



# UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CROWDSOURCED CONVERSATIONS SURVEY REPORT: “SUSTAINABILITY IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS”



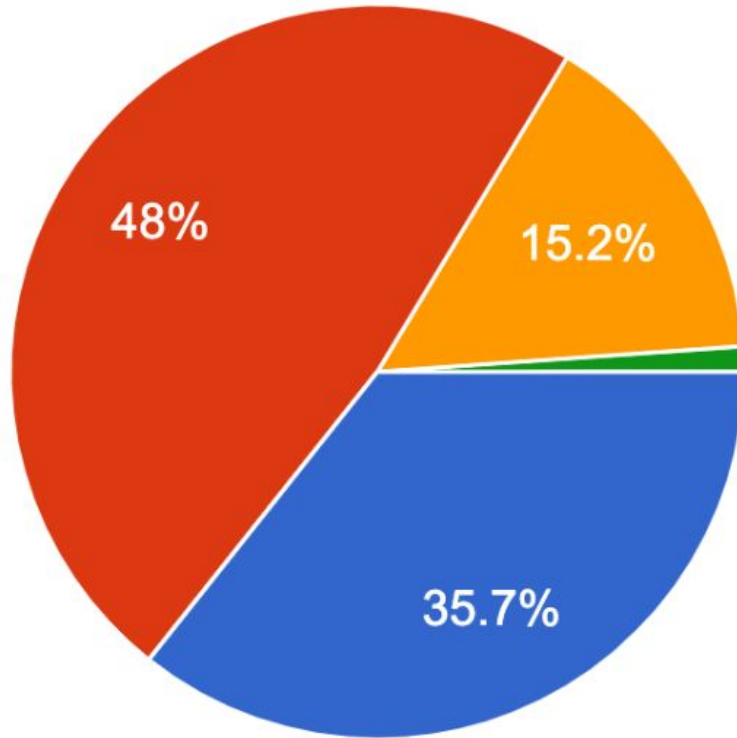
# Some topline stats

- There were a total of **269 responses**:
  - **94.1% University Heights residents**; 3% work or go to school in UH but live elsewhere; 1.5% used to live in UH; 1.5% have never lived or worked in UH
  - **94.1% homeowners**; 3% renters; 3% other
  - **27% have lived in their homes 21-40 years**; 23% 1-5 years; 19% 6-10 years; 12% 11-20 years; 11% more than 40 years; 3.7% less than 1 year; 3.3% have never lived in UH
  - **55.6% identified as a woman**; 37.3% as a man; 6% preferred not to say; 1.1% as trans\*/nonbinary/genderqueer
  - **60.7% as under the age of 60**; 36% identified as over the age of 60; 4.5% preferred not to say
  - **79.5% identified as White**; 10.8% preferred not to say; 4.5% as Black; 2.2% as multi-racial; 2% as Hispanic/LatinX; 1.5% as Asian; 0% as Indigenous



**Household**

# Prioritization of household sustainability practices



**Respondents reported prioritizing household sustainability practices:**

- Often - 129 responses (48%)
- Always - 96 responses (35.70%)
- Somewhat - 41 responses (15.20%)
- Never - 3 responses (1.10%)

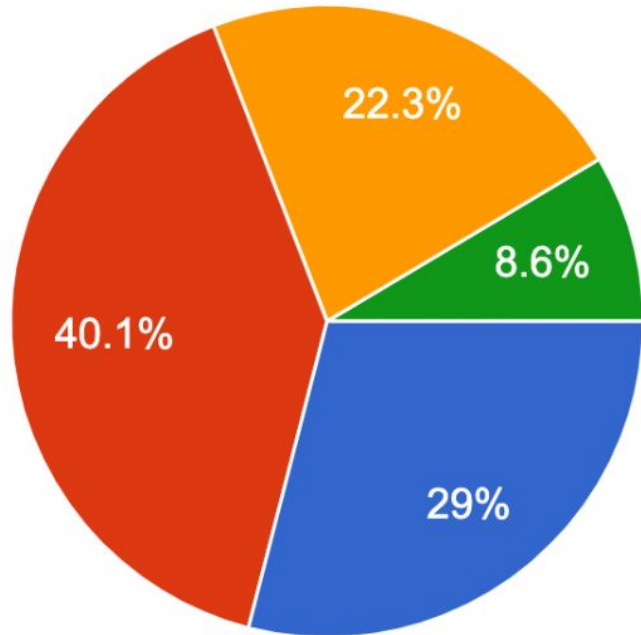
# Participation in recycling program

## Respondents reported:

1. I recycle and will continue with the new curbside program - 227 responses (84.40%)
2. I ordered and have received a recycling cart - 106 responses (39.40%)
3. I drop off recycling items at the Service Department - 43 responses (16%)
4. I am unsure of what items are acceptable to recycle - 25 responses (9.30%)
5. I ordered but have not yet received a recycling cart - 14 responses (5.20%); I have questions about the new curbside recycling program - 14 responses (5.20%)
6. I am not familiar with the new curbside recycling program - 3 responses (1.10%); I am planning to order a recycling cart - 3 responses (1.10%)

10 respondents (3.7%) reported they do not recycle at all.

# Confidence in recycling “best practices” in University Heights



**Rate of confidence respondents have regarding best practices related to recycling in University Heights (i.e. knowing what is recyclable and what isn't, how to get a recycling cart, when to set the cart out, etc.)**

- Confident - 108 responses (40.10%)
- Very confident - 78 responses (29%)
- Somewhat confident - 60 responses (22.30%)
- Not confident - 23 responses (8.60%)

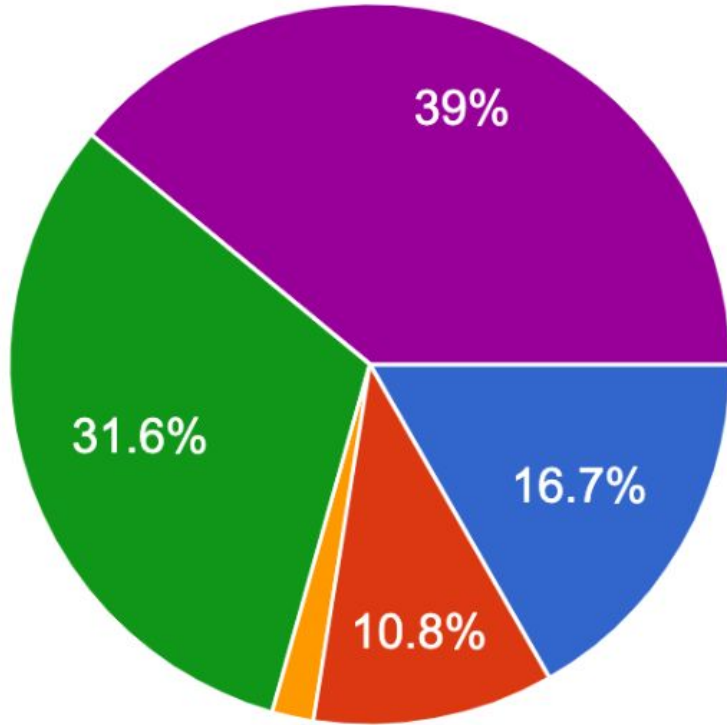
# Household conservation practices

**Respondents reported current utilization of the following conversation practices:**

1. Turning off lamps/room lights when not in use - 243 responses (90.30%)
2. Turning off appliances (i.e. turning the television off when not in the room, etc.) - 220 responses (81.80%)
3. Adjusting my thermostat in both summer and winter - 207 responses (77%)
4. Using energy-star appliances (or planning to replace current appliances with energy-star appliances when the time comes to do so) - 196 responses (72.90%)
5. Composting and/or recycling to minimize trash going to landfills - 171 responses (63.60%)
6. Intentionally minimizing water usage - 139 responses (51.70%)
7. Using a smart thermostat like Nest or similar - 92 responses (34.20%)
8. Shrinking my lawn by adding garden beds - 75 responses (27.90%)
9. Growing my own vegetables - 67 responses (24.90%)
10. Running appliances during off hours (i.e. doing laundry at night when the grid isn't as heavily loaded - 60 responses (22.30%)



