

Sustainability Culture Assessment Survey 2021: Results

Background

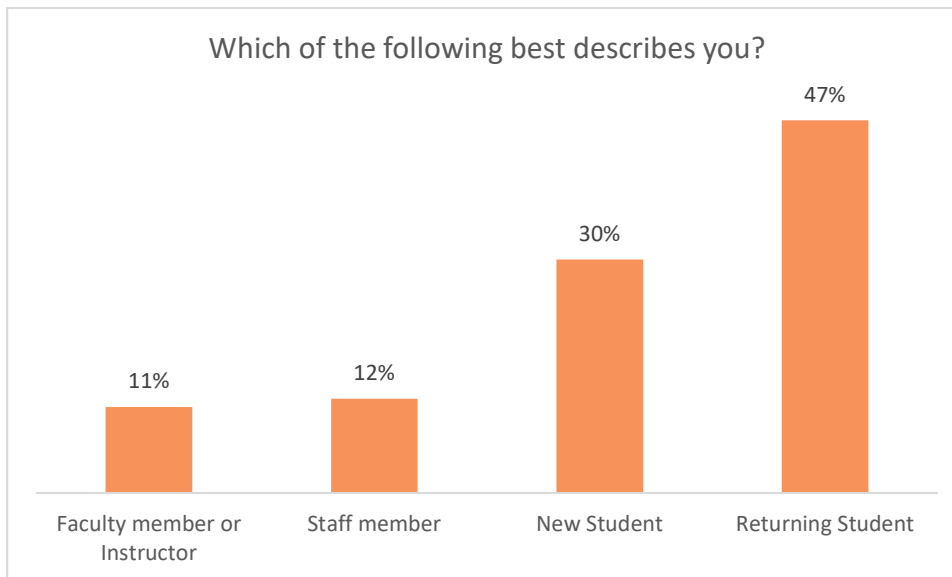
The Sustainability Culture Assessment Survey was open to responses from January 25th to February 8th, 2021. The survey link was sent out to 2,197 employees and 13,488 students via email. In total, the survey received 1,824 completed responses (417 employees and 1,407 students). The response rate was 19.0% among employees, and 10.4% among students. The number of respondents by question may differ from the total number of completed surveys submitted and will be specified for each question.

Survey Results

Q1: Which of the following best describes you?

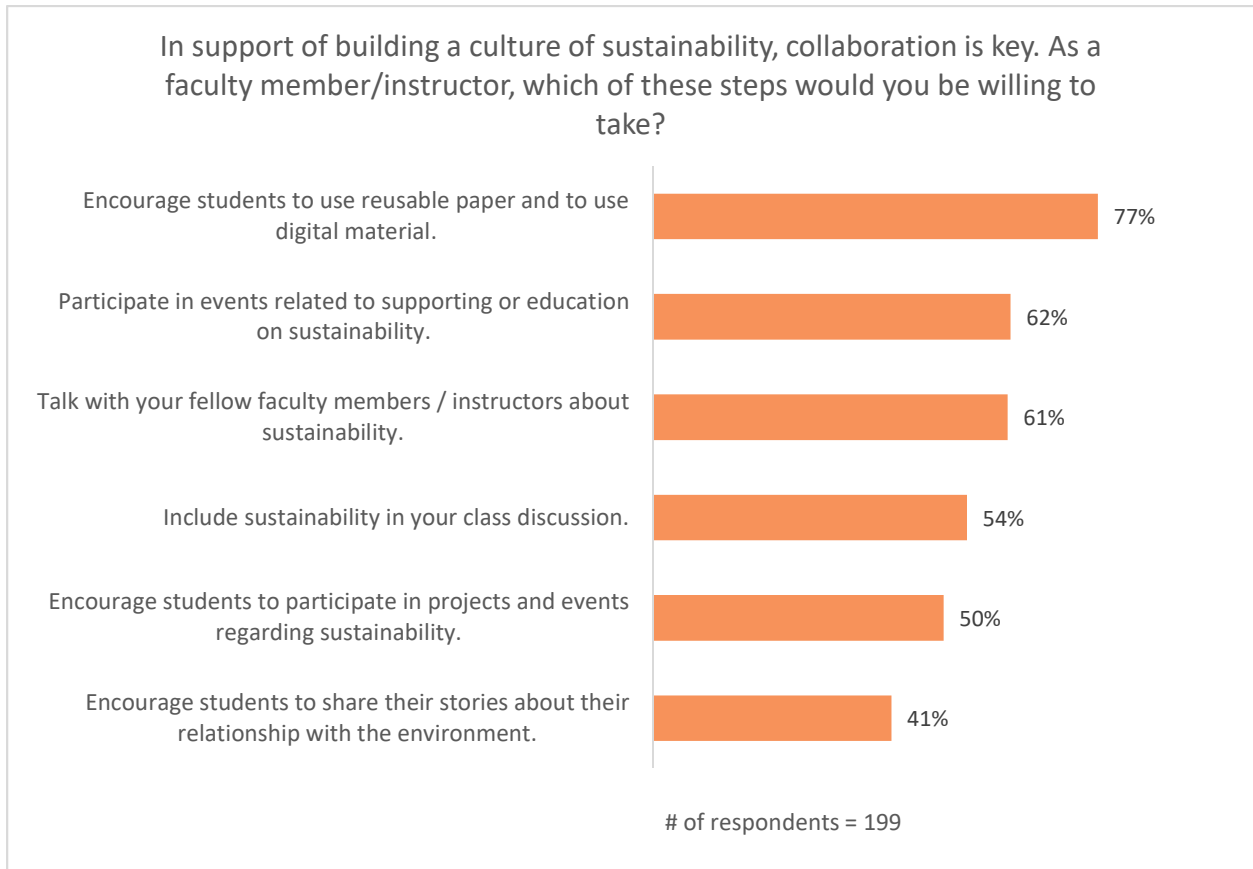
Of 1,824 respondents, 11% of them were faculty members or instructors, and 12% were staff members. New students and returning students accounted for 30% and 47% of the respondents respectively.

