December 2017

2017 Campus Sustainability Survey Section 1: Student Results

Version 10

Kelly Simmons, CU Environmental Center





Background

A 27 question online Qualtrics survey was administered to a representative sample of both graduate and undergraduate CU Boulder students over a 2 week period during Fall 2017 semester.

Survey questions were developed by a team from the CU Environmental Center and Residence Life, in consultation with the CU Office of Assessment.

Results will be used for STARS reporting and evaluating sustainability programming and impact.





Survey Questions

The survey aimed to assess both the Sustainability Literacy and Sustainability Behaviors and Values of CU Boulder students.

Questions were True/False, multiple choice, or asked respondents to either select or rank choices in a table.

Limitations: Not all questions were answered by every student. N varied between 310 and 284 depending on the question.





Sustainability Literacy

Overall, Sustainability Literacy among CU Boulder students is high....

95% selected the correct definition of the term "carbon footprint"

90% correctly identified the purchasing behavior that "most effectively supports local economies"

87% selected the correct international definition of sustainable development 84% knew that many people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water and must drink contaminated water.

82% correctly identified "one of the predicted effects of climate change according to scientists" (expansion of deserts)

73% selected the correct definition of the term "triple bottom line" 63% correctly identified the definition of "environmental justice"



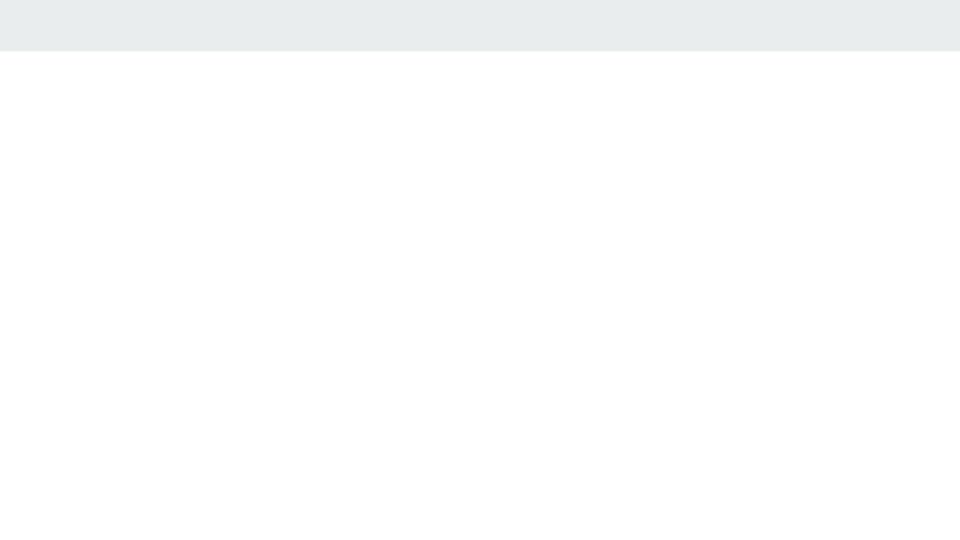
Sustainability Literacy

Room for improvement.....

64% did not know Colorado's primary source of fuel for electricity (Coal).

69% did not know the largest source of anthropogenic greenhouse gases (*Electricity* and heat production)

37% did not know the definition of environmental justice





Sustainability Literacy on Campus

CU Boulder Campus Recycling - Room for improvement

78% of students indicated that *broken/unwanted electronics* are recyclable on campus or don't know

72% of students indicated that *pizza boxes* are recyclable on campus or don't know 53% of students indicated *batteries* are not recyclable on campus or don't know 52% of students indicated *plastic bags* are recyclable on campus or don't know

Sustainability is important to students.....

90% of students indicated that sustainability was either "very" or "somewhat" important to them <u>prior to</u> attending CU Boulder

97% of students indicated that sustainability was either "Very" or "Somewhat" important to them <u>now that</u> they are CU Boulder students

92% of students said it was important to them that CU Boulder has a strong commitment to environmental sustainability

92% of students said they try to make environmentally sustainable choices in the way they live.

40% of students report they chose CU in part because of its sustainability reputation

Climate Change is important to students.....

95% of students think that climate change is a legitimate concern for their generation

50% of students stated that climate change is "extremely" important to them personally.

44% of students stated that climate change is either "very" or "moderately" important to them personally.

80% of students thought they were either "extremely" - 7% or "moderately" - 73% environmentally sustainable (low carbon footprint).

95% of students stated they would like to be either "extremely" - 65% or "moderately" - 30% environmentally sustainable (low carbon footprint)







Importance of programs and initiatives to students

- 98% of students rated (reducing disposables, move in and out, events) as "Very" or "Some"
- 98% of students rated Renewable Energy projects as "Very" or "Some"
- 97% of students rated Building Retrofits and Energy Conservation as "Very" or "Some"
- 97% of students rated Water Conservation as "Very or "Some"
- 95% of students rated Organics Recovery as "Very" or "Some"
- 95% of students rated Petroleum Use Reduction (idling vehicles, more electric) as "Very" or "Some"
- 95% of students rated Transportation (reduce campus cars, increase bus/bike access) as "Very or "Some"
- 95% of students rated Sustainable Food (edible gardens, landscaping, and local) as "Very or "Some"
- 91% of students rated Increased Student Sustainability Experiences (majors, minors, workshops, service learning) as "Very" or "Some"



