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Public perceptions of Bioenergy in the UK

YouGov survey commissioned and funded by the ETI, and carried out between 21st – 24th August 2015



Questionnaire design and size

- This was designed as a preliminary questionnaire – more work will be completed over 2016
- Total sample size was 3,105 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 21st – 24th August 2015. The survey was carried out online. The figures presented here have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+)*
- A range of statements relating to bioenergy in the UK were included in the questionnaire
- The questionnaire covered areas such as:
 - Level of prior knowledge of UK GHG targets and support for reducing emissions in the UK
 - Level of support for bioenergy from biomass and waste
 - Questions on landscape development and land use
 - Preferred scale of bioenergy developments
 - Views on the source of biomass feedstocks: imports vs domestic production

* With the exception of slide 17, which is based on the raw data from 3105 respondents, necessary when analysing answers across more than one question



Information provided to respondents during questionnaire

After respondents had answered questions 1-6 (slides 4-9) they were provided with the following statement to try and ensure consistent interpretation of the remaining questions:

'Bioenergy' is the name given to the different types of energy produced from biomass or waste. Bioenergy can be in the form of electricity, heat, transport fuels (e.g. biodiesel or bioethanol) and gases such as bio-methane, which is similar to natural gas.

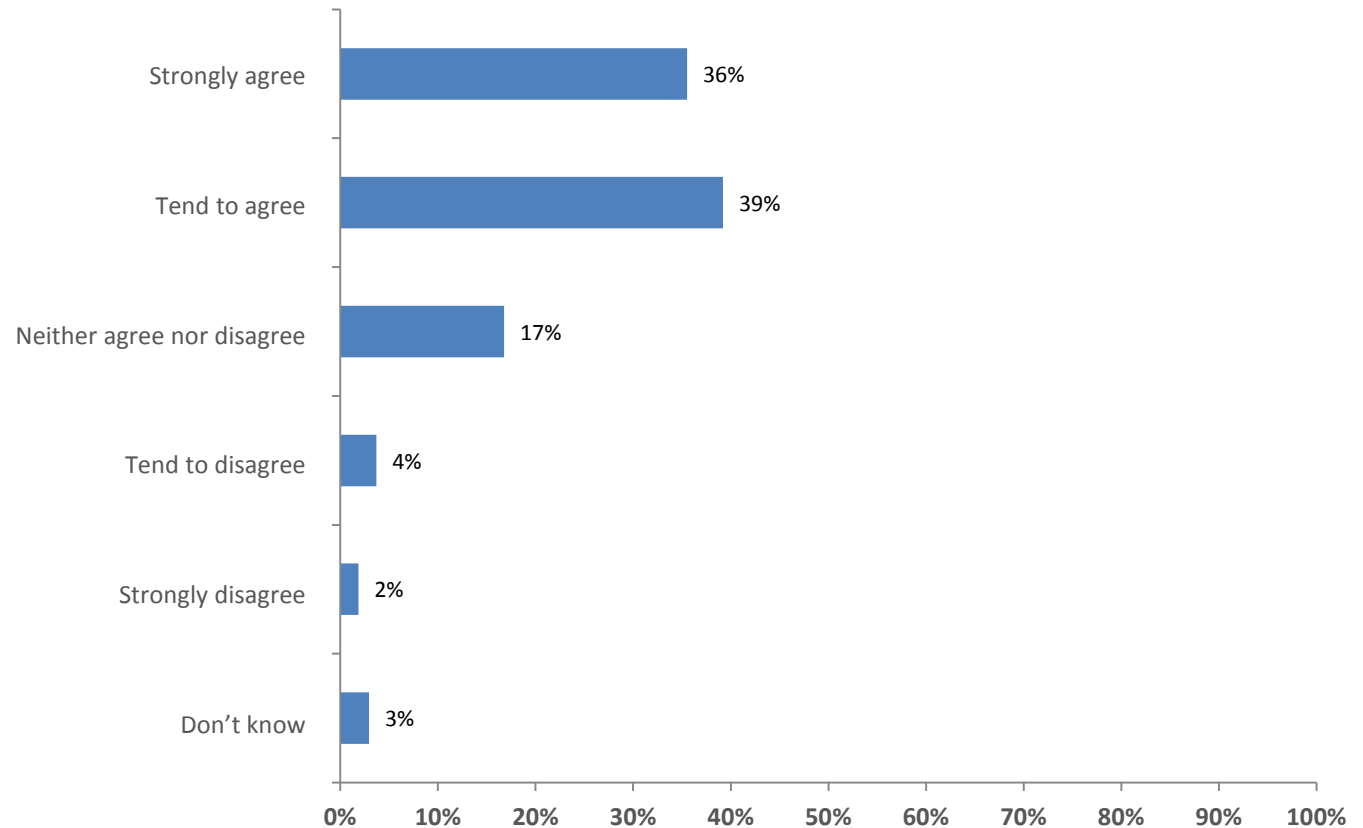
*'Biomass' is any purpose-grown material (e.g. crops, forestry or algae).
'Waste' can include household, food and commercial waste, waste from agriculture or forestry, or sewage sludge.*

Bioenergy can be produced on different scales, from domestic biomass boilers up to large power stations that produce electricity for more than one household.



Respondents agree the UK should be trying to reduce GHGs

**Q1. For the following questions, by 'the UK', we mean the UK public as well as the UK Government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
"The UK should be trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions"**

