



Climate Action Survey  
Results  
November 2022

Julie's Bicycle EU

Julie's Bicycle  
CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION



native  
events







# Introduction

Taking the lead from national climate policy commitments alongside a drive to integrate climate action across government departments and agencies, the Arts Council is developing its Climate Action and Environmental Policy and Implementation Plan which it aims to launch in early 2023.

The policy is being developed in partnership with Julie's Bicycle EU - a team bringing together Julie's Bicycle UK, Native Events and the Green Arts Initiative in Ireland - and in consultation with Arts Council staff, artists, arts organisations and other key stakeholders.

This report summarises the findings of the Climate Action Survey, undertaken as part of consultation process which has informed the policy development.



# Methodology

The Climate Action Survey was developed by Julie's Bicycle EU in collaboration with the Arts Council. It was for responses between May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 via an on-line survey.

Representatives of arts organisations, individual artists and independent arts workers across Ireland were invited to participate in the survey, notably through the Arts Council's newsletter and social media channels.

There were 466 survey responses in total, 314 of which were complete.

**We are extremely grateful to all the artists, arts organisations and arts workers who responded, and to the Arts Council representatives who supported the process.**

# Survey findings – in a nutshell

## The arts community believes it has an important role to play

91% agree that “The arts community has a unique and crucial role to play in meeting this moment of climate and environmental crisis – through its own actions and through its ability to engage with people, inform and mobilise change.”

## Climate and environmental action is a priority for the arts

63% identified climate and environmental action as a priority:

- 19% as a top priority
- 44% as one of a number of priorities

26% said it as an emerging priority

## Most are in the early stages of taking action

- 22% ‘well on the way’
- 47% ‘making initial progress’
- 20% ‘at the very beginning’

## There has been limited support

79% have not had any support on climate and environmental action

## Key barriers to action

- lack of financial resources
- lack of and increased cost of ‘green’ alternatives, services and products

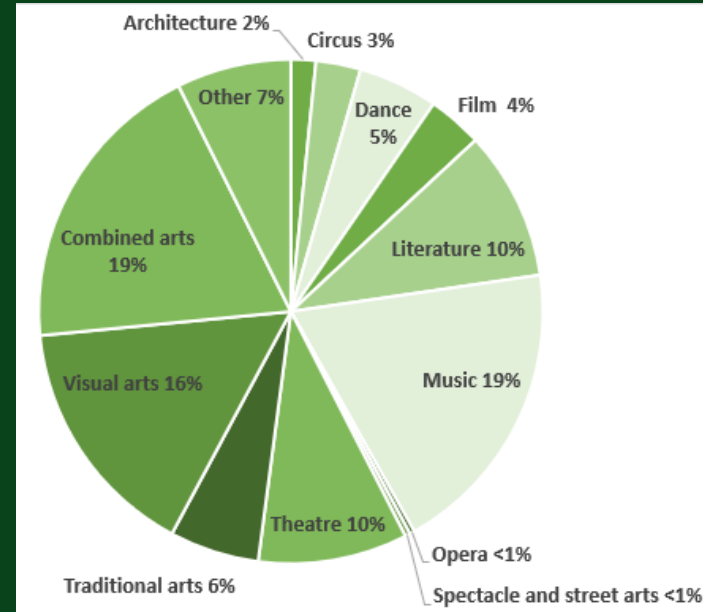
## Action can bring opportunities

74% believe action can bring opportunities - from new creative and engagement opportunities to improved health and wellbeing

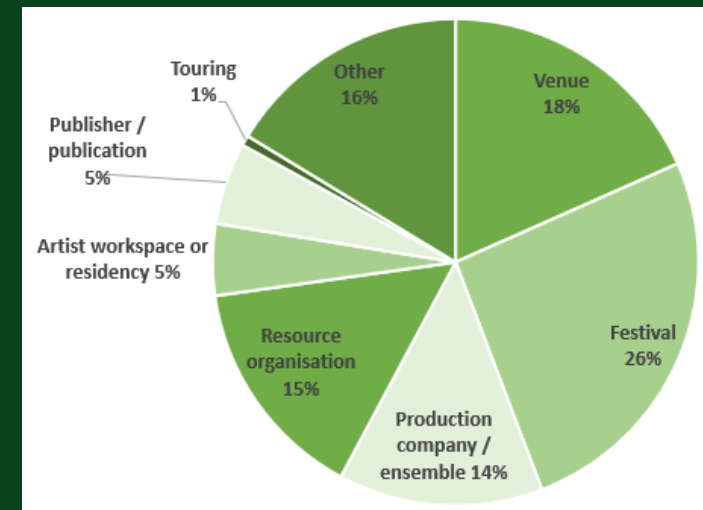
## Who responded to the survey

- 314 complete responses:
  - 149 arts organisations (48%)
  - 130 artists (41%)
  - 35 arts workers (11%)
- Top three artforms represented:
  - combined arts (19%)
  - music (19%)
  - visual arts (16%)
- Top three activities represented, organisations only:
  - festivals (26%)
  - venues (18%)
  - resource organisations (15%)
- 75% of people responding on behalf of arts organisations were in a CEO, director or senior management role

