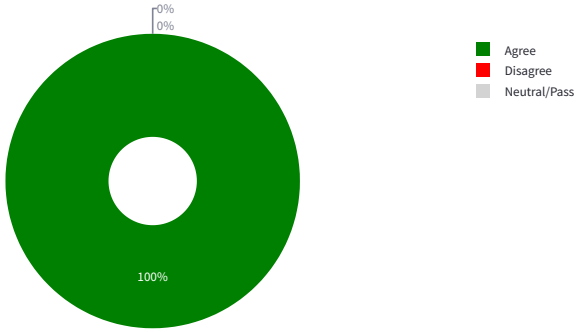
2025 IAP Student Assembly Detailed Results

Number of participants who voted: 16

Recommendation 22

Revamp the Office of Sustainability so that they have better connections and communication with student led groups. Doing so would facilitate communication between student groups better making sustainability topic at MIT more present under the umbreall of MITOS. Furthermore, increase MITOS presence possibly through creating/promoting student evetns, student initiatives etc

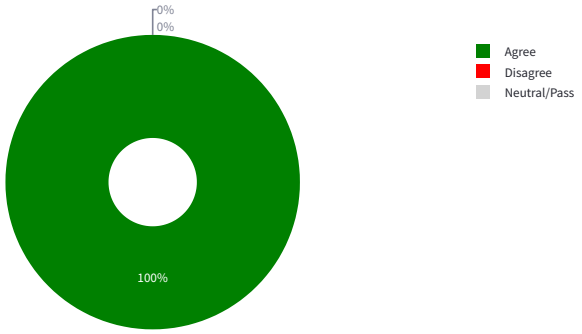
Rationale: Want students to have a central hub they look to learn more about sustainability



Recommendation 4

MIT should implement an educational program similar to GTL for the purpose of educating youth about low-cost sustainable practices and climate science. The program should be no-cost for participants, and prioritize those from low0income areas or those where climate science is not already included in district curriculum.

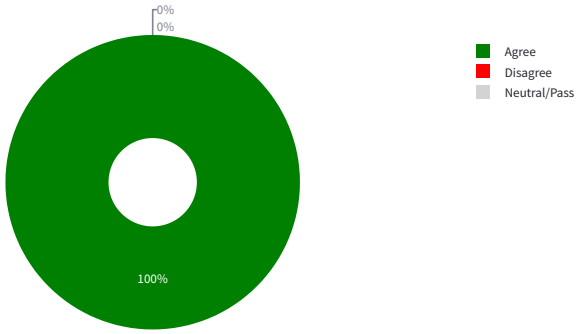
Rationale: As mentioned in the pre-reads and discussed in today's panel, education is one of the most important ways to spread sustainability and its practices. Individuals not taught about it in primary or high school may never recieve that information in an educational setting, decreasing the chance of their adoption of sustainable practices.



Recommendation 5

Make MIT's public transportation more usable and approachable for students. For example, making the live locations of shuttles more accurate, and adding more (electicity-powered) shuttles to every route.

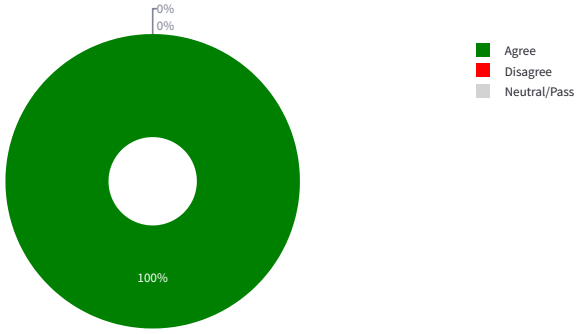
Rationale: The current shuttle service is highly despised by students. Sometimes, one had to wait for an hour for the shuttle to arrive when the map predicts ~10 minutes. If more people use the tech shuttles, less uber rides are needed to go to Boston/supermarkets.



