

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SURVEY

February 20, 1992

To: All Interested Persons
From: Michelle Knaub (intern) and Mike Garfield
Re: Survey results

We received over 250 responses from our members to the environmental issues survey that we mailed with the Board of Directors election ballot in January. This is roughly a 15% response rate. The results of the survey follow.

Question 1: What are the most important environmental issues facing the City of Ann Arbor? (3 points awarded for first-place vote, 2 for second-place, 1 for third-place)

	<u>Points</u>	<u>1st Choice</u>
1. Solid waste and recycling	428	113
2. Water quality/Huron River	293	48
3. Toxic pollution	133	14
4. Transportation	109	9

Question 2: What are the most important environmental problems facing the Washtenaw County area?

	<u>Points</u>	<u>1st Choice</u>
1. Solid waste and recycling	360	83
2. Groundwater	254	44
3. Water quality	253	33
4. Preservation of rural areas	251	55

Question 3: What do you think are the most important environmental problems facing Michigan and the nation?

	<u>Points</u>	<u>1st choice</u>
1. Solid waste and recycling	228	49
2. Loss of wetlands and habitats	206	28
3. Toxic pollution	169	28
4. Hazardous waste disposal	161	30

Question 5: What issues should the Ecology Center work on in the next 2 years?

	<u>Points</u>	<u>1st choice</u>
1. Solid waste reduction programs	424	98
2. Industrial toxics reduction	258	44
3. Establish green belt around city	170	33
4. Promotion of pesticide alternatives	138	19
5. Transportation alternatives	138	18
6. Protection of rural and agric. lands	129	15
7. Development of state energy policies	88	6

Question 7: Should the Ecology Center concentrate more on local, county or statewide issues?

1. Local 103
2. County 68
3. State 10

Question 8: Should the Ecology Center conduct or offer more of the following?

1. Programs for children 95
2. Speakers/events 90
3. Legal actions 67
4. Letter-writing notices 63
5. Outings/field trips 49
6. Demonstrations 46

Question 6: What issues should the EC not work on, and why? (ranked by frequency of comments, with some representative or interesting quotes)

International/National Issues

"avoid any issues without local component"

"local only to avoid diluting effort"

Duplication of Effort/"Spreading Yourself Too Thin"

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Mod
"put the money and time that we have into issues where we know we can succeed, and where many other groups are not already working."

(There were considerably fewer comments in each of the following categories than in the two categories above.)

Nuclear energy

"nuclear energy may be necessary; instead of outright opposition, foster responsible policies"

Transportation

"should the EC spread itself this far?"

"Ann Arbor already completed a study of trans. needs for 2010 - no need to repeat work"

Social Issues

"don't divert your energy to non-ecology stuff (peace, abortion, homelessness)"

"EC management shouldn't be organizing an anti-union campaign against its employees"

"all social issues beyond EC competence, esp. labor issues"

Litigation

"DO NOT LITIGATE; too costly for available resources"

"Get the most environmental bang-for-the-buck; Johnson Controls too expensive"

Green Belt

"It's more of a county issue"

"It's too late, expensive. "Spots" of green would be good."

Question 4: Are there any environmental problems which you feel directly threaten you today?

High-frequency responses

- air pollution, auto exhaust
- toxins in air, water and food
- water quality
- waste issues
- loss of green space/suburban sprawl/development

Moderately frequent responses

- pesticides
- energy
- ozone depletion and related health affects
- "all of them"

Interesting or specific responses

- Gelman Science polluting
- population control/density
- "I am less threatened than other species"
- Great Lakes pollution
- lack of global awareness/consciousness
- too many golf courses
- too many unleashed animals, including cats
- noise
- X-rays
- Michigan's 3,000-plus sites of environmental contamination

Question 9: 54 indicated interest in volunteer groups.

Question 10: 74 requested information on the Member Activists Program. 6 sent \$10 to sign up for it.