



## KEENE STATE COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY ASSESSMENT

iQ Score: Fair

Published

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Q1 Thank you for supporting Keene State College (KSC) in its assessment of how well our campus community understands and teaches topics of sustainability. In 2017, Keene State approved a College-Wide Learning Outcome for sustainability. It states:

*Keene State College students will explore their place in interconnected natural and human systems; evaluate the personal, social, and environmental impacts of their choices; and apply their knowledge and skills for building a just, resilient, and thriving world.*

This Sustainability Literacy Assessment helps the College determine how well our courses and programs achieve the goals of the Sustainability Learning Outcome. Your input will provide vital information to help us improve existing courses and programs, develop new opportunities for students on campus, and so much more. This Assessment is administered to all entering First Year Students and then again at graduation. It will really help KSC learn how well we teach you about sustainability and climate change.

Your answers are confidential, will not be shared, and will not affect your grades, GPA, or anything about your academic experience at KSC. This assessment, and your answers, will be used only to help KSC improve our approaches to sustainability education on campus. This is incredibly important feedback we need to build the best teaching and learning experiences possible.

**Thank you for your participation.** Please do your best to answer all the questions and make sure to read all the choices before you answer. It will really help us.




Q3 Which of the following is a key concept of sustainability?


- Ensuring that people continue to buy more goods and use more resources, indefinitely
- 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
- Only using recycled materials for production
- Don't know

 Q4 Which of the following is the most urgent sustainability issue facing the world today?


- Hazardous waste landfills
- Overfishing the world's oceans
- Building shopping malls
- Global climate change
- Don't know

 Q22 When we think of environmental sustainability we also have to consider how the impacts of saving the planet affect people. True or false?


- True
- False
- Don't know

 Q23 Which of the following is a choice that balance the wellbeing of people *and* the environment?

- Drinking water and other beverages (like coffee) from a reusable containers
- Using single-use, throw away, plastic bottles and bags
- Keeping GDP as a means for tracking the success of an economy
- Outsourcing work to countries that have less strict regulations
- Don't know

 Q24 Which of the following is the best example of environmental justice?

- Urban citizens win a bill to have toxic wastes taken to rural communities.
- The US government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands to create hydropower for large cities.
- Community members should be involved in making decisions about how resources, like wood, can be used from a protected forest next to their village.
- Multinational corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict.
- Don't know

 Q63 What are some of the Indigenous peoples in the New England States?

- Abenaki, Wampanoag, Mohegan
- Apache, Navajo, Hopi
- Chehalis, Hoh, Skokomish
- Chippewa, Ojibwe, Upper Sioux
- Don't know



What is the most predominant ecological habitat in New England?

Q64



- Oak-Hickory forests
- Northern broadleaf forests (dominated by maples, birch, American Beech and includes Eastern Hemlocks and White Pines)
- Northern conifer forests (predominantly spruce and fir)
- Fresh water marshes
- Abandoned fields
- Don't know



Which of the following examples is a true statement of how human and natural systems are interconnected, or interdependent?

Q65



- A) Many of the world's food crops depend on bee pollination, but bee populations are threatened and dying because of human caused habitat loss and pollution.
- B) Creation of impervious (paved) area to build new roads and parking lots enhances local water quality so aquatic life can thrive
- C) Food waste from Keene State College is properly composted to create organically rich material that enhances soil health for plants to grow
- D) Logging the world's forests enhances air quality and improves global climate conditions.
- E) A and B
- F) A and C
- G) B and D
- H) Don't know



What percentage of the world's reputable scientists agree that the Earth's climate is warming?

Q6



- 10%
- 25%
- 50%
- Over 97%
- Don't know



Is there a relationship between the earth's average temperature and the amount of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere?

Q7



- Yes
- No
- Don't know



Which of the following are the primary greenhouse gases affecting the earth's climate?

Q50



- Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide
- Methane, nitrous oxide, and oxygen
- Helium, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen
- Krypton, ozone, and methane
- Don't know

■ Q8 In which of these ranges is the current level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?



- Click to write Choice 10 to 100 parts per million (ppm)
- 150 to 250 ppm
- 300 to 350 ppm
- 400 to 500
- More than 500 ppm
- Don't know

■ Q51 What does the global scientific community identify as the safe levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide needed for planetary and human health and to reduce the worst effects of a changing climate?



