**Sustainability PULSE Survey WEB INTRO PAGE & CONSENT**

**Student Affairs Research and Assessment**

**The Pennsylvania State University**

**Sustainability PULSE Survey (IRB# 00010336)**

**INTRODUCTION**

You have been randomly selected from among undergraduate and graduate students at University Park to take this 10-minute research survey. The purpose of the survey is to gather feedback on students’ knowledge of and participation in Penn State’s sustainability efforts. This project will use your survey responses together with your information in the student database to gain insight on student values, experiences, and efforts regarding sustainability. However, personally identifying information will never be publicly linked to your survey responses. The overall findings will be used in future planning efforts by the University and will inform programs and resources for students.

Participation is confidential and voluntary. You may stop the survey at any time. Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. No guarantees can be made regarding third-party interception of data sent via the Internet. 

By completing the survey, you will be automatically registered for a random drawing to win one of six $25 Target gift cards. You will be notified by e-mail if you have won a prize by the end of the semester.

We understand that you are very busy and thank you in advance for your time and participation. You must be at least 18 years old to participate. By completing and submitting the survey, you have indicated your consent to participate.   
  
*If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Deborah Lee at* [saraoffice@psu.edu](mailto:saraoffice@psu.edu) *or (814) 863-1809.*

<Continue>

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

1. **What is your age?**

* 18-19 (1)
* 20-21 (2)
* 22-23 (3)
* 24-26 (4)
* 27-30 (5)
* 31-39 (6)
* 40 or older (7)
* Prefer not to answer (999)

1. **What is your gender?**

* Male/man (1)
* Female/woman (2)
* Genderqueer/gender nonconforming (3)
* Trans male/trans man (4)
* Trans female/ trans woman (5)
* Different identity (self-identify) (6) [Text Box]
* Prefer not to answer (999)

1. **Describe your race/ethnicity. Please select all that apply.**

* Black/African (1)
* White/Caucasian (2)
* Asian or Asian American (3)
* Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (4)
* Native American or Alaska Native (5)
* Hispanic or Latino/a (6)
* A race/ethnicity not listed here (please specify) (7) [Text Box]

1. [Forced response] **Where do you currently live?**

* On campus (1)
* Off campus (2)

1. [Display if Option=2 is selected in Q4][Forced response] **During your time as a Penn State student, have you ever lived in the residence hall(s) on campus?**

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

1. **What is your class standing?**

* First-year (1)
* Sophomore (2)
* Junior (3)
* Senior (4)
* Graduate or professional student (5)
* Prefer not to answer (999)

[Insert page break]

**PENN STATE SUNSTAINABILITY EFFORTS/PROGRAMS**

1. [Forced response] **Please provide your level of awareness OR participation in the following sustainability efforts and programs.**

[Matrix item format]

*(Answer options)*

Not at all aware (1)

Aware but have not participated or used (2)

Have participated or used (3)

* Student organizations focused on sustainability (e.g., Friday Night Lights Out, Sustainable Agriculture Club)
* Events (e.g., Sustainability Showcase, Colloquium on the Environment)
* Recycling/composting programs
* Student Farm
* Eco Reps
* Sustainable Communities Collaborative
* Academic courses
* Research projects that address sustainability (e.g., climate change, alternative energy, sustainable business practices, etc.)
* CATA bus
* Enterprise Rideshare
* RIDEpass (formerly Ride for Five)
* Penn State Zagster Bike Share

1. **Given that Penn State defines sustainability as the “simultaneous pursuit of human health and happiness, environmental quality, and economic well-being for current and future generations,”[[1]](#footnote-1) to what extent do you agree with the following?**

[Matrix item format]

*(Answer options)*

Strongly agree (4)

Somewhat agree (3)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Strongly disagree (1)

* Penn State makes sustainability a University-wide goal.
* Penn State should pay as much attention to the impacts of its actions on the environment as it does other topics (e.g., diversity, student health).
* Penn State provides opportunities to participate in sustainability efforts (e.g., recycling stations, forums to discuss issues).
* Penn State provides resources to learn about how sustainability efforts impact current and future generations.
* Penn State is a leader in sustainability-related actions.

[Insert page break]

**PERSONAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS/BARRIERS**

1. **Please select your level of agreement with the following:**

[Matrix item format]

*(Answer options)*

Strongly agree (4)

Somewhat agree (3)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Strongly disagree (1)

* I make an effort to be knowledgeable about sustainability issues.
* I would like to learn more about sustainability while at Penn State.

1. **Below is a list of actions you might take to contribute to Penn State’s sustainability efforts. How frequently do you do each of the following?**

[Matrix item format]

*(Answer options)*

Always (5)

Often (4)

Sometimes (3)

Rarely (2)

Never (1)

* Buy food that is organically grown
* Dressing for the temperature inside the building
* Limit meat consumption
* Participate or volunteer with an environmental organization
* Pay attention to how much water I use
* Print double-sided or multiple sheets per page
* Shut down your computer when not in use, such as when you leave your residence or go to sleep
* Talk with your friends about problems related to the environment
* Use alternative transportation (e.g., bike, CATA bus) or carpool
* Wait until you have a full load before doing laundry

1. [Forced response] **Do you recycle on a regular basis?**

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

1. [Display if Option=2 is selected in Q11] **Which statement(s) best describe(s) why you do not recycle? Please select all that apply.**

* I choose not to because I do not care to.
* I choose not to because I do not think recycling makes a positive difference.
* I do not know how to recycle properly.
* I am not always sure which items are recyclable or which bins my items should be placed in.
* Recycling is inconvenient for me.

