

# Charles County



# Climate Action Plan

**WELCOME**

## Interactive Webinar #1

November 13, 2024

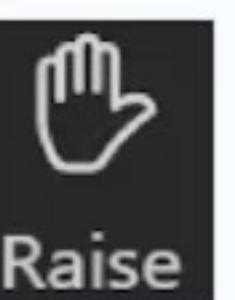




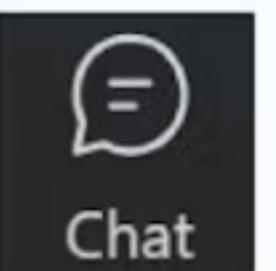
This meeting is being recorded. By staying in this session, you consent to being recorded.



All participants will be automatically muted when the webinar begins. Please raise your hand to ask a question and we will unmute your microphone



Please use the chat function to ask questions during the session.



If you experience technological issues during the meeting, please message **Nicole Rodi** via chat or email, [nicole.rodi@mbakerintl.com](mailto:nicole.rodi@mbakerintl.com).

To Participate in  
Interactive Polling

Visit:

[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

Enter:

8971 4174

Click the Link in the Chat

Scan QR Code Below



During today's meeting we will:

-  Talk about climate change basics
-  Introduce the **Climate Action Plan (CAP)** and process
-  Conduct interactive polling to learn more about how you view climate change
-  Discuss upcoming community outreach and engagement opportunities



