



ONE CLIMATE FUTURE

**Charting a Course *for*
Portland and South Portland**

SURVEY 3 RESULTS
June 2020

SURVEY #3 RESULTS

The third and final *One Climate Future* survey sought to gather community input on the proposed strategies for the final plan. The survey was divided into the four plan elements.

Total Survey
Responses
555



BUILDINGS & ENERGY USE

Using energy efficiently, transitioning to renewable energy, and encouraging high performing buildings



TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

Designing and connecting our homes, businesses, and public spaces around an efficient transportation network



WASTE REDUCTION

Minimizing waste by changing how our community consumes and disposes of goods and materials



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Ensuring all our neighborhoods can withstand, respond to, and recover from a disruption

The following pages highlight the most highly rated actions under several subtopics. Each question received dozens of additional comments that could not all be captured in this summary. A sampling of those comments are included in the summary, but the complete survey data, including all comments, is available [here](#).



SURVEY #3 Results

Highlights

The third survey allowed participants to provide detailed feedback on the specific strategies being considered for inclusion in the final plan. Questions covered a wide range of topics, including energy use, public transportation, electric vehicles, city zoning, climate adaptation, waterfront protection, preparedness, waste reduction, and more. Below is a selection of especially popular strategies.



- Require all new buildings to be “EV/PV ready” (designed so that electric vehicle charging and solar power systems can be installed at a later date)
- Provide a rebate or tax credit that will reduce the price of installing electric and/or renewable heating systems



- Create a more robust bus system with a higher frequency of routes hours of service
- Develop a public transit app with the route, scheduling, and real-time bus location information
- Encourage “mixed-use developments,” such as buildings with commercial space on the first floor and residential space on above floors



- Require that all new buildings and renovations in flood-risk areas incorporate resilient building design features
- Increase tree planting in areas with lower tree cover
- Build living shorelines to accommodate flooding from storms and sea level rise



- Work with the state and other partners to reduce over-packaging
- Work with food establishments to reduce the use of single use plastics



SURVEY #3 Results

One takeaway from Survey #3 was the differences in support for residential planning approaches ***based on homeownership***. Survey takers had the option of answering: strongly support, support, neutral, do not support, or strongly do not support.

Question 8

Neighborhoods:

How do you feel about the following city planning approaches to reduce GHG emissions?

1. Mixed-Use development
2. Mixed-Use ONLY in existing commercial areas
3. More 2-3 unit residential in single family areas
4. More 2-3 unit residential in commercial areas
5. More 4+ unit residential in single family areas
6. More 4+ unit residential in commercial areas
7. Reduced parking requirements for new development
8. Differential parking fees
9. Congestion pricing
10. Car-free zones

	Renter	Homeowner
1. Encouraging "mixed-use developments," such as buildings with commercial space on the first floor and residential space on the above floors	39% supports this approach	51% strongly supports this approach
3. Encouraging more housing with 2-3 units per building in residential neighborhoods (that are all or mostly single-family homes)	84% strongly supports this approach	52% supports this approach
5. Encouraging more housing with 4 or more units per building in residential neighborhoods (that are all or mostly single-family homes)	69% strongly supports or supports this action	39% strongly supports or supports this approach
7. Reduced parking requirements for new development	0% not supporting this approach	13% strongly not supporting or not supporting this approach

SURVEY #3 Results

Question 11 - Residential Energy Use: In order to meet our greenhouse gas emissions targets, homes and businesses will need to switch to electric and/or renewable heating sources by 2050. How do you feel about the following policy approaches?

1. Ban hookups for natural gas in new residential and commercial construction projects
2. Ban new hookups for natural gas in existing buildings
3. Require that homes and businesses using fuel oil switch to electric or renewable sources for heating and hot water when replacing systems at end-of-life
4. Require that all new buildings and major renovations use electric and/or renewable energy for heating and hot water
5. Adopt an energy stretch code that requires new buildings be built to net-zero emissions standards
6. Adopt a carbon fee for new development to incentivize high performance buildings
7. Require energy benchmarking for all buildings over 20,000 square feet with phased-in performance standards
8. Require all new buildings to be "EV/PV ready" (designed so that electric vehicle charging and solar power systems can be installed at a later date)

Planning Approach	Renter	Homeowner
Ban new hookups for natural gas in existing buildings	50% strongly supports or supports this approach	38% strongly do not support or do not support this approach
Require that homes and businesses using fuel oil switch to electric or renewable sources for heating and hot water when replacing systems at end-of-life	82% strongly supports or supports this approach with 6 % strongly not supporting or not supporting this approach	20% strongly do not support or do not support this approach

SURVEY #3 Results

Another takeaway from Survey #3 was the differences in support of a potential program's usefulness or importance *based on age*.

