



Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Agenda

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Whitby Town Hall

This Advisory Committee meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format. Members of the public will be permitted to attend this meeting virtually or in-person. Those wishing to attend the meeting virtually are required to email clerk@whitby.ca by noon on the business day prior to the meeting in order to obtain the virtual meeting link.

Should you wish to provide comments regarding a matter being considered below, please submit written correspondence and/or a Delegation Request Form.

- **To submit written correspondence**, please email the Office of the Town Clerk at clerk@whitby.ca by noon on the business day prior to the meeting. Correspondence must include your full name, address, and the item on the agenda that your correspondence is related to.
- **To speak during the Advisory Committee meeting either in-person or virtually**, please submit a Delegation Request Form online to the Office of the Town Clerk by noon on the business day prior to the date of the meeting. Should you be unable to access a computer, please call 905.430.4315 to speak with a Staff Member in the Office of the Town Clerk.

A Revised Agenda may be published on a later date. Late items added or a change to an item will appear with an asterisk beside them.

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1. **Call to Order**
 2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
 3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
Recommendation:
That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of May 3, 2023 be approved.
 4. **Presentations**
 - 4.1 Erin MacDonald, Operations Director, Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)
Re: LEAF Whitby Community Greening Program
 - 4.2 Catherine Philogene, Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Member
Re: Canadians and Climate Change: Knowledge and Perspectives

5. **Delegations**
6. **General Business and Reports**
 - 6.1 Roebuck Street Project Update
 - 6.2 Project Planning and Work Plan
 - Short Term Goals
 - Long Term Goals
 - 6.3 2023 Sustainability Events
 - Pollinator Week - June 19 to 25, 2023
 - National Forest Week - September 17 to 23, 2023
7. **Council Update**
8. **Other Business**
9. **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.
10. **Adjournment**

Recommendation:
That the meeting adjourn.



Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes

May 3, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Wenda Abel
Sara Best, Vice-Chair
Andrea Cecchetto
Janet Dignem
Robynne Dunn
Anahita Jami
Brian Kelly
Patti Mavins
Catherine Philogene
Bryan Widner, Chair

Regrets: Judy Rivers

Also Present: Councillor Lundquist, Mayor's Designate
Sarah Shields, Staff Liaison, Project Manager, Sustainability and
Climate Change
Kristin Palilionis, Staff Liaison, Climate Change Coordinator
Suprajha Vaithianathan, Staff Liaison, Energy and Sustainability
Program Coordinator
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator

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1. Call to Order
 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

Moved by Brian Kelly

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of April 5, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Steve Walo, Capital Projects Supervisor, Facilities, Town of Whitby

Re: North Whitby Sports Complex

Steve Walo provided a presentation regarding the Whitby Sports Complex. Highlights of the presentation included:

- key features including a multi-use field, skatepark, fieldhouse, three tennis and basketball courts, pickle ball courts, playground, an outdoor event plaza, and space for future growth;
- sustainable elements including a district energy geoexchange system, advanced building envelope and renewable energy systems, habitat restoration, and connections to local and regional transit;
- Whitby Green Standard Tier 3 targets including 30 percent canopy coverage, 40 EV charging spaces, pollinator gardens, and low impact design landscaping;
- accessibility elements including accessible changerooms, sledge hockey integration, an accessible ramp to the upper level, and accessible counters; and,
- project timelines and next steps.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- the stormwater management strategy;
- whether roundabouts were included in the Mid-Block Arterial Road design; and,
- the location of geothermal boreholes.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report

Brian Kelly provided a presentation on 'The Ten Big Findings' by the World Resources Institute which summarizes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report. Highlights of the presentation included:

- global targets established in 2015, being to limit global temperature increase to 1.5-2° Celsius compared to the pre-industrial (1880) baseline;
- the impact of global average temperatures increasing above 2° Celsius from the baseline;
- reducing the effects of climate change by limiting the average global temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius;
- the current average global temperature increase of 1.15° Celsius from the baseline; and,
- net global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required to limit global warming.

6.2 Project Planning and Work Plan Development

Bryan Widner requested feedback from the Committee regarding development of the Work Plan and priority projects.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- including climate education projects in the Work Plan on topics such as climate drivers, personal action, policies, and climate change initiatives conducted by other municipalities;
- education on environmental literacy and resources available to residents;
- reviewing best practices from other municipalities;
- conducting public opinion/awareness research;
- reviewing the Canadian Perspectives on Climate Change and Education Survey conducted by Learning for a Sustainable Future to determine a baseline from an educational perspective of what people think about climate change;

- promoting the Town of Whitby's adaptation projects and climate actions;
- stormwater management strategies that may help maintain parks and yards, as well as prevent flooding and erosion;
- installing signage to identify adaptation projects, climate actions, and stormwater management systems to educate the public on how those features benefit the Town and address climate change;
- using a 'Sign Finding Contest' to encourage residents to learn about the Town's actions; and,
- incorporating key themes in the Work Plan, such as education, outreach, and recommendations to Council.

6.3 2023 Sustainability Events

Suprajha Vaithianathan stated that the Earth Week events were successful and well attended.

