

SURVEY RESULTS BY QUESTION

ADDENDUM TO TOP 10-FINDINGS: THE INDIANA RESILIENT COMMUNITIES STUDY

May 12, 2023

This report shows responses by survey question:

- “n” indicates the number of respondents who answered each question (not every respondent answered every question).
- When there were fewer than five (5) responses for a category, the category was combined with another one. In some cases, this was not possible and data that cannot be reported are indicated by an “X.”
- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- The margin of error (not shown) varies by estimate. For this study and with 160 respondents answering the question, it is approximately +/- 5%.

1. Looking into the near future, how concerned is your local government leadership about the following:

	n	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Moderately	Extremely
Flooding	170	13%	19%	25%	27%	16%
Drought	170	47%	28%	21%	4%	
Extreme heat	169	37%	33%	19%	11%	
Wildfires	169	78%	14%	9%		0%
Tornadoes	170	6%	24%	32%	31%	8%
Winter storms	170	5%	18%	30%	40%	7%
Climate change	169	28%	33%	22%	12%	5%
Air pollution	169	24%	34%	25%	12%	5%
Water quality	170	9%	17%	22%	30%	22%
Epidemics	170	8%	29%	31%	23%	9%
Industrial accidents	168	26%	30%	27%	14%	4%
Housing affordability	170	4%	16%	22%	28%	30%
Housing foreclosures and/or evictions	170	12%	29%	25%	24%	11%
Drug addiction	170	4%	11%	19%	37%	29%
Loss of jobs	170	9%	18%	27%	31%	15%
Cybersecurity	170	3%	12%	24%	37%	24%
Social unrest	169	18%	36%	22%	17%	7%
Acts of terror	170	20%	42%	21%	11%	7%

2. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following areas/facilities in your city/town have experienced significant flooding over the last five years?

	n	Yes	No	N/A & Don't know
Downtown business district	168	11%	84%	5%
Outlying commercial or business areas	168	24%	69%	7%
Areas with poor or no storm drainage infrastructure	170	61%	31%	9%
Areas with disproportionate numbers of low income or minority residents	170	15%	66%	19%
Areas with recent home construction	170	9%	79%	11%
Areas with older or historic development	169	24%	68%	8%
Major local roadways	169	34%	57%	8%
Highways	170	25%	62%	13%
Municipal water pumping facilities	170	13%	72%	15%
Wastewater treatment facilities	170	24%	67%	9%
Municipal public works facilities	170	15%	77%	9%
Public schools	169	8%	82%	10%

3. Please indicate whether your city/town government has ever undertaken any of the following actions related to resilience in the built environment.

	n	Yes	No	N/A & Don't know
Identified roads or bridges which may be more vulnerable to higher maximum temperatures or more freeze-thaw events in the future	165	13%	57%	30%
Begun designing or installing transportation infrastructure for anticipated higher maximum temperatures or more freeze-thaw events	166	7%	73%	21%
Identified the specific businesses or housing units that are most likely to be impacted by river flooding	166	35%	43%	22%
Adopted a zoning ordinance that prevents new housing or business construction in a 100-year and/or 500-year floodplain	166	45%	32%	23%
Identified areas most likely to be impacted by surface flooding	166	72%	14%	14%
Started or completed development of written planning strategies to decrease impacts	165	43%	38%	19%
Adopted a zoning ordinance that prevents new housing or business construction in areas prone to surface flooding	166	37%	43%	19%
Implemented an ordinance requiring on-site stormwater management	165	56%	31%	13%
Developed an inventory of already impacted gray stormwater infrastructure in need of modifications to handle heavier rain events	166	41%	36%	23%
Adopted ordinances or other policy options to require new developers to size gray stormwater infrastructure to accommodate expected higher volumes of water	166	33%	43%	24%
Developed an inventory of your green stormwater infrastructure network to assess how it will be impacted by climate hazards	166	13%	61%	26%
Adopted ordinances or policies to require developers to size green stormwater infrastructure to accommodate expected higher volumes of water	166	23%	54%	24%

