



# Braidwood Clean Energy Survey

This survey was conducted by Helen Haski.

The participants were all those that attended the first BCE meeting in 2021.

These 8 people were:

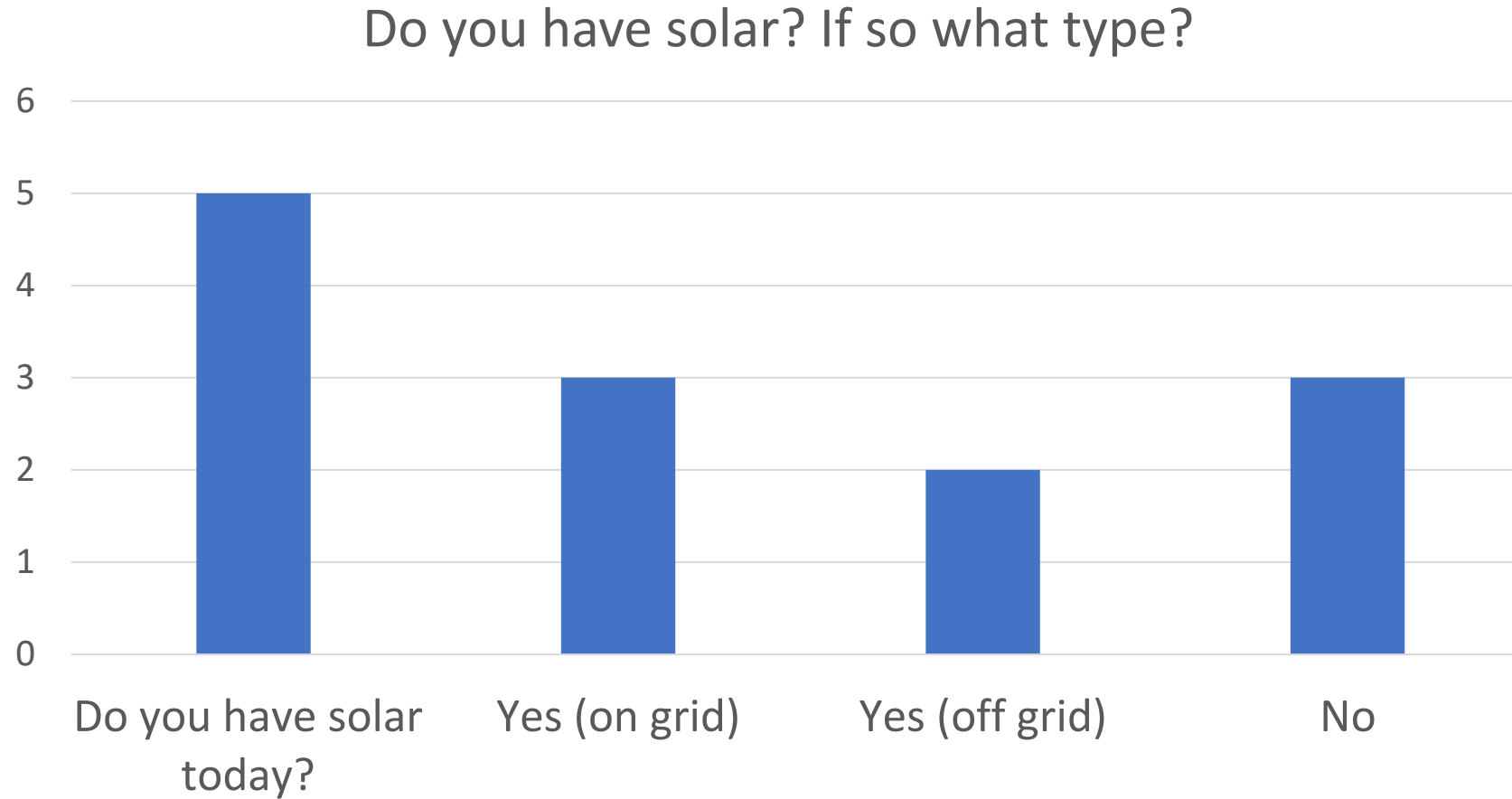
*Helen Haski, John Gannon, Julia Green, Andrew Clark, Sue Rendell, Richard Eliot, Michele Munn & John Tuckwell (JT)*

To increase frank feedback, the survey was designed to be anonymous.

Where names are mentioned, permission was sought.