# Meet the Team

Let's Talk About It  
Climate Action Planning in Charles County



## Climate Action Plan Project Manager



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

## Contracting Authority



Project Team  
Lead

Greenhouse Gas  
Analyses

Resilience  
Analyses

Community  
Engagement

# Introductions

## Let's Talk About It Climate Action Planning in Charles County



**Beth Groth**  
Charles County Climate  
Resilience and  
Sustainability Officer



**Noelani Brockett**  
Charles County  
Planner



**Colleen Turner**  
Michael Baker International  
Associate Vice President &  
Planning Practice Lead





# Interactive Polling: Getting to Know You

# Where are you joining us from?

Waldorf

Newburg

La Plata

La Plata

Bryans rd

Hyattsville

Lusby

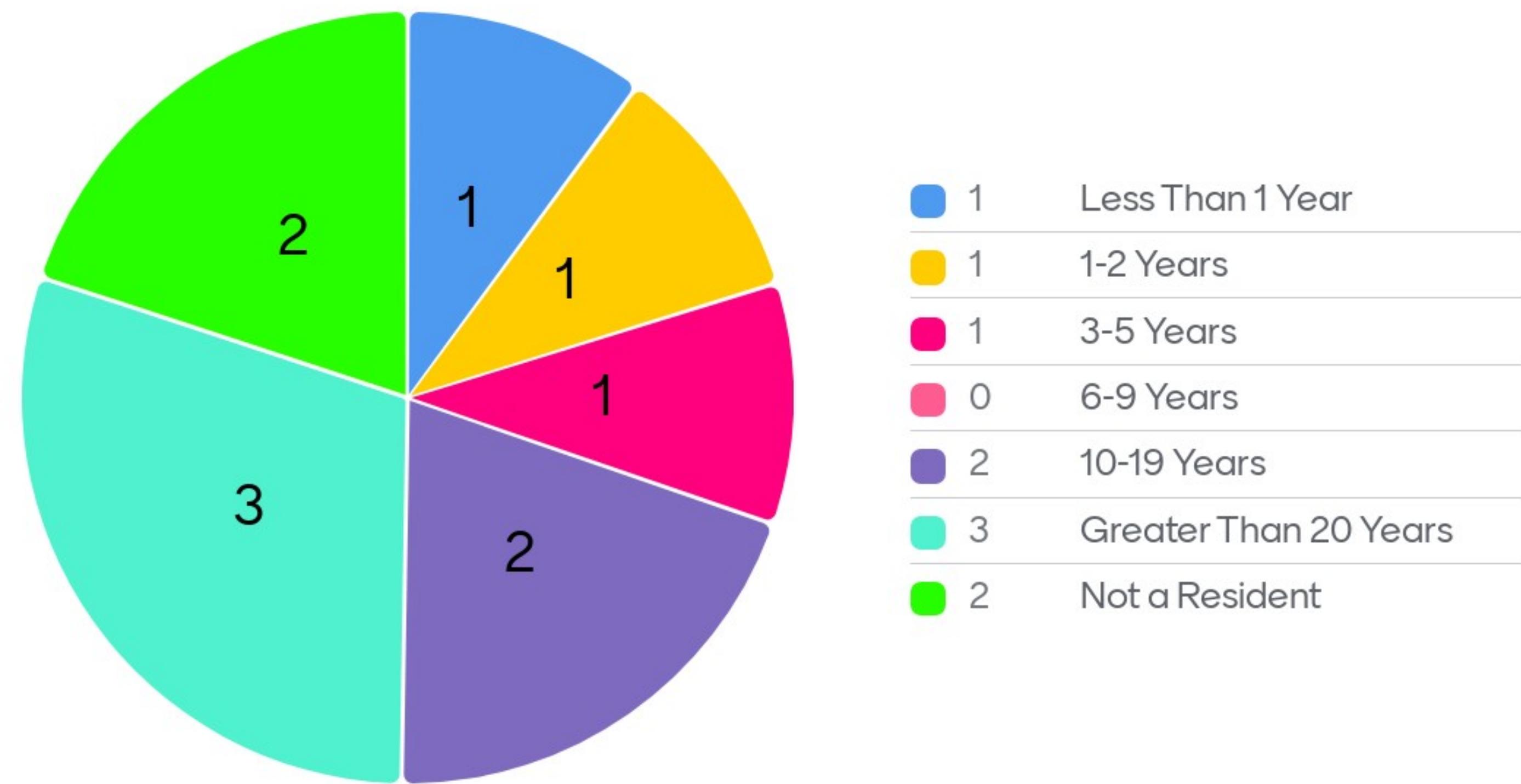
Bensville

# Where are you joining us from?

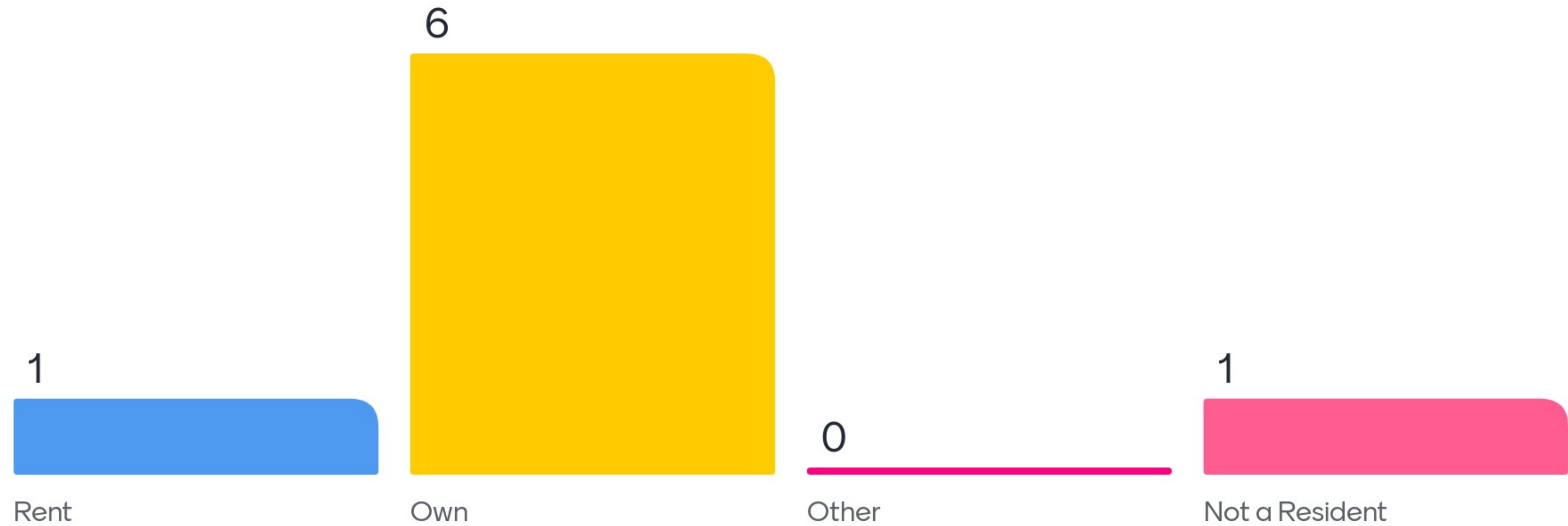
Pomfret

La plata

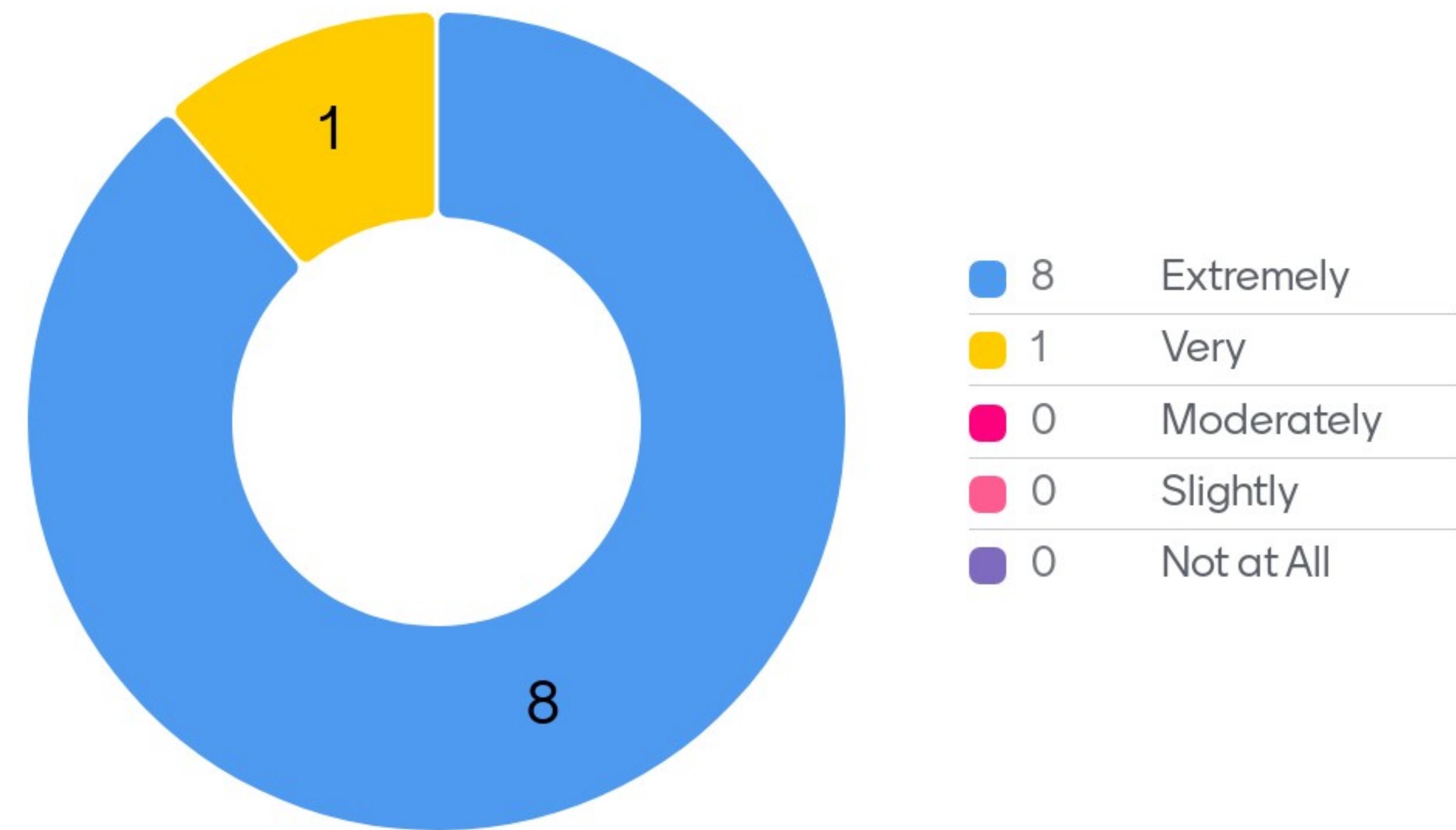
# If you are a Charles County Resident, how long have you lived here?



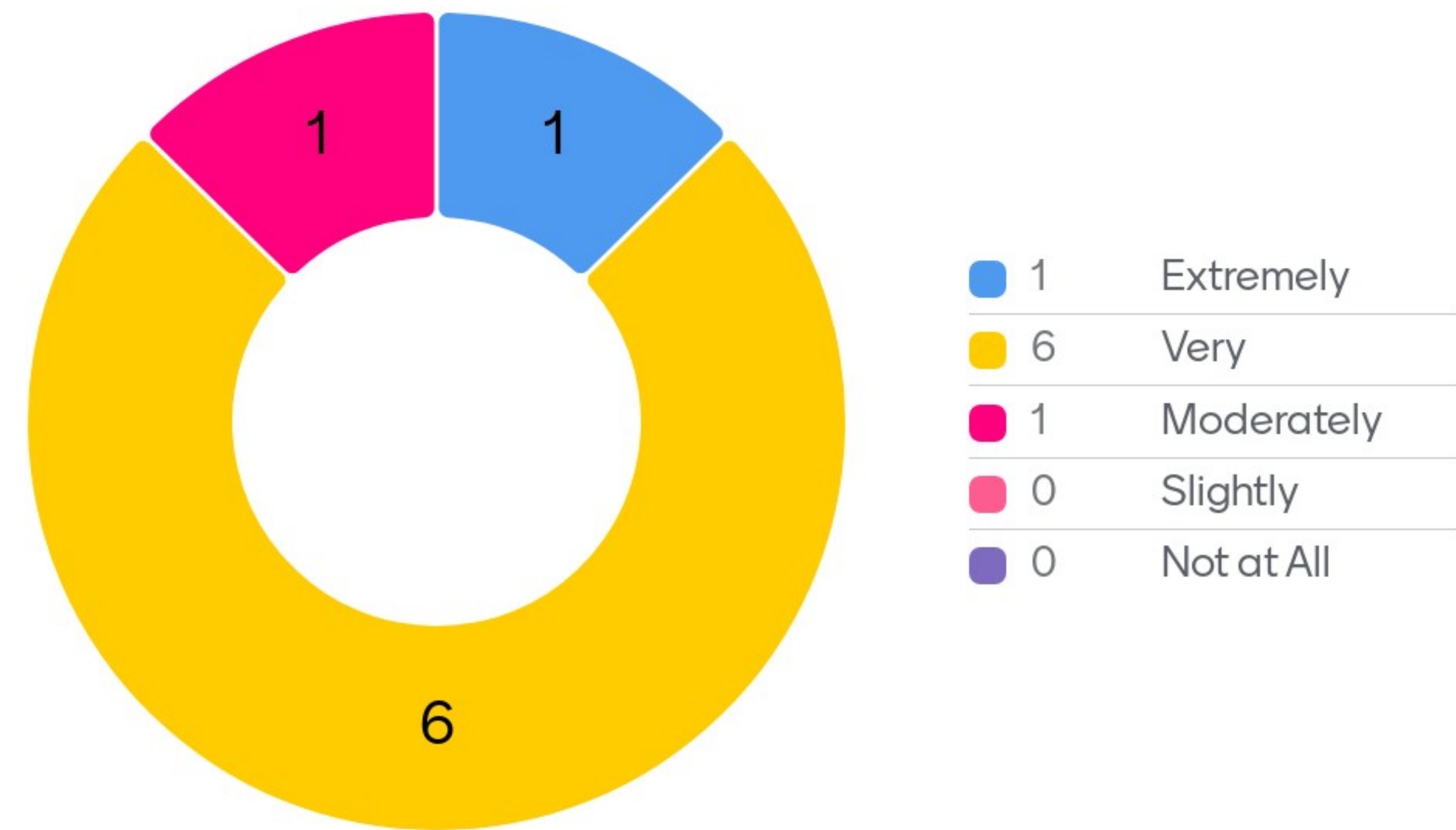
If you are a resident of Charles County, do you rent or own your home?



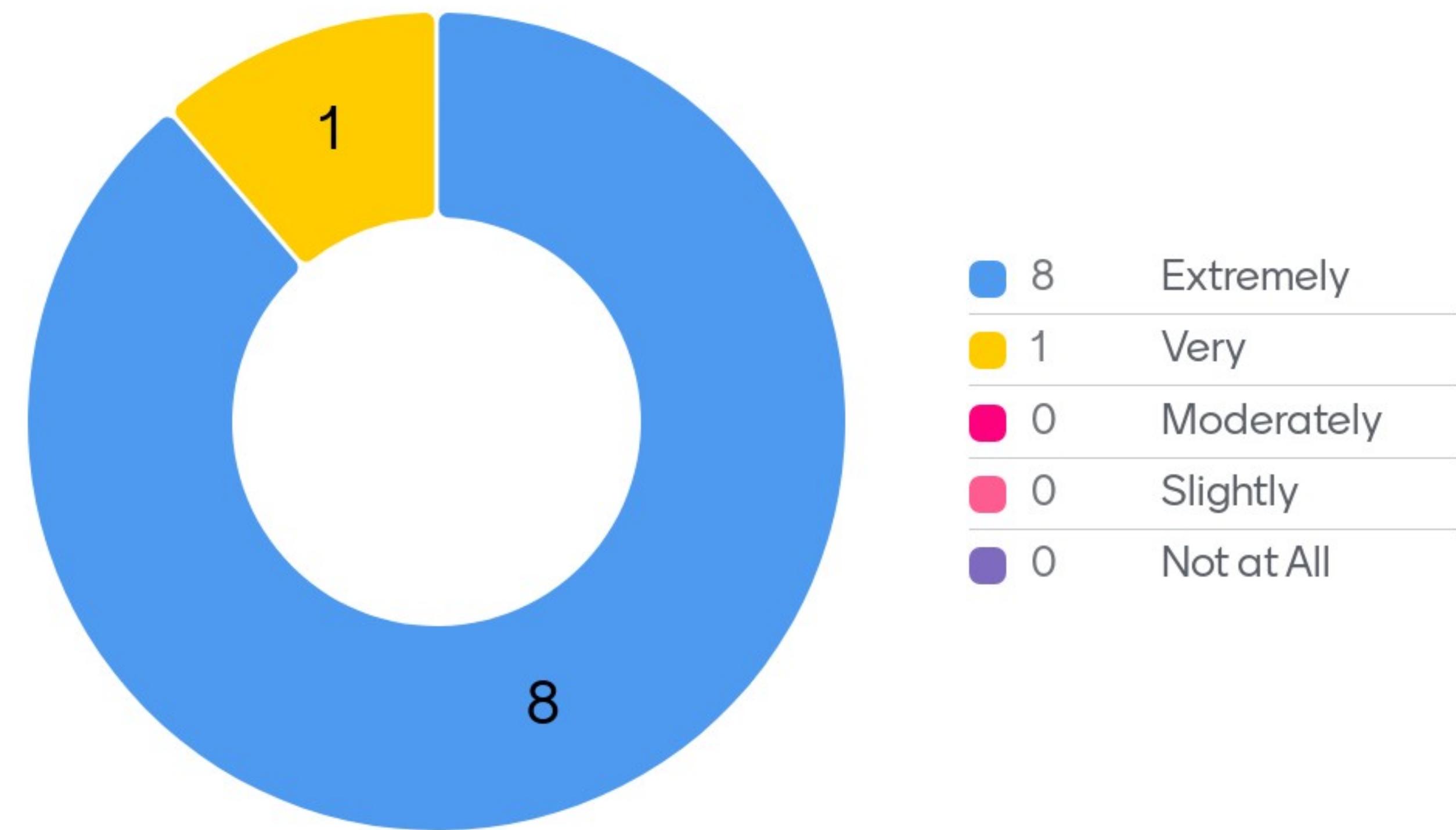
# How concerned are you about climate change?



