

# **REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

**Policy Committee, October 13, 2023**



# ED-CEO INTRODUCTION

- **NOACA launched the Regional Climate Action Plan in early 2022**
- **Partner financial support from Cleveland Foundation and George Gund Foundation (\$50,000 each)**
- **United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program – Partnership with City of Cleveland (\$1,000,000)**
- **NOACA joined ICLEI-USA and retained the organization to devise the GHG Inventory Report and mitigation & adaptation strategies**
- **Seek full engagement from the public at-large and Policy Committee to support this effort**
- **Joel Ratner Community Partnership was also retained to conduct outreach engagements**



# ACTION REQUESTED

No action requested.

## PREVIOUS ACTION

NOACA staff has provided quarterly updates on climate action planning to the Policy Committee.



# OVERVIEW

- **Community Engagement Sessions**
- **Climate Fresks**
- **Online Input**
- **Next Steps**



JOEL RATNER COMMUNITY



PARTNERSHIP

ENGAGING & TRANSFORMING

# *NOACA Climate Action Planning* Community Engagement Process

Presentation to NOACA Committees

Oct. 13, 2023

# *Public Outreach*



A TOTAL OF 29  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS



2 WORKSHOPS



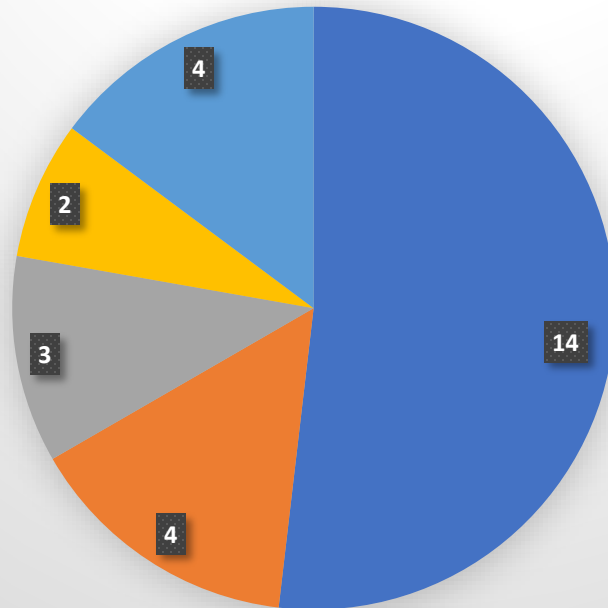
25 SESSIONS COMPLETED



2 ADDITIONAL SESSIONS  
SCHEDULED FOR LAKE  
COUNTY

# Where We Met People

Engagement Workshops



■ Cuyahoga

■ Lorain

■ Medina

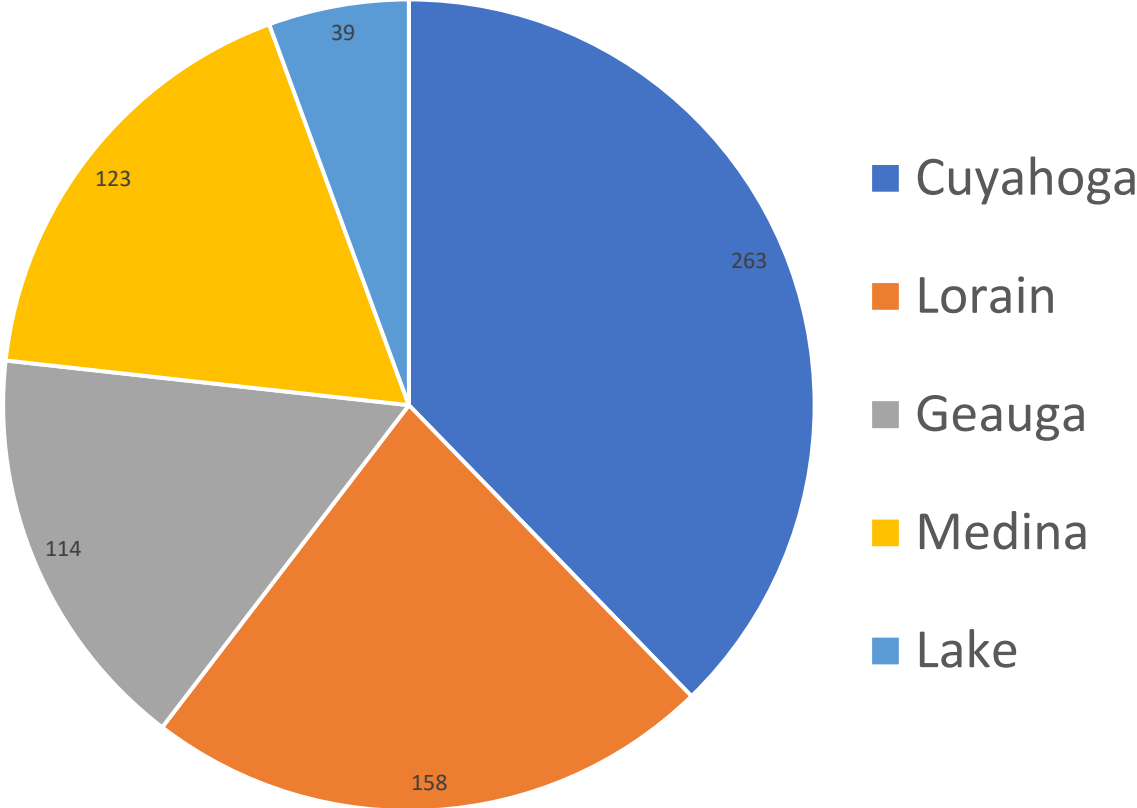
■ Geauga

■ Lake



# Where We Met People

Participants by County



# Total People Who Participated

697 People  
Participated

563 Returned  
a  
Questionnaire

80% Response  
from  
Participants



## Overall Support for a Plan

- 452 Questionnaires were responsive and did not question Climate Change
- 101 Either questioned whether Climate Change was occurring, or whether it was impacted by human activity or disagreed that NOACA should be doing Climate Action Planning
- 82% of those who completed a survey responsive and supportive of NOACA Climate Action Planning



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## Some Themes We are Hearing From the 82% of Participants Who Are Supportive of Climate Action Planning

- **Extreme and unpredictable weather**
- **Air quality**
- **Concern about inaction**
- **Changing seasons/ impacts on trees and nature**
- **The future for the next generations**

# Extreme and Unpredictable Weather

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Many participants noted recent erratic thunderstorms and expressed concerns that included both economic and safety concerns. An increase in power outages was mentioned often and many were worried about the implications of unreliable power to homes, businesses, schools, etc.





# Air Quality

Both in the questionnaires and in the conversations, many participants talked about the low air quality earlier this summer due to the Canadian wildfires. Many participants discussed health impacts that they or their families had experienced. A number of participants have concerns about air quality in the future.



# Concern About Inaction



A large number of participants expressed concern that the U.S., the planet, and we in Northeast Ohio are not acting quickly or strongly enough to respond to climate change.



## Changing seasons/ impacts on trees and nature

Frequently in discussions and in writing, participants demonstrated concern about how seasonal changes might impact life in Northeast Ohio. Many mentioned crops or gardens that they tend and are worried by unexpected seasonal differences. Many wondered what this would mean for our lawns and gardens and trees, but a number also wondered about the safety of our regular food supply.





# The future for the next generations

It was common to hear participants talk about their children and grandchildren and future generations and wonder what the earth they would inherit would be like. Many were worried about the viability of their current lifestyle for the next generations.





## Some Themes We are Hearing from the 18% Who are Not Supportive of Climate Action Planning


- **The Climate is not changing**
- **Humans are not responsible for any changes, but instead we are witnessing natural weather variability**
- **NOACA is the problem and should not be involved in Climate Action Planning**





## The Climate is not changing

Some argued that the climate goes through significant changes and always has and that we don't have enough data to determine that there is climate change.



Humans are not responsible for any changes, but instead we are witnessing natural weather variability

- These participants suggested that any changes that have taken place are part of natural weather cycles and that the weather naturally fluctuates.
- Many mentioned chemtrails and suggested that any changes in the weather have been caused by Federal governmental action.



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NOACA is the problem and should not be involved in Climate Action Planning

Some participants stated that the process is a waste of resources and part of an inappropriate agenda by NOACA.



# Next Steps



Two More Engagement Sessions



Draft Report



Communicate with Engagement  
Session Participants on Planning  
Process





# BACKGROUND

## CAP Outreach & Engagement: Climate Fresk Workshops

- Interactive, climate education workshop
- 3-hour, game-style format
- Consultant-led, with regional data and engagement content tailored to Northeast Ohio regional climate planning process

WANT TO LEARN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOW YOU GET INVOLVED?

JOIN US FOR

**CLIMATE FRESK**  
All the cards are in your hands!

A COLLABORATIVE GAME TO TEACH YOU CLIMATE SCIENCE, AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED REGIONALLY



PRESENTED BY

**NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY**  
NOACA: Planning For Greater Cleveland

Climate In  Your Hands

GLOBALY-RENOUNED | SCIENCE-BASED

Climate In  Your Hands



CITADEL IMPACT  
CONSULTING





# BACKGROUND

## Climate Fresk Implementation

- Eight (8) workshops held Aug 14 -Sept 14
- Hosts included senior and family centers, metroparks, and CMHA housing complexes
- 63 total attendees
- 26 discussion surveys submitted



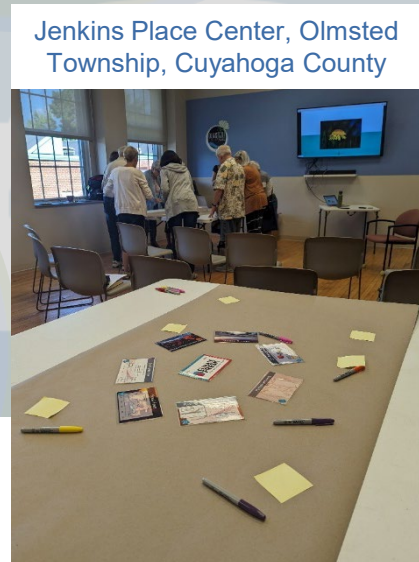
Madison Senior Center, Lake County



Lantern of Chagrin Valley,  
Geauga County



Lorain County Metroparks,  
Lorain County



Jenkins Place Center, Olmsted  
Township, Cuyahoga County

# BACKGROUND

## Climate Fresk Workshop – Educational Impacts



- Knowledge of climate science **increased by 25%**
- Knowledge of adaptive/mitigative solutions **increased by 24%**
- Motivation to action **increased by 16%**

# BACKGROUND

## Climate Fresk Participant Input – Key Takeaways

### Engagement & Inclusion

Want to be part of the solution, desire for more information and education

Aware of economic disparity, curious how this is regionally addressed

Want to be updated on plan progress, how their feedback is incorporated

### Concerns & Anxieties

Elderly worried about future generations/children

Awareness/concern about industrial pollution, air quality, asthma and chronic health diseases (Cleveland area)

Concern that leadership/elected officials are not part of the conversation, or communicating with their constituents

### Accountability

Participants want to hold entities accountable

Expressed frustration that local, state and national government entities are not doing/acting enough

Broad societal shifts in the U.S. are needed, as well as international cooperation

### Offered Solutions

Supportive of mass transit, intra-and inter-city connection

Stop vehicle idling

Establish regulations for conscious building, development

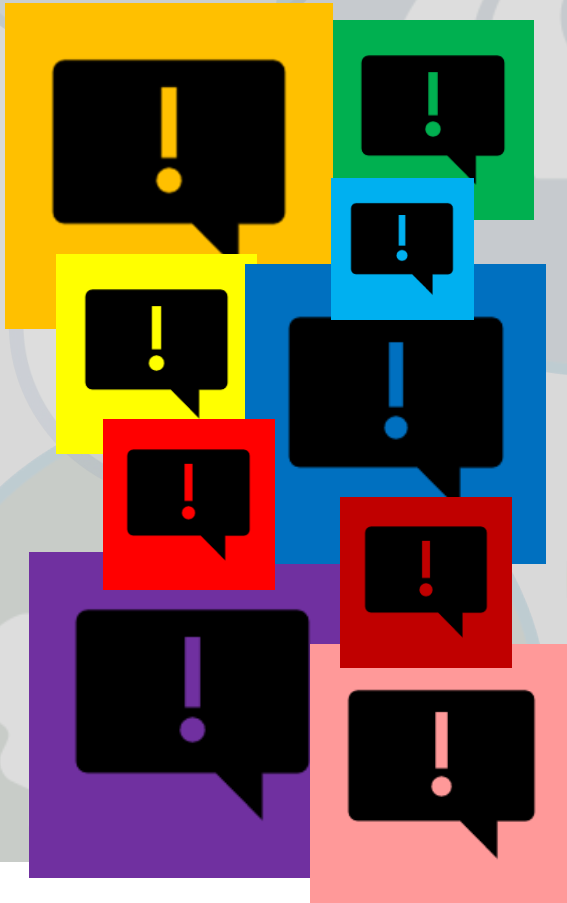
Establish regulations on emissions/pollutants from construction sites, new development



