

Traveler insights:

Sustainable business travel

by BCD Travel Research & Intelligence



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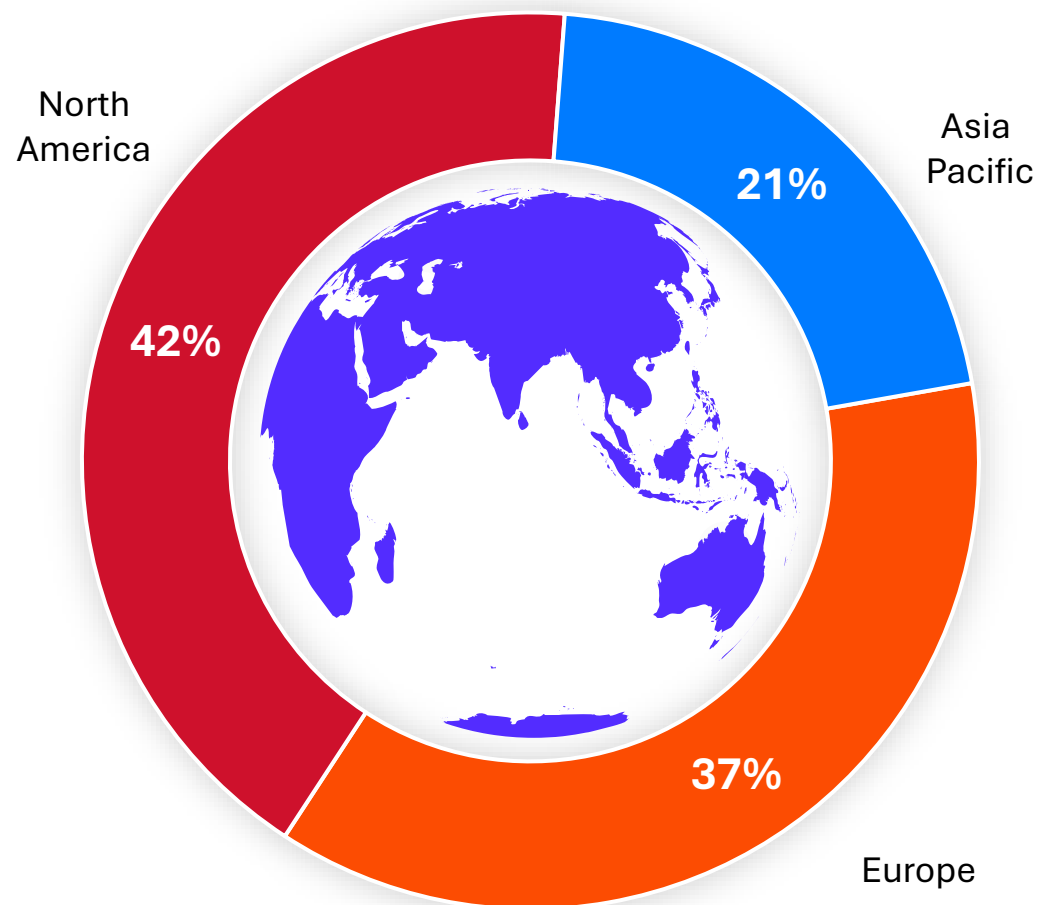
About the survey

In this survey, we explore environmental sustainability in business travel and examine traveler behaviors, motivations and attitudes toward sustainable travel choices.

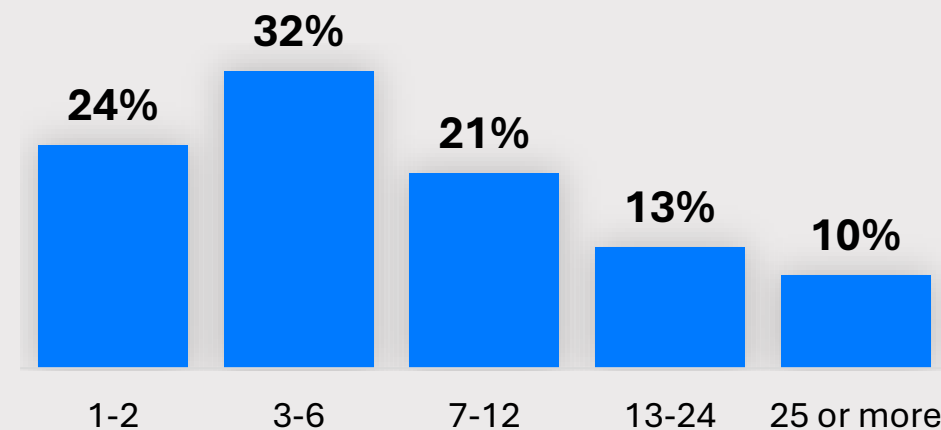
The results are based on an online survey of 748 business travelers worldwide, conducted in July 2026.