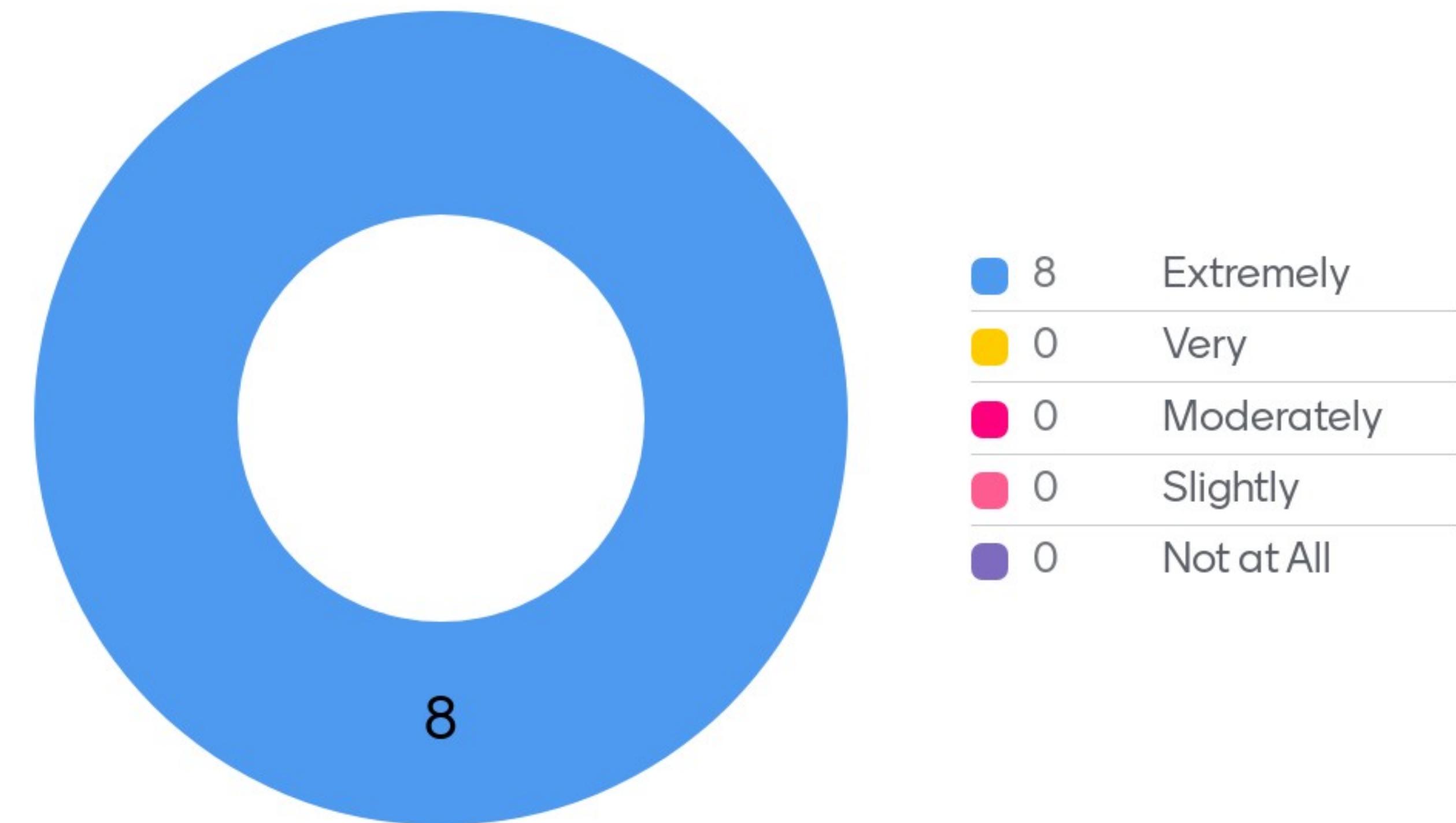
# How familiar are you with climate change causes, impacts, and solutions



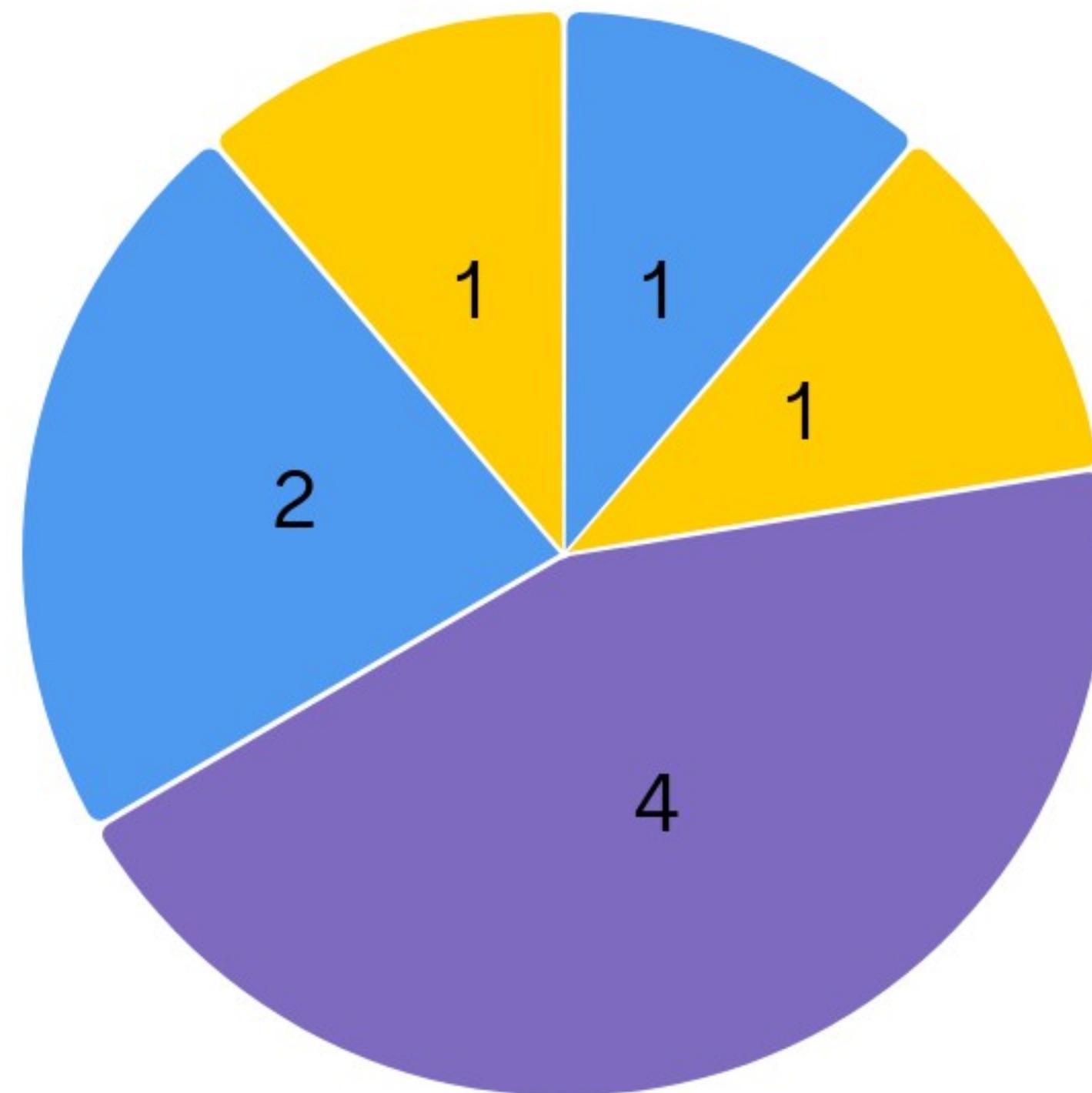
## How important do you think it is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the County?



