

## Consent

**Purpose of the Research:** The research attempts to gain a greater understanding of AUS (American University of Sharjah) campus behaviors and attitudes concerning sustainability. We are asking you to take part in this study because we are interested in the activities of AUS community members specifically.

**Procedures:** You are being asked to complete a short, online questionnaire about your demographic background, academic profile, and sustainability activities. No identifying or contact information will be collected (unless you are interested in participating in the future focus groups and voluntarily provide contact information). If you choose to be in the study, you will:

- Consent to participate in the online survey
- Complete the online survey

**Risks and Benefits:**

- To the best of our knowledge, there are no risks to you for taking part in this study.
- You do not have to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.
- There are no benefits to you from taking part in this research.
- However, others may benefit in the future from the information that is learned in this study.

**Confidentiality:**

- Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Your participation in this online survey involves risk similar to a person's everyday use of the internet, which could include illegal interception of the data by another party. If you are concerned about your data security, you should not participate in this research. We will keep the records of this study confidential; only digital versions of the raw data will be used, and no identifying markers will link you to your responses. We will make every effort to keep your records confidential. Authorized staff of the investigation university may review the study records for purposes such as quality control and safety. Raw data (again, with no identifying markers) will not be shared outside of the scope of the above researchers and relative AUS administration.

**Compensation:**

- You will not be receiving any incentives for taking part in this study.

**Questions or Concerns:** You can contact AUS Sustainability with any concerns or questions about the research. Their contact information is listed below:

**AUS Sustainability**  
Main Building, M-240, 2nd Floor  
American University of Sharjah  
Email: [sustainability@aus.edu](mailto:sustainability@aus.edu)  
Telephone: +971 6 515 4243

If you want to speak with someone not directly involved in this research study, you may contact the AUS Institutional Research Board using the contact information below. You can talk to them about:

- Your rights as a research subject
- Your concerns about the research
- A complaint about the research

**AUS Institutional Research Board Office Contact: +971065154471 and [IRB@aus.edu](mailto:IRB@aus.edu)**

Taking part in this study is your choice. You are free to not take part or to stop at any time for any reason. No matter what you decide, there will be no penalty of loss of benefit to which you are entitled. If you decide to withdraw from this study the information that you have already provided will be kept confidential. Information already collected about you cannot be deleted.

**Consent:** By continuing with the research and completing the study activities, you are providing consent.

- I consent.
- I do not consent.

## Demographics

**Want to be entered in an anonymous raffle to receive an AUS Sustainability kit including an AUS Sustainability bottle, tote bag, and collapsible cup? Be sure to click "yes" at the end of the survey to be redirected to the anonymous raffle entry.**



**What is your sex?**

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to answer/Other

**What is your age?**

**What is your nationality? (Hold down the control/command key to select more than one.)**

Afghanistan	▲
Albania	
Algeria	
Andorra	
Angola	
Antigua and Barbuda	
Argentina	
Armenia	
Australia	
Austria	▼

**Do you live on campus or, under normal circumstances, would you live on campus?**

- Yes, I currently live on campus.

No, but under normal circumstances (non-pandemic) I would.

No

**Including yourself, about how many individuals are living in your household?**

**What is the highest level of school completed by either/both of your parents?**

- Less than high school degree
- High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED)
- Some college but no degree
- Associate degree in college (2-year)
- Bachelor's degree in college (4-year)
- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Professional degree (JD, MD)
- Prefer not to answer

**What is your religious affiliation?**

- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Islam
- Judaism
- Shinto
- Sikhism
- No religious affiliation
- No answer
- Other (please specify):

**Campus Resident**

**Which of the following best describes your housing on campus?**

- Student Residential Housing
- Faculty/Staff Housing
- Something else

**Which of the following student residence Housing do you live in?**

**Which of the following room types best describes your own?**

- Private (1 person/private bath and kitchen)
- Semi-private (1 person/shared bath and kitchen)
- Sharing (2 people/shared bath and kitchen)
- Single (1 person/no bath or kitchen)
- Double (2 people/no bath or kitchen)

**Which of the following faculty/staff housing types best describes your own?**

- Studio flat
- 1 bedroom flat
- 2 bedroom flat
- 2 bedroom villa
- 3+ bedroom villa (with or without maids room)
- Other

**Commuter**

**How far do you typically travel one-way to commute to the AUS campus? Please provide an estimate in kilometers, and refer to your typical UAE residence location in this estimate.**

**Thinking of your typical UAE residence, from which Emirate do you typically commute to the AUS campus?**

- Ras Al Khaimah
- Ajman
- Dubai
- Fujairah
- Sharjah
- Abu Dhabi
- Umm Al Quwain
- Other (please specify):

**How often do you use each of the following modes of transportation when commuting to and/or from the AUS campus?**

	5 to 7 days each week	3 to 4 days each week	About 2 days each week	About 1 day a week	Never
Bus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Train	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carpool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taxi	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I drive myself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	5 to 7 days each week	3 to 4 days each week	About 2 days each week	About 1 day a week	Never
Someone drives me (other than above).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**What best describes the type of car you drive to campus most often?**