4. Please indicate whether your city/town government has ever undertaken any of the following actions related to resilience in economic development.

	n	Yes	No	N/A & Don't know
Identified an economic development board or created a task force of residents, business owners, or industry representatives to evaluate how climate change will impact the local economy	171	14%	77%	9%
Incorporated climate or natural disaster resilience into local economic development strategies or plans	171	12%	74%	14%
Completed an assessment on how climate change may impact the local job market	170	X	86%	X
Developed a plan for assisting vulnerable residents who may face financial strain caused by climate hazards (e.g., higher utility bills, insurance, rebuilding and relocation costs)	171	8%	81%	11%
Established a committee or task force to consider the potential needs of climate refugees or how potential support organizations can assist them	171	4%	86%	11%

5. Please indicate whether your city/town government has ever undertaken any of the following actions related to resilience in land use.

	n	Yes	No	N/A & Don't know
Integrated green stormwater infrastructure into government processes or plans	170	25%	57%	18%
Developed a community-scale stormwater retention plan, such as a green infrastructure plan, or integrated these practices in your city/town's comprehensive plan	170	25%	55%	20%
Created zoning codes with stormwater retention requirements for new construction or substantial renovations	170	52%	33%	15%
Adopted a tree canopy protection ordinance that covers trees on public property	170	17%	71%	12%
Implemented a pilot incentive program for green infrastructure	170	7%	80%	14%
Constructed a green roof on at least one local government building	171	X	91%	X

6. Does your city/town government currently have paid staff dedicated to sustainability efforts? Please include staff who are dedicated full-time or part-time to sustainability efforts.

(n=169)

Yes	12%
No	88%

7. [ASKED IF Q6=Yes] Where do the staff who are dedicated (full-time or part-time) to sustainability efforts work? Please select all that apply.

(n=21)

Chief elected/appointed official's office (e.g., office of mayor or city administrator)	33%
A single department	43%
Multiple departments	29%

8. [WEB SURVEY VERSION: ASKED IF Q6=No; PAPER SURVEY VERSION: ASKED IF Q6=Yes or No] Which of the following, if any, exist to address sustainability efforts within your city/town government? Please select all that apply.

(n=153)

A formal task force/committee	5%
Interns or volunteers who are devoted to sustainability efforts	7%
Explicit recognition of sustainability goals by staff across departments	9%
None of the above	83%

9. In your opinion, who has the primary responsibility for planning sustainability initiatives for your city/town?
(n=166)

City/town government	77%
County government	8%
A local/regional organization (not government)	5%
State government	7%
Other	3%

10. [ASKED IF Q9=City/town government] In your opinion, what office or unit in your city/town government has primary responsibility for planning sustainability initiatives?
(n=126)

City/Town Council or Commission	39%
Town Manager or Chief Administrative Officer's Office	11%
Municipally owned/operated Local Utility	4%
Mayor's Office	14%
Planning unit	15%
Other city/town office/unit	17%

11. How many times, if any, has your city/town government undertaken the following actions to finance sustainability?

	n	0 times	1 time	2-5 times	6+ times	Don't know
Budgeted for new sustainability initiatives	163	61%	6%	7%	7%	19%
Issued debts to finance sustainability initiatives	164	70%	3%	9%	4%	15%
Applied for grants to finance sustainability initiatives	162	54%	9%	13%	9%	15%
Maintained the funding level for the city's sustainability activities	164	63%	4%	10%	7%	17%
Offered tax (or financial) incentives for the residential or commercial use of carbon-reducing technologies	164	83%	5%		0%	12%
Offered tax (or financial) incentives for developing or redeveloping green properties	164	84%	3%			13%
Funded capital projects related to sustainability initiatives	164	67%	4%	12%	5%	13%

12. Has your city/town government ever engaged in any of the following collaborative sustainability actions with another agency, organization, or government?

