

2026

Sustainable Campus Index



Top-performing colleges and universities, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)

Includes innovative and high-impact initiatives from the year.



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Top Performers by Impact Area	4
Buildings & Grounds	5
Campus Engagement	7
Coordination & Planning	9
Curriculum	11
Energy & Climate	13
Food & Dining	15
Investment	17
Procurement & Waste	19
Public Engagement	21
Representation & Access	23
Research	25
Transportation	27
Wellbeing & Work	29
Overall Top Performers	31
Associate & Short-Cycle Institutions	32
Baccalaureate Institutions	33
Master Institutions	34
Doctoral Institutions	35
Overall Average Scores	36
Top Performers by Country	37
Institutional Highlights	38
Academics	39
Engagement	41
Operations	44
Planning & Administration	50
About STARS	53
STARS of Data Accuracy	54
Top-Reporting Institutions	55

Methodology	56
STARS Ratings	59
Platinum	60
Gold	61
Silver	66
Bronze	68
Reporter Designation	69
About AASHE	70

On the cover: As one of Ireland's National SDG Ambassadors, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe - University of Galway is embedding the Sustainable Development Goals across education, research, operations and partnerships to create lasting impact. Photo credit: Dr John Caulfield.



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.

Sacramento State staff work together in the campus garden, planting seasonal vegetables as part of the university's Sustainability program. Photo credit: Sacramento State/Andrea Price



Top Performers by Impact Area

Highest scores in 13 sustainability topics

Reusable packaging at the California Green Building Conference at UC Berkeley. Photo credit: USGBC



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.

Volunteers on the Gateway Green Roof during Earth Week. Photo credit: SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry



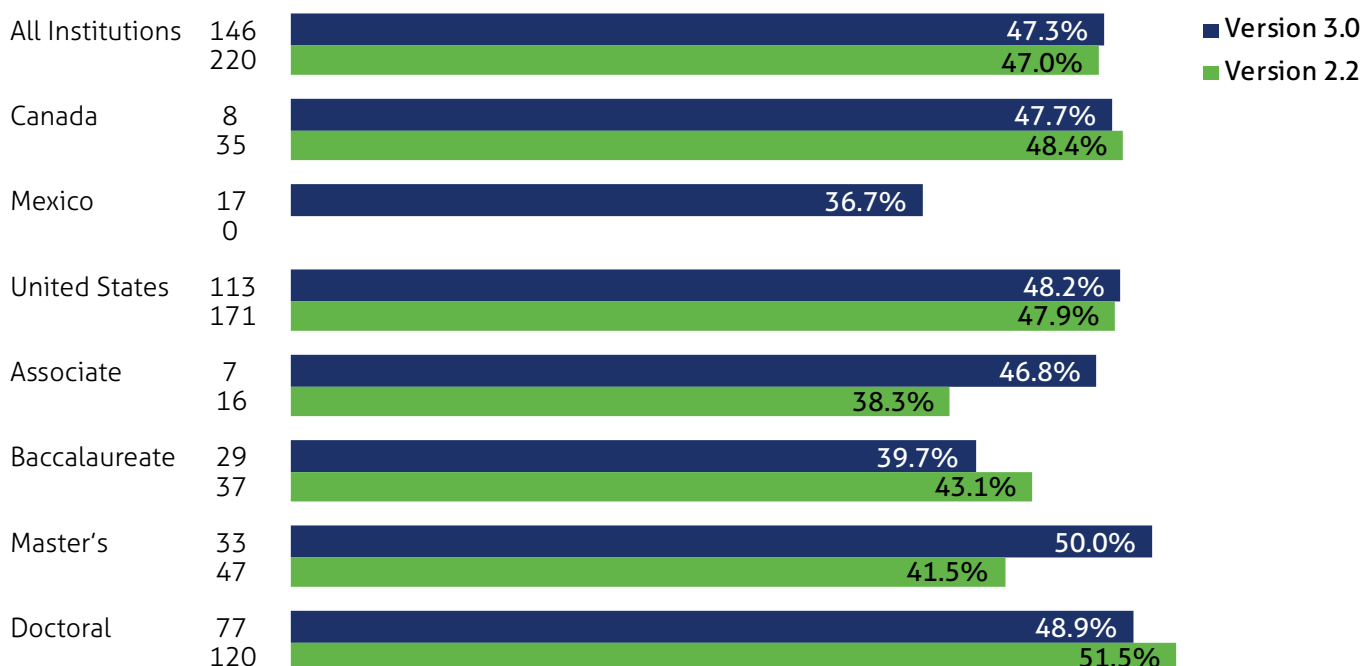
Buildings & Grounds

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	87.5%	Master	Chennai, India
2	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	79.9%	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
3	University of Massachusetts Amherst	75.4%	Doctoral/Research	Amherst, MA
4	Portland Community College	73.7%	Associate/Short-cycle	Portland, OR
5	Loyola University Chicago	72.7%	Doctoral/Research	Chicago, IL

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	California State University, Northridge	81.9%	Master	Northridge, CA
2	Université de Montréal	78.5%	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
3	San Francisco State University	76.6%	Doctoral/Research	San Francisco, CA
4	New York University	76.5%	Doctoral/Research	New York, NY
5	Stevens Institute of Technology	76.5%	Doctoral/Research	Hoboken, NJ

Average Scores



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.

A Sustain Coastal Green Team student employee collects recyclables on campus. Green Team members play a vital role in supporting CCU's daily recycling operations while gaining hands-on sustainability experience. Photo credit: Coastal Carolina University.



Building A First Floor	
Game Room	A-101
Intercultural / Inclusion Student Services	A-102
Community and Civic Engagement	A-103
Common Family Conference Room	A-104
Main Street P.O.D.	A-105
Commuter Student Lounge	A-107
LiveWell Alcohol & Other Drug Services	A-108
University Belonging and Student Affairs	A-109
Auditorium / Theater	A-110
Building A Second Floor	
Green Family Meeting Room	A-201
BORC	A-202
Career Services Center	A-203
Meeting Room	A-213
Meeting Room	A-214
CINO Pantry	A-215



Campus Engagement

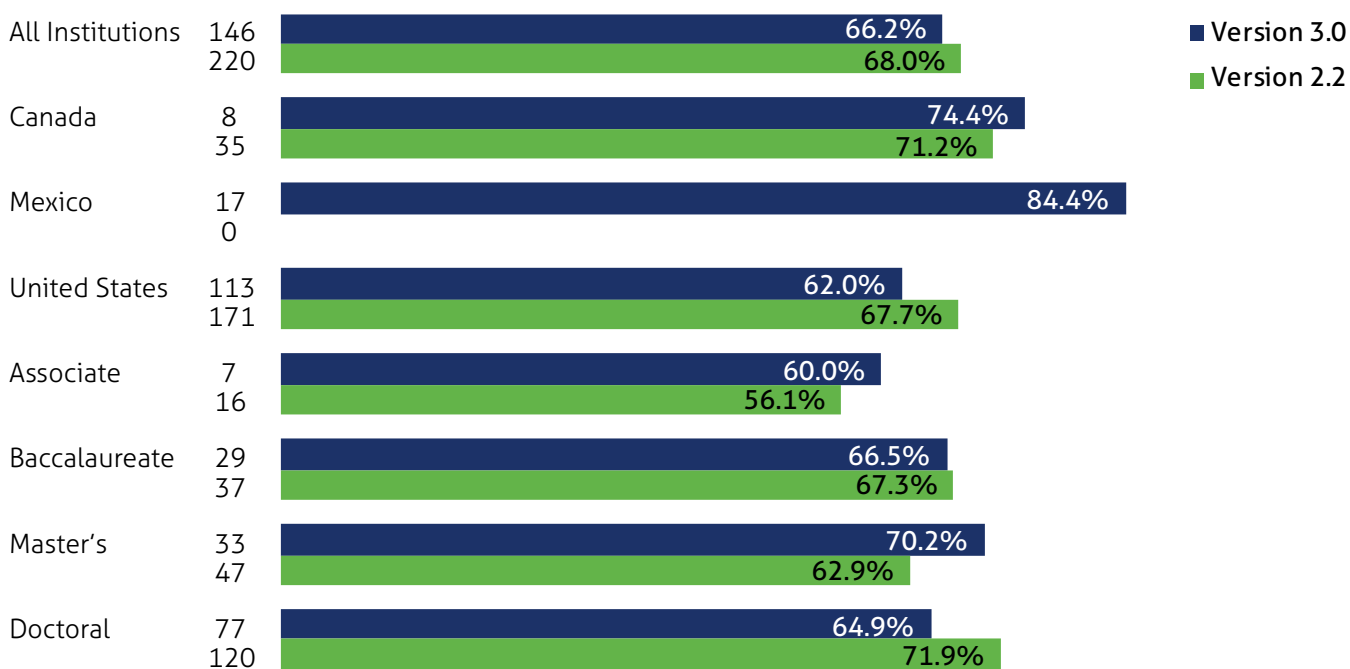
Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	The American College of Greece	100%++	Master	Athens, Greece
2(t)	Coastal Carolina University	100%+	Master	Conway, SC
2(t)	Stanford University	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Stanford, CA
2(t)	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
2(t)	University of Nebraska - Lincoln	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Lincoln, NE

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	Cornell University	96.9%	Doctoral/Research	Ithaca, NY
4	University of Connecticut	96.6%	Doctoral/Research	Storrs, CT
5	University of Miami	96.4%	Doctoral/Research	Coral Gables, FL

Average Scores



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 work in groups to identify waste priorities - athletics, events, surplus, and operations. Photo credit: Wilfrid Laurier University



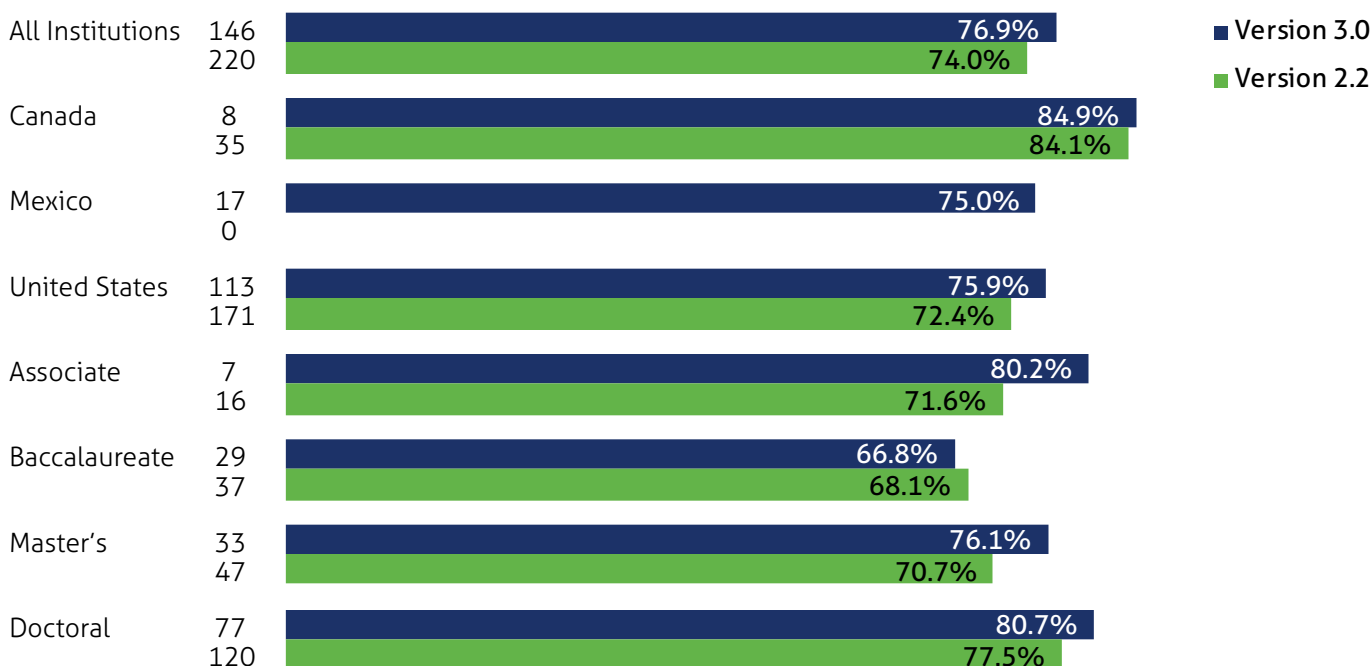
Coordination & Planning

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Portland State University	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Portland, OR
2	Victoria University of Wellington	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Wellington, NZ
3	University of Northern British Columbia	100%	Doctoral/Research	Prince George, BC
4	University of California, Santa Cruz	97.7%+	Doctoral/Research	Santa Cruz, CA
5(t)	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	97.7%	Baccalaureate	Beersheba, Israel
5(t)	University of Massachusetts Amherst	97.7%	Doctoral/Research	Amherst, MA

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

Average Scores



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.