Recommendation 50

Add a filter to the course catalog for classes on climate and sustainability

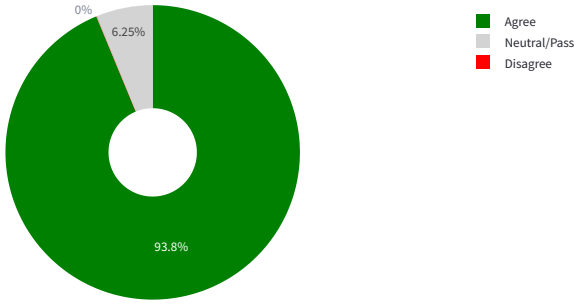
Rationale: Allows students to see course offerings across the many schools and departments on one page



Recommendation 37

GLT and MISTI of sustainability --> exploring different approaches/tech globally; partner with more sustainable companies/jobs/internships/research and compile a list

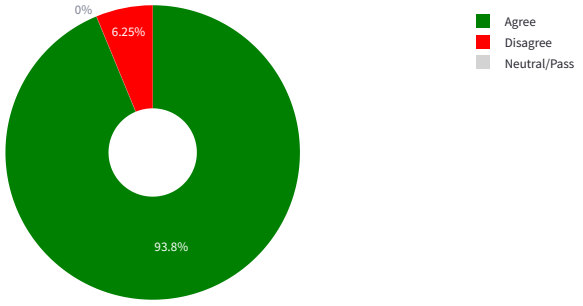
Rationale: educating more people about new tech and solutions around sustainability



Recommendation 20

Consider adding a project-based course option for each major (kind of think of 2.009) that focuses on a sustainability concern.

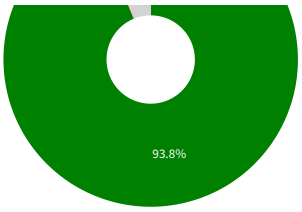
Rationale: Gives students the option to not only learn about sustainability in their major, but also apply it.



Recommendation 19

Implement the sustainabilit topic into already existing MIT courses that students must take for their major. For instance, in intro to ML, learning about AI's harmful impact on the climate.

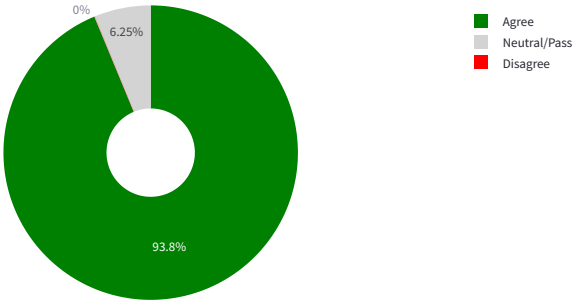
Rationale: This would ensure that throughout a student's four years they'll be cognizant of how their major aligns with sustainability.



Recommendation 16

Create a student working group for decarbonization that is continuously informed about MIT's decarbonization process, easy to join, and has direct input into planning, ideating, & implementing for decarbonization.

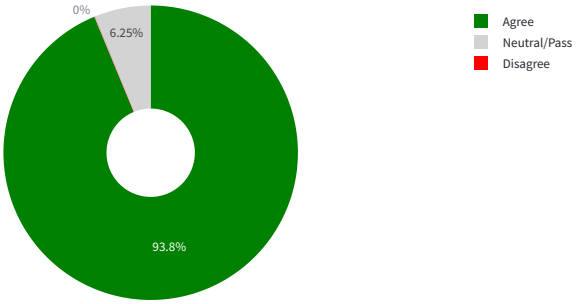
Rationale: Currently, students are disconnected from the decarbonization process, and it is very difficult to learn & get involved with the process + there is no empowerment for students & other community stakeholders.



Recommendation 9

Install/replace light in MIT buildings with motion sensor lights. For example, from 11pm to 7am, only a portion of lights in buildings will be on the whole itme, when others will turn on if people pass by.

