

OurCounty Update

Countywide Survey Analysis

June 2025

Executive Summary

Survey Outreach Overview



- Survey launched December 18, 2024 and closed May 2, 2025
- Shared throughout in-person workshops, through social media/newsletters, and 23 Pop-Up events
- CBO Thought Partners distributed survey to their networks via social media/newsletters
- CBO Thought Partners / Project Team distributed survey via Pop-Up events
- Youth Climate Commission (YCC) distributed survey via 8 Pop-up Events

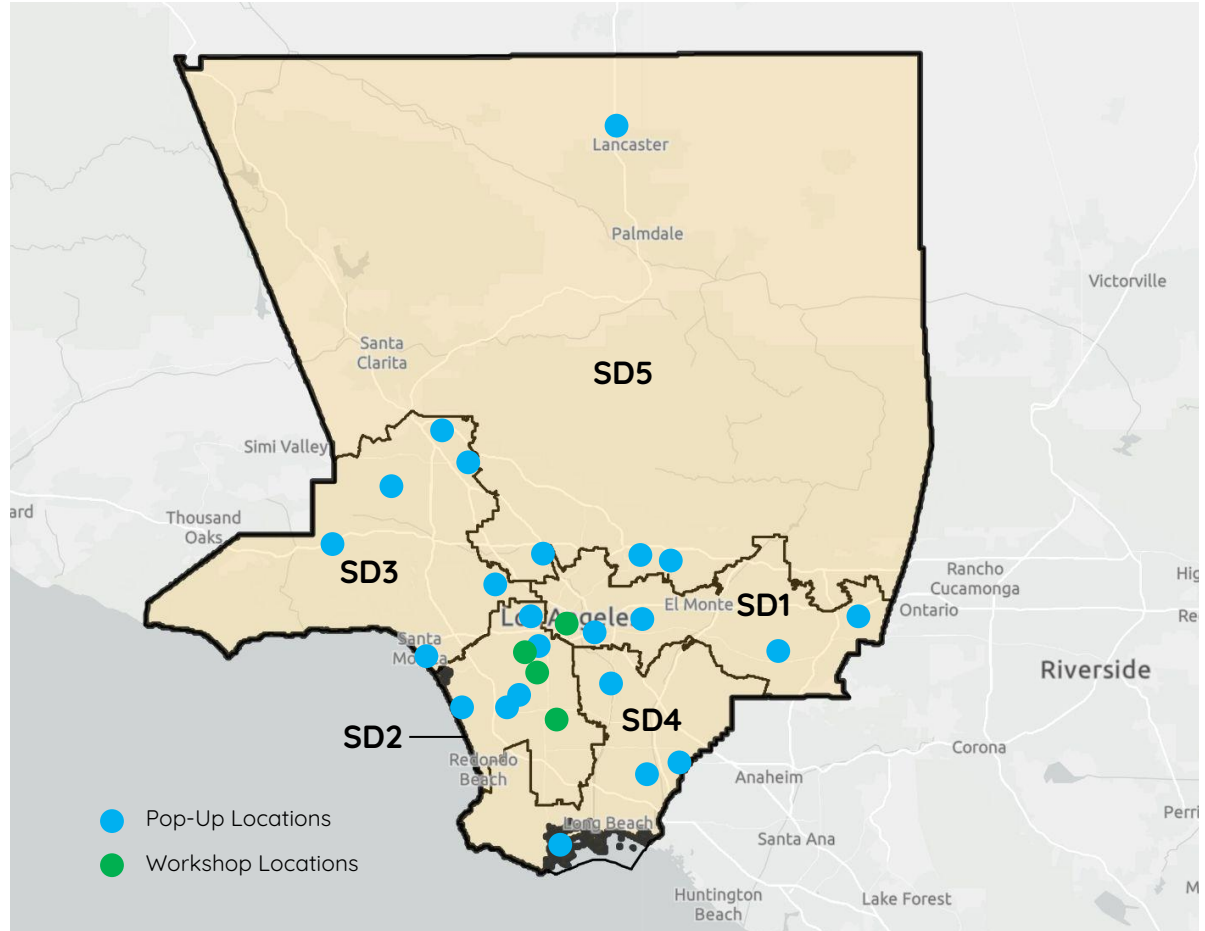


Pop-Up Hosted by Move LA
at the CicLAvia

Survey Outreach Coverage



- Surveys shared throughout 6 in-person workshops and 23 pop-up events
- Pop-up survey outreach distributed by 4-6 events per supervisor district



Survey Results Summary



- **3,625** people completed the survey
- Most respondents were previously **aware of OurCounty (66%)**, and heard about it through social media or friends/colleagues
- **Air pollution, water pollution, affordable housing, utility costs, and clean energy** were the top five issues of concern for survey respondents in recent years
 - Each of these issues followed a similar order for respondents in terms of relative impact
- Most people believe **LA County is more sustainable today than it was five years ago (68%)**
 - A slightly smaller number of people believe LA County is similarly prepared for climate change (62%)
- The **most important OurCounty goals** for respondents were **Goal 1** (Healthy & Affordable Communities), **Goal 3** (Sustainable Housing Development), and **Goal 2** (Climate Resilient Infrastructure)

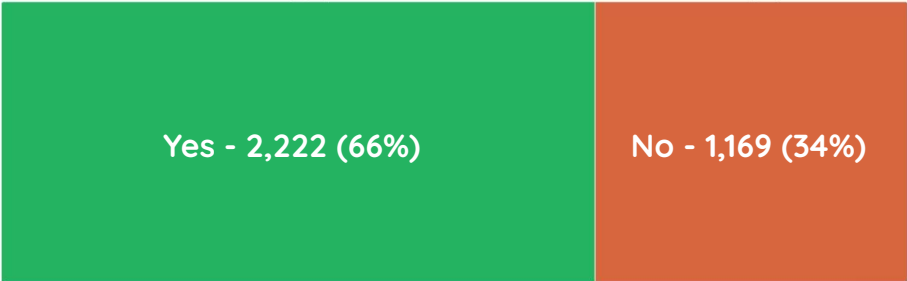
Survey Results Summary - Progress



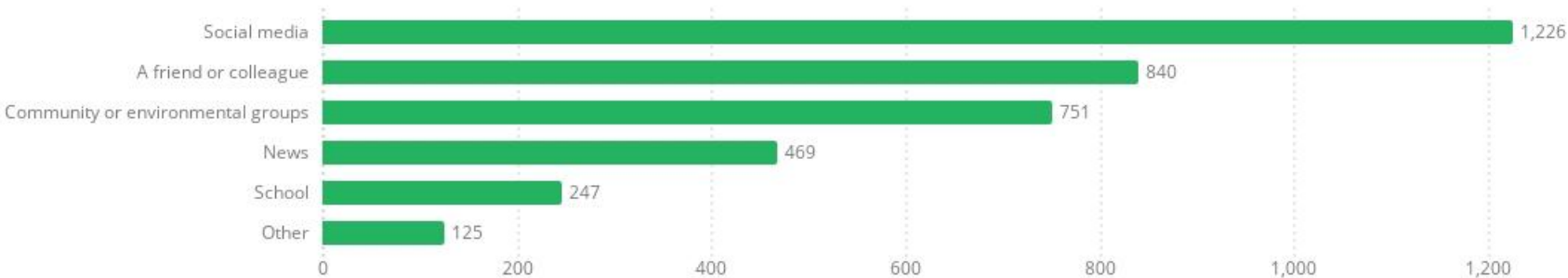
- Survey respondents shared **mixed perceptions on progress** over the last five years
 - Issue areas perceived to have made progress (such as public transportation access, air quality, waste reduction, water quality, and access to affordable/healthy foods) were simultaneously listed as areas with the least progress
 - Similarly, sources of progress in each issue area were also frequently listed as the primary reason for lack of improvement
- While survey respondents acknowledge progress on key issues, this **progress may be perceived as insufficient given the scale of change needed to meet future sustainability goals**
- Most people feel LA County sustainability initiatives **address the needs of low-income/underserved communities (56%)**, but there were a large share of respondents expressing how such efforts deserve more attention and focus

OurCounty Questions

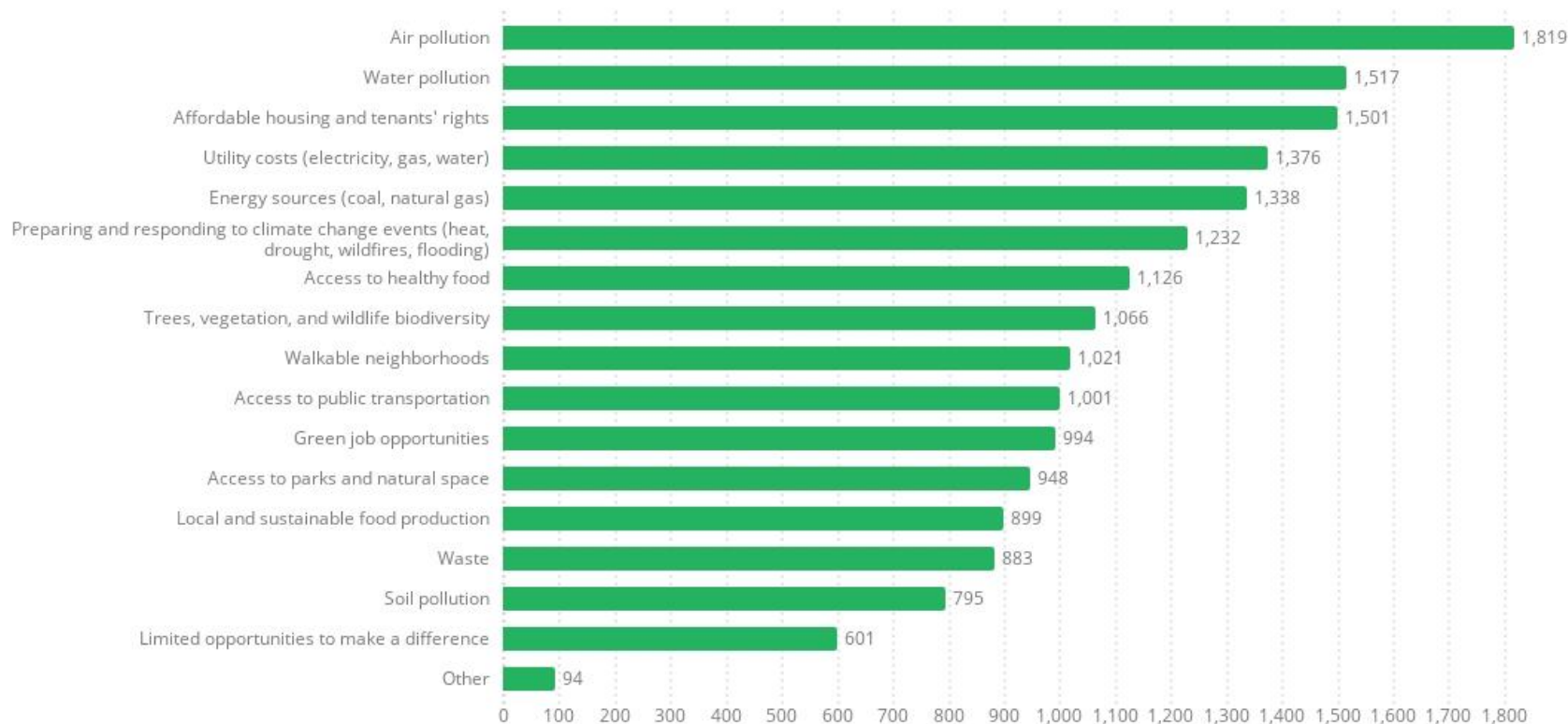
Have you heard of the OurCounty Sustainability Plan before?



