



University of  
St Andrews

# GREEN GUIDE

2024-2025

# Welcome

## What is the Green Guide?

The Green Guide has been prepared by the University of St Andrews Environment team, with assistance from the Student Association's Environment Subcommittee, Sustainable St Andrews and Transition St Andrews. It outlines the university's environmental ambitions and how you can help us in achieving them as a member of the university community.

## Why do we need a Green Guide?

Our planet is threatened by a combination of environmental issues including climate change, global biodiversity loss, and pollution. While these can seem overwhelming at times, there are various actions we can undertake to support our planet.

We are committed to sustainability throughout our operations and are continuously working to improve, our environmental impact. This guide provides information on how you can get involved in the collective effort to enact the university's environmental goals, as well as individually implement sustainable and ethical practices in your daily life.

## Contents

The guide gives a comprehensive introduction to the following topics:

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# Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy outlines the university's plan to be net zero by 2035 – this means reducing our emissions as much as possible and compensating for emissions that are unavoidable.

We recognise that greenhouse gas emissions are a just a proxy for wider environmental sustainability, which encompasses other areas such as biodiversity and the minimisation of waste, so we have also set ourselves the targets of being Nature Positive and Climate Adaptive by 2035.

We have a long way to go, but so far we having been working on clean energy, behaviour change and offsetting to continue reducing our footprint. We have managed to:

- Reduce the university's carbon footprint by 15%
- Connect 25% of our buildings to clean energy supply (produced at our Eden Campus biomass plant).
- Plant over 1,000 trees for biodiversity and carbon capture, through the St Andrews Forest.
- Develop the Training in Environmental Sustainability Action (TESA) to be undertaken by all new students.
- Launch a sustainable investments policy to guide how university endowment funds are managed.



Environmental Sustainability Strategy PDF



# Sustainability Branches

These are some of the key groups working to promote environmental action in St Andrews.

## The Environment Team

A part of the Estates Department, the Environment team works top-down to ensure that the university operates sustainably. They work on energy efficiency, renewables, waste management, biodiversity policy making, sustainable and Fairtrade food policy, and student and staff engagement in these areas.

- Contact: [environment@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:environment@st-andrews.ac.uk)
- Website: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sustainability)
- Instagram: [@ustasustainable](https://www.instagram.com/ustasustainable)

## Transition

Transition St Andrews is a staff, student and community organisation working to ensure a low carbon future through hands-on sustainability initiatives. It operates on a local level to deliver projects across areas such as biodiversity, sustainable travel and food.

- Contact: [transition@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:transition@st-andrews.ac.uk)
- Website: <https://transitionsta.org>
- Instagram: [@transitionst Andrews](https://www.instagram.com/transitionst Andrews)



## The Environment Subcommittee

The Environment Subcommittee is a part of the Students Association and is formed of student volunteers. The subcommittee works to involve students in environmental projects across the campus. In the past, their projects have promoted social responsibility, climate justice, the elimination of single-use plastics. They also organise our annual Green Week.

- Contact: [eande@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:eande@st-andrews.ac.uk)
- Website: [www.yourunion.net/representation/subcommittees/explore/environment](http://www.yourunion.net/representation/subcommittees/explore/environment)
- Instagram: [@standrewsenvironment](https://www.instagram.com/standrewsenvironment)

## Sustainable St Andrews

Sustainable St Andrews has been established to implement our Environmental Sustainability Strategy through teaching, research and policy at the university. The organisation consists of various working groups, made up of staff and students.

# Sustainability in Action

You can keep up to date with the sustainability projects undertaken by the university on our Sustainability blog (<https://environment.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>). Here are just a few of the initiatives that the various Sustainability branches are currently working on that aim to make sustainable living easier for students.

## Low Carbon Transport

Here are some ways you can travel sustainably around the campus and beyond. For comprehensive information on all low carbon travel options in St Andrews check out Go St Andrews ([www.gostandrews.org](http://www.gostandrews.org)).

### Bike Pool

Bike Pool is a service run by Transition, where abandoned and donated bikes are refurbished and rented out to people in St Andrews.



They also run Fix-It sessions, where people can learn bike maintenance and fix their broken bikes.

### Movement as a Service (Maas)

The GoSEStran app is a free travel app designed to help plan journeys with a lower carbon footprint. You can enter your destination to compare all available transport options by price, duration and carbon emissions.

The app will soon be updated to include the below low-carbon transport options which are only available in St Andrews:

- Go St Andrews Car Club – a community car club for St Andrews.
- Lift Share – save money and the planet by sharing a ride. Connect with drivers and passengers who are making the same journey as you.
- Walking – customised themed walking routes through the town.

Download the app to start exploring!  
[https://qrco.de/beEAZV?utm\\_source=Students&utm\\_medium=Green\\_Guide&utm\\_campaign=low\\_carbon\\_transport](https://qrco.de/beEAZV?utm_source=Students&utm_medium=Green_Guide&utm_campaign=low_carbon_transport)



# Sustainable Shopping

Transition coordinates various food initiatives with the aim of making it easier for people in St Andrews to eat sustainably and ethically sourced food.

### Edible Campus

Edible Campus brings people together to grow their own food through a network of community gardens across the campus.

### The Tree

The Tree is a student-run food cooperative which aims to provide locally produced and organic food at affordable prices.

### The Eco Hub

St Andrews Environmental Network run a refill shop on Kinnessburn Road selling sustainable food and household products.

## Reduce and Reuse

Different sustainability initiatives in the town aim to minimise waste and consumption by encouraging the use of second-hand and shared products.

### British Heart Foundation

The university works with the British Heart Foundation to place donation banks around campus – look out for them near the halls of residence!

Donations are sold in British Heart Foundation's East Fife stores and the money collected is returned to the University in the form of research grants for studying heart conditions.



