

# Green Tips for College Students

## 10 Environmentally Friendly Ideas for Residence Halls and Campus Life

What eco-friendly things can a college student do to help the environment? More than you might think, actually. The typical college student's lifestyle can lead to quite a bit of waste, especially paper, so small steps to conserve and recycle can really add up! Here are some environmentally friendly tips for a greener college life.

1. **Recycle everything, especially paper!** Think about how many pieces of paper you go through in a semester. You have your class notes, your scrap copies, your term papers, your weekly copies of the Voice, and assorted stuff that you've printed out from your emails or online... it all adds up. Look for a paper recycle bin in your hallway or in academic buildings. Recycle other items as well, including cans, bottles, and cardboard boxes.
2. Use your printer wisely. Save pages that you've printed and use the backs to print out drafts and other things you don't have to turn in. In addition, many printers have multiple settings for print quality. Use the high quality print setting for things that have to look nice, but use the low quality setting for things that don't. This will save ink. While you're at, consider cutting down on the things you print out. Do you really need to print out that web page, or can you just bookmark it?
3. **Limit the use of disposable cups and plates.** This adds up to a lot of waste and money. Buy yourself some inexpensive plates and wash them. Some halls have a kitchen, and if yours doesn't, wash dishes in a bathroom sink.
4. Limit the use of paper napkins and paper towels in the bathroom. Napkin & paper towel use can add up. It's good that you want to be clean, but one napkin and/or paper towel will probably do the trick!
5. **Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.** These bulbs cost more, but they last longer and ultimately save you money. Get yourself a lamp and screw in one of these bulbs. Lamp lights are much more environmentally efficient.
6. **Walk, bike, and limit your use of a car.** Most campuses are very pedestrian friendly, and Bloomsburg offers shuttle service around campus/town. Ask yourself if you really need a car as a college student, because if you can get by without one, you can save a good deal of money on gas, repairs, and overpriced student car insurance. If you do own a car, try to use it as little as you can.
7. Buy green. Buy recycled products whenever you can, especially paper. Buy environmentally safe cleaning products as well. At supermarkets, bookstores or thrift stores, bring your own bags instead of asking for plastic bags.
8. **Carry a water bottle.** Save waste and money and carry a refillable bottle. Fill it up at a water fountain or buy large containers of waters to refill your bottle.
9. Use refillable binders instead of notebooks. If you want to save your notes after the semester is over, take them out of the binder and staple them. Or you can go electronic and take all of your notes on a laptop.
10. **Buy used clothing.** Lots of students do this to save money, but it's also a great thing to do for the environment. Reusing clothes decreases the use of resources to make clothing and puts a dent in the problem of worldwide sweatshops.

