

Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan:

Moving from Framework to Action, Phase I

Supplement on Public Engagement Discussions:

Priority Neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood Action, Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration

Toronto Environment Office

June 20, 2007

Public Engagement in the Priority Neighbourhoods

In order to supplement the civic engagement process that took place within the broader community, and to ensure that a diversity of viewpoints were heard regarding the City's Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan, through Neighbourhood Action, Toronto Social Development, Finance and Administration undertook additional consultations with several of Toronto's priority neighbourhoods. A survey / discussion tool was developed and administered by Social Development in order to connect with residents on what they are currently doing and on what would assist them to live a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

From May 31 to June 10, 2007, groups of youth from the priority neighbourhoods were engaged to use the survey tool to have discussions with residents about clean air and climate change, and to solicit their views on environmental issues. In most instances, the youth spoke to the residents and then filled in the survey on their behalf, which allowed for greater verbal translation into other languages. The survey tool is reproduced at the end of this document. In total, 397 surveys were collected from the following areas and events:

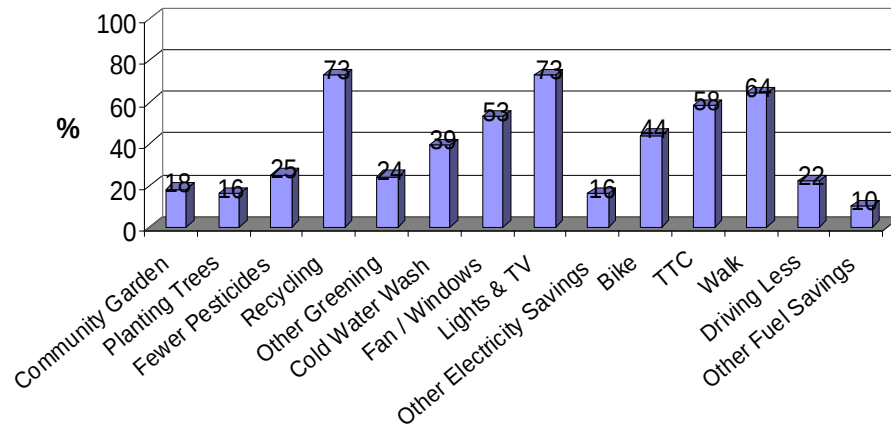
- Regent Park Community Clean-up
- Tropicana Jobs for Youth, Scarborough
- Second Base Youth Shelter
- Malvern Youth Community Employment Program
- Toronto Zoo (Malvern Parks, Forestry and Recreation)
- TCHC Tenants Forum
- Weston-Mount Dennis Community Celebration
- Malvern Library
- East Scarborough Storefront
- Students in Steeles-L'Amoreaux (various locations)

The survey responses were collated and analyzed by the Toronto Environment Office, the results of which are presented in the following pages.

