

Sustainability Survey

Default Question Block

UMass Amherst is surveying students, staff, and faculty to gather information to support the University's academic, research, and campus initiatives that promote sustainable living practices in a collaborative environment. The survey results will be used to inform the development of new academic programs and course offerings, as well as campus initiatives and practices that promote sustainable living, lifestyle, and behaviors.

In case you are not familiar with the term, the United Nations defines sustainability as "Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The survey includes questions focused on sustainability knowledge and awareness, behaviors and practices consistent with sustainable living, and University efforts and initiatives. You are part of a random sample of undergraduates selected to participate in the survey.

The survey is voluntary and takes 8-10 minutes to complete (on average). You may skip any questions you prefer not to answer. Your responses are confidential and will not be identifiable in any reports, presentations or publications on the results.

Note: If you are interrupted while taking the survey and need to close your browser, you may click on the survey link again and pick up right where you left off.

Thank you for participating. If you are ready to begin, click "Next," below.

The first set of questions focuses on "sustainability literacy" -- your knowledge of concepts and information related to sustainability.

Please respond to these "quiz" questions based on what you, personally, already know; refrain from searching for correct answers on the web. (The "quiz" questions are not graded: At the conclusion of the survey, you will have the opportunity to view the correct answers.)

The "quiz" section of the survey is followed by questions focused on sustainability issues, behaviors and practices consistent with sustainable living, and University efforts and initiatives.

Current global climate change is:

- Caused mostly by human activities

- Caused equally by human activities and natural changes
- Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment
- Not happening

Which of the following gases in the atmosphere trap heat from the Earth's surface?

(Select all that apply.)

- Carbon Dioxide
- Nitrous Oxide
- Hydrogen
- Water Vapor
- Methane

Which of the following statements about greenhouse gases is true?

- Greenhouse gases allow solar radiation to escape from the Earth's atmosphere.
- Methane is the most prevalent greenhouse gas.
- Greenhouse gases help cool the Earth.
- Carbon dioxide is the most prevalent greenhouse gas.

A cap-and-trade system limits carbon emissions by:

- Placing a limit on how much each factory can pollute
- Placing a limit on the total amount of emissions
- Placing a set price on the emission of each unit of carbon
- Placing a limit on the number of new factories that can be built

The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement included a commitment to prevent the average global temperature from increasing more than how many degrees Celsius above pre-Industrial Revolution levels?

- 0 degrees
- 2 degrees
- 4 degrees
- 10 degrees

Which of the following are current or predicted effects of climate change?

(Select all that apply.)

- Drought
- Overall lower agricultural yield
- Overall higher agricultural yield
- Wildfires
- Improved air quality
- Political instability
- Rising sea levels

What is the most common cause of pollution in U.S. streams and rivers?

- Garbage dumped by cities
- Litter near streams and rivers
- Waste dumped by factories
- Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields

The most effective strategy implemented in large buildings and facilities to conserve water is:

- Installing high efficiency appliances and fixtures
- Placing limits on water use
- Implementing employee engagement programs that create a "culture of conservation"
- Repairing leaks in existing appliances and fixtures

Climate change disproportionately impacts people with low incomes because:

(Select all that apply.)

- Infrastructure in developing countries can be less resilient to storms.
- People with low incomes have fewer resources to rebuild or relocate after natural disasters (hurricanes, flooding, tornadoes, etc.).
- People with low incomes are more likely to live in areas threatened by flooding, water scarcity, and diseases spread by insects and other anthropods.

In the U.S., what is the primary energy source used to generate electricity?

- Hydroelectric
- Nuclear
- Solar
- Fossil fuels (e.g. coal, petroleum, natural gas)

Many economists argue that electric prices in the U.S. are too low because:

- Too many suppliers go out of business
- Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area
- They do not reflect the cost of pollution and other social effects from generating the electricity
- Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy

Which of these entrees has the highest carbon footprint?

- Serving of chicken wings
- Hamburger
- Veggie burger
- Salmon fillet

What is the name of the primary federal agency that oversees environmental regulation?

- National Environmental Agency (the NEA)
- United States Department of Health, Environment, and Safety (the DHES)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA)
- Federal Pollution Control Agency (the FPCA)

In 2019, Earth's human population is 7.7 billion. What is it projected to be by 2050?

- 8.0 billion
- 8.9 billion
- 9.8 billion
- 11.2 billion

What percent of the United States' privately held wealth is owned by the wealthiest 20% of people?

- 20%
- 35%
- 50%
- 85%

The next set of questions focuses on sustainability issues and challenges.

As a reminder, the United Nations defines sustainability as "*Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*"

To what extent do you believe that each of the following will negatively impact your generation's quality of life?

(Screen 1 of 2)

	To a great extent	To some extent	Not at all
Loss of biodiversity and ecosystems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water scarcity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of fossil fuels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pollution (e.g. water, air)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To what extent do you believe that each of the following will negatively impact your generation's quality of life?

(Screen 2 of 2)

	To a great extent	To some extent	Not at all
Global overpopulation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental injustice/inequality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of employment opportunities/economic well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food scarcity/inadequate access to healthy foods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of sustainable living environments (e.g. sprawling cities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diminished public health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overproduction and consumption of material goods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Which three of these issues are you most concerned about?

(Select three)

- Waste disposal
- Water scarcity (inadequate access to clean water)
- Loss of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Pollution (e.g. air, water)
- Use of fossil fuels
- Climate change

Which three of these issues are you most concerned about?

