



Annual UMBC Sustainability Survey Results



2023

A Message from UMBC's Office of Sustainability

Our office is a small but mighty team, which means we rely on the input and partnership of the wider campus community. We are grateful for the willingness of the UMBC community to take our annual survey and share their thoughts with us! They do not go unheard--we've spent many hours pouring over the data and your write-in comments to figure out how to improve our office and expand our efforts. Your feedback has been especially important this year as we've gone through a leadership transition and are starting to look at our 2025 Climate Action Plan. Thank you!

-UMBC's Office of Sustainability
Taylor Smith, Assistant Director of Sustainability
Claire Runquist, Sustainability Coordinator

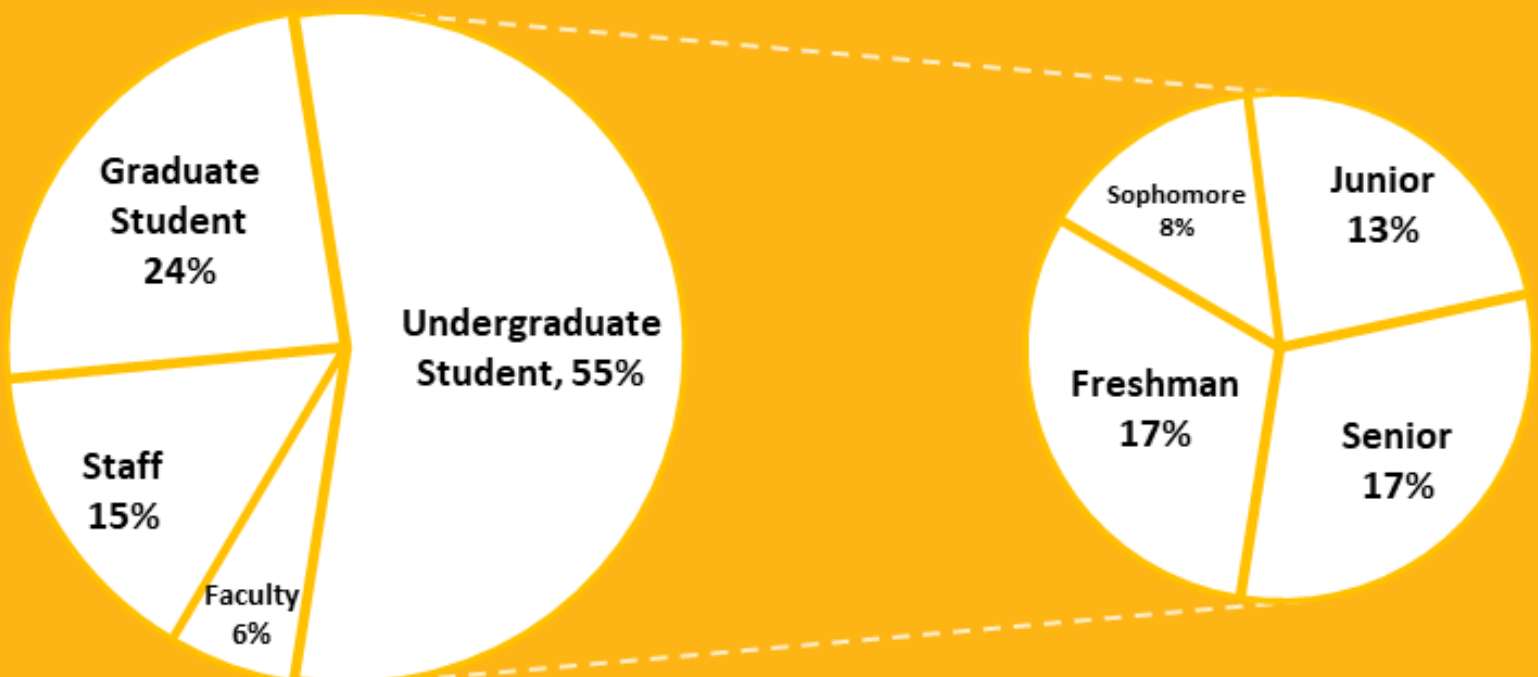


Introduction

UMBC's Office of Sustainability has been conducting this survey every year in order to assess the sustainability literacy of our students, as well as the attitudes and perceptions of our office from the entire campus community. The survey is sent out via email at the start of each fall semester. We conduct this survey for a number of reasons. It helps us see changes in the student body's understanding of sustainability over time, provides helpful feedback and ideas for campus programming, and fulfills a requirement for our higher education sustainability reporting. This year we received 900+ responses. Thank you! Below you can see a breakdown of who took the survey.



