

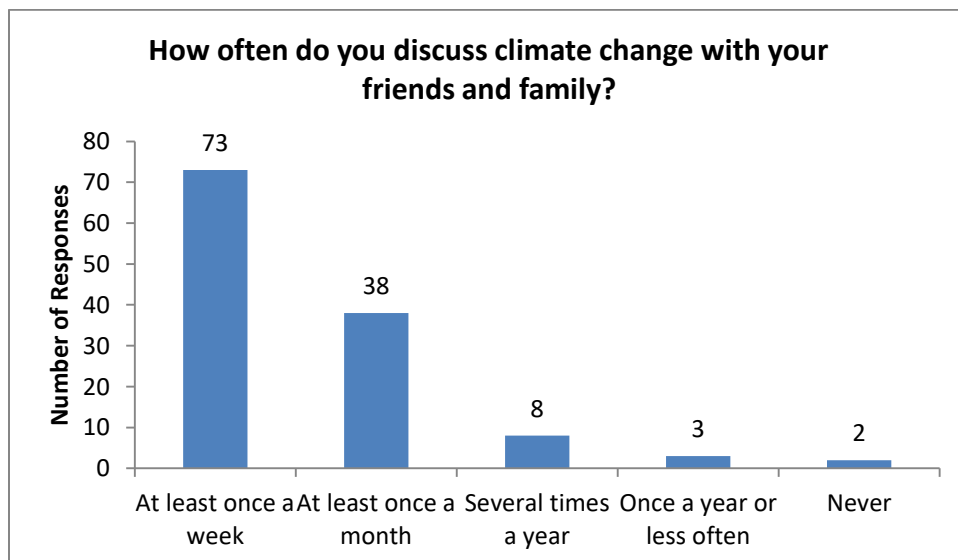
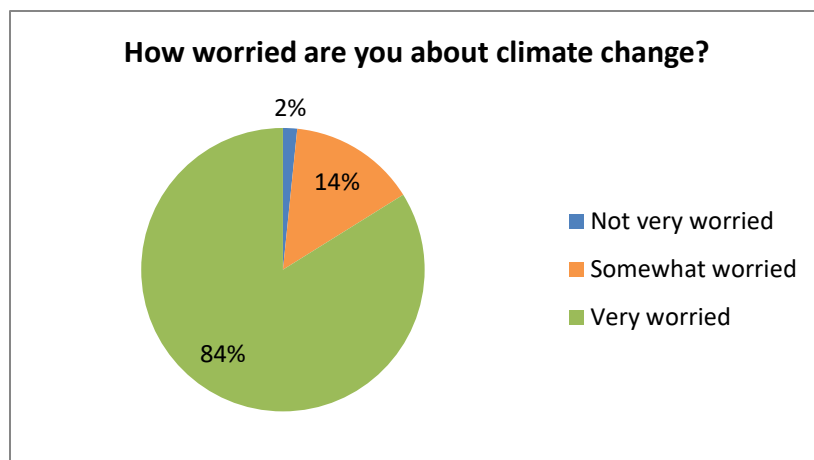
**Somerville Climate Forward**  
Survey Results as of 1/2/18

Engagement to date

- 125 responses on [online survey](#)
- Additional Engagement: 180+ reached
  - How to Fix the World ~20 responses
  - SCF Kick Off meeting ~100 attendees
  - SomerStreets (August) ~20 responses
  - SomerStreets (September) ~20 responses
  - SomerStreets (October) ~30 responses

Online Survey Responses

- 95% of online survey respondents live in Somerville and 12% work or own a business in Somerville.
- 90% of online survey respondents discuss climate change at least once a month
- 84% of online survey respondents are very worried about climate change



**Have you noticed any changes to Somerville's climate? If yes, what changes have you noticed?**

<b>Changes observed</b>	<b>Count</b>
Warmer and longer summer	35
Unpredictable and extreme weather	27
More intense rainstorms and street flooding	19
No, haven't lived here long enough	16
Milder winters	11
Drought	8
None	7
Changes to plant and animal species	6
Trees dying	5
More pollution	2
Improvement to bike lanes	3
Less Hot	1
Worse winters	1

- 21 survey respondents did not answer this question.

