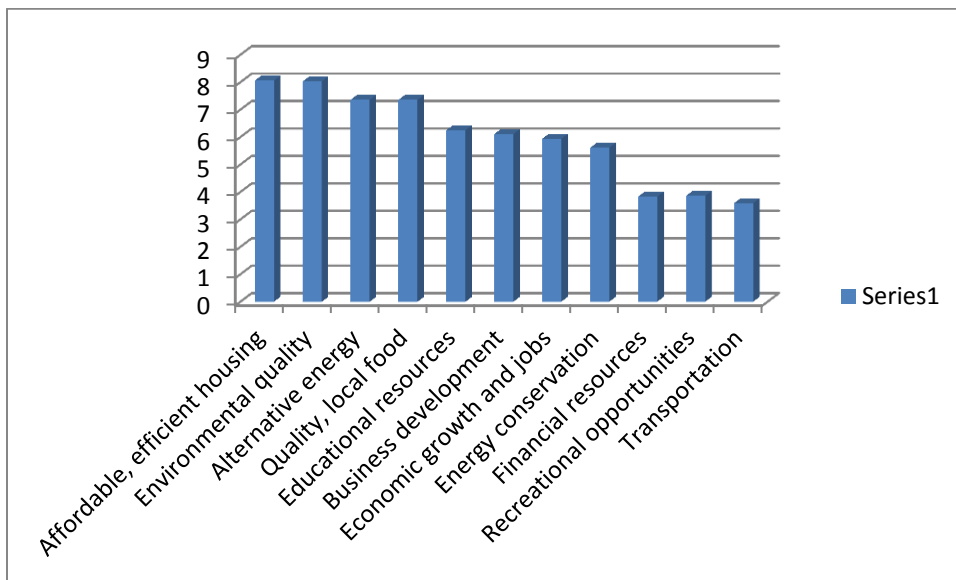


AMESVILLE SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY 2014

This survey was taken by 37 people and tries to evaluate the areas of potential success for sustainable projects in the Amesville area. The higher the cumulative score for an item, the more people ranked it as highly important. [A summary is included at the end of the data.](#)

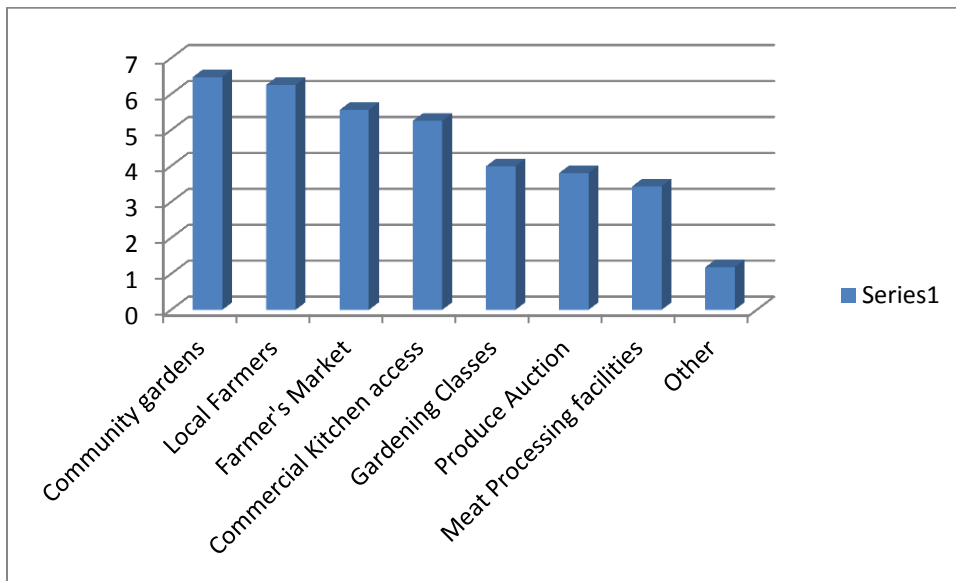
1. Rank the items below (1 is most important, 2 is next and so on) as to their importance in creating a vital and sustainable Amesville community.