# BACKGROUND

## Climate Fresk Workshops – Qualitative Participant Comments

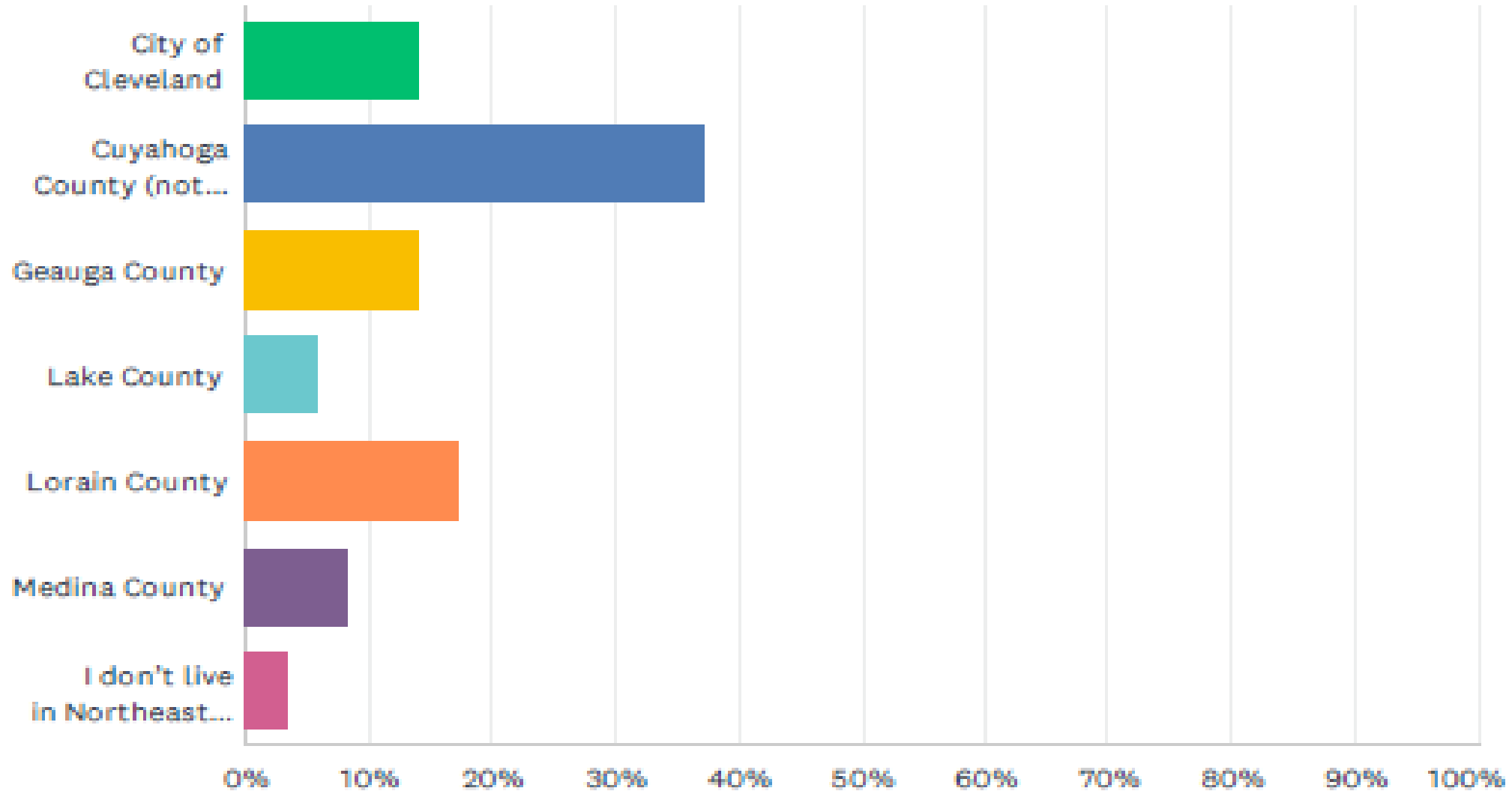
- Expressed feeling **encouraged** by the nature of this **engagement**, and the structured nature of dialogue
- Expressed feeling **considered, included and invited**
- **Appreciated workshop was designed to teach** participants about climate change and NOACA's efforts, rather than solely collecting participant feedback
- **Encouraged at hearing peers' shared concerns**, and that people in the region are more passionate about environmental concerns than they thought





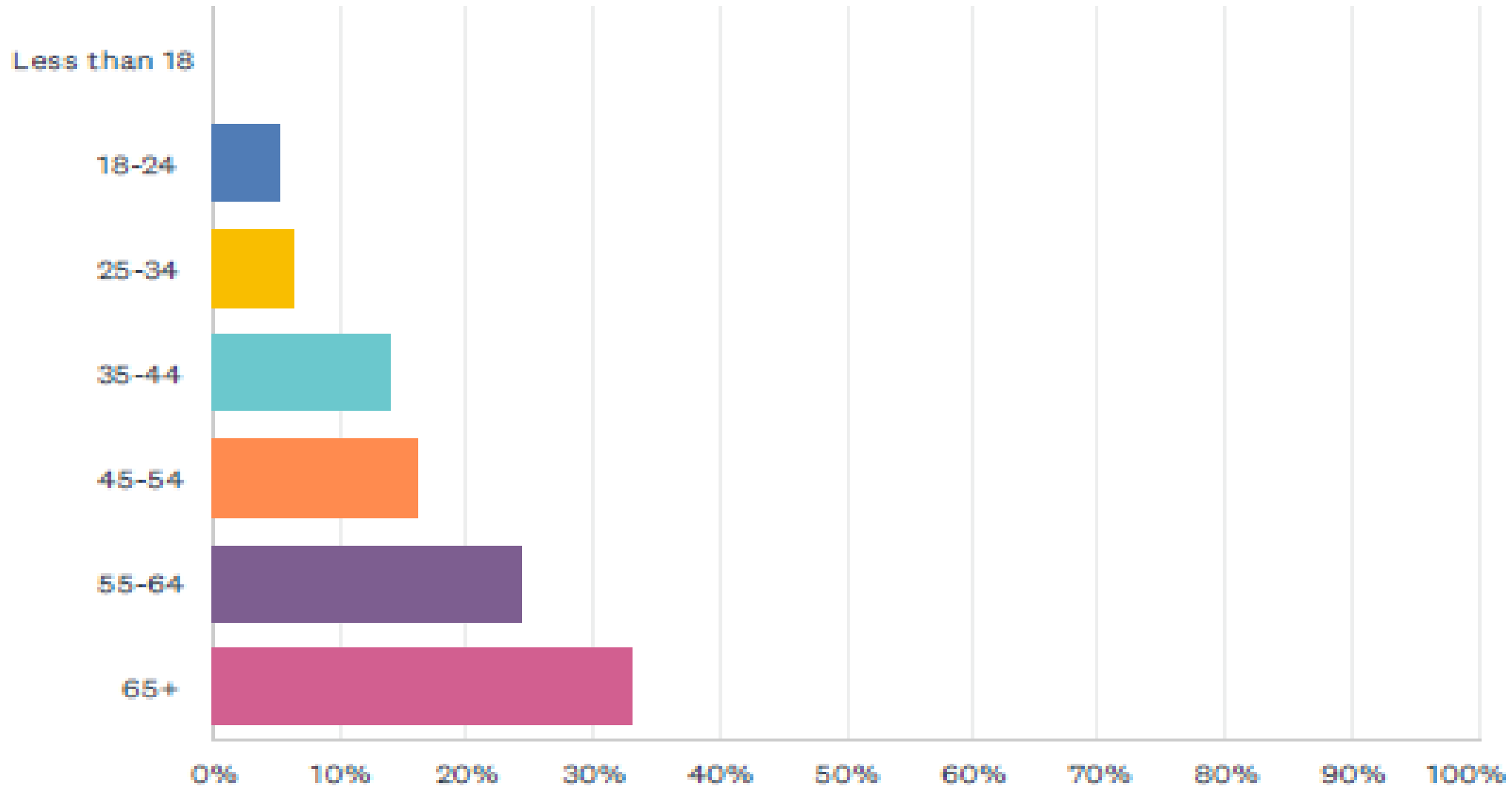
# Q22 Where is your primary residence?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 26



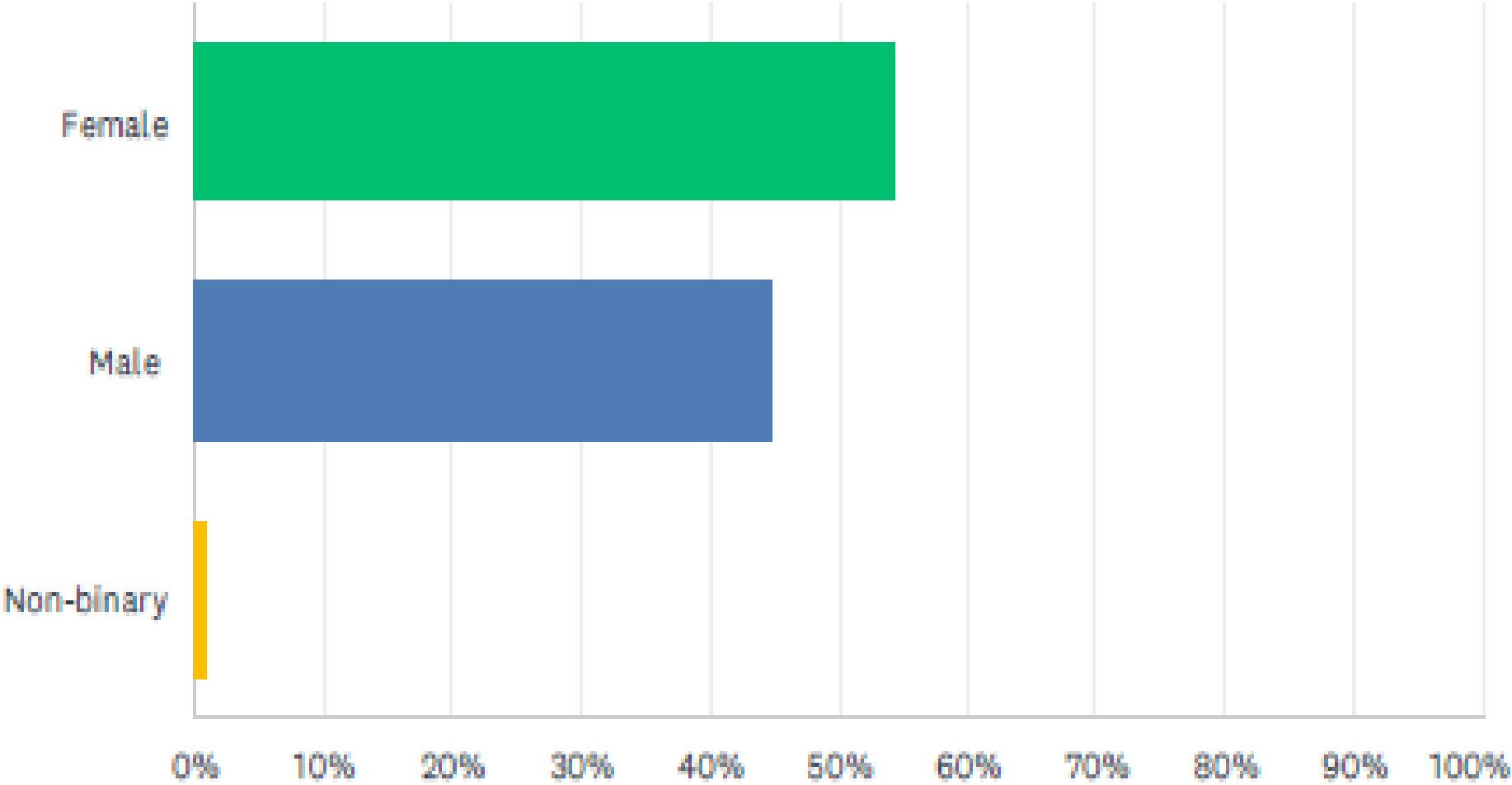
# Q23 What is your current age range (years)?

