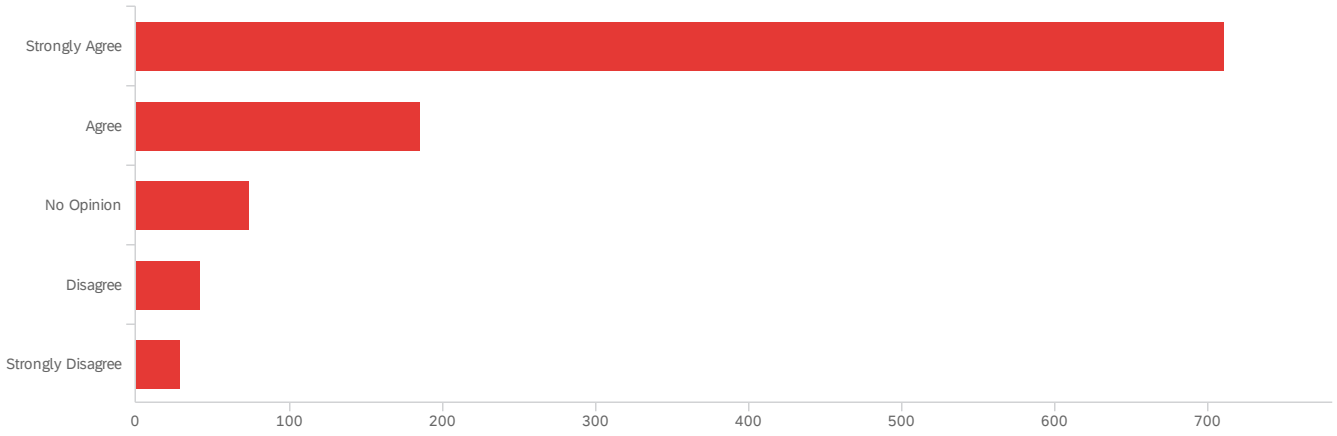
Default Report

UMaine Campus Actions to Address Climate Change

August 30, 2022 12:59 PM EDT

Q2 - (1) Supporting Campus Actions Responsive to Climate Science Findings The University of Maine should make renewable energy infrastructure a high funding priority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in furtherance of the findings and recommendations related to global warming published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).



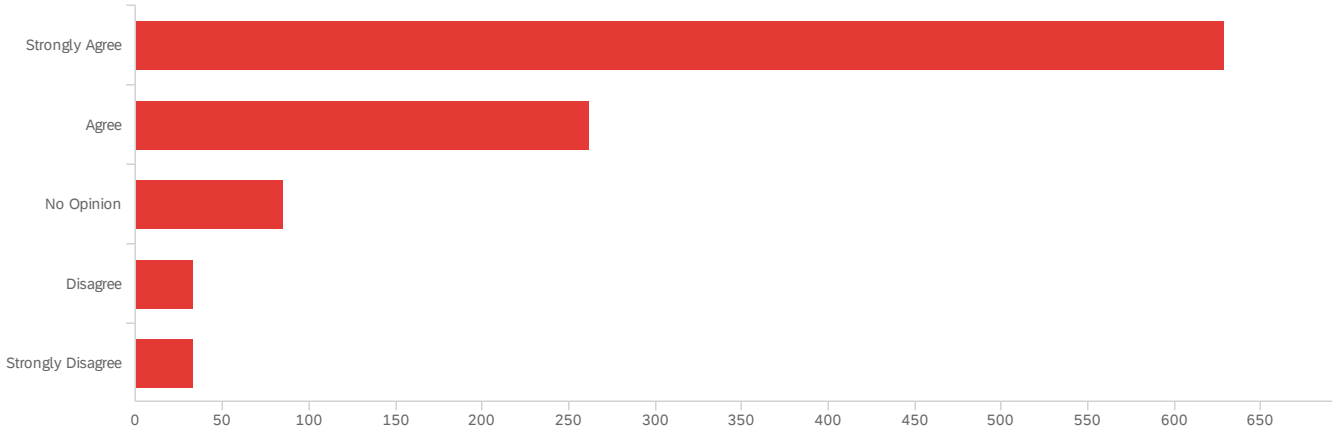
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(1) Supporting Campus Actions Responsive to Climate Science Findings The University of Maine should make renewable energy infrastructure a high funding priority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in furtherance of the findings and recommendations related to global warming published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).	1.00	5.00	1.55	0.98	0.97	1,042

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	68.23%	711
2	Agree	17.85%	186
3	No Opinion	7.10%	74

#	Field		Choice Count
4	Disagree	4.03%	42
5	Strongly Disagree	2.78%	29
			1042

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

Q3 - (2) Building a Campus-wide Societal Problem-Solving Reputation The University of Maine should strive to become a destination campus for students from across the state, nation and the globe who want to make a difference in solving societal problems.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(2) Building a Campus-wide Societal Problem-Solving Reputation The University of Maine should strive to become a destination campus for students from across the state, nation and the globe who want to make a difference in solving societal problems.	1.00	5.00	1.64	0.98	0.96	1,042

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	60.36%	629
2	Agree	25.14%	262
3	No Opinion	8.16%	85
4	Disagree	3.17%	33
5	Strongly Disagree	3.17%	33
			1042

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Q4 - In which societal issues might you be most interested in addressing through coursework, projects, or research at the University of Maine?

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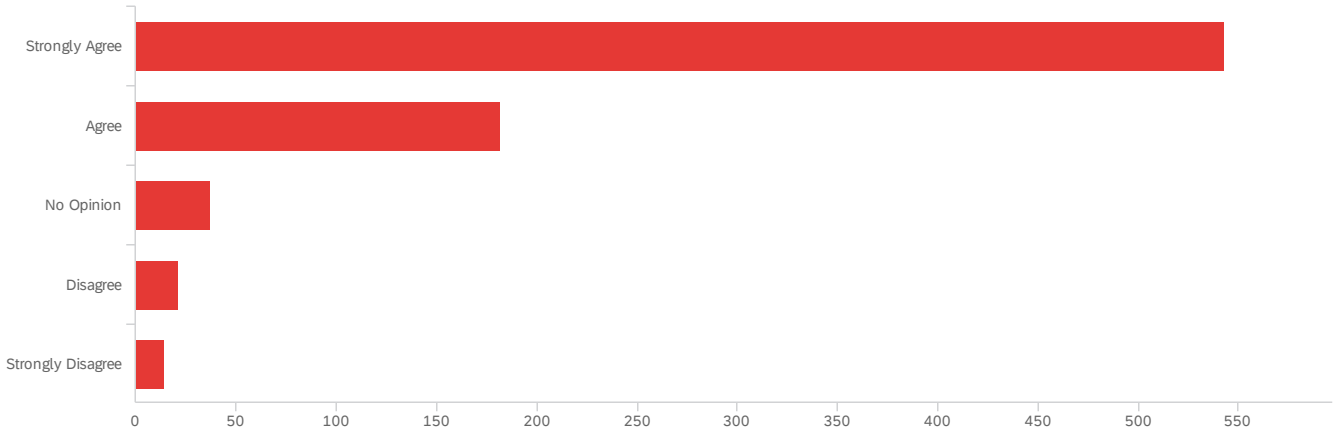
Q5 - (3) Building a Campus-wide Sustainability Reputation The University of Maine should strive to become a magnet for students, researchers, educators, and industry partners who are interested in working from diverse disciplinary perspectives to address the technological, social, economic, and environmental challenges of climate change and sustainability.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(3) Building a Campus-wide Sustainability Reputation The University of Maine should strive to become a magnet for students, researchers, educators, and industry partners who are interested in working from diverse disciplinary perspectives to address the technological, social, economic, and environmental challenges of climate change and sustainability.	1.00	5.00	1.47	0.84	0.71	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	68.13%	543
2	Agree	22.84%	182
3	No Opinion	4.64%	37
4	Disagree	2.63%	21
5	Strongly Disagree	1.76%	14
			797

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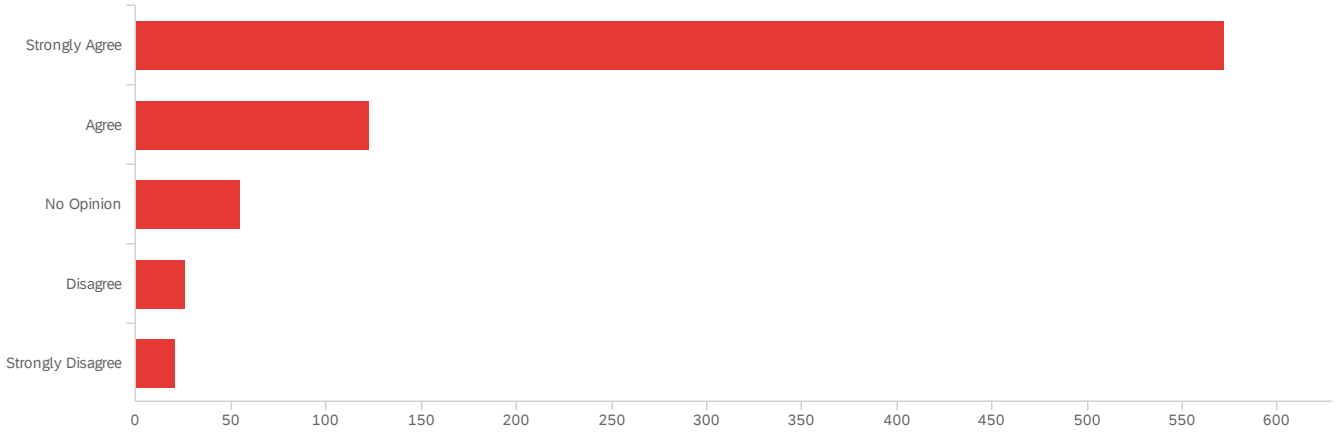
Q6 - (4) Staying the Course in Achieving the UMaine Zero Carbon Emission Commitment

The University of Maine should abide by its 2007 widely publicized and annually confirmed long-term commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040.

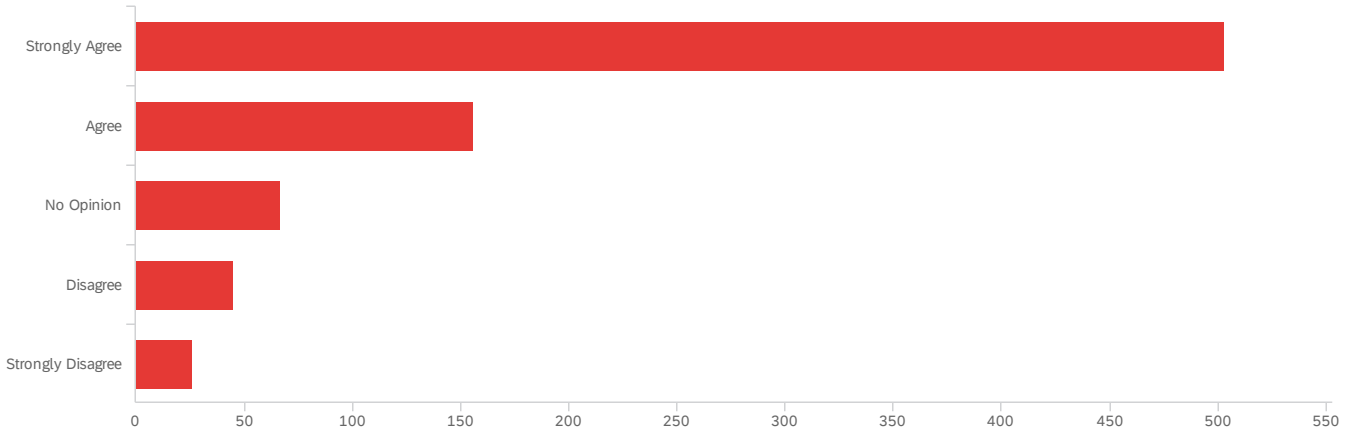


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(4) Staying the Course in Achieving the UMaine Zero Carbon Emission Commitment The University of Maine should abide by its 2007 widely publicized and annually confirmed long-term commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040.	1.00	5.00	1.50	0.95	0.90	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	71.77%	572
2	Agree	15.43%	123
3	No Opinion	6.90%	55
4	Disagree	3.26%	26
5	Strongly Disagree	2.63%	21
			797

