



Taking responsibility for
a sustainable future



www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz

Lincoln Envirotown Survey 2013

Progress Towards Sustainability

Report Summary

This summary is illustrated by sample
graphs from the report.

To read the complete report go
to
www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz

*Survey analysed and
report prepared by
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Information about respondents:

The largest age category for respondents was 46-65 years. The age groups in the 2013 survey were different to the 2007 survey, so cannot be directly compared, however the distribution is similar if the age group differences are taken into account.

Over two-thirds (68%) of respondents have lived in Lincoln for fewer than 10 years, 39% fewer than 5 years and 19% one year or less. In the 2013 survey there are a smaller percentage of respondents who have lived in Lincoln for fewer than five years, compared to the 2007 survey (53% in 2007, compared to 39% in 2013). It is possible that respondents who have lived in Lincoln longer will have a greater commitment to the town.

Most of the respondents' children at pre-school, primary and secondary school levels are being educated in Lincoln. This is similar to 2007.

LET activities:

Attendance of respondents at LET activities varied with activity (from 2 to 24 respondents). The most popular LET activities for the respondents were the Kim Hill debate and the gardening workshops. The gardening workshops, water quality workshops, energy homes tours and Mahoe Reserve working bees and plantings were the activities people were most interested in being involved in in the future.

Respondent rankings of their interest in new LET activities showed an interest in all the activities listed (time banking, food foraging, enviro-networking, community harvest, food co-op, and op shop.)

A number of respondents said that lack of time was a barrier to being more involved in LET activities.

Knowledge, opinions and gaining knowledge of environmental issues:

Most of the respondents read the LET newsletters (71%). 25% did not read the newsletters or visit the website.

Most people thought that they knew something about most environmental topics questioned. Climate change was the topic respondents thought they knew the most about and Lincoln waste water treatment the least. Issues that respondents would most like to learn more about are the quality of Lincoln water supply, Lincoln waste-water treatment, and sustainable/green housing/urban design or land use planning. A greater percentage of respondents wanted to know more about issues in 2007 than 2013.

Most people think that we need more native plants in our community and have done other things to support sustainability in the community. Most people do not think that the quality of water in local waterways has improved, and do not think that there is enough environmental education in our schools.

Transport:

Most people are using their domestic vehicle for transport, and most households have either 1 or 2 domestic cars.

Respondents estimated that they drive an average (median) of 500kms per month. The number of kms/year is significantly lower than in the 2007 survey, although at least some of this difference may be due to the question being asked in a different way.

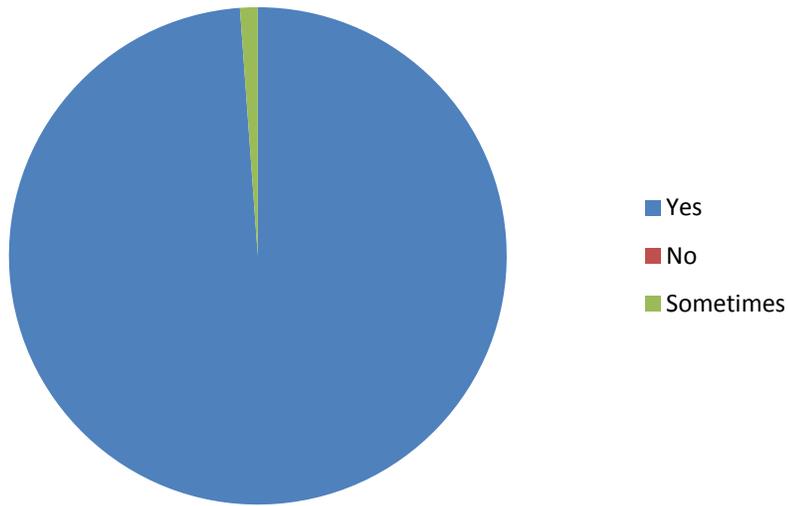
Some households said that higher fuel prices have influenced them to reduce the distance they travel, to use public transport more frequently or to purchase a vehicle with lower fuel consumption.