University of Idaho students learn about sustainability during the Indigenous Knowledge for Effective Education Program at the McCall Outdoor Science School. Photo credit: Garrett Britton, University of Idaho



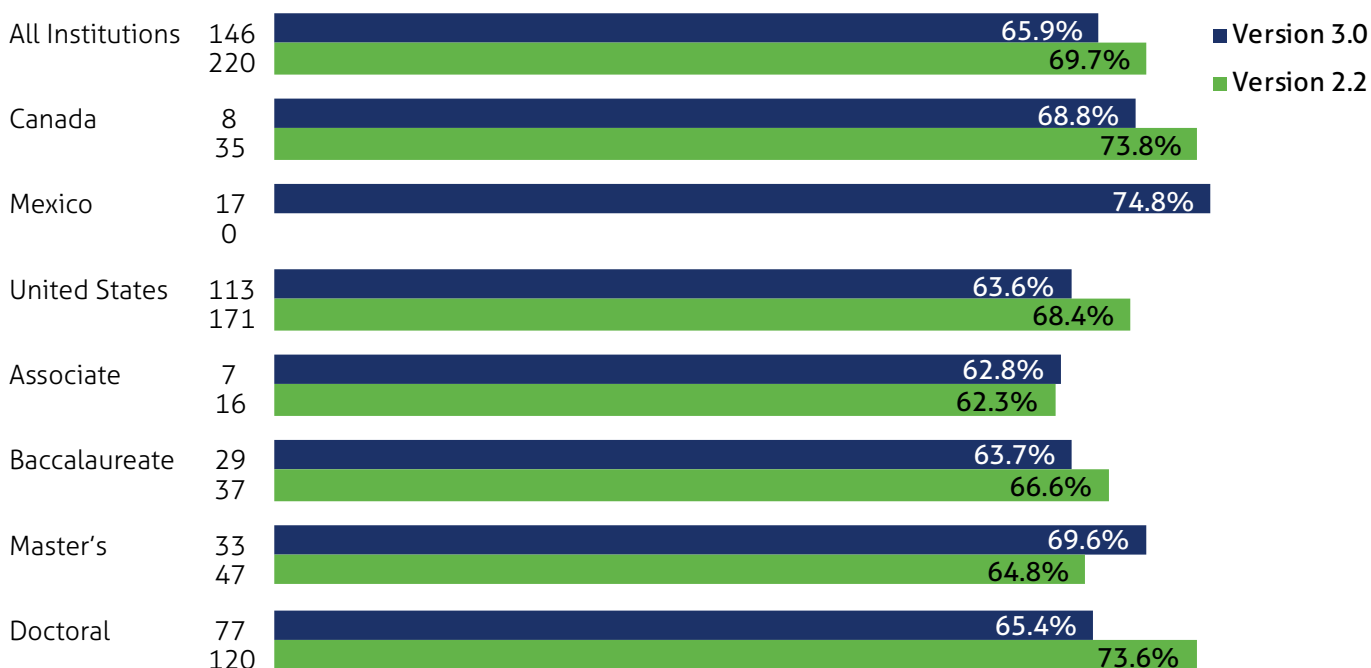
Curriculum

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	96.0%	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
2	The American College of Greece	95.8%	Master	Athens, Greece
3	University of California, Riverside	93.1%	Doctoral/Research	Riverside, CA
4	Western University	91.9%	Doctoral/Research	London, ON
5	Technological University Dublin	90.8%	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1(t)	American University of Sharjah	100%	Master	Sharjah, UAE
1(t)	Colorado State University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Collins, CO
1(t)	Université Laval	100%	Doctoral/Research	Québec, QC
1(t)	University of California San Diego	100%	Doctoral/Research	La Jolla, CA
1(t)	University of Idaho	100%	Doctoral/Research	Moscow, ID
1(t)	University of Sharjah	100%	Doctoral/Research	Sharjah, UAE

Average Scores



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.

Carbon neutral banners on Oberlin College and Conservatory campus. Photo credit: Bob Handelman



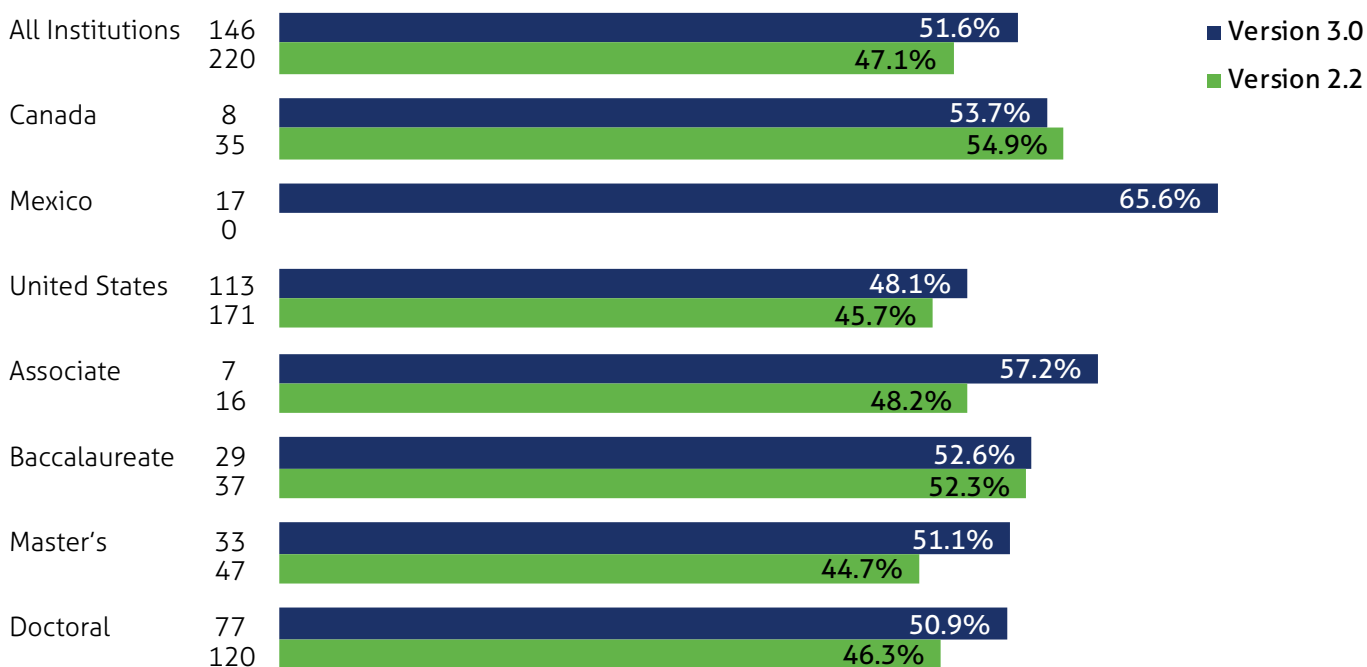
Energy & Climate

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Flinders University	93.3%	Doctoral/Research	Adelaide, Australia
2	Victoria University of Wellington	84.4%	Doctoral/Research	Wellington, NZ
3	Stanford University	84.3%	Doctoral/Research	Stanford, CA
4	Loyola University Chicago	82.7%	Doctoral/Research	Chicago, IL
5	Portland State University	79.3%	Doctoral/Research	Portland, OR

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Johnson County Community College	85.0%	Associate/Short-cycle	Overland Park, KS
2	Arizona State University	84.6%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ
3	University of Miami	82.0%	Doctoral/Research	Coral Gables, FL
4	Oberlin College	81.3%	Baccalaureate	Oberlin, OH
5	Bentley University	80.2%	Master	Waltham, MA

Average Scores



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.

Manitoba Garden Salad
made by Diversity Food
Services utilizing local
ingredients. Photo credit:
Jessica Young, Culinary
Director of Diversity
Food Services, University
of Winnipeg



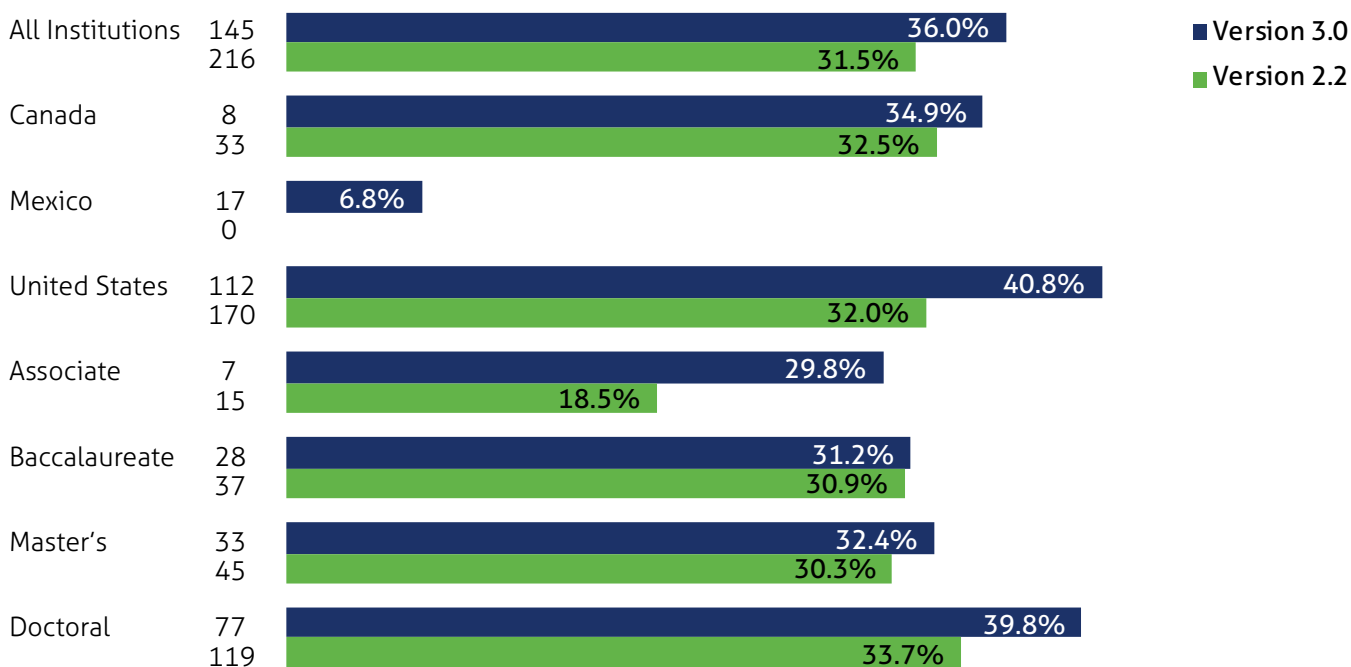
Food & Dining

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	The American College of Greece	81.4%	Master	Athens, Greece
2	Emerson College	75.9%	Master	Boston, MA
3	University of California, Berkeley	74.6%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA
4	College of the Atlantic	74.0%	Baccalaureate	Bar Harbor, ME
5	Tulane University	69.6%	Doctoral/Research	New Orleans, LA

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of Southern California	73.6%	Doctoral/Research	Los Angeles, CA
2	University of Sharjah	68.9%	Doctoral/Research	Sharjah, UAE
3	Saint Mary's College of California	62.5%	Master	Moraga, CA
4	Emory University	60.9%	Doctoral/Research	Atlanta, GA
5	University of Winnipeg	58.3%	Master	Winnipeg, MB