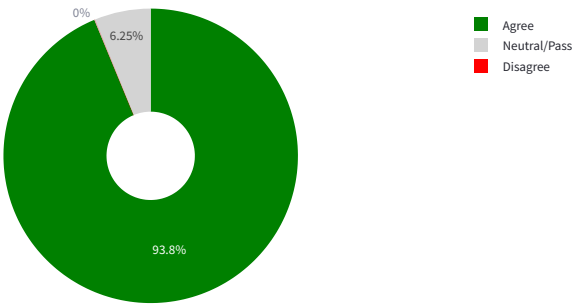
Rationale: Full illumination is not needed at times when few people visit the buildings. Implementing this change will reduce MIT's electricity costs and save energy.



Recommendation 51

Increase transparency on the allocation of MIT's invenstment and endowment from fossil fuel companies (how much of mit is actually funded by fossil fuels and how does. it comapre to the totality of MIT's funding) (like a public report analyzing the statistics and data)

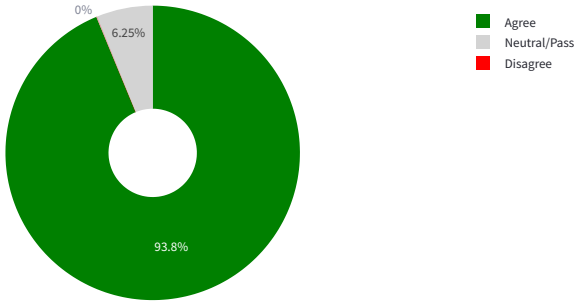
Rationale: Currently, MIT's investment in fossil fuel companies is contradictory to its sustainability goals, and increasee. transparency on the specific impact of and MIT's reliance on this funding is necessary to hold MIT accountable to its commitment to sustainability/to acknowledge what current actions should take place



Recommendation 6

MIT expand its collaboration with Eversource to reduce powergrid reliance on fossil fuels. This could mean by funding, planning infrastructure upgrades, and/or project development.

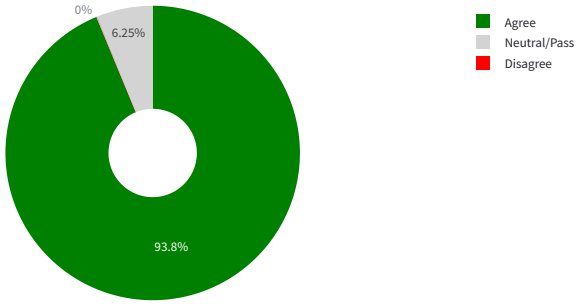
Rationale: While MIT doesn't need to rely completely on Eversource's powergrid, the entirety of Massachusetts mainly does. It's important that MIT's campus not beocme a bubble for sustainability. The institution should do what it can to allow renewable energy to source its surrounding area too.



Recommendation 45

Increase accessibility to composting around campus via adding compost bins, especially in/around dorms. This also includes putting informational posters on how to recycle/compost at every waste disposal location and common space (like elevators and lounges) to increase waste management education.

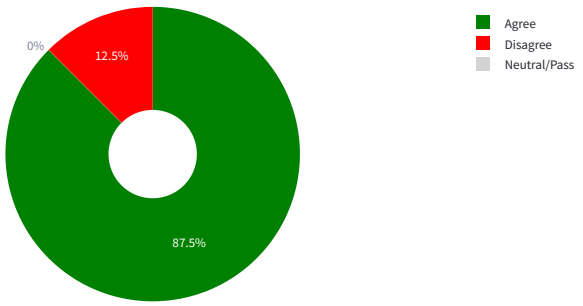
Rationale: Food waste occurs everywhere in campus, not just in dining halls, and there are little to no checks in place to reduce waste outside formal eating spaces



Recommendation 47

Create a website that compiles ALL information/resources regarding sustainability initiatives on campus, so students and faculty have a centralized point of reference to stay in touch and be aware of MIT's role in sustainability. This would include regularly updated lists of majors, minors,, clubs, research projects, classes, etc. related to sustainability. It may alo act as a platform to announce

