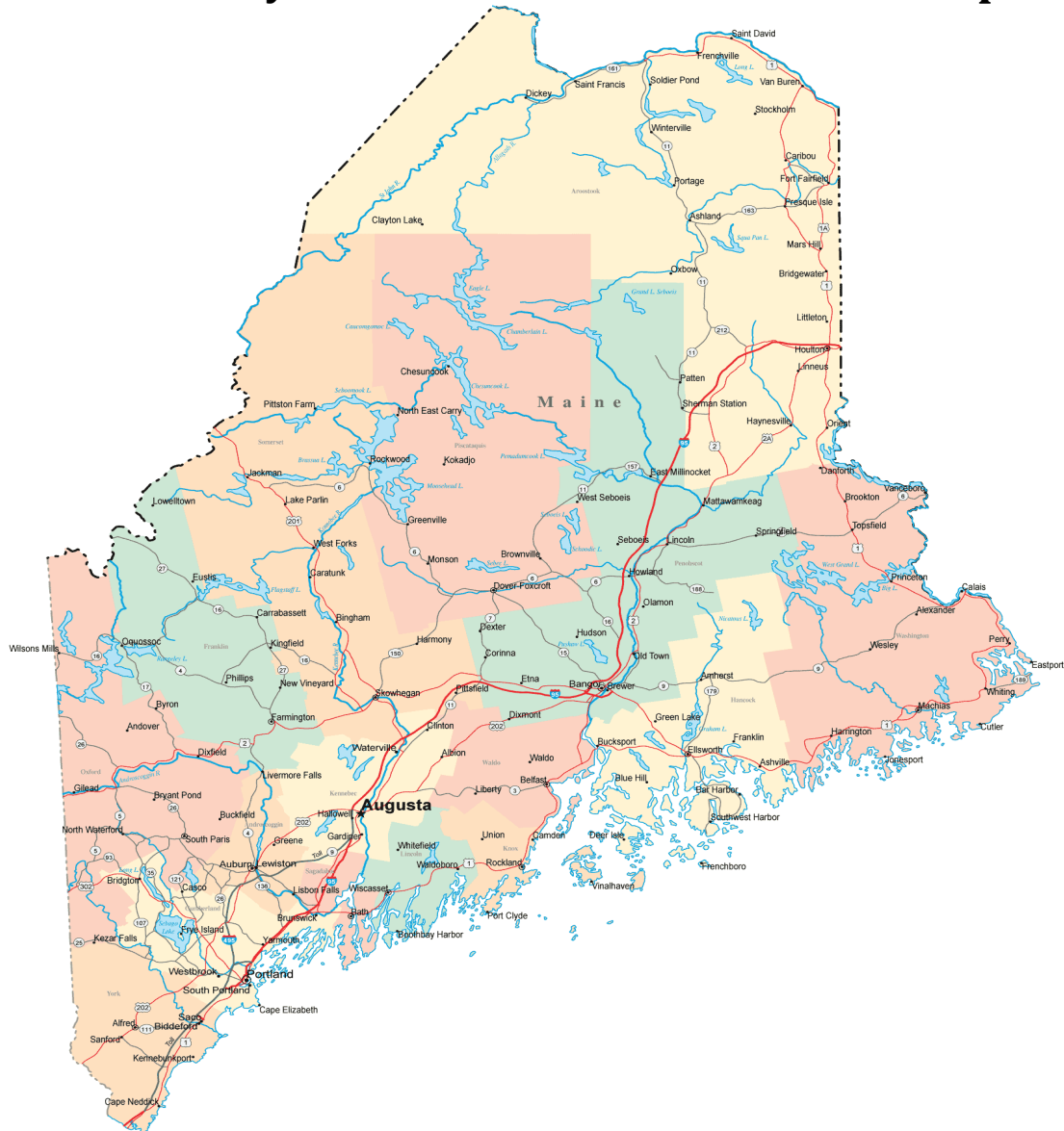


# Maine EPSCoR Sustainability Solutions Initiative Sustainability Solutions Partners Technical Report



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University of Maine, Orono  
March 2011



March 2011

Dear Sustainability Solutions Partners:

The Maine EPSCoR Sustainability Solutions Initiative (SSI) project, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and EPSCoR program, provides a significant opportunity for creating a statewide network of higher education in Maine around the topic of sustainability science. The Maine EPSCoR Sustainability Solutions Initiative's Sustainability Solutions Partners (SSP) is vital to the overall success of achieving this statewide network centers around sustainability issues through community outreach and stakeholder engagement. EPSCoR focuses on creating capacity and partnerships. Effective outlets for communication among SSP members will assist in the development of successful collaborations.

The following is a report that summarizes findings from a survey distributed to SSP members in the fall 2010. By evaluating and analyzing input from all partners involved in the SSI program, we aim to develop, strengthen, and establish effective future collaborations across the statewide network.

Again, thank you for your time and participation. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
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Graduate Research Assistant  
Maine EPSCoR Sustainability Solutions Initiative  
Department of Communication and Journalism  
University of Maine, Orono

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## **Introduction**

During the fall of 2010, representatives of Maine's EPSCoR Sustainability Solutions Partners (SSP) program were asked to provide feedback about the ways in which current communication within the Sustainability Solutions Initiative (SSI) is helping them achieve their partnership goals. Participants were also asked how communication could be improved to ensure that SSI is able to achieve its ambitious goals. This report includes preliminary findings from feedback provided by the over 50 partners involved in SSI throughout Maine. This important information will help to strengthen SSI over the coming years.

This report summarizes the results from an internal survey of the SSP program conducted in the fall of 2010. This survey, administered electronically using *Qualtrics*, aimed to understand and improve collaboration across the SSI project. This information will be used to strengthen the statewide network and partnerships. We have ensured that confidentiality is maintained. This report is designed to share general results of the survey so we can understand trends and patterns in the feedback we received.

## **Objectives**

Specific objectives of this survey included:

- Assess current attitudes and concerns of SSP members about the SSI
- Measure perspectives on current communication means and feedback loops to strengthen and refine communication
- Identify preferred communication outlets and where additional support and new communication platforms are needed
- Utilize survey data to build baseline assessment of collaboration
- Identify future questions for interviews with SSP members
- Generate ideas for increasing integration among teams

The results obtained through this survey provide important and useful preliminary data for understanding needs and attitudes about the overall SSI from the perspective of SSP members. The survey also provides information about diverse views on collaboration, perspectives about the future trajectory of effective communication, and frameworks for strengthening communication between and among SSP teams.

## **Methods**

Participants for this survey were identified by the EPSCoR office at the University of Maine, Orono and contacted by our team via email. We approached SSP members who had received funding in years one and two of SSI. Overall, 53 participants were

identified. Our participant list included at least one representative from each higher educational institution involved in SSI (Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, COA, UMA, UMF, UMFK, UMM, UMPI, UNE, and Unity). At least four stakeholders on various teams were also identified and contacted to complete this survey. The final results were based on feedback from 35 respondents. The response rate of this survey was 64%.

The participants were asked to take an online survey. First, they were notified via email that a survey would be distributed and instructed on how to access the survey through the website link. The survey was comprised of 26 questions and took an average of 22 minutes to complete. The survey consisted of closed and opened-ended questions to determine opinions that SSP members have about their projects, interdisciplinary collaboration, collaborative efforts across the state, and current/future ways of communicating with each other.

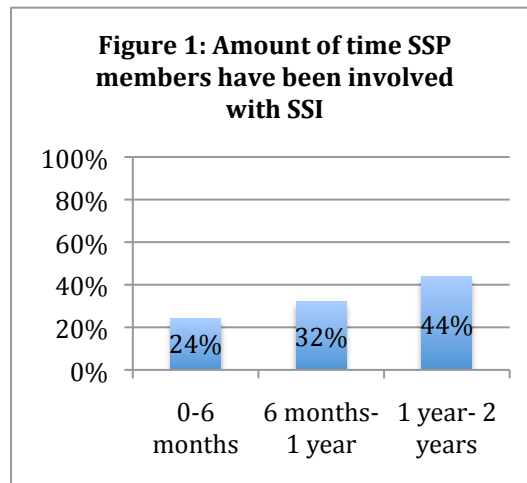
### **Data Analysis**

For purposes of this report, we analyzed the survey using statistics calculated from the online survey software *Qualtrics*. To protect participants' confidentiality, identifying markers such as name, titles, and institutional affiliations were not included in data analysis. Calculated data in this report primarily focus on the mean and compiled narrative comments.

