Evaluating the effectiveness of educational outreach on sustainable behavior modification at a sporting event

Kendon M. Jung • IRB Human Research Certified • Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College • Arizona State University

Introduction

In the face of funding cuts nationwide, universities have turned to innovative solutions to meet the rising operational costs. Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and other similar arrangements leverage extended return on investment (ROI) and federal rebates, making these innovative and sustainable solutions quite appealing to fiscally conservative universities in desperate need of capital improvements. Energy awareness campaigns, Zero Waste initiatives, and water conservation efforts are some of the many ways many universities supplement their innovative cost-saving solutions, but require a high level of community engagement. If universities are expending resources to engage the community on sustainability practices, it is imperative to the mission of the institution that outreach efforts are making a positive impact.

Questions

The purpose of this study is to evaluate whether educational outreach is affecting sustainable behavior modification. In order to enhance and scale sustainable behavior, there are several questions to answer...

1. Does outreach messaging impact attendee behavior?
2. Is active outreach more effective than passive messaging?
3. What are the challenges to event outreach?
4. When, where, and to what extent is behavior changed?
5. What social class shows the highest adoption rate?

Sampling

Athletics and their facilities were selected as pilots because of their high profile, heightened potential engagement, and ability to control their environment. This pilot will evaluate passive outreach (i.e. signage and separated waste bins) and signature event programming (i.e. “Green” themed games/half-time shows). Below are the top three attended athletic facilities at Arizona State University.

Wells Fargo Arena was selected as the primary sample location due to study timing and basketball season. A survey will be sent via email to attendees or handed out as flyers at the targeted passive and signature games.

Results

Influence on Beliefs and Behaviors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitudes</th>
<th>Norms</th>
<th>Efficacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Game 1</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>3.895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game 2</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>4.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stakeholder Intent Degradation

More Information

Click on or navigate through the QR Code for more information on...

- IRB Approval
- CITI Certification
- Collateral
- Participant Privacy
- References

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