

Budget Crisis: Impact on Campus EHS Programs

Campus EH&S Recession Survey

Conducted by the

Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence

March/April 2010



C2E2's

Recession Impact Surveys

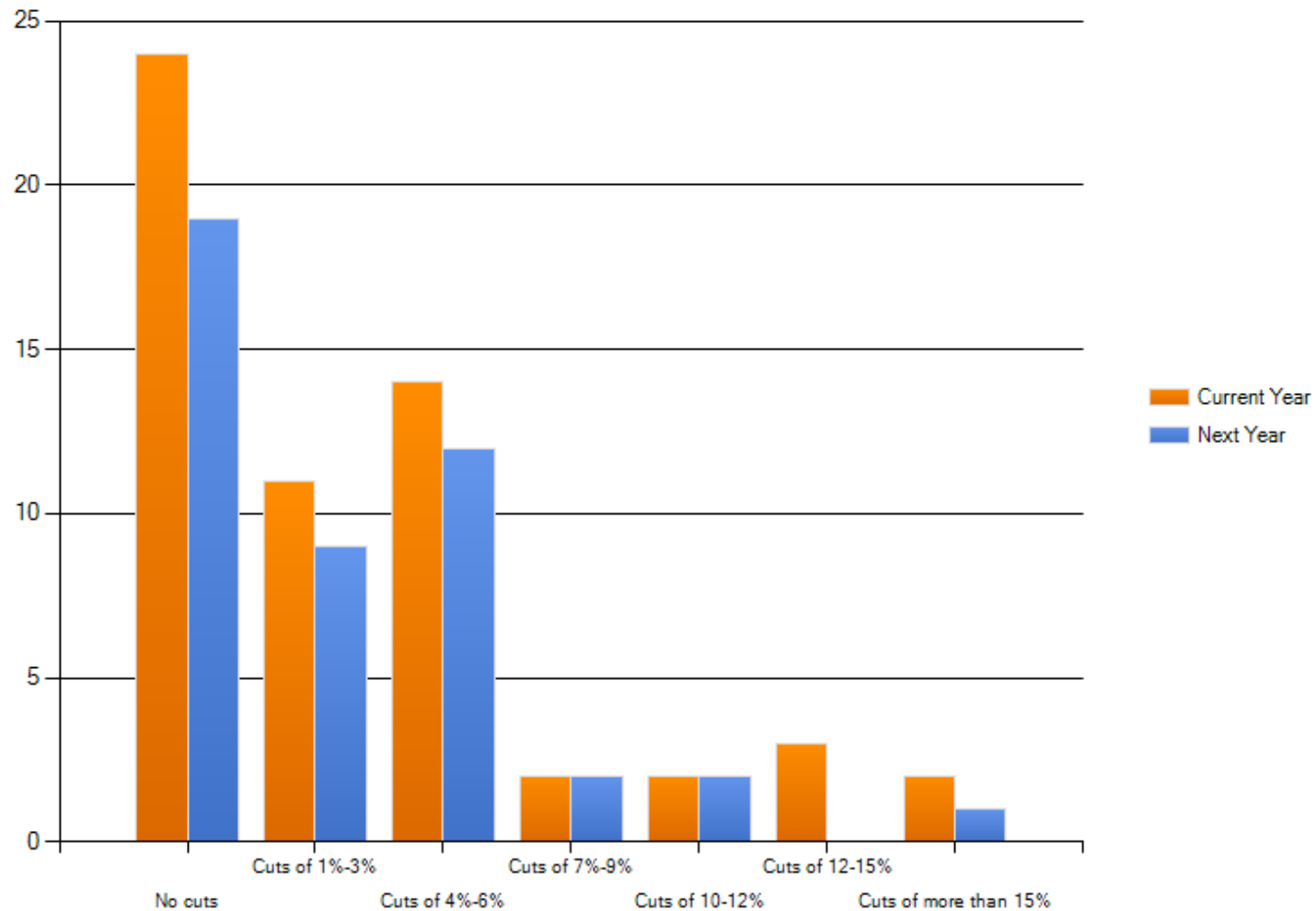
- Focus on Campus EHS programs
- Quick, simple, web-based survey
- Three national surveys
 - February 2009
 - May 2009
 - March 2010
- 50-70 participated in each survey

