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## **Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.**

**MODL Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS**

- 1. Call to Order**
  - 1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**
- 3. Public Input (15 Minutes)**
- 4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)**
- 5. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2026 (as circulated)**
- 6. Business Arising from Minutes**
- 7. Presentations/Scheduled Times**
  - 7.1 The Riverport Connector Project, Annabel Westell, Executive Director and Robert Meyer, Board Member, Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy (9:15 a.m.) ..... 1-10
  - 7.2 NS Working Woodland Trust Request for Letter of Support, Mary Jane Rodger, Executive Director and Mykal Koloff, Stewardship Coordinator (10:15 a.m.) ..... 11-12
- 8. Referral from Council – Nil**
- 9. Staff Reports**
  - 9.1 Recreation, Parks & Tourism**
    - 9.1.1 PRO Kids and PRO Fund 2025-2026 Recap ..... 13-25
  - 9.2 Administration**
    - 9.2.1 Community Development – Discussion Guide for Project Assessment ..... 26-35
  - 9.3 Planning & Development**
    - 9.3.1 Annual Emergency and Climate Change Impact Survey Results ..... 36-75
- 10. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters – Nil**

**11. Added Items**

**12. In Camera**

12.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

**13. Adjournment**

# The Riverport Connector Project

Presentation to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Council

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Annabel Westell, Executive Director  
Robert Meyer, Board Member

**The Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy (KCC)**





# The KCC

A member-founded and **community run** volunteer group in Kingsburg, NS

A registered **Canadian charity**, founded in 1995

Land trust with a **30-year** track record in land conservation and advocacy

Stewards of over **600 acres**, including Gaff Point and its public trail

Ongoing work includes land **conservation and stewardship**, promoting community access, environmental monitoring and being providing benefits for the community



# Our goals for this project

**Inform** – community groups, interested parties, and potential partners

**Discovery** – seek input, guidance, and support

**Develop** – active partnerships and connect with people who want to be involved going forward

**Acquire** – resources and funding to develop and maintain public access

**Ensure** – It benefits the community, has support, and is sustainable

# Riverport Connector Project

How we got here

Concept/ vision

Funding

Status





# KCC partnerships

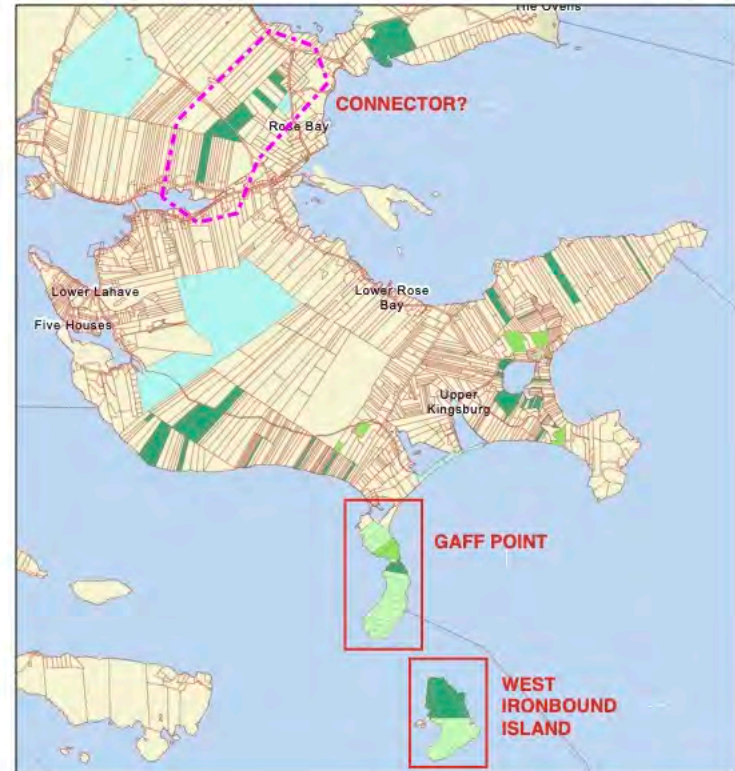
The power of partnerships

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Province of NS

## KCC PROPERTY MAP PARTNERSHIPS



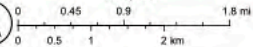
11/10/2025

Properties Owned or Stewarded by the Kingsburg Coastal Conservey

- KCCOwns
- KCCCoOwns
- KCCStewards
- Public/CommunProp



1:72,365



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

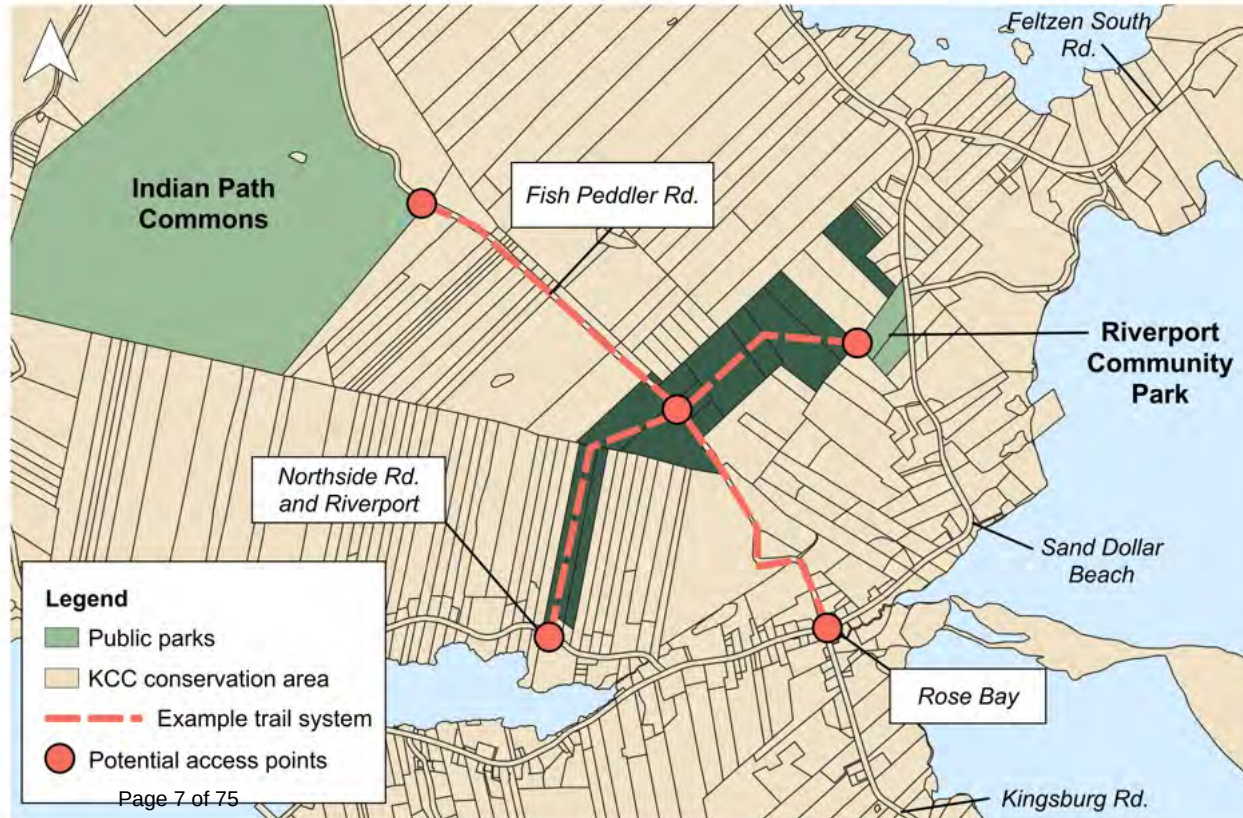
Norwich Channel

# Current community features





# Proposed project



94 acres of conserved land

Four possible access points

Potential for 5 km of walking trails

Link between the Riverport Community Park and IPC

# Building community support

In a 2022 community survey, a trail linking the Riverport Community Park and Indian Path Commons was deemed a “must have” (top 4 out of 16 priorities)

The Riverport Community Park Initiative Committee and the Indian Path Commons advisory committee have endorsed the project

The Fulcher Foundation is supporting the first phase of this project



# Current activities

Encourage **community engagement**

Formalize **support** and **partnerships**

Establish an **advisory group**

**Conduct** site monitoring and, where necessary, environmental surveys

**Engage** a professional trail consultant for trail planning and development

**Organize** community meeting or opportunity for input for relevant community groups

**Fundraise** and gather resources



# Thank you!



Annabel Westell, [Awestell@kccns.org](mailto:Awestell@kccns.org)

Rob Meyer, [robert.meyer8a@gmail.com](mailto:robert.meyer8a@gmail.com)

## **Executive Summary:**

### **Presentation Request to MODL Council**

**Presenter(s):** Mary Jane Rodger (Executive Director), Mykal Koloff (Stewardship Coordinator) -- Nova Scotia Working Woodlands Trust (NSWWT)

**Matter for Presentation:** Request for a letter of support for our Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund (Round 4, Adaptation Stream) application

### **Purpose of Presentation:**

NSWWT is applying to the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund (Round 4, Adaptation Stream), deadline July 23, 2026. We are requesting a letter of support from MODL Council as a municipal partner in advance of submission.

### **Project Overview:**

This application funds two components that would directly involve MODL:

1. Priority parcel risk assessment. In partnership with ACFOR (climate risk modeling vendor), the project will run fire and flood risk modeling across high-priority parcels within MODL's boundaries, identifying areas of overlapping risk and conservation value.
2. Municipal partner dashboard. Findings will be made available to MODL through a public-facing dashboard showing where flood and fire risk intersect with high conservation value land -- a planning resource for the municipality, developed with NSWWT as key partner.

The project also supports legal research into a municipal-specific Working Forest Community Easement (WFCE) template, offering MODL and other partner municipalities an easement structure tailored to their land holdings that could support future land protection initiatives.

MODL is one of three municipalities included in the risk modeling and dashboard components, alongside MOCA and East Hants.

**Project Period:** December 2026 – November 2027

**Requested Action of Council:** That Council issue a letter of support for NSWWT's application to the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund (Round 4, Adaptation Stream).

**Contact:**

Mykal Koloff, Stewardship Coordinator

[mykal@nswworkingwoodlandstrust.org](mailto:mykal@nswworkingwoodlandstrust.org)

902 483 7400





# **District of Lunenburg**

## **Policy and Strategy Committee**

### **PRO Kids and PRO Fund 2025-2026 Recap**

# PRO Kids



- Positive Recreation Opportunities for Kids! This is a program that provides financial assistance to children and youth from the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg who, due to lack of funds, are not able to participate in sport, recreation and cultural activities. This program strives to remove financial barriers to ensure every child and youth has an opportunity to participate.



# Top 5 Activities Funded by Recipients



| Activity         | 2024/2025  |             | 2025/2026  |              |
|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
|                  | Recipients | Value       | Recipients | Value        |
| Music            | 98         | \$27,901.00 | 102        | \$27,791.95  |
| Dance            | 49         | \$12,300.70 | 62         | \$15,360.07  |
| Camp/Day Course  | 40         | \$11,003.00 | 41         | \$9,800.00   |
| Gymnastics       | 41         | \$8,240.68  | 28         | \$5,838.17   |
| Horseback Riding | 21         | \$7,500.00  | 27         | \$7,900.00   |
| Total            | 245        | \$66,945.38 | 260        | \$66,690.19  |
| Grand Total      | 398        | \$96,860.91 | 462        | \$104,554.62 |



# Breakdown by Age Group



| Ages        | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 0-4 years   | 19        | 11        |
| 5-12 years  | 143       | 154       |
| 13-18 years | 43        | 47        |
| Total       | 205       | 212       |





# Breakdown of Underrepresented Communities



| Underrepresented Community                        | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Identify as belonging to a visible minority group | 5         | 8         |
| Identify as belonging to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community | 5         | 6         |
| Identify as a person with a disability            | 7         | 19        |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>17</b> | <b>33</b> |



# Breakdown of Recipients by District



| District     | 2024/2025  | 2025/2026  | Actual # of Recipients<br>2025/2026 |
|--------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| District 1   | 47         | 82         | 40                                  |
| District 2   | 67         | 34         | 15                                  |
| District 3   | 27         | 35         | 16                                  |
| District 4   | 19         | 16         | 10                                  |
| District 5   | 47         | 62         | 31                                  |
| District 6   | 22         | 33         | 14                                  |
| District 7   | 31         | 41         | 16                                  |
| District 8   | 60         | 69         | 27                                  |
| District 9   | 27         | 34         | 21                                  |
| District 10  | 34         | 56         | 22                                  |
| Mahone Bay   | 17         | 0          | 0                                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>398</b> | <b>462</b> | <b>212</b>                          |



# Testimonials



Thank you so much!!! I hope this program isn't affected by the provincial cuts. It would be very disheartening!

Thank you for all the help and support. Our daughter is doing so well with help from this program!!

Thank you a million times over for allowing our children to have these experiences. 💜

Thank you SOO much!! This just made my morning!



# PRO Fund



- Positive Recreation Opportunities for Adults! PRO Fund builds on the Municipality of Lunenburg's successful PRO Kids Program and provides financial assistance to adults from the Municipality of Lunenburg who, due to lack of funds, are not able to participate in sport, recreation and cultural activities. This program strives to remove financial barriers to ensure every adult has an opportunity to participate.



