



Texas A&M University, Department of Residence Life

On-Campus Living Sustainability Guide

Prepared by the **Residence Life Sustainability Coordinator**
2024-2025



“Texas A&M strives to be a fearless leader in sustainability and to increasingly embed our commitment to respect, protect, and preserve the financial, environmental, and people resources that support our community not only for today but for future generations of Aggies.”

-Michael K. Young | President, Texas A&M University

Introduction

Sustainability is consonant with Aggie Core Values. To speak to the commitment that the Department of Residence Life has to promoting sustainable practices and encouraging students to adopt sustainable, pro-environmental behaviors as global citizens living on or off campus, the guide was created in 2009 by the Residential Housing Association. Updated annually, this guide outlines the key factors in creating a “Green Hall,” actions residents can take to create this environment, and resources available to support pro-environmental behaviors.

Help us make sustainability an Aggie tradition!

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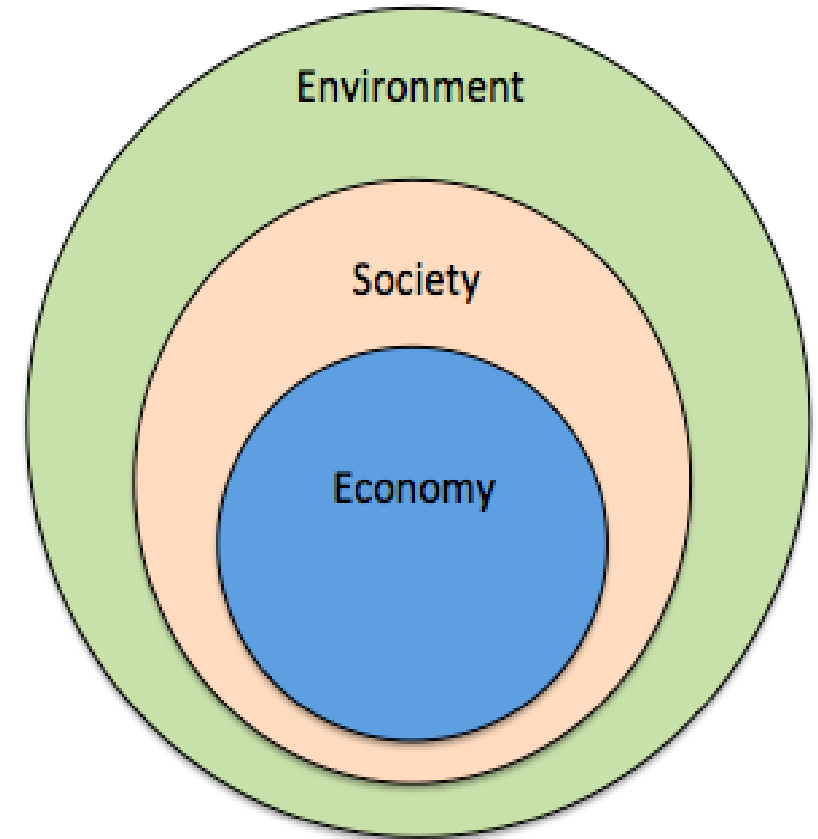
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Sustainability Defined...

Brundtland Commission (UN) in 1987

- “The ability to meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.”
- **The Triple Bottom Line**
 - Environmental (Planet)
 - Society (Person)
 - Economic (Profit)



The 3 Pillars of Sustainability

Sustainability encompasses 3 pillars and these combined create a sustainable world. A&M defines sustainability “as the efficient, deliberate and responsible preservation of environmental, social and economic resources to protect our earth for future generations.” Learn more about each pillar and what they encompass below.

