

Hamilton College Environmental Survey

***NOTE TO KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS: ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.***

We are interviewing people in the United States about their opinions and household decisions. We want to learn more about behaviors that can have consequences for the environment as well as other information such as financial decisions and general attitudes.

The survey has two parts. First, you will be asked questions related to the environment. In the second part, you will be asked about financial decisions and tradeoffs to help us understand how people make decisions in general.

Many of the questions ask about your personal opinions, for which there are no right or wrong answers.

Except when otherwise noted, please answer these questions considering only your own individual behavior and opinions, not those of others in your household.

The survey is completely confidential. No attempt will be made to connect your identity with your answers to these questions.

1. First, if you had to choose, which one of the following would be closest to your views?
  - a. Government should let ordinary people decide for themselves how to protect the environment, even if it means they don't always do the right thing, or
  - b. Government should pass laws to make ordinary people protect the environment, even if it interferes with people's right to make their own decisions.

Now, we are going to present a list of issues which may concern some people. For each statement, please indicate whether you STRONGLY AGREE, MILDLY AGREE, MILDLY DISAGREE, or STRONGLY DISAGREE with it.

2. We worry too much about the future of the environment and not enough about prices and jobs today.
  - a. strongly agree
  - b. mildly agree
  - c. mildly disagree
  - d. strongly disagree

3. Over the next 50 years, environmental damage will cause a reduction in living standards.
  - a. strongly agree
  - b. mildly agree
  - c. mildly disagree
  - d. strongly disagree
  
4. Over the next five years, the U.S. economy will improve.
  - a. strongly agree
  - b. mildly agree
  - c. mildly disagree
  - d. strongly disagree
  
5. It is just too difficult for someone like me to do much about the environment.
  - a. strongly agree
  - b. mildly agree
  - c. mildly disagree
  - d. strongly disagree
  
6. Humans have the right to modify the natural environment.
  - a. strongly agree
  - b. mildly agree
  - c. mildly disagree
  - d. strongly disagree
  
7. Humans are severely abusing the environment.
  - a. strongly agree
  - b. mildly agree
  - c. mildly disagree
  - d. strongly disagree
  
8. Technology will ensure that we do NOT make the earth unlivable.
  - a. strongly agree
  - b. mildly agree
  - c. mildly disagree
  - d. strongly disagree

These are things some people do that have consequences for the environment. We want to know if reducing your own personal impact on the environment is an important factor in your decision to do some of these things. In the last 12 months, *out of concern for the environment*, how often have you done the following?

9. Recycle
  - a. nearly all the time
  - b. frequently
  - c. occasionally
  - d. never
  
10. Reduce energy consumption at home (for example, using less hot water, using a clothesline instead of dryer, unplugging appliances not in use, only running the dishwasher with a full load, adjusting the thermostat)
  - a. nearly all the time
  - b. frequently
  - c. occasionally
  - d. never
  
11. Buy environmentally friendly products (for example, using energy saving light bulbs and recycled paper products, avoiding heavily packaged products)
  - a. nearly all the time
  - b. frequently
  - c. occasionally
  - d. never
  
12. Attempt to reduce your gasoline consumption (for example, by carpooling, biking, using mass transit, walking)
  - a. nearly all the time
  - b. frequently
  - c. occasionally
  - d. never
  
13. Alter your food consumption (for example, consuming locally grown foods, buying fresh instead of frozen, eating less meat)
  - a. nearly all the time
  - b. frequently
  - c. occasionally
  - d. never
  
14. Contribute money to an environmental group or cause
  - a. nearly all the time
  - b. frequently
  - c. occasionally
  - d. never

15. Suggest to friends, relatives, or acquaintances that they change their behavior out of concern for the environment
- nearly all the time
  - frequently
  - occasionally
  - never
16. How many of the following home maintenance activities have you or someone in your household performed to reduce energy consumption: i) install programmable thermostats, ii) clean filters on furnace and air conditioner, iii) wrap water heater, iv) buy energy saving appliances?
- none
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - Not applicable, (e.g., do not own a home)

Now, we would like to ask you about other types of behaviors that take more time and money. Please answer the following two questions considering things you might have done at least once in your lifetime *out of concern for the environment*.

17. Have you ever spent more than \$10,000 to purchase an environmentally friendly product? (e.g., a hybrid car, major home renovations, move to a smaller house)
- Yes
  - No
18. Have you ever worked with others in your community to solve a local environmental problem? (for example, working in the development and maintenance of local parks, working in a community garden, opposing undesirable development).
- Yes
  - No

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you STRONGLY AGREE, MILDLY AGREE, MILDLY DISAGREE, or STRONGLY DISAGREE with it.