Answered: 297 Skipped: 29



# Q24 What is your gender?

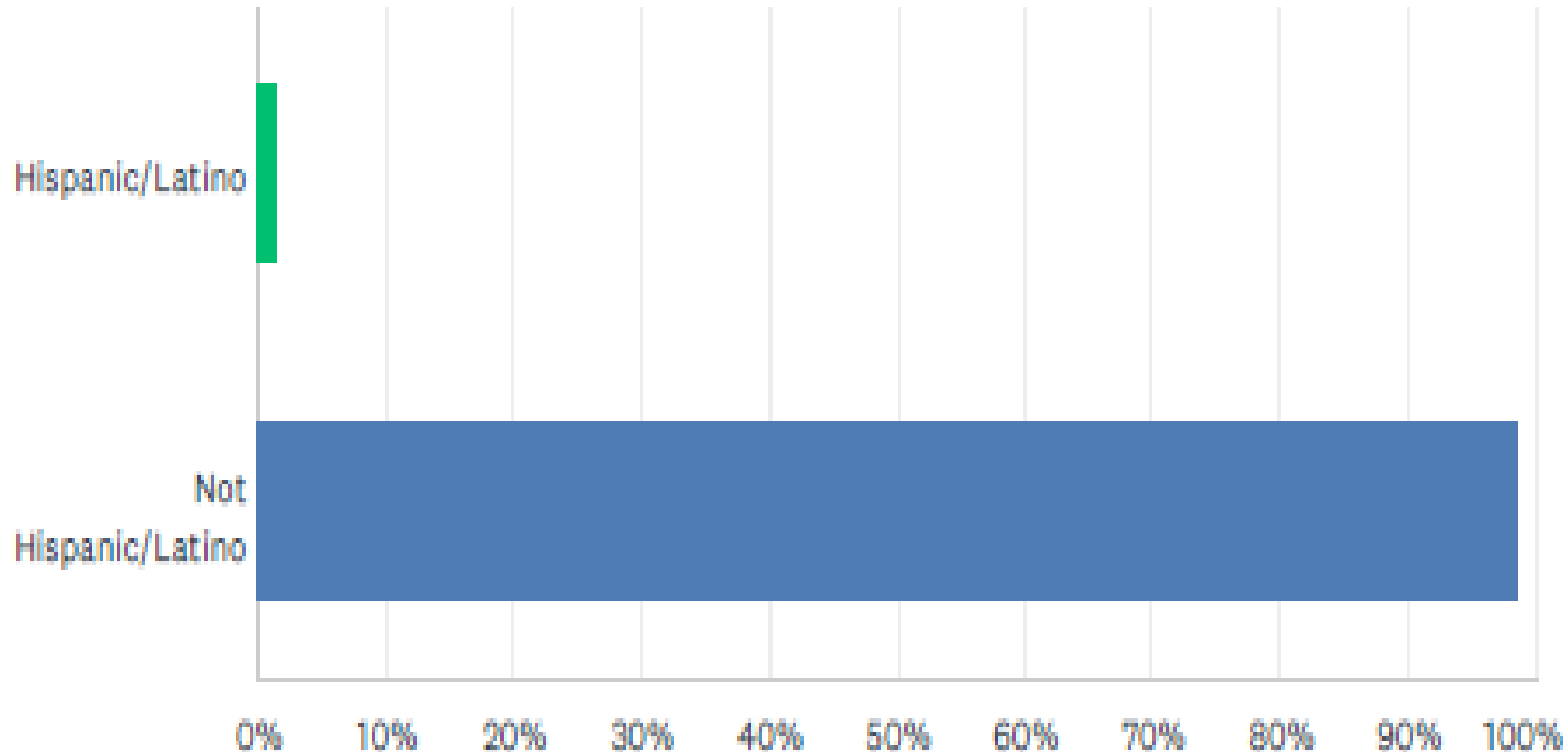
Answered: 293 Skipped: 33





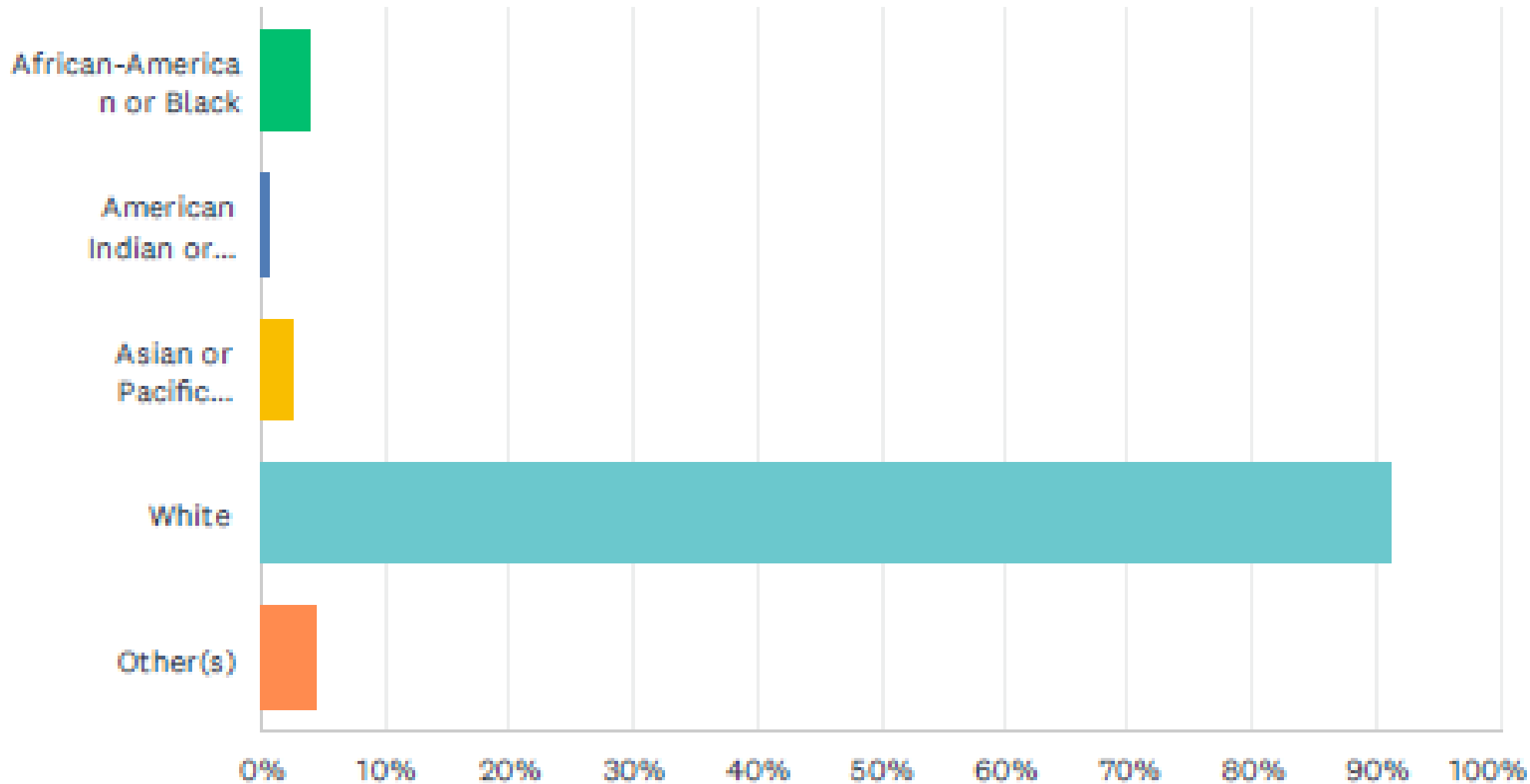
# Q25 Are you Hispanic/Latino?