Environmental (Planet) - managing our natural resources

- Reducing fossil fuel consumption
- Increased waste management and recycling
- Renewable energy promotion and development

Economic (Profit) - using resources responsibly and efficiently

- Responsible purchasing by businesses and individuals
- Financial support for research and development
- Reducing unnecessary spending
- Creating new jobs and maintaining current jobs

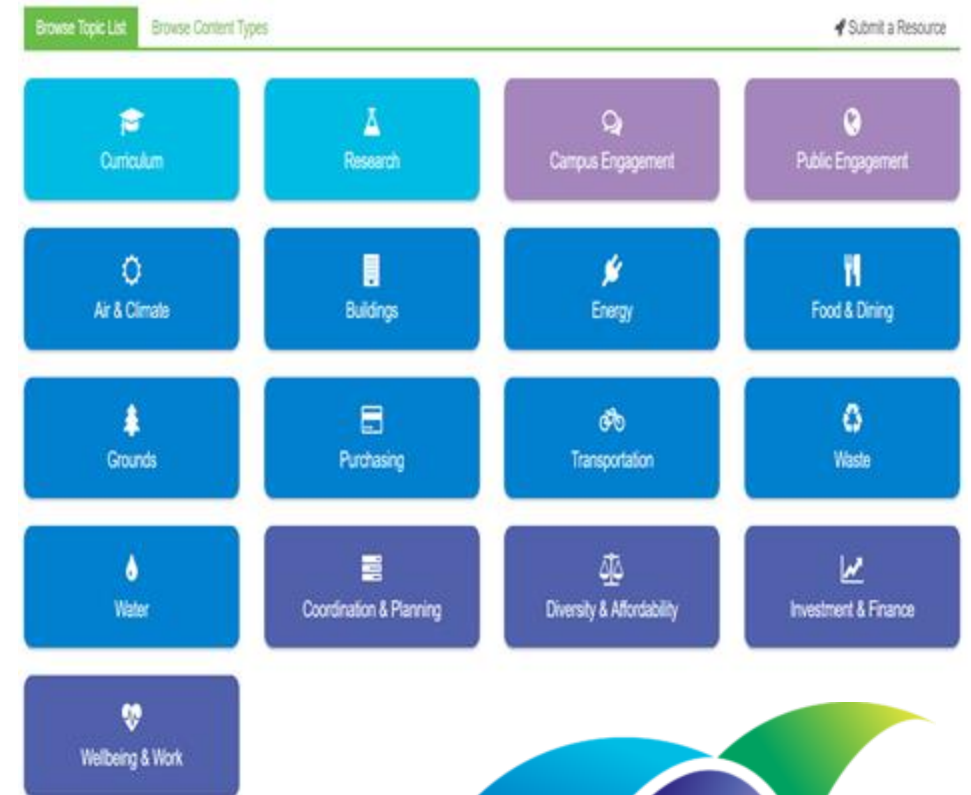
Social (People) - promoting positive social well-being for all

- Providing opportunities for all
- Providing adequate healthcare, education, and nutrition
- Developing sustainable communities



Sustainability in Higher Education

- Talloires Declaration in 1990
 - 10-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy
 - Signed by 500+ institutions across 50 countries
- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
 - Created in 2003
 - Online resource dashboard for member institutions across the globe
- Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS)
 - Program run by AASHE
 - Benchmark for institutions
 - Self-reporting measure
 - Able to see how other institutions are incorporating sustainability



What is green living?

Green living is...

- 1) Consuming less energy and natural resources
 - 2) Producing less waste and diverting more of the waste that is produced
 - 3) Reducing possible health problems
 - 4) Gaining financial savings for both the resident and the institution
- ...while enjoying quality of life.



Identifying Challenges, Partners, and Expected Outcomes

Challenges within On-Campus Housing

- 1) Energy/material consumption - facilitates infrastructure
- 2) Education/awareness of individual impacts - student engagement
- 3) Maintaining affordability while offering an excellent living-learning opportunity

Sustainability Partners

- 1) The University Administration and Faculty
- 2) Offices of Sustainability, Transportation Services, University Dining, Utilities & Energy Services, and SSC Custodial/Maintenance/Landscaping
- 3) On-campus residents and staff

Expected Outcomes

- 1) Savings in energy costs and material purchases
- 2) Increased awareness of on-campus initiatives and organizations
- 3) Reduction in negative environmental and social impacts

Why should you live green?

