

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Strategic Planning Assessment

Kirby Training Center

Wednesday, December 19,
2018

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Washington, DC

SYNODINOS
CONSULTING



Our Focus

- Review purpose and findings of recent survey to support Strategic Planning Assessment
 - MWAQC operations
 - MWAQC priorities
- Discuss findings/collect additional thoughts
- Seek consensus
- Next steps

But First... Working Agreements

- Every voice is important and welcome.
- Trust the process.
- Everyone's intentions are good.
- Me... and three.
- Call up—not out.
- What's said here stays here.
- Accept compromise.
- Seek consensus.
- *What else might we add?*

Pollutant	Attained	Non-attainment
Ozone (O ₃) 2015		X
Ozone (O ₃) 2008	✓	
Fine Particles (PM _{2.5})	✓	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	✓	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	✓	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	✓	

Peak 8-Hour Average Ozone – July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
69	67	76	59	37	47	60
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
60	92	84	68	65	62	60
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
59	73	62	50	68	70	37
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
41	39	31	41	59	61	55
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
59	44	37				

“MWAQC will undertake a facilitated strategic planning assessment with member organizations. The assessment will include a review of the current state of the region’s air, MWAQC principal mandates, mission, and short and long-term priorities as they relate to the authority within the Clean Air Act, Section 174, for local planning organizations. Results of the assessment will be used to direct future work of the committee as resources and time constraints allow. “

VALUE OF AN STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Build relationships and
strengthen collaboration

Set MWAQC's strategic priorities
for 2019 and the future

Strengthen organizational and
operational effectiveness

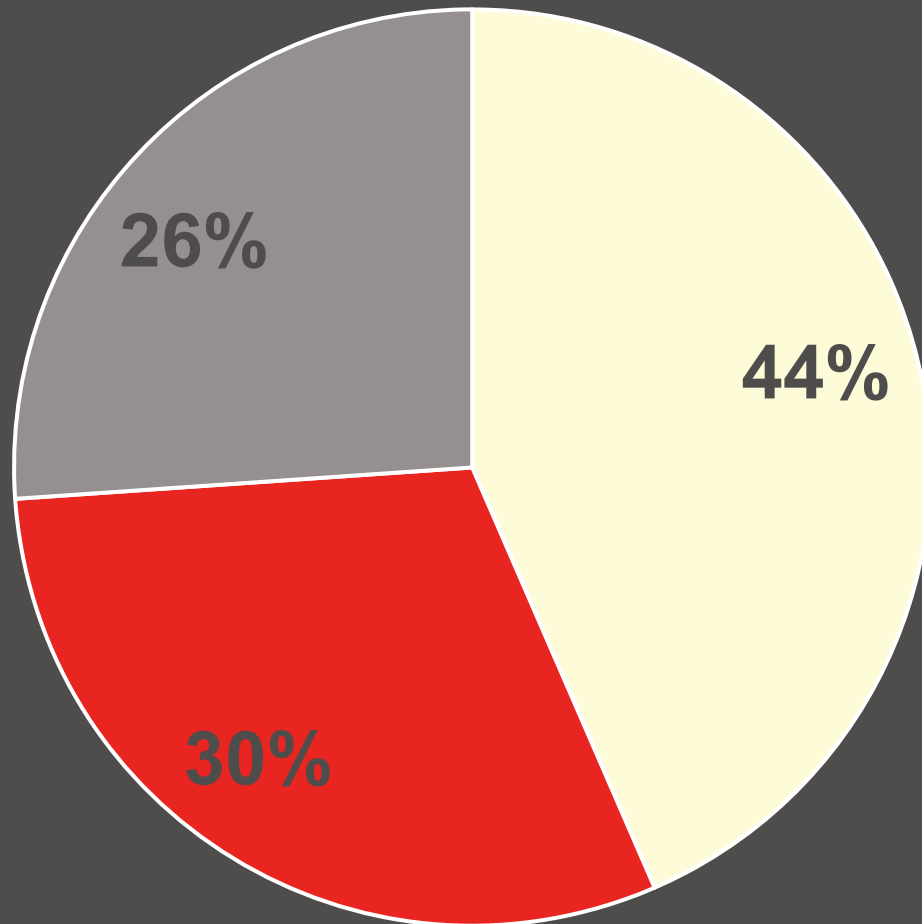
Reignite commitment from
members and staff

SURVEY RESPONSES

- Twenty-nine respondents with representation from DC, MD, and VA
- Included elected officials, environmental/air quality agencies, DOTs
- Length of MWAQC participation ranging from less than one year all the way to 30 years.
- Twenty-one respondents reported serving on subcommittees.

