



# RENEWABLES CONSULTATION

Winchester Farm Cluster?

Winchester City Council



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# OVERVIEW

Renewables Survey Consultation Period: **28 June - 31 July 2023**



# SUMMARY

Overall, **82%** of respondents said they support Winchester City Council's target for the district to become carbon neutral by 2030.

**91%** of survey respondents also agreed that more renewable energy should be generated in the Winchester District.

Respondents also appear well informed, as the majority (**97%**) stated they were aware the role of generating renewable energy has in reducing carbon emissions.

A large number of respondents expressed the urgency and importance of doing as much as possible, as soon as possible in terms of widescale renewable energy developments in Winchester.



# CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Two Open Forum consultation events

Presentations from guest speakers from Buro Happold, Community Energy South and West Solent Solar Cooperative.

## LIVE EVENTS



# 110

OPEN FORUM  
ATTENDEES

-  LinkedIn - Advertisement and promotion
-  Eventbrite - Attendee Management
-  MS Teams - Hosting live events
-  YouTube - Publishing event recordings

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 18:00-20:00  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 14:00-20:00



VIEWS OF LIVE EVENT  
YOUTUBE RECORDINGS



# EVENTS – GAINING INFORMATION

## PUBLIC DROP-IN EVENTS



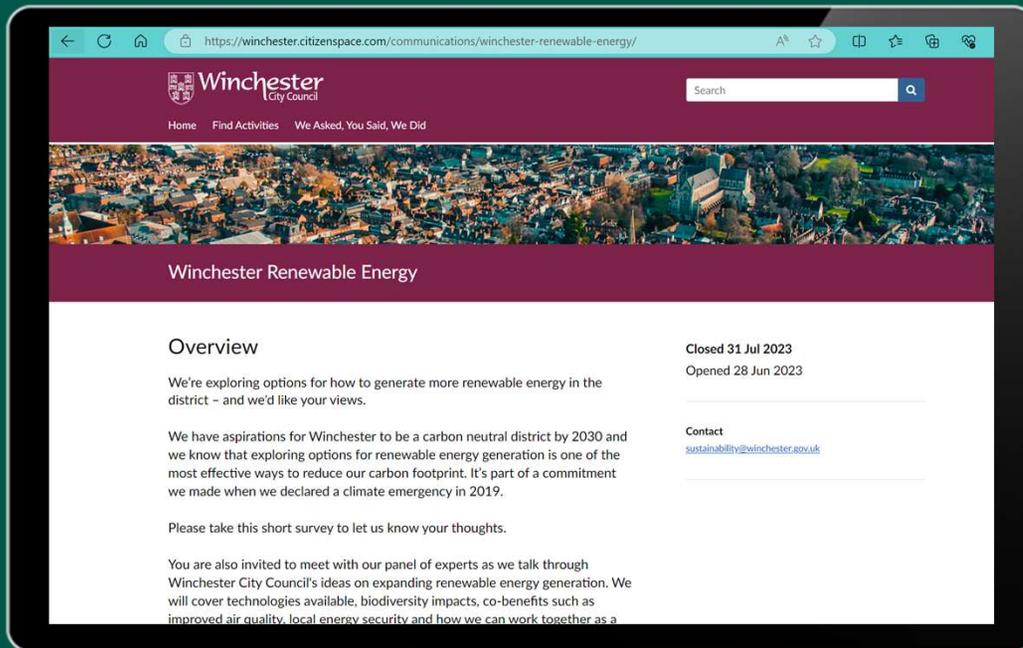
TOTAL OF AT LEAST

# 70

PUBLIC DROP-IN  
EVENT ATTENDEES

AT LEAST **23.3** HOURS in face-to-face  
consultation with the public.

