

2024–25 Sustainability awards, rankings, and ratings

I. Rankings and ratings

A. General rankings

Multiple UC locations received sustainability awards in fiscal year 2024–25. The following list includes indexes and organizations that recognized UC locations for their achievements in sustainability.

- [AASHE STARS Ratings](#) received in fiscal year 2024–25
 - [UC Berkeley](#) and [UC San Diego](#) earned Platinum ratings
 - [UC Irvine](#), [UC Riverside](#), and [UC Santa Cruz](#) earned Gold ratings
- [2025 Sustainable Campus Index](#)
- [2025 Practice Greenhealth Awards](#)
- [2025 The Princeton Review Top 50 Green Colleges](#)
 - UC Santa Cruz was ranked #6, UC Merced #7 and UC Irvine #20
- [2025 The Princeton Review Green College Honor Roll](#)
- [2025 Quacquarelli Symonds World University Ratings: Sustainability](#)
 - UC Berkeley was ranked #3 in the world
- [2024 UI Greenmetric Rankings](#)
 - UC Davis was ranked #7 in the world

B. General awards by location

UC locations received several general sustainability awards in fiscal year 2024–25.

- UC Berkeley earned the honor of becoming the [first university in the world](#) to achieve an AASHE STARS Platinum rating under the latest STARS 3.0 standards, and was recognized as a Top Performer (in the top 3) for the [Sustainable Campus Index](#) under the STARS 3.0 version in 10 out of 13 categories.
- UC Davis received the [Innovative Excellence in Internationalization Award](#) from the Association of International Education Administration for leadership and accomplishments in institutionalizing and advancing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- UCI Health's flagship hospital was the first UC and fourth healthcare organization in the state to receive the [Sustainable Healthcare Certification from The Joint Commission](#).
- UCLA Health received a [Social Impact Award](#) from [Sustainableit.org](#) for its partnership with HUMANIT to donate e-waste items for refurbishment and repair for communities in need.
- Berkeley Lab received a [2024 International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories \(I2SL\) Award](#) for Continuous Improvement, recognizing the significant reductions in energy and water consumption, as well as continual improvements in laboratory ventilation safety, delivered by its Ongoing Commissioning program since 2017.

II. Awards and recognition by policy area

A. Climate and energy

- Berkeley Lab received a 2024 Department of Energy Sustainability Award for Outstanding Deep Energy Retrofit Project, achieving a 59% gas reduction and 35% energy reduction at a large laboratory building, delivered by the Lab's Ongoing Commissioning Team.
- UCI Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Energy Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.
- UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center received the [Circle of Excellence in Climate Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.

B. Sustainable foodservices

- UC Davis Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Food Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Merced's Executive Sous Chef Chef Jonathan Gutierrez Santiago won the [2024 Produce Excellence in Foodservice Award for Colleges and Universities](#), given by the International Fresh Produce Association.
- UC Merced's Executive Chef Mitchell Vanagten ("Chef Mitch"), was named [Chef of the Year](#) in 2024 by the Monterey Bay chapter of the American Culinary Federation. This award highlighted his community service, healthy eating initiatives, local agriculture collaboration, and menu innovation.
- UC Merced Dining won the [Gold Grand Prize for the Outreach & Education Program of the Year](#) from the Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards, via the National Association of College and University Food Services for its "Food for Thought" cultural-food guest speaker.
- UC Santa Cruz was named a [Designated Agricultural Experiment Station \(AES\)](#), underscoring more than a half century of pioneering work in organic farming. UC Santa Cruz and UC Merced are the first UC campuses to receive this designation in 50 years, joining UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and UC Riverside as AES campuses.

C. Green building design

- UC Berkeley was a [Top Performer in the Buildings and Grounds](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Davis Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Green Building Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Riverside's School of Business received the [City of Riverside's Sustainable Design & Innovation Award](#).
- UC Riverside's new School of Medicine II instructional building was recognized for the following: [Excellence in Architecture](#) by the Society for College and University Planning, the [Award of Merit in the Excellence in Sustainability category and an Award of Merit in Higher Education/Research](#) from Engineering News-Record California.

- UC Riverside was honored at the [City of Riverside's Annual Beautification Awards](#) for its new School of Business building.
- UC San Diego received the [Excellence in Sustainability — Award of Merit from Engineering News-Record West](#) for the Theatre District Living and Learning Neighborhood.
- UC San Diego received an [honorable mention for Sustainable Design](#) from Architizer for Franklin Antonio Hall.
- UC San Diego Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Green Building Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth for both Jacobs and Hillcrest Medical Centers.

