

Zero Waste at UCLA

University of California set a **policy and goal** for all campuses to go Zero Waste, where:

- 90% of the waste generated needs to be diverted away from the landfill by following the waste hierarchy of refusing, reducing, reusing, donating, and recycling/composting
- waste per capita is reduced by 25% from FY15/16 levels by 2025



General Rule:

Anything that was alive or is a product of something that was alive is **compostable**.
(Ex: napkins = **trees**, bones = **animals**, vegetables = **plants**)

No Food or Liquids!

- Drink or empty liquids before recycling
- Scrape out any leftover food into compost to best of ability
- Rinsing not required but recommended

General Rule:

Shiny wrappers or items smaller than 2 inches (except metal) is **landfill**. Items made from mixed materials are also **landfill**.
(Ex: chip bags, gum, pens, etc.)

Full sized signage can be found at sustain.ucla.edu

Do you have a recycling, bulky item pick-up*, or donation request? Submit a [Recycling Request Form](#)

*Bulky item pick-ups more than 5 items and 5 bags of trash requires a [Facilities Service Request](#).

For office or lab supply donations, please contact ZeroWaste@ucla.edu

Universal Waste

Hazardous Waste

SUBMIT ONLINE REQUEST FORM FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- Batteries
- Electronic Waste

PRINTER INK/TONER CARTRIDGES

- Send back to manufacturer if take-back program available
- Send >15 to Campus Mail Code 152608
- Submit FSR for <15 or contact ZeroWaste@ucla.edu

SUBMIT FSR FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- Tires
- Fluorescent Lights/Tubes

CONTACT EH&S

- Oils & Grease
- Vacuum Pump Oil
- Paints & Thinners
- Chemicals (including cleaning solutions)
- Radiation Waste
- Sharps

Interested in Learning More or Getting More Involved?

Host a Trash Talk with Kikei!

Learn more about waste management and how you and your department can help UCLA achieve Zero Waste. Contact. If you have any questions, you can contact Kikei at ZeroWaste@ucla.edu or call 310-206-4993.

Recycling Do's and Don'ts



Pour out liquids.



Scrape out food.



Wipe out oily or sticky residue.



Why Can't I Recycle _____?

These items are commonly found items that people try to recycle, but belong in a different waste stream. Remember, if there is no recycling market for that item, you cannot recycle it.

LANDFILL—Mixed-Material Products (chip bags, foil coffee bags, snack wrappers, etc.)

These materials are mixed material products, meaning multiple types of materials are bound together, such as plastic and metal, plastic and paper, or metal and paper. Recycling facilities cannot take these items apart, they can only sort items made of paper, plastic, metal, and glass.

LANDFILL—Styrofoam (cups, trays, blocks, boxes, etc.)

Styrofoam is not recyclable. No recycling facilities accept it because of the intense amount of resources required to sort and process the material.

LANDFILL—Soft Plastics (cling wrap, plastic bags, Ziploc bags, plastic film)

Soft plastics do not have a value in being recycled due to the low quality and are often too contaminated with food and/or liquids.

LANDFILL—Hard plastics but too small or irregularly shaped to process (coffee creamer cups, plastic straws, plastic utensils, plastic stirrers)

These various items are too small or irregularly shaped to be processed and often fall off the conveyor belt at the recycling facilities. They also fracture into unrecoverable pieces during transportation.

Compost—Soiled Paper Products (paper towels/napkins, plates, greasy bags/boxes)

These paper products have already been recycled multiple times = short fibers & low quality. Also often covered in grease & food, which will ruin the good batches of recyclable paper when processed

Have something you don't see listed here? Email ZeroWaste@ucla.edu
a short description of your item and a picture if possible!

What sets UCLA apart?

Trademarks and Licensing

UCLA's Trademarks and Licensing have committed to selecting [licensees](#) who agree to produce products under fair, safe, and humane working conditions and who demonstrate management processes that enable them to achieve progress toward implementation of these standards throughout their supply chain. Partners are required to provide full transparency of the supply chain *and* meet the [UC Trademark Licensing Code of Conduct](#).

UCLA STARS

UCLA has received a [Gold rating](#) through the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System ([STARS](#)) spearheaded by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), an organization of international sustainability specialists. STARS tracks the environmental stewardship of universities and colleges from around the world. This designation is 9 years in the making, since achieving STARS Silver in 2011 - this is a result of all the current and former Bruins who have contributed their time and energy to improving sustainability at UCLA!

LEED Lab

LEED Lab is a hands-on building sustainability program where students assess the performance of existing facilities on campus and certify these buildings under LEED for Operations and Maintenance (LEED O+M). As one of the 3 UC campuses offering this program, enrolled participants will have enough hands-on experience and training to be able to complete the online test and become an accredited LEED professional. Funding may be available for testing fees.

Student Opportunities

Sustainability Action Research (SAR)

A unique student-initiated, designed, and facilitated 2-quarter research program that pairs student researchers with a campus stakeholder to design sustainability projects and implement actionable solutions on campus. Applications open during Fall Quarter!

Sustainable LA Grand Challenges

The UCLA Grand Challenges initiative connects faculty, students and supporters from all disciplines to work together, adopting a holistic approach to solve critical issues. The Sustainable LA Grand Challenge is focused on transitioning Los Angeles to 100% renewable energy, 100% locally sourced water and enhanced ecosystem health by 2050, starting with an implementation plan that will be delivered by 2020. In achieving these goals, we will make the region a model for the whole world. The Undergraduate Research Scholars Program is a year-long program and is open to 2nd and 3rd years of all majors! Applications for the next year's program are due at the end of the current school year (e.g. deadline for the 2021-2022 program is due in June 2021).

Student Organizations

Students have the opportunity to join organizations and pursue their passions. These student organizations often work with the Office of Sustainability and their project impacts the local community and beyond. An extensive list can be found on the website, but students are welcome to create their own organization so long as there are a total of 4 members!

Check out our updated website! sustain.ucla.edu

Sustainability Solutions Central

A one-stop-shop of all resources for all things sustainability, covering topics such as waste, purchasing, food, water & energy, transportation, [student opportunities](#), and so much more!

Learn more about UCLA's Sustainable Operations

If you're curious about ongoing campus projects, browse through what we're doing to achieve the goals outlined in the [UC Sustainable Practices Policy](#)!



UCLA announces

Single Use Plastics Policy

The policy is envisioned as ultimately including not only sit-down and take-out restaurants at UCLA, but also dining halls, events and even departmental meetings. Everything from conferences, panel discussions and lectures to catered meetings, rallies and concerts would be covered. The draft policy envisions a path to ultimately eliminate single-use plastic water bottles on campus and increase water-refilling hydration stations.

How can I practice sustainability and resilience now and beyond the pandemic?

[Resilience](#) is the ability to bounce back after a disaster or stressful event. This can refer to our mental and physical wellbeing or anticipating disasters or mitigating situations. Sustainability is continuing to exist or function given limited resources, which includes actions such as recycling or systems such as regenerative food supplies. While the two concepts are not synonymous, we often practice both hand in hand without realizing it. We are ensuring our own resilience through the practice of sustainability – reusing what we have, being cost efficient, reducing waste, growing our own food, practicing self-care, and much more!

[Watch](#) Bonny Bentzin, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer, talk about workarounds and alternatives that teach how we can still go green and reduce waste while staying safe in a pandemic.

[Read](#) MIT Medical's update on single use disposables versus reusables (Spoiler alert: reusables are much safer for you and the environment).

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