

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Environment (Wales) Bill

Summary of the Environment (Wales) Bill Survey

Background

This document provides a summary of responses received to the Environment (Wales) Bill survey conducted by the Outreach team.

Methodology

As part of the Environment and Sustainability Committee's consultation on the Environment (Wales) Bill the Outreach Team conducted a survey in both online and paper-based formats. Participants were asked a range of questions relating to environmental issues, from climate change, nature conservation, recycling and the five pence plastic bag charge.

Awareness Raising

In order to promote awareness of the survey and attract participants the Outreach Team contacted a broad-range of schools, colleges and organisations. Those contacted were able to raise awareness using a range of methods including – placing articles on websites; signposting on social media including Facebook and twitter; and emailing participants directly.

The surveys were also promoted by Assembly staff with relevant groups visiting the Senedd and receiving education visits, and during the Assembly's presence at summer events.



Key Statistics

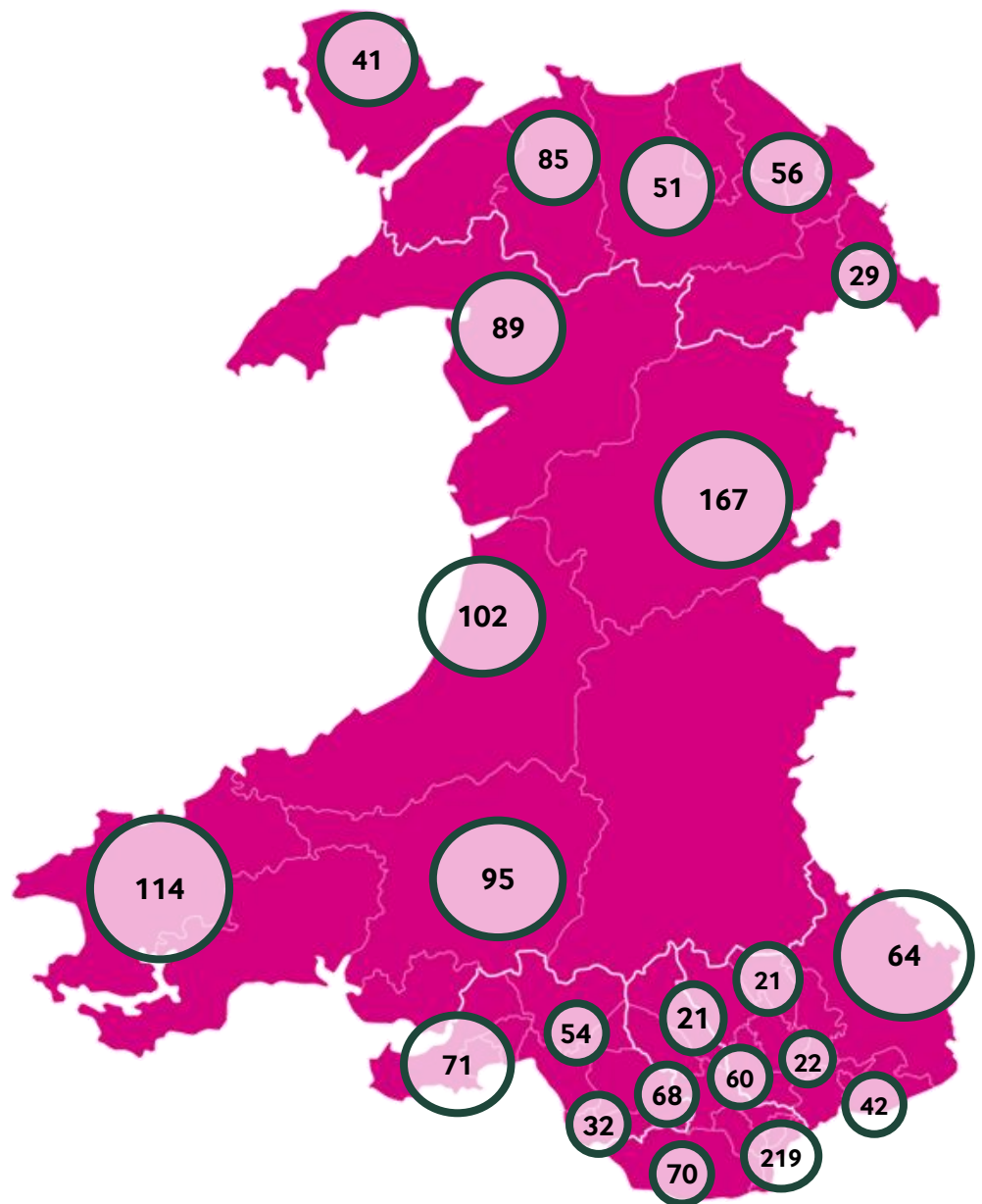
1,663 Total number of survey responses received

