

University of Kentucky

ECOREPS

2021-2022 Manual



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PROGRAM MISSION



The EcoReps program at the University of Kentucky aims to further residence hall students' knowledge of environmental issues, and provide them with skills to engage with the world in a responsible and sustainable way.

2021-2022 GOALS

- Divert compostable and recyclable residence hall waste from ending up in landfills
- Encourage students to take part in sustainable behaviors
- Promote student involvement in environmental/sustainability programs and events on campus
- Establish UK EcoReps as a nationally up-and-coming program

EXPECTATIONS OF ECOREPS

- Encourage residents to engage in sustainable behaviors and programs on campus
- Distribute information to residents via hall meetings, hall group chats, flyers, etc.
- Attend monthly EcoReps meetings
- Plan at least one sustainability-related event per semester alongside other EcoReps
- Meet in small groups with EcoReps Coordinator Intern during the event planning phase to work through details
- Volunteer, as needed, at UK Recycling events
- Help distribute an end-of-year survey to hall students

BENEFITS

- EcoReps "Swag Bag"
- \$100 stipend at conclusion of academic year

RECYCLING AT UK



Since the EcoReps program is sponsored by UK Recycling, it is important for EcoReps to understand the ins and outs of recycling at UK.

WHAT TO RECYCLE

- Aluminum & steel cans
- Empty cardboard boxes
- Paper (junk mail, magazines, notecards, etc.)
- Paperboard, such as tissue and cereal boxes
- Plastic bottles & jugs (only)
- Glass bottles & jars

WHAT NOT TO RECYCLE

- Food and liquids (including any above items still containing food/liquid)
- Frozen/refrigerated food boxes
- Napkins/paper towels
- Styrofoam food containers
- Disposable cutlery and plates

HOW TO RECYCLE IN DORMS

All dorm rooms are given a recycling bin to use for the entirety of the school year.

When their bin is full, students must dispose of recycling in their hall's recycling compactor.

- Recycling compactors are next to the landfill compactors where students dispose of landfill waste.



STUDENTS SHOULD BE
ENCOURAGED NOT TO USE
PLASTIC TRASH BAGS IN
THEIR RECYCLING BINS, AS
THESE BAGS CANNOT BE
RECYCLED IF THEY END UP
IN A COMPACTOR

HALL EDUCATION & RESOURCES

EcoReps should make use of a variety of hall communication channels, including:

- Hall meetings
- Group text/email messages
- Flyers/posters
- Lobby TVs (submit request [here](#))

EcoReps will periodically receive information from the EcoRep Coordinator that needs to be shared with their hall.

- Hall meetings should be used for larger announcements, such as EcoReps events, sustainability programs, or general recycling education.
- Minor information and/or other events can be shared via hall group messages.
- If flyers need to be hung in residence halls, they will be provided to the EcoReps ahead of time.

EVENT PLANNING

These are general guidelines. We want to give you enough guidance to be able to plan a successful event, while still giving you the freedom to add your own personal touch. Get creative, and most importantly, have fun!

Planning the event:

- **Brainstorm:** Talk with students, R.A.s, and other EcoReps to brainstorm the best time/place for your event, as well as what kind of event to hold.
- **Plan Ahead:** Events during midterms and finals week will likely have low attendance, and will add to your personal stress level. Consider the flow of the semester when planning your events.
- **Communicate:** Talk about your idea with the EcoReps Coordinator, other EcoReps, and Joanna. By talking through your event, you can collaborate and help it run more smoothly.

EVENT TIMELINE



~1 month ahead of time:

- Meet with the other EcoReps from your dorm (fall) or with all EcoReps from your area of campus (spring) to get the ball rolling!
- Fill out event proposal form in order for EcoReps Coordinator to create BBNvolved event, provide free promo items, gather needed materials for the event, etc
- Meet with EcoReps Coordinator to work out any loose ends/final details

1-2 Weeks Before Event:

- Begin promoting the event through social media, announcements at hall meetings, etc. (more tips can be found under the "Events Promo" section)
- If providing food, encourage students to bring their own plates/cups when you promote the event



EVENT TIMELINE

Bring: Flyers/posters, promo items, recycling and/or composting bins, camera/phone to take pictures

Beginning of the event:

- Explain the EcoReps program, its mission, why sustainability on campus is important, etc
 - "The EcoReps program seeks to help further students' knowledge of environmental and sustainability issues, and provide them with skills to engage with the world in a responsible and sustainable way."
- Explain your role as an EcoRep and how you got involved in the program
- Include a quick run-down on recycling at UK, the Grubby program/how to get involved, any upcoming sustainability events you know of, etc.

EVENT TIMELINE

During the event:

- Do your best to spend your time showing attendees how to live sustainably instead of debating why they should.
- If you provide food or promo items: encourage people to compost food scraps, recycle any materials/packaging that can be recycled, etc
- TAKE PICTURES-- share them with EcoReps Coordinator after the event so they can be shared on social media, the website, etc
- Encourage discussion and save time for questions!

