

## 2019 Sutton Survey Highlights

People like living in Sutton and most expect to continue to live here for quite a while into the future. The challenges of living in a small town are also the very things that many like about it. The many beautiful ridges can also be a barrier to people feeling like they are a part of the town.

While over 75% of the respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with all town services, the cost of living here is of concern. The cost of taxes, transportation and utilities is a challenge to members of our community. Many did write comments that they felt the town is efficiently run and our fire department got top scores (99%) on satisfaction. Kudos to our fire department.

Of note is the percentage of people who anticipate that they or a family member will need elder care within the next five to ten years. Forty percent of our residents are retired. Perhaps the Selectboard could appoint a committee to look into which services will be needed, what is available through our appropriations to various programs and whether those services can meet our residents' needs cost effectively.

The two areas that generated a number of comments were ATVs/UTVs on the roads and the enforcement of zoning regulations. There has been an "ATV Committee to address the first issue. One issue concerning zoning is the inconsistent enforcement of the zoning regulations. These are topics about which many people feel very strongly on both sides. Respect and patience are called for as we work through these issues and balance individuality with living in community.

Many Sutton residents are concerned for the natural environment and changes in our climate. Many have already tried to decrease their energy consumption, compost more and use less plastic. The majority of our homes were built between 1950 and 2000, making them prime for energy audits and upgrades in efficiency. The average commute to work is 38 miles round trip and most people commuting would not car pool because they either need their vehicle for their work or they work odd and/or variable hours. This will be an issue for Sutton as we seek to meet state goals for energy consumption with respect to transportation. Many people use wood stoves but the majority do not have catalytic converters.

It is also clear that we are not meeting the communication challenge voiced by many residents. A plan of action to better communicate the events, meetings and issues in town needs to be devised so Sutton residents are better informed.

One of the highest priorities noted in the survey was the provision of high quality internet and telecommunication services in Sutton. It was felt that this is a necessary service to keep our youth in town, to grow businesses and to meet the challenges of modern day living. Other priority areas were: addressing speeding cars, developing businesses, reducing litter and developing recreational activities.

# Sutton Community Survey Summary

2019



Calendar Brook Falls- World Waterfall Database

The Sutton Planning Commission wishes to thank everyone who participated in the survey. We thank you for all of your MANY comments that will be helpful in planning for Sutton's future. Your thoughts and concerns will give direction for the next town plan which will be used by the State for Act 250 consideration and by the Public Utility Commission as it reviews energy and telecommunication needs. It will give the Selectboard valuable information as they strive to keep Sutton a wonderful place to live.

## 184 People completed the survey

2 surveys came in after the deadline. They are not reflected in the numbers but their comments are included

(Note: The number of responses for individual questions may not add up to 184 because some people did not answer all of the questions.)

Are you a ...		
	Response Percent	Response Count
resident	87.15%	156
part-time resident	1.68%	3
own property but do not live here	11.17%	20

How many people are in your household?	
175 Responses	Mean 2.55

Please indicate the number of household members in each age category:											
	0		1		2		3		4 or more		
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	
Birth to 5 years	35.48%	11	38.71%	12	16.13%	5	9.68%	3	0.00%	0	
6 to 10 years	42.86%	12	32.14%	9	25.00%	7	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	
11 to 18 years	33.33%	13	46.15%	18	15.38%	6	5.13%	2	0.00%	0	
19 to 29 years	26.19%	11	61.90%	26	9.52%	4	2.38%	1	0.00%	0	
30 to 39 years	31.43%	11	34.29%	12	34.29%	12	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	
40 to 49 years	34.38%	11	40.62%	13	25.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	
50 to 59 years	20.69%	12	39.66%	23	39.66%	23	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	
60 to 65 years	14.29%	7	63.27%	31	22.45%	11	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	
Over 65 years	6.38%	6	38.30%	36	54.26%	51	0.00%	0	1.06%	1	

Note: The above data will not add up to an accurate count of the number of people in each age category as multiple people from the same household completed the survey. The 2020 census will be conducted next year and we will have a more accurate count at that point. The US Census Bureau estimates that at the present time the total census for Sutton is 1008. In 2010 it was 1029