Who we surveyed

Where respondents are based

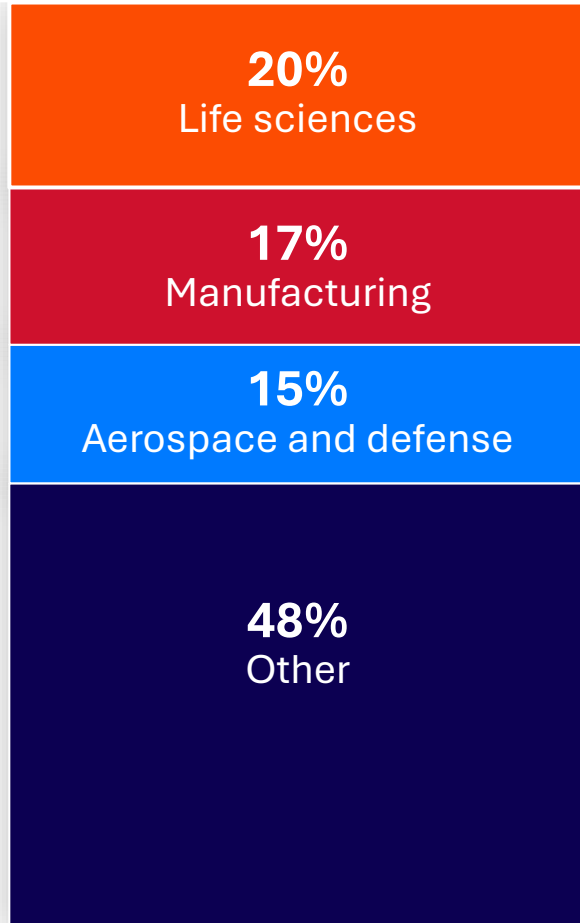


Number of business trips taken in the past 12 months



Who we surveyed

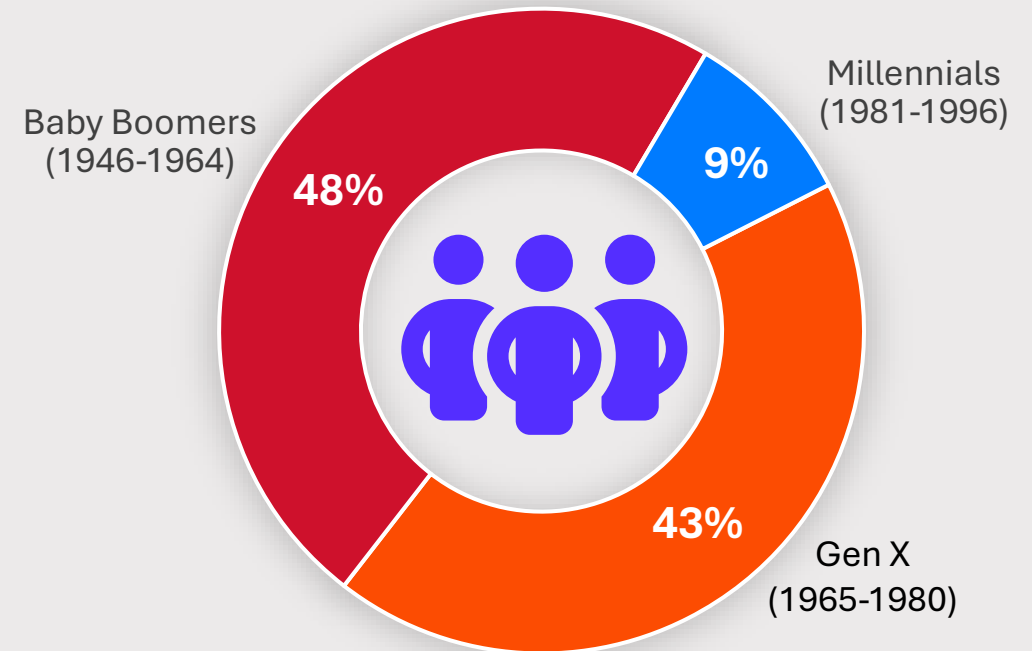
Industries



Gender

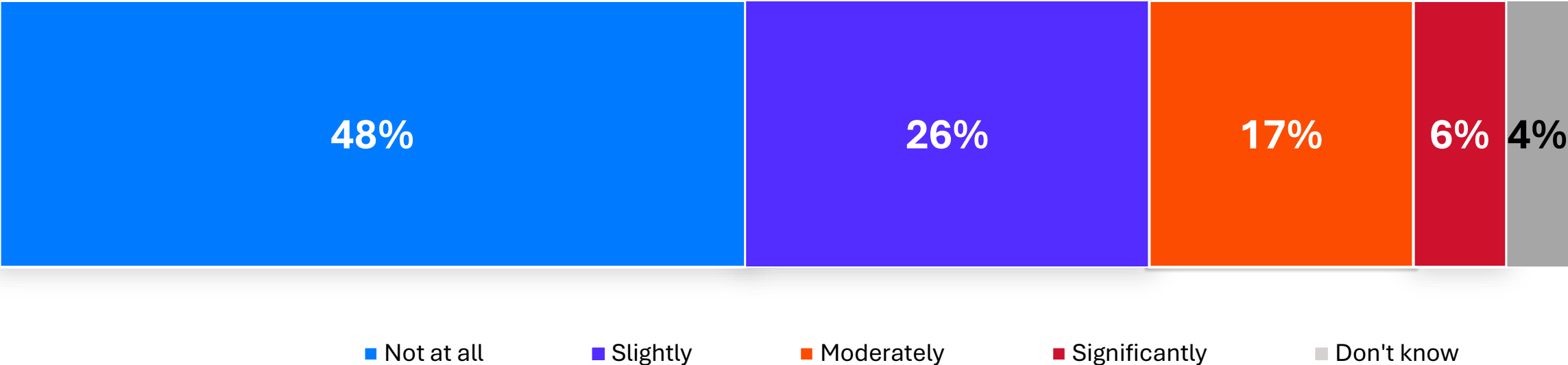


Age



Impact of climate change on travel

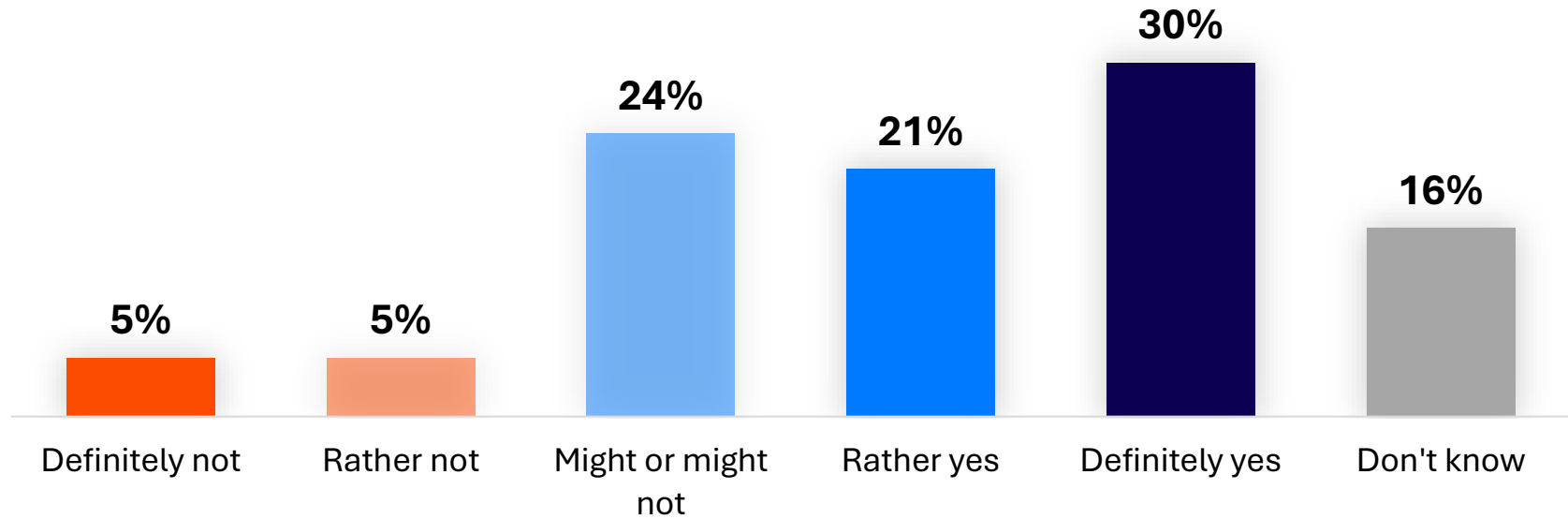
Almost half of travelers say climate change moderately or significantly affects how they travel for business.



