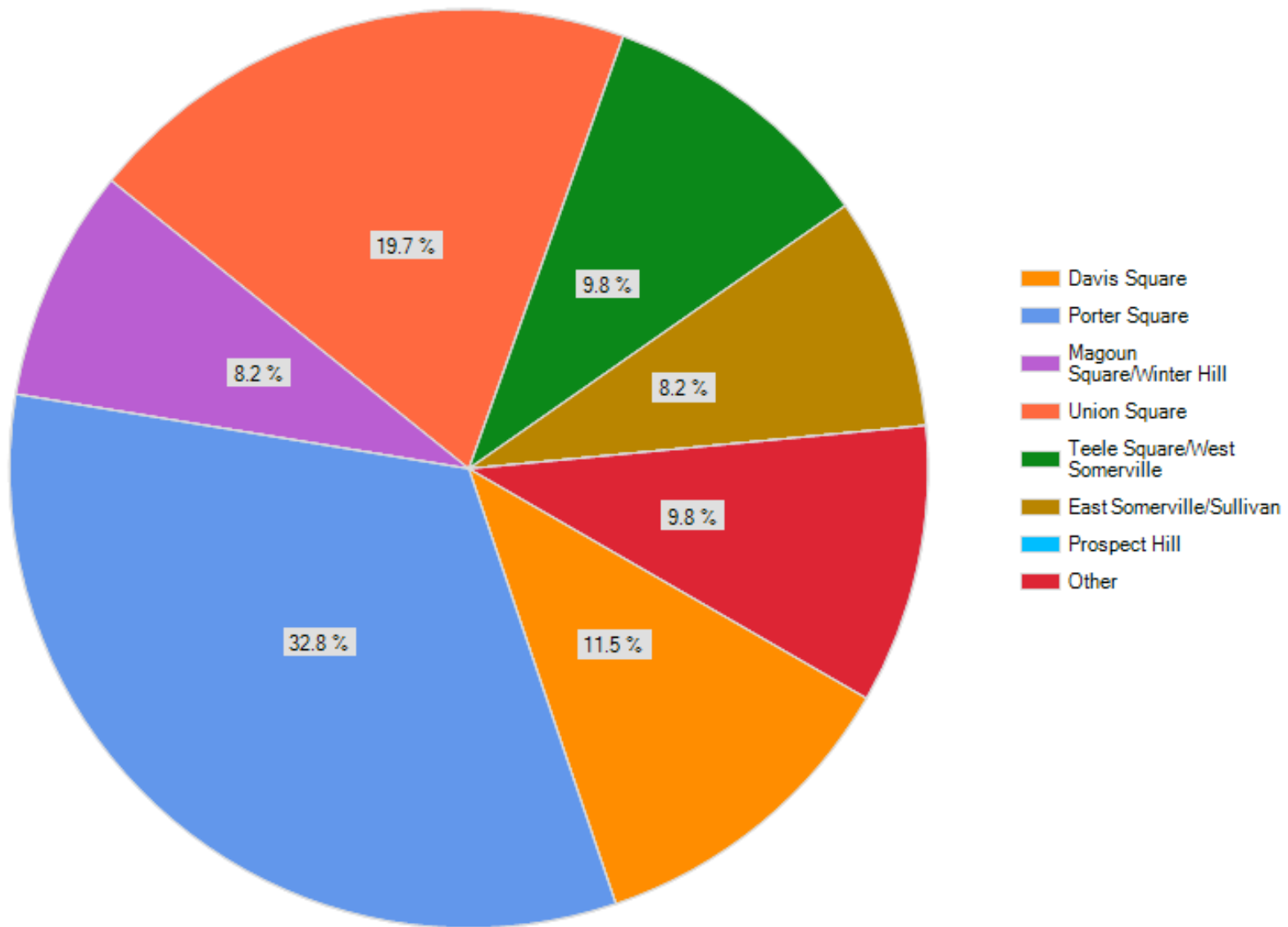


## **Young Somerville Advisory Group: Survey on the Environment and Sustainability in Somerville**

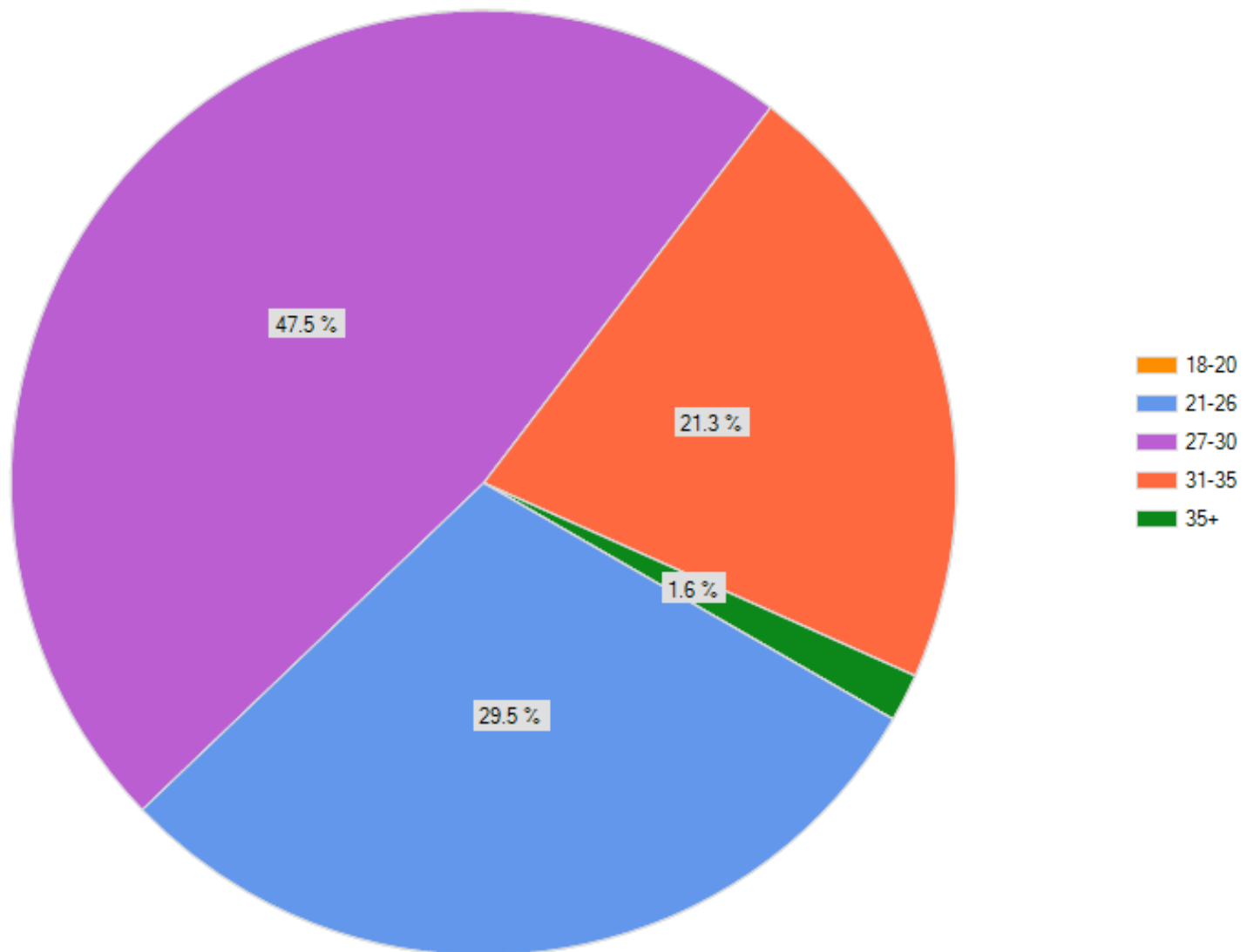
Mayor Curtatone's Young Somerville Advisory Group is comprised of thirty 21 to 35 year old Somerville residents. The group's goals are to increase the number of young residents engaged in our civic community, improve the quality of City services offered and increase communication between City government and people in this age group. The Group will accomplish set goals by advising the Mayor and City staff, initiating and organizing activities targeted to this demographic, and advocating on behalf of fellow Young Somerville residents.

