



CAWG

*Campus Assessment Working Group*

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## Freshmen and Sustainability

Beginnings Subgroup  
November 2010 Forum

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## Beginnings Subgroup Members



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Joann Prosser, Chair	Resident Life
Barbara Goldberg	Counseling Center
Beverly Greenfeig	Counseling Center
Erin Iverson	Resident Life
Corbin Campbell	EDHI
Claire Jacobson	EDHI
Jill Jones	IRPA
Sharon La Voy	IRPA
Mike Passarella George	IRPA
Britt Reynolds	Admissions
Hilary Sazama	Office of Extended Studies
Renee Baird Snyder	IRPA
Dian Squire	Orientation
Tom Steen	Undergraduate Studies
Joe Williams	Admissions

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## Today's Presenters & Panelist



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### ➤ Presenters

- Mike Passarella George, IRPA
- Joann Prosser, Resident Life

### ➤ Student Panel

- Freshman, BSOS
- Sophomore, CMNS
- Senior, AGNR

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## Forum Agenda



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### ➤ Topics

- Self-reported Green Practices
- Freshmen Perceptions and Beliefs
- Panel Discussion and Questions

### ➤ Data on Green Practices

- Freshmen data from BSS 2008 and BSS 2009
- On-campus students from RHEP 2009 and RHEP 2010

### ➤ Data on Perceptions and Beliefs

- Freshmen data from BSS 2009

*CAWG Snapshot available at [www.umd.edu/cawg](http://www.umd.edu/cawg)*

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## Beginnings Student Survey (BSS)



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- Annual survey, began 1996
- Pencil-paper survey
- Convenience sample: administered within the 8-10<sup>th</sup> week of the fall semester in typical freshmen courses
- Gathers data on first-year undergraduates' experiences at and perceptions of UM
- BSS 2008: 1,551 FTFT survey respondents (out of 3,902)
- BSS 2009: 2,100 FTFT survey respondents (out of 4,072)

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## Residence Hall Evaluation Project (RHEP)



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- Annual survey, began in 1983
- Pencil-paper survey
- Random sample: distributed and collected by resident assistants
- Gathers data on experiences of first-year through senior undergraduate students living on campus
- RHEP 2009: 1696 survey respondents out of 1843, 92%
- RHEP 2010: 1549 survey respondents out of 1613, 96%

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## Limitations



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- Data are self-reported
  - BSS cannot be generalized due to the convenience sample
  - RHEP generalized to on-campus population, not all undergraduates
  - Although RHEP & BSS data cover the same academic years, caution should be exercised when comparing the results

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## Freshmen and Sustainability



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- Green Practices
  - Environmental Concern
  - Sustainability & Education



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## GREEN PRACTICES



### Participation in green practices: Saving energy in general

How often do you...	Never/Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Turn off lights and appliances when leaving room/apt for more than a few minutes	8	32	61
Turn off computer or activate the "sleep mode" when not in use for more than 2 hours	17	23	60
Take public transportation instead of driving	17	27	56
Unplug other electronics (e.g., TV, stereo) when not in use for more than 2 hours	69	19	12
Sleep with the TV or music on	81	14	5

Source: BSS 08  
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding



## Participation in green practices: Saving energy in residence halls

In residence halls, how often do you...	Never/Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Turn off lights and appliances when leaving for more than a few minutes	7	36	57
Turn off electronics (e.g. computer, TV) when leaving your residence hall for more than a few minutes	17	39	43
Open your window while the heat/air conditioning is running	59	33	8
Sleep with the TV or music on	80	15	5

Source: RHEP 2009  
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding



## Participation in green practices: Water usage

How often do you...	Never/Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Turn the water off while brushing teeth	19	28	53
Take a shower for longer than 15 minutes	48	37	15

Source: BSS 08

In residence halls, how often do you...	Never/Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Take shower 5 minutes or less	66	27	6
Take a shower for longer than 15 minutes	50	40	10

Source: RHEP 2009  
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding



## Participation in green practices: Dining halls

How often do you...	Never/Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Use Styrofoam containers/cups when eating in the campus dining halls	22	42	36

