

Results of York Energy Committee Survey

January 6, 2017

In November and December of 2016, the York Planning Board conducted a random survey of roughly 1,200 people who are registered to vote in York. They were asked a series of 15 questions regarding energy and energy related programs that the Town may want to consider implementing now or in the future. The results of the survey are to be used in the development of an Energy Chapter to be included in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. This document presents the results.

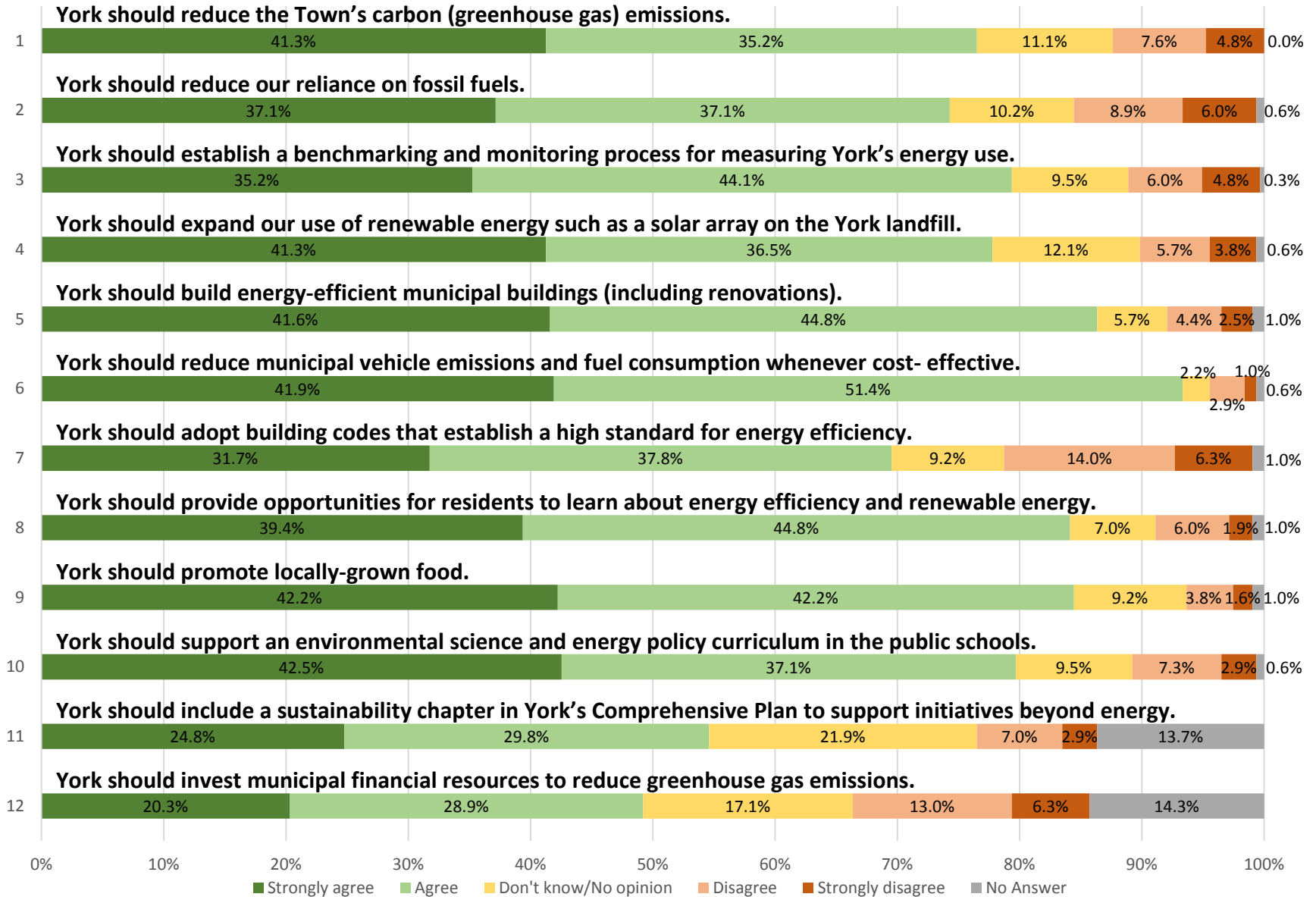
As stated above, the survey was randomly sent to roughly 1,200 registered voters. Unfortunately, 204 surveys were "returned to sender" due to a number of potential reasons (addresses were printed incorrectly on the envelope, people might have recently moved, etc.) However, of the 1,200 surveys that were sent it's conceivable (based on the number of surveys that were "returned to sender") that 996 people received a survey. Regardless, 315 people responded and returned a survey to the Planning Office, which means roughly 32% of the people who received a survey, responded to it.

