

# Sustainability and Resiliency Efforts for the Roofing Industry

Dhaval Gajjar, PhD  
Interim Chair

Jason D. Lucas, PhD  
Associate Professor

Padam Wagle  
Graduate Research Assistant

Nieri Department of Construction and Real Estate Development  
Clemson University

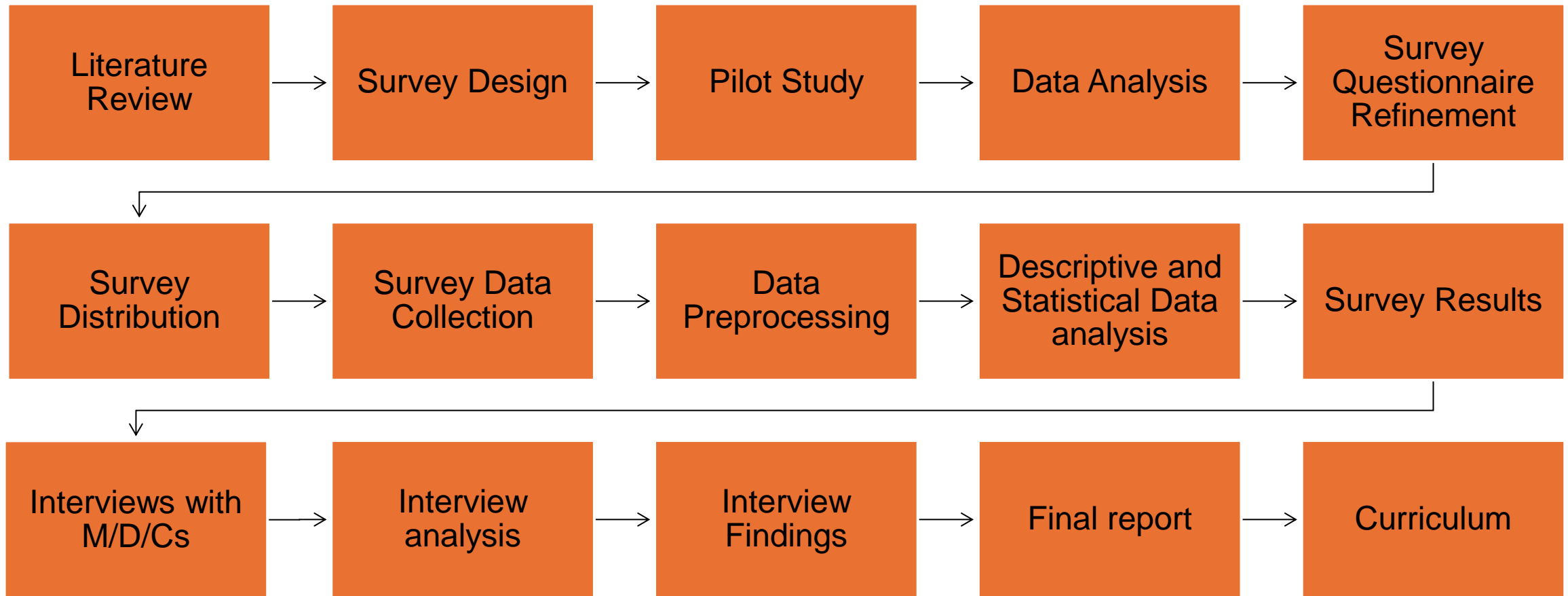


## Objectives of the study

- Identify the current state of various sustainability and resiliency efforts in the roofing industry.
- To develop and implement professional development training modules to educate the roofing industry professionals regarding roofing sustainability and resiliency.



# Study Approach





# Literature Review



# Creating keyword combinations and exploring in Databases

## KEYWORD COMBINATION LIST

(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (building construction) AND (United States)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (roof\*)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (manufacturing) AND (roof\*)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (roof\*) AND (construction) OR (material supply chain)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (architectural design) AND (roof\*)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (built environment) AND (roof\*)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (construction industry) AND (roof\*)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (environmental impacts) AND (roof\*)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (building energy efficiency)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (adaptive design) AND (building roof\* system)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (Distributor)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (Distributor) AND (Building Construction)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (Distributor) AND (roof\*)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (Manufacturer) AND (Building Construction)  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (Manufacturer) AND (roof\*)



## DATABASES

EBSCOhost (Academic Search Complete, Applied Science and Technology, Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, GreenFILE)  
Engineering Village (Compendex, GeoRef, INSPEC & Knovel)  
ASCE Library  
IEEE Xplore  
Technology Collection (ProQuest)  
ASME Digital Library  
BuildingGreen Suite  
JSTOR  
Web of Science Core Collection (includes ScienceDirect)  
ICONDA (Construction Database)



**100,000+ Peer-reviewed articles**



Examples of articles explored in different databases with different keyword combinations

Engineering Village

Search ▾ Search history ▾ Alerts 0 Selected records 0 More ▾ ? 7 ? ?

Create account Sign in

Quick search: All fields ▾ for (sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (building construction) AND (United States) ?

Suggested terms: ? Sustainable Development Construction Industry Buildings (Structures) Compressive Strength Architectural Design

Turn on AutoSuggest | + Add search field | Reset form

Databases ▾ Date ^ Language ▾ Document type ▾ Sort by ▾ Browse indexes ▾ Autostemming ▾ Discipline ▾ Treatment ▾

**3,830 records** found in Compendex, Inspec & GeoRef for 2013-2024: (((sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (building construction) AND (United States)) WN ALL) AND (JA WN DT) AND (English WN LA)

Create alert Save search Share search RSS feed Sort by: Relevance ▾

Refine << □ ▾ ✉ 📄 ⬇ ▾ Display: 25 ▾ results per page

Remove duplicates ? ▾

By physical property ▾  
Filter results by physical properties such as size, temperature, pressure and many more ↗.

1. ☐ **Japanese Efforts to Promote Steel Reuse in Building Construction** (Open Access)  
Fujita, Masanori (Faculty of Engineering, Kanagawa Univ., Kanagawa, Yokohama; 221-8686, Japan); Fujita, Tetsuya; Iwata, Mamoru; Iwata, Yoshihiro; Kanemitsu, Tomomi; Kimura, Urara; Koiba, Kazuhiko; Midorikawa, Mitsumasa; Okazaki, Taichiro; Takahashi, Satoshi; Tanaka, Teruhisa; Wada, Masatoshi Source: *Journal of Structural Engineering (United States)*, v 149, n 1, January 1, 2023  
Database: Compendex

Feedback

EBSCOhost

Searching: eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost), Show all | Choose Databases

(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (building construction) Select a Field (optional) Search

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) Clear ?

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History ▶

Refine Results

Current Search ▾

Boolean/Phrase:  
(sustain\* OR resilien\*) AND (building construction) AND (United States)...

Expanders  
Apply equivalent subjects

Limiters  
Peer Reviewed  
Published Date: 20130101-20231231

Search Results: 1 - 20 of 4,623

Relevance ▾ Page Options ▾ Share ▾

Company ▾

Enter comp Go

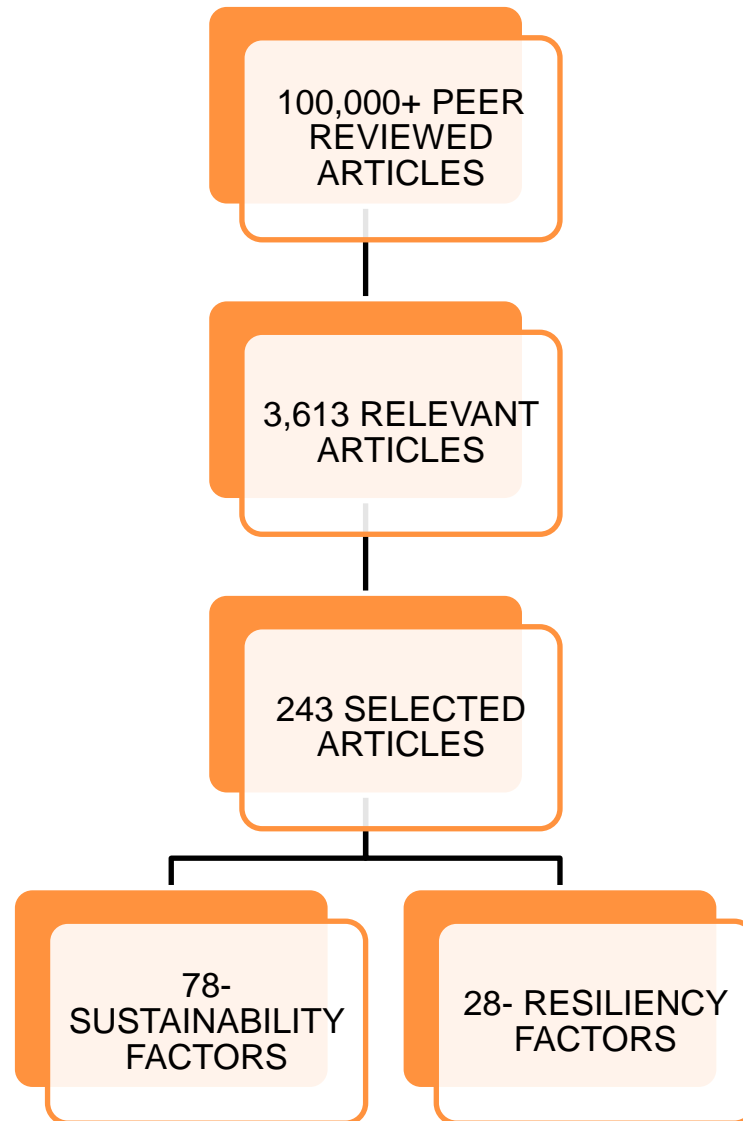
Reference Shelf  
Collection Overview  
Essays - AAS  
Collection Overview  
Essays - European  
Americana  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Citation Help