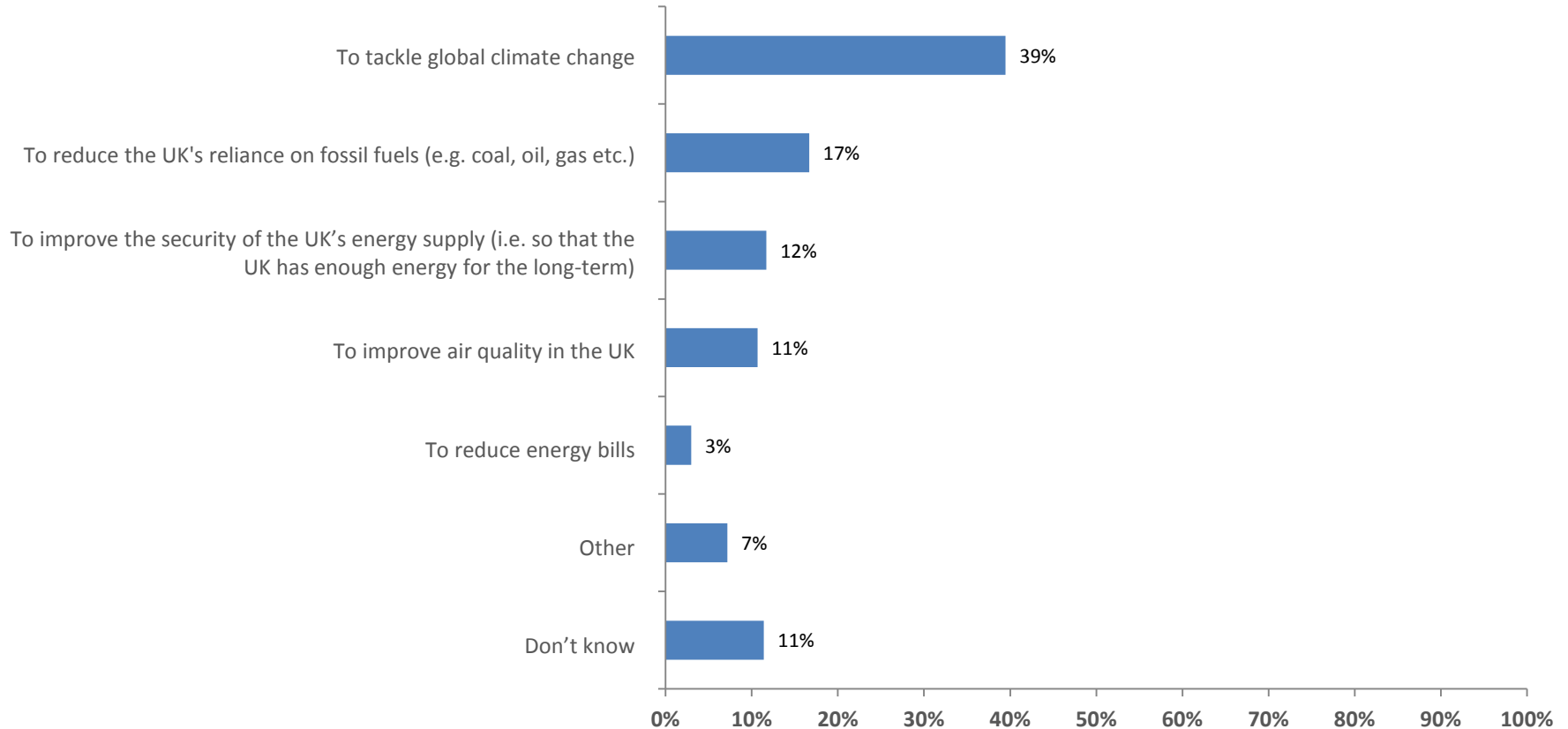


Base: All GB adults (3105)



Public believe the main reason for tackling GHGs is to tackle climate change

Q2. The UK has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Which ONE, if any, of the following do you think is the MAIN reason for this?

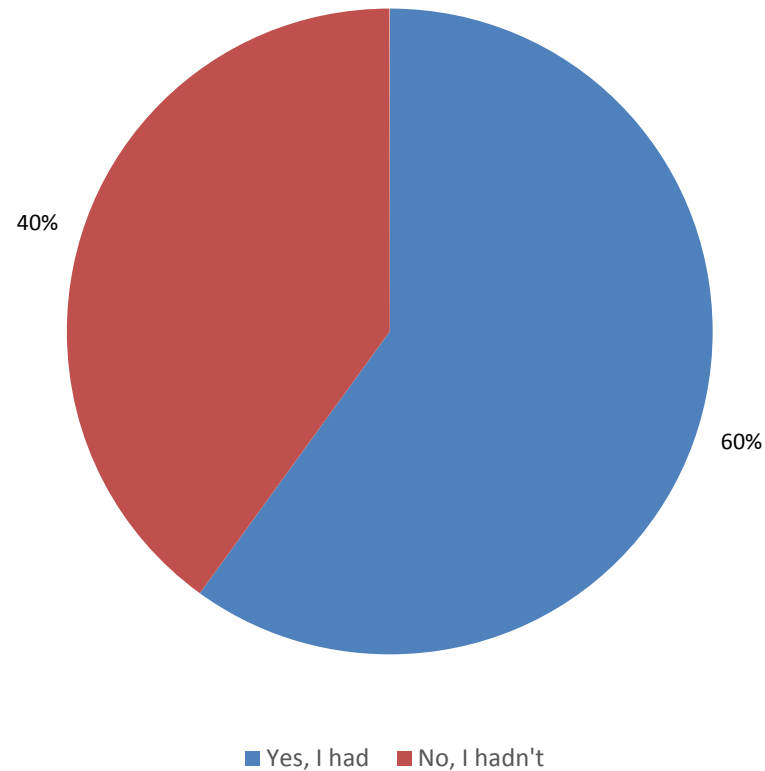


Base: All GB adults (3105)



There is a reasonable platform of public awareness of bioenergy upon which to build

Q3. Before taking this survey, had you ever heard of bioenergy?

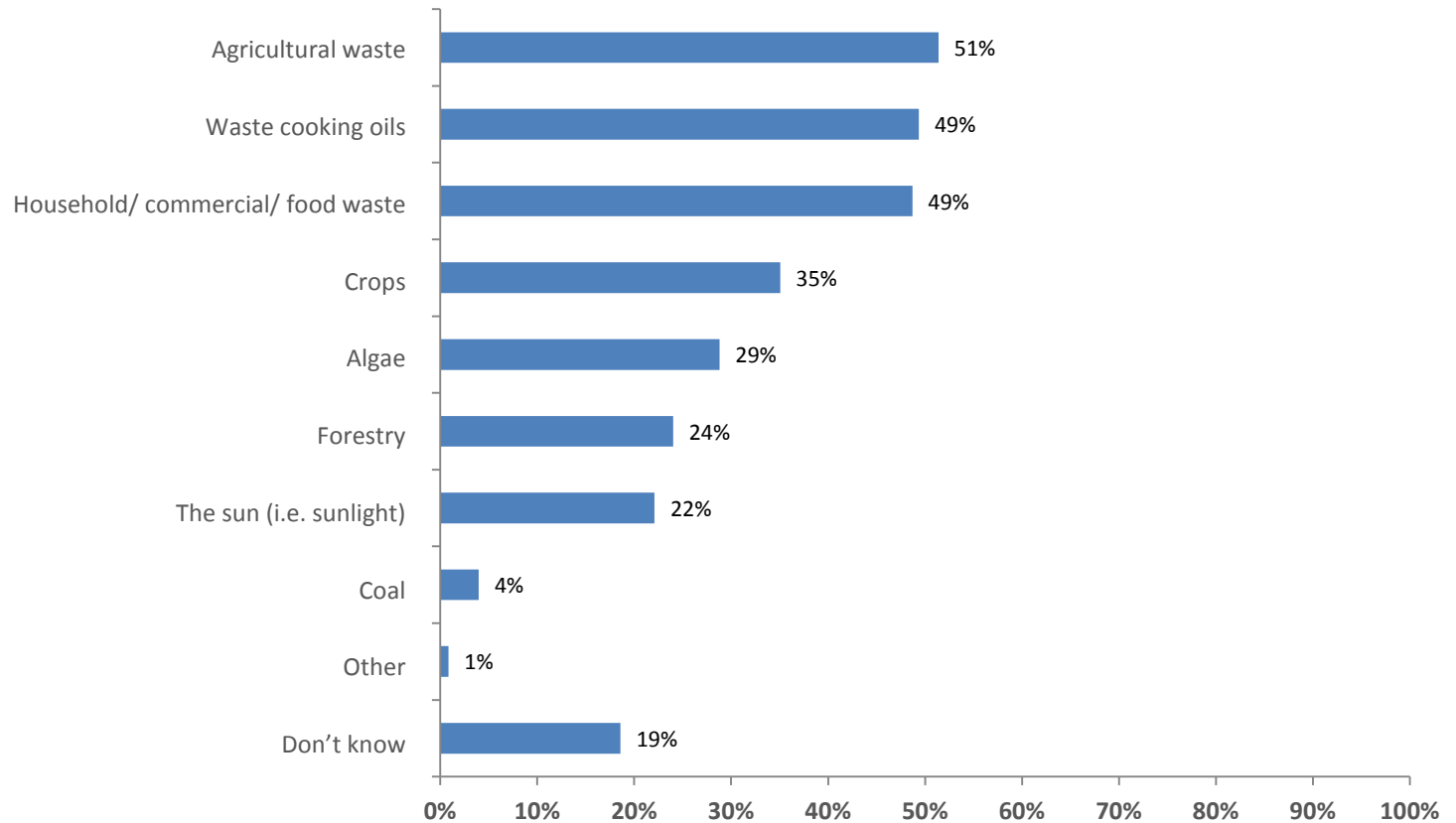


Base: All GB adults (3105)



The public equate 'bioenergy' with waste more than crops and forestry

Q4. Which, if any, of the following do you think bioenergy is directly produced from? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)

