

SCENARIO BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

*Qualitative outcomes of the November, 2017 Genesee-Finger Lakes
Regional Planning Council Resiliency Track*



**Environmental
Finance
Center**

Syracuse University



Why a “scenario building” exercise?

Scenario building exercises are interactive ways for attendees to increase their understanding of potential extreme weather impacts, and other threats, in their community.

How does it work?

In groups of 6-10, attendees were asked to list statements on post-it notes that described how their community might look under 5 scenarios: ice storm, blizzard, flash flood, wind storm, and loss of a major employer.

Several community assets were used to structure thinking, and were displayed on flip-charts: Built Environment, Transportation, Utilities/Communication, Natural Environment, Social Environment, and Economy.

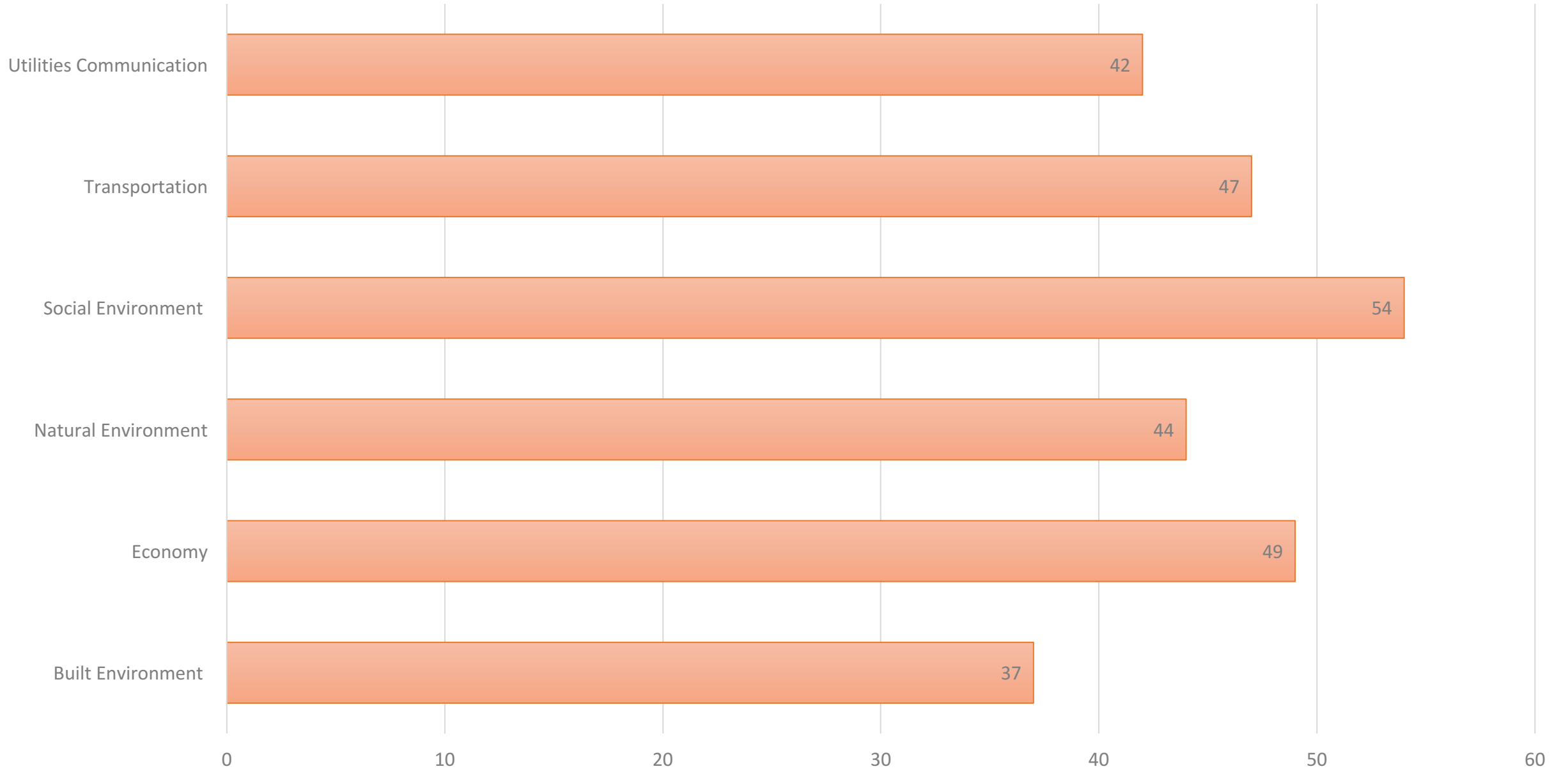


Major Outcomes from the 2017 Scenario Building Exercise



- After the workshop concluded, SU-EFC used computer assisted qualitative analysis software (CAQAS) to identify major trends in attendee responses.
- There were 273 responses across 7 flip charts (groups) and approximately 40 participants
- Responses ranged from single phrases (e.g., *“property damage”*) to longer, first person descriptions of past events (e.g., *“people stayed put, we have no public transport”*).
- Some responses were general, while others explicitly mentioned local places (e.g.. *“If Darien Lake folded, many part time minimum wage jobs lost, seasonal workers and retirees out of work.”*)

