



Work for Us!

There are currently four student worker paid positions that the Office of Sustainability is seeking to fill. The title of the jobs and brief descriptions are provided below.

Compost Assistant: The Compost Assistant will be responsible for helping the Compost Supervisor maintain the daily operations of the two acre UT compost site. These operations include running and maintaining heavy equipment, turning compost windrows, making compost deliveries as needed, and keeping proper records of this data. *This position can only be filled by students who are eligible for work study.*

Compost Research Intern: The Compost Intern will be responsible for creating and maintaining procedures for testing various parameters at the UT compost site while also maintaining records of all data collected. *This position can be filled by work study and non-work study students.*

Donations Intern: In this position, the student worker will assist with the Free Store and food donations by performing various duties. These duties include organizing donations and catalyzing outreach to UT's student body as well as the surrounding community. *This position can only be filled by students who are eligible for work study.*

Zero Waste Assistant: In this position, the assistant will be expected to assist with Zero Waste Events, the implementation of My Tiny Trash, bin and signage standardization, and waste audits. *This position can only be filled by students who are eligible for work study.*

Please apply to any of these fulfilling job opportunities and help us work towards making a noticeable difference on UT's campus.



Eco To-Go Program Debut

Approximately 1/3 of all landfills comprise of packaging material. Additionally, packaging represents around 65% of one's household trash. The Office of Sustainability and Vol Dining are taking action against these statistics. At Southern Kitchen on campus, you can now opt-in to purchase a reusable to-go container for your to-go meals! You simply request the container at checkout and pay a one time fee of \$5. Then, later bring back your used Eco To-Go box the next time you visit Southern Kitchen, and they will supply you with a new one for your next meal. Click the button below to learn more information.

[Eco To-Go Program](#)



UT Commits to Reducing Landfill Waste

A university as large as UT (almost 30,000 students) produces a significant amount of waste every day. Accurately managing that waste is expensive in both monetary aspects as well as environmental aspects. Trash can lead to soil, air, and water contamination which causes adverse effects on humans, animals, plants, and entire ecosystems. Therefore, UT has committed to diverting 50% of its total waste from landfills by the year 2030. This is a noteworthy percentage increase compared to the 33% diversion rate that was achieved in 2018. By reducing the amount of waste transported to landfills, UT could save up to \$90,000 each year. The Office of Sustainability will lead the initiative by growing current programs and implementing new ones. Click [here](#) to discover more information about UT's new waste diversion commitment.



Green Heroes

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to delving deeper into the stories of real life heroes who are making huge strides in solving environmental issues. This month's edition will elaborate on Pat Smith, the founder of the campaign group entitled *The Final Straw Cornwall*.



Pat Smith is a 70-year-old grandmother, business woman, and environmentalist who resides in Cornwall, a county in the UK. She is the founder and Campaign Leader of the non-profit organization, *The Final Straw Cornwall*. The main objective of the organization is to reduce the amount of plastics, especially single-use plastics, that accumulate in waterways. Pat was inspired to create this organization to raise awareness of the

catastrophic damage occurring in our oceans because of single use plastics. The organization has created a community of cafes, pubs, hospitality venues, and businesses that have made the transformation to become straw free. Pat and her team help in whatever way they can to reduce plastic use. Click the button below to view *The Final Straw Cornwall* website.

[*The Final Straw Cornwall*](#)

However, Pat isn't only known for her creation of the non-profit. She earned a viral status and the nickname "Action Nan" when she spent 2018 cleaning litter off of one beach per week along the coast of Cornwall. At the end of the year, she had cleaned up litter from 52 separate British beaches. This feat was her established 2018 New Year's Resolution, and she did not give up on it as 80% of people usually do. Pat exemplifies that anyone can strive to make a difference. Cleaning up litter in your own community is a great way to increase aesthetics, decrease pollution, and enhance the community as a whole.



Community Events

Check out these sustainability related events in our community!