Q: To what extent is climate change currently affecting how you travel for business?

Encouraging sustainable travel

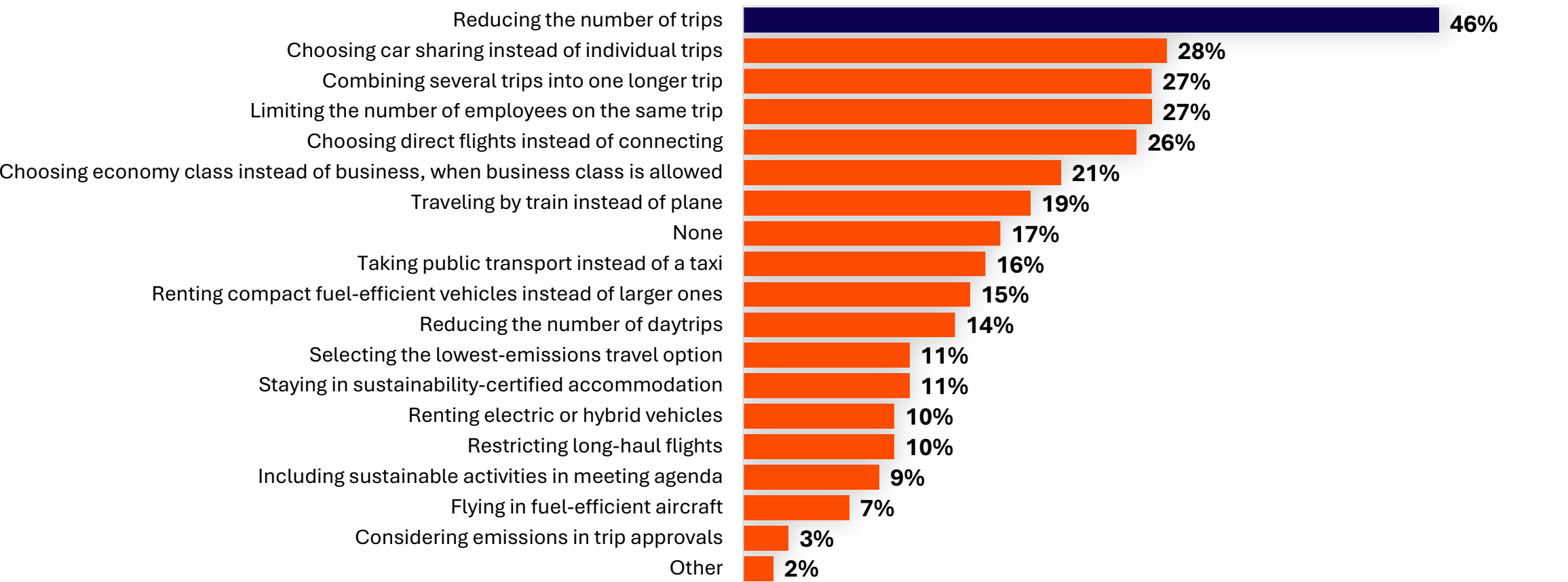
Nearly half of travelers say their travel program encourages sustainable travel, while 10% believe it does not.



Q: Does your travel program encourage sustainable business travel?

Sustainable travel options encouraged by companies

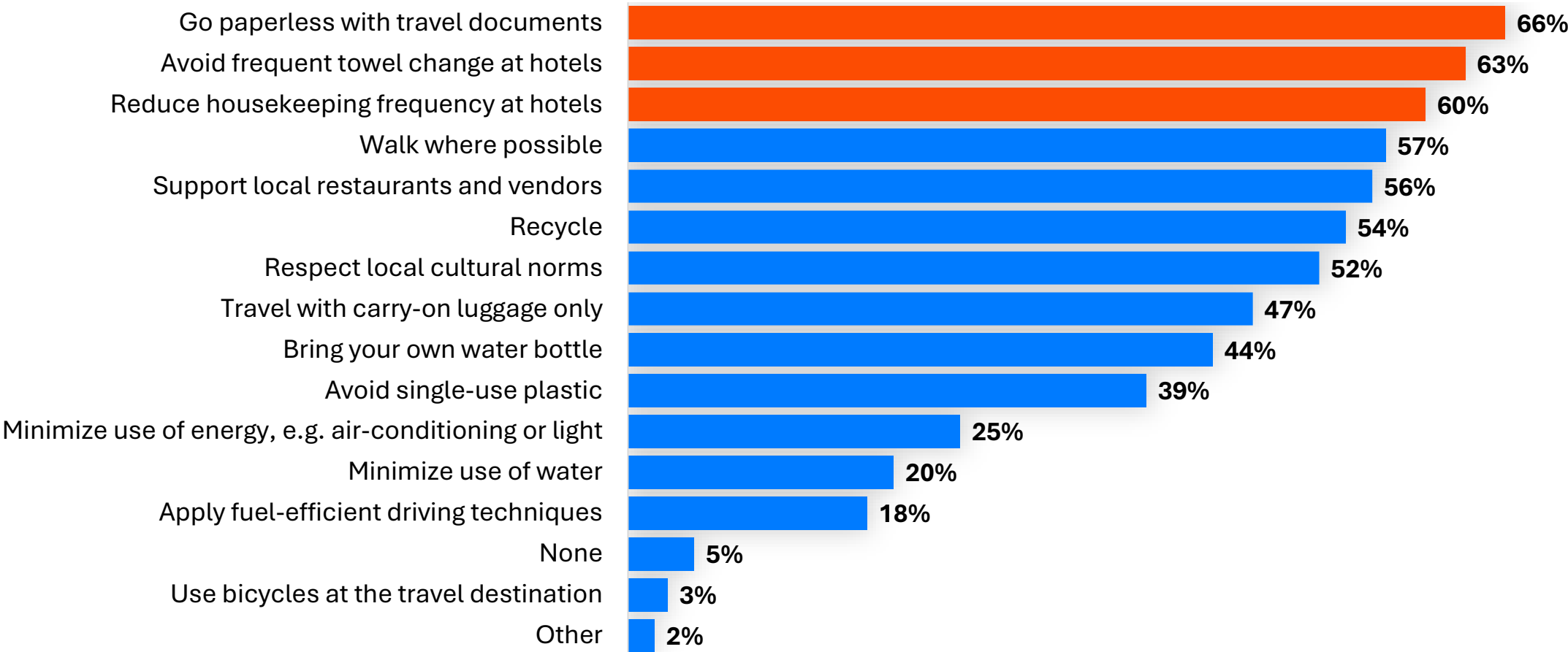
Employers most often encourage travelers to reduce the number of business trips (46%). Other sustainability measures include car sharing, trip consolidation, limiting traveler numbers and flying direct, each one encouraged by roughly a quarter.



