

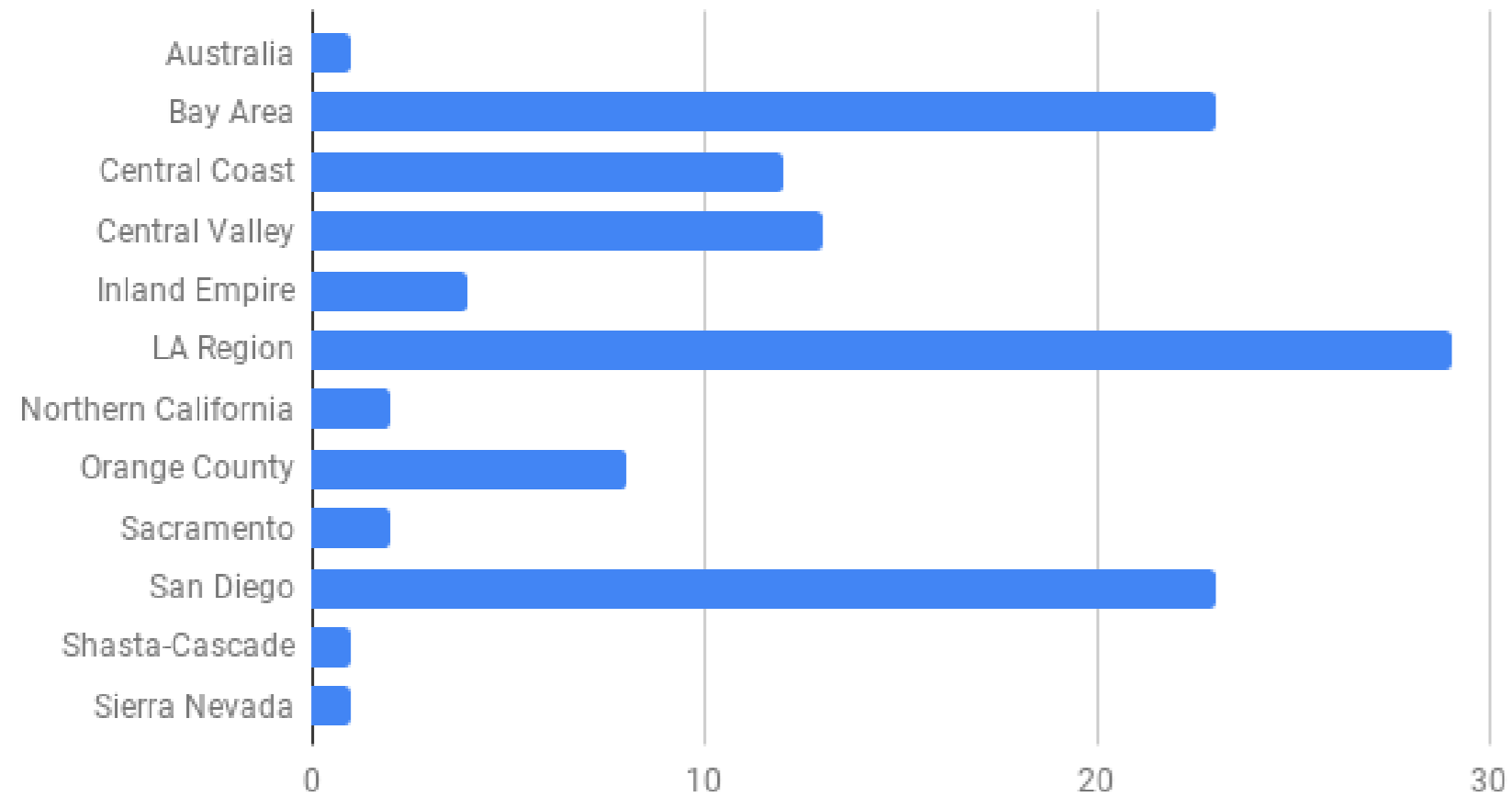


Planning 4 Trees

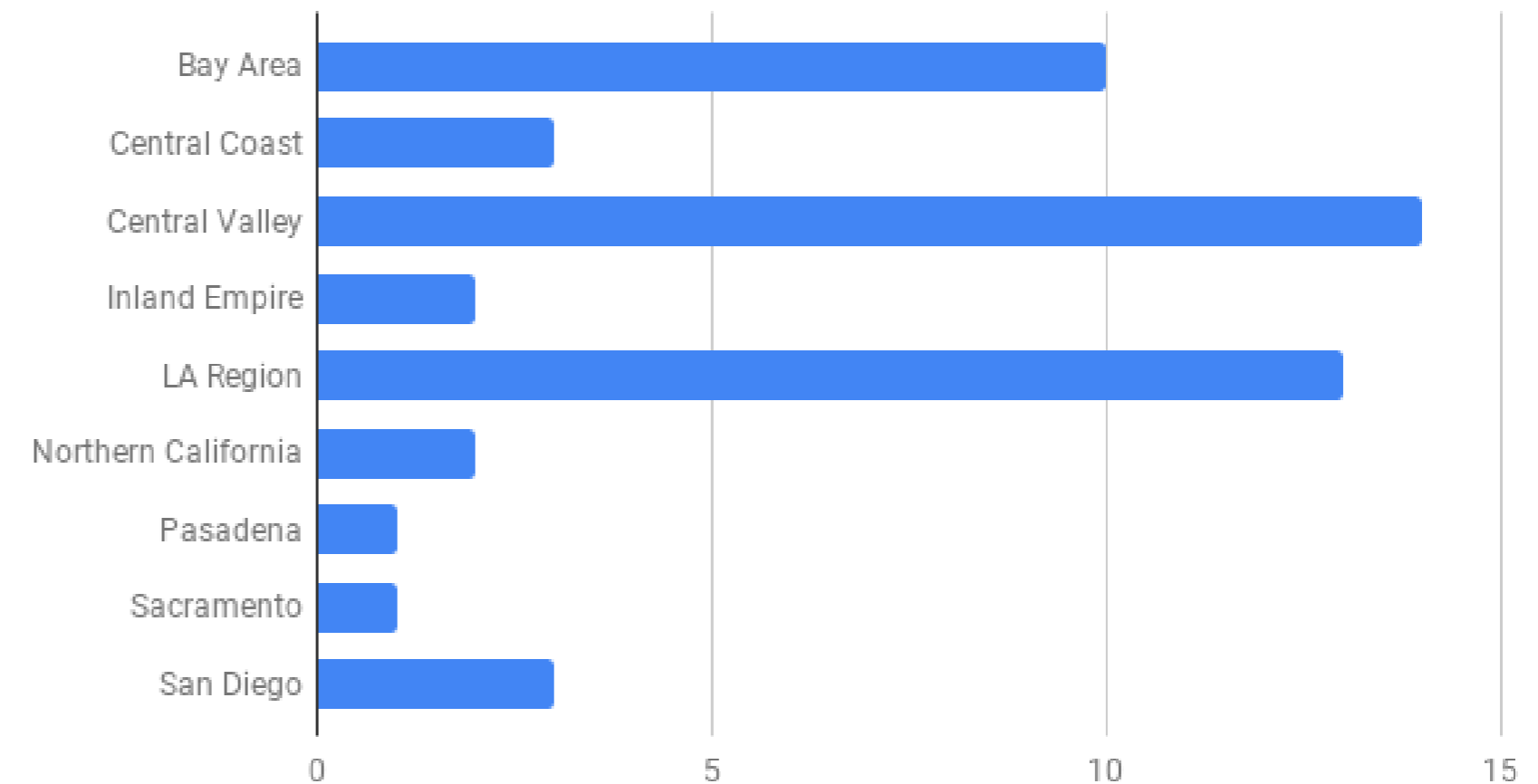
Julia Lave Johnston, California Chapter APA President
& Cindy Blain, California ReLeaf

Where Are You Located?