The Provincial Day of Action on Litter - May 9, 2023

Suprajha Vaithianathan advised that a Town of Whitby Staff clean-up event was planned for the Provincial Day of Action on Litter.

World Environment Day - June 5, 2023

Suprajha Vaithianathan advised that a social media post would be released on World Environment Day highlighting the Town's sustainability projects.

Pollinator Week - June 19 to 25, 2023

Suprajha Vaithianathan advised that events planned included a clean-up of invasive species, and a bees wax workshop in conjunction with the Whitby Public Library.

7. Council Update

There was no Council update.

8. Other Business

8.1 Public Nuisance By-law #6714-13

Janet Dignem raised concerns regarding the feeding of wildlife and the limited impact the Public Nuisance By-law #6714-13 had on preventing individuals from attracting pests into residential areas as a result of

feeding wildlife. Ms. Dignem suggested that changes to the By-law were required to address the issue. Ms. Dignem stated that her research included reviewing by-laws of other municipalities and communications with pest removal companies. She advised that requests for local pest removal has increased.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- the issue of feeding wildlife and how doing so attracts rodents and pests;
- instances of pest problems; and,
- clarification regarding concerns with the current By-law and its enforcement.

8.2 Community Greening Program

Suprajha Vaithianathan provided an update regarding how locations were selected for the Community Greening Program and advised that a presentation would be provided at the June 2023 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

9. Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Sara Best

That the meeting adjourn.

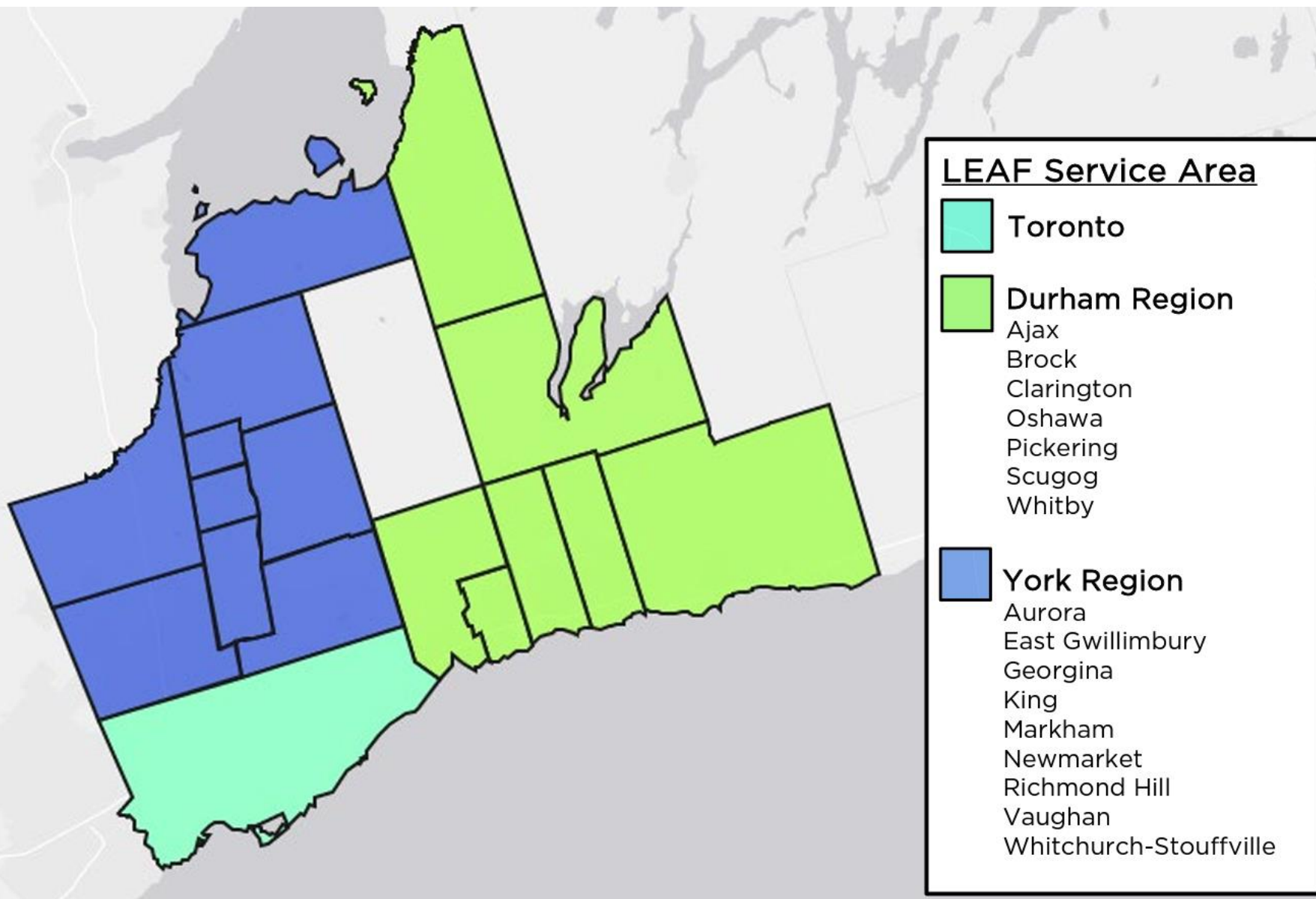
Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.



