

# Building Partnerships as a Foundation to Healthy Communities

Insights from On-site Sewage System Industry  
Professionals Survey

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**Public Health**  

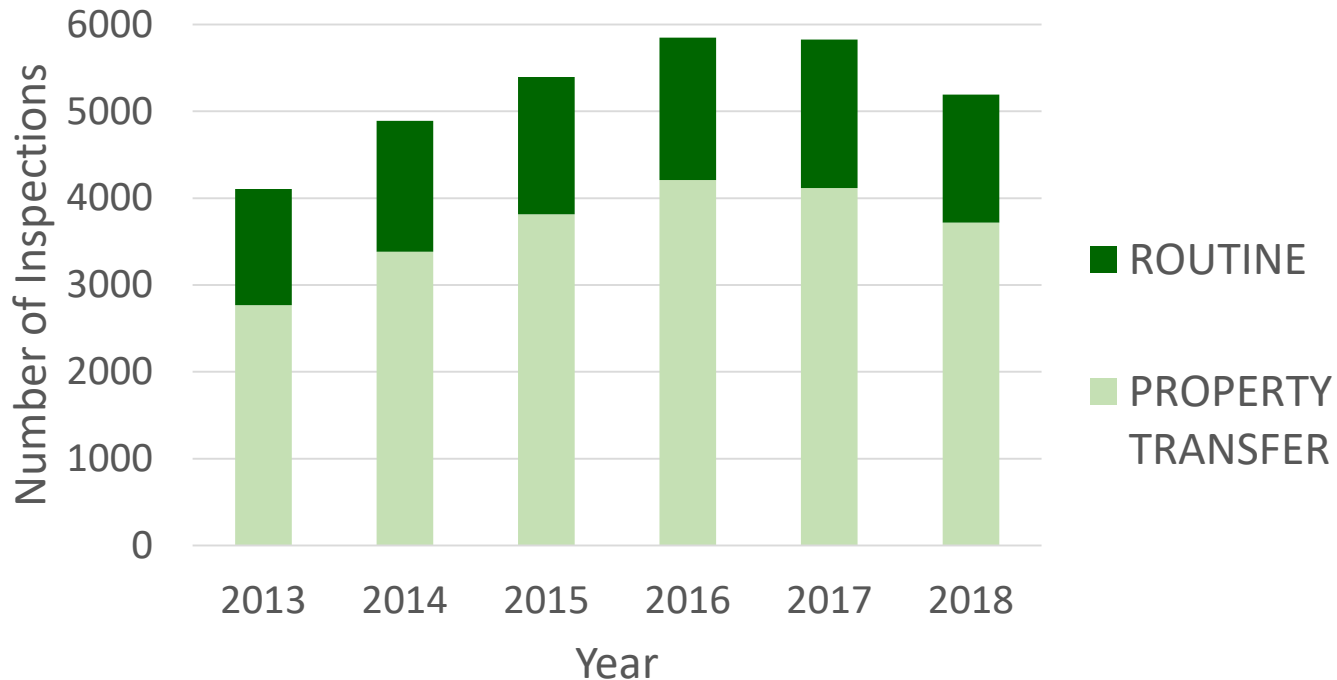
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**Seattle & King County**



# Context: OSS in King County

- Approximately 85,500 OSS in King County
- About 7% inspected each year



# OSS Industry Survey Results

# Survey and Participants

- August–September, 2018
- 38 responses to survey
- 23 participants at 2 industry meetings (11 companies)
- 2 interviews

