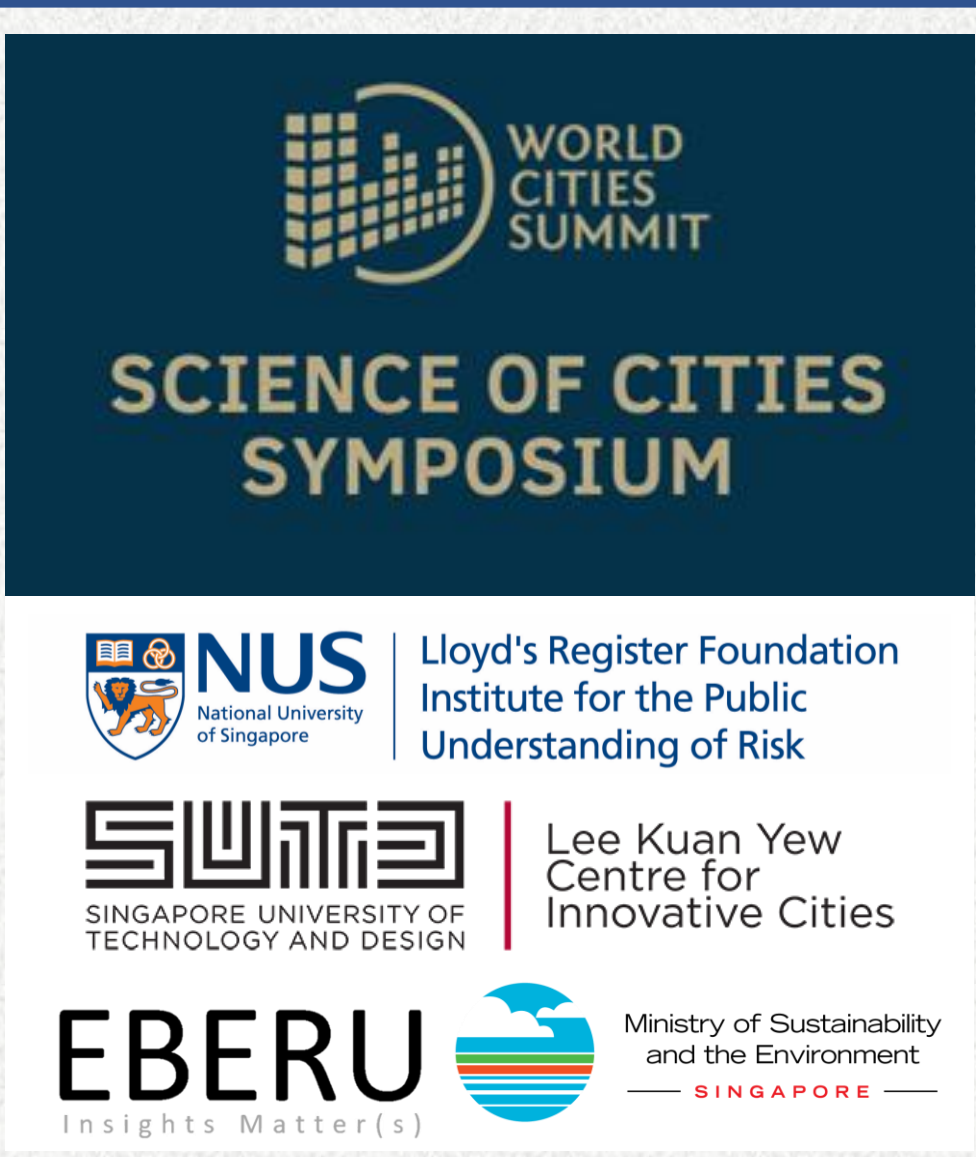


The Prospect of Collective Climate Action: Knowledge, Perceptions, and Expectations of Net Zero Amongst Singapore's Citizenry

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BACKGROUND

Governments globally have pledged to reach “net zero”, providing a clear, timebound goal for efforts to limit carbon emissions and mitigate the risk of climate change. In 2022, Singapore announced its goal to achieve Net Zero by 2050 and set out a Long-Term Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) to chart the pathway to achieving this goal.