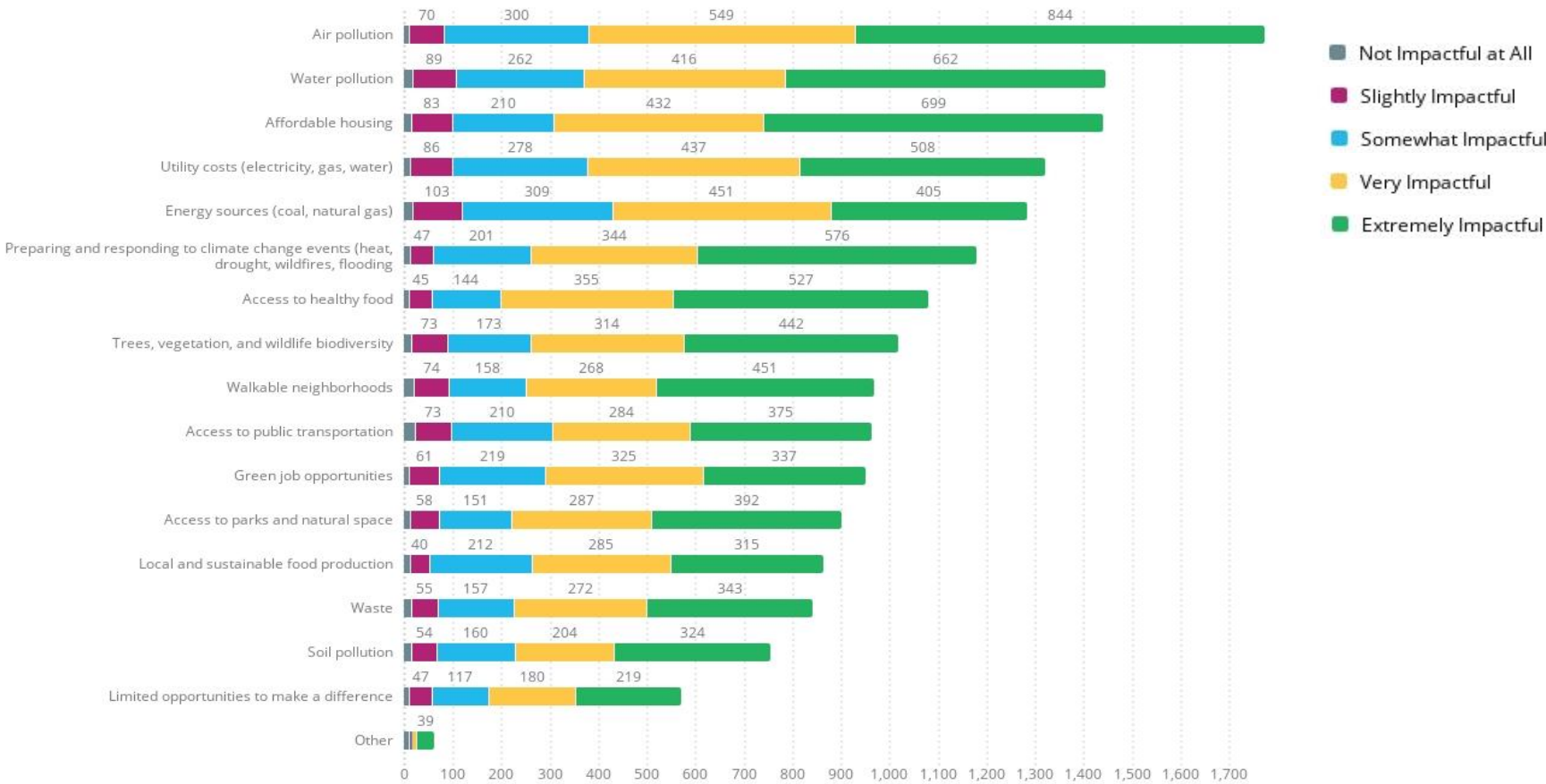
If yes, where did you hear about the OurCounty Sustainability Plan?



What are the sustainability-related issues that have **concerned** you the most in recent years?
(Choose all that apply.)



How impactful are these issues for you and/or your community?



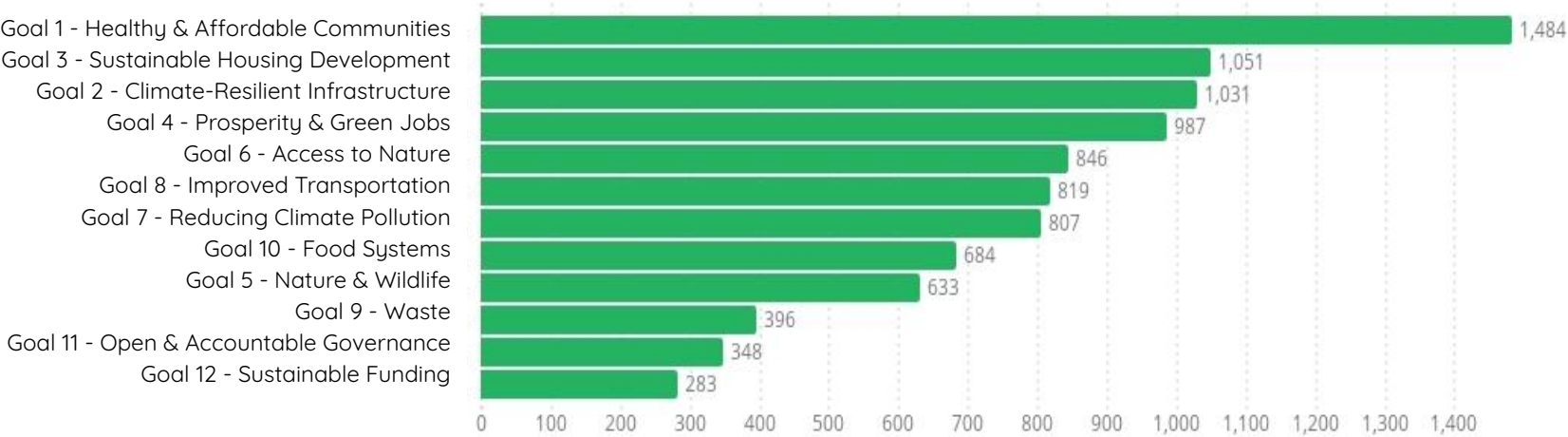
Do you think LA County is **more sustainable** today than it was five years ago?



Do you think LA County is **more prepared** for a changing climate than it was five years ago?



Of the OurCounty Sustainability Plan goals, pick three that are **especially important** to you:

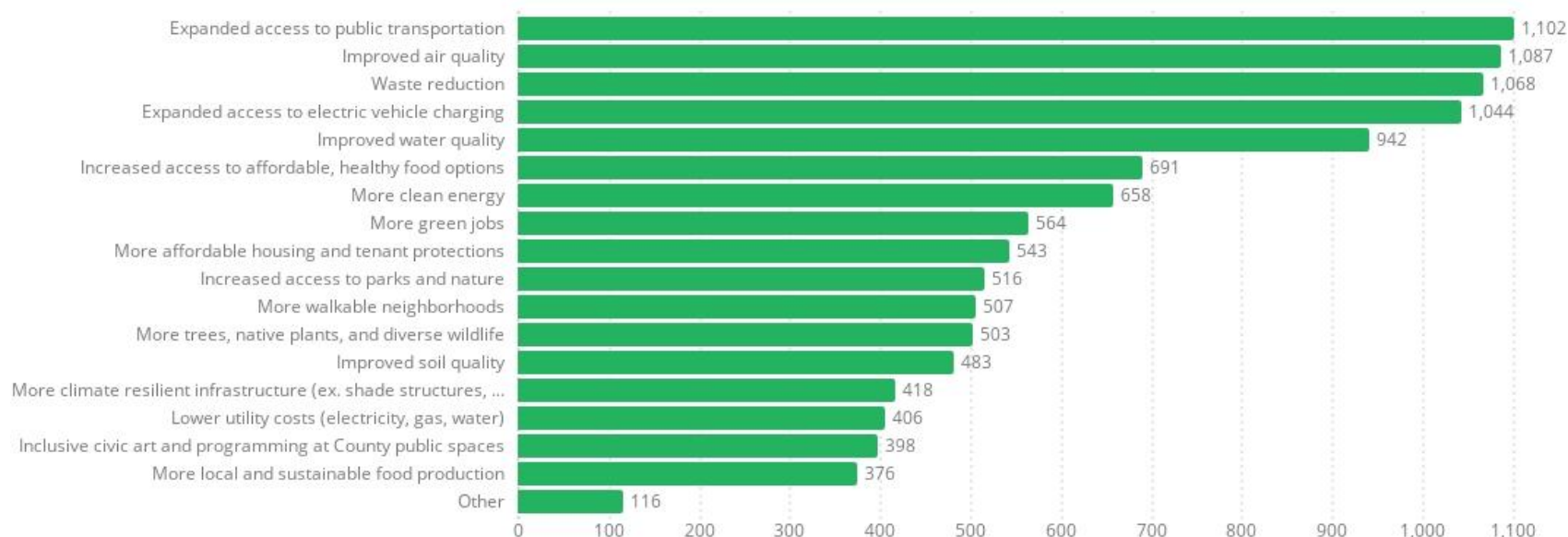


Progress Analysis

OurCounty Questions



In what issue areas have you seen the **most progress** over the last five years in your community?
(Choose all that apply)



