

Ontario EcoSchools

Certification and Survey Results 2015-2017

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Mission & Vision

To nurture environmental leaders, reduce the ecological impact of schools, and build environmentally responsible school communities. To do this we:

- **Certify K-12 schools** in environmental learning action
- **Create a vibrant network** of school boards and community partners to share best practices
- **Build strong EcoTeams** with training sessions and tools
- **Embed ecological literacy** to promote engaged-citizenship, well-being, and resilient students

“Every School an EcoSchool”



Certification

2016-17

1,830+

schools certified*

56

school boards represented

1,200+

school visits conducted

50,000+

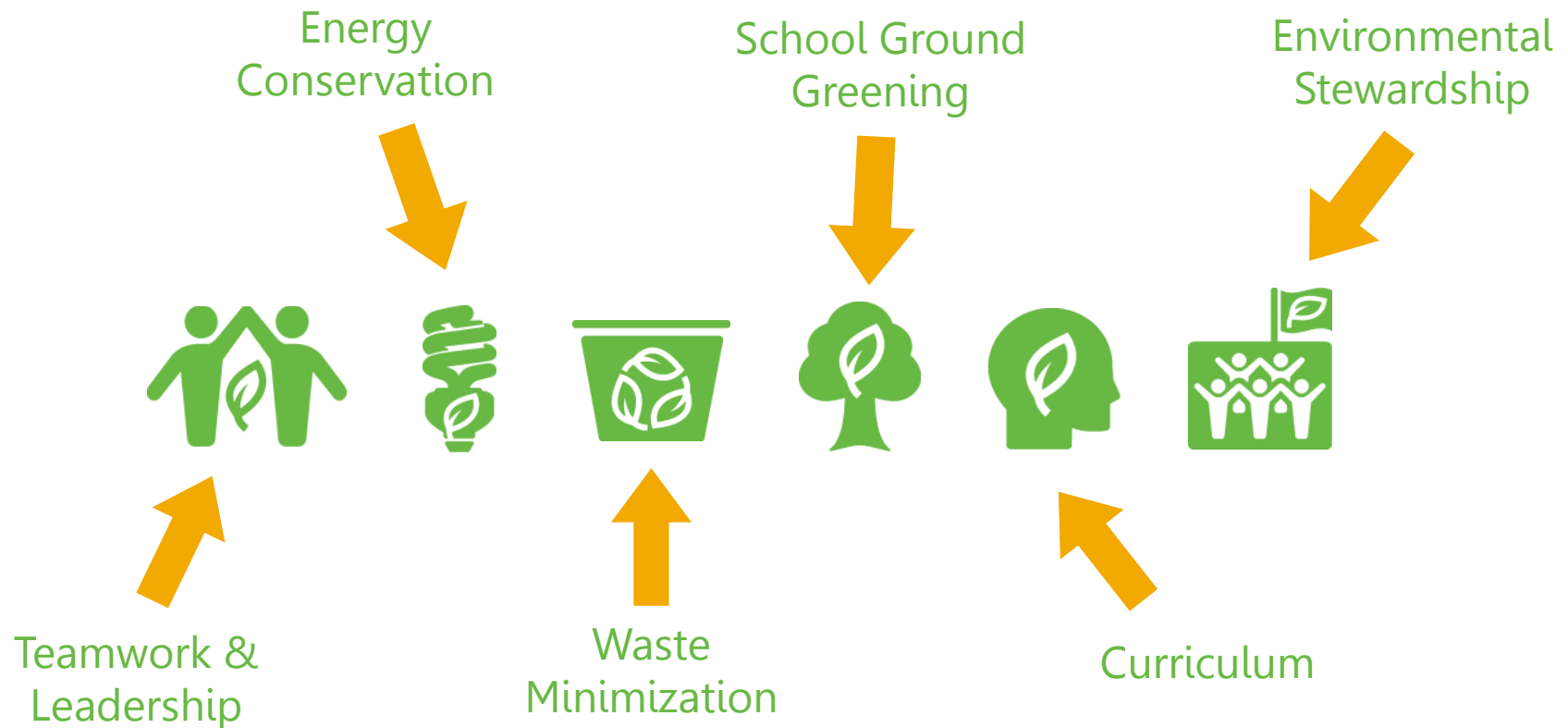
EcoTeam members

900,000+

engaged**

total students reached**

The 6 Sections of Ontario EcoSchools



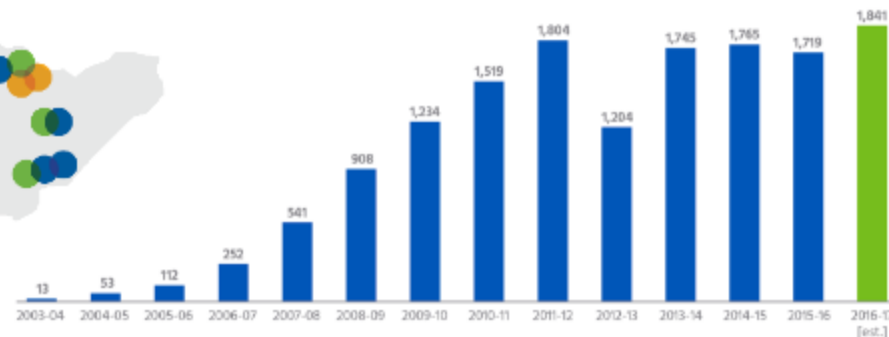
Certification 2017



2016-17 Year in Review

Over 1,830 schools and 56 school boards joined the Ontario EcoSchools community. Congratulations!

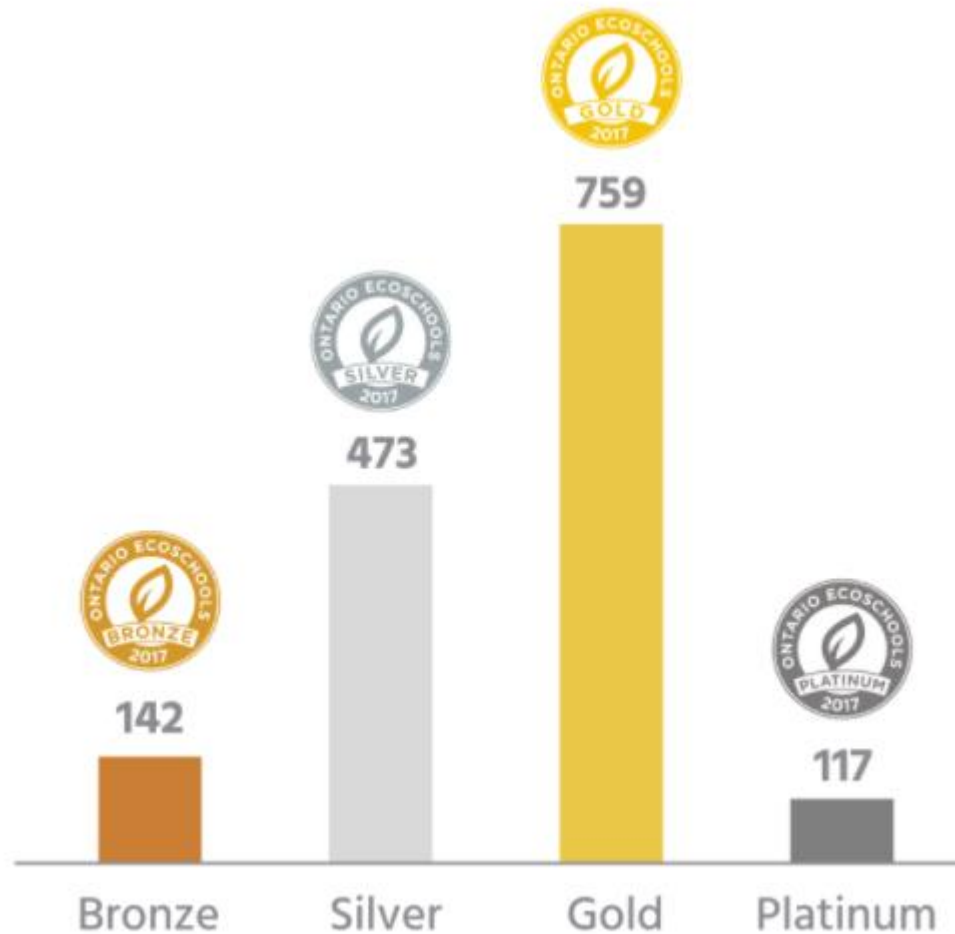
- English public school board
- English Catholic school board
- French-language school board



A **record number** of certified schools this year!



Certification



Certification



Over **50,000** student
leaders



Over **850,000** students
participating in
environmental learning and action.

