

2014 Cornell Freshman Sustainability Survey

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Filter By: Report Subgroup

1. On a scale of 0-10, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements: How? Drag the slider left or right, or just click on it, to register the score you choose

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	I understand the impact of human activity on the climate and natural environment	0.00	10.00	8.11	1.68	471
2	Cornell University has a responsibility to protect the climate and natural environment	0.00	10.00	8.45	1.77	471

2. Over the summer months, how often did you typically perform the following behaviors:

#	Question	Two or more times per day	Once a day	Two or more times per week	Once a week	Two or more times per month	Once a month or less	Never	Total Responses	Mean
1	Recycle paper, plastic, or metal	222	131	57	32	6	9	13	470	2.07
2	Unplug electronic appliances when not in use	106	78	61	64	42	45	74	470	3.77
3	Compost food scraps	69	64	55	45	24	38	175	470	4.87
5	Buy a bottle of water	21	15	38	72	47	129	148	470	5.63
6	Take public transit	57	28	78	48	63	65	131	470	4.88
7	Use a reusable mug or bottle	245	103	52	25	17	6	21	469	2.12
8	Drive a car	115	63	65	29	13	72	113	470	4.16
9	Ride a Bike	29	21	42	36	50	86	206	470	5.86
10	Use a smartphone	420	8	3	3	0	1	35	470	1.58
11	Do outdoor recreation	106	99	123	54	40	27	21	470	3.02
12	Eat meat	169	145	76	17	7	9	47	470	2.60
13	Purchase organic or fair trade foods	30	23	56	90	84	75	112	470	5.04
14	Work or volunteer at a farm or garden	13	6	13	13	28	58	339	470	7.06

Statistic	Recycle paper, plastic, or metal	Unplug electronic appliances when not in use	Compost food scraps	Buy a bottle of water	Take public transit	Use a reusable mug or bottle	Drive a car	Ride a Bike	Use a smart phone	Do outdoor recreation	Eat meat	Purchase organic or fair trade foods	Work or volunteer at a farm or garden
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Mean	2.07	3.77	4.87	5.63	4.88	2.12	4.16	5.86	1.58	3.02	2.60	5.04	7.06
Variance	2.28	5.78	7.57	4.20	5.89	2.98	7.36	5.22	3.47	3.21	4.36	4.44	3.09
Standard Deviation	1.51	2.40	2.75	2.05	2.43	1.73	2.71	2.28	1.86	1.79	2.09	2.11	1.76
Total Responses	470	470	470	470	470	469	470	470	470	470	470	470	470

3. Timing

#	Answer	Average Value	Standard Deviation
1	First Click	0.00	0.00
2	Last Click	0.00	0.00
3	Page Submit	0.00	0.00
4	Click Count	0.00	0.00

4. On a scale of 0-10, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Sustainability is a priority at Cornell.	1.00	10.00	7.89	1.80	473
2	Current Cornell students are involved in sustainability projects	1.00	10.00	7.74	1.88	473
3	My personal choices have an impact on the climate and natural environment	1.00	10.00	8.21	1.77	473

5. What sustainable modes of transportation are available to students at Cornell? (check all that apply)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Big Red Bikes	471	100%
2	TCAT Bus System	471	100%
3	Walking	471	100%
4	Carpooling	471	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Total Responses	471

6. What can you do to be more sustainable in Cornell's Dining Halls?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Learn about the impacts of meat production	242	52%
2	Compost all left over food scraps	247	53%
3	Don't take a tray	234	50%
4	Choose foods that grown locally or organically	239	51%
5	Purchase fair trade coffee	227	48%
6	All of the above	469	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	6
Total Responses	469

7. What color are the recycling bins all over campus for all glass, paper, and cans

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Green	0	0%
2	Yellow	0	0%
3	Blue	469	100%
4	Red	0	0%
	Total	469	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	3
Max Value	3
Mean	3.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	469

