

# URBAN YOUTH LEAD THE WAY:

ENGAGING URBAN YOUTH IN YOUR CONSERVATION WORK

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# Agenda

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## Introductions

- why care about the environment?
- what do we care most about?

why is it important to engage low-income communities of color in environmental work?

## Survey of Blackstone Students

- Predictions
- Discuss Results
- Group share out

Barriers + Solutions: what keeps Young People from Engaging in Environmental Issues?

Why do you care about the environment?

- *Find a neighbor you don't know, introduce yourselves, and share your response to this question*
- *Our responses*
- *Your response share out*

What environmental issues do you care most about?  
Why?

- Share your response with your neighbor
- Our responses

# Reflection Questions

# Turn and Talk

- How much diversity do you see in your workplace? (race, age, community)
- Which communities do you engage with in your work?

Why is it important to engage low-income communities of color in environmental work?

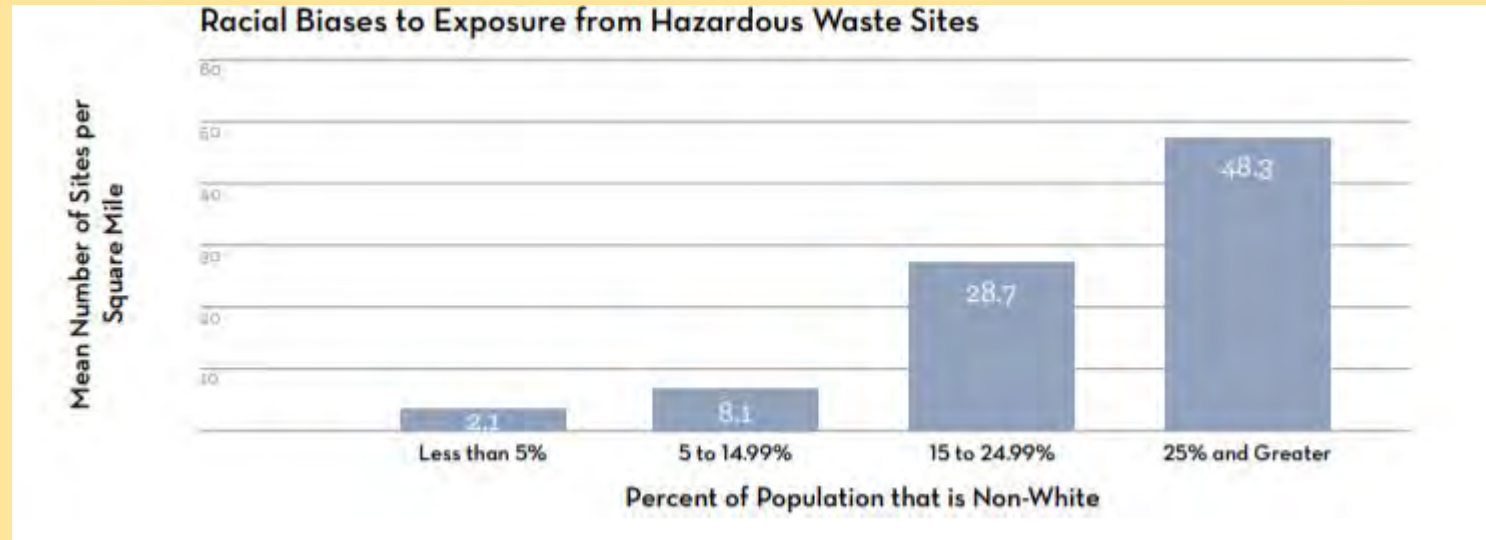
# Exposure to Hazardous Waste Sites Based on Class <sup>J</sup>

(In Massachusetts)





# Exposure to Hazardous Waste by Race (In Massachusetts)



Why is it important to engage low-income communities of color in environmental work?

# Survey of Blackstone Academy Students

# Survey

Turn and Talk: How do you think urban students would respond to these questions?

- How informed are you on environmental issues?
- How much do you care about environmental issues?
- Why do you think it's important to care about the environment?
- What environmental issues do you care most about?
- Where do you hear about environmental issues?
- What environmental issues have you heard about on social media?
- How does seeing things on social media impact how you see environmental issues or how much you care about those issues?
- Do you know what conservation is?