Geographical Summary of Responses

Number of survey responses broken down by local authority area

Total number of responses: 1,583

Blaenau Gwent: 21
Bridgend: 32
Caerphilly: 60
Cardiff: 219
Carmarthenshire: 95
Ceredigion: 102
Conwy: 85
Denbighshire: 51
Flintshire: 56
Gwynedd: 89
Isle of Anglesey: 41
Merthyr Tydfil: 21
Monmouthshire: 64
Neath Port Talbot: 54
Newport: 42
Pembrokeshire: 114
Powys: 167
Rhondda Cynon Taf: 68
Swansea: 71
Torfaen: 22
Vale of Glamorgan: 70
Wrexham: 29



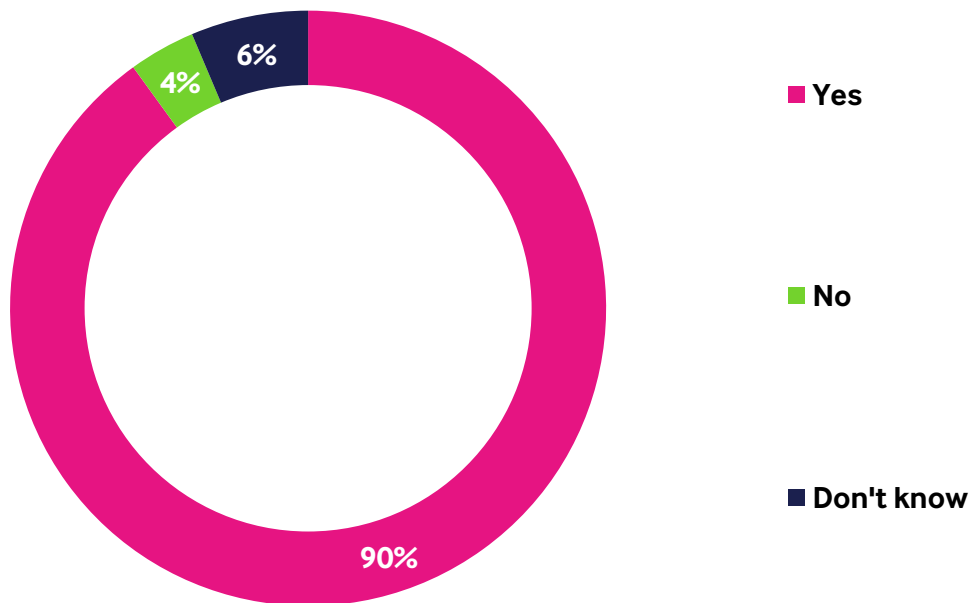
Summary of Responses

Question one – The Environment (Wales) Bill will place a stronger duty on public bodies like hospitals and local councils to maintain and enhance biodiversity or nature as far as is possible when they are delivering services.

Some people have suggested that they would like the Bill to include stronger targets to require the Welsh Government to halt biodiversity loss and restore nature. Do you think the Bill should include such targets?

