

Green Accomplishments

The UCI Department of Student Housing is committed to the University of California's sustainability goals. The UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative in particular pledging to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, inspires innovative solutions, policies, and practices. Student Housing makes important contributions toward these goals in areas of energy efficiency, green building, water conservation, waste reduction, sustainable food options, and student engagement.

Lighting & Electricity Use

- More than 8,000 light fixtures have been retrofitted or replaced to reduce electricity use, resulting in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 990 metric tons!
- Buildings in 3 communities certified LEED Gold or Platinum

Water Savings

- Replacement of toilets, bathroom sink aerators and shower heads with super high efficiency products creating a 30% drop in residential water consumption
- Replacement of inefficient water heaters with "Insta-Hot" heaters in Middle Earth Housing.
- Installation of a reclaimed water irrigation system and computerized weather monitoring station that increases the efficiency of landscape irrigation.

Waste Reduction

- Student Housing contributes to the campus's 83% landfill diversion rate and participates in food waste composting in 5 residential communities

Tree Planting

- Planted over 900 trees in on-campus communities over the past 6 years, many with the help of student volunteers

Green Living & Education

- Furnishing shared bathrooms with signage encouraging water saving habits such as 2-5 minute showers and turning water off while brushing
- Hall-based competitions to cut energy and water use and other sustainability-focused programs and events for both residents and staff
- Since 2012, 80 students have participated in the Costa Rica program, an alternative break and academic experience in global sustainability, leadership, and cultural immersion

Food & Dining

- Dining facilities in Student Housing are all zero-waste - donating unserved food and composting or recycling all other materials
- UCI Hospitality and Dining features fair-trade coffee and locally-sourced ingredients in all dining commons