# Survey Results

In your small group:

**Introduce yourselves.**

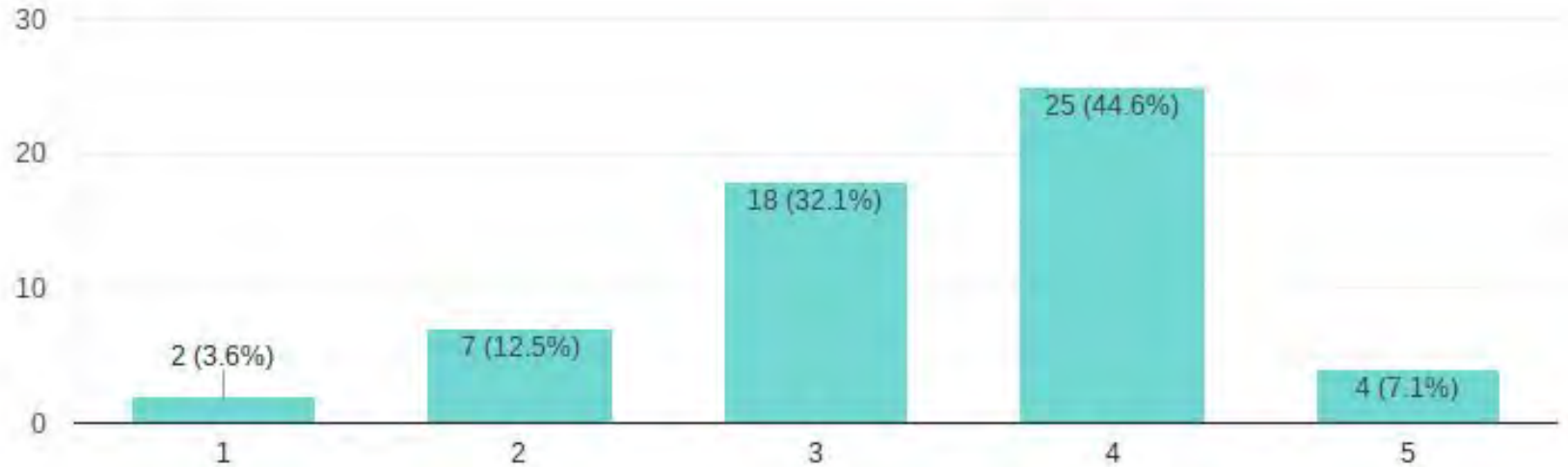
Then look at your assigned graph from the survey, and talk with your group about:

**What do you notice?**

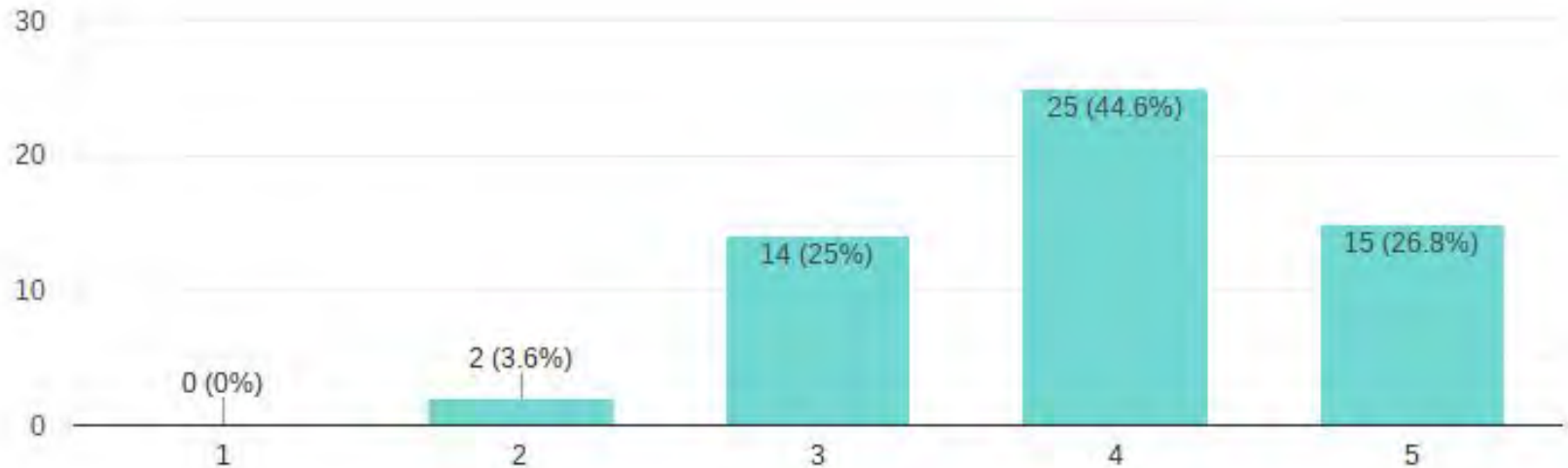
**What does it make you wonder about?**

After a few minutes, we will rotate graphs.