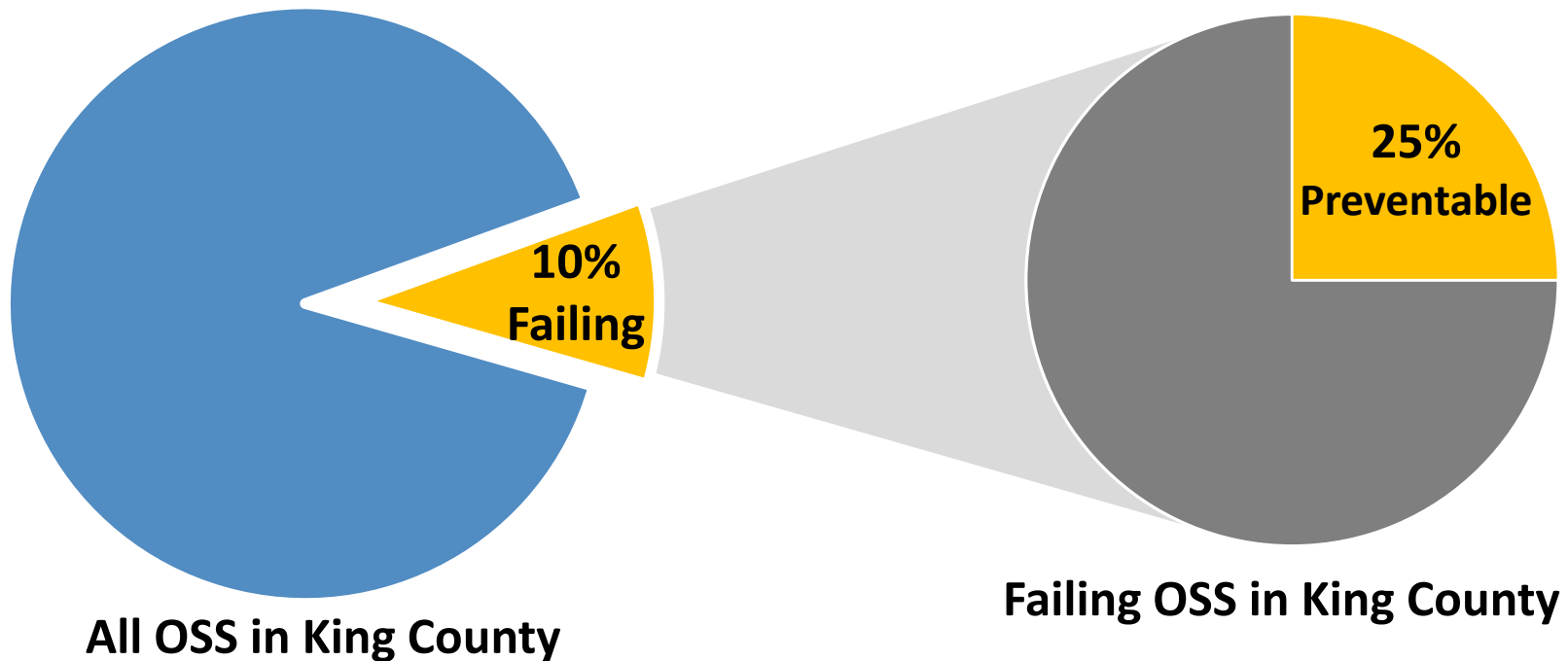
## **Survey Participants**

- 12 designers
- 14 master installers
- 25 maintainers
- 15 liquid waste pumpers

# OSS O&M in King County

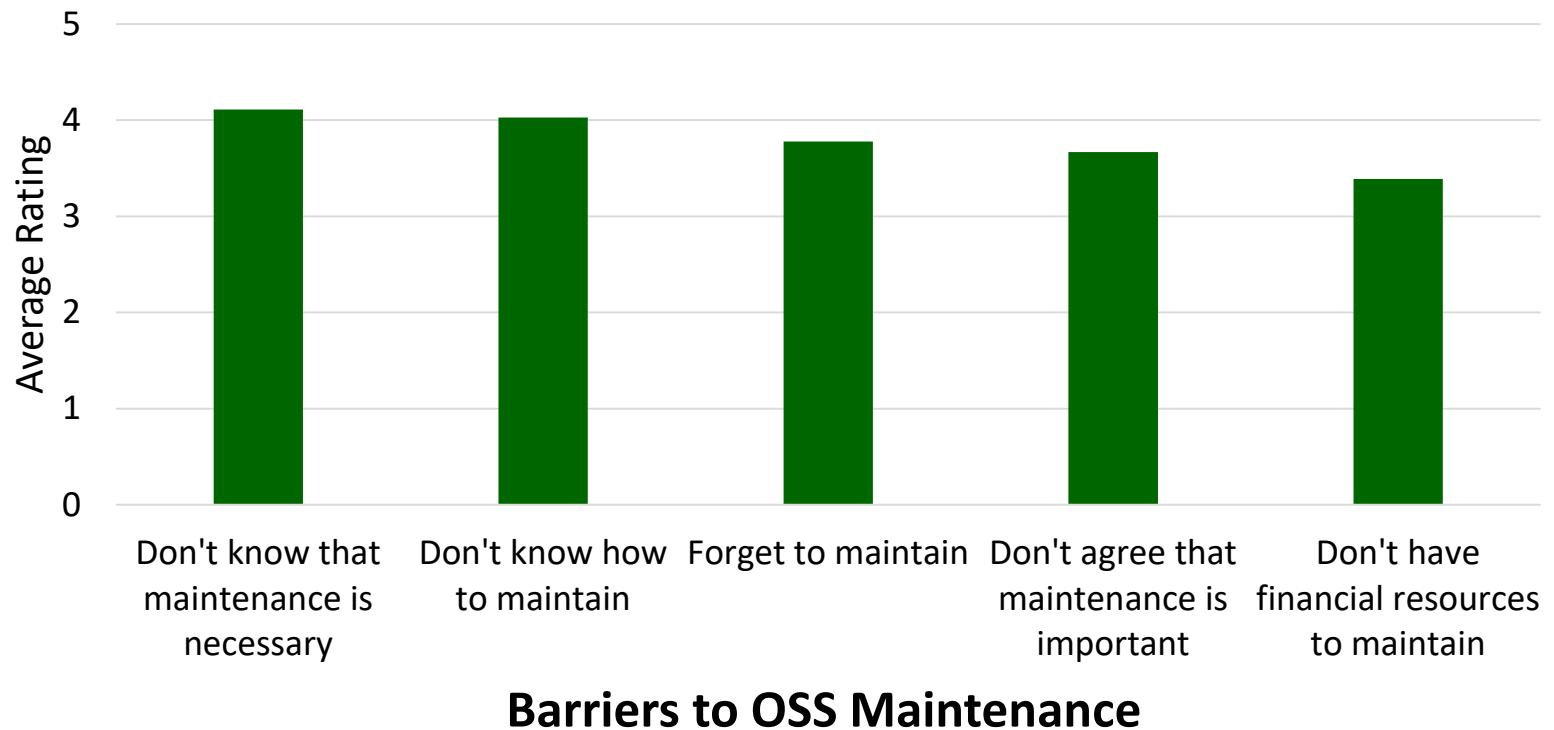
Over half (57%) of survey respondents thought that more than 10% of OSS in King County are failing.

54% of survey respondents thought that over a quarter of current OSS failures could be prevented with better O&M.