LEAF is a non-profit organization that teaches people about trees and gets them excited about the urban forest. We plant native species in backyards and public spaces while engaging citizens in urban forest stewardship through planting, education and training.







LEAF launch in Whitby in July 2020

Regional agreement supports the **Backyard Tree Planting Program (BYTP)**.
Interest from Whitby residents for BYTP continues to be very high.
3-year **OTF grant** supported LEAF expansion to Durham Region with funds for community engagement activities, including community tree planting events.





Backyard Tree Planting Program

Full-service

- ✓ 30 min **on-site consultation** with LEAF arborist
- ✓ 5-8 foot tall native, deciduous tree or 2-4 foot tall native, evergreen tree
- ✓ Delivery and **planting service**
- ✓ Mulch and a planting and care guide
- ✓ Cost to property owner is **\$160-\$230** per tree
- ✓ **Backyards only**

Do-it-yourself

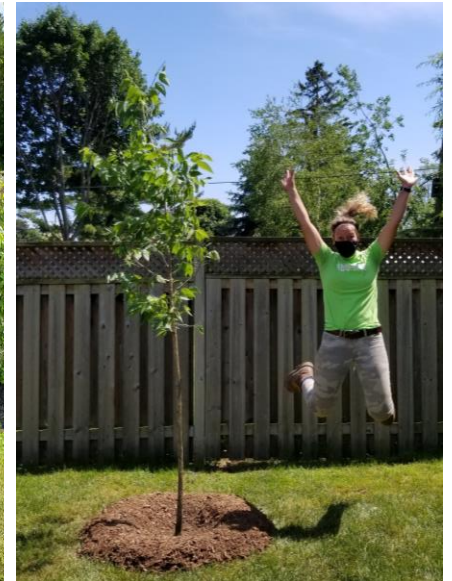
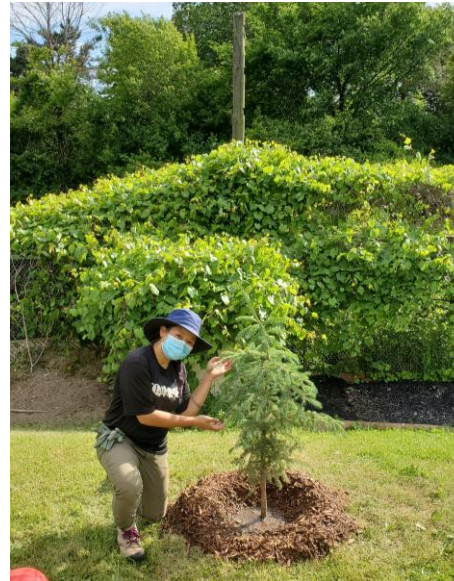
- ✓ 30 min **virtual consultation** with LEAF arborist
- ✓ 5-8 foot tall native, deciduous tree or 2-4 foot tall native, evergreen tree
- ✓ **Delivery only** + instructional planting/care video
- ✓ Mulch and a planting and care guide
- ✓ Cost to property owner is **\$110-\$180** per tree
- ✓ **Back, side and front yards**

Multiunit and business properties also qualify

Backyard Tree Planting Program

Over **210 properties** have participated since July 2020

| Whitby BYTP July 2020 to present | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Trees Planted (Full Service) | 225 |
| Trees Planted (DIY) | 27 |
| Pawpaw Trees | 26 |
| TOTAL TREES PLANTED | 278 |
| Shrubs Planted (Full Service) | 214 |
| Shrubs Planted (DIY) | 1 |
| TOTAL SHRUBS PLANTED | 215 |
| TOTAL TREES & SHRUBS | 493 |
| Native Garden Kits | 17 |



Backyard Tree Planting Program: Participant Insights

Top reasons for participating:

- Planting service
- Arborist consultation

48% would have planted fewer or no trees/shrubs

90% said their species choice was influenced by LEAF

97% said the cost was reasonable or very reasonable

“The consult with the arborist was amazing. The arborist was well prepared, very knowledgeable and was able to answer all my questions. She was able to guide my choices keeping my allergies in mind. We had an informative and fun consult. Highly recommend!”

Whitby Program Participant

Heard about details

| | |
|---|-----|
| Municipal Channels | 43% |
| Social Media | 21% |
| Referral/word of mouth | 17% |
| Web search | 9% |
| Media & online article/blog (news, radio, TV) | 6% |
| Ads (incl, road sign, lawn sign) | 2% |
| Other | 2% |
| Repeat Customer | 1% |



