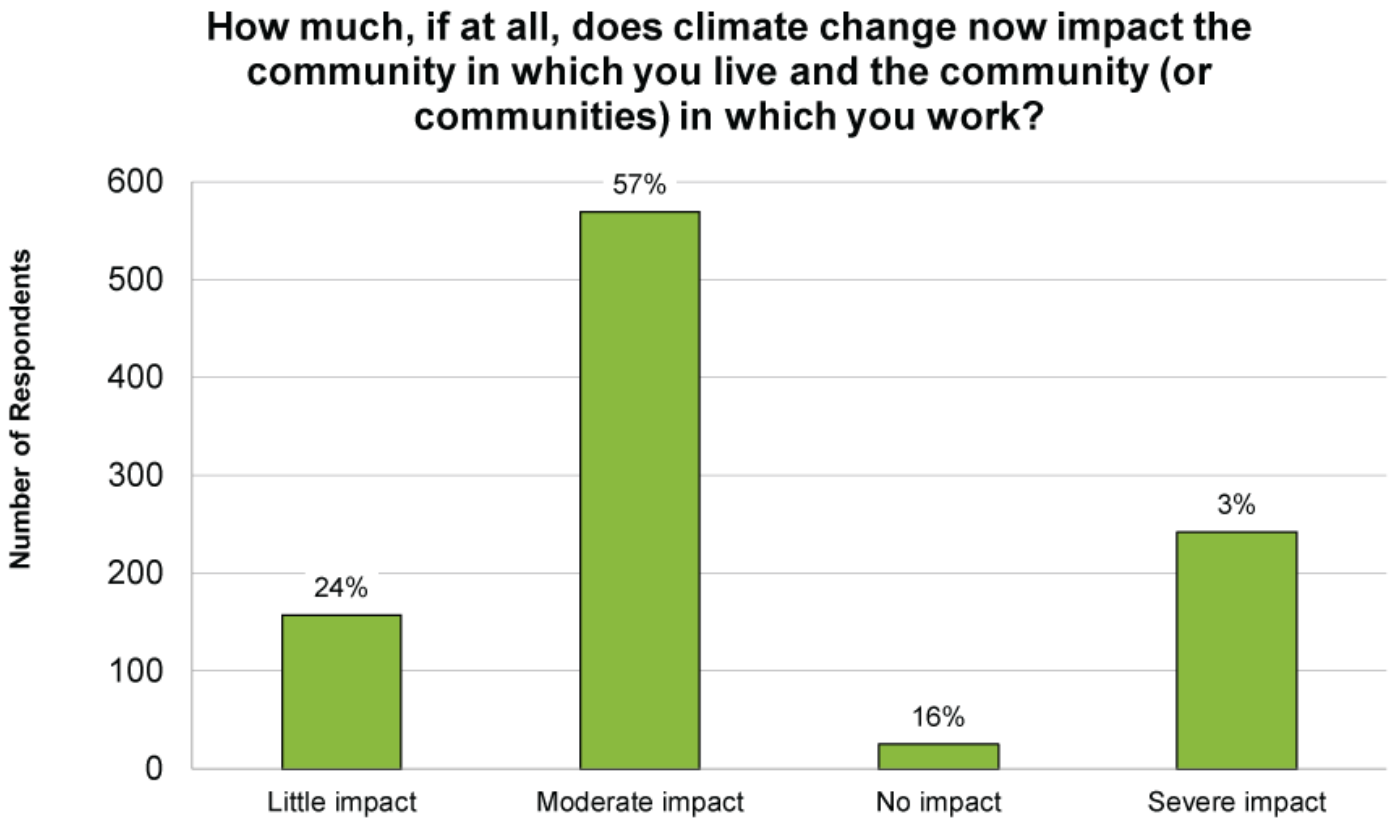
A note on survey analysis: *A strong majority of respondents indicated that they were either "somewhat" or "very" familiar with climate action planning (84%), which may indicate that members with a degree of familiarity with climate change or climate planning were more likely to have taken the survey or that climate work is becoming ubiquitous across the planning profession.*

Responses by Survey Question

1. Climate change impact on respondents' community.

The first question asked respondents to indicate climate change's impact on the community or communities in which they live and work. Over half of respondents indicated that climate change currently has a "moderate impact" while almost a quarter (24%) indicated that climate change has a "severe impact." Less than 20% of respondents indicated little to no impact from climate change; only 16% indicated that climate change had "little impact," while only 3% indicated that climate change had "no impact."

In total, 993 respondents provided an answer to this question, equal to the total number of respondents who participated in the survey, for a response rate of 100%.

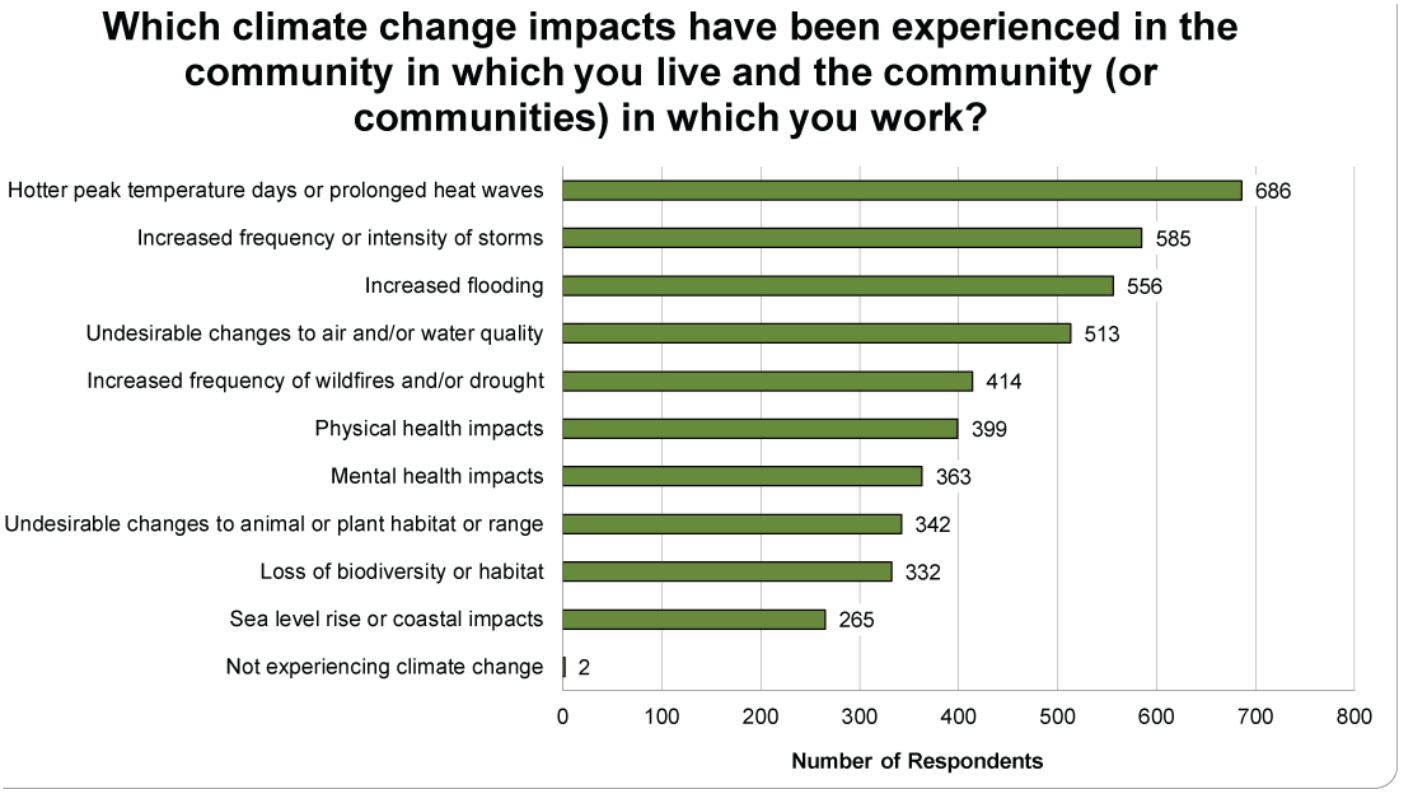


Takeaway:

Planners are seeing impacts of climate change upon their communities.

2. Climate impacts upon respondents' specific community or communities.

The second question asked respondents to identify all of the specific climate impacts that their community or communities currently face due to climate change. Respondents were prompted to select all that applied, with most respondents identifying extreme heat in the form of hotter peak temperature days or prolonged heat waves. Similarly topping the list were increased frequency or intensity of storms and increased flooding. Only two respondents identified that they were not experiencing climate change, while the overwhelming majority identified at least one specific impact that has already begun manifesting in their community or communities. In total, 795 respondents provided an answer to this question for a response rate of 80%.



In addition to the options provided as answers, many respondents elected to specify impacts by selecting the "Other" response category. Answers from those manually entered by 76 respondents included many additional impacts that showcase the tremendous variation in how climate change has impacted communities across the United States. Some are detailed below, including:

- Drought and water supply issues, including aquifer levels and shortages due to induced demand from droughts and fluctuating precipitation patterns, which also exacerbate wildfire risk and intensity
- Permafrost degradation
- Ocean warming and the many resulting and cascading effects on marine systems
- Increased seasonal variability, such as warmer winters and more freeze-thaw cycles, resulting in infrastructure impacts, which impact growing seasons as well

(list continued...)

- More specific impacts from warming, including decreased winter ice cover, less snow, and hotter overnight temperatures
- Wind storms (derechos)Precipitation events (increase in frequency and severity) specifically resulting in erosion and mudslides
- Economic impacts, both at the local and household level, with things like property damage, cooling and heating costs, building costs (including new necessary improvements, maintenance, and repair)
- Mental and physical health impacts across the community
- Invasive species, specifically destroying tree species
- The lifestyle and recreation impacts of many of these other impacts which affect livelihoods, traditions, and community fabric on the whole
- Introduced uncertainty in planning objectives due to the inability to forecast extent and scale of climate change-induced impacts to communities
- In addition to air quality from warmer temperatures, additional air quality impacts from increased wildfires

Some respondents made a point to flag the inherent inequities apparent in the way that climate impacts affect various community members, calling attention to the disproportionate vulnerability to the many climate change impacts of highly vulnerable community members, including low-income, folks experiencing homelessness, and historically marginalized communities. Respondents acknowledged that planning across timescales – addressing immediate community needs while mitigating longer term and potentially magnified impacts – can cause tensions regarding present day resource allocation. On this subject, one respondent noted that for communities, it can be difficult to justify dedicating resources to reducing emissions in the long term while facing immediate issues, such as homelessness.

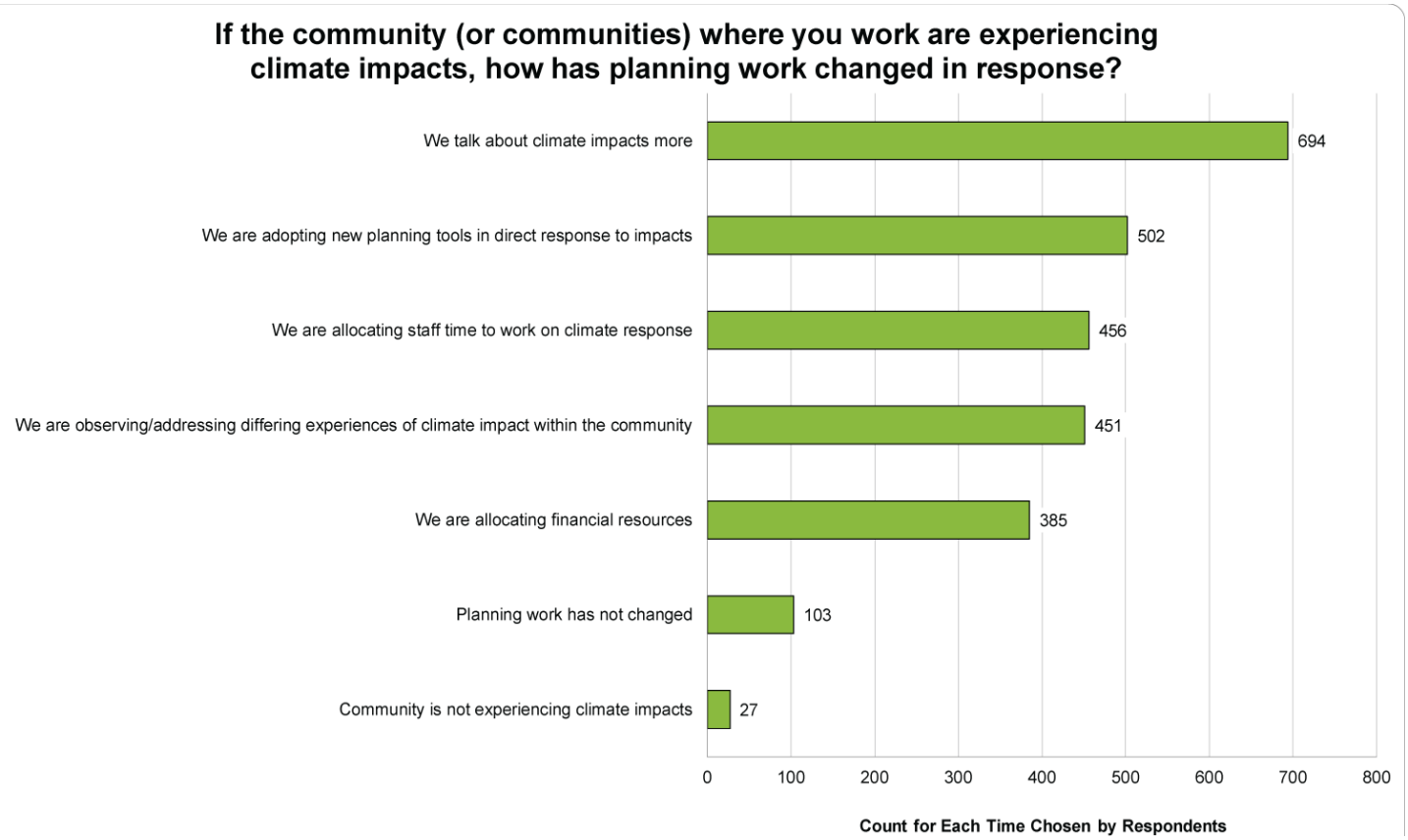
Takeaway:

Planners experience a wide range of climate impacts in the communities in which they live and work. Respondents observe extreme heat and drought, flooding, varying precipitation patterns, decreased air and water quality, and associated physical and mental health impacts.