How important do you think it is for your community to address recovery from and reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events?



# How familiar are you with Climate Action Planning?



- 1 I am extremely familiar and I regularly participate in climate planning
- 1 I am extremely familiar and I occasionally participate in climate planning
- 0 I am extremely familiar, but never participated in climate planning
- 0 I am familiar, and I have participated in some climate planning
- 4 I am familiar, and I have never participated in climate planning
- 2 I have heard about it, but never participated in climate planning
- 1 I have never heard of it, and have never participated in climate planning

# I am hoping to learn about [blank] today:

14 responses

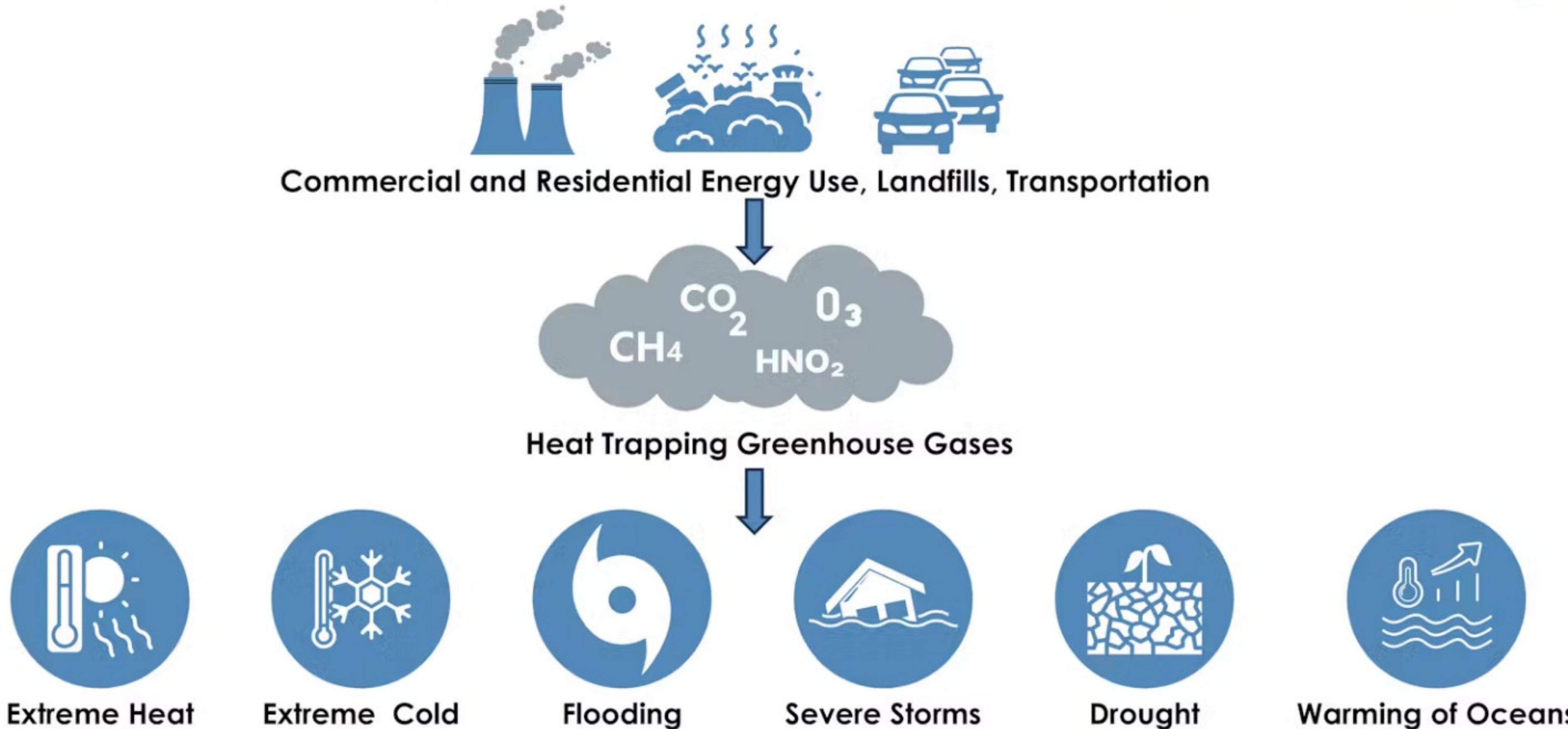
how to support the plan  
engaging residents  
what cc is planning      county plans  
community resiliency      saving forests  
climate action planning  
climate resiliency      methane  
actionable plans      government planning  
habitat conservation  
climate data needs

flooding

# What is Climate Change?

Let's Talk About It  
Climate Action Planning in Charles County

Human activities, including burning fossil fuels for transportation, electricity, industry, and various land use practices, release greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere. These heat-trapping gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases, and ozone—contribute to **Climate Change**.



What do you view as the most important strategies to reducing GHG emissions?

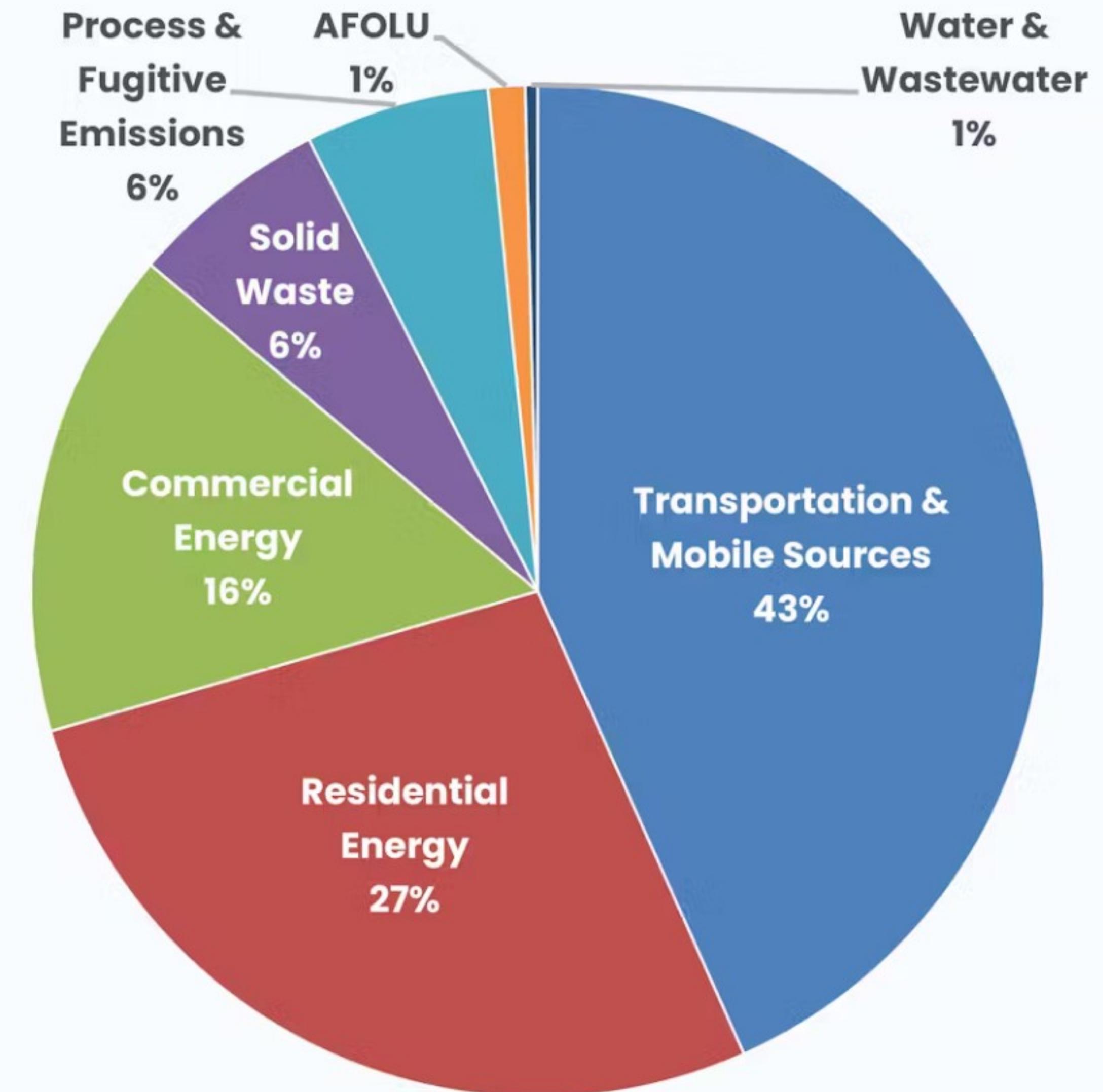
18 responses

```
graph TD; A[reduce fossil fuel use] --> B[clean energy]; A --> C[climate education]; A --> D[mass transit]; B --> E[capture landfill methane]; B --> F[protect watershed]; B --> G[reduce car usage]; B --> H[conservation of forests]; C --> I[bus fleet electrification]; C --> J[maintaining carbon sinks]; D --> K[consume less plastic]; D --> L[improve public transit]; M[data driven decisions] --> A; N[affordability] --> A; O[community buy in] --> D
```

