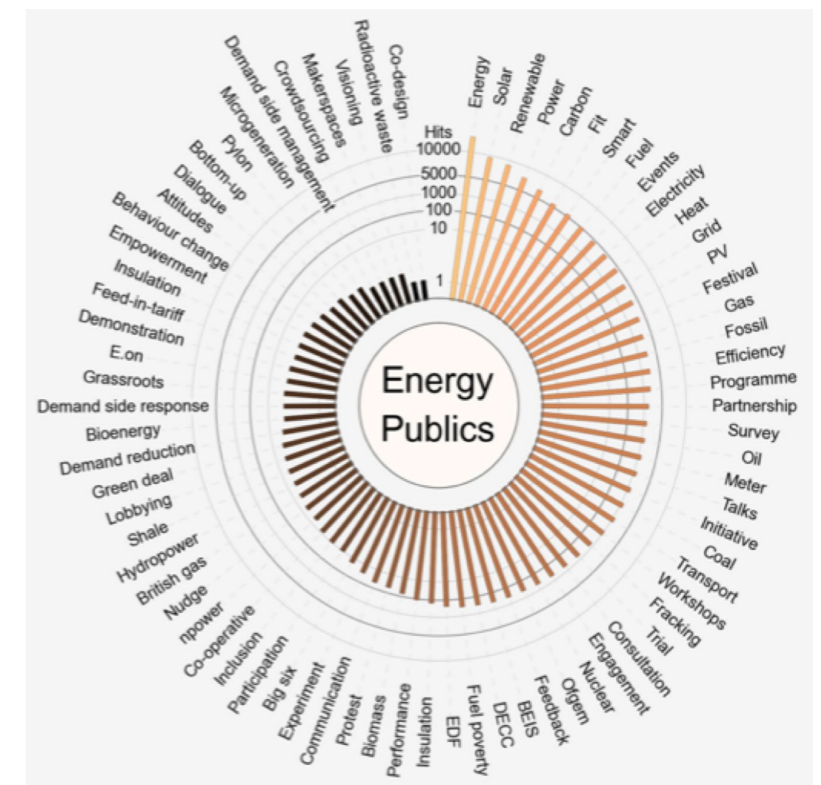



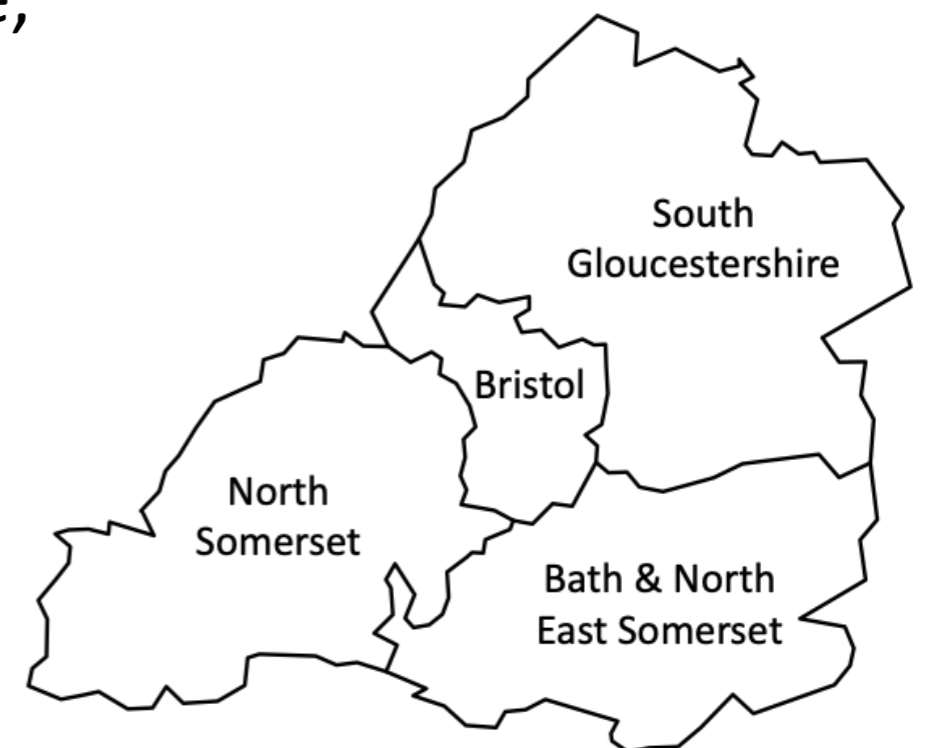
Public participation in a West of England energy transition: key patterns and trends

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- 
1. Transforming energy systems will require the involvement of **the public**
 2. **Energy participation** is more diverse than it was 20 years ago
 3. The West of England region **already** contains a significant amount of energy participation and its pretty diverse
 4. If 1 to 3 are true, then rather than **'more and better'** public engagement, then perhaps what's required is more **listening to** and **learning from** on what is already taking place,



Aim: Investigate how and where citizens are engaging with unfolding, regional energy transitions

Research objectives:

- To design and undertake a systematic mapping of energy participation within the West of England;
- To identify and illustrate key patterns and trends within contemporary regional energy participation;
- To reflect on what these findings might mean for developing a more sustainable, inclusive and socially just energy system in the region.

