

UM Sustainability Pledge – Facts about your commitments

I pledge to support UM's sustainability goals and initiatives. I commit to reducing my own environmental impact and supporting my community in these ways:

WASTE

- Consume less!
 - In the U.S., the average person consumes **twice** as much as they did 50 years ago.
- Recycle paper, cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, aluminum and tin
 - [UM Recycling](#): The EPA estimates that 75 percent of what Americans throw in the trash could actually be recycled. The aluminum can is 100 percent recyclable and can be used to make new beverage cans indefinitely.
- Reduce food waste
 - [UM Trayless Initiative](#): Food scraps rank third in their contribution to solid waste in the U.S., accounting for **17.5% of our garbage**.
- Always double-side prints and copies
 - Cut your paper usage in half! At least 38.9% of the U.S. waste stream is paper. Make it the default on your own printer, or choose the double-sided option when printing in the library or copy center.
- BYOC- bring your own cup!
 - The average college student uses 500 disposable cups per year! Many campus and local coffee shops offer discounts for bringing your own mug.
- Take reusable bags shopping
 - An average 8 billion pounds of plastic bags, sacks and wraps enter the US waste stream each year. Use your backpack, a cloth bag, or buy one of the reusable grocery bags that many stores sell for only \$1!
- Avoid products with excessive packaging
 - Buy in bulk or in larger quantities. Think ahead.

Learn more about waste and recycling from the [Clean Air Council](#).