	# of respondents	% of respondents
Faculty member or Instructor	199	11%
Staff member	218	12%
New Student	542	30%
Returning Student	865	47%
Total	1,824	100%



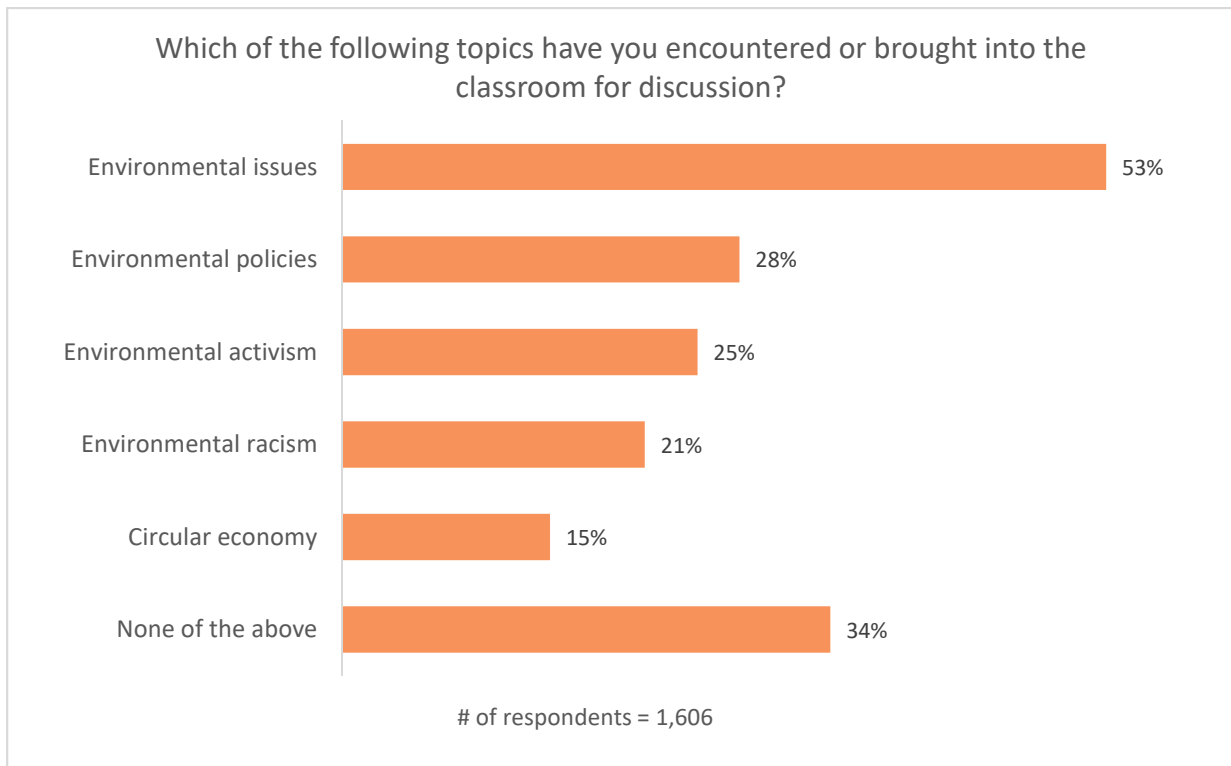
Q2: In support of building a culture of sustainability, collaboration is key. As a faculty member/instructor, which of these steps would you be willing to take?

Only the faculty members and instructors were asked this question. Out of 199 faculty members and instructors, 77% said they would be willing to encourage students to use reusable paper and to use digital material, and 62% said they would participate in events related to supporting or education on sustainability.



