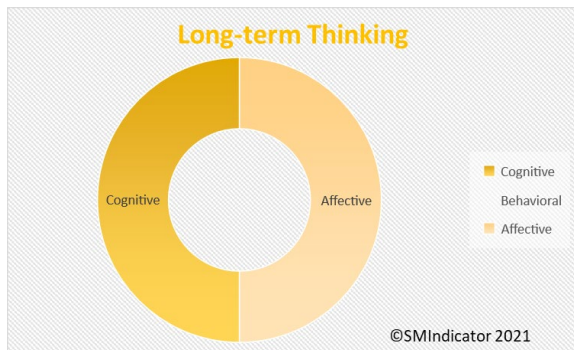




# /SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE

When analyzing information and making decisions a SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE has a major impact on the sustainability of our actions.

**/WHAT IS ASSESSED HERE:  
HOW YOU THINK ABOUT THE LONG-  
TERM IMPACT WHEN ANALYZING  
AND MAKING DECISIONS,  
COMPLEMENTING SHORT-TERM  
THINKING; HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT  
IT, AND THE IMPACT ON YOUR  
BEHAVIORS.**



**What this tells you:**

**This graph shows that your approach to the assessed topic is both cognitive and affective, but you are not necessarily translating what you know and feel into actions. You might use this information to explore new habits and daily changes for a sustainability purpose.**

**YOUR SMI RESPONSES INDICATE THAT** you have a good understanding of the long-term sustainability impacts our decisions may have, even simple and daily ones, not to mention behaviors commonly accepted in our society.

In addition, this understanding is not indifferent to you: you are a sensitive person, who seems to get worried about the long-term impact that your personal lifestyle or decisions may be having on the planet. It is difficult to live with that feeling!

At the same time, you are pragmatic and prefer to focus on the short term when trying to solve a problem, because it seems more tangible, concrete and functional.

**/YOU ARE COMFORTABLE** solving problems: looking for quick ways to address a situation, and seeking to simplify matters. Acting promptly is important for you, and it provides you and others with a sense of control and direction. It saves time (so it seems).

**/THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FURTHER LEVERAGE YOUR STRENGTHS AND MANAGE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH MAY BE HOLDING YOU BACK:**

What comes up from this combination is that there seems to be a disconnect between what you know about the long-term impacts of our behaviors, and the way you solve problems, focusing rather on the short term.

Perhaps bringing your understanding into actions is easier than it may seem. For example, what would your latest decision look like if you would have considered the potential long-term impacts? It takes practice to develop new mental habits, but they too, can have long term impacts – for the good.

It is because of people with your sensitivity that changes happen in the world. Any thoughts of what you could do?

**/THOUGHTS TO PONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SM:**

There is a tacit pressure to act promptly and focus on that which needs immediate attention. This is very important, and there are many circumstances where this way of responding is the optimal, or even the only one that matters. A fire in the house, for example. We can sense the urgency and it is not a good idea to pause and reflect on the long-term implications of the fire.

But for many daily decisions, the context is different, and yet we still prioritize short term thinking, often without even pondering any medium- or long-term impacts of what we are doing. The stream of life, our colleagues, perhaps everyone with whom we interact takes for granted that we “all” act this way.

On the other hand, with greater understanding of the social and environmental problems we are facing, it has become clear that the law of cause-and-effect is always at play, even if not immediately obvious. In other words, the consequences of our daily actions do have impacts - some over time, some just in a different geography, and many on both.

As with other aspects key for a sustainability mindset, it is not a question of choosing one over the other, but a matter of balancing both views, taking both time perspectives into account.

This mental habit expands our consciousness, as we become more aware of the way we are impacting others and the world. Not thinking of it doesn't avoid it from happening. Stretching our imagination to consider potential impacts helps us make better decisions, and play an active role shaping a better world.

Something you seem to know a lot about.

### **/HOW ABOUT YOU TRY:**

How comfortable are you bringing the long-term perspective into the conversation? Do you sense that sometimes you hold back, because it is not so popular? Are you fully aware that your perspective, by not being culturally mainstream, is what we all need more? Is this something that may encourage you further to speak up?



*Every action has consequences that are not immediately visible. Considering the long-term when analyzing situations and making decisions has a positive impact on global sustainability.*