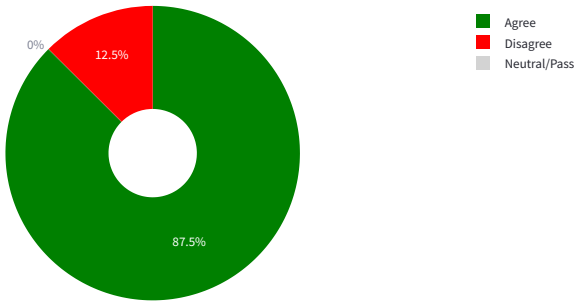
Rationale: Current sustainability groups and online resources are decentralized and out of date, resulting in a lack of awareness about on-campus activities. This creates a barrier of entry into the sutainability effort for not only students, but also faculty who require interest and manpower for sutstainability research



Recommendation 53

MIT forms a gorup/initiative to aid other universities in collaborating to make power purchase agreements

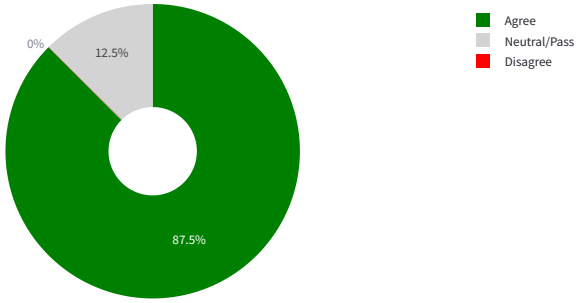
Rationale: MIT has been successful at forming a coalition with other universities and local instituions to make power purchase agreements. According to our expert panel, investing in the construction of renewables is a relatively low cost, high impact way to contribute to solving the climate crisis. These power purchase agreements are difficult to understand, so MIT should use its knowledge to help others.



Recommendation 2

Adding MIT programs directed toward teaching/informing students in elementary/secondary schools about sustainability and climate science in forms similar to GTL or summer camps like RSI.

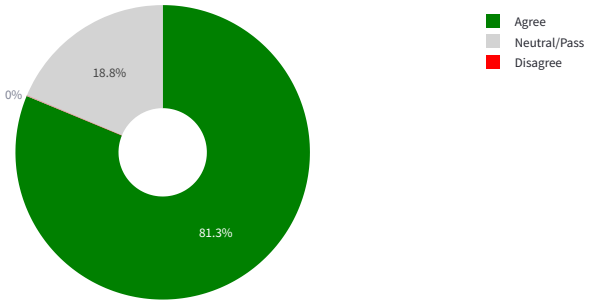
Rationale: It is crucial for children at young ages to realize the importance and impact of sustainability. I believe it can significantly reduce the public's ignorance on environmental issues. MIT's leader effect can attract many people in taking such actions.



Recommendation 52

Divest the endowment from fossil fuels

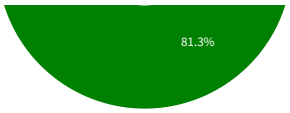
Rationale: MIT will set an example through action rather than just words and inspire other institutions to follow. Additionally, since fossil fuels make up only a small portion of the endowment, this could be one at minimal cost



Recommendation 46

Increased messaging from MIT Office of Sustainability on how to get involved on campus. This hsould include email messages and/or a newsletter. This can also include events at dorms. The UROP office has come to house gov meetings, so MITOS could too!

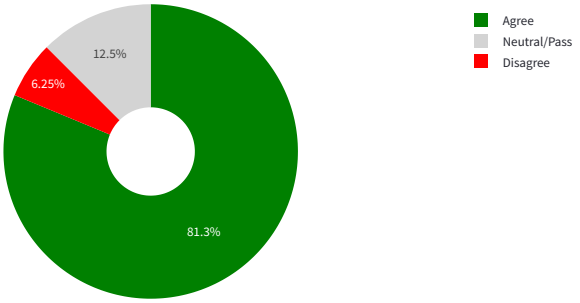
Rationale: Raises awareness of sustainability opportunities on campus



Recommendation 36

Centralize al information (education, research, operations) (e.g. courseroads, UROPs, current projects, initiatives) under the MIT Offcie of sustainability, connecting offices and departments. MITOS serves as central point of contact and information distributor