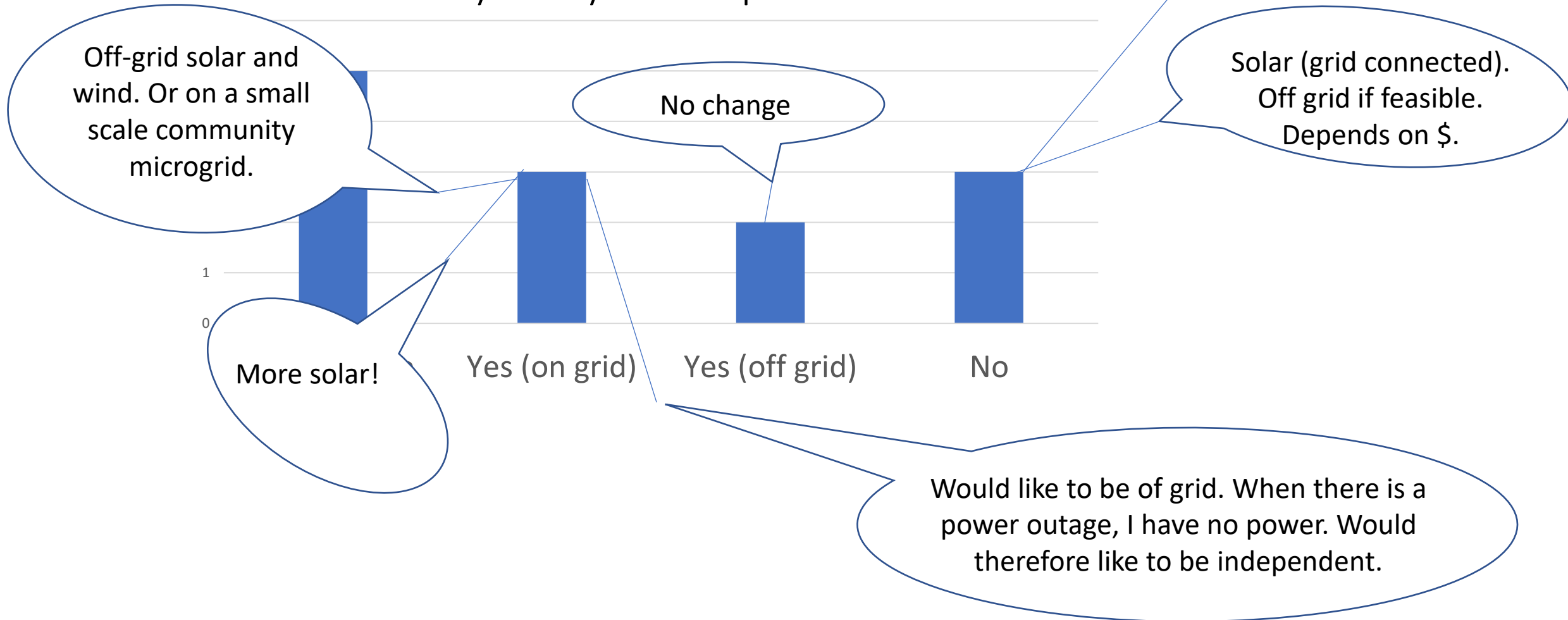
# About our members





# About our members

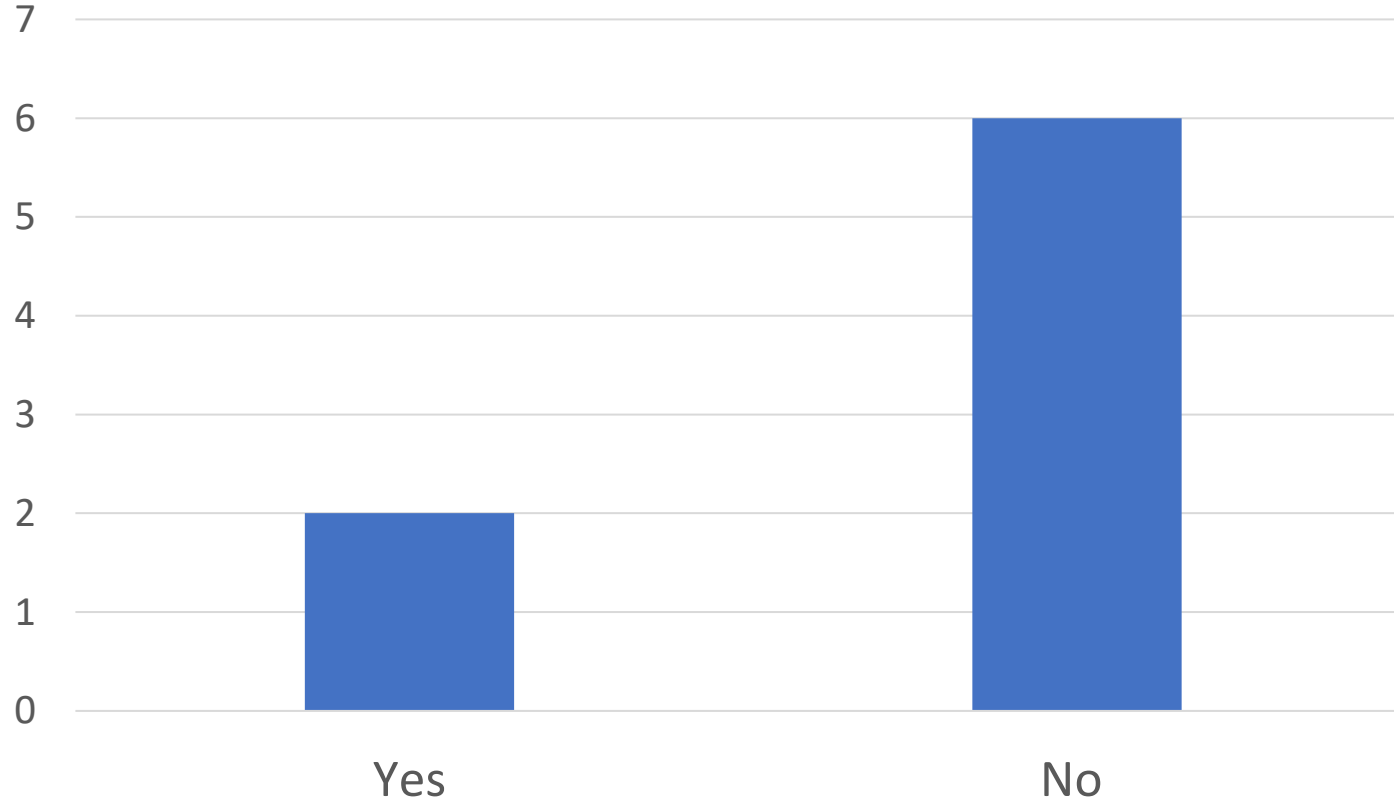
How would you like your home powered in the future?