Affordable, efficient housing	8.06
Environmental quality	8.03
Alternative energy	7.36
Quality local food	7.36
Educational resources	6.25
Business development	6.11
Economic growth and jobs	5.94
Energy conservation	5.61
Financial resources	3.83
Recreational opportunities	3.83
Transportation	3.59



2. Rank items in terms of their importance in creating a sustainable local food network around Amesville.

Community gardens	6.48
Local Farmers	6.26
Farmer's Market	5.56
Commercial Kitchen access	5.26
Gardening Classes	4.00
Produce Auction	3.81
Meat Processing facilities	3.44
Other	1.19

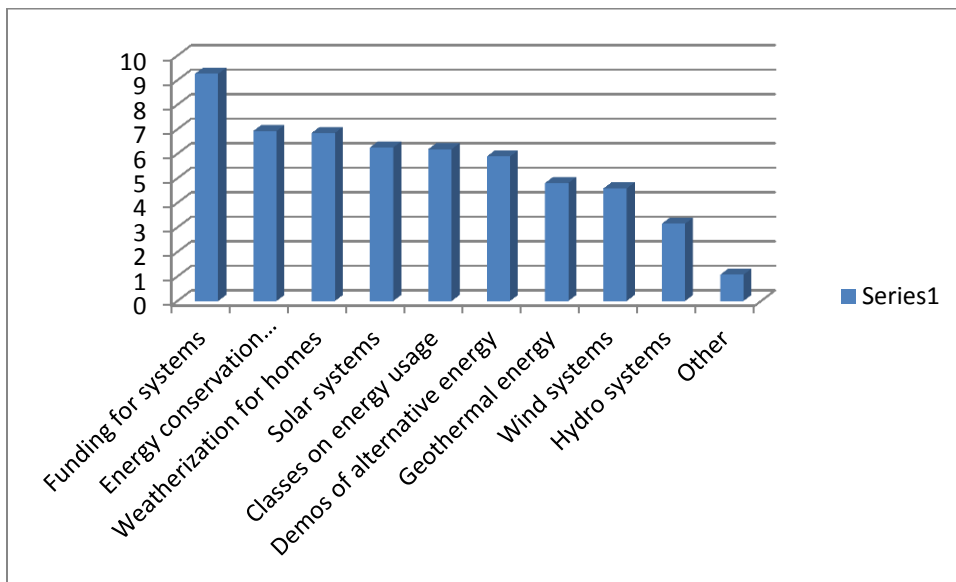


3. Rank order the biggest challenges to a sustainable food system around Amesville.

Expense of food	7.80
Apathy	7.36
Lack of gardening knowledge	6.73
Lack of Farmers	5.96
Lack of land	5.72
Climate	5.56
Quality of soil	4.72
Transportation	4.64
Pollution	4.28
Other	2.22

4. Rank the items below in order of their importance in creating a local, sustainable energy network for Amesville.

Funding for systems	9.26
Energy conservation assistance	6.93
Weatherization for homes	6.85
Solar systems	6.26
Classes on energy usage	6.19
Demos of alternative energy	5.89
Geothermal energy	4.81
Wind systems	4.59
Hydro systems	3.15
Other	1.07

