

**Friends of the Earth (HK)
Membership e-Survey Findings 2009**

Dear members of FoE (HK),

To better understand the concern from members to the work and environmental issues of FoE (HK), we have gathered the comments from members via previous e-Surveys. Each of your replies is truly appreciated. Your support and advice help us to evaluate our progress and guide us to greater achievements. Please find the summarized opinions and analysis stated below.

Should you have any inquiries, please email join@foe.org.hk. Thanks again for your great support.

Friends of the Earth (HK)
September 2009

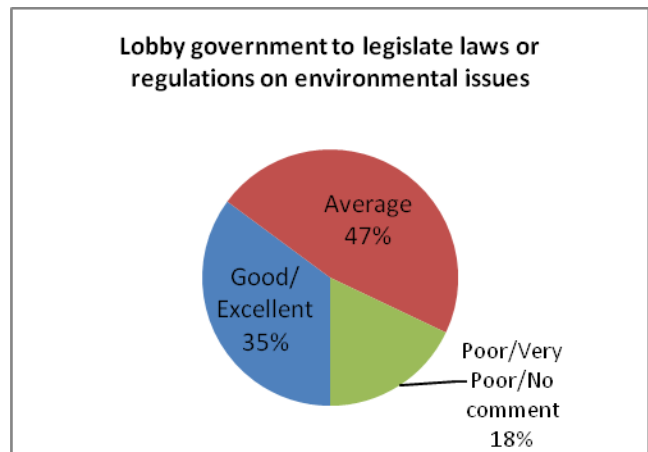
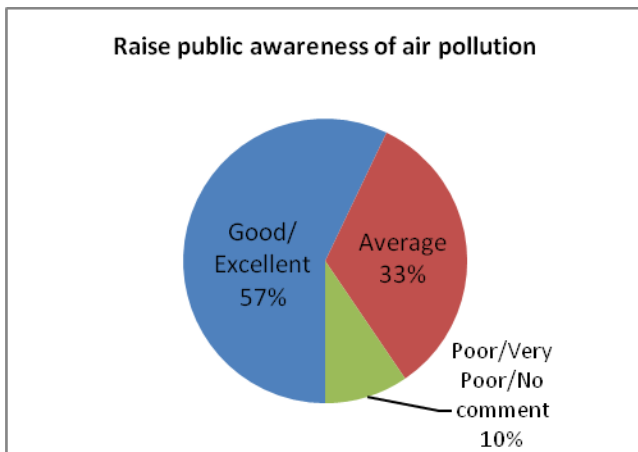
A. Basic survey information

Period of survey: 9th April to 3rd May 2009 (25 days)
Number of respondents: 746 people
Format: Conducted electronically with Chinese and English versions

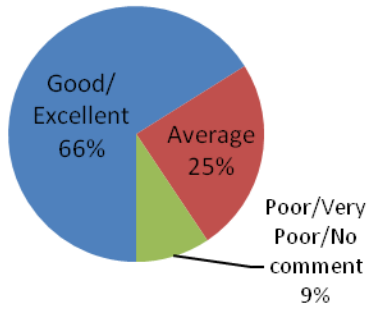
B. Survey Result

- 1) FoE (HK) focuses on environmental issues including "Air Quality/Energy" and "Waste and Resource Management". Below are the comments from respondents on the work effectiveness of the two sectors:

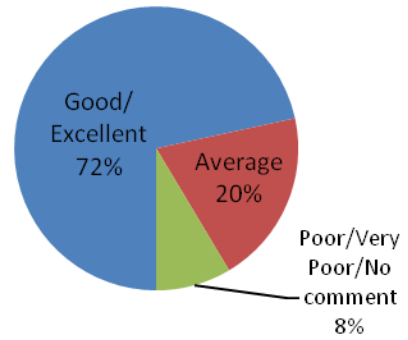
"Air Quality/Energy"



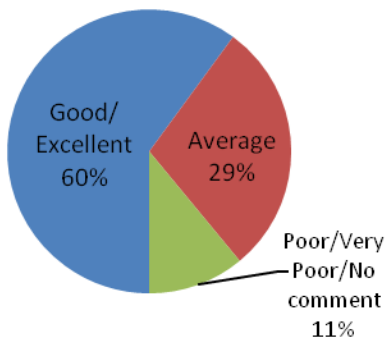
Promote energy efficiency and energy saving in society



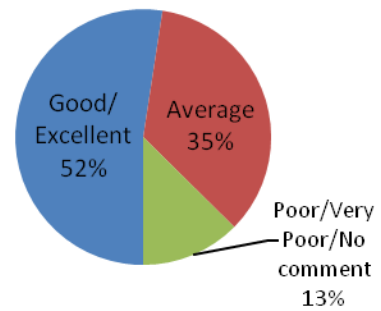
Raise public awareness on light pollution



