

Local governments' use of public procurement to meet sustainability goals

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In the news...

ENVIRONMENT

With Limited Resources, One Small Town Plans for Climate Change

Among rural communities, Grants Pass, Oregon, has notched an unlikely win: a sustainability plan. But lack of dedicated staff and resources to secure federal grant funds threaten its success.

by **Claire Carlson**
February 14, 2024



Building resilience in the face of disaster is a main priority of the plan, which recommends 14 projects related to green energy, waste disposal, transportation, and tree plantings in city limits. All of the projects focus on improvements to city-owned buildings, vehicles, and operations.

2020 Sustainability Survey: how sustainability efforts are organized and implemented by local governments

Q30 What entity directly provides each of the following public services in your city/town:

	The city/town government (1)	County government or regional authority (2)	Private or non-profit contractor (3)	Service not provided in city/town (4)
Public transportation (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling collection (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water provision (4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public health services (5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homelessness services (6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2020 Sustainability Survey: how sustainability efforts are organized and implemented by local governments

Q27 Indicate which of the following your city/town does to support economic sustainability:
(select all that apply)

- Works with existing businesses, employers, or associations to identify opportunities to "green" operations (1)
- Provides financial incentives to support the renewable energy sector (2)
- Implemented "Buy Local" campaigns (3)
- Provides property tax credit to commercial buildings that achieve LEED certification (4)
- Created demand for green products through public procurement policies (5)

2020 Sustainability Survey: how sustainability efforts are organized and implemented by local governments

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Provides financial incentives to support the renewable energy sector (2)

Implemented "Buy Local" campaigns (3)

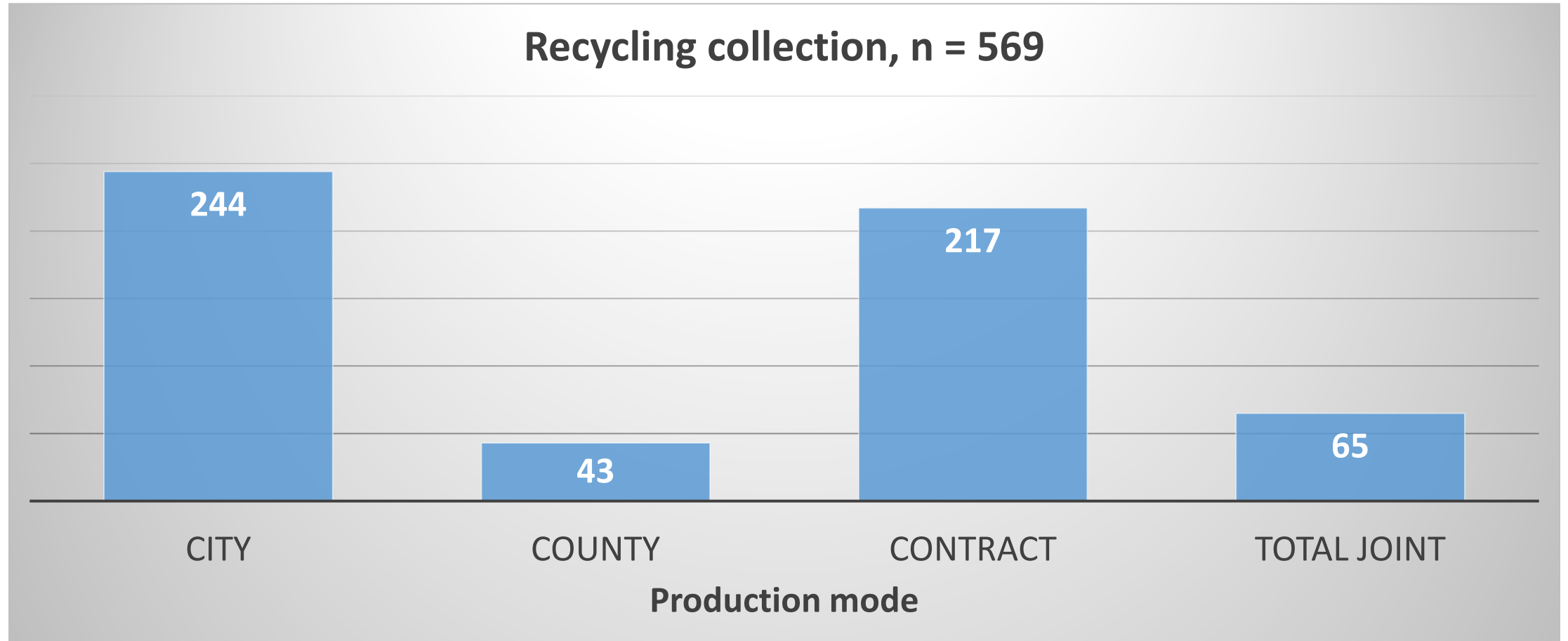
Provides property tax credit to commercial buildings that achieve LEED certification (4)

