

# #RENOVATE Frequently Asked Questions

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## 1. Who are we?

- a. #RENOVATE (Save the Earth, Save the Towers) is an advocacy group founded to advocate for sustainable building practices on the OU campus. We love OU and merely call for the University to be better promoters of sustainability and environmental consciousness.

## 2. What is your mission?

- a. Our mission is to convince the University of Oklahoma to #RENOVATE the Towers rather than send them to the landfill. The EPA has shown that construction & demolition landfill waste is nearly SIX TIME that of plastic landfill waste in a given year. We believe it is the responsibility of OU to be environmentally conscious as a university.
- b. [Plastics: Material-Specific Data | Facts and Figures about Materials, Waste and Recycling | US EPA](#)  
[Sustainable Management of Construction and Demolition Materials | Sustainable Materials Management | US EPA](#)

## 3. Why save the Towers?

- a. The Towers are (3) 12-story buildings that have become iconic landmarks in the OU landscape. Just as generations of friends and families have studied in the Bizzell Memorial Library, so too generations of friends and families have lived in the Towers. They are a part of a shared OU history that should be up-kept not discarded.

## 4. Isn't it too late to do anything?

- a. As long as they still stand, our voices will be heard!

## 5. Don't they have mold?

- a. The mold in the bathrooms is caused by poor ventilation systems from the 1960s. A renovation could easily and efficiently solve that issue.

## 6. Don't the pipes have problems?

- a. Luckily, Architect Richard Kuhlman designed the Towers with the bathroom plumbing in vertical shafts along the exterior walls. The pipes were efficiently installed this way, and they can be just as easily replaced.

## 7. Wouldn't students prefer something new?

- a. That's the beauty of a renovation; it feels completely new! Would you have guessed the Bookmark area of the Bizzell Memorial Library was built in the 1980s? No! It feels much newer because OU invested in its renovation.

**8. Would a renovation really be cheaper than building new dorms?**

- a. Yes! The biggest costs in any project are sitework, foundation, and structure, all of which the Towers already have. The primary needs are for Fixtures, Furnishings, & Equipment, which can all be kept to a low budget.

**9. How is a renovation environmentally sustainable?**

- a. We propose OU do a LEED certified renovation where anything removed is both recycled and replaced with environmentally friendly materials.

**10. Who started your group?**

- a. Connor Hopper is a graduate student in the Gibbs College of Architecture at OU. Not only does he have a LEED Green Associate accreditation, but he also wrote a University Libraries Award-Winning thesis based on his research of OU campus architecture. He feels passionate both about environmental sustainability and the varied architecture on OU campus.

**11. How can I help?**

- a. You can sign the petition and share it with your friends and family! Spreading awareness is the biggest hurdle we have to jump. However, if you feel called to do more, feel free to contact us!