**What do you typically do during an extreme weather event, such as extreme rainfall or a heat wave?**

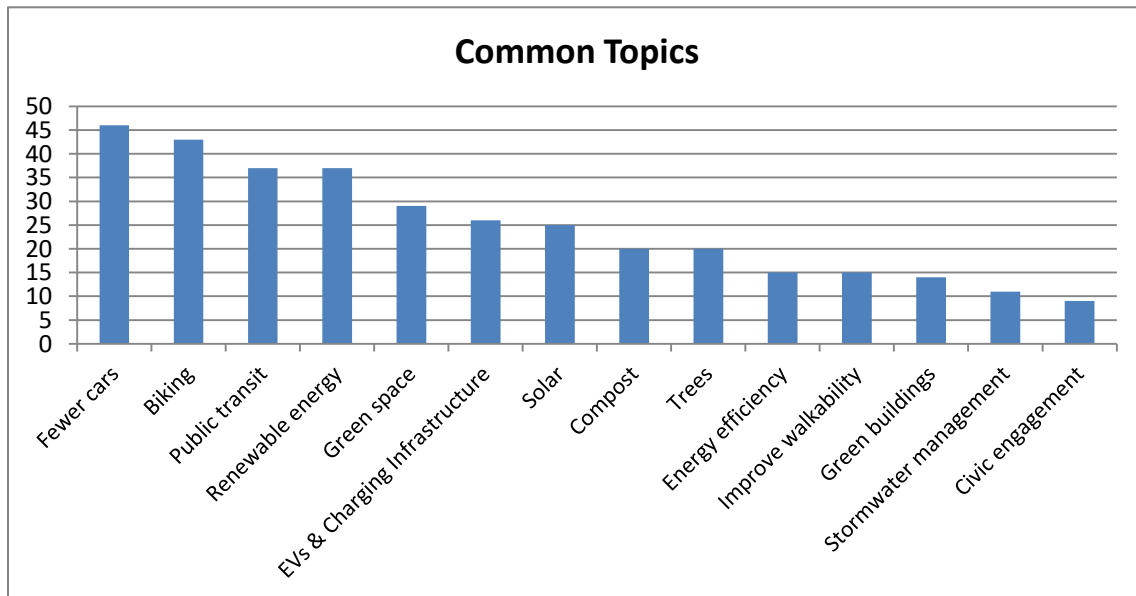
<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Count of Action</b>
Stay inside	60
Turn on AC	25
Carry on	21
Go to air conditioned area	8
Check weather	5
Go to pool or beach	4
Worry about flooding	4
Work from home	3
Check basement	3
Passive cooling strategies	3
Clear storm drains	2
Nothing	2
Get out of the city	1
Shelter in public space	1
Save water in rain barrel	1
Shoveling is a challenge	1
Check on neighbors	1

Adapt behavior	1
Stock up on supplies	1
Check on family	1
Go to park	1
Prepare basement level apartment for flooding	1
Go to the movies	1
Move car	1

- 13 survey respondents did not answer this question

**Somerville has a goal to be carbon neutral by 2050 and to be prepared for the impacts of climate change. Imagine we succeed at meeting those goals, what does that future look like?**

*Answers are from survey responses and in-person responses.*



The most common answers to this question were focused on sustainable transportation solutions including, improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure, increasing and improving public transportation, reducing the need to have cars, and increasing electric vehicle ownership and expanding charging infrastructure. Renewable energy was the second most commonly mentioned topic. Expanding distributed solar within Somerville is very popular, as is increasing the amount of renewable electricity on the grid. Increasing green space and tree canopy also came up frequently, often with a focus on mitigating the urban heat island or to better manage stormwater. Many respondents also commented on the need to improve stormwater management to reduce flooding. Buildings were also a key focus with many responses focused on energy efficiency and green buildings, several respondents noted the need to move towards net-zero buildings. Many respondents also want to see curbside compost pick up.



- How effective will a community of 80,000 be in making progress on climate change? How is Somerville helping nationally? How will Somerville work together with neighboring cities to address this problem and not make our climate plan inside a bubble?
- How will this climate plan be communicated to residents and businesses?
- When will we pass legislation that will have a strong impact?
- What can we do for the most vulnerable people in Somerville?
- How do we make climate action equitable?
- What will residents be asked to do? What education will be provided?

