

# Feedback from Climate Strategy Consultation in May 2025



# Context

- Between 30 March and 8 May 2025, the University consulted on its [Draft Climate Strategy](#)
- Staff and students could respond via an online survey and/or attending one of two online panel sessions, chaired by Prof Dan Charman.
- The consultation was communicated extensively via the Weekly Bulletin, student newsletter, social media, digital screens, sustainability newsletter and Faculty Sustainability Committees.
- 169 responses received to an online survey.
- The survey consisted of questions that have been analysed quantitatively as well as the opportunity to leave free text responses.

# Summary of quantitative responses

Overall, there is a strong level of support for the draft Climate Strategy demonstrated through:

- 3 in 5 respondents are familiar with the University's approach to combatting climate change.
- Over half (54%) are highly supportive of the draft Climate Strategy (scoring 8-10) with a further 31% neutral (scoring 6-7).
- 87% support or are likely support the adoption of a science-based approach to target setting.
- Whilst 88% support the University's ambitions to reduce emissions, over half would like to see net zero reached earlier than 2050. Students (83%) are more likely than academics and PS staff to want an earlier net zero target.
- 86% agree or tend to agree with the reasons why the University is moving away from carbon offsetting. A third would like to be more informed.
- Over half (52%) feel it is likely the draft delivery plan will be successful. 3 in 5 (63%) would like more information.
- 90% agree that we all have a responsibility to tackle climate change through our individual choices.

# Summary of feedback



We gathered feedback via the online surveys and at the virtual panel events.

You said	We did
<p>There were conflicting views on the approach to offsetting.</p> <p>There was strong support for removing offsetting from our net zero target in the survey responses with 86% agreeing or tending to agree with the reasons why the University is moving away from carbon offsetting. However, there was also representation made by a small number of academics arguing for offsetting to remain as part of our approach.</p>	<p>These arguments were considered by ACT and the CEC Board and they agreed to continue to exclude offsetting from our net zero target because: feedback from the consultation indicated strong support for the removal of offsetting; the proposals were developed through extensive work by the Offsetting Task and Finish Group that all staff were invited to express interest to join; and the Science Based Targets Initiative only allows offsetting for residual emissions with the long-term net zero target.</p>
<p>Request for further information around insetting</p>	<p>This has been included in the Climate Strategy FAQs</p>

# Summary of feedback



We gathered feedback via the online surveys and at the virtual panel events.

You said	We did
You asked for further information on how we account for emissions associated with investments	<p>We have amended our approach to how we report emissions associated with investments to align with international best practice for non-financial organisations and ensure our climate reporting remains focused, credible, and actionable.</p> <p>We include emissions associated with our investments (Rathbones) but exclude emissions associated with pensions.</p> <p>Further information on how we calculate our carbon emissions is contained in this document.</p>
Questions relating to assumptions used in the modelling and reporting of carbon footprint	<p>A document containing more detailed information on the assumptions and methodology used in reporting emissions is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

# Summary of feedback



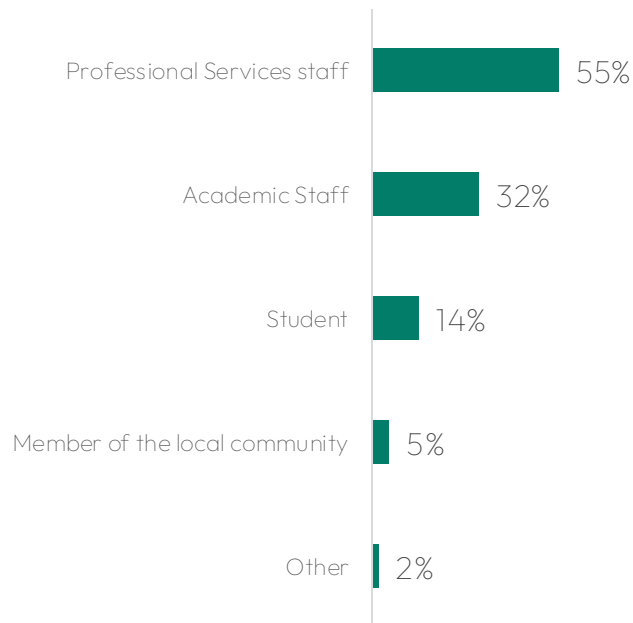
We gathered feedback via the online surveys and at the virtual panel events.

You said	We did
No mention of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	The Climate Strategy now contains a section on AI (page 35).
Agreement that cultural change is critical.	Made minor changes to the Strategy document.
Requests for further information on the Culture Change Programme	Provided further information in the FAQs.
Suggestions of additional mini case studies to add	We have included a few additional case studies in the Climate Strategy, while balancing with the length of the document. Case studies will continue to be featured in the Annual Sustainability Report.
Requests for further information on a range of topics	Further information has been provided in the FAQs and on the <a href="#">sustainability website</a> .

