

Go Green

Here's How to Make Your Chapter Green



Why should you care about Sustainability?

1. There is a shrinking supply of raw materials and building supplies
2. We need to ensure we are meeting the needs of the present generation without comprising the future generation's ability to meet their own needs
3. Money, Money, Money! Sustainability contributes to the bottom line.

The first and easiest step is to change your behavior!

Do you want to become a GREEN Chapter but are unsure of how to proceed?

Follow these steps to reduce your Chapter's environmental footprint. The bold words are your keys to success!

1. Create a written plan for your chapter's Green initiatives for the next three years that can be passed on to future House Managers. This will ensure the continuation of your efforts!
2. Allocate funds and create a budget for the green initiatives in your plan.
3. Approach changes from an early adopter perspectives and understand why your chapter and its members should be changing their behavior. Communicate this knowledge to the entire chapter.
4. Educate your members about your plan, the budget, and communicate to them their role in making sure that the chapter's plan works
5. Be aware of upcoming environmentally friendly trends and technology
6. Keep records of what you are doing so you have the hard numbers to prove your success. Make sure to celebrate your successes! (documentation)

Continuity, Awareness, Documentation, Understanding and Communication are keys to your chapter's success towards becoming Green

Encourage the members of your chapter change their behavior by utilizing the following tips!

Reduce Water Consumption by ...

- Take shorter showers – even two minutes can make a big difference
- Don't flush the toilet at unnecessary times
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your hands and only leave it running when you need it.

Reduce Energy Use by ...

- Turn off lights when you leave a room unoccupied
- Appliances and electronics still use power when they are not on, so unplug them or turn off the power strip they are plugged into when they are not being used
- Use energy efficient light bulbs and appliances



Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions by ...

- Carpool with other chapter members to events
- Use public transportation when available
- Bike or walk to places that are close
- Buy local produce and products that have not had to travel far to get to you

Reduce Paper Usage by ...

- Re-use paper that you have around your room to wrap gifts. If you don't feel like using the comics, give gifts in bags which can be re-used or put your gift in a canvas bag that can be used for daily use as well!
- Use online banking to reduce the amount of paper used for statements, paychecks, and bills.
- Use electronic communications instead of flyers for advertisements

Here are some additional tips you can use to reduce your footprint on our environment!

- Use cleaners with less harmful chemicals that are still effective for cleaning your chapter house. Method and Seventh Generation are two companies who carry green cleaning products, but if you can not afford these with your chapter budget, use natural cleaning products such as lemons, baking soda, and vinegar.
- Buy food in bulk
- With ongoing maintenance, go green when you make replacements
- Purchase and encourage others to use recycled products. For example buy refillable pens that can be refilled with inserts and think of ways you can reuse items that you have around the chapter house.
- Follow the procedures for closing provided by Housing and Greek Life. These are designed to save energy during breaks!
- Support environmental companies by using their products and services. For example, use professional food service personal that support sustainability. In addition buy products from companies, such as General Electric, Honda, S.C. Johnson, Hewlett-Packard, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and Chipotle, who are all taking steps to become green.
- Negotiate the chapter's utilities if you chapter does not have university owned housing
- Collect plastic bags from chapter members and take them to a place that will recycle them (i.e. The Giant Eagle on Mayfield Rd.)

- The more that is broken the greater the global impact. Take care of your items and facilities, and reuse! Communicate to members that when you replace anything broken with a green replacement they will be paying for the extra cost
- Use the dishwasher less since they have the greatest environmental impact of anything in the kitchen
- Do not use paper plates and plastic cups, whenever possible
- Focus on your windows because a lot of energy can be lost. Make sure windows stay close
- Mold control is up and coming issue, keep areas clean to avoid mold growth
- Use landscaping that is native to the area and use professionals that are green
- Screensavers continue to use electricity so switch your computer to an energy save mode if you are not going to turn it off right away
- Wash your clothes in cold water. It cleans your day to day clothes just as well as hot water and it saves the energy that would be used to create hot water
- Buy a filter for the chapter, and reusable water bottles instead of buying bottle water. This will cut down on the waste created by plastic bottles, and save you money
- Buy rechargeable batteries that can be recycled once they are used up. Alkaline batteries cannot be recycled and are typically end up in hazardous waste landfills

At Case you CAN Recycle!

Here's a list of material that Case will recycle for you.

- Plastic
- Paper – white and mixed fiber
- Aluminum
- Glass
- Cardboard
- Electronic or E-waste (computers, video cameras, TVs, phones, etc)



All you need to do to recycle materials at your chapter house is ensure that members are placing items in the correct blue recycle bins located within your house.

If you do not have blue recycle bins in your house please contact Mark Starr, the Assistant Director of Greek Life, at 216.368.8523 or by email at mark.starr@case.edu.