

SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY 2023

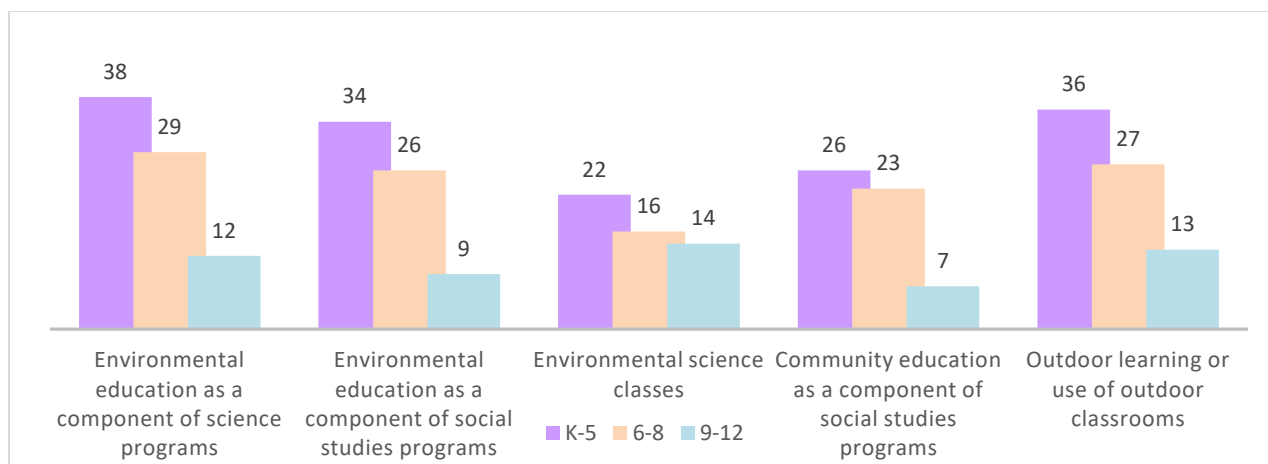
The New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN) asked K-12 schools in the province to participate in the completion of this survey. The goal of this report is to help provide relevant information to stakeholders and communities concerning sustainability education and activities within the schools of New Brunswick. These stakeholders can then provide relevant resources to the schools, and schools will be more equipped to advocate for missing tools. The following results are from the Anglophone, Francophone and Band-run school districts. **Reports from previous years can be found at sea-nb.ca.**

Data Analysis: Results are shown per school that responded. Participants were asked to answer questions for only the 2022-2023 school year. In some cases, multiple teachers from the same school answered the survey. Responses from the same school were compiled together to better reflect numbers from their entire school. In cases where the answer for a question was the same among teachers from the same school, those duplicate answers were counted as one. If answers from one school with multiple respondents were different for the same question, those answers were treated independently.

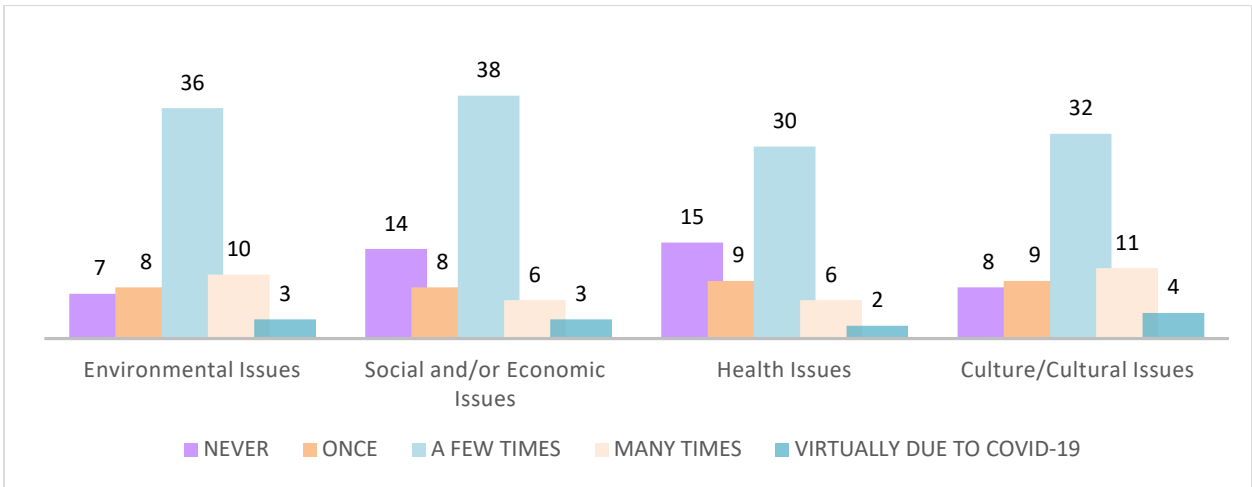
NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: **75** NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SURVEYED: **61**

