

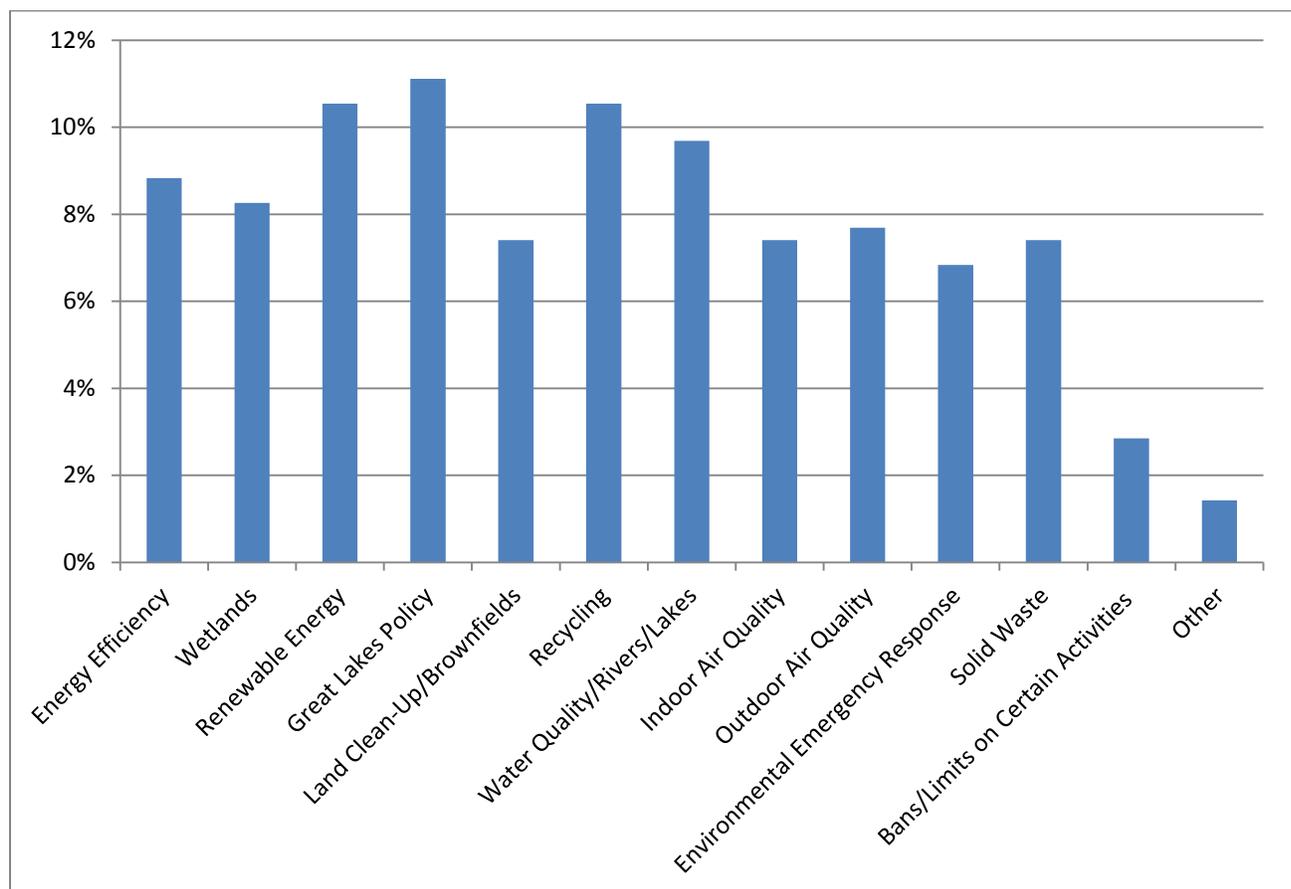
Results of LTBB Environmental Services Citizen Survey 2014

(also published in the December 2014 edition of the Odawa Trails Newsletter)

Chi-Miigwech to those of you that participated in the survey on the Tribe's Environmental Services Program and activities! We received a lot of informative and useful feedback that will help prioritize our environmental efforts now and in the future. The survey was conducted from April – July 2014 and some of the results are below.

We learned that the majority of respondents (89%) felt that protecting the environment is very important and another 10% felt it is somewhat important. Those surveyed indicated that we are focusing on the right program areas, with recycling, renewable energy, surface water quality, Great Lakes policy and energy efficiency in the top five. Of the environmental issues the Tribe will face over the next 5 years, the majority of respondents (81%) felt that pollution into lakes and rivers will be the most important. Over 50% felt that both adequate drinking water and climate change impacts will also be important, followed closely by the loss of wetlands or environmentally sensitive lands, pollution from mining of oil and natural gas exploration and mercury in fish. Over 70% surveyed felt that LTBB should work to develop laws and regulations to protect Ishkakimikwe. Of those who answered "yes", the results of the subject areas are mixed and included in the graph below.

Figure 1. Percent of each focus area selected that should have laws and regulations developed for protection of the environment



We also learned about the waterbodies you use for hunting, fishing, gathering, ceremonial, cultural, recreational and other activities. It was no surprise that Lake Michigan and Little Traverse Bay topped the list of all use types. Other heavily used waterbodies include Burt Lake, Spirit Lake, Bear River, Crooked Lake, Sturgeon Bay and Lake Charlevoix. Swimming was the most reported use type followed by fishing and recreational activities (boating, kayaking, etc.).

In addition to the outside environment, we asked participants questions about their homes and recycling habits. We learned participants have a mix of housing types with nearly half built before 1979 and about half built since then. This date is important for energy efficiency because the most profound improvements in building materials and designs have occurred since then. If your home was built before 1979, a variety of new materials would likely improve its efficiency. 87% surveyed indicated they have used or installed compact florescent light bulbs (spiral bulbs), 61% have *Energy Star*[™] rated appliances in their home and nearly 20% of respondents indicated they have used LED lights! We also learned that nearly half of those surveyed are using natural gas as the primary heating source for their homes and a quarter are using primarily propane. Wood heat (including pellet stoves and wood boilers) and electric heat pumps combined made up roughly another quarter of heat types.

Finally, respondents indicated we still have work to do on recycling and they would like to see more recycling bins and containers. Stay tuned to the Environmental Services website at www.ltbodawa-nsn.gov/env for updates on our progress for all environmental activities.