Most respondents said they would cycle more often if dedicated cycle tracks were available.

Refuse and recycling:

Almost all respondents separate their rubbish, this is an improvement on 2007.

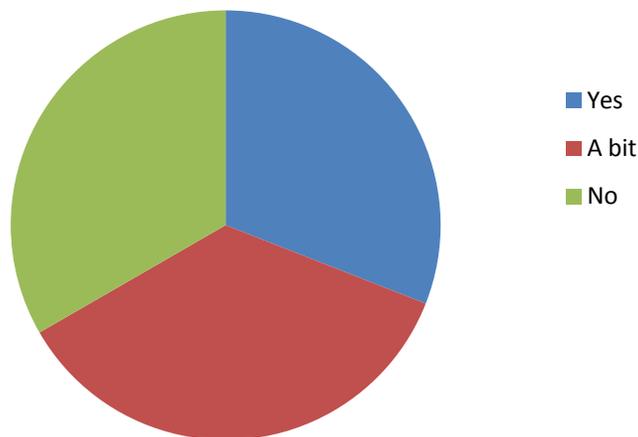
Do you separate your waste (recycling/organics/other)?



Most composted their organic waste either at home or using the council bins. Most respondents put their general rubbish out every week using mostly council rubbish bags or 80L wheelie bins. Recycling was put out every or most weeks by most respondents.

One-third of respondents said they had reduced their rubbish production in the last year, and another one-third said they had reduced their rubbish production a bit in the last year.

Have you reduced your waste production in the last year?



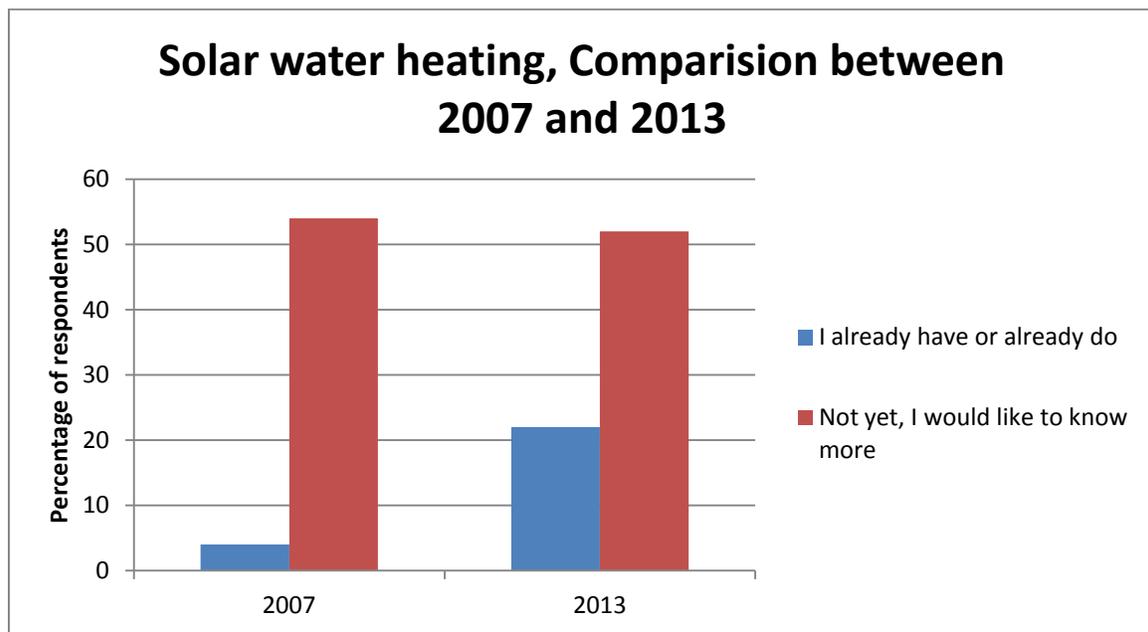
Respondents' environmentally friendly domestic utilities:

Only a few respondents had or used solar water heating, solar electricity generation, wind electricity generation

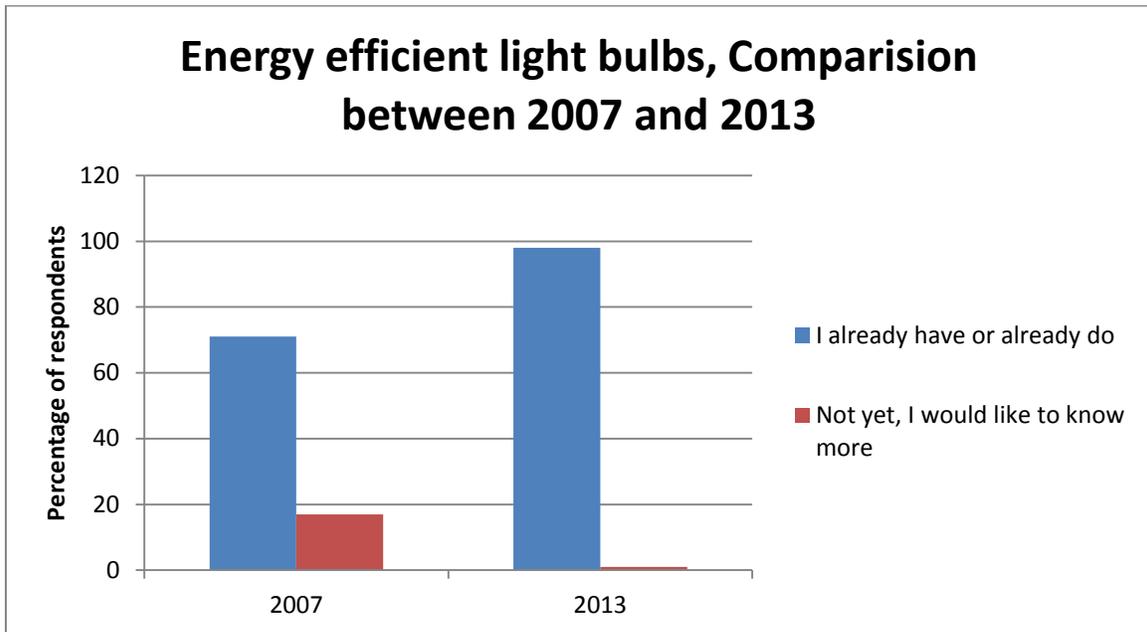
Most respondents had or used energy efficient light bulbs, insulated floors, walls and ceilings, switched appliances off at the wall, and produced some of their own food.

A number would like to know more about solar water heating, solar electricity generation, and wind electricity generation.

In most cases the percentages are similar to the 2007 survey, with a notable increase in solar water heating, and a smaller increase in double and triple glazing, hot water cylinder wrap and having a heat pump.



Very few respondents are not using energy efficient lightbulbs now.



Alternative energy project:

Many respondents would like to know more about an alternative energy project, although fewer were prepared to support the project with time or money.

Suggestions and comments:

Some suggestions were to

- Plant more natives, to help encourage the native birds,
- Get more commuters onto buses, and
- Encourage more local businesses to be more sustainable.

and some positive comments

- Well done LET
- LET is one of the things I like about Lincoln!
- You do a great job.
- Keep up the good work.

Overall:

Analysis of the results of the 2013 Lincoln Envirotown Trust survey and the comparison with the 2007 survey indicates that further progress is being made towards Lincoln becoming more environmentally sustainable.

There is considerable support for the continuation of existing LET activities as well as for the future ideas for activities.

Acknowledgements:

This survey was produced by the Lincoln Envirotown Trust. We appreciate the help given by Shiyu Diao, at the time, a student at Lincoln University, in designing the survey. We are grateful to the respondents of the survey who spent their time completing the questionnaire and provided much valuable information, and to Pauline Jarvis for her hard work analysing the results and putting this report together.

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