Positive Recreation Opportunities for Adults





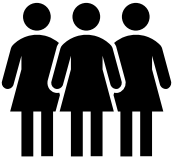
# Top 3 Activities Funded by Recipients



| Activity    | 2024/2025  |             | 2025/2026  |             |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|             | Recipients | Value       | Recipients | Value       |
| Membership  | 20         | \$9,752.40  | 12         | \$7,989.33  |
| Music       | 6          | \$2,706.50  | 5          | \$2,361.00  |
| Misc. Sport | 1          | \$600.00    | 5          | \$1,226.00  |
| Total       | 27         | \$13,058.90 | 22         | \$11,576.33 |
| Grand Total | 37         | \$14,753.90 | 33         | \$14,211.33 |



# Breakdown by Age Group



| District     | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 19-24        | 1         | 0         |
| 25-34        | 3         | 7         |
| 35-44        | 5         | 6         |
| 45-54        | 5         | 4         |
| 55-64        | 2         | 2         |
| 65-74        | 1         | 1         |
| 75+          | 1         | 1         |
| No answer    | 0         | 1         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>22</b> |



# Breakdown of Underrepresented Communities



| Underrepresented Community                        | 2024/2025 | 2025-2026 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Identify as belonging to a visible minority group | 2         | 0         |
| Identify as belonging to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community | 1         | 0         |
| Identify as a person with a disability            | 4         | 4         |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>7</b>  | <b>4</b>  |



# Breakdown of Recipients by District



| District     | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 | Actual # of Recipients<br>2025/2026 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| District 1   | 3         | 4         | 4                                   |
| District 2   | 4         | 1         | 1                                   |
| District 3   | 7         | 3         | 3                                   |
| District 4   | 2         | 3         | 2                                   |
| District 5   | 6         | 6         | 1                                   |
| District 6   | 2         | 1         | 1                                   |
| District 7   | 1         | 3         | 3                                   |
| District 8   | 0         | 9         | 5                                   |
| District 9   | 3         | 2         | 1                                   |
| District 10  | 2         | 1         | 1                                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>22</b>                           |



# Testimonial



This gym has given me back my confidence, my social needs, and putting my health first for the first time in many years. I am aware not everyone is approved, but I am grateful for the opportunity to apply for it.







# Community Development – Discussion Guide for Project Assessment



# Why Develop a Discussion Guide?

- Support Council discussions
- Align with Community Development principles
- Eg. Riverport & District Community Park Association



# Based On:

- The province's 2004 Community Development Policy
- Themes from the Community Development literature



# Discussion Guide in Action

- Flexible guide
- Used to inform discussion in relation to Community Development and municipal goals
- Council provides final approval



# Overview of the Themes



Community Leadership  
and Collaboration



Alignment and Need



Impact



Inclusiveness and  
Community Building



Sustainability  
and Balance





# Strategic Priorities



# Next Steps

- Incorporate feedback
- Refine guide
- Return to Council with final framework



# Discussion Guide

| Theme                                         | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Community Leadership and Collaboration</b> | <p>Demonstrates strong local leadership and a commitment to long-term ownership and stewardship of the project.</p> <p>Involves meaningful collaboration, with support across organizations, communities, and/or population groups.</p> |
| <b>Alignment and Need</b>                     | <p>Aligns with municipal priorities.</p> <p>Responds to a clearly identified community need, informed by public engagement.</p>                                                                                                         |
| <b>Impact</b>                                 | Clearly demonstrates how well the proposed project would address the identified need.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Inclusiveness and Community Building</b>   | <p>Supports social inclusion, including considerations for equity, diversity, and accessibility.</p> <p>Strengthens connections among community members.</p> <p>Builds on existing community assets and volunteer capacity.</p>         |
| <b>Sustainability and Balance</b>             | <p>Reflects a balanced approach by integrating economic, social, environmental, and recreational/cultural considerations.</p> <p>Demonstrates long-term sustainability within available community and organizational resources.</p>     |





**Thank You**





## Community Development Project Discussion Guide – Draft

| Theme                                  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Community Leadership and Collaboration | Demonstrates strong local leadership and a commitment to long-term ownership and stewardship of the project.<br>Involves meaningful collaboration, with support across organizations, communities, and/or population groups. |
| Alignment and Need                     | Aligns with municipal priorities.<br>Responds to a clearly identified community need, informed by public engagement.                                                                                                         |
| Impact                                 | Clearly demonstrates how well the proposed project would address the identified need.                                                                                                                                        |
| Inclusiveness and Community Building   | Supports social inclusion, including considerations for equity, diversity, and accessibility.<br>Strengthens connections among community members.<br>Builds on existing community assets and volunteer capacity.             |
| Sustainability and Balance             | Reflects a balanced approach by integrating economic, social, environmental, and recreational/cultural considerations.<br>Demonstrates long-term sustainability within available community and organizational resources.     |

### Reflection Questions:

- Reflection Questions: Does this project advance our community and strategic priorities?
- Is there a clear community benefit that justifies municipal support?
- Is the project positioned for success and long-term sustainability?

## Survey Results Report

# Annual Emergency and Climate Change Impact Survey

2026





# Introduction and Background

The Annual Emergency and Climate Impact Survey invited the district's residents to share their experiences and contribute valuable insights to help the municipality plan for a more sustainable, prepared future.

## Introduction

The Annual Emergency and Climate Impact Survey report summarizes community responses regarding the effects of climate change and preparedness measures. The survey aimed to collect feedback from residents about experiences, concerns, and actions related to climate change. The information gathered clarifies how individuals and households are affected and the challenges they face in adapting to changing conditions.

The report addresses several topics, including personal experiences with emergency preparedness efforts and obstacles to taking action. It also examines interest in community programs and highlights the resources and support that residents believe would help them better prepare for emergency preparedness challenges. This survey is valuable for understanding community perspectives and informing ongoing local emergency planning.

## Background

The Annual Climate Change Impact Survey is part of the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP2030) under category 8 - Emergency Preparedness and Response.



LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2030



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNenburg  
NOVA SCOTIA

# How We Engaged

## Purpose

We used a variety of engagement methods to make sure as many residents as possible were aware of the survey and could complete it if they wanted to.

## Advertising

An array of strategic methods were utilized to effectively promote the survey, including:

- Engage website
- MODL website front page
- District of Lunenburg Digest
- Municipal app
- Social media
  - Facebook posting

## Engagement Website

The Emergency Preparedness and Climate Change Impacts page on the Engage MODL website was launched in January 2025 to provide residents with easy access to information about emergency preparedness and the effects of climate change on it. Additionally, visitors to the page can enter their email addresses to receive updates on the project's progress.

# 2026 Survey Results

The Annual Climate Change Impact Survey, part of the Local Climate Change Action Plan 2030 (LCCAP2030), gathers residents' experiences to help the municipality identify concerns and enhance emergency preparedness and response strategies.

The survey was accessible online through the Engagement Website, and paper copies were available at the municipal office for anonymous responses. However, all submissions were made online, and no paper responses were received.

The survey was conducted from **March 3 to March 31, 2026**, with 250 participants. This report presents the results from the online submissions.

## Who We Heard From

250 submissions were completed in the Annual Emergency and Climate Change Impact survey. Compared to 90 in 2025, this is a 174.7% increase in responses in 2026.

Total responses  
in report in  
2025 **90**

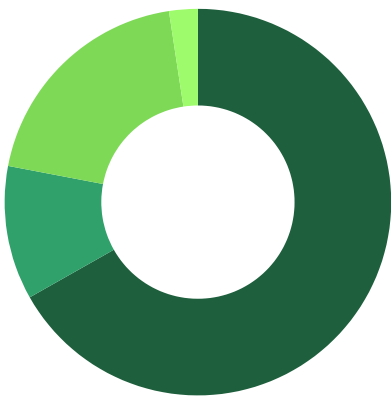
Total responses  
in report in  
2026 **250**

## Survey Results

### Demographic

#### 1. How long have you lived in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg?

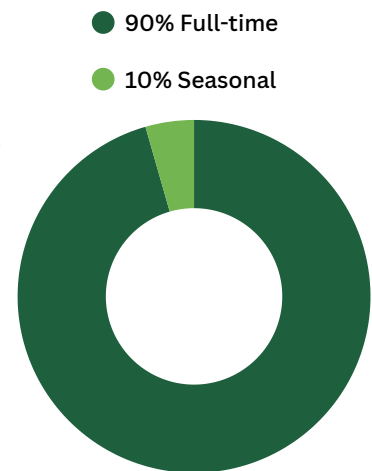
- 66.8% Over 10 years
- 11.2% 6-10 years
- 19.6% 1-5 years
- 2.4% Less than 1 year



Most respondents have lived in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg for more than 10 years. This group accounted for 66.8% (167 respondents), indicating that the survey primarily captured the perspectives of long-term residents. This trend was similar to 2025, when long-term residents also made up the largest response group.

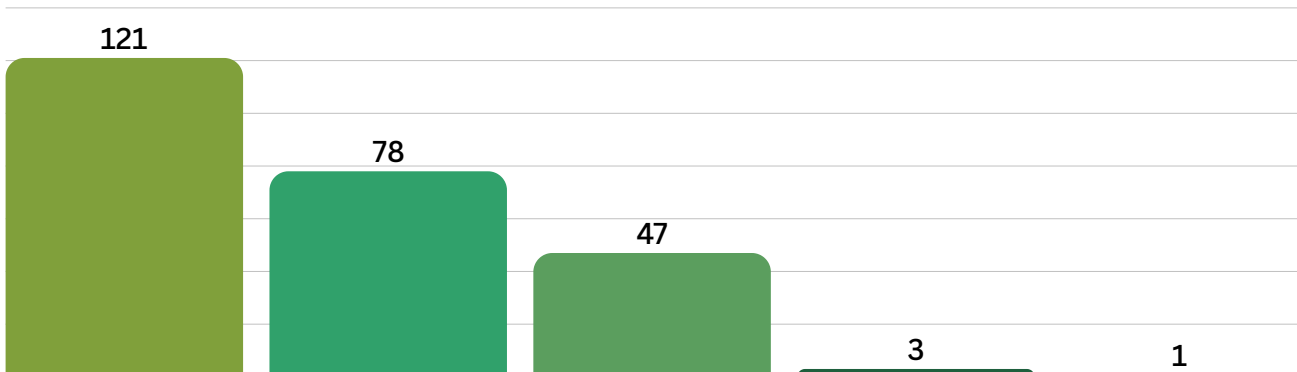
## 2. Are you a full-time or seasonal resident?

Most respondents identified as full-time residents, with 90.0% (225 respondents) living in MODL for more than six months of the year. Seasonal residents represented 10.0% (25 respondents) of responses. This indicates that the survey results largely reflect the experiences and preparedness needs of year-round residents.



## 3. What age group do you fall under?

65 and above 50-64 30-49 18-29 Prefer not to answer

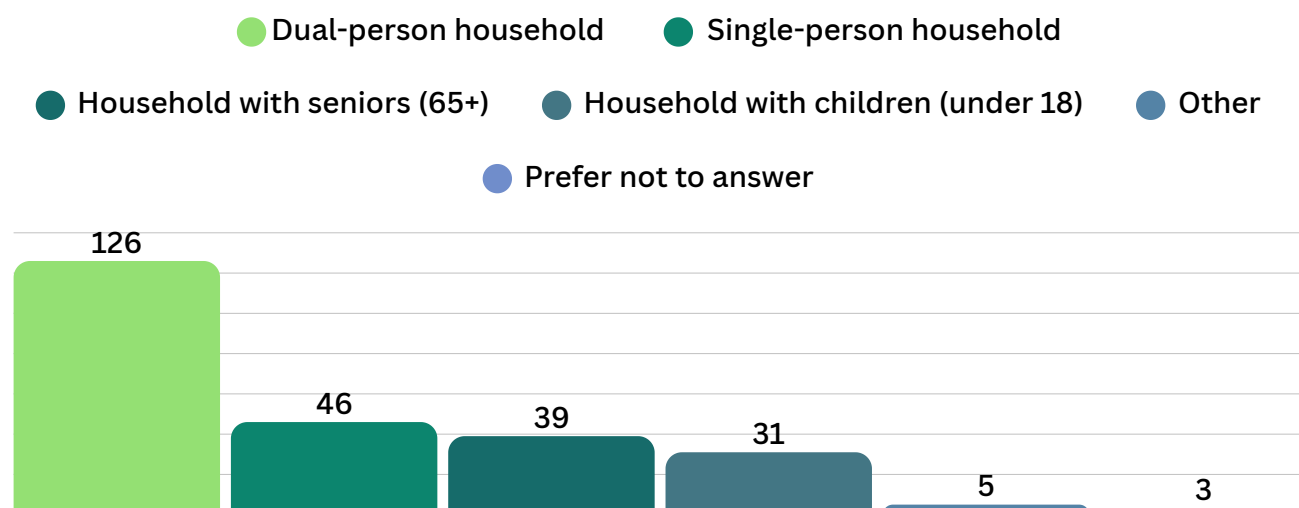


The largest share of respondents was aged 65 and above, with 48.4% (121 respondents), followed by those aged 50 to 64, with 31.2% (78 respondents). Combined, 79.6% (199 respondents) were 50 years of age or older.

This pattern is consistent with the 2025 survey results, in which older adults also represented a significant share of respondents. This should be considered when interpreting the findings, particularly for topics such as climate preparedness, emergency communications, health impacts, transportation, mobility, and access to support services.

