



Foundations for Net Zero Buildings: Enabling Consistently High Energy Performance for New Commercial and Institutional Buildings

Workshop Details

Date: March 27th, 2025

Title: Building Highly Energy-Efficient K-12 Schools: Practical Insights and Strategies

Recording and Q&A document available here:

<https://climatechallengenetwork.org/foundationsfornzbuildings/>

Project Supported by:



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

CAF Foundations for Net Zero Buildings Project

Project Goal: Achieve consistent high energy performance and reduced emissions for new building construction.

- Climate Challenge Network is conducting a national research project on behalf of Natural Resources Canada's Codes Acceleration Fund, which is examining the operating energy efficiency of recently-constructed K-12 schools. We have benchmarked energy performance of more than 200 schools from 5 Canadian provinces which opened since 2015, including an NECB2020 reference archetype school.
- Results show a wide range of performance, and discussions with school boards are uncovering the planning, design, energy modelling, construction, commissioning, and operations factors associated with the best performers. The workshop, conducted on March 27th, 2025 with 65 participants from 38 school boards, governments and industry, provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about findings to date and hear a panel discussion about lessons learned which can enable every new school to meet high efficiency standards.
- A poll was conducted during the workshop asking participants to rank the most important. The following slides show results from the poll.

Workshop Poll Respondents

Respondent Category	AB	BC	MB	NS	ON	Total
School Board	4	6	5	2	19	36
Government	3	1	2	3	1	10
Industry	1	0	0	0	3	4
Other	1	1	0	0	1	3
Total	9	8	7	5	24	53

Summary of Workshop Poll Results

Results from **all 53** poll respondents ranked the following areas as the top-3 priorities:

1. Process changes – commissioning
2. Financial grants and incentives
3. Process changes – operations

Results from **36 school board** poll respondents ranked the following areas as the top-3 priorities:

1. Financial grants and incentives
2. Process changes – commissioning
3. Process changes – operations

Results from **10 government** poll respondents ranked the following areas as the top-3 highest priorities:

1. Process changes – operations
2. Process changes – commissioning
3. Government policy and regulations, including more rigorous codes and standards

Results from **all 53** poll respondents ranked Funding as the biggest single barrier. This remained true when looking at only school boards or only government respondents.

Workshop Question #1 Poll Results

All Respondents Granular Ratings

Where are the biggest opportunities for improving energy efficiency for new schools for a board/district?
(All respondents)