Below are the tallied responses to questions that required a survey responder to circle a choice (strongly agree, agree, don't know/no opinion, disagree, strongly disagree) that best matched a survey responders opinion on a statement. Generally, people who responded to the survey tended to "strongly agree" or "agree" with all 12 statements.

Also, incorporated below is a summary of the three written response open ended questions. The planning Office attempted to highlight and track ideas or concepts that were incorporated or recurring within a particular response and whether they were positive, negative, or merely just mentioned.

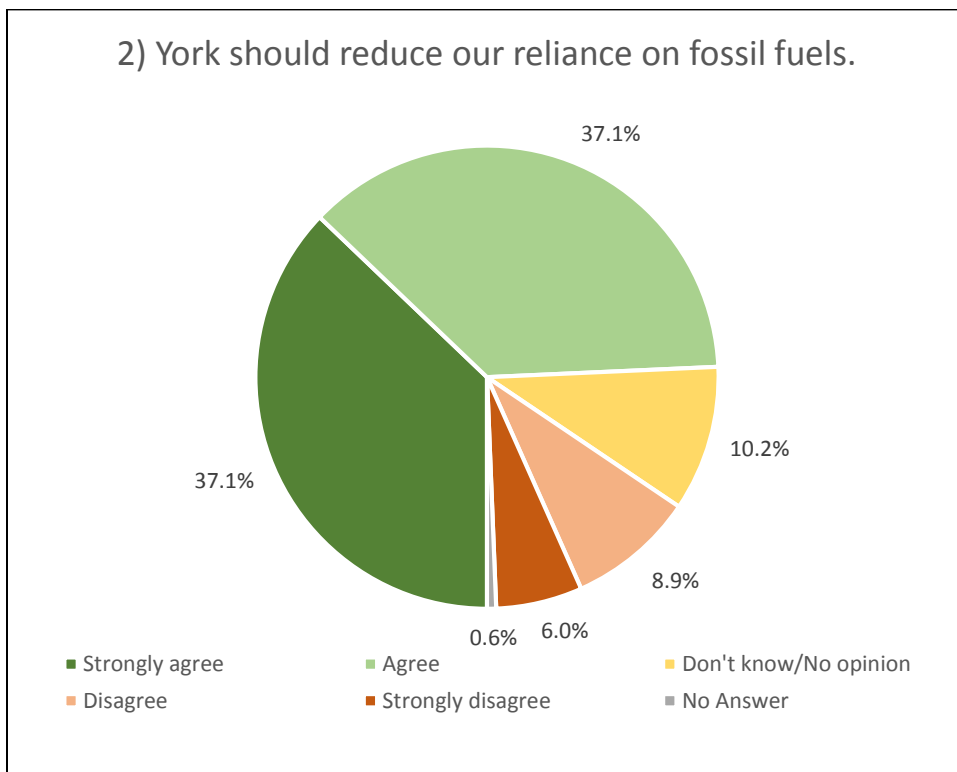
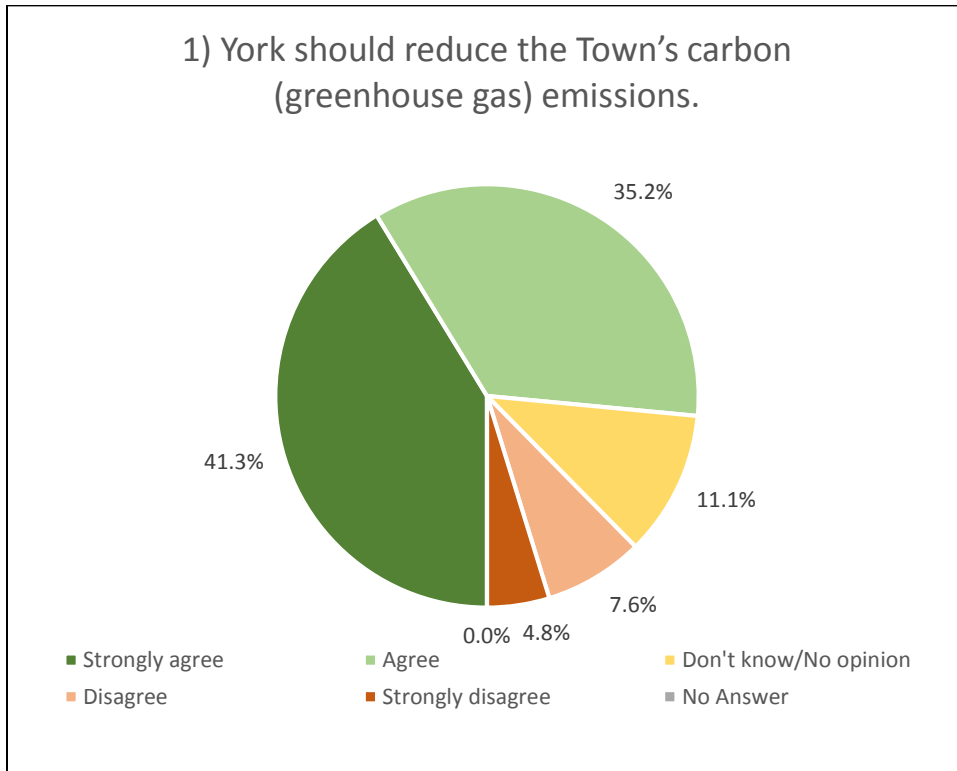
All responded surveys are available for review in the Planning Office.