	Under 25	25 to 54	55 and older
<p>Q4. Public Transit. In addition to changes in bus service, what additional changes do you think are most important for encouraging bus use?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More sheltered bus stops 2. Designated bus lanes 3. Feeling safe when riding the bus 4. An easier way of paying for the bus 5. Electronic signs with arrival info 6. A public transit app 7. Reduced bus fare 8. Free bus fare 9. Other (please specify) 	<p>6. A public transit app with route, scheduling, and real-time bus location information</p>	<p>6. A public transit app with route, scheduling, and real-time bus location information</p>	<p>4. An easier or more streamlined way of paying for the bus</p>
<p>Q6. Electric Vehicle Charging. If you were to buy an electric car, where would you be most likely to charge it?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home 2. Work 3. Public charging stations 4. Stores/other private parking lots 5. All of the above 6. Other (please specify) 	<p>5. All of the above</p>	<p>1. At Home</p>	<p>1. At Home</p>

SURVEY #3 Results

	Under 25	25 to 54	55 and older
<p>Question 15 - Information to Get Started: What information would be most helpful right now to get started on energy efficiency retrofits and your property's transition to all electric and/or renewable energy systems?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information on types of technology and their performance 2. "Unbiased reviews" of how the technology works from other Mainers 3. Information on costs and payback opportunities and timeframes 4. Information on available financing mechanisms and how to apply for them 5. Information on options for renters 6. List of qualified vendors for energy efficiency building retrofits 7. List of qualified vendors for heat pump consulting and installations 8. List of qualified vendors for solar electric or solar hot water consulting and installations 9. List of qualified vendors for other services 	Information on types of technology and their performance	Information on costs and payback opportunities and timeframes	Information on types of technology and their performance

SURVEY #3 Results

	Under 25	25 to 54	55 and older
<p>Question 18 - Neighborhood Hubs: Neighborhood hubs are spaces open to everyone that provide resources to help make neighborhoods stronger, healthier, happier, more connected, and more resilient. Which of these resources would you be most likely to use at a neighborhood hub?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community space for hosting meetings or events 2. Kitchen space for community meals 3. Cold storage / space to exchange fruits and vegetables from local farms and community gardens 4. Tool library where I could borrow household tools or attend "fix it" workshops 5. Space to go in an emergency to get information, heat, charge a phone, etc. 6. Walk-in healthcare clinic or mental health services 7. Space for job training or employment resources 8. Information and resources for increasing the energy efficiency or resilience of my home 	<p>Walk-in healthcare clinic or mental health services</p>	<p>Tool library where I could borrow household tools or attend "fix it" workshops</p>	<p>Space to go in an emergency to get information, heat, charge a phone, etc.</p>

SURVEY #3 Results

	Under 25	25 to 54	55 and older
<p>Question 22 - Resilient Economy: A resilient economy is one that recovers quickly from shocks, evolves to accommodate new industries, and meets the needs of a diverse range of employees. Which of these changes do you think are most important for creating a resilient economy?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leverage our position as a port city to attract clean energy industries Encourage economic growth of local food systems and marine resource 2. Encourage economic growth of industries that leverage Maine's natural resources 3. Promote utility investment in clean energy and energy storage programs for stable energy costs and reliability 4. Provide affordable, high speed internet access to support small businesses, remote workers, and self-employed individuals 5. Create programs or further support existing programs that encourage local business growth, such as "buy local" initiatives 6. Support job training programs to prepare more residents for jobs in emerging industries (e.g., renewable energy, advanced building trades, etc.) 7. Educate local businesses or business sectors on the need to develop business continuity plans in preparation for climate hazards 	<p>Leverage our position as a port city to attract clean energy industries</p>	<p>Encourage economic growth of local food systems and marine resource industries</p>	<p>Promote utility investment in clean energy and energy storage programs for stable energy costs</p>



Buildings and Energy Use

In order to meet our greenhouse gas emissions targets, homes and businesses will need to switch to electric and/or renewable heating sources by 2050. How do you feel about the following residential energy use policies? (Top 3 rated approaches shown below).