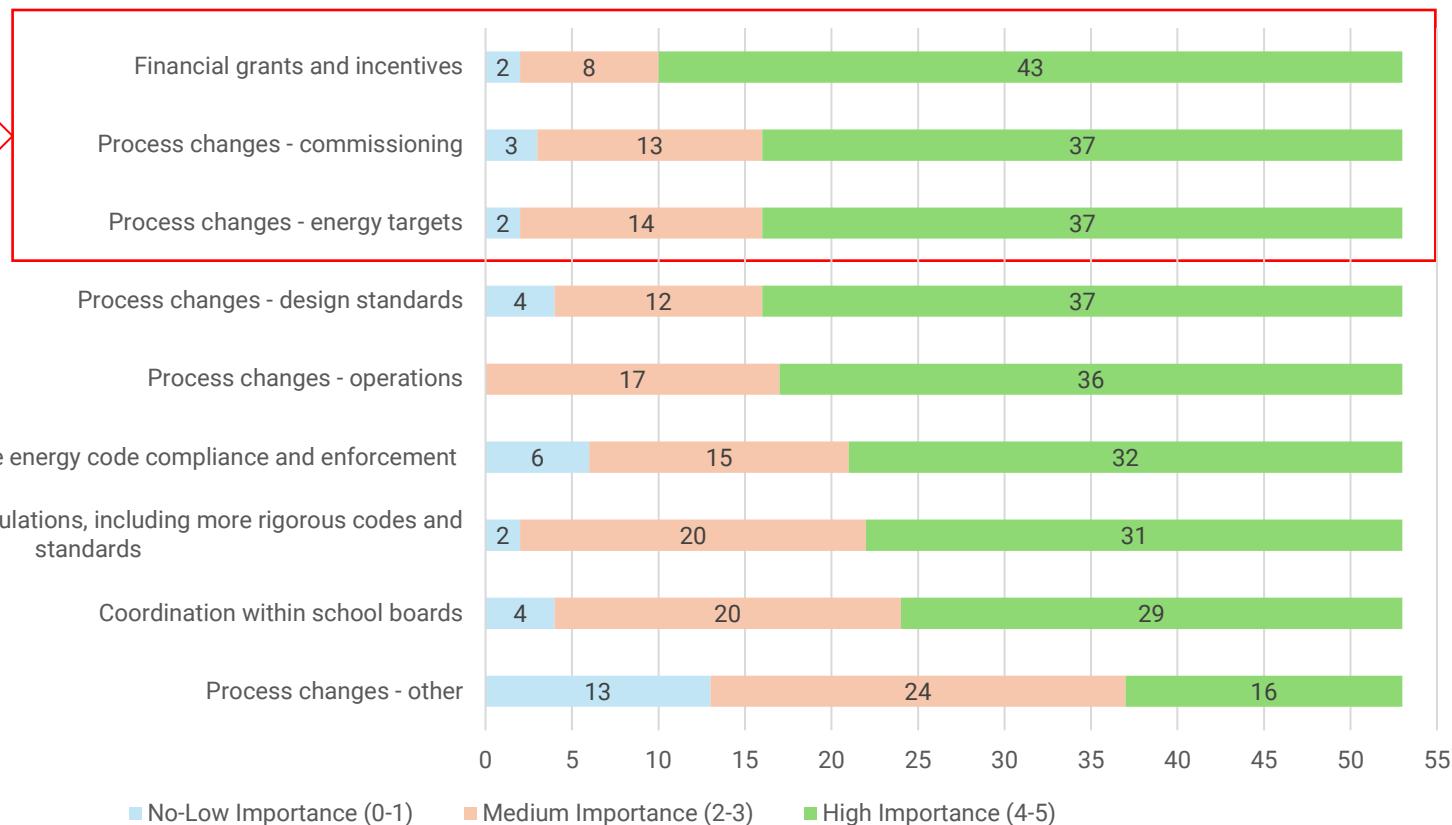


Workshop Question #1 Poll Results

All Respondents Combined Ratings

Where are the biggest opportunities for improving energy efficiency for new schools
for a board/district?
(All respondents)

