



Empowering Climate Action

Presentation to ADEPT Environment Board

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National Grid Electricity System Operator

Our Mission: To enable the transformation to a sustainable energy system and ensure the delivery of reliable, affordable energy for all consumers



An electricity system that can operate carbon free



A whole system strategy that supports net-zero by 2050

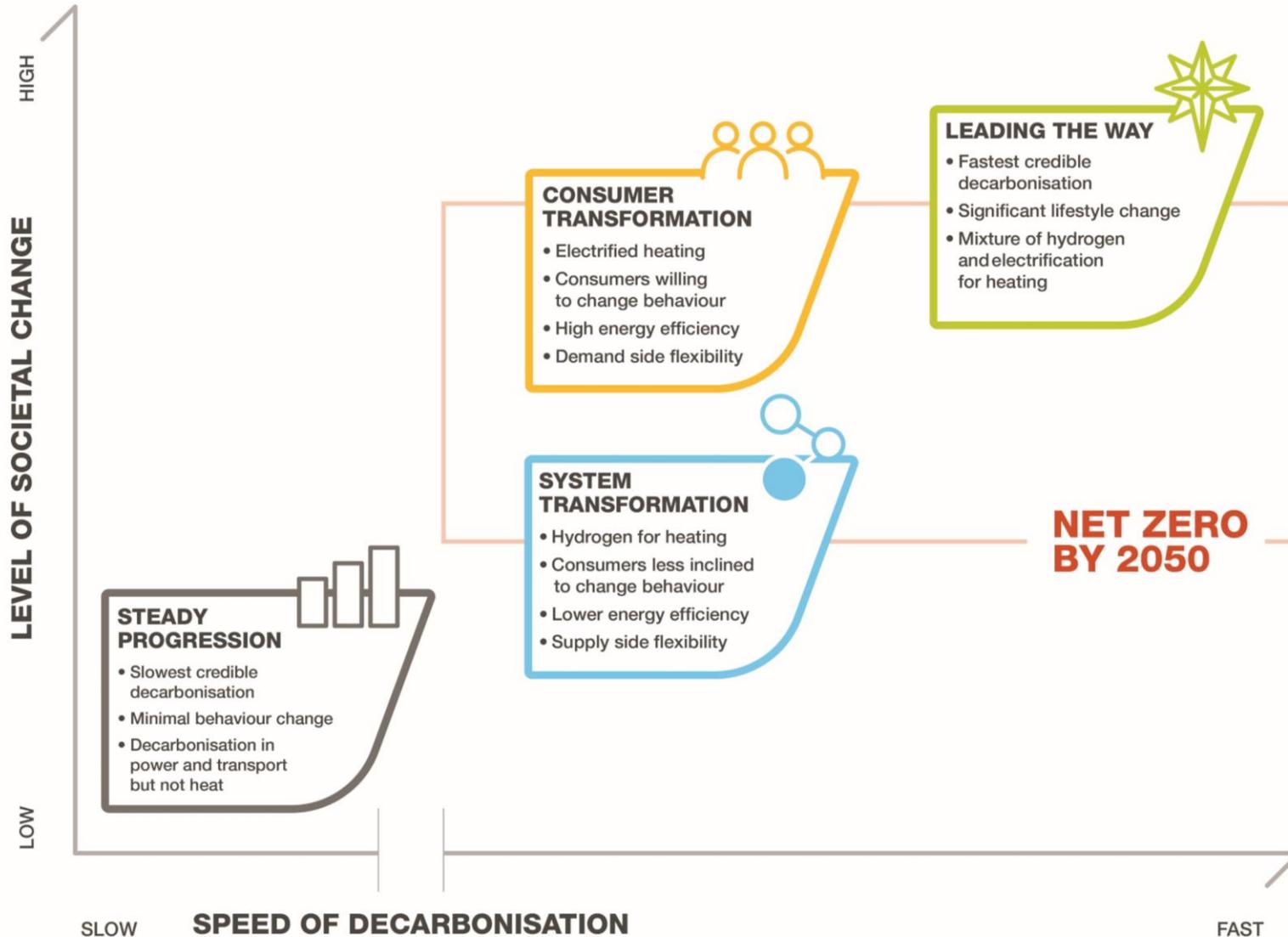


Competition everywhere



The ESO as a trusted partner

Our Future Energy Scenarios



- 10 years of research, modelling and significant stakeholder feedback
- **Consumer behaviour is pivotal to decarbonisation** – how we all react to market and policy changes, and embrace smart technology, will be vital to meeting net zero.
- National and regional insights from a ‘whole energy system’ perspective, including a new spatial heat model
- Regional analysis is being used to support discussions with local stakeholders who are well-placed to explain any differences at this more granular level which will enhance our understanding at a GB level.
- To find out more please visit: <https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/future-energy-scenarios/regionalisation-fes>

