

University Sustainability Practices
Arizona State University

Residence life guidebook for Sustainability Ambassadors

Follow Sparky's lead.

The Sustainability Ambassador program is designed to help Community Assistants implement sustainable practices into residential halls. This step-by-step guidebook outlines ASU's sustainability goals in **four focus** areas that are relevant to the housing community on campus.

Focus areas:

- be active
- eat real
- save energy and water
- waste not

Programming ideas, activities and events that your hall may use to encourage positive change are all included.

Supporting ASU's charter:

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.





Our vision:
To build a culture of sustainability that will permeate ASU campuses.



Why is this important?

Arizona State University made an institutional commitment to lead by example through the sustainable operations of its campuses. By demonstrating exemplary practices and sharing solutions, ASU stimulates changes in individual, institutional and corporate behaviors to **create a more sustainable world**.

We need your help to educate and motivate students to adopt a sustainable lifestyle for greater collective impact.

Program goals:

- Encourage Sun Devils to support ASU's sustainability goals to continue as a global leader in sustainability education, operations and practices.
- Engage the ASU residential community and each other through the program.
- Provide positive impact actions and sustainable living ideas to minimize negative impacts on the planet.

Become an Ambassador

Ambassador benefits:

- Become knowledgeable about ASU's commitment to sustainable practices.
- Build comradery with eco-minded students.
- Earn professional development skills and build your resume.
- Green Gala attendance - year end celebration for your efforts.
- Participate in leadership opportunities in your community and at ASU.
- Receive sustainability swag.

Ambassador expectations:

- Complete Seeds of Sustainability training at links.asu.edu/seedsofsustainability.
- Implement three active or passive programs per semester.
- Distribute posters for sustainability events to your hall.
- Achieve a Bronze sustainable event certification for at least one program event. Find the certification at links.asu.edu/certification.
- Promote Campus Sustainability Month and Earth Month events sponsored by University Sustainability Practices and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability.
- Report achievements to USP each November and April.

Let's get started.

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is the act of providing necessities for all living things while protecting and enhancing the Earth's life support systems.

As the world shifts due to resource use intensive lifestyles, sustainability must become part of our everyday mindset in order for continued health and wellness.

ASU's Sustainability Aims:

Circular Resources

A circular resource system achieves zero waste by consciously changing what we bring onto campus and then utilizing and processing resources in a manner that sends them back into the economy for the most productive next use possible.

Climate Positive

The goal of a university is **not** to have the least impact possible, but to have the greatest net positive impact possible.

Collaborative Action

Collaborative action leverages the power of university departments working together to align missions, policies, processes, programs and activities for consistency with university sustainability goals.

Food Reconnection

Fundamental to our health, productivity and connection with nature is a strong relationship with nutritional food and the knowledge of its sources and impacts on the health of our planet.

Optimized Water

Optimizing ASU's water use involves applying a systems approach to use the right quantity and quality of water for the right purpose at the right time.

Personal Action

Personal Action involves the engagement of members of the ASU community (students, faculty and staff) in individual behavior that supports sustainability goals on campus and in their personal lives.

Resilience and Regeneration

With climate change already impacting our mission, operations and communities we serve, we will adapt not just for resilience in the face of greater future changes, but to regenerate our environment and our surrounding communities.

Social Equity

As a New American University measured not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed, we must embrace the diversity that brings in order to improve understanding, acceptance and well-being of all campus community members and thus, broader society.

Sustainability Focus Areas that support our aims:



Be Active – be informed and make smart choices.

Personal Action

What individuals can do:

- Bring your bag when shopping.
- Choose little or no packaging.
- Make informed choices with your purchases, such as checking out the sustainability footprint of the companies that you frequently purchase from.
- Purchase locally sourced products.
- Share stuff with neighbors instead of buying new or purchase previously used items.
- Use environmentally friendly products.

Activities that Ambassadors can host:

- **Seeds of Sustainability**
Learn the basics of sustainability in an online, video-based training. Help contribute to our goal of 100 percent campus participation. Invite your hall to achieve this certification and give all students door placards that celebrate this success.
- **Sharing shelf**
Provide a bookshelf or sharing shelf. Design a sharing shelf to hold books, kitchen supplies, school supplies, etc. that are available for sharing in your community.





Be Active cont.

Hosted activities cont.

- **Sustainability certification for housing**
Ask students to achieve this certification. This is an online program submitted through Blackboard. It shows students living on campus how to incorporate sustainability practices and behaviors into their everyday lives. Print their certificate of achievement and make a group bulletin board to show their success.
- **Volunteer with campus sustainability groups**
Attend public forums surrounding issues you're passionate about. Implement sustainability into your organization or workplace.
- **Walk the green carpet**
Students demonstrate a commitment to everyday actions that support ASU's goals by signing a commitment board; after signing the commitment, they walk the green carpet to accept their award.

Events to attend:

- **Lunch and learn**
Attend one of the many lunch and learn programs hosted by the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability as a group.
- **Movie night**
Attend one of the many films hosted by the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability each fall and spring or host your own. Amazon and Netflix offer many from which to choose. Reach out to USP or the Zero Waste department for giveaways for students that attend. See the events page for more details: sustainability.asu.edu/events.

Sustainability Focus Areas that support our aims:



Eat Real – fresh, local and equitable.

Food Reconnection

What individuals can do:

- Buy ethically sourced products.
- Choose to buy local food when possible.
- Consider a shift to a more plant based diet.
- Support fair trade coffee vendors.
- Support Sun Devil Dining's efforts on campus
sundeildining.asu.edu/sustainability-dining/green-thread-pillars/responsible-purchasing.