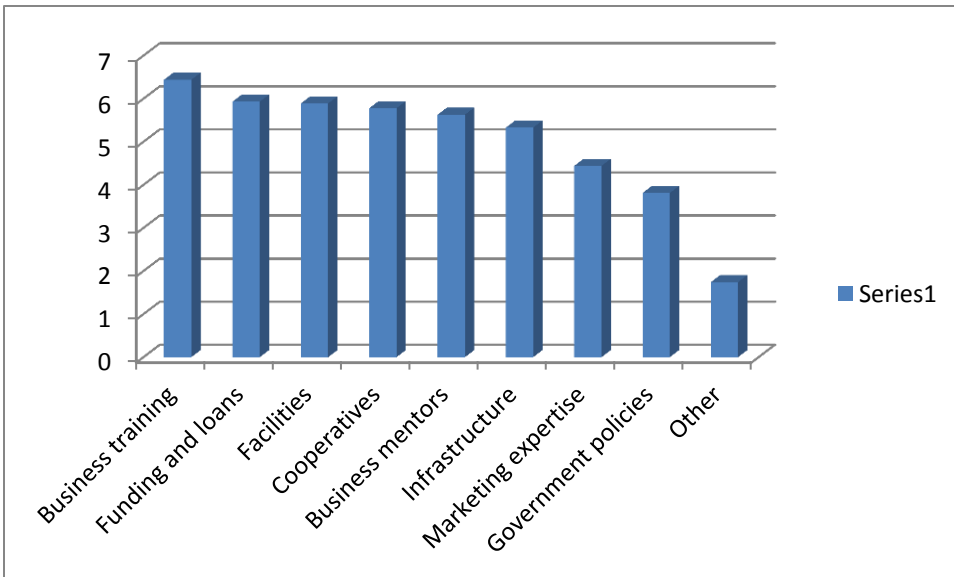


5. Rank the biggest challenges to local, sustainable energy systems.

Cost of systems	6.21
Knowledge about options	5.31
Apathy	5.07
Lack of government support	4.19
Perceptions of alternative energy	3.96
Qualified installers	2.04
Other	1.22

6. Rank the items below in order of their importance to a growing, sustainable economy around Amesville.

Business training	6.44
Funding and loans	5.93
Facilities	5.89
Cooperatives	5.78
Business mentors	5.63
Infrastructure	5.33
Marketing expertise	4.44
Government policies	3.81
Other	1.74

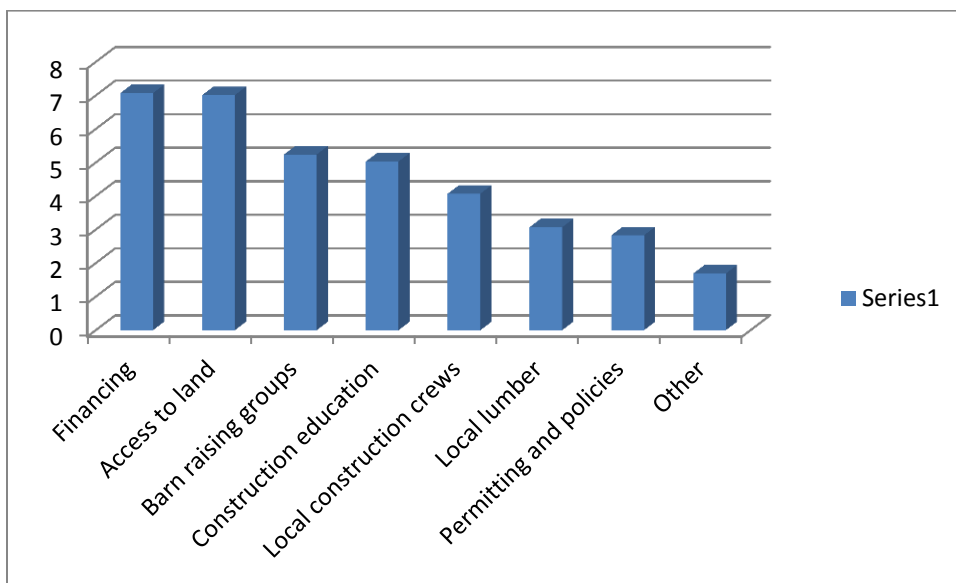


7. What are the biggest challenges to local, economic growth.

Capital and funding	6.15
Expertise	5.01
Infrastructure	4.74
Technology availability	4.04
Training	3.33
Workforce	2.96
Other	1.78

8. Rank these items in order of their importance to creating local, sustainable housing.

Financing	7.07
Access to land	7.01
Barn raising groups	5.24
Construction education	5.03
Local construction crews	4.07
Local lumber	3.07
Permitting and policies	2.83
Other	1.69

