



RESPONSE Project

GEF 8 Plastics RESPONSE Project Survey

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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373

Total Responses

Survey Opened: Wednesday, April, 2, 2024

Survey Closed: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Complete Responses: 373

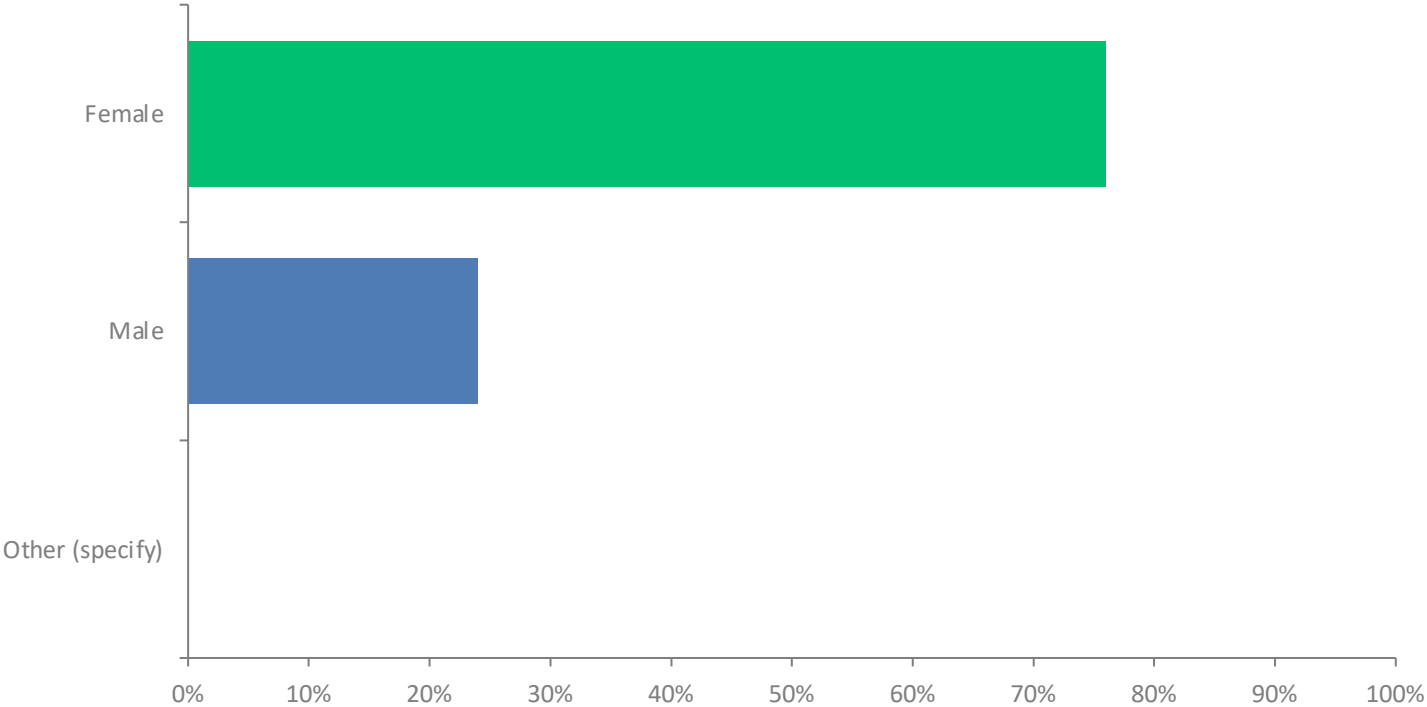
This survey was created by the National Environment Service to gauge community awareness of single-use plastics and understand the needs of retailers and end-users to successfully transition to sustainable alternatives. The information collected will be used to inform the RESPONSE project aimed at reducing single-use plastics in the Cook Islands via the food and beverage industry.

To learn more about the RESPONSE project, see our website:

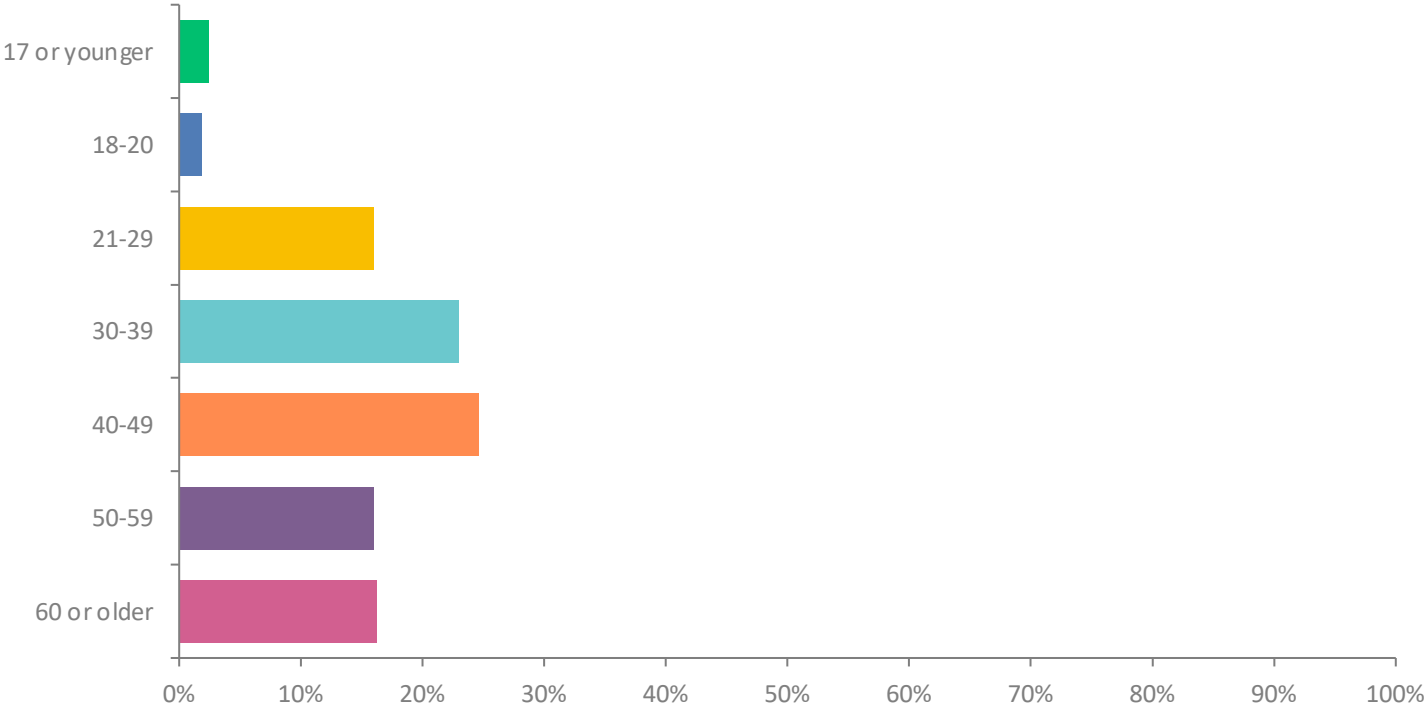
<https://environment.gov.ck/partnerships/current-projects/gef-8-plastic-r-e-s-p-o-n-s-e-project/>

General public section

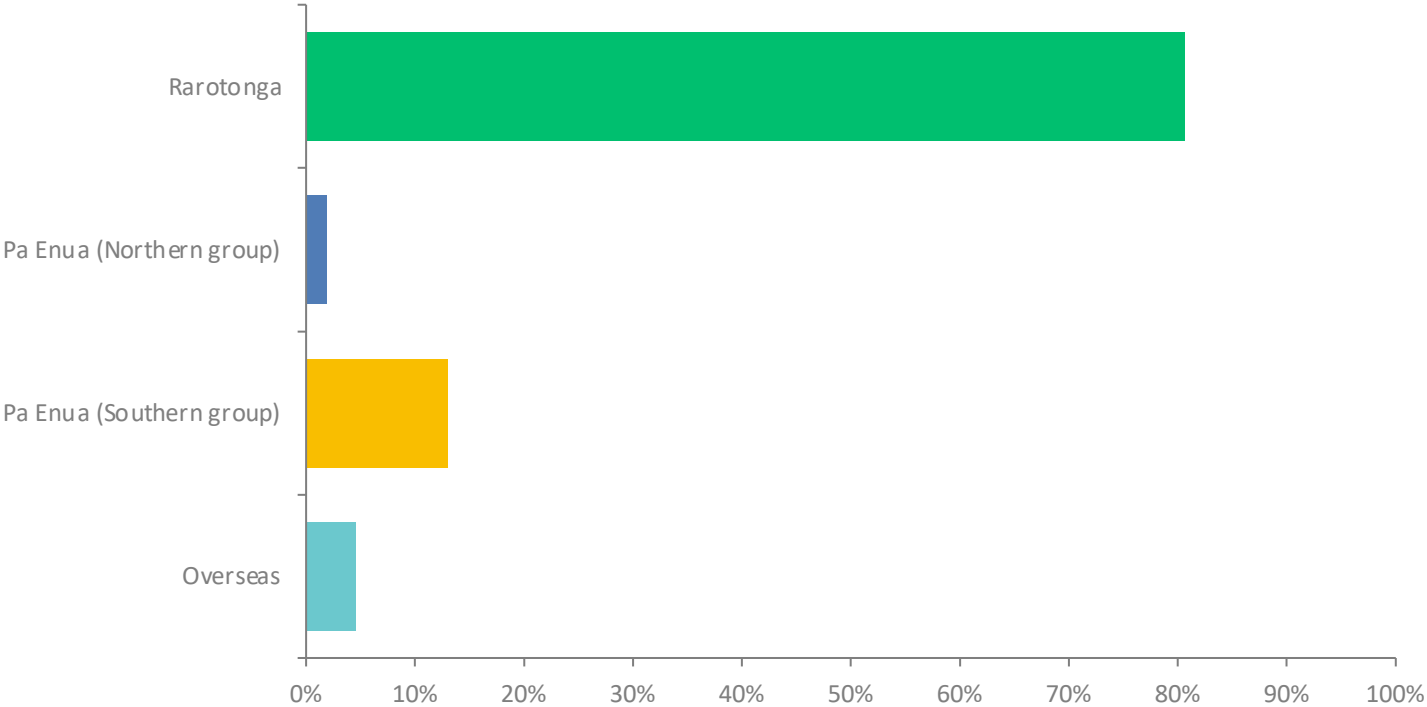
Q1: What is your gender?