Additional Progress Areas

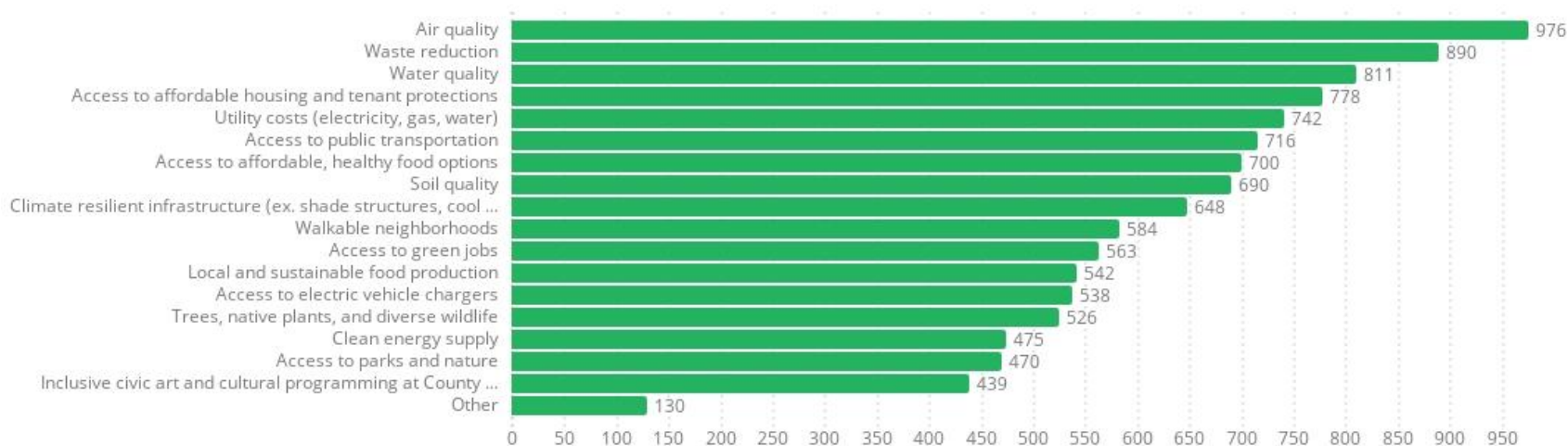


- **Mixed Perceptions:** Many respondents feel there has been little to no progress in sustainability efforts, with several noting no noticeable changes.
- **Energy Transition and Resource Recycling:** Some people highlighted progress in energy transition and resource recycling, including solar-powered street lights and community solar programs.
- **Land Planning and Housing:** Respondents mentioned improvements in land planning and utilization that ensure housing security, though some feel these efforts are insufficient.
- **Transportation:** Increased bike lanes and public transportation frequency were noted as positive changes, though some areas still lack adequate transportation infrastructure.
- **Community Initiatives:** Specific community-based initiatives, like Topanga's Community Hubs blueprint, were mentioned as promising steps towards sustainability.
- **Challenges and Criticisms:** Some respondents feel that progress is overshadowed by other problems such as ineffective leadership, homelessness, and political deception.

OurCounty Questions



In what issue areas have you seen the **least progress** over the last five years in your community?
(Choose all that apply)



Additional Areas Without Progress



- **Housing and Affordability:** High housing costs and insufficient affordable housing remain significant issues.
- **Traffic and Air Quality:** Persistent traffic congestion and poor air quality are major concerns.
- **Urban Heat Island Effect:** The severe urban heat island effect continues to impact communities.
- **Water Shortage:** Water scarcity is a recurring problem.
- **Waste Management:** Challenges in waste management have not been adequately addressed.
- **Infrastructure and Safety:** Lack of safe bicycling networks, inadequate evacuation plans for disabled residents, and insufficient cooling centers with backup power.
- **Pollution and Environmental Hazards:** Pollution from oil fields and gas storage facilities, and the need for stricter regulations on polluters.
- **Leadership and Policy:** Criticism of leadership and policies, including the need for better preparation for extreme weather events and more effective sustainability initiatives.
- **Community and Cultural Initiatives:** Calls for more community cultural and entertainment activities, and better stormwater mitigation and capture.
- **Miscellaneous:** Respondents also highlighted issues like homelessness, lack of trees, and the ongoing need for green space.

Text Responses on Progress / Lack of Progress



What progress has been made in your community on other sustainability topics?



What are other sustainability issues that have not improved in your community?



Addressing Low-Income & Underserved Communities



Do you feel LA County sustainability initiatives address the needs of **low-income and/or underserved communities**?



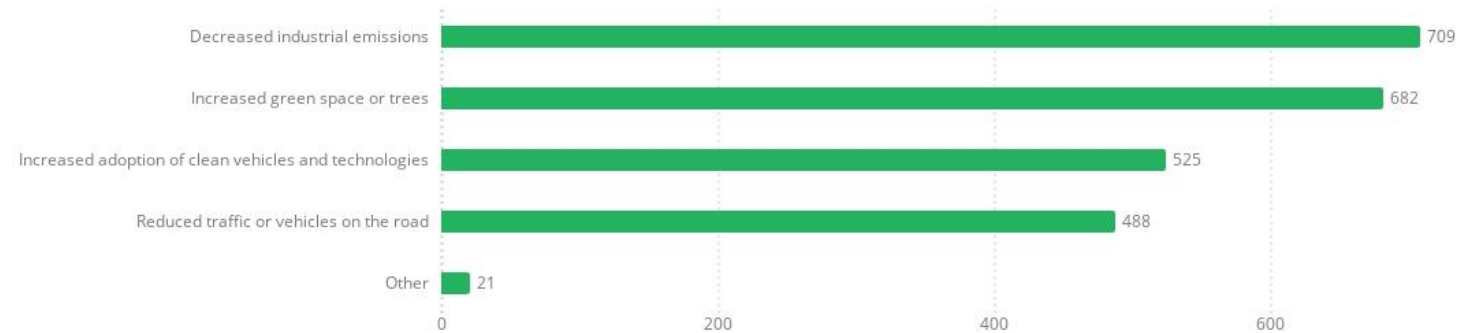
Why or why not?

- Sustainability initiatives often fail to address basic food and shelter needs of low-income communities who frequently have competing priorities.
- Most low-income people don't know there is a plan and what kinds sustainability resources are available to them.
- Uneven distribution of resources for sustainability initiatives leave some communities out, and specific distribution mechanisms are lacking.
- Sustainability initiatives often prioritize large-scale, high-cost projects over localized, affordable solutions, disproportionately neglecting low-income and underserved communities. Limited access to funding, inadequate community engagement, and a focus on affluent areas exacerbate inequities, leaving vulnerable populations with fewer resources to combat environmental and economic challenges.
- Lack of disaggregated assessment indicators for underserved communities, which may mask differences in actual needs, and the need for a more precise monitoring system.
- The progress of many commitments from sustainability initiatives (e.g., affordable housing) is too slow.

Progress - Air Quality

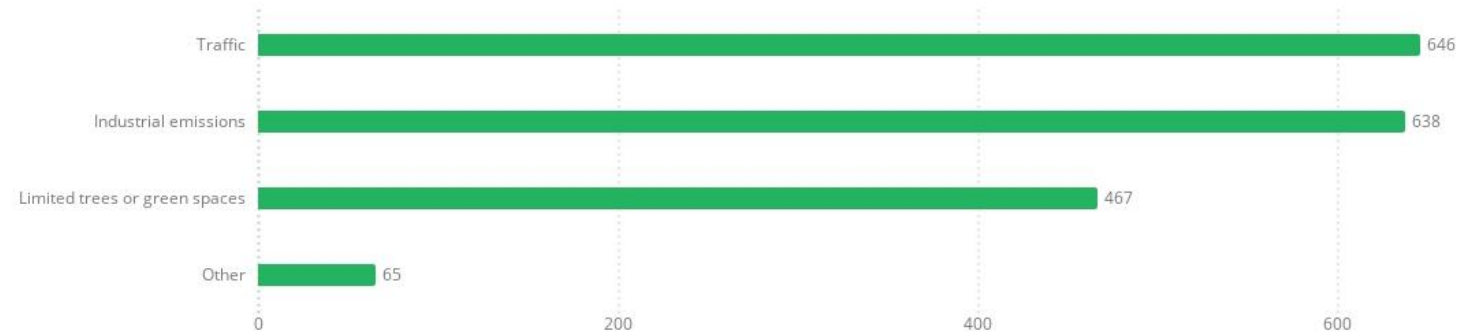


Sources of Progress



Other - Air quality detection and assessment, closure of fossil fuel extraction sites, LA METRO Green Fleet

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

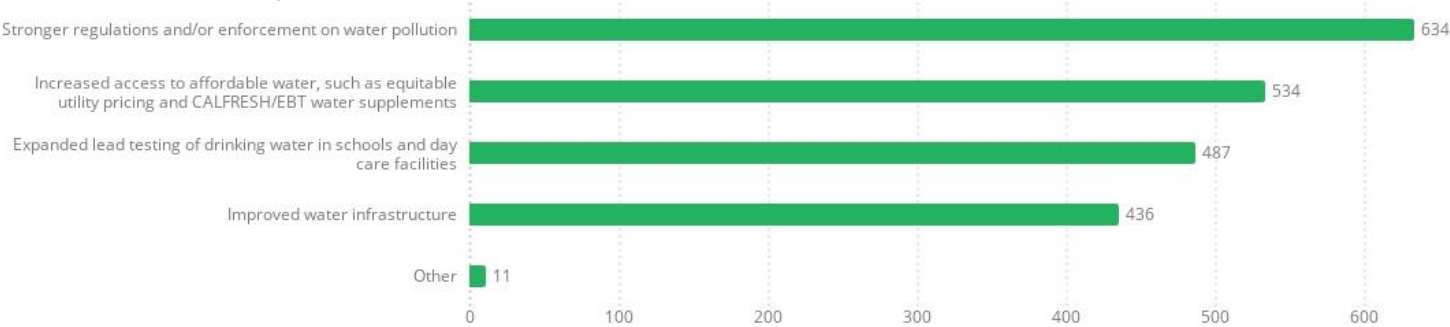


Other - Industrial emissions, limited trees/green space, traffic

Progress - Water Quality

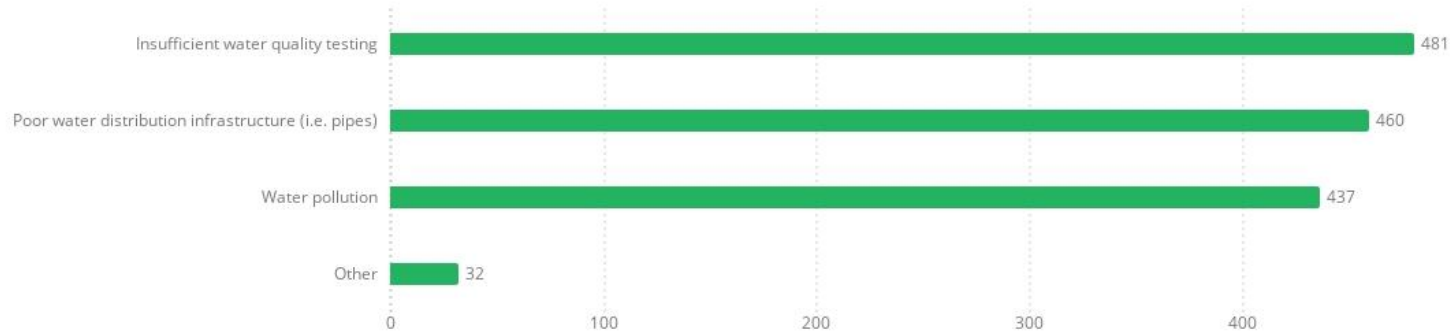


Sources of Progress



Other - New construction and businesses with modern sustainability standards, stormwater capture & treatment