# About our members

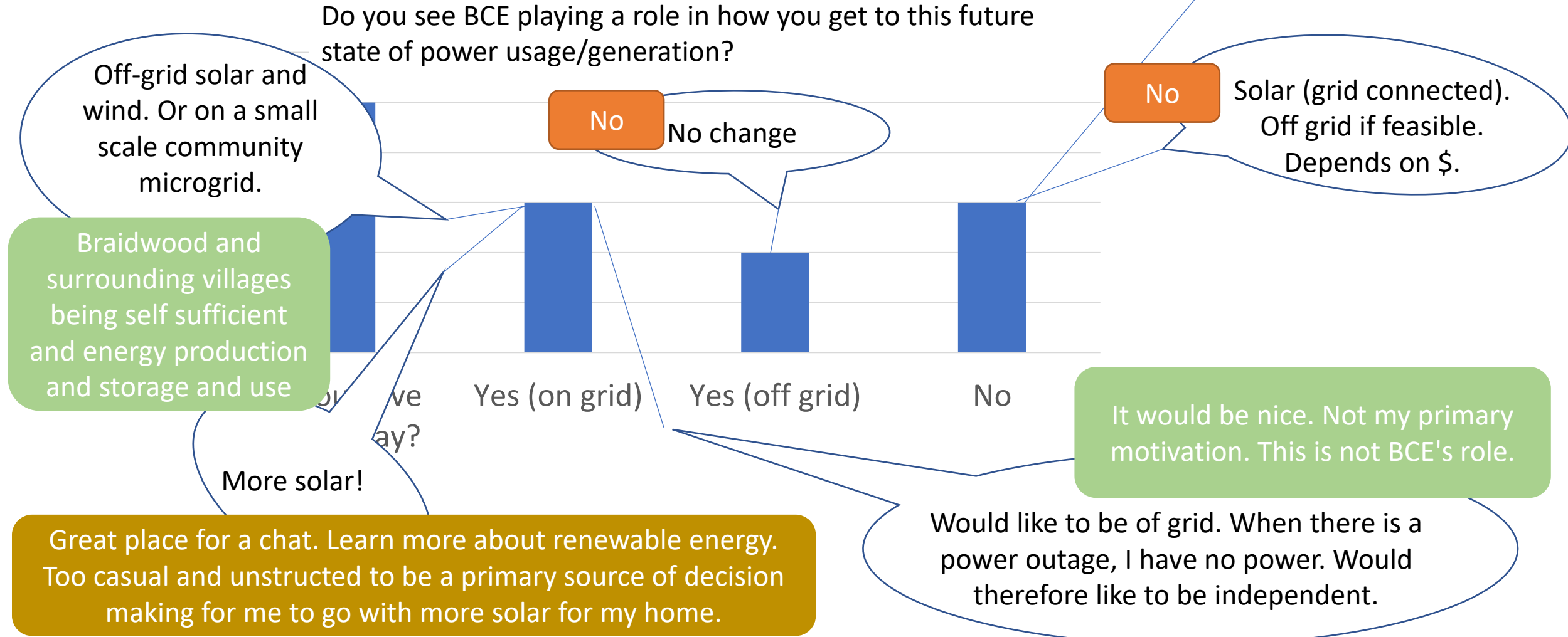
Do you see BCE playing a role in how you get to this future state of power usage/generation?