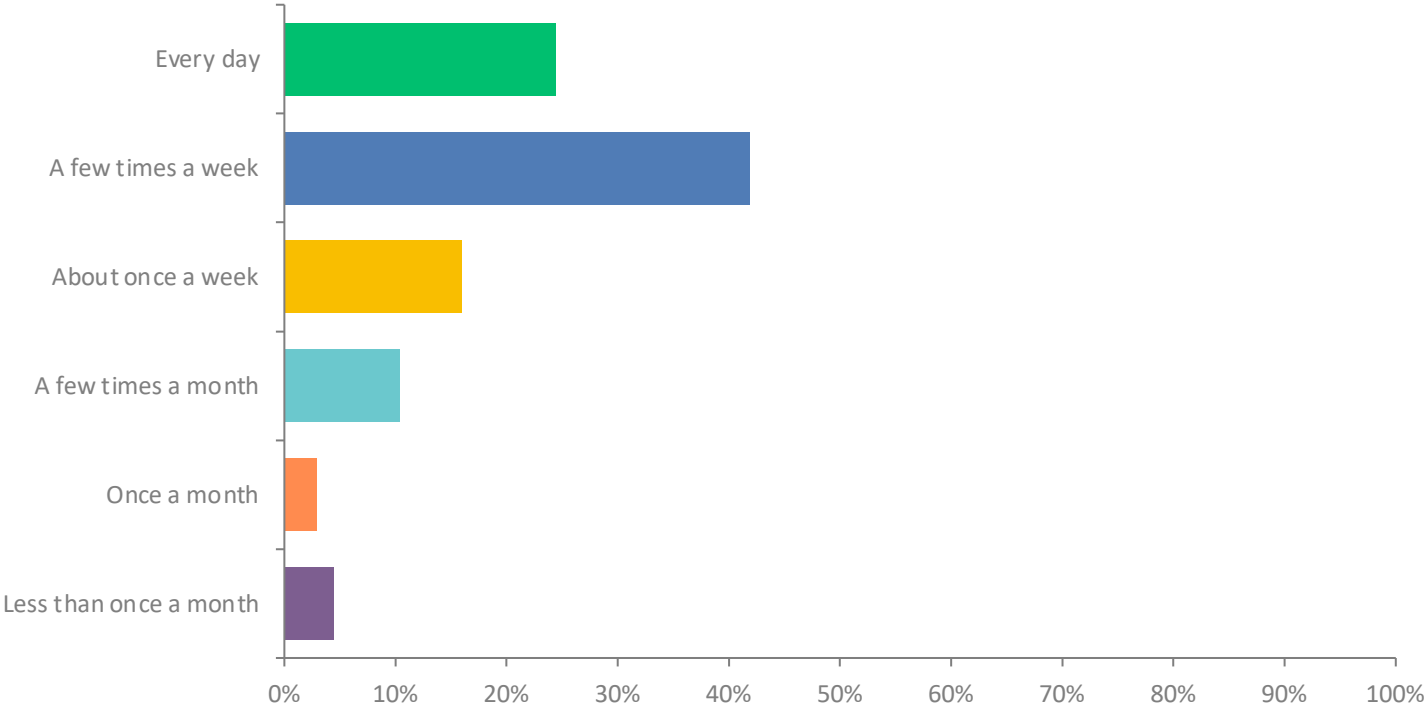
Q2: What is your age?



Q3: Where are you based?



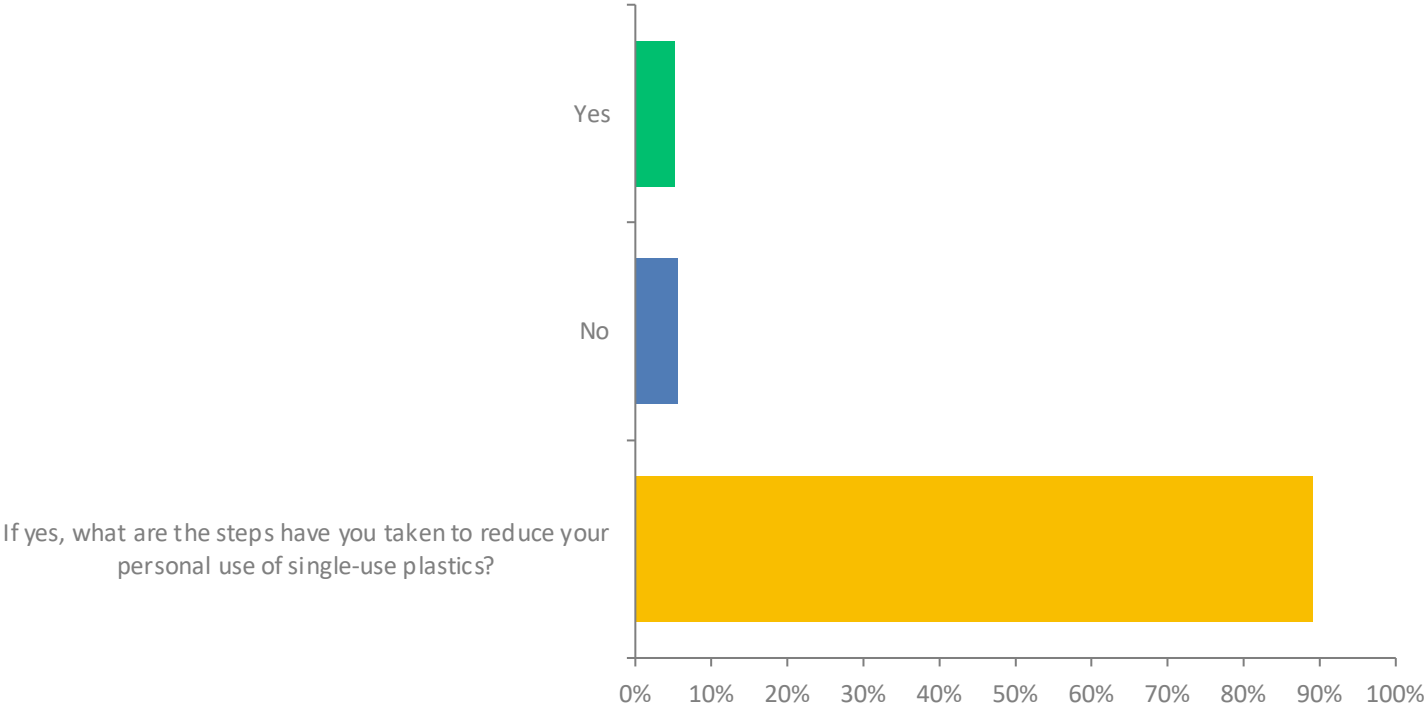
Q5: How often do you use single-use plastic items in your daily life?



Q6 Which impacts of single-use plastics on the environment are you aware of?

products risk waterways SUP increase dont end ocean especially filling landfill recycle
used Build degrade years soil impact marine life also Plastic waste harms litter
damage ecosystems wildlife land oceans Polluting ocean Plastic bags much
harm toxic lagoon lot end Non-biodegradable food effect chemicals creating
takes pollute harmful often water land sea animals
Single-use plastics marine life turtles impact birds ocean
breakdown plastic danger Pollution everywhere
landfill may environment land fill sea Sea animals
break take long time land toxins burnt decompose life Filling waste
island microplastics know rubbish air single use plastic straws damage
non biodegradable Burning plastic impact environment harms wildlife land
marine animals ecosystems waste harms wildlife etc rivers biodegradable make
wildlife emissions Killing leach affects bottles air pollution None waste management
well fish Bad becoming health

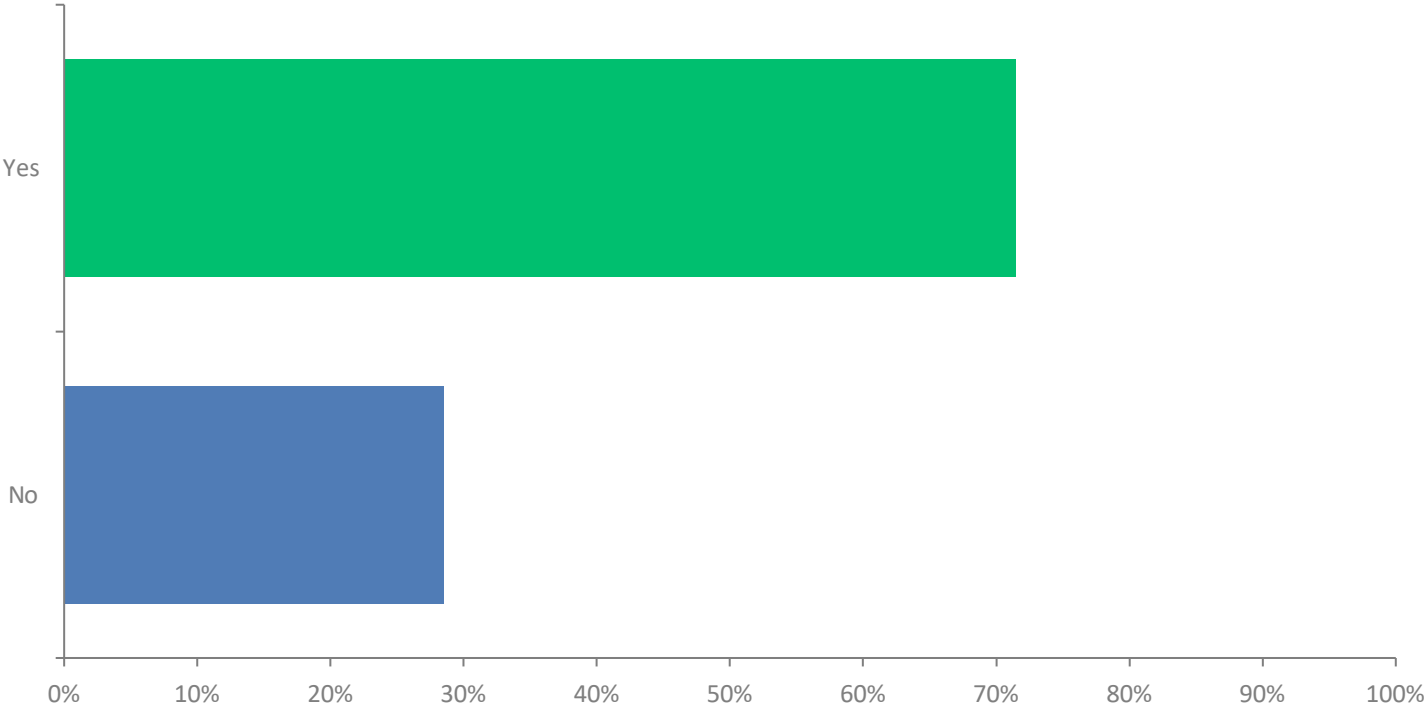
Q7: Have you actively taken steps to reduce your personal use of single-use plastics?