3. Changes in organizational behavior and actions.

After understanding the extent and ways climate impacts were showing up in the communities that planners live and work in, the next question sought to understand the resulting behavior change, asking planners how their daily planning practice has changed or evolved in communities facing these impacts. Respondents were encouraged to select all applicable answers from the list.

Of the answers provided, the most common change in behavior was that communities were simply talking more about climate change. Many communities were also adopting new planning tools in direct response to specific impacts, allocating human capital to work on climate change and allocating financial resources. The least common response was a change to working under new federal or state regulatory guidance. Some indicated that planning work had not changed (12%), and very few indicated they were not experiencing climate impacts (1%).



In total, 925 respondents provided an answer to the question, while 68 did not, for a response rate of 93%. Additionally, many respondents elected to provide additional insights through the "Other" option (78 in total). The responses varied between clarifying or providing more detail to one of the pre-populated response answers and providing new or additional ways that behavior was changing in response to the impacts of climate change.

Of the clarifying responses, answers included:

- Updating planning documents, including comprehensive plans and long-term planning documents (visions for 2050)
- Updating zoning code to integrate climate-conscious measures like parking minimum reductions or requiring parking lot shading and planting
- Appointing an energy or clean energy commission as a dedicated body within the community, as well as elevating climate and sustainability opportunities to existing bodies, like city councils
- Paying greater attention to and potentially engaging with state and federal legislative efforts
- Research on opportunities for environmental action
- Hiring a dedicated FTE, such as a sustainability coordinator or energy coordinator

The remaining "Other" responses were more varied, but a handful highlighted how:

- There can be a significant disconnect between planning efforts to integrate climate change impacts and what's perceived as a gap in parallel efforts, like development best practices, and sometimes practices by others (developers, politicians, economic development folks) are worsening climate impacts.

- The numerous, varied ways to address climate change have resulted in many, often poorly or uncoordinated organizations and efforts, which can undermine results. One respondent identified the confusion caused by "fragmented authorities and overlapping jurisdictions have diffused powers, authorities, and ability to mobilize resources," making coordination more difficult.

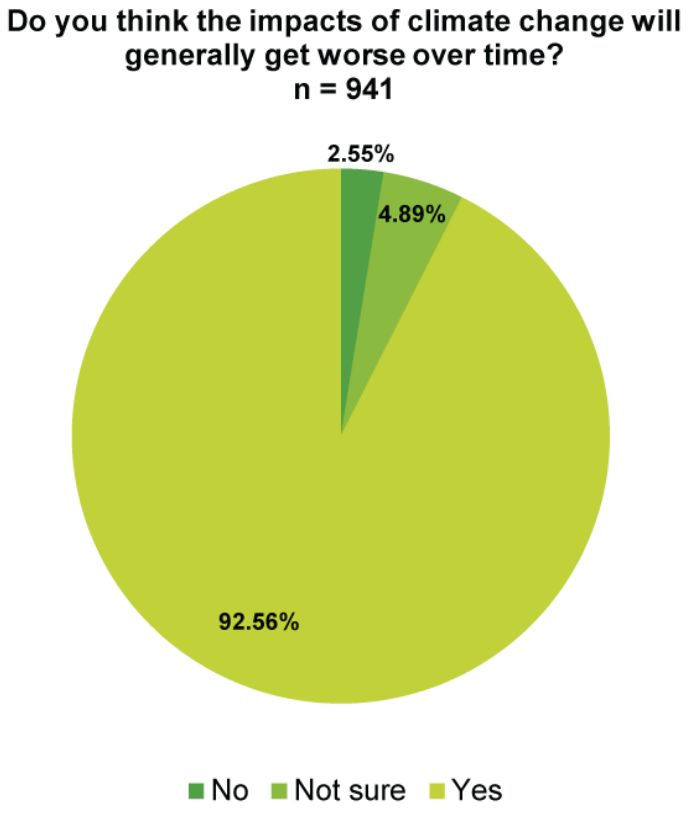
- The complex working environment on climate and sustainability, including the need to sometimes couch "climate" work as something else, i.e., coding it as energy efficiency improvements or needing to narrate initiatives not to inflame incendiary perspectives that would undermine any initiatives.

Takeaway:

The planning practice is evolving modestly in the face of the climate crisis. Planners are having more conversations and many are exploring solutions and allocating resources, but for some there has been no change to their work.

4. Perceptions of the longitudinal impact(s) of climate change.

While the prior questions helped establish a foothold in the present day, the following question pivoted to thinking about the future by asking respondents their opinions on whether they expected the impacts of climate change to worsen over time. The result was a resounding "Yes", with over 90% of respondents indicating that they did expect climate change's impacts to generally worsen over time. A tiny percentage (4.9% of respondents) were unsure, while a smaller percentage (2.6%) did not think climate change impacts would worsen over time.

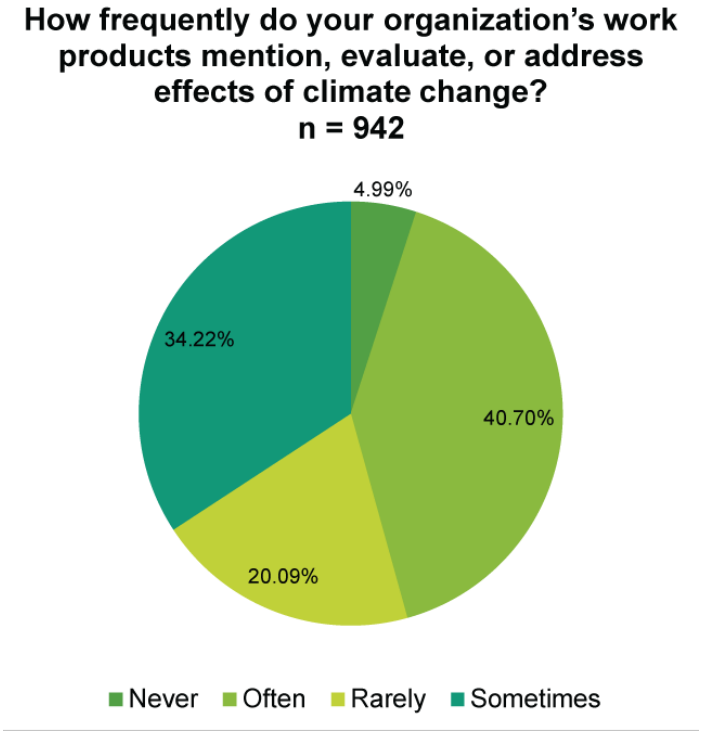


Takeaway:

Planners acknowledge the increasingly severe impacts of climate change.

5. Organizational acknowledgment of climate.

The next question asked respondents to indicate how frequently their organization's work products include climate change, either by mentioning, evaluating, or addressing the effects of climate change. Results were more mixed than prior questions, with the majority of respondents (40.7%) indicating that their products often did, while just over a third of respondents (34.2%) chose "sometimes." A quarter in total indicated that their products "rarely" (20.1%) or "never" (5.0%) include climate change.



Takeaway:

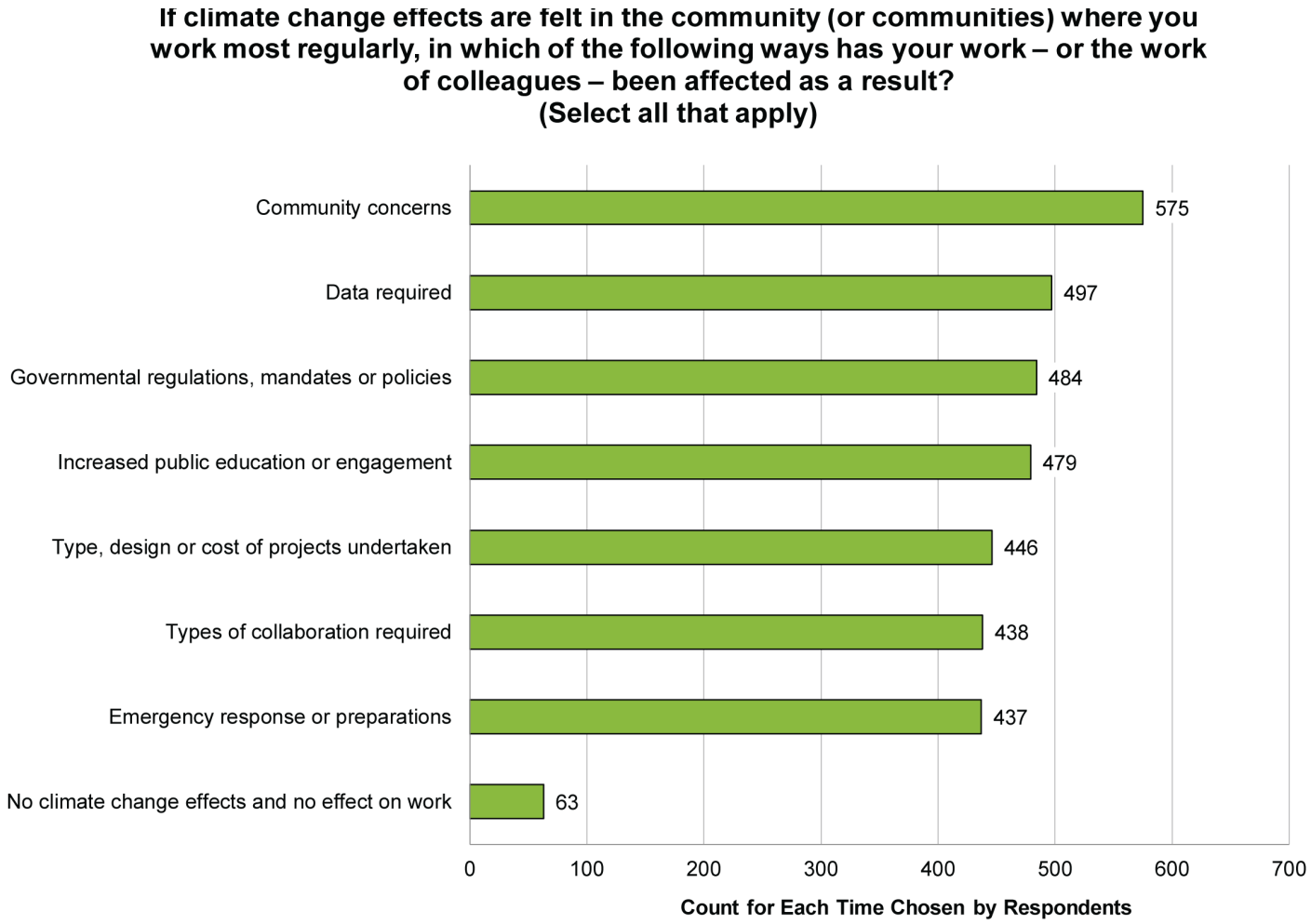
Many planning work products address climate change in some fashion but it is often omitted.

6. Evolution in planning work as a result of climate change impacts.*

This question sought to understand better how work has been forced to evolve in response to climate change felt in communities, in other words, how members have been required to adapt in the face of impacts from climate change. Respondents were prompted to select all that apply. The most common response from respondents (65% of the 884 individuals who responded to this question) identified heightened community concerns as the most ubiquitous way climate change effects are currently felt in their communities. Respondents also selected the following impacts to their work:

This was followed by a set of three additional responses, with a similar number of responses for each:

- Changing data needs (56%)
- Governmental regulations, mandates, and policies (55%),
- Increases in public education or engagement (54%),
- Changes to the type, design, or cost of projects undertaken (50%),
- Changes to the kinds of collaboration required [of planners or to work on climate] (50%), and
- Impacts for emergency response or preparedness (49%).