Created demand for green products through public procurement policies (5)

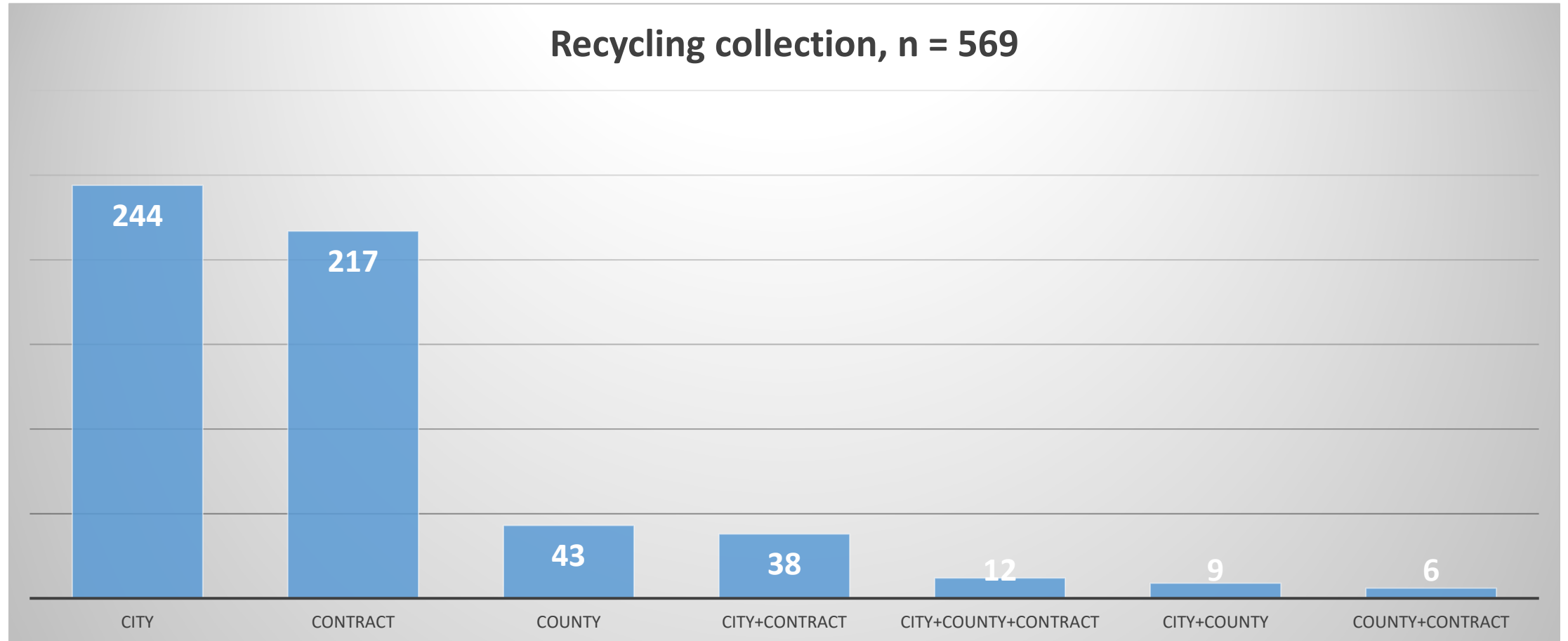
Even though the data is far from perfect

- We can explore if there are relationships between what cities do to support economic sustainability and the production mode:
- In which cases are municipalities working with other stakeholders to identify opportunities for “green” operations?
- In which cases are they creating demand for green products through public procurement policies?