Empowering Climate Action

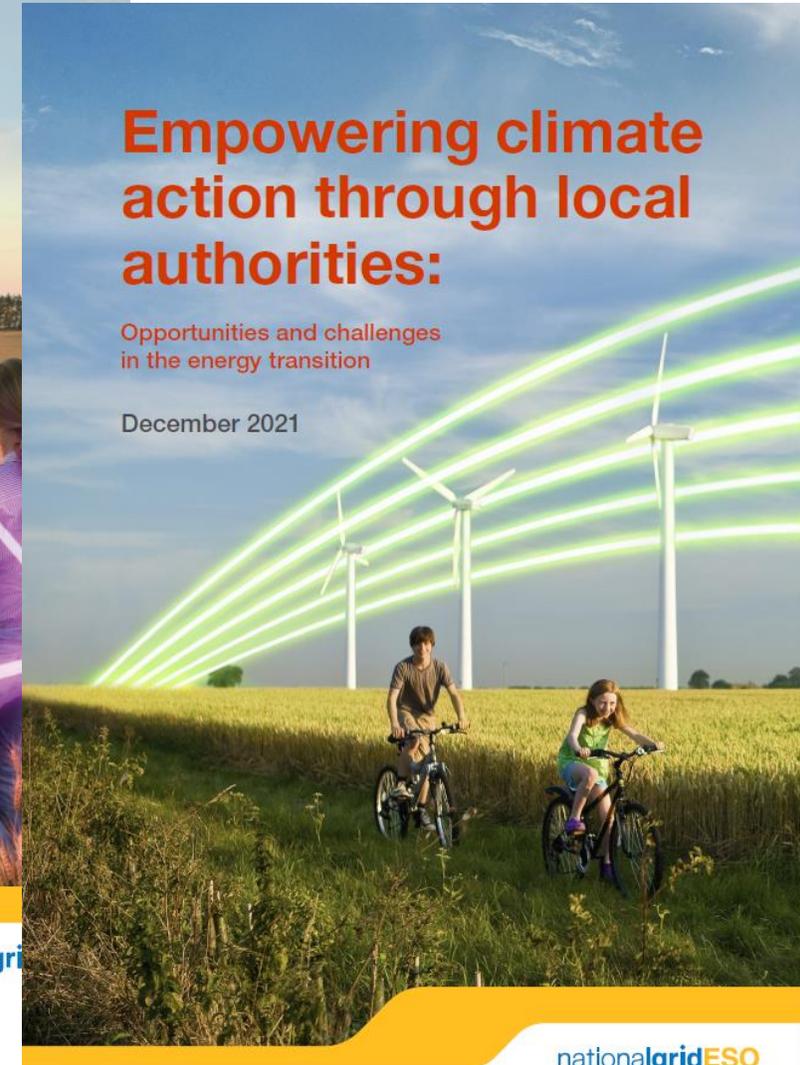
- We commissioned Public First to conduct research on the societal transformation needed to reach the UK's net zero target
- The research helps us to better understand the consumer appetite and ability to change behaviours to achieve net zero, and the barriers and opportunities to the consumer/societal change element of FES
- Two reports were published in Autumn/Winter 2021
 - **Consumer Research** on consumer intentions to support action on net zero, and perceptions of what is needed in the transition
 - **Local Authority Research:** The role that LAs can play in supporting citizen-level transformation and meeting national ambitions



Empowering climate action:

Inspiring and supporting consumer participation in the energy transition

October 2021



Empowering climate action through local authorities:

Opportunities and challenges in the energy transition

December 2021

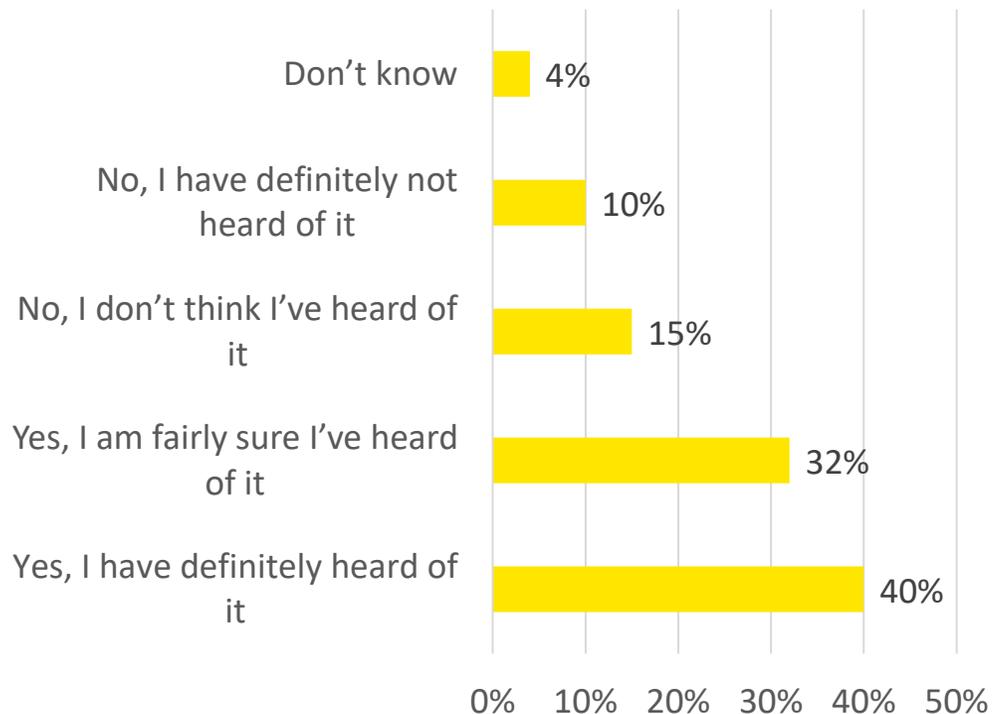
For more info:

<https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/our-net-zero-work/empowering-climate-action>

The public supports action on climate change, but we don't talk in language that they understand

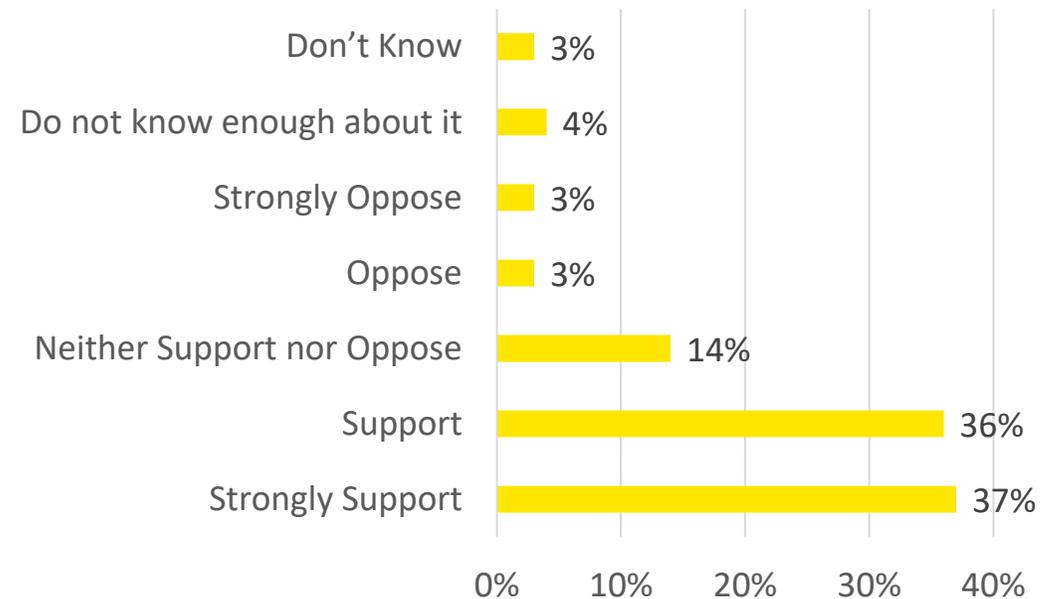
'Net zero' remains opaque to many – despite widespread understanding of the impacts of climate change and some of the changes required to fight it

In 2019, the UK Government made it a law that the UK must achieve Net Zero by 2050. Prior to taking this survey, had you heard of this plan?



