

Comparisons

**Ninth Annual National Report Card on Environmental
Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behavior, May 2001**

and

**2003 Nebraska Conservation and Environment
Literacy and Awareness Survey**

General Notes:

The Ninth Annual National Report Card on Environmental Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behavior was sponsored by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF). The study was completed by Roper Starch Worldwide and published in 2001.

The 2003 Nebraska Conservation and Environment Literacy and Awareness Survey was sponsored by Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environment Education (NACEE), funded by Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, administered by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. The study was completed by the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research and published in 2003.

Reported numbers rounded to nearest whole number.

This report notes where slight differences exist in the wording of the questions between the surveys.

Numbering is for the purposes of this report only. This numbering system is not reflected in either of the original reports.

See original reports for details regarding methodology, error rates, etc.

For further information, contact Marian Langan, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, (402) 797-2301, or check the NACEE website at www.nacee.org.

PART 1: SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR BOTH SCHOOL CHILDREN AND ADULTS

1. Do you think environmental education should be taught in schools?

<i>National</i>	<i>Yes</i>	95	<i>No</i>	3	<i>Don't know</i>	2
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Yes</i>	97.5	<i>No</i>	1.1	<i>Don't know</i>	1.4

2. Do the schools in your community have environmental education?

<i>National</i>	<i>Yes</i>	50	<i>No</i>	9	<i>Don't know</i>	41
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Yes</i>	47.3	<i>No</i>	7.6	<i>Don't know</i>	45.1

3. National Survey Question Wording: There are many ways that environmental education in schools can affect children. Do you think environmental education has a great deal of effect, a moderate amount of effect, only a little effect, or no effect at all on

Nebraska Survey Question Wording: There are many ways that environmental education in schools can affect children. I'd now like you to tell me the extent to which you think environmental education effects each of the following: a great deal of effect, a moderate amount of effect, only a little effect, or no effect at all.

a. Preparing children to better understand environmental issues when they are adults

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	57	<i>Moderate</i>	31	<i>Little</i>	8	<i>No</i>	1
<i>Nebr.</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	50	<i>Moderate</i>	39	<i>Little</i>	8	<i>No</i>	0

b. Teaching children to respect the people and places around them

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	50	<i>Moderate</i>	35	<i>Little</i>	9	<i>No</i>	3
<i>Nebr.</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	51	<i>Moderate</i>	36	<i>Little</i>	10	<i>No</i>	2

c. Encouraging children to get involved in community service projects

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	50	<i>Moderate</i>	35	<i>Little</i>	12	<i>No</i>	2
<i>Nebr.</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	43	<i>Moderate</i>	41	<i>Little</i>	12	<i>No</i>	1

d. Helping children perform better in science

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	47	<i>Moderate</i>	37	<i>Little</i>	12	<i>No</i>	2
<i>Nebr.</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	38	<i>Moderate</i>	47	<i>Little</i>	11	<i>No</i>	2

e. Helping children find jobs later in life as the environment will play a larger role in future employment opportunities

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	31	<i>Moderate</i>	39	<i>Little</i>	21	<i>No</i>	5
<i>Nebr.</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	26	<i>Moderate</i>	45	<i>Little</i>	24	<i>No</i>	3

f. Helping children perform better in social studies

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	29	<i>Moderate</i>	40	<i>Little</i>	19	<i>No</i>	7
<i>Nebr.</i>	<i>Great deal of effect</i>	22	<i>Moderate</i>	48	<i>Little</i>	18	<i>No</i>	7

Please indicate (for each of the following statements) whether you strongly agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or strongly disagree.

4. Government agencies should support environmental education programs for adults

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Agree</i>	86	<i>Disagree</i>	13
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Agree</i>	82	<i>Disagree</i>	16

5. Private companies should train their employees to solve environmental problems

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Agree</i>	82	<i>Disagree</i>	16
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Agree</i>	78	<i>Disagree</i>	18

PART II: ATTITUDES ON BALANCING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

1. Most of the time, do you think environmental protection and economic development can go hand in hand, or that we must choose between environmental protection and economic development?

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Hand in hand</i> 63	<i>Must choose</i> 25	<i>Depends/Don't know</i> 13
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Hand in hand</i> 73	<i>Must choose</i> 17	<i>Depend/Don't know</i> 10

2. When it is impossible to find a reasonable compromise between economic development and environmental protection, which do you usually believe is more important: economic development or environmental protection?

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Environ. Prot.</i> 71	<i>Econ. Devel.</i> 16	<i>Depends/Don't know</i> 13
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Environ. Prot.</i> 56	<i>Econ. Devel.</i> 30	<i>Depends/Don't know</i> 14

Please indicate (for each of the following statements) whether you strongly agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or strongly disagree.

3. The condition of the environment will play an increasingly important role in the nation's economic future.

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Agree</i> 89	<i>Disagree</i> 9
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Agree</i> 90	<i>Disagree</i> 8

4. Technology will find a way of solving environmental problems

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Agree</i> 66	<i>Disagree</i> 31
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Agree</i> 72	<i>Disagree</i> 25

PART III: THE STATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

1. In general, how much do you feel you know about environmental issues and problems? Would you say you know a lot, a fair amount, only a little, or practically nothing?