MWAQC Operations

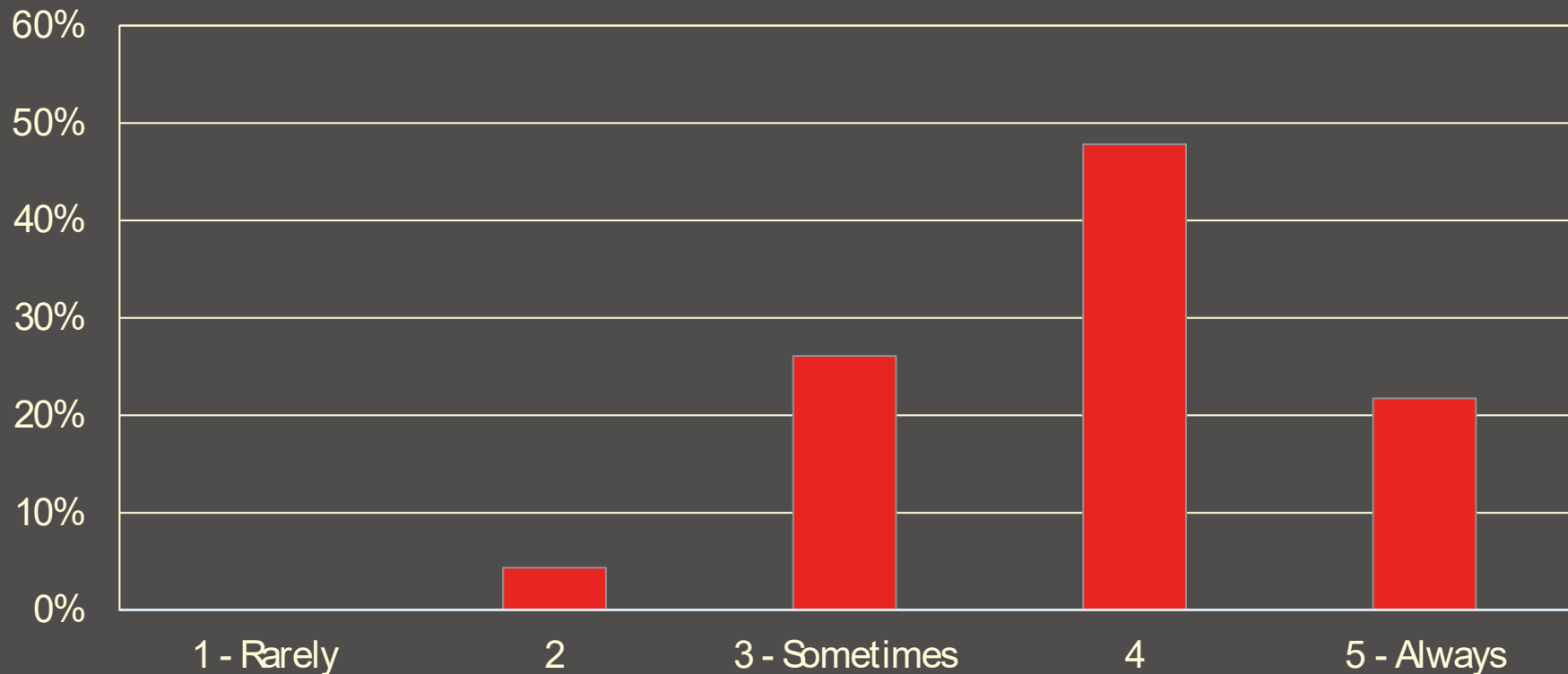
MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PARTICIPATE



- In-person
- Teleconference/webinar
- No difference

"I find in person to be a better way to communicate, but having the other options is valuable for those who can't make the meetings."

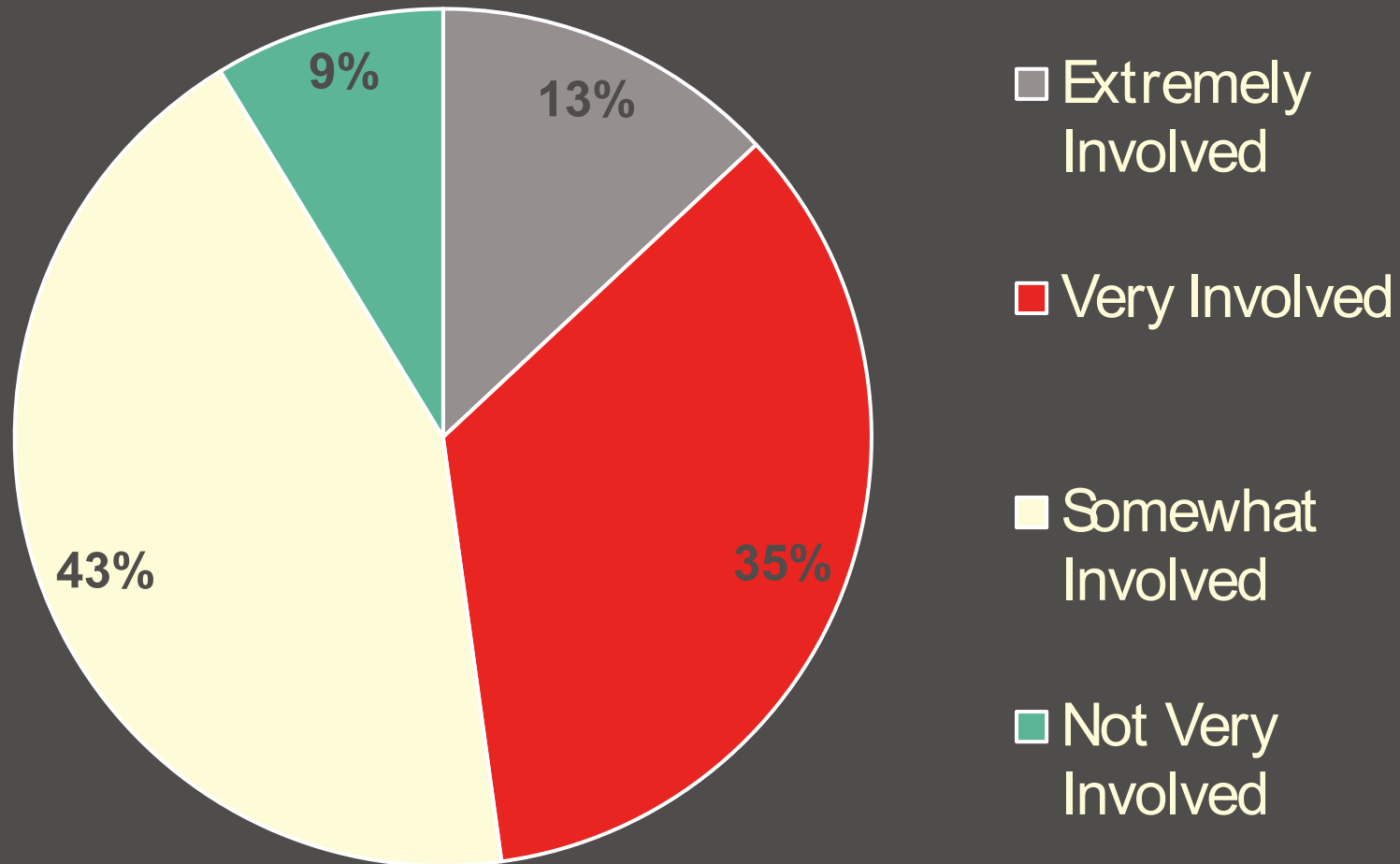
ARE AGENDA TOPICS RELEVANT & USEFUL?