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

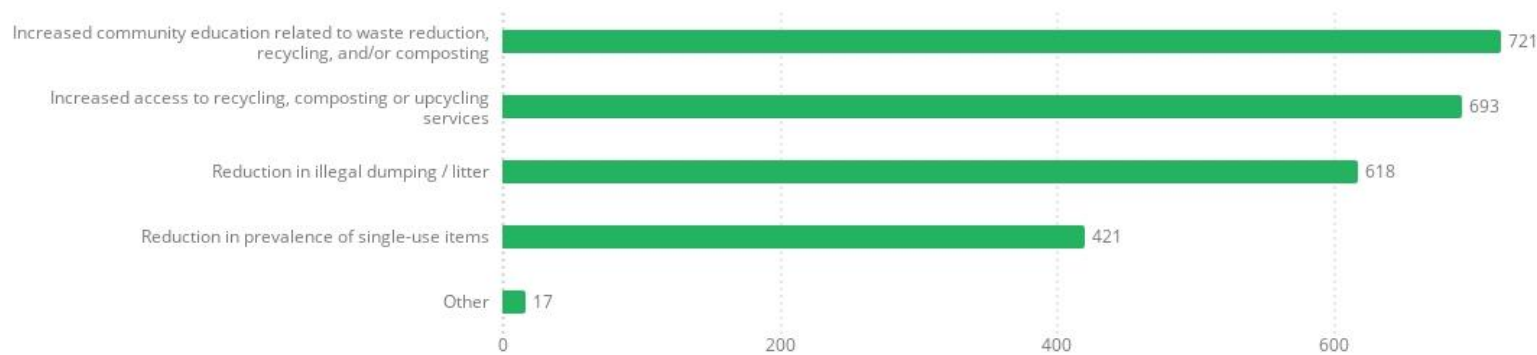


Other - Lack of education, political support/funding, fire contamination, lax regulation, no enforcement, untreated runoff, refuse disposal, cross-jurisdictional collaboration, environmental racism

Progress - Waste Reduction

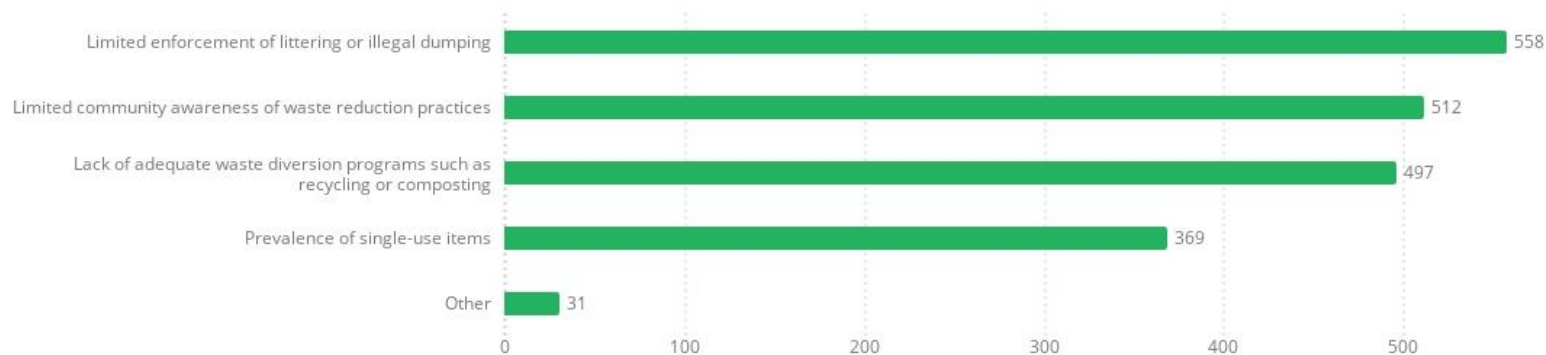


Sources of Progress



Other - Pick up accessibility, composting options, increased recycling stations and management, education at young age

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

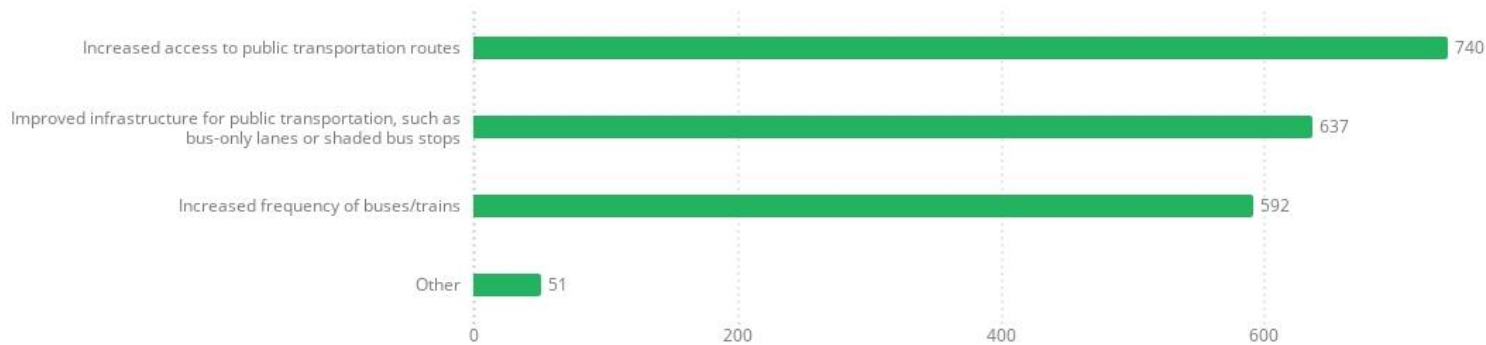


Other - Lack of education, producer responsibility, waste capacity/infrastructure, consumerism & cultural practices

Progress - Public Transportation

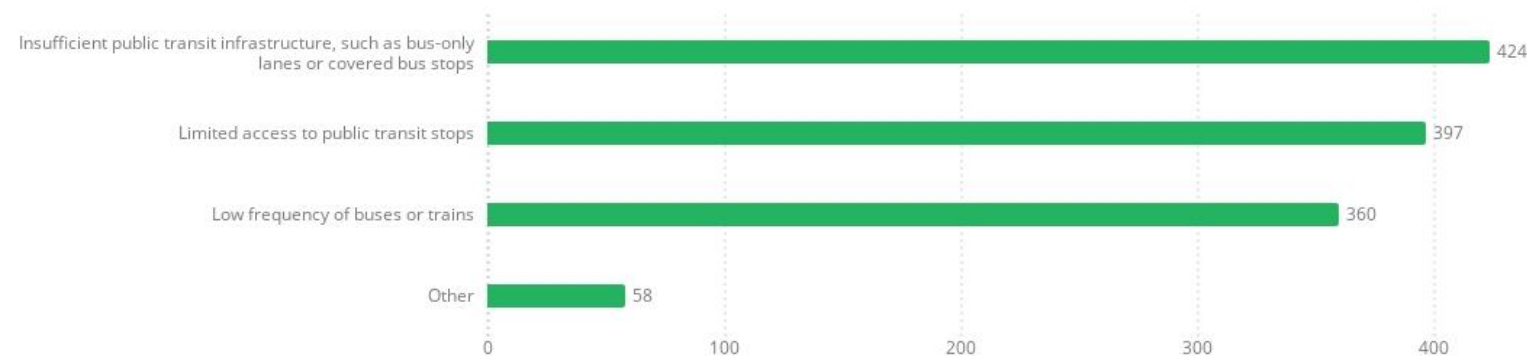


Sources of Progress



Other - not much progress in actuality, transit expansions, safety improvements

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

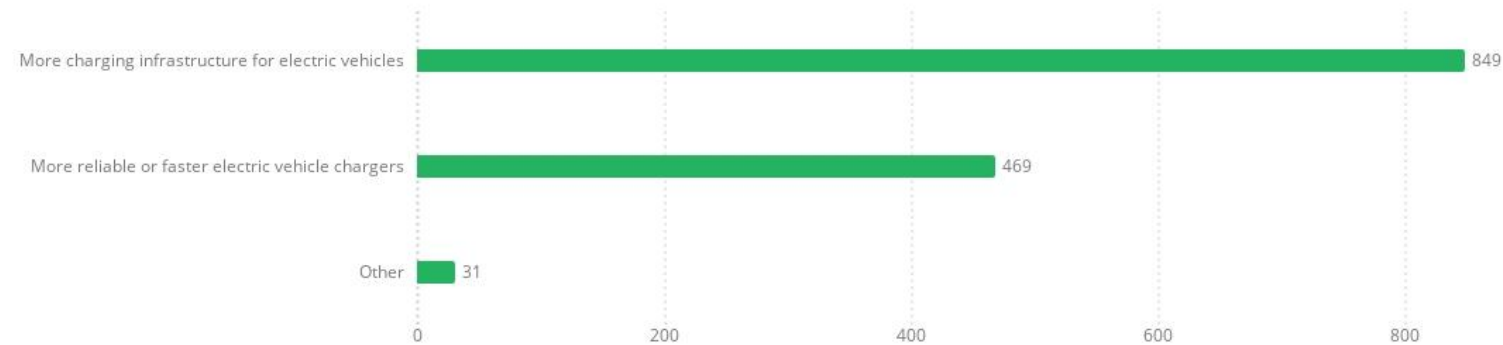


Other - Funding/low ridership, lack of investment, car culture, lack of connectivity, driving still better than transit, safety concerns