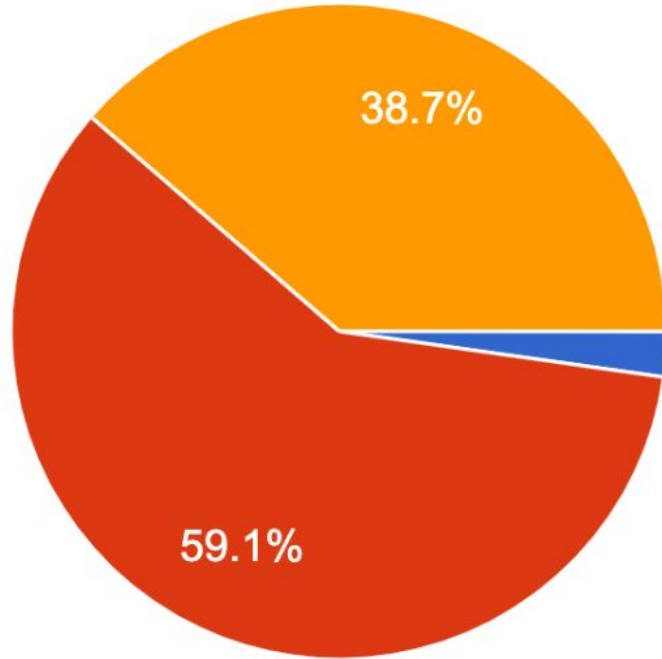
# Composting in University Heights



## Respondent interest/participation in composting:

- I do not compost or am unfamiliar with composting but would be interested in learning ways to do so - 105 responses (39%)
- I am not interested in composting - 85 responses (31.60%)
- I compost on my own - 45 responses (16.70%)
- I compost by using a service (such as Rust Belt Riders) - 29 responses (10.80%)
- I compost on my own AND I use a service - 5 respondents (1.90%)

# Use of solar photovoltaic panels in University Heights



## Respondent usage of solar photovoltaic panels:

- My household doesn't currently have solar photovoltaic panels but I am interested - 159 responses (59.10%)
- My household does not currently have solar photovoltaic panels - 104 responses (38.70%)
- My household already has solar photovoltaic panels - 6 responses (2.20%)

# Potential barriers for environmentally-friendly household practices

1. I have financial limitations - 111 responses (41.30%)
1. I have devices that I plan to replace with more environmentally friendly options when they eventually break - 90 responses (33.50%)
2. I need more information on how to make my household more environmentally friendly - 64 responses (23.80%)
3. There is disagreement in my household regarding the utilization of environmentally friendly practices - 10 responses (3.70%)
4. I am not the decision-maker in my household - 9 responses (3.30%)

85 respondents (31.6%) reported none of these as barriers. 22 respondents (8.2%) reported "other" barriers.

# “Other” barriers identified by respondents

- UH government needs to update laws/ordinances to allow for environmentally-friendly practices (5)
- I am not able to make changes in my household/these kinds of changes are out of my control (4)
- Some homes not able to have environmentally-friendly upgrades (3)
- There is community resistance to making environmentally-friendly changes (2)
- Make it easy and I'll do it (2)
- My opinion won't make a difference (2)
- Old electrical system has to be addressed/updated first (2)
- I hesitate to make such investments because I am unsure how long I will stay in University Heights (1)
- My style of home doesn't allow for solar panels (1)
- I plan to ask my landlord about making environmentally-friendly upgrades where I rent (1)
- The city should offer recycling options to business owners (1)
- Have to form new habits (1)
- Trees block the sun which makes solar panels risky (1)
- Waiting for rebates from State of Ohio household appliance upgrades (1)
- I do not have the bandwidth to focus on this (1)
- I was cited in the past for not mowing and so I am unsure the UH government is prioritizing sustainability (1)
- Solar panel installation requires design review (1)
- Hard to find contractors to make the necessary home upgrades (1)
- I converted from a gas appliance to electric and regret my choice (1)
- New bin system is inconvenient (1)
- I liked not having trash or recycle bins provided (1)
- Some city codes do not support environmentally friendly options (1)
- Technology changes so fast, I hesitate to invest if something better is around the corner (1)
- I would like to replace my lawn with native plantings but unsure of the UH laws/ordinances about that (1)

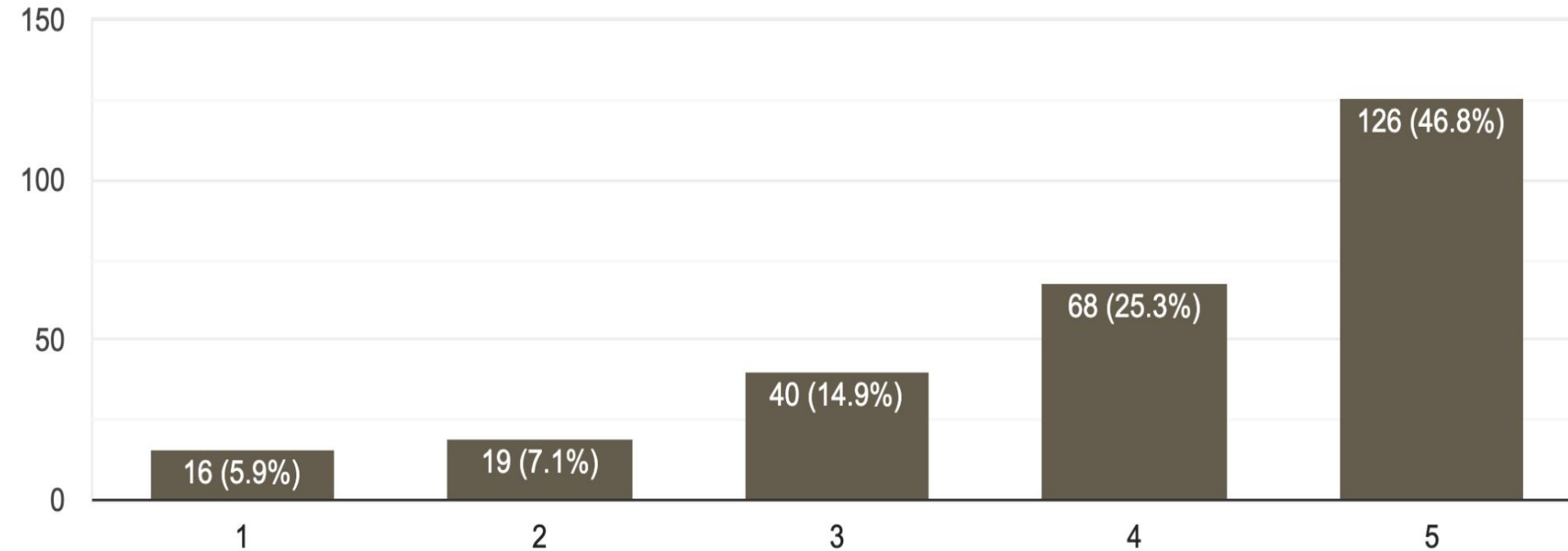
# Services that might be of interest

1. Incentive to install solar photovoltaic panels - 155 responses (57.60%)
2. Low/no-cost energy audit (An energy audit is a comprehensive assessment of your home's energy efficiency and consumption) - 130 responses (48.30%)
3. Insulation and repair programs - 128 responses (47.60%)
4. Financing options for weatherization/energy efficiency - 95 responses (35.30%)
5. Low-interest loan for repairs needed based on audit - 92 responses (34.20%)
6. Incentive to exchange gas powered lawn mowers/leaf blowers for electric ones - 87 responses (32.30%)
7. Incentive to replace gas appliances with electric ones - 75 responses (27.90%)
8. Zero-waste education/events - 74 responses (27.50%)
9. Incentive to install LED lighting - 72 responses (26.80%)

36 respondents (13.4%) reported none of these were of interest to them.

# Importance of nearby greenspace

194 respondents (72.1%) rated a 4 or higher, indicating high/extremely high importance for residents to have greenspace near their residence; 40 (14.9%) rated it a neutral 3; and 35 (13%) rated it a 2 or lower, indicating a low/extremely low importance.