Q: Which of the following sustainable travel options does your company encourage? Select all that apply.

Sustainable traveler behaviors

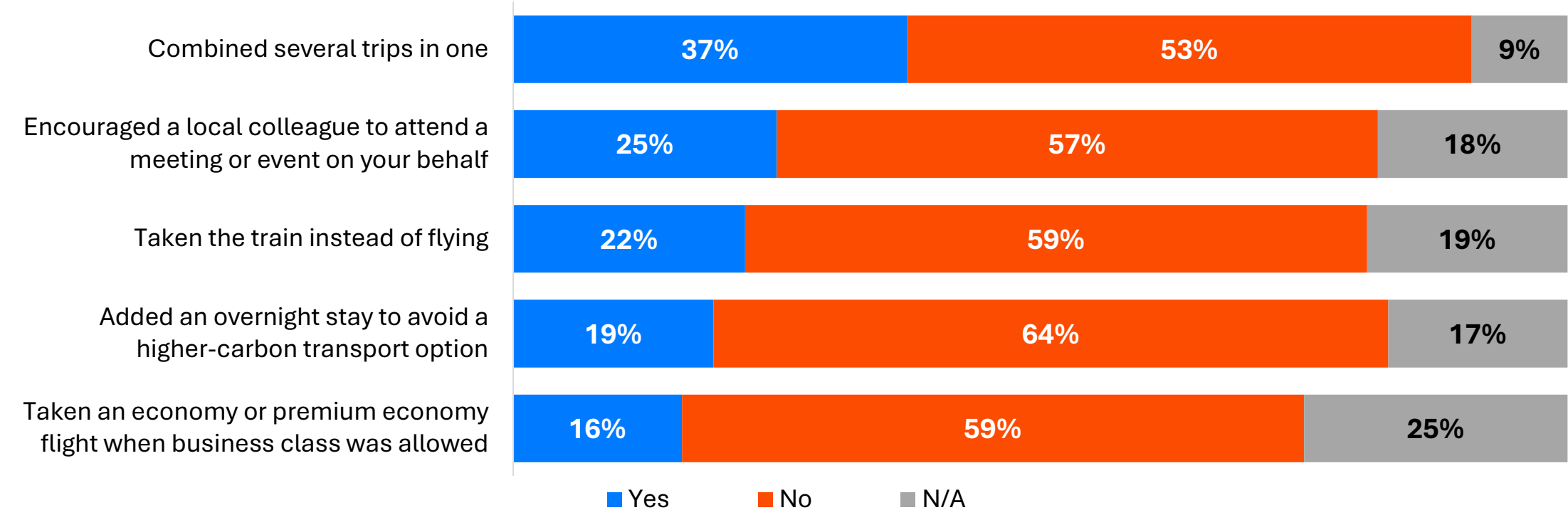
Common sustainable traveler behaviors include going paperless with travel documents, requesting fewer towel changes and reduced housekeeping at hotels, each one reported by at least six in 10 travelers.



Q: Which of the following sustainable travel behaviors do you follow when traveling for business? Select all that apply.

Sustainable behavior

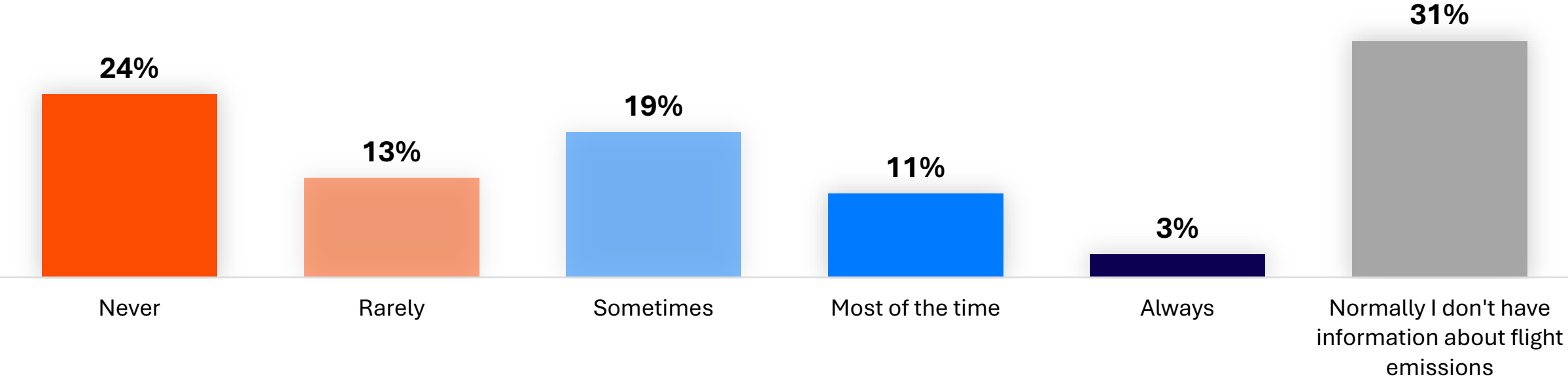
While over a third of travelers practice combining several trips in one, only one in six has chosen economy class when business-class travel was permitted.



Q: Have you ever done any of the following when traveling for business?