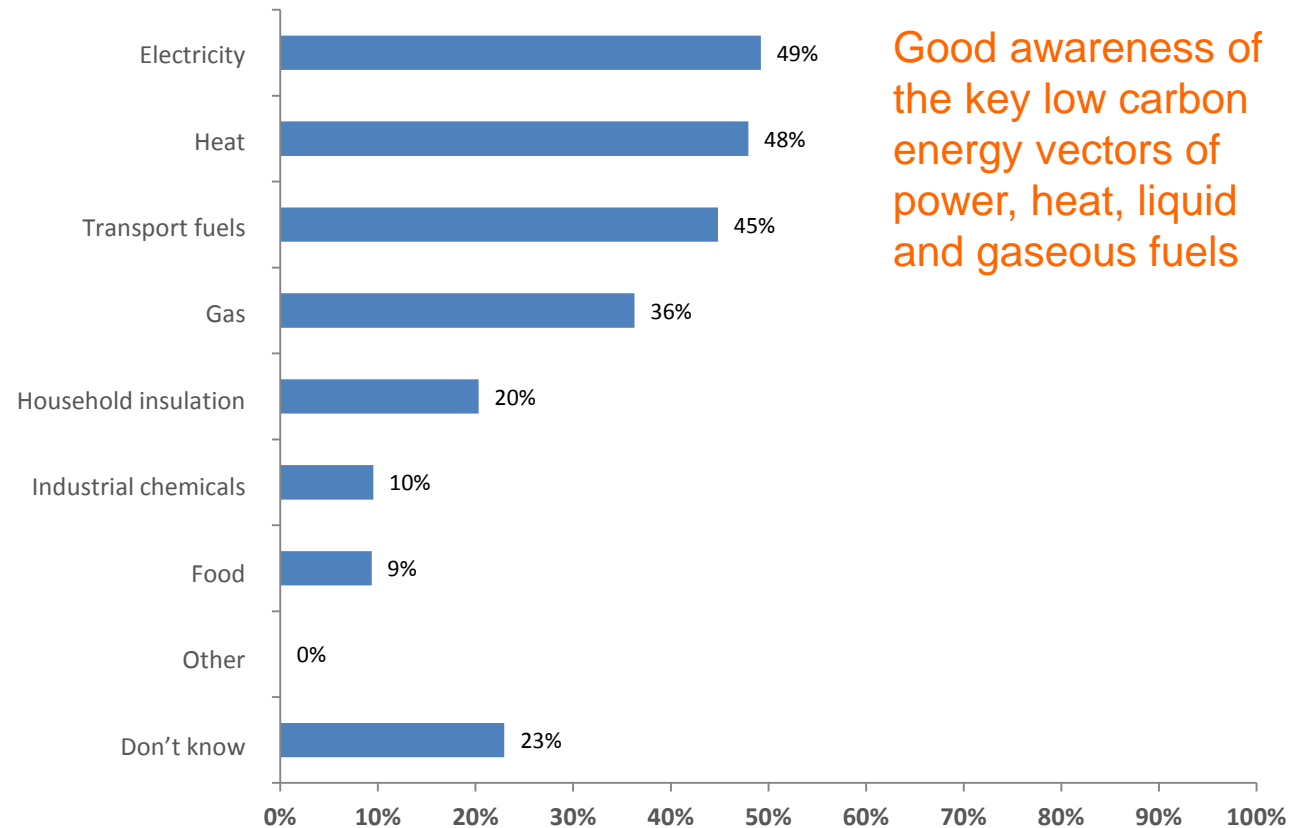


Base: All GB adults (3105)



The public has a strong awareness of the different end uses of bioenergy

Q5. And which, if any, of the following do you think bioenergy can take the form of? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)



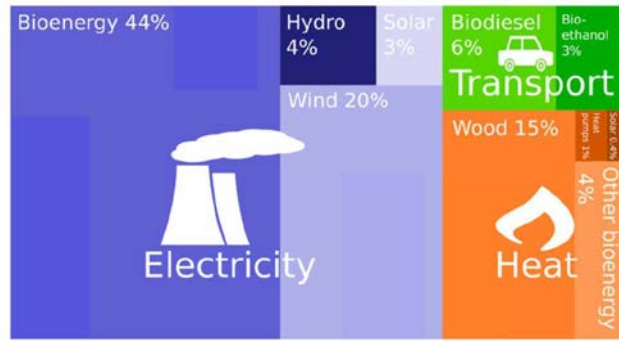
Base: All GB adults (3105)



Very low awareness of the role bioenergy is playing in meeting renewable energy targets

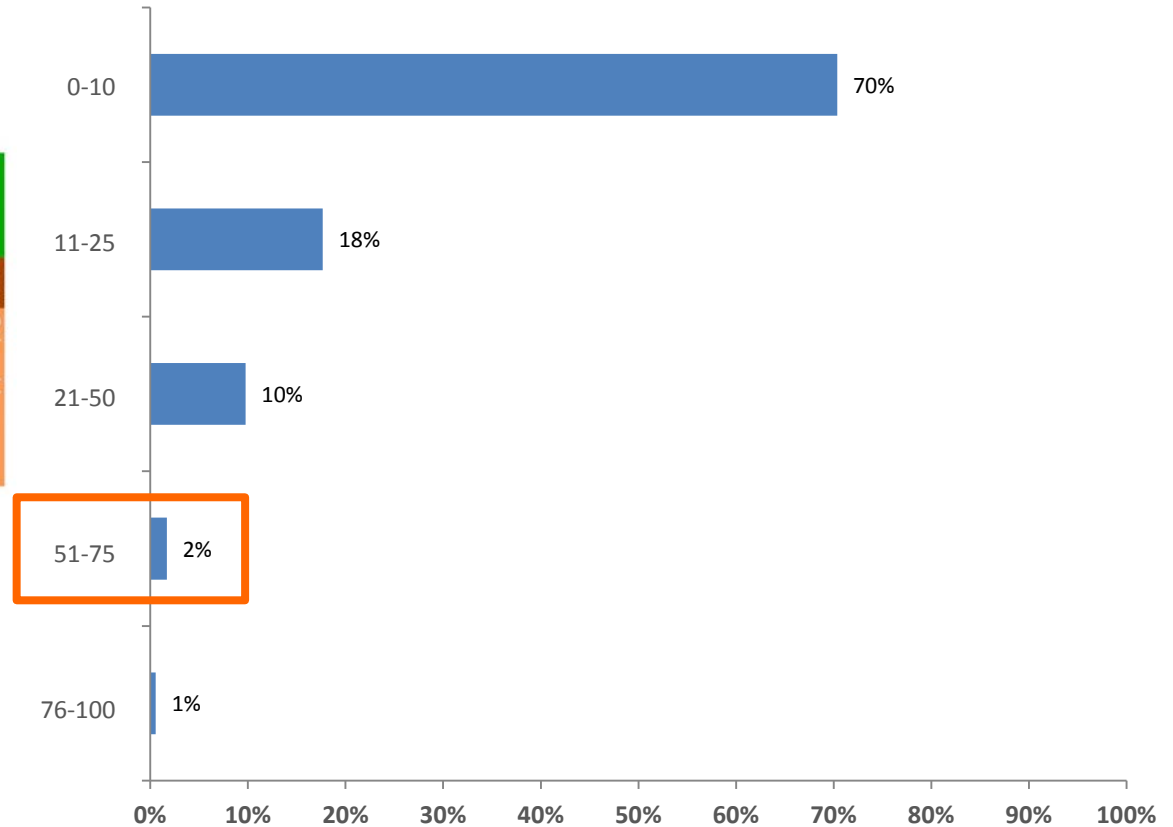
Q6. Approximately, what percentage, if any, of renewable energy currently used in the UK do you think comes from bioenergy? (Please type your answer to the nearest percentage in the box below. If you are unsure, please give your best guess.)