119 Planners

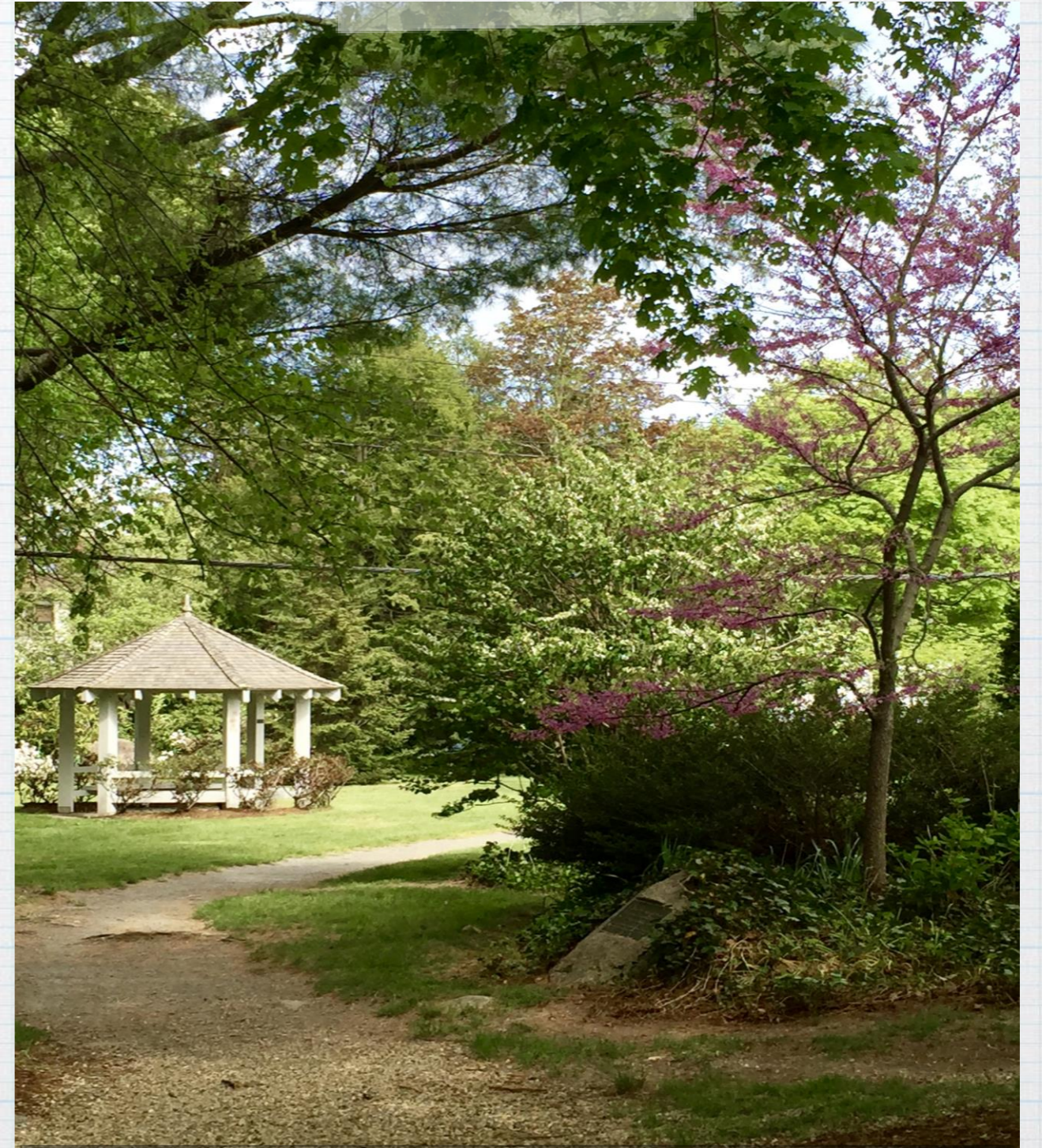


49 Urban Forestry Professionals



Do Planners Love Trees?

