

Green Campus Guidelines

Issued by the Internal Department of Sustainability

The Green Campus Guidelines were created to encourage student groups to discover new ways to reduce their environmental footprint, as well as to recognize groups that have already taken steps towards making UC Berkeley a zero waste campus. The guidelines promote the development of a community where innovative sustainability ideas are shared, improved, and supported so that the University of California, Berkeley can reach its 2020 Zero Waste goal.

How to Become Green Certified

When your organization applies, you must elect and submit the name of a Sustainability Coordinator. This coordinator will be required to attend a mandatory orientation offered at the beginning of each semester, where they will learn how to help your organization complete the guidelines and how to document your progress.

Over the course of the semester, your sustainability coordinator will work with an Internal Department of Sustainability (IDS) liaison to help your organization complete the provided checklist. Although only the “Pre-Requisite Items” and a select number of “Choice Item” listed below are mandatory, organizations that earn more points may be considered for a larger allocated budget. Additionally, the points listed below are not the only actions you can take to earn points; we encourage groups to be creative!

Note: For a point to be recognized, it must be valid for all members of your organization. Points will only be certified for initiatives that have been active in the last year.

Eligibility

Eligible groups must be registered student organizations through the LEAD center, and must be sponsored by the ASUC. This is due to the fact that ASUC sponsored groups have existing Cal Link accounts. The number of applicants may be limited, with a preference given to non-environmental organizations.

Documentation

Forms of documentation may take the form of photos, receipts, and screenshots of all relevant material. All documentation should be uploaded to the Green Guidelines website. As an additional form of verification, an IDS liaison will attend two of your organization’s meetings over the course of the semester to make sure that points are correctly being followed, and to help sort out any confusion about the program.

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Points Required for Certification

Blue Certified- 12 points - \$100

Gold Certified- 15 points - \$200

Green Certified- 18 points - \$300

Pre-requisite Items (Total: 3)

PR 1 : Organization has an active Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability Coordinators are an integral part of becoming green certified. This officer will be in charge of documenting your organization's sustainability efforts, they will be directly in contact with an IDS liaison, and they should be willing to think of innovative ways to make your organization more sustainable. Each sustainability coordinator is also in charge of giving a brief training to all members on how to sort waste at the beginning of the semester.

PR 2: Limit flyering

*Fliers have been found to be an ineffective and wasteful method of communication that can be easily and effectively replaced by social media campaigns and events. For this reason, when ***flyering***, your organization should only rely upon the following:*

- a. *Gloss-free, 30% recycled paper,*
- b. *QR Code Generators, and/or*
- c. *Gloss-free, One-Side-Clean paper (available at printer stations).*

If your team has another way to make flyering more sustainable, you may submit that option for review and, if it is accepted, still fulfill this prerequisite.

PR 3: End each meeting with correctly sorting waste into compost, paper recycling, plastic recycling, and landfill.

This is perhaps the most important step towards becoming a zero waste university. Although compost and recycling are not yet available across the Berkeley campus, your team should take the extra step to find the necessary bins and decrease your organization's environmental footprint.

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Choice Items

Transportation and Travel (Total points: 5)

EC 1: Carpooling (1 point)

Your team will earn one point by using a limited number of cars in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

EC 2: Public transportation (1 point)

Your team can earn one point by choosing to utilize public transportation and other low-carbon forms of transportation, such as bicycles.

EC 3: Use environmentally friendly rental car or bus services (1 point)

Some rental car companies are making an impressive effort to reduce their environmental footprint by providing fuel-efficient, green cars. Most companies in Berkeley will offer an option to select fuel-efficient or electric vehicles.

EC 4: Use a sustainable airline (2 points possible)

Although traveling by plane is always a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, there are small steps airlines can take to limit their carbon footprint. It will take a little research to find current most sustainable airlines. (1 point)

Some airlines also offer the option of tracking your carbon emissions (1 point)

Purchasing (Total points: 7 points)

P1: Merchandise made sustainably (1 point)

If your organization chooses to purchase promotional items, or “swag” for members, you will earn one point for finding products that were made sustainably. This requires research on how the product was made, where it came from, what materials were used, and who made it.

P2: Purchasing products that further sustainability efforts (2 points)

If your team chooses to purchase items that were not only made sustainably, but also promote environmental practices in the future, you may earn two points. This may include, but is not limited to, reusable items such as coffee mugs, water bottles, boba cups, cutlery sets, or reusable bags.