1. Life-cycle cost and sustainability analysis of light-frame wood residential communities exposed to tornados.  
By: Adhikari, Pramodit; Mahmoud, Hussam N.; Ellingwood, Bruce R. Natural Hazards. Oct2021, Vol. 109 Issue 1, p523-544. 22p. DOI: 10.1007/s11069-021-04847-x. Database: International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center  
Subjects: WOOD chemistry; TORNADOES; COST analysis; TORNADO damage; SUSTAINABILITY; CONSTRUCTION  
Academic Journal PDF Full Text (2.5MB) Find It

2. Exploring the Early Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Construction



## Steps followed while narrowing down the research





# Example of factors extraction from articles

## Durability, Resilience and Sustainability in the Building Rehabilitation Process

Ana-Maria Dabija <sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Center for Architectural and Urban Studies, Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, 18-20 Academiei Street, 010014, Bucharest, Romania,

<sup>2</sup> Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences, Bucharest, Romania

<sup>3</sup> Renewable Energies Commission, Romanian Academy, Bucharest Romania

am.dabija@uauim.ro

**Abstract.** Where buildings are concerned, the term “sustainability” has been used for more than 30 years. It represents a process of designing, constructing and operating the building considering its environmental impact. A year after the major nuclear plant catastrophe from Chernobyl, the Brundtland Report defined sustainability as the actions that meet “the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. A different disaster, a natural one – the Katrina hurricane – led, two decades later, to the addition of another building characteristic: “resilience”. It represents the capacity of a system to adapt after a shock. “Durability” may refer to different issues: the building materials, the building structure, its functionality of aesthetics. The more durable a building is - the more it lasts - the less it affects the environment. The more it lasts, the more resilient it is (as it withstands different types of stress). Technical durability, provided by building materials and structures,

Sustainability factor:  
Environmental Impact

Resiliency factors:  
Adaptive  
Durability



# Survey Responses



# Participant's Background



## Manufacturers

#	Annual Sales	No. of employees	Years of Experience
1	\$35 M	60	25
2	\$250 M	140	6
3	\$30 M	40	24
4	\$45 M	300	1
5	\$75 M	102	40+
6	\$675 M	400	20
7	\$550 M	600	28
8	\$250 M	250	15
9	\$300 M	500	11
10	N/A	1000+	37

## Distributors

#	Annual Sales	No. of employees	Years of Experience
1	\$20 B	60	25
2	\$9 B	140	6
3	\$10 B	40	24

## Consultants

#	Annual Sales	No. of employees	Years of Experience
1	\$2.2M	13	41
2	\$20 M	120	35



# Participant's Background



## Contractors

#	Annual Sales	No. of employees	Years of Experience
1	\$25 M	50	19
2	\$500 M+	5000 plus	30+
3	\$30 M+	50	20
4	\$15 M+	60	30
5	\$93 M	250	20
6	\$23 M	100	7
7	\$15 M	50	55
8	\$170 M	260	55
9	\$17 M	50	25
10	\$30 M+	130	38
11	\$50 M	200+	40
12	\$24 M	58	46
13	\$12 M	28	44
14	\$165 M	200	28
15	\$40 M	82	93
16	\$200 M	750	40

#	Annual Sales	No. of employees	Years of Experience
16	\$37 M	130	55
17	\$25 - 30 M	110	30+
18	\$12 M	65	32
19	\$60 M	175	20
20	\$10 M	55	44
21	\$25 M	60	45
22	\$15 M	65 - 80	40
23	\$25 M	63	42
24	\$5 M	45	30
25	\$42.5 M	256	79
26	\$106 M	413	23
27	\$15 M	65 - 80	40
28	\$8 M	34	40
29	\$31,500	160	40
30	\$35 M	58	20
31	\$19 M	90	26
32	\$42 M	283	34
33	\$75 M	275	30