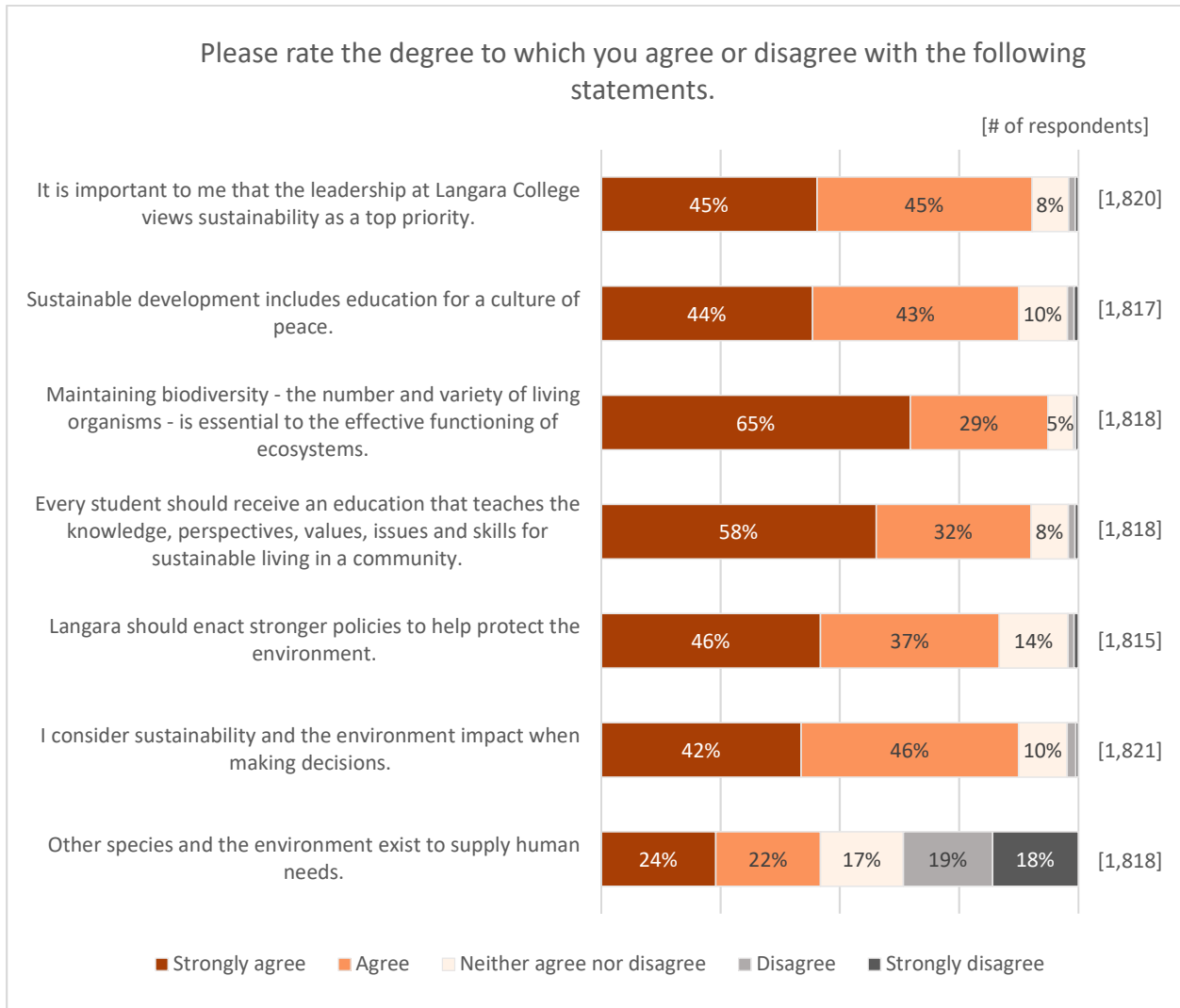
Q3: Which of the following topics have you encountered or brought into the classroom for discussion?

Only the faculty members, instructors and students were asked this question. A majority of the respondents (53%) said they had encountered or brought into the classroom “environmental issues” for discussion. However, 34% of respondents said they had not discussed any of the environment-related topics listed in the survey in the classroom.



