

Lehigh University Sustainability Literacy Assessment

General Sustainability

1. **Which of the following components are included in a comprehensive definition of sustainability?**
 - a. Social components
 - b. Economic components
 - c. Environmental components
 - d. All of the above

2. **Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?**
 - a. Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
 - b. Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse
 - c. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
 - d. Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health-care, and social services

Climate Change

1. **Most carbon emissions produced by US citizens are due to ...**
 - a. food consumption and transportation habits.
 - b. food consumption and household energy habits.
 - c. recycling practices and using public transportation.
 - d. household energy consumption and transportation habits.

2. **What is NOT a potential effect of global climate change?**
 - a. Loss of habitats
 - b. More severe weather
 - c. Expansion of glaciers
 - d. Increase in sea level

3. **Which activity has the largest 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

Energy

- 1. The term “renewable energy resources” means resources that...**
 - a. are free and easy to use.
 - b. are very efficient to use for producing energy.
 - c. can be converted directly into heat and electricity.
 - d. can be replenished by nature faster than they are consumed.

- 2. Which energy resource is nonrenewable?**
 - a. Solar
 - b. Biomass
 - c. Natural gas
 - d. Geothermal

- 3. Placing your cell phone in the charger when you are not using it...**
 - a. is an energy efficient practice.
 - b. uses renewable energy from the grid.
 - c. uses energy when it is not actively charging.
 - d. uses more energy than heating rooms.

Recycling and Material Flows

- 1. Where does most of the household garbage in the U.S. end up?**
 - a. Oceans
 - b. Incinerators
 - c. Recycling centers
 - d. Landfills

- 2. Which of the following household wastes is considered a hazardous waste?**
 - a. Plastic packaging
 - b. Glass
 - c. Batteries
 - d. Spoiled food

Food

1. What is a “food desert”?

- a. A large compost bin
- b. Food that has been deemed unacceptable for human consumption
- c. Urban or rural areas without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food.
- d. Area where food is not grown due to climate, therefore all food must be shipped in containers

2. Which of the following foods is the most carbon-intensive to produce?

- a. Chicken
- b. Fish
- c. Beef
- d. Pork

Environmental Resources

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

- a. Acid rain
- b. Overhunting/overharvesting
- c. Breeding of animals in zoos
- d. Conversion of natural spaces into human developments (farmland, cities, etc.)

2. What is the most common cause of pollution of streams, rivers, and oceans?

- a. Dumping of garbage by cities.
- b. Waste dumped by factories.
- c. Trash washed into the ocean from beaches.
- d. Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields.

Environmental/Social Justice

1. Which is the best environmental justice example?

- a. Urban citizens win a bill to have toxic wastes taken to rural communities
- b. The government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands, to create hydro-power for large cities
- c. Multi-national corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict

- d. 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