Progress - EV Charging

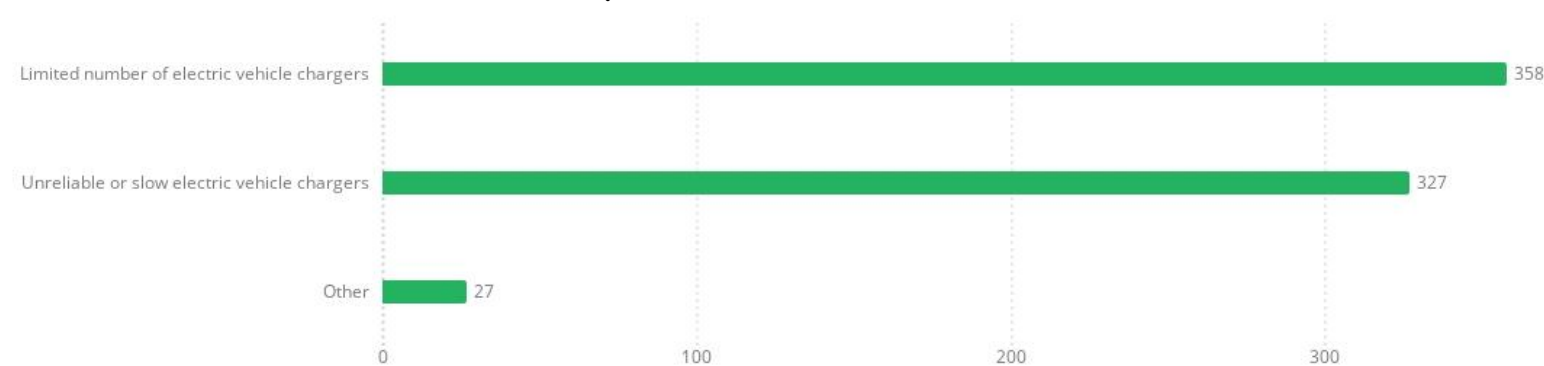


Sources of Progress



Other - More charging stations are available, but very limited progress overall

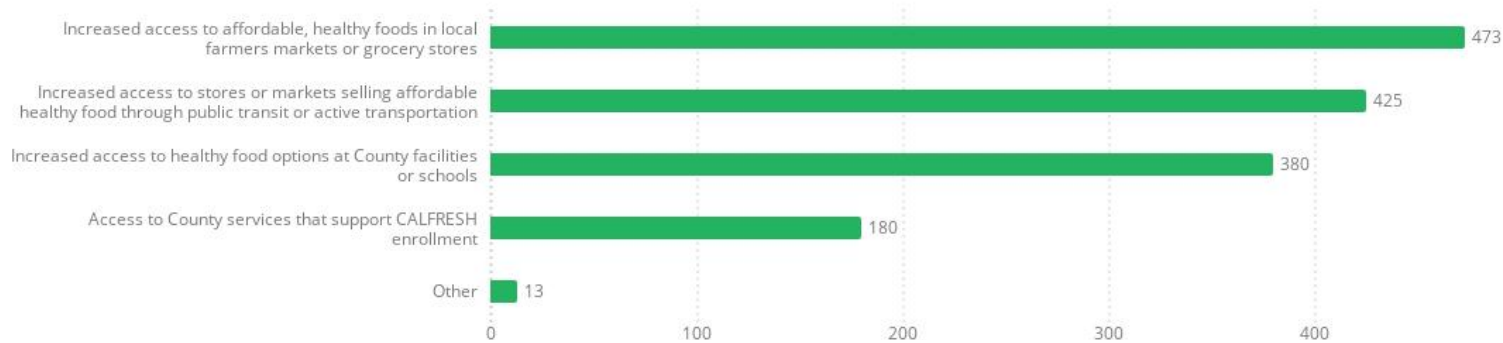
Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement



Progress - Affordable, Healthy Food

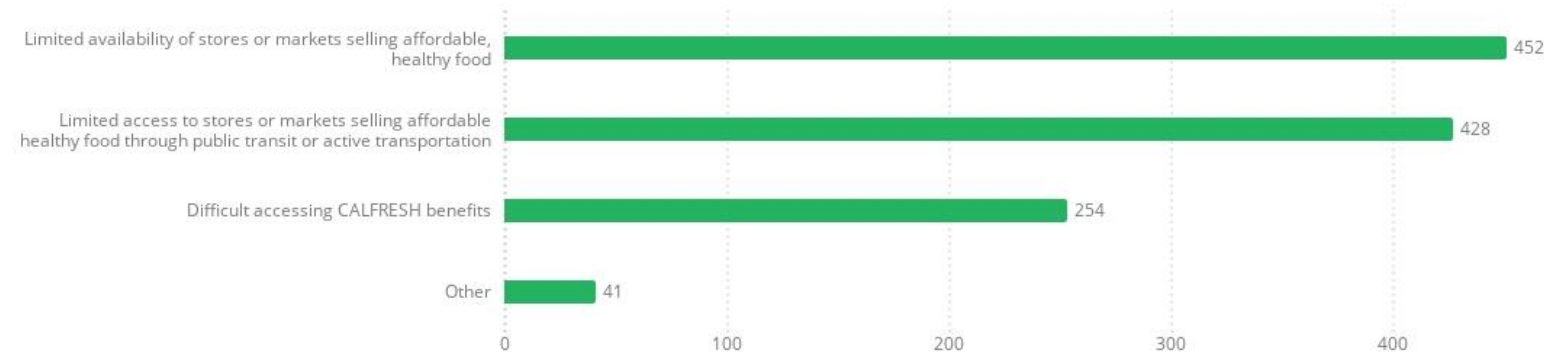


Sources of Progress



Other - nonprofit food distribution, free pantries have more fresh produce and healthy options, inclusion of diverse, culturally specific foods

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

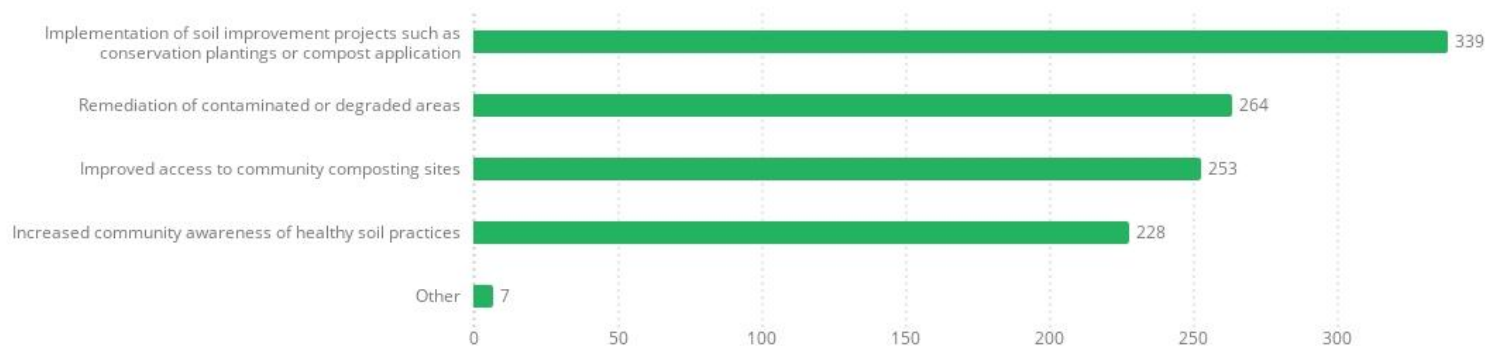


Other - too much fast food, bad quality/high prices, supply issues, inflation, food deserts, limited financing to support small scale markets

Progress - Soil Quality

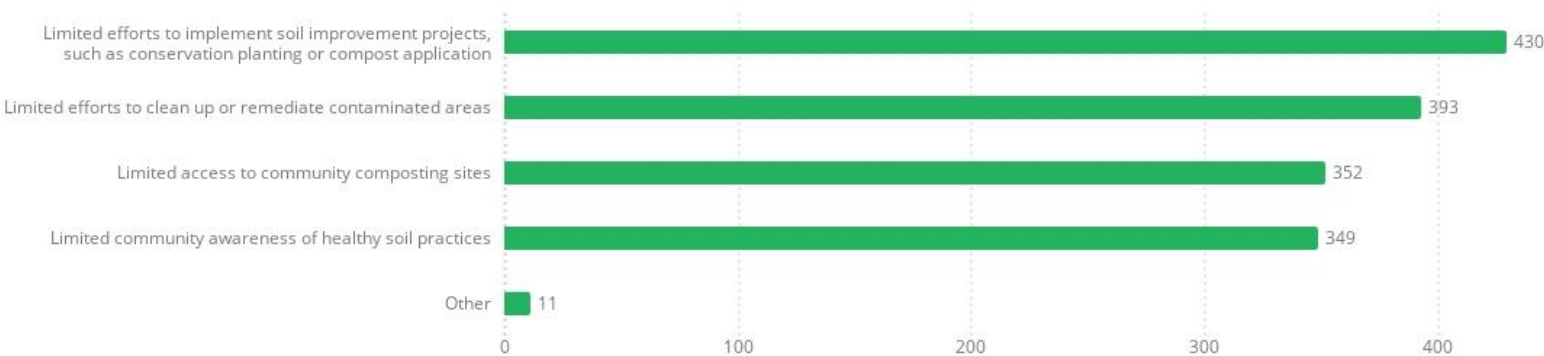


Sources of Progress



Other - no improvement

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

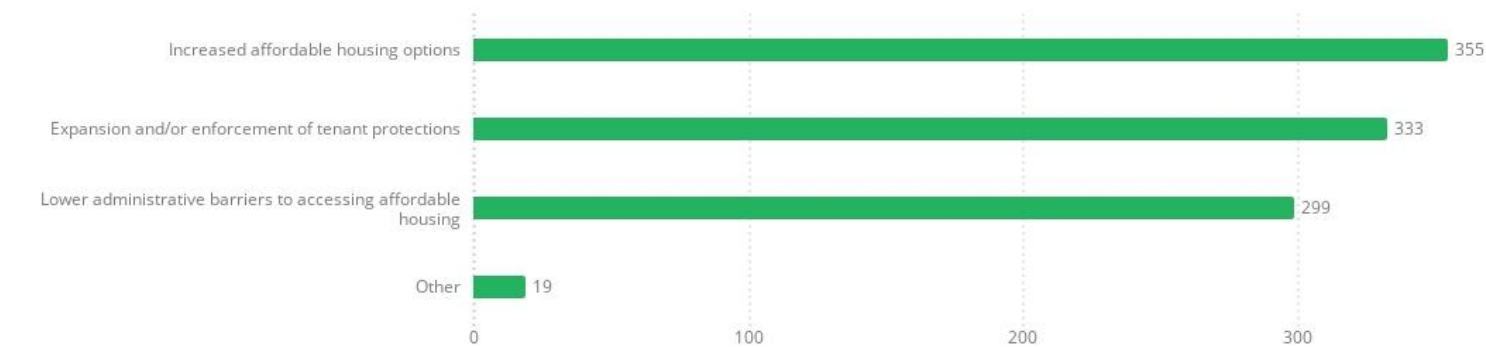


Other - poor archaic practices, people installing plastic lawns, lack of awareness, more research on soil quality improvement practices

Progress - Affordable Housing & Tenant Protections

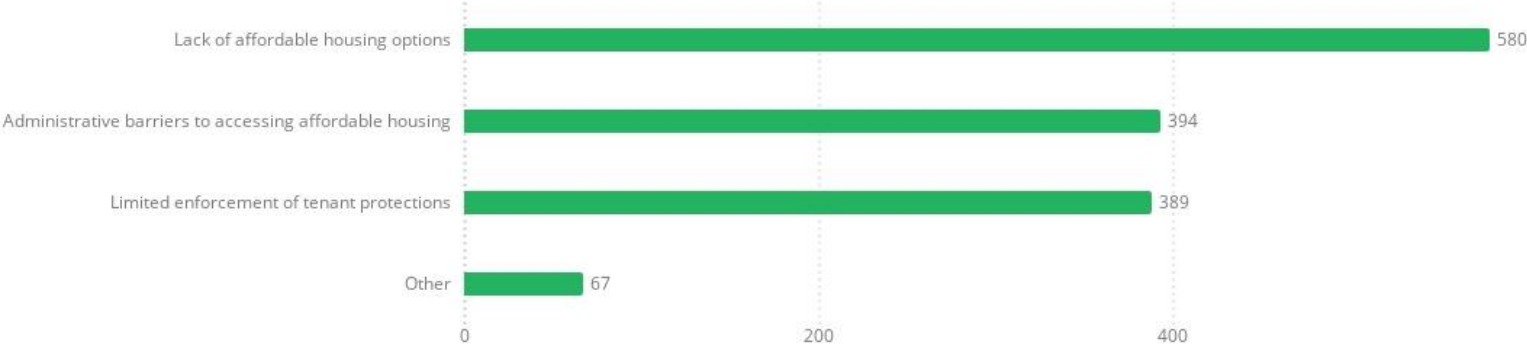


Sources of Progress



Other - establish a tenant fund, protect existing housing and property rights, impacts of right to counsel still untested

