Report on OSEA's LTEP 2016 Membership Survey

Report prepared by:
Dr. Christine Koenig, Ontario Sustainability Services Inc.
Co-Chair of the OSEA Policy and Regulatory Advisory Committee

June 07, 2016

Executive Summary

158 Ontarians took OSEA's LTEP 2016 survey of which 22% were OSEA members and 78% were non-members. Overall the survey completion rate was very good with 60%. The quality of responses was high and the vast majority of participants made use of the open text form to provide further feedback and comments.

OSEA members and non-members ranked the strategic priorities the organization should take markedly different, i.e. members rank community ownership and engagement highest amongst the suggested strategic priorities. Within these priorities the majority of all respondents saw better incentive structures for energy conservation, streamlined procurement programs, transparency in energy planning, and supporting community participation as most important issues to solve. Understanding and defining the true costs of energy has a high priority with both, OSEA members non-members.
Additionally suggested strategic priorities with significant support form all respondents include the suggestion to implement aggressive measures to reduce GHG emissions, including a "serious" price on carbon.

OSEA's policy workshops were very well received overall with more than two thirds of the participants being satisfied or very satisfied with results and the workshop facilitation. There is a clear demand towards OSEA to offer more in-depth workshops in the future.

When asked about the scope of the coming LTEP 2016, energy conservation was a top priority for both members and non-members. However, OSEA members placed a higher priority on plans to reduce GHG emissions from space heating and cooling as well as from the transportation sector. Non-members ranked the requirement to meet Ontario's long-term electricity demands second highest. Many respondents further suggested that the LTEP should provide plans to phase-out and decommission Ontario's nuclear power plants and increase renewable energy generation, as well as fully aligning the LTEP 2016 with Ontario's climate and environmental targets.

When asked for the criteria against which a successful LTEP 2016 should be measured overall environmental performance (#1) and GHG emissions reduction (#2) topped the list of both, members and non-members.

Overall the survey respondents overwhelmingly generally or fully agreed with the presented recommendation. The average support was never below 3.3 (out of 5, whereby 5 is fully supportive and 1 is strongly disagreeing) for any single recommendation.

The recommendation suggested by OSEA that received the highest approval rates (average approval rate >4.4) from all respondents are:

- Any future Long Term Energy Plan should be based on a publicly available, transparent, and full lifetime feasibility and cost analysis of the most sustainable technology options.
- Define clear, ambitious energy conservation and GHG emission reduction targets in the LTEP for all sectors and government agencies in line with Canada's commitment to the Paris Agreement.
- Improve stability and predictability of renewable energy procurement programs for all participants.
- Design the regulatory process to support and simplify the economic participation of the communities hosting the projects.

- Change building code to include mandatory and ambitious energy efficiency standards for new buildings.

The recommendations suggested by OSEA that received the lowest approval rates (average <3.7) from all respondents are:

- Integrated community energy systems and district energy should also be regulated by the Ontario Energy Board and form an integral part of the LTEP.
- Broaden the Ontario Energy Board's mandate to regulate the price for energy beyond electricity to all forms of energy delivered to Ontarians.
- Expand the IESO's mandate beyond electricity to include energy systems for space heating and cooling as well as transportation to enable a transition to distributed and integrated energy systems.
- Direct gas utilities to prepare for and accept injection of hydrogen, biogas and synthetic methane into the natural gas grid.
- Expand hydro electric development and require aboriginal, community or municipal support and equity partnerships.
- Wages, health benefits, and retirement benefits must be maintained at similar levels in the new industries.

Response Statistics

	Count	Percent
Complete	93	58.86
Partial	65	41.14
Disqualified	0	0
Total	**158**	
OSEA members	35	22
Non members	123	78

Questions regarding OSEA's strategic focus and advocacy priorities

1. **The following strategic priorities have been identified through a series of workshops with our membership. Please rank these according to the priority they should take in OSEA's future work.**

All survey respondents

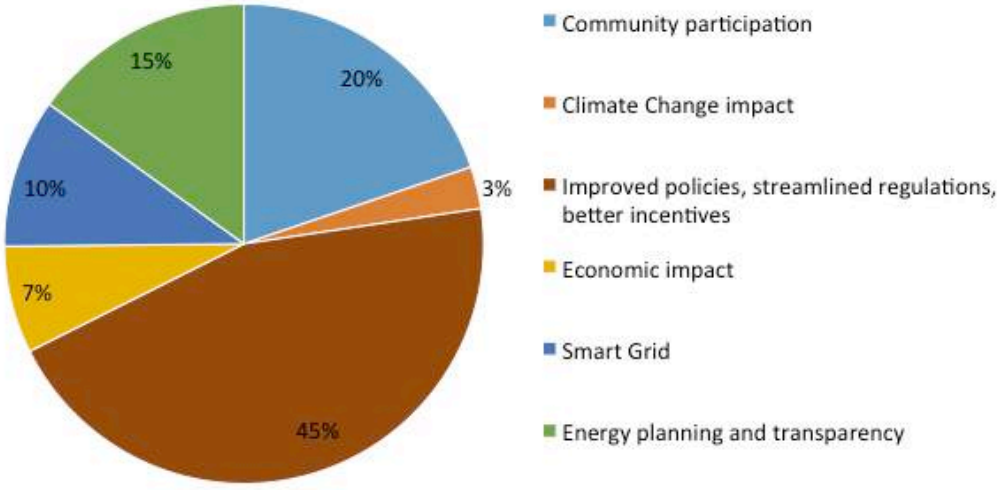
Overall Rank	Item	Rank Distribution	Score	Total Respondents
1	True Cost of Energy (incl. Net Metering/FIT/LRP II/Cap & Trade/Subsidies & Rebate Programs)		355	131
2	Decentralization & Closed-loop energy systems: (incl. Micro-Grids/Smart-Grids, Distributed Generation, Fiber Optics)		340	131
3	Community Engagement & Ownership (incl. Engagement, Energy Planning, Economic Development, Ownership & Financing Models)		336	132
4	Green Heat and Thermal Energy (incl. Co-Generation, Bio-Energy, Waste to Energy)		290	133

OSEA members only

Overall Rank	Item	Rank Distribution	Score	Total Respondents
1	Community Engagement & Ownership (incl. Engagement, Energy Planning, Economic Development, Ownership & Financing Models)		106	35
2	True Cost of Energy (incl. Net Metering/FIT/LRP II/Cap & Trade/Subsidies & Rebate Programs)		89	35
3	Decentralization & Closed-loop energy systems: (incl. Micro-Grids/Smart-Grids, Distributed Generation, Fiber Optics)		87	35
4	Green Heat and Thermal Energy (incl. Co-Generation, Bio-Energy, Waste to Energy)		68	35