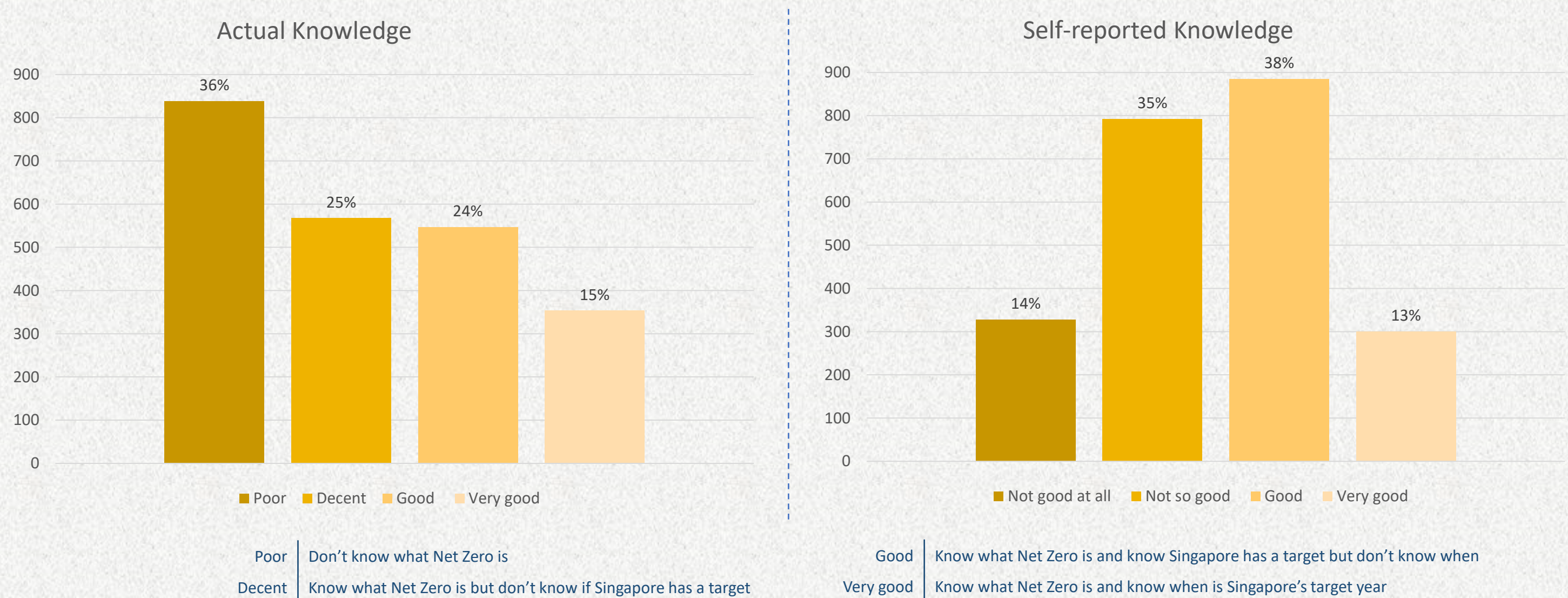
Understanding the public’s knowledge and perceptions of Net Zero allows decision-makers inside and outside Government to:

- Identify opportunities to accelerate progress towards Net Zero;
- Address misperceptions; and
- Account for the priorities, concerns and constraints of citizens.