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

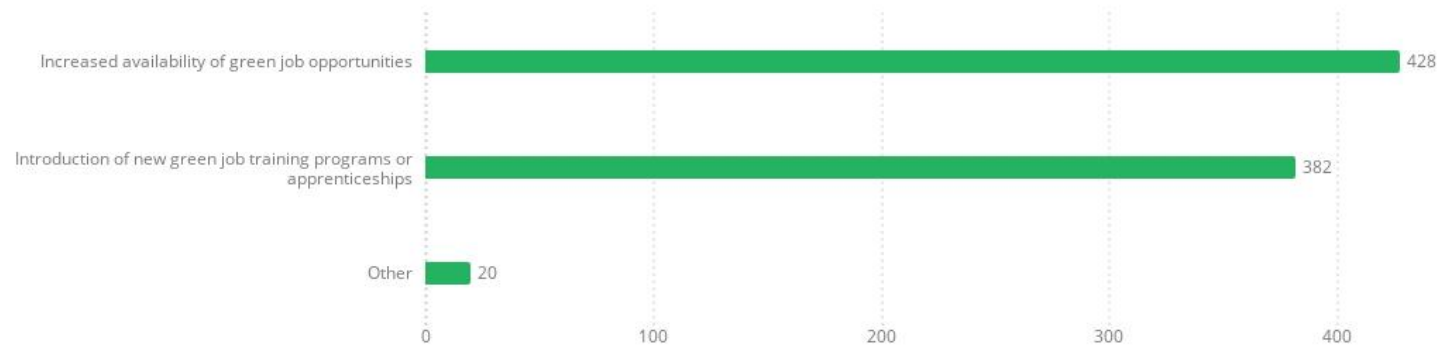


Other - NIMBYISM & enabling politicians, lack of supply, barriers to new construction, greedy landlords, red tape, zoning laws, lack of political will, too much regulation, parking requirements

Progress - Green Jobs

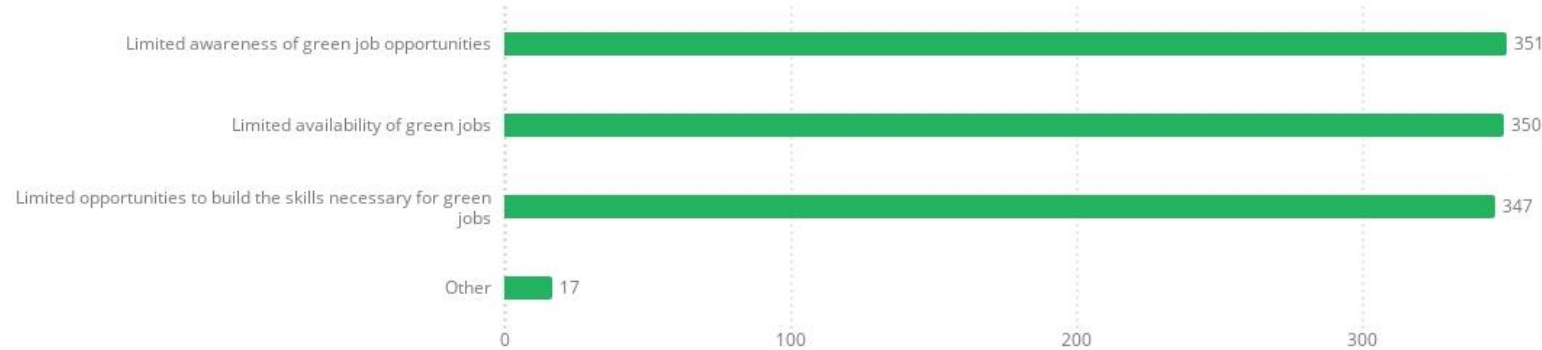


Sources of Progress



Other - investment to increase employment opportunities, community welfare programs, and labor agreements

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

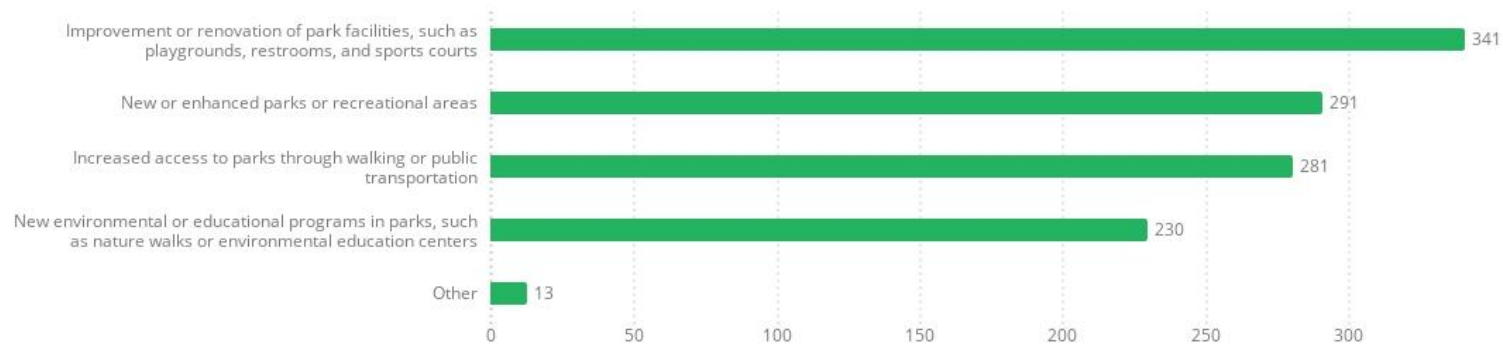


Other - not paid well, not consistent income, unsure of green jobs in community, lack of proactive/strategic partnership with organized labor, lack of broad industry coverage

Progress - Parks & Nature

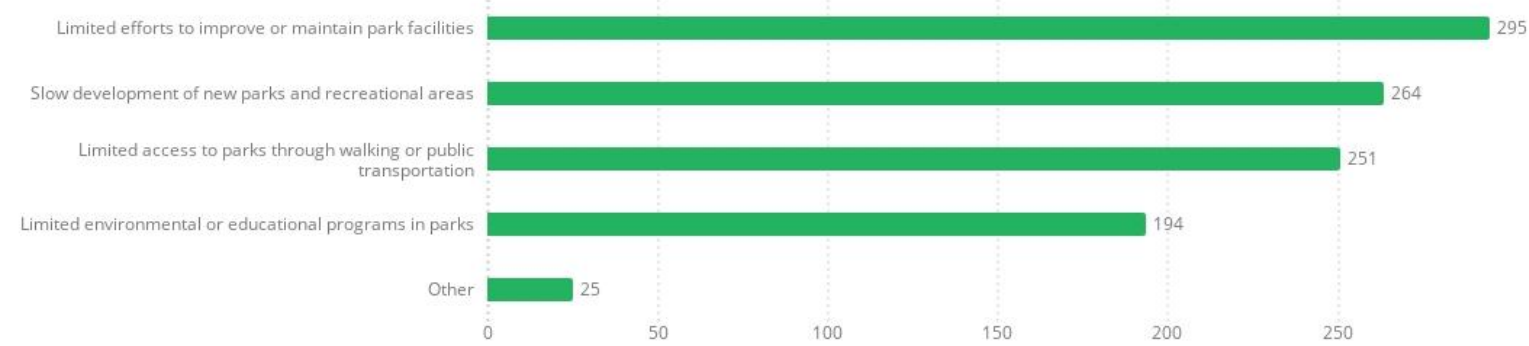


Sources of Progress



Other - accessible/equitable green space, Stoneview Nature Center is a perfect example, integrate park infrastructure for efficient utilization

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

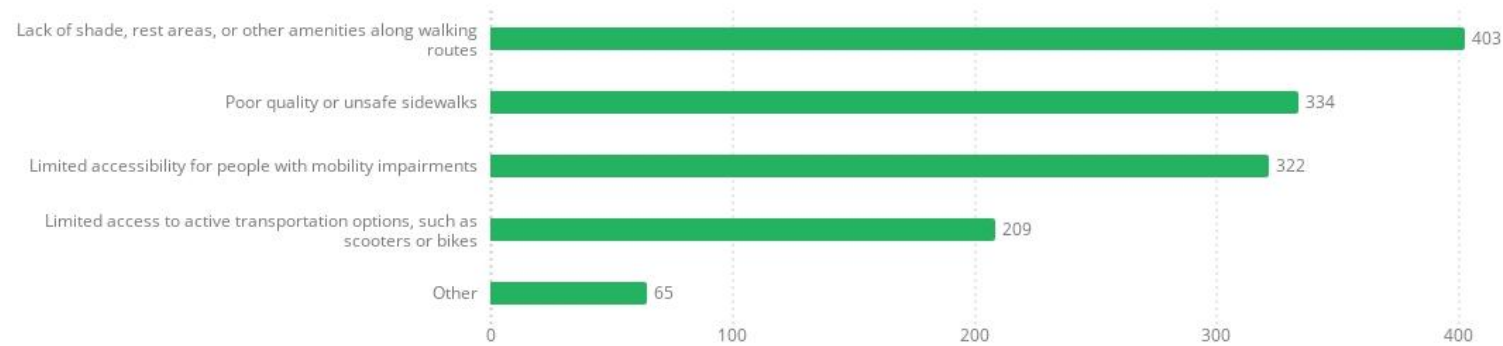


Other - public safety, unhoused population usage, locking up schools, lack of trees on public sidewalks, trash/drug use/violence

Progress - Walkable Neighborhoods

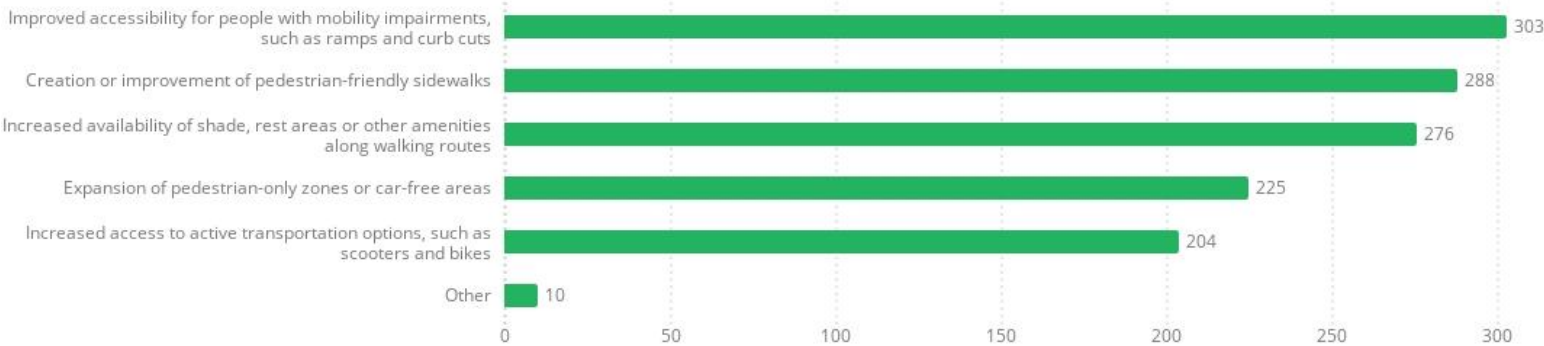


Sources of Progress



Other - crosswalk enhancements/additions, re-use of parking areas for sitting/eating