## Responses by artform (based on 313 responses)

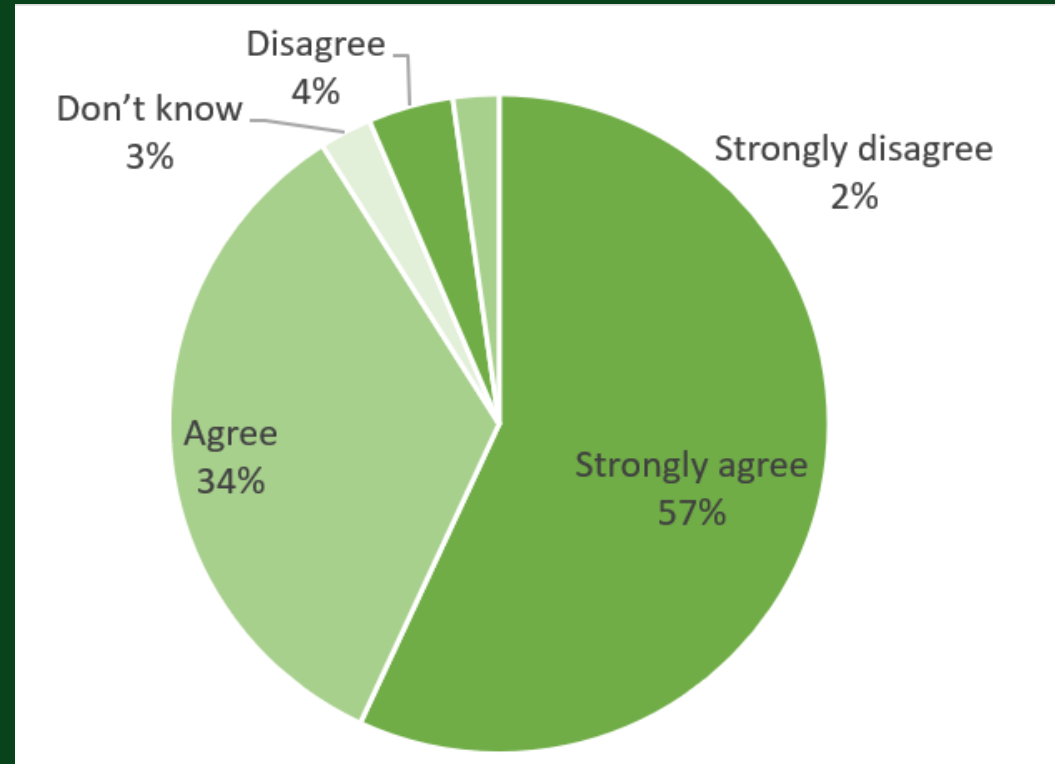


## Responses by activity (based on 147 responses)



**The arts community believes it has an important role to play through its own actions and through its ability to engage with people, inform and mobilise change.**

57% strongly agree and 34% agree:  
“The arts community has a unique and crucial role to play in meeting this moment of climate and environmental crisis – through its own actions and through its ability to engage with people, inform and mobilise change.”