Selecting lowest emission flight

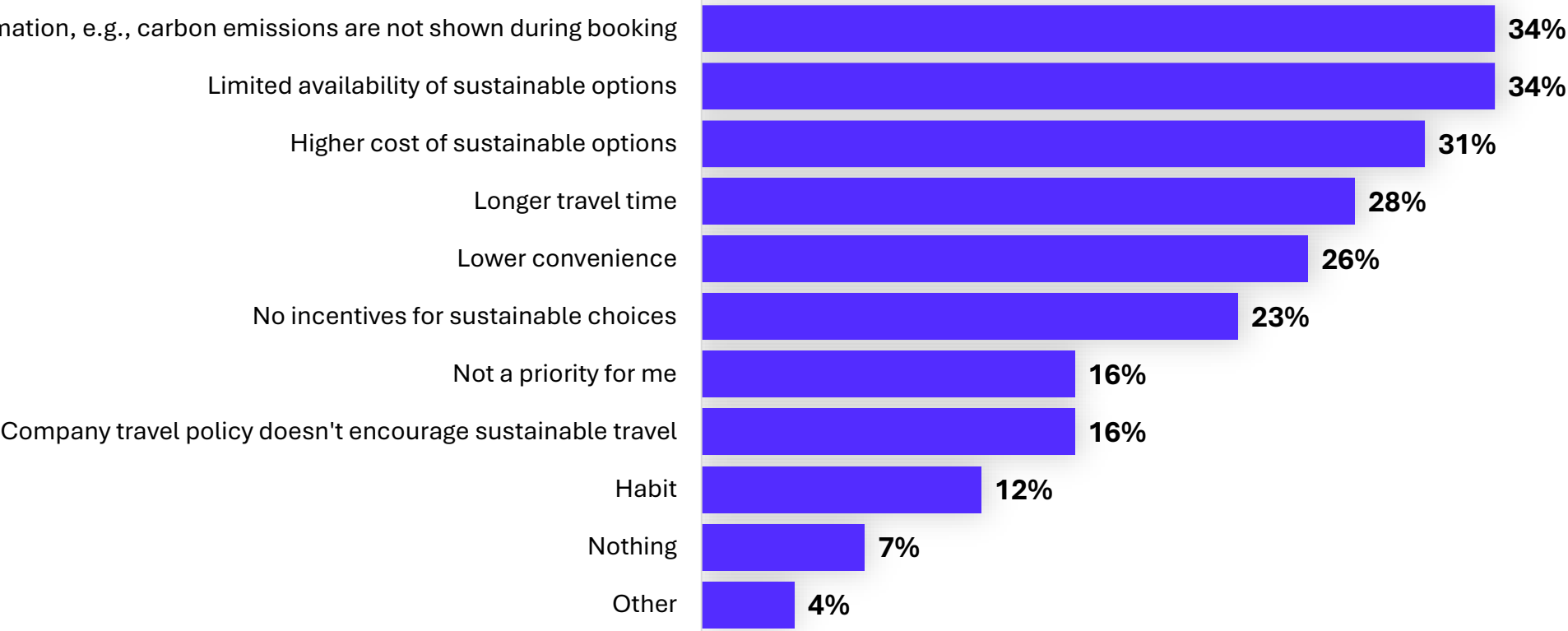
Only 14% choose the lowest-emissions option always/most of the time versus 37% who never or rarely do so. 31% lack emissions information.



Q: How often do you select the lowest-emissions flight option, if flight emissions information is available?

Obstacles to sustainable choices

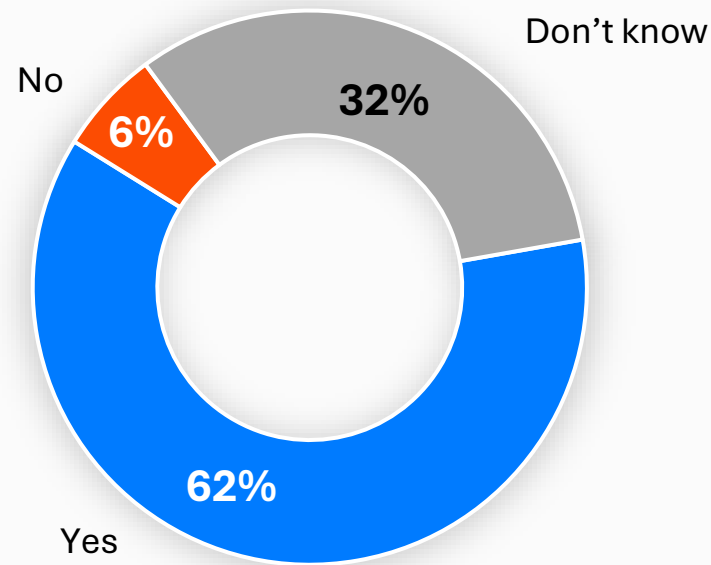
The main barriers preventing travelers from making sustainable travel choices include lack of awareness, limited availability and the higher cost of sustainable travel options.



Q: What prevents you from making more sustainable business travel choices? Select up to three.

Company sustainability goals

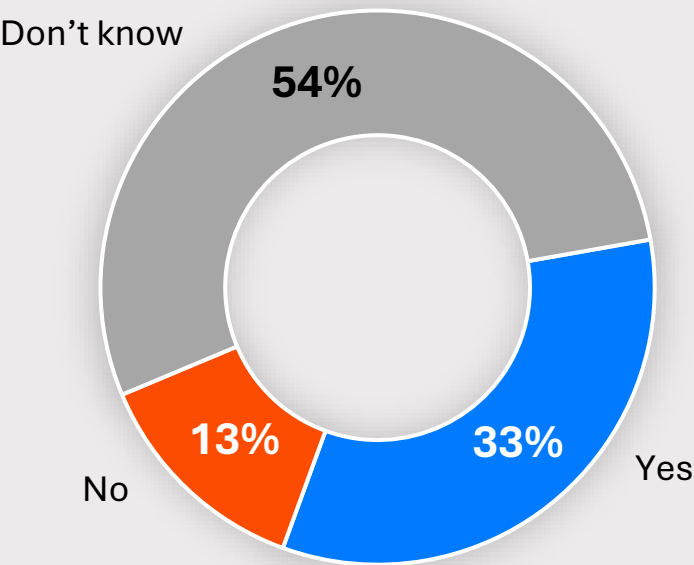
62% of respondents say their company has published sustainability goals.



Q: Does your company have published sustainability goals?

Travel-related sustainability goals

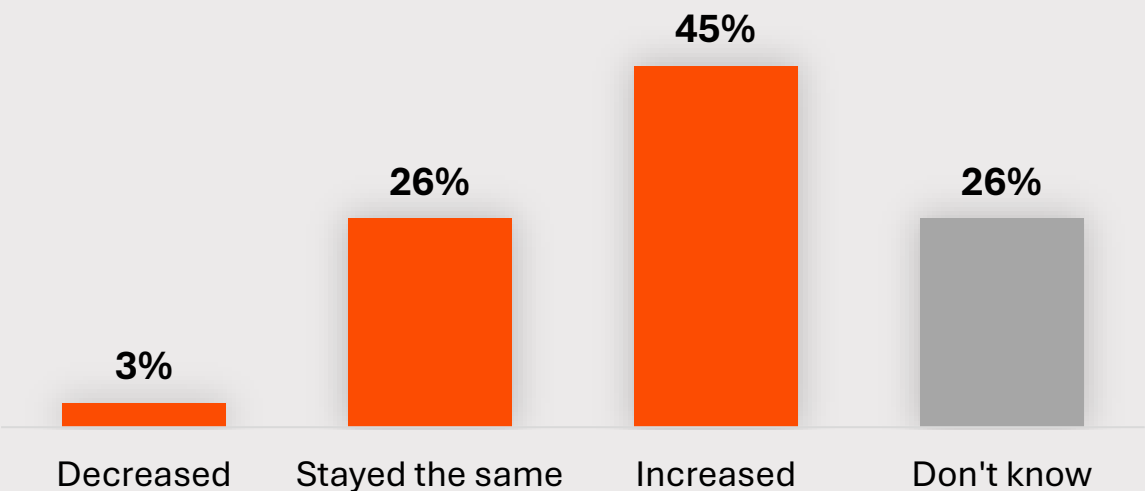
Travel-specific goals are less clear with only 33% being aware of their availability.



