In order to create a sustainable future, we must meet the needs of the billions of people in the world right now, as well as future generations. We want to show you some of the ways chemistry is contributing to cleaning our water, reducing waste, and designing sustainable materials. As we work toward creating a sustainable future, we need more chemists designing materials that are affordable, safe, and effective. Through scientific research and green chemistry (also known as the science of sustainability), chemists can not only help to clean up the planet, but also keep pollution from happening in the first place. Chemistry has a big role to play in improving our overall sustainability. Green chemistry technology must succeed in three areas: cost (it must be cost–effective and affordable), safety (it must be safe for the environment), and performance (it must work well). We can each do our own part to protect the planet by making small changes in our lives, like switching to biodegradable plastics and buying less ?!one-time-use stuff. You can practice chemistry to be more sustainable in your own life