

Sustainability Literacy Assessment - Senior

Start of Block: Default Question Block

This assessment is designed to determine the interests and understanding of Earlham seniors on many different sustainability topics. The results will be used to inform programming and projects on campus. Thank you for your participation!

In which academic division are you majoring? If double major, check all that apply.

- Humanities (English, Languages, Philosophy, Classics, Religion, etc.)
 - Social Sciences (Politics, Psychology, Global Management, History, Economics, Sociology/Anthropology)
 - Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Math, Physics)
 - Visual and Performing Arts (Art, Music, Theatre Arts)
 - Interdisciplinary (Environmental Sustainability, Peace and Global Studies, Human Development and Social Relations, Gender Studies, African and African American Studies, International Studies, etc.)
 - Unsure
-

Please indicate which of the following best describes your classification as a student.

- Indiana resident
- Out-of-state resident
- International

Page Break _____

<div>Please indicate which of the following statements best describes your level of interest in sustainability.</div>

- I have no interest in sustainability
 - I have little interest in sustainability
 - I am neither interested nor disinterested in sustainability (neutral)
 - I have considerable interest in sustainability
 - I have a passion for sustainability
-

To what extent has each of the following influenced your views and behaviors related to sustainability?

	Not at all	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much
Parents/family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schooling prior to Earlham	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning at Earlham	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To what extent does Earlham College emphasize each of the following?

	Not at all	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much
Taking responsibility for the welfare of communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning about sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding local economies and/or ecosystems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you recycle on a regular basis?

- Yes
- No

Why don't you recycle regularly? (Select the option below that best describes your reasons)

- I choose not to because I do not care to
- I choose not to because I think there are negative consequences of recycling
- I choose not to because I do not think recycling makes a positive difference
- I do not know how to recycle properly
- Recycling is inconvenient for me

Page Break

<div>How much do you take each of the following into consideration when making daily choices? </div>

	Not at all	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much
Minimizing waste sent to a landfill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental and/or social impacts of food options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minimizing water waste	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental and/or social impacts of product options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minimizing energy consumption	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which "point of intervention" in the linear consumption economy do you consider to be most important to alter in order to create a more sustainable future?

- Extraction
- Production
- Distribution
- Consumption
- Disposal
- Do not know what that means

Which of the following Earlham College sustainability initiatives are you aware of? (Check all that apply.)

- Green building policy that all new construction and major renovation projects must meet LEED standards.
- Indoor and outdoor single stream recycling on main campus.
- Stormwater management features (rain garden, retention basin, green roof, rain chains)
- Free Store and/or Move Out collection
- EC Bike Share
- Sustainability themed Living Learning Communities
- Food waste composting of dining hall kitchen waste and in college houses
- Miller Farm Sustainable Agriculture Program
- Environmental Sustainability Major/Minor
- Student Sustainability Corps employment opportunities
- Earlham College Sustainability Plan
- CST's geothermal heating system
- Sustainability Progress Committee
- Green Office Program



The following are potential new sustainability initiatives that Earlham could pursue. Please rank them in order of priority based on what you feel the college should pursue with 1 being the highest. You are encouraged to enter your own ideas and include them in the ranking! Drag and drop each item to the appropriate spot in the list.

- _____ Installation of renewable energy (solar / wind) on campus
- _____ Commitment to a goal of sending zero waste to landfills
- _____ Elimination of single-use plastic bottles on campus
- _____ Increased commitment to socially and environmentally responsible investing
- _____ Other:
- _____ Other:

Page Break

How many courses that covered sustainability issues have you taken while at Earlham College?

- None
 - 1 course
 - 2-3 courses
 - 4 or more courses
-

To what extent has your experience at Earlham College contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much
Articulating a vision of a just and sustainable society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquiring skills to lead or facilitate group activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding the consequences of your choices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding the economic dimensions of sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquiring the skills to help organizations become more sustainable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding issues of social justice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Persevering in achieving long-term goals despite adversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

 Page Break

The following series of questions focus more on gauging your understanding of a variety of sustainability-related topics. If a question is answered incorrectly, an explanation of the correct response will be displayed.

Page Break

Which of the following best describes systems thinking?

- Analyzing the relationships between different parts of a whole to better understand how those parts can be influenced and contribute to the function of the whole
- Understanding cause and effect on a global scale
- Using short term cost-benefit analysis in order to make an optimal business or environmental decision

Page Break

Of the options displayed, "*Analyzing the relationships between different parts of a whole to better understand how those parts can be influenced and contribute to the function of the whole*" best describes systems thinking. Systems thinking is important when working towards sustainability because it takes a holistic perspective by viewing an issue from many perspectives.