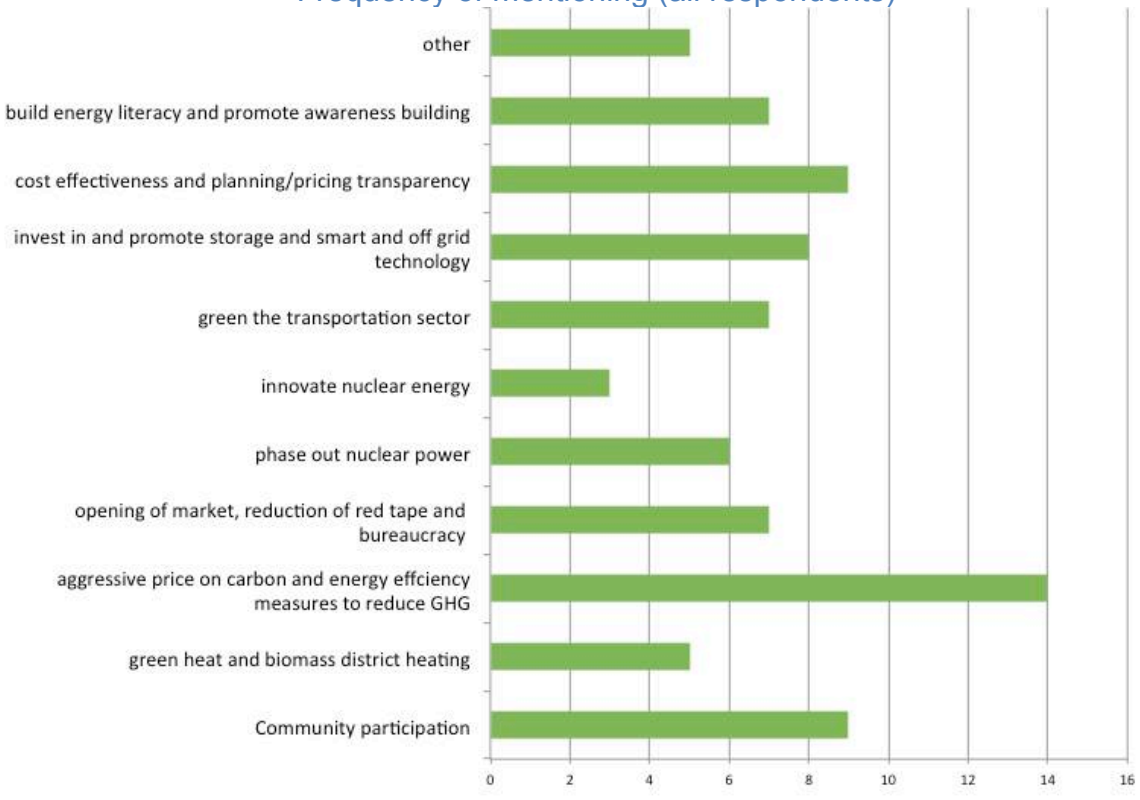
2. **Please tell us what the top three issues to be solved within your highest ranked priority are.**

Most commonly named top three issues combined (all respondents)



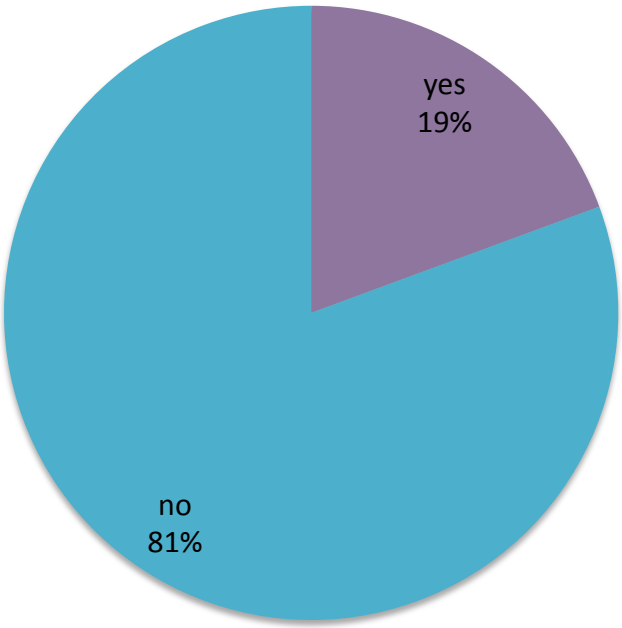
3. **Didn't find your priority topics in the list? Please add them here!**

Frequency of mentioning (all respondents)



