

First Year questions: Q1 – Q14

Juniors: Q1 - Q16

Q1 - An approach that seeks to understand sustainability problems by examining interactions and feedbacks within and between human and natural systems is called:

- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Strategic Thinking
- Systems Thinking

Q2 - What is the largest source of electricity for the regional electric grid that serves Decorah and Luther College?

- Natural Gas
- Renewables
- Coal
- Nuclear

Q3 - How has the gap in income between the richest and poorest households in the United States changed over the last 30 years?

- Increased
- Decreased
- Neither increased or decreased
- Changed dramatically from year to year

Q4 - Please note how much you engage in the following practices. Move the slider all the way left for not at all and all the way right for as much as possible.

- Use means other than a car to get around town
- Use a refillable water bottle
- Take care of belongings so they last a long time
- Turn off lights, computers and other items when not in use
- Recycle
- Eat meals with little or no meat
- Make conscious efforts to create an inclusive and welcoming climate on campus
- Explore Luther's natural areas
- Shop at local thrift stores
- Advocate for action by elected or other public officials

Q5 - Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because:

- The prices do not reflect social and ecological costs caused by pollution from generating electricity.
- Profits of electric utilities are too low.
- Higher electricity prices would stimulate economic growth.
- Low electricity prices make the U.S. less competitive in international markets.

Q6 - The greenhouse effect warms Earth's climate because:

- There is an increased concentration of gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere.

- Earth's atmosphere becomes thinner allowing more harmful radiation to hit the earth's surface.
- The amount of visible solar radiation that reaches Earth's surface increases.
- The amount of visible solar radiation that reaches Earth's surface decreases.

Q7 - Sustainable development as: ("Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>")

- Maintaining current incomes and quality of life forever
- Increasing consumption at a constant rate
- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used.

Q8 - Please note how strongly you associate each goal below with creating a sustainable society. Move the slider all the way left for not at all and all the way right for the strongest association possible

- Strengthening the economy
- Reducing income inequality
- Improving access to healthcare
- Improving access to local, nutritious foods
- Protecting the environment
- Ending fossil fuel consumption
- Increasing renewable energy consumption
- Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050
- Conserving resources for future generations
- Decreasing crime
- Ending discrimination
- Improving public education
- Keeping taxes low
- Limiting government

Q9 - Please note any goals that you strongly associate with creating a sustainable society but were missing from the previous list

Q10 - Corn in Iowa is grown for human consumption (sweet corn) as well as for livestock feed and ethanol production. Which ratio best describes the breakdown of how Iowa corn gets used:

- 90% human consumption / 10% livestock & ethanol
- 50% human consumption / 50% livestock and ethanol
- 10% human consumption / 90% livestock & ethanol
- 1% human consumption / 99% livestock and ethanol

Q11 - According to the US Energy Information Administration, which state in 2019 led the nation by generating 42% of its electricity from wind?

- California
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Iowa

Q12 - In the American Midwest, what is the current primary impact of global climate change?

- Increased precipitation leading to flooding
- Decreased precipitation leading to droughts

- Sea level rise flooding cities such as Chicago
- Heat waves causing fires
- There is no noticeable impact

Q13 - What is your primary mode of daily transportation to and from campus?

- Live on campus so I don't commute
- Drive a car with only myself in it
- Walk, bicycle or other non-motorized means of transportation
- Vanpool or carpool
- Ride motorcycle or motorized scooter
- Other

Q14 - How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- I take pride in Luther's commitment to sustainability
- Luther's sustainability efforts will enrich my education and college experience.
- Too much emphasis is given to sustainability at Luther.
- Sustainability was an important factor in my decision to come to Luther.
- Luther's sustainability performance meets or exceeds my expectations.

The following two questions were not asked to First Year students as they inquire about on-campus experiences that first year students would have no experience when they just arrive at Luther College.

Q15 – Have you engaged in any of the following activities as part of your academic courses at Luther college?

- Visited an area of campus or the college farm to learn about sustainability.
- Interacted with Decorah residents to learn about the local community.
- Participated in a field trip in the area to learn about local resources.
- Conducted experiments in a lab to examine sustainability--related concepts.
- Developed and tested a solution to a sustainability problem on campus or in a community.
- Examined civic responsibilities, ethical questions, or personal values in relation to sustainability.
- Examined sustainability perspectives or approaches in a non--U.S. context.
- Created an artistic work to explore or communicate sustainability concepts.
- Conducted a significant research project on a sustainability--related topic.

Q16 - How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Since coming to Luther I have . . .

- Gained greater understanding of sustainability.
- Become more sustainable in my personal lifestyle.
- Developed greater motivation for promoting sustainability in the communities of which I am a member.
- Gained confidence in my abilities to create positive change in the world.