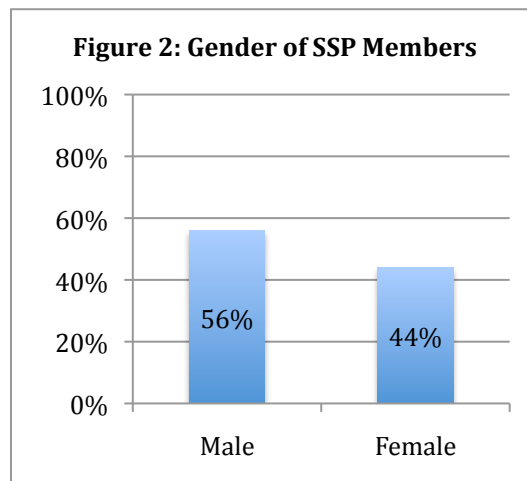
## Results

### ***A: Demographics***

The first section of the survey asked general questions about participants' professional position, and institutional and departmental affiliation. In reference to the number of years each member has been associated with SSI, 24% indicated that they had been involved zero to six months, 32% for six months to one year, and 44% for one to two years. *See Figure 1.*



Males were slightly overrepresented with 56% of the respondents being male and 44% female. *See Figure 2.*

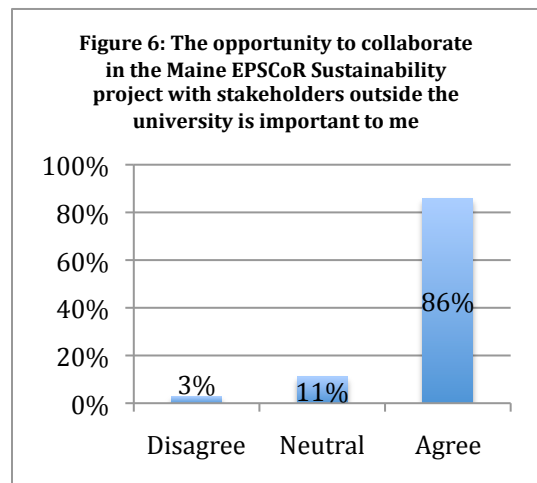
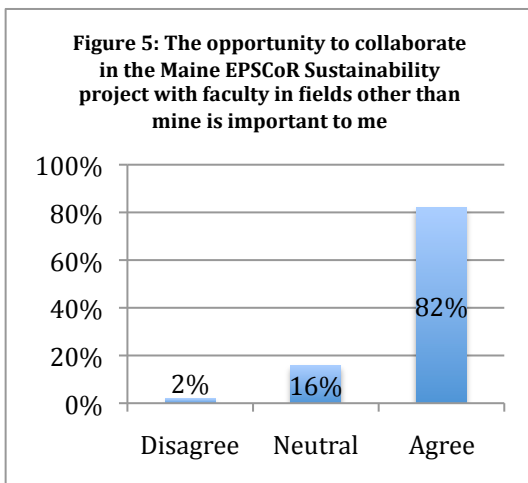
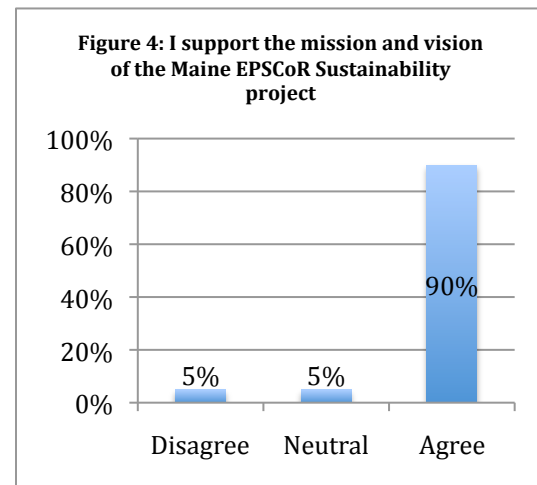
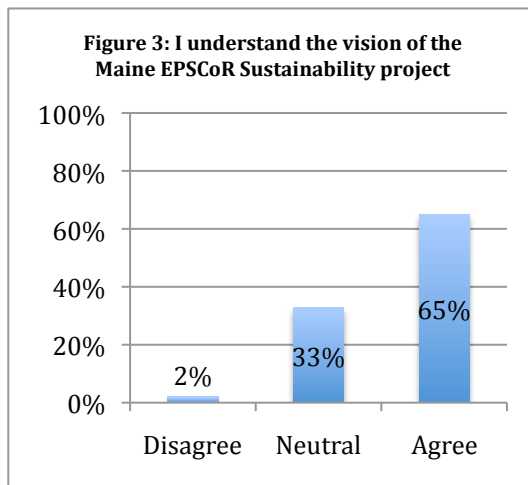


### ***B: Attitudes of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability Solutions Initiative***

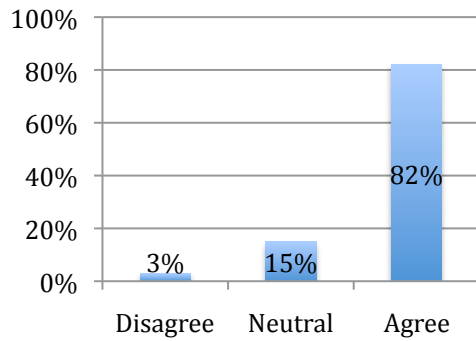
Sixteen questions inquired about perspectives and attitudes toward SSI. The majority of respondents identified the opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders (60%) and their work on the project as personally important (60%). Furthermore,



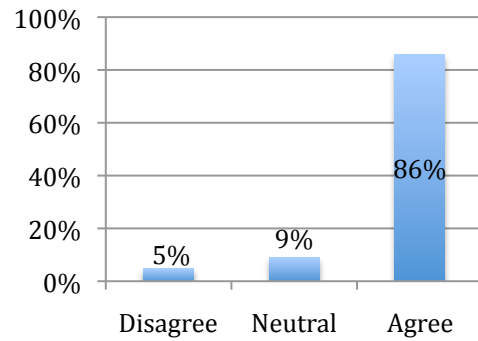
the majority felt that the project could serve as a positive model for interdisciplinary efforts throughout the state (59%) and that collaborate efforts are more effective than individual ones (58%). It is important to note that two respondents did not feel that their institutions adequately acknowledge their efforts and that the work they do is properly supported from their institution (1%), while the remainder feels that their work is supported from their respective institution (74%). *See Figures 3-18.*



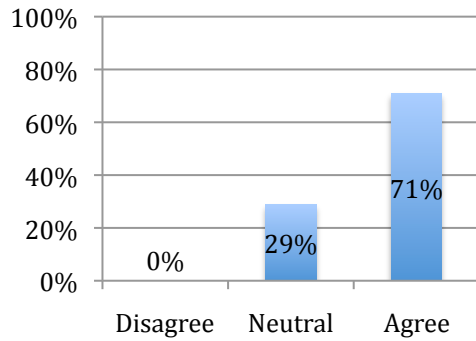
**Figure 7: The work I do with the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project is important to me personally**



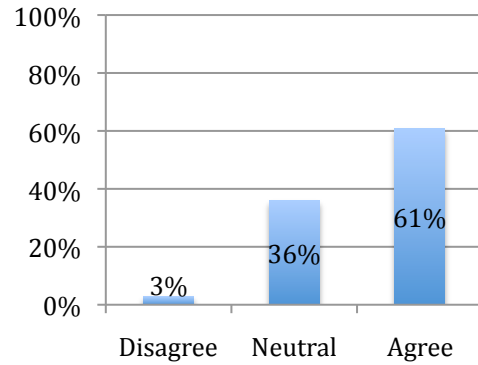
**Figure 8: The work I do with Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project is important to me professionally**



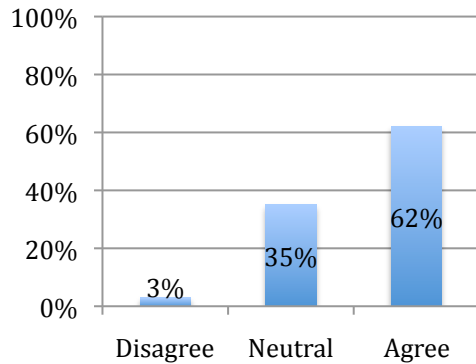
**Figure 9: I feel that my contributions to the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project are valued**



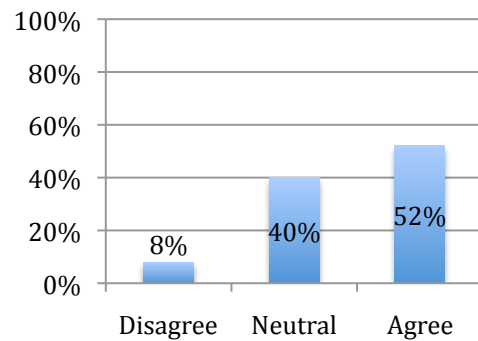
**Figure 10: My role in the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project is clear to me**



