

# Orientation for New Students

By: Emma Nichols, Paege Turner, Gabriela  
Szef, Adaly Navarro, & Gerardo Nicolas



# Objectives of Project:

Give students a basic understanding of Sustainability as a concept, get students informed and build interest in sustainability from the beginning of their college experience at Roosevelt. Students will also get the chance to engage in an activity that informs them about sustainability at Roosevelt, contributing to their welcoming experience.



# Initiatives towards Sustainability in Orientation

Our goal as a group is to help students be more knowledgeable of sustainability during orientation. We have created a presentation for orientation leaders to present for the incoming students. We also plan to record a comical skit pertaining to sustainability.



# Modeling Sustainable Behavior

Orientation has an influence on how incoming students perceive the school's environment and culture. Orientation Leaders will be models for sustainable habits, and encourage their groups to make sustainable decisions such as take stairs when possible in order reduce campus energy use, recycling properly, and composting. Our goal in modeling would be to decrease campus-wide waste output, less energy usage, and increase mindfulness of individual sustainable behavior in incoming students.





# Sustainability at RU

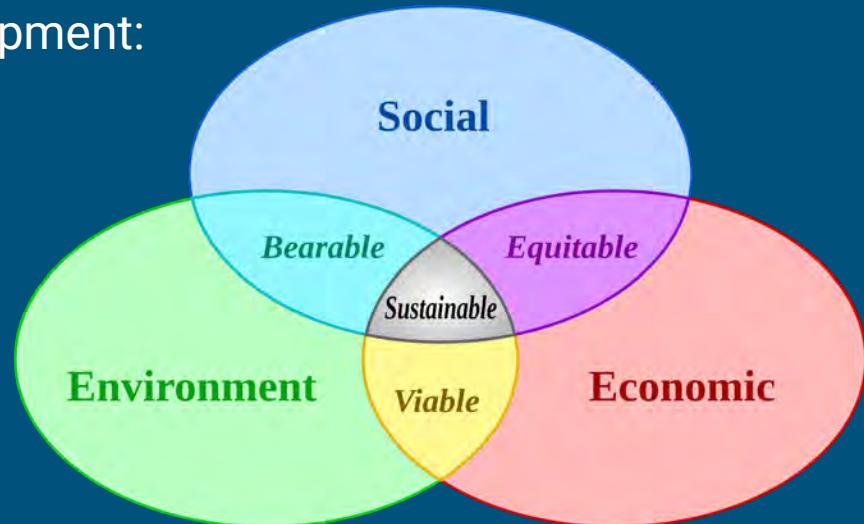
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A presentation for the New Student  
Orientation team at Roosevelt University, for  
Fall 2022 Orientation

# Quick Key Terms

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- What is **sustainability**?
  - Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- The three pillars of sustainable development:
  - Economical
  - Environmental
  - Social/Equity
- AASHE: The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
  - Evaluates schools using **STARS** (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System)



# Roosevelt's Sustainability Statement

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Sustainability at Roosevelt University is a constantly evolving and dynamic process grounded in the "Three Es" of Environment, Economy, and Equity. RU's sustainability efforts encompass the greening of buildings and campus operations; innovation and expansion of sustainability education and research opportunities for students, faculty, and staff; and the promotion of social and environmental justice within and beyond our campus. Roosevelt's presence in downtown Chicago and suburban Schaumburg, and its historic mission of advancing social justice and cultivating progressive leadership in its home bioregion of Chicagoland, inspire us to make every facet of our institution as sustainable as possible as well as contribute to the sustainable development of our home communities through leadership, innovation, and outreach.

# Historical Perspective

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1945: Roosevelt University founded. Takes up residence in Chicago's Auditorium Theater; could be considered an example of *adaptive reuse*.

1980's: RU Green Club first becomes operational

2010: Sustainability Studies bachelor's program launched at Roosevelt

2011: Roosevelt University Sustainability Blog is up and sustainable redevelopment of Schaumburg Campus began

2012: Wabash Building, Goodman Center constructed

2017: Composting pilot program up and running in AUD building

2019: Composting program expands to become campus-wide

2022: Sustainability is explicitly incorporated into New Student Orientation for the first time

# Sustainability Organizations at Roosevelt

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**RU Sustainability Blog:** Began as a final project in SUST 210, "The Sustainable Future". Work on the blog initially focused on the village of Schaumburg and still provides a place to collect sustainability research conducted on that campus. It now also advertises campus events, SUST course offerings, and SUST-related jobs in the greater Chicago area.

