

2020

# Traip Academy Climate Survey

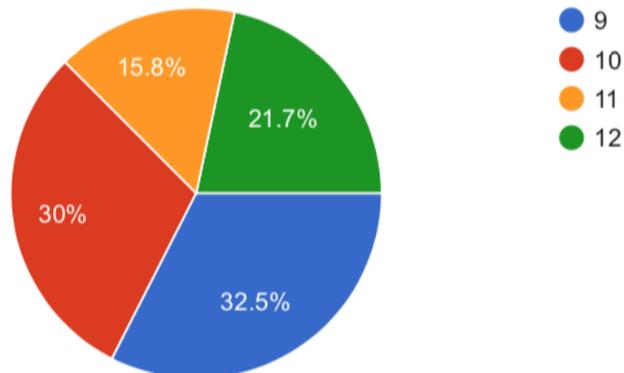
KITTERY CLIMATE ADAPTATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2020

## Introduction

During December 2019, half of the students at Traip Academy responded to a voluntary survey on climate change. The survey was composed of nine questions, and participants were also given the opportunity to leave additional comments and questions.

The grade division amongst the participating students was fairly even, as shown in the pie chart below.

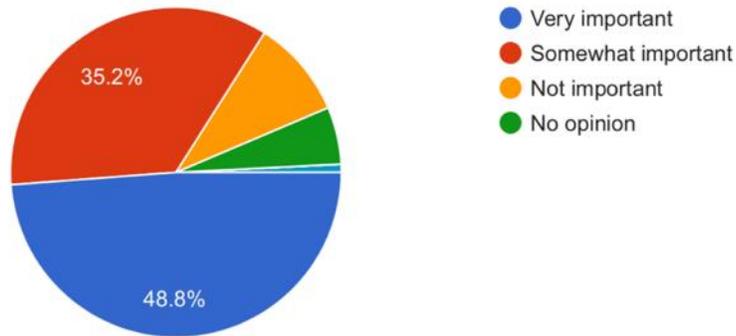


The Kittery Climate Adaptation Committee (CAC) and the Town will use these results to help inform future Town decisions regarding climate change and provide resources for students and residents on the potential risks and implications of a warming climate.

## Key Takeaways

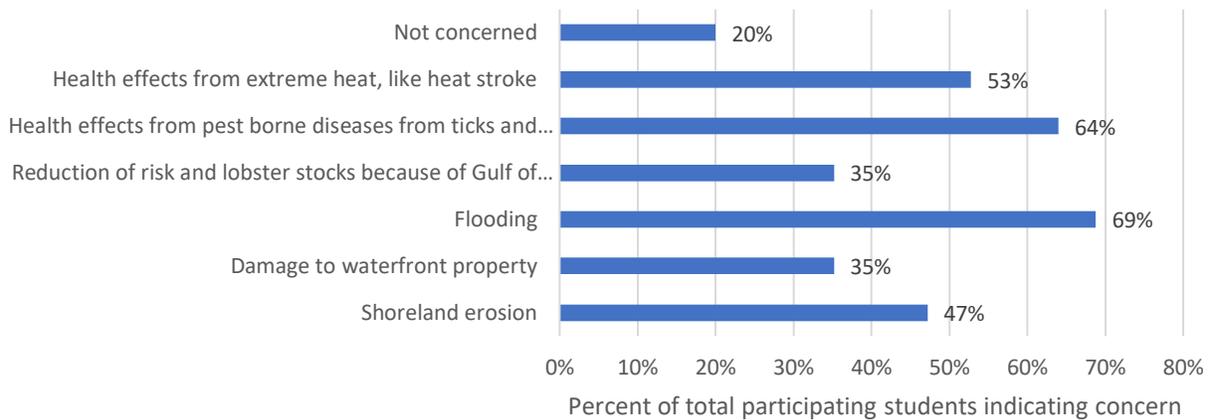
- 125 of the 250 students took the survey
- 84% of participating students believe it is important that the Town plans for a warming climate
- Around 60% of participating students want to learn more about climate adaptation issues from the Town
- Around 85% of participating students believe it is important for both the Town and individuals to reduce GHG emissions
- Around half (53%) of students would like to see more climate-change-related subject matter in their school curriculum.
- More than 75% agree that the schools should provide composting services.
- Two-thirds (67%) of the students get to school in a car, while 29% take the bus or walk to school
- Only a few comments and responses reveal skepticism or denial of a warming climate and the need to adapt to climate change

**Question 1** How important is it for the Town to plan for a warming climate with increased extreme weather events and rising sea level?



