

Centre Region Sustainability Survey

Platform: Survey Monkey

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The Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) wants to **know your opinions** on how to make the Centre Region a more **healthy, equitable, resilient, and sustainable community**. The survey should take roughly 15 minutes to complete and your responses are completely anonymous. Your responses will help us gauge community knowledge of, and interest in various sustainable practices, and guide our recommendations on which actions to include in a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan for the Centre Region.

Please complete this survey by April 30, 2020 and be entered to **WIN** an Envinity Home Energy Audit or a \$100 or \$50 Downtown Improvement District Gift Card. (2-\$100 and 8-\$50 donated by RETTEW, a National Leader in Engineering and Construction)

For more information on the Centre Region's efforts, please visit <https://centresustains.com/>.

Thank you for participating!

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Section 1: Tell us about you

1. Which of the following describes you? *Check all that apply*

Note that the Centre Region is defined as College, Ferguson, Halfmoon, Harris, and Patton Townships and State College Borough (it is basically the State College Area School District).

I live in the Centre Region	I am a business owner in the Centre Region
I am a property owner in the Centre Region	I work in the Centre Region
I attend school/university in the Centre Region	

2. How concerned are you about the possible impacts a changing climate might have on the Centre Region?

1 - Not at all concerned 5 - Very Concerned

3. What do you think the most significant impacts of a possible change in the climate might be for our community? (Please select up to 3 options)

No significant impact	Impact on agriculture
Increased flooding risk	More severe storms
Increased need for air conditioning	Increased poverty
Health Impacts	Ecosystem impacts
Higher Taxes	Impacts on infrastructure
Other (please specify)	

4. Did you receive a mailed postcard informing you about this survey?

YES or NO

5. Do you own or rent a home or business property in the Centre Region?

LOGIC QUESTION text in {} explains where survey goes based on response

- **Own** {go to Section A for property owners - page 3}
- **Rent** {got to Section B for renters - page 4}
- **Both** {go to Section A for property owners - page 3}
- **No** {go to Section C for community - page 8}

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Section 2: Individual Sustainable practices

A. Buildings and energy **for property owners**

6. Which of these factors affect your likelihood of doing the following sustainable practices? Check all that apply

Cost	Lack of information	Lack of time	Lack of interest	Not an option	I'm doing this
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- Use energy efficient light bulbs (LEDs or CFLs)
- Complete an energy efficiency audit
- Install solar panels
- Purchase renewable energy through my utility bill (PA Power Switch)
- Use a programmable thermostat to reduce my heating/cooling bills
- Purchase ENERGY STAR appliances

7. Below are examples of strategies that your local government could consider making the region's buildings more energy-efficient and increase our renewable energy use. Please indicate your level of support for the potential strategies.

Will not support	Unlikely to support	Neutral	Likely to Support	Support
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- Offer government leasing programs or solar cooperatives to make it cost effective to install solar panels for residents
- Require large commercial buildings to track energy usage and reach certain energy efficiency standards
- Require government entities commit to using 100% renewable energy
- Promote energy audit programs and funding options to upgrade homes/businesses to be more energy efficient
- Provide incentives for new buildings to be more energy efficient
- Offer education programs on energy conservation and renewable energy

8. What other actions should be considered as it relates to buildings and energy?

B. Buildings and energy **for renters**

6. Which of these factors affect your likelihood of doing the following sustainable practices?

Cost	Lack of information	Lack of time	Lack of interest	Not an option	I'm doing this
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- Use energy efficient light bulbs
- Conserve energy by turning off lights/electronics when I'm not using them
- Purchase renewable energy through my utility bill (PA Power Switch)
- Adjust my thermostat to save money on heating and cooling
- Consider energy efficiency of the property when choosing where I rent

7. Below are examples of strategies that your local government could consider making the region's buildings more energy-efficient and increase our renewable energy use. Please indicate your level of support for the potential strategies.

Will not support	Unlikely to support	Neutral	Likely to Support	Support
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- Develop an apartment green-certification program that evaluates its energy efficiency, renewable energy use, and recycling / composting options.
- Require large commercial buildings to track energy usage and reach certain energy efficiency standards
- Require government entities commit to using 100% renewable energy
- Promote energy audit programs and funding options to upgrade homes/businesses to be more energy efficient
- Provide incentives for new buildings to be more
- Offer education programs on energy conservation and renewable energy

8. What other actions should be considered as it relates to building and energy?

Transportation

9. Which of these factors affect your likelihood of doing the following sustainable practices?

Cost	Lack of information	Lack of time	Lack of interest	Not an option	I'm doing this
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- Take the bus to work / school
- Walk or bike to work / school
- Carpool to work / school
- Work remotely or have a modified office schedule
- Drive a fuel-efficient car (greater than 27 miles per gallon)
- Drive an alternative fuel (electric, hybrid, CNG) vehicle

10. Below are examples of strategies that your local government could consider to help the community choose healthier and more sustainable modes of transportation. Please indicate your level of support for the potential strategies.

Will not support	Unlikely to support	Neutral	Likely to Support	Support
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- Expand access to public transit (increase availability, offer reduced cost CATA bus passes through my employer/school)
- Provide incentives to businesses for sustainable commuting programs
- Expand and connect bike network (routes, lanes, shared use paths)
- Improve walking conditions (sidewalk safety, lighting, more routes)
- Develop regional strategy to expand electric vehicle (EV) fleets and charging infrastructure
- Offer education programs about electric and hybrid vehicles and available incentive programs

11. What other actions should be considered as it relates to transportation?

Food and Recycling

12. Which of these factors affect your likelihood of doing the following sustainable practices?

Cost	Lack of information	Lack of time	Lack of interest	Not an option	I'm doing this
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- Recycle
- Avoid single-use plastics-products
- Reduce my food waste (changed shopping habits, compost)
- Purchase locally grown food or grow my own
- Eat a more plant-based diet (reduce meat consumption)

13. Below are examples of strategies that your local government could consider to increase the community's recycling rate and reduce its food waste. Please indicate your level of support for the potential strategies.