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

Q7 - (5) Ensuring Annual Progress The University should decrease greenhouse gas emissions each and every year at a rate consistent with the required annual minimum or greater to achieve the 2040 commitment or should expend the funds for carbon sequestering or carbon offsets to achieve yearly targets.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(5) Ensuring Annual Progress The University should decrease greenhouse gas emissions each and every year at a rate consistent with the required annual minimum or greater to achieve the 2040 commitment or should expend the funds for carbon sequestering or carbon offsets to achieve yearly targets.	1.00	5.00	1.66	1.06	1.12	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	63.11%	503
2	Agree	19.57%	156
3	No Opinion	8.41%	67
4	Disagree	5.65%	45
5	Strongly Disagree	3.26%	26
			797

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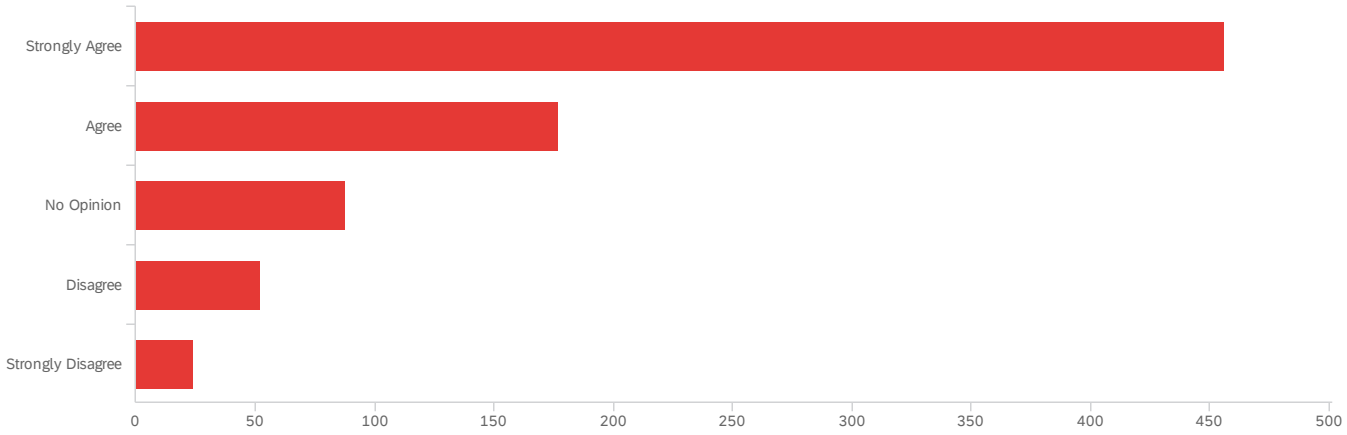
Q8 - (6) No Expansion of Campus Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Building Design and Cost New campus construction and renovation projects should not cause expansion of the net campus carbon footprint during either construction or long-term operation of the new or rebuilt facilities.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(6) No Expansion of Campus Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Building Design and Cost New campus construction and renovation projects should not cause expansion of the net campus carbon footprint during either construction or long-term operation of the new or rebuilt facilities.	1.00	5.00	1.76	1.08	1.16	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	57.21%	456
2	Agree	22.21%	177
3	No Opinion	11.04%	88
4	Disagree	6.52%	52
5	Strongly Disagree	3.01%	24
			797

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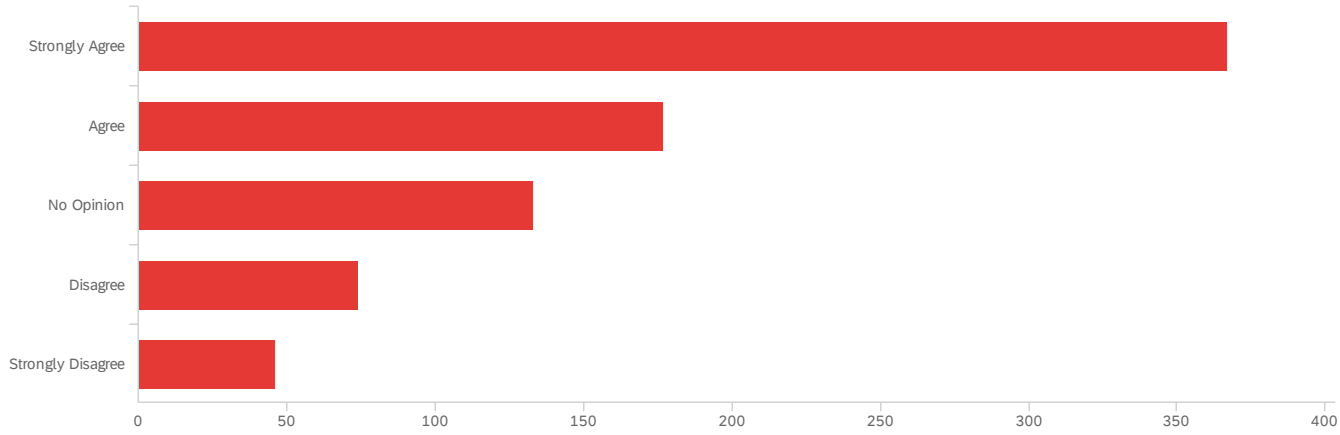
Q9 - (7) No Expansion of Campus Greenhouse Gas Emissions - State and Federal Matching Funds The University of Maine administration and the UMS Board of Trustees should not seek or approve the use of any state or federal funds for any new construction or reconstruction that would expand the University of Maine net carbon footprint.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(7) No Expansion of Campus Greenhouse Gas Emissions - State and Federal Matching Funds The University of Maine administration and the UMS Board of Trustees should not seek or approve the use of any state or federal funds for any new construction or reconstruction that would expand the University of Maine net carbon footprint.	1.00	5.00	2.07	1.23	1.51	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	46.05%	367
2	Agree	22.21%	177
3	No Opinion	16.69%	133
4	Disagree	9.28%	74
5	Strongly Disagree	5.77%	46
			797

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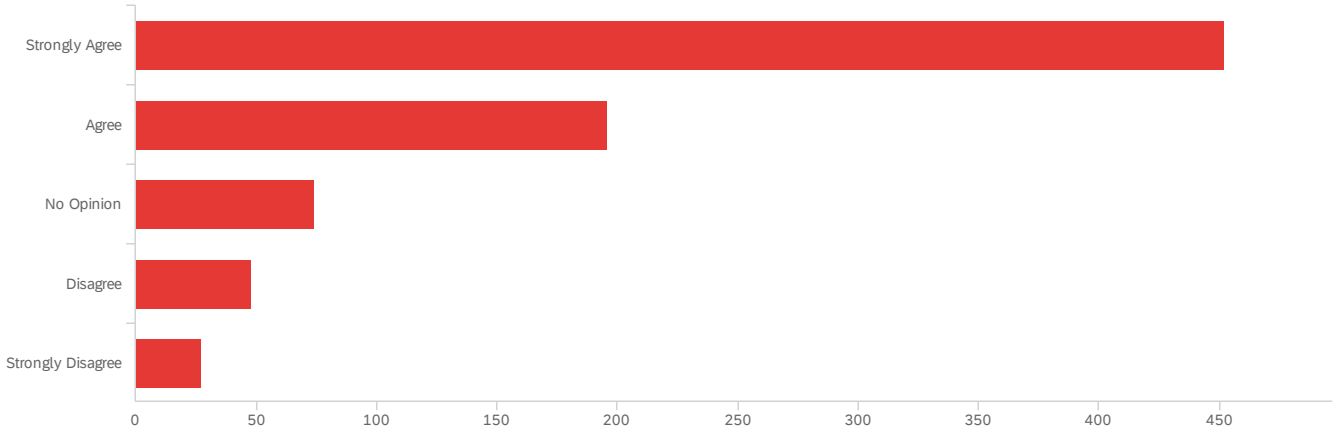
Q10 - (8) Decreasing the Campus Carbon Footprint Decreasing the carbon footprint of the campus should be made a design and funding requirement of each and every campus building and infrastructure project.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(8) Decreasing the Campus Carbon Footprint Decreasing the carbon footprint of the campus should be made a design and funding requirement of each and every campus building and infrastructure project.	1.00	5.00	1.75	1.07	1.14	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	56.71%	452
2	Agree	24.59%	196
3	No Opinion	9.28%	74
4	Disagree	6.02%	48
5	Strongly Disagree	3.39%	27
			797

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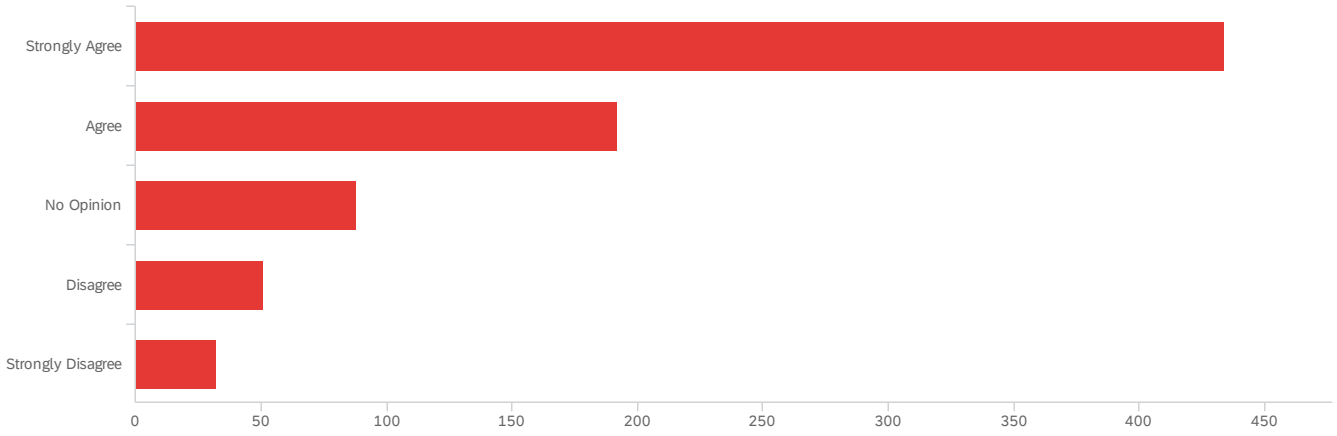
Q11 - (9) Preference for Non-Combustion Zero Carbon Energy Sources The University of Maine should prioritize its clean energy infrastructure core spending on long-term solutions (e.g., heating and electricity powered by wind, solar, hydro, and other non-combustion near-zero carbon energy sources) over a combustion-based wood renewable biofuels solution that would continue to emit pollutants and greenhouse gases on campus.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(9) Preference for Non-Combustion Zero Carbon Energy Sources The University of Maine should prioritize its clean energy infrastructure core spending on long-term solutions (e.g., heating and electricity powered by wind, solar, hydro, and other non-combustion near-zero carbon energy sources) over a combustion-based wood renewable biofuels solution that would continue to emit pollutants and greenhouse gases on campus.	1.00	5.00	1.81	1.11	1.24	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	54.45%	434
2	Agree	24.09%	192
3	No Opinion	11.04%	88
4	Disagree	6.40%	51
5	Strongly Disagree	4.02%	32