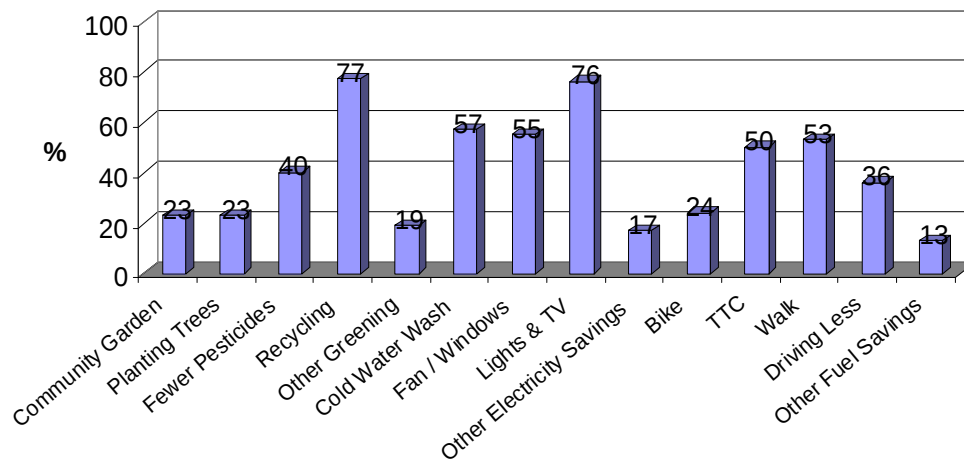
Results

The discussions and surveys revealed that residents of the priority neighbourhoods are currently doing a number of things to make their communities greener, save electricity, and ensure cleaner air. The most common actions include recycling and turning off the lights and TV when leaving a room (75% of respondents), followed by using a fan or opening windows rather than using an air conditioner, and walking and taking public transit rather than driving. The actions appeared to be relatively consistent across age groups, although the use of cold water for laundry, participation in community gardening and planting trees in one's neighbourhood all appeared to increase with age, whereas bicycle riding decreased with age.

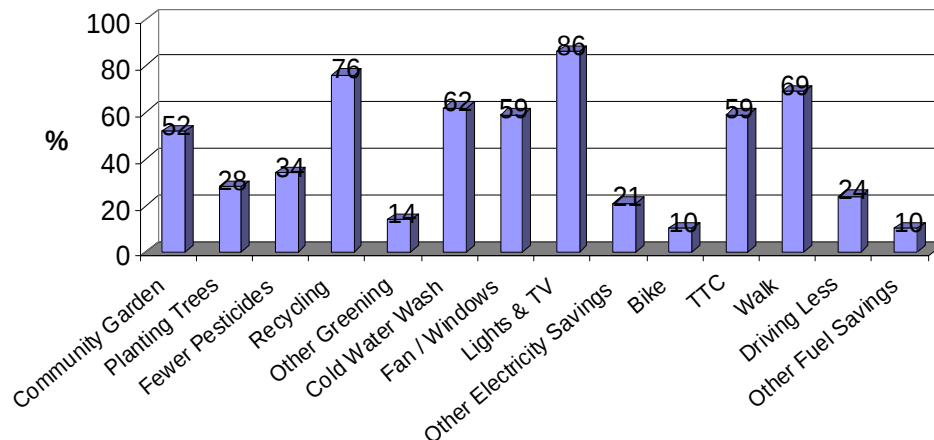
What Youth are Currently Doing to Care for the Environment