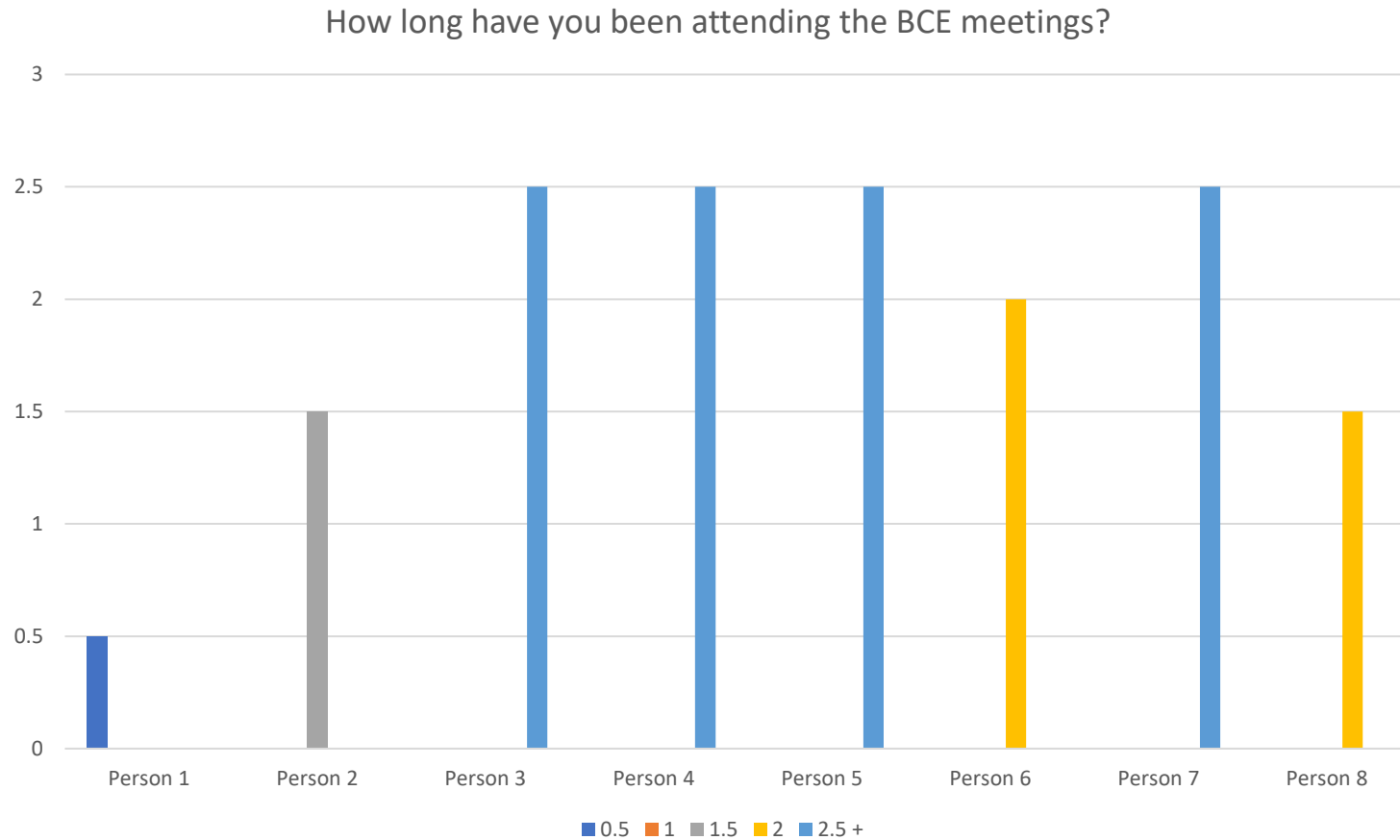
# About our members

Do you see BCE playing a role in how you get to this future state of power usage/generation?





