



Residential Housing
ASSOCIATION



Residence Life
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Texas A&M University On-Campus Living Sustainability Guide

Prepared for the Division of Student Affairs by the **Residential Housing Association**
and **Residence Life Graduate Assistant Sustainability Coordinator**
2019-2020



“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

With the mandate of a sustainable campus and using A&M as a living-learning lab under Texas A&M President Michael K Young; the Residential Housing Association (RHA) and the GA Sustainability Coordinator of the Department of Residence Life felt the need to create a sustainability guide for the halls. We all must become more aware of the actions we as individuals, and Aggies, can take to help ensure that our impact on the environment is positive.

This guide, originally created in 2009 and updated this year, will outline the key factors in creating a “Green Hall”, and what actions residents can take to create this environment.

Help us make sustainability an Aggie tradition!

Kristianna Bowles '19

Graduate Assistant Sustainability Coordinator
Department of Residence Life
Texas A&M University

Kyle Gage '20

Vice President of Sustainability
Residential Housing Association | 45th Session
Texas A&M University

Guide Contents

- I. The 3 Pillars of Sustainability
- II. What is Green Living?
- III. Identifying Challenges, Partners, and Expected Outcomes
- IV. Why should you live green?
- V. Tips for Residents
- VI. Responsible Disposal
- VII. But What About the Odd Stuff...?
- VIII. Energy Conservation and You
- IX. Student and Campus Entities for Sustainability
- X. Sustainability Initiatives
- XI. Sustainability throughout the Year
- XII. Residence Life Sustainability Partners
- XIII. Residence Life Consumption Data
- XIV. Residence Life Resources
- XV. Contact Information
- XVI. Texas A&M Environmental Policy
- XVII. Residential Housing Association (RHA) Overview, Mission, and Vision
- XVIII. Guide Team Members

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

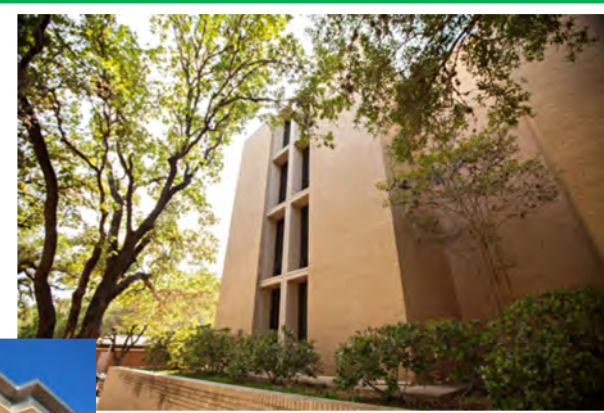
- Providing equal opportunities for all
- Access to adequate healthcare, education, and nutrition
- Promoting diversity and inclusion in all sectors of life
- Develop sustainable communities



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

Sustainability Partners

- 1) The University President, The Vice President of Student Affairs, Board of Directors
- 2) Transportation, Dining, Utility & Energy Services, and SSC Custodial/Maintenance
- 3) On-campus residents, who consume energy and materials

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.

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 summer/spring & flannel for 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 a reusable shopping bag
- 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 or 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 which 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
- 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 and they provide water during move-in. Not only do they provide water for volunteers and Ags, they even collect the empty bottles to recycle after!

- **Cardboard Corral**

While you move in don't throw away your cardboard boxes. Put flattened boxes in the designated cardboard corrals near your hall so they can be recycled.

- **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)**

Bins are placed at all hall 24 hour desks and Study Spectacular locations. Residents are able to 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

*Donations 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

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.

- **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

- **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...?

- **Best Buy (805 S. Texas Ave.)**
 - Cell phones, Batteries, TVs, Electronics, & Appliances
- **Brazos Valley Farmers Market (500 N. Main St.)**
 - Egg cartons and glass jars
- **Bryan Iron and Metal (2011 W. Hwy 21)**
 - Steels, electronics, appliances, computers
 - Buys and sells scrap metal in various forms
- **UPS Store (1511 S. Texas Ave.)**
 - Bubble wrap and packaging peanuts

TAMU IT hosts annual e-waste drives on campus. This provides you the opportunity to discard broken/old electronics in a safe and environmentally responsible way. Be on the lookout for this year's dates via email and social media.

