



Sustainability Survey

UMass Amherst - Fall 2019

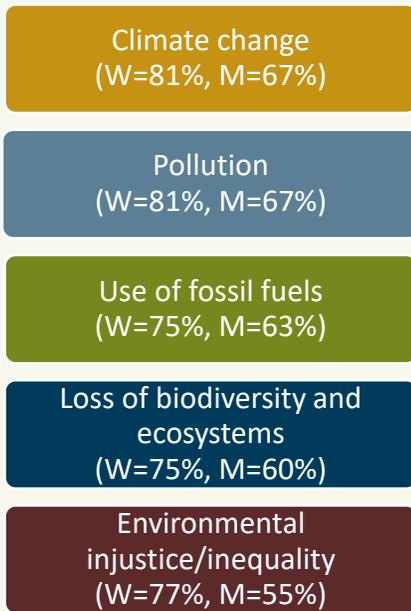
Undergraduate Report

In Fall 2019, UMass Amherst conducted a *Sustainability Survey* to gather information to support the University's academic, research, and campus initiatives that promote sustainable living practices in a collaborative environment. Representatives from the School of Earth and Sustainability and University Relations collaborated with OAPA to develop the survey in house after reviewing several surveys conducted by other institutions.

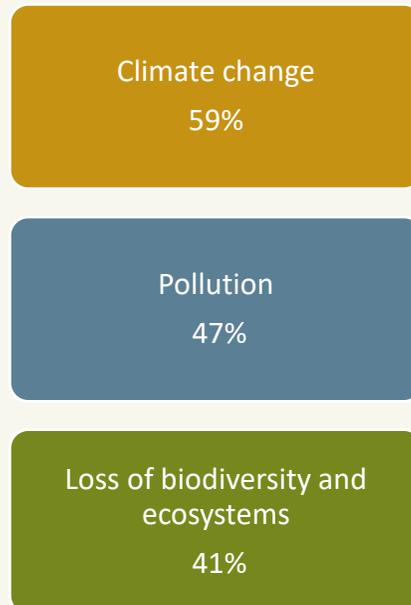
The survey employed the United Nations' definition of sustainability ("*meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*"), and included a 15-question "sustainability literacy" quiz and sets of questions focused on sustainability awareness and attitudes, behaviors and practices consistent with sustainable living, and University efforts and initiatives.

This report communicates survey results for undergraduate students. A random sample of 4981 were invited to complete the online, confidential survey and 34.9% (n=1736) participated. Women were slightly overrepresented among survey participants (by 4 percentage points), as were students who live on campus (by 6 points), and CNS students (by 7 points). ISOM students were underrepresented among survey participants (by 6 percentage points). Results are shown separately for women (W) and men (M) if the difference between groups is approximately ten or more percentage points.

Conditions that vast majorities believe will negatively impact their generation's quality of life (% saying "To a great extent")



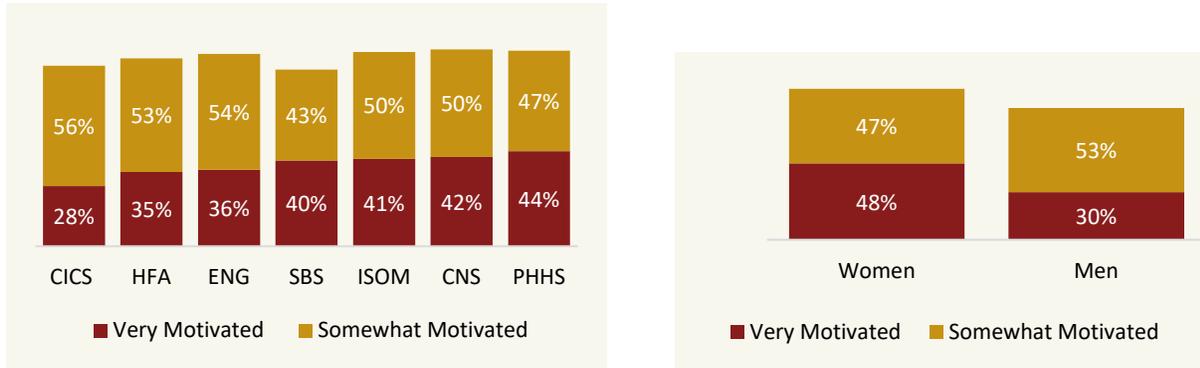
The three issues students are most concerned about (% selecting)