# Key Issue #1: Lack of Awareness

- Owners are unaware of necessary maintenance.
  - Lack of knowledge about maintenance
  - Lack of knowledge about costs

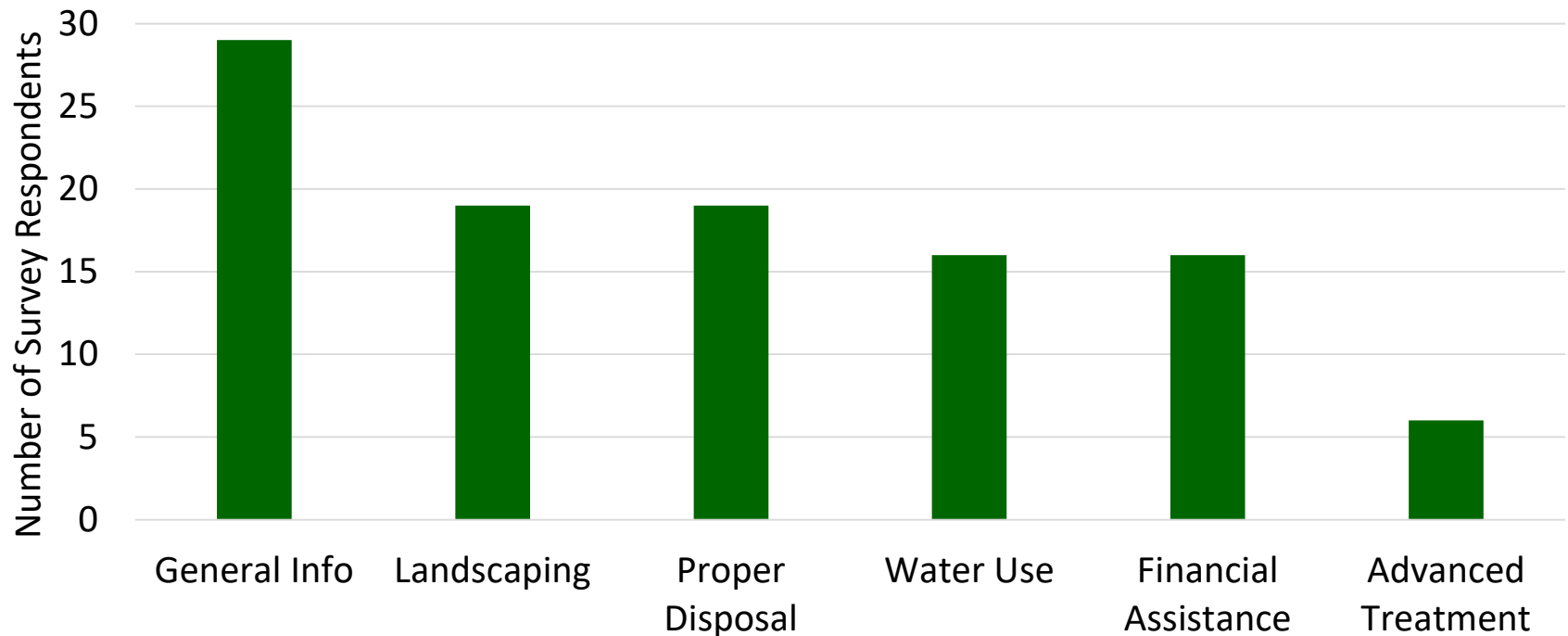


# Key Issue #2: Inadequate Program Services

- OSS program services are inadequate to ensure maintenance.
  - Reporting & Database
  - Enforcement
  - Fees
  - Trust

# Proposed Strategy #1

- Partnership and community engagement
  - Outreach and education for property owners and real estate industry
  - Education at time of sale