In addition, 35 respondents provided qualifying or clarifying information via the "Other" option for this question. Some offered that although policies or goals had been adopted, action had not followed, leaving communities stranded during plan development or after adoption and unable to move to implementation. Others shared that there are reduced options for community engagement activities due to extreme heat events. Some shared negative experiences with changes to land use regulatory processes to embed or consider the climate that had unintended (and sometimes burdensome or difficult to interpret) consequences for communities. Others spoke to the mixed results that various climate initiatives had generated, while some mentioned new grant initiatives or financial efforts to support local investment in climate infrastructure. Another additional impact was a greater need for education and resources on climate change and its impacts on elected officials.

Finally, within those responses, a fair number stated that there had been no effect or they were unclear of the impact of climate change on work (in addition to the 63 respondents who selected that answer from the pre-populated response options. Other responses indicated this question introduced some confusion.

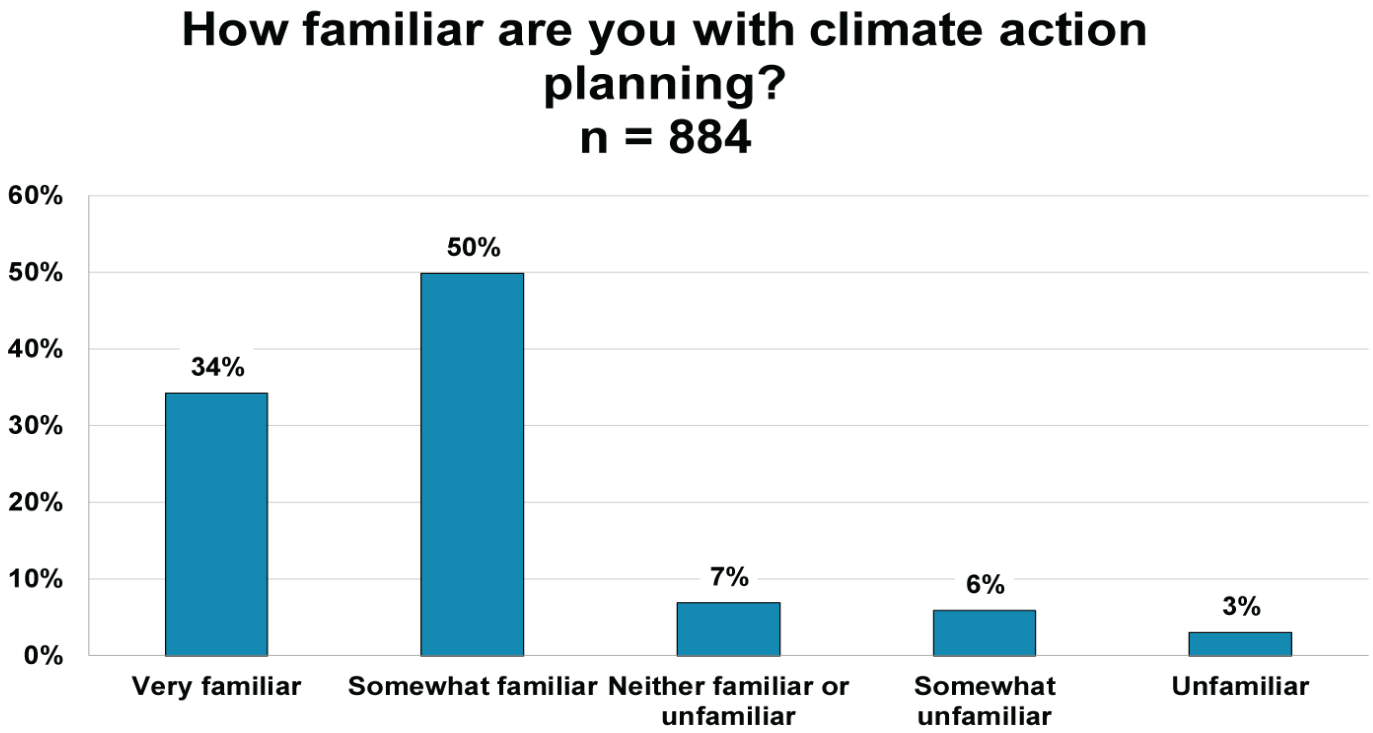
Takeaway:

The planning practice is evolving modestly in the face of the climate crisis: roughly half of respondents can identify significant changes in how they conduct their work.

*NOTE: This question was an inadvertent repeat of Question 3. The responses and takeaway idea are comparable.

7. Familiarity with climate action planning.

The next question asked respondents to identify their familiarity with climate action planning. 84% of respondents (of the 884 that responded to this question) identified as either "somewhat" or "very" familiar with climate action planning. Only 7% were neither familiar nor unfamiliar, while 9% of respondents were either "somewhat unfamiliar" or "unfamiliar."



These results may indicate that members with a degree of familiarity with climate change or climate planning were more likely to have taken the survey, or that climate work is becoming ubiquitous across the planning profession. It is unclear whether the degree of familiarity is higher than the general APA membership as a whole.

Takeaway:

Survey respondents were overwhelmingly familiar with climate action planning. More research is needed to determine if the planning profession as a whole is becoming more familiar with climate action planning.

8. Status of climate action planning in communities.

The next question asked respondents to select from nine pre-populated answers or choose to elaborate with a response of "Other," which answer best describes the status of climate action planning within their community or agency. 21.1% of the 884 respondents to this question had adopted a community-wide or multi-jurisdictional climate plan. The most common statuses reported for community climate action planning were:

Photo from U.S. BLM Flickr, the view of Utah's Desolation Canyon Area from the Green River, open source (2024)

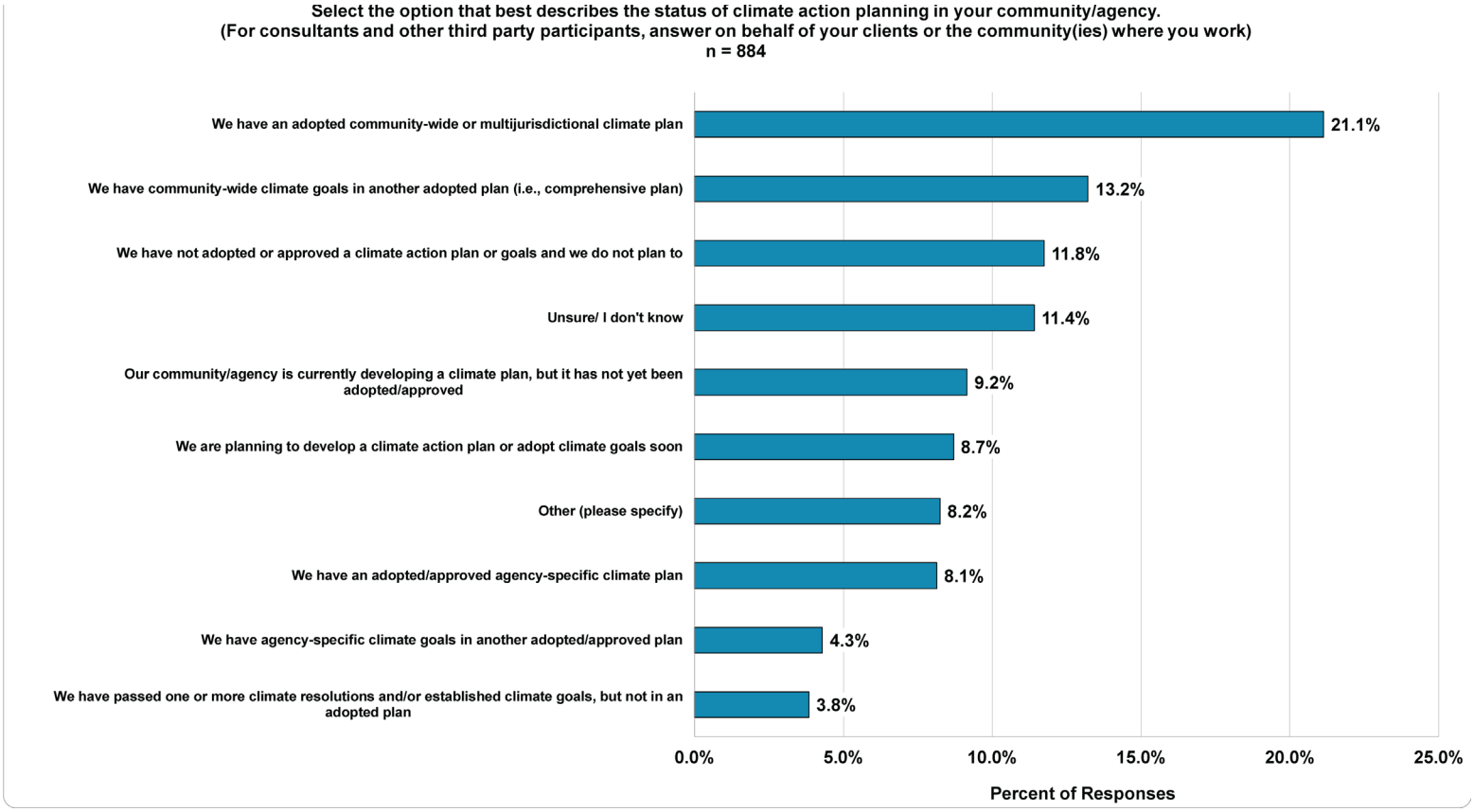
1. Adopted community-wide climate goals in another plan (i.e., a comprehensive plan) (13.2%),
2. Had not adopted or approved a climate action plan or goals and have no plans to do so (11.8%), and
3. Respondents were unsure or did not know (11.4%).

There was a portion of respondents who selected "Other" (8.2%) and included clarifying information about the following:

- Some communities perceive climate action planning as a waste of resources.
- Some respondents - particularly consultants who support and provide technical assistance to communities - notes they would have elected to select all or a combination of options. This indicates a level of variability across communities as to their climate action planning progress or level of action on the spectrum of climate planning actions and processes, which is consistent with the results of the findings from this survey question.
- Some communities added information about agency department policies on climate that had been adopted.
- Others shared how all of their plans included climate, in addition to considerations about the impacts of climate change, and that doing so was just "good planning" nowadays.
- Some noted participation in collaboratives or coalitions working on climate change or clean energy that were helping facilitate dialogue in communities.

Reconfiguring the responses another way, 33.3% (one in three respondents) reported that they had either already adopted a community-wide or multi-jurisdictional climate plan or had adopted climate goals within another adopted plan. Another 12.4% had adopted or approved an agency-specific climate action plan or adopted climate goals within another adopted or approved plan. 21.7% of respondents indicated they were planning for climate action in some other form; 3.8% of these respondents had passed a climate resolution or established a climate goal but not adopted a plan, 8.7% were planning to develop a climate action plan or adopt climate goals soon, and the remaining 9.2% were developing a plan that was yet to be approved or adopted. Just under one-quarter of respondents (22.1%) were either unsure or did not know, or they had not adopted a climate plan or goal and did not intend to do so in the future.

Lastly, others shared some tension between desire or interest to adopt among planning practitioners that were not met with similar appetite from community members, stalling or obscuring progress. Some practitioners could still move the needle on climate by calling things by other names or incorporating smart climate planning practices into other planning elements without calling it "climate" work, which was effective.



Takeaway:

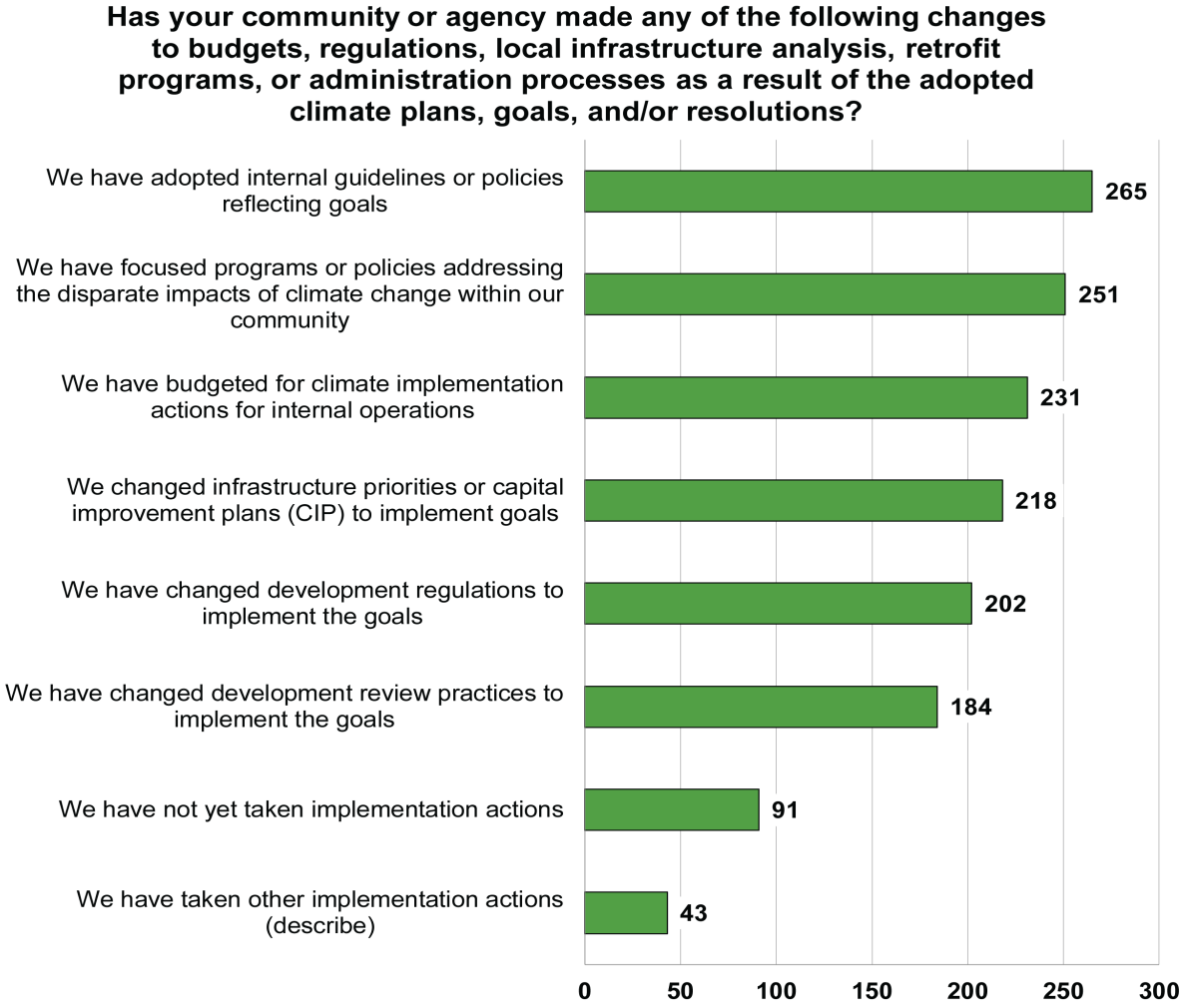
Communities and their agencies are taking direct climate action and establishing climate goals and strategies, though the degree of action advancement varies.