Future surveys may benefit from additional outreach methods to encourage participation from younger adults, families, and other underrepresented groups, helping ensure the results reflect a wider range of perspectives across MODL.

#### 4. Which best describes your household?

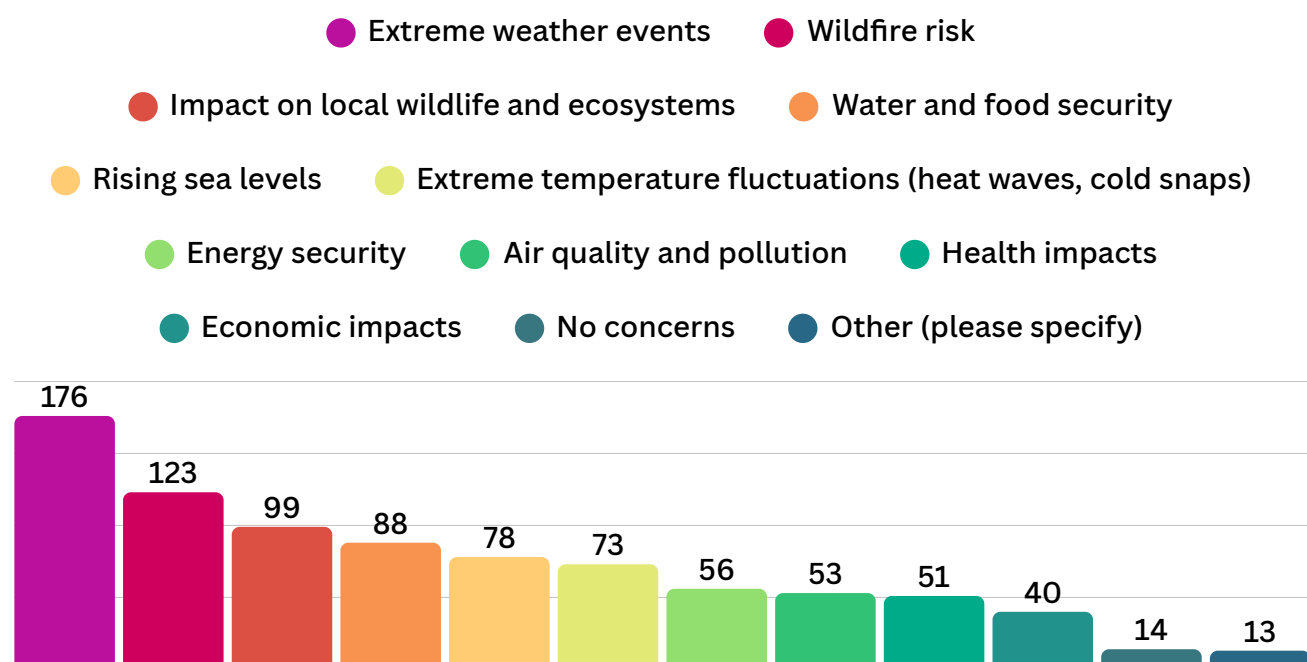


Dual-person households were the most common household type, representing 50.4% (126 respondents), followed by single-person households at 18.4% (46 respondents). Households with seniors aged 65 and older accounted for 15.6% (39 respondents), while households with children under 18 represented 12.4% (31 respondents).

“Other” responses accounted for 2.0% (5 respondents) and included multi-adult, common-law, adult-dependent, adult children, multi-generational, and disability-related household arrangements. A small number of respondents, 1.2% (3 respondents), preferred not to answer.

## Climate Change Concerns

#### 5. What climate issues are you most concerned about? (select up to 4)





Extreme weather events were the most frequently selected climate change concern in 2026, representing 20.4% (176 respondents). Wildfire risk was also among the greatest concerns, accounting for 14.2% (123 respondents), and has increased compared to 2025. Other notable concerns included impacts on local wildlife and ecosystems at 11.5% (99 respondents), water and food security at 10.2% (88 respondents), rising sea levels at 9.0% (78 respondents), and extreme temperature fluctuations at 8.4% (73 respondents). These results show that residents are concerned about both immediate emergency risks and longer-term environmental impacts.

Other responses represented 1.5% (13 respondents). Written comments reflected a mix of concerns, including local infrastructure conditions, population growth and littering, economic and political impacts, broader social concerns, and some skepticism or disagreement about climate change and related concerns.

**6. Have you or your household personally experienced any of the following because of climate change impacts? (Select all that apply)**

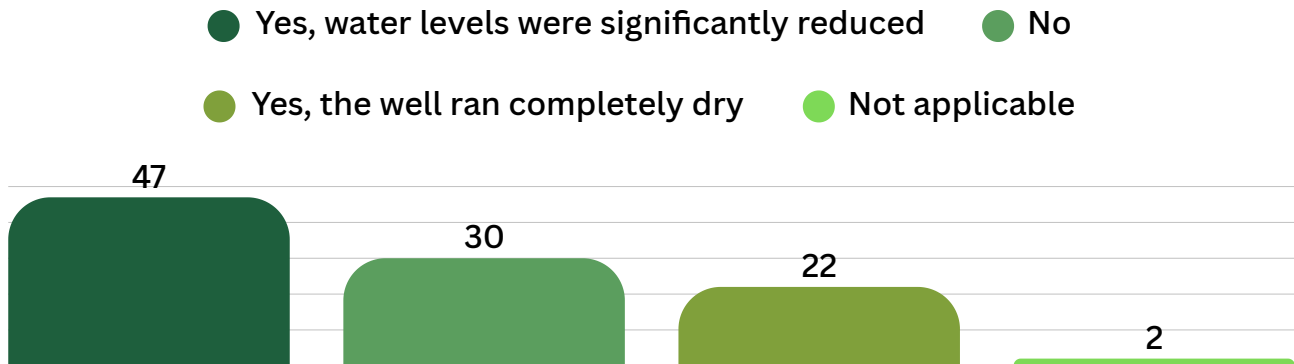


In 2026, drought was the most frequently reported climate-related impact experienced by respondents or their households, accounting for 29.7% (101 respondents). This was followed by property damage at 27.4% (93 respondents). This differs from 2025, when "None" was the most frequently selected response. In 2026, "None" was the third-most selected answer at 25.3% (86 respondents), suggesting that more respondents reported direct household impacts, particularly related to drought conditions. Health issues were reported by 6.8% (23 respondents). "Other" responses accounted for 4.7% (16 respondents) and highlighted rising climate-related anxiety or concern, including fear of nearby wildfires, running out of water, being unable to leave home due to flooded roads, and risks posed by extreme heat, cold, storms, and strong winds. These comments provide additional context on how climate-related events are affecting households not only through physical damage and service disruptions, but also through stress, uncertainty, and safety concerns.

New follow-up questions were added in 2026 to better understand the impacts respondents selected in Question 6. Unlike the 2025 survey, the 2026 survey asked for more detail on the impacts personally experienced by MODL residents. Questions 6.1 to 6.5 present the results from these follow-up questions and help provide a clearer picture of the specific challenges residents are facing.

*Note: Respondent results for Questions 6.1 to 6.5 only reflect respondents who selected the related impact category in Question 6 and should not be interpreted as representing all survey respondents.*

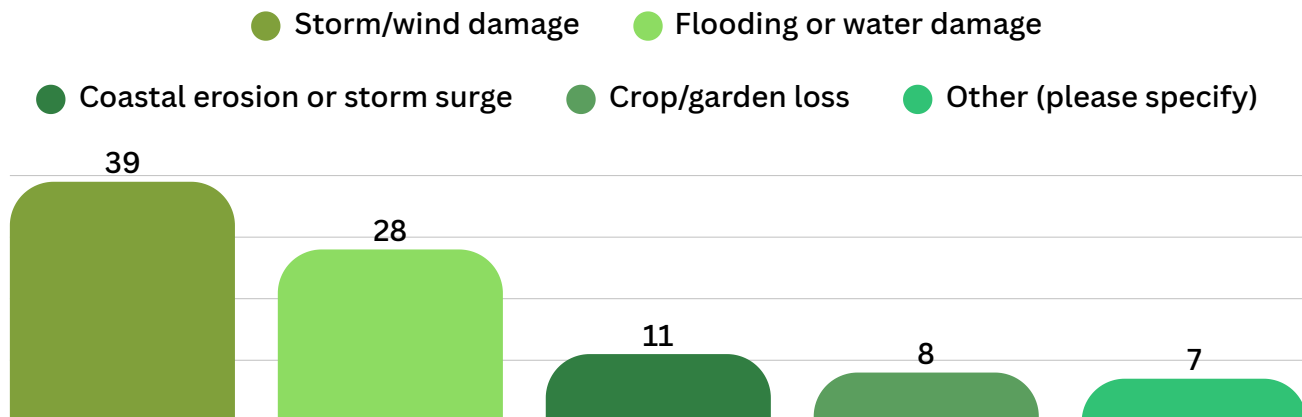
### 6.1 Has your household experienced a private well running dry or significantly reduced water availability due to drought or changing climate conditions?



Among respondents who selected "drought" in Question 6, most reported some level of impact on the availability of private well water. Nearly half, 46.5% (47 of 101 respondents), said their household experienced significantly reduced water levels, while 21.8% (22 of 101 respondents) reported that their well ran completely dry.

These results highlight drought and private well water security as important climate-related challenges for MODL residents.

### 6.2 What type of property damage have you or your household experienced due to climate-related events?



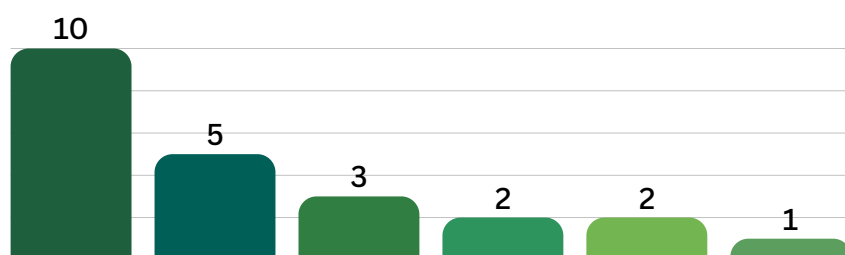
Among respondents who selected property damage in Question 6, storm or wind damage was the most commonly reported type, accounting for 41.9% (39 of 93 respondents).

Flooding or water damage followed at 30.1% (28 of 93 respondents). Other reported impacts included coastal erosion or storm surge at 11.8% (11 of 93 respondents), crop or garden loss at 8.6% (8 of 93 respondents), and Other at 7.5% (7 of 93 respondents).

These results show that climate-related property damage was most often connected to severe weather, flooding, coastal impacts, and damage to gardens or crops.

### 6.3 What type of health impacts have you or your household members experienced related to climate-related events?

- Respiratory problems (smoke, air, pollution, allergen...)
- Other (please specify)
- Impact on chronic medical conditions
- Mental health impacts (stress, anxiety, trauma)
- Heat-related illness (heat exhaustion, heat stroke)
- Prefer not to say



Among respondents who selected health issues in Question 6, respiratory problems were the most commonly reported health impact, accounting for 43.5% (10 of 23 respondents). This included concerns related to smoke, air pollution, and allergens.

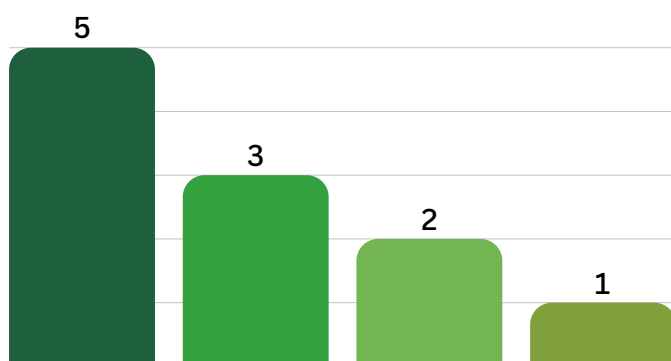
Other” was the second most common response at 21.7% (5 of 23 respondents) and included additional health-related concerns not captured in the listed categories. Other reported impacts included chronic

medical conditions at 13.0% (3 of 23 respondents), mental health impacts such as stress, anxiety, or trauma at 8.7% (2 of 23 respondents), and heat-related illness at 8.7% (2 of 23 respondents). A small number of respondents, 4.3% (1 of 23 respondents), preferred not to say.

These results show that climate-related health impacts are connected to air quality, heat exposure, chronic health concerns, and mental health impacts.

### 6.4 How did climate-related impacts affect your household income or employment?

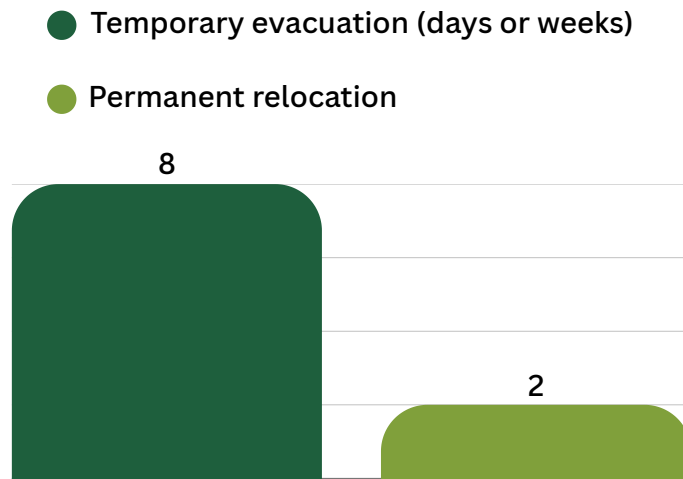
- Increased expenses reducing net income...
- Temporary work interruption
- Reduced work hours
- Business revenue loss



Among respondents who selected income or employment impacts in Question 6, increased expenses that reduced net income were the most commonly reported impact, accounting for 45.5% (5 of 11 respondents). Other reported impacts included temporary work interruptions at 27.3% (3 of 11 respondents), reduced work hours at 18.2% (2 of 11 respondents), and business revenue loss at 9.1% (1 of 11 respondents).