Share of renewable energy in 2014



Actual answer (on input basis) is 72%
(see figure from DECC above)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/renewable-sources-of-energy-chapter-6-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes>



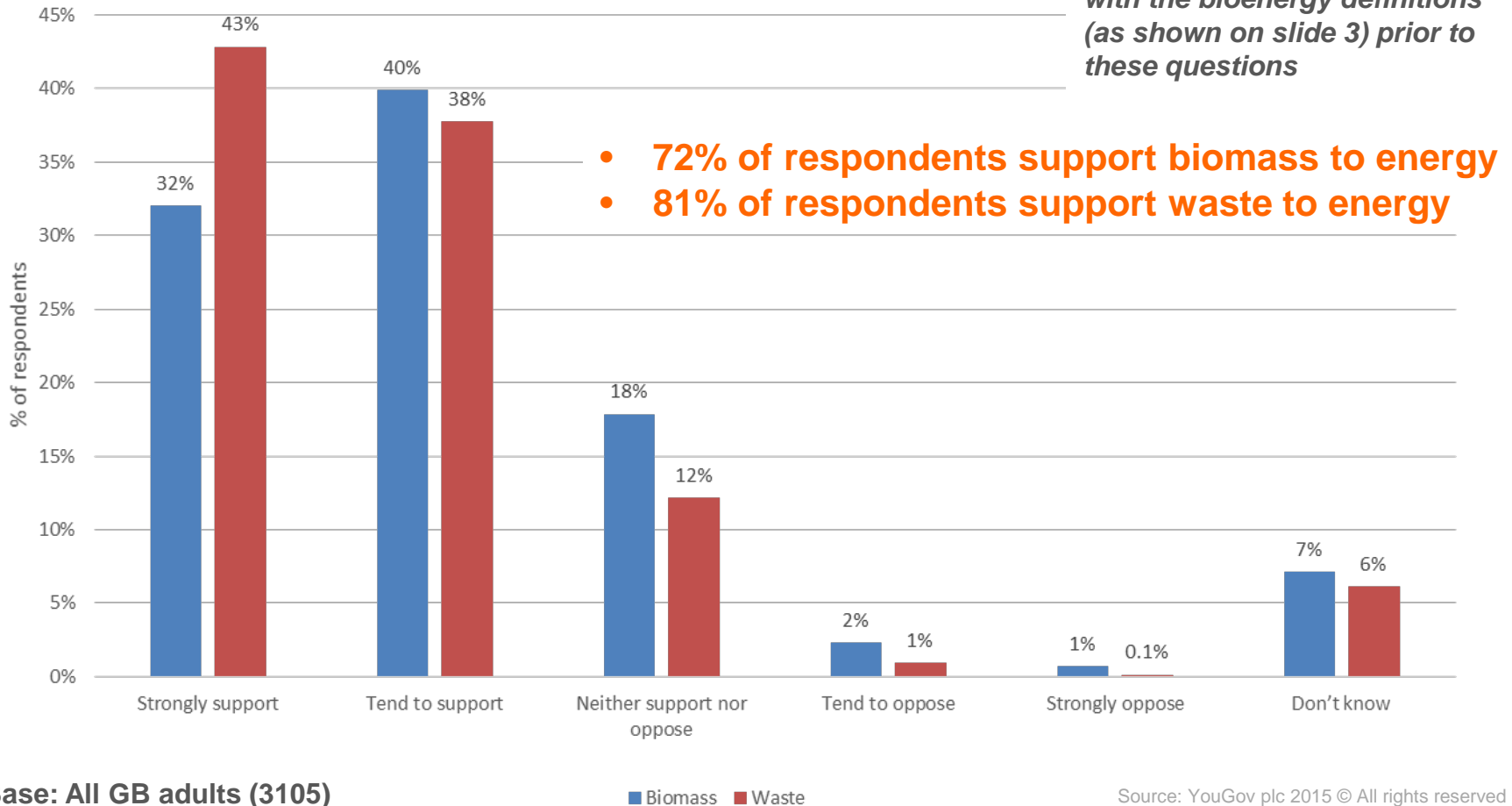
Base: All GB adults (3105)



There is strong public support for the use of biomass and waste for bioenergy in the UK

Q7/8. In general, to what extent do you support or oppose the use of [biomass/waste] to produce bioenergy in the UK?*

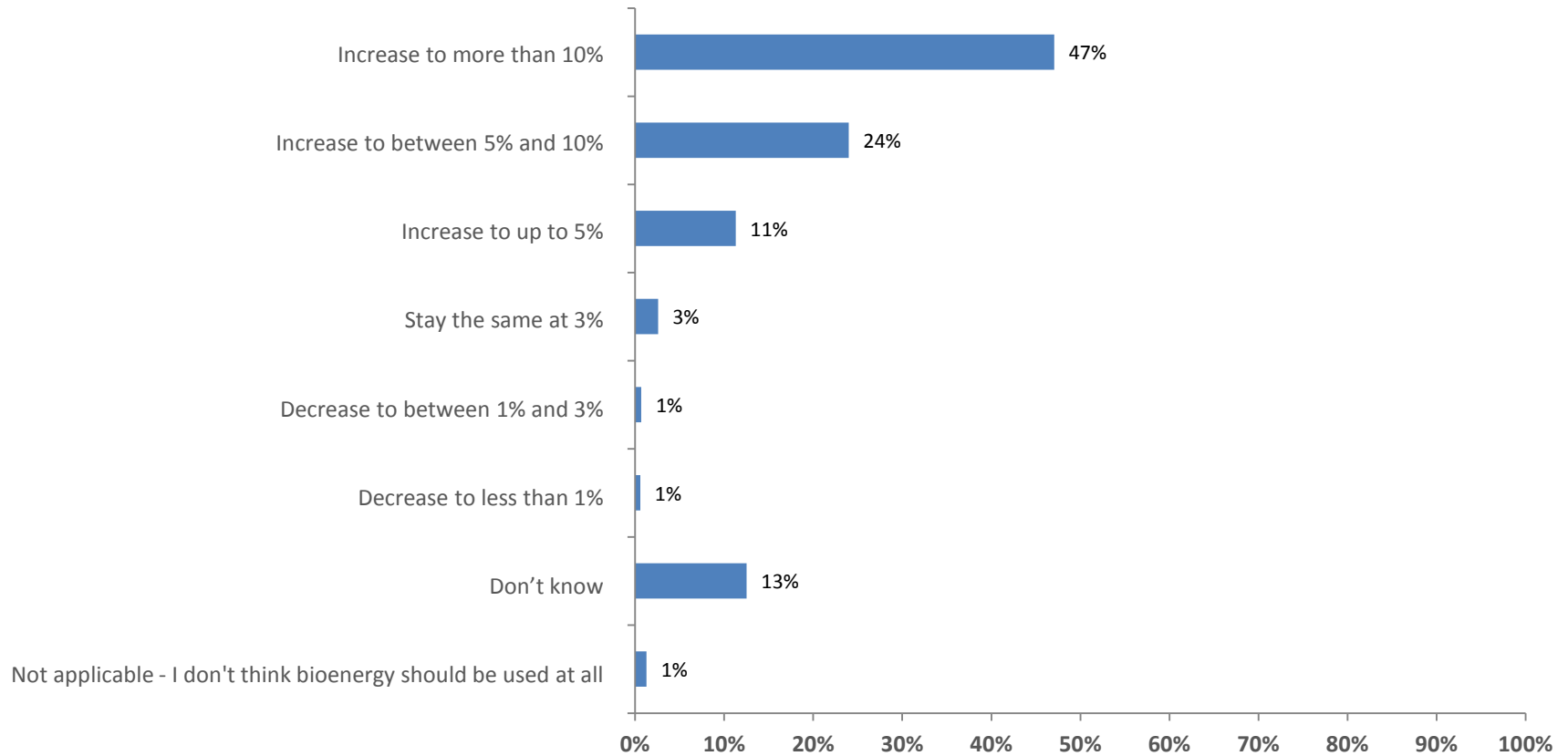
** Respondents were provided with the bioenergy definitions (as shown on slide 3) prior to these questions*





There is strong support for an increase in bioenergy in the UK

Q9. Bioenergy currently meets 3% of all of the UK's total energy demand. To what extent do you think this percentage should increase or decrease, or do you think it should stay the same?