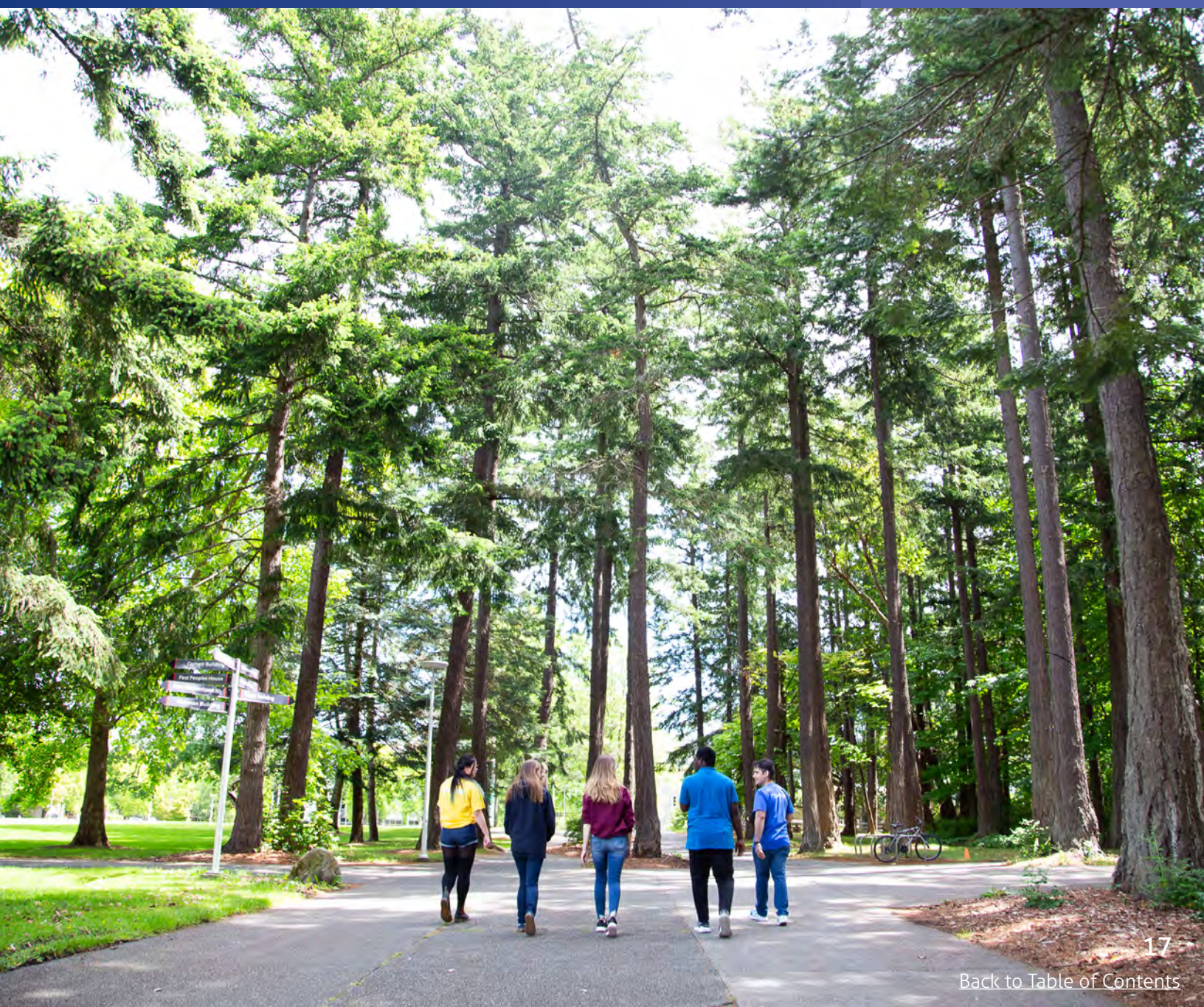
Average Scores



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.

Students walk down the University of Victoria greenway, surrounded by trees. Photo credit: University of Victoria



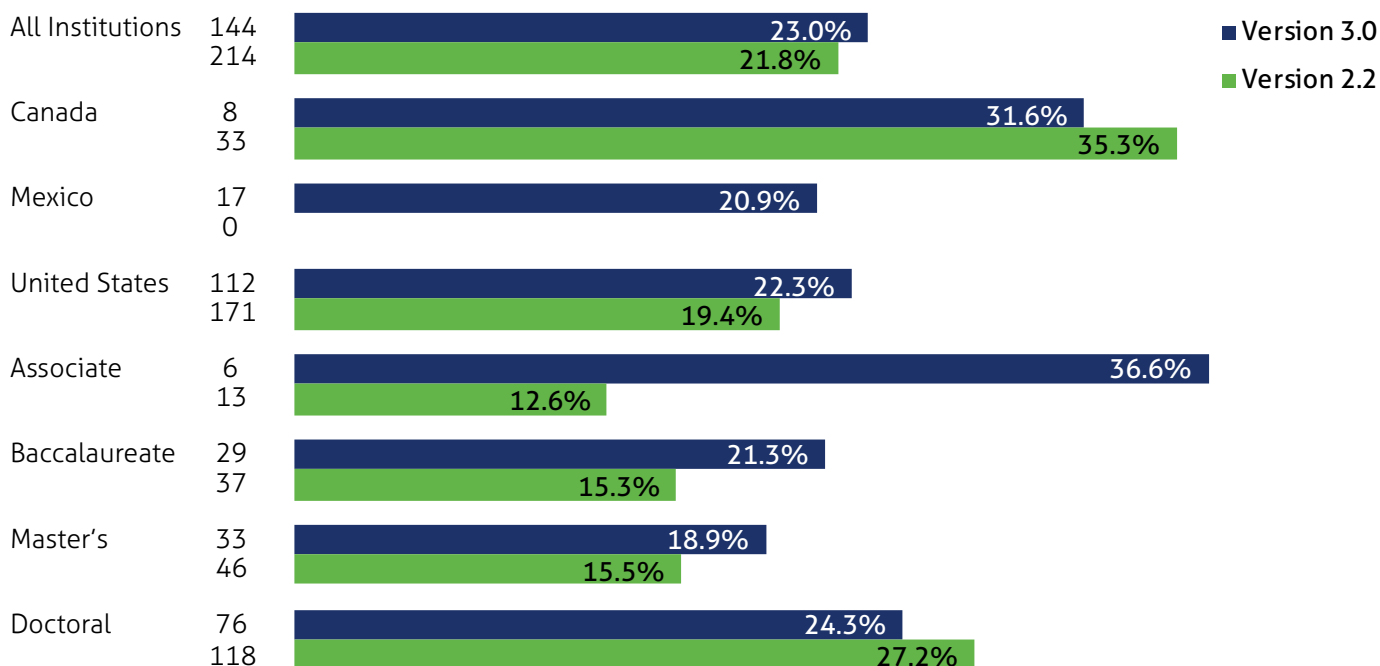
Investment

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	97.0%	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
2	California State University, Dominguez Hills	83.4%	Master	Carson, CA
3	Central Community College	73.7%	Associate/Short-cycle	Grand Island, NE
4	University of Manitoba	68.3%	Doctoral/Research	Winnipeg, MB
5	Western Washington University	67.6%	Master	Bellingham, WA

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1(t)	Dawson College	100.0%	Associate/Short-cycle	Montréal, QC
1(t)	University of New Hampshire	100.0%	Doctoral/Research	Durham, NH
3	Arizona State University	94.1%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ
4	University of Victoria	91.7%	Doctoral/Research	Victoria, BC
5	Colorado State University	89.9%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Collins, CO

Average Scores



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.

Two Seattle University students stand in front of a bucket shoveling compost. Photo credit: Tj Dixon



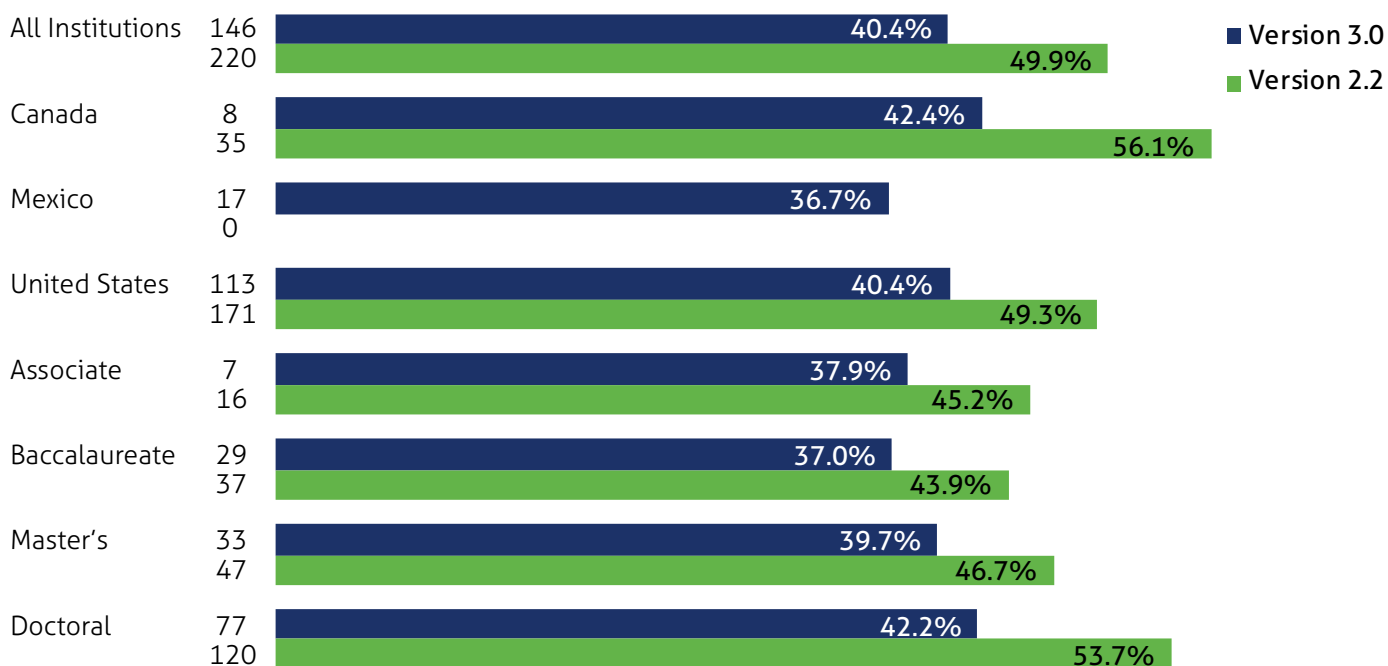
Procurement & Waste

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	University of California, Berkeley	84.1%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA
2	University of Washington, Seattle	77.9%	Doctoral/Research	Seattle, WA
3	University of California, Santa Cruz	76.2%	Doctoral/Research	Santa Cruz, CA
4	Stanford University	73.9%	Doctoral/Research	Stanford, CA
5	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	72.4%	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Université de Sherbrooke	86.9%	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
2	Université Laval	86.7%	Doctoral/Research	Québec, QC
3	Seattle University	83.4%	Doctoral/Research	Seattle, WA
4	Dalhousie University	83.1%	Doctoral/Research	Halifax, NS
5	Arizona State University	81.8%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ

Average Scores



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 Public Market at Université de Sherbrooke, held each fall, brings together local producers who showcase and sell their products to members of the university community. Photo credit: Université de Sherbrooke



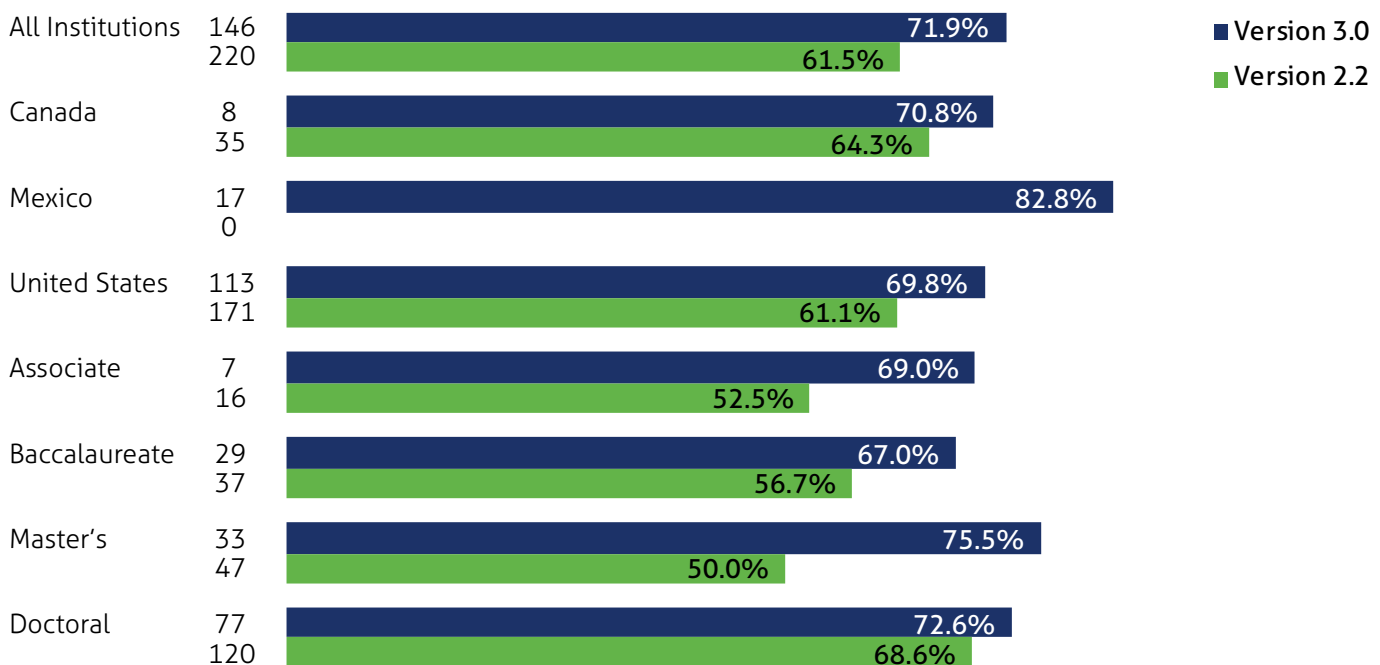
Public Engagement

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Stanford University	100%+	Master	Stanford, CA
2	University of California, Berkeley	100%	Master	Berkeley, CA
3	The American College of Greece	97.6%	Doctoral/Research	Athens, Greece
4	Appalachian State University	96.0%	Doctoral/Research	Boone, NC
5	University of California, Riverside	92%+	Doctoral/Research	Riverside, CA

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Colorado State University	100%	Doctoral/Research	Fort Collins, CO
2	Cornell University	98.7%	Doctoral/Research	Ithaca, NY
3	University of Sharjah	97.8%	Doctoral/Research	Sharjah, UAE
4	Université de Sherbrooke	96.3%	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
5	George Washington University	95.6%	Doctoral/Research	Washington, DC

Average Scores



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.

