

Sustainability Culture Assessment Survey 2023: Results

Background

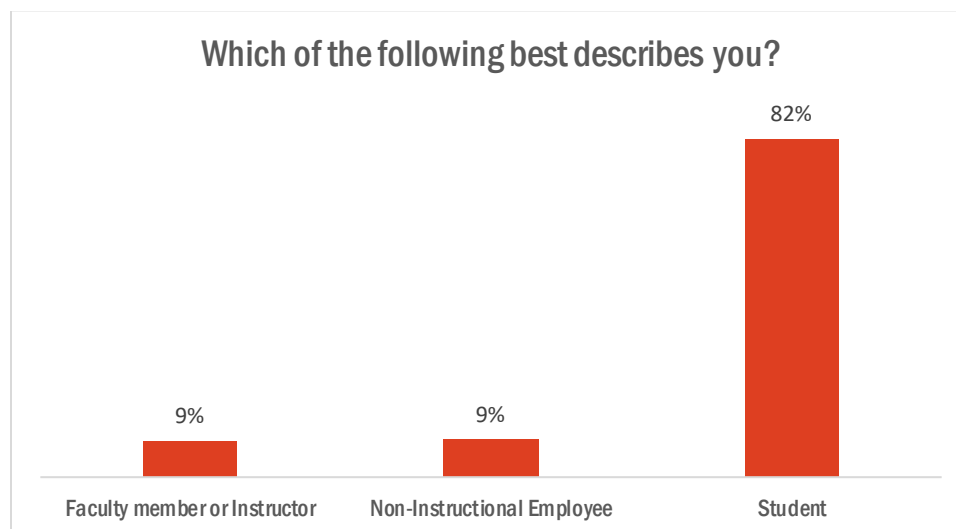
The Sustainability Culture Assessment Survey was open to responses from January 23rd to February 5th, 2023. The survey link was sent out to 2,383 employees and 13,341 students via email. In total, the survey received 2,621 completed responses (469 employees and 2,152 students). The response rate was 19.7% among employees and 16.1% among students. The number of respondents by question may differ from the total number or completed surveys submitted and will be specified for each question.

Survey Results

Q1: Which of the following best describes you?

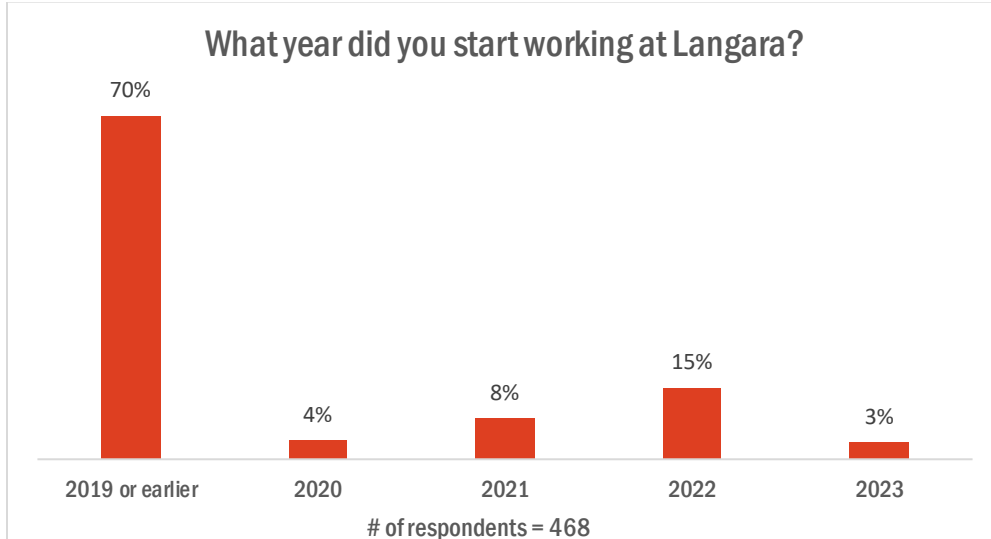
Among respondents, 9% were faculty members or instructors, and 9% were non-instructional employees. On the other hand, the number of student respondents accounted for 82% of all respondents.

	# of respondents	% of respondents
Faculty member or Instructor	232	9%
Non-Instructional Employee	237	9%
Student	2152	82%
Total	2621	100%



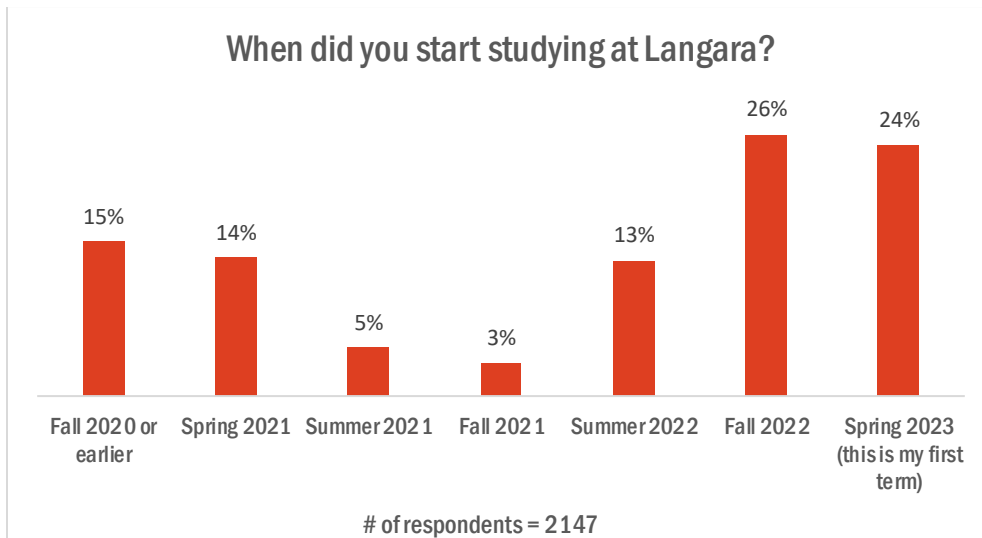
Q2: What year did you start working at Langara?

Only employees were asked what year they started working at Langara. Among respondents, 70% said they started working at Langara in 2019 or earlier. On the other hand, 3% stated they started working at Langara in 2023.



Q3: When did you start studying at Langara?