19. If it costs too much money, takes up too much time or is otherwise inconvenient, I usually don't make an extra effort to recycle.
- strongly agree
  - mildly agree
  - mildly disagree
  - strongly disagree

20. I purchase environmentally friendly products even when it costs more money, takes up more time or is otherwise inconvenient.
- a. strongly agree
  - b. mildly agree
  - c. mildly disagree
  - d. strongly disagree

21. Would you describe yourself as an environmentalist?
- A. yes
  - B. no

***NOTE TO KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS: THE POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO QUESTION 21 SHOULD BE IDENTICAL TO THE POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO THE SAME QUESTION IN THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROFILE (pppa0083)***

Scientists who study the earth's climate have debated the possible causes and effects of global warming. Many scientists have argued that global average temperatures have risen slightly and will continue to increase for many years as a result of human activities. For each of these statements, tell us your opinion about how true it is.

22. Every time we use coal or oil or gas, we contribute significantly to climate change.
- a. Definitely true
  - b. Probably true
  - c. Probably not true
  - d. Definitely not true
23. Climate change is caused by a hole in the earth's atmosphere.
- a. Definitely true
  - b. Probably true
  - c. Probably not true
  - d. Definitely not true
24. Nuclear power plants increase climate change.
- a. Definitely true
  - b. Probably true
  - c. Probably not true
  - d. Definitely not true
25. In your opinion, how likely is it that climate change will affect you personally in the future?
- a. Very likely
  - b. Likely
  - c. Unlikely
  - d. Very unlikely

Many scientists think that average global temperatures are rising and global climate is changing because carbon dioxide from burning coal and oil and other greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere.

Experts recommend that to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions you should adjust your thermostat up two degrees in the summer and down two degrees in the winter. For the typical household, this one action would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 2,000 pounds per year. Using this information as a baseline, give *your best guess* as to the impact of the following behaviors:

26. What is *your best guess* for the impact of replacing five regular light bulbs with five compact fluorescent light bulbs?

It reduces carbon emissions in one year by:

- significantly less than adjusting your thermostat (less than 1,500 pounds)
- about the same as adjusting your thermostat (1,500 up to 2,500 pounds)
- significantly more than adjusting your thermostat (more than 2,500 pounds)

27. What is *your best guess* for the impact of recycling half of your household garbage in one year?

It reduces carbon emissions in one year by:

- significantly less than adjusting your thermostat (less than 1,500 pounds)
- about the same as adjusting your thermostat (1,500 up to 2,500 pounds)
- significantly more than adjusting your thermostat (more than 2,500 pounds)

28. What is *your best guess* for the impact of eliminating meat and all other animal products from your diet (i.e., becoming a vegan)?

It reduces the carbon emissions associated with your food consumption in one year by

- significantly less than adjusting your thermostat (less than 1,500 pounds)
- about the same as adjusting your thermostat (1,500 to 2,500 pounds)
- significantly more than adjusting your thermostat (more than 2,500 pounds)

29. What is *your best guess* for the impact of using cold water instead of warm or hot water to wash your clothes?

It reduces carbon emissions in one year by:

- significantly less than adjusting your thermostat (1,500 pounds or less)
- about the same as adjusting your thermostat (1,500 to 2,500 pounds)
- significantly more than adjusting your thermostat (more than 2,500 pounds)

The following questions are about trade-offs, financial decisions in your household, and opinions. Your answers will help us understand how people make decisions in general.

30. When making investment decisions, how often do you consider whether or not the companies you are investing in are socially responsible?
- nearly all the time
  - frequently
  - occasionally
  - never
  - N/A—I don't have investments or make investment decisions
31. In planning your savings and spending, which of the following time periods is most important to you and your household?
- the next few months
  - the next year
  - the next few years
  - the next 5-10 years
  - longer than 10 years
32. Which of the following statements comes closest to describing your saving habits?
- I don't save and usually spend more than my income.
  - I don't save and usually spend about as much as income.
  - I save whatever is left over at the end of the month but don't have a regular plan.
  - I save income of one family member, spend the other.
  - I spend regular income, save other income.
  - I save regularly by putting money aside each month.
33. Some people think it is important to leave an inheritance to their surviving heirs, while others don't. Do you feel it is very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?
- Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not at all important
34. Do you expect to leave a sizeable inheritance to your heirs?
- Definitely yes
  - Probably yes
  - Not sure
  - Probably not
  - Definitely not

***NOTE TO KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS: THE NEXT 3 QUESTIONS INVOLVE "SKIPS." PLEASE PROGRAM THE SURVEY SO RESPONDENTS DO NOT SEE QUESTIONS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ANSWER.***