# Additional comments regarding households

- Just because something is recyclable doesn't always mean it is actually recycled (3)
- Better land use wanted to keep residents in the community instead of needing to go elsewhere for goods and services (2)
- City should switch to electric instead of gas-powered equipment (2)
- The City of University Heights should have a FAQ about what lawn practices are acceptable and what residents may be fined for violating (2)
- City of University Heights composting would be welcome (2)
- I am engaging in environmentally-friendly practices to the best of my ability (2)
- I have concerns about the current UH recycling program (2)
- Generating less waste is better than having more recycling (1)
- More trees wanted to reduce the overall heat of the city (1)
- Water collection/diversion incentives wanted (1)
- Hybrid/no-gas vehicle incentives wanted (1)
- Farmers' markets in neighborhoods wanted (1)
- Bring Aldi's in (1)
- Incentives for quiet lawn equipment (1)
- Preserve/protect the city's green spaces (1)
- Stop fining residents who don't mow their yards (1)
- Incentives for making front lawns into natural spaces/increase pollinators (1)
- Solar panel roofs across parking lots (ex: Universalist Church in Shaker Heights) (1)
- Unmowed lawns make neighborhoods look run down (1)
- More community gardens (1)
- Community-specific incentives are a good idea (1)
- Lower taxes would allow for more homeowners to make environmentally-friendly upgrades (1)
- I've done many environmentally-friendly upgrades already (1)
- Electric appliances aren't necessarily better than gas ones (1)
- Add financing for window/door replacement (1)

# Additional comments regarding households (cont'd)

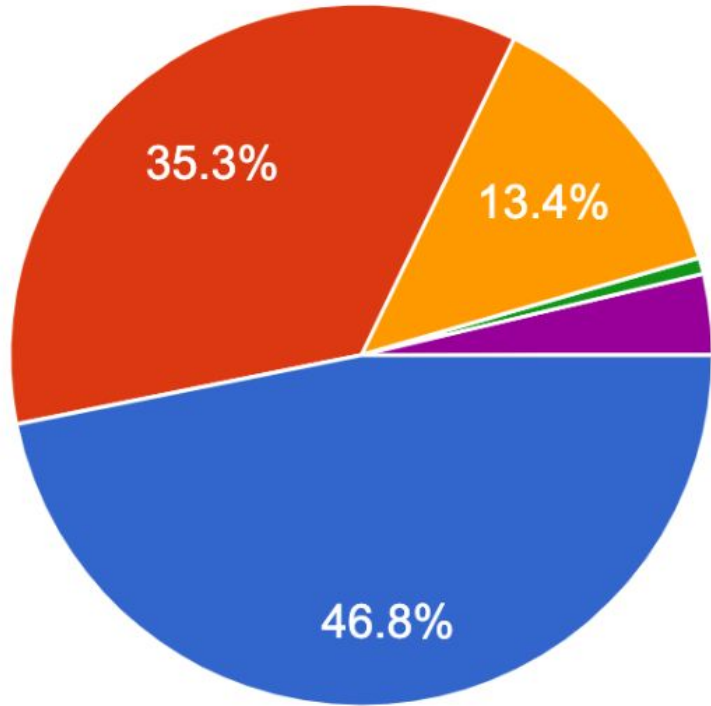
- Help with tree care and planting (1)
  - Find ways to engage more of the community around sustainable practices (1)
  - Limit/eliminate outdoor fires (1)
  - Go back to the door-to-door recycling pickup (1)
  - Focus on pedestrian-friendly development (1)
  - Electric grid needs to be able to handle an uptick in electric-powered household items (1)
  - I have limitations that make bringing the bins to the curb challenging (1)
  - Make residents aware that they can certify their yard as National Wildlife Federation wildlife habitat (1)
- Make the trash pickup the same as the recycling pickup (1)
  - I wonder how the city chose the current recycling system/provider (1)
  - Invest in a mulching mower (1)
  - Invest in motion-sensored lights (1)
  - The City should support businesses with environmentally-friendly practices (1)
  - I'd like assistance installing a rain barrel (1)



**Commercial/**

**Nonresidential**

# Importance of the city “leading by example”



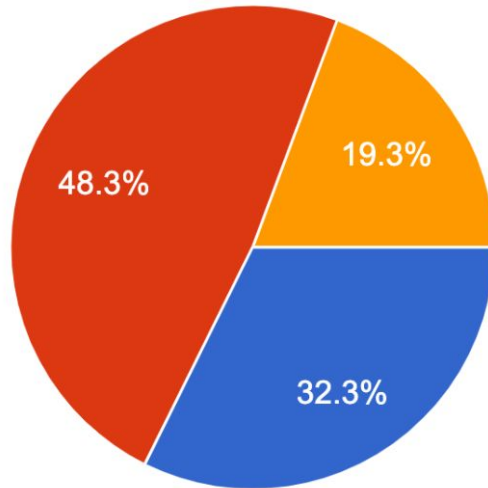
**Respondents reported on how important it is to them that the City of University Heights government lead by example on sustainability practices:**

- Very important - 126 responses (46.80%)
- Important - 95 responses (35.30%)
- Neither important nor unimportant - 36 responses (13.40%)
- Very unimportant - 10 responses (3.70%)
- Unimportant - 2 responses (0.70%)

# Single-use bags and takeout container options

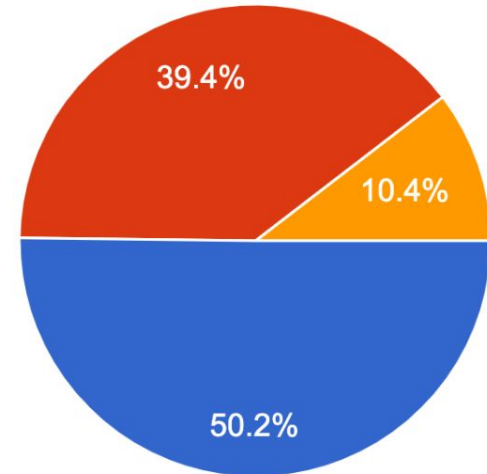
## Respondent viewpoints on single-use plastic bags:

- Single-use plastic bags should be reduced/restricted- 130 responses (48.30%)
- All single-use plastic bags should be eliminated - 87 responses (32.30%)
- No changes are needed in regards to single-use plastic bags - 52 responses (19.30%)



## Respondent viewpoints on takeout containers:

- Restaurants should always provide environmentally friendly packaging for takeout - 135 responses (50.20%)
- More restaurants should provide environmentally friendly packaging but it shouldn't be required - 106 responses (39.40%)
- It is not important to me if restaurants use environmentally friendly packaging - 28 responses (10.40%)



# Respondents rated their support of the following:

1. Upgrade/repair sewers - 193 responses (71.70%)
2. Repair or replace streets and sidewalks - 184 responses (68.40%)
3. Update Zoning Code to allow for more mixed-use, high-density, transit-oriented, street-connected, walkable development - 150 responses (55.80%)
4. Incentivize local businesses to "go green" - 150 responses (55.80%)
5. Upgrade street lights to LEDs - 146 responses (54.30%)
6. Create connections through streets, sidewalks, bike paths; support with wayfinding signage - 134 responses (49.80%)
7. Require new construction to be EV- and solar-ready - 107 responses (39.80%)
8. Reduce brightness of streetlights (in order to reduce light pollution) - 107 responses (39.80%)
9. Require an assessment for solar on new construction and parking lots - 101 responses (37.50%)
10. Adding more bike racks - 83 responses (30.90%)
11. Reducing parking zoning requirements (City of UH current zoning code requires a minimum number of parking spaces for various uses) - 68 responses (25.30%)
12. Adding bicycle repair stations - 60 responses (22.30%)

2 respondents (2.2%) reported they would support none of these.

# Additional comments regarding nonresidential/commercial

- Improve infrastructure (4)
- Safer bike lanes (4)
- Reduce light pollution (4)
- Businesses should participate in any environmentally-friendly campaigns (3)
- City should switch to electric equipment (3)
- Any changes/improvements should benefit residents and small businesses, not just one or the other (3)
- Increase driver safety education (i.e. cell phone use while driving) (2)
- Improve pedestrian safety (2)
- More trees (2)
- More automatic lights/water fountains (2)
- Seasonal restriction on gas-powered equipment (1)
- Form a multi-community Task Force to discuss options (1)
- Street lights should remain bright/light pollution isn't a major issue (1)
- Neighbors should have similar goals because of their proximity to each other (1)
- Reduce car use by city employees (1)
- More handicap parking needed (1)
- More ecologically friendly green spaces (1)
- The market will dictate change (1)
- Incentive new construction to be EV/solar ready (1)
- Some street lights are too bright for drivers (1)
- More street cleaning to reduce litter (1)
- No need for bike lanes/pedestrian-friendly infrastructure -- they aren't being used (1)
- Spend funds on LED traffic lights (1)
- Create medians/driving circles (1)
- Clear education/information is wanted to make best decisions (1)
- Compostable take out containers are expensive for small business owners (1)
- More EV charging stations (1)
- More rentable bikes/scooters (1)
- Minimize signs (aesthetics pollution) (1)
- Reducing parking could be challenging for those who are disabled or those with children (1)
- Neighborhood safety is a top priority (1)
- More city-monitored trash bins in public-use spaces (1)
- The city should be in-charge of sidewalk maintenance (1)
- More grocery stores in neighborhoods wanted (1)