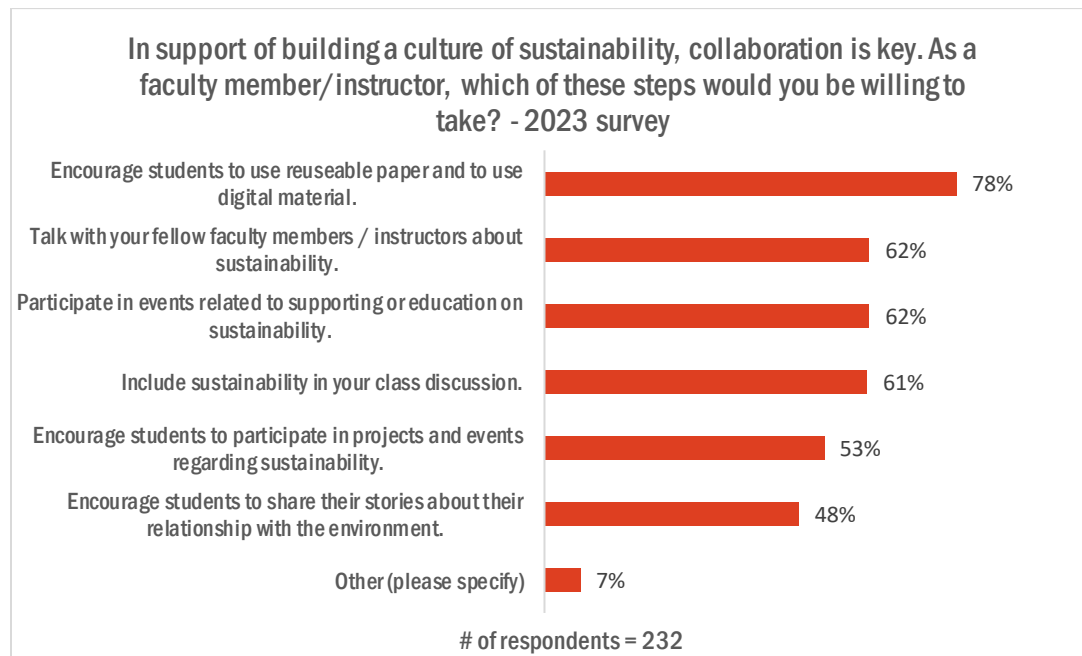
Only students were asked when they started studying at Langara. Among student respondents, 26% stated they started studying at Langara in Fall 2022; this was the highest proportion among all options. In contrast, 3% stated they started studying at Langara in Fall 2021; this was the lowest proportion among all options.



Q4: 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?

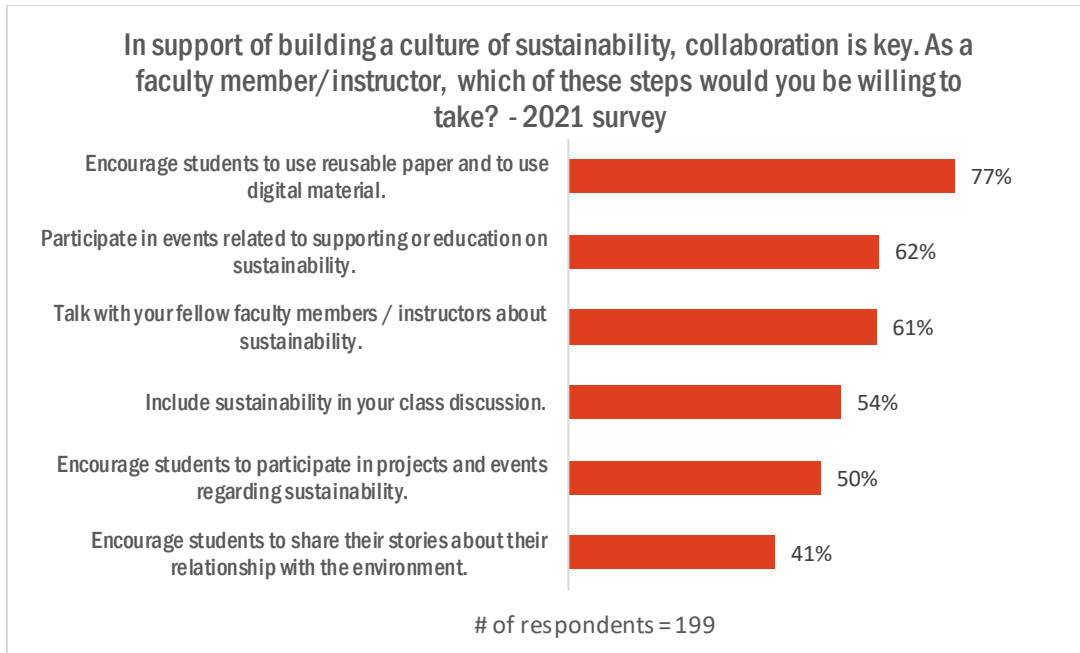
Only the faculty members or instructors were asked if they would be willing to take collaboration steps in support of building a culture of sustainability. Among faculty members and instructors, 78% said they would be willing to encourage students to use reusable paper and to use digital material. This is the highest proportion among all options.

On the other hand, 48% said they would encourage students to share their stories about their relationship with the environment. This is the lowest proportion among all options.



A total of 16 respondents in 2023 selected “Other” and wrote in a response. Of these, common themes included the actions that respondents would be willing to take such as incorporating sustainability into their curriculum, encouraging students to investigate sustainability topics into their research, and offering workshops on environmental sustainability. Some respondents noted that because of their position that they did not interact with students, while others expressed frustration with the current state of sustainability efforts at the College.