#	Field	Choice Count
		797

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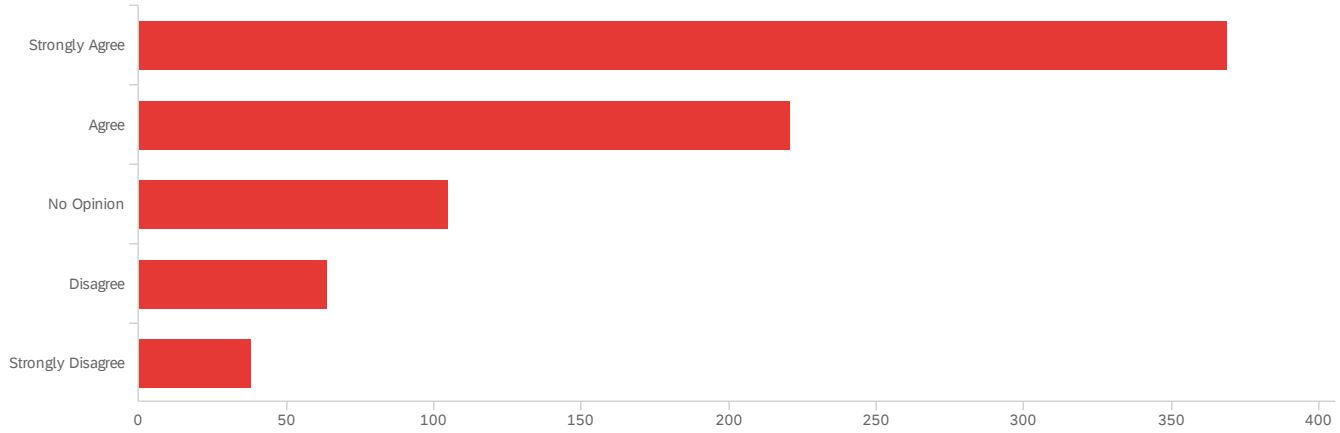
Q12 - (10) Building Conversions to Enable Primary Use of Wind, Solar, and Other Non-combustion Zero Carbon Energy Sources The highest funding priority for the university in the future should be for electrification of existing university buildings to allow their use of wind, solar, hydro, and other non-combustion near-zero carbon energy sources to supply both their heat and electricity, regardless of whether the university pursues primarily a biofuels heating solution with currently available funding.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(10) Building Conversions to Enable Primary Use of Wind, Solar, and Other Non-combustion Zero Carbon Energy Sources The highest funding priority for the university in the future should be for electrification of existing university buildings to allow their use of wind, solar, hydro, and other non-combustion near-zero carbon energy sources to supply both their heat and electricity, regardless of whether the university pursues primarily a biofuels heating solution with currently available funding.	1.00	5.00	1.97	1.16	1.34	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	46.30%	369
2	Agree	27.73%	221
3	No Opinion	13.17%	105

#	Field	Choice Count	
4	Disagree	8.03%	64
5	Strongly Disagree	4.77%	38
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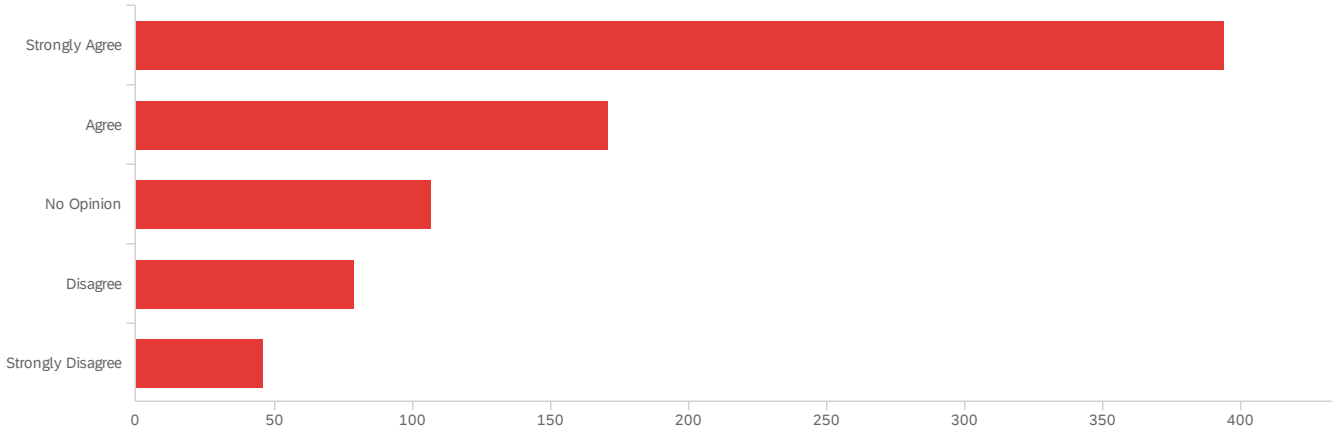
Q13 - (11) Banning Addition of Any Fossil Fuel Connections The University of Maine should not install fossil fuel connections to any new campus construction or renovation projects.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(11) Banning Addition of Any Fossil Fuel Connections The University of Maine should not install fossil fuel connections to any new campus construction or renovation projects.	1.00	5.00	2.01	1.24	1.54	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	49.44%	394
2	Agree	21.46%	171
3	No Opinion	13.43%	107
4	Disagree	9.91%	79
5	Strongly Disagree	5.77%	46
			797

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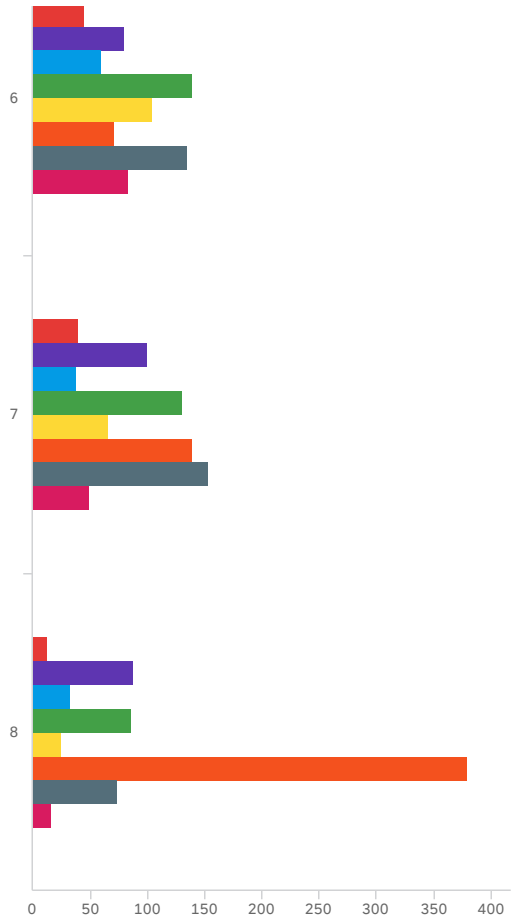
Q15 - Drag and drop your highest priority project to the top and progressively lower priorities toward the bottom.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Transition to Non-Combustion Clean Power Sources: Replacement of the heating systems in numerous major campus buildings to allow all power for heating, cooling, and electricity to be supplied by solar, wind, and other non-combustion clean energy sources rather than burning fossil fuels.	1.00	8.00	2.89	1.94	3.77	716
2	Transition to Renewable Biofuels: Construction of a new campus steam plant to burn wood chips and other renewable biofuels on campus to supply heating for buildings rather than burning fossil fuels.	1.00	8.00	4.41	2.35	5.53	716
3	Develop Campus-Owned Non-Combustion Clean Power Sources: Construction of a campus-owned solar farm and/or wind farm rather than purchasing clean renewable energy through electric utilities.	1.00	8.00	3.49	2.01	4.05	716
4	Build a Centralized Parking Ramp with Vehicle Recharging Facilities: Construction of a new centralized parking facility with recharging stations powered by clean energy open to all students and faculty to encourage the use of electric cars, trucks, bicycles, and similar vehicles.	1.00	8.00	5.13	2.02	4.07	716
5	Build High Technology Modern Classrooms: Construction of latest technology green energy classrooms supporting synchronous and asynchronous group work and other evidence-based best-learning modalities among on-campus, cross-campus, and online students.	1.00	8.00	4.12	1.98	3.93	716

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
6	Build Improved Athletic Facilities: Construction of expanded and improved green energy athletic facilities open and available for use by all students.	1.00	8.00	6.83	1.72	2.96	716
7	Build Improved Cultural and Humanities Facilities: Construction of a green energy humanities center with a focus on facilities for the learning and advancement of history, literature, language, philosophy, ethics, and jurisprudence.	1.00	8.00	5.21	1.98	3.91	716
8	Build Improved Research Facilities: Construction of new green energy research facilities for one or more research domains. The facility must support synchronous and asynchronous interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research group work among on-campus, cross-campus, distant campus, and distant industry collaborators	1.00	8.00	3.92	1.83	3.34	716

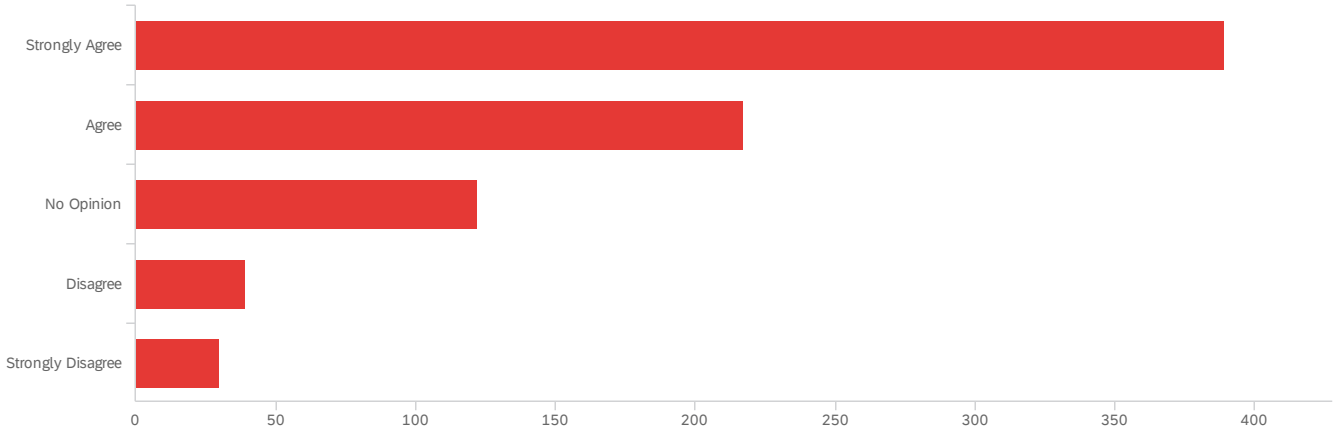
#	Field	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
1	Transition to Non-Combustion Clean Power Sources: Replacement of the heating systems in numerous major campus buildings to allow all power for heating, cooling, and electricity to be supplied by solar, wind, and other non-combustion clean energy sources rather than burning fossil fuels.	31.42%	225	22.91%	164	15.08%	108	9.78%	70	7.12%	51	6.28%	45	5.59%	40	1.82%
2	Transition to Renewable Biofuels: Construction of a new campus steam plant to burn wood chips and other renewable biofuels on campus to supply heating for buildings rather than burning fossil fuels.	12.43%	89	16.62%	119	12.99%	93	9.22%	66	11.31%	81	11.17%	80	13.97%	100	12.29%
3	Develop Campus-Owned Non-Combustion Clean Power Sources: Construction of a campus-owned solar farm and/or wind farm rather than purchasing clean renewable energy through electric utilities.	18.16%	130	20.67%	148	17.46%	125	13.83%	99	11.59%	83	8.38%	60	5.31%	38	4.61%