Community Tree Planting

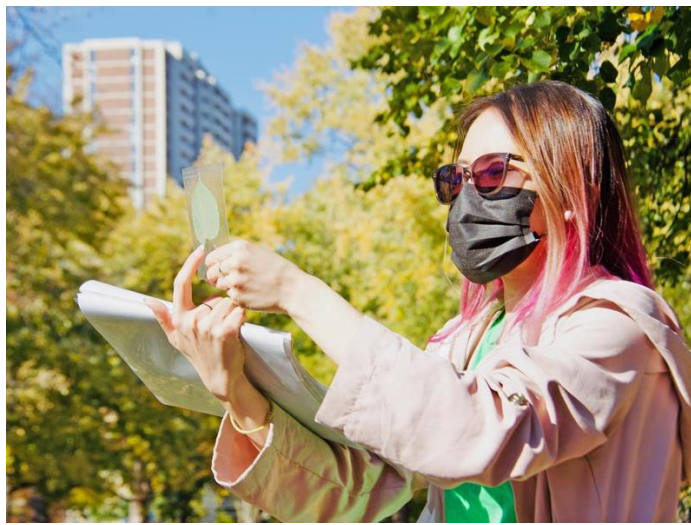
Community Planting Events: July 2020 to Present

| Location | Date | Attendees | Trees & Shrubs |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Rosedale Park | October-21 | 57 | 250 |
| D'Hillier Park | October-22 | 83 | 449 |
| *D'Hillier Park | April-23 | 63 | 300 |
| TOTAL | | 203 | 999 |

*First Community Greening Program event



Growing Whitby's
Urban Forest and
Community!



Education Programs

- Tree Tours
- Presentations
- Event Displays
- Tree Tenders Training
- Volunteer Orientations
- DIY Activity Sheets



Community Greening Program: 2023-2026

2 planting events annually planting **at least 600 native trees/shrubs**

- Spring event on/near Earth Day and Fall Event during National Forest Week

1 stewardship event annually (monitor, mulch, invasive removal, etc.)

1 education event annually (e.g., tree tour)

Site selection for community planting events:

- Priority locations for municipalities
- minimal site prep – shovel-ready
- safe/accessible for volunteers
- access to deliver mulch/equipment
- washrooms & other park facilities
- 300 trees/shrubs won't overcrowd



Benefits

- ✓ Helping achieve municipal tree planting targets
- ✓ Meaningful community engagement and **volunteer** opportunities for residents
- ✓ Inspiring success **stories** – media, social media, VIP recognition events, etc.
- ✓ **Replicating** a successful partnership model (proven through past partnership plantings with the through OTF support, etc.)



Ways You Can Help

Volunteer with LEAF

- ✓ Become a LEAF Volunteer! Receive training and support LEAF staff at events.

This includes:

- Tree Planting Lead
- Stewardship Support
- Outreach Table Volunteer
- Tour Support
- Event Photography
- And MORE!

*To become a volunteer, attend one of our virtual orientations. Upcoming dates include **Monday August 14** and **Monday September 11**.*

- ✓ Attend an event as a participant (no prior training required).

To participate in an event, simply sign up on the LEAF website.

LEAF News (bi-weekly) is a great way to receive notifications of upcoming events.

Ways You Can Help

Volunteer with LEAF

EVENTS



COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING IN ROUGE RIVER HEADWATER VALLEY AND TRAILS

Saturday, May 13 - Get your gardening gloves ready and join LEAF for an afternoon of fun planting native trees and shrubs in Rouge River Headwater Valley and Trails. Bring your friends and family to lend a helping hand in improving Richmond Hill's urban forest.

[READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING IN ANSNORVELDT PARK

Tuesday, May 16 - LEAF is growing the urban forest in King Township and we need your help! Join us at Ansnorveldt Park for a tree-mendous evening of planting native trees and shrubs.

[READ MORE](#)



ALEX ROBERTSON TREE TOUR: TREE-MENDOUS CLIMATE ALLIES

Sunday, June 10 - Join LEAF for a guided walk through Alex Robertson Park. Located on the shores of Pickering's Hydro Marsh, this waterfront park features open spaces, naturalized areas and a variety of trees, shrubs and local wildlife.

[READ MORE](#)

Ways You Can Help

Help spread the word!



@leaf_org



@leaf



@LocalEnhancementAndAppreciationofForests





Canadians & Climate Change

June 7, 2023

Catherine Philogène

Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee (WSAC)

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Understanding Canadian attitudes vis-à-vis climate change