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

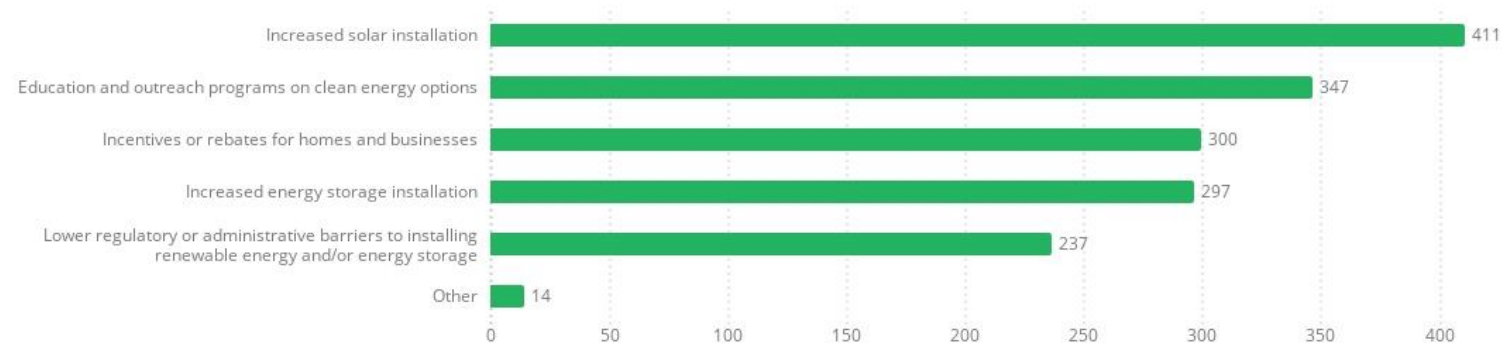


Other - safety, dangerous drivers, car dominance, lack of biking/ped infrastructure, disconnected pedestrian access, limited traffic calming measures, isolated zoning uses & sprawl, narrow sidewalks

Progress - Clean Energy

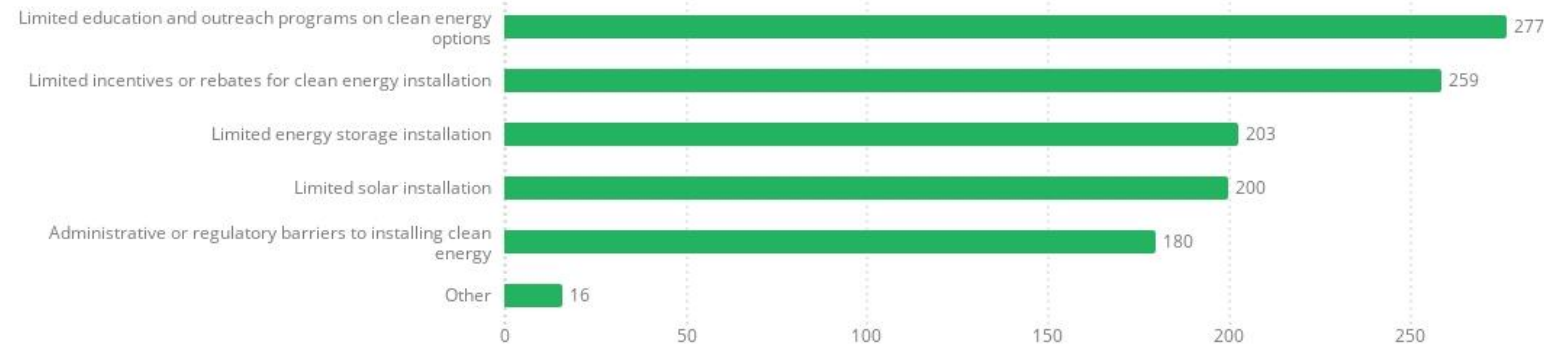


Sources of Progress



Other - Clean Power Allowance, community solar, renewable energy credits,

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

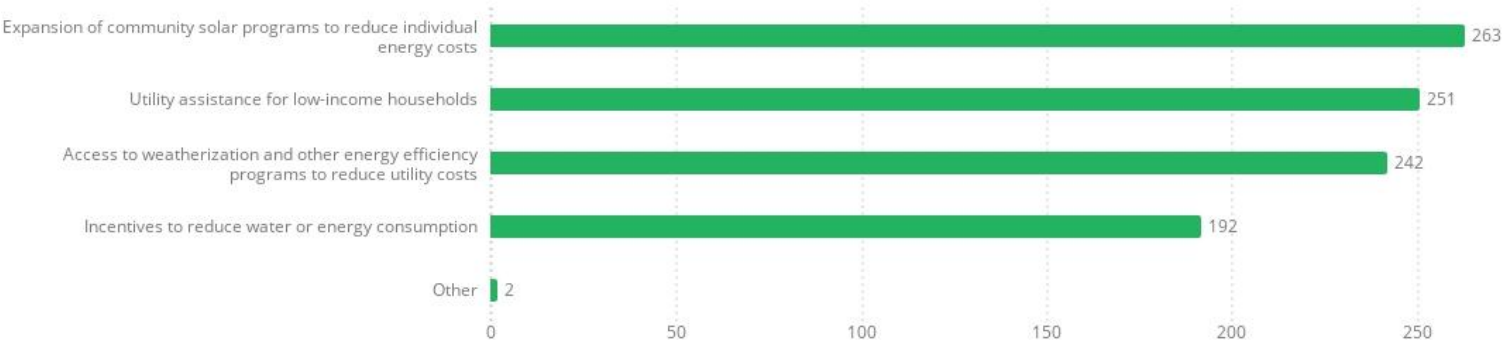


Other - lack of incentives for utilities to deliver clean energy, incentives for landlords, landlord vs. tenant dynamics, high costs

Progress - Utility Costs



Sources of Progress



Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

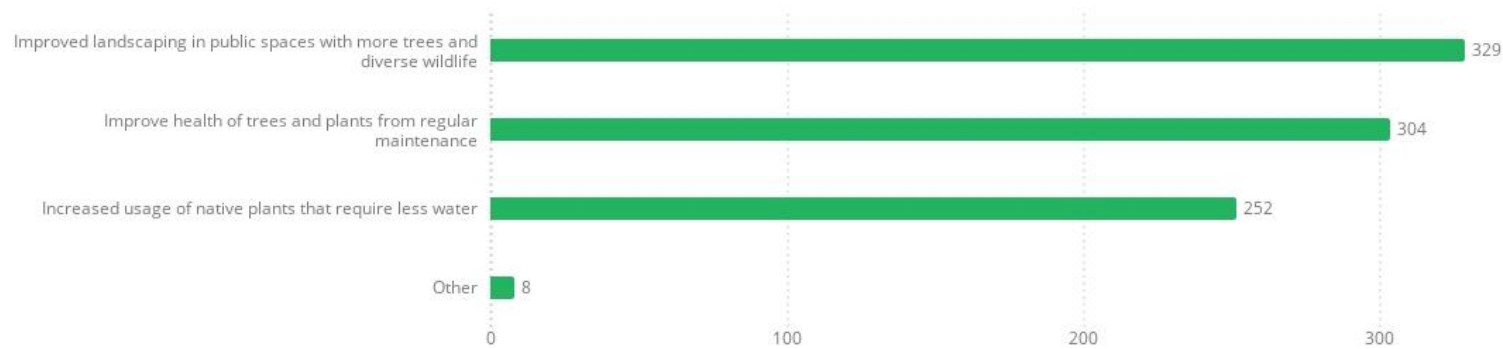


Other - Investor-owned utilities profit motives, revolving door from IOUs to regulatory bodies, wildfire resilience, predatory energy contractors, poor management of deferred maintenance, lawsuits,

Progress - Biodiversity

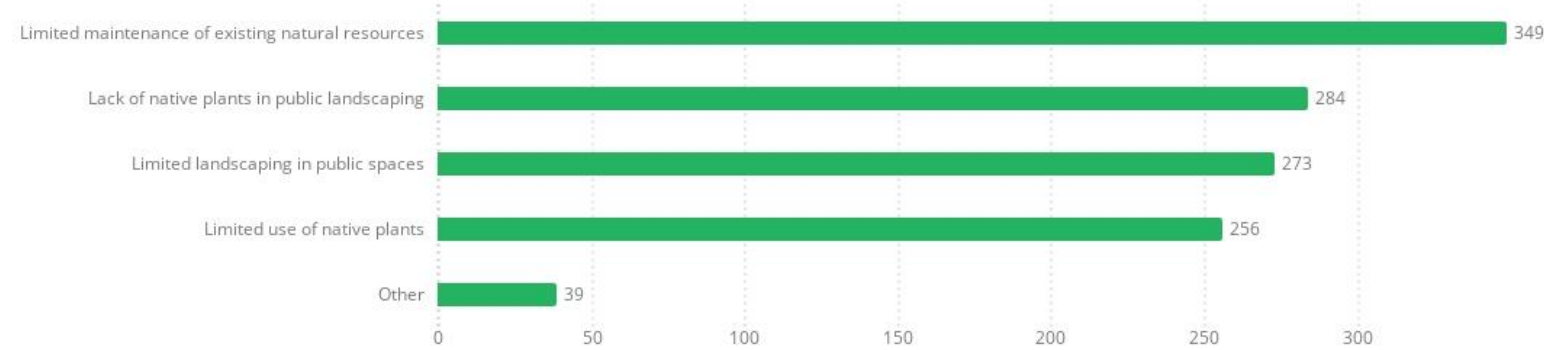


Sources of Progress



Other - native plant spaces and fruit trees in schools from nonprofit partnerships, increase in edible plants