Activities that Ambassadors can host:

- **Host a food systems trivia night in your hall.**
Order snacks from the green catering menu from Sun Devil Dining – don't forget to include the DevilAde.
- **Host a Smoothie Night in your hall**
Make your own or order in from a local restaurant. Watch a movie as a group about food systems such as "Forks Over Knives," "Hungry for Change" or "Just Eat It."
- **Visit and eat from the plant-based diet section of the dining hall**
Commit to trying three new items. Invite the ASU nutritionist to attend and inform students about the nutritional benefits of the menu items and how this type of diet helps the planet.





Eat Real cont.

Events to attend:

▪ **Campus Harvest**

Participate with ASU's date and citrus harvest each fall. The citrus is used to make DevilAde and can be found on the catering menu or in the dining halls. The dates are also used in the dining halls for various baked goods and can be purchased at the ASU Fresh and Local Market each fall.

Visit cfo.asu.edu/arboretum-campusharvest for more information.

▪ **Fresh and Local Market**

Take a group to this market and purchase items to make a group dinner. Make it a zero waste event by using all washable kitchen items, take away any leftovers and be sure to use a reusable bag at the market.

Sustainability Focus Areas that support our aims:



Save energy and water

Climate Positive and Optimized Water

What individuals can do:

- Bike, walk or carpool.
- Report building temperatures that are too hot or too cold to Facilities.
- Switch off the lights when leaving the room.
- Take short showers.
- Turn off water when brushing your teeth.
- Unplug electronics when not in use.
- Use cold water to wash clothes.

Activities that Ambassadors can host:

- **Carbon cleanse**
Reduce your carbon footprint for one week. Make the choice to reduce energy, waste, water and the transportation miles of the products you purchase.
- **Kill vampire energy**
Unplug those cords. Inform students that energy can still be drawn from electronics when plugged in even when not in use.
- **Strive for five**
Time your showers and commit to a five-minute shower. That's about two songs.

Sustainability Focus Areas that support our aims:



welcome home.
SU

Waste Not – be mindful, reduce what you buy, reuse what you have and recycle what you can

Circular Resources

What individuals can do:

Reduce and Reuse

- Build your own zero waste lunch kit with reusable items from Sun Devil Campus Stores.
- Just say no to plastic bags. Bring your reusable bag on all shopping trips.
- Participate in Ditch the Dumpster during move out and move in:
Learn more ditchthedumpster.asu.edu.
- Purchase new-to-you items from Surplus Property.
- Purchase supplies made of post-consumer waste recycled materials for your events.
- Use a reusable cup or mug at a water bottle filling station or fill up your reusable cup for 99 cents with coffee, tea or soda at the on-campus markets.

Recycle

- Ensure your residence hall has a recycling sign and labels. Request recycling signage at cfo.asu.edu/zerowaste.
- Participate in the commingled recycling program: Recycle all paper, plastic, metal and glass in the blue bins on campus.
- Use the e-waste bins located on campus for electronics, batteries, CDs, printer cartridges and other media.



Activities that Ambassadors can host:

▪ Choose to reuse

Bring your own cup or bottle to any Sun Devil Dining venues and purchase a drink for 99 cents. Message this to the students and provide new reusable bottles for students. Hold a contest and offer a prize for the first three students to achieve ten fill-ups. Post their picture on social media. Plus, look for the water fountain refill stations around campus. Stay hydrated and help to reduce single use plastics on campus.

▪ Clothing exchange

Host a clothing and item exchange with the residents to mix up their wardrobe or begin their pre-move cleaning. Bring the leftover clothes to a Big Brothers Big Sisters Bin for donation. The event is an easy segue for a conversation about Ditch the Dumpster.

▪ Ditch the Dumpster

Remind students at the end of the year to donate their small and large items.

▪ Host a recycled art competition

This is a unique way for students to have a creative event that helps them see the amount of waste being produced and helps to educate them as to what materials are truly recyclable.

▪ Reduce, Reuse, Recycle how-to bulletin board

Create a personalized bulletin board about ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle and make a space for students to write questions they may have. Send any questions to the Zero Waste department at recycle-q@asu.edu.

▪ Zero Waste movie night

Host a movie night for a first look into zero waste and lead into a discussion about how you can take a step towards ASU's goal. What is one way you can reduce your waste? Are there items that you can live without? What types of products do you purchase and can they be recycled?

▪ Zero waste presentation and games

Contact the Zero Waste department to set up an educational presentation with hands on activities and games with the chance of prizes. This short presentation can be added to a scheduled floor meeting.



We hope this guidebook empowers peer-to-peer education within the residential halls and in turn promotes a culture of sustainability for our students. Your efforts will help ASU continue to be a global leader in sustainability practices and education. We are here to support your efforts, please reach out with any questions – usp@asu.edu.

Additional resources

- Campus Metabolism – cm.asu.edu/
- Changemaker – changemaker@asu.edu
- Expert Search for Sustainability Faculty – schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/people/expert-search
- School of Sustainability Events – schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/events/
- Student clubs – asu.orgsync.com/search
- Sun Devil Dining – sundevildining@gmail.com
- Sustainability Initiatives Revolving Fund – cfo.asu.edu/sirf
- University Sustainability Practices – usp@asu.edu
- Zero Waste department – recycle-q@asu.edu

Program templates

Be active: Stock a sharing shelf

Be active: Walk the green carpet

Eat real: Ditch red meat

Eat real: Eat for the Earth

Save energy and water: Strive for Five

Save energy and water: Vampire Energy

Waste not: Bring your own bottle

Waste not: Recycled art competition