#	Field	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
4	Build a Centralized Parking Ramp with Vehicle Recharging Facilities: Construction of a new centralized parking facility with recharging stations powered by clean energy open to all students and faculty to encourage the use of electric cars, trucks, bicycles, and similar vehicles.	4.75%	34	8.10%	58	11.59%	83	12.99%	93	12.85%	92	19.41%	139	18.30%	131	12.01%
5	Build High Technology Modern Classrooms: Construction of latest technology green energy classrooms supporting synchronous and asynchronous group work and other evidence-based best-learning modalities among on-campus, cross-campus, and online students.	12.85%	92	12.99%	93	12.29%	88	16.90%	121	17.74%	127	14.53%	104	9.22%	66	3.49%
6	Build Improved Athletic Facilities: Construction of expanded and improved green energy athletic facilities open and available for use by all students.	1.82%	13	1.96%	14	3.21%	23	5.59%	40	5.03%	36	9.92%	71	19.41%	139	53.07%
7	Build Improved Cultural and Humanities Facilities: Construction of a green energy humanities center with a focus on facilities for the learning and advancement of history, literature, language, philosophy, ethics, and jurisprudence.	6.70%	48	4.75%	34	8.80%	63	12.71%	91	16.48%	118	18.85%	135	21.37%	153	10.34%

#	Field	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
8	Build Improved Research Facilities: Construction of new green energy research facilities for one or more research domains. The facility must support synchronous and asynchronous interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research group work among on-campus, cross-campus, distant campus, and distant industry collaborators	11.87%	85	12.01%	86	18.58%	133	18.99%	136	17.88%	128	11.59%	83	6.84%	49	2.23%

Showing rows 1 - 8 of 8

Q16 - (13) Tracking Campus Progress toward Zero Carbon Emissions: The Faculty Senate should create a Climate Change Audit Committee under the auspices of the standing Environment Committee to closely track and aid the campus in achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. It should regularly communicate and coordinate with the University of Maine President's Sustainability Council and the UMaine Climate Action Plan Working Group.



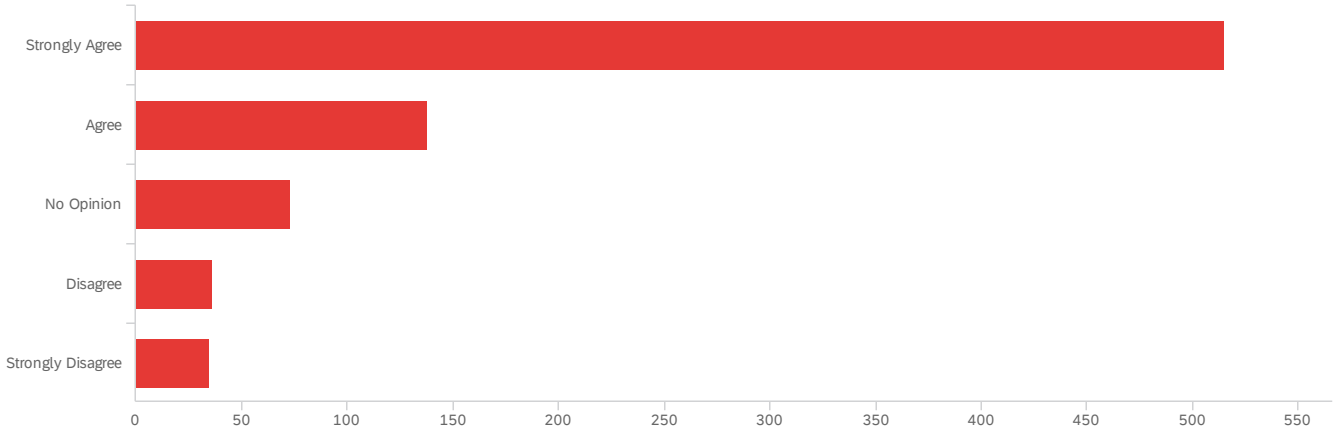
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(13) Tracking Campus Progress toward Zero Carbon Emissions: The Faculty Senate should create a Climate Change Audit Committee under the auspices of the standing Environment Committee to closely track and aid the campus in achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. It should regularly communicate and coordinate with the University of Maine President's Sustainability Council and the UMaine Climate Action Plan Working Group.	1.00	5.00	1.88	1.08	1.16	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	48.81%	389
2	Agree	27.23%	217
3	No Opinion	15.31%	122
4	Disagree	4.89%	39

#	Field		Choice Count
5	Strongly Disagree	3.76%	30
			797

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

Q17 - (14) Divestment of Fossil Fuels Following the lead of State of Maine Legislative Bill LD99 (2021) that now bans new public investments in fossil fuels and full divestment within 5 years, the University of Maine System (UMS) should formally and publicly commit to stopping any new investments in fossil fuel companies and fully divest funds in fossil fuel companies within 5 years. Note: UMS just announced a full divestment plan on 2 May 2022.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(14) Divestment of Fossil Fuels Following the lead of State of Maine Legislative Bill LD99 (2021) that now bans new public investments in fossil fuels and full divestment within 5 years, the University of Maine System (UMS) should formally and publicly commit to stopping any new investments in fossil fuel companies and fully divest funds in fossil fuel companies within 5 years. Note: UMS just announced a full divestment plan on 2 May 2022.	1.00	5.00	1.67	1.10	1.20	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	64.62%	515
2	Agree	17.31%	138
3	No Opinion	9.16%	73
4	Disagree	4.52%	36

#	Field	Choice Count	
5	Strongly Disagree	4.39%	35
			797

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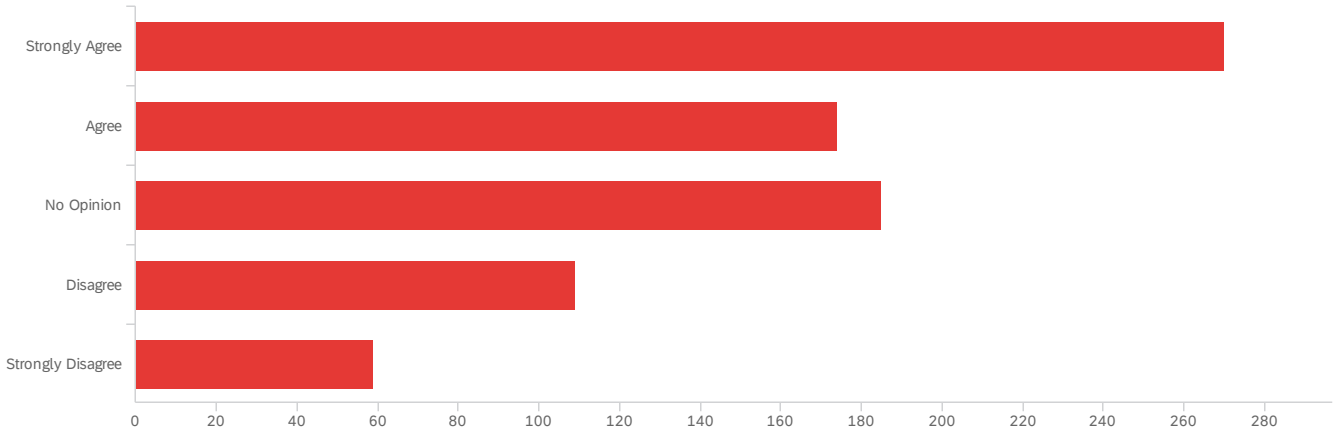
Q18 - (15) Adding Carbon Emission Offset Costs to University Travel Expenses The carbon emissions for each university-funded travel trip should be computed and the cost of offsetting/sequestering the carbon emissions should be applied to the university travel costs for the trip and actually spent for this purpose.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(15) Adding Carbon Emission Offset Costs to University Travel Expenses The carbon emissions for each university-funded travel trip should be computed and the cost of offsetting/sequestering the carbon emissions should be applied to the university travel costs for the trip and actually spent for this purpose.	1.00	5.00	2.39	1.28	1.63	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	33.88%	270
2	Agree	21.83%	174
3	No Opinion	23.21%	185
4	Disagree	13.68%	109
5	Strongly Disagree	7.40%	59
			797

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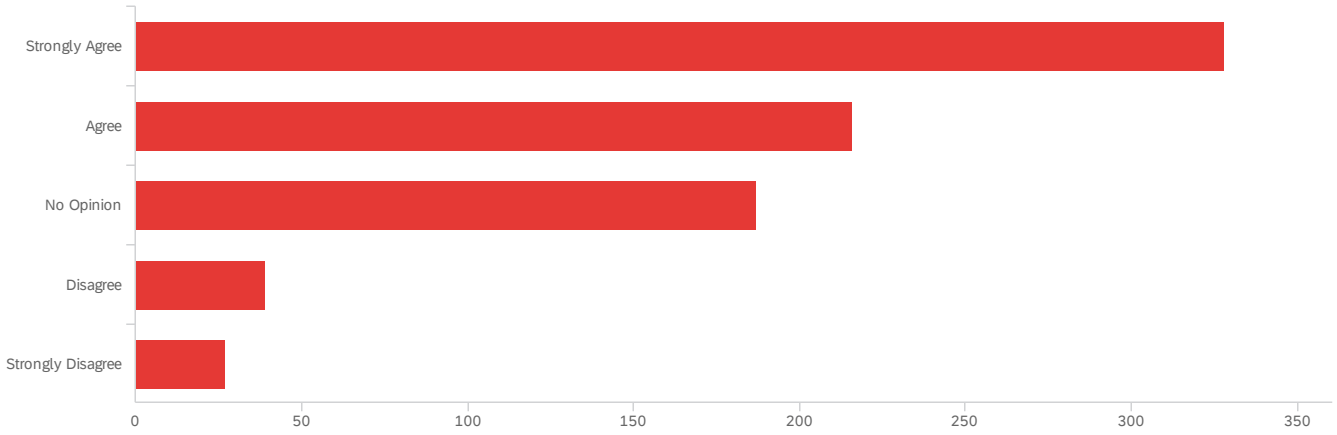
Q19 - (16) Annual Public Address on Climate Commitment Progress The President of the University of Maine should present annually an oral address open to the campus community and public at large on the State of the University’s Climate Commitment toward Achieving Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2040.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(16) Annual Public Address on Climate Commitment Progress The President of the University of Maine should present annually an oral address open to the campus community and public at large on the State of the University’s Climate Commitment toward Achieving Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2040.	1.00	5.00	2.02	1.07	1.15	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	41.15%	328
2	Agree	27.10%	216
3	No Opinion	23.46%	187
4	Disagree	4.89%	39
5	Strongly Disagree	3.39%	27
			797

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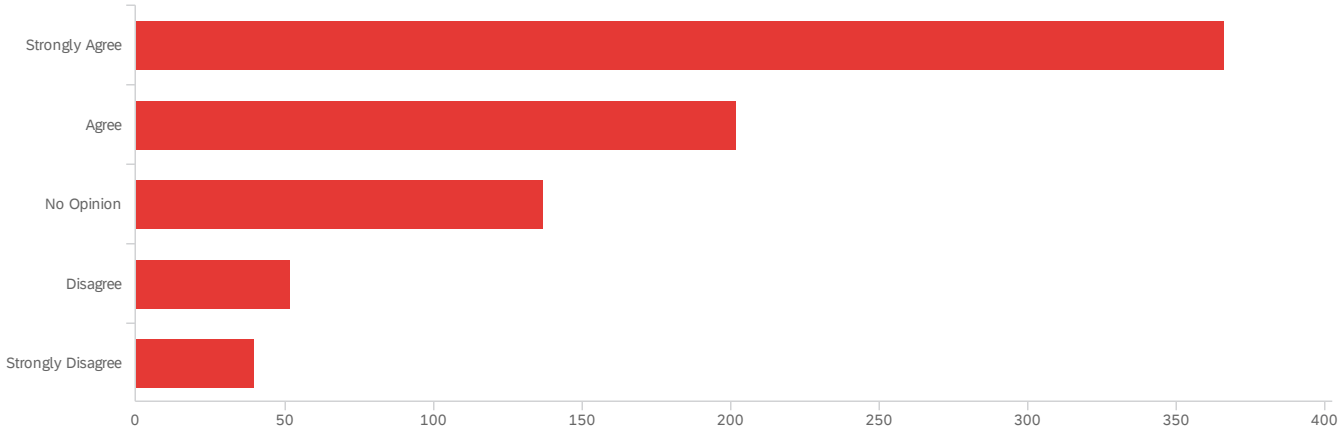
Q20 - (17) University of Maine Sustainability Pledge I would support a sustainability pledge by which students, staff and faculty might personally commit to making the University of Maine as carbon free and environmentally sustainable as possible.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(17) University of Maine Sustainability Pledge I would support a sustainability pledge by which students, staff and faculty might personally commit to making the University of Maine as carbon free and environmentally sustainable as possible.	1.00	5.00	1.99	1.16	1.34	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	Strongly Agree	45.92%	366
2	Agree	25.35%	202
3	No Opinion	17.19%	137
4	Disagree	6.52%	52
5	Strongly Disagree	5.02%	40
			797

