IT MAY NOT BE EASY BEING GREEN

BUT IT SURE IS IMPORTANT



Alberta Union of

Provincial Employees

Environmental

Committee

A SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE EDITION OF BY THE NUMBERS



A myth persists that the fight for worker rights is at odds with the fight for environmental justice. Results from the AUPE Environmental Committee's 2018 survey however, suggests working Albertans see a strong connection between themselves and the environment around them. Open Oct. 5 -31, the questionnaire asked members from all four sectors what environmental issues are top-priority to them. Here's what they had to say...

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

We asked members to rank which environment related issues most concern them. They were asked to rank from 1 to 6, with 1 being the highest priority. To calculate this we used weighted average scores, the most preferred choice has the largest score, and the least preferred choice has the lowest score.

You will see below Water has the highest rank of #1, and the largest score of 4.89.



RANK: 1 SCORE: 4.89

A big concern among members is clean water. Some of the main water pollutants they targeted were:

PESTICIDES
PLASTIC
SEWAGE
CHEMICALS
ALGAE

AIR

RANK: 2 SCORE: 4.28

Over 50% of respondents' answers refer to three sources of air pollution:

FOREST FIRES
INDUSTRY POLLUTION
VEHICLE EMISSIONS

What do these sources have in common?
Increased carbon emissions.

E LAND

RANK: 3 SCORE: 3.66

Members top concerns related to land:

LANDFILLS

Recycling to reduce landfills is a key strategy.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Protecting forests and prevent clear-cutting should be a priority.

POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRY

Tailing ponds, oil spills and industrial waste is a target for improvement.

HEALTH IMPACT

RANK: 4 SCORE: 3.48

53% of respondents targeted air pollution as a major environmental contributor to health problems.

The two diseases respondents talked about most:
Cancers and Respiratory issues.

HABITAT/ BIODIVERSIT

RANK: 5 SCORE: 2.90

Respondents top concerns related to habitat and biodiversity:

FORESTS - 38%
PESTICIDES - 37%
FISH - 22%
AGRICULTURE - 22%
CARIBOU - 15%

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC

RANK: 6 SCORE: 1.91

58% of members who had ideas about the connection between the environment, and our social and economic climate focused on environmental disasters.

These disasters include:

FOREST FIRES - 45% DROUGHT - 16% FLOODS - 31% OTHER - 8%

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC



When talking about the economic and social impact of environmental issues a common theme appeared...

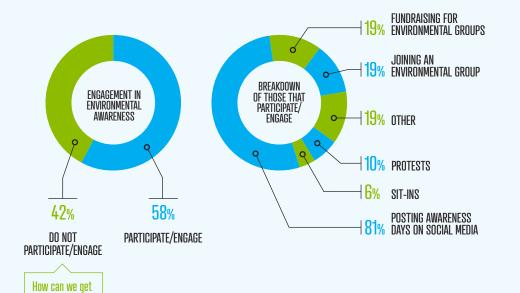
73%

of responses referenced climate change and related issues, such as natural disasters and transitioning to renewable energy.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGAGEMENT

them engaged?

What are members doing to raise awareness about environmental issues?



ENVIRONMENTAL FOLICATION

When asked whether AUPE should provide an environmental course as part of its union education program 80% said yes. In a follow up question, we asked what topics should be covered in such a course, below are the responses.

A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL WORKERS 42%

GETTING INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM AND CAMPAIGNS 42%

HOW TO RAISE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY 59%

HOW TO RAISE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AT YOUR WORKPLACE

79%

OTHER 15%