

SLU Sustainability Literacy & Culture Survey Response Summary

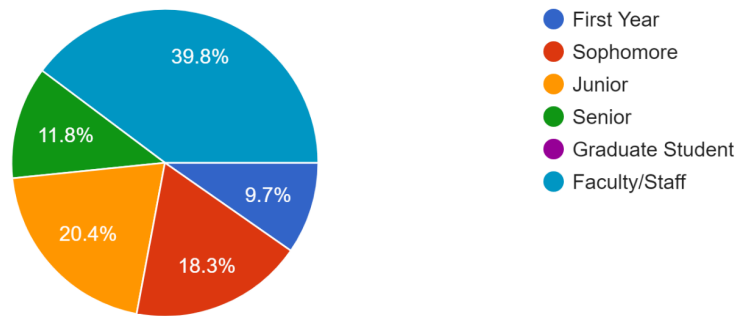
The Sustainability Literacy & Culture Survey was sent to St. Lawrence Faculty, Staff, and Students on March 1st, 2024 via campus email listservs. It was then further shared by St. Lawrence's Environmental Action Organization Instagram, Environmental Studies Professors, and was presented as a QR code during two tabling events in March. The survey was open until Spring Break, the week of March 18th.

Survey Demographics

Total number of respondents: **93**

Current academic level/position of respondents:

93 responses



Current majors of study/academic field:

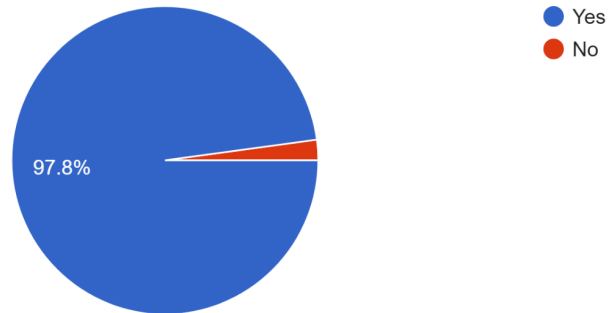
Majors/Academic Fields of participants include - Environmental Studies, Chemistry, Biology, Government, Global Studies, Psychology, English, Finance, Economics, Computer Science, Sociology, Philosophy, Performance and Communication Arts, Anthropology, Data Science, Biomedical Sciences, Business, Computer Science, Art, and Mathematics.

Environmental Studies was the most common major/field of participants.

Campus Sustainability Culture Responses

1. Have you heard the term “sustainability” used at SLU?

93 responses



2. If you answered “yes” to the above question, please provide a brief description of where you have heard it used:

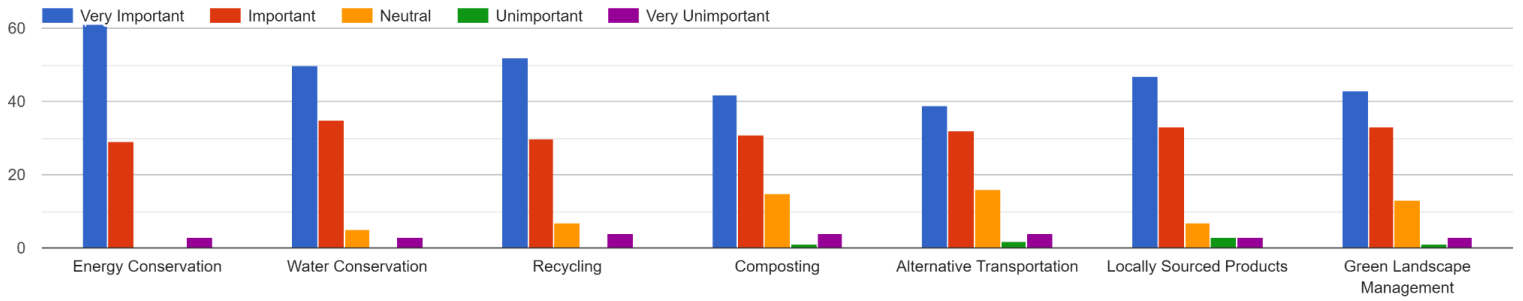
Responses referenced recycling, composting, and reuse initiatives, renewable energy, conversations with peers, student groups, internships, the farm/Sustainability Program, the Johnson Hall of Science (LEED), the new Center for Environment, food, community service, dorm renovation plans, coursework, lighting/heating on campus, and emails from administration.

3. Please indicate which level of the following statements best describes your level of interest in sustainability:

93 responses



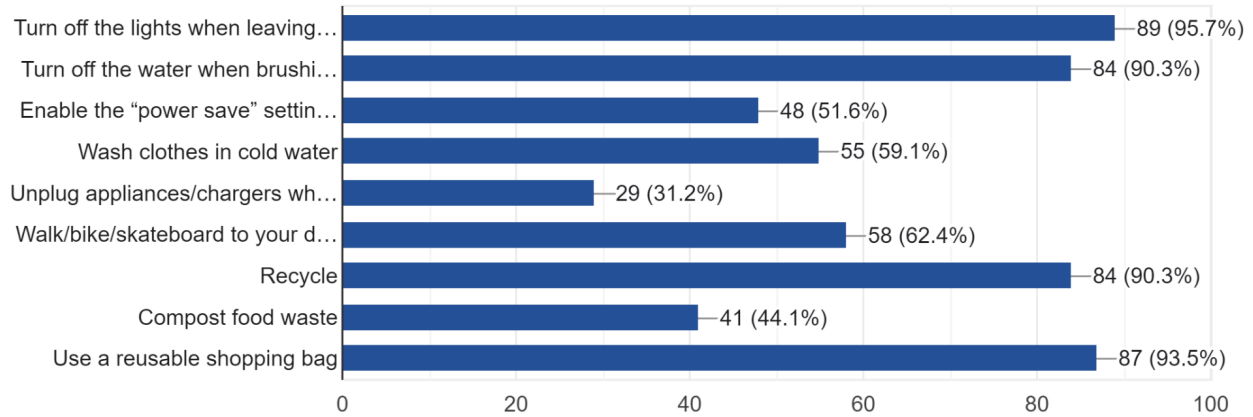
4. Please indicate the degree of importance you place on the following sustainability issues:



	Number of Respondents Per Issue by Ranking of Importance				
Issue	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Energy Conservation	61 (~66%)	29 (~31%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (~3%)
Water Conservation	50 (~54%)	35 (~38%)	5 (~5%)	0 (0%)	3 (~3%)
Recycling	52 (~56%)	30 (~32%)	7 (~8%)	0 (0%)	4 (~4%)
Composting	42 (~45%)	31 (~33%)	15 (~16%)	1 (~1%)	4 (~4%)
Alternative Transportation	39 (~42%)	32 (~34%)	16 (~17%)	2 (~2%)	4 (~4%)
Locally Sourced Products	47 (~51%)	33 (~35%)	7 (~8%)	3 (~3%)	3 (~3%)
Green Landscape Management	43 (~46%)	33 (~35%)	13 (~14%)	1 (~1%)	3 (~3%)

5. Please indicate which of the following you do on a regular basis:

93 responses



Text cut off in image of chart, full text for each item below:

Turn off the lights when leaving a room

Turn off the water when brushing your teeth

Enable the "power save" setting on your computer

Wash clothes in cold water

Unplug appliances/chargers when not in use to eliminate phantom power

Walk/bike/skateboard to your destination

Recycle

Compost Food Waste

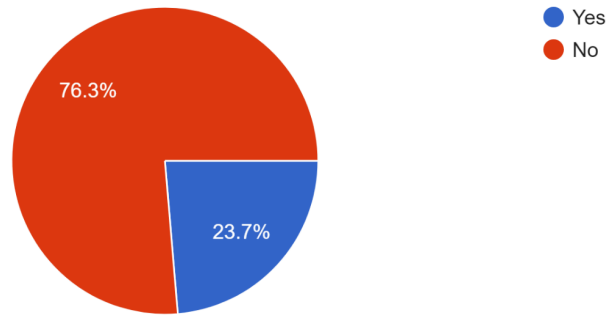
Use a reusable shopping bag

6. Are you involved in a sustainability/environmental-related club or organization?

All Respondents:

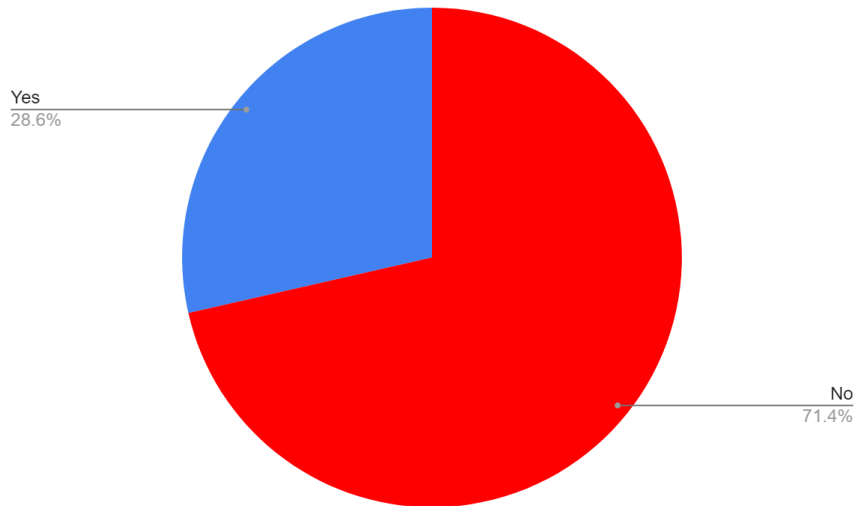
Are you involved in a sustainability/environmental-related club or organization?

93 responses



Just Students:

56 responses

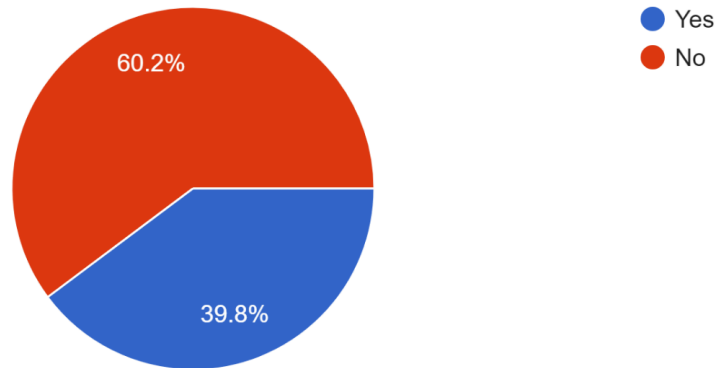


7. If you answered "yes" to the above question, please share the name of this organization

Listed organizations include — Adirondack Semester, Close the Loop, Seed to Table, Environmental Action Organization, Sustainability Program, Greenhouse, Thelmo, Barn Goods Thrift Store, Nature Up North, Outing Club

