

Sustainable Campus Index

2016 Top Performers & Highlights



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On the Cover

Pomona College is a bicycle-friendly campus with 1,600 bike racks and over 300 *Green Bikes* available for checkout during the school year for free. Students often bike, skateboard, and walk to classes at Pomona College or one of the other Claremont Colleges.

Other images throughout this publication are provided courtesy of STARS top performing and highlighted institutions. We are grateful to the 80 colleges and universities that shared images with us and to all of the institutions that have demonstrated their sustainability commitment by participating in STARS.

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Introduction

About the Index

The 2016 Sustainable Campus Index (SCI) recognizes top-performing colleges and universities in 17 distinct aspects of sustainability, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). In response to feedback, this year's publication also includes a new section on top performers overall by institution type (Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral/Research). In addition, this report highlights innovative and high-impact initiatives from institutions that submitted STARS reports in the 12 months prior to July 1, 2016.

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 included in STARS span the breadth of higher education sustainability and are organized into four categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration. As of July 2016, 637 STARS reports have been submitted by 398 institutions in 9 countries. All reports are publicly accessible on the STARS website. Visit stars.aashe.org to learn more.



Top Performers by Topic



The Campus Day of Service at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry strengthens ties between the college and the community. Photo credit: Wendy P. Osborne

The 2016 SCI recognizes top-performing colleges and universities in 17 distinct aspects of sustainability related to academics, engagement, operations, and administration. These lists are determined based on STARS subcategory scores, and include institutions that have a valid STARS report submitted between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2016.

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Curriculum



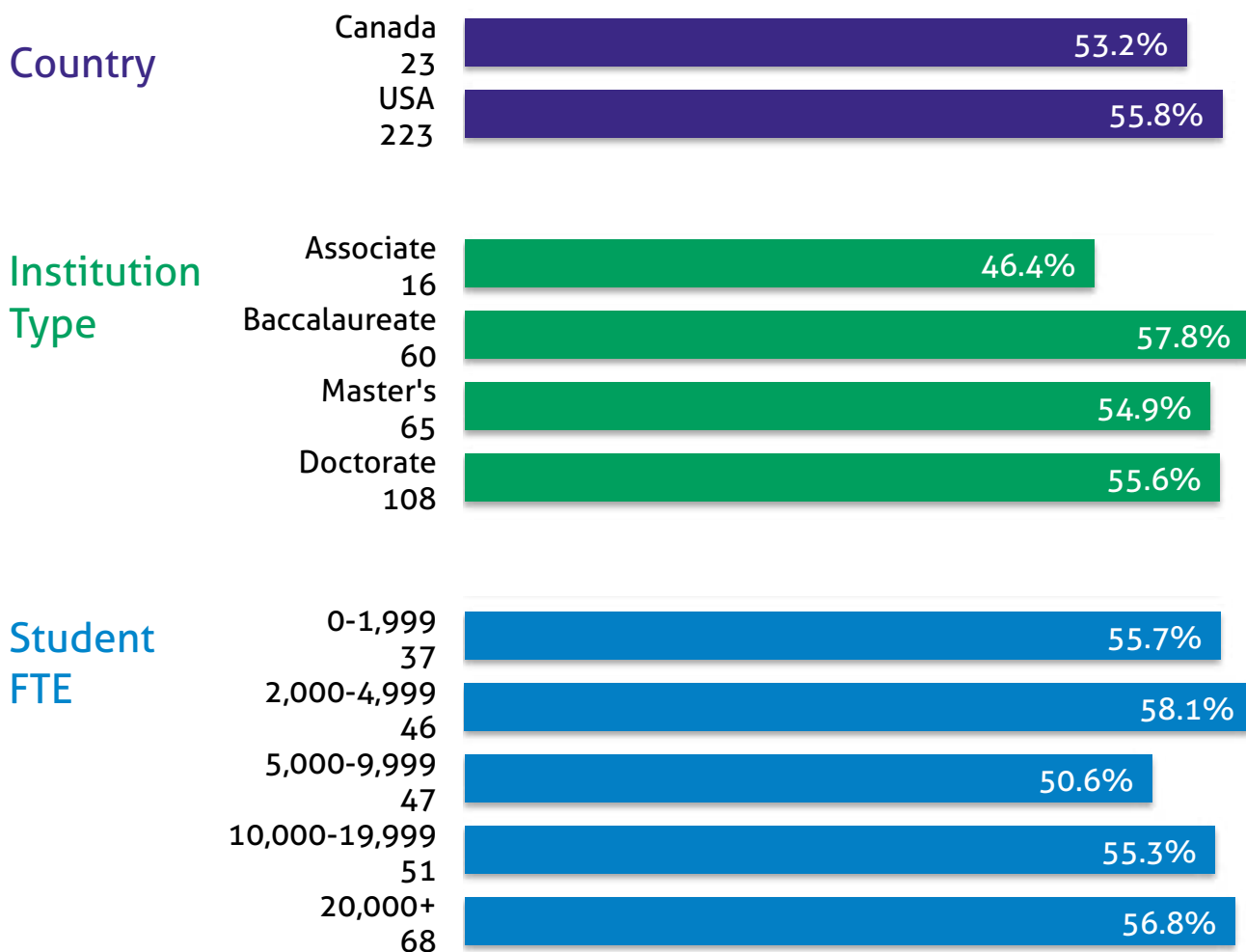
Students at American College of Greece.

Higher education institutions are uniquely positioned to understand and address sustainability challenges. Colleges and universities help equip students to lead society to a sustainable future by conducting faculty development in sustainability and offering courses, degree programs, and other learning opportunities in sustainability such as living laboratory initiatives, immersive experiences, and sustainability literacy.

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Green Mountain College	99.5%	Baccalaureate	Poultney, VT
2. Appalachian State University	95.6%	Master's	Boone, NC
3. Sterling College	92.5%	Baccalaureate	Craftsbury Common, VT
4. Colorado State University	92.3%	Doctorate	Fort Collins, CO
5. Babson College	90.9%	Baccalaureate	Wellesley, MA

Average Scores



Highlights

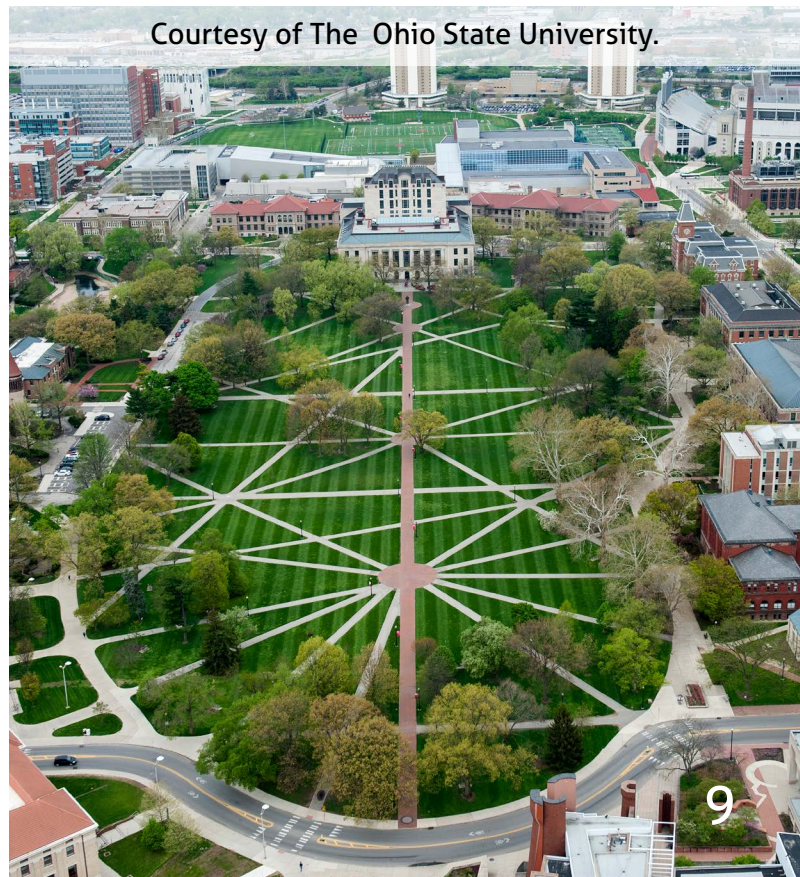
Project Sin Fronteras at [University of Texas Rio Grande Valley](#) is a project without borders, crossing institutional boundaries and international borders, while transforming sustainability concepts and practices into enriched curriculum and research. This faculty development program provides a two-pronged approach to education for sustainable development by: 1) providing participants with information and skills to produce new or revised sustainability focused or related courses, and by 2) promoting collaborative, interdisciplinary service learning projects and connecting student and faculty research with community and study abroad projects. To date over 300 courses have been included in UTRGV academics, supporting the creation of new programs in sustainable food systems, disaster studies, and more, with new sustainability influenced programs currently under development.

[The Ohio State University](#) selected three [Discovery Theme](#) programs that are working to promote the research, teaching, and engagement surrounding sustainability issues and focus on critical societal needs. The three sustainability-focused themes include Food and Agricultural Transformation, Materials and Manufacturing for Sustainability, and Sustainable and Resilient Economy. The three programs are hiring faculty explicitly to enhance Ohio State's expertise and impact within and across the Discovery Themes. Collectively, these Discovery Theme programs are enhancing the teaching and learning of sustainability issues for Ohio State students, while advancing solutions to global sustainability challenges.

UTRGV students walk on campus for the first day of classes. Photo credit: Paul Chouy



Courtesy of The Ohio State University.



Highlights

The Environmental Technology Spring Field Semester and Camp for first year students at [Camosun College](#) consists of a series of courses which culminates in a week-long field camp. Included are sections on safety in the environment, geographic and aquatic field techniques, soils, and environmental horticulture. Students visit a first nations cultural centre to learn how traditional knowledge and science balance with sustainable resource management. Students also learn about sustainable forestry practices and the fisheries industry. Field Camp focuses on techniques used in forestry, meteorology, fisheries, wildlife management, limnology, and coastal marine assessment. The camp has moved completely off the grid and uses a solar power generator and solar panel as a charging station for student electronics and as a teaching tool.

At [Oregon State University](#), many engineering students are seeking ways to make a lasting impact on our world. In response to this demand, a diverse group of faculty from engineering, humanities, public health, and forestry has worked together to launch OSU's [humanitarian engineering program](#). The program stands out as one that is firmly rooted in academic curriculum (as opposed to being primarily an extracurricular activity) and because of the dedicated involvement of faculty outside of engineering. It is also one of the only Humanitarian Engineering programs co-located with a Peace Corps Master's International program in engineering. Recent projects with positive measurable impacts include modeling tools for micro-hydro development in Pakistan and ground-sensing stations for an international trans-African hydro-meteorological observatory.

Oregon State University student Grace Bureson teaches a group of people in Uganda during her internship.





Researcher in a Stanford University lab. Photo credit: Linda Cicero

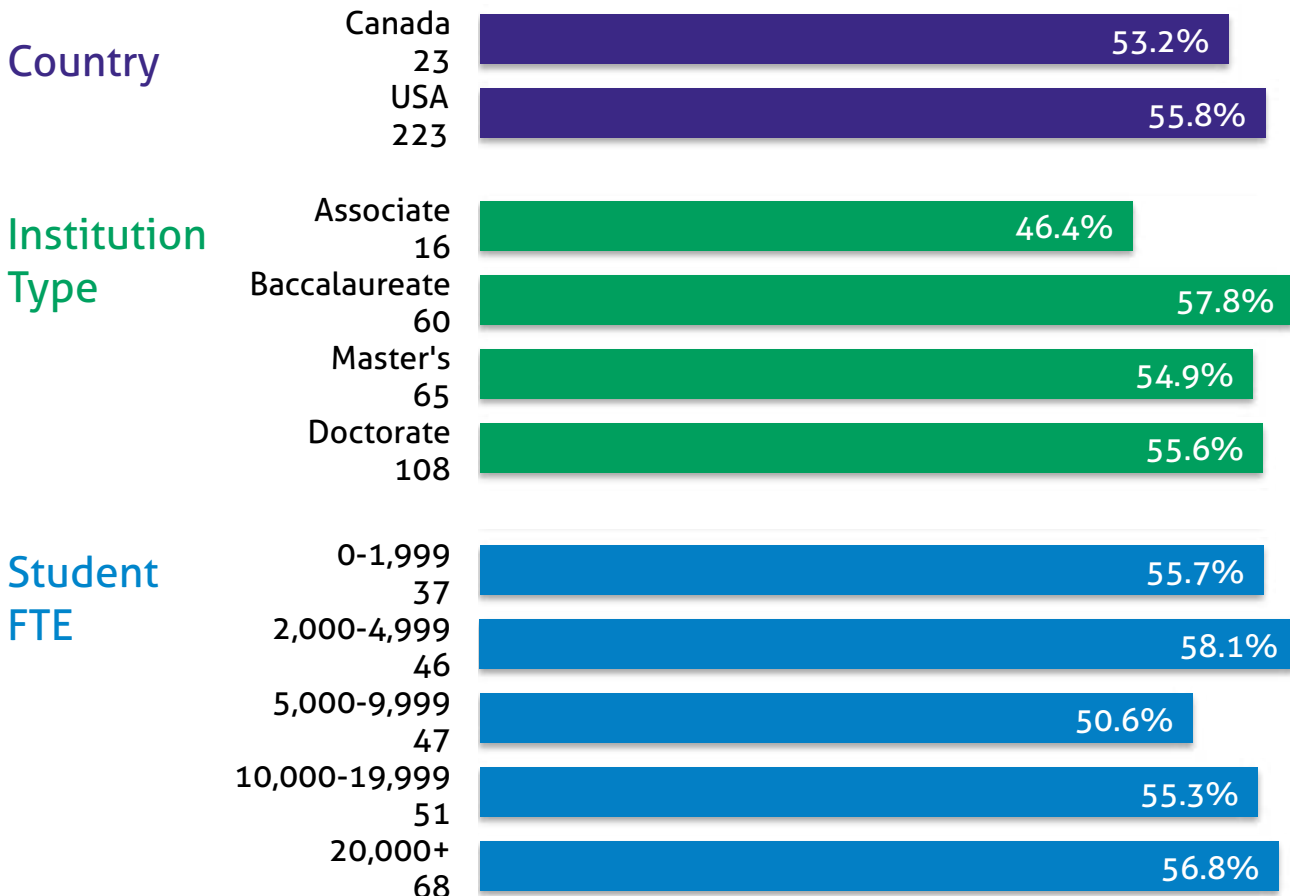
By researching sustainability issues and refining theories and concepts, higher education institutions can continue to help the world understand sustainability challenges and develop new technologies, strategies, and approaches to address those challenges. This section covers faculty and department sustainability research and open access policies.

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
Colorado State University	100%	Doctorate	Fort Collins, CO
Columbia University	100%	Doctorate	New York, NY
Florida Gulf Coast University	100%	Master's	Fort Myers, FL
George Washington University	100%	Doctorate	Washington, DC
Stanford University	100%	Doctorate	Stanford, CA
SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry	100%	Doctorate	Syracuse, NY
University of Connecticut	100%	Doctorate	Storrs, CT

Includes all institutions that pursued all Research credits and earned 100% of points available.

Average Scores



Counts are lower because many Associate's colleges indicated "Not Applicable" for all Research credits.

Research Highlights

Tulane University has sponsored a [water innovation challenge](#) with a \$1 million prize to be awarded to the team or individual that creates a significant and workable solution to hypoxia, which causes “dead zones” in the Gulf of Mexico and other fragile coastal and inland lake ecosystems throughout the world. As of 2014, the University finalized the competition details and began inviting entrepreneurs, researchers, and inventors worldwide to participate in the prize competition. This competition is based on the belief that a market based solution which rewards innovation and risk taking has the potential to create a sustainable and significant new technology for addressing hypoxia.

The [Institut EDDEC](#) supports and promotes research, education, action, and outreach on the themes of environment, sustainable development, and the circular economy on [Polytechnique Montréal](#), Université de Montréal, and HEC Montréal campuses. The Institut pools experience from over seventy researchers from all disciplines studying various facets of the circular economy. In August 2015, the Institut pioneered the creation of a committee composed of fifteen strategic stakeholders working on the transition toward a circular economy in the province of Quebec and to ensure dialogue with civil society. In addition to having supported the development of new graduate programs incorporating circular economy, in May 2016, the Institute launched its first Circular Economy Summer School.



EDDEC Institute, Polytechnique Montréal.
Photo credit: Amélie Philibert.

Highlights

The [California State University, Los Angeles](#) Hydrogen Research and Fueling Facility ([H2 Station](#)) opened on May 7, 2014. The station is capable of producing hydrogen onsite from 100% renewable energy sources. It is one of only a few such stations in the US. In 2015, the facility became the first station in the world to sell hydrogen fuel by the kilogram to the public, a milestone in the commercialization of hydrogen in preparation for the next generation of fuel cell electric vehicles. 85% of visitors to the station are students, and in the last 18 months more than 10,000 people have visited. In the near future, the station will provide fuel for two university-owned hydrogen shuttles that will transport students to various locations. (Funded by CA Energy Commission).

Cal State LA Hydrogen Research & Fueling Facility and two campus hydrogen FCEV's operated by Commuter Services (left) and Public Safety (right); October, 2015.
Photo credit: Cal State LA



Highlights

Mohawk College is one of only four Associate colleges pursuing Research credits in STARS and among a handful with a sustainability-focused research center. The **Mohawk Energy Research Centre** team includes highly specialized PhD researchers, professional engineers, technologists, technicians, and co-op students who work to evaluate, develop, and refine technologies required for modernization of electrical power systems. Major research areas being addressed by the Energy group include smart grids/microgrids, industrial networking, power quality, and energy storage systems. The college's iDeaWORKS program offers local businesses and not-for-profit organizations the opportunity to work with teams of Mohawk faculty and students to find innovative solutions to real-world challenges.

In 2015, **Boston University** initiated the **Climate Ready** program to assess the potential impacts of climate change in the Boston area and explore preparation strategies. Boston University conducted an initial vulnerability assessment addressing the impacts of flooding, higher temperatures, and more intense storms. The team included a working group of University stakeholders as well as a research team comprised of sustainability@BU staff, emergency planning staff, GIS graduate interns, and climate research faculty. This study identified a previously unknown area where water could enter the city during high water levels. This research has been disseminated to both University and City of Boston stakeholders. Other members of the Climate Ready initiative include Harvard University, MIT, University of Massachusetts Boston, and Boston Architectural College.