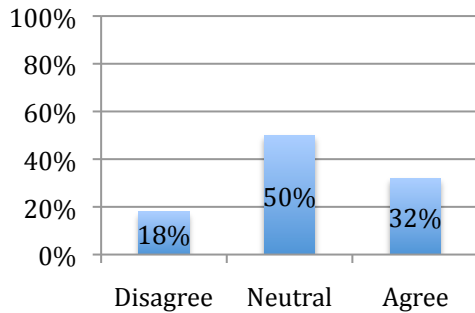
**Figure 11: I am satisfied with my role in the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project**



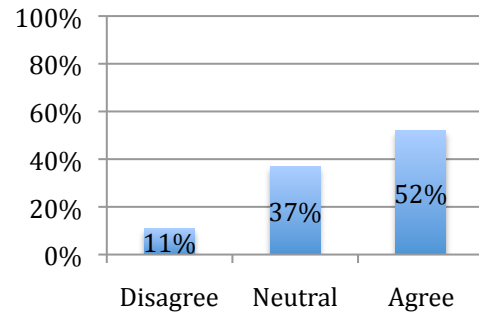
**Figure 12: My department credits me adequately for the work I do with the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project**



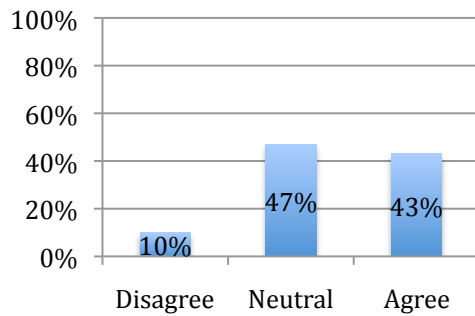
**Figure 13: The university or college credits me adequately for the work I do with the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project**



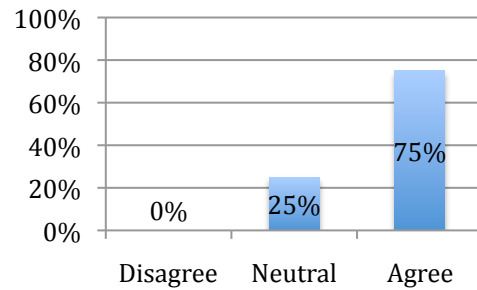
**Figure 14: I get resources and administrative support I need for my Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project work from my home department**



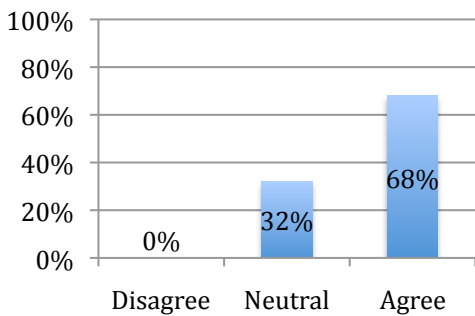
**Figure 15: I get resources and administrative support I need for my Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project work from other sources**



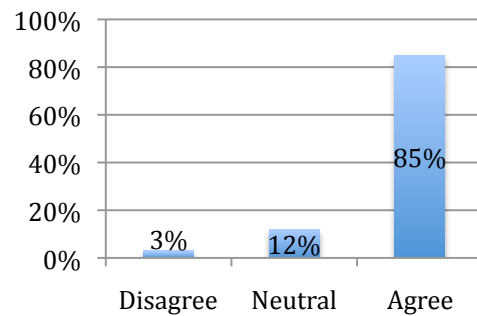
**Figure 16: The Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project can serve as a positive model for interdisciplinary efforts within and outside the university or college**



**Figure 17: The accomplishments of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project will have a significant impact both within and outside the state**

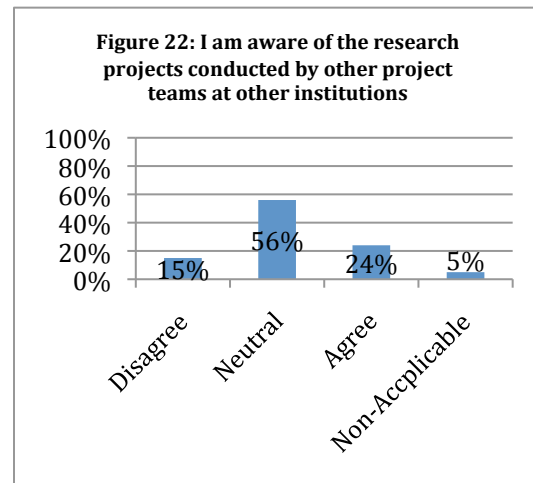
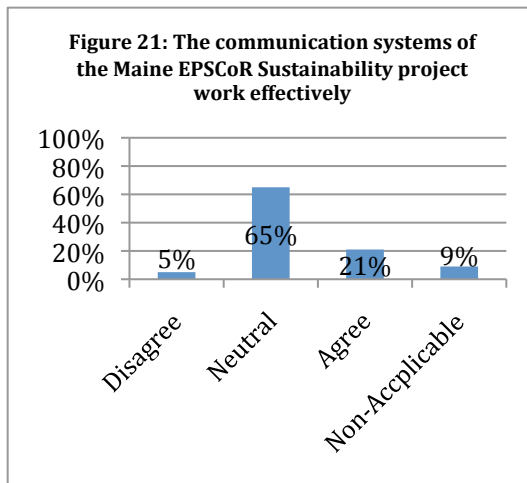
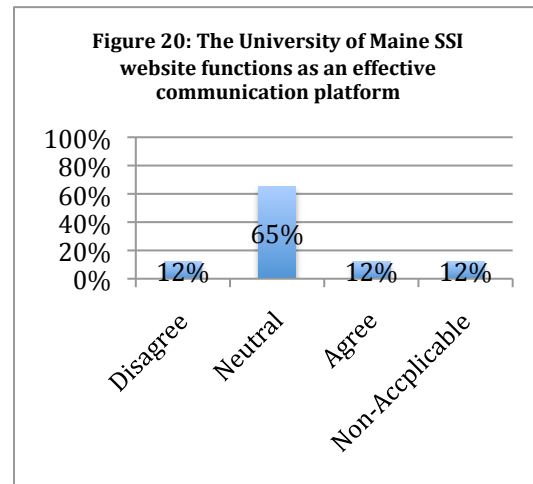
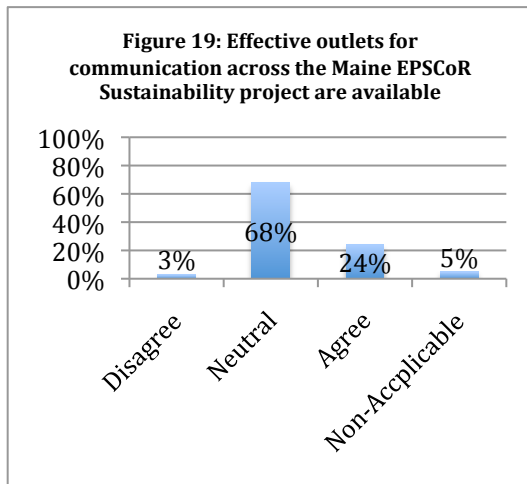


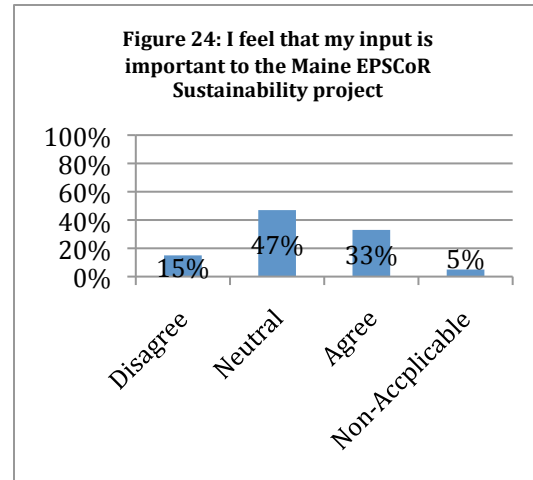
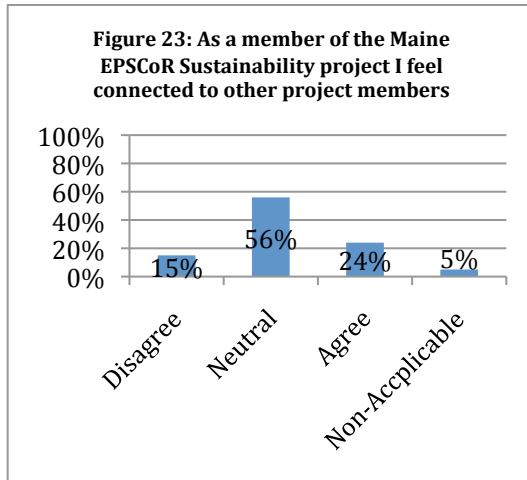
**Figure 18: Working as a group, the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project teams will be able to accomplish much more than members could working individually**



