

The Environmental Management welcomes all Freshmen to the BTU!

The BTU has an environmental management system. What this means and how you can participate during your studies, is outlined in the following paragraphs.

Environmental Guidelines

Since 2004, the BTU has been committed to the compliance of its environmental guidelines and strives to fulfil its responsibility for the environment. The environmental guidelines are intended to provide a framework for action being implemented through continuous environmental management that involves students as well as employees. In addition to the efficient use of limited resources, the guidelines also address environmentally friendly procurement, the promotion of biodiversity and spreading knowledge for greater environmental awareness. Take a look and see in which areas you have the possibility to make an effort.

Environmental Management System according to EMAS

Being the first university in Berlin and Brandenburg, the BTU has been recorded in the EMAS register since 2010. EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) is a tool developed by the European Union to support companies improving their environmental performance. Participating organizations are required to voluntarily put more effort in the environmental protection than being legally required, to participate in regular audits by a state-approved environmental verifier and to reveal their operational environmental protection in an environmental statement.

And what exactly does the BTU do? A few examples:

- **BTU reusable cups:** The dining halls are or are going to be free of disposable cup. As an alternative, there exist the reusable cups of the BTU, which were designed by a BTU student as part of a design competition. Of course, it is also possible to make use of your own reusable cup at the coffee machines. Depending on the location you can save 5-10 cents per drink.
- **Waste separation systems:** There exist waste separation systems in all buildings. In the rooms mostly for paper and residual waste, in the corridors additionally for light packaging and glass. Please use the separation systems and put your waste into the appropriate trash cans. In this way, you support correct waste disposal and foster the possibility of recycling. Of course, it is better to avoid the generation of trash in the first place. 😊
- **Wildflower Meadows:** In 2020 individual areas were created as wildflower meadows and flower strips at the central campus as well as in Senftenberg. Even though it may look a bit "messy" at times, this encourages biodiversity and species diversity on campus.
- **BTU Bienen e.V.:** At the central campus there exists a BTU bee association, which was founded by students, with a total of 8 bee colonies. The association is looking for dedicated members - feel free to sign up and join!

Get involved!

We welcome every idea and every form of student participation. Send us your ideas and suggestions, sign up for the environmental newsletter to stay informed about current topics, start your own student sustainability initiatives, which we are happy to actively support, get involved if you notice things that are not sustainable at all. Sustainability at the BTU depends on its members and on the behaviour from all of us. We look forward to hearing from you! 😊

The Environment and Mobility programme of the Student Council (StuRa) supports and assists student initiatives and activities. Your suggestions for improving the environmental situation on campus are very welcome and can be sent to nachhaltigkeit@b-tu.de or umwelt@stura-cottbus.de.

What everyone can do for the environment:



SWITCH OFF PROPERLY ... WITH SWITCHABLE SOCKET STRIPS

Make a conscious effort to turn off lamps when they are not needed. During longer absences, the heater should be turned down - to level one or two. And when technical devices are not in use for several hours, you should turn everything off such as computers. This can be done quickly and easily using switchable power strips. In this way, you avoid energy consumption due to stand-by mode. And it's best to avoid screen savers as they consume unnecessary energy. Lowering the room temperature by lowering the heater by only 1°C can save up to 6% of annual heating costs.



FRESH AIR ... THROUGH SHOCK OR CROSS VENTILATION

The tilt position of windows is ineffective and wastes energy as well as money. Therefore, if it is possible it is best to cross-ventilate several times a day for 2-5 minutes (open the windows and doors and to have a proper draft) or intermittently ventilate several times a day for 5-10 minutes with the window fully open. Always turn down the heater when ventilating. In summer in air-conditioned rooms, please close windows and doors, so that no energy is unnecessarily wasted and the air-conditioning works effectively.



WELL ON TOUR ... WITH THE RIGHT MOBILITY BEHAVIOR

In everyday life, use preferably your bike, public transport or walk whenever it is possible. If you are going on a longer trip, choose long-distance trains and buses over airplanes, and if you do have to use your car: carpool. Increasingly frequent and long-distance flights have a particularly damaging effect on the environment because exhaust gases at normal flight altitudes have about 4 times as much greenhouse effect as exhaust gases near the ground. The same applies to food: short transport routes have a better ecological footprint. Therefore, buy food regionally and seasonally at weekly markets, in organic and farm stores as well as in supermarkets.

And what about waste separation? Waste prevention is always better than recycling! Reduce your plastic waste by using reusable instead of disposable items and glass instead of plastic, prefer to buy loose goods and avoid plastic bags. When packaging waste is generated, it should be properly separated and disposed. Here's how to do it right:

PAPER/CARDBOARD	GLASS	LIGHTWEIGHT PACKAGING	RESIDUAL WASTE
These materials should go into the collection bin:			
writing paper, photocopying paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogues, packing paper and paper bags (unsoiled), shredded paper, small cardboard boxes (please flatten large boxes before putting them into the paper container)	non-returnable bottles without caps, non-returnable jars without lids	beverage cartons, tetra packs (please flatten), plastic bottles (check refundable deposit), beverage cans and tins, plastic cups, plastic packages/bags, metallic or plastic tops or lids, styrofoam, aluminum lids and foils, empty spray cans, blister packs, empty paint cans or tubes	tissues, dirty paper towels, dirty cartons, e.g. pizza boxes, food waste, coffee filters, tea bags, chewing gum, file folders, ceramics, china stoneware, sweepings, photographs, carbon paper
These materials should not go into the collection bin:			
residual waste, e.g. dirty tissues and paper towels, dirty or sticky paper, food waste	ceramics, china stoneware, screw caps or lids, crown caps, mirror glass or window panes, crystals	residual waste e.g. dirty or sticky foils, videotapes	hazardous waste e.g. batteries, energy-saving lamps, e-waste (electrical and electronic scrap)

More usable tips about a sustainable lifestyle can be found under:

<https://www.b-tu.de/nachhaltigkeit/mach-mit/eco-tipps>

CONTACT

You can reach the environmental management team at:

<https://www.b-tu.de/nachhaltigkeit/kontakt>

nachhaltigkeit@b-tu.de