

UM Sustainability Survey

Overview

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The University of Montevallo is conducting research on student and employee perceptions of sustainability on campus. The survey will help the sustainability program at Montevallo identify strengths and weaknesses, especially regarding communication and education. This survey is administered to all faculty, staff, and students to measure sustainability trends from year to year.

There are three parts to this survey. First, you will be asked to provide basic demographic information. Next, we will ask a series of questions to assess your knowledge of sustainability topics. Finally, you will be asked questions regarding your sustainability opinions and behaviors.

Information gathered from this survey will contribute to the University of Montevallo's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report and be used as future reference for the UM community's sustainability knowledge and beliefs.

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1. What is your position or role at the University of Montevallo?

- Student
- Faculty
- Staff
- Other - Write In (Required)

Demographics

Page exit logic: Skip / Disqualify Logic

IF: #1 Question "What is your position or role at the University of Montevallo?" is one of the following answers ("Faculty","Staff","Other - Write In (Required)") **THEN:** Jump to [page 4 - How much do you know?](#)

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2. What Gender do you most identify with?

- Female
- Male
- Gender non-conforming/non-binary
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (Please Specify)

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3. What political party do you mostly identify with?

- Democrat
- Republican
- No party affiliation/independent
- Prefer not to answer
- Other

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4. What political identity do you most identify with?

- Very Liberal
- Liberal
- Somewhat Liberal
- Moderate
- Somewhat conservative
- Conservative
- Very Conservative
- Prefer not to answer
- Other

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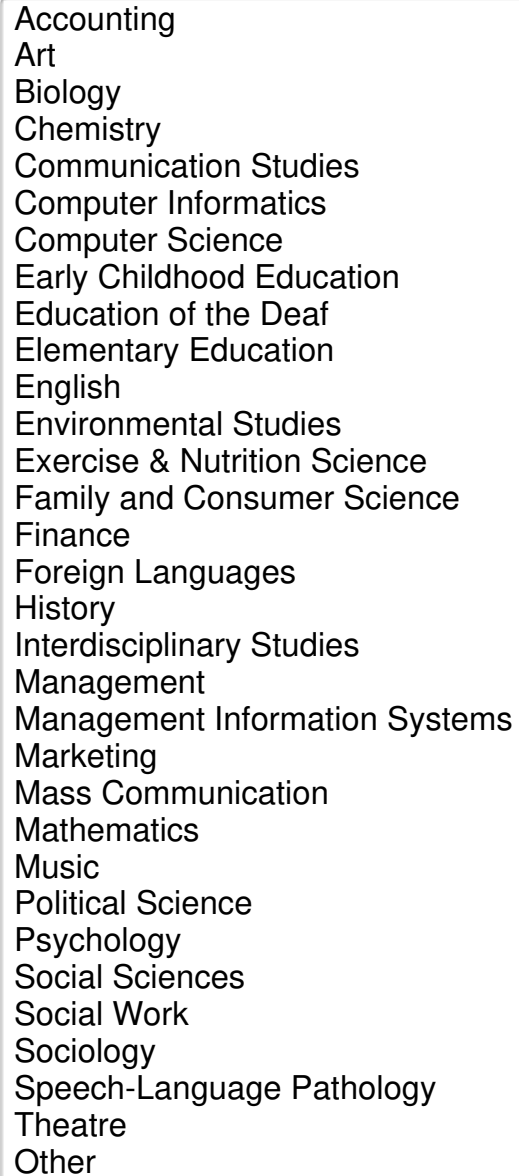
5. Have you ever taken a class that focuses on, or relates to, sustainability?

