
What do people understand by 'green skills'?

**EBSN Annual Conference
Valladolid, 27th June 2024**

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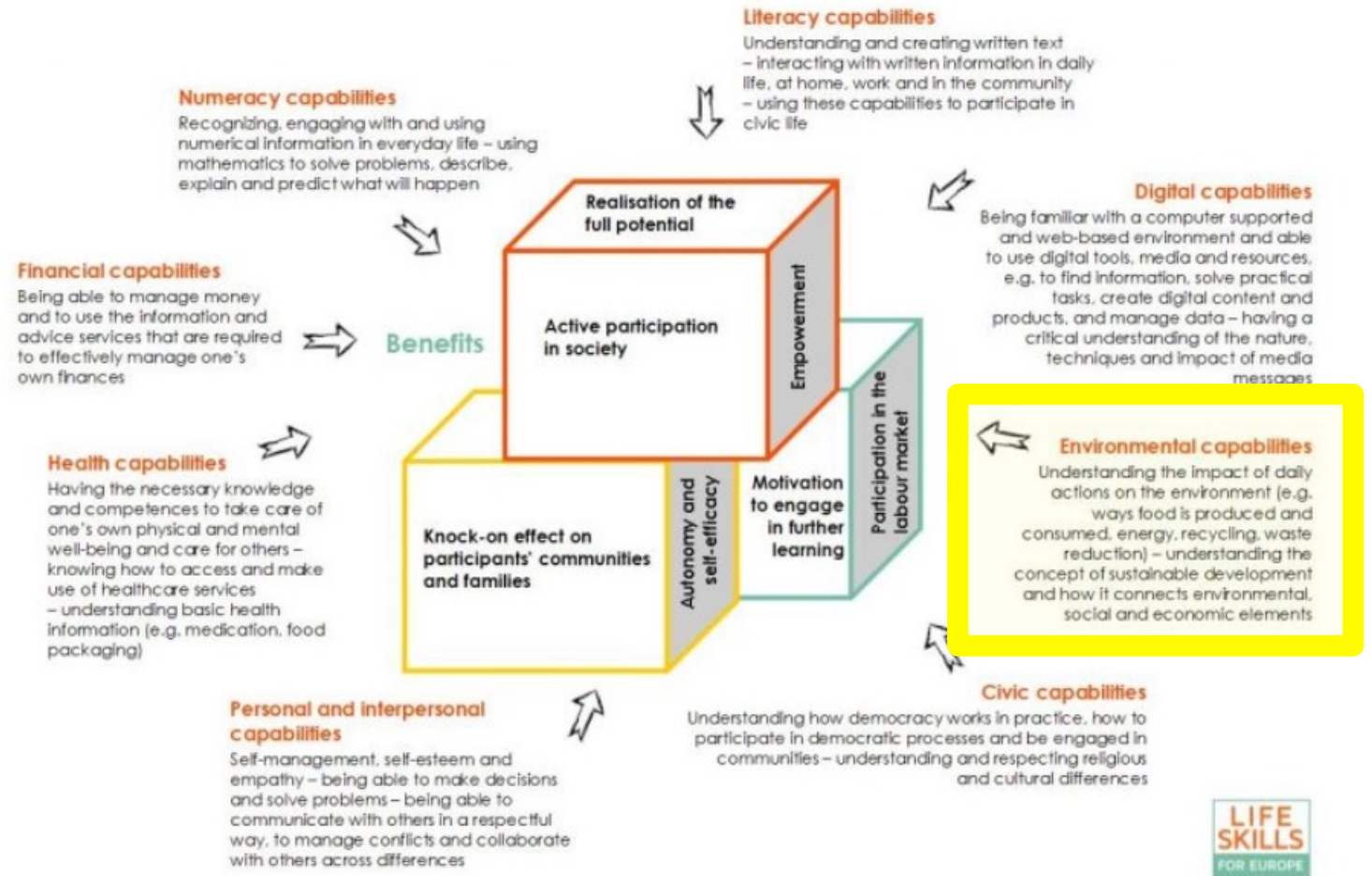
Session Overview

This session aims to explore the relationship between green skills and basic skills.

