

# 2022–2023 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 2023. UC Davis, UCLA, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara and UC Santa Cruz received a STARS Gold rating.
- [2023 Sustainable Campus Index](#) (SCI) ratings, as measured by AASHE STARS
  - For Overall Performance as Doctoral Institutions, UC Irvine placed #3 in rankings.
  - UC Irvine ranked #1 top performer for Buildings. UCLA, UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis ranked #5, #8, #9 respectively.
  - UC Irvine tied for #5 top performers for Coordination and Planning.
  - UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz all tied for #10 top performers for Investment and Finance.
  - UC Irvine ranked #10 top performers for Public Engagement.
  - UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Cruz all tied for #3 top performers for Research.
  - UC Riverside tied for #8 top performers for Water.
  - UCLA ranked #4 top performers for Wellbeing & Work. UC Berkeley tied for #5 while UC Riverside ranked #8.
  - The 2023 SCI report highlighted the following innovative and high-impact projects, programs and initiatives under key trends that are shaping the sustainability higher education field:
    - The partnership between the UC system and state of California to award \$80 million in climate action research grants
    - UC Irvine's launch of their new Center for Liberation, Anti-Racism and Belonging.
- [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 performers for Air and Climate.
  - UC Irvine ranked #1 top performer for Buildings. UCLA, UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis ranked #4, #7, #8 respectively.
  - UC Irvine ranked #3 top performers for Coordination and Planning.
  - UC Irvine ranked #10 top performers for Curriculum.
  - UC Merced ranked #10 top performers 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 performers.
- UC Irvine ranked #7 top performers 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 performers for Waste. UC Santa Barbara ranked #8.
- UC Riverside ranked #9 top performers for Water.
- UCLA ranked #2 top performers 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.
- [2024 Princeton Review Top 50 Green Colleges](#)
  - UC Irvine ranked #9 nationally, followed by UC Merced at #10 and UC Santa Cruz at #31.
  - In 2023, UC Merced ranked #9 nationally, followed by UC Irvine at #18.
  - The [2024 Green College Honor Roll](#) recognizes UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Merced, and UC Santa Barbara for receiving the highest possible Green Rating score.
- [2024 Quacquarelli Symonds World University Sustainable Development Goal Rankings](#)
  - UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC San Diego ranked #10, #29 and #62 respectively, out of the top 100 schools globally for progress forwarding environmentally-related sustainable development goals.
- [2023 Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings: Sustainability.](#)
  - UC Berkeley ranked #1, UC Davis ranked #14 and UCLA ranked #49. This ranking assesses an institution's commitments to building a sustainable world with emphasis on their influence beyond campus grounds.
- [2022 UI Greenmetric Rankings](#)
  - UC Davis and UC San Diego ranked #5 and #66 respectively, out of the top 100 universities globally in terms of environmental commitment and initiative.
- [2023 Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards](#)
  - UC Davis Health and UC San Diego Health achieved the Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award for leading in all-around sustainability performance, Practice Greenhealth's highest honor for hospitals in the nation.
  - UC Irvine Health, UCLA Health, and UCSF Health are recognized as a Greenhealth Emerald Award recipient.
- [2022 Health Care Climate Challenge Champions](#)
  - UC Davis Health, UC Irvine Health, UC San Diego Health, and UCSF Health are recognized for their progress and commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across three pillars: mitigation, resilience, and leadership.

## II. Awards & Recognition

### A. Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- 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 Irvine graduate students won the top prize in Phase 2 of the [U.S. EPA's Environmental Justice Video Challenge for Students](#).

### B. Climate and Energy

- UC Irvine Health received two [Circles of Excellence Awards](#) in categories of Climate and Energy from Practice Greenhealth.
- UCLA Health Ronald Reagan Center received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Climate from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC San Francisco Health received two [Circles of Excellence Awards](#) in categories of Climate and Energy from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Davis Health received the Health Care Without Harm's [Health Care Climate Challenge Award](#) for Renewable Energy in Silver, Climate Resilience in Silver, and Climate Leadership in Silver.
- UC Irvine Health received the Health Care Without Harm's [Health Care Climate Challenge Award](#) for Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Energy) in Gold, Renewable Energy in Gold, Climate Resilience in Silver, and Climate Leadership in Gold.
- UC San Diego Health received the Health Care Without Harm's [Health Care Climate Challenge Award](#) for Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Energy) in Gold, Renewable Energy in Gold, and Climate Leadership in Silver.
- UC San Francisco Health received the Health Care Without Harm's [Health Care Climate Challenge Award](#) for Climate Resilience in Silver and Climate Leadership in Gold.
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory received a [2022 Innovative Approach to Sustainability Award, Honorable Mention](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for their Sustainability Data Integration, Organization, Processing, Analytics, and Visualization Project.

### C. Food

- UC Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Food from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Irvine received a Silver standing for Outreach and Education in the [2023 Loyal E. Horton, nutrition and sustainability awards](#) from the National Association of College & University Food Services.
- UC Irvine Health received [Sustainability Initiative of the Year](#) from Business Intelligence Group's 2023 Sustainability Awards.