When the Government talks about "Net Zero", they are referring to a target to reduce greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide emissions) to fight climate change.

Do you support or oppose this policy?



Top concerns are wildlife, legacy and temperature

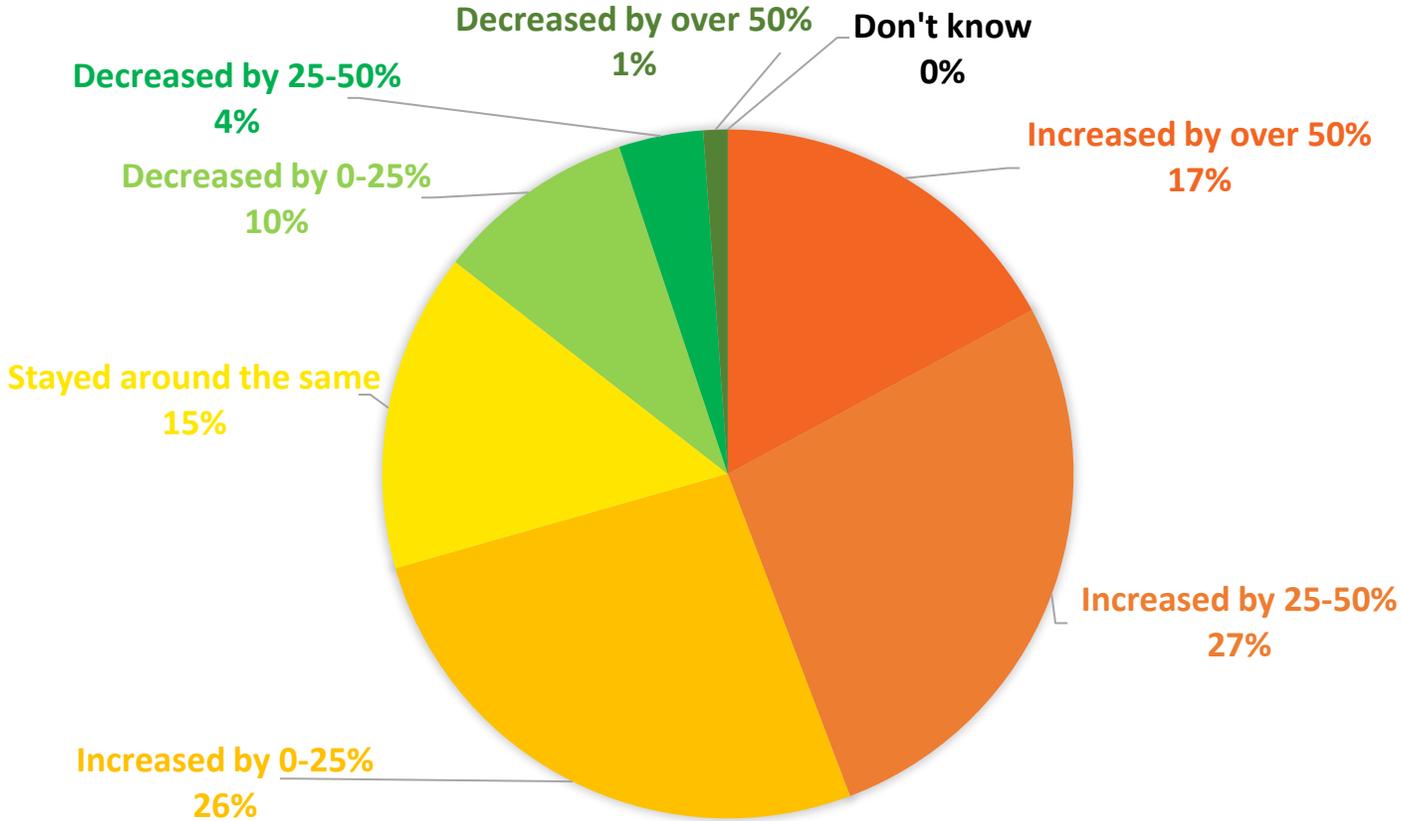
Which of the effects of climate change are you most worried about, if any? [Top three]

- 1.** Harmful effects on wildlife and nature (41%)
- 2.** Harm to the planet that my children and grandchildren will live on (36%)
- 3.** Dramatic changes in temperature (32%)