- Insights from the Life Skills for Europe project and UK research by L&W
- Group discussion on developing green skills and basic skills

Are green skills basic skills?

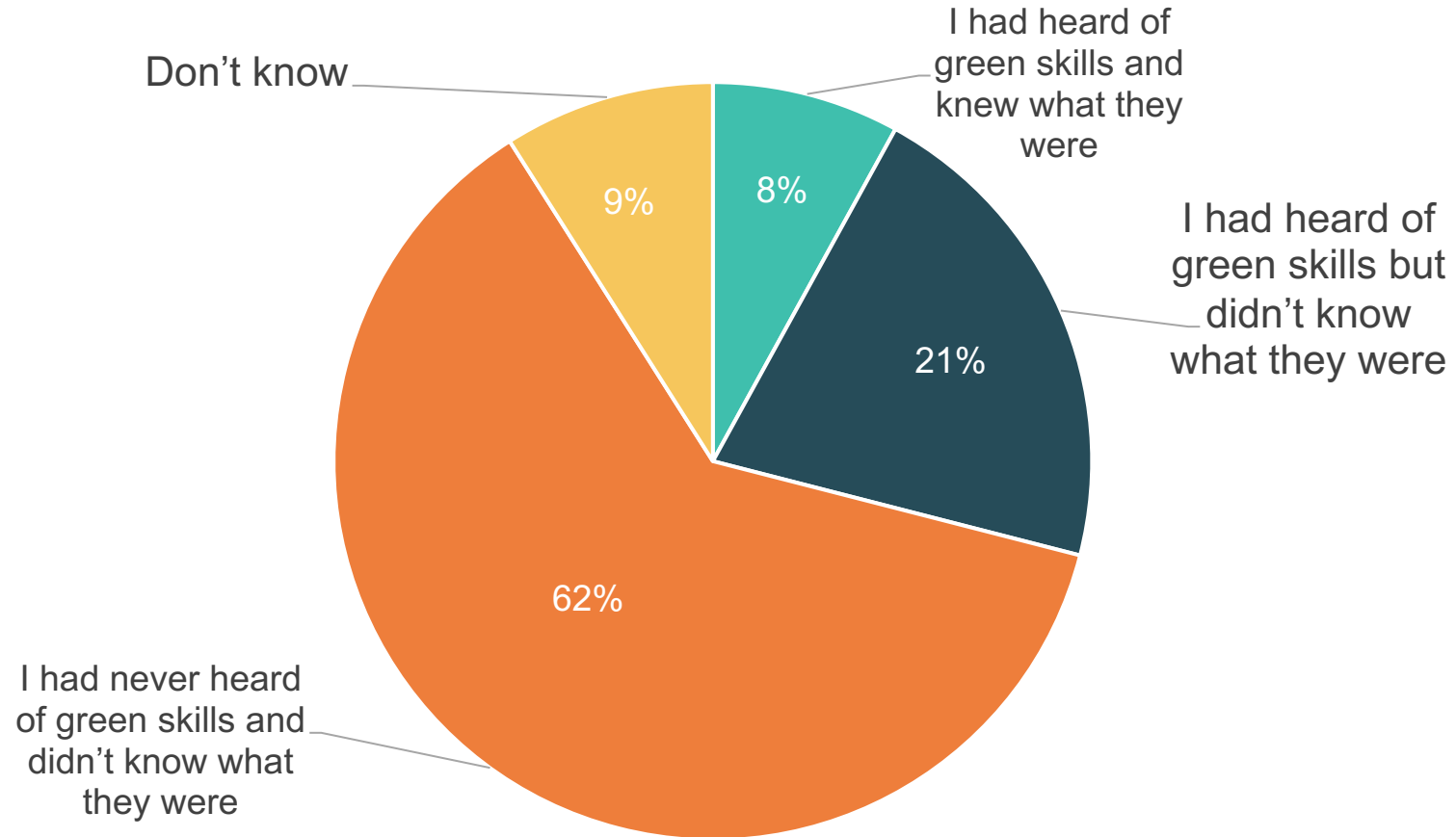
- The [Life Skills for Europe](#) project (EAEA, 2018) proposed a set of environmental capabilities, alongside literacy, numeracy, digital and other skills and capabilities, as part of a holistic life skills approach.
- **Environmental capabilities:** Understanding the impact of daily actions on the environment, understanding the concept of sustainable development and how it connects environmental, social and economic elements.
- **Green skills as essential life skills as well as VET.**



