

SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Facilities & Services
Sustainability



Sustainability Keeps Us Alive

Why is sustainability important to you? It means something different to each of us, so sustainability is important for many different reasons. However, there is one universal factor why sustainability should be important to us all....life.

Why sustainability is important



[Sustainability-themed New Year's Resolutions](#)

The new year is a great time to try out new adventures. Why not try out a sustainability habit this year? With sustainability covering so many different areas you are bound to find at least one new action to try.

[Sustainable resolutions](#)

[Jack's Cupboard Doors Open Wednesdays and Thursdays](#)

Jack's Cupboard, located on the south side of Ben Reifel Hall, provides non-perishable food to students struggling to purchase food throughout the school year. Jack's Cupboard is open every Wednesday and Thursday.

[About Jack's Cupboard](#)



[Student Sustainability Council Meeting Tonight](#)

All students are welcome to attend. Meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in Wagner 114.



Sustainability, 1451 Stadium Road, Brookings, SD 57007, United States, 605-688-6821

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Why is Sustainability Important?

BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | JANUARY 15, 2019

Take a moment, close your eyes, and name three things you need to survive. If your answer included food, water, and air, you have defined the very basics of sustainability and why it is important. Sustainability involves providing the necessities of life in a way that does not harm the source of those necessities. That source is the planet. Earth has intricate and delicate processes that provide food, water, and air. We need to protect these processes so that the necessities of life will continue for generations to come.

But it's not just our basic necessities that the Earth provides. Our planet also protects us in a myriad of ways such as shielding us from harmful UV rays via the ozone layer, soil structures and plants filtering and cleaning water, and coastal ecosystems acting as a buffer during storms. While we don't see these actions, we benefit from them every single day. Without these, we are at higher risks of sunburns and skin cancer, need more technology to clean our water sources, and face greater damage from storms.

Sustainability is a two-way street between the earth and the humans who inhabit it.

Think about it. If you don't have good access to basic human needs like food and water, you are going to do whatever it takes - good or bad - to ensure you have those resources. Often these extreme measures degrade the natural environment's ability to provide the benefits mentioned previously. That then makes these resources and basic needs harder to obtain, which then takes more extreme measures to access the resources, degrading the earth even further. Eventually, the earth will be so degraded that you can no longer obtain basic human needs. However, if you are able to find a way to access food and water in a way that doesn't harm the earth, you could have access to these resources for generations to come. To make this situation possible, we need to ensure that everyone has equitable access to basic human needs so that no one takes drastic measures to access them.

Sustainability is not just another popular trend. It is a way of life on which our lives and those of our descendants depend.

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Sustainable New Year's Resolutions

BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | JANUARY 15, 2019

New year. New semester. Great time to try something new. Right? As the campus Sustainability Specialist, it's not uncommon for people to ask me what they can do to be more sustainable. So, as we start this great new year, I thought I'd share 10 tips on how to have a more sustainable 2019.

#1. Recycle. Recycling is one of the easiest ways to practice sustainability. Recycling bins are located across campus with a color coding system where yellow bins are for trash and blue bins are for recycling. For information on what can and can't be recycled check out the SDSU recycling guide at www.sdsu.edu/sustainability

#2. Turn the water off when you brush your teeth. Running the water as you brush your teeth, wastes around 4 gallons of water. Over the course of the one year, that adds up to 1,460 gallons, which is about the volume of 18 standard-sized bath tubs.

#3. Ride your bike or walk to campus. While this may not seem very appealing right now, it's a great habit to get into come spring. Not only does riding your bike or walking to work reduce pollution, but it also makes you healthier and feel happier.

#4. Buy less. Reducing is by far the most sustainable action when it comes to waste. The fewer items you buy the fewer materials need to be made, and the fewer resources we need to extract from the earth.

#5. Ditch bottled water. Besides the environmental benefits, using a reusable water bottle has economic benefits, too. According to an article written by Sustainability at Wake Forest University (<https://sustainability.wfu.edu/2014/01/27/reusable-vs-disposable-is-it-worth-it/>), "The average American is likely to spend \$588.00 on 168 bottles of water" in 1 year. A Nalgene water bottle at Walmart costs \$12. Water from SDSU water fountains and bottle re-fill stations is free.

#6. Shop local. Shopping local reduces the transportation needed to distribute goods, which lowers pollution. It also supports your community and helps it have a viable economy.

#7. Unplug electronics when not in use. Did you know that many electronics still use energy even when they are turned off, but still plugged in? This is called vampire energy. Check out these stats from a New York Times article (<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/08/science/just-how-much-power-do-your-electronics-use-when-they-are-off.html>). A plugged in, turned-off TV uses about 227 kilowatt-hours annually, and a computer

plugged in 24/7/365 uses around 235 kilowatt-hours a year. Both of these are “more [energy] than the average person uses in an entire year in some developing countries.”

#8. Reusable ware. Did you know that Aramark sells reusable cups, coffee-mugs, to-go containers, and bags? To-go boxes cost \$6, but when you use this box you don't have to pay the \$0.50 for a disposable container. Thus, it only takes 12 uses for the to-go box to pay for itself! Using reusable ware, helps reduce the amount of waste we generate on campus.

#9. Wash your clothes in cold water. According to an article in The Christian Science Monitor (<https://www.csmonitor.com/Business/The-Simple-Dollar/2012/0119/Here-s-exactly-how-much-you-ll-save-doing-laundry-in-cold-water>), washing your clothes in cold water uses 15x less energy than washing your clothes in hot water.

#10. Print double-sided. This reduces your paper usage in half! Briggs Library printers are set up to automatically print double-sided.

Happy New Year!

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On Campus

Gamma Sigma Delta Hosts Spring Awards and Initiation Ceremony

Don't Dump! Donate! collects more than 500 items

3 students inducted into international honor society

Related Departments



Sustainability

Jack's Cupboard Is Open

BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | JANUARY 15, 2019

Jack's Cupboard, located on the south side of Ben Reifel Hall, provides non-perishable food to students struggling to purchase food throughout the school year. Jack's Cupboard is open every Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Donations to Jack's Cupboard can be dropped off at Jack's Cupboard during open hours, the Housing and Residential Life office Monday thru Friday 8 to 5, or the University Police Department 24/7.

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