

# 2021–2022 FY Sustainability Rankings, Ratings, and Awards

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## I. Rankings & Ratings

- UC Berkeley, UC Irvine and UC Merced received an Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System ([AASHE STARS](#)) Platinum Rating in 2022. UC Davis, UC Los Angeles, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara and UC Santa Cruz received a STARS Gold rating.
- [2022 Sustainable Campus Index](#) (SCI) ratings, as measured by AASHE STARS
  - For Overall Performance as Doctoral Institutions, UC Irvine placed #1 in rankings while UC Merced placed #9.
  - For International Top Performers, UC Irvine received the highest overall score for institutions in the United States.
  - UC Irvine received the sixth highest score for STARS data accuracy.
  - UC Merced ranked #9 top performer for Air and Climate.
  - UC Irvine ranked #1 top performer for Buildings. UC Los Angeles, UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis ranked #4, #7, #8 respectively.
  - UC Irvine ranked #3 top performer for Coordination and Planning.
  - UC Irvine ranked #10 top performer for Curriculum.
  - UC Merced ranked #10 top performer for Energy.
  - UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Riverside and UC Santa Cruz all tied for #5 top performers for Investment and Finance. UC Merced, UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara all tied for #9 top performer.
  - UC Irvine ranked #7 top performer for Public Engagement.
  - UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC San Diego and UC Santa Cruz all tied for #1 top performer for Research.
  - UC Merced ranked #7 top performer for Waste. UC Santa Barbara ranked #8.
  - UC Riverside ranked #9 top performer for Water.
  - UC Los Angeles ranked #2 top performer for Wellbeing & Work. UC Berkeley and UC Riverside ranked #3 and #6, respectively.
  - The 2022 CI report highlighted the following innovative and high-impact projects, programs and initiatives:
    - UC Irvine’s receipt of LEED Platinum certifications for three new buildings in 2020–2021.
    - UC Merced’s Pop-Up People’s Pantry

- [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, UC Los Angeles, 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.
  - UC Los Angeles, 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 Sustainable Development Goals Undergraduate Research Group
    - UC Riverside R'Garden
    - UC San Diego EV Affordability and Charging Accessibility program
- [2023 Princeton Review Top 50 Green Colleges](#)
  - UC Merced ranked #12 nationally, followed by UC Irvine at #18.
  - In 2021, UC Santa Cruz ranked #3, followed by UC Santa Barbara at #10, UC Berkeley at #13, UC Merced at #15 and UC San Diego at #32.
- [2023 Quacquarelli Symonds World University Sustainable Development Goal Rankings](#)
  - UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles and UC San Diego ranked #27, #44 and #53 respectively, out of the top 100 schools globally for progress forwarding environmentally-related sustainable development goals.
  - UC Berkeley ranked #1, UC Davis ranked #14 and UC Los Angeles ranked #49 in [Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings: Sustainability](#). This ranking assesses an institution's commitments to building a sustainable world with emphasis on their influence beyond campus grounds.
- [2022 UI GreenMetric World University Ranking](#)
  - Globally, UC Davis ranked #5 and UC San Diego ranked #66.
- [2022 Post-Landfill Action Network Top 10 Zero Waste Campuses](#)
  - UC Berkeley ranked #2 nationally for scope 1 and 2 waste diversion practices.

## II. Awards & Recognition

### A. Climate and Energy

- UC Irvine Health received [Circles of Excellence Awards](#) in Climate and Energy from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Climate from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC San Francisco Health received the Health Care Without Harm's Health Care Climate Challenge Award for Climate Resilience in Silver and for Climate Leadership in Gold.
- UC San Diego received [\\$35 million from the State of California](#) to build a new coastal research vessel allowing scientists to study and track a range of environmental concerns and will be operated by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.
- UC Los Angeles received second place in the [2022 Sustainability Leadership Award](#) for Energy Efficiency from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.
- UC Davis received second place in the [Net Impact Wildfire Competition](#) from the US Forest Service and Net Impact, which asks students, professionals, and researchers how we can better tackle economic and ecological sustainability in the Sierras.
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory received 3 awards for climate and energy: a [2021 Energy Management Insight Award](#) from Clean Energy Ministerial, a [2021 Innovative Approach to Sustainability Award](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for its implementation of the ISO 50001 international standard, and a [2021 Strategic Partnerships for Sustainability Award](#) from the DOE for the Lab's Ongoing Commissioning Team.

### B. Food

- UC San Diego received two awards for sustainable food: a [Fair Trade University](#) recognition from the Fair Trade Movement and the [Most Vegan-Friendly Large School](#) recognition from Peta2, PETA's youth division.
- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Food from Practice Greenhealth.

