



## Default Question Block

### Introduction

The purpose of this Sustainability Literacy Assessment is to evaluate the knowledge gained by students about sustainability over the duration of their attendance at SUNY ESF. Topics addressed include general sustainability, climate change, energy, food, materials management (waste), water, conservation, and environmental justice. This survey is distributed to a representative sample of the student body every other year by the Office of Sustainability to assess the impact of coursework, research experiences, extracurriculars, and programs on student sustainability literacy. By taking this assessment you are supporting ESF to maintain and improve our [STARS Platinum ranking](#), awarded by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

The term *sustainability* is best described as...

Select one.

- Managing social and economic practices that promote human wellbeing
- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Protecting species from extinction, maintaining and restoring habitats, and protecting biological diversity
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Sustainability on campus can be seen in ESF's...

Select one.

- Innovation and leadership
- Campus operations and facilities

- Curriculum and research
- Planning and administration
- Engagement with the local community
- All of the above

## Climate Change

The phenomenon of *climate change* is best described as...

Select one.

- Long-term changes to the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional, and global climates due to natural and man-made causes
- A myth that resulted from manipulated data sets by climate scientists
- The increasing average surface temperature of the planet due to Earth's natural cycle
- The increasing average temperature of Earth's atmosphere due to increased solar irradiance
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Which type of greenhouse gas is the most harmful compared to others at the same concentration? This gas has 12,200-22,800 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Select one.

- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)
- Fluorinated gasses - e.g. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), etc.
- Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)
- Water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O)
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

**True or False** - Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) has 25 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) making it more potent at lower concentrations in the atmosphere.

- True
- False

## Energy.

Which of the following are example(s) of how to conserve energy in the dorms and off campus?

**Select one.**

- Shutting down and unplugging devices or cords that are not in use
- Turning off lights when rooms are not in use
- Setting the heat to 68° F in the winter, and setting the air conditioning to 76° F in the summer
- Keeping vents and radiators clear of debris and furniture
- All of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Which of the following emits the most greenhouse gasses during energy generation?

**Select one.**

- Solar power
- Natural Gas
- Coal
- Wind power
- Nuclear power
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

The term ***fossil fuel divestment*** is best defined as...

- A tax on fossil fuel companies for the environmental destruction they cause
- The removal of personal or institutional investments (stocks, shares, or holdings) in fossil fuel companies
- The transition to only renewable energy and materials
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

## Food

Which of the following are way(s) to reduce your food's carbon footprint?

Select one.

- Cooking with unprocessed foods (e.g. fresh fruits, vegetables, grains etc)
- Composting food scraps
- Eating less meat or having a meat-free diet
- Reducing food waste by only purchasing what you need and planning meals ahead of time
- All of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Which of the following is the most water-intensive protein source?

Select one.

- Poultry (chicken, turkey, etc.)
- Pulses (beans, lentils, peas, etc.)
- Beef
- Fish (farmed)
- Pork
- Do not know or not sure
- Nuts and seeds

## Materials Management (Waste)

The term **zero waste** is best defined as...

Select one.

- The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without incineration nor discharges to land, water, or air that threaten human health or the environment
- The consumption zero products, packaging, or materials
- The process of analyzing the environmental impacts of products during their lifetime
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Which of the following best describes the recycling system at SUNY ESF and in the City of Syracuse?

Select one,

- Waste-to-energy:** All discarded materials, including recyclables, are incinerated and used to produce energy
- Single-stream:** All recyclable materials go into one bin
- Sorted:** Different recyclable materials (e.g. glass, paper, plastic, and metal) each have their own bin
- None:** There is not a recycling system, all materials go into the trash
- Do not know or not sure

Which certification do single-use items (disposable cutlery, straws, take-out containers, etc.) need to have in order to be compostable on campus and in Onondaga County (county of Syracuse, NY)?

Select one.

- Certified B Corporation (B Corp)
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified
- Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) Certified
- USDA Certified Biobased Product certification
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Which of the following is the best practice for sustainable materials management?

Select one.

