



EVERY UTRGV COMPUTER LAB CAN BE A SUSTAINABLE COMPUTER LAB.

Computer labs provide access to digital tools that are a vital part of the [U.N. Goal of Quality Education](#). Like our sustainable classrooms and offices, computer labs' operations reflect the [UT System's commitment](#) to sustainable development and the [mission of UTRGV](#) as stated in the [Strategic Plan](#).

PLUG IN AND LOG ON TO SUSTAINABILITY:

1. Complete the assessment below and submit your results to the Office for Sustainability. Allow us to recognize your efforts!

2. Encourage lab users to live by the mantra of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." It takes time to build a habit.

3. Become a Sustainable Development Leader! Work closely with OFS towards a completely sustainable office!

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.



HOW SUSTAINABLE ARE YOUR COMPUTER HABITS?

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



IN OUR LAB, I PRACTICE SUSTAINABLE LAB HABITS.

The manner in which I conduct ourselves in the labs allows the lab to function in a fiscally responsible way: minimizing potential harm to people, animals, and the planet.

- I explain sustainable lab habits and rules with users new to the lab. I include a "only print if necessary" message in our email footer.
- I share energy-efficient printers and use tools like [Find-Me Cloud Printing](#) and [vPrint Wireless Printing](#).
- I check that lab printer settings are set to double-sided, black and white.
- Our lab uses smart power strips to power down devices that are not being used and to protect against voltage spikes.
- I set electronics to enter energy-saving modes. I turn my computer off when instructed to, such as over long holidays. (Some computers must be on 24/7 for security updates to be installed automatically.)
- I recycle used toner and ink cartridges safely by submitting a pickup request to waste@utrgv.edu.



WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR SUSTAINABLE CHOICES.

All individuals can make small changes to their habits to help our communities in the long run. Lab users can do their part to help UTRGV meet system-wide utility-reduction goals!

- I save my work often to external harddrives, flashdrives, or cloud storage services because data is not stored on the lab computers, and computers automatically log out idle users for their digital safety.
- I only print what is necessary because [lab users have limited print credits](#). I share digital versions of "handouts" instead of printing them for the group.
- I do not eat or drink in the lab to ensure the continued functionality of the lab equipment.
- I turn off lights when the room is not in use and have reminder signs by the light switches. I allow natural lighting to help illuminate the room (natural daylight has been shown to reduce stress and promote human health and potential) or operate the lab under low lighting if it allows occupants to work comfortably and safely.



OUR LAB MAKES SUSTAINABLE PURCHASES.

I use our lab's purchasing power to make a statement! By shopping from companies that make a commitment to sustainability, I support their goals and encourage other suppliers to demonstrate environmental stewardship.

- I purchase items whose chain of production involves processes that are not harmful to people, animals, or the environment. I purchase from companies with a stated goal of reducing their negative environmental and social impacts as much as possible.
- I purchase electronics that are certified for their sustainability. All desktop and laptop computer systems purchased from Dell are Energy Star certified and Apple electronics are Energy Smart certified; this reduces energy consumption by as much as 78%. UTRGV's Dell computers are also certified Gold by the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT).
- Our lab purchases products with reduced toxic or hazardous chemicals, including office supplies such as screen cleaners and ink.
- I purchase and use printer paper that is Forest Stewardship Council (FCS)-Certified or recycled. (Look for the "Green" or "Recycled" icon on iShop.)
- I explore options for reuse of unwanted office items and look for surplus resources instead of purchasing new furniture or electronics. All computers replaced by new ones are collected by UTRGV's [surplus department](#) to be used elsewhere on campus, or donated/recycled. I contact [UTRGV's IT department](#) to securely erase data from hard drives and other storage media before contacting surplus.