4. Did you participate in one the OSEA policy positions workshops?

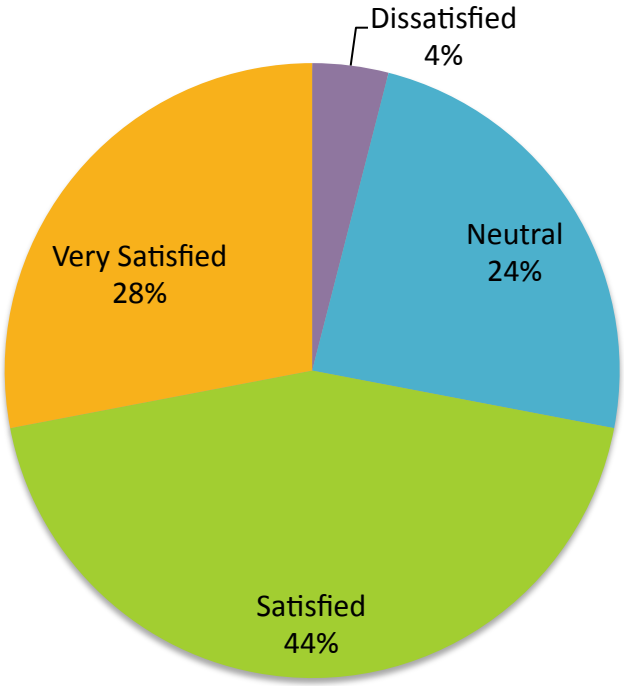
All respondents



Value	Percent	Count
yes	19.38%	25
no	80.62%	104
	Total	129

Statistics	
Total Responses	129.00
Skipped	29.00

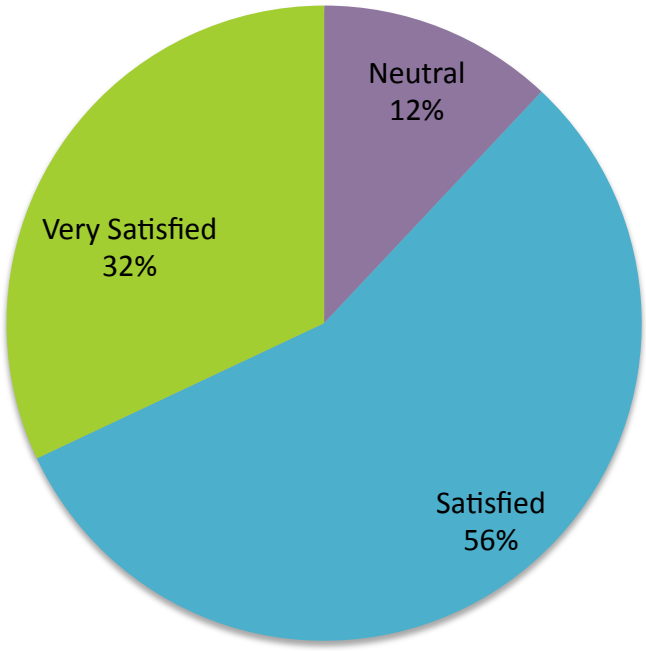
5. **Please let us know how satisfied you were with the overall outcome of the workshops.**



Value	Percent	Count
Dissatisfied	4.00%	1
Neutral	24.00%	6
Satisfied	44.00%	11
Very Satisfied	28.00%	7
	Total	25

Statistics	
Total Responses	25.00
Hidden	133.00
Skipped	0.00

6. **How satisfied were you with the format and facilitation of the workshops?**



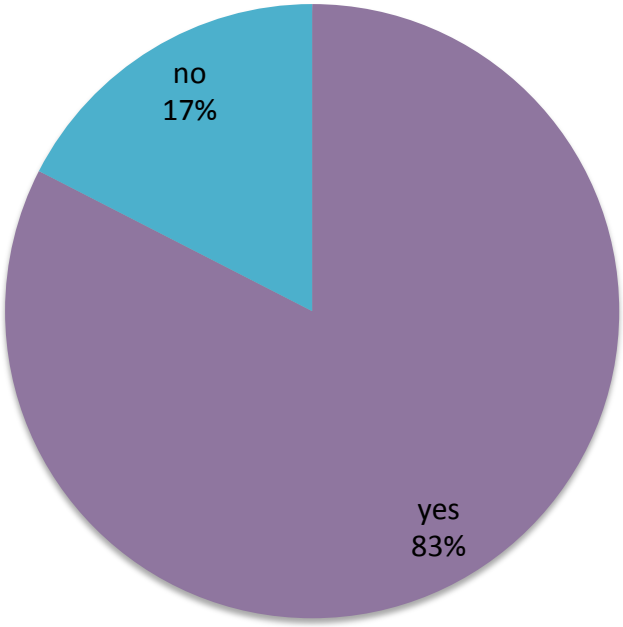
Value	Percent	Count
Neutral	12.00%	3
Satisfied	56.00%	14
Very Satisfied	32.00%	8
	Total	25

Statistics	
Total Responses	25.00
Hidden	133.00
Skipped	0.00

7. Do you have other comments or suggestions regarding the workshops for us?

Individual Response
Could have been better prepared for the event with a package mailed out beforehand to read and get briefed-in on the structure of the event and the topics of discussion.
well done
Do More workshops
Energy Conservation is paramount to making sustainable energy generation practical... if we don't change our wasteful ways we can never generate enough energy and therefore a greater emphasis needs to be put on conservation.
Focus on what's most important like Open FIT policy and less regulations
I'm still learning and I regard OSEA's professional comment as a very positive leader and I hope authorities use OSEA's leadership to expedite action and the installation of needed Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency technologies that will effectively reduce energy costs, conserve energy and reduce GHGs.
More attention to energy realities instead of feel good politics
More, please! :)
Not enough focus on costs of all types of electricity generation
There is a need to cast a wider net beyond the usual supporters and engage with a broader community.
Too much attention is being paid to trivial "solutions" and technologies that are inappropriate in Canada
Wide range of knowledge sophistication of attendees limits practical progress for long meeting

8. **Would you participate in future in-depth one-day workshops on the issues identified as priority here?**



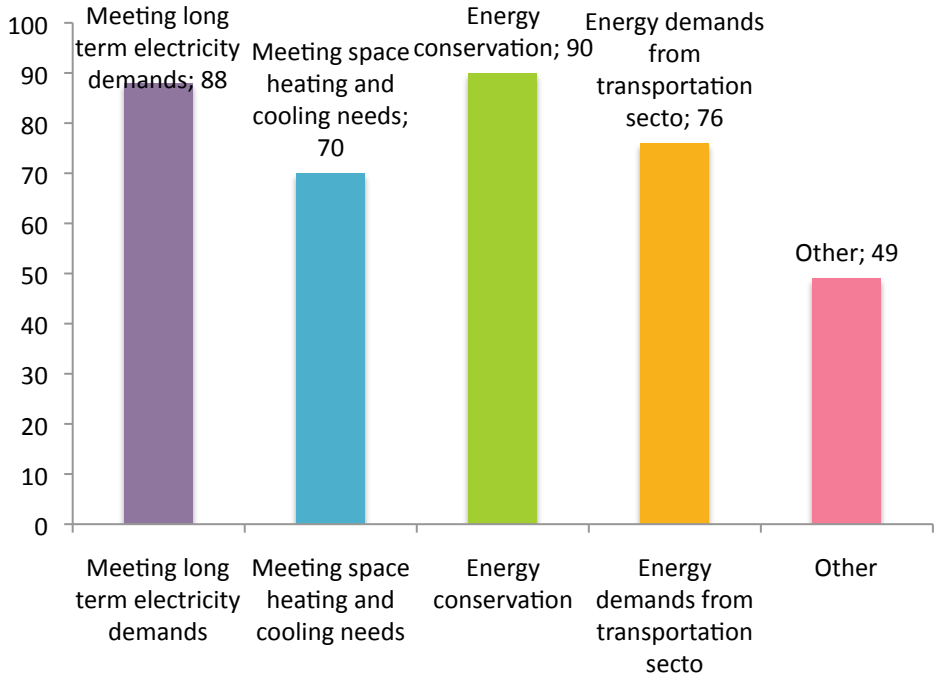
Value	Percent	Count
yes	82.54%	104
no	17.46%	22
	Total	126