Answered: 286 Skipped: 40



# Q26 What is your race (please check all that apply)?

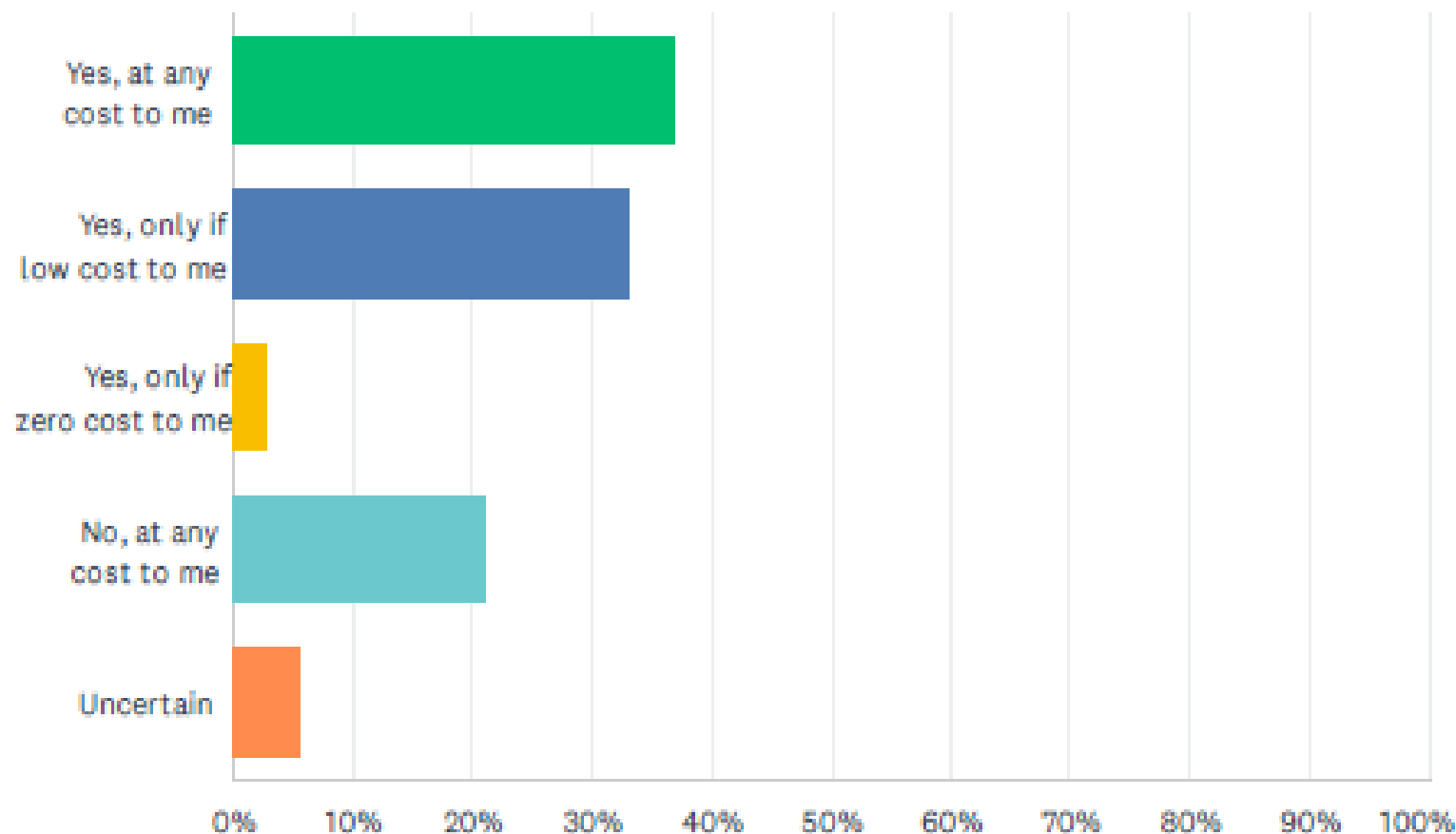
Answered: 284 Skipped: 42





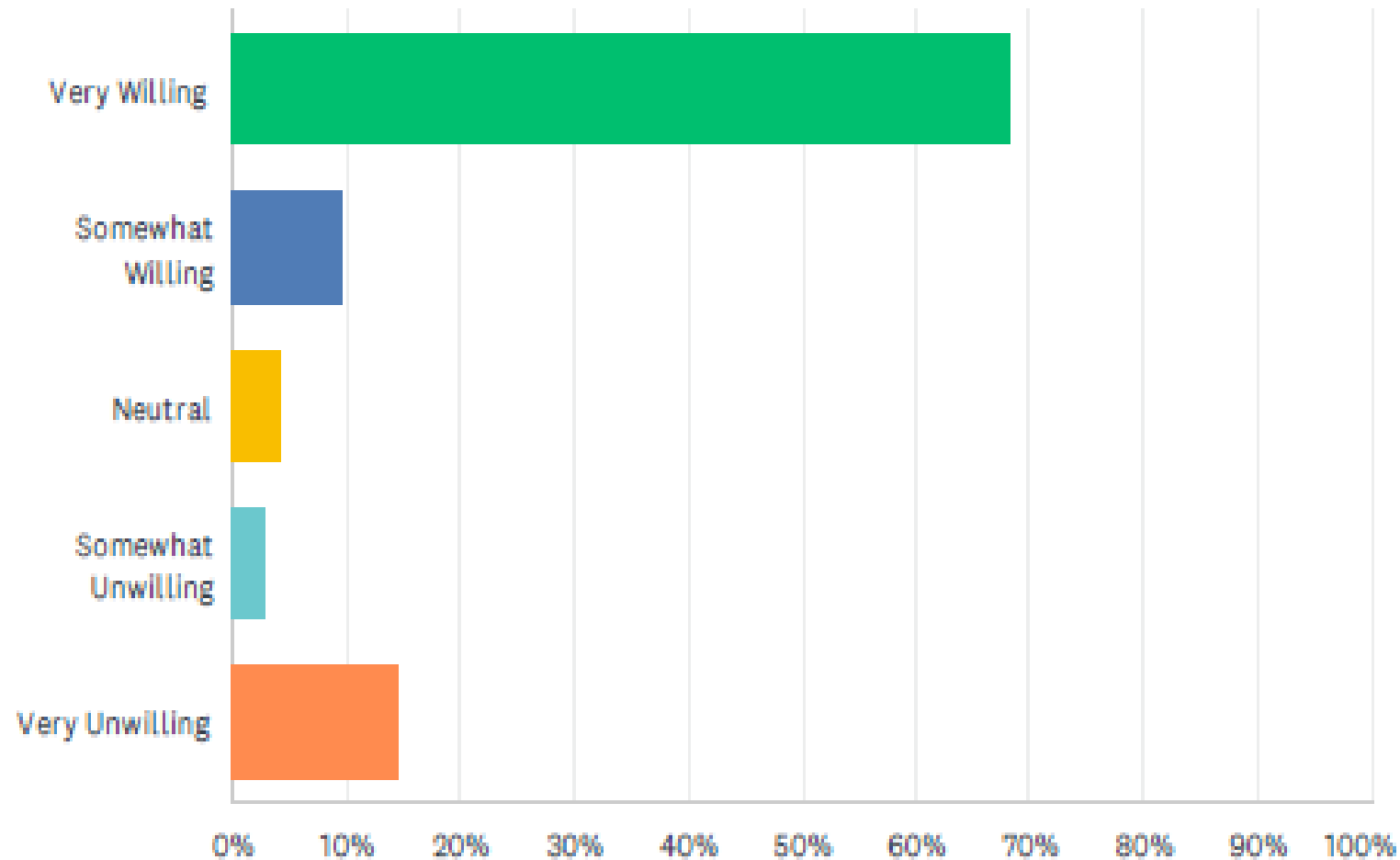
# Q5 Would you personally pay more for generation of clean or renewable energy (e.g., wind, solar, geothermal), even if it costs more to produce than energy from sources like oil, natural gas, coal and nuclear energy?

Answered: 294 Skipped: 32



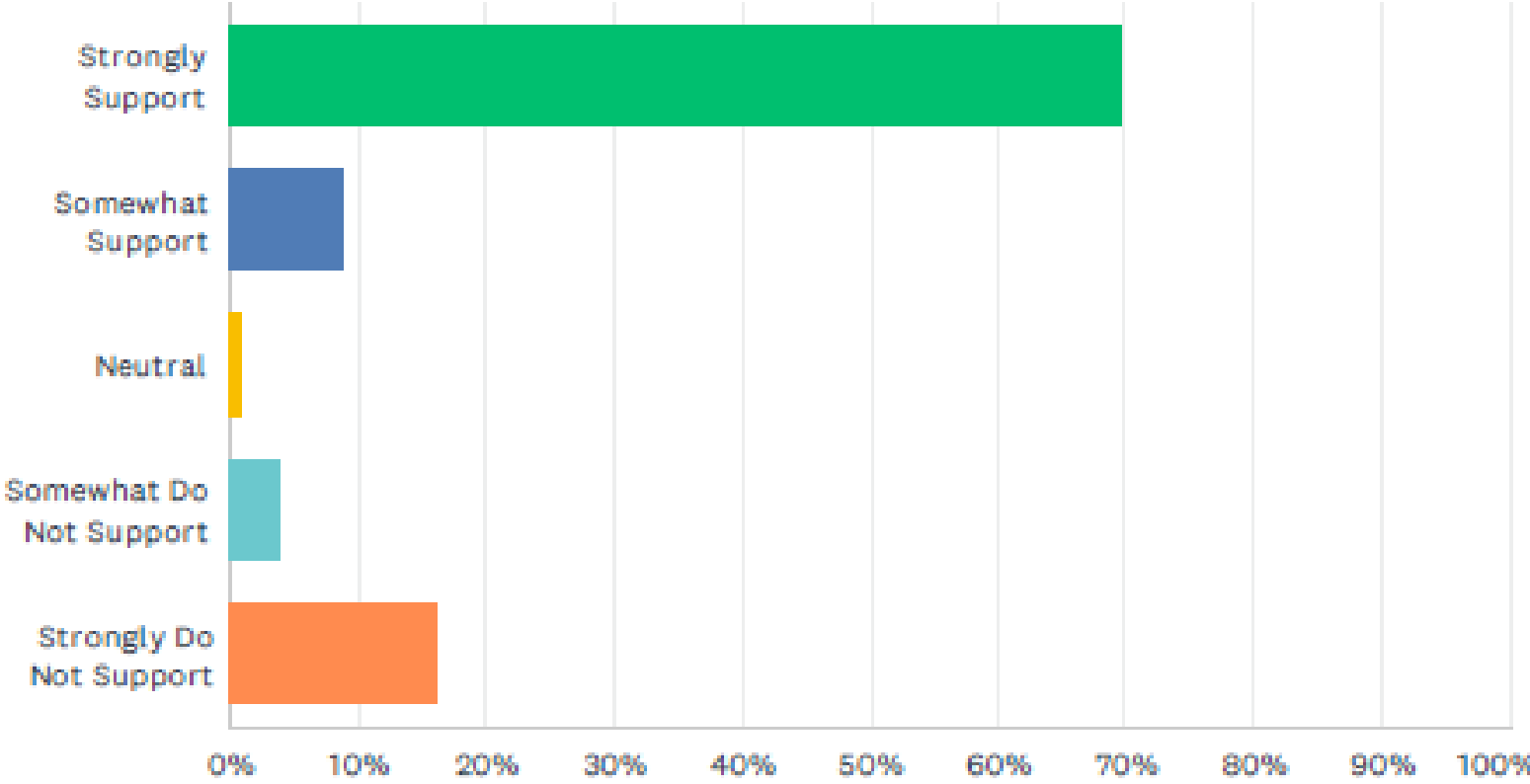
# Q6 Are you willing to make small lifestyle adjustments in order to consume less energy at your home?

Answered: 298 Skipped: 28



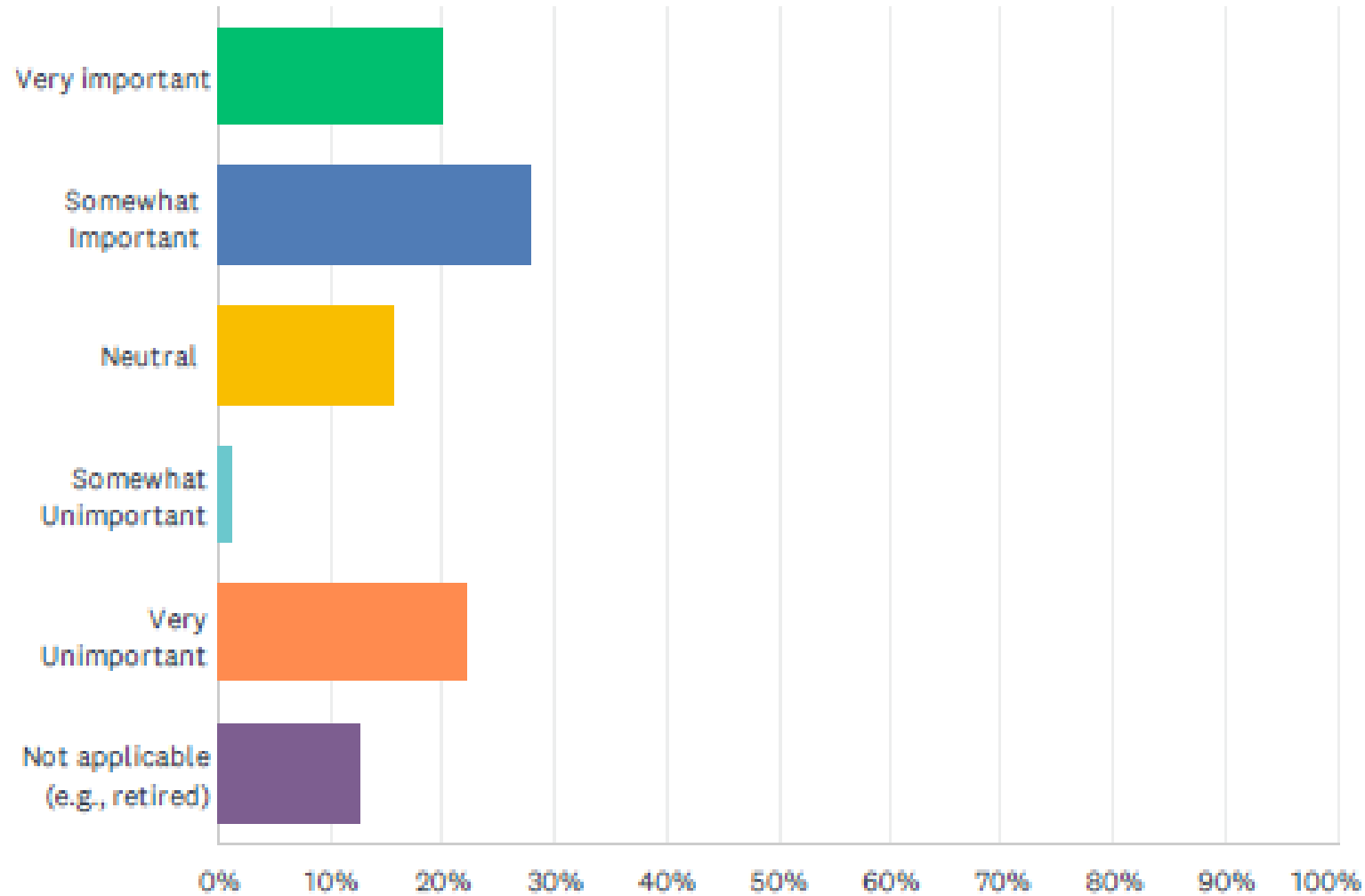
Q7 Would you support updated building codes to make new buildings greener and more environmentally friendly (green building is the planning, design, construction, and operation of buildings with several central, foremost considerations: energy use, water use, indoor environmental quality, material selection and the building's effects on its site)?

