

# Yale Office of Sustainability

[sustainability.yale.edu](https://sustainability.yale.edu)

@yalesustainability

The Yale Office of Sustainability works to advance sustainability within the Yale community by focusing on goals laid out in the Yale Sustainability Plan 2025. As First-Year Counselors, you play a unique role in setting the tone for incoming students and can have a powerful influence in showing that sustainability is an important part of the Yale culture. The resources below showcase how you can help make your first-year students' transition into college easier and more sustainable.

**Encourage your first-year students to think about move-out during move-in.** Let them know how much and what type of storage they get in your College (and ask your Head of College's Office if you're not sure). Encourage students when possible to: opt for durable, high-quality items which will last them for at least four years, and bring reusable tote bags, water bottles, straws, and dishware to campus. By being mindful about bringing items to campus at the beginning of the semester, your students will have a smoother and easier move-out – and they'll waste less, too! If students have items to donate at the end of the year, they can participate in [Spring Salvage](#), Yale's donation move-out program.

**Recycle right.** Educate yourself on what is recyclable in Connecticut and at Yale through [recyclect.com](https://recyclect.com) and [recycling.yale.edu](https://recycling.yale.edu) and point your first-year students to the location of recycling bins in your College. A few items of common confusion are plastic bags, black plastic, and Styrofoam (all should go in the trash, although some Colleges have plastic bag recycling bins available). All recyclable plastic should be emptied and rinsed clean, and all cardboard boxes should be flattened before they are recycled.

**Learn more about sustainable food & dining!** Yale Hospitality prioritizes environmentally sensitive, humane, fair, and regional/local products in their [offerings](#).

**Make sure your first-year students know how to use their radiators.** Heating is a significant contributor to Yale's energy and water usage, and it is important to know how to use these resources mindfully. Teach first-years to close the windows when the heater is on and to keep radiators clear from their bed or other furniture. They'll be more comfortable if the heat can circulate! More information is available at [bit.ly/heatyourroom](https://bit.ly/heatyourroom).

**Use cold water when doing laundry.** Let your students know that the "brights" wash cycle uses cold water and saves energy, while still cleaning clothes effectively. Hanging clothes instead of using the dryer also saves energy and helps clothes last longer.

**Get free lightbulbs!** The Office of Sustainability will provide LED lightbulbs to first-year students in exchange for incandescent or CFL bulbs. First-year students will save money and energy and won't have to worry about changing a bulb for years. Bulbs can be requested by emailing [sustainability@yale.edu](mailto:sustainability@yale.edu).

**Study sustainability!** Yale's EVST classes are great resources to learn more and get involved in sustainability, but in fact Yale offers many courses focused on the environmental, economic, and social aspects of sustainability across all kinds of disciplines and departments. Many of these courses even fulfill mandatory academic requirements. As your students are designing their course load, direct them to [sustainability.yale.edu/academics-research](https://sustainability.yale.edu/academics-research).

**Connect with Yale's Sustainability Peer Education Program (@yalecollegesustainability).** The program's mission is to educate, engage, and inspire Yale College students to participate in sustainable action through collaboration, community building, and strategic programming. Our Sustainability Peer Educators design

engaging programs, educational campaigns, and initiatives to build an inclusive culture around sustainability. As the semester kicks off, get acquainted and find ways to collaborate!

**We employ students!** If any of your first-year students are interested in sustainability, point them towards our jobs listed on [Student Employment](#) for a chance to work with the Office of Sustainability team.

**Above all else, the best thing you can do is to lead by example.** Your first-year students are looking to you to set the standard for how Yalies should behave. If you take a bit of time and effort to be more sustainable, they'll notice. You also know your college and your first-year students better than we do – if you think of a message which you think will resonate in your community, let us know and we'll help get the word out. Thank you for your service as First-Year Counselors, and we hope this guide is helpful to you. Please feel free to reach out with any questions at [sustainability@yale.edu](mailto:sustainability@yale.edu). You can also stay up to date on sustainable activities at Yale by following [@yalesustain](#) on Twitter and Instagram, liking us on Facebook, or subscribing to our university-wide newsletter, [bit.ly/yalesustainsubscribe](http://bit.ly/yalesustainsubscribe)!

FroCos with questions or concerns are always welcome to contact [sustainability@yale.edu](mailto:sustainability@yale.edu).