

Sustainability Literacy and Cultural Assessment

Information Letter

This Sustainability Literacy and Cultural Assessment is being conducted by the Office of Sustainability with the purpose to examine Humber students' knowledge of and perceptions on sustainability.

You will be asked to complete an electronic survey about your knowledge of sustainability issues. This questionnaire contains 27 questions and should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. We are interested in how much students already know about sustainability, and how sustainably you live, so please answer honestly. If you don't know the answer to the question, please choose the answer that you believe to be closest to the truth.

This research is for the purposes of the Office of Sustainability only and is not administered by instructors of this course. It is not a requirement for this course, and will not affect your grades. Course instructors are simply connecting us to you. They will not have access to your data nor will they be involved in the analysis process.

The results of this project will be used to inform future Office of Sustainability programs, educational campaigns, and engagement strategies. By participating, you will be playing an important role in helping Humber College increase its sustainability education, and become a model sustainable institution. While there is a chance that you may not directly benefit from participation, you may become more educated and engaged about sustainability.

Your participation in this research is highly valued but it is not mandatory. You may withdraw at any time by pressing the "Exit" button in the top right corner of your screen or closing your browser window. However, it will not be possible to withdraw data once it has been submitted. Following completion of the questionnaire, you will be eligible to enter a draw to win one of two \$100 VISA gift cards. All data collected will be confidential and anonymized, and will not be linked to any personal identifiers. Data will be encrypted and securely stored on Humber College's systems and on Survey Monkey servers and will be retained in perpetuity for use in future Office of Sustainability projects. The raw data will only be made available to the researchers and will only be used by the Office of Sustainability.

You will not be contacted by the researchers for follow-up following the completion of the project. However, the results may be made available as a summary report published on the Office of Sustainability's website. The risks to you, as a participant in this research, are minimal. There is a low risk that you could be upset by or uncomfortable with the contents of the questionnaire. This project has been approved by the Humber Research Ethics board.

If you have any questions regarding Ethics Board approval or your rights as a research participant, please contact: Lydia Boyko, REB Chair, 416-675-6622 ext. 79322, lydia.boyko@humber.ca. If you have any questions or concerns about this project, feel free to contact: Devon Fernandes, Sustainability Specialist, devon.fernandes@humber.ca

Consent Form

I have carefully read the Information Letter for the Sustainability Literacy and Cultural Assessment, and understand the information provided above.

- By checking this box, I verify that I am 16 years of age or older, and that I understand the research project as described in the Information Letter and agree to voluntarily participate in this project.

1. In your own words, the definition of sustainability is: _____

Sustainability at Humber helps us preserve our collective future (2018-2023 Strategic Plan).

I: Knowledge Questions

Sustainability terms and definitions

The following questions are about general sustainability terms and concepts. Please answer to the best of your ability. If you are unsure of an answer, choose the option you believe to be closest to the truth.

2. An activity with a large "carbon footprint":
 - Has long carbon chains
 - Deposits lots of carbon into the ground
 - Uses up more carbon than usual
 - Releases a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
3. Which of the following statements about greenhouse gases is true?
 - More greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will be better for our planet
 - Oxygen is a greenhouse gas
 - Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere
 - Greenhouse gases are decreasing due to human activities
4. Fairtrade certification on a product means that:
 - The farmers who made the product are paid equitably with decent working conditions
 - The product is endorsed by Health Canada as "healthy"
 - The product was made locally
 - The product is exported out of Canada to countries we trade with
5. The new Barrett CTI building at the Humber North campus is Net-Zero Energy , which is a credential given to a home or building that:
 - Uses no energy during its construction
 - Uses very little energy to operate
 - Operates using non-renewable energy
 - Produces as much energy as it consumes over a period of time
6. Which of the following is the most correct way of describing economic sustainability?
 - Maximizing the share price of a company's stock
 - Always having costs equal revenue
 - Ensuring resources support long-term growth
 - Continually expanding market share

Sustainability Issues: Causes and Effects

The following questions are about the causes and effects of current sustainability issues. Please answer to the best of your ability. If you are unsure of an answer, choose the option you believe to be closest to the truth.

7. The majority of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are the result of which sector?
 - Transportation (CO₂ from cars and trucks)
 - Waste (garbage breaking down in landfills)
 - Oil and gas (mining and combusting fossil fuels to make energy)
 - Agriculture (growing and producing food)

8. Which of the following is an expected impact of climate change?
 - Loss of low-lying agricultural and inhabited land
 - Species extinction
 - An increase in drought and wildfires
 - All of the above

9. Locally grown food is more sustainable because:
 - Local food always uses fewer pesticides than imported food
 - Local food is transported shorter distances, creates less waste, and helps keep money in the local economy
 - Local food is more expensive and therefore forces you to eat less
 - Local food is always organic and regenerative

10. "Fast fashion" is defined as inexpensive clothing that is produced quickly in response to trends. Fast fashion is unsustainable because it can lead to:
 - Exploitation of workers in developing countries
 - Excessive fresh water use
 - Destructive farming practices
 - All of the above

11. What is a likely effect of requiring citizens and corporations to pay for the true cost of pollution they create (e.g. carbon tax)?
 - Encourages environmentally responsible behaviour but generates less money for the government to spend on fighting climate change
 - Encourages environmentally responsible behaviour and generates more money for the government to spend on fighting climate change
 - Discourages environmentally responsible behaviour but generates more money for the government to spend on fighting climate change
 - Discourages environmentally responsible behaviour and generates less money for the government to spend on fighting climate change

Sustainable Practices & Policies

The following questions are about sustainability practices and policies. Please answer to the best of your ability. If you are unsure of an answer, choose the option you believe to be closest to the truth.