Recycling collection



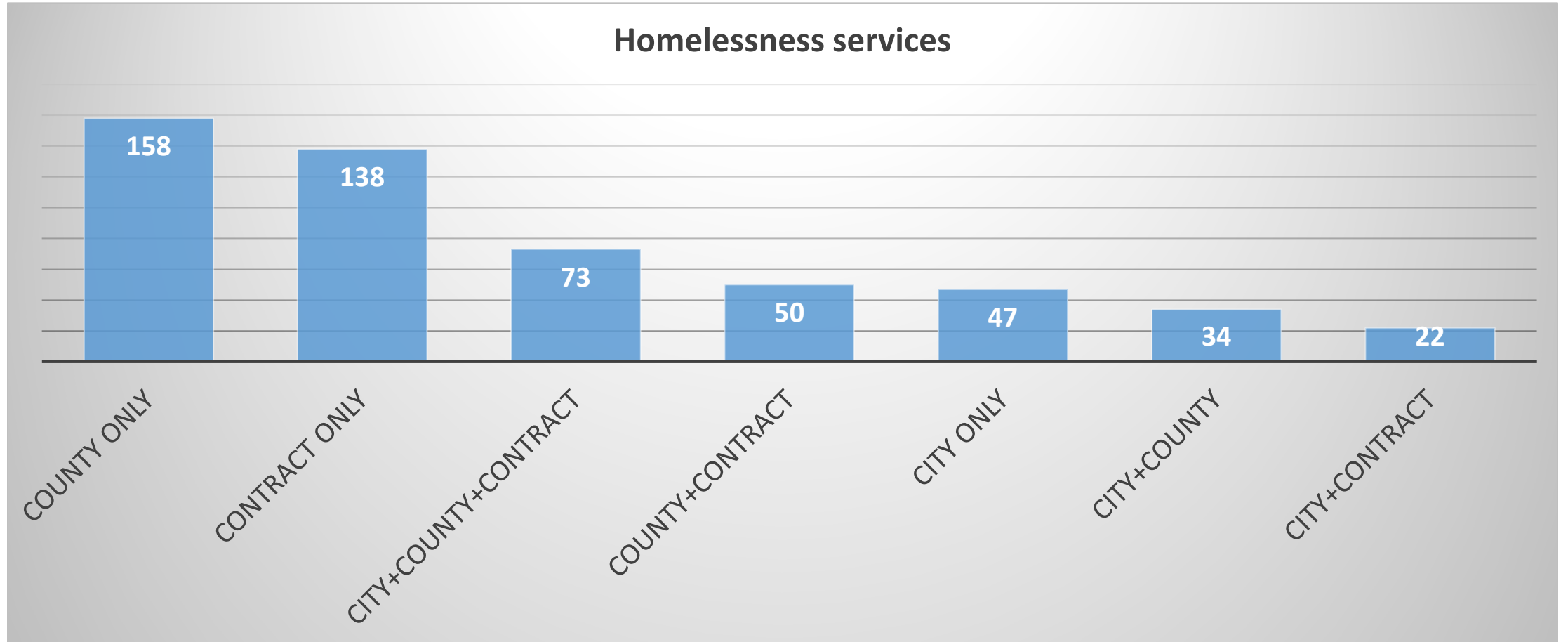
Recycling collection



Homelessness services

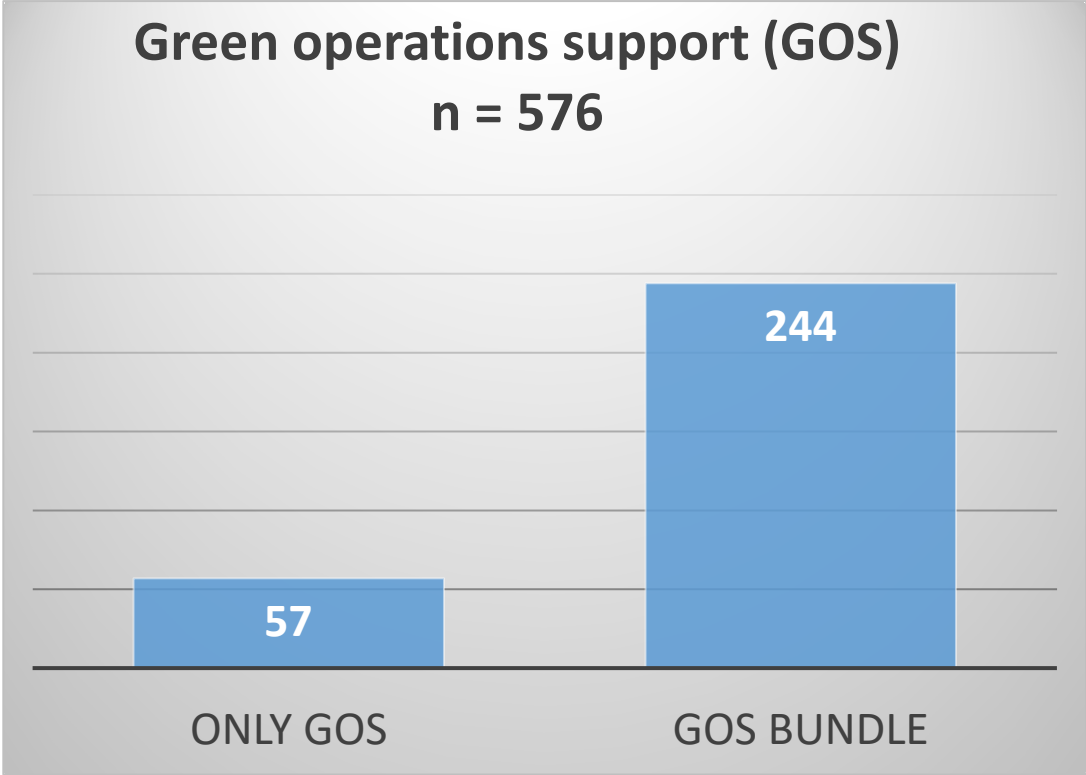


Homeless services

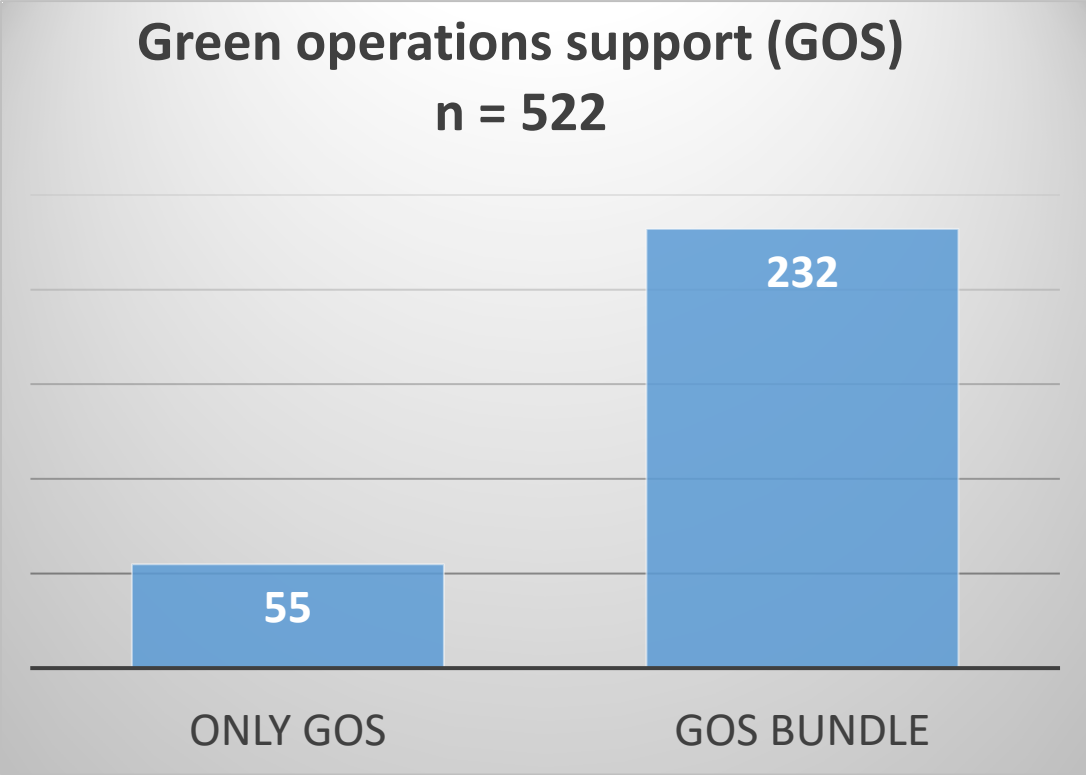


Supporting economic sustainability: green operations

Recycling

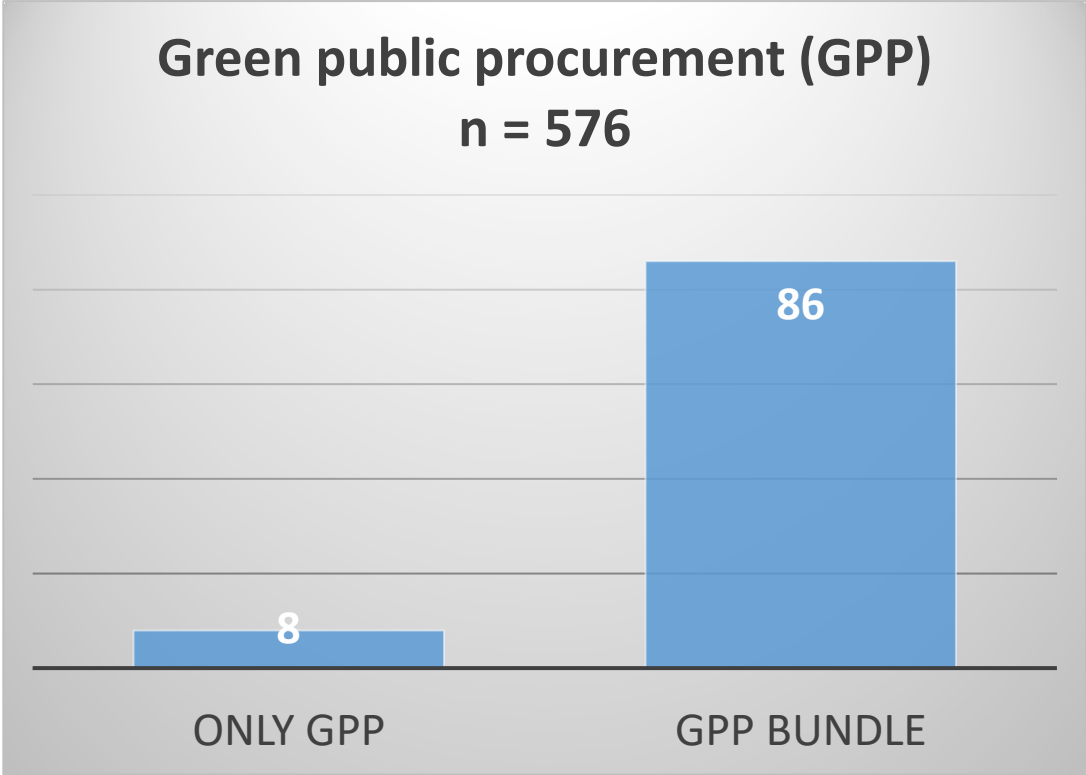


Homelessness services

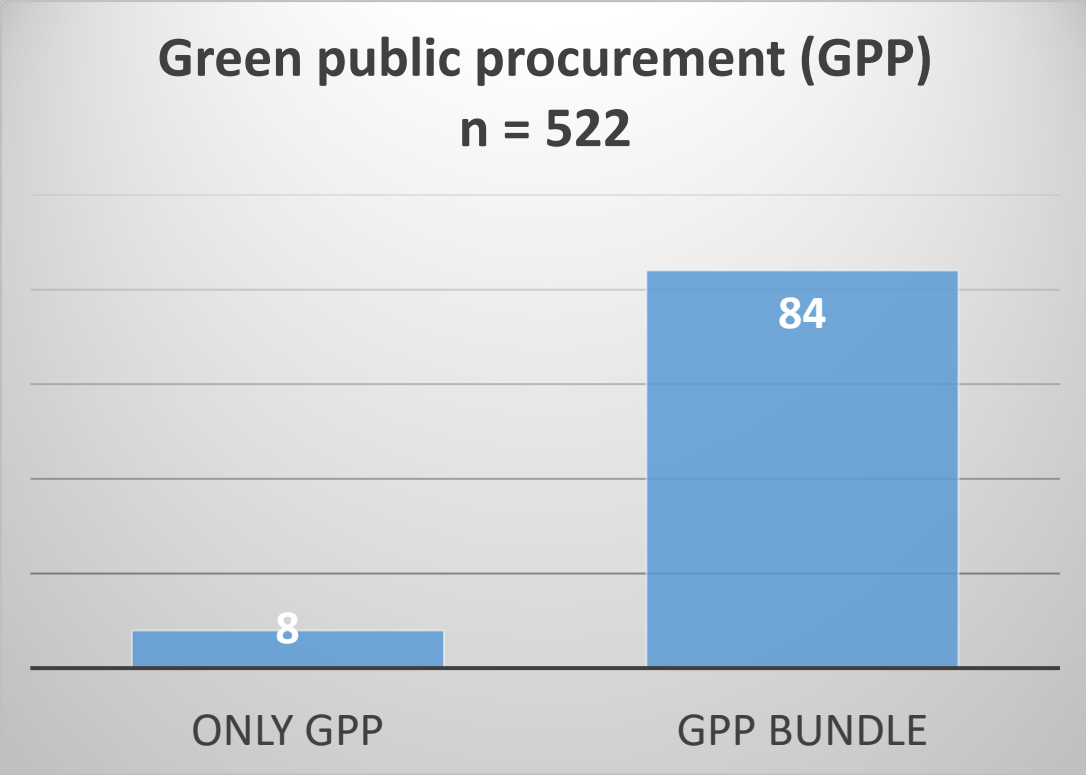


Supporting economic sustainability: green operations

Recycling



Homelessness services



Homeless services: Green operations support (GOS) - *alone*

Works with existing businesses, employers, or associations to identify opportunities for "green" operations

Public contract is used	No	Yes	Total
No	282	37	319
Yes	185	18	203
Total	467	55	522

p-value 0.322

Homeless services: Green operations support (GOS) – *as part of a bundle*

Works with existing businesses, employers, or associations to identify opportunities for "green" operations

Public contract is used	No	Yes	Total
No	159	160	319
Yes	131	72	203
Total	290	232	522

p-value 0.001

Homeless services: Green operations support (GOS) – *as part of a bundle*

Works with existing businesses, employers, or associations to identify opportunities for "green" operations

Public contract is used	No	Yes	Total
No	159	160	319
Yes	131	72	203
Total	290	232	522

$\Pr(|Z| > |z|) = 0.0000$

p-value 0.001

Homeless services: Green operations support (GOS) – *as part of a bundle*

Works with existing businesses, employers, or associations to identify opportunities for "green" operations