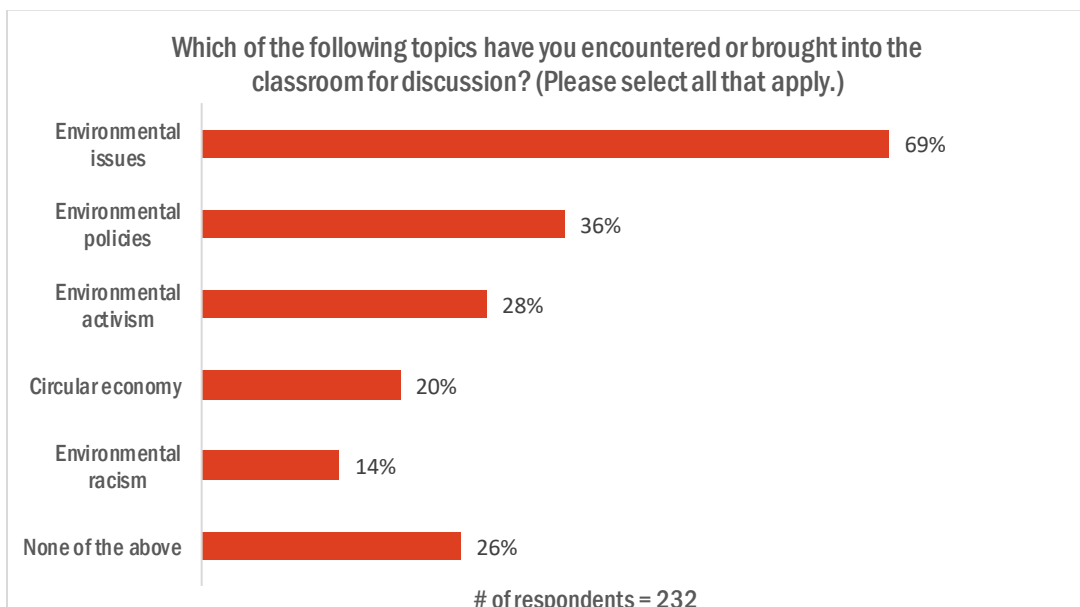
In the 2021 Sustainability Culture Survey, faculty member and instructor respondents selected the same top and bottom steps in support of building a culture of sustainability. Compared to 2021 results, the 2023 respondents were more likely willing to encourage students to use reusable paper and to use digital material (the highest proportion at 77%) and more likely willing to encourage students to share their stories about their relationship with the environment (the lowest proportion at 41%).



Q5: Which of the following topics have you encountered or brought into the classroom for discussion? (Please select all that apply.)

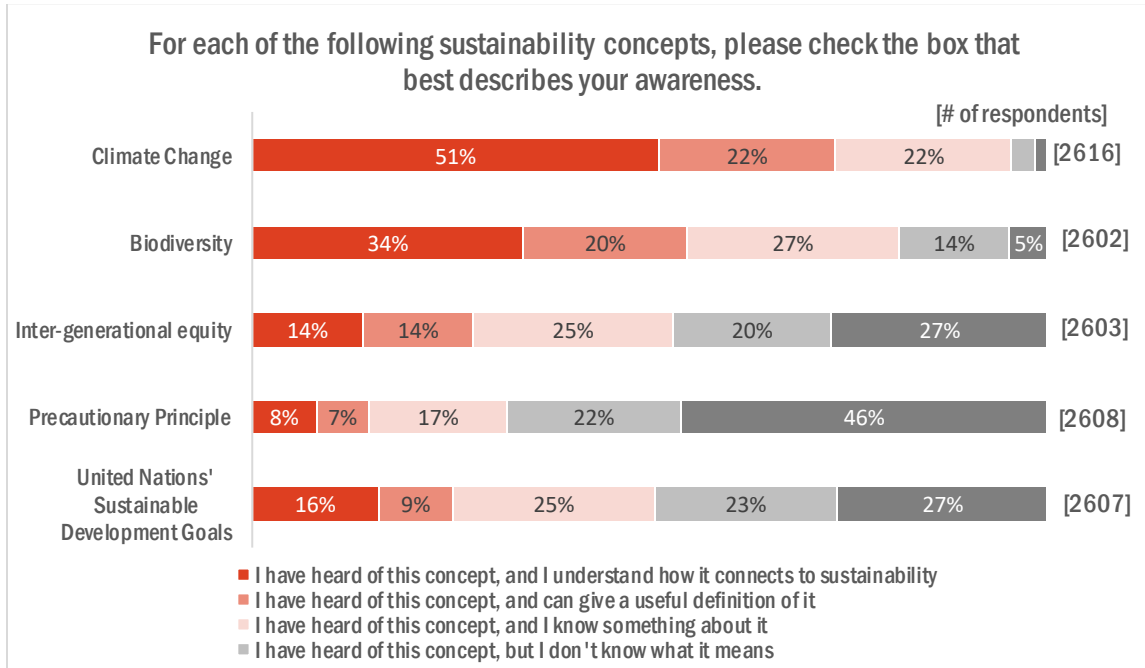
Only faculty members or instructors were asked which topics they had encountered or brought into the classroom for discussion. The majority of respondents (69%) said they had encountered or brought into the classroom “Environment Issues” for discussion; this was the highest proportion among all topics.

On the other hand, among respondents, 26% stated they had not discussed any of the environment-related topics listed in the survey in the classroom, while 14% of respondents said “Environmental racism” had been encountered or brought into the classroom for discussion; this was the lowest proportion among all topics.



Q6: For each of the following sustainability concepts, please check the box that best describes your awareness.

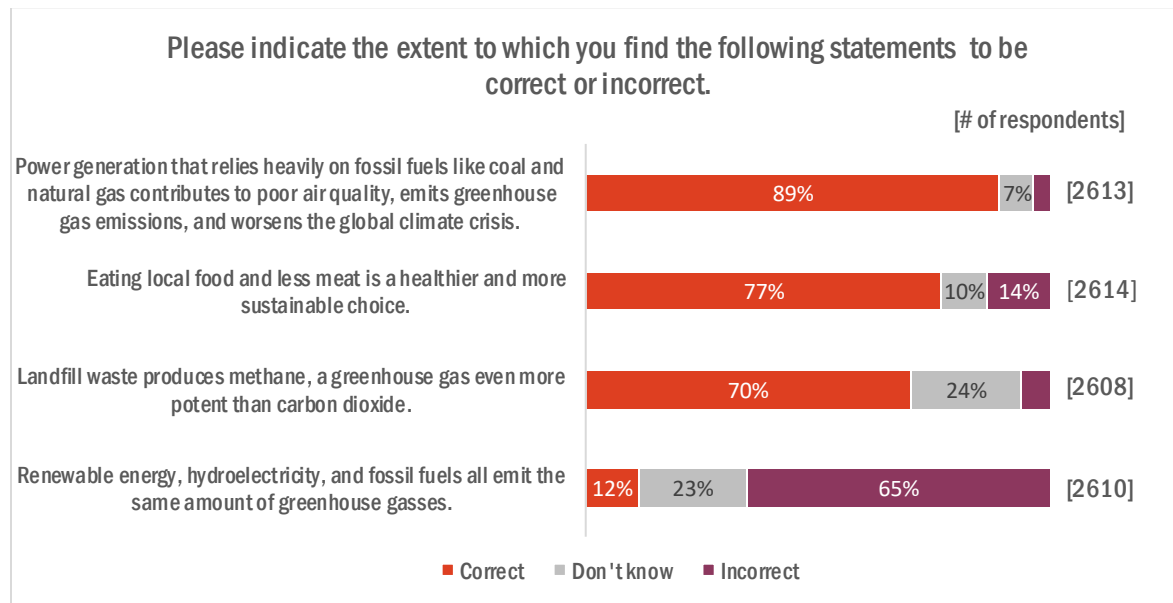
Respondents were asked to describe their awareness for each of the below sustainability concepts. Among respondents, a majority (51%) said they have heard of “Climate Change”, and they understand how it connects to sustainability. On the other hand, 46% of respondents stated they had heard of the “Precautionary Principle” concept, but they did not know what it means.