# Where do GHG Emissions Come From?

Let's Talk About It  
Climate Action Planning in Charles County

- **86%** from Transportation and Energy Use
- **AFOLU** = Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
- **Process & Fugitive Emissions** = Industrial process and manufacturing emissions as well as leaks from equipment or pipelines



# What do you view as the most concerning impacts of climate change?

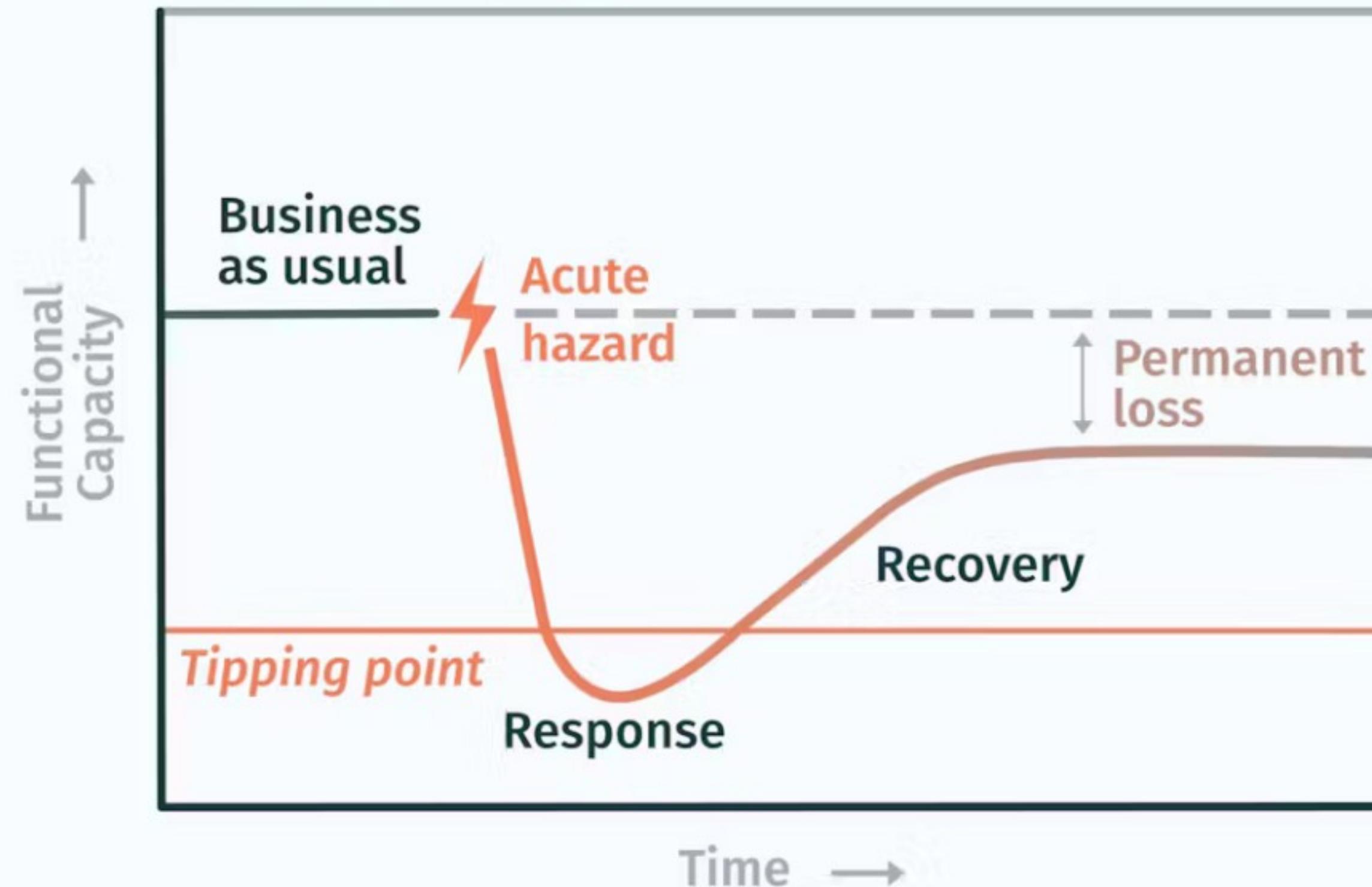


## Comments Received in Chat:

- Stress on human body.

"The capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to **prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from** a disruption."

## Less Resilient

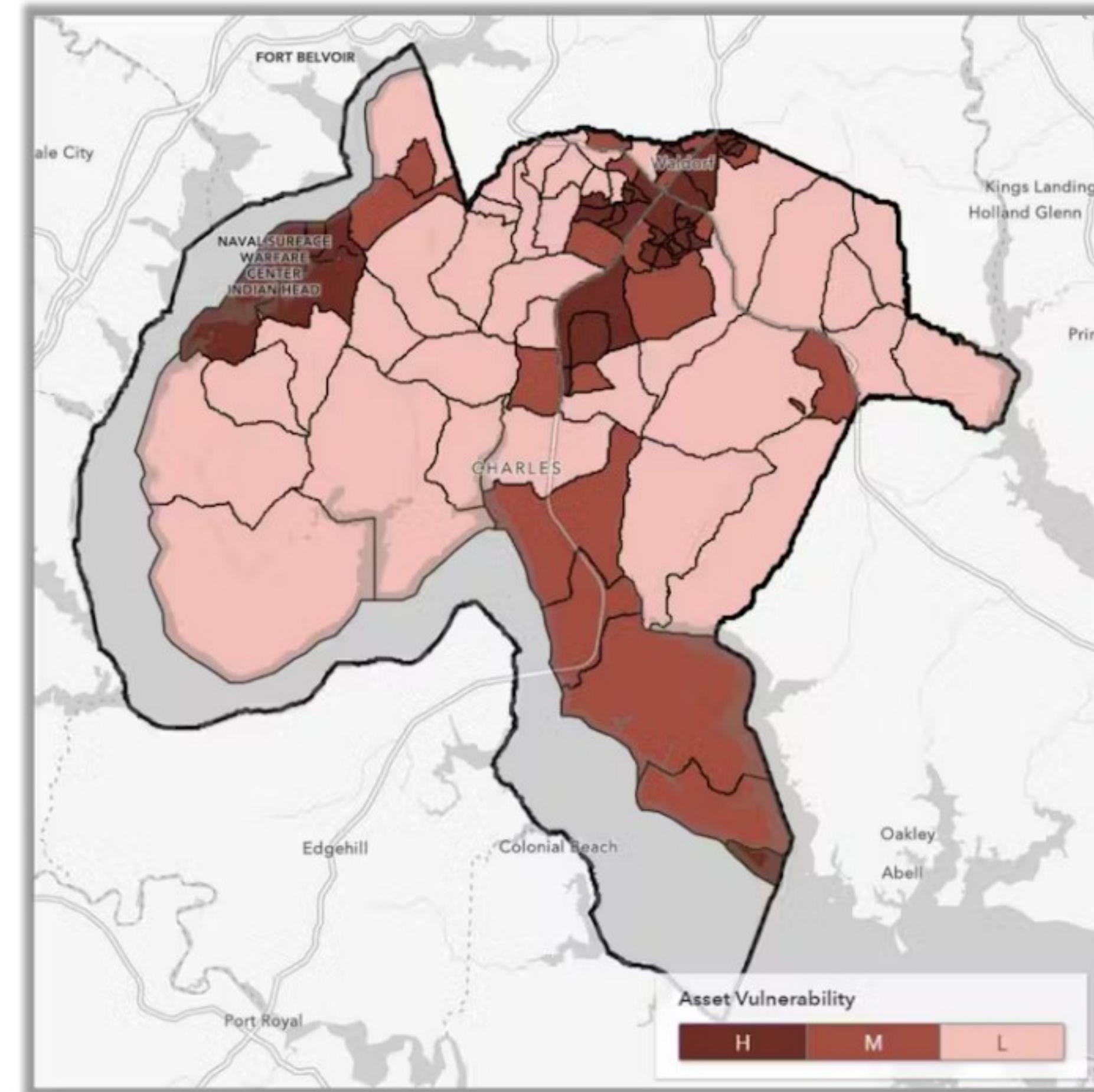


## More Resilient



**Draft vulnerability assessment underway to identify communities that have, high, medium, and low risk associated with:**

- Tidal Flooding
- Storm Surge
- Extreme Heat
- Roads and Parcels Potentially Isolated from Emergency Services Due to Flooding



The vulnerability output for the extreme heat assessment in the County, where darkest red census block groups have the highest vulnerability to extreme heat events and lightest red have the lowest vulnerability.



# What is Climate Action Planning?

Let's Talk About It  
Climate Action Planning in Charles County

The **Climate Action Plan (CAP)** serves as a comprehensive roadmap to guide Charles County through a process of reducing its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, mitigate and respond to climate change, improve the environment, and protect communities.