<b>How long have you lived in Sutton?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 10 years	26.16%	45
10 to 19 years	13.37%	23
20 to 29 years	16.86%	29
30 to 39 years	16.86%	29
40 to 49 years	15.70%	27
Over 50 years	11.05%	19

<b>Are you</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Working full time	36.57%	64
Working part-time	11.43%	20
A student	1.14%	2
Currently unemployed	1.14%	2
Retired	40.00%	70
Self-employed	5.14%	9
Other (Please specify)	4.57%	8

<b>If you are employed and commute to work, what is your average daily commute (round trip)?</b>	
67 Responses	Mean 37.94 Miles

<b>Do you carpool?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	2.86%	3
No	69.52%	73
Not applicable	27.62%	29

<b>If available, would you carpool:</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Carpool	20.99%	17
Use RCT	19.75%	16
If not, why not? Please explain what would make carpooling more appealing	74.07%	60

**Comments about why people would not carpool:**

**# of responses**

- 15 Variable schedule/timing
- 6 Use car for work
- 4 Make stops on way to and from work
- 3 Location of work
- 11 Prefer to drive own vehicle
- 4 Don' know who would be available to carpool with
- 2 Location of my work
- 1 Dog
- 1 May need to respond as an emergency worker

<b>For people who work and do not commute: Do you</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
telecommute	23.08%	6
have a home-based business or operate a farm	84.62%	22

<b>If better internet/cell service were available, would you telecommute?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	44.76%	47
No	55.24%	58



**What kind of development activity would you prefer in Sutton over the next 10 years? (Check as many as you like)**

	Response Percent	Response Count
Farming and forestry	61.31%	103
Small scale industry (light industry) including high tech	32.74%	55
Small retail (e.g. less than 3000 sq. ft., independently owned)	33.33%	56
Affordable housing (general)	27.38%	46
Affordable senior housing	29.17%	49
More independent living options for seniors	33.93%	57
Professional/personal services (e.g. banking, hair care, insurance)	14.88%	25
Tourism and hospitality (e.g. B&B, restaurant, vacation rentals, tourist attractions)	32.14%	54
Cottage industries/home-based business	49.40%	83
Value-added processing (e.g. yogurt, cheese, maple syrup, microbrewing)	54.17%	91
Vacation home development	8.33%	14
Outdoor recreation	33.33%	56
Mini-mart	23.21%	39
Other (Please specify)	27.98%	47



**Comments about preferred activities**

**# of responses**

- 13 Trails for hiking, biking, non-motorized vehicles, cross country skiing, connect with Kingdom Trails, an all season trail without steep hills
- 9 Open roads to ATVs
- 2 Access to ATV trails
- 6 Post Office
- 1 VAST Trail access
- 2 Keep the school open
- 5 Outdoor concerts/Sutton Field Days/ Fall Harvest Festival/ events to promote social relationships
- 1 each of the following:  
 Small health clinic, vet office, boarding for cats and dogs, library, general store/coffee shop/bakery, ropes course, zip line, golf course, gas station, town pool, laundromat, hunting club, fishing access, do something with King George Farm, expand internet service, whatever might reduce taxes, stores

Do you think that Sutton would benefit from a town center?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.79%	55
No	32.95%	57
No preference	35.26%	61

Do you think that Sutton would benefit from a town green?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	33.91%	59
No	30.46%	53
No preference	35.63%	62



Do you own or rent your Sutton home?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
own	97.66%	167
rent	2.34%	4



<b>What type of housing is your Sutton residence?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Single-family home	88.14%	156
Mobile home	5.65%	10
RV/Camp	2.26%	4
Shared home (e.g. roomer, live-in care provider)	0.00%	0
Apartment/Multi-unit or accessory	0.56%	1
Assisted living	0.00%	0
Other (Please specify)	3.39%	6

<b>In approximately what year was your house built? (If your house has multiple additions or renovations, identify the approximate year of the main portion of the house.)</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
before 1900	16.77%	28
1900-1950	7.78%	13
1950-1980	24.55%	41
1981-2000	30.54%	51
newer than 2000	20.36%	34