### Carbon Neutral by 2050 Goal

- How could Somerville reach its goal to be carbon neutral in 2050?
- What challenges will Somerville face in pursuing net zero carbon emissions?
- What is Somerville planning to do to reach its goal?
- Why was 2050 chosen as the target date for carbon neutrality? Shouldn't we be reaching carbon neutrality sooner?
- Can the city be entirely powered by class 1 Massachusetts renewable energy?
- How can we incentivize driving alternatives?

### Climate Change Impacts

- How is Somerville preparing for flooding, both during extreme weather events like hurricanes and due to more gradual but permanent water level rise? Since so much of Somerville is hilly, will sea level rise impact the city as much as Cambridge or Boston?
- Is my home elevation above sea level rise predictions?
- It would be useful to know which areas are flood prone due to underground water, low elevation or other factors.
- How will climate change affect the greater Boston region? Will residents and businesses leave the area?
- How will climate change affect property values?
- How can the City finance infrastructure improvements that are necessary to respond to climate change?
- How is the city planning for response and education for its most vulnerable residents, such as elderly, public housing residents, and non-English speaking residents?
- East Somerville has the highest population of children and the least in monetary resources provided by the city. How will the city of Somerville and our representatives change this dynamic to alleviate the burden of climate change on this area?
- Does the city have an evacuation plan? What notification system does the city have for emergencies?
- What is the likelihood that sewers will back up during extreme rains?

- What investment has the city made so far in terms of protecting infrastructure against flooding and planting drought and heat resistant trees?
- How will climate change impact our future revenue raising opportunities?
- What are our biggest near-term vulnerabilities? Can we have citywide conversations on how to address these challenges?
- How has heat affected public health here?

### Taking Action Today

- What steps can we take to better protect our environment? What are the things that the average person can do that is actually helpful in mitigating climate change?
- How do we help?
- Why aren't we doing more?
- What can homeowner's do (especially seniors without much money)?
- What can renters do? How will Somerville Climate Forward incentivize landlords? How do you address the split incentive issue between landlords and renters?
- I'm new to SustainaVille and its efforts, so am generally interested in what's been done so far and what has not been addressed.
- How do we get more trees on our streets? Create more permeable surfaces? More solar on city property?
- What is the city doing to incentivize or require low impact design/green infrastructure for future and existing development?
- What funding does the City have for infrastructure upgrades?
- How are we educating kids in Somerville schools about climate change?
- How can the City effectively lobby state and federal government on policy change?

Appendix: Categorized responses

<b>What does a carbon neutral and climate resilient Somerville look like to you? (Distilled into categories)</b>	<b>Count</b>
Fewer cars	46
Biking	43
Public transit	37
Renewable energy	37
Green space	29
EVs & Charging Infrastructure	26
Solar	25
Compost	20
Trees	20
Energy efficiency	15
Improve walkability	15
Green buildings	14
Stormwater management	11
Civic engagement	9
Depaving	7
Local food	7
Net zero buildings	6
Recycling	6
Permeable pavers	5
Cleaner air	5
Denser development	5
Help renters	4
Regional action	4
Less waste	4
Education	4
Prepared for flooding	4
Healthier	4
Consume less	3
Change in mindset and behavior	3
Carbon neutral before 2050	3
Use less	3
Prepared	3
Racial and economic justice	3
Meatless food	3
No littering	3
Reduce urban heat island	2
Carbon negative	2
Ban large trucks	2

Electric heating	2
Native plants	2
Happier	2
Less building in flood prone areas	2
Resilient electricity	2
Less parking	2
Shared autonomous Evs	2
Green roofs	2
Shared resources	2
Local food	2
Rain gardens	2
Vibrant and diverse	1
Democratic control of economy	1
People take pride in their community	1
Renewable energy jobs	1
Long-term plan with budget for implementation	1
Resilient building standards	1
Wind power	1
Resilient culture	1
carbon pricing	1
moving away from a capitalist economy	1
Compassionate	1
District heating	1
More security for parks	1
Economic prosperity	1
White roads and roofs	1
Automated traffic lights	1
Invest in carbon reduction projects in sister cities	1
Optimistic	1
Microgrids	1
Cleaner	1
Bulk purchasing of solar and batteries	1
Tax on low efficiency vehicles	1
District energy	1
Traffic calming	1
Carpool	1
Transparent data	1
Carbon free	1
Infrastructure investment	1
Integrated into policy	1
Smart meters	1



Use less fertilizer	1
Co-ops	1
Decarbonize investment portfolio	1
Not buying offsets	1