Statistics	
Total Responses	126.00
Skipped	32.00

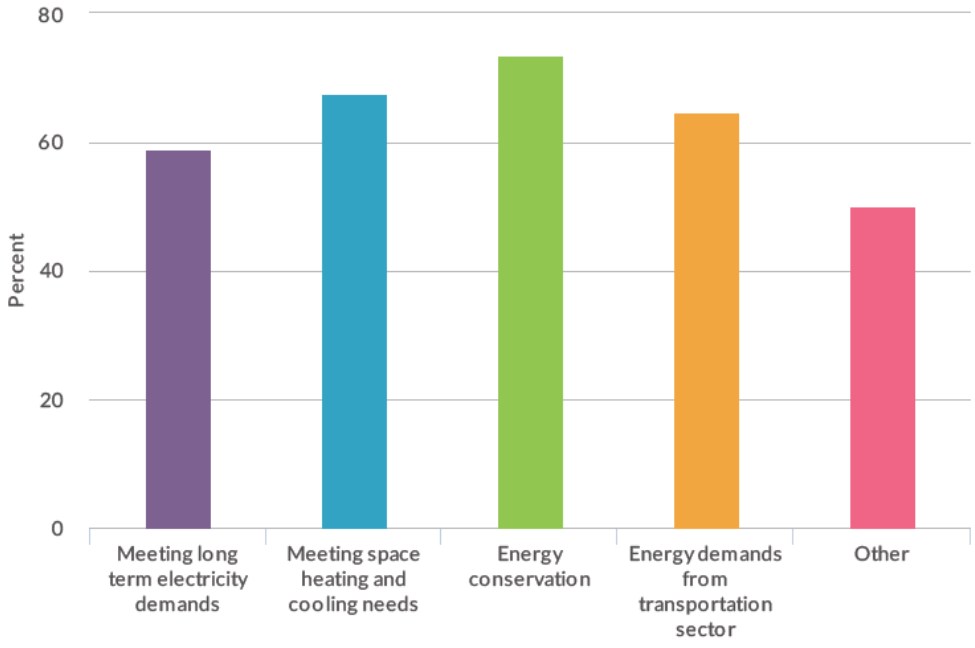
Questions regarding OSEA's recommendation to the MOE for the LTEP 2016

9. In your opinion, what areas of energy planning should Ontario's next Long-Term Energy Plan cover?

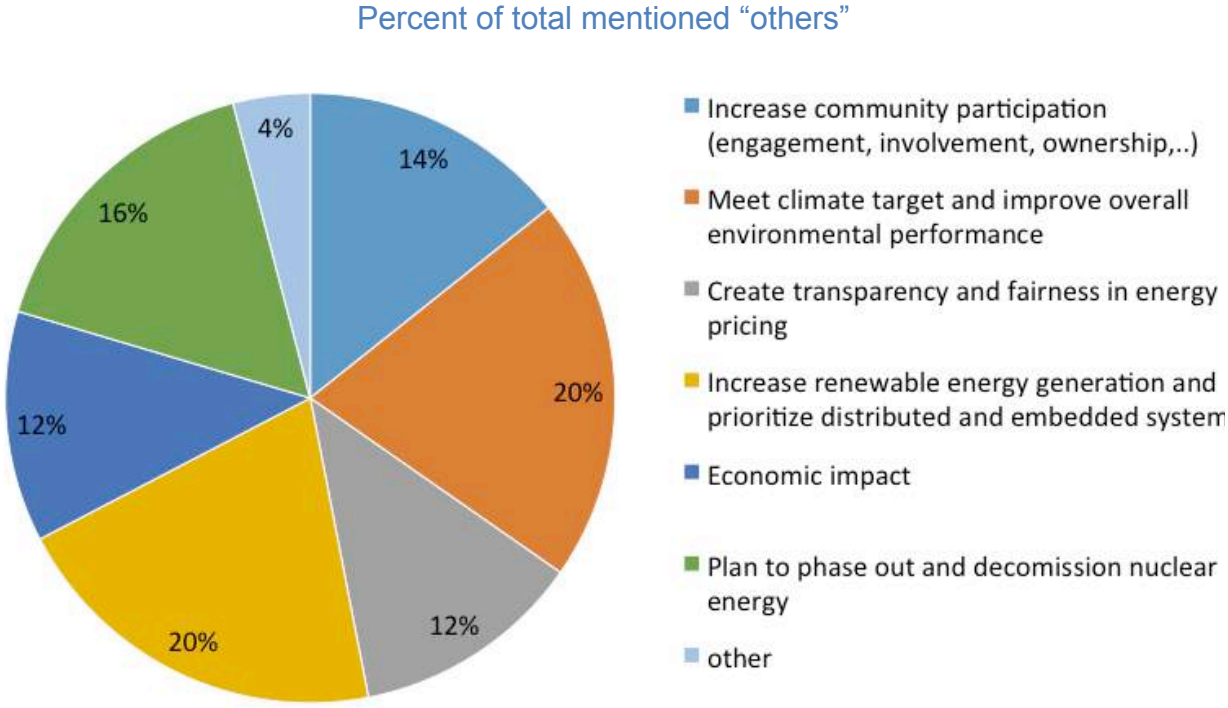
All respondents



OSEA members only



10. What areas should the LTEP 2016 cover that have not been mentioned here?

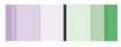


11. Below is a list of criteria against which the successful implementation of the Long Term Energy Plan could be measured. Please rank these criteria for us.