**What contributes the most to your housing costs? (Rank 1 through 5 with #1 being the most cost and 5 being the least. Mark NA if not applicable.)**

	1--most		2		3		4		5--least		N/A	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Taxes	61.59%	101	29.27%	48	7.32%	12	0.61%	1	0.00%	0	1.22%	2
Mortgage/house payment	50.52%	49	13.40%	13	2.06%	2	8.25%	8	5.15%	5	20.62%	20
Rent	5.13%	2	5.13%	2	5.13%	2	0.00%	0	10.26%	4	74.36%	29
Heating/fuel	10.20%	15	38.78%	57	38.10%	56	7.48%	11	2.04%	3	3.40%	5
Maintenance and upkeep	5.80%	8	12.32%	17	42.03%	58	30.43%	42	6.52%	9	2.90%	4
Other	9.09%	3	3.03%	1	12.12%	4	33.33%	11	9.09%	3	33.33%	11

**Comments about housing costs:**

**# of responses**

- 7 Insurance
- 16 Utilities (water, telephone, internet, electric)
- 1 Travel to Lyndonville/St Johnsburry to shop
- 1 food

Do you own or lease an All-Terrain Vehicle(ATV) or Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV-side by side)?						
	Lease		Own		Neither	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
ATV	0.00%	0	23.70%	41	76.30%	132
UTV	0.00%	0	7.10%	12	92.90%	157



What do you like about living in Sutton? (Check all that apply)		
	Response Percent	Response Count
It's near where I work	16.86%	29
Access to recreation	34.88%	60
I'm able to be near my family	31.98%	55
It's affordable	19.77%	34
I can live close to the land	59.30%	102
Sense of community	27.33%	47
I like the small-town environment	66.86%	115
It's beautiful	70.35%	121
The K-8 school	26.16%	45
The town is run in a professional and financially responsible way	18.60%	32
Other (Please specify)	12.79%	22

**Comments about what people like about living in Sutton**

**# of responses**

- 7 Peace and quiet
- 2 Grew up here
- 4 rural/privacy
- 3 good fire department/feel safe
- 1 conservative folks
- 1 proximity to Burke Mt, Lake Willoughby, Canada

<b>What are the challenges to living in Sutton? (Check all that apply)</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
It's expensive	21.30%	36
It's not convenient to where I work	2.96%	5
The taxes are high	63.91%	108
It's not convenient to shopping and amenities	21.89%	37
It's far from medical services	21.89%	37
Inadequate internet/cell service	55.03%	93
There are limited job opportunities in the area	26.04%	44
Lack of cultural events	13.61%	23
I don't like the small- town environment	0.59%	1
There are limited services for seniors	17.16%	29
There are limited housing options	5.92%	10
Insufficient child care facilities	5.92%	10
Insufficient transportation options	15.38%	26
Inactive village center	22.49%	38
Lack of community events	19.53%	33
Other (Please specify)	11.83%	20

**Comments about challenges to living in Sutton**

**# of responses**

- 4 poor cell service/internet service
- 6 no post office/gas station/store
- 2 long winters
- 1 poor roads
- 2 lack of desire for change
- 1 lack of well-stocked library
- 1 school tax
- 1 over regulation
- 2 its okay
- 1 inadequate communication about town "happenings"
- 1 too much junk in others' yards that are decreasing my property value

<b>What do you think defines Sutton and makes it a special place?(Check all that apply)</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Small-town environment	82.25%	139
Agriculture and forestry	62.13%	105
Church/community dinners	21.89%	37
Large blocks of forest/farm land	62.72%	106
Outdoor recreational opportunities	34.91%	59
K-8 school that is well supported by the community	31.95%	54
Amount of conserved land	31.36%	53
Number of farms	44.97%	76
Sense of history	24.85%	42
The fire department	43.79%	74
A commitment of stewardship	13.02%	22
Other (Please specify)	7.10%	12