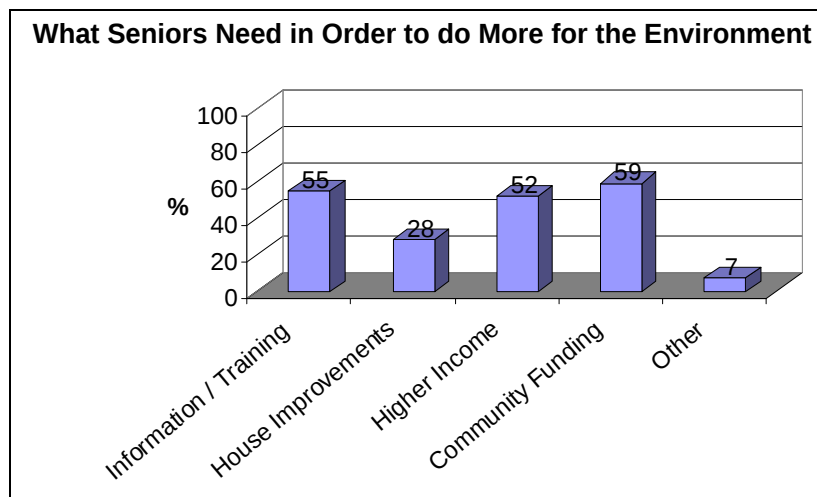
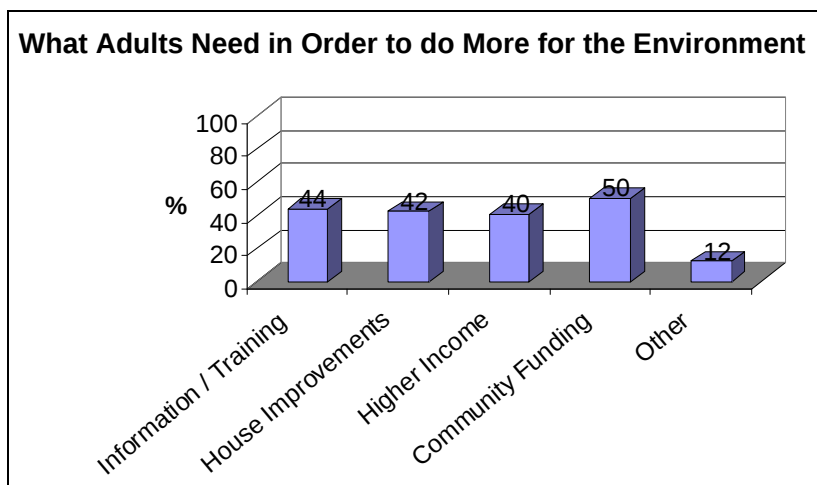
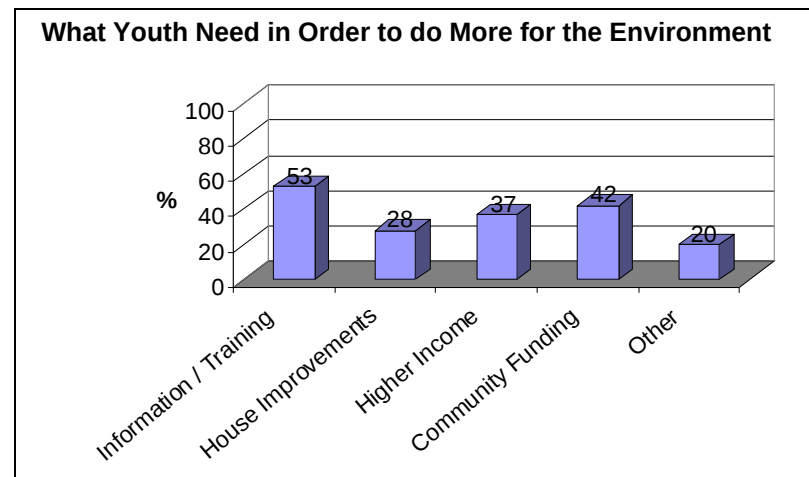
What Adults are Currently Doing to Care for the Environment