### C: Perspectives on the Communication

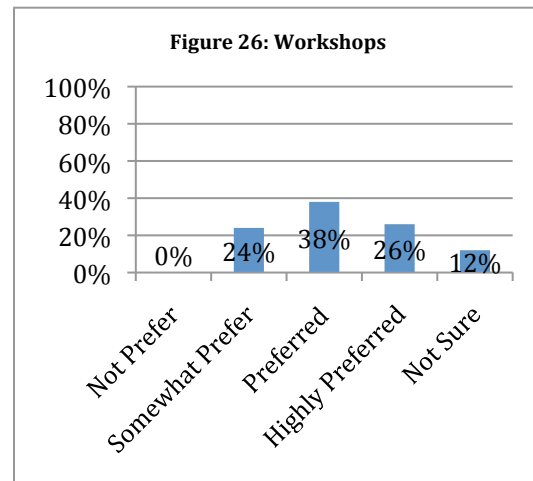
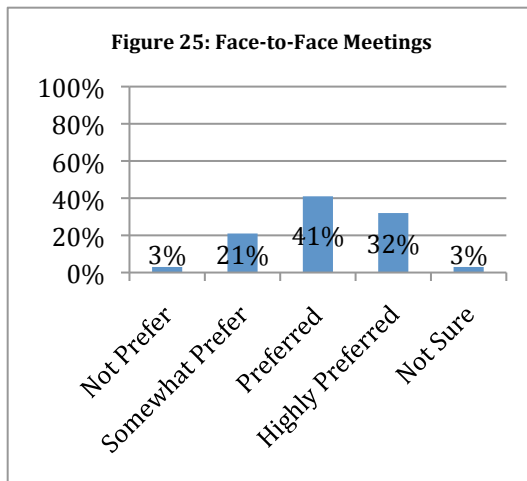
When asked about effective communication outlets across SSI, the majority of participants were neutral on a seven point Likert scale ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”. Respondents rated the SSI website similarly neutral as an effective communication platform (35%). Furthermore, most respondents perceived their feeling of connection to other projects as neutral (23% were just below neutral, 15% at neutral, and 21% just above neutral). See Figures 19-24.



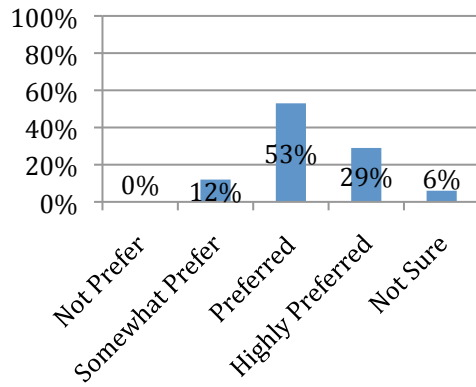


#### ***D: Preference of Communication Platform/Approaches***

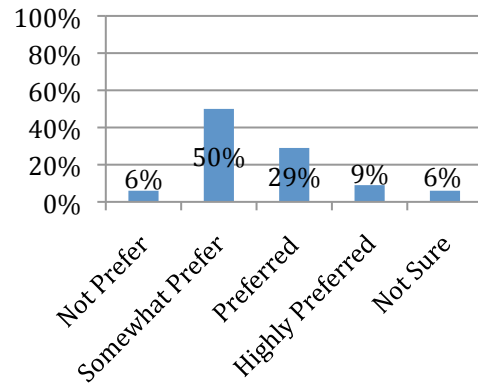
Participants were asked to rank their preference for eleven different communication platforms/approaches. The majority overwhelmingly preferred face-to-face meetings (73%), workshops (64%), and an annual symposium (62%). Emails (70%) and/or an online newsletter (50%) were also highly preferred as a means of receiving updates and news. A “somewhat preferred” method of communication was webcam video chats and/or conference calls (18%). Blogs and phone calls were identified as the least preferred method of communication (74%). See Figures 25-35.



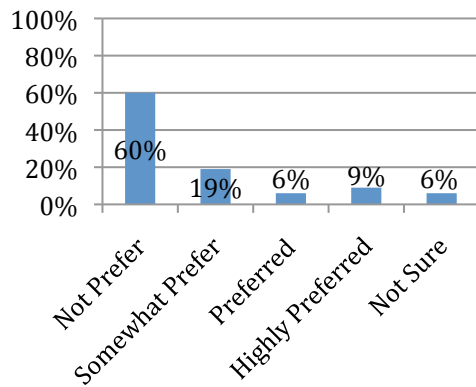
**Figure 27: Annual Symposium**



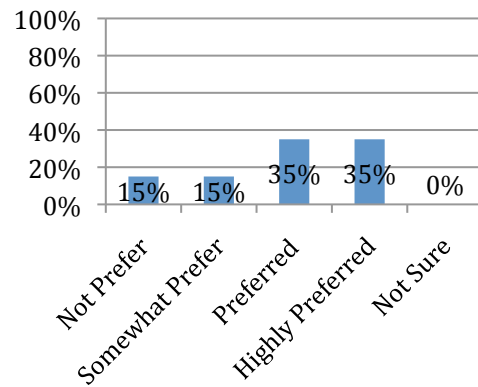
**Figure 28: SSI Website**



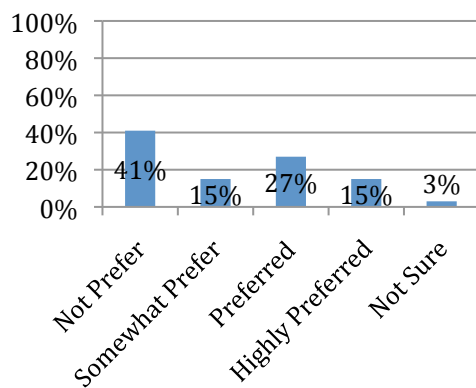
**Figure 29: Blogs**



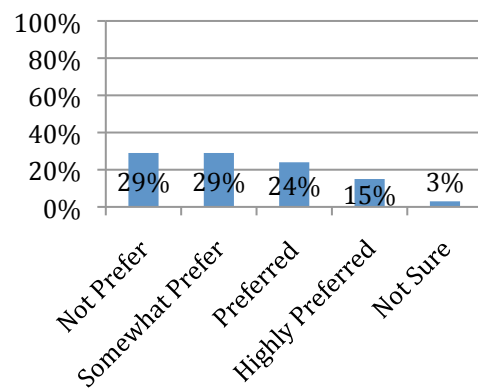
**Figure 30: Emails**

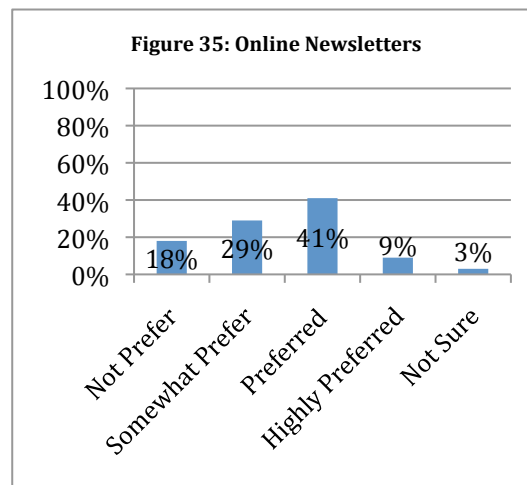
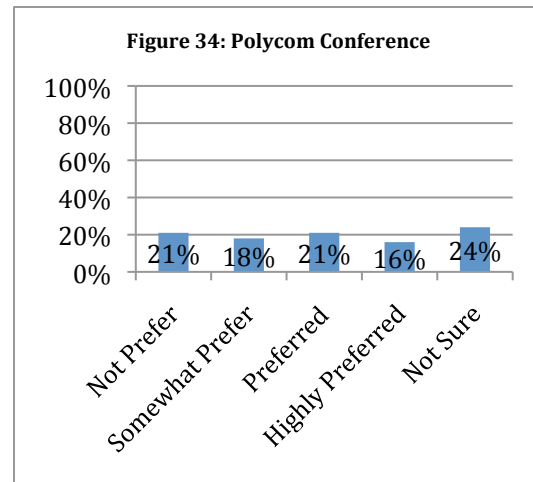
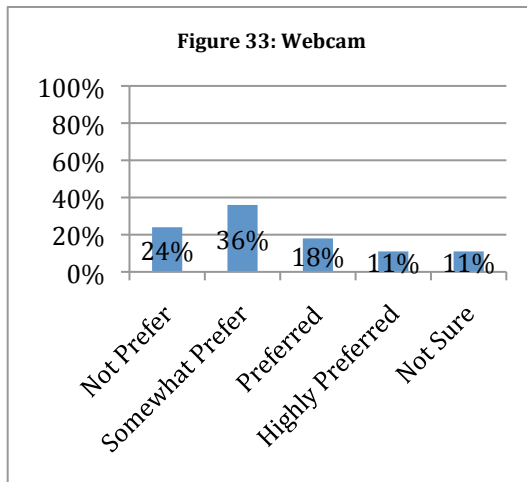