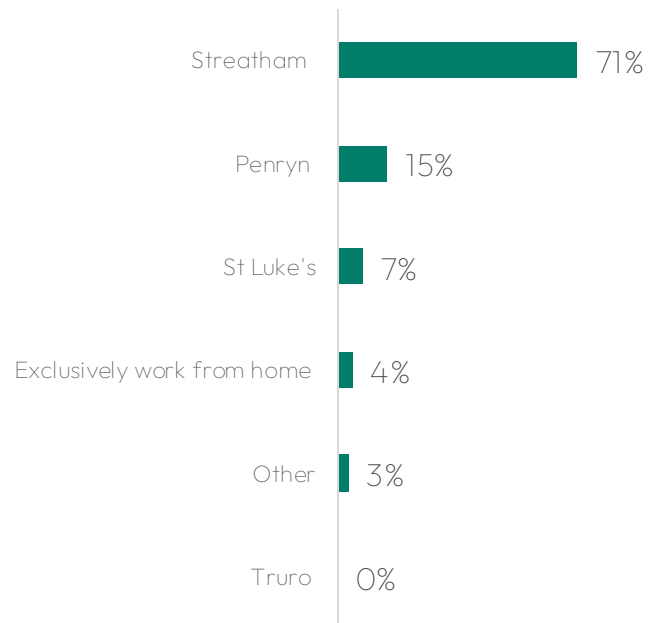
# Responses from online survey



Q1: Which description most closely represents your relationship to the University?

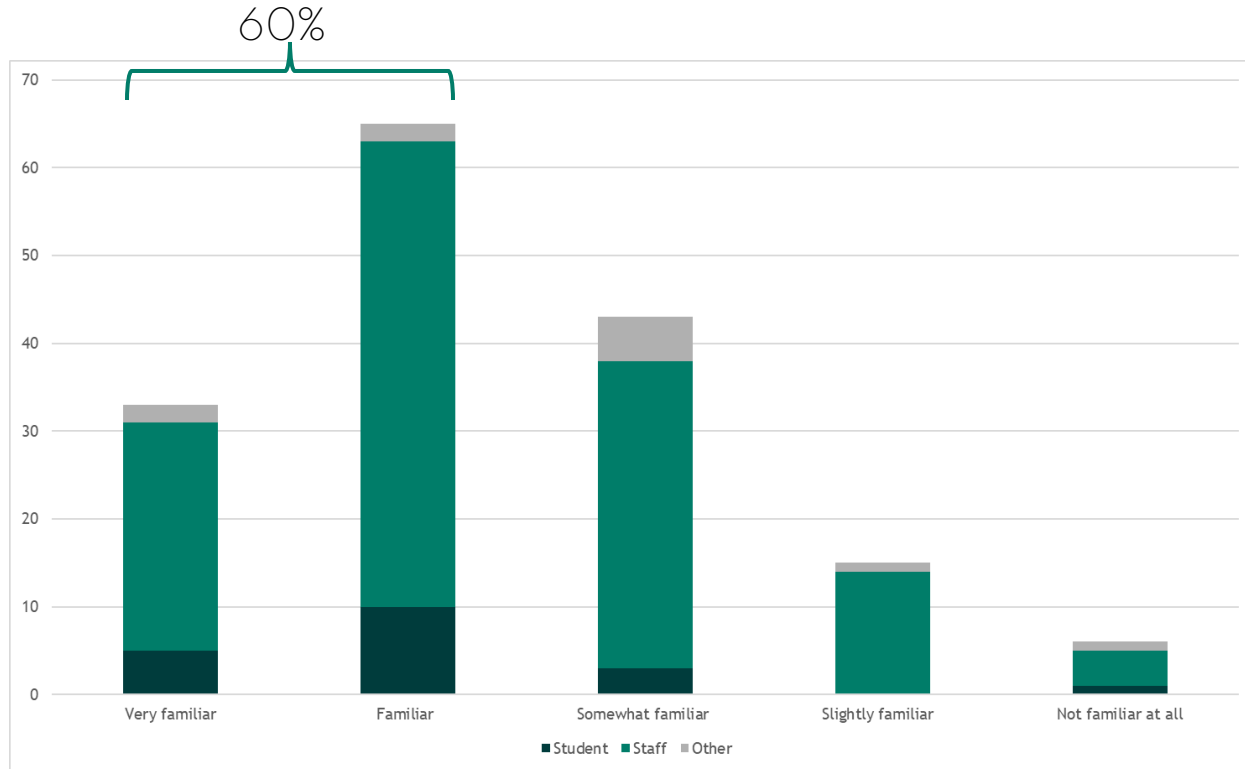


Q2: Which campus do you typically spend the most time at?





