

## Appendix C: General Public Survey Summary

---

There were two methods used to gather broader input from additional stakeholders who were identified as having interest in the outcome of the strategic plan but who were not identified as subject matter experts, including the general public. One method was through a publicly accessible, online survey.

From September 9 through October 28, the online survey was publicly available to anyone who wished to participate. A link to the survey was publicized by LCCMR staff via social media. The link was also emailed directly to a list of over 200 stakeholders, including organizations who have signed-up to receive the LCCMR's regular email communication. Those who received the link were encouraged to share it with others.

The survey was brief, and asked respondents to identify their area of biggest concern for Minnesota's environment and natural resources and what should be done about that concern. It also invited respondents to offer a bold idea for protecting the state's environment and natural resources.

A total of 2430 responses were received. Below is a table showing the demographic breakdown of survey respondents.

**Table 1. Demographics of respondents to the general public survey**

	Count	%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian	13	< 1%
Asian	16	< 1%
Black	6	< 1%
Latino/a	5	< 1%
White	2098	86%
Two or more	37	2%
Did not answer	256	11%
<b>Age</b>		
Under 25	83	3%
25 to 34	284	12%
35 to 44	348	14%
45 to 54	318	13%
55 to 64	497	20%
65 to 74	544	22%
75 or older	156	6%
Did not answer	201	8%
<b>Area of Minnesota</b>		
Northwest	151	6%
Northeast	271	11%
Central	269	11%
Southwest	145	6%
Southeast	286	12%
Seven County Metro	1117	46%
Outside Minnesota	22	1%
Did not answer	170	7%

Based on self-reported data, the majority of survey respondents were white (86%) and almost half (49%) were 55 or older. There was balance between respondents who reported living in Greater Minnesota (46%) and those who reported living in one of the seven counties of the Twin Cities metropolitan region (46%). The survey results provided below are not meant to be representative of the general population of Minnesota.

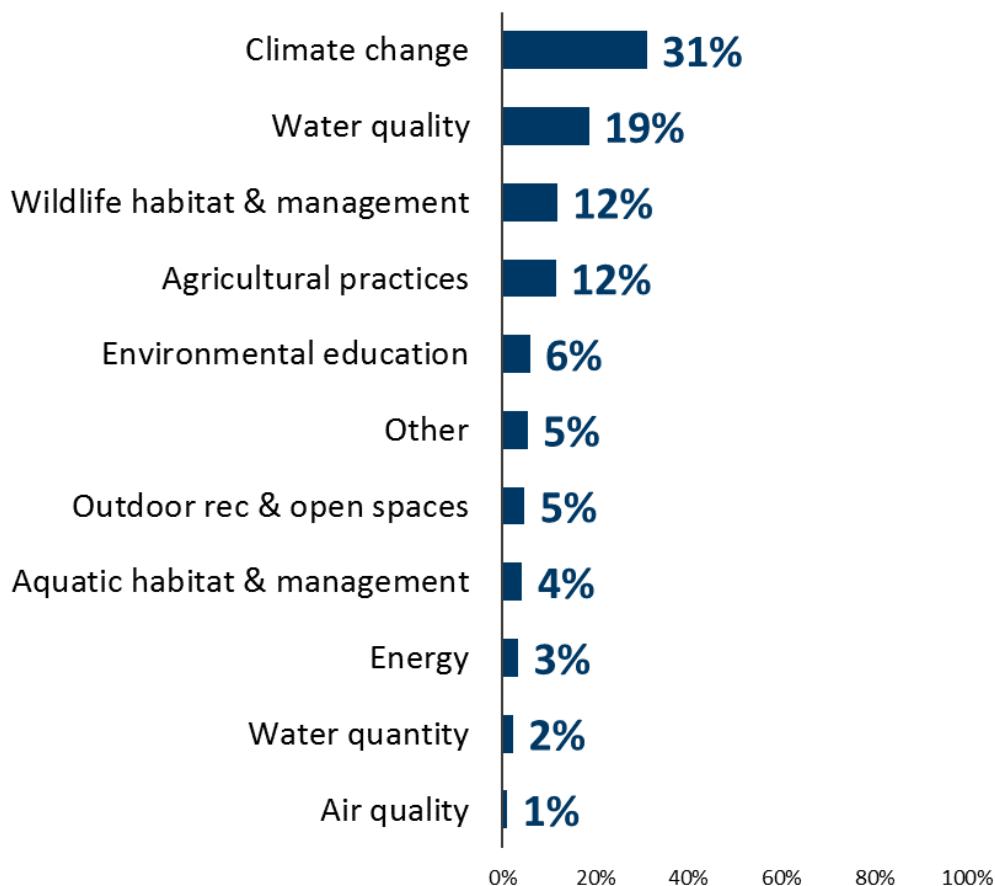
Respondents were asked if they had participated in another stakeholder engagement opportunity, like one of the subject matter expert meetings or during a Site Visit. Only 2% of respondents reported that they remembered having participated in the strategic planning process in another way.