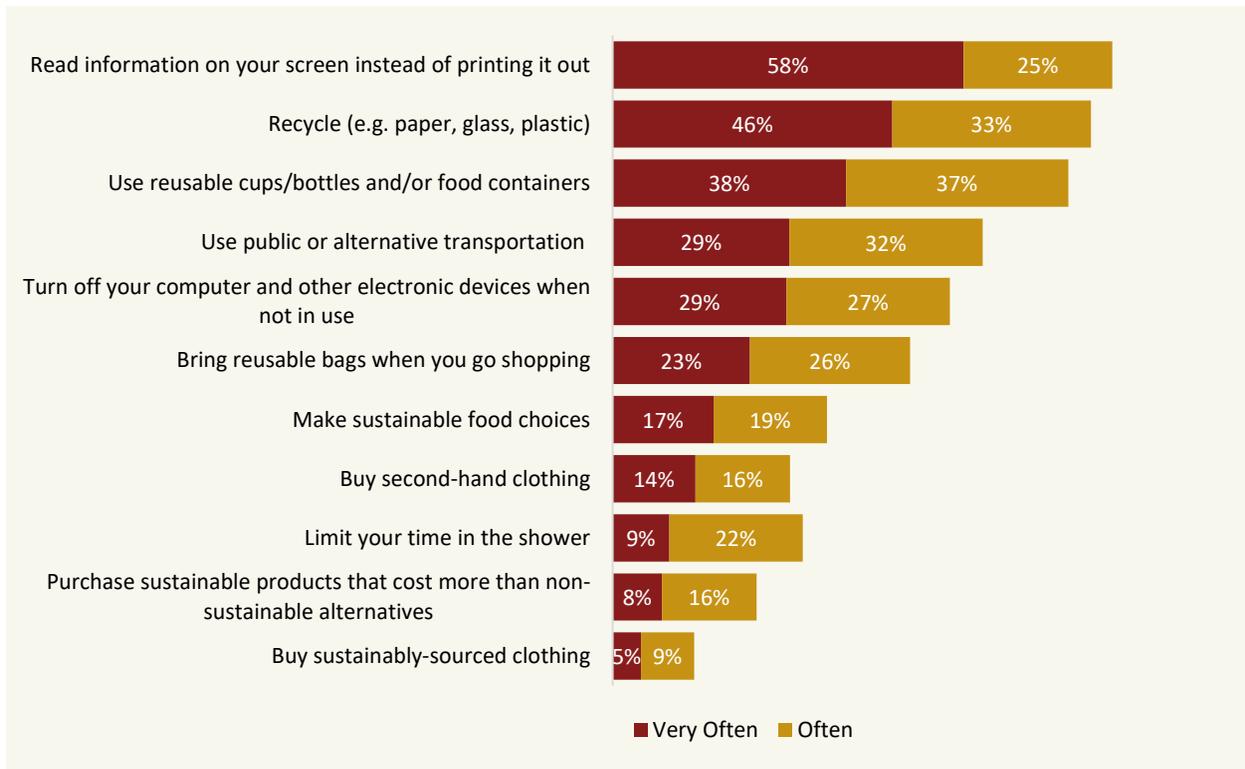
56% perceive that sustainability is a University priority "To very great extent" or "To a great extent"

Very interested in contributing to campus sustainability efforts and initiatives
(W=38%, M=23%)