Tree Conservation

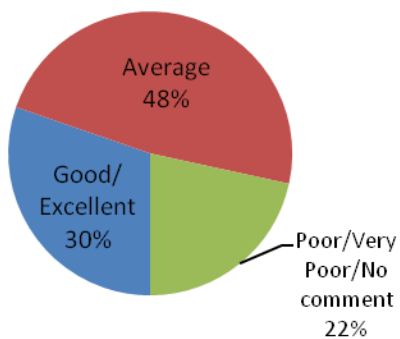


Raise public awareness of climate change in society

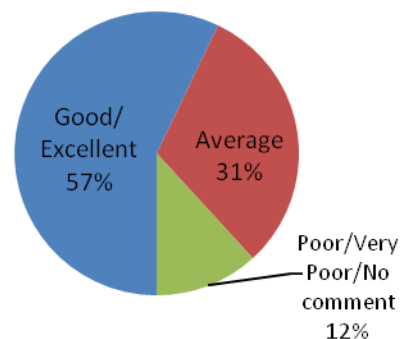


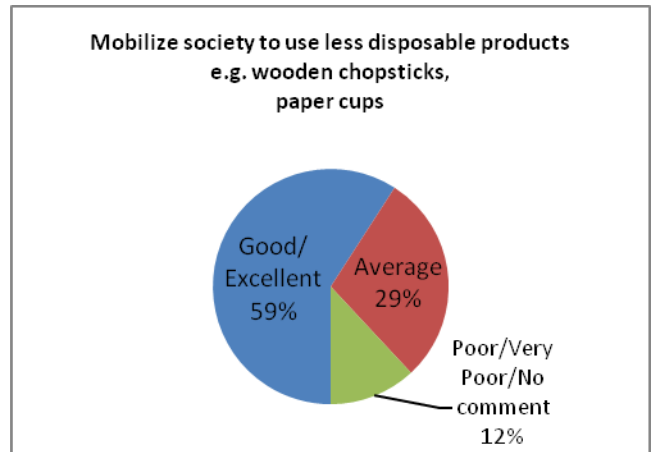
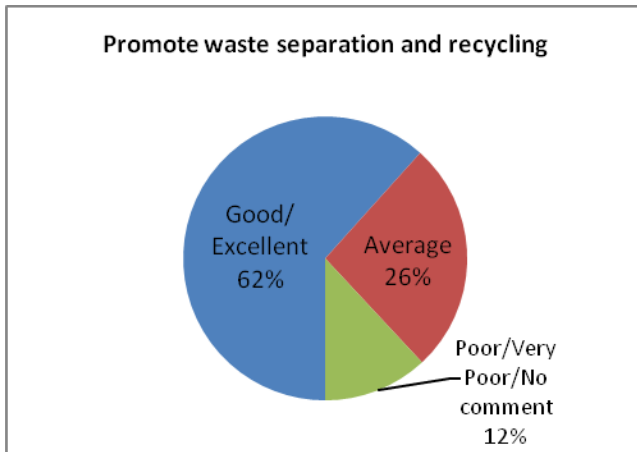
"Waste and Resource Management"

