

Sustainability Literacy Survey

The Office of Sustainability is assessing our students' sustainability knowledge, sustainable practices, attitudes about sustainability topics, and awareness about Knox's sustainability initiatives to determine where our future efforts should be focused. Your identity will remain anonymous. All answers will be kept confidential and only summarized results will be distributed.

CIRCLE THE ANSWER YOU THINK BEST RESPONDS TO THE QUESTION

1. What is meant by the term "carbon footprint"?
 - A. The age of an item found at an archeological site
 - B. The carbon left on the ground each time you take a step
 - C. The size of the carbon chain in a given quantity of gasoline
 - D. The greenhouse gases released by burning fossil fuels for electricity and transportation
 - E. Don't know
2. Which of the following is a renewable resource?
 - A. Oil
 - B. Coal
 - C. Trees
 - D. B and C
 - E. All of the above
 - F. Don't know
3. Put the following list in order of the activities with the largest environmental impact to those with the smallest environmental impact:
 - a. Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours
 - b. Producing one McDonalds quarter-pound hamburger
 - c. Producing one McDonalds chicken sandwich
 - d. Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington DC to China
 - A. a, c, b, d
 - B. a, d, b, c
 - C. c, b, d, a
 - D. d, b, c, a
 - E. d, c, b, a
 - F. Don't know
4. Of the following, which would be considered living in the most environmentally sustainable way?
 - A. Recycling all recyclable packaging
 - B. Reducing consumption of all products
 - C. Buying products labeled "eco" or "green"
 - D. Buying compostable silverware
 - E. Buying the newest products available
 - F. Don't know
5. In what way can food choices be more sustainable?
 - A. Eat more plants and limit animal protein consumption
 - B. Choose food from local sources
 - C. Reduce food waste
 - D. Answers B and C
 - E. All of the above
 - F. Don't know
6. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?
 - A. Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health care, and social services
 - B. Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
 - C. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
 - D. Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse
 - E. Don't know
7. Which of the following is the best example of environmental justice?

- 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. 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
- D. Corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict.
- E. Don't know

8. What is the most common cause of pollution of streams and rivers?

- A. Dumping of garbage by cities
- B. Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields
- C. Litter near streams and rivers
- D. Waste dumped by factories
- E. Don't know

9. Please indicate which of the following statements best describes your level of interest in sustainability

- A. I have a passion for sustainability
- B. I have considerable interest in sustainability
- C. I am neither interested nor disinterested in sustainability (neutral)
- D. I have little interest in sustainability
- E. I have no interest in sustainability

10. Of the following sustainability programs implemented by Knox College, which programs did you already know existed before taking this survey?

ALREADY	DIDN'T
KNEW	KNOW

		Alumni Hall and Whitcomb Art Center earned LEED gold for being built as high-performing buildings
		At the end of each year the "There is no Away" campaign collects gently-used items for the campus Share Shop
		The Sustainability Fund is comprised of a per semester activity fee each student pays and all students can propose ways to use the funds for on-campus improvements
		"Non-traditional" recycling bins across campus to collect items such as toothbrushes, empty deodorant containers, foil-lined snack bags, batteries, electronics, and more

11. Of the following, which did you know was an example of sustainable practices before taking this survey?

ALREADY	DIDN'T
KNEW	KNOW

		Powering down electrical devices when not using them for more than 15 minutes
		Reporting building issues to Facilities Services for repair
		Using a refillable cup/bottle for water, coffee, soda, and other drinks
		Putting on a sweater instead of turning up the heat or using a space heater

Contact sustainability@knox.edu with any questions about this survey. THANK YOU!