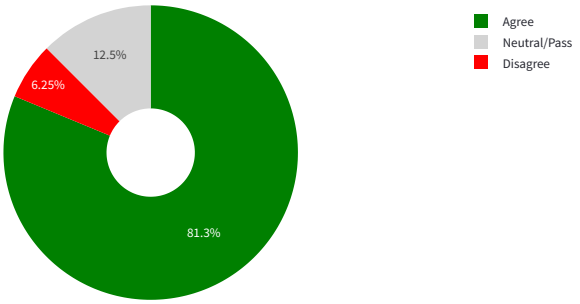
Rationale: there is too much bureaucracy and decentralization for effective information distribution; students have limited avenues of finding all opportunities to become involced with MIT sustainability initiatives



Recommendation 10

Generally; commission more large-scale renewable energy projects (ex. solar farms, offshore wind power, nuclear plants, etc.) similar to the solar farm VPPA (Virtual Power Purchase Agreement)

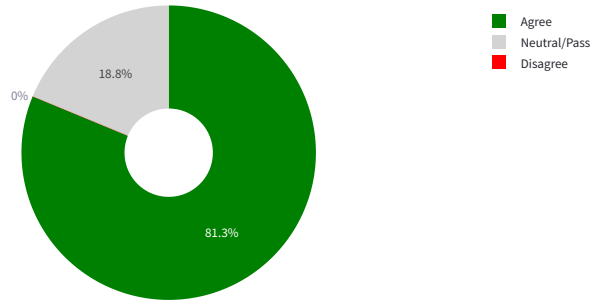
Rationale: As Joe Higgins said, one of the best things MIT can use its resources to do on a nation-wide scale is start large-scale renewable energy projects to put more renewable energy in the nation's power grid. This provides the biggest impact per investment dollar since it's hard to produce renewable energy on-campus.



Recommendation 8

An Ethics and Sustainability HASS course should be implemented as a required CI-H course for Course 6-4 (Artificial Intelligence and Decision Making). This course would replace one of the HASS CI-H requirements for 6-4 majors under GIR requirements, and be offered (with priority to 6-4) to all students.

Rationale: Artificial Intelligence and all LLM programs have, thus far, been dependent upon large energy and water reserves to function. As their development continues, it is important for developers to consider the ramifications of such programs upon sustainability and natural resources-as well as the pruposes for which they will be used, and their impact upon sustainability and climate change.

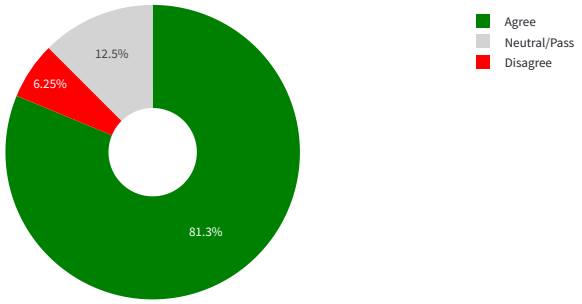


Recommendation 3

"Update and reduce food waste-

1. Instead of having serve-yourself in the dining halls, have a serving system to control portioning and eliminate some food waste
2. Have compost bins in residence hall kitchens and kitchens around campus
3. Increase recycling and composing education with clearer and more prominent signage near waste bins"

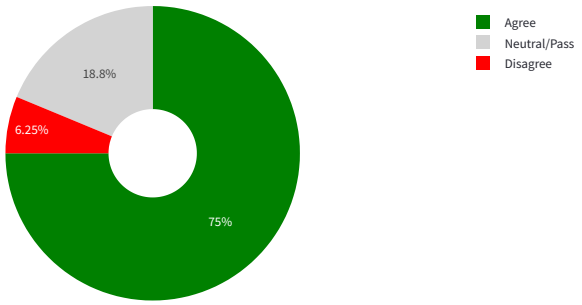
Rationale: These policies involve minimal disruption, but have the potential to greatly decrease food waste. In diding halls, students often take more than they can eat because of self-serve. If there was a serving system instead, servers could control portion sizes, and students can always get seconds. Also, increasing compost bins would help in better disposal of food waste, and updated signage can help students figure out appropriate disposal.