Advocate Producer Responsibility Scheme

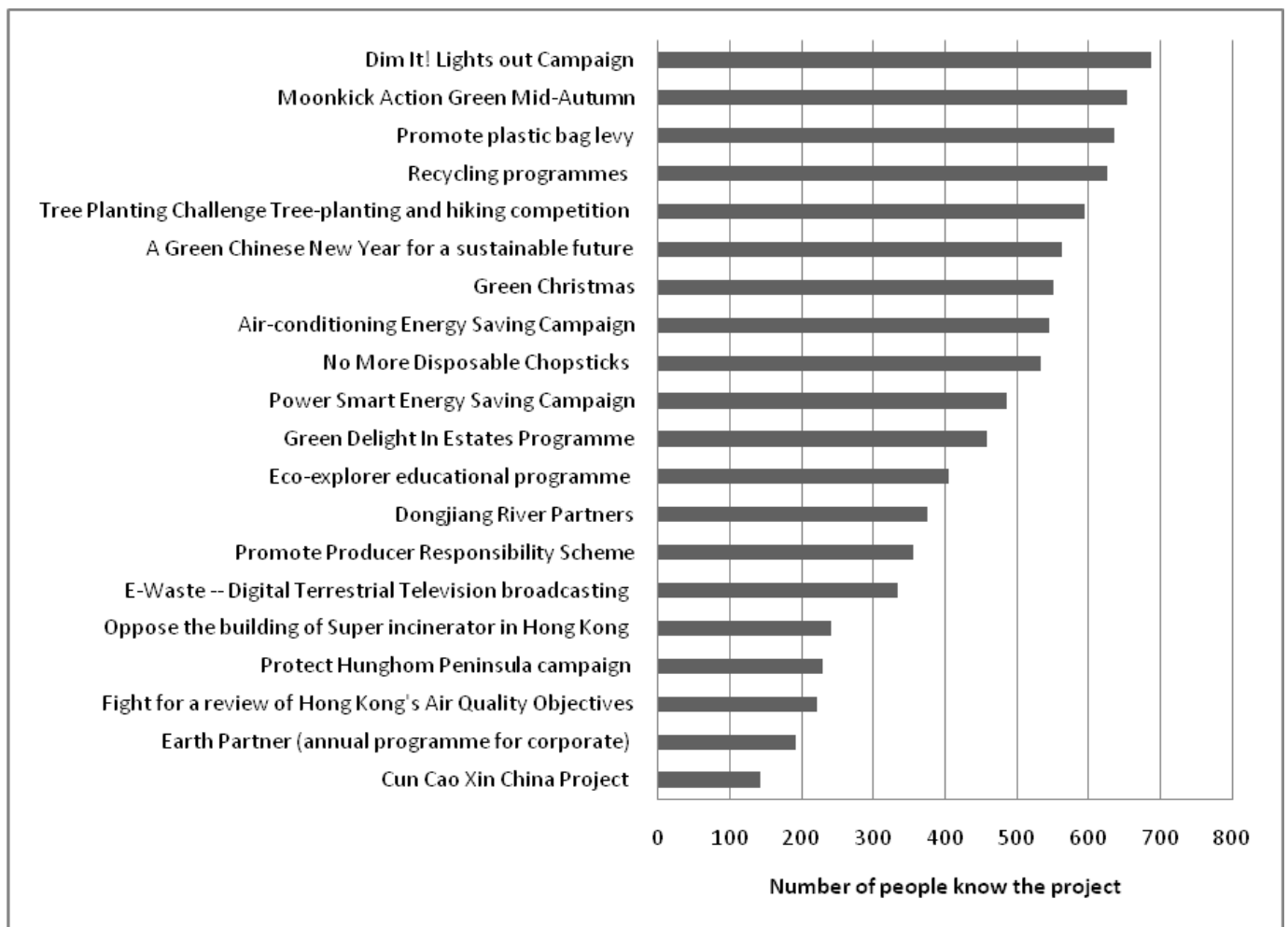


Encourage Green Consumerism

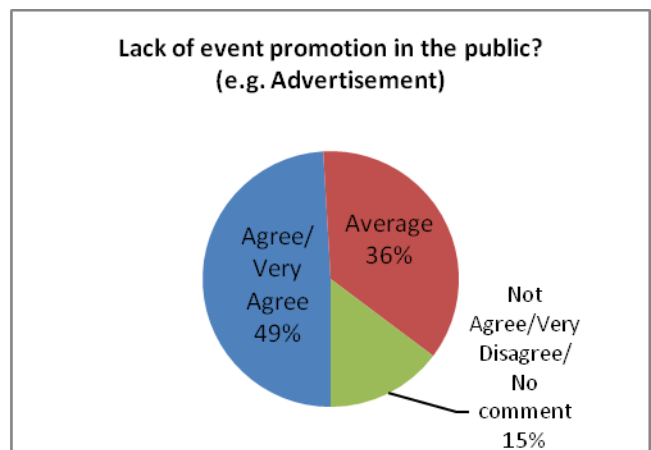
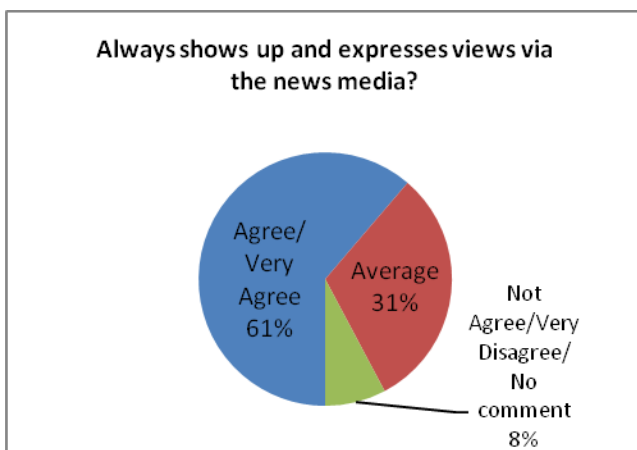
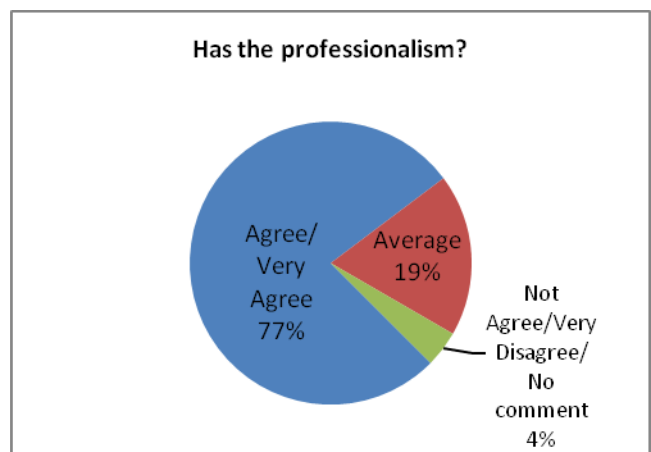
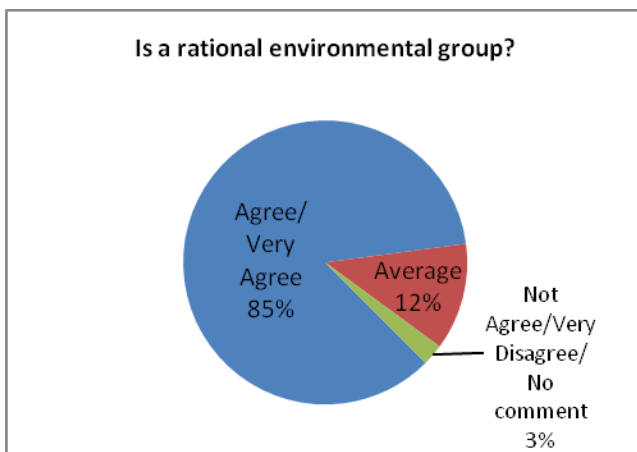
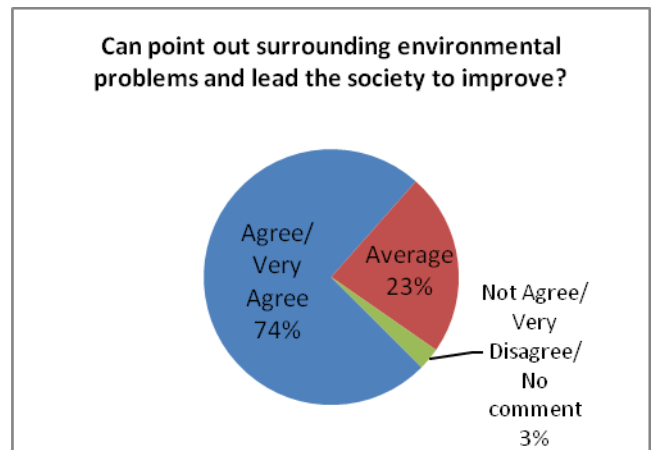
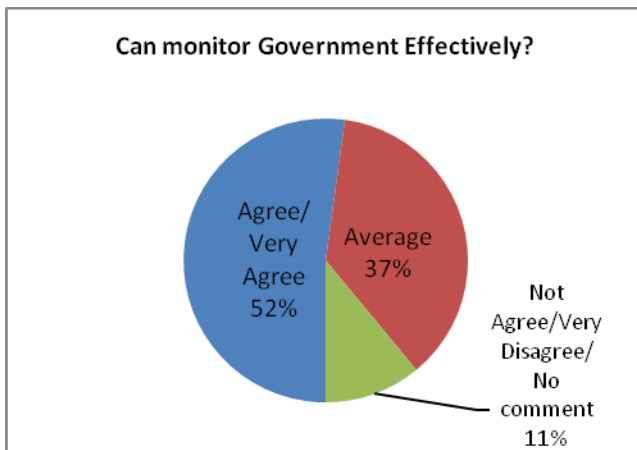