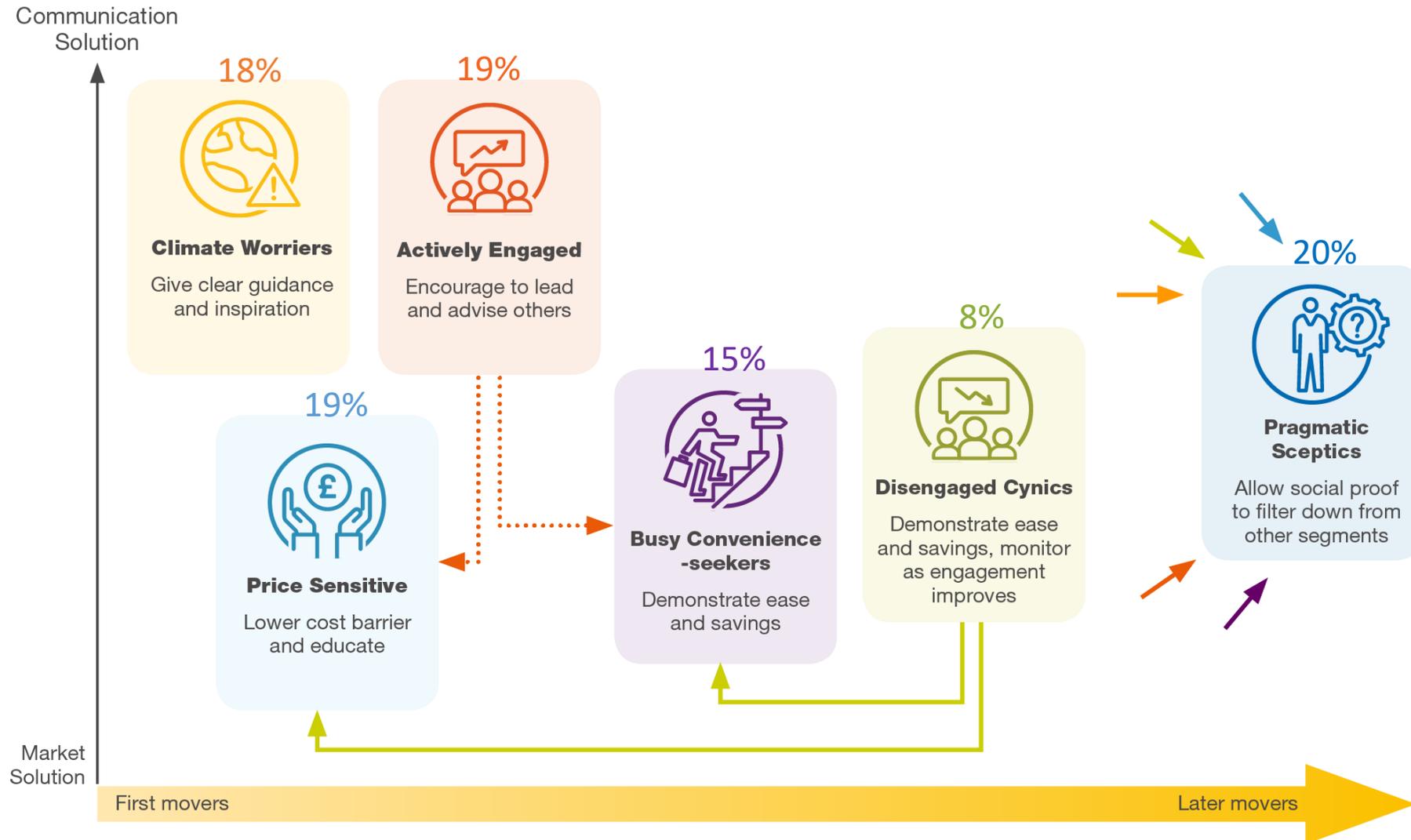
The public are VERY surprised by the progress we have seen in the UK

Q: IF YOU HAD TO GUESS, HOW MUCH WOULD YOU EXPECT THE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (SUCH AS CARBON DIOXIDE) PRODUCED IN THE UK TO HAVE CHANGED IN THE LAST THIRTY YEARS?