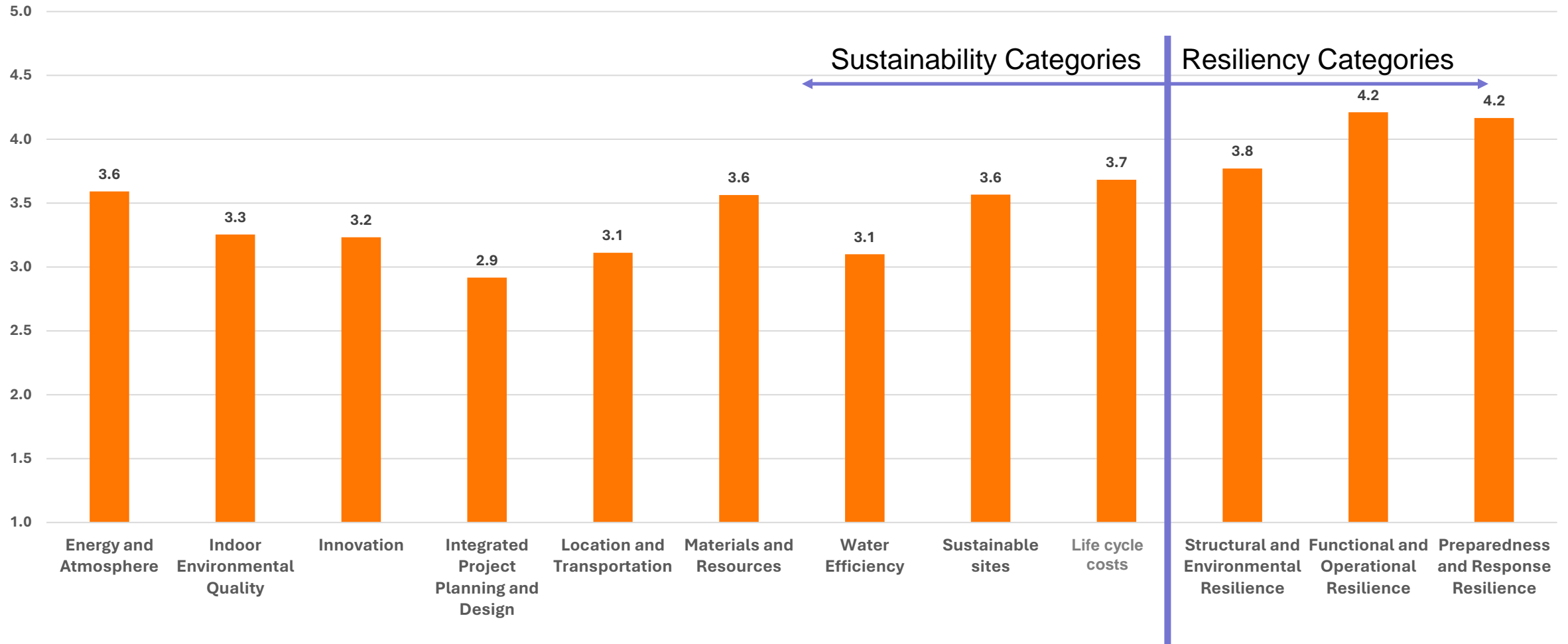








## Overall Responses for Sustainability and Resiliency



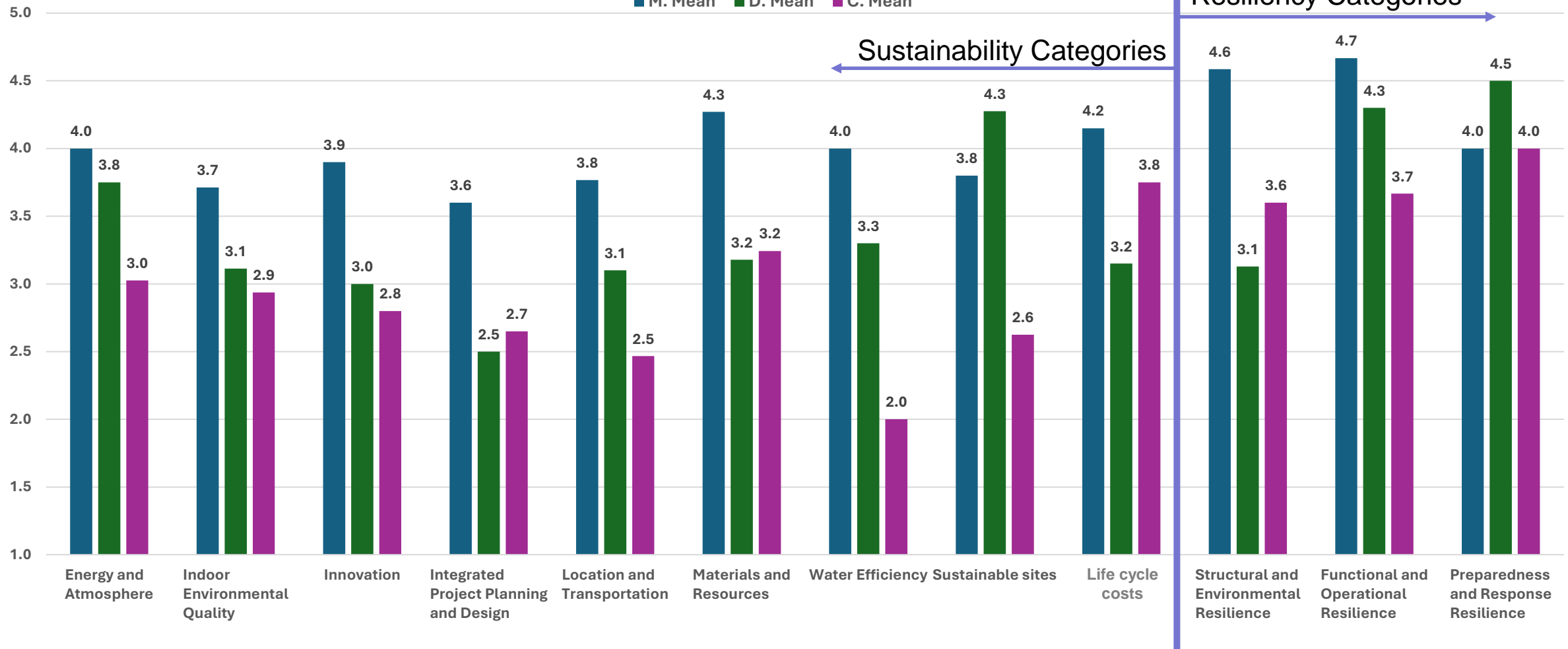
Note: 1- Not Significant, 2- Slightly Significant, 3- Neutral, 4- Significant, 5- Very Significant





## M/D/C Comparison

■ M. Mean ■ D. Mean ■ C. Mean



Note: 1- Not Significant, 2- Slightly Significant, 3- Neutral, 4- Significant, 5- Very Significant



## Comparison of top factors between M/D/C

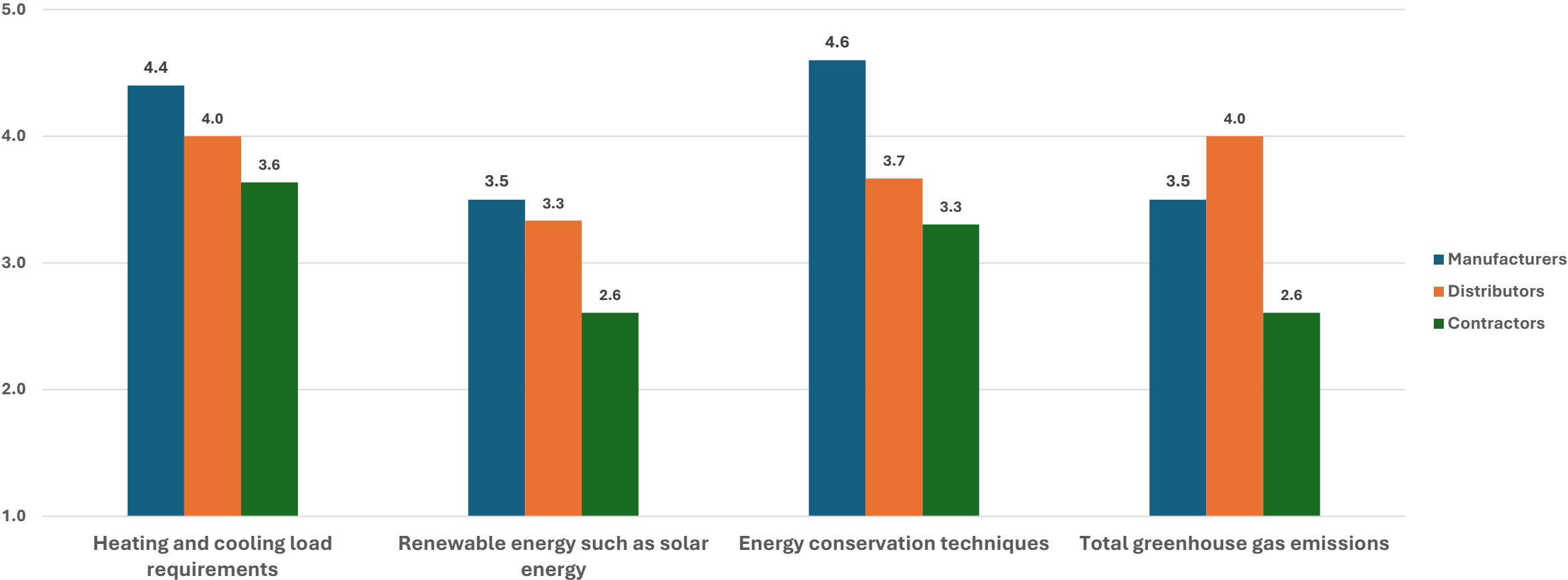
Manufacturers	Mean Values	Distributors	Mean Values	Contractors	Mean Values
Long Service Life	5.0	Equipment emission	4.7	Long Service Life	4.3
Retain critical functions	5.0	Transportation emission	4.7	Resistance to external forces	4.2
Recover rapidly	5.0	Preparation for major disruptions	4.6	Lifecycle of materials	4.1
Lifecycle of materials	4.9	Ability to adapt	4.6	Ability to absorb external stresses	4.1
Low maintenance	4.8	Retain critical functions	4.3	Thermal insulation	4.0