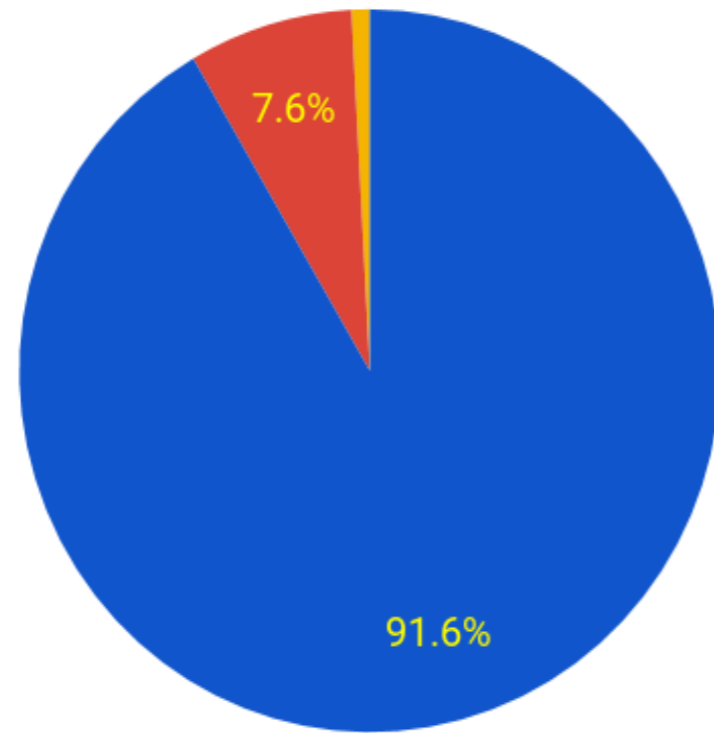
- * **89%** say it is important to include shade trees in plans & designs.



Why?