Answered: 298 Skipped: 28



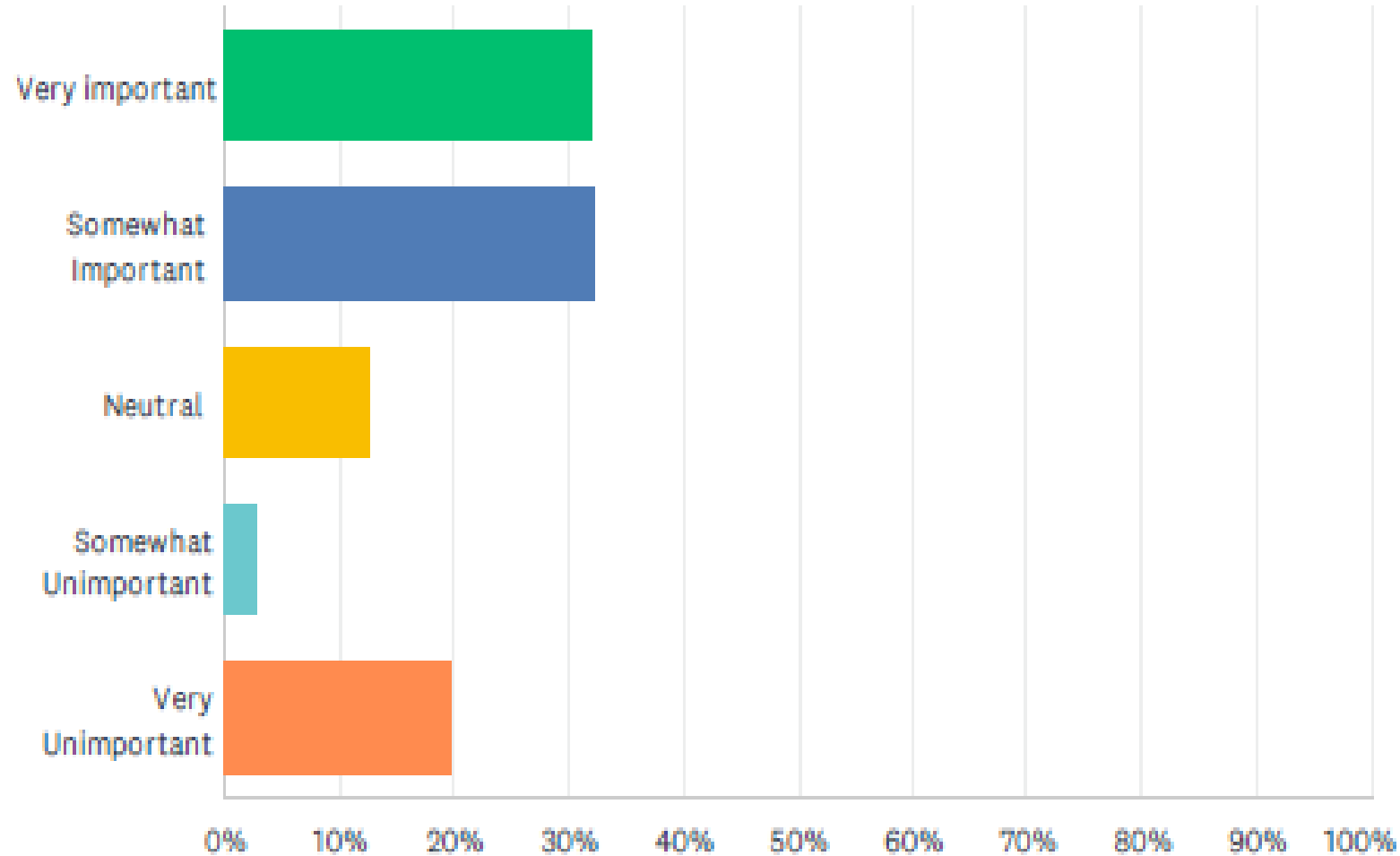
# Q8 When you choose a place to work, how important is it to be in a green building?

Answered: 298 Skipped: 28



# Q9 When you choose a place to live, how important is it to be in a green building?

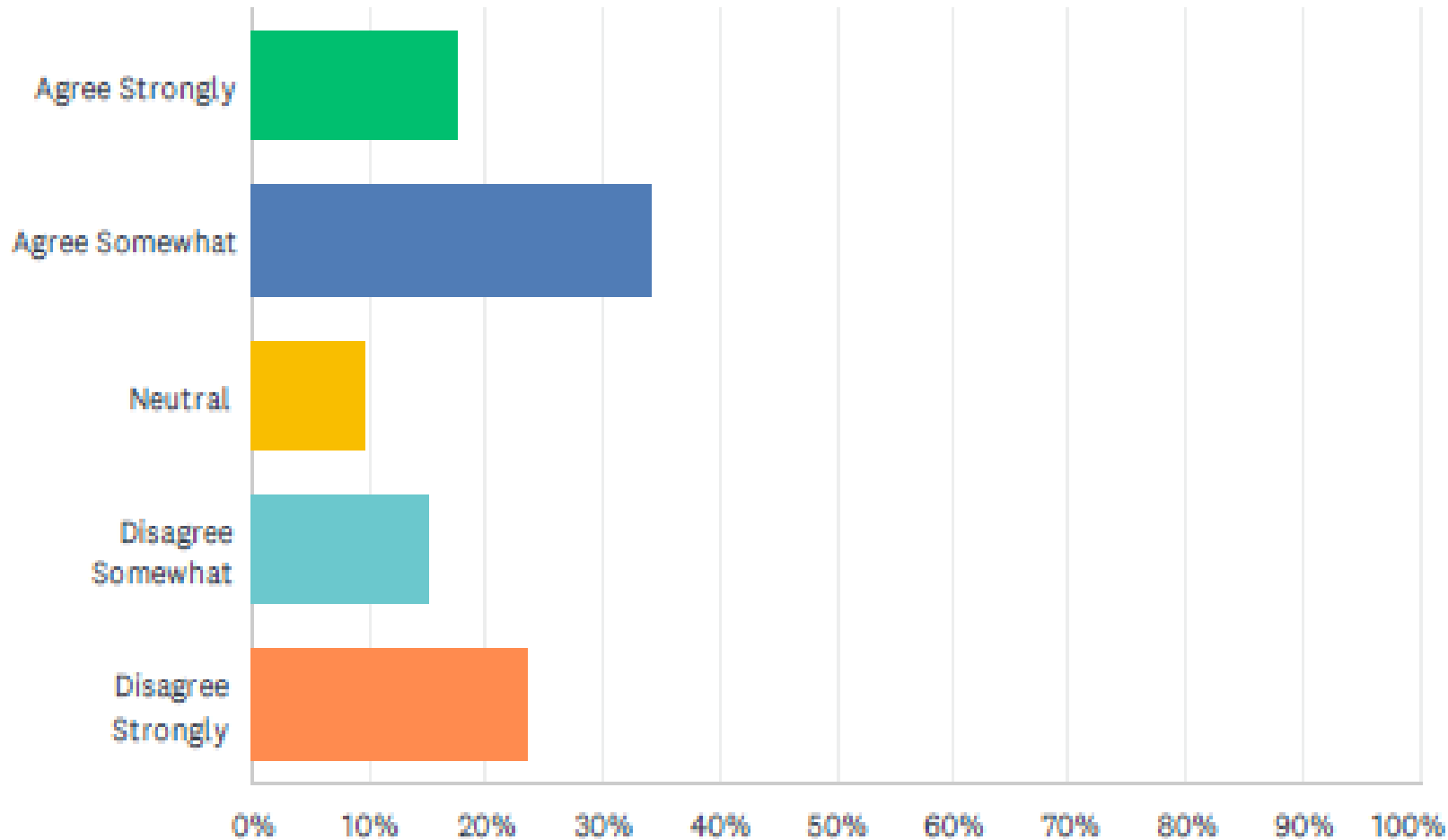
Answered: 297 Skipped: 29





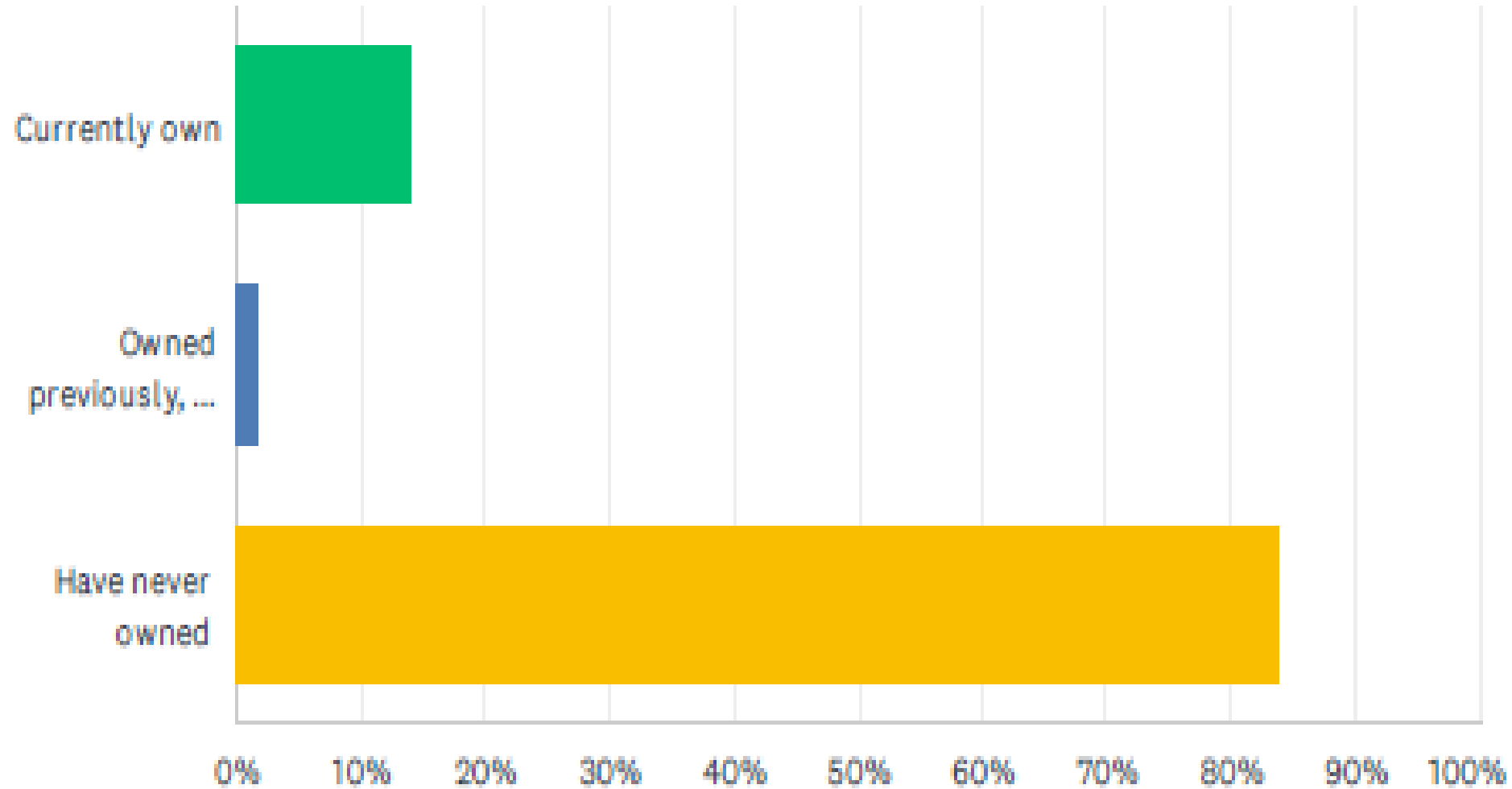
# Q10 Do you agree or disagree that Northeast Ohio is ready to embrace electric vehicles?

Answered: 299 Skipped: 27



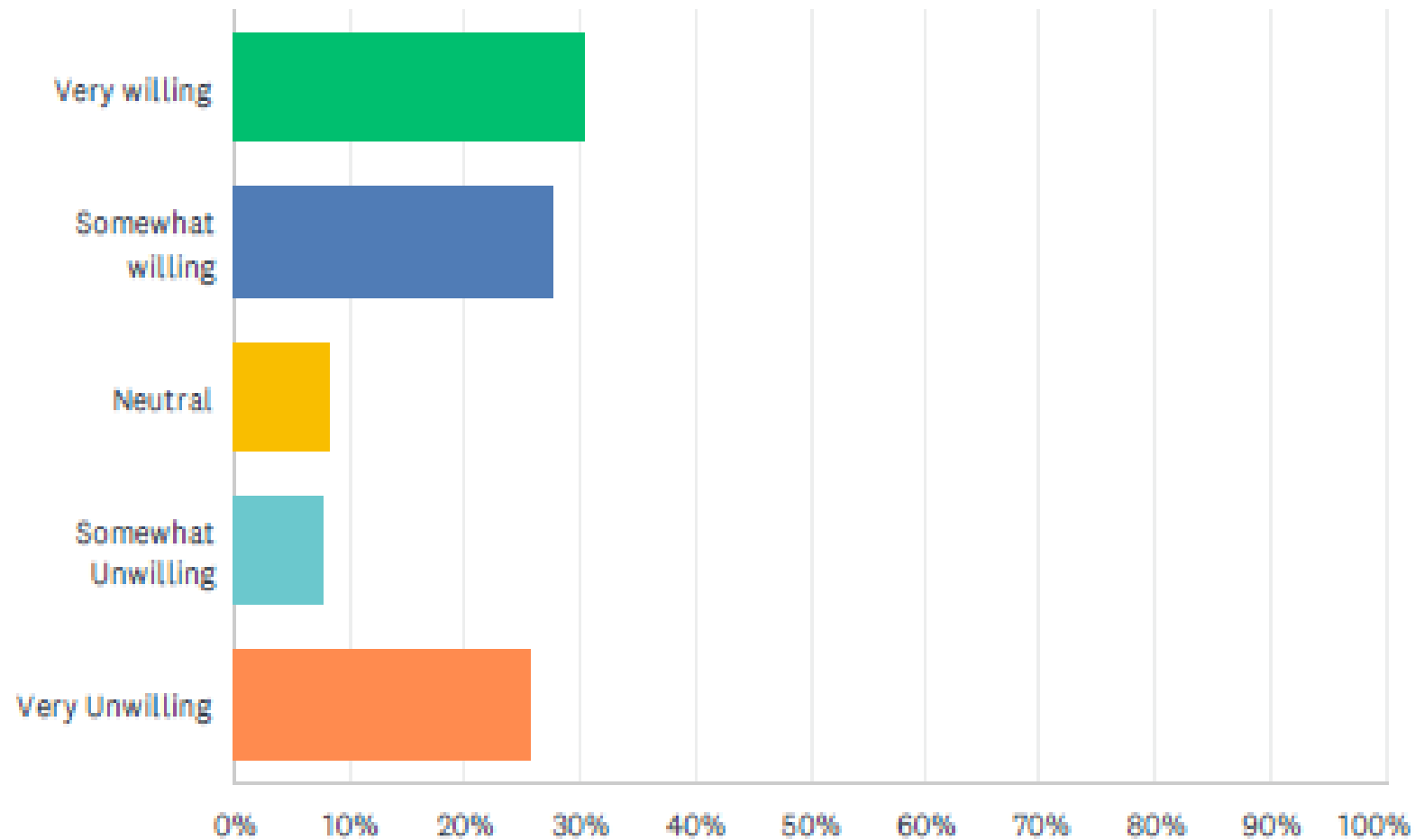
# Q11 Do you currently own an electric vehicle?