An Engineering Technology student monitors a solar panel as part of the Mohawk Energy Research Centre (MERC). Photo credit: Mohawk College





The Green Campus Initiative (GCI) is a student club that works to make the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry more sustainable and fosters a culture of awareness and action. Photo credit: Wendy P. Osborne

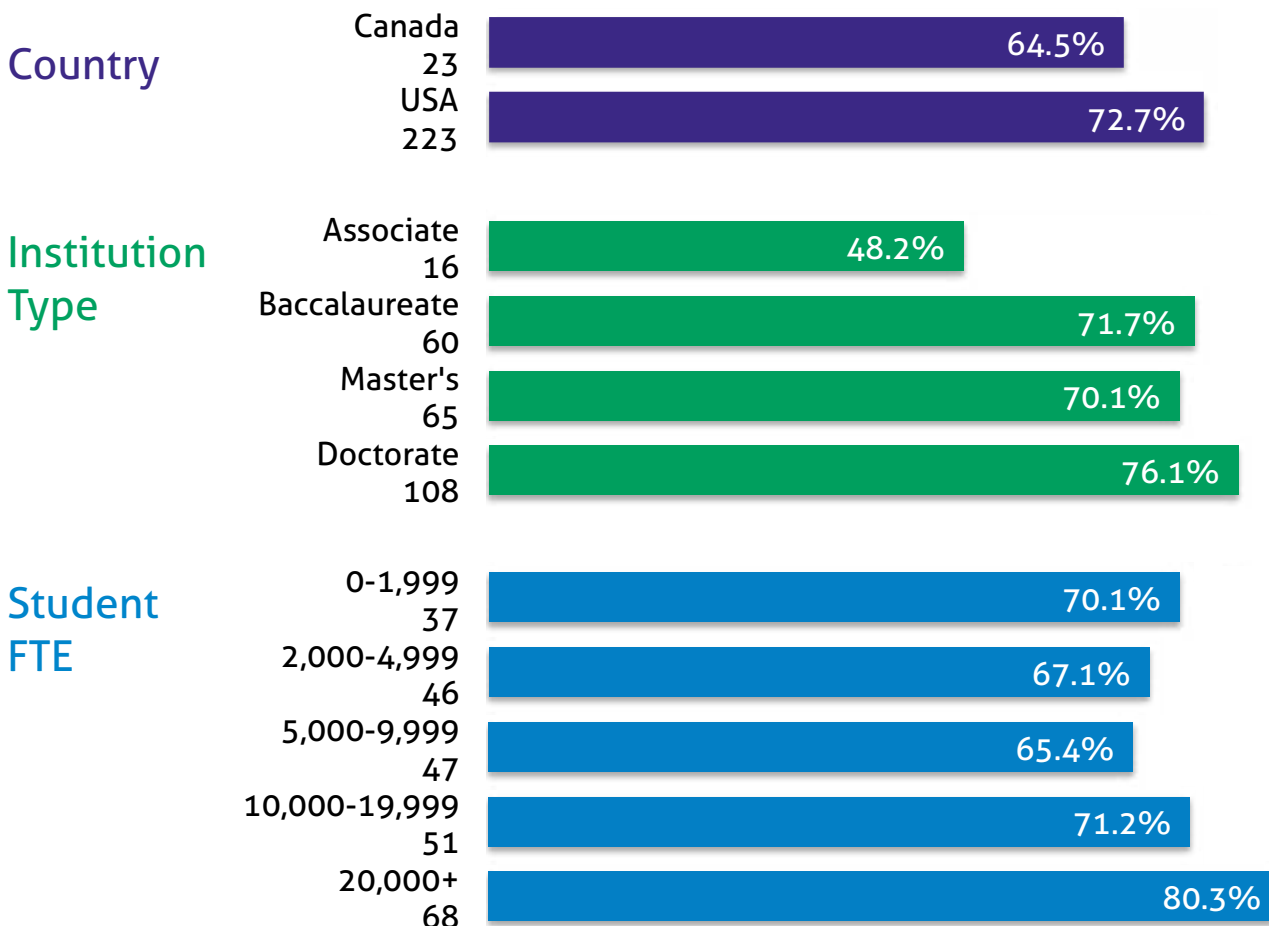
Engaging in sustainability through co-curricular activities allows students to deepen and apply their understandings of sustainability principles. Co-curricular sustainability offerings help integrate sustainability into the campus culture and set a positive tone for the institution. Equipping faculty and staff with the tools, knowledge, and motivation to adopt behavior changes that promote sustainability is also an essential activity of a sustainable campus.

Top Performers

Forty institutions demonstrated significant leadership in campus engagement by earning full points in the Campus Engagement section of STARS. Due to the extensiveness of the list, this year's report does not include a top performers list, but AASHE members can access the [Campus Engagement STARS Score Display](#) to view detailed scoring information.

The credits and scoring methodologies included in STARS 2.0 made it challenging to distinguish top performance in this area. New credits and standards were introduced with STARS 2.1 that better recognize top performance and create greater variation in scoring. A new *Assessing Sustainability Culture* credit was introduced, and standards were expanded in *Staff Professional Development*, allowing partial points for the credit. Future SCI reports will include Campus Engagement top performers among 2.1 reports only.

Average Scores



Highlights

The [Boreas Leadership Program](#) at [University of Minnesota, Twin Cities](#) trains and develops the next generation of world changers to catalyze social and environmental solutions. Boreas offers co-curricular leadership development opportunities to any University of Minnesota graduate student through the Institute on the Environment. Leadership skills workshops are offered in the areas of communications and media, integrative leadership, public skills, and systems thinking. The program also offers a weekly event to meet community environmental leaders and discuss leadership topics. Since its formation, Boreas has worked with over 250 students from 16 of the 17 academic units on the Twin Cities campus. Over 70 different workshops have been offered, with more than 800 attendees. Over 35 community leaders have interacted with Boreas graduate students through the program.

University of Minnesota Boreas Leadership Program.
Photo credit: Sarah Karnas



The [Bowdoin College](#) sustainability office and [Green Athletics student group](#) work closely on the Green Athletics Team Challenge, which encourages sports teams to commit to sustainability goals and compete against each other for an annual Athletic Department award and cash prize. The team challenges range from using reusable water bottles and recycling on trips to taking shorter showers and going trayless in the dining halls. The Challenge began during the 2014-2015 academic year and had a very successful first year, with 14 teams completing all of their challenges and over 22 teams completing at least one. About 60% of Bowdoin students participate in varsity or intramural sports, and this new initiative allows the sustainability office to engage with student athletes in a fun and competitive way.

Bowdoin Green Athletics and Sustainable Bowdoin work together to compost waste from Homecoming.



Highlights

The Office of Environmental Sustainability at [University at Albany](#) established a formal mechanism to integrate sustainability into the residential life experience of all students living on campus. A committee was established with a professional Residential Director (RD) from each living area on campus (five quads, three apartment complexes). This committee meets bi-weekly to discuss programming and communications related to student sustainability behavior change initiatives. The RDs then work with student staff to encourage participation from all students living on campus. Recent successful initiatives include the Energy Campaign, RecycleMania, and the Give and Go. The Office of Environmental Sustainability also worked with Residential Life to integrate sustainability into each Residential Assistant position.

[University of California, Riverside](#) has more than 900 laboratories on campus, which typically consume 5 times more energy than classroom or office space. The UCR [Green Lab Program](#) develops behavior change communication campaigns to minimize energy, water, and material goods usage without compromising research integrity or efficiency. The program also encourages the development of energy efficient equipment with scientific companies and seeks funding to incentivize retrofits that save water and energy. UC Riverside is currently running one of the largest laboratory equipment metering projects in the US and is also the first campus in the US to meter the water usage of its autoclaves and sterilizers. The university has also begun a pilot recycling program to divert laboratory waste from landfill.

University at Albany's Harvest Festival
Photo credit: Mary Ellen Mallia



UC Riverside PhD student recycles a glove box next to an energy efficient ULT. Photo credit: Kris Lovekin



Highlights

The [Sustainability Alumni Network](#) at [Lehigh University](#) provides a means for alumni, faculty, students, and staff to connect with one another based on their mutual interest in and commitment to sustainability. The group's mission is to generate a network of individuals and organizations that will advise the University of the most effective strategies and programs required to be a continuing resource for sustainability professionals. Goals of the group include organizing and executing an annual LU Sustainability Networking Event, providing a platform for sustainability-oriented professional development and idea sharing, and administering a sustainability fund in conjunction with the Office of Advancement and Office of Sustainability.



Earth Day at Lehigh University.



Public Engagement



Members of the Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable discuss different sustainability strategies at the Sustainability, Management and Resource Tradeshow at the University at Buffalo.

Engagement in community problem-solving is fundamental to sustainability. By engaging with community members and organizations in the governmental, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors, institutions can help solve sustainability challenges. Community engagement can help students develop leadership skills while deepening their understandings of practical, real-world problems and the process of creating solutions.

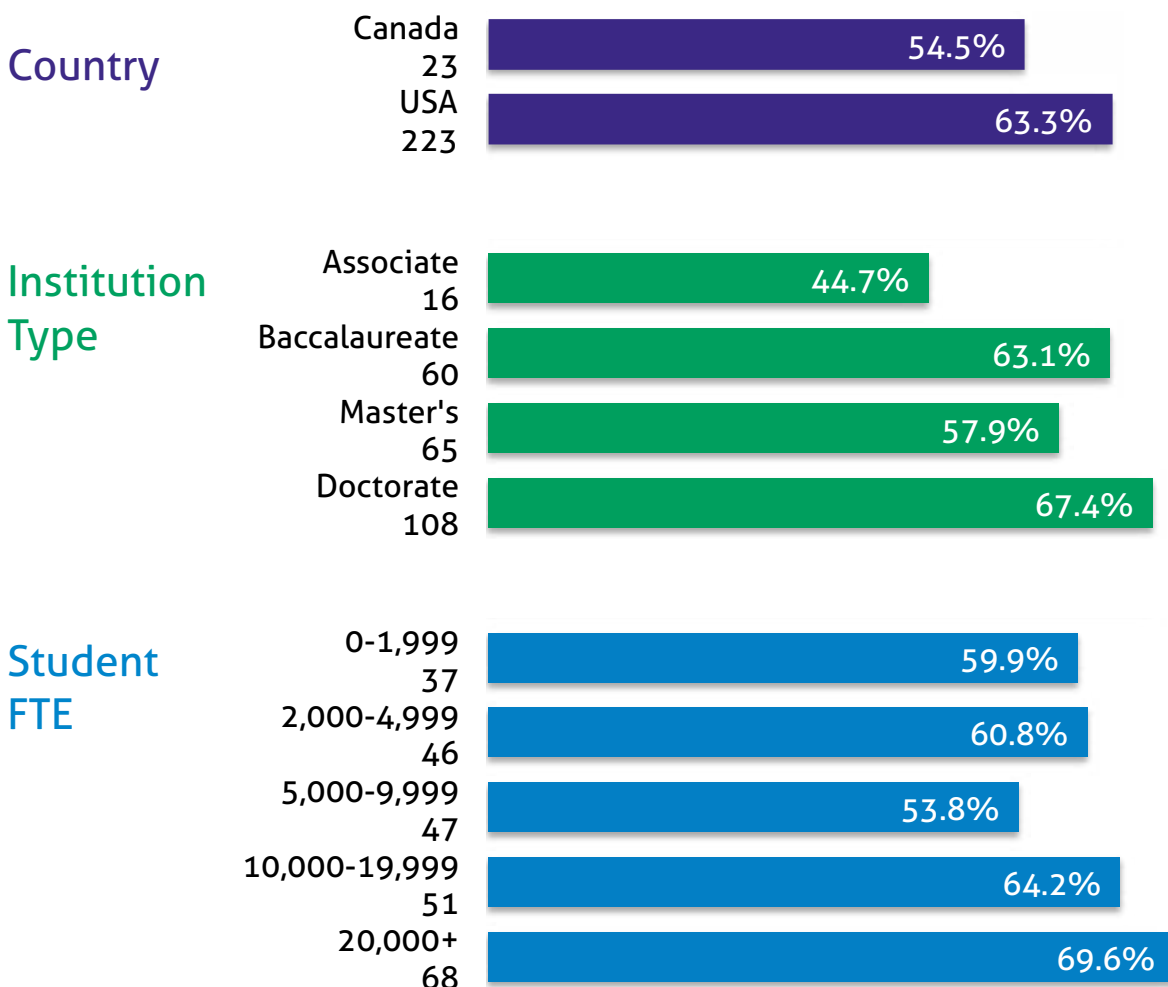


Public Engagement

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Colorado State University	97.9%	Doctorate	Fort Collins, CO
2. Denison University	96.2%	Baccalaureate	Granville, OH
3. University of North Carolina at Greensboro	95.0%	Doctorate	Greensboro, NC
4. Western Michigan University	94.3%	Doctorate	Kalamazoo, MI
5. University of California, Riverside	94.1%	Doctorate	Riverside, CA

Average Scores





Public Engagement

Highlights

In December 2015, [University of Connecticut](#) organized a trip to Paris, France for 12 students, four faculty, and two sustainability officers to attend events related to the 21st annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP21). The trip was financed by the University and was made possible due to efforts between faculty and the staff to design an educational programming plan aligned with the values and mission of the University. Among the events attended was a higher education networking event that the University arranged and co-hosted along with Second Nature, the Kedge Business School in Marseille and AASHE. Students who attended the trip have each proposed and pursued projects through which they can engage the larger UConn community in issues related to sustainability and climate change and to educate their peers about the lessons they learned as a result of the [UConn@COP21 experience](#).

The [University at Buffalo](#) initiated a partnership in recent years with Erie County and a small group of key business leaders throughout the region to assess the feasibility of creating a green business association that would work to build a greater synergy across the business sector in Buffalo Niagara to advance green practices. A year's worth of stakeholder engagement (by specifically holding focus groups, performing marketing analysis, interviews, and broad outreach to the business community) led to the launch of the Western New York [Sustainable Business Roundtable](#) (WNY-SBR) in 2014. Membership in the WNY-SBR requires a signed pledge from the highest level of the organization and the creation of a plan appropriate for the business within 12 months of signing this pledge of support. Since the WNY-SBR launched, membership has grown to nearly 50 businesses, and 21 sustainability plans have been posted on the website.



University at Buffalo's Chief Sustainability Officer, Ryan McPherson addressing members of the Sustainable Business Roundtable.

Public Engagement

Highlights

The [State of the Basin](#) is a [Selkirk College](#) Rural Development Institute initiative to monitor and report on information relating to wellbeing in the Columbia Basin-Boundary region. The State of the Basin report provides research on economic, social, cultural, and environmental conditions and trends. The primary goal of the project is to provide access to the data communities need to make decisions that lead to greater regional wellbeing. Recent measurable outcomes include release of the 2015 State of the Basin Report, development of a regional digital data portal with interactive GIS mapping, and the establishment of research priorities based on report findings and data analysis.

The [Emergent Media Center](#) (EMC) at [Champlain College](#) is a laboratory/studio environment in which students work with partnering organizations to create transformative media approaches to games, social media, mobile, and digital platforms on topics that include social causes. The EMC was founded upon the belief that media communication plays a pivotal role in addressing real-world problems, while recognizing that technology alone isn't an answer. EMC collaborations include Ford Foundation, IBM, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the United Nations. Summer 2016 projects included creating a film campaign for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for the implementation of a Universal Recycling Law, and a Climate Change Game Brainstorm, co-hosted by Smarter Shift, a Canada-based climate and energy communications firm.

Dr. Terri MacDonald presents at the Applied Research & Innovation Centre-Rural Development Institute. Photo credit: Sharon Stoddart



EMC team capturing an interview for video on Vermont recycling initiatives. Photo credit: Adam Walker





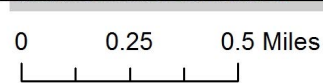
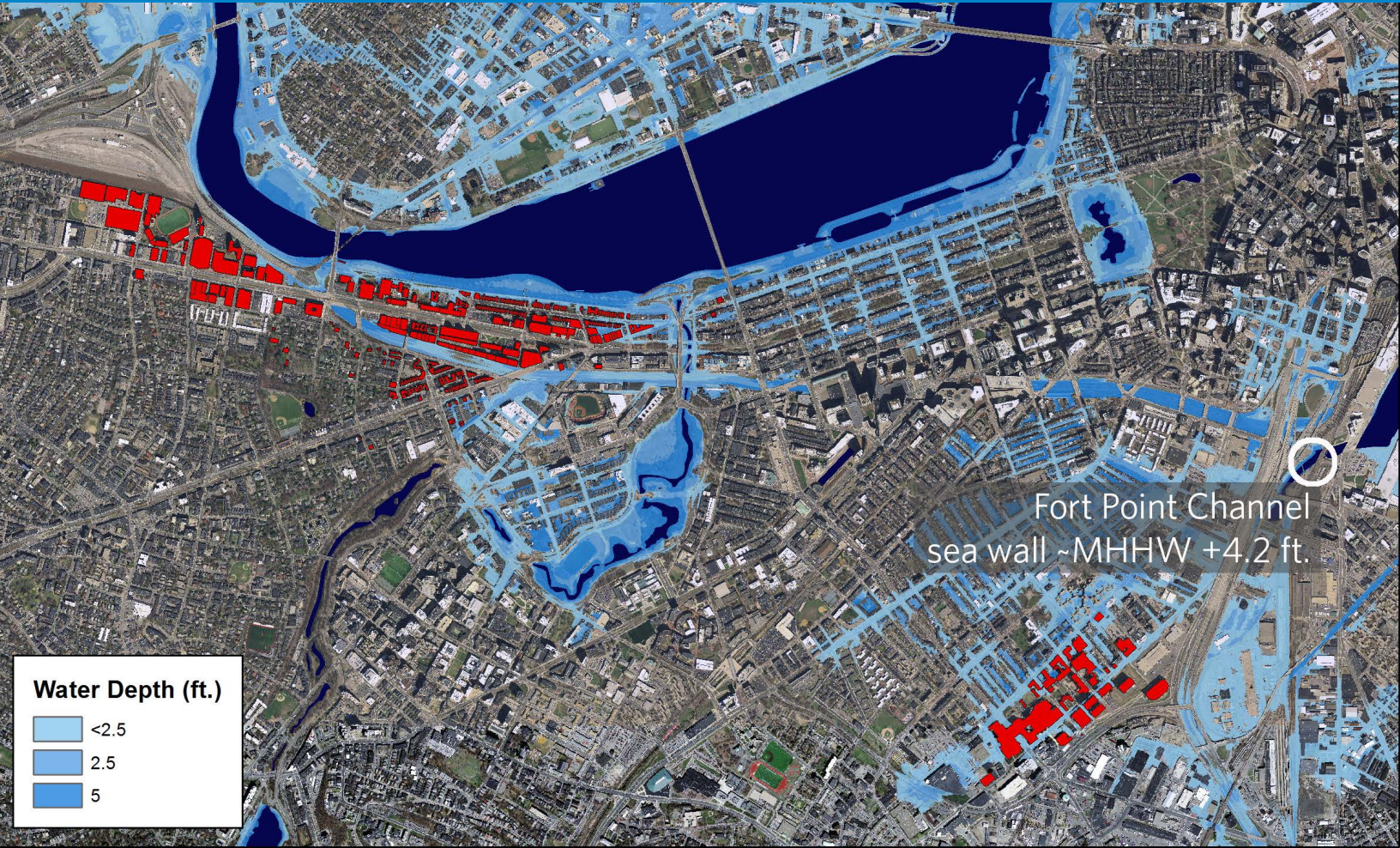
Public Engagement

Highlights

The [Elon Experiences Transcript \(EET\)](#) at [Elon University](#) is a co-curricular transcript kept for all undergraduate students, which documents participation in the five program areas that make up the Elon Experiences: Leadership, Service, Internships, Global Engagement, and Undergraduate Research. Service is validated by the Kernodle Center for Service Learning & Community Engagement and linked to a student's EET. Each entry on a student's EET lists the semester, year, service location and number of hours. Elon requires all undergraduate students to complete two units of experiential learning as part of the [Experiential Learning Requirement \(ELR\)](#). Students complete the ELR by being an intern, studying abroad or through Study USA, conducting independent research, taking part in a service-learning project or course, holding a leadership position, or other approved learning experiences. Elon also offers Service Sabbaticals to employees to work at a community organization for up to one month.

