



City of Bexley – Assessing Community Sustainability Objectives via Community Engagement

Rhianna Bergman.209@buckeyemail.osu.edu | Stevie Damon.29@buckeyemail.osu.edu | Will Sullivan.1125@buckeyemail.osu.edu | Braeden Whaley.162@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Abstract

The focus of this project was to research and compile potential Climate Action Plan (CAP) initiatives Bexley could replicate and to understand/implement best practices for community engagement in the CAP creation process. A CAP is a government strategy to implement actionable steps to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The CAP creation process includes the following steps:

- Initial Research & Comparative Studies
- Community Surveys
- Community Workshops
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Draft CAP
- Internal and Public Review
- Final CAP

Methods

Phase #1: CAP Comparative Study

- Utilized data from Zero Energy Project and the US Census Bureau
- Selected 20 cities most similar to Bexley based on population, population density, median household income, educational attainment, and poverty rates

Phase #2: Community Survey

- Deployed using a Google Survey link and QR code made available at several physical locations, and online through Bexley newsletters, and social media accounts

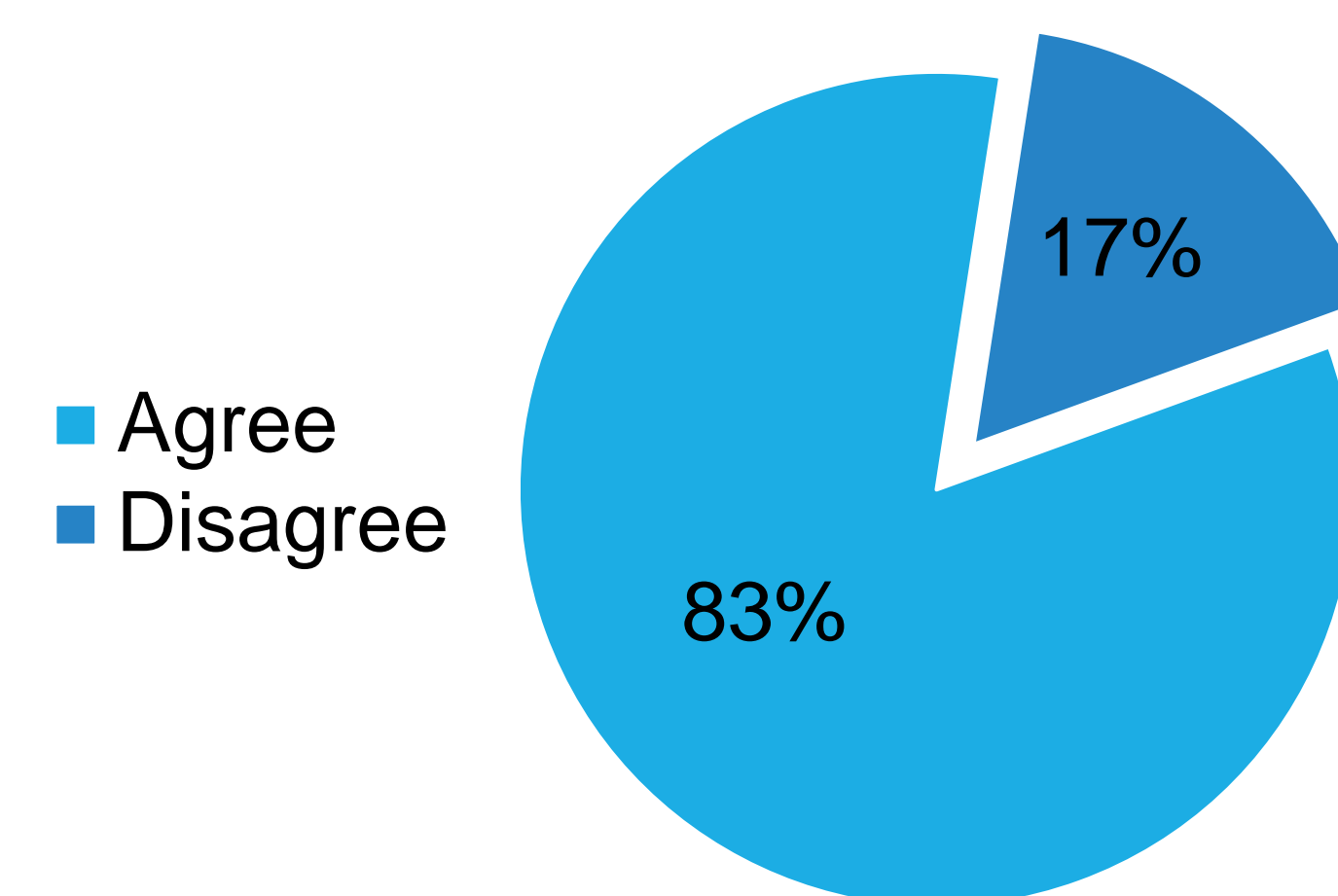
Phase #3: Engagement Event

- Advertised using flyers posted at key locations and within the community survey
- Hosted at the Bexley Public Library Wednesday, 11/09/2022
- 10-minute presentation followed by 35-minute engagement activity, concluded with a 15-minute regrouping for final thoughts