Re-skilling for Net Zero

- UK context: net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- The workforce will need to adapt through upskilling and reskilling, facilitated by the adult education and skills system.
- L&W's **New Futures programme** is exploring what support people need to retrain and change careers.
- L&W surveyed a representative sample of approximately 5,000 adults in the UK to understand their awareness of and interest in green skills for work, as part of the [Adult Participation in Learning Survey 2022](#).

Adults' awareness of green skills is low



Base: all respondents to the Adult Participation in Learning Survey. Weighted base = 5,139; unweighted base = 5,139.

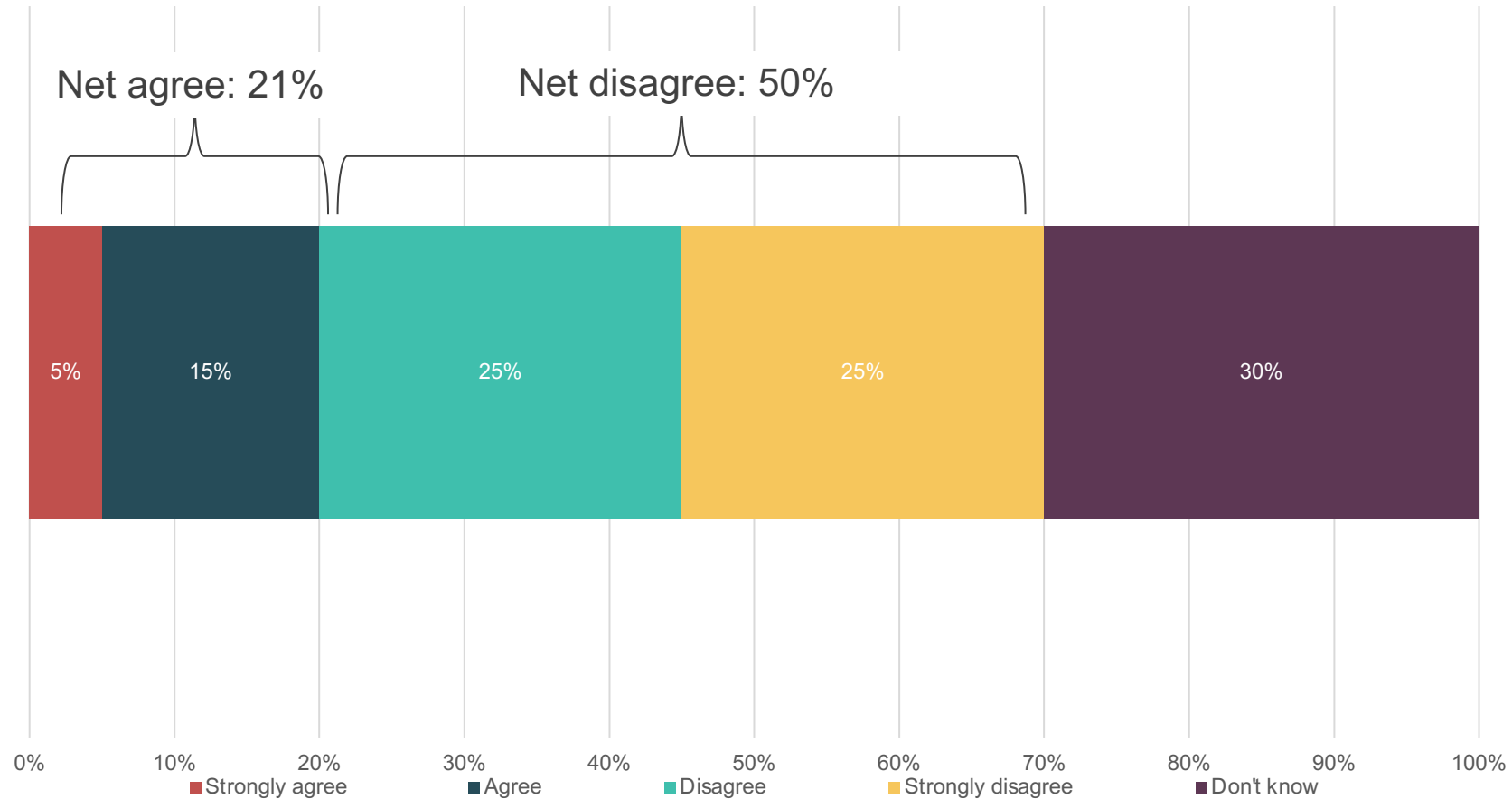
Who is more likely to be aware of green skills?