These results show that climate-related events can affect households through added costs, temporary work disruptions, reduced income, and business-related impacts.

## 6.5 What type of displacement or relocation occurred?

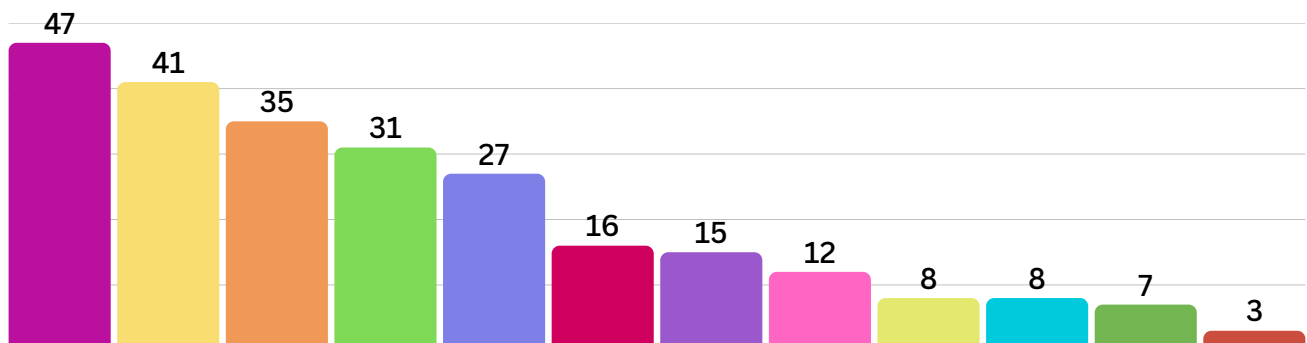
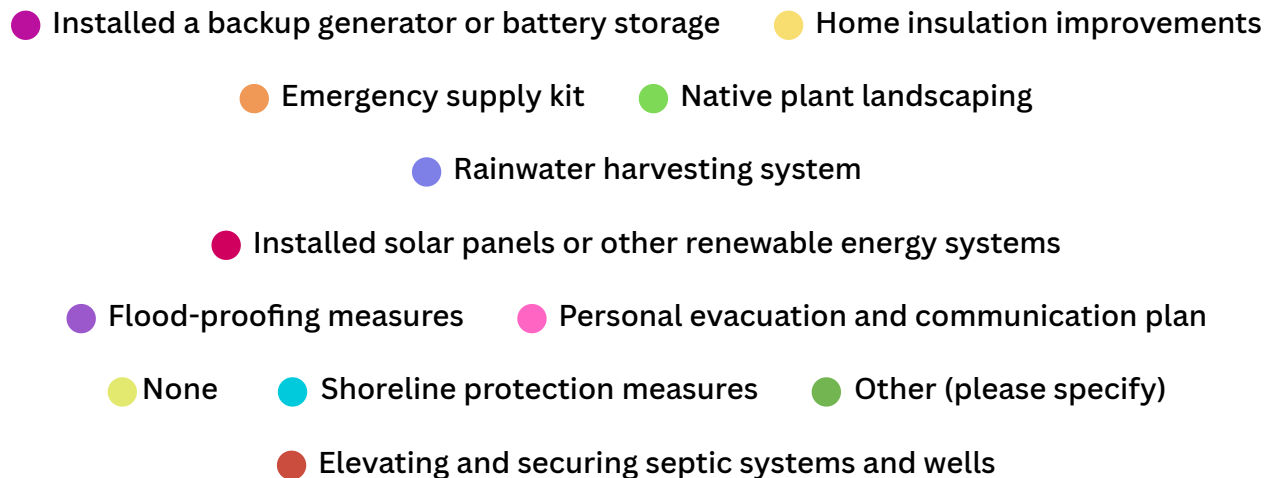


Among respondents who selected displacement or relocation in Question 6, a total of 10 respondents reported experiencing some form of displacement due to climate-related impacts. Most reported a temporary evacuation lasting days or weeks, accounting for 80.0% (8 of 10 respondents). The remaining 20.0% (2 of 10 respondents) reported permanent relocation.

These results show that climate-related impacts can affect residents not only through property damage or service disruptions, but also through the need to temporarily or permanently leave their homes.

## Residential Preparedness

### 7. What measures, if any, have you taken to prepare for climate change impacts? (Select all that apply)



The most common household preparedness action was installing a backup generator or battery storage, accounting for 18.8% (47 respondents). This was followed by home insulation improvements at 16.4% (41 respondents), emergency supply kits at 14.0% (35 respondents), native plant landscaping at 12.4% (31 respondents), and rainwater harvesting systems at 10.8% (27 respondents). Other preparedness actions included installing solar panels or other renewable energy systems at 6.4% (16 respondents), flood-proofing measures at 6.0% (15 respondents), and developing a personal evacuation and communication plan at 4.8% (12 respondents). Fewer respondents selected None or shoreline protection measures, each accounting for 3.2% (8 respondents). Other actions accounted for 2.8% (7 respondents), while elevating or securing septic systems and wells accounted for 1.2% (3 respondents). Written comments under “Other” provided additional detail on the types of actions residents are taking. These included improving drainage and runoff around homes and driveways, completing energy assessments, removing brush or trees to reduce wildfire and storm risks, drilling additional wells, installing geothermal or wood heating systems, considering shoreline protection, moving utilities out of basements, maintaining landscaping to reduce property damage, and growing food to support household resilience.

Overall, the results show that residents are taking a range of preparedness actions, with the strongest focus on backup power, home efficiency, emergency supplies, landscaping, and water security.

#### 8. How confident are you in your preparedness for the impacts of climate change?

- Somewhat confident - I have taken some steps, but there is room for improvement
- Confident - I have taken extensive measures and feel well-prepared
- Not confident - I have not taken any measures and feel completely unprepared



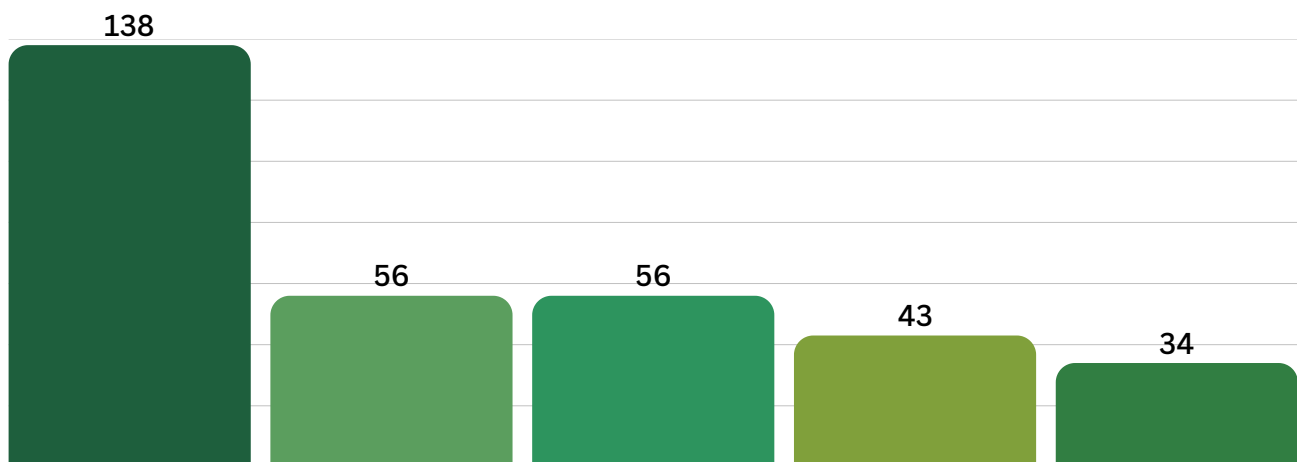
Most respondents described themselves as somewhat confident in their preparedness for climate change impacts, accounting for 74.0% (185 respondents). A smaller share said they were confident and felt well-prepared, representing 16.8% (42 respondents), while 9.2% (23 respondents) said they were not confident and felt completely unprepared.

These results suggest that many residents have taken some preparedness steps but may benefit from additional support, information, or resources.



9. What challenges are you facing that affect your ability to prepare for the impacts of climate change? (Select all that apply)

- Financial constraints
- Limited access to resources or services
- Lack of information or awareness
- Other (please specify)
- Lack of community support or engagement



Financial constraints were the most commonly reported barrier to preparedness, accounting for 42.2% (138 respondents). This was followed by limited access to resources or services and lack of information or awareness, each at 17.1% (56 respondents). “Other” barriers accounted for 13.1% (43 respondents), while the lack of community support or engagement accounted for 10.5% (34 respondents). Written “Other” comments provided additional context on the barriers residents are experiencing. Common themes included age, mobility, limited family support, financial limitations, lack of time, wildfire risk, poor cell service, coastal erosion, vulnerable roads, and uncertainty about what actions are most appropriate for local conditions. Several comments also pointed to broader concerns, including development impacts, lake and water-level management, emergency access, and the need for clearer local guidance and stronger government action.

Overall, the results show that residents may need support with costs, access to resources, clear preparedness information, and locally specific guidance.

10. Do you feel you have access to adequate information to prepare for climate change impacts?

Most respondents said they have some access to adequate information to prepare for climate change impacts, accounting for 62.8% (157 respondents).

Another 24.0% (60 respondents) said they fully have access, while 13.2% (33 respondents) said they do not have access to adequate information. These results show varying levels of access to preparedness information among respondents, with many indicating they may benefit from clearer, more accessible, or more locally specific resources.

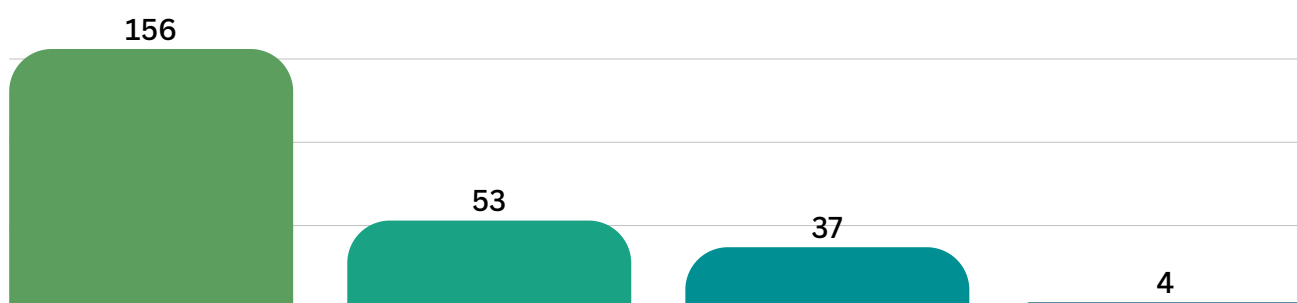
- 62.8% Somewhat
- 24% Yes, fully
- 13.2% No, not at all



## Municipal Action

11. Would you be interested in participating in community programs related to climate change?

- Maybe, depending on the program
- Yes
- No
- Other (please specify)



Most respondents indicated potential interest in participating in community programs related to climate change, with 62.4% (156 respondents) selecting “maybe, depending on the program.” Another 21.2% (53 respondents) selected “yes,” while 14.8% (37 respondents) selected “no.” “Other” responses represented 1.6% (4 respondents) and included comments about current participation through the Tree Giveaway Program and limitations to participation due to chronic health issues.

These results suggest there is potential interest in community climate programs, particularly if they are relevant, accessible, and clearly communicated.

## Stories

### 12. Do you have a story you would like to share about your experience around climate change impacts?

A total of 77 respondents answered this optional question, while 173 respondents skipped it. This means 30.8% of respondents provided an answer, while 69.2% did not respond.

| Theme                                                | What respondents described                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Drought and private well water security</b>       | Several respondents described wells running dry, low lake levels, hauling water, reduced garden watering, and concern about whether household water supplies will last through future droughts.              |
| <b>Coastal flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise</b> | Respondents raised concerns about shoreline erosion, storm surge, damaged wharves, waterfront properties, coastal roads, and communities or peninsulas being cut off during emergencies.                     |
| <b>Power outage and communication concerns</b>       | Stories included roof damage, downed trees and branches, flooding from heavy rainfall, driveway washouts, culvert and drainage issues, and repeated storm-related damage.                                    |
| <b>Food security, gardens, and agriculture</b>       | Some respondents shared impacts on vegetable gardens, market garden yields, food costs, and efforts to increase household food resilience through gardening, canning, or growing more food.                  |
| <b>Health, aging, mobility, and stress</b>           | Several stories connected climate impacts to anxiety, physical strain, aging, disability, and the difficulty of hauling water, evacuating, or managing household needs during disruptions.                   |
| <b>Infrastructure, roads, and emergency access</b>   | Respondents identified concerns about vulnerable roads, bridges, culverts, drainage systems, dam control, transportation routes, and limited evacuation options during floods, wildfires, or coastal events. |

|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Household adaptation and preparedness actions</b> | Many respondents described actions they have taken or are considering, such as generators, batteries, solar, insulation, rainwater harvesting, composting toilets, second wells, wildfire mitigation, and improved drainage. |
| <b>Environmental change, biodiversity, and pests</b> | Some comments noted changes in wildlife, insects, ticks, invasive pests, shoreline vegetation, and broader ecosystem health.                                                                                                 |
| <b>Mixed views and skepticism</b>                    | A portion of the responses expressed skepticism or disagreement about climate change, as well as concerns about costs and government policy.                                                                                 |

**13. What do you believe are the most important actions the municipality could take to address climate change impacts?**

This question was optional; 185 respondents answered, and 65 skipped it. This means 74.0% of respondents answered the question, while 26.0% did not respond.

