

## Supplement

### Citizen Sustainability Survey Items

1. You are invited to participate in a research study that is being conducted by Dr. Aaron Deslatte who is a professor in the Department of Public Administration at Northern Illinois University. The purpose of this research is to shed light on citizens' views of local government sustainability activities. This research is anonymous. Anonymous means that I will record no information about you that could identify you. There will be no linkage between your identity and your response in the research. This means that I will not record your name, address, phone number, date of birth, etc. The research team and the Institutional Review Board at Northern Illinois University are the only parties that will be allowed to see the data, except as may be required by law. If a report of this study is published, or the results are presented at a professional conference, only group results will be stated. All study data will be kept for three years. There are no foreseeable risks to participation in this study. In addition, you may receive no direct benefit from taking part in this study. Participation should not take more than 10 minutes. Participation in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate, and you may withdraw at any time during the study procedures without any penalty to you. In addition, you may choose not to answer any questions with which you are not comfortable. If you have any questions about the study or study procedures, you may contact myself at [adeslatte@niu.edu](mailto:adeslatte@niu.edu) or call at 815-753-0183. My physical address is: IASBO Building (2nd Floor), 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact an IRB Administrator with the Office of Research Compliance at Northern Illinois University at (815) 753-8588. By participating in the above stated procedures, you agree to participation in this study. If you are 18 years of age or older, understand the statements above, and will consent to participate in the study, click on the "I Agree" button to begin the survey/experiment. If not, please click on the "I Do Not Agree" button and you will exit this program.

- I agree (proceed to study) (1)
- I do not agree (Proceed to end of study) (2)

**Study Description.** We are conducting a research study to shed light on citizens' views of local government sustainability activities. This study consists of two short parts. In the first part, you will be asked to answer some questions about yourself. In the second part, you will be asked some questions about your views on government activity related to urban sustainability, a term which means the ability of society to meet its current economic, environmental and social needs without diminishing the ability of future generations to do the same. The survey is designed to shed light on how information provision to citizens shapes their views on government activity in this area. Participating in this study should take no more than 10 minutes of your time. Please respond honestly to all questions. All the data collected will be anonymous. Individuals must be at least 18 years of age to participate.

2. What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)

3. What is your highest level of education?
  - High school or less (1)
  - Some college, but no degree (2)
  - Associates degree (3)
  - Bachelor's degree (4)
  - Graduate degree (5)
  
4. What is your yearly household income?
  - Less than \$30,000 (1)
  - \$30,000 to \$44,999 (2)
  - \$45,000 to \$59,999 (3)
  - \$60,000 to \$74,999 (4)
  - \$75,000 to \$89,999 (5)
  - \$90,000 to \$104,999 (6)
  - \$105,000 or more (7)
  
5. What is your age?
  - 18-24 years old (1)
  - 25-34 years old (2)
  - 35-44 years old (3)
  - 45-54 years old (4)
  - 55-64 years old (5)
  - 65-74 years old (6)
  - 75 years or older (7)
  
6. Please specify your ethnicity.
  - White (1)
  - Hispanic or Latino (2)
  - Black or African American (3)
  - Native American or American Indian (4)
  - Asian / Pacific Islander (5)
  - Other (6)
  
7. Who did you vote for in the last presidential election?
  - Donald Trump (1)
  - Hillary Clinton (2)
  - Other (3)
  - Did not vote (4)

8. What is your political affiliation?

- Democrat (1)
- Republican (2)
- Independent (3)
- Other (4)
- None (5)
- Rather not say (6)

9. Which one of the following best characterizes our country?

- Going in the right direction (1)
- Going in the wrong direction (2)
- Unsure (3)

10. In general, how is your personal situation now compared to two years ago?

- Much better (1)
- Somewhat better (2)
- About the same (3)
- Somewhat worse (4)
- Much worse (5)

*Do you disagree or agree with the following statements?*

11. Many public activities could be produced both better and cheaper by private providers.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)
- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

12. We should to a larger degree sign contracts with private companies to provide public services (such as child care, elderly care, and hospital treatments).

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)

- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

13. The public sector is best at providing public services.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)
- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

*Do you disagree or agree with the following statements?*

14. The environment should be a priority for my local government.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)
- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

15. The economy should a priority for my local government.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)
- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

16. Social equity and fairness should be a priority for my local government.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)

- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

17. Climate change should be a priority for my local government.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)
- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

### [Study 1: City Operations]

We will now ask you to consider the following hypothetical example. In 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, through which the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program provided \$3.2 billion in block grants to cities, communities, states, U.S. territories, and Indian tribes to develop, promote, implement, and manage energy efficiency and conservation projects *[experimental partisan cue text]*.

Your local government has used grant proceeds *[experimental performance cue text]*.

18. Imagine Congress is considering re-authorizing the EECBG Program. Should the federal government continue to appropriate funds for the program?

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree or disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)
- Agree (6)
- Strongly agree (7)

19. Imagine the city is considering continuing the program after federal funding has expired. Should the local government continue to financially support the program?

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Somewhat disagree (3)
- Neither agree or disagree (4)
- Somewhat agree (5)
- Agree (6)

- Strongly agree (7)

**Experimental Group Text**

**Control condition:**

[No text].

**Partisan Cue Condition:**

...The Congressional vote to authorize the program was largely along party lines, with Democrats in the House and Senate overwhelmingly voting in favor and Republicans mostly voting against it.

**High Performance Condition:**

... to increase the energy efficiency of city operations, including installation of LED streetlights, energy efficiency upgrades to city buildings and solar panels on the roof of the City Hall for electric-vehicle charging stations. In the five years since the implementation of the program started, the City still has saved costs on energy.

**Low Performance Condition:**

... to increase the energy efficiency of city operations, including installation of LED streetlights, energy efficiency upgrades to city buildings and solar panels on the roof of the City Hall for electric-vehicle charging stations. In the five years since the implementation of the program started, the City still has not seen any costs savings.

Study 1 Proposed Experimental Conditions

	No Performance	High Performance	Low Performance
Partisan Cue	Directional Reasoning Baseline		
No Partisan Cue	<b>Control Group</b>		