

Certified Green Chapter Program Action Guide

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Introduction

Hello and welcome to the Certified Green Chapter Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign! The CGCP program is coordinated by Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, the University’s center for sustainability-focused research and campus sustainability improvement. We are very excited to be working with you to increase the sustainability of chapters around our campus!

In order to obtain certification, a chapter must identify and elect a member who is capable of organizing and coordinating Green Chapter Certification. This individual is the designated Sustainability Ambassador and is the liaison to the Greener Campus team. Please consult the Ambassador Guide for a full list of duties.

The actions described within this program include 4 required and 31 elective actions, the identified Ambassador will work with their chapter to select which actions are already being taken. And consider the goals your chapter would like to set to complete additional actions. While many actions involve house functions, we want to include all kinds of Greek life organizations. If your chapter does not have house, we offer a base level of certification. To learn more please consult the Ambassador Guide.

This guide provides a list of the 4 required actions, and the 31 elective actions for Green Chapter Certification levels.

- Completion of 5-10 elective actions will earn Caterpillar level Certification
- Completion of 11-16 elective actions will earn Chrysalis level Certification
- Completion of 16+ elective actions will earn Monarch level Certification

Green Chapter Certification lasts one year, and recertification occurs yearly. For more information on recertification, and guidelines to complete actions please consult the Sustainability Ambassador Guide to Green Chapter Certification.

Required Actions

In order to gain certification, you must commit to the 4 required actions. These 4 actions are prerequisites for joining the program and are required for all certification levels.

1. Elect a Sustainability Ambassador each year as part of your regular elections
2. Use a minimum of 30% recycled paper
3. Ensure that your house participates in a recycling program and has labeled recycling bins
4. After events, commit to clean up within 24 hours

Conservation Elective Actions

One of the biggest impacts individuals can make towards sustainability is to consume fewer resources and purchase responsibly. By eliminating inefficiencies within your chapter house, you can reduce resource consumption and utility costs. By purchasing less and prioritizing the purchasing of reusable and responsibly sourced items. Chapters contribute to a culture of reuse and responsible procurement.

Utilities

1. Turn off lights when you leave the room or when other light sources are sufficient
2. Place reminder signs on or next to light switches
3. Have a volunteer team turn off lights every night
4. Have a volunteer team “power down” the house before holidays
5. Use LED lighting and replace incandescent bulbs wherever possible
6. Reduce strain on your HVAC
7. Replace shower heads with low flow options
8. Replace sink faucet aerators with low flow options
9. Provide a water refill station

Waste

10. Have a shared set of reusable bags available for use
11. Provide reusable dishes for meals
12. Eliminate the purchase of single use tableware for house use
13. Provide a shared use system for other items

14. Utilize a compost system for food waste

Purchasing

15. Eliminate the purchase of plastic water bottles

16. Only purchase recyclable plastic items

17. Purchase spirit wear from vendors that utilize sustainable materials and practices

18. Purchase at least one food item a week from a local business

Community Elective Actions

Our community provides many services to us, and we offer many benefits back to our community. Champaign-Urbana has an excellent transit system through MTD, and the campus is recognized as a Bike Friendly campus. Use those services and participate/host events that promote our sustainable community.

Transportation

19. Provide a sign by your main exit with bus stop information or a bus map

20. Provide bike storage at your house

21. Set up a carpooling program

22. Implement a bike sharing program

Events

23. Host a Green Certified Event

24. Host a sustainability event

25. Host a tour of a sustainable site

Commitment Elective Actions

A chapter is all about commitment, no matter what your chapter advocates for. You commit to a sisterhood/brotherhood. You commit to philanthropic efforts, or volunteering. Your chapter can commit to sustainability through creating and maintaining green spaces, helping collect waste at tailgates and basketball games, or participating in Illini Lights Out.

26. Inform all new members on Green Certification status

27. Recruit another chapter to join the program

28. Participate in Sustainability programs and volunteer opportunities

29. Offer food options in your house that cater to vegan and or vegetarian diets

30. Plant a garden or a green space

31. Innovate your chapters sustainability efforts and tell us about it

Conclusion

Thank you for considering Green Certification for your chapter. Our campus culture of sustainability is ever growing, and your chapters commitment to sustainability creates a garden for the seeds of this culture to thrive.

Please consult the Certified Green Chapter Program Ambassador Guide for more details on program structure and how to become certified.

If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to reach out to greercampus@illinois.edu. We are always happy to help with greening your chapter!