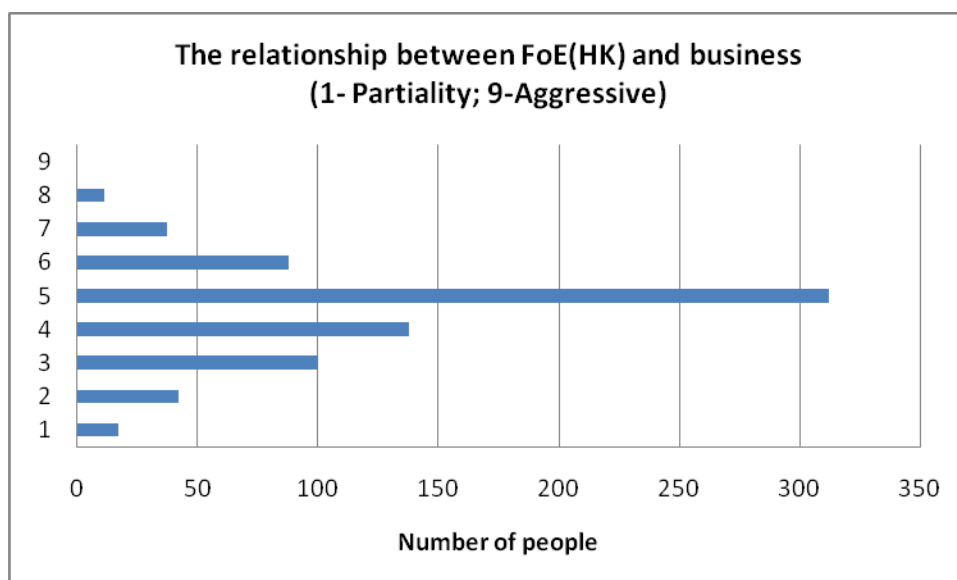
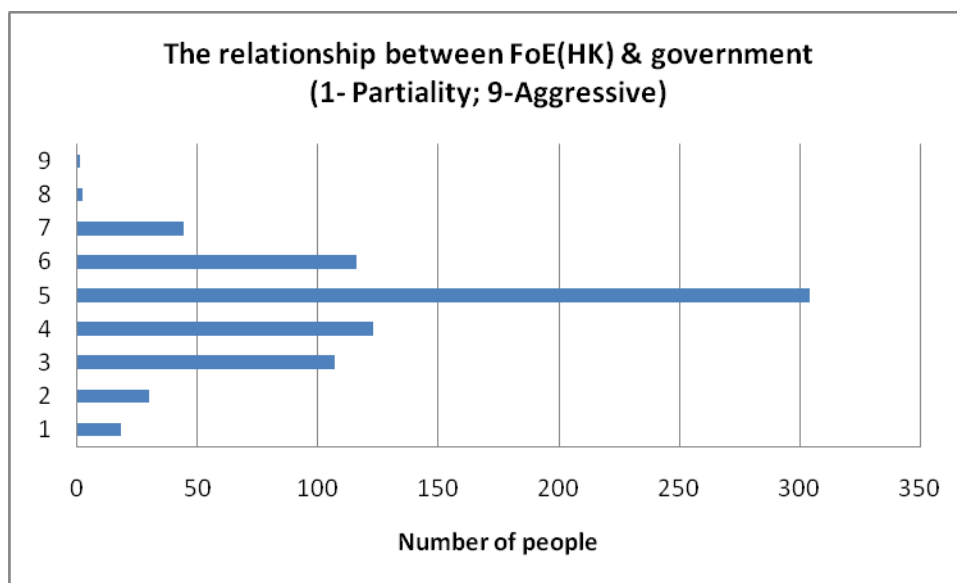
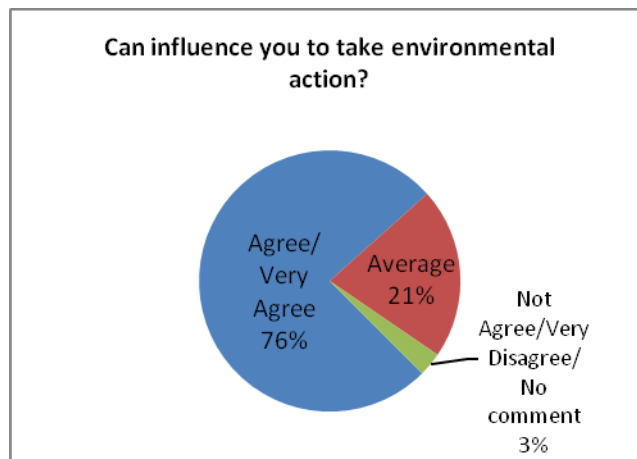


2) The popularity of environmental campaigns/projects advocated by FoE (HK) commented on by surveyed members:

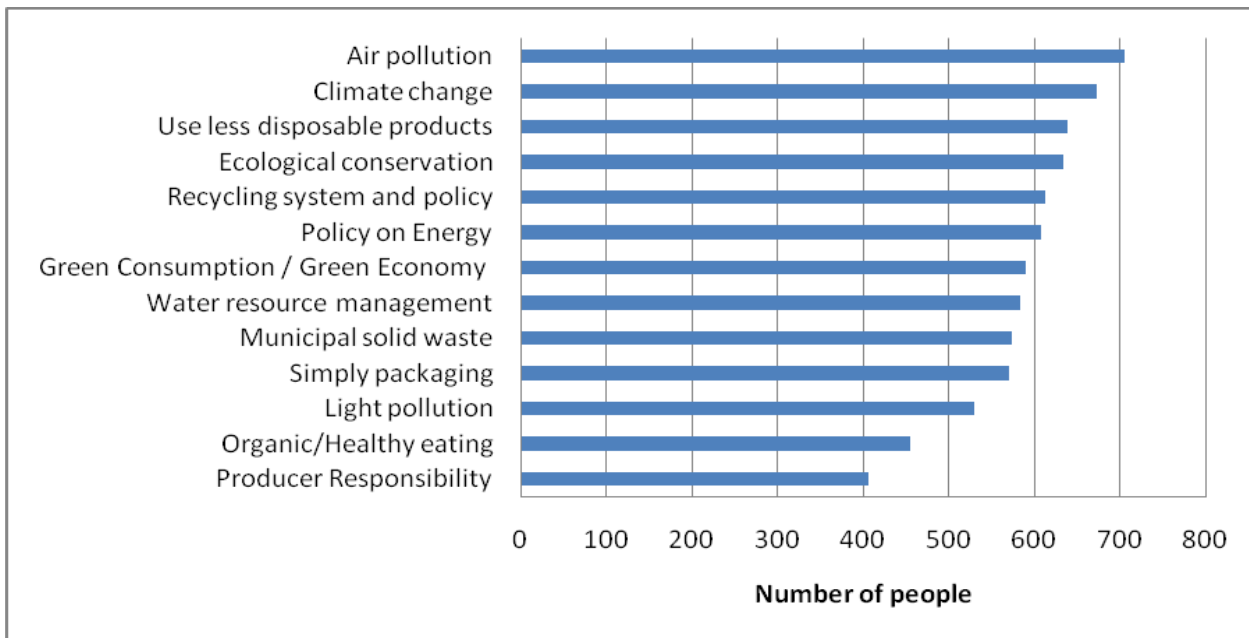


3) Comments from surveyed members on entire work of FoE(HK):

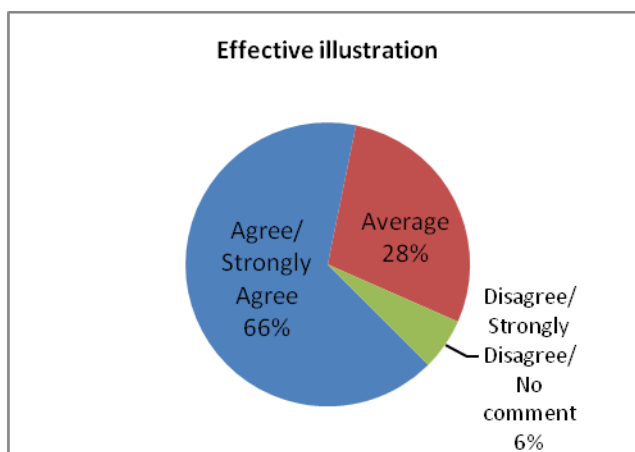
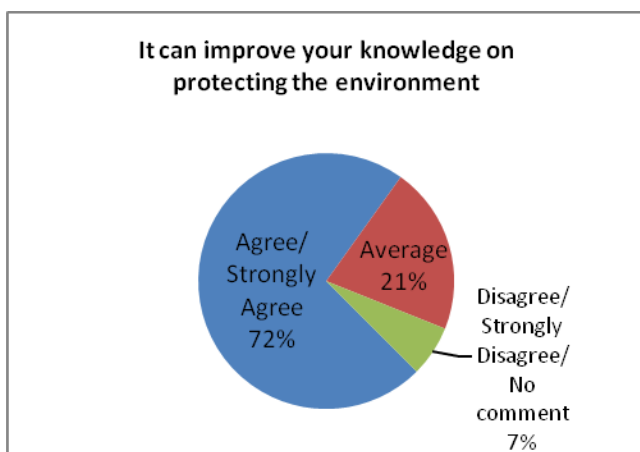
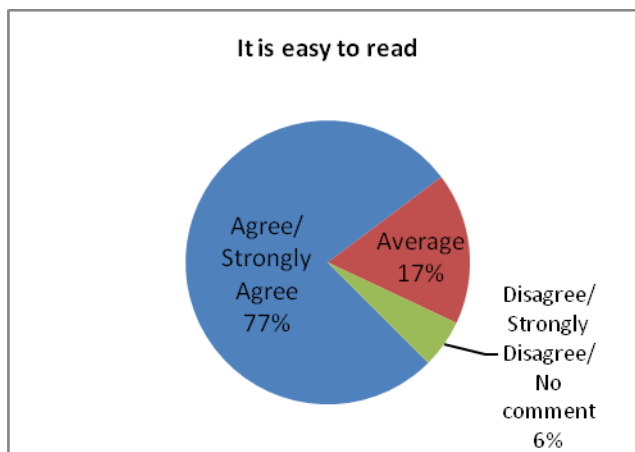
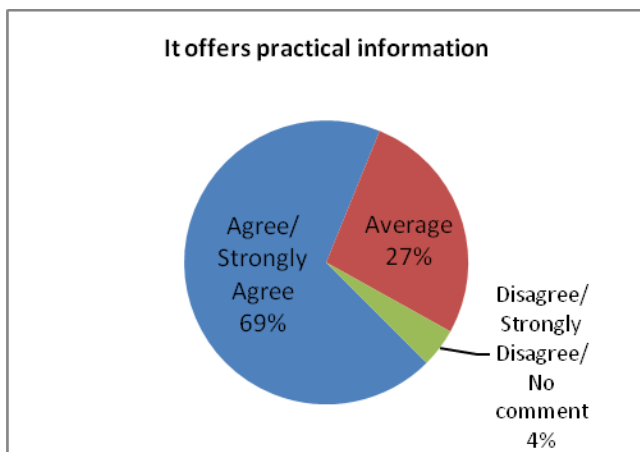


