

Sustainability at the University of Manitoba

Our Sustainability Vision

The UM considers and actively pursues the ecological, social and economic aspects of sustainability through its programs and operations. We aim to foster growth and provide opportunities in a way that our present actions will ensure future generations can achieve similar, if not better levels of sustainability and well-being.

Our Sustainability Strategy

The UM [Sustainability Strategy 2019-2023](#) is our roadmap to a more sustainable university and community. This is the University's second approved Sustainability Strategy.

What have we done so far?

- ✓ **36% of courses** offered at the University of Manitoba are **sustainability related**
- ✓ Signed the **SDG Global Climate Letter**, committing to reduce our carbon emissions by 50% by 2030, and become carbon neutral by 2050
- ✓ Received a **Gold** rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) in 2018
- ✓ **Reduced building energy use** intensity by 32% over the past 30 years with energy efficiency measures
- ✓ Expanded sustainable transportation options like **carpooling**, **transit** express routes and **cycling** and **walking** facilities
- ✓ Adopted **Indigenous Planning and Design Principles**
- ✓ Launched a **self-taught UMLearn course** for the UM community to learn more about sustainability on campus

What are we doing in 2022-23?

1. **Climate Action Plan** → Creating a plan to get UM to carbon neutrality by 2050
2. **Sustainable Building Guidelines** → Creating more sustainable building processes
3. **Waste Reduction and Management Plan** → Transforming our waste collection system to reduce what we send to landfill and increase our transparency
4. **UMLearn Course** → Launching a self-taught course for the UM community to learn more about sustainability on campus

The Office of Sustainability

The UM Office of Sustainability supports sustainability across the entire institution, bringing our University community together to move forward with positive action. The Office of Sustainability is also the coordinating body for tracking and reporting on our progress.

Sustainability Committee

The UM Sustainability Committee assists in the development of sustainable goals, initiatives, actions and targets. The Committee has 12 members representing the interests of students, faculty, and administration across all UM campuses.

Did you know that approximately 60% of what goes into our garbage bins on campus could be recycled or composted? The following pages will outline how to sort and reduce your waste while on campus.



Composting



What is Composting?

- Composting is a method of decomposing organic waste. Organic materials can be transformed into a nutrient-rich mix, like soil, that can be used for growing fresh fruits, vegetables and healthy gardens

Why Compost?

- When organic materials end up in the landfill, valuable nutrients are lost and methane (CH₄), a greenhouse gas 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide, is produced.
- Composting gives new life to organic materials!

What CAN Be Composted On Campus?

- Fruits, vegetables, peelings, bread, nut shells, cereal, coffee grounds and filters, tea leaves and tea bags, and egg shells
- Meat/animal food scraps
- Dairy products
- Compostable packaging (#7 PLA plastic)
- Paper towels, napkins and tissues
- Wooden sticks
- Leaves and grass clippings

What CANNOT Be Composted On Campus?

- Biodegradable materials
- Fats, grease, oils
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants
- Liquids

Always Check the Bin...

Every composter is different! It's important to check what items your composter accepts to ensure proper decomposition. For example, meat and dairy products are often not compostable in a backyard compost. However, meat and dairy products can be composted on campus.



Landfill



Unfortunately, some items must be thrown in the landfill. These items include:

- Food wrappers (granola bar wrappers, candy wrappers, chip bags, etc.)
- Coffee cups (both cup and lid)
- Plastic wrap/film & plastic food bags
- #6 Plastics
- Plastic straws
- Styrofoam
- Any wet or oily item that would otherwise be recyclable (i.e. oily pizza boxes, wet paper, etc.)
- Gloves & rubber bands
- Cigarette butts

Why do we want to avoid sending recyclable and compostable materials to the landfill?

- Landfills produce methane (a greenhouse gas) that is 80 times more potent than Carbon Dioxide
- When e-waste is sent to landfills, harmful toxins can leach into the ground and contaminate soil and groundwater
- Recycling takes hundreds of years to decompose when it sits in landfills
- Landfills produce noxious odors and can lead to rat and seagull infestations



Recycling



Everything Has A Place...