Source: BSS 08

How often do you...	Never/Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Use a Styrofoam/polystyrene disposable cup even though you will finish your drink before leaving the dining hall	54	30	17
Use disposable 'take-out' containers for your meal even though you intend to eat in the dining hall	62	28	10

Source: RHEP 09  
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding



## Participation in green practices: Recycling

How often do you...	Never/Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Recycle used items such as paper, bottles, or cans	15	38	47
Read materials related to class assignments online rather than printing	23	57	20

Source: BSS 08

In residence halls, how often do you...	Never/Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Recycle used items such as paper, bottles, cans*	15	37	48
Use a reusable bottle for water or other drinks, instead of disposable cups*	26	48	26
Recycle paper of all types (including: pizza boxes, newspaper, cardboard, shredded paper, paperback/hardcover books)**	20	41	40

\*Source: RHEP 2009  
\*\* Source: RHEP 2010  
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding



## When respondents do not recycle, why not?

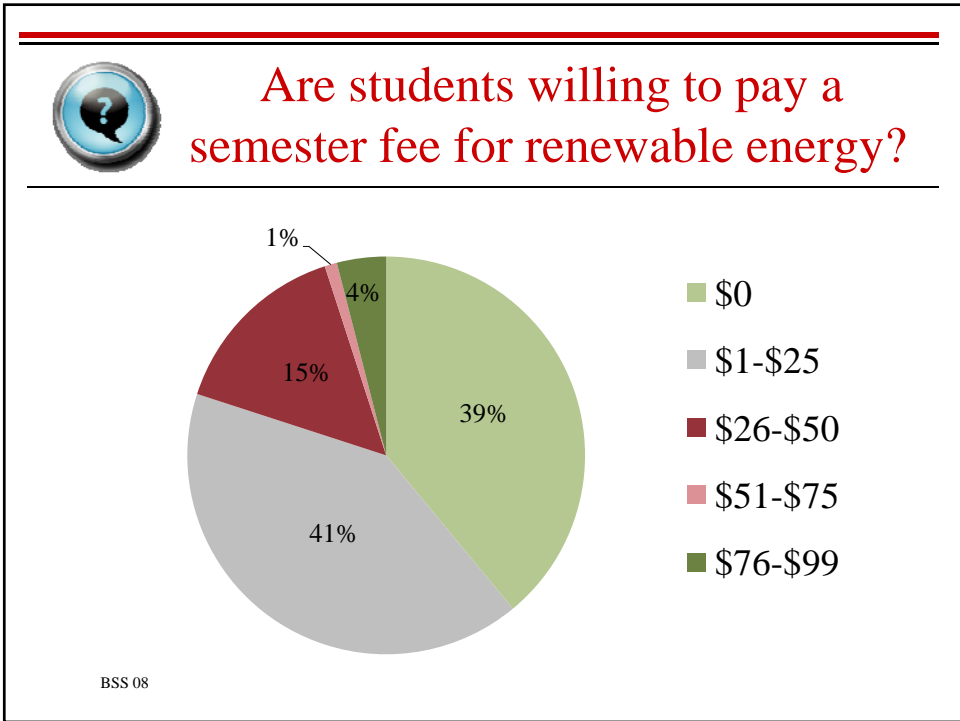
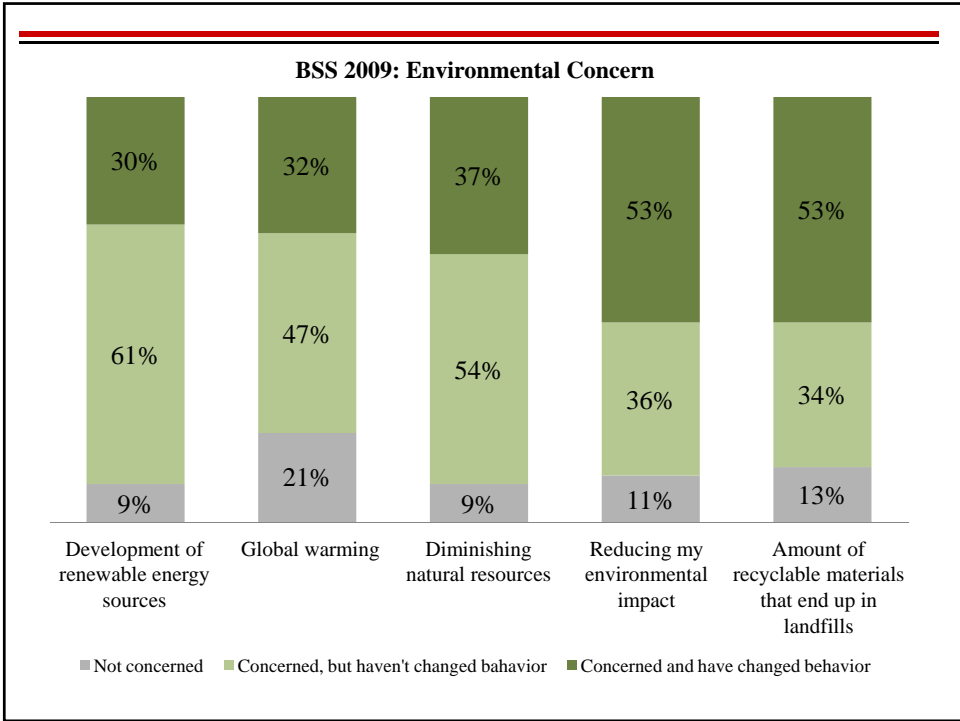
When you choose not to recycle, these are the reasons why not: (Choose all that apply)	Percent
Recycling containers are not conveniently located	51
Recycling containers are usually full	7
Recycling takes too much time	7
Recycling is not important to me	5
Recycling does not make a difference	2
Other	5
N/A: I almost always recycle	40
Source: BSS 09	