Top 5 environmental campaigns



1) Earth Day 2) Earth Hour 3) School Ground Clean-up 4) Sweater Day 5) Ban the Bottle 📍

Top 3 School Ground Greening projects:



7,600+
environmental
lessons learned

Over 4,200
environmental
actions taken



Survey information

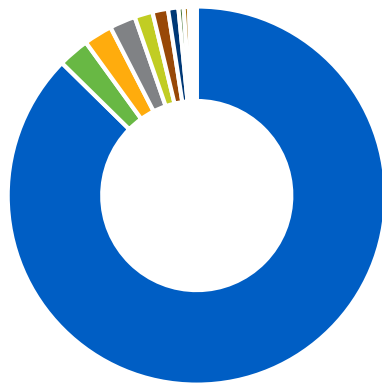
- Sent to **all 1,617 registered schools**
- We received **451** responses (**27%**)

Who were our respondents?

Our respondents were mostly:

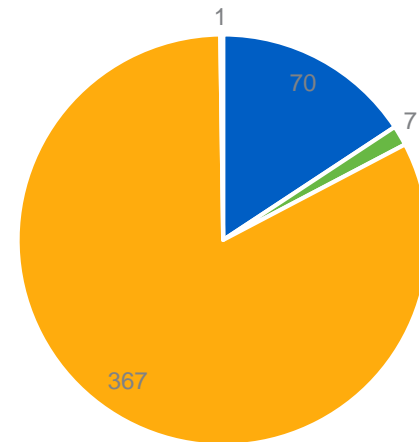
- Teachers (87%)
- Female (82%)
- 35-54 (72%)

I am a...

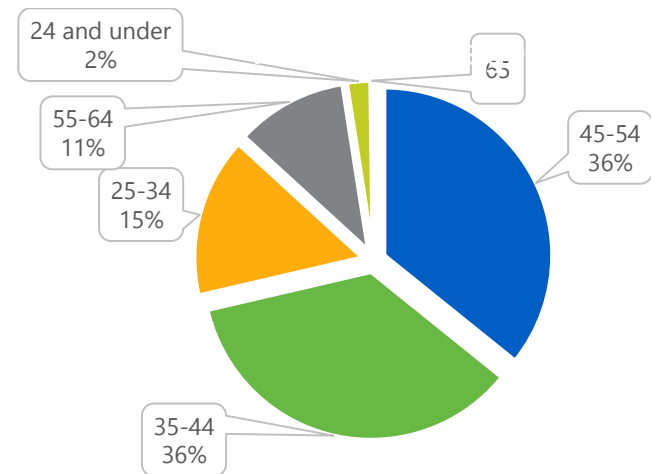


- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Teacher | ■ Principal | ■ Other (please specify) |
| ■ Vice Principal | ■ Educational Assistant | ■ Early Childhood Educator |
| ■ Librarian | ■ Community member | ■ Parent volunteer |
| ■ Student teacher | ■ Outdoor Education Facilitator | ■ Custodian |

What is your gender?