- **People aged 17- 44** (34 per cent), compared to those aged 45 and above (25 per cent).
- **Men** (35 per cent), compared to women (24 per cent).
- Adults in the **social grades AB** (35 per cent) **and C2** (31 per cent), compared to C1 (27 per cent) and DE (22 per cent) groups.
- **Working adults** (33 per cent), compared to people who are unemployed and seeking work (25 per cent) and people who are economically inactive (17 per cent).

Who is more likely to be aware of green skills? (Cont.)

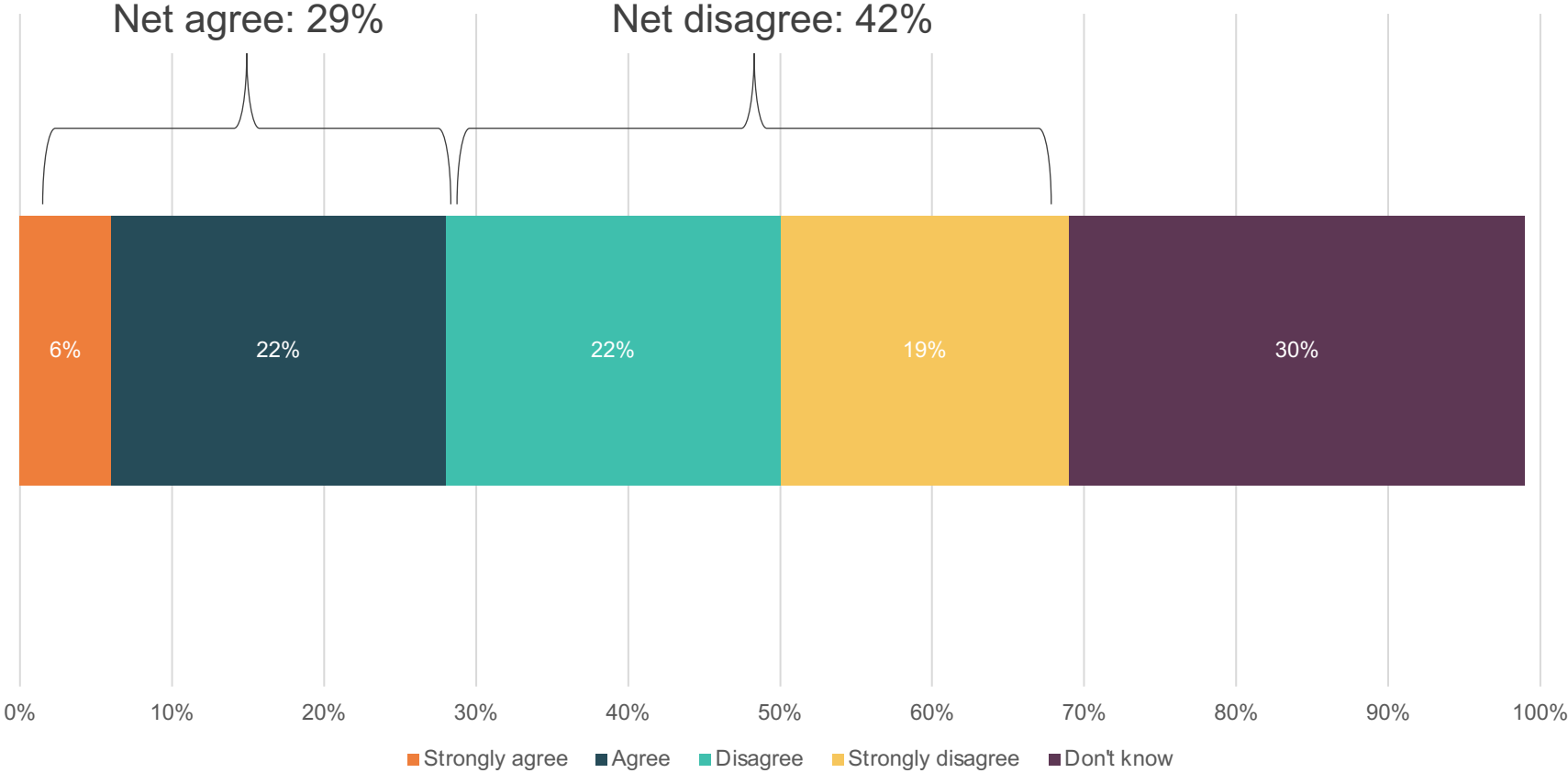
- Respondents from **black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds** (44 per cent), compared to white respondents (27 per cent).
- **Parents** (36 per cent), compared to people without parenting responsibilities (26 per cent).
- **People who left full-time education aged 21 or over** (36 per cent), compared to 32 per cent of people who left age 19-20, 29 per cent of those who left at 17-18 and 22 per cent of those who left full-time education aged 16 or less.
- **University graduates** (38 per cent), compared to those whose highest level of qualification is an A level (29 per cent), another further education course (28 per cent), GCSE (21 per cent) and people with no qualifications (24 per cent).

