

# University of Utah Graduation Sustainability Pledge

*"I pledge to consider the impacts my job and lifestyle have on social equity and the environment. I will try to improve both of these aspects through individual and collective actions."*

## What is the Sustainability Pledge?

The Sustainability Pledge and the associated green cords were first developed through a [Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund](#) grant to a student in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The Sustainability Pledge, in conjunction with the [Graduation Pledge Alliance](#), asks individuals to consider the impacts their job and lifestyle have on social equity and the environment, and it encourages them to improve both through individual and collective actions.

Those who commit to the Sustainability Pledge may pick up a green cord to wear at commencement and convocation to symbolize their commitment. Through this pledge, the Sustainability Office seeks to build a global community committed to social and environmental responsibility.

## Who is eligible to take the pledge?

Anyone can take the sustainability pledge! However, only students and faculty associated with participating colleges may pick up a green cord to wear at graduation. (One cord per student, regardless of number of majors.)

## How to become a participating college:

1. Nominate a staff member to serve as a point person to coordinate with the Sustainability Office.
  - a. The Sustainability Office will offer a brief training session for all point persons in early April.
  - b. This person will have access to an Excel file on Sharepoint listing the people who have signed the pledge and are therefore eligible to pick up a green cord for graduation.
  - c. This person will also be responsible for coordinating pick up or delivery of green cords from the Sustainability Office for distribution at their college.
2. Provide the Sustainability Office with the number of green cords your college would like to order along with a chartfield to invoice the cost of the cords (\$2.00 per cord). The Sustainability Office will order all cords in bulk.
3. Determine how students can pick up their green cords from your college as well as where they may drop them off for reuse.
  - a. Students, faculty or staff may pick up a cord after signing the pledge.
  - b. One option is to include an opportunity to sign the pledge and distribute the green cords at a pre-existing graduation resource event.

- c. Another option is to make the green cords available at a central location in the college for pick up during business hours.
    - d. Provide a drop off location to encourage the reuse of these cords after graduation.
  4. Add the Sustainability Pledge to your website.
    - a. Include the information found on the Sustainability Office's webpage or link there directly. <https://sustainability.utah.edu/graduating-sustainability-pledge/>
    - b. Your webpage must include information about where to pick up a green cord specific to your college
    - c. Provide the link to this site to the Sustainability Office to be included on the central webpage.
  5. Promote the Sustainability Pledge and the green cords to students and faculty in your college in advance of graduation.

*The deadline to join as a participating college in the 2023 sustainability pledge & green cord distribution is **Apr 3, 2023**. Please contact [sustainability@utah.edu](mailto:sustainability@utah.edu) to become a participating college today!*