

# Sustainability Literacy Awareness Survey Full

---

Start of Block: Default Question Block

## Intro **UTRGV Sustainability Awareness**

This survey is being conducted by Dr. Sergio Garcia, Sustainability Fellow and Lecturer of the Department of Information Systems at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (email: [sergio.garcia03@utrgv.edu](mailto:sergio.garcia03@utrgv.edu)) on behalf of the [UTRGV Sustainability Office](#). The purpose of this study is to understand the awareness of sustainability issues at the University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley. This survey should take about 5-10 minutes to complete.

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. Choosing not to participate will not adversely affect your grade or standing in the class. If there are any individual questions that you would prefer to skip, simply leave the answer blank.

You must be at least 18 years old to participate. If you are not 18 or older, please do not complete the survey.

All survey responses that we receive will be treated confidentially and stored on a secure server. However, given that the surveys can be completed from any computer (e.g., personal, work, school), we are unable to guarantee the security of the computer on which you choose to enter your responses. As a participant in our study, we want you to be aware that certain technologies exist that can be used to monitor or record data that you enter and/or websites that you visit.

Any individually identifiable responses will be securely stored and will only be available to those directly involved in this study. De-identified data may be shared with other researchers in the future, but will not contain information about your individual identity. This research has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Protection (IRB). If you have any questions about your rights as a participant, or if you feel that your rights as a participant were not adequately met by the researcher, please contact the IRB at (956) 665-2889 or [irb@utrgv.edu](mailto:irb@utrgv.edu).

---

Page Break

SAS2 What is the most common cause of pollution of streams and rivers?

- Dumping of garbage by cities (1)
  - Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields (2)
  - Litter near streams and rivers (3)
  - Waste dumped by factories (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS3 Ozone forms a protective layer in the earth's upper atmosphere. What does the ozone protect us from?

- Acid rain (1)
  - Climate change (2)
  - Sudden changes in temperature (3)
  - Harmful UV rays (4)
  - Don't know (5)
-

SAS4 What is the name of the primary federal agency that oversees environmental regulation?

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (1)
  - Department of Health, Environment and Safety (DHES) (2)
  - National Environmental Agency (NEA) (3)
  - Federal Pollution Control Agency (FPCA) (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS5 What is the primary benefit of wetlands?

- Promote flooding (1)
  - Clean water before it enters lakes, streams, rivers or oceans (2)
  - Keep the number of undesirable plants and animals low (3)
  - Provide good sites for landfills (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS6 Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management?

- Setting forests to be off limits to the public (1)
  - Never harvesting more than what the forest produces in new growth (2)
  - Producing lumber for nearby communities to build affordable housing (3)
  - Putting the local communities in charge of forest resources (4)
  - Don't know (5)
-

SAS7 In the U.S., what do we currently do with the nuclear waste generated by nuclear power plants?

- Use it as nuclear fuel (1)
  - Sell it to other countries (2)
  - Dump it in landfills (3)
  - Store and monitor the waste (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS8 Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?

- Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health-care and social services (1)
  - Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (2)
  - Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used (3)
  - Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

Page Break

SAS9 The wealthiest 20% of people in the U.S. own approximately what percent of the nation's privately held wealth?

- 20% (1)
  - 35% (2)
  - 50% (3)
  - 85% (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS10 Over the past 3 decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans?

- The difference has increased (1)
  - The difference has stayed about the same (2)
  - The difference has decreased (3)
  - Don't know (4)
- 

SAS11 Higher levels of education generally lead to ...

- Lower levels of voter turnout (1)
- Greater annual earnings (2)
- Larger family size (3)
- Higher self esteem (4)
- Don't know (5)

---

SAS12 Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because...

- They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating the electricity (1)
  - Too many suppliers go out of business (2)
  - Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area (3)
  - Consumer spend only a small part of their income on energy (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS13 Which of the following has now passed the U.S. as the biggest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide?

- China (1)
  - Sweden (2)
  - Brazil (3)
  - Japan (4)
  - Don't know (5)
-

SAS14 Which of the following is a leading cause of the depletion of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean?

- Fishermen seeking to maximize their catch (1)
  - Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization (2)
  - Ocean pollution (3)
  - Global climate change (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS15 Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of economic sustainability?

- Maximizing the share price of a company's stock (1)
  - Long term profitability (2)
  - When costs equal revenue (3)
  - Continually expanding market share (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

Page Break

---

SAS16 Which of the following is the primary reason that gasoline prices have risen over the last several decades in the U.S.?

- Growing percentage of gas stations owned by large corporations (1)
  - Increasing oil discoveries overseas (2)
  - Higher rates of state and federal gasoline tax (3)
  - Increasing global demand for oil (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS17 What are the potential effects of global climate change?

- Loss of habitats (1)
  - Less severe weather (2)
  - Loss of the ozone layer (3)
  - Decrease in sea level (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS18 One particular challenge for the Laguna Madre Bay in south Texas is keeping sea beds healthy and intact because the seagrass that grows on these beds helps filter pollutants from the water and



provides critical nursery habitat for a variety of fish and shellfish. One large threat to the sea grass comes from...

- Non-indigenous crabs (1)
  - Outboard propellers (2)
  - Recreational wade fishing (3)
  - Expanding tide pools (4)
- 

SAS19

Imagine you are one of the many fishermen who rely on the fish you catch from the Gulf of Mexico as your main source of income. A regional fisherman council determined that each fisherman must limit his/her catch to 5 tons per year. You decide to catch 6 tons of fish this year. What could be the results of your decision?