Elon students working at Environmental Center at Loy Farm.
Courtesy of Elon University





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GIS Model for Five Feet of Sea Level Rise in the Boston area. Photo credit: sustainability@BU

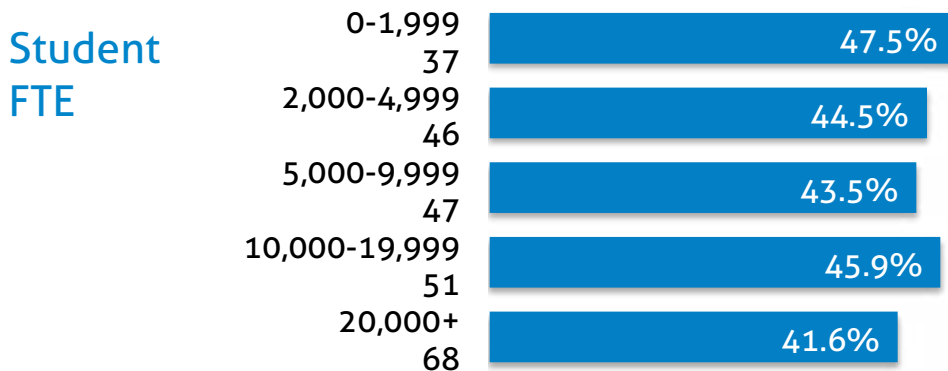
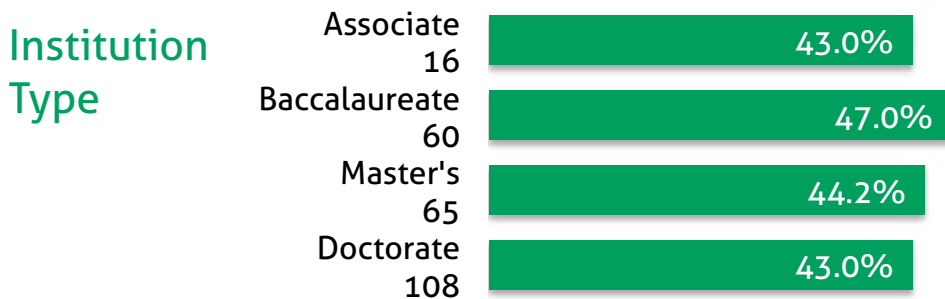
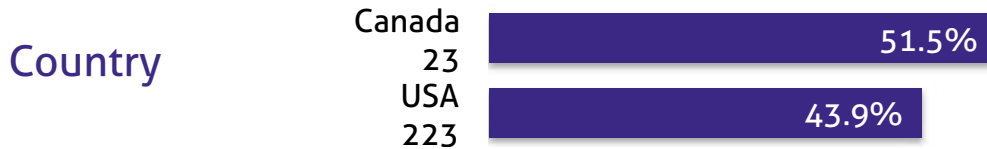
Global climate change is having myriad negative impacts throughout the world, including increased frequency and potency of extreme weather events, sea level rise, species extinction, water shortages, declining agricultural production, and spread of diseases. The impacts are particularly pronounced for low-income communities and countries. Institutions that inventory and take steps to reduce their air pollutant emissions can positively impact the health of the campus community, as well as the health of their local communities and regions.



Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Colby College (tie)	98.5%	Baccalaureate	Waterville, ME
1. Green Mountain College (tie)	98.5%	Baccalaureate	Poultney, VT
1. Haverford College (tie)	98.5%	Baccalaureate	Haverford, PA
4. University of British Columbia	97.0%	Doctorate	Vancouver, BC (Canada)
5. University of Victoria	93.9%	Doctorate	Victoria, BC (Canada)

Average Scores



Highlights

Ball State University has piloted a new [methodology](#) by which colleges and universities can qualify their carbon reductions for transaction in the voluntary carbon market (VCM). Under this initiative, Chevrolet (originating funder) committed to the purchase of carbon reduction credits from institutions with the intent of retiring them against the climate. After nearly four years of development in collaboration with the Climate Neutral Business Network, a methodology accredited by Verified Carbon Standard now exists for use by colleges and universities in establishing the validity and verification of carbon reductions for transaction in the VCM. An agreement executed this year with Second Nature will permit some 700 signatories to the Second Nature Carbon Commitment Purchasing Program to embark upon participation in VCM as a way to aggregate funds to drive carbon reductions.

The Campus Sustainability Office at **Portland State University** has created a [travel offset program](#) designed to help mitigate the greenhouse gas impacts of University business travel by investing in on-campus emissions reductions. University travel was responsible for 7922 MTCO₂e (approximately 6% of total campus emissions) in FY 2014. Rather than buy 3rd party offsets that invest in off-site carbon reductions, the University invested in campus efficiency improvements through its Green Revolving fund. Additionally, the approximate price per ton of carbon (\$30) is more in line with the Obama administration's estimated Social Cost of Carbon (\$36/ton). 19 campus departments (containing 500+ staff) participated with 2% of total travel expenditures allocated to the Green Revolving Fund, supporting more than 10 efficiency projects.

Monitoring a solar powered instrument well of a geothermal project at Ball State University.
Photo credit: BSU CERES



Eco-roof at the Broadway Residence Hall, Portland State University



Highlights

The [University of California, Santa Cruz](#) developed a comprehensive Climate & Energy Strategy (CES) and Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality by 2025. The goals of the CES were to develop a plan for achieving carbon neutrality for Scopes 1 & 2 GHG emissions by 2025, and mitigating the impacts of cap & trade regulation associated with campus growth. To develop the roadmap, all energy measures were input into a custom-built techno-economic scenario analysis tool, which generates metrics such as emissions savings, net present value, savings-to-investment ratio, cash flow, and cost/MT CO₂e through 2055. The CES Team developed 50+ scenarios, analyzed the results, formulated strategies and recommendations, and developed a dynamic plan for implementation. This plan is a living document that evolves as market conditions change, projects are added, and best practices are refined.

[St. John's University](#) is a signatory of the [NYC Carbon Challenge](#), a commitment to reduce the city's carbon footprint by 30% by 2017. SJU accomplishments to date include a 24% carbon reduction below its 2007 baseline year. In 2009, SJU implemented a web-based utility tracking system to track all of its 220 utility accounts. In 2010, SJU began monitoring the energy consumption of nine buildings on Building Dashboard by Lucid Design. Then, in 2015 SJU increased its Building Dashboard to 27 buildings on its main campus. Between 2010 and 2015, SJU implemented 45 energy conservation measures valued at \$25 million. SJU is focusing on energy-efficient operations along with energy upgrades.

UC Santa Cruz convenes staff, students, and faculty to discuss carbon neutrality. Photo credit: David Phillips



ROTC student cadets install LED lamps in the Bread & Life soup kitchen at St. John's University.





Buildings



The Learning Exchange at Mohawk College is LEED Gold Certified, incorporating technologies that reduce energy consumption. Building systems are exposed to create a living lab for students.

Buildings are generally the largest user of energy and the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions on campuses. Buildings also use significant amounts of potable water. Institutions can design, build, and maintain buildings in ways that provide a safe and healthy indoor environment for inhabitants while simultaneously mitigating the building's impact on the outdoor environment. This section covers maintenance and operations of existing buildings as well as new building design and construction.

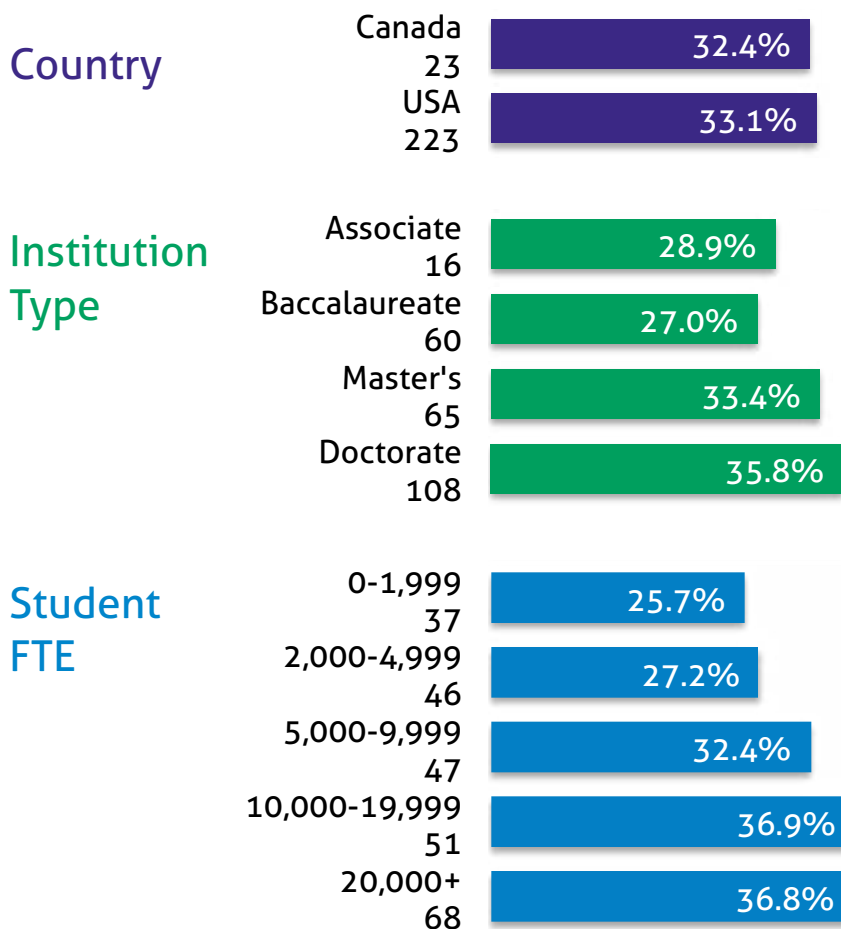


Buildings

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Stanford University	64.1%	Doctorate	Stanford, CA
2. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	62.3%	Doctorate	Urbana, IL
3. University of Minnesota, Morris	60.3%	Baccalaureate	Morris, MN
4. University of Wisconsin-River Falls	60.1%	Master's	River Falls, WI
5. American University (tie)	59.4%	Doctorate	Washington, DC
5. California State University, Sacramento (tie)	59.4%	Master's	Sacramento, CA
5. Appalachian State University (tie)	59.4%	Master's	Boone, NC

Average Scores





Buildings

Highlights

The Millikan building at [Pomona College](#) achieved LEED Platinum certification and is the first US higher education building to feature the LEED Dynamic Plaque™. Situated on the wall in the main hallway, the [dynamic plaque](#) measures, monitors, and scores Millikan's real-time building performance. Every 10 minutes, the plaque recalibrates the LEED score based on the current energy and water use for the building, and waste points are calculated through regular waste audits. Since the installation of the plaque, the score for the building has increased from 89 to 97 points. When water usage spiked in August 2015, occupants became more engaged, and the following month, water usage was reduced and has remained low. Occupants have also engaged with the dynamic transportation survey feature.

In 2016, [Stanford University](#) launched a home-grown Building Sustainability Rating System that evaluates building sustainability performance in six categories: energy, water, waste, transportation, purchasing, and occupant engagement. Each category has a target performance, and the building's rating is based on how close the building is to achieving the targets. The six categories are combined into a weighted average to derive a building's overall performance rating, and buildings are assigned a color based on this rating. 'Green' buildings are within 90% of the target, whereas 'Red' buildings are less than halfway to meeting their target. Over 100 Stanford buildings have been rated through this system, comprising over 8 million square feet of building space. The ratings will be publicly available by the end of 2016.

Pomona College's Millikan Laboratory features the LEED Dynamic Plaque in the main entryway, engaging faculty, staff, students and visitors. Photo credit: Jeffrey Hing



Stanford University Sustainability Specialist, Moira Hafer, trains building occupants on how to use a smart power strip to save energy at their work stations.





Buildings

Highlights

The [Spartan Treasure Hunt](#) at [Michigan State University](#) is an event in which Infrastructure Planning and Facilities (IPF) staff, subject matter experts, and building occupants break up into teams, tour a campus building, and identify opportunities to increase energy efficiency and other building system improvements. Through observation, measurement, and inquiry, the teams produce a list of resource-saving opportunities. Opportunities that are identified are then validated by the IPF commissioning team to calculate energy savings, feasibility, and ROI. These findings are prioritized, sorted into funding streams, and implemented in strategic order. Derived from General Electric and lean manufacturing, this “go and see” process has been adapted to suit the needs of the University. The event also helps foster relationship building between facilities staff and building occupants.

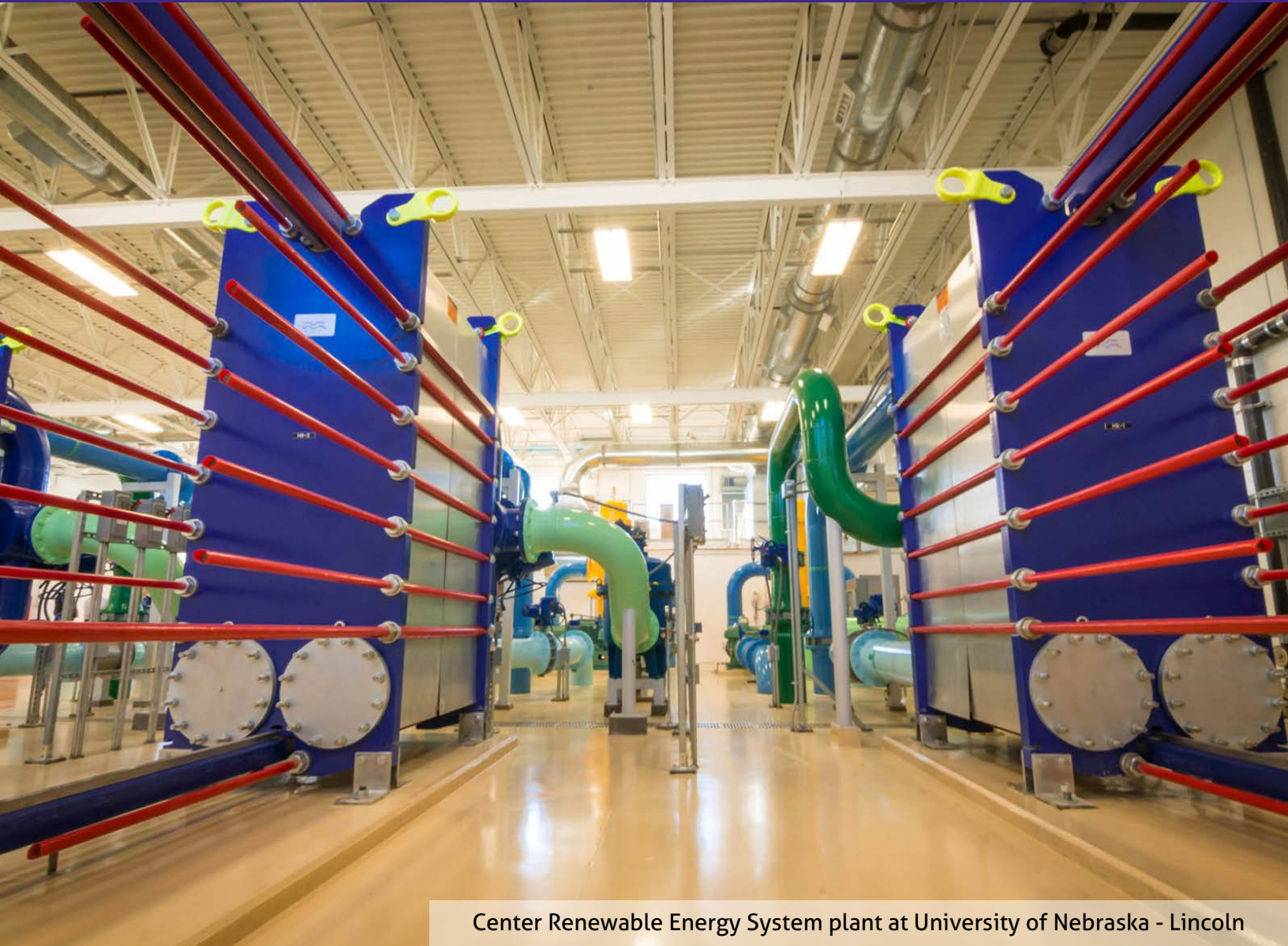
In July 2015, [Cornell University's](#) Forest Home Parking Garage became one of seven parking garages to receive the first [Green Garage Certification](#) from the Green Parking Council. Cornell was the only university to receive this initial certification. Air and lights at the Forest Home garage are monitored and adjusted in real time, and the system remembers busy usage times and anticipates demand accordingly. Other highlights that contributed to the certification are electric vehicle charging stations, building systems commissioning, nearby public green space, a highly efficient LED lighting system, covered bike parking, a tire inflation station, close proximity to transit and recycling. The Green Garage Certification offers “a comprehensive sustainability standard for existing and new parking facilities evaluating 48 elements of garage operation, programs, structure, and technology.”

Michigan State University facilities employees observe a gauge in a boiler room while participating in a Spartan Treasure Hunt.



Green Garage Award ceremony at Cornell University's Forest Home parking garage. Photo credit: Mark Vorreuter





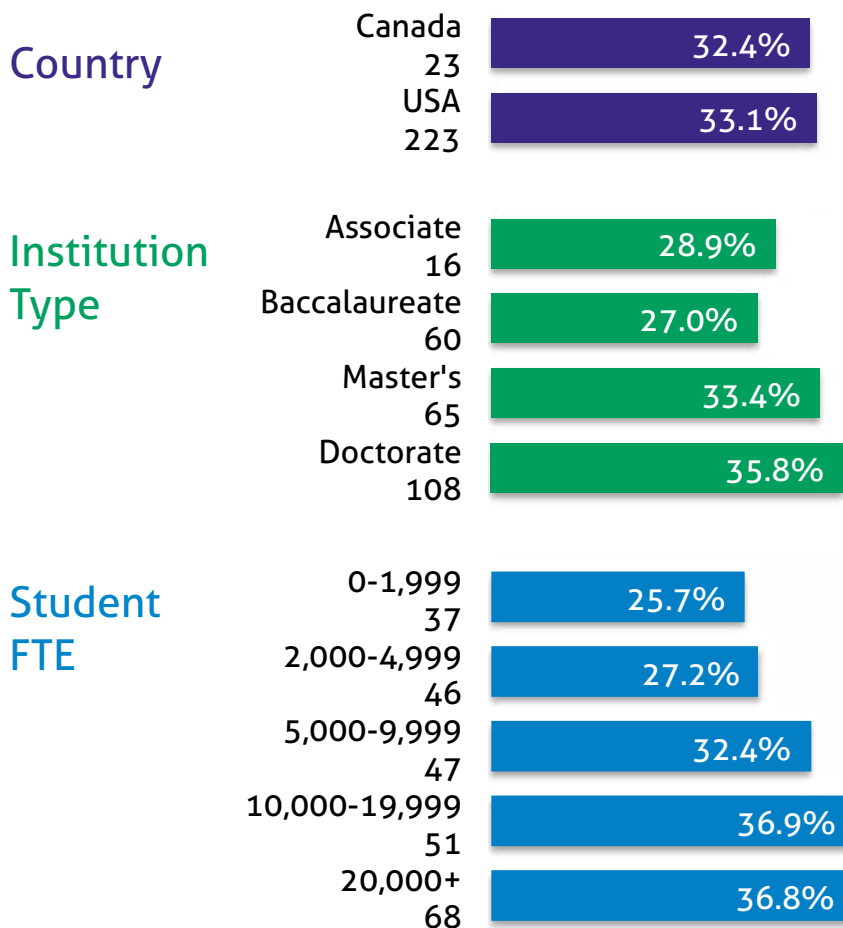
Center Renewable Energy System plant at University of Nebraska - Lincoln

For most institutions, energy consumption is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Implementing conservation measures and switching to renewable sources of energy can help institutions save money and protect them from utility rate volatility. Renewable energy may be generated locally and allow campuses to support local economic development. Furthermore, institutions can help shape markets by creating demand for cleaner, renewable sources of energy. This section recognizes energy reduction and development and use of clean and renewable energy sources.