<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>A lot</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Practically nothing</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>A lot</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Practically nothing</i>	<i>3</i>

2. There are many different kinds of animals and plant, and they live in many different types of environments. What is the word used to describe this idea? Is it...

	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Multiplicity.....</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>b. Biodiversity.....</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>c. Socio-economics.....</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>d. Evolution.....</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Don't know.....</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>38</i>

3. Carbon monoxide is a major contributor to air pollution in the U.S. Which of the following is the biggest source of carbon monoxide? Is it...

	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Factories and business.....</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>b. People breathing.....</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>c. Motor vehicles.....</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>d. Trees.....</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Don't know.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>

4. How is most of the electricity in the U.S. generated? Is it...

	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. By burning oil, coal, and wood.....</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>b. With nuclear power.....</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>c. Through solar energy.....</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>d. At hydro electric power plants.....</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Don't know.....</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>

5. What is the most common cause of pollution of streams, rivers, and oceans? Is it...	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Dumping of garbage by cities.....</i>	14	14
<i>b. Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields</i>	28	28
<i>c. Trash washed into the ocean from beaches.....</i>	4	2
<i>d. Waste dumped by factories.....</i>	45	42
<i>Don't know.....</i>	9	15

6. Which of the following is a renewable resource? Is it...	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Oil.....</i>	12	7
<i>b. Iron ore.....</i>	4	6
<i>c. Trees.....</i>	65	66
<i>d. Coal.....</i>	6	5
<i>Don't know.....</i>	24	15

7. Ozone forms a protective layer in the earth's upper atmosphere. What does ozone protect us from? Is it...	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Acid rain.....</i>	4	1
<i>b. Global warming.....</i>	27	35
<i>c. Sudden changes in temperature.....</i>	6	2
<i>d. Harmful, cancer-causing sunlight.....</i>	54	48
<i>Don't know.....</i>	9	13

8. Where does most of the garbage in the U.S. end up? Is it in...	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Oceans.....</i>	5	3
<i>b. Incinerators.....</i>	4	1
<i>c. Recycling centers.....</i>	4	2
<i>d. Landfills.....</i>	85	92
<i>Don't know.....</i>	2	3

9. Which of the following household wastes is considered hazardous waste? Is it...	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Plastic packaging.....</i>	16	14
<i>b. Glass.....</i>	3	1
<i>c. Batteries.....</i>	67	77
<i>d. Spilled food.....</i>	10	4
<i>Don't know.....</i>	5	4

10. What is the most common reason that an animal species becomes extinct? Is it because...

	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Pesticides are killing them.....</i>	8	8
<i>b. Their habitats are being destroyed by humans.....</i>	74	77
<i>c. There is too much hunting.....</i>	6	4
<i>d. There are climate changes that affect them.....</i>	5	5
<i>Don't know.....</i>	6	6

11. Scientists have not determined the best solution for disposing of nuclear waste. In the U.S., what do we do with it now? Do we...

	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Use it as nuclear fuel.....</i>	7	4
<i>b. Sell it to other countries.....</i>	3	1
<i>c. Dump it in landfills.....</i>	12	7
<i>d. Store and monitor the waste.....</i>	57	72
<i>Don't know.....</i>	21	17

12. What is the primary benefit of wetlands? Do they...

	<i>Nat'l</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
<i>a. Promote flooding.....</i>	7	4
<i>b. Help clean the water before it enters lakes, streams, rivers, or oceans.....</i>	53	44
<i>c. Help keep the number of undesirable plants and animals low.....</i>	7	7
<i>d. Provide good sites for landfills.....</i>	3	3
<i>Don't know.....</i>	30	41

Percentage Answering Knowledge Questions Correctly		
Content of Environmental Knowledge Question	National %	Nebraska %
<i>The most common source of water pollution</i>	28	28
<i>How most electricity in the U.S. is generated</i>	33	40
<i>Definition of biodiversity</i>	41	44
<i>The primary benefit of wetlands</i>	53	44

	National %	Nebraska %
<i>Protection provided by ozone in upper atmosphere</i>	54	48
<i>Disposal of nuclear waste in the U.S.</i>	57	72
<i>Recognition of a renewable resource</i>	65	66
<i>The largest source of carbon monoxide in U.S.</i>	65	65
<i>Knowledge about materials considered hazardous waste</i>	67	77
<i>The most common reason for extinction of animal and plant species</i>	74	77
<i>Where most household garbage ends up</i>	85	92

PART IV: ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Now I would like to ask you about some of the things you may do in your day-to-day life. For each of the following things, would you please tell me whether you never do it, sometimes do it, or frequently do it.

The respondents below reported doing the activity frequently.

	Nat'l	Nebraska
<i>Turn off lights and electrical appliances when not in use.....</i>	85	88
<i>Conserve water in your home and yard.....</i>	61	63
<i>Recycle things such as newspapers, cans, and glass.....</i>	59	56
<i>Try to cut down on the amount of trash and garbage you create.....</i>	54	47
<i>Buy biodegradable or recyclable products.....</i>	42	40
<i>Avoid using chemicals in your yard or garden.....</i>	36	41
<i>Use other types of transportation, such as biking or the bus, instead of your car.....</i>	14	9
<i>Participate in a volunteer cleanup day.....</i>	9	14