Sustainability Pulse Survey 2021: Literacy Answer Key

What is the name of the international climate change agreement that was signed by over 50 countries in 2016?

a) The Paris Agreement
b) The Kyoto Protocol
c) The Montreal Protocol
d) The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

According to climate scientists, what amount of global temperature rise will prevent catastrophic climate change from occurring?

a) 1.5 degrees Celsius
b) 2.0 degrees Celsius
c) 2.5 degrees Celsius
d) 3.0 degrees Celsius

Carbon dioxide (CO2) is the primary human-made contributor to global warming, but there are many other heat-trapping gases. Which one of the following is not a greenhouse gas?

a) Methane (CH4)
b) Nitrogen oxides (NOx)
c) Oxygen (O2)
d) Water vapor (H2O)

What is the most significant driver of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation around the world?

a) Over-hunting and over-harvesting
b) Acid rain
c) Degradation of natural spaces due to human development and industry
d) Natural disasters caused by climate change

What is the greatest concern associated with the global decline of bee populations?

a) More people will develop allergies to bee stings
b) Bees are essential pollinators for the cultivation of food crops worldwide
c) A decline in bees indicates plant species are diseased and declining

d) Natural disasters caused by climate change

e) Degradation of natural spaces due to human development and industry

In Ontario the electrical grid is comprised of biofuel, hydro, natural gas, nuclear, solar, and wind. Which of these sources represents the greatest portion of Ontario's electricity needs?

a) Biofuel
b) Hydro
c) Natural gas
d) Nuclear
e) Solar
f) Wind
What defines a two-stream recycling system?

a) A recycling system in which all recyclable materials (i.e. paper, glass, plastic, cardboard) can be collected in the same bin
b) A recycling system in which Paper materials and Containers materials are collected in separate bins
c) A recycling system in which Paper materials and Containers materials can be collected in the same bin, but are separated at the recycling facility

What is the consequence of recycling being sorted incorrectly?

a) It gets sorted at the recycling facility
b) It ends up going to landfill (even if all the items are recyclable)

What is an example of "circular economy" in practice?

a) Efficient lightbulbs that use less energy
b) Local buy and sell groups where community members trade or buy from each other
c) Purchasing an item to use for a short while, then throw away
d) Purchasing new items to live more sustainably, and throwing away things you currently have

Approximately what percentage of food produced in Canada gets wasted each year?

a) 28%
b) 38%
c) 48%
d) 58%

In the City of London, what is the #1 source of carbon emissions?

a) Factories and industrial buildings
b) Methane from landfills
c) Personal vehicle use
d) Residential housing

Which most accurately describes a 'living wage' in a given location?

a) The minimum wage to support one’s preferred lifestyle
b) The hourly wage that, at a minimum, supports a standard of living above the poverty line
c) The minimum wage a person can be paid
d) The hourly wage based on one’s credentials

d) All of the above

Which of these statements contribute to an understanding of climate justice?

a) Climate change adversely impacts some groups more than others
b) Climate change is inherently a social issue
c) Inequities will be exacerbated by climate change
d) An intersectional approach to climate solutions is necessary to address interrelated environmental and social issues
e) All of the above
Which of the following is not one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)?

a) Clean water and sanitation  
b) Climate action  
c) Good health and well-being  
d) **Human rights to freedom**  
e) No poverty

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are the root cause of anthropogenic climate change. Western is committed to reducing our carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement and provincial climate goals. What are Western's current GHG reduction goals?

a) **By 2030, reduce GHG emissions by at least 45% and achieve net-zero emissions for campus operations by 2050**  
b) By 2035, reduce GHG emissions by at least 50% and achieve net-zero emissions for campus operations by 2050  
c) By 2030, reduce GHG emissions by at least 50% and achieve net-zero emissions for campus operations by 2040  
d) By 2040, reduce GHG emissions by at least 45% and achieve net-zero emissions for campus operations by 2050

Waste diversion rates refer to the percentage of waste diverted from landfill, through the containers, organics, and paper streams. Approximately, what is Western's current diversion rate?

a) 30%  
b) 40%  
c) 50%  
d) 70%  
e) 90%

Which waste stream should paper-based food takeout containers go?

a) **Organics**  
b) Containers  
c) Paper  
d) Landfill