Answered: 297 Skipped: 29



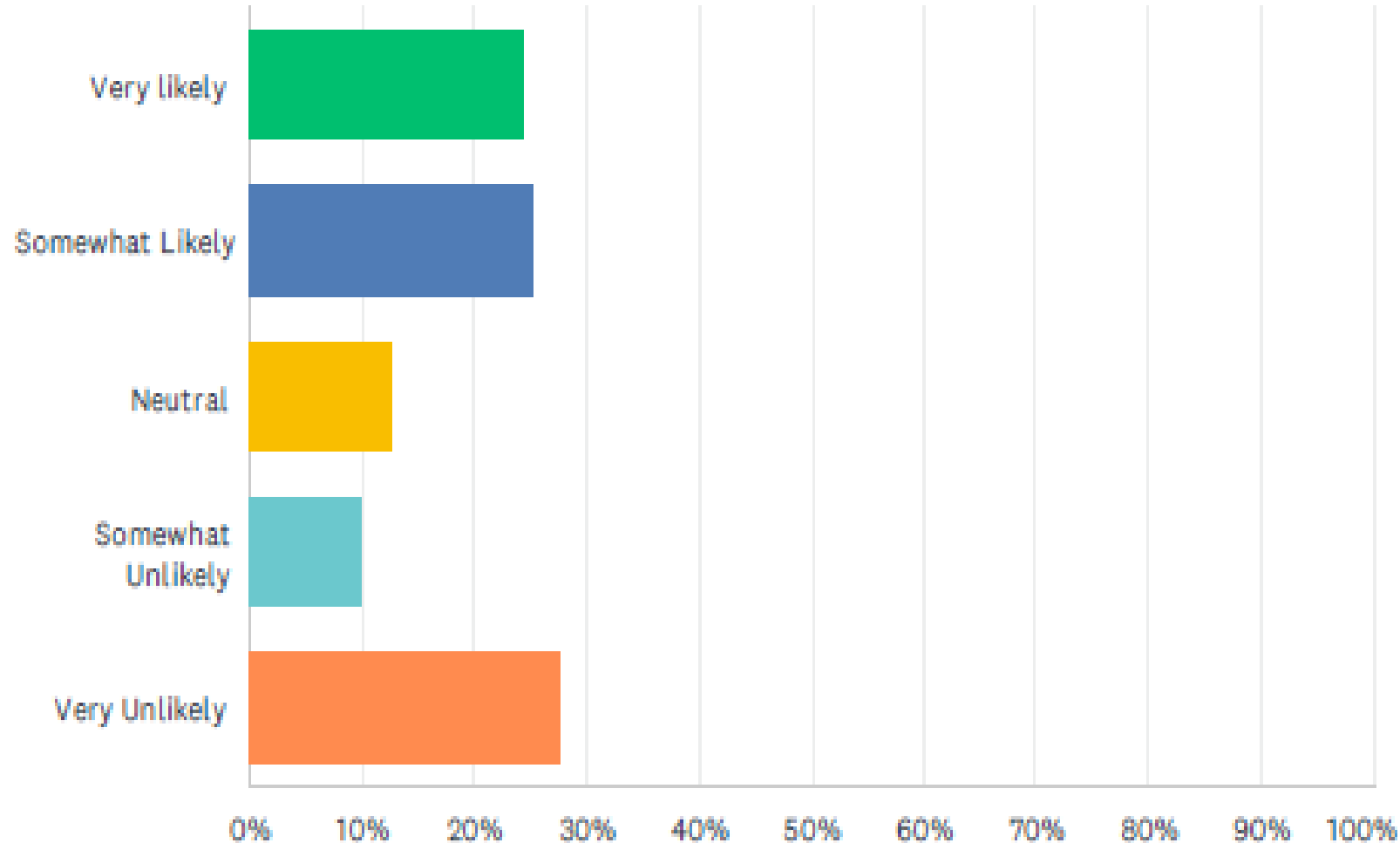
# Q12 If you do not currently own an electric vehicle, how willing are you to purchase an electric vehicle?

Answered: 275 Skipped: 51



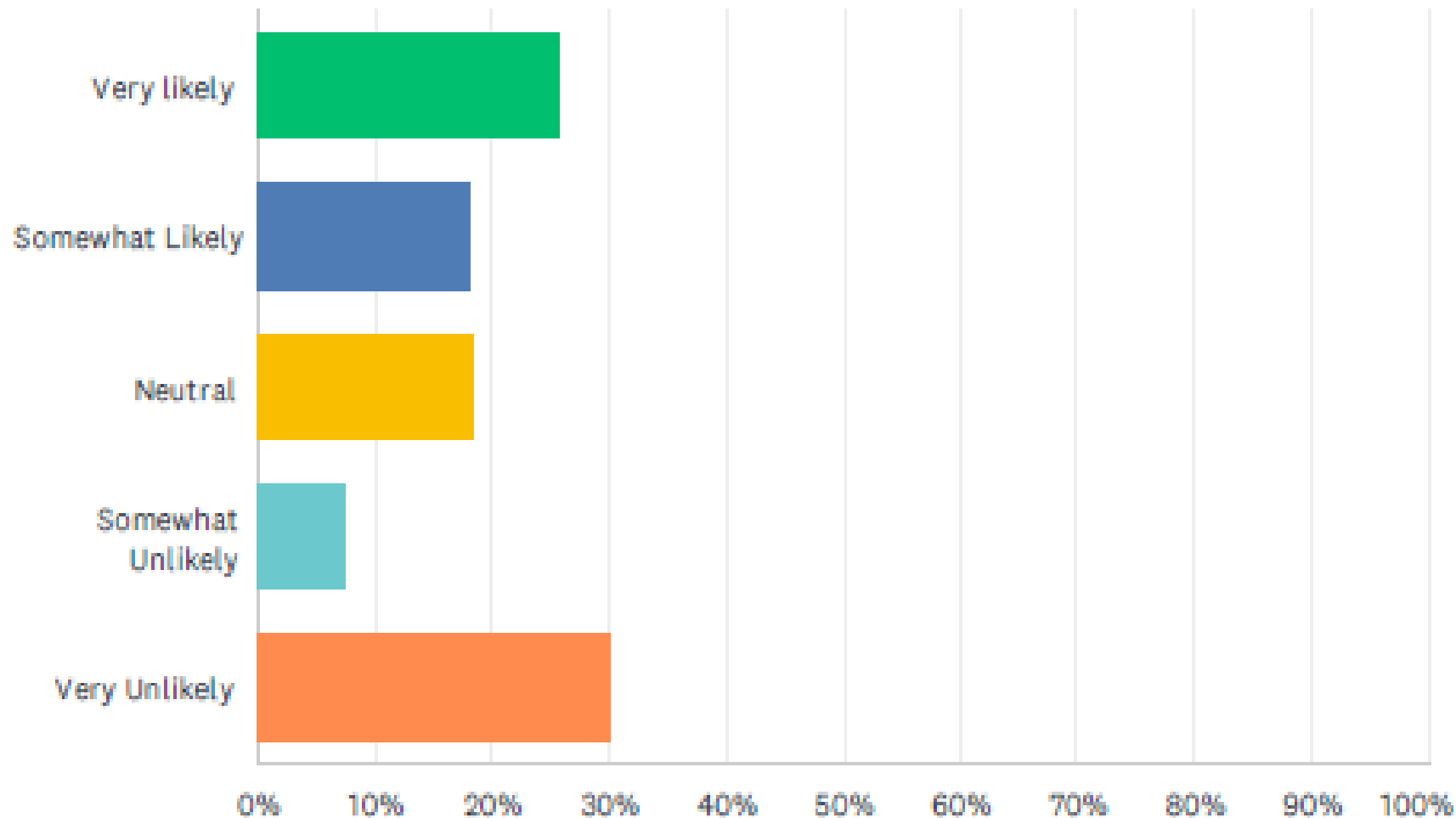
# Q13 How likely are you to carpool or ride public transit instead of drive to reduce your emissions production?

Answered: 299 Skipped: 27



# Q14 How likely are you to relocate to live closer to your job or other destinations (shopping, entertainment, etc.) so you drive less?