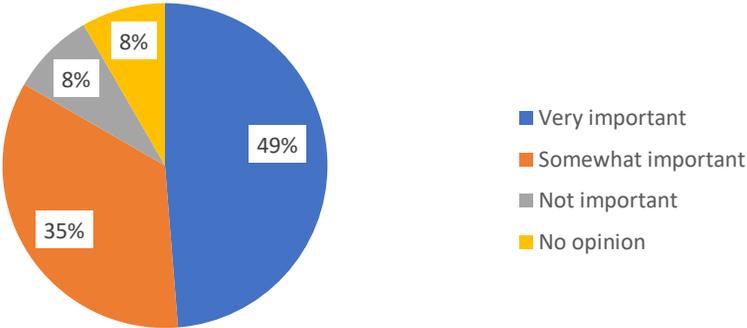
Most (84%) of Traip Academy students believe it is important for the Town to prepare for a warming climate. About half of the students (49%) think it is very important for the Town to plan for a warming climate, and 35% of students think it is at least somewhat important.

**Question 2** What projected effects of a warming climate are you very concerned about?  
Please check all that apply



Reponses indicate most students are concerned about the flooding due to the warming climate, with 69% of participating students marking flooding as a concern. Most participants have concerns about health effects from pest borne diseases from ticks and mosquitoes, like EEE, with 63% reporting they are very concerned about these health effects of a warming climate.

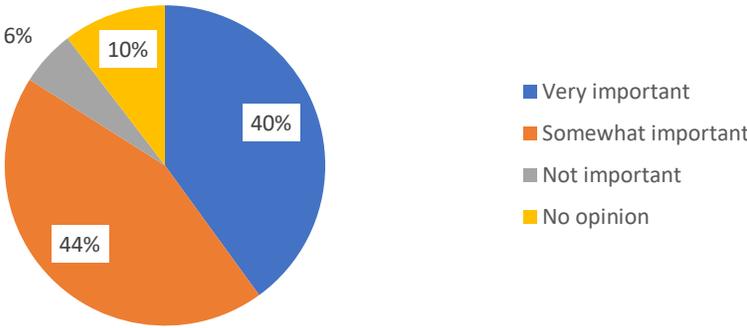
**Question 3** How important is it for the Town and School System to set high efficiency standards and use renewable energy sources that will reduce greenhouse gases, like CO2, in Town and School buildings.



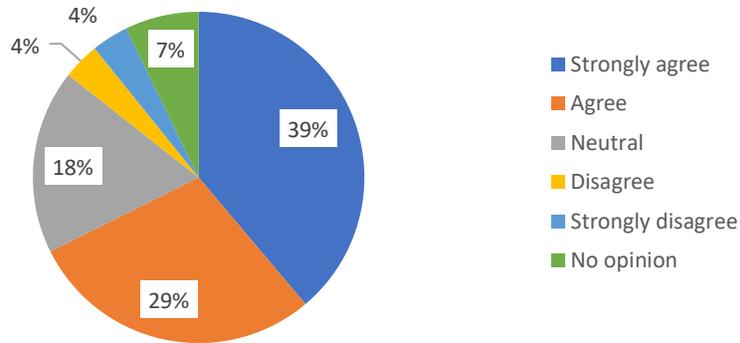
About 85% of the students think it is important for the Town and the School System to reduce GHG emissions and set high efficiency standards by using renewable energy sources.

**Question 4** How important is it for you to reduce your individual production of greenhouse gases?

About 85% also think it is important for themselves as individuals to work on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

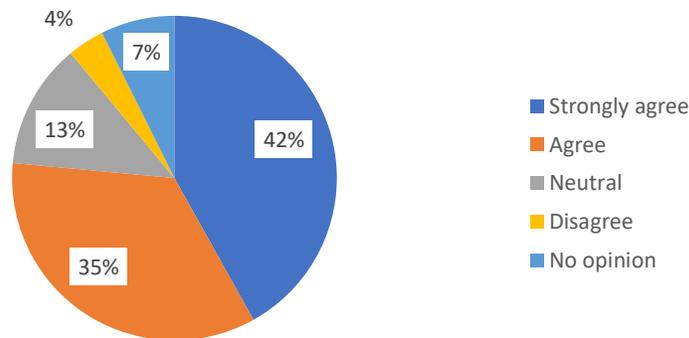


**Question 5** To preserve Town resources for the future, the Town should invest now in its people and properties to make them more resistant to extreme weather events and rising sea levels.