Research approach:

- Desire: transparent and replicable
- Issue: studying a diverse empirical phenomena
- Outcome: highly exploratory and experimental

A rapid assessment, based on the principles of a systemic review



↓
436 participatory events identified, between 2015-17

↓
Analysed (high-level) in terms of who, what, where and how of participation

*Big spreadsheet
(available online)*

↓
Search for patterns and trends

↓
Reflect on results

A rapid assessment, based on the principles of a systemic review

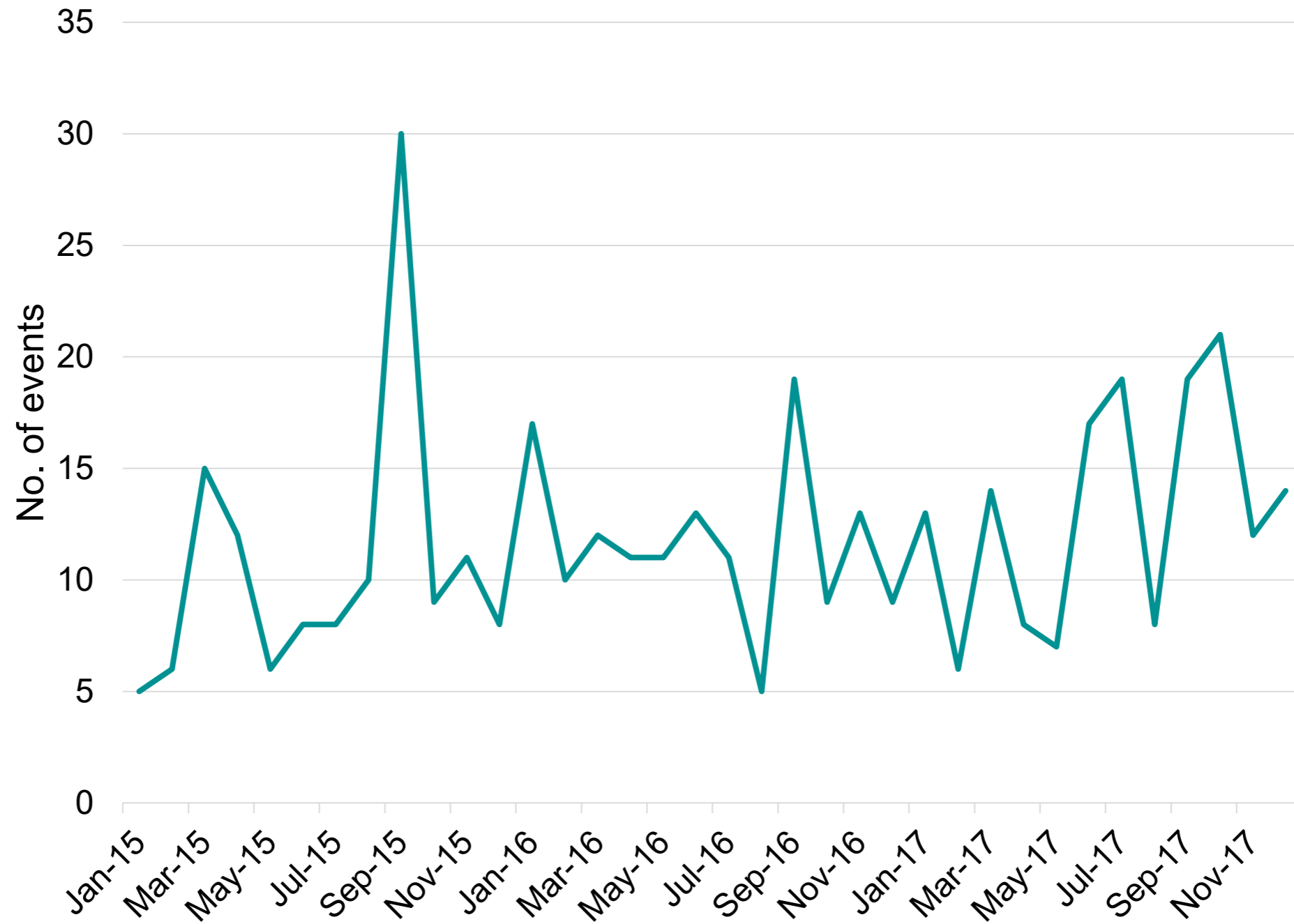


Caveats...