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. University of Ontario Institute of Technology	66.5%	Master's	Oshawa, ON (Canada)
2. American University	58.7%	Doctorate	Washington, DC
3. Unity College	53.8%	Baccalaureate	Unity, ME
4. Middlebury College	53.5%	Baccalaureate	Middlebury, VT
5. Florida Gulf Coast University	53.0%	Master's	Fort Myers, FL

Average Scores



Highlights

An underground pipe has been installed between [University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's](#) dry [biodigester](#) and the City of Oshkosh's wastewater treatment plant (WTP), allowing for the conversion of WTP methane to heat and electricity. Previously this biogas was being flared by the WTP. Since the installed pipe began transferring gas between the WTP and the biodigester in August 2014, over 21 million cubic feet of biogas have been burned in the combined heat and power generator, reducing GHG emissions significantly more than flaring alone. No other campus has a biodigester with the capability of variable biogas feedstock which includes biogas from municipal wastewater treatment plant.

[Onondaga Community College](#) has created a [smart home laboratory](#) at the College's Furnace Brook Center with the help of a \$2.5 million grant from the Department of Energy. The building features a solar array, a geothermal heating and cooling system, and sophisticated electricity monitoring and controls. The building is used as a laboratory for Electrical Technology students to learn about green technology. The home features other smart home technology such as Internet connected refrigeration and other smart appliances that can be monitored and controlled remotely. The Furnace Brook Center Smart Home Laboratory has resulted in enhanced learning opportunities for students including the addition of new courses, such as Introduction to Alternative Residential Energy Systems, and hands-on experience with smart home data analysis.

The Furnace Brook Center Smart Home Laboratory at Onondaga Community College features solar panels, a geothermal heating/cooling system, sophisticated electricity monitoring and controls, and other smart home technologies.



Highlights

In a partnership between the City of Lincoln and the [University of Nebraska-Lincoln](#), the new Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC) facilities are heated and cooled through reclaimed, non-drinkable water from the city's wastewater treatment plant. The project, known as the [Central Renewable Energy System](#) (CRES), takes reclaimed water from the adjacent municipal wastewater treatment plant and pipes it to a heat exchange facility on NIC. The reclaimed water is then returned to Salt Creek, making this a closed-loop system. Depending on the season, heat content is absorbed or rejected to provide heating and cooling energy to the buildings on NIC. The system has a capacity to heat and cool an estimated 1.8 million square feet of space and is designed for expansion to meet the needs as more buildings open.

[American University](#) announced a 20-year [solar energy purchase](#) with partners George Washington University and its Hospital in 2014. Now fully operational, nearly 250,000 solar panels at three sites in North Carolina will generate 127 million kWh of emissions-free electricity in 2016, and will continue similarly over the next 20 years. Approximately 50% of each partners' electricity consumption is covered by this project, which greatly increases the amount of renewable energy fed into the local grid. The project collectively removes about 62,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year from the partners' carbon footprints. This is the largest non-utility solar PV power purchase agreement in the United States and the largest PV project east of the Mississippi River. It created hundreds of jobs at each site and demonstrates how large urban organizations can partner to significantly reduce their carbon footprints through solar technology.

This 243,000 panel solar farm in North Carolina, a joint project between AU, GWU, and GW Hospital, provides the AU campus with 50% of its electricity from renewable solar energy. Photo credit: ©Aerophoto America





Students working with vegetables at the Guilford College Farm.

Institutions can use their food purchases to support local economies, encourage environmentally friendly and humane farming methods, and help eliminate unsafe working conditions and alleviate poverty for farmworkers. These actions help reduce environmental impacts, preserve regional farmland, improve local food security, and support fair and resilient food systems. Dining services can also support sustainable food systems by reducing food waste and diverting food materials from the waste stream, by making low impact dining options available, and by educating customers about more sustainable options and practices.

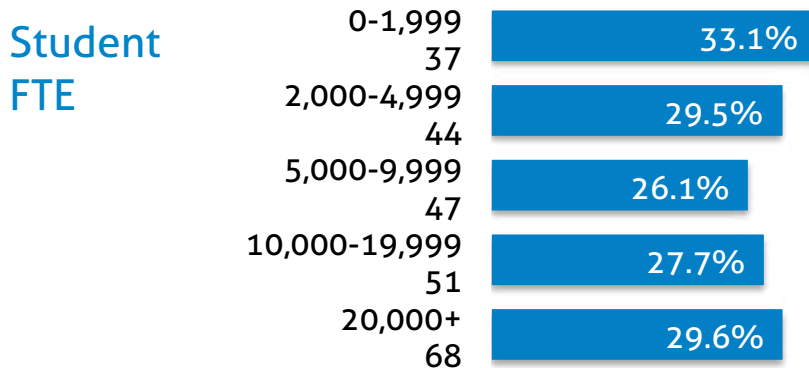
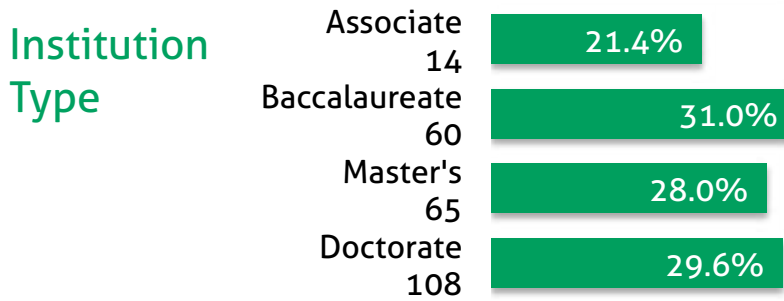


Food & Dining

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Sterling College	83.3%	Baccalaureate	Craftsbury Common, VT
2. University of Washington, Seattle	70.3%	Doctorate	Seattle, WA
3. University of Winnipeg	65.7%	Baccalaureate	Winnipeg, MB (Canada)
4. Denison University	62.6%	Baccalaureate	Granville, OH
5. Central Carolina Community College	60.0%	Associate	Sanford, NC

Average Scores





Food & Dining

Highlights

[Sterling College](#) regularly participates in the Real Food Challenge and for the second year in a row, has ranked as the [#1 campus food system](#) in the US for local, sustainable, fair trade and humane food with 75% 'real food' status. Sterling College manages its own food system from seed to compost. All students put in one week of dish duty each semester, plus students cook alongside professional chefs to create Sterling's farm-to-table meals. The College has no vending machines, convenience stores, or franchises on campus, and 20% of food is grown on site. Whether eating, cooking, planting or studying food, Sterling is making campus food system greener, better, smarter, and tastier.

In January 2015, a team of interdisciplinary students at [Temple University](#) opened [Rad Dish](#), a student run and member owned food co-op cafe on campus. The cafe is run based on a cooperative style of governance, with elected students, faculty, and staff making the decisions related to cafe operations, policies, sourcing, governance, sustainability, and social justice. Several students took an independent study of cooperative business practices as a basis for developing Rad Dish's governance structure. In accordance with a triple bottom line approach, the Rad Dish models sustainability principles, serving only vegetarian and vegan fare, composting and recycling, using all compostable serveware, minimizing waste, and purchasing 100% green power.



Students in the Nutrition class work with Executive Chef Simeon Bittman (left) on a recipe for braised cabbage.
Photo credit: Beana Bern for Sterling College

Highlights

The [Big Red Buyers Club](#) was created at [Denison University](#) in an effort to support local producers and to connect faculty, students, and staff with high quality, local, and responsibly sourced foods. Utilizing the connections and buying power of Denison's dining service provider Bon Appétit, the buyers club gives the Denison community access to the same local coffee, cheese, yogurt, milk, beans, whole grains and cereal, salsa, syrups, pasta, flour, chocolate, candy, and gluten-free snacks that are served in the dining halls. The buyer's club focuses on year round staple items and complements the local produce already available at bi-weekly farmers' markets without competing with farmers. The program supports Denison's Farm to Fork partners, make it easier for members to be conscientious consumers, and helps shape and support better eating and buying habits on the Denison campus.

With sustainability, nutrition, and affordability top of mind, [York University](#) Food Services has installed a kitchen greenhouse in the Stong College Healthy Kitchen to grow fresh greens in-house. Food Service's latest dining addition is an all-in-one indoor garden that can be used 365 days of the year to provide perfect growing conditions for a variety of fresh greens and herbs. The new kitchen greenhouse not only reduces the University's carbon footprint, but also provides a readily available supply of local, fresh ingredients for campus food preparation. The harvest often includes baby kale, which is used daily at the salad bars, in everyday recipes in the dining facilities, and as a "booster" ingredient for smoothies.

Buyer's club creators Emily Marguerite and Jen Curry with their first customer, Liz Barringer-Smith, sporting her sweatshop-free reusable bag



Urban Cultivator kitchen greenhouse at York University, Toronto, Canada. Photo credit: Andrew Plunkett





Arbor Court turf reduction and drought tolerant planting at California State University, Northridge.
Photo credit: Austin Eriksson

Beautiful and welcoming campus grounds can be planned, planted, and maintained in any region while minimizing the use of toxic chemicals, protecting wildlife habitat, and conserving resources. This section covers campus land management and biodiversity of campus grounds and surrounding lands.

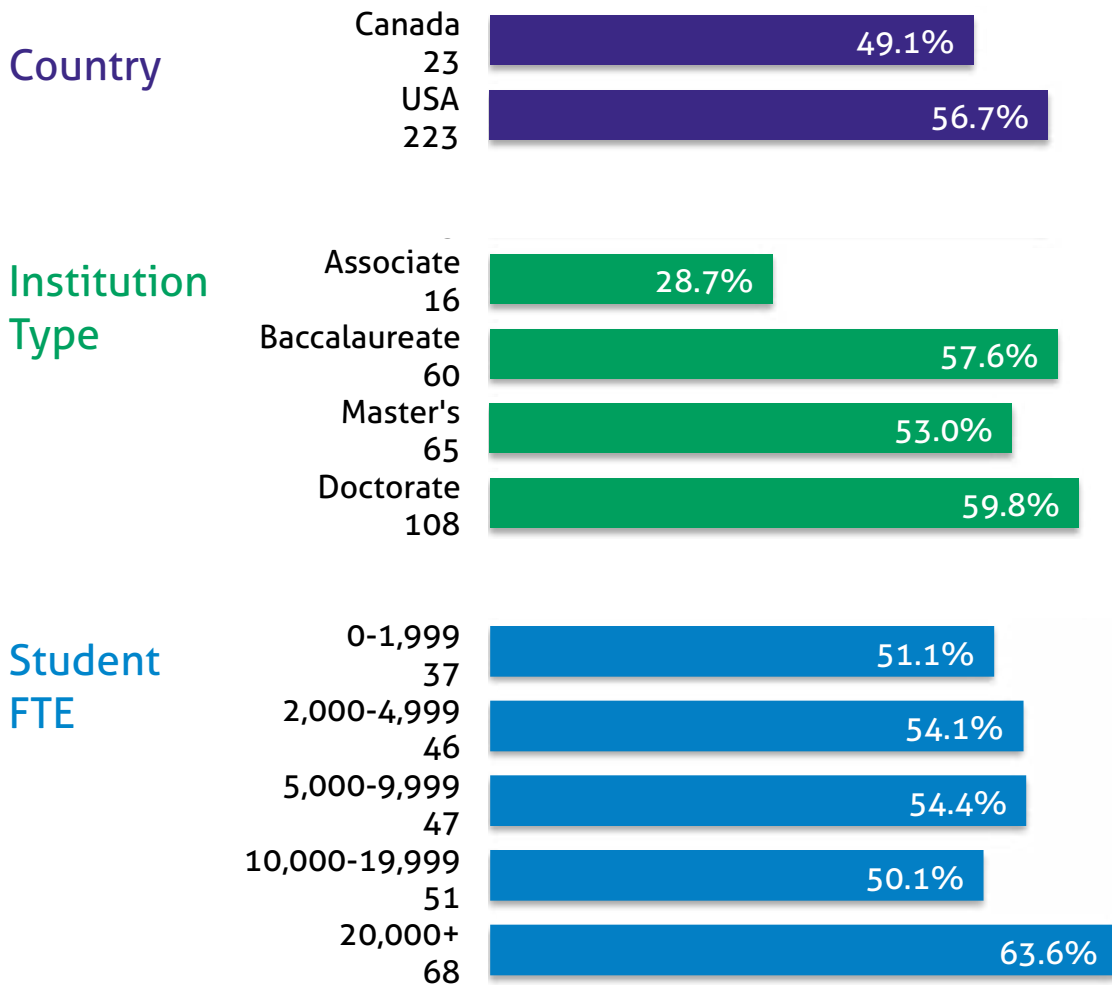


Grounds

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Chatham University (tie)	100%	Master's	Pittsburgh, PA
1. Colby College (tie)	100%	Baccalaureate	Waterville, ME
1. Sterling College (tie)	100%	Baccalaureate	Craftsbury Common, VT
4. State University of New York at Cortland	99.5%	Master's	Cortland, NY
5. Oregon State University (tie)	98.3%	Doctorate	Corvallis, OR
5. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (tie)	98.3%	Doctorate	Minneapolis, MN

Average Scores

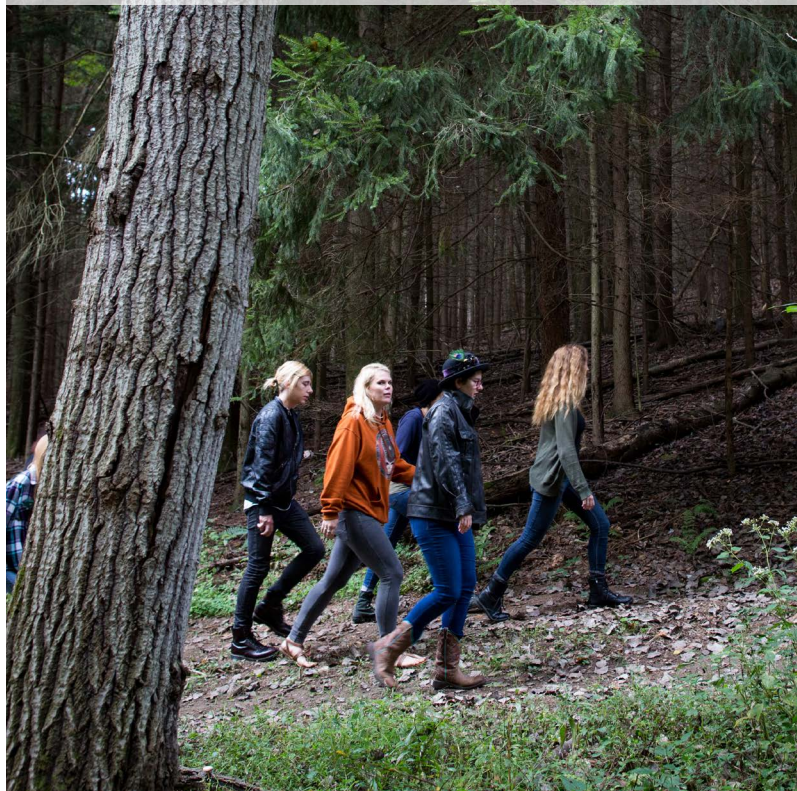


Highlights

Building on the [legacy](#) of alum Rachel Carson ('29), [Chatham University](#) has practiced a pest management plan since 2000 that bans chemical pesticides on all campus grounds and actively preserves green space throughout its campuses. The recent addition of [Eden Hall Campus](#) adds a farm and forest to the list of land types that the University cares for. Eden Hall is a laboratory where faculty and students collaborate to develop next-generation tools and processes that will provide social, economic, and environmental benefits to our communities and to our world. The soil at the Eden Hall is managed exclusively using organic practices, and the farmland and gardens are currently in the process of USDA organic certification. As part of an overall landscape program, the University prioritizes native species in landscaping that are appropriate to the region.

Newark Road Prairie is owned by [Beloit College](#) and was designated a [State Natural Area](#) in 1974. It is the largest known wet-mesic prairie in Rock county, with a moisture gradient across the site that results in differences in species composition. More than 100 species of prairie plants have been recorded from the site including cream wild indigo, rattlesnake-master, shooting-star, sneezeweed, prairie blazing-star, Michigan lily, compass plant, prairie dock, asters, goldenrods, and milkweeds. Each year the Nature Conservancy sends the College a monitoring document for the prairie. A summer intern in the Sustainability Fellows Program monitors hydrological cycles and patterns and remediates the prairie from invasive species. Ongoing research, both student and faculty, provide the college with the programs necessary to maintain monitoring of the endangered, threatened, and other species, both flora and fauna.

Students walking in the Eden Hall forest at Chatham University. Photo credit: Phil Pavely



Newark Road Prairie, Beloit, Wisconsin.



Grounds

Highlights

The [eGarden](#) at [State University of New York at Geneseo](#) is a one acre plot on campus dedicated to education and research dealing with renewable energy, waste, and agriculture. It is a partnership between various college departments and Campus Auxiliary Services. Twelve students are involved in both the research and implementation process spread across five “departments”: eGarden club electric car, solar collector air heater, Arduino data collection and telemetry system, photovoltaic solar collector, and micro-algae pond farming to produce biofuels. There is also a sun-tracking PV array, a 3.5kw wind turbine, organic garden beds, and a barn to house indoor projects. The barn is heated by waste vegetable oil from the campus dining halls, and compost used in the gardens comes from campus landscape debris and food scraps.

Parkerson Mill Creek (PMC) is a degraded urban stream on the campus of [Auburn University](#) that has been identified as a priority for improvement and restoration within the campus landscape. The Parkerson Mill Creek Watershed Project was established in 2010 to improve stream conditions, transform the creek into a campus amenity, and create learning opportunities for students and researchers. In 2014, an opportunity arose to implement a comprehensive, state-of-the-art restoration project on a 300 linear foot segment of Parkerson Mill Creek. This project was a unique and collaborative partnership among Auburn Athletics, Facilities Management, Alabama Cooperative Extension, several academic units, and the Office of Sustainability. The project improved stream health and provides learning and research opportunities for visitors, students, and faculty.

Auburn University's stream restoration project was ideal for interdisciplinary, active learning and using the campus as a living laboratory.



Purchasing



The ASU Help Center uses personal computers that meet the IEEE 1680 Standard of Gold. © 2016. Arizona State University. All rights reserved.

Collectively, institutions spend many billions of dollars on goods and services annually. Each purchasing decision represents an opportunity for institutions to choose environmentally and socially preferable products and services and support companies with strong commitments to sustainability. This section covers general and commodity-specific sustainable purchasing policies, life cycle cost analysis, and purchase of electronics, paper, and cleaning products.