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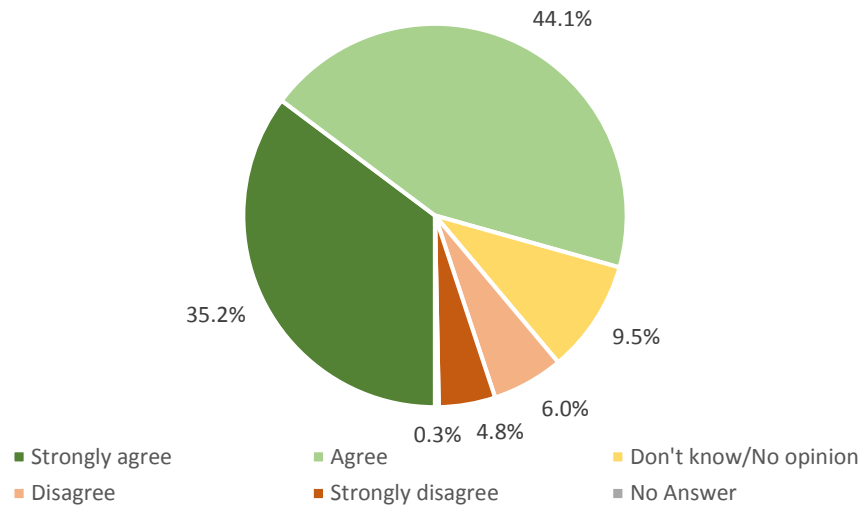


