

SUSTAINABILITY TODAY NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT US

The Texas Tech University Recycling Center is housed within the Student Housing Services. The center has been in operation for over 6 years and has continually grown year after year.

Today the Recycling Center collects all forms of recyclables from plastics, glass, foam, cardboard, paper, aluminum, tin, electronics, and anything in between! The money collected goes back into the students through Sustainability Scholarships!



TRAVEL!

We are right in the middle of the holiday season and we are getting closer and closer to the holiday break! Many of us will be traveling at some point this holiday season and we have some tips on how to be sustainable throughout your travels. This newsletter is focused on tips for the traveling season and will be our last newsletter until we return from the holiday break!

The Bigger Picture

Tourism is the third largest retail business in the United States, behind automotive dealers and food stores. It's a \$1.3 trillion industry. That means people spend on average of \$3.4 billion a day on travel-related goods and services. Daily, some 2.6 million hotel rooms are rented and about 30,000 commercial flights are taken. Almost everyone one in America—91% of adults—takes a vacation to spend thirteen days a year getting away from their day-to-day routines. 15% of American travelers fly (96% stay in the United States, 4% go overseas), 82% drive, and 3% travel by bus, train, or boat.

All of this moving about translates into a lot of energy consumption. It's the biggest trade-off for all that fun. And it's a big trade-off for work, too, as business travel makes up a huge portion of air travel.

In fact, air travel is fast becoming the largest contributor of green-house gas emissions. More people are flying than ever before; about three-quarters of a billion people fly around the United States each year. This puts more toxins in the air at higher altitudes, which can be more damaging to the air and ozone layer than ground-level emissions.

Beyond travel, people somehow waste bucket loads of water while they're on vacation: The tourism industry uses 93.9 billion gallons of water per year, 4% of the total U.S. commercial consumption. The average hotel room consumes 209 gallons of water per day. That's almost as much as an entire U.S. household uses daily!

But it's not just the consumption of water while people are on vacation that can pose a problem. Sometimes it's the oceans, lakes, rivers, and wetlands that are used for recreation. When boating, swimming, kayaking, tubing, or

snorkeling, tourists can damage ecosystems by littering, polluting, or stepping on fragile aquatic habitats (such as coral reefs). The same thing can happen while hiking. One or two tourists may not cause visible harm, but hundreds over time



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can do substantial damage to natural areas as well as to feeding patterns and wildlife. This is important considering that camping is the number one vacation activity in America!

“It’s funny how these small things, these actions, add up to be big things,”-Will Ferrell

THE SIMPLE STEPS

1. **Use the same linens and towels in your hotel room throughout your stay.** You probably don’t change your sheets and towels everyday at home, so why do it while you’re away? The average hotel room consumes more than two hundred gallons of water per day, or as much as your entire household typically uses in a day. Trimming the amount of water used by washing sheets and towels can save up to 40% of a hotel’s water use.
2. **Travel in groups.** Put four people in a taxi instead of two, and double the fuel efficiency. Better yet: take a bus! For the amount of fuel it takes for you to go a mile in a car, you can go five miles in a bus.
3. **Pack Lightly!** Every additional ten pounds per traveler requires an additional 350 million gallons of jet fuel per year, which is enough to keep a 747 flying continuously for ten years.

TRAVEL PLANNING

Camera: Use a digital camera instead of one that needs film. Some 686 million rolls of film are processed each year, and the solutions used to make the prints often contain hazardous chemicals that require special treatment and disposal. Avoid using disposable cameras. Despite the claim on the box that they’re recycled, more than half end up in the trash!

Guidebooks: Research your trip online, and print out only the pages you’ll actually need to reference. You’ll save time, money, and paper waste. With close to one million guidebooks printed annually, but just 18% being recycled, more than eight hundred thousand travel books go to waste each year. So if you have old travel books, bring them to the Texas Tech Recycling center!

Luggage Tags: Use the tag that came with your luggage set. You’ll save time at the airline check-in counter as well as paper. If each traveler in the United States stopped using paper luggage tags for each of their trips, sixty million sheets of paper could be saved per year.

Maps: Use online maps instead of paper maps, or use your car’s/phone’s satellite navigation. Online maps are free, and if you have to print them out, you’ll be able to better recycle the paper when you’re done with them. Map paper is particularly difficult—sometimes impossible—to recycle because of all the ink used. If you’ve got old maps, reuse them as gift wrap instead of just throwing them out.

Ticketing: Use e-tickets instead of paper tickets. You can save time and hassle at the airline! The airline industry could save as much as \$3 billion annually by eliminating paper tickets all together!

Time of year: Try traveling during the off-season. Traveling out of season can reduce travel costs by 40%, and you’ll avoid crowds and lines at sites and attractions. If you travel to major cities or destination spots, you’ll create less of a n

impact on the planet by reducing traffic in urban areas—by as much as 22%--and thus reduce vehicle carbon emissions by 14 %. When there are fewer people in one spot, it reduces congestion and hassle!

Toiletries: Pack your own shampoo, soap, and toothpaste instead of relying on those provided by most hotels. You'll get the product you want rather than some odd scented gel, and you'll create less plastic waste. A single three-hundred-room hotel in Las Vegas uses more than 150,000 plastic bottles of shampoo per year!

LEAVING HOME

Appliances: Unplug your appliances, where possible, when you leave home. Residential consumers in the United States spend more than \$5 billion annually on standby power alone—about 5% of all electricity consumed in the country.

Mail: Stop delivery of your mail while you're away. You'll save the post office from having to transport your mail and avoid having friends travel to store it for you. Because the U.S. Postal Service delivers approximately 212 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals, and packages a year, every penny of transportation costs adds up—so much so that a one-cent increase in fuel prices costs the post office \$8 million!