A University of Sharjah employee engages in sign language communication with an academic peer. Photo credit: University of Sharjah.



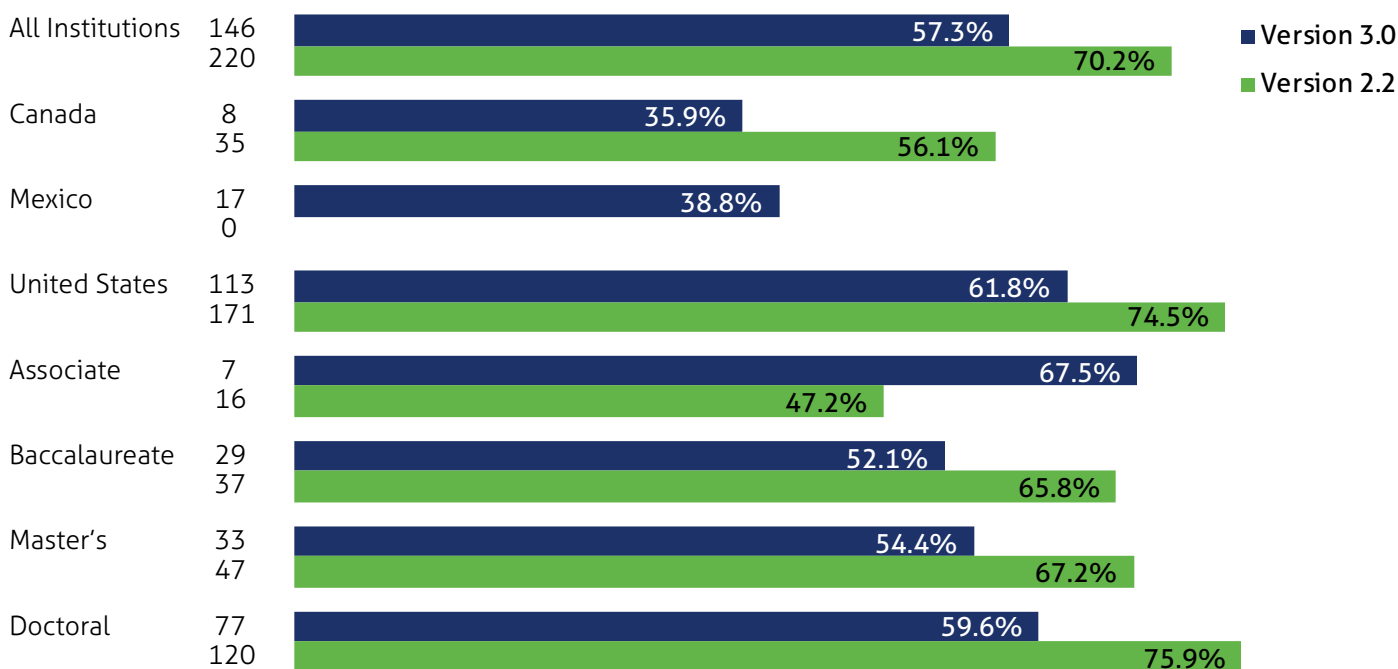
Representation & Access

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Portland State University	91.1%	Doctoral/Research	Portland, OR
2	California State University, Dominguez Hills	88.9%	Master	Carson, CA
3	Santa Rosa Junior College	86.5%	Associate/Short-cycle	Santa Rosa, CA
4	Wesleyan University	85.5%	Baccalaureate	Middletown, CT
5	Southern Oregon University	84.1%	Master	Ashland, OR

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1(t)	California State University, Fullerton	100%	Doctoral/Research	Fullerton, CA
1(t)	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	100%	Doctoral/Research	Edinburg, TX
3	University of California, Irvine	94.1%	Doctoral/Research	Irvine, CA
4	McGill University	91.7%	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
5	Barnard College	89.9%	Baccalaureate	New York, NY

Average Scores



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.

The EcoliteracySCHOOL at University of Minnesota, Rochester is a public health and environmental leadership program that allows faculty to research the impact of outdoor learning on future health leaders. Photo credit: Brendan Bush



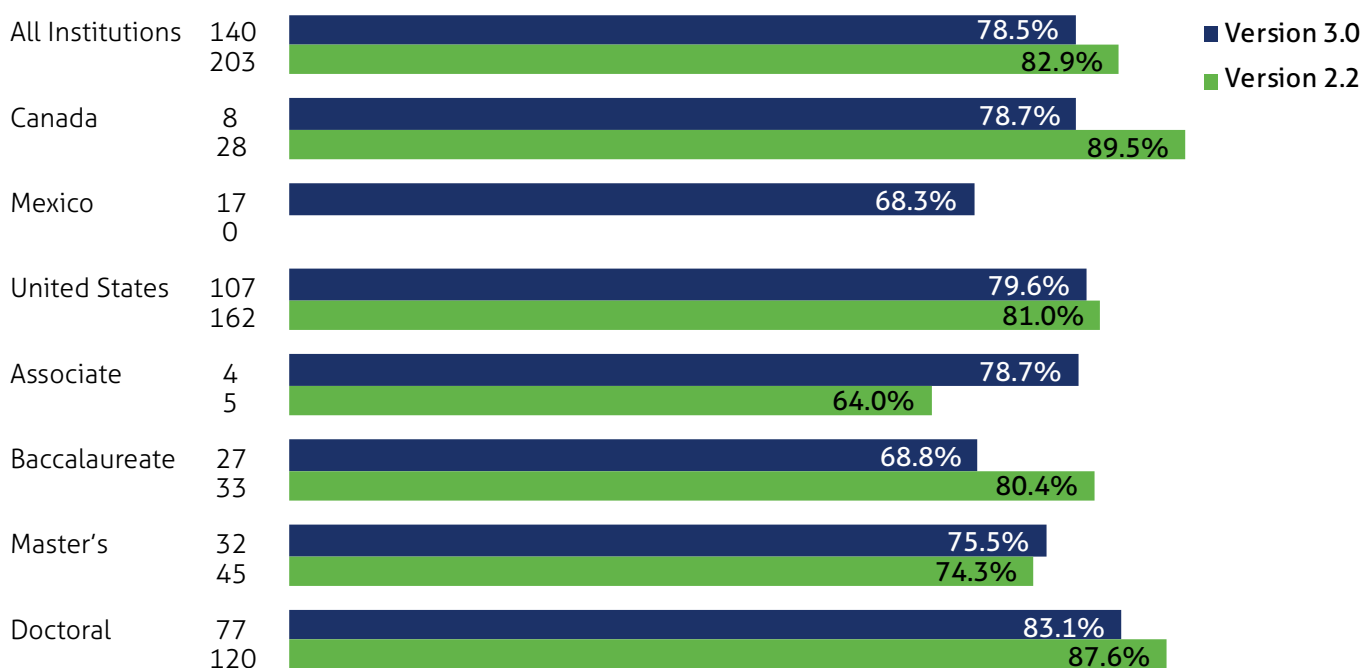
Research

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1(t)	Technological University Dublin	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland
1(t)	Texas A&M University	100%++	Doctoral/Research	College Station, TX
1(t)	University of Maryland, College Park	100%++	Doctoral/Research	College Park, MD
1(t)	University of Minnesota, Rochester	100%++	Baccalaureate	Rochester, MN
5(t)	Concordia University	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
5(t)	University of Minnesota, Morris	100%+	Baccalaureate	Morris, MN
5(t)	Victoria University of Wellington	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Wellington, NZ

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1(t)	Colorado School of Mines	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Golden, CO
1(t)	Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS)	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Québec, QC
1(t)	McGill University	100%++	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
4	Florida State University	100%+	Doctoral/Research	Tallahassee, FL

Average Scores



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 participant receives hands-on assistance during an Earth Day bicycle tune-up event at Concordia University. Photo credit: Concordia University



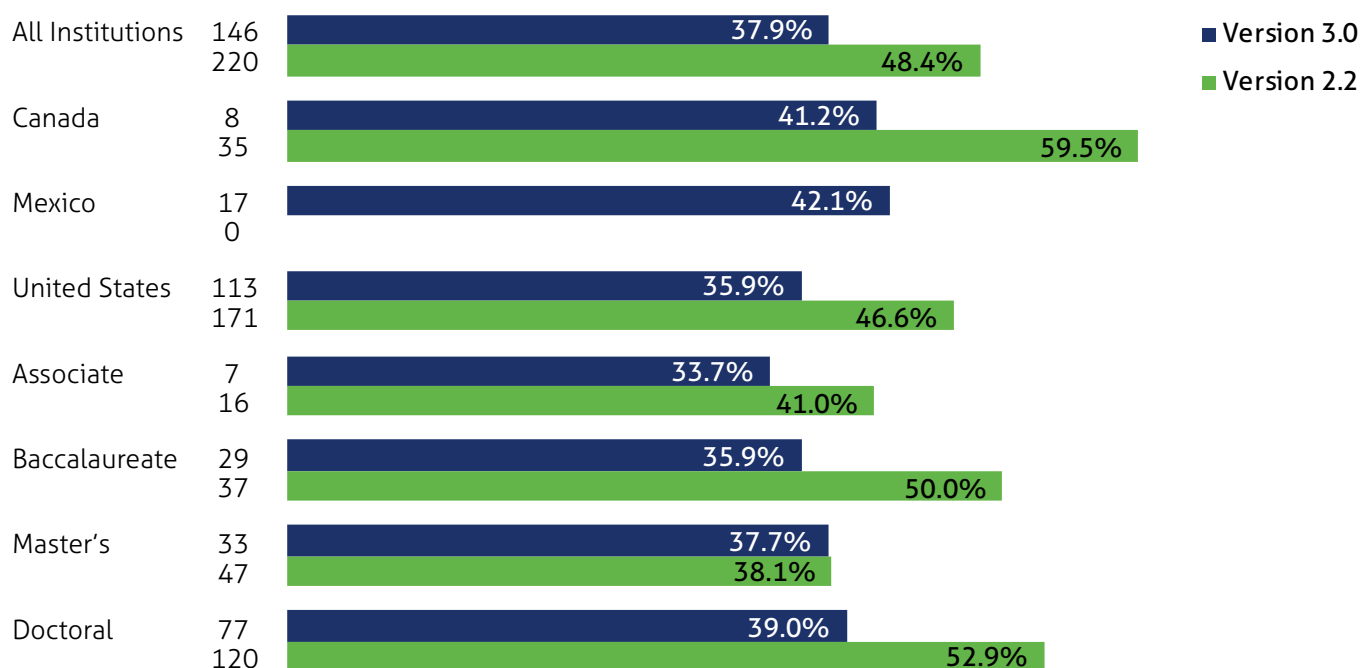
Transportation

Top Performers

Version 3.0				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Victoria University of Wellington	77.2%	Doctoral/Research	Wellington, NZ
2	Concordia University	76.2%	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
3	Technological University Dublin	73.9%	Doctoral/Research	Dublin, Ireland
4	Loyola University Chicago	73.81%	Doctoral/Research	Chicago, IL
5	Wesleyan University	73.80%	Baccalaureate	Middletown, CT

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/Short-cycle	Montréal, QC
3	Université TÉLUQ	85.7%	Associate/Short-cycle	Québec, QC
4	Arizona State University	84.9%	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ
5	Toronto Metropolitan University	83.6%	Doctoral/Research	Toronto, ON

Average Scores



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.