# 3 in 5 are familiar with the University's approach to combatting climate change

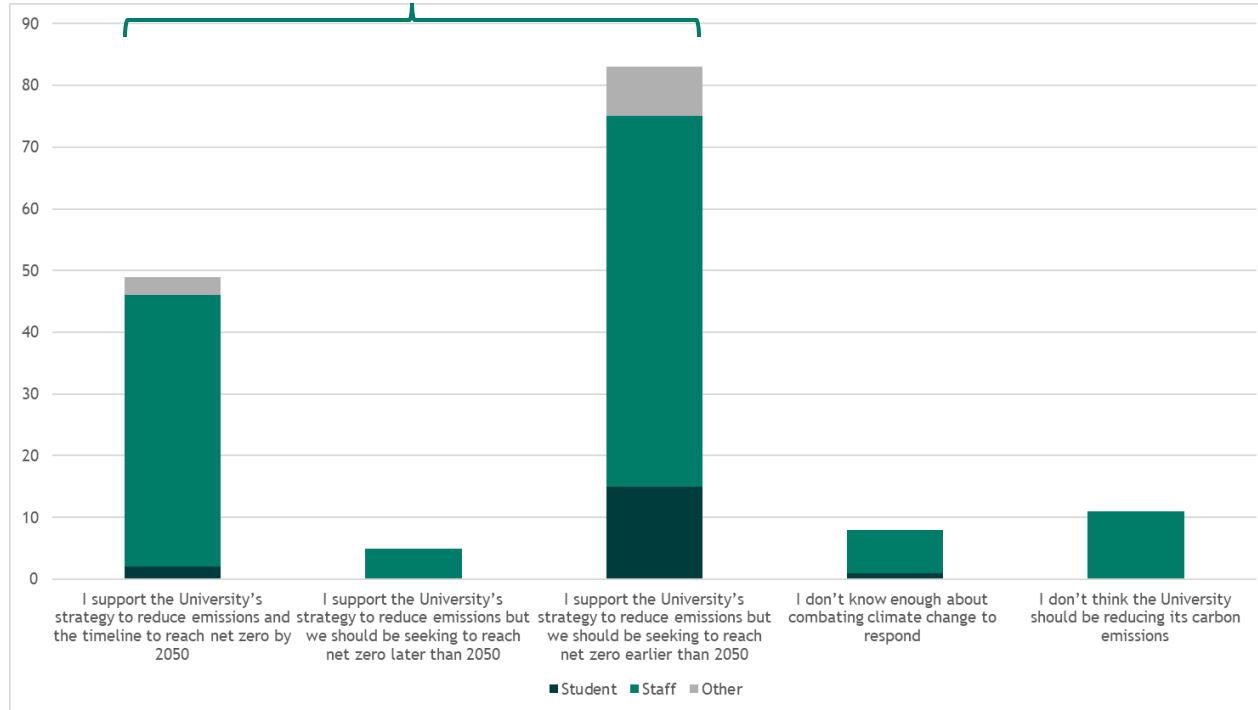


Q3. Considering your understanding and knowledge of the topic, how familiar are you with the University's approaches to combatting climate change?

Whilst 88% support the University strategy to reduce emissions, over half would like to see net zero reached earlier than 2050



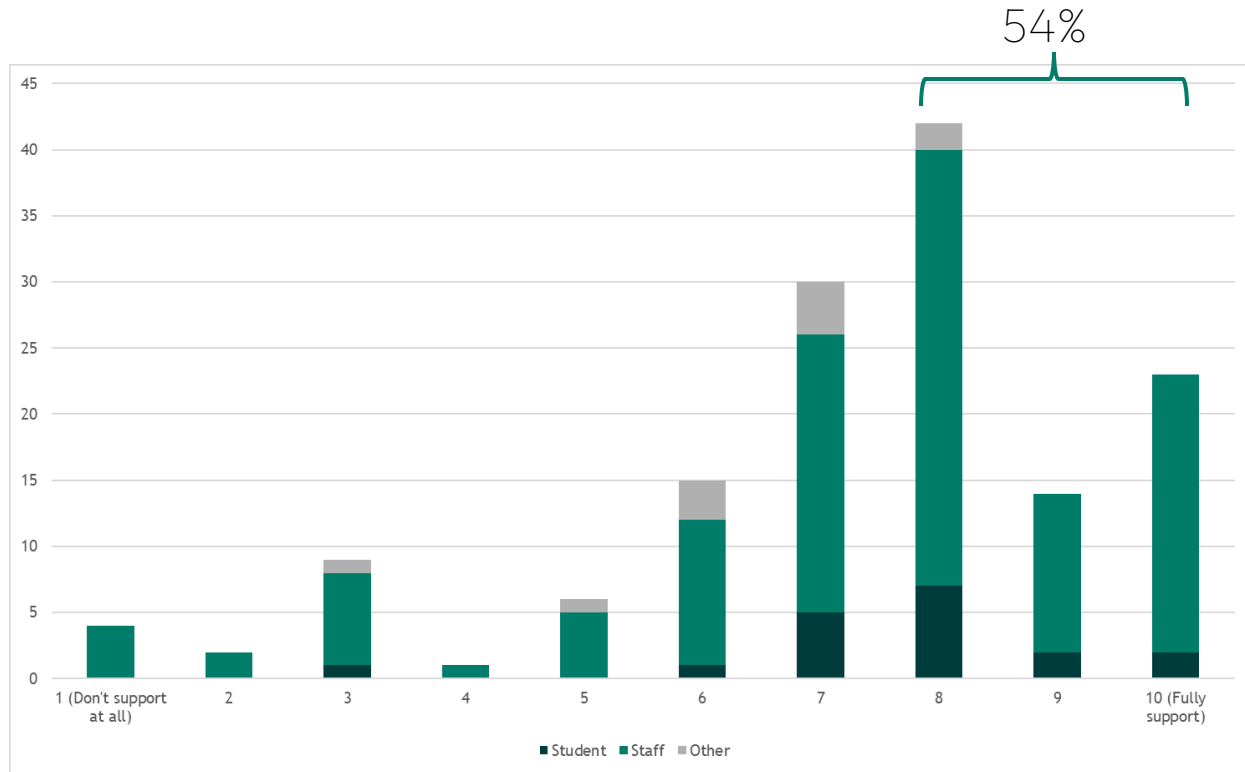
88%



Q4: Which of the following best describes your response to the University's ambitions in the draft strategy?