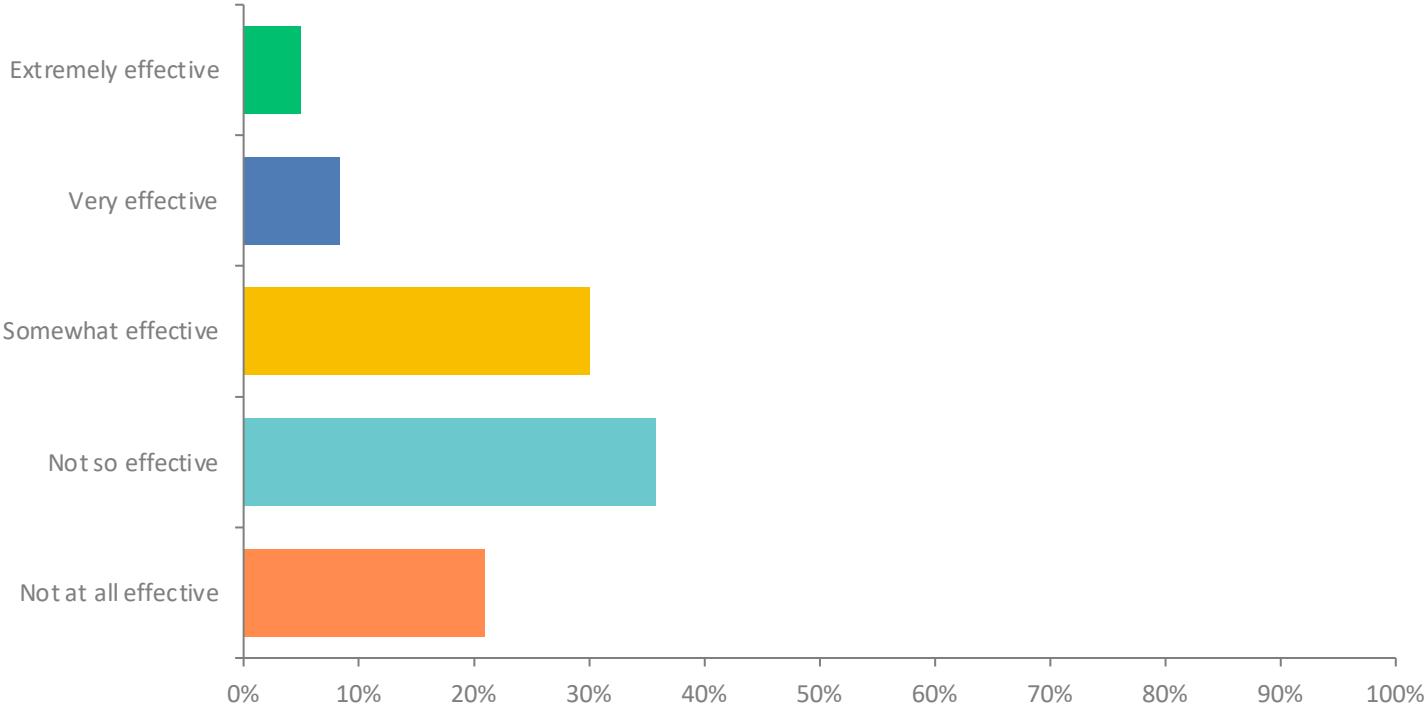
Q8 What challenges do you face in minimizing your reliance on single-use plastic products?

None Soft reuse forgetting Cost takes bags really single-use plastics Lack much bread
try breaks stores everything reduce biggest e.g offered go produce lot paper bags
using plastic home sold will wrapped want options limited drinking less
Convenience people plastic bags water bottle need
products available using also packaging eg buy many
single use plastic things alternatives
comes plastic products water food supplying plastic
Rarotonga shops disposal items products need challenge
come single use containers change available convenient
Sometimes always purchase easy plastic products places often s
time readily available wrapped plastic goods still carry food packaging think
bottles paper one instead Finding local island choice plastic bottles packets
use plastic products avoid businesses reliance recycle affordable imported
everywhere

Q9: Are you willing to pay more for products with eco-friendly or plastic-free packaging?



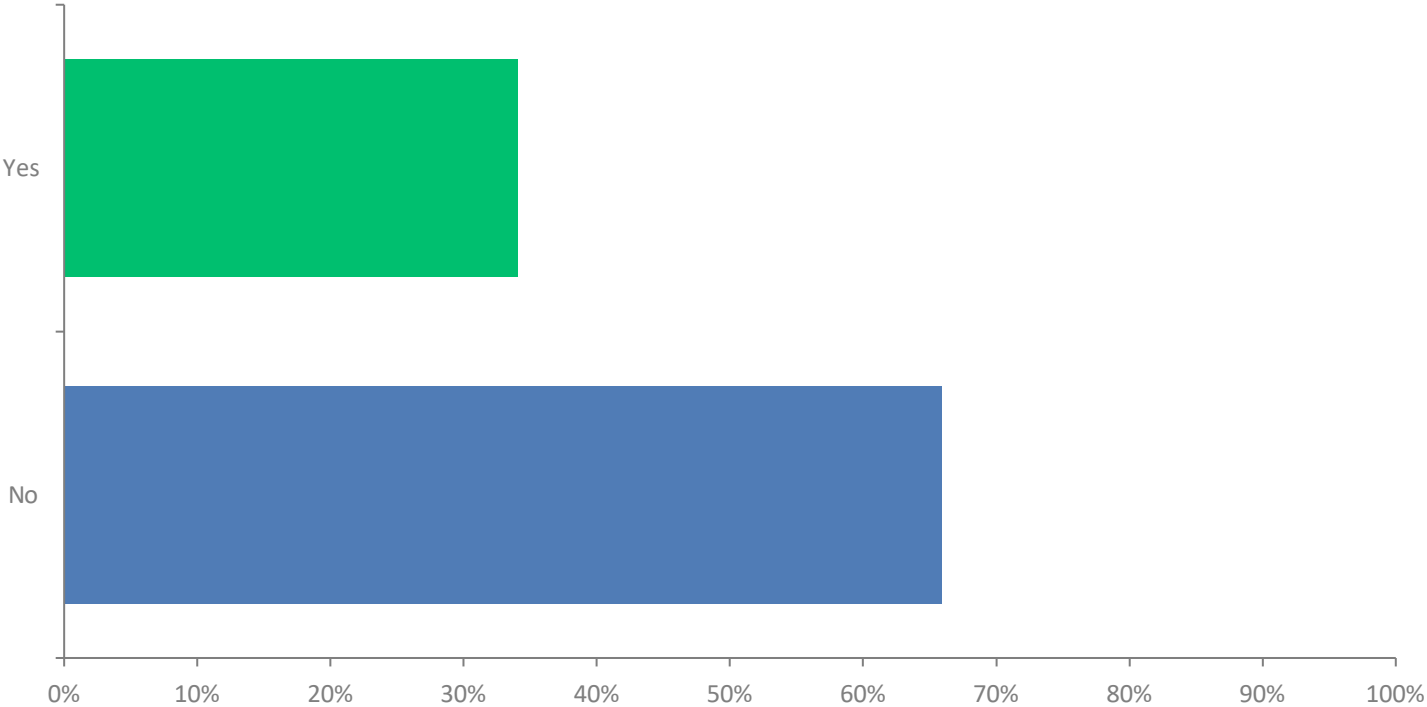
Q10: How effective do you think government regulations are in reducing the usage of single-use plastics?



Q11 In your opinion, which single-use plastic items are the most problematic for the environment?

drinks Food wrappers single use plastic cling wrap Coffee cups especially CUPS island
soft drink bottles problem food containers will Food packaging
Wrappers shopping bags ocean etc disposable bags soda wrapping
people straws take packaging snack
Plastic bags see plastic juice
Plastic bottles break bottles Fizzy drinks food shops
drink bottles plates items utensils products blown
water bottles sold water including containers smaller cutlery bread bags
everywhere soft drinks Glad wrap cigarettes butts Fizzy drink bottles used

Q12: Have you participated in any community initiatives or campaigns focused on reducing single-use plastics?



Q13 What role do you think businesses should play in reducing their production and use of single-use plastics?

use plastic communities choose role eco-friendly consumers purchasing
use plastic bags food alternative options ban environmentally friendly support available
Find alternative hard solutions however biodegradable storage making cost bags
drinks bottles also plastic bottles Try items shops recycling buying stop
imported products Provide paper bags reduce work alternatives
ways import store sell dispose better go plastic
shopping bags single use plastics offering alternatives
businesses stop import products instead
packaging importers need s encourage Invest
options give using single-use plastic plastic bags
use single-use plastics bring refill containers look think waste change
reuse help order initiatives materials wrapping eg local often one Charge
reduce plastic Stop bringing don t Provide alternative island big role pay recyclable
environment Take offer possible start focus etc reusable bags

Q14 Are there specific changes or alternatives you would like to see in place of commonly used single-use plastic items?

perhaps includes see Encourage Glass even Free around replace plates island big
Biodegradable eg bringing dispose Maybe bulk reduce Encourage people promote
better alternative food product packaging places shopping bags paper bags
use plastics plastic bags returned paper Also items produce bags country
good boxes recycling cost bottles way packaging shops
people etc alternatives put use bamboo plastic
eco friendly products compostable reusable education
containers Look options cloth import changes
single use plastic available Yes try drinks Re ban educate
businesses glass bottles Water soft drinks reusable bags plastic items sold
plastic straws local take water bottles Keep stop kids buying cups ones proper
stores think need utensils cutlery reuse use single use takeout rubbish per Make public

Tourism section

Q15 What types of food and beverage plastic packaging or products does your business commonly use?

