



Sustainability at Macalester

Welcome to Macalester College! You are joining a group of students who have long worked on sustainability issues on campus. Sustainability is a concept that encompasses justice, the environment, economics, and more – “pieces” that not only fit together, but cannot exist separate of each other. Achieving sustainability requires challenging common divisions between present and future, local and global, learning and doing, and self and world.

” in the context of “liberal arts” refers to liberty and freedom. “Art” refers to the arts education, then, is all about creating freedom; gaining skills that allow you to think expansively, and directly translate your ideas into practice. It is about building your (and our) capacity to dream and to do. It encourages us not to investigate only that way the world *is* but to understand the structures upon which we will create the world we *want*.

Sustainability at Macalester, then, is about seeing the world around us and challenging ourselves to confront what we disagree with and working with others for change. This is your community now and we are excited to get to know you, work with you, and celebrate life with you. Sustainability touches on everything going on around us – integrate sustainability into classes, research topics, labs, internships etc.

Opportunities for Macalester Students

- **Subsidized Bus Passes** are available to all students at the information desk in the Campus Center. To find the bus routes, use Metro Transit’s trip planner (<http://metrotransit.org/tripPlanner/Default.aspx>).
- **Mac Bike’s** Bike Share program allows students to check out free bicycles from the Library for up to three days.
- **HourCar** (<http://www.HOURCAR.org>), a pay-by-the-hour car share program, is located adjacent to campus. Reduced memberships are available in September.
- **Zipride** (www.macalester.zipride.com) find a ride with Macalester’s online rideshare and carpool listing board.
- **Purchase a Café Mac Travel Mug** (\$5) at the Grill and you can get \$1 coffee refills.
- **Reusable Take-Out Containers** are available at the Grill. Sign up with a one-time \$5 fee.
- **Ask for Dishes** if you are eating in at the Grill instead of using disposable products.
- **The Cultural House**, located at 37 Macalester Street, is a safe space for students of color and allies who are interested in learning from and contributing to a sustainable multicultural environment. Careful attention is paid to the intersection of multiple identities, including race, gender, class, sexual orientation, national origin, age, ability, and religion.
- **Check out a Drying Rack or Clothesline** from the Res Life office in your dorm. Air drying clothing can significantly reduce the energy used on-campus, and it will reduce your laundry costs.
- **Find free stuff on MacFreeSwap** located on the Campus Resources tab of 1600 grand. Get rid of stuff or find a treasure.
- **Find dorm room treasures** at the Habitat for Humanity Garage Sale, September 11, 2010. All the material came from students moving out of the dorms in spring.

What Can You Do to Promote Sustainability at Macalester?

- **Academics**
 - Looking for research or paper topics? The Sustainability Office has a list of possible student projects that could help you connect your class work with larger goals of sustainability on campus (<http://macalester.edu/sustainability/studentprojects>).

- **Work Study Sustainability Jobs**
 - Macalester College has a network of Sustainability Student Workers in many departments across campus from Facilities Services and Café Mac to the Procurement Office and the Library. Check out the Sustainability website to see what Sustainability Student Workers have accomplished: (<http://www.macalester.edu/sustainability/initiatives/studentworkersprojects.htm>).
 - Inquire with your department about potential opportunities for working as a Sustainability Student Worker; you could apply for an existing job or work with your department to create a new position!
- **Climate Change**
 - Macalester College's president signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment which requires us to develop a plan to become climate neutral. There are numerous opportunities to connect with this project. Please contact the Sustainability Office for more information: sustainability@macalester.edu.
- **Food**
 - Café Mac actively promotes local (20% of budget) and organic food, and strives to provide vegan, vegetarian and carnivorous delights.
 - "Low Carbon Diet" connects food choices and climate change. "Fair Trade" ingredients connect us to the people who help feed us.
 - Make environmentally smart choices in the cafeteria by eating without a tray, choosing organic, local, and Fair Trade food, and reducing the amount of food you throw away.
- **Health and Well Being**
 - Sleep and eat well – Café Mac has tons of healthy options!
 - Yoga, meditation, running/biking trails, ultimate frisbee – take care of your body, your physical health and growth is just as important as your intellect. Check out the Health and Wellness Center (<http://www.macalester.edu/health/>).
- **Save Energy and Water**
 - Turn off unneeded lights and make sure your computer is set for "sleep mode" after a certain time of inactivity.
 - Evaluate or turn off your mini-fridge; they can account for 50% of your electrical usage on campus! If you need a fridge, make sure it is EnergyStar certified.
 - Reduce the number or time of hot showers; can you sing someplace else or while the water isn't running?
- **Relationships and Community**
 - Actively engage everyone around you and seek to understand those who may seem different; your closest friends are often people you may least expect.
 - Learn about and question oppression and privilege, both acted upon you and what you act out yourself.
 - Listen – don't give "voice to the voiceless," hear the voices present around you.
 - Macalester College is your new home but don't forget to venture beyond the dorms and classrooms to explore the neighborhood and the Twin Cities.
- **Reuse/Recycle**
 - All the buildings on campus have easy to find recycling - just toss it in the right bin!
 - Look for opportunities to reuse materials. The Art Scraps store on St. Clair Ave. sells donated materials for art projects. The Twin Cities Freemarket (<http://twincitiesfreemarket.org>) is an additional listing service for people who want to give or get free reusable goods.
- **Share Ideas**
 - If you have ideas for sustainability at Macalester, please contact the Sustainability Office at sustainability@macalester.edu.