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Coastal protection and development controls</b>  | Stronger coastal protection, setbacks, wetland protection, floodplain restrictions, limits on shoreline development, and stronger enforcement of land-use rules. |
| <b>Emergency preparedness and wildlife response</b> | Improved wildfire planning, evacuation routes, fire services, emergency kits, comfort centres, and community-level preparedness.                                 |
| <b>Water security and drought preparedness</b>      | Support for wells, cisterns, rainwater collection, water access during drought, water conservation, lake/dam management, and protection of water resources.      |
| <b>Infrastructure and road resilience</b>           | Better drainage, culverts, bridges, road maintenance, vulnerable road assessments, flood mitigation, stormwater upgrades, and emergency access improvements.     |
| <b>Clear communication and education</b>            | More localized information, public education, workshops, preparedness guidance, emergency communication plans, and clearer municipal action updates.             |

|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Clear communication and education</b>         | More localized information, public education, workshops, preparedness guidance, emergency communication plans, and clearer municipal action updates.      |
| <b>Renewable energy and energy resilience</b>    | Solar, wind, microgrids, community energy systems, backup power, energy efficiency, and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.                                |
| <b>Natural environment and land protection</b>   | Protecting forests, wetlands, shorelines, natural areas, trees, biodiversity, and limiting pollution or environmentally harmful development.              |
| <b>Transportation and local resilience</b>       | Public transit, active transportation, reduced reliance on vehicles, safer evacuation routes, and stronger local food systems.                            |
| <b>Governance, enforcement, and coordination</b> | Stronger bylaws, better enforcement, transparency, collaboration with provincial/federal governments, and applying a climate lens to municipal decisions. |

## Photo Submissions

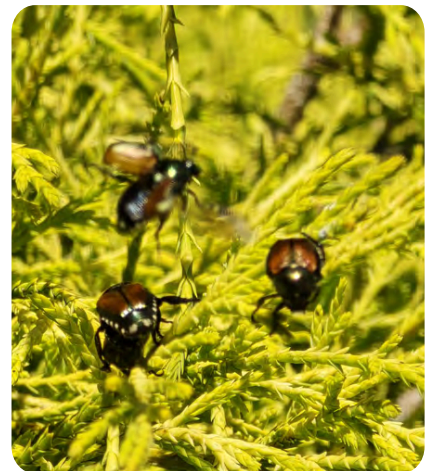
Below are the photo submissions that were received from the survey.



Dry streambed or watercourse beneath a bridge, showing low water conditions associated with drought.



Coastal shoreline showing erosion, fallen trees, and debris along the water's edge, illustrating impacts to coastal property and natural areas.



Close-up image of insects on vegetation, representing pest-related impacts observed in the local environment.





High water levels around a dock and shoreline infrastructure, illustrating flooding or storm surge conditions.



Roadway flooding following heavy rainfall, showing water covering the road surface and affecting access.



Water levels along a lake or shoreline area, showing conditions that may contribute to shoreline flooding, erosion, or impacts to nearby natural areas.



Washed-out roadway or driveway showing exposed rocks and erosion following heavy rainfall or flooding.



Shoreline property showing debris, sediment, and damage on a deck or waterfront area following high water or storm conditions.



High water levels around a waterfront building, showing flooding close to the structure and surrounding shoreline.

## Survey Limitations

### Postal Codes

A total of 184 respondents provided a postal code, while 66 skipped the question. Because this question was optional, there is some uncertainty about whether all responses came from residents within MODL. Future surveys may benefit from requiring this question or asking respondents to enter their community name to better understand geographic participation across the municipality.



# Conclusion

The 2026 Climate Change and Emergency Preparedness Survey shows increased community participation and provides a clearer understanding of how MODL residents are experiencing climate-related impacts. Compared to 2025, more respondents reported direct household impacts, with drought, property damage, water availability, flooding, coastal erosion, power outages, and health-related concerns emerging as key themes. The addition of follow-up questions also helped identify more specific challenges, particularly related to private wells, storm and wind damage, income impacts, displacement, and climate-related stress or anxiety.

Overall, the results suggest that many residents are aware of climate risks and have taken some steps to prepare, but preparedness levels vary. Financial constraints, limited access to resources or services, information gaps, and community support were identified as barriers for some respondents. At the same time, the high number of respondents who indicated potential interest in community programs suggests an opportunity for MODL to continue supporting residents through practical, accessible, and locally relevant climate preparedness initiatives.

These findings will help inform future climate action, emergency preparedness planning, public education, and community support programs across the municipality.



Survey Results Report

# Annual Emergency and Climate Change Impact Survey

2026





# Introduction

The Annual Emergency and Climate Impact Survey invited the District's residents to share their experiences and contribute valuable insights to help the municipality.

## Background

The Annual Climate Change Impact Survey is part of the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP2030) under category 8 – Emergency Preparedness and Response.



# How We Engaged

## Purpose

A variety of engagement methods were used to ensure that as many residents as possible were aware of the survey.

## Advertising

An array of strategic methods were utilized to effectively promote the survey, including:

- Engage website
- MODL website front page
- District of Lunenburg Digest
- Municipal app
- Social media
  - Facebook posting

## Engagement Website

The Emergency Preparedness and Climate Change Impacts page on the Engage MODL website was launched in January 2025 to provide residents with easy access to information.

# 2026 Survey

- Open from March 3 to March 31, 2026
- The survey was available online and in paper format
- All responses were submitted online; no paper responses were received

Total responses  
in report in  
2025 **91**

Total responses  
in report in  
2026 **250**

 **174.7%**

Total photo  
submissions in  
report in 2025 **03**

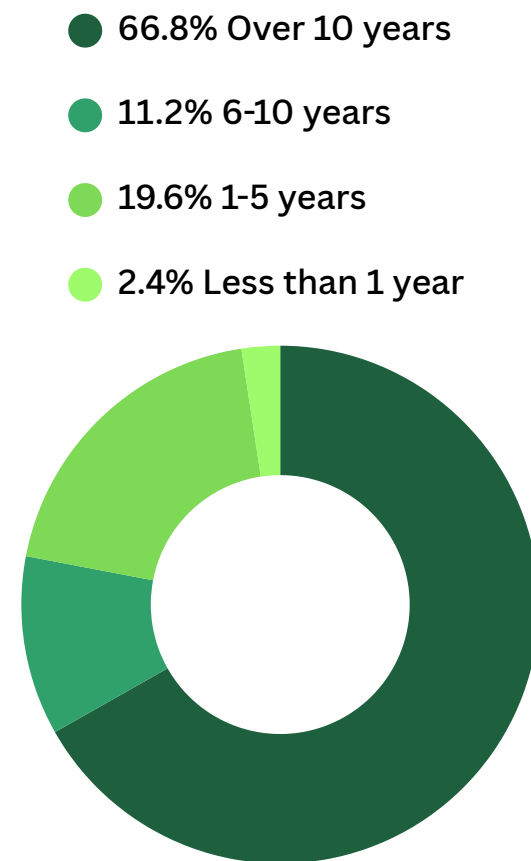
Total photo  
submissions in  
report in 2025 **09**

 **200%**

# 2026 Survey Results

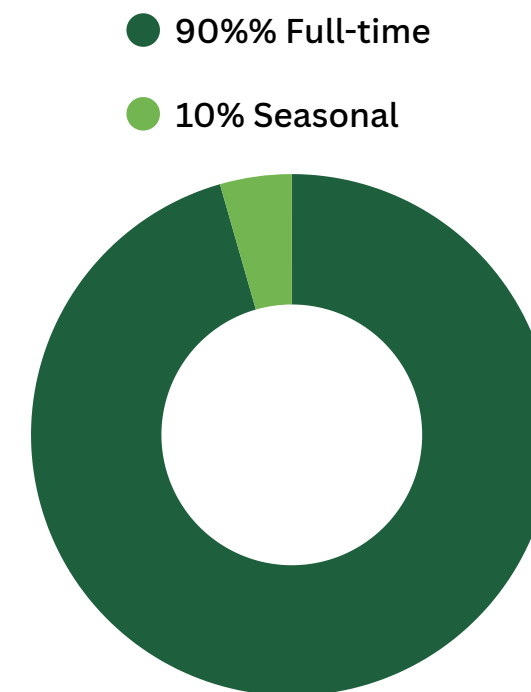
## Demographic

### 1. How long have you lived in the MODL?



- 66.8% (167 respondents) have lived in MODL for more than 10 years.
- Survey responses mainly reflect the perspectives of long-term residents.
- This trend is consistent with the 2025 survey results.

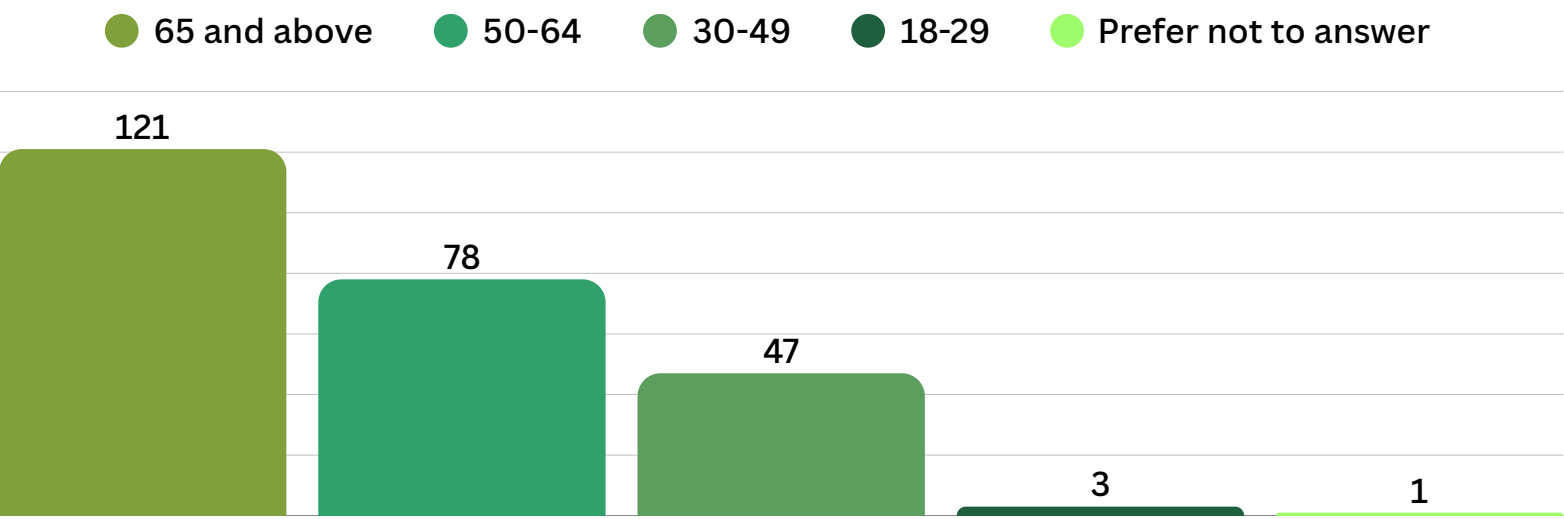
### 2. Are you a full-time or seasonal resident?



- Most respondents were full-time residents
- 90.0% (225 respondents) identified as full-time residents.
  - 10.0% (25 respondents) identified as seasonal residents.
  - Results largely reflect the experiences and preparedness needs of year-round residents.