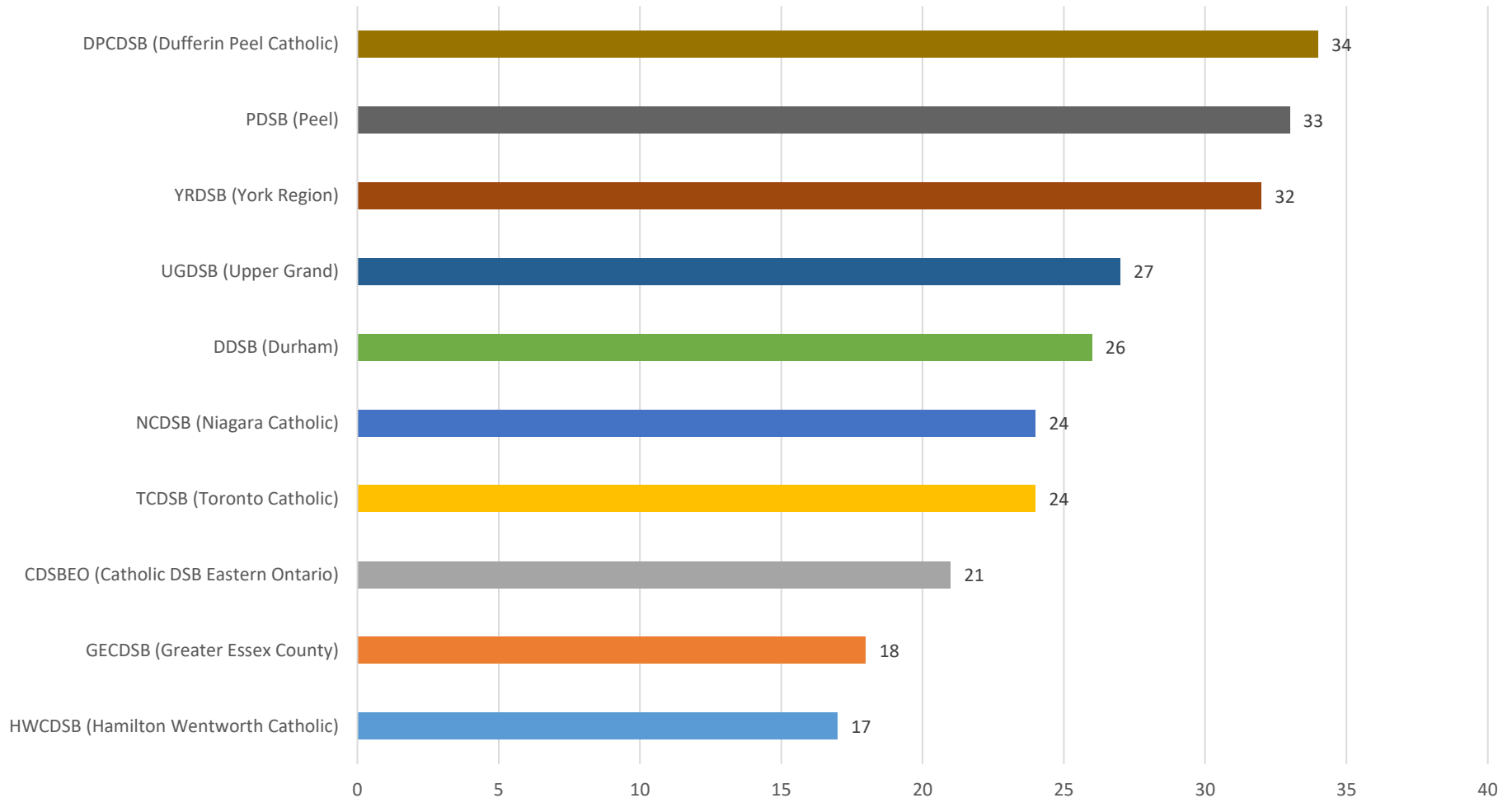


■ Male ■ I prefer not to answer this question ■ Female ■ Trans



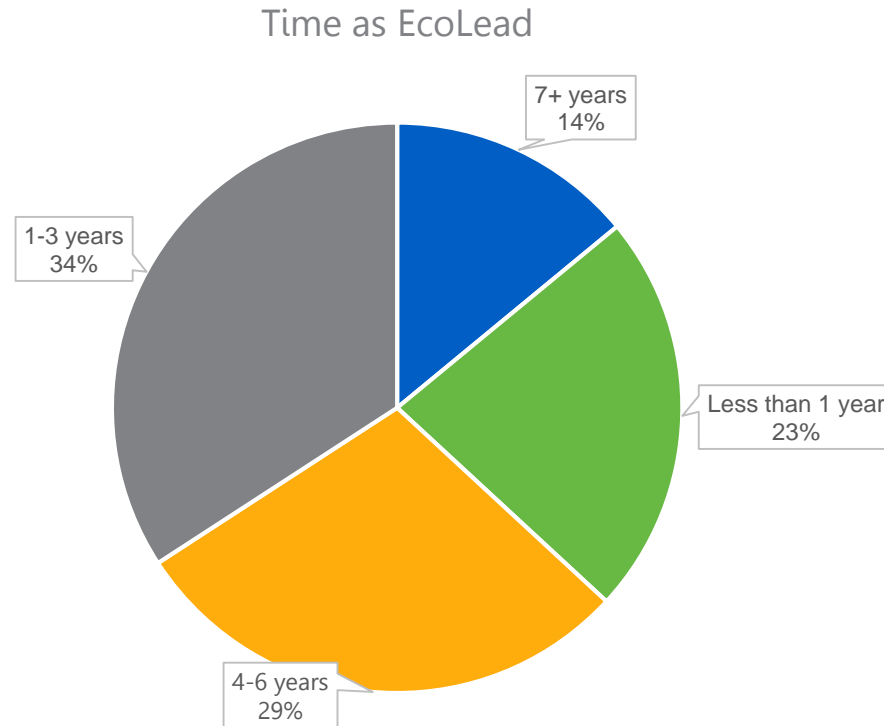
Who were our respondents?

