

Student design projects on display at the School of Design, 2025.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12

Responsible Consumption and Production

Through ORT Recicla, the university measures and manages its waste and channels it into partnerships with social and environmental value. In 2025 recycling grew faster than waste generation, and circular design was present across teaching.

14.2 t

recycled in 2025, +10.1% on 2024

18.3%

recycling rate (17.1% in 2024)

479

IT units given a second life through Antel Integra

TEACHING & LEARNING

Circular design

Industrial Design 3 and 5 (circular economy, ecodesign), Industrial Technology 1 and 2 (life-cycle analysis), Textile Design 3 (slow fashion), Clothing Design 3 (upcycling of textile waste) and the Recycling Workshop in Interior Design.

Student work

Projects such as Silowear (clothing from rural waste) and Puno x Ound (ethical fashion); an ORT team won the audiovisual category of Rediseña 2025, promoting recycling in fashion. fd.ort.edu.uy/novedades/silowear-diseno-que-transforma-residuos-rur...

Youth ideas

The Business Challenge 2025 winner, ReConstruyo, is a marketplace for reusing construction-material waste. facs.ort.edu.uy/novedades/ganadores-2025-del-business-challenge

CAMPUS OPERATIONS

ORT Recicla 2025

In 2025 the university generated 77.6 tonnes of waste (+2.9%), of which 14.2 tonnes were recycled (+10.1%) and 63.4 tonnes went to final disposal. The recycling rate rose from 17.1% to 18.3%.

Partners with social value

10.7 t of paper and cardboard, managed by Fabitech and donated to Repapel for educational programmes in public schools; 619 kg of PET bottles, collected by Taym and processed by Ecopet into food-grade recycled resin; 2.88 t of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), managed by Werba.

Extending product life

ORT donated 479 IT units (233 monitors, 246 CPUs) to Antel Integra, which refurbishes them with free software and redistributes them, reducing electronic waste. ort.edu.uy/novedades/ort-dona-equipos-informaticos-a-proyecto-antel...

Tapitero

A new collector invites students and staff to deposit plastic bottle caps; when it is full, a sustainable kit with reusable alternatives to single-use items is raffled among participants. ort.edu.uy/novedades/tapitero-reciclaje-tapitas-ort

Responsible procurement

The university applies environmental criteria to suppliers and subcontracted services and has reduced paper use.

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

Universities for Sustainability Network

On 1 December 2025 ORT became a founding member of the Red de Universidades por la Sostenibilidad (UNIS), the first inter-institutional alliance in Uruguay on sustainability and the circular economy in higher education, together with CLAEH, Universidad Católica del Uruguay, Universidad de la Empresa, Universidad de Montevideo and the Technological University (UTEC); Vice-Rector Dr. Pablo Landoni signed the founding document. ort.edu.uy/novedades/red-de-universidades-por-la-sostenibilidad

National circular economy standards

The Faculty of Engineering joined the Circular Economy Technical Committee of the Uruguayan Institute of Technical Standards (UNIT), represented by Inés Tiscornia; the committee has three published standards and two in progress. fi.ort.edu.uy/novedades/la-facultad-de-ingenieria-integra-al-comite...

Environmental education

ORT supported Repapel's environmental education conferences for schools. ort.edu.uy/novedades//ort-impulsa-la-educacion-ambiental-en-las-jor...

36 course offerings linked to SDG 12 in 2025

- Taller de reciclaje (Architecture)
- Diseño de indumentaria 3 (4077) (Design)
- Representación expresiva 2 (4043) (Design)
- Biorremediación (Engineering)
- Planificación de eventos, patrocinio y mecenazgo (Communication)
- Políticas Públicas (Management)
- Diseño multimedia 2 (5137) (Design)
- Biotecnología de algas (Engineering)
- Diseño Editorial 3 (Design)

ORT Recicla: measuring, recycling, partnering



Fashion Design student collections, 2025. Upcycling of textile waste and slow fashion are part of the Fashion Design curriculum.

ORT Recicla, the university's waste management programme started in 2017, measures every tonne leaving the campuses. In 2025 the university generated 77.6 tonnes of waste, 2.9% more than in 2024, but recycled 14.2 tonnes, an increase of 10.1%; the recycling rate rose from 17.1% to 18.3%, an improvement in the system's relative performance.

Each recycled stream creates social value. 10.7 tonnes of paper and cardboard, managed by Fabitech, were donated to Repapel, a civil organization with more than 20 years of work that turns them into recycled products and environmental education programmes for public schools. 619 kg of PET bottles, collected by Taym, were processed by Ecopet, the only plant in Uruguay that converts them into food-grade recycled resin. 2.88 tonnes of waste electrical and electronic equipment were managed by Werba.

Beyond recycling, ORT extended the life of 479 IT units, 233 monitors and 246 CPUs, donated to Antel Integra, which refurbishes equipment with free software for people in vulnerable contexts and received the Uruguay Circular Award in 2025. A new Tapitero collects plastic bottle caps and rewards participants with kits of reusable alternatives to single-use items.

The university also contributes to national standards and networks: the Faculty of Engineering joined the Circular Economy Technical Committee of the Uruguayan Institute of Technical Standards (UNIT), and on 1 December ORT co-founded the Universities for Sustainability Network (UNIS) with five other Uruguayan universities.

SELECTED 2025 PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS BY ORT FACULTY

1. Pirotti, F. D., Soriano, N., Ripoll, M., Domínguez de María, P., Barrow, C. J., & Betancor, L. (2025). Improving the sustainability of Gluconobacter oxydans L-Sorbose production using food waste media and recyclable resting cells. Sustainable Chemistry and Pharmacy, 46, 18 p.
2. Kannan, S., & Gambetta, N. (2025). Technology-driven sustainability in small and medium-sized enterprises: A systematic literature review. Journal of Small Business Strategy, 35(1), 129-157.
3. Núñez Laguna, I., Gambetta, N., & García Benau, M. A. (2025). Knowledge in the diversity-efficiency nexus: How board composition shapes sustainable resource use in emerging markets. Journal of Innovation & Knowledge, 11, 13 p.
4. Pirotti, F., Doeven, E. H., Butler, M. S., Betancor, L., & Barrow, C. J. (2025, 10-12 de noviembre). Turning L-sorbose Rare Sugar into Biosurfactants. [Presentación de póster]. AAOCS 2025 Conference – Fats & Oils: Food, Health, Industry & Innovation, Melbourne, Australia.