- Hybrid/EV
- Compact
- Sedan
- SUV
- Truck
- Van
- Other

**Which of the following best describes the type of vehicle you typically drive on your commute to campus (most often)?**

- Petrol or regular gasoline
- Electric vehicle
- Hybrid Vehicle
- Diesel
- None of these

**AUS Affiliation**

**Are you a(n):**

- Undergraduate student
- Graduate student
- Faculty member
- Administrator
- Staff
- Other

**In which department is your primary major (or employment for AUS employment)?**

- College of Arts & Sciences
- School of Business Administration
- College of Engineering
- College of Architecture, Art, and Design
- None of these (Administration in Main, CSC, Library, etc). Please specify:

**What is your primary major program?**



**Do you incorporate sustainability in any of your courses, in any way?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/Unsure

**Have you taken any courses here at AUS that have addressed sustainability?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/Unsure

## Literacy

**To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
Events, activities, and/or courses offered at AUS increase my concern toward environmental issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I find the recycling bins on campus easy to read and use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental issues directly affect my life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am willing to go out of my way to be more sustainable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe people need to be more educated on the subject of recycling and know where items go after they've been recycled	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fully understand the meaning of the term "sustainability"	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am willing to participate in sustainability activities on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Sustainability Literacy:** This section will ask general sustainability questions. Researchers will use this data to measure sustainability knowledge within the AUS Community over time. It is not expected that everyone will know the answers to these questions, please make your best educated guess without using any outside resources. At the end of this survey, there will be a list of resources where you can learn more about sustainability at AUS.

**Which one of the following dimensions is NOT included in the most widely used concept of sustainability?**

- Economy
- Environment

- Society
- Democracy
- Do not know

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

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

**Which of the following statements about the relationship between environmental issues and socioeconomic issues is true?**

- Poorer people are disproportionately impacted by climate change because they are more likely to live in areas threatened by water scarcity, vector-borne disease, and/or potential damage from storms and floods.
- Wealthier people are disproportionately impacted by climate change because they are more likely to own properties and businesses that can be negatively influenced by water scarcity, vector-borne disease, and/or potential damage from storms and floods.
- Environmental issues and socioeconomic issues are unrelated.
- People of all socioeconomic classes are equally impacted by climate change, but for different reasons.
- Do not know

**Which of the following statements about greenhouse gases is TRUE?**

- Greenhouse gases help cool the Earth.
- Greenhouse gases allow solar radiation to escape from the Earth's atmosphere.
- Methane is the most prevalent greenhouse gas.
- Carbon dioxide is the most prevalent greenhouse gas.
- Do not know

**Many economists argue that electricity prices in many countries are too low because:**

- Too many suppliers go out of business.
- They do not reflect the cost of pollution and other social effects from generating the electricity.
- Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy.
- Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area.
- Do not know

**In some markets, Styrofoam cannot be placed into the common recycling bins because:**

- Styrofoam takes up too much space in the recycling bins.
- Styrofoam is not recyclable.
- Styrofoam damages equipment at the recycling facility.

Styrofoam is expensive to capture and recycle, so it needs to be captured separately.

Do not know

**The most effective strategy implemented in large buildings and facilities to conserve water is:**

Placing limits on water use.

Implementing employee engagement programs that create a “culture of conservation”.

Repairing leaks in existing appliances and fixtures.

Installing high efficiency appliances and fixtures and developing ways to recycle water.

Do not know

**The entrée with the highest carbon footprint is a:**

Serving of chicken wings.

Salmon fillet.

Veggie burger.

Lamb chop.

Do not know

**True or false? Environmental Justice is an effort to more fairly distribute both environmental burdens such as polluting and toxic industries and environmental benefits such as clean water and air.**

True

False

I don't know.

**Sustainable Culture**

**During the past year, how often did you do the following when you had the opportunity?**

	Always/Almost always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	No opportunity/Not applicable
Turn off my computer (not put it to sleep) when not using it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use the power saving settings on my computer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Set thermostat (air conditioner) to 25C degrees (78F) or higher during warm or hot weather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Set thermostat (heater) to 18C degrees (65F) or lower during cool or cold weather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unplug electrical appliances when not using them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Turn off lights when I leave the room	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**During the past year, how often did you do the following when you had the opportunity?**





	Always/Almost always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	No opportunity/Not applicable
Use the stairs instead of an elevator when going up or down more than one flight of stairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Sustainability and Water

### How often do you limit your use of water (at home or in campus housing) for these reasons?

	Very often	Somewhat often	Neither often/seldom	Somewhat seldom	Very seldom	Never	Not Applicable
Want to conserve water to protect the resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious reasons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keep electrical bill down (heating, cooling, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keep water bill down	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not sure if the water well (typically a container that distributes water to the home) has enough water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Are there any other reasons that cause you to limit your use of water at home or in the student residential housing? Please describe briefly.**