- Require all new buildings to be "EV/PV ready" (designed so that electric vehicle charging and solar power systems can be installed at a later date)
- Require energy benchmarking for all buildings over 20,000 square feet with phased-in performance standards
- Adopt an energy stretch code that requires new buildings be built to net-zero emissions standards

- Additional thoughts on residential energy policies:
- Focus on replacing systems at end-of-life or when installing new
 - Consider the impacts of condo associations and the need for cooperative behaviors
 - Take a district-wide approach
 - All approaches need to be weighed with effect on affordable housing
 - Cost of electric heat is a barrier
 - Focusing on new construction should be the priority

Which of the incentives or financing mechanisms below would help you invest in electric and/or renewable systems or energy efficiency retrofits?

- I need a rebate or tax credits that will reduce the price of installing electric and/or renewable heating systems (e.g., Efficiency Maine heat pump rebate) (69%)
- I need an option with no upfront costs and minimal ongoing costs (e.g., power purchase agreement) (37%)
- I need a loan that is attached to the property (and paid alongside property taxes) so that the loan payment stays with the property if I move (e.g., PACE) (33%)

- Other incentive and financing ideas:
- Short payback periods
 - Green bank to help with incentive financing, grants, and rebates
 - Ability to sell personal solar power
 - Better education about Efficiency Maine programs
 - Investment in insulation first will lower future costs



Buildings and Energy Use

What information would be most helpful right now to get started on energy efficiency retrofits and your property's transition to all electric and/or renewable energy systems?

Information on costs and payback opportunities and timeframes (68%)

Information on types of technology and their performance (54%)

“Unbiased reviews” of how the technology works from other Mainers (50%)

Other ideas:

- Options for condo owners
- Information on home EV charging equipment
- List of all qualified vendors
- The process to go through City permits
- Timeline on how the technology has improved and is projected to continue to become more efficient
- Opportunities for group rates

How would you most like to receive this information?

- City website
- Community courses and workshops
- Email
- From a trusted friend
- Mailings
- Printed booklets
- Fliers
- Social media
- App





Transportation & Land Use

Which option would you be most likely to use if available to reduce private vehicle use?

A more robust bus system with more routes and more frequent and longer hours of service (72%)

A larger network of separated pedestrian/bike routes (64%)

An express commuter service, bringing community members from high density neighborhoods to employment hubs (35%)

Other ideas:

- Discouraging driving through reduced parking option
- Bike share/electric scooter program
- Work from home policies
- Better accommodations for elderly and disabled on public transit
- Trains and light rail

What changes are most important to you to help encourage bus use?

A public transit app with route, scheduling, and real-time bus location information (74%)

An easier or more streamlined way of paying for the bus (47%)

More sheltered bus stops (46%)

Other ideas:

- More frequent service on densely traveled routes
- Combine the two bus systems
- Use smaller buses
- Designated bus lanes
- More sheltered bus stops
- Bus service from Park and Rides

Are there specific bus routes or destinations you would like to see?
(Below is only a sample of responses)

- All major avenues to the suburbs
- Expand to Cape Elizabeth
- Later night options
- To the airport
- Biddeford/Saco
- To grocery stores
- To medical centers
- To Portland Transportation Center





Transportation & Land Use

If you have (or were to buy) an electric car, where do (or would) you charge it?

At home (50%)

At a variety of places (26%)

Public charging infrastructure (10%)

Other proposed locations:

- All grocery stores
- Library/City Hall parking lots
- Workplace parking lots
- Gas stations
- Parking garages

What planning approaches do you support to create mixed-use, dense, and walkable urban neighborhoods? (Top 3 rated approaches shown below).

Encouraging “mixed-use developments,” such as buildings with commercial space on the first floor and residential space on above floors

Encouraging more housing with 2-3 units per building in areas clustered around commercial centers

Encouraging more housing with 4 or more units per building in areas clustered around commercial centers

Additional thoughts on planning approaches:

- Don't want these approaches encroaching on industrial zones
- Avoid developing new strip malls
- Need to carefully consider parking requirements
- Should come with sidewalk improvements
- Need better public transit before removing parking
- More Accessory Dwelling Units





Climate Resilience

Which of these resources would you be most likely to use at a neighborhood hub?

Community space for hosting meetings or events (53%)

Tool library where I could borrow household tools or attend "fix it" workshops (51%)

Space to go in an emergency to get information, heat, charge a phone, etc. (50%)

Other ideas:

- Space for donating/picking up goods
- Creative space for crafts, music, and classes
- Walk-in healthcare and mental health services
- Exercise classes
- Community gardens
- Community resilience training
- Computer/Wi-Fi access

What organizations or spaces are already providing some of these services?