Top-3 highest priorities



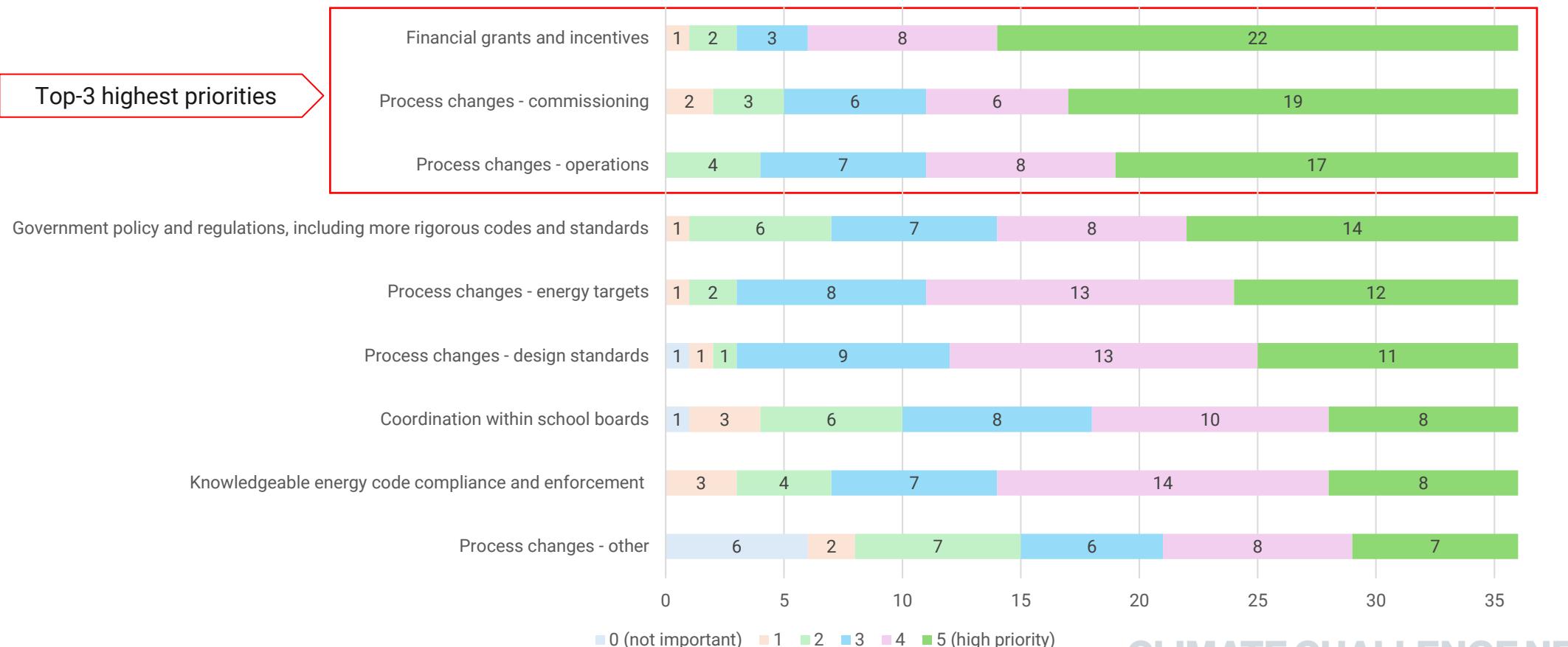
Note: This chart has combined poll rankings per below:
0 and 1;
2 and 3;
4 and 5

As a result, *“Financial grants and incentives”* becomes the top priority; *“Process changes – commissioning”* drops to second priority; and *“Process changes – energy targets”* moves into the top three priorities above *“Process changes – operations”*.

Workshop Question #1 Poll Results

School Board Respondents Only

Where are the biggest opportunities for improving energy efficiency for new schools for a board/district?
(School Board respondents only)