Major 2010 Survey Findings

- **Group 1- No Cuts**: 41% of schools report that they had no EHS budget cuts this year. Down from 46% in May 2009
- **Group 2- Small Cuts**: 42 % of schools have cuts this year of 1%-6%. Same as May 2009
- **Group 3 –Big Cuts**: 14% of schools have been hit hard with 7% to more than 15% reductions

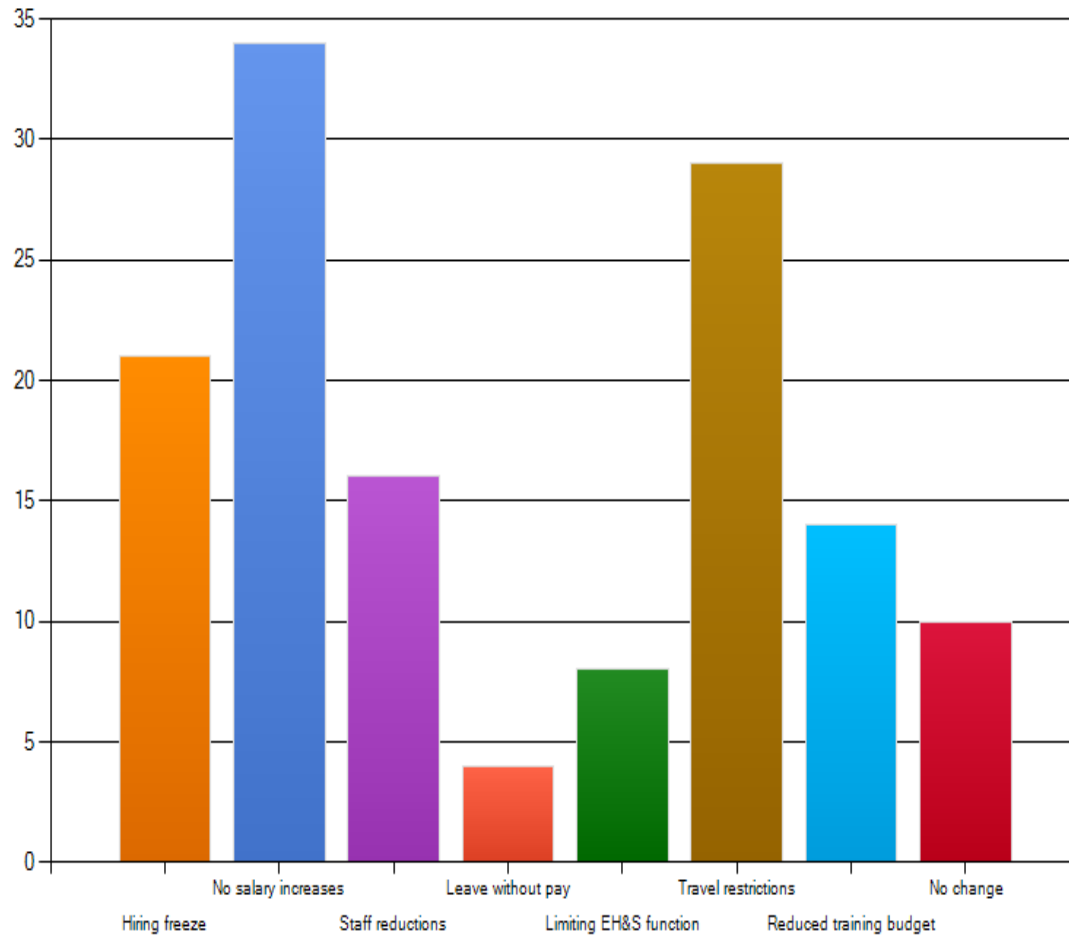
Next year is expected to be about the same.

Budget Reductions: What budget reduction measures have been implemented or planned for the EHS office, department or function?