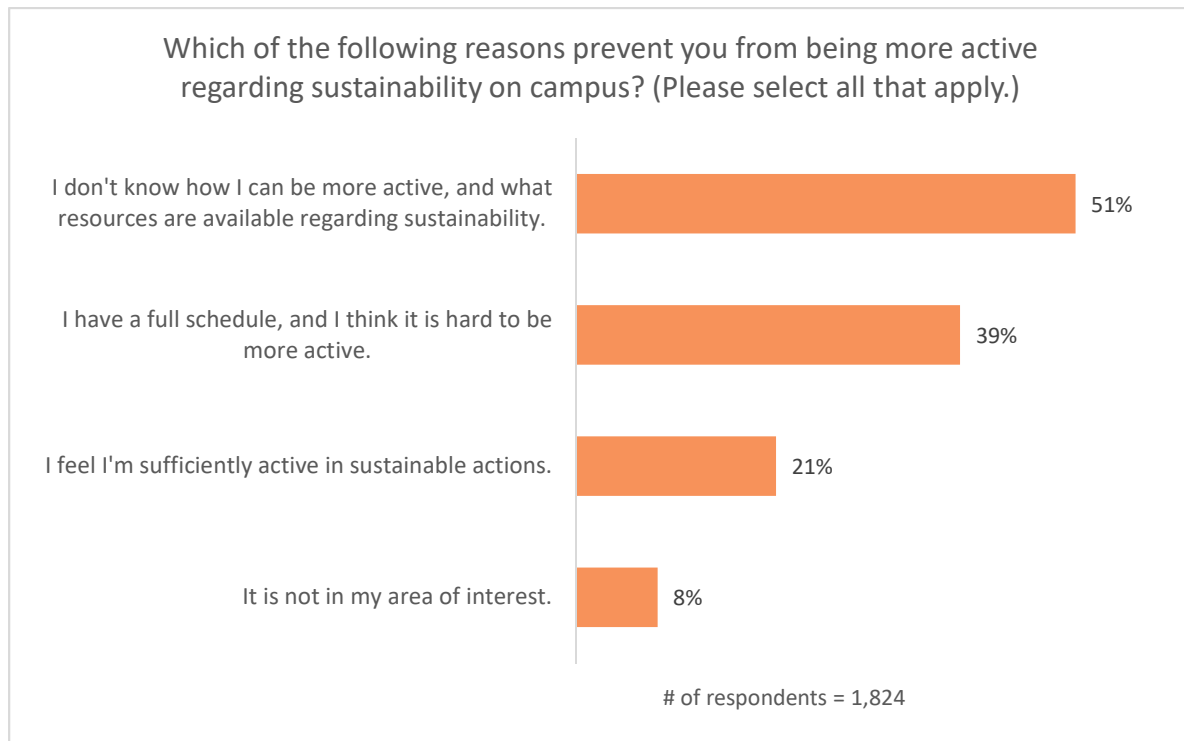
Q4: Please rate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

A majority of respondents (94%) strongly agreed or agreed that maintaining biodiversity - the number and variety of living organisms - is essential to the effective functioning of ecosystems. Also, 90% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that every student should receive an education that teaches the knowledge, perspectives, values, issues and skills for sustainable living in a community.



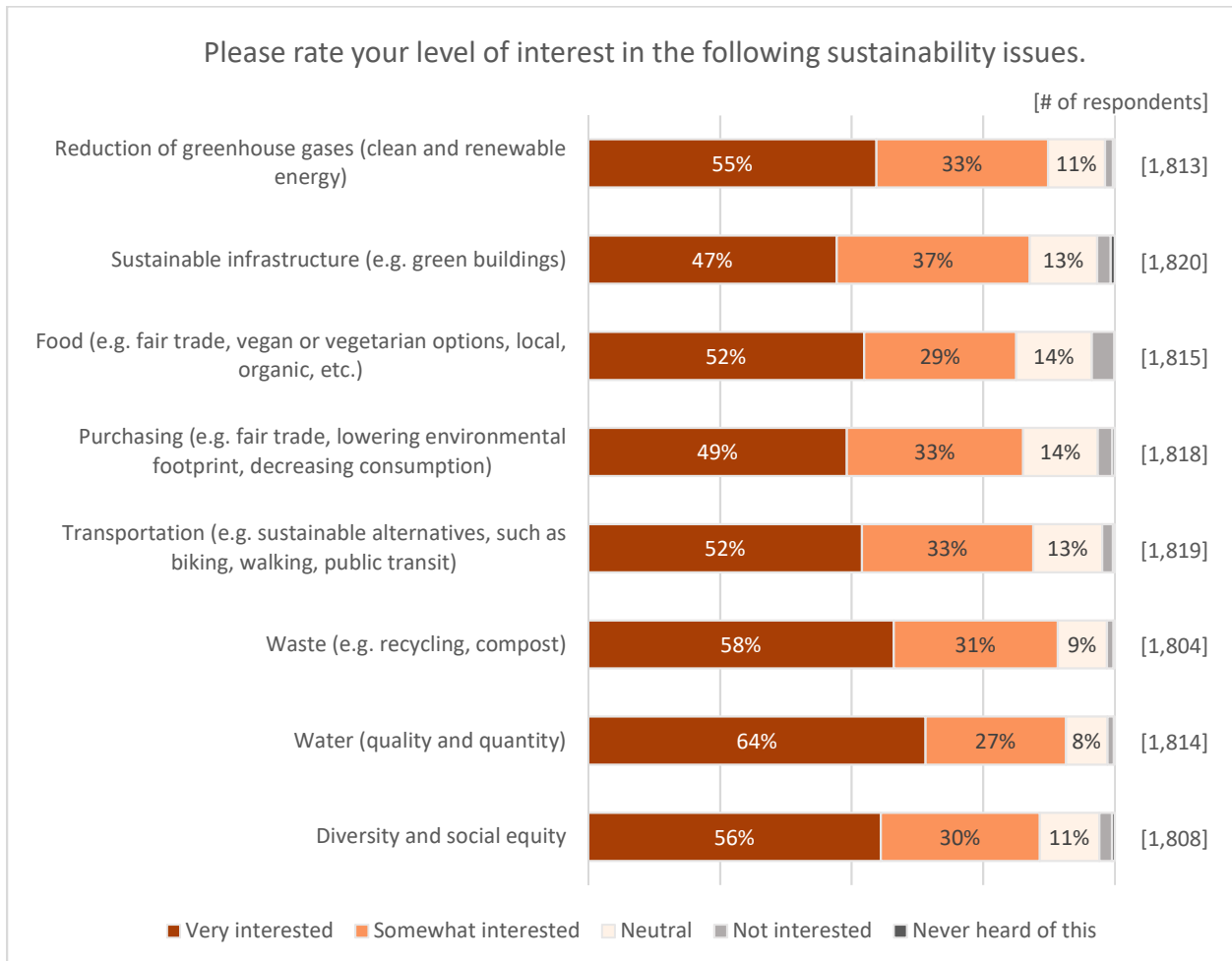
Q5: Which of the following reasons prevent you from being more active regarding sustainability on campus?