All respondents

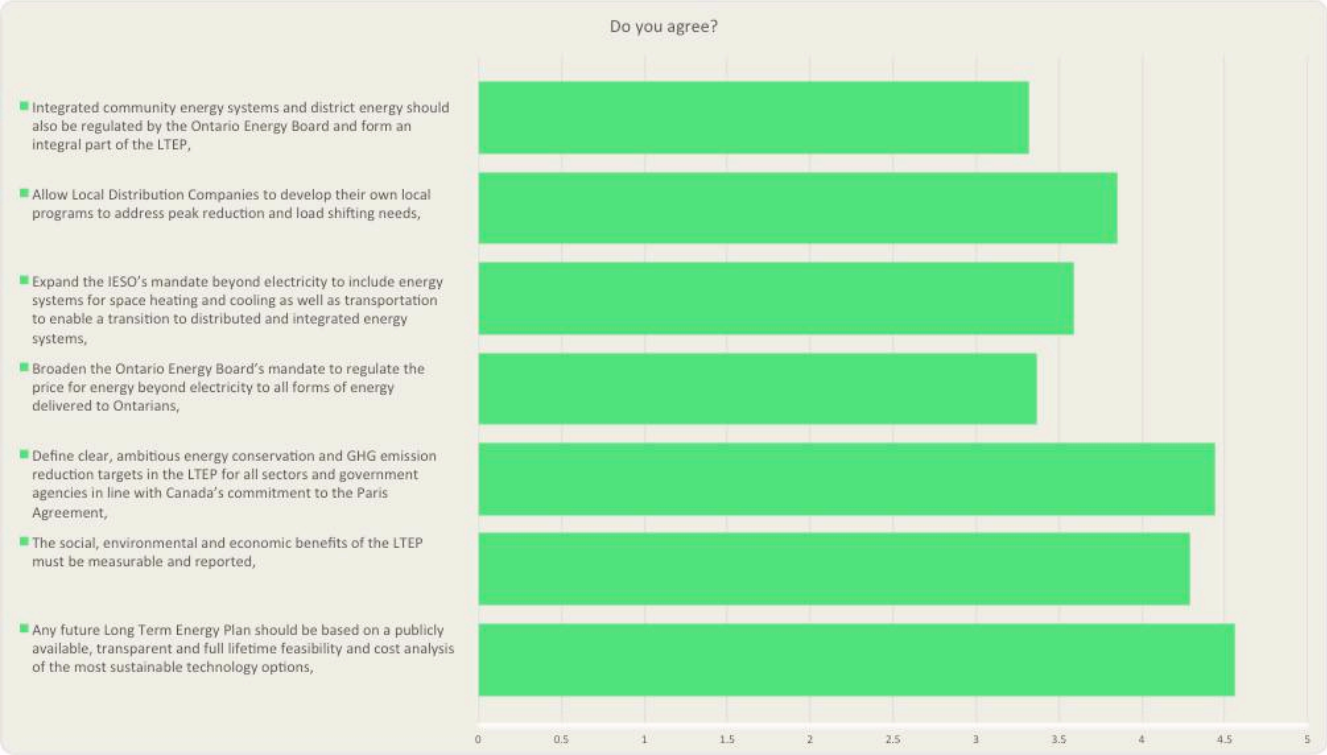
Overall Rank	Item	Rank Distribution	Score	Total Respondents
1	Overall environmental performance		634	112
2	Carbon emission reduction		634	113
3	Stability and reliability of the system		569	114
4	Flexibility and adaptability of the system		492	112
5	Economic impact and jobs created		482	115
6	Price of energy for Ontarians		450	114
7	Democratic ownership and citizen participation		438	112
8	Social acceptance and justice		391	112

OSEA members only

Overall Rank	Item	Rank Distribution	Score	Total Respondents
1	Overall environmental performance		179	33
2	Carbon emission reduction		176	33
3	Democratic ownership and citizen participation		153	33
4	Stability and reliability of the system		149	33
5	Economic impact and jobs created		146	34
6	Flexibility and adaptability of the system		145	33
7	Social acceptance and justice		137	33
8	Price of energy for Ontarians		111	33

12. The roles of the government and regulators should be to define the criteria for the successful energy system, set targets and provide data and required systems information to the participants in the sector and the public. They must avoid silo thinking and adopt an integrated approach to the planning of the electrical, thermal and transportation energy infrastructure in Ontario.

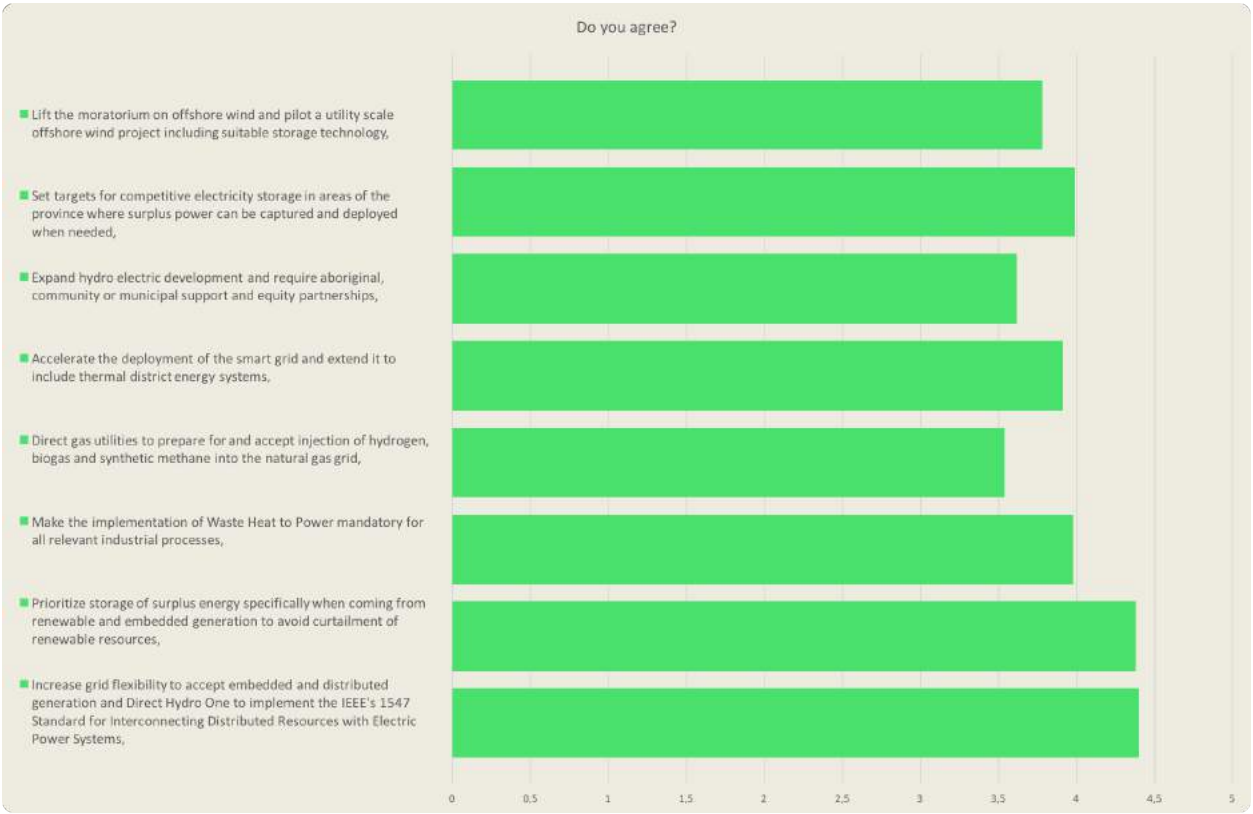
Respondents' average level of agreement with position



Rating system: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = fully agree

13. OSEA envisions for Ontario an energy system, which is powered, heated, cooled, and moved by a diverse portfolio of sustainable energy solutions. Accordingly, we recommend taking all available sustainable energy options into account when planning the energy system of the future.