Recommendation 42

The MIT curriculum should include sustainability-related courses in their restricted electives list

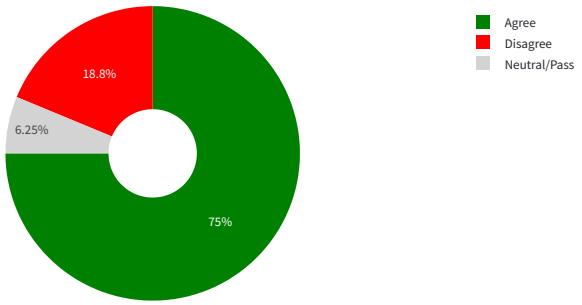
Rationale: Show how interconnected sustainbility & every major can be; connect student to sustainbility



Recommendation 17

Implementing a UROP-like program for studnets to take on/help project related to sustainability. Pre-existing efforts that need more help could put on listings and look for students through this program, and students can apply to porject that are connected to their interests/studies/skills. Students would be able to gain relevant experience in their field while also contributing to sustainability

Rationale: Having a formal, institutionalized proogram would give students a central place to look for resources and ways to actually take action. It could also spark personal investment in sustainability, especially as students learn more through their projects. The hope is that students would be motivated to work on such projects even if it's not necessarily beacuse of the "sustainable" benefits but at least to gain real-world experience. If they end up entering the field, great! Either way, this program would also get more people working on sustainability efforts.

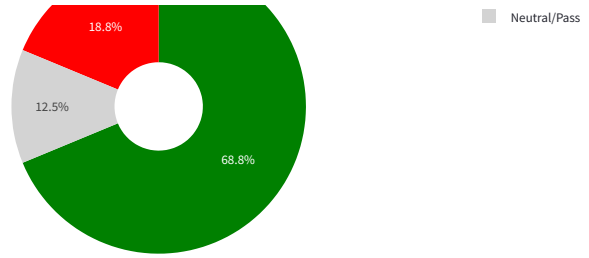


Recommendation 44

Incorporate a sustaiability class into each major, focused on the

respective field

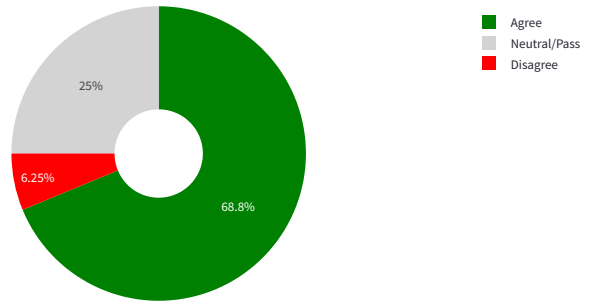
Rationale: It's important that sustainability is practiced across all fields. A required class would teach students how stainability plays into their courses and bring sustainability farther into the collective conscious



Recommendation 23

Set up and host recurring (1-2 times a semester?) forums for the MIT community to discuss current sustainability efforts on campus. Specifically, there should be communication across student groups (ex. UA sustain, MITEC, MITEI, SSC....) as well as administrative offices. The goal would be to keep groups informed and possibly share resources/feedback, with the common goal of improving campus susta

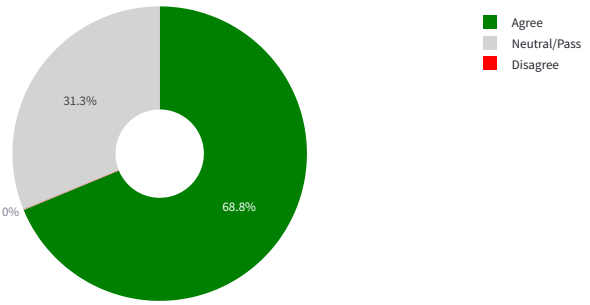
Rationale: There are as many separate groups & efforts across MIT that want to help MIT's sustainability efforts, however, they are mostly disconnected and uninformed about what other groups might be targeting and working on.