	n	Yes	No	N/A & Don't know
Worked with other local governments, agencies, or a university institute to develop an inventory of community or government greenhouse gas emissions	164	9%	77%	15%
Joined a regional partnership	163	31%	54%	15%
Entered into an informal agreement with one or more local governments on climate or energy issues	164	7%	77%	16%
Entered into a formal agreement with one or more local governments on climate or energy issues	163	6%	79%	15%
Jointly purchased energy services or equipment with another local government	164	6%	80%	14%

13. Has your city/town government ever engaged in any of the following actions to address sustainability in economic development?

	n	Yes	No	N/A & Don't know
Linked environmental goals to publicly financed incentive tools that were offered to attract or retain businesses	160	9%	73%	18%
Developed policies to create or strengthen markets for green goods and services	161	4%	80%	16%
Built partnerships with the business community to achieve sustainability goals	160	12%	69%	19%
Implemented "Buy Local" campaigns	160	46%	43%	11%
Established a brownfields redevelopment fund	160	18%	70%	13%
Granted a density bonus for buildings achieving LEED certification or other environmentally friendly standards	160	4%	80%	16%
Gave a property tax credit to any commercial building that achieves LEED certification or other environmentally friendly standards	161	X	82%	X
Provided low interest loans for energy efficiency measures or building materials	161	X	85%	X
Expedited application and permit process for LEED certification or other environmentally friendly standards	160	X	85%	X
Provided incentives that lower financial barriers to energy efficiency gains by businesses	160	X	82%	X
Put into place zoning or regulations that allow for onsite renewable energy systems for businesses	160	14%	68%	18%

14. Has your city/town government ever engaged in any of the following actions to address social equity in sustainability efforts?

	n	Yes	No	N/A & Don't know
Offered incentives for construction of green affordable housing	162	X	86%	X
Offered incentives for affordable housing	161	26%	63%	11%
Promoted or accommodated bicycle use (e.g., bike lanes)	162	48%	48%	5%
Installed appropriate bicycle security at public amenities, such as local parks or city/town buildings	161	30%	62%	8%
Arranged carpool/vanpool assistance	162	4%	87%	9%
Promoted or educated the public on water conservation	162	35%	53%	13%
Maintained an on-call water quality program	161	24%	60%	17%
Maintained an organic community garden	162	17%	74%	9%
Offered a class or training on organic farming	162	3%	86%	11%

15. In your opinion, what are the top three barriers to pursuing sustainability projects or actions in your city/town? Please select up to three barriers.
(n=161)

Not enough financial resources/funding	79%
Not enough staff	53%
Lack of administrative capacity	17%
Don't have the technology needed	4%
Don't have the information we need to know what to do in this area	23%
City/town residents do not place much priority on sustainability	29%
Don't have staff with the right experience or related skills	22%
Lack of interest or demands from the private sector(s)	21%
Lack of interest from local elected official(s)	22%
Lack of interest from state government official(s)	7%
Other	3%

16. How often, if at all, do your city/town elected officials use performance measures in making decisions regarding sustainability policies?
(n=161)

Never	43%
Less than a quarter of the time	13%
At least a quarter of the time but less than half the time	4%
At least half the time	4%
N/A – elected officials have minimal input regarding sustainability policies & Don't know	36%

17. How long has the primary person who responded to this survey been in their current role?
(n=158)

Less than 2 years	15%
At least 2 years but less than 5	25%
At least 5 years but less than 10	22%
At least 10 years but less than 20	28%
20 years or more	10%

ABOUT THE STUDY

This report summarizes survey data provided by government officials from 174 Indiana cities and towns who completed the survey between February 18 and July 20, 2022. It was part of a study on local government sustainability strategies and capacities funded by the National Science Foundation. Dr. Aaron Deslatte led the study with support from the Indiana University Center for Survey Research.

174
INDIANA CITIES & TOWNS

QUESTIONS

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