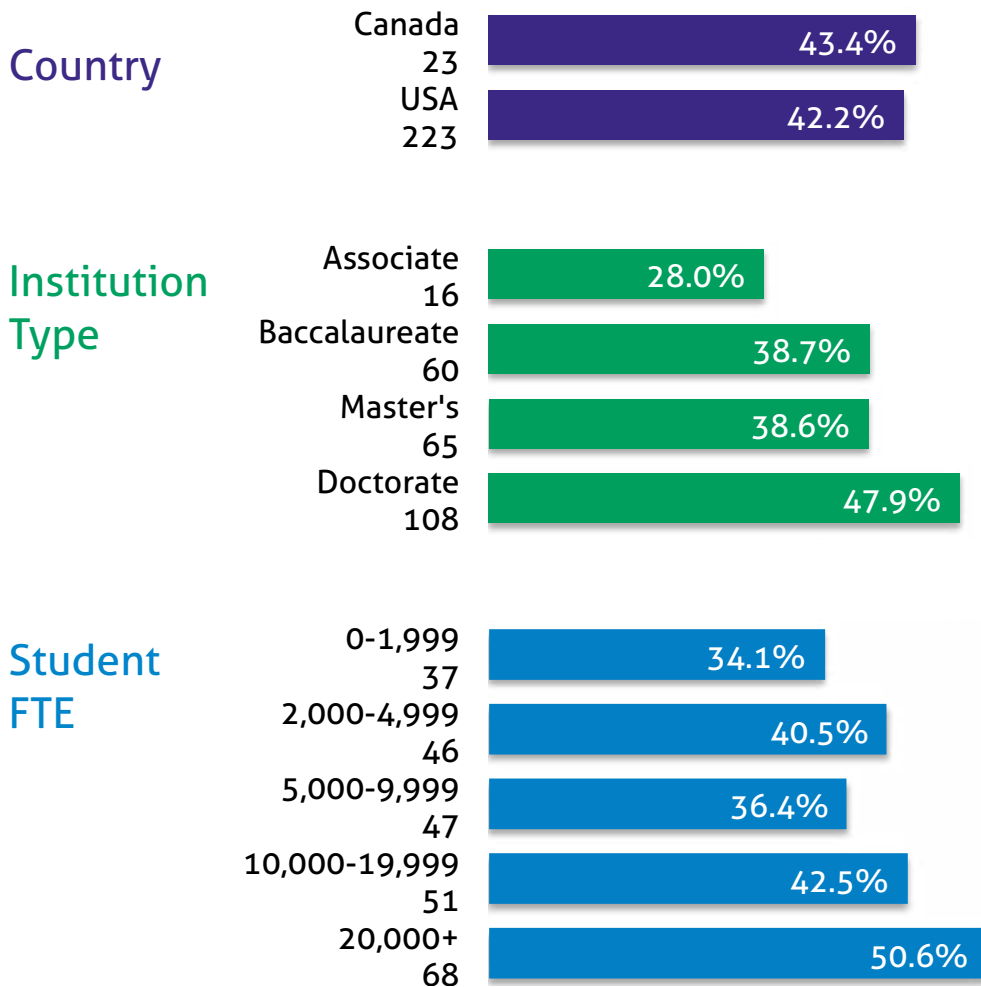


Purchasing

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Arizona State University	93.5%	Doctorate	Tempe, AZ
2. George Mason University	89.8%	Doctorate	Fairfax, VA
3. University of Victoria	89.3%	Doctorate	Victoria, BC (Canada)
4. George Washington University	88.2%	Doctorate	Washington, DC
5. University of Connecticut	86.7%	Doctorate	Storrs, CT

Average Scores



Purchasing

Highlights

The [vendor code of conduct](#) for [University of Connecticut](#) holds UConn's vendors to minimum standards they are required to meet and outlines preferential standards: "UConn will prefer products and services that conserve resources, save energy and use safer chemicals, such as recycled, recyclable, reusable, energy efficient, carbon neutral, organic, biodegradable or plant-based, in addition to products that are durable and easily repairable, and that meet relevant certification standards above and beyond those required by law." Through these standards, UConn expects vendors will employ environmentally responsible practices in the provision of their products and services. Preferential standards for living wages, international human rights, and environmental sustainability are also included.

[University of Massachusetts Medical School](#) has taken an innovative approach to sustainable cleaning. Rather than purchasing traditional cleaning chemicals to clean floors and surfaces, UMMS has invested in floor scrubbers and an on-site generation system to create a multi-surface cleaning solution from tap water. The cleaning product is created when softened tap water and a small amount of salt is used to create a 0.05% sodium hydroxide cleaning solution. Creating this non-hazardous cleaning solution on-site minimizes the need for harsher cleaning chemicals, and reduces waste and transportation-related emissions. Additionally, UMMS is improving the health and wellbeing of employees by minimizing exposure to hazardous cleaning chemicals. The system is used on 1.7 million square feet of space, covering over 60% the cleanable square footage.

Edna cleaning the stairwell at University of Massachusetts Medical School with self generated Orbio Water, used for surface cleaning throughout the Medical School.





Purchasing

Highlights

North Carolina State University's purchasing decisions are guided by total cost of ownership and total life cycle cost through its [Sustainability Standard Operating Procedure](#): "Any purchase by NC State will improve the environmental performance of its supply chain with consideration given to toxicity, recycled content, energy and water efficiency, rapidly renewable resources, and local production and manufacturing. Purchase decisions will improve the social responsibility of the supply chain, production working conditions, and the use of historically underutilized businesses." In addition to this commitment, capital investment decisions utilize life cycle costing, and the decision process for construction and remodeling also includes energy life cycle costing analyses. NC State's commitment to sustainable purchasing promotes sustainable paper products, Energy Star® equipment and EPEAT electronics and expands environmentally and socially responsible purchasing in general.

A group of NC State University students powered an effort to purchase a solar energy charging station outside the university's library. The student-led effort took a year of fundraising, planning and working toward the goal of increasing student interest in clean energy.



Transportation



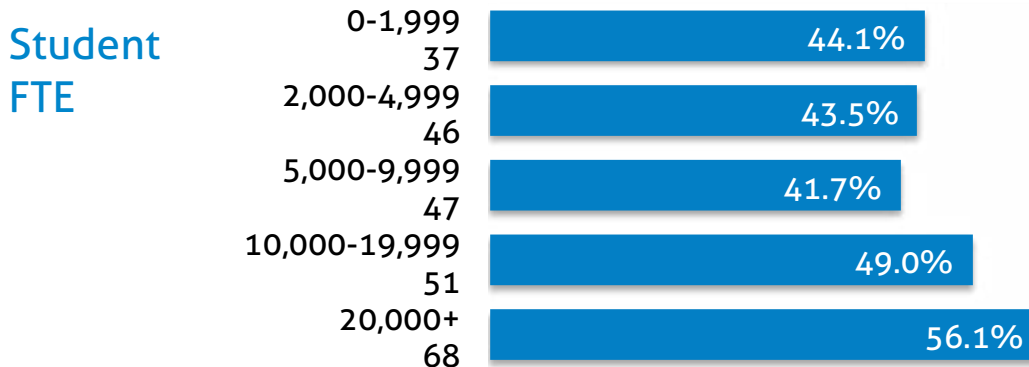
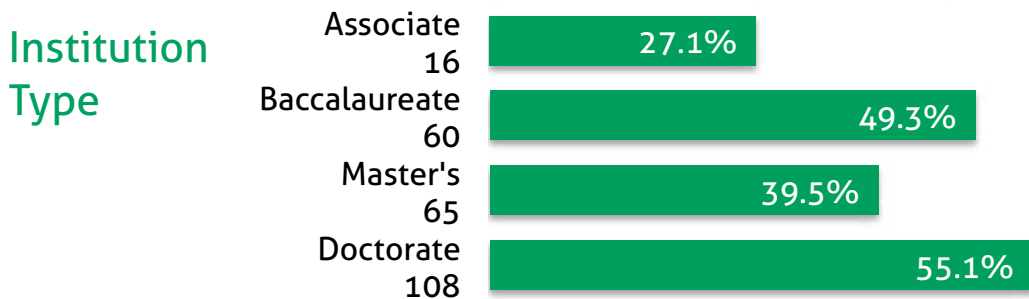
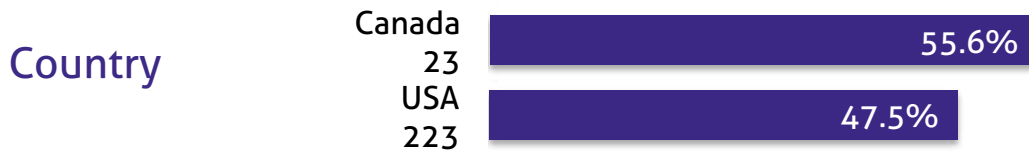
Loyola University Chicago's student-run bike shop, *Chain Links*.

Institutions can positively impact human and ecological health and support local economies by modeling sustainable transportation systems. Transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants that contribute to health problems such as heart and respiratory diseases and cancer. Due to disproportionate exposure, these health impacts are frequently more pronounced in low-income communities next to major transportation corridors. In addition, the extraction, production, and global distribution of fuels for transportation can damage environmentally and/or culturally significant ecosystems and may financially benefit hostile and/or oppressive governments.

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Columbia University	87.5%	Doctorate	New York, NY
2. University of Washington, Seattle	86.7%	Doctorate	Seattle, WA
3. Loyola University Chicago	81.7%	Doctorate	Chicago, IL
4. Pomona College	77.9%	Baccalaureate	Claremont, CA
5. Concordia University	76.3%	Doctorate	Montreal, QC (Canada)

Average Scores



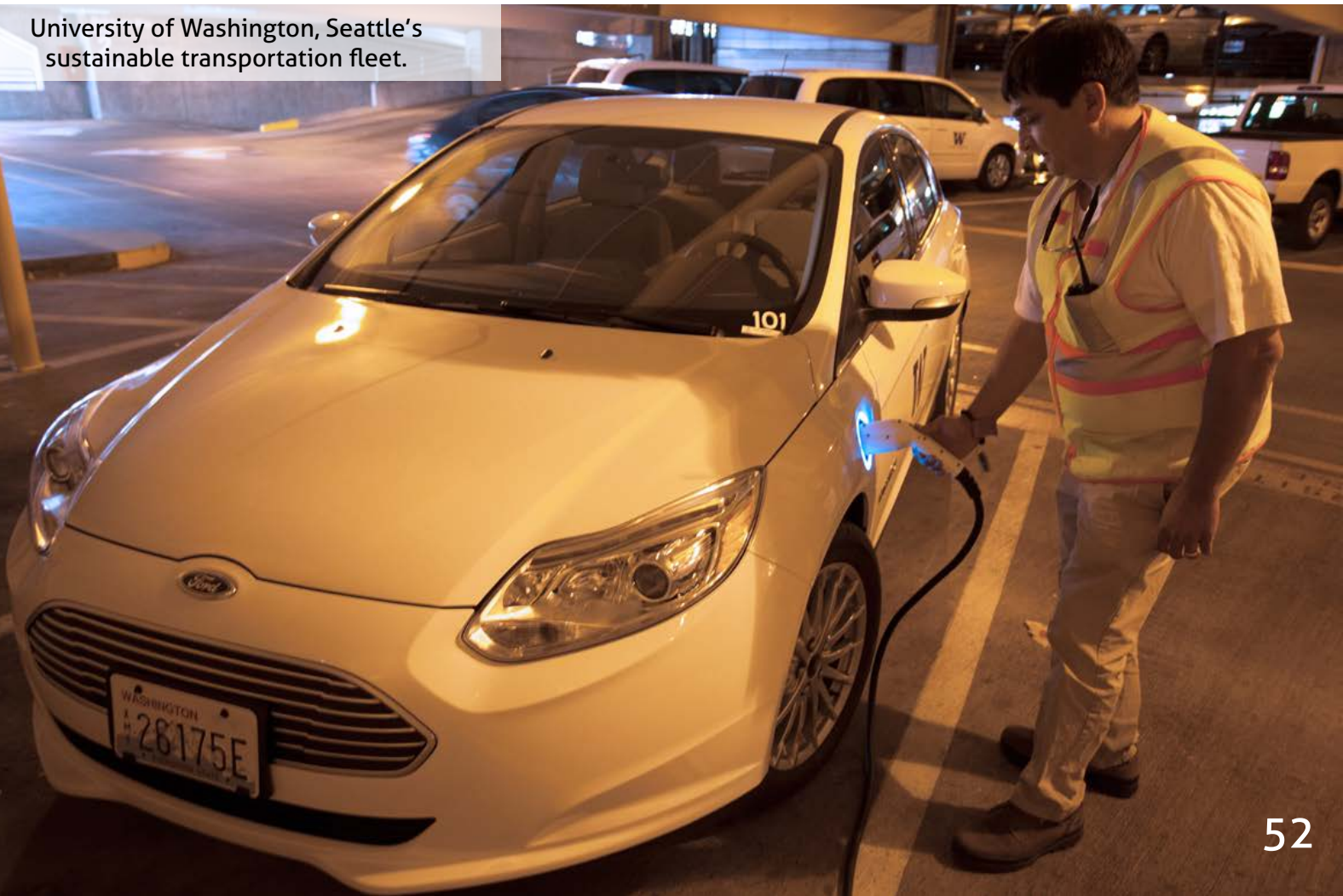
Transportation

Highlights

[University of Kentucky](#) has worked steadily over the last 5 years to promote alternative transportation. In 2015, Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) launched a pilot [bicycle voucher program](#) aimed at encouraging students and employees to consider alternatives to driving a vehicle to campus. In exchange for not bringing a motor vehicle to campus for the next two years, 100 qualified students and employees received a \$400 voucher, redeemable at local bicycle shops. Due to the program's tremendous success in its first year, PTS [renewed the bike voucher program](#) for 2016. This program works in tandem with [Big Blue Cycles](#), which provides bikes to on-campus students who sign a one-year car-free commitment. In addition, the [BluPass](#) partnership with the local transit authority gives UK students and employees free access to city bus routes.

Ranking second in transportation, over 20% of [University of Washington, Seattle's](#) fleet are hybrid or 100% electric vehicles. UW Fleet Services added 14 electric vehicles in 2015, and has also expanded the number of electric-vehicle charging stations for faculty, staff, and student use with an investment of \$1.3 million dollars. By August 2016, Fleet had 41 electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in use supporting University activities. UW Transportation was honored for [electric vehicle leadership](#) in 2015 by the Intelligent Transportation Services of America, along with the Washington State Department of Transportation and Governor Jay Inslee's administration.

University of Washington, Seattle's sustainable transportation fleet.



Transportation

Highlights

[University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee](#) is a founding and leading partner in the [Town-Gown Showdown](#), a [nationally ranked](#) team that is part of the National Bike Challenge. The Challenge provides an online logging center that makes it possible for cyclists to compete on the local, state, and national level by joining a team and tracking record miles ridden. In its first year, UWM became an original founding member of the Showdown along with Milwaukee County and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. In its second year, Marquette University, Alverno College, and Milwaukee Area Technical College joined the competition. The showdown has spurred ridership and miles by all entities involved. The May-September event brings attention to campus and community bicycling needs, provides education for riders, and boosts campus pride.

Students at [Indiana University Bloomington](#) formed the DoubleMap startup company and developed the [DoubleMap bus tracking system](#) in collaboration with campus stakeholders and with financial assistance from the IU Student Association. The DoubleMap system displays bus routes and locations in real time through GPS, and allows riders to track the exact locations of the buses. The app is available for free online and on Android and Apple smartphones and devices. The system cost about \$200,000 to create and will require \$25,000 a year to maintain. The program aims to increase use of public transportation and reduce commutes by personal vehicles. At Indiana University, [34%](#) of students rely on campus shuttles or public transportation to get to and from campus.

Town-Gown Showdown 2016 Kick-off at UW-Milwaukee, Chancellor Mone at Center



DoubleMap bus tracking system on a smartphone. Photo credit: Inside IUPUI



Waste



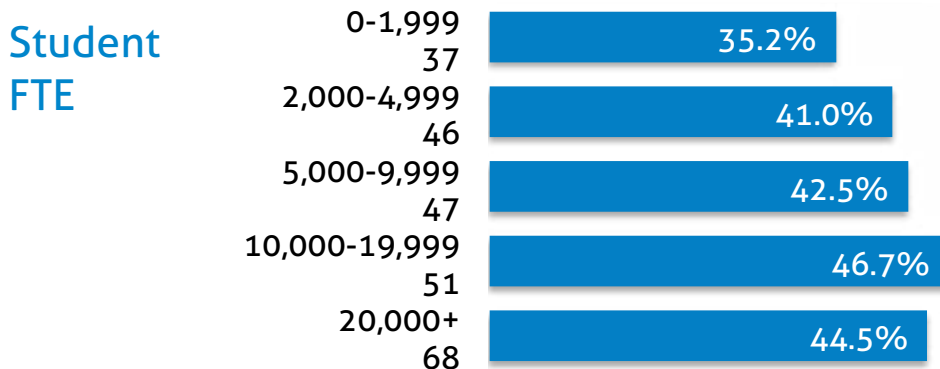
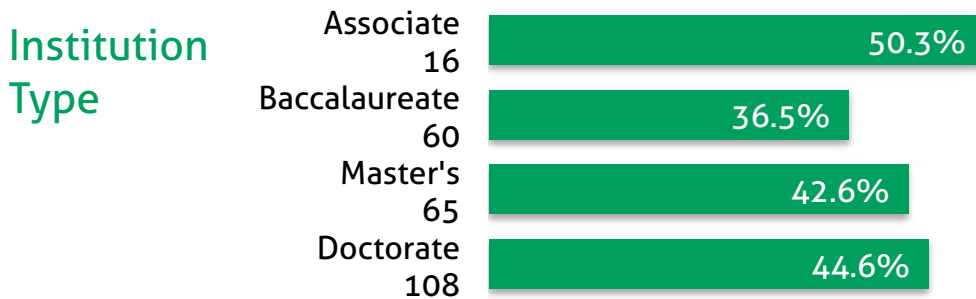
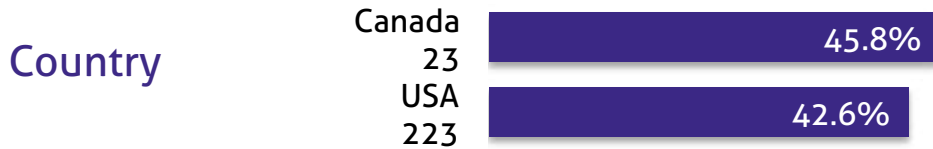
Waste reduction mitigates the need to extract virgin materials from the earth, and reduces waste flow to incinerators and landfills which produce greenhouse gas emissions, can contaminate air and water, and tend to have disproportionate negative impacts on low-income communities. Source reduction and waste diversion also save institutions costly landfill and hauling costs. In addition, waste reduction campaigns can engage the entire campus community in contributing to tangible sustainability goals.



Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Colorado State University	85.0%	Doctorate	Fort Collins, CO
2. Mohawk College	77.9%	Associate	Hamilton, ON (Canada)
3. California State University, Channel Islands	76.9%	Baccalaureate	Camarillo, CA
4. University of Colorado Colorado Springs	76.2%	Master's	Colorado Springs, CO
5. University of Massachusetts Lowell	72.8%	Doctorate	Lowell, MA

Average Scores



Highlights

Two complimentary bottled water initiatives at [University of Nevada, Las Vegas](#) are helping the university reduce bottled water waste while simultaneously raising funds for bottled water alternatives. A [5-Cent Surcharge](#) on Plastic Single-use Water Bottles was implemented thanks to collaboration among several departments and groups. The surcharge was introduced as a recommendation to fund installation of hydration stations on campus and was officially implemented by the UNLV Vice President of Finance & Business in March 2014. Since then, over \$1,400 has been accumulated, and the first hydration station has been purchased. In addition, a new [Plastic Bottle Trade In](#) program allows individuals to trade 10 plastic bottles to receive a new reusable stainless steel water bottle. To help promote this initiative, several plastic bottle trade in events are held each semester.

[Guilford College](#) has reduced disposed materials by more than half between 2008 and 2014, with significant increases in composting and materials donated. These reductions come as a result of several initiatives. Virtually all inter-collegiate documents and correspondence is done online, and the college works with a local service provider on an e-waste collection program. Students are strongly encouraged to donate furniture, food, and household items they cannot take home through an aggressive Move-Out program. The student-run Greenleaf coffee coop uses only compostable products, and all coffee grounds are collected and composted. All pre- and post-consumer food waste generated from dining services is collected, weighed, and composted on-site.

UNLV *Take Back the Tap* campaign members rejoice after a successful trade in event.



Students work with mulch and compost at the Guilford College Farm.





Highlights

Students at [Clarkson University](#) spearheaded a unique effort that puts a price on disposable items. In January 2015, Clarkson began charging consumers \$0.50 for the use of a disposable to-go box in all campus dining halls through the [Ozzi To-Go Box program](#). Clarkson's food service provider Aramark simultaneously provided all students with one free reusable to-go box. This project reduced disposable to-go box usage by about 37,000 boxes per month (down to ~1,500 disposable boxes per month). It has saved approximately 2-3 hours a day of custodial labor by eliminating an estimated 60 trash bags a day. The practice stemmed from two separate student-led Sustainability Fund projects that investigated options for reducing the waste associated with dining services.