Q7: Please indicate the extent to which you find the following statements to be correct or incorrect.

Respondents were asked if these statements were correct or incorrect. In all cases, majority of respondents found most of statement to be correct. Eighty-nine percent of respondents found the statement “Power generation that relies heavily on fossil fuels like coal and natural gas contributes to poor air quality, emits greenhouse gas emissions, and worsens the global climate crisis” to be correct; this was the highest proportion among all correct options.

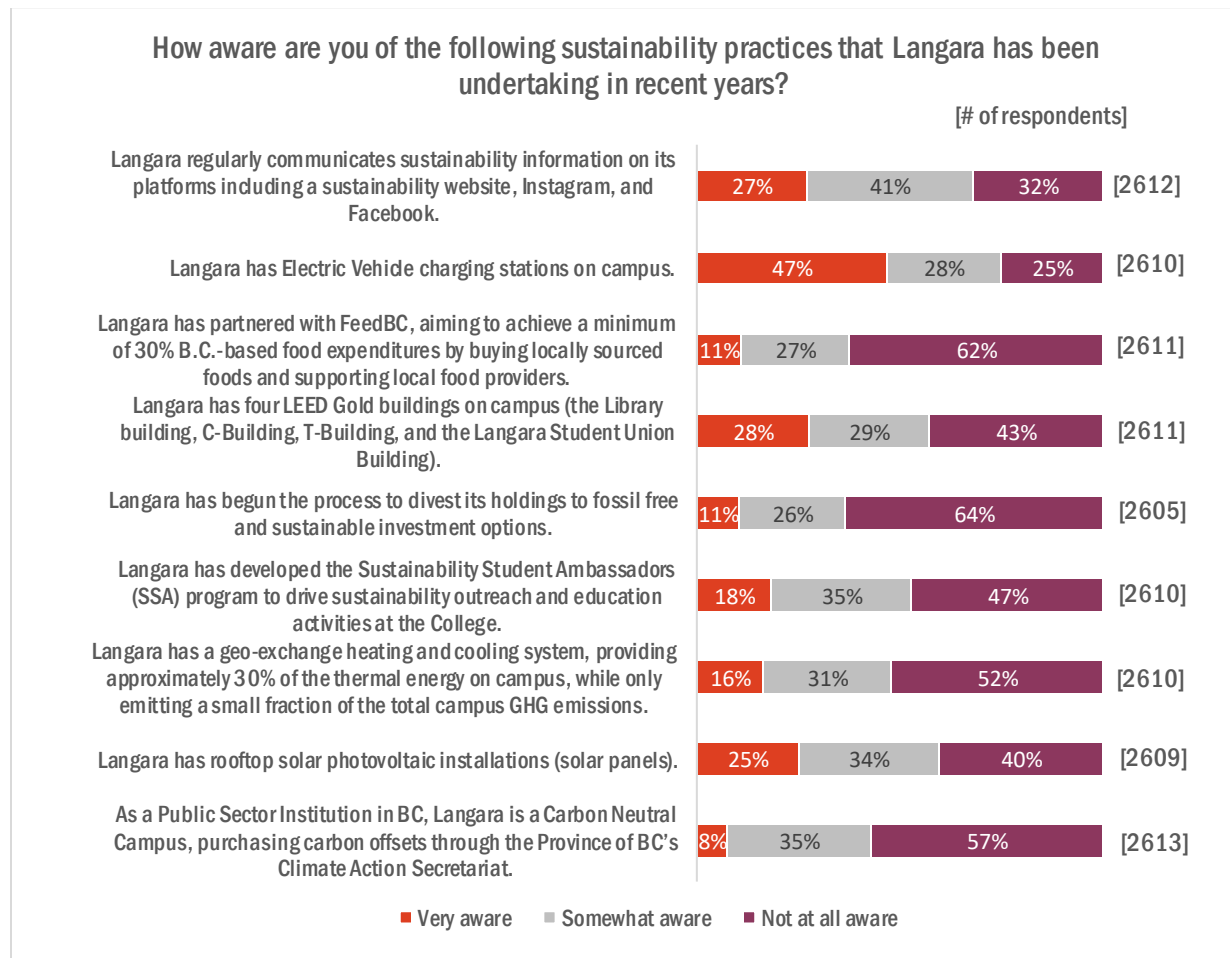
On the other hand, the majority of respondents (65%) found the statement “Renewable energy, hydroelectricity, and fossil fuels all emit the same amount of greenhouse gasses” to be incorrect.



Q8: How aware are you of the following sustainability practices that Langara has been undertaking in recent years?

Respondents were asked how aware they were of the sustainability practices that Langara has been undertaking in recent years. The majority of respondents stated they were not aware at all of these sustainability practices: “Langara has begun the process to divest its holdings to fossil free and sustainable investment options”, “Langara has partnered with FeedBC, aiming to achieve a minimum of 30% B.C.-based food expenditures by buying locally sourced foods and supporting local food providers” with 64% and 62% of respondents, respectively.