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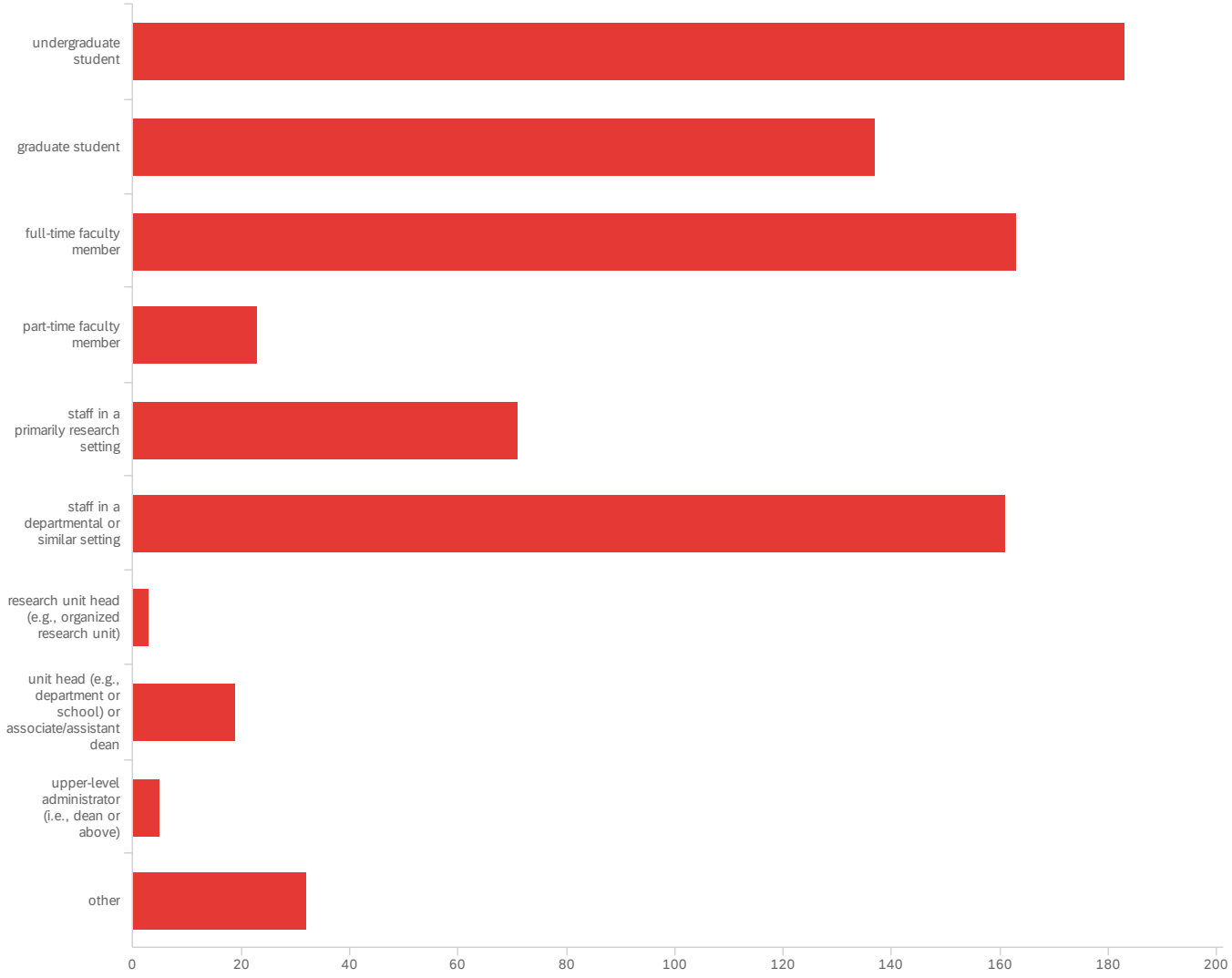
Q24 - (18) My primary relation to the University of Maine is best described as:



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(18) My primary relation to the University of Maine is best described as: - Selected Choice	1.00	12.00	3.72	2.63	6.92	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	undergraduate student	22.96%	183
2	graduate student	17.19%	137
3	full-time faculty member	20.45%	163
4	part-time faculty member	2.89%	23

#	Field		Choice Count
5	staff in a primarily research setting	8.91%	71
6	staff in a departmental or similar setting	20.20%	161
7	research unit head (e.g., organized research unit)	0.38%	3
8	unit head (e.g., department or school) or associate/assistant dean	2.38%	19
9	upper-level administrator (i.e., dean or above)	0.63%	5
12	other	4.02%	32
			797

Showing rows 1 - 11 of 11

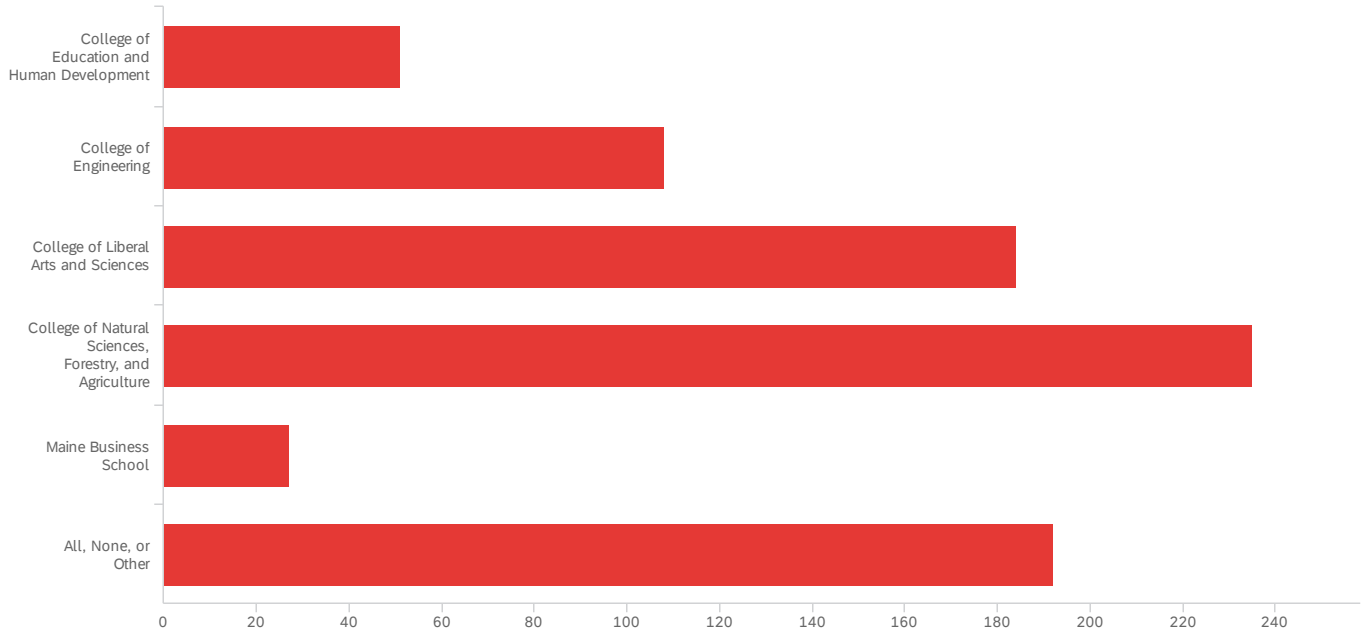
Q24_12_TEXT - other

other
staff - Cooperative Extension
Postdoc (full-time)
Part Time Coach
I am both a part-time faculty member and a graduate student in equal measure
Cooperative Extension full-time staff
Extension professional
Alumnus
retired faculty working as temp
Poopy
retiree
full time Extension. UMaine Sys should have FF divested 8 years ago when students petitioned
Facilities
Staff off campus
x
retiring

other

Professor Emerita
Program Director - UMaine Cooperative Extension (UMCE)
instructor
class-taker
Exchange undergraduate

Q25 - (19) I am most closely affiliated with the following college.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	(19) I am most closely affiliated with the following college. - Selected Choice	1.00	6.00	3.82	1.52	2.31	797

#	Field	Choice Count	
1	College of Education and Human Development	6.40%	51
2	College of Engineering	13.55%	108
3	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	23.09%	184
4	College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture	29.49%	235
5	Maine Business School	3.39%	27
6	All, None, or Other	24.09%	192
			797

Showing rows 1 - 7 of 7

Q25_6_TEXT - All, None, or Other

All, None, or Other

All, None, or Other
Cooperative Extension
Cooperative Extension
Athletic Department
IT
Industrial Coopertation
Cooperative Extension
Cooperative Extension
Facilities Mngt
Fogler Library
other
Marketing and Communications
Climate Change Institute
Human Resources
Graduate School of Business
none
Graduate Research
Athletics
Cooperative Extension
Cooperative Extension
Advanced Structures & Composites Center
UMS IT
Auxiliary Services
Diareah
Graduate School

All, None, or Other
Fine arts
Graduate School
Other
None
Honors College
CLAS: School of Computing
Administration
Graduate School
Fogler Library
Aux
Campus Recreation
Cooperative Extension
Facilities Mgmt
SPIA
Maine Center for Research in STEM Education
other
Graduate School
Graduate School
Honors College
None
Coastal resilience programming
Climate Change Institute
Fogler Library
System HR

All, None, or Other
Ovprgs
University System
VPRDGS
None
None
UMS
VPR
Other
Graduate school
DLL
None
Fogler Library
Advanced Structures and Composites Center
Cooperative Extension
Fogler
Other
UMCE
Other
None
ASCC
None
Admissions
Extension
Provost Office

All, None, or Other

Student Life

Graduate School

Library

School of Marine Sciences

Q26 - (20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

Great survey - implement the results asap!!

Social justice also needs to be a part of our climate solutions or else they will not be truly sustainable and ethical.

While not a bad Idea, I would like to know what is in the sustainability pledge before signing into it

Don’t raise already high costs, by eliminating all fossil fuels too fast.

The first step should be renovating buildings to REDUCE ENERGY DEMAND. Then add high efficiency systems. The last step should be building renewable energy production, since that has a carbon and environmental cost too. Use LCA and LCC appropriately.

Cooperative Extension just acquired several new vehicles that get less than 30MPH. Why are we still investing in low mileage Univeristy owned vehicles? As an institution that is leading the way on identifying major problems from a changing climate, we need to be leaders on addressing and mitigating those problems.

The questions neglect geothermal heating, which should be considered as a thermal option for heating campus buildings, in addition to the electric options proposed. Also, if a new Faculty senate committee is created, they should work closely with Dr. Dan Dixon in the Office of Sustainability.

