**Survey Instructions**

Cornell seeks to gauge student knowledge and views about sustainability and climate change before they start classes here. This survey includes 16 questions (32 total items), which we will ask again in the future to see what students have learned over time at Cornell.

We are looking to understand current levels of knowledge and views, so please respond based on what you already know. All responses are helpful!

Your responses to these questions will be anonymous and aggregated into summary results that will be shared with the Campus Sustainability Office, the Sustainable Cornell Council, and faculty conducting research on the sustainability curriculum. We hope to use survey responses for future research, and this [Consent Form](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/files/3978942?wrap=1)[Download Consent Form](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/files/3978942/download?download_frd=1) pertains to that research. You will have the opportunity to opt-in or opt-out of the research study prior to beginning the survey.

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[Flag question: Question 1](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 10 pts**

To complete the Mission Sustainability course, you will need to complete the following survey. You can choose whether or not to have your responses included as part of our research study, which will inform future improvements to this course. Responses will be anonymous and aggregated into summary results.

Please indicate your consent to participate below.  
*Note: If you are under 18 years old, please select “No.” Your responses cannot be included in this study.*

Group of answer choices



Yes, I agree to have my responses included in the study



No, I do not want my responses included in the study

[Flag question: Question 2](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 20 pts**

Please indicate your year at Cornell

Group of answer choices



First-year



Sophomore



Junior



Senior



Graduate & Professional Student

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**Question 30 pts**

In which college are you enrolled?

Group of answer choices



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



College of Architecture, Art and Planning



College of Arts and Sciences



Cornell SC Johnson College of Business



College of Engineering



College of Human Ecology



School of Industrial and Labor Relations



Graduate & Professional School

[Flag question: Question 4](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 40 pts**

What is the most common cause of pollution of streams and rivers?

Group of answer choices



Dumping of garbage by cities



Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields



Litter near streams and rivers



Waste dumped by factories

[Flag question: Question 5](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 50 pts**

Ozone forms a protective layer in the earth’s upper atmosphere. What does ozone protect us from?

Group of answer choices



Acid rain



Climate change



Sudden changes in temperature



Harmful UV rays

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**Question 60 pts**

Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management?

Group of answer choices



Setting aside forests to be off limits to the public



Never harvesting more than what the forest produces in new growth



Producing lumber for nearby communities to build affordable housing



Putting the local communities in charge of forest resources

[Flag question: Question 7](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 70 pts**

Of the following, which would be considered living in the most environmentally sustainable way?

Group of answer choices



Recycling all recyclable packaging



Reducing consumption of all products



Buying products labeled “eco” or “green”



Buying the newest products available

[Flag question: Question 8](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 80 pts**

Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?

Group of answer choices



Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health care, and social services



Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used



Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs



Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse

[Flag question: Question 9](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 90 pts**

Over the past 3 decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest people in the United States?

Group of answer choices



The difference has increased



The difference has stayed about the same



The difference has decreased

[Flag question: Question 10](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 100 pts**

Many economists argue that electricity prices in the United States are too low because…

Group of answer choices



They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating the electricity



Too many suppliers go out of business



Electric companies have a monopoly in their service areas



Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy

[Flag question: Question 11](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 110 pts**

Which of the following is a leading cause of the depletion of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean?

Group of answer choices



Fishers seeking to maximize their catch



Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization



Ocean pollution



Global climate change

[Flag question: Question 12](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 120 pts**

Which of the following are examples of environmental justice issues? (Check all that apply)

Group of answer choices



Urban citizens win a bill to have toxic wastes taken to rural communities



The government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands to create hydro-power for large cities



All stakeholders from an indigenous community are involved in setting a quota for the amount of wood they can take from a protected forest next to their village



Multi-national corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict

[Flag question: Question 13](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 130 pts**

Which of the following activities has the largest environmental impact?

Group of answer choices



Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours



Producing one fast-food quarter-pound hamburger



Producing one fast-food chicken sandwich



Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington D.C. to China

[Flag question: Question 14](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 140 pts**

How concerned are you about the state of the natural environment?

Group of answer choices



Not at all concerned



A little concerned



Moderately concerned



Very concerned



Extremely concerned

[Flag question: Question 15](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 150 pts**

Now, please think about the **average Cornell student**. In your best guess, how concerned do you think they are about the state of the natural environment?

Group of answer choices



Not at all concerned



A little concerned



Moderately concerned



Very concerned



Extremely concerned

[Flag question: Question 16](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 160 pts**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For each of the following items, please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement.** | |
| Equal rights for all people strengthens a community | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| Community cooperation is necessary to solve social problems | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| Generally speaking consumerism is not sustainable | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| Access to clean water is a universal human right | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| I am willing to put forth a little more effort in my daily life to reduce my environmental impact | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| An unsustainable economy values personal wealth at the costs of others | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| I believe that many people can work together to solve global problems | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| Clean air is part of a good life | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| Our present consumption of natural resources will result in serious environmental challenges for future generations | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| The well-being of others affects me | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| Biological diversity in itself is good | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| Climate change is an unstoppable process, we cannot do anything about it. | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| I think hazardous facilities are more common in minority communities. | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| For economic reasons, minority communities are forced to accept more industrial pollution than non-minority communities. | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| Minority communities lack the political clout to stop hazardous facilities from being located near them. | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
| The government should restrict the placing of hazardous facilities in minority communities. | ["", "", "", "", ""] |
|  |  |

[Flag question: Question 17](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

**Question 170 pts**

Which of these motivate you to engage in sustainable behaviors? (Choose all that apply)

Group of answer choices



Friends



Family



Protecting human health & well-being



Protecting animals & ecosystems



Saving money



Influencing systems to change



Supporting social justice



Concerns about my future



Concerns about the future of others



It's the right thing to do to make the world a better place



None of these - I'm really just not interested in sustainability



Other - something not listed

[Flag question: Spacer](https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/29274/quizzes/62725/take?preview=1)

Please click "Submit Quiz" to complete the survey.  
  
Curious to know the answers to the first twelve questions? Well, we would love to share, but … this survey is designed to test **us,**your educators and staff partners at Cornell, to see how well we provide students with the tools you need to learn about climate change and sustainability. To see the right answers, we’ll need you to take the follow-up survey this spring.

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