

# Sustainability Literacy Assessment

The following is a Sustainability Literacy Assessment designed to measure the student body's overall knowledge of sustainability and related topics. This is an ungraded assignment and will have no bearing on your final grade in the class. Your responses to this survey will guide our sustainability education and efforts.

Please select the answer that you feel best fits the question. In cases where you don't know or aren't sure about the answer, please circle "I don't know." This assessment is anonymous and other than the optional demographic questions, no personally identifying information will be collected. Please do not put your name anywhere on this assessment.

For more information, please visit the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment at [sustainability.illinois.edu](https://sustainability.illinois.edu).

 mkm0078@illinois.edu (not shared) [Switch account](#)



\* Required

What is your role at UIUC?

- First year student
- Second year student
- Third year student
- Fourth year student
- Fifth year student or beyond
- Graduate student
- Staff
- Faculty
- Other



To which college does your major belong (select all that apply)?

- Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences
- Applied Health Sciences
- Gies College of Business
- Education
- Grainger College of Engineering
- Fine and Applied Arts
- Division of General Studies
- Graduate College
- School of Labor and Employment Relations
- Law
- Liberal Arts and Sciences
- School of Information Sciences
- Media
- Carle Illinois College of Medicine
- School of Social Work
- Veterinary Medicine



With which race/ethnicity do you identify?

- African American or Black
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian American or Asian
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- Middle Eastern
- Multiracial
- Pacific Islander
- Caucasian or White
- Other

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

- Acid rain
- Sudden changes in temperature
- Harmful UV rays
- Pollution
- I don't know



What is the primary benefit of wetlands?

- Promote flooding
- Clean the water before it enters lakes, streams, rivers, or oceans
- Keep the number of undesirable plants and animals low
- Provide good sites for landfills
- I don't know

Which of the following best describes the 17 United Nation Sustainable Development Goals?

- Funding plan for achieving sustainability objectives
- Mandatory sustainability goals to be applied to certain countries
- Call-to-action outlining universal sustainability goals applicable to all countries
- Plan to enhance green jobs and certifications
- I don't know

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

- 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
- I don't know



Which of the following is a potential effect of global climate change?

- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Less severe weather
- Increase in polar ice caps
- Decrease in sea level
- I don't know

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

- Urban residents 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.
- I don't know

Which of the following best summarizes the meaning of “environmental justice”?

- The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to natural resources and environmental policy.
- To protect, restore and promote use of ecosystems and halt biodiversity loss.
- The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products.
- The concentration or abundance of a particular gas in the air emitted by humans.
- I don't know



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
- I don't know

What percentage of global water is considered safe for human consumption?

- 1%
- 5%
- 25%
- 50%
- I don't know

The term “carbon footprint” refers to

- The amount of carbon dioxide emitted from the production of shoes
- Toxins released in the air
- Total amount of greenhouse gases generated by human activity
- Fossilized footprints left by previous generations
- I don't know



What do you think are the potential effects of global warming/climate change?  
Choose all that apply.

- Loss of habitats
- More severe weather (tsunamis, droughts, flooding, rainfall, hurricanes, etc.)
- Increase of global temperatures
- Expansion/melting of glaciers, loss of sea ice
- Increase in sea level
- Acidification
- Changes in agricultural production
- Changes in ocean salinity and circulation patterns
- I don't know

Indicate two examples of renewable energy sources.

- Gasoline
- Wind
- Coal
- Solar
- Wood
- I don't know



The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has pledged to be carbon neutral no later than 2050. What does the term “carbon neutral” mean?

- Releasing no carbon or its equivalents into the atmosphere
- Keeping the carbon levels at the same amount every year
- Making other carbon derivatives that are better to be released into the atmosphere
- Making no net release of carbon or its equivalents into the atmosphere
- I don't know

Which of the following items can be recycled at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana campus? Select all that apply.

- Aluminum cans
- Plastic bags
- Paper
- Coardboard
- Glass
- Plastic beverage containers
- Masks
- Food waste
- Napkins and paper towels
- All plastic items (#5-7s)\*\*



Please select the following statements that you agree with (select as many that apply).

- It is important to me that the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has sustainability commitments and programs.
- It makes no difference to me whether or not the University has sustainability commitments or programs.
- I did not know that the University has sustainability commitments or programs.

Please circle the following statements that you agree with (select as many that apply).

- I regularly think about the impact of my actions.
- I rarely think about the impact of my actions.
- I do not think my actions matter.
- I believe my actions have a significant impact.



Where do you get your knowledge about the environment? Please rank your top 5 sources (1 = highest priority, 5 = lowest priority) \*

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Class(es) I took at UIC	<input type="radio"/>					
Class(es) I took at other institutions	<input type="radio"/>					
Newspapers, magazines, books (print or digital)	<input type="radio"/>					
News and other television programs	<input type="radio"/>					
Non-curricular programs or activities (such as webinars, volunteering, student orgs and interest groups, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>					
Podcasts, movies and documentaries (including streaming services)	<input type="radio"/>					
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>					
The Office of Sustainability website/resources	<input type="radio"/>					
Talking with friends, family, colleagues	<input type="radio"/>					



Other



Select the option that best reflects your habits.

- I shower for about 20 minutes or less
- Showering for more than 20 minutes
- I take baths for about 20 mins or less
- I take baths for more than 20 mins

Select the option that best reflects your habits.

- Buy takeout more than half the week
- Buy take out and groceries evenly throughout the week
- Buy groceries instead of eating out more than half the week
- Buy pre-packaged snacks and small food items more than half the week

Select the option that best reflects your habits.

- Most of my waste is recyclable (papers, cans, clean cardboard, some plastics, etc.)
- Most of my waste is non-recyclable (plastic-coated items like some coffee cups and receipts, plastic grocery bags, anything with food still on it, etc.)
- Most of my waste is organic (food waste and biodegradable products)
- It's a mix of one or more of these options



Select the option that best reflects your habits.

- I turn off the lights when I leave a room that's vacant a majority of the time
- I sometimes forget to turn off the lights when I leave a room
- I don't turn off lights when I leave an empty room
- I turn off lights in unused hallways or bathrooms
- More than one of these applies to me

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)
- I don't know

LEED is a green building certification program used worldwide that rates the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of green buildings, homes, and neighborhoods. What does LEED stand for?

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
- Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design
- Leadership in Efficient Environmental Design



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