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

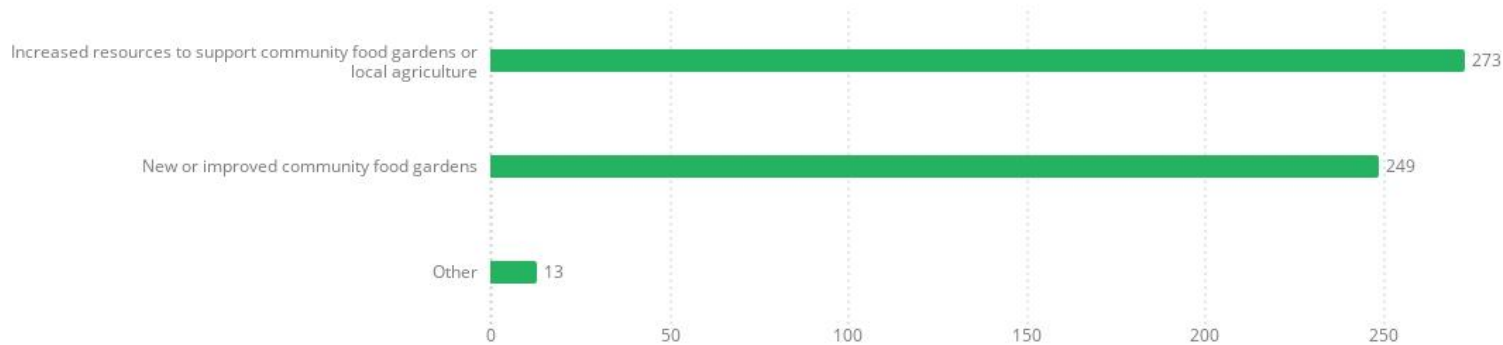


Other - long-term maintenance, public works capacity, hardscape dominance, lack of awareness/education, native vs. non-native plants, vacant land utilization

Progress - Sustainable Food Production

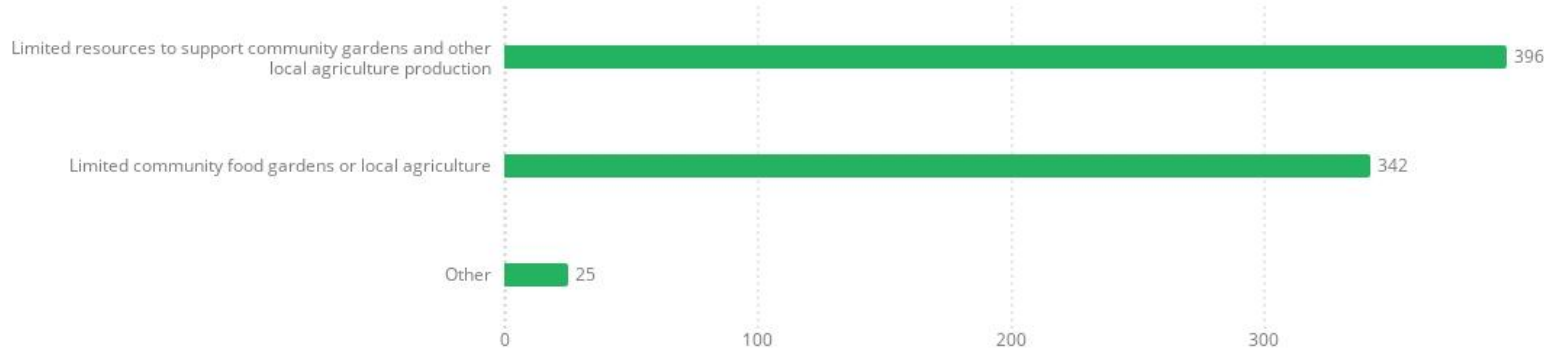


Sources of Progress



Other - increased transportation routes of agricultural products, farmers market access, urban agriculture pedagogy, food banks

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

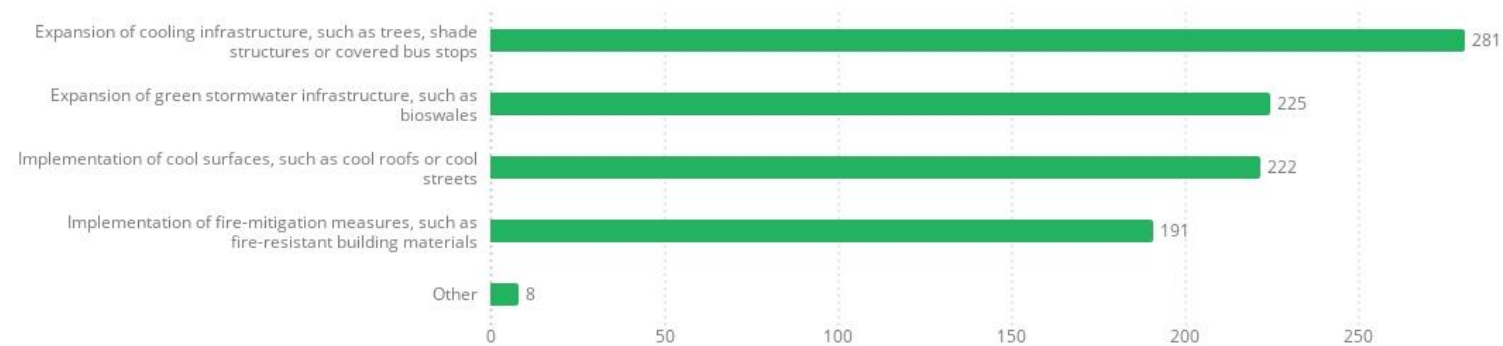


Other - toxic soils, agency funding/program maintenance, lack of agricultural education, SE LA food deserts, farmers market prices,

Progress - Climate Resilient Infrastructure

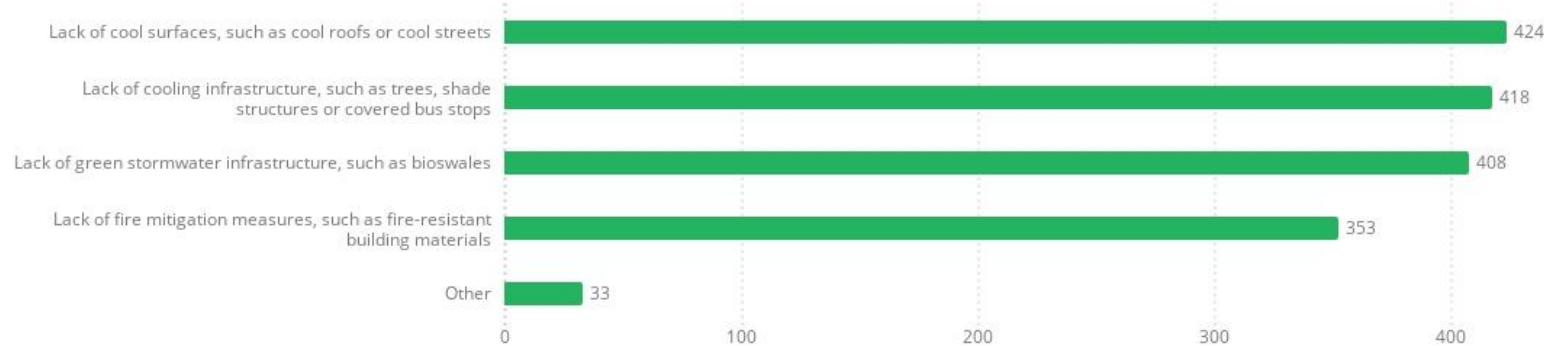


Sources of Progress



Other - need funding to support and improve extant affordable housing, shade structure on western

Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement

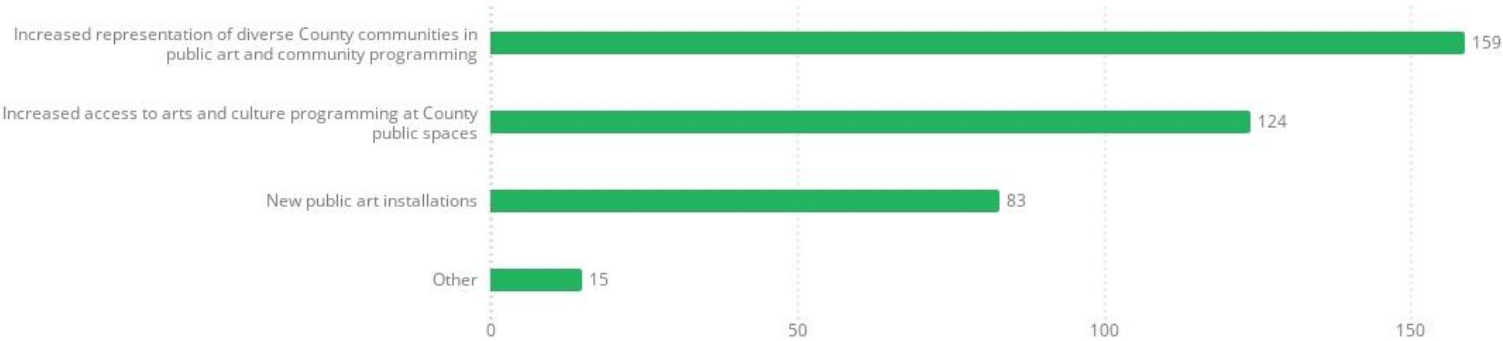


Other - lack of investment/knowledge in green infrastructure, too much concrete, lack of disincentives for paving everything, slow bureaucratic process, lack of WUI buffer zone, home hardening education, flooding protections/prevention infrastructure

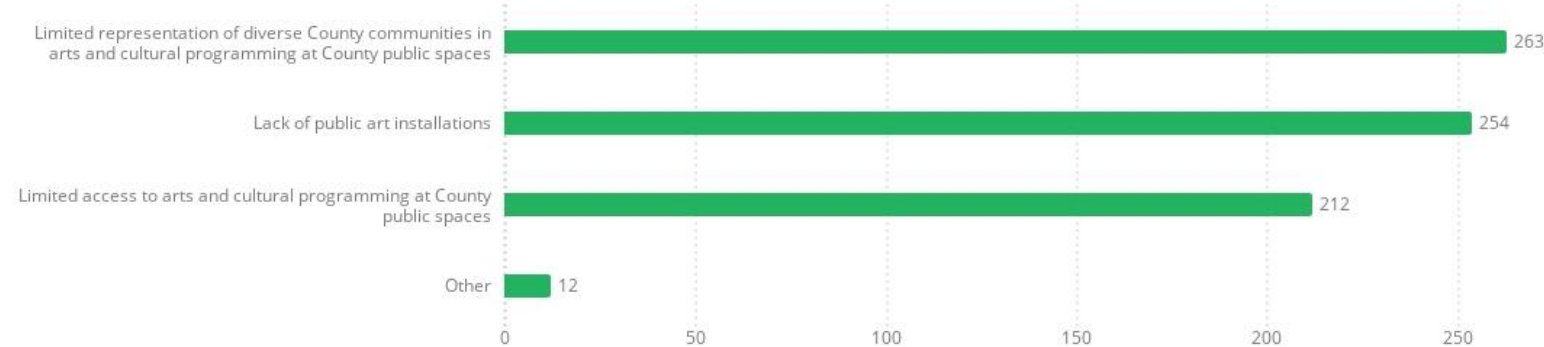
Progress - Inclusive Civic Art & Programming



Sources of Progress



Barriers / Reasons for Lack of Improvement



Other - limited access to free or low-cost art programs, current programs are great but more is needed to cover large County region