- Yes, at Montevallo
- Yes, in high school
- Yes, at another institution
- Yes, at or before Montevallo
- No

6. What best describes your year in college?

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Fifth Year Senior
- First Year Graduate Student
- Second Year Graduate Student
- Third Year Graduate Student
- More Than Three Years as Graduate Student

7. What is your major area of study?

A scrollable list of major areas of study, presented in a white box with a grey border and a vertical scrollbar on the right side. The list contains 27 items, including Accounting, Art, Biology, Chemistry, Communication Studies, Computer Informatics, Computer Science, Early Childhood Education, Education of the Deaf, Elementary Education, English, Environmental Studies, Exercise & Nutrition Science, Family and Consumer Science, Finance, Foreign Languages, History, Interdisciplinary Studies, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing, Mass Communication, Mathematics, Music, Political Science, Psychology, Social Sciences, Social Work, Sociology, Speech-Language Pathology, Theatre, and Other.

Accounting
Art
Biology
Chemistry
Communication Studies
Computer Informatics
Computer Science
Early Childhood Education
Education of the Deaf
Elementary Education
English
Environmental Studies
Exercise & Nutrition Science
Family and Consumer Science
Finance
Foreign Languages
History
Interdisciplinary Studies
Management
Management Information Systems
Marketing
Mass Communication
Mathematics
Music
Political Science
Psychology
Social Sciences
Social Work
Sociology
Speech-Language Pathology
Theatre
Other

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8. What best describes your living situation?

- I live on campus
- I live off campus independently
- I live off campus with family
- Other

How much do you know?

Page description:

In this section you will be asked questions about your knowledge on sustainability and related topics. These questions are not to test your personal beliefs, they are meant to be objective questions with objective answers. As these are meant to assess current knowledge, we ask that you answer without looking up information online. Many of these questions have been adapted from other Universities' sustainability assessments, including Colby College, SUNY ESF, and Western Michigan University.

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9. The term “sustainability” is best described as:

- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs
- Building communities that are both demographically and economically diverse
- Creating a lasting government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health care, and social services
- None of these
- Don't know/not sure

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10. Most climate scientists agree the main cause of present-day climate change is:

- Human activity such as burning fossil fuels
- Natural activities such as volcanic eruptions
- Increased solar irradiance
- No scientific consensus at this time
- None of the above
- Don't know/not sure

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11. What is the most common form of pollution of streams and rivers?

- Dumping of garbage by cities
- Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields
- Litter near streams and rivers
- Waste dumped by factories
- Don't know/not sure

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

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

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13. What is the name of the primary state agency that oversees environmental regulation?

- Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Alabama Department of Public Health
- Don't know/not sure

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14. Which statement about personal choice to conserve energy on campus is most accurate?

- It is not possible to have a measurable impact from behavior alone
- I don't have control over it, so there is no point in thinking about it
- Simple daily practices such as shutting off lights and computers have a measurable impact
- It is not my responsibility as a student
- Don't know/not sure

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

- Overhunting/overharvesting
- Conversion of natural spaces into human developments (Farmland, cities, etc.)
- Acid rain
- Breeding animals in zoos
- Don't know/not sure

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16. 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
- Nonrenewable resources such as minerals and fossil fuels must be used as quickly to encourage the development of renewable substitutes
- Pollution must be emitted at current levels so that natural systems can maintain the ability to absorb them, recycle them, or render them harmless
- None of the above are true
- Don't know/not sure

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17. The term “food desert” refers to:

- Urban or rural areas without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food
- Area where food is not grown due to climate, therefore all food must be shipped in
- A sweet treat at the end of the meal
- An area that can't grow one type of food
- Don't know/not sure

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18. Which of the following best defines the term “ecological footprint”?

- The impact of a person on the environment, expressed as the amount of land required to sustain their use of natural resources
- The positive impact of an ecological process on the built environment
- The impact of natural disasters on the human environment
- None of these
- Don't know/not sure

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19. Which of the following statements is accurate?

- Using paper for any reason is wasteful
- Cutting down trees for any reason is harmful to the environment
- Paper is renewable and sustainable resource, but should not be wasted
- Paper is recyclable but not compostable
- Don't know/not sure

Sustainability and You

Page description:

In this section you will be asked questions about your feelings and beliefs about sustainability and the environment. As well as your knowledge on sustainability options on campus. These are subjective questions, please answer them with your honest perspective.

