

**Medical University of South Carolina  
Division of Education and Student Life  
Environmental Sustainability Commitment**

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MUSC is committed to creating a sustainable educational environment as demonstrated by the following activities and endorsements:

1. The Division of Education and Student Life (ESL) will provide information about student-related sustainability efforts at new student orientation.
2. ESL will develop a sustainability web page for students. Included on this page will be links to the following pages/sites:
  - a. MUSC Sustainability Events (link to Sustainability Coordinator's website)
  - b. MUSC Sustainability Event Checklist
  - c. MUSC Student Sustainability Pledge
  - d. MUSC Students for Sustainability (link to Sustainability Coordinator's email)
  - e. Sustainability Suggestions Box (link to Sustainability Coordinator's email)
  - f. General information about the MUSC Sustainability Program and contact information (provided by the Sustainability Coordinator)
3. ESL will promote use of Sustainability Event Checklist.
4. ESL will encourage degree-granting programs and other educational initiatives to consider incorporating sustainability content into their programs (e.g., Presidential Scholars, Clarion Contest, Interprofessional Day, etc.).
5. ESL will identify an ESL representative as well as an SGA (Student Government Association) representative to serve on the Sustainability Committee organized by the Sustainability Coordinator.
6. ESL will provide a booth at the annual Student Activities Fair. The booths will focus on the Sustainability Program at MUSC and include a poster designed to educate students on MUSC sustainability data (e.g., cost for leaving a computer turned on overnight, etc.). Additionally, students will have an opportunity to sign the Sustainability Pledge.
7. ESL will encourage students to identify additional opportunities to reduce MUSC's carbon footprint.

## Student Guidelines for Environmental Sustainability

As one of the signatories of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, MUSC recognizes the importance of promoting sustainability of our environment. It is the ultimate goal of MUSC to utilize natural resources to meet our current needs while protecting and conserving these resources to meet the needs of future generations.

Students, as members of the MUSC community, can collectively make a significant difference in the utilization of natural resources; and, it is our intent to reaffirm our commitment to sustainability by presenting the following guidelines to assist students in identifying ways they can contribute in a positive way to the future environment of MUSC and on a larger scale, the world.

Students are encouraged to improve the environmental profile by raising awareness of and following good environmental practices which include the following guidelines:

- Reduce the environmental impact of MUSC events by assessing the impact of the event and by following the **MUSC Sustainability Event Guidelines** (e.g., coordinating with a local food bank to donate left-over food, utilizing biodegradable containers and paperless advertising, and recycling event products);
- Identify and utilize alternative transportation (e.g., bicycles, mass transit systems);
- Recycle and buy recycled products;
- Reuse by-products and minimize what is discarded;
- Dispose of toxic wastes (e.g., batteries, motor oil) according to the EPA recommendations to minimize negative environmental impact;
- Support local markets to avoid transportation over long distances;
- Purchase energy efficient products (e.g., Energy Star appliances, computers, home improvements);
- Consider the impact of purchasing imported items (e.g., environmental impact on the ecosystem in the country of origin);
- Conserve resources (e.g., turning off lights and computers when not in use);
- Print only when necessary and when necessary print double-sided using vegetable-based ink;
- Consider taking the **MUSC Sustainability Pledge**;
- Participate in **MUSC Sustainability Events**; and,
- Find creative, sustainable solutions to meet needs and wants.

MUSC faculty and staff support students in their efforts to meet the above guidelines. It is important to recognize that these efforts are not intended to decrease the quality or quantity of students' educational experiences, but rather to provide a healthier educational environment. By embracing these guidelines, MUSC will continue in our leadership role, setting an example for other universities, and our state and local communities to emulate.

## MUSC Environmental Sustainability Event Guidelines for Student Events

As part of MUSC's commitment to creating a sustainable campus environment, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to plan and execute events that support this commitment. The following guidelines were developed to assist in this process and raise awareness of our environmental responsibilities.

