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**WE'VE GOT SOL! HAVE YOU GOT SOL?**

**YOU WILL SOON!**

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# **SUSTAINABLE OFF-CAMPUS LIVING (SOL)**

# AGENDA

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- ✘ Purpose of SOL
- ✘ What is SOL
- ✘ Significance of SOL
- ✘ Future Works

# PURPOSE OF SOL

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- ✘ To provide an all-inclusive resource for individuals to access support regarding sustainable living and self education

*“There is no composting where I live, the heating is costly and inefficient, and the washer/dryer system is also energy inefficient.”*

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**WHAT IS SOL?**



# WWU OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

- Home
- News and Events
- What We're Doing
- Academics
- Get Involved
- Media
- Resources

## Sustainable Off-Campus Living (SOL)

- When You're At Home
  - Recycling/Proper Disposal
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Green Cleaning Supplies
- At The Store



## Sustainable Off-Campus Living (SOL)

Every day we make decisions that greatly impact our planet. Whether it's to bike to work, or simply to use cold water in your washing machine, every little bit adds up in a world of more than 7 billion people. Sustainable living is possible. It is achieved by making those daily decisions in an informed manner. This website is here to provide that information, so we can all decrease our impact. Because if everyone makes a little change, it'll save us all big bucks, which just makes a lot of sense.

### Start Living Sustainably:

 When You're At Home	 At The Store	 In Transit
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    - Where To Buy



## SOL: When You're At Home

### TIPS

- Get an energy audit! Check [here](#) to see if you qualify as a Washington State low income resident. If so contact your [local weatherization agency](#) for free home weatherization (Opportunity council for Whatcom County).
- On average about 43% of your utility bill goes to heating and cooling.  
<sup>1</sup> By adjusting temperatures down ten degrees when possible (at night, when you're not home) you can save on avg. \$200 annually. A programmable thermostat can make those adjustments for you and only cost about \$80. <sup>2</sup>
- By paying a qualified professional to insulate and seal heating and cooling ducts in your home, you could save as much as \$400 per year. <sup>2</sup>
- By washing with cold water you can save \$60 a year. <sup>2</sup>
- 5-10% of residential electrical consumption is from devices that are turned off, or in standby mode. Unplug appliances when you're not using them. Put your kitchen appliances (microwave, toaster, etc) on a power strip that can be turned off at night or when not in use. <sup>1</sup> Yearly savings could be \$125. <sup>2</sup>

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      - Rideshare



# SOL: At The Store

## TIPS

- It can seem like a large investment to move towards sustainable living. But in fact Washington State offers a wide range of instant rebates for your efforts towards efficiency. The size of these rebates can be more than 50% of the costs you incurred. For a full list of available rebates follow this [link](#).
- Get a reusable mug! Plastic bottles are the scourge of the environment. Cut down on trash by using your own mug for coffee at Starbucks, or just water from the fountain.
- Try to limit your purchases to products that use a minimum of packaging, and require little processing.
- Appliances can account for up to 17% of your homes energy consumption. When looking at buying new appliances, keep in mind two price tags. The first price tag is the purchase price (down payment) and the second price tag is the cost of operating the appliance through its lifetime (monthly utility bill cost for an average of 14 years). Looking for and purchasing ENERGY STAR appliances will save you money and energy in the long run.
- Bring your own reusable bags when shopping, to cut down on plastic bags.



[Continue >>](#)

- [Where To Buy](#)
- [What To Buy](#)
- [Facts](#)

Source: <sup>1</sup>U.S Department of Energy. Energy Saver TIPS. (<http://www.energysavers.gov/tips/>)  
Source: <sup>2</sup>Consumer Reports. Greener Choices: Products for a Better Planet. (<http://greenerchoices.org/>)





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### At The Store

Where To Buy



## SOL In Transit: Public Transit

- [WWU Alternative Transportation Site](#) provides info on WTA, getting to and from the airport, ferry terminal, or train station, buses, crossing the border, taxis, and trip planning. It focuses on regional transportation the most and has links to important websites for students.
- Websites for local and regional transit agencies (Many have trip planners that are handy for creating a trip plan for an exact time of the day as well as schedules and programs.):
  - [www.ridewta.com](http://www.ridewta.com)
  - [www.skagittransit.org](http://www.skagittransit.org)
  - [www.islandtransit.org](http://www.islandtransit.org)
  - [www.soundtransit.com](http://www.soundtransit.com)
  - [www.commtrans.com](http://www.commtrans.com)
- [SmartTrips](#) is a local program designed to promote sustainable transportation choices. It is free and has an online trip diary to record daily non drive alone trips. It calculates your emission savings as well as cost savings. Also, there are rewards and incentives along the way, and the possibility for an emergency ride home in certain circumstances.
- WTA has GO lines, service every 15 minutes, on high traffic arterials.
- WTA buses serve the Bellingham Amtrak /Greyhound station. Amtrak

# SOL SIGNIFICANCE

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- ✘ Education

- + Research
- + Student Survey

- ✘ Lifestyle Change

- + Willingness to Change
- + Student Survey

- ✘ All - Inclusive

- + Personal Feedback
- + Huxley Staff and Faculty Feedback

*“I am always looking for ways to be more sustainable and reduce my carbon foot print. If helping conserve energy will decrease my energy bill, I wouldn't complain either.”*

# FUTURE WORK

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- Maintenance
  - Stanford University: Sustainable Choices

# Sustainable Choices

Home

About

Take Action

The Card

Resources

At the Store

In the Home

On the Road

Select a Topic



Select a Topic



Select a Topic



Home : Resources

## Resources

The recommendations on the Sustainable Choices Web site and Card have been divided into the following categories. Click on a category to learn more about specific choices.

### General Sustainability Resources

Please visit the "Take Action" page of the Web site for detailed resources in each specific category. For some general sustainability resources and organizations, start by browsing the links listed below.

# FUTURE WORK

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- Maintenance
  - Stanford University: Sustainable Choices
- Marketing
- User Interface
- WWU generated content

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# QUESTIONS