8. Have you ever attended a sustainability/environmental-related event on campus?

93 responses



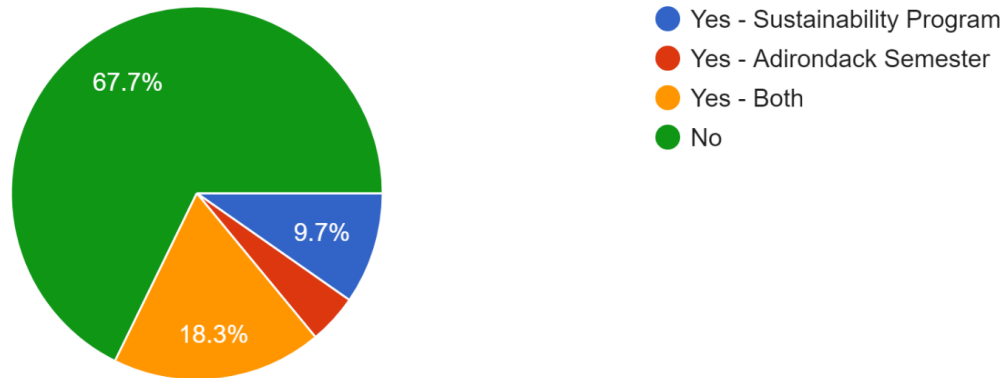
9. If you answered "yes" to the above question, please share the name/approximate date of the event

Events include — Sustainability Fair, Interviews for the new Center for Environment Director, tour of the Sustainability Farm, lectures by faculty, Close the Loop events/workshops, EAO events, Greenhouse dinners and workshops, Earth Fest

10. Are you interested in participating in the Sustainability Program or the Adirondack Semester?

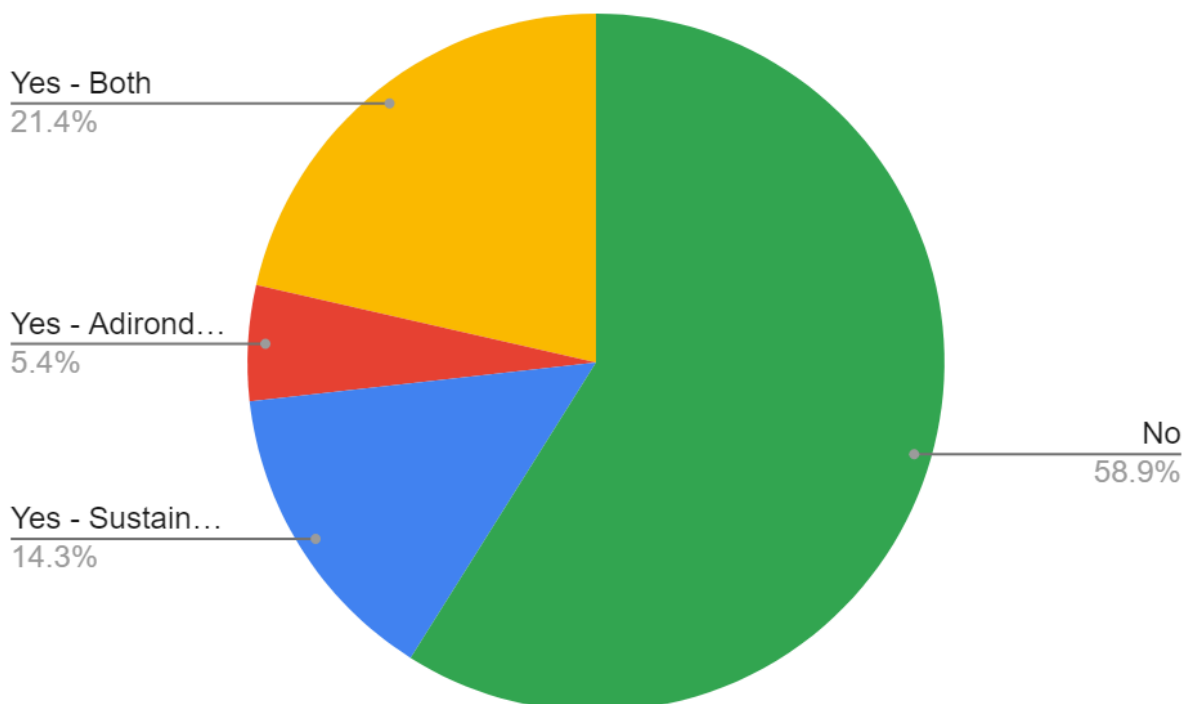
All Respondents:

93 responses



Just Students:

56 responses



11. Which resources would you find the most helpful in learning more about sustainability (outside of the classroom)?

Resource	Number of Respondents Indicating Resource Would be Helpful
Public Forums	45 (49.5%)
In-Person Workshops	53 (57%)
Sustainability-Themed Competitions	40 (43%)
Blogs	16 (17.2%)
Emails	39 (41.9%)
Online Workshops	15 (16.1%)
Webpage	40 (43%)
Large Education Events	39 (41%)
Mobile App	14 (15.1%)
Social Media	48 (51.6%)

12. Which of the following would you like to learn more about?

Resource	Number of Respondents Indicating They Would Like to Learn More
Adapting to climate change	56 (60.2%)
How to get involved with sustainability at SLU	34 (36.6%)
SLU sustainability programs & initiatives	48 (51.6%)
Tips for home or residence hall energy/water consumption	57 (61.3%)
Lifestyle choices to reduce your carbon footprint	61 (65.6%)
Recycling	36 (38.7%)
Composting	31 (33.3%)
Renewable Energy	46 (49.5%)

Write in responses indicated an interest in advocacy/protesting, sustainable fashion, biodiversity, sustainable food production, and connections to wellbeing & social justice