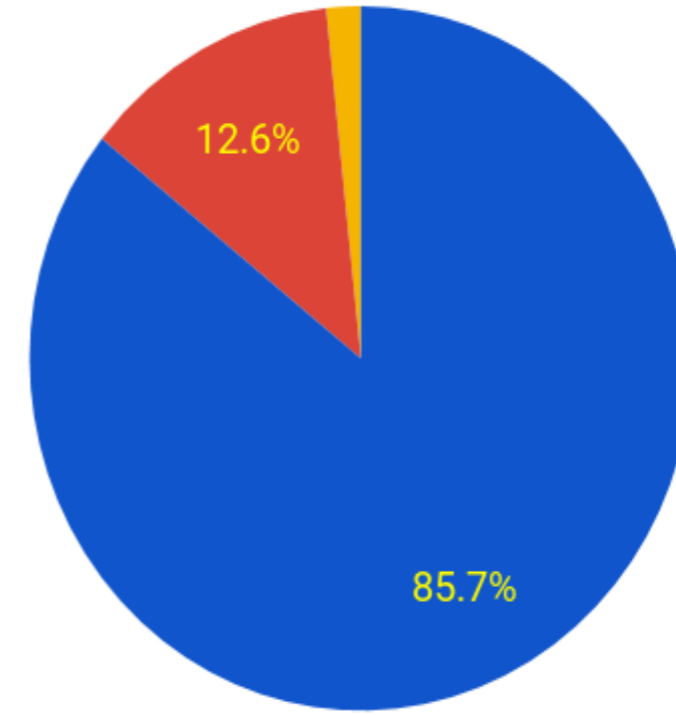
Beautification

- A Lot
- Some
- None



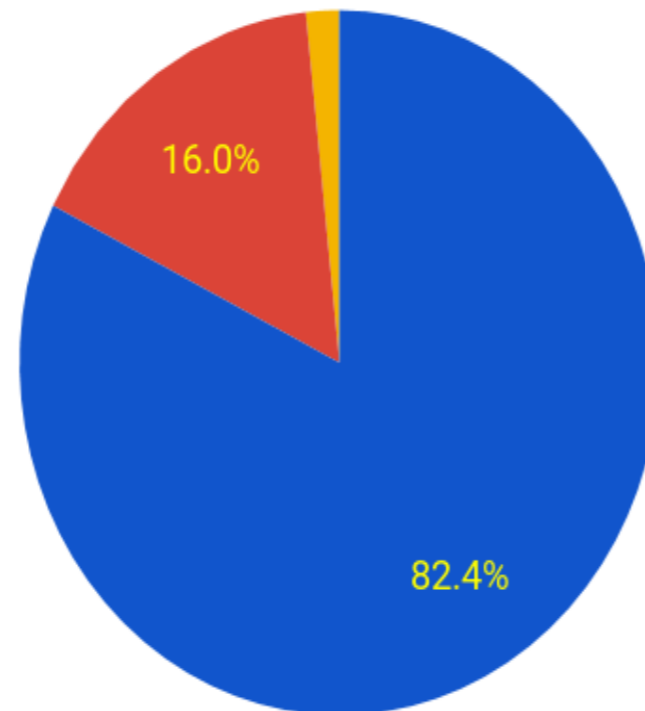
Urban Heat Island Deduction

- A Lot
- Some
- None



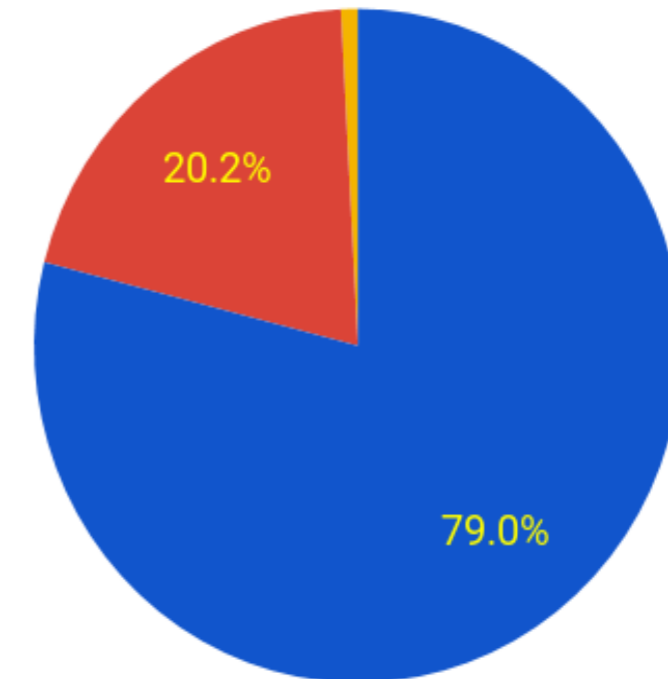
Human Health Benefits

- A Lot
- Some
- None

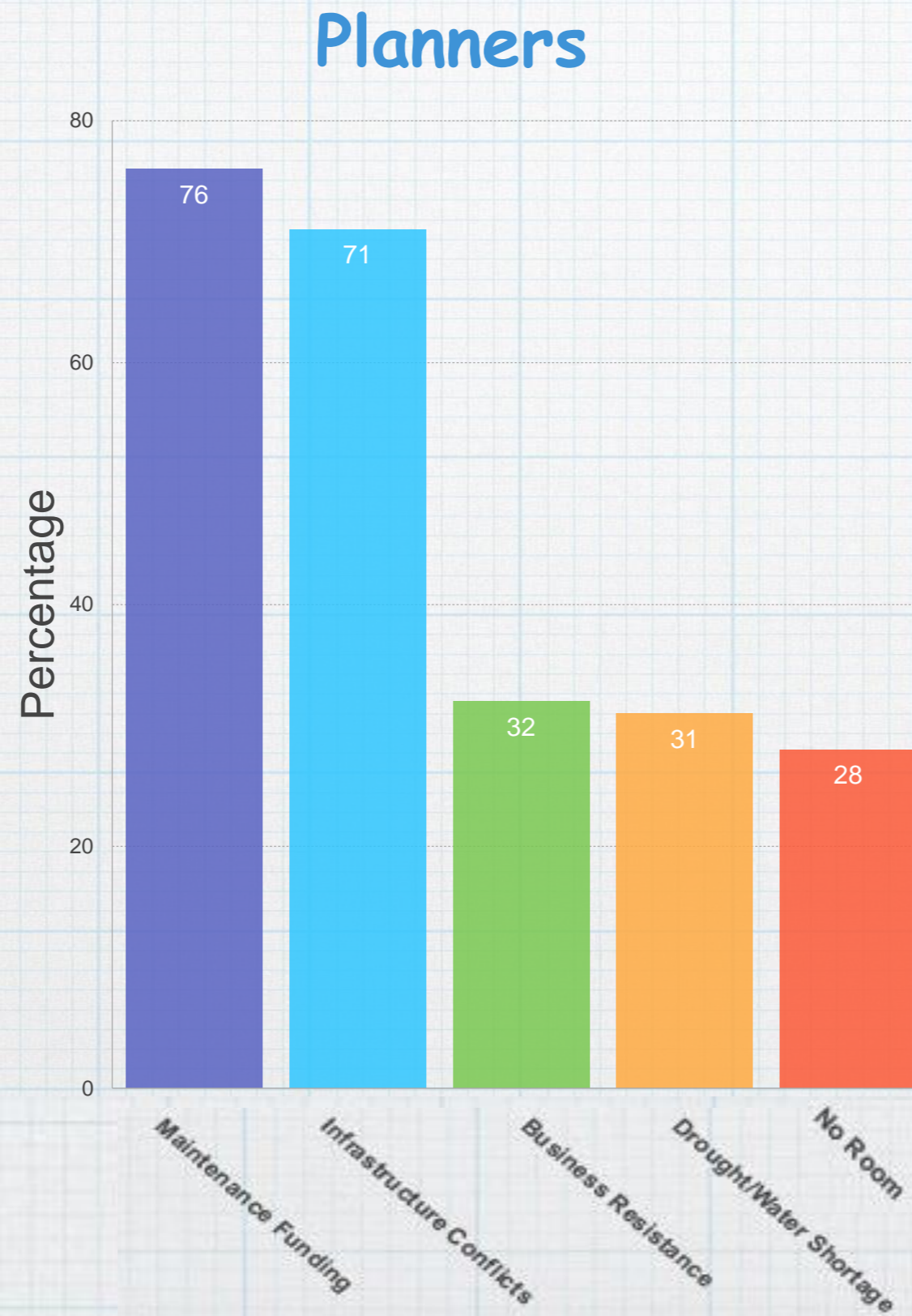