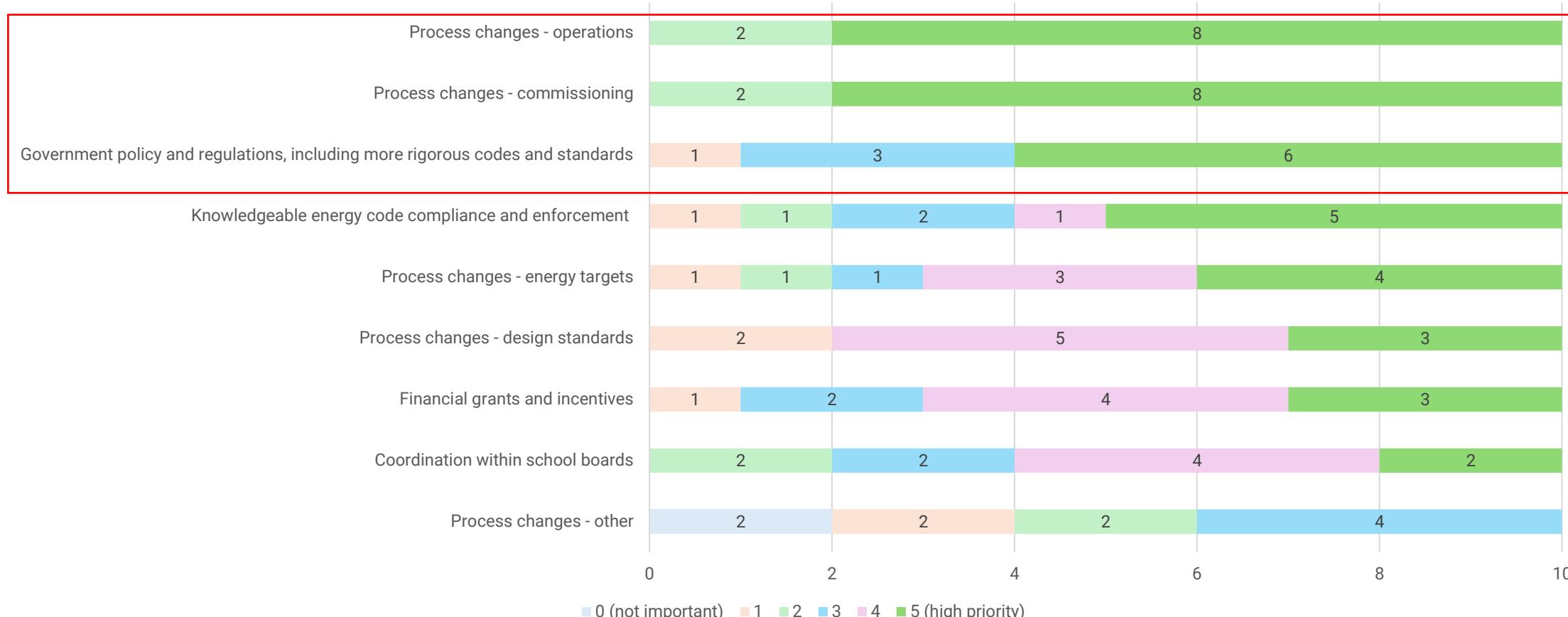


Workshop Question #1 Poll Results

Government Respondents Only

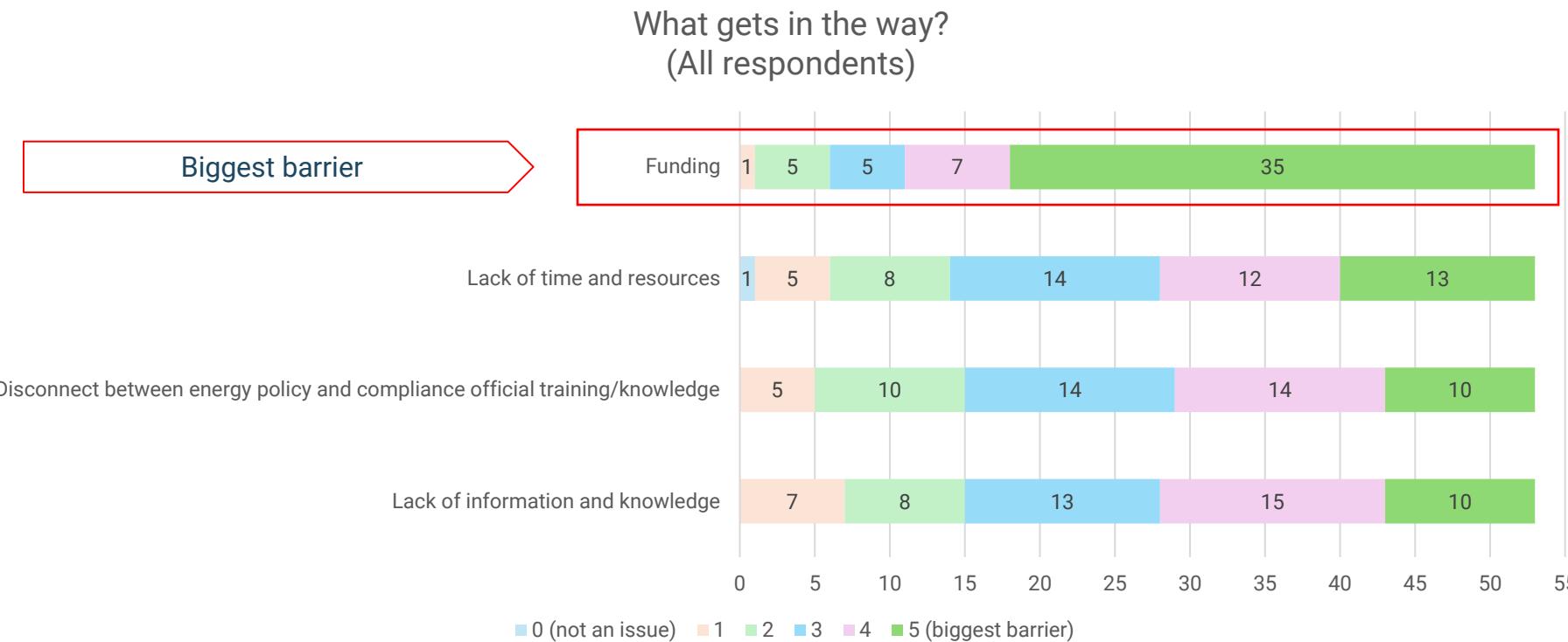
Where are the biggest opportunities for improving energy efficiency for new schools for a board/district?
(Government respondents only)