**Transportation**

# Current methods of travel around University Heights

- Daily**
1. Driving a car/motor vehicle/motorcycle (199)
  2. Walking/rolling (126)
  3. Riding a bicycle (manual or electric) (10)
  4. Public Transportation (RTA) (0); Scooter, skateboard, hoverboard, or roller skates (0); Rideshare (Uber or Lyft) (0)

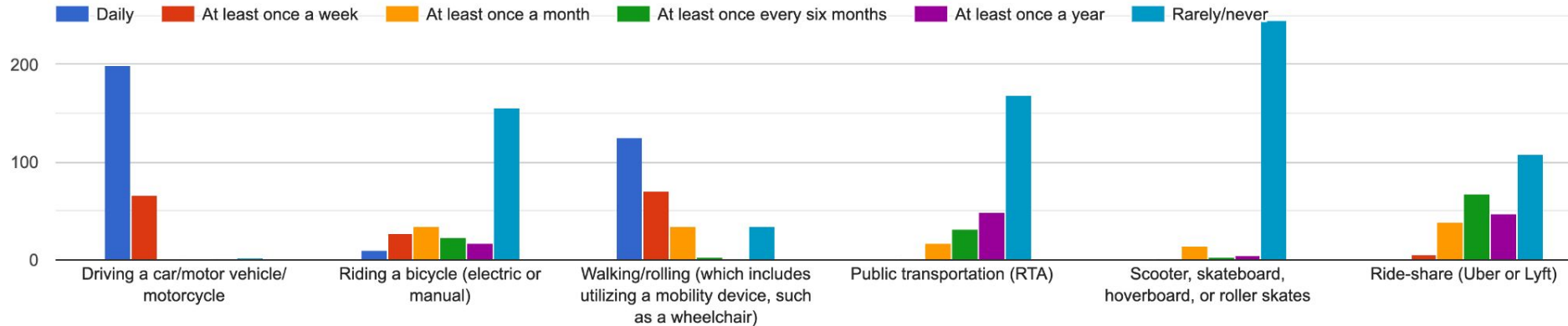
- At least once a month**
1. Rideshare (Uber or Lyft) (39)
  2. Riding a bicycle (manual or electric) (34)
  3. Walking/rolling (34)
  4. Public Transportation (RTA) (18)
  5. Scooter, etc.(15)
  6. Driving a car/motor vehicle/motorcycles (0)

- At least once a year**
1. Public Transportation (RTA) (49)
  2. Rideshare (Uber or Lyft) (48)
  3. Riding a bicycle (manual or electric) (18)
  4. Scooter, etc. (5)
  5. Driving a car/motor vehicle/motorcycle (0); Walking/rolling (0)

- At least once a week**
1. Walking/rolling (71)
  2. Driving a car/motor vehicle/motorcycle (66)
  3. Riding a bicycle (manual or electric) (28)
  4. Rideshare (Uber or Lyft) (6)
  5. Public Transportation (RTA); (0) Scooter, etc. (0)

- At least once every six months**
1. Rideshare (Uber or Lyft) (68)
  2. Public Transportation (RTA) (32)
  3. Riding a bicycle (manual or electric) (23)
  4. Walking/rolling (3); Scooter, etc. (3)
  5. Driving a car/motor vehicle/motorcycle (0)

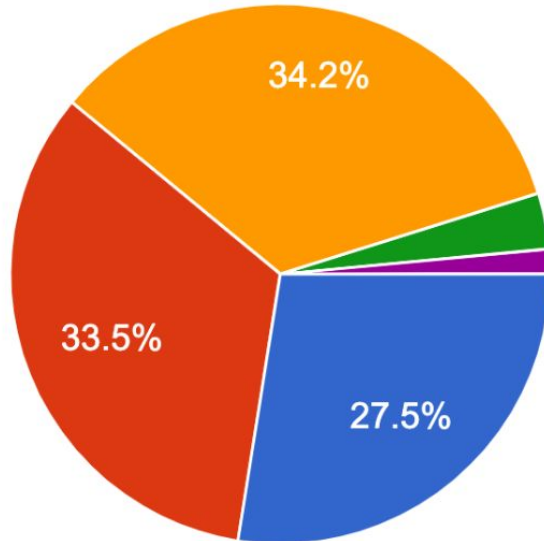
- Rarely/never**
1. Scooter, etc. (245)
  2. Public Transportation (RTA) (169)
  3. Riding a bicycle (manual or electric) (156)
  4. Rideshare (Uber or Lyft) (108)
  5. Walking/rolling (34)
  6. Driving a car/motor vehicle/motorcycle (2)



# Walking around University Heights

## Respondent rated UH's walkability:

- Some parts are more walkable than others - 92 responses (34.20%)
- Average walkability - 90 responses (33.50%)
- Very walkable - 74 responses (27.50%)
- Not walkable - 9 responses (3.30%)
- Unsure - 4 responses (1.50%)



## Reasons respondent are motivated to walk places:

1. Knowing it's good exercise - 229 responses (85.10%)
2. Feeling safe and welcome in my neighborhood - 194 responses (72.10%)
3. Having desirable destinations nearby (such as a business district, work, school, grocery store, greenspace/park, etc.) - 192 responses (71.40%)
4. Having safe walking paths/infrastructure - 167 responses (62.10%)
5. Knowing it's more environmentally friendly than driving - 101 responses (37.50%)
6. Exercising my dog - 99 responses (36.80%)
7. Seeing other neighbors out walking - 95 responses (35.30%)
8. Saving on gas money or other motor vehicle maintenance - 53 responses (19.70%)
9. Walking/rolling is my primary mode of transportation - 7 responses (2.60%)

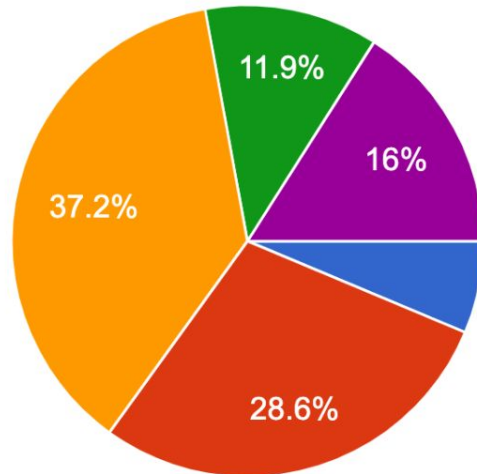
9 respondents (3.3%) reported none of these were motivators to walk places.



# Cycling around University Heights

## Respondent rated UH's bikeability:

- Some parts are more bikeable than others - 100 responses (37.20%)
- Average bikeability - 77 responses (28.60%)
- Not bikeable - 32 responses (11.90%)
- Very bikeable - 17 responses (6.30%)
- Unsure - 43 responses (16%)



## Reasons respondent are motivated to bike places:

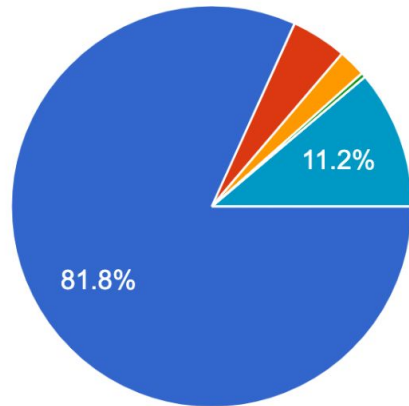
1. Knowing it's good exercise - 116 responses (43.10%)
2. Having safe biking paths/infrastructure - 98 responses (36.40%)
3. Having desirable destinations nearby (such as a business district, work, school, grocery store, greenspace/park, etc.) - 87 responses (32.30%)
4. Having safe/reliable places to lock my bike up at my chosen destinations - 75 responses (27.90%)
5. Feeling safe and welcome in my neighborhood - 63 responses (23.40%)
6. Knowing it's more environmentally-friendly than driving - 62 responses (23%)
7. Saving on gas money or other motor vehicle maintenance - 41 responses (15.20%)
8. Seeing other neighbors out biking - 33 responses (12.30%)
9. Biking is my primary mode of transportation - 3 responses (1.10%)

113 respondents (42%) reported none of these were motivators to bike places.

