Eco-Friendly Off-Campus Living

There’s a certain magic to getting things done just right in your own space. With your favorite decor up, comfy furniture in check, and gadgets doing the rest, it’s easy to feel satisfied with your off-campus setup. That said, nothing quite beats cutting costs as a student on a budget. For off-campus housing that’s cheaper, cleaner, and cooler, it’s all about going green.

Eco-friendliness is the ever-trendy lifestyle choice to top them all. Not only is there money-saving involved, but your house or apartment will naturally lighten and brighten. There are plenty of simple, cost-effective ways to go green that improve quality of life while saving you cash. Plus, you’ll make a positive impact that goes beyond that.

Here are some Smarta ways to be eco-friendly while you’re living off-campus:

1. Fresh Air

It does more than just turning off the lights or faucet, but it’s every bit as easy. There are times we need air-conditioning or heat, no question, but there are also days that we don’t. Fresh air is *seriously* underrated and works wonders on the body and mind. Not to mention central AC being the most expensive thing on your energy bill. Just think of every fresh-air gulp as saving a couple of bucks. Trust us, it adds up.

2. Energy-saving Lightbulbs

You may be in the habit of switching the lights off, but are your roommates? You can save lots of energy—and a good bit of cash—by changing out your old bulbs for new ones. While LEDs are on the pricier side, CFLs are just as efficient and far more student budget-friendly. They’ll also give you more control over brightness so that you can get those moody hues just right in your room. It’s a quick fix for small savings that add up.

3. The Ultimate Power Strip

There’s an easy way to ensure that all is unplugged when not in use. Having a single strip to plug all of your tech into and then unplug at once makes it simple. You don’t have to do it every night, but if you’re off to campus for the day, it’s an easy way to save more energy— and some pocket change along with it.

4. Big Loads

While there’s nothing sweeter than an in-unit dishwasher or laundry, it’s always best to conserve. These machines use up a lot of energy and water, so it’s all about washing big loads with the setting on cold. Try waiting until you’ve got a big pile of whites, or throw your sheets in to make it worth it. By doing more dishes and dirty laundry at once, you’ll be minimizing the energy spent overall— good for the earth, and for your wallet.

5. Walking/Cycling to Campus

Hopefully, your off-campus housing is close enough to campus that walking, cycling, or public transport are options. Not only will you get some essential physical activity in, but you’ll also save money on gas and parking. To top it off, it’s a smaller carbon footprint. It may not work out every day or every season, but each effort makes its mark.

Going green while you live off-campus doesn’t have to mean piles of recycling or composting scraps and gunk. It’s in the simple stuff, like unplugging your devices and switching bulbs.

These Smarta pointers make it easy to give your off-campus housing that chill, eco-friendly touch. As a student on a budget, going green is truly the freshest way to save a couple of bucks.