# Sustainability Factor Comparison (M/D/C)

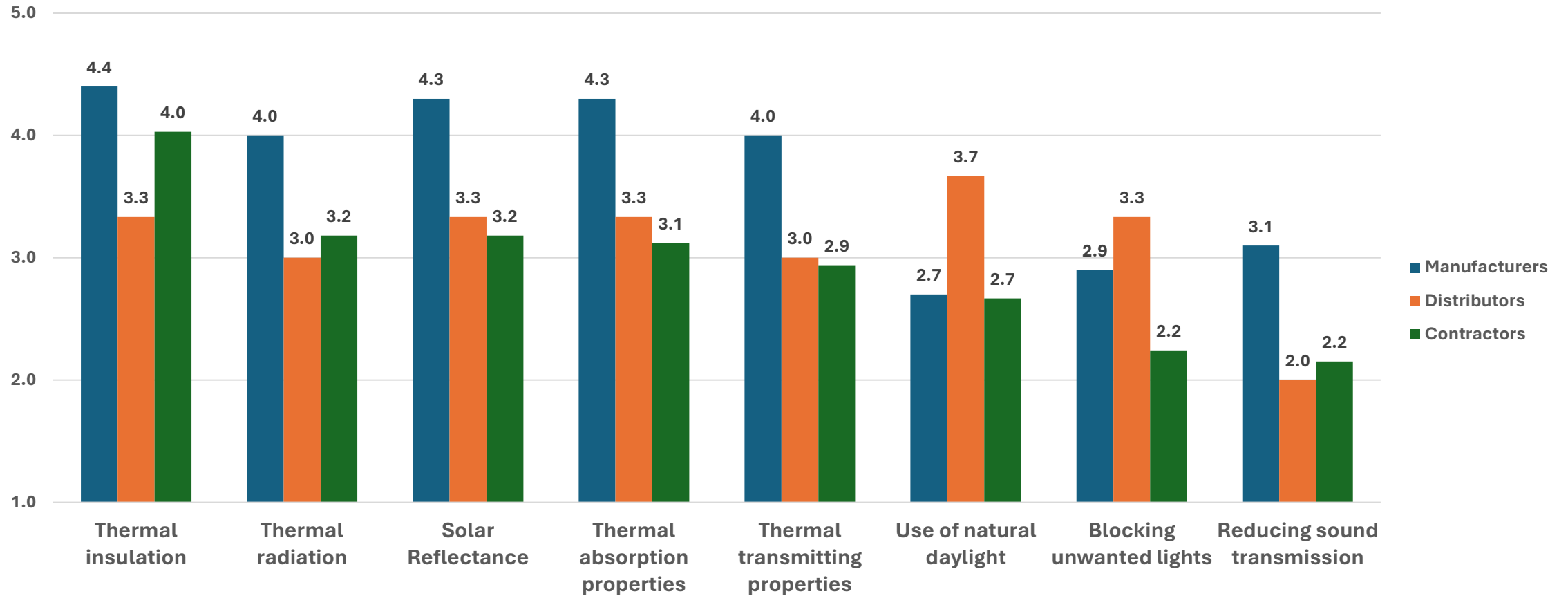


# Mean Responses on LEED Category 1: Energy and atmosphere



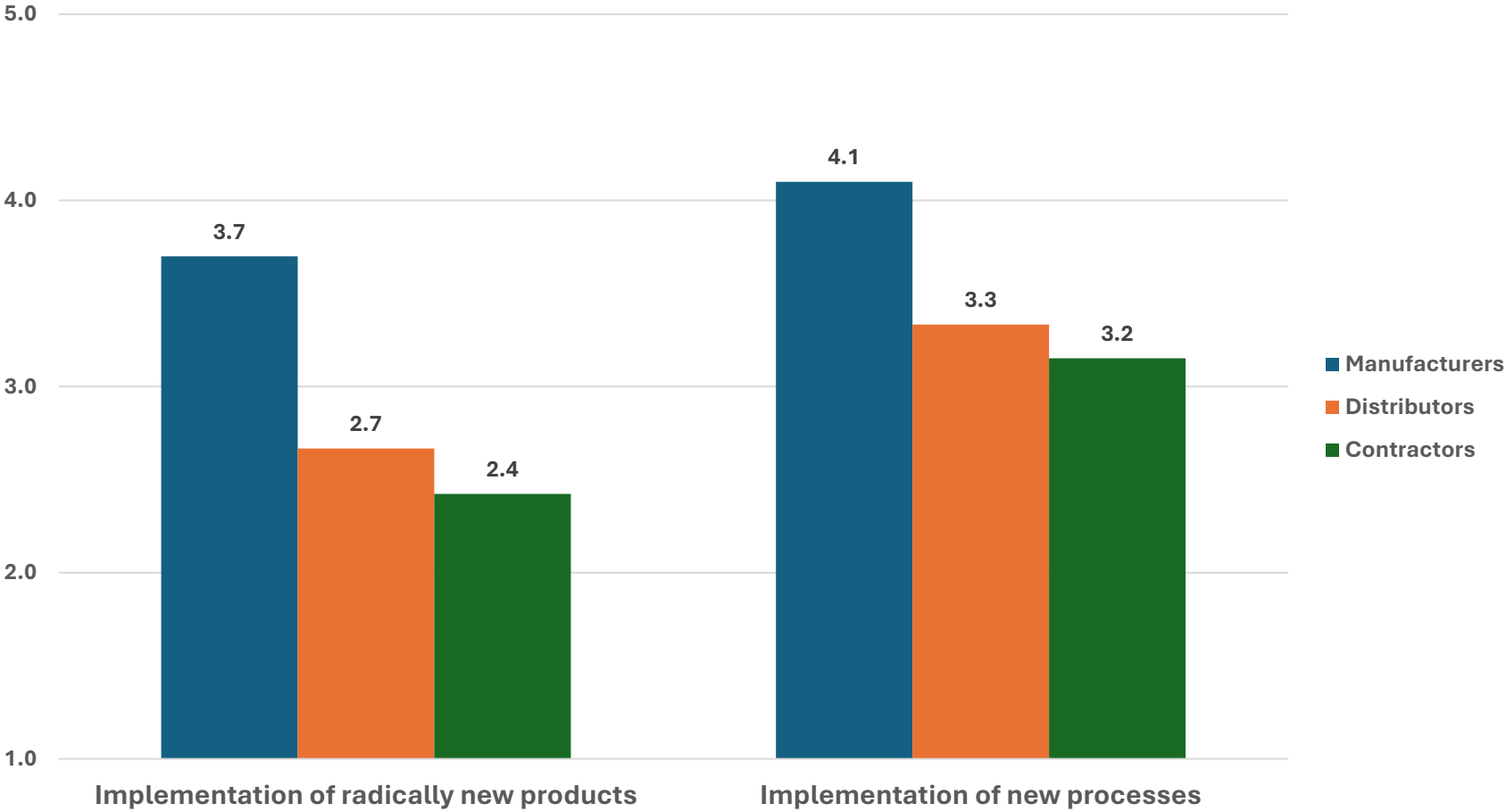


## Mean Responses on LEED Category 2: Indoor environmental quality



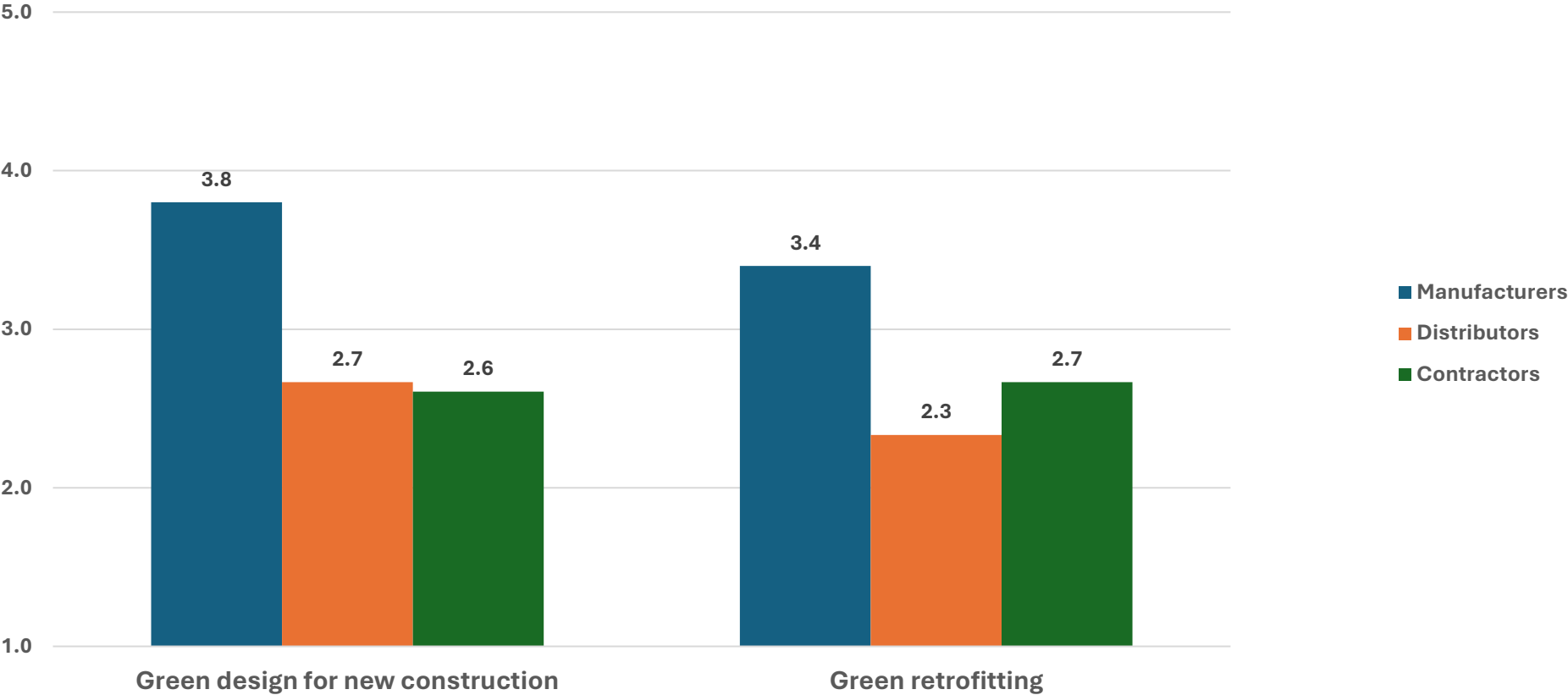


# Mean Responses on LEED Category 3: Innovation



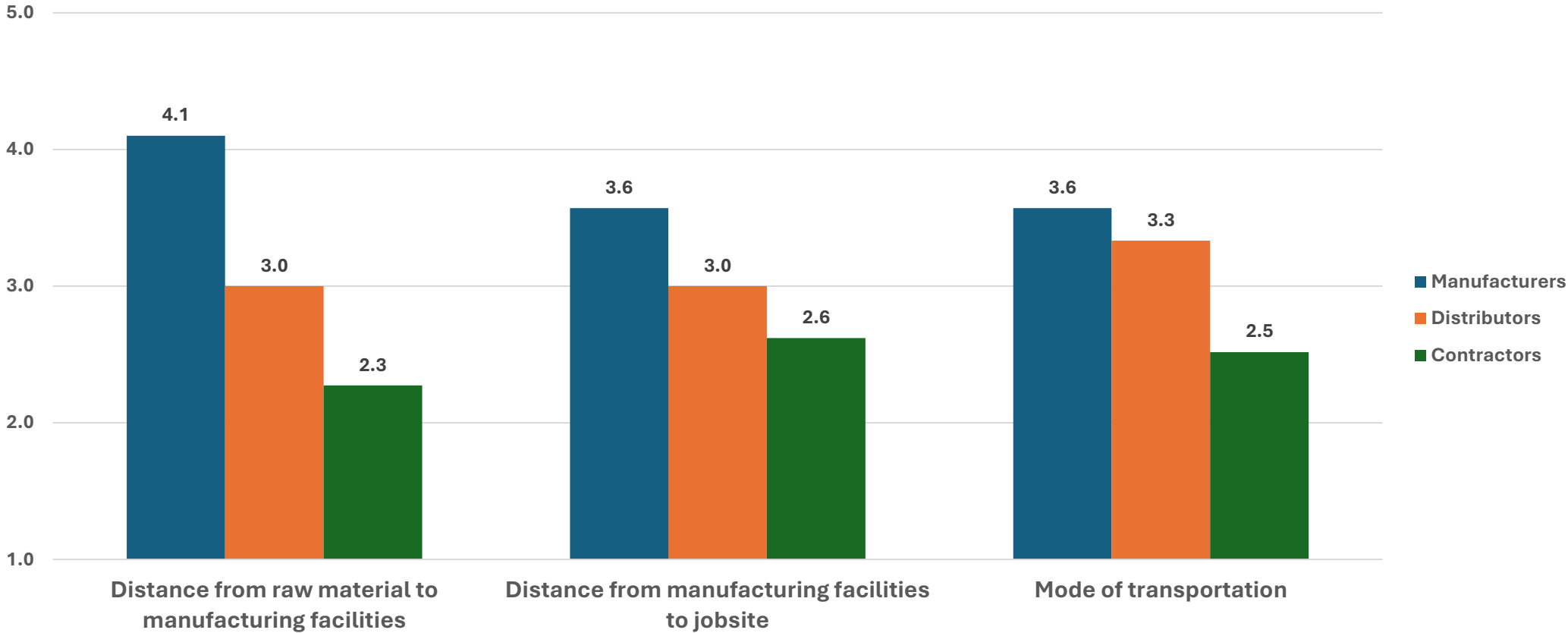


# Mean Responses on LEED Category 4: Integrated project planning and design



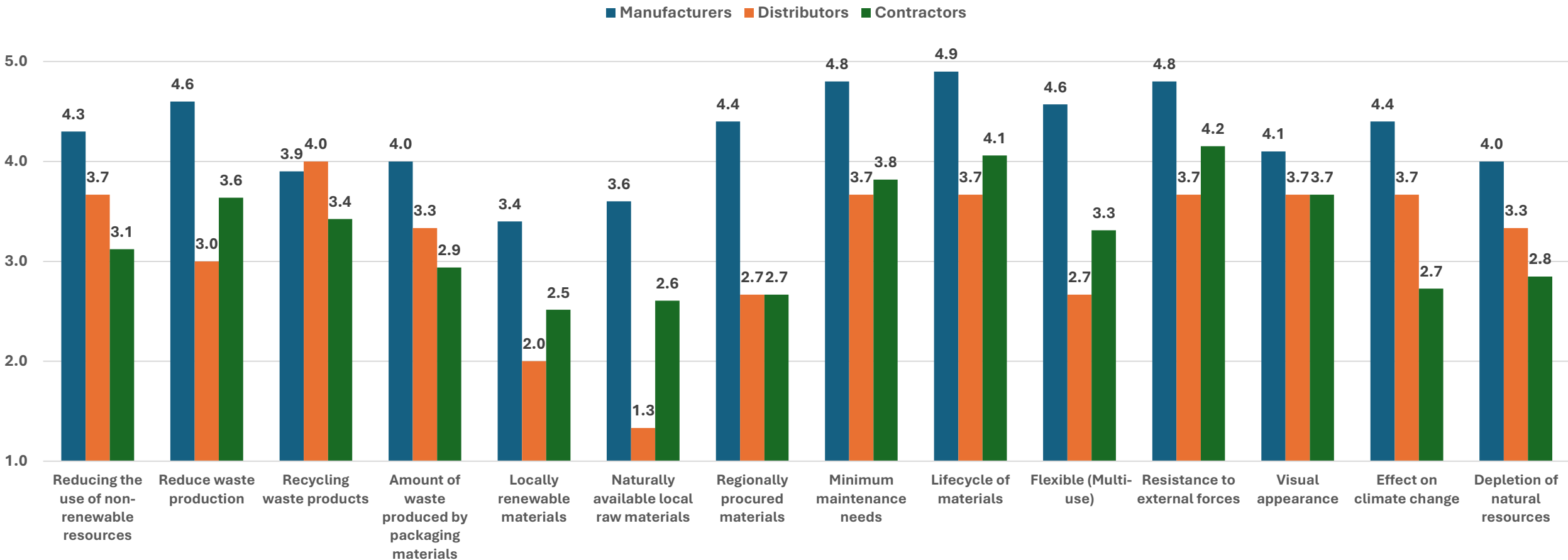