Adults don't know which green skills employers need



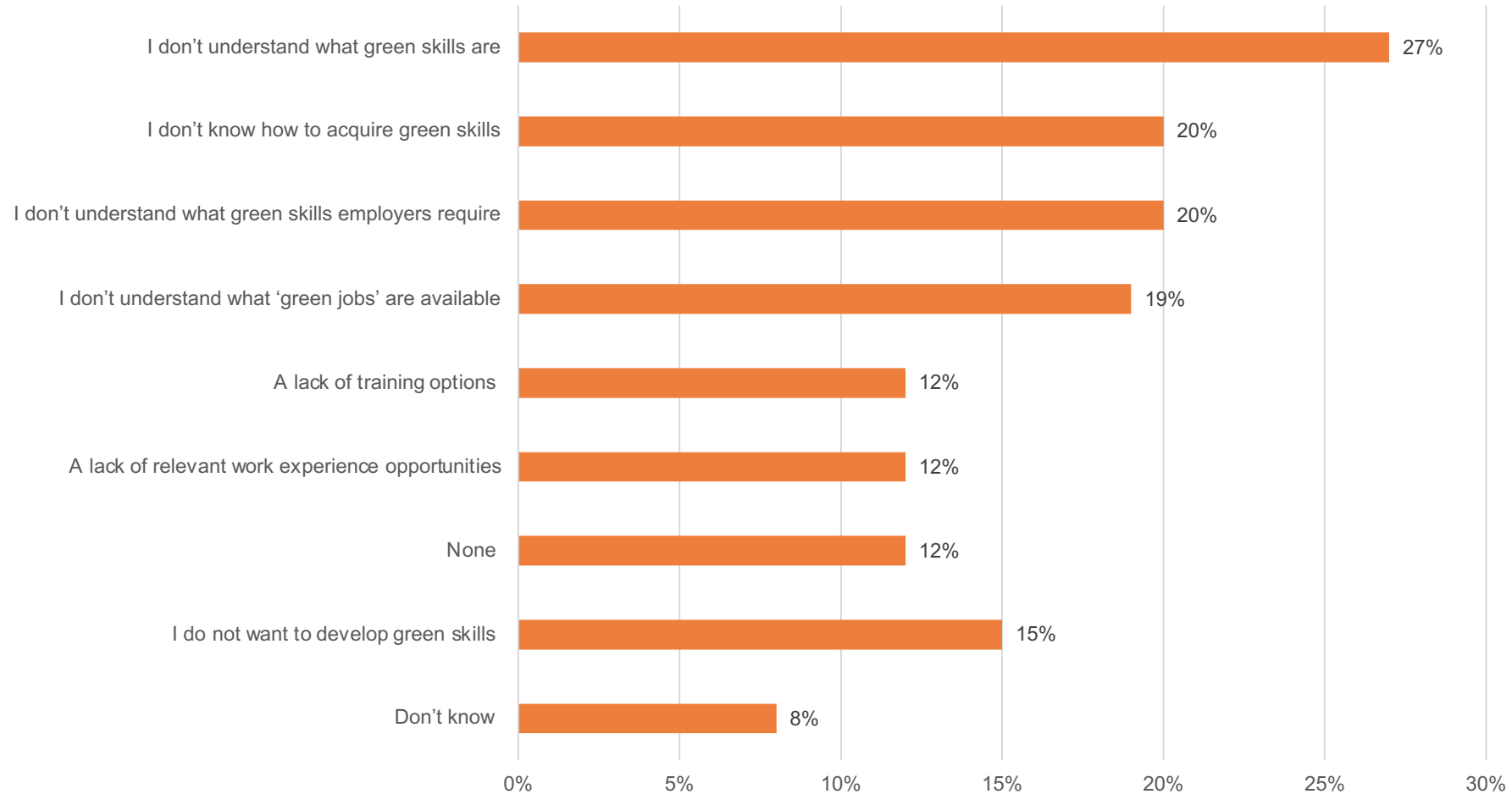
Base: all respondents to the Adult Participation in Learning Survey. Weighted base = 5,139; unweighted base = 5,139.