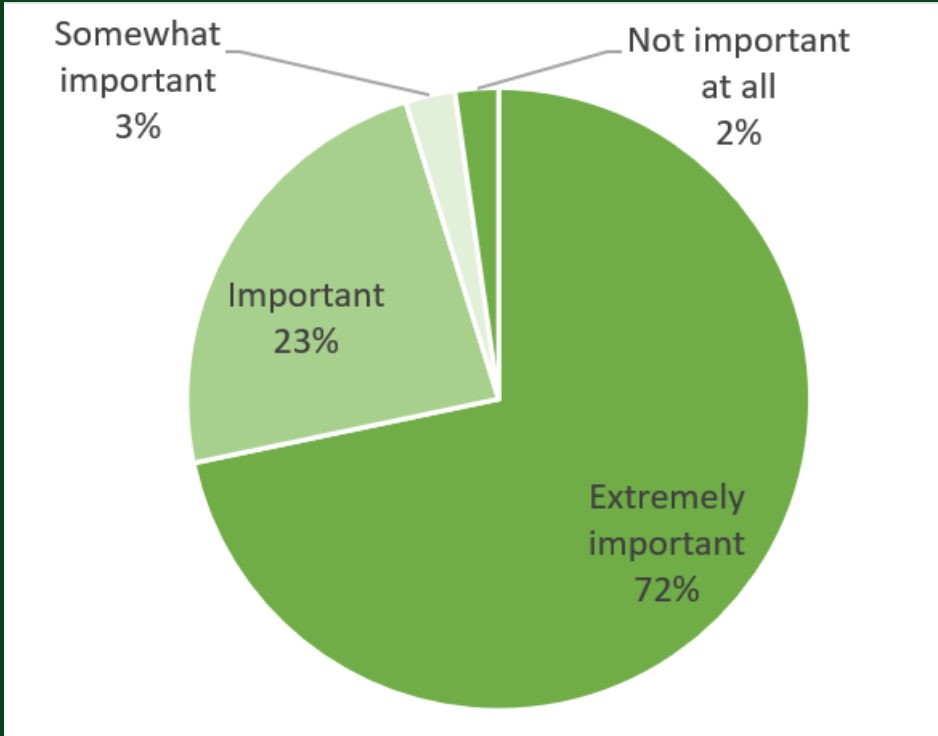


Based on 311 responses

# Climate and environmental action is important to people on a personal level

When asked how important climate and environmental action is to them personally:

- 72% said it is extremely important
- 23% said it is important



Based on 311 responses

# People want to do the right thing

When asked what would be the key drivers of action over the next two years, 263 respondents or 85% said a desire to do the right thing, now and for future generations