This survey was conducted to gather information from Young Somerville residents on what types of Sustainability initiatives they take part in and what they might like to see the City of Somerville pursue. All respondents responded that they were from Somerville. Raw information from open responses is listed after all the compiled chart data. The survey was sent out on March 10, 2010 and this data was compiled on March 17, 2010. 61 total responses were taken during that time.

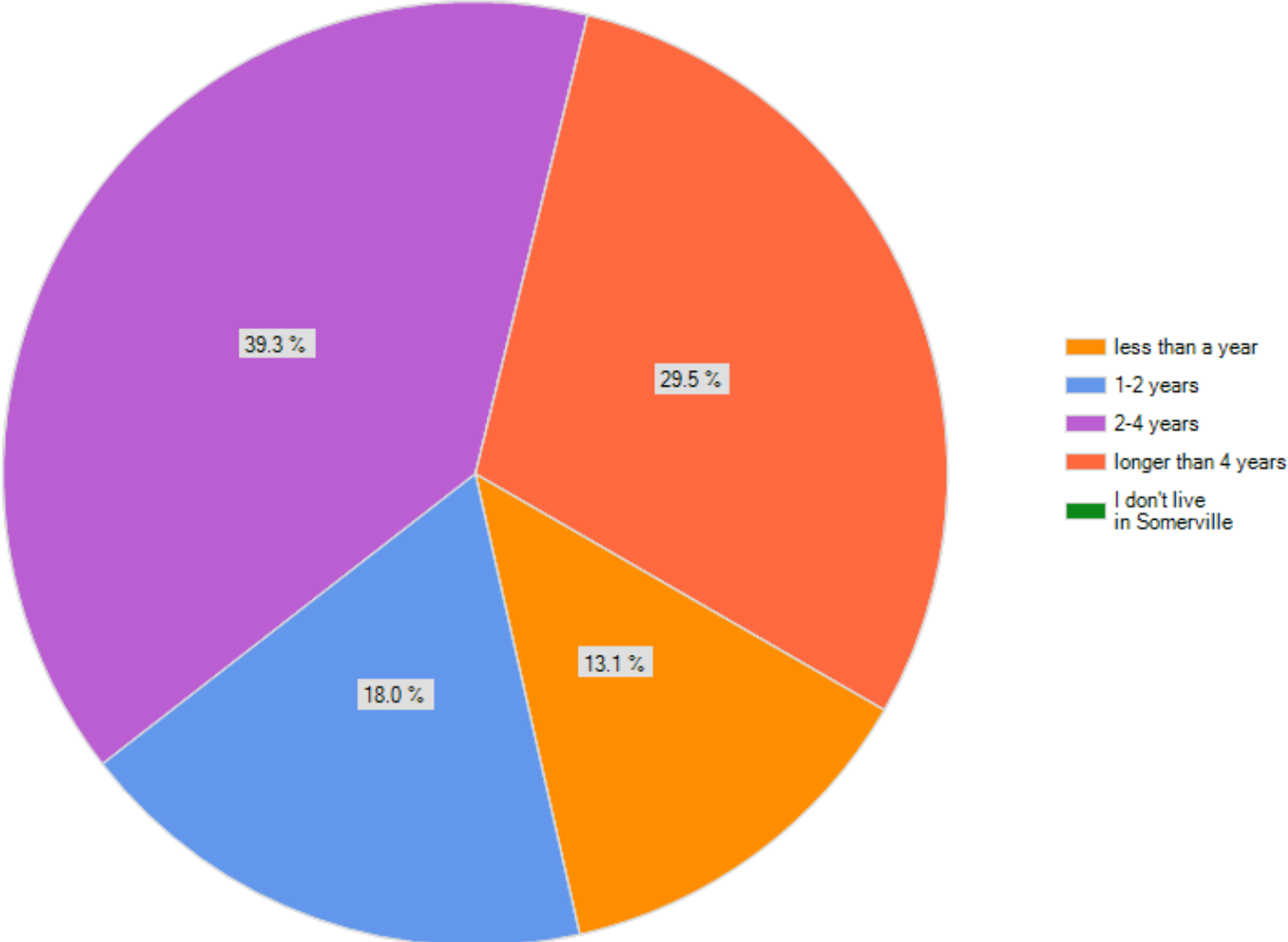
**If yes, what neighborhood do you live in?**



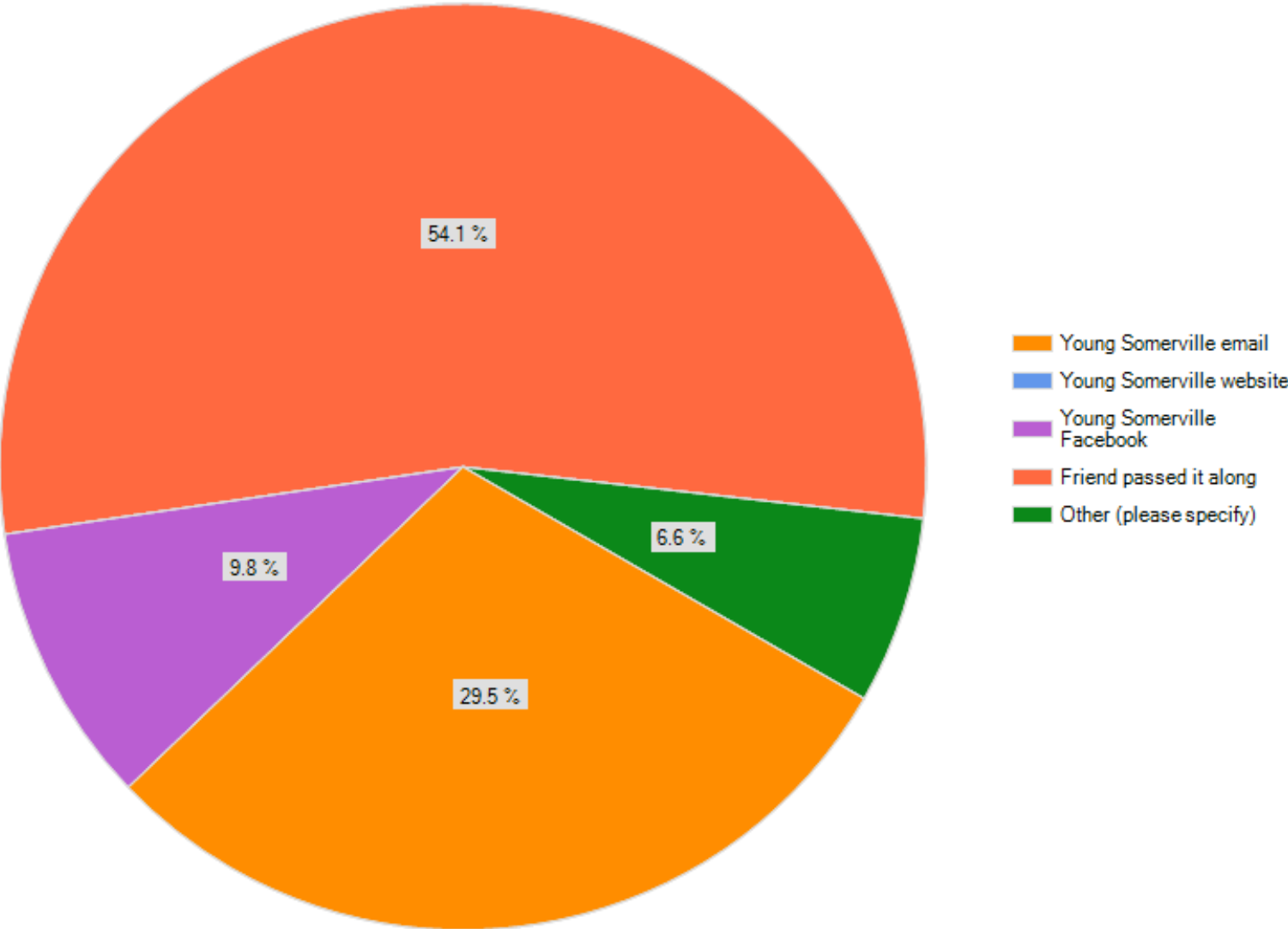
Please select your age group from the list:



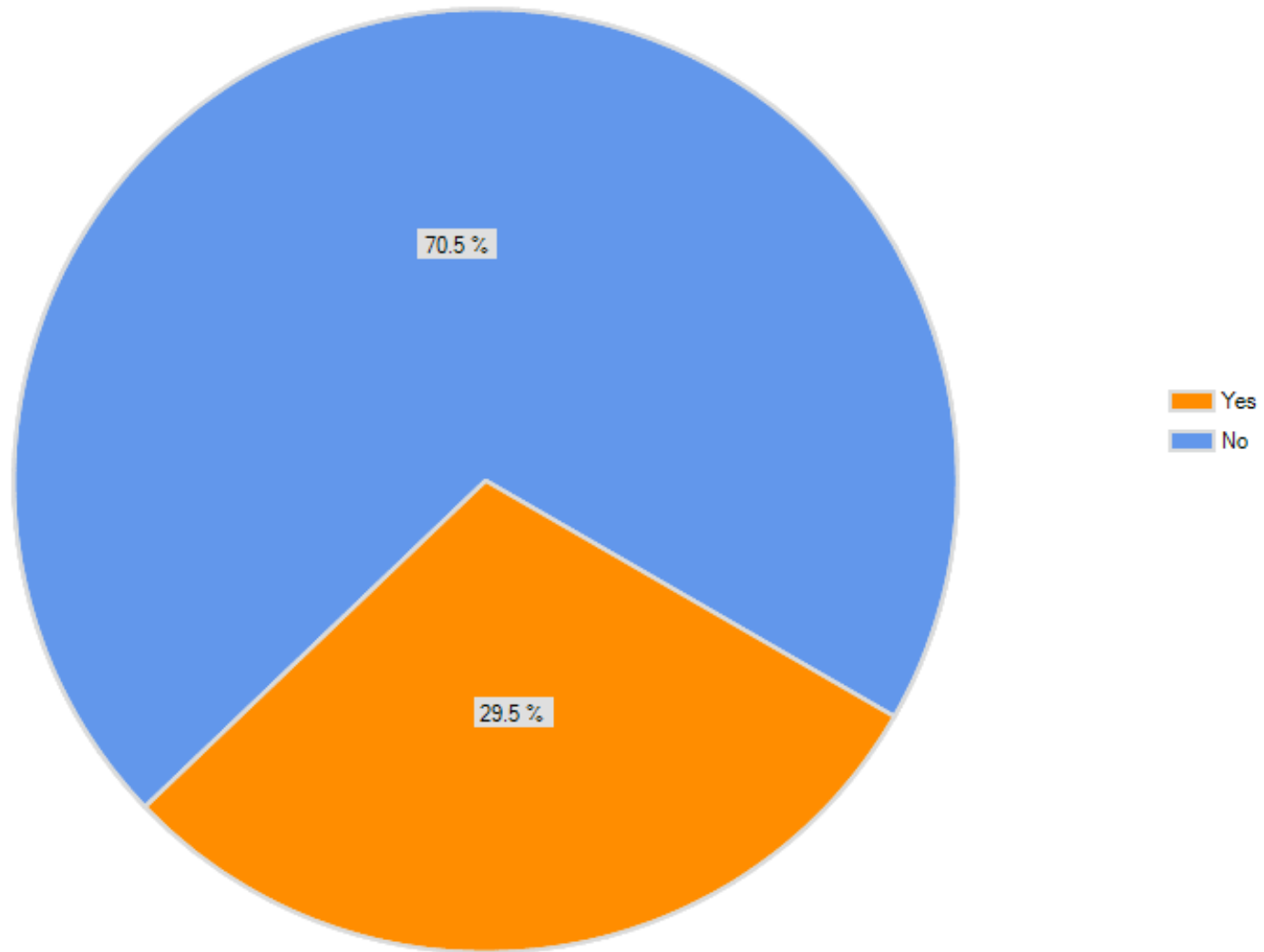
**How long have you lived in Somerville?**



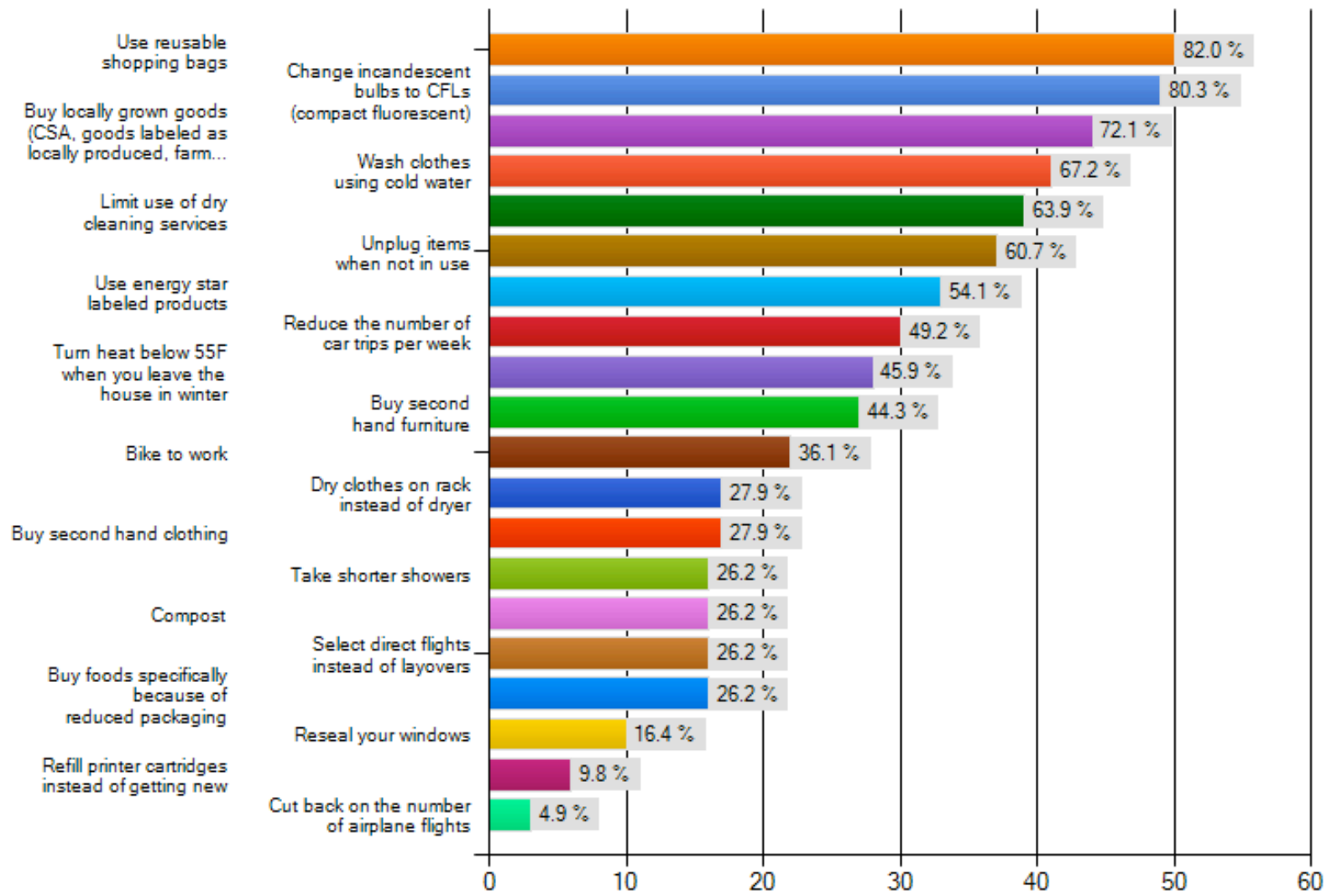
How did you find out about this survey?