Air Quality Improvement

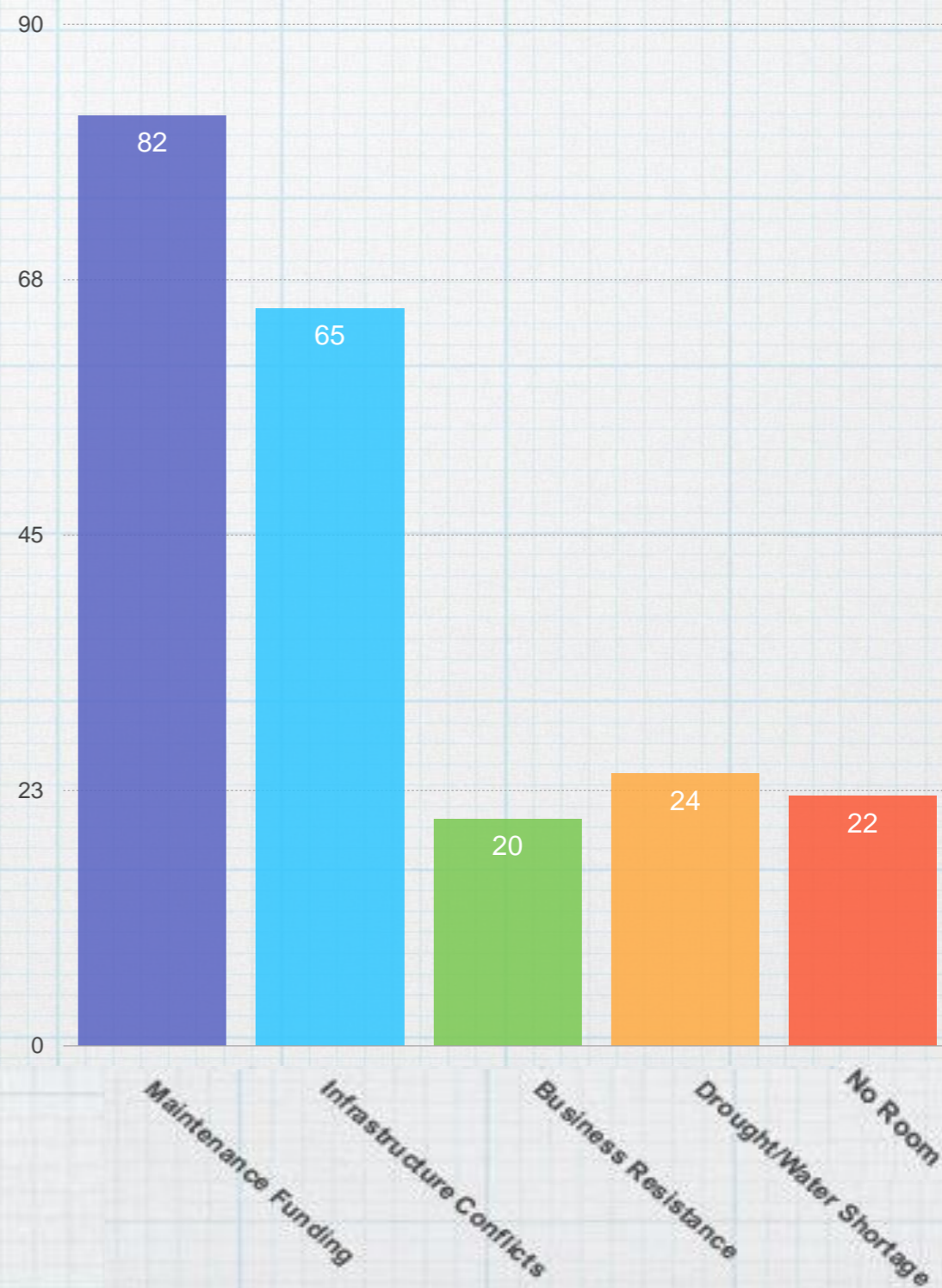
- A Lot
- Some
- None



Barriers to Planting Trees



Urban Forest Professionals



Why Connect with Planners?



- * Urban Pressures → Need planners to plan enough space
- * Planners now thinking sustainability & UHI
- * They understand city processes and ordinances
 - * Can help protect trees from threats
 - * Can help you navigate city processes

Working Together



- * Ecosystem Services
- * Equity & Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
- * Climate Change
- * Developing Best Practices & pilots for collaboration
- * Partnering for Funding