(Select three)

- Food scarcity/inadequate access to healthy foods
- Overproduction and consumption of material goods
- Diminished public health
- Lack of employment opportunities/economic well-being
- Global overpopulation
- Environmental injustice/inequality
- Lack of sustainable living environments (e.g. sprawling cities)

The next set of questions focuses on your own sustainability-focused behaviors and activities.

How often do you do each of the following?

(Screen 1 of 2)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
Bring reusable bags when you go shopping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Turn off your computer and other electronic devices when not in use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycle (e.g. paper, glass, plastic)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Make sustainable food choices (e.g. local, vegetarian or vegan, organic, ethical, low carbon footprint, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use reusable cups/bottles and/or food containers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Read information on your screen (e.g. laptop, phone) instead of printing it out	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How often do you do each of the following?

(Screen 2 of 2)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
Limit your time in the shower	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use public or alternative transportation (e.g. bus, carpool, walk, bike, skateboard, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buy second-hand clothing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buy sustainably-sourced clothing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchase sustainable products that cost more than non-sustainable alternatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Overall, how motivated or unmotivated are you to adopt behaviors and practices oriented toward sustainability?

- Very Motivated

- Somewhat Motivated
- Somewhat Unmotivated
- Very Unmotivated

When it comes to adopting sustainability-oriented behaviors and practices, what are your biggest challenges?

What are the main reasons underlying your lack of motivation for adopting sustainability-oriented behaviors and practices?

The next set of questions focuses on sustainability initiatives/efforts at UMass Amherst.

Based on your own campus experiences, to what extent do you perceive that sustainability is a priority of UMass Amherst?

- To a very great extent
- To a great extent
- To some extent
- To a little extent
- To a very little extent

How interested are you in contributing to sustainability efforts and initiatives here at UMass Amherst?

- Very Interested
- Somewhat Interested
- Not too Interested
- Not at all Interested

So far, how many of your UMass Amherst courses have addressed the topic of sustainability?

- None

- One
- Two
- Three or more

How interested are you in taking future courses related to sustainability?

- Very Interested
- Somewhat Interested
- Not too Interested
- Not at all Interested

How aware are you of each of the following UMass Amherst sustainability initiatives?

(Screen 1 of 2)

	Very Aware	Somewhat Aware	Not Aware
New2U Move-out Collection and Move-in Tag Sale	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UMass Student Farmer's Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ValleyBike Share	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School of Earth & Sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UMass Permaculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UMass Student Farming CSA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How aware are you of each of the following UMass Amherst sustainability initiatives?

(Screen 2 of 2)

	Very Aware	Somewhat Aware	Not Aware
Paperbark Literary Magazine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zero Waste Initiative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Resiliency Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carbon Mitigation Task Force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eco-Reps Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability, Innovation & Engagement Fund (SIEF)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

From your perspective, which of the following should be UMass Amherst's first academic priority related to sustainability education?

- Creating Gen Ed courses focused on sustainability
- Increasing the number of faculty whose research focuses on sustainability

- Increasing the number of courses related to sustainability
- Preparing students for careers in the green workforce (e.g. jobs in renewable energy, environmental conservation, energy auditing, pollution removal, etc.)
- Increasing opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research focused on sustainability

Which of these sustainable institutional areas should the UMass Amherst campus focus on most?

(Select up to three.)

- Environmental justice, diversity and inclusion
- Composting on campus
- Prioritizing sustainable purchasing for university supplies and services (e.g. office supplies, vehicles, cleaning supplies, office equipment, contractors, etc.)
- Recycling and waste reduction on campus
- Sustainable landscaping design, techniques and products on campus
- Increased use of clean energy (wind, solar) to meet campus energy needs
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions on campus
- Other (please specify)

The last few questions focus on recycling and composting, specifically.

To what extent is each of the following an obstacle to your recycling and composting at UMass Amherst?

	A Major Obstacle	A Minor Obstacle	Not an Obstacle	Does not apply to my situation
It's difficult to find a good place to rinse jars and other recyclable containers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have to carry my recyclables to an outdoor bin.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The recycling bin is sometimes too full for me to add my items.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instructions about how to sort items are not available when I need them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The rules about what is recyclable are not clear.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The rules about what is compostable are not clear.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Another obstacle (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The University's Waste Management team is trying to reduce the amount of waste-disposal errors that occur here at the University -- for example, when people put non-recyclable items in the recycling, or recyclable items in the trash.

Do you have any suggestions for how the University can help students make fewer waste-disposal errors?

Please use the space below to share any additional comments or suggestions you may have related to sustainability at UMass Amherst.

The last few questions ask for background information. This information allows us to compare differences, if any, among groups.

What is your College/School?

- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Humanities and Fine Arts
- College of Information and Computer Sciences
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Nursing
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Isenberg School of Management
- School of Public Health and Health Sciences
- Stockbridge School of Agriculture
- Other (please specify)

Do you live on campus or off campus?

- On Campus
- Off Campus

What is your gender identity?

(Select all that apply.)

- Woman

- Man
- Trans Woman
- Trans Man
- Genderqueer
- Another gender identity

That concludes the survey.

Thank you for taking the time to complete it.

To view the correct answers to the "quiz" questions, please click here: [View Quiz Answers](#)

Otherwise, click "next," and then close your browser to exit the survey.

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