CURRICULUM

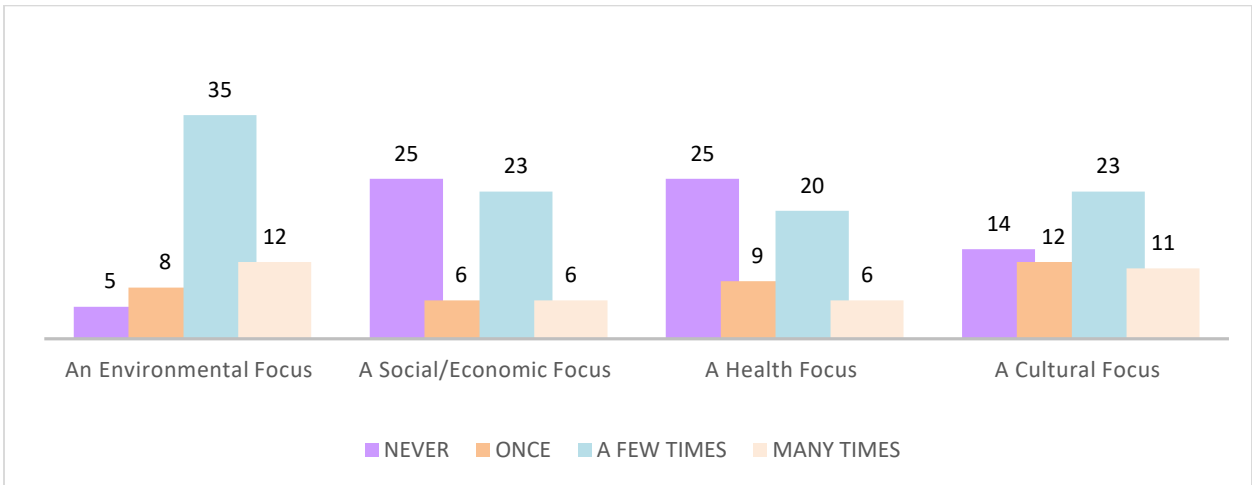
In addition to the mandated curriculum, schools provided the following environmental and community education:



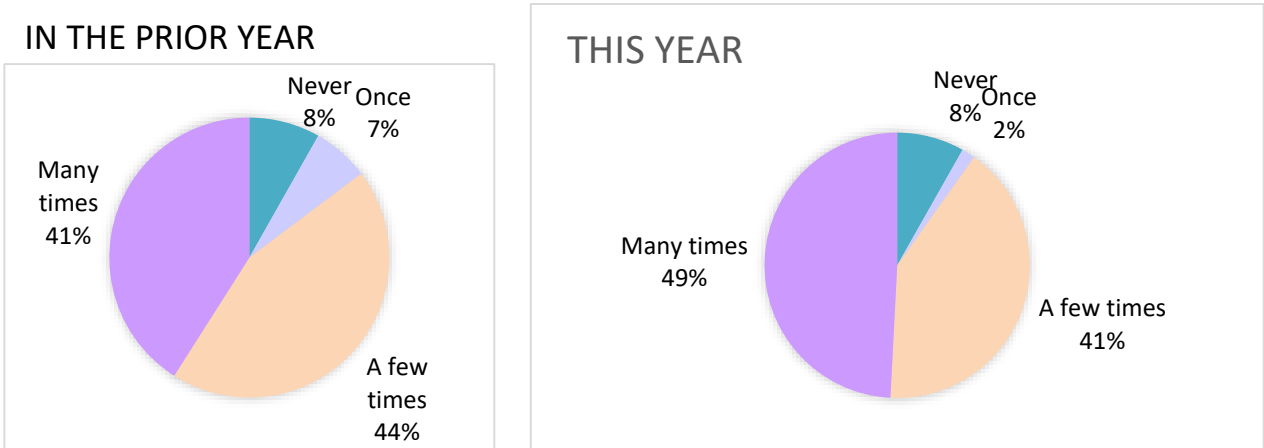
This school year, schools arranged speakers to come into the school to talk about:



This school year, schools conducted field trips with:



How many times schools incorporated outdoor learning into their curriculum:



This year, schools have incorporated outdoor learning or nature education into virtual teaching:

Yes: 21 No: 40

Outdoor learning:	Responses
Nature videos	17
Outdoor or nature-based homework/tasks	16
Environmental subject matter	18
Virtual tours of nature areas	11
Other	Created an outdoor classroom Outdoor scavenger hunts Released butterflies Trail outside the school

This year, schools have used these non-governmental groups for education materials:

Groups	Responses
Nature NB	18
Conservation Council of NB	16
Atlantic Salmon Federation	8
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - New Brunswick Chapter	5
Ducks Unlimited Canada	27
Canadian Forestry Association of New Brunswick	5
Falls Brook Centre	1
Gaia Project	36
New Brunswick Lung Association	5
Birds Canada	5
Learning for a Sustainable Future	10
EOS Eco-Energy	5
Shediac Bay Watershed Association	1
Francophone Youth Federation of New Brunswick	9
None	2
Other	Ganong Nature Park; Meduxnekeag Association; Nutrients For Life; St Croix International Waterway Commission; David Suzuki; Belleisle Watershed; KV River Watershed; Vision H2O; Bassin versant de Tracadie; Municipalité régionale de Tracadie; Due to the pandemic, contact with organizations outside the school has been limited.

This year, schools have used the following industrial sector organizations for education materials:

Organizations:	Responses:
J.D. Irving	15
NB Power	16
Forest Products Association	6
We do not use education materials from industrial organizations	29
Other	Due to the pandemic, contact with organizations outside the school has been limited.