De La Salle Lipa holds a dedicated wellness initiative marking the International Day of Happiness to promote mental well-being, stress management, and morale among faculty and staff. Photo credit: DLSL HRDO



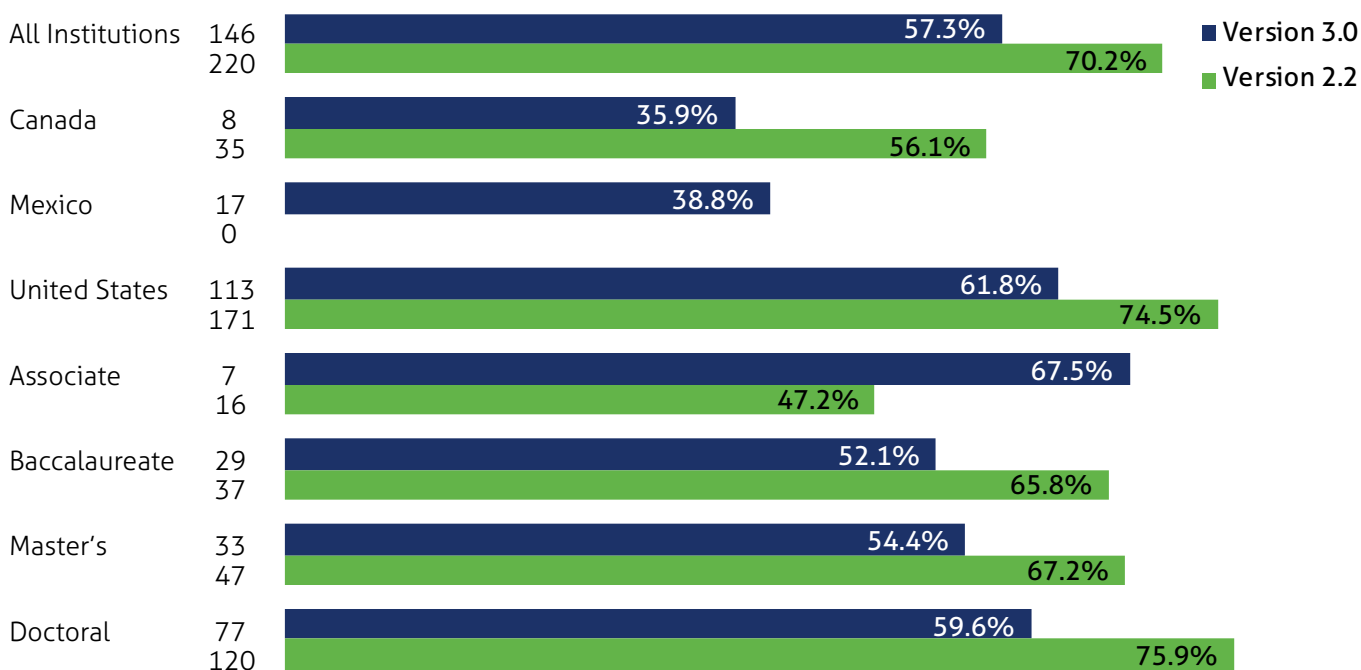
Wellbeing & Work

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	The American College of Greece	91.3%	Master	Athens, Greece
4	California State University, Chico	90.2%	Master	Chico, CA
5	University of California, Berkeley	89.5%	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA

Version 2.2				
Rank	Institution	Score	Type	Location
1	Université de Sherbrooke	89.6%	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
2	University of Sharjah	89.3%	Doctoral/Research	Sharjah, UAE
3	École de Technologie Supérieure	88.4%	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
4	Universidad Tecnológica del Uruguay	85.1%	Master	Montevideo, Uruguay
5	De La Salle Lipa	84.4%	Master	Lipa City, Philippines

Average Scores



Overall Top Performers

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

Canadore College has developed Farm 17, an off-grid living classroom in Costa Rica's UNESCO Savegre Biosphere Reserve. Photo credit: Canadore College



Associate & Short-Cycle Institutions

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Red River College Polytechnic	72.81	Gold	Winnipeg, MB
2	Canadore College	66.97	Gold	North Bay, ON
3	Portland Community College	65.86	Gold	Portland, OR
4	Central Community College	65.81	Gold	Grand Island, NE
5	Santa Rosa Junior College	65.06	Gold	Santa Rosa, CA

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Dawson College	86.18	Platinum	Montréal, QC
2	Nova Scotia Community College	71.36	Gold	Halifax, NS
3	Seneca Polytechnic	67.93	Gold	Toronto, ON
4	Johnson County Community College	67.78	Gold	Overland Park, KS
5	Vanier College	67.07	Gold	Montréal, QC

The Cider and Sunset event at Johnson County Community College's four-acre campus farm showcased the JCCC compost program . Photo credit: Susan McSpadden



Baccalaureate Institutions

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	University of Minnesota, Morris	74.37	Gold	Morris, MN
2	Furman University	69.74	Gold	Greenville, SC
3	College of the Atlantic	69.52	Gold	Bar Harbor, ME
4	Swarthmore College	69.33	Gold	Swarthmore, PA
5	Smith College	67.27	Gold	Northampton, MA

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	Oberlin College	74.88	Gold	Oberlin, OH
4	Bates College	72.89	Gold	Lewiston, ME
5	Connecticut College	71.19	Gold	New London, CT

University of Minnesota's 500 kW dairy agrivoltaic pasture and wind turbine shown with environmental studies assistant professor Clement Loo and UMN Morris students. Photo credit: Eric Miller



Master Institutions

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	The American College of Greece	84.70	Gold	Athens, Greece
2	California State University, Dominguez Hills	75.34	Gold	Carson, CA
3	Coastal Carolina University	74.47	Gold	Conway, SC
4	Southern Oregon University	73.26	Gold	Ashland, OR
5	Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Ciudad de México	72.35	Gold	Mexico City, Mexico

Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	California State University, Northridge	80.73	Gold	Northridge, CA
2	California Polytechnic State University	75.14	Gold	San Luis Obispo, CA
3	California State University, Sacramento	73.19	Gold	Sacramento, CA
4	University of Minnesota, Duluth	72.30	Gold	Duluth, MN
5	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	72.06	Gold	Stevens Point, WI

California State University, Dominguez Hills students hold harvested produce from the Campus Urban Farm, which is donated to the on-campus food pantry to address food security issues. Photo credit: Aemelia Hellgren



Doctoral Institutions

Version 3.0

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Stanford University	87.04	Platinum	Stanford, CA
2	University of California, Berkeley	86.76	Platinum	Berkeley, CA
3(t)	Loyola University Chicago	85.24	Platinum	Chicago, IL
3(t)	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	85.24	Platinum	Syracuse, NY
5	Technological University Dublin	83.35	Gold	Dublin, Ireland

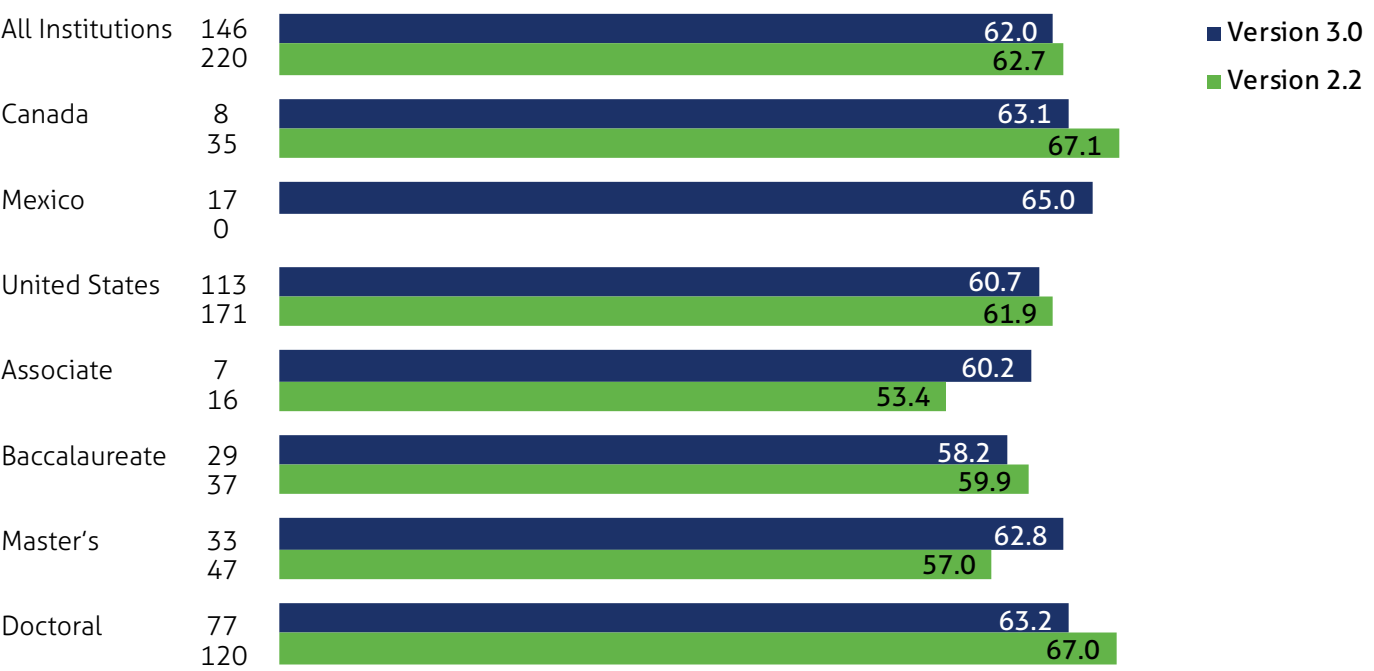
Version 2.2

Rank	Institution	Score	Rating	Location
1	Université de Sherbrooke	93.20	Platinum	Sherbrooke, QC
2	Arizona State University	91.10	Platinum	Tempe, AZ
3	Colorado State University	88.78	Platinum	Fort Collins, CO
4	Université Laval	87.46	Platinum	Québec, QC
5	University of California San Diego	86.87	Platinum	La Jolla, CA

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



Overall Average Scores



Furman University student Aubin Vertueux Dzossa Bontse '27 shares his work as the Shi Institute's climate resilience fellow. Photo credit: Nathan Gray



Top Performers by Country

The top-scoring college or university in every country with at least one STARS-rated institution under any version. This year, we welcomed reports for the first time from institutions in Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, and Uruguay.

Institution	Country	Score	Rating	# Reports
Université de Sherbrooke	Canada	93.20	Platinum	46
Arizona State University	United States	91.10	Platinum	319
University of Sharjah	United Arab Emirates	85.14	Platinum	3
Ollscoil na Gaillimhe - University of Galway	Ireland	84.75	Gold	2
The American College of Greece	Greece	84.70	Gold	1
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic	Morocco	75.04	Gold	1
Victoria University of Wellington	New Zealand	73.29	Gold	1
Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Monterrey	Mexico	73.26	Gold	17
Queen's University Belfast	United Kingdom	72.37	Gold	1
Universidad de Las Américas (UDLA) - Ecuador	Ecuador	70.59	Gold	1
Flinders University	Australia	68.69	Gold	3
IESE Business School - Barcelona	Spain	67.09	Gold	1
Modern College of Business and Science	Oman	65.46	Gold	1
Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	India	65.17	Gold	1
De La Salle Lipa	Philippines	62.28	Silver	1
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Israel	61.72	Silver	1
Cairo University	Egypt	58.61	Silver	2
Universidad Tecnológica del Uruguay	Uruguay	45.62	Silver	1
American University of Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan	41.18	Silver	1
Universidad Científica del Sur	Peru	31.17	Silver	1

UM6P's President, the head of the Sustainability Office, the Head of AITTC, and members of the UM6P community participate in the Plant It Forward initiative during Sustainability Week. Photo credit: Mostapha Echchatoui.



Institutional Highlights

This year's innovative and high-impact projects, programs and initiatives showcase how colleges and universities are moving from aspirational commitments to implementation and measurable impact while addressing social equity, student well-being, and community engagement. Themes include campus decarbonization and clean energy; circular economy and zero waste initiatives; institutional strategy, governance, and accountability; and creation of new degree programs, research centers, and interdisciplinary curricula.

Participants at the 2025 McGill Biodiversity Festival learn about local environmental organizations and their activities. Photo credit: McGill University



Academics

School of Conservation Futures - The 2025 launch of the School of Conservation Futures at [Arizona State University](#) was made possible by a \$115 million philanthropic investment. Funded by the Rob Walton Foundation, the gift will establish the Rob Walton School of Conservation Futures. The school offers training programs and certificates for high school students, working learners and corporate executives. Walton's gift will also create a program chair, three professorships, and a scholarship fund to provide full and partial scholarships to students.

ASU Assistant Professor Jesse Senko (right) shows ocean futures Ph.D. student Teagan Keating identifying traits of a Hawksbill turtle. Photo credit: Samantha Chow/Arizona State University



Climate Justice Lab - [Mount Holyoke College](#) launched its new Climate Justice Lab in spring 2026. Housed within the Miller Worley Center for the Environment, the aim of this privately-funded lab is to work with faculty, staff and students to connect climate justice with existing curriculum, community engaged research and campus activities. The mission leading to the development of the lab was sparked by conversations within the Community Commitment to Climate Justice initiative, where students, faculty, staff and administrators meet to discuss what it means to be a climate just campus with all members involved.

Mount Holyoke College students present climate justice research at the Summit on Feminist Leadership in Climate Justice. Photo credit: Angie Patterson



Academics

Sustainability & Environmental Engineering school - [Purdue University](#) launched the School of Sustainability Engineering and Environmental Engineering (SEE), which aims to integrate sustainability engineering with environmental engineering. SEE offers undergraduate and graduate programs designed to prepare students to tackle complex sustainability and environmental challenges through interdisciplinary, systems-based approaches. In addition to the existing Bachelor's, Master, and Ph.D. programs in environmental and ecological engineering, the new school will lead a new online and professional MS program on Sustainability Engineering.

“Sustainability demands both urgency and bold thinking. Purdue’s new School of Sustainability Engineering and Environmental Engineering equips future engineers to carry that mindset beyond the classroom – teaching them to solve real-world problems and make a lasting impact on people, planet and communities.”

- Amy Schumacher, CEO, The Heritage Group

Center for Just Environmental Futures - A new center at [Stanford University](#) aims to ensure that the pursuit of sustainability strengthens human dignity and ecological resilience. Bridging scholarship, policy, and practice, the Stanford Center for Just Environmental Futures will focus on advancing research and education that integrate community-level needs into sustainability efforts. Housed in the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, the center will serve as the intellectual and cultural hub for interdisciplinary communities across campus and beyond who are dedicated to addressing the interconnected challenges of environmental degradation, climate change, and inequity.

Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability students examine lab samples as part of their research. Photo credit: Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability



Engagement

Changemakers Fellows program- The Changemakers Fellowship, sponsored by the [Oberlin College](#) Center for DEI Innovation & Leadership, accepted 10 inaugural students in the spring of 2025 to take part in the intensive program about racial equity in leadership roles. As part of an initiative on racial equity and diversity, the fellowship includes a course entitled Leadership and Social Change, an elective class that discusses elements of social justice and includes a summer internship or research project, along with a guest lecturer series and collaborations with community-based organizations in Cleveland.

Oberlin College Center for DEI Innovation and Leadership Changemakers. Photo credit: Alaina Battle



Staff Sustainability Leadership pilot - Launched in 2025, the [University of Virginia](#) Staff Sustainability Leadership Program, modeled off of a similar program at the University of Georgia, engages UVA staff in advancing initiatives that conserve resources and reduce waste within their departments. Participants engage in three phases - learning, empowering, and leading - to build sustainability knowledge, strengthen leadership skills, and implement a workplace project focused on waste reduction, supporting UVA's 2030 sustainability goals. Participation in 2026 included seven UVA Health representatives and 15 representatives from UVA's Academic Division.

UVA Staff Sustainability Leadership Program participants present their waste-focused projects in the UVA Rotunda Dome Room. Photo credit: Andrea Trimble



Engagement

Global student challenge - [Hong Kong University of Science and Technology](#) (HKUST) partnered with Stanford University and several other institutions to launch the Global Sustainability Challenge, a global competition that empowers university students to develop and test real-world solutions to climate and sustainability challenges. Students design, implement, and showcase real-world sustainability solutions while gaining interdisciplinary collaboration and leadership skills.

Cross-departmental collaboration in sustainable agriculture - A new collaboration between [Pennsylvania State University's](#) Smeal College of Business and the College of Agricultural Sciences focuses on fostering innovation in food and agriculture. The inaugural Land Grant Startup Launch Competition supported early-stage startups focused on sustainable business practices. The winning 2026 start-up received a \$50,000 investment from the Garber Venture Capital Fund to accelerate its growth and impact.

National green building skills initiative - [Mohawk College](#) launched a national green building skills initiative, Advancing Access and Skills Training for Green Buildings and Retrofits, supported by an \$11.3 million investment from the Government of Canada. The project aims to implement upskilling training opportunities to mid-career professionals through postsecondary learning, mobilize the knowledge of subject matter experts to inform curriculum development, and increase accessibility to skills training for equity-deserving groups.
Topic: Public Engagement

Global Sustainability Challenge Founding Partners with winning student teams from the competition's inaugural year at the Global Finale. Photo credit: Florian Vogl and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Engagement

Supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs - In 2025, [Red River College Polytechnic's](#) Mittoohnee Pogo'ohtah initiative [partnered with Pow Wow Pitch](#) to support Indigenous entrepreneurship in Manitoba. As the local presenting partner for the Manito Ahbee Pow Wow Pitch, the polytech provided the \$5,000 first-place prize, served on the judging panel, and connected participants with community mentors. The initiative also supports Indigenous graduates through an entrepreneurship accelerator focused on business development and innovation.

A CTV interview during the Mittoohnee Pogo'ohtah Closing event at RRC Polytech in January 2026. Photo credit: Red River College Polytechnic



Initiative on Democracy and Justice in the South - The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law and [Fisk University's](#) John Lewis Center for Social Justice launched a joint initiative, the Partnership for Southern Impact. With Fisk's Nashville campus as its base, the two institutions will establish a hub for communities and civic groups across the South seeking to make their local and state governments more representative. The partnership will highlight and foster nonpartisan solutions to problems like voter suppression, partisan redistricting, and excessively punitive criminal justice.

“Public institutions of the South, from legislatures to administrative agencies, still have doors of opportunity that are closed to many of the communities who call the region home... I'm excited to work with Fisk and help communities open those doors.”

- Kareem Crayton, Vice President, Brennan Center's Washington DC office

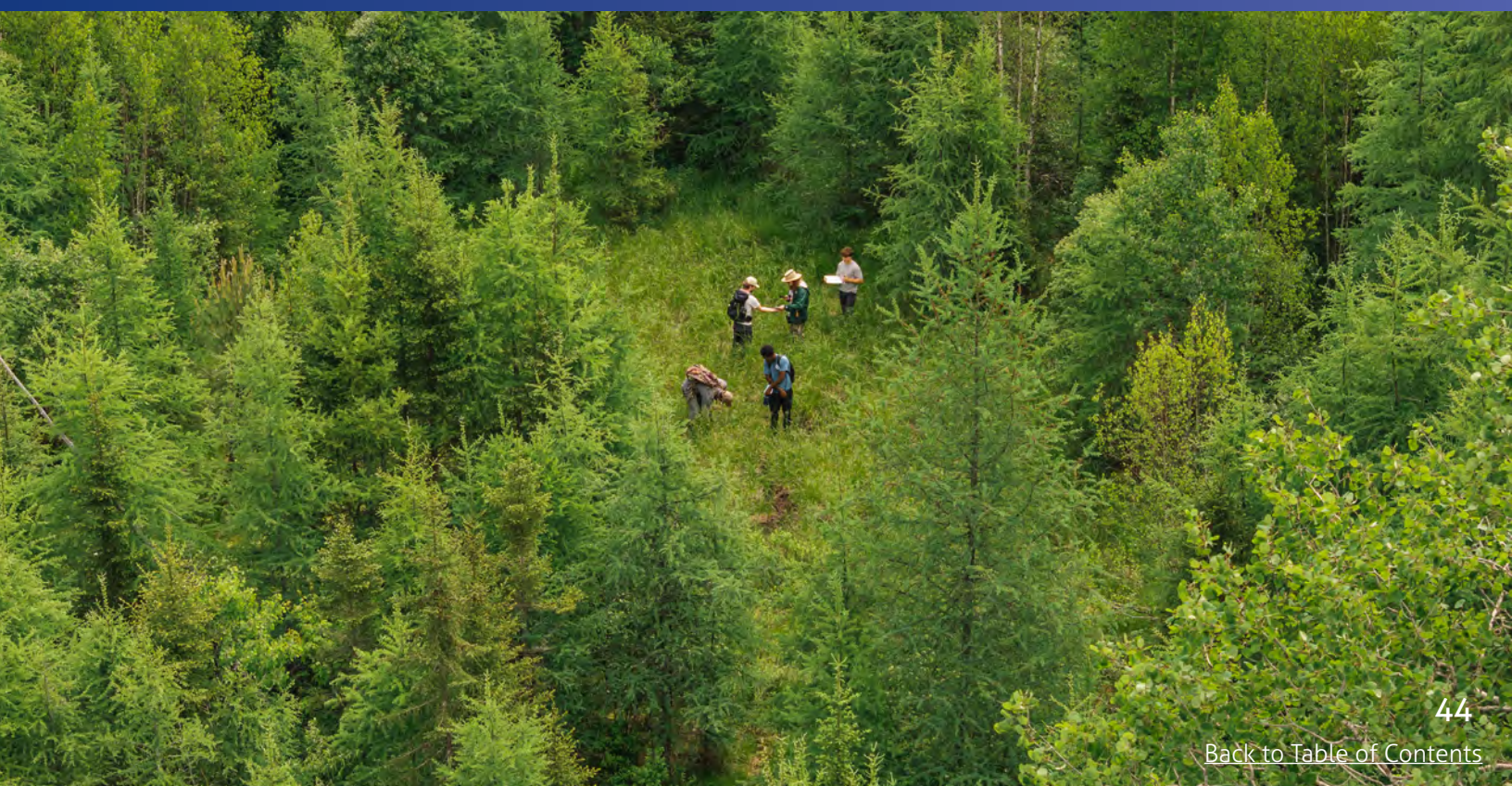
Operations

Conservation easement for 2,800 acres - [Paul Smith's College](#) and The Adirondack Land Trust finalized a conservation easement protecting 2,800 acres surrounding the college. The easement limits development and other land uses to protect forests, waters, and natural areas while providing access to the public. Paul Smith's College continues to own the land and can continue to practice sustainable forest management. The Adirondack Land Trust purchased the conservation easement from the college for \$4.1 million in 2025 and now has a perpetual legal responsibility to ensure that its ecological objectives are met.

Water stewardship certification - [San Bernardino Valley College](#) made history in 2025, becoming the first educational institution to receive Alliance for Water Stewardship certification. In order to receive Alliance for Water Stewardship certification, the college went through an audit and met 98 conditions. Moving forward, the college continues to enhance water management strategies to cut consumption and make the water that is used go further. This achievement aligns with the launch of the college's new four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Water Resources.

LEED double Platinum-certified recreation center - The Aztec Recreation Center (ARC) at [San Diego State University](#) achieved LEED double Platinum certification, a distinction earned by a small proportion of LEED-certified buildings. Operated by Associated Students, the ARC now holds a Platinum certification for its initial construction as well as for building operations and maintenance. Designed as a fossil fuel-free facility powered entirely by onsite renewable electricity, the ARC has reduced energy and water consumption by one-third since opening while diverting more than 56% of its waste from landfill.

Paul Smith's College and The Adirondack Land Trust finalized a conservation easement protecting 2,800 acres surrounding the college. Photo credit: Paul Smith's College



Operations

The Ngā Mokopuna living building - In late 2024, [Victoria University of Wellington](#) opened [Ngā Mokopuna](#) a green building and hub for Māori knowledge. Aspiring to gain Living Building Challenge certification, it exemplifies indigenous values and regenerative design. The building generates 134% of its own energy, relies entirely on rainwater and processes all wastewater onsite, while connecting its occupants with nature.

House of Healing - In partnership and close collaboration with Coast Salish tribal nations and the Western Native American Student Union, [Western Washington University](#) built the [House of Healing](#) in 2026. This traditional Coast Salish-style longhouse brings people together in reflection and education in a spirit of collective healing. It includes a gathering hall, a teaching/warming kitchen, student lounges, outdoor cooking spaces, educational gardens with native medicinal plants, and other support services.

\$100M decarbonization initiative - In 2025, [Brock University](#) launched SPARK (sustainability, performance, adaptation, renewal and knowledge), a more than \$100-million journey that aims to reimagine campus sustainability and position the University as a leader in climate action. The three-year program is projected to reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions by 83% and cut energy use by 60% (compared to a 2013 baseline). Looking ahead to 2034, the initiative is projected to reduce Brock's deferred capital renewal by over \$225 million, improving the long-term health of campus infrastructure.
Topic: Energy & Climate

Ngā Mokopuna, Victoria University of Wellington's living building based on indigenous values and regenerative design. Photo credit: Alaina Battle



Brock University President Lesley Rigg and VP Scott Johnstone celebrate after flipping the ceremonial switch to launch SPARK. Photo credit: Brock University



Operations

Urban solar installation - The 7.5 megawatt West Campus Solar Array at [The Catholic University of America](#) has the capacity to produce 10,000 MWh of renewable energy annually. [The array](#) will also provide clean energy savings to over 1,200 subscribers within the community, benefiting local residents. It is projected to avoid more than seven metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, supporting the District of Columbia's goals of achieving carbon neutrality in coming years.

Energy and sustainability infrastructure investments – [Santa Rosa Junior College](#) allocated \$32.5 million in a bond measure for renewable energy and sustainability infrastructure projects, leveraging an additional \$6 million in grants and rebates. Projects included over 3 megawatts of solar generation, 4 megawatt-hours of battery energy storage, a geothermal exchange field, a new high-efficiency central plant, LED lighting upgrades, and energy and water submetering. The solar and battery systems also supported development of a 100% renewable energy microgrid.

100% renewable electricity usage - In 2024, [Towson University](#) began purchasing 100% renewable electricity as part of a larger goal of achieving carbon neutrality and expanding the use of renewable energy. The university has 4,000 solar panels on the rooftops of Barton and Douglass houses, General Services, the University Union, and the Union Parking Garage. The 1.3 MW system generates nearly 1,500 megawatt hours of solar energy annually. The transition to renewable energy was also made possible through three power purchase agreements. Additionally, Towson University installed a geothermal system that will begin powering a new academic building in 2027.

The Catholic University of America West Campus Solar Array. Photo credit: Patrick G. Ryan / The Catholic University of America



Operations

Scopes 1 & 2 emissions neutrality - [University at Buffalo](#) achieved carbon neutrality for its directly controlled greenhouse gas emissions, reaching its target five years ahead of a 2030 goal. The university reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 66% since 2007 by making substantial investments in energy efficiency, decarbonizing campus heating sources, converting the vehicle fleet to electric, and generating renewable energy both on- and off-campus. The university now generates and purchases 100% of its electricity from clean sources.