# ENGAGEMENT AND OUTCOME

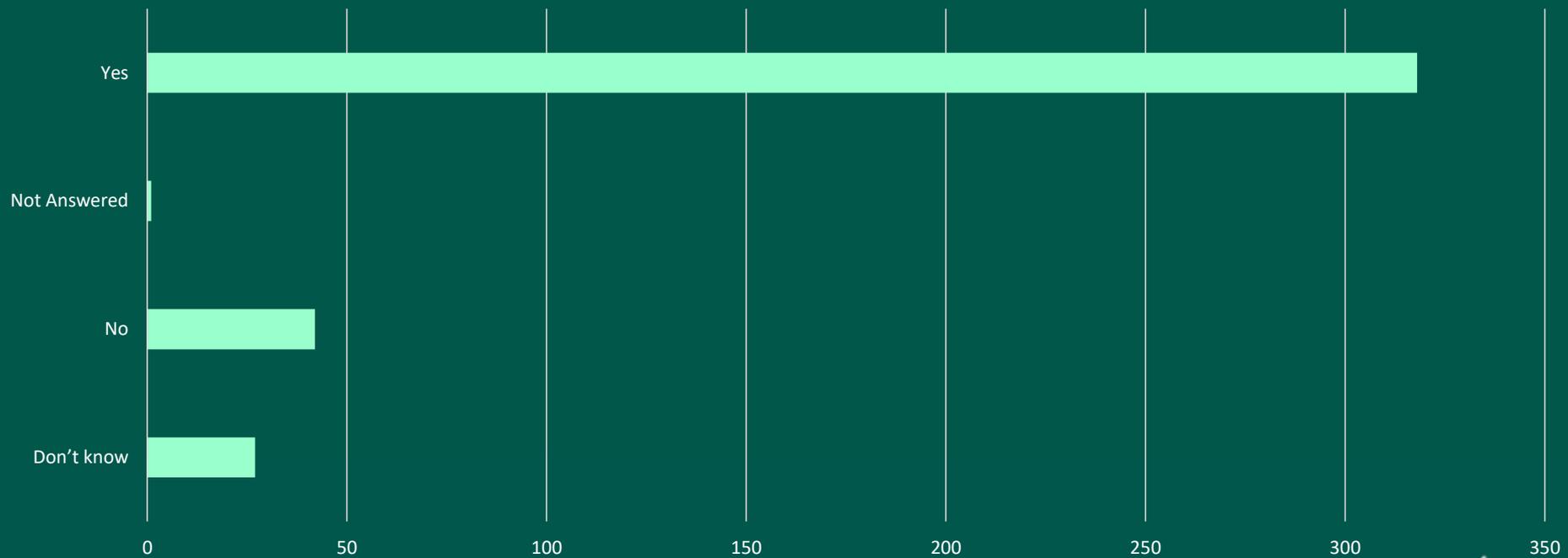


TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES:

388

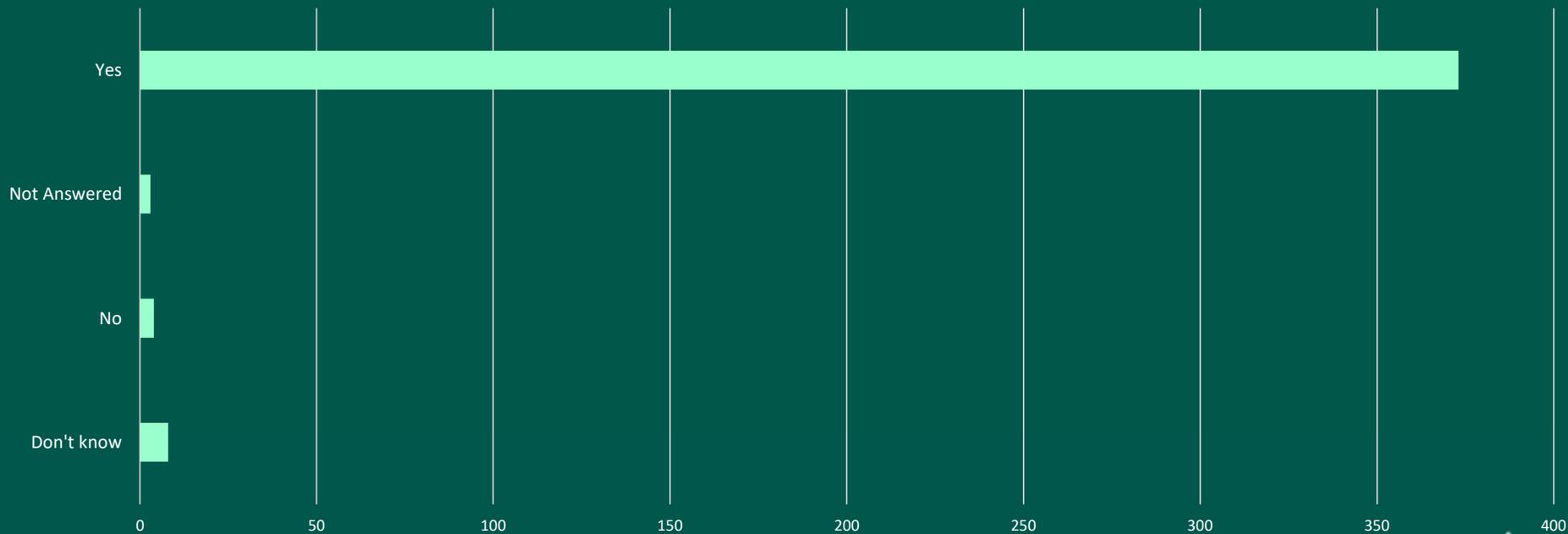
# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Do you support Winchester District Council's target for the district to become carbon neutral by 2030?