[Insert page break]

**Because sustainability is relevant to Penn State and the broader community, we ask you some questions about sustainability knowledge and goals in the next section. Please try to select the correct answer. You will be able to see the correct answers after you select your answer. Choosing the correct answer does not affect your odds of winning a gift card.**

**SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY**

[Italicized option indicates correct answer – for Qualtrics survey building]

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

* Dumping of garbage by cities
* *Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields*
* Litter near streams and rivers
* Waste dumped by factories

1. **Ozone forms a protective layer in the earth’s upper atmosphere. What does ozone protect us from?**

* Acid rain
* Climate change
* Sudden changes in temperature
* *Harmful UV rays*

1. **Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management?**

* Setting aside forests to be off limits to the public
* *Never harvesting more than what the forest produces in new growth*
* Producing lumber for nearby communities to build affordable housing
* Putting the local communities in charge of forest resources

1. **Of the following, which would be considered living in the most environmentally sustainable way?**

* Recycling all recyclable packaging
* *Reducing consumption of all products*
* Buying products labeled “eco” or “green”
* Buying the newest products available

1. **Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?**

* Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health care, and social services
* Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
* *Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*
* Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse

1. **Over the past 3 decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans?**

* *The difference has increased.*
* The difference has stayed about the same.
* The difference has decreased.

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

* *They do not reflect the costs of pollution 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.

1. **Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of economic sustainability?**

* Maximizing the share price of a company’s stock
* *Long-term profitability*
* When costs equal revenue
* Continually expanding market share

1. **Which of the following countries passed the U.S. to become the largest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide?**

* *China*
* Sweden
* Brazil
* Japan

1. **Which of the following is a leading cause of the depletion of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean?**

* *Fishermen seeking to maximize their catch*
* Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization
* Ocean pollution
* Global climate change

1. **Which of the following is the best example of environmental justice?**

* Urban citizens win a bill to have toxic wastes taken to rural communities.
* The government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands to create hydro-power for large cities.
* *All stakeholders from an indigenous community are involved in setting a quota for the amount of wood they can take form a protected forest next to their village.*
* Multi-national corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict.

1. **Put the following list in order of the activities with the largest environmental impact to those with the smallest environmental impact:**
   * 1. Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours
     2. Producing one McDonald’s quarter-pound hamburger
     3. Producing one McDonald’s chicken sandwich
     4. Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington D.C. to China

* A, C, B, D
* D, A, B, C
* D, C, B, A
* *D, B, C, A*

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

In 2015, the United Nations set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that, together, represent characteristics of a sustainable global society. Although these goals apply at a global scale, they also are relevant to the United States and to Penn State.

1. [Limit response number maximum at 4] **In your opinion, please select the top four SDGs that are most important to you.**

* No poverty
* No hunger
* Good health and well-being
* Quality education
* Gender equality
* Clean water and sanitation
* Affordable and clean energy
* Decent jobs and economic growth
* Sustainable infrastructure
* Reduced inequality
* Sustainable cities and communities
* Responsible consumption and production
* Action to reduce climate change
* Protect life in the oceans
* Protect life on land
* Peace and justice
* Partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

1. [Allow multiple selection] **During your time at Penn State, which of the following would you like to know more about? Please select all that apply.**

* Academic courses related to sustainability
* Alternative transportation options
* Research projects that address sustainability
* Student organization/program opportunities that focus on sustainability or the environment
* Sustainability Institute programs and initiatives
* Tips for sustainable living in the residence hall and/or home (e.g., recycling, water and energy reduction)

1. [Allow multiple selection] **Which resource(s) would you find most beneficial to help you learn more about sustainability? Please check all that apply.**

* Blogs
* E-mail
* Attend a program in person
* Participate in a program online
* On-campus signs
* Public forums
* Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
* Websites

**CONCLUSION**

Thank you very much for your time and participation. If you are selected to receive a gift card for completing the survey, you will be notified via e-mail by the end of the semester.

For more information about sustainability efforts and programs at Penn State, please visit <http://sustainability.psu.edu/>.

Also, get involved in the Council of Sustainable Leaders (CSL) by visiting <http://www.pennstatecsl.com>.

The results of this survey will be available on our [PULSE reports page](https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/assessment/analysis-reports/pulse-archives) by the end of the semester.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Deborah Lee at 814-863-1809 or [saraoffice@psu.edu](mailto:saraoffice@psu.edu). Please visit our website to learn more about the [Penn State PULSE student survey program](https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/assessment/analysis-reports/penn-state-pulse).

1. <http://sustainability.psu.edu/sustainability-strategic-plan> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)