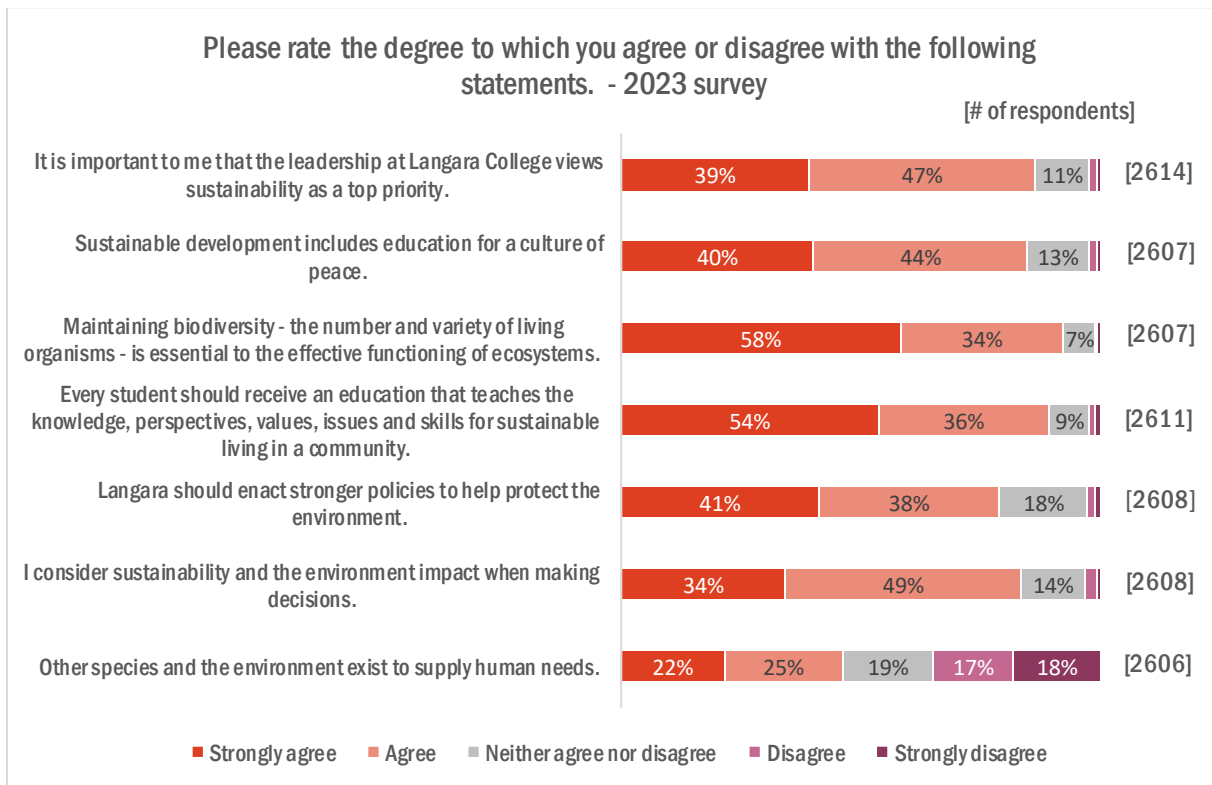
On the other hand, 47% of respondents stated they were very aware with “Langara has Electric Vehicle charging station on campus” practices.



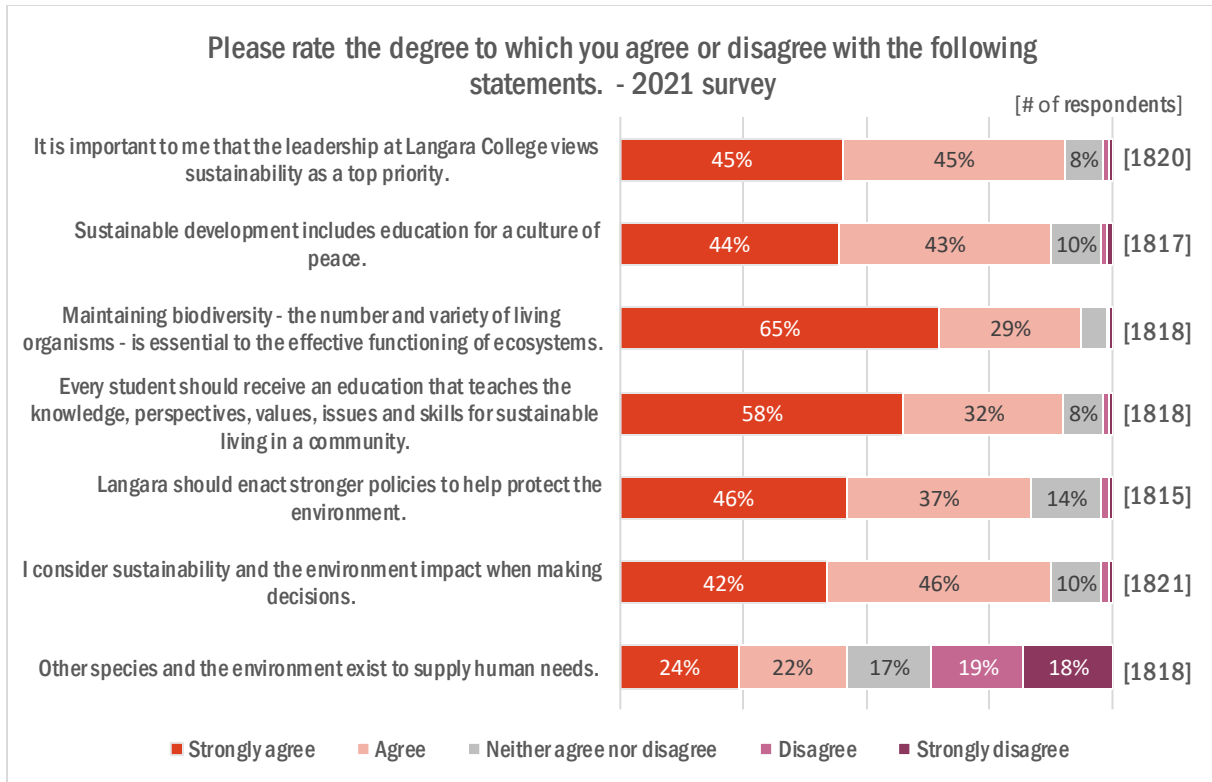
Q9: Please rate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with these statements. Most respondents strongly agreed or agreed with most of statements. The statement “Maintaining biodiversity – the number and variety of living organisms – is essential to the effective functioning of ecosystems” was strongly agreed or agreed by the majority of respondents (92%). It was followed by the statement “Every student should receive an education that teaches the knowledge, perspectives, values, issues and skills for sustainable living in a community” with 90% of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed.