**Comments about what defines Sutton**

**# of responses**

- 1 good roads
- 1 well- kept cemeteries
- 1 church
- 1 respect for private property
- 1 town meeting
- 1 peace and quiet
- 1 safe
- 2 it's not special

<b>Do you see yourself living in Sutton: (Please check one)</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
in the near future	13.10%	22
for the next 10 years	14.29%	24
beyond 10 years	26.79%	45
in my retirement	18.45%	31
in my old age	27.38%	46

<b>Do you think that Sutton would benefit from a preschool in our town?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	31.43%	55
no	19.43%	34
do not know	49.14%	86

<b>Do you think that Sutton would benefit from a day care in our town?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	39.43%	69
no	14.86%	26
do not know	45.71%	80

<b>Do you or any member of your family expect to need any of the following in the next 5-10 years?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Eldercare	72.37%	55
Childcare	15.79%	12
More affordable housing	11.84%	9
Other (Please specify)	9.21%	7

**How hard or how easy is it for you to access health care?**

	Very Easy		Somewhat Easy		Okay or No Opinion		Somewhat Difficult		Difficult	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Finding a Primary Care Provider	37.66%	58	22.08%	34	22.08%	34	12.34%	19	5.84%	9
Getting an appointment when I am sick	32.28%	51	30.38%	48	17.09%	27	13.29%	21	6.96%	11
Seeing my primary care provider for routine check-ups	50.32%	79	18.47%	29	22.29%	35	3.82%	6	5.10%	8
Seeing a mental health care provider	14.41%	17	10.17%	12	61.02%	72	6.78%	8	7.63%	9
Finding a pediatric provider for my child	22.33%	23	8.74%	9	61.17%	63	5.83%	6	1.94%	2
Being seen at a walk-in clinic or urgent care clinic when I am sick but it is not an emergency	16.06%	22	16.79%	23	24.82%	34	18.98%	26	23.36%	32
Being seen for emergency care	40.13%	61	31.58%	48	15.79%	24	9.87%	15	2.63%	4
Other	21.43%	3	7.14%	1	14.29%	2	14.29%	2	42.86%	6

**Comments about health care:**

- 4 # of responses
- eye or dental
- 2 \$ for health care
- 2 specialists
- 1 prescription drugs
- 1 acute care/non emergency
- 1 "health care in Vermont " is poor



<b>Regarding residential development over the past decade: What statements do you agree with? (Check all that apply)</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Residential development is restricting access to outdoor recreational uses	11.11%	15
Residential development is encroaching into agricultural lands	28.15%	38
Residential development is encroaching into natural and scenic assets	23.70%	32
The rate of residential development is just right	35.56%	48
There is not enough good housing for seniors who want to live independently	33.33%	45
There are not enough affordable rental options	19.26%	26
There is not enough affordable housing for young people and families	42.96%	58
There is not enough affordable housing in good condition for seniors	28.15%	38



<b>Do you farm? Farming as defined by “the activity or business of growing crops and/or raising livestock” (Check the answer that is most appropriate)</b>			
	Response Percent	Response Count	
Farming is my primary occupation	4.22%	7	
I am a part-time producer/grower (e.g. vegetables, meat, eggs, maple sugar)	11.45%	19	
I keep livestock and/or grow vegetables for personal consumption	23.49%	39	
I do not farm	51.81%	86	
Other (Please specify)	9.04%	15	





**If you answered that you do not farm, skip this question. What type of agricultural operation do you have? (Check all that apply even if you produce only for personal consumption)**

	Response Percent	Response Count
dairy- fluid milk	13.24%	9
dairy- value added	0.00%	0
timber/firewood	32.35%	22
livestock	25.00%	17
maple products	30.88%	21
hay/feed/forage	17.65%	12
diversified	10.29%	7
orchard fruits	32.35%	22
poultry	27.94%	19
vegetables	70.59%	48
landscaping	7.35%	5
Other (Please specify)	13.24%	9

**Comments about how people farm:**

**# of responses**

- 6 hay
- 3 timber/forestry
- 2 chickens/eggs
- 2 sugarbush
- 1 each of the following:  
  - peonies, rabbits, apples, horses, hemp, berries, Christmas trees, marijuana