9. Organization or agency response to climate goal-setting.

The next question asked what changes the respondents' community or agency had made concerning specific administrative, financial, analytic, or programmatic processes as a result of adopted climate plans, goals, or resolutions. In other words, how has planning translated to action in communities to date? Respondents were encouraged to select all answers that applied. Due to the low response to this question (57.8%), we offer some preliminary findings that would require further study to confirm.

Just over three-quarters of the 574 question respondents had seen commensurate implementation actions follow the adoption of a goal, policy, plan, etc., on climate (84%), and 16% had yet to take actions. The most common choice was that respondents had "adopted internal guidelines on policies reflecting goals" (46%), followed by a "focus on programs or policies addressing the disparate impacts of climate change within the community" (44%).

A similar number of respondents had budgeted for internal operations (40%), changed infrastructure or capital improvement priorities (38%), changed development regulations (35%), or changed developed reviews (32%).



The 43 respondents who chose "Other" provided examples of those actions, including:

- Providing regional guidance to local governments on climate action opportunities
- Adopting and funding conservation efforts,
- Denoting specific actions, such as the adoption of coastal resilience measures and other shoreline protection practices or floodplain resilience
- Conducting research and analysis to understand opportunities for adaptation and mitigation and publishing findings as reports or public documents
- Participating and advocating for state-level climate initiatives at the legislature (where legally feasible)

Takeaway:

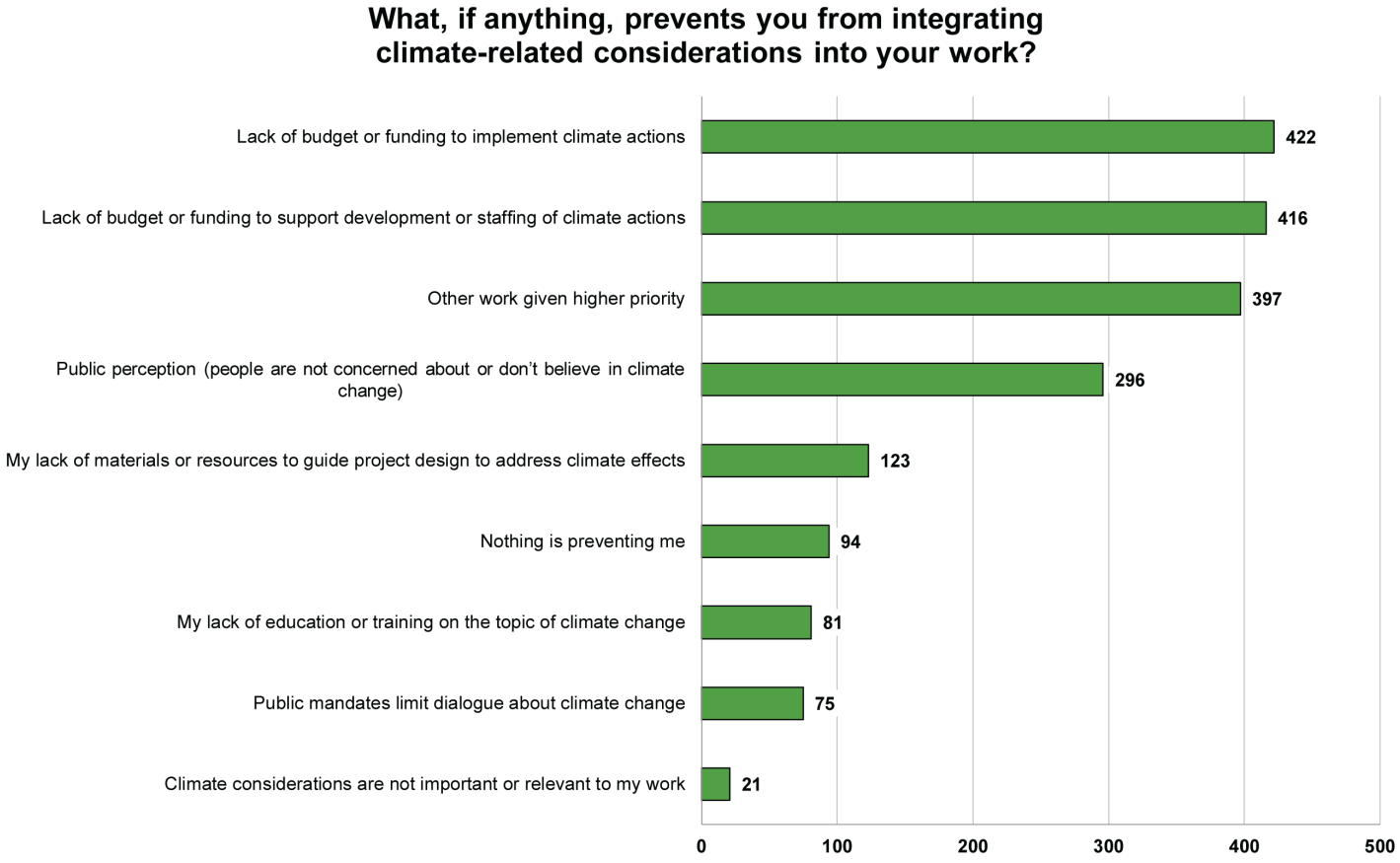
Climate action is occurring within the scope of traditional planning. Planners see climate policies and programs getting funded, capital improvement priorities shifted, and development regulations improved.

10. Professional barriers to climate work.

The next question aimed to better understanding barriers potentially prohibiting planners from integrating climate-related considerations into their work. Respondents were encouraged to select all answers that applied. The most common barriers identified in the 827 answers provided (a response rate of 83%) were a near tie for two barriers that are both at their core, financial. It should be noted that this is an interesting finding in the context of major funding streams activated through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, which may or may not be effectively reaching end users :

1. Lack of budget or funding to implement climate measures (i.e., the cost of climate measure itself) (51%), and
2. Lack of budget or funding to support staffing development for climate action (50%).

Non-climate-related work receiving higher priority was a close third (48%), followed by public perception, i.e., people not being concerned about or not believing in climate change (36%). A much smaller portion of respondents identified lack of resources or materials to guide project design as a concern (15%), and similarly personal lack of education or training on climate change (10%). Nine percent of respondents identified that a public mandate limited dialogue on climate change, and a tiny percentage (2.5%) indicated that climate considerations were unimportant or irrelevant to their work. A similarly small percentage of respondents (11%) reported that nothing prevented them. Future analysis could assess whether those who did not identify any barriers are successfully undertaking climate action processes.



One hundred twenty-one respondents provided additional insights via the "other," with many citing further constraints due to lack of budget or finances, as well as lack of community understanding or training, desire to exercise precaution when talking about climate change with public in general, and public dependencies or complicated relationship(s) with corporations (in communities) who are disproportionately responsible for climate change (and potentially opposed to its discussion). Many flagged political opposition, or lack of political will, as a barrier as well.

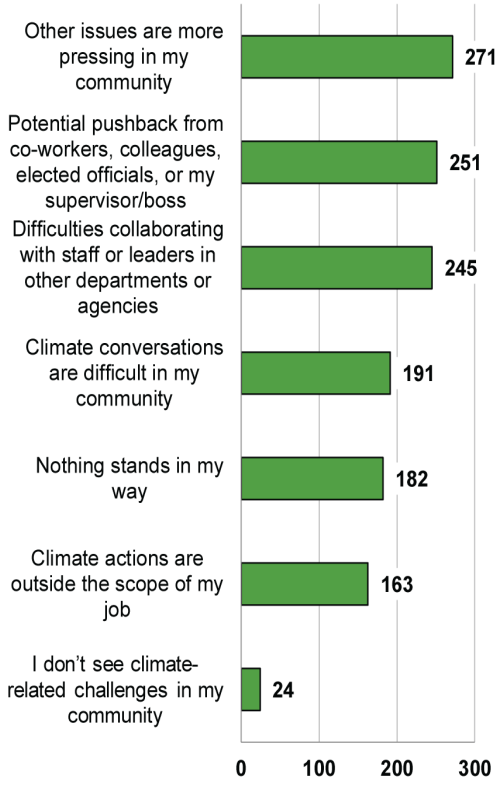
Takeaway:

Planning teams face financial, social, organizational, and political barriers to climate action planning.

11. Personal barriers to climate work.

This question asked for clarity on the barriers facing individual planners as they take action on climate challenges in their communities. Respondents were prompted to select all applicable answers. Eight hundred twenty-seven participants provided an answer to this question, with a response rate of 83%.

If you are aware of climate-related challenges in your community, what stands in the way of you personally taking action as a practicing professional?



The most common response was that other issues were simply more pressing in their communities (33%), followed closely by potential pushback from coworkers, colleagues, elected officials, or supervisors (30%), and difficulties collaborating with staff or leaders in other departments or agencies (30%). Less common but only slightly was the notion that climate conversations are challenging in their community (23%), and climate actions are outside the scope of their job (20%). Just over one-fifth of respondents (22%) reported that nothing stood in their way.

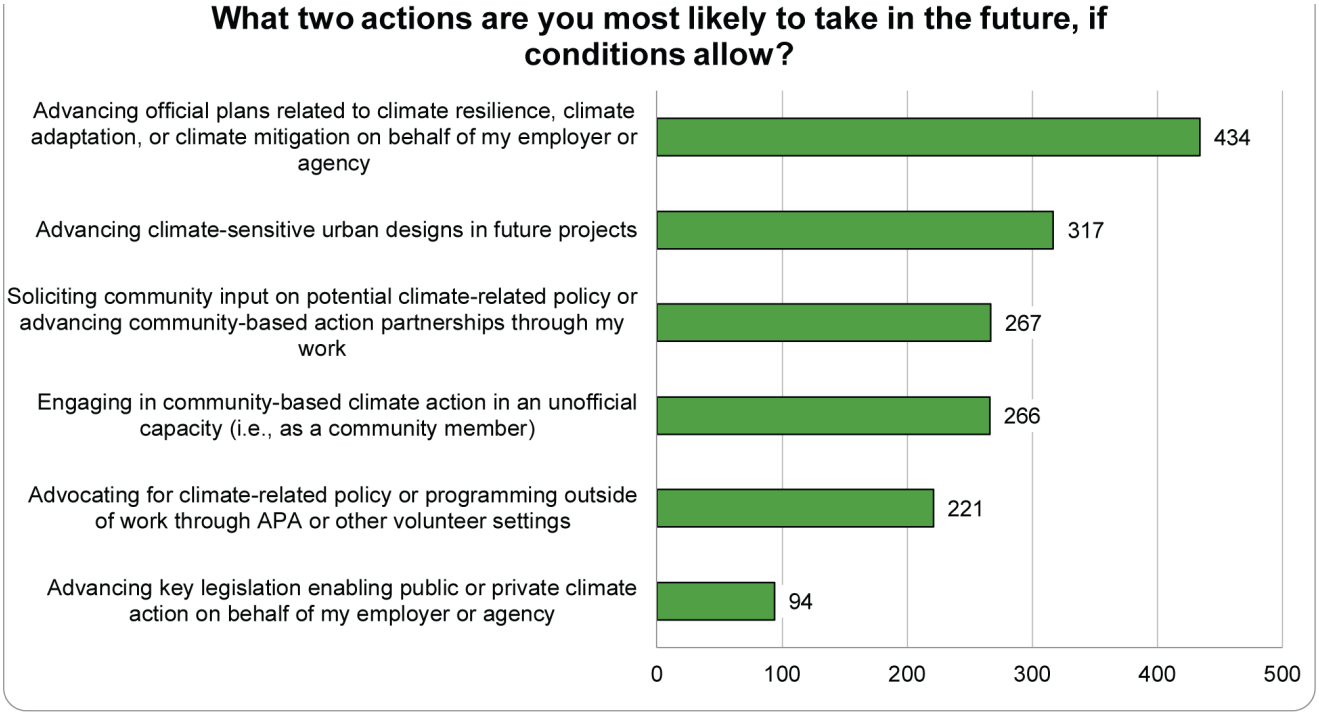
One hundred and ten respondents provided additional or clarifying information through the open-ended "Other" option. Additional barriers cited included lack of time and funding and personal challenges preventing specific climate-conscious behaviors (like riding an electric bike to work).