13. Please provide any additional comments, suggestions, or ideas that you may have:

- Desire for on campus sustainability upgrades, like better energy efficiency in buildings
- Concern regarding cigarette butt litter on campus
- **Desire for composting in all student housing/dining**
- **Concern about recycling on campus and whether anything is actually recycled**
- Concern regarding the discontinuation of the Sustainability Program/Farm
- Reducing plastic use on campus
- Increased transparency with sustainability initiatives on campus

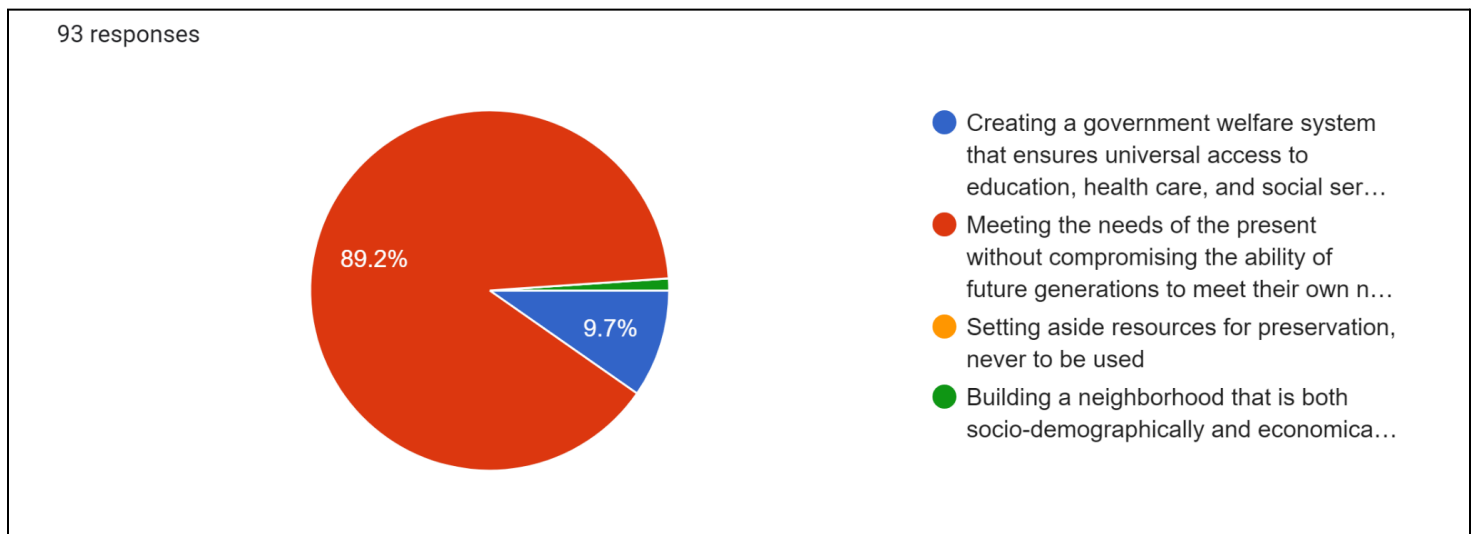
Lack of composting and recycling were the most frequently mentioned concerns.

Campus Sustainability Literacy Responses (and correct answers)

Correct answers are bold, italicized, in red with *.

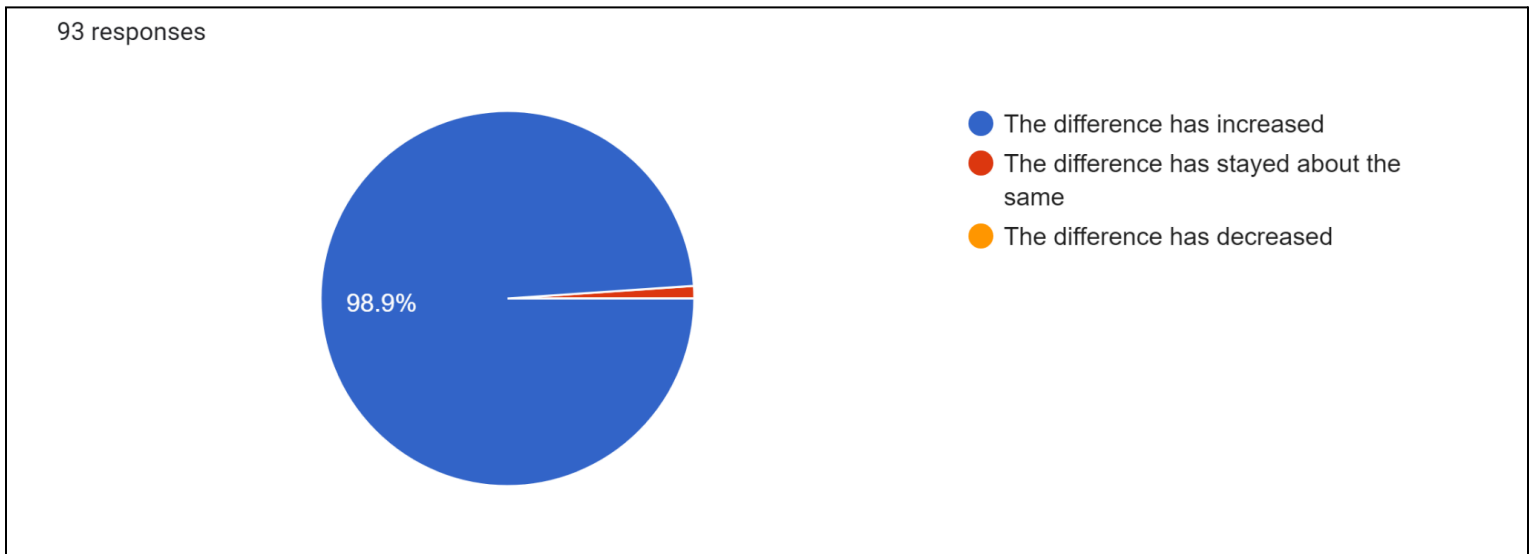
1. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?
 - a. Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health care, and social services
 - b. Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
 - c. *Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs****
 - d. Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse

89.2% of respondents selected the correct answer.