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21. Indicate to what extent you do the following:

	Almost Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Recycle (paper, plastic bottles, cans, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consciously limit water use (take shorter showers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unplug electronics when not in use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buy products from local, independent businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finish all food on your plate in the dining hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use a bus, walk, bike, or use alternate transportation methods (other than single-rider cars)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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22. Which comes closest to your own attitude about the current environmental problems we face?

- Environmental problems are not very serious and can be readily solved.
- Although environmental problems are quite serious, they are not a dire threat to global well-being, and they can be solved by continuing current approaches and efforts.
- Environmental problems are a dire threat to global well-being, but they can be solved by greatly increasing efforts under the current socioeconomic system.
- Environmental problems are a dire threat to global well-being, and they can be solved only through radical changes in the current socioeconomic system.
- Might as well face it, we're doomed.

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23. Which of the following items can be recycled at UM?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> #1 plastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper plates and cups | <input type="checkbox"/> Corrugated cardboard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum cans | <input type="checkbox"/> Food waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Shredded paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #2 plastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steel, aluminum, tin | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #5 plastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Styrofoam | |

(untitled)

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24. Which of the following comes closest to your own view about sustainable food/dining at UM?

- UM provides an adequate amount of sustainable food/dining options, these options are generally appealing.
- UM provides an adequate amount of sustainable food/dining options, these options are generally unappealing.
- UM provides fewer sustainable food/dining options than I would prefer.
- I care about UM sustainable food/dining options, but I am unaware of whether there are any or what defines them as such.
- I do not care about UM providing sustainable food/dining options.

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25. What do you believe would be the single best way to improve recycling at UM?

- More recycling bins in academic buildings
- More recycling bins in residence halls
- More recycling bins in dining halls
- More recycling bins on campus grounds
- Better access to recycling bins on campus grounds
- More education and outreach on proper recycling practices
- More clearly labeled bins
- A way to recycle cooking grease
- No need for improvements
- Other (Specify)

Your Thoughts on Climate Change/Global Warming

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26. How much do you think global warming will harm future generations of people?

- Not at all
- Only a little
- A moderate amount
- A great deal

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27. How much do you think global warming will harm you personally?

- Not at all
- Only a little
- A moderate amount
- A great deal

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28. How worried are you about global warming?

- Not at all worried
- Only a little worried
- Very worried
- Don't have an opinion

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29. How important is the issue of climate change to you personally?

- Not at all important
- Somewhat important
- Extremely important
- No opinion on the topic

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30. Please indicate your level of awareness of the following UM Sustainability programs, events, and initiatives

	Never heard of it	Heard of it	Heard of and interested in participating/using	Have participated or used
James Wylie Shepherd Observatory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UM Organic Community Garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ValloCycle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Green Fund	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental Club	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
University Lake	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Earth Week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(untitled)

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

	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Almost always	N/A
Conscientiously choose food based on its environmental impacts (local, seasonal, organic, or less meat, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taken a course that is focused on or related to sustainability (in its social, environmental, or economic dimensions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Turn off lights when not in use (ex. when leaving a room)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use a reusable water bottle, coffee cup, or travel mug, instead of single use options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drink tap water instead of bottled	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported leaky faucets, toilets, or showerheads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Print double-sided	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Washed only full loads of laundry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limit time in the shower to 5 minutes or less	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shop in a second-hand store or online sites such as eBay, Craigslist, or Facebook Marketplace (e.g., clothing, furniture, appliances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contact an elected official or other representative to discuss an issue you care about	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vote	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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32. I feel I have a personal responsibility to help make a difference on environmental issues like minimizing waste, resource consumption, water use and energy use.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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33. I have a personal responsibility to help make a difference on social issues like ensuring equity and inclusion, spreading environmental education, and supporting activities that promote human health and wellness.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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34. I have become more aware of environmental issues since attending UM.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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35. What kinds of sustainability projects or programs would you like to see on campus?

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36. Is there anything else you would like to add about campus sustainability that wasn't asked about in the survey?

VALIDATION Max character count = 100

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37. If you would like to be entered in a drawing to win a \$25 gift card to Barnes & Noble, please enter your email address here.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us.