Shades: Close them when you leave the house. Depending on the season, keeping your curtains closed will insulate heat or keep your home cool. These steps could help you reduce your energy needs by up to 25%. If every home in America closed the curtains when it was sunny in the summer or cold in the winter, we'd save as much energy as Japan uses over the same amount of time!

Thermostat: When you're away, adjust your thermostat to fifty degrees during cold months and to eighty-five degrees in hot months. Depending on how long you're gone, you could save up to \$100 per year in energy costs related to heating and cooling your home when you aren't there. The United States uses \$1 million worth of energy every minute. You can help to lower that by turning the dial.

AT THE HOTEL

Lights: Turn them off when you leave the room. Seventy-five percent of the energy in a hotel room is used when the bathroom lights are left on for more than two hours—mostly when it's unoccupied!

Washing clothes: Wait until you get home to wash your clothes. It's far less expensive. You'll pay several dollars for each article of clothing the hotel launders for you. The hotel industry uses 16,863 gallons of water per room, per year. In fact, an average 150-room hotel uses as many resources in a week as one hundred families use in a year!

SIGHTSEEING/GETTING AROUND

Car rentals: Try a hybrid car or a more fuel-efficient vehicle. A hybrid rental can go three times as far as a standard sedan on a single tank of gas. There are 1.7 million rental cars in the United States. If every one of them were a hybrid, more than nine million gallons of gasoline would be saved—per fill-up!

Locations: Seek out locations that aren't overexposed, overcrowded, or in environmental sensitive areas. Overcrowding in already densely populated areas can lead to increased pollution by wastewater, garbage, heating, noise, and traffic emissions. Rome's Colosseum was partially destroyed because of increased air pollution due to traffic and tourism.

Souvenirs: Buy souvenirs from local manufacturers rather than trinkets made somewhere else. It helps support the economies of the sites you're visiting.

Water bottles: Use and refill a single water bottle, thermos, or canteen when you travel. The average person in the United States drinks eight ounces of bottled water per day. Considering that plastic is derived from petroleum, it takes 1.5 million barrels of oil annually to satisfy America's demand for bottled water. If this oil were converted to gasoline, the total could fuel five-hundred thousand station wagons to take their families on coast-to-coast road trips.

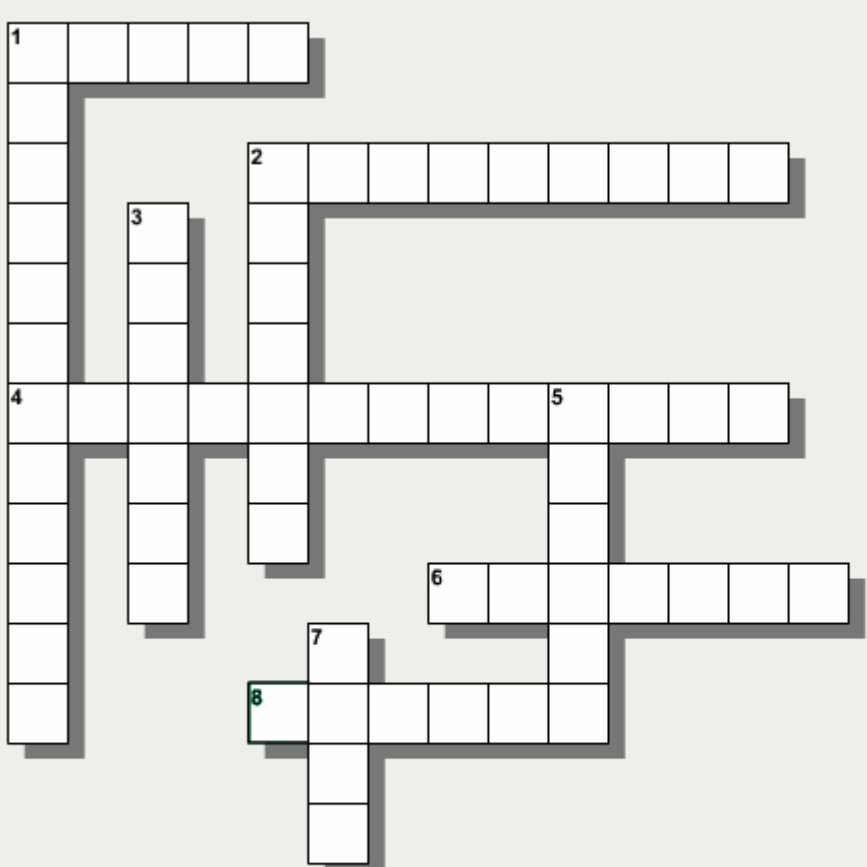
Fun and Games

Each newsletter we will also bring you a fun game or trivia to help you remember to go green!

Since this will be our last newsletter before the holiday break, we will not have a trivia, instead we will have a crossword puzzle that you can do while you are traveling or staying at home!

Congratulations go out to Rick Schimka who is the Residence Life Coordinator for Student Development and Residence Halls Association Advisor for successfully answering the questions in the last newsletter and being drawn as our winner. Way to go Rick!

Remember, if you print this newsletter, use both sides of the page and once you are done with it, make sure it finds its way to one of the many recycling bins located throughout campus!



Across

1.) they nest in trees, feed on seeds, and use them for protection
2.) the person that the land belongs to
4.) a large corporation that manages forests to harvest trees
6.) they use the forest to stalk game
8.) these folks love to walk through forests

Down

1.) these folks find pleasure in observing and documenting birds in a forest
2.) these are the people that harvest the trees
3.) They live in the forest
5.) the base of the food web in a forest
7.) removing the forest and allowing sediment into streams impacts these organisms