

# Sustainability Best Practices for Student Organizations and Clubs

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## ***Go paperless!***

Send out meeting and event invitations using an online scheduling service, such as [Doodle](#), and keep your schedule on a Google Calendar. When you're taking notes at the actual meeting, do so on a computer and e-mail out the minutes rather than printing them.



## ***Suit Up Sustainably!***

One of the best perks about joining a club is the stuff! Since most clubs make t-shirts, bags, water bottles, or some other kind of gear, it's easy to do all this with an eye to sustainability. One great t-shirt option is through [Homeboy Silkscreen](#). The operation is part of Homeboy Industries, which provides jobs for former gang members in East LA, with the mission statement "Jobs not Jails". Homeboy Silkscreen also purchases its materials from companies that respect workers' rights and have solid labor standards. Another sustainable option is to order reusable water bottles with your club's logo.



## ***Pedal Power***

If your club is going to an event off-campus, make sure you elect the most sustainable ways to travel. If you can, ride bikes or walk. If it's a little further away, opt for public transportation. [Transit511.org](#) will show you how to use public transportation to get all around the Bay Area. If that's still not an option, make sure you carpool rather than take many individual cars. SCU's [Zipcar](#) program is a great convenient and cheap way to get around!



## ***Join the Sustainability Squad!***

Did you know there are tons of fun and exciting ways to get involved in Sustainability at SCU? The Office of Sustainability often collaborates with clubs to host [waste characterizations](#), low-carbon diet dinners in Benson, and much more, which are more fun to do as an entire club! Any on-campus club is invited to participate in the [Student Sustainability Convergence](#), which is a network for student organizations to learn about what others are doing, and to ask for help in promoting, running, and attending their own events. Also consider having a table at Campus Sustainability Day or Earth Day. For more information about how your club can benefit from working with Sustainability, contact [SustainabilityIntern@scu.edu](mailto:SustainabilityIntern@scu.edu).



## ***Reuse it***

When you're promoting an event, you'll probably make signs or posters. Use materials that can be reused year to year. Not only will this reduce waste, but it will also save you money in the long run and allow for more professional and eye-catching publicity. For example, you can print a banner, large poster, or set of table tents on which you can change the date, or provide a link to the website/online calendar, which states the event date. For printing options, check out an [eco-conscious printing company](#).



## ***Snack Sustainably***

If you have food at your meetings or events, consider its social, environmental, and economic implications. Purchase food that's organically and/or locally produced, or that's certified Fair Trade. Some good places to shop with these standards in mind are Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, and local markets, though you can find good choices at Safeway, too! Good resources for learning more about sustainable food and where to get it are [Change.org](http://Change.org) and [Local Harvest](http://LocalHarvest.org). Also, serve the food on reusable dishes, or if that's not a possibility, use compostable dining ware or encourage club members to bring their own dishes, utensils, and cups.



## ***Location, location, location***

One really easy way to make your club more sustainable is by choosing a meeting location that has been built with an eye to reducing its impact. The best examples on campus are: the Commons at Kennedy Mall, Lucas Hall, the Learning Commons, and the Locatelli Student Activities Center. [Learn more about sustainable buildings on campus](#). Regardless which building you use on campus, be sure to use energy as efficiently as possible, and to turn off all lights and appliances when you are through.



## ***Is your event Certified Sustainable?***

Next time your club hosts an event, have it [certified](#) by the Office of Sustainability. Our Sustainable Event Guide will tell you all you need to know about making your event as socially, environmentally, and economically responsible as possible.



## ***Mission Sustainable***

In your club's mission statement in the formal [Constitution and Bylaws](#), be sure to include a clause about sustainability that's relevant to your theme. For example, the Camping Club could pledge to minimize or eliminate waste on all their trips, or Global Medical Brigade could purchase offsets for their trip to Nicaragua.



## ***Go Beyond Green***

At your next meeting, take a few minutes to have each member [sign](#) the Beyond Green Pledge if they have not already done so. The Pledge, which all SCU community members are encouraged to take, asks that you commit to taking one action each related to conservation, economic equality, and civic engagement to help you live more consciously of sustainability.



## ***Have More to Add? Have Questions?***

Please contact the Office of Sustainability ([lcromwell@scu.edu](mailto:lcromwell@scu.edu) or [SustainabilityIntern@scu.edu](mailto:SustainabilityIntern@scu.edu)).