

Workshop #5

After tracking my consumption, I was actually surprised with the outcome.

I was expecting to feel guilty and pampered at the same time, yet, I don't feel like I am actually having too much of an environmental impact. Given my circumstances as a college freshman, there isn't much I would change. I don't have a car, so I walk everywhere. I don't have a house, so I eat off of a dining plan. If a laptop counts as an appliance, it is necessary for my success as a student, and for my increased level of human agency in the future. Therefore, to reduce my impact, my lifestyle would change drastically and I'm not sure if I'd be willing to sacrifice this education! If I were to change anything reasonable, I might carry a hand towel with me (instead of using paper towels), shorten my shower time, and take all my notes on a computer rather than paper. My eating habits would be more difficult to change, but in the future maybe I could afford to eat all local foods. It's also possible that when I have a house, I can hangdry my laundry!

All of these things that I feel I couldn't change, might be helped by local and/or state gov. policy. If the school had priorities focused on environmental sustainability, they might make all of the dining food options locally grown or at least organic. This would require a lot more funds however, to feed such a large population in mass amounts. Schools don't have unlimited budgets, either.

excellent point!

By documenting this consumption, I noticed that the agency of civil society is actually quite limited in most circumstances. If we want to make choices that leave a smaller footprint, it would require a power that most of us don't have.

Disregarding the fact that living so organically can be so expensive, most people my age (all ages really) aren't properly educated on the affects of their consumption. This can be a job of both the state and personal development of a socioecological imagination.

For example, paying attention to how far your banana was shipped, or even noticing how many paper towels you use to dry your hands, can be personal. However, we also need state policy to provide the banana information for this eco-mod theory to be successful.

All-in-all, environmentally prioritized minds requires some sacrifices of personal success. Maybe that is why society is so reluctant to change. However, I'm learning it doesn't necessarily have to be that way! :)

Great job.

Tax on imported bananas?