# “Best” vs “preferred” method of getting around town

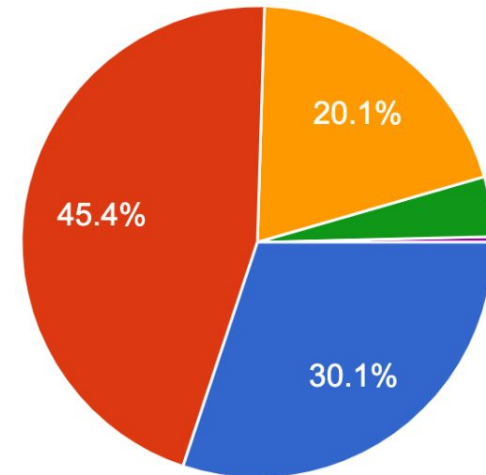
## Respondent rated “the best” way to get around town:

1. It is easiest/most efficient to travel places by car/motor vehicle - 220 responses (81.80%)
2. It is easiest/most efficient to travel places by walking - 12 responses (4.50%)
3. Unsure - 30 responses (11.20%)
4. It is easiest/most efficient to travel places by cycling (e-bike or manual) - 6 responses (2.20%)
5. It is easiest/most efficient to travel places by public transit (RTA) - 1 response (0.40%)
6. It is easiest/most efficient to travel places by using a rideshare like Uber or Lyft - 0 responses (0%)



## Respondent rated their preferred way to get around town:

1. Walking/rolling - 122 responses (45.40%)
2. Car/motor vehicle - 81 responses (30.10%)
3. Cycling (e-bike or manual) - 54 responses (20.10%)
4. Public transit (RTA) - 11 responses (4.10%)
5. Rideshare (Uber or Lyft) - 1 responses (0.40%)



# Environmentally-friendly modes of personal transportation

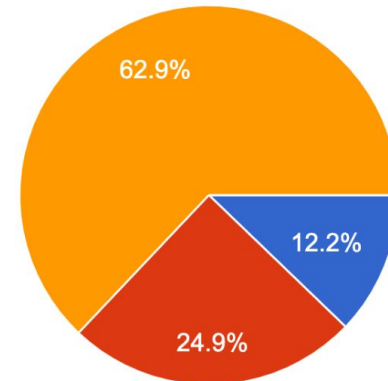
## Respondent reported owning:

1. Manual bicycle - 137 responses (50.90%)
2. Hybrid motor vehicle - 38 responses (14.10%)
3. Electric bicycle - 17 responses (6.30%)
4. Electric motor vehicle - 15 responses (5.60%)

99 respondents (36.8%) reported not owning any of these.

## When asked if “reducing their carbon footprint” was the MAIN reason for purchasing one of these types of transportation, respondents said:

1. No - 129 responses (62.9%)
2. It wasn't the main reason but it was a significant contributing factor - 51 responses (24.90%)
3. Yes - 25 responses (12.20%)



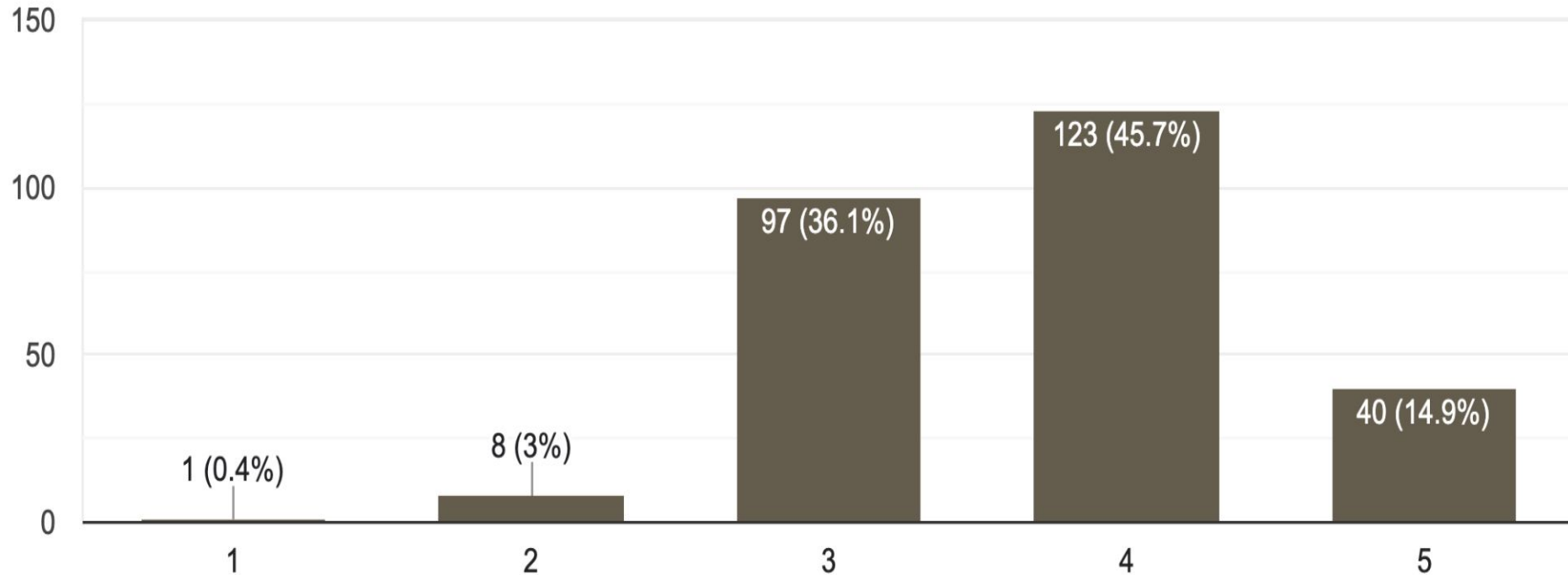
# Additional comments regarding transportation

- Pedestrian/cyclist safety needs to be improved (12)
- I would bike more if there were protected bike lanes (5)
- Five-way intersections are dangerous (3)
- I do not feel safe biking (3)
- Bike racks should be installed in the business districts (2)
- This community is designed for car usage (2)
- Mode of transportation depends on what I'm doing/where I'm going (2)
- My age/ability limits how often I walk or bike (2)
- Most people bike for recreational not practical purposes (1)
- Cars are necessary when you have kids (1)
- Cycling is weather-dependent (1)
- You have to be able-bodied to ride a bike (1)
- Cycling does not replace car usage (1)
- Traffic calming wanted (1)
- RTA is uninspired (1)
- Having more amenities in walkable distance would limit my car usage (1)
- Talk to cyclists about why they bike to understand what kinds of improvement/changes make the most sense (1)
- Our household makes an effort not to drive very often (1)
- Create bike paths not on the main roads (1)
- Development plans should be pedestrian/cyclist friendly (1)
- Too many people park in residential neighborhoods (1)
- Too many of the places I want/need to go require a car (1)
- Less focus on cyclists, more focus on pedestrians (1)
- RTA is challenging to figure out/use (1)
- I no longer have a car (1)
- Improved roads would allow me to bike more (1)
- Sidewalks have trip hazards (1)
- Construction and lawn work dust/grass sometimes prevent me from wanting to walk places (1)
- If e-bikes were affordable, I'd have one (1)
- Walkability is priceless (1)

