



Introduction

Thank you for participating in Lafayette College's Sustainability Literacy Assessment.

We expect the assessment to take 5 minutes. Please answer questions honestly as they are ANONYMOUS!

This survey is specifically for current Lafayette students.

Demographics Questions

What is your expected year of graduation?

2023

2024

2025

2026

What is your major(s)? If you have not yet declared a major, what is your intended major?

Unknown

Anthropology and Sociology (A.B.)

Art (A.B.)
Asian Studies (A.B.)
Biochemistry (A.B. and B.S.)
Biology (A.B. and B.S.)
Chemistry (A.B. and B.S.)
Chemical Engineering
Computer Science (A.B. and B.S.)
Economics (A.B.)
Electrical and Computer Engineering (B.S.)
Engineering (B.S.) and International Studies (A.B.)
Engineering Studies (A.B.)
English (A.B.)
Environmental Science (B.S.)
Environmental Studies (A.B.)
Film and Media Studies (A.B.)
French (A.B.)
Geology (A.B. and B.S.)
German (A.B.)
Government and Law & Foreign Language (A.B.)
Government and Law (A.B.)
History (A.B.)
Integrative Engineering (B.S.)
International Affairs (A.B.)
International Studies (A.B.)
Mathematics-Economics (A.B.)
Mathematics (A.B. and B.S.)
Music
Neuroscience (B.S.)
Philosophy (A.B.)
Physics (A.B. and B.S.)
Policy Studies (A.B.)
Psychology (A.B. and B.S.)

Religion and Politics (A.B.)

Religious Studies

Russian and East European Studies (A.B.)

Spanish (A.B.)

Theater (A.B.)

Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies (A.B.)

Civil Engineering (B.S.)

What is your minor(s)? If you have not yet declared a minor, what is your intended minor?

Not Applicable

Unknown

Aging Studies

Anthropology and Sociology

Architectural Studies

Art

Asian Studies

Biochemistry

Biology

Biotechnology/Bioengineering

Chemical Engineering

Chemistry

Chinese

Classical Civilization

Computational Methods

Computer Science

Data Science

Economics

Engineering Studies

English
Environmental Science
Environmental Studies
Film and Media Studies
French
Geology
German
Global History
Government and Law
Health and Life Sciences
History
International Affairs
International Studies
Italian Studies
Jewish Studies
Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Literature in Translation
Mathematics-Economics
Mathematics
Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern Studies
Music
Organizational Studies
Philosophy
Physics
Policy Studies
Psychology
Religion and Politics
Religious Studies
Russian
Russian and East European Studies
Spanish
Theater

Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies

Writing

Which of the following is your primary mode of transportation to get to class or to get to and from campus if you commute?

single-occupancy vehicle

a zero-emissions vehicle

walk, cycle, or use non-motorized means

vanpool or carpool

public transport or a campus shuttle

motorcycle, motorized scooter/bike, or moped

Sustainability Knowledge

Sustainability Challenges and Solutions

Different people have different levels of knowledge about sustainability issues. We are interested to learn which topics are well known and which are less known. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. Please choose "I'm not sure" if you are uncertain about the answer to a question, rather than guessing.

Which of the following countries has now passed the U.S. as the biggest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide?

China

Sweden

Brazil

Japan

I'm not sure

One of the key goals contained in the Paris COP-21 consensus statement, signed in Paris in 2015 by every single leader of every single nation on Earth, is that we should work to prevent the earth from warming beyond 2°C. In that same consensus statement, what must happen to global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to stay below a 2°C warming?

The entire planet has to go to net zero emissions by 2025

The entire planet has to go to net zero emissions by 2050

The entire planet has to go to net zero emissions by 2100

The entire planet has to go to net zero emissions by 2150

I'm not sure

What is environmental justice?

Equal access to green areas, and planting trees in a urban area

Equal distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, equal right to participate in environmental decision-making, regardless of social categories.

Equal rights to produce toxic waste to companies holding similar processes

Equal environmental protection for forests, ocean, rural and urban areas

I'm not sure

Arrange the following four activities in order from largest environmental impact to smallest environmental impact:

- W. Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours
- X. Producing one McDonald's quarter-pound hamburger
- Y. Producing one McDonald's chicken sandwich
- Z. Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington D.C. to China

W, Y, X, Z

Z, W, X, Y

Z, Y, X, W

Z, X, Y, W

I'm not sure

Which of the following is the United Nations' definition of sustainable development?

Ensuring that people continue to buy more goods and use more resources, indefinitely

Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used

Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Only using recycled materials for production

I'm not sure

Ozone forms a protective layer in the earth's upper atmosphere.

What does the ozone protect us from?

Acid rain

Climate change

Sudden changes in temperature

Harmful UV rays

I'm not sure

Which sector is the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the US?

Commercial and residential

Manufacturing Industry

Transportation

Electricity production

Agricultural Industry

I'm not sure

What is the main reason for fresh water shortages?

As 99% of the world's freshwater is frozen in ice caps, glaciers and permafrost, the remaining 1% is insufficient to satisfy human needs

About half the world's freshwater is in rivers and lakes; unfortunately most of it is too polluted for human use.

Freshwater, mainly in rivers and lakes, is easily accessible (although often stressed by pollution) but increasingly cannot satisfy the fast growing agricultural needs

Broad access to sanitation has significantly increased our water footprint, mainly for taking long showers and flushing toilets.

I'm not sure

What is the estimated cost of climate change each year if we do not act?

Climate change will have no influence on GDP

Roughly the same, 1% of GDP - worldwide

Less than 5% of GDP - worldwide

Between 5% and 20% or more of GDP - worldwide

I'm not sure

What is the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) "Red List" ?

The list of species threatened with extinction.

The list of plants and factories with the highest pollution levels.

The list of countries with the worst environmental impact.

The list of countries with the fewest conservation areas.

I'm not sure

Rachel Carson is a Pennsylvanian who graduated from Chatham University and is the author of the famous book Silent Spring (1962). Her work is famous for

Challenging the practices of agricultural scientists and the government regarding the use of chemical pesticides

Calling attention for the increase in the list of endangered species

Attacking the use of fossil fuels

Advocating for indigenous peoples' rights

I'm not sure

If the world's population lived like an average American, approximately how many Earths would be needed to support humankind?

2

5

10

15

I'm not sure

The phrase, "the 6th Extinction" refers to:

The extinction event that killed off many of the dinosaurs

The current and ongoing extinction of lifeforms due to human activity

The likely future extinction of lifeforms due to climate change

The likely future extinction of lifeforms due to a massive pandemic

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

I'm not sure

Which of the concepts listed below is described by the following scenario? Warmer temperatures on Earth reduce the surface area of the Earth covered by snow. Then these exposed darker lands and water areas absorb more heat which, in turn, further increases rising temperatures and melts more snow and ice.

Negative feedback loop

Positive feedback loop

Net feedback loop

Homeostasis

I'm not sure

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

I'm not sure

“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

I'm not sure

How long can oil spills continue to have a detrimental impact on marine ecosystems?

On the order of several months

On the order of several years

On the order of several decades

I'm not sure

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