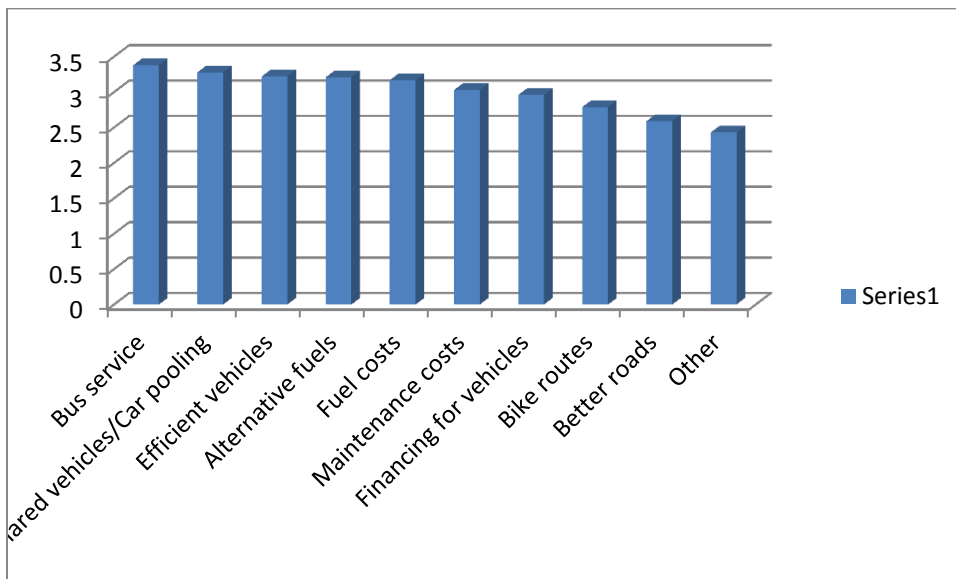


9. What are the challenges to local, affordable housing?

Access to land	6.97
Financing	6.97
Distance to Athens	5.72
Government policies	5.03
Plans and blue prints	3.86
Quality materials	3.03
Skilled construction workers	2.55
Other	1.86

10. What are the most important factors in creating a sustainable system of transportation around Amesville?

Bus service	3.38
Shared vehicles/Car pooling	3.28
Efficient vehicles	3.22
Alternative fuels	3.21
Fuel costs	3.17
Maintenance costs	3.03
Financing for vehicles	2.96
Bike routes	2.79
Better roads	2.59
Other	2.43



SUMMARY: This is not a scientific survey. It was taken by 37 people that were contacted through email or Facebook and therefore represent a certain niche of people. With that said, the results still help direct planning for Amesville. Village Council does not have authority to act in all these arenas, but the information is still useful for progress.

In the general category **housing, environmental quality, alternative energy and local food** had the highest scores. It is interesting that in this overall question financing scored low, but in most of the other survey areas (energy, food, transportation, and economic growth) financing was a very high concern for those completing the survey.

In planning it will be easiest to deal with low hanging fruit (low cost, easy items) as compared to more complicated and expensive issues. An example is community gardens (which ranked very high) could be created with less expense and effort than creating a local financing network. Among transportation a bus route and carpooling both ranked very high. It would be easier to encourage ride sharing than to get bus service for Amesville.

Under the energy category funding for alternative energy ranked highest, while energy conservation assistance and weatherized were next. The low hanging fruit in this instance is seminars and classes about conservation as well as access to weatherization services provided by Community Action or other groups. The funding for residential systems provides a bigger challenge and more complications. Still, many of these items are rated highly and the desire to find funding for many activities in Amesville is noted.

Some of the items are vague and would need more clarification. For example, participants ranked environmental quality as very important, but the survey doesn't delineate if this means water quality, air quality or other factors. Other surveys help provide more details in these areas. When combined with the "Photo Voice" project conducted by Ohio University in the summer of 2013 we get a fuller picture of local concerns about environmental quality. (That report is due out by the end of March 2014).

It is also noted that in the area of challenges, apathy was a concern under several categories. It is assumed that those completing the survey were not apathetic, but that they were worried about the apathy of others. Despite these and other challenges, Amesville has many assets and energetic people that want to create a more sustainable community. It must be considered that not everyone sees sustainability as necessary, but if it can be done cost effectively and benefit the community these concerns should be reduced.

Amesville was voted "Best Small Town in Athens County" for a reason that many outsiders see in plain sight. Those are the resources and traditions we can build upon to move Amesville forward as a vital, successful community rather than one headed toward obscurity.