Total number of responses: 1,633

- Yes: **90.02% (1,470)**
- No: **3.61% (59)**
- Don't know: **6.37% (104)**

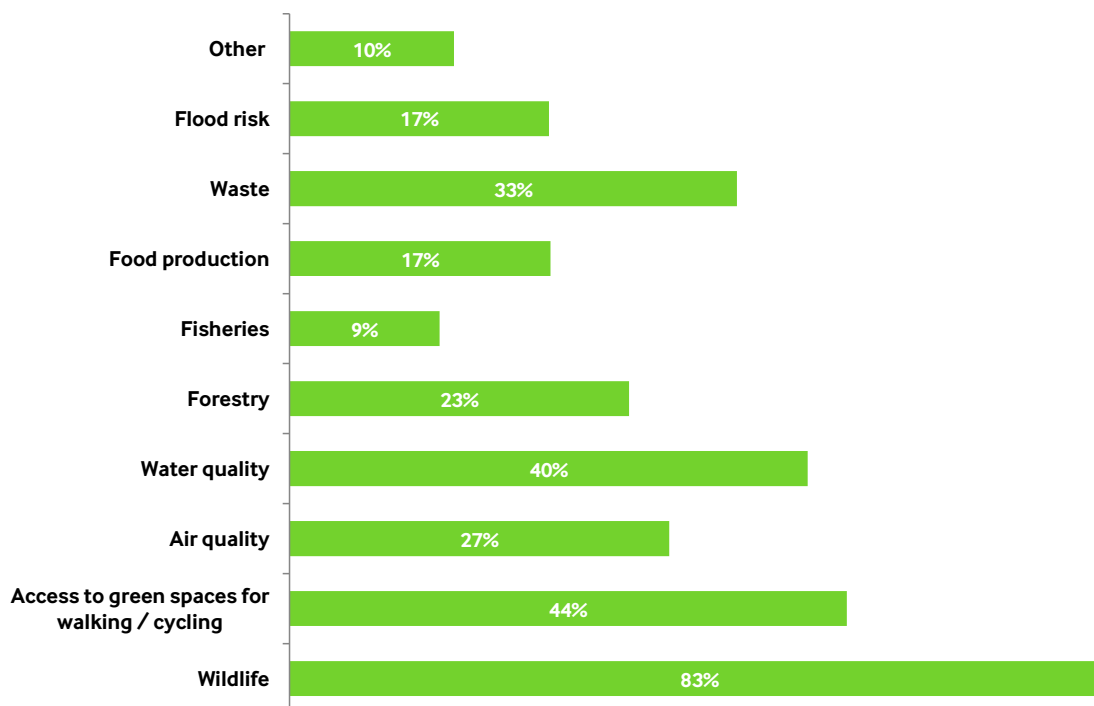


Question two – The Environment (Wales) Bill includes proposals to create area environment plans. These plans will set out for an area the priorities, opportunities and challenges for the environment. For example improving areas for wildlife or using natural resources to generate energy or reduce flood risk.

Thinking of your local area, what would be your environment priorities? Please choose your top three environmental priorities from the list below.

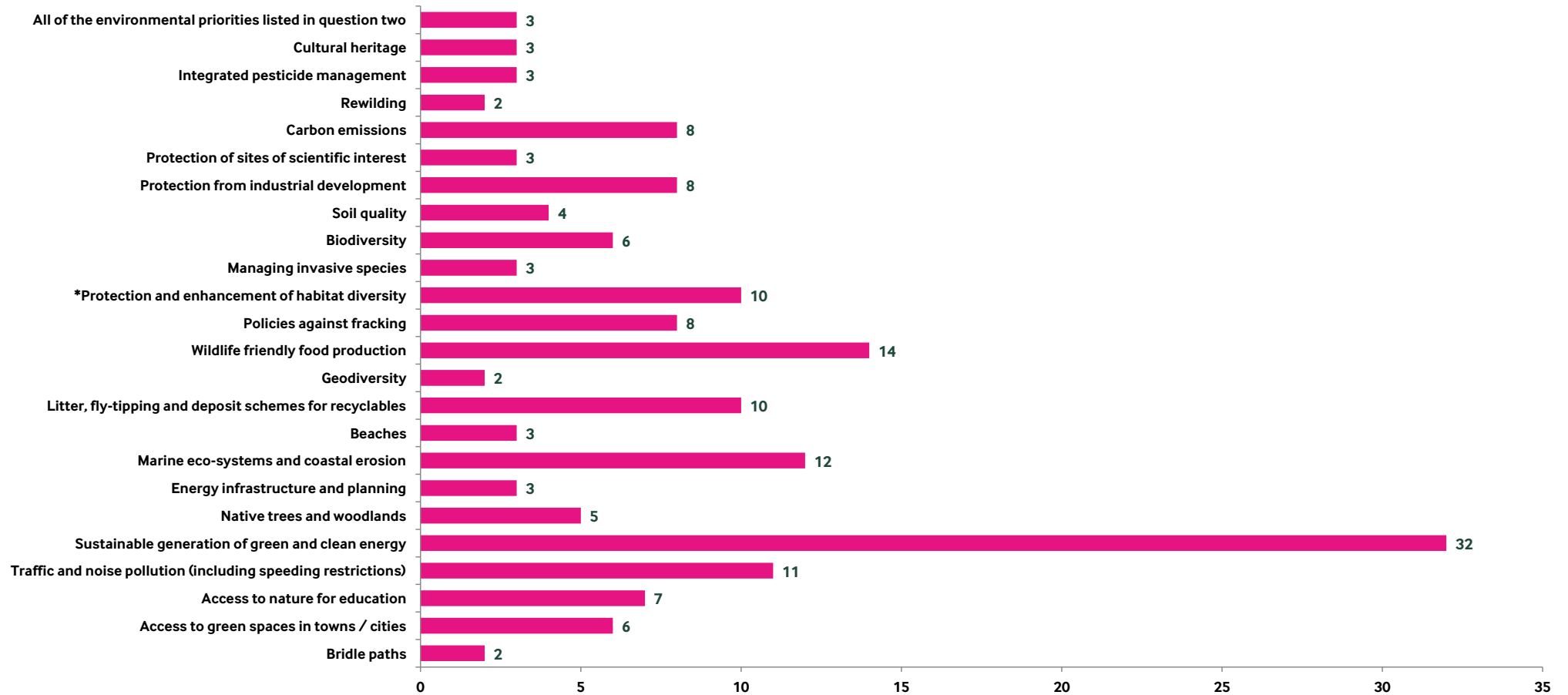
Total number of responses: 1,651

- Wildlife: **82.80% (1,367)**
- Access to green spaces for walking / cycling: **44.46% (734)**
- Air quality: **26.53% (438)**
- Water quality: **40.10% (662)**
- Forestry: **23.08% (381)**
- Fisheries: **9.02% (149)**
- Food production: **16.84% (278)**
- Waste: **32.83% (542)**
- Flood risk: **16.72% (276)**
- Other: **9.99% (165)**



Comments – Other

Total number of responses: 184



*Protection and enhancement of habitat diversity includes the consideration of trimming hedgerows and verges.

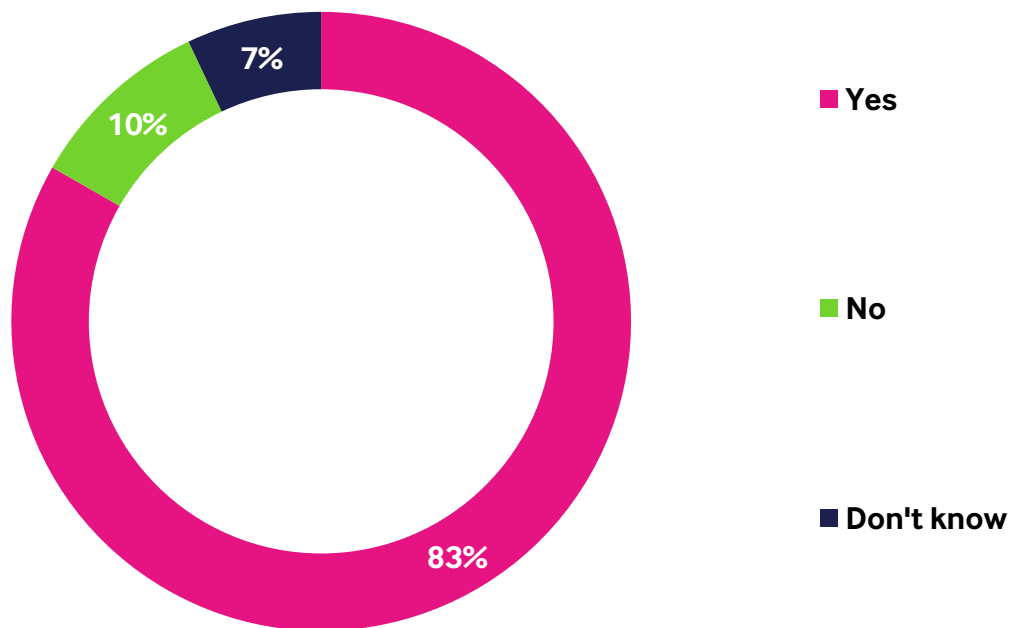


Question three - The Environment (Wales) Bill sets a target for the Welsh Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

Do you think an interim target should be included in the Bill?

