

SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE 2026

Oxford College

EMORY

A sustainable community is one in which economic, social, and environmental systems provide a healthy, productive, and meaningful life for - all residents, present and future.



EMORY'S SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS

Emory's Sustainability Vision includes

- Zero landfill waste goal
- 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030; net zero emissions by 2050

In October 2023, Emory honored its [climate commitments](#) by publishing its 2023 Climate Action Plan and [Resilience Assessment](#). The plan and assessment offer recommendations to guide Emory on its path to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and bolstering community resilience.

Break Free from Plastic Pledge: Emory is developing a plan to reduce single use plastic.

WASTE SORTING

BLUE RECYCLE BINS

Items such as plastic utensils, plastic film, plastic & metal containers to-go food containers, and all other single-use plastic items.

GREEN COMPOST BINS

ALL ORGANIC material (e.g. food, used napkins & tissues, and labelled "compostables" such as GREEN utensils & paper to-go containers from Emory Dining Locations.

BLACK LANDFILL BINS

For soiled food grade styrofoam, disposable masks, sanitary wipes, disposable gloves, used baby diapers, cat litter and dog waste and multi-material items.

Disposable masks, wipes, and gloves must be placed in the landfill bins to protect Emory's staff and vendors.

SEPARATE YOUR WASTE - DON'T SORT IN HASTE

Plastic containers and bags with food in them cannot be composted.

STANDARD WASTE STREAMS



HARD-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS

Oxford provides a collection area for materials that are harder to recycle and cannot be placed in the blue recycle bins. These bins are located on the first floor of the Oxford Student Center, near the loading dock.



For more information, see [the Recycling & Composting at Emory Guide](#).

RESIDENCE HALL WASTE MANAGEMENT

BEFORE YOU MOVE IN

1

OPT FOR ZERO WASTE.

Instead of packing paper, plastic wrap, and Styrofoam peanuts, wrap fragile items in your towels and bedding.

3

Pack in **REUSABLE CRATES, BOXES, and BAGS**. Save them for Move-Out.



2

Communicate with your roommate prior to arriving to campus to **AVOID DUPLICATION OF ITEMS PURCHASED** for your room.

4

Consider **BUYING SECOND-HAND**, previously-loved items at bargain prices from local second-hand shops.

MOVE IN DAY

1

EMPTY and **FLATTEN** cardboard boxes. Save undamaged boxes for move-out.

2

Bring **UNWANTED BOXES** and **STYROFOAM** to designated areas labeled "Cardboard" and "Styrofoam" outside of your residence hall.

3

Place **ALL OTHER RECYCLABLES** in the dedicated recycling space in your hall. If you need help locating them, ask your RA or SA!

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1

Collect recyclables such as plastics, metals, and mixed paper in your room. Bring them to **BLUE RECYCLE BINS** at central waste stations in your hall to sort into the correct waste streams.

2

Collect food scraps and napkins in your room, preferably in a paper bag. Sort them into the **GREEN COMPOST BINS** located in most buildings on campus.

3

Be **CONSCIOUS and INFORMED** about the items you purchase! Only buy what you need and choose **REUSABLE** bags, mugs, bottles, and utensils over single-use plastics.

MOVE OUT DAY

1

DONATE sealed, non-perishable food to donation trucks. **COMPOST** opened, perishable food in the **GREEN COMPOST BINS**.

2

Opt to donate items as part of the **DON'T DUMP IT, DONATE IT** Program. Donation kiosks are located all over campus during Move-Out. All donations divert waste from landfills, while benefiting an area nonprofit.



FOOD & DINING



While eating on campus, you have access to nutritious, diverse, and delicious options that keep you full and support local, sustainable food systems.

EMORY & OXFORD DINING SUSTAINABLE FOOD PURCHASES

Emory University aims to purchase 75% of its food from local and/or sustainable sources



Oxford's Organic Farm has about 20 workers and 100 volunteers each academic year. Become a part of the team!

MAKE SURE TO VISIT

1 OXFORD DINING HALLS

They serve local and sustainable food options that support every dietary preference and need. Learn more about the food choices you can make on campus.

3 FOOD SECURITY RESOURCES

Within Oxford and metro Atlanta, there are [many resources](#) that support student food security.



2 OXFORD ORGANIC FARM

At the edge of campus, you will find an 11-acre operational organic farm where you can learn to grow food, take classes, volunteer and work.

TRANSPORTATION

SUSTAINABLE COMMUTE OPTIONS

1

EMORY SHUTTLES

Typically, a shuttle runs between Oxford and Druid Hills Campuses. Check the [Oxford Transportation Services website](#) for updates on this shuttle, or email oxford.transportation@emory.edu.



2

WALK

The [Sustainability Map](#) outlines sustainability features on campus to explore on-foot. If accessible, in buildings, opt to take the stairs over the elevator!

3

BIKE OXFORD

Join [Bike Oxford](#) for FREE! Check out a bike at the reception desk of Williams Gym.



SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER



VISIT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT



[SUSTAINABILITY.EMORY.EDU](https://sustainability.emory.edu)

ACADEMICS



Integrating sustainability into the academic realm is a priority at Emory. Currently, 79% of departments offer a sustainability-related course, and 95% of students report an increase in sustainability-related knowledge during their time at Emory.

WANT TO LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY?

OXFORD FARM RELATED COURSES

Oxford Farm functions both as a source of healthy food and as a living laboratory. Work with the farm is incorporated into courses in sociology, biology, philosophy, environmental science, and wellness. Don't miss an opportunity for hands-on learning through organic food production.

DISCOVER MORE SUSTAINABILITY COURSES

Explore courses across disciplines at Oxford, such as GER_OX 201W Intermediate German I, ENVS_OX 131E Introduction to Environmental Studies, ENVS_OX 227 Environmental Policy, and more.

ATLANTA CAMPUS MINORS & CONCENTRATIONS

The Atlanta campus offers a Sustainability Interdisciplinary Minor, Sustainability Sciences Minor, and a Concentration in Environmental Management through the Goizueta Business School. Consider taking courses at Oxford that can contribute to one of these minors or the concentration.

GET INVOLVED



OXFORD STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY CLUBS

Connect with other passionate students by engaging with sustainability-oriented groups such as the Oxford Chapter of the Climate Reality Project and the affiliated Environmental Consulting committee and Oxford Food Recovery Network.



BECOME A ZERO WASTE AMBASSADOR

Zero Waste Ambassadors advance the waste goals outlined in Emory's Sustainability Vision. The ZWAs program trains students, faculty, and staff to serve as peer educators to raise awareness and educate the community about proper waste management and reduction.



SUSTAINABILITY INCENTIVES FUND

Have an idea for enhancing sustainability programs, projects, research or infrastructure at Oxford? Apply for an Incentives Fund grant & receive up to \$3,000. Certified Green Offices or certified Green Labs can receive up to \$5,000.



OXFORD STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION STUDENT LIVING COMMITTEE

Advocate for healthy and sustainable campus policies through the SGA Sustainability Committee, which falls under the larger Student Living Committee.



CERTIFY YOUR OFFICES AND LABS AS GREEN OFFICES AND GREEN LABS

Emory's sustainability goals rely on the commitment of its thousands of employees to choose sustainable behaviors while at work and getting around campus.



CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

Participating in the Sustainable Events Certification program provides access to guidance on sustainable event planning, recognition for your efforts, and an opportunity to win a \$100 Emory Catering gift card each year!



Oxford VOTES INITIATIVE

Oxford Votes Initiative supports, informs, and empowers voters in the Oxford Emory community! Contact [Campus Life](#) to learn more about the local and national elections and to get important voter registration information!