After the event:

- Clean up and leave the space as you found it
- Return any leftover promo items to UK Recycling
- Properly dispose of leftover food (or take it home with you!)
- Discuss the success of the event at the next EcoReps meeting

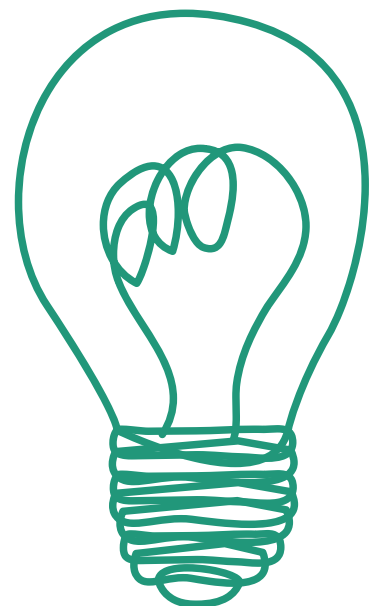
EVENT IDEAS & TIPS

Possible Event Types:

- DIY/upcycling craft event
- Trivia night
- Documentary screening & discussion
- Presentation from community member
- Hiking in/around Lexington

Possible Event Topics:

- Upcycling
- Recycling
- Zero waste swaps
- Food waste/dining sustainability
- Fast fashion
- Factory farming



EVENT IDEAS & TIPS

1. Hold **fall events** in a common area/classroom of your hall, and **spring events** in residence hall outdoor areas (since people from several halls will need to be able to access the event)
 - a. If spring event needs to be held indoors for weather, technology, or other reasons, let the EcoReps Coordinator know **ASAP** so they can begin an event request through EMS
2. Communicate the details of your event with your **RAs and hall staff** ahead of time, especially for your dorm-specific event in the fall semester
3. Have people sign in through BBNvolved so **attendance** can be tracked
4. Consider providing **snacks** or free promotional items to attendees-- need to work out these details with EcoReps Coordinator during planning
5. Consider **partnering** with other groups-- such as 4Paws, Office of Sustainability, Campus Kitchen-- to create larger events/attract more people

EVENT PROMO

Make announcements at hall meetings, as well as to classes and organizations you are in

Make use of UK Recycling's Canva account:

- Create social media graphics for the EcoReps Coordinator to share on EcoReps/UK Recycling social media
 - EcoReps Coordinator can create graphics, as needed
- Share graphics on your social media, in group messages for classes and orgs, etc.
 - Consider sending these graphics to larger campus Instagram accounts and ask them to share (via story, feed posts, etc)
- Print out flyers with help of EcoReps Coordinator
 - Tape flyers next to all hall elevators
 - Place some flyers at your hall's front desk
- ***All promo materials/graphics must be approved by EcoReps Coordinator ahead of time***

END-OF-YEAR SURVEY

Near the end of the spring semester, a survey will be distributed to gauge residence hall students' sustainable behaviors and attitudes, and how they have changed over the course of the year.

- All EcoReps will be expected to help distribute this survey to the students in their residence hall.

EcoReps will also fill out a survey at the end of the year regarding their thoughts on the program, what could be improved, what worked well, etc.



DEFINITIONS

Sustainability Strategic Plan: A guiding document to the integration of sustainability in UK's operations. The SSP is split into 6 focus areas: materials management, energy, food and dining services, transportation, buildings and grounds, and greenhouse gas emissions. The Office of Sustainability tracks and reports progress toward the goals on an annual basis.

President's Sustainability Advisory Committee: The mission of PSAC is to coordinate the UK's activities in relation to sustainability. The committee has been very active in the development of the Sustainability Challenge Grant Program. PSAC meets monthly during the academic year, and guests are welcome to attend and ask questions.

Emissions Reduction Task Force: Established to develop a plan for attaining a reduction of campus greenhouse gas emissions of 25% below FY2015 levels by FY2025.

DEFINITIONS



Grubby Dorm Composting Program: A program that makes free food waste collection bins available to students living in Central campus.

Sustainability Internship Program: A partnership between the Office of Sustainability, the Student Sustainability Council, and the Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment that provides paid internships to UK students.

Sustainability Challenge Grants: Now in its seventh year, SCGs provide funding to teams from the University working on projects (research, creative, or otherwise) that promote sustainability. Over the years, 43 projects have been awarded a total of \$1.15 million.

Wildcat Wheels Bicycle Library: A resource that provides *free* bicycle rentals and repairs to the UK community.

CAMPUS ORGS & OFFICES

Office of Sustainability: The Office of Sustainability at the University of Kentucky works to make sustainability a reality on campus through operational projects, programming, and support.

Student Sustainability Council: Distributes the Environmental Stewardship Fee to advance sustainability at UK. Check their website for info on applying for funding. If you have an idea for a project that will enhance sustainability on campus, or to apply to serve as an at-large council member.

GreenThumb: An environmental activism group that works on environmental stewardship campaigns, such as green investments, healthful food options on campus, and more.

CAMPUS ORGS & OFFICES

UK Energy Club: A space for UK students and faculty to network and learn about current energy issues, the oil and gas industry, and renewable energy technologies through seminars, meetings, conferences, and more.

Student Government Association: UKSGA is made up of students who want to create change on campus, and who serve as liaisons between students and the University. SGA is committed to increasing sustainability, diversity, and justice on campus, as well as addressing other relevant student issues.

The Campus Kitchen: The Campus Kitchen at the University of Kentucky (CKUK) provides a sustainable approach to addressing hunger, by reducing food waste and providing healthy meals to those struggling with food insecurity. Since 2014, CKUK has recovered 42,038 pounds of food and served nearly 24,000 meals.

CONTACTS

UK RECYCLING

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RESIDENCE LIFE

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Resident Directors

(differ by hall, contact info can be found [here](#))