



Introduction



**OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY**



University of Idaho

The Office of Sustainability would like your help in shaping the future of campus sustainability. As part of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) — a transparent, self-reporting framework for universities to measure their sustainability performance — we ask you to complete the University of Idaho Sustainability Literacy Assessment, a brief online assessment that measures knowledge of sustainability. This data will be used to guide the work of the Office of Sustainability.

Please provide your email and Vandal number at the end of the assessment if you would like to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card to the Moscow Food Co-op or the VandalStore. For additional information, please contact the Office of Sustainability at uofi-sustainability@uidaho.edu

What is sustainability?

Sustainability is a commitment to our shared future through an integrated and comprehensive approach to education, research, thought and practice. It is the intentional focus on systems to improve efficiency with our industry partners, conserve resources and encourage a balance of social, environmental, and economic goals. It is our responsibility to our students, our communities and our state to foster efforts to understand and improve on these goals.

Screening

Are you currently an undergraduate, graduate, or law student at the University of Idaho?

- No
- Yes

What campus is your primary campus?

- Moscow
- Boise
- Coeur d'Alene
- Twin Falls
- Idaho Falls
- Other:

When is your expected graduation date (semester and year)?

Literacy Assessment - SUSTLIT

The following questions address aspects of sustainability. Please indicate whether the statements are "True" or "False." If you are unsure of an answer, please select "Don't know."

Most scientists believe that climate change is happening.

- True

- False
- Don't know

Human behavior plays a significant role in climate change.

- True
- False
- Don't know

The lives of many people living on islands are threatened by rising sea levels.

- True
- False
- Don't know

Climate and weather mean the same thing.

- True
- False
- Don't know

If we had a few colder-than-normal winters or cooler-than-normal summers, it would prove that climate change is not happening.

- True

- False
- Don't know

Climate change is a threat to humans and to the natural environment.

- True
- False
- Don't know

Water (hydroelectric) energy is considered a renewable energy source.

- True
- False
- Don't know

Natural gas is a clean form of energy - it does not contribute to climate change or atmospheric warming.

- True
- False
- Don't know

The major cause of coral bleaching - the death of coral reefs - is chemical spills in the oceans.

- True

- False
- Don't know

There is no need to conserve water because water is constantly moving through the earth's natural water cycles.

- True
- False
- Don't know

The earth's natural water cycles are not affected by global warming or climate change.

- True
- False
- Don't know

Soil erosion peaked during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s; in the United States today, it is no longer a problem.

- True
- False
- Don't know

What ends up in the garbage has no effect on global warming or climate change.

- True
- False
- Don't know

Abuses of the environment disproportionately impact people experiencing poverty and people of color.

- True
- False
- Don't know

According to the USDA Organic certification, produce can be called organic if it was certified to have grown on soil that had no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides for three years prior to harvest.

- True
- False
- Don't know

On meats, the label "grass fed" means the animal had some grass in its diet.

- True
- False
- Don't know

On appliances, the label "Energy Star" means the appliances are made of recycled materials.

- True
- False
- Don't know

On products, the label "natural" has no legal meaning.

- True
- False
- Don't know

On products, the label "recyclable" means that the product can be recycled in any city or municipality.

- True
- False
- Don't know

On products, the label "made of recycled material" means that the product is of lower quality.

- True
- False

Don't know

A business practices "triple bottom line" planning when it focuses on unit sales, dollar sales, and market share.

True

False

Don't know

The concept of sustainability is made up of three critical dimensions: environmental protection, social equity, and economic viability.

True

False

Don't know

Biodiversity refers in part to the variety of life forms, including plants, animals, and microorganisms, in a given ecosystem.

True

False

Don't know

The Earth is currently experiencing high rates of species extinction, with many plant and animal species considered critically endangered.

- True
- False
- Don't know

When food waste decomposes in landfills, it does not release any potent greenhouse gases.

- True
- False
- Don't know

It is estimated that 35% of the crops that humans depend on globally are dependent on pollinators like bees, butterflies, and other insects.

- True
- False
- Don't know

It makes no difference ecologically if an ecosystem is full of native plants or full of invasive plants.

- True
- False

Don't know

Fire plays a vital role in healthy forest ecosystems by promoting new growth, recycling nutrients, and controlling certain plant species.

True

False

Don't know

Historically, industrial plants that emit toxic pollutants into the air, soil, and water have been located in or near communities that are low-income and are comprised mostly of people of color.

True

False

Don't know

The city of Moscow and the University of Idaho Moscow campus are located on the homelands of the Nimiipuu (Nez Perce), Palus (Palouse), and Schitsu'umsh (Coeur d'Alene) tribes.

True

False

Don't know

gift card

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Vandal Email

Vandal #

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