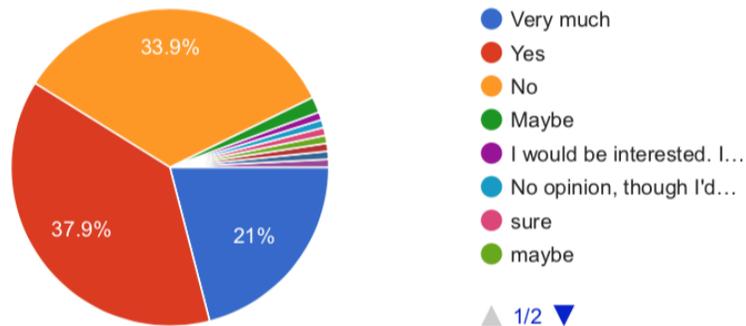
Only 8% of participating Traip Academy students do not agree that the Town should preserve resources for the future by investing in its people and properties to make them more resistant to extreme weather events and rising sea levels. Most participating students agree that the Town should be taking these measures to preserve Town resources for the future, with 68% agreeing. A fair portion of students remain impartial, with 25% responding neutral or no opinion.

**Question 6** The Kittery School District should support our schools with composting services to provide bins for composting to avoid emissions of methane (potent greenhouse gas) from food in landfills and to reduce use of chemical fertilizers in growing food.



More than 75% of the participants believe the schools should provide composting bins and services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of chemical fertilizers.

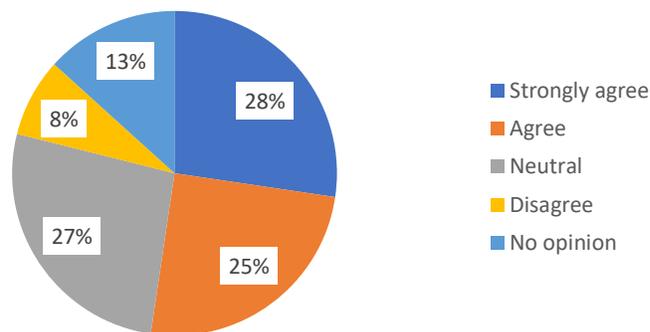
### Question 7 Would you like to learn more about climate adaptation issues from the Town?



Responses to Question 7 indicate more than half (59%) of student participants would like to know more about climate adaptation issues from the Town.

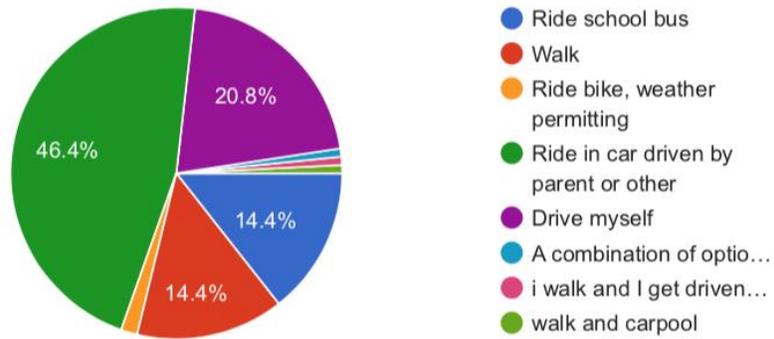
### Question 8 Your school should include in its curriculum more subject matter and/or projects related to climate change reduction and adaptation.

Around half (53%) of students would like to see more climate-change-related subject matter in their school curriculum. Responses to Question 7 and Question 8 reveal many Traip students want to learn more about climate change in general--from both the Town and their school.



There is still a good portion of participating students who remain neutral or do not want to learn more (34% said they did not want to hear about climate adaptation issues from the Town, and 8% responded the school should not add more subject matter and/or projects related to climate change in the curricula).

### Question 9 How do you usually travel to and from school?



The majority of Traip Academy students get to school with a car. Only 14% of students take the bus to school, and another 14% of students walk to school.

*Emily Teague, UMass Lowell writing intern*