

2020-2021 FY Sustainability Rankings, Ratings, and Awards

I. Rankings & Ratings

- UC Berkeley and UC Irvine received an AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) [STARS](#) (Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System) Platinum Rating in 2021. A 2021 STARS Gold rating was awarded to UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, UC Davis, UCLA, UC Merced, UC Riverside, and UC Santa Cruz.
- [2021 Sustainable Campus Index](#) (SCI) ratings, as measured by AASHE STARS
 - For Overall Performance as Doctoral Institutions, UC Irvine Placed #4 in rankings while UC Berkeley placed #9.
 - UC Merced ranked #1 top performer for Buildings. UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Davis ranked #2, #5, #6, and #7 respectively.
 - UC Irvine ranked #2 top performer for Coordination and Planning.
 - UC Irvine ranked #5 top performer for Diversity and Affordability
 - UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Barbara all tied for #6 top performer for Investment and Finance. UC Merced and UC Santa Cruz tied for #10 top performer.
 - UC Irvine and UC Merced tied for #1 top performer for Research. UC San Diego and UC Santa Cruz tied for #5 top performer.
 - UC Santa Barbara ranked #10 top performer for Waste
 - UC Riverside ranked #6 top performer for Water
 - UCLA, UC Berkeley, and UC Riverside ranked #4, #5, and #6 top performers for Wellbeing & Work
 - The following programs were institutional highlights on the SCI report:
 - UC Clean Energy Pilot Program
 - UC Inter-System Collaboration for Climate Action Education
 - UC Berkeley SDG Undergraduate Research Group
 - UC Riverside R'Garden
 - UC San Diego EV Affordability and Charging Accessibility program
- [2020 Sustainable Campus Index](#) (SCI) ratings, as measured by AASHE STARS
 - For Overall Performance as Doctoral Institutions, UC Irvine placed #4 in rankings while UC Merced placed #9.
 - UC Merced ranked #1 top performer for Buildings. UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis, and UC Berkeley ranked #2, #3, #6, #7, and #10 respectively.

- o UC Irvine ranked #3 top performer for Coordination and Planning.
- o UC Berkeley and UC Irvine ranked #4 and #6 top performers, respectively, for Diversity and Affordability.
- o UC Davis ranked #10 top performer in Energy.
- o UC Merced and UC Santa Cruz tied for the #6 top performers, while UC Davis and UCLA tied for #8 in Investment and Finance.
- o UC Irvine, UC Merced, and UC San Diego tied for #1 top performer in Research, and UC Santa Cruz ranked #6.
- o UC Santa Barbara and UC Merced ranked #8 and #9 top performers, respectively, for Waste.
- o UCLA ranked #4 top performer in Wellness.
- o UCLA's program *Aligning Trademark Licensee Renewal with Social Performance* and UC Davis's *Bike Friendly Platinum & Sustainable Fleet Certifications* were Institutional highlights on the report.
- [2021 Sierra Cool Schools](#)
 - o The Sierra Club ranked UC Irvine as the number 2 "Coolest School" in the nation. This will be the 12th consecutive year UC Irvine has been in the top 10 for its numerous sustainability-related programming and initiatives, LEED Platinum buildings, EV infrastructure, and general commitments. Among the rest of the UCs: UC Berkeley #6, UC Merced #7, UC Santa Barbara #16, UC Davis #20, UC Santa Cruz #23, UC San Diego #34, UC Riverside #43, and UCLA #64.
- [2021 Princeton Review Green Colleges](#)
 - o Princeton Review ranked many of the UCs again in the top 50 Green Colleges for sustainability efforts. UC Santa Cruz ranked #3 nationally, followed by UC Santa Barbara at #10, UC Berkeley at #13, UC Merced at #15, and UC San Diego at #32.
 - o In 2020, UC Santa Cruz ranked #11, followed by UC Santa Barbara #13, UC Berkeley #17, UC Merced #27, and UC Riverside #48.
- [2022 Quacquarelli Symonds \(QS\) World University Sustainable Development Goal Rankings](#)
 - o UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC San Diego ranked #32, #40, and #48 out of the top 50 schools globally respectively for progress forwarding environmentally-related SDGs
- [2021 UI GreenMetric World University Ranking](#)
 - o UC Davis ranked #5 while UC San Diego ranked #70 globally
- [2021 Post-Landfill Action Network Top 10 Zero Waste Campuses](#)
 - o UC Berkeley Ranked #2 nationally for scope 1 and 2 waste diversion practices

II. Awards & Recognition

A. Climate and Energy

- UC Merced received a Resolution from the California State Legislature, written by California Senate Majority Leader Robert Hertzberg and Senator Anna Caballero, on UC Merced's Carbon Neutrality achievement.
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory received three recognitions for work on projects from the U.S. Department of Energy. LBNL's ISO 50001 team and building commissioning team were recognized for its approach to energy and water all facilities and activities, and both received a 2021 U.S. DOE Sustainability Award. The NERSC Efficiency Optimization Team was recognized with a 2020 U.S. DOE Sustainability Award.

