



Navigating Our Green Campus

Living Sustainably at Maryland from Day One

Sustainability is part of the culture at the University of Maryland and students are expected to live in a way that respects people and the planet. The following is an overview of some of the ways you can be a Green Terp!

Summer Orientation

You will see that we do things a bit differently at the University before you even start classes. During New Student Orientation, you will help us keep waste out of landfills by separating your food waste (and other organic/biodegradable waste) and recyclables from your trash. Put the organic waste in the compost bin so we can turn it into a rich fertilizer for our plants and place any plastic, glass, or metal in the recycling bin. Also, enjoy this paperless “virtual folder!”

At the Dining Hall

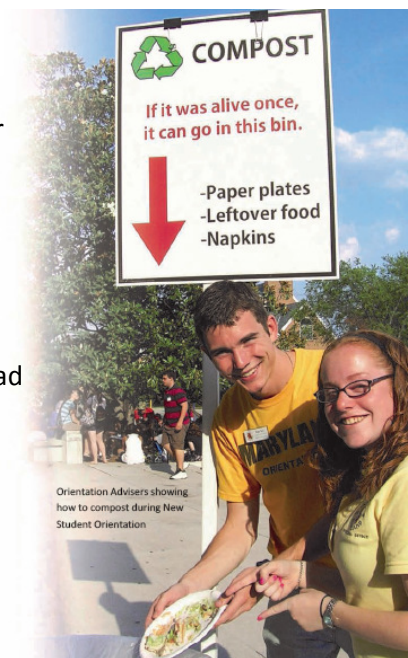
When you eat in the dining halls, use washable dining ware (plate, glass, silverware, etc.) instead of taking disposable containers and utensils. Take only as much food as you will eat, but if you can't finish it all, the Dining Services workers will put your leftover food into the compost bin.

If you have to take food to-go, you will receive your food in an eco-friendly “clamshell” container made of bagasse, a material made of waste sugarcane stalks. Unlike Styrofoam, bagasse is biodegradable and is not made with harmful chemicals. You may put the bagasse containers in any of the compost bins in the dining halls or simply throw it away in the trash.

Recycling

You will see recycling bins all over campus, inside buildings and out. Help us be a “zero waste campus” by recycling:

- All types of paper (but please no napkins or tissues) and cardboard (even pizza boxes! Just eat the pizza first!)
- All types of plastic, #1-7 (please remove bottle caps and put the bottle and cap in the bin separately)
- All glass and metal (soda cans, frappuccino bottles, etc.)
- But remember the slogan, “Reduce THEN Reuse THEN Recycle.” Not using something is best for the planet!



In Your Room

Beyond recycling, you can help make a Green Campus by turning off your lights, computer, and other electronics when you leave your room. If you need a new computer, purchase a laptop because it uses less energy than a desktop. Also, try to keep your shower time to 5 minutes.

Getting Around

Leave your car at home! We have a great Shuttle-UM system and a walking/bicycling-friendly campus!

For more tips, click http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/index.php?p=sus_you_students





The **University of Maryland** is competing in the **America's Greenest Campus** competition, which is the first nationwide contest among colleges to reduce the carbon footprints of their students, faculty, alumni, and staff.

Maryland is currently in 2nd place but YOU can help us win!

How can I help?

1. Go to <http://www.americasgreenestcampus.com/>
2. Sign up **using your umd email address** (example: bgreen@umd.edu)
3. Confirm your account when you receive an email at your umd address
4. Use the Footprint Center to calculate your carbon footprint
5. Go to the Reduction Center to find ways of reducing your carbon footprint
6. Feel free to create an avatar, earn points, and have fun!

What is a *carbon footprint* anyway?

Your carbon footprint is the sum of all carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions that are directly and indirectly associated with your activities over a given time frame (usually a year). The average American generates about 20 tons of CO₂ each year from activities that burn fossil fuel (driving, using electricity, heating homes, etc.) or contribute to worldwide deforestation (production of meat, electronics, furniture, etc.)

Why is this important?

Greenhouse gases (GHGs), primarily CO₂, emitted from human activities are warming Earth and driving global climate change at an alarming and unnatural rate. This rapid rate of change threatens the future of life on our planet. When the President of the **University of Maryland**, Dan Mote, signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in 2007, we became a campus driven toward eliminating our GHG emissions and focused on educating students about climate change and sustainability. To learn more about sustainability, the University's Climate Action Plan, and how you can get involved, explore <http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/>