Takeaway:

Planners struggle to act due to social and organizational barriers.

12. Willingness to take climate action.

This question asked respondents to identify the two actions they were most likely to take in the future if conditions allowed. Eight hundred twenty-seven respondents provided an answer to this question, for a response rate of 83%. The most common action was advancing official plans related to climate on behalf of their employer or agency, which was chosen 434 times (52%). The second most popular action was to advance climate-sensitive urban design in future projects (38%), followed by soliciting community input on climate policy or advancing community action partnerships (32%), and engaging in community climate action in an unofficial capacity (32%). Two hundred twenty-one respondents indicated that they would most likely advocate for climate-related policy or programming outside of APA (27%), and the least common, 94 respondents indicated that they would seek to advance key enabling legislation on climate (11%).



An additional 55 responses were submitted under "Other," through which respondents shared other actions they were most likely to take. A fair number stated that they did not intend to take any future action or were unsure, and some plan to change careers to more climate-oriented work. Others shared that they will create climate art for public spaces, work to secure funding for climate action work through grant programs, and incorporate climate modeling into components of their planning work (i.e., stormwater and sewer infrastructure upgrades).

Takeaway:

Planners will continue to use traditional planning to advance climate action, as well as leverage urban design, new climate policy, and community-based partnerships. Many will participate privately as community residents and as volunteers.

13. The most important role of planners.

The next question asked respondents to consider what they viewed as the most crucial role or roles that planners in their state can play to address climate issues at the local level. Almost every respondent (95% of the 827 question respondents) indicated an affirmative answer, i.e., they identified at least one crucial role for planners to play in climate action. Conversely, 4% of respondents felt that climate planning or climate policy implementation was not a local government function, while 1% indicated they were unsure or did not know.

Of the pre-populated roles available for respondents to choose from, the most common role chosen was "incorporating climate goals into zoning and/or land use planning," (72%), followed by "identifying and securing funding for infrastructure improvements" (63%). This was followed closely by educating officials or the public (61%), addressing climate resilience and government preparedness (infrastructure and operations) (61%), implementing infrastructure improvements (52%), and developing climate plans (49%). The least common role chosen by respondents, aside from those who indicated climate planning is not a local government function (4%), was instituting development review or development agreements (39%).

Of the respondents who elected "Other" (7%) with clarifying text, common themes emerged for the type of role(s) respondents felt planners should play. Some eluded to procuring and securing funding for various climate initiatives, particularly pertinent as new federal or state dollars become available. Others shared specific examples of how development review could require things like Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for planned projects, or even integrate climate-conscious policies or practices into other (notably smaller) plans to start building a foundational base for bigger climate work through incremental change. Many called attention to the need to safeguard public operational functions against increased climate impact and extreme weather risk in communities.

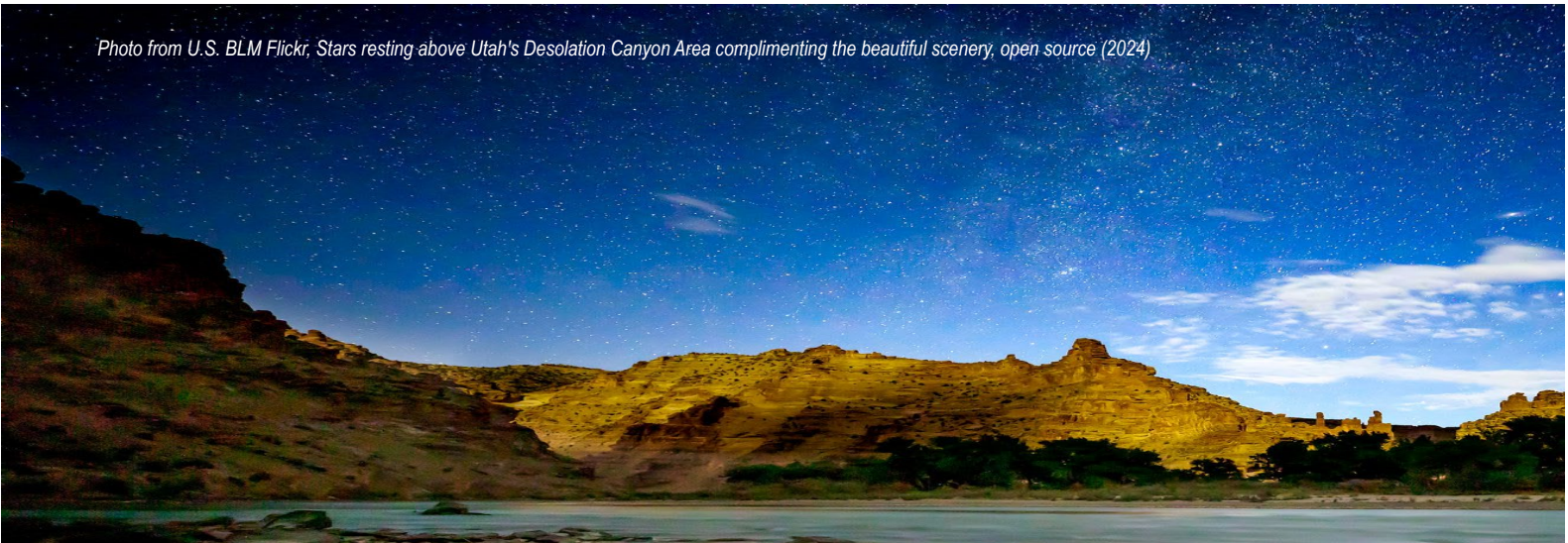
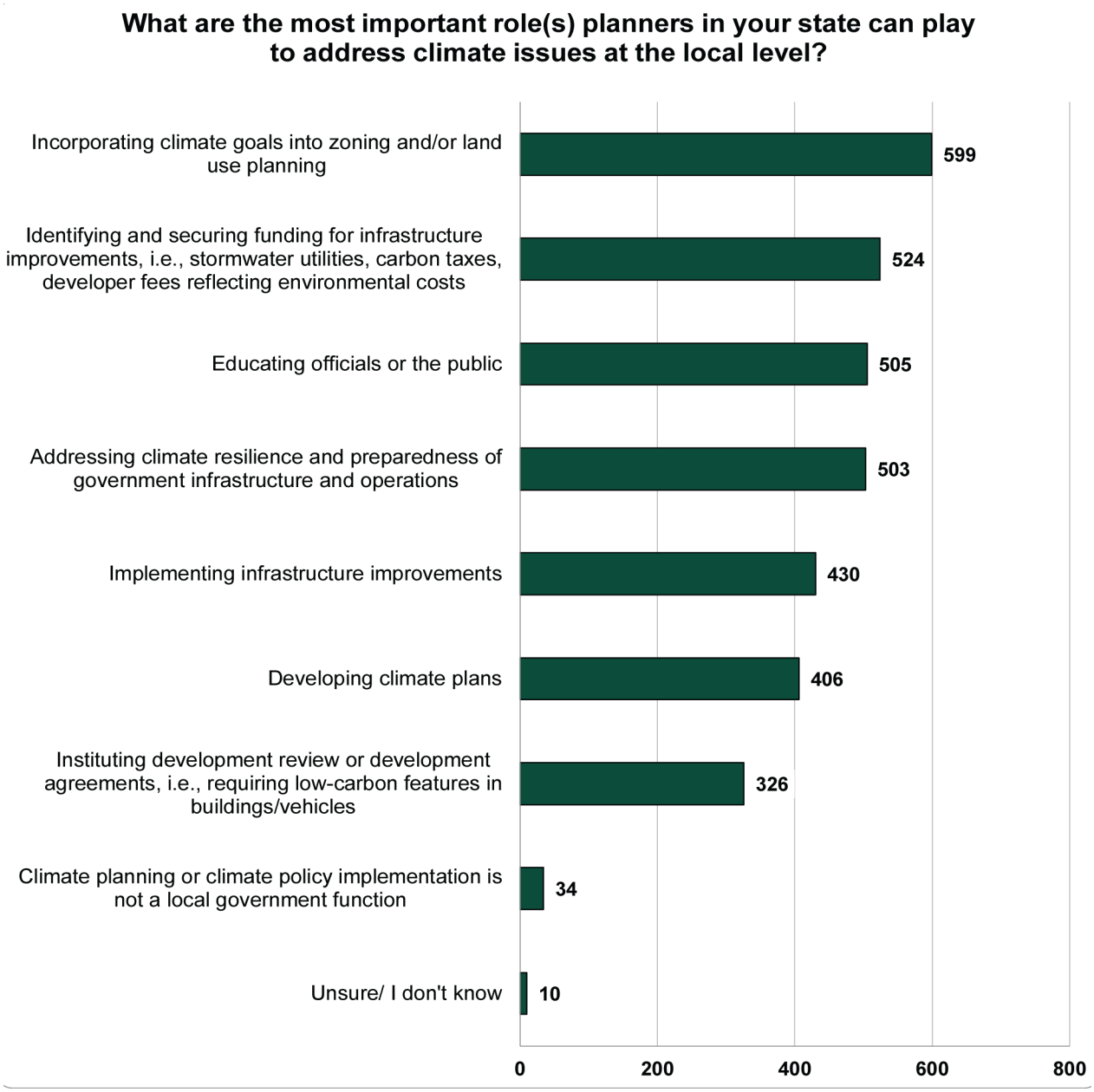


Photo from U.S. BLM Flickr, Stars resting above Utah's Desolation Canyon Area complimenting the beautiful scenery, open source (2024)

A few respondents noted the important role of planners in re-imagining ways to measure outcomes in support of effective climate impact mitigation. Other responses offered included facilitating public communication and dialogue, providing research, data collection, and education, and navigating the political and social landscape surrounding climate action (called by different names at times), while balancing other tensions and skepticism.

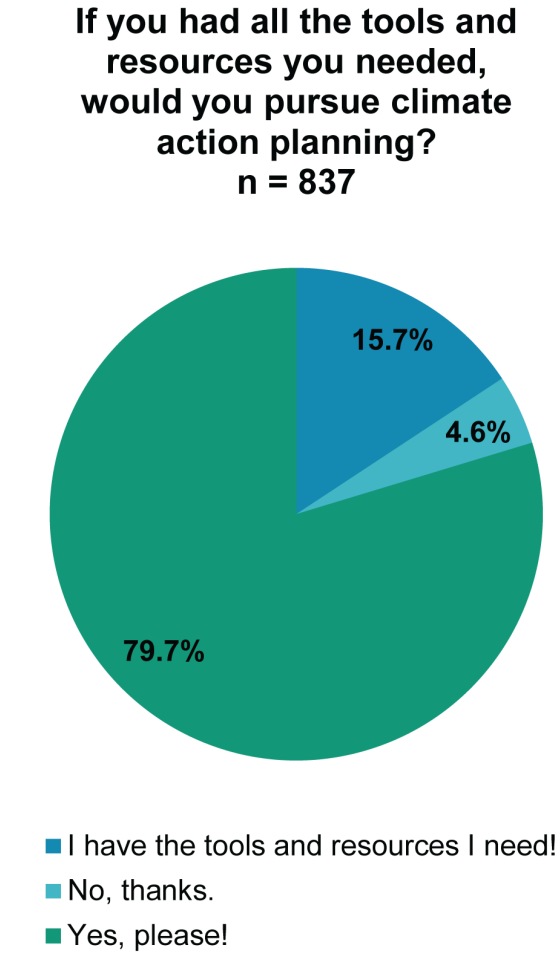
Takeaway:

Planners play a crucial role in advancing climate action in their communities and have a place in the collective action needed to face the climate crisis.



14. The importance of being equipped for action.

After considering the role(s) and opportunities for planners to work on climate in communities, the next question asked planners whether they would pursue climate action planning if all the necessary tools and resources were available. The vast majority (80%) of the 827 question respondents indicated that, given those tools and resources, they absolutely would. A handful (16%) indicated that they already have the tools and resources required to pursue climate action planning. A tiny percentage (5%) indicated that they would not.



Takeaway:

Planners overwhelmingly are committed to climate action if provided the right tools and resources.

15. Resources utilized for climate action.

Understanding from the question prior that some planners already feel they have the resources necessary to engage in climate action planning, this question asked planners where they go to find information and/or tools related to planning for climate and related topics, when seeking them. Respondents were encouraged to select all sources they use. Due to the low response rate for this question (56%), we offer preliminary findings that would require further study to confirm.

For the 657 respondents, the most common information sources were:

- The federal government (74%),
- Non-profit organizations (73%),
- APA and/or its divisions (69%),
- State governments (65%),
- Conversations with peers (58%), and
- Academic or peer-reviewed literature (49%).