What areas should Sutton focus on over the next eight years? (Enter a number for each: 1 = High Priority 2 = Medium Priority 3 = Low or Not a Priority)						
	1 = High Priority		2 = Medium Priority		3 = Low or Not a Priority	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Address speeding vehicles	35.71%	50	35.00%	49	29.29%	41
Make Sutton more resilient to flooding	14.17%	18	25.20%	32	60.63%	77
Create more opportunities for community events	21.97%	29	47.73%	63	30.30%	40
Establish better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure	20.00%	26	26.15%	34	53.85%	70
Address climate change issues	23.62%	30	23.62%	30	52.76%	67
Encourage investment in affordable housing	19.38%	25	38.76%	50	41.86%	54
Encourage investment in senior housing	20.93%	27	41.86%	54	37.21%	48
Promote local business	48.94%	69	36.88%	52	14.18%	20
Promote local agriculture and sales of locally produced goods	64.14%	93	26.90%	39	8.97%	13
Encourage new economic opportunities	32.31%	42	46.92%	61	20.77%	27
Encourage outdoor services (e.g. hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling)	38.41%	53	36.23%	50	25.36%	35
Address noise disturbances	23.31%	31	27.07%	36	49.62%	66
Increase police protection/highway patrolling	16.67%	22	38.64%	51	44.70%	59
Identify appropriate sites for large scale renewable energy generation (i.e. wind, solar, hydro)	24.81%	33	31.58%	42	43.61%	58
Strengthen connection with the Supervisory Union	16.94%	21	41.94%	52	41.13%	51
Other	87.50%	21	4.17%	1	8.33%	2

**Comments on priority area of focus:**

**# of responses**

- 2 keep Sutton rural
- 2 reduce taxes
- 3 internet services/telecommunication
- 2 open roads to ATVs
- 2 keep ATVs off roadways

1 each of the following:

keep school open; clean up messy yards and get building permits instead of doing make-shift building; proper care of animals; establish effective communication between town government and citizens; do home safety checks; reduce zoning restrictions and establish a building code; establish a “civic association”; increase activities; promote home businesses and cottage industry; promote commercial/industrial development; address noise from guns being shot constantly; address smell disturbances; encourage renewable energy; encourage non-motorized activities such as hiking, hunting or fishing; and don’t invest in housing for seniors as there are no services here for them.

Are any of the following of concern to you? (Check all that apply)		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Species protection	31.01%	49
Runoff from roads	20.89%	33
Trash/litter/burn barrels	36.71%	58
Loss of farm/forest land	40.51%	64
Rural residential sprawl	19.62%	31
Invasive species	36.08%	57
Industrial/utility-scale wind turbines	32.91%	52
Water quality	41.14%	65
Speeding in town	39.24%	62
Environmental pollutants	38.61%	61
Agricultural practices that harm the environment	37.97%	60
Light pollution	17.72%	28
Manure in the road	20.25%	32
Litter along the road	63.29%	100
Noise	20.89%	33
Other (Please specify)	10.13%	16

**Comments about concerns:**

**# of responses**

- 2 junk cars and unsightly properties
- 2 hoarding and animal neglect/abuse

1 each of the following:

poaching wildlife, building without permits, light pollution, want a burn barrel, neighbor who does not respect land boundaries, too much zoning and planning, poor roads, high school taxes, keeping ATVs off the roads, zoning regulations that dictate how many junk cars someone can have or how their yard looks.