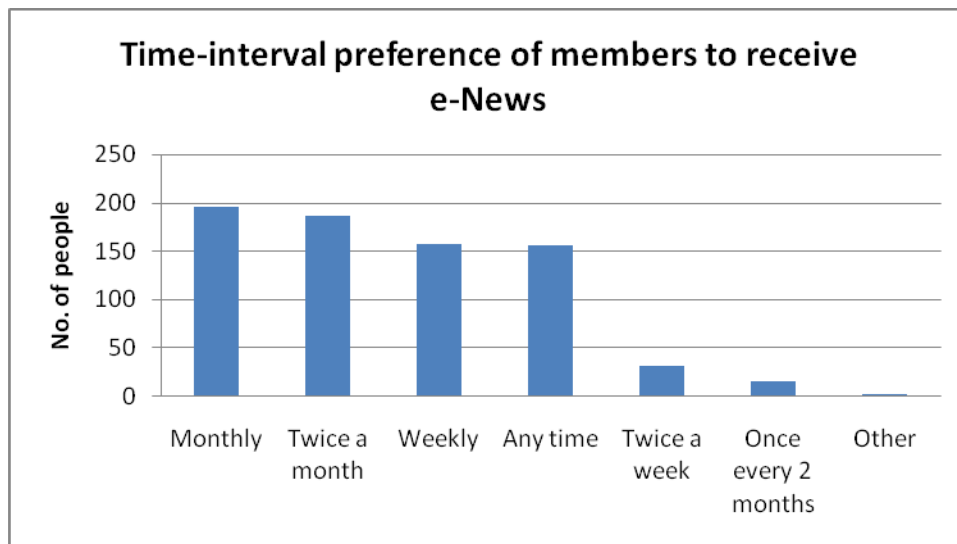
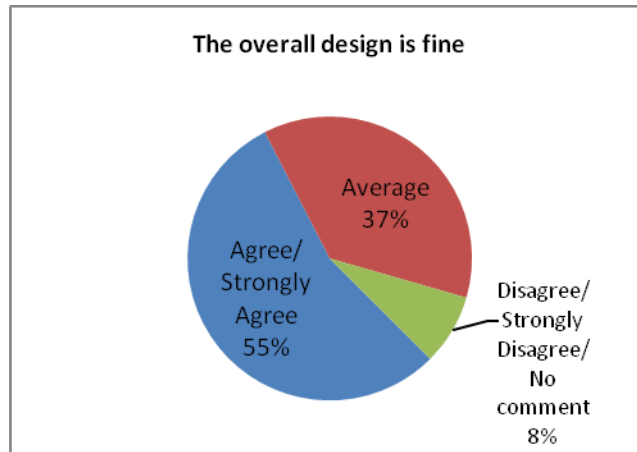


4) Extend of concern by surveyed members of the following environmental issues:

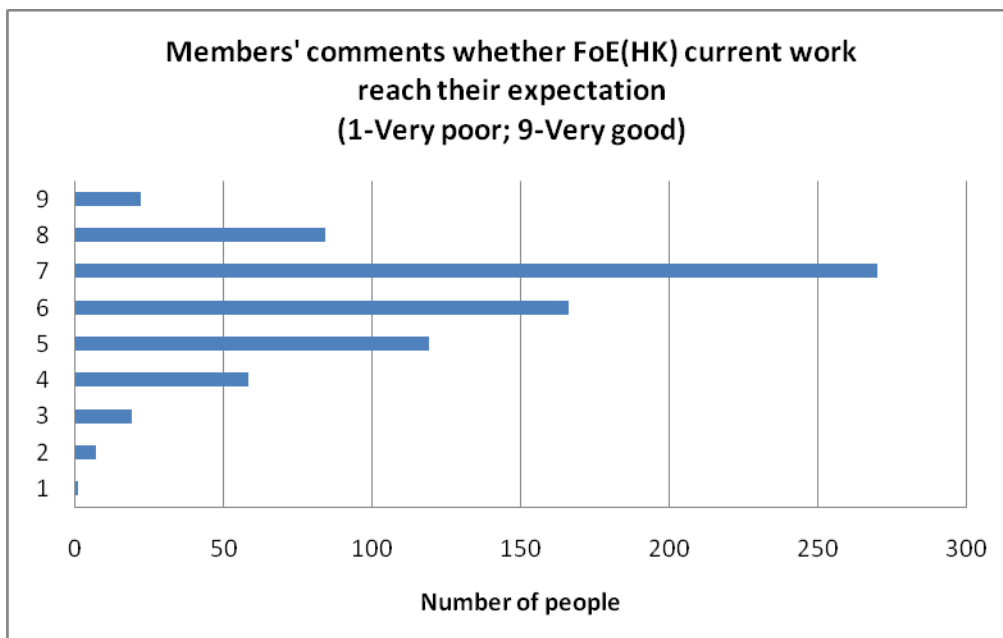


5) The comments by respondents on the pattern of receiving the electronic news provided by FoE (HK), including the membership publication "e-Bulletin" that's sent once every six weeks, and other irregular e-news:

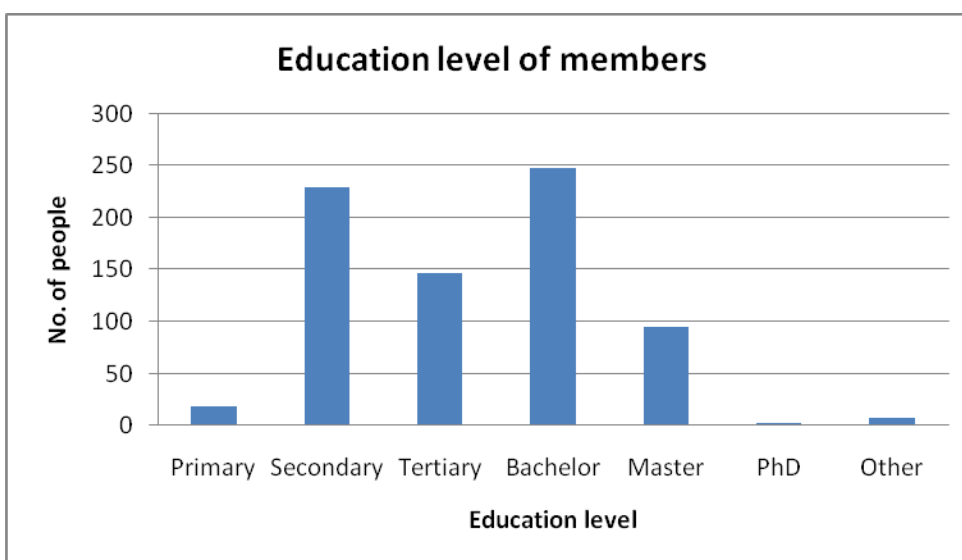
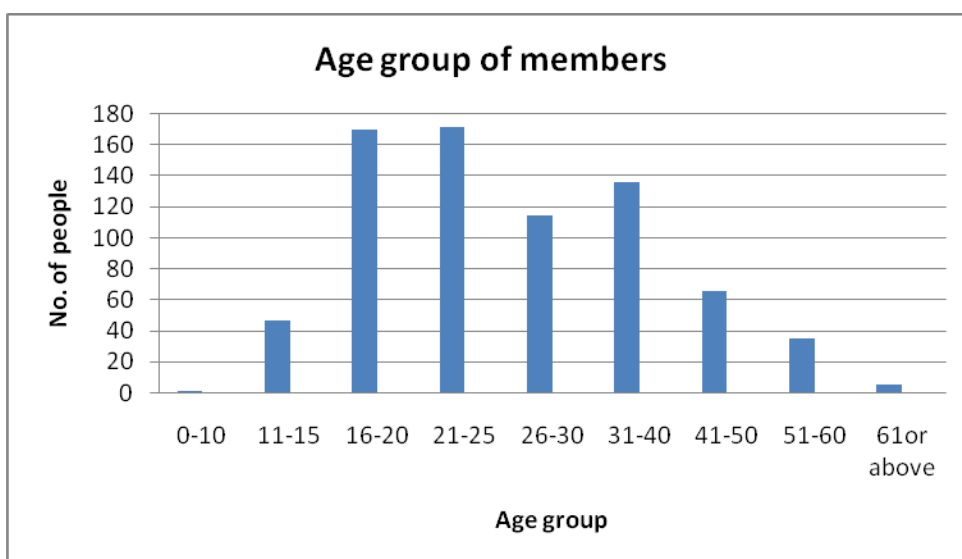
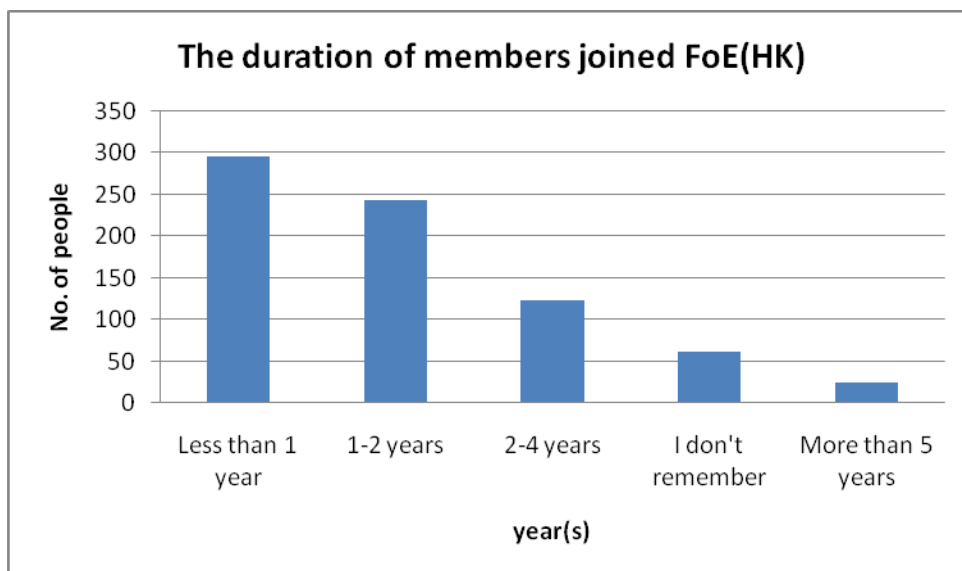




6) Comments by surveyed members whether FoE(HK) current work reaches their expectation:



C. Background of respondents



D. Comprehensive Analysis and Prospect

“Air Quality / Energy”

Regarding FoE (HK)'s major environmental focuses in recent years, “air quality” and “energy policy”, a majority of surveyed members expressed concern as well (94.6% or 706 persons, and 81.5% or 608 persons respectively). Their assessments of the organization's performance on the related environmental work that reached “excellent and good” rankings were “raise public awareness of light pollution” (72%), “promote energy efficiency and energy saving in society” (66%), “tree conservation” (60%), “raise public awareness on air pollution” (57%), “raise public awareness of climate change in society” (52%). Moreover, on the issue of whether FoE (HK) “can monitor government effectively”, 52% expressed agreement. The numbers reflected that over half of the surveyed members agreed strongly with FoE (HK)'s ability to raise public awareness and promote policies. However, on the issue of whether the organization is able to “lobby government to legislate laws or regulations on environmental issues”, 65% of the surveyed members assessed our performance was average to poor.

The Hong Kong Government legislative progress was undoubtedly slow. For example, despite the World Health Organization (WHO) publication of Air Quality Guidelines (AQG) in 2006, the Hong Kong Government continued to embrace the targets set in 1987. The lack of revision over a twenty year period led to a failure to protect public health.