- **No Planet B**
 - We only have one planet that can currently sustain life. If we frivolously waste resources, what will be left for us as we get older or for future generations? Each of us must learn to live within our means and be conscious about how our choices impact the planet and our peers.
- **Quality of Life**
 - Not only is living green better for the environment, it's better for you too! For example, incorporating plants into your space improves air quality and has been shown to boost your mood and relieve stress.
- **Money, Money, Money**
 - By incorporating habits like utilizing natural light in your room, reducing single-occupant vehicle travel, and purchasing foods that are in season you're not only helping the planet, but you're also saving yourself money.
- **Good Bull**
 - As Aggies, we strive to exemplify the core values of A&M. Texas A&M is dedicated to creating well-educated Ags and a more sustainable campus.

Respect, Excellence, Leadership, Loyalty, Integrity and Selfless Service

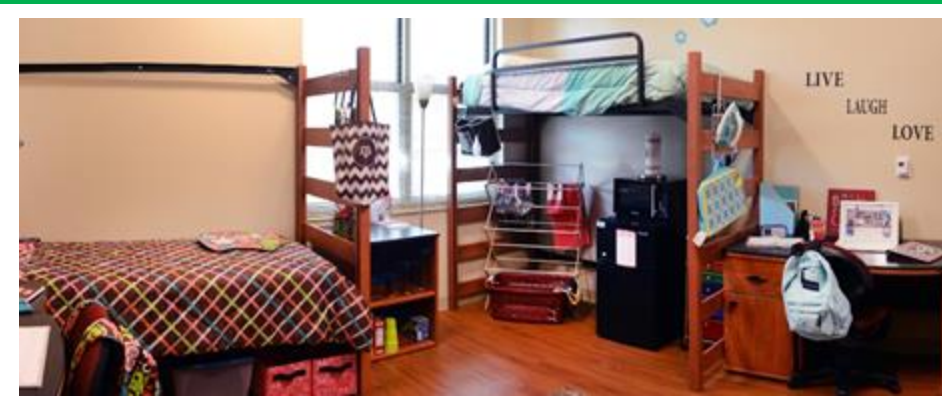
Tips for Residents

- Room

- Blackout curtains, which can be purchased at most retailers for about \$20, improve sleep and keep your room cool
- Open the blinds during the day to use natural light instead of electricity
- Seasonally appropriate bedding/pajamas (i.e. cotton for spring/summer & flannel for fall/winter)
- When looking at decorating your room, check out thrift stores for unique items for a cheaper price while saving items from the landfill

- Kitchen and Pantry

- Use reusable shopping and produce bags
- Purchase locally when possible and only buy in-season fruits and vegetables
- Put a pitcher in the fridge to filter tap water and keep it cool instead of running the faucet for cold water
 - You can also use your hall's water bottle filling stations!
- If you live in an apartment, only run a full dishwasher



Tips for Residents

- Bathroom
 - Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth
 - Just doing this saves about 4 gallons of water a day!
 - Take shorter showers
 - Use hand towels or hand dryers rather than paper towels
- Laundry
 - Wash full loads of clothes in cold water
 - Use high efficiency washers and dryers
 - Air/hang dry laundry
 - Use eco-friendly detergents
- Throughout your space
 - Use LED light bulbs and rechargeable batteries
 - Add plants that filter the air and help boost your mood
 - Use eco-friendly cleaning products
 - Plug electronics into power strips and turn them off when you leave to avoid phantom power
 - Adjust the thermostat higher in summer (75°F) and lower in winter (70°F) when you're in the room



Tips for Residents

- Engagement
 - Run to be your hall council's Eco Rep
 - Join a student organization with a focus on any of the 3 pillars of sustainability
 - Get involved with new initiatives in your hall/apartment community
 - Talk with your hall's custodial staff about how important recycling is to you
 - Get involved with service projects on campus and in the BCS community (i.e. Aggie Replant Day, BIG Event, Stream Clean, etc.)
- Academic Life
 - Buy/rent used textbooks or e-textbooks
 - Buy recycled paper/notebooks, refillable pens
 - Take notes on laptop versus paper
 - Use double sided printing



Responsible Disposal

- **Move-in**

- **Pepsi**

Pepsi is a campus partner that provides water during move-in. Not only do they provide water for volunteers and Ags, but they also collect the empty bottles to recycle after!