#### D. Green Buildings and Operations

- UC Irvine received two awards for green buildings: a [2022 Design Award](#) for the Naturescape Master Plan from the Southern California Development Forum and the [2023 International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories \(I2SL\) Phil Wirdzek Leadership Award](#) for their associate director of sustainability from the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories.
- UC Merced was awarded with [Urban Land Institute's 2023 Americas Awards for Excellence](#) for their 2020 Master Architect Project.
- UC Riverside received five awards for green buildings: the [Project of the Year Award 2023](#) from Solar Builder Magazine, the [National Award of Excellence](#) from Design Build Institute of America (DBIA), the [National Award of Merit](#) from DBIA, [the Beautification Award](#) under the category Maintenance of Existing Facilities and Landscaping from Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful, and the [2022 Design Award - Merit](#) for the Plant Research 1 building from the American Institute of Architects.
- UC San Diego received five awards for the North Torrey Pines Living & Learning Neighborhood for its commitment to sustainability: a spot in the [2023 COTE Top Ten](#) from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the [2022 Design Award - Special Commendation](#) from AIA, [the Outcome of Design Award Winner and Optimizer](#) from The American Society of Interior Designers, a Platinum ranking for the [2022 Evidence-Based Design Touchstone Award](#) from The Center For Health Design, and a 2022 Design Award from the Southern California Development Forum.
- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Green Building from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC San Diego Health was recognized as one of the top 10 programs nationwide by Practice Greenhealth with a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Green Buildings.
- UC San Francisco Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Green Buildings from Practice Greenhealth.
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory received a 2022 I2SL Sustainable Laboratories Excellence in Decarbonization Award from the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories.

#### E. UC Health<sup>1</sup>

- UC Health System received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Food from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Davis Health, UC Irvine Health, UCLA Medical Center, 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.

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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.

- UC Davis Health and UC San Diego Health are recognized by Practice Greenhealth as Top 25 in the nation in Environmental Excellence as [Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award honorees](#).
- UC Irvine Health, UCLA Medical Center 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.

#### F. Procurement

- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Purchasing from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC San Diego Health received two awards for sustainable procurement: a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Purchasing from Practice Greenhealth for a top 10 program nationwide and a [2023 EPEAT Purchaser Award](#) from the Global Electronics Council.

#### G. Transportation

- UC Davis received four awards for sustainable transportation: a renewal to their Platinum award for [Bicycle Friendly University](#) from the American League of Bicyclists, the #32 ranking in the [2023 Green Fleet Awards](#) from the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA), the #19 ranking in the [100 Best Fleets](#) from NAFA, and a [2023 Best Workplace for Commuters](#) from the Commuters National Standard of Excellence.
- UC Irvine received five awards for sustainable transportation: the #9 ranking in the [2022 Green Garage Contest](#), the #12 ranking in the [2023 Green Fleet Awards](#) from NAFA, a [2023 Best Workplace for Commuters](#) from the Commuters National Standard of Excellence, a renewal to their Platinum award for [Bicycle Friendly University](#) from the American League of Bicyclists, and a Gold Award for [2023 Race to Excellence](#) by the Best Workplaces for Commuters.
- UCLA received four awards for sustainable transportation: the #6 ranking (and [#1 in university fleets](#)) in the [2023 Green Fleet Award](#), the #85 ranking in the [100 Best Fleets](#) from NAFA, a renewal to their Gold award for [Bicycle Friendly University](#) from the American League of Bicyclists, and a [2023 Best Workplace for Commuters](#) from the Commuters National Standard of Excellence.
- UC Riverside received two awards for sustainable transportation: the [2023 Award of Excellence](#) from the International Parking & Mobility Institute (IPMI) and the [2023 Award of Merit](#) from the IPMI.
- UC San Diego received two awards for sustainable transportation: an advancement to a Silver level [Bicycle Friendly University](#) certification from the American League of Bicyclists and a Diamond level [iCommute Diamond Award](#) from the San Diego Association of Governments.
- UC San Francisco received three awards for sustainable transportation: a [2023 Best Workplace for Commuters](#) recognition for Mission Bay Campus, Mount Zion, and Parnassus Heights from the Commuters National Standard of Excellence.

- UC Santa Barbara renewed for a certified Platinum award [Bicycle Friendly University](#) from the American League of Bicyclists.
- UC Santa Cruz advanced to a Gold award for [Bicycle Friendly University](#) from the American League of Bicyclists.
- UC Davis Health received two awards for sustainable transportation: a [2023 Best Workplace for Commuters](#) from the Commuters National Standard of Excellence and a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Transportation from Practice Greenhealth.
- UCLA Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Transportation from Practice Greenhealth for the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and the Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center.
- UC San Diego Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Transportation from Practice Greenhealth as a top 10 program nationwide.

#### H. Water

- UC Santa Cruz faculty member was honored with the [2022 New Innovator in Food & Agriculture Research Award](#) for their project that addresses the significant water consumption of the agricultural industry by the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research.
- UC Davis Health received a [Circles of Excellence Award](#) in Water from Practice Greenhealth.

#### I. Waste

- UC Berkeley received 1st place in the [2022 Pac-12 Zero Waste Challenge](#) for the 2022-23 basketball season from Pac-12 Team Green.
- UCLA received the Rising Star award in the [2022 Pac-12 Zero Waste Challenge](#) for the 2022-23 basketball season from Pac-12 Team Green.

### 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 thirteenth consecutive year UC Irvine has received this designation. The campus also received a five-star rating for [Best Colleges](#) from Money Magazine in 2023.
- UC Davis ranked #2 in Agriculture and Forestry and #22 in Environmental Sciences subjects on [2023 QS World University Rankings](#).
- UC Santa Cruz faculty member was honored with the [Frontiers of Knowledge Award](#) in the Climate Change category by the BBVA Foundation.
- UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Riverside, and UC Santa Barbara are [Certified Bee Campus USA Affiliates](#) that are committed to conserving native pollinators through sustainable landscaping.