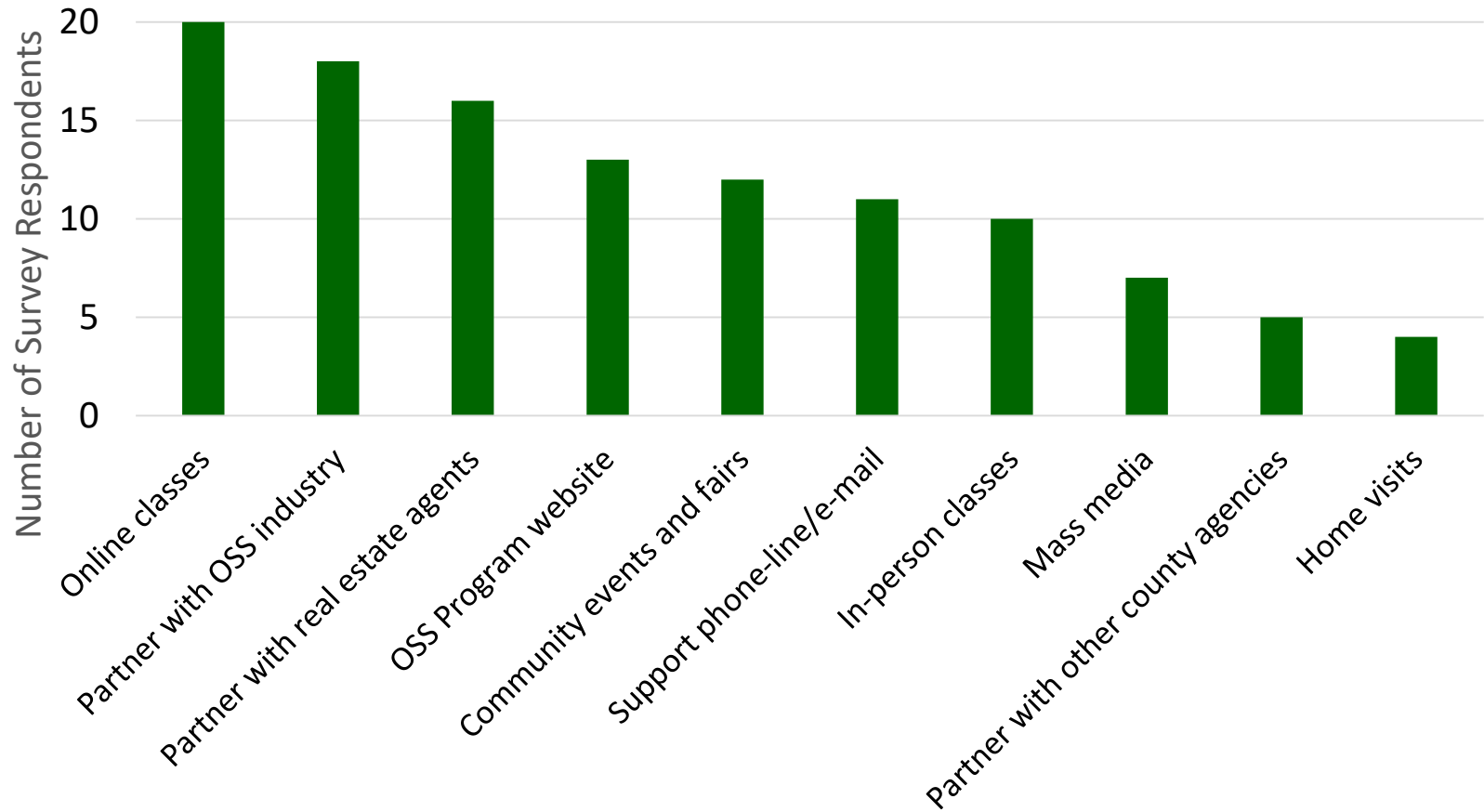




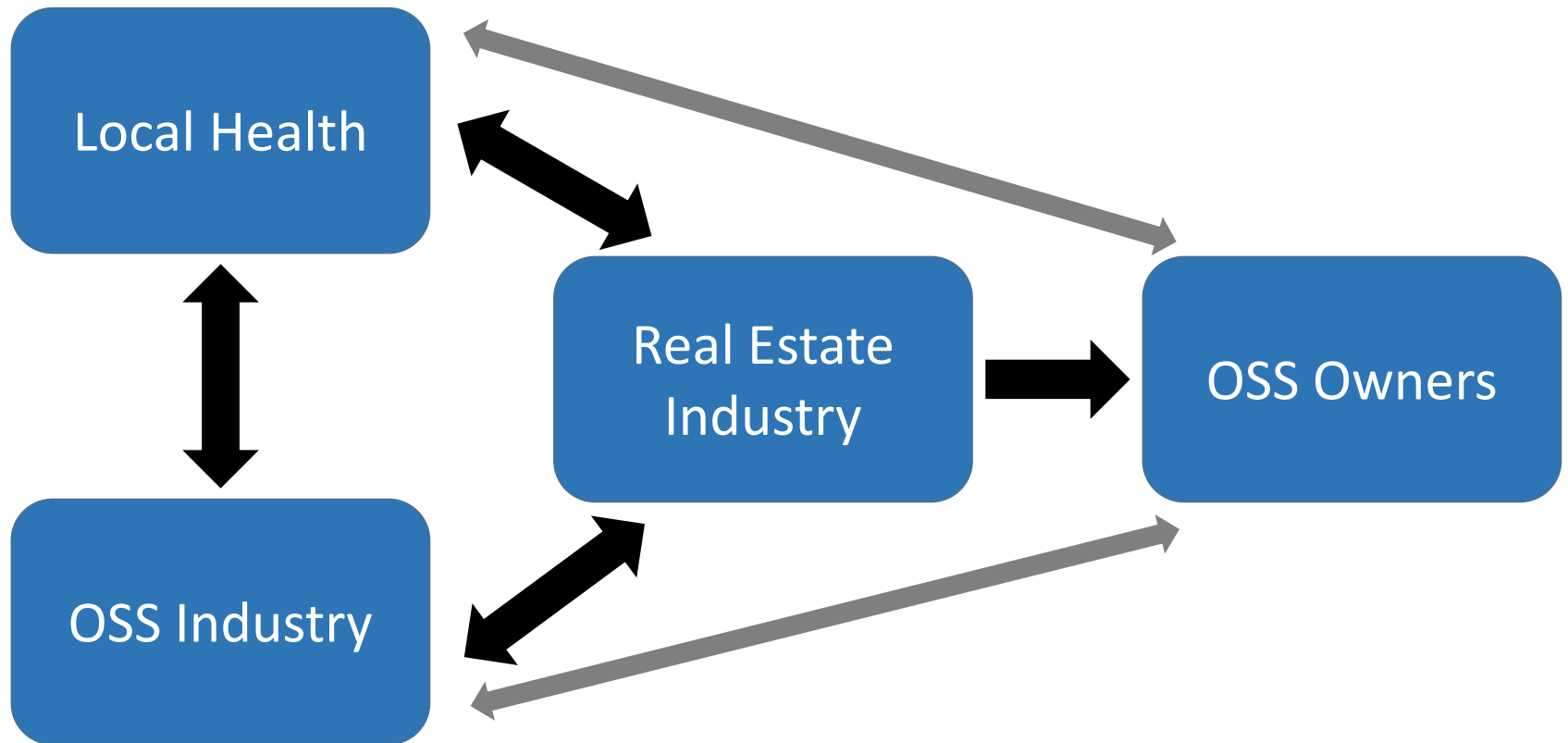
OSS O&M is important for physical and financial well-being.