Total number of responses: 1,633

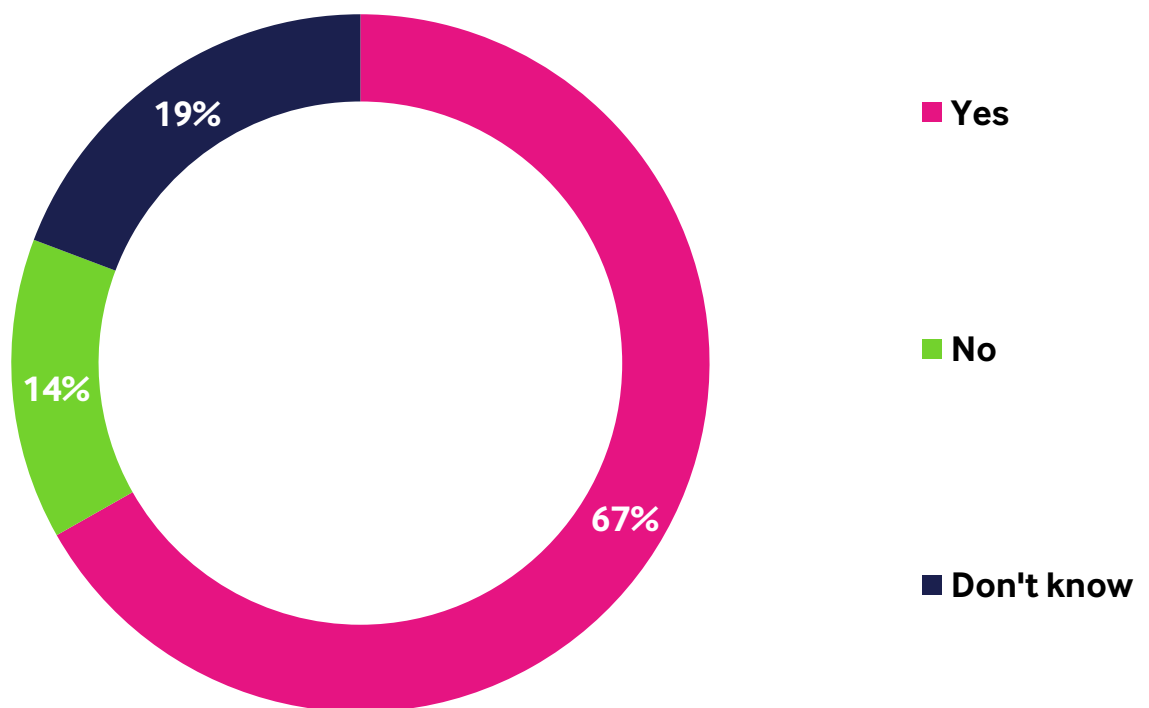
- Yes: **83.28% (1,360)**
- No: **9.68% (158)**
- Don't know: **7.04% (115)**



Question four – If the Welsh Government fail to meet these targets, should sanctions be imposed?