# About BCE Meetings



Average number  
of meetings per  
person = 5

People that said  
2.5 years  
sometimes said  
'possibly more'



# About BCE Meetings

What was your favourite BCE meeting and why?

Don't have a favourite meeting.

1st meeting in the pub and the one at Smokey Horse as they attracted people who were interested and a number joined in the conversation.

The one with the mate of Geoff's from Canberra.

Meeting on insulation at the Life Centre.

Meeting on insulation (Life Centre) - healthy dynamic. Low level practical can do stuff.

Last one as Helen proposed getting things moving.

Canberra Talk on setting up clean energy systems for people in Canberra that can't afford it (Smokey Horse). Seemed to be something 'going on'.

First one. Opportunities we were to pursue came from the floor. Covered many topics/issues. Those running the meeting had a clear focus.



# About BCE Meetings

**What do you want to see more of?**

More engagement from the floor. Discussion around solutions other than pumped hydro.

Progress towards goals.

More education in general about what they can do: solar, energy savings for their house.

Small achievable projects. Rather than biting off more than we can chew at an early stage.

At AGM we passed a resolution to get consultants to do a feasibility study (?)



# About BCE Meetings

What do you want to see MORE of?

Education sessions about the news and practical information to attract more members i.e. how to insulate your home or make use of renewable power sources available on your property (hydro, wind, solar, battery, biogas etc.).

Change of focus and strategy. Last meeting highlighted the meetings need structure and a need for change. We heard from Geoff who raised number points already raised. He then referred to Richard and Paul and they all said what they said at previous meetings. So wasn't any progression of anything or any reason for actually having the meeting. If it is to become an information spreading session then there needs to be new information. Or if is going to be an idea that is going to galvanise on certain actions there needs to be a process to make those actions - give momentum to them.



# About BCE Meetings

What do you want to see MORE of?

Progress. Do agree that first meeting had new ideas and potential broad range of what the organisation was about. In addition to the pumped hydro idea (which I think is brilliant), helping people with insulation in their homes, there's lots of possibility. Everyone is trying to be polite with everybody and everybody needs to be heard and that's important but we need to get to the point, like Helen did.

Discussion on EV charge stations. Would be good to have an EV charge station in Braidwood. We could lobby for it. Near the playground would be ideal as it is off street, does not infringe on other cars, it's near toilets, park, pool and there's coffee nearby.



# About BCE Meetings

**What do you want to LESS more of?**

Talk about political parties. I think it is possible to break down current events into practical information that explains the facts without name calling.

Going over the same territory.

Lack of implementation process.

Wasted time talking about what was discussed at the last meeting.

Politics. I'd like to see no politics (national). You can't have politics in a community based forum to start with.

Dwindling numbers around the group. Attrition.

Richard's stuff (referring to the news articles) is good but doesn't move us forward. Mostly read it already.



# About BCE Meetings

## Constructive Comments (not sought, simply given)

- Nothing has really happened. Who, what, how, no promises, nothing on website then stuff gone up recently.
- Wasn't aware specific topics were no longer discussed. Enthusiastic about off grid i.e. helping those in the community go off-grid or those that are off grid. Yet I told it was taken off the agenda – I was told someone who was not a committee member.
- I'd like to see small lectures and information sharing so people can come along and learn something. Not large projects.
- Sue Rendell "Ran the folks music club - while the festival became the main event we still ran the club meetings which were not about the festival and this worked well. Can boil a few pots at the same time. Do the small stuff that you can do easily as well as taking on something a bit bigger."
- Need a vision so can buy into it. Our community will get stronger if we find ways around for ourselves.



# About BCE Meetings

## Comments on meeting frequency...

Quarterly curated meetings sounds about right.

Frequency is fine. COVID affected it but that's understandable.

Fine to have 1 per quarter. With no clear objective or agenda more frequent meetings will not serve a purpose.