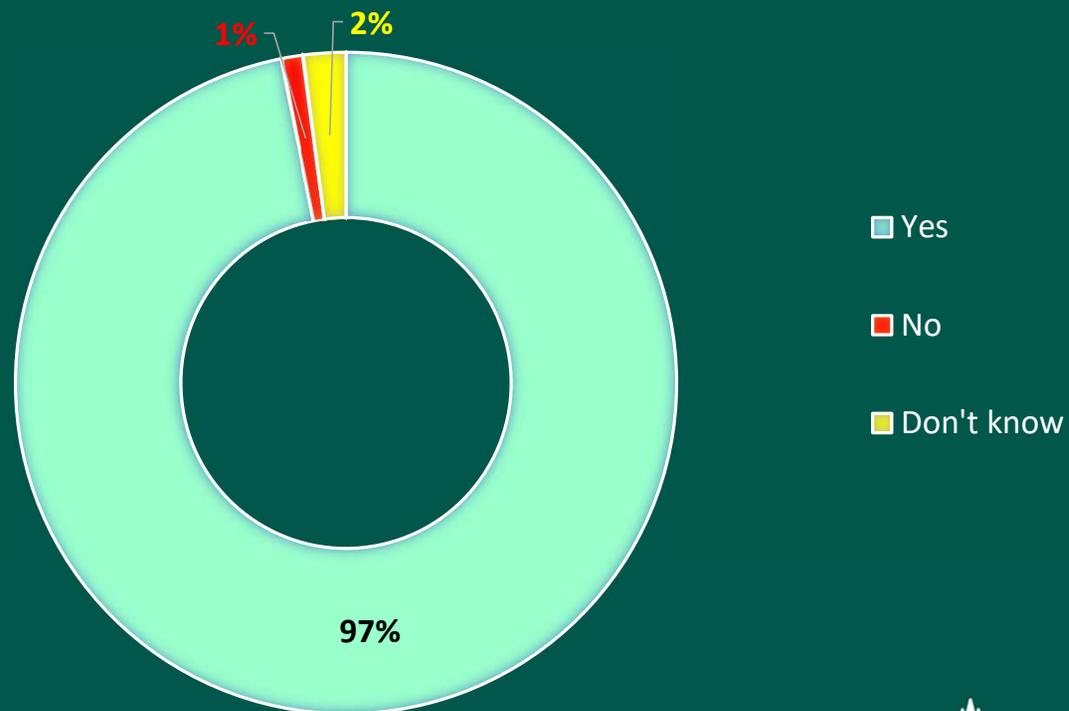
# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Are you aware of the role generating renewable energy can play in reducing carbon emissions?



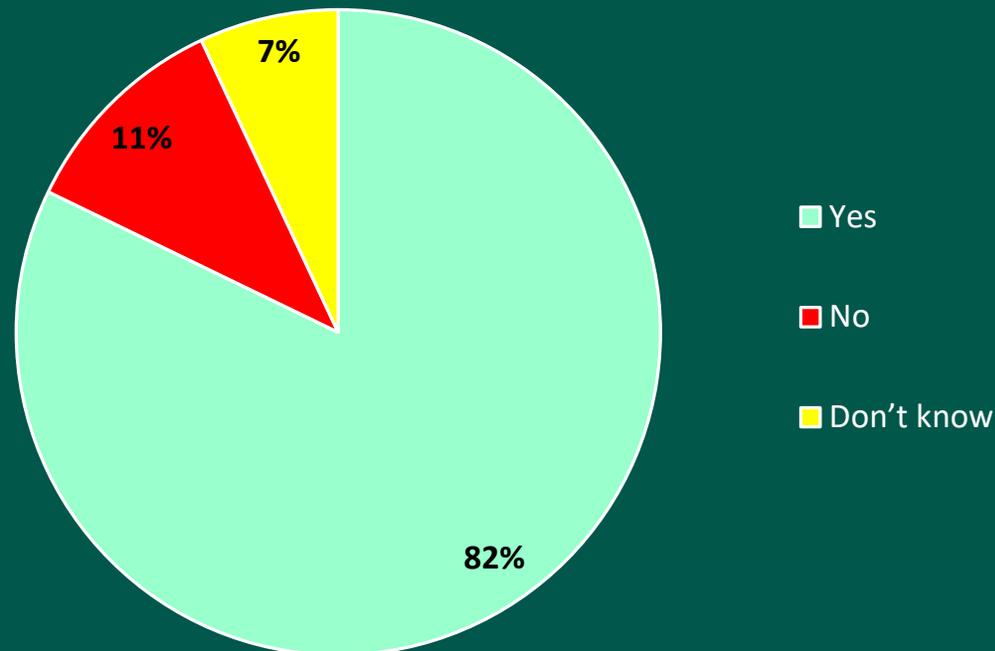
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