### C. Green Buildings and Operations

- UC Los Angeles received three awards for green buildings: a [2021 Design Award](#) for the Pritzker Hall Modernization from the Southern California Development Forum, as well as a [2021 Municipal Green Building Project of the Year Award](#) for the UCLA Margo Leavin Graduate Art Studio Building and a [2022 Municipal Green Building Project of the Year Award](#) for Pritzker Hall from the US Green Building Council-Los Angeles Chapter.
- UC San Diego received three awards for green buildings: a [2021 Sustainable Project Award](#) from the Associated General Contractors of America for the Center for Coastal Studies Renovation Project, a [2021 Preservation Design Award](#) from the California Preservation Foundation for the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics Munk

Lab and a [2021 Sustainability Award](#) for Most Efficient energy use intensity from the San Diego Green Building Council for the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood.

#### D. Health and Well-Being

- UC Davis faculty members received two awards from the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement: Dr. Katherine Kim, adjunct associate professor of public health sciences and health informatics in the School of Medicine, received the [Community Outcomes and Impact Award](#) and Dr. Clare Cannon, assistant professor of community and regional development in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, received the [Early Career Award](#).

#### E. Healthcare Operations<sup>1</sup>

- UC Davis Health, UC San Francisco Health and UC San Diego Health each received a [Greening the OR Recognition Award](#), which honors facilities that have made substantial progress in reducing the impact of the surgical environment, from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Irvine Health, UC San Diego Health and UC San Francisco Health received the [Greenhealth Emerald Award](#), which recognizes outstanding hospitals and is focused on advanced sustainability programs and exemplary scores across a range of categories, from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Irvine Health received [Circles of Excellence Awards](#) in Climate and Energy from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Climate from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC San Francisco Health received the Health Care Without Harm's Health Care Climate Challenge Award for Climate Resilience in Silver and for Climate Leadership in Gold.
- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Food from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Transportation from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC San Francisco Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Transportation from Practice Greenhealth.

#### F. Procurement

- UC Davis received a [2022 Sustainability Award](#) for Procurement Practices from the National Association of College and University Food Services.

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<sup>1</sup> Awards listed in this section that are topic-specific are also listed under the related Policy topic section.

## G. Transportation

- UC Davis received three awards for sustainable transportation: a Platinum status for [Bicycle Friendly University](#) from the American League of Bicyclists, the #7 ranking in the [2021 Green Garage Contest](#) and the #13 ranking in the [2022 Green Fleet Awards](#) from the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA).
- UC Santa Barbara is a currently certified Platinum level Bicycle Friendly University from the American League of Bicyclists.
- UC Irvine received two awards for sustainable transportation: the #1 ranking in the [2021 Green Garage Contest](#) and the #78 ranking in the [100 Best Fleets](#) from NAFA.
- UC Los Angeles received three awards for sustainable transportation: the #30 ranking in the [2022 Green Fleet Award](#) and the #47 ranking in the [100 Best Fleets](#) from NAFA and a [2022 Award of Merit](#) in the Marketing & Communications, Public Sector category from the International Parking and Mobility Institute.
- UC San Diego received two awards for sustainable transportation: a [Transportation Services Award](#) from the California Energy Commission and a Platinum level [iCommute Diamond Award](#) from the San Diego Association of Governments.
- UC San Francisco received two awards for sustainable transportation: a [2022 Best Workplace for Commuters](#) recognition from the Commuters National Standard of Excellence and a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Transportation from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Transportation from Practice Greenhealth.

## H. Waste

- UC Berkeley ranked #1 in the [2022 Pac-12 Zero Waste Challenge](#) from Pac-12 Team Green and received the [Best Use of Innovation Award](#) for the 2021–2022 basketball season.
- UC Los Angeles received the [Outstanding Higher Education Program Award](#) from the National Recycling Coalition.

## III. Additional Sustainability Achievements

- 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 twelfth consecutive year UC Irvine has received this designation. The campus also ranked #3 for [Top Colleges in the West for Diversity](#) from the Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education in 2021 and #9 for [Best Colleges](#) from Money Magazine in 2022.
- UC Berkeley ranked #6 for [Best Universities for Environment/Ecology](#) from U.S. News, and received the [Merit Award for Excellence in Planning for an Existing Campus](#) from the Society of College and University Planning in recognition for the 2021 Long Range Development Plan and 2022 Campus Master Plan.

- UC Davis received recognition as one of [America's Best Employers For Diversity](#) and one of [America's Best Employers For Women](#) from Forbes.
- UC San Diego Landscape Services and the Sustainability Resource Center partnered on the [AMPLify the Urban Forest grant](#) sponsored by CAL FIRE and collaborated with the Ché Café Collective to host a forestry workshop and organize volunteers to plant trees in Scholar's Grove.