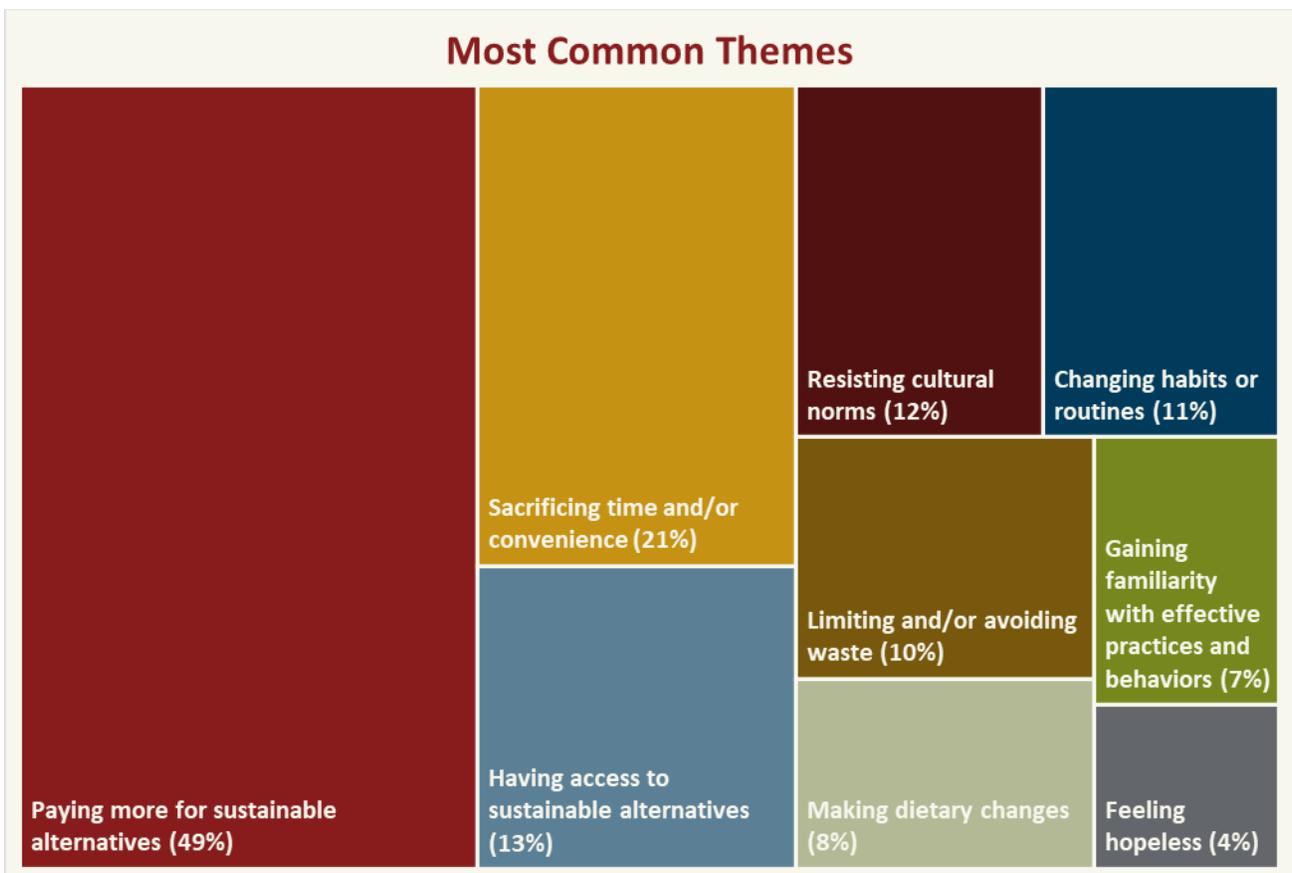
Motivation to adopt behaviors and practices oriented toward sustainability, by college and gender



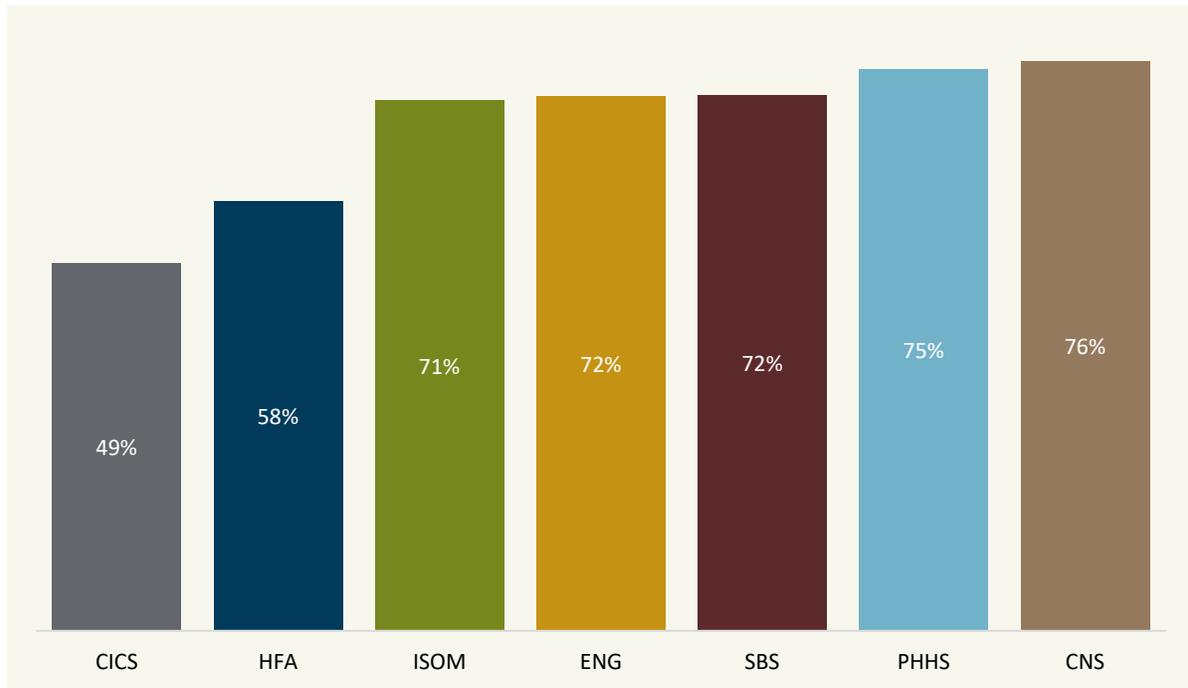
Sustainability-focused behaviors and activities