### ***Planning and Organizing***

- Identify an individual or small group to ensure that planning choices are aligned with MUSC's environmental sustainability commitment

### ***Attendees***

- Go paperless: Implement a virtual invitation and/or create a web-based invitation
- Include suggestions for attendees in publicity (e.g., bring your own mug, etc.)
- Promote and incentivize alternative transportation (e. g., carpooling, bicycle, walking, buses, etc.)
- Consider shuttle service from mass transit stops or hotels to the event site
- Provide website for handouts or information rather than hard copies

### ***Venue***

- Hold the event during the day and in a location that will take advantage of natural lighting (when possible)
- Hold the event in a central location to minimize transportation impact

### ***Vendors***

- Identify and contract with vendors and sponsors who implement "green" practices
- Use locally grown/produced foods
- Use reusable (or if not possible) biodegradable glasses, dishes, cutlery, etc.
- Avoid individually wrapped salt/pepper/condiments

### ***On-Site***

- Create signage that can be reused for annual and/or similar events (avoid printing dates/times/locations)
- Collect and reuse supplies including badge holders, etc.
- Coordinate with the MUSC Sustainability Coordinator to ensure the appropriate number and types of recycling containers are available
- Provide shuttle service from mass transit stops or hotels to the event site.
- Plan food service needs to avoid unnecessary waste.
- Encourage attendees to take excess food with them (provide appropriate containers) and/or donate excess food to charitable organizations.
- Collect unused items for use at a future event.

### ***Post-event***

- Maintain an event log, documenting the number of trash bags used, napkins, etc. to track impact over time
- Provide volunteers, vendors, and attendees with the opportunity to suggest additional ways the event could become more environmentally friendly
- Evaluate environmental impact of event; post to website

## MUSC Environmental Sustainability Pledge for Students

We have the potential to make a difference – as individuals and collectively as the MUSC community. Small changes in our normal routines can make a profound impact. Each student is encouraged to consider taking the MUSC Sustainability Pledge, to commit to making a difference now and to stand with the MUSC community in our efforts to conserve our resources for future generations.

### The Pledge



I pledge to become an active participant in the MUSC Environmental Sustainability Commitment program. During the course of the school year, I will implement two of the actions below in order to reduce my ecological impact. *(Please check two behaviors that you are not currently doing and that you are willing to adopt.)*

#### Food

- Choose local, seasonal produce
- Buy organic
- Buy fresh not frozen
- Eat less meat
- Reduce food waste
- Bring your own container to a restaurant for leftovers
- Bring your own grocery bags when you shop

#### Energy

- Adjust the thermostat at home – turn down the heat/AC when you are out for the day
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Turn off the lights and unplug chargers
- Use compact fluorescent bulbs
- Wash clothes in cold or warm water
- Walk, bike or take the bus
- Maintain your car (including proper tire inflation)
- Take the stairs
- Fix leaks in plumbing, air-conditioning, or around doors and windows
- Unplug computer, chargers, stereo, and television when not in use
- Never leave a light on in an empty room

#### Water

- Drink tap water, not bottled
- Carry your own water instead of buying bottled water
- Don't leave the water running
- Take shorter showers
- Only run your dishwasher when it is full

#### Waste

- Use a reusable mug and dishes
- Buy recycled paper
- Double-side all copies and print jobs
- Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.
- Use cloth towels instead of paper towels
- Dispose of batteries and computer equipment according to EPA recommendations
- Avoid plastics (use glass and/or metal)
- Start a compost bin
- Avoid products with excessive packaging

#### Your own idea

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#### Get Involved

- Join MUSC Students for Sustainability
- Volunteer for one of MUSC Sustainability Events
- Share your concerns with elected officials (national, state, local, SGA)
- Send the pledge to your colleagues

Would you like to receive announcements of events from the Sustainability Coordinator?  yes  no