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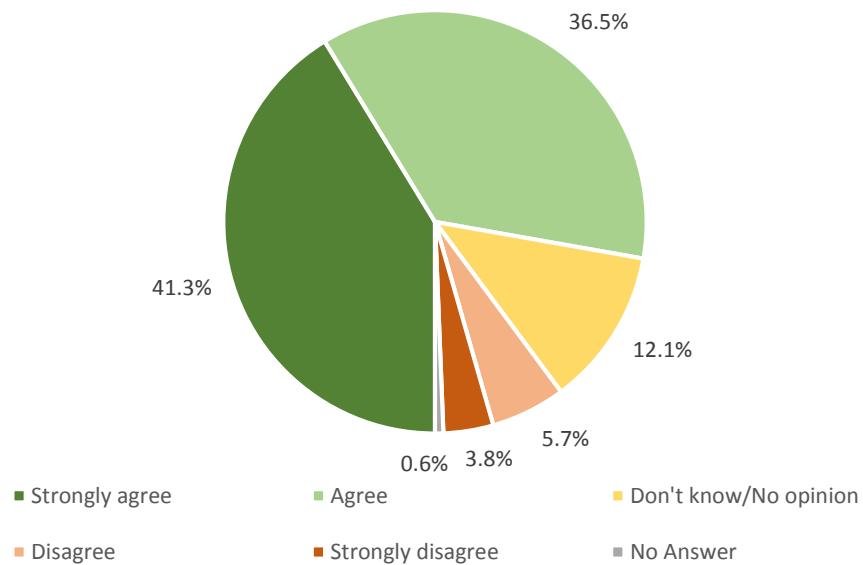
Percentage of answers graphs



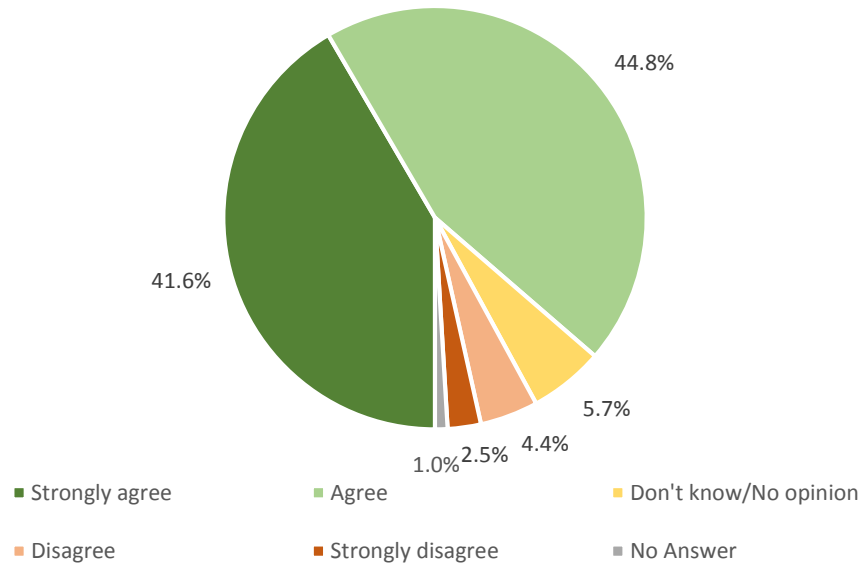
3) York should establish a benchmarking and monitoring process for measuring York's energy use.



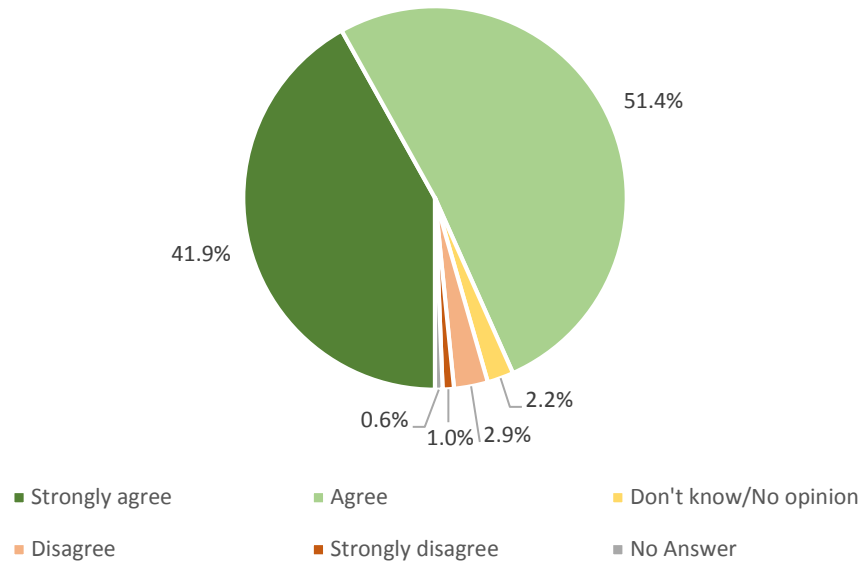
4) York should expand our use of renewable energy such as a solar array on the York landfill.