**Figure 31: Phone Calls**



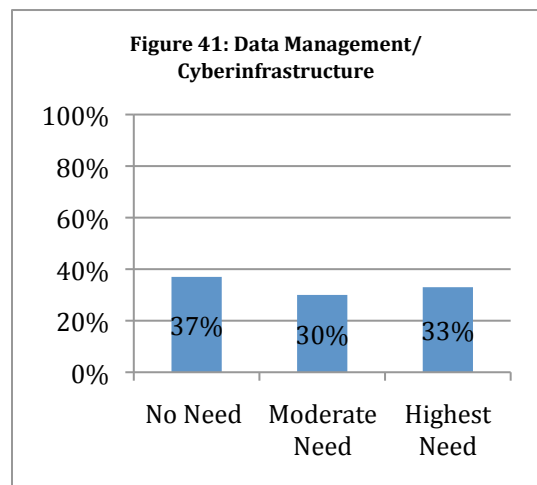
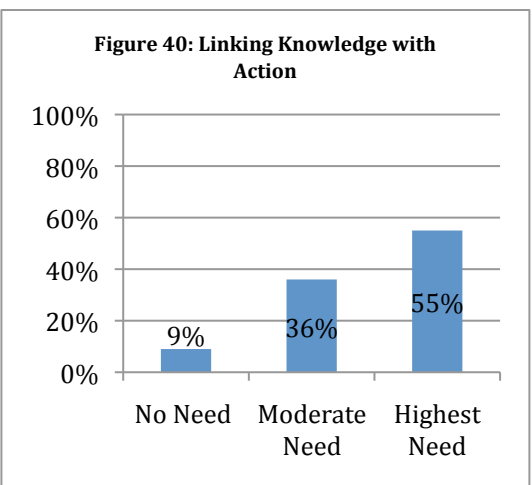
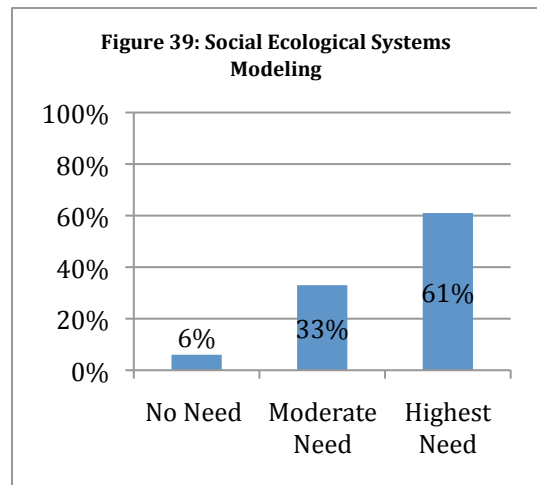
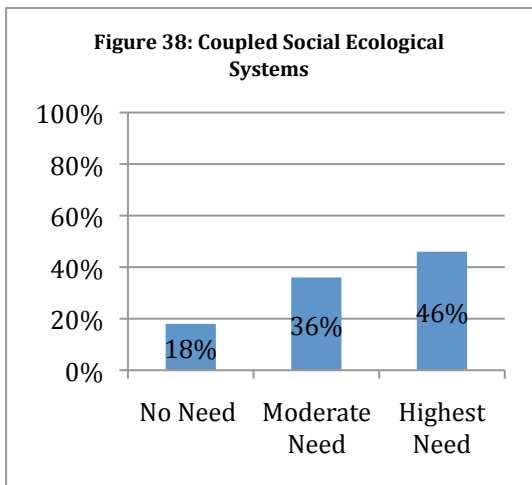
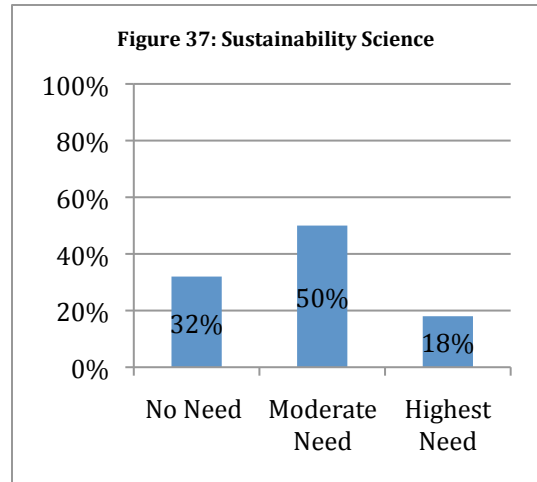
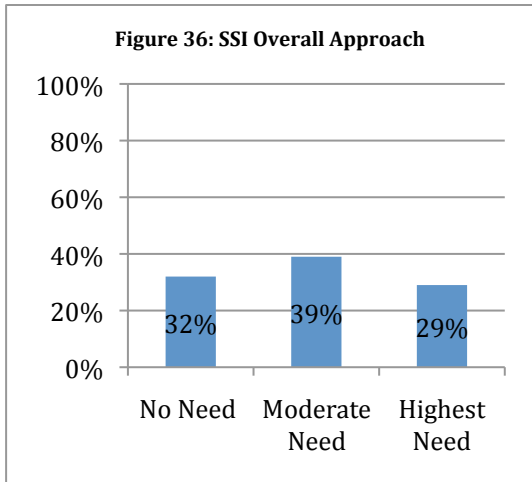
**Figure 32: Conference Calls**