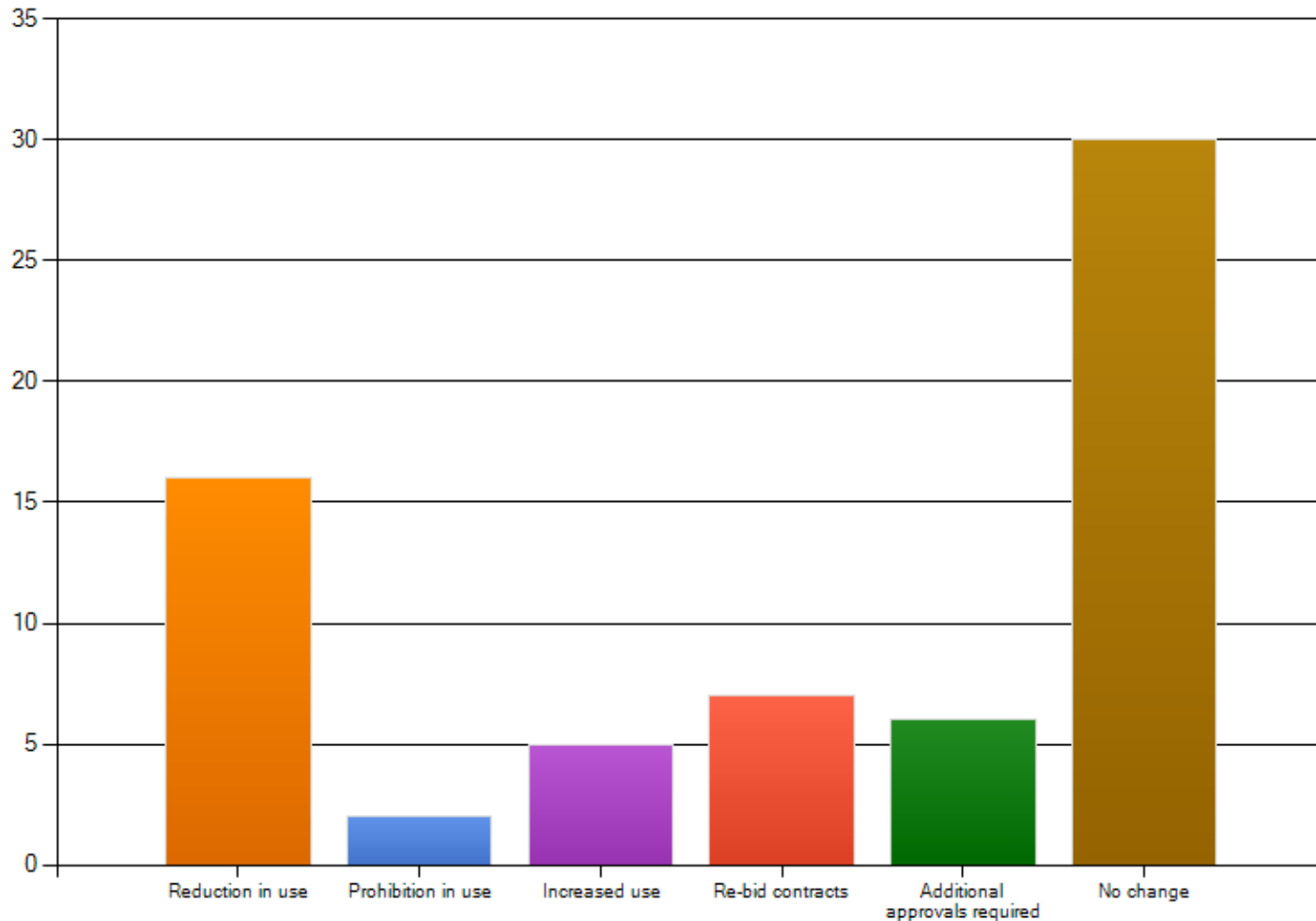
- 42% expect no cuts next year
- 47% expect cuts of 1-6% next year
- 14% expect cuts of >7%

Specific Reduction Actions: Have any of the following actions been taken in this fiscal year with respect to the EHS function? (Check all that apply)



