

# starting and sustaining a Green Team

Green Teams are groups of staff and/or faculty members who collaborate on sustainability initiatives and projects in their office, department, building, or campus. Teams are typically comprised of 3-10 employees and often met on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

## Sample Green Team Initiatives:

- Switching from bottled water systems to filtered water
- Reducing mailings
- Composting
- Posting reminders to turn off the lights
- Using reusable glassware, silverware, and dishware
- Achieving [Green Office Certification](#)
- [Terracycling](#)
- [Organizing sustainability-themed events](#)
- Training colleagues about [recycling](#)
- Setting computers and printers to default to double-sided
- Purchasing and using recycled paper



Start by holding an interest meeting and recruiting other members of your office!

**Have questions? Need help starting a Green Team?  
Contact the Office of Sustainability.**

talkback on

# Green Teams

“It’s motivating to find a shared enthusiasm for sustainability among colleagues.”

*-Lucy Nunn, TTS Green Team*

**“It is rewarding to be on a Green Team because you have the opportunity to share knowledge of green practices and come up with creative ways to educate coworkers. Being able to bounce ideas off each other helps build and sustain our enthusiasm.**

***-Katherine Morley, Hirsh Health Sciences Library  
Green Team***

“The most exciting and surprising aspect to beginning a channel of communication with the occupants of Ballou has been their feedback. Several people have emailed me or stopped me in the hall to say thank you for my efforts. It showed me that many people are interested in sustainability, but oftentimes can’t find the time to put ideas into motion or didn’t think anyone else was interested in the topic.”

*-Jeff Kaminski, Ballou Hall Green Team*

tips for your

# Green Team



## Draw People in with Food

“Serving snacks at an interest meeting is always a good idea!”

*-Lucy Nunn, TTS Green Team*

## Be Strategic when Recruiting Members

“I think identifying and individually approaching people is a good way to attract motivated members. People often ignore general invitations to join teams, even if they are interested in the team’s goals. However, if you directly approach someone who has shown an interest in sustainability or a commitment to sustainable practices and show that you’ve taken notice, they may be more likely to feel like they have a valuable contribution to make or may develop more enthusiasm.”

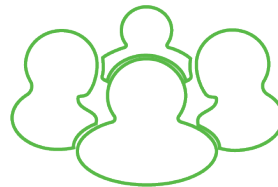
*-Katherine Morley, Hirsh Health Sciences Library Green Team*



## Meet Regularly

“We meet monthly to review individual and team goals.”

*-Elizabeth Lauzon, Grafton Green Team*



## Be Patient

“Don’t expect that all staff will be interested in changing their behaviors as enthusiastically as sustainability team members are.”

*-Tisch Sustainability Team*

## Find Ways to Communicate with the Rest of Your Office or Building

“Using a monthly email update to the building seemed like a targeted way to approach incremental changes and share sustainability info for the building.”

*-Jeff Kaminski, Ballou Hall Green Team*

