

HIGHLIGHTS

Emory and Oxford Dining strive to support a sustainable local food system, from farm all the way to food recovery. Throughout its operations, Emory Dining demonstrates its commitments to sustainable and local sourcing, to staff welfare and wages, to featuring plant-based meal options every day, and to waste reduction and recovery.

Currently, Emory and Oxford Dining source over 40% of their food locally and/or sustainably, pay \$17 per hour as a minimum rate of pay, and compost or recover all food waste leaving their facilities.

BENEFITS

- Emory supports local farms and producers whenever possible. Dining currently purchases food items from over 20 local growers and producers. With the introduction of the Farms Fund partnership, that number will increase to at least 70 growers by 2040.
- Through the Farms Fund, we have achieved significant accomplishments as of summer 2024:
 - **\$18.5 million** in land value secured across **16 farms**
 - **1395 acres** of farmland secured
 - **32 farmer owners** accessing land and growing healthy food for local markets
 - **3 cities** including metro-Atlanta, metro-Chicago, and metro-Charlotte!
- To learn more, please check out this overview of the [Farms Fund](#)
- In line with Emory's commitment to fair compensation for all employees and contractors, all Emory and Oxford Dining employees receive an hourly wage above the current federal poverty level, plus benefits such as health insurance, retirement plans, and eligibility for a free sustainable commute transit pass.
- Emory Dining and the Office of Sustainability Initiatives co-manage the [weekly Emory Farmers Market](#) which

HOW IT WORKS

Production:

- Emory follows a robust set of [guidelines for sustainably sourcing food](#) utilized by the chefs when purchasing ingredients for menus and is updated frequently by the [Sustainable Food Committee](#) to incorporate the latest research and practices in sustainable production.
- Emory's partnership with The Conservation Fund's Farms Fund will boost the supply of fresh, sustainably grown food by working to overcome barriers for next-generation farmers in the metro Atlanta area.

Transportation:

- Local food purchasing is a major component of Emory's Sustainable Food Guidelines, since buying locally often reduces fossil fuel for transport, generates less waste, and offers fresher food for diners. Over 40 percent of the food served in Emory and Oxford Dining locations is sourced locally and/or sustainably.

Preparation:

- Staff are trained on stem-to-root cooking and preparing food from scratch in small batches, creating healthier meals and reducing food waste.
- The Imperfectly Delicious Produce program, run by Emory's food service provider, rescues cosmetically-challenged produce from farms small and large and finds

connects over 20 seasonal, local small business owners and farmers to the Emory community.

- Emory Dining purchases directly from Emerald City Bagels, which is a local business. Emory Dining also purchases from Pure Bliss, a 100% organic certified business based in Atlanta. Pure Bliss is also a weekly Farmers Market vendor.
- A vegan Stem-to-Root Station is front and center when entering the newest Dining facility, the [Dobbs Common Table \(DCT\)](#). Options include tofu, tempeh, seitan, a variety of beans and legumes, and whole grains including quinoa. Other Emory Dining cafes offer vegan options, including house-made bean burgers, hummus vegetable wraps, scrambled tofu, and build-your-own pasta or stir-fries with vegan sauces and tofu.
- On Emory's campus, all of Kaldi's coffees and teas are [fair trade certified](#) and roasted locally when possible. Educational signage about fair trade principles is on the wall in their coffee shops to educate customers. Kaldi's menu is plant-forward with a variety of vegan and vegetarian options.
- The hospital cafes make weekly prepared-food donations to [Second Helpings Atlanta](#), a nonprofit food rescue organization whose mission is to reduce hunger and food waste in the Metro Atlanta area by rescuing surplus food and distributing it to those in need. The focus of this program is on donations of higher protein food items such as eggs.
- To help those experiencing food insecurity in the Emory community, OSI created a [Food Security Resource Guide](#) with a list of initiatives and organizations that can help people access the food they need. This monthly updated guide contains information specific to the Druid Hills/Emory community, the Oxford community, and broadly Atlanta-based/general resources. It not only includes basic information about these food security resources, such as time and location, but also provides volunteer opportunities for those who would like to help. If you are aware of any resources that should be added to this guide, please email

creative ways to incorporate the produce into menus.

Dining Experience:

- Emory Dining serves [plentiful plant-based options](#) daily to reduce the carbon footprint of served meals and to provide meal options for all diet preferences and restrictions. A vegan Stem-to-Root Station is front and center when entering the newest Dining facility, the Dobbs Common Table.
- Emory Dining takes numerous steps throughout its operations to reduce energy and water use, including complying with LEED building and energy-saving standards for all new facilities and kitchen equipment purchases, "Low Flow" flush devices on toilets, automatic light timers that turn off when not in use, and automatic on/off switches on hand sinks.

Waste Management and Recovery:

- As part of Emory's goal to achieve zero landfill waste by 2025, the University implemented a [Waste Management Policy](#) which includes composting and recycling in all buildings. To help diners sort their waste, all to-go ware is either compostable or recyclable.
- In April 2024, the single-use compostable food containers for carryout at the main residential undergraduate dining hall DCT gave way to reusable stainless-steel containers from [USEFULL](#). The user downloads the USEFULL app, signs in and provides a form of payment for containers returned late or not at all. The user scans the code on one or more containers; selections include cups and two sizes of bowls, all with covers. After scanning, the container appears in the app, which sends periodic reminders to return the item. When returning containers, users scan to check in and deposit their items in a bin. Users have two days to return items. After that, they are charged a dollar per day per container.
- Emory Dining collaborates with Slow Food Emory, a student-run organization that provides a food recovery program for students and staff at Emory. They provide packaged and untouched free surplus food

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from the DCT Fire and Spice Station every Wednesday from 10:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Learn more about Slow Food Emory [here](#).

- Used fryer oil is converted into biodiesel to fuel the Emory Shuttles.

LEARN MORE

- Emory Dining is a committed partner in the Healthy Emory initiative, an enterprise-wide program with a vision to “[use] its expertise in research, health care, and higher education to engage, inspire, and support each individual to live healthy and flourish.” Emory Dining collaborated with university stakeholders to devise the Better Choice labeling program, which highlights entrees and sides that adhere to specific dietary guidelines.

Discover certification systems that can help select food that has been sustainably produced.

- [USDA organic](#)
- Grassfed meats ([American Grassfed Association](#))
- [Fair Trade](#)
- Humanely raised ([Certified Humane](#))
- [Monterrey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch](#)

To keep up with the latest sustainability events and information, [sign up for the Office of Sustainability e-newsletter](#), and follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about how Emory and Oxford Dining are incorporating sustainability throughout their operations, contact: emorysustainability@emory.edu.