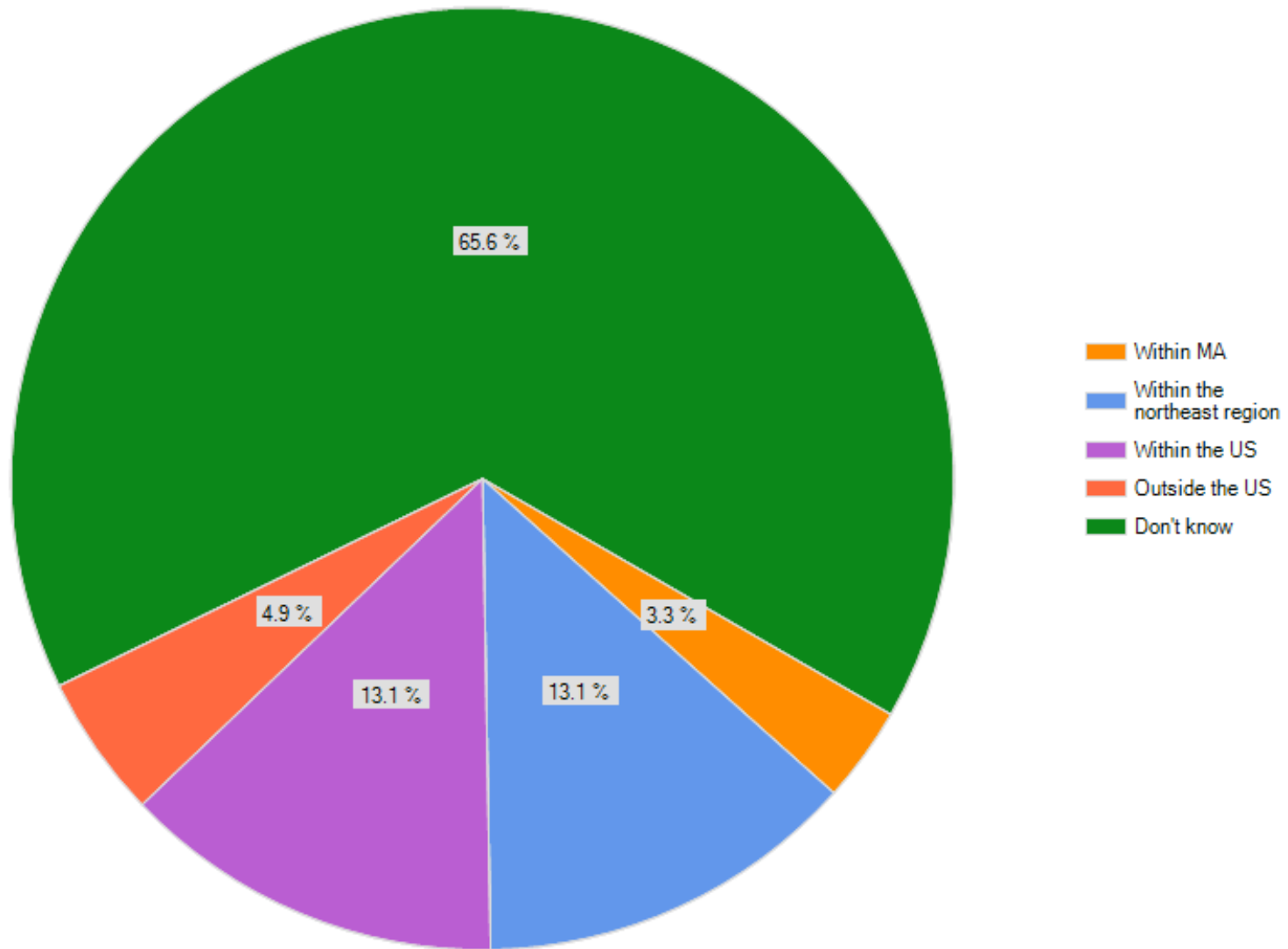
Have you ever measured your carbon footprint?  
<http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>



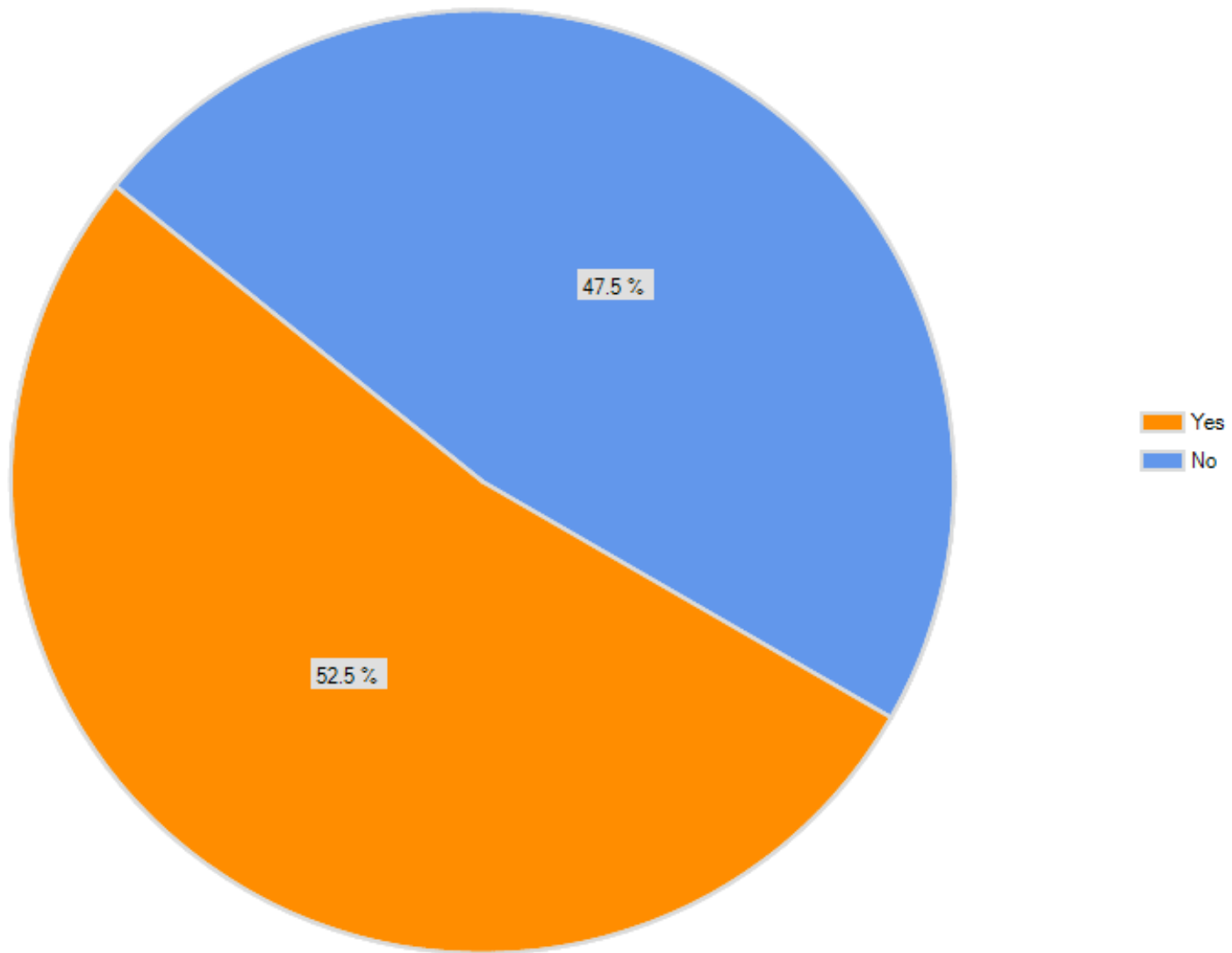
**What measures if any have you taken to reduce your carbon footprint? (Check all that apply)**