### How often do you use the following methods to limit your use of water (at home or in student residential housing)?

	Very Often	Somewhat Often	Not At All Often	Never	Not Applicable
Water outdoors during early morning or evening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take shorter showers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing landscape area irrigated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Installed a water efficient irrigation system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Installed low-flow plumbing fixtures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Are there any other methods that you use to limit your use of water at home or in the student residential housing? Please describe briefly.**

### How do you deal with running or leaky toilets and faucets? Please select all that apply.

- Have the leaked fixed within one week
- Repair it myself immediately
- Try to remember to jiggle toilet handle

- Close the door and turn up the TV
- Call a plumber or maintenance immediately
- Have the leak fixed eventually (longer than one week)
- Other (please specify):
- Never had this problem

**How often do you drink water directly from a tap (without boiling, filtering, or treating it)?**

- Never
- Occasionally
- Often (once per week or more often)
- Always

**How much total water from 500ml *disposable* water bottles do you drink per day? If you drink from 750ml or 1L bottles, please convert those into 500ml increments.**

- 1 bottle
- 2 bottles
- 3 -4 bottles
- 5-6 bottles
- 7 or more bottles
- None

**What is your preferred source of drinking water? (Select all that apply)**

- Water coolers
- Tap
- Filtered tap water
- Individual bottled waters
- None of these

**Shopping**

**About how many large bags of waste (about 13 gallons or 50 liters) do you/your household throw out per week? Please include recycled waste in this estimate.**

**What materials do you recycle? Select all that apply.**

- Plastic (e.g. milk jugs, bottles, yogurt cups)
- Paper (e.g. books, newspapers, magazines, greeting cards)
- Electronics/electrics (e.g. batteries, mobile phones, computers)
- Aluminum (e.g. aerosol, cans, foil)

- Textiles (e.g. clothes, shoes)
- Glass (e.g. glass bottles, jars)
- Other (please specify):
- None of these

**Please indicate your level of awareness of AUS Sustainability Office before taking this survey.**

- I was not aware that AUS had a Sustainability Office
- I was aware that AUS had a Sustainability Office, but have never spoken to anyone from the office
- I was aware that AUS had a Sustainability Office, and have spoken with them
- I have requested their assistance, participated in events, attended lecture series, and/or worked with them for a class project

**You responded that you've engaged with AUS Sustainability in some way. Which of these best describe this engagement? Please select all that apply.**

- Participated in (an) event(s)
- Attended a sustainable lecture (series)
- Worked with them for a class project
- Requested assistance
- Follow them on social media (@aussustainability)
- Something else (please specify):
- None of these

**Please describe your level of satisfaction with this engagement with AUS Sustainability.**

	Extremely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Extremely satisfied
» Requested assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
» Participated in (an) event(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
» Attended a sustainable lecture (series)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
» Worked with them for a class project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
» Follow them on social media (@aussustainability)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
» Something else (please specify):	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
» None of these	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Which of the following sustainability efforts are you aware of at AUS? Select all that apply.**

- Single use plastic ban for Spring 2020, farmer's market etc.
- Metro shuttles, electric car recharge stations, etc.
- Energy efficient appliances, Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC) paper products, etc.

- Energy conservation efforts, LED light conversion, etc.
- Recycling and Waste Reduction, Reduce and Reuse, etc.
- Green Office Certification, ESB's Green Building Certification (Estidama), etc.
- I was not aware of any of these efforts at AUS.

**How often do you use the following recycling bin while on the AUS campus (including academic buildings or residential buildings)?**

	Very Often	Somewhat Often	Not Often At All	Never	Not applicable because I don't need to
Can bin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paper bin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
eWaste (e.g. batteries) bin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plastic bottle bin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Glass bin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nespresso, etc bin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being extremely happy and 1 being not at all happy, how happy are you with the recycling procedures that are in place at the University campus.**

	Not At All Happy						Extremely Happy				
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happiness with AUS recycling											

**Do you feel confident that you know how to do the following at AUS?**

	Yes	No, but I would like to know	No, and I don't care
Find resources on the AUS sustainability webpage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Report energy issues (e.g., air Conditioning running too much or too little)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach out to the AUS Sustainability office to request information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate in the Green Certification Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycle plastic, aluminum, glass, and paper products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Report water leaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Do you feel confident that you know how to do the following at AUS?**

	Yes	No, but I would like to know	No, and I don't care
Purchase AUS sustainability products through vending machines on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Yes	No, but I would like to know	No, and I don't care
Host a green event	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycle batteries, coffee pods on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sign up for the EcoVolunteers list serve to learn about sustainability opportunities on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Donate clothing items on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycle printer ink and toner cartridges on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Is there anything that AUS can do to make recycling better? Select all that apply.**

- More recycle bins
- Make the bins more visible using signs
- Make the bins accessible
- Other (please specify):
- Nothing

**Optional: Please provide any additional feedback or suggestions for improving AUS sustainability efforts.**

**Raffle**

***Want to be entered in an anonymous raffle to receive an AUS Sustainability kit including an AUS Sustainability bottle, tote bag, and collapsible cup? By clicking yes below you agree to provide your contact information; we cannot link this information to your survey submission. Only raffle winners will be contacted.***



Yes

No