8. Approximately how many student clubs at Cornell deal specifically with sustainability?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	10	0	0%
2	30	0	0%
3	40	469	100%
4	70	0	0%
5	90	0	0%
	Total	469	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	3
Max Value	3
Mean	3.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	469

9. Cornell is committed to reducing campus carbon emissions to zero by what year?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	2025	0	0%
2	2030	0	0%
3	2100	0	0%
4	2050	467	100%
	Total	467	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	4
Max Value	4
Mean	4.00
Variance	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.00
Total Responses	467

10. Let us know your questions about sustainability at Cornell?

Text Response

Is solar energy used anywhere on campus?

What's the carbon impact of all of the construction and idling cars created by closing East Ave and building Klarman Hall?

how would it be done?

blah blah

What is being done to make buildings on campus more sustainable?

Sustainability video seemed more like an ad. Also, what's the point of releasing a survey if you're only going to allow people to finish it if they answer they way you want. This entire thing seems pointless; of course you're going to get 100% correctness when you outright refuse to let people continue if they put in the "wrong" answers.

Why don't all rooms have both recylce and landwaste bins? How can students compost in their residence halls?

N/A

What can I personally do to contribute to sustainability at Cornell?

How are you dealing with old buildings' energy efficiencies?

How can I get involved in research at the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future?

None

none. waste of my time

Why are lights left on in all the buildings at night in unused rooms?

What is some research that students could get involved in that is on sustainability?

N/A

Where can I obtain a Big Red Bike?

Note: Per Cornell University Assembly 12: Carbon Neutrality and Divestment the official campus goal for carbon neutrality has been moved to 2035

What tangible plans are there to reach the 2050 goal?

Why must dining halls throw away perfectly good, uneaten food? It seems to be hugely wasteful.

Is there a club that focus on design and sustainability?

One of the questions you asked was regarding organically grown products. Please stop pushing this mislead agenda. Organically grown products do not effect eco-friendly behaviours on campus.

no

The campus is very clean for the most part. Does Cornell take part in cleaning other places such as Collegetown or the Commons as well?

What is the best method for sustainability? Is it solar panels, or reducing waste or recycling?

Why don't more people recycle?

no

N/A

none

There are no longer trays in the dining halls.

N/A

What are the most pressing obstacles to Cornell's reduction of carbon emissions today?

None

There are something like six Big Red Bikes. A person can rent one for the entire day. I have tried about five times to get one and the library never has any. Please get more bikes or make the time that a person rent it for less.

What kind of meat is most sustainable and environmentally-friendly on Cornell campus?

How much (and what) animal products in the dining halls are factory farmed?

none

why do you sell plastic water bottles...get rid of them please.

What are the current projects going on regarding sustainability at Cornell? What type of research is occurring, and in what departments?

Where are compost bins in the dining halls?

I have none!

Wouldn't it be easier for students to follow the sorting and composting sign, if the examples of what goes in the different bins were photos of things sold in that specific cafe or dining hall?

How do they plan to erase carbon emissions? Since buses emit carbon, what does the school plan to do about that? How will the school mitigate negative environmental impacts from the construction it undergoes?

Poor students can't afford locally grow, free-trade food. Why don't we reroute the budget towards funding their food choices?

Can you change the shape of the holes on some of Cornell's recycling bins, or at least make them larger? Sometimes bigger or different shaped recyclables can't fit in through them.

I don't have any questions

Why aren't there more compost bins around campus?

Nope.

I do not have any specific questions about sustainability at Cornell.

Can Cornell offer more vegan options? There are lots of vegans on campus, and as one of them, I know that by offering more vegan options, Cornell would help sustainability.

How do we recycle food-contaminated recyclables?

No questions, but the new commitment date is 2035, not 2050.

I use a refillable water bottle and compost whenever I can. I always recycle at home so I tend to bring those actions here at Cornell when I am here.