CLIMATE CHANGE
KNOWLEDGE &
UNDERSTANDING



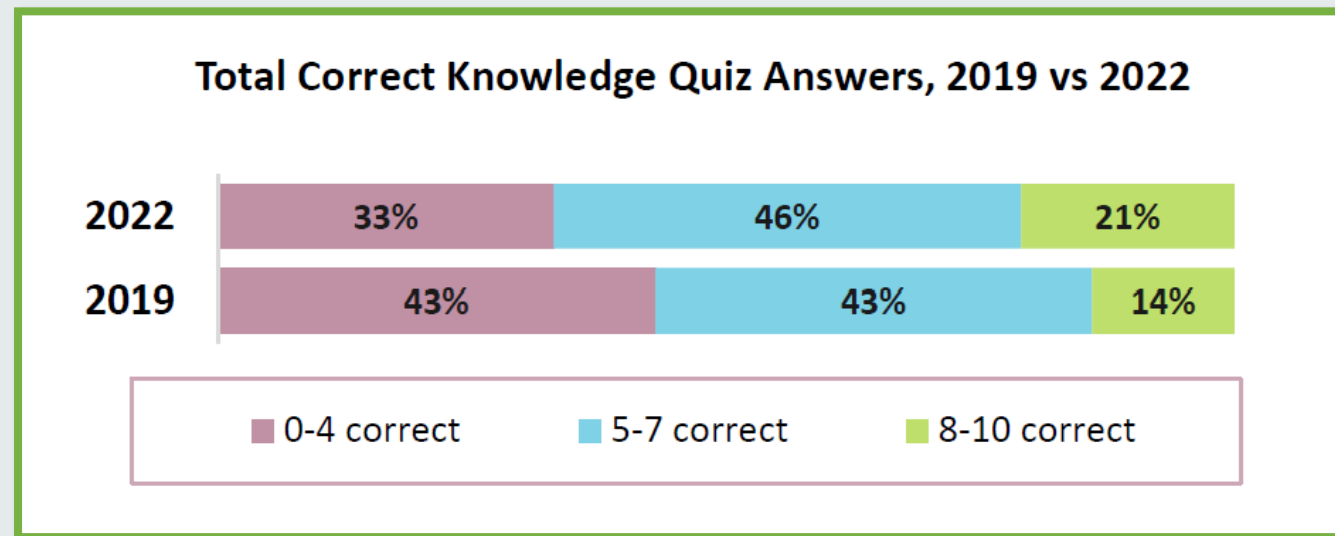
CANADIAN VERSUS
GLOBAL
PERSPECTIVES



CONSIDERATIONS
FOR WSAC

Perspectives on climate change

- 72% of Canadians agree that humans are responsible for climate change
- 50% believe climate change is causing mental health issues
- 17% think the government is doing a good job in their actions to address climate change
- 55% understand that greenhouse gas emissions are the primary cause of climate change

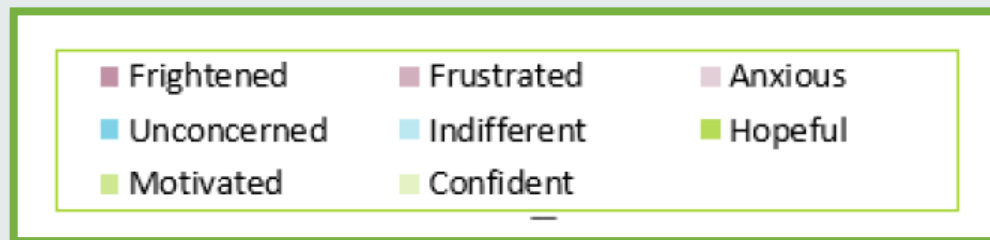
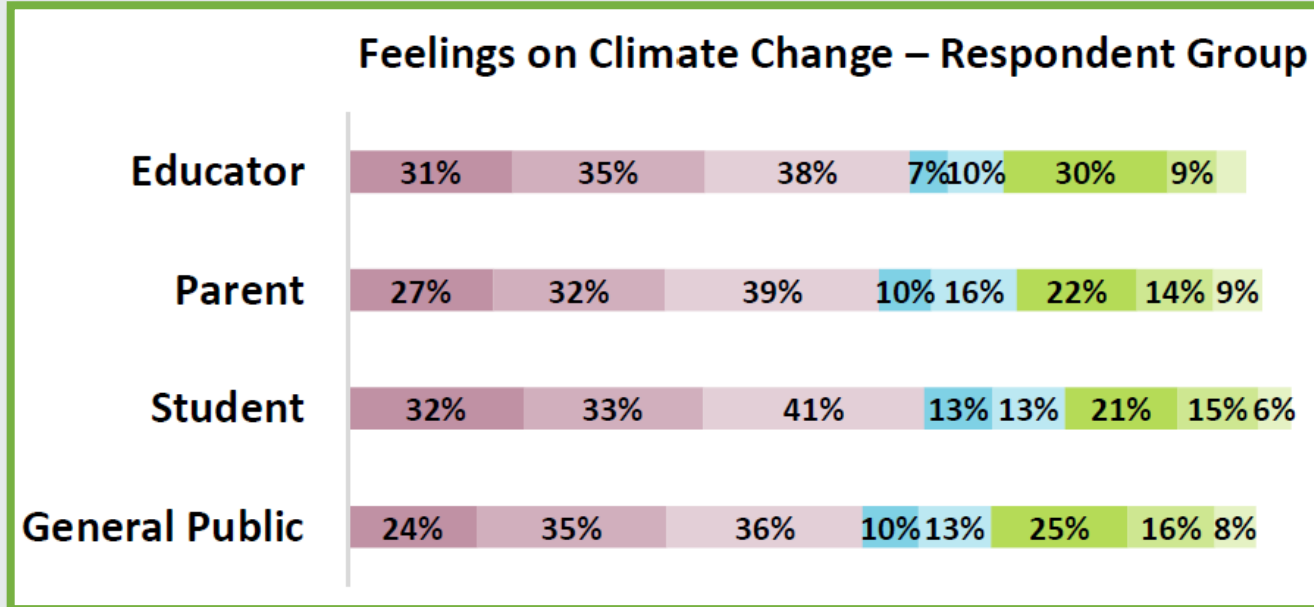


Climate change perceptions vary by gender

| Knowledge and Understanding | Men | Women |
|---|-----|-------|
| Personally, how well-informed do you feel you are about climate change? | 68% | 43% |
| Pass rate on climate survey knowledge quiz (5 or more correct answers) | 69% | 65% |