# Quality of the Environment in University Heights

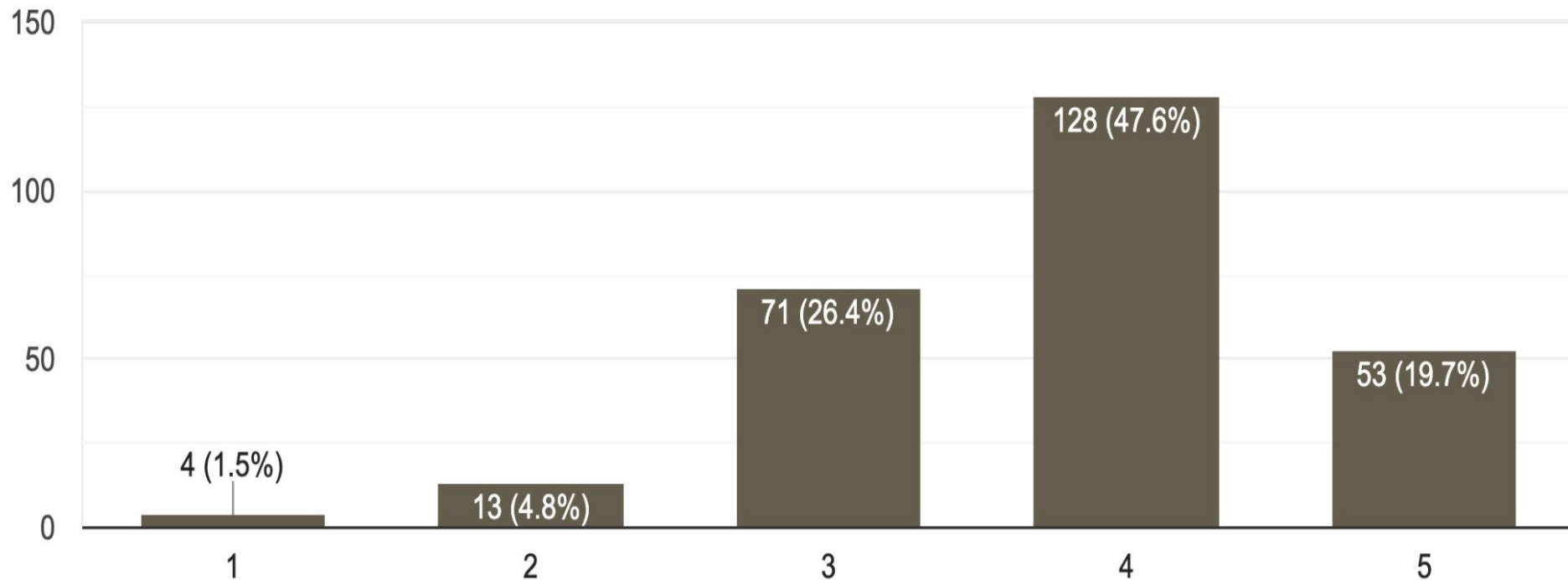
# Respondent perception of University Heights air quality

163 respondents (60.6%) rated a 4 or higher, indicating high/extremely high air quality; 97 (36.1%) rated it a neutral 3; and 9 (3.4%) rated it a 2 or lower, indicating a low/extremely low air quality.



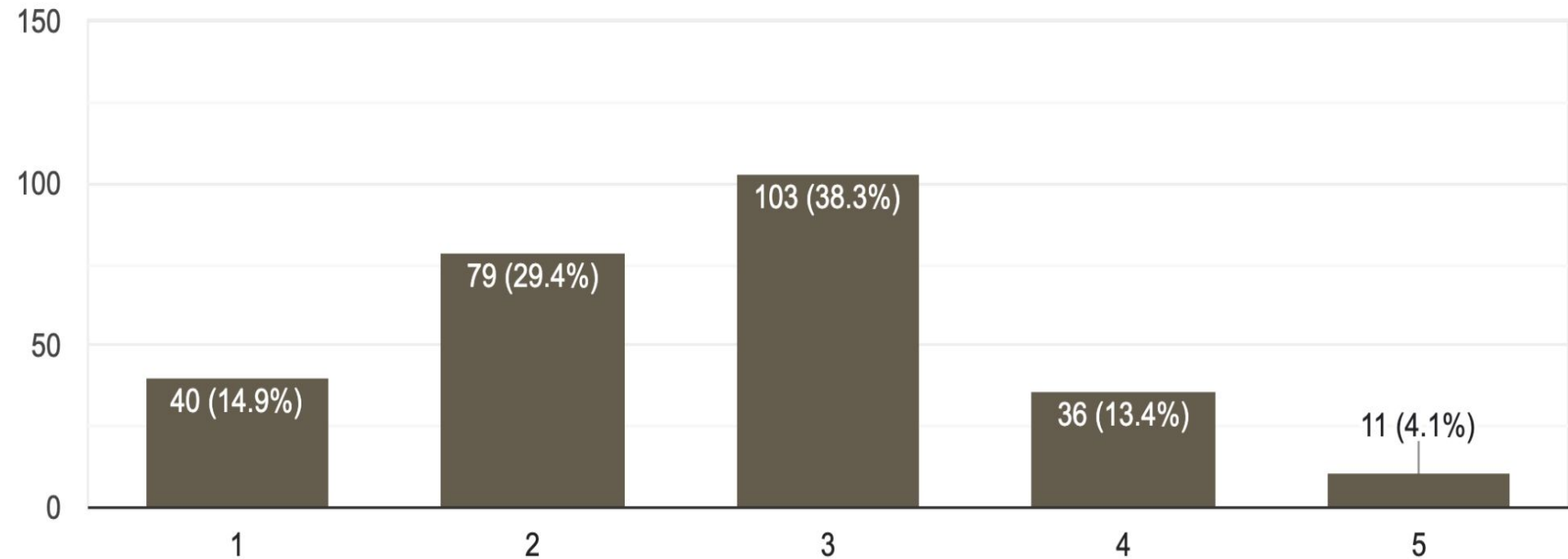
# Respondent perception of University Heights water quality

181 respondents (67.3%) rated a 4 or higher, indicating high/extremely high water quality; 71 (26.4%) rated it a neutral 3; and 17 (6.3%) rated it a 2 or lower, indicating a low/extremely low water quality.



# Respondent perception of litter in University Heights

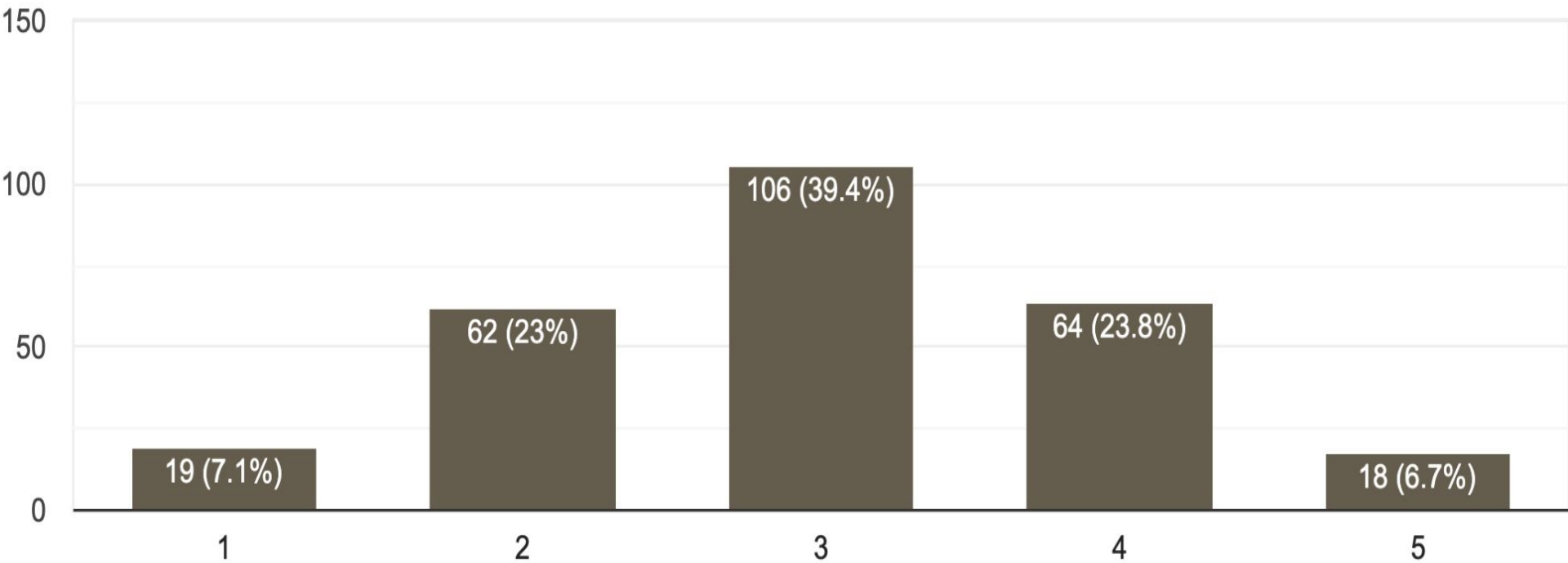
119 respondents (44.3%) rated it a 2 or lower, indicating a low/extremely low presence of litter; 103 (38.3%) rated it a neutral 3; and 47 (17.5%) rated a 4 or higher, indicating high/extremely high presence of litter.





