

## Sustainability

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The University of Mississippi is a signatory to the national Climate Leadership Network. Included in our creed is the following statement: “I believe in good stewardship of our resources.” As such, the University of Mississippi has an institutional commitment to sustainability. Want to know more? Here are highlights from these efforts and ways you can get involved with each.

### What is Sustainability?

The university defines sustainability as a “multidisciplinary, problem-solving approach to creating a social system that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations or the needs of the ecological systems in which humans exist.” Advocates for sustainability search for solutions that protect the integrity of our natural environment and the well-being of other people. Put simply, sustainability means **enough for all, forever**.

### Energy

The university has completed several projects to reduce its energy consumption. The university’s Energy Committee, which involves collaboration from across campus, addresses energy use on campus. Each year, the Eco Reps program, which conducts sustainability outreach in the residence halls, leads an energy reduction competition among the residence halls called the Rebel Energy Challenge. Your individual practices (turning off lights, unplugging electronics, etc.) are compounded by the tens of thousands of people on campus and have a meaningful effect on reducing energy consumption on campus.

### Waste Reduction

The University of Mississippi is a participant in a volunteer-based game-day recycling program called the Green Grove Initiative (Instagram: @umgreengrove). More than 600 students have volunteered with Green Grove in recent years, diverting nearly six tons of recyclables from landfill. The UM Compost Program, also student-led, has diverted over 96,000 pounds of food waste from landfill since the program was proposed by a student to the UM Green Fund in 2013.

You can help the university reduce its waste by recycling plastics 1 & 2, aluminum, paper, cardboard, and ink cartridges, and purchasing goods that use recyclable packaging. You can find recycling receptacles in residence halls and academic buildings across campus. Asking for smaller portions at the dining locations on campus also helps to reduce food waste.

### Active Transportation

The University of Mississippi Department of Parking and Transportation offers students, faculty and staff several options for getting around campus and Oxford.

- The League of American Cyclists has designated UM as a Bicycle Friendly University. Rebel Pedals is the university’s bike rental program. At a low cost, students can rent a bike and lock for the semester or year.
- The university also offers a short-term bike-share service. Simply 1) locate any of the white UM bicycle stations on campus or the Square, 2) download the Social Bicycles app on your phone, 3) register with the University of Mississippi, and 4) receive up to two hours of rides per day for free as a student! [gotchabike.com/ole-miss/](http://gotchabike.com/ole-miss/)

## LIVING ON CAMPUS

“I absolutely love living on campus! So much, in fact, that this upcoming fall I will enter my third year of living in a residence hall. Ole Miss provides amazing communities within the residence halls that help create lifelong friendships and amazing opportunities. Your community assistant will keep you updated on potential jobs and leadership roles on campus so you can get involved as soon as possible. Also, a major advantage is you’ll be within a 15-minute walk to any building on campus. That makes early morning classes and game days so much easier!”

**Chloé Dwyer**  
Southlake, Texas  
Integrated Marketing  
Communications  
Junior



GET INVOLVED

Students can choose from several ways to get involved in sustainability at the university:

- The Office of Sustainability, with the support of various other departments, hosts several events related to environmental issues and sustainability every year. Food Day at UM focuses on a nationwide movement toward healthier, more affordable and sustainable food. The purpose of Food Day is to raise awareness about food-policy issues, especially in Mississippi. Food Day is held in October. Green Week, held in late April, is a weeklong series of events to raise awareness about the importance of sustainability at the university.
- You can volunteer for the Green Grove Initiative, the UM Compost Program and several other opportunities hosted by the Office of Sustainability throughout the year.
- The UM Green Fund is a fund designated for innovative sustainability projects. As a student, you can donate to the UM Green Fund, serve on the committee or even write a proposal for a project.
- You can also participate in leadership opportunities, such as the Eco Reps program (Instagram: @olemisscoreps), or apply for an internship with the Green Student Internship Program through the Office of Sustainability.

**For more information about any of these programs and opportunities, visit [sustain.olemiss.edu](http://sustain.olemiss.edu).**



- You are also welcome to bring your own bicycle to campus — registration with the Department of Parking and Transportation is free and lasts for four years!
- The Oxford-University Transit (OUT) system is a convenient way for students to quickly travel around the campus and between the university and the Square. Students ride for free when a valid Ole Miss ID is presented. [oxfordms.net/visitors/oxford-university-transit](http://oxfordms.net/visitors/oxford-university-transit)
- Zimride is a rideshare program at the university. Whether you're looking for a ride or have a ride to share, you can participate in the Zimride program. Zimride also offers a Vanpool option for those who commute to campus. To learn more, visit [zimride.com/olemiss](http://zimride.com/olemiss).
- Zipcar provides students the opportunity to rent a car by the hour or weekend. Ole Miss houses two Zipcar vehicles. To learn more, visit [zipcar.com/olemiss](http://zipcar.com/olemiss).

Campus and Oxford are also pedestrian-friendly and offer beautiful walking trails, such as South Campus Rail Trails and Bailey's Woods. **For more information about the various transportation options offered, please visit [parking.olemiss.edu](http://parking.olemiss.edu).**

**Green Infrastructure**

UM is home to several environmentally friendly buildings. The Robert C. Khayat Law Center, which houses the University of Mississippi School of Law, is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certified. The Innovation Hub at Insight Park was built with a geothermal heating and cooling system, which supplies 70 percent of the cooling demand and 100 percent of the heating demand. In 2011, more than 400 solar panels were installed on the roof of the Center for Manufacturing Excellence building. The panels provide enough energy to heat or cool and light the building. The Medicinal Plant Garden was designed to LEED Silver standards. To learn more about green infrastructure on campus, visit [map.olemiss.edu](http://map.olemiss.edu) and select the Sustainability filter.