Total number of responses: 1,626

- Yes: **66.79% (1,086)**
- No: **13.96% (227)**
- Don't know: **19.25% (313)**

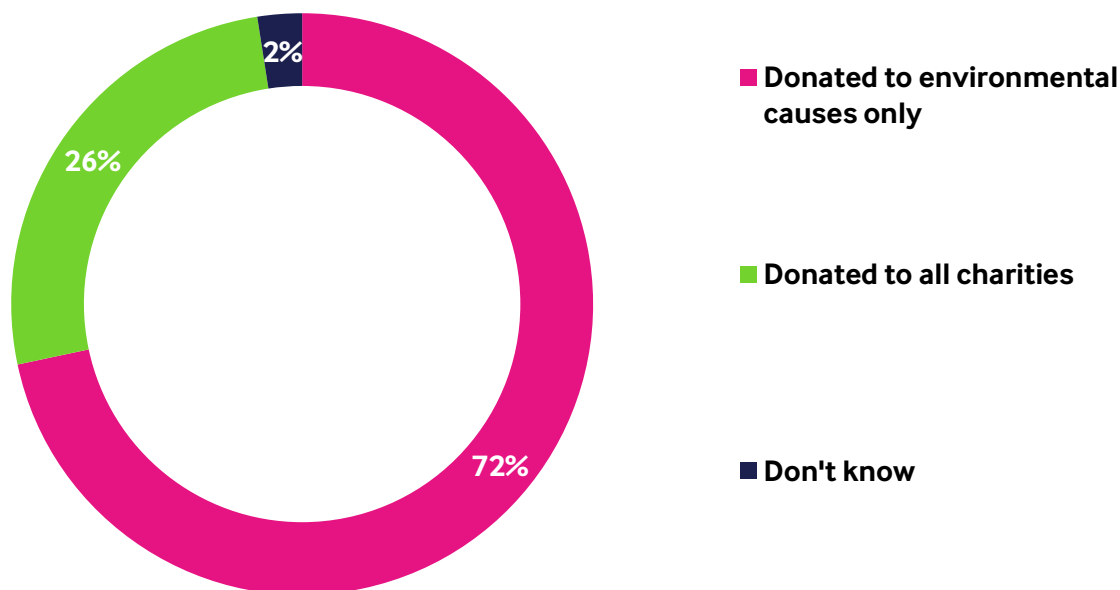


Question five – Since 1 October 2011 there has been a minimum charge of five pence on all single use carrier bags. The carrier bag charge was introduced to reduce the number of carrier bags used in Wales. At present the Welsh Government could if it wanted to make shops and other businesses give any money raised from the charge to environmental causes only. The Welsh Government wants to change this so that shops and other businesses could pass the money raised on to any charitable cause.

Should money raised from the carrier bag charge be donated to environmental causes or to all charities?

Total number of responses: 1,620

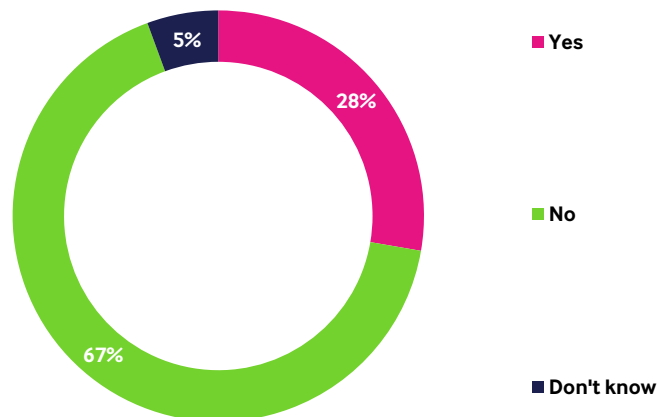
- Donated to environmental causes only: **71.67% (1,161)**
- Donated to all charities: **25.86% (419)**
- Don't know: **2.47% (40)**



Question six – Do you think the Welsh Government should put a charge on a wider range of carrier bags? (For example, bags for life, hessian bags, cotton bags)

Total number of responses: 1,624

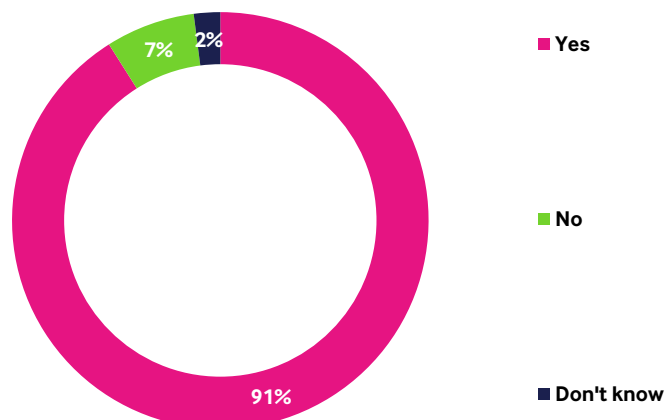
- Yes: **27.71% (450)**
- No: **66.69% (1,083)**
- Don't know: **5.60% (91)**



Question seven - The Welsh Government wants further powers to control the separation of recycling and waste. Do you think that all businesses and households in Wales should be required to separate their recycling and waste?

Total number of responses: 1,615

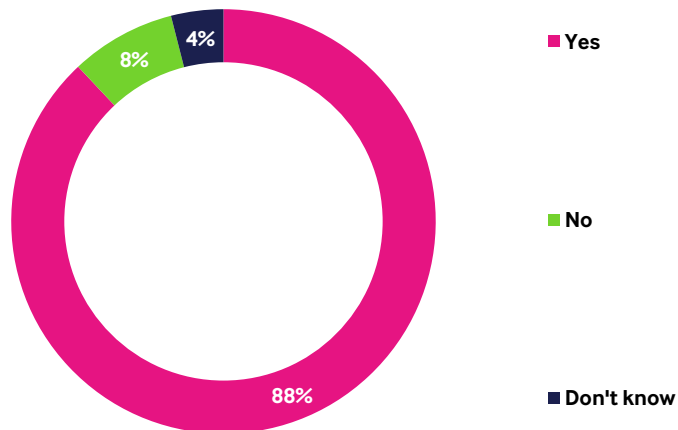
- Yes: **91.02% (1,470)**
- No: **6.93% (112)**
- Don't know: **2.04% (33)**



Question eight – Should the same rule apply to big businesses and small businesses?