35. Suppose that you are the only income earner in the family, and you have a good job guaranteed to give you your current (family) income every year for life. You are given the opportunity to take a new and equally good job. The new job has a 50-50 chance of doubling your (family) income and a 50-50 chance that it will cut your (family) income by a third. Would you take the new job?
- Yes – go to question 36
  - No – go to question 37
36. Suppose that you are the only income earner in the family, and you have a good job guaranteed to give you your current (family) income every year for life. You are given the opportunity to take a new and equally good job. The new job has a 50-50 chance of doubling your (family) income and a 50-50 chance that it will cut your (family) income by half. Would you still take the new job?
- Yes – go to question 38
  - No – go to question 38
37. Suppose that you are the only income earner in the family, and you have a good job guaranteed to give you your current (family) income every year for life. You are given the opportunity to take a new and equally good job. The new job has a 50-50 chance of doubling your (family) income and a 50-50 chance that it will cut your (family) income by 20 percent. Would you now take the new job?
- Yes
  - No
38. Would you rather win \$1,000 now or \$3,500 five years from now?
- Win \$1,000 now
  - Win \$3,500 five years from now
39. Would you rather lose \$1,000 now or \$3,500 five years from now?
- Lose \$1,000 now
  - Lose \$3,500 five years from now
40. Would you rather win \$1,000 now or \$15,000 ten years from now?
- Win \$1,000 now
  - Win \$15,000 ten years from now
41. Would you rather lose \$1,000 now or \$15,000 five years from now?
- Lose \$1,000 now
  - Lose \$15,000 ten years from now





49. What is the likelihood that you will remain in this community for at least 5 years?
- a. very likely
  - b. likely
  - c. neither likely nor unlikely
  - d. unlikely
  - e. very unlikely
50. How far do you live from your primary place of work?
- A. Less than 5 miles
  - B. 5 – 15 miles
  - C. 15 - 25 miles
  - D. 25 – 40 miles
  - E. More than 40 miles

Public Affairs Profile Questions:

<b>PA Profile</b>	46	<b>pppa0045</b>	Q37: Do you actively participate in any of the following types of organizations or groups? [Service club or fraternal organization (e.g., Elks, Rotary)]
<b>PA Profile</b>	47	<b>pppa0046</b>	Q37: Do you actively participate in any of the following types of organizations or groups? [Veterans group]
<b>PA Profile</b>	48	<b>pppa0047</b>	Q37: Do you actively participate in any of the following types of organizations or groups? [Religious group]
<b>PA Profile</b>	49	<b>pppa0048</b>	Q37: Do you actively participate in any of the following types of organizations or groups? [Senior citizen's center or group]
<b>PA Profile</b>	50	<b>pppa0049</b>	Q37: Do you actively participate in any of the following types of organizations or groups? [Women's group]
<b>PA Profile</b>	52	<b>pppa0051</b>	Q38: How about any of these types of organizations or groups? [Issue-oriented political organization]
<b>PA Profile</b>	53	<b>pppa0052</b>	Q38: How about any of these types of organizations or groups? [Non-partisan civic organization]
<b>PA Profile</b>	54	<b>pppa0053</b>	Q38: How about any of these types of organizations or groups? [School club or association]
<b>PA Profile</b>	55	<b>pppa0054</b>	Q38: How about any of these types of organizations or groups? [Hobby, sports team, or youth group]
<b>PA Profile</b>	56	<b>pppa0055</b>	Q38: How about any of these types of organizations or groups? [Neighborhood association or community group]
<b>PA Profile</b>	57	<b>pppa0056</b>	Q38: How about any of these types of organizations or groups? [Group representing racial/ethnic interests]
<b>PA Profile</b>	84	<b>pppa0083</b>	Q42: Would you describe yourself as an environmentalist?
<b>PA Profile</b>	35	<b>pppa0034</b>	Q26: How many of your relatives live within an hour's drive of your home?
<b>PA Profile</b>	36	<b>pppa0035</b>	Q27: How often do you see any of these relatives?
<b>PA Profile</b>	37	<b>pppa0036</b>	Q28: How many neighbors do you know and talk to regularly?
<b>PA Profile</b>	38	<b>pppa0037</b>	Q29: How many friends do you have who live within an hour's drive of your home?
<b>PA</b>	39	<b>pppa0038</b>	Q30: How often do you see any of these friends?

**Profile**

<b>PA Profile</b>	44	<b>pppa0043</b>	Q35: What is your religion?
<b>PA Profile</b>	45	<b>pppa0044</b>	Q36: How often do you attend religious services?
<b>Public Affairs</b>	53	<b>partyid7</b>	DERIVED: Political party affiliation (7 categories)