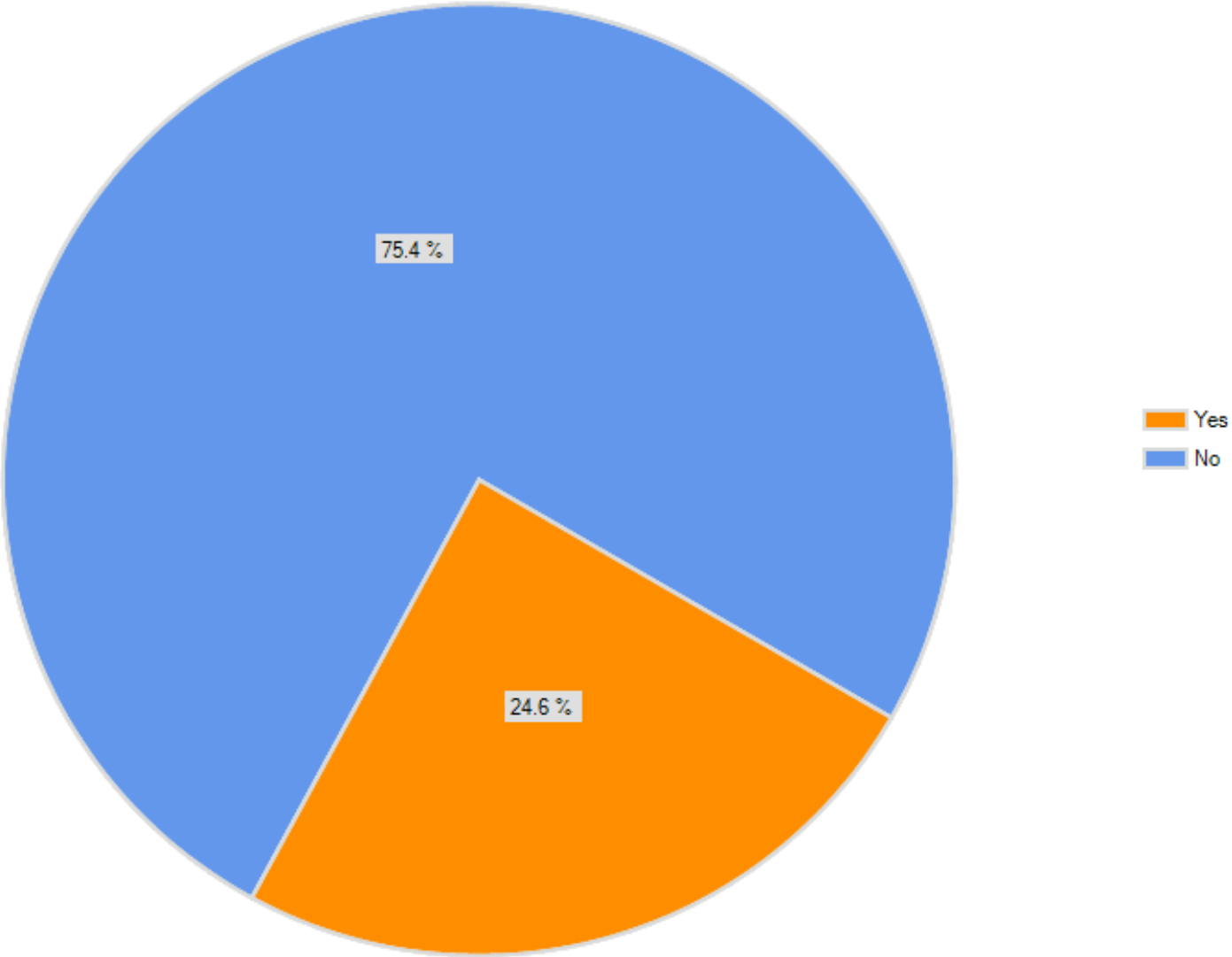
### How far away does most of your food come from?



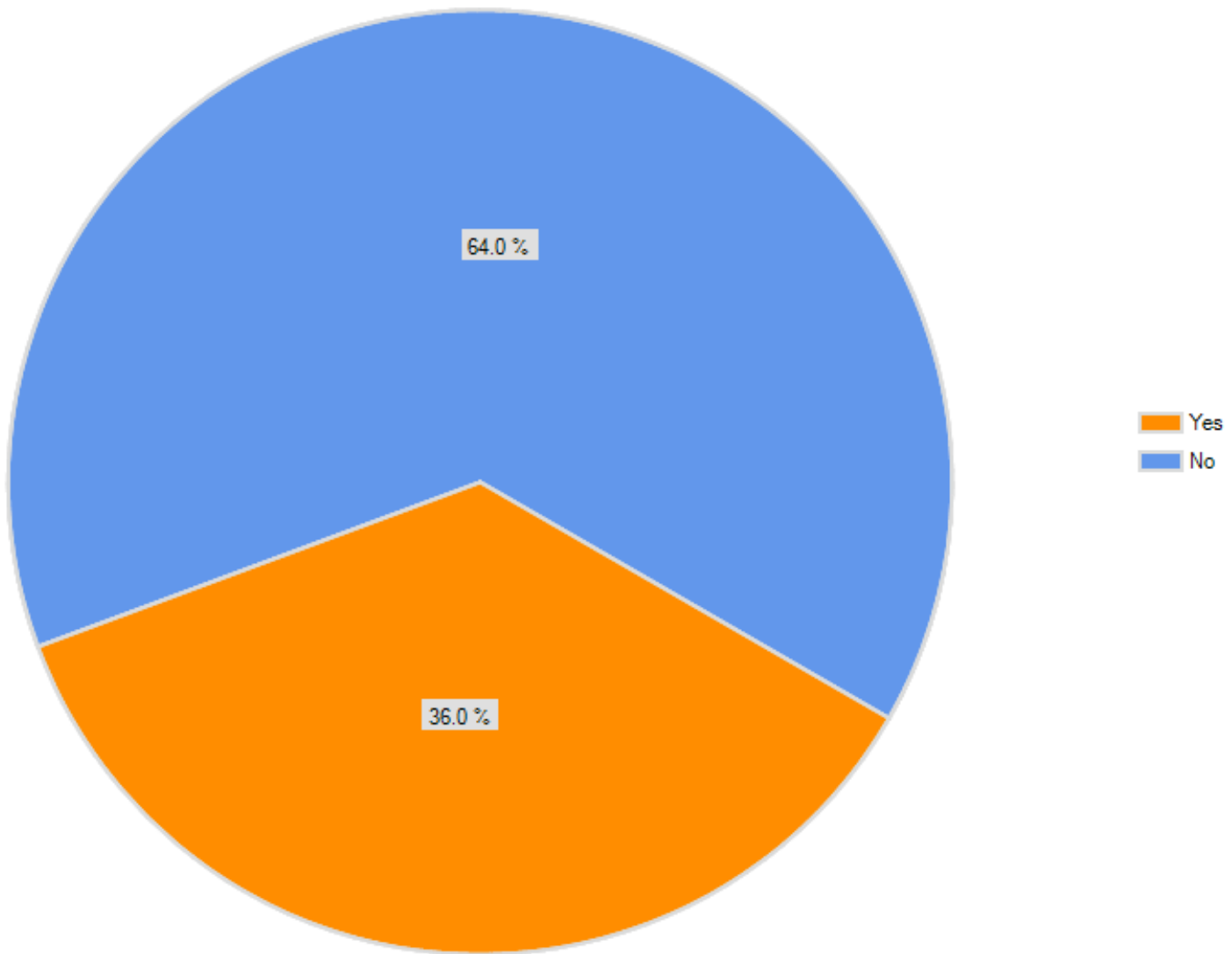
**Do you think we need more public space trash cans?**