Results

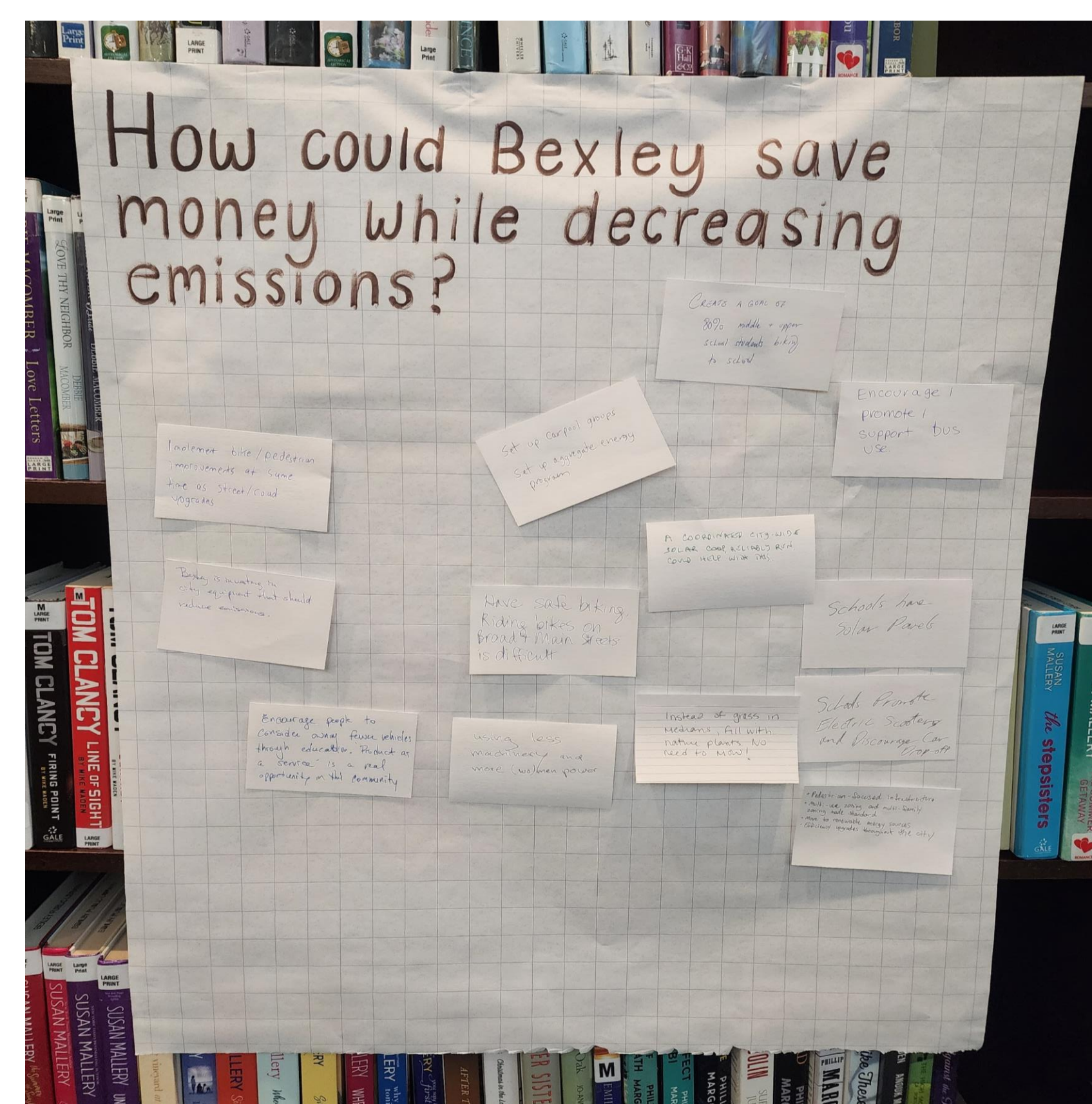
Based on the comparative data we gathered from other cities with Climate Action Plans, the 92 survey responses, and the event responses and feedback, we are confident that Bexley can be a leader in sustainability through a CAP. Many residents are passionate about improving the quality of their environment through personal and required actions.

Survey Question #1: It is important for the City of Bexley to mitigate, adapt to, and prepare for climate change.



83% of survey responders indicated that climate change should be a topic of importance for the City of Bexley. This highlights the need for a CAP.

