

University of Prince Edward Island 2005 ENERGY AWARENESS SURVEY

As part of the University's energy awareness campaign, the UPEI Energy Awareness Program Committee conducted its second awareness survey to learn about the campus community's knowledge and use of energy. The data collected will assist the University in choosing the best approaches to raise awareness if needed, and to move towards a more energy-efficient campus — the effect of which will benefit everybody at UPEI and maybe even at home. **Completing this survey was voluntary and there were a total of 111 responses.**

Percentages were calculated based on the total number of respondents to the survey, not on the number of respondents to each question. When our percentages do not add up to 100%, the balance is due to non-responses to the particular question; and, in certain questions, more than one response was asked for and given. In order to present the findings in a more concise format, the information presented on the following pages is a summary of the results.

Summary Facts

- Although there was a smaller number of individuals who responded to the 2005 survey, a greater percentage of staff filled out this year's survey
- Once again, more women than men responded to the survey
- Majority of respondents drive to work
- There continues to be a high percentage of respondents who are interested in carpooling if arrangements were made (27.9%)
- Approximately half of the respondents would be interested in using public transit system if it were available in Stratford, Charlottetown and Cornwall, with the majority preferring schedules between 7-9:00am and after 3:00pm
- Increased of number of respondents already carpooling (12.6% in 2004 vs 16.2% in 2005)
- Majority of respondents felt that behavioural changes were needed in order to save energy on campus – this is borne out by what respondents specifically do on campus to be energy efficient (see Question # 17)
- Over 80% knew about the Energy Awareness Program (a 20% from 20004)
- Although a number of respondents felt that that having prizes or contests are incentives to be more active in saving energy, some indicated that there should be no incentives; that interest in saving the environment would be incentive enough. In addition, a few individuals indicated that any money saved should come back to Departments to purchase "extras" that were not covered through budgets.

General Questions

Once again, the survey included a series of general multiple choice questions to test respondents' knowledge about energy issues. Of the eight questions, the majority of respondents answered four correctly.

Survey population statistics:

1. Respondents to the online survey were:

Students	46 (41.4%)
Staff	52 (46.8%)
Faculty	13 (11.7%)

2. Respondents live:

in their own home	57 (51.4%)
at (family) home	22 (19.8%)
in residence	5 (4.5%)
in an apartment	26 (23.4%)
Other	1 (.9%)

3. Age:

17 – 25	45 (40.5%)
26 – 39	23 (20.7%)
40 – 49	20 (18%)
50+	23 (20.7%)

4. Gender:

Female	83 (74.8%)
Male	28 (25.2%)

5. Getting to the University:

Walk	38 (34.2%)
Bike	7 (6.3%)
Drive	85 (76.6%)
Taxi	6 (5.4%)
Carpool	12 (10.8%)
Bus/Van	1 (.9%)

6. If driving, frequency of driving to the University:

Every day	69 (62.2%)
A couple of times a week	13 (11.7%)
Occasionally	12 (10.8%)
Never	9 (8.1%)

7. In getting to campus, respondents were the:

driver	74 (66.7%)
passenger	25 (22.5%)

8. Respondents drive to the University a one-way distance of:

Less than 1 km	5 (4.5%)
1 to 5 km	25 (22.5%)
6 to 10 km	16 (14.4%)
11 to 15 km	9 (8.1%)
16 to 20 km	11 (9.9%)
21 to 29	12 (10.8%)
30 km +	7 (6.3%)

9. Interest in carpooling if arrangements were made:

Yes	31 (27.9%)
No	46 (41.4%)
Already Carpooling	18 (16.2%)

10. Interest in using the public transit system from various locations:

Cornwall	8 (7.2%)
Charlottetown	40 (36%)
Stratford	8 (7.2%)
Never	35 (31.5%)
Other	13 (11.7%)

11. Times of the day that respondents would use the public transit system (multiples answers):

7:00 to 8:00 am	33 (29.7%)
8:00 to 9:00 am	41 (36.9%)
9:00 to 10:00 am	19 (17.1%)
10:00 to 11:00 am	13 (11.7%)
11:00am to 12:00 pm	14 (12.6%)
12:00 to 1:00 pm	15 (13.5%)
1:00 to 2:00 pm	16 (14.4%)
2:00 to 3:00 pm	18 (16.2%)
3:00 to 4:00 pm	26 (23.4%)
After 4:00 pm	66 (59.5%)

Section 1: Energy at the University

12. The survey asked for two things each person could do at UPEI to save energy or water, or both, which would have little or no cost. The top 4 suggestions are summarized below.