Check out this handy link for more info: <https://utilities.tamu.edu/community-recycling-locations/>



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/>)
8. Do you live in Krueger, Lechner, or McFadden? If so, you can get a programmable power strip from your hall office to use in your room!



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
- <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

Environmental Issues Committee (EIC)

- **Mission:** As a representative of Texas A&M, we actively strive to provide and support: programs which enhance environmental education and awareness, programs which reduce the community's impact on the environment, and sound environmental legislation on and off campus, in order to improve quality of life.
- Committee within the Student Government Association (SGA)
- Coordinates A&M's annual Earth Week in April
- Dues are \$30/year or \$20/semester with meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 8:30 pm
- <http://tamueic.wixsite.com/home>



Sustainability Initiatives

Howdy Farm

- **Mission:** Grow healthy food and community, and to connect the two through experiential learning, interdisciplinary research, and promoting sustainable agriculture.
- Sustainable farm on campus created in 2009
- Managed by the Sustainability Agriculture Student Association (SASA)
- 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 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
 - 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

- Cardboard collection in designated corrals during move-in

September

- AGF grant applications open

October

- Aggie Replant Day
- Campus Sustainability Day
- Stream Clean

November

- Sustainability Dinner/Dinner with a Prof
- Texas Recycles Day
- Trex Plastic Film Challenge Begins

December

- 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
- Trex Plastic Film Challenge Ends

May

- Donate, Don't Dump! and Grocery Give & Grab during move-out

Residence Life Sustainability Partners

Check out the websites and social media accounts of our partners in making sustainability an Aggie tradition.

Office of Sustainability

<http://sustainability.tamu.edu>

<https://twitter.com/sustainabletamu?lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/sustainableTAMU/>

<https://www.instagram.com/sustainabletamu/?hl=en>

Department of Multicultural Services

<dms.tamu.edu>

<https://twitter.com/dmstamu>

<https://www.facebook.com/dmstamu/>

<https://www.instagram.com/dmstamu/>

Facilities Services (SSC)

<https://facilities.tamu.edu/sustainability/>

Sustainability & Environmental Management Committee

<semc.tamu.edu>

Environmental Health and Safety

<ehsd.tamu.edu>

https://twitter.com/tamu_safety?lang=en

<https://www.facebook.com/TAMUEHS/>

Transportation Services

<transport.tamu.edu>

<http://transport.tamu.edu/About/connect.aspx>

Brazos Valley Recycling

www.brazosvalleyrecycling.com

<https://twitter.com/bvrecycling>

<https://www.facebook.com/BrazosValleyRecycling/>

Utilities & Energy Services

<utilities.tamu.edu>

Dining Services

www.dineoncampus.com/tamu

<https://twitter.com/aggiedining>

<https://www.facebook.com/aggiedining>

<https://www.instagram.com/aggiedining/>

Residential Housing Association (RHA)

www.tamurha.com

https://twitter.com/tamu_rha

<https://www.facebook.com/TAMURHA>

https://www.instagram.com/tamu_rha/

The 12th Can Food Pantry

www.the12thcan.org

<https://twitter.com/the12thcantamu>

<https://www.facebook.com/The12thCanTAMU>

Aggie Eco Representatives (AER)