Q: Does your company have sustainability goals related to business travel?

Importance of travel sustainability

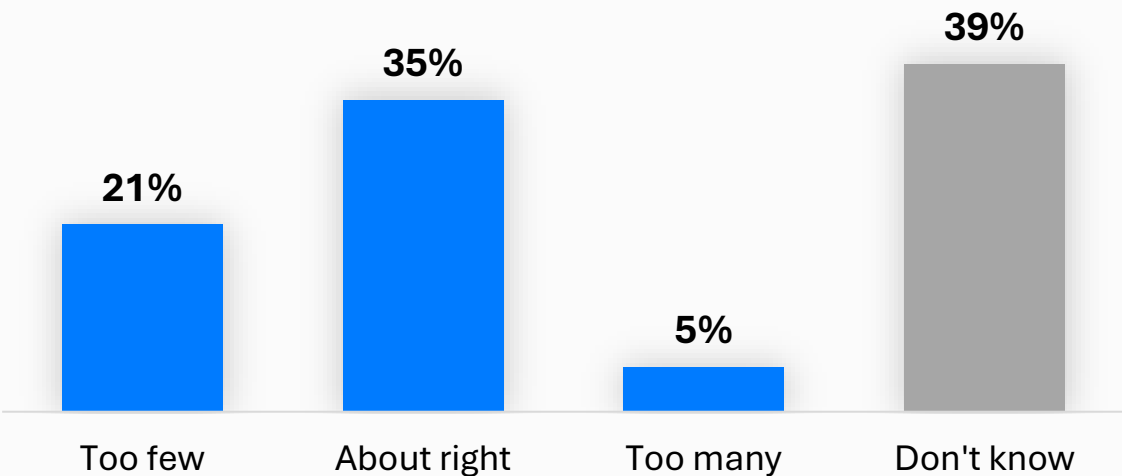
45% of travelers think the importance of sustainability has increased in the past two years. A quarter aren't sure.



Q: Over the past two years, how has the importance of sustainability within your organization changed?

Employer activities around sustainability

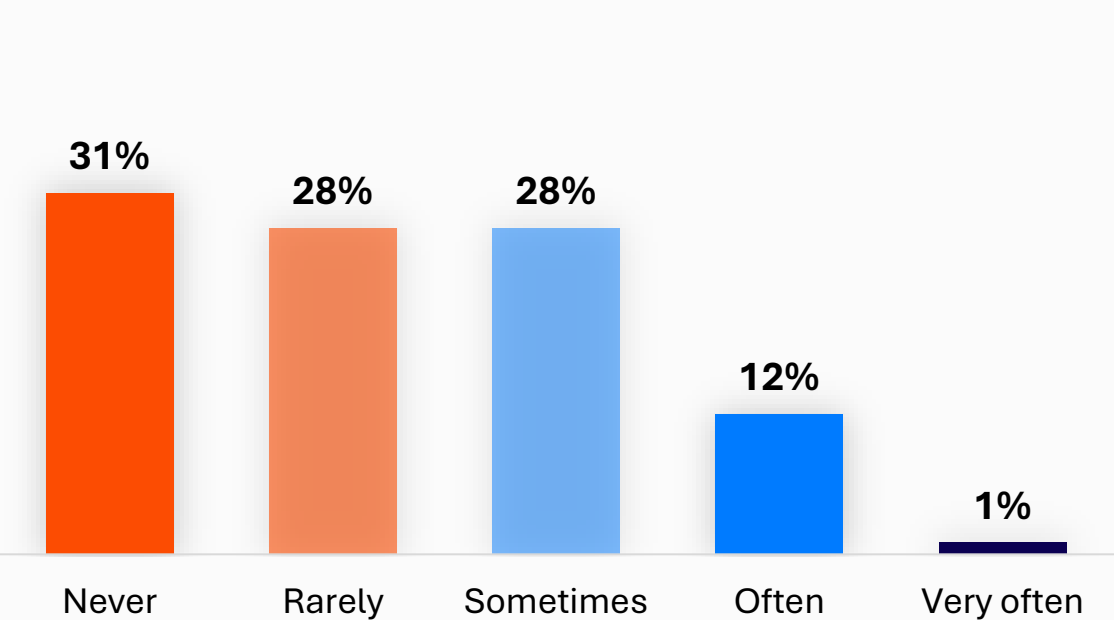
One in five consider the volume of employers' activities encouraging sustainable travel is too low. Four in 10 don't know.



Q: How would you rate the current volume of your employer's initiatives that encourage sustainable travel?

Frequency of communication

Communication on sustainable travel remains limited: About six in 10 travelers report never or rarely receiving it, compared with just 13% who receive it frequently.



Q: How often do you receive communication about sustainable travel from your employer?