The top reason for not being more active regarding sustainability on campus was that respondents did not know how they could be more active, and what resources were available regarding sustainability (51% of respondents). Thirty-nine percent of respondents said they had a full schedule and they thought it was hard to be more active.



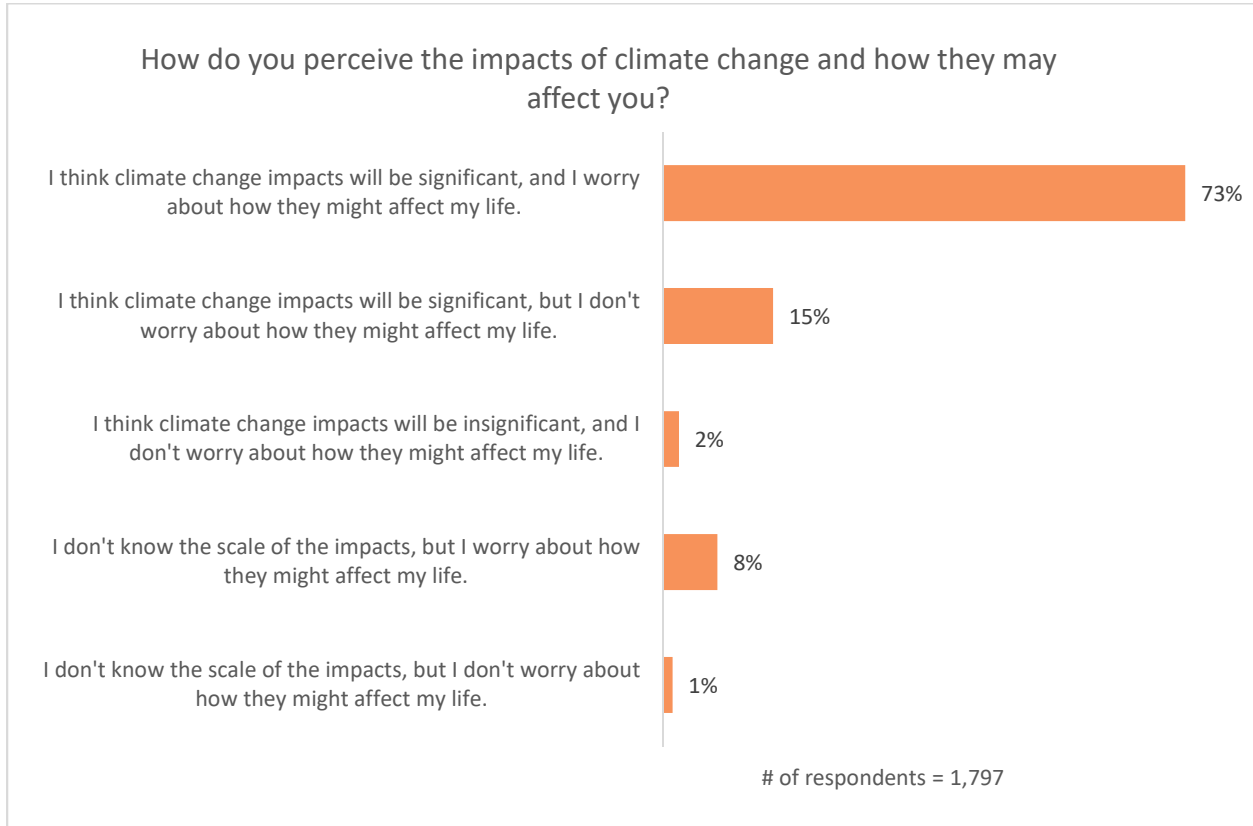
Q6: Please rate your level of interest in the following sustainability issues.

A majority of respondents said they were very interested or somewhat interested in all of the sustainability issues that listed in the survey. The issue that received the highest level of interest was “water (quality and quantity)”; 64% of respondents were very interested and 27% were somewhat interested in this issue. The other key issues included “waste” (58% very interested and 31% somewhat interested) and “reduction of greenhouse gases” (55% very interested and 33% interested).