Only 3.5% indicated they could not find the information or tools they needed to embark on this work.

The responses included under the "Other" response category furnished many examples of the pre-populated response options listed above, including specific non-profits. Some indicated the use of an expert or hired consultant to research or provide information, and some indicated they served as the expert. Additionally, multiple respondents mentioned books and news articles as another resource.

Takeaway:

Planners rely on a broad range of resources and tools to inform climate action work. Alongside government and other non-profit agencies, APA is a trusted source of information.

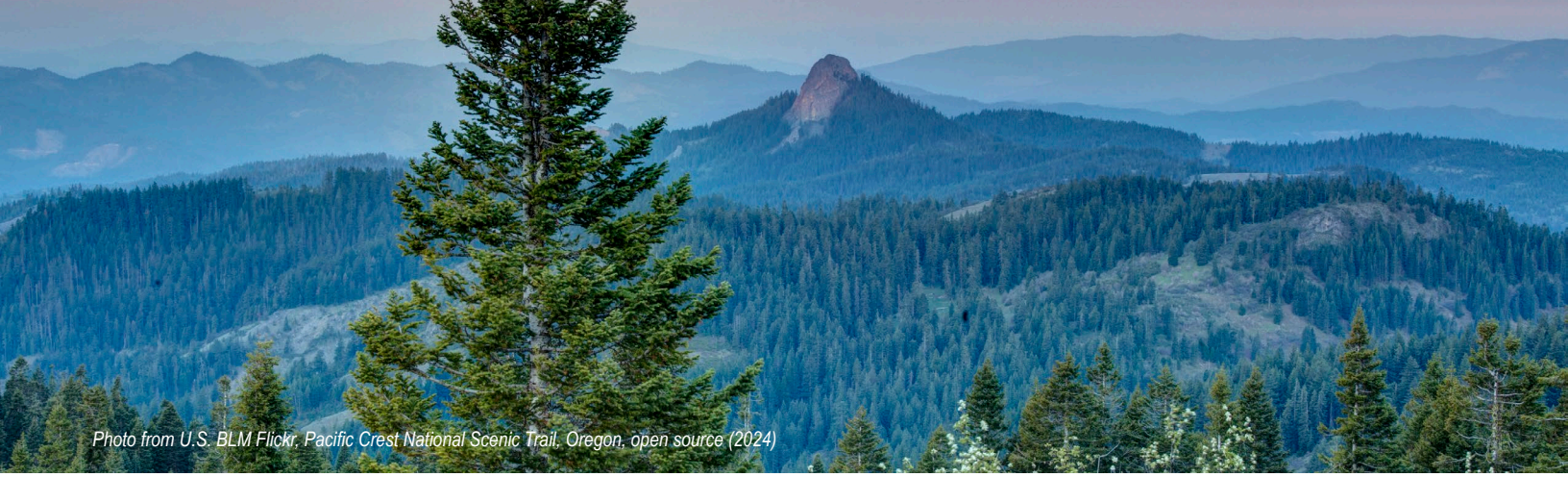
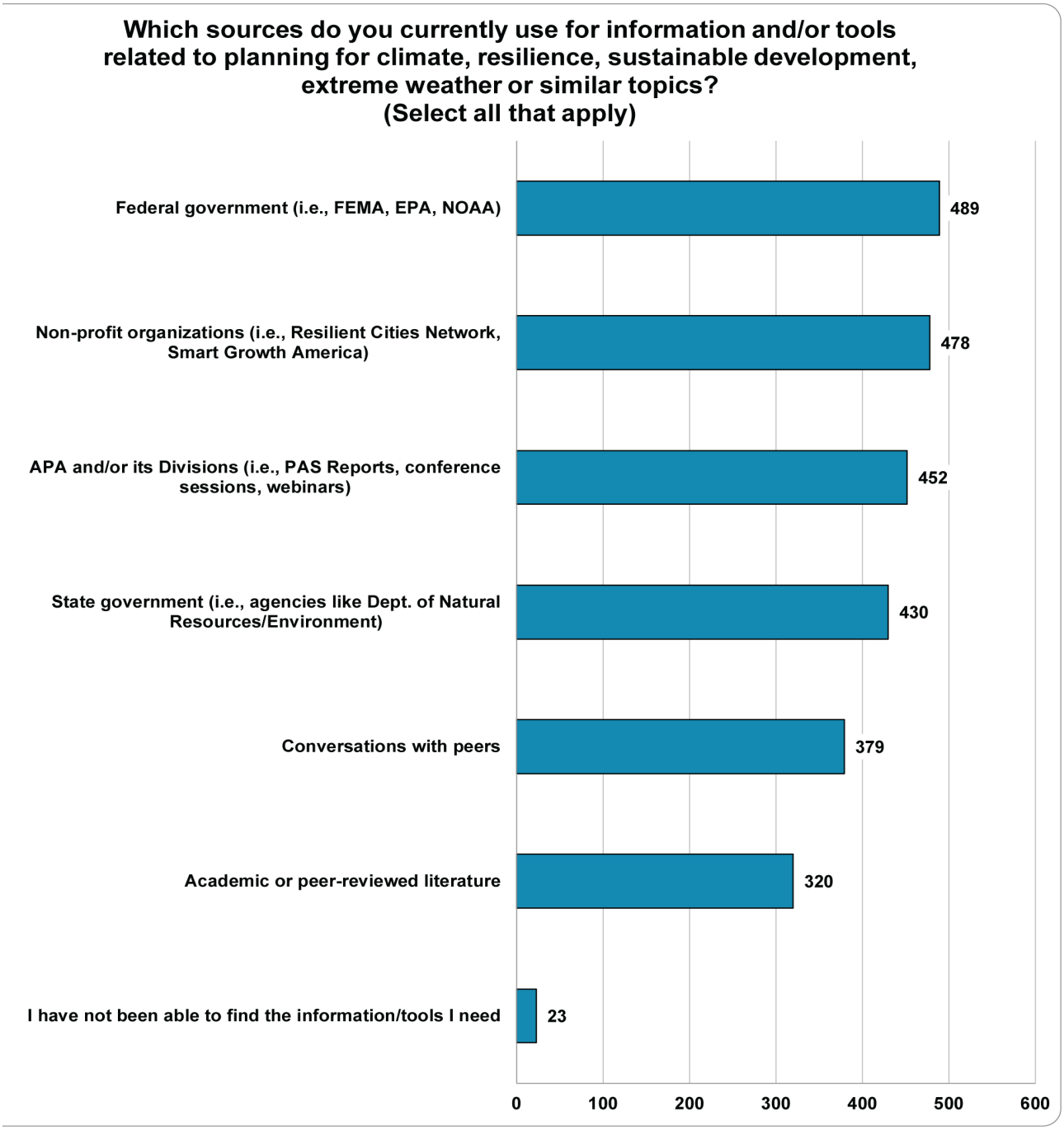


Photo from U.S. BLM Flickr, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Oregon, open source (2024)

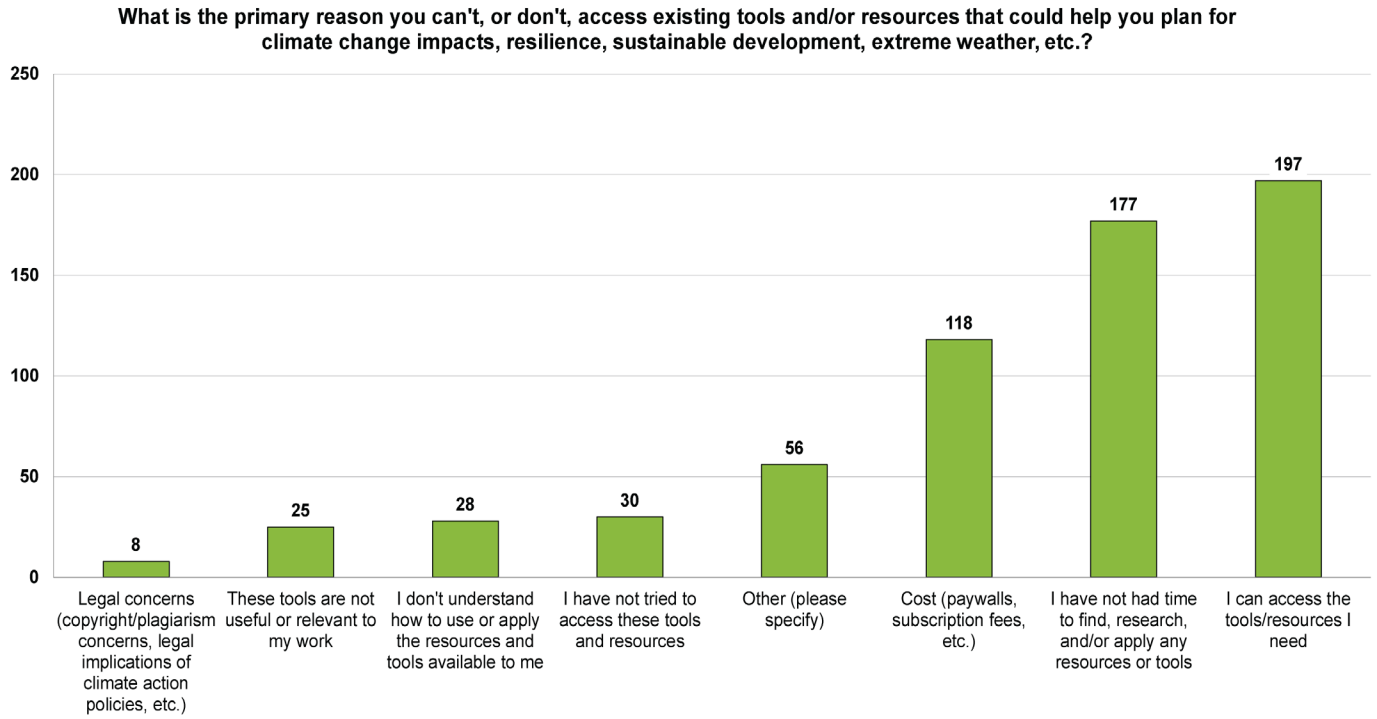


16. Barriers to accessing resources or information for climate action.

To better understand any failure to use available resources, this question asked participants the primary reason they could not, or did not, access existing tools or resources to help plan for climate impacts. Due to the low response rate for this question (64%), we offer some preliminary findings that would require further study to confirm.

Just over 30% of the 639 respondents indicated that they can access the tools and resources they need. The two most common barriers shown were lack of time to find, research, or apply resources and tools (28%), and a cost associated with the tool or resource, such as a paywall or subscription fee (18%). Respondents also indicated they have not tried to access tools or resources (5%), did not understand how to use the resources available (4%), and had legal concerns, including the legal implications of climate action policies (1%).

Just under 9% of respondents chose "Other" as their primary reason, providing additional clarity beyond the options listed above. According to respondents, an overwhelming amount of information is available, but the lack of work done to curate existing resources for planning practitioners, especially for community-specific contexts (e.g. rural communities), was by far the most common barrier cited.



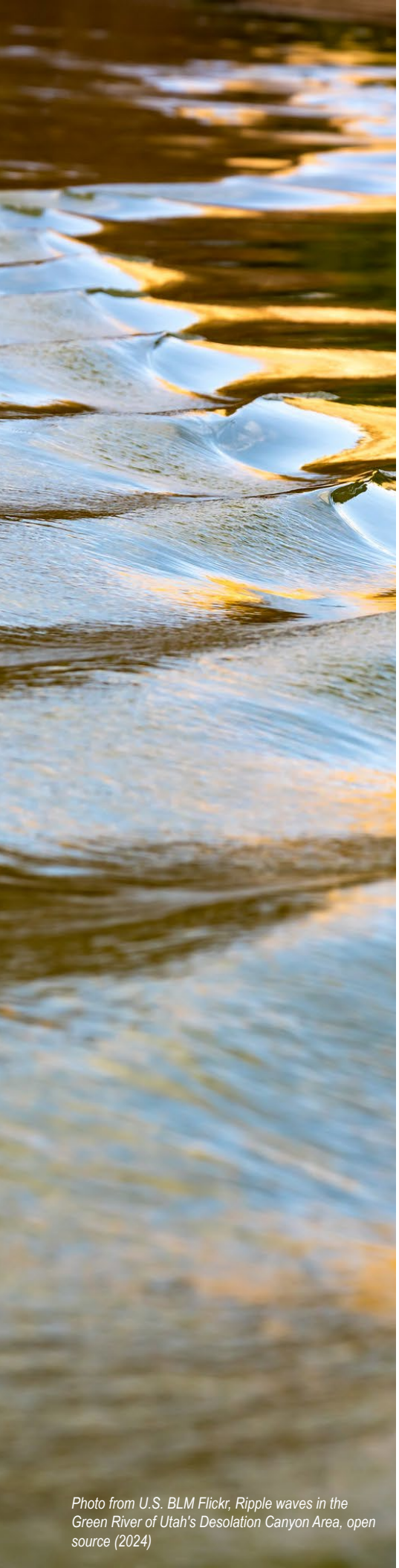


Photo from U.S. BLM Flickr, Ripple waves in the Green River of Utah's Desolation Canyon Area, open source (2024)

Additional examples of additional primary barriers included:

- Lack of funding for staff time to pursue or use resources
- Need for tools or resources in adjacent fields for climate action (e.g., hazard planning)
- Operating faster than resources and tools could be developed, resulting in hiring a consultant to create new materials to serve community needs
- Not knowing where to seek additional resources beyond those which respondents were already aware of or with which they are already familiar
- Being accountable to scopes set out by communities, leaving planners (primarily consultants) without a say in whether climate action is included or not

Takeaway:

Many planners face time and cost barriers to accessing available resources. They could benefit from a centralized and easily accessed portal to necessary materials and customizable tools.