Respondents were also asked if they work for or are affiliated with an organization, agency, or program that works on issues related to the environment and natural resources. Forty percent of respondents said yes, with 5% of respondents not providing an answer. Among those 963 respondents who reported working for or being affiliated with such an organization, agency, or program, 39% reported that it was a governmental organization, 37% reported that it was a non-profit, and 11% reported that it was an academic institution. Among those who reported working or being affiliated with an organization, agency, or program that works on issues related to the environment and natural resources, 31% reported that it had received ENRTF funding in the past, and 33% reported that they didn't know.

### Survey respondents' biggest concerns for Minnesota's environment and natural resources

Survey respondents were asked to identify their biggest area of concern for Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

Figure 1. Percent of survey respondents identifying their biggest area of concern



Climate change and water quality were the biggest concern for respondents, regardless of where they live. However, among the 145 respondents from Southwest Minnesota, the area selected most often as the biggest concern was agricultural practices. The table below shows the percent of respondents, based on where they indicated they live, who selected each option as their biggest area of concern. Keep in mind that this survey is not meant to be representative of all Minnesotans, nor the views of all Minnesotans who live in these areas of the state.

**Table 2. Percent of survey respondents identifying their biggest area of concern by area where they live**

	Northwest	Northeast	Central	Seven County Metro	Southwest	Southeast
<i>Number of respondents</i>	151	271	269	1117	145	286
Agricultural practices	8%	5%	15%	11%	<b>21%</b>	18%
Air quality	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Aquatic habitat and management	9%	9%	5%	2%	3%	5%
Climate change	20%	27%	<b>23%</b>	<b>40%</b>	15%	<b>28%</b>
Energy	1%	2%	5%	3%	4%	4%
Environmental education	8%	6%	9%	4%	13%	7%
Other	8%	5%	9%	3%	10%	4%
Outdoor rec & open spaces	9%	4%	5%	4%	6%	5%
Water quality	<b>21%</b>	<b>30%</b>	13%	18%	16%	18%
Water quantity	1%	1%	3%	3%	1%	2%
Wildlife habitat and management	14%	11%	12%	13%	9%	9%

Climate change and water quality also emerged as the biggest concern for survey respondents, regardless of whether they identified themselves as employed by or affiliated with an organization, agency, or program working on issues related to the environment and natural resources, or whether the organization, agency, or program had received ENRTF funding in the past.

**Table 3. Percent of survey respondents identifying their biggest area of concern by whether or not they work for or are affiliated with an organization, agency, or program that works on issues related to the environment and natural resources**

	Identified employment or affiliation	No employment or affiliation
<i>Number of respondents</i>	963	1342
Agricultural practices	14%	10%
Air quality	0%	1%
Aquatic habitat and management	4%	5%
Climate change	<b>30%</b>	<b>33%</b>
Energy	3%	4%
Environmental education	7%	5%
Other	4%	5%
Outdoor rec & open spaces	5%	5%
Water quality	21%	17%
Water quantity	2%	3%
Wildlife habitat and management	12%	12%