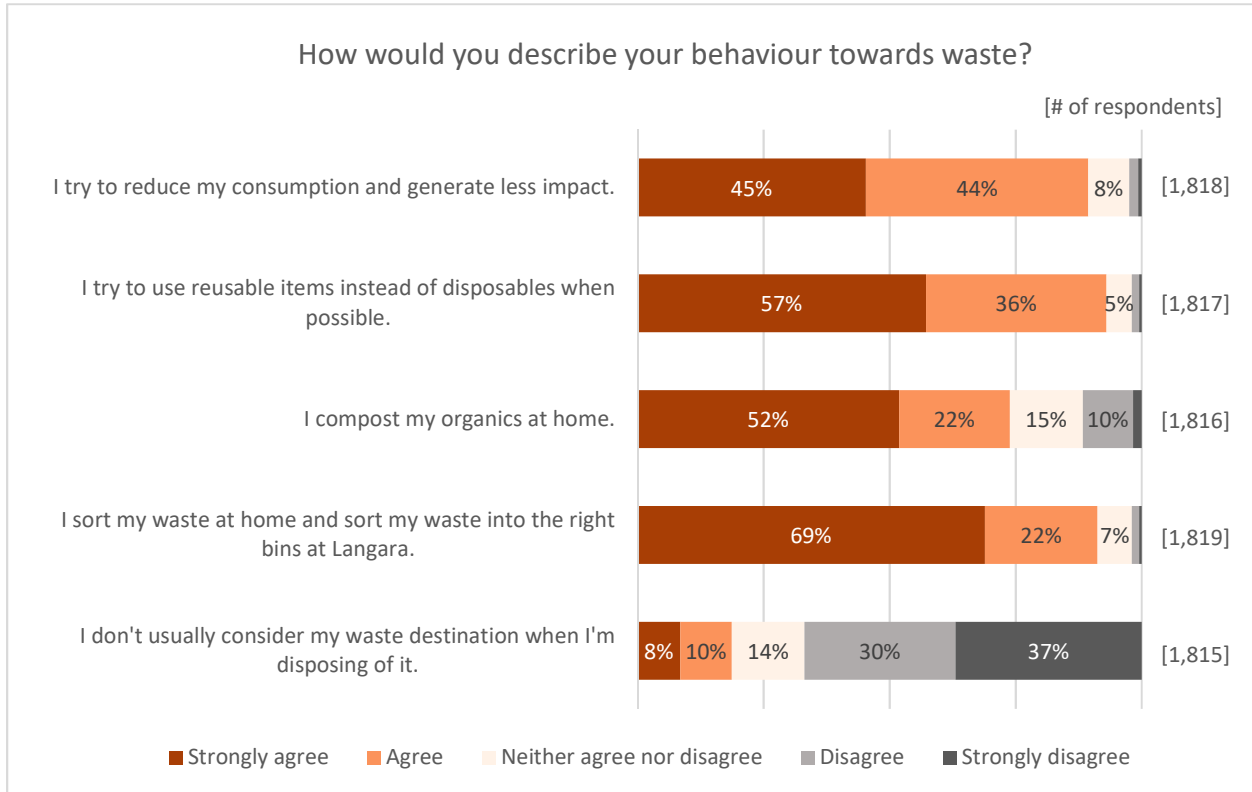
Q7: How do you perceive the impacts of climate change and how they may affect you?

As many as 73% of respondents think that climate change impacts will be significant and they worry about how they might affect their life.



Q8: How would you describe your behaviour towards waste?