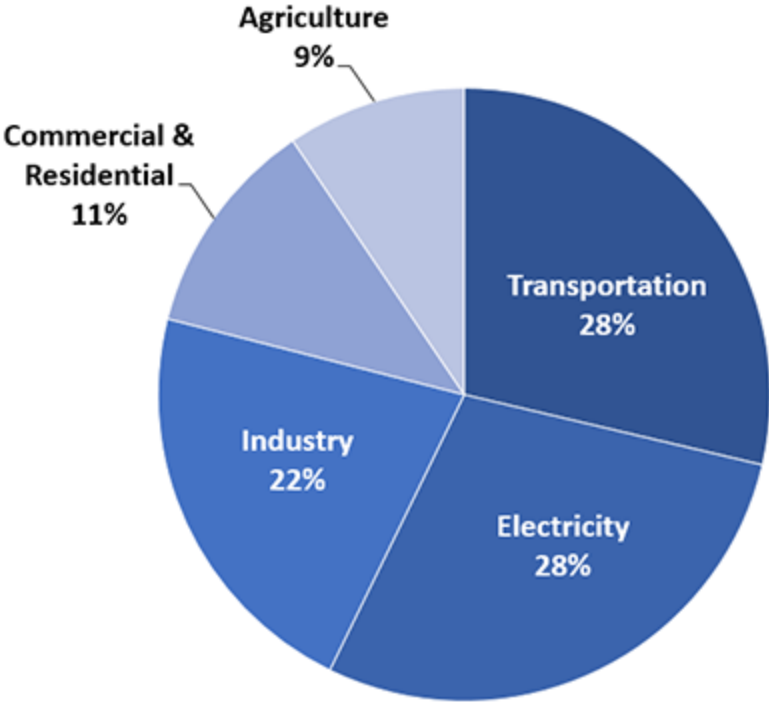
Page Break

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, which of the following represent the two sectors that are the greatest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States?

- Agriculture and electricity production
- Electricity production and transportation
- Industry and agriculture
- Commercial/residential and transportation

Based on the most recent data available from the EPA, electricity production and transportation account for a combined 56% of greenhouse gas emissions in the US (see chart below). This differs from global emissions trends, in which electricity and heat production, along with agriculture, forestry, and other land use are the sources of nearly half of emissions.

Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2016



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2018). Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2016

Page Break

Today, 1 in 9 people globally lack access to safe drinking water. True or False?

- True
- False
- Not sure

Page Break

According to estimates from the World Health Organization, approximately 1 in 9 people lack access to safe drinking water. Additionally, 1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet.

Page Break

Which of the following is an example of an environmental justice issue?

- A suburban, middle-class community successfully campaigns to prevent the construction of a hazardous waste incinerator nearby.
- A low-income community faces high asthma rates associated with exposure to pollution from an adjacent coal-fired power plant.
- A species of native bats faces extinction due to a disease introduced by nonnative bats.
- All of the above.
- None of the above.

Page Break _____

While there are many definitions of environmental justice, most focus on ensuring equal protection of humans from environmental hazards, regardless of race, class, gender, culture, income, etc. Thus, "A low-income community faces high asthma rates associated with exposure to pollution from an adjacent coal-fired power plant." would be the only option listed that would be considered an environmental justice issue.

Page Break

Some businesses are moving towards utilizing the "triple bottom line" framework to assess a company's practices. This entails consideration of which of the following?

- Planet, profit and people
- Financial benefit, cost, and longevity
- Stock, sales, and support

Page Break _____

The "triple bottom line" focuses on "Planet, profit and people".

Page Break

The transition from a linear consumption economy to a circular economy would include which of the following?

- An increase in single-use, disposable products
- Greater emphasis on programs in which companies reuse components of their outdated products in manufacturing processes
- Advancements in technology to move waste to previously inaccessible sites
- Additional reliance on non-renewable resources

Page Break

The goal of a circular economy is to reduce inputs and outputs by keeping materials circulating within the economy. Thus, *"Greater emphasis on programs in which companies reuse components of their outdated products in manufacturing processes"* would be a part of the transition to a circular economy.

Page Break

Three of the top five most populated countries globally can be found on which continent?

- Africa
- North America
- South America
- Asia
- Europe

Page Break

As of July 2018, the top 5 most populated countries include:
1. China
2. India
3. United States
4. Indonesia
5. Brazil
China, India, and Indonesia are all in Asia.

Page Break

Please rank the following energy sources from highest to lowest electricity generation source in Indiana. Note: Drag each item to the appropriate place in the list.

- _____ Natural Gas
- _____ Coal
- _____ Solar
- _____ Wind

Page Break

In 2017, Indiana's electricity was generated by the following energy sources:
70% coal
20% natural gas
5% wind
1% solar
4% other
-according to data from the US Energy Information Administration

Page Break

<p>Which of the following is an invasive species in Indiana?</p>

- Raccoon
- White-Tailed Deer
- Sugar Maple
- Honeysuckle

Page Break

Honeysuckle is invasive in Indiana.

Page Break

<p>If everyone in the world lived like Americans, how many earths would we need?</p>

1

2

5

8

Page Break _____

Based on data from the Global Footprint Network, we would need approximately 5 Earths to support the global population if everyone lived like Americans. Visit www.footprintcalculator.org to calculate your environmental footprint!

Page Break

Which of the following are included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals? Check all that apply.

By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Page Break

All of these are included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

Page Break

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