



**Northern Illinois  
University**

# **Discerning Needs: Community Needs Assessment**

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# Acknowledgements



**Nichole Hugo**

**Giselle Hamm**

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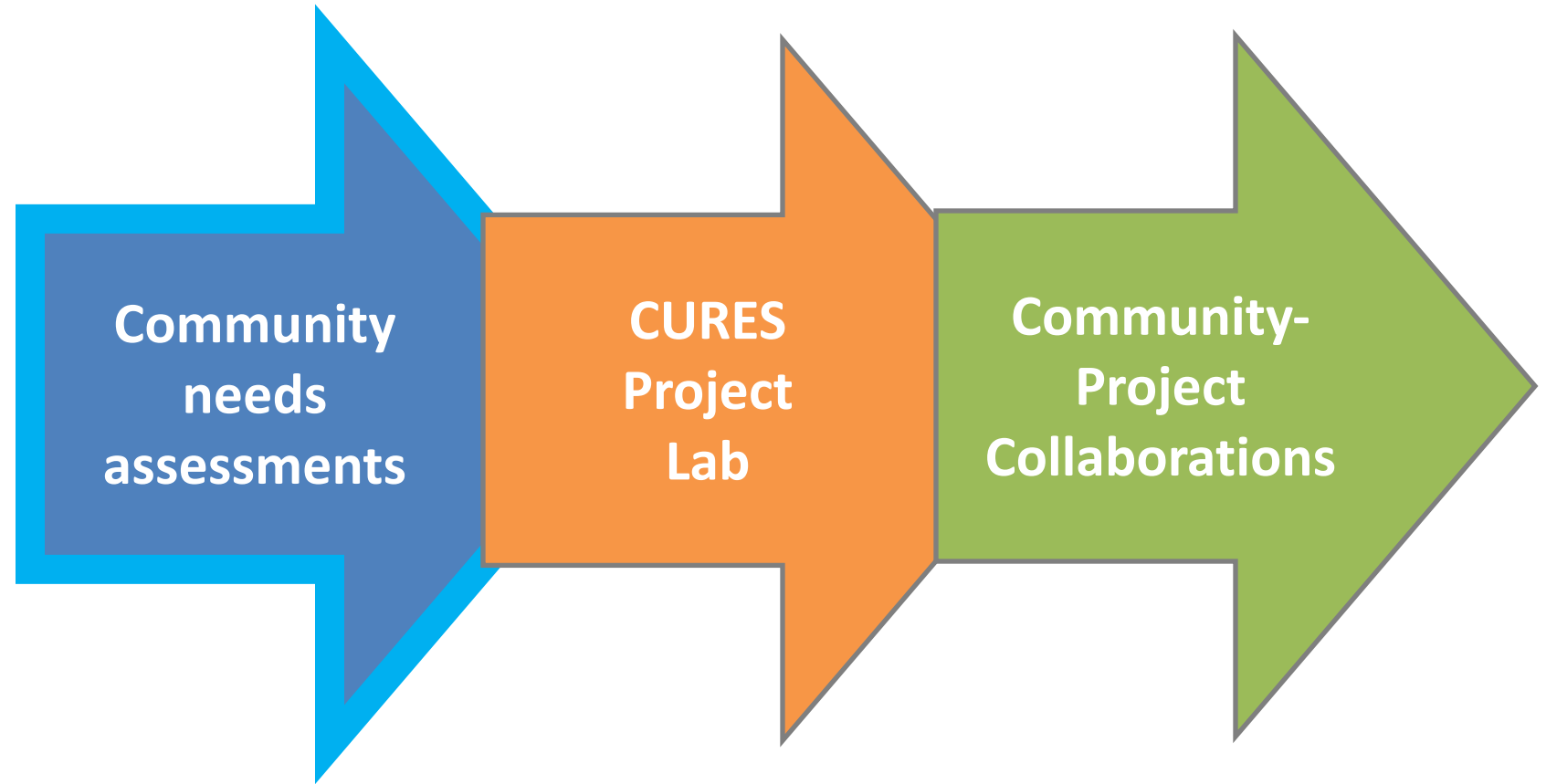
**Illinois City / County Management Association**

# Three phases of discerning



## **Motivation:**

Amplifying  
the voice of  
smaller  
communities



# Who did we survey?



## FALL 2021

### **81 completed responses**

(from **201** municipal managers; **40% response**)

#### **Average municipality:**

Population: **22,319** | Density: **2,459** persons/sq. mi. | Home value: **\$327,410**

## SUMMER / FALL 2022

### **121 completed responses**

(from **288** municipal managers; **42% response**)

Population: **22,811** | Density: **2,574** persons/sq. mi. | Home value: **\$306,096**

**44 municipalities: <25,000 pop. | <2,500 persons/sq. mi. | <\$250,000 home value**

# What did we ask about?



**How do you plan for sustainability?**

**Where is it in your organization?**

**Which external entities/organizations influence your decisions?**

**How are you working with neighboring communities?**

**How far along are you in implementation?**

**What are the barriers to further progress?**

**What are your biggest priorities?**

**What disasters/crises have you faced?**

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How do you plan for sustainability?

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How are you working with neighboring communities?

**How far along are you in implementation?**

**What are the barriers to further progress?**

What are your biggest priorities?

What disasters/crises have you faced?