Total number of responses: 1,608

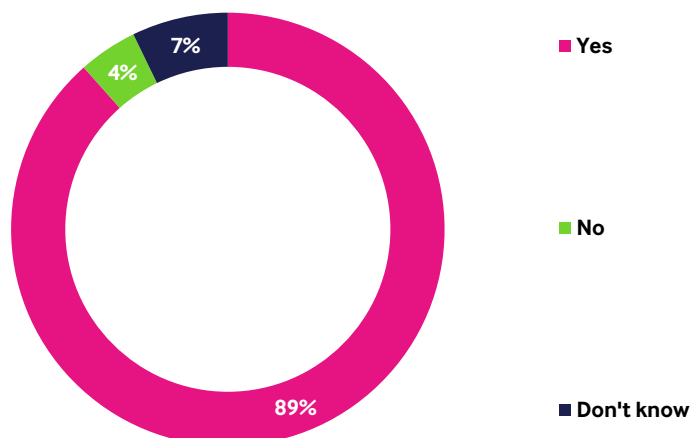
- Yes: **88.00% (1,415)**
- No: **8.02% (129)**
- Don't know: **3.98% (64)**



Question 9 – Should the Welsh Government have more powers in order to stop recyclable materials from being sent to incineration?

Total number of responses: 1,616

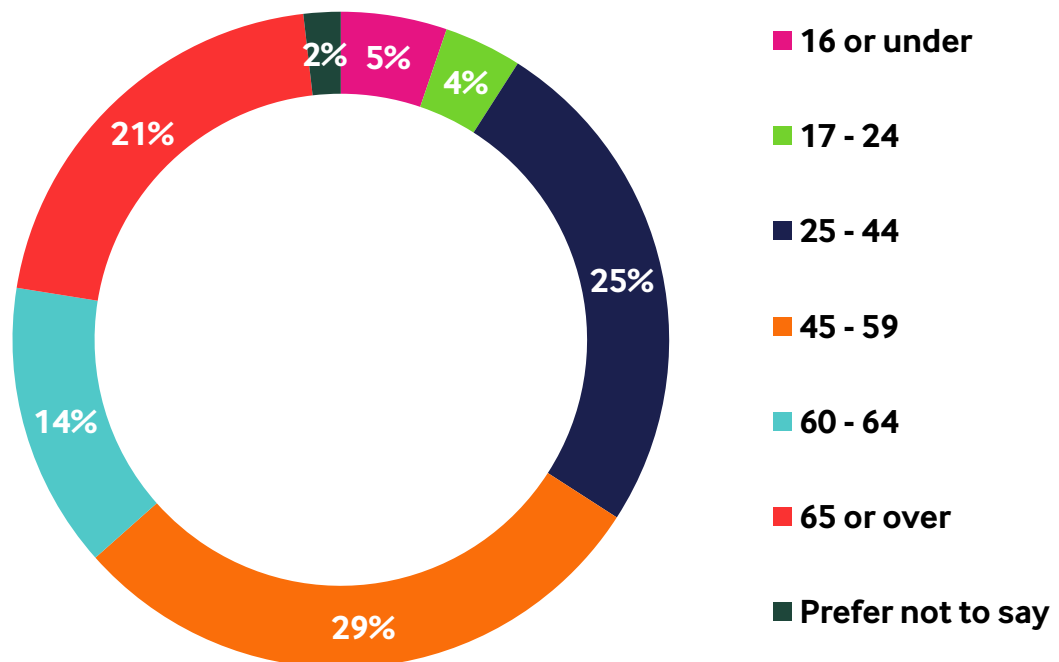
- Yes: **88.43% (1,429)**
- No: **4.39% (71)**
- Don't know: **7.18% (116)**



Question 10 – What is your age?