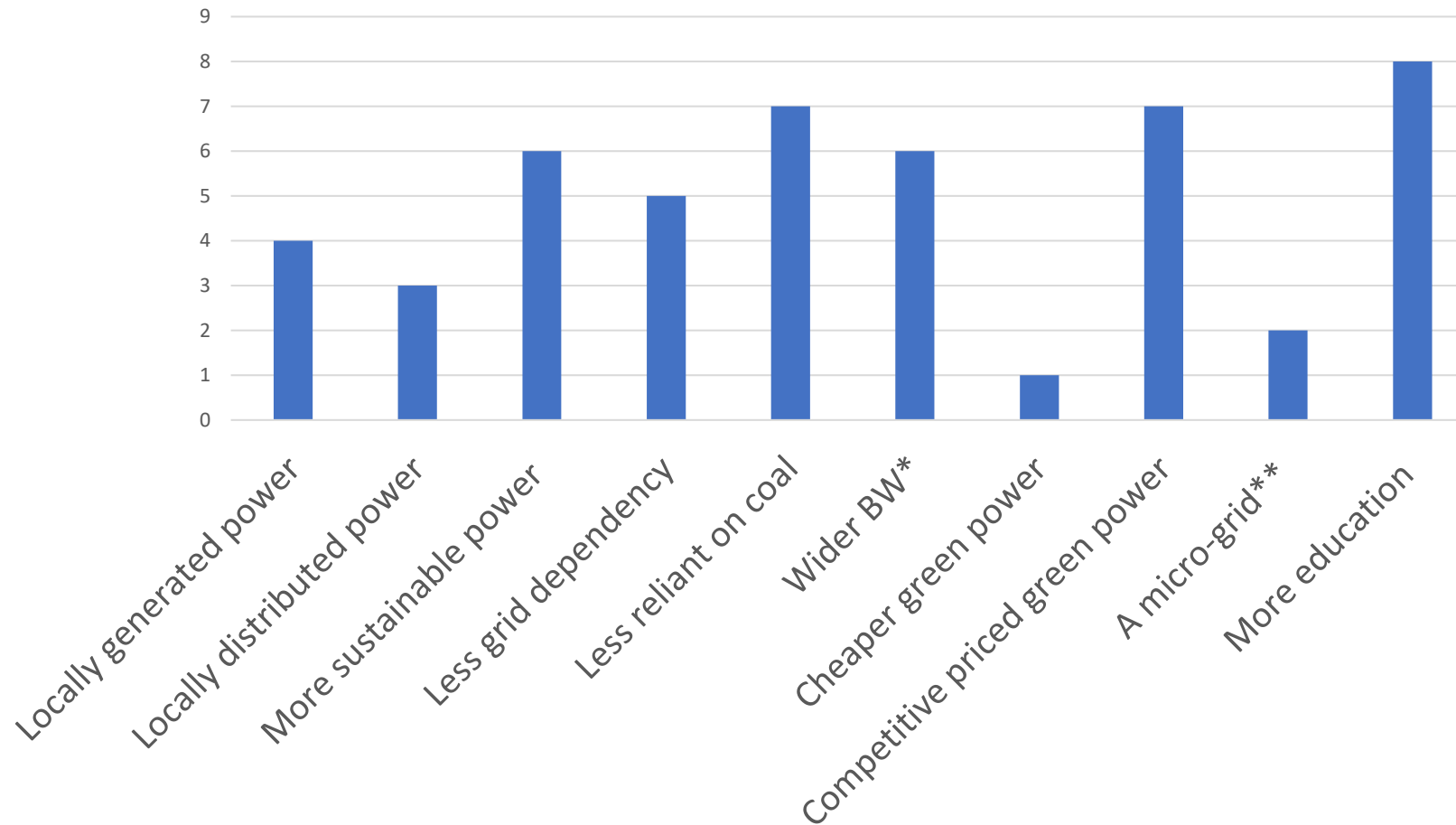
Once a month I could handle but not too much more. Might need more frequent if a lot is happening otherwise can meet less frequently. Sub-committees could meet in-between.

Do need regular meetings (1 per month). Nothing new, no need. Just have them 'ad hoc' then.



# About BCE Vision

Purpose of BCE is to help to provide ...



Wider BW\*  
community w/  
sustainable power

A micro-grid\*\*  
(i.e. Independent  
from NEM,  
separate from but  
connected to  
main grid)



