

A photograph of a modern campus with brick buildings and large windows. In the foreground, there are green plants and a wooden trellis structure. A light green banner is overlaid on the image.

Sustainability Guide to

Prescott College

This document provides resources for helping students advance sustainability on campus by raising awareness of Prescott College's goals, operations, events, and opportunities for involvement.

[Green Mountain Center for Sustainability](#)

Sustainability

Sustainability is a broad topic that can take on many forms. A common definition is achieving the needs of the present through actions and practices that support and combine social justice, environmental stability, and economic prosperity.

Prescott College strives to be inclusive of sustainability of all types and always wants to innovate and improve. Some initiatives are institutional while others are student-driven. You are encouraged to approach your teachers, peers, clubs, and departments with project ideas, improvements, and activism opportunities. Together, we work to create positive impacts on and off campus while exploring new ideas and ways to serve our community.

The Green Mountain Center for Sustainability invites you to participate in and give feedback in all our efforts. We want all of campus to be aware of, involved in, and contributing to sustainability efforts.

Come visit the Sustainability Lounge in Cicada! Also, please send us your questions, comments, and ideas! Here's some contact info:

Sustainability Coordinator: zachary.czuprynski@prescott.edu

GMC Sustainability Co-Director: laird.christensen@prescott.edu

GMC Sustainability Co-Director: eleanor.tison@prescott.edu

...or speak with the Center's work-study students!

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Campus Composting System

Compost is organic matter that has decomposed to become nutrient-dense soil material. The decomposition process is aided by workers shredding the plant matter, keeping it moisturized, and regularly turning the mixture for aeration. Fungi, earthworms, and other detritivores help to break up the material as well. We regularly incorporate our compost into the campus food gardens as a fertilizer and boost of soil material.

Composting is an important procedure because not only are we turning waste into organic treasure, we are also mitigating the amount of methane being released into the atmosphere. When organic matter such as food scraps ends up in a landfill, they are unable to properly decompose and end up releasing the powerful greenhouse gas, methane. Composting also allows minerals and nutrients to return to the Earth.

PC has recently been revamping the compost system on campus to include food waste pickups from the residence halls and cafe. More improvements and installations of compost around campus are on their way. The three-stage system near the cafe was a student project! What improvements do you see that we could add to our system? Let us know!



Composting Do's and Don'ts

Please DO

- Slice n' dice your whole foods
- Take off stickers
- Crush shells
- Add cotton/paper teabags (no staples)
- Add plant
- Ask to be involved!

Please Do NOT

- Add meat/dairy
- Add any plastics
- Add wrappers or twisty ties
- Add bags
- Add "compostable" plates/ware

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Campus Gardens

There are three gardens on campus that offer a variety of aesthetics and uses. The Terrace Garden (also known as the Indigenous American Biodiversity Garden) is typically used for education purposes, and many spots in the garden have been planned, seeded, and cared for by students in courses such as Principles of Small-scale Agriculture. Also, next to this garden are our campus chickens! Please stop by to greet Toadflax, Lupine, and [name]!



The Village Kitchen Garden (previously known as McClintock) sits right by The Village parking lot. It is the host for one of two composting sites you'll find on campus. The garden is open for any students who want to pick some fresh produce and cook a delicious plant-based meal with their friends!



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The Healing Garden (or Resilience Garden) is located right outside Crossroads Café and offers a wonderful selection of aromatic and aesthetics plants and herbs. Please use this space for reflection, relaxation, meditation, or creating art!



Please come visit our beautiful gardens! Contact Eleanor Tison eleanor.tison@prescott.edu for information, related classes, and ways to get involved. The garden workers can always use your help, and gardening is an amazing activity for the mind, body, and soul! Inquire about a work-study position with the campus food gardens and compost systems.