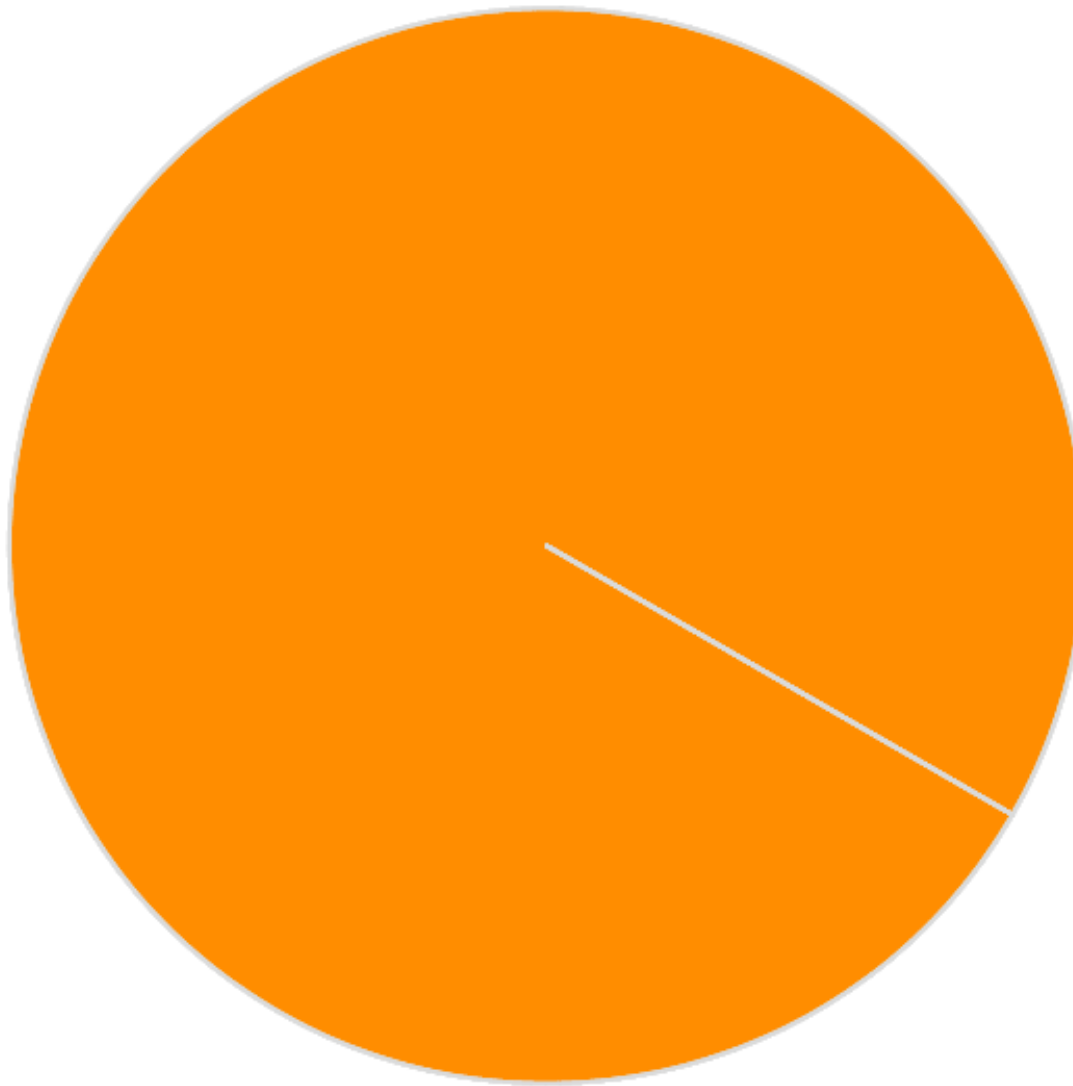
Have you seen the new public space recycling cans around Somerville?