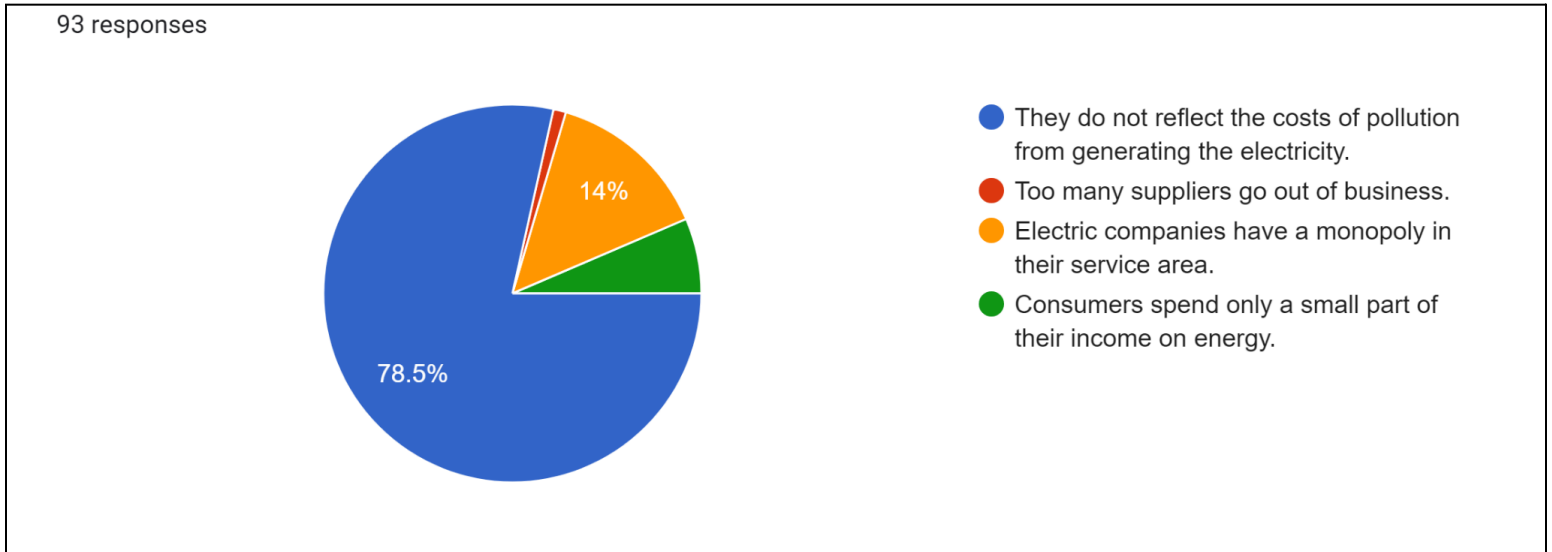
2. Over the past 3 decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans?
- a. **The difference has increased.**
 - b. The difference has stayed about the same.
 - c. The difference has decreased.

98.9% of respondents selected the correct answer.



3. Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because...
- a. **They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating the electricity.**
 - b. Too many suppliers go out of business.
 - c. Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area.
 - d. Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy.

78.5% of respondents selected the correct answer.

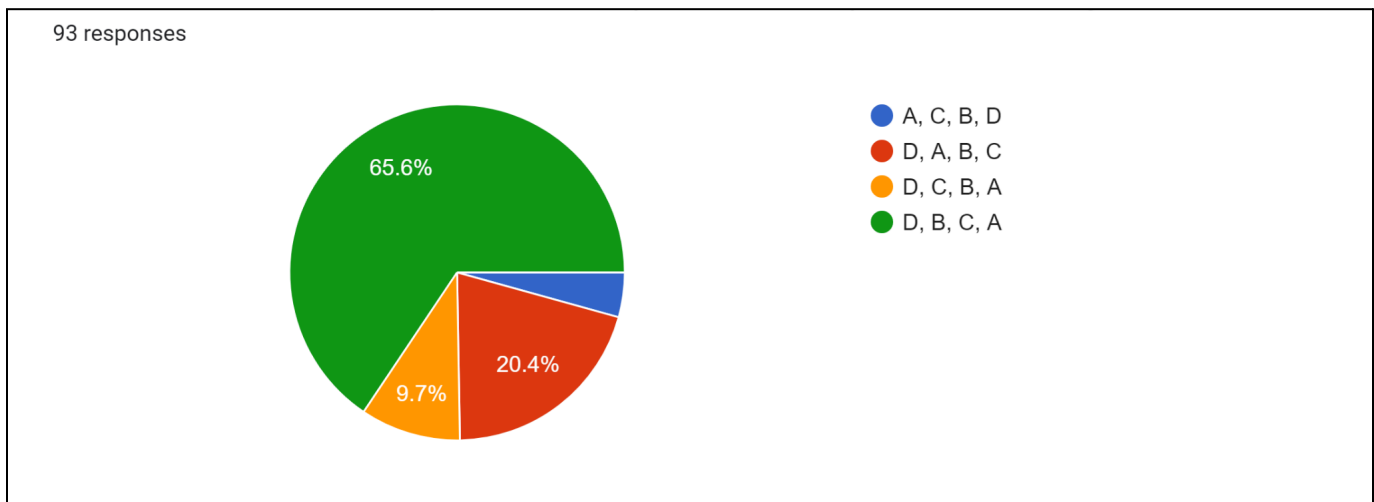


4. Put the following list in order of the activities with the largest environmental impact to those with the smallest environmental impact:

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

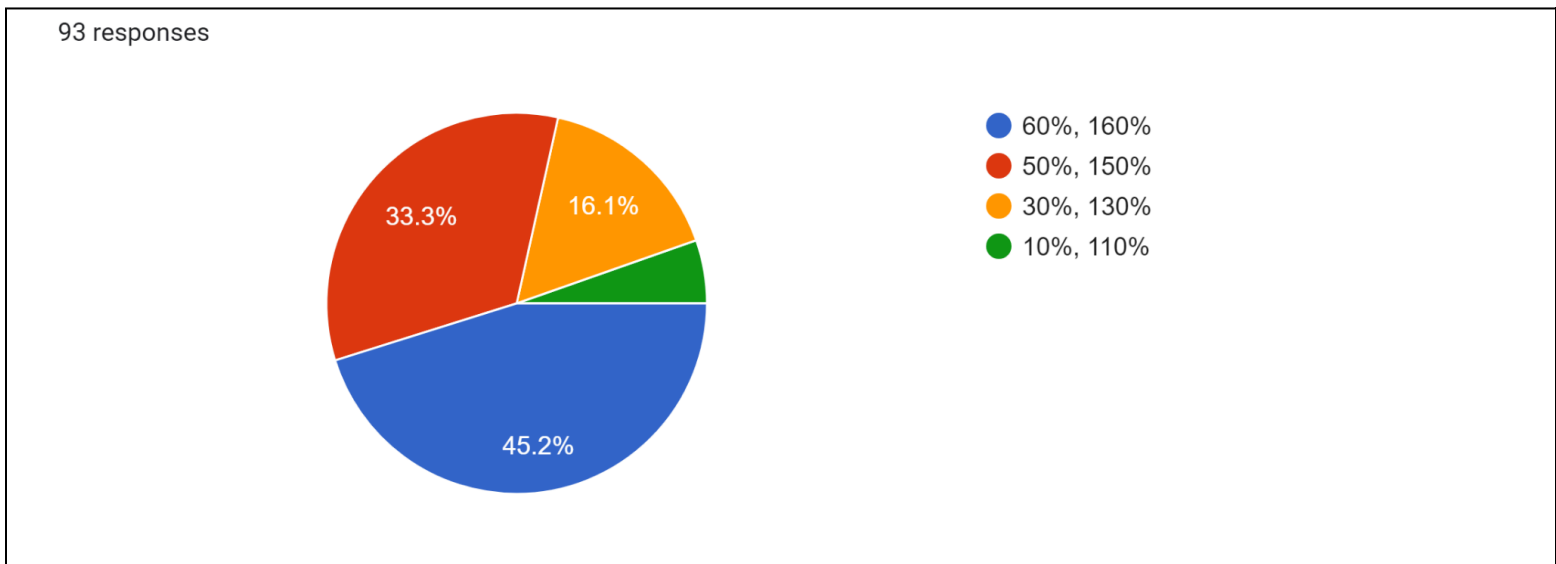
- a. A, C, B, D
- b. D, A, B, C
- c. D, C, B, A
- d. ***D, B, C, A***

65.6% of respondents selected the correct answer.



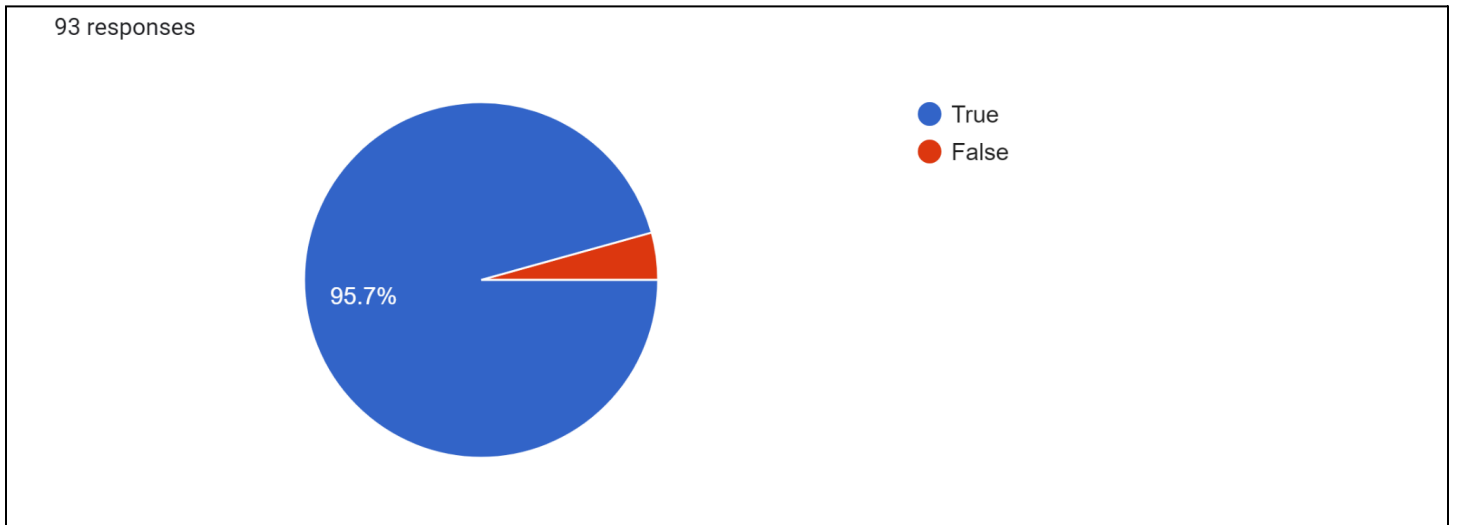
5. Since the onset of industrial times in the 18th century, human activities have raised atmospheric CO₂ by ___% – meaning the amount of CO₂ is now ___% of its value in 1750.
- a. 60%, 160%
 - b. *50%, 150%***
 - c. 30%, 130%
 - d. 10%, 110%

33.3% of respondents selected the correct answer.



