



Sustainability Survey

UMass Amherst - Fall 2019

Graduate Student Report

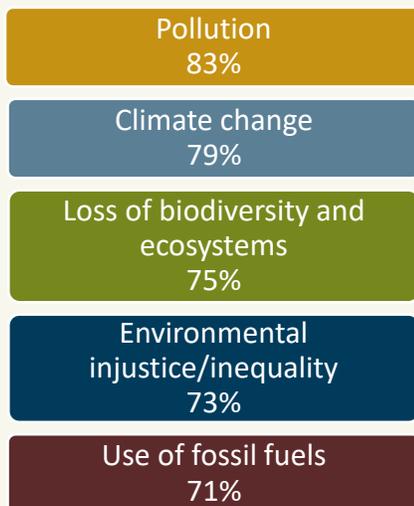
In Fall 2019, UMass Amherst conducted a *Sustainability Survey* to gather information to support the University's academic, research, and campus initiatives that promote sustainable living practices in a collaborative environment. Representatives from the School of Earth and Sustainability and University 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 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 graduate students. Random samples of 1200 doctoral students and 1428 master's students were invited to complete the online, confidential survey and 16.2% (n=426) participated overall. The final data set was weighted to adjust for master's students' greater likelihood of being included in the sample. Women were overrepresented among survey participants (by 11 percentage points), as were master's students (by 3 percentage points). International graduate students were underrepresented among survey participants (by approximately 10 percentage points).

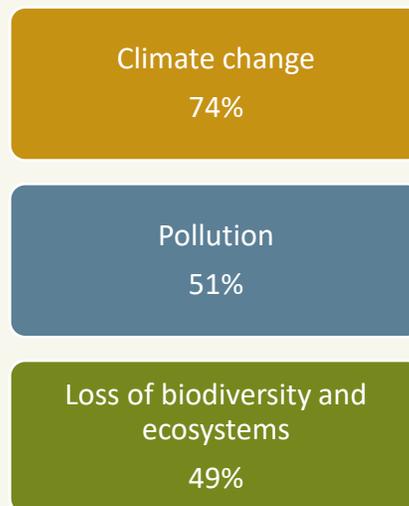
Conditions that vast majorities believe will negatively impact their generation's quality of life

(% saying "To a great extent")