How satisfied are you with the current level of the following municipal services?								
	Very Satisfied		Satisfied		Needs Improvement		Very Unsatisfied	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Road Maintenance	23.64%	39	46.67%	77	24.24%	40	5.45%	9
Fire Protection	53.12%	85	46.25%	74	0.62%	1	0.00%	0
Police Protection	18.24%	27	51.35%	76	29.73%	44	0.68%	1
Snow Removal	35.90%	56	50.00%	78	12.18%	19	1.92%	3
Solid Waste Removal	23.88%	32	58.21%	78	15.67%	21	2.24%	3
Recreation Facilities	12.88%	17	48.48%	64	32.58%	43	6.06%	8
Office of Town Clerk	45.18%	75	49.40%	82	5.42%	9	0.00%	0
Public Water Supply	19.42%	20	70.87%	73	8.74%	9	0.97%	1
Zoning Enforcement	22.88%	35	54.90%	84	15.69%	24	6.54%	10
Animal Control	17.02%	24	60.99%	86	17.02%	24	4.96%	7
Recycling	31.69%	45	53.52%	76	13.38%	19	1.41%	2
School K-8	30.15%	41	55.88%	76	11.03%	15	2.94%	4
High School	33.86%	43	57.48%	73	6.30%	8	2.36%	3
Other	40.00%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	60.00%	3

**Comments about satisfaction with services:**

**# of responses**

1 each of the following:

need better littering enforcement, rescue squad, glad school bus services is back, too much zoning and planning, taxes, internet and cell service, road crew disturbing individual property

<b>What is your primary heating source?(Please check one)</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Propane	25.45%	42
Wood	28.48%	47
Electricity, open source heat pump	0.00%	0
Wood pellets	4.24%	7
Electricity, resistance heating	0.00%	0
Outdoor wood furnace	1.21%	2
Fuel oil	36.97%	61
Coal	0.00%	0
Kerosene	1.82%	3
Geothermal	0.00%	0
Other (Please specify)	1.82%	3

**Comment about primary heat source:**

**# responses**

1 small wood stove in kitchen and generator

<b>Do you have a secondary heating source?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Propane	20.69%	24
Wood	44.83%	52
Electricity, open source heat pump	0.00%	0
Wood pellets	8.62%	10
Electricity, resistance heating	0.86%	1
Outdoor wood furnace	0.86%	1
Fuel oil	25.00%	29
Coal	0.00%	0
Kerosene	0.00%	0
Geothermal	0.00%	0
Other (Please specify)	6.90%	8



**Comments about secondary heat source:**

**# of responses**

- 2 Solar
- 2 passive solar

1 each of the following:

electric thermal storage, small wood stove in kitchen and generator, no back up

<b>If you have a wood stove, does it have a catalytic converter?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	25.64%	30
no	74.36%	87

<b>Have you had an Energy Audit in the past five years?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	17.28%	28
no	82.72%	134

<b>Would you like an Energy Audit if it were affordable?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	47.37%	72
no	52.63%	80



<b>How have you reduced your energy use?</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Replaced incandescent light bulbs with CFL or LED	81.37%	131
Installed solar thermal	0.62%	1
Installed solar photovoltaic	6.83%	11
Installed more efficient heating equipment	37.27%	60
Installed low-flow shower heads	31.68%	51
Bought a new or used vehicle with better gas mileage	46.58%	75
Bought an all-electric or hybrid vehicle	9.32%	15
Improved stripping or insulation	42.24%	68
Purchased Energy Star appliances	71.43%	115
Replaced windows or did another energy loss correction	42.24%	68
Dry clothes outside when possible	43.48%	70
Other (Please specify)	5.59%	9

**Comments about reducing energy costs**

**# of responses**

1 each of the following

replaced LP water heater with heat-pump; close off unused rooms; timer on thermostat; cold/warm water laundry; stay home more often; installed a new roof; sealed basement; turn off lights, appliances, and computers when not in use.

	yes		no	
	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Do you use the town recycling center?	55.70%	88	44.30%	70*
Casella?	33.33%	30	66.67%	60
Myers?	12.33%	9	87.67%	64
Other?	64.86%	24	35.14%	13

\*17 respondents go directly to the NEKWM in Lyndonville for recycling

**Comments about solid waste management:**

**# of responses**

- 2 Easy Trash
- 5 Other towns
- 1 Pay per bag

Do you currently compost?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	54.17%	91
no	45.83%	77

Have you made any changes to reduce the use of plastic?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
yes	61.31%	103
no	38.69%	65
If "yes," what?	48.81%	82