# Mean Responses on LEED Category 5: Location and transportation



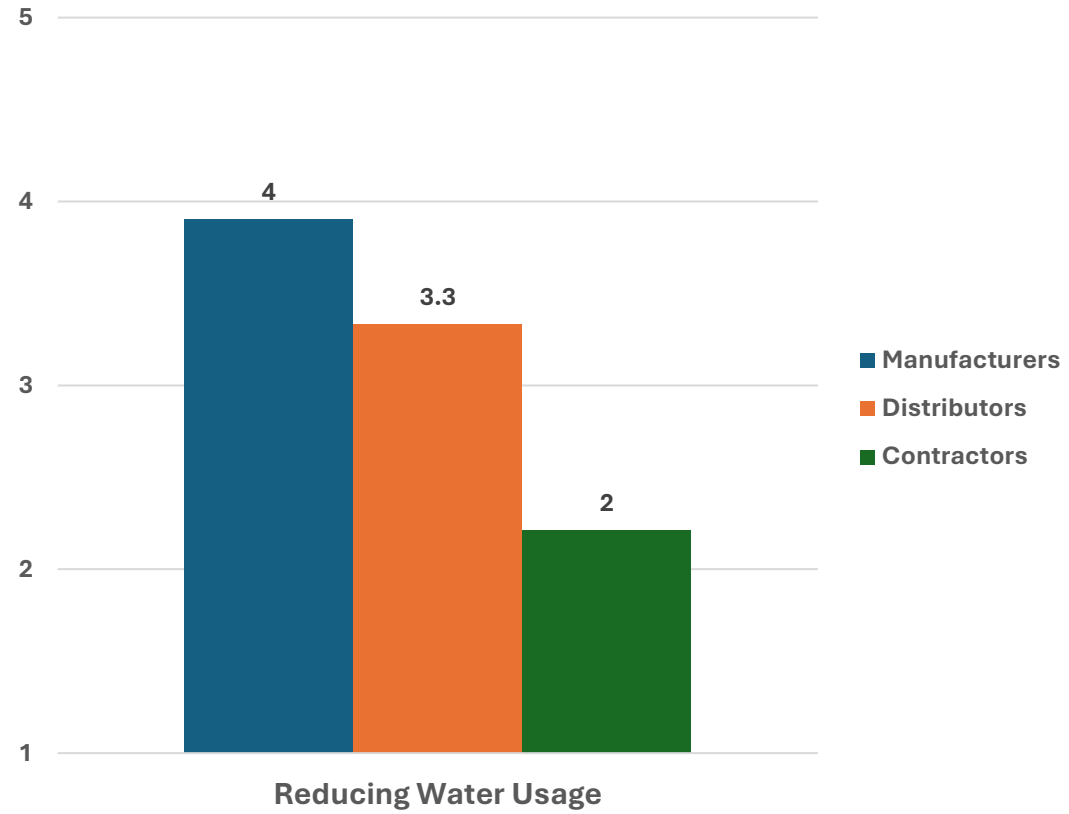


# Mean Responses on LEED Category 6: Materials and Resources



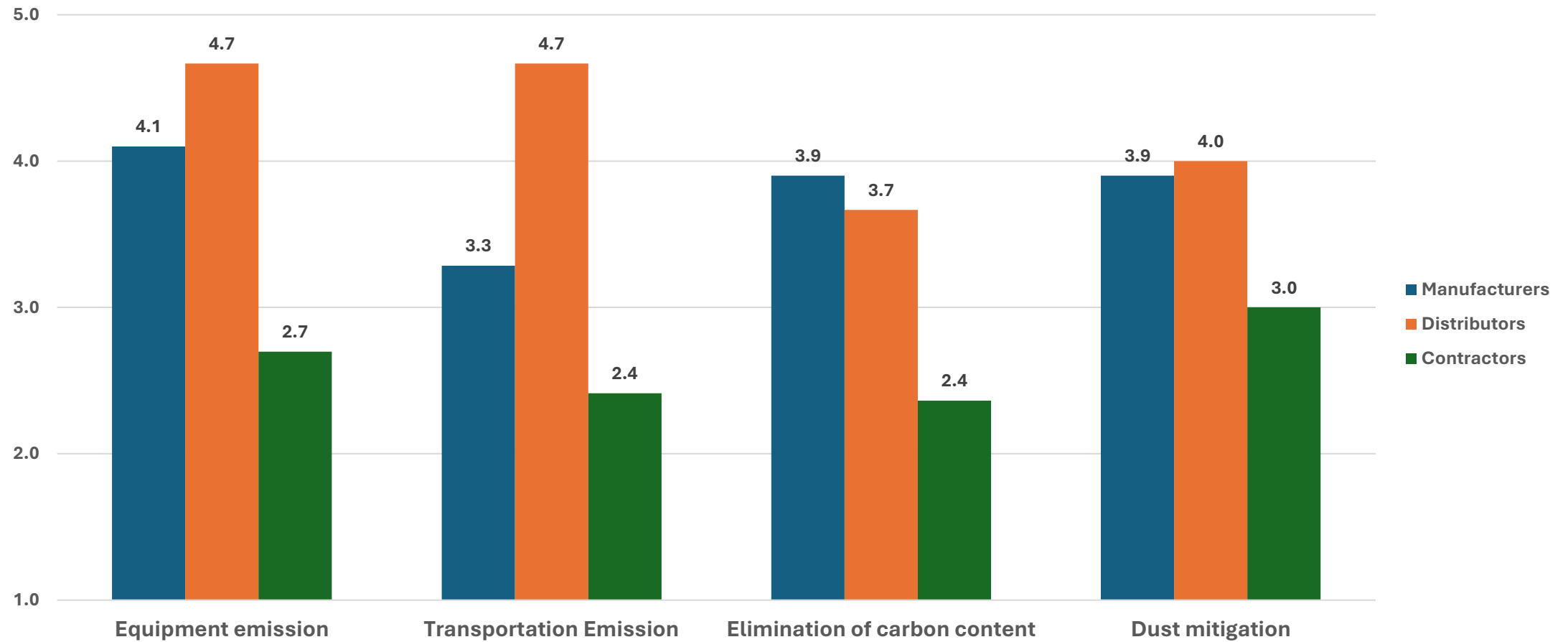


## Mean Responses on LEED Category 7: Water Efficiency



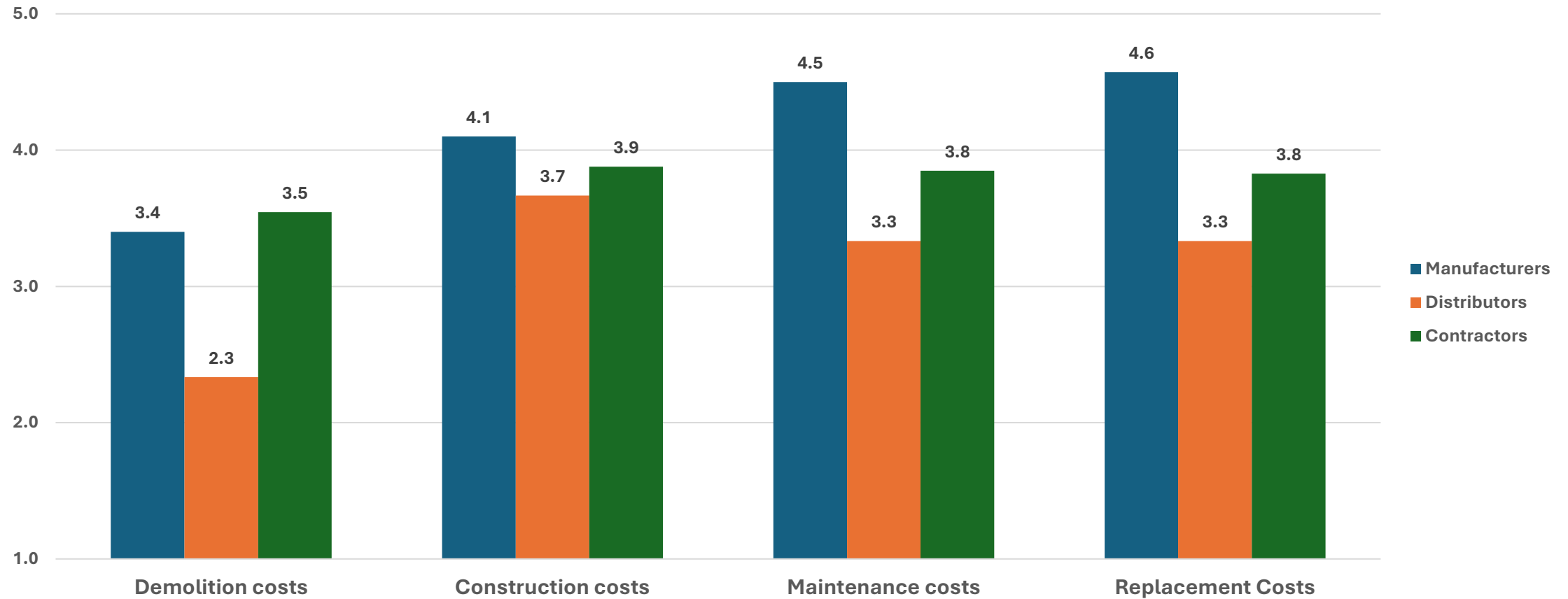


## Mean Responses on LEED Category 8: Sustainable Sites





## Mean Responses on LEED Category 9: Other

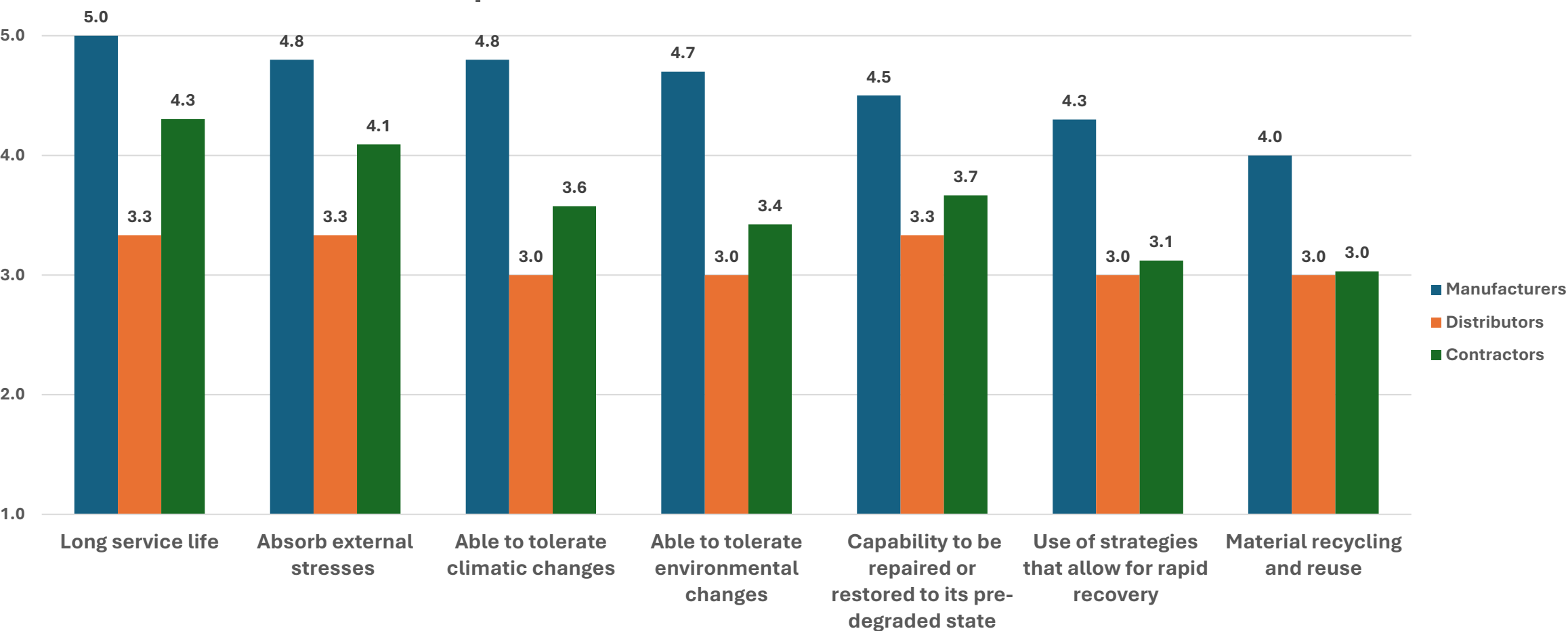