- SoPo Community Center
- Portland Tool Library
- Libraries
- Farmers Markets
- Schools
- Welcome Center
- Reiche Community Center
- Places of worship





Climate Resilience

How do you feel about the following resilient design and building design approaches to prepare for more significant flooding in the future? (Top 3 rated approaches shown below).

Require that all new buildings and renovations in flood-risk areas incorporate resilient building design features

Update the city zoning so that only specific types of uses that can handle flooding can be built in flood-risk areas

Incentivize developers to incorporate resilient building design features in all new buildings and renovations in flood-risk areas

Additional thoughts:

- No new development in high flood risk areas
- Buy out program to acquire repetitive-loss properties
- Increased flood insurance payments
- Elevating buildings in high flood risk areas
- Better education to potential property owners

Which of these changes do you think are most important for creating a resilient economy?

Leverage our position as a port city to attract clean energy industries (such as tidal power, wind power, solar development, and battery development) (61%)

Encourage economic growth of local food systems and marine resource industries (such as sustainable aquaculture) (53%)

Promote utility investment in clean energy and energy storage programs for stable energy costs and reliability (49%)

Other ideas:

- Creation of earth repair and remediation jobs
- Better climate risk forecasts and market data
- Strengthen K-12 education across Maine
- Incorporate job training into high school curriculum
- Allow the economy to operate more freely
- Zoning changes to encourage small business
- Think creatively about COVID 19 and climate overlap
- Reframe the endless growth economic mindset
- More reliable wireless access
- Diversify economy



Climate Resilience

Which of these changes do you think are most important for creating resilient waterfronts?

Living shorelines to accommodate flooding from storms and sea level rise (65%)

Larger areas designated for protected wetlands and critical ecosystems (62%)

Greater investment in marine industries, including upgrading infrastructure to adapt to climate hazards, and encouraging industry growth (57%)

Other ideas:

- End the working waterfront's dependence on fossil fuels
- Adapting open spaces to accommodate storm surge
- Exit strategy for petroleum
- Allow higher density elsewhere to protect open space on the shoreline
- Public education program
- Prioritize working shoreline rather than new development
- Kelp farms to sequester carbon and reduce the impact of storm surge

Which actions would you most like the Cities of Portland and South Portland to take to help residents adapt to hotter temperatures?

Increase tree planting in areas with lower tree cover (84%)

Take proactive measures to conserve the cities' green space (64%)

Provide resources and incentives for building retrofits that can help maintain comfortable temperatures (50%)

Top concerns about high temperatures:

- Lack of air conditioning in low-income housing
- Effect on habitats
- Lack of safe, public spaces for vulnerable populations
- Urban heat island effect
- Vector-borne diseases

What programs focused on growing and producing food locally would you participate in or find most useful?

Initiatives to promote local food options and to encourage food sourcing from within the state (64%)

Expanded community gardens or community food forests (62%)

Skill-building in vegetable gardening techniques, food preparation, food preservation (51%)

Other ideas:

- Cooking classes with local ingredients
- Education in schools
- Subsidized CSA memberships
- Repurposing golf course into farm
- Public workshops
- Education in grocery stores and restaurants



Climate Resilience

How do you feel about the following approaches to prevent displacement and to ensure access to affordable housing for a broad mix of incomes? (Top 3 rated approaches shown below).

Encourage a mix of housing types and sizes throughout the community to better serve diverse accessibility needs, ages, and incomes

Establish a comprehensive housing strategy that identifies policies to lessen the displacement of residents and increase housing security, affordability, and accessibility

Explore ways to prioritize the development of affordable housing in areas with limited or decreasing availability of affordable units

Other ideas:

- Expand transportation network to lower combined housing and transportation cost
- Give landlords tax rebates for low-income apartments
- Support accessory dwelling units
- Stop luxury condo development
- Promote the ability to work and live in the same place

Which of the following targets seem most important to you for measuring Portland and South Portland's resilience?

Increase in critical ecosystem areas (e.g., forests, wetlands, and coastal habitats) that are protected (58%)

Improvements in air quality, particularly from industrial, motor vehicle, rail, and ship sources (51%)

Increase in the percentage of residents who live within a quarter mile of public transportation (49%)

Other ideas:

- Increase in the number of people riding public transit
- Continuity of bike lanes
- Increase in the number of people who can walk to buy healthy food
- Reduction in trash and food waste generation
- Increase in reported quality of life
- Decrease in the number of trips by private automobile



Waste Reduction

Which actions do you consider to be top priorities for reducing waste in Portland and South Portland? (Top 3 rated actions shown below).

