**Pro-environmental Behavior Scale** reported in:

Larson, L. R., Stedman, R. C., Cooper, C., & Decker, D. J. (2015). Understanding the multi-dimensional structure of pro-environmental behavior. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 43: 112-124. doi:10.1016/j.jenvp.2015.06.004

The PEB scale could be presented within a survey instrument as depicted below. Note that “your local area” could be replaced with “environment” (at any scale). A time scale (e.g., within the past year) could be added to minimize potential recall bias. The scale was designed for adults and has not been thoroughly tested with youth under age 18. While the overarching four behavior domains would likely apply to children’s and adolescent’s PEB, specific actions and items should be adapted for those audiences.

**How often have you engaged in the following activities to improve the quality of your local area?**

*(Circle ONE number for each item.)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Never** | **Rarely** | **Sometimes** | **Often** | **Very often** |
| Worked with others to address an environmental problem or issue | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Participated as an active member in a local environmental group | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Signed a petition about an environmental issue | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Wrote a letter in a response to an environmental issue  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Voted to support a policy or regulation that affects the local environment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Donated money to support local environmental protection | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Talked to others in my community about environmental issues | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Made my yard or my land more desirable for wildlife | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Volunteered to improve wildlife habitat in my community | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Participated (provided data) in a wildlife study | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Recycled paper, plastic, and metal | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Conserved water or energy in my home | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Bought environmentally friendly and/or energy-efficient products | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Each item corresponds to one of four PEB domains as depicted in the table below (and as described in Larson et al., 2015): conservation lifestyle, land stewardship, social environmentalism, and environmental citizenship. To develop a behavior frequency score for each domain, take the average of the items representing that domain. Alternatively, items can be assessed individually.

The table below (from Larson et al., 2015) illustrates how the items might be used, and combined, to understand PEB in sample of rural residents of New York State, USA.

*Pro-environmental behavior survey items and summary statistics (n = 1082)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Behavior Domain (with Items)** | **Item Code** | **Ma** | **SD** | **Participating Often or****Very Often** **(%)** | **Participating at Least Once (Rarely)****(%)** |
| ***Conservation Lifestyle*b** | ***CL*** | ***4.42*** | ***0.63*** | ***83.6*** | ***99.8*** |
| Recycled paper, plastic and metal | CL1 | 4.62 | 0.67 | 94.0 | 99.4 |
| Conserved water or energy in my home  | CL2 | 4.41 | 0.75 | 88.9 | 99.3 |
| Bought environmentally friendly and/or energy efficient products | CL3 | 4.23 | 0.83 | 81.5 | 99.3 |
| ***Land Stewardship*c** | ***LS*** | ***2.82*** | ***0.88*** | ***13.0*** | ***81.7*** |
| Made my yard or my land more desirable for wildlife | LS1 | 3.95 | 1.03 | 71.8 | 95.9 |
| Participated (provided data) in a wildlife study | LS2 | 2.40 | 1.27 | 20.0 | 66.2 |
| Volunteered to improve wildlife habitat in my community | LS3 | 2.12 | 1.15 | 13.1 | 60.3 |
| ***Social Environmentalism*d** | ***SE*** | ***2.36*** | ***0.91*** | ***6.8*** | ***69.8*** |
| Talked to others in my community about environmental issues | SE1 | 2.79 | 1.16 | 27.5 | 82.7 |
| Worked with others to address an environmental problem or issue | SE2 | 2.40 | 1.03 | 11.7 | 77.4 |
| Participated as an active member in a local environmental group | SE3 | 1.90 | 1.08 | 9.2 | 51.8 |
| ***Environmental Citizenship*e** | ***EC*** | ***2.39*** | ***1.00*** | ***9.6*** | ***65.9*** |
| Voted to support a policy/regulation that affects the local environment | EC1 | 2.71 | 1.29 | 38.7 | 74.1 |
| Signed a petition about an environmental issue | EC2 | 2.48 | 1.23 | 19.5 | 71.1 |
| Donated money to support local environmental protection | EC3 | 2.44 | 1.20 | 20.0 | 70.2 |
| Wrote a letter in response to an environmental issue | EC4 | 1.93 | 1.16 | 9.9 | 51.3 |

aParticipation Frequency Scale: 1=Never, 2=Rarely, 3=Occasionally, 4=Often, 5=Very often

bCronbach’s alpha = 0.786

cCronbach’s alpha = 0.638

dCronbach’s alpha = 0.782

eCronbach’s alpha = 0.839