



Sustainability at Emory



SAVING WATER

One of the best ways to save water is to save energy. In Georgia, it takes almost one gallon of water to create one-kilowatt hour of energy. Emory is building water-saving features into the new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design LEED Gold-certified Few and Evans freshmen residence halls that include innovative features such as solar panels that pump collected rainwater into dual flush toilets. Push down for a little bit of water during a flush or up for more water.

Keeping buildings cool requires massive amounts of electricity and a lot of water. Emory has found a way to collect and reuse condensate “sweat” from large heat wheels that ventilate the buildings. The Whitehead and Pediatrics buildings alone produce about four million gallons of this condensate per year. That’s four million gallons of water that did not get siphoned out of the Chattahoochee River, about the amount of water the residents of metro Atlanta drink in a day.

CONSTRUCTING GREEN BUILDINGS

According to Southface Energy Institute, the construction, operation and maintenance of buildings produce close to 48 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Green building is one of the most important things an institution can do to reduce its carbon footprint.

Emory has pledged to build all new buildings to the high standards of the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED program, and we currently have more square feet of LEED-certified space than any other campus in America. Buildings on campus with LEED designation save energy and water, feature improved air quality and are constructed using a percentage of recycled, local, or rapidly renewable building materials.



PRESERVING GREEN SPACE

Emory’s Atlanta campus is mainly green space and includes some of the most biodiverse forest inside Atlanta’s I-285 perimeter. 54 percent of Emory’s 700-acre Atlanta campus is protected green space where there can be no new construction. And, a “No Net Loss of Forest Canopy Policy” requires new trees be replanted to replace those removed to maintain the same forest.

REDUCING ELECTRICITY USAGE

Emory is currently the sixth-largest customer of Georgia Power, a company that generates most of the state’s electrical power by coal-fired plants. Two of these plants rank as the #1 and #3 largest sources of greenhouse gases in the entire nation. Those same plants are Georgia’s largest source of particulate matter, ozone, and mercury pollution, linked respectively to lung cancer, asthma attacks and neurological impairment in children.

As a public health leader, Emory has committed to reduce energy usage by 25 percent by 2015. Plans for this reduction in energy use include overhauling existing buildings on campus to make them more energy efficient and installing energy monitors in buildings. These monitors will display electrical usage each week, month and year and allow floor-by-floor comparisons.

PURCHASING LOCAL OR SUSTAINABLY-GROWN FOOD

Currently, a piece of food in America travels an average of 1,500 miles before landing on a plate. Closing the gap from farm to table is one of Emory’s priorities to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to promoting health and well-

In light of Emory’s commitment to positive transformation in the world and the University’s significant influence on the surrounding community, Emory has identified sustainability as one of its top priorities.

What began years ago as a recycling program, Emory’s sustainability vision has expanded and now seeks to restore our global ecosystem, foster healthy living, and reduce the University’s impact on the local environment. Sustainability is more than being ‘green’ and caring for the environment—it’s a broad mindset to make decisions with the future in mind. Decisions big and small must pass through a new set of filters: what is the social impact of this decision? What will be the local impact? The global impact? The impact to future generations?

ness. Emory has set an aggressive goal to acquire 75 percent of all food in our hospitals and cafeterias from local or sustainably-grown sources by 2015. A new farm liaison works with local suppliers to remove hurdles to the local food supply, encourages increased production and ensures fair working conditions. Seven sustainability gardens across campus demonstrate home growing, and a weekly farmer’s market brings in local products.

BEING A RECYCLING LEADER

Emory currently recycles 59 percent of our overall waste stream with a goal to increase that to 65 percent by 2015. However, recycling at Emory goes far beyond just paper, aluminum, cardboard and plastic. The University finds new uses for 95 percent of all electronic waste and plans to match that rate for construction debris, animal bedding and food waste by 2015.

Emory’s recycling programs extend out into the community, overseeing recycling for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Clifton Road, area high schools and retirement communities.

SUPPORTING COMMUTE OPTIONS

Drivers in Atlanta suffer some of the longest commutes in the U.S. and the air in Atlanta suffers from all those tailpipe emissions. But it doesn’t have to be that way. Emory offers many incentives to switch from driving solo to commuting via carpooling, walking, biking, telecommuting and taking the bus through a program called Emory Moves. Registered alternative commuters receive free transit passes, Zipcar memberships, and access to the Guaranteed Ride Home Program. Also available are Park-N-Rides at area shopping malls and the alternatively-fueled fleet of Cliff shuttle buses—powered by electricity, natural gas, and a biodiesel blend made of recycled cooking oil from Emory’s hospitals and cafeterias.