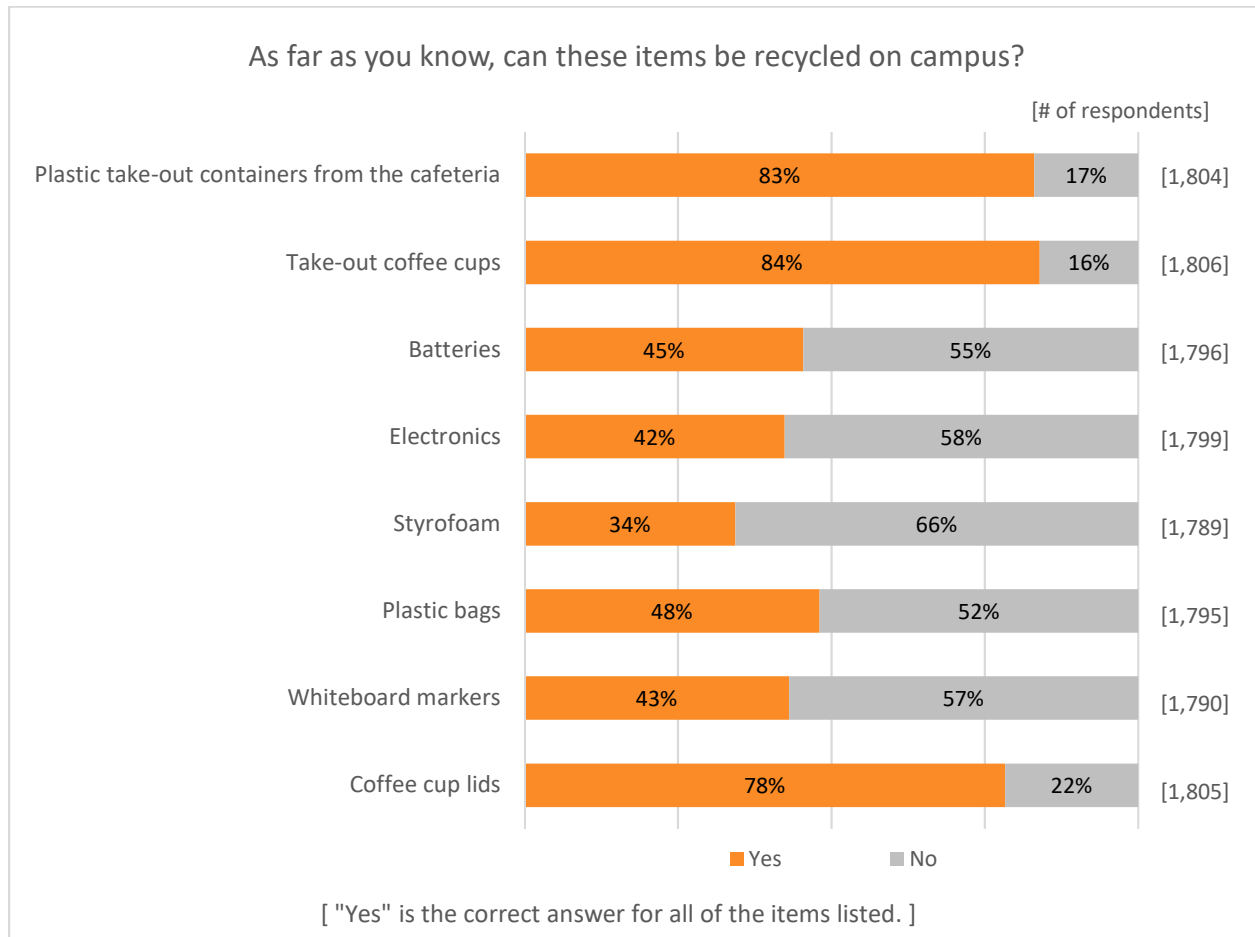
A vast majority of respondents (91%) strongly agreed or agreed that they sorted their waste at home and sorted their waste into the right bins at Langara. Also, 89% of respondents said they tried to reduce their consumption and generate less impact.



Q9: As far as you know, can these items be recycled on campus?

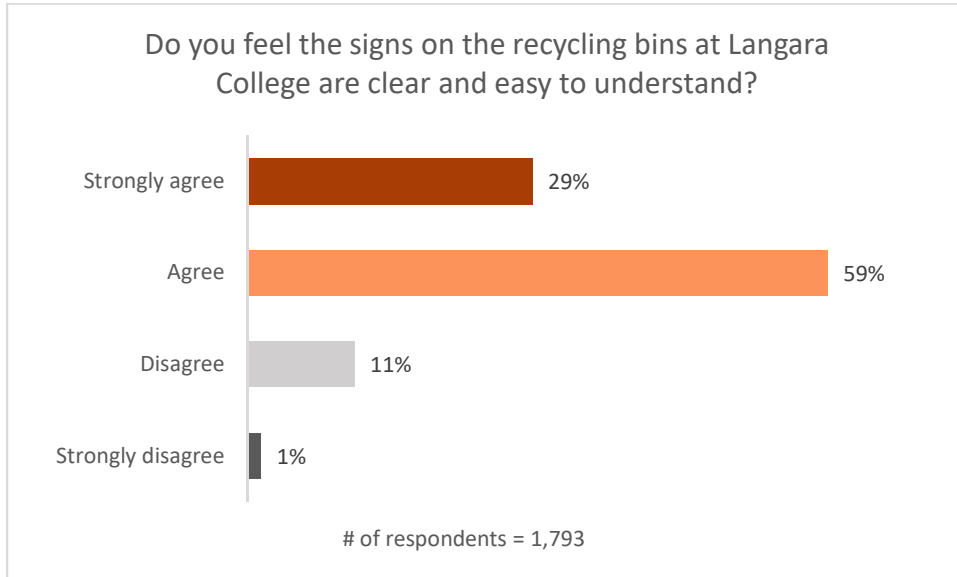
A majority of respondents knew that they could recycle the following items on campus: take-out coffee cups (84%), plastic take-out containers from the cafeteria (83%), and coffee cup lids (78%).

In contrast, less than half of respondents knew that the following items could be recycled on campus: Styrofoam (34%), electronics (42%), whiteboard markers (43%), batteries (45%), and plastic bags (48%).