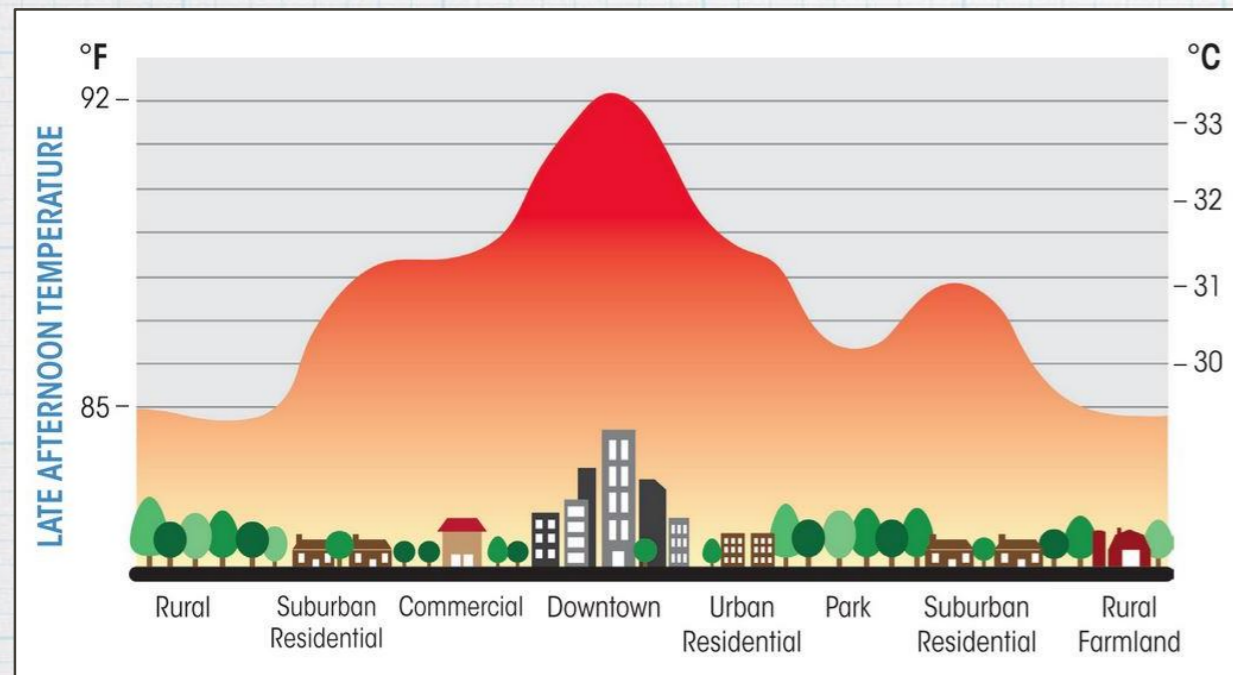
BFFs: Planners Want to Collaborate

- * More communication & engagement
- * Earlier engagement of Urban Foresters to identify trees & review plans
- * Information on how to successfully integrate trees & infrastructure/retail
- * Accessible best practices for using trees in projects
- * Collaborative trainings
- * Coordination on how to educate home & business owners



“Come talk to us!”

- * “Establish relations with planning offices to know when...working on relevant planning documents”. *LA*
- * “Provide assistance / make appropriate tree-related comments on development project applications”. *Central Valley*
- * “[Trees] need to be part of the discussion much earlier & prioritized throughout plan development”. *San Diego*
- * “Would be great to have [UF] team on projects where urban forestry plays a role. **UHI, active transportation plans...**” *Central Valley*



Mixed Messages

- * “Most planners are unfamiliar with the related sciences. Carbon Sequestration and UHI are a nice story but quantitative benefit is small”. *LA*
- * “People don’t understand the huge benefits of trees to UHI”. *Orange County*
- * Natives vs non-natives. *All over*



Urban Forest Community Concerns

- * “Funding. Funding would help make this shift”. *Bay Area*
- * “Central issue is bandwidth...limited staff time & resources.” *LA*
- * This is an unfunded activity. Could be part of AB1530 planning initiative.”
Central Valley



Some UF Solutions

- * Regular meeting with our city manager. *SoCal*
- * Guidelines to help guide the conversation – a toolkit. *SoCal*
- * Often it is Public Works and building inspectors who need to be educated. *Central Valley*
- * Be tenacious as heck. *LA*
- * It's about personal relationship cultivation and knowledge of exemplary / model cities.



Different Approaches?

- * Invite new Board members who can help – who have city or planning backgrounds or who like to attend city council, planning commission, and other meetings.
- * Educate all staff and board on how local planners and city politics work. Invaluable for any nonprofit professional.
- * Leverage public policy college students as interns to support your local education effort with electeds and city staff.

New ReLeaf Educational Resources

Coming
soon!

<https://californiareleaf.org/resources/plan4urbantrees/>

- * Podcasts, websites, and webinars
- * Twitter feeds and terminology
- * Survey comments by region
- * Messaging sound bites & quotes
- * UHI Research
- * Case studies (later this summer)





Contact your local APA Section!

<https://www.apacalifornia.org/local-sections/>