

Sustainable Nimbin Community Survey 2011

Summary of Results

This survey was conducted for a period of 8 weeks between September 2011 and November 2011. Surveys were collected from people living in the Nimbin bio-region (i.e. within 30kms of the village).

The following is a summary of the responses which are relevant to the Food Links project as collated to date (we also asked questions about energy consumption and generation).

Total Number of Responses: 155

(Note: not all respondents answered all questions).

Question 2:

47% have a composting toilet system

39% recycle water

82.5% compost food scraps etc

Question 4: Do you buy food from Blue Knob Farmers Market?

Responses: 147 = 95%

Yes: 70% (102)

No: 30% (45)

Question 5: If your answer to 4 was yes, how often do you shop at Blue Knob Farmers Market?

Weekly: 23% (of 155)

Fortnightly: 11%

Monthly: 18%

Other: 4.5% (sometimes, occasionally, sporadically)

Question 6: How has your interest in knowing where your food comes from changed since January 2010?

Responses: 109 – 70%

Increased: 49%

Stayed the same: 51%

Reasons given for/comments re increased interest included:

More interest in local.

Local media, ACF, website.

I am thinking about and planning more to become more food secure.

Increased since the Blue Knob Farmers market.

A lot after Fukushima.

Always buy local where I can.

Why isn't locally grown food cheaper if the transport costs are reduced?

Blue Knob market has made a HUGE difference – now I know where my food comes from and what can be grown and get advice.

Exposure to Farmers Market has inspired us to produce our own food and know where it is from

I've always been interested but since Blue Knob Farmers market I am completely into it.

*Increased a lot after moving to this region and studying permaculture.
Now nearly all my food is local.
More aware of food kilometres.*

Reasons given for/comments re stayed the same included: Almost all of these respondents commented that they were “already converted” or “have been interested for a long time”.

Also: organic food is too expensive: I am single parent with three children

Question 7: Since January 2010 I think the availability of local food (ie produced in the Northern Rivers) has:

Responses: 140 = 90%

Decreased: 2%

Stayed the same: 13%

Increased: 71%

Increased substantially: 14%

Question 8: Since January 2010 the amount of local food my household buys/consumes has:

Responses: 138 = 89%

Decreased: 4%

Stayed the same: 19.5%

Increased: 59%

Increased substantially: 17.5%

Question 9: Do you grow your own food? If so what (tick as many as apply)?
(% of 155)

Eggs: 42%

Dairy Products: 4.5%

Fruit: 60%

Honey: 10%

Preserves/Dried: 23%

Poultry: 19%

Vegetables/Herbs: 82%

Grains: 2%

Meat: 12%

Tea/Coffee: 10%

Question 10: If you grow your own food please estimate how much of your weekly food you grow yourself?

Responses: 137 – 88%

10% or less: 50%

11-20%: 15.5%

21-40%: 22%

41-60%: 8%

61-80%: 3%

81-100%: 1.5%

Question 11: Has there been any change in the amount of food you produce since January 2010?

Responses: 121 = 78%

YES: 52% (40.5% of 155)

NO: 48% (37.5% of 155)

The results of Q12 have not been validly collated as yet. Preliminary results are:

Around 45% respondents said their food production had increased.

Around 48% stayed the same

Around 7% decreased – reasons given included weather, over house, kids moved out, poor health,

Question 13: Is the food you produce...?

Responses: 141 = 91%

Accredited organic: 7.8%

Biodynamic: 3.5%

Non-accredited organic: 72.2%

Other: 6.5%

None of the above: 10%

Question 14: Are you aware of the Nimbin Food Security Project? (tick as many as apply)

Mapping of Nimbin food production: 60 people (38%)

Nimbin Community Grain Mill: 118 people (76%)

Food Resilience Workshops: 54 people (35%)

Nourishing Nimbin Local Food Day: 61 people (39%)

Other Comments:

There were lots of supportive comments and feedback and some suggestions, including:

Would use the farmers market if it was in Nimbin – too far on bad road.

Thanks for the survey and I hope it bears fruit!

Would be good to establish a coffee vacuuming and roasting facility.

Keep up the good work!

Please repeat the workshops.

Glad about the grain mill.

Sad that we didn't get the community kitchen.

I use the grain mill every week.

There are so many wonderful initiatives happening to connect local food producers to consumers. Keep it up!

Excellent new influence for the Nimbin Show.

Great to see you at the Show!

Good on you for increasing awareness of local food and food security.

KEEP GOING!