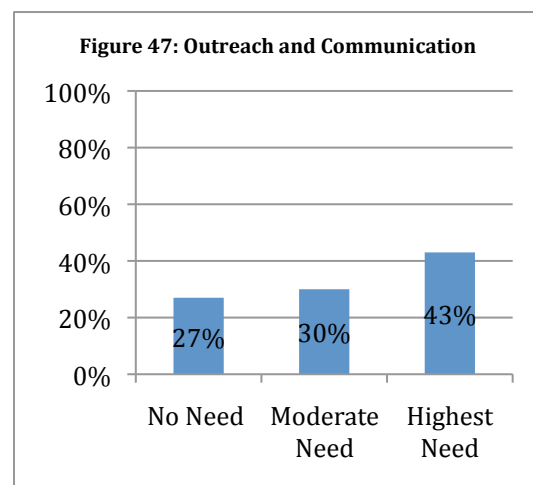
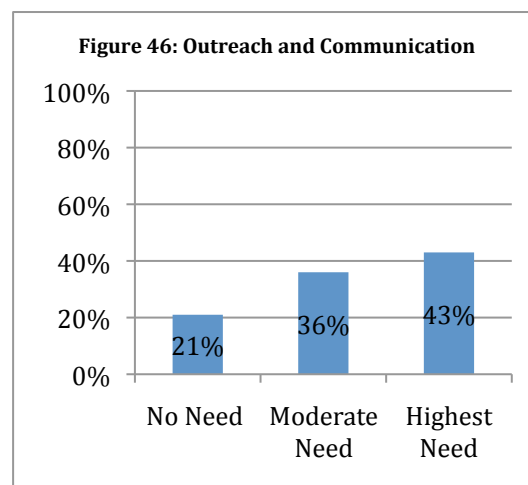
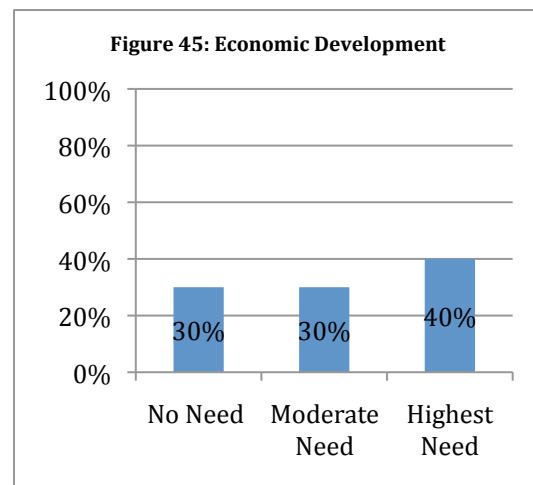
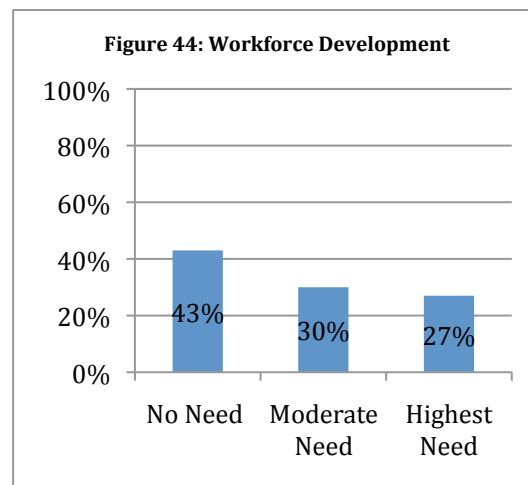
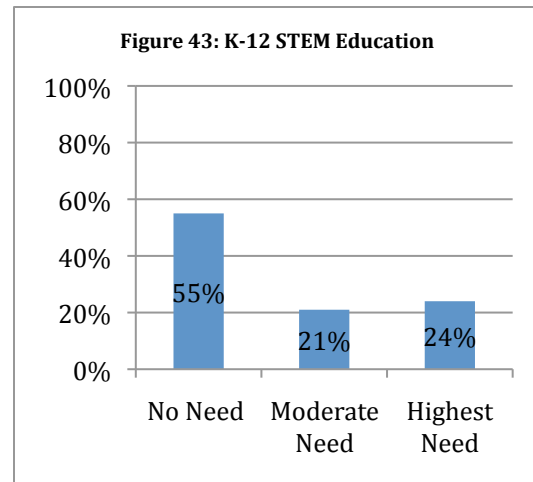
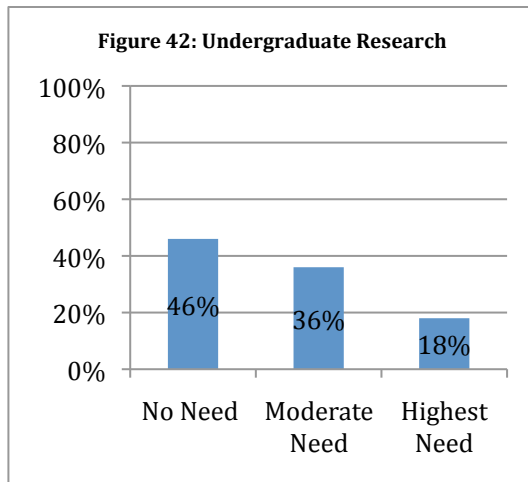


### ***E: Additional Support***

Participants were asked to rate their need for additional support in a variety of areas centrally important to their SSP projects. Participants rated, in descending order, the following as most important: coupled social ecological systems (36%), social ecological system modeling (33%), and linking knowledge with action (27%). Outreach and communication was also indicated as a highly needed area for additional support (33%). Participants identified undergraduate research (30%) and K-12 STEM Education (33%) as areas where they had little to no need for additional support. *See Figures 36-47.*







### ***F: Suggestions of Other Areas of Support***

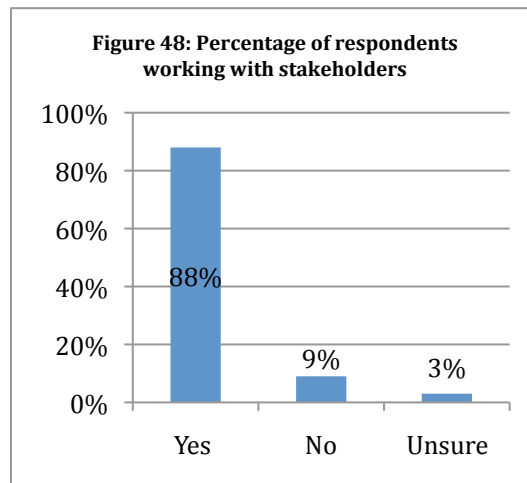
Participants were invited to share in their own words ideas about additional areas in which they need support. Ten participants responded to this inquiry.

Recommendations offered included: clear descriptions of the expectations for annual proposals and an electronic directory of all participants searchable by name,

institution, expertise, and project. One participant requested a system to inform SSP members of updates to personal changes and policies to help participants adjust to changing requirements and needs of EPSCoR. Furthermore, nine graduate institutions expressed interest in working with University of Maine graduate students.

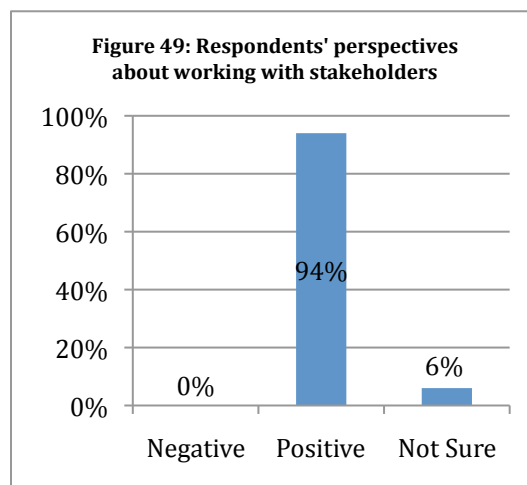
### ***G: Collaboration with Stakeholders***

In all, 88% of participants indicated that they are currently working with stakeholders external to their institution on sustainability-related research projects, while 9% are not yet working with stakeholders (3% were unsure). *See Figure 48.*



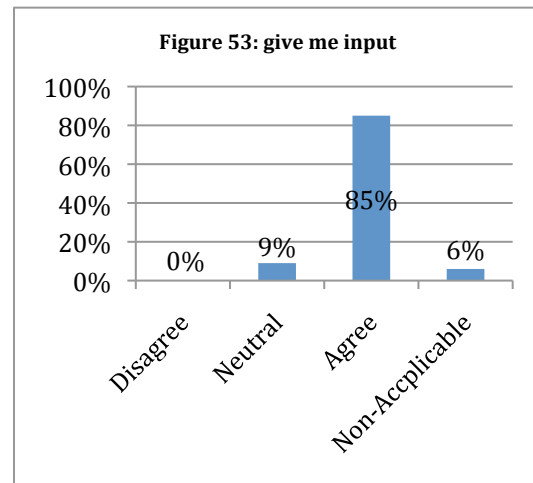
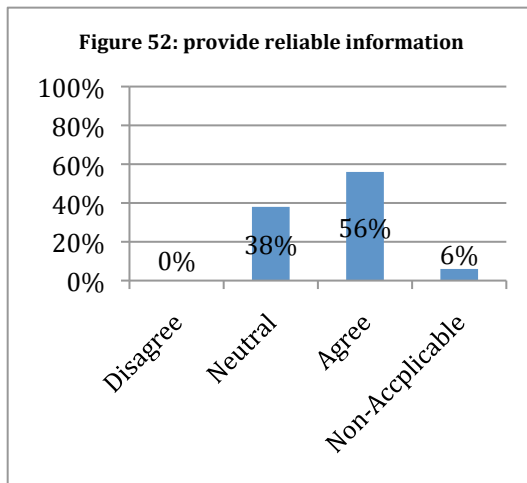
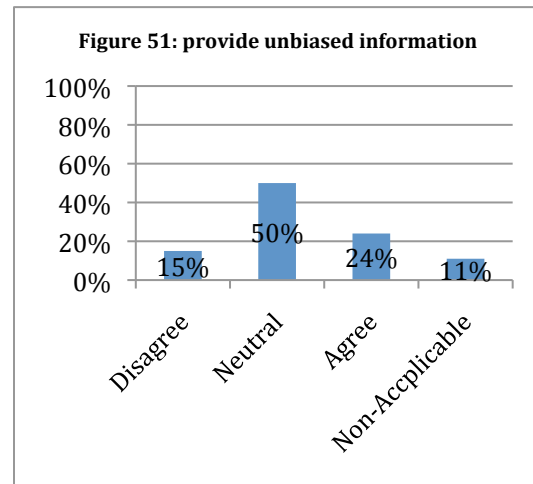
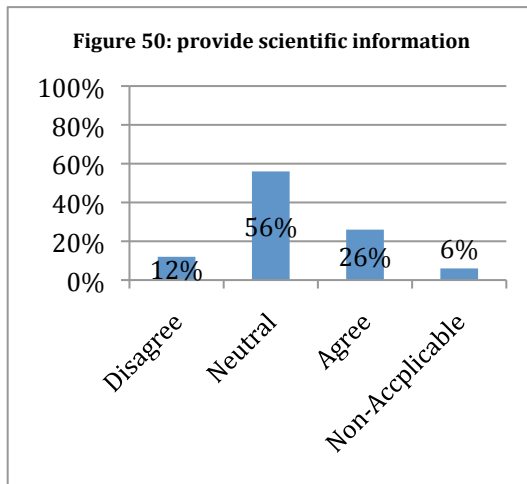
### ***H: Experience with Stakeholders***