Thanks for the initiative.

Replace Admin Vehicle fleet with electric vehicles

Maybe build more public transportation terminals that are free for students and staff members to use?

It would be incredibly unfortunate to see the University of Maine, arguably of the best state universities in the country for natural sciences and engineering fail to meet its net zero target. It would, quite frankly be embarrassing and disappointing to all University community members to see their home, their pride and joy neglect such pressing and important issues. Additionally, automobile traffic has become a serious problem in the Orono area single handedly caused by the University. As a result I think it is time that the university invest in better bike and pedestrian infrastructure and incentivize non-fossil fuel based modes of transportation.

Dining halls. Start with no more paper plates. Compost. Recycle.

This is all Communist propaganda based on class envy, redistribution of wealth schemes and ignorance of how electricity is made. WAKE UP!

My indication of "no opinion" for most questions is actually an "it depends" response as I don't find the answer choices offered to fully capture the range of possible answers.

Get out of the Ivory tower and make classes more hands-on, practical and useful for addressing much needed redesign of many of our systems so they align with our present state of rapid cultural transformation; eg can a psychology class give us tools to understand and combat political divisiveness? Can a literature class teach os storytelling skills so we can craft stories of how exactly a growth-oriented people adapts to "de-growth"? Can a photography class reach out to local community members to see what kinds of photos might support community needs?

UMaine needs to lead by example with regard to the reduction of carbon emissions and environmentally friendly sustainability.

Please "humanistic" to this sentence. The University of Maine should strive to become a magnet for students, researchers, educators, and industry partners who are interested in working from diverse disciplinary perspectives to address the technological, social, economic, and environmental challenges of climate change and sustainability.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

also expand social project into the state

I would like to see the university alter promotion and tenure criteria to favor creating real-world solutions to climate change and sustainable alternatives rather than researching and publishing arcane studies with little direct impact.

We need to balance the desire for carbon free energy with the reality that some programs may take longer than others. we need to be cognizant that traditional fossil fuel companies are investing in non-fossil fuel energy and that divetiture may be counter-productive

Do not compel students, especially undergraduate students, to sign sustainability pledges. It is the University Upper Administration and Board's responsibility to deliver on these promises. NOT STUDENTS.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

I suspect that my personal interests and beliefs are very much aligned with the authors of this survey, whose apparent goal is to encourage the University to fully realize it's carbon commitments, or at least assess whether the University community shares in this goal. Someone(s) have put a tremendous amount of time and energy and care into this survey and the vast supporting materials, and I applaud them for the work. However, I unfortunately fear that there are conspicuous biases in the language of some of the questions, and especially in the Technical Glossary and associated linked resources that may only undermine the credibility of this survey's results. I can't imagine there are easy or cheap solutions to the University carbon commitment, if so, they would already be done. Rather, I believe it will require unprecedented and sustained financial prioritization in the face of daunting competing demands for those same monies. Therefore, the emphasis of this survey and associated materials in supporting "non-combustion" solutions is confusing, and troubling, as it does not recognize the need for a broad and diverse portfolio of energy solutions in order to solve a complex global problem. Further, the Whitepaper and its appendices specifically include statements that are contradictory both in support and opposition of biofuels usage, and also contain opinions stated as fact. Appendices 2 and 3 offer points and counterpoints of consideration for biomass, but there was no like analysis for alternative solutions, and particularly lacking was even a narrative analysis of the benefits/limitations of ground-source heating and cooling systems. Furthermore, ground-source systems were presented as a renewable option as a concept in abstract. My understanding of ground-source systems suggests that they are MUCH more complicated than presented and the technical, logistical, and economic considerations for converting the campus steam plant and distribution system to a ground-source system were omitted entirely. This would not be a casual endeavor. Also significantly, while there was mention of the electric grid and Maine's RPS, I saw no mention in the materials regarding both current and future carbon emissions associated with grid electricity, which will become increasingly renewable, but will also continue to depend on fossil fuel combustion-based power generation as enacted through legislation for its Renewable Portfolio Standard that explicitly INCLUDES fossil fuel sources. This issue is a looming obstacle to a truly renewable electric grid and the hope of truly renewable electricity utilization, such as through ground-source heating and cooling..... to be clear I am not criticizing the technology, merely seeking to point out known obstacles that must still be overcome when advocating for widespread beneficial electrification.... which is unaddressed in the materials provided. One further general critique was the absence of any economic context (other than the TREC and carbon offsets briefly), but without some proper understanding of the economics of these choices it's easy to frame the argument as offering equivalent solutions (falsely). For example: our Scope 3 emissions could be eliminated if we made all university commuters and travelers walk, ride a bike, or travel by electric vehicle from 100% renewable electricity. There, done. Wasn't that easy? Wait, what about when the weather is bad, can I drive a gasoline car rather than biking? And who is paying for the electric cars? And the renewable electricity? What about air travel, as there are no electric airplanes? Can we just buy carbon offsets for all this stuff? Can we plug in our vehicles on campus? Do we have electrical capacity for increased EV charging stations? How much will all this cost? Apologies for the jokes.... It's obviously not that easy.... But sending out a survey asking the community if they believe the University should convert to only electric vehicles from renewable electricity is a fair comparison, in the absence of any economic or other information to better inform the survey participants. Likewise, an evaluation of a full scale ground-source heating and cooling system would require assessing the capital costs required, operating and maintenance costs required, technological limitations in heating capacity, logistical considerations and disruption of essential services to an occupied campus all suggest that there is far more to assess than the survey and companion documents provide. In the absence of any economic context the discussion risks becoming abstract to the point of meaninglessness. I believe we will need a diverse portfolio of solutions and sources into the future, there will be no one answer.... Why should we not have wind power where the wind blows, and PV power where the sun shines, hydro power where the rivers run, and renewable fuels where they grow and are abundantly available and can be safely consumed? None of these energy sources are perfect. Each has limitations and comes at a cost: financial, direct and indirect life-cycle carbon emissions, impacts to wildlife habitats, other environmental impacts, etc. Each must be implemented responsibly and managed responsibly over its life. But it will take all of these and more, it will likely take nascent technologies such as large-scale battery storage, it will likely take a return to the embrace of nuclear power generation, and it will still likely take the use of carbon offsets for the foreseeable future while alternative fuels are developed and Maine's infrastructure is developed and mature enough for us to avoid scope 2 and 3 carbon emissions..... a timeframe that is far beyond our 2040 commitment. If renewable fuel combustion is a problem, is this perspective unique to the University? I interpret the issue and information provided to be general, global, not specific to UMaine. So I ask: how will developing countries and societies be expected to become environmentally sustainable through only electrification? I have to believe that for societies in which people may struggle to meet their basic human needs, that renewable electrification will remain an impossible obstacle until such time that the electricity becomes inconceivably cheap AND portable. I don't believe we should bet on that prospect. I do believe the University should honor its commitment. And should demonstrate leadership in so doing. I cannot imagine a future in which renewable fuel combustion is not a part of our mix, but I am open to the opportunity. However, I believe we should be looking at every viable renewable option, responsibly implemented to meet our goals. We must be diligent in ensuring that the measures we implement are real and additional and beneficial. We must also be vigilant to avoid perverse financial environmental incentives and greenwashing – such as palm oil development in Indonesia, the example of southeastern US wood pellet manufacturing and forest clear-cutting to satisfy the European carbon market, or relying on fossil natural gas as a "bridge fuel" in perpetuity because it's local combustion stack emissions are favorable (but all the emissions harm is done upstream). Honoring our sustainability commitment will take all this effort and more. Unfortunately, as it pertains to this survey, the questions asked and the supporting materials provided risk creating discord with individuals (such as myself) whose goals I believe are so closely aligned with the authors, and potentially failing to bolster community support sufficient to motivate increased action. Thank you for your time and willingness to endure this rant. I do hope you'll consider these comments in the good spirit in which they are intended.

None

All of these timelines are too long and milk toast. If this university is committed to combatting climate change it should be ready to take radical actions. I know we are knee capped by capitalism and governmental relations but idk if the university really wanted to address climate change head on, they could and while much of this is good it could be better.

Improve existing Building HVAC systems to be the most efficent as possible would go along way to stop wasting energy.

That athletics construction question on the "list of importance" thing shouldn't even be considered.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

There are no questions here relating to climate justice towards the Penobscot Nation and its citizens. Any equitable climate management scheme must address those issues surrounding the disproportionate rate at which Indigenous communities are experiencing climate change. What will the University do to relinquish settler colonial claims to stolen lands?

All of these questions leave out the issue of cost. I am not sure this survey is useful if the cost(s) for each proposal is not understood and there be a way to fund it

I truly want UMaine to work on sustainability and climate issues. But some of the questions asked if I wanted something to be 'UMaines HIGHEST FUNDING priority'. In a time when our buildings are falling apart, and budgets for research, teaching, etc are so constrained - I cannot say that climate action is my highest priority. What would we have to give up to achieve these - albeit laudable - goals?.

While I do think that non-combustion energy sources are preferred, I do think that renewable biomass can be considered an improvement also. I do not think we need to rule it out completely, as it is an abundant resource in Maine. Having renewable/biomass combustion sources as back up to the non-combustion sources would be a prudent path forward. I would love to see more research projects that solve issues or improve efficiency on campus - such as solar panels on roofs, or aquaponics projects where the food produced can be served on campus.

Get the campus to turn off the hundreds, maybe thousands of lights that are left on every day all around campus that are not being used. I can hardly walk 100 ft in any building without turning off unnecessary lighting..

Per the carbon offset for University travel, this should absolutely happen. But, it cannot come out of the pockets of graduate students whom the University does not even pay a living wage (https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/12620). The University needs to fund this initiative without a barrier to students and their funding.

(4) the university should strive to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030; (5) the university should not require carbon offsets to achieve its annual targets; (14)!!! couldn't agree with this more!

We should all first commit personally to make such divestment.

pls don't kill the planet <3

Moving to Green and Zero Carbon Footprint is important but this will take planning and funding which funding being the more difficult to find. I would suggest Natural Gas and Hydro Power have a much longer life than Solar and Wind

please shorten your net zero pledge to 100% carbon free by 2030

None

Don’t rely on purchasing carbon credits but make the campus actually reduce emissions by building solar and wind generation and penalize gasoline commuting starting next year and give free parking and subsidized electricity to electric vehicles

Fiscally most of this does not seem feasible

Avoid wodd-based biofuels, they are not carbon nuetral

UMaine should improve air exchange systems to reduce inside air pollution and aerosol viruses.

I see a big gap in the approach here. What about reducing single occupancy car trips? Improved bus service and improved facilities and incentives for bike commuting should be a high priority.

The wording of some questions was ambiguous as to whether funding for sustainability initatives would displace investments in students, staff, and faculty needs that are also important (although maybe not sustainability-related in the sense discussed here). Some of my more equivocal responses reflect this.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

Diversity of opinion at the University of Maine is at an all-time low. Political agendas do not belong in education or the financial management of education institutions. This is a public university funded to serve the people of Maine and not the causes of private banks or multinational institutions.

Use of carbon offsets needs to be subject to serious scrutiny to make sure they are genuine and permanent.

none

Campus owned solar farm would be a great idea. It could be student run which could open up more opportunities for work study and a sort of sand box for renewable energy research.

I became a chemical engineer to tackle this issue

Q5: Agree on actual progress; disagree with buying offsets. SHould be two separate questions.

All good goals, but please be realistic about funding realities. We're already behind on so many areas that need funding; target opportunistic changes that don't result in a major cost increase.

All sustainability goals are worthwhile and noble. We should all strive to be better stewards of our planet. That being said, financial realities make some of the items in this survey unmanageable if we are going to continue to fulfill our educational mission.