- Click to write Choice 10 to 100 parts per million (ppm)
- 150 to 249 ppm
- 250 to 350 ppm
- More than 400 ppm
- Don't know

■ Q10 What is the primary reason for increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?



- Evapotranspiration of plants
- Natural climate cycles moving at the same rate as they always have been
- Human activities that involve the burning of fossil fuels
- Gasses emitted by the world's oceans
- Don't know

■ Q11 What are the two biggest contributors of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the United States?



- Energy and transportation
- Agriculture and food waste
- Recycling and trash collection
- Factory emissions and materials use
- Don't know

■ Q12 Which of the following impacts can be expected if the planet continues to warm to 1.5-degrees Celsius or greater during this century?



- Increased land and water temperatures
- More high intensity storms with heavy precipitation and flooding
- Droughts and wildfires
- Sea level rise
- Impacts to human health, livelihoods, food security, and economic well-being
- All of the above
- None of the above
- Don't know



Who is most likely to feel the impacts of climate change?

Q13



- United States
- Europe
- Small island nations and least developed countries
- China
- Don't know



What has to happen for world-wide for average global temperatures to stabilize at 1.5-degrees Celsius or less?

Q14



- The amount of forested land needs to decrease substantially.
- Carbon dioxide emissions world-wide must decrease rapidly and reach net-zero by 2050
- All countries must commit to reducing emissions the same amount
- Nothing needs to happen
- Don't know



Other than global climate change, what are the other critical environmental problems affecting the world?

Q52



- Biodiversity loss and extinctions
- Water scarcity and lack of clean drinking water
- Mismanaged waste and its accumulation in the environment
- Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution of the world's waters
- None of the above
- All of the above
- Don't know



What does it mean to live in a watershed?

Q40



- (A) It means understanding that your impacts affect people downstream
- (B) It means that what you do on the land (e.g., changing your oil, littering, fertilizing your lawn) has the potential to affect nearby streams and rivers
- (C) It means that you live in a hard-paved area where the water from rain can penetrate the soil
- It means a and c
- It means a and b
- None of the above
- Don't know




Where does most of the world's drinking water come from?

Q29



- Single use plastic water bottles
- The oceans
- Wells
- Streams, rivers, and reservoirs
- Don't know

 **Q28** In many cities and towns, and certainly Keene, what areas are in most danger of pollution?



- Streams, rivers, and lakes (known as surface waters) because of runoff from the parking lots, streets, and over-fertilized lawns
- Drinking water supplies
- The trees and forest because of deforestation.
- None of the above
- Don't know

 **Q54** Can water pollution in Keene affect water quality in the Connecticut River and even further downstream in the Long Island Sound?




- Yes
- No
- Don't know

 **Q55** Does air pollution stay local?




- Yes
- No
- Don't know

 **Q56** Can air pollution in New York State and Pennsylvania affect the water quality of the Connecticut River near Keene?




- Yes
- No
- Don't know

 **Q15** What does a carbon footprint tell you?




- The amount of carbon emitted from coal mining
- There is no such thing as a carbon footprint
- The amount of greenhouse gases, especially carbon, that are produced by your lifestyle choices
- How much water you use when you wash your clothes
- Don't know

 **Q37** What do we mean by the life cycle of a product?




- Knowing how long the product should last and whether it has a lifetime warranty
- Taking into account how you dispose of the product at the end of its life
- Considering all of the steps involved in creating a product you buy: raw material extraction, material processing and shipping, manufacturing, packaging, product shipping, product use, and disposal/recycling
- Evaluating how often and how many people can use it before it breaks
- Don't know

 **How can consumers lower their carbon footprint over the life cycle of a product?**

Q42




- Use products for a short period of time, then dispose of them.
- Shop for things online and get them delivered.
- Look for the cheapest product.
- Buy products made locally and shop second hand.
- Don't know

 **An important way to live a more sustainable lifestyle is to be a conscious, or ethical, consumer. What does this mean?**

Q41




- Doing research to figure out the hidden impacts of the products I purchase, like considering the life cycle costs
- Thinking about how much money I am saving on a product
- Reviewing consumer guides and other ratings to see how much people like the product
- Trying to keep up with the latest trends
- Don't know

 **What is the most important food choice I can make to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions?**

Q34




- Eat a plant-based diet (e.g., vegan, vegetarian)
- Choose fast food options when possible
- Choose foods that are grown or made far away, instead of local
- Eat more meat
- Don't know

 **Keene State College has a goal of being powered 100% by renewable sources by 2030. Please indicate which of the following are renewable energy resources:**

Q21



	Is Renewable	Is not Renewable	Don't Know
Oil	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geothermal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wind	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Solar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nuclear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hydroelectric	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

 **Of the following, which mode of transportation is the least sustainable?**

Q31



- Driving my personal car alone for an hour
- Travelling on a public bus that is filled with people for an hour
- Taking a one-hour jet plane trip
- Riding a bike borrowed from KSC's Green Bikes program for one hour
- Don't know



Q27

One of Keene State's sustainability goals is to reduce water usage per capita by 20%. As a student living on campus, how can you help reach that goal?



