

Draft

Introducing the Green Terp Bucket List!

Earn Pins, Make Friends, and Shape Your Habits

What does it really mean to *be* a Green Terp? At UMD, it's more than recycling or reusing where possible; it's also about exploration and creating community. From the first pin on your backpack to the green cord at graduation, the Green Terp Bucket List (also referred to as the Bucket List) invites students to discover places, passions, and people to connect them with sustainability on campus.



A Look Into the History

In 2012, the Green Terp Program took shape within Oakland Hall as a series of events designed to spark conversations about sustainable living in residence halls. By 2014, it had evolved into the Green Terp Pledge, a checklist that encouraged students to take simple, sustainable actions in their daily lives. Launched through a partnership between the [Office of Sustainability](#) (OS) and the [Department of Resident Life](#) (Res Life), the pledge invited Terps to commit to habits like turning off their lights and using reusable items.

"When the Green Terp pledge first launched, these types of actions weren't as widespread as they are now," said Taylor Brinks, Sustainability Project Manager in the Office of Sustainability. "Students still needed to be reminded to use reusable water bottles and to turn off the lights when they left the room. Now, we have motion-sensor lights and water refill stations that have helped better embed these seemingly basic measures into Terps' everyday lives."

While the pledge raised awareness, OS and Res Life suspected it could be shaped into something more meaningful. "After various evaluation methods, we found that on paper we met targets, but realized that students were not understanding their actions the way we had intended. We were limiting our opportunity to build student skills and knowledge by hosting a checklist that did not fully represent student experience and involvement with sustainability," recounted Lisa Alexander, Res Life Program Manager of Sustainability Programs & Initiatives. Rather than a list of action items, building a sense of shared identity around being a Green Terp would help students develop intrinsic motivation to live sustainably and engage with other related activities on campus.



Caption: A recent Office of Sustainability event promoted the Bucket List to students by handing out sunflowers in front of the campus farm.

Looking Forward

After an ENSP Capstone group provided input on redevelopment, the program transitioned from *taking* the Green Terp pledge to *being* a Green Terp. A [Green Terp](#) is any UMD student who embodies sustainability through learning, community engagement, and mindful choices. Together, they form a campus-wide community united by a shared desire to make an impact, regardless of their major or background.

Still, maintaining the shared Green Terp identity required purposeful experiences. Thus, the Green Terp Bucket List was born.

The Green Terp Bucket List

The Green Terp Bucket List invites undergraduate students to explore sustainability through action and discovery. Modeled after the [M Book challenge](#), it encourages new experiences with sustainability through a series of tasks. As students complete challenges and earn rewards, they may find that they're already engaging with sustainability without realizing it. Along the way, they may uncover a new community, hobby, or passion!

How It Works

The Bucket List consists of four themed categories: Campus Locations, Campus Events, Climate Anxiety & Wellness, and Individual Challenges. Each has five actions to complete. Students explore sustainability across campus, from attending events to visiting landmarks like the [Frederick Douglass statue](#), a reminder of the deep ties between social justice, the economy, and the environment. Other challenges take students all over: visiting the animals at the campus farm, locating biowalls and solar panels, and utilizing resources like the campus pantry. Learn more about the challenges [here](#).

Each completed category earns students a themed pin, and those who complete all four categories are awarded a green cord to wear at graduation, a symbol of their sustainability journey. Challenges can be completed at any pace and in any order before graduation, with pins available for pickup at Office of Sustainability events. Follow [@SustainableUMD](#) and [@GreenTerp](#) on Instagram for more event details!



Why Join the Challenge?

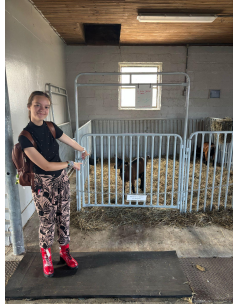
Every task is an opportunity to connect with yourself, your peers, and the world around you. A single service event may spark your next hobby, and a walk on a local trail could become your new favorite routine. Through the Bucket List, you'll uncover numerous ways to get involved in sustainability, foster habits, build friendships, and gain a deeper understanding of your impact.

Sustainability isn't just about personal action; it's about collective impact. The Green Terp Bucket List helps students take those individual steps while becoming a part of something bigger: a campus community working toward a greener future.

[\[Enroll in the Bucket List Challenge Now!\]](#)

[\[Learn More & Read FAQs\]](#)

Check out some of the photo submissions from the Bucket List below! (Photo carousel format)



Outline

1. Introduction (1 paragraph)

- a. Interest-catching introductory sentence
- b. Briefly introduce sustainability at UMD and the Green Terp initiative
 - i. Green terp started as a pledge act, a collaboration between OS and res life. Still partners but do their own things now. Lisa does a res life version of green terp.
 - ii. On the OS side, more focused on the identity of Green terp for students.
 - iii. Historically, was a pledge program; students filled out a form committing to actions. They just had to say that they did the actions and would receive a reusable straw, etc.
 - iv. Transformed into a green terp brochure, which helped clarify the green terp identity. Now has become a bucket list, tangible items that helps people show that they are a green terp
- c. What is the Green Terp Bucket List?
 - i. Mention that the GTBL is a new and fun way for students to explore campus sustainability
 - ii. Earn rewards along the way for work that students may already be doing
 - iii. Help students find a new niche or hobby that interests them while learning along the way
 - 1. Find your new passion
 - iv. The Green Terp Bucket List was inspired by the M Book Challenge which is a great way to learn about and participate in Terp traditions.

2. What is a Green Terp? (1 paragraph)

- a. Define what it means to be a Green Terp
 - i. A student who takes part in UMD's sustainability initiatives through individual actions, community engagement, and learning.
 - ii. A member of a campus-wide community
- b. Emphasize that any student can be a Green Terp, no matter the major or prior experience with sustainability
 - i. Accessible to all

3. The Bucket List (2 paragraphs)

- a. Explain that the GTBL is a new interactive challenge to help students explore sustainability on the individual level and around campus and earn sustainability-themed pins along the way.
- b. Overview of how it works
 - i. The list is divided into 4 themed categories, each with 5 challenges
 - 1. Add in 1-2 challenges as an example, like check out a sustainability org or event or visiting the FD statue (brief history)
 - ii. Completing a category earns you a themed pin
 - 1. Once you've earned a pin, pick it up at any event where SustainableUMD will be present. Find event details on the @SustainableUMD and @GreenTerp Instagram accounts!

- iii. Completing all 4 categories means you earn a green sustainability cord to wear at graduation
- iv. This can be completed at any time before you graduate in any order you please!
- c. Mention how to find events to pick up pins at (Instagram)
- d. *Any images submitted may be used by OS for marketing purposes

4. Why should students participate? (1 paragraph)

- a. List the four themed categories and individually emphasize the reasoning behind/ importance of each one
 - i. Detail an example of how completing a specific challenge could send a student down a rabbit hole of discovering new clubs, resources, programs, etc
- b. Help them connect with campus sustainability
 - i. Gain hands-on experience with sustainability
 - ii. Connect with other students and student organizations
 - iii. Build healthy and green habits
 - iv. Earn recognition for your sustainable actions
- c. If you're interested in [learning more](#) about the challenges...

5. Conclusion (1 short paragraph)

- a. Reaffirm the importance of sustainability and individual as well as collective action. Encourage students to start the GTBL today
- b. Follow @greenterp on Instagram!
- c. Insert button: [Enroll Now!](#)