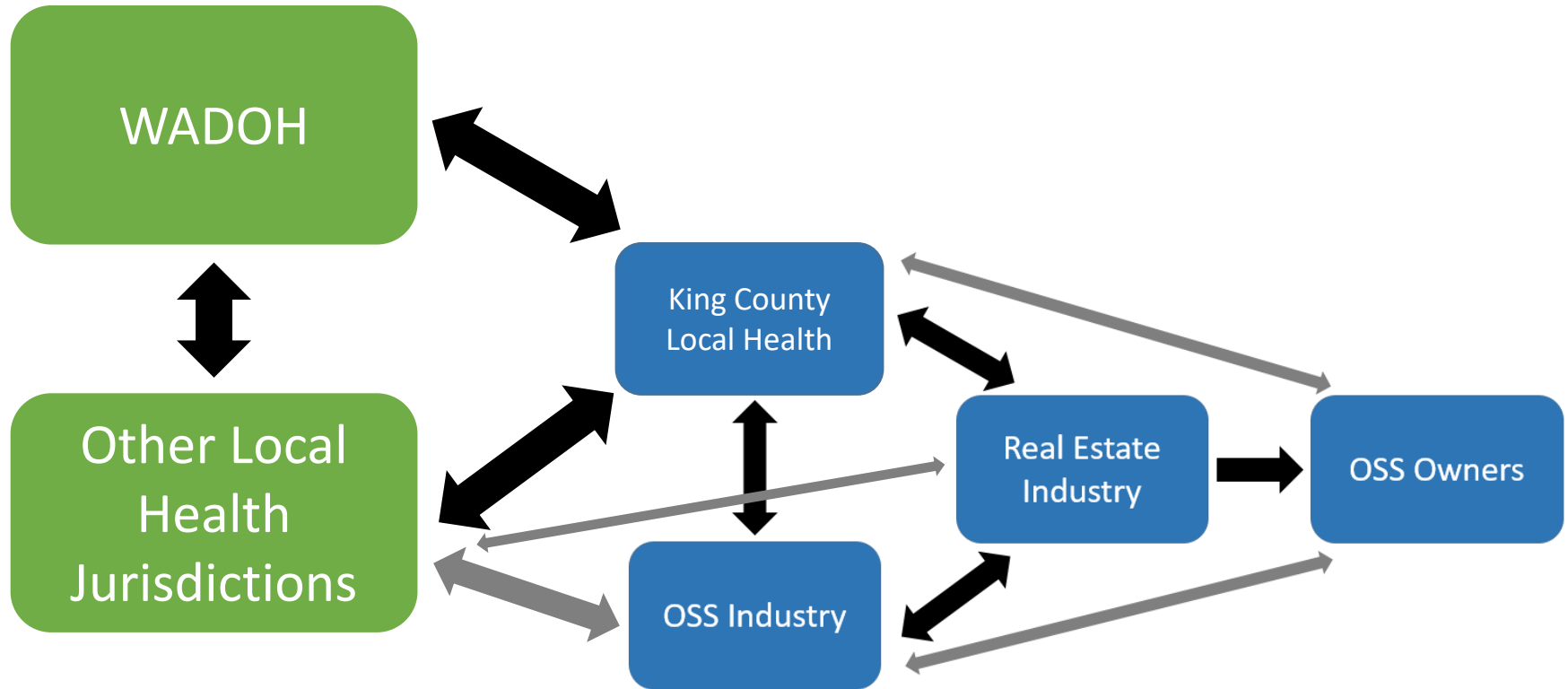
# Best Communication Platforms



# Build on Partnerships for Better Education



# Partnerships Beyond Local Context

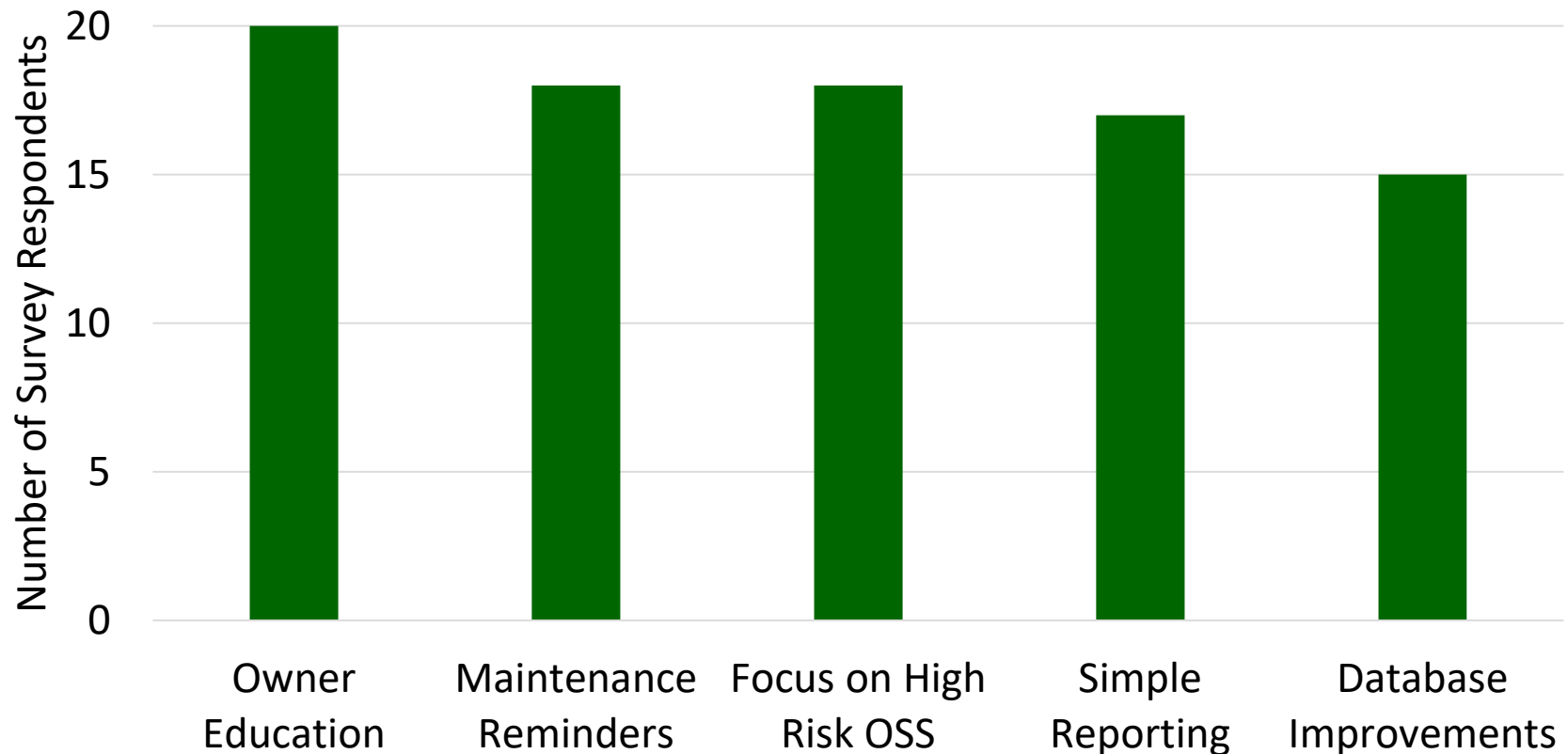


# Consistency Across Counties

- Property Transfer Inspections
  - Stress tests?
  - Distribution boxes?
  - Drawings?
  - Bootlegs?

# Proposed Strategy #2

- OSS Program improvements:



# Positive Results of Engaging Stakeholders

- Stronger collaboration with OSS industry
- Ability to make changes that are impactful
- Stronger political message

So, how do we partner well?