Green infrastructure

Wastewater reclamation

Tech to improve drinking water

Renewable energy incentives / assistance

Energy conservation incentives / assistance

Renewable energy use in public assets

Energy conservation in public assets

Biodiversity and habitat restoration

Residential recycling programs

Locally-produced food support programs

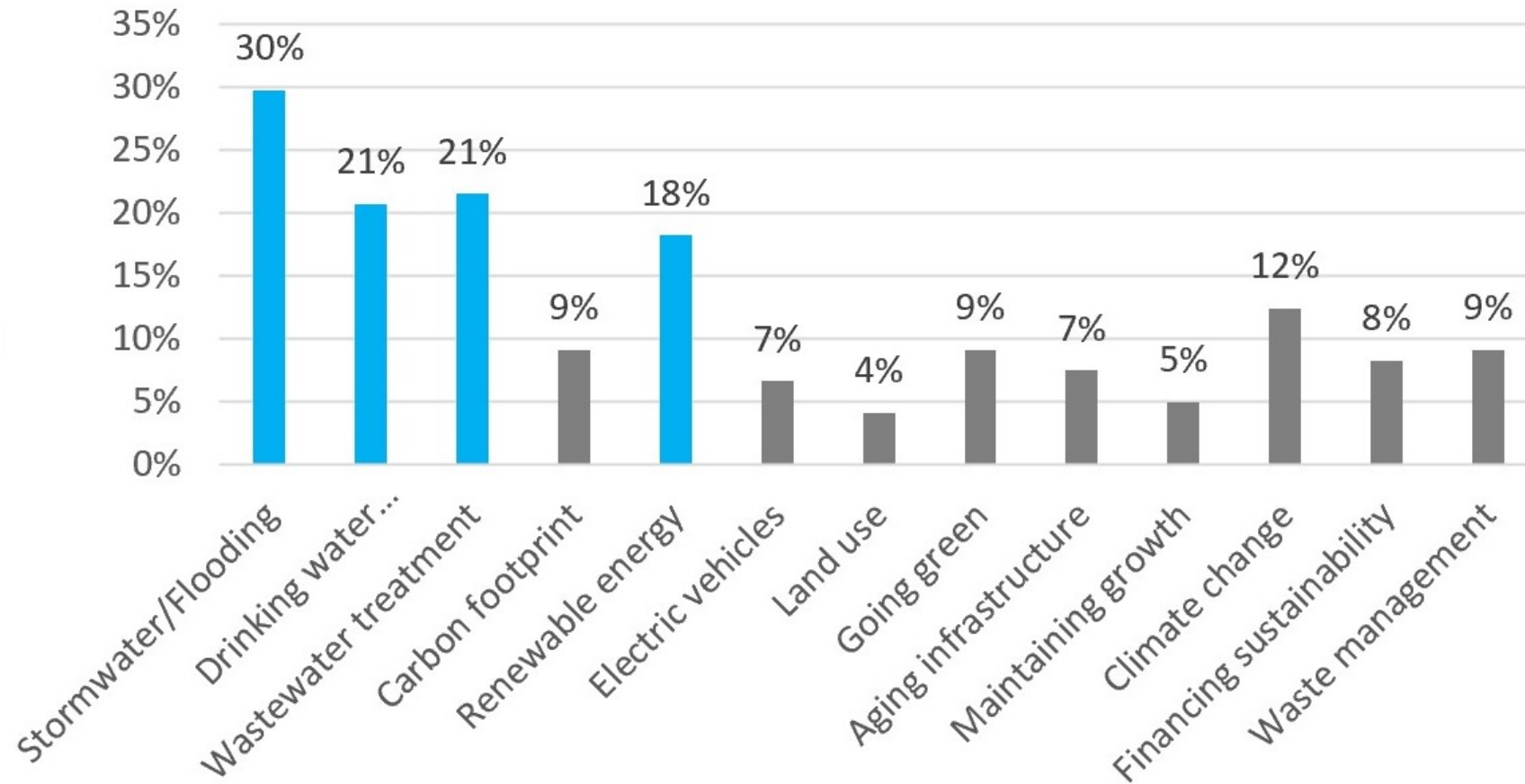
Greenhouse gas inventory

Lower-impact development incentives

# Priorities



## Top Priorities

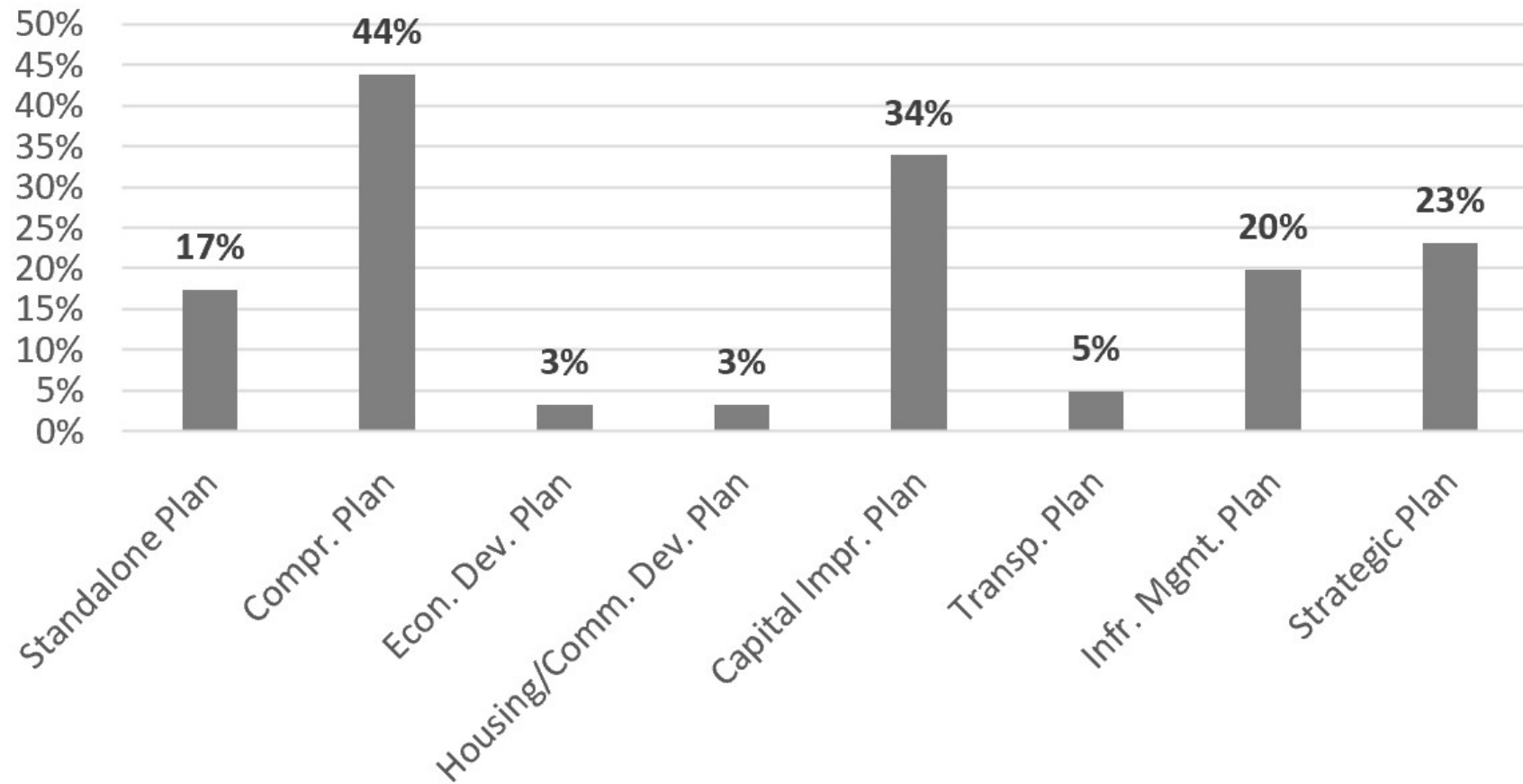




# Planning



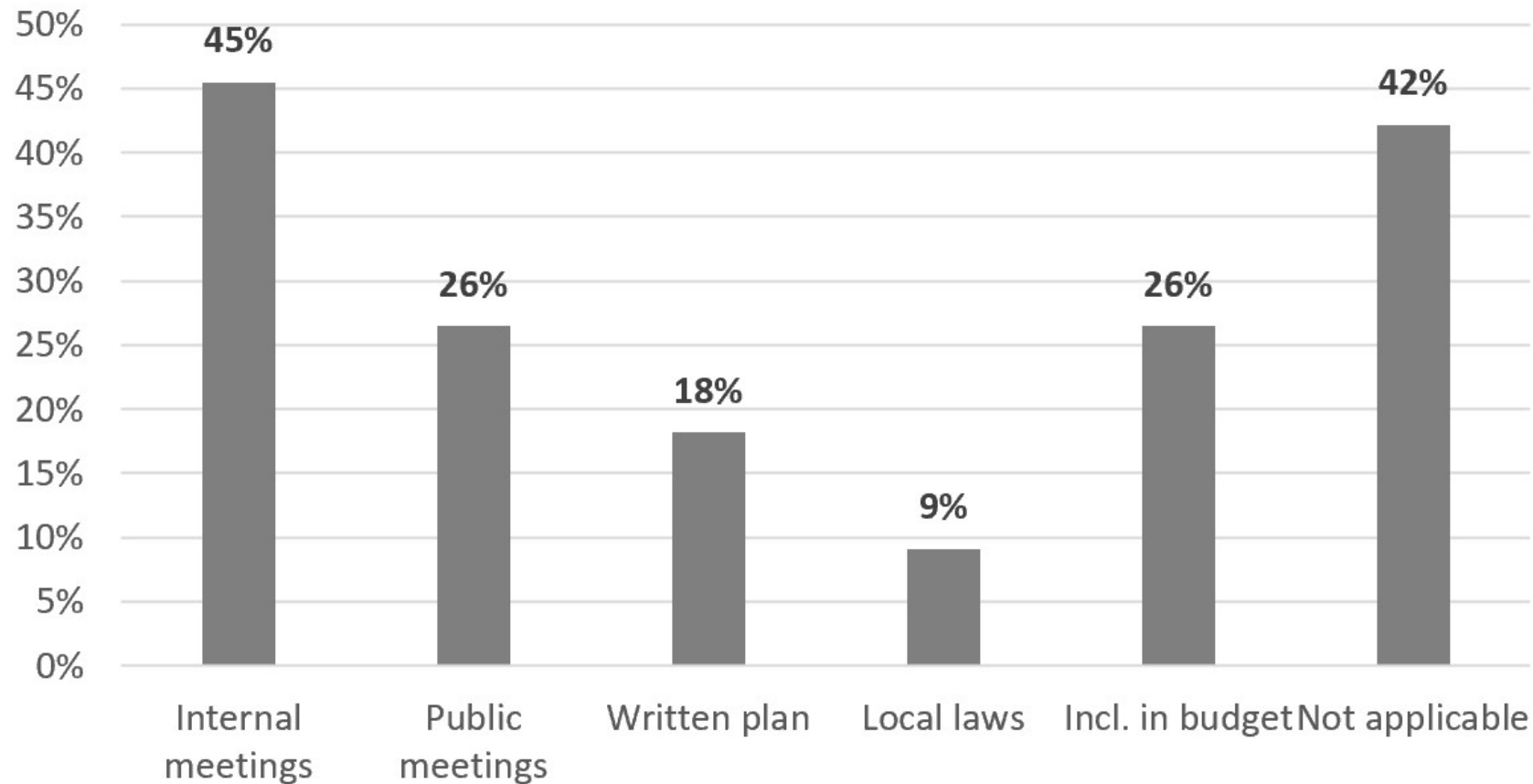