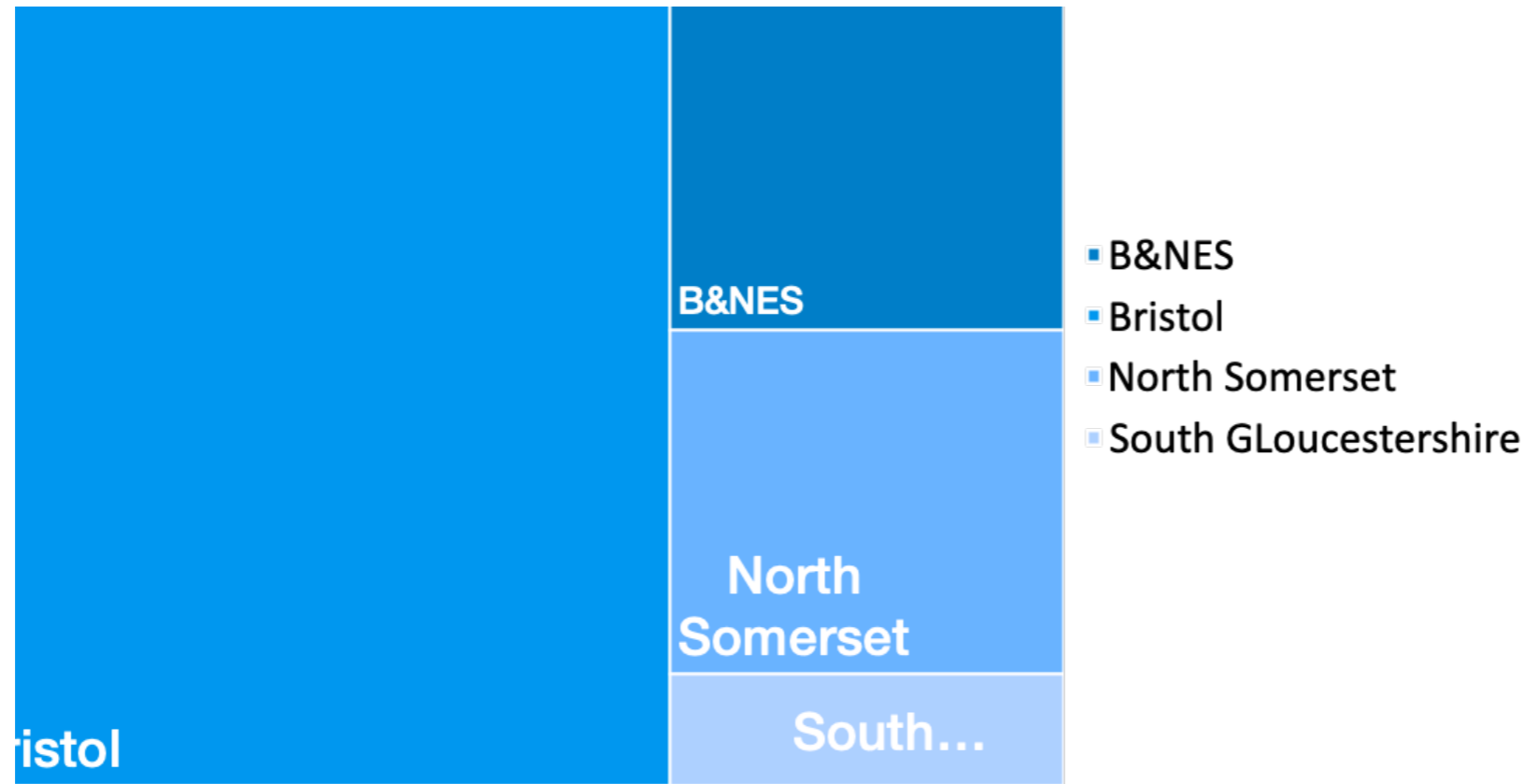
- Events have to be tweeted about,
- Twitter culture and use needs to be considered: twitterarty, echo-chamber etc.
- Method studied events as framed, not as performed...
- ...and only where there was follow up info (i.e. a url)
- Clear limitations with Twitters API,
- ...

Overall, the more I've learnt the less I'm convinced...

When did these 436 events occur?