Selection from 59 Comments

- Community garden for all the students. bee keeping.
- I would love to see more information about CU Boulder's sustainability programs on the Law School campus.
- Compost bins in dorm bathrooms
- Green practices/workshops/opportunities should be more advertised. Perhaps we should get more e-mails or have to undergo mandatory workshops. Students should be more informed about recycling, energy conservation, composting, etc
- Divest from fossil fuels and make students aware of how tied the university regents are to fossil fuel interests...As a practice I haven't seen the buildings or department's practice energy saving computers are left on all the time in the labs. Students or lab managers don't turn them off. The thing is while individuals can do work, it's from the top down not the bottom up that produces real change.
- CU Agriculture Village/Farm on East Campus... or South Campus. Include aspects of sustainable agriculture,

December 2017/

2017 Campus Sustainability Survey Section 2: Staff and Faculty Results

Version 10

Kelly Simmons, CU Environmental Center





Background

A 26 question online Qualtrics survey was administered to a representative sample of CU Boulder staff and faculty over a 2 week period during Fall 2017 semester.

Survey questions were developed by a team from the CU Environmental Center and Residence Life, in consultation with the CU Office of Assessment.

Results will be used for STARS reporting and evaluating sustainability programming and impact.



Survey Questions

The survey aimed to assess both the Sustainability Literacy and Sustainability Behaviors and Values of CU Boulder Staff and Faculty.

Questions were True/False, multiple choice, or asked respondents to either select or rank choices in a table.



Sustainability Literacy

Overall, Sustainability Literacy among CUB Staff and Faculty is high....

96% selected the correct definition of the term "carbon footprint"

91% selected the correct international definition of sustainable development

90% correctly identified the purchasing behavior that "most effectively supports local economies"

86% knew that many people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water and must drink contaminated water.

82% selected the correct definition of the term "triple bottom line"

79% correctly identified "one of the predicted effects of climate change according to scientists" (expansion of deserts)

57% correctly identified the definition of "environmental justice"



Sustainability Literacy on Campus



Sustainability is important to Staff and Faculty...

88% of staff and faculty indicated that sustainability was either "very" or "somewhat" important to them <u>prior to</u> working for CU Boulder 98% of staff and faculty indicated that sustainability is either "very" or "somewhat" important to them <u>now that</u> they are CU Boulder employees 92% of staff and faculty report trying to make environmentally sustainable choices in the way they live.

90% of staff and faculty said it was important to them that CU Boulder has a strong commitment to environmental sustainability

72% of staff and faculty report they feel pleased or proud to work at the university

in part because of its sustainability reputation

Staff and Faculty Engagement...... The good news

75% of staff and faculty have heard of the Car-share and/or Bike rental program 74% of staff and faculty had intentionally chosen a plant-based meal in the previous week.

74% of staff and faculty report their office or department regularly practices and advocates sustainability "mostly" or "a little".

48% of staff and faculty report they are engaged in sustainability oriented events and programs on campus or in their community either "moderately" or "extremely".

44% of faculty and staff have heard of the annual Campus Sustainability Summit

20% report that they have engaged in volunteer service in any area of sustainability in

the past year.

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Importance of programs and initiatives to Staff and Faculty

- 99% of Staff and Faculty rated Building Retrolls and Energy Conservation as "Very" or "Some"
- 99% of Faculty and Staff rated Water Conservation as "Very or "Some"
- 98% of Staff and Faculty rated Renewable Energy projects as "Very" or "Some"
- 98% of Staff and Faculty rated Waste Reduction (reducing disposables, move in and out, events) as "Very" or "Some"
- 96% of Faculty and Staff rated Organics Recovery as "Very" or "Some"
- 96% of Staff and Faculty rated Petroleum Use Reduction (idling vehicles, electric vehicles) as "Very" or "Some"
- 95% of Staff and Faculty rated Transportation (reduce campus cars, increase bus/bike access) as "Very" or "Some"
- 94% of Staff and Faculty rated Sustainable Food (edible gardens, landscaping, and local) as "Very or "Some"
- 93% of Staff and Faculty rated Increased Student Sustainability Experiences (majors, minors, workshops, service learning) as "Very" or "Some"
- 92% of Staff and Faculty rated Increased Staff/ Faculty Sustainability Experiences (training, workshops, professional development) as "Very" or "Some"





Selection from 36 Comments

- Classroom/Lecture hall/office lights on 24/7 -waste of power
- I would like to see a message from leadership that sustainability is one of our core values, that climate change is a real threat to humanity, and that the university will actively defend its climate research scientists against political attack.
- You need to add electric vehicle charging stations to each building/parking area. Many of us are trying to drive electric and cannot charge.
 - Housing is a huge problem for CU Boulder. Employees can't afford to live in Boulder and are forced to far reaching communities and then have to own cars and contribute to traffic/poor air quality.
 - Sick of hearing about it at every campus event I attend.
- Campus programs might try to reach those who work away from the main campus
- Purchase more food from local sources do away with paper cups at all locations require faculty/staff/students to invest in reusable mugs for beverages (maybe even provide one to all incoming freshman with CU brand For those who can't take a bus, bike, or walk to campus due to various factors, it would reduce transit and idling
 - time if CU parking lots and garages had indicators for the number of remaining spaces and the location of those spaces (typically a simple sensor with a red or green light on the ceiling of a garage, or on a shared pole in a parking lot.



Thank you.

