



# Office of Sustainability



LIVE ◀ LEARN ▶ WORK

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# WHO WE ARE

- ▶ Office of Sustainability established in 2007
- ▶ Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment (VTCAC) & Sustainability Plan approved in 2009
- ▶ VTCAC defines sustainability as: **“the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social justice and equity, through action, education, and engagement to address current needs without compromising the capacity and needs of future generations.”**
- ▶ Set goals and priorities for immediate and long term action



## WHAT WE DO

- ▶ VTCAC Point #5 states Virginia Tech will maintain a sustainability office to:
  - ▶ **Coordinate** campus sustainability programs
  - ▶ **Oversee implementation** of VTCAC & Sustainability Plan
  - ▶ **Manage** a campus-wide **Student Internship Program**
  - ▶ **Coordinate communication** regarding campus sustainability initiatives to the university community and external audiences
  - ▶ **Track and report** sustainability progress

# SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS & GETTING INVOLVED

- ▶ **Intern program events:** Turn Down for Watt, Thrift Swap, Pop-up Farmers Market, Green Tailgate
- ▶ **Sustainability Week**
- ▶ **Earth Week**
- ▶ **Sustainability Forums**
- ▶ **Green RFP**
- ▶ **LEED certification**
- ▶ **Green Grads**
- ▶ **Gobblerfest (Sep 8)**



**DID YOU HEAR THE BUZZ? THE BEES ARE DYING**

According to the American Beekeeping Federation, honey bees contribute more than \$14 billion worth of crops to the U.S. economy.

Without bees to spread seeds, many plants will die off.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Plant a bee-friendly garden. Eat locally grown, organic food.

**LEARN MORE:** Monday, March 20 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Drillfield.

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# BEING GREEN: WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

**Single Stream Recycling**

Recycle these items together:

- Newspapers, Magazines, and Mail
- Cardboard & Pizza Boxes
- Cereal & Tissue Boxes
- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Aluminum & Metal Cans
- Plastic Containers #1-7 (lids on)

**Keep Out:**

- Electronics, Cords & Wires
- Styrofoam
- Plastic Bags and Wrap
- Food Waste
- Batteries

Questions? See [www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/recycle](http://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/recycle)





# BEING GREEN: WASTE MINIMIZATION & RECYCLING

- ▶ VT transitioned to single stream recycling on July 1, 2015
- ▶ VTCAC goal is 50% recycle rate by 2020
  - ▶ 2016 recycle rate was 38%
- ▶ 100 Big Belly solar powered compactors outdoors across campus
- ▶ Single stream containers indoors in academic and administrative buildings
  
- ▶ **How to recycle in your residence hall:**
  - ▶ Each room is provided with a blue handheld recycling container
  - ▶ Students take recycling and trash outside to available waste stations



# BEING GREEN: RE-USABLES

- ▶ Dining Services offers OZZI Machines in Turner Place, West End, & Owens
  - ▶ Eat-in at dining halls as much as you can
  - ▶ [Sit & Sort website](#)
- ▶ Water bottle refill stations are located throughout campus, remember to fill up!
- ▶ Always carry reusable bags with you! Plastic grocery bags **cannot be** recycled through single stream
- ▶ Reusable utensils are great to keep in your backpack or dorm room!



# BEING GREEN: DINING SERVICES

- ▶ Dining Services aims to source 20% of their food from local and sustainable vendors by 2020, currently 13%
  - ▶ The Dining Services Farm at Kentland provides
  - ▶ Partnership with Department of Horticulture to maintain farm, HORT 2834 is a hands-on class that takes place at the farm
  - ▶ Farms & Fields restaurant in Owens Food Court exclusively serves local, sustainable, and organic foods
- ▶ Deet's Place is going compostable! In the next few months, the Styrofoam to-go cups will be replaced with compostable alternatives, making campus foam-free!





# BEING GREEN: RESIDENCE HALL LIFE

- ▶ Remember to **turn off the lights** when you leave!
- ▶ **Use power strips** whenever possible, and turn them off when your electronics are not in use
- ▶ **Set your computer or laptop to sleep** after 10 minutes
- ▶ Switch your lamps to **LED bulbs**
- ▶ **Wash your clothes with cold water** and **air dry** your clothes when possible, if you do not have a full load of laundry, think about combining with your roommate!
- ▶ Take **shorter showers**, 5 minutes max
- ▶ **Report leaks** to maintenance staff and you can save multiple gallons of water
- ▶ **Use reusable utensils, plates, and cups** when eating in your room



# BEING GREEN: GETTING AROUND

- ▶ Free BT service with your Hokie Passport
- ▶ Commuter alternatives
  - ▶ Carpool passes
  - ▶ Bus/bike/walk program:  
30 daily parking permits per year & access to Emergency Ride Home service
- ▶ Zipcar hourly ride rental on campus
- ▶ Alternative transportation center
  - ▶ Hokie bike hub located on ground floor of Perry St. parking garage
  - ▶ Tools and resources for bike repair



# KEEP IN TOUCH!

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For more information, visit our website [www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability](http://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability)



Sustainability at Virginia Tech



@vtsustainable

**See you at Gobblerfest on September 8<sup>th</sup>!**