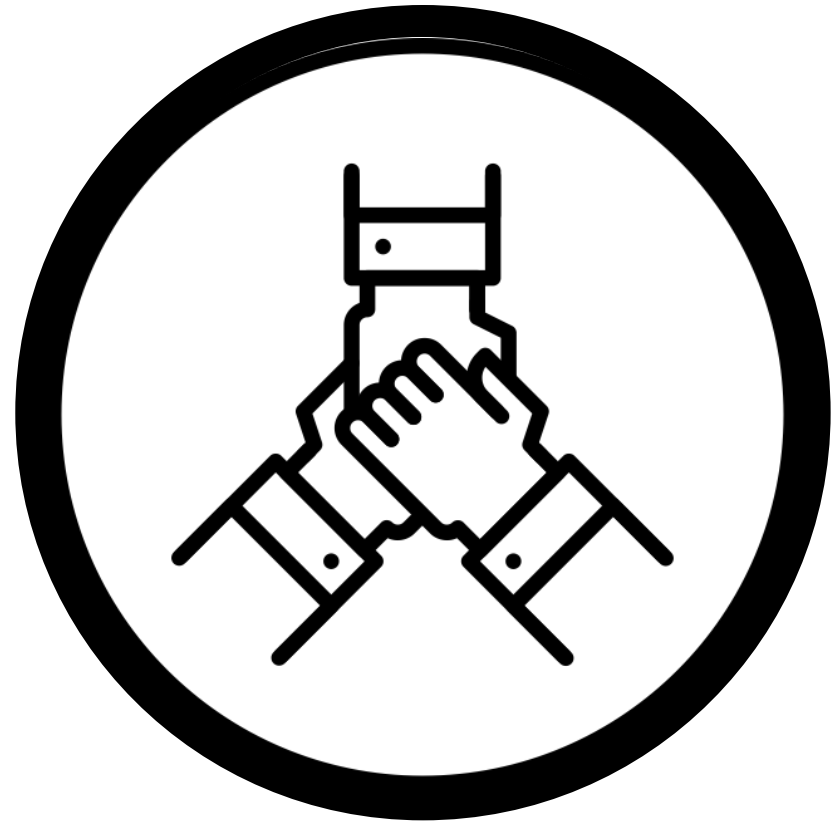




# Thank you!

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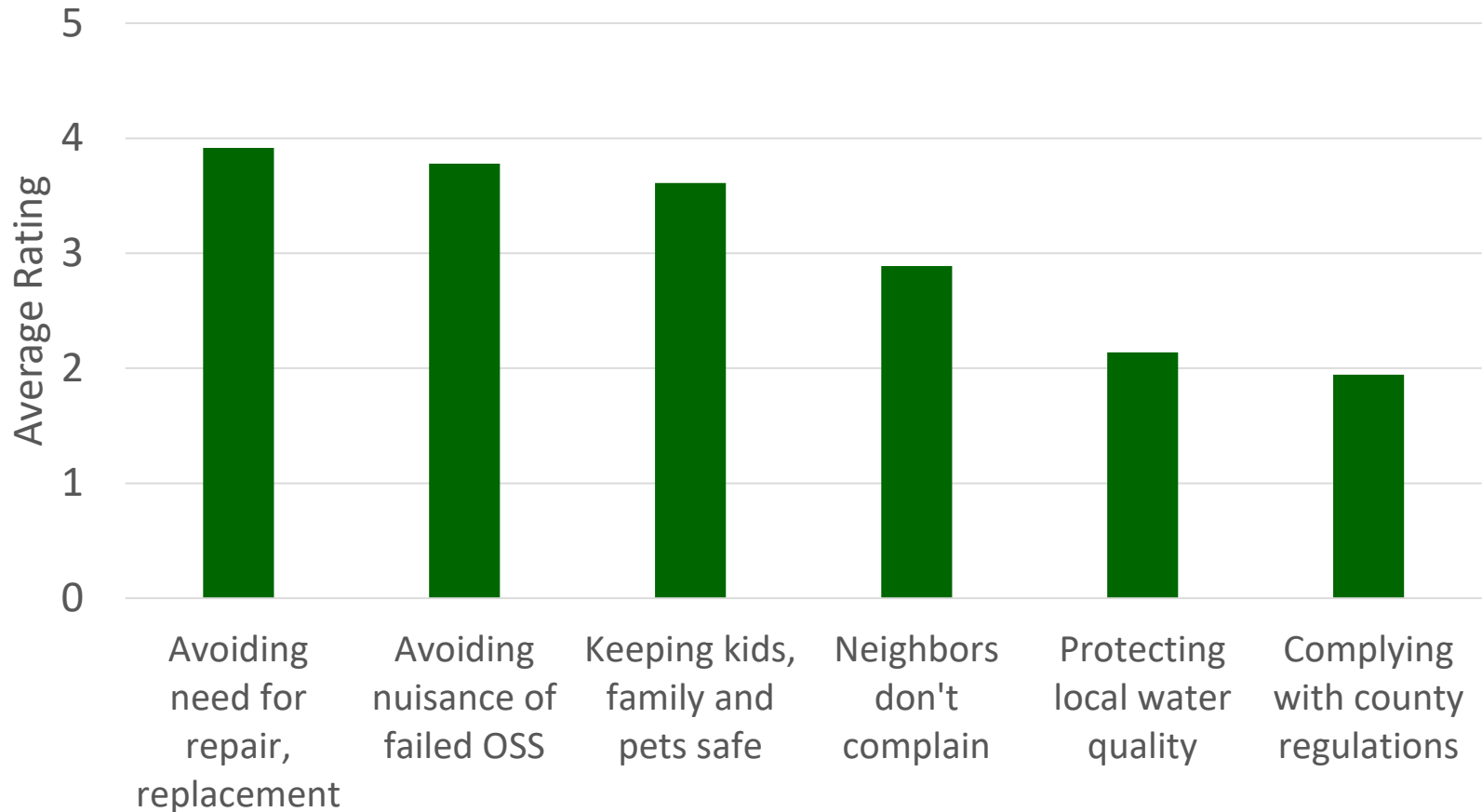