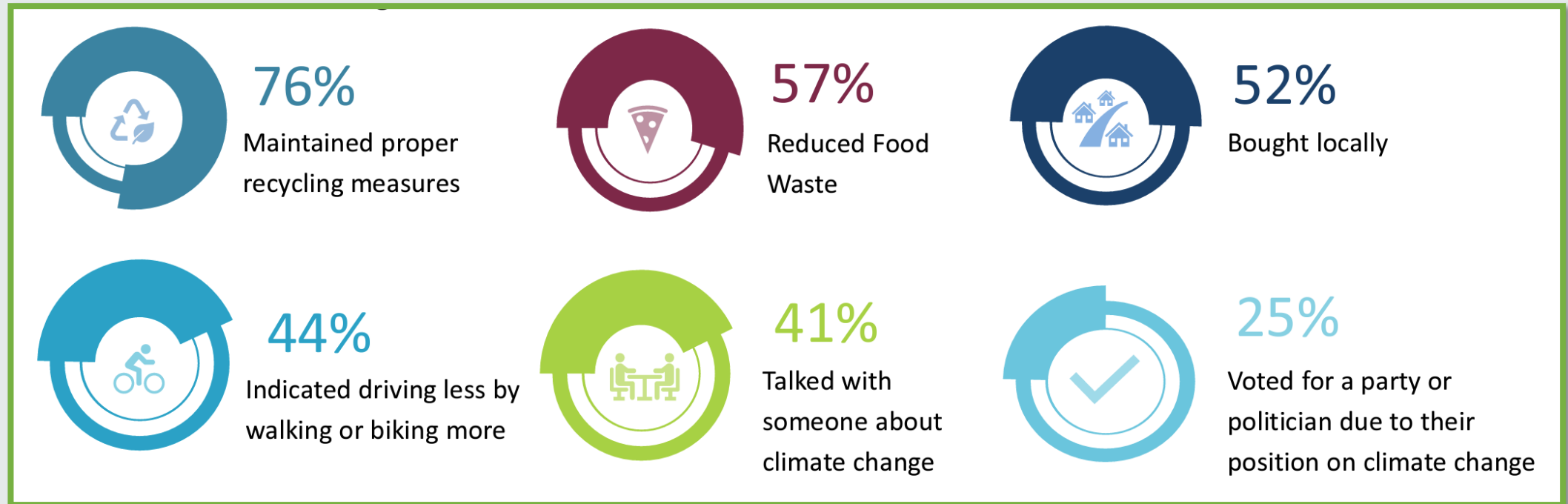
| Perceptions of Climate Change | Men | Women |
|---|-----|-------|
| I am certain that climate change is happening | 78% | 87% |
| Human beings are responsible for climate change | 69% | 74% |
| Climate change poses risks to Canadians | 73% | 80% |