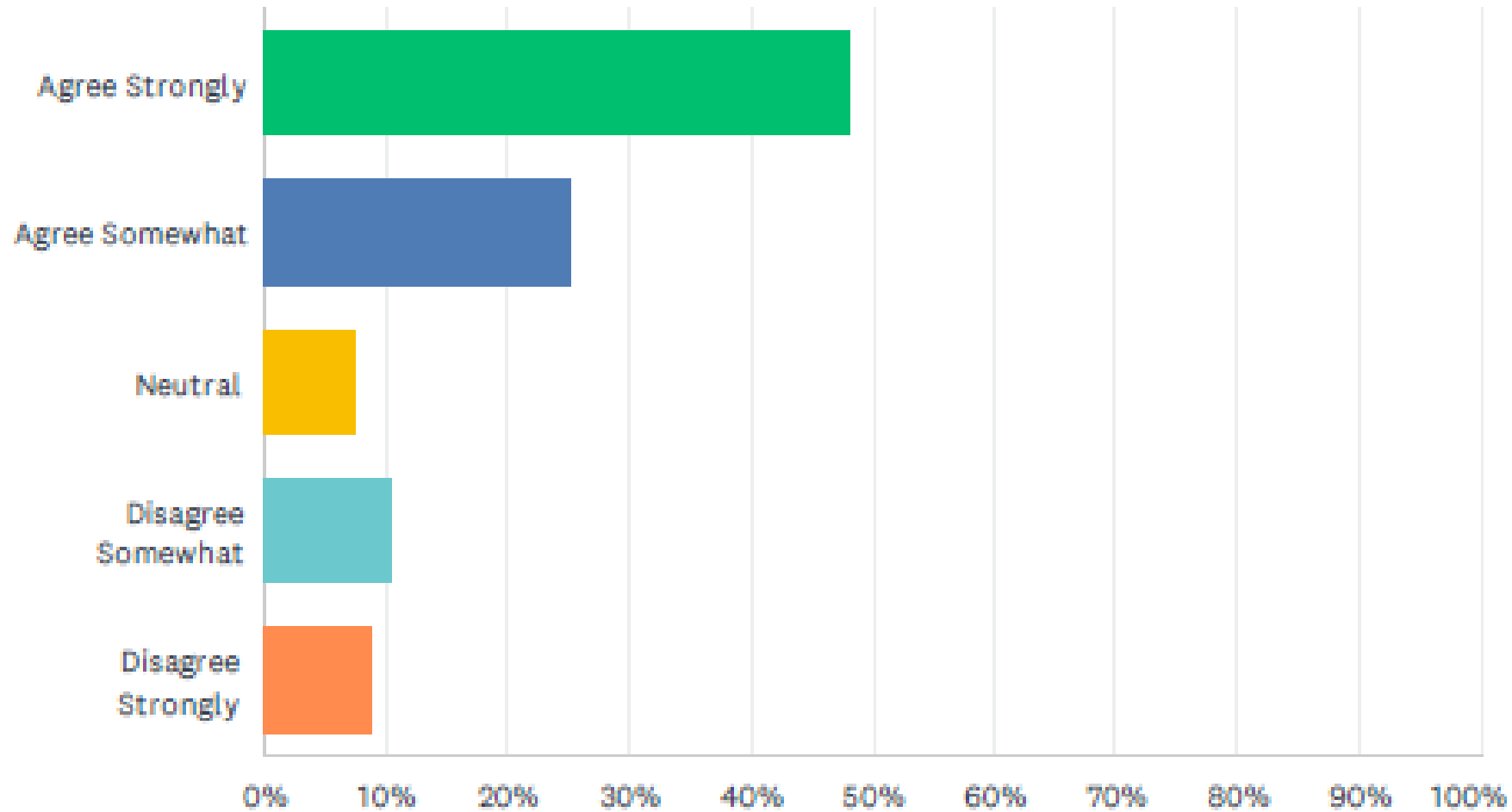
Answered: 298 Skipped: 28





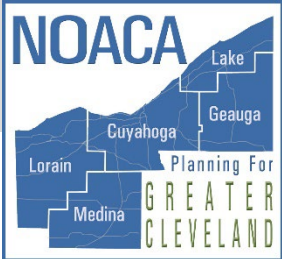
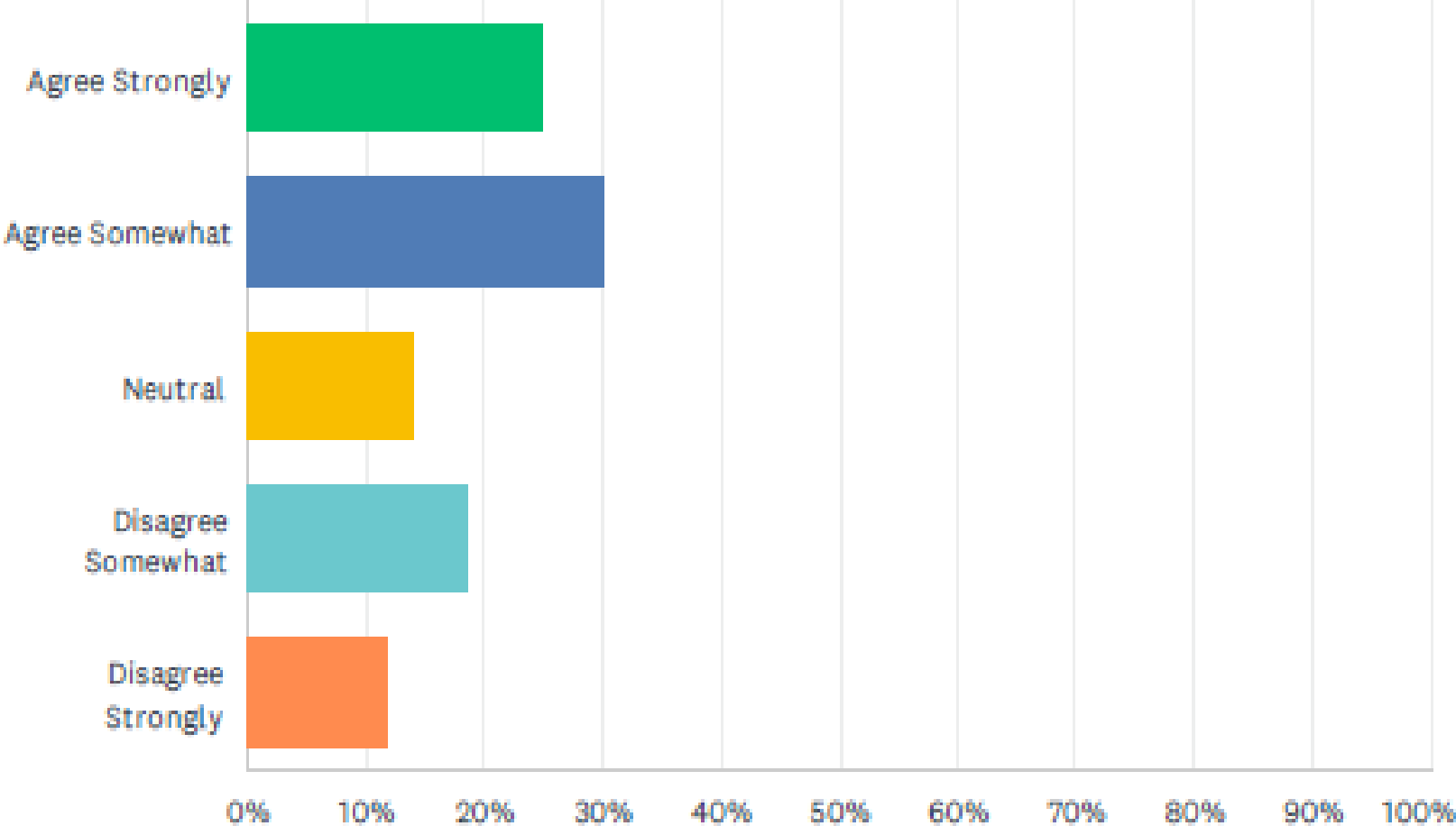
# Q15 Do you agree or disagree that you can walk safely in your community?

Answered: 299 Skipped: 27



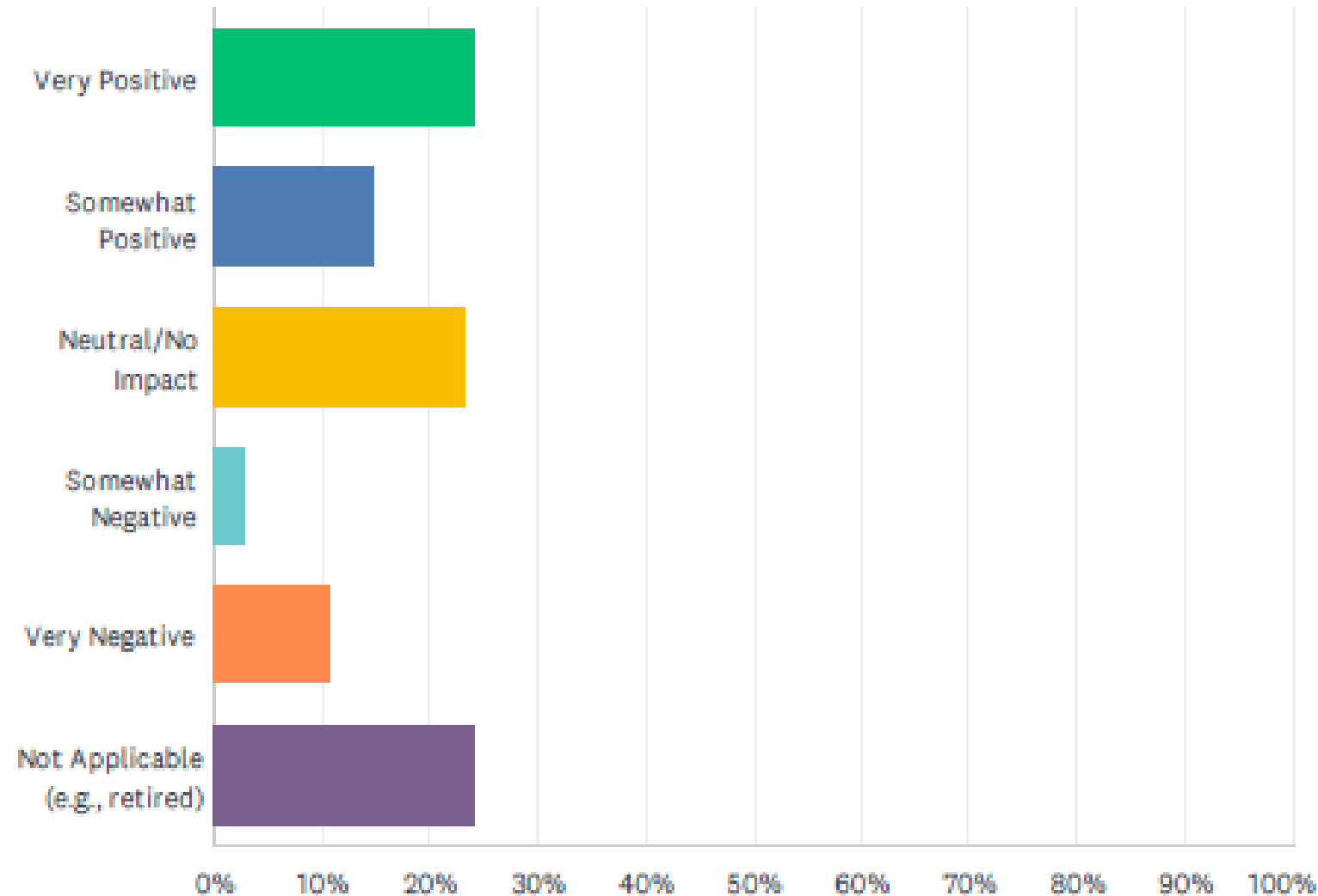
# Q16 Do you agree or disagree that you can ride a bicycle safely in your community?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 26



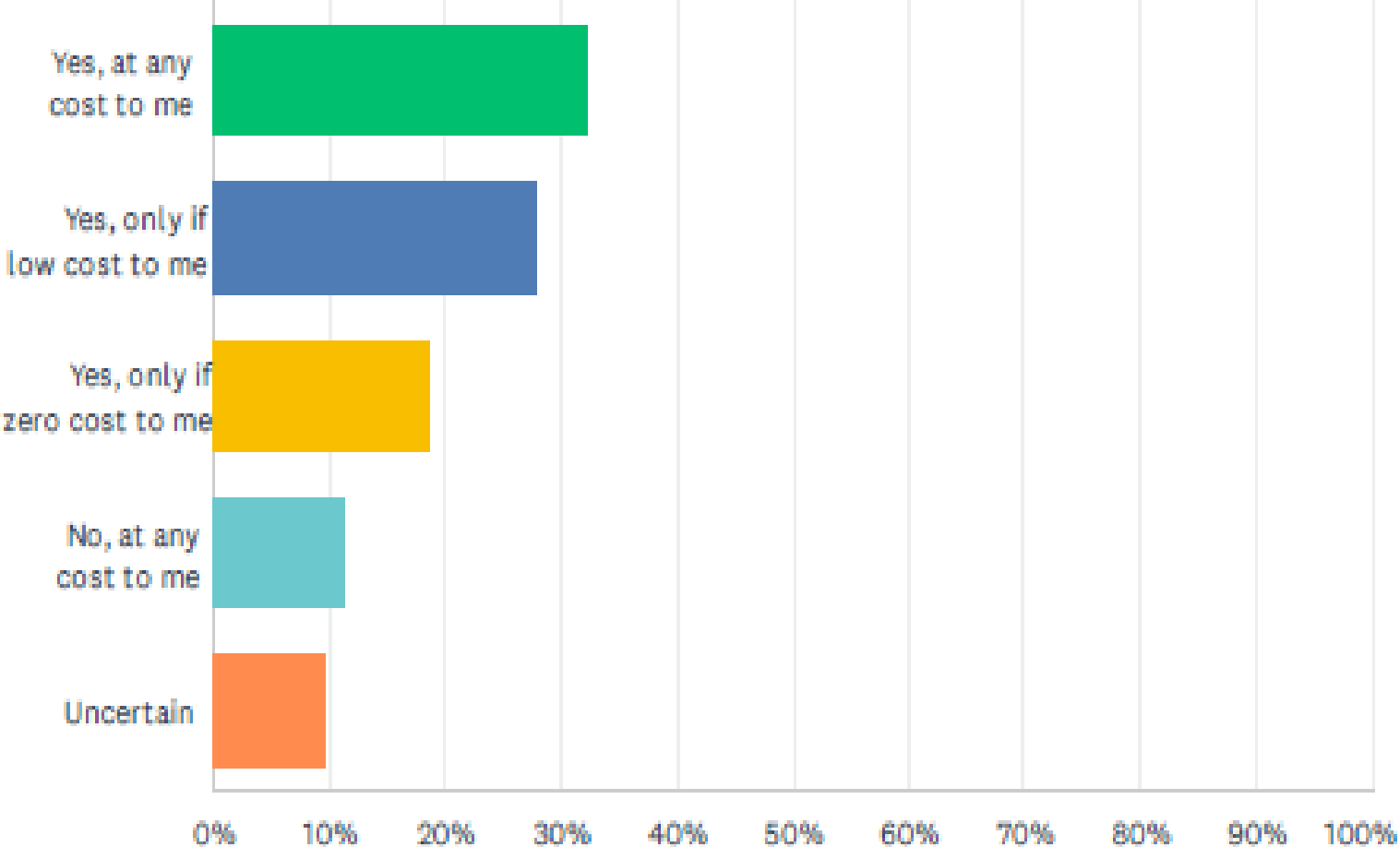
# Q17 Will the transition to a cleaner and more efficient industrial base have a positive or negative impact on your job?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 26