“Is it possible to get the documents farther in advance of the meetings?”

“Not sure whether any input is used or considered.”

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT IN MWAQC?



DO MWAQC MEETINGS MEET YOUR NEEDS?

	Meets Needs	Does Not Meet Needs
Number of meetings	100%	0%
Accessing materials/ meeting information on COG website	95%	5%
Meeting technology (A/V, teleconference system)	95%	5%
Presentations/ briefings	86%	14%
Meeting materials	77%	23%

“More time would be helpful... so committee members have an opportunity to suggest content.”

“Meeting materials have sometimes been provided without time for adequate review.”

“... meeting materials have not been provided in a timely manner to allow thorough prior review.”

“Virtually impossible to find meeting materials if you start with the MWCOG website.”

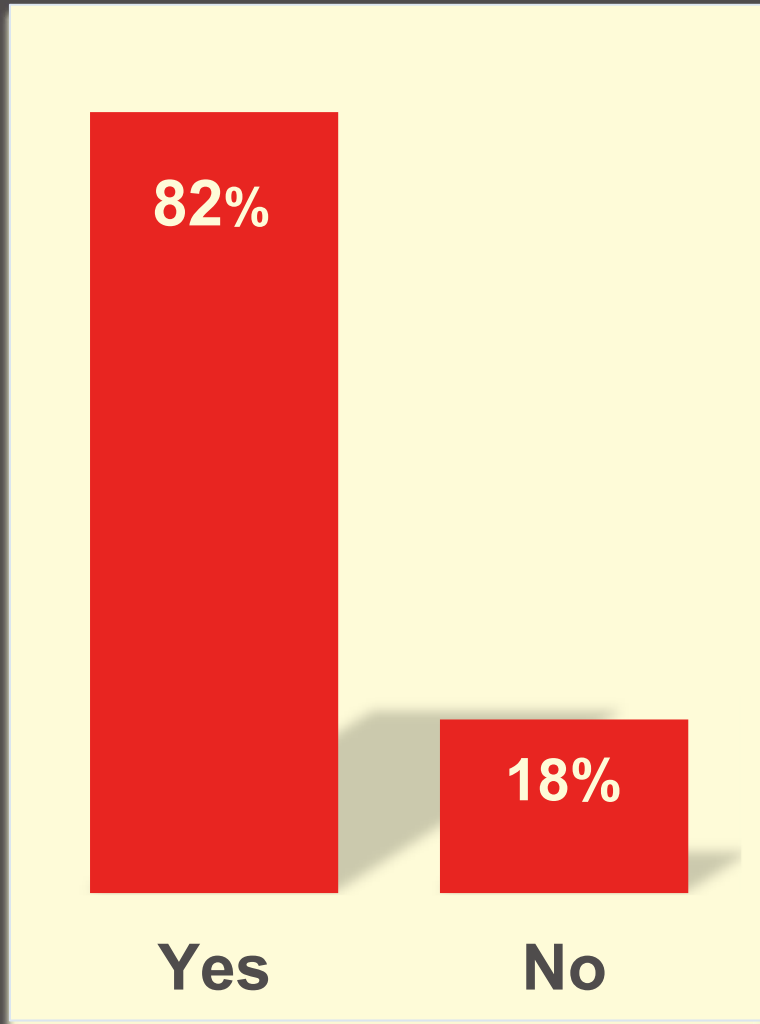
“When participating remotely, it is a challenge to have materials in front of me and participate as well.”

“Meeting materials should be sent as early as possible. COG staff and Executive Committee should ask other members for their opinions on potential presentations/briefings.”

WHAT ABOUT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS?

	Meets Needs	Does Not Meet Needs
Meeting technology (A/V, teleconference system)	100%	0%
Accessing materials/meeting information on COG website	94%	6%
Number of subcommittee meetings	94%	6%
Subcommittee presentations/briefings	94%	6%
Meeting materials	83%	17%

ARE JOINT CEEPC MEETINGS BENEFICIAL?



YES: *“... there is definitely some common ground that requires collaboration.”*

NO: *“... the primary function of MWAQC should be to ensure that the region is meeting federal air quality standards and associated requirements.”*

OTHER THOUGHTS ON IMPROVING MWAQC OPERATIONS & PROCESSES

Improve consensus building processes

- “See consensus on all important issues, and ALL viewpoints should be represented...”
- “Maintain a transparent process...”
- “If divergent opinions are noted, additional subcommittee meetings should be held to identify a consensus viewpoint...”

Seek feedback on what is working, what could work better

- “Use tools, like this survey, to better understand what members are looking for in terms of interesting meeting content.”

OTHER THOUGHTS ON IMPROVING MWAQC OPERATIONS & PROCESSES

Communicate MWAQC accomplishments and successes and connect to larger COG issues

- “...periodic reviews of MWAQC successes and opportunities at member jurisdiction meetings.”
- “... would like to see a direct connection or link to what the overall COG committee is doing. Don’t see a thread to the main committee work.”