“—

**Charles County recognizes the need to take action to sustain the vitality of our community for years to come. The Office of Climate Resilience and Sustainability works with government and community partners to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, protect our natural environment, and safeguard our community against the effects of climate change.**

—”



**Goals** will be established to ensure the CAP is actionable, implementable, and reflective of the needs of Charles County Government, residents, businesses, and stakeholders.

- 1 Reduce GHGs from Emitting Sectors



- 2 Collaborate with Government Stakeholders and Community to Develop Goals
- 3 Develop time-oriented strategies for climate resilience strategies
- 4 Develop CAP performance measures to track progress and status of Goals

1

## **Community-Wide Resilience and GHG Mitigation Action Plan**

Residential and Commercial buildings, Industrial facilities, all Vehicles in Community, etc.

2

## **Government Operations Resilience and GHG Mitigation Action Plan**

- Facilities the County or other units of government manage to provide essential public services e.g., buildings, fleet vehicles, wastewater treatment
- Other non-governmental critical services facilities (medical, power, etc.)





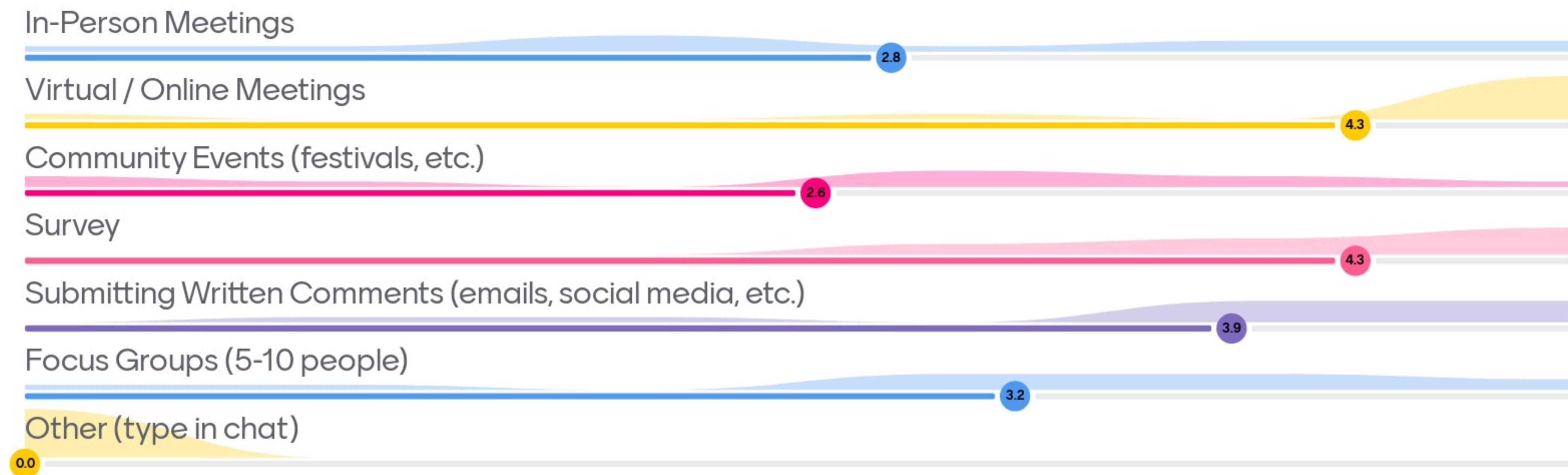
- **Collaborate** with a **diverse range of stakeholders and community members**, including residents, community groups, businesses, industry representatives, elected officials, youth, underserved and disadvantaged populations/communities.
- Conduct outreach using **multilingual** and **accessible materials** to gather broad input and ensure all voices are heard, actively involved, and reflected in the CAP.  
Hold **interactive webinars** to guide community members through the CAP development
- Engage community members by holding **in-person meetings at various locations and participating in community events**.
- **Listen to and gather input** on communities' climate experiences, current actions, and resilience needs and priorities.





# Interactive Polling: Engagement

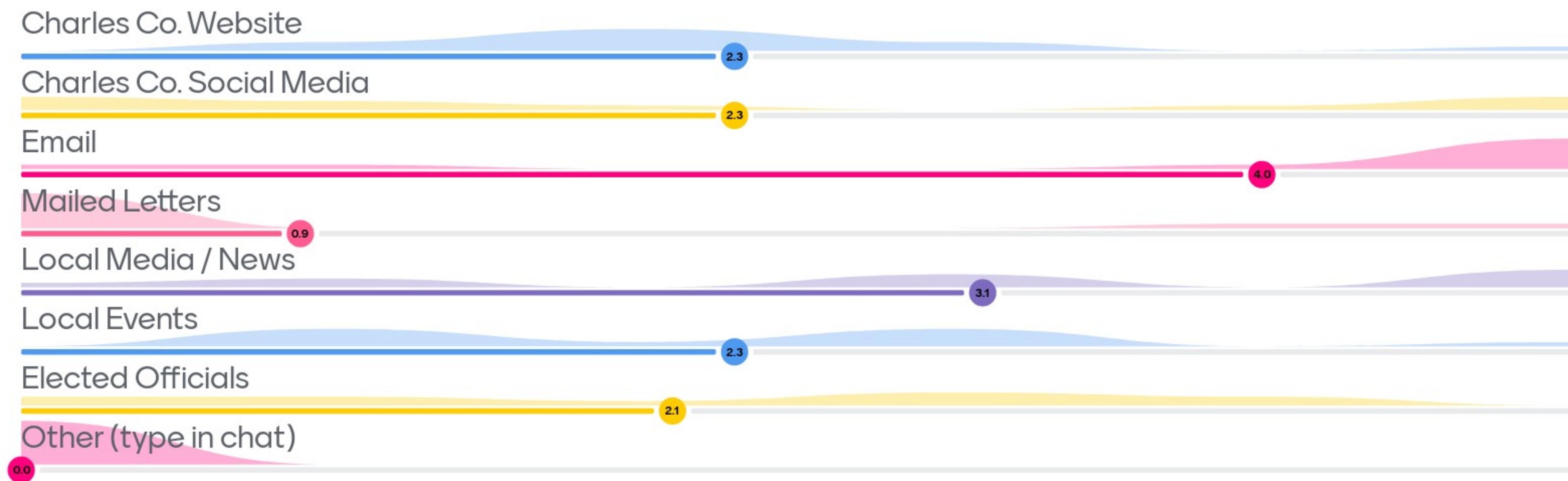
# What is your preferred method of involvement and giving feedback on the CAP?



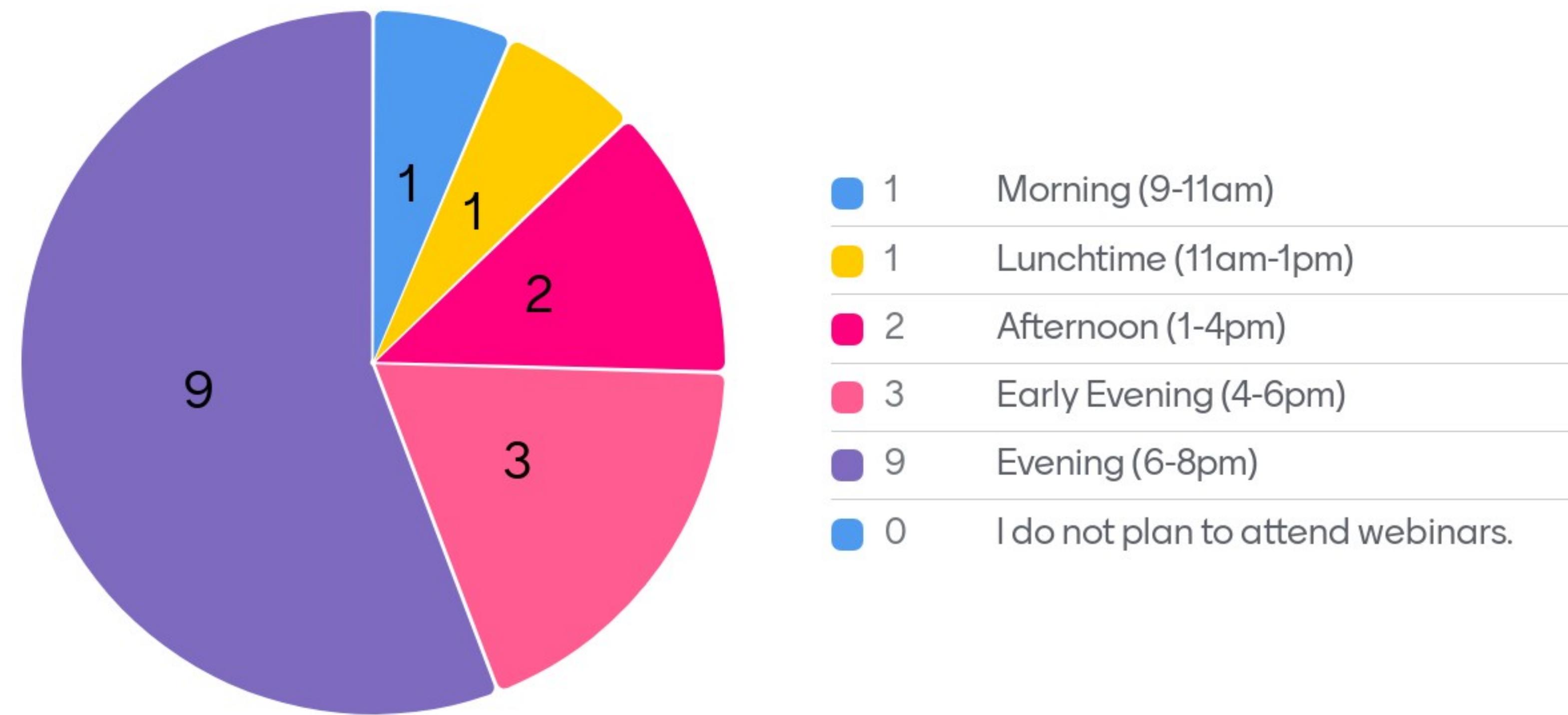
## Comments Received in Chat:

- In-Person Meetings and Focus Groups

# How often do you use the following communication resources?



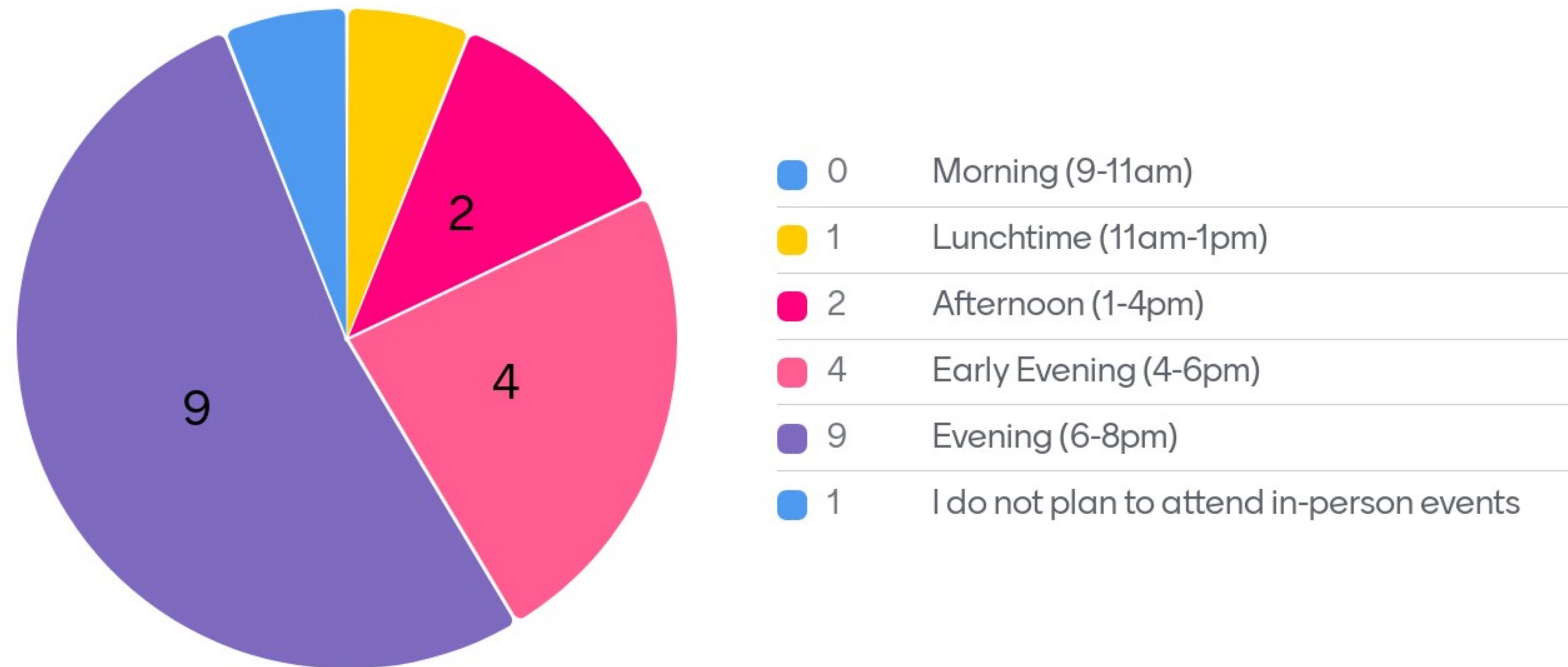
What time of day would you prefer to attend a 1-hour interactive webinar, like this one? (select all that apply)



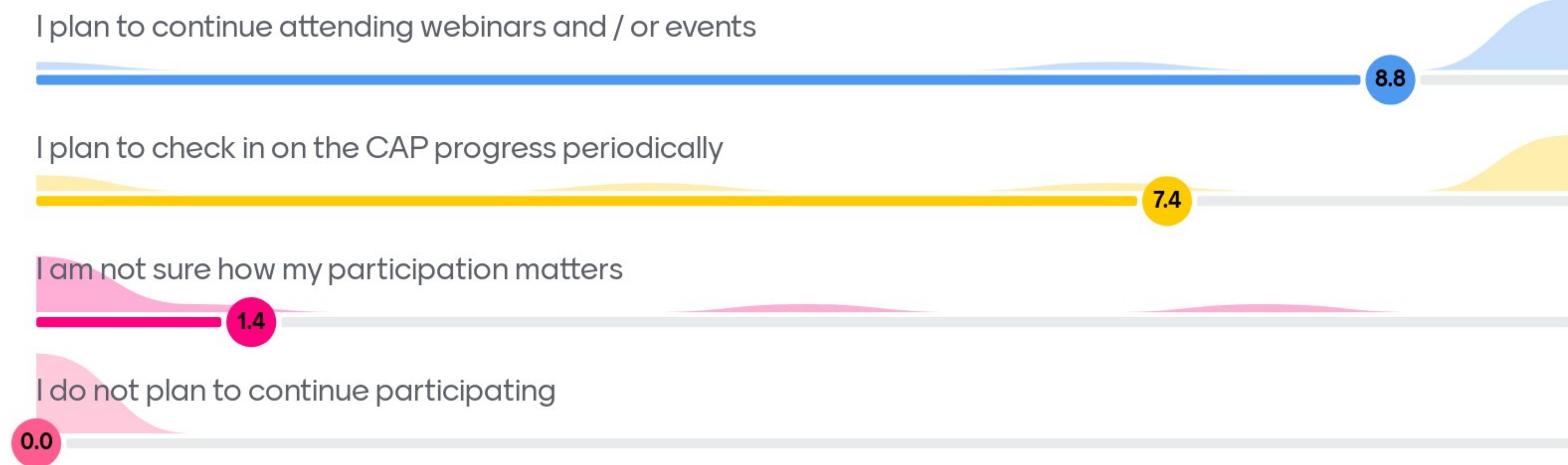
**Comments Received in Chat:**

- Evening - 8pm
- Early Evening & Evening
- It Depends on the Day. Weekends have more Availability than Weekdays.

What time of day would you prefer to attend an in-person public meeting? (select all that apply)



Use the sliding scale to express how likely you are to continue participating in the development and following the progress of the CAP.



**Comments Received in Chat:**

- I intend to participate regularly
- Frequently

Can you think of any local events (meetings, festivals, etc.) in Charles County that we should attend to talk about the CAP?