Sustainability in Planning Documents



# Implementing water sustainability



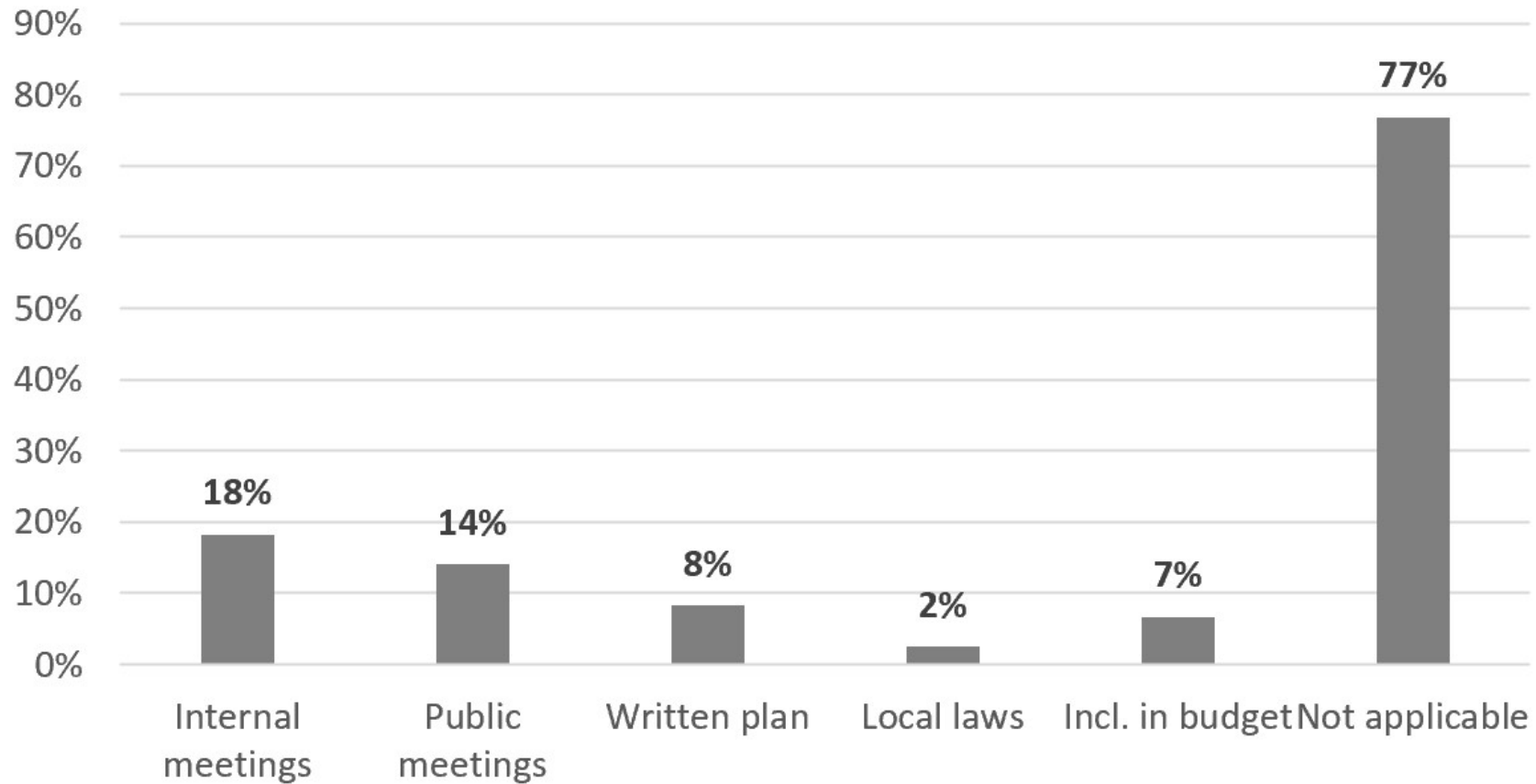
## Implementing Drinking Water Tech



# Implementing water sustainability



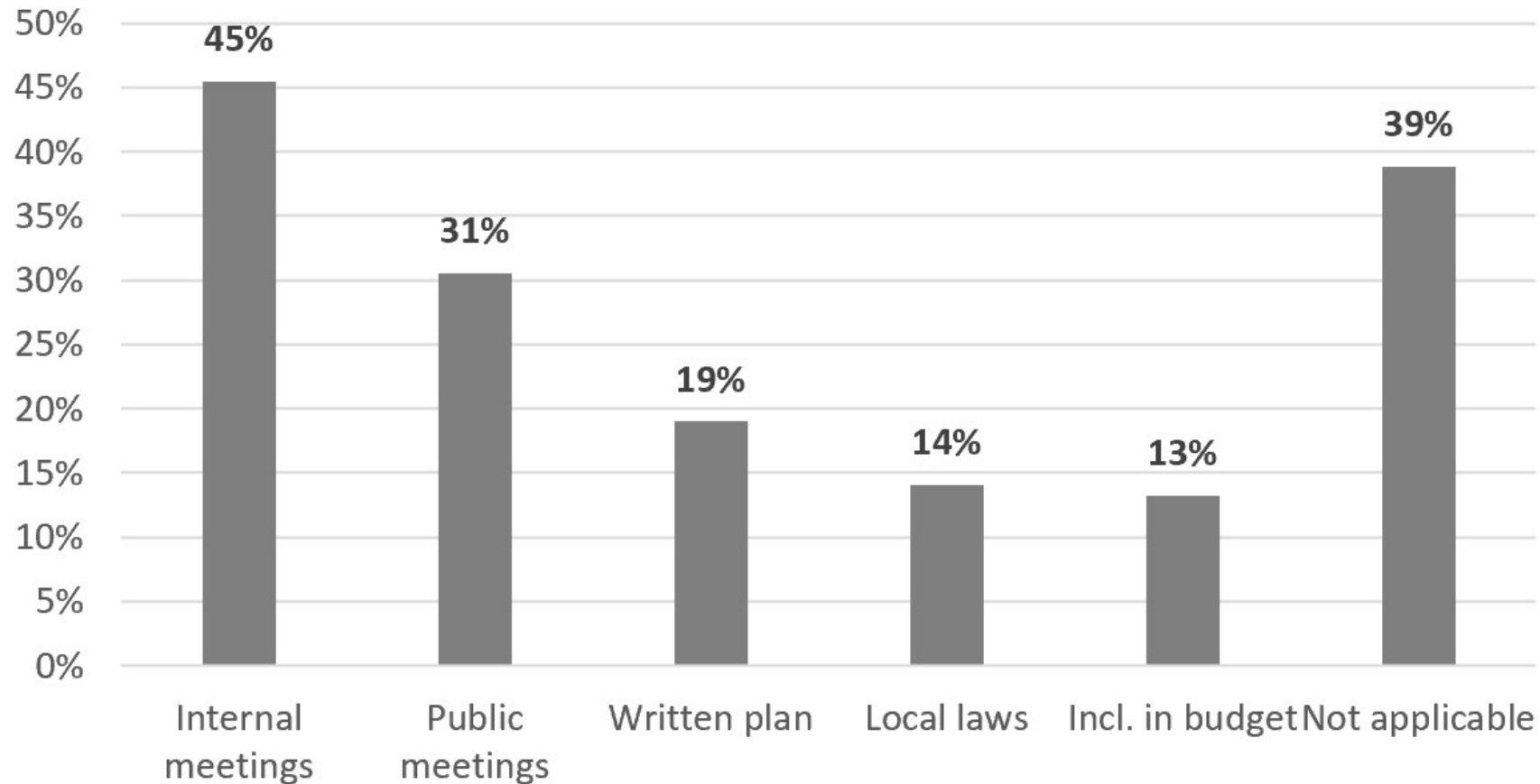
## Wastewater Reclamation



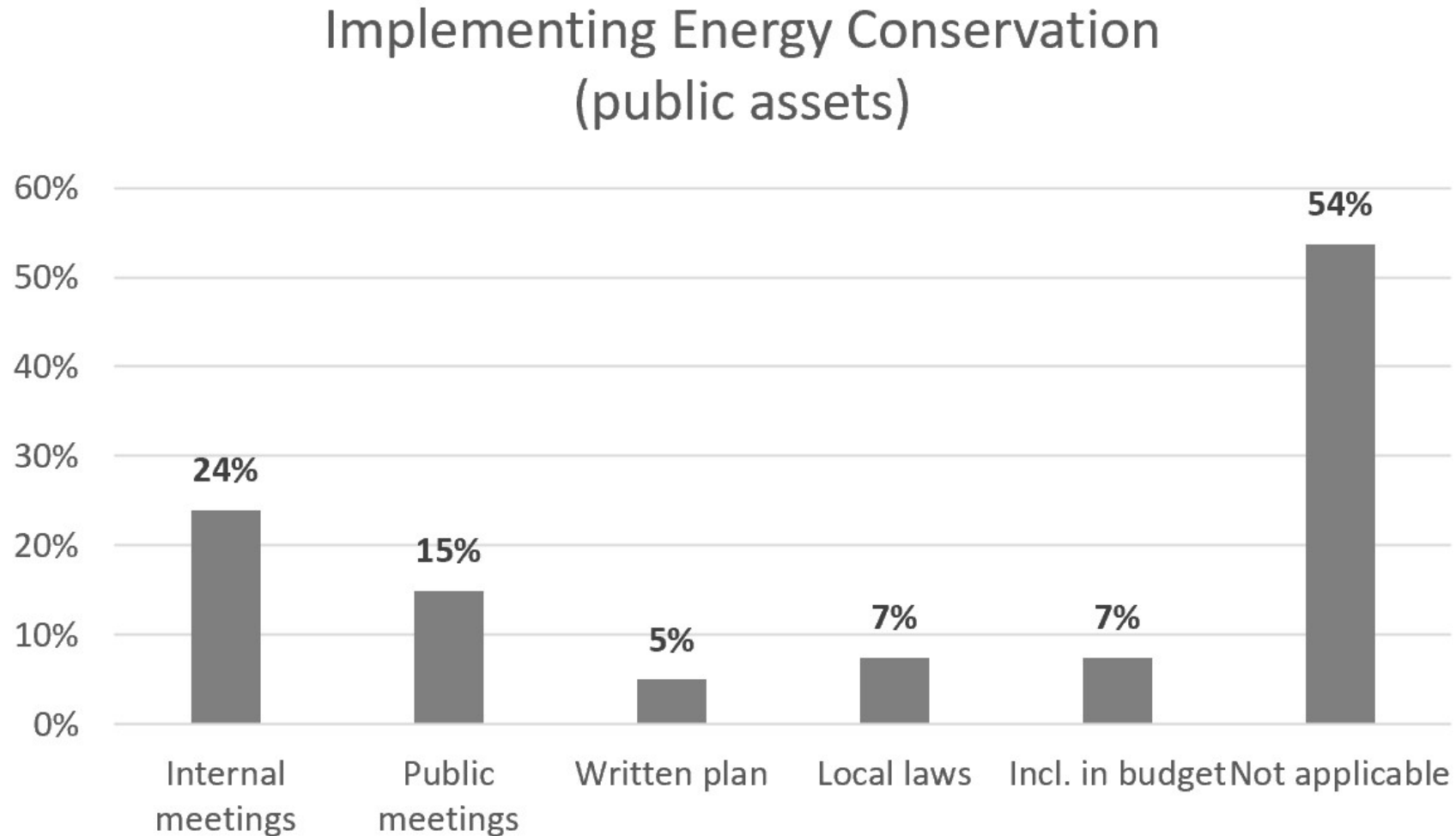