Types of communication

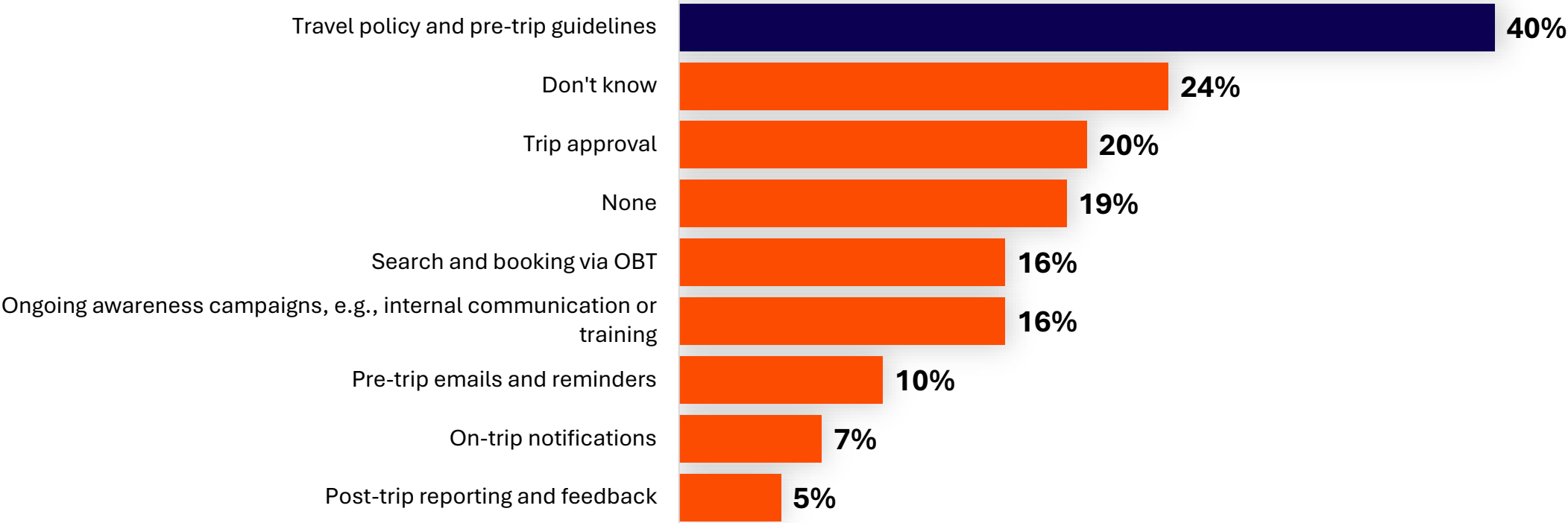
Emails/newsletters (42%) and intranet articles (32%) are most commonly used channels.



Q: Which types of traveler communication does your employer use to promote sustainable travel? Select all that apply

Traveler engagement at various stages of a trip

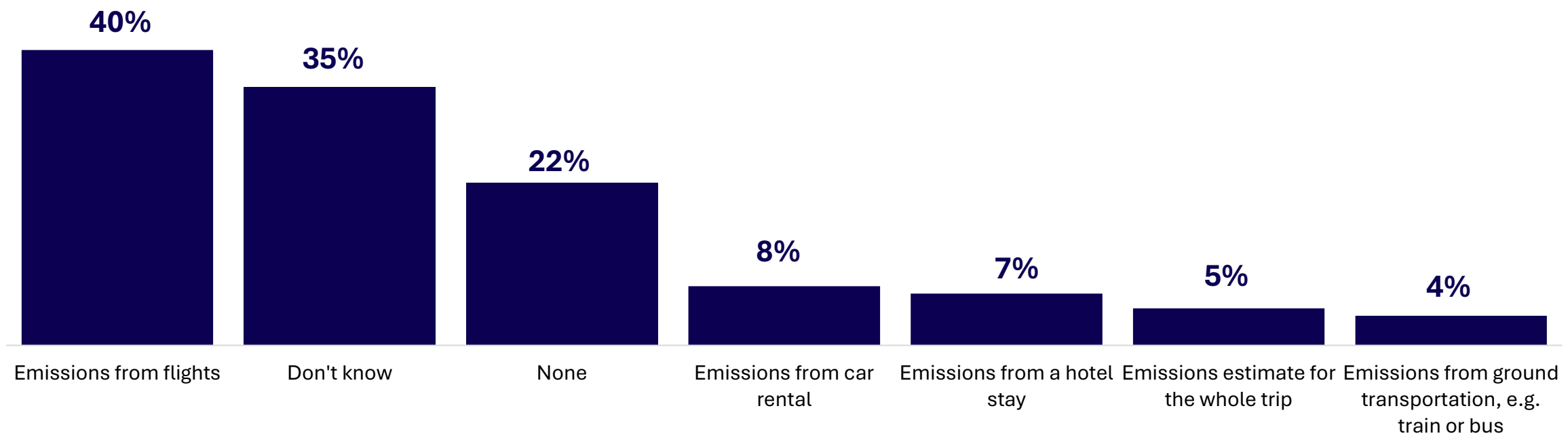
Employers most often encourage sustainable travel choices before the trip through travel policy and pre-trip guidelines: 40% of travelers confirm. Nearly a quarter aren't sure.



Q: At which stages of the travel journey does your employer encourage sustainable travel choices? Select all that apply.

Carbon emissions data

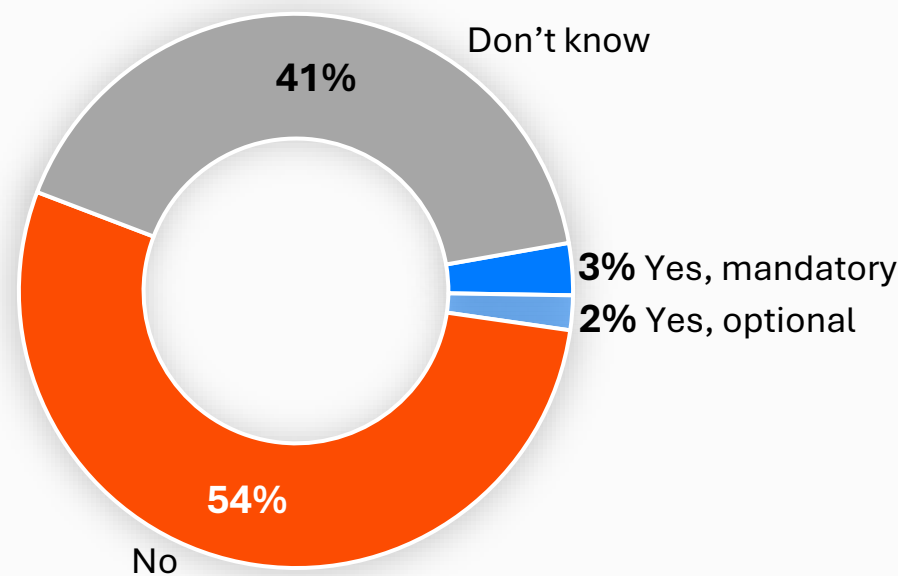
Emissions data visibility is largely restricted to air travel, with 40% of travelers reporting access to flight-related emissions data. Meanwhile, 35% do not know whether such data is available, and 22% have no emissions data at the time of booking.



Q: What carbon emissions data do you have access to when booking business travel? Select all that apply.

Carbon budgets

Carbon budgeting is still uncommon, with just 5% of travelers reporting mandatory or optional carbon budgets and over half (54%) indicating that none are in place.