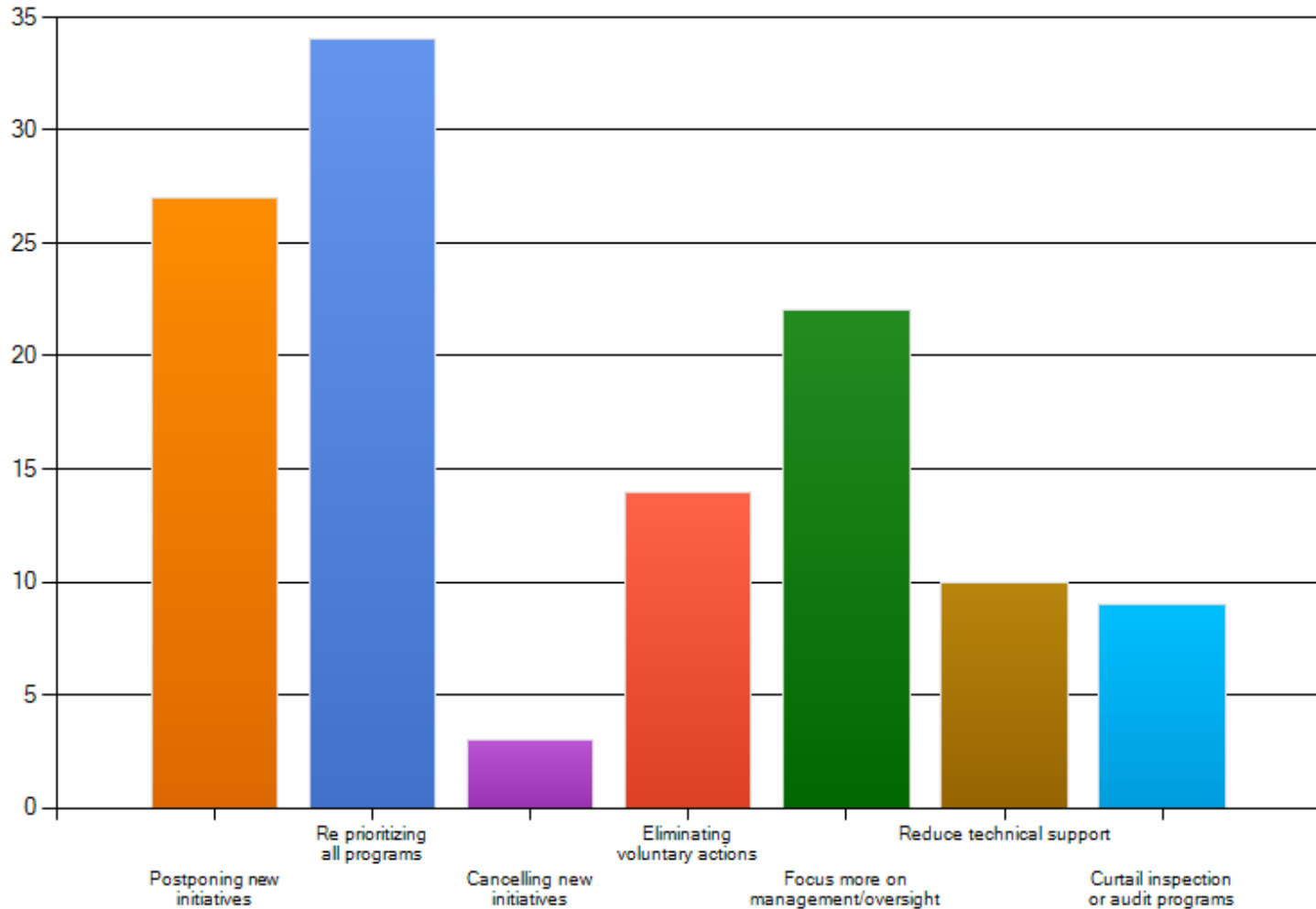
Major reduction actions include travel restrictions and salary freezes

Consultants and Contractor: Have any of the following actions been taken in this fiscal year with respect to the use of consultants and contractors? (Check all that apply)