In contrasts, 35% of respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement “Other species and the environment exist to supply human needs”.



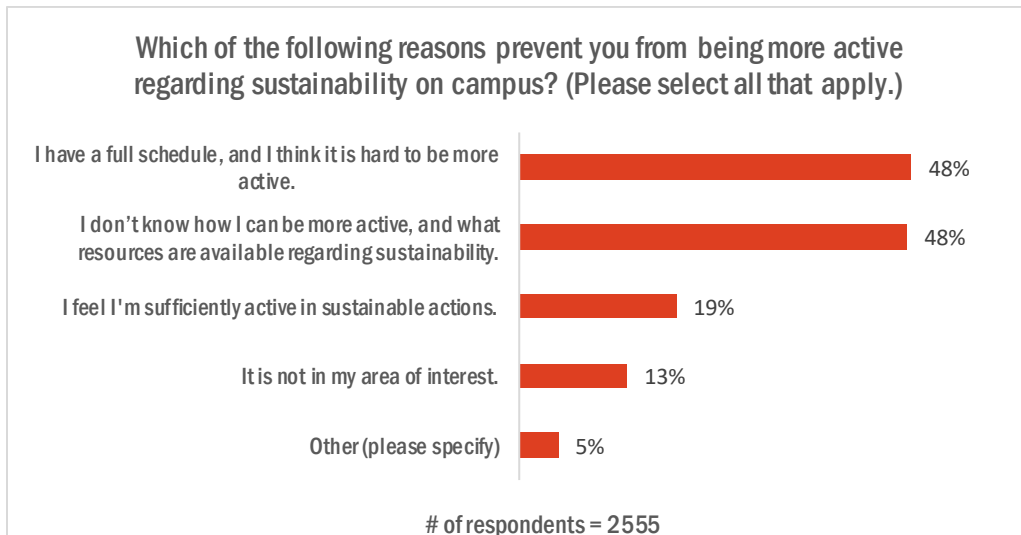
Similarly, in the 2021 survey, a majority respondents strongly agreed or agreed with most of options. Compared to 2021 survey, the 2023 survey respondents strongly agreed or agreed that maintaining biodiversity is essential to the effective functioning of ecosystems slightly less (92% in 2023 compared to 94% in 2021). Additionally, a lower proportion of 2023 survey respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed that other species and the environment exist to supply human needs, compared to 2021 survey (35% in 2023 compared to 37% in 2021).



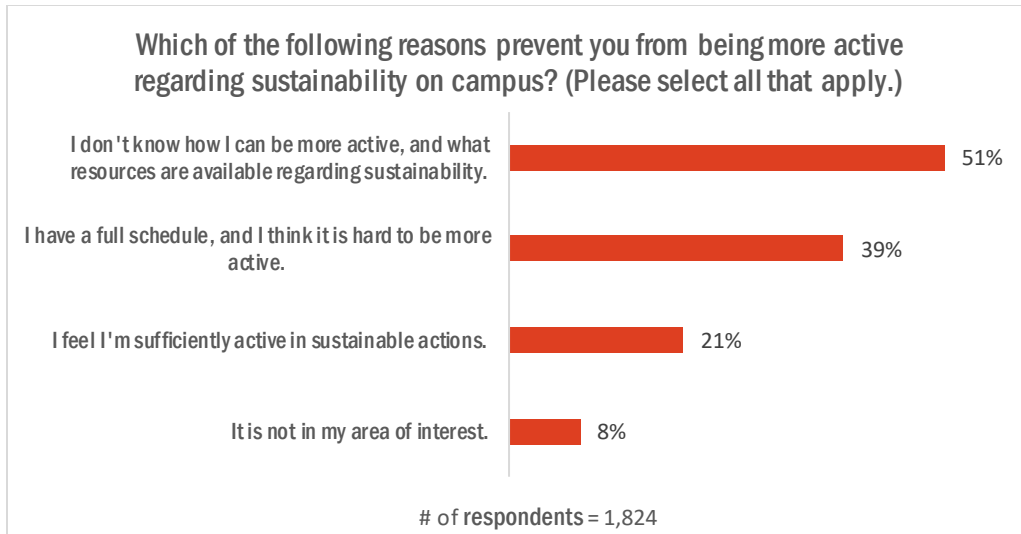
Q10: Which of the following reasons prevent you from being more active regarding sustainability on campus? (Please select all that apply.)

Respondents were asked the reasons that prevent them from being more active regarding sustainability on campus. Among respondents, 48% stated that “I have a full schedule, and I think it is hard to be more active”, and “I don’t know how I can be more active, and what resources are available regarding sustainability.” These were the most selected among all options.

On the other hand, 13% stated “It is not in my area of interest” as a reason preventing them from being more active regarding sustainability on campus. A total of 124 respondents selected “Other” and wrote in a response to indicate the reasons that prevent them from being more active regarding sustainability on campus. Of these, common reasons included personal circumstances (e.g., demographic, remotely mode such as online students, financial); lack of awareness or did not understand how to get involved, and systemic barriers. However, there were respondents express a desire to be more involved in sustainability efforts or already involved in related activities outside of campus.



