

Default Question Block

Sustainability Knowledge Survey

We are surveying Dickinson students to learn about students' exposure to and understanding of selected sustainability-related concepts. Everyone who completes this survey will be entered into a drawing to win one of four \$35 gift cards (your choice: Issei Noodle, Grazery, Playa Bowls, or Farmers on the Square).

There are only 12 questions in the survey, which will take you just a few minutes to complete. Some of the questions may be about concepts with which you are not familiar. Answer each as best you can. All responses will be confidential. Your responses will help us compare the knowledge of different class years and identify possible gaps in Dickinson's sustainability courses. At the end of the survey, you will be taken to a webpage with an answer key and links to additional sources of information.

Thank you for participating! Click the arrow below to begin the survey.

Block 1

1. The United Nations definition of sustainable development calls for:

- a. Steadily increasing national income at a constant rate.
- b. Maintaining incomes and consumption at their current levels forever.
- c. Reducing incomes and consumption to subsistence levels.
- d. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- e. Setting aside essential natural resources for preservation, never to be used.

2. Which of the following is a characteristic of sustainable economic development?

- a. Never ending growth in national income.
- b. Never ending growth in population.
- c. Increasing wellbeing of all people now and in the future.
- d. Increasing use of natural resources now and in the future.
- e. Increasing profits now and in the future.

3. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are:

- a. Inconsistent with each other and require prioritizing a few selected goals while abandoning or delaying others.
- b. Independent of each other and best achieved through separate strategies, each of which focuses on one goal.
- c. Highly interconnected and best achieved through coordinated strategies that simultaneously target multiple goals.
- d. Unachievable.
- e. Intended only for the least developed countries and not relevant to wealthy countries.

4. What criteria are commonly considered in decision making when the intent is to advance sustainability goals?

- a. Economic benefits and costs.
- b. Environmental benefits and harms.
- c. Equitable distribution of benefits and harms.
- d. Near and long-term consequences.
- e. All of the above.

5. Which individual behavior is most likely to have the biggest impact to reduce personal carbon footprints?

- a. Unplugging your laptop when not in use.
- b. Recycling and composting most of your organic waste.
- c. Buying most of your clothing from thrift stores.
- d. Walking, biking and riding public transit for most of trips.
- e. Eating mostly organically grown foods.

6. Which set of strategies would yield the deepest reductions in carbon dioxide emissions in the United States?

- a. Replace automobiles, trucks, ships, and airplanes that use fossil fuels with electric versions.
- b. Increase energy efficiency standards for homes, commercial buildings, motor vehicles, appliances, and industrial equipment.
- c. Expand public transit systems and make all cities more walkable.
- d. Increase energy efficiency in all end-uses, produce electricity and liquid fuels with processes that emit little or no carbon dioxide, and switch as many uses as possible to electricity.
- e. Adopt sustainable practices for all farm, forest, and other land management.

7. If warming of the Earth's climate is to be held to less than 1.5 degrees C above the average for the pre-industrial period during and beyond the 21st century, the world's emissions of carbon dioxide must be:

- a. Constrained to increase by less than 5% per year every year.
- b. Constrained to increase by less than 1% per year every year.
- c. Held constant at the present level every year.
- d. Reduced 20 percent from the present level by 2100 and held constant after.
- e. Reduced to zero net emissions by the 2050s and held at or below net zero after.

8. Which of the following best characterizes a systems-thinking approach to solving complex problems?

- a. Reducing problems to their component parts and targeting actions to affect individual components of a system.
- b. Examining how parts of a system interact and targeting actions at key leverage points to shift how the system behaves.
- c. Using computer model simulations of system behavior to identify optimal solutions.
- d. Forming hypotheses about solutions to a problem and testing them systematically.

- e. Systematic trial and error.
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9. Environmental justice can best be described as:

- a. Recognizing legal rights for wildlife and ecosystems.
- b. Enforcing environmental laws and regulations.
- c. Working for fair and equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens.
- d. Restoring environmentally degraded places.
- e. Imposing financial penalties on polluters.
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10. Which of the following policies can help promote intergenerational equity?

- a. Protecting the environment for future generations.
- b. Investing in long-lasting physical infrastructure.
- c. Investing in education, research, and knowledge creation.
- d. All of the above.
- e. None of the above.
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11. Rapid industrialization, income growth, and population growth since the mid-20th century have been accompanied by which other multi-decadal global trends?

- a. Increasing resource consumption, declining wildlife populations, and rising global temperatures.
- b. Decreasing air quality and rising death rate from air pollution.
- c. Decreasing yields per acre of major food crops and decreasing ocean fish catch.
- d. Increasing percentage of the world's population living in extreme poverty and increasing childhood death rates.
- e. All of the above
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12. "Planetary boundaries" have been proposed by an internationally prominent group of researchers for nine Earth system processes, including climate change, nitrogen flows, ocean acidification, and biodiversity loss. What are the most likely consequences of exceeding the proposed planetary boundaries?

- a. Environmental systems become more resilient and productive.
- b. Living standards increase for all the world's population.
- c. Environmental pressures increase significantly to threaten the wellbeing of humans.
- d. Collapse of all human civilization.
- e. Extinction of all life on Earth.
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What are three words or short phrases you strongly associate with sustainability?