Despite the UK successfully **reducing** total greenhouse gas emissions ... **70%** of GB consumers think emissions have **actually increased**

We have identified six segments of the population who face different barriers and opportunities to engaging in climate action and the energy transition



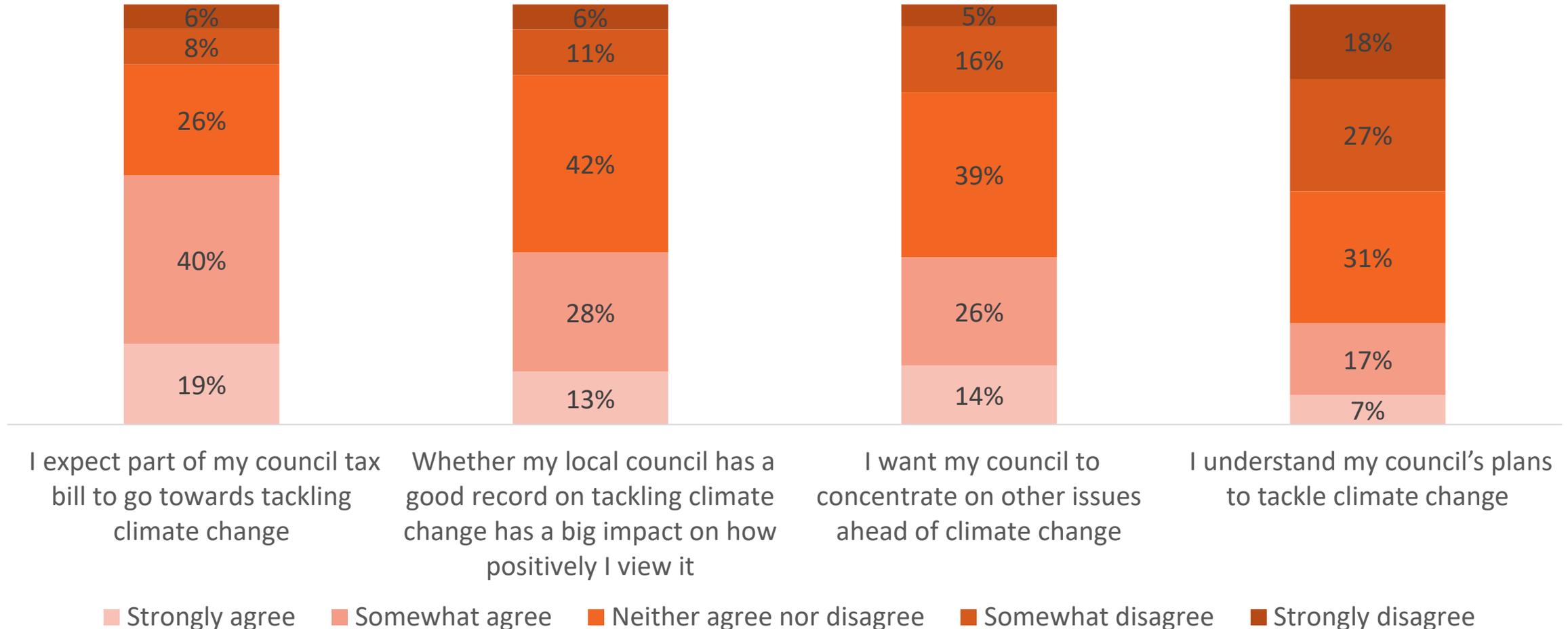
We have explored who consumers think should be most responsible for different aspects of transforming society to meet net zero

Q: WHO DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE THE MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR ACHIEVING THESE: INDIVIDUALS, LOCAL COMMUNITY, BUSINESSES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT?

	Individuals	Local community	Businesses	Local government	National government	None of them	Don't know
Increasing recycling rates	18%	10%	8%	33%	19%	3%	9%
Using less single-use plastic	29%	5%	36%	5%	16%	2%	8%
Reducing packaging	8%	4%	59%	5%	15%	2%	7%
Increasing energy efficiency	15%	4%	26%	8%	32%	2%	12%
Improving insulation in homes	28%	7%	7%	19%	27%	2%	10%
Replacing fossil fuel heating (such as gas boilers) with lower-carbon alternatives	12%	4%	14%	10%	44%	4%	12%
Encouraging more people to switch from petrol/diesel cars to electric cars	11%	4%	7%	8%	53%	5%	11%
Making businesses and industries greener	5%	4%	42%	6%	33%	2%	8%
Protecting and/or enhancing the natural environment	13%	13%	6%	16%	40%	2%	10%
Changing diets	61%	5%	4%	4%	10%	6%	9%
Making our energy more green	6%	4%	27%	8%	43%	3%	10%