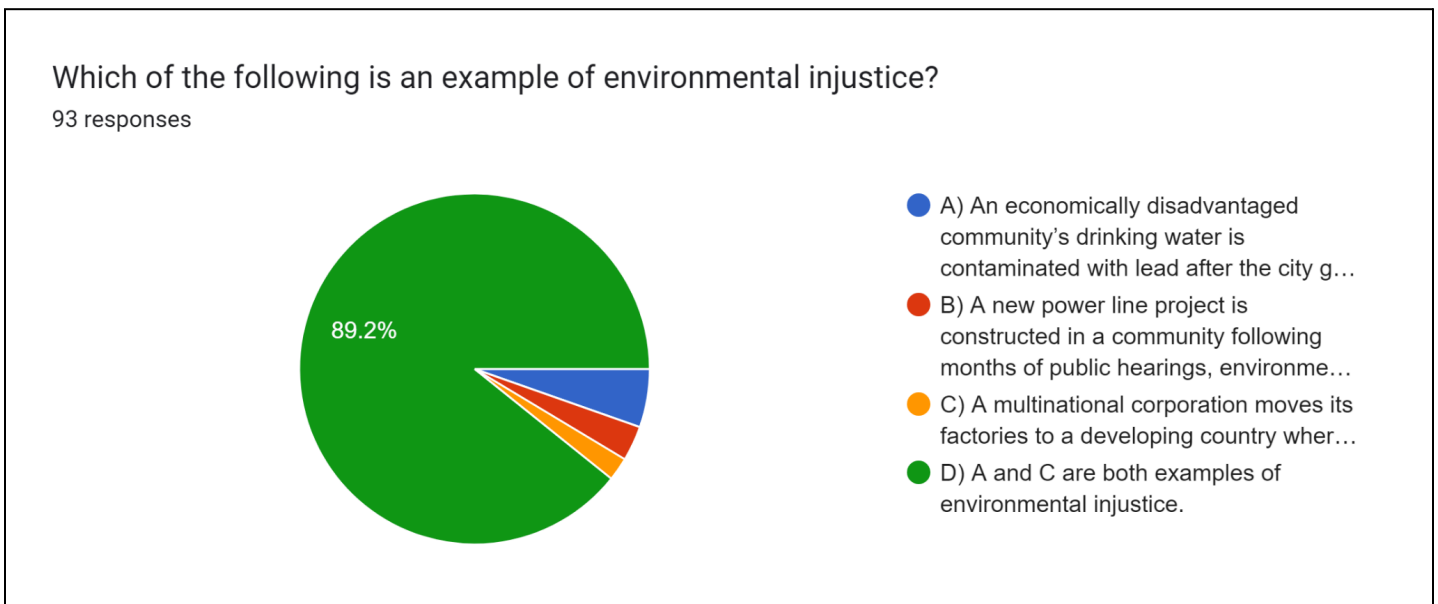
6. True or false: Current human-induced rise in atmospheric CO2 levels is greater than the natural increase observed at the end of the last ice age 20,000 years ago.
- a. ****True****
 - b. False

95.7% of respondents selected the correct answer.



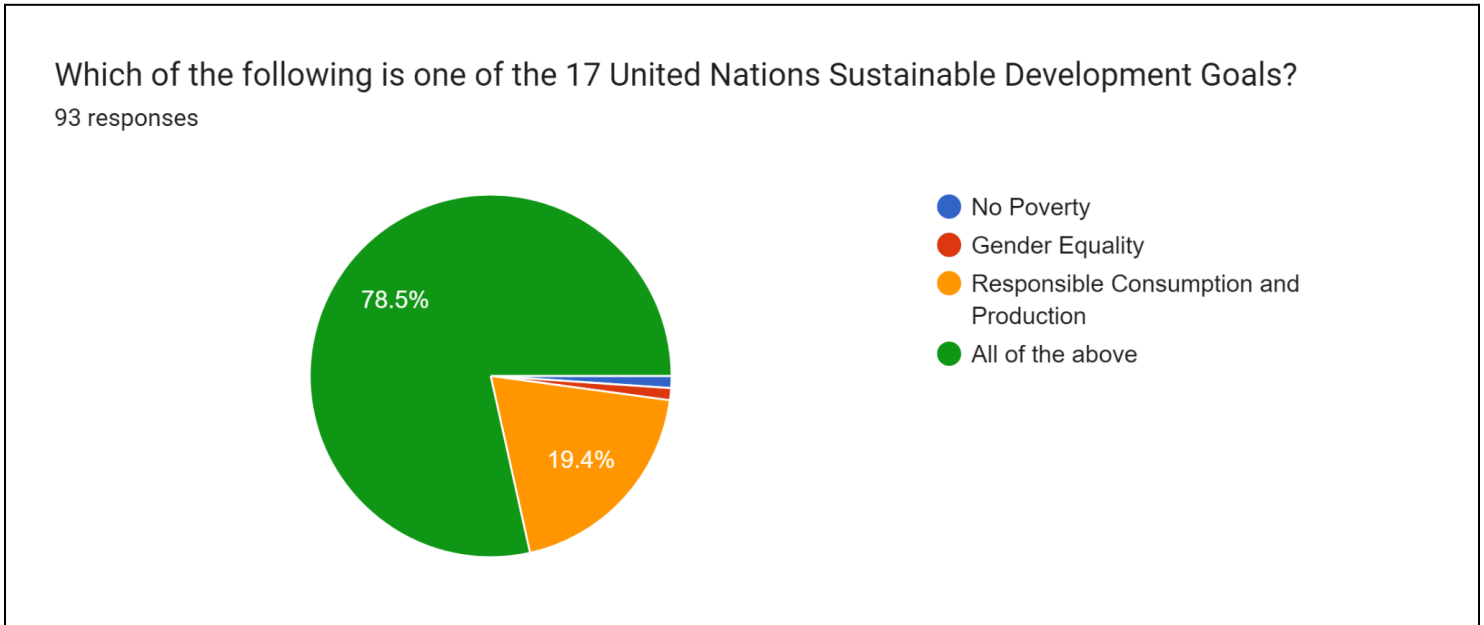
7. Which of the following is an example of environmental injustice?
- a. An economically disadvantaged community's drinking water is contaminated with lead after the city government switched water sources without proper testing or input from residents.
 - b. A new power line project is constructed in a community following months of public hearings, environmental risk assessments, and input from community members of many backgrounds and interests.
 - c. A multinational corporation moves its factories to a developing country where environmental regulations are less strict.
 - d. **A and C are both examples of environmental injustice.**