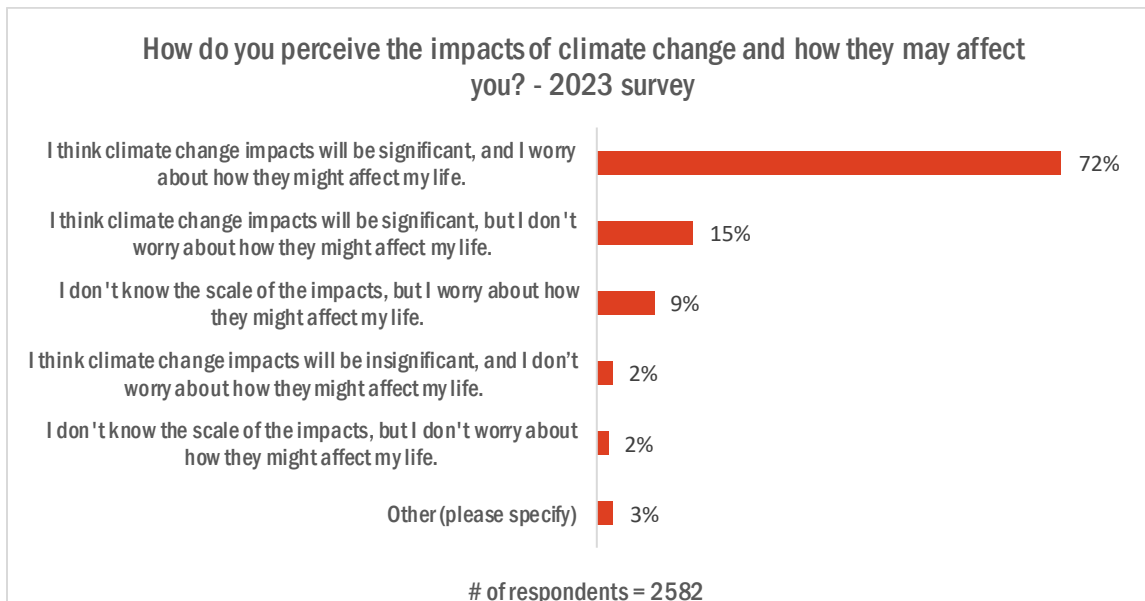
In the 2021 survey, respondents selected the same top two reasons preventing them from being more active regarding sustainability on campus. Compared to the 2021 survey, 2023 respondents were more likely to say it was not in their area of interest (13% compared in 2023 compared to 8% in 2021).



Q11: How do you perceive the impacts of climate change and how they may affect you?

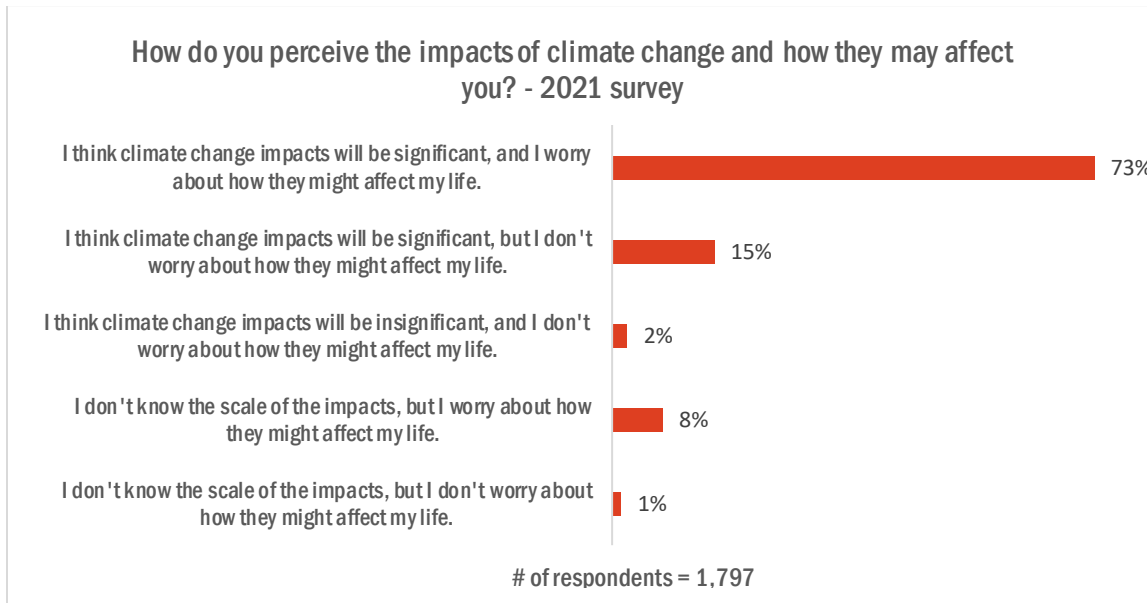
Respondents were asked how they perceived the impacts of climate change. Most respondents (72%) stated “I think climate change impacts will be significant, and I worry about how they might affect my life”. This was the highest proportion among all options.

In contrast, very few respondents selected “I don’t know the scale of the impacts, but I don’t worry about how they might affect my life”, and “I think climate change impacts will be insignificant, and I don’t worry about how they might affect my life” (2% and 2% respectively). These statements were the least selected among all options.



A total of 68 respondents selected “Other” and wrote in a response. Of these, common themes included concerns about the negative effects of climate change (e.g., the impact on air quality, the ecosystem, and people); the important of taking global action and suggestion to combat climate change.

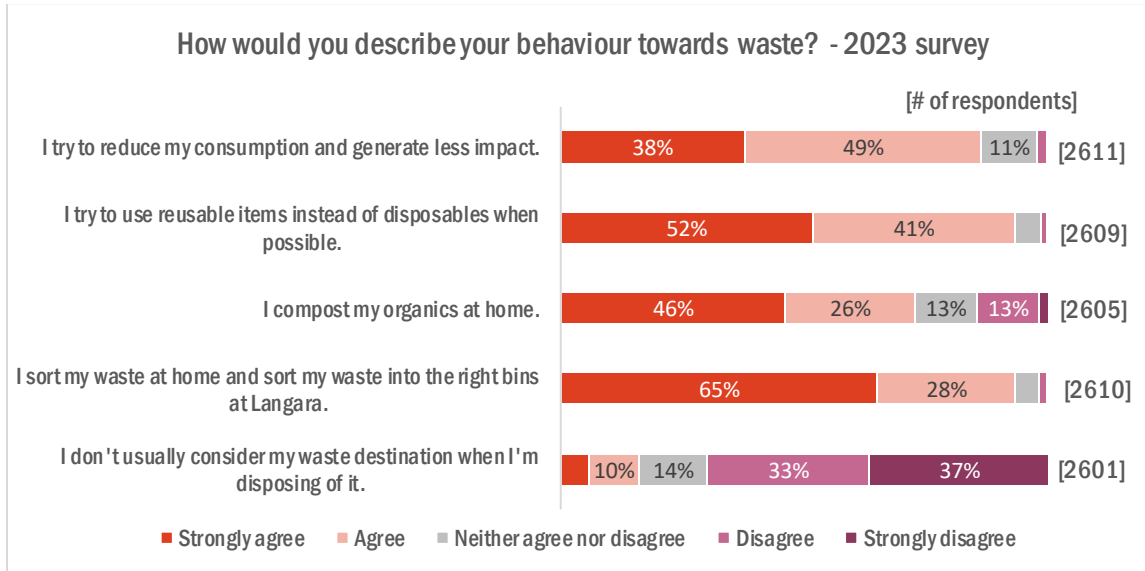
In the 2021 survey, respondents selected the same top three choices regarding how they perceive the impacts of climate change and how the impacts may affect them.