www.aggiecoreps.com

<https://twitter.com/aggiecoreps>

<https://www.facebook.com/aggiecoreps/>

<https://www.instagram.com/aggiecoreps/>

The Howdy Farm

tamuhowdyfarm.weebly.com

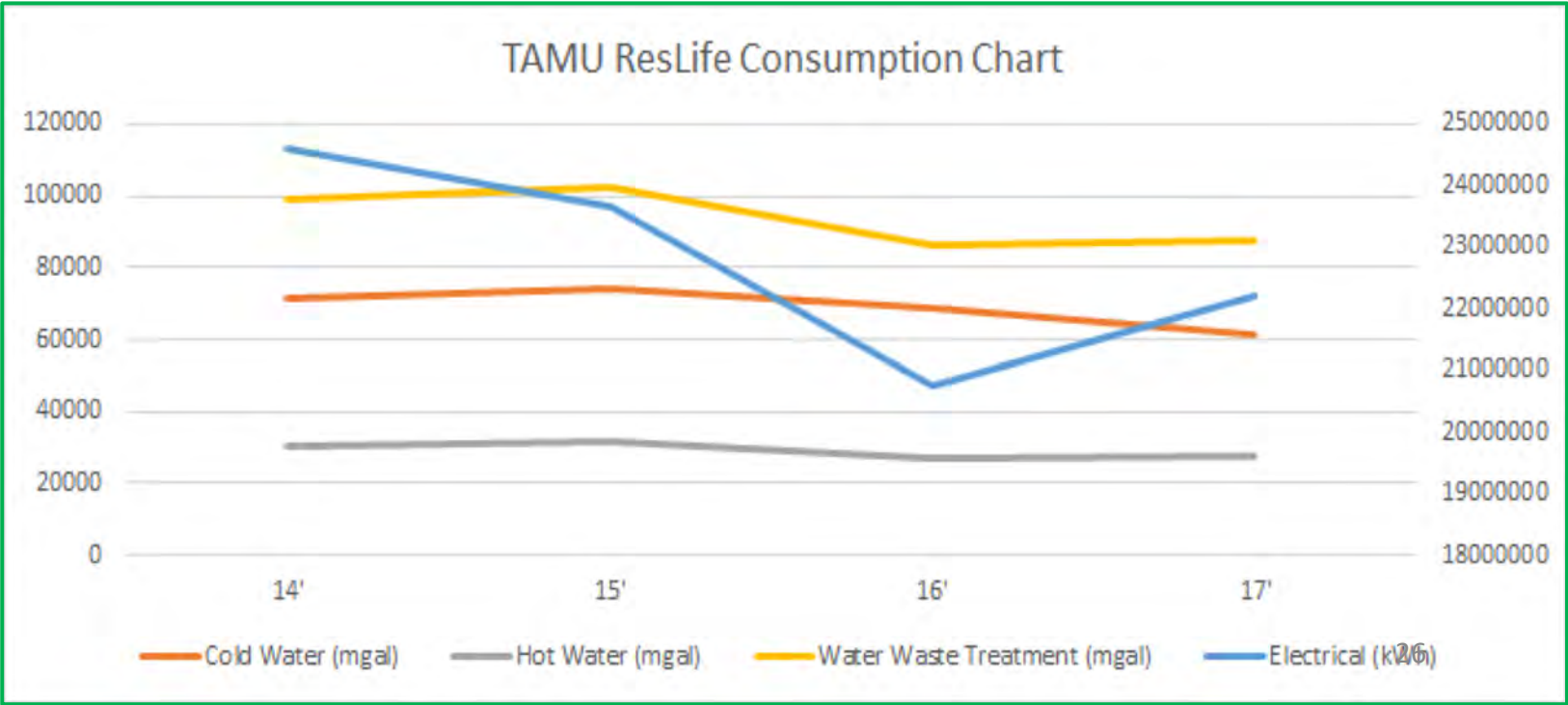
<https://twitter.com/howdyfarm>

<https://www.facebook.com/tamuhowdyfarm>

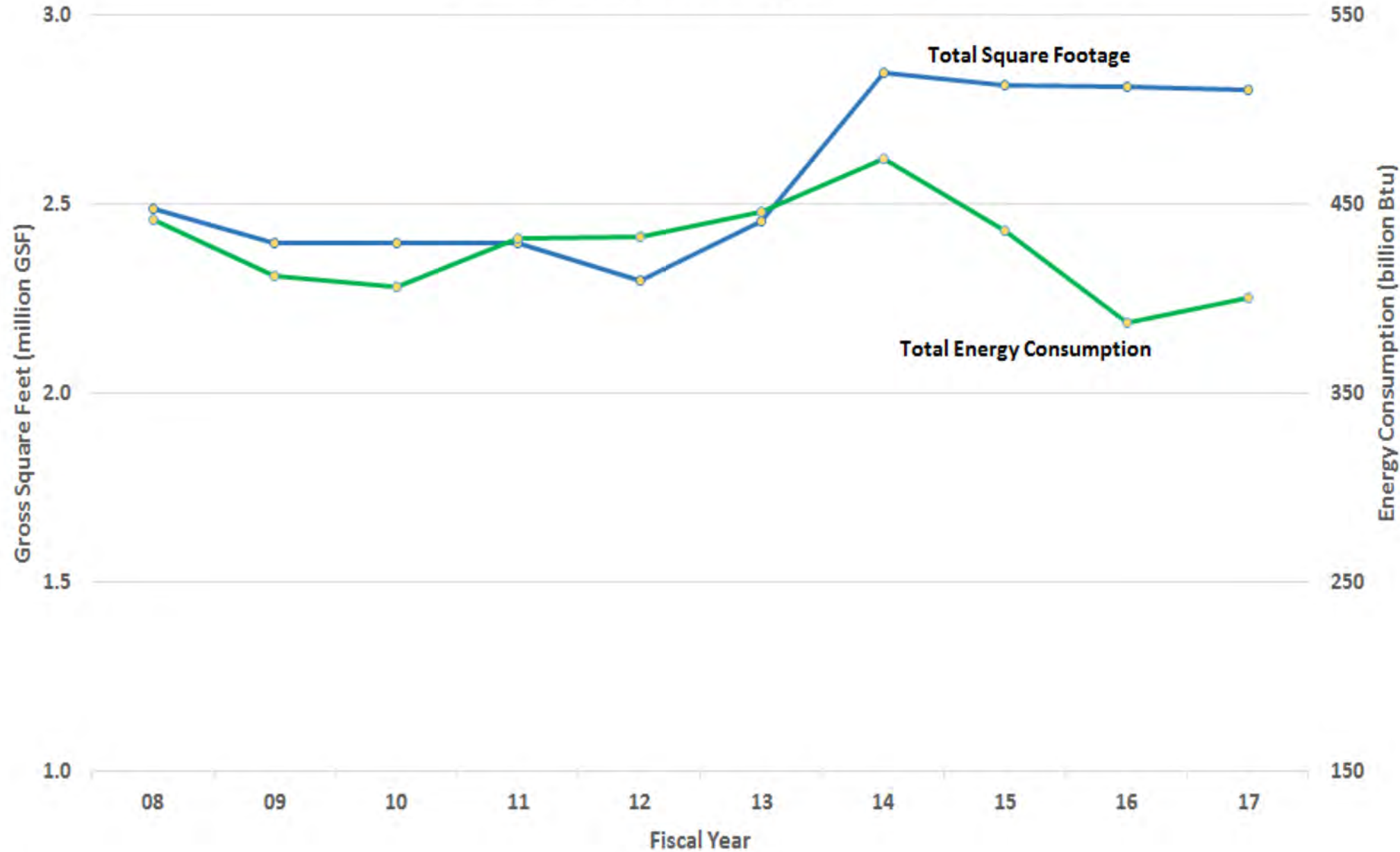
Residence Life's Consumption

Shown are graphs depicting energy and water consumed by Residence Life as well as the waste produced by Residence Life facilities during each fiscal year.

These graphs were produced by UES Energy Stewards for educational purposes.



Residence Halls Size vs Energy Consumption



We are happy to report that despite our residential space increasing our total energy consumption has plummeted. Way to go, Ags!

Residence Life Resources

- **Sustainability Newsletter**

Each month, Residence Life puts out a new Sustainability Newsletter. Themes vary month to month and have covered sustainable conferences, recycling, and self-care during finals.

- **Sustainability Calendar**