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## STUDENTS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN





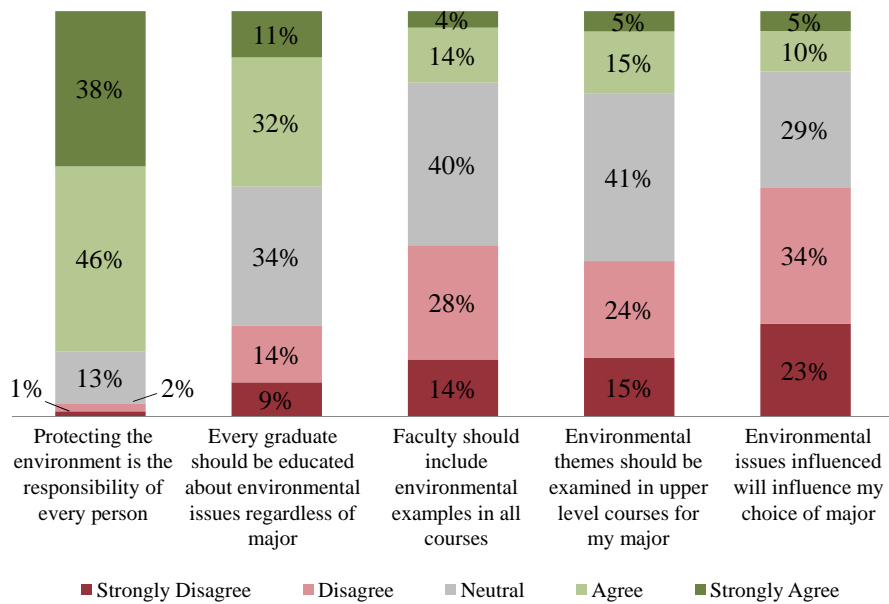


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# SUSTAINABILITY AND EDUCATION

BSS 2009: Sustainability Beliefs





## Questions

- Nearly half of respondents think students should be educated on environmental issues, but few think this should be covered in coursework. If not in coursework, how should they be educated?
- How do we change student behavior, what suggestions do you have, what have you seen that works?



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The CAWG Snapshot on Freshmen & Sustainability  
is available at:

[www.umd.edu/cawg](http://www.umd.edu/cawg)