17. Gaps in resources or tools for climate action.

To assess what resources planners need, this question asked participants to identify which tools would help planning practitioners prepare for and respond to their community's climate-related needs. Due to the low response rate for this question (64%), we offer some preliminary findings that would require further study to confirm.

The majority of the 639 respondents were most eager for "best practices or examples of climate action goals or strategies from a variety of communities" (71%). This mirrored findings from earlier questions that a significant barrier to action was the lack of information or resources specific to communities. They also asked for:

- Accessible data and methods to measure progress (64%)
- Implementation support (such as information on funding building community buy-in) (62%)
- Model language for climate policies or ordinances (61%)
- Recommended guidelines for development review or agreements (52%)
- Guidance for adopting climate goals or plans (48%)
- Targeted technical assistance (46%)

The least popular response was for access to peer learning networks or cohorts (30%). Only 3% of respondents indicated they did not know, and less than 1% indicated they did not need tools or resources. Finally, 38 respondents elected to provide additional requested resources including:

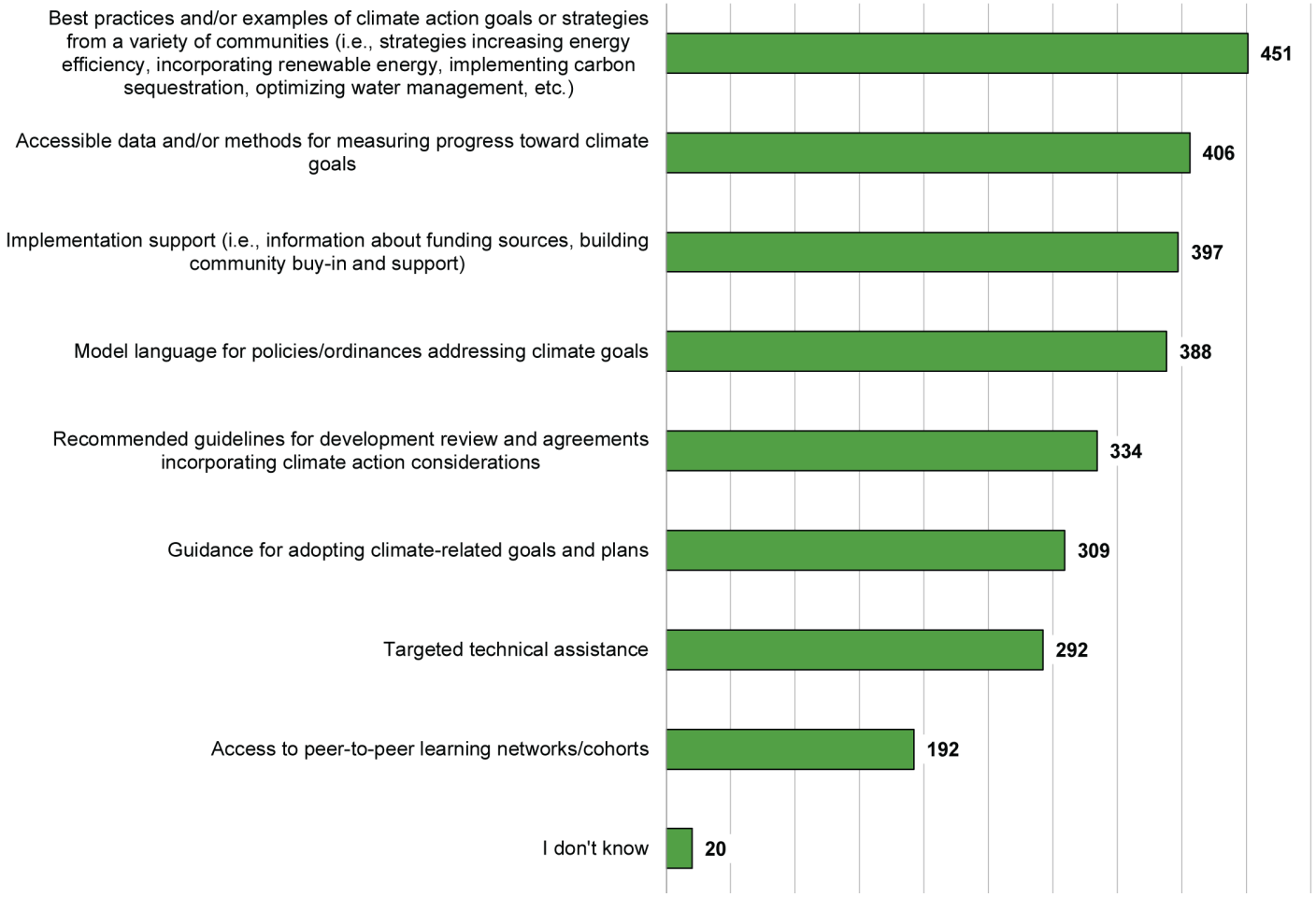
- Communication support, such as talking points to help educate elected officials and department leaders on the importance of climate change, as well as methods to work with communities on climate education,
- Investment in hiring climate specialists and providing resources for planning professionals to dedicate time to work on climate issues,
- More staff capacity across all levels and departments of organizations
- Integration of climate considerations into other disciplines or lines of work (e.g. food systems)
- Immense state and federal funding investment for infrastructure improvements and, more often, overhaul and rebuilding

Takeaway:

Planners seek information that will support effective, efficient climate action. They seek best practices, guidance on adopting climate goals and plans, tools applicable to an array of community contexts, data, progress metrics, implementation support, and targeted technical assistance.

Photo from U.S. BLM Flickr, Bears Ears National Monument - Indian Creek, open source (2024)

What could APA Divisions provide to help you integrate climate action into your day-to-day planning work?



18. Resources or tools that APA and its Divisions can support.

Finally, the survey concluded by asking participants what content, opportunities, training and tools APA divisions could provide to help them integrate climate action into their day-to-day planning work. Respondents could select up to five options. Due to the low response rate for this question (64%), we offer some preliminary findings that would require further study to confirm.

Almost all of the 693 respondents to this question identified at least one action APA divisions could take to help planners integrate climate action into their day-to-day work. Only 10 respondents indicated that none of the answers offered applied to their work (1.5%). The remaining 98.5% of question respondents, most commonly chose:

- Communication strategies, especially for overcoming resistance on climate topics (52%)
- Training and tools for cross-agency and inter-departmental climate action collaboration (50%)
- Training and tools for both educating and engaging the public on climate (49%)
- Local and regional network-building and knowledge exchange opportunities (47%)
- Providing climate-related conflict resolution training and tools (31%)
- Additional or enhanced APA resources (like data or best practices) (28%)
- Media and communications content for climate response best practices (28%)
- State or national network-building and knowledge exchange opportunities (27%)
- On-call experts providing technical assistance (27%)

Less popular options were for APA divisions to provide opportunities to participate in collaborative, pro-bono projects (20%), more media and communications content on climate basics (14%), and more media and communications content on climate and science phenomena (10%).

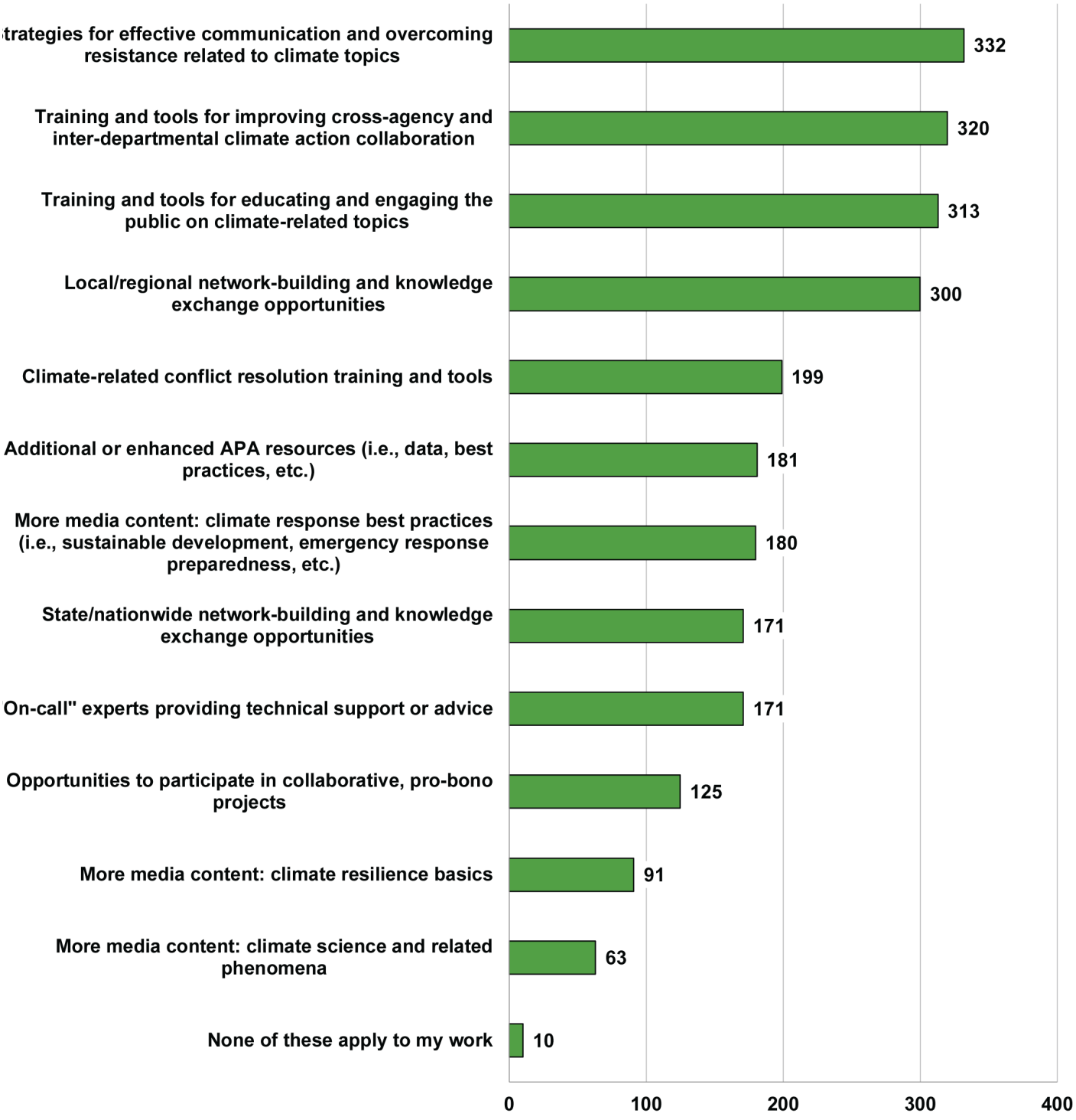
A handful of respondents (4%) provided additional actions that APA divisions could provide using the "Other" response option, including:

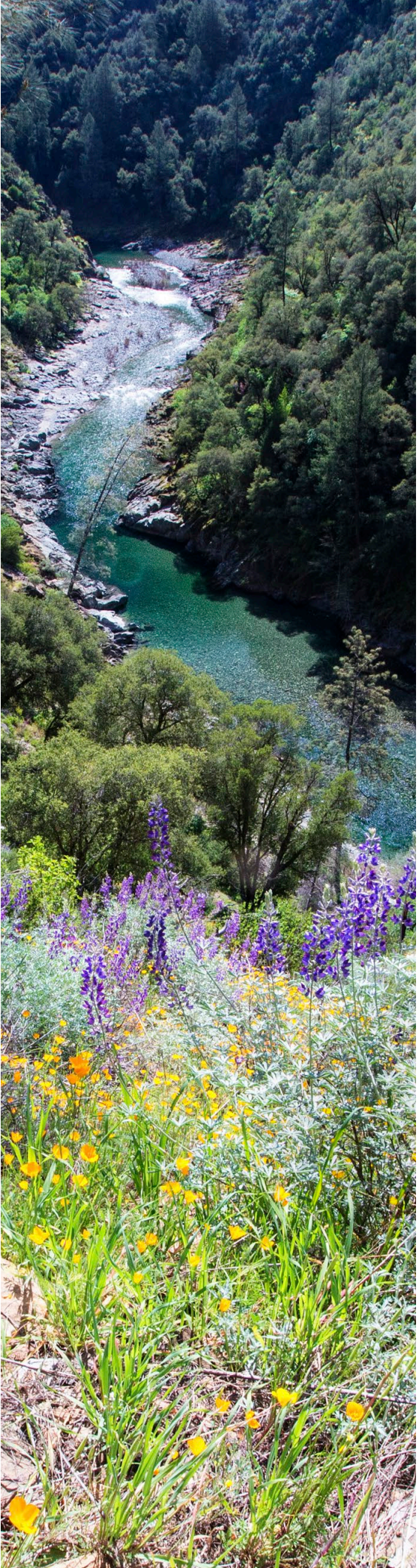
- GIS/geospatial tools and support
- Development and maintenance of a database or databases of available funding and grant opportunities
- A pledge or commitment that organizations could sign onto to take climate action
- Community-specific resources either tailored to one community or generalized to types of communities like rural or communities with historic fossil fuel-based economies
- Facilitating demonstration projects and case studies
- Amendments to employer best practices to provide space for planning professionals to attend educational events or trainings on climate and resilience

Takeaway:

APA divisions can support planners as they create change in their communities in response to climate challenges. Planners seek strategies for embedding climate priorities into demanding workloads, communicating and engaging on climate issues, collaborating across departments and beyond, and expanding networks.