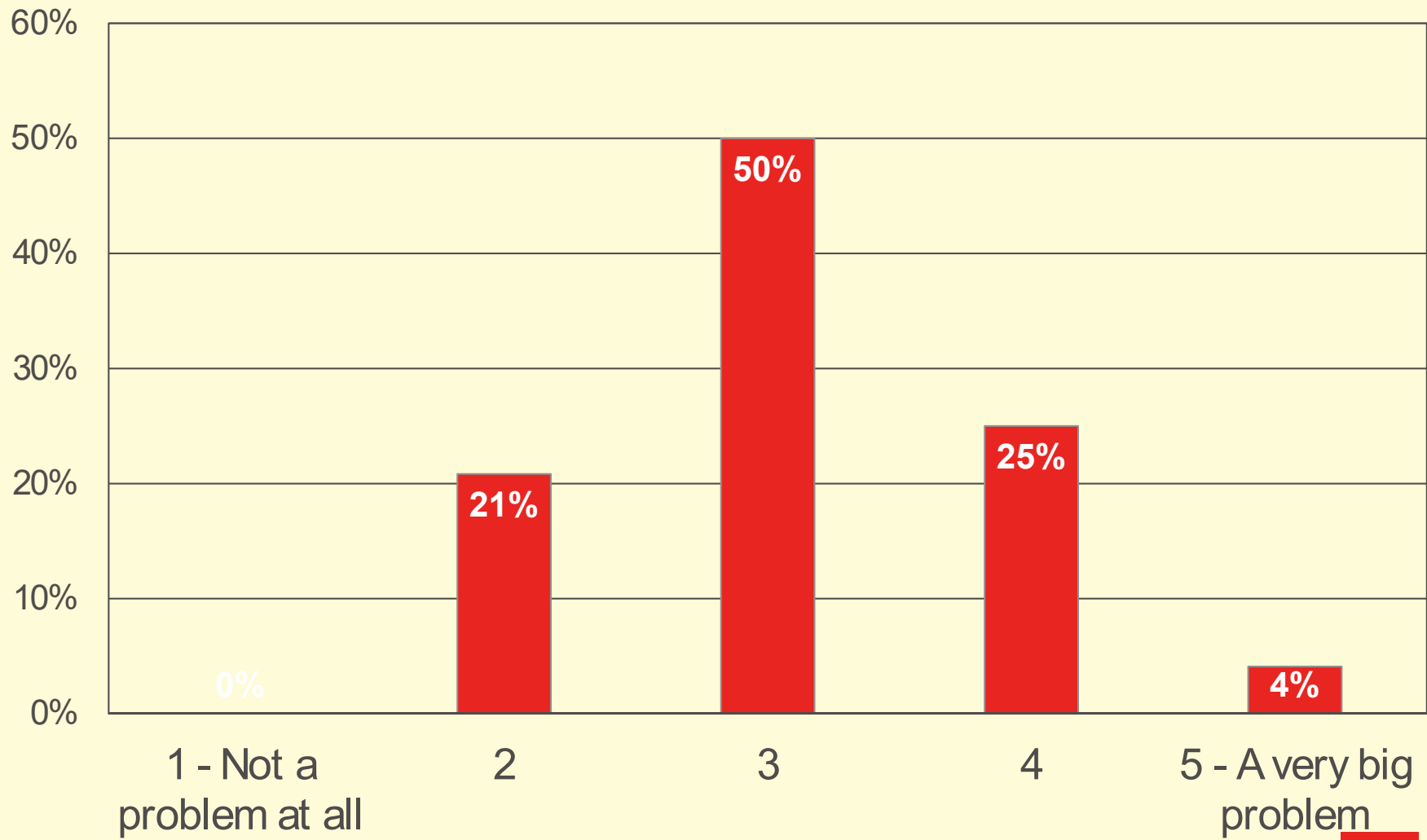
OTHER THOUGHTS ON IMPROVING MWAQC OPERATIONS & PROCESSES

Improve meeting agendas and execution

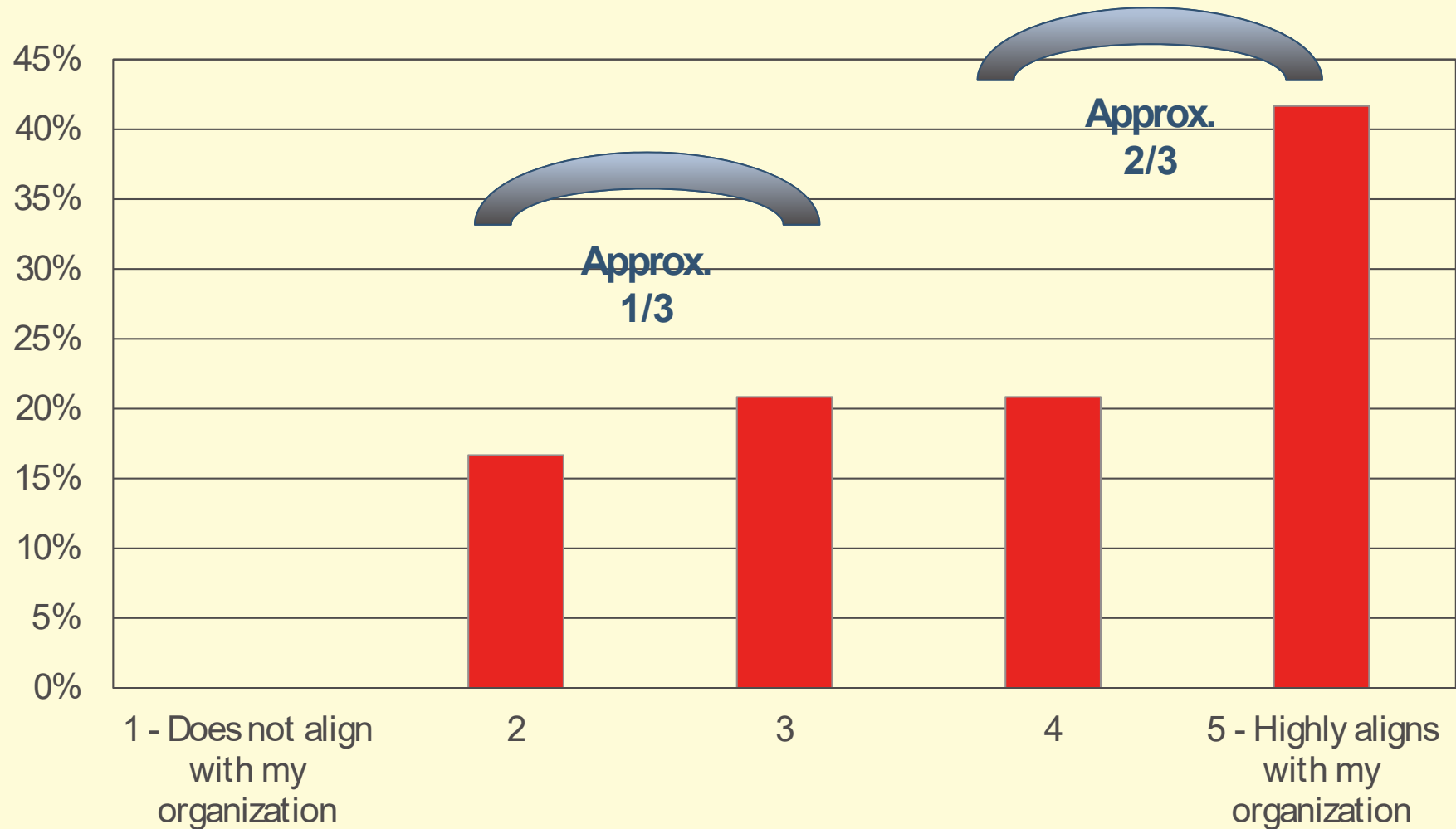
- “offer an opportunity...for members to suggest other topics for review or consideration.”
- “...[meetings] often seem geared towards members that don’t follow air quality on a daily basis as part of their jobs”
- “...presentations are too technical.”
- “...confirm [in advance] attendees and participants...avoid using time at the beginning of meetings scrambling for a quorum.”
- “Too many presentations involve reading PowerPoints...”
- “Early morning meetings or late afternoon meetings would better suit more who work full-time outside of elected positions.”