To encourage biking, Bike Emory offers deep discounts on bicycles, on-campus Mobile Repair Centers and a free bike share program. All these efforts are aimed towards Emory’s goal to get one out of four single-occupancy vehicles coming to campus off the road by 2015.

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO THE CURRICULUM

The grassroots Piedmont Project was developed by faculty members to incorporate sustainability concepts into class curriculums. To date, the project has trained more than 130 faculty from medicine to journalism. For example, professors from English, philosophy and environmental studies teamed up to teach a new course on the many life-giving dimensions of water as a result of their training with the Piedmont Project. The project’s success has attracted

the attention of other institutions, and Emory faculty are training faculty from other universities to implement similar programs around the country.



THINKING AND LIVING LOCALLY

The Emory As Place program seeks to instill knowledge and create a sense of attachment to the unique history, culture and ecosystem of Emory’s campus and community. Through mentoring, woods walks and Place Fest, students and staff can realize the context of their everyday surroundings and learn to live sustainably at Emory.



You have the power. Don't Use it.

PLEASE POST THESE ENERGY TIPS IN YOUR WORK PLACE

Energy savings tips for your workplace:



ENERGY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

10

ways to save energy

Emore University is committed to a sustainability effort, defining ambitious goals with substantial support to achieve them such as reducing energy usage twenty five percent by 2015. The efforts of Emory's 25,000 employees to pitch in, turn off, conserve and reevaluate daily habits will lead the way to achieving these goals.

One of the first ways to get involved is with Emory's annual Energy Awareness Building Competition in October. Every major building around campus has a sustainability representative who leads the charge. Watch for information from your building's sustainability rep. The tips below will get you off to a good start with your contribution to reduce energy usage.

1. GIVE YOUR COMPUTER THE NIGHT OFF

Unplug your monitor, power cord, etc.

Pro tip: Keep all devices plugged into a single surge protector and turn the switch off each night

2. BE ORIGINAL

Don't make copies unless using the double-sided feature

Pro tip: Set up a paperless office, using flash drives to share documents with coworkers and overhead projectors to share documents at meetings

3. GIVE YOUR COMPUTER A COFFEE BREAK

Click monitors off when not in use
Pro tip: Deactivate your screen saver and instead take advantage of the power saving settings with your monitor and set your computer to hibernate (ask your IT staff if you need help with this) after 10 minutes of not being used



4. USE SWEATERS; NOT SPACE HEATERS

Pro tip: Encourage your office to set the thermostat at the most energy efficient levels possible, the University's guidelines are 74 degrees for classroom and office spaces and 76 degrees for common areas in the summer and 68 degrees for all areas in the winter

5. WATCH YOUR WATTS

Keep chargers unplugged unless in use
Pro tip: Phone, iPod and other chargers keep using electricity even when the device is removed. Buy a portable solar charger that will power up your phone, iPod, digital camera and other battery-powered devices off the grid or diligently unplug those chargers

6. WATCH YOUR WATTS

Turn off and unplug your printer and your fax machine
Pro tip: Take the initiative to power down the office copy machine each night and start it back up each morning

7. NO NEED FOR SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT

Turn off every light
Pro tip: Bring in a compact florescent or LED bulb if you use a desk lamp and turn off that lamp at night

8. INK RESPONSIBLY

Don't print emails
Pro tip: Set up folders in your inbox to organize emails electronically rather than printing

9. ONE FLIGHT UP, TWO FLIGHTS DOWN

Take the stairs
Pro tip: Commute to meetings by walking, checking out a bike or using the Cliff shuttle

10. GOT A FUME HOOD?

When not in use, lower the sash to prevent the loss of conditioned air.
Pro tip: Reevaluate laboratory equipment: turn off devices that show a glowing LED when not in use, or unplug and remove under-used equipment



Post this in your workplace as a reminder of how you can help the earth by reducing energy use.

Want to do even more?

The Office of Sustainability Initiatives needs the innovation and imagination of all members of the community. Incentives Funds are awarded to support research, campus-based projects and the development of new rituals to promote sustainability on Emory's campuses. Creative proposals are welcomed from faculty, staff and students. Visit www.emory.edu/sustainability to download an application.



EMORY



green buildings green space



sustainable food



water conservation



energy awareness



recycling and re-use



commute alternatives



emory as place

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