- **Recycling Containers**

While you move in don't throw away your recyclables! Put flattened cardboard boxes, plastics, and other recyclable packaging into a convenient, beige recycling containers provided by Brazos Valley Recycling.

- **Move-out**

- **Donate, Don't Dump**

Residence Life partners with nonprofits during move-out. Donation bins are available for residents to place their unwanted clothing and household goods.

- **Grocery Give & Grab (G3)**

Look out Residents can donate unopened, unexpired, nonperishable food and can take food from the bins as well.



Please help yourself!
But first check...

- packaging is properly sealed
- expiration date
- allergens, if applicable

Donated food items must be:

- unopened
- unexpired
- non-perishable

*Items not meeting these requirements will be disposed.

SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Peanut butter
- Crackers
- Pasta/Rice
- Canned meat or fish
- Cereal
- Breakfast bars
- Snacks
- Canned fruit
- Canned soups
- Cookies/candy

 Residence Life
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



Responsible Disposal

We know it can be difficult to know what you can/cannot recycle, as well as where to take it. To address that, we have created this guide to recycling in Aggieland!

- **What to recycle**

- **Paper/Cardboard**

White paper, newspaper, mixed paper, office paper, cardboard, clean pizza boxes, etc.

- **Plastic/Aluminum/Glass**

A&M accepts all numbers of plastic. Make sure bottles/cans have been emptied and rinsed. Glass is accepted at the recycling drop-off centers on-campus.

- **Electronic Waste**

E-waste includes items such as batteries, cords, chargers, computer mice, and similar items.

- **Inkjet and Laser Cartridges**

- **Hazardous Waste** (<https://ehs.tamu.edu/>)

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) handles hazardous waste and monitors environmental concerns within buildings and around campus.

- **Where**

- **On-Campus** (<http://utilities.tamu.edu/campus-recycling-locations/>)

- Recycling bins in your hall
- Large green recycling containers
- Recycling Drop-off Centers
 - Adriance Lab Rd.
 - Commons at Appelt Hall
 - Lot 32
 - Gardens Apartments near the Activity Center
- Residence Community Centers and 24 hour desks

- **Off-Campus**

- Brazos Valley Recycling - Hwy 60 (3 miles)
 - 8825 Stewarts Meadow, College Station, TX 77845
- Bryan Iron and Metal
 - 2011 Hwy. 21, Bryan, TX 77803
- City of College Station Public Works Dept.
 - 310 Krenek Tap Rd., College Station, TX 77840

But What About the Odd Stuff...?

- **Shoes**

Soles4Souls takes shoes in whatever condition to be passed along to others or materials recycled in partnership with Zappos. Orange/brown boxes are available outside the South Area Office in the Commons or the North Area Office in Hullabaloo.

- **Malleable Plastic Film**

Trex is a company headquartered in Winchester, VA. They produce composite decking and outdoor furniture made from 95% recycled wood and plastic film. You can learn more by going to the Trex Eco-Friendly Decking website (<https://www.trex.com/why-trex/eco-friendly-decking/>).

- **E-waste (Electronic Waste)**

Electronic Waste (e-waste) like cords, or computer mice, and headphones can be donated to a computer repair training program. Those containers are in the Commons and Hullabaloo for your convenience.



Residence Life Events and Programs

- **The Utilities Challenge (U-Challenge)**

The Utilities Challenge provides students the unique opportunity to gain access to data about residence halls at Texas A&M. Students will use this information, as well as the expertise of the staff from Utilities & Energy Services (UES) and the Department of Residence Life, to learn about the current proficiency of buildings and propose ways to increase the buildings' efficiency and student engagement.