MWAQC Priorities

HOW DO YOU RATE THE CURRENT STATE OF THE REGION'S AIR QUALITY?



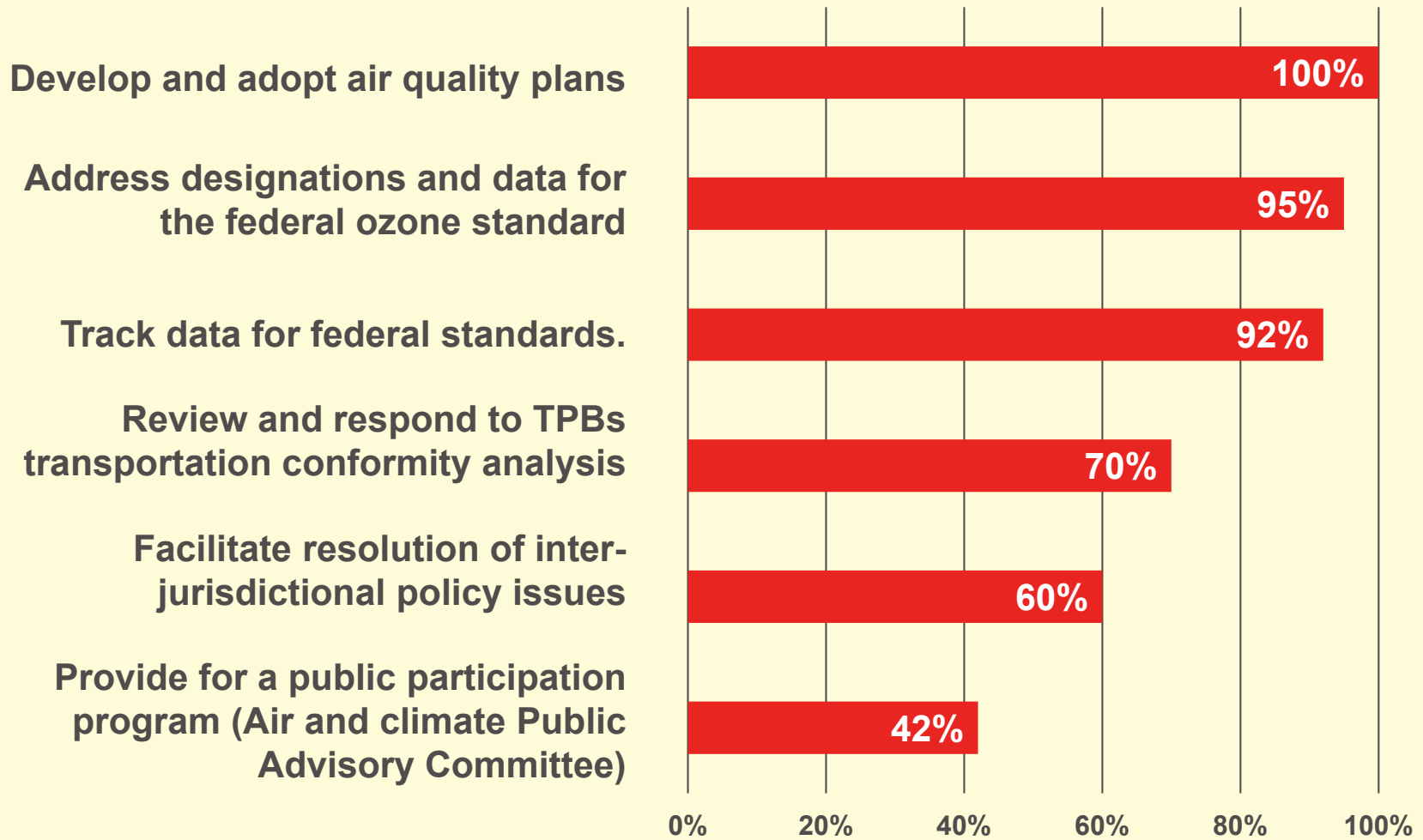
HOW DOES MWAQC'S WORK ALIGN WITH YOUR PRIORITIES OR MISSION?



PRIORITIZING FY 2019 WORK PROGRAM AREAS

1. Develop and adopt air quality plans.
2. Address designations and data for the federal ozone standard.
3. Track data for federal standards.
4. Review and respond to TPBs transportation conformity analysis.
5. Facilitate resolution of inter-jurisdictional policy issues.
6. Provide for a public participation program (Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee).

