Energy Efficient Buildings – Survey Analysis

Executive summary

Over 95% of respondents were concerned about climate change and reducing our carbon footprint.
When asked why there were 3 main themes:

1. The need to do more now for the sake of future generations
2. Concerns about the impact of flooding and danger to wild life
3. The need to change building practices now e.g. no gas, solar panels as part of new-builds and well-constructed future-proof housing

The most popular actions people have already taken in their homes were double/triple glazing, insulation and energy efficient appliances with cost of installation being the main barrier for taking additional measures.
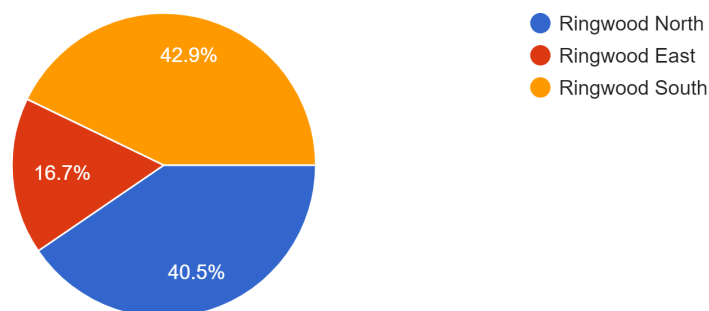
There is strong support for new housing to be built to high environmental standards, especially since retrofitting existing properties is so difficult and expensive

Survey Results
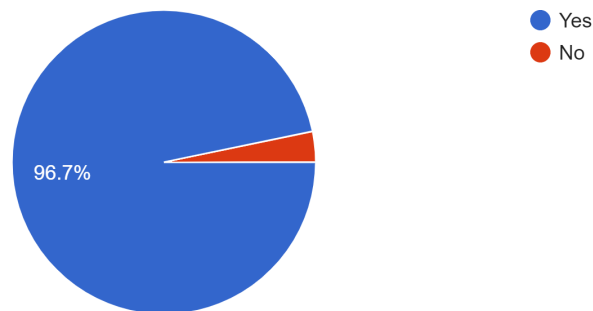
There were 92 responses (85 from Ringwood wards)

Which Ward do you live in?
84 responses

- Ringwood North
- Ringwood East
- Ringwood South

42.9%
16.7%
40.5%

Over 95% of respondents were concerned about climate change and reducing our carbon footprint.

Is the wider issue of climate change and reducing our carbon footprint of concern to you?
92 responses

● Yes
● No

96.7%

When asked why there were 3 main themes

4. The need to do more now for the sake of future generations
5. Concerns about the impact of flooding and danger to wild life
6. The need to change building practices now e.g. no gas, solar panels as part of new-builds and well-constructed future-proof housing
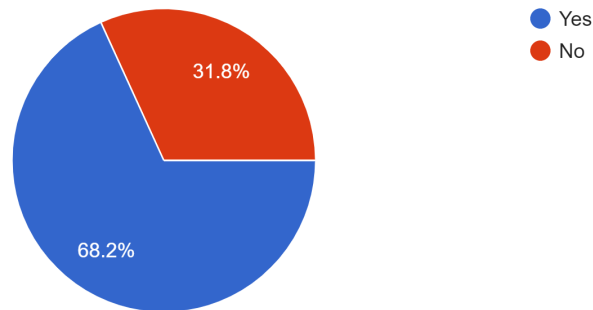
The most popular actions already taken were double/triple glazing, insulation and energy efficient appliances.

Action	Yes	No
Double or triple glazing	87	5
Insulation on loft and wall	83	8
Highly energy efficient appliances	70	22
Draught proofing	61	29
Highly efficient water devices (e.g. low flow showers/taps, insulated tanks)	39	52
Shaded windows	22	62
Solar panels	20	68
Low carbon heating	12	75

Cost of installation is the main barrier for taking additional measures

Where you have not put some of these measures in place is the cost of installation the main barrier?

