

**U**SC's campus spans 226 acres and is home to 68,211 students, staff, and faculty. Though having instituted effective sustainable practices to date, USC still manages to generate enormous levels of trash annually. Campus groups have actively mobilized to combat this problem with several key initiatives.

## **Tailgate Waste Diversion Program**

Members of the USC Sustainability Team along with student volunteers station themselves throughout main tailgating areas on campus at every home football game to:

- Engage with tailgaters about waste diversion.
- Set up and take down recycle and compost bins at high-impact locations.
- Ensure that trash is appropriately sorted.

In addition, students may trade cans and bottles for various gift items at the extemporary ReSCycle Store.

## **Green Teams**

The Office of Sustainability recognized that USC sports are intrinsic to USC culture and, therefore, could be highly influential on the student body. To measure how "green" various sports teams' practices are, the Office of Sustainability provides a "green tool" that enables teams to track their footprints. The tool spotlights areas where more sustainable practices can be adopted.

## **Green Offices**

Green Office Certificates are awarded to those USC offices that make conscious efforts to reduce waste via eco-friendly choices. Platinum, gold, silver, and bronze levels are issued based on reduction efforts. Whether prominently displayed in offices or web pages, these certificates signal great initiative in reducing overall environmental impact.



## **What I can do...**

- Separate articles for recycling.
- Take recyclables to local recycling facilities.
- Encourage others to recycle glass, paper, plastic, and batteries.
- Purchase a reusable water container rather than using one-time, plastic water bottles.
- Dispose/recycle the following properly:
  - Ink and toner cartridges.
  - Consumer electronics including smart phones and tablets.

## **What's the next step forward?**

All USC student housing will need compost and recycling bins to be most effective in limiting or eliminating the amount of waste produced daily.

Eliminate the over-consumption of non-recyclable products. This unsustainable behavior leads to ever-burgeoning of the finite number of landfills.

"Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" is not just a clever slogan, but a call to action. To dramatically impact local and global waste, a conscious and collective effort must be sustained.

## **References**

Discover how we make tailgate waste diversion fun at:  
<http://green.usc.edu/tailgate-waste-diversion>

For information about how the university handles all of its waste, check out:  
<http://facilities.usc.edu/boxes.asp?ItemID=311>

If you have questions about sorting, visit:  
<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/documents/recycling-yardwaste-food-garbage-guide.pdf>