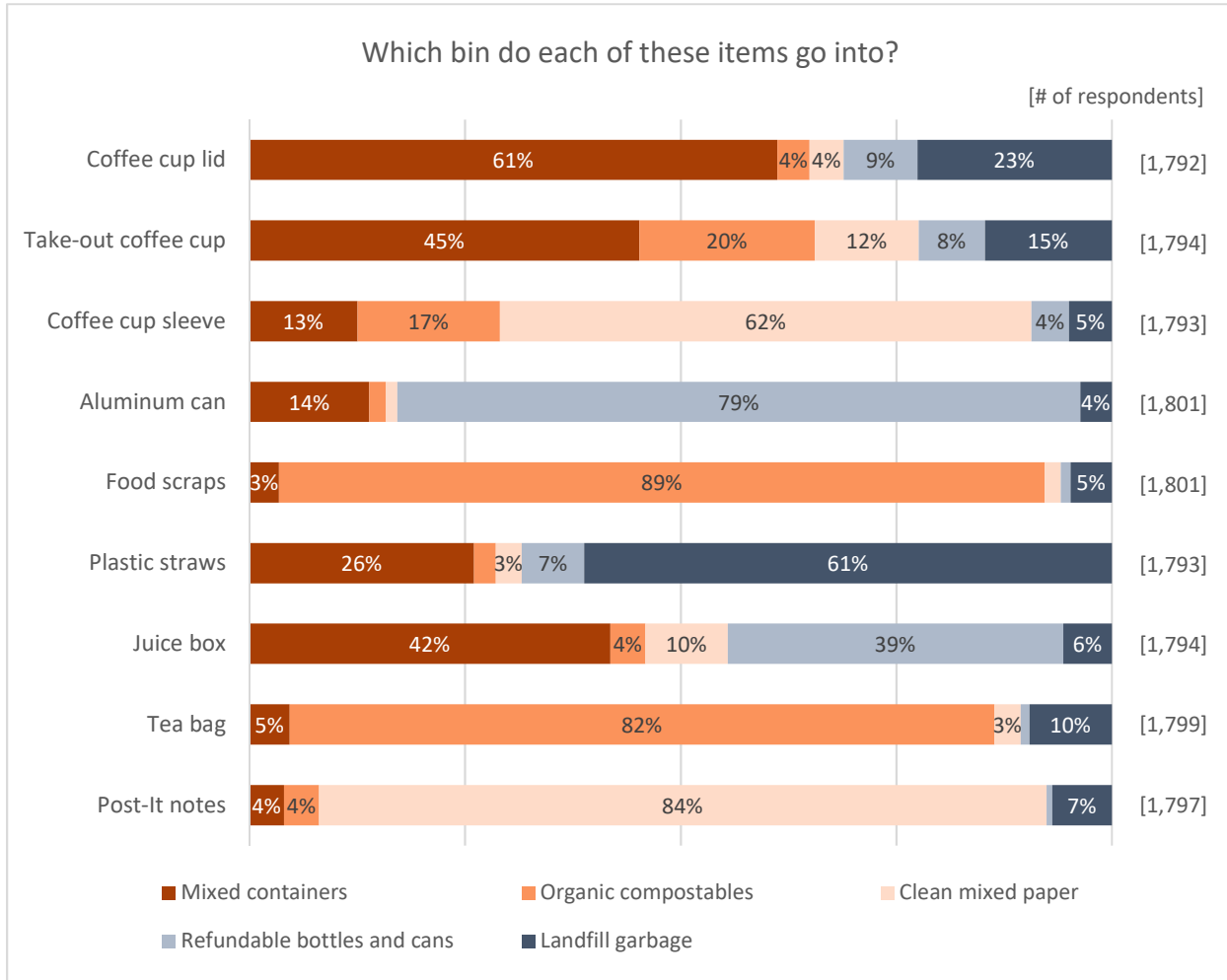
Q10: Do you feel the signs on the recycling bins at Langara College are clear and easy to understand?

A majority of respondents (88%) strongly agree or agree that the signs on the recycling bins at Langara College are clear and easy to understand.



Q11: Which bin do each of these items go into?

Most of the respondents (93%) knew that aluminum cans went into the “refundable bottles and cans” or the “mixed containers” bins. On the other hand, only 61% of respondents knew that plastic straws went into landfill garbage; 26% incorrectly said plastic straws went into the “mixed containers” bins. Also, only 61% of respondents knew that coffee cup lids went into the “mixed containers” bins.



Item	Correct answers	% respondents with correct answers
Coffee cup lid	Mixed containers	61%
Take-out coffee cup	Mixed containers / Organic compostables	66%
Coffee cup sleeve	Clean mixed paper	62%
Aluminum can	Refundable bottles and cans / Mixed containers	93%
Food scraps	Organic compostables	89%
Plastic straws	Landfill garbage	61%
Juice box	Refundable bottles and cans / Mixed containers	81%
Tea bag	Organic compostables	82%
Post-It notes	Clean mixed paper	84%