No further comments

Question 5 presents the participant with a two part question that does not allow for the difference of opinion between ACTUALLY decarbonizing university activities and carbon OFFSETS. These are two very different approaches, yet I can only answer in the affirmative or negative for BOTH approaches. the My feeling is the university should prioritize REAL and DEEP decarbonization as a priority over carbon sequestration and offsets.

"The power is yours."

Presently I work in a building, Hilltop, where the staff wear sweaters most of the summer. We also have to wear extra clothing in the winter due to drafty windows. This building is not at all energy efficient and is probably costing the University much more money than necessary if basic improvements were made. Climate change is the number one problem for the planet and ALL it's lifeforms. We need to take strong action if we hope to continue. Thank you for putting out this survey.

Thank you for pushing ahead with this survey. I feel that the University is definitely behind on education the masses regarding alternative energy and transportation. Also, don't forget about the Hutchinson Center in Belfast with these plans :)

I wish there had been an "undecided" option in answering some of these opinion questions

n/a

The campus continues to advertise a green campus but hasn't gotten the students on board. That will be a big key to reducing waste around campus, get the students involved and supporting it. No more plastic bags for every single meal and help the individuals learn to reduce our impacts. This and also getting sustainable energy would be the largest impact in my eyes.

Need to find a way to effectively communicate the science of climate change in order to lower the number of climate-deniers we have in Maine and the nation.

There was no mention of transportation/busing and making green transport a priority. Many campuses do this, and can serve as models for the process (greening spaces, reducing parking and incentivizing busing and ride sharing, where possible and appropriate). I am shocked by this oversight. Thank you for doing this work.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

Safety and environmental gains can be made by eliminating unnecessary vehicle traffic on campus. Ban vehicles from Flagstaff Rd.

Climate action is important, and I am glad to see the divestment statement and this survey be implemented. Please make UMS a good proponent of real action and change in the betterment of our planet and society.

Excellent survey but it neglected to call for the repeal of the horrendous board of trustees policy on political engagement which requires the president to get prior approval from an advisory committee before making any public remarks about climate change and prohibits her from speaking on abortion policy. Absurd demeaning and an infringement of academic freedom

No

Decrease screen technology. Do not invest in this and call it "progress" as you brag about technological advancement. Research shows that increases screen time is causing a mental health crisis and reading from screens offers POOR comprehension, by nature.

Do not cut down a lot of forests to make room for solar farms.

Limit committees, busywork, regulations

We are all tired of lip service and posturing. Make action and commitments, not pledges and then quietly divert funds from research and improvement to athletics like so many other colleges do.

(6) New campus construction and renovation projects should not cause expansion of the net campus carbon footprint during either construction or long-term operation of the new or rebuilt facilities. Disagree Until construction equipment ceases to require carbon based fuels, there will almost certainly be an increase in emissions during construction. The goal for now should be for new construction to reduce emissions over the long term. ---------- (7) The University of Maine administration and the UMS Board of Trustees should not seek or approve the use of any state or federal funds for any new construction or reconstruction that would expand the University of Maine net carbon footprint. Disagree Suppose the university were to double its enrollment, but increase emissions by only 25% with the best currently available technology. That would be good! -------- (11) The University of Maine should not install fossil fuel connections to any new campus construction or renovation projects. Disagree Kitchens may require gas. For now, that would be propane. Later technologies may allow better options. Electrifying now may merely burn more fossile fuels via the grid. -------- (12) Campus Clean Energy Spending Priorities with New Funds Way too complicated to drag-and-drop all of those options! Get serious if you want surveys answered. -------- (17) I would support a sustainability pledge by which students, staff and faculty might personally commit to making the University of Maine as carbon free and environmentally sustainable as possible. Disagree This is a noble cause, but universities should not require political pledges as a prerequisite for enrollment, or even as a social pressure to accept a particular viewpoint. Terrible to be even asking this question! The University should know better. --------

Take money from the rich! Higher education means the we understand that we need to support everyone as much as possible. People keeping more money than they need are sucking vitality from the community.

Thank you for the plans ahead

I believe climate change is an incredibly important issue. However, many of the survey questions are vague and ambiguous. We can reduce the impact of climate change without spending more and more money on many different clean energy facilities. The costs will likely be passed on to the students in some form and even if not, many of us here feel that there are more important issues that could be addressed on campus with those funds. The incredible costs of infrastructure projects like mentioned in the survey could instead go towards scholarships towards high-performing/dedicated students, for example.

I see zeal everywhere, throughout this survey. I fear that zealous pursuit of "everything" makes us not very good at anything.

In connection w/ #15 above, UMaine should unite w/ other universities in establishing sustainable protocols for major conferences, so that video conferencing (ZOOM et al) displaces the current hypocritical practices of, e.g., climatologists generating collectively gigantic carbon footprints by jetsetting to farflung conference venues

FF Divest NOW

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

The university will never be a destination University with the mill running.

Proposing to build a new natural gas power facility is pretty dumb if you are trying to go away from fossil fuels!

I already view UMaine as a generally forward-thinking and progressive institution regarding environmental sustainability.

A big problem I see on campus right now is the amount of plastic waste from dining halls. Efforts should be made to either seek plastic alternatives for disposable utensils, replace with washable utensils, or preparing more meals that do not require the use of utensils. "compostable" plastic is a scam that represents the primary contributer microplastics in the water supply across the world.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0956053X20303214?via%3Dihub

Per Question 5, sequestration is nonviable, carbon offsets aren't effective. It merely shifts CO2 production without reducing the problem. Per question 9, nuclear is the only effective zero-carbon energy source capable of providing consistent base-load. Solar is dependent on limited rare-earth elements, wind uses non-recyclable fiberglass and epoxies and requires constant replacement.

Prohibiting the sale and use of ALL SINGLE USE plastic on campus. That includes the plastic utensils at the dining facilities (why can they wash plates but not utensils), single use coffee pods from all University spaces including faculty and staff offices. Plant more trees to truly be an "arboretum campus" as is claimed by the University website. Ensure that all future construction projects that happen on this campus create as little waste as possible (most waste in landfills is from the construction industry).

The threat that fossil fuels and greenhouse gases pose to life on Earth cannot be overstated. The University has an opportunity to improve quality of life for the surrounding area and could set the example for other universities to follow suit. My message to UMaine administrators is do not waste this opportunity, we will not have it again.

Wood-based biomass energy might be the most efficient way for UM to go, given the abundance of forest resources in the vicinity of campus. It is not automatically 'bad' for the climate, which some of the questions included in this survey seemed to imply.

I'm not crazy about any of the choices in #12 because the first word in most of the choices is "build." We cannot and must not try to build our way out of the climate crisis. We need to conserve, downsize, restrict. There's nothing in this survey that supports our need to pull back from unchecked growth and biodiversity destruction. It's laughable, really. If you asked me whether we should tear down some buildings and re-wild parts of the campus, I'd be all in. But instead you offer options the require more ground to be broken and more resources to be used up. Whatever happened to conservation?

Do it all, but FASTER.

The University should not pursue renewable energy sources which will require large land use. They should prioritize concepts such as Building-Integrated Photovoltaics and maximize their implementation before pursuing any energy generation that will require building on untouched land (such as fields, forests, etc.) Failure to move in this direction will only prove the University has a greater priority in PR than in legitimate progress.

nuclear adds to earth warming too

An effort to better understand the current energy expenditure on campus for different buildings should be made, then targets for improvement made illustrating the current and potential carbon impact, as well as the cost savings of reducing energy needs

We MUST accelerate these commitments!

Thank you

Undergraduate students STRONGLY support UMaine transitioning away from fossil fuels for our energy needs on campus. I discuss it in a 150-student class every year and they are generally shocked that UMaine recently decided against solar panels. UMaine has a tremendous opportunity to advance its academic reputation for being a leader in the environmental field by investing in its brand-- invest in clean energy and the Office of Sustainability, particularly academic partnerships that will increase the office's capacity for improving UMaine's sustainability and meet an unmet need for green jobs training for our students.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

UMaine is completely detached from reality. I don't understand how you people keep your jobs.

Give the marine biology department more funding

Clean energy and sustainability are important factors to consider in any project and should considered, along with all other factors. I don't believe carbon offset fees/taxes are appropriate, as they are performative, not substantive, in nature.

Happy to support climate initiatives, but would like to put as much emphasis into the impact it would have on the solvency of the university. We face many challenges as a University, and adding more self-induced challenges could possibly have collateral damage that hurts employees and families.

I think burning biofuels is okay as long as the university is also replacing trees. I think that the university should work more closely with the University Forest Office to determine the best steps going forward if this is something that is of interest. Also, I think carbon offsetting is a great idea in theory, but not in practice. There are other ways that we all can decrease our carbon foot print, and at the moment, I do think carbon offsetting is the answer.

I think that electric vehicles for facilities for on campus use should be looked into instead of gas guzzling van that drive around campus and are left idling that probably reduce the MPG to less then the 12 mpg that is probably the standard. In short electric, (eg: the Polaris Gem or similar utility vehicle), would be better for on campus work then those fleet vans that are not efficient at all.

I don’t agree with buying carbon offsets. Do the work to improve the climate, don’t just pay off some middleman to make yourselves feel better.

Even though the environment is important , there are other areas where the funding could benefit students

none

Would like to focus more on the dining halls using plastic and paper everything first. That doesn't seem very sustainable.

the university needs to better coordinate with the local community and student population before making any decisions. it is a state school and should be more open to community input, especially before starting any new projects

it really bothers me how dining hall utensils are all plastic and come in packs. it is extremely wasteful, especially if you only need a fork but you have to get a knife, spoon, and a bunch of plastic wrapping along with it! I would like to see either the opportunity to only take the utensils necessary (like the way it is in the Bear's Den) or reusable utensils.

The unviversity will never be able to acheive any climate impact change because of the neglect top adminstration has for basic repairs. We spend millions on heating when building windows are rotting out. How is that helping the enviroment? Old building should removed and saved for "historic" reasons.

I'm proud to be apart of a University striving to lower its carbon footprint

Carbon offsets (and to a lesser degree direct sequestration) are liable to becoming carbon shell games. Therefore, the University should decrease greenhouse gas emissions each and every year at a rate consistent with the required annual minimum or greater to achieve the 2040 commitment by making changes to operations. Using offsets or sequestration achieves no actual progress on campus and makes progress Someone Else's Problem. Also, real efforts toward reducing university travel should be made; in MANY instances, virtual presence is a viable option. Air travel is literally killing us all.

Building new stuff is not going to get us out of a climate problem. I do think we should move towards burning biomass/woodchips for heating, as we should try and conserve our valuable and environmentally problematic fossil fuels.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

If the university continues to neglect the teaching of the humanities, it can never hope to be truly climate-conscious. In order to have a holistic view of the climate crisis, the humanities departments in the university must be fully funded and properly staffed. By underpaying graduate students, not hiring new faculty to replace retired positions, and neglecting the updating of the buildings in which humanities departments are housed, the university is turning a blind eye to a group of academic fields that can actively assist in the transformation of the university's social climate and advocate for climate-crisis related reforms. The university must continue to invest in scientific research to address the climate crisis, but it must also invest in humanities research to the same end.

Thank you for surveying our community.

Future focus should include a commitment to reducing as far is practicable, an increase to student educational fees.

Without a complete understanding of the competing budgetary needs, it is difficult and perhaps foolhardy to say in a survey what the "highest priority" should be for the university.

Last December, I had some free time and went on a crusade to figure out how we as a campus could recycle ink cartridges together. Earlier that day, I learned that while Resource Recovery retrieves used cartridges, they are thrown in the trash instead of being truly recycled. I was horrified and ended up chatting with the Office of Sustainability. They agreed with me, but said there was no solution other than individuals being personally responsible and sending cartridges back to the company. I am a building manager and I know for a fact that many folks in this building just throw theirs away (despite my best efforts). I think, unless "we" make things easy with anything climate related, people are too tired and overwhelmed to deal with one more thing. I want to be a part of the solution, but staff are not invited to participate on committees. I do not hold a PhD, but I am well educated. It's a shame, and some days it is very disheartening. Thanks for listening and considering.

A commitment to sustainability should not be focused on building new better things but on upgrading what already exists whenever possible. Commitments to sustainability are nothing without a plan for environmental justice, particularly in uplifting and giving power to indigenous people.

Considering food waste in the push for next zero emissions is also a top priority. Quantifying and mitigating that aspect at the University is also very important to consider.

More energy saving: lights off in unused rooms; no idling of vehicles

A goal for carbon neutrality by 2040 is too little, too late. The primary issue isn’t shifting from fossil fuels to “renewable” fuels (around which the conversation conveniently neglects the grotesquely disastrous extractive industries required for these technologies), it is that there is too much fuel consumption period. Promoting “personal choice” in the matter of climate change shirks the responsibility of the university to provide infrastructure for students, faculty, staff, etc. to avoid consumption of fuels at all (i.e. a more walkable , bikeable campus, actually affordable and acquirable housing near campus, etc.). Encouraging the “personal choice” to buy an electric vehicle neglects the fact that 1. most folks on campus cant afford housing, let alone a new vehicle and 2. such a “choice” requires immeasurable environmental destruction for materials which is predicated on an imperial economic relationship enforced by draconian West-favored MOUs with the Global South. Let’s aim higher!

There are new building designs such passive houses that can be used to save energy on campus. UMaine also needs to take on account the material footprint (e.g. electrical car are worse for the environment than gasoline cars due to plant emissions)

Wear wool and you won’t need as much heating.

I want to say thank you to the Environment Committee and Zero Carbon Subcommittee members for their work on the creation of this survey!

UMaine should focus on giving the students a valuable education

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

Conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic proved that a majority of students, staff, faculty, and administrators are able to successfully complete their work and study-related activities remotely. I believe that the University of Maine System should prioritize full utilization of all current and developing technologies that allow students and employees to work and attend classes remotely. By supporting remote meetings, remote classes, remote interviews, remote events, remote conventions, remote workshops, and remote work, UMS will help create a new "normal" for academia while helping all students and employees reduce their carbon footprint. Remote access to meetings and events reduces overall costs related to the time and expense of travel to and from meetings and increases productivity. Continuing to require employees, faculty, administrators, and executives to travel hours from each campus to attend a one-hour meeting at a single location should no longer be considered a viable work practice. Continued insistance on returning to this form of "normal" and "seeing everyone's faces" is rooted in the socieconomic privilege enjoyed by the executive class. Continuation of this antiquated business practice points to executives seeking to protect the power they possess rather than seeking to protect the environment. I believe the University of Maine System should make a solid committment to never barter, trade, or sell carbon credits earned by individual campuses or the university system as a whole to for-profit corporations who exceed carbon emissions standards. No forward progress can be made toward climate change if UMS and other institutions seek to profit by the sale of carbon credits.

These are all natural and important priorities! But UMaine does a TERRIBLE job selling our environmental potential and values. We need to aim so much higher with our green credentials!

The divestment plan was announced by the investment comittee on April 28th.

Interdisciplinary research and courses are KEY to solving current climate and social problems Teach students how to think in interdisciplinary ways and how to look at a problem from many different perspectives. History. Literature. Foreign Languages. All matter

Carbon offsets are quite problematic. Not recommended at all.

The survey is useful to set direction but the science must dictate reality. Stepwise in the right direction is better than wholesale directives which could be a mistake. Consider that Fossil Fuels are required in extreme conditions unless other technology is developed in due time.

2040? Too late. We should pledge to move up that deadline to 2030. And why are parking lots being rebuilt and adding a couple of recharging stations? In only a few years, auto manufacturers will stop producing gasoline-powered vehicles entirely? What is the plan to add changing stations to EVERY parking spot on campus within ten years?

Improving safe walking and cycling paths both in and around not only the campus, but in our Orono community would also have a climate impact.

Who are the specific authors of e shouWho are the specific authors of the companion white paper? Reading the companion white paper and taking the survey was well above and beyond the 10 minute estimate stated in the invitation.

Switch to reusable utensils in the dining halls. Just do it.

The University should not rely on purchasing carbon offsets to offset the carbon footprint of travel or any other carbon footprint. Carbon offsets are often not well organized and justified, and it's unclear whether some of the activities on which these are based do, in fact, save or sequester carbon. Instead the Unviverstiy should transition to solar power or other non-fossil fuel sources as soon as practical.

make dining halls less wasteful

Fall Climate Fest - students can learn about what UMaine is doing and how they can help reduce their own footprint and UMaine's

Any actions should be scientifically based, scientifically measured, and not be done for political reasons.

Lots more the univeristy can fo: composting: green infrastructure, supporting sustainable, local food, passive solar construction (Terrell House) etc.

Replacing old buildings with new buildings that can be both good for the environment and cost efficient for the University should be a priority.

Some of the definitions in the Technical Glossary are incorrect

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

I am concerned about the use of disposable plates and silverware in the dining halls (specifically York) and the impacts of that on the environment. I understand if this choice was COVID or staffing related, but I think switching back to regular plates and silverware that can be washed and reused is an important goal to have for next year and the future to reduce waste.

Why are grass athletic fields being replaced with astroturf? Couldn't a multi-use field be constructed instead of one for every sport? How much grass is being replaced by the purposed fields?

Global warming is a natural occurrence. We do not help by the way we live, but it is the earth's natural way of rejuvenation. Al Gore started this when he was running for president.

In some cases I was less enthusiastic about a statement becaues I do not know enough about the costs and benefits involved

UMaine is already doing just fine from a sustainability standpoint. Investment needs to be made into the ancient residence halls, poor general infrastructure, and actually paying employees and adjuncts a fair living wage. UMaine has so much potential that is wasted on unnecessary initiatives like this.

Subsidizing electric vehicle use is subsidizing a few of the most affluent elite among us and penalizing the rest of us. Extremely unfair. I strongly support sustainability efforts, but the rush for electrical power for heat and transport in our maine environment is madness.

Addressing failing HVAC systems when they are reported. Someone who has the authority over the performance of any HVAC system across campus has to actually care or have the means to repair it to a minimum standard.

This should be more inclusive of non campused based University facilities and staff

I wish you hadn't used the words 'solar farms' as that connotes taking land and covering it with panels. I oppose this but would support panels on rooftops etc

None at this time

Continued focus on work from home when possible to reduce vehicle emissions from unnecessary commutes

NA

Missing important action commit to insulation and energy efficiency of existing buildings.

UMaine should work to recruit and employ renewable energy trade personnel to the state. Primarily those with experience in building renewable and clean energy turbines such as wind and water. There are thousands of millwrights across the nation that would be willing to make Maine their home if they had this opportunity to lead the way in developing clean energy.

This survey is ridiculous. So a majority of climate-change deniers can sway your opinion? And you need reassurance that you should do these things? Grow up, UMaine. In my experience this place is terrible at getting anything done. If it isn't academics, it's a raging band of upper managers who fit the Peter Principle to a T; they have been promoted to their level of incompetence and have no business leading anything here. You can quote me on that. dfit@maine.edu - not afraid to sign my name

DIVEST NOW

Although these efforts to divest and reduce carbon footprints are great, I believe that we also need to be focusing on local food systems, sustainability of products used on campus, and manditory education of all undergraduates as to human population impacts on the environment. Information and education is a huge part of helping create a generation of changemakers with environmental and societal impacts being considered at every step.

I'm excited for UMaine to continue on it's path to contributing to climate change solutions!

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

I thought it odd that question 12 did not include any of the building projects likely to be part of MCECIS development.

As a renewable sustainable naturally abundant resource, wood should be a priority for materials, energy, and housing for any organization supporting Maine's economy. I burn woodpellets at home for heat to replace oil, why should UMaine ignore the value.

Consider offering staff the possibility to work remotely at least once a week to reduce carbon emission caused by commuting. Better insulation in buildings and heat management would also considerably help reduce our impact as a whole.

Thank you for the efforts, I know it's not going to be cheap

Good idea re: survey.

I think the most important thing is to allocate funding to renovate all of the old buildings electrical and heating/cooling systems to allow for central air and reduce carbon emissions. Maine Climate is changing and students do not want to enroll in a hot muggy dorm for 4 months now, since temps are much higher in Sept - October than they ever used to be.

The UMS should publish an annual ESG/Sustainability Report (GRI, etc.) through a graduate student course, student group led by faculty, etc.

I am disturbed by the omission of a prohibition on nuclear power in the absence of a legitimate and safe means for managing long-term storage for spent fuel, in this survey.

I feel that question #9 was worded in a biased manner.

Drop the mask and booster mandates

The University needs to actively oppose the Old Town Mill. It is harmful to the environment, quality of life of those in the surrounding areas, and most importantly harmful to the Penobscot Nation People whom we claim to respect.

Carbon off-sets are not the same thing as going net carbon zero, nor should the presented as some sort of equivalent. There is no replacement for ACTUAL commitment to removing a carbon footprint of a large institution. Off-setting/Sequestering a carbon footprint is a product of corporate culture so people can feel justified in a slow easing from a carbon footprint as opposed to making difficult and costly decisions...which is just punting it down the road (if there is a road left to punt to, quite frankly.) In particular this is in reference to Question #5 of this survey.

Please do not take farmable land for solar installations. Build a parking garage in the MCA lot and put a solar farm on its roof.

Our timelines and investment is still out of sync with the scope of the problem. Our country/world is DRAMATICALLY underreacting to climate change. This, through a DEI lens, is the most important work of the next 50 years, and should be prioritized over everything else.

Meeting the carbon goals of the UMS should not be made a priority over student experiences and fixing the crumbling physical infrastructure (i.e. parking lots and roads). Students and their experiences and well-being and our continued commitment to retain and attract new students should ALWAYS be the first priority when making decisions about funding.

Addressing climate change is the most important challenge we face as a species. Suggesting it isn't or that it can wait is unconscionable.

Maines forests are NOT an attractive resource for biofuel- your gauge campaign in this resource would cause much more harm to the environment than good. This is about money and innovation. UMaine needs more research in Nuclear technology!

Please research and invest in nuclear power, a clean and safe alternative to fossil fuels and more unreliable green energy sources

The first and foremost priority when it comes to the budget aof a public learning institution such as this one is to better facilitate the education of the students in attendance. Any policy that does not directly influence this as the highest priority is less important. That includes clean energy initiatives.

(20) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

I'm underinformed about most of these issues, and therefore not qualified to make much of a statement on them. I do believe requiring a "pledge" of any kind from faculty, students and staff is not a healthy precedent, is not inclusive, and I can easily see how it can be misused in a variety of contexts and conflicts (and how it contradicts the concept of academic freedom).

Use renewable projects in marketing/admissions more clearly/effectively

Stop building if you can. We need public transportation. Rethink how we use the land

Priority level of steps toward sustainability should be organized by what can be done to make the largest difference in reducing the campus carbon footprint. The annual ROI should be calculated. I know that an investment in Solar is often financially beneficial, I wonder what about other types of alternative energy investments.

So happy to see this survey!

It's great to think about new buildings ect, but the amount of food and plastic waste on campus is ridiculous, there aren't even recycling opportunities in dining halls, the single use plastic is horrible

pick one thing and do it well. avoid catchphrases. listen to the engineering department instead of salespeople.

Would like the selection to be based on a technical analysis of the actual impact of each option, not just focusing on local issues but also the energy cost of the products used.

This school preaches a lot about sustainability but Iran's very sustainable. We need more gardens for students to maintain, more bird houses, bee boxes, bay boxes, things that boulster wildlife and the ecosystem. The campus looks pretty shitty year round.

End of Report