Categories	Responses
Lighting – turn off lights when leaving the office/classroom; motion sensor lights in areas such as washrooms, hallways, Library; use energy-efficient lighting both for task lighting and public areas; have timers in areas so that lights go off and on automatically at certain times	53
Heating and AC - Thermostat turned down, or at least have a temperature policy for both summer and winter; Weatherstrip windows/doors especially in older buildings; allow access to temperature control	21

Categories	Responses
Equipment - Turn off computers, printers, equipment when not in use (shut off completely especially overnight and on weekends)	21
Water – fix leaky taps/running toilets and have a simple way of reporting; use sensor taps and sensor showers; use low flush toilets; stop watering lawns in the summer	18

13. The respondents were asked if they knew of UPEI's Energy Awareness Program:

Yes	94 (84.7%)
No	16 (14.4%)

14. If Yes, how did they hear about it?

Category	Responses (% of Responses)
Campus Notices	74 (66.7%)
Website	38 (34.2%)
Staff	25 (22.5%)
Faculty	7 (6.3%)
Students	4 (3.6%)
Other	9 (8.1%)

15. How interested did they think other members of the campus community are in saving energy at the University:

Very Interested	6 (5.4%)
Somewhat Interested	80 (72.1%)
Not Interested at all	24 (21.6%)

16. At the University, what did they think would be a good incentive to be more active in saving energy?

Awareness/Education (post building consumption figures and savings)	28
Rewards - Prizes, Contests (between buildings), Recognition, and Team Competitions	22
Tuition (savings to decrease or maintain)	9

NOTE: Some respondents indicated that there should be no incentives that interest in saving the environment would be incentive enough. In addition, a few individuals indicated that any money saved should come back to Departments to purchase "extras" that were not covered through budgets; parking rebate for car-pooling

17. At the University, what specific actions do respondents already take to be energy-efficient (multiple answers)?

Turn off lights when not in use	96 (86.5%)
Turn off computer at the end of the day	85 (76.6%)
Conserve water	61 (55%)
Lower Thermostat	43 (38.7%)
Turn off photocopiers, printers etc. when not in use	49 (44.1%)
Use Stairs	98 (88.3%)
Keep Windows and Doors closed	44 (39.6%)
Walk or bike to the University	40 (36%)
Recycle	100 (90.1%)
Other	7 (6.3%)

18. From the list below, how well would each means of communication motivate or remind you to save energy at UPEI?

[(1)Excellent, (2)Good, (3)Fair, (4)Poor, (5)Not Applicable]

Means of Communication	Response
Contests	2.2
Posters	2.4
UPEI Events Notices	2.5
Labels and Signage	2.6
E-mail	2.7
Websites	2.8
Internal mail system	2.8
Department Chairs/Directors	2.9
Student Newspaper - <i>The Cadre</i>	3.0
Campus Bulletin Boards	3.1
Department Notice Boards	3.2
Student Union Handbooks	3.4
Bookmarks	3.4
Pay slips	3.5
Class Reps	3.6
Residence Bulletin Boards	3.7

Section 2: Energy at Home

The literature shows that if individuals are given the necessary information and make changes at work (or at home), they are more apt to make similar changes at home (or at work).