What could APA and it's Divisions provide to help you integrate climate action into your day-to-day planning work?





Implications + Next Steps

The 2023 Planner Perspectives on Climate Survey is an exciting first step towards understanding how APA's community of planning professionals experiences the impacts of climate change in their day-to-day work. It also continues a dialogue on how both APA and its divisions can better serve membership to meet the dynamic, evolving needs that climate change introduces into the already complex world of planning.

While not exhaustive of APA membership opinions and perspectives, the results of this survey provide a critical window into the needs of planning practitioners and the role that APA can play to support effective climate action and planning.

The question of how to best serve the less climate-engaged members of APA remains unanswered. However, the limits of attention, time and cost are obstacles to engagement even in a survey on climate, let alone action on climate. The need for tools and resources for less engaged planners should be a topic for further exploration in the near future.

The 10 partner divisions who collaborated to develop this survey are eager to consider and integrate survey findings into division work planning and initiatives. They are pleased to bring the survey findings back to the APA Divisions Council for broader application. This initiative's many collaborators desire that the effort will be one of many future steps taken by APA and its divisions and membership to accelerate meaningful integration of climate planning into regular professional practice. Ultimately, we aspire to address the sustainability and resilience of all communities where planners live and work.

Photo from U.S. BLM Flickr, North Fork American Wild and Scenic River, California, open source (2024)

Appendix: Survey Instrument

Introduction.

"Climate": it's in the news. It's a growing topic of discussion or debate. Terms like "sustainable development", "resilience", "extreme weather", or "sea level rise" are regularly used in the news and in professional circles... Whether you encounter these topics in your everyday work or only once in a while, one thing is certain: you have a unique perspective on how these topics fit into planning practice right now!

APA, and the Divisions Council committee presenting this survey, would like to understand how climate change intersects with your work - and the reasons why you do or do not factor climate considerations into your practices and into interactions with other professionals and with communities - in order to better serve you with programs and resources. APA and the Divisions Council are eager to leverage insights from the survey to better understand and serve the needs of APA planners as it pertains to climate work.

If you complete all six sections of this 20-minute survey, you will contribute meaningfully to future programs, initiatives, and resources that could be developed to address planners' needs by APA Divisions, Chapters, and APA National, who together serve over 30,000 APA members across the United States and internationally.

If you complete the survey, you may enter into a random drawing for one of three $100 gift certificates at Patagonia (an amazing outdoor clothing company). If you do, please provide your name and email in the final two questions of the survey so we can contact you if you win!

Thank you for providing meaningful insights for APA and the Divisions Council to better serve our planning membership!

Section 1. Getting Started

First, some definitions, to make sure we're all speaking the same language about climate and related topics:

Climate change: Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, [which warms the atmosphere through emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs)]. (Source: United Nations)

Sustainable development: A process of anticipating and accommodating the needs of current and future generations that reproduces and balances local social, economic, and ecological systems, and links local actions to global concerns (Source: Journal of the APA, Berke and Conroy, 2000)

Resilience: The ability of individuals, communities and/or systems to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks and even transform when conditions require it. (Source: AICP S&R Mandatory CM Task Force, 2019)

Climate resilience: Surviving and thriving in the face of climate-related stresses and shocks (Source: APA PAS Report 601, 2022)

Extreme weather: Occurrences of unusually severe weather or climate conditions that can cause devastating impacts on communities and natural ecosystems. [May include] short-lived heat waves, freezes, heavy downpours, tornadoes, tropical cyclones and floods, [or] long periods of below-normal precipitation or wildfire outbreaks. (Source: NOAA)

Sea level rise: Increase in the global mean sea level [due to] glaciers and ice sheets melting and adding water to the ocean, as well as due to the expanded volume of the ocean as the water warms… Global average sea level has risen 8–9 inches (21–24 centimeters) since 1880. (Source: NOAA)

Climate mitigation: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to keep climate change from getting worse.
(Source: APA PAS Report 601, 2022)

Climate adaptation: Anticipating the impacts of climate change on communities and taking action to reduce risk and vulnerability (Source: APA PAS Report 601, 2022)

Section 2. Initial Questions

1. *How much, if at all, does climate change impact your community today?"*
    a. *No impact*
    b. *Little impact*
    c. *Moderate impact*
    d. *Severe impact*

2. *If you answered "moderate impact" or "severe impact" to Question #1, "Which of the following work-related outcomes, as they relate to climate change, have you or your colleagues experienced?" Check all that apply:*
    a. *Types of projects undertaken*
    b. *Types of collaboration required*
    c. *Data required*
    d. *Community concerns*
    e. *Governmental regulations, mandates or policies*
    f. *Emergency response or preparations*
    g. *Other _____*

3. *Do you think the effects of climate change will get worse over time?*
    a. *Yes*
    b. *Maybe*
    c. *No*

4. *If "yes" or "maybe" to question #3, how frequently, if ever, do the worsening effects of climate change impact your day-to-day work as a planner?*
    a. *Often*
    b. *Sometimes*
    c. *Rarely*
    d. *Never*

Section 3. Tell Us More

1. Which climate change impacts, if any, have your community(ies) experienced?? / [type: multiple choice, select all that apply)
    a. Hotter temperature days or dangerous hot weather events
    b. Flooding
    c. Increased frequency or intensity of precipitation events (rain, snow)
    d. Physical health impacts in communities
    e. Mental health impacts in communities
    f. Sea level rise or coastal impacts
    g. Loss of biodiversity, habitat, or species diversity
    h. Not experiencing climate change
    i. Other:

2. If your community (or communities) are experiencing climate impacts, how has planning work changed or evolved in your community or communities? [Type: multiple choice]
    a. We talk more about it
    b. We are adopting new planning tools in direct response to impacts
    c. We are allocating financial resources
    d. We are allocating human capital to work on climate change
    e. Planning work has not changed
    f. Other

3. How familiar are you with local climate action planning?
    a. Unfamiliar
    b. Somewhat unfamiliar
    c. Neither familiar or unfamiliar
    d. Somewhat familiar
    e. Very familiar

4. Has your community or agency adopted climate plans or climate goals within a plan? (For consultants or noncommunity members, answer on behalf of your clients or the community in which you are located)
    a. Yes, we have adopted a climate plan
    b. Yes, we have adopted climate goals within another plan
    c. We have passed climate resolutions but not adopted a plan or goals
    d. No, but we intend to soon
    e. We do not and have no plans to do so
    f. Unsure, or not to my knowledge

5. **LOGIC FOR 5 (this question will only be shown if respondents answered a or b to the previous question)**: *If yes,* Has your community made changes to budgets, regulations, local infrastructure analysis, retrofit programs, or administration processes as a result of the adopted climate goals? (check all that apply)

    - We have changed development regulation to implement the goals
    - We have budgeted for climate implementation actions for internal operations
    - We have changed development review practices to implement the goals
    - We changed infrastructure priorities or CIP to implement goals
    - We have adopted internal guidelines or policies to reflect goals
    - We have taken other implementation actions
    - We have not yet taken implementation actions

Section 4. Barriers

6. What, if anything, prevents you from integrating climate-related considerations into your work? (Type: Choose all that apply]
    a. Public perception (people are not concerned about or don't believe in climate change),
    b. Public mandates limiting dialogue about climate change
    c. Lack of budget or funding to support work on it or training for it,
    d. Lack of budget or funding to move projects forward, to invest in climate action,
    e. Other work given higher priority
    f. Lack of education or training on the topic of climate change
    g. Climate considerations are not relevant to my work
    h. Nothing preventing me
    i. Other: _____

7. If you are aware of climate-related challenges in your community, what stands in the way, if anything, of you personally addressing them as a planning professional? [type: check all that apply]
    a. It's not technically part of my job
    b. Potential pushback from co-workers, colleagues or my supervisor/boss
    c. Difficulty of negotiating with others in other departments or agencies
    d. Other issues are more pressing in my community
    e. Climate terminology is controversial in my community
    f. I don't see climate-related challenges in my community
    g. Nothing
    h. Other _____

Section 5. Opportunities

8. What are the *three most likely actions* you can imagine taking in the future, if conditions allow? [Type: multiple choice, choose only three]
    i. Engaging in community-based action as a private citizen
    j. Advocating for climate-related policy or programming through APA or other volunteer settings
    k. Convening stakeholders to consider climate-related policy or programs
    l. Promoting policy related to climate resilience, climate adaptation or climate mitigation
    m. Advancing key legislation enabling public or private climate actions
    n. Other _____

9. What do you see as the most important function(s) of planners in your state in addressing climate issues at the local level? *(Drag and drop ranking, please select the functions you feel apply and rank them by importance)*
    a. Developing climate plans
    b. Addressing climate resilience and preparedness of government infrastructure and operations
    c. Education of officials or the public
    d. Infrastructure improvement
    e. Funding for infrastructure improvement, which may include things like stormwater utilities, carbon taxes, developer fees that reflect environmental cost
    f. Incorporating climate goals into zoning or other development regulations
    g. Development review or development agreements, (for example, ensuring development of low-carbon built environment like buildings and vehicles)
    h. Other: (*blank text box)*
    i. Climate planning or climate policy implementation is not a local government function
    a. Unsure

Section 6. Resources and Tools

Tools and resources are being developed at a rapid pace by many different organizations to help planners and others respond to issues related to climate and its effects. However, we may or may not be aware of them, may find it difficult to use or access them, or may not have the time or ability to do so.

11. In your day-to-day work, what tools or resources, if any, do you utilize most in work related to climate, resilience, sustainable development, extreme weather or similar topics? (Choose all that apply)
    a. Yes, resources from Non-profit organizations
    b. Yes, resources from Federal government
    c. Yes, resources from State government
    d. Yes, resources from Peers
    e. Yes, Academic or peer-reviewed literature
    f. Yes, other resources
    g. None/I haven't used any other tools

    LOGIC [if yes (e.g., any "a" through "f"], describe what tools or resources you use, if no, skip
    h. [SHORT ANSWER]

12. Are there other tools or resources that you're aware of but don't use?
    a. Yes
    b. No

11. If yes, why don't you use them? [Type: multiple choice]
    - Cost to access (paywalls, subscription, etc.)
    - Difficulty to access
    - Difficulty to understand
    - Haven't gotten around to it
    - Have no use for more tools
    - Other _____

13. Other than the tools and resources you use or know about, what tools or resources would be helpful to you or your colleagues?
    a. Data for setting and measuring progress toward goals
    b. Examples of climate action goals or strategies for different types of cities
    c. Example ordinance language that integrates climate goals
    d. Templates for development review or development agreements that integrate climate goals,
    e. Example of actions for specific sectors like transportation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon sequestration, etc.
    f. Networks or cohorts for peer-to-peer learning
    g. Other: (Blank text box)
    h. Unsure / this does not apply to my work

Section 7. Tell Us About You

14. State or U.S. Territory: (blank text box or drop down) If multiple states, identify primary; include "none" for international

15. Employer: (blank text box) (optional)

16. Employer Type: (multiple choice: City, County, Regional Gov, Tribal Nation, State agency, consultant, non-profit, other)

17. Years of planning experience (multiple choice: current student, <3 years, 3-9 years, 10-19 years, 20-29 years, 30+)

18. Planning Specialty (Dropdown: ex. Land use, transportation, environmental, community development, long-term planning, economic development, sustainability/climate, other): *Check all that apply, if other then fill in text box*

Optional: To enter a random drawing for one of three (3) $100 Patagonia gift certificates make sure to include the following!

19. Name: (blank text box) (optional, but required to be entered into drawing)

20. E-mail: (blank text box) (optional, but required to be entered into drawing)

Section 8. Thank you - and learn more!`

Thank you for providing invaluable insight about your experience as a planner on the topic of climate change. Your feedback will directly inform the work of APA and the Divisions Council in efforts to shape continued and meaningful progress on work that supports all APA members.

If you're interested in learning more, you can find a summary of some of the resources that APA has prepared to date on climate change, sustainability, and resilience.

The American Planning Association has itself led several efforts to promote the integration of climate action into the everyday work of planning professionals. For example, all AICP accredited members are required to satisfy a new mandatory Sustainability & Resilience AICP credit as part of their credit maintenance. APA has also supported experts to prepare publications and reference materials for planners on the topic of climate change, such as the Climate Change Policy Guide, PAS Report 601: Planning for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, and this year's A Practical Guide to Updating Local Regulations for Climate Resilience. Other APA-endorsed materials on climate change are centralized in the Climate Change KnowledgeBase Collection on the APA website.