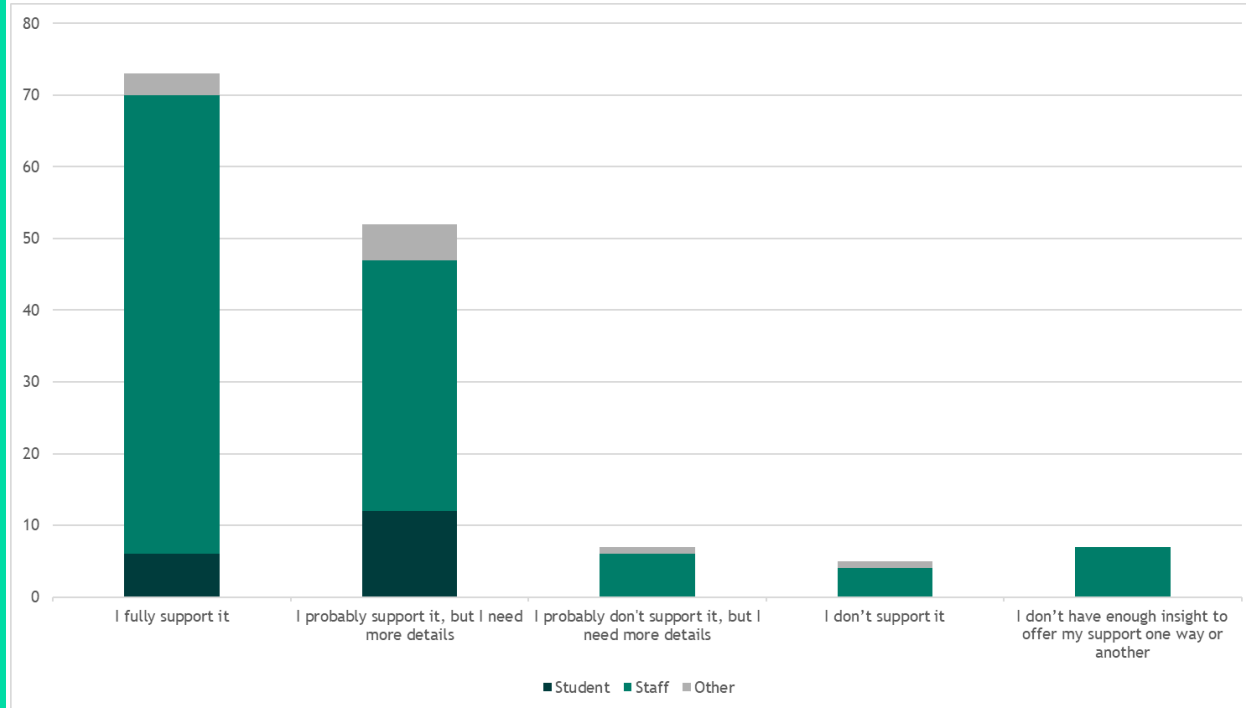
Students (83%) are more likely than academics and PS staff to want an earlier net zero