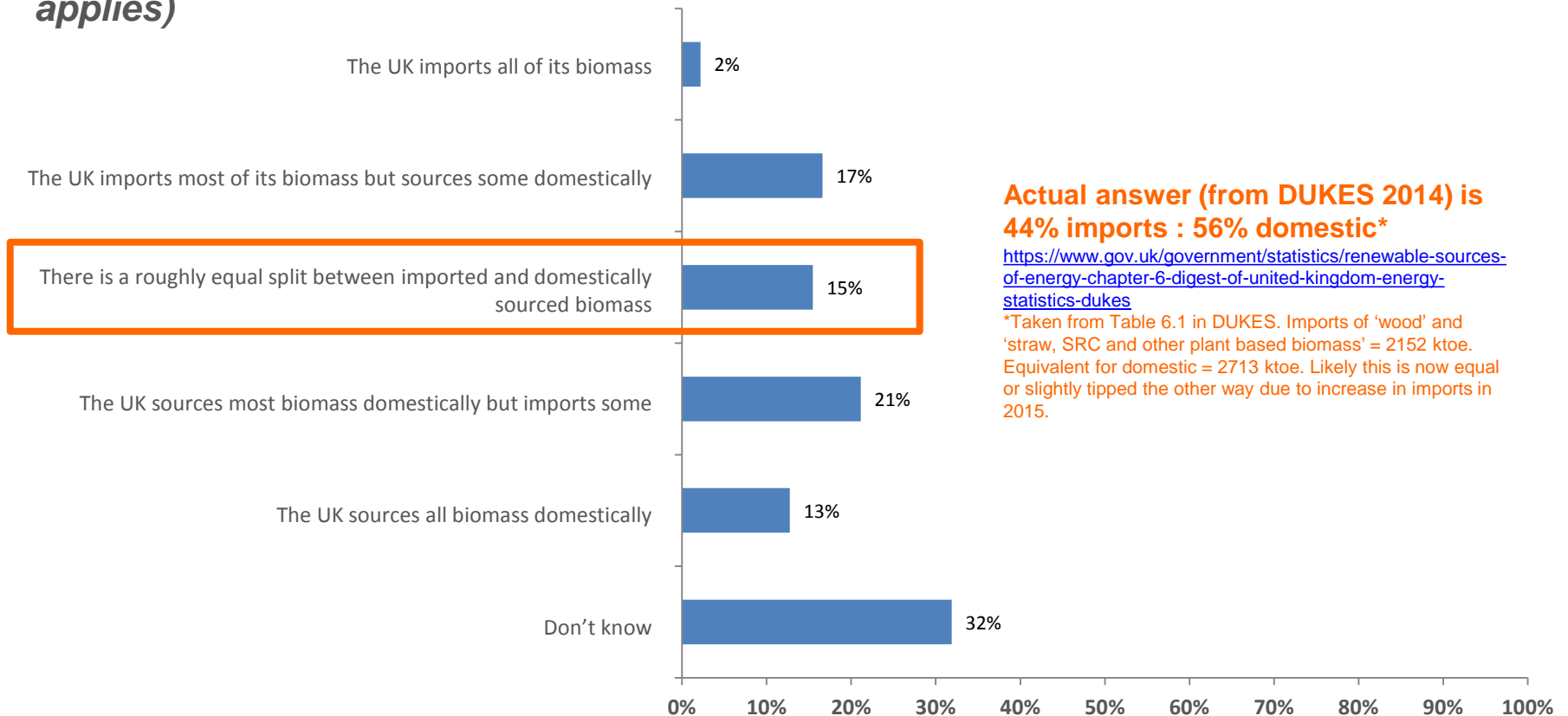


Base: All GB adults (3105)



There is low awareness of the sources of biomass feedstock used in the UK

Q10. As a reminder, 'biomass' is any purpose-grown material (e.g. crops, forestry or algae). Which ONE of the following statements BEST describes where you think the UK currently sources its biomass for bioenergy? (Please select the option that BEST applies)



Actual answer (from DUKES 2014) is 44% imports : 56% domestic*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/renewable-sources-of-energy-chapter-6-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes>

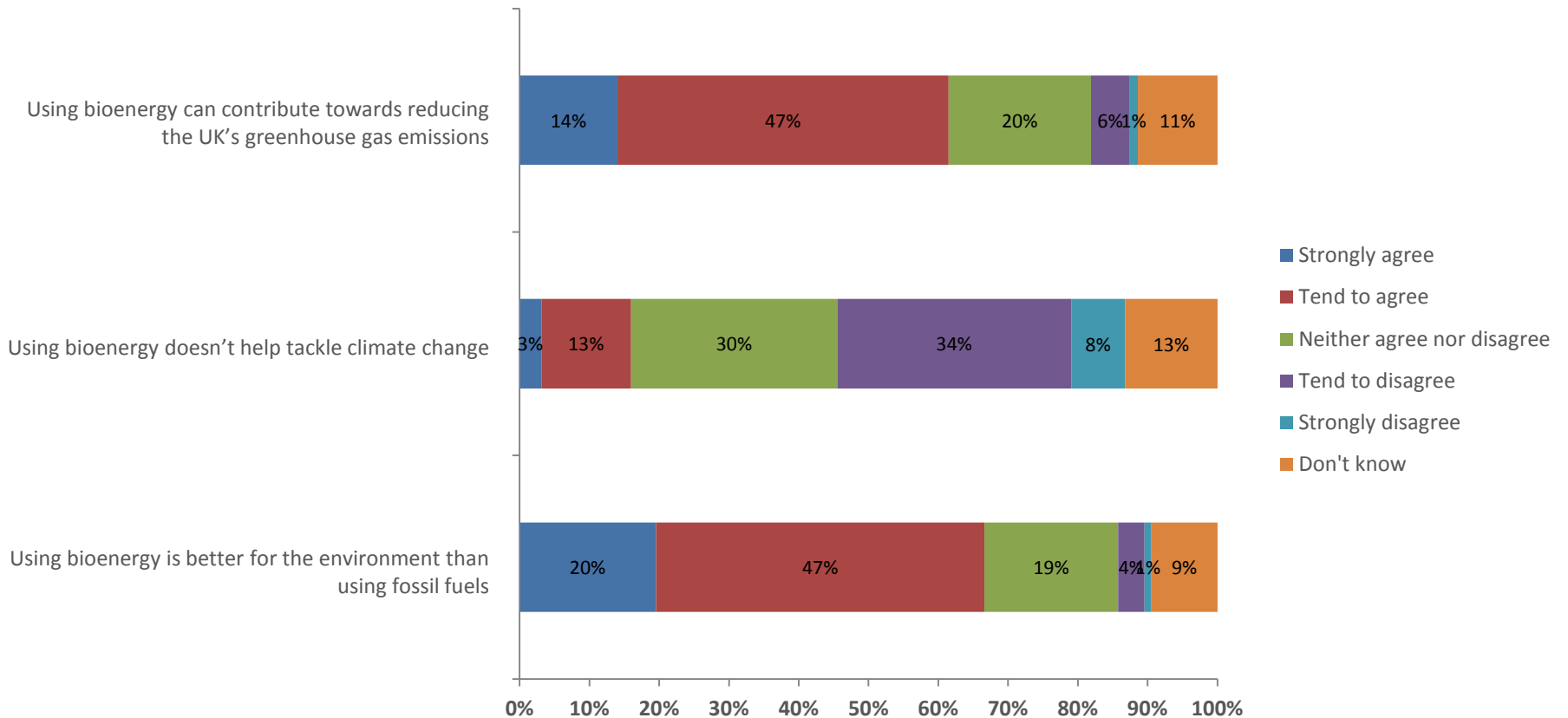
*Taken from Table 6.1 in DUKES. Imports of 'wood' and 'straw, SRC and other plant based biomass' = 2152 ktoe. Equivalent for domestic = 2713 ktoe. Likely this is now equal or slightly tipped the other way due to increase in imports in 2015.