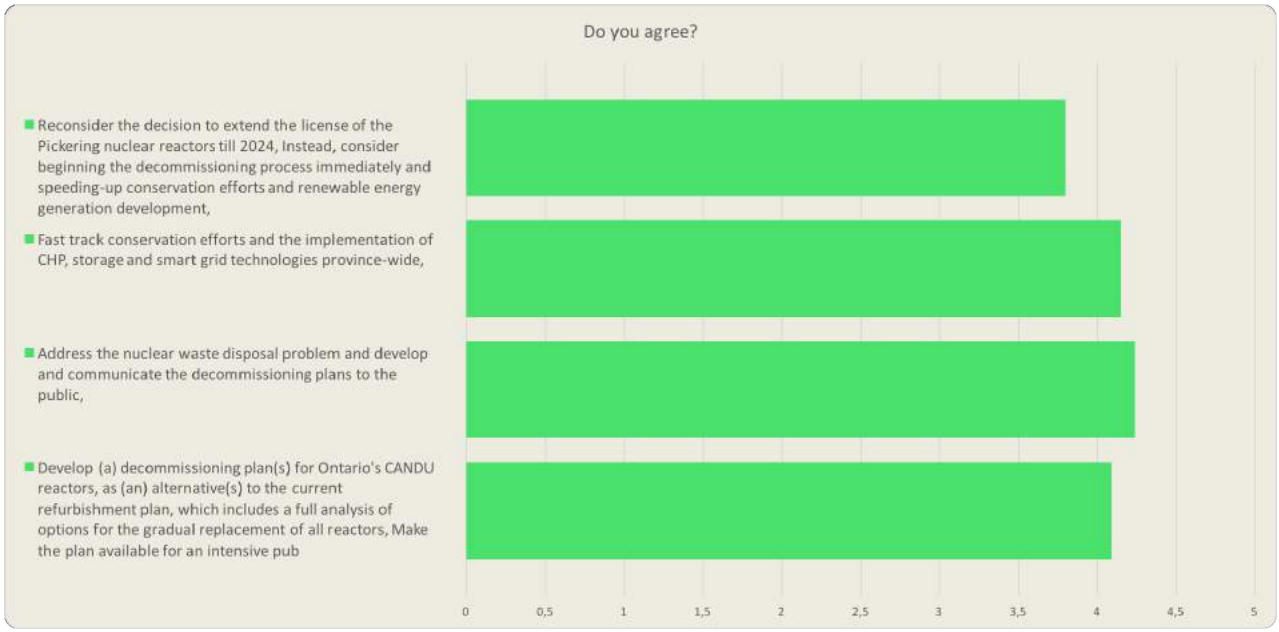
Respondents' average level of agreement with position



Rating system: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = fully agree

14. Ontario is on a path to refurbish all of its aging CANDU reactors. The question remains as to whether the refurbishment of our aging nuclear fleet is the most sustainable path for the province and there is the general feeling that the government has not taken sufficient steps to evaluate alternative energy supply scenarios for Ontario. Ontario has an abundance of renewable energy resources and storage opportunities that have not been explored by the Ministry of Energy. Locking our energy system into a significant portion of nuclear baseload will reduce its adaptability and flexibility. There is a significant risk that this decision will lead to higher electricity prices and leave Ontarians with stranded assets as conservation efforts, storage, embedded and distributed generation are continuously being advanced.

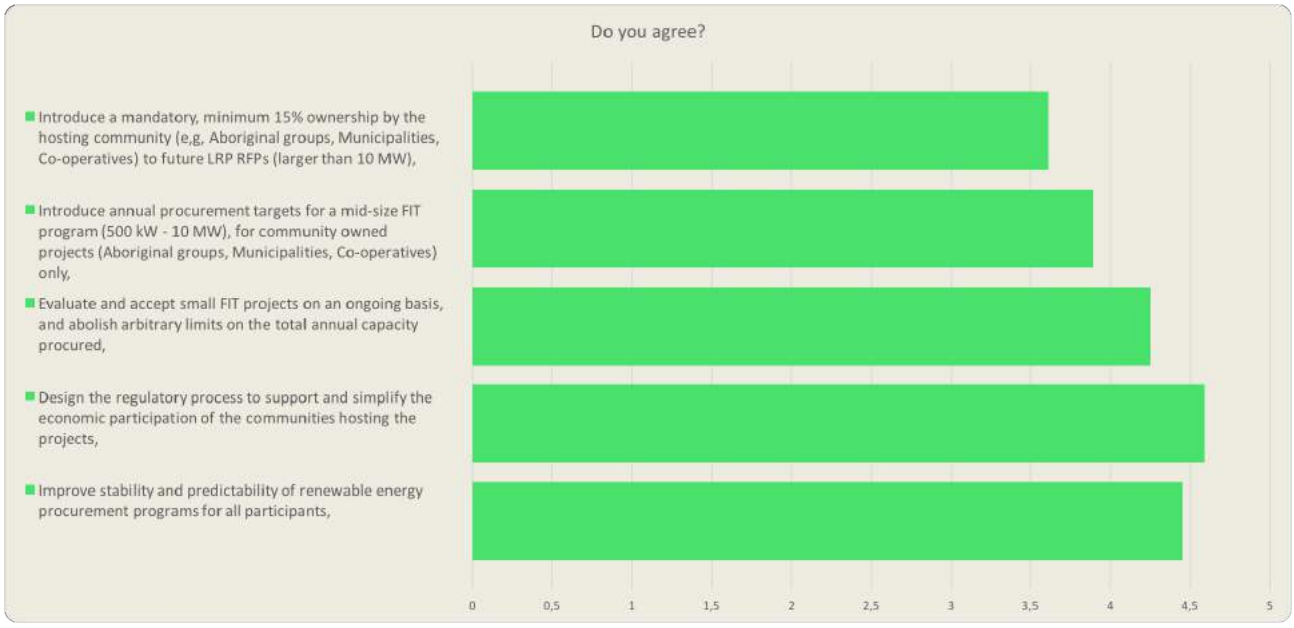
Respondents' average level of agreement with position



Rating system: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = fully agree

15. World wide experience with large-scale renewable energy developments has shown that social acceptance of projects depends on whether there is local ownership and direct benefits for the hosting communities. Specifically, the opposition to big wind developments is strong where the profits from these projects flow to external developers and no sustainable economic benefits are delivered to the hosting community.