# Over half (54%) are highly supportive of the draft climate strategy



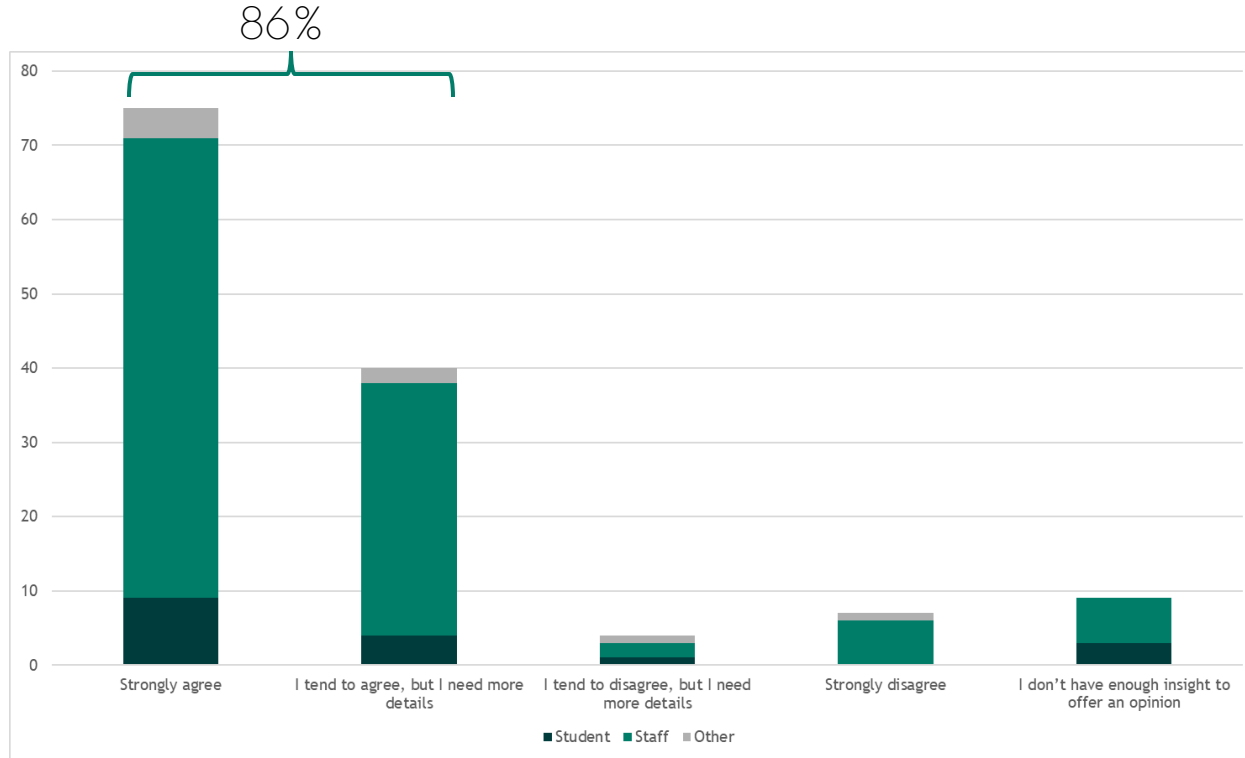
Q5: To what extent do you support the draft Climate Strategy?

# There is strong support for the use of a science-based approach to setting targets



Q6: Do you support the use of a science-based approach to setting our targets?

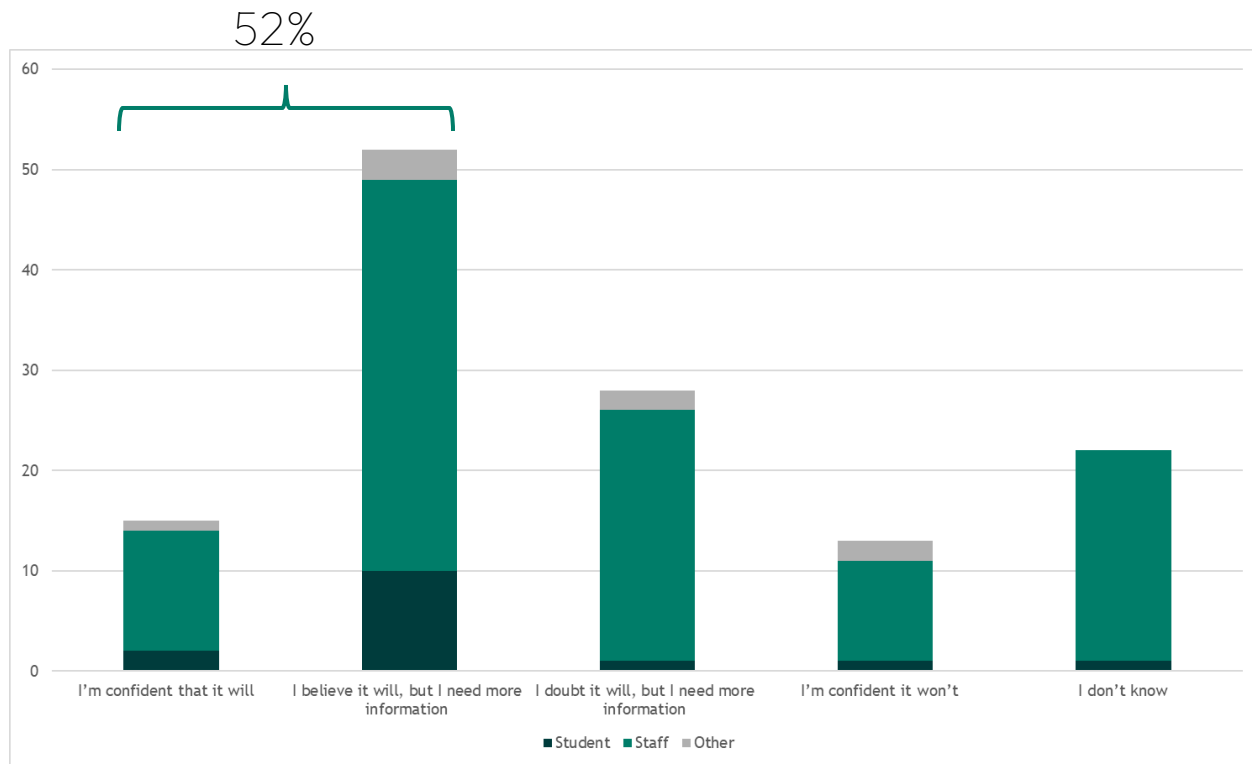
# Nearly 9 in 10 (86%) agree or tend to agree with the reasons why the University is moving away from carbon offsetting



Q7. Do you agree with the reasons the University is moving away from using carbon offsetting to reach its climate targets?