Winter Night Sky Constellation Watch: February 8th, 8:00pm to 9:00pm

College Night at Ober Gatlinburg: February 13th, 4:00pm to 11:00pm

'Pull' Party: February 15th, 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Winter Wildlife Hike: February 15th, 1:00pm

Backpacking 101: February 20th, 6:30pm



Green Infrastructure on UT's Campus

When strolling through campus, it is very likely that you will pass the Student Union on Pedestrian Walkway. The SU is a place where students, faculty, and staff can enjoy fellowship and food; however, most are unaware of how the recently

constructed Student Union was designed to encompass sustainability. One sustainable component that is most apparent is the green roof located throughout the Student Union Plaza. A green roof is a roof of a building that is covered (partially or completely) with vegetation and a growing medium. Green roofs have multiple environmental benefits such as removing air particulates, producing oxygen, slowing and reducing stormwater runoff, and providing habitats to various species. Click [here](#) to learn about more sustainable components that were incorporated into the SU's design.



RecycleMania

Throughout the month of February and March, UT will be engaging in an annual competition entitled [RecycleMania](#) that spans across the entire US and Canada. The purpose of RecycleMania is to encourage friendly competition among various colleges in order to increase the amount of items recycled, and decrease the amount of items sent to the landfill. Colleges must report the amount of recycling and trash they collect each week. To encourage participation during the competition, the Office of Sustainability will be hosting various events (listed below) that anyone is welcome to attend. Additionally, if you live on campus, you can earn points for your residence hall by attending the events!

Free Store Pop-up: February 11th, 2:00pm to 5:00pm in Hodges Library

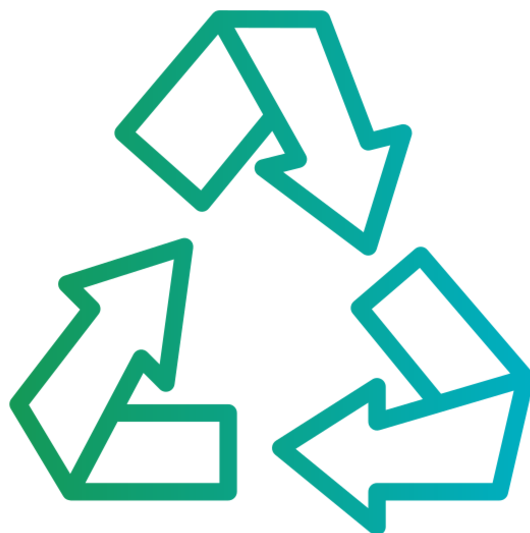
Sustainable Valentine's Pop-up: February 13th, 11:30am to 1:30pm in Hodges Library

Reusable Bag Workshop: February 21st, time TBD in the Student Union

How to Recycle

If you ever find yourself wondering how to properly recycle, you are not alone. Recycling is a complex process that depends on consumers following the correct guidelines. Click the button below to read a blog post on the Office of Sustainability's website that explains how you can properly recycle.

[Read More](#)



Sustainability Job Openings

Below is a list of sustainability related jobs across the US.

[Assistant Director](#) at the Omega Center for Sustainable Living

[Campus Sustainability Manager](#) at Omega Institute

[Executive Director of Sustainability](#) at Estée Lauder Companies

[Supplier Diversity & Sustainable Procurement Lead](#) at John's Hopkins University

[Sustainability Analyst](#) at Yum! Brands

[Sustainability Science Researcher](#) at Amazon



SA	01	
SU	02	
MO	03	
TU	04	
WE	05	REUSABLE JAR WORKSHOP
TH	06	
FR	07	
SA	08	
SU	09	
MO	10	
TU	11	
WE	12	FREE STORE POP-UP
TH	13	SUSTAINABLE VALENTINES POP-UP
FR	14	VALENTINES DAY
SA	15	
SU	16	
MO	17	
TU	18	
WE	19	
TH	20	
FR	21	REUSABLE BAG WORKSHOP
SA	22	
SU	23	
MO	24	
TU	25	UT'S 225 ON 2/25 CELEBRATION
WE	26	
TH	27	
FR	28	
SA	29	LEAP DAY

february
2020

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The February calendar is now available! We have multiple sizes and a phone background.
Email sustainability@utk.edu for a copy.



Sustainability.utk.edu

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