Glad Wrap cleaning products packaging takeaway wrapped bags use foil
plastic Single cups boxes food paper bottles Rubbish bags coffee

RESPONSES

the LPDE and PVC type

Individual coffee, sugar, tea sachets Some will supply guests with plastic bottled water. Create tax or special incentives for accommodation places to use environmentally friendly products, refilling instead of small plastic bathroom products

Purchasing items that are shrink wrapped, preserving food in single use plastic particularly Glad Wrap

plastic wrap, aluminium foil, cardboard boxes

Single use shampoos/toiletries

Rubbish bags!

clingfilm, takeaway cups. food packaging.

N/a we use paper

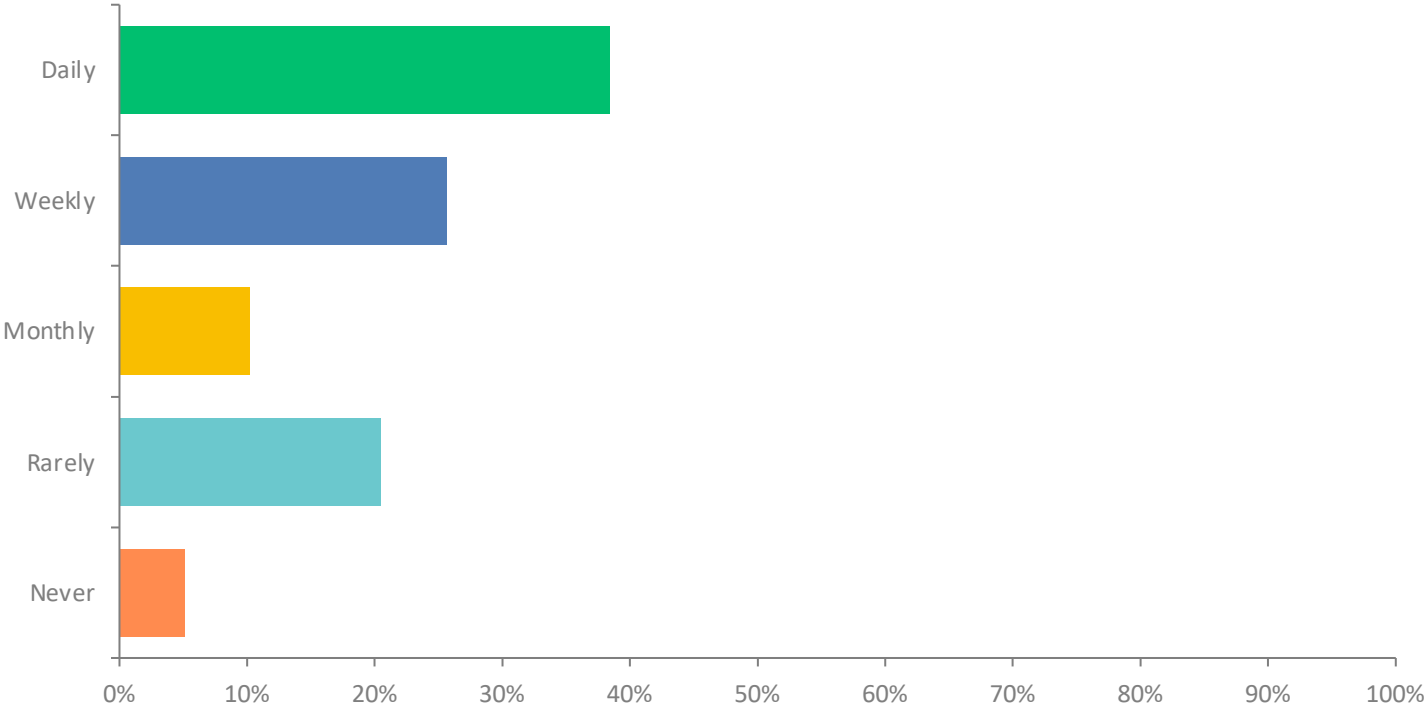
plastic bags and bottles

Reusable plastic food containers, wooden food utensils

Takeaway boxes and

Microplastic boxes and hard plastic cups or the micro plastic cups what look like cartón. Also foil wraps

Q16: How frequently do you use single-use plastic items in your food and beverage operations?



Q17 Are there specific areas where you would appreciate guidance or support in transitioning to plastic-free alternatives in your food and beverage operations?

Support needed:

Available alternatives in market

RESPONSES

Ensure that the alternatives are on the shelves and available, all too often stocks run out. Run incentives for businesses that do use environmentally friendly products, have a environmental badge they earn and can display. This is important to a lot of guests.

Replacements for shrink wrapping by food suppliers and for us to replace Glad Wrap

plastic free is not good for the environment, embrace reusable shopping bags

Yes - phase out single use and increase awareness on reusables

promote the use of coconut cups and plates - use of leaves to serve food

Clingwrap

Stronger paper straws

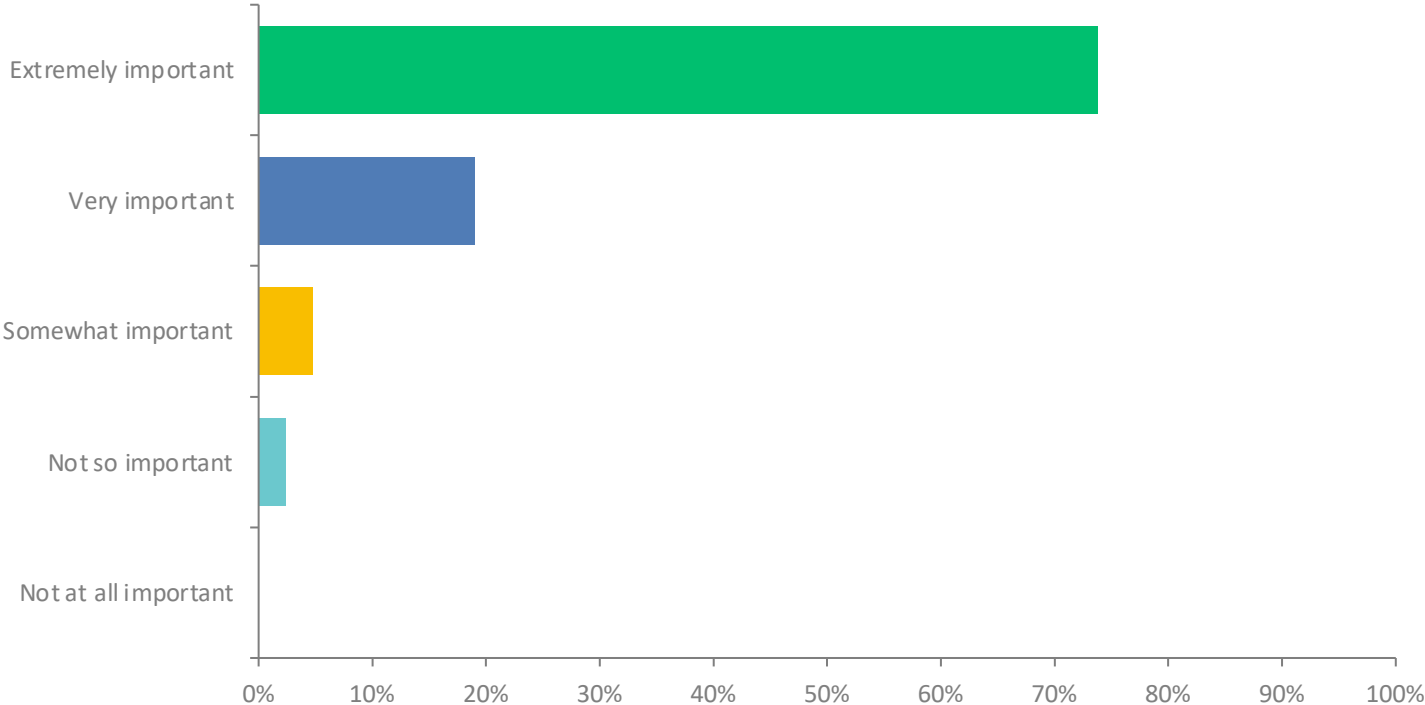
Beverages are the key ones - we have heard that glass is going to be replaced with cans ?? is this a good option

Plastic free alternatives to single use plastic water bottles while on the lagoon