P3: Paperless meetings (2 points)

If your organization chooses to hold completely paperless meetings throughout the year, you may earn one point. Documentation may include screenshots of sign in sheets or

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online presentations, but we will mostly be relying on the word of your organization's sustainability coordinator.

P4: Sustainably made paper (2 points)

If your team feels that they are not able to make meetings paperless, if the papers used are at least 30% recycled, your team may earn one point. (1 point).

❑ Your team may also use soy- based ink that breaks down easily (1 point)

Food and Dining (Total points: 7)

FD1: Provide organic options at each meeting and event (1 pt)

Our current food system relies upon the heavy use of both pesticides and herbicides, which can lead to a variety of health problems, loss of topsoil, habitat degradation, etc. By purchasing an organic option, you can decrease the environmental footprint of our food system.

FD1: Buy locally (1 pt)

Purchasing local foods not only decreases emissions created by transportation, but also allows you to know exactly how your food was made. Discovering local brands to try at meetings will earn your organization one point.

FD2: Provide vegan or vegetarian options at meetings (1 pt)

The current food system causes a variety of problems, and one of those problems is immense amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. By providing a vegetarian or vegan option at each meeting, your organization can help to decrease emissions created by the agriculture industry.

FD3: Provide food options that are fair trade (1 pt)

Purchasing products that are certified fair trade not only helps farmers and workers receive a livable wage, but it also allows producers the flexibility to use practices that reflect your interests, as a sustainable consumer.

FD4: Minimize Leftovers (1 pt)

Americans throw away an estimated amount of 165 billion tons of food a year, most of which ends up producing incredible amount of methane in landfills. Your organization can earn this point in a variety of ways, including:

1. *Donating leftovers to the Berkeley Food Pantry*
2. *Giving those in attendance the opportunity to bring home leftovers*
3. *Donating leftovers to people in need in the Berkeley area*

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FD5: Use of Reusable and Compostable Materials (3 pts)

In order to limit your organization's contributions to landfills, you may:

- Ask participants to bring their own plates, cups, or utensils to events (1 point)*
- Provide reusable plates and cutlery. SERC or Cal Dining may be able to help with this point (1 point)*
- Use compostable materials, such as bamboo (1 point)*

Note: #7 pla plastics do not fulfill this requirement. The UC Berkeley composting facility does not fully break down #7 pla.

FD6: Organization does not provide products in plastic bottles (1 point)

By avoiding plastic waste such as water and soda bottles, your organization can save significant amount of oil that are necessary to make these products. Fortunately, several studies have shown that the Bay Area generally has very high quality drinking water, and eliminating plastic water bottle use is absolutely possible.

Education (Total points: 2)

E1: Sustainability Presentations (1 pt)

If your sustainability coordinator would like to give a brief presentation on a sustainability topic that they believe is relevant, or if they would like to invite a guest speaker to give a presentation, this will earn your team one point.

E2: Blog article (1 pt)

Your team may submit a blog article to SERC, BER, the Office of Sustainability or another environmental news outlet about an interesting or innovative sustainability action that your team has taken so that the rest of the environmental community can also take part.

Events (Total points: 5)

Green events (5 pts)

Your organization will earn five points for one zero waste event. Guidelines for zero waste events can be found on the [Berkeley Sustainability and Energy](#) page. Any meeting or event that is webcasted rather than held in person is automatically a green event.

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Optional Points (Maximum Number of Points: 10)

Departments can earn up to 10 additional points for departmental sustainability initiatives not listed above.

IP 1: _____ (1 point)

IP 2: _____ (1 point)

IP 3: _____ (1 point)

IP 4: _____ (1 point)

IP 5: _____ (1 point)

IP 6: _____ (1 point)

IP 7: _____ (1 point)

IP 8: _____ (1 point)

IP 9: _____ (1 point)

IP 10: _____ (1 point)

Some examples are described below, but the points in this category are not limited to these options.

- Staying at hotels that have developed sustainable practices
- Identifying a problem in the building where your organization regularly meets, such as a lack of compost bins, and reaching out to the building manager or dean to fix the issue
- Going on a “field trip” that has some aspect of environmentalism. This may include a hike, a day of volunteering at Strawberry Creek, attending a Gill Tract event, or anything else that you feel allowed your team to appreciate nature or sustainability efforts on and off campus.
- Using apps that emphasize sustainability, such as Green Me or Commute Greener.
- Coordinating with environmental clubs on campus to help at your events and meetings
- Inviting members of the Students of Color Environmental Collective to facilitate a discussion about inclusion and climate justice during your meeting time