[LIU Post](#) Recycling established a [student sustainability scholarship](#) that is completely funded by the 5-cent deposits found on plastic bottles and cans in the state of New York. This scholarship is awarded at the Annual Sustainability Celebration, which is held every April. In April 2013, LIU Post awarded \$1,000 to the winner of a Sustainable Creative Expressions Contest, a result of recycling 20,000 bottles and cans. Applicants were asked to create a piece of work that reflects how Hurricane Sandy had played a role in their understanding of climate change and how it relates to the importance of sustainability. Since its inception, LIU Post has seen an overall increase in the campus recycling rate, and there has been a year-after-year increase in the amount awarded to students (\$250 in 2011, \$600 in 2012, \$1,000 in 2013).



2016 LIU Post Sustainability Award Recipients.
Photo credit: Bessie Weisman

Water



Students sample water quality at Penn State's Living Filter, a 600-acre vegetated area where effluent from the University's wastewater is spray applied, eliminating direct discharge to local streams and recharging groundwater.

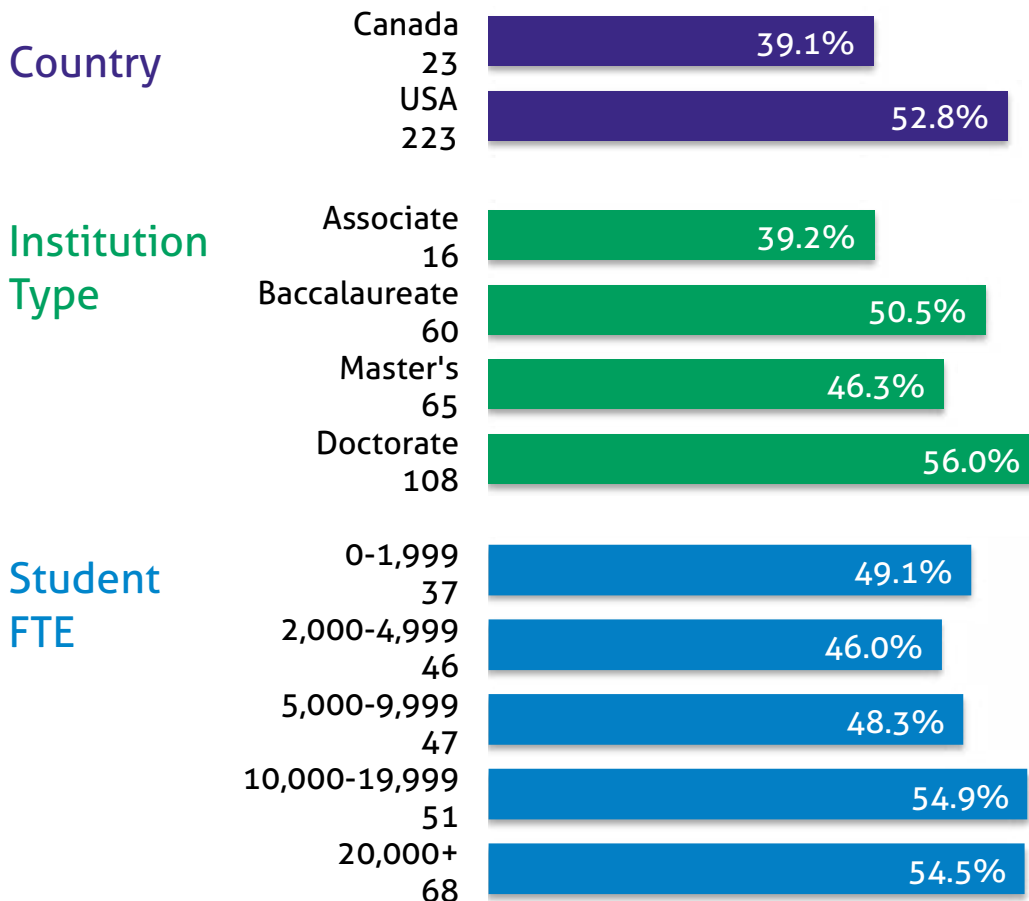
Water conservation, recycling and reuse, and effective rainwater management practices are important in maintaining and protecting finite groundwater supplies. Likewise, pumping, delivering, and treating water is a major driver of energy consumption, so institutions can help reduce energy use and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy generation by conserving water. Water conservation and effective rainwater and wastewater management also reduce the need for effluent discharge into local surface water supplies, which helps improve the health of local water ecosystems.



Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Stanford University	100%	Doctorate	Stanford, CA
2. Pennsylvania State University	89.1%	Doctorate	University Park, PA
3. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	88.9%	Doctorate	Urbana, IL
4. University of California, Santa Cruz	87.5%	Doctorate	Santa Cruz, CA
5. Indiana State University (tie)	85.7%	Doctorate	Terre Haute, IN
5. Muhlenberg College (tie)	85.7%	Baccalaureate	Allentown, PA
5. University of North Carolina, Greensboro (tie)	85.7%	Doctorate	Greensboro, NC
5. Wartburg College (tie)	85.7%	Baccalaureate	Waverly, IA
5. Wellesley College (tie)	85.7%	Baccalaureate	Wellesley, MA

Average Scores



Water Highlights

University of Ontario Institute of Technology uses a [greywater collection](#) and management system to enhance water conservation efforts. The aquatic toxicology laboratory uses approximately 180,000L of fresh water per day that is supplied by the municipality in order to ensure high quality, low contaminant water. This water is further filtered for flow-through single use within the laboratory and is then directed to a 250,000L underground cistern. This greywater is then used within the university buildings for flushing toilets and urinals. Along with a stormwater management program, state-of-the-art sensor controls, and low flow water features throughout UOIT buildings, this system helps save 32 million liters of water per year.

To manage runoff on the main UOIT campus, stormwater is directed to wet ponds, bioswales and storm ponds in a manner that demonstrates sustainable storm water design while enriching the campus landscape.



Highlights

In efforts to meet California State University system-wide water reduction targets, [California State University, Northridge](#) made significant water reductions through irrigation innovations. A recent [efficiency project](#) introduced bi-directional communication capabilities including evapotranspiration, weather station connectivity, flow sensors, and master valves. The result is an annual water use reduction by about 2.5 million gallons. The university also piloted a project that involves injecting pressurized [hydrogels](#) for water conservation in turf and landscaping. This gel acts as a sponge below the root zone, holding excess irrigation water until the roots extract it. CSUN estimates an annual water savings of 7.3 million gallons at the sites where the hydrogels were applied. Thanks to these and other projects, total campus water consumption has dropped by 22% in just over a year.

[University of California, Merced](#) created the [Report a Leak](#) program that allows building occupants to quickly and easily report leaks by scanning quick response (QR) stickers. Smartphone users can scan a QR code that has been placed in the Social Sciences and Management (SSM) building bathrooms, and a work request is automatically generated that alerts Facilities Management of water leaks. Users can then track their requests to see that repairs are being made. QR codes eliminate the need to fill out cumbersome repair requests, which likely prevented some people from reporting leaks. The new system is designed to kick out duplicate requests, which were sorted manually in the past. The next step in the project is to gather feedback from building occupants, make adjustments as needed, and install the stickers in other buildings.

CSUN Grounds Dept. worked with AquaCents on a turf injection project. Photo credit: Austin Eriksson



New software developed at UC Merced allows smartphone users to report water leaks in a few easy steps. Photo credit: Veronica Adrover





Highlights

Miami University's new stormwater installation combines stormwater treatment and management, geothermal heating and cooling, energy reduction, and water conservation. Through this system, rainwater is collected, slowed, cooled, and cleaned using best management practices as it moves southward and downhill across Western Campus. At the head of the journey, the Upper Pond provides heat exchange equivalent to 30 geothermal heat exchange wells, to supplement the 315 conventional vertical wells that were part of the first phase of the Western geothermal project. This additional capacity was achieved by using coiled heat exchangers at the bottom of the pond. In addition to collecting rainwater, the ponds also collect up to 5,000 gallons per day of air conditioning condensate. The Lower Pond, a stormwater detention basin, accepts water from the Upper Pond and collects runoff from a 25 acre basin that includes Bishop Woods and Cook Field. Water from it is used to irrigate Cook Field.

Installation of coiled heat exchangers in the upper pond at Miami University (top) and after completion (bottom).





Coordination & Planning



Cornell University Energy Outreach Coordinator Erin Moore demonstrates to University Trustees how energy usage dashboards give researchers, students and others a trove of information to analyze the energy efficiency.

Coordination and planning helps an institution organize, implement, and publicize sustainability initiatives. These efforts provide the infrastructure that fosters sustainability within an institution. Sustainability coordination and planning and participatory governance affords an institution the opportunity to clarify its vision of a sustainable future, establish priorities, and help guide budgeting and decision making.



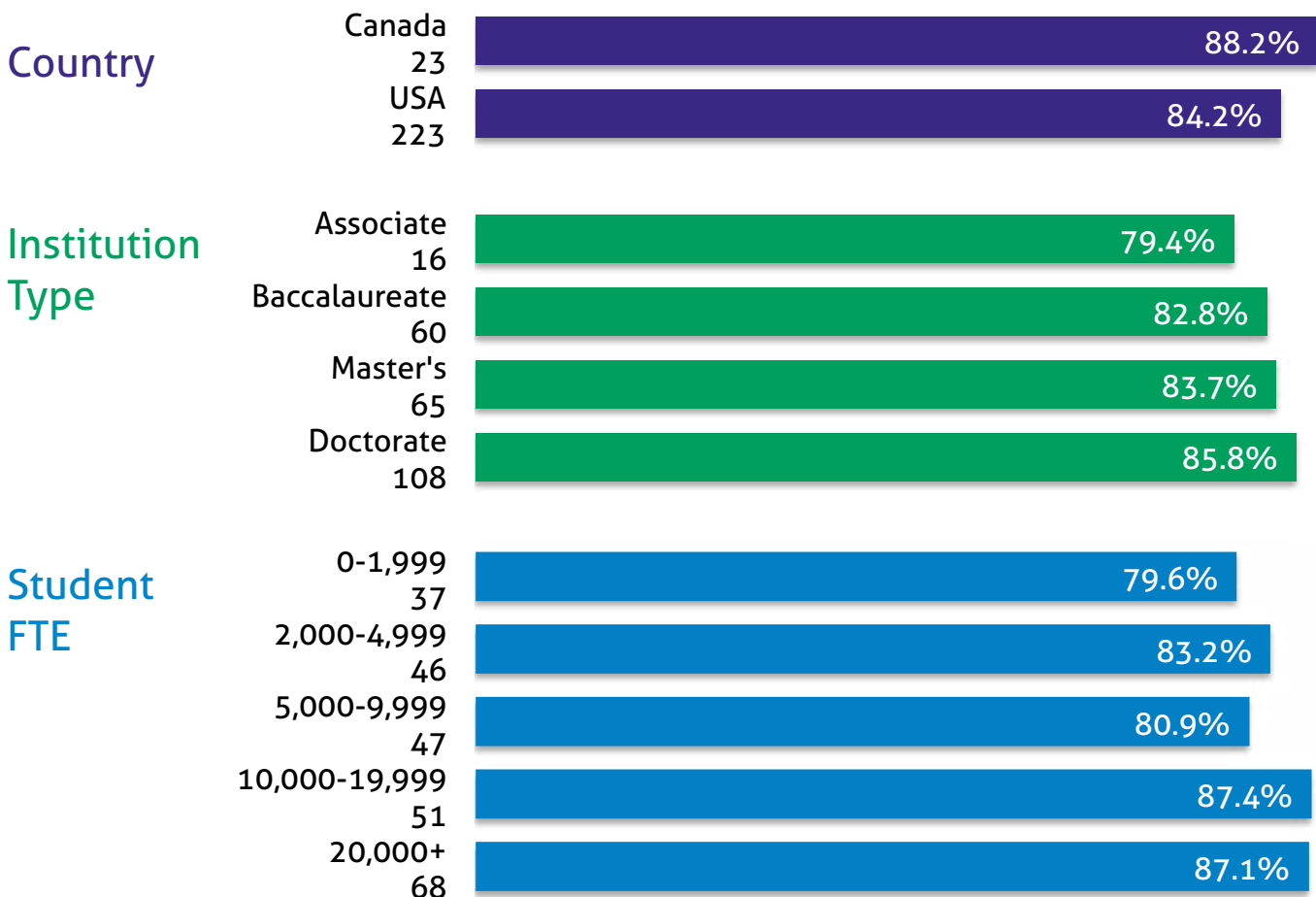
Coordination & Planning

Top Performers

Eighty institutions demonstrated significant leadership in coordination & planning by earning full points in this subcategory. Due to the extensiveness of the list, this year's SCI does not include a Top Performers list, but AASHE members can access the [Coordination & Planning STARS Score Display](#) to view detailed scoring information.

The credits and scoring methodologies included in STARS 2.0 made it challenging to distinguish top performance in this area. New standards were introduced with STARS 2.1 that promote data accuracy, better recognize top performance, and create greater variation in scoring. The *Sustainability Planning* credit has been restructured, and new standards were introduced in the *Participatory Governance* credit. Future SCI reports will include Coordination & Planning Top Performers among 2.1 reports only.

Average Scores

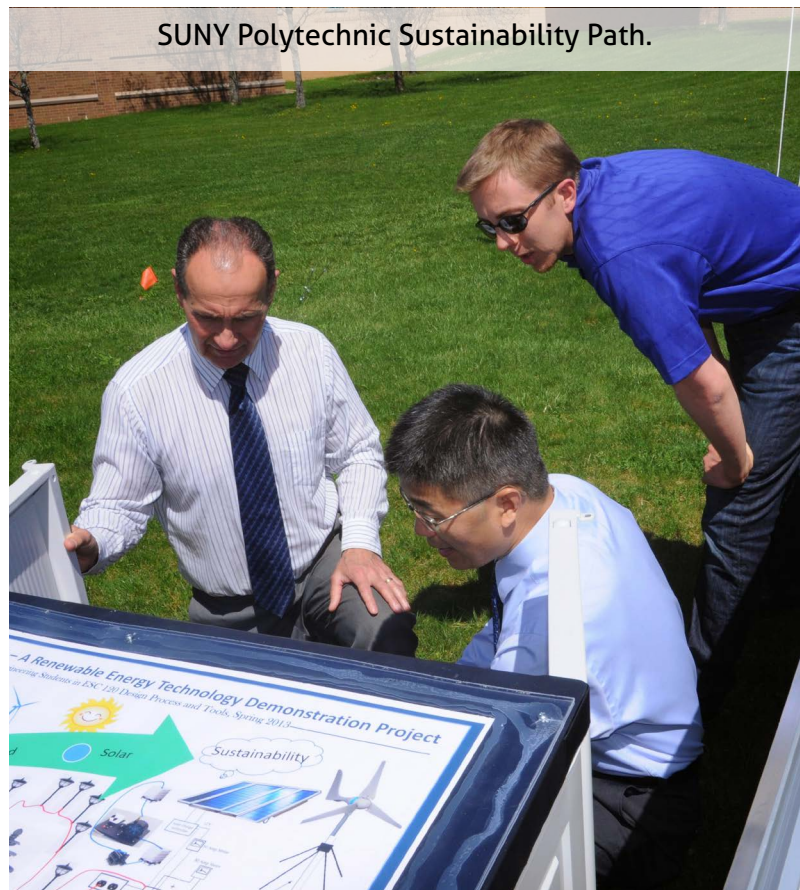


Coordination & Planning

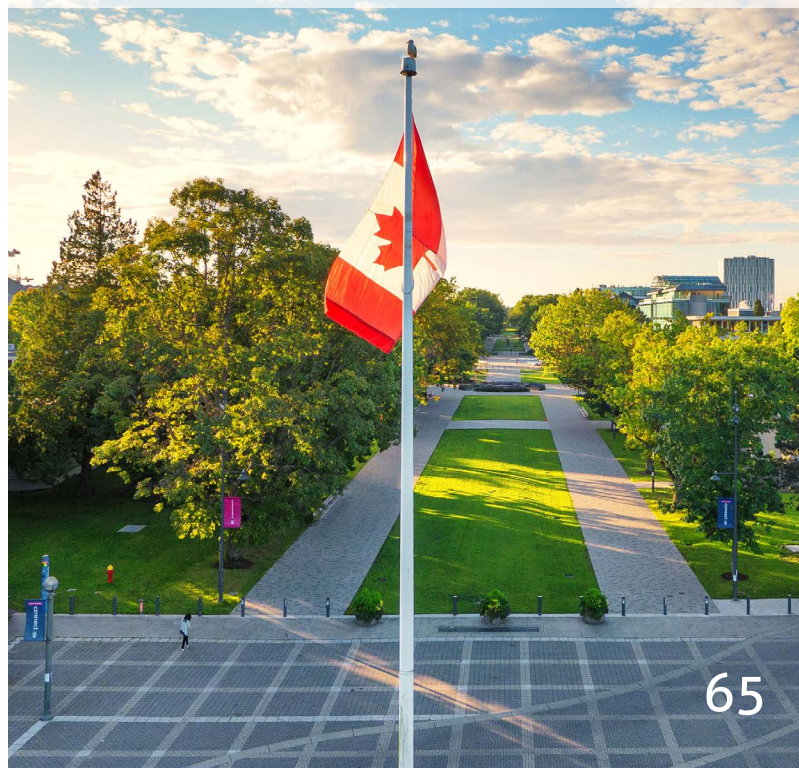
Highlights

[University at Albany](#) and [State University of New York Polytechnic Institute](#) join [SUNY New Paltz](#) as the first institutions to earn points for undergoing a peer review in the process of earning a STARS rating. All within the SUNY system, these institutions have gone above and beyond the standard self-reporting framework by collaborating with peer institutions to improve the quality and accuracy of current and future STARS reports. University at Albany's submission was third-party reviewed by seven sustainability colleagues in the SUNY system while SUNY Polytechnic's report was reviewed by three SUNY colleagues. Last year, four SUNY colleagues reviewed SUNY New Paltz's report. All institutions addressed reviewer feedback before reports were published. During standard submission review, AASHE staff noted fewer data inconsistencies in these reports as compared to the average.

The [20-year Sustainability Strategy](#) at [University of British Columbia](#) provides an overall strategic direction for sustainability at UBC's Vancouver campus. The strategy is unique due to its long-term vision and engagement processes. Approved in 2014, it serves as a living document to be updated in response to emerging circumstances and in consultation with appropriate stakeholders. Development involved significant feedback and collaboration within the UBC community. The engagement process was staged in two phases and overall, 2,000 people were engaged (1,400 via an online survey and 800 through in-person opportunities). Over 5,000 people visited the project website since it was announced.



University of British Columbia was among the first universities in Canada to open a sustainability office and develop a sustainable development policy.



Coordination & Planning

Highlights

Now that [Mills College](#) has exceeded its “15 by 15” goal of reducing fiscal year 2015 greenhouse gas emissions by 15% from fiscal year 2008 emissions, the Mills College Sustainability Committee and subcommittees are working on a new Climate Action Plan to bring Mills even closer to climate neutrality. Sustainability has also been incorporated into the College’s overall Strategic Plan, including commitments to: (1) provide opportunities for students to connect Mills’ experiences to interests in diversity, social justice, and sustainability; (2) create a just, equitable, and inclusive environment for all students; and (3) focus on sustainability across campus.