- A. You make more money this year than you would have if you caught 5 tons of fish
- B. You make less money this year than you would have if you caught 5 tons of fish
- C. The total number of fish that are available to catch each year could decrease
- D. Fishermen, including you, could go out of business

- B, C and D, but not A (1)
  - B and C, but not A or D (2)
  - A and C, but not B or D (3)
  - A, C, and D, but not B (4)
  - Don't know (5)
-

SAS20 The most significant driver in the loss of species and ecosystems around the world is ...

- Overhunting/overharvesting (1)
  - Conversion of natural spaces into human developments (farmland, cities, etc.) (2)
  - Acid rain (3)
  - Breeding of animals in zoos (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS21 Which of the following is the best example of environmental justice?

- Urban citizens win a bill to have toxic waste taken to rural communities (1)
  - The government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands to create hydroelectric power for large cities (2)
  - All stakeholders from an indigenous community are involved in setting a quota for the amount of wood they can take from a protected forest next to their village (3)
  - Multi-national corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict (4)
  - Don't know (5)
-

SAS22 Of the following, which would be considered living in the most environmentally sustainable way?

- Recycling all sustainable packaging (1)
- Reducing consumption of all products (2)
- Buying products labeled "eco" or "green" (3)
- Buying the newest products available (4)
- Don't know (5)

---

Page Break

SAS23

What factors influence the human population's impact on Earth?

- A. Size of the population
- B. Amount of materials used per person
- C. Use of technology that lessens our impact

- A, B, and C (1)
  - A and B, but not C (2)
  - Band C but not A (3)
  - A, but not B or C (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS24 Using resources, like fossil fuels, can create economic growth. However, future generations may be disadvantaged if the current generation overuses these resources. Which of the following principles can we follow if we do not want to disadvantage the next generation?

- Renewable resources such as fish, soil, and groundwater must be used no faster than the rate at which they regenerate. (1)
  - Nonrenewable resources such as minerals and fossil fuels must be used up quickly to encourage the development of renewable substitutes. (2)
  - Pollution must be emitted at current levels so that natural systems can maintain the ability to absorb them, recycle them, or render them harmless. (3)
  - None of the above are true. (4)
  - Don't know (5)
-

SAS25 The best way to support a local economy, such as the Rio Grande Valley, is to buy goods (groceries, clothing, toiletries, etc)...

- At large chain stores that may employ workers from the local community (1)
  - Online from discount retailers (2)
  - From stores that sell locally-produced goods (3)
  - From second-hand/thrift stores (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS26 Which of the following statements about water is true?

- Globally, water for personal use such as washing dishes, doing laundry, and bathing is the major user of water resources. (1)
  - Globally, freshwater reserves (aquifers) are used faster than they are replenished. (2)
  - Floods and severe weather will increase the availability of clean drinking water. (3)
  - Because water is a free and abundant resource, it is not a major concern for most countries. (4)
  - Don't know (5)
-

SAS27 Imagine that we had to pay for all the costs associated with the goods we use every day. What would go into calculating the true costs of a product?

- The cost of raw materials to make the product (1)
  - The cost of environmental damage caused by production (2)
  - The cost of health care for employees who manufacture the product (3)
  - All of the above (4)
  - Don't know (5)
- 

SAS28

Put the following list in order of the activities with the largest environmental impact to those with the smallest environmental impact:

- A. Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours
- B. Producing one McDonald's quarter-pound hamburger
- C. Producing one McDonald's chicken sandwich
- D. Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington D.C. to China

- A, C, B, D (1)
  - D, A, B, C (2)
  - D, C, B, A (3)
  - D, B, C, A (4)
  - Don't know (5)
-

SAS29 Workers around the world face a variety of social injustices, including low wages, poor working conditions, and lack of access to education. To help improve conditions for these workers you can:

- Support corporations that do not allow workers to join labor unions (1)
- Buy the newest products to keep factories around the world open (2)
- Purchase products from companies that conduct business in a socially responsible manner (3)
- Support large corporations because they generally have more money to pay thier workers (4)
- Don't know (5)

-----  
Page Break \_\_\_\_\_

Q33 What is your primary status at UTRGV?

- Undergraduate student (1)
  - Graduate student (5)
  - Faculty (2)
  - Staff (3)
  - Other (4)
- 

Q35 Are you taking/teaching a course that has a sustainability component?

- yes (1)
  - No (2)
  - I don't know (3)
- 

*Display This Question:*  
*If Are you taking/teaching a course that has a sustainability component? = yes*

Q37 What course are you taking that has a Sustainability component? Include Course Number and Section.

---

*Display This Question:*  
*If Are you taking/teaching a course that has a sustainability component? = yes*

Q39 What is the name of the Instructor teaching the course with a Sustainability component?

▼ Abdel-Raheem, Mohamed (1) ... Other (118)



-----  
Page Break

---

Q45 Which category best describes you?

- White (1)
  - Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin (2)
  - Black or African American (3)
  - Asian (4)
  - American Indian or Alaska Native (5)
  - Some other race, ethnicity, or origin (9)
- 

Q41 Age.

- 18 & Under (1)
  - 19-21 (2)
  - 22-25 (3)
  - 26-30 (4)
  - 31-35 (5)
  - 36-47 (6)
  - 48 & Over (7)
-

Q43 Gender

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (Please Describe) (3)

-----  
Page Break \_\_\_\_\_

Q47

What is your name? (Optional)

- You may want to include this information if your professor is giving extra credit for the survey or if you agree to be contacted in the future for additional Sustainability surveys.

---

Q49

What is your email? (Optional)

- You may want to include this information if your professor is giving extra credit for the survey or if you agree to be contacted in the future for additional Sustainability surveys.

---

Q51 Are you willing to be contacted for future Sustainability surveys after this course/semester?

yes (1)

No (3)

End of Block: Default Question Block

---