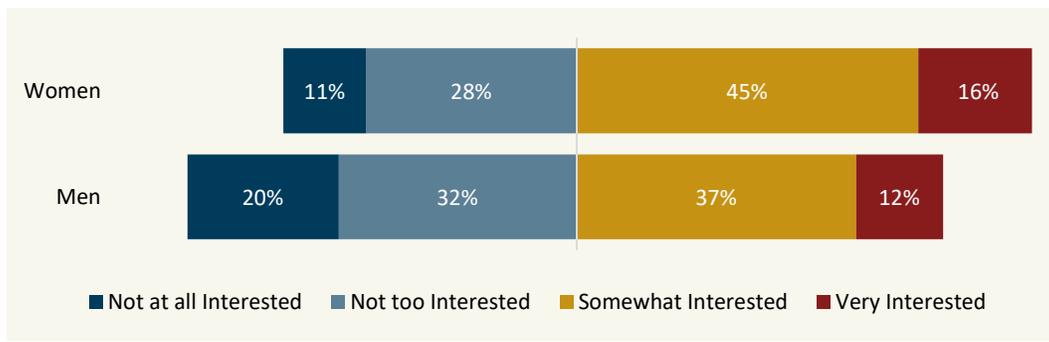
When it comes to adopting sustainability-oriented behaviors and practices, what are your biggest challenges? (Open-Ended question, n=756)



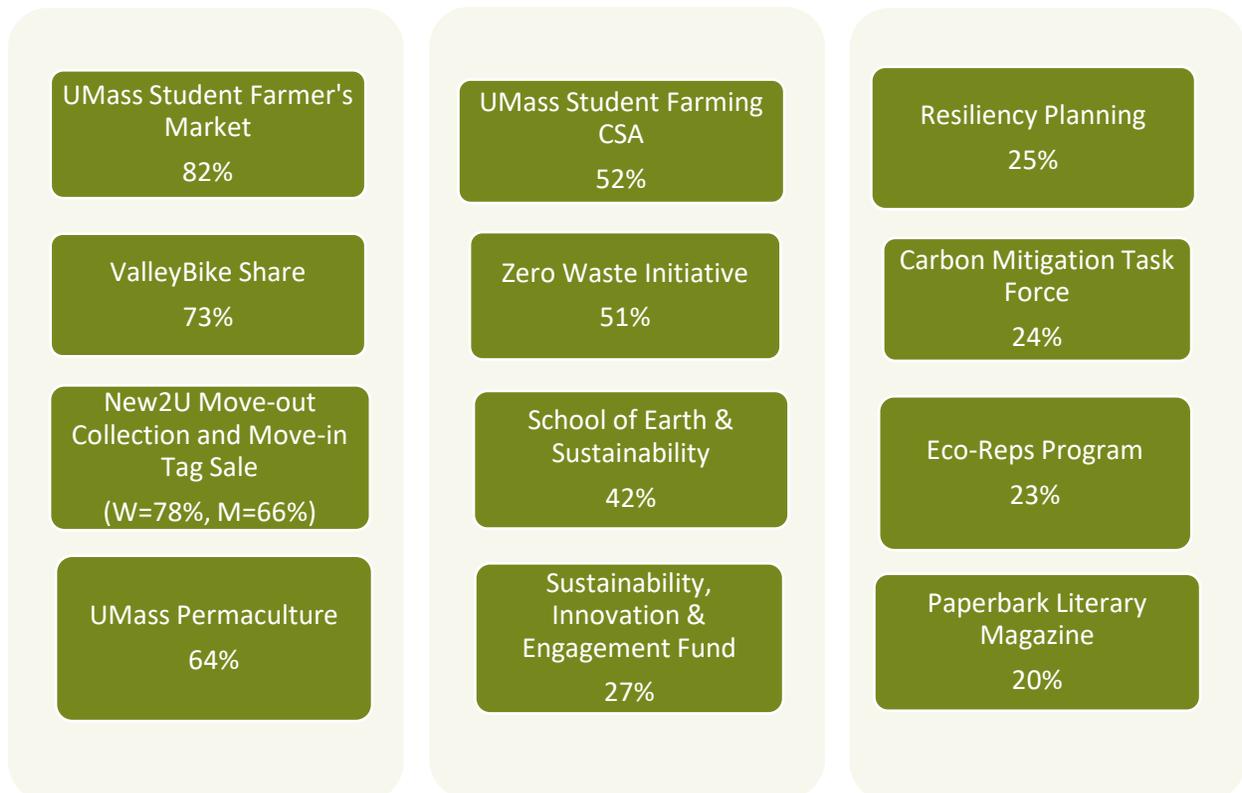
Percentage who have taken one or more courses that have addressed sustainability, by college