The [Environmental Stewardship Council](#) (ESC) at [Stonehill College](#) meets monthly to coordinate and report on sustainability related initiatives. Many of the initiatives are outlined in the College’s Sustainability Plan, first published in 2014. Successful outcomes of the ESC over the past three years include the following: signing of the Real Food Campus Commitment in April 2015, being recognized by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships for Stonehill’s commitment to energy efficiency, adding electric car charging stations at the sports complex, implementing a reusable to-go container system at the library and dining commons, converting to online and paperless student billing, installing a 2.7 megawatt solar field (tied for 11th largest solar installation on a college campus nationwide), and installing turtle crossing signs that call attention to the wildlife on campus.

Grand Opening of the Mills Sustainability Center (2008), which serves as a hub for sustainability collaboration.



Solar field and rooftop installations at the David Ames Clock Farm at Stonehill College.





Diversity & Affordability



First Year Orientation leaders for the Root program at Williams College celebrate the end of a volunteer day. Photo credit: Postyn Smith

Higher education opens doors to opportunities that can help create a more equitable world, and must be accessible to all regardless of race, gender, religion, socio-economic status, and other differences. In addition, a diverse body of students, faculty, and staff provide rich resources for learning and collaboration. This section covers campus diversity and equity coordination and assessment, affordability and access for students, discrimination and bias response, diversity recruitment and mentoring, and efforts to increase diversity of faculty in academia.

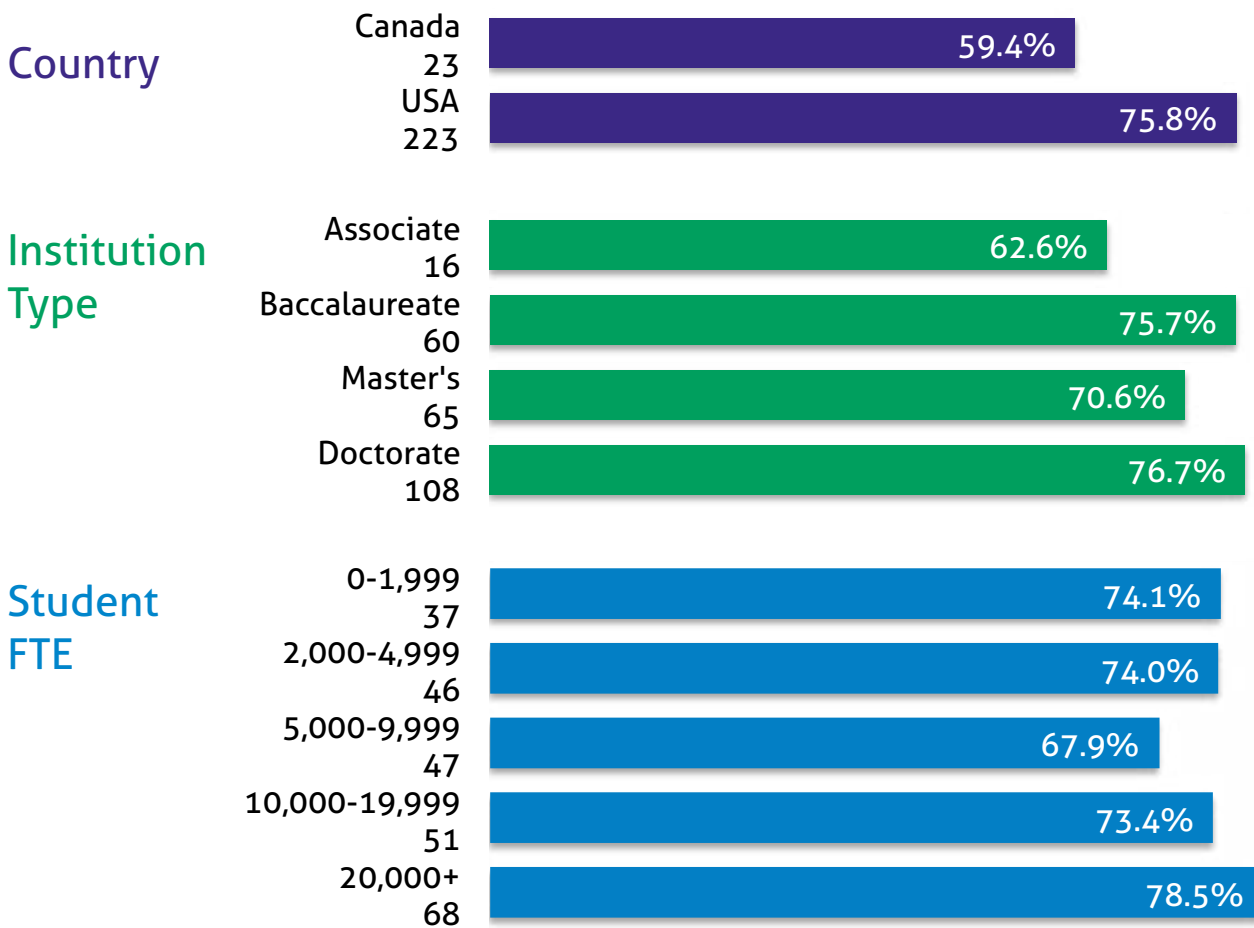


Diversity & Affordability

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Colorado State University	97.9%	Doctorate	Fort Collins, CO
2. University of Virginia	96.5%	Doctorate	Charlottesville, VA
3. Cornell University (tie)	96.3%	Doctorate	Ithaca, NY
3. Stanford University (tie)	96.3%	Doctorate	Stanford, CA
5. University of Richmond	95.4%	Baccalaureate	Richmond, VA

Average Scores





Diversity & Affordability

Highlights

ROOT at **Williams College** is a collaboration between the Davis Center (formerly the Multicultural Center) and the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives. This first-year orientation program encourages participants to explore and affirm identities in light of social justice and sustainability. It goes beyond a normal sustainability-related orientation experience in the way that it interrogates the overlap between environmental and social sustainability. ROOT leaders guide first-year students in exploring the intersections of sustainability, identity, diversity, and inclusion through activities, discussions, and travel experiences in the immediate area.

Cornell University's office of Institutional Research & Planning has partnered with academic leadership to develop **dashboards** to continuously assess and track diversity and equity by school and by degree program, graduation and retention rates for diverse groups, and perceptual measures on an annual basis. This information has been used to develop student-focused annual initiatives for Cornell's Diversity and Inclusion framework, **Toward New Destinations**. This diversity framework requires that each college and administrative unit annually identify five diversity initiatives in support of four core principles (composition, engagement, inclusion, achievement) for students; postdoctoral associates and academic professionals; staff, faculty, the off-campus community; and the extended Cornell communities of parents, alumni, friends and donors.

ROOT program students at Williams College with members of Manos Unidas holding their Harvest of Hope banner. Photo credit: Postyn Smith



Cornell University Assistant Professor Ying Hua discussing dashboard research with two student assistants. Photo credit: Credit: Mark Vorreuter





Diversity & Affordability

Highlights

The [University of Houston](#) has two programs in place to increase the number of women and underrepresented groups as future faculty members in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. With the launch of the UH Cullen College of Engineering's first [Future Faculty program](#), students who want to become successful engineering educators and researchers are exposed to the challenges faculty work in and are taught how to set goals and expectations at each stage in their academic career. Fellowships and scholarships have been established that are directed at students from diverse backgrounds. The University has also been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE grant to create a [Center for ADVANCING UH Faculty Success](#).

In November 2015, [State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry](#) President Quentin Wheeler was joined by leaders of the ESF Center for Native Peoples and the Environment; members of the Onondaga Nation; and ESF students, faculty, and staff in an [announcement of recognition](#) for the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. This is the first known proclamation of its type for a public institution of higher learning. ESF is located within the original territory of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois, Confederacy, and the College is within the Land Rights Action of the Onondaga Nation. The ceremony was followed by a workshop, "Envisioning Indigenous Alliances," to discuss environmental alliances between ESF and Indigenous Peoples.

University of Houston and Houston skyline.
Photo credit: Michael Scott



Robin Kimmerer, Director of the ESF Center for Native Peoples & the Environment, spoke during a ceremony recognizing the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Photo credit: Wendy P. Osborne





Unity College students participate in the People's Climate March. Unity College was the first to divest its endowment from fossil fuels.

Collectively, colleges and universities invest hundreds of billions of dollars, and these investments have impacts that are both local and global in scope. Institutions with transparent and democratic investment processes promote accountability and engagement by the campus and community. By using the tools of sustainable investment and disclosure, institutions can improve the long-term health of their endowments, encourage better corporate behavior, support innovation in sustainable products and services, support sustainability in their community, and help build a more just and sustainable financial system.

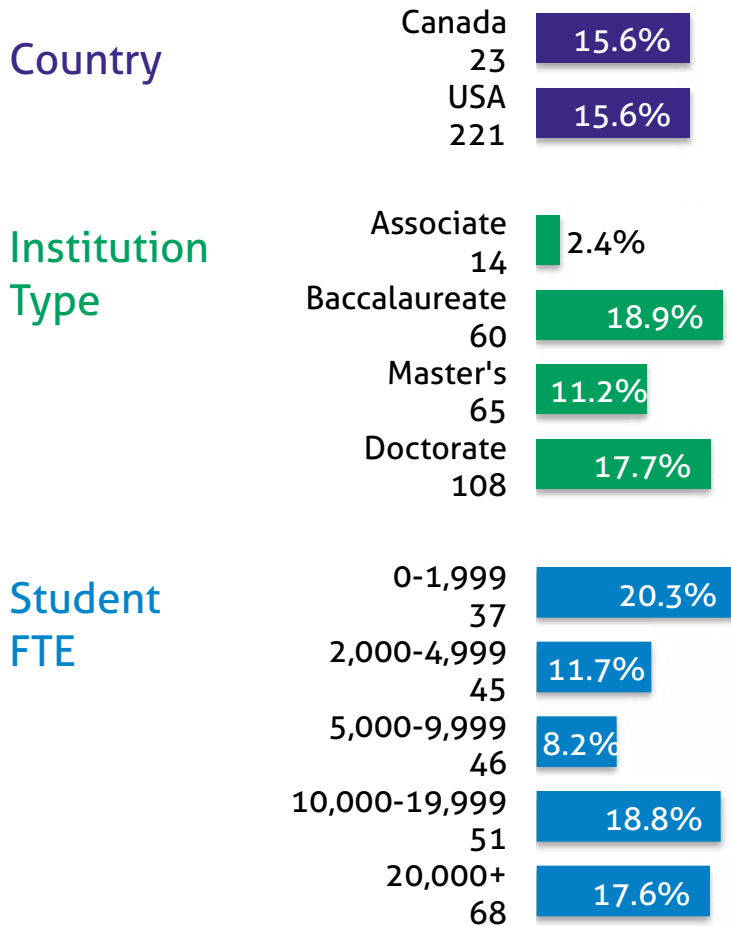


Investment & Finance

Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Unity College	76.0%	Baccalaureate	Unity, ME
2. Green Mountain College	73.7%	Baccalaureate	Poultney, VT
3. University of California, Merced (tie)	68.1%	Baccalaureate	Merced, CA
3. University of California, Riverside (tie)	68.1%	Doctorate	Riverside, CA
3. University of California, Santa Cruz (tie)	68.1%	Doctorate	Santa Cruz, CA

Average Scores



Highlights

In 2015, the University of California system published a comprehensive new framework on Sustainable Investing and began integrating the framework into its risk evaluation and analysis process, with input from stakeholders. [University of California, Merced](#), [University of California, Riverside](#), and [University of California, Santa Cruz](#) earned high marks under Investment in their 2016 STARS reports thanks in part to the UC system's investment efforts. The newly established UC Regents Committee on Investments includes multi-stakeholder representation that serves in the role of overseeing implementation of sustainable investment policies and programs. In addition, a portion of the UC investment pool now includes investments in sustainable forestry and clean energy. The regents have also opted to eliminate UC holdings in firms whose primary business is coal mining, oil sands investment and development, and private prison companies.

Nearly 17% of [University of Washington, Seattle's](#) investment pool is in sustainable investments, resulting in a top score in the Sustainable Investment credit. UW's investment portfolio includes endowment investments of \$140 million in sustainable industries including solar, wind, sustainable forestry, biomass and geothermal energy, and \$209 million in sustainable University trust forest lands. The UW has \$150 million of investments made in part because of a company's social or environmental performance. In addition, the UW has invested \$17 million in sustainability investment funds.

University of Washington's Pack Forest began with the purchase of 334 acres in 1926 from a bequest by Charles L. Pack, an east coast lumberman and conservationist. Over the years, additional purchases have expanded the University's holdings to 4,300 acres nestled just a short drive from Mt. Rainier.



Highlights

Thanks to the forethought of [Frostburg State University](#) Student Government Association leaders, 12 new student-focused sustainability projects have received grant funding from the Frostburg State President's Advisory Council for Sustainability in collaboration with Student Sierra Club and other groups on campus. The funds were raised through the university's [Student Sustainability Fee](#), a \$15-per-semester mandatory fee instituted by SGA in May of 2014. The initial funding round sought proposals for projects focused on the theme of "Sustainability Awareness." Many of the funded projects will be noticeable to students on campus. The committee plans to open another funding cycle before the end of the spring 2016 semester, seeking faculty-designed proposals for student experiential learning activities focused on sustainability.

[Earlham College](#) is among a handful of institutions with a [Socially Responsible Endowment Investments Policy](#). The policy covers the college and Foundation, and includes negative screening for companies and investments that are not in line with Quaker Testimonies. A Socially Responsible Investment Advisory Committee defers general proxy voting decisions to the on-campus Sub-Committee that meets irregularly to approve proxy voting. The Committee works directly with the [Reinvestment campaign](#), a student-led campaign asking Earlham College to divest its endowment from fossil fuel companies and reinvest responsibly.

The student sustainability fund at Frostburg State University supported the installation of a new water bottle fill station. Photo credit: Ann Townsell





Wellbeing & Work



Students and yoga. Courtesy of Seattle University.

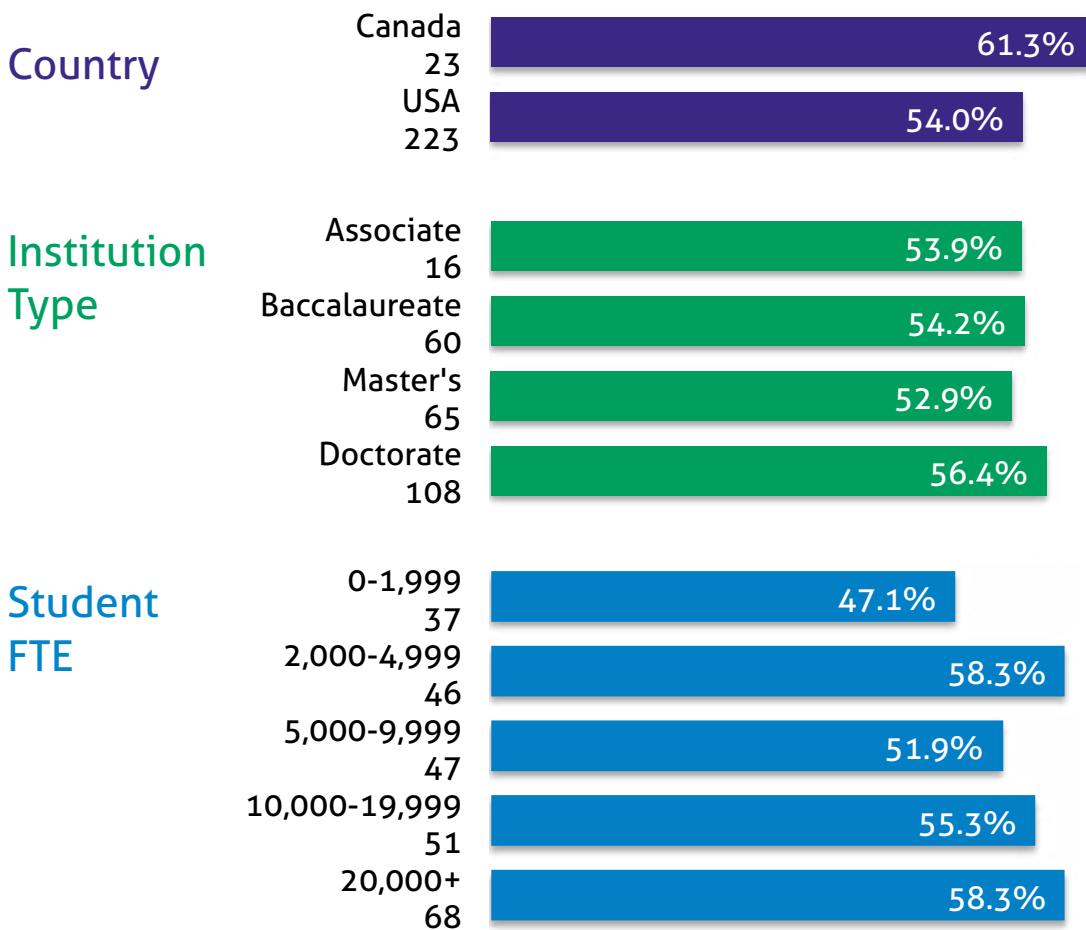
People define an organization's character and capacity to perform, and achievements are only as strong as that organization's community. Colleges and universities can bolster the strength of their communities by offering benefits, wages, and other assistance that serve to respectfully and ethically compensate workers and by acting to protect and positively affect the wellbeing of the campus community. This section highlights student and employee wellness programs and employee compensation, satisfaction, health, and safety.



Top Performers

Institution	Score	Type	Location
1. Saint Mary's College of California (tie)	100%	Master's	Moraga, CA
1. The American College of Greece (tie)	100%	Master's	Athens, Greece
3. Colorado State University	91.0%	Doctorate	Fort Collins, CO
4. Seattle University	90.3%	Master's	Seattle, WA
5. Earlham College	89.1%	Baccalaureate	Richmond, IN

Average Scores





Wellbeing & Work

Highlights

In fall 2015, a [University of Louisville](#) sustainable compensation minimum wage [standard for full-time contractors](#) of \$10.10/hour was developed by a newly appointed Committee for Responsible Business Practices with multi-stakeholder representation. In 2013, UofL became Kentucky's first public university to implement a [living wage for all university employees](#) when it increased its minimum wage for regular status staff employees from \$8.67 to \$10 per hour in November 2013. UofL's minimum wage is increasing by 25 cents per hour per year, starting in July 2014 and continuing in 2015-17 – bringing the rate to \$11 per hour by July 2017.

Teams of four compete in the "Big Green Get Around", a four-week competition at [Transylvania University](#) aimed at improving both physical wellness and sustainability by encouraging faculty, staff, and students to get to where they're going using no or low carbon forms of transportation. Points are for no/low carbon trips, days without using an elevator, cardio exercise, and other positive behaviors. To help people become more comfortable with no or low carbon forms of transportation, a number of events are sponsored during the competition (e.g., trolley rides, bike trips, bus trips, etc.) that award points for participation.

Faculty, staff and student *Big Green Get Around* participants with bikes at Transylvania University.





Highlights

The [LiVE](#) (Lead, Inspire, Value, and Enrich) wellness program at [Seattle University](#) is designed to reward employees for taking the small steps that lead to healthy habits. Employees can earn points for chances to win prizes including fitness devices and sports apparel. LiVE participation starts with a wellbeing self-assessment that points out areas of strength and suggested areas to focus on in creating a personal health and wellbeing plan. Participants can earn more points by completing quarterly wellbeing challenges, working with a Whole Health Coach, going for an annual checkup, and reporting their key health numbers (cholesterol, blood pressure, and others).

Empower is a new recognition program launched in fall 2015 at [Florida International University](#) that provides instant peer recognition to employees who provide excellent service, demonstrate an FIU core value, or go above and beyond what is normally expected. Faculty and staff are not only able to submit ideas that contribute to efficiency and enhanced services, but are rewarded for good ideas as well. Recipients of this recognition receive a certificate which can be printed and displayed, or even added as an attachment to their ePerformance notes. Through this enhanced system, recognition is now tracked for each business unit and department, enabling FIU leadership to quantify trends, and to accentuate the positive support that occurs daily.

