

# UR Office for Sustainability Commuter and Sustainability Culture Survey

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FALL 2021 | SUMMARY OF RESULTS



Institutional Effectiveness  
DECEMBER 14, 2021 | IFX.RICHMOND.EDU

*Administration Period: November 1-29, 2021  
Response Rate: 16% (1,013 responded/6,534 invited)*

# Commuter and Sustainability Culture Survey

## Fall 2021 | Summary of Results

The UR Office for Sustainability Commuter and Sustainability Culture Survey was administered online from November 1 to November 29, 2021, to faculty, staff, and students. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate commuting behavior to campus and to gain a better understanding of sustainability-related values, behavior, and awareness. Of the 6,534 individuals invited to participate in the survey, 1,013 responded, resulting in a 16% response rate.

<b>What is your primary affiliation with the University of Richmond?</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>	<b>%</b>
Faculty (full-time)	170	16.8%
Faculty (part-time)	27	2.7%
Staff (full-time)	451	44.5%
Staff (part-time)	31	3.1%
Undergraduate Student	235	23.2%
Graduate Student	99	9.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Your age is:</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>	<b>%</b>
17 years or less	2	0.2%
18-24 years	267	26.4%
25-34 years	160	15.8%
35-49 years	255	25.3%
50-64 years	260	25.7%
65 years or more	66	6.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>In which school is your graduate program? (Graduate Students)</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>	<b>%</b>
Business	1	1.0%
Law	73	73.7%
School of Professional & Continuing Studies	25	25.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>What is your primary school? (Undergraduate Students)</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>	<b>%</b>
Arts & Sciences	161	68.5%
Business	44	18.7%
Jepson	17	7.2%
School of Professional & Continuing Studies	13	5.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Are you a full-time or part-time student? (Undergraduate Students)</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>	<b>%</b>
Full-time	225	95.7%
Part-time	10	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Do you live on campus? (Undergraduate Students)	Survey Responses	%
Yes	177	79.7%
No	45	20.3%
Total	222	100.0%

Approximately how many miles do you live from campus during the academic year?	Min.	Max.	Survey Responses	Mean
	1	125	829	12.23

Do you have a parking permit for the 2021-2022 academic year?	Survey Responses	%
Yes	799	95.6%
No	37	4.4%
Total	836	100.0%

How do you typically travel to campus? Choose one option for each day of the week. If you use more than one type of transportation on a single day, select the transportation you use for the longest distance of your trip.								
Day of Week	Survey Responses	Personal Vehicle	Carpool/ Vanpool	Walk	Bus/ Shuttle	Bike	Do not travel to campus	Other
Monday	826	84.3%	1.8%	1.5%	0.9%	0.7%	10.9%	0.0%
Tuesday	822	85.5%	2.0%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	9.6%	0.0%
Wednesday	826	85.0%	1.5%	1.3%	1.6%	0.7%	9.8%	0.1%
Thursday	822	82.6%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%	0.7%	12.8%	0.0%
Friday	820	71.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.1%	0.7%	23.2%	0.0%
Saturday	788	17.0%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%	81.1%	0.4%
Sunday	785	17.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	80.8%	0.4%
<b>Please specify the other way(s) you typically travel to campus.</b>								
I don't travel to campus on Saturday nor Sunday								
Off that day								

What type of vehicle do you drive to campus?	Survey Responses	%
Gas	699	88.3%
Non-plug-in hybrid	68	8.6%
Plug-in hybrid	13	1.6%
Electric	8	1.0%
Diesel	4	0.5%
Total	792	100.0%

Please indicate the reasons you do not walk or bicycle to get to campus or do not use them more often (select up to three reasons). (n=793)	Survey Responses	%
It is too far	544	68.6%
It is unsafe	376	47.4%
I need a vehicle during the day	177	22.3%
I don't own a bicycle	176	22.2%
It is too difficult.	139	17.5%
Other	107	13.5%

Please indicate the reasons you do not carpool, vanpool, or ride a bus to get to campus or do not use these transportation options more often (select up to three reasons). (n=778)	Survey Responses	%
I need a vehicle on the way to/from work for personal/family responsibilities	414	53.2%
My work schedule is irregular	278	35.7%
Bus travel is too difficult	193	24.8%
I need a vehicle during work hours	172	22.1%
I do not feel safe using the bus	34	4.4%
Other	191	24.6%

Approximately how many days per week do you make a trip within the campus (drive and park in a lot other than the lot for your residential permit)? (n=175) Mean: 1.20	Survey Responses	%
0	104	59.43%
1	19	10.86%
2	17	9.71%
3	10	5.71%
4	11	6.29%
5	6	3.43%
6	3	1.71%
7	5	2.86%

Approximately how many miles is your permanent (non-UR) residence from the University of Richmond campus?	Min.	Max.	Survey Responses	Mean
	0.5	13,218	156	823.38

Please select which breaks, if any, you typically travel from campus to your permanent (non-UR) residence. (n=177)	Survey Responses	%
Fall Break	87	49.2%
Thanksgiving Break	149	84.2%
Winter Break	171	96.6%
Spring Break	111	62.7%
Summer Recess	163	92.1%
None	3	1.7%

When you travel between UR and your permanent (non-UR) residence, which method of transportation do you typically use? (n=177)	Survey Responses	%
Automobile	116	65.5%
Air travel	81	45.8%
Train	27	15.3%
Carpool/vanpool	13	7.3%
Public bus	7	4.0%
Other (specify):	3	1.7%
<b>Other:</b>		
Air travel for thanksgiving and spring break; automobile for winter and summer		
Walk		
Walking		

<b>Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (5)</b>	<b>Somewhat agree (4)</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree (3)</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Sustainability is important to me.	57.2%	35.2%	5.2%	1.1%	1.4%	956	4.46
Sustainability is important to UR.	39.7%	43.6%	10.4%	4.5%	1.8%	935	4.15
Sustainability is important to UR students.	31.2%	46.3%	15.7%	5.6%	1.3%	875	4.01
UR is taking the actions needed to advance sustainability on campus.	32.8%	44.4%	13.5%	7.1%	2.3%	920	3.98
Sustainability is important to UR faculty.	26.5%	46.4%	20.8%	5.1%	1.3%	852	3.92
Operations (e.g. air, climate, buildings, energy, food, dining practices, grounds, purchasing standards, transportation options, waste, water)	29.3%	44.4%	13.4%	8.5%	4.5%	809	3.86
Sustainability is important to UR staff.	22.6%	47.4%	23.7%	4.9%	1.4%	872	3.85
Engagement (e.g. outreach materials, publications, community partnerships, staff and student ambassador programs)	23.9%	47.5%	19.1%	7.4%	2.2%	784	3.83
I am well aware of sustainability efforts on campus.	28.6%	42.2%	14.3%	9.4%	5.5%	944	3.79
Planning and Administration (e.g. policy, coordination, planning)	18.9%	42.4%	24.8%	9.7%	4.3%	746	3.62
Academics (e.g. curriculum, research)	17.7%	40.9%	28.5%	10.6%	2.4%	663	3.61
My understanding of sustainability has increased since I arrived at UR.	23.5%	33.8%	22.0%	10.7%	9.9%	931	3.50
UR's sustainability reputation influenced my decision to come here.	5.2%	7.3%	39.2%	12.8%	35.6%	812	2.34

<b>Please indicate which of the following areas you believe we must address first when considering sustainability at University of Richmond? (You may select up to three areas.) (n=879)</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>	<b>%</b>
Diverting landfill waste, through source reduction, composting, donations, and recycling	536	61.0%
Meeting our carbon neutrality commitment by drastically reducing UR's emissions of carbon dioxide and offsetting remaining emissions	499	56.8%
Constructing ecologically sound, efficient and accessible buildings that create healthy environments for working and learning	386	43.9%
Procuring local, organic, fair trade, or humanely raised food	236	26.9%
Managing landscaping that captures campus stormwater runoff to protect the James River	230	26.2%
Designing additional bike and pedestrian paths that link the campus and community	205	23.3%
Maintaining ample green spaces for recreation, social interaction, and aesthetic enjoyment	174	19.8%
Adding coursework in sustainability as a graduation requirement	117	13.3%

<b>How familiar are you with each of the following at University of Richmond?</b>	<b>Survey Responses</b>	<b>Very Familiar</b>	<b>Somewhat Familiar</b>	<b>Not Familiar</b>
Office for Sustainability	907	28.0%	47.0%	25.0%
UR Climate Action Plan	904	8.1%	38.9%	53.0%
UR Sustainability Plan	907	12.6%	47.1%	40.4%
Gamble's Mill Eco-Corridor	907	42.2%	29.9%	27.9%
Green Building Standard for New Construction (LEED/EarthCraft Certification)	907	22.9%	40.9%	36.2%
Rethink Waste	907	19.6%	39.4%	41.0%
Solar projects (Weinstein Solar Array or Spider Solar)	906	17.0%	37.8%	45.3%
STARS Gold Rating	906	7.5%	27.7%	64.8%
Sustainability Courses	907	8.5%	34.8%	56.7%
Sustainability & Environmental Awareness Committee	907	7.0%	33.3%	59.8%