

Why sustainability?

About **1500** new undergraduate students join Michigan Tech each year. Many of these students will live in the **dorm halls** on campus. Living in the dorms, it can be difficult to practice sustainability. Our guide, made for incoming, dorm-living students, outlines the **sustainable** actions you can take in the dorm halls and beyond.

Moving In & Out

There is a spike in left-behind electronics, clothing, furniture, school supplies, and many other items during move-out that creates a 'wasteful tradition' around dorm living. There is a conception that you need to buy a ton of new items when moving in that end up being sent to a landfill. You can help limit this spike in waste by following these tips.

Top Tips

1. Make sure to communicate with your roommate so that you don't bring duplicate items!
2. Limit the items that you 'might need' and really think through what will be of use. You can always buy something you are missing after moving in.
3. Top items that students have brought and didn't need include: **microwaves, minifridges, HDMI cables, and trash bags.**
4. Check out Husky Exchange-our green move in/move out program! Common items you can find at the Husky Exchange during move-in include: **hangers, pool noodles, appliances, dishware, tupperware, water bottles, and chemistry goggles??**

Follow the Office of Sustainability
and Resilience



@sustainablemtu

How to get Involved?

There are over 240 student organizations on campus and many of them are environmentally focused! Getting involved on campus not only lets you explore your passions, but you get to do so while meeting other people with similar interests, building community along the way.

Environmentally Focused Clubs:

- Students for Sustainability
 - S4S is a community-based club that focuses on making sustainable living more accessible to students. They organize events and projects like clothing swaps, mug and book swaps, sustainable craft nights, clothing mending events, and a community chicken composting program.
- Keweenaw Youth for Climate Action
 - KYCA is Michigan Tech's climate action club. Their two main projects are U.P. Energy-- finding ways to be more energy efficient-- and a divestment campaign--getting MTU to agree to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in more sustainable solutions.
- Women in Natural Resources
- Wildlife Society
- Plant and Gardening Club
- Foraging and Fungi
- Wetlands Club
- Society of American Foresters
- Society of Wetland Scientists



Enterprises:

- Green Campus Enterprise
- Circular Solutions Enterprise
- Alternative Energy Enterprise

Be sure to check out the Sustainability
Demonstration House too!



Sustainable Dorm Living Guide

Made For Students,
By Students



Scan the QR code to
learn more!

Want to learn more about sustainability at Tech?
Contact sustainability@mtu.edu

Reduce & Reuse

1. Buy **second hand** clothing! Save the environment and your wallet :)
 - Local Thrift and Consignment Stores:
 - The Copper Poppy
 - Goodwill
 - Keweenaw Consignment
 - Dealz 4 Dayz
 - Second Wind Sports
 - Saint Vincent DePaul
 - Betty's C.A.A.T.
2. Check out our on-campus clothing collective, the **Husky Closet** in Wads for free thrift finds.
3. Buy **reusable** water bottles, containers, and utensils to reduce plastic waste.
4. Visit the broomball office to **reuse a broomball stick** from previous years.

Recycle

Around 75% of all waste is recyclable, yet only about 32% of waste actually gets recycled. Help reduce waste by taking a few seconds to check for a recycling label on your waste and remember your recycling options before you trash it.



Top Tips

1. Make sure you recycle **clean, empty, and dry** objects.
2. If your beverage container is marked with **"MI 10 ¢"** you can bring it to a drop off location (Walmart) to get 10 cents per container back. Or add it to your hall collection!

Recycling Options at Michigan Tech:

- Single sort recycling (paper, cardboard, plastic containers, metal/aluminum containers)
- Plastic Film (stretchy plastic)
- Batteries
- Razors and makeup containers
- E-waste



Did you know?

Aluminum is infinitely recyclable!

Food Waste

Each student scrapes about **65 lbs** of food waste each year, resulting in nearly **50 tons** of "post consumer" food waste generation from all dining halls at Tech.

In 2018, Tech ran a survey about food insecurity on campus. Out of the 1300 responses, **29%** of students worried that they would run out of food before they received money to buy more.

Top Tips

1. Be aware of your options at the **dining halls!** By eating **vegan** or **vegetarian**, you can reduce your carbon footprint. Only take the food you need to cut down on food waste.
2. Explore local food options such as the **Downton Houghton Farmer's Market** or the **Keweenaw Co-op**.
3. Visit **HuskyFAN food pantry** in Fisher Hall for non-perishable goods, dry goods, one-dish meals, snacks, or cleaning supplies and personal care items. All items are free and you can also volunteer! During the academic year, Upcycled Food Operations (UFO) packages leftover meals from the dining halls and brings these to HuskyFAN.

Mental Health

College is stressful, whether it's exams, homework or peers we all have our moments. There are many things you can do that are sustainable and can help with your mental health!

Top Tips

1. Get outside
2. Hang with friends or call friends/family members
3. Take a walk on the Tech Trails
4. Get creative at the MTU maker space
5. Journal
6. Take some deep breaths

Energy use

In 2021, Michigan Tech used 38 million kilowatt hours of electricity (that's a lot!). You can help reduce your and Tech's energy use with a few lifestyle changes!

Top Tips

1. Laundry: **Limit** your amount of **loads**, wash on **cold**, and **air dry** when possible. Clothing can be worn more than once before washing! Items such as jeans should be washed every 10 wears, according to Levi.
2. When not using, **turn off lights** and **electronics**, and use **power strips**.
3. Always print **double sided!**

Fun Fact: ChatGPT consumes 621.4 MWh of energy every day. That's more than 21,000 times the energy an average US household consumes!

Transportation

Whether you have a car at tech or not, whether there is a blizzard or it's a warm sunny day, there are always accessible and sustainable ways to get around campus and beyond.



Top Tips

1. **Carpooling** is a great way to reduce carbon emissions while also spending time with friends. This is especially helpful in the winter time when extra hands make cleaning snow off your car quick work.
2. There are frequent **shuttles** provided by Transportation Services free of charge for all students. Common destinations include: downtown Houghton, Walmart, and Hancock.
3. You can rent **bikes** from Michigan Tech's Outdoor Adventure Program to get some exercise, fresh air, and low cost transportation.