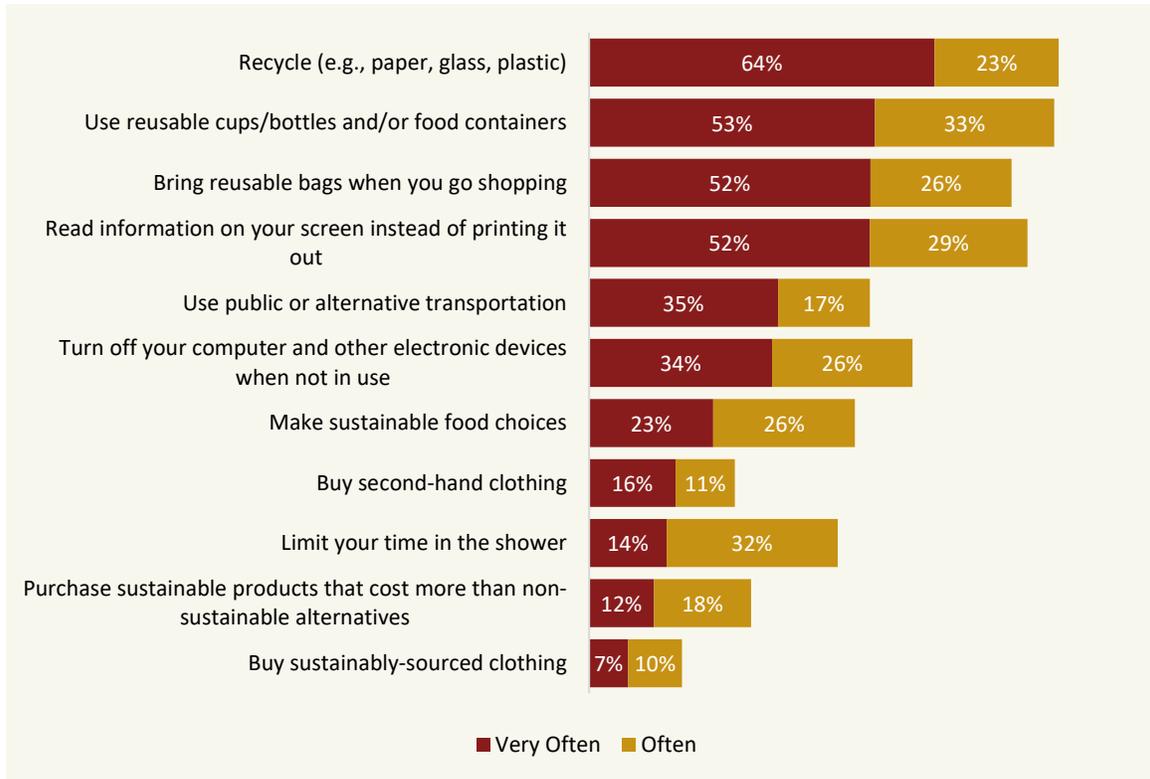


The three issues graduate students are most concerned about

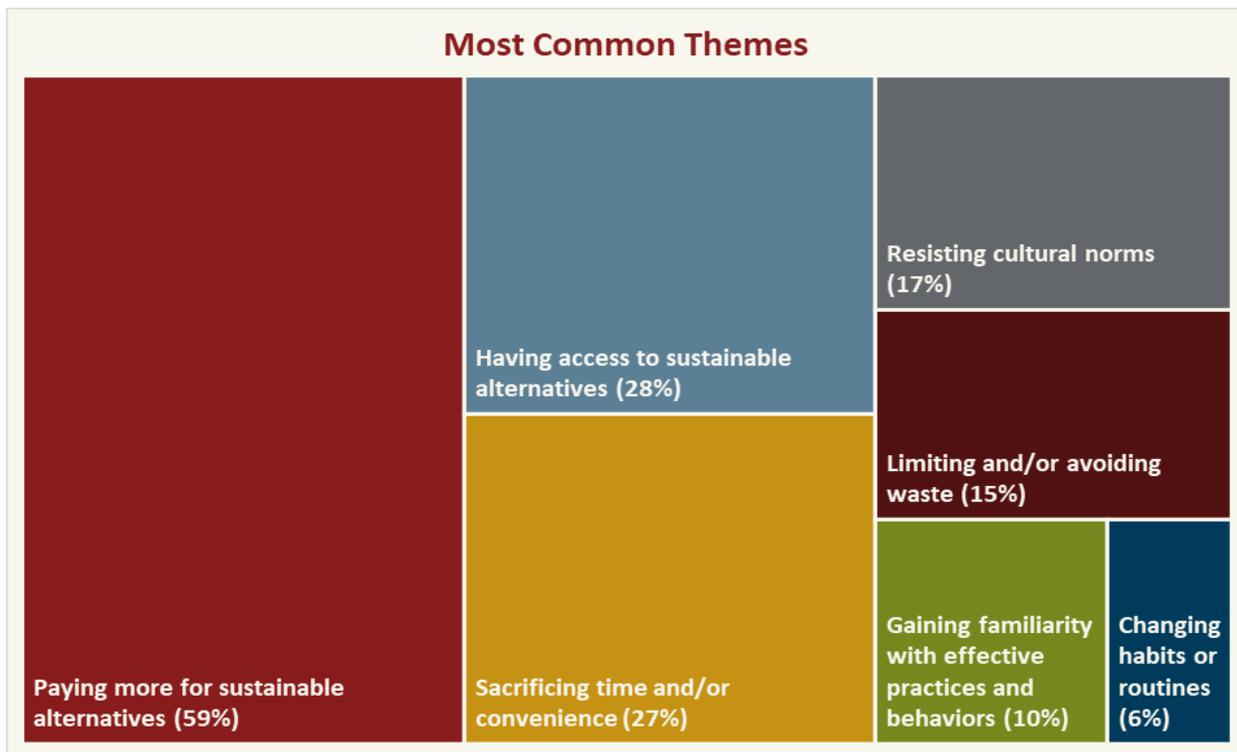
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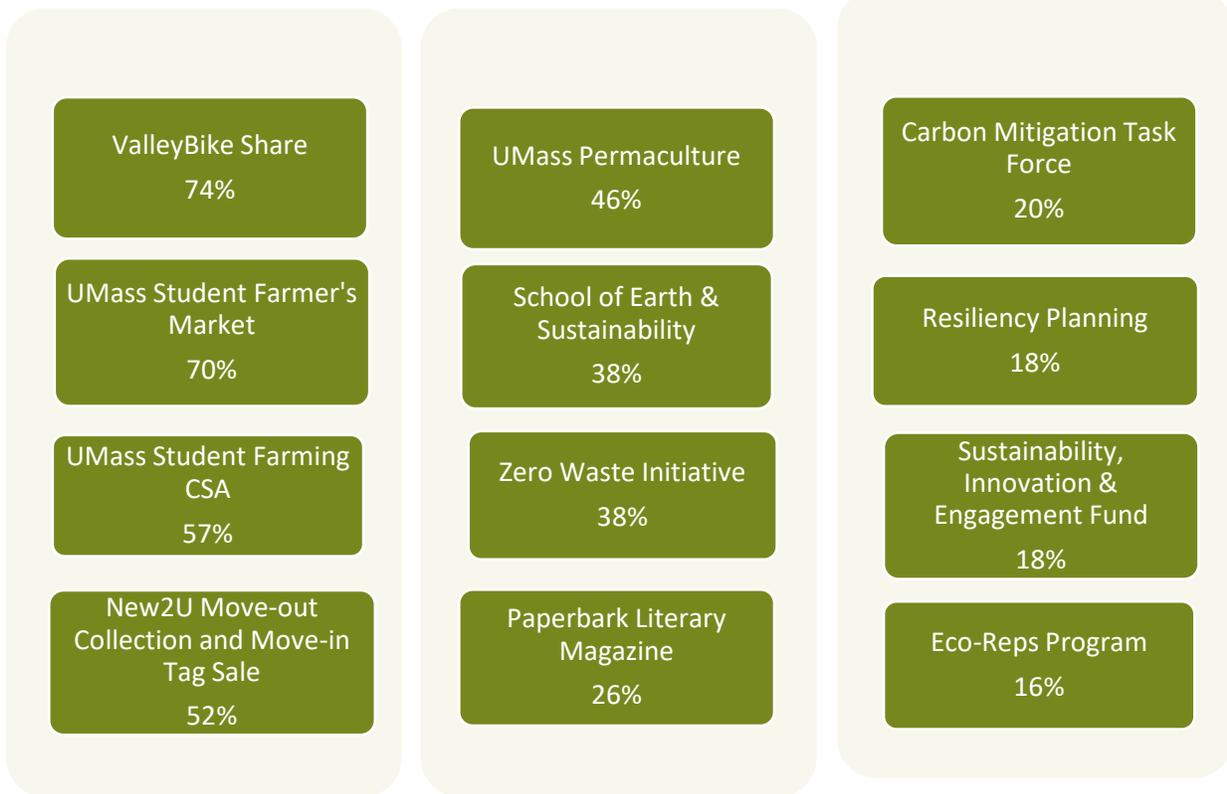
Sustainability-focused behaviors and activities



When it comes to adopting sustainability-oriented behaviors and practices, what are your biggest challenges? (Open-Ended question, n=290)



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



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

Preparing students for careers in the green workforce
33%

Creating Gen Ed courses focused on sustainability
28%

Increasing opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research focused on sustainability
17%

Three sustainable institutional areas the University should focus on most

Increased use of clean energy to meet campus energy needs
54%

Recycling and waste reduction on campus
49%

Prioritizing sustainable purchasing for university supplies and services
41%

Perceived obstacles to recycling and composting at UMass Amherst