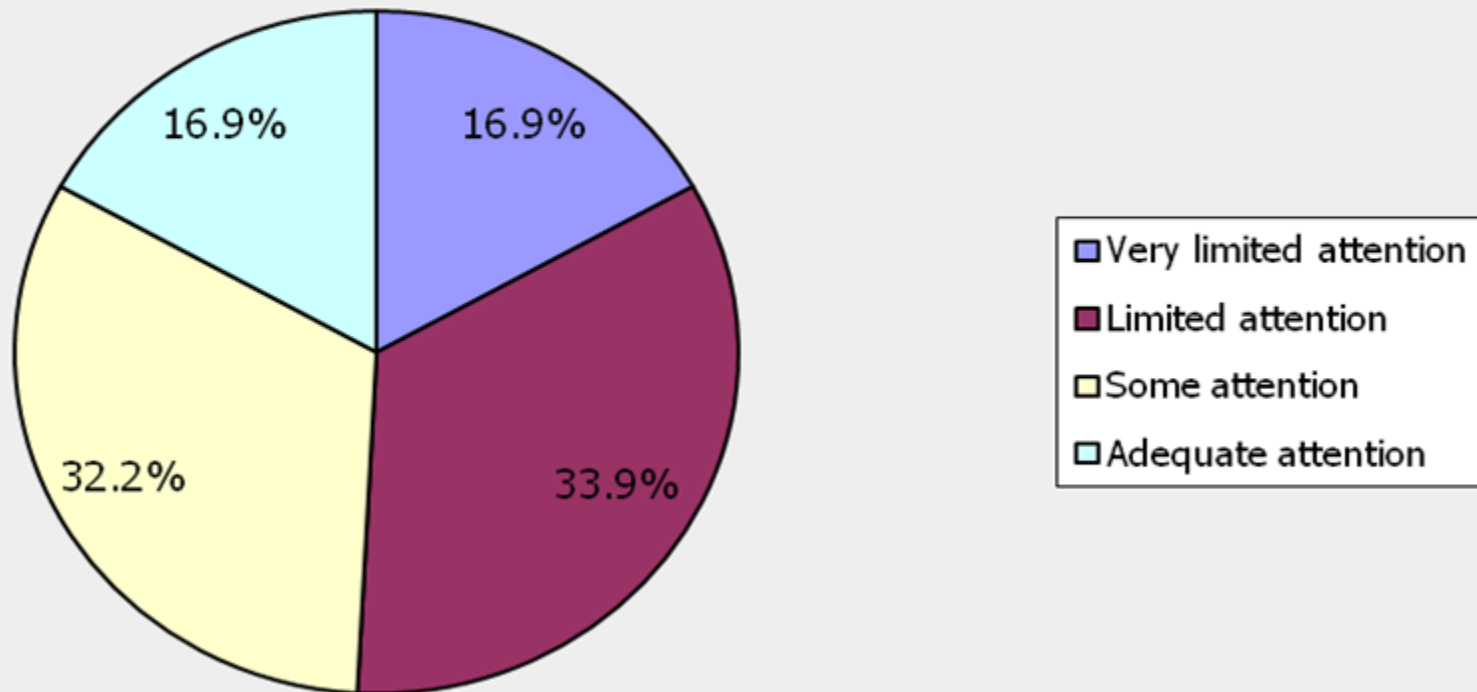
- 51% of respondents report no change in use of consultants and contractors
- 27% report reduction in use

EHS Strategies: What strategies are you using to manage your EHS programs with fewer resources? (Check all that apply)