Base: All GB adults (3105)



The majority of respondents recognise the environmental benefits of bioenergy

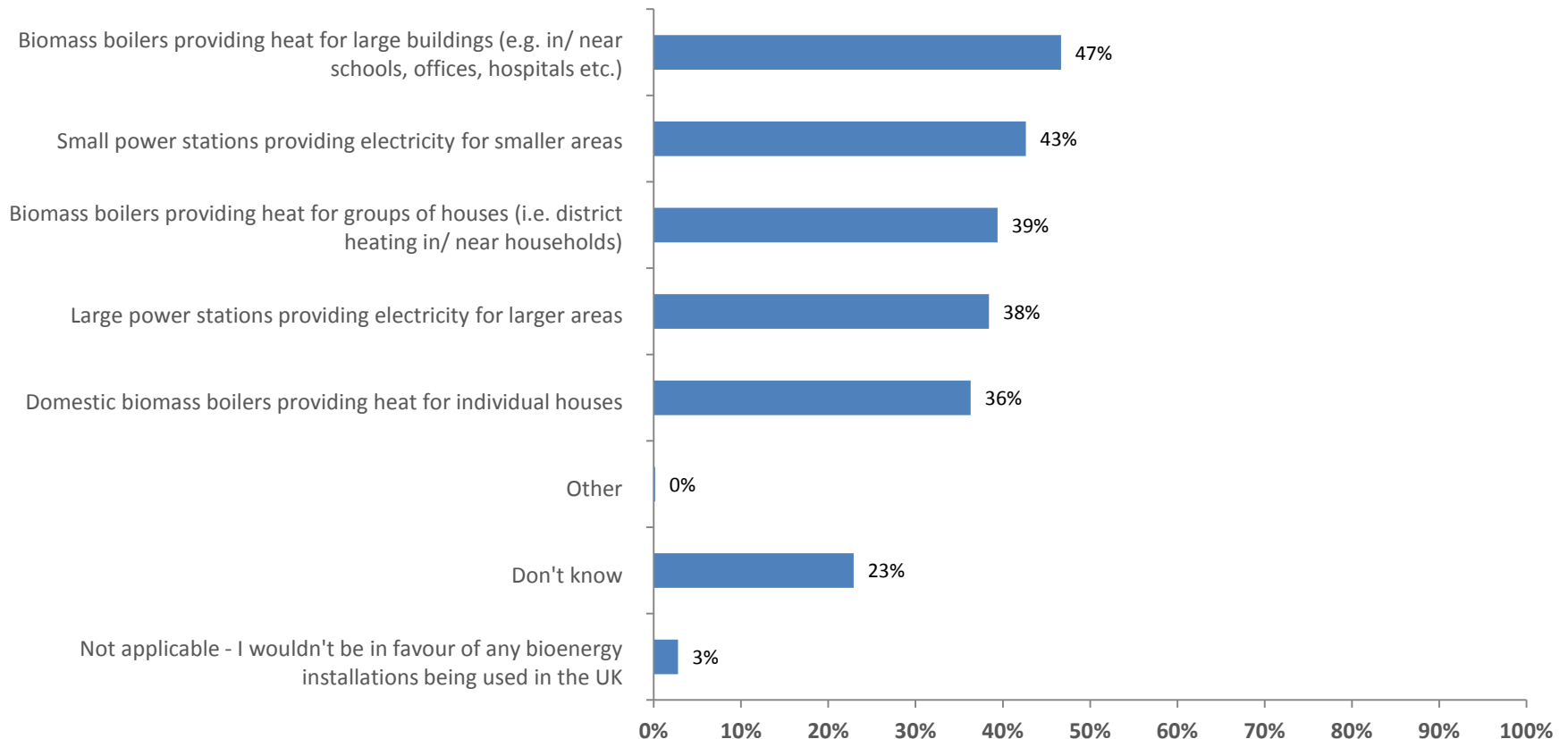
Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?





There is support for a wide variety of bioenergy applications – most for large-scale heat

Q12. Bioenergy installations that generate electricity or heat come in various sizes. Which, if any, of the following bioenergy installations would you be in favour of being used in the UK? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)

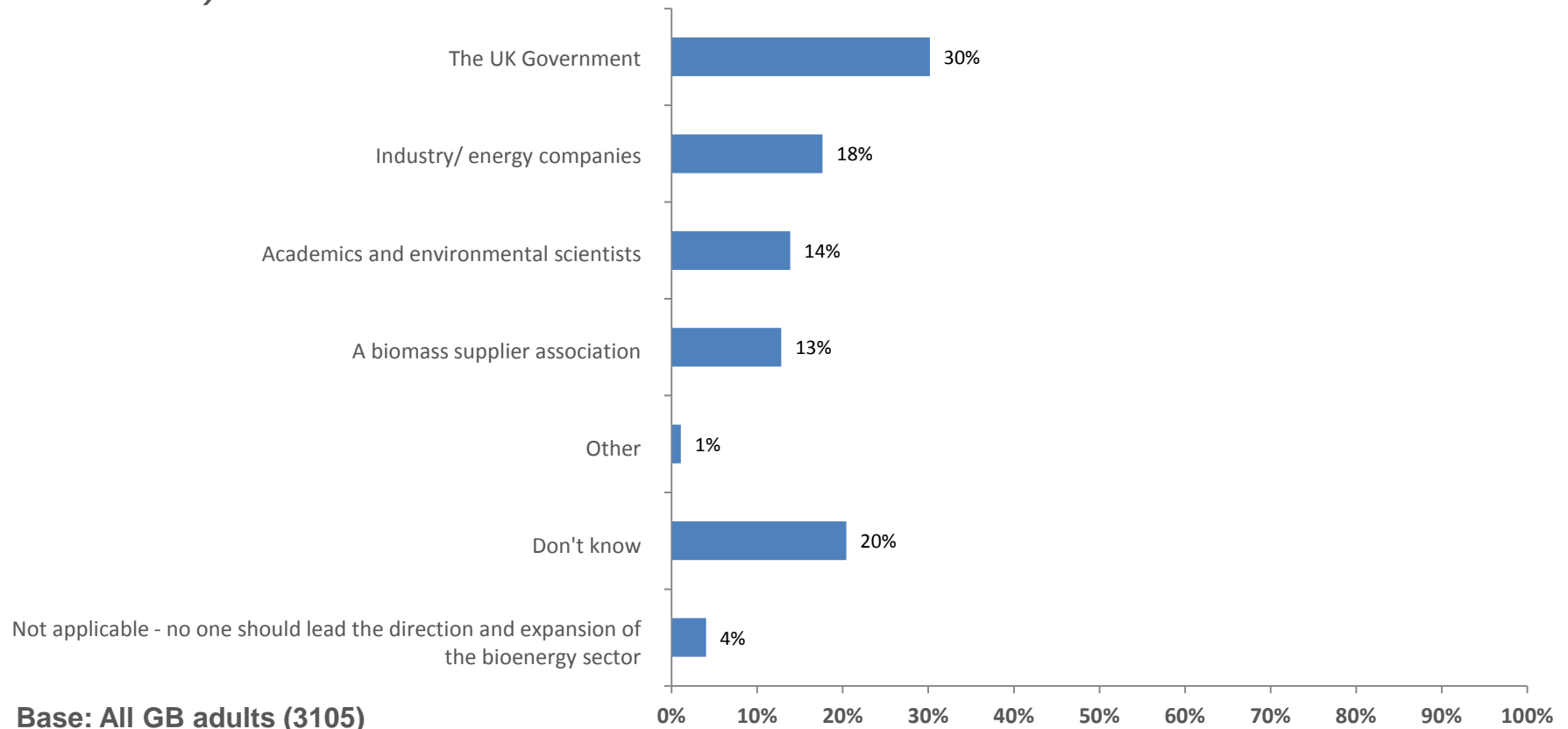


Base: All GB adults (3105)



The public think the Government should lead the development of the sector....