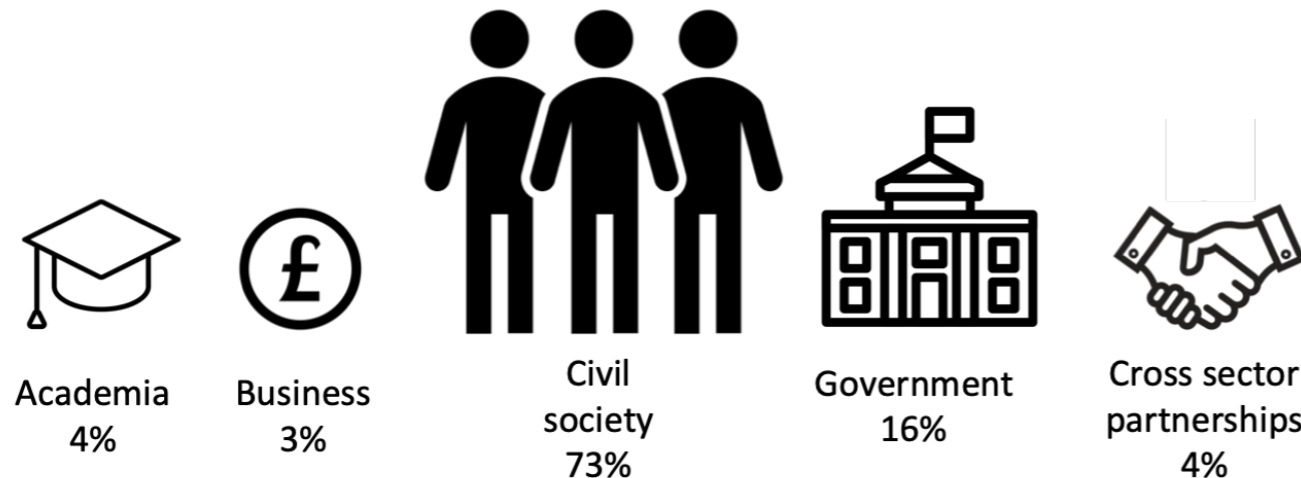
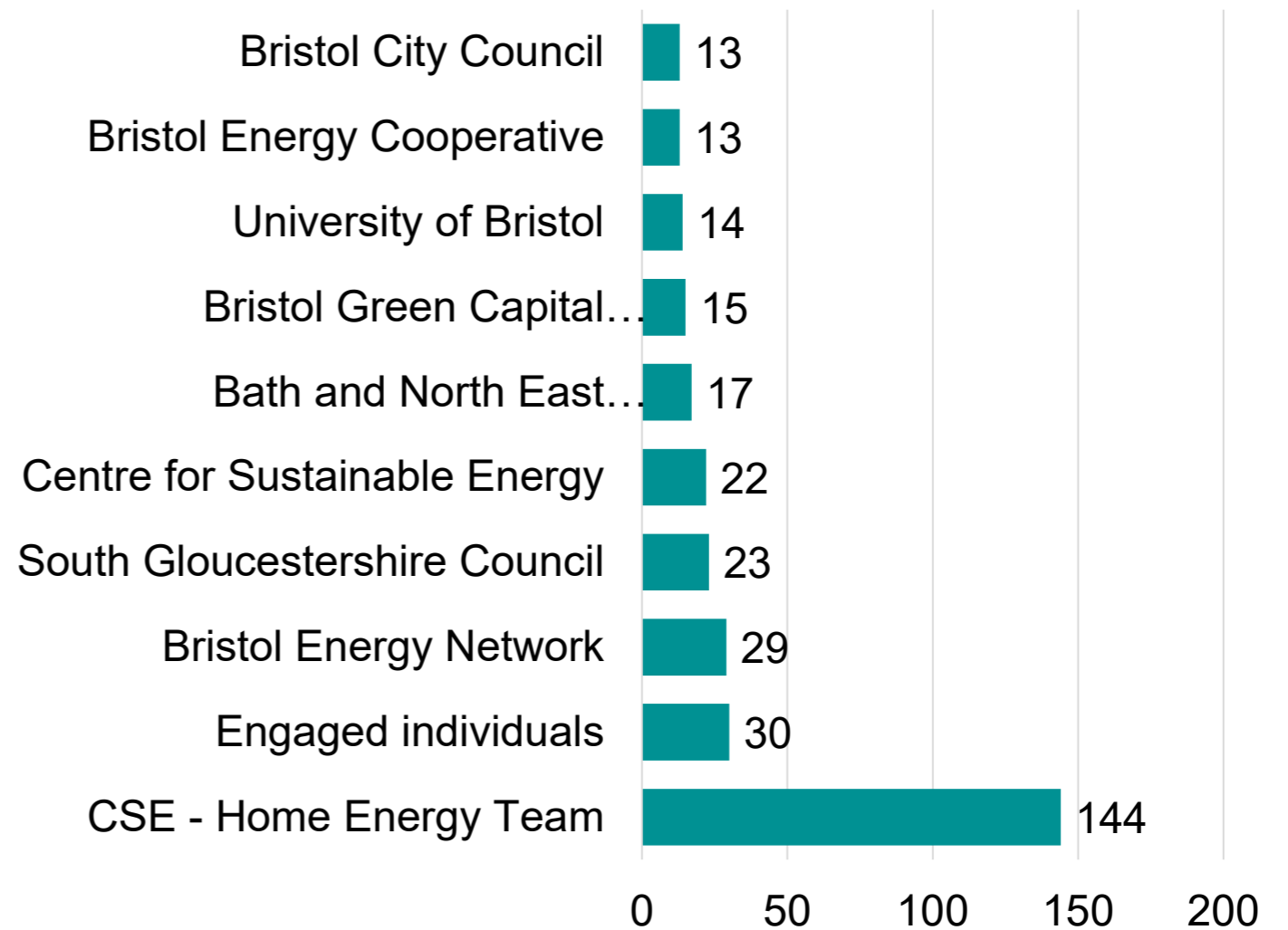
Where did they occur?



