

# WELCOME TO

# SUSTAINABILITY AT UTRGV

Having the best **DORM/LIFE EXPERIENCE** begins with the small things. And when it comes to sustainability, it's all about the **SMALL THINGS**. What is a "sustainable" university anyway? Sustainability means a long term quality of life. We want the best **QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOU**, your fellow students, the university as a whole, and our community. And to get there, we have to start with the details.

You probably know by now that as a society, we don't always do what's best for the economy, the environment, or even for us. Many of our human activities, you could say, are not sustainable. Luckily, the United Nations is taking action to stop (or at least slow down) our bad habits. **The U.N. has written out 17 goals (such as clean air and water, social justice, and education for all) to lead governments and citizens towards a better, more sustainable future.** To meet these goals, we need everyone to play their part, from national leaders to college freshmen.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** is even part of the founding mission at **UTRGV**:

To transform the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world through an innovative and accessible educational environment that promotes student success, research, creative works, health and well-being, community engagement, sustainable development, and commercialization of university discoveries.

## WHERE DO YOU START?

## CHECK OUT THESE DIY DORM HACKS

### EDUCATION

#### EXPLORE



THE 17 UN GOALS

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS COMMITTED TO 17 GOALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

#### FOLLOW



THE UTRGV OFS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

NEWS, RAFFLES, AND EVENTS ON THE REGULAR

#### SIGN UP



FOR AN EVENT

LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND GET SOME SWAG

#### LEARN



SUSTAINABILITY PLAYS A PART IN EVERY FIELD OF STUDY.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN YOURS?

## EFFICIENCY

### REUSE



GET THE MOST OUT OF  
YOUR PURCHASES

WITH A LITTLE EXTRA CARE,  
YOU CAN AVOID HAVING TO  
REPLACE ITEMS.

### REDUCE



TRY A REUSABLE BAG.

TOTE BAGS ARE BOTH  
FASHIONABLE AND  
ECO-FRIENDLY.

### RECYCLE



START BY PLACING A BIN FOR  
PAPER NEXT TO YOUR TRASH.

ONCE YOU HAVE THAT  
DOWN, ADD ANOTHER  
BIN FOR PLASTICS!

### ENERGY



EFFICIENT BULBS

THEY LAST LONGER WHICH  
MEANS LESS TRIPS TO  
THE STORE

## SHOPPING SECTION

### TRY THRIFTING



NOT EVERYTHING HAS TO  
BE "NEW"

SECOND-HAND ITEMS  
ARE IN VOGUE. AVOID  
"FAST FASHION!"

HOLD A **GARAGE SALE**,  
SELL ONLINE, OR **DONATE**



DONATE FOR RE-USE  
INSTEAD OF THROWING  
THINGS AWAY

ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS

### SAVE TREES



PLUS, IT MAKES IT MUCH  
EASIER TO ARCHIVE AND  
FIND OLD RECEIPTS.

BUY **"SAFER  
CHOICE"** PRODUCTS



SAFER FOR YOU, SAFER  
FOR EVERYONE.

## ENERGY AND WATER SAVING

BE CONSCIOUS OF EVERY  
**DROP**



SHORT SHOWERS SAVE THE  
UNIVERSITY MONEY WHICH  
SAVES YOU MONEY TOO.

WATCH OUT FOR ENERGY  
**VAMPIRES!**



UNPLUG ELECTRONICS  
AFTER USE TO KEEP THEM  
FROM SUCKING UP ALL THE  
ELECTRICITY.

BE SMART ABOUT THE  
**THERMOSTAT**



IF TOO LOW, THE AC WILL  
MAKE YOU DROWSY AND  
DEplete YOUR ENERGY.

DO FULL LOADS OF  
**LAUNDRY** ON COLD



KEEP YOUR CLOTHES FROM  
SHRINKING WHILE DOING  
THE PLANET A FAVOR

## TRANSPORTATION

USE THE  
**METRO CONNECT BUS**



IT'S FREE. YOU CAN EVEN  
GET A RIDE TO SPI! MAKE A  
DAY TRIP OUT OF IT.

**BIKE**  
AROUND CAMPUS



IN CASE YOU DON'T HAVE  
ONE, THE SCHOOL HAS A  
BIKE SHARE SYSTEM.

**CARPOOL**  
WHEN POSSIBLE.



IT'S A GREAT WAY TO  
MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR  
CLASSMATES

**WALK**  
TO NEARBY PLACES



STAY IN SHAPE AND ENJOY  
THE SCENERY!

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

CARRY A REUSABLE  
**WATER BOTTLE**



IT CAN GET PRETTY HOT  
IN THE RGV, SO STAY  
HYDRATED AND HEALTHY  
WHILE SAVING MONEY!

**ASH**  
THAT CIGARETTE...



AND ADD YEARS TO YOUR  
LIFE! UTRGV IS A  
SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS.

EAT HEALTHY **ORGANIC**  
PRODUCE



FEEL BETTER AND LIVE LIFE  
TO THE FULLEST BY MAKING  
HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES!

**JOIN**  
A STUDENT GROUP!



VOLUNTEER WORK ON YOUR  
RESUME WILL HELP YOU  
WHEN IT COUNTS