



Things we can all do on campus:

- The last person to leave the classroom can turn off lights to save electricity.
- Put your paper waste into recycling bins - 100% of it will be recycled.
- All faculty can utilize Blackboard for their classes in some capacity.
- Use the computer to save information instead of printing it.
- Print double sided whenever possible.
- Faculty and staff can make a big impact by turning off computers and printers as well as office lights when not in use.
- Using the computer's power saving options will save energy - screensavers do not.
- Bring your own reusable drink container.
- Ink cartridges can be recycled by putting them in inter-office mail.
- Departments can purchase recycled paper and choose environmentally-friendly products.
- Come to school by public transit, bike or carpool.
- Get involved with an organization like the Green Cycle Group, College of Cycling or promote environmentalism with your favorite groups at NEIU.

A few first steps at Northeastern:

-Thanks to the students, there is a \$3 per student, per semester fee to fund "green" initiatives on campus! The Green Fee has been used to install additional bike racks, and purchase an electric vehicle for campus with the hopes that its success will lead to more. The next project will be installing motion detectors in 22 bathrooms on campus. Visit www.neiu.edu/~greenfee to make a suggestion or find out about the next meeting.

-All paper in recycling bins is recycled on campus. Our waste hauler extracts recyclable materials from the rest of our garbage at their facility.

-The Student Computing Services has been successfully piloting a program to convert all paper to 30% recycled content. There are other departments on campus that use recycled paper, but there is no rule for it at this time.

-Facilities Management is exploring options to have a full audit of the campus facilities to identify the best opportunities for reducing energy needs.

-A cogeneration plant on campus helps us generate some of our own power and sell it back to the grid.

-The university's Strategic Plan identifies sustainability as an important goal for the future.



Turning Blue & Gold Into Green

Know an initiative on campus not mentioned here?
Have a suggestion for an initiative on campus?
Send an email to green@neiu.edu



Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625



Steps we can all take to reduce our carbon footprint & some of Northeastern Illinois University's very first.

Thanks for picking up this guide!

Here you will find some good ideas for reducing your environmental impact. You might be surprised that most of these tips will also save you money!

Simple steps OUT and ABOUT:

GET INTO THE HABIT: Bring canvas bags or a backpack to the store. Every year, 100 billion plastic bags are thrown away in our country; many end up in the oceans causing harm to wildlife. Consider buying in bulk and avoid unnecessary packaging.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE: Switch to paperless billing with as many of your bills as you can. Pay online and reduce paper waste.

QUICK FIX: Sell your car and buy a bike! ;) If biking or public transit is not an option, consider a more fuel efficient vehicle and combine trips whenever possible.

Simple Steps at HOME:

GET INTO THE HABIT: Get electronic devices on a power strip and turn it off when not in use. Nearly 75% of all electricity used to power electronics is consumed by products that are switched off! (US Dept of Energy)

TRY ME: Save money and electricity by washing clothes in full loads and cold water.

QUICK FIX: Getting a low-flow showerhead can reduce water output by around 1.5 GALLONS per minute!

TRY ME: Take shorter showers. Could you reduce your shower time by one minute? It could save between 2.5 and 4 GALLONS per minute!

QUICK FIX: Make sure your fridge/freezer are not colder than they need to be. Use a thermometer - your refrigerator should be at 38° and 0° for the freezer.

GET INTO THE HABIT: Using cloth napkins is cheaper and better for the environment. Cleaning up with rags (from old towels and shirts) instead of paper towels will also save money and paper.

QUICK FIX: If your water heater is warm to the touch, it is probably losing heat. Purchase an insulating blanket for increased efficiency.

GET INTO THE HABIT: Recycle everything! If you don't have recycling at home, bring your recyclables to North Park Village's Recycling Center, right by campus at 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. They are open every day from 9am-5pm.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS: Items like batteries, paint, electronics and more are HAZARDOUS WASTE and cannot be thrown away because of dangerous materials. They must be recycled at special locations. Earth911.org will help you find where to recycle just about anything.

TRY ME: Effective cleaning products do not have to be made of toxic chemicals. Check out natural alternatives at the store or google homemade cleaning products to make your own. They are very simple and very cheap!

QUICK FIX: Switching your lightbulbs to CFL or LED can save a lot. If you dispose of CFLs properly, mercury should not be a concern.

TRY ME: Keep heat at 68 and AC at 72. It's even easier if you have an electronic thermostat!

QUICK FIX: You can do things to prepare for winter which will save money and fossil fuels like sealing windows and changing your furnace filter. Google winterize for more tips.

Simple steps in the YARD:

QUICK FIX: Purchase drip irrigation hoses to replace sprinklers which lose water due to evaporation.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE: Water during the evening. It gives the soil more time to absorb the water.

TRY ME: Use native plants in the garden - through evolution they have adapted to our climate and don't need pesticides or much water. They also provide natural habitat for native wildlife. Google illinois native plants for more information on species and benefits.

TRY ME: Reduce or eliminate your lawn and free yourself from the labor and pollution that a lawn creates.

TRY ME: Composting can be done whether you have a yard or not. Your worms will become your greatest allies. Google vermicomposting to learn more.

Simple steps with EATING HABITS:

GET INTO THE HABIT: Get some reusable containers and bring your lunch. It will help you save money, eat more healthfully and reduce waste.

TRY ME: There are so many reasons to reduce consumption of meat and animal products. Even one day a week without meat saves so many resources such as 84,000 gallons of water per year. Check wannaveg.com for more information.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE: If you can't grow your own, buy local and/or organic food. Local means less gas wasted in transport. Organic means you are keeping pesticides from polluting the environment and your body.

TRY ME: Tap water is drinkable water!