11 responses

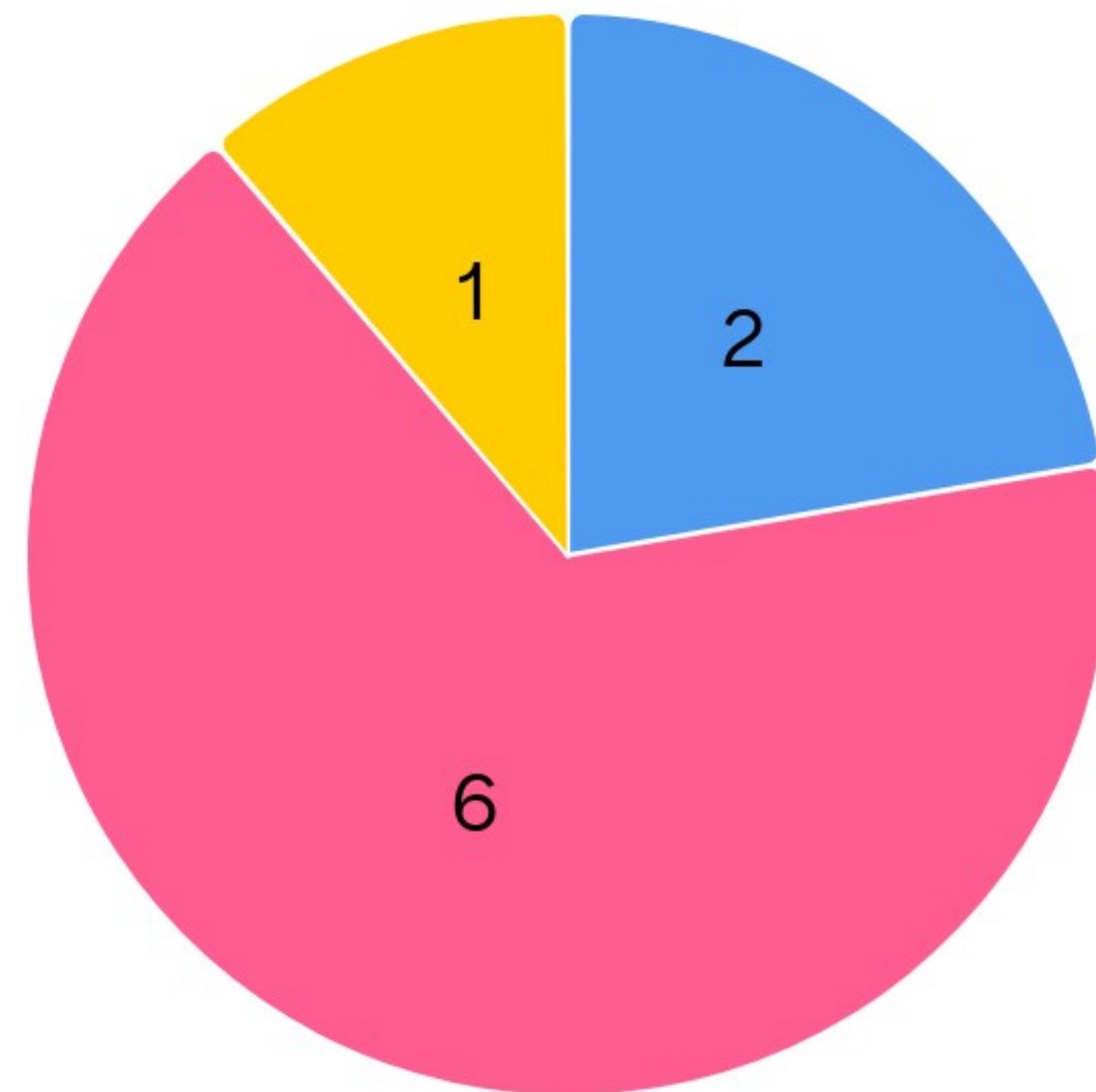
farmers market  
town halls  
county fair  
wellness fair      farmer's market  
la plata festival  
small biz saturday  
la plata farmers market

**Comments Received in Chat:**

- The Charles Restaurant (La Plata)
- County Parks
- Libraries
- Southern MD Food Bank
- College of Southern Maryland
- STEM Events at Schools
- Pop and Grow (Waldorf)
- Happy Hour
- Tabling at High Traffic Areas, like a Grocery Store



## Are there any potential barriers to your continued involvement with the CAP?



2	I have no barriers
0	Language barriers
0	Internet access
6	Time of day
0	Hearing impairment / access
0	visual impairment / access
1	I am not sure how my participation matters
0	I do not plan to continue participating
0	Other (type in chat)

Would it be beneficial for you, or anyone in your household or community, to provide materials in other languages? Please share the languages.

4 responses

# spanish

**Comments Received in Chat:**

- Tagalog



# Be Engaged & Involved!

Let's Talk About It  
Climate Action Planning in Charles County



## Visit our Climate Action Plan Engage Page

<https://charles-county-md.civilspace.io/en/projects/charles-county-climate-action-planning>



## Join Our Mailing List

<https://www.charlescountymd.gov/government/climate-action-plan>



## Follow Us on Social Media!

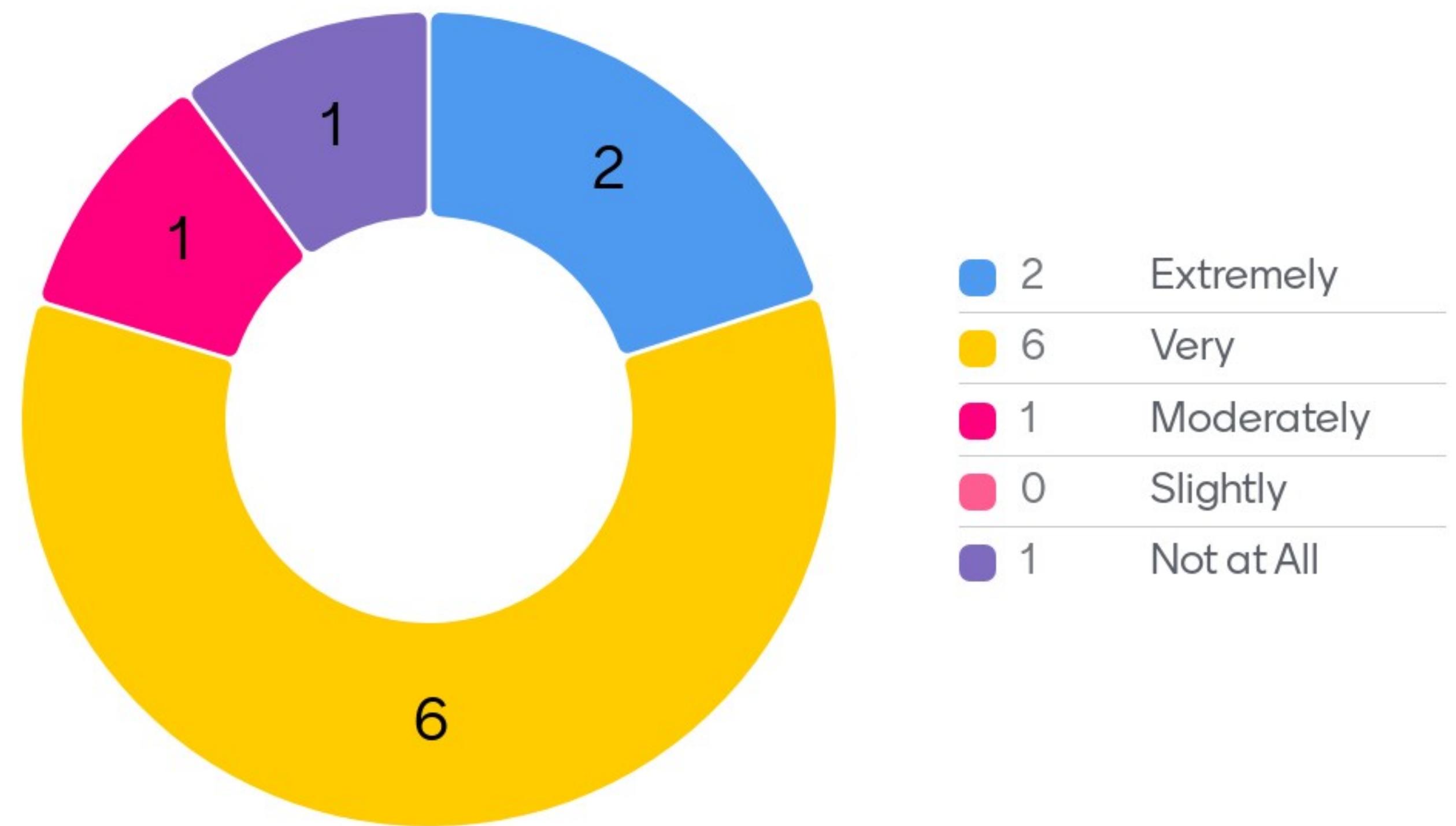
<https://linktr.ee/CharlesCAP>



- **Interactive Community Webinars**
  - Meeting #2 – Where are we Heading? Inventories, Forecasts, and Initial Strategy Discussion
    - January 15, 2025
  - Meeting #3 – Deep Dive on Mitigation and Resilience Strategies
    - February 26, 2025
  - Meeting #4 – Climate Action Plan Strategy Analysis Results
    - March 26, 2025
- **In-Person Meetings (Locations TBD)**
- **Attendance at Community Events (Locations TBD)**
- **Other Stakeholder Engagement**
  - Utilities
  - Other Government Agencies [State, Federal]
  - Community Organizations and Advocacy Groups
  - Students / Youth
- **Continued Analysis and Strategy Development**



I found this webinar helpful



# What would you like to learn or focus on during future CAP meetings?

12 responses

networking

budgets

how to get involved

plan implementation  
actions  
ways to talk to people  
land use solutions

transit

learn more about the plan  
data collection  
outside funding

# Is there anything else you would like to share?

0 responses

## **Responses Received in Chat:**

- What percent of the County's budget for CAP implementation will rely on State and Federal Funding?
- The Website for Master Gardeners who might be interested in participating in CAP involvement:  
<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/master-gardener/>
- There is a Junior Master Gardener Program as well.
- Coordination and connection with 4-H.
- Would it be possible to get the slides with the statistics on emissions and the heat vulnerability to share out?
- Will you be inviting volunteers to assist?
- How come business owners are not included as stakeholders?
- I work at SCM and could get the sustainability folks involved! (There is a student group for it.)
- Invitation to speak at a Eco Hawks: Students for Environmental Sustainability meeting, a student group on the La Plata Campus.
- Ask what skills people have to best utilize them.
- Involve conservation and other organizations - SMAS, Nature Conservancy, etc.
- Audubon Society of Southern MD.
- HOAs throughout the County, especially how / if resilience can affect storm water management.
- USDA has millions of dollars that can be used for resilience programs.



# Thank You For Your Participation!

## Beth Groth

Climate Resilience and  
Sustainability Officer

## Noelani Brockett

Planner

301-645-0692

[ClimateAction@CharlesCountyMD.gov](mailto:ClimateAction@CharlesCountyMD.gov)