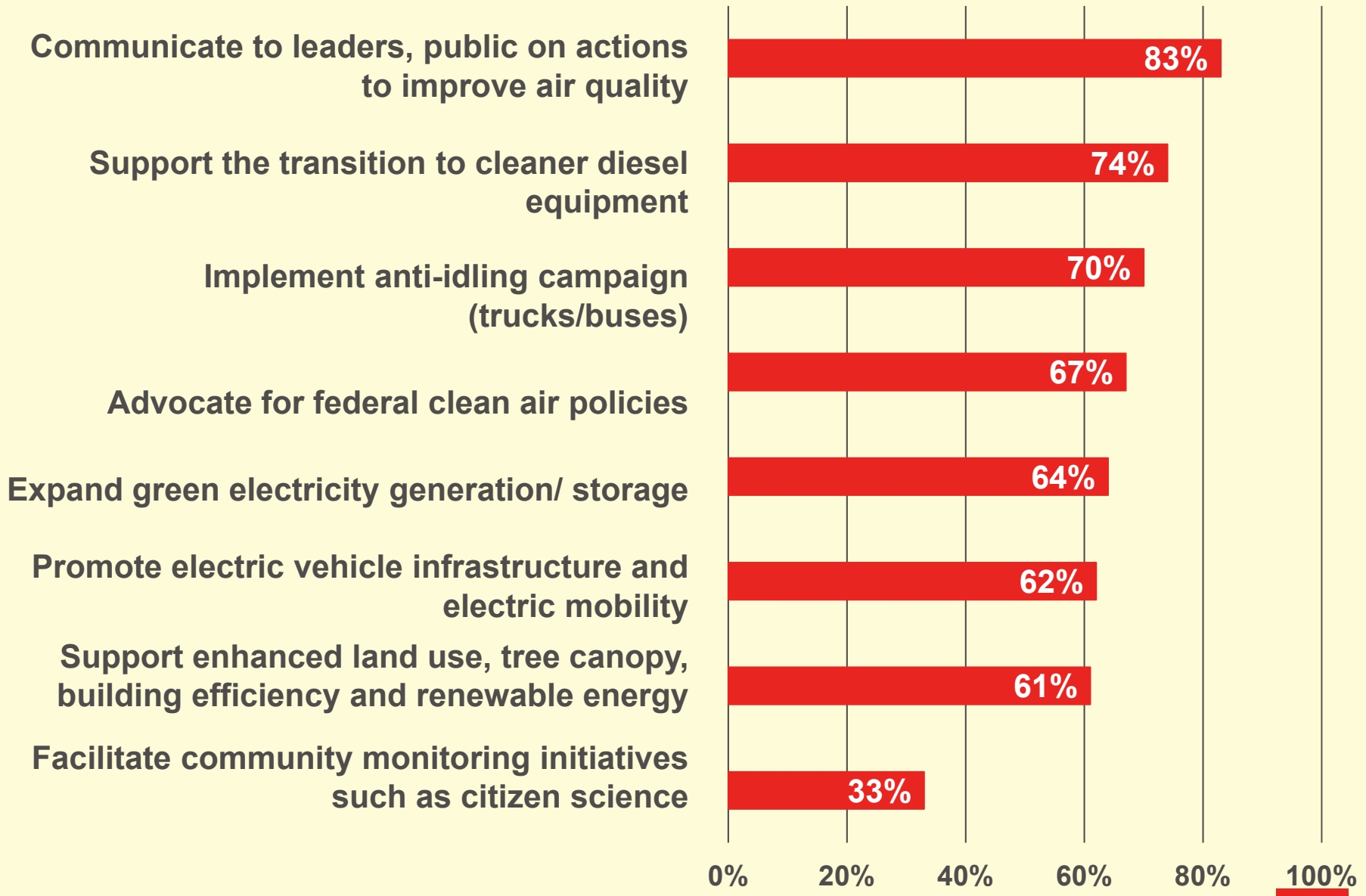
PRIORITIZING FY 2019 WORK PROGRAM AREAS



IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. Communicate to leaders, public on actions to improve air quality.
2. Support the transition to cleaner diesel equipment.
3. Implement anti-idling campaign for trucks and buses.
4. Advocate for federal clean air policies.
5. Expand green electricity generation and storage.
6. Promote electric vehicle infrastructure and electric mobility.
7. Support enhanced land use, tree canopy, building efficiency and renewable energy programs.
8. Facilitate community monitoring initiatives such as citizen science.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES & OPPORTUNITIES



OTHER AREAS THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION IS ADDRESSING AND MWAQC MIGHT CONSIDER?

Energy and Sustainability

- Environmentally sustainable development projects
- Grid development
- End-use energy efficiency in SIPs and CAA planning and compliance

Communication and Policy

- Enhanced communication between energy offices, air quality regulators and PUCs
- Local policies/legislation

Transportation

- Greater attention to transportation (particularly transit)

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMATIC FEEDBACK: OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- “MWAQC should make sure the science is right and then engage fearlessly in public communication, public education, and advocacy.”

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMATIC FEEDBACK: MWAQC MISSION

- “Transportation is the biggest contributor to air quality issues... and we need to be strong on that subject.”
- “Stay focused on existing core functions and advocate for more local actions in the transportation sector.”
- “Work closely with the State’s/District’s air agencies on their federal and CAA mandates.”

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMATIC FEEDBACK: MWAQC WORK PLAN

- “... avoid duplication of effort for maximizing the value of scarce financial resources.”
- “... focus efforts on obtaining COST-EFFECTIVE emission reductions EQUALLY from ALL emission sources (point, area, mobile, and non-road).”
- “... be more of a resource for jurisdictions... where new ideas and best practices are gathered and researched, and information made available to the regional jurisdictions and the public.”
- “Develop strategies for localities to reduce area sources of emissions for criteria air pollutants.”
- “Linking environmental sustainability and resilience will continue to grow in salience.”