Electrification upgrades - [UNSW Sydney](#) received multiple awards for a new electrification project in 2025. The project involved replacing gas-powered systems with efficient electric alternatives across 13 buildings, totalling 73,814 square-meters of electrified building space. These upgrades are powered entirely by renewable electricity from onsite solar and a power purchase agreement. The project is expected to save 700 tonnes of carbon emissions each year, with projected gas savings of 155,000 gigajoules once complete.

Ocean Friendly dining hall recognition - Thanks in part to student-led advocacy, three [University of California, Santa Barbara](#) dining halls became Ocean Friendly Restaurant (OFR) recognized in 2025. Members of the Surfrider UCSB student club worked with dining staff to align practices with OFR standards. The three dining halls utilize reusable dishware and feature drink stations as an alternative to single-use bottled beverages. In addition to water conservation, energy efficiency, and pollution mitigation efforts, all seafood is sourced following Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guidelines.

Solar photovoltaic panels at University at Buffalo, which recently achieved scopes 1 & 2 carbon neutrality. Photo credit: University at Albany



“As a student, you have the power to speak up to your university about what you believe in... Your campus dining halls may already be following many of the OFR criteria, so informing them of the program is the first step. Once they are aware of the program, you can organize student support to help your dining halls adopt more sustainable practices.”

- Mary Holtram, Surfrider UCSB student club co-president

Operations

Single-use beverage plastics elimination -

[University of Colorado Boulder](#) finalized a 10-year beverage services agreement with PepsiCo Beverages that will eliminate all single-use beverage plastics across campus. The agreement will be implemented at no additional cost to the university and applies to vending machines, cafés, retail locations, and third-party vendors without exemptions for plastic-packaged beverages. Beverage containers will transition primarily to aluminum and glass, supporting the university's Climate Action Plan and expanding opportunities for material recovery through campus recycling systems.

Plant-based menu by default - The [University of Southampton](#) Students' Union approved a plant-based-by-default dining policy that will take effect across its catering facilities beginning in the 2026-27 academic year. Under the policy, plant-based meals will become the standard option while animal-based alternatives remain available upon request. The decision followed a student petition that gathered more than 950 signatures in one week, and aligned the institution with over 20 U.K. student unions that have adopted similar dining policies through the [Plant-Based Universities campaign](#).

100% landfill diversion - [University of Manchester](#) announced in spring 2026 that 100% of the waste managed under central contracts has been diverted from landfills. This milestone has been achieved through years of planning, negotiation, and operational consideration, with landfill targets built into the university's waste management contracts to ensure compliance. The university continues to prioritize reduction, reuse, and recycling to the greatest extent possible. All remaining non-recyclable waste goes through a waste-to-energy process that converts non-recyclables into electricity and heat.

A student at CU Boulder makes a choice from a vending machine filled with options in aluminum cans. Photo credit: Patrick Campbell



“Achieving Zero Landfill shows what’s possible when we work together to align our processes with our sustainability goals. It’s a huge step in our environmental ambitions and strengthens our commitment to create a more circular, responsible campus.”

- Sarah Choi, Manchester University
Environmental Sustainability Manager

Operations

Plastic-free in residential dining - [University of North Carolina, Wilmington](#) overhauled its campus dining takeout model, becoming the first higher education institution in North Carolina to go fully plastic-free in residential dining. The new system is built around stainless steel containers that are integrated with the university's existing dining infrastructure. Students can borrow containers and return them through a tracking system that improves container recovery, while documenting reductions in waste generation and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

New air travel offset program - [McGill University](#) launched an Air Travel Offsetting Program to address greenhouse gas emissions associated with university-funded travel. As of May 2026, emissions associated with air travel funded from certain sources are being offset through a mandatory fee. For air travel funded from other sources (including research funds), employees are encouraged to voluntarily offset their air travel emissions and request reimbursement. The program supports certified greenhouse gas reduction projects through [Planetair](#).

The McCall MacBain Arts Building and main thoroughfare on McGill University's downtown campus. Photo credit: McGill University



Planning & Administration

Inaugural sustainability bond - [Singapore Management University](#) (SMU) became the first autonomous university in Singapore to issue sustainability bonds, raising \$250 million Singapore dollars (\$196 million USD) through two issuances under its Sustainable Financing Framework: an inaugural SG\$150 million bond in July 2025 and a SG\$100 million bond in May 2026. The proceeds finance green projects delivering measurable environmental benefits, and social initiatives that nurture resilience and inclusive education such as SMU Access Plus, which provides bond-free financial aid to students from low-income families, and mental wellbeing programs.

Endorsement of 'Fossil Fuel Treaty' - [Trinity College Dublin](#) formally joined the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative following approval by its Environment and Sustainability Principal Committee. Established in 2020, the initiative encourages national governments to negotiate an international treaty based on three principles: ending the expansion of coal, oil, and gas production; supporting an equitable transition to a low-carbon, climate-neutral economy; and phasing out fossil fuels, with wealthier countries transitioning more rapidly based on their historical emissions.

Climate-related financial disclosure - [University of Sydney](#) published a climate-related financial disclosure that sets a new benchmark in climate governance and emissions transparency across higher education. Voluntarily aligned with the New South Wales Treasury climate disclosure framework, the report applies internationally recognized climate scenarios to assess physical and transition risks, and outlines how climate considerations are integrated into institutional strategy and planning. The report details governance structures, progress against net zero targets, scenario modelling, and early initiatives to embed climate considerations into asset management, adaptation planning and research investment.

The Singapore Management University's net-zero Connexion building employs sustainability technology.
Photo credit: Singapore Management University



“ This report provides leadership with a clear, risk-informed baseline against which we can improve institutional climate resilience and reduce emissions. It also offers a working model for other public institutions who are navigating similar disclosure expectations. ”

- Gillian Graham-Crowe, University of Sydney
Director of Sustainability

Planning & Administration

Divestment from fossil fuels - The [University of Guelph](#) completed its divestment from fossil fuel companies in its endowment portfolio in 2025, fulfilling a five-year, fossil-free divestment goal. The Board of Governors divested all of the university's endowment assets from companies that hold fossil fuel reserves. Key to this milestone is a reduction in weighted average carbon intensity (WACI), a metric that measures the carbon emissions associated with an investment portfolio. The university has achieved a 74% reduction in emissions since it began tracking WACI in 2018.

Wabanaki tuition waiver - Following several years of conversations with tribal leaders in Maine, [College of the Atlantic](#) launched a full [tuition waiver program](#) for members of the Wabanaki Tribes and their direct descendants in 2024. Eligible students receive full tuition waivers, and any additional financial need for room, board, and other educational expenses is covered in full without the use of loans.

Native land repatriation - In 2022, [California State University, Chico](#) transferred ownership of the 93-acre Butte Creek Ecological Preserve to the Mechoopda Indian Tribe. This transfer allows the Tribe to restore and steward the land as it recovers from the effects of the 2018 Camp Fire. Chico State also returned [73 acres](#) of land known as the Eagle Lake Field Station to the Susanville Indian Rancheria in 2023.

The Green Gryphon Bike Shelter & Pavilion at University of Guelph has the capacity to house 90 bikes. Photo credit: University of Guelph



Mechoopda BCEP Land Transfer. Photo credit: Jason Halley/University Photographer/Chico State



Planning & Administration

System-wide food assistance for community colleges - In fall 2025, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced an emergency investment of nearly \$550,000 in assistance for [State University of New York](#) (SUNY) community college food pantries and related efforts to help campuses address the ongoing food insecurity crisis. The emergency assistance helped the food pantries located at each of SUNY's 30 community colleges restock supplies and support students in need. The efforts involved deployment of the SUNY Empire State Service Corps to support local food banks.

Expanded affordability & access - [Princeton University](#) has expanded its undergraduate financial aid program, increasing access for students from low- and middle-income families. Through the program, most undergraduate families with incomes up to \$250,000 will pay no tuition, and most families with annual incomes up to \$150,000 will receive aid to cover the total cost of attendance, including tuition, housing, food, books, and personal expenses. The incoming class of 2029 included Princeton's largest-ever proportion of Pell Grant recipients (25%), reflecting the university's commitment to affordability and socioeconomic diversity.

Living Wage accreditation - [University of Stirling](#) was accredited as a Living Wage employer in acknowledgement of its long-term commitment to paying staff in line with the cost of living. The university has been paying a living wage to all directly employed colleagues since 2015, and this accreditation ensures that everyone, including those working through contractors, earns a wage that meets the cost of living. The living wage is calculated independently by the Resolution Foundation, overseen by the Living Wage Commission on behalf of the Living Wage Foundation.

SUNY students and staff sort food donations at the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. Photo credit: SUNY media team



“ We're delighted that the University of Stirling has become an accredited Living Wage employer. The University joins a growing movement of employers in Scotland who recognise that the security of a real Living Wage can help create a happier, healthier and more motivated workforce. ”

- Lynn Anderson, Living Wage Scotland Manager

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 2026, 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.

Smith College professor Suleiman Ali Mourad makes the kitchen a community lab space in his course, Food, Identity and Religion in the Middle East. Photo credit: Jessica Scranton



STARS of Data Accuracy

These institutions are recognized for submitting reports between March 2024 and March 2026, with the fewest data accuracy issues. We congratulate the STARS liaisons, data providers, and others who work to provide high quality data.

Version 3.0

Institution	Accuracy Rate	Rating	Location
Elon University	100%	Silver	Elon, NC
Fullerton College	100%	Bronze	Fullerton, CA
Texas A&M University	97.8%	Silver	College Station, TX
Red River College Polytechnic	95.5%	Gold	Winnipeg, MB
University of Hawaii at Manoa	95.2%	Silver	Honolulu, HI

Version 2.2

Institution	Accuracy Rate	Rating	Location
Colorado State University	100%	Platinum	Fort Collins, CO
Cornell University	98.7%	Platinum	Ithaca, NY
University of Wisconsin-Madison	97.7%	Gold	Madison, WI
Université de Sherbrooke	97.5%	Platinum	Sherbrooke, QC
Justice Institute of British Columbia	97.4%	Bronze	New Westminster, BC

An aerial view of Cornell University with Cayuga Lake in the background. Photo credit: Cornell 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	15	Dec. 15, 2025	Gold
2	Cornell University	15	March 5, 2026	Platinum
3	Texas A&M University	12	Feb. 19, 2026	Silver
4	Portland State University	11	April 9, 2025	Gold
5	Boston University	11	Nov. 6, 2025	Gold
6	Colorado College	11	Feb. 27, 2026	Silver
7	Lehigh University	9	March 3, 2023	Gold
8	University of Wisconsin-River Falls	9	Feb. 29, 2024	Gold
9	Loyola Marymount University	9	March 7, 2025	Gold
10	Grand Valley State University	9	March 6, 2026	Gold

Oyster restoration at Texas A&M University. Photo credit: Texas Sea Grant



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 378 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, 2026, as well as new reports submitted on or before this date, and subsequently published by May 15, 2026. Reports submitted after March 7, 2026, are eligible for inclusion in future SCl 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 when possible, this year's report 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. Under Research, the 2.2 list of top performers listed the four institutions that earned 100% in the category and pursued at least one IL credit to more concisely recognize institutions leading in this 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.

Central Community College student Brayden Adrian and sustainability professional William Gordon collect on-campus native pollinator garden seeds. Photo credit: Scott Miller- Central CC Senior Director of College Communications



Methodology

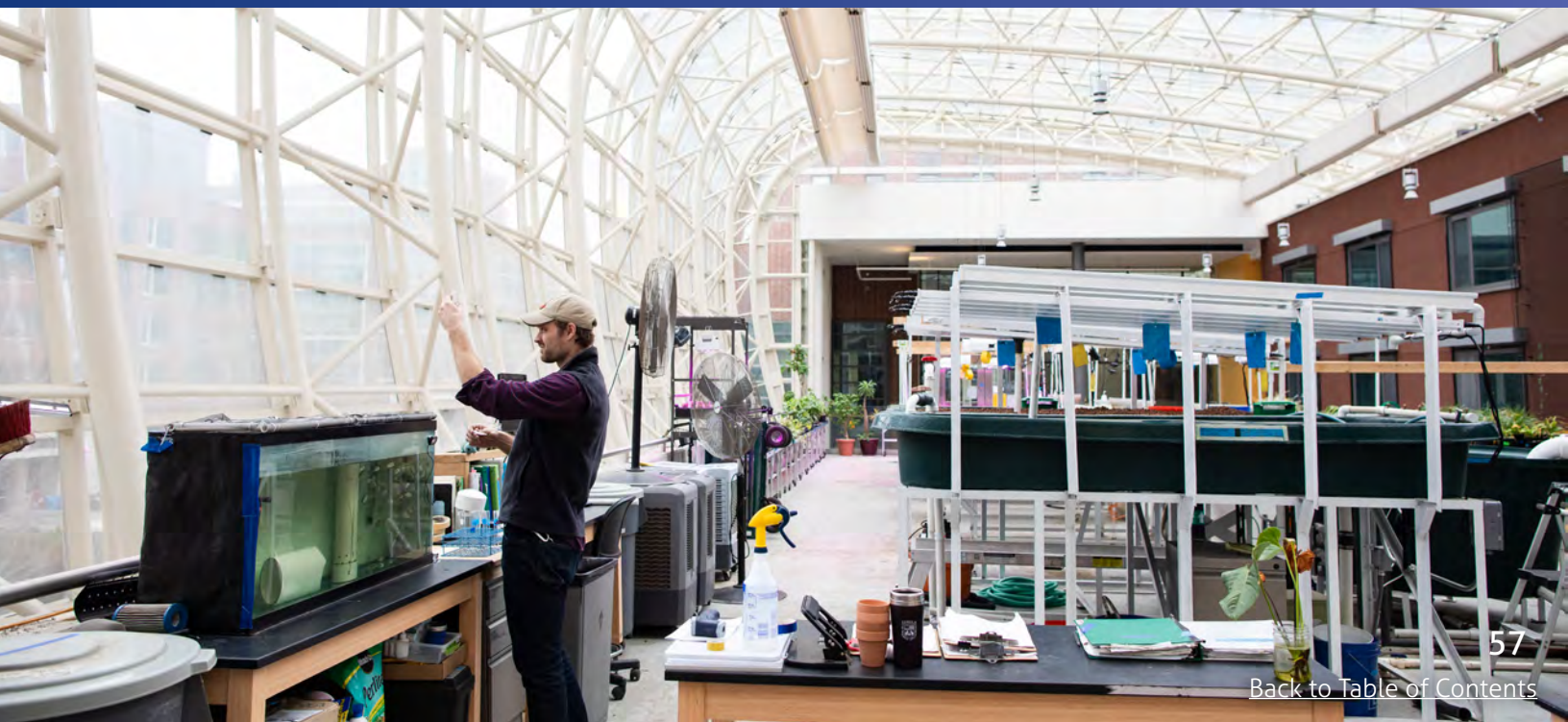
Institution Type

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](#).