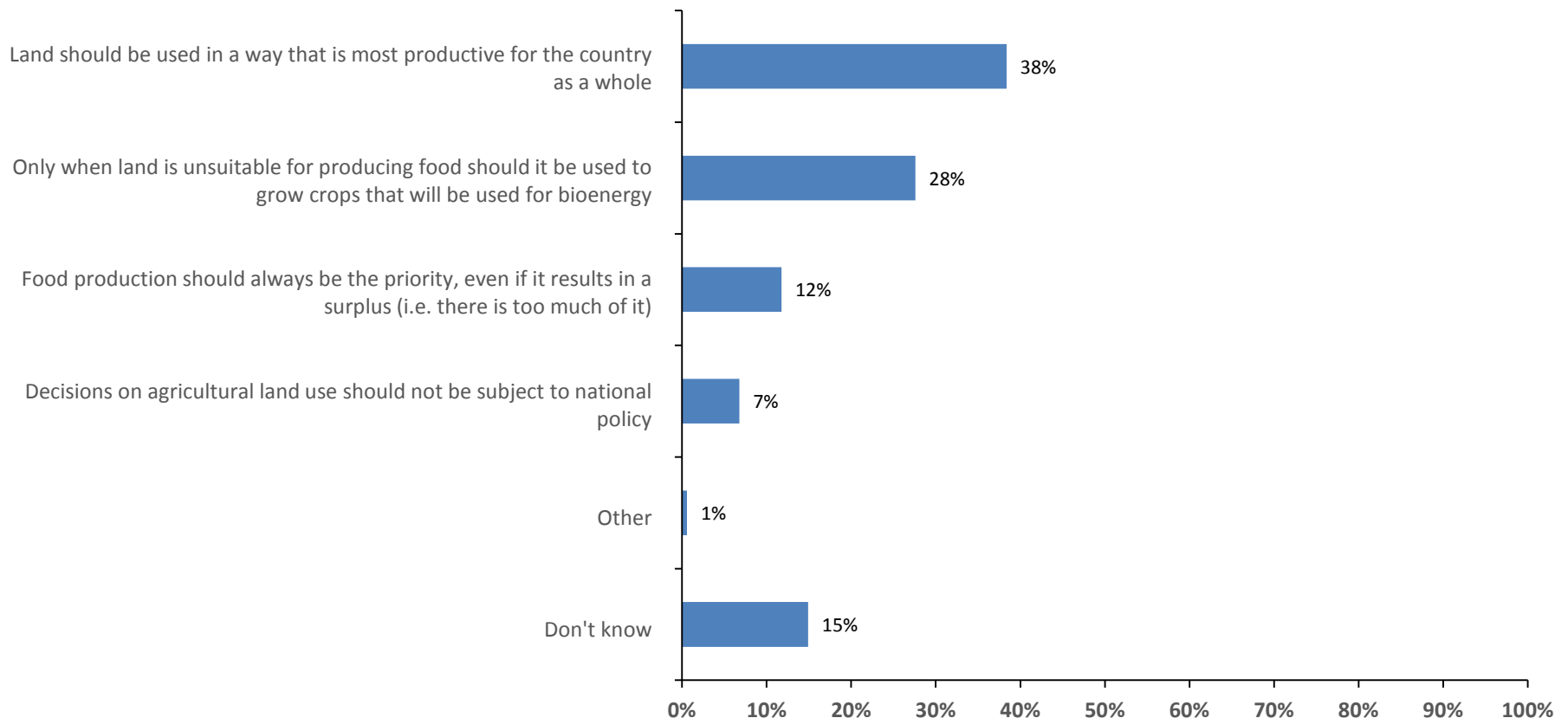
Q13. The use of bioenergy in the UK is increasing. Some people believe that the direction and expansion of the bioenergy sector should be led by an organisation. Which ONE, if any, of the following do you think should be the MAIN leader of the bioenergy sector? (If your answer is not shown in the list below, please type it in the 'other' box)





Greatest support for land being used in the most productive way for the UK

Q14. Which ONE, if any, of the following statements BEST describes how you think agricultural land (i.e. farmland) should be used in general? (If your answer is not shown in the list below, please type it in the 'other' box)

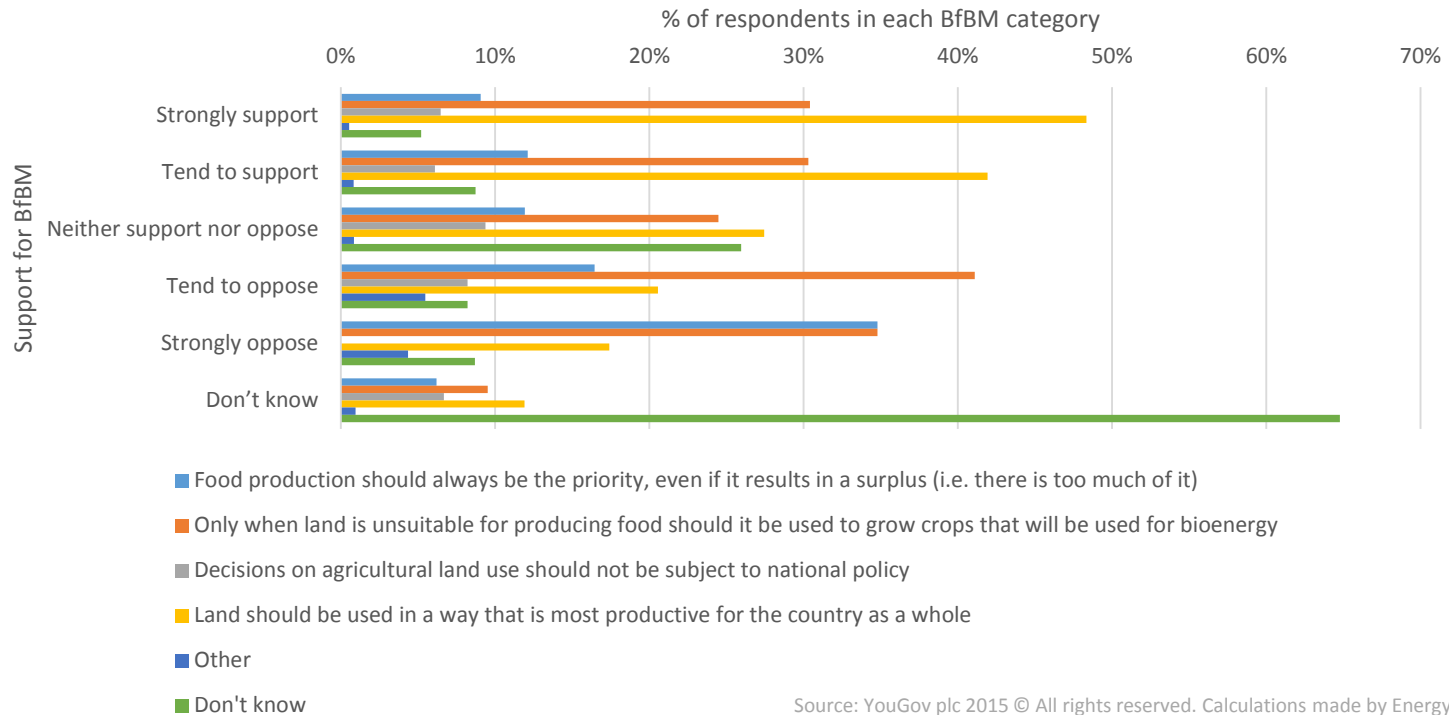


Base: All GB adults (3105)



Support and opposition for bioenergy is linked to views on priorities for land use

Relationship between support for bioenergy from biomass (BfBM) and preference over land use options



Source: YouGov plc 2015 © All rights reserved. Calculations made by Energy Technologies Institute