**Lynn Schneider**

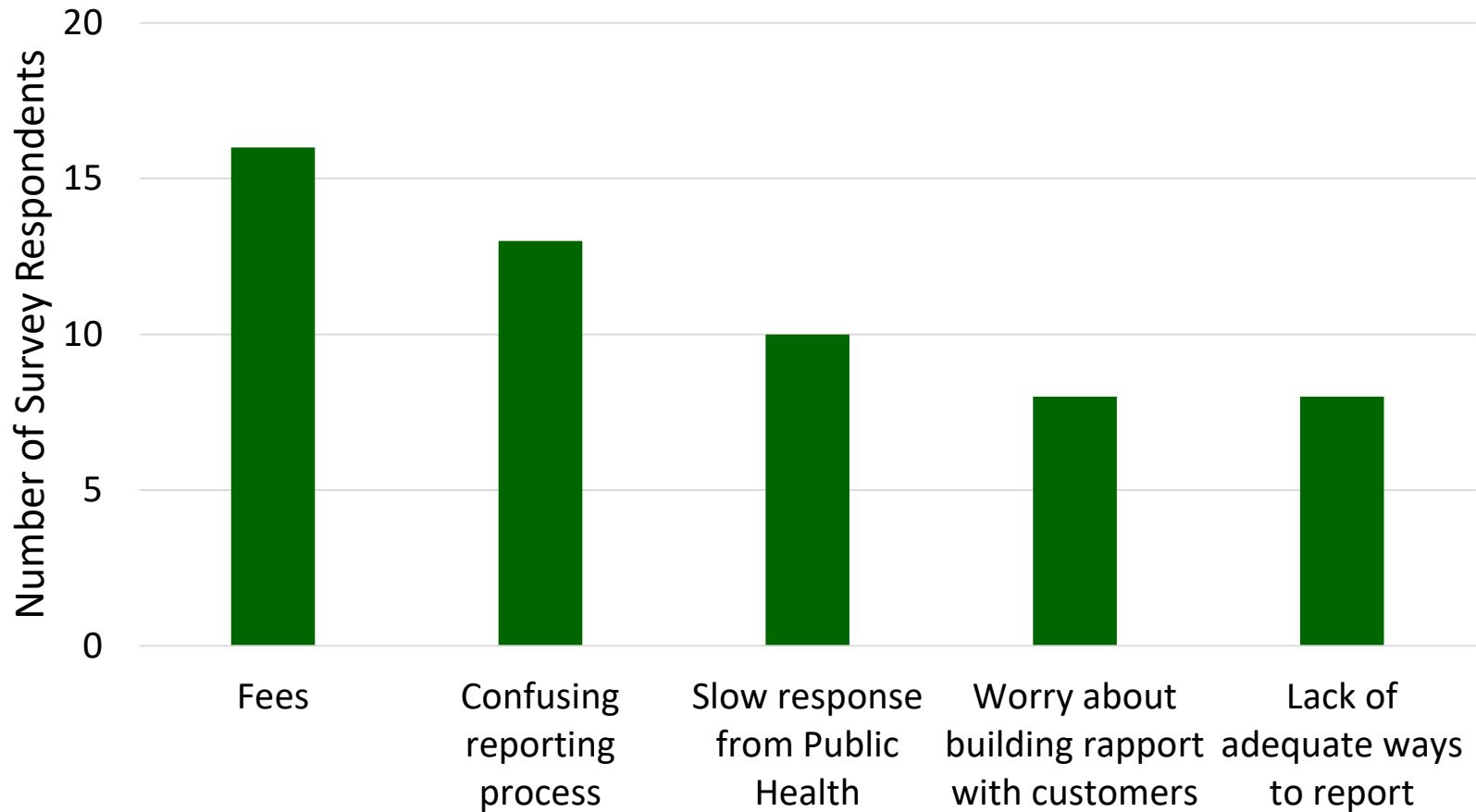
[Lynn.Schneider@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Lynn.Schneider@kingcounty.gov)