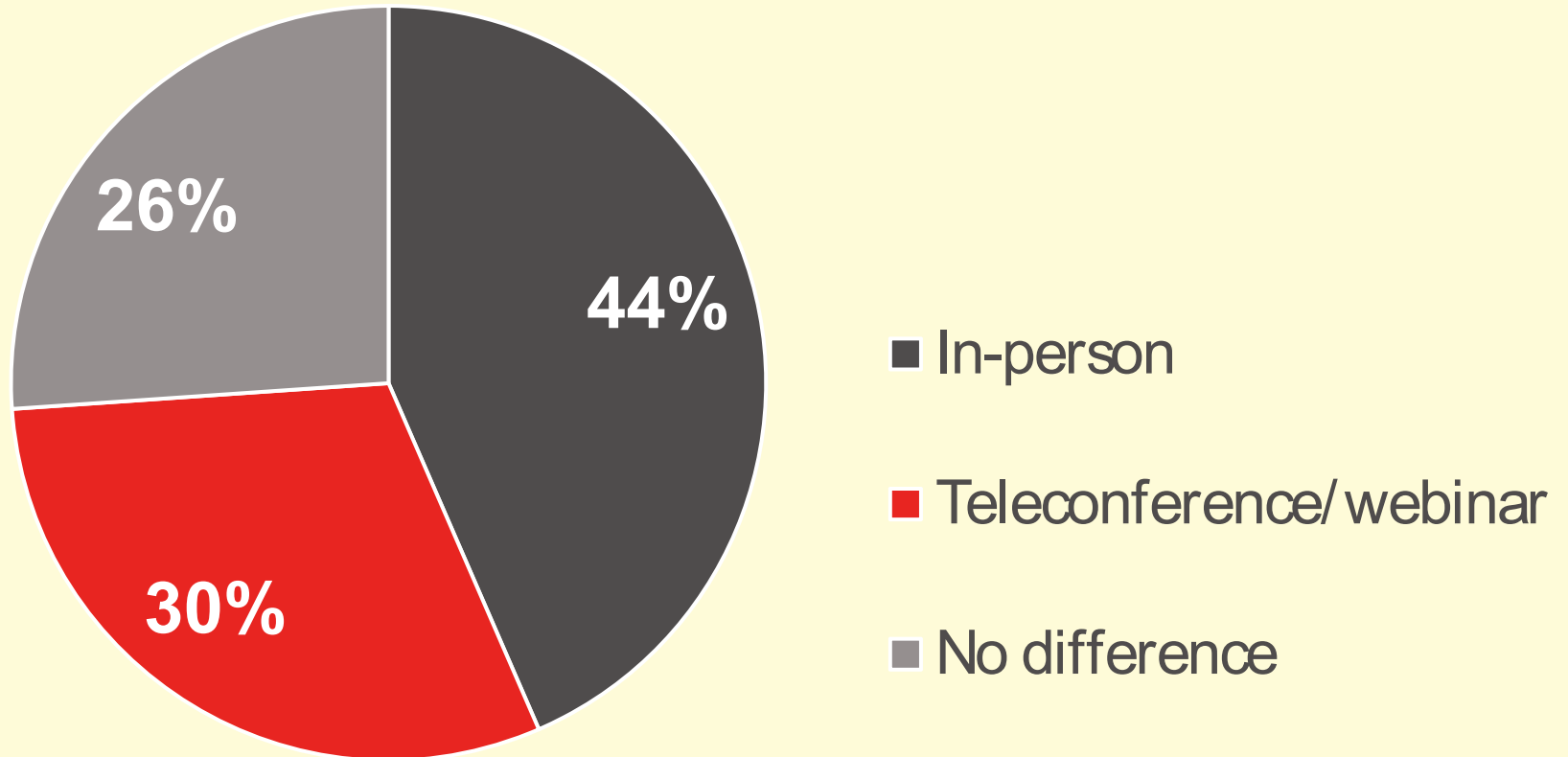
Your Thoughts: Operations

ADDRESSING REQUESTS TO IMPROVE & ENHANCE MEETINGS

- Provide meeting materials earlier (at least a full week in advance).
- Fix the COG website so committee members can find what they need.
- Make materials as clear and user-friendly as possible for the range of audiences on the committee (policy and technical).
- Articulate process(es) for members to add to or comment on agendas.
- Use tools like surveys to better understand what members are looking for in meeting content.

What might improve in-person attendance at meetings?

(Will addressing the issues on the previous slide make a difference?)

