

West Side Informer

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Masks Still Required on Campus and in the Libraries

On March 2nd, Governor Greg Abbott lifted the mask mandate in Texas. Although the executive order ends the statewide mask mandate in Texas, individual businesses and institutions can still implement and enforce their own rules for masks. Per the email distributed on March 5th from Texas A&M University, existing guidance on testing, face coverings, classes, physical distancing, occupancy limitations, co-curricular activities, etc. will stay in place for the time being. We appreciate your cooperation as we strive to finish the semester safe and healthy. For more information on TAMU guidelines and policies regarding COVID-19, visit tamu.edu/coronavirus.

Get Your Green On

Kermit the Frog once famously sang, “It’s not that easy bein’ green.” While the context for that lyric was of a little green frog in a big, colorful Muppet world, the idea holds true in our real world as well. Living green takes more intentionality and work than many may realize as recycling, carbon footprint, and climate change must all be considered. The goal of green living is to preserve our natural environment while creating a healthier lifestyle and more sustainable world that we and future generations can enjoy.

On an individual scale there are many ways to start going green, from simply recycling to making a commitment to shop at companies that are dedicated to sustainability and making a difference in the world. These might seem like small steps, but they make a big impact. Many global companies, such as Apple, Dell, Amazon, and Google, “have made pledges in the last year to reduce their carbon footprint and improve other sustainability initiatives” in part due to recent reports showing “77% of consumers are more willing to purchase from a company with a CSR (Consumer Social Responsibility) pledge” (Newman 2020). While an individual going green has some impact on our planet, this accountability on the part of large businesses is essential in helping preserve and protect Earth for future generations.

Here at TAMU, the Office of Sustainability helps the campus community to go green by enhancing the efforts of the university to research how we interact with and impact our environment, as well as educate individuals about sustainability and what steps they can take to live green. They host several sustainability events throughout the year and will hold a Virtual Earth Month Instagram event this year in celebration of Earth Day. TAMU faculty, staff, and students have created live virtual events to enhance sustainability knowledge and they plan to have big-ticket giveaways during the celebration. They are also dedicated to providing resources and support for people who wish to incorporate sustainability practices into their work and life.

Although it may not be easy being green, it is essential to the survival of our planet and future generations. If you are thinking of going green and need help doing so, visit sustainability.tamu.edu or greenamerica.org.

Sources: Newman, Daniel. “How Leading Global Companies Are Using Sustainability As A Market Differentiator.” *Forbes*, 24 July 2020, www.forbes.com



BLCC

Libraries Contact Information:

Evans:

979.845.3731

Business Library:

979.845.2111

Medical Science:

979.845.7428

Cushing:

979.845.1951

Policy Sciences & Economics:

979.862.3544

BLCC Hours

Sunday: 12pm - 9pm

Monday-Thursday: 7am -9pm

Friday: 7am - 6pm

Saturday: CLOSED

Copies of the newsletter are available at oaktrust.library.tamu.edu.

The newsletter is written and published by the Business Library & Collaboration Commons Staff.