NUIT Tech Talk:
Get a Gold Star for Being Green

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Today’s Tech Talk

• Northwestern Commitment to Sustainability
• Green Office Certification
• Tips & Tools
Northwestern is committed to reducing the University’s environmental footprint.

The Strategic Sustainability Plan sets goals related to:

- Energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and infrastructure
- Resource management
- Transportation
- Communications and engagement
- Curriculum and research
Sustainability Goals

Energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and infrastructure:
• 20% reduction in energy use and 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020

Resource management:
• Reduce purchase of office supplies, paper, and durable goods by 10% by 2020

Communications and engagement:
• Increase staff participation in the Green Office Program by at least 30% by 2020
Accomplishing Our Goals

Energy conservation:

• Over $32 million invested in energy conservation measures

• More than $6 million invested in lighting upgrades

• 13.5% reduction in energy use since 2010. **Equal to $9 million annual savings.**

• Occupant engagement to increase energy savings
The Role of Green Office Certification

Faculty and staff have important roles to play in achieving Northwestern’s sustainability goals.

Green Office Certification is an opportunity to create a more sustainable workplace by improving existing practices.
Resource Use in Offices

Energy use
- Plug and process load accounts for one third of electricity use in commercial buildings.

Benefits of Green Office Certification

Why participate in Green Office certification?

• Save resources and money
• Get campus-wide recognition
• Get support and resources to make the process easy
• Create a healthier and greener workplace
• Build community
• Help Northwestern reach our sustainability goals
Taking Action: Complete Checklist Items

• The Green Office checklist guides you through steps you can take to improve sustainability practices.

• The guide offers more information and resources to help you complete the items on the list.

• The Office of Sustainability team is available answer questions and help find solutions that fit your office.
Green Office Areas of Focus

- Communication and engagement
- Energy and water
- Waste and recycling
- Travel and meetings
Example Checklist Actions

- Place Green Office information and reminders in key locations throughout the office.
- Include Green Office information in staff meetings and updates.
- Share information about green technology at Northwestern and help bust power management myths.
Example Checklist Actions

- Use power management settings for computers, printers, and other electronics.

- Use smart power strips to reduce standby power use.

- Purchase ENERGY STAR® and EPEAT certified appliances and electronics.
Power Management Settings

Windows

Mac

Find more instructions on energy efficient computing on the Northwestern IT website at www.it.northwestern.edu/policies/energy.html
Northwestern has separate recycling systems for items including:
- Electronics (e-waste)
- Batteries
- Ink cartridges
- Lab equipment
- Refrigerators
- Scrap metal and demolition materials

See [www.northwestern.edu/recycle](http://www.northwestern.edu/recycle) for details.
Example Checklist Actions

E-waste recycling: the Office of Sustainability collects:

- Computers and computer peripherals
- Cell phones, iPods, tablets
- Fax machines, scanners, printers
- DVD players, televisions, game consoles
- CDs, magnetic tape
- Music players, speakers

Staff can schedule pickups, students should drop off items at the WildCard Office.

Example Checklist Actions

- Use **videoconferencing services** like Blue Jeans or Lync Meeting.

- Attach meeting documents to electronic meeting invitations. Remind attendees not to print documents unless necessary.
Resources and Contact

Green Office Tips:  
www.northwestern.edu/sustainability/take-action/your-space/office.html

Green Technology at Northwestern:  
www.it.northwestern.edu/hardware/eco/

Office of Sustainability Email: sustainability@northwestern.edu  
Website: www.northwestern.edu/sustainability

Northwestern IT Support Center: 847-491-4357 (1-HELP)  
Email: consultant@northwestern.edu  
Website: www.it.northwestern.edu