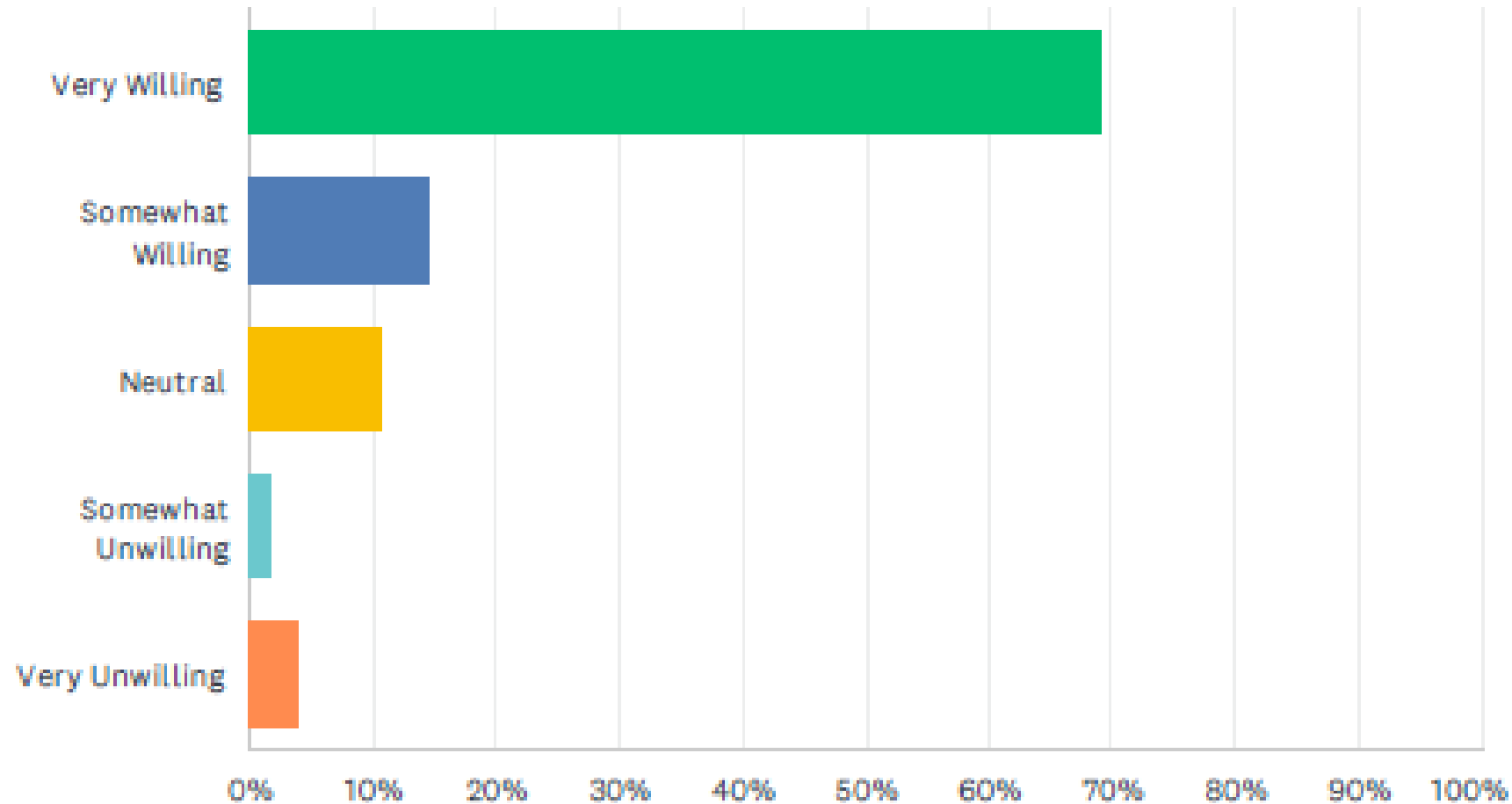
# Q18 If residential composting was available in your community, would you participate?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 26



# Q19 Are you willing to plant a new tree or two on your property to help expand tree cover?

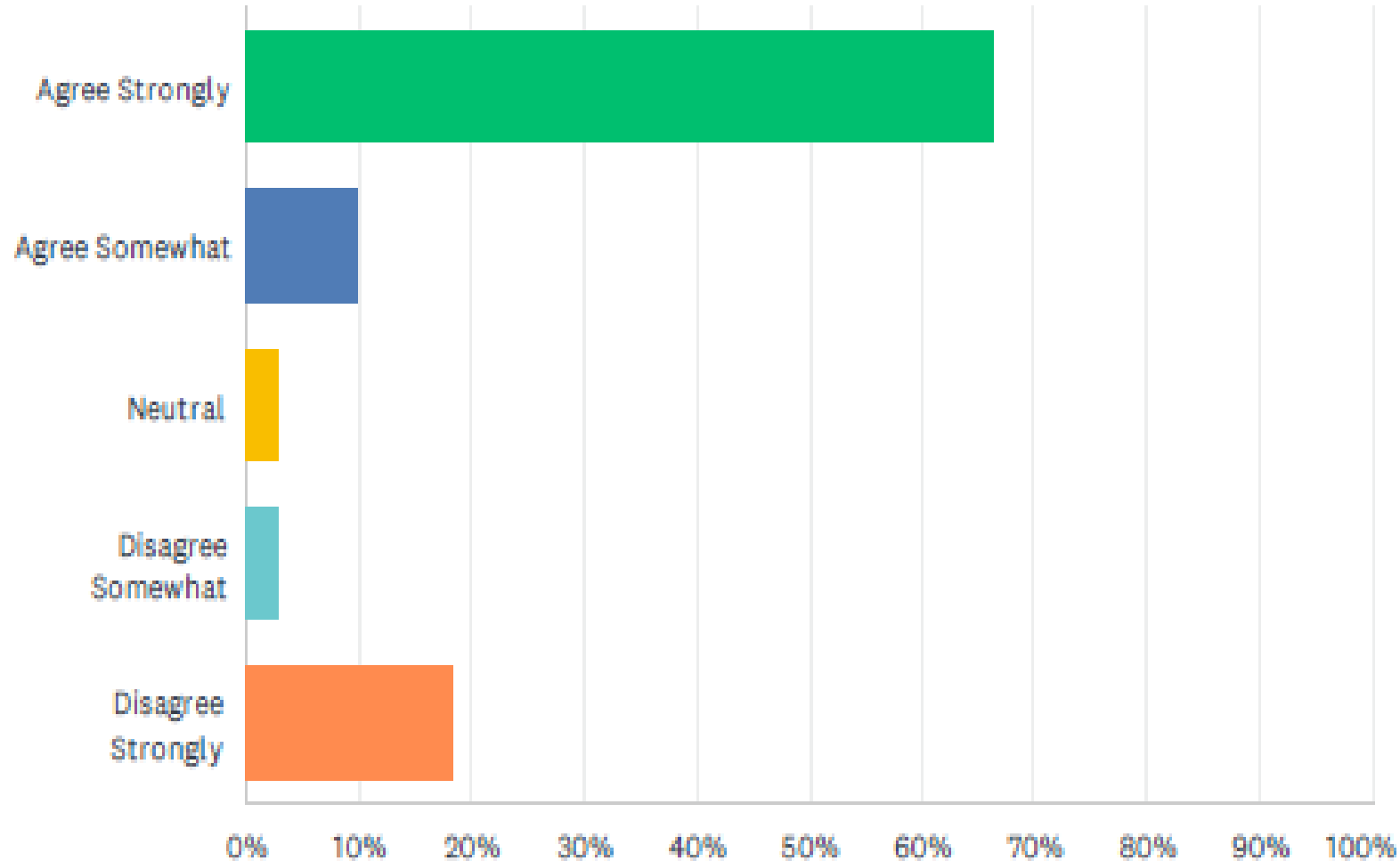
Answered: 300 Skipped: 26





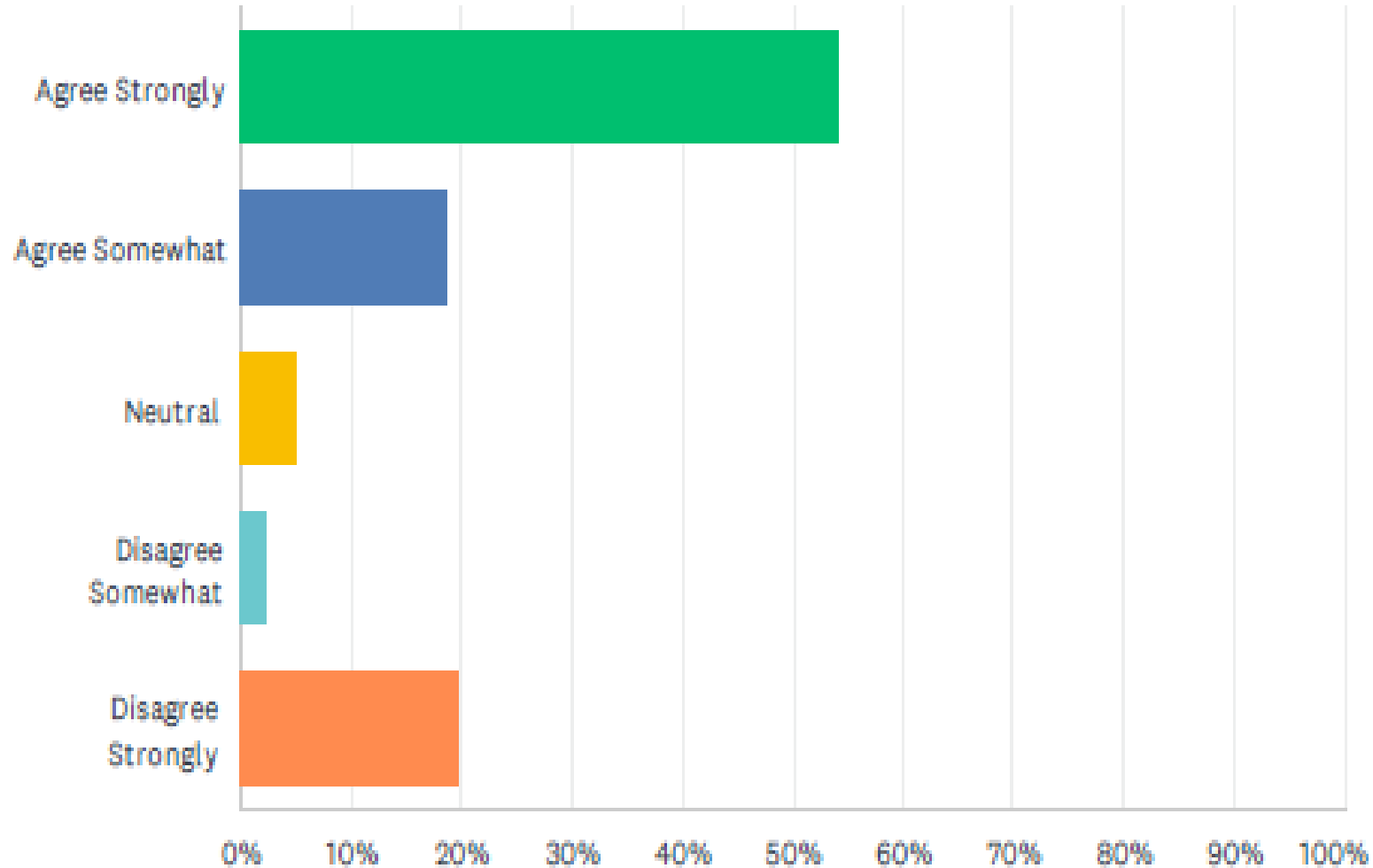
# Q20 Do you agree or disagree that climate change impacts your personal health?

Answered: 299 Skipped: 27



# Q21 Do you agree or disagree that climate action planning can positively address your personal health concerns?

Answered: 299 Skipped: 27



# NEXT STEPS

- **Incorporate Public Input**
- **Finalize the Community Vulnerability Risk Assessment**
- **Conduct Workshop #2 to Develop Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Priority Actions**
- **Draft Plan Review**



NOACA will **STRENGTHEN** regional cohesion, **PRESERVE** existing infrastructure, and **BUILD** a sustainable multimodal transportation system to **SUPPORT** economic development and **ENHANCE** quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