UMBC Affiliation of Respondents



Topics Respondents Were Most Interested In

1

Waste,
Recycling &
Compost



2

Climate
Action &
Activism



3

Food



4

Living
Sustainably



5

Renewable
Energy



6

Transport



7

Education
& Outreach



8

Environmental
Justice

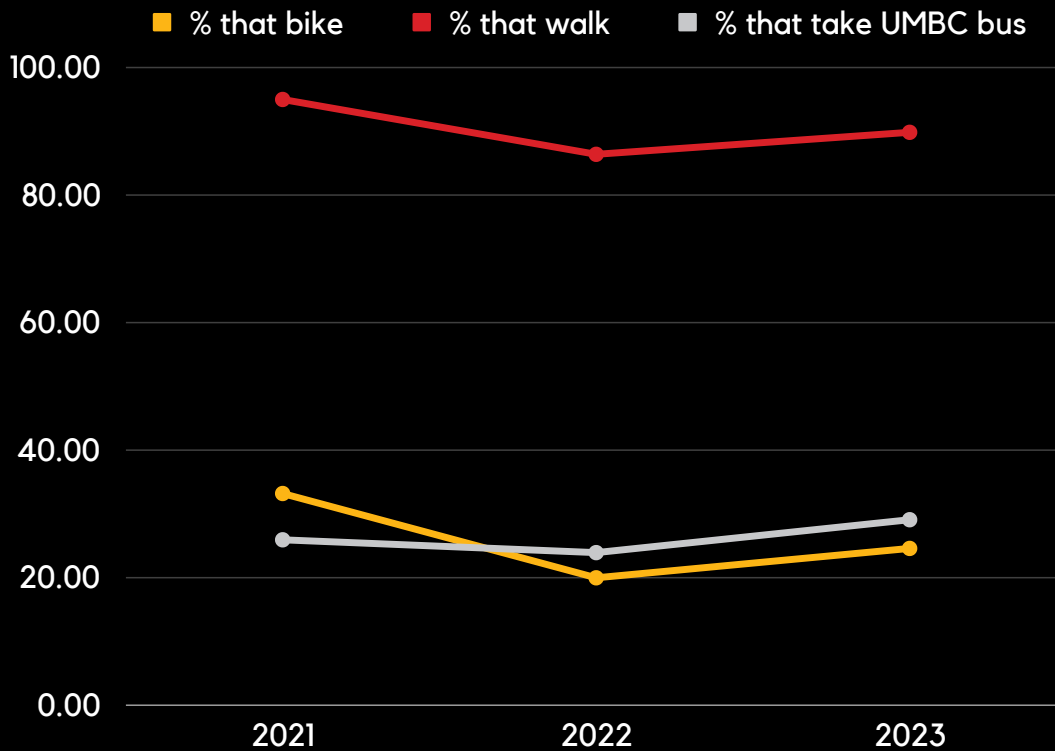


Topics that Came up Most Frequently in Free Response Sections

The survey had several questions that solicited open-ended feedback from respondents. These questions asked what the Office of Sustainability should focus on this year and for other sustainability related programming ideas. The responses were categorized into broad themes, and the most commonly brought up topics are listed above.