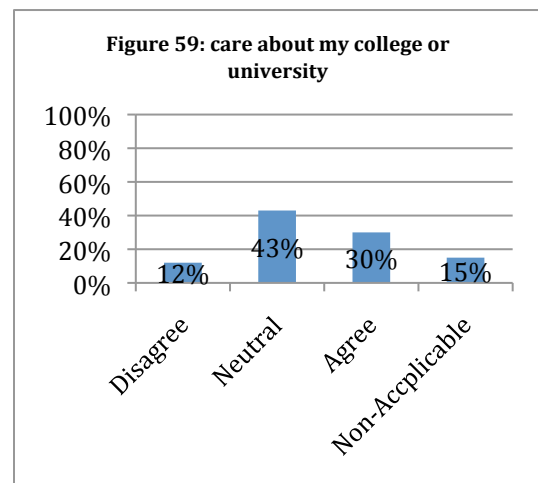
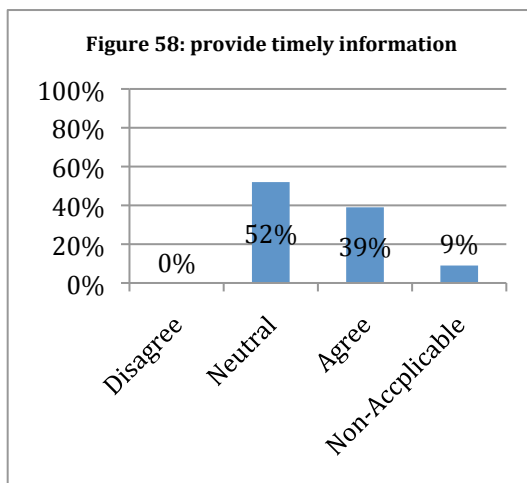
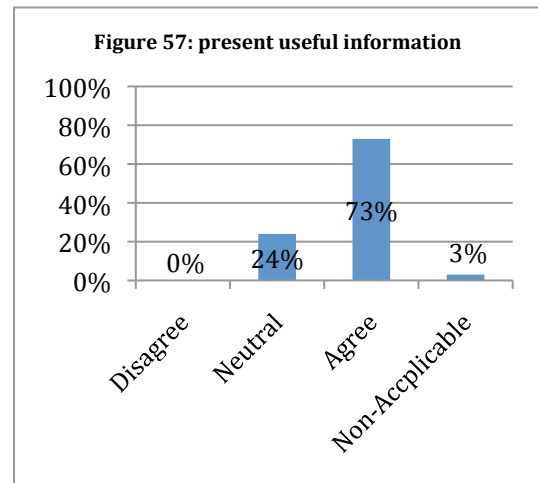
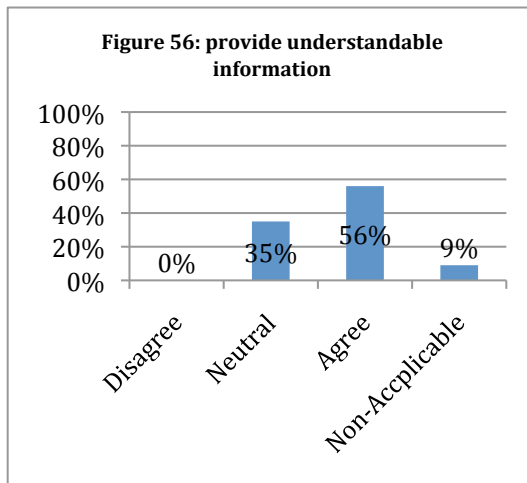
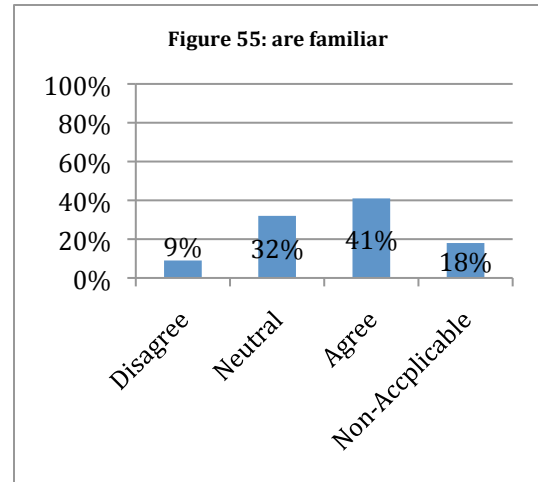
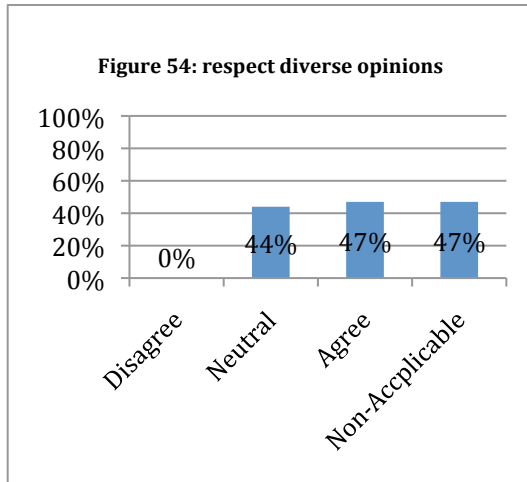
When asked about their experience working with stakeholders the majority indicated that the experience had been “very positive” (79%). Respondents felt “somewhat positive” about their experience with stakeholders (15%), while others were “unsure” about the experience (6%). *See Figure 49.*

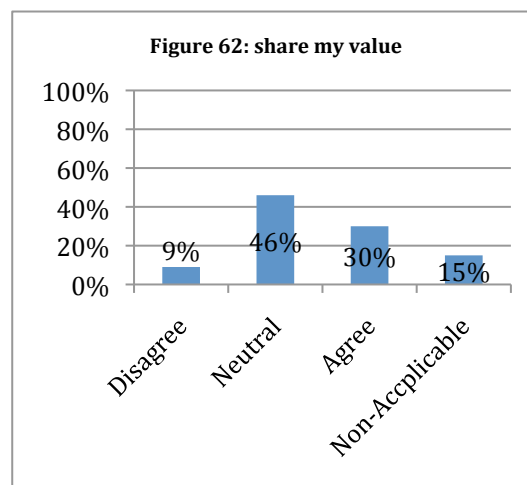
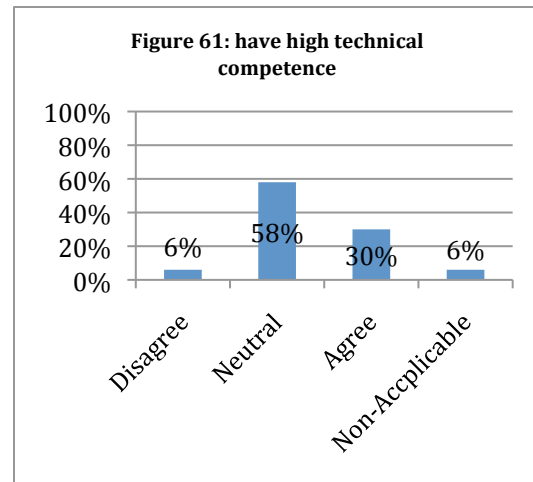
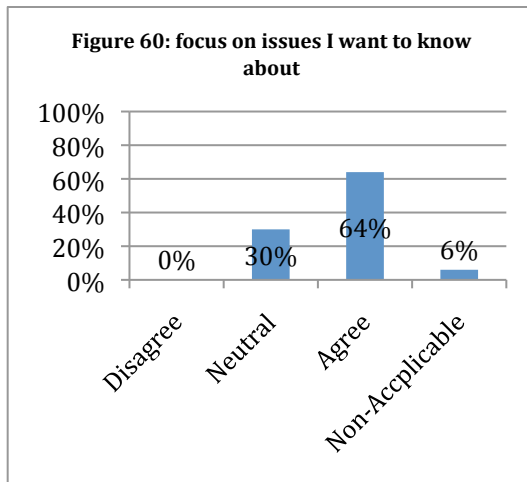


### ***I: Completion of a Statement about Stakeholders***

Participants were asked to assess their levels of trust in working with stakeholders. The majority of respondents felt that stakeholders provided input (87%). Most respondents were “neutral” about stakeholders’ ability to provide information (42%). Each participant was asked to what extent does you disagree or agree with this statement: “I trust stakeholders involved with sustainability-related research projects because they \_\_\_\_.” See Figures 50-62.