3. What age group do you fall under?

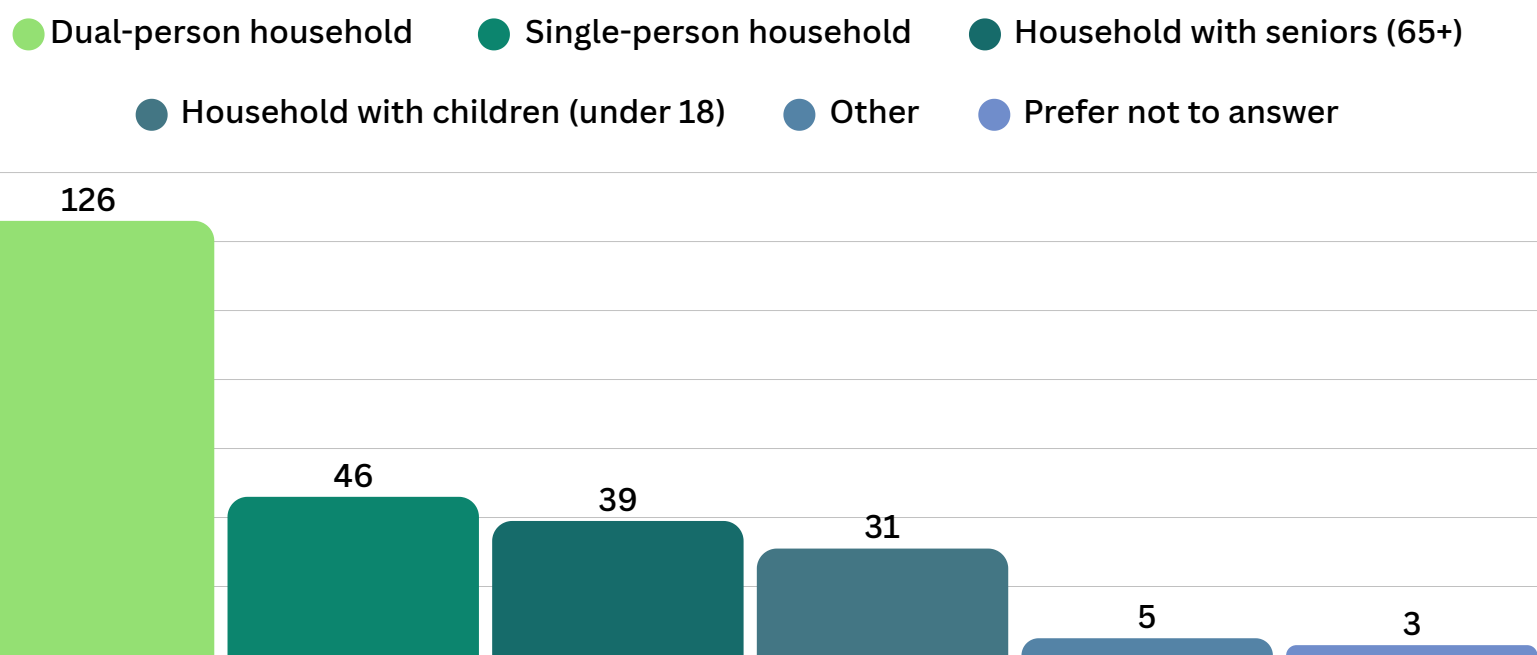


Nearly 80% of respondents were 50 years of age or older.

- 48.4% (121 respondents) were aged 65+
- 31.2% (78 respondents) were aged 50 to 64

- Older adults represented a significant share of respondents in both the 2025 and 2026 surveys.
- Future surveys should consider additional outreach to younger adults, families, and other underrepresented groups to capture a broader range of perspectives across MODL.

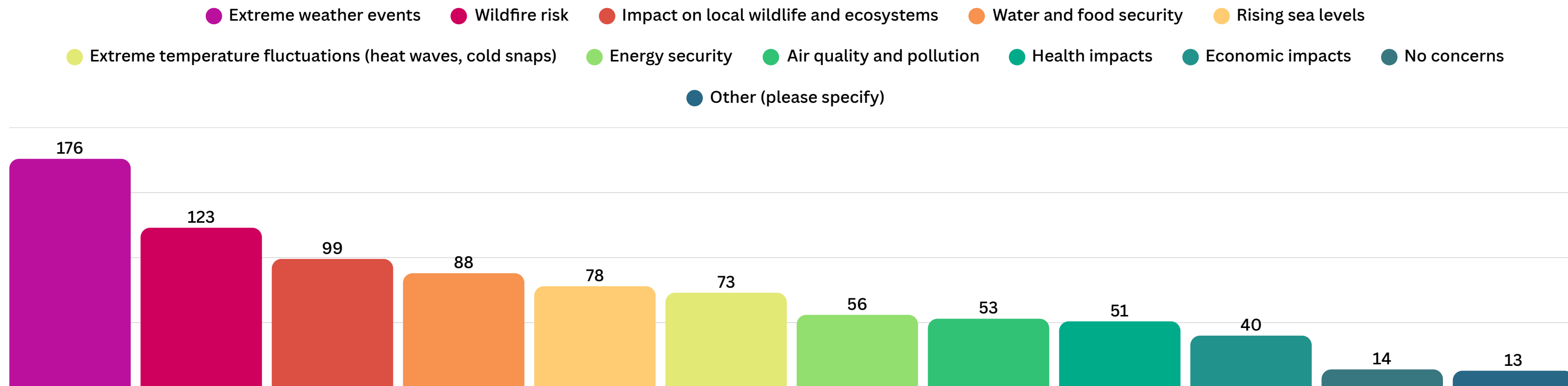
4. Which best describes your household?



- Dual-person households made up the largest share of responses at 50.4% (126 respondents), followed by single-person households at 18.4% (46 respondents).
- Households with seniors aged 65+ represented 15.6% (39 respondents), while households with children under 18 accounted for 12.4% (31 respondents).
- A small number selected "Other" at 2.0% (5 respondents), reflecting a mix of household arrangements, and 1.2% (3 respondents) preferred not to answer.

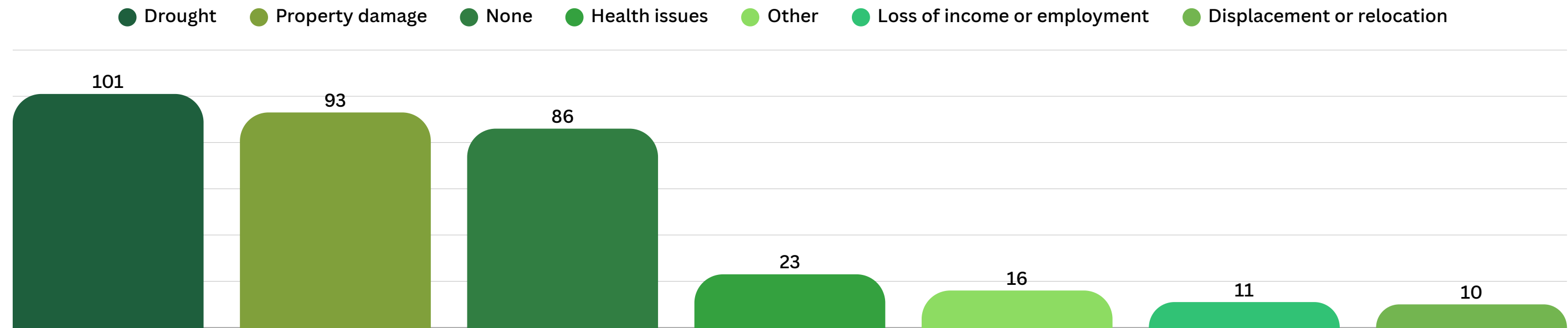
# Climate Change Concerns

## 5. What climate issues are you most concerned about?



- Extreme weather events were the most frequently selected climate change concern in 2026. Wildfire risk was also one of the top concerns and increased compared to 2025.
- Residents also identified concerns related to local wildlife and ecosystems, water and food security, sea-level rise, and extreme temperature fluctuations.
- "Other" responses represented 1.5% of selections, with 13 written comments. These comments included a mix of concerns related to infrastructure, population growth, littering, economic and political impacts, broader social issues, and differing views on climate change.

6. Have you or your household personally experienced any of the following because of climate change impacts?  
(Select all that apply)



- Drought was the most frequently reported climate-related impact in 2026, selected by 29.7% (101 responses).
- Property damage followed closely at 27.4% (93 responses).

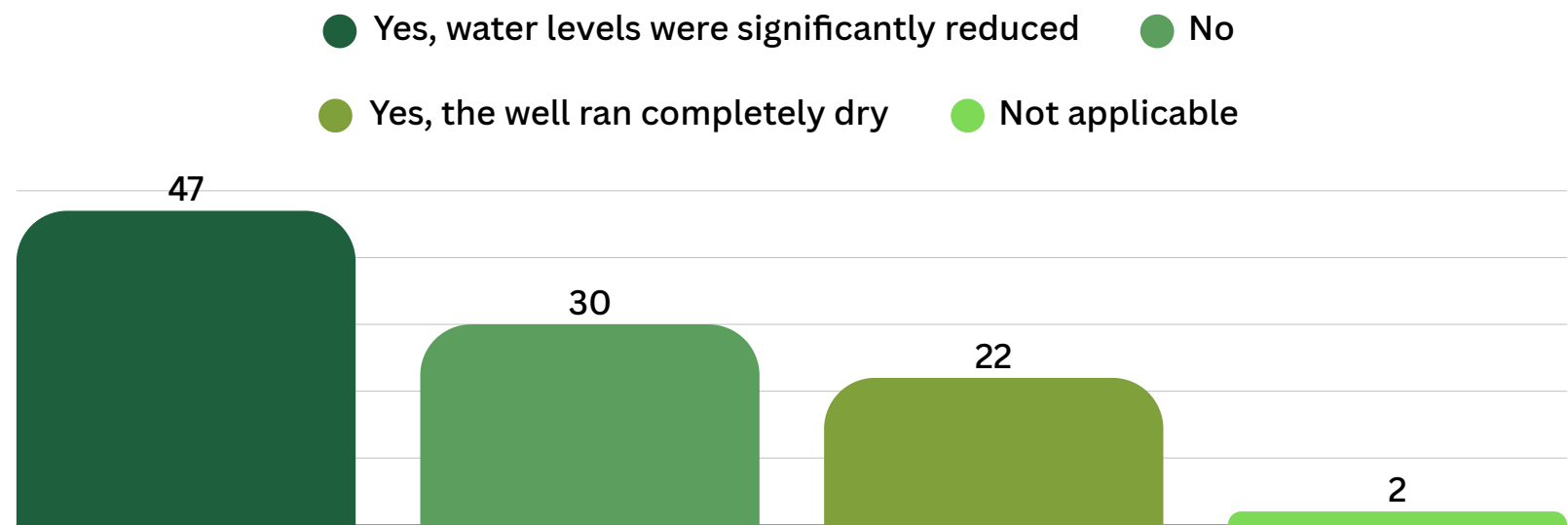
This represents a shift from 2025, when "None" was the most common response. In 2026, "None" decreased to 25.3% (86 responses), suggesting more residents experienced direct household impacts.

- Health-related concerns were reported by 6.8% (23 respondents)
- 4.7% (16 respondents) selected "Other," including concerns about climate anxiety, flooded roads, extreme temperatures, storms, and strong winds.

**New Follow-Up Questions Added in 2026**

New follow-up questions were added in 2026 to better understand the climate-related impacts residents reported in question 6. Questions 6.1 to 6.5 provide a clearer picture of the specific challenges residents are facing.

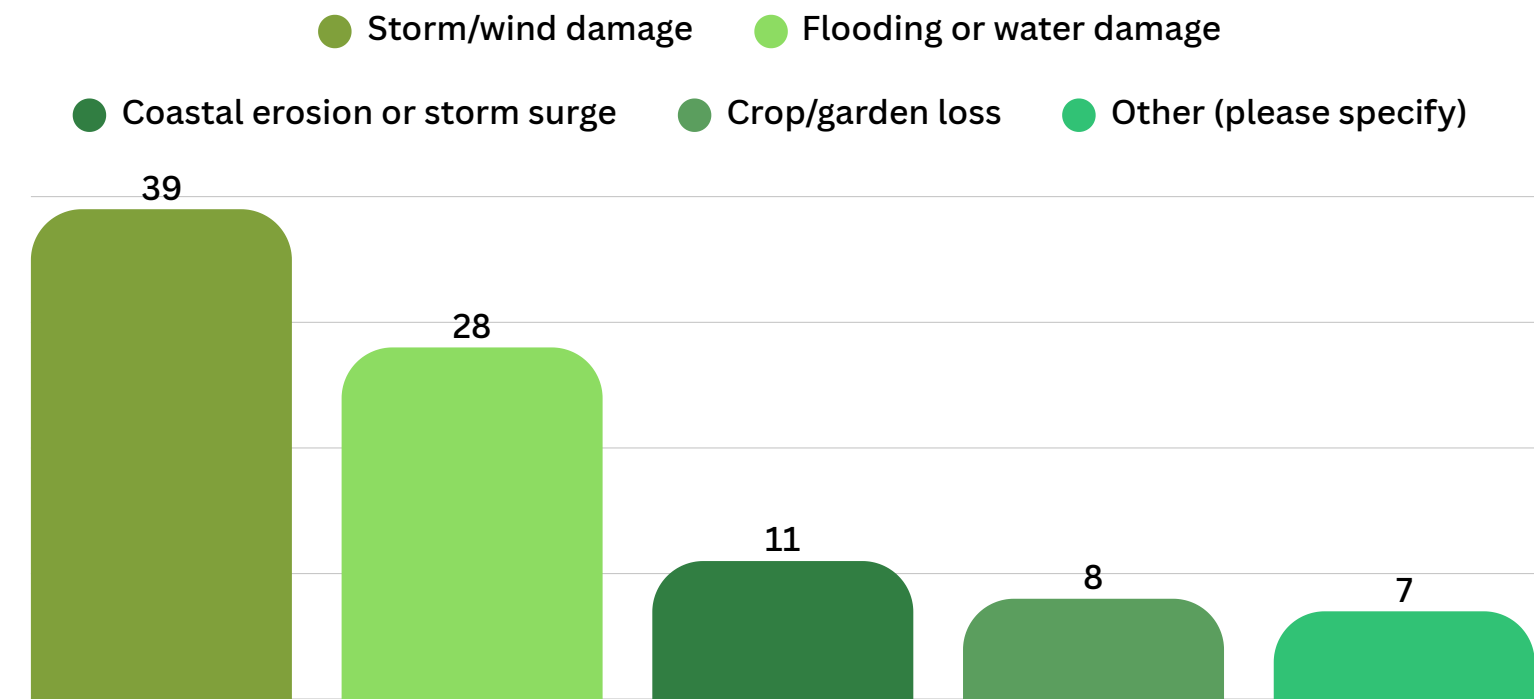
6.1 Has your household experienced a private well running dry or significantly reduced water availability due to drought or changing climate conditions?



