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Student environmental conservation and awareness on college campuses

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Environmental Conservation and Awareness on College Campuses

Olivia Lopes DaSilva
People, Politics, and the Environment
Source Project Program

BACKGROUND

Amid our current climate crisis, it's crucial to examine how our younger generations view their role and power in environmental awareness, conservation, and activism.

METHODS

Data was collected using a survey sent out to students at Binghamton University and Stony Brook University. The survey was composed of sixteen questions, aimed to gain a sense of student values, involvement, and perspectives on their role as well as how they view their school's impact on its students and the environment.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

- Most common concerns surround the increase of single use plastics and issues with recycling
- Due to the pandemic students feel as though they are unaware of environmental initiatives and groups on their campuses
- Students on both campuses try their best to be conscious of their actions but feel uninformed

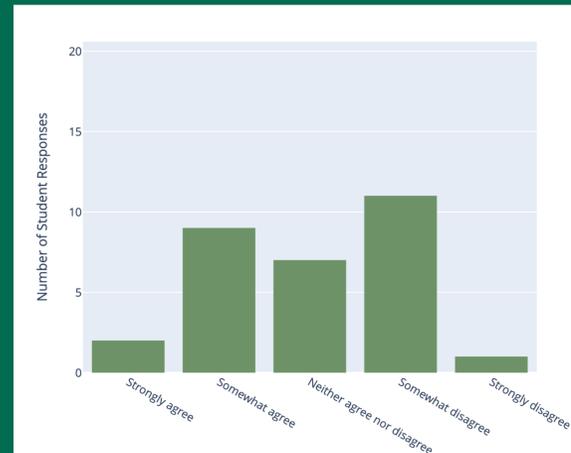
HOW DO COLLEGE STUDENTS VIEW THEIR ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION?

"I feel that my university is generally environmentally friendly in its practices"

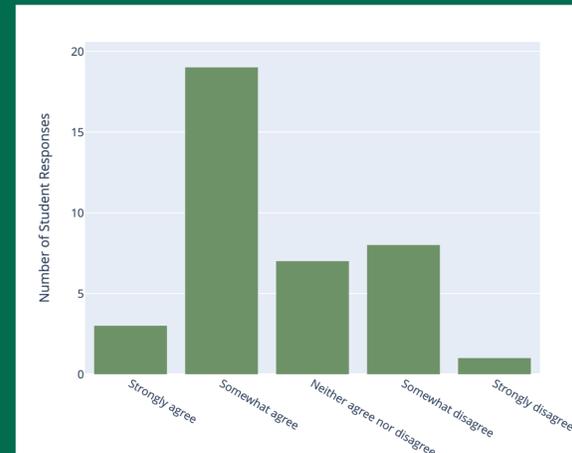
"I feel well informed and aware of the environmental initiatives in place on my campus (clubs, technologies, strategies, energy use, etc.)."

"I feel as though the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted my willingness to be involved in my campus' environmentally focused clubs/initiatives/ etc."

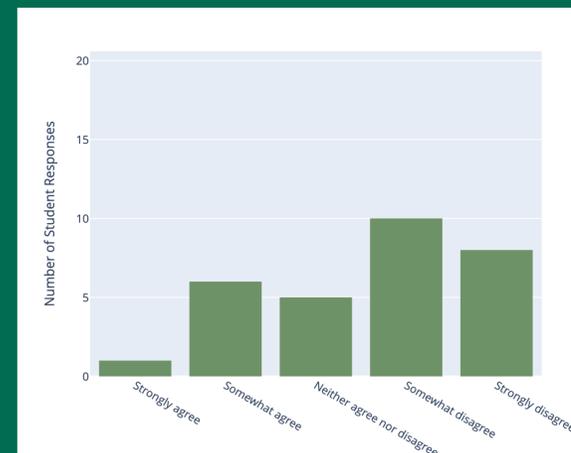
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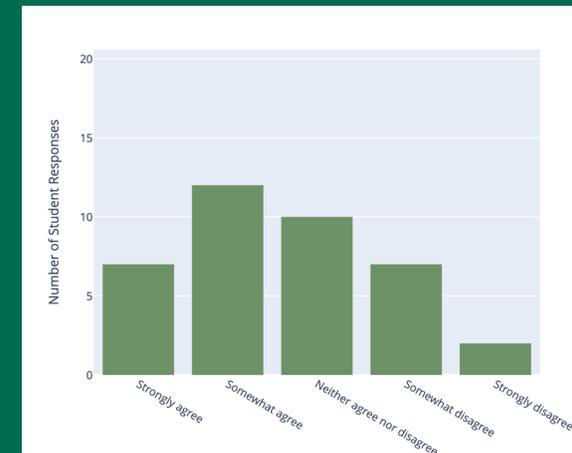
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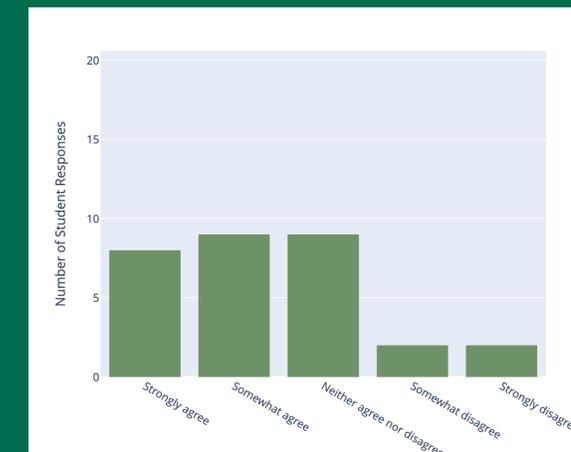
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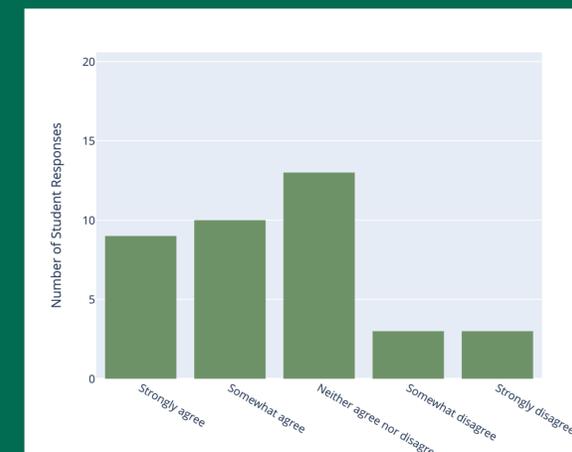
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WHAT DO STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY?

- "There's just no real awareness or conversation about environmentally-friendly behaviors."
- "COVID- 19 restrains people from getting together to work on projects or meet for environmental club activities"
- "I feel like since there is so much single-use items being used on campus right now i need to do my part to help cut back on that"
- "Don't feel safe joining in on-campus events, zoom meetings for clubs are very strange"
- "More difficult to meet with others and collaborate, more difficult to learn information about environmental initiatives and club activities"

What steps do you take to be more environmentally conscious when on campus?

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Recycling properly	86%	79%
Turning off lights when not in use	83%	76%
Utilizing public transportation /carpooling	66%	57%
Using a reusable water bottle	86%	92%
Using reusable dining products	36%	63%

Thank you to Professor Valerie Imbruce for her guidance and support throughout my research process