Based on 311 responses

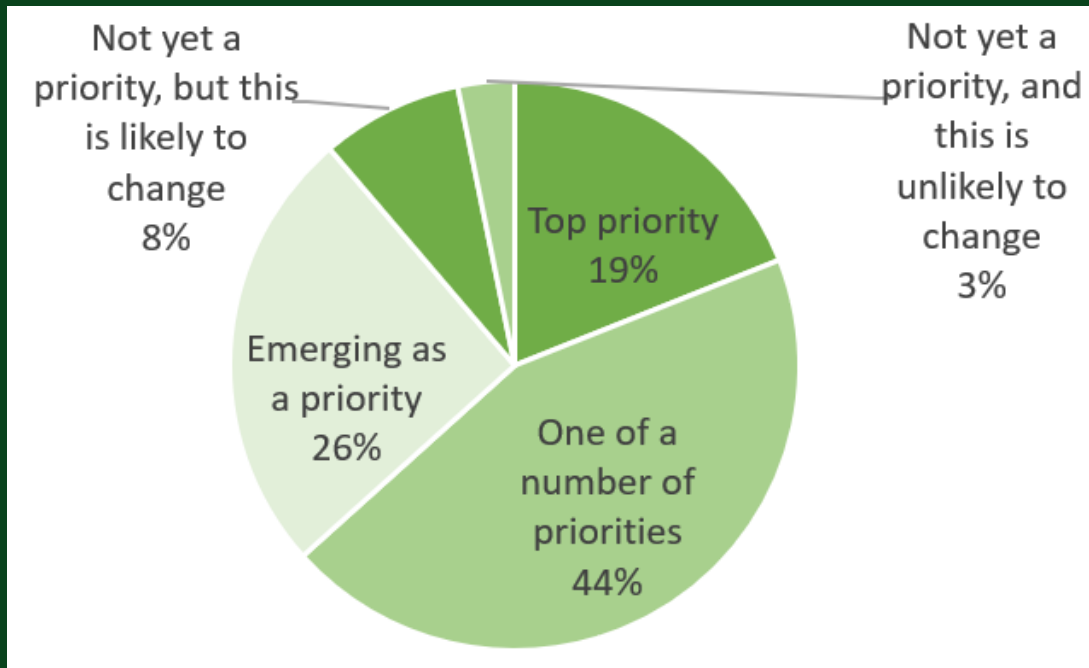


## Climate and environmental action is a priority for the arts

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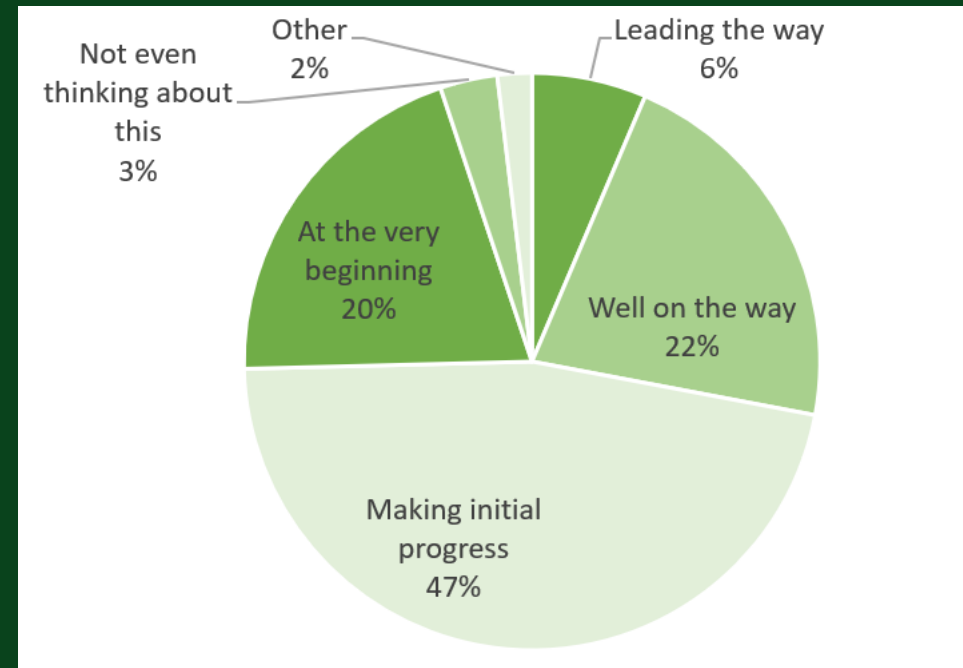


Based on 311 responses

## Most are in the early stages of taking action

When asked where they are in terms of climate and environmental action:

- 22% said 'well on the way'
- 47% said 'making initial progress'
- 20% said 'at the very beginning'

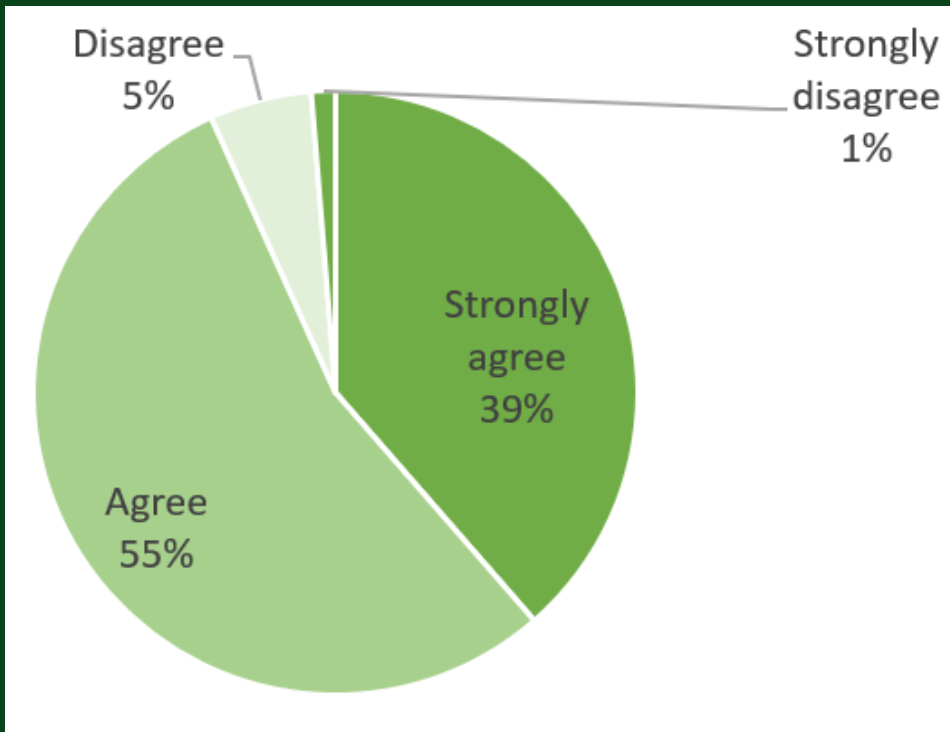


Based on 311 responses



## Organisations, artists and arts workers understand the impact their work has on the environment

39% strongly agree and 55% agree:  
“We / I understand the impact our activities as an organisation / my practice / my area of work has on the environment.”