There are always sustainability-related programs and events happening around campus. Residence Life adds these events to the Upcoming Events calendar as they become aware of them.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Books, Clothes, & Shoes Drive	2 Books, Clothes, & Shoes Drive	3 Books, Clothes, & Shoes Drive 12th Can Food Pantry 10:00	4 Books, Clothes, & Shoes Drive 12th Can Food Pantry 10:00	5 Books, Clothes, & Shoes Drive	6 Books, Clothes, & Shoes Drive
7	8	9 Allies Advance Workshop 5:30 Green Dot Bystander Training	10 Culture Club Dinner 6:00 pm	11	12	13
14	15 Sustainability Talks 2:00 pm	16	17 12th Can Food Pantry 10:00 Sustainability Talks 2:00 pm	18 12th Can Food Pantry 10:00	19	20
21	22 Swipe Out Hunger 10:00 am	23 Swipe Out Hunger 10:00 am	24 Swipe Out Hunger 10:00 am STAND Up Workshop 5:30 pm	25 Swipe Out Hunger 10:00 am	26 Swipe Out Hunger 10:00 am	27
28	29	30				

- **Sustainable Staff Picks**

Knowledge is gained through various types of media, including movies, documentaries, and books. Residence Life staff have picked out some of their favorites to share with residents. Check them out and let us know your favorites by emailing sustainability@housing.tamu.edu or messaging the Aggies Going Green Facebook page.