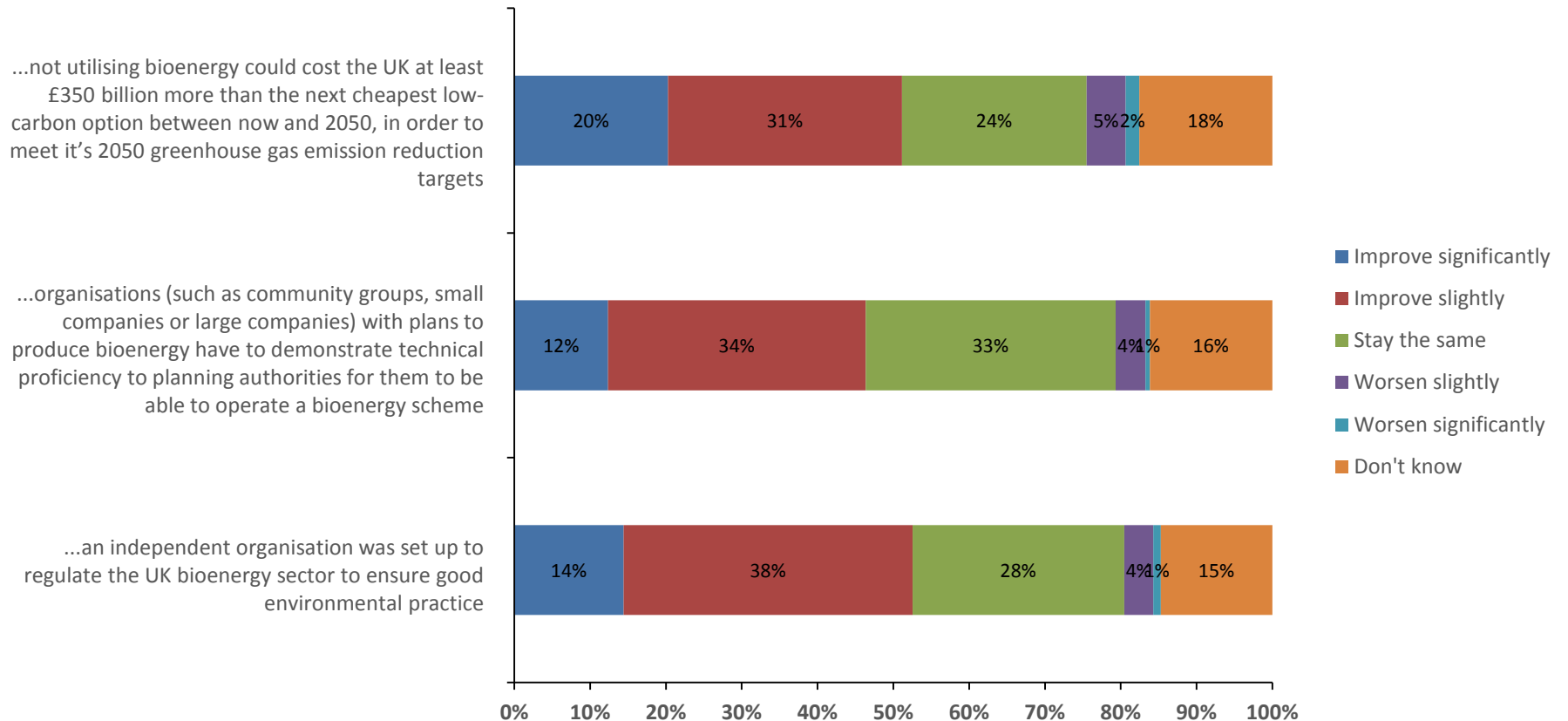
Suggests that current opponents of bioenergy may have their concerns allayed if clear evidence can be provided to show the UK has sufficient land which can be utilised in a productive way to deliver acceptable levels of both food and biomass feedstock supply

Based on raw data (3105 respondents)



Increased evidence and independent governance could help increase the public support of bioenergy

Q15. Would your opinion of the use of bioenergy in the UK improve, worsen or stay the same if you were told that...

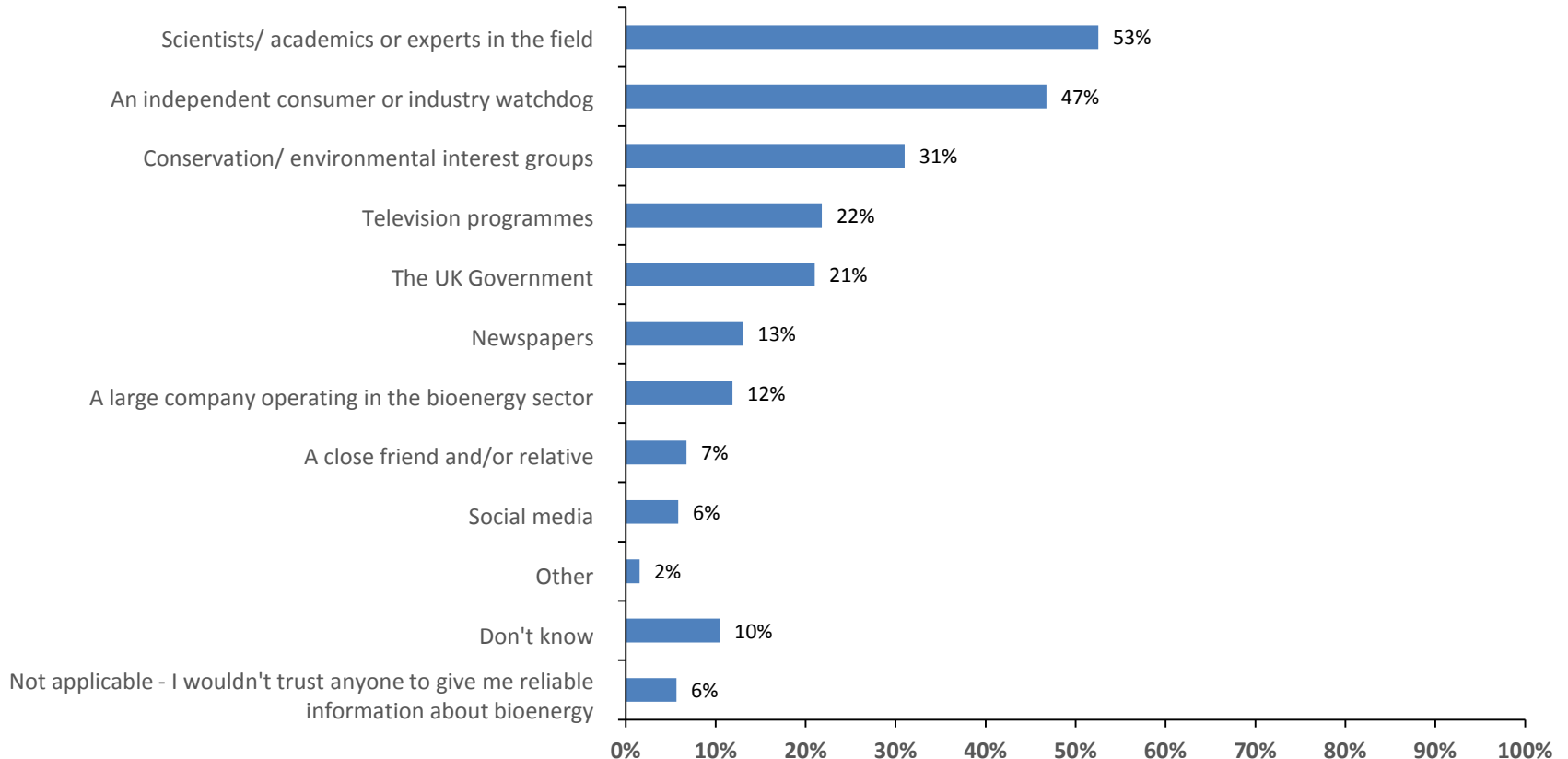


Base: All GB adults (3105)



The public want more information from impartial stakeholders

Q16. Please imagine you were interested in finding out more information on bioenergy...Which, if any, of the following would you trust to give you reliable information? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)



Base: All GB adults (3105)