

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

GREEN 

to go



A pocket guide to
reducing the cost of living—
on your budget and
the environment!

What Is Green U?

THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI is deeply committed to reducing its impact on the environment. Green U is the culmination of all efforts to increase sustainability throughout the University while educating the community to be stewards of the environment. From transportation solutions to recycling programs, public-awareness campaigns to research initiatives, Green U is helping the University of Miami grow greener every day. Every step you take to reduce waste and conserve water, electricity, and fuel propels the Green U Mission.

 **Reduce** **Reuse** **Recycle**

Between 1960 and 2007, the amount of waste each person creates has nearly doubled. The best way to save natural resources and protect the environment is to reduce the trash you throw away, reuse containers and products, and recycle as much as possible.

Before you throw something out, think about who could use it. Donate your old clothes, and give old furniture to a friend.

When you must dispose of something, find out if it's recyclable. The Green U Web site has great information about recycle locations and what you can and can't recycle. Recycled products can become carpet, backpacks, shirts, bottles, and more, which is good for the economy as well as the environment.

Any bin contamination can ruin the recycled material, increasing costs for the University and sending valuable materials to a landfill. So be sure you understand the labeling on the bin in which you are placing your recyclables.

ONLINE 'GREEN' RESOURCES

Green U:
www.miami.edu/greenu

Environmental Student Groups:
www.miami.edu/volunteer-services

Energy-Efficient Devices:
www.energystar.gov

City of Miami Office of Sustainable Initiatives:
www.miamigov.com/msi/pages

South Florida Commuter Services:
www.1800234ride.com

Sustainable Seafood:
www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/seafoodwatch.aspx

GO EASY ON THE ENERGY

Power it down

How: Unplug computers and other electronics when not in use. Even chargers still plugged into the wall draw power.

Fact: One desktop computer left on all day for one year can result in more than 1,500 pounds of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere.

Switch over and out

How: Turn off the lights when not in use. Select energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances.

Fact: Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to ten times longer. Government-approved Energy Star devices also help conserve resources.

Turn it up

How: Raising your thermostat by a degree or two can save lots of money and energy. In nice weather, open your windows and doors instead of running the A/C.

Fact: Each degree you raise your thermostat lowers your cooling bill by about 5%.

Take charge

How: Use rechargeable batteries.

Fact: Americans throw away 125,000 tons of batteries per year. For each kilowatt-hour of power, non-rechargeable batteries have up to 32 times greater the impact on the environment than rechargeables.

Cut the junk

How: Take yourself off of mailing lists, and opt out of catalogs that you can view online instead.

Fact: More than 100 million trees are destroyed each year to produce junk mail. Creating and shipping junk mail produces more greenhouse gas emissions than 9 million cars.

Double down

How: Print only when necessary. If you must print, use both sides of the paper.

Fact: 42% of timber harvested nationwide becomes pulpwood for paper.

BE WATER WISE

Waste not

How: Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving, take shorter showers, and turn down the heat to conserve both energy and water.

Fact: Every minute you shower uses about 5 gallons of water.

Fill 'er up

How: Fill up your laundry machine and dishwasher to avoid multiple washes. Use cold water to save energy.

Fact: Hot water uses 90 percent more energy per load than cold water in most washing machines.

Garden smarter

How: Plant native species instead of nonnative ones to eliminate or significantly reduce the need for fertilizers, pesticides, water, and lawn maintenance equipment.

Fact: Lawn irrigation accounts for as much as 30% of water consumption in urban areas on the East Coast and up to 60% on the West Coast.



What You Can Do for GREEN U

Whether you are at home, on campus, or in transit, here's what you can do to help the Green U mission

GREEN IN MOTION

Step it up

How: Take the stairs and get some exercise to boot!

Fact: Over the course of a year, one elevator can produce the emissions of more than three cars on the road.

Get in gear!

How: Turn your local commute into an opportunity to exercise by biking, walking, skateboarding, or rollerblading. The University of Miami is a bike-friendly campus and offers discounted bikes in the UM Bookstore.

Fact: The U.S. could save 462 million gallons of gasoline a year by increasing cycling from 1% of all trips to 1.5%.

Bum a ride

How: Skip the traffic and reduce your carbon footprint by carpooling or taking the bus or train. The University offers information on fuel-efficient Zipcar rentals on campus.

Fact: A bus carries as many people as ten fully occupied cars but emits half the CO₂ per mile per passenger.



Fly lighter

How: Carry only the luggage you need to save on jet fuel and airline baggage fees.

Fact: If all passengers shaved their bag weight by just 2.2 pounds, the average airplane would reduce its emissions by 190,000 pounds of CO₂ per year. That's equal to taking 15 cars off the road!

Be a selective guest

How: Choose hotels that take actions to conserve water and give back to the local community.

Fact: Learn more about ecofriendly tourism online at National Geographic's Center for Sustainable Destinations.

AT THE MARKET

Paper or Plastic? Neither

How: Bring your own reusable shopping bags instead of using plastic bags from the store.

Fact: Plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to decompose and lots of energy to create.

Eat with care

How: Buy local foods to support the local economy and reduce transportation energy. Educate yourself on the environmental impacts of all foods you eat.

Fact: Improper fishing and farming can have major environmental impacts. See the Online "Green" Resources section of this brochure for the link to a sustainable seafood Web site.

Bottle it up

How: Get a reusable water bottle. If you drink flavored beverages, try adding drink powders to your reusable water bottle.

Fact: Annual production of plastic water bottles to meet U.S. consumer demand takes the equivalent of 17.6 million barrels of oil, not including the shipping. In the U.S., bottled water was responsible for about 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions in 2006.

Pay attention to packaging

How: Think about the amount of packaging and the history of each product you buy.

Fact: Packaging accounts for more than one-third of the volume that goes into landfills. More than 41 million tons of paper products and 27.5 million tons of unrecycled plastic products were taken to landfills in 2006.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SIERRA CLUB OF MIAMI



Thanks also to the 'green' student organizations that helped produce this brochure, particularly Earth Alert and the Hillel-Earth Initiative.

GREEN U



When you are finished with this guide, pass it on to your family and friends! If you must dispose of it, please recycle!!!