Top 10 School Boards by Responses



Who were our respondents?

The average length of time respondents had been involved on the EcoTeam at their current school is **3.97** years!



Influences

"From your perspective, whose support would have the most influence on your EcoTeam's future plans and actions?"

Top influencers

1. Principals/Vice Principals "Influential" (4.3/5)
2. Custodial Staff "Influential" (4.1/5)
3. Parent Community "Somewhat influential" (3.7/5)

Influences

"Which local resources or community organizations supported your school this year?"

We received over 272 responses with hundreds of community organizations listed!

Our local who do

LCRA
[WATER P4C, LCRA, J](#)
[Peton Community](#)
[Arborists for mulc](#)
[Dags 2 school, Rai](#)
[Being Complete K](#)
[Better beginnings](#)
[Board staff--Judy](#)
[Grant Community](#)
[Grant Earth Week](#)
[Grant Garden Clut](#)
[Caledon Beautific](#)
[Call2Recycle](#)
[Canadian Tire](#)
[Canadian Wildlife](#)
[Catholic School C](#)
[City of Burlington](#)
[Caledon Region](#)

Donations (a, to)

[Dunville Horticu](#)
[Durham Waste M](#)
[EcoSource \(Missis](#)
[Ecosource, Credit](#)
[Ecosource, peel w](#)
[EIP funding throu](#)
[Eisings, and Caret](#)
[elk energy](#)
[Energizer, Tay Tra](#)
[ERCA \(Essex Regi](#)
[ERCA, ACCESS](#)
[Essex Region Con](#)
[Evergreen](#)
[Evergreen Found:](#)
[Farmer Jack's](#)
[Feeder Highschol](#)
[Foodland Ontario](#)
[Foodland Ontario](#)

Landscape Ontario

[Landscape Ontari](#)
[Laporte Garden's](#)
[LEAF, Evergreen, I](#)
[Lee and Maria's M](#)
[Local business, FC](#)
[local community c](#)
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[Local farms](#)
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[Local garden Nur:](#)
[local greenhouse](#)
[Local NGOs](#)
[Local nurseries an](#)
[Local nursery, Geo](#)
[Local organisation](#)
[Local environmental](#)