A third (33%) would like to be more informed

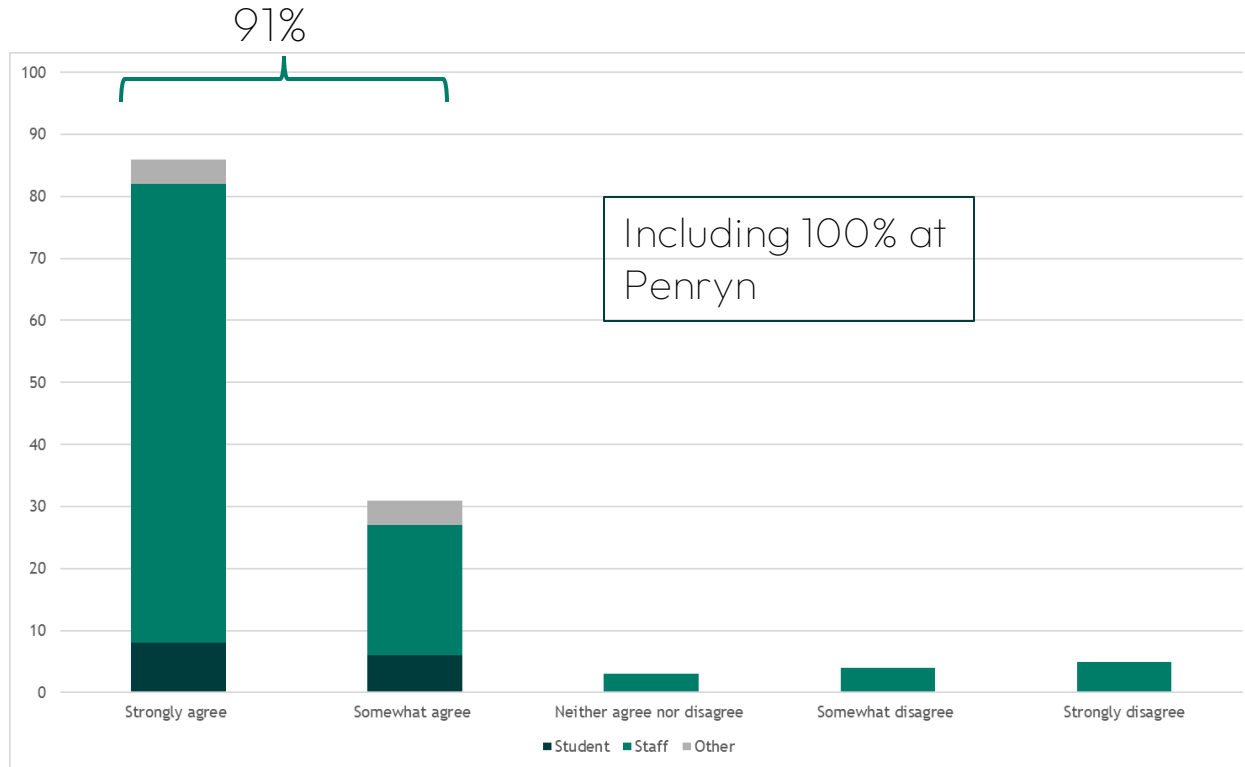
# Over half (52%) feel it's likely the draft delivery plan will be successful



Q8: Do you think that the delivery plan (pages 18 – 31 of the draft strategy) will effectively deliver our ambitions?

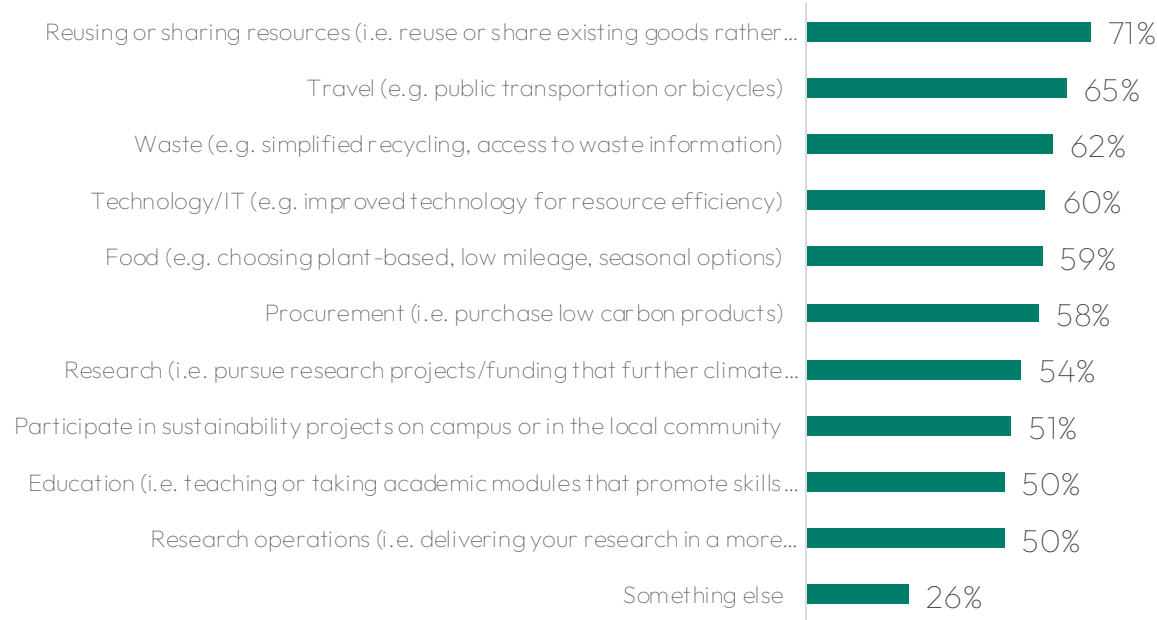
3 in 5 (63%) would like more information