**If yes to 11, have you used them?**

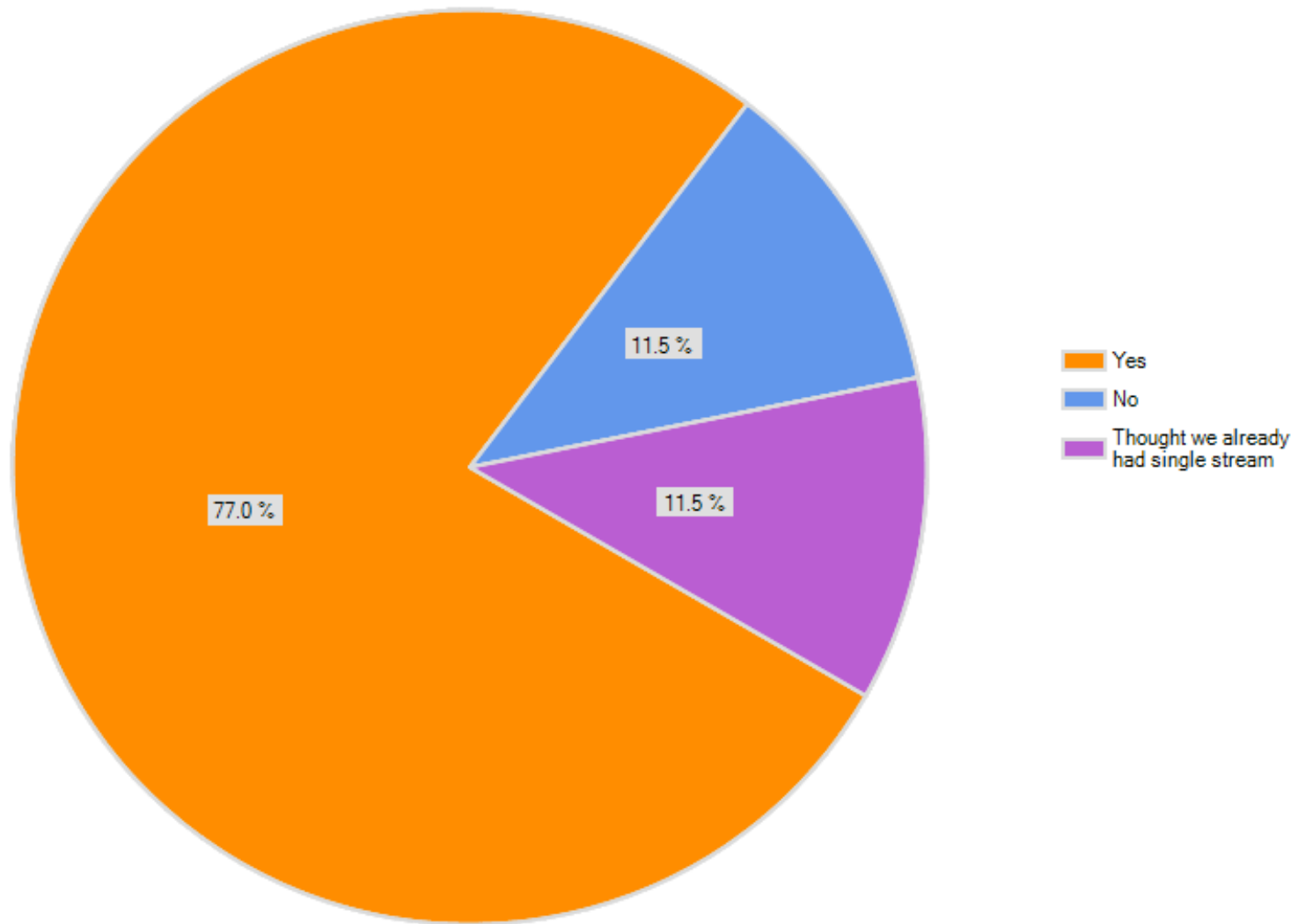


**Do you use a recycling bin in your home?**

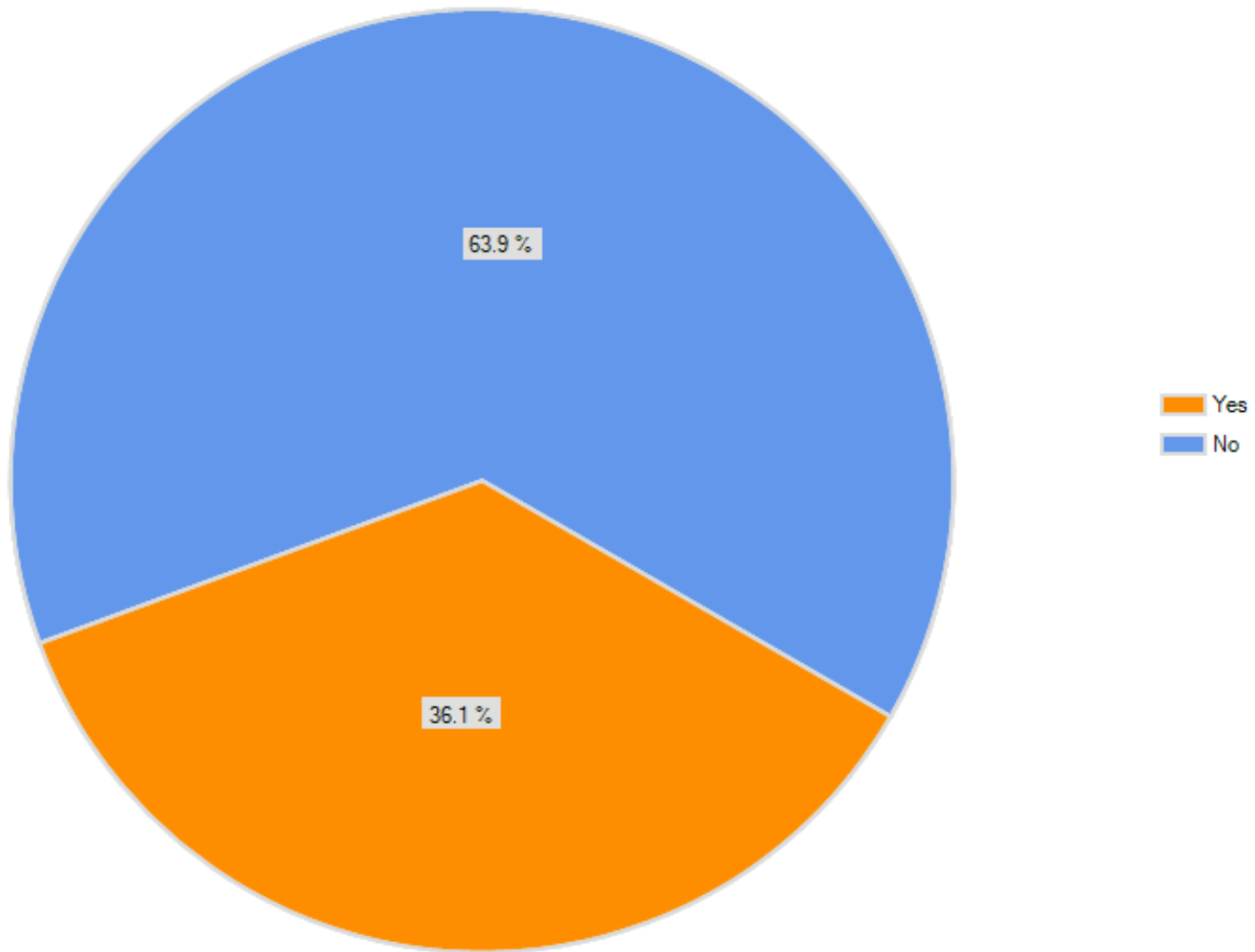


 Yes  
 No

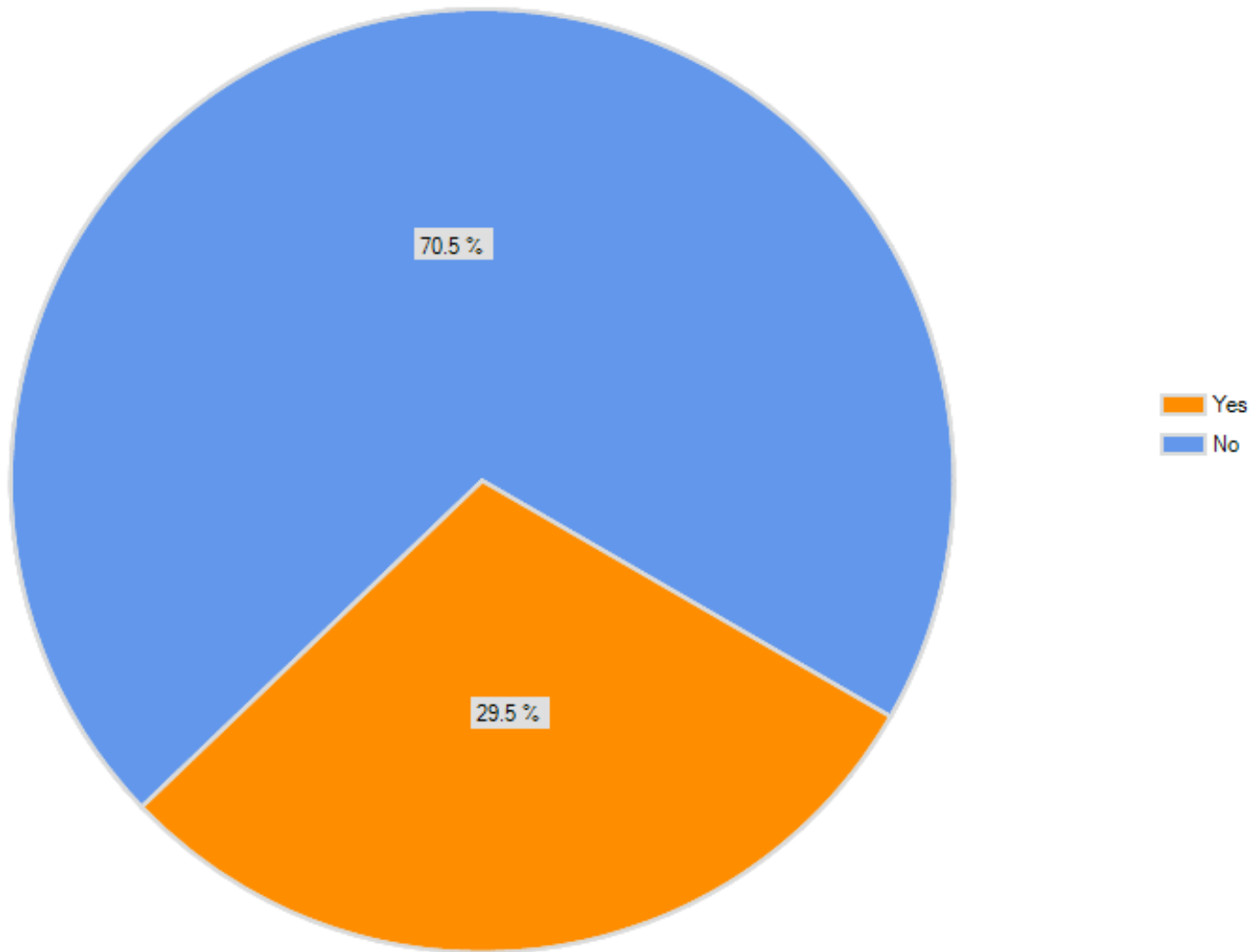
**Would you prefer single stream recycling (don't have to separate out paper as you do now)?**



**Did you know the proper way to dispose of large appliances is to purchase and attach a disposal sticker from DPW and place the item on your curb on trash day?**



**Did you know the proper way to dispose of computers/TVs is to request a pick up online or call 311 (free of charge) on the same day as your normal trash pick-up?**



**7. What measures if any have you taken to reduce your carbon footprint? (Other)**

Don't own a car
Too many to list.
Walk to work!
Grow vegetables in yard
Turn off unnecessary lights
Walk everywhere!
poison neighbor's pets and end their wasteful consumption of earth's resources