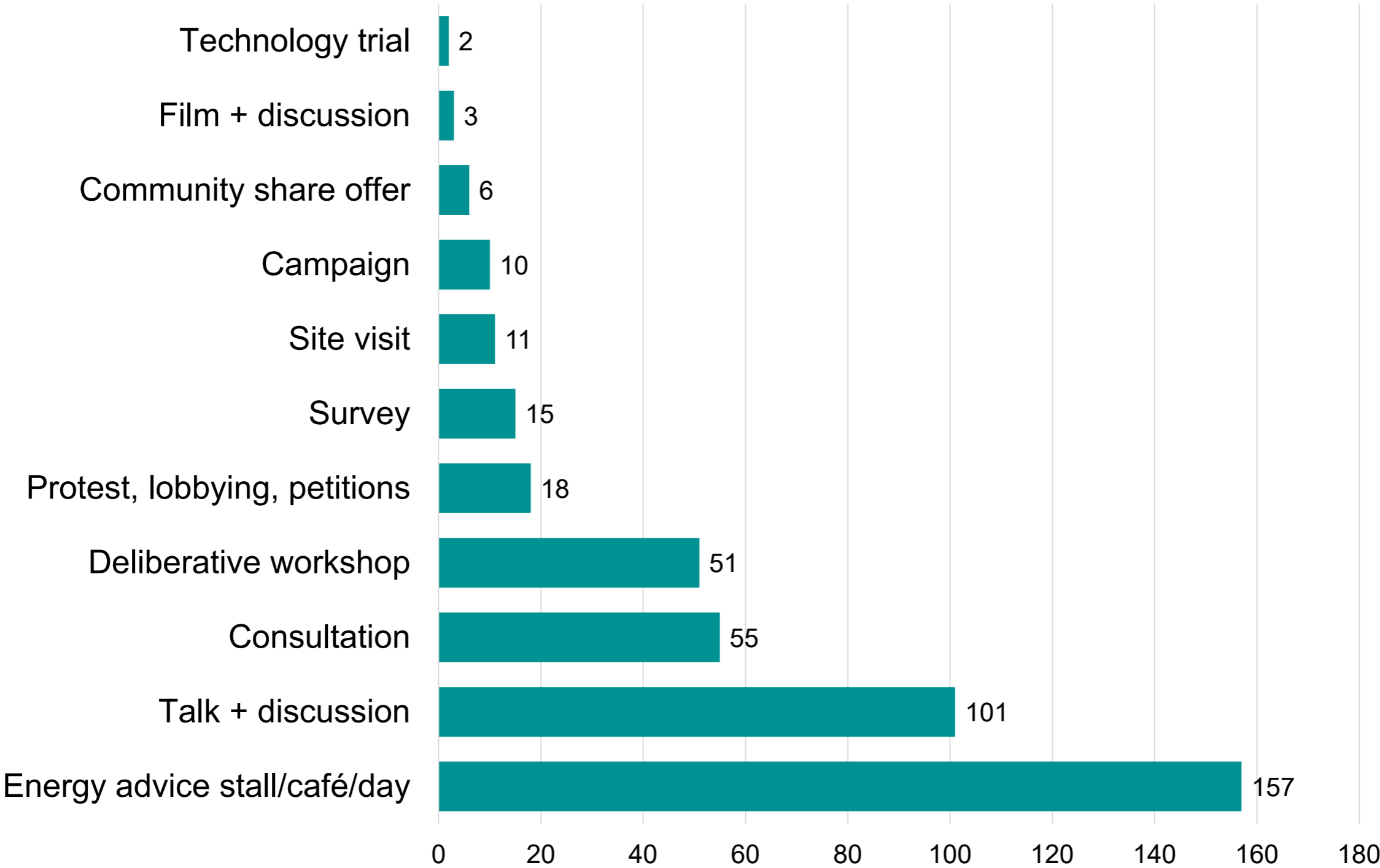
N= 380

Which organisations were facilitating these events?

- 74 organisations in total
- 38 facilitating only one event
- 22 conducting five or fewer
- 9 conducting more than 10

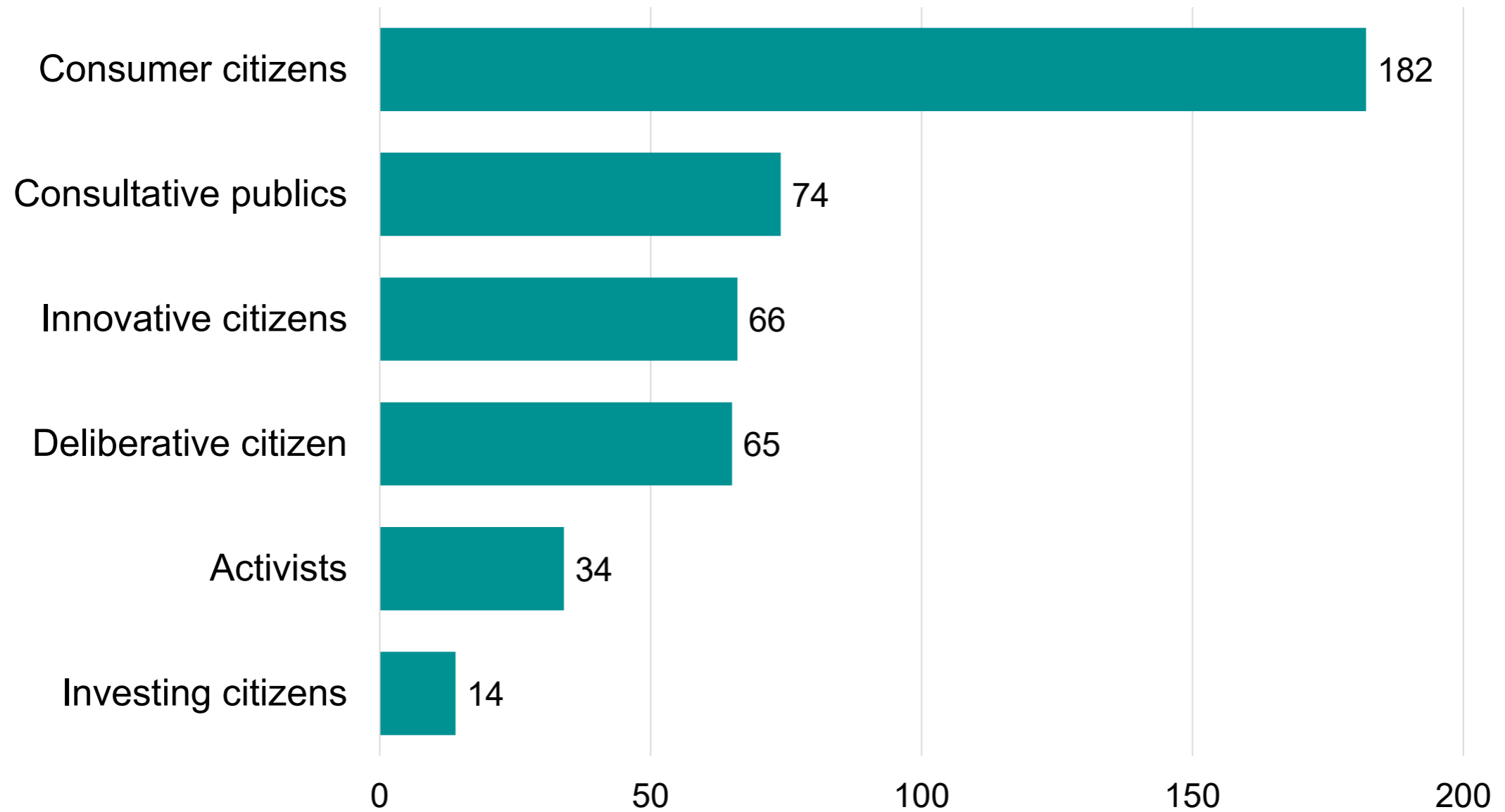


What were the dominant forms of participatory events?





How were participants framed in the event?