**RU Green Club:** Tracing back to the 1980's, this is Roosevelt's Environmental and Sustainability-focused student organization. Plans events for students, coordinates student-driven initiatives to improve the university's sustainability initiatives

# A Campus Built for Sustainability

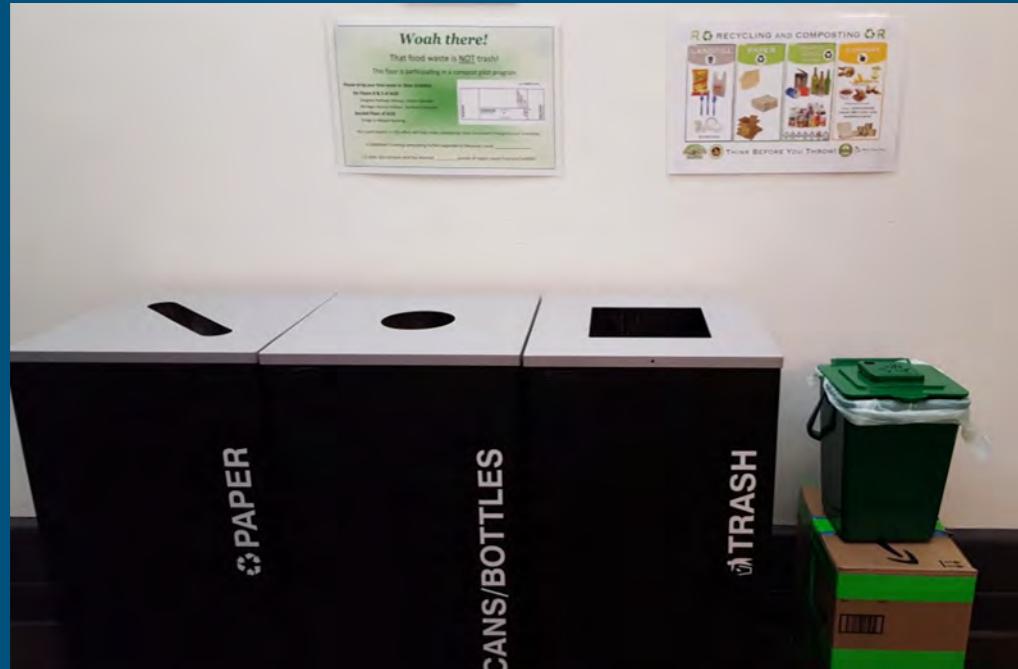
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- **LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**
  - Green Building Certification, based off a system which focuses on efficiency and leadership
  - Goals: To promote building construction which combats climate change, protects/restores water resources, enhances human health, protects biodiversity, and promotes sustainable and regenerative materials cycles.
  - LEED certifications do not expire; “the original plaque says nothing about whether the building is operating sustainably today”
  - Recertification is possible, but Roosevelt has not opted in to do this
- **Wabash Building**
  - Finished in 2012
  - Awarded a Gold LEED certification
  - Features 5 levels of green roofs, high energy efficient lighting
- **Goodman Center**
  - Finished in 2012
  - Awarded a Silver LEED certification



# Waste Management at RU

- Recycling
  - Paper, glass, cans, cardboard, plastic (Types 1 and 2)
  - Cannot recycle: Plastic Types 3-7
  - Putting just one contaminated item in a recycling bin has the potential to contaminate the entire building's recycling
- Composting
  - In a recent waste audit performed by SUST students and Dr. Bryson, approximately **90%** of the total waste audited should have been sorted into the compost bin



# Sustainability Studies at Roosevelt

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## Academic Year Courses

- SUST 101 Humans and Nature
- SUST 210 Sustainable Future
- SUST 220 Water
- SUST 230 Food
- SUST 250 Sustainable University
- SUST 310 Energy and Climate Change
- SUST 330 Biodiversity
- SUST 340 Policy, Law, Ethics

## Summer Courses

- SUST 360 Writing Urban Nature
- SUST 390 TOP: Rooftop Garden



# Why should Sustainability be part of NSO?

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- Roosevelt's last STARS report expired in December 2018
- Our rating was **Bronze**, with a score of 40.54
- Areas of Sustainability in which Roosevelt excelled:
  - Buildings & Energy Usage
  - Curriculum and Research
- Areas of Sustainability in which Roosevelt was weakest:
  - **Campus Engagement**
  - Public Engagement
- **NSO is their first in-depth introduction to the school, and it's the perfect time to give them a sense of how this campus was literally constructed to facilitate the advancement of sustainability**

# Discussion and Questions

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