

# Sustainability Culture and Literacy at NAU

Sex:

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

Major:

Expected year of graduation:

Ethnicity- Please check all that apply:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic / Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other

Sustainability Culture Assessment:

Instinctively, how much do you agree with the following questions:

1. I'm knowledgeable about sustainability topics such as climate change, energy conservation, justice, diversity and equity, etc.
  - Strongly agree
  - Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Strongly disagree
  
2. It is important for NAU to be a leader in Sustainability and achieve their 2030 carbon neutrality goal. (Note: This term refers to striving to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint while sequestering or buying enough carbon credits to offset our remaining emissions).
  - Strongly agree
  - Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree

Strongly disagree

3. How often have you been involved in sustainability-related research, projects, or community initiatives as part of your coursework or extracurricular activities?

Every semester I choose to involve myself in several sustainability related activities, courses, initiatives, etc.

A few times, when I felt like it.

A few times, when it was required.

Never

4. How often do you incorporate sustainable practices in your personal lifestyle choices, such as recycling, conserving energy and water, or making sustainable consumer choices?

As much as possible

Sometimes

Only when it is convenient for me

Never

5. How aware are you of sustainability-related resources, programs, or initiatives offered by your institution, such as sustainability offices, green funds, or sustainability-focused clubs?

I feel I have a good understanding

I know nothing about our sustainability related resources/programs/initiatives

I know way too much, they should be advertised a bit less

6. What barriers prevent you from taking action to conserve energy? (select all that apply)

I am unaware of how to conserve energy.

I know which actions to take, but I forget to do them.

Reducing my energy use is inconvenient or difficult for me (e.g. shifting energy use to non-peak demand hours)

Reducing my energy use is cost-prohibitive for me (e.g. buying energy-efficient products)

I don't think that conserving energy is important (I don't believe that my individual choices matter)

My peers don't support taking action to conserve energy

I don't face any of these barriers

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. What barriers prevent you from taking action to conserve water? (select all that apply)

I am unaware of how to conserve water.

I know which actions to take, but I forget to do them.

- Reducing my water use is inconvenient or difficult for me.
- I don't think that conserving water is important (I don't believe that my individual choices matter)
- My peers don't support taking action to conserve water
- I don't face any of these barriers
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

8. What barriers prevent you from taking action to recycle and/or compost? (select all that apply)

- I am unaware of how to recycle and/or compost properly.
- I know how to recycle and/or compost, but I just forget to do it.
- There are no recycling/compost bins nearby.
- Recycling/composting properly (e.g. sorting recycling/organic from other waste) is difficult or inconvenient.
- I don't think that recycling/composting is important (I don't believe that my individual choices matter)
- My peers don't support taking action to recycle and/or compost
- I don't face any of these barriers
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. What barriers prevent you from taking action to reduce waste? (e.g. reducing the amount of non-recyclable trash you generate) (select all that apply)

- I am unaware of how to reduce my waste.
- I know how to reduce my waste, but I just forget to do it.
- Reducing my waste is difficult or inconvenient (e.g. washing or returning reusable plates and utensils, buying products with less packaging)
- Reducing my waste is cost prohibitive (e.g. buying reusable water bottles and bags)
- I don't think that reducing waste generation is important (I don't believe that my individual choices matter)
- My peers don't support taking action to reduce waste
- I don't face any of these barriers
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. What barriers prevent you from using alternative transportation options (walking, biking, using public transportation, or carpooling) rather than driving a car? (select all that apply)

- I have to travel a long distance and/or commuting would take too long.
- The infrastructure is inadequate to support using alternative transportation (e.g. bus routes don't go near my home, there aren't sufficient bike lanes)
- I do not feel safe or comfortable using alternative transportation.

- I would have physical or mental difficulties using alternative transportation.
- Using alternative transportation is cost-prohibitive for me.
- I like the convenience of having my own car.
- I don't think that using alternative transportation is important (I don't believe that my individual choices matter)
- My peers don't support using alternative transportation
- None of these
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

11. What do you stand for? Identify the qualities that influence and define your involvement with climate action at NAU (Select your top 3 value areas).

- Enhancing Student Success & Access
- Expanding Student and Faculty Research & Discovery
- Promoting Engagement & Collaboration
- Enhancing Commitment to Native Americans
- Fostering Stewardship
- Incentivizing Innovation
- Enhancing Transparency
- Promoting Justice & Equity
- Demonstrating Accountability
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Sustainability Literacy Assessment:**

1. What is the biggest contributor to current climate change:

- Burning Fossil Fuels
- Forest Loss
- Human Diet
- Ocean Acidification

2. What are the three pillars of sustainability?

- People, Planet, Profit
- Local, Regional, Global
- Perspective, Community, Equity
- Social Justice, Economic Growth, Climate Change

3. Which **two** of the following gasses have the biggest contribution to the greenhouse effect:

- Carbon Dioxide
- Hydrogen
- Methane
- Nitrous oxide
- Ozone
- Water vapor

4. What is the correct term to indicate that climate change is human caused?

- Anthropogenic
- Ecologic
- Socioatmospheric
- Anthropology

5. When did/will humans start using the Earth's biological resources at a rate faster than they can replenish?

- 30-40 years ago
- right now
- 30-40 years in the future
- 120 years in the future

6. Climate change is primarily caused by natural processes and variations in the Earth's climate system.

- True
- False

7. Sustainable development aims to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- True
- False

8. The Paris Agreement is an international treaty that aims to combat climate change by limiting global warming to well below **2 degrees Celsius** above pre-industrial levels.

- True
- False

9. Climate change only affects the environment and does not have any social or economic impacts.

- True
- False

10. Sustainability is a challenge that can be solved without collective action and collaboration among governments, organizations, communities, and individuals.

- True
- False

Key:

1. Burning Fossil Fuels
2. People, planet, profit – Also frequently described as environmental stewardship, economic health, and social justice
3. water vapor & carbon dioxide. Water vapor (clouds) is an abundant, naturally occurring, and very powerful greenhouse gas that helps keep our atmosphere comfortable. Recent changes (last 300 years) in carbon dioxide concentrations have been caused by humans. This is primarily through the combustion of fossil fuels, but is also caused by cement production and the degradation of natural ecosystems. Humans are also responsible for increases in other greenhouse gasses like methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and others, but changes in CO<sub>2</sub> are our biggest impact on the greenhouse effect and resulting climate change.
4. Anthropogenic
5. 30-40 years ago
6. False
7. True
8. True
9. False
10. False