- **Grant Writing Help**

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

Residence Life
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

UES Recycling Services
December 2017 - Issue 3

Ever wondered what makes Texas A&M tick? Utilities and Energy Services has been producing energy for campus since 1893. Not only does UES supply power to campus, they also handle recycling on campus. Recycling Services began in 1990 as a pilot project in 6 just campus buildings. This pilot focused on white paper and aluminum, but has since expanded to cover a wide array of recyclable materials. They began a partnership with Brazos Valley Recycling in 2010 which has allowed A&M to recycle non-traditional materials such as construction/demolition debris, concrete, manure, tree/brush trimmings, and animal bedding. UES and Residence Life work together to help make recycling as easy and straightforward as possible for students. They also partner for the Spring U-Challenge where students research utility consumption in residence halls. Be on the look-out next semester for the U-Challenge application email!

Tons	FY11	FY17	Difference
Campus Recycling	9,080	20,507	+ 13,427
Campus Landfill	9,110	7,987	-1,123
Diversion Rate	49.9%	72.3%	+ 22.4%

Year-Round Recycling Projects

- Move-in Cardboard Collection** → Cardboard corrals set up outside of residence halls by UES Recycling Services during move-in week in the Fall
- Texas Aggies Recycle Day** → UES Recycling Services organizes this campus-wide event to observe America Recycles Day during the Fall Semester
- Brazos Valley Earth Day** → celebrates and promotes environmental programs/services in the community during the Spring Semester

Items You Can Recycle On Campus

- White Paper
- Newspaper
- Office Paper
- Mixed Paper
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Ink Jet/Laser Cartridges
- Aluminum Cans
- Plastic (all numbers)

UTILITIES & ENERGY SERVICES
RECYCLING SERVICES

Previous Month's Highlights

- 4th Annual Sustainability Dinner
- Texas Recycles Day
- Texas Arbor Day

Get in Contact with Us!

Email: sustainability@housing.tamu.edu
 Instagram: Texas A&M Residence Life
 Facebook: Aggies Going Green
 Twitter: @TAMUResLife

Want to get our newsletter emailed directly to you?
 Email sustainability@housing.tamu.edu to learn more!

Want to learn more? Check out the UES website at utilities.tamu.edu!

You can tour the Central Utility Plant! Email ues@theplant@tamu.edu to schedule your Friday afternoon tour!

Events in December:
 12/18 and 12/19 - Green Dot & STAND Up Workshops
*Specific and additional events can be found at reslife.tamu.edu/News/sustainability/

Residence Life Events and Programs

- **Trex Plastic Film Challenge**

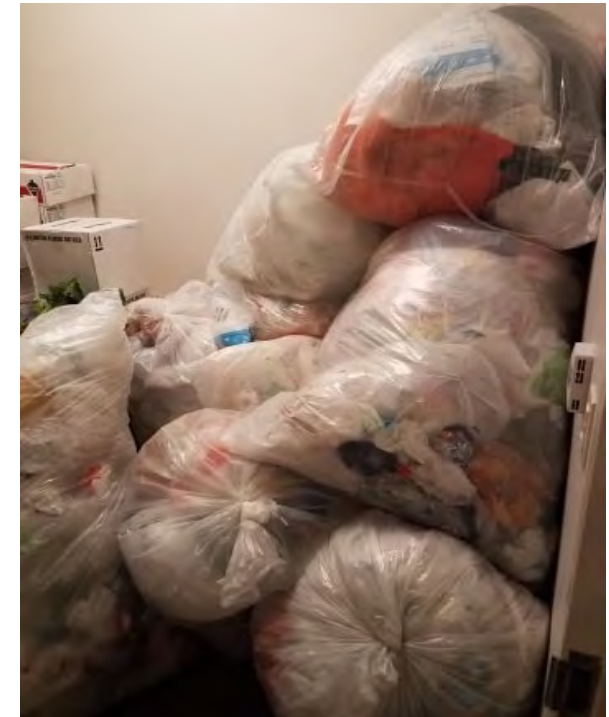
Aggies are challenged to collect at least 500 pounds of plastic film (i.e. Ziploc bags, grocery bags, etc.) within a six month time period. Last year, Aggies collected over 700 lbs. of plastic from November to April. Help us beat that record this year!