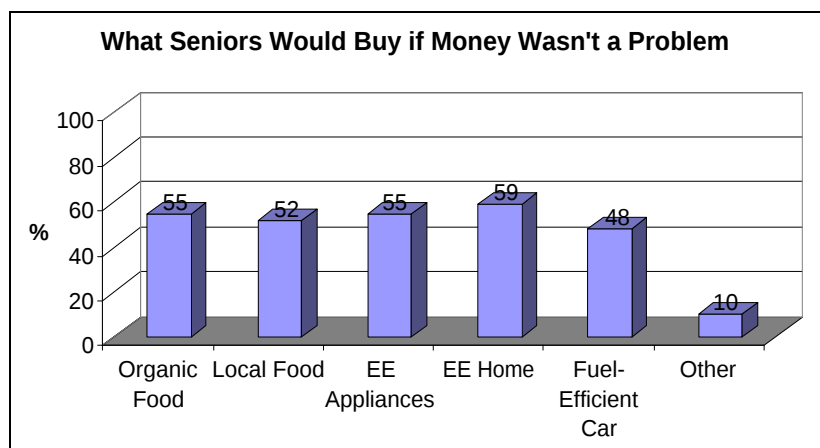
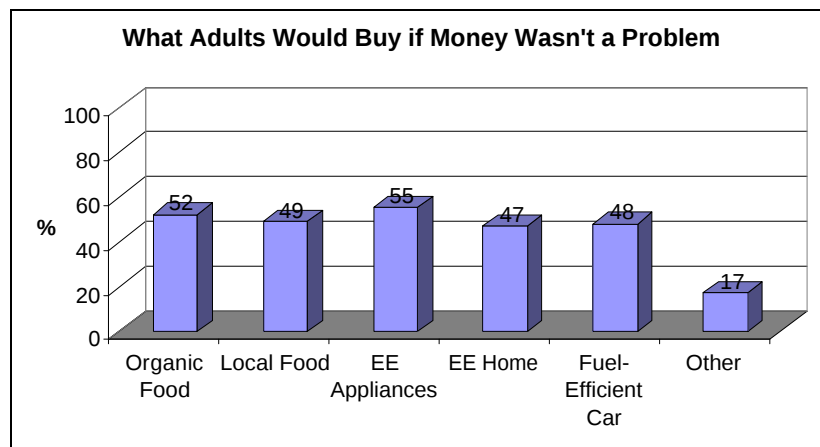
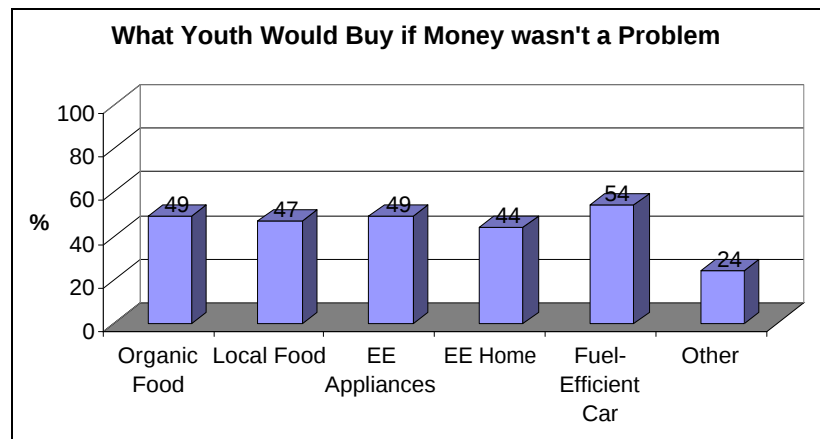
What Seniors are Currently doing to Care for the Environment



When asked what they or the community needs in order to do more for the environment, close to 50% of residents responded that they need more information or training, followed closely by a need for community funding to do clean-ups, gardens, or other projects. 39% of all respondents felt that they needed a higher income in order to make more environmentally-friendly choices.



When asked what they would buy if lack of money wasn't a problem, close to 50% of residents responded that they would buy organic foods, locally-grown produce, a more energy-efficient home, and a more fuel-efficient car, with slightly more interest in purchasing more energy-efficient appliances.



MY COMMUNITY... CHANGE IS THE AIR!

I am a: ☐ Youth ☐ Adult ☐ Senior (Please mark all applicable boxes in each category)

I want a greener community!

Right now I am:

- ☐ helping in my community garden
- ☐ planting trees in my neighbourhood
- ☐ using fewer pesticides on my lawn/garden
- ☐ using recycling boxes
- ☐ other

I want to save electricity!

Right now I am:

- ☐ using cold water rather than hot each time I wash my clothes
- ☐ using a fan/opening windows rather than air conditioning
- ☐ turning off the lights & TV when I leave the room
- ☐ other

I want cleaner air!

I have a car and have decided to:

- ☐ ride my bike
- ☐ take TTC
- ☐ walk
- ☐ drive less and less
- ☐ other

To do more, I/we need:

- ☐ more relevant information/training
- ☐ my housing provider to make repairs and energy-efficient household improvements
- ☐ higher income so I can make different choices
- ☐ Some funds for my community to do clean-ups, gardens and other projects
- ☐ other

If lack of money wasn't a problem, I would:

- ☐ buy organic foods
- ☐ buy locally grown fruit and produce
- ☐ buy more energy efficient appliances
- ☐ buy a more energy efficient home
- ☐ buy a fuel efficient car
- ☐ other