

Frequently Asked Questions about the Limetree Community Impact Survey

June 17, 2021

1. Question: Why is this Community Impact Survey being performed?

Quite simply, because there is no other way to measure the full impact of the troubled restart of Limetree. And understanding the breadth of that impact is essential to informing the public about the place of the refinery on St. Croix today. Concerns have been raised by residents about the impact the restart of the Limetree refinery has had on the St. Croix community. Unfortunately, standard environmental protections and mandated environmental monitoring were neglected in the restart of Limetree. When operational failures occurred, this meant there was no ability to measure what was being released and track its impact on residents. Relying on the experience of residents, this survey was developed to help provide a preliminary snapshot of the occurrence of impacts in the community. This survey will gathering information from all willing residents of St. Croix. The results of this survey will be shared with the communities, elected officials, and federal agencies, and may help indicate areas where further research may be needed.

2. Question: Who is doing this Community Impact Survey?

This survey was designed by Dr. David Bond at Bennington College collaborating with several local organizations, including: CHANT, Good Food Coalition, and St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA). This survey is an independent project that is not aligned with any company, agency, or lawsuit. Our aim is to provide the public with the best understanding of what impacts the community has endured in the past few months. The survey has been reviewed by a number of local stakeholders, and aligns with standard ethical practices for social research. Bennington College has offered to set up a website to host the survey, which will ensure that all information gathered is safely secured on a single password protected computer at the College in Vermont. After the survey concludes, the research team will analyze the data and report the general findings back to the community.

3. Question: Who should fill out this Community Impact Survey?

Everyone on St. Croix is encouraged to participate in this survey. This survey aims to gather information about the environmental and health impacts of Limetree from residents of St. Croix. If you've been impacted by Limetree's troubled restart, you should fill out the survey. You can also refer friends and families to the survey by sharing the URL [www.bennington.edu/Limetree] in emails, social media, or texts. Paper surveys are also available by request.

4. Question: Will my information remain confidential?

Yes. Bennington College will store all information on a project-designated computer system that is password protected and secure. This designated system has extra safeguards designed to

ensure confidentiality of the information provided. Data from the survey will only be accessible on this system, and only David Bond, Frandelle Girard, Sommer Silliby, and Jennifer Valius will have access to that system. These data protocols align with standard ethical practice in social research.

5. Question: How will the results of the Community Impact Survey be used?

Survey results will be summarized by the research team and presented to the public in several ways. All summaries will only include general findings; personal information will never be shared. Bennington College will post the general findings on its Limetree website (www.bennington.edu/Limetree). The results will also be detailed in a formal presentation to each community and in a written report that will be submitted to the community. This is an opportunity for the community to use this information to document real concerns and ongoing environmental and health issues in residents. It may be useful in informing future needs for environmental monitoring infrastructure and health studies. Members of the research team may also publish general findings of the survey in an academic journal.

6. Question: Will this Community Impact Survey link my health problems to exposure to Limetree emissions?

No. This survey is not a formal epidemiological study (note: an epidemiological study is a sophisticated research technique that can statistically correlate specific exposures to specific cases of illness). This survey will only count the number and type of environmental and health impacts in the community. This accounting will be useful to document the recent experience of residents. The survey will not be able to determine the cause of individual health problems. You should consult with your doctor to discuss your individual health care needs. However, this survey may provide information that could be useful in prompting a more rigorous health study.

7. Question: How do I complete the Community Impact Survey?

The easiest way to complete the survey is to go online (either on your cell phone or on a computer) and go to: www.bennington.edu/Limetree (and then click on the “Limetree Community Impact Survey” link at the top of the page). The survey takes about 4 minutes to complete. Please answer all questions. Be sure to include your town and neighborhood. You may also refer family members and friends to the survey by emailing or texting the website address (www.bennington.edu/Limetree).

8. Question: Where will I find the results of the Community Impact Survey?

The results of this survey will be summarized by the research team and presented to the public in several ways. (All summaries will only include general findings; personal information will never be shared.) Bennington College will post the general findings on its Limetree website

(www.bennington.edu/Limetree). The results will also be detailed in a formal presentation to each community and in a written report that will be submitted to the community, to elected officials, and to federal agencies. Members of the research team may also publish general findings of the Questionnaire in an academic journal.

9. Question: Where can I get more information?

Please refer to the “Environmental Justice on St. Croix” website at Bennington College (www.bennington.edu/Limetree). If you have additional questions, please contact a member of the research team: David Bond // (802) 440.4324 // dbond@bennington.edu.