Recommendation 48

Hold a sustainability fair, similar to a career fair, but about sustainability. Include student groups, researchers/UROP opps, and companies

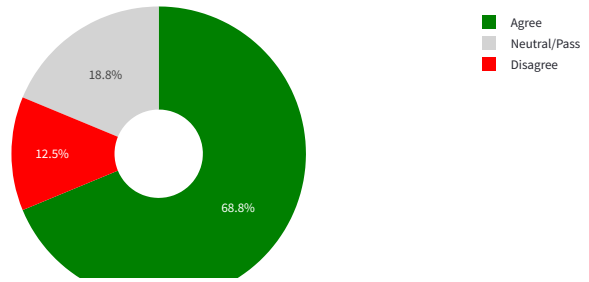
Rationale: A sustainability fiar would give students a chance to network and get involved in student groups, research and activism, and learn about opportunities workin gin renewable energy and climate change mitigation



Recommendation 49

Increased funding for sustainability clubs, to allow them to host more events and boost involvement.

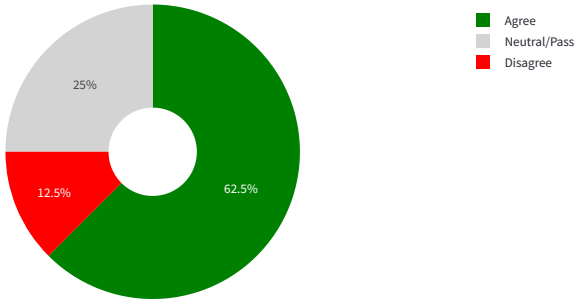
Rationale: This would make more students aware of sutainability clubs, and improve membership. Involvement in these clubs will make students more likely to pursue sustainability related research and careers



Recommendation 38

Create another ethics for engineers that's focused on sustainability, climate, and energy

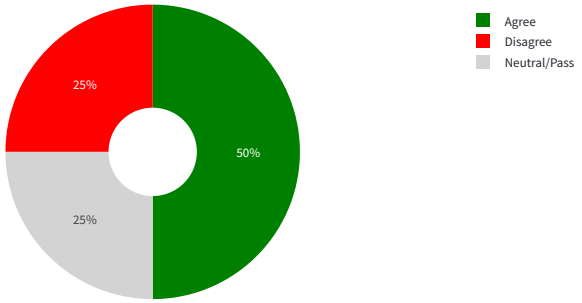
Rationale: educating engineers on how their work and research is related to sustainability and about the companies that support sustainable practices and educating the impacts of oil and gas companies



Recommendation 21

Create/consolidate "sustainability & [Major]" classes for every major

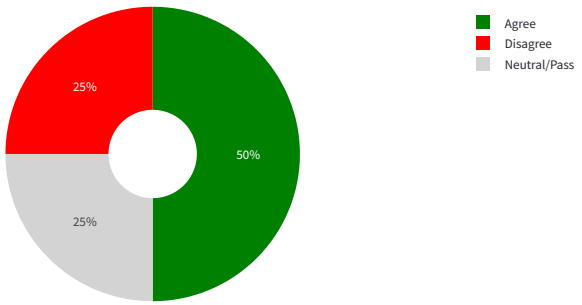
Rationale: For those interested in sustainability, allowing them to view it through the lens of their interest would let them bring perspective on sustainability into future careers. Additionally, having all these classes listed in one place would let students find them easier.



Recommendation 1

Waive meal plan requirements for all students in all dorms.

Rationale: It gives students the freedom of choice between on-campus dining and CFY, which can reduce the amountn of students using the dining hall. This reduces food waste and encourages more students to make the sustainable switch to CFY.



Recommendation 7

Add a 12 arm to every department major.

Rationale: Allows more options for students to get involved in climate sustainability through their field of study, which can have more students coming out of the Institute working on innovative climate research or technologies.