Over 90% agree that we all have a responsibility to tackle climate change through our individual choices



Q9: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
"Addressing climate change is a responsibility we all share and the choices we make in our day-to-day lives hold the power to make a significant contribution towards tackling it"

More than 3 in 5 feel reuse/sharing resources (71%); travel options (65%) and waste (62%) should be investment priorities to meet climate targets



Q10: Which of the following do you think we need to further invest in to meet the revised climate strategy targets?

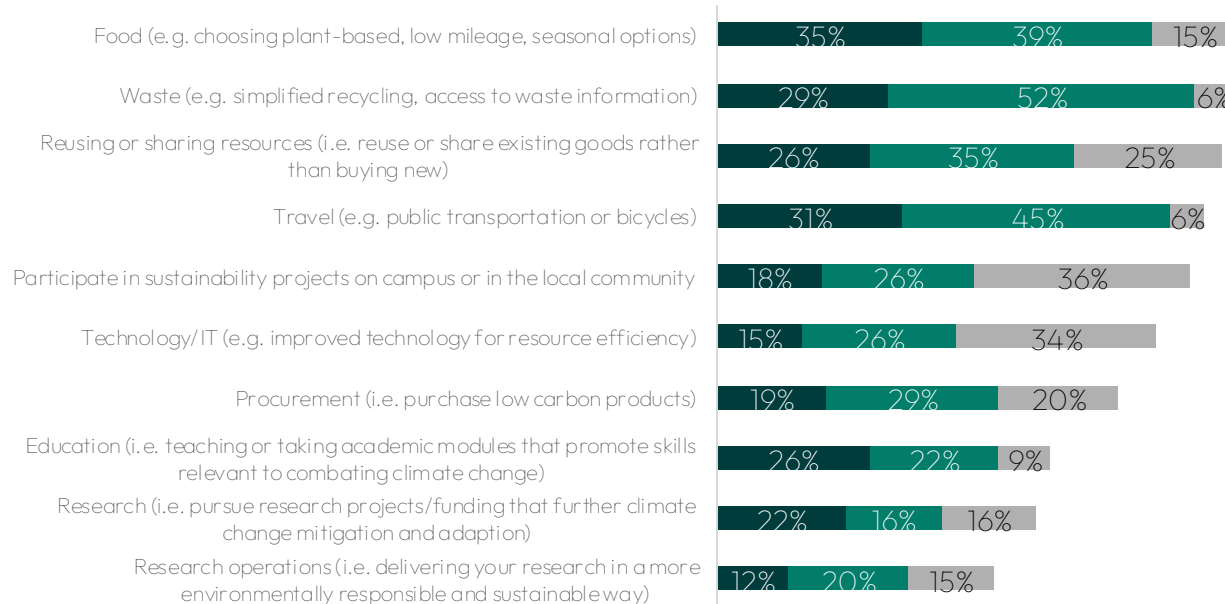
Base = 117



# Food, Travel and Waste are the most engaged with from a climate point of view



■ I engage with this and want to do more ■ I engage with this ■ I haven't engaged with this but I want to



Over a third want to engage for the first time with sustainability projects (36%) and more sustainable tech (34%)

