

Sustainability FAQs

1. What is compost?

Compost is a nutrient-rich soil enhancer and has many uses: as natural fertilizer, natural pesticide, soil conditioner, and more. Compostable materials are organic matter that can break down into compost. Any organic material can be placed in the compost bins, such as banana peels or food scraps. Other compostable items include plastic-like items manufactured from corn, and green waste such as grass clippings and tree trimmings. For more information about how to sort waste, visit [the Composting and Recycling web page](#) or see the next page of this document.

2. Where does UCLA's compostable waste go?

Our compostable waste is picked up by Athens Services and sent to an industrial composting facility in Victorville, California. It is mixed with green waste to produce nutrient-rich compost.

3. What do we do with the green liners?

Green liners are for compostable materials. When they are filled, dispose of them in the compost bin located in your lounge or trash room.

4. Does UCLA use solar panels?

UCLA does not use solar panels, but there are [solar water heaters](#) on Dykstra Hall, Hedrick Hall, Rieber Hall, Sproul Hall, Sproul Cove, Holly, Gardenia, Carnesale Commons, and Ackerman Union. These panels are used to heat water for restrooms and dishwashers, but they do not offset electricity from the grid.

5. Does UCLA use renewable energy?

The majority of the campus energy comes from the co-generation plant at the Facilities Management building. The co-generation plant uses natural gas, which is not a renewable resource. However, it is very efficient because it produces electricity and useful heat energy at the same time. The remainder of UCLA's energy comes from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and is about 30% renewable.

6. What is e-waste?

E-waste, or electronic waste, refers to electronic materials that are being discarded. Anything with a wire, mother board, or chip is electronic waste. E-waste is a type of hazardous waste because it leaches toxins, such as lead and chromium into the environment. These materials must not be sent to landfill. For more information about where to send electronic waste at UCLA, please refer to the [Hazardous Waste Guide](#).

7. When will the move-out bins come back?

UCLA works with the American Textiles Recycling Service to provide students with bins that accept a variety of materials, including clothing, shoes, and small electronics. ATRS collects these materials, donates what can be donated, and recycles the rest. There are ATRS bins permanently located outside Delta Terrace, Hedrick Summit, and Hedrick Hall. There will be bins at every residence hall during the last two weeks of the academic year.

8. What do I do if I see a leak?

Please notify UCLA about any plumbing issues that are potentially wasting water, such as continually flushing toilets, leaky faucets, and broken sprinklers. For issues on the Hill, submit a work order at [the Maximo website](#). For on-campus issues, report the issue to Facilities at (310) 825-9326 or through the *UCLA Service* app.