

University Sustainability Coalition 1/25/2023

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Sustainability Agreements and Declarations

Since the 1990's numerous agreements and declarations regarding environmental sustainability in higher education have been developed

- Talloires Declaration
 - First official statement made by university presidents/chancellors for environmental sustainability in higher education
 - Developed in 1990
 - Over 500 university leaders in more than 50 countries have signed
 - Louisiana <http://ulsf.org/96-2/#US>
 - Loyola, Xavier, Southern
- Halifax Declaration – 1991
- Copernicus University Charter for Sustainable Development – 1993
- Agenda 21 - 1992
- Swansea Declaration - 1993
- Kyoto Declaration - 1993
- Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership - 2000
- Luneburg Declaration - 2001
- Declaration of Barcelona - 2004
- Graz Declaration on Committing Universities to Sustainable Development - 2005
- UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – 2005
- The American College & University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) - 2006
- Turin Declaration - 2009
- RIO +20 – 2012
- The Scottish Universities and Colleges Climate Change Commitment for Scotland – 2016

Sustainability Assessment Tools

National Wildlife Federation: State of the Campus Environment Survey

- First large-scale environmental performance survey of higher education in US
- In the survey, schools were asked to provide information on environmental efforts related to these broad topics: setting and reviewing goals; staffing environmental programs; orientation for students and employees; independent research or service learning opportunities available to students; integration into coursework; professional development opportunities for faculty on environmental topics; water conservation or efficiency upgrades; energy efficiency or conservation upgrades; activity level and array of materials recycled; landscaping overall; average diversion rates; and transportation demand management in general.

University Leaders for a Sustainable Future: Sustainability Assessment Questionnaire for Colleges and Universities

- Survey document schools can use to evaluate where they are and goals

- A qualitative questionnaire designed to help you assess the extent to which your college or university is sustainable in seven critical areas of higher education:
 - Curriculum
 - Research and Scholarship
 - Operations
 - Faculty and Staff Development and Rewards
 - Outreach and Service
 - Student Opportunities
 - Institutional Mission, Structure and Planning

Green Business Certification: Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES)

- Currently managed by Green Business Certification, who manages US Green Building Councils certifications for LEED green buildings
- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin and the U.S. Botanic Garden collaborated to develop the Sustainable Sites Initiative

US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

- Schools, districts and higher education
- ED-GRS **nominees** must show progress in each of the following areas: 1) reducing environmental impacts, such as waste, water, energy, greenhouse gases, and transportation in the areas of facilities, grounds, and operations; 2) improving health and wellness through coordinated school health, with consideration to air quality, contaminant control, acoustics, daylighting, thermal comfort, school nutrition, and outdoors physical activity; and 3) offering effective environmental and sustainability education that emphasizes hands-on, real-world learning, civic engagement, STEM connections, and green career preparation.
- Louisiana Schools
 - ULL in 2016
 - LSU in 2017
 - Southeastern in 2021

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education: The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System

- Pilot project in 2008 and now most comprehensive/leader
- There are **seventeen impact areas** that can be reported in the STARS assessment. These impact areas are: “Curriculum, Research, Campus Engagement, Public Engagement, Air & Climate, Buildings, Energy, Food & Dining, Grounds, Purchasing, Transportation, Waste, Water, Coordination & Planning, Diversity & Affordability, Investment & Finance, Wellbeing & Work”
- *Used in green college rankings*

Green Rankings

Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide/data-partnership>

For our 2022–23 collection, The Princeton Review will accept data in two ways:

1. Data can be submitted directly through our own Review Data Set Form F: Student Life. This form is distributed annually to each school's designated data contact. For more information on who we work with at your school please email us at surveysupport@review.com with the subject line: Green College Survey Contact
2. Data may be shared via the AASHE STARS® Reporting Tool by following the process outlined in AASHE's [Data Sharing Instructions](#). The specific STARS credits of interest to The Princeton Review are listed below. (AASHE is the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.)

Louisiana Schools listed as green colleges: <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide/green-colleges-by-location>

- Louisiana State University—Baton Rouge
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Southeastern Louisiana University
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Sierra Cool Schools Rankings

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/cool-schools-2021/cool-schools-2021-full-ranking>

Louisiana State University Ranking: 276 Score: 45.97

Miscellaneous

- <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/greenest-universities/>
- [25 Best Green Colleges in the United States | Features | Ranking \(collegeconsensus.com\)](#)
- <https://www.bestcollegereviews.org/top/green-colleges/>
- <https://earth911.com/inspire/green-universities-offering-sustainability-degree-programs/>
- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/239842/greenest-universities-in-the-us/>
- [QS Sustainability University Rankings 2023 | Top Universities](#)

Example University

Cornell University [Cornell soars in 2021 college sustainability rankings | Sustainable Campus](#)

- AASHE STARS – Platinum Rated (Cornell became the 6th university in the world to earn a platinum ranking from STARS in 2020)
- Sierra Magazine - #4 Coolest School
- Princeton Review – Green Honor Review
- EPA Green Power Partnership Member
- Second Nature Carbon Commitment

Other items universities can participate in, some of which count in rankings:

- Native Plants - Louisiana Certified Habitat Program: <https://www.lnps.org/certifiedhabitat/>
- Recycling/Waste Reduction - Campus Race to Zero Waste: [Home - Campus Race To Zero Waste](#)
- Tree Campus - <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tree-campus-higher-education/>
- Bee Campus - <https://beecityusa.org/bee-campus-usa-commitments/>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star Program - https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/resources_audience/colleges_universities also [The ENERGY STAR Higher Education Benchmarking Initiative | ENERGY STAR](#)

- Bicycle Friendly University - <https://bikeleague.org/university>