Will not support	Unlikely to support	Neutral	Likely to Support	Support
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- Require construction and demolition projects to increase their recycling rates
- Incentivize businesses to pursue strategies that minimize their waste
- Provide businesses with waste audit services to identify waste minimization opportunities
- Expand/Initiate programs that divert food waste and other organics from landfills
- Provide training and guidelines on sustainable procurement practices for businesses
- Offer education programs on reuse and reduce actions homeowners and businesses can take

14. What other actions should be considered as it relates to waste and recycling?

Land Use and Water

15. Which of these factors affect your likelihood of doing the following sustainable practices?

Cost	Lack of information	Lack of time	Lack of interest	Not an option	I'm doing this
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- Plant native flowers, shrubs and/or trees
- Use rain barrels to collect stormwater for re-use
- Install landscaping that reduces my need for watering
- Install landscaping to reduce my lawn mowing needs
- Use compost on my lawn and gardens instead of fertilizers

16. Below are examples of strategies that your local government could consider helping find a workable balance among resource protection, agricultural production, economic growth, and community growth. Please indicate your level of support for the potential strategies.

Will not support	Unlikely to support	Neutral	Likely to Support	Support
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- Develop local policy strengthening the preservation of agricultural and forested properties
- Identify and protect high priority conservation lands to manage flooding
- Use green infrastructure such as rain gardens and permeable pavement to better manage impacts of stormwater
- Update and/or consider a tree preservation ordinance
- Require government entities to adopt sustainable landscaping standards for reducing water consumption and chemical use
- Partner with local landscapers to offer education and incentive programs on native plants and sustainable landscaping practices

17. What other actions should be considered as it relates to land use and water?

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Section 3: Community Interest

18. Of the many potential benefits experienced by addressing climate change, select the 3 that are most important to you.

- Improved public health
- Increased resilience from climate change and natural disasters
- Saving money from lower utility bills
- Improved air and water quality
- Saving money from lower transportation costs
- Reduced reliance on fossil fuels
- Creation of green jobs
- Reducing waste sent to landfills
- Other
- None of the above

19. What is most likely to prevent your community from taking action to address climate change? (please select no more than 3)

- Lack of scientific information
- Lack of agreement on what to do
- Lack of funding or financial resources
- Lack of technical know-how / capacity
- Lack of public-private coordination
- Lack of public support
- Lack of political will
- Other
- None of the above

20. Please state your level of agreement for the following statements

Disagree – Somewhat Disagree – Neutral – Somewhat Agree – Agree

- Climate change is happening
- I understand the science behind climate change
- Addressing climate change will make our community more sustainable
- Addressing climate change will be good for our local economy
- When making decisions today, policy makers in my community should consider scientific projections about what the climate might be like in 50 years

21. Carbon offset programs let individuals and businesses offset their environmental footprint by paying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere.

- Do you or have you ever paid for carbon offsets before? YES or NO
- Would you support a local carbon offset program that would use the funds generated to support projects that reduce our community’s emissions such as local reforestation, low income weatherization projects, and public renewable energy installations?
YES or NO or MAYBE, NEED MORE INFO

22. If you would like to be included in email updates on the Centre Region Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, please enter your email address below. This is optional.

23. If you are a member of an organization that you believe would be interested in the Centre Region Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, please let us know by providing contact information or a website for the organization below. You may also reach out to us at sustains@crcoq.net. This is optional.

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Section 5: Demographics

24. If you live in the Centre Region, which municipality do you live in?

College Township	Harris Township
Ferguson Township	Patton Township
Halfmoon Township	State College Borough
	Other

25. How would you describe where you live?

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

26. What is your age group?

Under 18	46 - 64
18 - 25	65+
26 - 45	Prefer not to answer

27. What is your gender?

Woman	Man
Non-binary/third gender	Prefer not to say
Other	

28. Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose only one.)

American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian / Pacific Islander
Black or African American	Hispanic
White / Caucasian	Prefer not to say
Other	

29. How long have you been a member of this community?

<1 year	10 - 20
1 - 3	21+
3 - 10	Other

30. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

Less than high school degree	High school degree or equivalent
Some college, but no degree	Associate degree
Bachelor degree	Post graduate degree or study
	Prefer not to answer

31. How did you hear about this survey? Check all that apply

Post card mailer	Newsletter
Social Media	Nextdoor
Email	Flyer
Public Meeting	Other

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Thank you for completing the survey. Your comments will be used to help guide the policies and decisions made by the Centre Region municipalities. For more information about the climate action and adaptation planning process, and/or resources about items mentioned within the survey, please visit: <https://centresustains.com/> or contact sustains@crcog.net .

As a thank you, you can be entered in a random drawing to win one of the following **prizes**:

- Envinity Home Energy Audit (*\$500 value*)
- \$100 Downtown Improvement District Gift Card (2 donated by RETTEW, a National Leader in Engineering and Construction)
- \$50 Downtown Improvement District Gift Card (8 donated by RETTEW)

The drawing for prizes will occur in early May and winners will be contacted via email. Results of the survey will be posted on <https://centresustains.com/> .

Please enter your email to be entered into the random drawing to win a prize for completing this survey.