19. Can you remember how much you pay for your electricity at home, per month?

No Idea	17 (15.3%)
Not Applicable	9 (8.1%)
Below \$30	1 (0.9%)
\$30 - \$39	8 (7.2%)
\$40 - \$49	7 (6.3%)
\$50 - \$59	4 (3.6%)
\$60 - \$69	12 (10.8%)
\$70 - \$79	8 (7.2%)
\$80 - \$89	7 (6.3%)
\$90 - \$99	20 (18%)
\$100 - \$109	4 (3.6%)
\$110 - \$119	5 (4.5%)
\$120 +	6 (5.4%)

20. Have you invested in any of the following energy-saving measures?

Installation of new compact fluorescent bulbs (or energy saving bulbs)	55.9% (62)
Additional insulation, including weather-stripping	36.9% (41)
Installation of new windows	28.8% (32)
Purchased energy efficient appliances	45.9% (51)
Install timer on lights	15.3% (17)
Purchased an energy efficient car	7.2% (8)
Renovated the bathroom	12.6% (14)
Other	
• Banked the house, put in wood stove	0.9% (1)
• blown insulation in ceiling	0.9% (1)
• installed programmable thermostat and purchased new high efficiency furnace	0.9% (1)
• live in brand new home	0.9% (1)
• lowered thermostat, on timer	1.8% (2)
• New energy efficient roof	0.9% (1)
• new storm door	0.9% (1)
• renovation of an older home with new insulation and windows	0.9% (1)

21. Respondents were asked if they turned off electronic equipment when not in use (ie., printers, computers, lights, photocopiers, etc.):

Yes	91 (82%)
No	14 (12.6%)
Not Applicable	1 (.9%)

Section 3: General Questions

22. How many tons of greenhouse gas emissions does the average Canadian produce in one year?

- 1. 3 16.2% (18)
- 2. 4 19.8% (22)
- 3. 5 37.8% (42) **Correct Answer**
- 4. 6 17.1% (19)

23. Routinely replacing your vehicle's oil and filters can save up to 50% more fuel.

- True 56.8% (63) **Correct Answer**
- False 11.7% (13)
- No Idea 28.8% (32)

24. If every Canadian changed one standard light bulb to an Energy Star-qualified compact fluorescent bulb, it would have the same effect as taking how many cars off the road?

- 6,000 43.2% (48)
- 26,000 24.3% (27)
- 46,000 19.8% (22)
- 66,000 4.5% (5) **Correct Answer**

25. Green Power is:

- 1. a political party 0.9% (1)
- 2. a renewable source of energy 64.0% (71) **Correct Answer**
- 3. pre-paid gas cards 0
- 4. a Canadian environmental group 30.6% (34)

26. Using wind to generate electricity depletes the atmosphere's supply of wind.

- True 2.7% (3)
- False 91.9% (102) **Correct Answer**
- No Idea 3.6% (4)

27. How many trees does the typical Canadian use in the form of paper annually?

- 1. 2 2.7% (3)
- 2. 4 11.7% (13) **Correct Answer**
- 3. 7 36.0% (40)
- 4. 10 42.3% (47)

28. How many kilometers does the average meal travel before it reaches your plate?

- 1. 2.5 2.7% (3)
- 2. 25 12.6% (14)
- 3. 250 50.5% (56)
- 4. 2500 27.9% (31) **Correct Answer**

29. Which of the following should you leave out of your compost bin?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. cheese | 23.4% (26) | Correct Answer |
| 2. vegetable peelings | 0 | |
| 3. tea bags | 57.7% (64) | |
| 4. old pasta | 8.1% (9) | |

Section 4: Final Thoughts

30. Please add any further comments on energy issues.

We received 21 responses to this question with the most popular topics being: need to put energy-saving ideas into action; make energy-saving a priority at the University; keep the campus community informed; mandatory regulations with sanctions to curb energy use; fund energy-saving programs.

30. Please add any further comments on environmental issues.

We received 11 responses to this question. Comments included (but were not limited to): what about using wind energy at UPEI, geothermal energy in new buildings, pesticide free grounds; need to keep informed about being environmentally aware; must do a better job of recycling (consistency in bins and better signage).

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