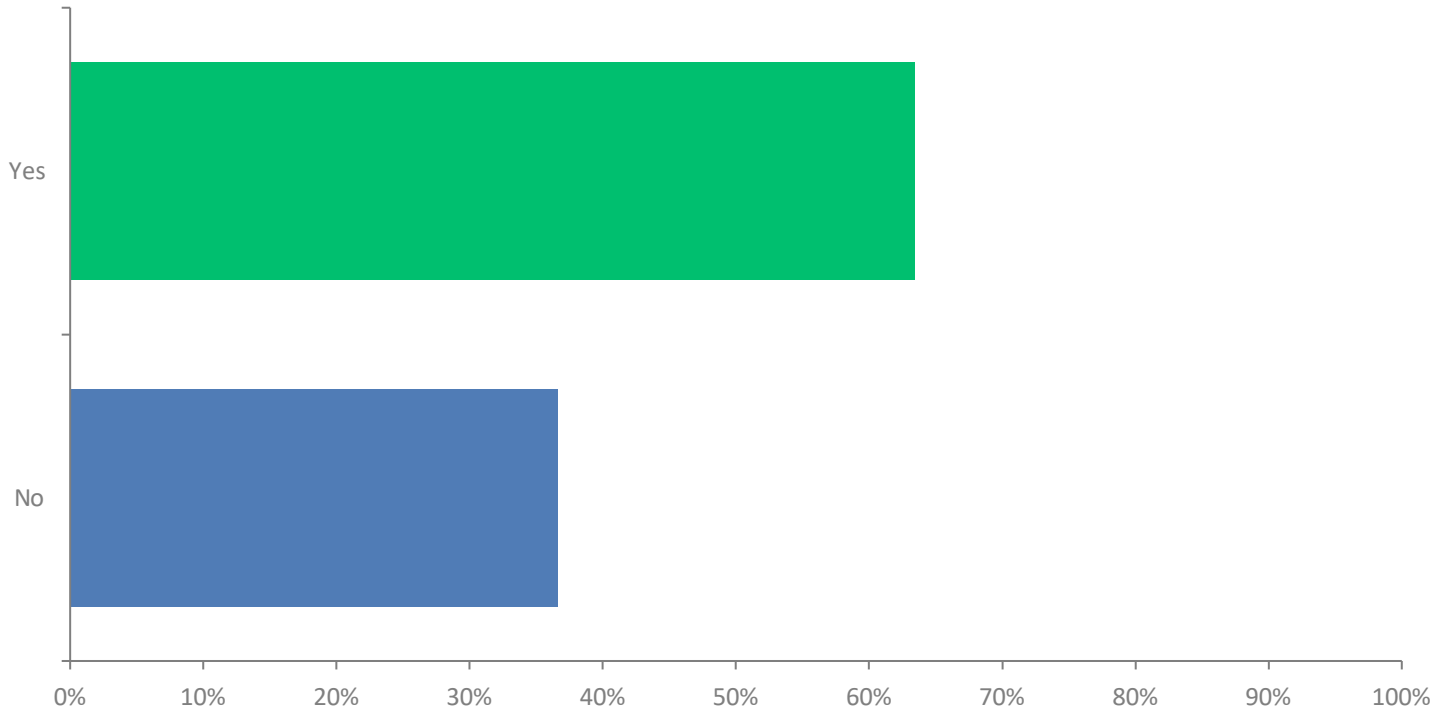
Make those eco friendly containers available for us food business. Its hard to find one at the shops

Yes in water botles, soda botles, micro plastic boxes.

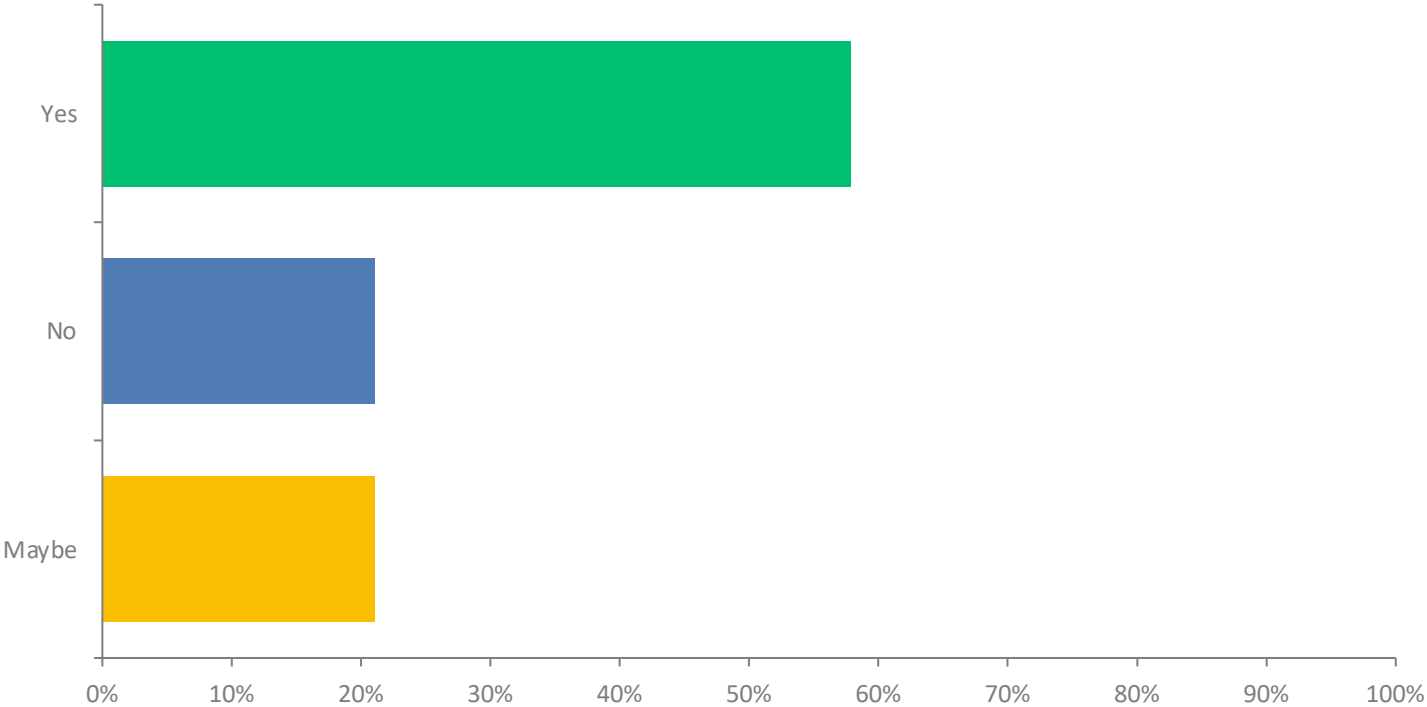
Q18: In your opinion, how important is it for the tourism industry to collectively address plastic pollution?



Q19: Do you communicate your efforts to reduce plastic usage to your customers?



Q20: Would you consider offering incentives to customers who bring their reusable containers or utensils, and why?



Q21 What challenges do you anticipate in reducing plastic usage within your food and beverage services?

Key challenges:

Finding alternatives

Cost of phasing out

Convenience

RESPONSES

Being able to access the environmentally sustainable alternatives - supplies running out. Laziness. Lack of understanding that using less is the key, not just replace with non plastics. Price will inhibit some people.

There is a reason that we all use single use plastics. They are very useful and convenient. We need alternatives.

finding values, design for recycling, increasing knowledge

Changing mindsets - you need both Govt Policy and public awareness to work hand in hand

time in finding alternatives and creating it esp in the plaiting of coconut leaf bowls, plates and others

NA

cost and availability.

Most food are already wrapped in plastics. At home people may be careless about disposing them.

Prices and convenience

having alternatives to use, cost increases

Convenience

Availability

That plastic cant all be Burned.

Hygiene

Manufacturers have a cheap packaging method in place. It needs to convert to bio-plastics

I guess fashionable and functional is a subconscious priority.

