Green Dorm Checklist

Passionate about the planet and looking for ways to make a difference? try a few of these green living strategies in your dorm room.

Reduce Energy
- Switch off lights when you leave a room.
- Make use of natural light during the day.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED’s.
- Plug electronics into a power strip and switch off the power to the power strip when not in use.
- Enable sleep mode on computers and turn off your monitor when you are not using it.
- Keep windows closed during heating and cooling months. Adjust your thermostat and clothing to moderate your temperature.
- Choose a laptop. Laptops use 80% less energy than desktops.
- Select Energy Star certified appliances.
- Bike or walk to class rather than driving or having a friend drive you.

Save Water
- Don’t let the water run when you are brushing your teeth, washing dishes, or before you are ready to get in the shower.
- Take shorter showers.
- Report leaky toilets and faucets to facilities so that they can be fixed.
- Wash only full loads of laundry. Use the “Bright Colors” setting on the washing machine – it uses cold water, which requires 90% less energy per cycle.
- Don’t buy bottled water, instead use a water bottle and put a pitcher of water in the fridge.

Reduce Waste and Resource Use
- Carry a refillable water bottle and use the water bottle refilling stations located around campus.
- Recycle using the bins provided in your room and around campus. Don’t contaminate recycling bins with trash.
- Collect compostable materials and take them to the community compost bin at the Furman Farm.
- Buy less stuff!
- Buy second hand furniture, books, and clothing to save money and reduce your resource use.
- Take reusable shopping bags to the grocery and other stores when you shop.
- Donate to Goodwill when you have items you no longer need, especially upon Move Out.
- When you purchase furniture and home décor items for your dorm room, look for products that contain rapidly renewable resources (like bamboo and cork) and/or recycled material (plastic, metal), and have low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) finishes.
- Try to avoid disposable items and items with excessive packaging, and possibly buy in bulk.

Go Green
- Only print when you must. Use digital files to read and make notes for your classes and to communicate.
- If printing is necessary, print double-sided with small margins and use paper with high recycled content.
- Pack your lunch rather than eating out.
- Compost the take out containers from the dining hall if you use them.
- Use only green cleaning supplies.
- Buy a houseplant for your room to improve air quality.