Greenhouse at Loyola University Chicago's School of Environmental Sustainability. Photo credit: Loyola University Chicago



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.

Dickinson College Celebrates Carbon Neutrality. Photo credit: Joe O'Neil, Dickinson College



STARS Ratings

This list includes institutions with reports that were valid on March 7, 2026, or were submitted by this date and published by May 15, 2026. Reports submitted or published after these dates will be recognized in future SCI publications.

Students enjoy time outdoors at the Flinders University Plaza. Photo credit: Flinders University



Platinum



Version 3.0

Institution	Overall Score	Type	Location
Loyola University Chicago	85.24	Doctoral/Research	Chicago, IL
Stanford University	87.04	Doctoral/Research	Stanford, CA
State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	85.24	Doctoral/Research	Syracuse, NY
University of California, Berkeley	86.76	Doctoral/Research	Berkeley, CA

Version 2.2

Institution	Overall Score	Type	Location
Arizona State University	91.10	Doctoral/Research	Tempe, AZ
Colorado State University	88.78	Doctoral/Research	Fort Collins, CO
Cornell University	86.23	Doctoral/Research	Ithaca, NY
Dawson College	86.18	Associate/Short-cycle	Montréal, QC
École de Technologie Supérieure	85.11	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
George Washington University	85.19	Doctoral/Research	Washington, DC
McGill University	86.26	Doctoral/Research	Montréal, QC
Université de Sherbrooke	93.20	Doctoral/Research	Sherbrooke, QC
Université Laval	87.46	Doctoral/Research	Québec, QC
University of California San Diego	86.87	Doctoral/Research	La Jolla, CA
University of Massachusetts Lowell	84.52	Doctoral/Research	Lowell, MA
University of New Hampshire	85.89	Doctoral/Research	Durham, NH
University of Sharjah	85.14	Doctoral/Research	Sharjah, UAE
University of Victoria	85.74	Doctoral/Research	Victoria, BC

Seedling workshop at Dawson College's Support Staff Training Day. Photo credit: Jennifer de Vera



Agnes Scott College
 American University
 American University of Sharjah
 Amherst College
 Appalachian State University
 Ball State University
 Bard College
 Barnard College
 Bates College
 Bentley University
 Binghamton University
 Boston University
 Bowdoin College
 Brigham Young University
 Bucknell University
 Butler 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, Northridge
 California State University, Sacramento
 California State University, San Marcos
 California State University, Stanislaus
 Canadore College
 Carleton University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Catawba College
 Central Community College
 Central Washington University
 Clarkson University
 Coastal Carolina University
 College of the Atlantic
 Colorado School of Mines
 Concordia University
 Connecticut College
 Dalhousie University
 Dickinson College
 Emory University
 Fanshawe College
 Flinders University
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Florida International University
 Florida State University

Two Bates College EcoReps stand next to an EV charger for which they wrote a grant. Photo credit: Phyllis Graber-Jensen



Cal State Fullerton student Vivian Castillo presents research on campus trees at the 4th annual Energy and Sustainability Summit. Photo credit: CSUF



Furman University
 George Mason University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Gonzaga University
 Grand Valley State University
 Gustavus Adolphus College
 Hope College
 IESE Business School - Barcelona
 Indiana University Bloomington
 Indiana University Indianapolis
 Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS)
 Ithaca College
 James Madison University
 Johnson County Community College
 Lafayette College
 Lehigh University
 Loyola Marymount University
 Macalester College
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 McMaster University
 Miami University
 Michigan Technological University
 Modern College of Business and Science
 Montana State University
 Mount Royal University
 Muhlenberg College
 New Jersey Institute of Technology
 New York University
 North Carolina State University
 Northeastern 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
 Portland Community College
 Portland State University
 Pratt Institute
 Prescott College
 Princeton University
 Queen's University Belfast

Nova Scotia Community College students connect with campus and community partners and learn about sustainability at a sustainability fair. Photo credit: NSCC



Queen's University Belfast is committed to enhancing renewable technologies on-site. Photo credit: Queens University Belfast



Red River College Polytechnic
 Saint Mary's College of California
 Saint Mary's University
 San Diego State University
 San Francisco State University
 San Jose State University
 Santa Clara University
 Santa Rosa Junior College
 Seattle University
 Seneca Polytechnic
 Smith College
 Southern Oregon University
 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 Chihuahua
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Ciudad de México
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Estado de México
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Guadalajara
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Monterrey
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Puebla
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Querétaro
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus San Luis Potosí
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Santa Fe
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Toluca
 Temple University
 The American College of Greece
 The Ohio State University
 The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 The University of Texas at Dallas
 Toronto Metropolitan University
 Towson University
 Universidad de Las Américas (UDLA) - Ecuador
 Université de Montréal
 University at Albany
 University at Buffalo
 University Mohammed VI Polytechnic
 University of Alberta

The Seneca Polytechnic Newnham Campus grounds team plants trees as part of efforts to enhance campus biodiversity. Photo credit: Seneca Polytechnic



American College of Greece students conduct sustainability-related research. Photo credit: The American College of Greece.



University of California, Davis
 University of California, Irvine
 University of California, Los Angeles
 University of California, Riverside
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 University of Cincinnati
 University of Colorado Boulder
 University of Colorado Colorado Springs
 University of Connecticut
 University of Dayton
 University of Idaho
 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 University of Iowa
 University of Louisville
 University of Manitoba
 University of Maryland, Baltimore County
 University of Maryland, College Park
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
 University of Miami
 University of Michigan
 University of Minnesota, Crookston
 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 Northern British Columbia
 University of Oregon
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Pittsburgh
 University of Richmond
 University of San Diego
 University of Southern California
 University of St. Thomas
 University of Texas at Arlington
 University of Texas at Austin
 University of Texas at San Antonio
 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 University of Toronto Mississauga
 University of Utah
 University of Vermont
 University of Virginia
 University of Washington, Bothell
 University of Washington, Seattle

A University of Nebraska - Lincoln student cruises across campus on roller blades after picking up a plant during the 2026 UNL Earthstock celebration. Photo credit: Kristen Labadie, UNL University Communication



Facilities staff at University of Toronto Mississauga inspect at solar panel system on the roof of the new science building. Photo credit: Nick Iwanyshyn



University of Waterloo
University of Winnipeg
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Vanier College
Victoria University of Wellington
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Washington University in St. Louis
Weber State University
Wenzhou-Kean University
Wesleyan University
Western University
Wilfrid Laurier University
Williams College
York University

Mayor of St Laurent, Québec Alan DeSousa and Vanier College Director General Benoit Morin at the inauguration of a new bike shelter. Photo credit: Vanier College



Tree planting event at York University. Photo credit: Ramsha Alam



Austin College
 Babson College
 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
 Black Hills State University
 Boise State University
 Bridgewater 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
 Capilano University
 Cascadia College
 Central Michigan University
 City University of New York, Brooklyn College
 Clemson University
 College of Charleston
 College of the Holy Cross
 Colorado College
 Colorado Mountain College
 Creighton University
 De La Salle Lipa
 Drexel University
 Duquesne University
 East Carolina University
 Eastern Connecticut State University
 Eastern Michigan University
 Elon University
 Emerson College
 Endicott College
 Evergreen State College, The
 Georgia Southern University
 Georgia State University
 Haverford College
 Higher Colleges of Technology
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 Illinois State University
 John Abbott College
 Juniata College
 Kean University
 Kennesaw State University
 Kent State University

A participant collects litter during a beach cleanup held by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's Green Campus program. Photo credit: Dani Machlis



Knox College
 Kwantlen Polytechnic University
 Lane Community College
 Luther College
 MacEwan University
 Montclair State 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
 Raritan Valley Community College
 Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick Campus
 Selkirk College
 Skidmore College
 Slippery Rock University
 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 Morrisville
 State University of New York at Oneonta
 Stetson University
 Stony Brook University
 SUNY Buffalo State
 Syracuse University
 TAFE Queensland Robina Campus
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Aguascalientes
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Ciudad Juárez
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Laguna
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus León
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Sinaloa
 Tecnológico de Monterrey – Campus Sonora Norte
 Tennessee Technological University
 Texas A&M University
 The Catholic University of America
 The College of Wooster
 The New School
 The University of Arizona
 The University of New Mexico
 Trinity College (CT)
 Tulane University
 UMass Chan Medical School
 Universidad de Monterrey
 Universidad Tecnológica del Uruguay
 Université du Québec à Montréal
 Université TÉLUQ
 University of Central Florida
 University of Delaware
 University of Denver
 University of Hawaii at Manoa
 University of Houston
 University of Illinois Chicago
 University of Kentucky
 University of Maryland, Baltimore
 University of Massachusetts Boston
 University of Minnesota, Rochester
 University of Nebraska at Omaha
 University of New Brunswick
 University of New England
 University of North Carolina Pembroke

Fresh and local produce delivered to Tulane University's dining service provider by Williams Produce. Photo credit: Tulane University



University of North Carolina, Greensboro
 University of North Carolina, Wilmington
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Puget Sound
 University of Rochester
 University of Saskatchewan
 University of Tennessee at Knoxville
 University of the Incarnate Word
 University of the Pacific
 University of Western Australia
 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
 University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
 University of Wisconsin-Platteville
 Utah State University
 Washington and Lee University
 West Chester University
 Western Kentucky University
 Western Washington University
 Whitman College

Bronze



American University of Central Asia
Austin Peay State University
Bellarmine University
Christopher Newport University
Claremont McKenna College
Fordham University
Fullerton College
Idaho State University
John Carroll University
Justice Institute of British Columbia
Lewis University
Loyola University Maryland
Messiah University
MGH Institute of Health Professions
Modesto Junior College
Northern Illinois University

Oakton College
Ocean County College
Palomar College
Quinnipiac University
Salisbury University
Salve Regina University
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
St. Thomas University (NB)
Universidad Científica del Sur
University of Hawaii Honolulu Community College
University of North Florida
University of North Georgia
University of South Dakota
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Wentworth Institute of Technology

American University of Central Asia staff participate in a tree planting activity. Photo credit: American University of Central Asia.



Reporter Designation



American University in Cairo
Bowling Green State University
Budapest Business University
Case Western Reserve University
City University of New York, College of Staten
Island
Colby College
College of William & Mary
Earlham College
Florida Institute of Technology
Franklin University Switzerland
Hillsborough Community College
Lewis & Clark College
Occidental College
Okanagan College
Pace University
Pomona College

Rollins College
Rowan University
Saint Peter's University
St. John's University, New York
Stonehill College
The City College of New York
Union College - NY
University of Alabama
University of Mary Washington
University of Oklahoma
Ursinus College
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Warren Wilson College
Worcester State University
Xavier University

Earth Day Farmer's Market at Vanderbilt University's Rand Dining Center. Photo credit: Dani Garcia



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.

George Washington University students assist with Green Move-Out, an annual effort where ~50,000 pounds of goods are donated to nonprofit organizations. Photo credit: George Washington University



2026 Sustainable Campus Index

Released September 8, 2026

©Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

Content, analysis & design by Monika Urbanski, AASHE Senior Manager of Data Quality, Resources & Publications

Editing, curating, and other contributions by Julian Dautremont, AASHE Director of Programs; Robin Frederick, AASHE STARS & Resources Intern; and Crystal Simmons, Bulletin Editor & Program Manager

www.aashe.org • stars.aashe.org