Work with the state and other partners to reduce over-packaging

Require all multi-unit residential buildings to provide recycling for residents (Portland already has an ordinance)

Work with cafes and restaurants to transition from single-use plastics to compostable or reusable products

Other ideas:

- Partnerships between Cities and local universities
- Encourage reuse of buildings rather than demolition
- Eliminating plastic bags from pay as you throw program
- More special waste collection events
- Work with restaurants to eliminate single use plastic

Which approaches do you most support to encourage organics recycling? (Top 3 rated approaches shown below).

Provide bins and drop-off locations for anyone who wants to recycle organic waste. (South Portland already does this)

Require that all commercial entities recycle organic waste

Require that commercial entities recycle organic waste, and the Cities provide a reduced rate for collection

Additional thoughts:

- Redistribute composted waste to gardens
- Sync up composting collection with regular garbage and recycling collection
- Couple with educational programming
- Need to consider equity and affordability of composting
- Concern over smell and pests

Which approaches do you most support to reduce the use of single use plastics. (Top 3 rated actions shown below).

Work with food establishments to reduce the use of these items (e.g., education and outreach, collective buying agreements, etc.)

Recognize food establishments demonstrating leadership in the elimination of single-use plastics

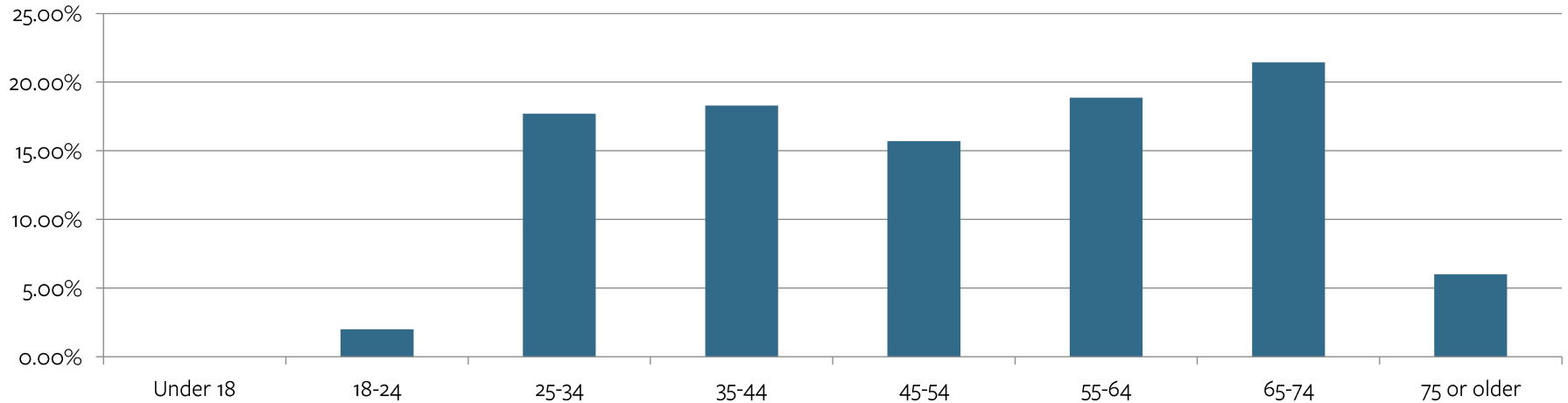
Ban plastic take-out containers and cutlery (e.g., forks, spoons, knives)

Other ideas:

- Offering water bottle filling stations
- Offer compostable alternatives
- Companies should pay for the disposal of the plastic they use
- Allow reusable containers for bulk purchasing of food
- Focus on reducing waste, not transforming it

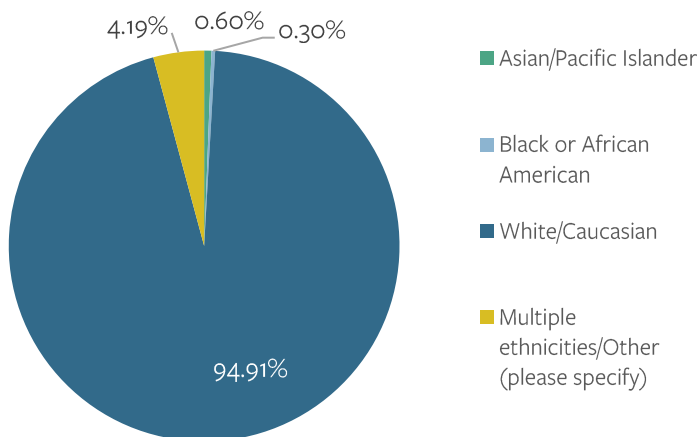
SURVEY #3 DEMOGRAPHICS

Age of Participants*



*Based on the 350 respondents that answered this question.