- Reusing goods
- Reducing the consumption of goods
- Recycling & composting leftover or used materials
- Disposing leftover or used materials in the trash
- Do not know or not sure

## Water

The term **green infrastructure** is best described as...

**Select one.**

- Buildings and other structures painted green to blend into natural environments
- The application of plants, soils, natural, and built systems to manage storm water runoff to improve groundwater infiltration and reduce or slow flows into sewer systems in urban areas
- Systems of gutters, pipes, and sewers to remove storm water from impervious surfaces
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Which of the following are ways to support water sustainability?

**Select one,**

- Storm water management and green infrastructure
- Protecting and creating urban green spaces
- Protecting water quality
- Water reuse
- Water use reduction and water efficiency
- All of the above
- Do not know or not sure

## **Conservation**

The term ***ecosystem services*** is best defined as...

**Select one.**

- The work performed by environmental engineering firms
- The work required by humans to keep natural habitats in good health
- The economic benefits humans receive from the exploitation of natural resources
- The many benefits that humans receive from the natural environment
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Which of the following are example(s) of ***ecosystem services***?

**Select one.**

- Provisioning services like drinking water, food, building materials, and fuels
- Regulating services like air filtration by plants, water purification, pollination, flood control, decomposition, and carbon storage
- Supporting services like nutrient cycling, soil formation, photosynthesis, and the water cycle
- Cultural services like educational, aesthetic, recreational, and heritage values of nature
- All of the above
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

What is the greatest threat to plant and animal populations?

Select one.

- Disease and illness
- Indirect impacts of human activity such as climate change and the introduction of non-native species
- Inbreeding
- Direct impacts of human activity, such as hunting, fishing, or habitat destruction
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

## Environmental Justice

The term *environmental justice* is best described as...

Select one.

- The phrase used to describe all environmental laws, regulations, and policies
- The protection of all plants and animals as human under law
- The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to development and environmental laws and regulations
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

Which of the following best describes *climate injustice*?

Select one.

- Low-income and marginalized populations are generally the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (e.g. severe storms, heat, and floods) but have contributed the least to climate change (e.g. emissions)
- Wealthy populations are disproportionately affected by climate change because they are more likely to own properties and businesses that can be negatively affected by the impacts of climate change (e.g. storms, heat, floods)
- The unfair treatment of the atmosphere by human activity
- The unequal distribution of the effects of climate change on plant and animal communities compared to human populations
- None of the above
- Do not know or not sure

## **About you**

Which best describes your role at ESF?

Select one.

- Undergraduate Student
- Graduate Student
- Other, please describe -

Are you working towards a graduate certificate, Masters (MS/MA/MPS), and/or Doctorate (PhD) degree?

Select all that apply.

- Graduate certificate
- Masters
- Doctorate
- Other, please describe -

What year do you expect to graduate from ESF?

Enter year in YYYY format.

Major/Degree Program(s)

Please select your program(s) of study, not including minors. Select all that apply.



- Aquatic and Fisheries Science
- Biochemistry
- Bioprocess Engineering
- Biotechnology
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Conservation Biology
- Construction Management
- Environmental Biology
- Environmental Education and Interpretation
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Resources Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Environmental Studies
- Forest Ecosystem Services
- Forest Health
- Forest Resources Management
- Landscape Architecture
- Natural Resources Management
- Paper Engineering
- Renewable Materials Science
- Sustainable Energy Management
- Sustainability Management
- Wildlife Science
- Other, please describe -

### Program of study

**Please select the program(s) you are working towards a degree in. Select all that apply.**

- Chemistry
- Environmental Biology
- Environmental Resources Engineering
- Environmental Science (GPES)
- Environmental Studies

- Sustainable Resources Management
- Sustainable Construction Management
- Landscape Architecture
- Chemical Engineering
- Graduate Certificate Program, which one(s)?
- Other, please describe -

Do you have any questions, comments, or feedback you would like to share with the Office of Sustainability?

If so, please share them below.

***If you would like a response from us, please provide your email address.***

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