# Implementing water sustainability



## Green Stormwater Infrastructure



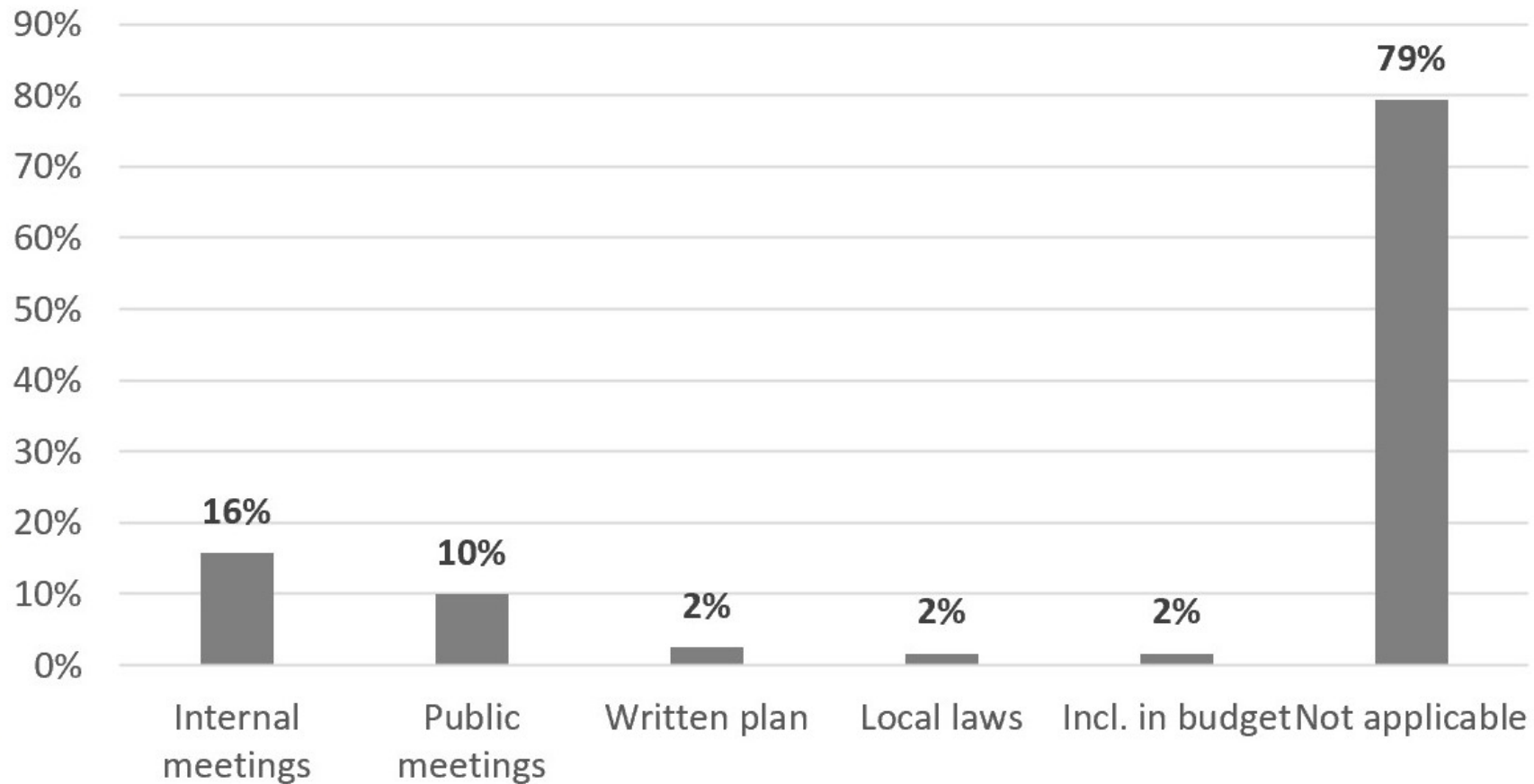
# Implementing energy sustainability



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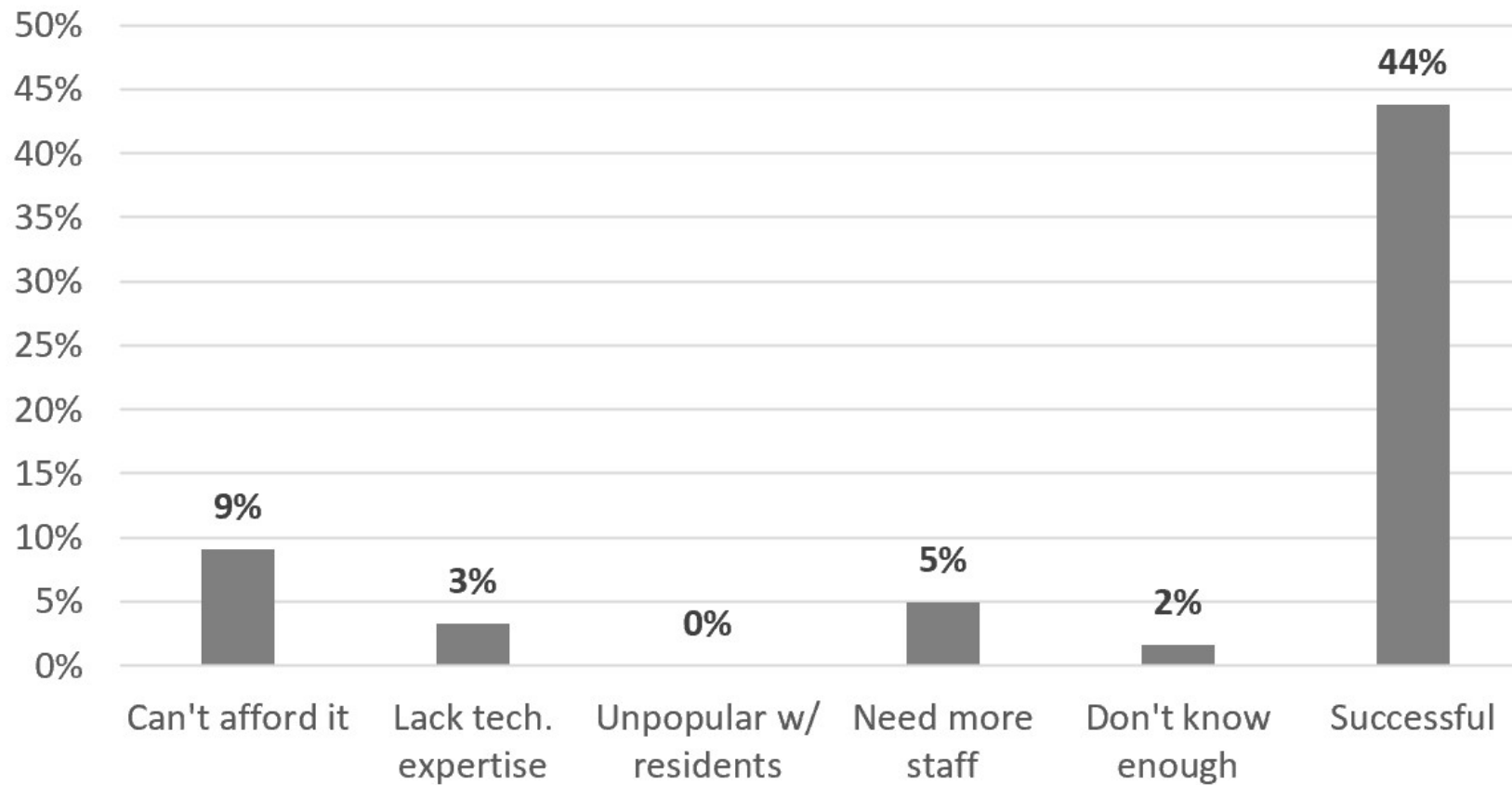
## Implementing Energy Efficiency Incentives