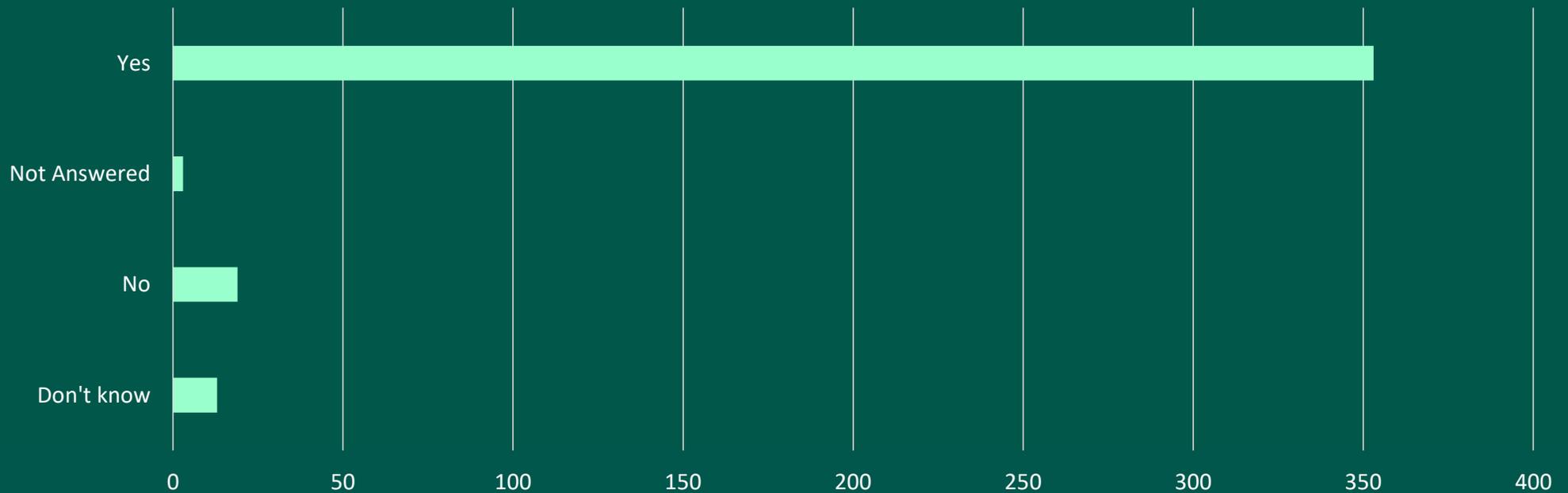
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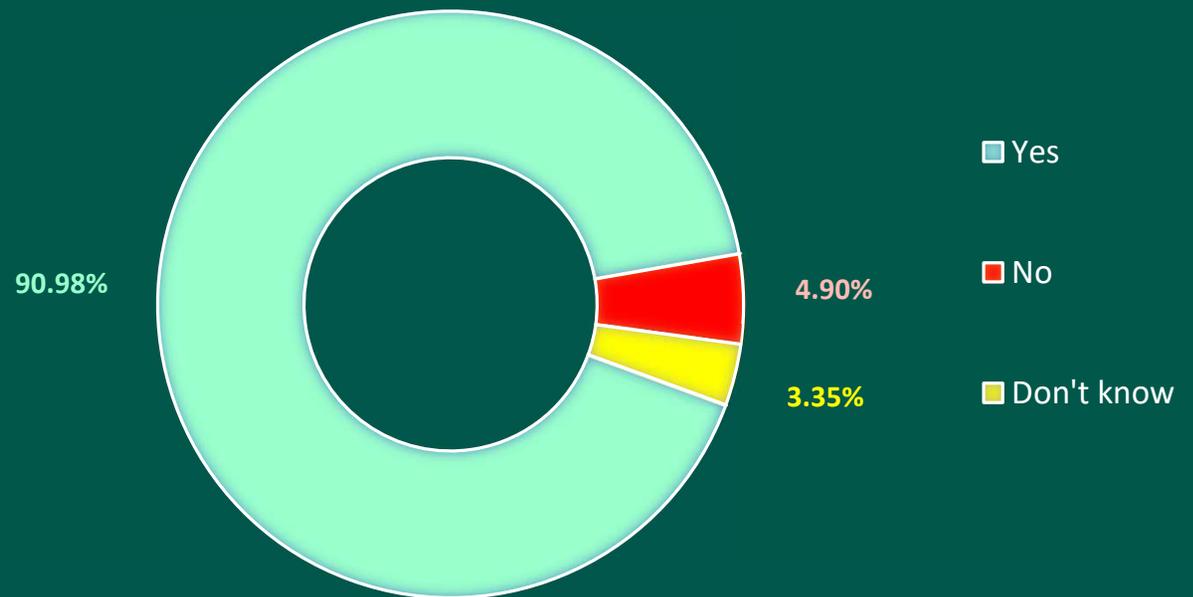
# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Do you agree that more renewable energy should be generated in Winchester District?