### Tool Share

The Tool Share service allows people to borrow tools like garden equipment, power tools and kitchen appliances instead of having to buy new products. It is open to anyone, and the membership cost is only £15 per year.

# Recycling

Recycling is an important aspect of our environmental goals. You can help us to reduce our waste and ensure that recycling bins are not contaminated by following the recycling signs and recycling properly within university buildings and at home.

## Dry Mixed Recycling



## Mixed Glass



## Food Waste



## Paper and Card



The recycling systems used within and outwith the centre of town are different, so when recycling at home, it is important that you follow the guidelines for your specific postcode.

You can find the bin information and collection dates for your home using the Fife Council's Bin Calendar ([www.fife.gov.uk/services/bin-calendar](http://www.fife.gov.uk/services/bin-calendar)) and more information about how to recycle different items that aren't listed here on their A-Z of Recycling list ([www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/bins-and-recycling/household-recycling/a-z-of-recycling](http://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/bins-and-recycling/household-recycling/a-z-of-recycling)).

# Single Bin Recycling System

If you live within the centre of town, Fife Council provides limited resources for recycling. For general waste, you will have a bin or seagull-proof refuse sack assigned to your house. To recycle, you have to bring your recycling to either one of the recycling spots listed below.

## University Recycling Sites

- Students Union (KY16 9UA)
- Main University Library (KY16 9TR)
- Outside all student halls or residences

## Fife Council Recycling Sites

- East Sands Leisure Centre (KY16 8LH)
- Double Dykes Road Car Park (KY16 9DX)
- Recycling Centre behind Morrison's Supermarket (KY16 8PJ)
- Tom Morris Drive Shopping Centre (KY16 8EL)
- West Sands Car Park (KY16 9JR)

# Four Bin Recycling System

If you live outside of the centre of town, your household will have the following four bins:

Colour	Contents	Use for	Don't use for
<b>BLUE</b>	Landfill Waste	Household waste	Recyclables
<b>GREEN</b>	Plastics and Cans	Food and drink cartons, plastic bags, film, bottles, food containers and plant pots, fruit and veg nets, crisp and sweet bags, food tins, drink cans, foil trays, metal lids	Polystyrene, electrical items, toys, textiles, nappies, food tools, e-cigarettes
<b>GREY</b>	Cardboard and Paper	Newspapers, greeting cards, catalogues, envelopes and cardboard boxes, tubes and containers	Food and drink cartons, padded envelopes, tissues, paper towels
<b>BROWN</b>	Food and Garden Waste	Grass cuttings, plants, flower, twigs, small branches, fruit, vegetables, poultry, meat, fish, plate scrapings, coffee grounds	Compostable plastics, animal waste, sawdust, liquids, invasive plants, soil, stones, timber

For details, see Fife Council's webpage on Household Recycling: [www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/bins-and-recycling/household-recycling](http://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/bins-and-recycling/household-recycling)

## Opportunities

There are a number of different opportunities for you to get involved in sustainability, both within the university campus and through various regional and national organisations. Here are some examples:

### Support sustainability initiatives within the university

- **Environment Team:** Keep an eye on the University's Sustainability web and social media pages for paid internships and volunteering opportunities (contact: [environment@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:environment@st-andrews.ac.uk)).
- **Transition:** Join Transitions team of volunteers (contact: [transition@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:transition@st-andrews.ac.uk))
- **Fairtrade Steering Committee:** Work to introduce more Fairtrade products into university retail outlets (contact: [Fairtrade@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:Fairtrade@st-andrews.ac.uk)).
- **Enactus St Andrews:** Join one of the many projects working to encourage sustainability in the local area (website: [www.yourunion.net/activities/societies/explore/enactus](http://www.yourunion.net/activities/societies/explore/enactus)).
- **Environment Sub-Committee:** Help make the Union and associated societies more sustainable within a great team (contact: [eande@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:eande@st-andrews.ac.uk)).
- **Hall Environment Representatives:** Help your Hall of Residence become more environmentally friendly (contact: [transition@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:transition@st-andrews.ac.uk)).
- **Sustainable Saints:** Join the Microsoft Teams page Microsoft Team – Sustainable Saints
- **Rectors Committee:** Apply to join the Rector's and work to advocate for a variety of student interests (contact: [rector@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:rector@st-andrews.ac.uk)).

### Volunteer with external community groups

- **St Andrews Environmental Network:** Support this local environmental charity and get involved with projects such as Cosy Kingdom and St Andrews Beach Wheelchairs (contact: [info@standrewsenvironmental.org](mailto:info@standrewsenvironmental.org)).
- **Fife Coast and Countryside Trust:** Take part in practical conservation activities (contact: [ask.us@fifecountryside.co.uk](mailto:ask.us@fifecountryside.co.uk)).
- **Scottish Wildlife Trust:** Join your local SWT group and volunteer at wildlife conservation events (website: [www.swt-fife.org.uk](http://www.swt-fife.org.uk)).
- **Nature Scot, Tentsmuir Forest:** Volunteer at the National Nature Reserve known for its diverse forest, Morton Lochs and fantastic dune systems (website: [www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/scotlands-national-nature-reserves/tentsmuir-nnr/tentsmuir-nnr-getting-involved](http://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/scotlands-national-nature-reserves/tentsmuir-nnr/tentsmuir-nnr-getting-involved)).
- **2050 Climate Group:** Take part in the Young Leaders Development Programme for 18-35 year-olds or volunteer to run the Scottish Government initiative ([www.2050.scot](http://www.2050.scot))

## Start your own project

- If you have an idea for a project relating to the environment or sustainability and would like support or involvement, please reach out to the Environment team – we would love to hear your ideas!