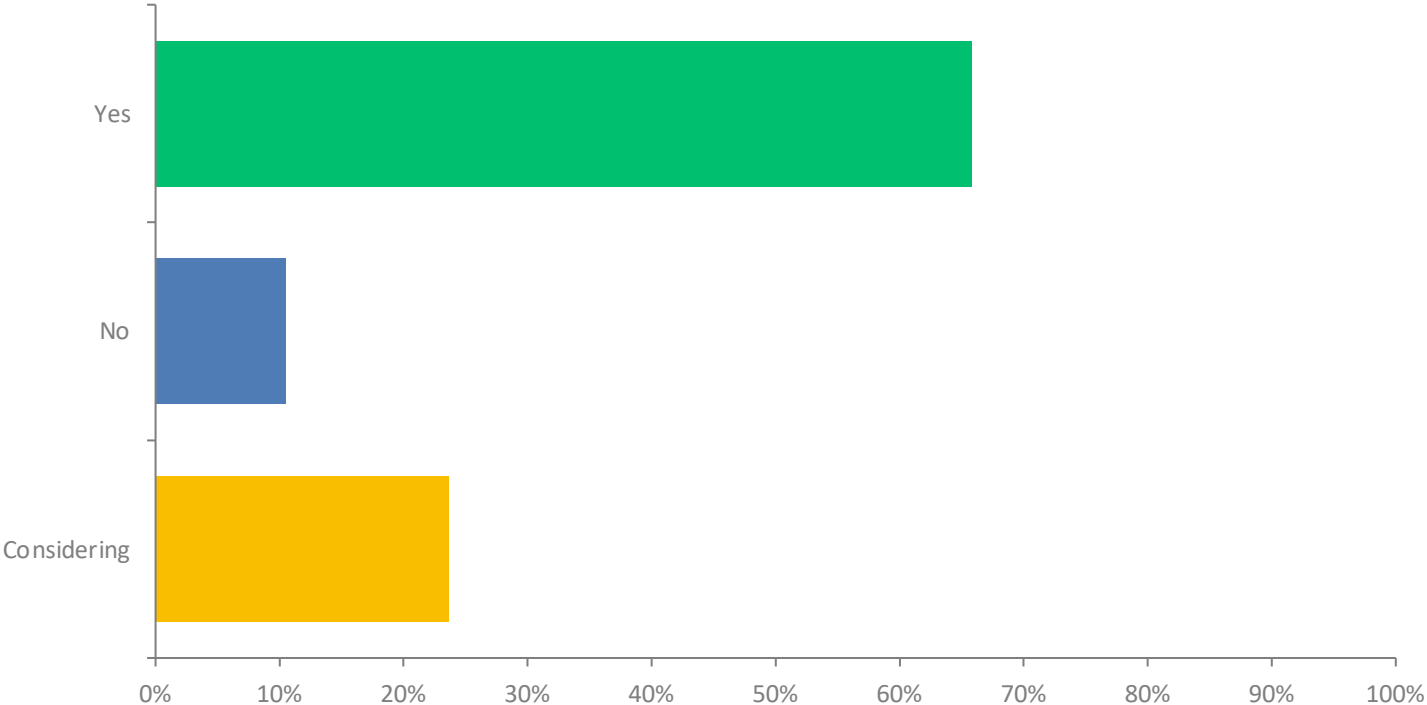
Availability of suitable alternatives

N/A

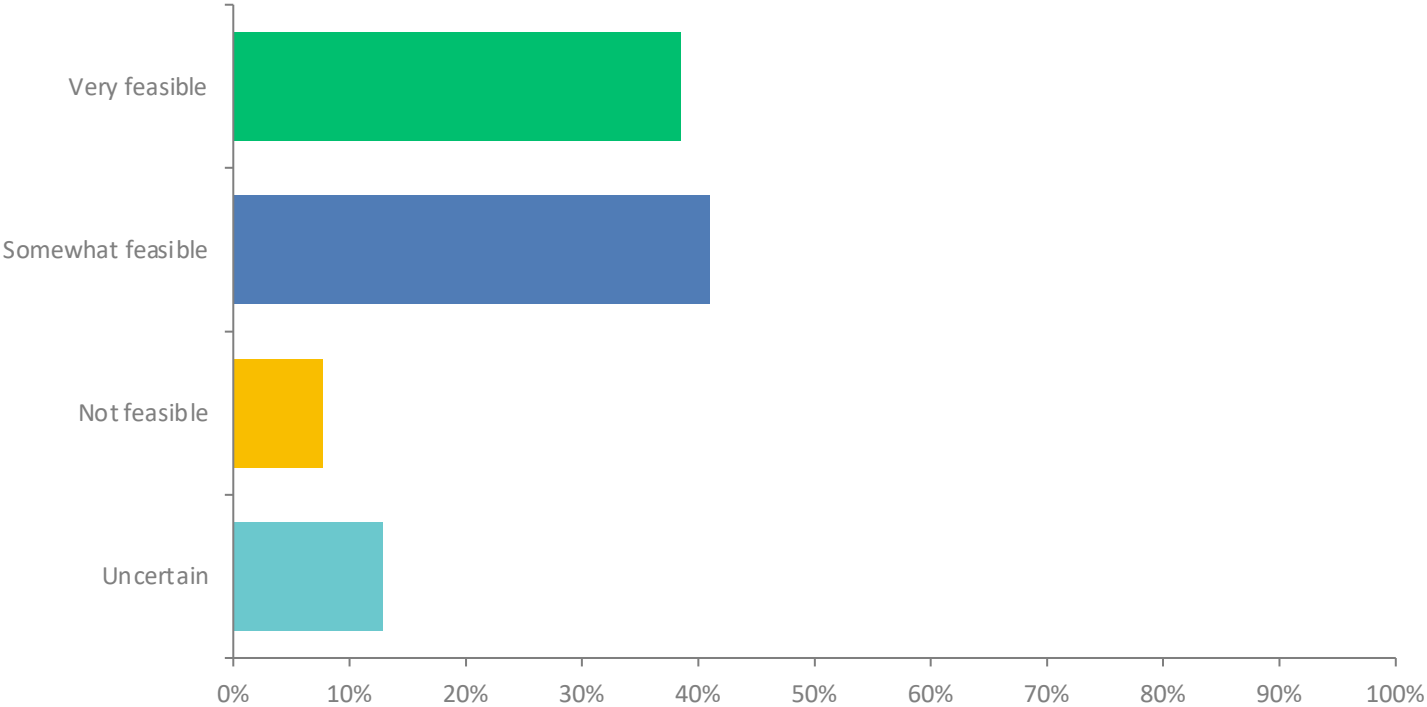
added costs to make those changes. if making changes comes at reduced costs then I am all for it

availability of alternatives

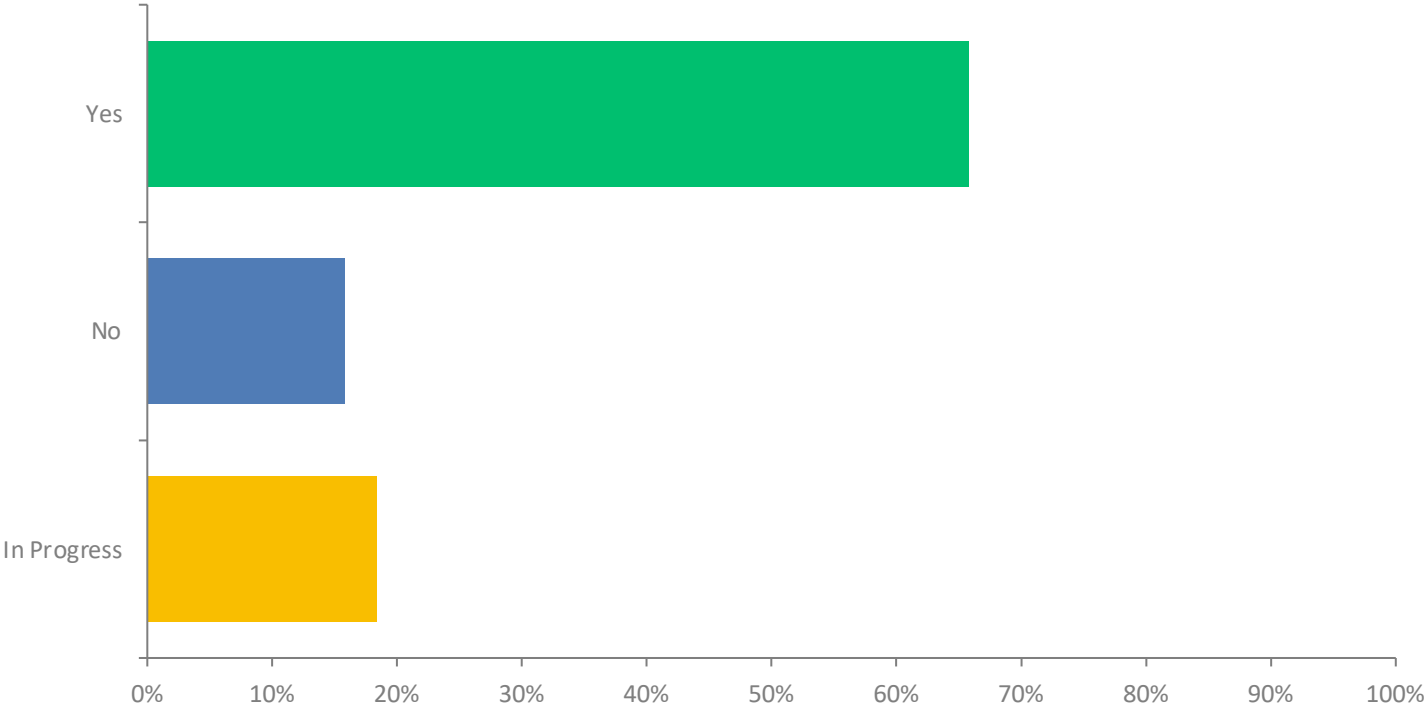
Q22: Are you currently exploring or using reusable, biodegradable or compostable packaging options?



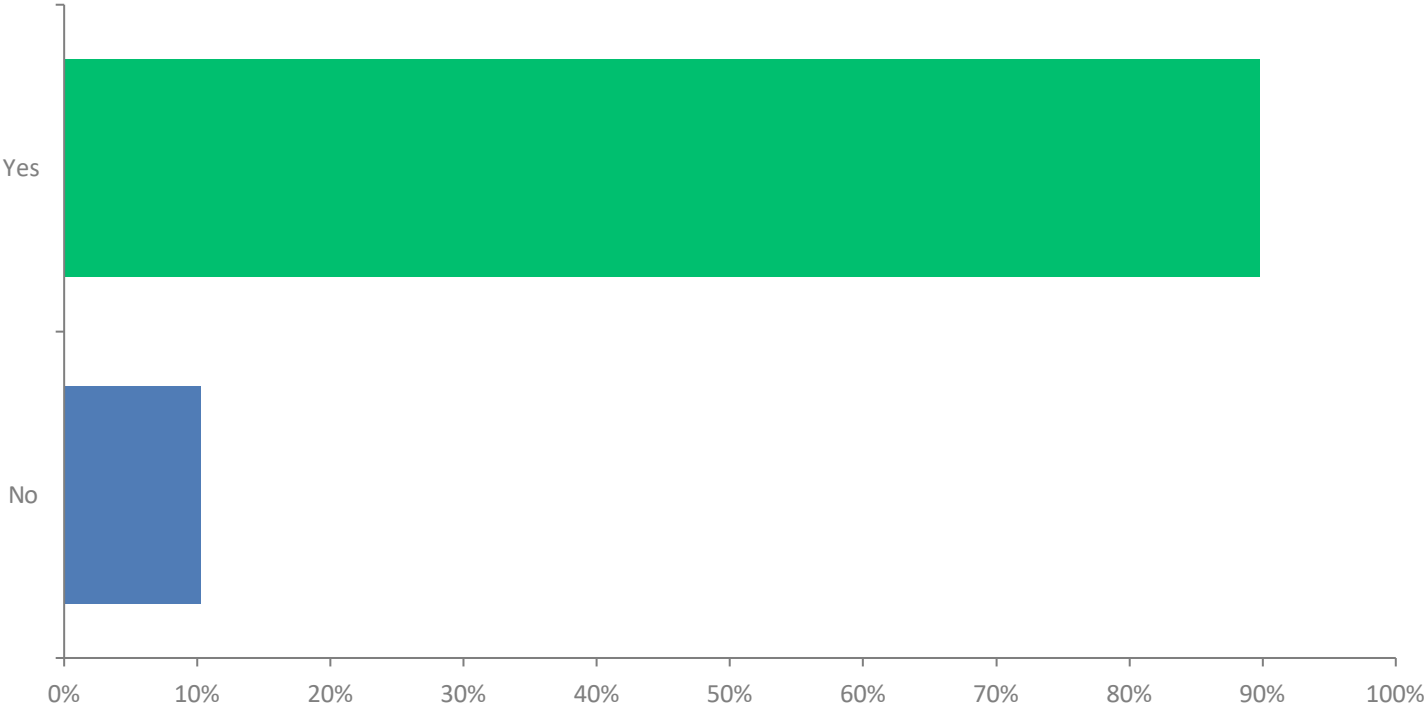
Q23: How feasible do you think it is for your business to transition to alternative, non-plastic packaging?



Q24: Have you already implemented any initiatives to reduce plastic usage in your operations?



Q25: Would you consider collaborating with other businesses to collectively reduce single-use plastics in the tourism sector?



Q26 Are there any regulatory or policy changes that would encourage your business to reduce single-use plastics?