And they don't feel inspired to develop green skills to progress their careers



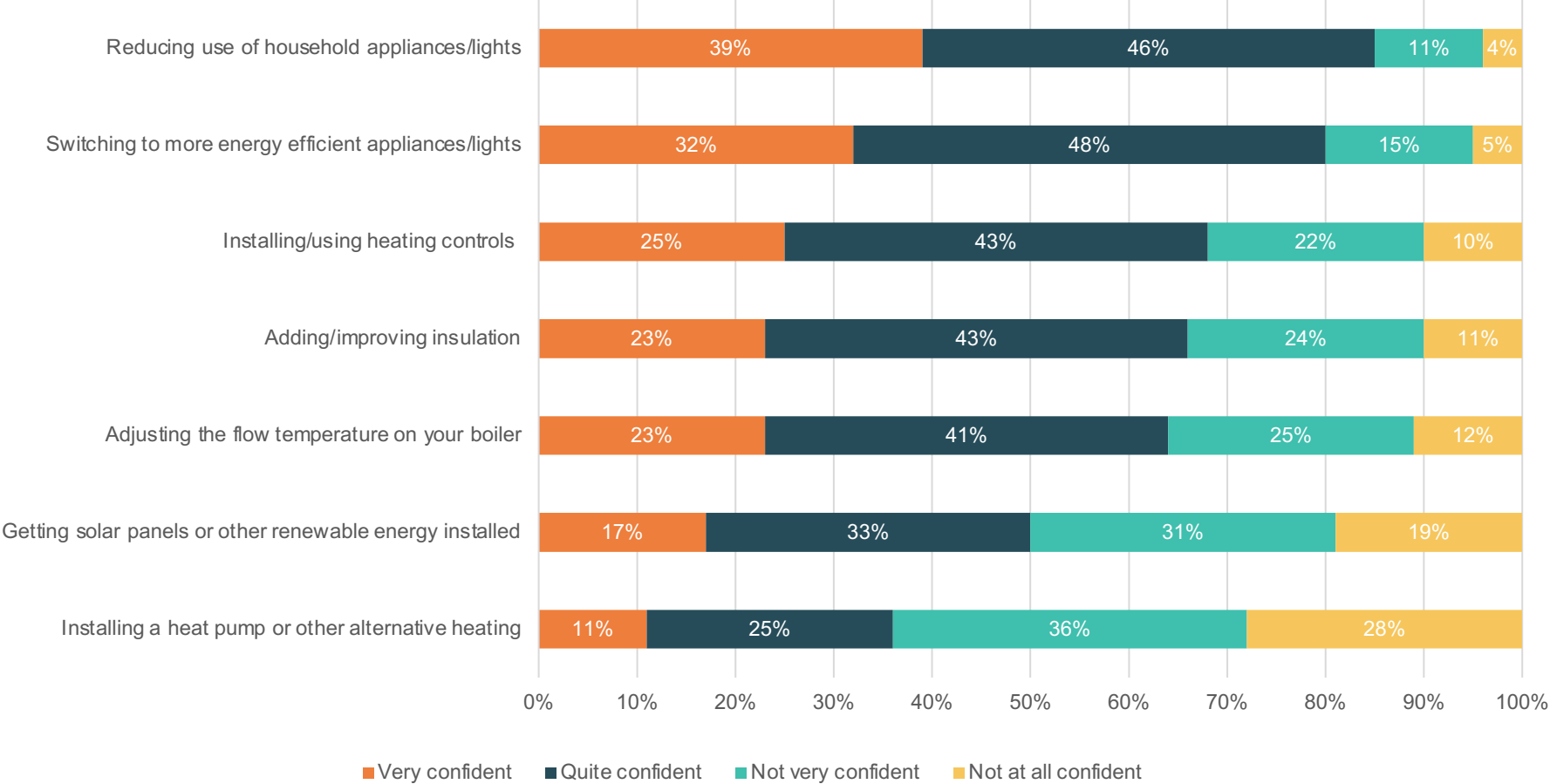
Base: all respondents to the Adult Participation in Learning Survey. Weighted base = 5,139; unweighted base = 5,139.

Adults face multiple barriers to developing green skills



Base: all respondents to the Adult Participation in Learning Survey. Weighted base = 5,139; unweighted base = 5,139.

Green life skills: reducing home energy bills



Base: all respondents to the Adult Participation in Learning Survey. Weighted base = 5,139; unweighted base = 5,139.

Discussion Questions

1. To what extent do you think adults are aware of green skills (for work) in other countries? Would the survey findings be similar in relation to green skills for life?
2. The research identifies some barriers preventing adults from developing green skills for work. Would you add any other barriers to the list?
3. The research explored adults' confidence to reduce home energy bills. What other green life skills do you think are important for adults to learn?
4. How can links between green skills and basic skills be strengthened in basic skills programmes?

References

L&W's New Future's Programme

www.learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/new-futures

Reskilling for Net Zero (2022)

www.learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/reskilling-for-net-zero/

Adult Participation in Learning Survey 2022

www.learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/adult-participation-in-learning-survey-2022/

Skills for a Net-Zero Economy: Insights from Employers and Young People (2022)

www.learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/skills-for-net-zero/