No questions!

why aren't there more composting bins on campus? After I walk to class while I eat a banana in the morning, I have to throw it in the bushes in order to compost it (because I don't want to throw it in the trash). More composting bins!

Not a question, but a complaint..... Why on earth is EVERYTHING in the Ivy room served with disposable plastic plates, forks, etc? Everything. Why. Get some reusable plates.

Seriously. And also, at the cafes around campus (Mattin's is the one I am most familiar with), all of the muffins, bagels, etc also come individually wrapped in plastic. That's not necessary.

Once stuff is baked, it can do right in the case without the ridiculous intermediate step of putting it in plastic, just to be taken out again by whoever buys it. Thanks.

I've seen how some of the windows on campus are cleaned: with a hose. Why is that?

How does Cornell measure the growth and success of its sustainability programme

--

How big is solar power on campus?

I've seen signs in the Human Ecology building (just inside the door to Martha's Café) about how our buildings are literally designed to be more environmentally friendly, but didn't have time to read it all. Could you tell me a little about that?

I don't have any questions at the moment; I wanted to comment that your video was excellently made.

Why are we not doing more?!?!?

As someone leading a sustainability project team here at Cornell, this survey should be improved. Several options are not correctly done, and it seems to be random facts rather than getting students to think.

Does Cornell report the success of these programs to the wider university? If so, how?

Who should I contact to get involved with the sustainability projects going on here at Cornell?

If you support sustainability so much, why aren't you providing free reusable water bottles to students?

Despite all the signs, I've noticed that the majority ignores them and refuses to even so much as recycle plastic bottles. What will Cornell do to reach out to these students?

Why is the zero carbon emissions goal set for 2050 when it should really be possible, especially in an extremely regulated place like Cornell, to achieve the goal much earlier?

Do all lights in building get turned off at night?

When will Cornell divest from fossil fuels?

I heard Cornell's compost is not that great because it takes much longer than other composting because of some chemical or other thing. Is this true?

It is a good effort.

What can be done to discourage students from using disposable water bottles?

Cornell dining should source food responsibly and let us know where the meat/vegetables/etc come from

Are there any clubs centered around water quality or the aquatic life protection? Thanks

Is solar power coming to Cornell?

N/A

Not really a question, but I think more students should be encouraged to get involved in sustainable activities.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	79

11. What is one thing that you want to do during your first semester that will have a positive impact on other people, the climate, or the natural environment?

Text Response

Start recycling more and ride my bike or walk almost everywhere.

Ride my bike. yay

Take shorter showers

Joined the resource conservation club

Do clean ups around ithaca

none

smile

Compost food

Recycle more

Compost more

Increase awareness and recycle and compost more

I want to go vegan once a week.

recycle more

Carpool to and from athletic practices at the boathouse

recycle more

Compost

Turn off the lights when no one is in the room.

Think of all the environmental damage I could fix if I had a time machine to go back to my first semester.

I walk or bike everywhere

Use a reusable water bottle more regularly.

Remember to turn off the lights in a room when I leave it

Continue my work on CUSD

Recycle

start conversations about these topics

Encourage recycling.

recycle

This is not my first semester; I'm a junior. But whatever.

Don't kill chickens

Walk everywhere I go.

I want to recycle and learn how to dispose of my food.

Waste less food

My first semester was two years ago.

reduce reuse recycle

plant based diet

Walk more.

Compost more

Be more knowledgeable of the foods being consumed in the dining halls so as to make smarter, more sustainable decisions on consumption

Buy food from the farmer's market.

Recycle more

work in a sustainable area of dinning

Recycle more

I want to learn how to ride a bike.

Planting trees in my spare time.

have cornell provide more brita fountains for students to refill their reusable water fountains.

this will provide a less desire to buy cases of waters in plastic water bottles

compose all food scrap

nothing

Next semester, I'd like to do some collaboration between a sustainability group on campus and my club's science policy department.

Plant trees

Get through it so I can start taking environmental science oriented classes next semester.