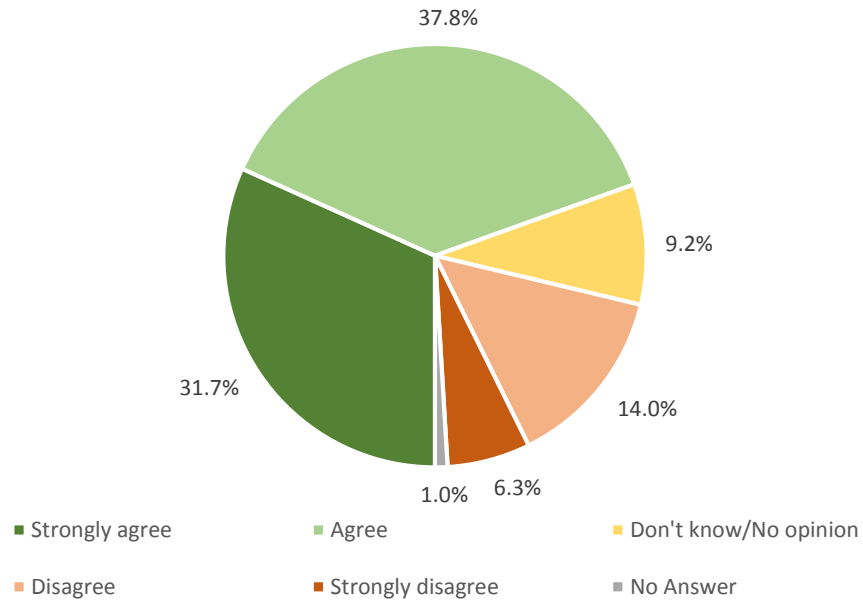
5) York should build energy-efficient municipal buildings (including renovations).



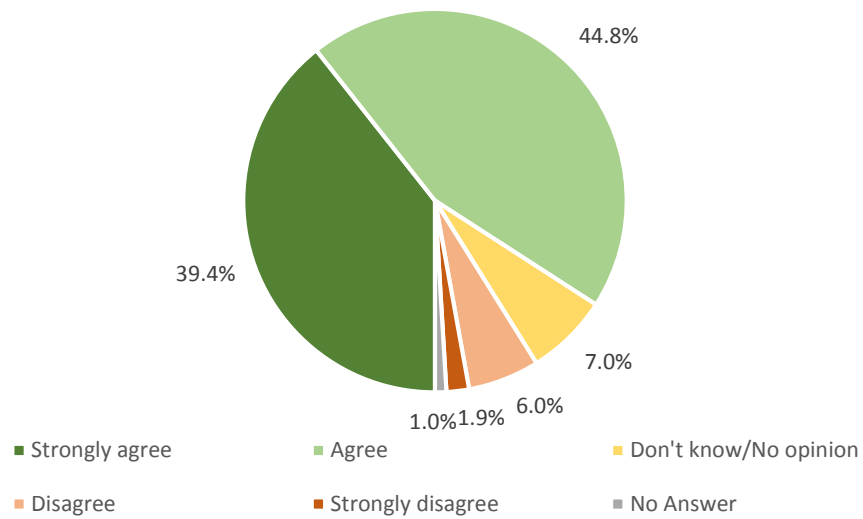
6) York should reduce municipal vehicle emissions and fuel consumption whenever cost-effective.