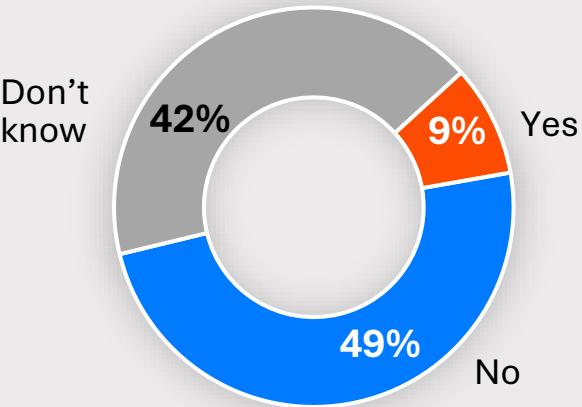


Q: Does your employer set a carbon budget for your business trips?

Access to carbon emissions

Just 9% of travelers have access to their travel emissions. Nearly half report having no access, while 42% do not know.

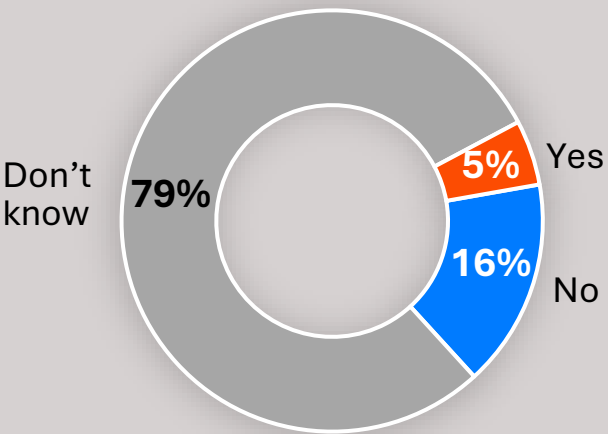
Q: Do you have access to your travel emissions for tracking and budgeting purposes?



SAF purchase

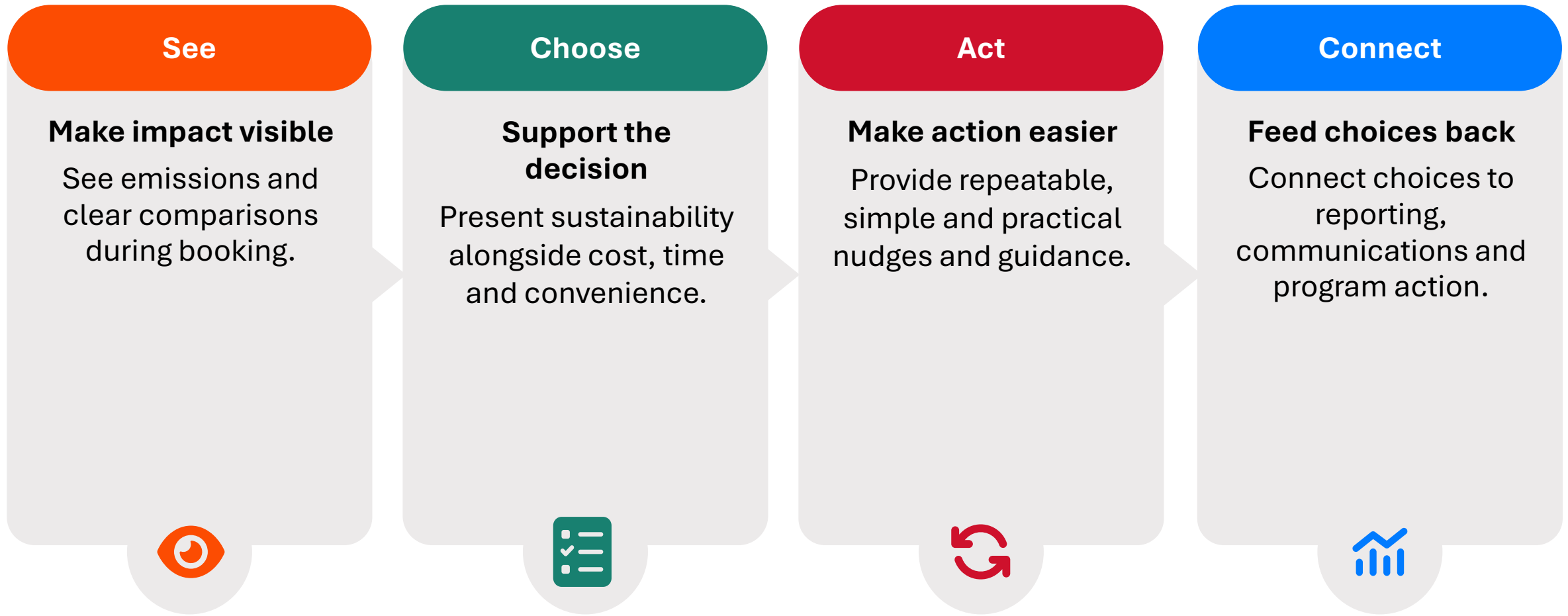
Most travelers do not know whether their employer purchases sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

Q: To your knowledge, does your employer purchase sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)?



How BCD can help

Helping travelers make informed choices at the moment of booking.



Embed sustainability into your travel program



Make informed, more sustainable choices every time you book.

Map Overlay: Shows a route from Rosemont to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) via Kennedy Expressway (I-55) and I-90. Duration: 8h 15m.

Flight Details (DL1449 Delta Airlines):

- Locator: NPW022
- Status: Scheduled
- DEPARTURE: 16:30 CDT, Sun, Jul 26
- LOCATION: ORD, Chicago O'Hare International Airport
- TERMINAL: 1, GATE: A21
- SEAT: 17E

Hertz Rental:

- Location: Chicago O'Hare International Airport, 10000 W O'Hare Ave, Chicago, IL 60666
- Duration: 5 days
- LOYALTY: GV9235, EST. TOTAL: 135 USD, CONFIRMATION: ORD-407579
- POLICY REMINDER: Decline the extra insurance coverage. You're covered with our corporate rate.

Tripsource Notification:

Now
Tripsource
Welcome to Chicago! Pick up your bag at carousel 6.

Hotel Details (Marriott Chicago O'Hare):

- Rating: 4.5 Very good (by TrustYou)
- Company preferred

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Senior Manager, Research & Intelligence

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BCD Travel creates connections that move people and ideas forward. Through open technology and trusted human expertise, we help companies and people navigate change, simplify complexity and make confident decisions about how and when they travel. Our intuitive digital experiences for every stakeholder power journeys that fuel success and drive progress. With 15,000+ dedicated team members serving clients in 170+ countries, BCD is shaping a more sustainable future for business travel. Industry-leading meetings and events management and a global consultancy complete our suite of solutions and services. In 2025, BCD achieved \$24.4 billion in sales. For more information, visit www.bcdtravel.com.

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