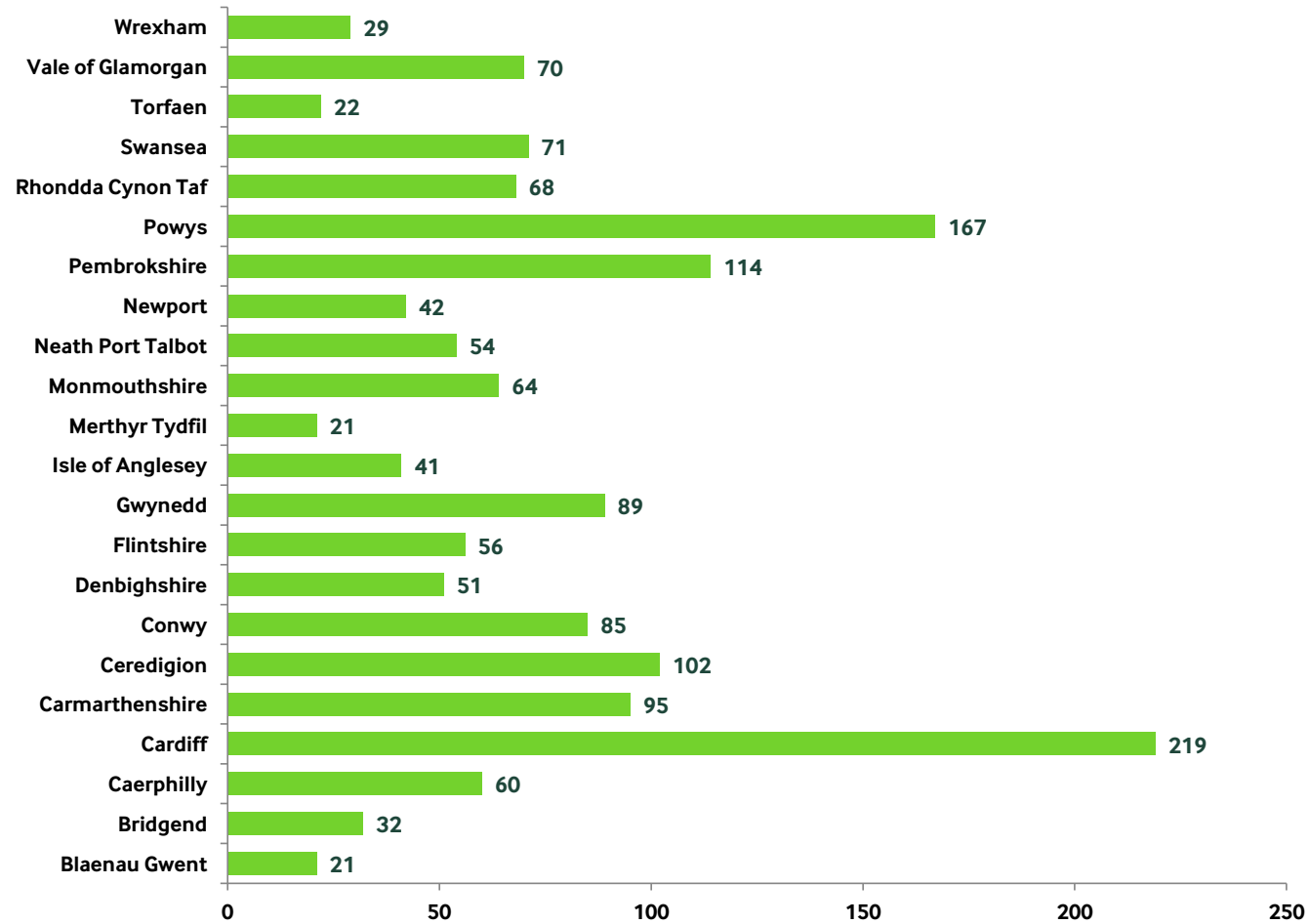
Total number of responses: 1,589

- 16 or under: **5.22% (83)**
- 17-24: **3.84% (61)**
- 25-44: **25.05% (398)**
- 45-59: **29.33% (466)**
- 60-64: **14.10% (224)**
- 65 or over: **20.64% (328)**
- Prefer not to say: **1.83% (29)**



Question 11 – In which local authority area do you live?

Total number of responses: 1,583



Cyfathrebu'r Cynulliad

Assembly Communications