# Resiliency Factor Comparison (M/D/C)

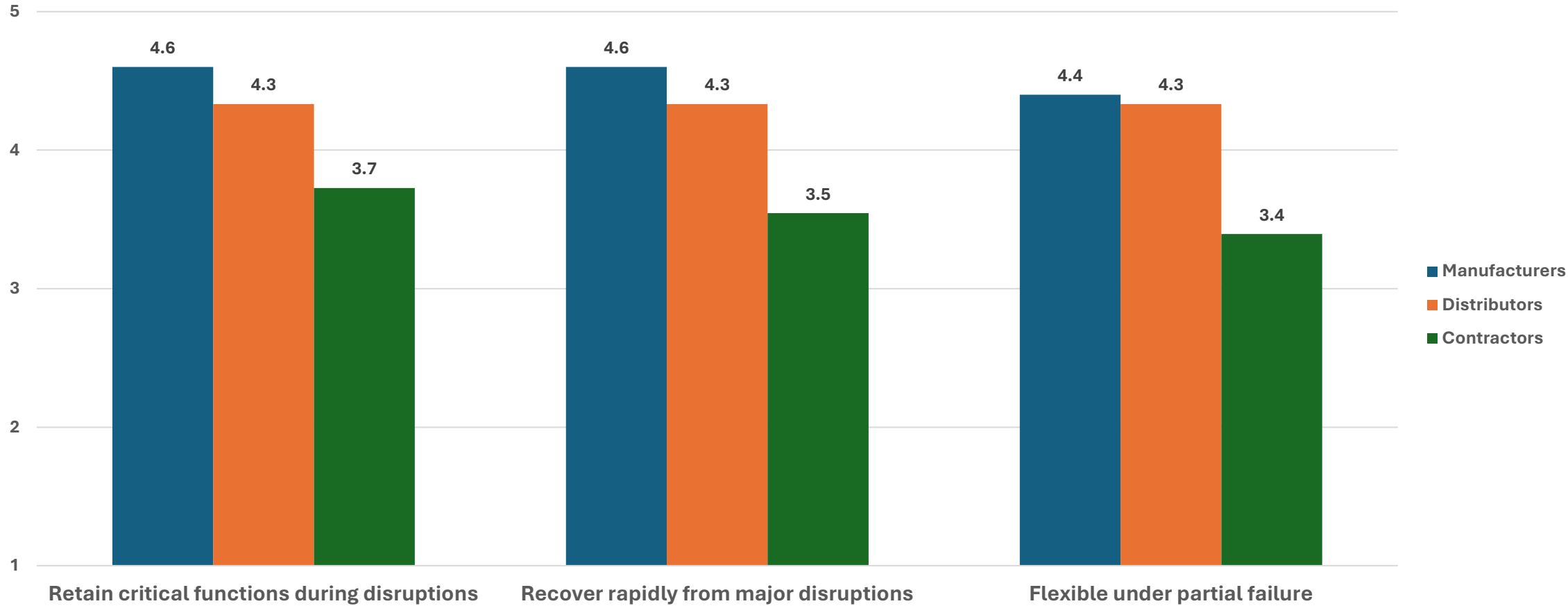


Mean Responses on structural and environmental resilience



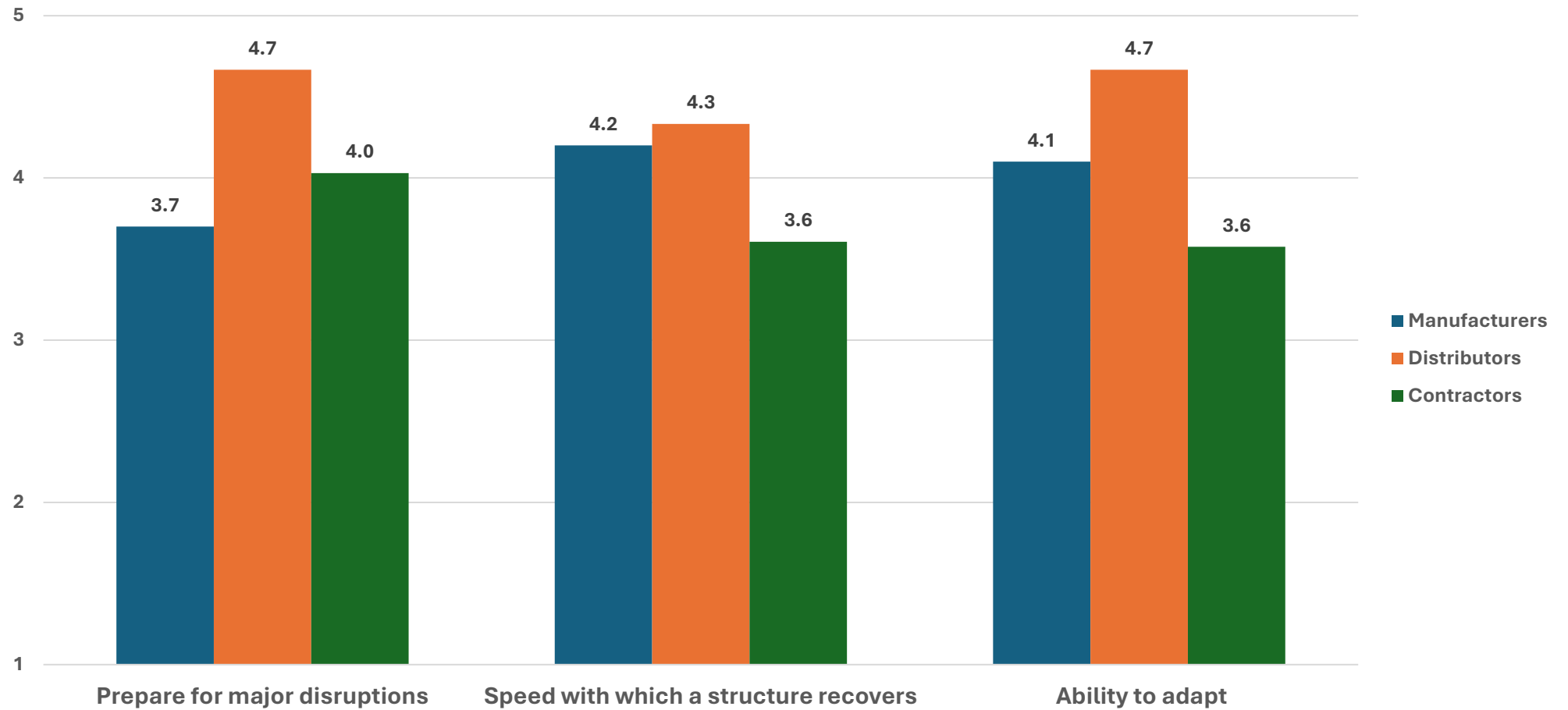


# Mean Response on Functional & operational resilience





## Mean Responses on Preparedness & response resilience





# Interviews



Total Participants: 17



Manufacturers : 8



Distributors : 1



Contractors : 8

## Interview participants

### Manufacturers

#	Years in roofing industry	Experience in Sus. and Res.	Role
1	40	Yes	President
2	27	Yes	Director
3	35	Yes	Compliance
4	41	Yes	VP
5	29	Yes	Director
6	27	Yes	Director
7	15	No	Technical director
8	5	Yes	VP

### Distributors

#	Years in roofing industry	Experience in Sus. and Res.	Role
1	5	Yes	Corporate social responsibility

### Contractors

#	Years in roofing industry	Experience in Sus. and Res.	Role
1	52	Yes	Founder
2	28	Yes	CEO
3	24	No	Owner
4	23	No	Owner
5	40	No	Founder
6	22	Yes	Owner
7	7	Yes	Technical services
8	24	Yes	Owner