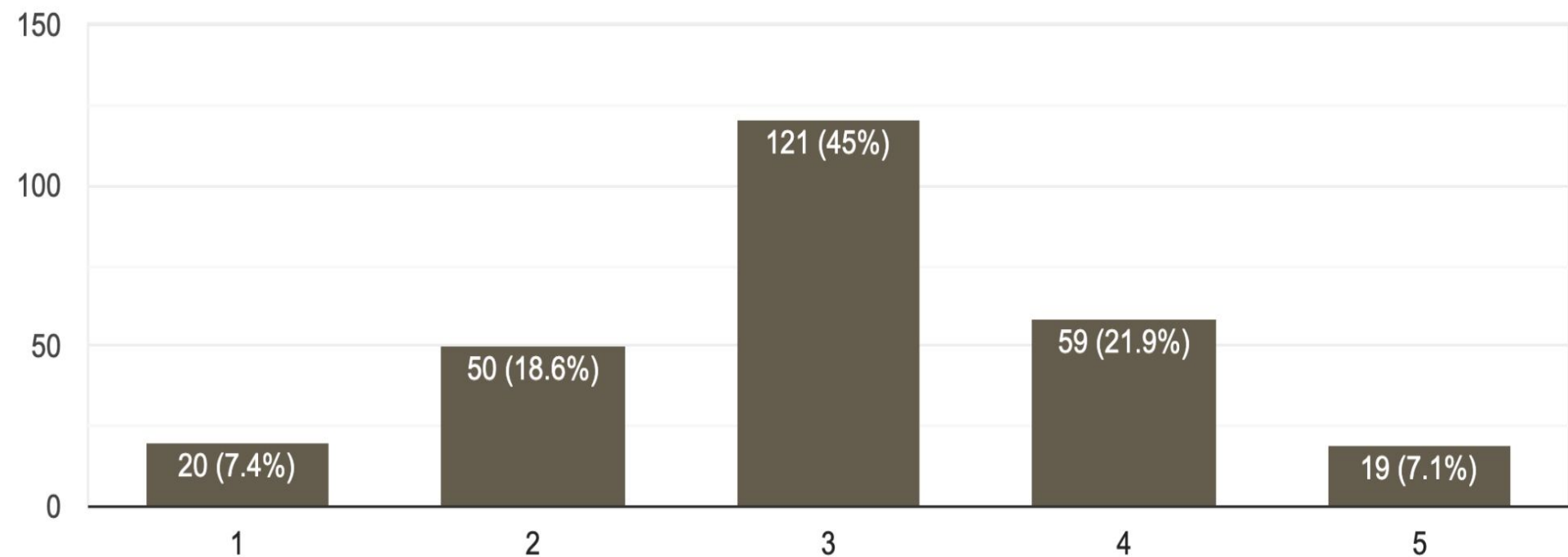
# Respondent perception of University Heights sound pollution

106 respondents (39.4%) rated sound pollution a neutral 3; 82 respondents (30.5%) rated it 4 or higher, indicating high/extremely sound pollution; and 81 (30.1%) rated it a 2 or lower, indicating a low/extremely low sound pollution.



# Respondent perception of University Heights light pollution

121 respondents (45%) rated light pollution a neutral 3; 78 respondents (29%) rated it 4 or higher, indicating high/extremely sound pollution; and 70 (26%) rated it a 2 or lower, indicating a low/extremely low light pollution.

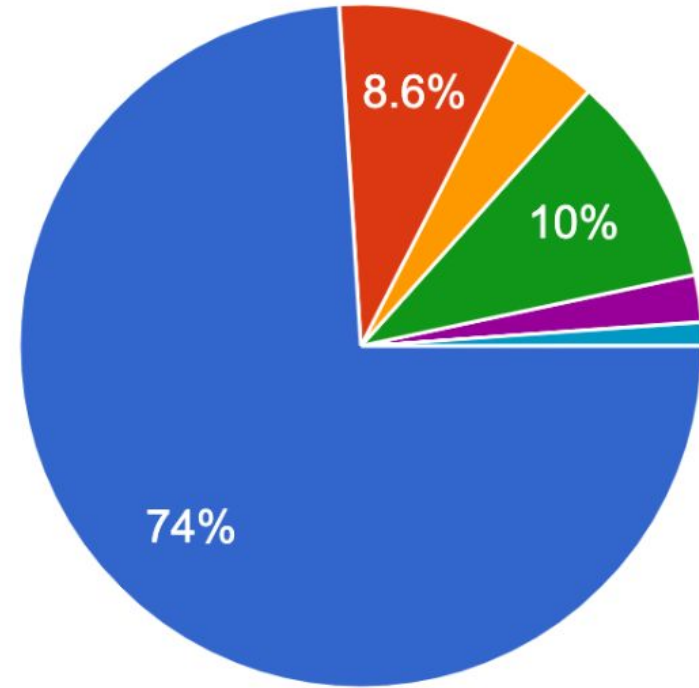


# Respondents reported having experienced the following issues over the past 12 months:

1. Power outage (longer than 1-hour) - 181 responses (67.30%)
2. Overgrown tree branches that need trimming in areas by wires - 156 responses (58%)
3. Multiple day power outage - 94 responses (34.90%)
4. Fallen trees in your yard - 50 responses (18.60%)
5. Flooding in yard - 42 responses (15.60%)
6. Flooding in basement - 24 responses (8.90%)

38 respondents (14.1%) reported they experienced none of these.

# Respondent air conditioning usage



- The whole dwelling has air conditioning that is used regularly during warmer months - 199 responses (74%)
- My household has air conditioning but limits/does not use the air conditioning for reasons other than cost - 27 responses (10%)
- Certain rooms have air conditioning but not all rooms - 23 responses (8.60%)
- My household has air conditioning but limits/does not use the air conditioning due to cost - 11 responses (4.10%)
- My household has consciously chosen not to have air conditioning - 6 responses (2.20%)
- My household does not have air conditioning but that is out of my control - 3 responses (1.10%)

# Respondents reported that they would support:

1. Increasing the number of pocket parks - 145 responses (53.90%)
2. Creating a Pollinator Pathways Program - 140 responses (52%)
3. Adding more rain gardens to public property - 137 responses (50.90%)
4. Restricted hours for when gas-powered lawn equipment could be utilized - 129 responses (48%)
5. Creating a Tree Commission - 124 responses (46.10%)
6. Restricting pesticide use - 121 responses (45%)
7. Sponsoring stream and land cleanup events in neighborhoods - 119 responses (44.20%)
8. Establishing a Native Plant ordinance - 90 responses (33.50%)
9. Adding more bio-swales to UH intersections - 85 responses (31.60%)
10. Revising ordinances related to trees - 72 responses (26.80%)
11. Requiring bird-proofing on windows of new construction - 72 responses (26.80%)

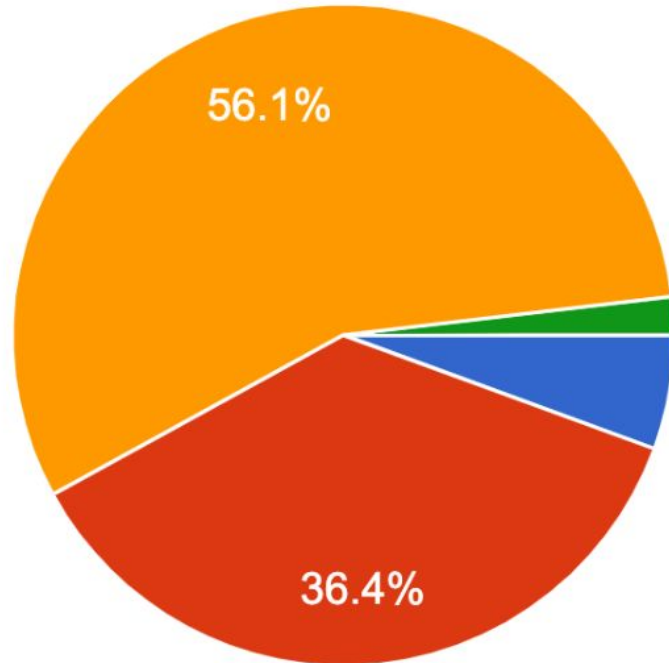
31 respondents (11.5%) reported they experienced none of these.