12. Which of the following does **NOT** promote social sustainability?
- Respecting the basic rights of all people
 - Maximizing profits through solutions like outsourcing labour to developing countries
 - Establishing business partnerships that make a greater positive impact in the community
 - Improving the lives of people by creating more decent jobs, goods and services
13. Which of the following sustainability initiatives in developing countries can help lift people out of poverty?
- Climate change action plan
 - Fair labour standards
 - Access to quality education
 - All of the above
14. Which of the following is **TRUE** about bottled water and Toronto municipal tap water?
- Tap water is untreated and has many impurities, which makes bottled water healthier
 - Tap water is more frequently regulated and monitored than bottled water
 - Aquafina, Dasani and Nestle import water only from international springs while tap water is a local resource
 - Tap water has no chemicals while bottled water contains chemicals like chlorine and fluorine
15. Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management?
- Restricting public access to forests
 - Not harvesting more than what the forest produces in new growth
 - Producing lumber for nearby communities to build affordable housing
 - Putting local communities in charge of forest resources
16. Which of the following about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) is **FALSE**?
- The global goals for sustainable development were established by the United Nations.
 - The SDGs address global challenges we face, including poverty, gender equality, education, peace and justice.
 - The goals apply to only underdeveloped countries.
 - The goals integrate all three aspects of sustainable development: social, economic, and environmental.

Sustainability at Humber is defined as “preserving our collective future by embracing the social, ecological, and economic impact of our decisions,” (2013-2018 Strategic Plan).

III: Cultural Assessment

The following questions will ask you about your behavior and attitude towards sustainability. There are no right or wrong answers. We are simply interested in your thoughts and opinions. Please answer truthfully and to the best of your ability.

17. How important is sustainability to you? (Scale 1- not at all, 5- extremely)
18. Please rate the extent to which you generally agree with each of the following (0- strongly disagree, 5- strongly agree)
 - It is important to me to live in a way that minimizes my environmental impact
 - It is important to me to live in a way that helps progress social justice and equity
 - I know what I need to do to operate in a sustainable way
 - It is obvious that Humber College is committed to fostering a sustainability mindset within the community
19. Please rate the extent to which you do the following (0- never, 5- always)
 - I seek out opportunities to learn about sustainability
 - I know how to separate my waste and do it correctly
 - I look for locally grown, organic, or Fairtrade food when shopping
 - I reduce my consumption by choosing reusable items over single-use
 - I prefer buying from brands that support community development and sustainability, even if it's a little more expensive
 - I choose sustainable methods of transportation (i.e., transit, carpool, bike) over single-occupancy vehicles
20. Have you learned about environmental, social, or economic sustainability in any of your classes so far this year?
 - Yes
 - Not sure - skip to Q 24
 - No- skip to Q 24
 - I haven't had many classes so far- skip to Q 24
21. Which course(s) have you learnt about sustainability in? (Provide the course name)
22. Please indicate which aspect(s) of sustainability you have learnt in your class(es). Check all that apply.
 - a. Environmental
 - b. Social
 - c. Economic
23. Can you please provide an example of what you have learnt (optional)?
24. How familiar are you with Humber's Office of Sustainability and its initiatives on a scale of 1 to 5? (1 being not familiar at all, and 5 being extremely familiar)
1 2 3 4 5

IV: Demographic Questions

The following questions will ask you about basic practices and demographic. Please answer truthfully and to the best of your ability.

25. Which campus do you primarily attend?

- Lakeshore
- North
- Carrier Drive
- Orangeville
- Guelph-Humber

26. Do you live in residence on campus?

- Yes
- No

27. Are you an international student?

- Yes
- No

28. Which semester are you currently in?

1 2 3 4 5 6

29. What is the full name of your academic program?

30. Where do you get most of your sustainability information from? Pick up to 3.

- Education at Humber
- Office of Sustainability at Humber
- Other resources at Humber
- Family/ upbringing
- Friends
- Previous education
- Volunteer / Work: _____
- News
- Internet
- Other: _____

Thank you Screen:

Thank you for completing the Sustainability Literacy Assessment. Your responses have been submitted and will help us understand the literacy level of students regarding sustainability, and prepare programs to better educate Humber students. If you wish to, you can follow the link below to get entered in a draw for one of two \$100 VISA gift cards. Only one entry is permitted per student. Otherwise, simply close the browser or click "Exit".

Learn more about the Office of Sustainability [here](#).

SLCA Questionnaire completion draw

If you wish to enter a draw for the chance to win a \$100 VISA gift card, please enter your email address below. Your email address is kept separately from the Sustainability Literacy and Cultural Assessment data, and will in no way be linked to the responses you have provided. Your email address will not be used for research purposes. Data from this form is encrypted, confidential, and will be destroyed after the gift card is distributed.

Email Address: _____