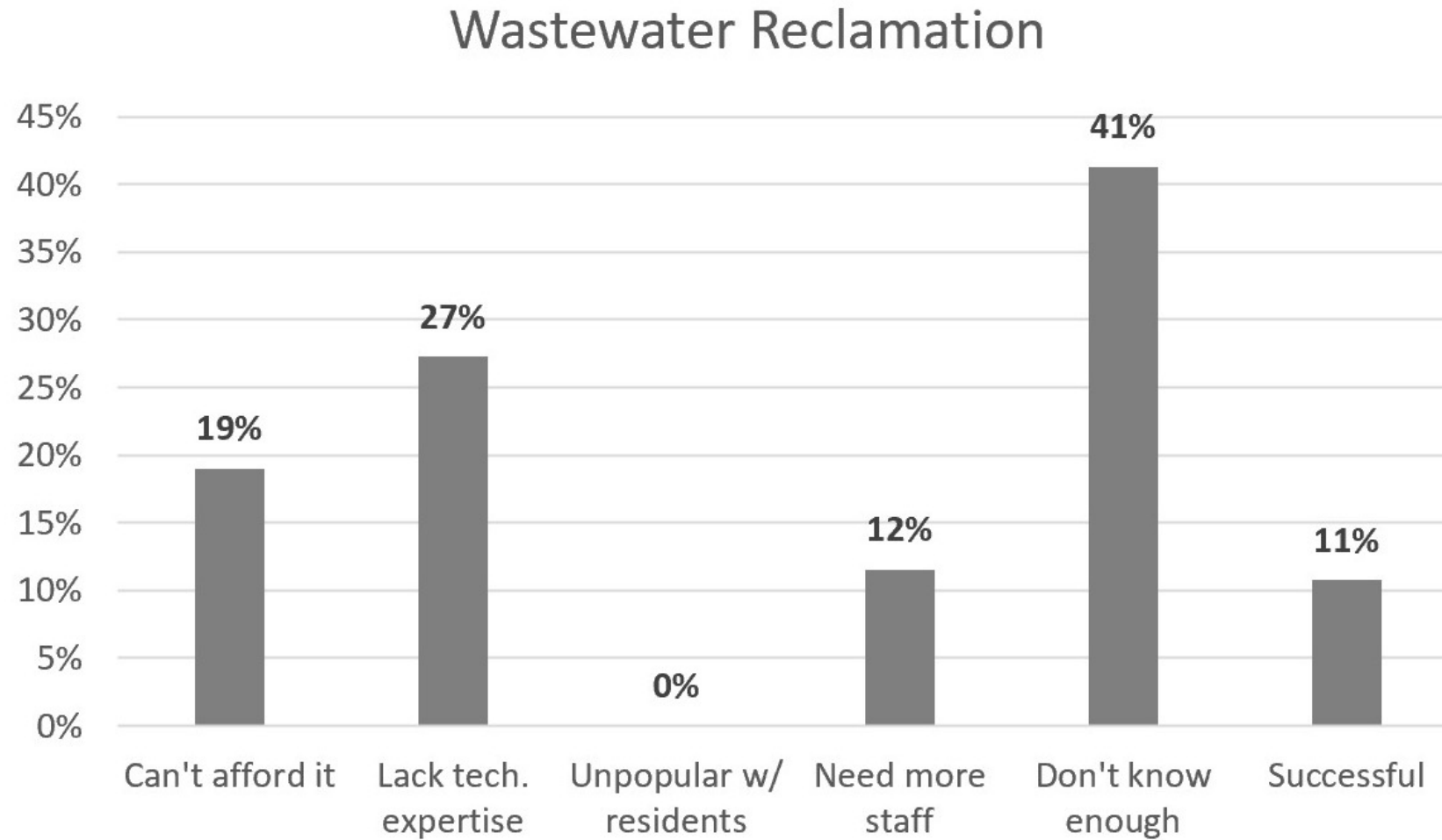
# Barriers to water sustainability



## Drinking Water Technology



# Barriers to water sustainability

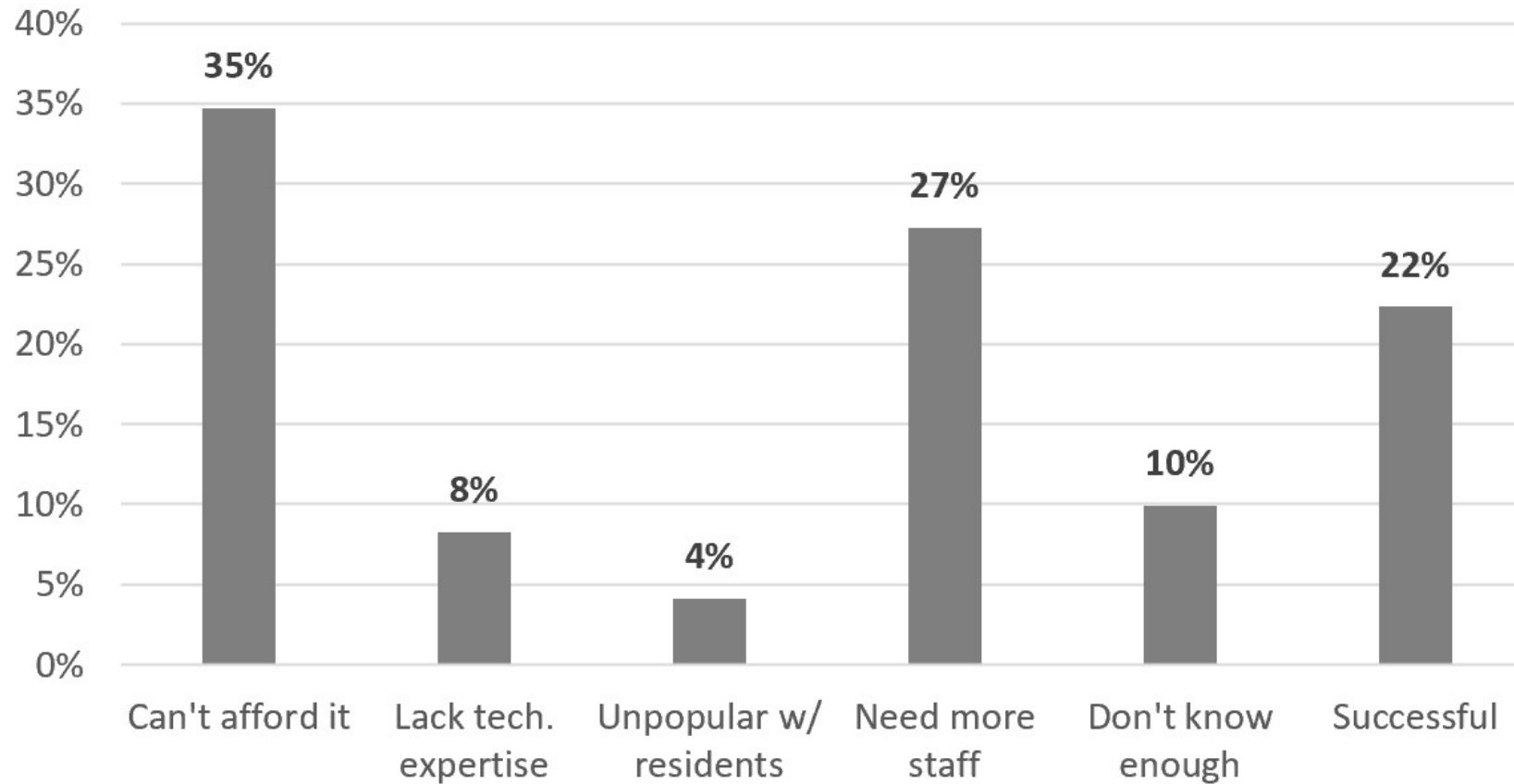




# Barriers to water sustainability



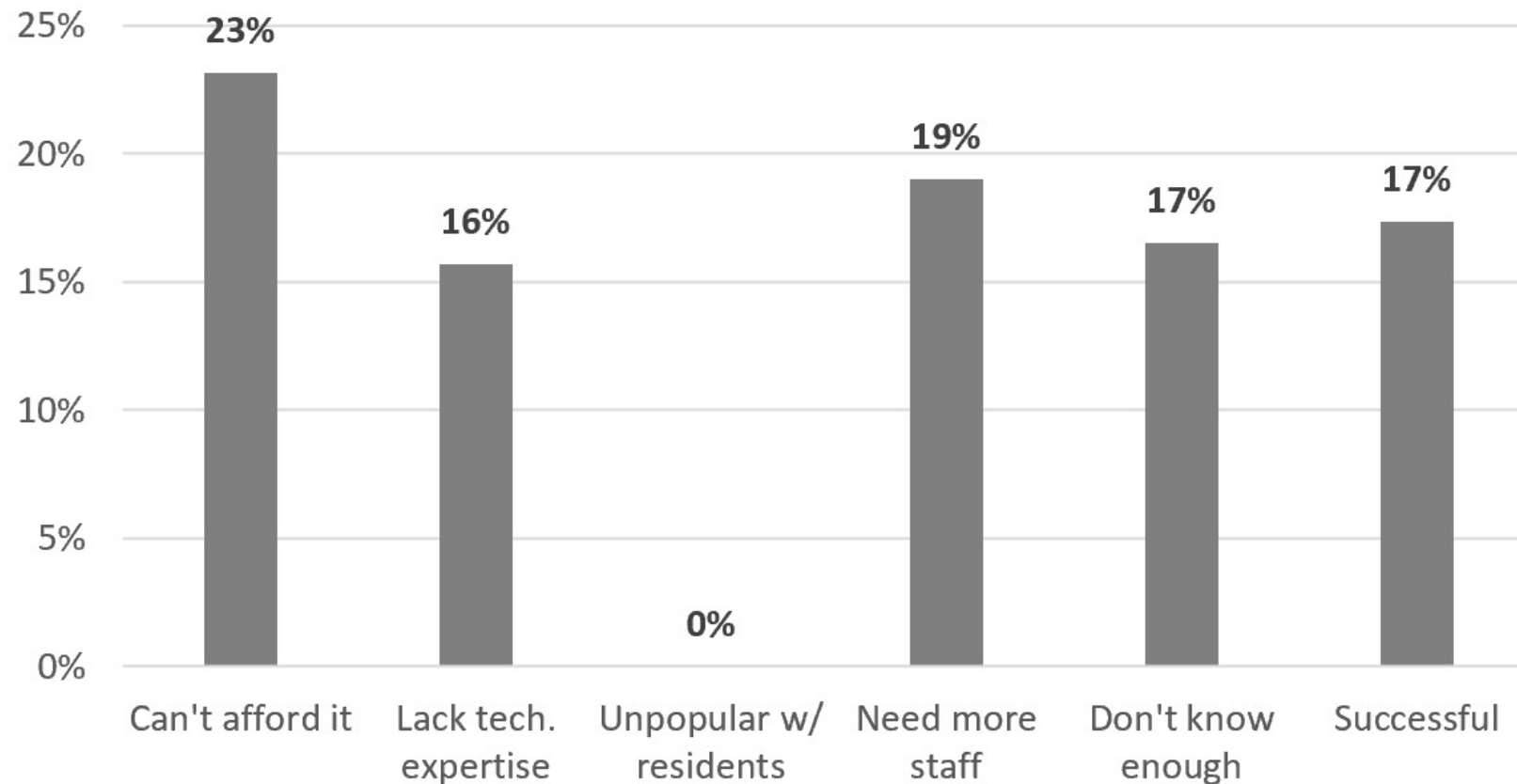