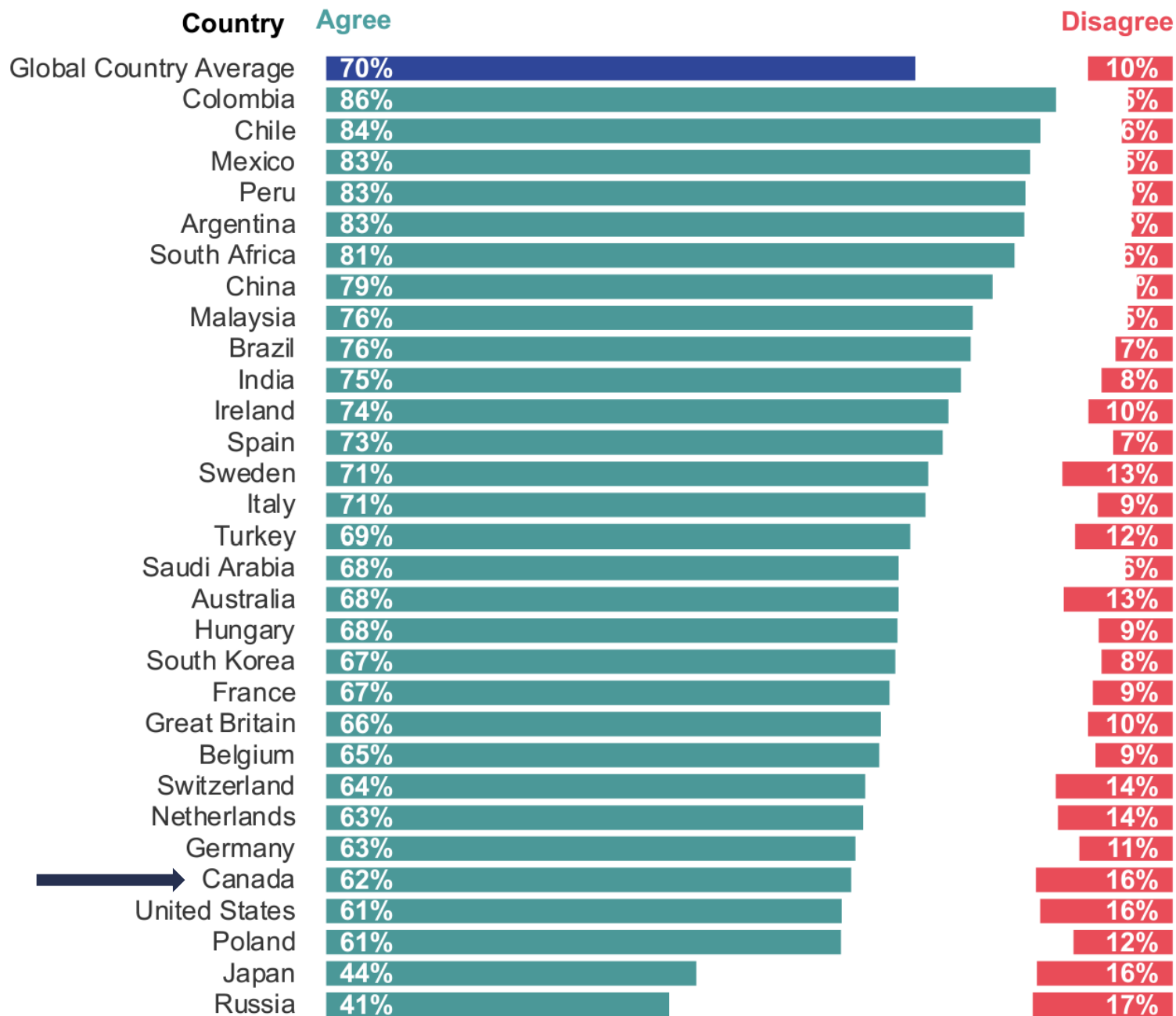
Knowledge and mental well-being



| Sources of information | Students | Adults |
|---|----------|--------|
| Television news programs | 31% | 51% |
| Newspaper and/or online news websites | 33% | 51% |
| NET Social Media (YouTube, FB, Insta, TikTok & Twitter) | 51% | 35% |

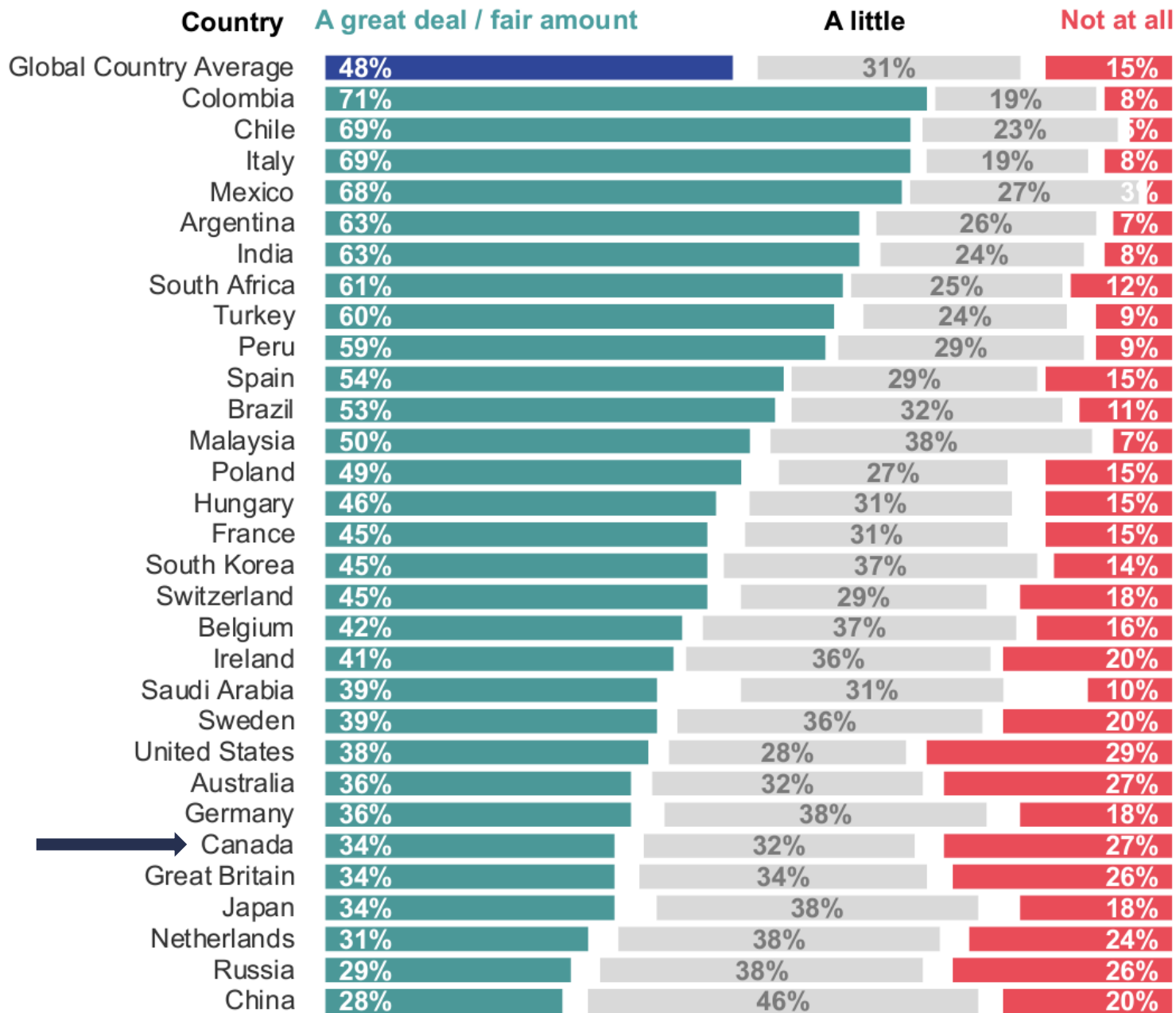
What Canadians are doing to mitigate climate change