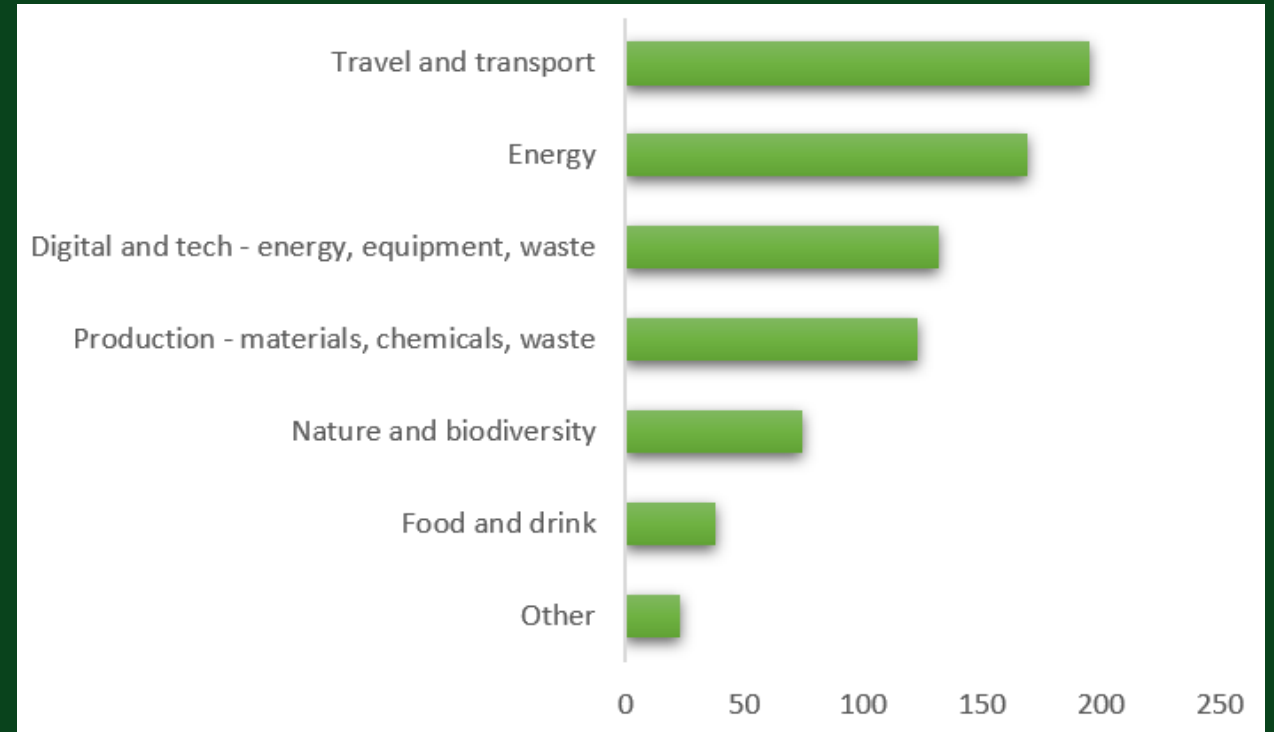


Based on 311 responses

## Travel and transport is the area of environmental impact of most concern

When asked to identify the top three areas of impact:

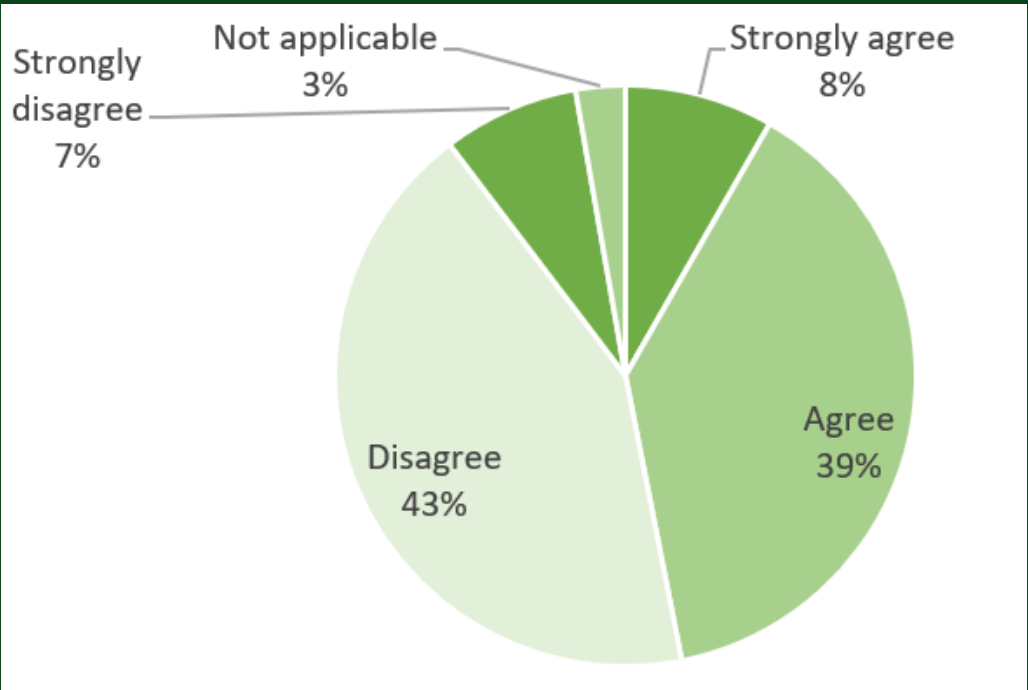
- 195 respondents or 63% said travel and transport
- 169 or 55% said energy
- 132 or 43% said digital and tech