89.2% of respondents selected the correct answer.



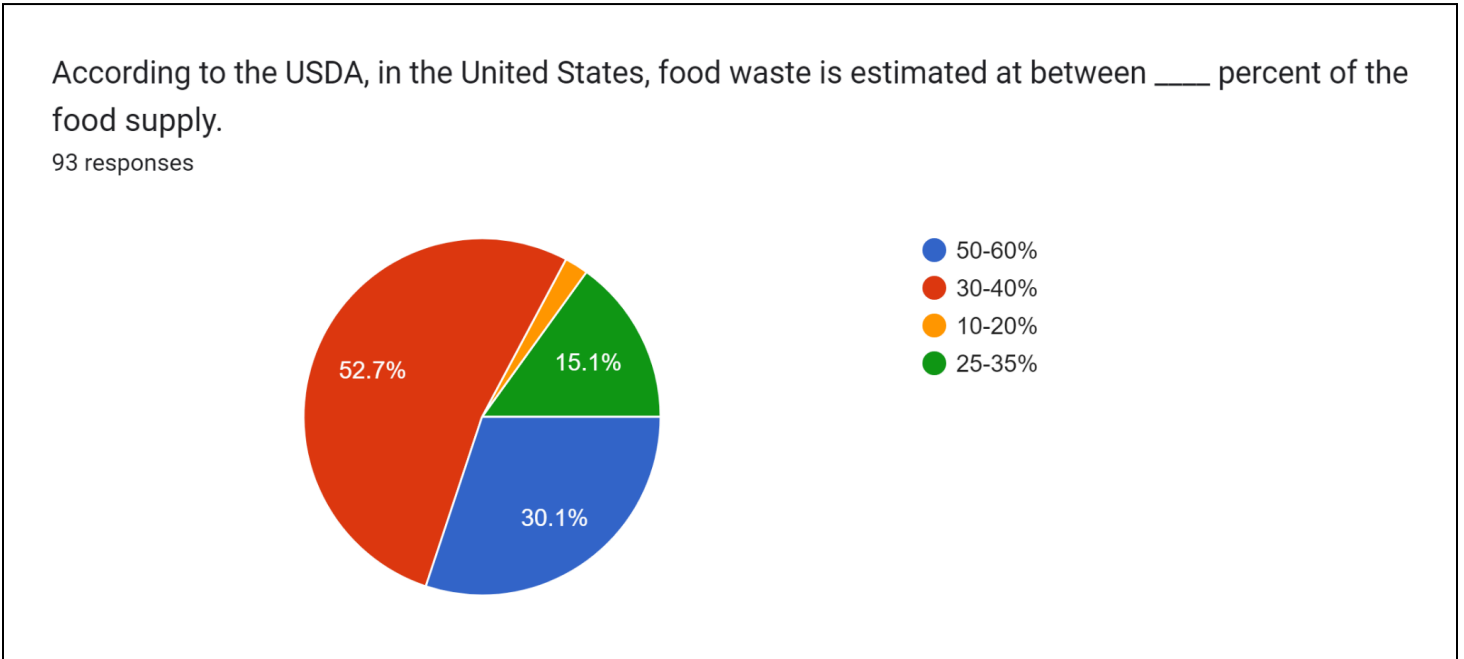
8. Which of the following is one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?
- a. No Poverty
 - b. Gender Equality
 - c. Responsible Consumption and Production
 - d. **All of the above**

78.5% of respondents selected the correct answer.



9. According to the USDA, in the United States, food waste is estimated at between ____ percent of the food supply.
- a. 50-60%
 - b. *30-40%***
 - c. 10-20%
 - d. 25-35%

52.7% of respondents selected the correct answer.



10. The largest sector of *per-capita* carbon emissions in the US is...
- a. Transportation
 - b. *Electricity and heat***
 - c. Agriculture
 - d. Waste

17.2% of respondents selected the correct answer.

The largest sector of per-capita carbon emissions in the US is

93 responses