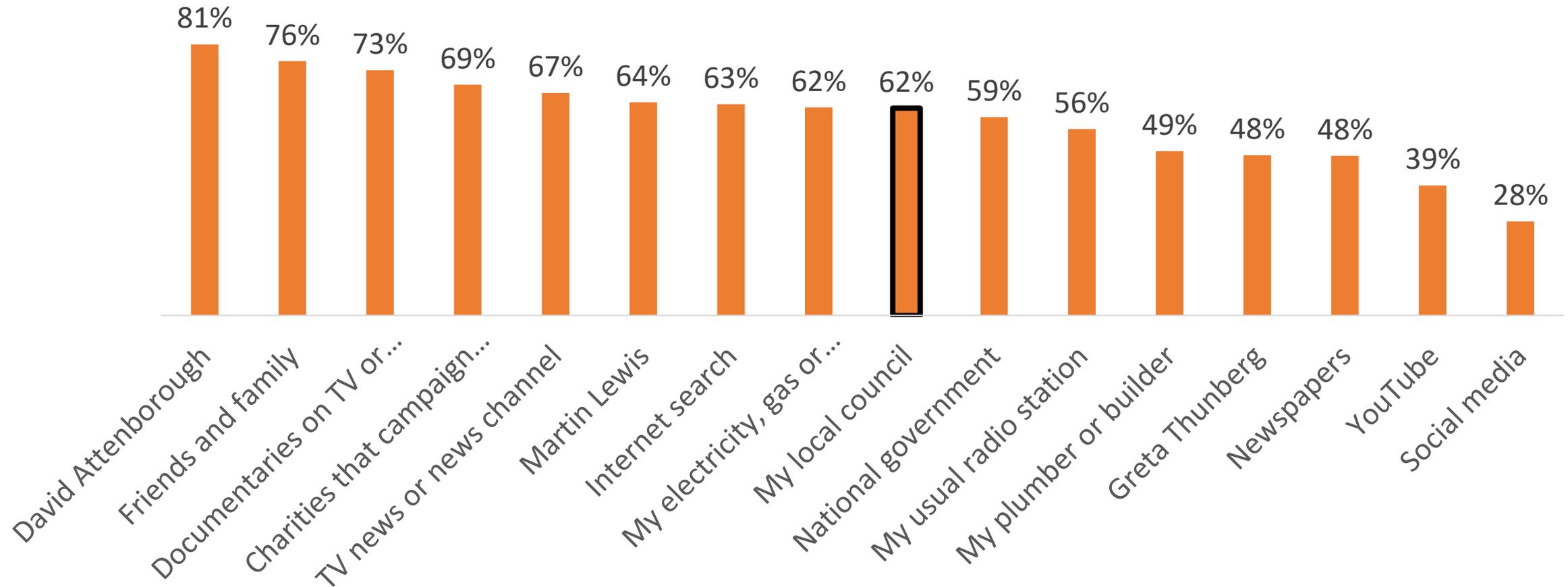
Very few understand the role that councils do play but many expect that they should play some role

Q: TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?



Councils more trusted than government or newspapers

Q: IF YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR LIFE TO BECOME 'GREENER', TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD YOU TRUST OR NOT TRUST THE DIFFERENT SOURCES OF INFORMATION BELOW?



Key findings from Empowering Climate action through Local Authorities

Opportunities

- Leading by example
- Convening and inspiring local communities
- Return on investment from climate action
- Regional collaboration
- A powerful link to meet the needs of local communities

Challenges

- Being early adopters of technology
- Choosing what's effective over what's popular
- Being held back by national policy
- Climate ambitions curtailed without funding
- Understanding changing consumer behaviour

Final thoughts - Inspiring action on climate change

In summary, the vast majority of consumers want to change in support of the climate and environment, and want to be enabled to do their part

- **Educate and engage:** Consumers want better guidance on what they can do to play their part for the climate and environment – from the small things to the big things
- **In it together:** Consumers want to know that individuals, businesses, local and national governments and major polluters aboard are all taking action. Local authorities have an important role as a link between national policy and communities across Britain.
- **Transparency:** They want to see greater transparency of UK progress, and better understanding of their personal (and our collective) impact to improve the climate
- **Speak their language:** Often the language that we use to describe climate change and net zero is impenetrable and not memorable
- **Opportunity to deliver for communities across the country:** We can achieve net zero – what is critical is *how* – making sure that the needs of citizens and communities across the country are at the heart of how national ambitions are delivered.