This was partly due to FoE (HK)'s effort. In the Policy Address 2008, Chief Executive Mr. Tsang finally committed the adoption of WHO's more stringent AQG. However, FoE (HK) regrettably revealed that the guidelines referred to only the least binding “interim target-1”. Besides, the “Public Consultation on Air Quality Objectives Review” published by the Government on 23rd July 2009 focused merely on the cost of air quality control measures, but did not mention an execution timetable or roadmap. FoE (HK) has made a public statement expressing our disappointment. ([details in Chinese](#))

Fossil fuel supply remained unstable, oil price and coal price continue to climb. Fossil fuel was both unsustainable and augmented global warming. Therefore, the overall energy policy should go beyond stabilization to actively address neglected areas such as energy, electricity demand management, reduce reliance on fossil fuel, the use of clean energy, and mechanisms to link profit with pollution and so forth. The Government had regrettably not made concrete commitment in these aspects.

Hong Kong's air pollution problem has not seen significant improvement for many years, damaging its international image. We expect our members to continue to participate in our effort to pressure and communicate our demands to the Government. We further hope that everyone adheres to the Power Smart principles advocated by FoE (HK).

Waste/Resource Management

Regarding another relevant focus of FoE (HK) in recent years, “waste/resource management”, a significant percentage of the surveyed members also expressed concern. In particular, 85.5% or 638 persons expressed concern in the reduced use of “disposable” products, 82% or 612 persons in “recycling system and policy”, 79% or 589 persons in “green consumption”, 76.8% or 573 persons in “municipal solid waste”, 76.5% or 571 persons in “simply packaging”. Their assessments of FoE (HK)'s performance on environmental work, in order of rating, were “promote waste separation and recycling” (62%), “mobilize society to use less disposable products” (59%), and “encourage green consumerism” (57%). The data showed that the majority of surveyed members agreed strongly that FoE (HK) was able to broaden the social concern for different levels of waste related discussions, including recycling, waste reduction at source, and structural green consumerism and marketing attitude. However, on the issue of “advocate Producer Responsibility Scheme”, 70% of surveyed members found the performance mediocre to dissatisfactory. Moreover, among the thirteen listed environmental issues, “Producer Responsibility” commanded the least concern (54.4%) among the surveyed members.

In the 2005 Government publication “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)”, the Government proposed the legislation of Product Eco-responsibility Bill to regulate the disposal of wastes such as electronic waste, plastic bags, over-packaging, beverage containers and rechargeable batteries for 2006. The proposal was not realized. A ray of light was only seen when the first phase of plastic bag levy “Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation” was introduced on 7th July 2009, after waiting for four years. In comparison, Germany announced the first “German Packaging Ordinance” in 1991 to demand that producers take environmental responsibility and properly take care of packaging waste. Our neighbors Japan and Taiwan also introduced similar measures in 1995 and 2002 respectively.

FoE (HK) is the leading green group in promoting Producer Responsibility locally. Since 2003 we have tirelessly lobbied for legislation, demanded the regulation of over-packaging, electronic waste, and plastic bag reduction etc.

Regarding the relatively well-known “Moon-kick Action” (recognized by 87.5% of surveyed members), during the six years between 2003 and 2008, one of the underlining messages also advocated Producer Responsibility through the recovery of moon cake tin boxes and put simply packaging in action.

FoE (HK) wrote an open letter to the “Bills Committee on Product Eco-responsibility Bill in 2008 ([Chinese details](#)). In March of the same year, we also led a group of 28 cross-discipline units including other green groups, political parties, congressmen, and scholars to demand that the Secretary for the Environment Mr. Edward Yau to realize the waste reduction commitment in “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste”. The department’s progress has been regrettably slow. FoE (HK) has just compiled the waste related data of Hong Kong over the past ten years to find that the city’s solid wastes reached a ten year high in all of volume generation, disposal, and recovery in 2008. In particular, industrial waste disposal has increased by 10%.

Producer Responsibility obligations target not only producers, but all pollution generators from manufacturing to usage to recovery need to sharing their respective environmental responsibility, mitigating the impact on the environment through the avoidance of generation at the source to recovery at the end. Hong Kong cannot continue its current inefficient use of taxpayers’ money to process uncontrolled garbage increase, but needs to develop a more effective source reduction strategy. We hope that members of FoE (HK) will join in our initiative.

Friends of the Earth (HK) Rational Neutrality

On the overall performance of the organization, the majority of the surveyed members gave positive assessments with comments of strongly agree or agree. 85% of those surveyed have the notion that FoE (HK) is “a rational environmental group”, 77% considers FoE (HK) “has the professionalism”, 76% thinks FoE (HK) can induce them to take environmental action, 74% believes that FoE (HK) is able to point out surrounding environmental problems and lead social improvement. Regarding the question on whether FoE (HK) is meeting members’ expectation, on a scoring scale of 1 (very poor) to 9 (very good), 72.7% of surveyed members offered moderate to upper scores between 6 and 9.

Moreover, surveyed members widely believe that FoE (HK) has maintained a neutral relationship with the Government and business sectors. On a scoring scale of 1 (partiality) to 9 (aggressive), 72.8% gave FoE (HK) a moderate score between 4 and 6 on our relationship with the Government, and 72.1% on our relationship with the business sectors. This reflects the rational neutrality of FoE (HK), and our consistent missions:

Focus on and protect our environment locally and regionally

Offer solutions to help create environmentally sustainable public policies, business practices and community lifestyles

Engage governments, business and society

The Future of the Environment Needs Your Support

Apart from some of the surveyed members who joined more than five years, 88.5% of the surveyed group joined less than five years; 79% are between 16 and 40 years of age; and 65.8% hold degrees or above. This reflects a positive trend that the young and/or educated generations are concerned about environmental issues and are actively expressing their opinions.

It is easy to destruct the environment, whereas the building of a good environment takes long term effort. Repairing a polluted environment will take even twice the effort. We must act now to reduce the impact. Government, businesses, and the social communities must cooperate and perform the respective duties.

We greatly appreciate the sincere responses from our surveyed members. FoE (HK) will continue to work as a leading environmental advocate for a sustainable future. However, the capacity of just around twenty full-time staff is very limited. We hope for more inspired friends to join us as members or volunteers.

[Click here](#) to become a “Friend of the Earth”.

Thank you!