# Additional comments regarding quality of environment

- Reduce sound pollution, especially late night/early morning (8)
- "Green"/electric lawn equipment wanted (5)
- Incentivise lawn care businesses not to use gas-powered tools (4)
- Unclear on what a tree commission/tree ordinance is (3)
- John Carroll student parties are a nuisance (3)
- City green spaces need to be better maintained (3)
- Reduce litter/have an anti-littering campaign (3)
- UH has high-quality environment (2)
- More options wanted for driveway construction (2)
- Make it easier/less costly for homeowners to make environmentally-friendly upgrades (2)
- Ban gas-powered lawn care tools (2)
- There should be no restrictions on gas-powered lawn equipment (2)
- Stormwater drainage is an issue (1)
- Trash day sometimes results in litter being scattered (1)
- Some pesticide use is good (1)
- Allow front yard gardens (1)
- Tiny houses would be good for UH (1)
- Government incentives to switch to electric lawncare tools wanted (1)
- More trees (1)
- More education needed around tree ordinances (1)
- Provide education around non-toxic lawn care (1)
- More EV charging infrastructure wanted (1)
- I need more information about each option (1)
- Determine if all traffic lights are necessary (1)
- Have restrictions on herbicides (1)
- Unclear on what bird-proofing means (1)
- Unclear on what a native plant ordinance is (1)
- Reduce/restrict fire pit usage (1)
- Not sure about invisible air pollution (1)
- More public gardens/for aesthetics (1)
- Encourage/educate residents on tree trimming (1)
- All of the listed ideas are good (1)
- Dog parks wanted (1)
- More trash cans wanted (1)

**ACTION**

# Interest in joining the University Heights Citizens Advisory Committee on Sustainability



## Respondent-reported interested in joining the committee:

- Not interested - 151 responses (56.10%)
- Might be interested - 98 responses (36.40%)
- Interested - 15 responses (5.60%)
- Already on the committee - 5 responses (1.90%)

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the committee, please connect with Deanna at [dbfisher@universityheights.com](mailto:dbfisher@universityheights.com).



# Respondents were asked to rate their interest in participating in the following:

- Bringing reusable bags to retail/grocery stores
- Having more vegan/vegetarian options in UH restaurants
- Increasing the number of EV charging stations in UH
- Encouraging composting at home or with Rust Belt Riders
- Participating in a community garden
- Organizing/participating in a "shop local" campaign
- Participating in composting workshops
- Taking a class about how to reduce, reuse and recycle
- Participating in a "Go Green Household" workshop
- Creating/maintaining a pocket park for my neighborhood
- Creating/participating in a grassroots sustainability group
- Increasing my use of public transportation
- Volunteering with Friends of The Walt for garden maintenance
- Organizing/participating in neighborhood bike rides
- Organizing neighborhood snow/ice removal
- Reducing the number of motor vehicles in my household

# Top 5 actions per rating option:

## Very interested

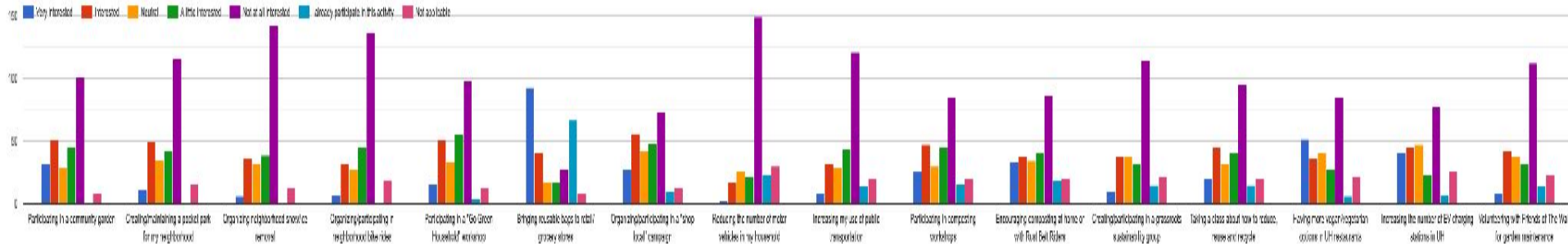
1. Bringing reusable bags to retail/grocery stores (93)
2. Having more vegan/vegetarian options in UH restaurants (52)
3. Increasing the number of EV charging stations in UH (41)
4. Encouraging composting at home or with Rust Belt Riders (33)
5. Participating in a community garden (32)

## Interested

1. Organizing/participating in a "shop local" campaign (56)
2. Participating in a community garden (51); Participating in a "Go Green Household" workshop (51)
3. Creating/maintaining a pocket park for my neighborhood (49)
4. Participating in composting workshops (47)
5. Taking a class about how to reduce, reuse and recycle (46); Increasing the number of EV charging stations in UH (46)

## Neutral

1. Increasing the number of EV charging stations in UH (47)
2. Organizing/participating in a "shop local" campaign (42)
3. Having more vegan/vegetarian options in UH restaurants (40)
4. Creating/participating in a grassroots sustainability group (38); Volunteering with Friends of The Walt for garden maintenance (38)
5. Creating/maintaining a pocket park for my neighborhood (35)



# Top 5 actions per rating option (cont'd):

## A little interested

1. Participating in a "Go Green Household" workshop (55)
2. Organizing/participating in a "shop local" campaign (48)
3. Participating in a community garden (46); Participating in composting workshops (46)
4. Organizing/participating in neighborhood bike rides (45)
5. Increasing my use of public transportation (44)

## Not at all interested

1. Reducing the number of motor vehicles in my household (149)
2. Organizing neighborhood snow/ice removal (142)
3. Organizing/participating in neighborhood bike rides (137)
4. Increasing my use of public transportation (121)
5. Creating/maintaining a pocket park for my neighborhood (116)

## I already participate

1. Bringing reusable bags to retail/grocery stores (67)
2. Reducing the number of motor vehicles in my household (23)
3. Encouraging composting at home or with Rust Belt Riders (18)
4. Participating in composting workshops (16)
5. Creating/participating in a grassroots sustainability group (15); Taking a class about how to reduce, reuse and recycle (15)

## Not applicable to me

1. Reducing the number of motor vehicles in my household (30)
2. Increasing the number of EV charging stations in UH (26)
3. Volunteering with Friends of The Walt for garden maintenance (23)
4. Having more vegan/vegetarian options in UH restaurants (22)
5. Creating/participating in a grassroots sustainability group (21)

# Additional respondents thoughts about getting involved

- I'm interested in participating but I am not able to do so (4)
- Sustainable Lawn & Garden equipment workshop (1)
- Creating an efficient bulk pickup program (1)
- Establish a community garden at The Walt (1)
- Pick up litter on Sundays at The Walt (1)
- Planning to join the existing Sustainability committee (1)
- Establish a solar farm (1)
- Establish neighborhood walks (1)
- Creating opportunities for residents to socialize/feel included (1)
- Establish neighborhood lawn/yard maintenance program (1)
- Make it easier to recycle (1)
- Establish a group focused on climate change (1)
- River/forest cleanups (1)
- RTA usage has to be convenient (1)
- City-sponsored seminar series focused on different environmental issues (1)
- Rain barrel program (1)

**TAKEAWAYS**

## Topline Takeaways:

- 83.7% of the respondents reported “always” or “often” prioritizing sustainability practices while 15.2% reported they “somewhat” did and only 1.1% said they “never” did, indicating a relatively high interest in sustainability in University Heights.
- 69.1% of respondents reported feeling “confident” or “very confident” in understanding current “best practices” related to the new recycling program in University Heights.
- The top barrier reported for environmentally-friendly household practices is financial (41.3%). Other considerations include needing more knowledge about how to make these kinds of changes in their household, not being able to make these changes due to the type of dwelling, and uncertainty about making these types of changes only to have the technology change again, rendering their investment somewhat obsolete.
- 82.1% reported it was “very important” or “important” that the City of University Heights lead by example on sustainability practices. Several expressed a desire to revisit or better clarify certain city ordinances regarding where residents can plant gardens/how their yards are maintained.
- 81.8% reported that driving was the most efficient way to travel around University Heights while the top “preferred” method of getting around town was as a pedestrian (45.5%).
- Respondents did not indicate a high interest in any areas of suggested ways to get more involved in sustainability in University Heights. The most popular action item was using reusable shopping bags: 93 respondents (34.6%) reported being “very interested” and 67 (25%) reported there were “already participating.”

## What is noteworthy:

- This is University Heights’ first Crowdsourced Conversations forum – thank you to everyone who participated in the survey and shared your viewpoints on sustainability in your community.

**FACTS ABOUT**

*Who what when where why how*

**OUR STATS**

## About this survey:

This survey was created and distributed as part of [University Heights Crowdsourced Conversations](#), being conducted in partnership with FutureHeights and the City of University Heights, with special thanks to the University Heights Citizens Advisory Committee on Sustainability.

Survey data was collected from October 1 through October 31, 2024. Respondents completed an online-only Google Form that was distributed via email, on social media, through the media, via fliers, and through word of mouth. Options for survey completion assistance were offered.

This survey data analysis was completed by FutureHeights and shared with forum series partners, including elected officials, and is available for the community to review.

Any questions, please contact Sarah - [swolf@futureheights.org](mailto:swolf@futureheights.org).