Some items require additional steps to being recycled or disposed of properly. Because of this they cannot be thrown in with other recyclables in recycling bins.

Clothing and Other Donations

- Items such as old clothing, books, and furniture can be taken to local thrift stores to be donated

University-owned furniture can be donated to and upcycled by Re-Shop on Fort Garry Campus by contacting wpo@umanitoba.ca.

E-Waste

- E-waste or electronic waste are electronic products that are unwanted or not working
- Common e-waste items include computers and laptops, televisions, stereos, cellphones, printers and other everyday electronic products
- By disposing of e-waste properly, new life can be given to old electronics by refurbishing, reselling or salvaging items for material recovery
- E-waste should be taken to e-waste drop-off centres. To find one closest to you use this link! <https://www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/mb/where-can-i-recycle/>

Re-Bins

These bins are designed to maximize the ease of recycling while on campus. Re-Bins are composed of three sections where plastic bags, pens and markers, and batteries can be recycled.

Plastic Bags

- Plastic bags are not acceptable in blue bins in Manitoba
- Reduce your single-use plastics by bringing your own bag, and repurpose plastic bags by placing them in a Re-Bin

Pens & Markers

- Pens, highlighters, mechanical pencils, and markers can all be recycled
- UM has partnered with TerraCycle to recycle writing instruments that otherwise would be sent to landfills

Batteries

- Both single-use and rechargeable batteries can be recycled on campus
- Types of batteries that are accepted in battery recycling bins include:
 - Lithium ion batteries
 - Lithium primary batteries

- Nickel-metal hybrid batteries
- Nickel cadmium
- Alkaline batteries
- Lead-acid batteries
- Laptop batteries

Find a Re-Bin near you!

- Dafoe Library (Fort Garry)
- UMSU University Centre, outside of the Bookstore (Fort Garry)
- Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library (Bannatyne)
- Main floor where Pathology and Medical Science meet (Bannatyne)



Recycling



What is Recycling?

- Recycling is the process of converting waste into reusable materials

Why Recycle?

- Recycling conserves raw materials and natural resources
- Recycling saves energy, as less energy is required to produce materials from recycled resources
- Only 9% of the 3.2 million tonnes of plastic waste produced each year in Canada is recycled

Items That Can Be Recycled On Campus...

- Paper
- Aluminum
- Juice Boxes
- Glass
- Plastic #1-5 & #7

Items that CANNOT be recycled on campus...

- #6 plastics
- Coffee cups, both the cup and the lid
- Dark brown and black coloured plastics
- Items with liquids in them

Not Sure Where Something Goes?

Search the [UM Waste Sorting Wizard](#) to find recycling and disposal options on campus

Test your knowledge and play the [UM Waste Sorting Game](#)

Learn what happens to your recyclables by watching [Recycling, Where Does It All Go?](#)

Contamination

Liquids contaminate recycling. Make sure to empty liquids from recyclables before placing them in the bin. One plastic bottle containing liquid that is tossed in the recycling can result in the whole bag being sent to the landfill! If you are unsure if an item is recyclable or clean enough to recycle, the best choice is to throw it in the landfill bin.

“When in Doubt, Throw it Out!”

Containers

Plastic bottles and containers (#1-5 and #7)



Paper

All paper products and cardboard



Waste Quiz Questions

1. *Are disposable coffee cups and lids recyclable?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No – ANSWER
2. How can you reduce your waste on campus?
 - a. Bring your own reusable water bottle
 - b. Bring your own reusable thermos
 - c. Bring your own washable cutlery
 - d. Take part in UM's reusable container program at Pembina Hall
 - e. All of the above – ANSWER
3. Why do we want to make sure containers are empty before placing them in recycling bins?
 - a. Because only hot liquids can be recycled.
 - b. Because spilled liquids contaminate recycling. In many cases, the whole recycling bag needs to go to landfill - ANSWER
 - c. Because liquids should only be consumed outdoors.
4. Which of the items below would you place in a Re-Bin?
 - a. Pens
 - b. Batteries
 - c. Plastic Bags
 - d. All of the above – ANSWER