Based on 311 responses

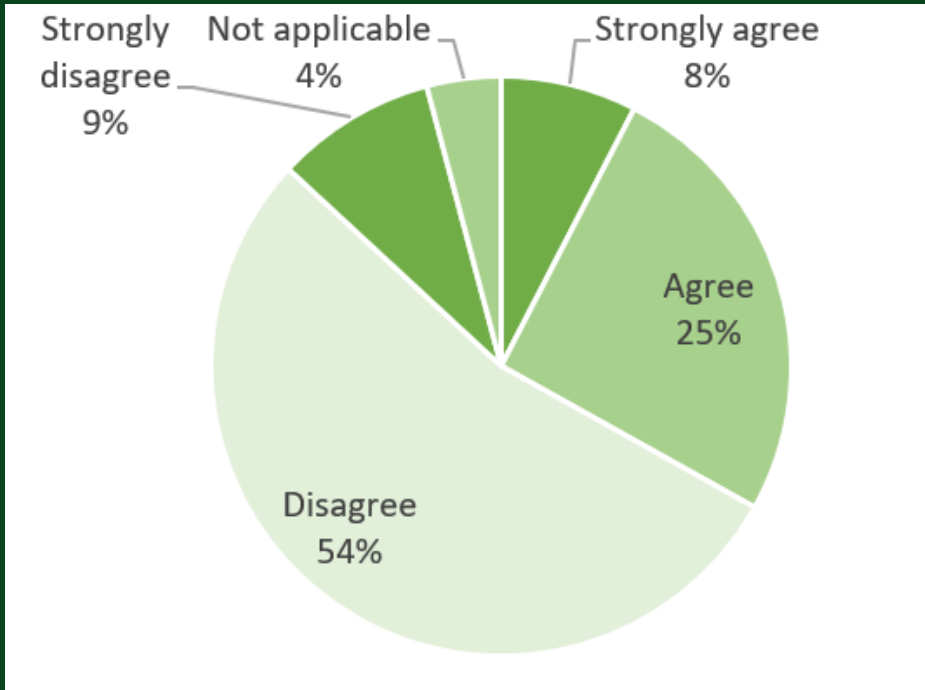
# About half of arts organisations have defined commitments and priorities in relation to climate and environmental action and about a third have defined roles and responsibilities

8% strongly agree and 39% agree:  
“We have clearly defined our ambition, commitments and priorities in relation to climate and environmental action.”



Based on 145 responses, organisations only

8% strongly agree and 25% agree:  
“We have clearly defined roles and responsibilities on climate and environmental action within your organisation.”