Recycling

Please add **clean** recyclables to the receptacles and **do not bag**. The city of Prescott recycling program accepts:

- Cardboard
- Paper
- Food Boxes
- Mail
- Beverage Cans
- Food Cans
- Glass Bottles
- Jars (glass & plastic)
- Jugs
- Plastic Bottles(Plastics #1 and #2 only)

They do **not** accept

- Paperback or hardbound books
- Grass, yard and/or food waste
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Unrecyclable caps and lids
- Diapers
- Medical tubes

Electronic Waste can be dropped off in the IT building where it will be properly disposed of. Please do not throw away old batteries and electronics.

Energy

There are many ways you can reduce your energy consumption:

- Most campus housing has an in-room air unit. **Please** close the windows when you turn your unit on. Try using the blinds before resorting to the air conditioner or heater. Blocking or adding sunlight can make a big difference!
- Turn off lights and unplug electronics from outlets when they are not in use as appliances will continue to draw energy (e.g. phone and laptop chargers). A Smart Power Strip can help minimize this.
- Utilize drying racks! There are some within the Village or set up one of your own. The dry climate is great for drying clothes quickly and energy-free.
- Put in work orders through the My.Prescott.edu website to quickly fix issues such as air-units not working, leaky sinks, and broken windows.
- Flip the Switch: Turn off the lights in your room, common areas, around campus. Every time you leave a room, make it a habit. Bathrooms too! Just make sure you are the last one out.
- Enable power-saving features on your computer and other devices to save a lot of energy and money over time.

Water

Prescott College's Village collects rainwater in the big drums for harvesting. These can be used for watering!



- Place maintenance orders for leaky fixtures.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in your refrigerator, or use the defrost setting on your microwave.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the tap run while you're waiting for cool water to flow.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a **slow-moving** stream from the faucet.

→This [Regional Water Awareness Handbook](#) is a great overview of our region and conservation efforts!

FreeStore & Donations

We have a FreeStore! Please come to the Sustainability Lounge (Cicada Hall). The store is managed by work-study students and volunteers to keep it clean, organized, and updated. Donations are accepted and available for taking whenever the building is unlocked. Please only donate clean items. Clothing, shoes, crafts, books, and more are all welcome in the FreeStore. Before you purchase new, please swing by and see some of the amazing items donated by others. Also, check the FreeStore for food donations as well! They are not guaranteed but may be present along with fresh produce from the campus gardens.



Contact the Sustainability Center if you have any questions or need assistance with this process.

Opportunities for Funding

Each semester, Prescott College collects a \$50 Sustainability Fee from each student to be put towards a green fund. This is **to be used by students!** The Sustainability Council has created an application for students to request funding for specific sustainability-related projects. Do you have an idea of how to improve sustainability on campus? Please consider applying for funds! You may also find funding from the Student Union Board or from club/activity fees.

Please email zachary.czuprynski@prescott.edu for any questions regarding the application process, structure, guidelines, etc.

General Tips

- Join a club or student organization to meet people and promote your ideas and interests!
- Bring your reusable water bottle and mug with you for free water at any refill station.
- Bring your own cutlery and napkin to the Crossroads Cafe. Cutlery and napkins are an easy option to reduce your waste.
- Carpool and share rides. Check the Sustainability Center for the Ride Share Board and post that you need a ride or are going to be traveling somewhere on the Prescott College Off-Campus Housing Group (you don't have to live off-campus to join).
- Walk or bike to close destinations if you are able. Walking and biking are great ways to fit in some daily movement and experience the area.
- Use a Carbon/Water/Food Footprint calculator(s) to explore your resource usage
- Explore and share apps and other media that help make sustainability easier and more connected to you.
- The Sustainability Center has sewing supplies including a sewing machine for you to utilize! Make arrangements and stop by to use them!
- Avoid decorating (your space or otherwise) with single-use items that will be thrown away when you move.
- Eat plant-based when possible. Crossroads Cafe is open to menu suggestions!
- Utilize double-sided printing
- Natural fibers such as cotton and hemp are less impactful than poly- products which create microplastics when washed

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Thank you for learning about some of the sustainability initiatives at Prescott College. Never hesitate to contact the Sustainability Center for anything, and have a great semester!