Race/Ethnicity of Participants

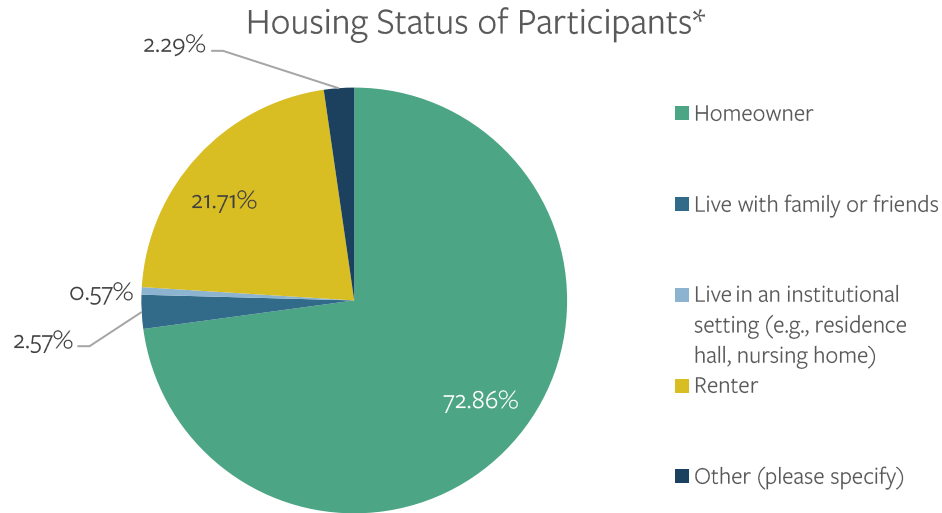


**Based on the 334 respondents that answered this question.

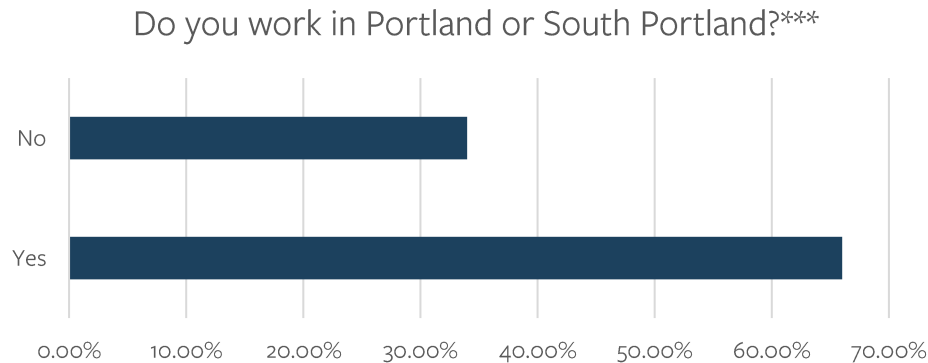
Race/Ethnicity Profile

	Portland	South Portland
White/Caucasian	83.9%	93.7%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.1%	0.2%
Black/African American	8.7%	0.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.8%	2.4%
Hispanic/Latino	3.6%	2.1%
Multiple Ethnicities	2.9%	2.5%

SURVEY #3 DEMOGRAPHICS



*Based on the 350 respondents that answered this question.



***Based on the 350 respondents that answered this question.

Survey respondents represented **30+ neighborhoods** in Portland and South Portland.

Top 10 Neighborhoods	# of Responses**
West End (Portland)	54
Munjoy Hill (Portland)	32
Meetinghouse Hill (South Portland)	31
Ferry Village (South Portland)	22
Willard (South Portland)	18
Knightville (South Portland)	13
Deering Center (Portland)	12
Libbytown (Portland)	10
Pleasantdale (South Portland)	9
Back Cove (Portland)	6

**Based on the 330 respondents that answered this question.