# How informed are you on environmental issues?



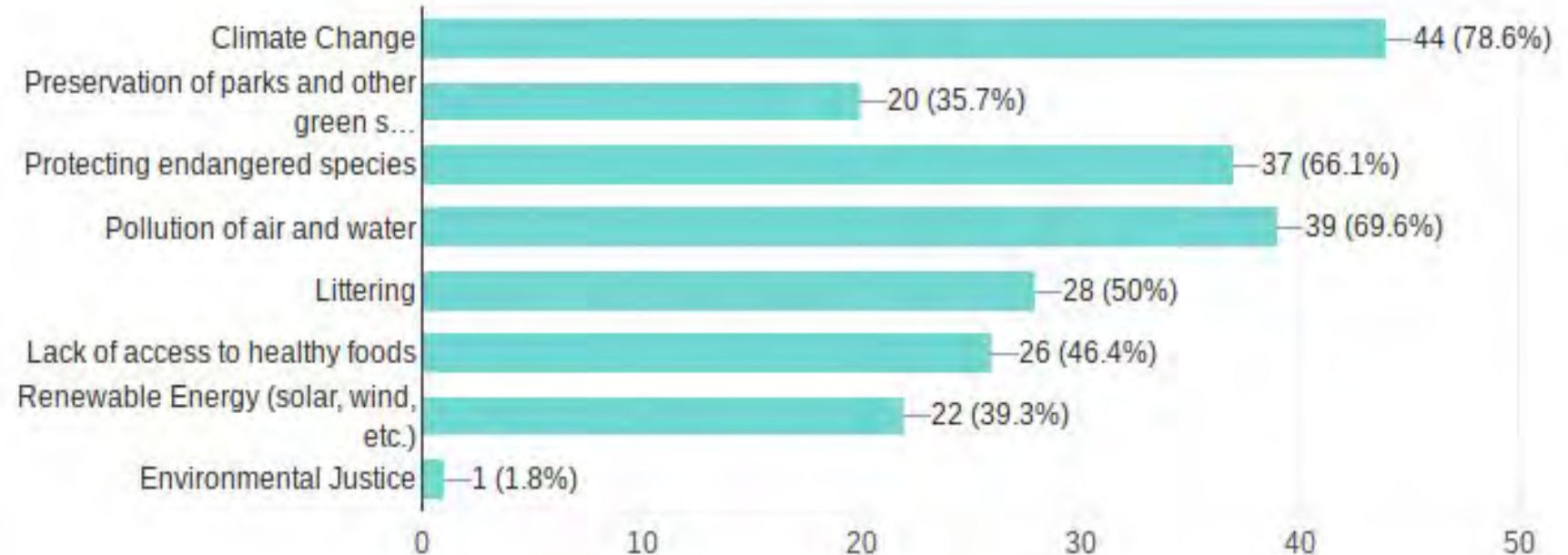
# How much do you care about environmental issues?