# Additional Results

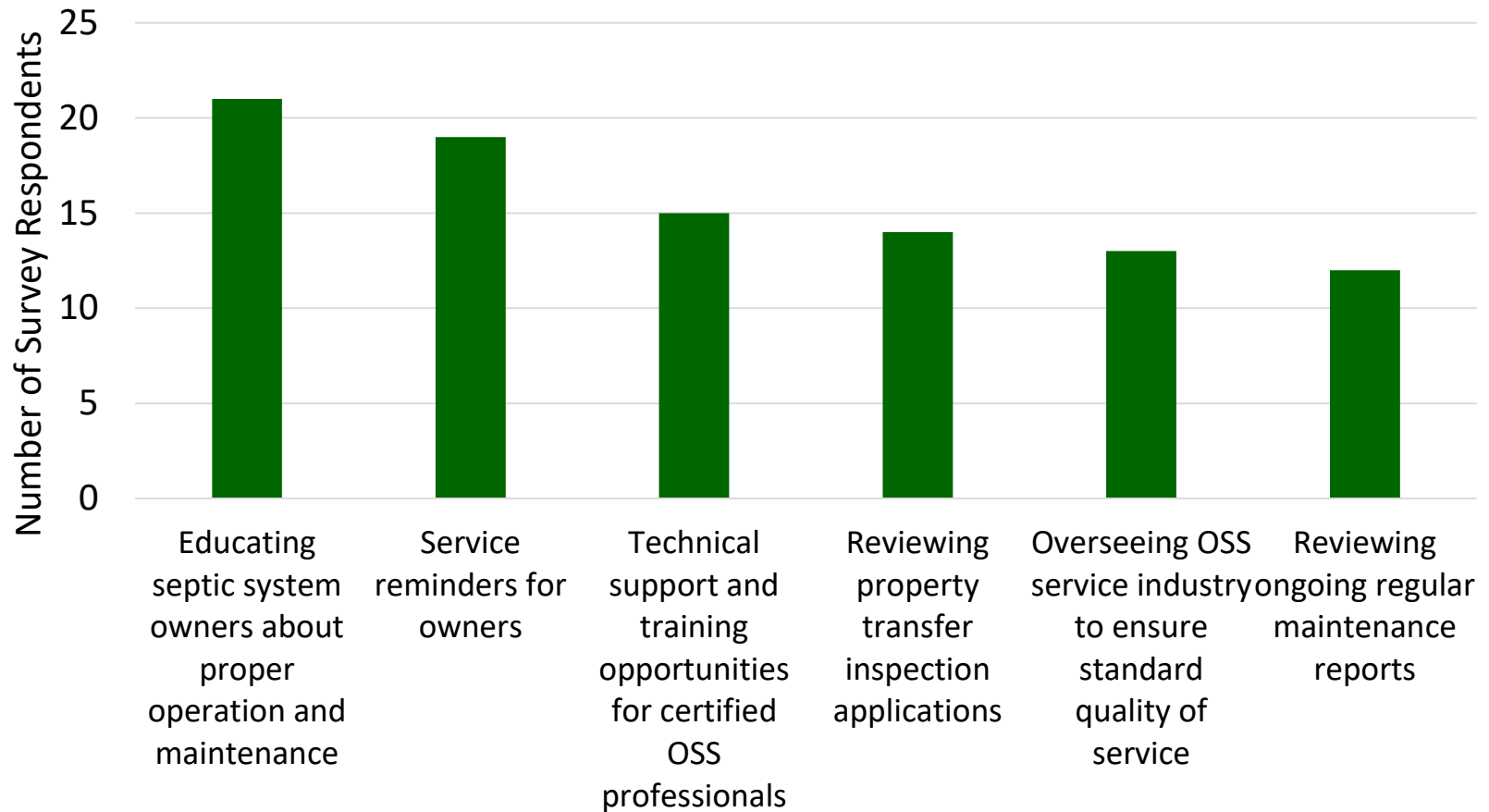
# Motivations for OSS Maintenance



# Barriers to Reporting O&M Activities



# Recommended Program Priorities



# Recommended Service Improvements