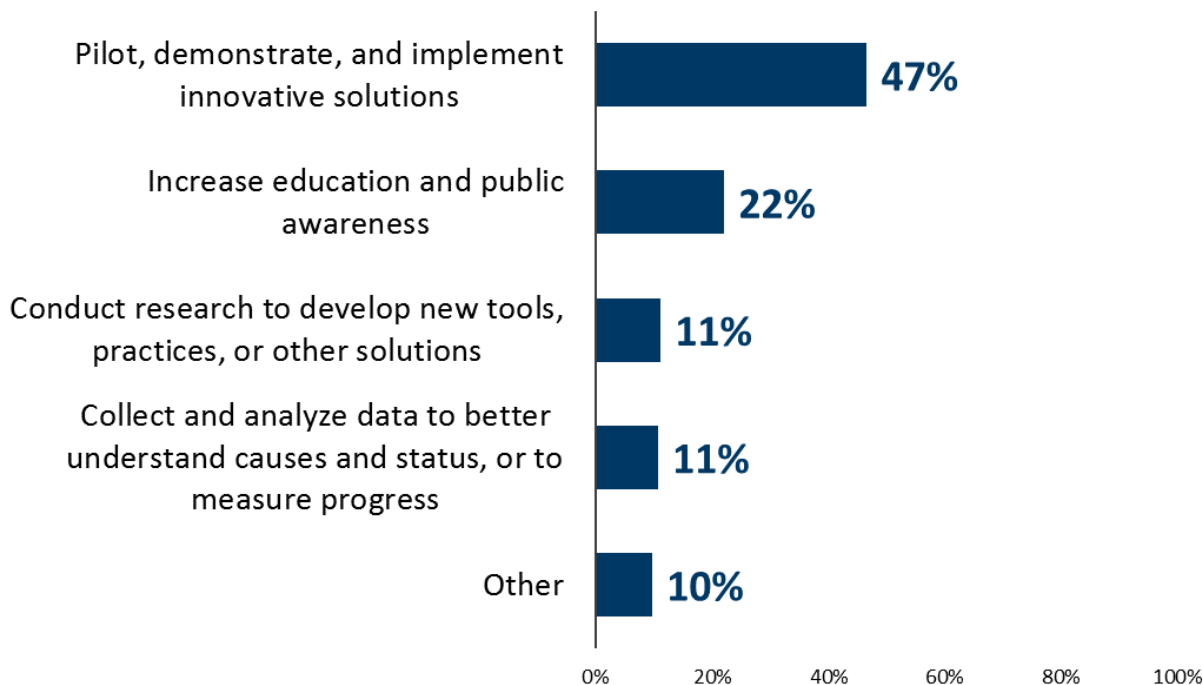
**Table 4. Among survey respondents who reported working for or being affiliated with an organization, agency, or program that works on issues related to the environment and natural resources, the percent identifying their biggest area of concern by whether or not the organization, agency, or program has received ENRTF funding**

	Affiliated program has received ENRTF funding	Affiliated program has <u>not</u> received ENRTF funding	Unsure if affiliated program has received ENRTF funding
<i>Number of respondents</i>	296	346	317
Agricultural practices	15%	12%	14%
Air quality	0%	1%	1%
Aquatic habitat and management	5%	3%	3%
Climate change	<b>25%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>33%</b>
Energy	2%	3%	3%
Environmental education	4%	7%	8%
Other	4%	6%	3%
Outdoor rec & open spaces	6%	4%	4%
Water quality	22%	22%	20%
Water quantity	2%	2%	2%
Wildlife habitat and management	15%	10%	11%

**Survey respondents’ preference for how to address their biggest concern**

Survey respondents were also asked what they think is the most important thing Minnesota could do address their biggest area of concern.

**Figure 2. Percent of survey respondents identifying what Minnesota should do to address their biggest concern**



Generally, most respondents said that Minnesota needs to pilot, demonstrate, and implement innovative solutions, across most of the selected areas of concern. However, respondents whose biggest area of concern was air quality, environmental education, or outdoor recreation and open spaces preferred increasing education and public awareness over other options. Also, respondents who selected an “other” biggest concern not already specified also tended to offer an “other” solution to address that concern.

**Table 4. Percent of survey respondents identifying what Minnesota should do to address their biggest concern by area of biggest concern**

	<i>Number of respondents</i>	Collect and analyze data to better understand causes and status, or to measure progress	Conduct research to develop new tools, practices, or other solutions	Increase education and public awareness	Pilot, demonstrate, and implement innovative solutions	Other
Agricultural practices	280	8%	13%	17%	<b>53%</b>	10%
Air quality	24	17%	8%	<b>38%</b>	25%	13%
Aquatic habitat and management	103	20%	24%	18%	<b>35%</b>	3%
Climate change	757	4%	11%	19%	<b>63%</b>	3%
Energy	81	11%	15%	14%	<b>47%</b>	14%
Environmental education	142	9%	3%	<b>66%</b>	19%	4%
Other	130	12%	9%	21%	17%	<b>37%</b>
Outdoor rec & open spaces	115	5%	9%	<b>33%</b>	29%	23%
Water quality	454	17%	12%	18%	<b>43%</b>	9%
Water quantity	55	35%	13%	7%	<b>38%</b>	7%
Wildlife habitat and management	289	14%	8%	22%	<b>42%</b>	14%

### General public and other stakeholders’ big, bold ideas

Finally, survey respondents were asked to identify their big, bold idea for protecting Minnesota’s environment and natural resources. While many of these recommendations do not fit within the mission of ENRTF, a word cloud visualization, provided on the next page, helps show the most common words that came up in survey respondents’ big, bold ideas. This visualization includes big, bold ideas that came from LCCMR listening sessions, as well.

