

Being Fair to the Environment: A Green Housing Fair

In an effort to support the Colorado State University Go Green Initiative, Off-Campus Student Services has chosen to make the 2009 Housing Fair environmentally sustainable. OCSS has taken various actions, with the environment in mind, to make the 2009 Housing Fair leave the smallest carbon footprint possible. A few of our green accomplishments are listed below. For a more extensive list, please visit our [website](#) or come to the 2009 Housing Fair and participate in the green home movement.

Registration

In 2009, all paperwork registration was moved to an online format.



Plastic Bags

This year the Housing Fair has drastically cut the use of paper




Recycling

Recycling bins will be placed throughout the Housing Fair along with information on how to recycle correctly.



Green Encouragement: OCSS Suggestions for student renters

Watching the Water

- How long are your showers? It is good to remember that water is life. Therefore, don't let life go down the drain unnecessarily. Shorter showers will also lower your water and heating bills. 
- Install a cost-effective low-flow showerhead. They work better than depicted in [Seinfeld](#).
- Whenever possible, use cold water. This also goes for the washing machine. According to WorldWatch Institute, "85 percent of the energy used to machine-wash goes towards heating the water."
- Consider the plants in your apartment. Are they native? Do they need more minerals and water than a native plant would?
- Skip the bottled water. In fact, don't just skip it, avoid it, protest it, and get rid of it.
- Fix the [leaking faucet and toilet](#), combined they can waste over 100,000 gallons of water a month.
- [Harvest your rain water](#) . Place a barrel under the drain spout. Reminder: This water is for plants.

For more information on healthy plants that do not require a lot of water, [click here](#).

For more water facts, [click here](#)

Off-Campus Student Services

Housing Fair: Go Green with a New Home



March 4, 2009

Time: 9-4

Lory Student Center Main
Ballroom

Buy Smart



- Buy in bulk. Think Sam's Club's big. This saves on tedious and wasteful packaging. However, make sure that the materials will be used and not thrown away.
- Invest in quality not quantity. It will cost more now, but be less expensive in the long run.
- Purchase sustainable, biodegradable, efficient, and/or recycled products instead of large-scale budget plastic waste. Consider Branders.com or other online green product companies.
- Switch to [green energy](#) for home power
- Purchase a tote bag for shopping. Plastic and paper bags are a hit on the environment. Totes are one low price versus the large price plastic/paper have upon the earth.
- Purchase used but quality products. Consider Craigslist, Thrift Stores, or Freesharing when looking for needed items.
- Go to the library instead of the bookstore



Green Shopping

[ecomall](#)
[earthaidkit](#)
[Freesharing](#)
[Craigslist](#)

Renting Green

- Think Green when picking a location. Is the rental in a green neighborhood? Is the rental within walking or biking distance of grocery stores, school, or work? Give some time to and administer the [walktest](#) to the location.
- Live together. U+2 not allowing it, then live in smaller rentals. More people equals less use of energy, as does a smaller place.
- Feel powerless? Don't. Talk to the landlord about making green changes to the rental. Bring up the idea of change before the lease is signed. Tell them that their investment in green will come back twofold. It will bring in potential renters in the future, as it is now the Green Revolution.
- Recycle and compost everything possible. Visit local green businesses to pick up composting material and/or information.
- Plug all electronics into one power strip and turn off when not using. Items that are plugged in are still running energy.



Word to the Wise:

Going green is not a single purging act. It takes conscious effort to recognize that going green is a daily activity. Remember to act upon recognition!

Continue to Rent Green

- Stay warm without the energy. Add weather strips to doors and windows, add plastic glazing to windows to increase heat retention, and watch as your energy bill decreases. If you get especially cold, put on a sweater.
- Time to paint the pad? Use paint with low volatile organic compounds (VOC). Also look for the newly marketed natural paints. Just remember, paint it green!

483 CSU students have pledged to Go Green. Have you considered taking the pledge?



Green Rental Properties: The facts and numbers

According to Planet Green, 78% of Colorado renters receive financial assistance with energy costs. 13% of the family income goes towards energy costs. The same renters can save up to \$115 a year by weatherizing windows and doors.

Composting is not just for people with backyards. There are now compact indoor composting units available for low prices.