

The Climate Change Action Research Group (CCARG) conducted a survey assessing Cal Poly students' knowledge regarding sustainability in conjunction with the faculty group, Sustainability Across the Curriculum, with the goal of increasing sustainability education at Cal Poly SLO. Below is a copy of the survey that was implemented:

Student Sustainability Education Survey

INFORMED CONSENT – SURVEYS FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Dear Survey Participant:

I am conducting a research study to better understand how sustainability is incorporated in the Cal Poly curriculum. I am inviting your participation, which will involve participating in a brief five to ten minute survey. Questions will focus on your experience and knowledge regarding sustainability education on Cal Poly campus. You have the right not to answer any question, and to stop the survey at any time. Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study at any time, there will be no penalty. You must be 18 or older to participate in this study. The benefit of community participation in this research project will include the production of scientifically sound and policy-driven results that will help inform those in the role of decision-making at Cal Poly. There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to your participation. Your responses will be confidential. To protect your confidentiality all responses will be saved on a password protected computer and erased upon completion of the project. The results of this study may be used in reports, presentations, or publications, but your name will not be known. Potential benefits include a greater understanding of how sustainability is incorporated in the Cal Poly curriculum.

If you have any questions concerning the research study, please contact the research team at: bpompeii@calpoly.edu or by phone at 814-591-6421. If you have any questions about your rights as a subject/participant in this research, or if you feel you have been placed at risk, you can contact Dr. Michael Black, Chair of the Cal Poly Institutional Review Board, at (805) 756-2894, mblack@calpoly.edu, or Dr. Dean Wendt, Dean of Research, at (805) 756-1508, dwendt@calpol.edu.

If you agree to participate in this research as described please indicate your agreement by checking a box below, signing this form, and answering the survey questions. Please keep a copy of this consent form for your records and thank you for your participation.

College: drop down menu here

Major: drop down menu here

Major not listed? Fill in here:

Second major: (Optional)

Minor: (optional)

Year (choose one): 1st Year 2nd Year 3rd Year 4th Year+ Graduate

Are you a transfer student? Yes No

Gender: Another Identity (please specify -- fill in box), Male, Female, choose not to answer

Permanent Zip Code (hometown):

Please choose the best answer for each question.

1. Define sustainability

- a. Protecting the environment
- b. Ensuring the needs of today are met without harming the ability of future generations to meet their needs
- c. Reducing, reusing, and recycling
- d. Providing resources to those in need
- e. I don't know

2. 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

- a. W, Y, X, Z
- b. Z, W, X, Y
- c. Z, Y, X, W
- d. Z, X, Y, W
- e. Don't know

3. What factors influence the human population's impact on Earth?

- a. Size of the population
- b. Amount of materials used per person
- c. Use of technology that lessens our impact
- d. A, B, and C
- e. A and B
- f. B and C
- g. A and C
- h. Don't know

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

- a. Fishermen seeking to maximize their catch

- b. Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization
- c. Ocean pollution
- d. Global climate change
- e. Don't know

5. Which of the following statements about water is true?

- a. Globally, water for personal use such as washing dishes, doing laundry, and bathing is the major user of water resources.
- b. Globally, freshwater reserves (aquifers) are used faster than they are replenished.
- c. Floods and severe weather will increase the availability of clean drinking water.
- d. Because water is a free and abundant resource, it is not a major concern for most countries.
- e. Don't know

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

- a. Recycling all recyclable packaging
- b. Reducing consumption of all products
- c. Buying products labeled "eco" or "green"
- d. Buying the newest products available
- e. Don't know

7. Imagine that we had to pay for all the costs associated with the goods we use every day. What would go into calculating the true costs of a product?

- a. The cost of raw materials to make the product
- b. The cost of environmental damage caused by production
- c. The cost of healthcare for employees who manufacture the product
- d. All of the above
- e. Don't know

8. Which of the following best characterizes sustainability?

- a. Social Justice
- b. Environmental Stewardship
- c. Economic Security
- d. All three
- e. Don't know

9. Define economic sustainability:

- a. Distributing money and resources equally so that all can obtain basic human needs
- b. Distributing money and resources based on what people can afford to buy
- c. Eliminating money from the world so as to wipe out all greed
- d. When cost equals revenue
- e. I don't know

10. Which of the following is an example of social sustainability?

- a. Corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict

- b. The government dams a river, flooding a rural community, in order to generate hydro-power for a nearby metropolitan area
- c. Urban citizens pass a bill to have toxic waste taken to a rural community
- d. Indigenous community is involved in setting a quota for the amount of wood that can be taken from a protected forest near their village
- e. I don't know

11. How important do you think sustainability is?

Not Important 0 1 2 3 4 5 Very Important

Additional Comments:

12. How important do you think it is to include sustainability learning in the Cal Poly classroom?

Not Important 0 1 2 3 4 5 Very Important

Additional Comments:

13. How well does Cal Poly teach sustainability?

Poorly 0 1 2 3 4 5 Very Well

Additional Comments:

14. What are some ways to infuse sustainability education in the classroom at Cal Poly? (Choose up to 3)

- Better marketing of sustainability classes
- Integrate sustainability topics into already existing classes
- Offer more sustainability classes in major
- Make sustainability a GE requirement (would not increase number of required units)
- Advise how sustainability education relates to career opportunities
- The university should make it a priority by allocating more funds to sustainability education
- Professors should allocate more time to sustainability education
- Add first year sustainability education opportunities
- I don't think we should make sustainability education more accessible
- Other, Explain:

15. What prevents you from receiving more sustainability instruction at Cal Poly? (Choose up to 3)

- I don't have enough time
- It doesn't fit with my major or academic goals
- I don't care about sustainability
- I don't know how to find the courses
- Cost
- I don't have enough electives
- Cal Poly does not offer enough sustainability courses
- Courses are not well promoted

- Professors lack motivation
- Professors lack competency in subject
- The university does not prioritize funding
- Other, Explain:

16. During your time at Cal Poly, how many courses have you taken that address the topics presented in this survey?

0

1-2

3 or more

OPTIONAL:

In what way(s) might Cal Poly better engage students in discussing and making decisions about what sustainable practices might be promoted on campus?

END