- **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).



Contact Information

Faculty & Staff Contacts

Texas A&M Office of Sustainability

Kelly Wellman, Director
979-845-1911 | kwellman@tamu.edu

Texas A&M Recycling

Thomas Marshall, Recycling Coordinator
tmarshall@tamu.edu

Texas A&M Department of Residence Life

Dr. Carol Binzer, Director of Administrative and Support Services
979-862-3158 | carolb@housing.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@housing.tamu.edu>

Residence Life Organizational Contacts

Residential Housing Association

Bria Perkins, 47th Session President (2019-2020)
rha-president@housing.tamu.edu

Texas A&M Department of Residence Life

Kristianna Bowles, Graduate Assistant Sustainability Coordinator
979-862-3158 | kristiannab@housing.tamu.edu

Aggie Eco Reps (AER)

Dezarae Harden, 2019-2020 President
president.aggieecoreps@gmail.com

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

Facebook: Aggies Going Green

Instagram: tamureslife

Twitter: TAMU Res Life

Several A&M presidents, including President Young, have shown their dedication to promoting sustainability in Aggieland. The Texas A&M Environmental Policy, created by the Sustainability and Environmental Management Committee (SEMC), outlines commitments the university has to reduce our negative environmental impacts.


Texas A&M Environmental Policy

At Texas A&M University, we commit to sustainable practices that protect our assets; respect the health, safety and well-being of our community; provide strict accountability for the natural resources entrusted to Texas A&M and enhance environmental awareness and action.

In order to minimize adverse environmental impacts, we commit to:

- Reducing the generation of wastes and encourage reuse and recycling;
- Encouraging the purchase of renewable, reusable, recyclable and recycled materials;
- Reducing risks associated with the storage and disposal of hazardous substances;
- Supporting sustainability education and outreach
- Providing a forum for open communication on environmental issues as well as setting and reviewing related objectives and targets.

Respect. Protect. Preserve.


Michael K. Young, President

A PDF of the latest policy can be found at <https://semc.tamu.edu/media/1203477/2016%20Environmental%20Policy.pdf>

Residential Housing Association (RHA)

Organizational Overview:

The Texas A&M University Residential Housing Association (RHA) was started in 1972 as the Residence Hall Association, it was later changed to become more inclusive for our growing diverse ways of living on campus. Students who live on campus and are not a part of the Corps of Cadets are automatically members of the Residential Housing Association. We serve as an “umbrella organization” to Community Councils and other on-campus engagement organizations. As the umbrella organization, we provide financial support, developmental opportunities, and activities for all communities across campus. We believe in providing opportunities that challenge and supports all facets of its membership. In addition, we thrive on the diversity within its organization because of its known and experienced benefits. This means reaching beyond stereotypical views of individuals and using the strengths and different perspectives that each person offers as a result of his or her culture, religion, ethnicity, gender, race, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and age. The executive team will reflect the individual diversity of the campus and will embrace the value that each individual brings to any task.

Mission Statement:

The Texas A&M University Residential Housing Association (RHA) is a representative organization that empowers on-campus residents to play an active role in campus communities through service, educational and social programming, and leadership opportunities. In addition, RHA enacts change through legislation and advocates on behalf of residents with the ultimate goal of making the campus communities of Texas A&M University a more united community.

Vision Statement:

We as the Residential Housing Association strive to represent the concerns of on-campus students, seeks to preserve the spirit and traditions of on-campus housing through building community in and among the residence halls by providing opportunity for intellectual, cultural, social and leadership development.



Above: RHA 45th Session Executive Team with Director of Residence Life, Chareny Rydl.

On-Campus Living Sustainability Guide Team



Kyle Gage

Vice President of Sustainability
45th Session | Residential Housing Association



Kristianna Bowles

Graduate Assistant Sustainability Coordinator
Department of Residence Life