

## Climate Responsiveness Outreach Summary

In May 2025, the Ramsey County Master Gardener (RCMG) Climate Responsiveness Team developed a survey that was sent to all current RCMG Project Leads, to assess interest in incorporating climate responsive information and practices into their volunteer projects. Below is a brief summary of responses received.

<b>21</b>	<b>12 very, 9 somewhat</b>	<b>16 very, 5 somewhat</b>
<b>Total Responses Received</b> (representing approx. 30% of RCMG Project Leads)	<b>Level of Comfort</b> Incorporating Climate Responsive Information into Volunteer Projects	<b>Likelihood of Incorporating</b> Climate Responsive Information into Volunteer Projects, if Provided Training

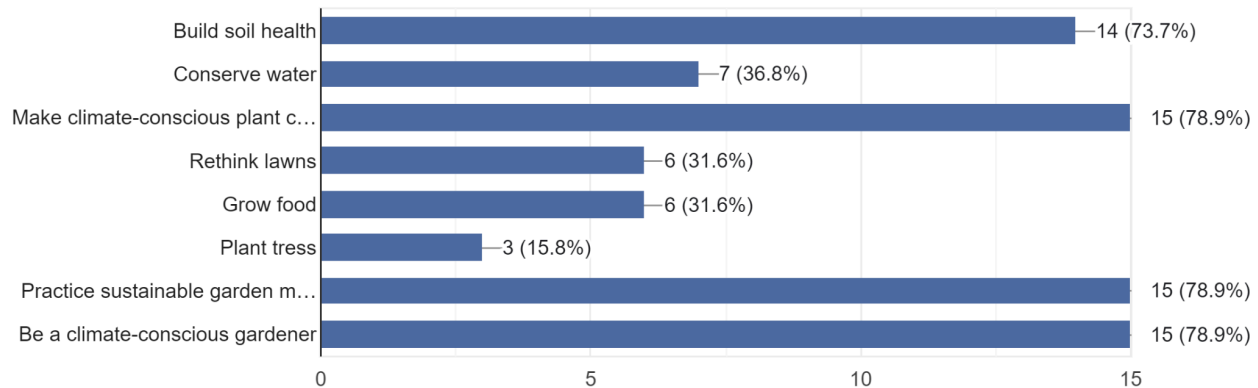
Project Leads identified these barriers to including climate responsiveness in their projects:

- Not as popular as other, sometimes more “fun,” topics
- Limits on programming scope, physical space, or setting-specific constraints (i.e., projects involving cities or public housing participants)
- Public apathy and lack of information
- Not having enough knowledge or feeling able to speak about climate responsiveness
- Time
- Languages spoken by volunteers and project participants

What would make Project Leads more likely to incorporate climate responsiveness into projects:

- #1 overall response was training for Project Leads
- Carbon footprint comparisons of unsustainable practices
- Climate responsive signage and gardening materials
- Having good information readily available

Project Leads identified the following topics of greatest interest on which they’d like to receive training:



At the end of the survey, the RCMG Climate Responsiveness Team also offered respondents the opportunity to participate in a 40-minute Zoom session, to have a more in-depth discussion on a draft climate responsive handout prepared by the RCMG Climate Responsiveness Team, as well as offer further feedback on barriers and opportunities. Six RCMG Project Leads participated in these discussions in June 2025, and offered the following thoughts.

### **General Thoughts on Climate Responsiveness Incorporation**

All six interviewees appreciated that work is being done on this important topic.

### **Handout Feedback**

Three of the six Project Leads had an opportunity to review the handout prior to their Zoom session. Three only received an overview and were able to scroll through the resource during the meeting. Below is all six's feedback on how the information is currently being presented.

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good internal resource for Project Leads to have as a "checklist" of how they may already be incorporating climate responsiveness into projects</li><li>• If shared with project participants, would be best used at compost site and tabling types of events</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Too long / too much information</li><li>• Paper not a good format (prefer digital resource with QR code)</li><li>• Clarify audience</li><li>• Language barriers for ELL volunteers and project participants</li></ul>

### **Suggested Alternative Formats**

Rather than having a paper handout, Project Leads who attended a Zoom session encouraged the RCMG Climate Responsiveness Team to consider the following opportunities for sharing climate responsive information with Project Leads, volunteers, and project participants:

- Create a bookmark or other small printed material with a QR code linking to a digital resource library for more detailed information
- Develop a personal audit that allows participants to assess own level of climate responsiveness and offers suggestions for additional actions to take
- Offer training opportunities in one of the following formats, keeping in mind that November through January is the best time to connect with Project Leads:
  - A one-time, two- to four-hour in-person training with hands-on activities led by a topical expert
  - Start a lunch-hour climate responsiveness information series (monthly, virtual)
  - Invite an expert/presenter to upcoming RCMG meetings
  - Produce video "shorts" showing RCMG Climate Responsiveness Team completing climate responsive activities, posted to RCMG social media with a particular frequency
- Host "coffee hour" meet-ups for all RCMG volunteers, to invite informal conversation and knowledge-sharing on climate responsive practices
- Partner with ELL teachers to develop accessible curriculum on climate responsiveness
- Make signage that can be placed at RCMG volunteer project sites to identify which climate responsive actions have been taken there, and why they are important