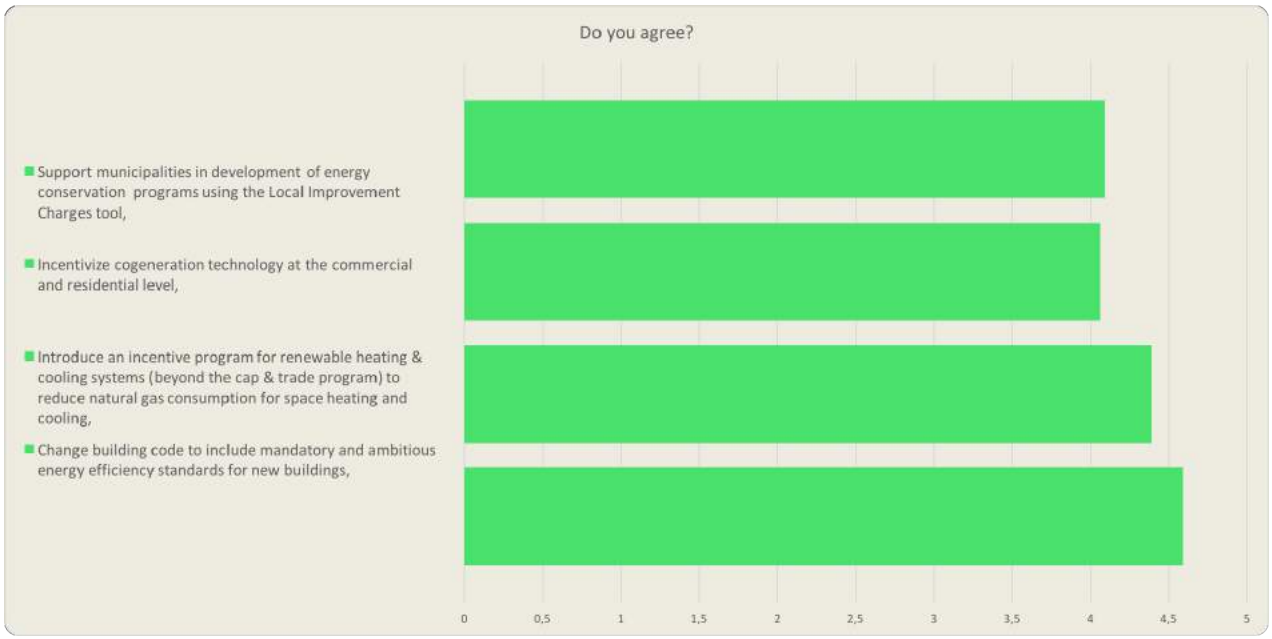
Respondents' average level of agreement with position



Rating system: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = fully agree

16. Carbon emissions from burning natural gas for space heating are the third largest single contributor to our GHG emissions from the entire energy sector. In order to reduce emissions from buildings, more efficient and sustainable heating & cooling systems must be implemented and mandated.

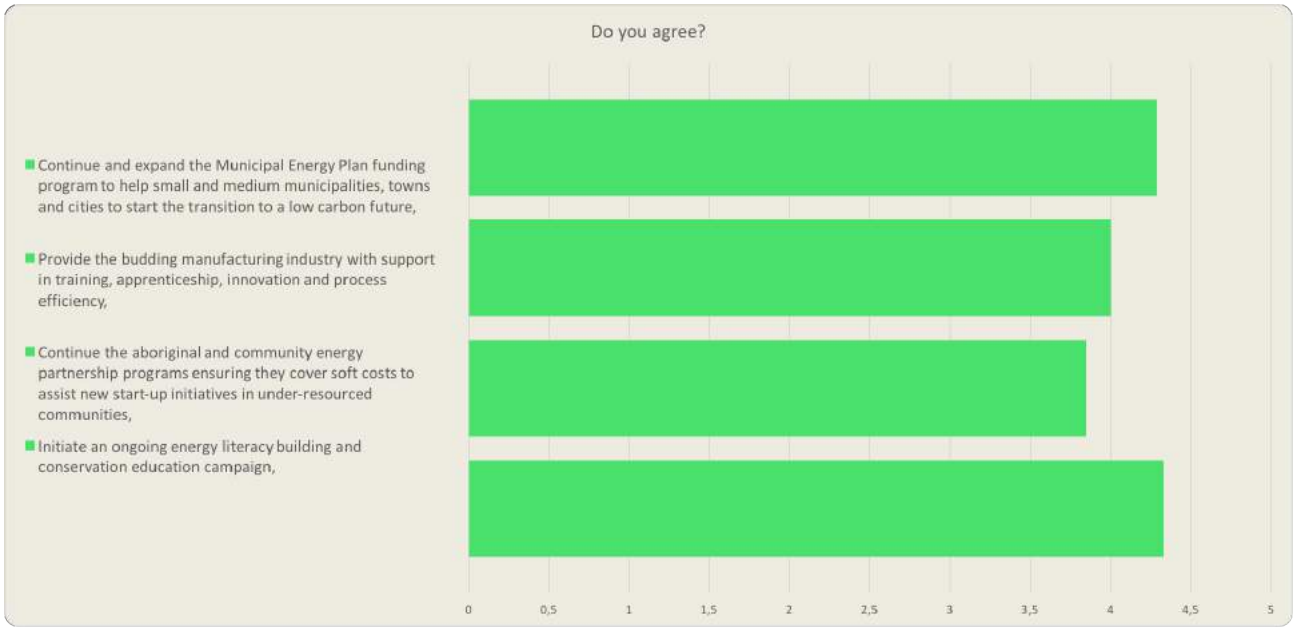
Respondents' average level of agreement with position