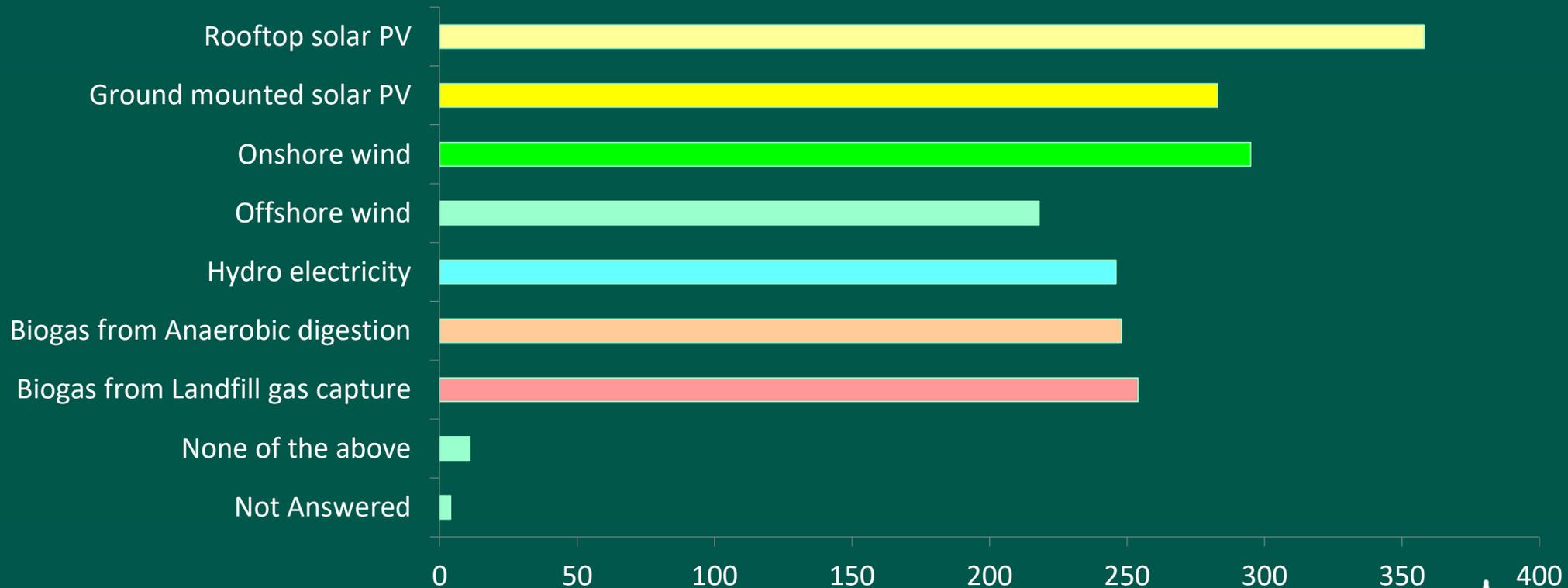


# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

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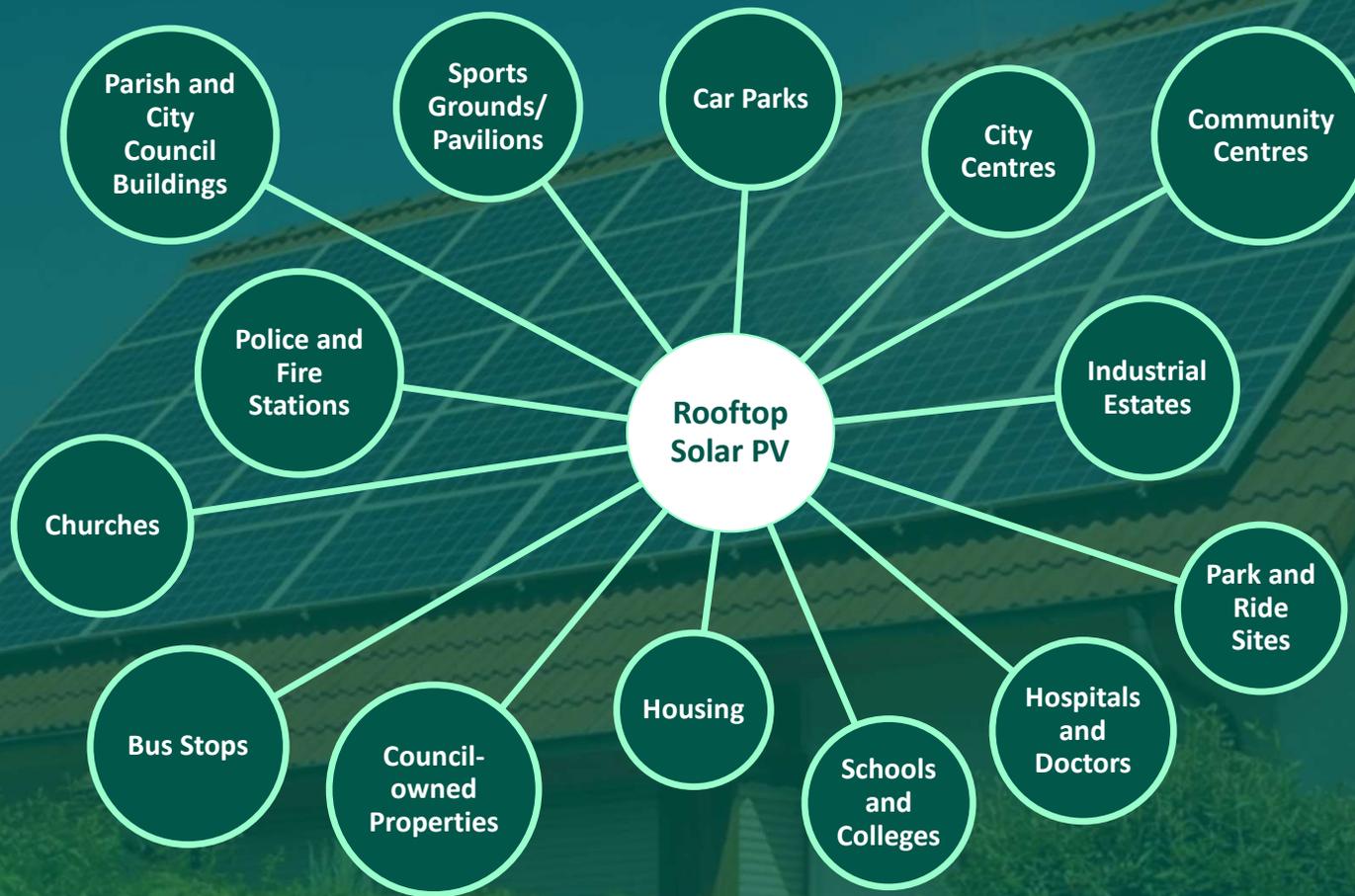


# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME



# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Are there any locations or areas that you think are preferable for renewable energy development?



# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Are there any locations or areas that you think are preferable for renewable energy development?

There were several locations identified as possible sites for solar farms across the district. Overall, a high level of general support for this method of renewable energy generation occurred.