Where in the energy system is public participation targeted?



Supply
23%



Distribution
1%

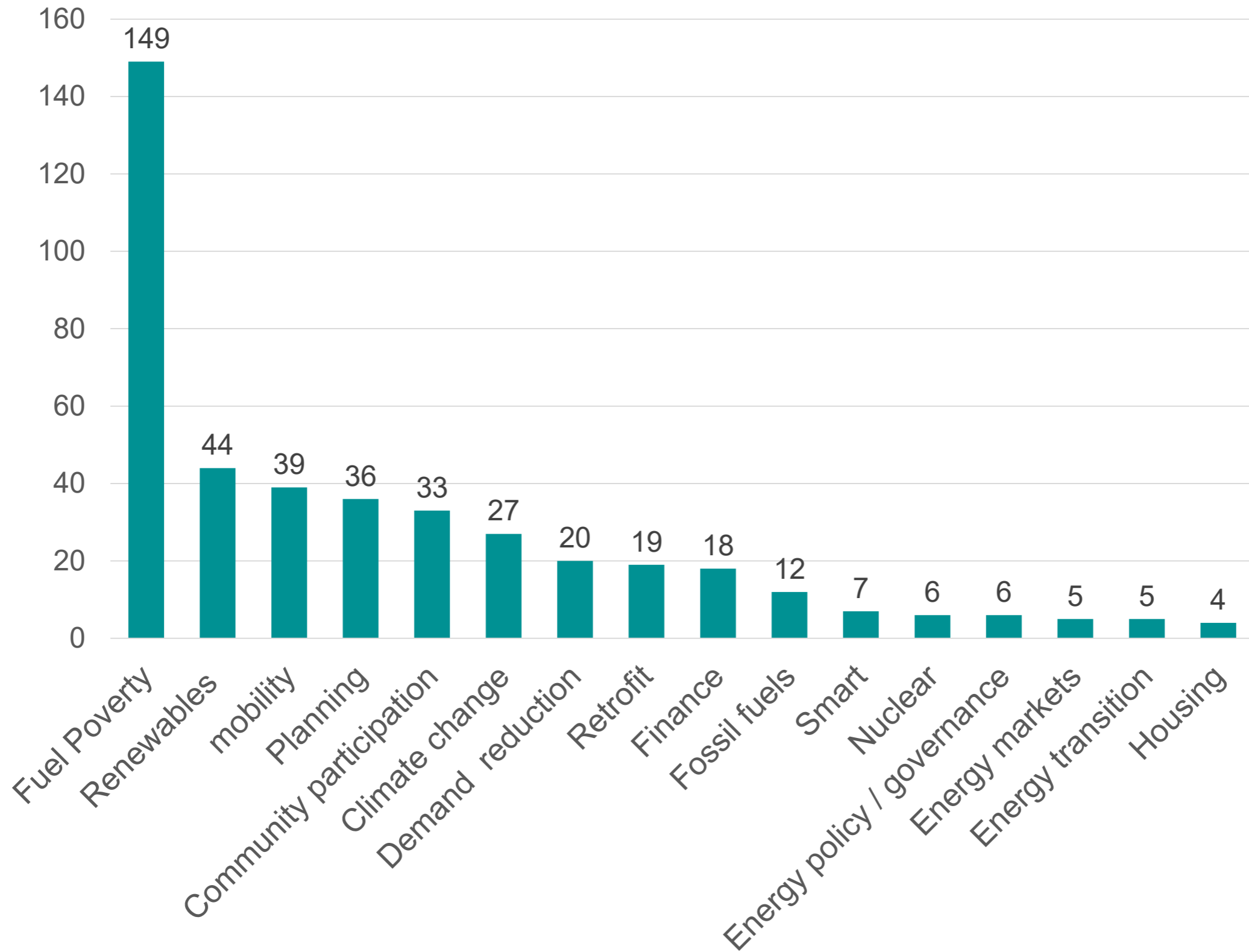


Use
76%