Our local buildings

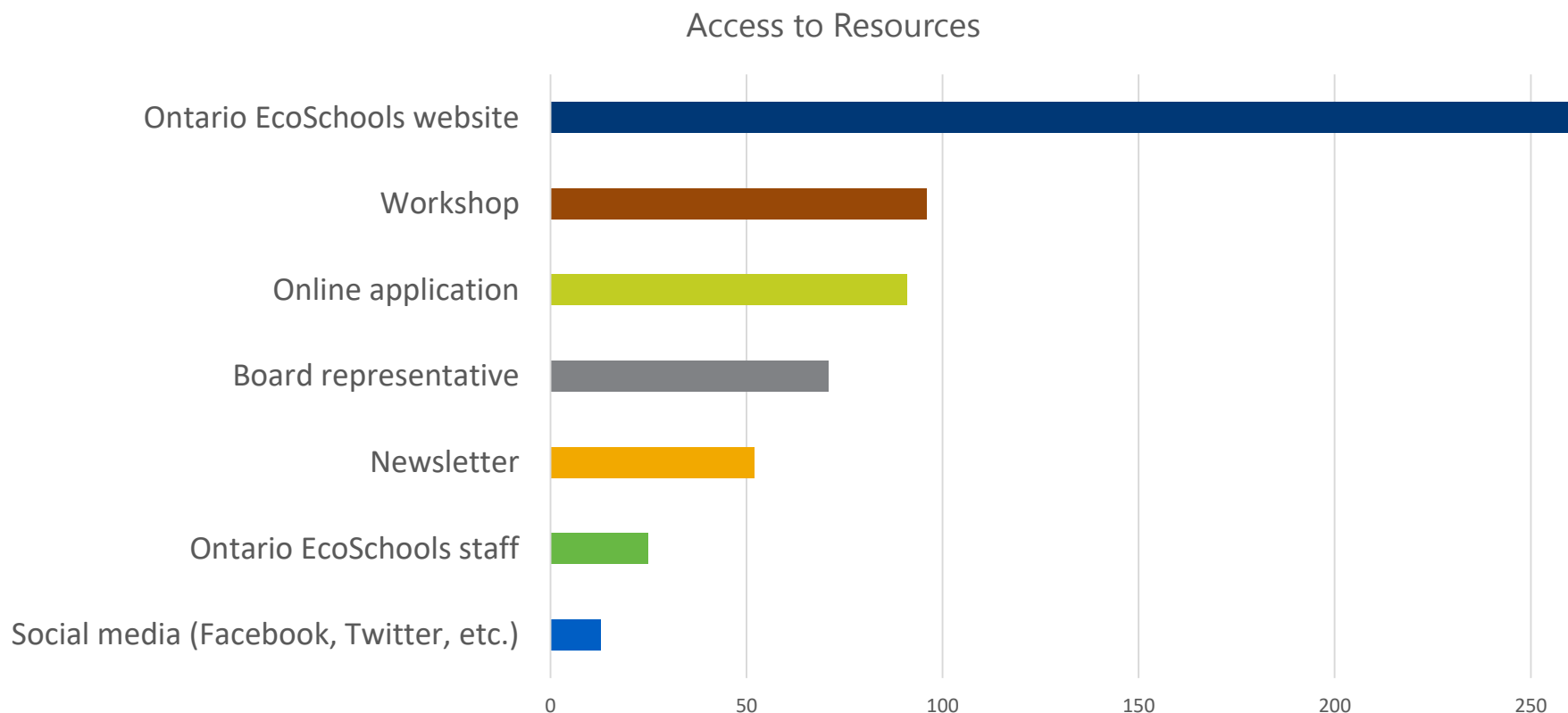
[our local parish](#)
[Our Parent Counc](#)
[Our relationship v](#)
[Our school board](#)
[Our two outside c](#)
[Parent community](#)
[Parent Council](#)
[parent council, Cl](#)
[Parent council, dc](#)
[parent council, re](#)
[Parent in the com](#)
[parent organizati](#)
[Parent support](#)
[Peel Region, City](#)
[Peterborough Gre](#)
[Pitch in Canada at](#)
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See report

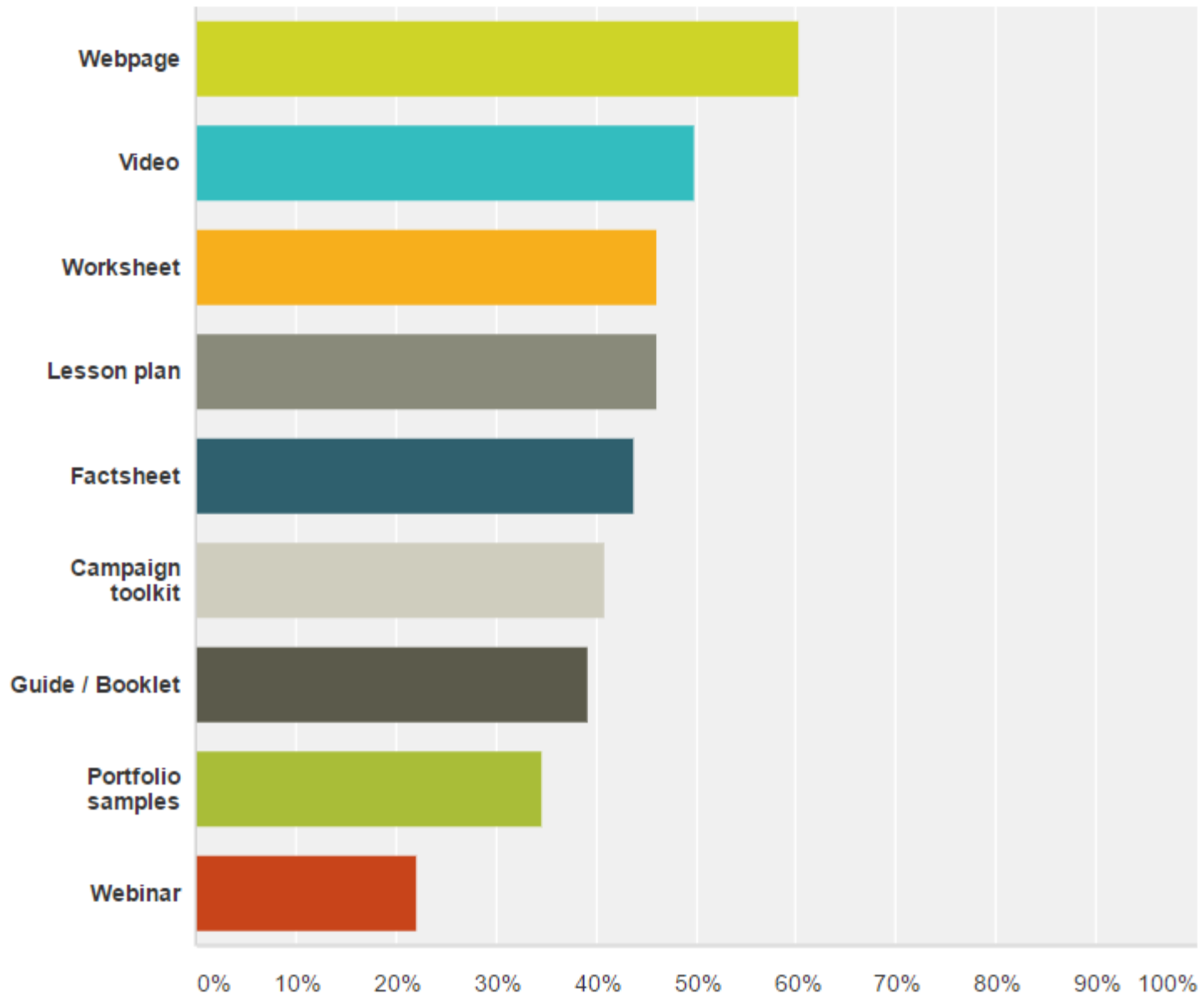
[Sheridan nurseries](#)
[Sheridan Nurseries](#)
[Sheridan Nurseries, CWF](#)
[Sifton Corp](#)
[Simcoe Streams Network](#)
[St. Clair college horticultur](#)
[St. Lawrence River Institute](#)
[St. Mary's outdoor educatio](#)
[Staples- for battery and pri](#)
[Sunshine Garden Express](#)
[TD Friends of the Environm](#)
[TD Friends of the Environm](#)
[TD Friends of the Environm](#)
[TD Friends of the Environm](#)
[TDFEF](#)
[Terracycle, Peel Region](#)
[The Angel Foundation, Pe](#)
[The Angel](#)