Locations listed include:

- Pitt Down
- Sutton Scotney
- Fields adjacent to: M3, M27, A34 and A272
- St Cross Road
- Christchurch Road

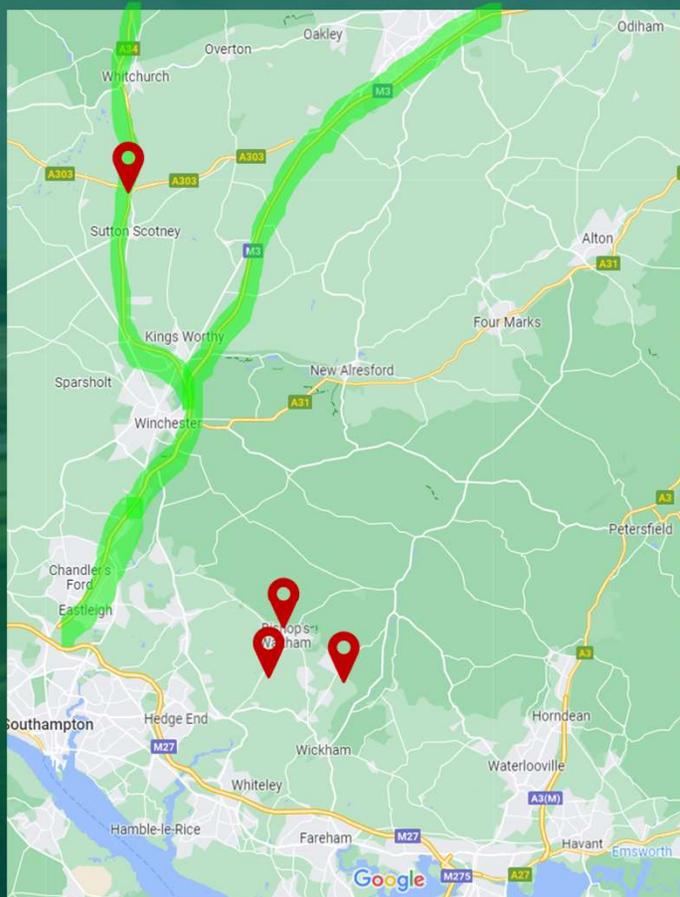


Respondents did however suggest that there are enough unused, south-facing roofs to avoid taking over limited land resources and countryside. Fertile land is a finite resource that should be allocated to agriculture, food production and open areas for wellbeing.

There were also concerns raised over the recycling of solar panels after their lifespan of 20 years, as well as their production, disposal and storage.

# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Are there any locations or areas that you think are preferable for renewable energy development?



Locations listed include Bullington Cross, Claylands Road Nature Reserve, Stephen Castle Down and Kytes Lane. Moreover, several respondents stated using field adjacent to the M3, A34 and A272.

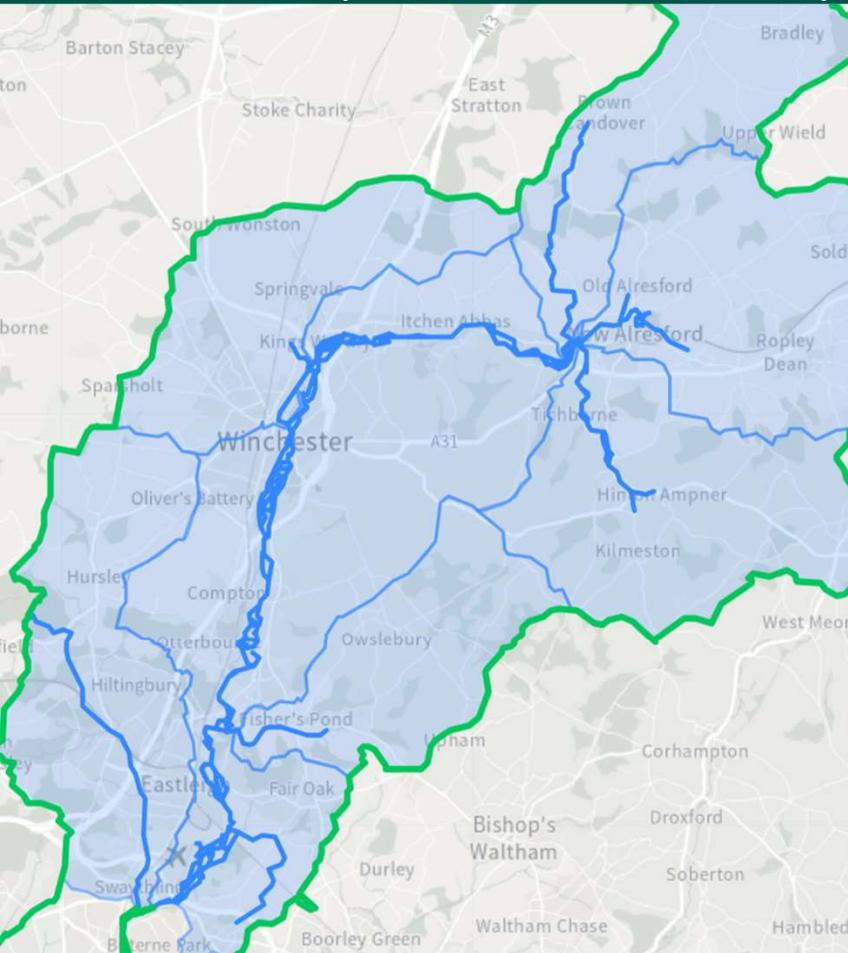
Concerns that will need to be addressed in the implementation of wind farms are as follows:

- Unreliable, depending on wind
- Detrimental visual and environmental impacts
- Offshore not applicable to Winchester District as no coastline
- Cost and sourcing of sustainable materials



# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Are there any locations or areas that you think are preferable for renewable energy development?



