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Sustainable *UNTHSC*

Campus Sustainability:

A New Program with Old Roots

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The UNT Health Science Center is committed to improving the health and quality of life of Texans and beyond. The Office of Sustainability within Facilities Management supports that mission by striving to improve the environmental health and quality of life for our campus and community. While the office is a new program on campus, sustainability has been practiced here for over a decade. In fact, UNTHSC has saved over \$5 million since 2000 by implementing several energy conservation measures. Sustainability makes cents!

Sustainability means meeting our needs today without preventing

future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Commission 1987). The Office of Sustainability partners with departments and persons on campus and in the community to implement sustainable practices on campus. We strive for operational efficiency, reducing the environmental impact of the campus, and increasing student and campus engagement in sustainability initiatives.



Dr. Youcheng Liu
Associate Professor, School of Public Health

"Earth's resources are limited. We must conserve them so future generations can have their fair share for growth and development. I grew up in a culture in which we were told 'not to make new shoes before the old ones are worn out'. Trash is a waste of resources and adds to the burden of environmental pollution thus affecting our health. Sustainability practices can start with us as individuals particularly in a health-focused and environmentally sensitive institution. I believe we have the responsibility to educate community members to practice sustainability. Together, we can make a difference to reduce our environmental impact and encourage healthy communities."

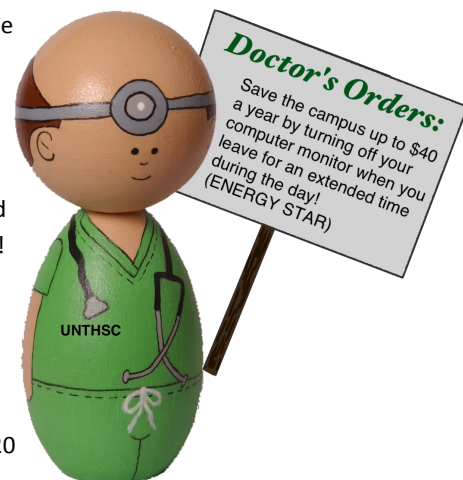


Recycling on Campus: The New and Improved

Our campus started recycling paper in the mid-1990s. We expanded to a co-mingled recycling program in 2011 meaning recyclable items can be collected in one container rather than having to sort each type of item. Currently our co-mingled recycling program accepts plastics, paper products, cardboard, glass, aluminum, and steel. In 2011 alone, we recycled over 233 tons of waste!

Last year, an additional recycling program was created called "Recycling 2.0" which includes ink cartridge, cell phones, and battery recycling. One receptacle to collect these items is located in the MET Building near Four Star Café. Already we've recycled over 40 lbs. of batteries, 120 ink cartridges, and 10 lbs. of cell phone products! If you need a special pickup, email or call our office directly.

We are continually looking for ways to increase the efficiency and use of our recycling program. To learn more about our program or to offer suggestions, please click [here](#).



Get Connected!

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New Water Stations Make a Splash!



Pictured: Rebekah Sessoms, TCOM Student

With funds from the Environmental Service Fee, the Office of Sustainability through Facilities Management installed 7 water stations throughout campus in November 2012. The stations provide cold, filtered water to a refillable bottle in a quick and convenient way. The purpose of the stations is to encourage sustainable behavior on campus by **minimizing plastic bottle waste** and **serving as a reminder of our sustainability efforts**. As of December, we helped eliminate 8,575 disposable plastic water bottles! Click [here](#) for more information on these stations.

Already, we are looking to install more stations throughout UNTHSC's campus. Stations will be installed as part of the new renovations in the Library and on the 8th floor of the Everett. A station is being installed in our May Street location as well. The Sustainability Committee will be voting on additional stations in February, so if you have a suggestion on potential locations, email the Office of Sustainability.

FEATURES

Green

- ◆ Helps eliminate plastic bottle waste
- ◆ Informs the user the # of 12oz bottles saved from the landfill

Clean

- ◆ Provides cold, filtered water
- ◆ Touchless, sanitary operation
- ◆ Anti-microbial finish to inhibit growth of mold and mildew

Quick

- ◆ Rapid fill rate at approximately 1.5 gallons per minute
- ◆ One handed operation while standing is both convenient and easy

Sustainability Pledge:

Promoting a Healthier Campus and Community

In November, the Office of Sustainability launched the Sustainability Pledge with the purpose of encouraging the UNTHSC community to take actions to enhance our sustainability efforts on campus and in our homes. The pledge includes sections on energy efficiency, water

Sustainability. In one statement on energy efficiency, 94% of people (767 respondents) said they would turn off their computers at the end of the day. According to ENERGY STAR, our campus could save an estimated \$75 per computer every year by adopting this one

conservation, food, consumption, and transportation.

To date, over **800** students, staff, and faculty

have taken the pledge! Sixty percent of pledge takers are students, 34% staff, 5% faculty, and 1%

other. In addition, 48% of people said they're interested in getting involved in sustainability efforts on campus, and 63% of people asked to receive newsletters from the Office of

Very happy we have this program at UNTHSC. Sustainability is becoming more and more important and goes hand in hand with medicine. A healthier, more environmental way of living feeds into good health."
- TCOM Student

practice! This could mean an annual savings of \$57,525 for 767 computers!

Current students, staff, and faculty members receive a free water bottle for completing the pledge.

Bottle pickup occurs in the MET lobby every Wednesday from 11:30am-12:30pm. The pledge is ongoing, so if you would like to take it, click on the "Take the Pledge!" button on the left. Together we can work towards improving the health and quality of our environment and community!



What do you want to see on campus? Or what is your department doing to be sustainable?
Let our office know!



Coming Soon to UNTHSC

Earth Day 2013— In April, the university will host an event to celebrate our planet and its resources. There will be several booths, giveaways, and free electronic waste recycling! The exact date will be announced soon, so watch for updates!

Green Office Certification— The Office of Sustainability is developing a program to encourage the UNTHSC community to adopt more sustainable practices in areas such as energy conservation, recycling efficiency, etc. If your office would like to participate in the pilot phase, please contact our office.