Interest in taking future courses related to sustainability, by gender



Awareness of sustainability initiatives at UMass Amherst (% Very Aware or Somewhat Aware)



What students perceive should be the University's "first academic priority" related to sustainability education

Creating Gen Ed courses focused on sustainability
35%

Preparing students for careers in the green workforce
25%

Increasing opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research focused on sustainability
20%

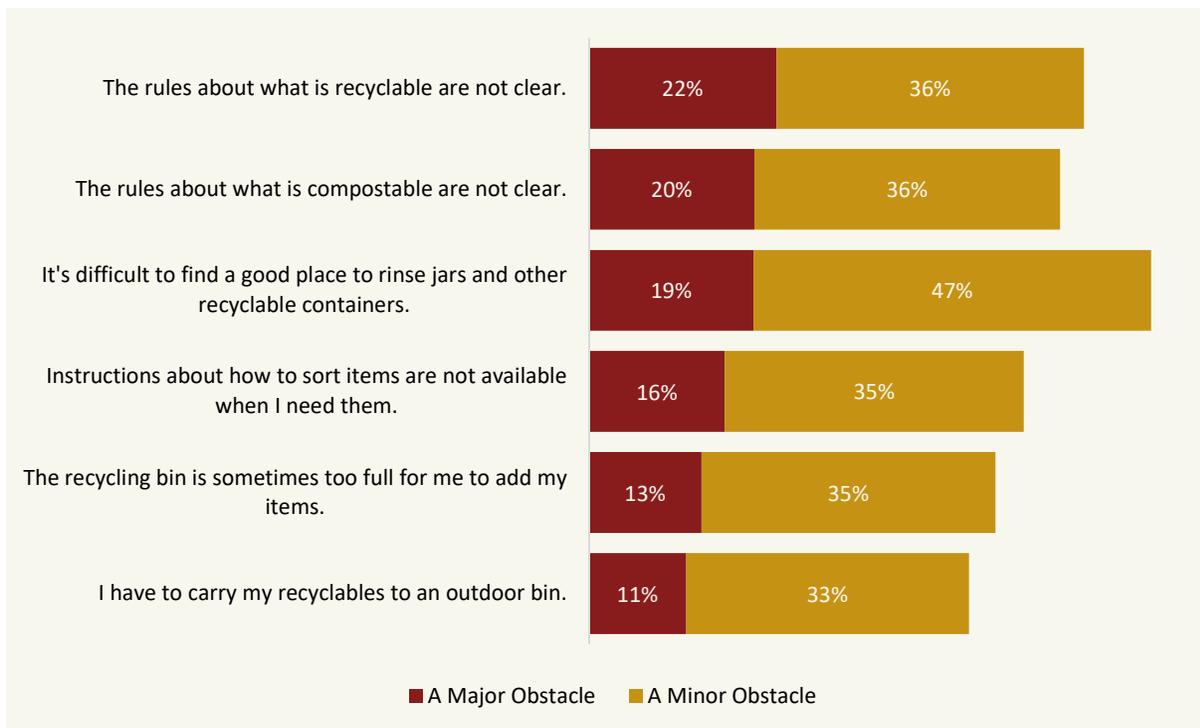
Three sustainable institutional areas the University should focus on most

Increased use of clean energy to meet campus energy needs
49%

Recycling and waste reduction on campus
39%

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions on campus
35%

Perceived obstacles to recycling and composting at UMass Amherst
(Note: Responses did not vary by on-campus/off-campus residence)



Sustainability Literacy Quiz Results (15 multiple choice questions)