# About BCE Vision

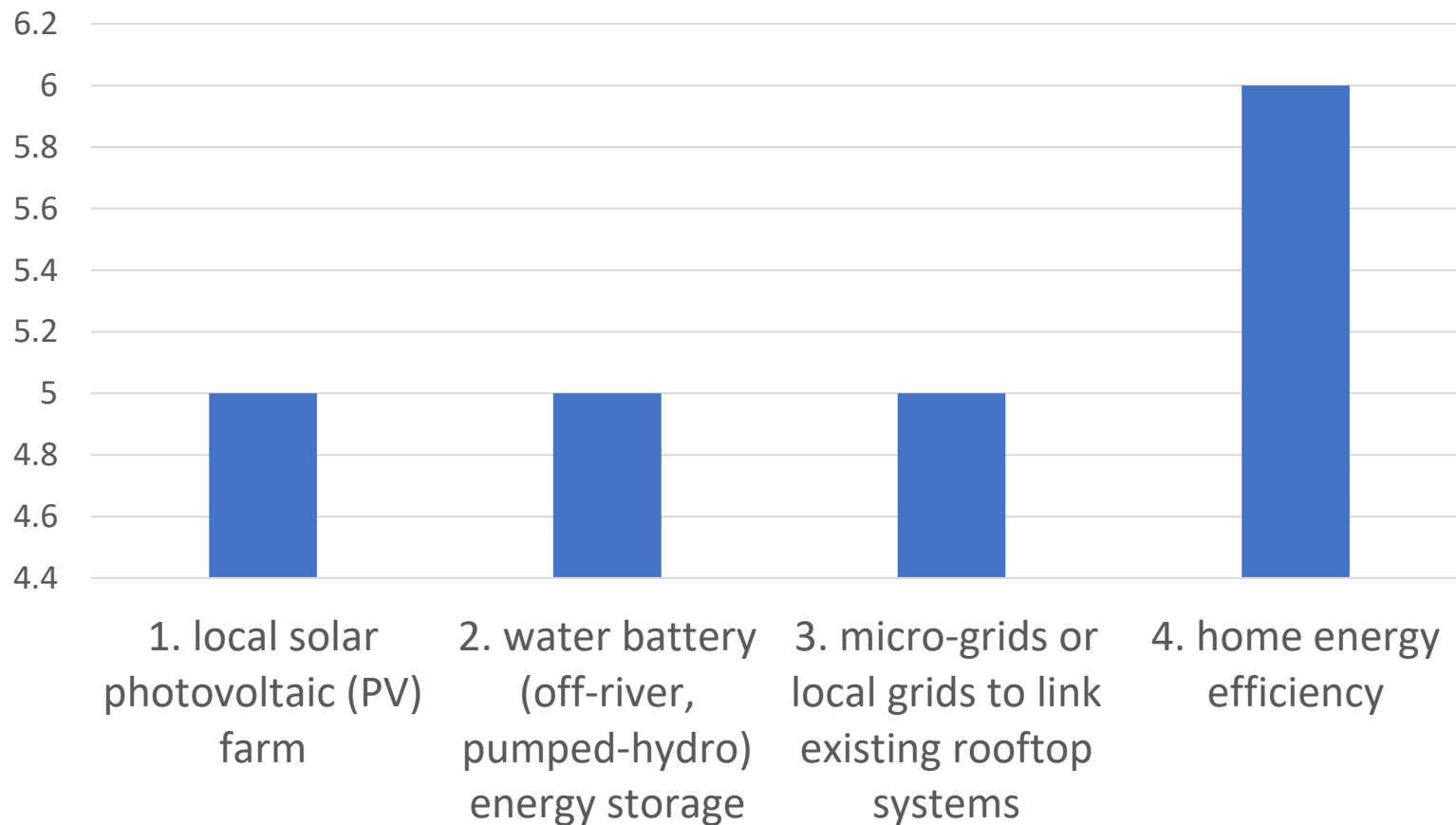
## Comments on 4 ideas

- Trying to raise enthusiasm and awareness. For a lot of people if there is no a personal benefit then you are not going to get the support if the carrot isn't cheaper power then they can't be bothered with it.
- Could include provision and generation of clean power however it is certainly about encouraging the use of clean energy in Braidwood. Education is one way. Having a cooperative approach to buying batteries and solar to get a discount is another as is more insulation in houses. Have the poles and wires already (re microgrid) best make use of them
- Our community will get stronger if we find ways around for ourselves. Important to educate the greater community. Try to bring more people into the net i.e. those that don't have knowledge in the community.



# About BCE Vision

Four ideas have been floated on what BCE could do for the community.  
Which of these 4 ideas do you support?



Only 6 people were asked these questions from 8. Both of the 2 missing people said: “Not aware of the 4 ideas, saying “only the pumped hydro is talked about” and “vision seems to be pumped hydro and no other”. These people also said “BCE should be wholistic and look at all technologies”. said “a microgrid is a great idea” (this was prompted by 2040 not BCE).