- Drink less water
- Cut three minutes off your shower
- Shut off the lights when you leave the room
- Drink only from plastic bottles
- Don't know



Q43

What are steps you can take to help KSC meet its goal of being a zero-waste certified campus by 2030?



- Recycle paper, plastics, and cans and bottles
- Minimize packaging
- Don't waste your food and compost the food waste you have
- Buy reusable items
- All the above
- None of the above
- Don't know



Q57

Which of the following household wastes is considered a hazardous waste?



- Plastic containers
- Glass bottles
- Batteries
- Metal cans
- Spoiled food
- Don't know



Q30

True or False: The new sustainability goals of Keene State only involve actions taken by the college, and not the student body.



- True
- False
- Don't know



Q46

**PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF**





Please use the scale below to rate how often you acted in each of the following ways.

Q62



- Save energy (e.g., turn off the lights when leaving a room, turning off my electronics when not in use, use the dryer only for full loads)
- Conserve water (e.g., take shorter showers, turn off water when I brush my teeth)
- Reduce waste (e.g., take only what I can eat at meals so I do not throw leftovers away, think before I buy, carry my own shopping bag, buy in bulk to avoid packaging, limit how much I print things and only do it double-sided)
- Recycle what I can (e.g., bottles, cans, plastics numbered #1 and #2, paper)
- Choose low-impact transportation (e.g., carpool, mass transit, bicycle, walk)
- Make diet choices that support the planet's sustainability (e.g., mostly plants, locally grown foods, smaller portions, Fair Trade products)
- Compost food scraps and other compostable materials (e.g., paper towels, paper napkins, pizza boxes)
- Print double-sided whenever I can
- Get out in nature to appreciate the beautiful earth (e.g., hiking, gardening)
- Get involved in making political choices for the earth and human health (e.g., vote)

Never Sometimes Often Always

	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
Save energy (e.g., turn off the lights when leaving a room, turning off my electronics when not in use, use the dryer only for full loads)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conserve water (e.g., take shorter showers, turn off water when I brush my teeth)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce waste (e.g., take only what I can eat at meals so I do not throw leftovers away, think before I buy, carry my own shopping bag, buy in bulk to avoid packaging, limit how much I print things and only do it double-sided)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycle what I can (e.g., bottles, cans, plastics numbered #1 and #2, paper)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Choose low-impact transportation (e.g., carpool, mass transit, bicycle, walk)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Make diet choices that support the planet's sustainability (e.g., mostly plants, locally grown foods, smaller portions, Fair Trade products)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compost food scraps and other compostable materials (e.g., paper towels, paper napkins, pizza boxes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Print double-sided whenever I can	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Get out in nature to appreciate the beautiful earth (e.g., hiking, gardening)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Get involved in making political choices for the earth and human health (e.g., vote)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If I want to be more involved in sustainability related activities on campus, I know where to get information about how to be involved.

Q61



- Yes, I am aware of the campus organizations and actions
- Partially: I know a little about what Keene State College is doing and how to get involved
- Not at all, I do not know how to get involved.

What year are you?

Q47



- First year
- Second year
- Third year
- Senior

Where do you live when not at Keene State?

Q48



- Big city of more than 500,000 people
- Suburbs of a city
- Medium city of 100,000 to 300,000 people
- Rural area



What are you studying, or planning to study?

Q49



- Physical sciences (like chemistry, biology, and math)
- Environmental sciences and sustainability (like environmental studies, sustainable product design, geography, sustainability)
- Social science (like sociology and psychology)
- Humanities (like art, music, and English)
- Education
- Design, architecture, and safety



Thank you very much for participating in KSC's Sustainability outcome assessment! Click the arrow below to submit your responses and to see how you did on this assessment.

Q66



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End of Survey

[Survey Termination Options...](#)