Rating system: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = fully agree

17. **The full potential of the energy transition to a distributed, democratically owned systems delivering the full social, environmental and economic benefits associated, can only be achieved if Ontarians understand and support the change. Behavioural change and active participation require an effort on behalf of the government. It must effectively communicate the sense of urgency and support the local champions of the energy transition in the communities.**

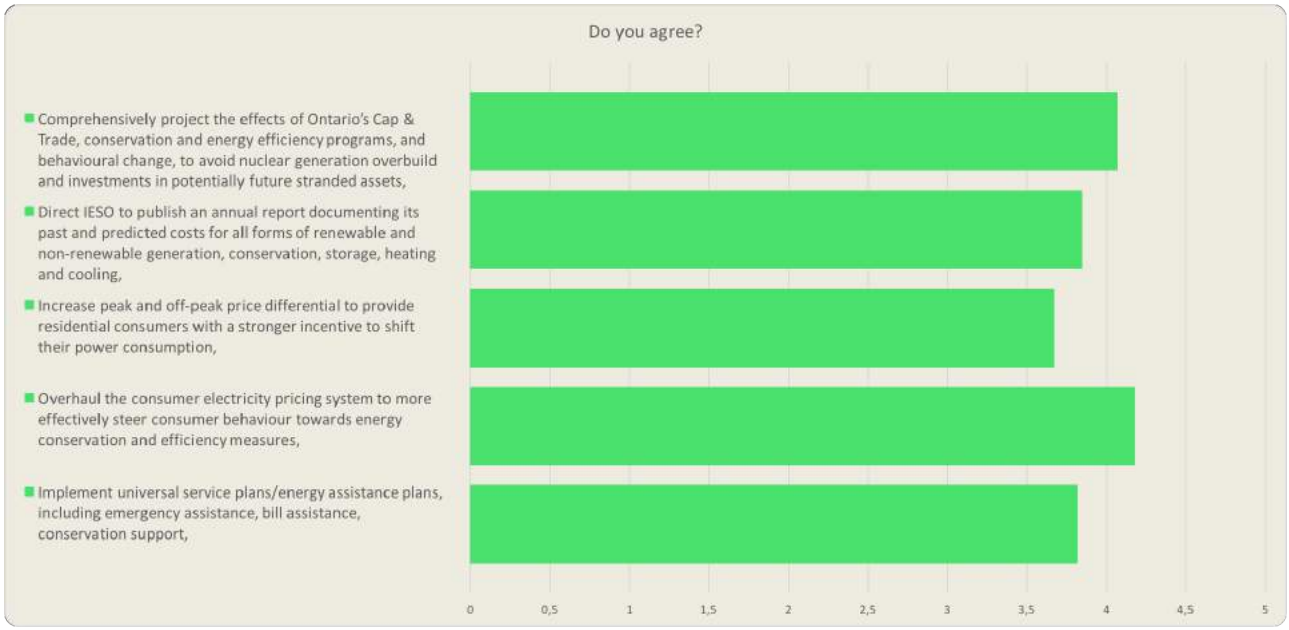
Respondents' average level of agreement with position



Rating system: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = fully agree

18. An energy transition can only be successfully realized if its full impacts are understood by the public. Social justice and consumer protection are important elements of it. Prices and rate changes must be fair and well communicated.

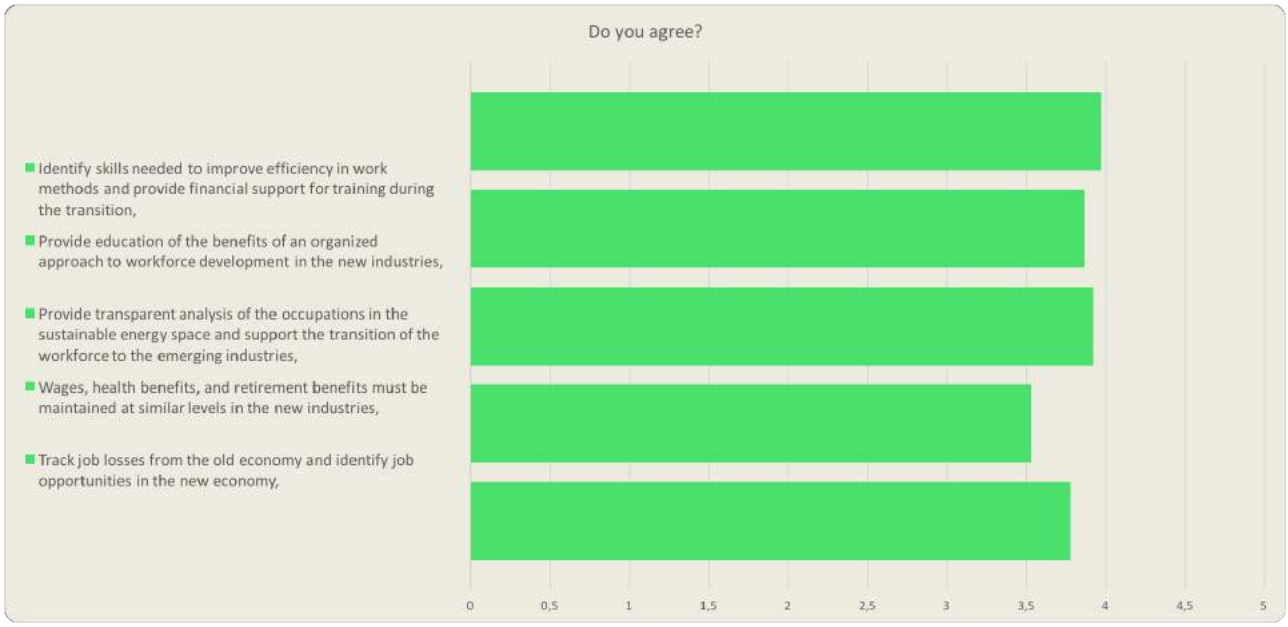
Respondents' average level of agreement with position



Rating system: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = fully agree

19. The path to conservation and renewable energy is disruptive to the labour structures that evolved around the centralized fossil and nuclear industries over the last 50 years. As we move towards a distributed sustainable energy system there is a fallout of jobs from the mature labour relations structures that existed in the old industries and there is no direct line to parallel labour structures in the sustainable space.

Respondents' average level of agreement with position



Rating system: 1 = disagree strongly, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = fully agree