Never leave a light on when I leave a room.

Keep heater on as minimally as possible

compost, don't waste resources.

Ride a bike everywhere

Donate some of the food from the dining halls that would normally get composted to the poor in the community.

resykl

Compost.

Compost

Turn off the light when I leave the room

Reuse bags, bottles etc.

Eat local

recycle packages I get.

reach out and make more friends

I will compost my food scraps at the dining halls.

Shame people who get coffee in a paper cup every day. It's absolutely ridiculous.

Use a thermos instead of using plastic water bottles

Put all trash and recyclables in the proper containers and do not waste food.

Simply be a responsible person

Actually learn what should be composted, recycled, and sent to landfills

Planting/gardening

Make sure to lead by example while also encouraging others to do the same.

Recycle more.

I want to encourage more people on campus to use reusable coffee mugs, instead of getting the disposable paper (Starbucks) cups.

Bike More!

use a re-usable water bottle and containers, instead of plastic ones.

Shorter showers

no

Ride my bike more and rely less on buses.

I want to make an impact within my friend circle to reduce waste. Though most people won't listen to a 3 minute video, people are much more inclined to listen to a friend. I hope to do my part in helping our beautiful campus.

compost more

Shut off lights

use less gas

walk

I bought a recycling bin for my study lounge.

I want to be able to recycle more over time.

Eat everything on my plate. I do this already.

yes

Ride the TCAT

Be more aware.

Spend less time in the shower.

Use available sustainable public transportation

Have Cornell Divest in Fossil Fuel Companies!

recycle

Start turning off lights when I'm not using a room
recycle
Understand how to recycle better.
Recycle!
walk everywhere
Ride a bike -- i have no idea where big red bikes are. i also have never seen nor heard of them before
Recycle and compost
Learn better recycling habits.
Umm I suppose recycle for once

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	264

2014 Cornell Senior Survey Results for Sustainability Questions

Table 1. Cornell seniors' satisfaction with recycling and composting services, 2014 Senior Survey

% of seniors who were:	Very dissatisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Generally satisfied	Very satisfied	Not applicable	Row Count
All seniors	1	5	48	37	9	1398
By college*						
Agric & Life Sci	1	6	48	38	7	358
AA&P	7	10	53	23	7	30
Arts & Sciences	1	6	49	35	10	397
Engineering	1	3	48	38	11	296
Hotel Admin	3	4	44	38	12	96
Human Ecology	2	3	44	47	4	136
ILR	1	5	52	26	17	85

Note: This table includes "not applicable" responses. Seniors were offered this reporting option if they "lack experience with a service or facility."

* Statistically significant differences by college at $p < .05$

Table 2. Cornell seniors' satisfaction with recycling and composting services, 2014 Senior Survey

% of seniors who were:	Very dissatisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Generally satisfied	Very satisfied	Row Count
All seniors	2	6	53	40	1273
By college					
Agric & Life Sci	1	7	51	41	334
AA&P	7	11	57	25	28
Arts & Sciences	1	7	54	38	359
Engineering	1	3	54	42	265
Hotel Admin	4	5	49	42	85
Human Ecology	2	3	46	49	131
ILR	1	6	62	31	71

Note: This table excludes seniors who marked "not applicable" for this question.

Table 3. Contribution of Cornell experience to seniors' self-reported gains in: Understanding the impact of human activity on the climate and natural environment, 2014 Senior Survey

% of seniors reporting:	Very little or none	Some	Quite a bit	Very much	Row Count
All seniors	14	33	30	23	941
By college***					
Agric & Life Sci	5	22	35	38	252
AA&P	13	25	50	13	16
Arts & Sciences	17	36	30	17	264
Engineering	20	37	23	21	199
Hotel Admin	21	39	30	10	61
Human Ecology	12	39	28	20	89
ILR	22	33	30	15	60

*** Statistically significant differences by college at $p < .001$