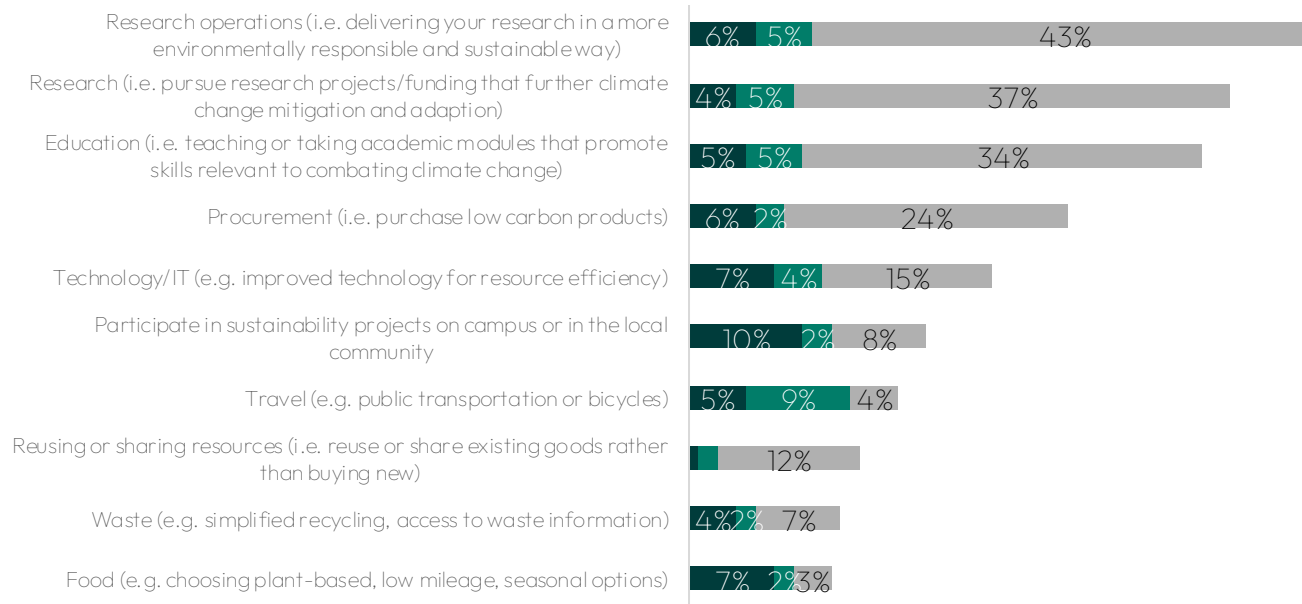
Q11: And which of the following do you engage with in your day to day experiences through your interactions with the University?

Base = 124

# Nearly 1 in 10 (9%) say they are not able to choose sustainable travel options



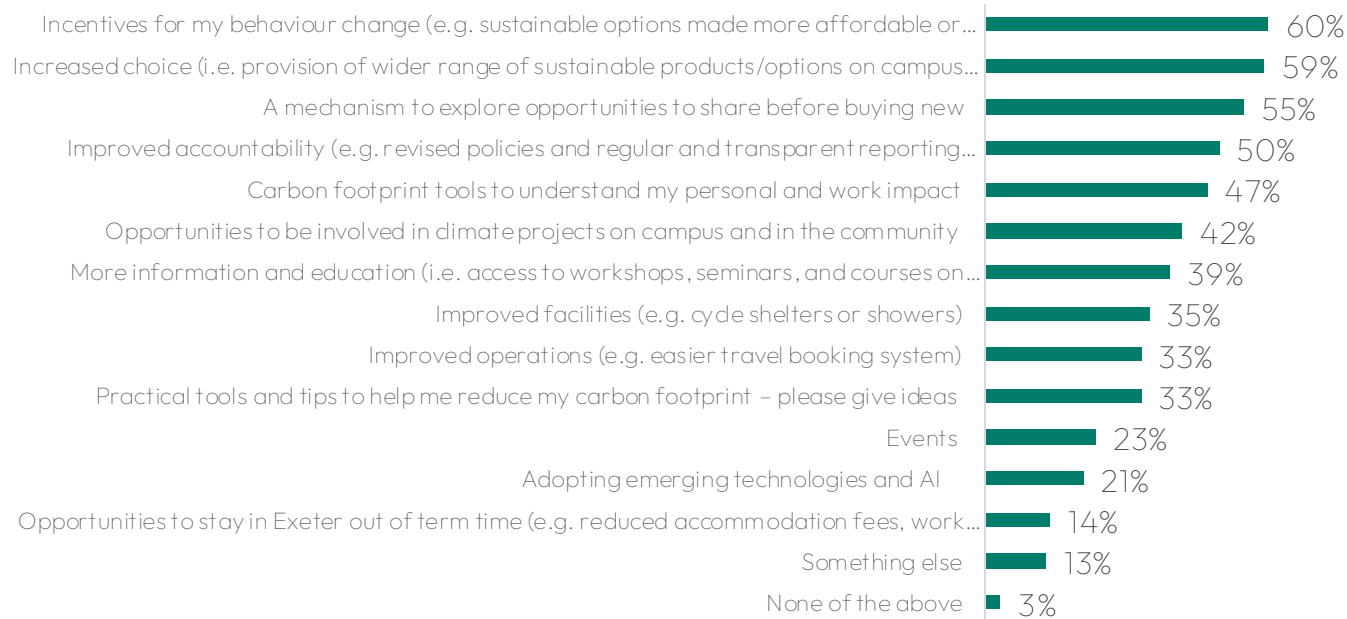
■ I haven't engaged with this and don't intend to ■ I'm not able to engage with this ■ Not relevant for me



Q11: And which of the following do you engage with in your day to day experiences through your interactions with the University?

Base = 124

More than half feel incentives for behaviour change (60%), more sustainable choices (59%) and a mechanism to explore reuse opportunities (55%) would support their own increased sustainable behaviour



Q12: What could the University do to further support you to take actions to reduce carbon emissions?



University  
of Exeter