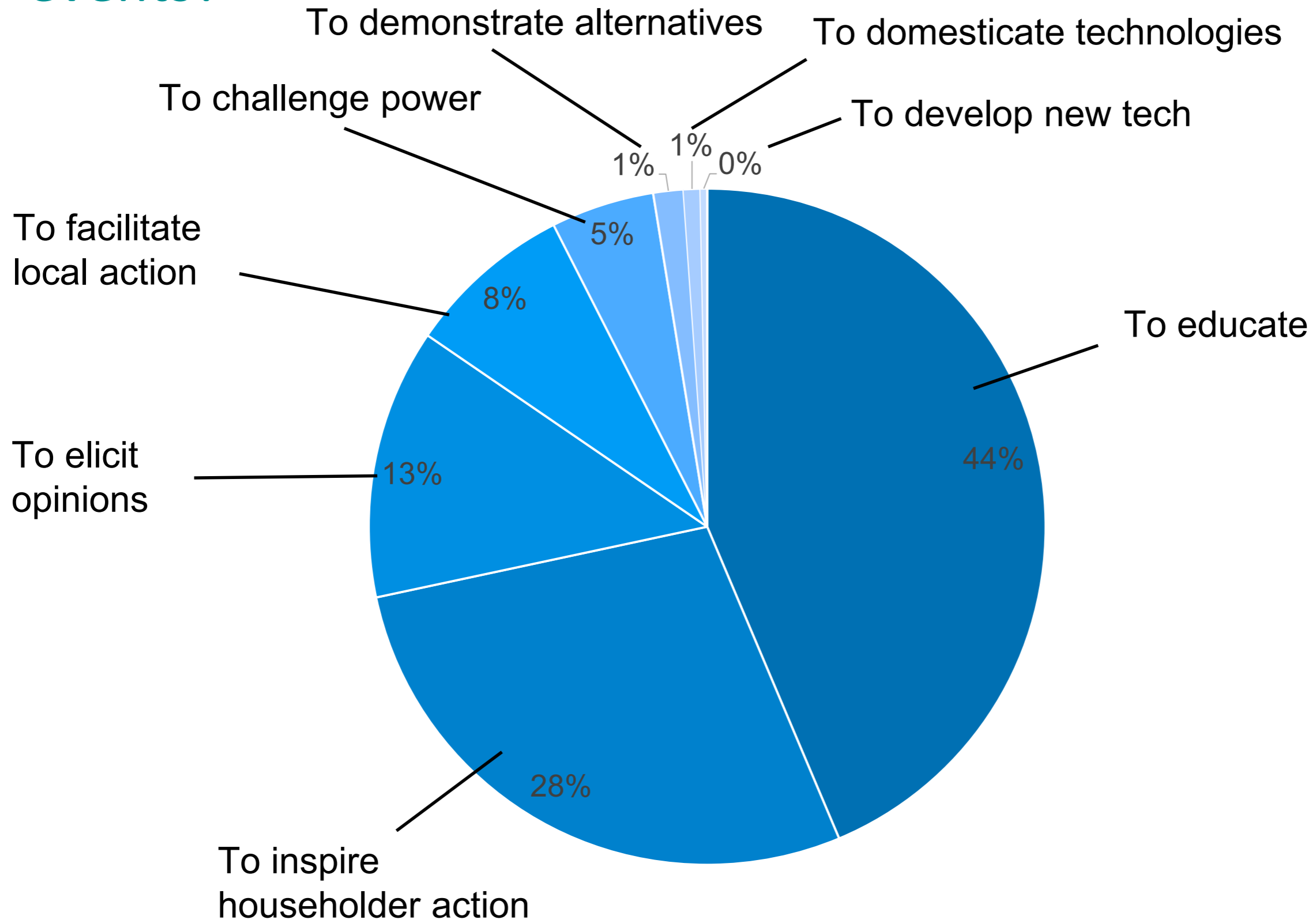
(65 unclear)



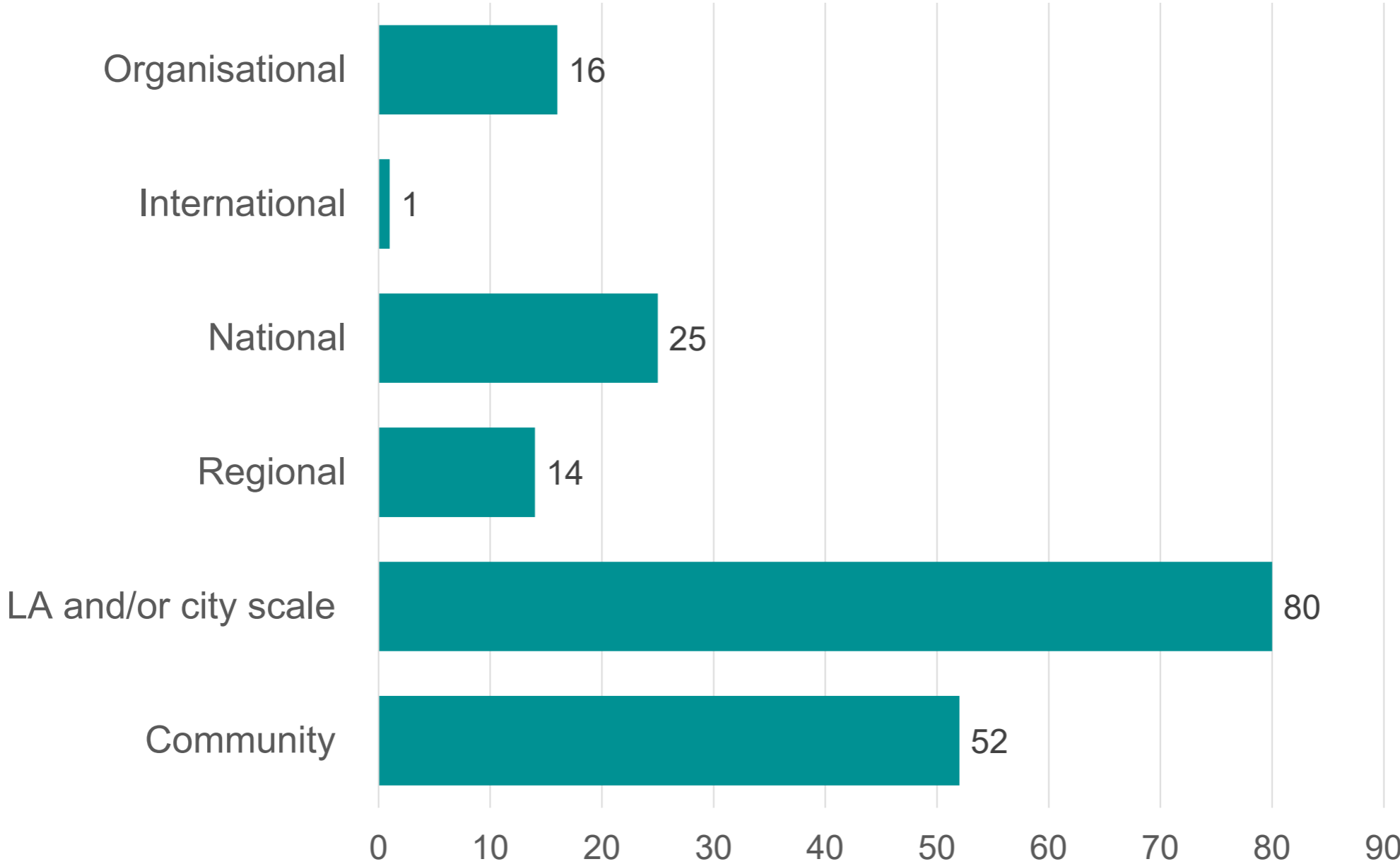
What energy framing is participation organised around?