Public contract is used		No	Yes	Total	$\Pr(Z > z) = 0.0001$
	No	159	160	319	
	Yes	131	72	203	$\Pr(Z > z) = 0.0000$
	Total	290	232	522	

p-value 0.001

Homeless services: Green public procurement (GPP) – *as part of a bundle*

Created demand for green products through public procurement policies

Public contract is used	No	Yes	Total
No	257	62	319
Yes	181	22	203
Total	438	84	522

$\Pr(|Z| > |z|) = 0.0001$

p-value 0.009

Homeless services: Green public procurement (GPP) – *as part of a bundle*

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Public contract is used	No	Yes	Total
No	257	62	319
Yes	181	22	203
Total	438	84	522

$\Pr(|Z| > |z|) = 0.0003$
p-value 0.009

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Preliminary conclusions

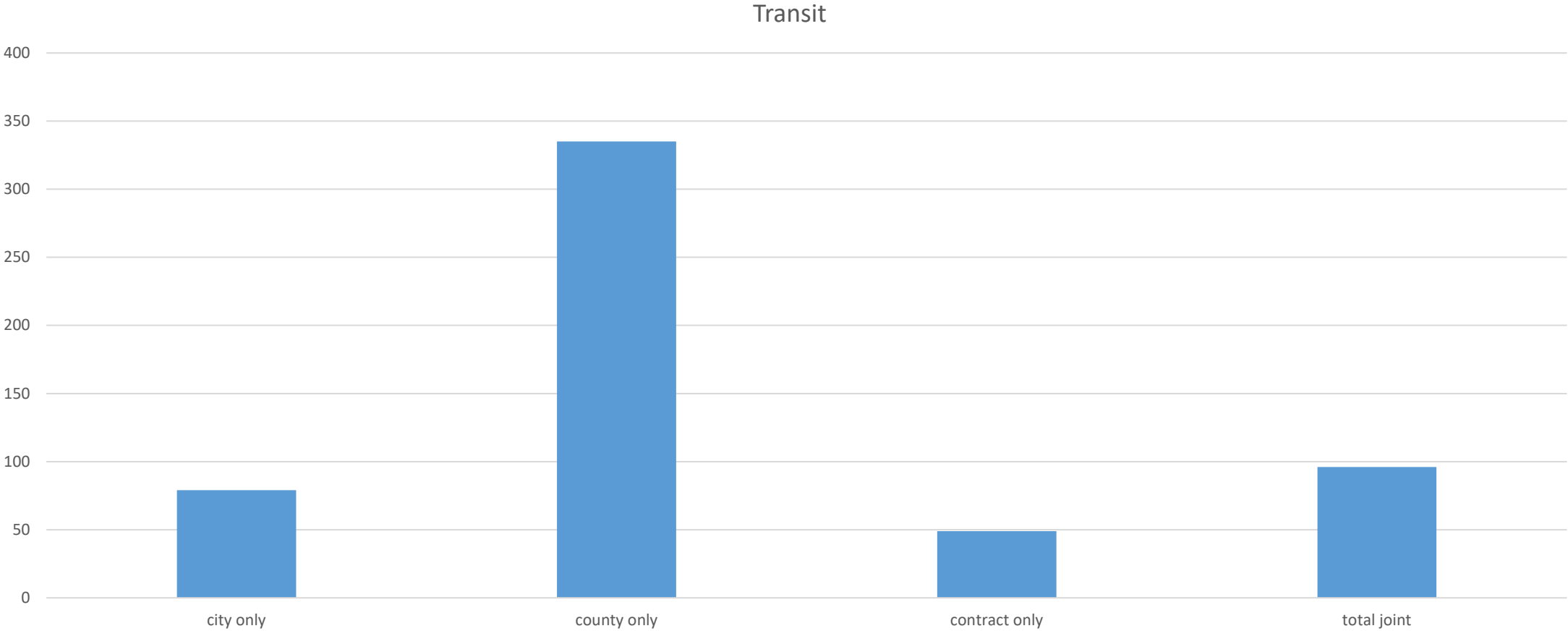
- To support economic sustainability, local governments use a myriad of incentives, policy tools, and managerial strategies.
- Economic, and environmental sustainability can “live” in many public services.
- Cities appear to be taking “leadership”. But this could be for many reasons.
- Local governments do not seem to be creating demand for green products through public procurement policies...yet hopefully?