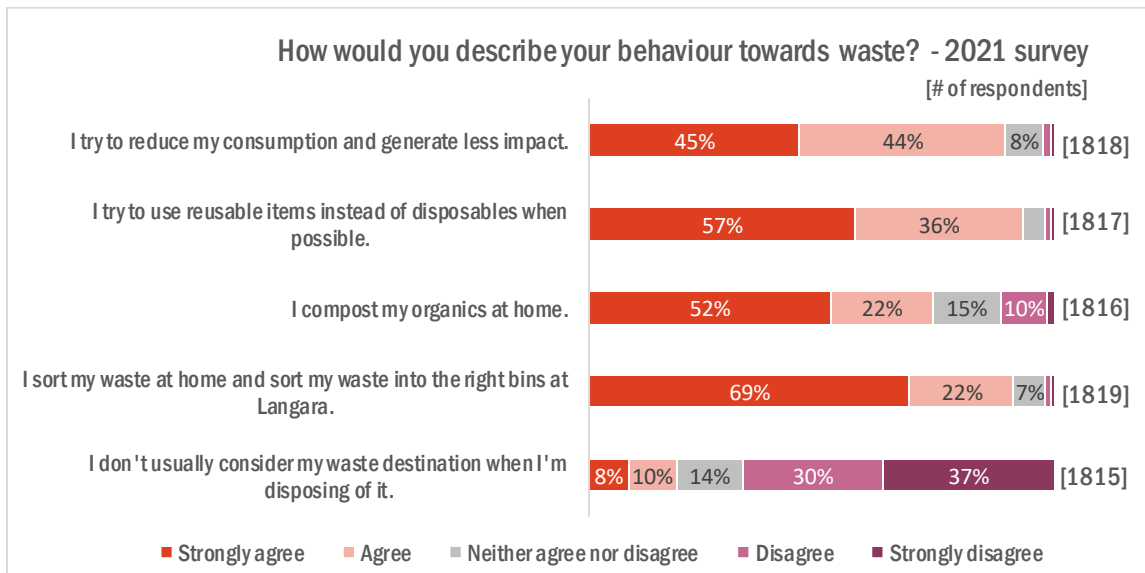
Q12: How would you describe your behaviour towards waste?

Respondents were asked how they described their behaviour towards waste. Most respondents (93%) strongly agreed or agreed with “I sort my waste at home and sort my waste into the right bins at Langara”, and “I try to use reusable items instead of disposables when possible.” These were the highest positive proportions among all options.

In contrast, 16% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with “I don’t usually consider my waste destination when I’m disposing of it”, while 70% of respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with this option.



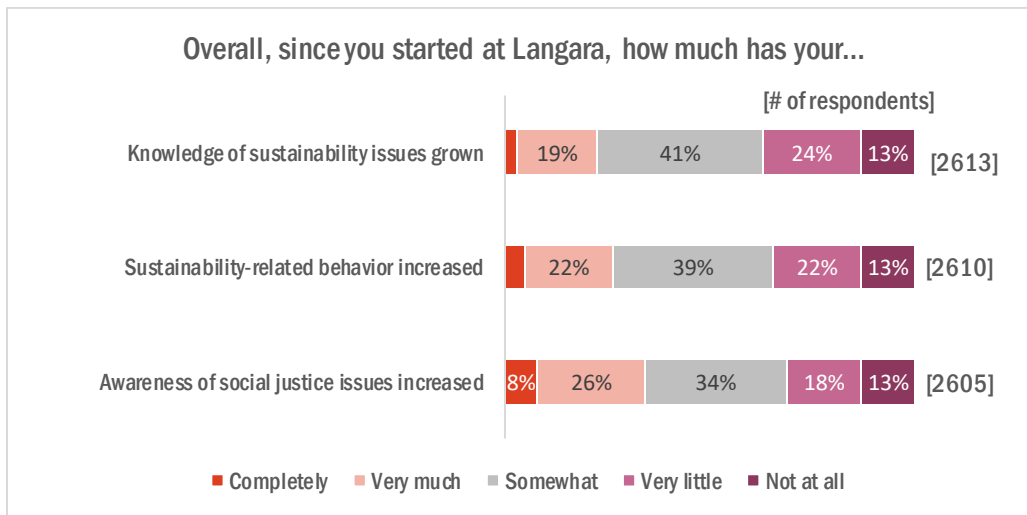
Compared to 2021 survey, 2023 respondents more strongly agreed or agreed that they try to use reusable items instead of disposables when possible (93% in 2023 compared to 89% in 2021).



Q13: Overall, since you started at Langara, how much has your...

Respondents were asked to describe how their knowledge of sustainability issues, awareness of social justice issues, and sustainability-related behaviors have changed since they started at Langara. Thirty-four percent of respondents stated their awareness of social justice issues increased completely or very much, while 31% of respondents stated their awareness of social justice issues increased very little or not at all. Moreover, 22% of respondents stated their knowledge of sustainability issues had grown completely or very much, while 37% of respondents stated their knowledge of sustainability issues grown very little or not at all.

In addition, regarding sustainability-related behavior, 27% of respondents stated they increased completely or very much since starting at Langara, while 35% stated they increased very little or not at all.



Q14: What sustainability areas do you think Langara should focus on in the future? Please choose three.

Respondents were asked to state what sustainability areas they think Langara should focus on in the future. In all cases, 37% of respondents selected “Increasing energy efficiency and lowering GHG emissions associated with buildings and facilities” and “Increasing support for local food producers and achieve Fair Trade Campus designation” as the sustainability areas they thought Langara should focus on in the future; there were the highest ranked selections among all options.

On the other hand, 16% of respondents selected “Pursuing Zero Waste certification” as the sustainability areas they thought Langara should focus on in the future; this was the lowest proportion among all options.

