

Connecticut College Sustainability Literacy and Culture Survey - Literacy Questions

Thank you for taking the Connecticut College Sustainability Literacy and Culture Survey from the Office of Sustainability. One part of the survey will help us determine how well the campus community understands concepts related to sustainability. You will also have the opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences related to sustainability on campus.

Your responses will help us develop and refine sustainability programming on campus. This survey will be administered regularly so that we can track changes over time. Aggregate results will also be shared with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education as part of our sustainability reporting.

It should take you approximately 10 minutes to complete this survey. Please complete it by **Sunday, September 22**.

If you have any questions about the survey, contact the Office of Sustainability at sustainability@conncoll.edu or x5218.

We would like to acknowledge the ESS Lab at the Ohio State University and their Assessment of Sustainability Knowledge survey which inspired several of the included questions.

1. Which of the following best describes you?
 - a. Student
 - b. Faculty
 - c. Staff

2. **(For staff)** What division of the College are you in?
 - a. Admissions and Financial Aid
 - b. Advancement
 - c. Communications
 - d. Dean of the College
 - e. Dean of the Faculty
 - f. Dean of Students
 - g. Finance and Administration
 - h. President's Office/Human Resources
 - i. Information Services
 - j. Institutional Equity and Inclusion
 - k. Prefer not to say

3. **(For faculty)** What division are you in?
 - a. Arts
 - b. Humanities
 - c. Science and Mathematics
 - d. Social Science
 - e. Prefer not to say

The next 15 questions will help us determine how well the campus community understands concepts related to sustainability. It is not meant to be an individual assessment, but rather to help us evaluate the effectiveness of our education and outreach efforts.

If you don't know the answer to a question, that's OK - just select your best guess. You'll be able to see the correct answers to these questions after you complete the survey.

4. Out of the three Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle), which has the greatest environmental benefit?
 - a. Reduce
 - b. Reuse
 - c. Recycle
 - d. They all have equal benefit.

5. How is sustainability defined at Connecticut College?
 - a. Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
 - b. Sustainability is preserving and protecting natural ecosystems by limiting resource use, using clean energy and technologies, and developing environmental policies and regulations.
 - c. Sustainability is developing long-lasting solutions to local and global challenges through understanding the connections among social equity, environmental stewardship, and economic well-being.
 - d. Sustainability is using natural resources no faster than the rate at which they can replenish through natural processes.

6. Which of the following are potential effects of global climate change? (Select all that apply.)
 - a. Sea level rise
 - b. Increase in extreme weather events
 - c. Reduced crop yields in many parts of the world
 - d. Increase in wildfires
 - e. Increased exposure to lead and other pollutants
 - f. Major die-offs of coral reefs
 - g. Increased number of antibiotic-resistant diseases
 - h. Increased risk from pests, disease, and invasive non-native species
 - i. More refugees/migrants
 - j. Increase in earthquakes
 - k. None of the above

7. Over the course of the next century, the Earth's population is expected to
 - a. increase exponentially.
 - b. increase and then level off by the year 2100.
 - c. increase at a constant rate.
 - d. level off in the next decade and then begin to decrease.

8. In which of the following ways has significant environmental progress been made in the past 50 years? (Select all that apply.)
 - a. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
 - b. Preventing the continued destruction of the ozone layer
 - c. Reversing coral bleaching
 - d. Stopping the deforestation in the Amazon rainforest
 - e. Reducing air pollution in the United States
 - f. None of the above

9. What has happened to the income gap between the richest and the poorest Americans in recent decades?
- The income gap has increased.
 - The income gap has stayed about the same.
 - The income gap has decreased.
10. Which of the following are the top two emitters of carbon dioxide? (Select 2.)
- European Union
 - China
 - India
 - United States
 - Japan
11. What is the primary fuel used to generate electricity for Connecticut College?
- Renewable sources (wind, solar, etc.)
 - Coal
 - Natural gas
 - Nuclear
12. What form(s) of renewable energy are currently in use on campus? (Select all that apply.)
- Solar
 - Geothermal
 - Wind
 - Nuclear
 - None of the above
13. What is the largest contributor to Conn's carbon footprint?
- Electricity generation
 - Faculty and staff commuting
 - Steam heating produced on campus
 - College-owned vehicles
14. Where does the trash you throw away on campus go?
- Landfill in Connecticut
 - Incinerator in Connecticut
 - Shipped to a landfill out of state
15. Which of these items should currently be put into recycling bins on campus? (Select all that apply.)
- Paper hot coffee cup
 - Plastic water bottle
 - "Grab and Go" paper bags
 - Plastic grocery bag
 - Plastic utensils
 - "Grab and Go" plastic containers
 - Aluminum can
 - Paper
 - None of the above

16. Which of the following would be the most effective way to reduce the average American's carbon emissions?
- Switching all the light bulbs in their home from incandescent to LED
 - Switching to a vegetarian diet
 - Hanging clothes to dry rather than using a tumble dryer
 - Reducing air travel by the equivalent of one round trip flight to Europe each year
17. The price we pay for consumer goods--such as a cell phone--does not currently reflect the complete costs of those goods. Indicate whether or not each cost below is currently included in the price we pay for cell phones.
(Options: *Included in price, Not included in price.*)
- The cost to dispose of the cell phone after we replace it
 - The cost of the materials used to make the cell phone
 - The cost of environmental damage caused by mining the raw materials
 - The cost of wages for employees who manufacture the cell phones
18. Which of the following are benefits of organic agriculture? (Select all that apply.)
- Higher crop yields
 - Reduced use of chemical pesticides
 - Reduced fertilizer in surrounding waters
 - Lower costs of fruits and vegetables
 - Increased soil health
 - None of the above