RESPONSES

Tax incentives for those businesses who do.

Banning the worst of single use packaging by overseas food vendors in line with NZ and Australia

dont know, all I know avoid plastic packages

yes - plastic free zone campaign

not at the moment here in Atiu

Phase out single use toiletries and PCU's in F&B

ban plastic

Not really due to the kind of products that are imported. Eg lollies, biscuits, chocolates, etc.

Maybe.

It shouldnt be regulatory - it is about the provision of alternative options and then transitioning to those via incentives ... or education

No

Yes Just forbid it. Is the only way. No selling and big fines for people throw plastic on the street.

no

We have already eliminated them, but it's global manufacturers who need to change. Regulatory changes will only work if there's and easily obtainable alternative

Not particularly sure

Unsure

Maybe

no

Yes, the Country to ban them been imported.

yes Government need take initiative to reduce waste - charge for re-export of packaging cars and other such bought on to

Key ideas:

Ban plastic imports

Tax incentives

Plastic free zones

Q27 What support or resources would be helpful for your business to transition to more sustainable packaging options?

Better options available, in his supply, subsidised by the govt to encourage buty in from businesses.

Education and Training as well as advocacy with government and education for the wider public tourists and locals

we believe all aspects of packages can always be improved and that the right packaging solution can become essential tools to help us achieve a more sustainable future

It has to start from the suppliers and producers of plastics. There's only so much you can do from once it gets to consumers. Implement policies on product design and seek assistance from international law.

needing more people to be aware to use alternatives such as ice cream bowls to put their eggs when they come to buy it from me

Provide alternatives, offer incentives

more availability

Producers overseas are the ones to consider this.

Cheaper packaging

If the Government could offer a special deal to local businesses, reduce duty and vat cost, freight allowances then businesses would be able to import 100% plastic free products(this is for the coffee vendors)

Having access to better suppliers

Accessibility to these sustainable packaging options

A Business Advisor that can look at the numbers and help us plan an adaptation plan: tell us how much we will be losing, how this can be mitigated with operations, how innovation can be used to create a more resilient business model. Some loss is inevitable but show me how quickly we can make it back and how it will be ultimately more profitable in the future.

Key ideas:

Alternatives

Subsidies

Adaptation plan

Q28 Are there specific single-use plastic food and beverage items that pose a greater challenge for your business to replace?

RESPONSES

Tea, coffee, sugar sachets

Anything shrink wrapped and Glad Wrap

plastic is good, but there are some plastic packaging

All plastics may lead to microplastics. We can't be selective, just need to change behaviours in its entirety.

not really now because i am using recycled egg cartons, for the sacks of chicken feeds, i recycle them and use it for carrying taro, coconuts and other stuff around the home, we even give it away to people when they asked for it for free

clingwrap

Yes...

Plastic bags

not really - if alternatives are readily available then the transition is easier but ensuring the ongoing supply is there is key

Plastic bottled water containers

Maybe

I believe pfc is thw worst

no

None other than our biscuit wrappers. We could eliminate the snack and that would eliminate the problem.

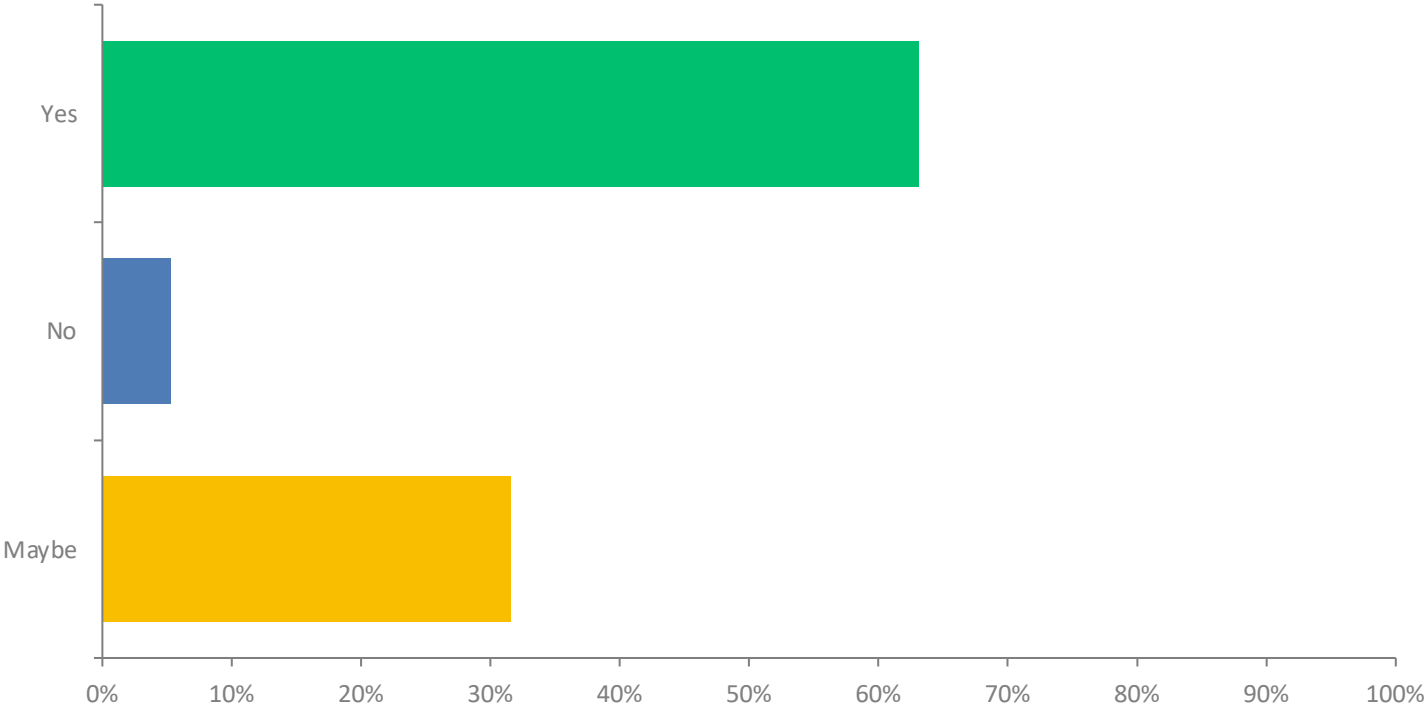
No

Plastic wrap Plastic bags for rubbish liners

Jams and spreads small portions so waste is minimal

N/A

Q29: Would you be willing to invest in alternative, eco-friendly packaging for your products?