# About BCE Vision

## Comments on 4 ideas

- 4. is the best use of our time.
- If 1, 2 and 3 are being paid for and run by the government fine but not paid for and run by local people. I support the idea of small hydro system. They have these in Canberra and Warragamba Dam but this should be paid for and run by the grid.
- Interested in all the options if viable and if they are the best and the right solution then that's good. Depends on the relative costs, what the business case is for one vs. the other. Not excluding any of them BCE is a forum to get to the answer as to which is the most viable.
- Not aware of the 4 ideas. Only the pumped hydro is talked about. Bit vague what everyone is trying to achieve. 3. After screening of 2040. Would like to have a microgrid within the greater grid. If cut off from the main grid our microgrid will work for us. This gives us a greater voice. This is important for people to feel empowered.



# About BCE Vision

What do you think of the following renewable power sources for Braidwood?

## **Pumped hydro concept**

- Yes. Great. Would be brilliant. If it can provide competitive power yes, cheaper even better. If it is more expensive, depending on how much more, I would be prepared to go with that but you are going to lose support in the community.
- If it is being paid for and run by the government fine but not paid for and run by local people.
- Think it is worth exploring. It would be very good if it is feasible. It could set a precedent for other places in this country.
- Don't know.



# About BCE Vision

What do you think of the following renewable power sources for Braidwood?

## **Pumped hydro concept**

- Yes. If feasible.
- Worth investigation to understand viability. Viability defined as 'not outrageously dearer than current alternatives'.
- Bit vague what everyone is trying to achieve.
- If you have pumped hydro. Need solar to support it.
- Vision seems to be pumped hydro and no other. BCE should be wholistic and look at all technologies.



# About BCE Vision

What do you think of the following renewable power sources for Braidwood?

## **Solar Farm**

- Yes.
- Yes.
- Love it. Makes sense.
- Don't know.
- Yes. Definitely.
- Positive Good
- Given the small population and small group size of BCE I think we are best invest in a community solar farm idea like Mt Majura SolarShare.



# About BCE Vision

What do you think of the following renewable power sources for Braidwood?

## **Wind**

- Yes. If feasible.
- Yes.
- Wouldn't envisage wind farm setup. If we could draw from wind farms nearby that would be OK. Haven't thought about that as a possibility. Don't see how that can work so easily here unless we draw from nearby wind farms. Agree with power sources.
- Don't know.
- I'd like to know more about it. Wonderful source. Don't know the logistics. Know less about wind and the feasibility for a small community.
- Not in the right area for it.
- Probably don't have the right permissions. Might not be practical. Don't have the right spots



# About BCE Vision

What do you think of the following renewable power sources for Braidwood?

## **Battery Options**

- Yes. If feasible.
- Don't pay for themselves.
- Not cost effective and the pollution level is quite high also biohazards and the overall cost of doing it is not cost effective and not in general public's interest to go that way.
- Not so keen on them. Toxic chemicals are used and I don't know what happens when their life ends. Not my first choice of storage.
- Don't know. Yes, part of the whole.
- Yes with solar or pumped hydro if it is viable.



# About BCE Vision

What other ideas do you have for BCE to look at?

## **EV Charge Station**

- BCE should lobby for a charge station. Well placed between Canberra and the coast.
- Sounds good. If there is enough people that will use it great. Let's support it. Think the power company is the only one that could do it.
- Important. See that as being something that is a bit beyond local but they are more for people (part of a network) takes my mind outside BCE as it is not local.
- Enormously sensible. Closed down garage in centre of town while cars charging get cup of coffee.
- Yes.
- This group should be advocating for EV charge stations.



# About BCE Vision

If we had an EV charge station in Braidwood would you use it?

- I do not have an EV.
- If I had an electric car I would.
- Don't have an EV. Canberrans would love it. From Friday - Sunday wouldn't get a look in because of the tourist traffic.
- Don't have an EV.
- Need a ute.
- (Yes) My next car will be an EV (3 years)



# About BCE Vision

What other ideas do you have for BCE to look at?

Local river flow hydro using the Shoalhaven or Mongarlowe River. Not going to generate more than what 1 individual could use. Micro power supplies. Energy going down the river at the moment and could be used by a small number of people. We could investigate the river power (Rainbow Power has options) and the council requirements to do this locally but would only benefit those on the river. Sometimes the river doesn't even flow but other years it doesn't generate much at all. Must look at ROI over 5-10 years and find not feasible due to drought years. Rainbow Power has turbine has these types of things and help back up fridge and lights. Might also need permission from council. If you live on the river you can put something in it.

John Gannon



# About BCE Vision

What other ideas do you have for BCE to look at?

- Solar garden.
- Ideally have 3-5 year plan.
- There isn't one solution...the cheapest way (to make a difference) is insulation in houses
- Try to bring more people into the net i.e. those that don't have knowledge in the community.