



UTRio Grande Valley

GUIDE FOR SUSTAINABLE CLASSROOMS

EVERY UTRGV CLASSROOM CAN BE A SUSTAINABLE CLASSROOM.

Faculty at UTRGV have the opportunity to introduce students to sustainable development concepts within their respective field. Lecturers, professors, and teaching assistants can set the tone of sustainability for the classroom that will leave a lasting impression on students and help UTRGV become a sustainable campus.

IT ONLY TAKES THREE STEPS:

1. Complete the assessment below and submit your results to the [Office for Sustainability](#).
Allow us to recognize your efforts!

2. Incorporate these habits at work and encourage your co-workers to do the same.
It takes time to build a habit.

3. Work with OFS towards a 100% sustainable classroom.
Become a Sustainable Development Leader!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS A GLOBAL CAUSE.

GOAL: IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY WHILE BEING EFFICIENT WITH OUR RESOURCES.



THE U.N. IS TAKING ACTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, AND GLOBAL ECONOMY.

The United Nations has developed 17 goals (SG17) to guide nations and their citizens towards a more sustainable future. With these goals, we have a frame of reference from which to assess our sustainable development.



ARE YOU A LECTURER OR PROFESSOR AT UTRGV?

EVERY LECTURE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INTO ACTION.

I LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY CONCEPTS IN MY FIELD.



Every field of study at UTRGV is educating students to work towards a U.N. Sustainable Development goal and a better world.

The Office for Sustainability's website has listed [resources](#) and [information](#) to help students become agents of change for sustainable development upon graduation.

- ☐ I make time to read about sustainability in my field and think about opportunities for my students to contribute to the U.N. goal(s).
- ☐ I have pinpointed how my class contributes to a more sustainable world and I share this information with my students and mentees.
- ☐ I am aware that sustainable development is written into [UTRGV's Mission](#) in our [strategic plan](#), and is also a [UT System policy](#). I align my behavior towards these institutional goals.

I INFUSE SUSTAINABILITY CONCEPTS INTO MY CURRICULUM.



Learning about sustainable development in your chosen field can be worked right into your syllabus. Redesigning a course is easy with the help of the Office for Sustainability's ICSAC program.

The [International Center for Sustainability Across the Curriculum \(ICSAC\)](#) is a two-day faculty development program open to educators from all fields of study. ICSAC has helped faculty integrate education for sustainable development into the syllabus of over 200 courses. *Integrating sustainability into a course means adapting both content and pedagogy to create a learning experience that is more interdisciplinary, experiential, and focused on authentic problem-solving.*

- ☐ I've attended ICSAC (or the former Project Sin Fronteras) and integrated sustainable development concepts into my class.

I PRACTICE AND DEMONSTRATE SUSTAINABLE HABITS AT WORK.



I practice sustainable habits as an individual in the classroom to encourage my students to follow my example in their lives outside of the university.

- ☐ I embrace [Blackboard and other digital working tools](#) that will facilitate grading and collecting assignments online.
- ☐ I encourage students to take digital notes on laptops.
- ☐ I make use of digital classroom tools like smart-boards and projectors over chalk or dry-erase markers. I make sure the projector is off at the end of each class.

- ☐ I ensure that the textbook I request is available as an e-book on the [UTRGV Course Reserves/Digital Library](#). If possible, I use older editions of textbooks or resources that are available online for free (legally) to help make a UTRGV education more affordable for students.
- ☐ I share digital versions of classroom materials instead of printing them for the class, and encourage students to avoid excessive printing, too.
- ☐ I turn off lights when the room is not in use and have reminder signs by the light switches. When possible, I allow natural lighting to help illuminate the room. (Natural daylight has been shown to reduce stress and promote human health and potential.)
- ☐ I bring in a refillable water bottle to cut down on plastic waste and still be hydrated when giving lectures.
- ☐ I dress in layers to stay comfortable indoors, because my individual temperature preferences may differ from that of my colleagues.