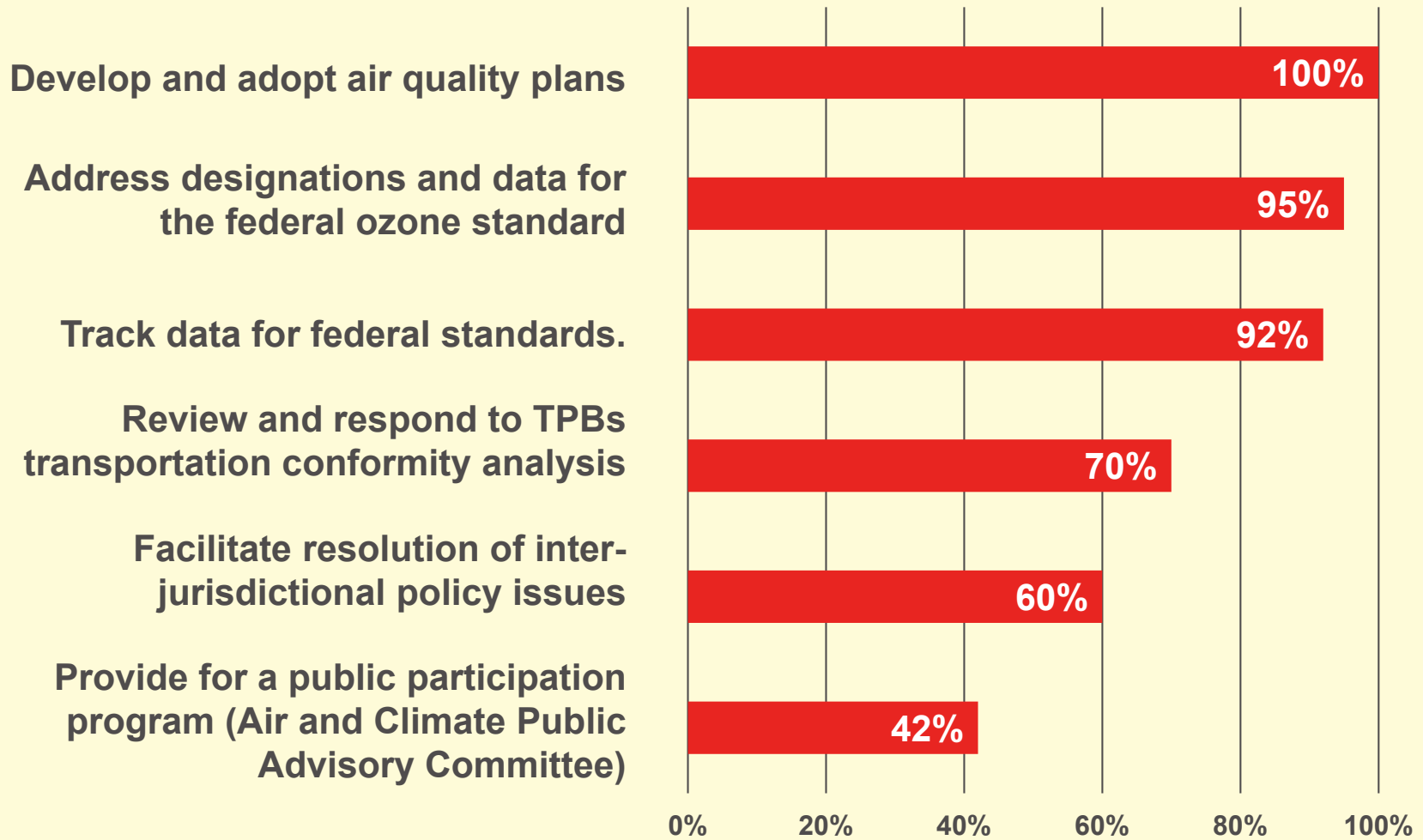


OTHER OPERATIONS ISSUES MENTIONED

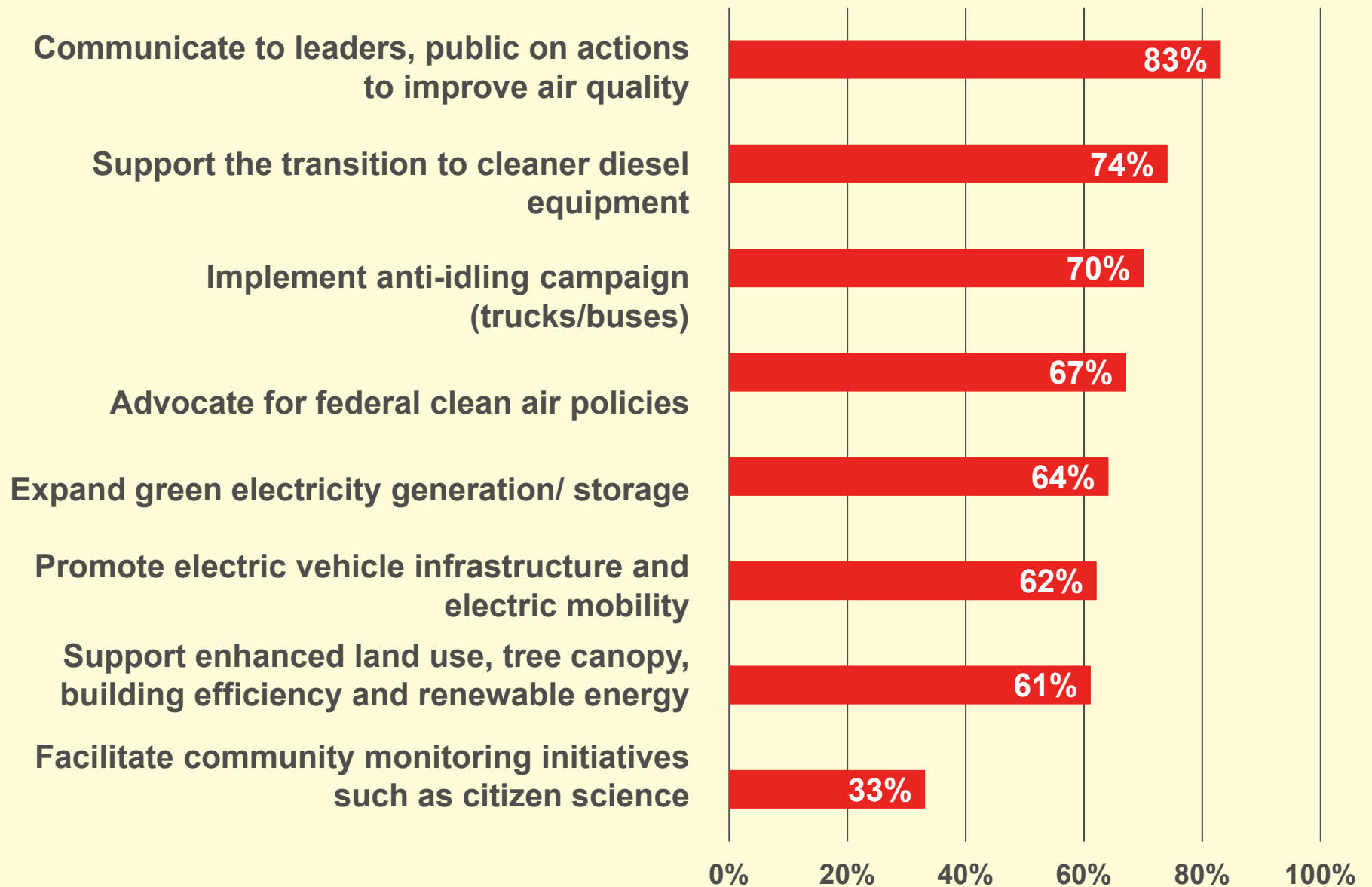
- Periodic reviews of MWAQC successes and opportunities at member jurisdiction meetings.
- Improve links to the work of COG committee.
- Seek consensus on all important issues.
- Maintain a transparent process.

Your Thoughts: Priorities

PRIORITIZING FY 2019 WORK PROGRAM AREAS



ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES & OPPORTUNITIES



Other Thoughts?

Next Steps

Thank you!

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