



## Sustainability Literacy Quiz (First-year Students)

Dear Student,

We are engaged in a continual process of improving sustainability literacy curricula and learning experiences. Your input is very valuable to us and greatly appreciated!

You are being invited to complete a 5-minute Sustainability Literacy Quiz. We hope that you will participate in this questionnaire as your responses will help inform sustainability initiatives at the University of Rochester. At the end of the quiz, you can check your score and complete the "Go Green Pledge".

Data is being collected by the College in Arts, Sciences and Engineering. Results will only be made available without personally identifying information and will only be presented in aggregate or summary form. The results will have no bearing on course grades. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. By completing this survey, you are conveying your informed consent to participate in this survey. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential.

Please feel free to email [josephine.seddon@rochester.edu](mailto:josephine.seddon@rochester.edu) if you have any questions about this survey. Thank you!



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### Sustainability Literacy Assessment

**1. If you were to give a comprehensive definition of sustainability, which of the following would you include? (Choose all that apply)**

- ☐ Social factors
- ☐ Economic factors
- ☐ Environmental factors
- ☐ Do not know

**2. How do greenhouse gases affect the Earth's climate system?**

- ☐ They produce heat when they react with CFCs.
- ☐ They allow more incoming radiation to reach the Earth's surface.
- ☐ They increase the reflectivity of the atmosphere.
- ☐ They trap outgoing radiation from the Earth's surface.
- ☐ Do not know

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

- ☐ They do not reflect the cost of pollution and other social effects 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.
- ☐ Do not know

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

- ☐ Beef
- ☐ Chicken
- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Pork
- ☐ Do not know

**5. Of the following, which waste management practice contributes most to sustainability?**

- ☐ Reduce
- ☐ Reuse
- ☐ Recycle
- ☐ Landfill
- ☐ Do not know

**6. A life cycle analysis refers to evaluating the...**

- ☐ Economic changes over the course of a generation
- ☐ Environmental impacts of a product or service from conception to end of use
- ☐ Changes in human life expectancy
- ☐ Likelihood products will be reused
- ☐ Do not know

**7. Which is the largest contributor to UR's greenhouse gas emissions?**

- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Land management
- ☐ Heating, cooling, and powering campus buildings
- ☐ Waste management
- ☐ Do not know

**8. What is the fate of approximately 50% of U.S. municipal solid waste?**

- ☐ Composted
- ☐ Incinerated
- ☐ Landfilled
- ☐ Recycled
- ☐ Do not know

**9. Which gas is responsible for the largest total contribution to climate change?**

- ☐ Carbon dioxide
- ☐ Methane
- ☐ Nitrous oxide
- ☐ Ozone
- ☐ Do not know

**10. Which of the following is most likely the result of decreasing levels of ozone in the stratosphere?**

- ☐ An increase in the occurrence of skin cancer
- ☐ An increase in photosynthetic activity of phytoplankton
- ☐ A decrease in the rate of global warming
- ☐ A decrease in the level of smog in major cities
- ☐ Do not know

**11. Which of the following is the cleanest-burning fossil fuel?**

- ☐ Coal
- ☐ Natural gas
- ☐ Oil
- ☐ Do not know

**12. Which of the following statements about the relationship between environmental issues and socioeconomic issues is true?**

- ☐ Poorer people are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change
- ☐ Wealthier people are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change
- ☐ People of all socioeconomic classes are equally vulnerable to climate change
- ☐ Environmental issues and socioeconomic issues are unrelated
- ☐ Do not know

**Thank you for participating. To see your quiz results, click "Done" below.**

**After you have reviewed your results, please click "Done" at the bottom of the page to be redirected to the Go Green Pledge at <https://www.rochester.edu/sustainability/pledge/>**

Please consider taking the Go Green Pledge if you have not already done so to show even more commitment to sustainability. We hope you explore more about sustainability while you are at our site!