Engagement Event: Example Poster Question



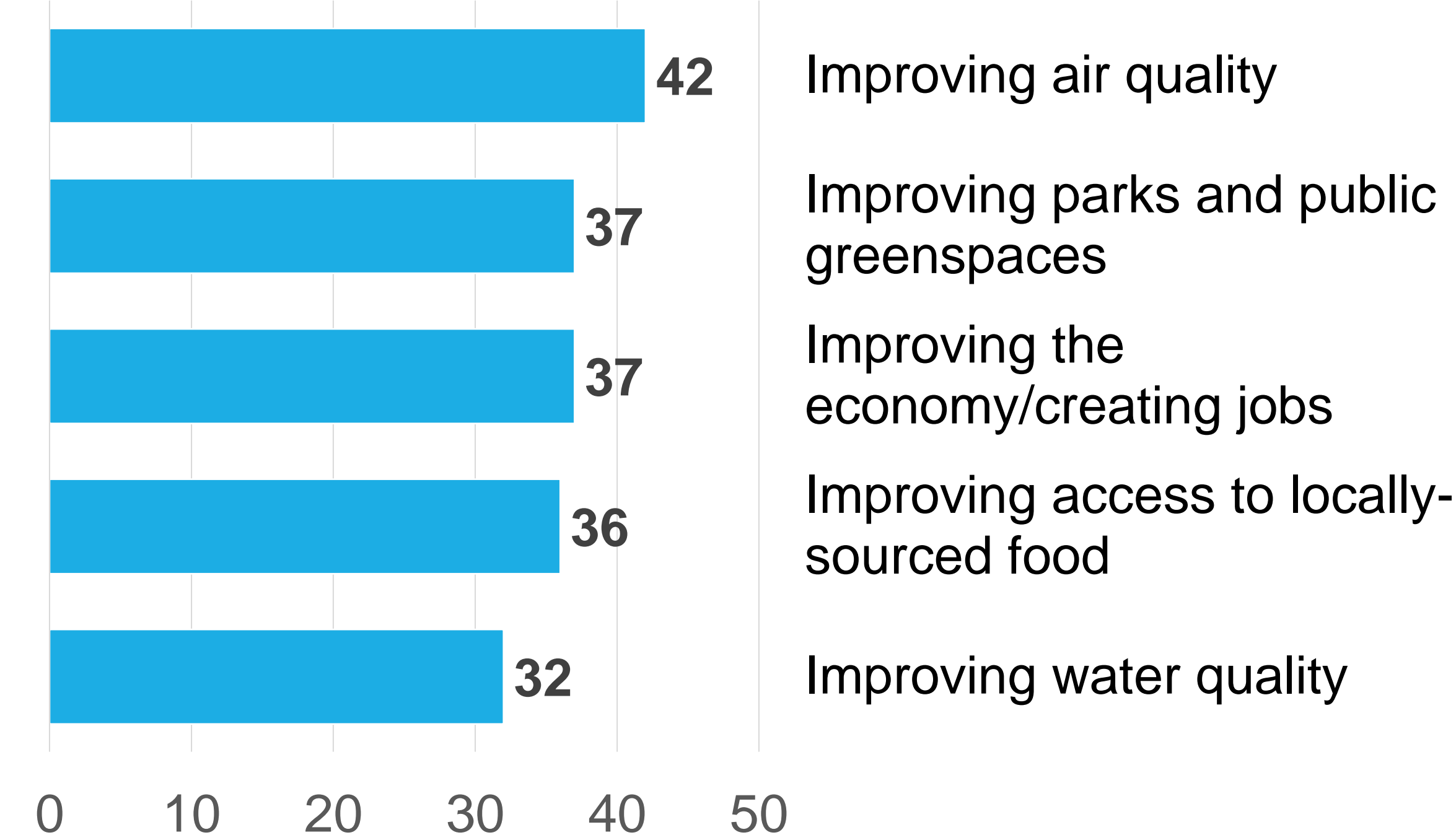
Example poster question used during the CAP Community Conversation at the Bexley Public Library. Participants were given notecards and taped their ideas to hanging posters around the room, 11/09/2022.

Engagement Event: Poster Activity



Bexley residents participating in an engagement activity during the Climate Action Plan Community Conversation at the Bexley Public Library, 11/09/2022. Seventeen program participants attended the engagement event and shared their ideas.

Survey Question #3: Which of the following sustainability targets do you view as the most important? Please select your top priorities.



Survey Question #16: What do you like most about living in Bexley?



Favorite aspects of living in Bexley mentioned by residents include the community, trees, schools, and beauty. The text size above corresponds to the number of residents who used the word in the write-in survey question.

Recommendations

1

Formally adopt the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Complete Streets Policy

2

Obtain Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) certification from The League of American Bicyclists

3

Increase Renewable Energy Incentives and Education

4

Establish Greenspace Task Force

References

- Bicycle Friendly Communities*. (2016, April 6). League of American Bicyclists. <https://www.bikeleague.org/community>
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