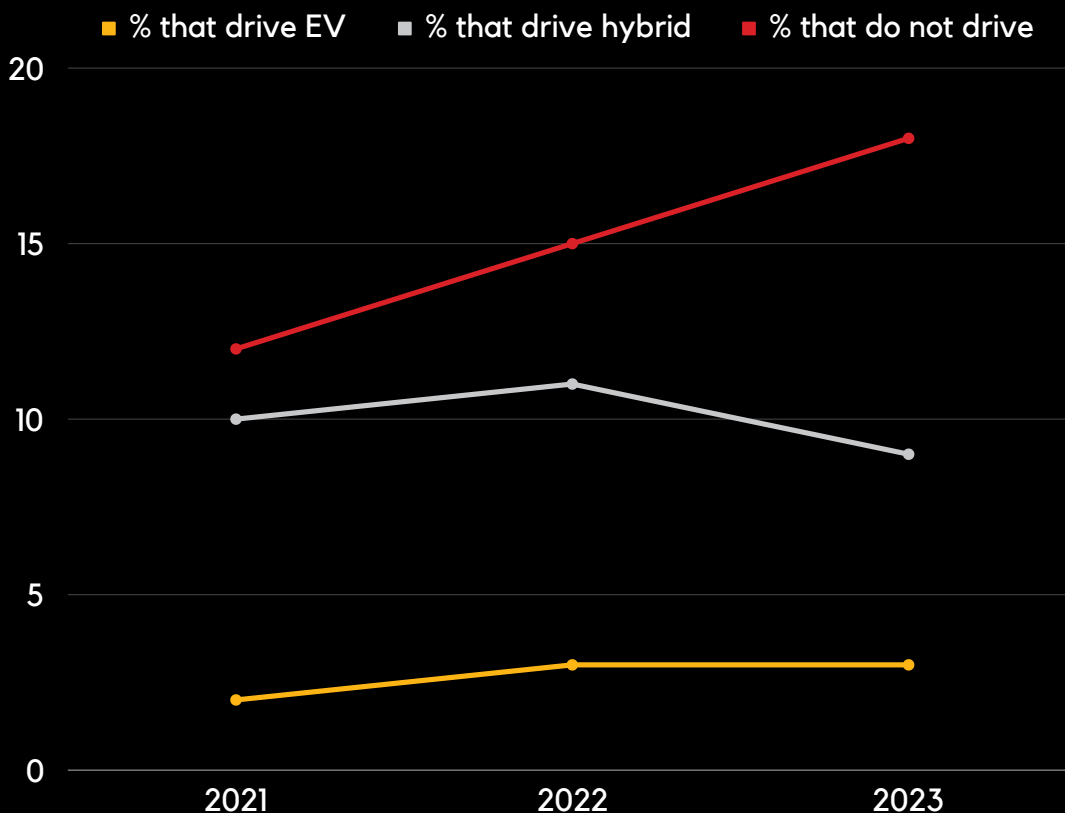
Transportation

Alternative Transportation used to get to campus at least once per week*



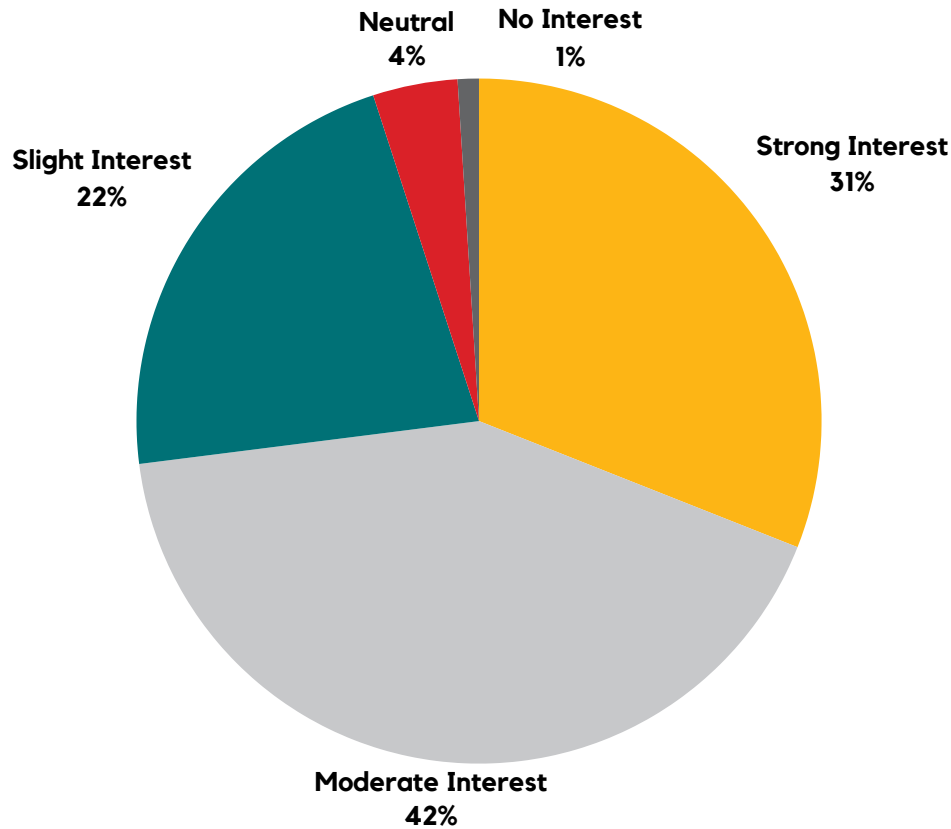
*68% of respondents normally drive a gas-powered vehicle to campus