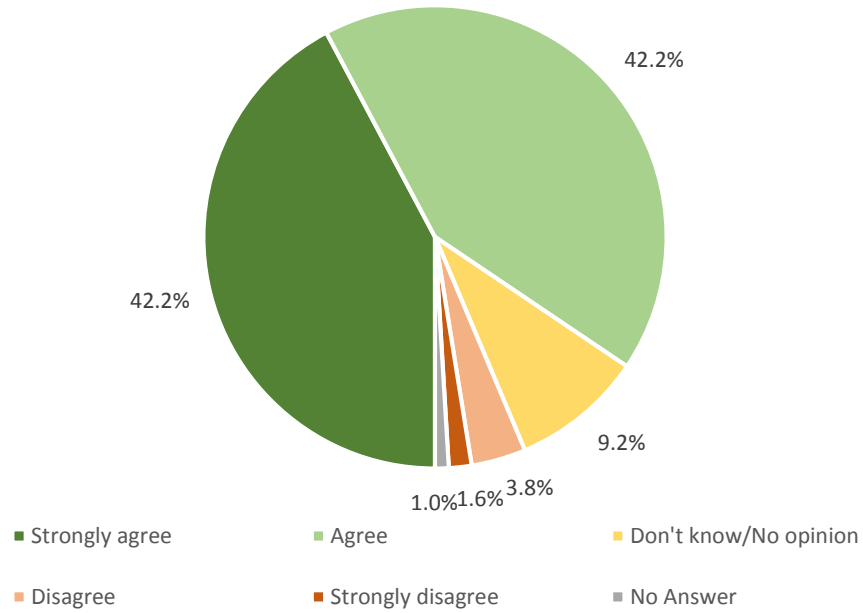
7) York should adopt building codes that establish a high standard for energy efficiency.



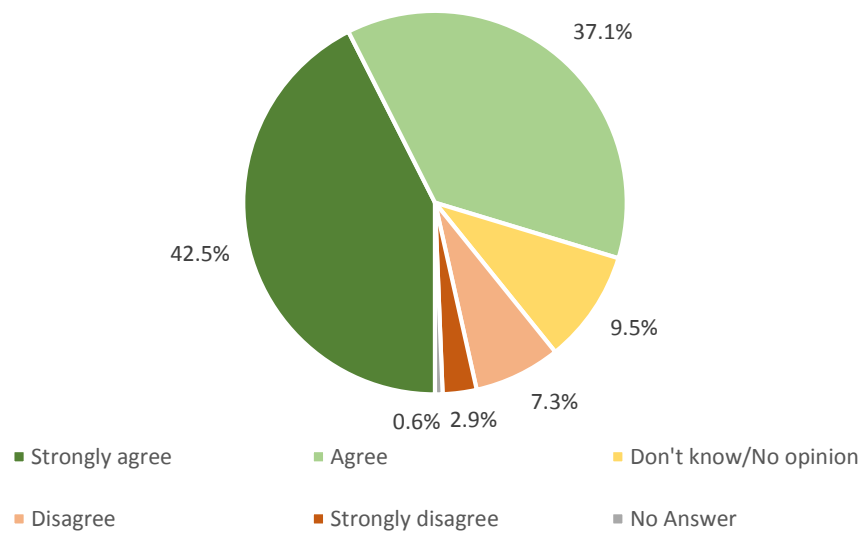
8) York should provide opportunities for residents to learn about energy efficiency and renewable energy.



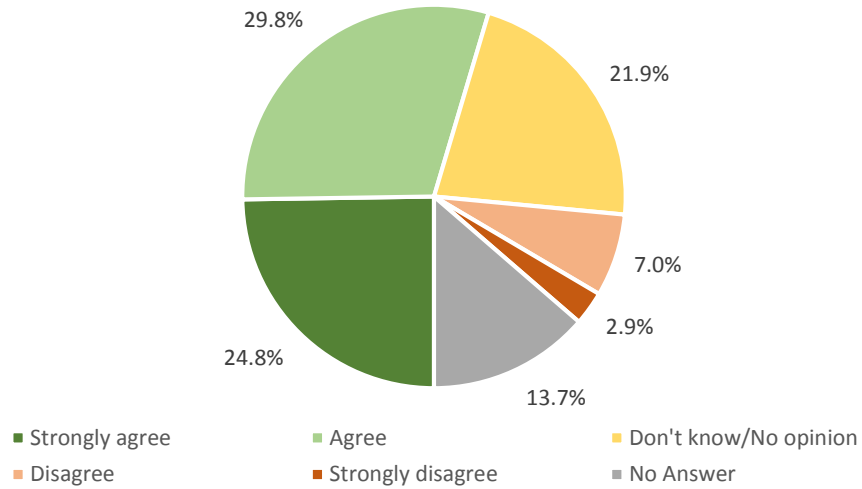
9) York should promote locally-grown food.