Survey respondents highlighted several locations they consider for hydroelectric power as a renewable energy source in the Winchester District. References to the flows of the River Itchen highlighted the public perception of this as a viable option.

However, several concerns were also raised about the suitability of hydroelectric power generation in Winchester:

- ❖ parlous state of rivers across the UK
- ❖ Negative impacts on aquatic biodiversity
- ❖ Not enough suitable sites due to unsuitable geography
- ❖ Small-scale energy generation is not effective enough
- ❖ Ecological impacts along chalk stream rivers
- ❖ Detrimental for ecosystems and wildlife

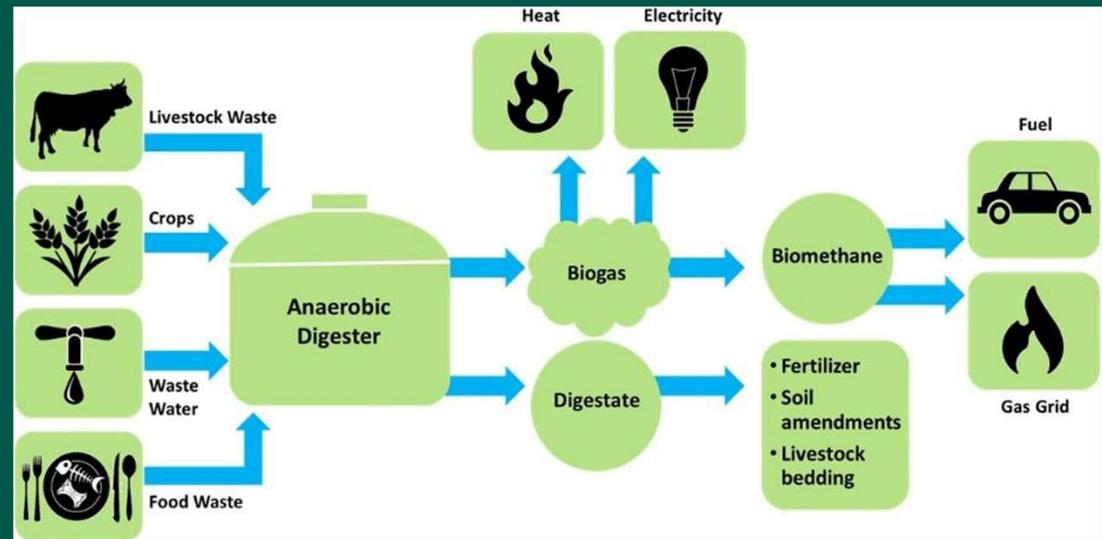
# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

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Survey respondents did not suggest any locations for the production of biogas as a renewable energy form. This comes down to a lack of public knowledge and understanding about this energy form. If this is a renewable energy form that is seriously considered for the Winchester District, information on the process and sourcing of materials could be distributed to stakeholders and residents.

Concerns raised include:

- Decreased opportunity for rewilding or cultivation
- Should use waste, not crops grown especially
- Greenhouse gas emissions during production
- Transportation of materials requires land clearance and increase congestion



# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Are there any general concerns about renewable energy development?

Winchester City Council will produce a FAQs document to respond to general queries and concerns regarding renewable energy generation in the district!

Winchester City Council will not benefit from economies of scale, and need to partner with central government on larger, country-wide schemes.

Winchester City Council should produce a cost-benefit analysis of the different renewable energy types and their specific application and viability to Winchester.

Some respondents felt they did not know enough to make informed comments on the various types of renewable energy generation.

The race to net-zero appears to be driven by money rather than science, and current renewable energy plans leave us vulnerable to the volatile energy import market.

South Downs National Park policy prevents any form of development for retrofit.

Winchester is characterised by stark economic inequality, and I suspect faces challenges when it comes to carbon neutrality that are somewhat contradictory.

Why do you not mention heat source pumps?

Energy generated by community renewables should be shared in peer-to-peer trading to reduce the cost of energy to low-income residents to ensure vulnerable residents stay warm.

Other key stakeholders, including hospitals, prisons and universities, should be more involved in a renewable energy hub.

# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

Are there any general concerns about renewable energy development?



COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS



METHODOLOGY AND VIABILITY



REGULATIONS



STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT



KNOWLEDGE



OWNERSHIP



INEQUALITY



NATURE



ECONOMIES OF SCALE

# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

## Recommendations for the future of renewable energy development in Winchester

Survey respondents suggested the following for improvements in renewable energy production and usage across the Winchester District:

### LEAD THE CHANGE

- Winchester should aim to become a centre of excellence for renewable energy related industries with a “business incubator” that encourages investors to establish themselves here. We are an ideal location near the coast, near London, and as a university city. WinACC recommends a target is established, whereby the energy generated by renewables equals local consumption (more information at the recent Climate Assembly for feedback on renewable energy)

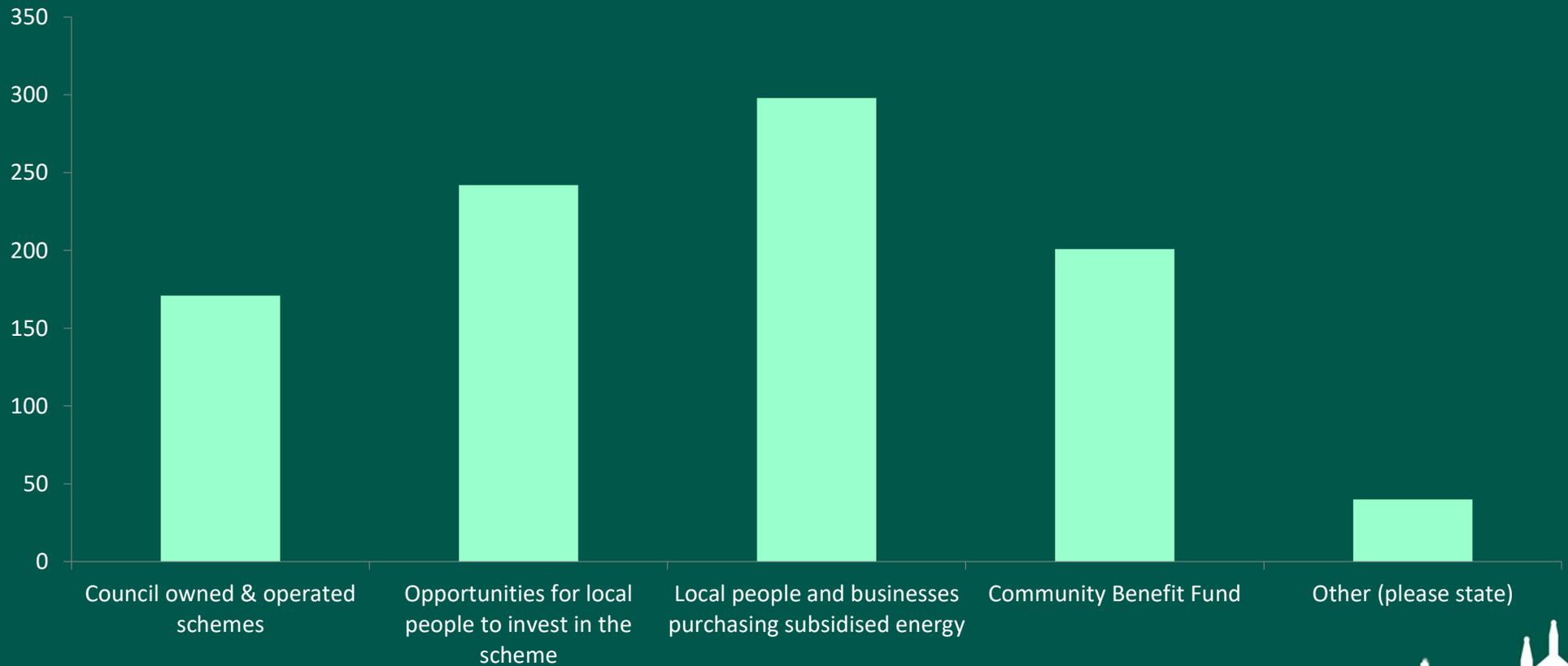
### INVEST IN CHANGE

- Respondents demonstrated a high level of support for the generation of renewable energy and recognise the high usage and comparatively low level of generation. Winchester City Council should view this project as a valuable future investment, rather than a quick fix to net zero.

### INCREASE AWARENESS

- There was a recognised need to increase awareness through educational events and materials that promote the mutual benefits of renewable energy production. This includes the provision of a cost-benefit analysis, and contextualising costs, timescales and £/mWh in relation to non-renewable energies, as well as their applicability to Winchester.

# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME



# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

“Peer owned renewables are a definite incentive. If the community has a share in the delivery and success of a renewables scheme, it's more likely to be sustained. Also, benefits measurement of such schemes could be shared with other interested communities to demonstrate their effectiveness. “

“The stronger the link between energy generation and individual/community benefit the greater the support, especially when accompanied by other environmental schemes that benefit local communities - like tree planting “

“Grants and permissions more readily available for individuals and groups to create renewable energy installations. Make it attractive and cost-effective. All new builds must include communal water tank facilities, solar power and possibly heat pumps.”

“The community benefit fund isn't that well known about or directly linked to be a significant incentive although it could make for positive headlines perhaps. Re local investment, I'm not sure how that might work in practice, as ideally these schemes shouldn't be run for profit, but any surplus reinvested in extending/improving schemes.”

“I believe there already is a large ground swell of support for renewable energy which WCC can tap into. While the listed incentives are all worth considering, I don't think they are essential. People know that climate change is happening, temperatures are rising and that the use of fossil fuels is a contributory cause. WCC have a duty to continue to raise awareness and act in a responsible way. The main incentive is saving this planet.”

“Everyone is a stakeholder in combatting climate change. Education and ownership of the problem is key at a personal and community level. People who don't want to bear cost now will end up paying more in future as the planet warms”



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# ENGAGEMENT & OUTCOME

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