Among respondents who answered, most reported some level of impact on their private well water availability.

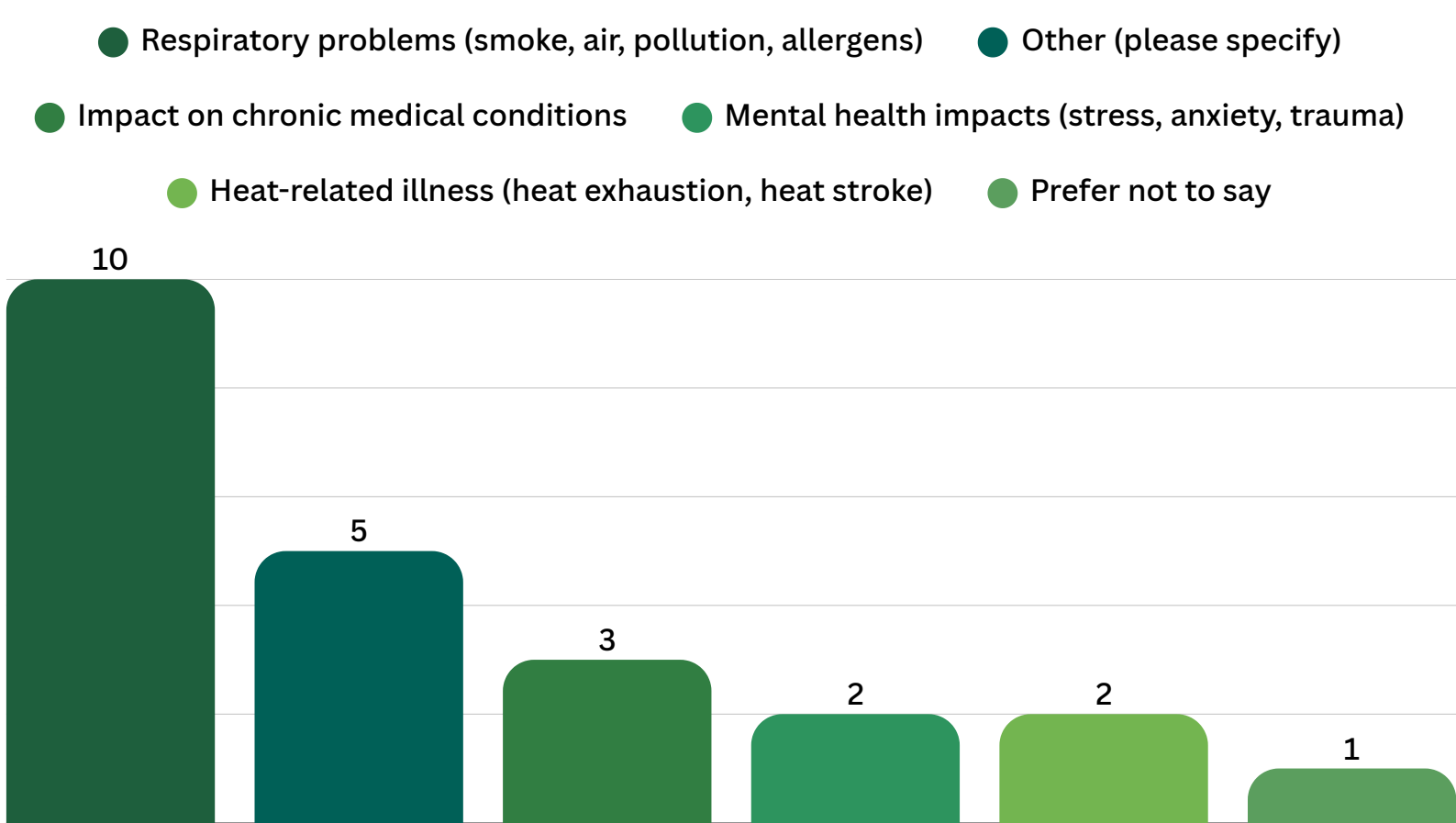
- Nearly half, 46.5% (47 of 101 respondents), said their household experienced significantly reduced water levels.
- Another 21.8% (22 of 101 respondents) reported that their well ran completely dry.

6.2 What type of property damage have you or your household experienced due to climate-related events?



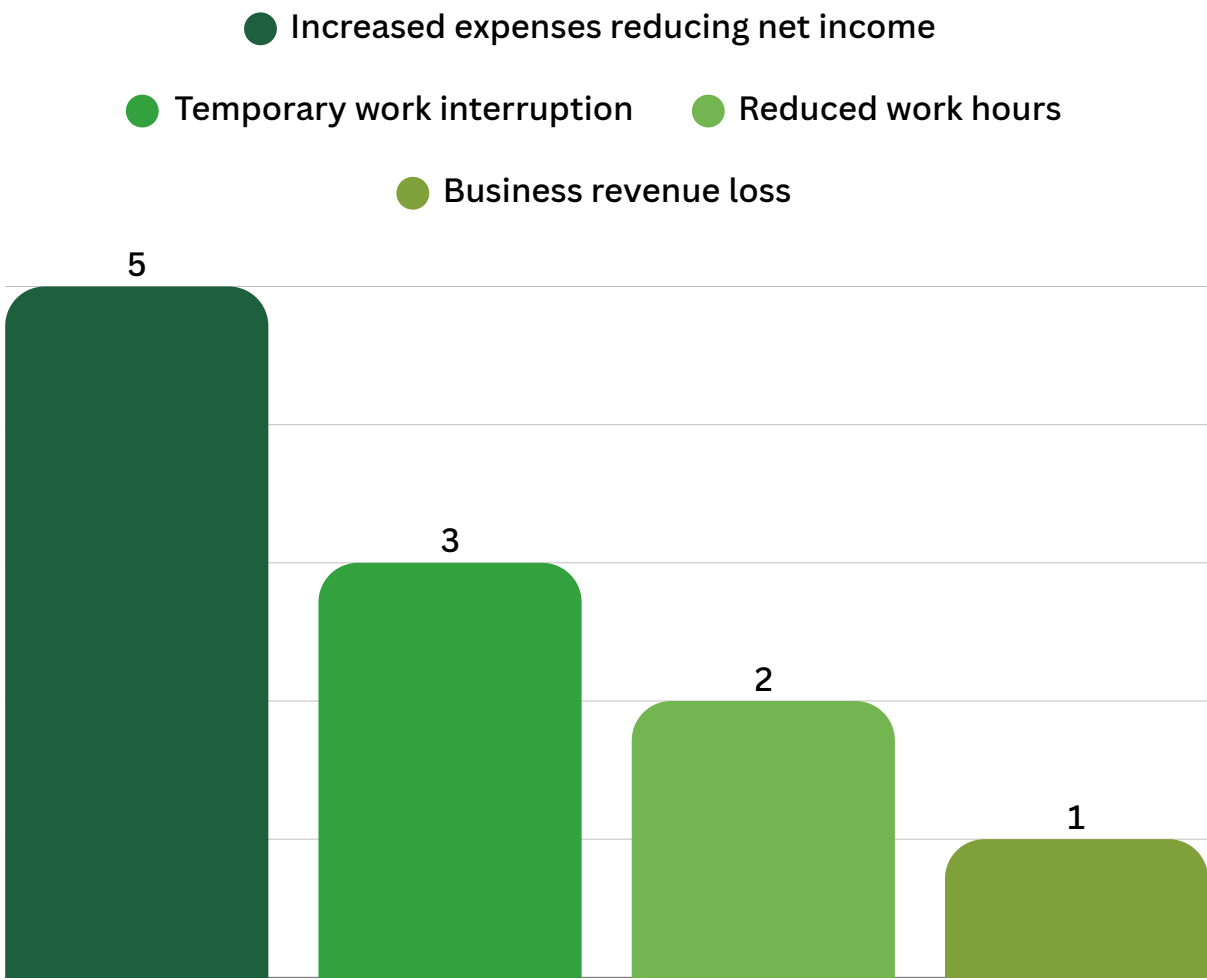
- Storm or wind damage was the most commonly reported type of property damage, representing 41.9% (39 of 93 responses).
- Flooding or water damage was the second most common, at 30.1% (28 of 93 responses).
- Other reported impacts included downed trees, power outages, driveway washouts from extreme rainfall, and increased pest issues.

6.3 What type of health impacts have you or your household members experienced related to climate-related events?



- Respiratory problems were the most commonly reported health impact, representing 10 responses. This included concerns related to smoke, air pollution, and allergens.
- "Other" accounted for 5 responses and included concerns about Lyme disease and ticks.

6.4 How did climate-related impacts affect your household income or employment?



Among respondents who reported income or employment impacts, the most common issue was increased expenses that reduced net income, accounting for 5 of the responses.

- Other reported impacts included:
- Temporary work interruptions: 3 respondents.
  - Reduced work hours: 2 respondents.
  - Business revenue loss: 1 respondent.



## 6.5 What type of displacement or relocation occurred?

● Temporary evacuation (days or weeks)

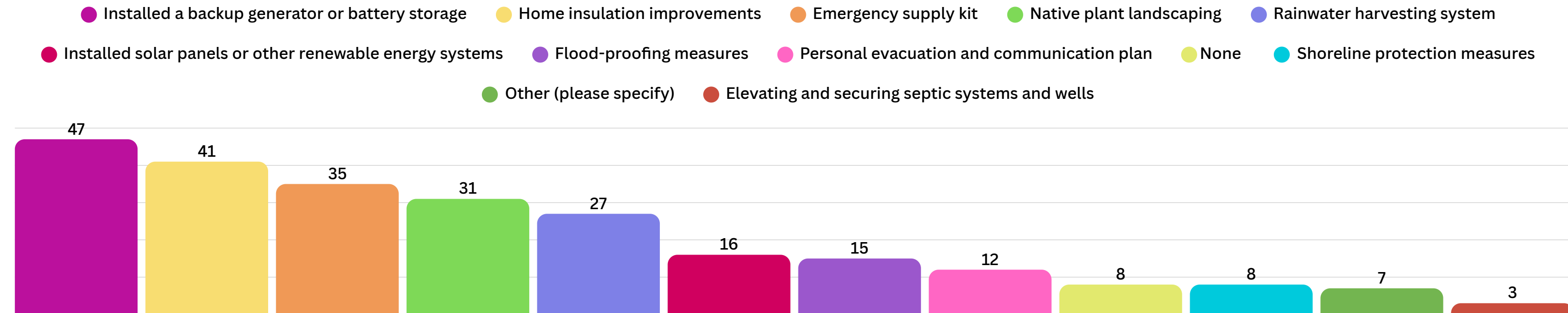
● Permanent relocation



A total of 10 respondents reported experiencing some form of displacement or relocation due to climate-related impacts. Most respondents reported that temporary evacuations lasted days or weeks, accounting for 8 out of 10 responses, while 2 respondents reported permanent relocation.