Resources

"How did you access the resources?"



What resource format would you use?



Top Support Topics

Answer Choices	Responses
▼ School ground greening	50.57% 132
▼ Student leadership/engagement	49.04% 128
▼ Fundraising	45.59% 119
▼ School organics/composting	43.68% 114
▼ Curriculum lesson plans for outdoor learning	43.68% 114
▼ Student involvement in school ground greening	42.53% 111
▼ Water campaigns	37.55% 98
▼ Curriculum lesson plans for elementary	35.25% 92
▼ Local food campaigns	34.87% 91
▼ Waste-free lunch programs	30.27% 79
▼ Energy conservation	25.29% 66
▼ Using natural light in schools	25.29% 66
▼ Climate change / air pollution campaigns	24.90% 65
▼ Earth Day	24.52% 64
▼ Waste minimization	24.14% 63
▼ Sweater Day	17.62% 46
▼ Curriculum lesson plans for secondary	9.96% 26

Total Respondents: 261

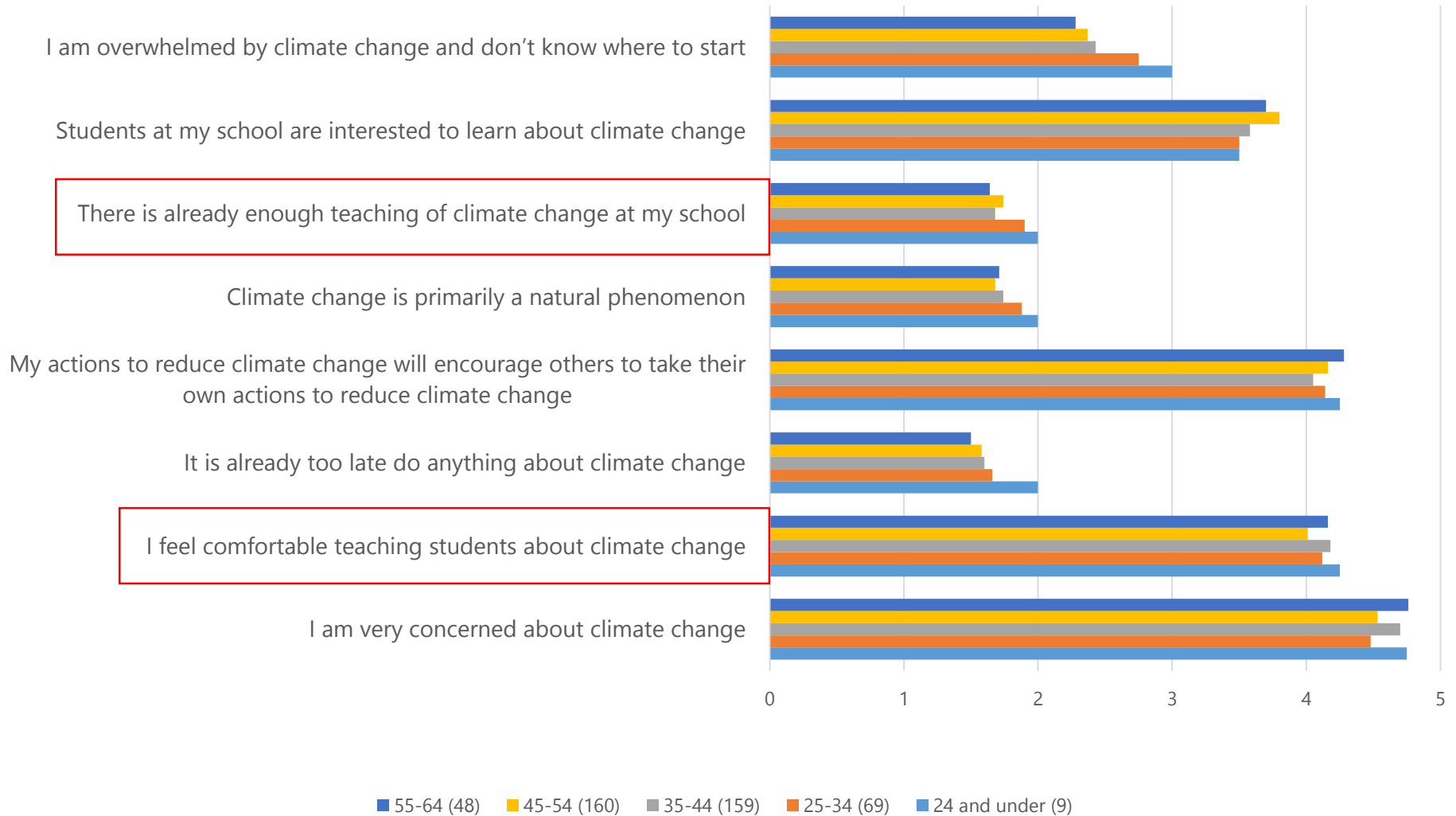
Climate Change

- **73% “Strongly Agree”** with the statement “I am very concerned about climate change”
- **78% would benefit from additional training and/or resources** on how to incorporate climate change into daily instructional time

Top issues respondents would like to receive more info on:

1. Consumer choices **86%**
2. Energy conservation **79%**
3. Food systems **78%**
4. Active transportation **61%**

To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree)



What newsletter content would you like?



Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Certification tips and deadlines	66.04%	175
▼ Stories and facts on key environmental issues	63.02%	167
▼ Lesson plans and learning resources	58.87%	156
▼ Fundraising ideas	55.47%	147
▼ Regional and national eco events & campaigns	52.83%	140
▼ School and school board stories	34.34%	91
Total Respondents: 265		

Blog content?

Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Stories and facts on key environmental issues	59.64%	133
▼ Certification tips and deadlines	56.50%	126
▼ Lesson plans and learning resources	53.81%	120
▼ Regional and national eco events & campaigns	47.98%	107
▼ School and school board stories	44.84%	100
▼ Fundraising ideas	42.60%	95
Total Respondents: 223		

How would you like to see best practices?

Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ As a photo gallery + tips on the Ontario EcoSchools website	58.02%	152
▼ Featured in the monthly newsletter as a school story	27.48%	72
▼ In an e-bulletin of best practice tips (similar to the 10x10)	51.91%	136
Total Respondents: 262		

Additional resources and support schools requested:

- Connect to other schools
- Eco Event posters– like Earth Hour with info explaining why it's important
- Someone to answer questions quickly (via email)
- \$ for larger recycling bins + local trips that are low cost
- Grade appropriate presentations + list of guest speakers in region
- Funding to put wind, solar, geo-thermal energy in schools

Thank you!



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