- **Sustainability Living Learning Community**

The purpose of the Sustainability LLC (abbreviated as SA – Sustainable Aggies) is to connect students from all majors and classifications who share an interest in learning more about sustainability globally and how to live a more sustainable lifestyle now and in the future. SA is dedicated to promoting sustainability through educating residents and showing them the power of collective individual actions. Activities and programs for SA will incorporate at least one of the three pillars of sustainability (economic, environmental, and social).



Residence Life Events and Programs

- **Fall Sustainability Dinner & Awards**

The goal of the Residence Life sustainability awards is to reward Aggies with a sense of achievement for their efforts in facilitating sustainable education and habits in TAMU's residence halls. Go to <https://reslife.tamu.edu/residence-life-sustainability-awards/> for more information.

- **Grant Writing Help**

Have an idea for an Aggie Green Fund grant, but don't know where to start? Email sustainability@reslife.tamu.edu and the Sustainability Coordinator will connect you to help!



Energy Conservation and You

Did you know your electronics still consume energy even when they are turned off? That is called vampire energy. Follow the tips below to reduce your energy consumption and get rid of the vampires in your life!

1. Plug devices into a power strip and turn the strip off when not in use
2. Set your laptop standby settings to energy efficient
3. Be smart about upgrading your devices with more energy efficient ones
4. Turn in maintenance requests via Aggie Works in a timely manner if there are leaks or room temperature isn't comfortable
5. When leaving a room, be sure to turn off the lights. We even have handy stickers like the one to the right to remind you!
6. Power down devices when not in use rather than pausing them or leaving them in standby mode
7. Did you know combination mini-fridges and microwaves are more energy efficient than using two separate appliances? Better yet, you can rent one while you're living on campus! (<https://reslife.tamu.edu/living/amenities/add-ons/>)



Student and Campus Entities for Sustainability*

- Take the Sustainability Pledge created by the Office of Sustainability. You'll be surprised at how many sustainable behaviors you already do!
 - <http://sustainability.tamu.edu/take-the-pledge.aspx>
- Get involved with sustainability initiatives
 - Aggie Eco-Representatives
 - Aggie Green Fund
 - Aggie Replant
 - Environmental Health and Safety
 - Environmental Issues Committee
 - Howdy Farm
 - Project Clean Plate with Chartwells
 - The 12th Can



The next few slides outline what these various entities do on campus.

*Please keep in mind that there are many campus entities that promote sustainability. This is only a shortened list to show you the wide variety of organizations A&M has. More can be found by searching keywords like “sustainable” or “environmental” on MaroonLink.

Sustainability Initiatives



Aggie Eco Reps (AER)

- **Purpose Statement:** Providing students with the education and opportunity to promote and continue sustainability.
- Eco Reps are elected to each hall council
- Host a wide range of events and resource tables throughout the year
- Students can request diverse programs and bulletin boards from the AER to educate their hall or organization about sustainability



Sustainability Initiatives

Aggie Green Fund (AGF)

- Grant-making organization for sustainability projects
- Awarded roughly \$1.7 million to over 60 projects since 2011
- Applications for micro- and major-grants available
- AGF Advisory committee is made up of student and faculty/staff representatives
- <http://greenfund.tamu.edu/>



Made possible with a grant from the Aggie Green Fund.

Past Projects Include:

- Water bottle filling stations
- Launched the Aggie Eco Reps
- Howdy Farm
- Hand dryers
- Recycling containers
- Green bike lanes
- Water efficient showerheads in bathrooms

Residence Life has received multiple AGF grants including water bottle filling stations in all residence halls, light switch stickers, recycling containers in halls, and programmable power strips for residents.