KEY INSIGHTS

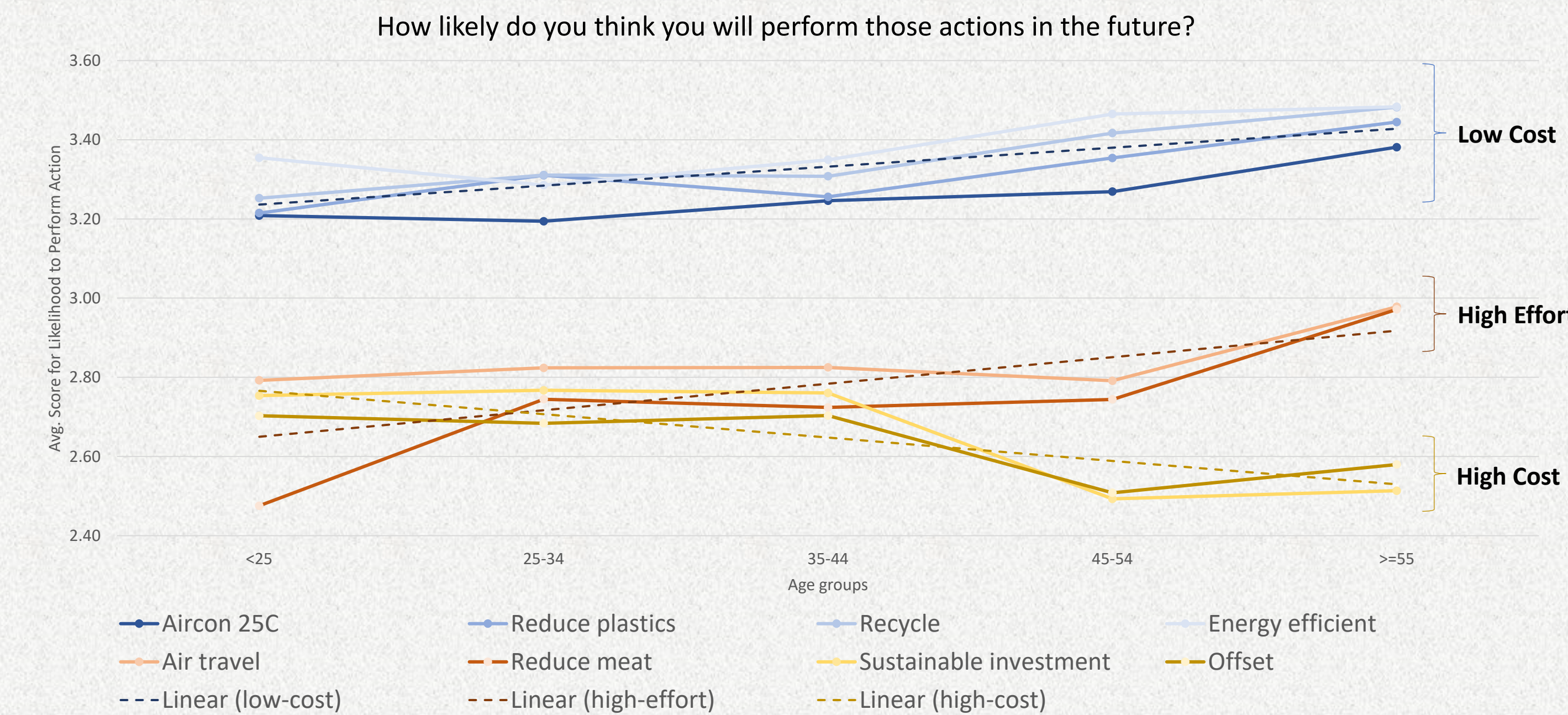
1. Singaporeans are familiar with the concept of Net Zero but less knowledgeable about the national policy target

- Around 70% of people have heard about Net Zero. 15% understood the Net Zero concept and were aware of Singapore’s 2050 target.
- In general, most individuals over-estimated their knowledge of Net Zero.



2. Singaporeans are already taking climate actions and intend to do more but are concerned about shifting from current consumption patterns, and the cost, time and effort involved

- Almost two-thirds of the Singaporean public supports the 2050 net zero target, while a further 17% would like to see a more ambitious timeline for emissions reductions.
- Older respondents were more willing to perform low-cost and high-effort actions, but less willing to engage in high-cost actions.