Non-Gasoline Powered Vehicle Use

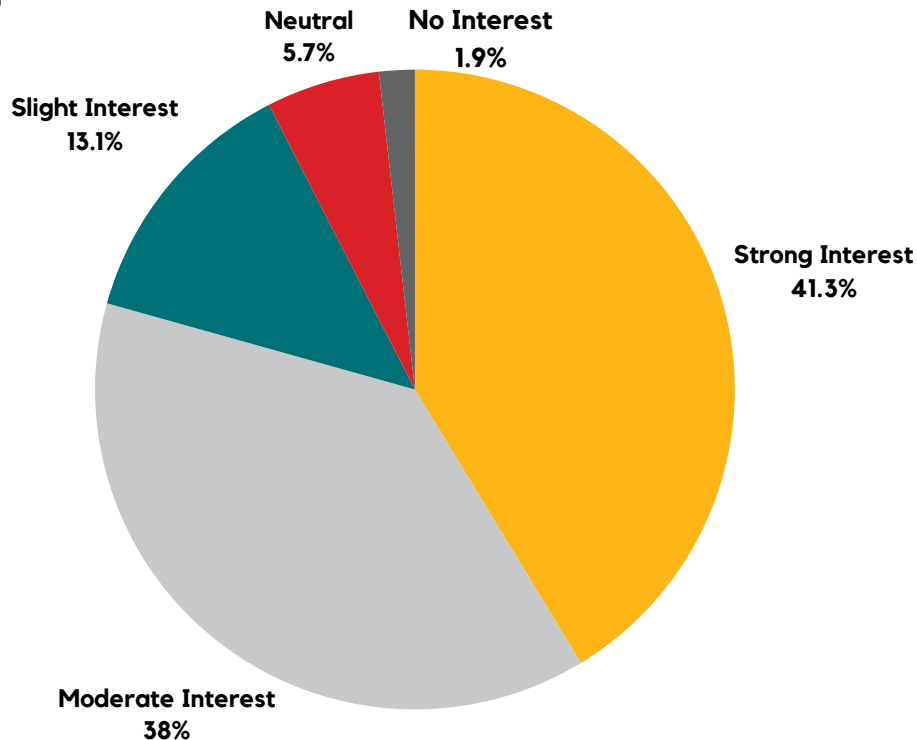


Perception & Interest in Sustainability

Respondents' Perception of UMBC's Interest in Sustainability



Respondents' Level of Interest in Sustainability



FAQ's

Does UMBC use any renewable energy?

Yes! UMBC has several power purchase agreements (PPA) for renewable energy from solar and wind. PPAs allow us to pay for renewable energy production offsite on a scale that we wouldn't be able to achieve on our campus. Currently, 44% of UMBC's energy is renewable.

How is UMBC's Waste Handled?

We have three main streams of waste that all go to different end use locations. The three main streams are recycling, compost, and trash (landfill). We often hear concerns about the staff emptying waste bins putting everything together in one bag -- frequently this is done in an effort to efficiently transport waste to the loading dock, where the dumpsters are located. Staff separate out the waste from color-coded bags into the correct dumpster.

What can I compost on campus?

If you can eat it, you can compost it! Any and all food scraps, including meat and dairy can go into the green composting bins.

How do I contact the Office of Sustainability

You can email us at sustainability@umbc.edu or reach out to either of our staff members individually.

How do I learn about sustainability events happening on campus?

Follow on myUMBC (Sustainability Matters), Instagram (@sustainableumbc) or subscribe to our newsletter. A sign up link can be found on our website at <https://sustainability.umbc.edu>.

How can I get more involved?

You can always see opportunities on our social media platforms and website. If you are an undergraduate student, we hire a cohort of Eco-Ambassadors each year that work for our office.