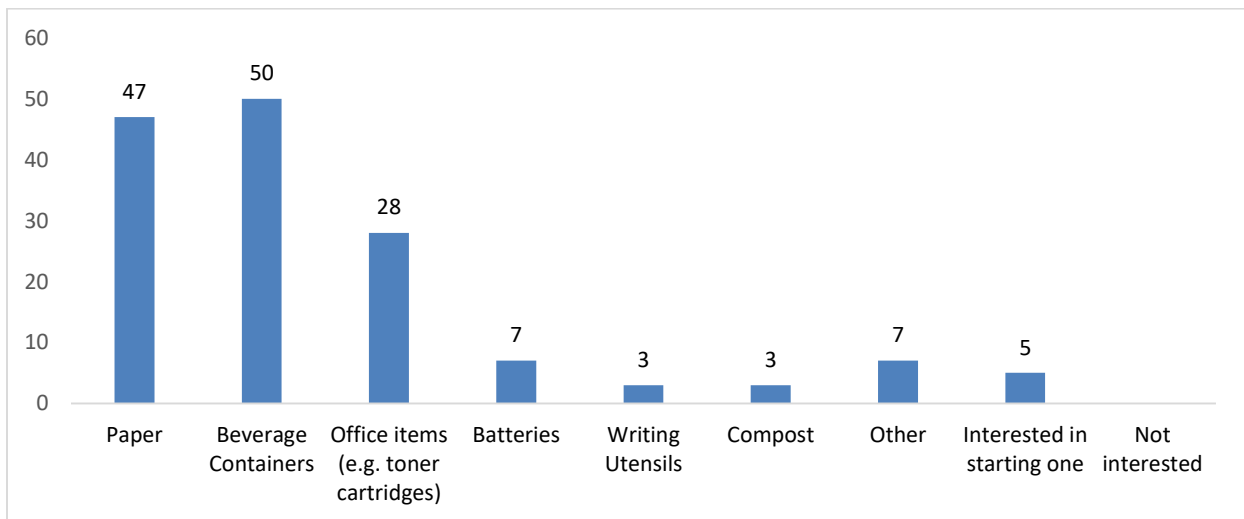
Great Minds Think Outside is an outdoor professional development program that gives educators the skills and resources they need to teach their students outside.

This year, teachers have participated in “Great Minds Think Outside” professional development:

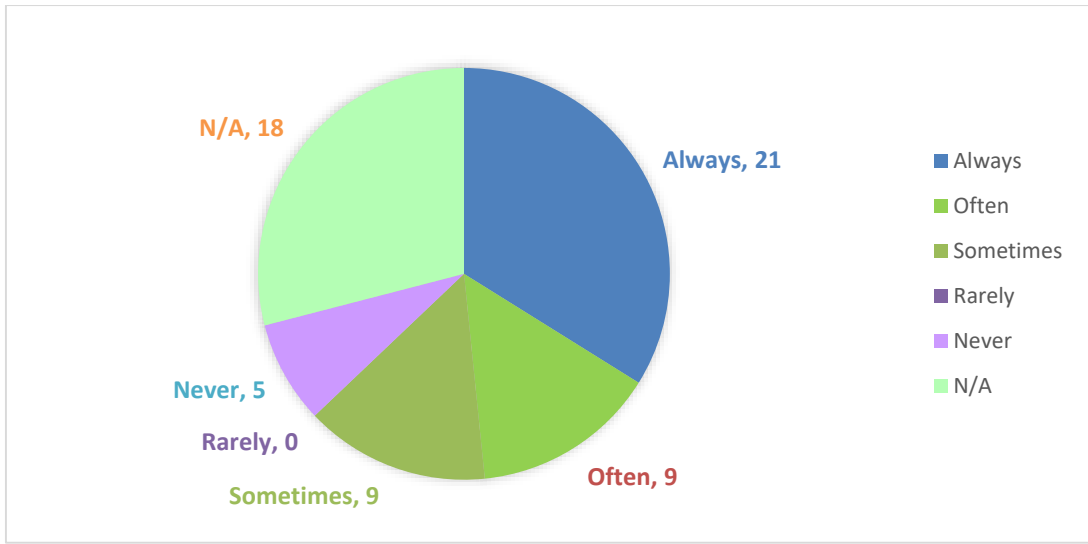
- Yes: **22**
- Interested in learning more: **36**
- No, we are not interested: **3**