AIM

This study is a collaboration between government and academia to understand what Singaporeans think about the Net Zero target and the actions that could be taken to move towards the target.

METHODS

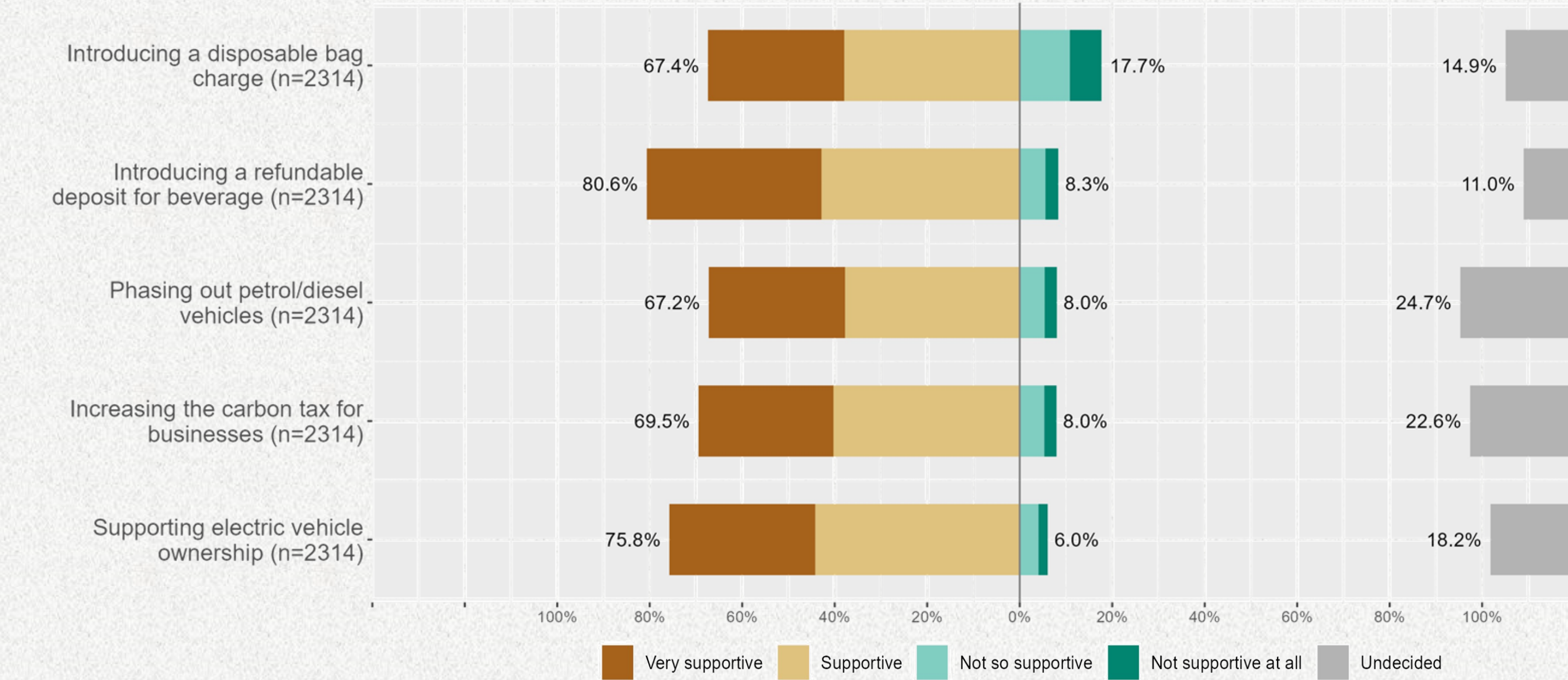
We asked **2,304 Singaporeans** about (i) their knowledge and perceptions of Net Zero; (ii) their current actions, future intentions, and policy support toward Net Zero; (iii) social and environmentally-related values; and (iv) information consumption.

