



# THE SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD

FALL  
2017

## GREEN THANKSGIVING

Hosting Thanksgiving or Friendsgiving this year? Here are some tips for making the fall holiday a little more green:

- Use the “good” dishes. It’s time to nix the paper plates and use those dishes your mom said were only if the Queen came to visit! Use cloth napkins while you’re at it! Watch this video to [learn how to fold your cloth napkins into turkeys](#), you know, just in case the Queen does drop by. Be sure to fill your dishwasher to capacity to save the most water after everyone is done.
- Make less food. More than 100 pounds per person of edible food is wasted each year. Help curb this by following [Use Less Stuff’s handy guide](#) for Thanksgiving food portions per person:
  - Turkey: 1 pound
  - Stuffing: ¼ pound
  - Sweet potato casserole: ¼ pound
  - Green beans: ¼ pound
  - Cranberry relish: 3 tablespoons
  - Pumpkin pie: 1/8 of a 9-inch pie
- Decorate with nature. Instead of buying plastic decorations each year, use things from outside! Not only will it waste less, it looks beautiful. Use branches, pinecones, gourds and other vegetables (eat them after!), and leaves to create a sustainable table centerpiece.
- BYO containers. Instead of having the host give out leftovers in plastic bags, bring your own containers to take home ingredients for tomorrow’s turkey sandwich. Compost leftovers nobody will eat.
- Shop local and organic. Support local vendors by shopping at farmers’ markets for food and wine.
- Traveling far for the holiday? Make sure to turn down your thermostat and turn off your lights. Your wallet will thank you later too.

## SOLAR TABLE

Thanks to a donation made by AEG International, CMGC plaza now has a solar table where you can charge your devices and maybe even get some work done. The table has four bench seats, eight AC outlets, and eight USB outlets, all powered by the sun, and they can all be used at the SAME TIME. The table will



soon provide free wifi so you can check your emails or do some holiday shopping while you enjoy GovPorch. The Sustainability Office will send out a note once the wifi is up and running.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY’S QUESTION OF THE MONTH

### How can I save money on my energy bills this winter?

Here are four do-it-yourself ways to save money this winter:

1. [Insulate hot water pipes](#): This one takes some time, but can save you up to 4% on your energy bill.
2. [Seal air leaks with caulk](#): For just 1-2 hours of work, you can save up to 20% on your heating bill.
3. [Weatherstrip air leaks](#): One hour of work for up to 10% in energy savings.
4. [Insulate your water heater tank](#): 1-2 hours of work gets you up to 16% in water heating costs.

Get out there and save enough money to buy yourself a gift this holiday season! Read the full article to [learn how to save money on your energy bill](#).

The Sustainability Standard provides information for employees on City initiatives to protect the environment and be more sustainable in our every day activities. For more information, contact [Erika Ruane](#) or [Elizabeth Barnard](#).

For more updates on sustainability initiatives, please check out Engineering and Property Management's [Sustainability Newsletter!](#)

## FEATURED CONTRACT

In order to promote fiscally and environmentally responsible printing, Ricoh multi-function (print, copy, scan, email, and fax) machines have been installed City-wide that are designed to meet stringent Energy Star ratings through the use of thinner plastics and steel, default duplex printing, and reduced energy usage.

These all-in-one, secure machines use follow-me printing as well as scheduled and ad-hoc print job deletion; making printing deliberate, and eliminating wasteful print-and-forget scenarios.

In support of the City's green initiatives, all paper used in these machines is made from 30% recycled material.

For more information on this and other City-wide contracts, visit the [City-wide Contracts CNet site](#).

## KNOW YOUR FACTS!

- The EPA estimates that 75% of the American waste stream is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30% of it.
- In a lifetime, the average American will throw away 600 times his or her adult weight in garbage. This means that each adult will leave a legacy of 90,000 pounds of trash for his or her (or other people's) children.
- Glass never wears out — it can be recycled forever.

Source: [Boston College](#)

## SUSTAINABILITY VENDOR FAIR

November's First Friday celebration included a booth at which employees could meet some of the city's vendors that are dedicated to sustainability. Some of the vendors present included:

### RICOH

In addition to their environmentally friendly all-in-one machines, Ricoh is also dedicated to recycling toner cartridges and using more environmentally friendly toners and inks.

### GOODWILL

Goodwill focuses on both reducing and recycling consumer goods. Not only do they accept many of your household items like clothing and furniture, but they now accept numerous electronics including computers, tablets, and phones. They repair and refurbish any electronic device that they can, and send any items that can't be repaired to e-waste recyclers. In order to get these electronic goods back into the hands of consumers, Goodwill has recently opened up a store in Charlotte named The GRID that specifically outlets these goods.



### THE BUDD GROUP



The Budd Group is a janitorial service company that provides numerous green cleaning solutions. They use "Green Seal" cleaning chemicals that meet or exceed the Green Seal Standard for Industrial and Institutional Cleaners, HEPA filters on their equipment, reusable cloths instead of paper products, and minimize trash can liner replacement. They also adapt to clients' needs by managing their solutions for separated waste streams.