D. Health and well-being

- UC Berkeley was a [Top Performer in the Wellbeing and Work](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Santa Cruz is one of nearly 30 institutions of higher education around the nation to have adopted the [Okanagan Charter](#), also known as [Health Promoting Universities](#).

E. Sustainability at UC Health

- Multiple UC locations received awards from [Practice Greenhealth](#). In addition to the awards listed in topical areas, UC health locations received the following awards:
 - UC Irvine Health, UC San Diego Health Hillcrest Medical Center, and UC San Diego Health Jacobs Medical Center received the Environmental Excellence Award, Practice Greenhealth's highest honor for hospitals given to the top 25 hospitals in the country.
 - UC Davis Health, UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center, and UCSF Health received the Emerald Award, recognizing the top 20 percent of Partner for Change applicants.
 - UCSF Health St. Mary's Hospital received the Partner Recognition Award.
 - UC Irvine Health received the Making Medicine Mercury Free Award.
 - UC Health received the System for Change Award, recognizing health systems working cohesively to set systemwide sustainability goals, track performance data, benchmark, and support intra-organizational learning and implementation.
- UC Riverside School of Medicine has been named a recipient of the Insight Into Diversity magazine's [2024 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award](#).

F. Sustainable procurement

- UC Berkeley was a [Top Performer in the Procurement and Waste](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Davis Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Sustainable Procurement Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Riverside was a [Top Performer in the Procurement and Waste](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.

- UC San Diego Health received [EPEAT Purchaser Awards](#) in two product categories from the Global Electronics Council.
- UC Santa Barbara received an [EPEAT Purchaser Award](#) for Sustainable Electronics Leadership.

G. Sustainable transportation

- UC Berkeley received [Bicycle Friendly University Gold status](#) from The League of American Bicyclists.
- UC Davis maintained [Bicycle Friendly University Platinum status](#) from The League of American Bicyclists.
- UC Davis Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Transportation Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Irvine received the [2025 Green Fleet Award](#) from the National Association of Fleet Administrators, ranking third.
- UC Irvine maintained [Bicycle Friendly University Platinum status](#) from The League of American Bicyclists.
- UCI Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Transportation Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.
- UCLA received [Bicycle Friendly University Gold status](#) from The League of American Bicyclists.
- UCLA received the [2025 Green Fleet Award](#) from the National Association of Fleet Administrators.
- UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center received the [Circle of Excellence in Transportation Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Riverside received [Bicycle Friendly University Bronze status](#) from The League of American Bicyclists.
- UC Riverside Transportation Services was honored for [pioneering transportation programs that serve both the campus and community](#) by the International Parking & Mobility Institute.
- UC San Diego received [Bicycle Friendly University Bronze status](#) from The League of American Bicyclists.
- UC San Diego received the [2024 Momentum MidCoast Award from Circulate San Diego](#) in recognition of Pepper Canyon West Living and Learning Neighborhood's accessibility to sustainable transit options.
- UC San Diego received the San Diego Association of Governments [Excellence in Commuter Programs iCommute 2025 Diamond Award at the Platinum Level](#).
- UC San Diego Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Transportation Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth for both Jacobs and Hillcrest Medical Centers.
- UC San Francisco Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Transportation Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.
- UC Santa Barbara maintained [Bicycle Friendly University Platinum status](#) from The League of American Bicyclists.

- UC Santa Cruz received [Bicycle Friendly University Gold status](#) from The League of American Bicyclists.

H. Sustainable water systems

- UC Davis Health received the [Circle of Excellence in Water Award](#) from Practice Greenhealth.

I. Anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion

- UC Berkeley was a [Top Performer in the Representation and Access](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Irvine was a [Top Performer in the Representation and Access](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Riverside was a [Top Performer in the Representation and Access](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.

III. Additional sustainability achievements

- UC Davis ranked [#2 in the world for Agriculture and Forestry and for Veterinary Science](#) from Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings by Subject.
- UC Davis ranked #6 in the [Top 20 Best Schools for Making an Impact \(Public Schools\)](#) from The Princeton Review, which is based on student survey responses to questions covering community service opportunities, student government, sustainability efforts, and on-campus student engagement.
- UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, and UC San Diego were [Top Performers in the Curriculum](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Berkeley and UC Riverside were [Top Performers in the Investment](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Berkeley and UC Riverside were [Top Performers in the Public Engagement](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Cruz were [Top Performers in the Research](#) category in AASHE's 2025 Sustainable Campus Index.
- UC Santa Cruz's Grounds Department was awarded the [Integrated Pest Management Achievement Award](#) from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.