What is the (implicit) purpose of the participatory events?



At what governance scale are the outcomes of public participation directed?





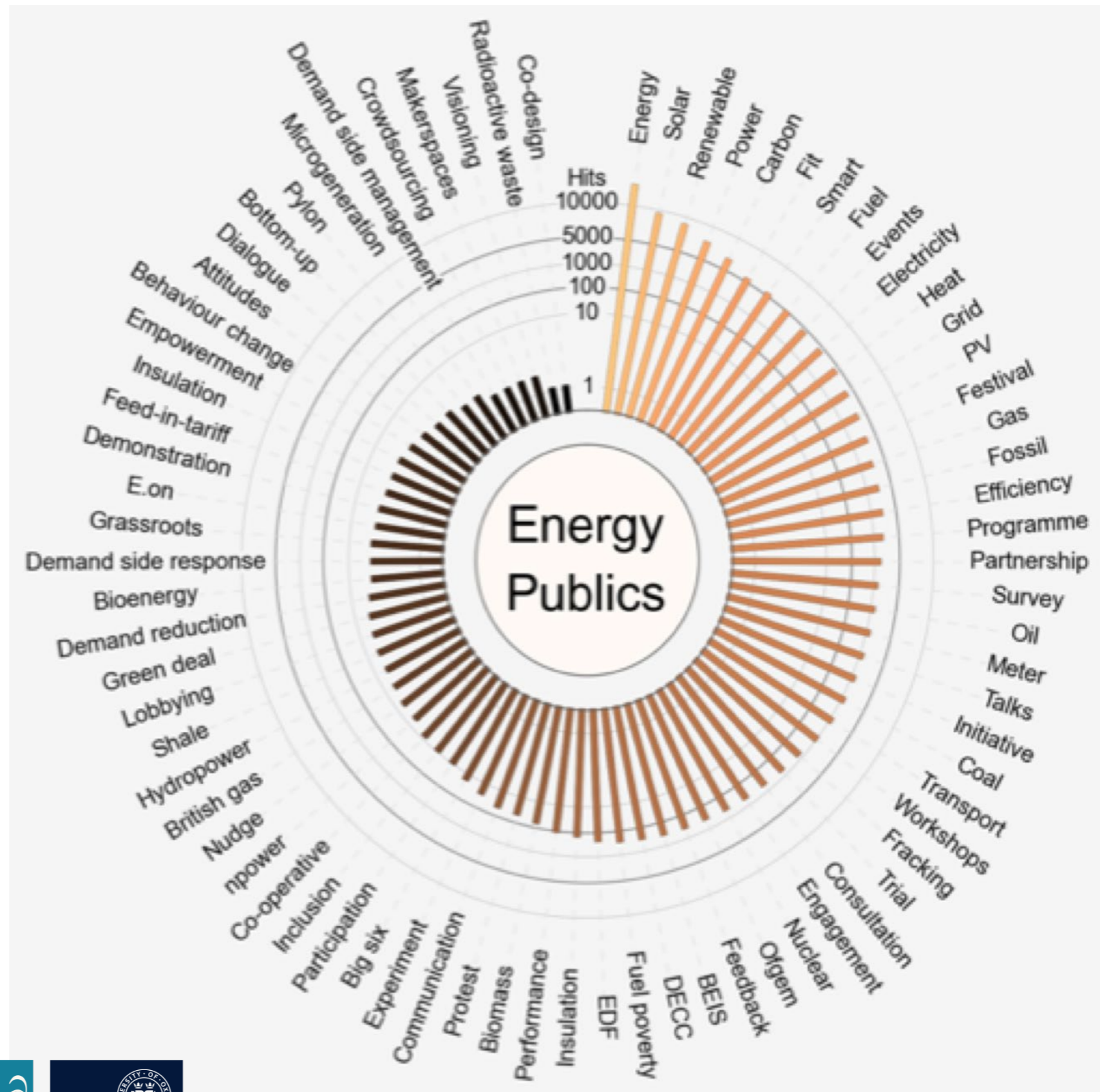
Reflections (1)

- The region contains many instances of energy participation ... *but largely Bristol-based*
- Energy participation is led by a diverse range of organisations, although some more active than others and *we're probably missing business & academia activity*
- Traditional forms of participation only account for a small percentage of events captured. The majority is led by civil society, is more informal, more exploratory
 - *Scope for broadening institutional listening?*
- Regional energy participation appear to be quite fragmented...
 - *Is there potential to better link up or orchestrate participation? e.g. through wider campaigns but need for coordination...?*

Reflections (2)

- Across the dataset, you can distil 3 basic categories:
 - To educate and engage (44%),
 - To facilitate action (38%) and
 - To contribute to decision-making (18%).
 - *Majority of participation is about 'doing change'*
- Hard to argue against more participation in a diverse array of formats, locations and topics,
 - *But...whats come before should be considered, as should what the overall purpose is*
- Finally, approach says little about governance (not directly studied).
 - *Need to study interaction between participation and governance directly*

Thanks!



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