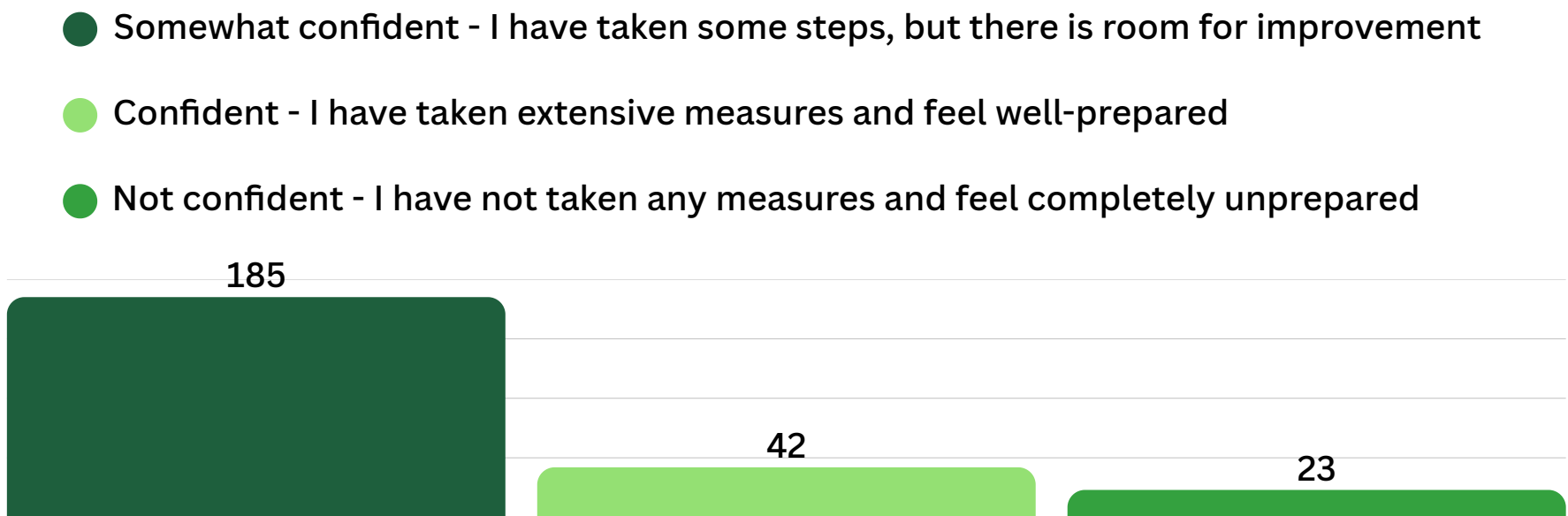
# Residential Preparedness

## 7. What measures, if any, have you taken to prepare for climate change impacts? (Select all that apply)



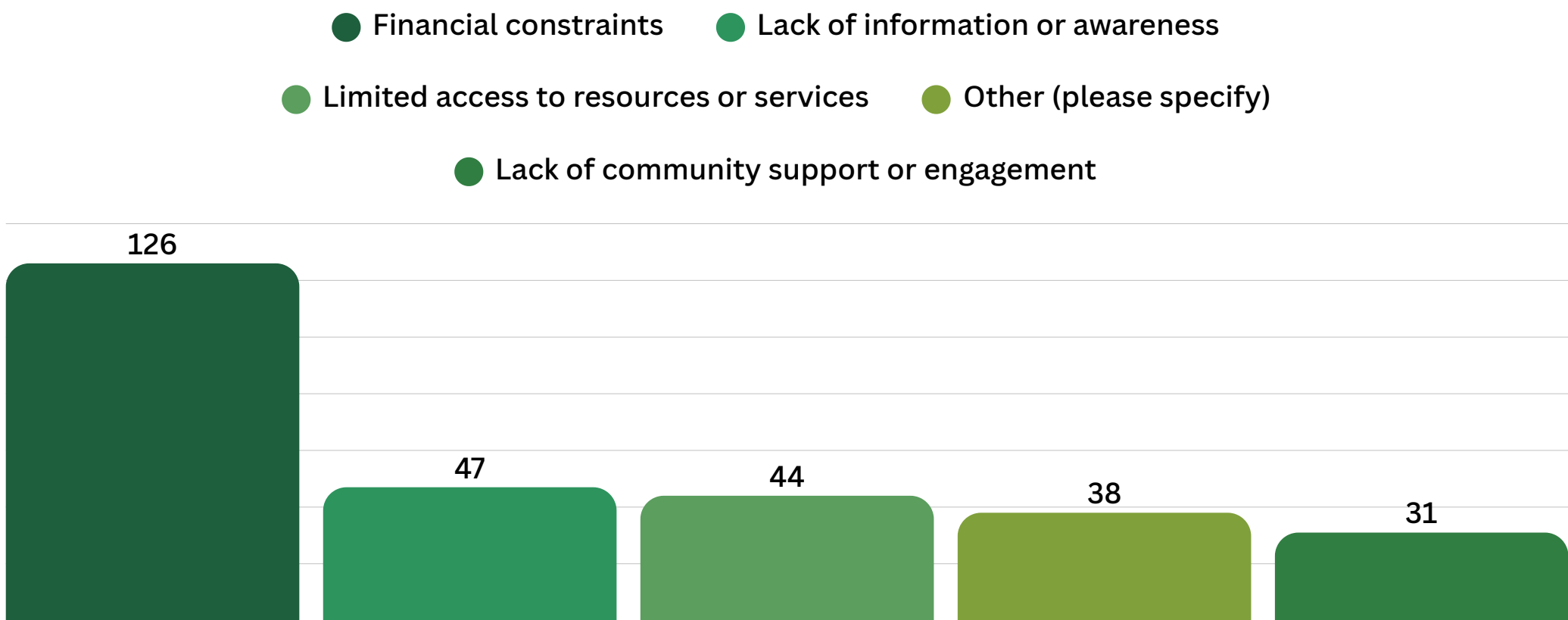
- The most common actions were backup generators or battery storage at 18.8% (47 responses), followed by home insulation improvements at 16.4% (41 responses) and emergency supply kits at 14.0% (35 responses).
- Other preparedness actions included native plant landscaping at 12.4% (31 responses), rainwater harvesting systems at 10.8% (27 responses), renewable energy systems at 6.4% (16 responses), and flood-proofing measures at 6.0% (15 responses).

8.How confident are you in your preparedness for the impacts of climate change?



- Most respondents described themselves as somewhat confident in their preparedness for climate change impacts, representing 74.0% of responses.
- A smaller share felt confident and well-prepared at 16.8%, while 9.2% said they were not confident and felt completely unprepared.

9.What challenges are you facing that affect your ability to prepare for the impacts of climate change? (Select all that apply)



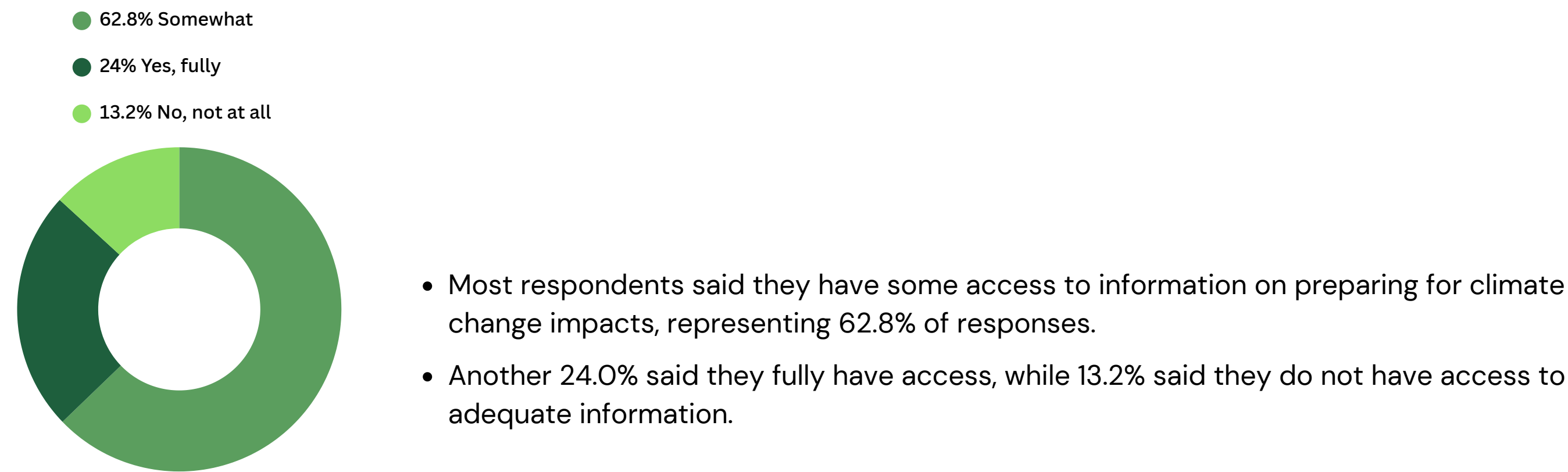
Financial constraints were the top barrier, accounting for 44.1% (126 responses).

Other barriers included:

- Lack of information or awareness: 16.4% (47 responses)
- Limited access to resources or services: 15.4% (44 responses)
- Lack of community support or engagement: 10.8% (31 responses)

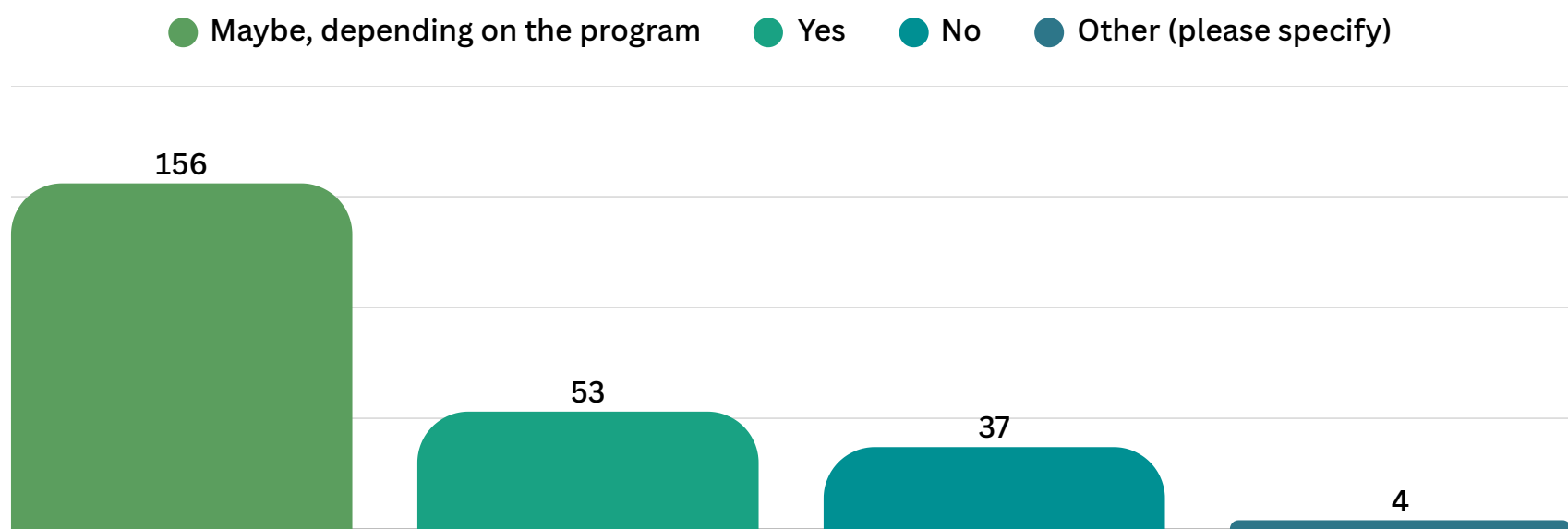
- “Other” responses represented 13.1% and highlighted barriers such as age, mobility, limited support, lack of time, poor cell service, wildfire risk, coastal erosion, vulnerable roads, and uncertainty about what actions to take.

10. Do you feel you have access to adequate information to prepare for climate change impacts?



Municipal Action

11. Would you be interested in participating in community programs related to climate change?



- Most respondents expressed potential interest in community climate programs, with 62.4% selecting “maybe, depending on the program.”
- Another 21.2% said yes, while 14.8% said no.

Other responses accounted for 1.6% and included comments about current participation in the Tree Giveaway Program and limitations on participating in programs due to chronic health issues.

# Stories

12.Do you have a story you would like to share about your experience around climate change impacts?

| Theme                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| Drought and private well water security       |
| Coastal flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise |
| Power outage and communication concerns       |
| Food security, gardens, and agriculture       |
| Health, aging, mobility, and stress           |
| Household adaptation and prepardness actions  |
| Environmental change, biodiveristy, and pests |
| Mixed views and skepticism                    |



A total of 77 respondents answered this optional question, while 173 respondents skipped it. This means 30.8% of respondents provided an answer, while 69.2% did not respond.



# Stories

13. What do you believe are the most important actions the municipality could take to address climate change impacts?

| Themes                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|
| Coastal protection and development controls  |
| Emergency preparedness and wildlife response |
| Water security and drought preparedness      |
| Infrastructure and road resilience           |
| Clear communication and education            |
| Renewable energy and energy resilience       |
| Natural environment and land protection      |
| Transportation and local resilience          |
| Governance, enforcement, and coordination    |



This question was optional; 185 respondents answered, and 65 skipped it. This means 74.0% of respondents answered the question, while 26.0% did not respond.



# Photo Submissions

Below are the photo submissions that were received from the survey.



Dry streambed or watercourse beneath a bridge, showing low water conditions associated with drought.



Coastal shoreline showing erosion, fallen trees, and debris along the water's edge, illustrating impacts to coastal property and natural areas.



Close-up image of insects on vegetation, representing pest-related impacts observed in the local environment.





High water levels around a dock and shoreline infrastructure, illustrating flooding or storm surge conditions.



Roadway flooding after heavy rainfall, with water covering the road surface and restricting access.



Water levels along a lake or shoreline area, showing conditions that may contribute to shoreline flooding, erosion, or impacts to nearby natural areas.





Washed-out roadway or driveway showing exposed rocks and erosion following heavy rainfall or flooding.



Shoreline property showing debris, sediment, and damage on a deck or waterfront area following high water or storm conditions.



High water levels around a waterfront building, showing flooding close to the structure and surrounding shoreline.



# Survey Limitations

## Postal Codes

- 184 respondents provided a postal code
- 66 respondents skipped the question
- Since this question was optional, residency within MODL cannot be fully confirmed
  - This was due to residents not being able to properly enter their address online
- Future surveys could require a postal code or community name to better understand geographic participation



# Conclusion

The 2026 Climate Change and Emergency Preparedness Survey saw increased community participation and provided a clearer picture of how MODL residents are experiencing climate-related impacts. Compared to 2025, more respondents reported direct household impacts, with key themes including drought, property damage, water availability, flooding, coastal erosion, power outages, and health-related concerns.

While many residents have taken steps to prepare, preparedness levels vary. Common barriers included financial constraints, limited access to resources or services, information gaps, and community support.

The results will help inform future climate action, emergency preparedness planning, public education, and community support programs across MODL.

**Thank you**  
**Questions?**