Sustainability Initiatives

Aggie Replant

- **Mission:** Aggie Replant is a student-run, environmental service organization that unites Aggies and the community through selfless service during our annual Replant Day, which brings hundreds of students together to plant trees in the Bryan and College Station area during the fall term.
- Replant Day is “one of the largest student-run, environmental service projects in the nation”
- Created in 1991 by Aggie Scott Hantman to offset the amount of trees being cut down for Bonfire
- Dues are \$40/year or \$25/semester
- <https://replant.tamu.edu/>



Sustainability Initiatives

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

- **Mission:** Environmental Health and Safety supports and enriches Texas A&M University by providing quality programs and services that instill safety, health, and environmental stewardship.
- Hosts the annual Stream Clean in the fall where volunteers work to clean the streams on campus
- <https://ehs.tamu.edu/>



Sustainability Initiatives

The Urban Howdy Farm

- **Mission:** Grow healthy food and community, and to connect the two through experiential learning, interdisciplinary research, and promoting sustainable agriculture.
- They sell their produce at the Brazos Valley Farmer's market from 8am-12pm on Saturdays
- Check them out and sign-up to volunteer at <http://tamuhowdyfarm.weebly.com/>



Sustainability Initiatives

Project Clean Plate

- **Goal:** To encourage students to reduce food waste within the campus dining system
- Happens once a semester for 3 consecutive days during lunch hours at one of the all-you-care-to-eat dining facilities like Sbisa
 - Food is weighed on a scale as students come to deposit their plates in a dining facility.
 - Food waste totals are tracked and placed on a graph near the scale
 - The Aggie Eco-Reps assist Chartwells in collecting and weighing food scraps



Sustainability Initiatives

The 12th Can Food Pantry

- *“Our goal is to eliminate hunger at Texas A&M, bring awareness to food insecurity in college communities, and show others the power of the Aggie spirit.”*
- Pantry located on campus in the Mail Services building on Agronomy Rd.
- Serves all students, faculty, & staff in need of assistance



Sustainability throughout the Year*

Fall Semester

August

- Recycling collection in designated bins during move-in

September

- AGF grant applications open

October - Campus Sustainability Month

- Aggie Replant Day
- Campus Sustainability Day
- Stream Clean

November

- Sustainability Dinner/Dinner with a Prof
- Texas Recycles Day

December

- Donate, Don't Dump
- AGF major grant abstracts due
- AGF major grant full applications open

Spring Semester

January

- U-Challenge Applications Live

February

- U-Challenge Applications Close
- AGF major grant full applications due and recipients announced

March

- AGF micro-grant applications close

April

- Earth Day
- EIC Earth Week
- Brazos Valley Earth Day

May

- Donate, Don't Dump! during move-out

Contact Information

Faculty & Staff Contacts

Texas A&M Department of Residence Life
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979-862-3158 | carolb@reslife.tamu.edu

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Kenya Reeves, Sustainability Coordinator
979-862-3158 | kenya_reeves@reslife.tamu.edu

Texas A&M Office of Sustainability
Kelly Wellman, Director
979-845-1911 | kwellman@tamu.edu

Utilities & Energy Services
Taylor Cooleen, Solid Waste Minimization Specialist
tcooleen@tamu.edu

Resources & References

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut St. | Suite 102 | Philadelphia, PA 19103
888-347-9997 | info@aashe.org

Department of Residence Life - Sustainability
979-862-3158 | <http://reslife.tamu.edu/living/sustainability/sustainability@reslife.tamu.edu>

Residence Life Organizational Contacts

Aggie Eco-Reps (AER)
MK Futrell, 2024-2025 President
aer-president@reslife.tamu.edu

Residential Housing Association
Riley Pritzlaff, 2024-2025 President
rha-president@reslife.tamu.edu

National Residence Hall Honorary
Genevieve Snider, 2024-2025 President
nrhh-president@reslife.tamu.edu

Social Media

Connect with Residence Life Sustainability! Follow us on our social media platforms below and use **#AggiesGoingGreen** to show us your sustainable actions!

Instagram: [@TAMUReslife](https://www.instagram.com/TAMUReslife)

Facebook: [@TAMUResidencelife](https://www.facebook.com/TAMUResidencelife)