88 responses

- Yes
- No

31.8%

68.2%

There is strong support for new housing to be built to high environmental standards

- There was general agreement that more environmentally efficient housing should be stipulated for any new-builds, especially since retrofitting existing properties is so difficult and expensive. For example

  "We have to stop building houses that are designed with the 1960s in mind"

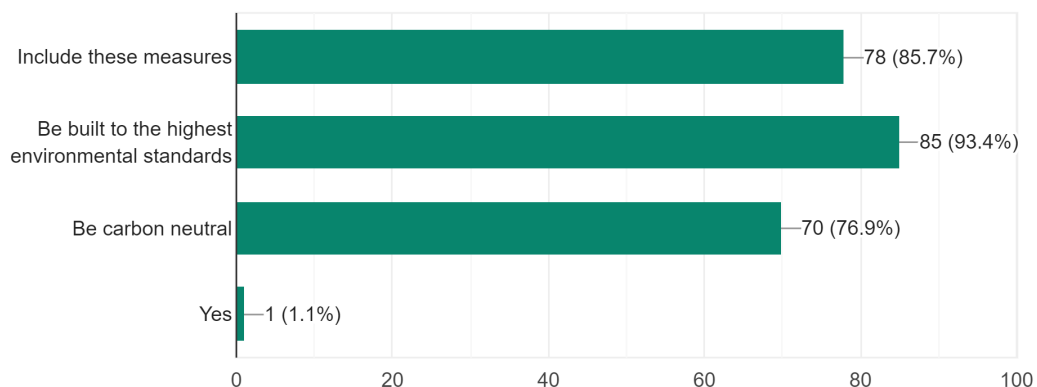 "We have the technology. Everything should be as efficient and possible when built new."

  "If it's a new build it should be stipulated in law that it should be energy efficient. Any other opinion is idiocy. It's time to stop pussyfooting around. And it's more expensive to do it after the fact, and makes the house more attractive to buyers."

  "Heating our homes is one of the largest causes of climate change and should be a priority on the agenda for change for the better."

  "I feel new houses should be able to produce their own electricity, to power the house and cars. I feel shading for summer is essential, as is thermal gain in the winter. New houses should be able to vent properly and be more spaced out."

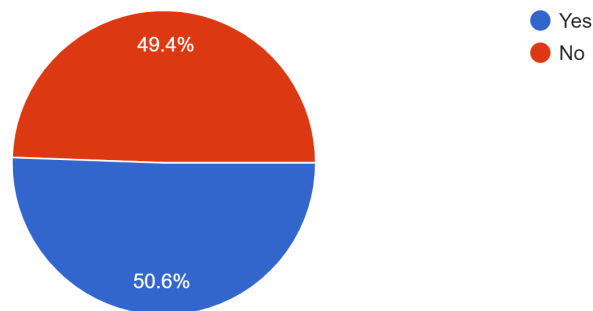Do you believe any new housing built in the area should: (tick as many as apply)

91 responses

Include these measures	78 (85.7%)
Be built to the highest environmental standards	85 (93.4%)
Be carbon neutral	70 (76.9%)
Yes	1 (1.1%)

Around 50% of respondents had been working from home during the Cobid-19 pandemic

Have you been 'working from home' during the Covid-19 pandemic?
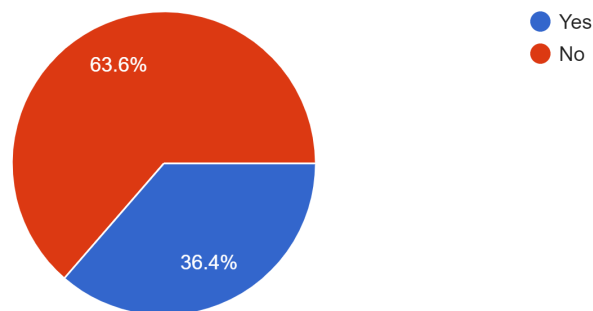89 responses

- Yes
- No

49.4%

50.6%

Of those only about 1/3had noticed an increase in energy bills.

- For those who didn't see an increase, they report being careful with the heating and batch cooking or they were already working from home / retired
- For those that did they cite heating as the main source of increased costs

If yes, have you noticed an increase in your energy bills during this time? If yes, we would love to hear more detail.
66 responses

- Yes
- No

63.6%

36.4%

Just under 1/2 of the respondents currently have a smart meter

Smart meters can help you monitor your energy use more effectively – do you have one installed?

92 responses

- Yes
- No

53.3%

46.7%