

# Sustainability at University of Illinois Springfield

A quick guide to various resources and ways to live sustainably during your time on campus!

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Sustainability is the effort of maintaining the world we live in for those after us. Daily choices are an important contribution to this initiative!

Change starts at the community level. Here are a few notes on sustainability on our campus:

The UIS Green Fee is an initiative that began in Fall of 2017. Students pay \$5 a semester towards it, and then get to decide what to do with it. The Green Fee Committee accepts project proposals in the fall, and approves and implements them in the spring. The Faculty Sustainability Committee also works closely with the Green Fee and with other entities to promote sustainability.

Project proposals are always welcome and encouraged as the Green Fee works towards making your home away from home more sustainable! The Green Fee would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Email us at [greenprojects@uis.edu](mailto:greenprojects@uis.edu) or give our website a visit at [uis.edu/greenprojects](http://uis.edu/greenprojects)

The UIS Student Union is a LEED certified building. This means that throughout construction and in use it meets certain qualifications of environmental sustainability.

Important links:

[uis.edu/greenprojects/](http://uis.edu/greenprojects/)

[uis.edu/greenprojects/sustainabilitymap/](http://uis.edu/greenprojects/sustainabilitymap/)

[uis.edu/communitygarden/](http://uis.edu/communitygarden/)

[uis.edu/sustainability](http://uis.edu/sustainability)

Living on campus means less concern about the price of electricity, but the environmental impact is the same. Avoiding leaving electronics on while leaving the room is a helpful way to reduce energy use.

On campus, certain changes have been made to help reduce our overall energy consumption. Motion sensor lights and higher efficiency LED lightbulbs are two changes seen in various buildings.

Leaving the house Checklist:

- Are the lights off?
- Is the fan off?
- Are energy-draining things unplugged? (Hair straightener, computer charger, etc.)
- Are windows shut to keep in AC/heating?

To learn about how Springfield gets its energy, check out <https://www.cwlp.com/Departments/ElectricDeptHome/ElectricHome.aspx>

UIS- as well as the City of Springfield- gets its water from Lake Springfield. The water goes through levels of treatment before reaching your tap. To learn more, check out <https://www.cwlp.com/Departments/WaterDeptHome/WaterHome.aspx>

#### Best Practices:

Pause the faucet while brushing teeth, shaving or cleaning dishes. Ensure faucets are turned off tightly to prevent leaking faucets. Reducing shower time and pausing water during showers are two additional ways to further reduce water usage.

To reduce waste and have convenient access to water, check out any of the campus water bottle filling stations. Locations can be found on our Sustainability Projects Map.

#### Features on Campus:

In some buildings such as the Student Union, there are low-flow toilets which use less water. All showerheads in resident spaces, such as the residence halls and other housing, are low-flow as well!

Public transit is a great environmentally friendly option. Find more information about bus routes here: <https://www.uis.edu/studentlife/smt-d-route-information/>

UIS has designated parking spots for low-emissions vehicles and carpools. To see a map of these spots and see if your car qualifies, check out <https://www.uis.edu/greenprojects/green-parking-spaces/>

The Recreation and Athletic Center offers a bike rental program which is another great way to get around campus.

The University of Illinois Springfield holds the distinction of being named a Bronze Award-winning bicycle-friendly campus from the League of American Bicyclists!

Carpooling when possible is a great way to curb greenhouse gas emissions created by multiple cars on the road. Try making a plan with friends or colleagues to share the drive.

Recycling is available around campus in the form of outdoor recycling bins. The locations of our outdoor recycling bins can be found on our interactive campus sustainability map (website on page 2).

A common misconception is that recycling is thrown away with the trash on campus. That is not the case! At UIS, recyclables placed in the proper bins are in fact taken to a recycling facility.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

While recycling is an important part of the three R's, it is also the last step in the chain. Changing common practices to emphasize reducing consumption and limiting one-use items leads to less reliance on recycling.

UIS is the proud home to a buzzing community garden which strongly encourages student participation. With volunteer work days in each semester and the chance to harvest your own fresh vegetables, the community garden is a great way to get yourself involved in a sustainable initiative and test your green thumb!

In our community garden, all the produce is free for community members.

Our community garden is chemical free and utilizes sustainable composting practices. Looking to learn more? Check out <https://www.uis.edu/communitygarden/>

The community garden offers the chance for an outdoor classroom where all community members are welcome to gather, form relationships, and learn about sustainable food systems.

There are many organizations in Springfield that are champions of sustainability. Check out a few of them below:

<https://www.ilstewards.org/>

<https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois>

<https://spfldcycling.org/>

<https://ilenviro.org/>

<https://fosvdotorg.wordpress.com>

<http://www.sustainablespringfield.org/>

The Springfield Farmers market has great local goods and produce. It runs from May through October each year, happening on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. To learn more:

<https://www.downtownspringfield.org/old-capitol-farmers-market/>

The voices of the people will always be one of the strongest pillars of sustainability. Volunteering, voting, and lobbying are some strong methods of being heard. Encourage those around you and those in your government to further their commitment to a sustainable future.