GREEN OPERATIONS

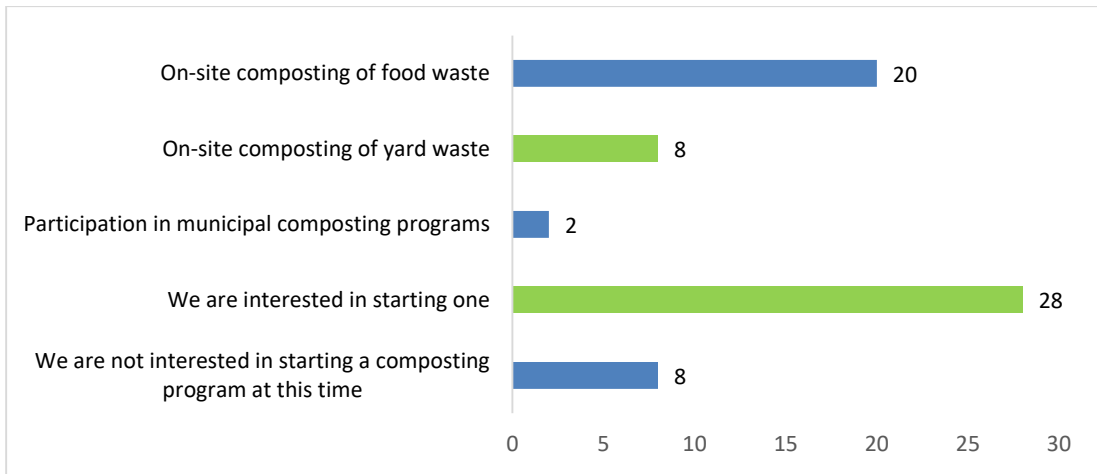
This year, schools had an ongoing recycling program for:



This year, schools served the food in the cafeteria on reusable dishes:



This year, schools have used the following composting programs:



Reasons Not Interested:

Concerns about hygiene	2
Employee time	6
Few compostables in the waste stream	0
Poor access to recycling depots	1
Lack of knowledge	4
Lack of motivation	1
Lack of physical space	4
Vandalism	1
Other	We had one then we started getting mice overrun the school; Animal control; Staff resources

This year, this many schools have participated in environmental operations/programs:

Energy Conservation:	Responses:
Close doors	29
Draw shades	24
Turning off lights	51
Temperature set by an automatic thermostat	36
Turning off computers	29
Energy conservation awareness	26
Other	2

Water Conservation	Responses:
Low flush toilet	8
Timed flushes	5
Water saving devices in taps	16
Other	New fountains, fountains for water bottle refills

Indoor Air Quality	Responses
No smoking on school property	57
Scent-free school	50
Using unscented/non-toxic cleaning supplies	41
Quality ventilation system	15
Other	1

Anti-litter Program	Responses
Adopt a Highway	0
Biodegradable products	4
Eating only in the cafeteria	4
Public relations (e.g. signs/decorated recycling bins)	14
Yard clean-up	48
Other	We encourage reusable food containers

SCHOOLS WITHOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS/OPERATIONS, BUT INTEREST IN STARTING ONE: 13(12%)

Schools that used the following measures to ensure a healthy outdoor environment:

- Anti-idling zones for buses: **14**
- Banning the use of cosmetic pesticides on school grounds: **12**
- Other: **0**

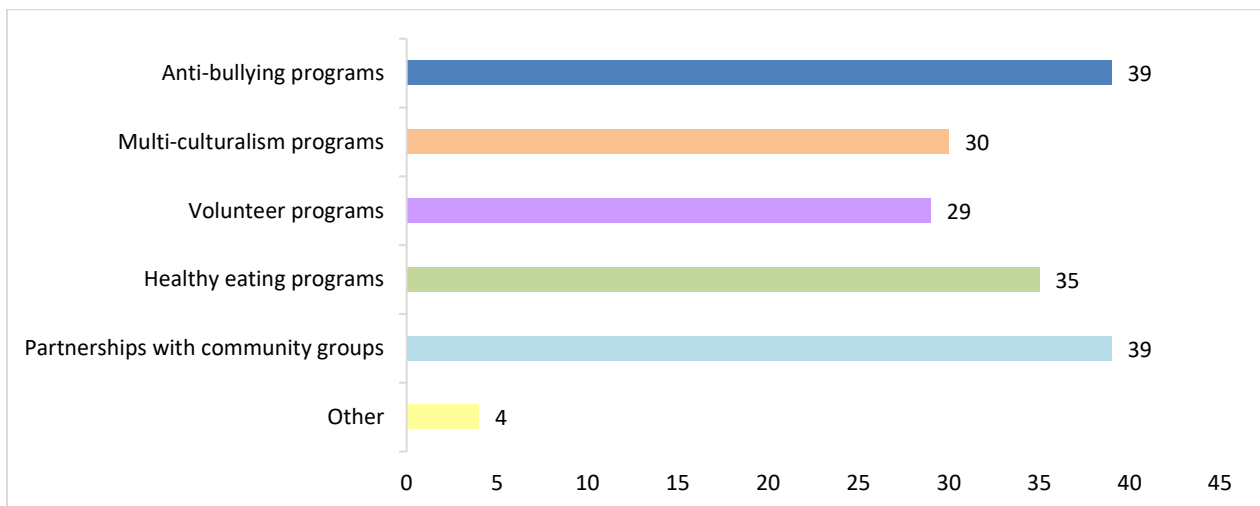
Schools that had programs on school grounds:

- School ground naturalization: **15**
- Beautification: **36**
- Vegetable gardening: **38**
- Greenhouses: **26**

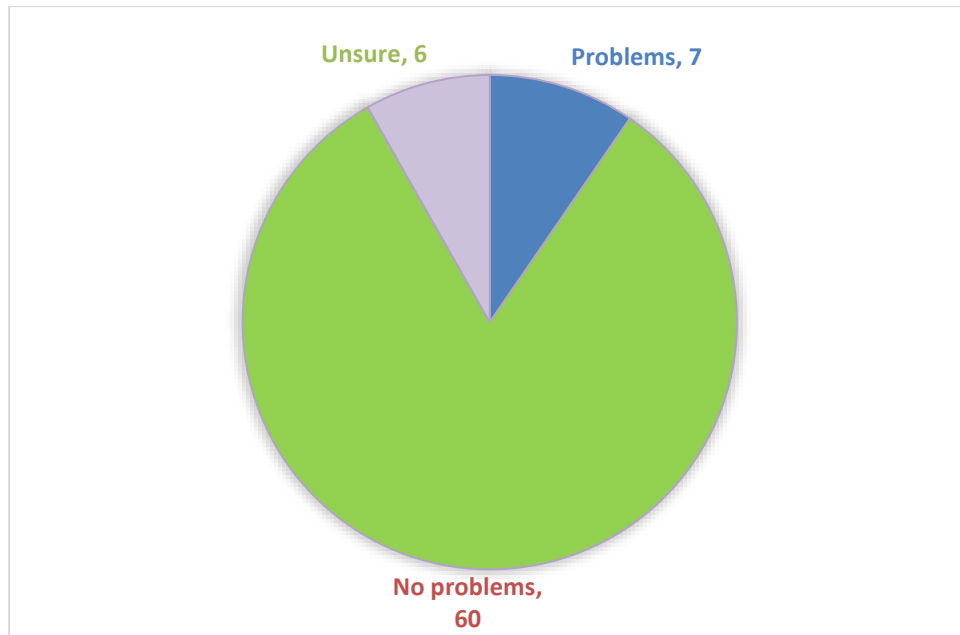
Other:

- Food Forest
- Outdoor classroom project since the opening of the school in 2018 and hydroponics project
- We plan to set up a greenhouse and vegetable garden boxes during the year.

