

AP[®] ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

Read the following article from the *Fremont Daily Times* and answer the questions that follow.

- (a) The students want to reduce the school's carbon footprint.

- (i) **Define** carbon footprint.

(1 point for correct definition of carbon footprint)

- The amount of carbon dioxide and/or other carbon compounds released to the environment by a product, process, or activity
- A measurement of the amount of carbon released by human activities

- (ii) **Identify** one way the school's heating system is likely adding to the school's carbon footprint.

(1 point for correct identification of a way the school's heating system is adding to its carbon footprint)

- The burning/combustion of fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide
- The incomplete combustion of fossil fuels releases carbon monoxide

- (iii) **Describe** one realistic way to reduce the contributions of the heating system to the school's carbon footprint

(1 point for correct description of a realistic way to reduce the contributions of the heating system)

- Switch to renewables (solar, wind, etc.)/switch to a more efficient fossil fuel (natural gas, propane)/switch to a provider that uses nuclear energy.
- Decrease the temperature/thermostat in the school during the winter/program thermostat to lower energy consumption during certain times.
- Purchase credits through environmental agencies for carbon-offsetting projects.
- Increase insulation or implement other efficiency/design methods to reduce energy demand (green roof, double paned glass, south-facing windows for passive solar heating, change air filters, etc.).

- (b) **Identify** TWO environmental benefits of a living green roof, such as that suggested by Councilperson Fassler.

(2 points; 1 point for each correct identification of an environmental benefit of a green roof)

- Insulation/reduced use of fossil fuels for heating and/or cooling
- Habitat for wildlife and/or plants/increases biodiversity
- Area to grow crops/production of food locally
- Reduction in the number of heat islands in the environment/urban heat island mitigation
- Photosynthesis/carbon capture/CO₂ storage/oxygen release
- Stormwater treatment/runoff reduction
- Filters particulates, VOCs, O₃ from air

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Question 1 (continued)

- (c) **Describe** TWO practices the cafeteria's food service could use to decrease the environmental impacts of Fremont High School.

(2 points; 1 point for each correct description of a practice that decreases the environmental impact of the school)

- Offer more vegetarian options/serve fewer animal products, etc. to reduce impact from meat production.
- Use some locally sourced food to reduce transportation.
- Grow food at the school to reduce transportation.
- Compost food waste to reduce the amount disposed in landfills.
- Donate leftover food to reduce food waste.
- Use energy-friendly practices (LED lighting, serve more cold-cut sandwiches, etc.) to decrease energy use.
- Purchase bulk packaged items to reduce material waste.
- Use recyclable food containers/don't use disposable straws/food containers/trays to reduce material waste.
- Install a water fountain/stop selling single-serving water bottles to reduce material waste.
- Use reusable take-out containers/offer savings or credit for reusing containers to reduce material waste.
- Allow students to choose appropriate portions to reduce food waste.
- Purchase organic foods to reduce pesticide use.
- Use gray water to irrigate landscaping to reduce potable water use.

- (d) **Discuss** TWO benefits of using native plants for landscaping at Fremont High School.

(2 points; 1 point for each correct discussion of benefits of using native plants)

- Native plants require less pesticides because they are better adapted to their environment.
- Native plants require less fertilizer because they are better adapted to their environment.
- Native plants require less irrigation water because they are better adapted to their environment.
- Native plants increase biodiversity by providing native habitat areas.
- Native plants support native food webs/native food production by providing native habitat areas.
- Native plants reduce the amount of land available for the establishment/spread of invasive species.
- Native plants save the school money by requiring less water/fertilizer/pesticides/upkeep.

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2018 SCORING GUIDELINES****Question 1 (continued)**

- (e) During the renovation, the carpeting must be replaced. **Discuss** one environmental benefit of using flooring made of plant material, such as cork or bamboo, instead of carpet made of synthetic fibers.

(1 point for correct discussion of benefits of using flooring made of plant material)

- Plant-based material is more easily compostable/is biodegradable/can be reused/repurposed, unlike carpet.
- Plant-based material is from a renewable resource making it more sustainable than carpet. Plant-based material is a carbon sink/reservoir, so growing plant materials removes CO₂ from the atmosphere, unlike carpet.
- Plant-based materials require less fossil fuels/toxic chemicals for production than synthetic fibers found in carpets.
- Plant-based materials produce less indoor pollutants (off-gas pollutants/VOCs/release toxins) than carpet.
- Plant-based materials harbor fewer pathogenic vectors/diseases/allergens (fleas, ticks, dust mites, mold spores, etc.) than carpets.
- Plant-based material when cultivated provides habitat for native species.