

## Consent

The Colby College Office of Sustainability is collecting responses to the survey below as part of a research project. The survey asks questions about sustainability in general, sustainability at Colby, and personal behavior, and takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. If you choose to complete the survey by clicking "Yes" below, your responses will be recorded anonymously and you are free to leave any of the questions unanswered.

Your responses will be used to inform strengths and weaknesses in Colby's sustainability program in terms of communication and education. At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to enter into a sweepstakes for one of five \$20 giftcards to local restaurants, including WHOP and Pad Thai Too. If you choose "yes", you will be redirected to another form and asked to enter your email address. This email will only be used to contact you if you win, and will not be linked to your responses to this survey.

If you would like to learn more about this research project, please feel free to contact [sustainability@colby.edu](mailto:sustainability@colby.edu).

Thank you for participating! Please click "Yes" to begin.

Yes

## Demographics

What is your graduation year?

2021

2018

Select the categories that are closest to your major(s) and minor(s):

Anthropology

Art

Biology

Chemistry

Computer Science

East Asian Studies

Economics

Education

Environmental Studies

Geology

Government

History

Latin American Studies

Math

Music

Philosophy

Physics

Psychology

Religious Studies

Science, Technology, and Society

- Sociology
- Theater and Dance
- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- World Language

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

- Yes, at Colby
- Yes, in high school
- Yes, at another higher education institution
- Yes, at and before Colby
- No

## Sustainability and You

To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Climate change is real, caused by humans, and is going to/already has caused major weather-related disruptions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to conserve energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water is not a scarce resource	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural areas are important for our well-being	<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 is not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global climate change impacts me personally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Indicate to what extent you do the following:

	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	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"/>
Unplug electronics and chargers when not in use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buy non-food products from local, independent businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finish all food on your plate in dining halls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use the shuttle, walk, bike, or other alternative transportation methods (no single-rider cars)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Sustainability in General

The following questions are adapted from the Ohio State University's Assessment of Sustainability Knowledge (ASK) survey and pertain to your knowledge about the environment. Please answer the questions to the best of your knowledge and do not look up the answer.

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

- 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
- Don't know

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

- Acid rain
- Climate change
- Sudden changes in temperature
- Harmful UV rays
- Don't know

What is the name of the primary federal agency that oversees environmental regulation?

- Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA)
- Department of Health, Environment, and Safety (the DHES)
- National Environmental Agency (the NEA)
- Federal Pollution Control Agency (the FPCA)
- Don't know

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

- 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
- Don't know

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

- Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, healthcare, 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
- Don't know

Over the past 3 decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans?

- The difference has increased
- The difference has stayed about the same
- The difference has decreased
- Don't know

Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because...

- 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 area
- Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy
- Don't know

Which of the following countries has now passed the U.S. as the biggest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide?

- China
- Sweden
- Brazil
- Japan
- Don't know

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

- Fishermen seeking to maximize their catch
- Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization
- Ocean pollution
- Global climate change
- Don't know

Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of economic sustainability?

- Maximizing the share price of a company's stock
- Long term profitability
- When costs equal revenue
- Continually expanding market share
- Don't know

Which of the following is the primary reason that gasoline prices have risen over the last several decades in the U.S.?

- Growing percentage of gas stations owned by large corporations
- Increasing oil discoveries overseas
- Higher rates of state and federal gasoline tax
- Increasing global demand for oil
- Don't know

What are the potential effects of global climate change?

- Loss of habitats
- Less severe weather
- Loss of ozone layer
- Decrease in sea level

Don't know

Living in Maine, coastal fisheries are a major factor of the economy, with Maine ranking third in value landings nationwide (2013). However, fisheries in the Gulf of Maine are declining. Which of the following is the greatest pressure leading to the degradation of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem?

- Hurricanes
- Warming ocean temperatures
- Dredging
- Pollution from recreational boats
- Don't know

The most significant driver in the loss of species and ecosystems around the world is...

- Overhunting/overharvesting
- Conversion of natural spaces into human developments (farmland, cities, etc.)
- Acid rain
- Breeding of animals in zoos
- Don't know

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 government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands to create hydropower 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
- Don't know

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

- Recycling all recyclable packaging
- Reducing consumption of all products
- Buying products labeled "eco" or "green"
- Buying the newest products available
- Don't know

Using resources, like fossil fuels, can create economic growth. However, future generations may be disadvantaged if the current generation overuses these resources. Which of the following principles can we follow if we do not want to disadvantage the next generation?

- Renewable resources such as fish, soil, and groundwater must be used no faster than the rate at which they regenerate
- Nonrenewable resources such as minerals and fossil fuels must be used up quickly to encourage the development of renewable substitutes
- Pollution must be emitted at current levels so that natural systems can maintain the ability to absorb them, recycle them, or render them harmless
- None of the above are true
- Don't know

Which of the following statements about water is true?

- Globally, water for personal use such as washing dishes, doing laundry, and bathing is the major user of water resources
- Globally, freshwater reserves (aquifers) are used faster than they are replenished
- Floods and severe weather will increase the availability of clean drinking water
- Because water is a free and abundant resource, it is not a major concern for most countries
- Don't know

Imagine that we had to pay for all the costs associated with the goods we use every day. What would go into calculating the true costs of a product?

- The cost of raw materials to make the product
- The cost of environmental damage caused by production
- The cost of health care for employees who manufacture the product
- All of the above
- Don't know

Put the following list in order of the activities with the largest environmental impact to those with the smallest environmental impact:

- A. Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours
- B. Producing one McDonald's quarter-pound hamburger
- C. Producing one McDonald's chicken sandwich
- D. Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington D.C. to China

- A, C, B, D
- D, A, B, C
- D, C, B, A
- D, B, C, A
- Don't know

Workers around the world face a variety of social injustices, including low wages, poor working conditions, and lack of access to education. To help improve conditions for these workers you can:

- Support corporations that do not allow workers to join labor unions
- Buy the newest products to keep factories around the world open
- Purchase products from companies that conduct business in a socially responsible manner
- Support large corporations because they generally have more money to pay their workers
- Don't know

## Sustainability at Colby

How important was sustainability in your decision to attend Colby?

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Extremely important   | Very important        | Indifferent           | Not very important    | Not at all important  |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

According to CarbonMap, the calculator that Colby uses to measure its 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

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

- Paper coffee cups from dining halls
- Chip bags
- Shampoo bottles
- Technological goods (i.e. working computers, cell phones)
- Food scraps
- Utensils from the Spa

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

- Heating oil
- Natural gas
- Biomass
- Geothermal wells
- Coal

What would you expect is the primary environmental benefit of the RESCUE sale?

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

What percentage of Colby's total electricity will the new 1.9 MW solar array provide?

- 100%
- 43%
- 16%
- 1%

"The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS®) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance." What is Colby's current STARS rating?

- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold
- Platinum

What types of renewable energy does Colby have ON campus? Select all that apply.

- Wind

- Solar
- Geothermal
- Biomass
- Hydropower

What percent of Colby's purchased electricity comes from a renewable resource?

- 25%
- 50%
- 75%
- 100%

### Sweepstakes entry

Do you want to be entered into a random drawing to win one of five \$20 gift cards to local restaurants like WHOP or Pad Thai Too? If you choose yes, you will be redirected to another form and will need to input your email address in order to be entered into the drawing. This information will not be shared with anyone and will just be used to contact you if you win. If you choose no, the survey will end.

- Yes
- No