18% of respondents were under 24, and **38%** were over 45. **55%** had at least a university degree; **77%** belonged to the Chinese race, while the remaining were primarily of Malay and Indian descent.

The study was conducted using an online survey in **2023**, with a sample that broadly included most segments of Singapore’s general population. Sub-sample (n=264) also answered some questions in vernacular language to test if there was a difference in understanding.

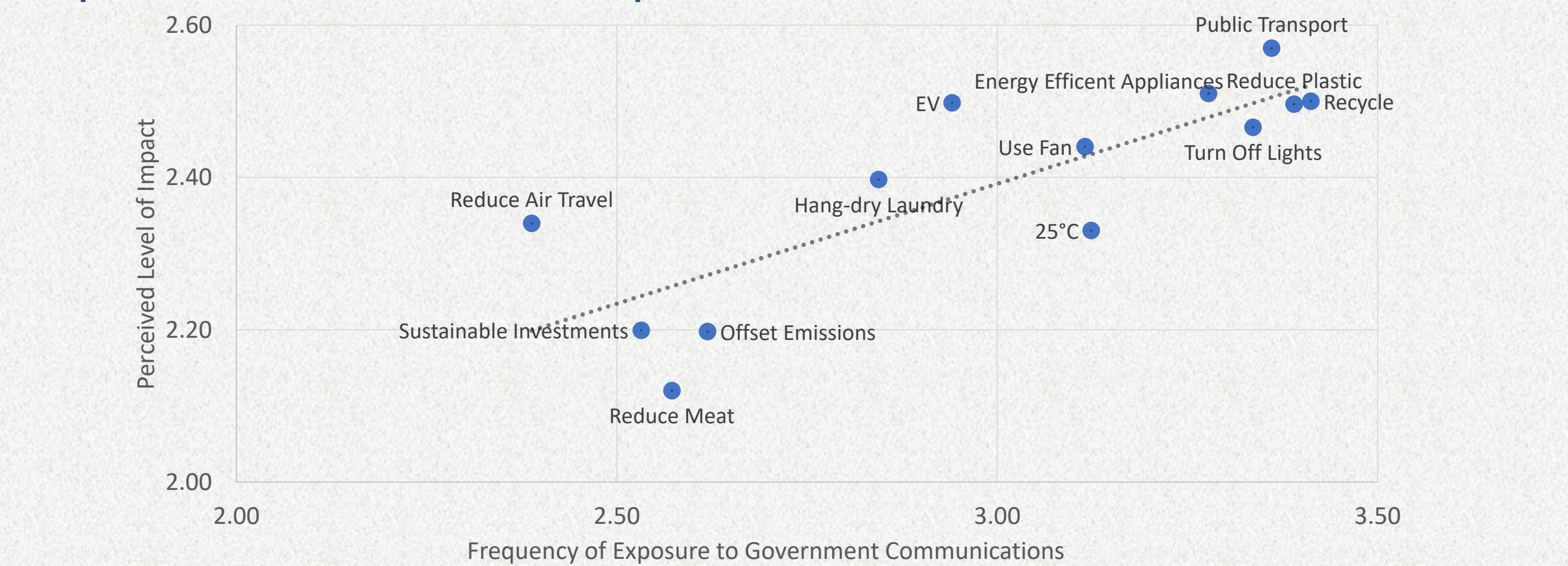
3. There is strong support in Singapore for policies to achieve Net Zero

- More than a fifth of respondents were undecided about phasing out petrol/diesel vehicles and increasing the carbon tax for businesses.
- The disposable bag charge received the weakest support (18% were not supportive while 15% were undecided).



4. High levels of trust in Government communications provide an opportunity to promote climate actions

- Actions promoted by the Government have higher perceived levels of impact.



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