Recognition of the team members that spearheaded the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy revision during the 2016 Florida International University Service & Recognition Awards Ceremony.

Photo credit: FIU Human Resources



Overall Top Performers



Colorado State students deliver more than 4,000 signatures to the President's Office as part of the Climate Reality campaign. Photo credit: Sarah Snead

In response to feedback, the 2016 SCl recognizes top performers overall by institution type (Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral/Research) for the first time. These lists are determined based on STARS overall score, and include institutions that have a valid STARS report submitted between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2016.

Associate's Colleges

Overall Top Performers

Institution	Rating	Score	Location
1. Kankakee Community College	Gold	67.9	Kankakee, IL
2. Mohawk College	Silver	57.6	Hamilton, ON (Canada)
3. Central Carolina Community College	Silver	54.8	Sanford, NC
4. Raritan Valley Community College	Silver	52.4	North Branch, NJ
5. George Brown College	Silver	48.4	Toronto, ON (Canada)
6. Richland Community College	Silver	48.3	Decatur, IL
7. Onondaga Community College	Silver	48.1	Syracuse, NY
8. Madisonville Community College	Silver	47.7	Madisonville, KY
9. Selkirk College	Silver	47.2	Castlegar, BC (Canada)
10. Camosun College	Silver	46.4	Victoria, BC (Canada)

Associate's colleges include institutions where all degrees are at the associate's level, or where Baccalaureate degrees account for less than 10% of all degrees (adapted from [Carnegie Basic Classification](#)).



Applied wind and solar energy projects at the Fennell Campus of Mohawk College support teaching, learning and research on campus.

Baccalaureate Institutions

Overall Top Performers

Institution	Rating	Score	Location
1. Green Mountain College	Gold	76.5	Poultney, VT
2. Colby College	Gold	75.7	Waterville, ME
3. Sterling College	Gold	75.3	Craftsbury Common, VT
4. Dickinson College	Gold	74.2	Carlisle, PA
5. Middlebury College	Gold	72.6	Middlebury, VT
6. University of Minnesota, Morris	Gold	70.8	Morris, MN
7. Furman University	Gold	69.3	Greenville, SC
8. Pomona College	Gold	68.4	Claremont, CA
9. Denison University	Gold	67.4	Granville, OH
10. Wartburg College	Gold	67.2	Waverly, IA

Baccalaureate institutions include colleges and universities where baccalaureate degrees represent at least 10% of all undergraduate degrees and where fewer than 50 master's degrees or 20 doctoral degrees are awarded annually (adapted from [Carnegie Basic Classification](#)).

Gwilym Walker '17 drives draft horses on the Green Mountain College farm. Photo credit: Eric Hudiburg



Master's Institutions

Overall Top Performers

Institution	Rating	Score	Location
1. Appalachian State University	Gold	77.2	Boone, NC
2. Chatham University	Gold	75.8	Pittsburgh, PA
3. California State University, Sacramento	Gold	72.2	Sacramento, CA
4. Thompson Rivers University	Gold	71.6	Kamloops, BC (Canada)
5. Santa Clara University	Gold	70.1	Santa Clara, CA
6. Seattle University	Gold	69.4	Seattle, WA
7. University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh	Gold	69.4	Oshkosh, WI
8. Belmont University	Gold	69.4	Nashville, TN
9. California State University, Northridge	Gold	68.9	Northridge, CA
10. Florida Gulf Coast University	Gold	68.7	Fort Myers, FL

Master's institutions include colleges and universities that award at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 doctoral degrees annually (adapted from [Carnegie Basic Classification](#)).

Appalachian State University students have a hands-on sustainability experience. Photo credit: Marie Freeman



Doctoral/Research Institutions

Overall Top Performers

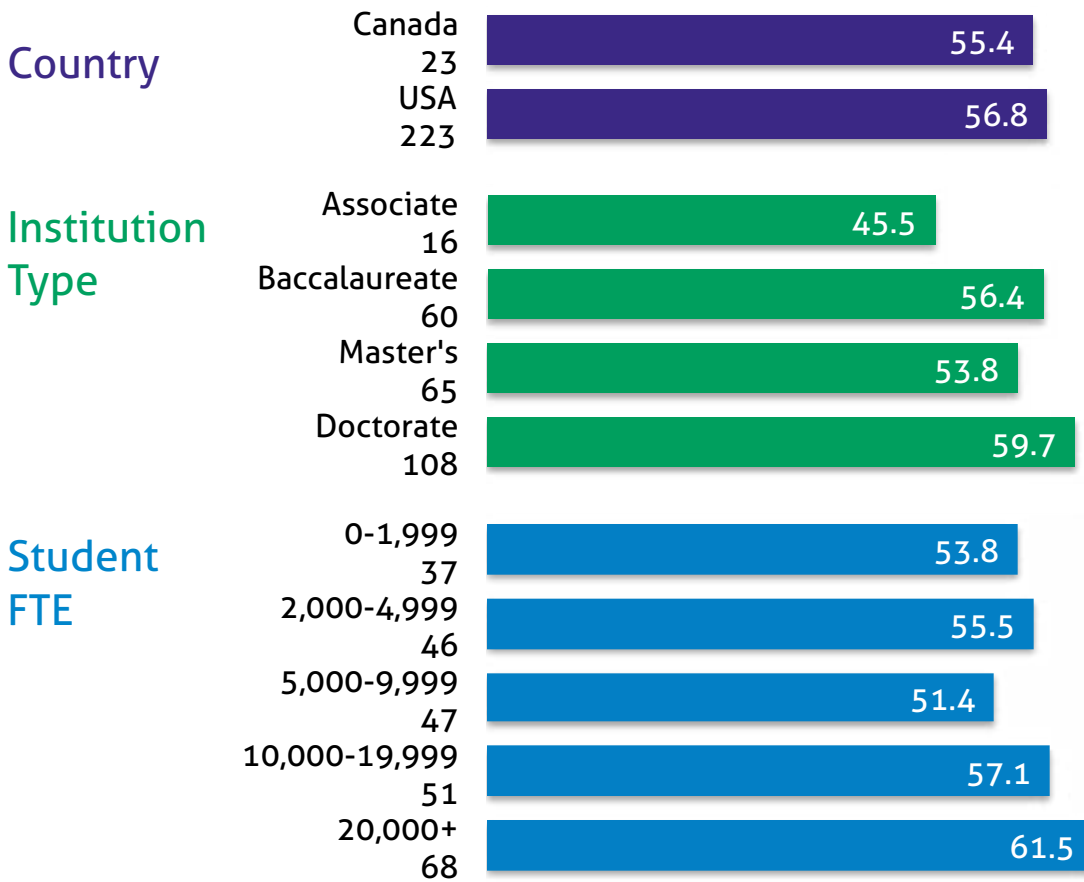
Institution	Rating	Score	Location
1. Colorado State University	Platinum	85.3	Fort Collins, CO
2. Stanford University	Gold	81.0	Stanford, CA
3. University of Connecticut	Gold	78.5	Storrs, CT
4. University of Washington, Seattle	Gold	77.4	Seattle, WA
5. American University	Gold	75.4	Washington, DC
6. University of British Columbia	Gold	75.0	Vancouver, BC (Canada)
7. Oregon State University	Gold	73.2	Corvallis, OR
8. SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry	Gold	73.0	Syracuse, NY
9. Emory University	Gold	72.3	Atlanta, GA
10. University of California, Santa Cruz	Gold	71.9	Santa Cruz, CA

Doctorate/research institutions include colleges, universities and institutes that award at least 20 research doctoral degrees annually, including doctoral degrees that qualify recipients for entry into professional practice (adapted from the [Carnegie Basic Classification](#)).

An international group of biologists led by University of Connecticut ecologist Mark Urban is calling for a coordinated effort to gather important species information that is urgently needed to improve predictions for the impact of climate change on future biodiversity. Photo credit: Daniel Buttrey



Overall Average Scores



Known as "the Well", CSU Sacramento's LEED Gold health & wellness center features rooftop solar, natural skylights and recycled building material such as flooring made from recycled glass bottles. Photo credit: Jessica Vernone



Methodology

All data presented in this publication is based on valid STARS 2.0 and 2.1 reports submitted prior to July 1, 2016. Reports submitted after this date will be included in next year's Index. Since STARS Version 1 has been phased out and due to significant differences between versions, only Version 2 reports were considered.

Identifying Top Performers

Top performers within a topic were determined based on percentage of points earned within a subcategory and adherence to credit criteria as outlined in STARS credit criteria. Five top performers are recognized in most subcategories of this report except in cases where scores were tied.

AASHE staff reviewed all credits from top-performing candidates within a subcategory to make sure that content provided in that area meets credit criteria. For any identified issues, staff reached out to STARS Liaisons, requesting follow-up within a two-week timeframe. Most institutions addressed the inconsistencies by submitting data revisions to clarify text or revise numbers. Some revisions resulted in score changes, which affected eligibility for inclusion. Institutions that did not address identified issues have been excluded from the final lists.

The new Overall Top Performers lists based on institution type in this year's report were not subject to the same review process, largely due to the resource constraints of reviewing so many reports in full. Since overall top performers were often also recognized in one or more topical areas, much of the data from many of these institutions were nonetheless reviewed, in addition to the standard reviews conducted for all reports (learn more about [STARS data accuracy](#) mechanisms).

Hoop house at Chatham University. Photo credit: Bruce Damont



Methodology

Identifying Highlighted Institutions

Each section of the Index highlights best practices from institutions that submitted reports in the 12 months prior to July 1, 2016. Highlighted initiatives were selected based on innovative efforts and level of impact in advancing sustainability. Institutions that submit STARS reports annually have the opportunity to be highlighted every year.

Average Score Data

Each section of this review includes charts displaying average scores by institution type, country, and FTE enrollment. Institutions that submitted as STARS Reporters were excluded from average score calculations since their scores are not public. The charts displaying average score by country include US and Canadian institutions. Two institutions from Mexico and one institution from Greece were excluded from the country averages but were included elsewhere.



VA-NC Alliance summer research program student at University of Virginia, Korey Smith, works at a microscope. Photo credit: Sanjay Suchak

STARS in 2016

Higher education continues to make great strides in advancing sustainability. Hundreds of institutions have participated in STARS between July 2015 and June 2016, and 124 reports were submitted (11% increase over last year and third consecutive year of growth). Institutions in California submitted the highest number of reports (14), while New York institutions submitted the second-highest number with 12. In November 2015, the American University of Greece became the first European institution to earn a STARS rating. In May 2016, Polytechnique Montreal became the first institution to submit under the newly released version, STARS 2.1.

University of Victoria's LEED Gold Administrative Services Building.



STARS of Data Accuracy

AASHE staff review one-third of credits in every rated STARS report as part of a standard submission review process. AASHE applauds the following institutions that submitted reports in the last 12 months and had two or fewer data inconsistencies identified during the review process.

Institution	Rating	Location	# Issues
Elon University	Silver	Elon, NC	0
Austin College	Reporter	Allen, TX	1
Onondaga Community College	Silver	Syracuse, NY	1
Camosun College	Silver	Victoria, BC (Canada)	2
Loyalist College	Bronze	Belleville, ON (Canada)	2
North Carolina State University	Gold	Raleigh, NC	2
Oregon State University	Gold	Corvallis, OR	2
South Dakota State University	Bronze	Brookings, SD	2
Temple University	Bronze	Philadelphia, PA	2
University of Regina	Reporter	Regina, SK (Canada)	2

Courtesy of Camosun College, Victoria, British Columbia.



Index of Rated Institutions

As of July 1, 2016



Colorado State University

Colorado State students pedal across the great green on campus. Photo credit: Colorado State University Photography



Index of Rated Institutions

As of July 1, 2016



American University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Babson College
Ball State University
Bard College
Belmont University
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, Chico
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
Chatham University
Clarkson University
Colby College
Colgate University
Colorado College
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dalhousie University
Denison University
Dickinson College
Emory University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Furman University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Grand Valley State University
Green Mountain College
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
Kankakee Community College
Loyola University Chicago
Macalester College
Middlebury College

Babson College faculty and students on sustainability course in Costa Rica.



Columbia University Bike-Share Program.
Photo credit: Christian Balmer



Index of Rated Institutions

As of July 1, 2016



North Carolina State University
Northern Arizona University
Nova Scotia Community College
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Portland State University
Royal Roads University
Santa Clara University
Seattle University
Simon Fraser University
St. John's University
Stanford University
State University of New York at Cortland
SUNY ESF
Sterling College
The Ohio State University
The University of Georgia
Thompson Rivers University
Unity College
Université Laval
University at Albany
University at Buffalo
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of California, Davis
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Connecticut
University of Houston
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

SUNY Cortland's uses bio-swales, native vegetation and permeable pavement. The campus maintains an urban forest and has set aside "no-mow zones".



4,000 square feet of solar cells provide roughly 8% of the Business Instructional Facility's energy needs at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



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University of Iowa
University of Louisville
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Missouri
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
University of Notre Dame
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
University of San Diego
University of South Florida
University of Vermont
University of Victoria
University of Virginia
University of Washington, Seattle
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Virginia Tech
Wartburg College
Western Michigan University
Western University



University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Spartan Village Planning.



Western Michigan University student demonstrates
beekeeping to local elementary school.

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Aquinas College
Auburn University
Baylor University
Bellevue College
Beloit College
Bentley University
Berea College
Black Hills State University
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bryant University
Bucknell University
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Los Angeles
Calvin College
Camosun College
Carnegie Mellon University
Central Carolina Community College
Champlain College
Coastal Carolina University
Concordia University
DePauw University
Earlham College
Eastern Connecticut State University
Eastern Mennonite University
Elon University
Fanshawe College
Florida International University
Florida State University
Frostburg State University
George Brown College
Gettysburg College
Goshen College
Goucher College
Guilford College
Haverford College

Field Research on Lyme Disease at Frostburg State University. Photo credit: Rebekah Taylor



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Humber College
Illinois State University
Indiana State University
Indiana University Bloomington
James Madison University
Jefferson Community and Technical College
Keene State College
Knox College
Lafayette College
LIU Post
Luther College
MacEwan University
Madisonville Community College
Maharishi University of Management
Maryville College
Miami University
Michigan State University
Mills College
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Missouri State University
Mohawk College
Muhlenberg College
North Seattle College
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Ohio University
Okanagan College
Oklahoma State University
Onondaga Community College
Pittsburg State University
Polytechnique Montreal
Portland Community College
Princeton University
Principia College
Raritan Valley Community College
Rice University
Richland Community College

A pair of feathered friends enjoys Indiana State University's green infrastructure on a rainy spring day. Photo credit: Tony Campbell



Muhlenberg College students working in permaculture garden. Photo credit: Tom Littrell



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Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint John's University
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary's College of California
Selkirk College
Sewanee - The University of the South
Sheridan College
Slippery Rock University
Smith College
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Southern Oregon University
Southwestern University
St. Lawrence University
State University of New York at Geneseo
State University of New York at New Paltz
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stonehill College
Texas A&M University
The College of Wooster
The Ohio State University at Lima
The Ohio State University at Mansfield
The Ohio State University at Marion
The Ohio State University at Newark
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Arkansas
University of Cincinnati
University of Dayton
University of Denver
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Manitoba
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Minnesota, Duluth

St. John's University's Green Campus Initiative,
Conserve To Serve.



The Legacy Garden at Saint Mary's College in California
is a space where students and employees volunteer.



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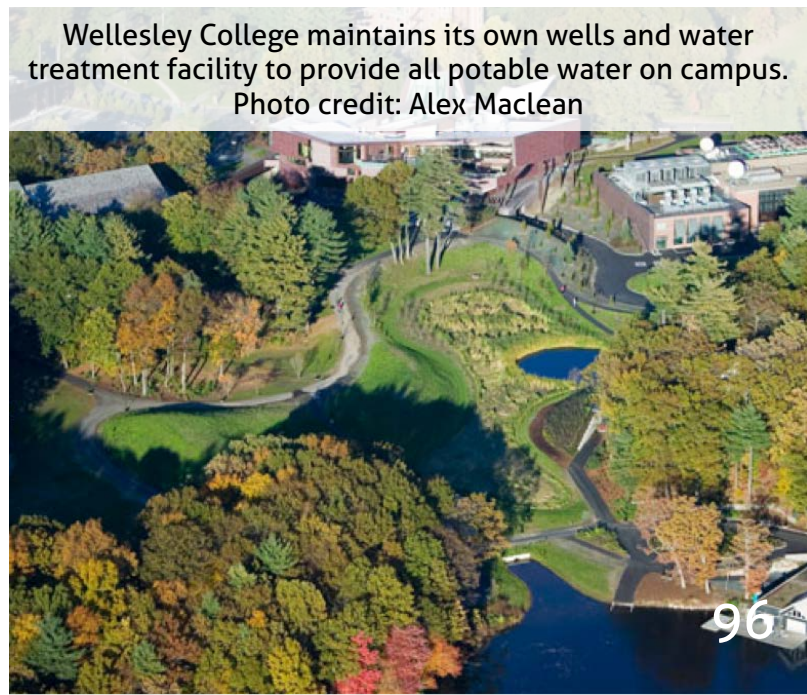


- University of Missouri, Kansas City
- University of Montana
- University of Mount Union
- University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of North Carolina, Wilmington
- University of North Texas
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Richmond
- University of Rochester
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- University of Winnipeg
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- University of Wisconsin-Stout
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- Utah State University
- Vassar College
- Villanova University
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Wake Forest University
- Wellesley College
- Wells College
- Wesleyan University
- Western Kentucky University
- Westminster College
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Williams College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- York University

University of Nevada, Las Vegas *Take Back the Tap* Founder, Monica Garcia, counting bottles collected at a trade in event.



Wellesley College maintains its own wells and water treatment facility to provide all potable water on campus. Photo credit: Alex Maclean



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Bridgewater College
Central New Mexico Community College
Central Ohio Technical College
Concordia College-Moorhead
Estrella Mountain Community College
Ferrum College
Georgia College & State University
Illinois Central College
Johnson County Community College
Joliet Junior College
Juniata College
Lakehead University
Lehigh University
Loyalist College
Metropolitan Community College
Niagara College Canada
Orange County Community College
Ringling College of Art and Design
Roosevelt University
Saint Joseph's College - ME
Seattle Central College
Sonoma State University
South Dakota State University
South Seattle College
State University of New York at Fredonia
Temple University
The American College of Greece
Transylvania University
Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas
Universidad de Monterrey
University of Alaska Southeast
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Nebraska at Omaha
University of North Carolina, Pembroke
University of Saskatchewan
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at El Paso
University of West Georgia
Weber State University
Western State Colorado University
Yeshiva University

The American College of Greece Health & Wellness Center offers Health Services, Wellness Coaching.



Transylvania University faculty, staff and students participate in a variety of low-carbon activities during the Big Green Get Around. Photo credit: Angela Poe



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Franklin University Switzerland
Georgia State University
Hibbing Community College
Kyoto University
Old Dominion University
Plymouth State University
State University of New York Polytechnic Institute
Universidad San Francisco de Quito
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Oregon
University of Regina
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Utrecht University

Duke University's Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden.



About AASHE



AASHE staff at the 2016 AASHE Annual Conference & Expo in Baltimore, MD.

AASHE empowers higher education faculty, administrators, staff, and students to be effective change agents and drivers of sustainability innovation. AASHE enables members to translate information into action by offering essential resources and professional development to a diverse, engaged community of sustainability leaders. We work with and for higher education to ensure that our world's future leaders are motivated and equipped to solve sustainability challenges. To learn more, visit aashe.org.

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