B. Food

- UC Merced received 4 recognitions for its work with food. This includes the Outstanding Edible Food Recovery Program Award from the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRRA) for its off campus food recovery and California Higher Education Awards in categories for Partnerships, Communications, & Planning: Cooking Up New Programs to "Leave No Food Behind" and Sustainable Food Service: "Ugly Produce" Rescue and Donation Initiative. Merced was also a finalist for the AASHE Campus Sustainability Achievement Award for "No Food Left Behind: A free text service to reduce food insecurity and food waste".
- UC Davis Health received a [Good Food 100](#) recognition from the Good Food Media Network to recognize its contribution to building better food systems.

C. Green Buildings and Operations

- UCLA received the [USGBC-LA Green Building Project of the year](#) for the UCLA Margo Leavin Graduate Art Studios.
- UC Merced was selected for the 2021 USGBC Leadership Award for the Pacific Region.
- UC Merced also received \$1.7 million for the [Saving by Design program](#) from PG&E.
- UC Merced received a California Higher Education Award in Interdisciplinary Academics for the Carson House Sustainable Futures project teaching students about sustainability in a community learning environment.
- UC San Diego received multiple recognitions for its work with Tata Hall, including the [2020 Design Award](#) from the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and an [Orchids & Onions Awards](#) from the San Diego Architectural Foundation. They also received two other Orchids & Onions Awards for work on the [Mesa Housing Pedestrian Bridge](#) and [Center for Novel Therapeutics](#). UC San Diego received two other green building awards, namely the [AIA San Diego 2020 Legacy Award](#) from the American Institute of Architects for Geisel Library and the [2021 Design Award](#) from the American Society of Landscape Architects for the Jacobs building. For

the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood Project, UC San Diego also received LA-USGBC's 2020 Sustainable Innovation Award.

- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory received [the 2020 UC Sustainability Best Practice Award](#) for its Integrative Genomics Building at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference, which was also recognized as an honorable mention for the [2020 U.S. Department of Energy Sustainability Award](#).

D. Health and Well-Being

- UC Davis received the inaugural APLU Research Response to a Community in Crisis Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities honoring its COVID-19 response, which included programs such as Healthy Davis Together.
- UC Irvine was among Inaugural U.S. cohort to adopt the Okanagan Charter, calling on institutions of higher education to infuse health and well-being into the campus environment and lead health promotion action and collaboration locally and globally.

E. Healthcare Operations

- All 5 of UC's Health Systems were awarded the [Environmental Excellence Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth for achieving high standards of excellence for sustainability programs.

F. Procurement

- UCLA received the [2021 Synergy Award](#) from the International Collegiate Licensing Association for its Trademarks & Licensing team's work to promote social responsibility.

G. Transportation

- UC Berkeley received 2 awards for sustainable forms of commuting: a [Silver status for Bike Friendly University](#) from the American League of Bicyclists and a [Best University Workplace for Commuters commendation](#) from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (University of South Florida).
- UC Davis received 2 awards for sustainable transportation: a [Platinum status for Bicycle Friendly University](#) from the American league of Bicyclists; and the [#4 ranking in Green Fleet Awards](#) for the 100 Best Fleets Program.
- UC Irvine received 3 awards for sustainable transportation, including the Fleet Merit Award for Best University or College by the NAFA Fleet Management Association, the #2 ranking in the [Green Garage Award](#) from 100 Best Fleets, and the Best Workplace for Commuters Race to Excellence Award from the National Center for Transit Research.
- UCLA received 5 awards for sustainable transportation, including a 2021 Green Fleet Award from NAFA, Commuting Options in Public Transit Award from ACT, the 2021

Organization of the Year from the International Parking and Mobility Institute, a 100 Best Fleets recognition from NAFA, and a 2021 Best Workplaces for Commuters recognition.

- UC San Diego received the [2020 Diamond Awards](#) from iCommute and the [2020 Green Fleet Awards](#) recognition for its alternative and sustainable commute services.
- UC Davis Health also received the [Best Workplaces for Commuters](#) recognition from the Center on Urban Transportation and Research.

H. Waste

- UC Berkeley received a [Mayoral Proclamation](#) recognizing the student-led effort in the 2021 Cal Move Out for its leadership and environmental commitment to reducing waste.
- UC Irvine was the [2021 winner for the Large Campus Food Organics Category](#) in the Campus Race to Zero Waste competition.
- UC San Diego received the [2020 San Diego Recycler of the Year Award](#) from the City of San Diego for its practices increasing campus diversion.

III. Additional Sustainability Achievements

- The UC System received recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency as the [#1 University for green electricity use](#) and received the EPA's [Green Power Leadership Award](#).
- UC Irvine received a [Tree Campus USA](#) designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for efforts in establishing and sustaining urban tree canopy. This is the 11th consecutive year UCI has received that designation.
- UCLA received the [Award for Excellence in Sustainability](#) from the American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division for its research contribution to the LA Countywide Sustainability Plan.
- UC San Diego received the [2020 Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document Award](#) from the California Association of Environmental Professionals for the 2018 Long Range Development Plan for the UC San Diego La Jolla campus.
- UC Santa Cruz received the [California Higher Education Sustainability Conference Best Practice Award in Social Equity and Justice](#) for its "Expanding Sustainability: UCSC's Diversity and Inclusion Certificate" program.
- UC Berkeley ranked [#3 for Best Global Universities for Environment/Ecology](#) in the U.S. News ranking.
- UC Davis ranked #5 nationally in Environmental Sciences in the [Quacquarelli Symonds \(QS\) World University Ranking](#)