

Summary of University of Cincinnati's Environmental Initiatives

As part of its commitment to environmental stewardship, UC's Recycling/ Environmental Program recycles over 2.3 million pounds of materials annually. The University of Cincinnati has launched numerous energy management programs to meet the challenges of funding reductions, energy demands, and environmental impacts. The campus also hosts two newly constructed 'green buildings' certified by the US Green Building Council.

Expanding Recycling

The University of Cincinnati has 115 ninety-gallon, wheeled totes located in 29 buildings throughout east and west campuses for mixed office paper. The totes are in hallways, dock areas, computer labs, copy rooms, and near elevators. Twenty-one different buildings on campus also recycle aluminum. UC operates a cardboard compactor at the Medical Sciences Building

dock and collects cardboard at other loading docks across campus. The Facilities Management Department administers the Recycling Program 46 on campus buildings. For a complete list of all UC's recycling drop-off locations visit www.uc.edu/af/documents/facilities/.

University of Cincinnati at a Glance

- Established in 1870
- 473 acres on 7 campuses
- Enrollment (2005-2006) = 35,527
- Total employees = 14,981
- On campus residents = 2,930

UC strives to recycle in all aspects of their operations. Transportation Services recycles oil, antifreeze, and tires as part of servicing university vehicles. When refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners reach the end of their life, they remove and recycle the Freon and the scrap metal. Both on the east and west campuses, UC composts collected leaves and later uses the compost in campus gardens and flower beds. UC also offers hundreds of recycled products in their campus stores and uses recycled paper products and trash bags on campus.

Conserving Energy

UC has partnered with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its voluntary ENERGY STAR programs. ENERGY STAR is a government-backed program helping business and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. According to EPA estimate, the impact of UC's environmental efforts is equivalent to planting approximately 3,300,000 trees.

UC signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, an effort to address global warming by gaining institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education. Presidents signing the Commitment pledge to eliminate their campuses' greenhouse gas emissions over time. This involves a variety of steps including completing an emissions inventory and within two years, setting a target date and interim milestones for becoming climate neutral.

Did you know?

UC maintains a fleet of 52 alternative fuel vehicles.

In 2006, UC started the Housing Conservation Challenge in their eight on campus residence halls. The competition measures how much residence halls on campus can conserve energy, reduce consumption of water, and increase recycling. UC plans to hold two Housing Conservation Challenges per academic year.

Building Green

UC has several green buildings projects on campus into which they are incorporating sustainable design. Two of the buildings, the Joseph A. Steger Student Life Center and the Richard E. Linder Varsity Village have received LEED certification by the US Green Building Council.

UC Buildings Incorporating Sustainable Design

- Joseph A. Steger Student Life Center
- Richard E. Linder Varsity Village
- Campus Recreation Center
- Center for Academic and Research Excellence

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. UC also expects the Campus Recreation Center and the Center for Academic and Research Excellence Building to receive LEED certification in the near future.

History of University of Cincinnati Recycling Program	
1991	Through a Department of Natural Resources grant, 8 thirty-yard recycling containers are purchased and installed
1992	Compacted Cardboard recycling unit installed at MSB Dock
1996	Facilities Management starts recycling white paper in three buildings. Efforts are expanded to include newspaper, aluminum cans, cardboard, plastics and glass
1997/1998	\$23,000 is spent on expanding recycling efforts
1998	Earth Company (UC Student Group) places aluminum can recycling containers in 7 buildings, with student volunteers emptying them into central containers for pick up
1998	Earth Company discontinues efforts and Facilities Management's Moving Crew takes over, expanding to 27 locations
2003-2005	51 co-mingled containers placed throughout Main Street
2006	15 co-mingled containers placed throughout Varsity Village