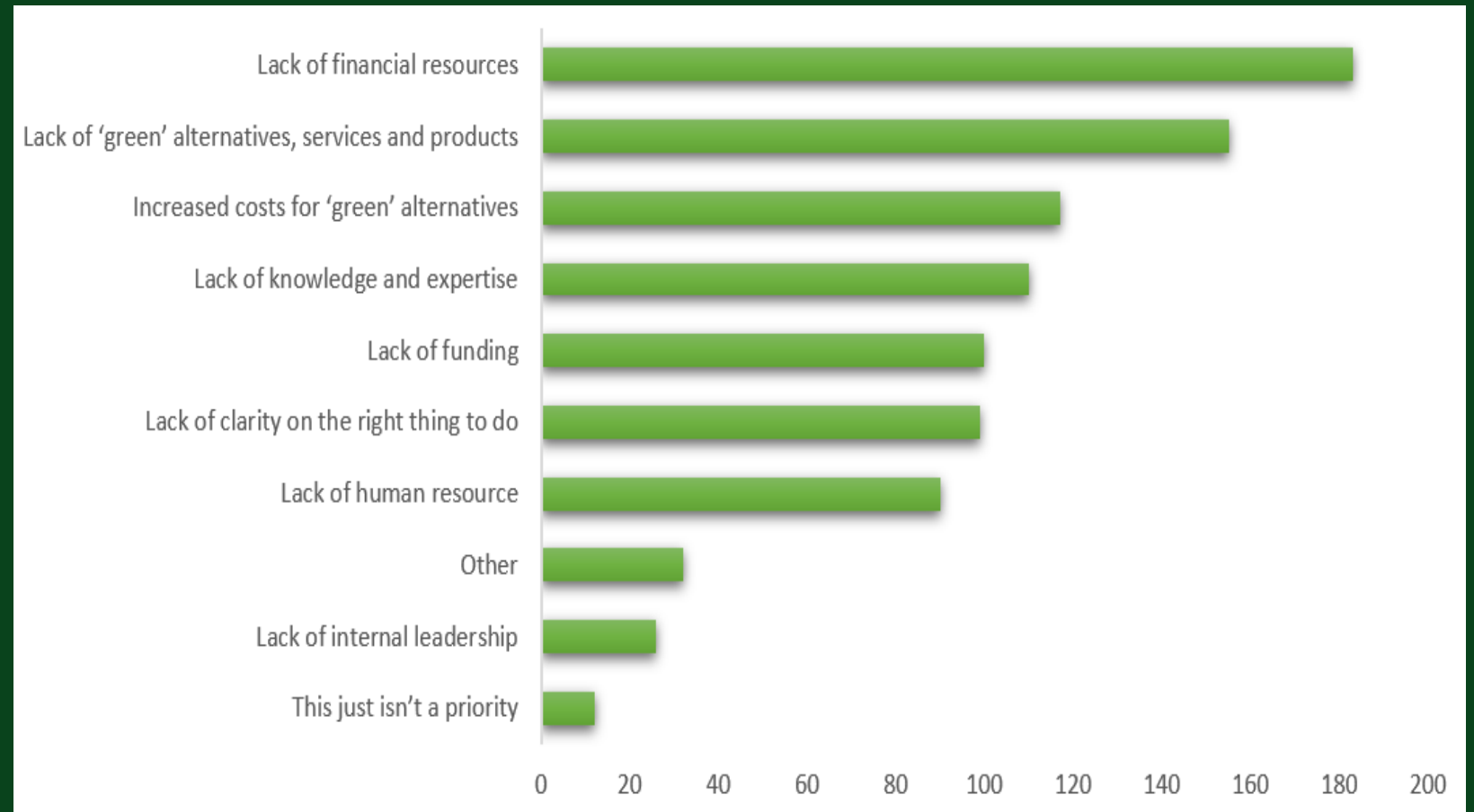


Based on 145 responses, organisations only

## Lack of financial resources and lack of and increased costs of 'green' alternatives, services and products were identified as the main barriers to action

When asked what they see as the main challenges to action:

- 183 respondents or 59% identified a lack of financial resources
- 155 or 50% a lack of 'green' alternatives, services and products
- 117 or 38% the increased cost of 'green' alternatives



Based on 311 responses

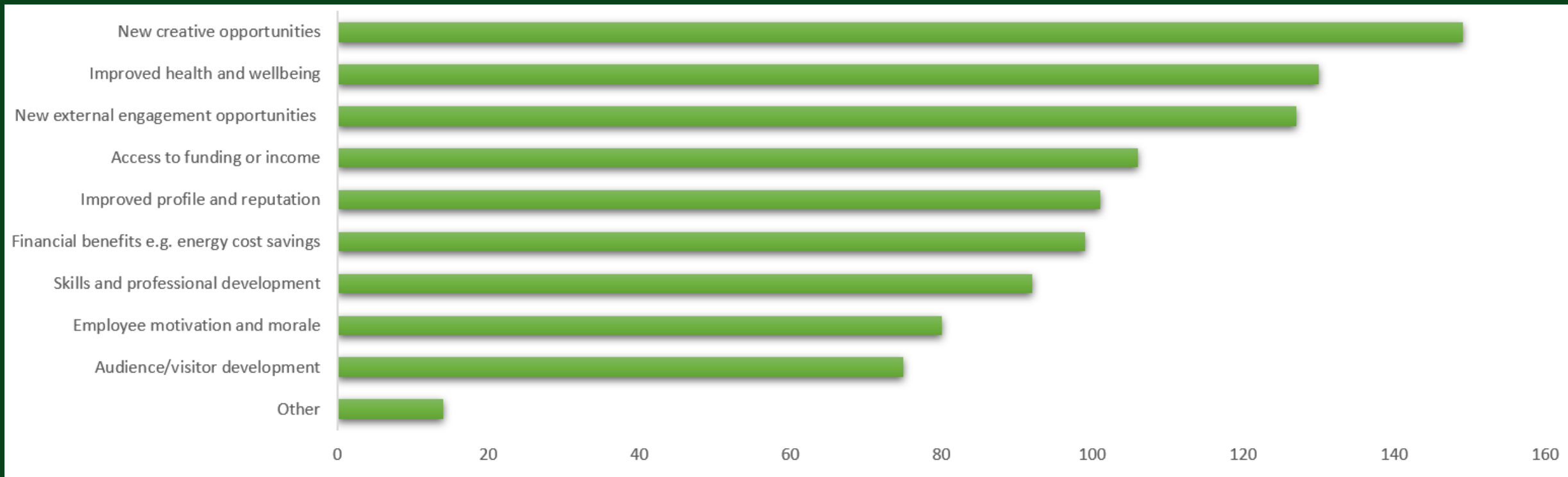
# The majority believe climate and environmental action can bring opportunities