This year, schools have participated in the following health and social operations/programs:



This year, schools have experienced problems with the drinking water supply:



Schools who have monitored their environmental impact from year to year:

- Yes: **13**
- No: **48**
- I don't know: **15**

Schools who have considered environmental and social factors (e.g. organic food, local producers, "forest-friendly" products, etc.) when making purchases for the school:

- Yes: **29**
- No: **27**
- I don't know: **14**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

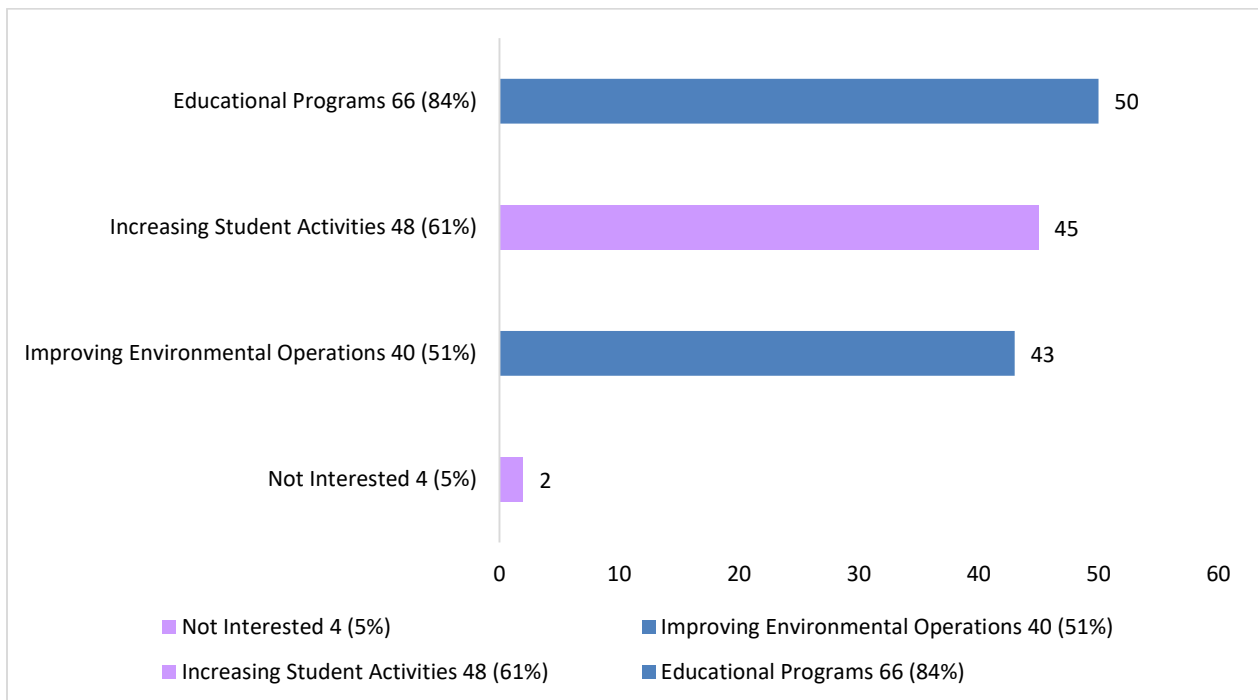
Number of schools with student environmental group: 22

Environmental Group Functions as part of:	Environmental Group is Supported by the:
Class Curriculum: 4	Administration: 7
Student Council: 2	Student Council: 6
Independently: 16	Teacher Advisors: 22
Other: Student Club (1)	Other: 1

Number of schools with a student social justice program: 7

Social Justice Group Functions as part of:	Environmental Group is Supported by the:
Class Curriculum: 0	Administration: 3
Student Council: 1	Student Council: 3
Independently: 3	Teacher Advisors: 8
Other: 1	Other: 0

Schools that partnered with non-profit environmental or community groups with the goal of:



In addition to the activities listed above, schools have been involved in the following environmental and/or community education activities:

- GSA Positive Action Group (Mental Health and Wellness)
- Heart and Stroke Heart Healthy School
- Eco Schools (Platinum Level)
- UNESCO Associated School Applicant
- A greenhouse project
- Envirothon NB
- Indoor growing of produce and flowers
- Political committee to educate students about their right and responsibility to vote and be informed
- Clean up your shoreline
- Plant a garden
- Use of recyclable water bottles
- Earth Day