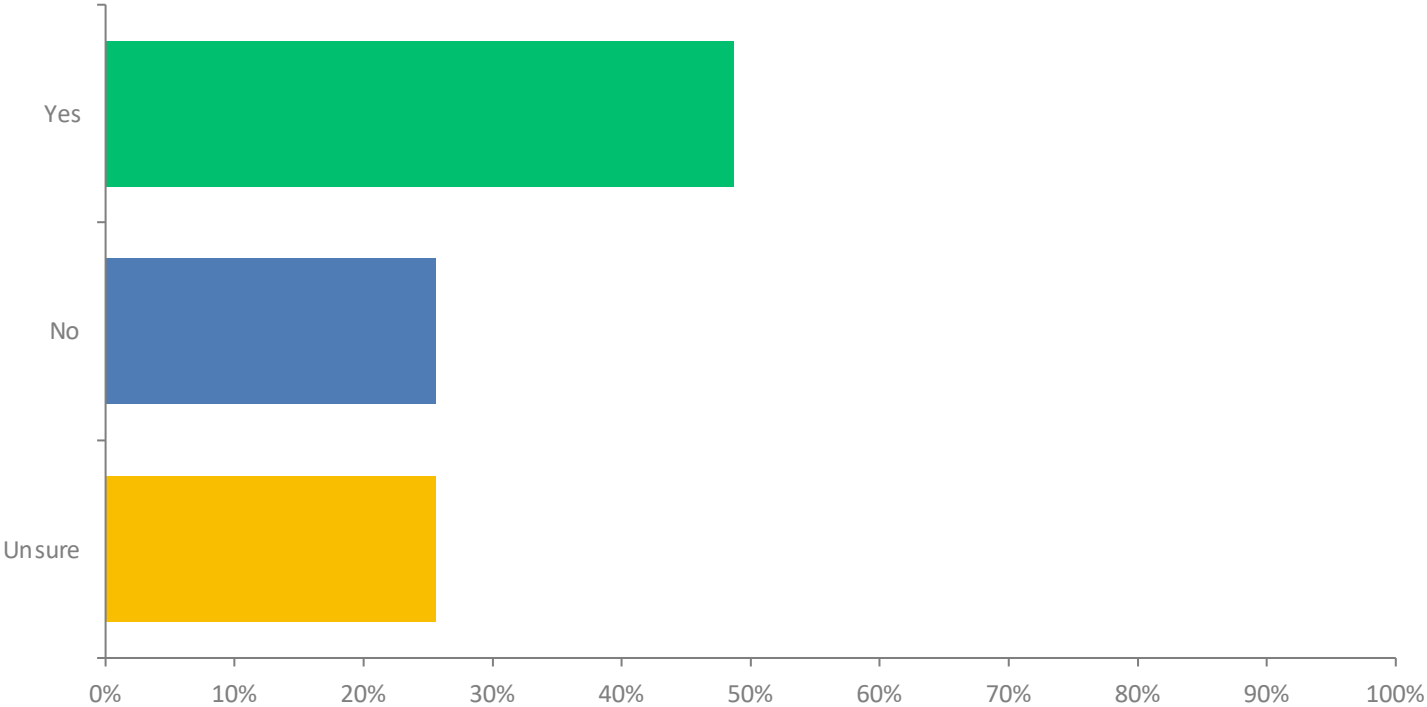


Retailer and wholesale section

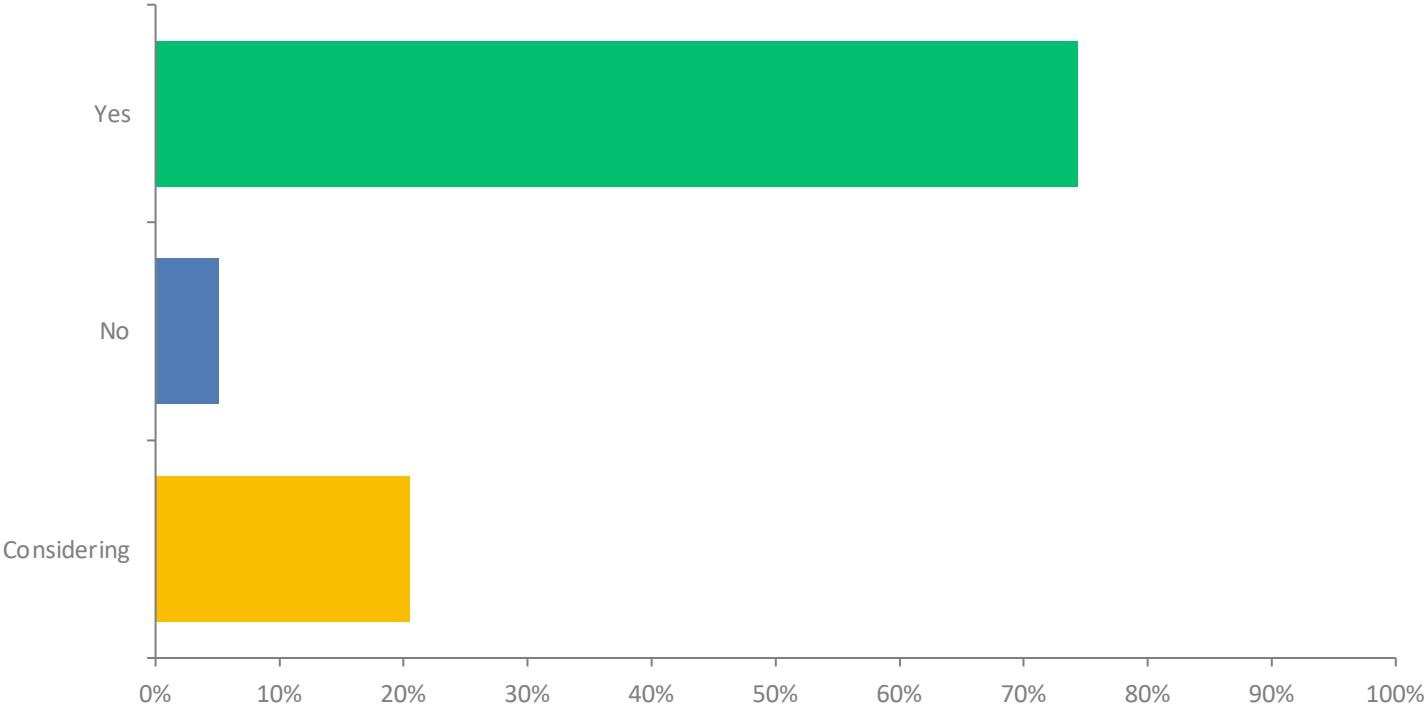
Q30 What type of food and beverage products does your retail or wholesale store primarily sell?

drinks general food water plastic Cooked foods
packaging

Q31: Do you believe customers are increasingly seeking products with eco-friendly or plastic-free packaging?



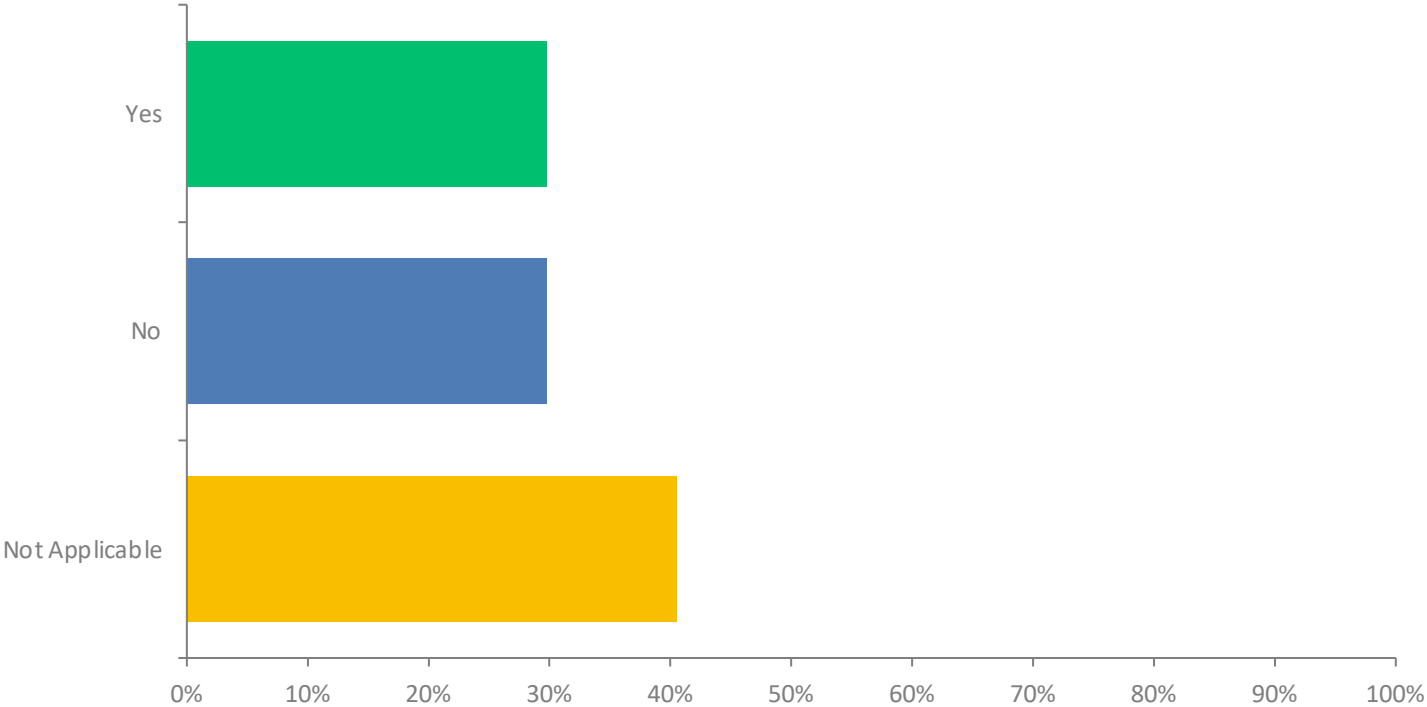
Q32: Have you explored or implemented alternative packaging options, such as reusable or biodegradable materials?



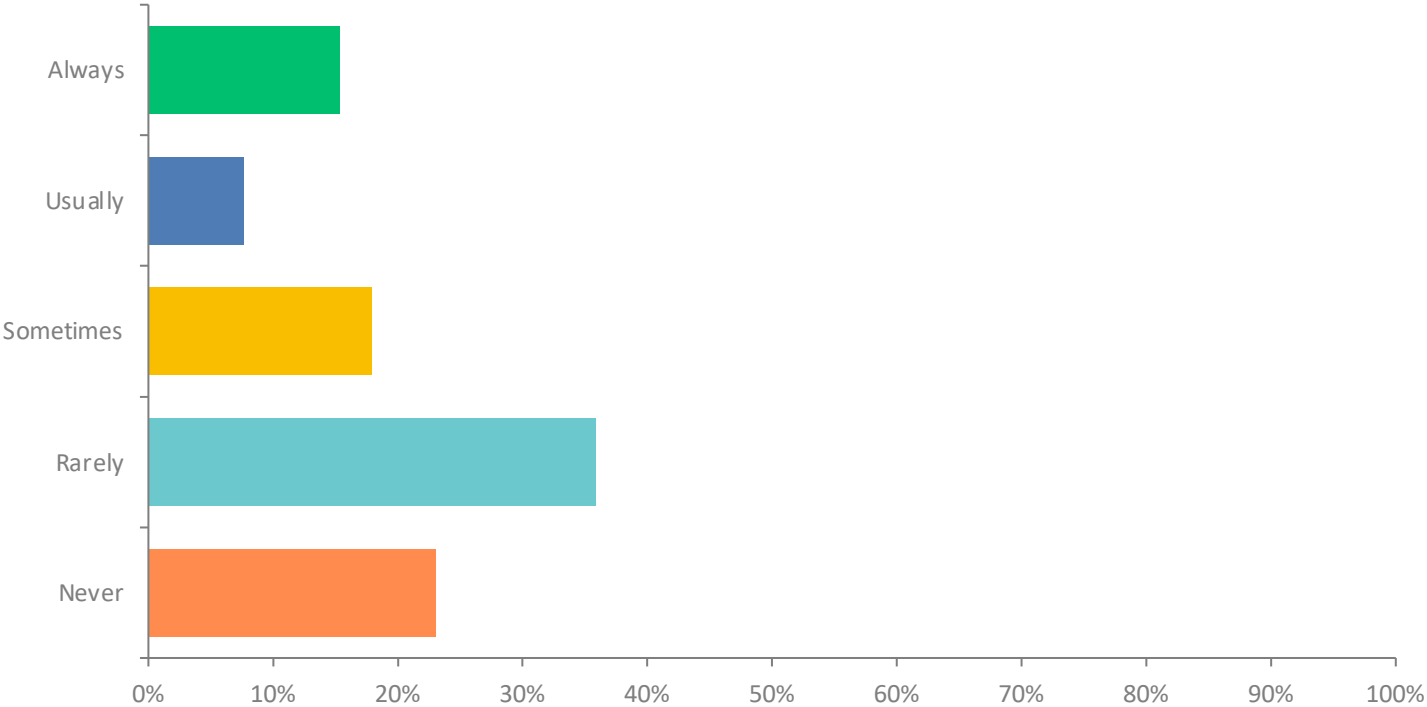
Q33 What challenges, if any, have you faced in reducing the use of single-use plastic packaging in food and beverage products?

alternative Customers use products packaging need
plastic price bags ask biodegradable None

Q34: Have you communicated with your suppliers about reducing single-use plastics in the packaging of delivered goods?



Q35: How often do you use single-use plastic bags for customer purchases?



Q36: Would you consider offering reusable bags as an alternative to single-use plastic bags in your store?