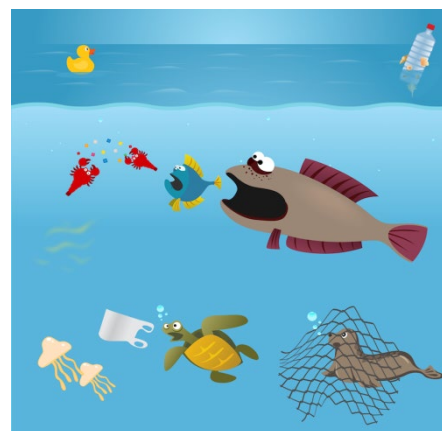
**Comments about reducing plastic use:**

**# of responses**

- 38 use reusable bags for grocery store and other stores
- 16 use glass when possible
- 8 use reusable containers
- 7 do not use plastic straws
- 11 buy products not packaged in plastic
- 2 grow own food/buy local
- 2 use beeswax for food
- 2 buy bulk
- 9 recycle
- 8 do not use single-use water bottles
- 2 use paper bags
- 6 buy as little as possible

1 each of the following:

- use reusable produce bags, take own containers to restaurants for take homes, and choose restaurants who use paper take home containers



<b>Would you like information or training on the following topics? (Check any that interest you)</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Federal and state land use tax program	24.10%	20
Wildlife habitat improvement	40.96%	34
Forest and woodlot management	37.35%	31
Conservation easements	16.87%	14
Wetlands preservation	22.89%	19
Non-fossil fuel resources	20.48%	17
State and local permit processes	15.66%	13
Succession planning (i.e. farming/forestry)	18.07%	15
Soil and water conservation	25.30%	21
Tax and estate planning	27.71%	23
Energy efficiency/reducing energy bills	43.37%	36
New composting laws	42.17%	35
Other (Please specify)	2.41%	2

**Comments about topics of interest:**

**# of responses**

1 each            recycling rules and how to reduce taxes

<b>Several people have stated they would like better communication from town officials. Your town officials are committed to improving communication with you. To that end, what is the BEST way to let you know of meetings, events, decisions and what is happening in Sutton? (Check all that apply.)</b>		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Front Porch Forum	20.92%	32
A Sutton Facebook page (Announcements only)	50.33%	77
An enhanced Sutton webpage	48.37%	74
Newspaper notices	32.03%	49
In-town postings	9.80%	15
Information sent home with my child from school	5.88%	9
E-newsletter	39.87%	61
Radio	12.42%	19
Other (Please specify)	16.99%	26



**Comments about better communication:**

**# of responses**

- 8 mail (post card, monthly newsletter, mailings when there is going to be a vote)
- 3 emails and/or a monthly email newsletter that people can sign up for
- 4 keep web page updated
- 2 phone calls similar to the automated system the school has
- 3 text to those who sign up to be notified
- 3 bulletin board – town clerk, school, West Burke PO, VPR
- 1 in person
- 3 everything is good (use them all)

**General Comments:**

**# of responses**

- 12 thanks to the core group of employees and volunteers, everyone from the town clerk, assistant town clerk, road crew and fire fighters, and all those who choose to serve on various boards and committees, thank you for the survey, town does well with the available resources
- 3 worried about the direction the town is moving on the ATV/UTV ordinance. concern about enforcement and noise
- 3 taxes are too high, a break for seniors on a fixed income
- 5 love Sutton/joy to see how neighbors care for one another
- 6 concerns about zoning (too much and/or not enough enforcement); FEMA regulations
- 1 living on RT 5 and east does not feel like being a part of the town
- 2 question about looking into having trash pickup incorporated into taxes or similar to Sheffield's system
- 3 need Broadband access; young people will not stay here unless we have internet access and telecommunications on par with present day levels; encourage young people to be involved in the town
- 2 more regular turn over of town officials would be good
- 1 want better communication between government officials and populace
- 1 stopping in face to face
- 1 anything that can be done that would make use of the King George Farm?
- 1 concern about the reality of town government with the turning over of the school to the state
- 1 junk in yards
- 1 animal abuse