"POST-IT" RESPONSES BY ASSET AREA



PRIMARY THEMES

- Access to Medical Services
- Agricultural Impacts
- Cost of Recovery
- Damage to Property and Infrastructure
- Dangerous Conditions
- Community Degradation
- Immobilization
- Access to Social Services
- Negative Impacts to Ecosystem
- Negative Impacts to Local Business
- No Way To Communicate
- People Helping People
- Permanent Displacement and Population Change
- Hardship and Financial Stress
- Pollution/Water Quality
- Positive Environmental Impact
- Positive Socioeconomic Impact
- Power Outage
- Short-Term Displacement
- Waste and Debris

"People stayed put, we have no public transport"

"snowbound families and workers"

"Zombie Property"

"Property Values Decrease"

"neighbors helping neighbors"

COMMUNITY DEGRADATION

IMMOBILIZATION



"Routine maintenance on buildings and infrastructure declines, abandoned facilities"

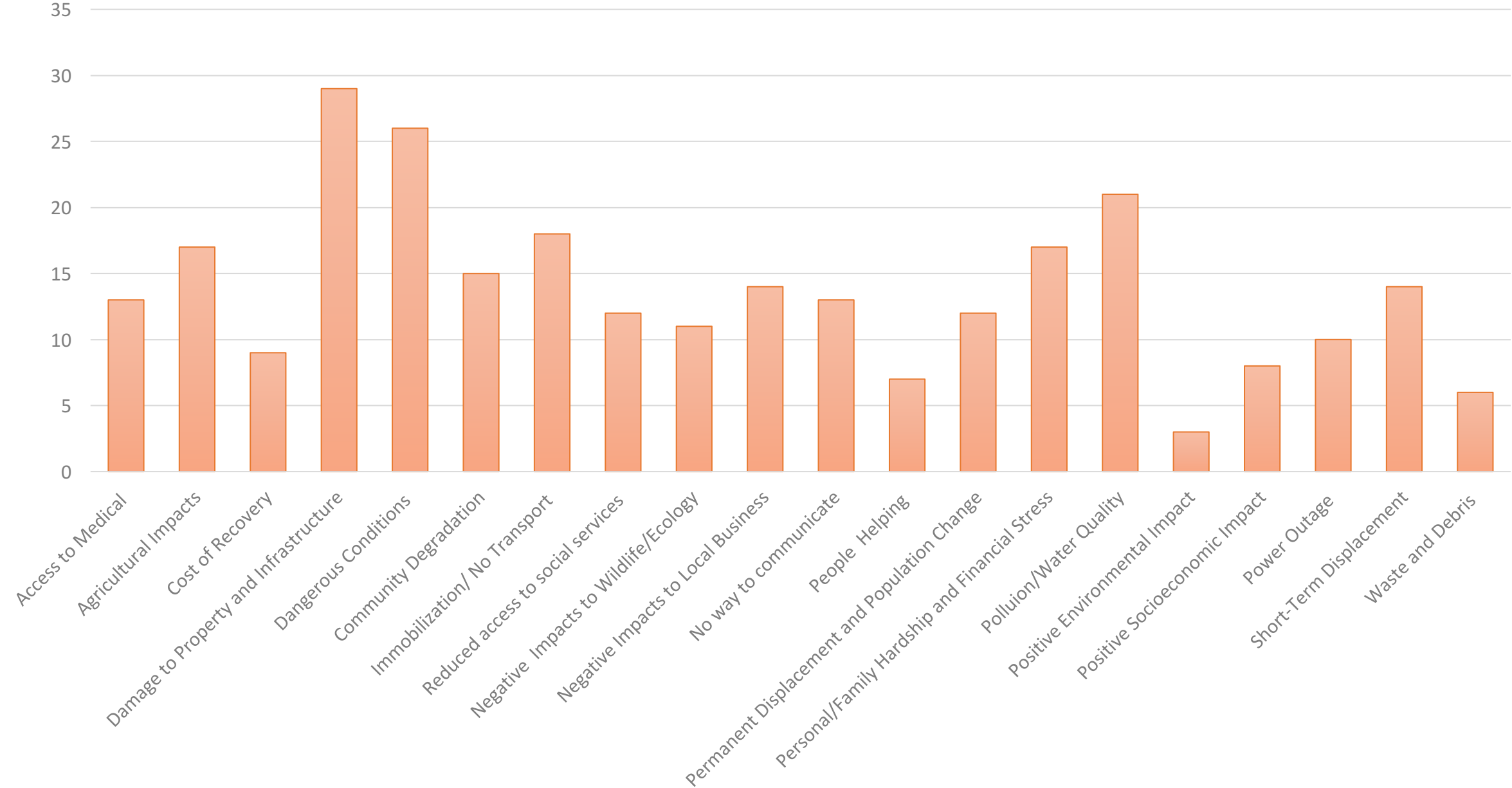
"Sharing Chainsaws"



"feeding utilities workers"

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Prevalence of Themes Across Scenarios



VALUE OF EXERCISE

- For Participants:
 - Reveals vulnerabilities of communities and regions
 - Initiates productive dialogue about solutions
- For Planners, Organizers, and Researchers:
 - Provides insight on stakeholder perceptions and lines of thinking on climate impacts