**Why do you think it's important to care about the environment?**



# What environmental issues do you care about the most?



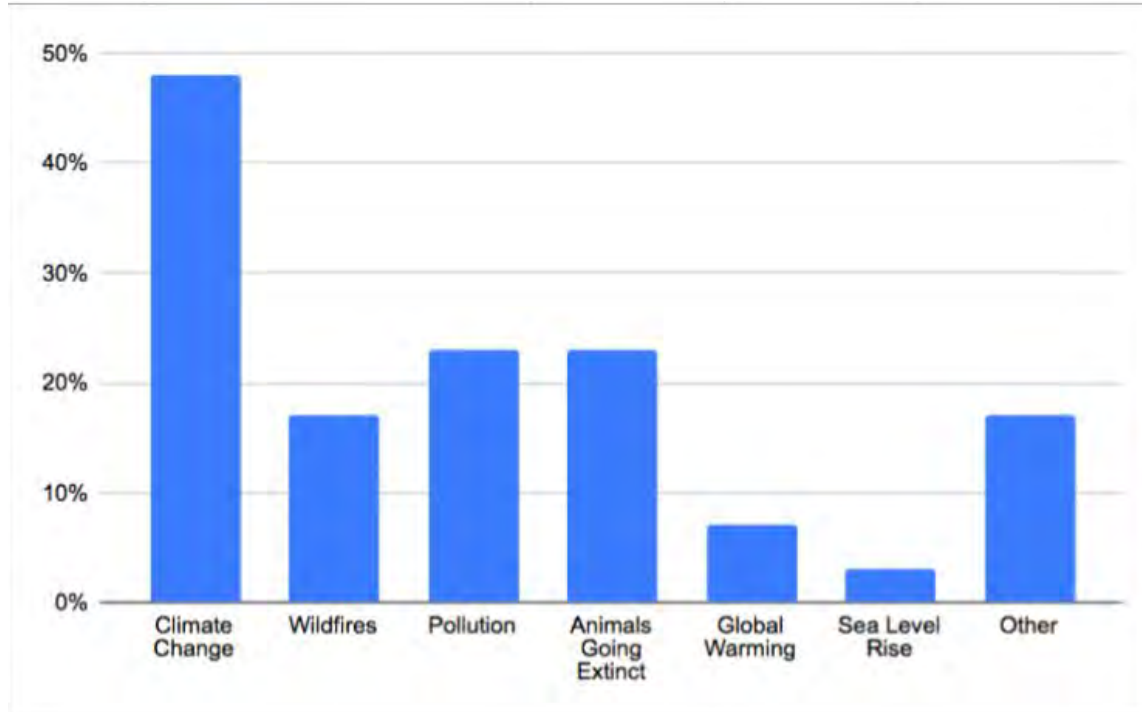
\*\*\*environmental justice was added as an option after most students had responded; we predict these responses would have been higher if it was one of the original options

# Where do you hear about environmental issues?



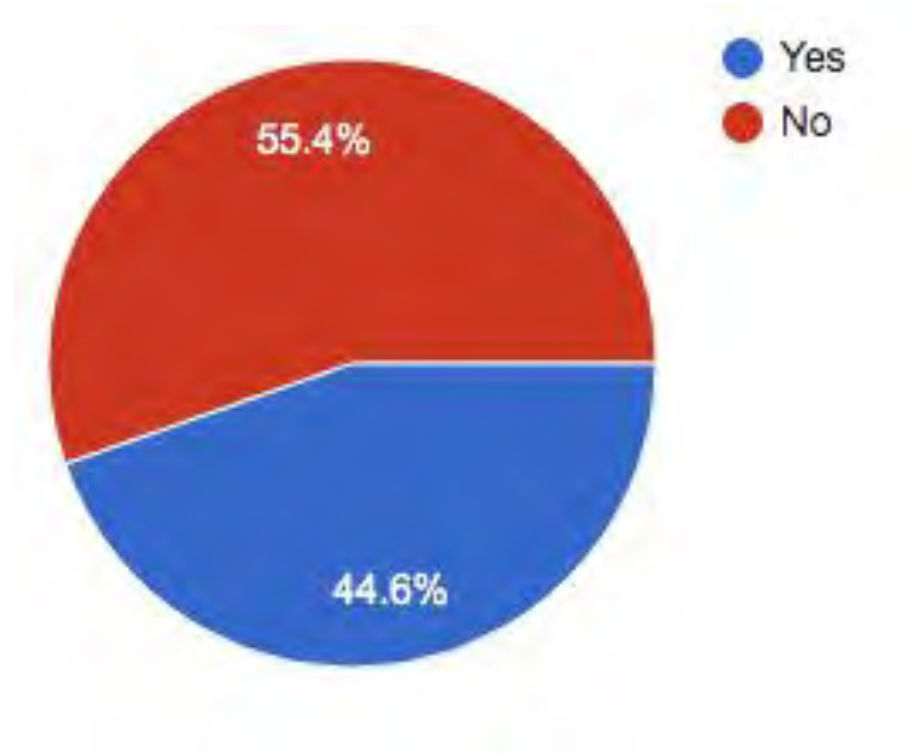
- Social Media
- TV
- School
- Extracurricular Activities
- Events
- Flyers
- Other People
- Other (Post Office, Websites, Movies, Home Screen on Phone)

# What environmental issues have you heard about on social media?



**How does seeing things on social media  
impact how you see environmental issues or  
how much you care about those issues?**

# Do you know what conservation is?



# Group Share Out

What surprised you?

What caught your attention?

What did you find interesting?

Barriers that keep urban youth from  
engaging in environmental issues

# Turn and Talk

What barriers are keeping urban youth from engaging in environmental issues?



# Brainstorming Solutions to Barriers

What might be some possible solutions to overcome the following barriers?

For each one, turn and talk with your group.

# Barrier #1

Urban youth focus on things that are vital to them right now (eg. sports, extracurricular activities, academics, helping families)

# Barrier #2

Everyone is on their  
phones

# Barrier #3

Lack of

EDUCATION

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THOSE BARRIERS?