Future direction

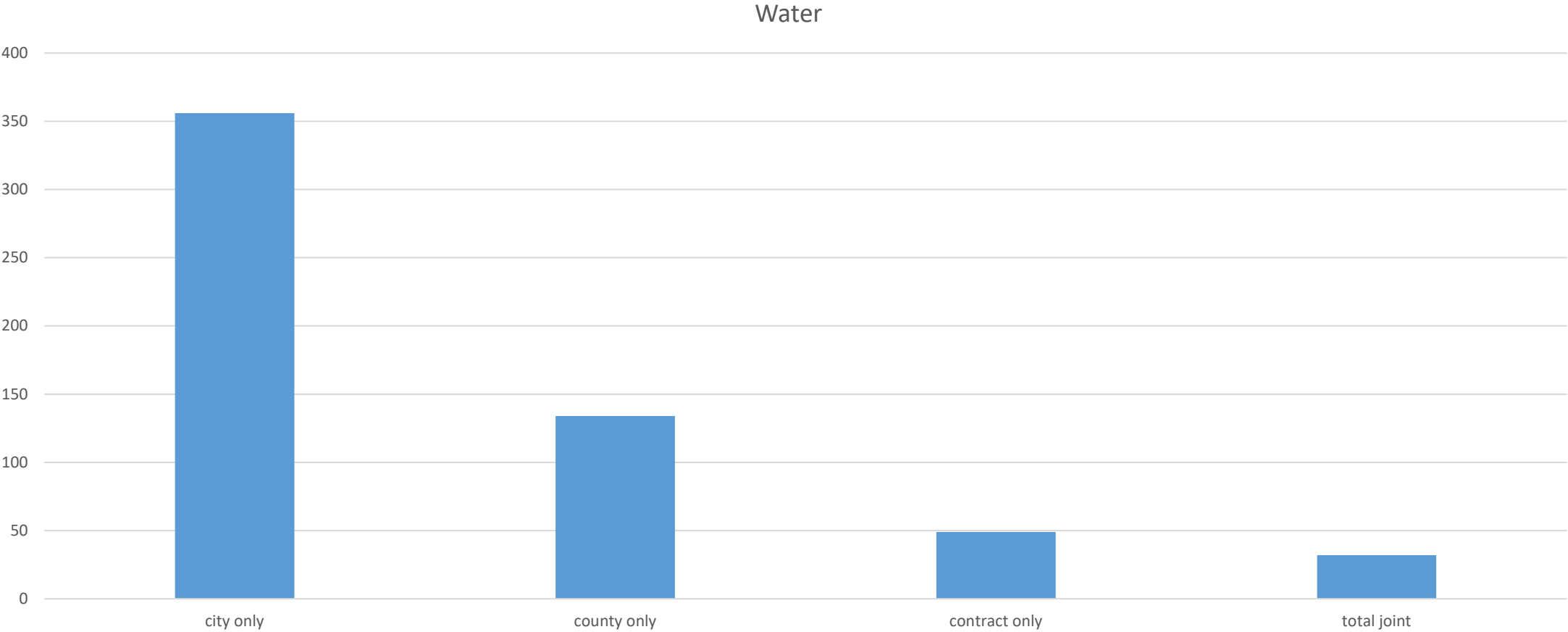
- Potentially explore how capacity, commitment, support, and implementation influence institutional arrangements for service production.
- If we manage to clean this data (and after going through robustness checks), explore the relationships with different methodological approaches.

Thank you!

Sustainability and service delivery: Public transportation



Sustainability and service delivery: Drinking water



Sustainability and service delivery: Public health