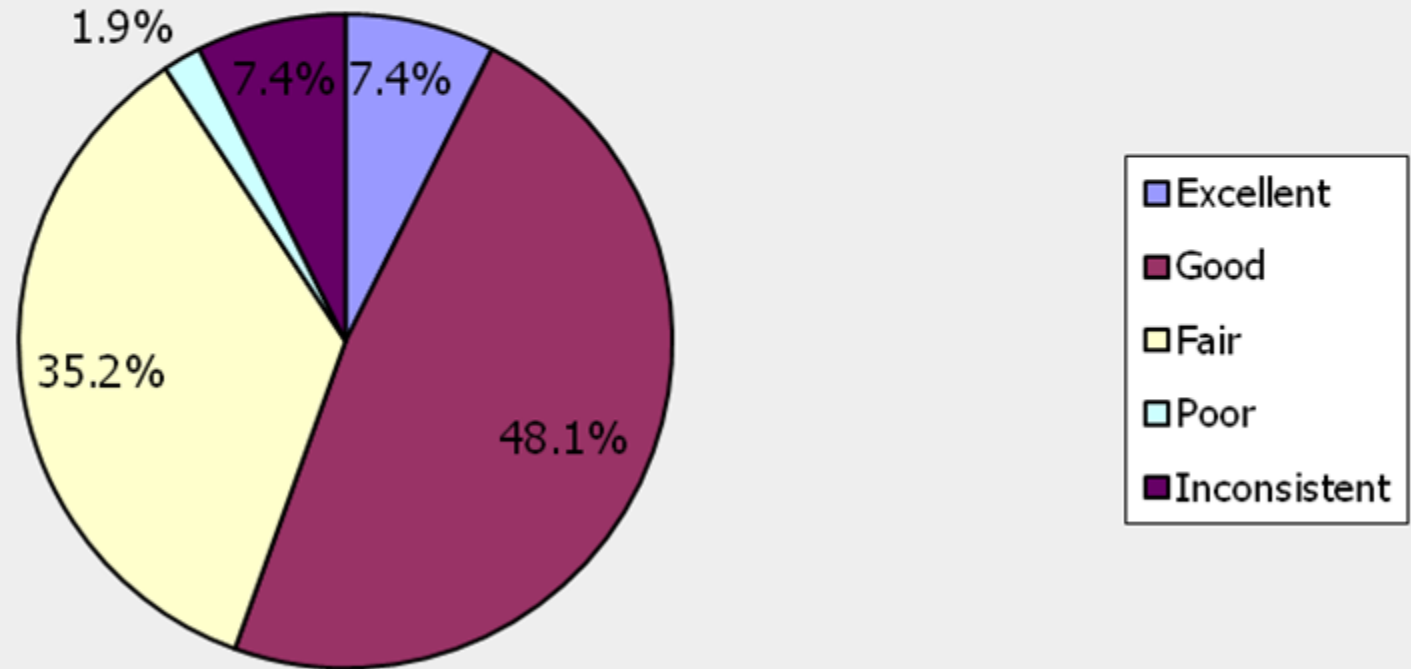
- 64% report reprioritizing of programs
- 50% are postponing new initiatives
- 42% identify increased focus on management oversight

New Programs: Are new programs and requirements getting the attention they need in light of limited resources?



Roughly 50% of respondents report that new programs and requirements are receiving less than adequate attention

Interdepartmental Cooperation: In previous EH&S Recession Surveys, the vast majority of respondents have said budget cuts have resulted in further interdepartmental cooperation. How is that working?



- Greater than 50% report positive results
- Small percentage (<10%) report poor or inconsistent results