When asked if they think climate and environmental action can bring opportunities:

- 74% said yes
- 21% said they don't know
- 5% said no

The top three opportunities identified were:

- new creative opportunities
- improved health and wellbeing
- new external engagement opportunities



Based on 229 responses



# There has been limited sector support. Resource organisations were the main source of external support.

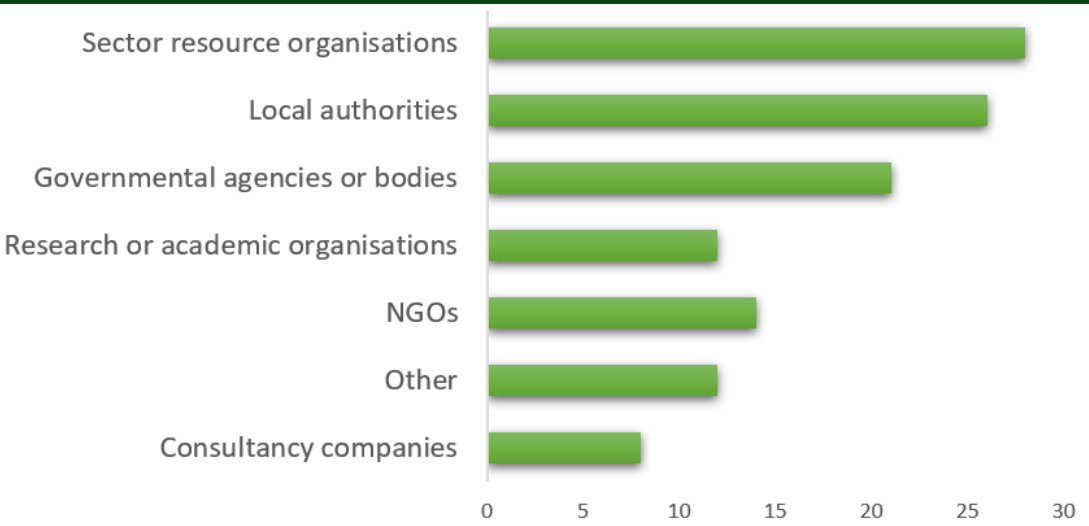
79% of survey respondents said they have not had any support on climate and environmental action.

For those who have had external support, the top three sources given were:

- sector resource organisations
- local authorities
- governmental agencies or bodies

For those who have had external support, the top three types of support given were:

- funding for environmental research, projects or actions
- peer-to-peer exchange
- environmental training, webinars or events



Based on 65 responses



Based on 65 responses

# Funding and access to better environmental solutions is what will help the arts most

When asked what support would most help, the top three answers were:

- access to better environmental services, products, solutions
- funding for research, projects or actions
- capital funding



Based on 308 responses

When asked what the Arts Council should do to support, the top three answers were:

- advocating for funding for environmental research, projects or actions
- incentivising action via funding
- advocating for capital funding



Based on 308 responses

# Further information



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The English version of the consultation summary results can be found [here](#)



The Irish version of the consultation summary results can be found [here](#)



A more easily readable version of the roundtable visual minutes can be found [here](#)



# Julie's Bicycle EU

## Julie's Bicycle

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[Julie's Bicycle](#) is a pioneering not-for-profit, mobilising the arts and culture to take action on the climate and ecological crisis.

Founded by the music industry in 2007 and now working across the arts and culture, JB has partnered with over 2000 organisations in the UK and internationally. Combining cultural and environmental expertise, Julie's Bicycle focuses on high-impact programmes and policy change to meet the climate and ecological crisis head-on.

JB supports the arts and culture to:

- become net zero carbon and restore nature
- inspire public action on climate and ecology
- champion environmental justice and fairness



native  
events

Established in 2017 as a response to the lack of sustainable solutions available to the events and cultural sector in Ireland, [Native Events](#) now works with an expanding community of partners including festivals and events, councils and corporate clients, ensuring a systems-wide transition towards a more sustainable and circular future.

Native Events believes that cultural events and activities can be a catalyst for societal change. With more than fifteen years' experience in event production, environmental management and consultancy, we are uniquely positioned to help the events, cultural, arts and corporate sectors transition towards real sustainability.



The [Green Arts Initiative in Ireland](#) is an extension of the Green Arts Initiative operated by Creative Carbon Scotland and aims to provide Irish arts organisations with the resources and support to help build a green Irish arts community.

Run by Theatre Forum and Catriona Fallon, under the guidance of Creative Carbon Scotland, the Green Arts Initiative in Ireland aims to:

- support arts organisations with practical advice on reducing their carbon footprint and overall environmental impacts
- provide arts organisations with opportunities to enhance their sustainability competencies through training and networking
- collect information about what organisations are currently doing to improve their sustainability