HOW CAN WE GET YOUNG PEOPLE (IN URBAN AREAS)  
INVESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?

# Solutions (Our Ideas!)

# Solution #1

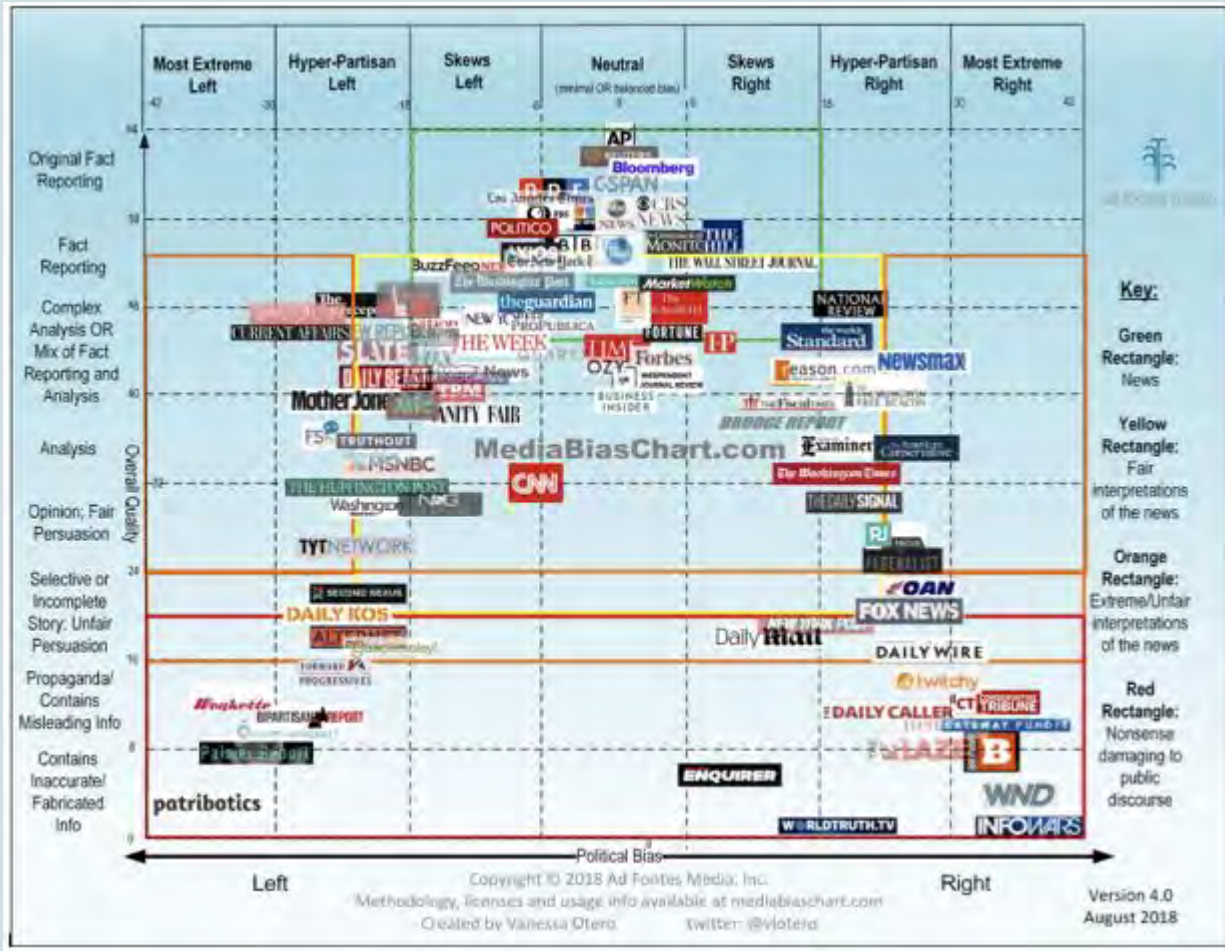
Creating more awareness (eg. summits, advertise climate strikes, involve students in climate strikes)

(One-time events; not long-term commitments)

# Solution #2

Using technology for the better (eg. informing others on what websites have reliable information)





# Solution #3

After school environmental clubs, introduce incentives to keep urban youth interested (eg. Stipends)

(Longer term commitments)

# Follow up to Solution #3

Connect with organizations that already engage urban youth in environmental issues

What is sunrise about? → Sunrise

Instagram: [sunrisemvnt](#)

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Questions?

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