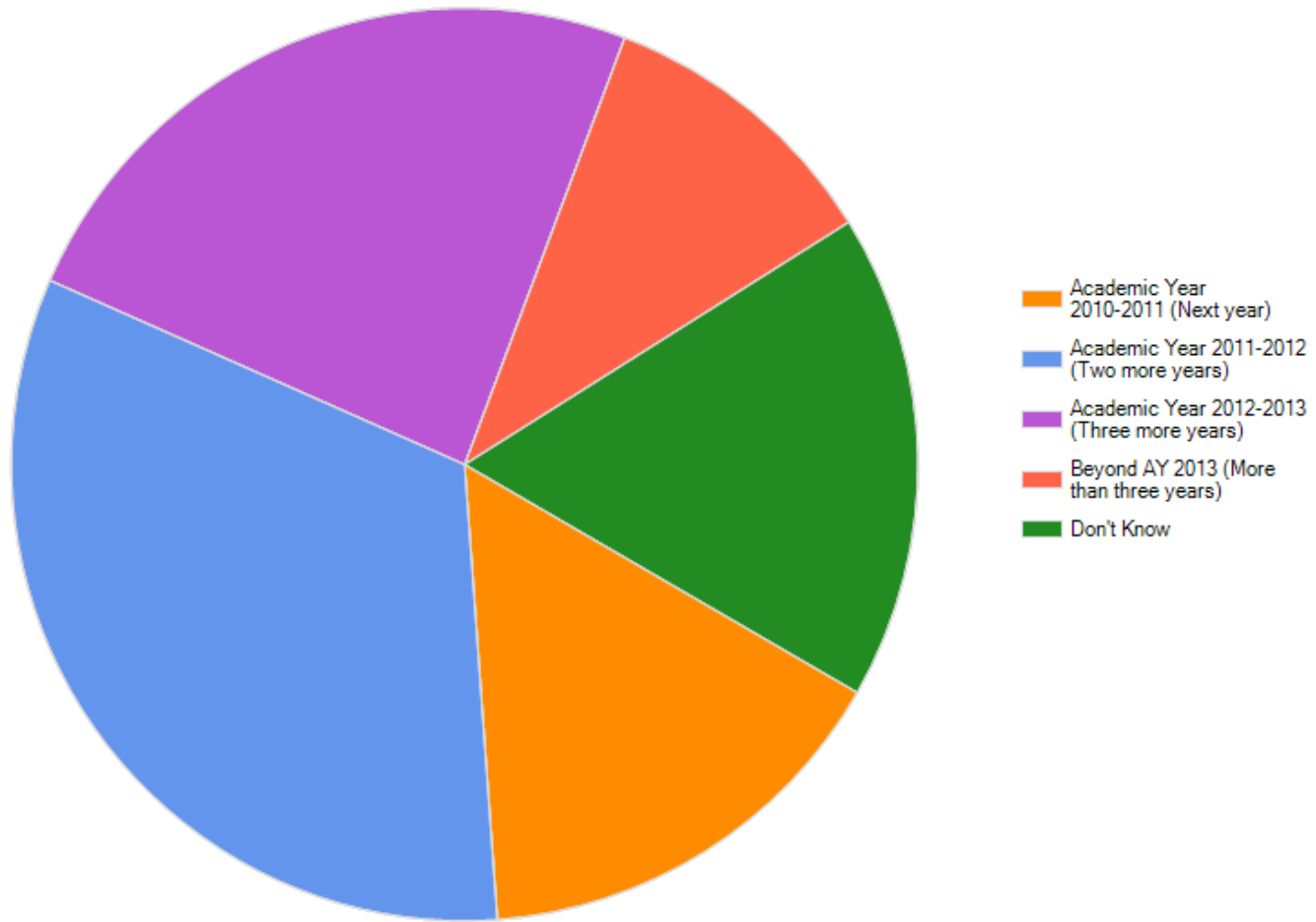
Key Strategies Being Used

- Shift and redefinition of acceptable risk
- Flow charting all processes to enhance efficiency
- Slower response to “nice to do” actions
- Increased use of interns
- Risk-based prioritization of auditing and inspection schedules

Effective Budget Management Strategies

- Developed building coordinator program
- Early retirement incentive program
- Charging for selected services, such as ergonomic and indoor air quality assessments
- Eliminating or streamlining steps based on process mapping exercises
- Cross training
- Networking/information sharing
- Vendor price sharing arrangements
- Rebid contracts
- Sum sufficient funding for waste disposal

Future Impact: How long do you estimate the recession and budget reduction pressure will last?



Brace yourself for at least two more budget cycles, according to more than half the respondents

Tips for Talking About the Budget During Hard Times

- Avoid doom and gloom
- The budget crisis not the only thing happening
- Make it understandable and be straight
- Don't soft pedal
- Have a strategic plan

The Chronicle of Higher Education "Harsh Economy Drives New Brand of Communication"
December 4, 2009

Respondent Information

- N = 59
- Institutional Size
 - Small College 22%
 - Small/Mid Colleges (5,000 – 10,000 students) – 12%
 - Large Institutions (>10,000 students) – 66%
- Size of EH&S Office
 - One person shop 12%
 - Fewer than 20 FTEs 48%
 - Greater than 20 FTEs 40%



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- Columbia University
- Cornell University
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