### ***J: Ideas for Integration and Communication***

Participants were invited to make suggestions in their own words for supporting increased integration and improving communication across the SSI project. Some respondents indicated facilitating meetings of teams working at similar sorts of institutions would be helpful. There was a suggestion to improve the website. It was recommended that University of Maine faculty prioritize attendance at all EPSCoR meetings.

### ***K: Interview Questions***

In the upcoming months, interviews with members of SSP teams will be conducted. Numerous respondents provided helpful suggestions for what might be included in the interview questions. These included the recommendation to ask about unique challenges of SSP participation and ways to engage members in certain SSI projects. Participants also encouraged designing questions about technical competency and capability and about ways to streamline the project's bureaucracy. One participant emphasized the importance of enhancing the network to facilitate participants' understanding of each other's work.

## **Conclusion**

The feedback gathered in this survey is essential for understanding the needs and preferences of Maine's EPSCoR Sustainability Solutions Partners. This feedback also provides an understanding of people's commitment to the project, their investment in collaboration, and their interest in stakeholder-driven research. As we look towards the future, we will continue to utilize SSP feedback as we develop ways to help improve the communication of SSP members with one another, with other team projects, with stakeholders, and with local communities. We will also keep teams informed of any new developments as they arise.

***Appendix A:*** The survey distributed to SSP members in the fall of 2010:

Introduction and Directions:

The following is an internal survey of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability Science Initiative's Sustainability Solutions Partners (SSP) program, a network of colleagues from institutions of higher education across the state of Maine funded by NSF EPSCoR. This survey aims to understand and improve synergy and collaboration across the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability Science Initiative, and we will build on the information we acquire to work with you in strengthening a statewide network and partnership. Please take 15-20 minutes to complete the survey online. If you are interrupted, you can close the survey and reopen it at a later time. Once you click on the double arrow button at the very end of the survey, your responses will automatically be uploaded and tabulated. In communicating any research results from these studies, we will ensure that your confidentiality is strictly maintained. We will remove any identifying markers of participants involved in the study. We thank you for your time and participation.

What university, college and/or research center are you affiliated with:

What department are you affiliated with (if applicable):

What is your current position and/or title:

How long have you been a member of Maine EPSCoR 's Sustainability Solutions Partners (SSP) program:

- ☐ 0-6 months (1)
- ☐ 6 months-1 year
- ☐ 1-2 years

Gender:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to respond

Ethnic Background:

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ White
- ☐ Prefer not to respond



As a member of Maine EPSCoR's Sustainability Solutions Partner (SSP) program, please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with the following statements about the Maine EPSCoR's Sustainability Project:

	1. Strongly Disagree	2.	3.	4. Neutral	5.	6.	7. Strongly Agree	N/A
I understand the vision of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I support the mission and vision of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The opportunity to collaborate in the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project with faculty in fields other than mine is important to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The opportunity to collaborate in the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project with stakeholders outside the university is important to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The work I do with the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project is important to me personally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The work I do with the Maine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

EPSCoR Sustainability project is important to me professionally								
I feel that my contributions to the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project are valued	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My role in the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project is clear to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am satisfied with my role in the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My department credits me adequately for the work I do with the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The university or college credits me adequately for the work I do with the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I get resources and administrative support I need for my Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

from my home department								
I get resources and administrative support I need for my Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project work from other sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project can serve as a positive model for interdisciplinary efforts within and outside the university or college	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The accomplishments of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project will have a significant impact both within and outside the state	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working as a group, the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project teams will be able to accomplish much more than members could working individually	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In this section, we would like to learn about your perspective on the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project's communication systems. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree about statements about the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project:

	1. Strongly Disagree	2.	3.	4. Neutral	5.	6.	7. Strongly Agree	N/A
Effective outlets for communication across the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project are available	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The University of Maine Sustainability Solutions Initiative (SSI) website functions as an effective communication platform	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The communication systems of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project work effectively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a member of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project, I am aware of the research projects conducted by other project teams at other institutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a member of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

project I feel connected to other project members								
I feel that my input is important to the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In this section, we want to learn about your preference for different communication platforms. Please indicate how much you prefer the following communication platforms:

	1. Not Preferred	2. Somewhat Preferred	3. Preferred	4. Highly Prefer	Not Sure
Face-to-Face Meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workshops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Annual Symposium	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The University of Maine Sustainability Solutions Website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Phone Calls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conference Calls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Webcam Video Chats (i.e. Skype)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Polycom Conference Website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online Newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In this section, we would like you to identify areas in which you would like additional information and support. Please rate your need for additional information and support on a scale of 1 (No Need) to 5 (Highest Need):

	1. No Need	2.	3. Moderate Need	4.	5. Highest Need
Maine EPSCoR Sustainability Solutions Initiative's Overall Approach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability Science	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coupled Social Ecological Systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Ecological Systems Modeling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Linking Knowledge with Action	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data Management/Cyberinfrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Undergraduate Research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
K-12 STEM Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workforce Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outreach and Communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grant Writing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In what other areas would like to receive additional information or support:

In this section, we would like to understand more about your collaboration networks both within and outside of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project.

What research projects/teams are you involved with:

Please list up to 5 names of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project team members on your campus with whom you collaborate with closely:

- #1
- #2
- #3
- #4
- #5

Please list up to 5 names of the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project team members outside of your campus with whom you collaborate with closely:

- #1
- #2
- #3
- #4
- #5

Since you are working at a college or university, have you collaborated with stakeholders external to your institution on a sustainability-related research project? For purposes of this survey, a stakeholder means individuals or groups external to your institution who have a vested interest in the project's outcome.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

How negative or positive was the experience of working with stakeholders:

- ☐ Very Negative
- ☐ Somewhat Negative
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat Positive
- ☐ Very Positive
- ☐ Not Sure

How useful was this experience?

- ☐ Very Negative
- ☐ Somewhat Negative
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat Positive
- ☐ Very Positive
- ☐ Not Sure

To what extent do you disagree or agree with these statements: "I trust stakeholders involved with sustainability-related research projects because they \_\_\_\_."

	1. Strongly Disagree	2.	3.	4. Neutral	5.	6.	7. Strongly Agree	N/A
provide scientific information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
provide unbiased information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
provide reliable information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
give me input	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
respect diverse opinions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
are familiar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
provide understandable information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
present useful information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
provide timely information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
care about my college or university	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
focus on issues I want to know about	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
have high technical competence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
share my value	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



University/College and community partnerships can be structured in many ways. By partnerships, we mean ways university/college researchers and stakeholders can work together to address salient issues. We are interested in **your opinion** of four alternative participation strategies for stakeholders involved in university /college- community partnerships. In all cases, we assume implementation is handled by stakeholders.

Type of Partnership	Problem Identification	Research	Proposed Solutions
A. University/College <b>Lead</b> Partner	University/College researchers and stakeholders	University/College researchers	University/College researchers
B. University/College <b>Consulting</b> Partner	University/College researchers and stakeholders	University/College researchers	University/College researchers
C. University/College <b>Facilitating</b> Partner	University/College researchers and stakeholders	University/College researchers	University/College researchers and stakeholders
D. University/College <b>Full</b> Partner	University/College researchers and stakeholders	University/College researchers and stakeholders	University/College researchers and stakeholders

Please rate your preference for the four alternative University participation strategies described above. (Please check one box for each strategy)

	1. Not Preferred	2. Somewhat Preferred	3. Preferred	4. Highly Preferred	Not Sure
Lead	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consulting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Full	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which participation strategy do you most prefer? (Please check only one box)

- ☐ Lead  
☐ Consulting  
☐ Facilitating  
☐ Full  
☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify any Maine EPSCoR Sustainability projects or teams with which you would like to collaborate in the future:

We would like to learn about your ideas for creating improved integration and communication across the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project. Please share any ideas with us that you have for increasing communication and collaboration:

In the coming months, we will be contacting members of your team to conduct interviews with you about the Maine EPSCoR Sustainability project. What other questions should we consider asking when evaluating the relationships and attitudes of colleagues in the SSP program:

What other comments or ideas do you have relative to the topics in this survey:

Thank you for completing this survey. Your opinions are valuable to us and will be important as we move into the next stage of this project.