**8. What were the three easiest things you did and would recommend to your friends to reduce you carbon footprint?**

Use reusable shopping bags, buy local foods (farmers markets), buy second hand furniture
Buy locally, use reusable shopping bags and wash clothes in cold water
CFLs, shorter showers, power strips for vampires
change lightbulbs
turn off lights
reusable bags
Unplug things
Wash clothes in cold
Compost with Groundworks Somerville
Go vegetarian.
Don't have children.
Work as close to home as possible.
biking to work, great exercise and its fun
washing clothes with cold water, not hard at all
direct flights... its faster!
unplugging items (save on electric bill, a lot!), reusable shopping bags (they give you \$ back), wash with cold water (it saves money too!)
Turning the heat down, changing lightbulbs, and using energy star products

bike
walk
run
(1) Unplug items when not in use (2) Wash clothes using cold water (3) Use reusable shopping bags
Unplug electronics, don't leave lights on, wash clothes in cold water
all of them were very easy.
Change to energy efficient lightbulbs.
The three easiest were: giving up my car for on-foot and public transit, switching to reusable bags, and buying my produce from the farmers' market.
Turn off all lights when you leave the house. Shut down your computer if you're not using it for a while. Carpool with friends sometimes.
Walk instead of take the T - good for the environment and good for you.
Replace bulbs with CFLs - they are actually better and don't cost more so why wouldn't you?
Turn off the heat leaving the house and buy an electric space heater for when you return.
Using reusable shopping bags
Walking to restaurants/businesses in local area
unplug appliances
light bulb change
think before using a car
1. refilling printer cartridges is super easy and much much cheaper
2. buying used clothes is also way cheaper and so much more fun than new clothes. and there's lots of great used clothing stores close-by
3. bike riding is almost always faster than public transportation and often faster than driving. love it.
CFLs, wash clothes in cold water, buy second hand clothing
Programmable thermostat that sets back while at work/school, fluorescent bulbs, wash clothes in cold water
Light bulbs, washing clothes in cold water, and using reusable shopping bags
use a reusable shopping bag
wash clothes in cold water

bulb changing
Use the car less.
Buy fuel efficient car.
Use reusable shopping bags.
1. Farmer Markets!!!
2. bringing my own grocery bags
3. buying second hand furniture (antique stores, good will, craigslist)
get a fuel efficient car, change lightbulbs, carpool
change bulbs, unplug items, wash clothes in cold water, these take about no effort
bike to work
re-usable bags/refuse extra packaging
get rid of the car - use zipcar
Buy second hand clothing, bike to work, use reusable shopping bags. Not only are these things good for the environment, but all of them just make me happy, so yes, I would recommend doing these things to friends.
turning heat down in the winter when away, change to incandescent bulbs, buy locally grown goods
Put an envirosack or some other easily compatible reusable bag in your purse or pocket.
Turn the heat down.
Recycle!
Recycle
Shorter showers
Turn down heat
turn down heat, cfls, drive less
1.) CFLs
2.) Programmable Thermostat to reduce temp during the day
3.) Reusable shopping bag.

Turn heat below 55F when you leave the house in winter - yes, of course.
changed light bulbs, turn heat down, use canvas bags to go shopping.
not owning a car
Reusable Shopping bags, CSA
1) buying food from farmers markets, 2) dry clothes on rack instead of dryer, 3) use reusable shopping bags

**10. Do you think we need more public space trash cans?**

More recycling everywhere
Summer Street between Union Square and Cedar St
Main squares and walking roads
On the streets.
On every second street corner at least. There are hardly any about Porter Square.
Anywhere... to reduce litter.
near bus stops
along highland ave
In major squares (Davis, Union, etc.) There is often overflow.
summer and central
anywhere with a lot of pedestrian traffic
Mass Ave, Elm St.

**12. If yes to 11, have you used them?**

They need to be marked more clearly, they look too much like the garbage cans they sit next to.
i have not really seen them around
I think they seem great. The bottom part of the one on the corner of cedar and elm often seems open, but I it's a nice addition.

**17. Do you have any areas in mind in Somerville that could be used as "green space"?**

The large industrial site that was just torn down off of Central street near the route for the proposed bike path extension.
73 Webster Avenue
<a href="http://bit.ly/9hO3Jq">http://bit.ly/9hO3Jq</a>
New bike path extension near albion street
More Green Roofs ala Cambridge Center Roof Garden near Kendall.

Extend the bike path past Cedar Street, Vacant lot and parking lot behind the VFW/Winter Hill Bank on Summer Street, tear down Target and build a park
Yes--next to 55 Properzi Way there's an empty lot that would be perfect, and across from 80 Webster Ave there's another one.
The old gas station at the corner of Beacon/Oxford. The space next to Rosebud, that is starting to have something happening to it. The parking lot behind Century Bank.
No, but I'd sure love to see more "green spaces" around town!
By the former star market on Broadway.
every flat roofed building / school building / office building etc... could use a green roof. That way you increase your green space, reduce your carbon foot print, save on heating building, reduce energy loss and don't sacrifice ground level space needed for businesses or residences.
Somerville definitely needs more green space. There is an empty lot between Cedar, Lowell, and Princeton St that would make a nice park.
I don't know where, but I like the idea and love to use the spaces that are already there (park north of Davis and Danehy Park)...
inner belt
Not sure.
No
no, but I would love to see some.
The derilict gas station at the end of Beacon street.

**18. Please explain any sustainability initiatives you would like to see take place in Somerville or any questions you have for the Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment:**

Somerville could do a study of its traffic patterns to see how they impact idling of cars and overall gas usage. Sometimes it seems like you have to drive an extra mile in Somerville because of 1 way streets, all these miles will add up. Maybe if we had easier routes to get through town, we might be able to save a little time and gas.
Can I vote triple for Single Stream? I was so jealous when my ward didn't get the pilot project.
Proper bike racks on traffic signs or otherwise, around residential neighborhood.
Tips on how to reduce energy use easily available online.
CITY-WIDE COMPOSTING!!! Seattle has it. It can make a huge difference.
Also, educating the trash and recycling people to communicate when people are doing it wrong and recycle as much as possible.
Better advertising of rain barrels program.
Incentives for backyard bees/chickens/produce.
Street composting, single stream, fix the damn recycling program to offer more bins to people and let us put paper in bins, have the idiots who run the trash trucks stop throwing recyclables into the trash (fire them, or throw them in the trash too for ruining our future).
Alternative energy seminars and opportunities for homeowners.

I would like to see recycling picked up even if it is placed next to the bin, we had 7 bags of recycling once, which were rejected because we couldn't fit them into the recycling bins, and were taken by the trash collectors.

How about having the "Green Festival" outdoors in a main square, like Davis or Union square.....

how about more public recycle bins next to EVERY trash can.....

pilot program encouraging local businesses to compost, and then using that for fertilizer/tea for all public space gardening

I'd like to see Somerville enter into long term contracts for solar arrays (Power Purchase Agreements). I'd also like to see city interaction with landlords to raise the bar on weatherization on apartments that are rented. I'd like to see a level of effort for bulk purchasing energy efficiency equipment for municipal building, but also so residents could buy from the city at a reduced rate (this could be CFLs, refrigerators, etc.) I'd like to see a movement to replace all refrigerators over 15 years old in all of Somerville. Green roof initiative following in the footsteps of the Prospect Hill Academy model. Bike share pilot during summer months (this would be inexpensive to try).

Even more bike racks! More community garden space.

Increased public gardening space.

Thanks for considering these issues.

I would like to see Somerville consider PACE Bonds for residential and commercial green energy improvements. <http://www.pacenow.org/> education programs/events around town or in conjunction with other events so residents can learn more about this.

I would love to see more parks and green spaces. Farmers markets would be great for getting local produce. Encourage home recycling.

Furniture swaps!!! Or community garage sales. A lot of us have hand me down furniture that we used in college and are ready to get rid of...

Allow electricity costs to transparently and simply (ie end favored green industries) reflect the negative externalities of emissions, and allow people to make decisions based on this.

bike storage facility at the union of somerville community path and green line extension. additional bike/multi-use paths connecting to green line.

I would love to see some of the roads repaired to make biking more pleasant. Streets with a lot of potholes and bumps, like Somerville Ave, are particularly in need of service.

more recycling/composting opportunities

Single Stream Recycling!!

I would love to have some community vegetable gardens. I'm not sure if these exist in Somerville. Perhaps some sort of system where you pay a monthly membership fee and can maintain your own little section of vegetables? I also think it would be great to incorporate more food from farmers markets into school systems. A lot of school districts around the country are implementing programs like this as an alternative to the processed food served in most schools, and to help support local growers.

Trash/Recycling service should be more thorough/careful - they constantly leave behind remnants that don't make it from the curbside bins into the truck on the first try (e.g. bottles, cardboard, etc.), which sort of defeats the purpose of recycling!