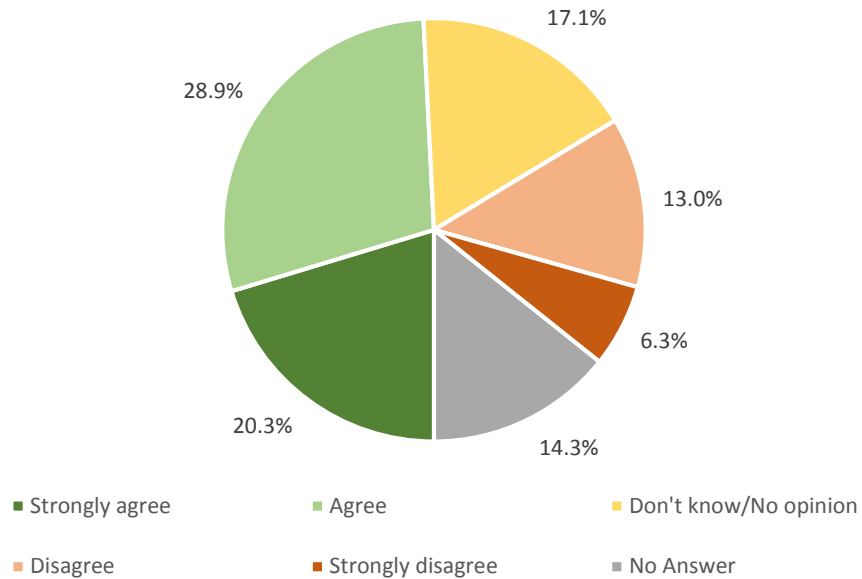
10) York should support an environmental science and energy policy curriculum in the public schools.



11) York should include a sustainability chapter in York's Comprehensive Plan to support initiatives beyond energy.



12) York should invest municipal financial resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



York Energy Committee Survey
Written Answer Summary
January 6, 2017

The Survey asked the following 3 open ended questions:

- What types of energy conservation and energy generation projects or programs would you like to see in York?
- What is the most important energy-efficiency action the town can take?
- Other comments?

The answers provided to these prompts did not exactly follow the questions asked and topics and intentions of the responses flowed between all three. As such all written answers (including commentary written in the margins of the multiple choice section) were reviewed as a whole. Mentions of particular recurring topics were tracked along with if the survey respondent mentioned the idea in a negative or positive light. Of the 315 surveys received, 177 left some form of written response.

Types of energy

Energy Type	Total Mentions	Positive	Negative
Solar	91	89	2
Wind	44	42	2
Geothermal	8	7	1
Hydro (including tidal)	12	12	0
Nuclear	3	3	0
Wood burning	4	3	1
Trash to energy	1	1	0
Blanket "Renewable"	8	8	0

Energy Actions:

Energy Actions	Total Mentions	Positive	Negative
Improve/Upgrade Municipal Buildings	41	39	2
Specifically: Lighting Upgrades	20	20	0
Specifically: Weatherizing/Insulating	9	9	0
Specifically: Heating System Upgrades	11	9	2
Replace Municipal Buildings	2	0	0
Solar Panels on Municipal Buildings	22	22	0
LED street lights	15	15	0
Improve Vehicle Efficiency	30	30	0
Specifically: Hybrid or Electric cars	12	12	0
Reduce or Ban Idling of Vehicles	7	7	0

Other areas of interest:

35 people mentioned that they were concerned with the cost of any of these improvements. This includes people that felt the town should not spend any money on energy initiatives, people that were in favor of energy initiatives but were concerned about their impact on taxes, and people that wanted to make sure that all actions taken had reasonable returns on investment.

8 people wrote that they felt the town should take no action on any energy related front.

14 people felt that the town should offer some form of incentive to property owners who make energy upgrades to their property.

The following ideas and values came up multiple times in responses and were not captured in the above categories:

Issue	Mentions
Improve Bike and Pedestrian Conditions	8
Water Conservation and Protection	3
Encourage Composting	3
Reduce Emissions (generally)	4
Provide Educational Opportunities on Energy Issues	15
Create a Community Garden	2