

Environmental Literacy Survey

Demographics

1. What is your class year?

- First-year
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

2. What is your sex?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to answer

3. What is your (expected) major(s) (and minor(s))?

4. Have you taken a class that focuses on or relates to sustainability?

- Yes, at Colby
- Yes, before Colby
- Yes, at Colby and before Colby
- No

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Sustainability and You

5. What is your attitude towards sustainability (using the triple-bottom-line definition, which accounts for human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations)?

Strongly Supportive	Supportive	Indifferent	Not Supportive	Strongly Against
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. How important was sustainability in your decision to attend Colby?

Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important at all
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It is important to conserve energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change is real, caused by humans, and is going to/already is causing major weather-related disruptions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to conserve water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural areas are important for our wellbeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buying locally is generally good for the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling makes a difference and is worthwhile	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Please indicate to what extent you practice the following:

	Almost Always	Often	Sometimes	Almost Never	Never
Recycle (i.e., paper, bottles, cans, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consciously conserve water (i.e., take shorter showers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use reusable shopping bags	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take, bike, walk, carpool, or mass transit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unplug appliances when not in use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buy local food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buy other, non-food products from local, independent businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Sustainability in General

9. The United States, with less than 5 % of the global population, uses about what percentage of the world's fossil fuel resources (coal, oil, natural gas) that are consumed annually?

- 10%
- 25%
- 50%
- 70%
- I don't know

10. Which of the following is an example of a negative environmental externality (select all that apply)?

- The greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels
- Planting trees
- Fertilizer runoff
- Littering
- I don't know

11. Rank the following personal actions in order by their impact on the environment (1 signifies most positive impact while a 5 signifies the least positive impact):

<input type="text"/>	Eliminating red meat consumption
<input type="text"/>	Trading in an older vehicle for a new hybrid vehicle (assume 15,000 miles driver per year)
<input type="text"/>	Eliminating airplane travel
<input type="text"/>	Taking a shorter shower (reduce by 1 minute each day)
<input type="text"/>	Shutting off the lights in your dorm room

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12. When purchasing products such as groceries, clothing, and toiletries, the best ways to support a sustainable and local economy is to purchase from [rank from best (1) to worst (5)]:

<input type="text"/>	Large chain stores that may employ workers from the local community
<input type="text"/>	Online discount retailers
<input type="text"/>	Stores that sell locally-produced and/or recycled goods
<input type="text"/>	Farmers' markets
<input type="text"/>	Independently-owned stores

13. Rank the following activities according to what you think is most resource-efficient [from most efficient (1) to least efficient (5)]:

<input type="text"/>	Using biodegradable goods and composting them
<input type="text"/>	Using paper goods and recycling them
<input type="text"/>	Using plastic goods and recycling them
<input type="text"/>	Using reusable containers made of glass
<input type="text"/>	Using reusable containers made of recycled plastic

14. Which of the following processes uses the largest volume of water in the United States?

- Irrigation (i.e., watering crops)
- Livestock (i.e., providing water for cattle)
- Mining (i.e., for extracting resources)
- Public supply (i.e., drinking water)

15. Which of the following is an example of a social justice problem (select all that apply)?

- Sending our electronic waste to developing countries
- The unequal effects from global climate change
- Subsidizing renewable energy for low-income families
- Placing a factory in a high-minority area
- Loss of natural habitat

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Sustainability at Colby

16. According to Clean Air-Cool Planet, which makes the calculator that Colby uses to measure our greenhouse gas emissions, "carbon neutrality means there is no net increase of atmospheric greenhouse gases from the existence of the [organization]." What does carbon neutrality mean for Colby?

- We produce all of the energy and heat we use on campus through alternative energy
- We do not emit any greenhouse gases
- We generate steam and electricity on campus from emissions-free resources, and purchase offsets or renewable energy credits for the remainder of our emissions
- All of our emissions are cleaned, or scrubbed, before they are released into the atmosphere

17. How would you describe the environment around Colby?

- Coniferous Forest (Coniferous forest regions have cold, long, snowy winters, and warm, humid summers; well-defined seasons, at least four to six frost-free months)
- Temperate Deciduous Forest (Temperate deciduous forests go through four seasons. Leaves change color in autumn, fall off in the winter, and grow back in the spring.)
- Shrubland (Shrubland plants have adapted to fire caused by the frequent lightning that occurs in the hot, dry summers.)
- Grassland (characterized as lands dominated by grasses)

18. At Colby, which of the following items can you divert (i.e., recycle, compost, or reuse) from the waste stream (select all that apply)?

- Batteries
- Chip bags
- Paper coffee cups
- Shampoo bottles
- Technological goods
- Food scraps

19. What percentage of Dining Services food purchases is local and organic?

- 5
- 10
- 20
- 45

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20. What energy source do we use to produce 90% of the College's steam, used primarily to heat buildings and hot water?

- Heating Oil
- Natural Gas
- Biomass
- Geothermal Wells
- Coal

21. Colby has a goal of achieving at least a LEED Silver rating on every new construction project. What does LEED stand for?

- Low Emitting Energy Diodes
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
- Lighting, Engineering, and Environmental Design
- Lifetime Energy Efficiency Doctrine
- I don't know

22. What alternative modes of transportation are available or used by the Colby community (select all that apply)?

- iBike
- Jitney
- ZipCar
- Rideboard
- Bus

23. What is the primary environmental benefit of the RESCUE sale?

- Provide less expensive dorm goods to Colby students
- Promote the reuse of durable goods that haven't reached the end of their lives
- Reduce the burden on landfills
- Colby needed another acronym
- Require students to evaluate their personal items and identify what can be reused