Climate change
is a heavy
burden for some
to carry

Q: If individuals like me do not
act now to combat climate
change, we will be failing future
generations

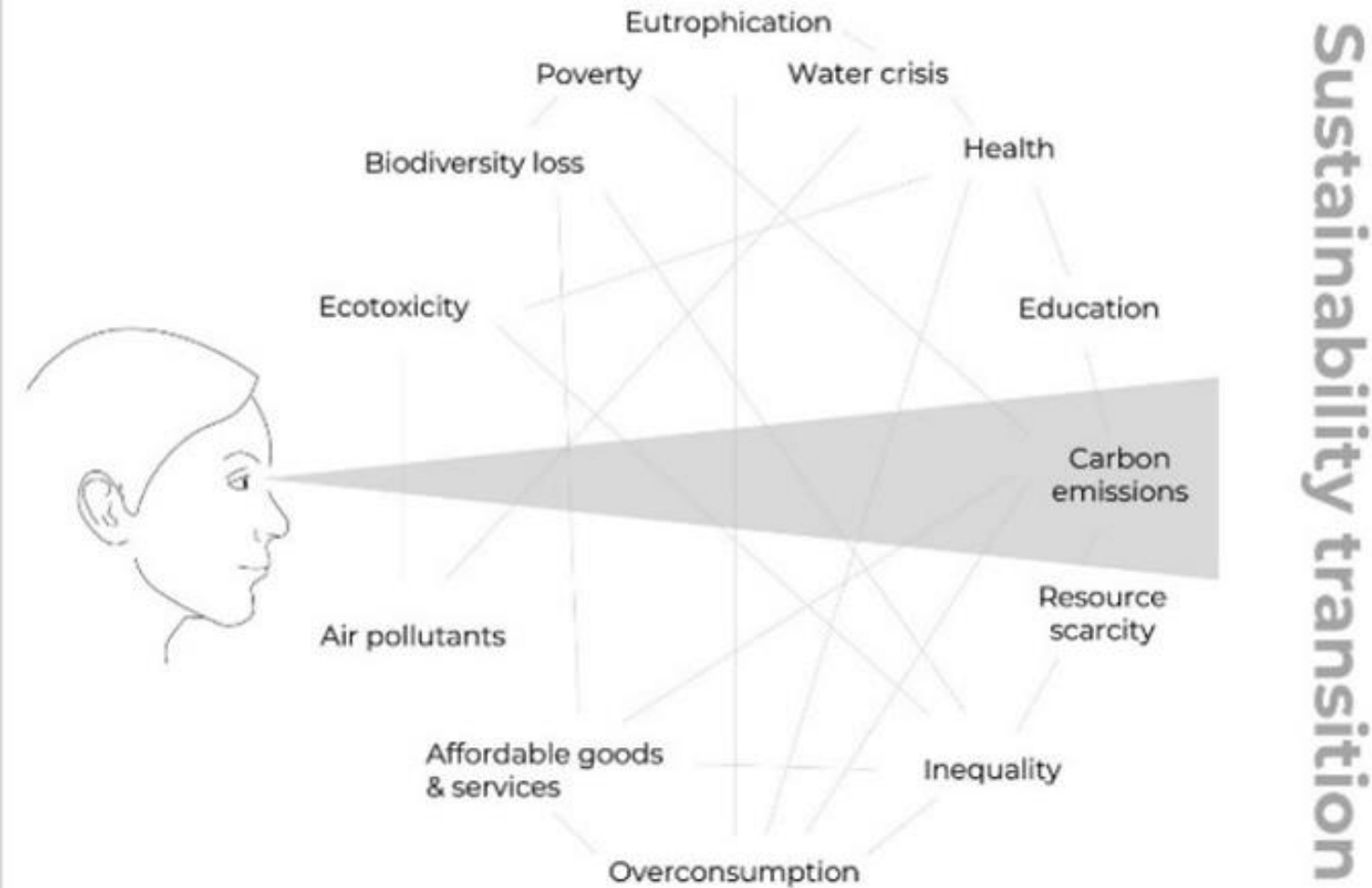


Canada below
the global
average of
climate worriers

Q: To what extent, if at all, have
you worried about climate
change in the last 2-3 weeks

Source: © Ipsos | Earth Day 2022 | April 2022 | Version 1 | Public use

Carbon Tunnel Vision



Avoiding tunnel vision

Having a singular focus on carbon emissions can make us lose sight of the interconnectedness of sustainability issues

Considerations for WSAC

- Education and communication – reaching the unreachable
- Mental health awareness – impact of social media – youth focus
- Acknowledging income disparities – climate change mitigation strategies for everyone, regardless of income
- What's the low hanging fruit?

THANK YOU