## Green Stormwater Infrastructure



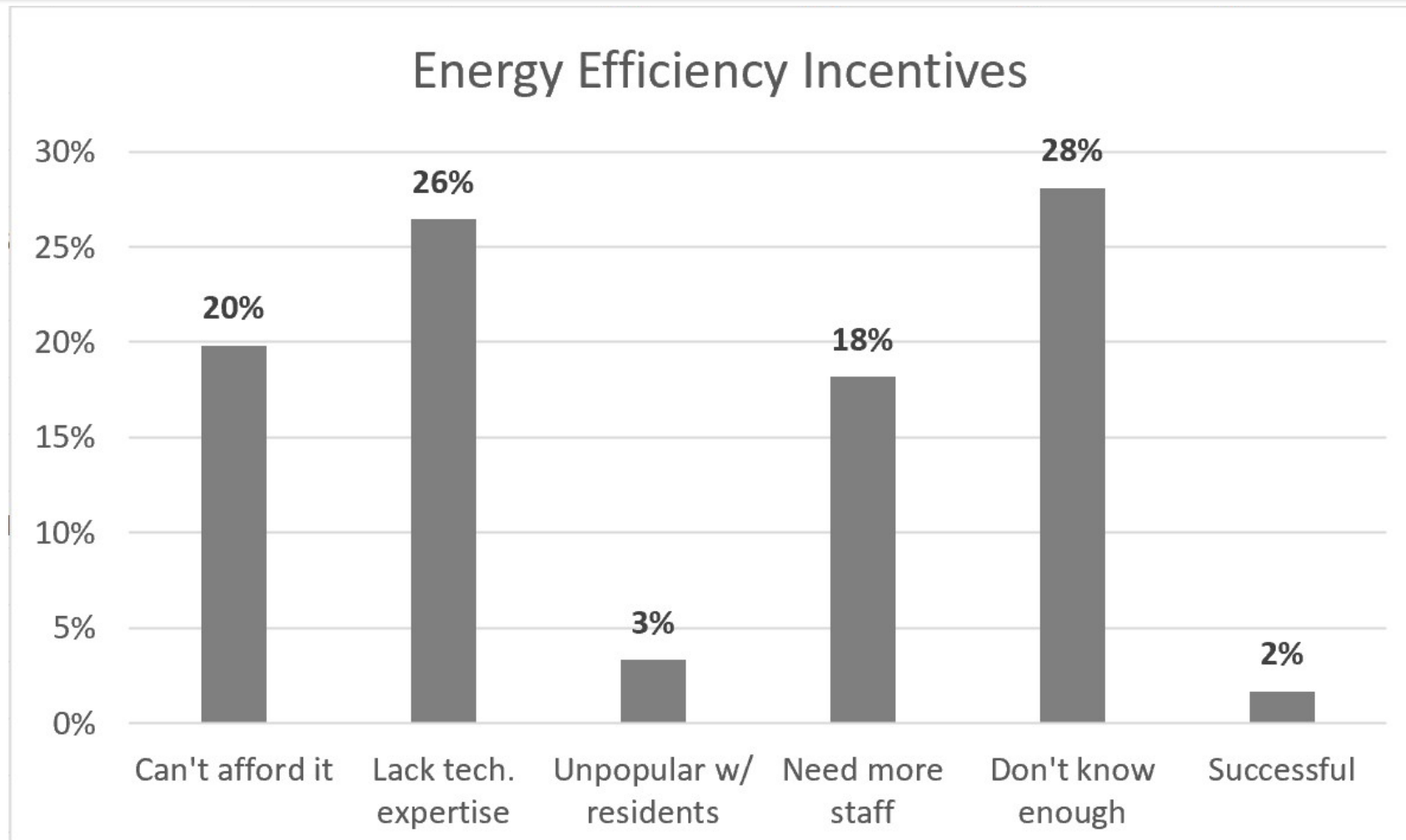
# Barriers to energy sustainability



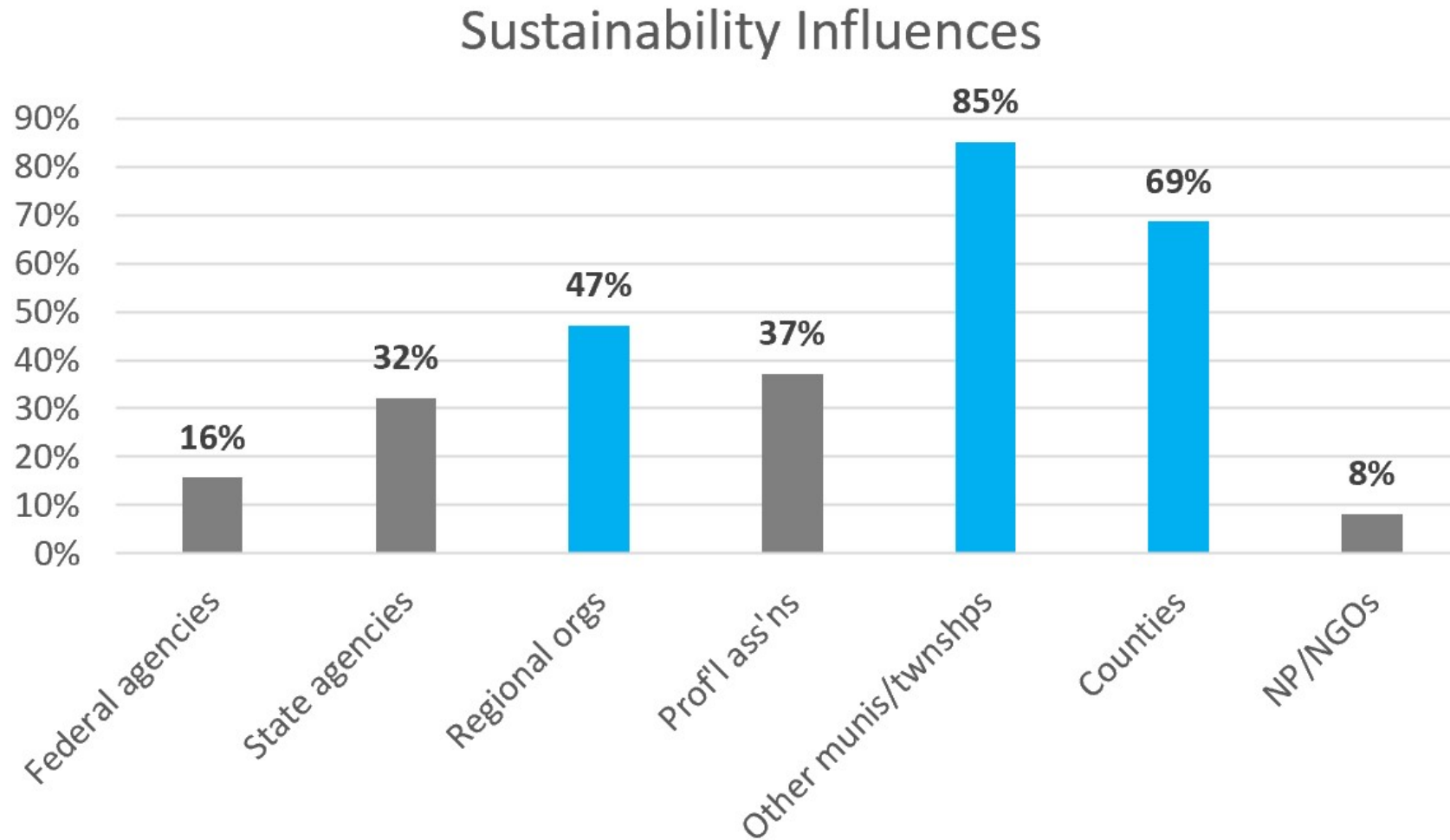
Energy Conservation (Public Assets)



# Barriers to energy sustainability



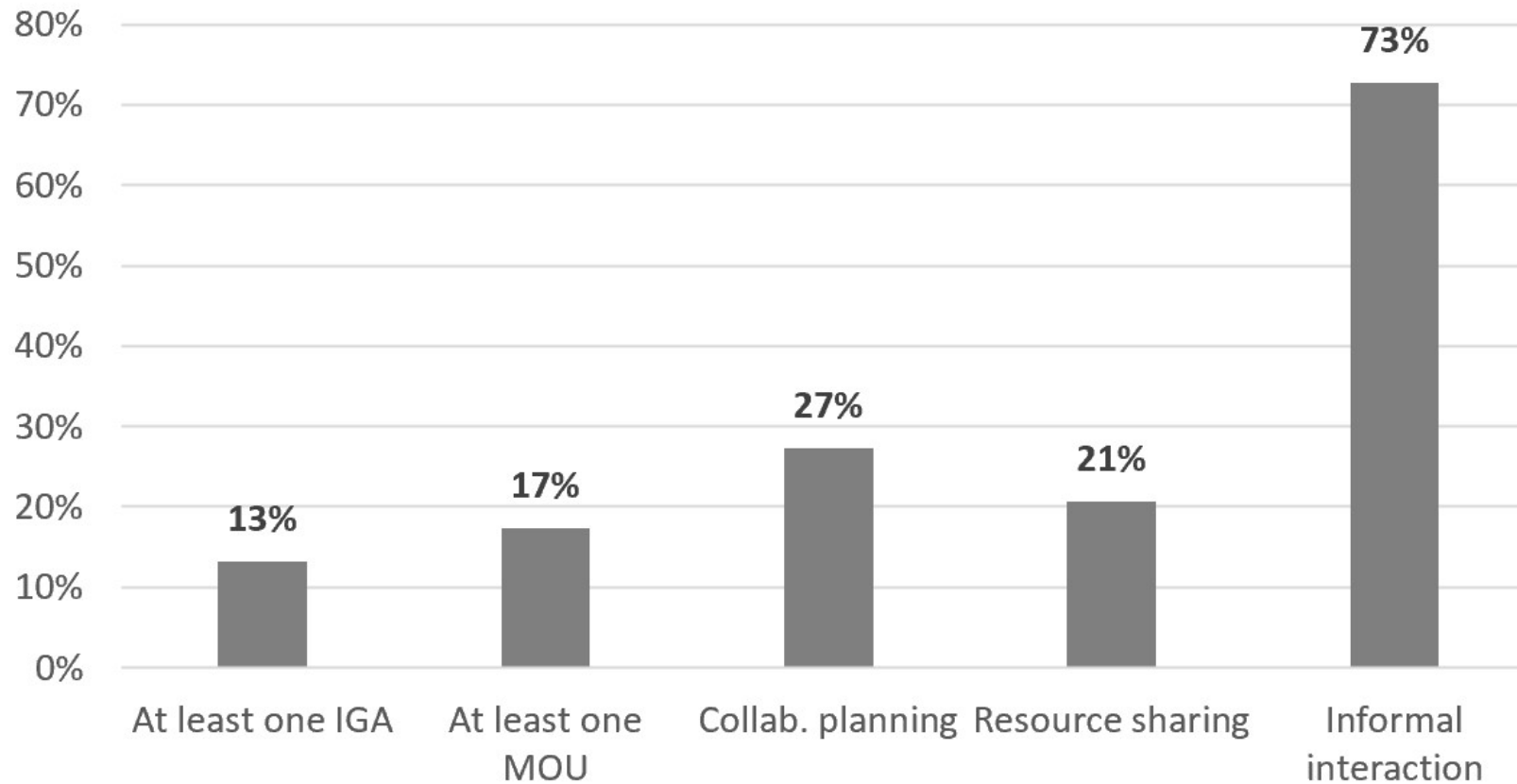
# Which matter to sustainability decisions?



# Working with neighbors



## Working with neighboring local governments



# Thank you!



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**Environment, Sustainability, and Energy**