Top-3 highest priorities



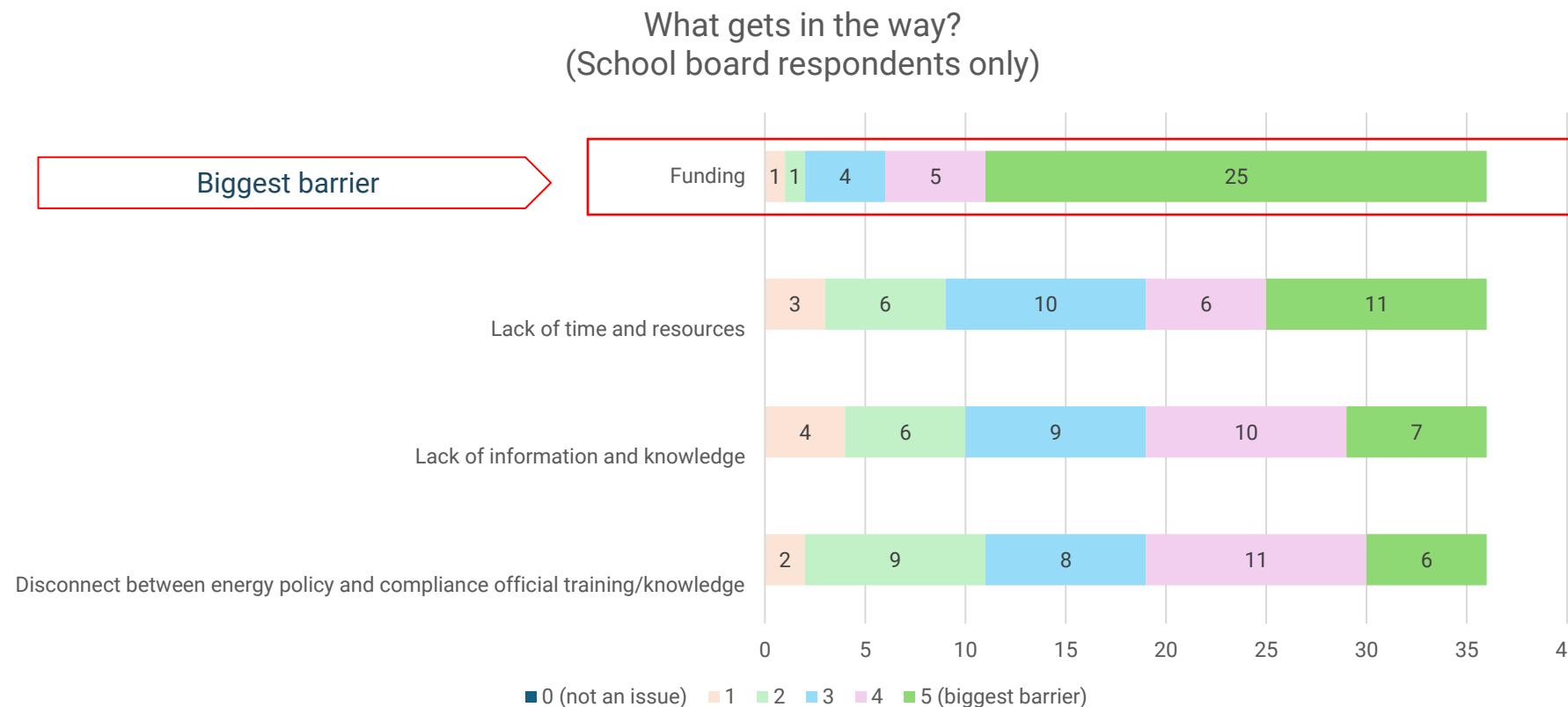
Workshop Question #2 Poll Results

All Respondents



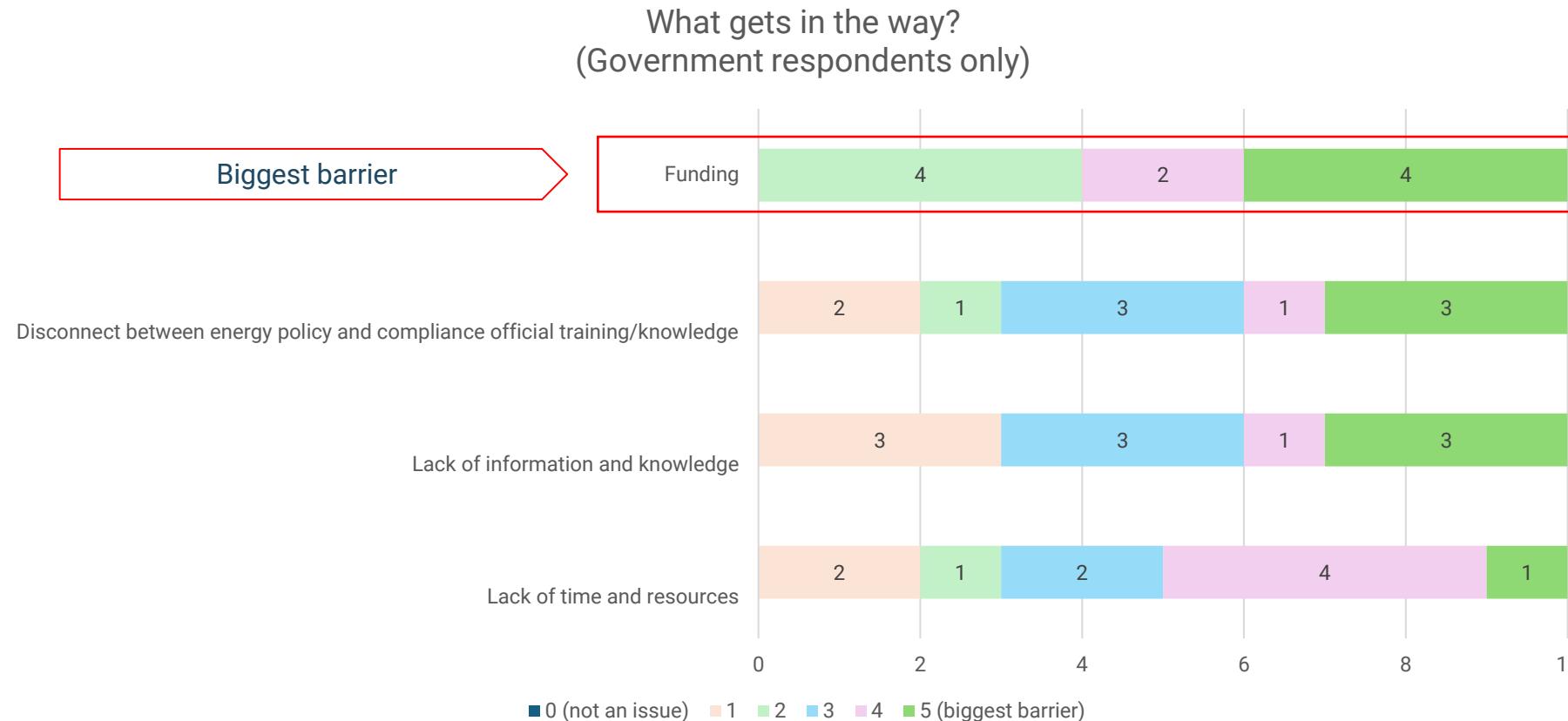
Workshop Question #2 Poll Results

School Board Respondents Only



Workshop Question #2 Poll Results

Government Respondents Only



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