# Qualitative analysis

## Coding

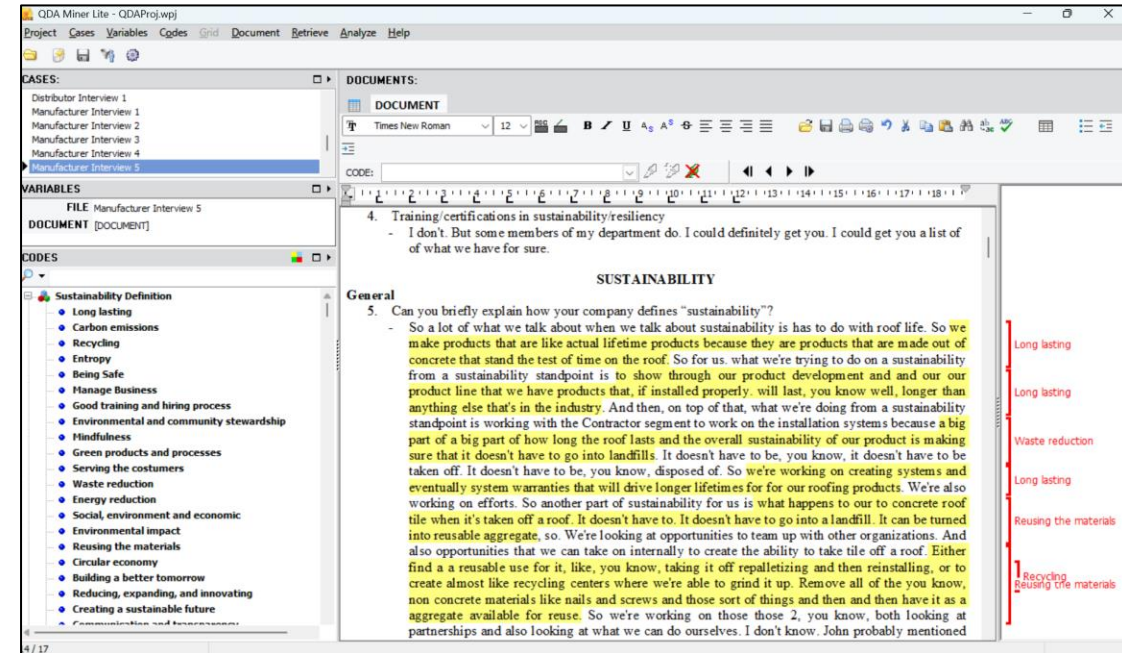
Raw transcripts

Preprocessing

Coding

Thematic analysis

Definitions extraction





## Sustainability Factors



## Resiliency Factors





# Sustainability factors

Sus. Factors	Definition	Total
Recycling	Repurposing or reusing waste materials from manufacturing or end-of-life roof systems, thus turning them into usable products and diverting them from the landfill.	14
Long lasting	Long-term performance of roofing products that focuses on durability, resiliency and extended performance. This reduces the need for premature replacement and extends the lifecycle of the product. This links to other concepts of sustainability by reducing waste, conserving resources, and protecting infrastructure over time.	12
Proximity	Reducing the transportation costs and minimizing environmental impact by locating manufacturing facilities near raw material sources, sourcing materials locally and having distribution centers and suppliers close to job sites.	10
Renewable energy	Energy derived from sources that are not depleted when used, such as solar power, which includes photovoltaic solar panels and battery-powered such as solar power, which includes photovoltaic solar panels and battery-powered equipment.	8
Waste recovery	Process of collecting, reintroducing and repurposing the waste materials to minimize landfill disposal and reduce the need for new raw materials. This may include capturing and reintegrating manufacturing by products, utilizing conveyor-based waste collection systems and partnering with third-party recyclers to maximize material reuse.	8



# Resiliency factors

Res. Factors	Definition	Total
Longevity	Long-term performance of the roof or the roofing products that can withstand adverse environmental conditions.	10
Inspections	Multiple levels of quality checks throughout the roofing installation process are conducted to ensure compliance with manufacturer standards and industry codes.	10
Ability to withstand environmental condition	A roof system's resilience against various environmental stressors, including extreme weather events like hurricanes, tornadoes, hail, excessive rain, snow loads, and temperature fluctuations. It involves durability against UV degradation, wind, and general wear and tear while maintaining its intended performance, such as waterproofing. A resilient roof not only endures normal aging but also sustains functionality through both foreseeable and unforeseen environmental challenges.	9
Recovery	Ability to bounce back from stress, whether physical, structural, or environmental.	6
Preparedness	It is a key focus ensuring readiness to respond to severe weather events like hurricanes, heavy rain and snow. It includes maintaining stockpile of materials and securing materials with ties and seals.	6



# Comparing sustainability and resiliency factors

## Sustainability

Proximity  
Renewable energy  
Waste recovery  
Maintainability  
Reuse  
Social stewardship  
Waste reduction  
Material sorting  
Preventive maintenance  
Incorporate recycled content  
Environmental stewardship  
Reduced emissions  
Process Improvement

## Resiliency

Inspections  
Ability to withstand environmental condition  
Recovery  
Preparedness  
Design to accepted standards  
Installation methods  
Continuity plans  
Operations  
Post-disaster mobilization  
Increased durability  
Stocking extra materials  
Software and tools  
Lifecycle cost  
Repairability

Long lasting  
Recycling  
Energy  
Efficiency  
Repairability  
Quality/  
Consistency  
Warranties



# Comparing interview with survey - Sustainability factors

## Top factors from survey

- Heating and cooling load requirements
- Thermal insulation
- Proximity
- Low maintenance
- Lifecycle of materials
- Equipment emission
- Recycling waste products
- Resistance to external forces
- Energy conservation techniques
- Reducing the use of non-renewable resources

## Top factors from interview

- Recycling
- Long lasting
- Proximity
- Renewable energy
- Waste recovery
- Maintainability
- Reuse
- Social stewardship
- Waste reduction
- Energy efficiency



# Comparing interview with survey - Resiliency factors

## Top factors from survey

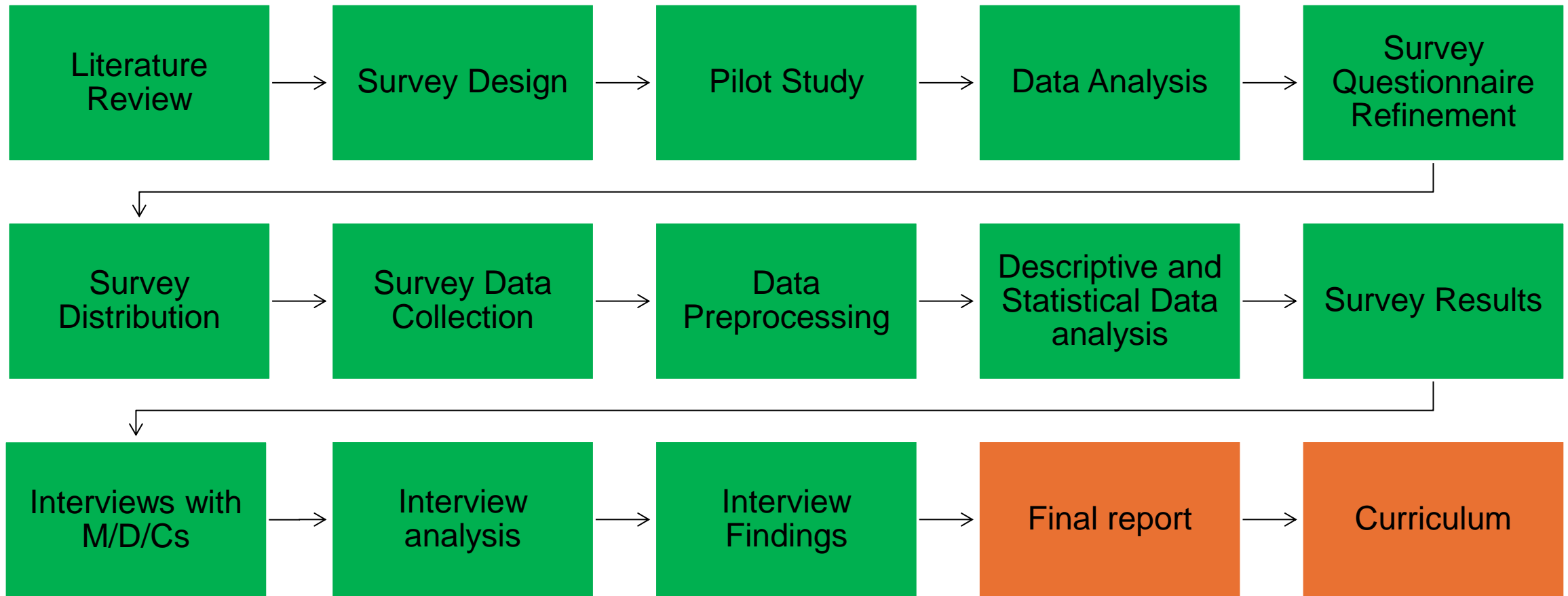
- Long service life
- Recover rapidly
- Preparation for major disruptions
- Ability to adapt
- Retain critical functions
- Speed with which structure recovers
- Ability to absorb external stresses
- Ability to tolerate climate changes
- Capability to be repaired or restored
- Material recycling and reuse

## Top factors from interview

- Longevity
- Inspections
- Ability to withstand environmental condition
- Recovery
- Quality and consistency
- Preparedness
- Design to accepted standards
- Warranties
- Installation methods
- Continuity plans



## Next Steps





Thank you!