Sustainability Survey

Assessing Campus Awareness, Literacy, and Habits Regarding Sustainability Issues

November 2010
Sustainability Survey Introduction

Survey Project Description
The CSB/SJU Office of Sustainability was interested in collecting data to help shape future campus sustainability programs and ensure that the CSB and SJU communities are ecologically sound, socially just, and economically viable today and for future generations. This survey measures the current awareness, literacy, and habits of CSB/SJU students and employees regarding sustainability issues. The survey was conducted Sept 28th – Oct 8th, 2010.

Survey Methods
An on-line survey was sent to the 4,118 students and 1,162 employees at CSB/SJU on Sept 28th, 2010 and a reminder email was sent out by the Presidents’ Office on Oct. 4th. The survey was closed on Oct 8th, 2010.

Survey Response Rate and Sampling Error
1379 students/employees completed the survey; thus, the survey had a 26.5% response rate. Based on population size and response rate, the survey has a error rate of +/-2.27%.

Limitations
The survey is subject to self-selection bias (e.g., respondents with an interest in sustainability were more likely to notice the call for participation). As such, the survey results may, or may not, be representative of the entire student population.

Project Leadership
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Key Survey Findings
• Large majority of total respondents expect to learn more about sustainability while at CSB/SJU
• Majority of respondents find it important that CSB/SJU become a leader in sustainability and the environment
• Over 69% of student respondents know little or nothing about the Office of Sustainability
• More than half the total respondents would be willing to pay a sustainability fee
Who Completed the Survey?

- Total # of CSB/SJU Undergraduate/Graduate Students: 4,118
- Total # of CSB/SJU Employees: 1,162
- Total # of Responses: 1,397 (26.5% Response Rate)
- Survey Period: Sept 28th – Oct 8th

I am a (an)...

- Employee: 41%
- Monastic: 3%
- Student: 57%

At which campus are you primarily housed?

- CSB: 62%
- SJU: 38%

If you are a student, what is your class standing as of fall 2010?

- First Year: 32%
- Second Year: 27%
- Third Year: 17%
- Fourth Year: 22%
- Fifth Year: 1%
- Grad Student: 1%
Over 92% of respondents believe that sustainability encompasses more than merely being environmentally sound.

Q2. Sustainability means being economically viable and socially just as well as environmentally sound.

Large majority of respondents expect to learn more about sustainability while at CSB/SJU.

Q3. I expect to learn more about sustainability during my time at CSB/SJU.
Majority of Respondents Find it Important that CSB/SJU Be a Leader in Sustainability and the Environment.

Q4. How important is it to you that CSB/SJU be a leader in sustainability and the environment?

Over 85% of Respondents Find it Important that CSB/SJU Consider Using Renewable Energy.

Q5. How important is it to you that CSB/SJU consider renewable energy sources for its energy needs?
Over 86% of Respondents Usually or Always Recycle When Possible.

Q9. How often do you recycle plastic, aluminum, paper and cardboard when possible?

About 2/3 of SJU Students and CSB/SJU Employees along with About 3/4 of CSB Students Make Healthy Food Choices.

Q9. How often do you make healthy food choices when possible?
Q9. How often do you turn off lights and electronics when not in use?

The Majority of Respondents Turn Off Lights in Empty Rooms, and Employee Respondents Do this Most Frequently.

Q9. How often do you turn off lights in empty rooms if you see them on as I pass?
Large Majority of Students Rarely or Never Drive a Car to the Other Campus.

Q9. How often do you drive a car to the other campus?

Majority of Respondents Would Be Willing to Pay a Sustainability Fee.

Q14. I would be willing to pay a fee of … to make campus more sustainable.
Over 69% of Student Respondents Know Little or Nothing about the CSB/SJU Sustainability Office.

Q16. How much do you know about the CSB/SJU Sustainability Office?

Student Respondents are Largely Unaware that CSB/SJU are Charter Signatories of the ACUPCC.

Q20. Did you know that CSB/SJU are charter signatories of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment?
Majority of Respondents Agree that the Environment, Economy, and People are Important to Consider When Making Choices.

Q1. *It is important to understand the overall effects of my choices on...*
Majority of Respondents Believe that Sustainability Permeates these Benedictine Values.

Q11. How much does sustainability permeate these Benedictine values: