2025
Sustainable Campus Index

aashe

Innovations and highlights from top-performing colleges and universities, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)

stars

Table of Contents

On the cover:
Students gardening in the Dawson College Peace Garden. In Spring 2025, Dawson College became the first associate or short cycle institution to earn a STARS Platinum rating.

Introduction

The Sustainable Campus Index (SCI) celebrates colleges and universities that are leading the way in sustainability, showcasing top performers by country, institution type, and across 13 impact areas. Rankings are based on data from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS), a framework used by hundreds of institutions to measure, report, and improve their sustainability performance. This report includes an Institutional Highlights section that recognizes high-impact projects and transformative initiatives that exemplify leadership and innovation. It also spotlights institutions with exceptional report accuracy and the most frequent STARS reporters. The SCI has been annually produced by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) since 2015.

University of Connecticut students collaborate with town residents to pick up litter around the Storrs campus twice a year. Photo credit: UConn

Top Performers by Impact Area

Highest scores in 13 sustainability topics

Buildings & Grounds

Campus buildings and landscapes are often major sources of energy use, emissions, and environmental impact. They can be designed and managed to conserve resources, support biodiversity, protect human and ecosystem health, and serve as highly visible reflections of an institution's commitment to sustainability. Through thoughtful planning and operations, institutions can reduce their footprint while creating welcoming, inspiring spaces that embody climate leadership and environmental stewardship. This impact area includes sustainable building design and operations, efficient water use, and ecological grounds management.

The Portland Community College Health Technology LEED Gold certified building has been renovated with repurposed timber.
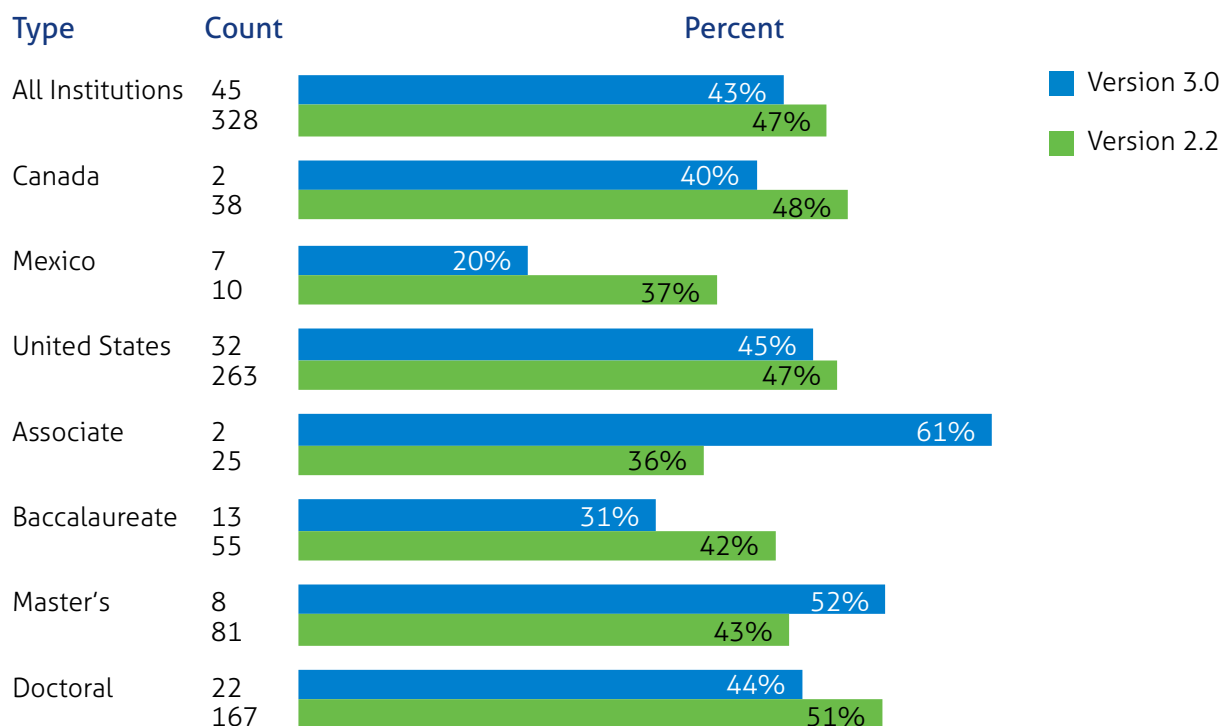

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Buildings & Grounds

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	87.5%	Master's	Chennai, India
2	Portland Community College	73.7%	Associate/Short-cycle	Portland, OR
3	University of California, Berkeley	71.7%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	California State University, Northridge	82.0%	Master	Northridge, CA
2	University of Washington, Bothell	80.6%	Master	Bothell, WA
3	Humber Polytechnic	78.9%	Associate	Toronto, ON
4	University of Massachusetts Amherst	78.4%	Doctoral/Research	Amherst, MA
5	Loyola Marymount University	77.1%	Doctoral/Research	Los Angeles, CA
6	San Francisco State University	76.6%	Doctoral/Research	San Francisco, CA
7	Stevens Institute of Technology	76.5%	Doctoral/Research	Hoboken, NJ

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent (Version 3.0)	Percent (Version 2.2)
All Institutions	45 / 328	43%	47%
Canada	2 / 38	40%	48%
Mexico	7 / 10	20%	37%
United States	32 / 263	45%	47%
Associate	2 / 25	61%	36%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	31%	42%
Master's	8 / 81	52%	43%
Doctoral	22 / 167	44%	51%

Legend: ■ Version 3.0 ■ Version 2.2

Campus Engagement

Sustainability becomes meaningful when it is lived and practiced across campus. By engaging students, faculty, and staff in sustainability co-curricular programs, outreach, and training, colleges and universities can foster a culture of awareness and action. These efforts deepen understanding, promote sustainable behaviors, and empower the entire campus community to contribute to a more just and sustainable future. This impact area covers sustainability in outreach and communications, student co-curricular activities, staff engagement and training, and culture assessment.

Eco Reps students tabling during Eco Fest at Furman University. Photo credit: Aruzhan Sakhariyanova
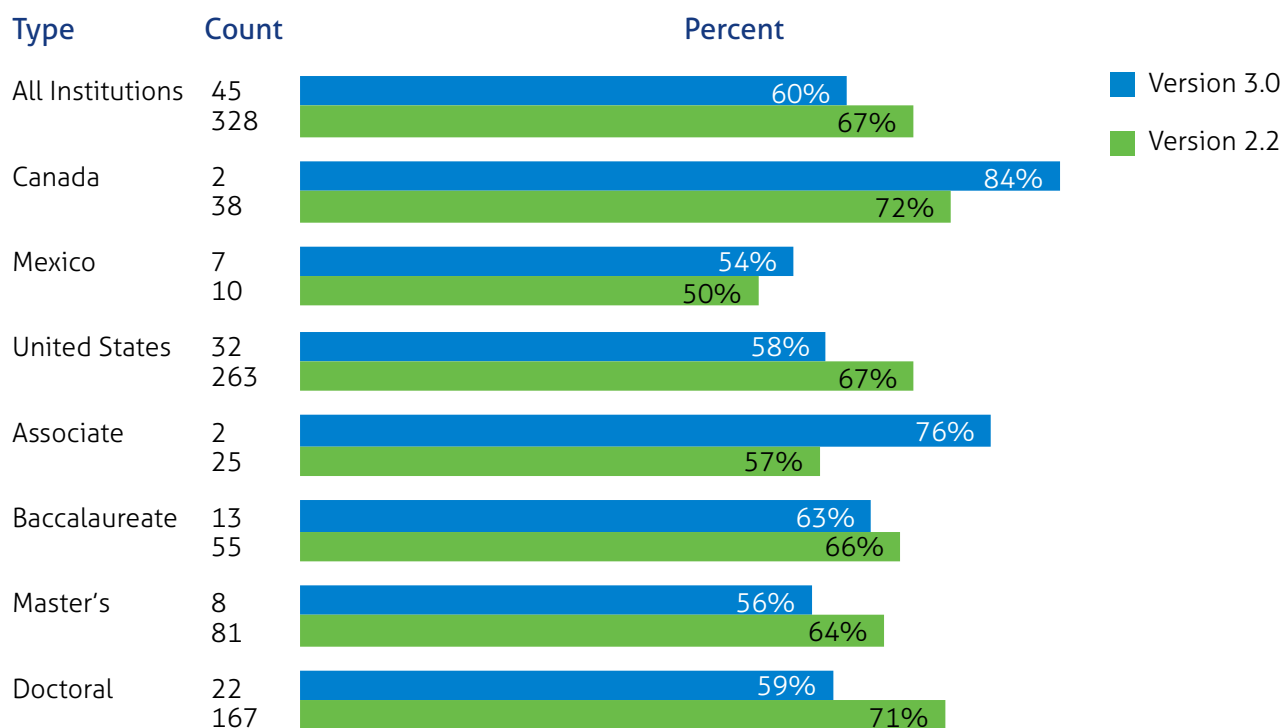

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Campus Engagement

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Technological University Dublin	96.0%+	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland
2	Furman University	96.0%	Baccalaureate	Greenville, SC
3	University of California, Berkeley	93.0%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA

Tiebreaks (+) in this and some subsequent sections were determined based on bonus points earned under Innovation & Leadership in the respective impact area, if applicable. See Methodology section for details.

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Université de Sherbrooke	100%	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
2	Colorado State University	98.8%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Collins, CO
3	Loyola Marymount University	97.7%	Doctoral/Research	Los Angeles, CA
4	The American College of Greece	97.67%	Master	Athens, Greece
5	Cornell University	97.62%	Doctoral/Research	Ithaca, NY
6	University of Connecticut	96.57%	Doctoral/Research	Storrs, CT
7	Southern Oregon University	96.4%	Master	Ashland, OR

Average Scores

Type	Count	Version 3.0 (Percent)	Version 2.2 (Percent)
All Institutions	45 / 328	60%	67%
Canada	2 / 38	84%	72%
Mexico	7 / 10	54%	50%
United States	32 / 263	58%	67%
Associate	2 / 25	76%	57%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	63%	66%
Master's	8 / 81	56%	64%
Doctoral	22 / 167	59%	71%

Coordination & Planning

Strong sustainability outcomes require clear commitments, coordinated leadership, and inclusive planning. By engaging students, employees, and community partners in governance, institutions can ensure sustainability is embedded in decision-making and long-term strategy. This impact area covers sustainability coordination, sustainability plans and commitments, and participatory institutional governance.

Participants hold up SDG cards at the York University fall tree planting event as part of Spirit Day. Photo credit: York University
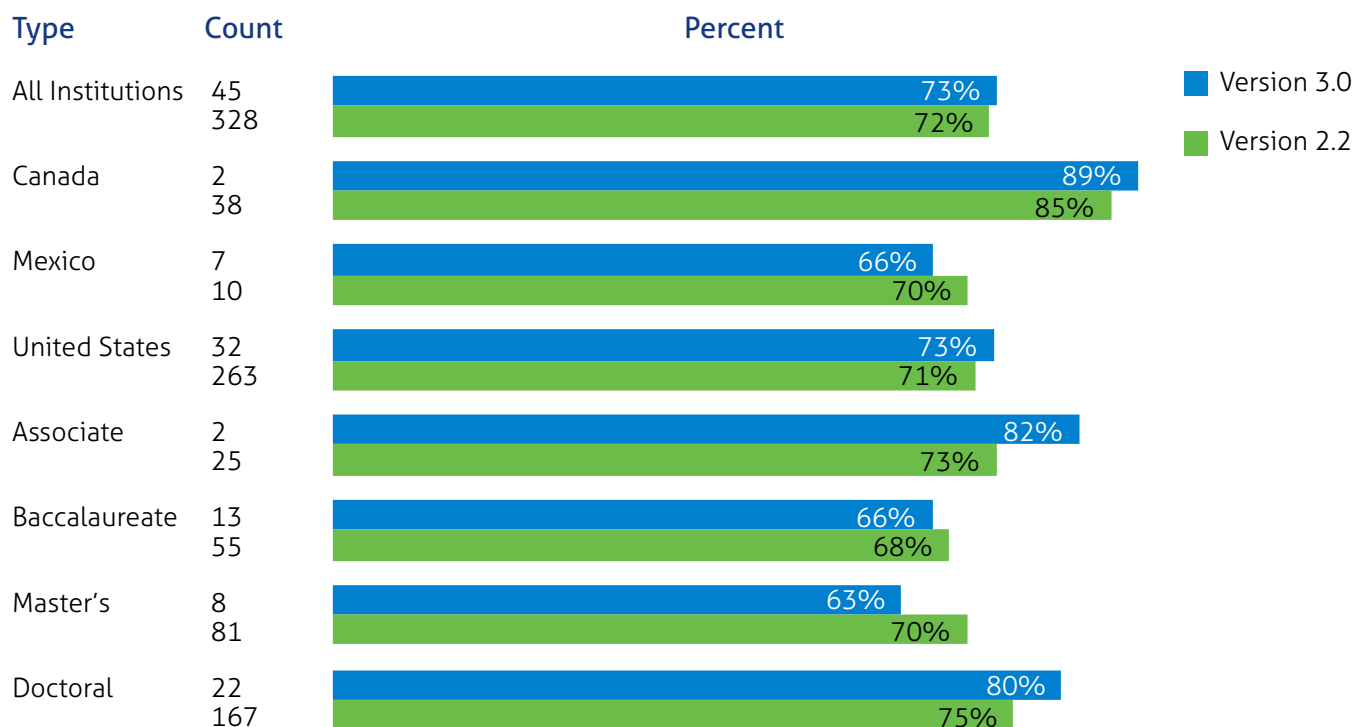
Coordination & Planning

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Technological University Dublin	97.0%	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland
2	University of California, Berkeley	95.5%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA
3(t)	Flinders University	93.9%	Doctoral/Research	Adelaide, Australia
3(t)	Oregon State University	93.9%	Doctoral/Research	Corvallis, OR

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1(t)	California Polytechnic State University	100%+	Master	San Luis Obispo, CA
1(t)	Humber Polytechnic	100%+	Associate	Toronto, ON
1(t)	IESE Business School - Barcelona	100%+	Master	Barcelona, Spain
1(t)	McGill University	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Montreal, QC
1(t)	Nova Scotia Community College	100%+	Associate	Halifax, NS
1(t)	University of Connecticut	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Storrs, CT
1(t)	University of Tasmania	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Hobart, Australia
1(t)	University of Toronto Mississauga	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Mississauga, ON
1(t)	York University	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Toronto, ON

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent	
All Institutions	45	73%	Version 3.0
	328	72%	Version 2.2
Canada	2	89%	
	38	85%	
Mexico	7	66%	
	10	70%	
United States	32	73%	
	263	71%	
Associate	2	82%	
	25	73%	
Baccalaureate	13	66%	
	55	68%	
Master's	8	63%	
	81	70%	
Doctoral	22	80%	
	167	75%	

Curriculum

Higher education plays a vital role in preparing students to meet sustainability challenges. By embedding sustainability into coursework, learning outcomes, and experiential learning, colleges and universities can equip all students with the tools to lead positive change. This impact area covers sustainability in course offerings, learning outcomes, academic programs, applied learning, and literacy assessment.

Florida Gulf Coast University's Dr. Thomas teaches measurement techniques to Water School students in a hands-on limnology field class. Photo credit: James J. Greco
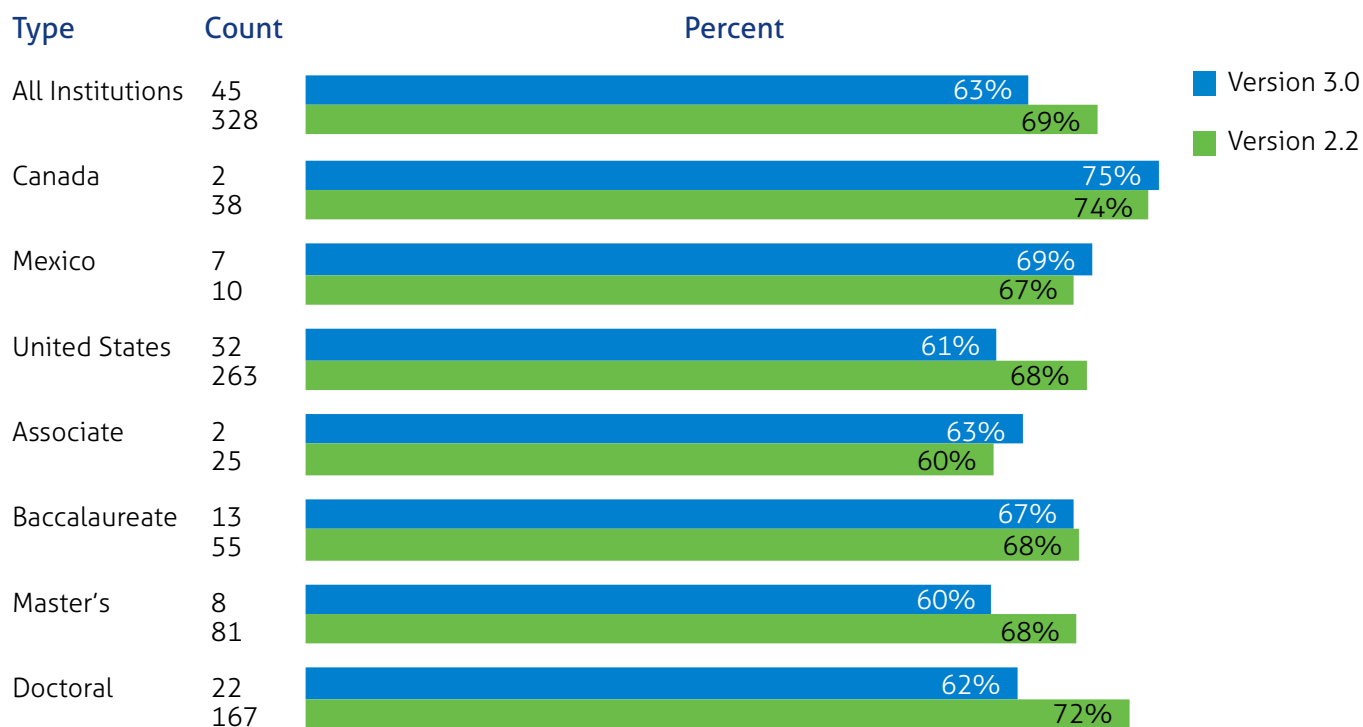
Curriculum

Top Performers

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Technological University Dublin	90.8%	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland
2	University of California, Riverside	94.8%	Doctoral/Research	Riverside, CA
3	University of California, Berkeley	87.2%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of California San Diego	100%+	Doctoral/Research	La Jolla, CA
2(t)	American University of Sharjah	100%	Master	Sharjah, UAE
2(t)	Colorado State University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Collins, CO
2(t)	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	100%	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
5	Université Laval	99.9%	Doctoral/Research	Quebec, QC
6	Florida Gulf Coast University	99.7%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Myers, FL
7	University of New Hampshire	99.6%	Doctoral/Research	Durham, NH

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent		
All Institutions	45 / 328	Version 3.0: 63%	Version 2.2: 69%	
Canada	2 / 38	Version 3.0: 75%	Version 2.2: 74%	
Mexico	7 / 10	Version 3.0: 69%	Version 2.2: 67%	
United States	32 / 263	Version 3.0: 61%	Version 2.2: 68%	
Associate	2 / 25	Version 3.0: 63%	Version 2.2: 60%	
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	Version 3.0: 67%	Version 2.2: 68%	
Master's	8 / 81	Version 3.0: 60%	Version 2.2: 68%	
Doctoral	22 / 167	Version 3.0: 62%	Version 2.2: 72%	

Energy & Climate

Energy use is a major driver of climate change, fueling rising seas, extreme weather, and widespread ecological disruption. Colleges and universities can help mitigate climate change impacts by cutting their own greenhouse gas emissions, phasing out fossil fuels, and investing in clean, renewable energy. This impact area covers energy consumption, use of renewable energy, and assessment and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
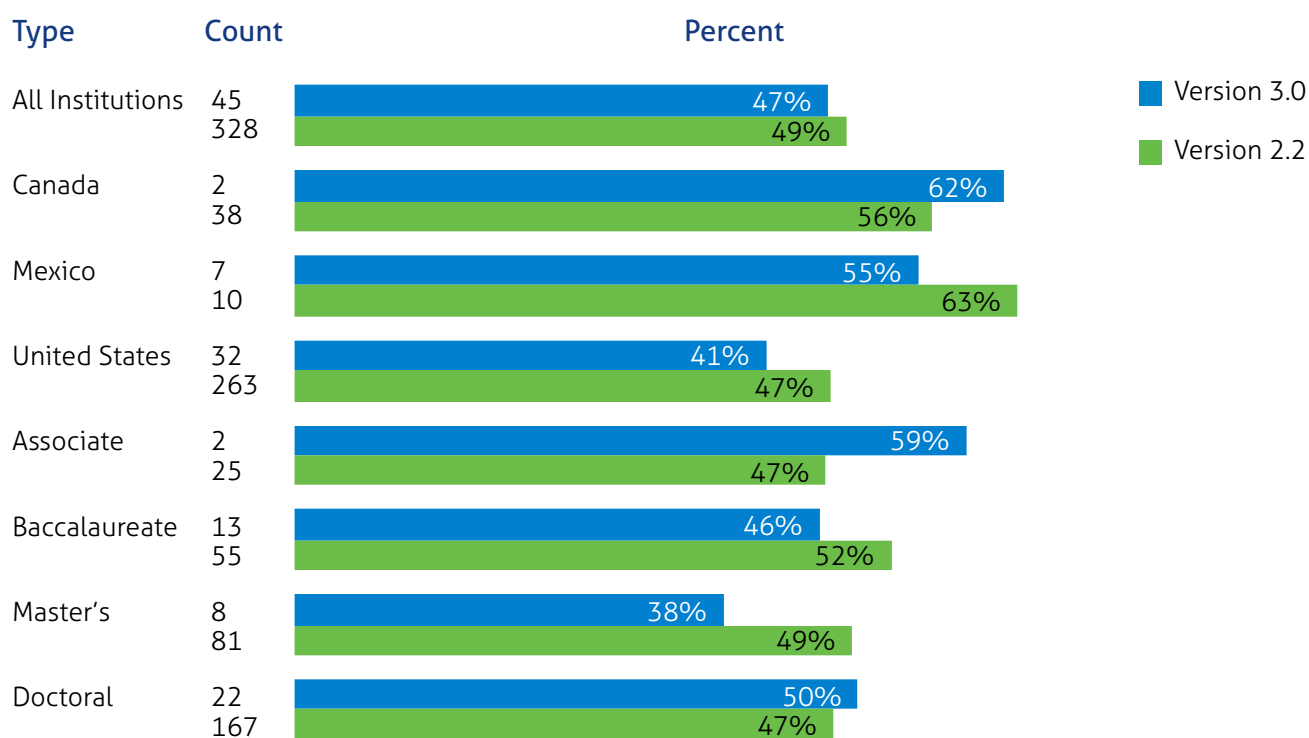
Flinders University solar carpark.

Energy & Climate

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Flinders University	93.3%	Doctoral/Research	Adelaide, Australia
2	American University	77.4%	Doctoral/Research	Washington, DC
3	Concordia University	71.4%	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Middlebury College	85.9%	Baccalaureate	Middlebury, VT
2	Arizona State University	84.6%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ
3	Stanford University	83.4%	Doctoral/Research	Stanford, CA
4	Emerson College	81.7%	Master	Boston, MA
5	Williams College	81.5%	Baccalaureate	Williamstown, MA
6	Oberlin College	81.3%	Baccalaureate	Oberlin, OH
7	Bentley University	80.2%	Master	Waltham, MA

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent (Version 3.0)	Percent (Version 2.2)
All Institutions	45 / 328	47%	49%
Canada	2 / 38	62%	56%
Mexico	7 / 10	55%	63%
United States	32 / 263	41%	47%
Associate	2 / 25	59%	47%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	46%	52%
Master's	8 / 81	38%	49%
Doctoral	22 / 167	50%	47%

Food & Dining

Food choices on campus have far-reaching impacts on environmental and human health. Colleges and universities can use their food purchasing power to support sustainable food systems, encourage environmentally friendly and humane farming methods, improve working conditions, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build fair and resilient food systems. This impact area covers sustainable and ethical food procurement, social impact suppliers, and food waste recovery programs.

Students welcoming visitors to Emory University's Sustainable Food Fair held every October.

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Food & Dining

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of California, Berkeley	74.6%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA
2	Tulane University	69.6%	Doctoral/Research	New Orleans, LA
3	Stony Brook University	66.7%	Doctoral/Research	Stony Brook, NY

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of Southern California	73.6%	Doctoral/Research	Los Angeles, CA
2	Stanford University	66.0%	Doctoral/Research	Stanford, CA
3	College of the Atlantic	63.1%	Baccalaureate	Bar Harbor, ME
4	Saint Mary's College of California	62.5%	Master	Moraga, CA
5(t)	Denison University	60.9%	Baccalaureate	Granville, OH
5(t)	Emory University	60.9%	Doctoral/Research	Atlanta, GA
7	Sewanee - The University of the South	57.8%	Baccalaureate	Sewanee, TN

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent Version 3.0	Percent Version 2.2
All Institutions	45 / 328	35%	31%
Canada	2 / 38	35%	31%
Mexico	7 / 10	6%	17%
United States	32 / 263	42%	32%
Associate	2 / 25	29%	21%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	25%	32%
Master's	8 / 81	29%	30%
Doctoral	22 / 167	44%	34%

Legend: Version 3.0, Version 2.2
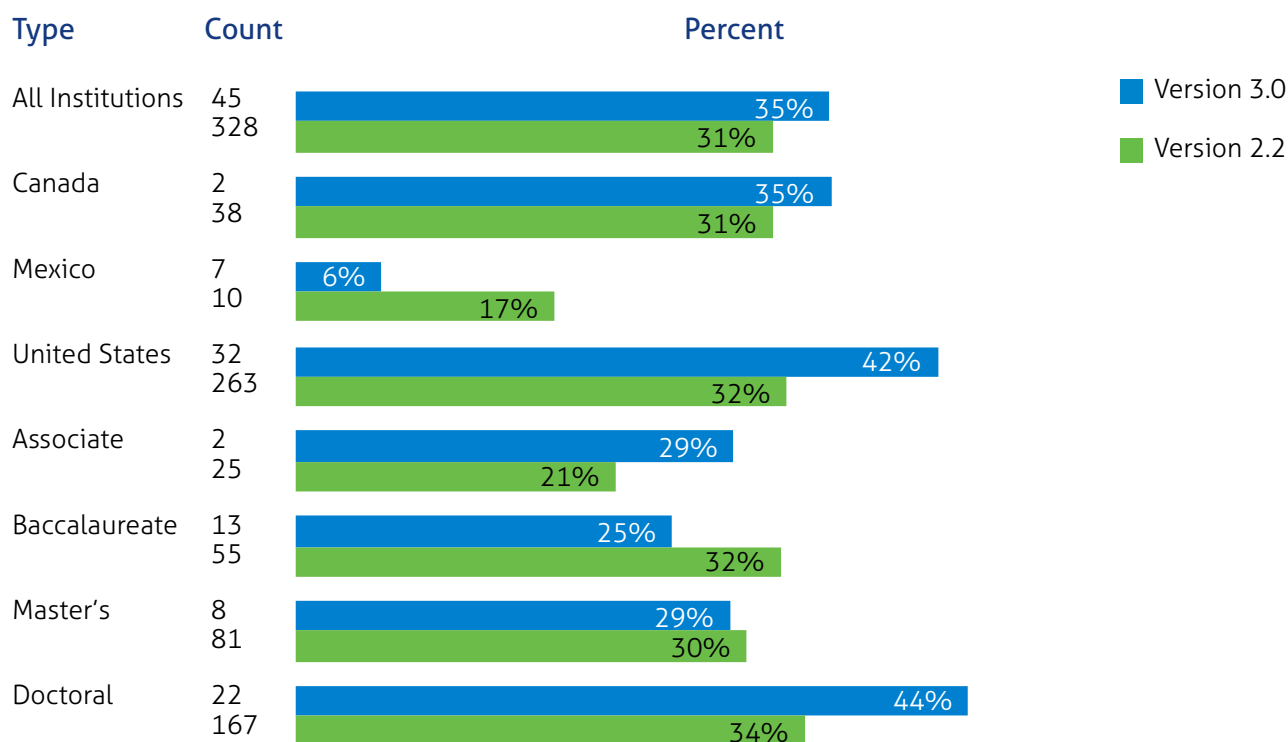
Investment

Collectively, colleges and universities invest hundreds of billions of dollars. By using the tools of sustainable investing, institutions can improve the long-term health of their endowments, encourage better corporate behavior, support the development of sustainable products and services, and help build a more just and sustainable financial system. This impact area covers sustainable investment policies, divestment, investor engagement, holdings disclosure, and positive sustainability investments.

Members of the Student Sustainability Group at Soka University of America, which scored highly under the STARS Investment subcategory.

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Investment

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of California, Riverside	65.1%+	Doctoral/Research	Riverside, CA
2	University of California, Berkeley	65.1%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA
3(t)	Soka University of America	63.1%	Baccalaureate	Aliso Viejo, CA
3(t)	Concordia University	63.1%	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Dawson College	100%+	Associate/short-cycle	Montréal, QC
2(t)	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	100%	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
2(t)	University of New Hampshire	100%	Doctoral/Research	Durham, NH
4	Arizona State University	94.1%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ
5	University of Victoria	91.7%	Doctoral/Research	Victoria, BC
6	Cal Poly Humboldt	88.8%	Master	Arcata, CA
7	University of Virginia	87.5%	Doctoral/Research	Charlottesville, VA

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent	
		Version 3.0	Version 2.2
All Institutions	45 / 328	24%	22%
Canada	2 / 38	43%	33%
Mexico	7 / 10	22%	28%
United States	32 / 263	23%	20%
Associate	2 / 25	37%	11%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	27%	18%
Master's	8 / 81	14%	18%
Doctoral	22 / 167	24%	26%
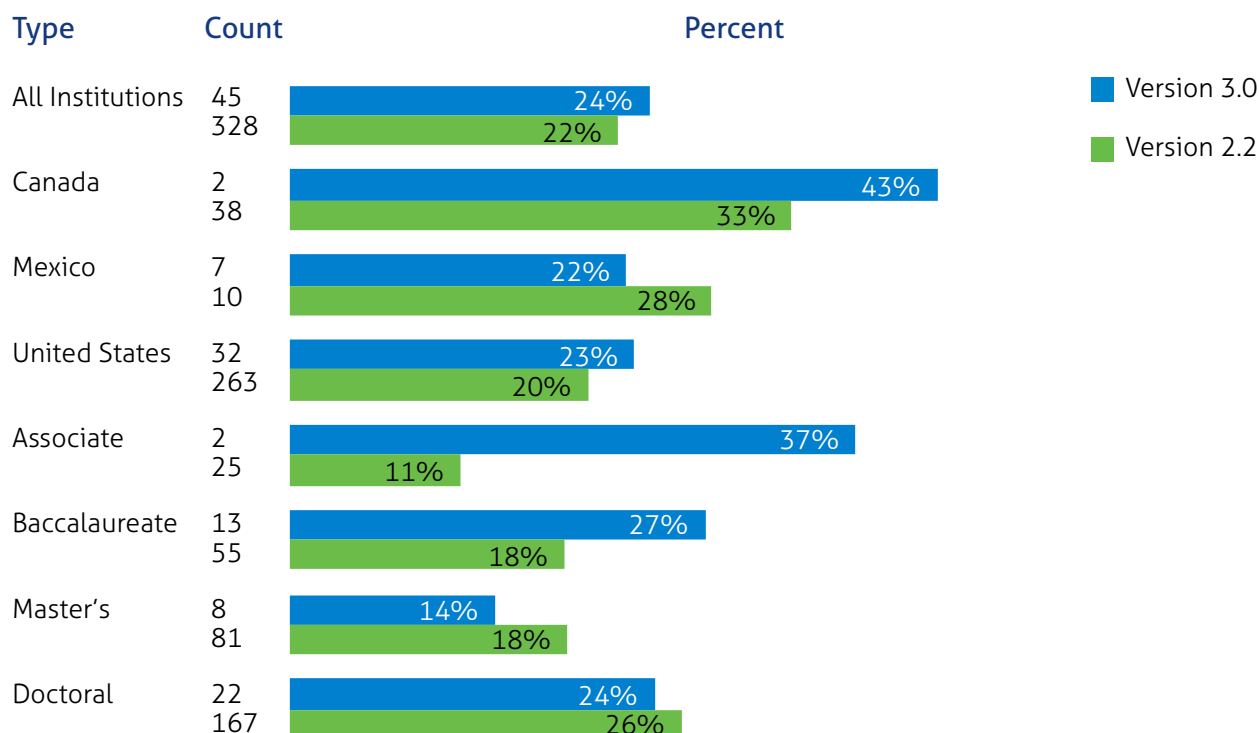
Procurement & Waste

Collectively, institutions spend many billions of dollars on goods and services annually. A robust sustainable procurement system coupled with a zero waste approach can minimize resource extraction, support responsible suppliers, and reduce waste. This impact area covers supplier codes of conduct, sustainability considerations in bid solicitations and appraisals, spend on social impact suppliers, spend on products that meet sustainability criteria, surplus and reuse programs, and waste generation and recovery.

During Fall welcome orientation, Seattle University students take part in "Trash Talk" to explain to new students what goes where.

Procurement & Waste

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of California, Berkeley	84.1%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA
2	University of California, Riverside	67.5%	Doctoral/Research	Riverside, CA
3	Portland Community College	60.7%	Associate/Short-cycle	Portland, OR

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Thompson Rivers University	88.3%	Master	Kamloops, BC
2	Université Laval	87.9%	Doctoral/Research	Quebec, QC
3	Université de Sherbrooke	85.9%	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
4	Humber Polytechnic	85.6%	Associate	Toronto, ON
5	Seattle University	83.4%	Master	Seattle, WA
6	Dalhousie University	83.1%	Doctoral/Research	Halifax, NS
7	Arizona State University	81.8%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent	
		Version 3.0	Version 2.2
All Institutions	45 / 328	37%	49%
Canada	2 / 38	40%	56%
Mexico	7 / 10	20%	39%
United States	32 / 263	39%	49%
Associate	2 / 25	48%	42%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	30%	43%
Master's	8 / 81	34%	47%
Doctoral	22 / 167	41%	54%
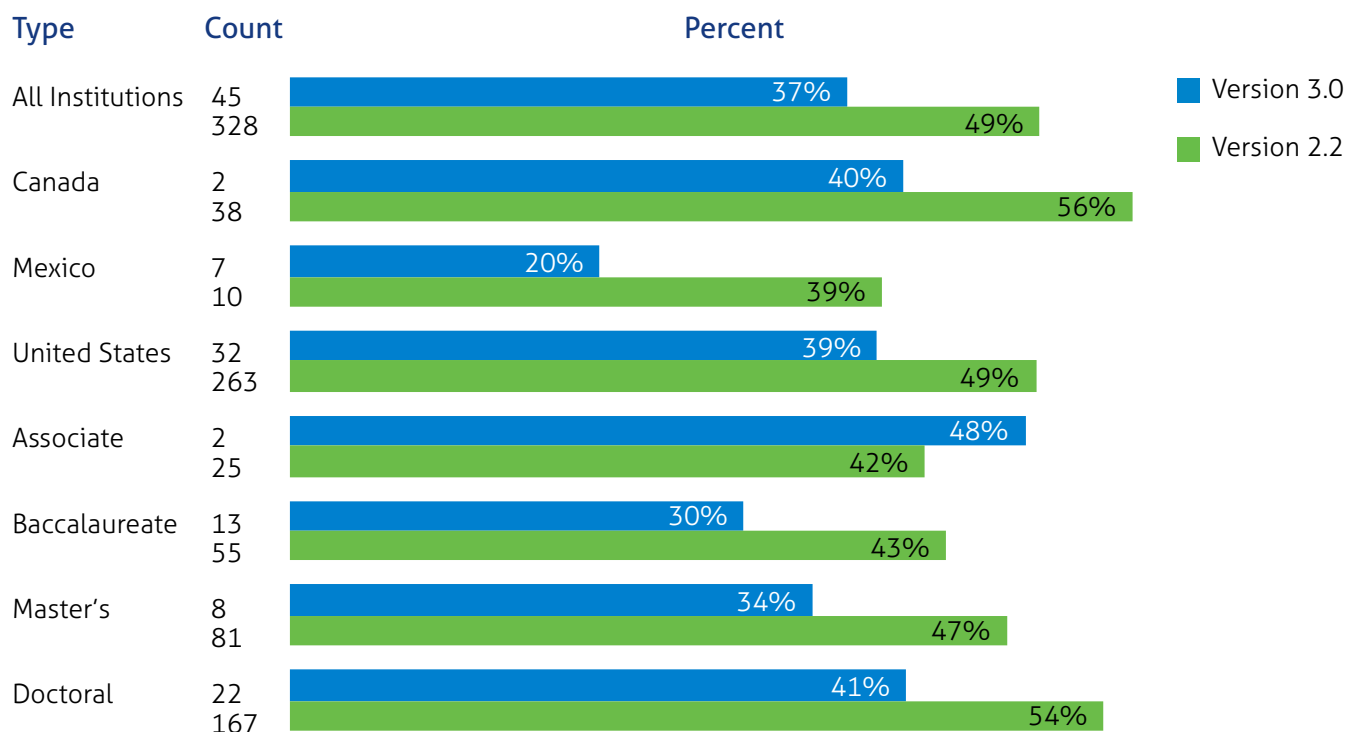
Public Engagement

Sustainability challenges require collaboration beyond campus borders. By partnering with communities, advocating for just policies, and engaging in service, colleges and universities can drive real-world impact while enriching student learning. This impact area covers participation in civic engagement and community service, advocacy for policies that advance sustainability, community partnerships, continuing education, shared facilities, and inter-campus collaboration.

The inaugural Longest Table event engaged more than 100 WashU students in civic dialogue. Photo credit: Washington University in St. Louis

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Public Engagement

Top Performers

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of California, Berkeley	100%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA
2(t)	University of California, Riverside	92.0%	Doctoral/Research	Riverside, CA
2(t)	Washington University in St. Louis	92.0%	Doctoral/Research	Saint Louis, MO

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Cornell University	96.6%	Doctoral/Research	Ithaca, NY
2	Université de Sherbrooke	96.6%	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
3	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	96.3%	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
4	University of Massachusetts Lowell	95.8%	Doctoral/Research	Lowell, MA
5	Colorado State University	95.3%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Collins, CO
6	Thompson Rivers University	94.5%	Master	Kamloops, BC
7	Princeton University	94.3%	Doctoral/Research	Princeton, NJ

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent (Version 3.0)	Percent (Version 2.2)
All Institutions	45 / 328	70%	61%
Canada	2 / 38	84%	64%
Mexico	7 / 10	74%	67%
United States	32 / 263	69%	61%
Associate	2 / 25	78%	53%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	72%	59%
Master's	8 / 81	65%	53%
Doctoral	22 / 167	71%	67%

■ Version 3.0
■ Version 2.2
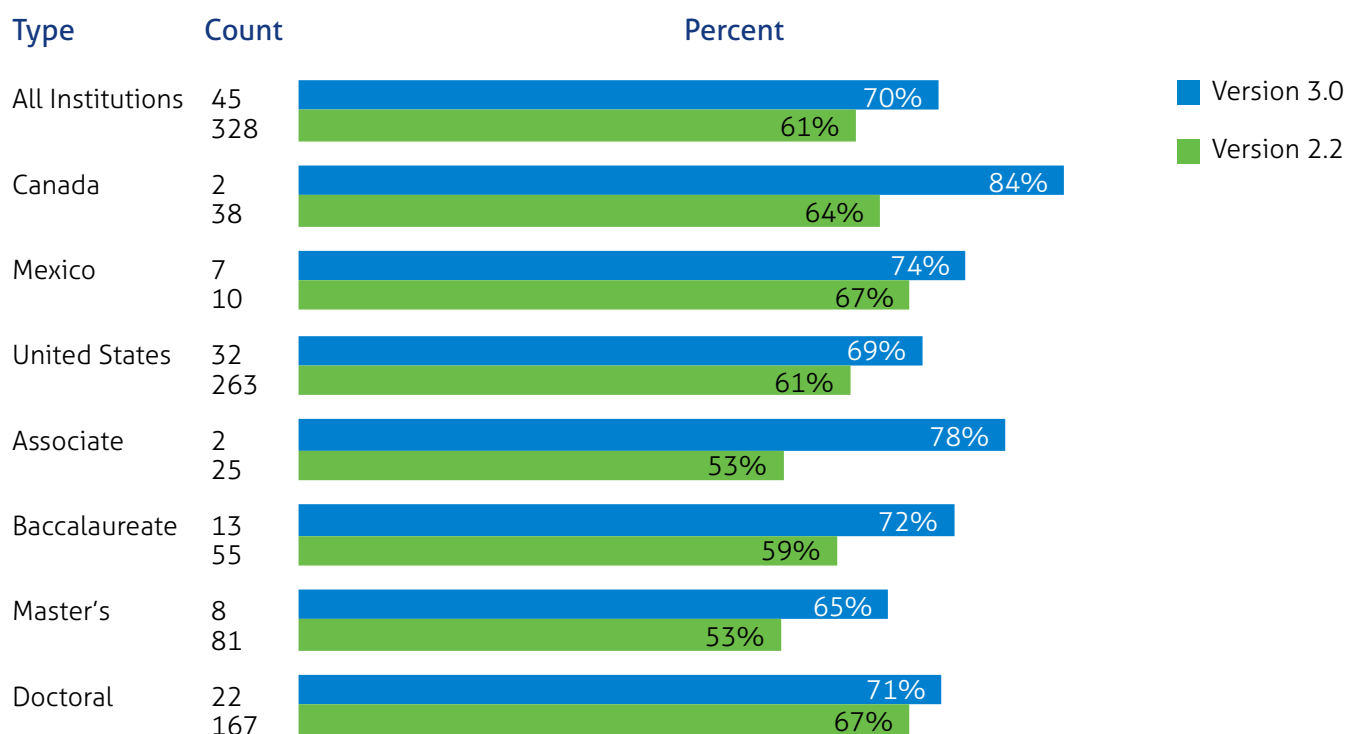
Representation & Access

True sustainability cannot be achieved without equity and fair representation. Marginalized communities - often underrepresented in higher education - face the greatest environmental and social burdens while having the least access to educational opportunities. A safe and supportive campus climate and a staff and student body that are representative of the communities served by an institution promote learning and collaboration for all. This impact area covers institutional climate, racial and ethnic representation, gender parity, affordability and access, and student success.

Graduating students enjoy their day at the University of Maryland's 2025 spring graduation ceremony.

Representation & Access

Top Performers

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of California, Berkeley	82.6%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA
2	University of California, Riverside	82.2%	Doctoral/Research	Riverside, CA
3	University of Maryland, College Park	81.4%	Doctoral/Research	College Park, MD

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Stanford University	99.8%	Doctoral/Research	Stanford, CA
2	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	98.7%	Doctoral/Research	Edinburg, TX
3	University of California, Irvine	97.5%	Doctoral/Research	Irvine, CA
4	Vassar College	96.7%	Baccalaureate	Poughkeepsie, NY
5	Cornell University	96.3%	Doctoral/Research	Ithaca, NY
6	McGill University	96.0%	Doctoral/Research	Montreal, QC
7	Barnard College	95.9%	Baccalaureate	New York, NY

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent (Version 3.0)	Percent (Version 2.2)
All Institutions	45 / 328	56%	71%
Canada	2 / 38	49%	55%
Mexico	7 / 10	30%	68%
United States	32 / 263	62%	75%
Associate	2 / 25	63%	52%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	44%	68%
Master's	8 / 81	50%	69%
Doctoral	22 / 167	65%	76%
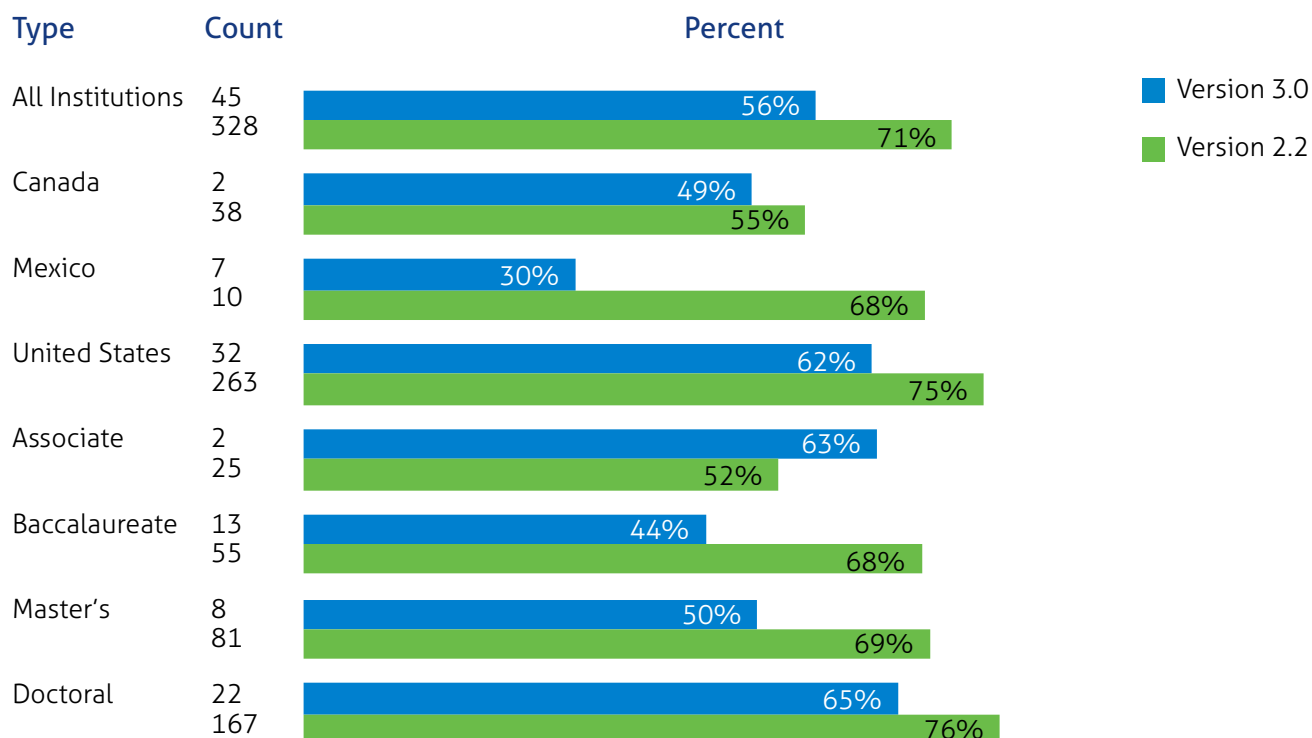
Research

Research is a core function of higher education and a powerful driver of sustainability solutions. By advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and exploring real-world challenges, institutions help create a more sustainable future. This impact area recognizes sustainability research conducted by academic departments and research centers and institutes, incentives for sustainability research, responsible research and innovation, and support for open access of published research.

University of Minnesota, Duluth professor Craig Hill deploys a wave energy sensor in Lake Superior. Photo credit: David Cowardin

Research

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1(t)	Technological University Dublin	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland
1(t)	University of Maryland, College Park	100%+	Doctoral/Research	College Park, MD
3	Concordia University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC

Student researchers from the Water Quality, Outreach and Wellness Lab at University of Maryland's School of Public Health collect data for projects related to water reuse for agricultural applications and to solutions for climate change impacts on marginalized urban communities. Photo credit: University of Maryland

Research

Top Performers

	Version 2.2			
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1(t)	Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS)	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Quebec, QC
1(t)	McGill University	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Montreal, QC
1(t)	University of Saskatchewan	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Saskatoon, SK
1(t)	University of Tasmania	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Hobart, Australia
5	Florida State University	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Tallahassee, FL
6(t)	American University of Sharjah	100%	Master	Sharjah, UAE
6(t)	Arizona State University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ
6(t)	Ball State University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Muncie, IN
6(t)	Binghamton University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Binghamton, NY
6(t)	California State University, Northridge	100%	Master	Northridge, CA
6(t)	Carnegie Mellon University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Pittsburgh, PA
6(t)	Colorado State University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Collins, CO
6(t)	Cornell University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Ithaca, NY
6(t)	Florida Gulf Coast University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Myers, FL
6(t)	George Mason University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Fairfax, VA
6(t)	George Washington University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Washington, DC
6(t)	Hope College	100%	Baccalaureate	Holland, MI
6(t)	James Madison University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Harrisonburg, VA
6(t)	Miami University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Oxford, OH
6(t)	Pennsylvania State University	100%	Doctoral/Research	University Park, PA
6(t)	Portland State University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Portland, OR
6(t)	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	100%	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
6(t)	Université de Sherbrooke	100%	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
6(t)	Université Laval	100%	Doctoral/Research	Quebec, QC
6(t)	University of California, Irvine	100%	Doctoral/Research	Irvine, CA
6(t)	University of California, Merced	100%	Doctoral/Research	Merced, CA
6(t)	University of California San Diego	100%	Doctoral/Research	La Jolla, CA
6(t)	University of California, Santa Cruz	100%	Doctoral/Research	Santa Cruz, CA
6(t)	University of Minnesota, Crookston	100%	Baccalaureate	Crookston, MN
6(t)	University of Minnesota, Duluth	100%	Master	Duluth, MN
6(t)	University of New Hampshire	100%	Doctoral/Research	Durham, NH
6(t)	Yale University	100%	Doctoral/Research	New Haven, CT

Research

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent
All Institutions	45 / 328	73% (Version 3.0) / 80% (Version 2.2)
Canada	2 / 38	88% (Version 3.0) / 87% (Version 2.2)
Mexico	7 / 10	45% (Version 3.0) / 82% (Version 2.2)
United States	32 / 263	77% (Version 3.0) / 79% (Version 2.2)
Associate	2 / 25	77% (Version 3.0) / 48% (Version 2.2)
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	58% (Version 3.0) / 78% (Version 2.2)
Master's	8 / 81	65% (Version 3.0) / 74% (Version 2.2)
Doctoral	22 / 167	83% (Version 3.0) / 86% (Version 2.2)

Legend: Version 3.0 (blue), Version 2.2 (green)

Student and faculty researchers from across the University of New Hampshire teamed up for the 'Flax to Linen' project that links historic New England agricultural practices with sustainable fashion in the present, through experiential learning and events. Photo credit: University of New Hampshire

Transportation

Transportation is a significant source of emissions and pollution. By reducing dependence on combustion-driven transport, institutions can model sustainable transportation systems that benefit human health, improve campus operations, and reduce costs. This impact area covers zero and near-zero emission vehicles in the institution's fleet, commute modal split for students and employees, and efforts at reducing and mitigating business air travel.

A line of parked bicycles and window decals promoting "Take Climate Action" at New York University.

Transportation

Top Performers

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Concordia University	76.2%	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
2	Technological University Dublin	73.9%	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland
3	American University	72.0%	Doctoral/Research	Washington, DC

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	New York University	90.3%	Doctoral/Research	New York, NY
2	Dawson College	90.0%	Associate	Montréal, QC
3	Université Téluq	85.7%	Associate	Quebec City, QC
4	Arizona State University	84.9%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ
5	Toronto Metropolitan University	83.6%	Doctoral/Research	Toronto, ON
6	École de Technologie Supérieure	83.3%	Doctoral/Research	Montreal, QC
7	Middlebury College	83.1%	Baccalaureate	Middlebury, VT

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent	
		Version 3.0	Version 2.2
All Institutions	45 / 328	34%	49%
Canada	2 / 38	66%	61%
Mexico	7 / 10	18%	39%
United States	32 / 263	34%	47%
Associate	2 / 25	44%	38%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	28%	51%
Master's	8 / 81	22%	41%
Doctoral	22 / 167	40%	53%
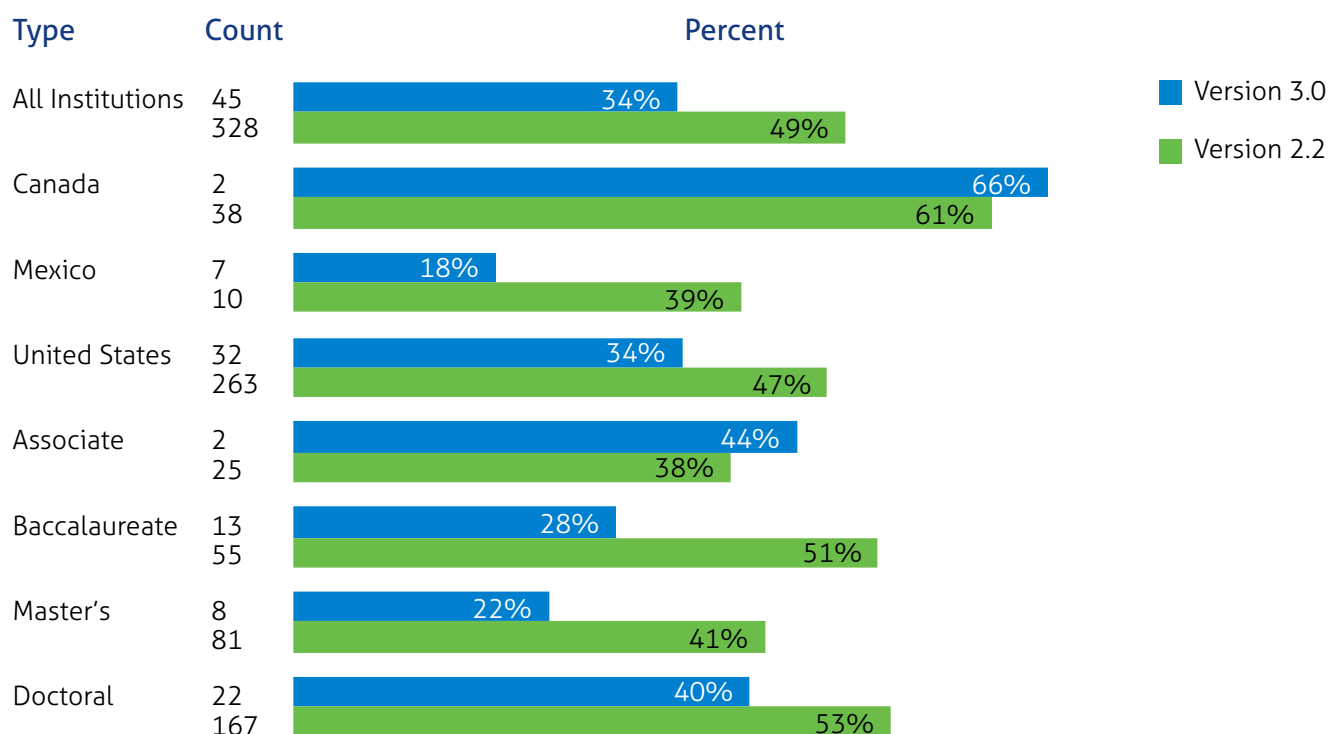
Wellbeing & Work

An institution's character and performance capacity are defined by its people. Colleges and universities can foster a thriving, equitable campus community by protecting the health and safety of students and employees, involving them in the development and review of policies and procedures, and ensuring that wages, benefits, and working conditions for all campus workers are fair and ethical. This impact area covers student and employee health, safety and wellbeing, employee rights, and pay equity and living wage standards.

Staff at De La Salle Lipa conducted a health session on how migraines affect mental wellbeing. Photo credit: De La Salle Lipa Human Resource Department

Wellbeing & Work

Top Performers

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Technological University Dublin	98.2%	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland
2	Flinders University	93.6%	Doctoral/Research	Adelaide, Australia
3	University of California, Berkeley	89.5%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Université de Sherbrooke	90.3%	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
2	The American College of Greece	88.1%	Master	Athens, Greece
3	Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Monterrey	86.7%	Doctoral/Research	Monterrey, Mexico
4	Université Laval	86.6%	Doctoral/Research	Quebec, QC
5	Universidad Tecnológica del Uruguay	85.1%	Master	Montevideo, Uruguay
6	De La Salle Lipa	84.4%	Master	Lipa City, Philippines
7	Seattle University	84.3%	Master	Seattle, WA

Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent — Version 3.0	Percent — Version 2.2
All Institutions	45 / 328	56%	71%
Canada	2 / 38	49%	55%
Mexico	7 / 10	30%	68%
United States	32 / 263	62%	75%
Associate	2 / 25	63%	52%
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	44%	68%
Master's	8 / 81	50%	69%
Doctoral	22 / 167	65%	76%
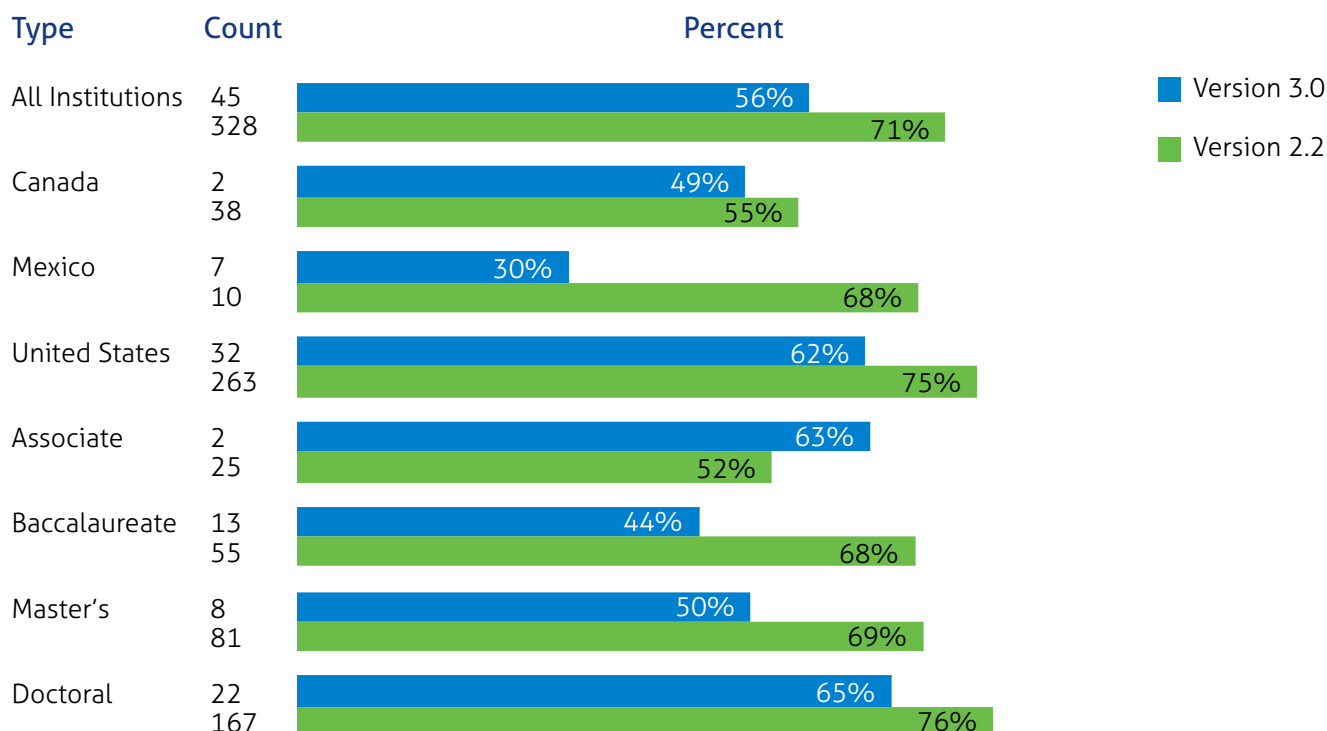
Overall Top Performers

Highest overall scores among Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral institutions

Université de Sherbrooke students participate in a free distribution of trees and seedlings.

Associate & Short-Cycle Institutions

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Canadore College	67.27	Gold	North Bay, ON
2	Portland Community College	65.86	Gold	Portland, OR

Note: Two associate & short-cycle institutions submitted a Version 3.0 report as of March 7, 2025.

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Dawson College	86.18	Platinum	Montréal, QC
2	Humber Polytechnic	79.01	Gold	Toronto, ON
3	Nova Scotia Community College	71.36	Gold	Halifax, NS
4	Seneca Polytechnic	67.93	Gold	Toronto, ON
5	Raritan Valley Community College	67.59	Gold	Branchburg, NJ
6	Central Community College	67.45	Gold	Grand Island, NE
7	Mohawk College	67.36	Gold	Hamilton, ON
8	St. Lawrence College	58.84	Silver	Kingston, ON

Canadore College signs the SDG Accord.

Baccalaureate Institutions

Top Performers

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Furman University	69.74	Gold	Greenville, SC
2	Amherst College	67.18	Gold	Amherst, MA
3	Agnes Scott College	66.19	Gold	Decatur, GA

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Dickinson College	81.96	Gold	Carlisle, PA
2	Macalester College	80.87	Gold	Saint Paul, MN
3	Colgate University	77.56	Gold	Hamilton, NY
4	Middlebury College	76.05	Gold	Middlebury, VT
5	Luther College	75.28	Gold	Decorah, IA
6	Oberlin College	74.88	Gold	Oberlin, OH
7	College of the Atlantic	73.23	Gold	Bar Harbor, ME

An Amherst College student holds up a bundle of secondhand clothes they picked out at the Free Clothing Extravaganza, a campus event held just after move-in.

Master's Institutions

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Prescott College	69.84	Gold	Prescott, AZ
2	Modern College of Business and Science	65.46	Gold	Muscat, Oman
3	Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	65.17	Gold	Chennai, India

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Thompson Rivers University	86.17	Platinum	Kamloops, BC
2	Seattle University	83.87	Gold	Seattle, WA
3	The American College of Greece	81.87	Gold	Athens, Greece
4	California State University, Northridge	80.73	Gold	Northridge, CA
5	California State University, Chico	79.37	Gold	Chico, CA
6	Cal Poly Humboldt	76.57	Gold	Arcata, CA
7	California Polytechnic State University	75.14	Gold	San Luis Obispo, CA

Prescott College community volunteers stabilize a newly planted tree. Photo credit: Zachary Czuprynski

Doctoral/Research Institutions

Top Performers

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	University of California, Berkeley	86.76	Platinum	Berkeley, CA
2	Technological University Dublin	83.66	Gold	Dublin, Ireland
3	American University	76.02	Gold	Washington, DC

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Université de Sherbrooke	92.73	Platinum	Sherbrooke, QC
2	Arizona State University	91.10	Platinum	Tempe, AZ
3	Colorado State University	88.13	Platinum	Fort Collins, CO
4	Université Laval	87.91	Platinum	Quebec, QC
5	University of California San Diego	86.87	Platinum	La Jolla, CA
6	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	86.83	Platinum	Syracuse, NY
7	McGill University	86.26	Platinum	Montreal, QC

A group of University of California, Berkeley students planting trees in April 2025.

Overall Average Scores

Type	Count	Percent	
All Institutions	45 / 328	58.7 (Version 3.0)	62.3 (Version 2.2)
Canada	2 / 38	70.8 (Version 3.0)	66.8 (Version 2.2)
Mexico	7 / 10	50.8 (Version 3.0)	57.7 (Version 2.2)
United States	32 / 263	58.2 (Version 3.0)	61.8 (Version 2.2)
Associate	2 / 25	66.6 (Version 3.0)	52.1 (Version 2.2)
Baccalaureate	13 / 55	55.5 (Version 3.0)	60.1 (Version 2.2)
Master's	8 / 81	53.7 (Version 3.0)	59.0 (Version 2.2)
Doctoral	22 / 167	61.7 (Version 3.0)	66.1 (Version 2.2)

Legend: Version 3.0 (blue), Version 2.2 (green)

Arizona State University students engaging in a lively conversation while walking outside the LEED Gold Wilson Hall at the ASU Tempe campus.

Top Performers by Country

The top-scoring college or university in every country with at least one STARS-rated institution.

Institution	Country	Overall Score	Rating	# Reports per Country
Université de Sherbrooke	Canada	92.73	Platinum	42
Arizona State University	United States	91.10	Platinum	303
The American College of Greece	Greece	81.87	Gold	1
Technological University Dublin	Ireland	83.66	Gold	3
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic	Morocco	75.04	Gold	1
University of Tasmania	Australia	73.80	Gold	3
National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan	69.92	Gold	1
IESE Business School - Barcelona	Spain	67.09	Gold	1
American University of Sharjah	United Arab Emirates	70.78	Gold	3
Universidad San Francisco de Quito - USFQ	Ecuador	65.54	Gold	1
Western Caspian University	Azerbaijan	65.31	Gold	1
Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	India	65.17	Gold	1
De La Salle Lipa	Philippines	61.37	Silver	1
Cairo University	Egypt	58.37	Silver	1
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Monterrey	Mexico	66.80	Gold	17
Modern College of Business and Science	Oman	65.46	Gold	1
Universidad Tecnológica del Uruguay	Uruguay	45.62	Silver	1
American University of Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan	41.18	Bronze	1
Universidad Científica del Sur	Peru	31.17	Bronze	1

The campus grounds at Cairo University, which in 2024 became the first STARS-rated institution in Egypt.

Institutional Highlights

Innovative and high-impact projects, programs, and initiatives from the year.

Academics

New sustainability general education requirement - A new three-credit sustainability course requirement for all [Arizona State University](#) students places the university on a short list of colleges that require climate-focused courses in all students' degree progression. The course addresses sustainable development, socio-ecological systems and their connection to global challenges and opportunities. The addition of a sustainability course requirement was part of a larger focus to increase interdisciplinary learning through general education courses.

New Center for Circular Economy - [University of Vermont](#), in collaboration with Casella Waste Systems, Inc., launched the Casella Center for Circular Economy and Sustainability. The center will bring together leading scientists, engineers, and materials management experts to serve as a hub for research, workshops, and lectures on sustainable waste and materials management, resource solutions, climate leadership, and community engagement. The center engages faculty, students, and industry collaborators to explore viable ways to solve challenges of transitioning to a more circular economy.

New school on Climate, Environment & Society - [Clark University](#) announced the establishment of the School of Climate, Environment, and Society, to open in fall 2025. The school is generating new and expanded course offerings and degree programs centered on five interconnected imperatives: sustainable and climate-resilient development; governance, equity, and justice; urban systems and livelihoods; socioeconomic systems and sustainability transitions; and earth systems, conservation, ecological interactions, and ecosystem services.

Arizona State University Professor Arjun Heimsath is known for his research on the Earth's surface and how it interacts with climate, humans and geology.

> " *Threats to human society from entwined ecological and social crises are undeniable, and growing... The question is how — as individuals and institutions — we will respond.* "
>
> *Lou Leonard, Dean of the School of Climate, Environment, and Society; Clark University*

Academics

New climate change education requirement - University of California San Diego established the Jane Teranes Climate Change Education Requirement. Starting with students entering in fall 2024, all bachelor's degree candidates are required to complete a one-quarter climate course. Courses that fulfill the requirement invite students to examine the complex nature of climate change and potential solutions from a variety of perspectives, including scientific, technical, cultural, psychological, political, and economic.

The U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index - The Texas A&M University Superfund Research Center, in partnership with the Environmental Defense Fund, Darkhorse Analytics, and the Texas Transportation Institute, developed the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI). The CVI ranks over 70,000 U.S. Census tracts using 184 datasets to identify communities facing the greatest climate risks. This tool helps policymakers and communities target climate resilience efforts, highlighting long-standing inequities and shaping decisions on where climate action and investments are most needed.

New climate justice graduation requirement - San Francisco State University modified its undergraduate environmental sustainability graduation requirement to include climate change and climate justice. After completing this requirement, students will be able to analyze the problems and impacts of environmental issues and climate change and identify solutions to address the root causes and impacts of environmental and climate injustices. A learning requirement focused on climate justice is the first of its kind among major public universities.

UC San Diego's new Jane Teranes Climate Change Education Requirement provides greater opportunities for students to explore and learn about climate change. Photo credit: Erik Jepsen

San Francisco State University now includes a climate change and climate justice graduation requirement. Photo credit: Falu Bakrania

Academics

New Climate and Society Center - The Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at University of California, Berkeley launched the Climate and Society Center (CSC) to support California's goals of emissions reduction and environmental justice. The Center brings together faculty researching climate equity issues and climate justice organizations working with frontline communities to collaborate on community-engaged research. By integrating research with community input, the CSC aims to amplify voices of marginalized communities and provide data and insights for developing effective and equitable climate policies.

Student researchers with UC Berkeley Climate and Society Center coordinators. Photo credit: Ana Fox-Hodess

New Global School of Sustainability - The Global School of Sustainability at London School of Economics was founded in 2025 to solve complex global sustainability issues through social policy innovation. Designed to deliver immediate and long-term impact, the Global School of Sustainability will: pioneer research addressing five key policy challenges; accelerate innovative research projects; train future leaders through scholarship support available to students from around the world; and act as a powerful convening body.

Green rooftop view. Photo credit: London School of Economics.

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Engagement

Sustainable library certification - Clarkson University became the first academic library to earn a Sustainable Library Certification for Academic Libraries. This certification covers 13 categories of actions focusing on each of the three pillars of triple bottom line sustainability. Becoming certified involves the completion of action Items such as assessing the library's energy use, taking a close look at materials in the collection for content and format, and reaching out beyond the university into the surrounding community.

Basic needs and sustainability leadership - The Basic Needs, Sustainability & Leadership (BNSL) program at Portland Community College provides opportunities to advance the interconnected issues of basic needs support (including food and housing security, transportation access, and legal aid) and addressing the climate crisis. The BNSL service model centers student mutual aid and is made up of four teams: Basic Needs, Legal Aid, Eco Justice and Peer Navigators. Students help drive the work of the program in their roles as student ambassadors.

Eight-week decarbonization academy program - The Decarbonization Academy at University of Virginia is an immersive learning experience for students who are interested in working towards UVA's sustainability goals of being carbon-neutral by 2030 and fossil-fuel free by 2050. The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in any UVA program. Student decarbonization fellows are expected to commit to 40 hours of work per week over the 8-week summer academy and receive a $5,000 stipend.

Librarian Anna Kelly shows off a rental bike, part of Clarkson University's Sustainable Libraries Initiative.

University of Virginia Decarbonization Academy.

Engagement

Transformative Sustainability Project - The Transformative Sustainability Project (TSP) is a virtual exchange project at American University of Sharjah in collaboration with Haverford College, Dickinson College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Over two years of the program, the TSP has engaged over 1,200 U.S. and United Arab Emirates undergraduate students in transnational virtual exchanges to address local and global challenges through the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through paired interdisciplinary courses, students gain sustainability literacy, critical thinking skills, and cross-cultural understanding.

39 European institutions sign declaration on climate change - Thirty-nine European universities came together to launch the Durham Declaration, committing to seven principles to advance sustainable development. The universities pledge to educate students with the skills needed to confront climate change and ensure ongoing research to support the transition to a more sustainable future. This collaboration aims to promote sustainability and foster practices that contribute to a positive global impact.

Kyrgyzstan Climate Educators Network - American University of Central Asia, in collaboration with Bard Graduate Programs, established the Kyrgyzstan Climate Educators Network project. Goals of the project include development of a national climate education network at universities, high schools and non-governmental organizations; and exposing young people to internship and employment opportunities in clean energy, regenerative agriculture, and other climate-solutions sectors. Mini grants are awarded to support workshops focused on climate solutions for youth and businesses.

A student at the American University of Sharjah taking part in the Transformative Sustainability Project.

Tree Planting at American University of Central Asia.

Engagement

Systemwide Green Workforce Grant Program - Twelve campuses within the State University of New York have earned grants through a $2.6 million Green Workforce Grant program to help students pursue clean energy jobs. This effort is focused on the electrification of end uses and complements existing grants for developing renewable power generation programs and a new clean energy microcredential. SUNY is developing these programs in collaboration with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, New York Power Authority, and Empire State Development.

SUNY Morrisville students learn about heat pump technology. Photo credit: Allisa Coomey

Consortium to purchase renewable energy - Anchored by Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mass General Brigham, the Consortium for Climate Solutions has entered into two virtual power purchase agreements that will lead to the development of 408 megawatts of renewable energy. A fourth collaborator, PowerOptions, made it possible for other organizations to join with similar rates and terms. These projects will generate $64 million in tax revenue, create 750 construction jobs, and provide $100 million in income for local farmers and landowners.

> " *By founding the Consortium with MIT, MGB, and PowerOptions members, we are not only catalyzing the transition to a cleaner grid, but also demonstrating a collaboration model that will enable a variety of nonprofit organizations and municipalities to work together to address the urgent challenges of climate change.* "
>
> *Meredith Weenick, Executive Vice President, Harvard University*

Operations

Two research institutions achieve carbon neutrality:

Duke University has fulfilled its commitment to achieve carbon neutrality thanks to a combination of energy savings, investments in renewable energy, and high-quality carbon offsets. The institution reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 31% since 2007, despite significant increases in population and building space. Of the 13 institutions that have declared carbon neutrality through the Second Nature Presidents' Climate Commitment, Duke is the largest in terms of student population and greenhouse gas emissions.

University of Maryland, College Park achieved carbon neutrality, fulfilling its 2007 commitment to eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions. Notable climate accomplishments include reducing emissions by 55%, procuring 100% renewable-sourced grid electricity as of 2020, eliminating all university scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions, constructing or renovating 23 buildings to LEED Silver or higher standards, and reducing per-plate emissions by 14% on average as part of the Coolfood Pledge.

New solar canopy installation - Framingham State University partnered with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and the PowerOptions Consortium to have solar panels installed on campus at no cost to the institution. The new solar parking canopy system has a capacity of 720 kilowatts and will generate over 800,000 kilowatt-hours annually. Including previous installations, the campus has over 1 megawatt of installed solar capacity, offsetting about 9% of its total electric use, and reducing carbon dioxide by over 12,000 tons.

Solar hot water atop Duke University's Bryan Center Student Union. Photo credit: Bill Snead / Duke University

> " *UMD has a duty to address the grand challenges of our time, including climate change.* "
>
> *Darryll Pines, President,*
> *University of Maryland, College Park*

Operations

1000 species in 1000 days - [Dawson College](#) pledged to attract and identify 1,000 species in 1,000 days as part of the Campus Biodiversity Network and its Nature Positive University initiative. The objective is to attract and identify species of plants, insects, invertebrates, bacteria, algae using the iNaturalist app. The project goals include teaching people about the world around them, providing microhabitats for species in an urban landscape, and bringing people together in an outdoor setting.

New geothermal system - A four-year project at [Oberlin College](#) to convert the campus' fossil fuel-based system to a geothermal system is now complete, supporting Oberlin's goal of becoming 100% carbon neutral by 2025. The project replaced aging infrastructure with a system powered by 850 geothermal wells, water-source heat pumps, and underground pipes. Nearly 60 buildings were retrofitted, and 11 received air conditioning. These changes and others allowed the institution to become 100% carbon neutral in 2025.

Forest management plan and certification - [Canadore College](#) has developed a 10-year forest management plan for its 460-acre forest. Recognized as a national demonstration site, the plan emphasizes environmental stewardship, education, and climate action. The plan includes a forest inventory, carbon sequestration tracking, and ecological health monitoring. To ensure sustainability, the college achieved dual certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, making Canadore the first Canadian college to hold both distinctions.

European Common Blue on Dawson College grounds. Photo credit: Douglas Smyth

Over 50 staff, students, and community members came together at Canadore College to plant 120 trees in celebration of National Tree Day in Canada.

Operations

Green Campus Platinum certification - Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering (SSN), India's first STARS-rated institution, received Green Campus Platinum certification from the Indian Green Building Council. This certification recognizes resource efficiency, sustainable design, and environmental management across the institution. Green features that helped SSN College of Engineering reach Platinum include an 830 kilowatt-peak solar photovoltaic system, LED lighting fixtures, low-flow plumbing fixtures, and more.

Top-rated U.S. colleges for plant-based dining - University of Colorado Boulder was recognized as the top rated institution on plant-based dining in a 2025 report from the Humane Society. CU Boulder offers plant-based options at every meal station and is committed to having 75% of its offerings be plant-based by 2025. This scorecard was developed to evaluate the commitment to plant-based food offerings among the largest U.S. self-operated college and university dining operations.

Dining program with local retail partners - As part of efforts to support St. Louis area businesses, Washington University in St. Louis Dining Services has partnered with six local restaurants to offer retail dining experiences on campus. Five of the six restaurants are minority- or woman-owned, and all six restaurants received Green Dining Alliance (GDA) certification within their first year of operations on campus. All of WashU's local dining partners are 3 Star GDA certified or above with three restaurants achieving a 5 Star rating.

A thriving biodiverse landscape at SSN College, nurtured through sustainable and native planting practices. Photo credit: Green Campus Committee, SSN College

A St. Louis Filipino restaurant, The Fattened Caf, celebrates its WashU location with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Photo credit: Washington University in St. Louis

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Operations

Elimination of disposable plastic foodware in retail dining operations - [College of the Atlantic](#) adopted stainless steel reusable to-go containers, insulated tumblers, and sporks, alongside an app-based checkout system. These changes aim to make the college the first campus in the U.S. to adopt reusable stainless steel sporks in place of disposable cutlery, the first to fully eliminate disposable plastic foodware in all retail dining operations, and among the 1% of campuses experimenting with digital tracking apps.

College of the Atlantic student Linnea Goh '25 with the reusable to-go ware program she created at the school as part of her senior project. Photo credit: College of the Atlantic

Pledge toward a plastic-free campus - [Williams College](#) joined 19 other organizations in the [Break Free From Plastic Campus Pledge](#) from the Post-Landfill Action Network. The pledge's commitments include convening a task force to develop a roadmap for a plastic-free campus; eliminating non-essential, non-compostable, single-use disposable plastics that have readily available alternatives; establishing purchasing policies that support this initiative; and evaluating and improving waste management systems. Williams College is working to complete these goals by the end of this academic year.

Williams College President Maud Mandel Signs the *Break Free From Plastic Campus Pledge* with interns and employees from Dining Services, Facilities Operations, and the Zilkha Center for the Environment. Photo credit: Jay Corey

Operations

Online commute hub platform - A new online platform at Princeton University is helping to streamline parking and transportation for the university community by providing sustainable commuting options to users. The new Commute Hub by RideAmigos provides commute recommendations based on a user's university profile and customizable preferences. Key features of the online platform include real-time transit and route information, pooling opportunities, and tailored transportation cost-savings, benefits and incentives.

Princeton University's TigerTransit bus service provides a sustainable transportation option for travel around the Princeton campus and its surrounding community. Photo credit: Sameer Khan

New transit center for regional mobility - Virginia Tech, in partnership with the Town of Blacksburg, launched its new Transit Center that serves as the hub for regional bus service in Blacksburg. The facility - with 17 bus bays, 28 electric buses, a lounge area for drivers, space dedicated to Virginia Tech's sustainable transportation efforts, and new electric vehicle charging stations - is critical to the university's focus on mobility and a broader regional collaboration.

Overhead view of the Maroon Loop at the Virginia Tech Transit Center. Photo credit: Nick Quint, Virginia Tech Sustainable Transportation Manager

Planning & Administration

Responsible Futures accreditation - Mohawk College is the first North American institution to receive the Responsible Futures accreditation, recognizing its commitment to embedding sustainability into every aspect of student learning. Responsible Futures is designed to help universities and colleges adopt sustainable teaching, learning strategies, and policies. Key initiatives contributing to Mohawk College's accreditation include development of a climate action plan, establishment of a sustainability initiatives fund, and promotion of Indigenous-focused education and community engagement.

Sustainable investment and divestment - Concordia University has made significant progress in achieving its sustainable investment targets: achieve 100% sustainable investments; end all investments in the coal, oil, and gas sectors; and achieve 10% in social or environmental impact investments. As of 2024, sustainable investment reached 69%, investments in coal, oil, and gas sectors were 1.19%, and mission-related impact investments were at 5.21%.

New Climate and Sustainability Academy - North Carolina State University recently launched its Climate and Sustainability Academy. This academy represents a university-wide, interdisciplinary effort to build upon previous grassroots climate and sustainability efforts and initiatives. It will connect and oversee the Coastal Resilience and Sustainability Initiative, focused on the coast and its watersheds, and the Sustainable Futures Initiative, which works to bring together students, staff, scholars and practitioners to imagine and implement sustainable solutions for society.

Mohawk College Environmental Technician student, KC examines turtle eggs as part of a project to restore a snapping turtle nesting habitat at Christie Lake Conservation Area. Photo credit: Mohawk College

"*This academy embodies the essence of interdisciplinary collaboration, which will provide the context, ethical frameworks and comprehensive approaches necessary to ensure sustainable and equitable solutions.*"

Deanna Dannels, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University

Planning & Administration

Divestment from fossil fuels - Northern Michigan University voted to fully divest its endowment fund from the fossil fuel industry by 2028. The university plans to increase sustainability-related investments by up to 15%. The move aligns with NMU's core values and strategic priorities, which include a focus on building a culture of sustainability. It also expands on related initiatives such as implementing a carbon neutrality plan, creating a new assistant vice president for sustainability position, and enhancing trustee support for the EcoReps student organization.

Northern Michigan University Bifacial Solar Array. Photo credit: Ryan Stephens

Tuition-free initiatives for families earning under $100K:

Starting in the 2025-26 academic year, a Harvard University undergraduate degree will be free for students whose family income is $100,000 and below, including tuition, food, housing, health insurance, and travel expenses. Students with family incomes of $200,000 or less will receive free tuition and additional financial aid to cover expenses, depending on financial circumstances.

Beginning in fall 2026, Reed College will offer tuition-free education to newly admitted U.S. undergraduate students whose families earn less than $100,000. This new initiative builds on Reed's commitment to meet 100% of every student's demonstrated financial need. It expands on a program that initially provided tuition-free benefits to U.S. transfer students and those from Oregon and Washington.

> " *By expanding the Reed Promise nationwide, we will be able to transform even more lives and provide greater access to our vibrant academic program and to our intellectually curious and creative community.* "
>
> *Audrey Bilger, Reed College President*

Planning & Administration

Healthy campus certification - Umeå University achieved Healthy Campus Platinum certification from the International University Sports Federation. Through evaluation of 70 criteria, the university demonstrated excellence in physical activity, mental health, sustainability, and student support. Key wellness initiatives at Umeå include widespread use of bicycles even in winter, free psychological, nutritional, and medical support for students, and employee time dedicated to physical activity during working hours.

Internal pay equity assessment - Loyola Marymount University announced pay raises for its lowest-paid staff following a comprehensive compensation study. These increases bring pay levels to at least $19.15 per hour in base compensation, or $25.52 per hour when including contributions toward health care. This increase aims to ensure that the wage for these workers exceeds $21 per hour, in line with LMU's commitment to fair compensation.

225 acres transferred to Tribal land trust - Brown University has transferred ownership of a portion of its land in Bristol, Rhode Island, to a preservation trust established by the Pokanoket Indian Tribe. The transfer fulfills in part a pledge made in a 2017 agreement between the university and the Pokanoket Tribe. The deed ensures perpetual access to the land and waters for members of various tribes, including all members of the Pokanoket Nation, Wampanoag, Mashpee Wampanoag, Assonet Band, Herring Pond, and Pocasset Tribes.

Umeå University staff and students on campus for a round of cross-country skiing. Photo credit: Jan Bäck

“*The sale of these parcels, which we expect to be finalized early in 2025, to the Town of Bristol for preservation and conservation will ensure that no development occurs on them and further protects and buffers the land being placed in the preservation trust.*”

Russell Carey, Executive Vice President for Planning and Policy, Brown University

About STARS

STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. It was developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) with broad participation from the higher education community. STARS participants submit data to earn a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum rating, or recognition as a STARS Reporter. The credits are organized into four categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations and Planning & Administration. As of March 2025, STARS reports were submitted by over 668 institutions in 29 countries, including from 49 states in the U.S. and the District of Columbia, and nine Canadian provinces. All reports can be accessed at stars.aashe.org.

stars®
a program of **aashe**

Flinders University Sustainability Advisory Group. Flinders became the first institution to receive a STARS version 3.0 rating in fall 2024.

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STARS of Data Accuracy

These institutions are recognized for submitting reports with the fewest data accuracy issues. We congratulate the STARS data providers who work to provide high quality data.

Version 3.0

Institution	Accuracy Rate	Rating	Location
Amherst College	91.8%	Gold	Amherst, MA
Illinois State University	90.9%	Silver	Normal, IL
Boise State University	89.7%	Silver	Boise, ID

Version 2.2

Institution	Accuracy Rate	Rating	Location
Texas Tech University	100%	Silver	Lubbock, TX
University of New Hampshire	100%	Platinum	Durham, NH
James Madison University	100%	Gold	Harrisonburg, VA
Boston University	100%	Gold	Boston, MA
Texas A&M University	97.8%	Gold	College Station, TX
Carnegie Mellon University	97.6%	Gold	Pittsburgh, PA
Capilano University	97.6%	Silver	North Vancouver, BC

Texas A&M student conducting pecan orchard research. Photo credit: Texas A&M University

Top-Reporting Institutions

These institutions are recognized for submitting the most STARS reports. Annual and ongoing participation in STARS allows institutions to track continuous progress and provides greater opportunities for recognition. AASHE is grateful to our most engaged STARS institutions!

Rank	Institution	# Published Reports	Submission Date	Rating
1	Oregon State University	14	Feb 26, 2025	Gold
2	Cornell University	14	Mar 6, 2025	Platinum
3	Texas A&M University	11	Dec 12, 2024	Gold
4	Portland State University	10	Mar 1, 2022	Gold
5	Colorado College	10	Apr 19, 2024	Gold
6	Boston University	10	May 31, 2024	Gold
7	Lehigh University	9	Mar 20, 2023	Gold
8	University of Wisconsin-River Falls	9	Feb 29, 2024	Gold
9	California State University, Monterey Bay	8	Feb 18, 2023	Silver
10	Grand Valley State University	8	Mar 3, 2023	Gold

New York City Council member Yusef Salaam speaks to Cornell University students during a roundtable discussion on social justice at the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives.

Methodology

Impact Areas

The impact areas in this report align with the latest version of STARS (3.0), while still recognizing strong performance for institutions reporting under the previous version (2.2). Notably, STARS 3.0 consolidated seven impact areas in the Operations category into three (learn more). This means that, for 2.2 reports, scores from some impact areas have been consolidated to align with the current structure.

Top Performers

Top performer lists are determined based on STARS scoring performance, specifically the percentage of applicable points earned overall and in each respective impact area. A total of 384 institutions had valid STARS 2.2 and 3.0 reports that qualified for inclusion. This includes all STARS reports that were valid on March 7, 2025, as well as new reports submitted on or before this date, and subsequently published by May 15, 2025. Reports submitted after March 7, 2025, are eligible for inclusion in future Sustainable Campus Index publications.

For institutions with multiple valid reports, only scores from the most recent rated reports were considered. With the aim of continuing to recognize 10 institutions under each impact area, this year's SCI recognizes the top three performers using STARS 3.0 and the top seven performers using STARS 2.2. This split roughly coincides with the proportion of valid reports under each version. When there is a tie, more institutions are listed. For some impact areas, tiebreaks (+) were determined based on institutions' pursuit of Innovation & Leadership (IL) credits related to that impact area.

AASHE staff reviewed all credits within a respective impact area for top-performing institutions in an effort to ensure that content met credit criteria, and requested follow-up for any identified issues. Most institutions addressed them through data revisions or clarifications. Institutions that did not address identified issues have been excluded from the lists.

Everglades research at Florida International University's Institute of Environment.

Methodology

Institution Type

For the section on Overall Top Performers by institution type, our classifications are adapted from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education®. These classifications are referenced under the STARS credit, PRE 3: Institutional Characteristics, and are copied below:

- Associate/Short-cycle (ISCED 5, Carnegie Associate's Colleges). Includes tertiary institutions where all degrees, certificates, and/or diplomas are between secondary education and baccalaureate degree level (e.g., associate degrees), or where baccalaureate degrees account for less than 10 percent of all undergraduate degrees. This may include community colleges, further education colleges, (higher) technical colleges, technician or advanced/higher vocational training, and similar institutions.
- Baccalaureate (ISCED 6, Carnegie Baccalaureate Colleges). Includes tertiary institutions where baccalaureate degrees represent at least 10 percent of all undergraduate degrees and where fewer than 50 Master's degrees or 20 doctoral degrees are awarded annually. May include some institutions above the Master's degree threshold.
- Master's (ISCED 7, Carnegie Master's Colleges and Universities). Generally includes tertiary institutions that award at least 50 Master's degrees and fewer than 20 doctoral degrees annually.
- Doctoral/Research (ISCED 8, Carnegie Doctoral Universities). Includes tertiary institutions that award at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees or at least 30 professional practice doctoral degrees in at least two programs annually (e.g., doctoral-level degrees that qualify recipients for entry into professional practice, such as the JD, MD, PharmD, DPT, and so on).

Reports from institutions recognized on the Top 10 lists for each institution type were not subject to the same review process conducted for top-performing institutions by impact area largely due to constraints of reviewing such a large number of reports in full. The STARS website includes further details about STARS data quality and reporting assurance.

Students walking a bike on the Toronto Metropolitan University campus.

Methodology

Institutional Highlights

The Institutional Highlights section recognizes recent, high-impact higher education sustainability projects and initiatives. It is based on data from the STARS reports submitted this year, and news stories in the AASHE Bulletin newsletter. Institution highlights were selected by a team of AASHE staff based on overall impact, originality, recency, and potential for replicability.

Average Scores

Each section of the AASHE Sustainable Campus Index includes graphs presenting average scores and counts for all institutions. Counts vary slightly between impact areas due to credit pursuit and applicability. This content corresponds to the same timeframe that was used to identify top performers. For institutions that submitted multiple reports, only score information from their most recent rated reports was included.

International Top Performers

The highest scored report from each country with a published report is highlighted on this list. The timeframe for recognition is consistent with all Top Performer lists.

STARS of Data Accuracy

All STARS submissions receive a standard review by AASHE staff that covers approximately one-third of all STARS credits (reports under a provisional Platinum rating receive a more comprehensive review). The institutions in this list are recognized for submitting reports between March 4, 2023, and March 1, 2024, with the fewest rate of issues that required revision or clarification.

Top-Reporting Institutions

These institutions are recognized for submitting the most STARS reports. Annual and ongoing participation in STARS allows institutions to track continuous progress and provides greater opportunities for recognition. Tiebreaks were determined based on which institution was the first to publish an *nth* report.

Sustainable transport at University of Minnesota. Photo credit: Hannah Lauber

STARS Ratings

This list includes institutions with reports that were valid on March 7, 2025, or were submitted by this date and published by May 15, 2025. Reports submitted or published after these dates will be recognized in future SCI publications.

Platinum

Arizona State University
Colorado State University
Cornell University
Dawson College
McGill University
State University of New York College of
   Environmental Science and Forestry
Thompson Rivers University

University of California, Berkeley
University of California San Diego
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of New Hampshire
University of Victoria
Université Laval
Université de Sherbrooke

UC San Diego Utilities & Sustainability student interns inspire the campus community to make sustainability pledges on Earth Day. UC San Diego is among the newest STARS Platinum rated institutions. Photo credit: Long Truong/UC San Diego

STARS Ratings

Gold

Agnes Scott College
American University
American University of Sharjah
Amherst College
Appalachian State University
Ball State University
Barnard College
Bates College
Bentley University
Binghamton University
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brigham Young University
Bucknell University
Cal Poly Humboldt
California Polytechnic State University
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, San Marcos
California State University, Stanislaus
Canadore College
Carnegie Mellon University
Catawba College
Central Community College
Clarkson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colgate University
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Concordia University
Connecticut College
Dalhousie University
Denison University
Dickinson College
Eastern Connecticut State University
Emerson College
Emory University
Fanshawe College
Flinders University

Agnes Scott College students with the campus arborist learn how to conduct a tree inventory near a yellow ginkgo tree. Photo credit: Audra Melton

Solar panel installation at American University's Bender Arena. Photo credit: Jason Keezer

STARS Ratings

Gold

Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida International University
Florida State University
Furman University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Grand Valley State University
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hope College
Humber Polytechnic
IESE Business School - Barcelona
Indiana University Bloomington
Indiana University Indianapolis
Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique
   (INRS)
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Macalester College
Michigan Technological University
Middlebury College
Modern College of Business and Science
Montana State University
Mount Royal University
Muhlenberg College
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Michigan University
Nova Scotia Community College
Oberlin College
Ollscoil na Gaillimhe - University of Galway
Ontario Tech University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Pitzer College
Polytechnique Montréal
Portland Community College

The NSF-NHERI Wall of Wind at Florida International University. Photo credit: Florida International University

Aerial view of Oberlin College and Conservatory's new heating and cooling distribution piping, installed as part of the new carbon-free district energy system. Photo credit: Yvonne Gay Fowler

STARS Ratings

Gold

Pratt Institute
Prescott College
Princeton University
Raritan Valley Community College
Saint Mary's College of California
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Santa Clara University
Seattle University
Seneca Polytechnic
Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of
    Engineering
State University of New York at New Paltz
State University of New York at Oswego
Stevens Institute of Technology
Swarthmore College
Technological University Dublin
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Monterrey
Temple University
Texas A&M University
The American College of Greece
The Ohio State University
The University of Texas at Dallas
Toronto Metropolitan University
Tufts University
University College Cork - National University of
    Ireland, Cork
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic
University at Albany
University at Buffalo
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Idaho
University of Iowa
University of Manitoba

The ecological preserve at University of California, Irvine. Photo credit: Steve Zylius

University of California, Riverside students engaging in the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan process during a sustainability event. Photo credit: Francis Mitalo

STARS Ratings

Gold

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Duluth
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Montana
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of Saskatchewan
University of Southern California
University of St. Thomas
University of Tasmania

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Toronto Mississauga
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Waterloo
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Washington University in St. Louis
Weber State University
Wesleyan University
Western Caspian University
Western University
Williams College
Yale University
York University

Cows standing under solar panels at the University of Minnesota Morris campus.

STARS Ratings

Silver

Babson College
Baldwin Wallace University
Black Hills State University
Boise State University
British Columbia Institute of Technology
Brock University
Bryant University
Bryn Mawr College
Cairo University
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, San Bernardino
Calvin University
Capilano University
Cascadia College
Central Michigan University
Central Washington University

Champlain College
City University of New York, Brooklyn College
Clemson University
College of Charleston
Colorado Mountain College
Creighton University
De La Salle Lipa
Douglas College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Durham College
East Carolina University
Elon University
Endicott College
Evergreen State College, The
Florida Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Haverford College
Illinois State University

Cairo University earned STARS Silver in 2024, becoming the first STARS-rated institution in Egypt.

STARS Ratings

Silver

Indiana University Southeast
John Abbott College
Juniata College
Kean University
Kent State University
Knox College
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Lane Community College
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Northeastern University
Nova Southeastern University
OCAD University
Oklahoma State University
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
Purchase College - State University of New York
Purdue University
Radford University
Red River College Polytechnic
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick Campus

SUNY Buffalo State
Selkirk College
Sewanee - The University of the South
Soka University of America
South Dakota State University
Southern New Hampshire University
St. Lawrence College
State University of New York at Brockport
State University of New York at Cortland
State University of New York at Farmingdale
State University of New York at Morrisville
State University of New York at Oneonta
Stetson University
Stony Brook University
Syracuse University
TAFE Queensland Robina Campus
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Aguascalientes
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Chihuahua

The student sustainability group at Soka University of America.

STARS Ratings

Silver

Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Ciudad Juárez
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Ciudad de México
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Estado de México
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Guadalajara
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Laguna
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus León
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Puebla
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Querétaro
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus San Luis Potosi
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Santa Fe
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Sinaloa
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Sonora Norte
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Toluca
Tennessee Technological University
Texas State University, San Marcos
Texas Tech University
The Catholic University of America
The New School
The University of New Mexico
Trinity College (CT)
Tulane University
UMass Chan Medical School
Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas
Universidad Tecnológica del Uruguay
University of Arizona
University of Central Florida
University of Denver
University of Houston
University of Maryland, Baltimore
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Minnesota, Crookston
University of Montevallo
University of Nebraska at Omaha
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
University of North Carolina, Pembroke
University of North Carolina, Wilmington
University of Puget Sound
University of Rochester

University of Tennessee at Knoxville
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
University of the Fraser Valley
University of the Incarnate Word
University of the Pacific
Université Téluq
Université de Montréal
Utah State University
Vanier College
Virginia Wesleyan University
Washington and Lee University
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Western Colorado University
Western Kentucky University
Western Washington University
Westminster University - Utah
Whitman College

Ideas that the University of Minnesota, Crookston came up with for a system-wide climate school for the UMN system.

STARS Ratings

Bronze

American University of Central Asia
Austin Peay State University
Christopher Newport University
Eastern Michigan University
Fordham University
Georgia Southern University
Hanover College
Higher Colleges of Technology
Idaho State University
John Carroll University
Lees-McRae College
Lewis University
Loyola University Maryland
MGH Institute of Health Professions
Messiah University
Modesto Junior College
Northern Illinois University
Oakton College

Palomar College
Quinnipiac University
Roger Williams University
Salisbury University
Salve Regina University
South Dakota School of Mines and
   Technology
Universidad Científica del Sur
University of Hawaii Honolulu Community
   College
University of Hawaii Windward
   Community College
University of Houston - Downtown
University of North Georgia
University of South Dakota
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

The EcoPark Project at American University of Central Asia.

STARS Ratings

American University in Cairo
Bowling Green State University
Budapest Business University
Case Western Reserve University
College of the Holy Cross
Earlham College
Fort Lewis College
Franklin University Switzerland
Fullerton College
Hillsborough Community College
Lewis & Clark College
Occidental College
Okanagan College
Pace University
Pomona College
Randolph College
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rollins College
Rowan University
Saint Peter's University
San Diego City College
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
Skidmore College
Stonehill College
The City College of New York
The College of Wooster
Towson University
University of Alabama
University of Mary Washington
University of Oklahoma
Ursinus College
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Xavier University

Earth day celebration at American University in Cairo Tahrir CultureFest. Photo credit: AUC Sustainability Team

About AASHE

AASHE empowers higher education faculty, administrators, staff, and students to be effective change agents and drivers of sustainability innovation. We work with and for higher education to ensure that our world's future leaders are motivated and equipped to solve sustainability challenges. Visit aashe.org to learn more.

Florida Gulf Coast University's Food Forest features a mural painted on the side of a repurposed shipping container. Photo credit: James J. Greco

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